New Festival ‘Pedal Into Spring’ Planned for Cold Spring
Organizers hope to see flowers, bicycles, visitors

By Michael Turton

Cold Spring business owners met last Monday evening, Feb. 25, at Hudson Valley Outfitters to hear details of a plan to organize a weekend street festival as a complement to an already planned international bicycle event. Saturday, May 4, and Sunday, May 5, will see the two events combine for what organizers hope will become an annual tradition—and a boon to the local economy.

“Pedal Into Spring” is a new event being organized by the Cold Spring Area Chamber of Commerce in partnership with Putnam County Tourism. A street festival with a theme centered on spring flowers and plants, it will fill Main Street sidewalks with tents, tables, music and activities throughout the weekend.

That Sunday, the Putnam Cycling Classic will return after making its debut last year. This year’s event will have a distinct international flavor, as cyclists from around the world will compete in a Union Cycliste Internationale (UCI) race, part of its World Championship Tour. Cold Spring will be the only U.S. community to host a UCI race in 2013. Other far-flung host locales include Australia, Brazil, Italy and Hungary.

Pedal Into Spring will focus on bringing visitors to Cold Spring as a boost to local business. Main Street shop owners will be given first crack at setting up a tent in front of their own businesses. Chamber members will be offered tent rental at cost while non-members will pay an additional fee.

“We want Chamber members to pay as little as possible. And as an added value—and a boon to the local economy—participants hope will become an annual tradition,” said Chamber director Jim Butterfield.

The deteriorating wall drew the attention of the trustees and Butterfield developer Tuesday night, Feb. 26, the trustees continued work on drafting a local law banning formula businesses.

Waiting for April | See page 16 for more of the Winter Photofest.

Photo by Ed Drake

Tough Sledding at Haldane as Spending Cuts Become Real
Summer school, classroom and support staff to feel the pinch

By Michael Turton

The going is not getting any easier as trustees and administrators continue to inch closer to a final spending plan for the Haldane Central School District for 2013-14. The first set of numbers put forward by the administration in December estimated that $409,000 in cuts would be required to keep the district within the state-imposed tax cap. At its Tuesday (Feb. 26) meeting, new figures presented by Superintendent of Schools Mark Villanti indicate that cuts will now total $353,000. The reason? Recent increases in insurance premiums, Teacher Retirement Savings contributions and Boards of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES) expenses.

Increase estimated at 2.83 percent

Nothing is final yet, but the current spending plan would result in a budget-to-budget increase of 2.23 percent, with total spending of $22,196,872, resulting in an estimated tax rate increase of 2.83 percent. Total funds raised through the tax levy would be $18,082,353—an increase of $619,849 over last year. Villanti and School Board President Michael Junjulas both stressed that the tax rate increase is approximate. The actual figure will not be known until August, when property assessment values for Philipstown are finalized.

“We do our damnedest to get the [tax rate increase] number as close as possible,” Junjulas said. “Six years we’ve never presented a tax rate increase [in August] above what we’ve went to the public with,” Villanti added.

(Continued on page 3)

Tuesdays, March 5 and 12, 7-9 p.m.
Haldane School Music Room • 15 Craigside Drive, Cold Spring
All Invited!

Candidates Forum for Cold Spring Village Board of Trustees

Mayoral candidate Ralph Fallon running unopposed
Trustee candidates for two open seats:
• Bruce Campbell, incumbent
• Stephanie Hawkins
• Michael Bowman

Doing the Butterfield Dance
Trustees adding formula business ban to the mix

By Jeanne Tao and Kevin E. Foley

At the Cold Spring Village Board Tuesday night, Feb. 26, the trustees and Butterfield developer Paul Guillaro managed to execute a diplomatic dance that signaled a tentative return to consideration of the multi-use proposal for the property rather than Guillaro’s recently threatened residential home concept. The residential idea resulted from Guillaro’s reaction to the negative testimony from many residents at the recent public hearing regarding the proposed zoning change that both the trustees and Guillaro had thought was the way forward for developing the 5.7-acre site.

In addition, the trustees continued work on drafting a local law banning formula businesses.

(Continued on page 3)

Repairs to Wall at St. Philip’s Church Planned

One of a series of road projects to affect drivers

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

Planned New York State Department of Transportation repair of the historic wall along St. Philip’s Church on Route 9D in Garrison joins a growing list of projects with the potential to disrupt traffic this summer.

The church announced on Monday, Feb. 25, that the state would fix the partially crumbling wall. According to church officers, the section of Route 9D running past St. Philip’s will be restricted to one lane during the work. A church representative, Anita Prentice, told the School Board in December that the effort would begin after classes at the Garrison Union Free School close for the year, on June 21, and is expected to finish by Sept. 1. The Garrison school is located across the road from the church property.

The deteriorating wall drew the attention of Garrison school officials last fall and GUFS Superintendent Gloria Colucci told the School Board in December that she would meet with state officials that month to discuss the matter.

On the further north side of the church entrance drive, a stretch of wall estimated at 50-60 feet has tumbled down into the church yard. A smaller break occurs on the north just past the drive.

(Continued on page 5)
Cheese Puffery

By Celia Barbour

In Indiana when I was growing up, cheesiness was akin to fanciness. At the handful of “classy” restaurants around town, the menus were filled with food drenched in cheese sauces. It didn’t much matter what the underlying ingredients of a particular dish were — seafood, vegetables, meat, even fruit — all were tucked in like good little children beneath big, fat blankets of warm cheddar, mozzarella or munster.

Around the same time, vegetable companies began packaging cheese sauces with their frozen broccoli or cauliflower, in an effort to make their products more popular. At home, I occasionally tried applying this rule to my own suppers, using cheese whenever I needed to upgrade the flavor of a disliked food. Sautéed calf’s liver a la cheesiness was akin to fanciness. At the Moosewood era, when a generation of hippie cooks decided that the best way to help carnivores get over their infatuation with meat was to throw great gobs of cheese at them, I still have a 1977 edition of the Moosewood Cookbook. Its Glossary devotes an entire three-column page to cheesy dishes, including Arabian Squash-Cheese Casserole, Bulgarian Peppers and Cheese, Cheese-Rice Strudel, Cheese-Brans, and Ricotta Cake.

By the time I graduated from college, I had also graduated from cheese-laden dishes. For many years afterwards, I avoided cooking foods containing cheese (with certain exceptions, of course — lasagna, omelets, tortilla pie and macaroni and cheese among them). It never occurred to me to wonder why. Meanwhile, I came to adore cheese. These days, I like it so much that I miss my train out of Grand Central as long as I can spend the time ogling the multitude of options at Murray’s Cheese. Here at our own farmers market, I have grown besotted with the selections from the Amazing Real-Live Cheese Company, which, week after week, I have a very hard time resisting. And if I had to pick an all-time favorite meal, it would probably be a glass of red wine and a selection of cheeses, with a little fresh and dried fruit and perhaps some sort of pickle on the side.

But now that I have a moment to think about it, it occurs to me that my avoidance of cheesy foods is probably linked to a childhood sense that, in cooking, cheese acts as a culinary con artist, its primary purpose to trick a person into believing a food is something it’s not: fancy or hearty or tasty.

Photo by C. Barbour

Cheese on its own is fine; grated Parmesan on top of Italian dishes is finer than fine. But a cheddar-cheese-drenched vegetable dish is a scam. Or so I thought.

Then along came Yotam Ottolenghi. In case you haven’t heard of him, he’s the chef of a very hot London restaurant and the author of two of the most influential cookbooks to be published in recent years. His recipes are miraculous. I keep re-reading in the middle of dinner parties that I’m tricking into something I saw on page 96 of Plenty, or on page 184 of Jerusalem.

It was on page 96 of Plenty that I first spied the dish that would end my cheese embargo. Smoky frittata is its name, and although I mistrust smoked cheeses even more than their plain comrades, this recipe called out to me. I’m glad it did. I made one the other day, and as my husband, a lifelong cauliflower-hater, took a bite, he declared that here at last was a dish that could make him like cauliflower.

Wouldn’t you know it? No sooner do I invite cheese back into my cooking than old swindler pulls a fast one again. Only this time, I was in on the take.

Friends, I am once again required to take a hiatus from this column for a few weeks, due to some complications with my right arm. The excellent Joe Dizney will be filling in during the interim.

Meanwhile, eat well and try and remember to say grace first.

Join The Paper’s Winter Photofest

Contribute your best shots of the town in its winter splendor.

Over the next few weeks The Paper will collect high-resolution, color pictures from local photographers of local winter scenes and themes. We prefer pictures taken this year. The best photos (in our opinion) will be featured in The Paper on its color pages.

Limit: three photos per person. Please title photo file with your name and photo location.

Send photos (or questions) to editor@philipstown.info.

The living room

an event space

cold spring, ny

coldspringlivingroom.com

Smoky frittata

Adapted from Plenty, by Yotam Ottolenghi. Chronicle Books, 2010

1 small cauliflower, broken into medium florets
salt
6 eggs
4 tablespoons crème fraîche
2 tablespoons Dijon mustard
1 tablespoon smoked paprika

3 tablespoons finely chopped chives, scallions or shallot
5-6 ounces smoked mozzarella, grated
3 ounces sharp aged cheddar, grated
fresh black pepper
2 tablespoons olive oil

Preheat the oven to 375 degrees. Heat a pot of water to boiling, add a generous dash of salt and the cauliflower, and simmer 5 minutes, or until just slightly tender. Drain in a colander and set aside.

In a large bowl, whisk together the eggs, crème fraîche, mustard and paprika until smooth. Stir in the chives or scallions and about three-quarters of the grated cheese. Mix in salt and pepper to taste.

Heat the olive oil over medium-high in a large cast iron or other ovenproof skillet. Fry the cauliflower until golden, stirring occasionally, about 5 minutes. Pour the egg mixture over it and spread the ingredients evenly in the pan. Reduce the heat to medium and cook without stirring for about 5 minutes, or until beginning to set.

Sprinkle the rest of the grated cheese over the top, transfer the pan to the oven and bake until set all the way through. You may want to place the frittata briefly under the broiler to brown the top. Remove from the oven and allow to cool a few minutes before serving.

Smoky frittata

Photo by C. Barbour
Tough Sledding at Haldane as Spending Cuts Become Real (from page 1)

Where they’re cutting

Steven Mattson, whose demeanor is usually rather jovial at School Board meetings, was visibly upset as he presented the latest budget picture. His voice quavered as he outlined the anticipated cuts in spending, which include the elimination of summer school programs, a $163,250 cut in classroom instruction, and a $180,048 reduction in support staff spending. Other areas being trimmed include benefits related to staff reductions, supplies and equipment, athletic supplies and equipment, and operation and maintenance expenses.

A reduction of $150,000 in special education spending is actually a positive. Villanti explained that there would be no reductions in the special education budget and that the reduced cost is largely due to a special education consortium developed in partnership with the Garrison Union Free School District.

Doing the Butterfield Dance (from page 1)

in the village. Expeditied work on the ban, which the adopted village Comprehensive Plan recommends, is in response to the concerns of many, including the trustees as well as the other candidates running in the March 19 village election, that proposed buildings on the Butterfield site not contain such businesses, especially if some or all the discussed governmental services don’t materialize. The trustees will take another look at a meeting of the collective village mind on Butterfield came fraught with difficulty. Guillaro for his part indicated a willingness to return to the much-discussed multi-use concept but only after “the more technical considerations of the business districts along Route 9D, to hold up in court, it would need “some leniency to return to the much-discussed multi-use concept but only after “the more technical considerations of the business districts along Route 9D, to hold up in court, it would need “some leniency to return to the much-discussed multi-use concept but only after “the more technical considerations of the business districts along Route 9D, to hold up in court, it would need “some leniency” as dictated by the state, but such a move was “not on the table this year.” Gaba said that if the trend in reduced state aid for education continues, “Everything is on the table.”

Other likely cuts include replacing a design that French teacher, who is retiring with a part-time position, along with reduced staffing decisions, including the size of the incoming kindergarten class. Low enrollment could mean that the teacher who would not be retiring would not have to be replaced, resulting in a savings of more than $60,000.

When a parent in the audience asked if kindergarten might be entirely eliminated, Villani replied, “Kindergarten is not mandatory” as dictated by the state, but such a move was “not on the table this year” in the county’s budget request.

While Gaba said that the Special Board’s report on formula businesses would provide concrete requirements for only adapting, professional development, and a targeted internal audit.

Junjulas and Villanti urged residents to view video produced by the New York State PTA explaining the state’s Gap Elimination Adjustment and its impact on public education. The video can be viewed online at mystatepresident.org.

Mayo Seth Gallagher, acknowledging he would soon leave office, asked Gaba to come up with a possible timeline and direction the trustees could follow in reconsidering the project. Such a timeline would have to include a number of potentially lengthy steps. Guillaro emphasized he had already spent a great deal of money on the proposal so far and didn’t want to spend more unless a clear scheduled path could be discerned.

Banning chains

Earlier in the board meeting Gaba presented a draft local law that would prohibit chain stores and restaurants (known in legal terms as formula retail stores and restaurants) as well as drive-thru windows within the village. After discussion, Gaba agreed to redraft the law to reflect some changes that board members wanted made to make, starting the process of getting the ban into the Village Code.

Discussion of a ban on formula businesses began last summer, after a Dunkin’ Donuts was proposed (and finally approved in December) at the Elmwood service station on Route 9D, and residents grew concerned that more franchises could be on their way to the village. In September, Gaba presented a memo that outlined cases in which municipalities were challenged on similar bans. (He had found that the villages whose laws prevailed in court cases were those that had strong factual bases for their bans.) The Comprehensive Plan Special Board was then asked to conduct a study on the feasibility of enacting such a ban in Cold Spring, and their report (available at coldspringny.gov) was presented to the Village Board on Feb. 12.

The purpose of the law, it states, is to protect from the negative impacts of formula restaurants and stores and drive-thru windows “on the village’s unique character and economic vitality.”

Gaba explained that in the current code there are no definitions of formula restaurants or retail stores, and so his draft sets out definitions of those as well as of formula restaurants and retail stores. According to the draft law, a formula restaurant is a restaurant that has standardized menus, ingredients, food preparation or uniform and in addition has the same name or trademark as others in a chain or group, or exterior or interior signage, design and/or architecture standardized among a chain or group. Similarly, a formula retail store is any business that has the same name or trademark, exterior or interior signage, design and/or architecture standardized among a chain or group. Gas stations and financial institutions such as banks are not included in the definition of formula retail store.

Gaba did add, however, a provision that added ground rules, because it would be particularly difficult to find an independent supermarket. Board members added that independent drug stores would be similarly difficult to find, so Gaba will add a provision that allows certain uses by special permit (granted by the Village Board) in his redraft.

A drive-in window was defined in the draft as “a feature or improvement which permits customers to receive services and/or paid goods while remaining in their motor vehicles.” Gaba also recommended getting rid of the term “customer shop” in other places of the code and adopting the now defunct term “retail store.”

While Gaba said that the Special Board’s report on formula businesses would provide concrete requirements for only adapting, something like this, he said for the law to hold up in court, it would need “some more factually detailed information,” as the stronger municipal laws tend to have. He recommended looking particularly at the business districts along Route 9D, to provide concrete requirements for adapting, the law, whether it be on issues of community character, village aesthetic, traffic flow or pedestrian traffic, “so if you’re challenged later on in court, you didn’t just do this arbitrarily; we really looked into this carefully.”

Mayor Seth Gallagher pointed out that the Special Board was asked to make such a report, and Special Board Chairman Mike Armstrong added that the committee would present that report at their meeting Thursday, Feb. 28.

Some board members expressed a desire to protect those businesses already established in the village, or those that could become part of a chain (such as the approved Dunkin’ Donuts or the existing Fronenberry’s), which could be “grandfathered in” (i.e., follow the current law) with a provision in the code. Gaba’s redraft may include such a provision.

Next steps, Gaba said, would be for him to circulate the redrafted law to the Village Board and Special Board, schedule workshops to invite public comment, and to start the State Environmental Quality Review (SEQR) process.

Adventures Around Putnam

Lecture on March 9, 5 p.m.

Please join us on March 9th for a lecture by Southeast Town Historian Steven Mattson on his book, Adventures Around Putnam. The book chronicles the enviable selection of hiking destinations and historic sites that are accessible to the residents of Putnam County, ranging from the most rigorous, to those that are appropriate for young hiking adventures throughout Putnam, Mattson includes descriptions of destinations throughout Putnam and Dutchess counties and Western Connecticut.

Steven Mattson has worked in the financial services industry for 15 years. He is also a Marine Corps veteran of the Iraq War and is an active member of the Brewster Veterans of Foreign Wars, Putnam County Chapter, and the Cub Scouts. This event will begin at 5 p.m. and last until approximately 6:30 p.m.

The Putnam History Museum
63 Chestnut Street, Cold Spring
RSVP info@putnamhistorymuseum.org or call 845-265-4010

Steven Mattson
New Festival ‘Pedal Into Spring’ Planned for Cold Spring
(from page 2)

Dear Editor:

I am so delighted we have such a dedicated, smart, hard-working woman running for trustee on our Cold Spring Village Board. I’ve known Stephanie Hawkins for the last couple of years. Not only is she a seemingly endless source of energy and ideas, she is a person who gets work done. My husband worked alongside her and a handful of others to found the Cold Spring Film Society, which quickly became a staple of summer in Cold Spring. Stephanie was instrumental to making the CSFS what it is. Her hard work with budgets and permits kept the group solvent. She reached out to the Village Board and worked with Trustee Bruce Campbell to bring CSFS to Dockside and turn a dream into a reality. Stephanie doesn’t like the limelight; she prefers to work behind the scenes. So I was surprised when she decided to run for trustee, as it would put the focus on her. But that just tells you how much she loves this community, that she’s decided to make this run for the good of our village.

There’s been a lot of drama in recent months at Village Hall. Despite being a board member of the Depot Theatre, Stephanie doesn’t do drama. She has a proven track record of playing well with others. And that’s what we need on our Village Board. I’m also glad Bruce Campbell is running for re-election. Bruce has been one of the most dedicated members of our community, serving on the Village Board AND the School Board, working to improve and protect the wonderful place we call home.

I’m voting for Stephanie Hawkins and Bruce Campbell, and I hope you will, too.

Best,
Maia Guest
Cold Spring

Cold Spring trustee elections

Dear Editor:

The activities of the village that capture the most attention — in reporting, in meetings and in sidewalk conversations — are issues that push the village government to address immediate concerns: current year tax implications, the Butterfield development and successful management of Cold Spring’s operations. What encourages me about Stephanie Hawkins’ commitment to the village and the platform that she has put forward is that even as she is dedicating herself to solving the immediate, she is looking to the future. Her focus on infrastructure, strong budgeting and responsible zoning will provide the foundation for us to create the Cold Spring that we want to live in, five or even 20 years from now.

While I don’t know what that Cold Spring will look like, I think that our village government should be actively discussing, thinking and planning for that future. Without a well-funded foundation I know that we will constantly be forced to address the immediate, and rather than shaping our own future, it will be shaped for us. I appreciate Stephanie’s commitment to laying the foundation for that future, and think that her vision and energy will be a real asset as a village trustee.

John Hedlund

Dear Editor:

It is not very often that Candy and I publicly endorse a candidate for local office. In the case of Stephanie Hawkins we are making a rare exception. Equally unusual is the fact that we both agree on our support for her candidacy. Ms. Hawkins has already made immeasurable contributions to our community and she will make an excellent trustee.

We feel she will work to make the Village Board one that looks out for the best interests of all of the village residents. She will bring to the Village Board a woman’s perspective and the desire to build on the work that so many others have already invested. Most importantly however, she will bring to our government a sense of inclusiveness as opposed to the hubris which some claim to be “passion.” Only by working together can the village take on the challenges we face. We feel that Stephanie offers our best hope for that. We urge our fellow Cold Spring residents to vote for her.

Al and Candy Zgolinski

Cold Spring

For the latest updates on weather-related or other emergencies, sign up at www.nyalert.gov.

Letters
Trustee Bruce Campbell Wants to Continue What He Is Doing

By Kevin E. Foley

Bruce Campbell shows up, rolls up his sleeves and digs in. As a village trustee, a member of the Haldane School Board or a committed member of local service organizations (Lions, Knights of Columbus), he plays the long game of attention to the details, patience with bureaucracy and consultation with stakeholders. This is how he relates his shoulder-to-the-wheel story as a lifelong village resident and the key reason voters should return him to office.

“As a trustee and the deputy mayor appointed by Mayor Gallagher, I have been involved in every part of the day-to-day operations of the village government,” said Campbell, who is finishing a four-year run added to a previous six-year in-cumbersome from 2002-2006. In between, he was elected to the Haldane school board, so he is no stranger to asking citizens for their votes.

“I have always worked in support of the chain of command,” said Campbell, adding to the sense of duty and effective-ness he wants to convey about his candidacy. Campbell is retired from 36 years’ service in the military, involving electronic communications work, involving maintenance of on-base radio frequencies as well as television signals and support of tactical training exercises.

Is this demand constant attention and daily visits to the Village Hall, according to Campbell, include the condition of the water treatment plant, the West Street pump station (which moves water uphill from the waterfront onto East Street where it can run over to the treatment plant before being discharged into the river), traffic safety on Main Street (Route 301) and Route 9D, involving crosswalks and lighting, as well as street drainage. These problems in search of solutions are only a partial list of items Campbell asserts he has helped address during his tenure.

He is especially proud of shepherding the Main Street renovation project that has involved years of interaction with the federal Department of Transportation, which first approved funding more than seven years ago. “We are going to see sidewalk repair, new lighting and some drainage upgrades as well as compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, with respect to curb cuts and the like,” said Campbell.

Campbell said he views working with Mayor Seth Gallagher on the new docking laws, allowing docking vessels at the foot of Main Street, as another significant accomplishment. He also includes working with the Hudson Highlands Land Trust on the long-thing and lighting improvements at the dock. “Making improvements and opening the dock area to boats can mean more tourism for village businesses without all the added traffic,” said Campbell.

One particularly cost-effective, below-the-radar effort Campbell takes pride in involves taking the time to work with local service organizations (Lions, school board or a committed member of the Haldane congregation at the parish’s annual meeting on Sunday. “It was never intended to serve as a retaining wall to a busy state highway.”

The wall’s donor, Hamilton Fish, one of the various family members to bear the name through several generations, lived in Garrison when he wasn’t in Albany or Washington, immersed in national and state politics. He served as a governor of New York, U.S. senator and U.S. Secretary of State and over the years opposed the extension of slavery to land acquired during the 1840s war with Mexico, advocated the creation of free public educational institutions in New York state, helped prevent a war with Spain over Cuba independence in the 1870s, and gained a reputation for sound advice and conduct during the troublesome administration of President Ulysses S. Grant. A lawyer by profession, born in New York City in 1808, he also served on the vestry (parish council) of St. Philip’s and died at age 85 in Garrison.

Repairs to Old Wall at St. Philip’s Church Planned for Summer

This week’s news of the wall project followed reports at the Philipstown Town Board meeting earlier this month of other road improvements expected to affect drivers this summer. At the board meeting, Supervisor Richard Shea then observed that further work on Snake Hill Road in Garrison, which links Routes 9 and 9D, also was scheduled for summer and would probably close Snake Hill Road for about two months.

Van Tassel, who serves as a Town Board liaison to other agencies on transportation issues, said Tuesday night that the Taconic work was supposed to start in August and end before school resumes in the fall. Until alerted this week, he had not known about the Route 9D project on St. Philip’s wall. He spoke on the state on Wednesday and later said that because of possible local concerns, the DOT would check the schedule and inform the town government accordingly.

Meanwhile, the old wall stood in stawlgray silence, oblivious of pending events in the dock area as well as improvements in the railings and related tasks that have resulted in upgrades to the bandstand, the benches in the dock area as well as improvements in Mayor’s Park. He said the labor was no cost and the supplies paid for out of fees from use of these spaces for various events.

“As chairman of the Recreation Commission, I also like getting involved in the enjoyable aspects of community life, such as organizing Community Day (on the July 4 weekend), the senior citizens picnic, as well scheduling use of our facilities for weddings, graduations and other events,” said Campbell.

On the vexing Butterfield development controversy, Campbell finds himself look-ing for a way forward that recognizes the progress he believes has been made on changing the plans based on community input but also acknowledges the concerns raised at the last public hearing. “All the time we have spent on this as trustees, we thought we were getting close with the re-zoning proposal. We thought the BZA/RB would be acceptable to the majority,” said Campbell. “However, I share the same concerns people raised at the hearing,” he continued. “I don’t want to see a strip mall come out of it, nobody wants that. I don’t want my legacy to be something like Fishkill,” he said.

Campbell said he thought it important that the trustees return to the village’s adopted Comprehensive Plan and work toward making the zoning and other code changes that plan envisions.

Campbell references audit, insurance and personnel committee work to underline his familiarity with the nitty-gritty of government function and accountabil-ity. He cites the painstaking effort to ar-rive at a satisfactory agreement with the part-time police force on arbitration and other issues as another notch in the belt of granular governmental success.

“Since I was 18 (which he admits, when asked, was 48 years ago), I have always focused on what would be good for the village through serving in organizations and on boards, taking a leadership role. I am running for re-election now because I want to follow through on the things I have been working on,” he said.
Members of Haldane's advisory Health and Safety Committee (HSC), together with Superintendent Mark Villanti, the principals, director of facilities and the school's outside safety auditor gathered together on Wednesday night (Feb. 27) to present an overview of current and past school safety measures, some implemented, some recommended, in a PTA-sponsored interaction open to parents and the public.

Calling the subject of safety “critical and anxiety-producing” for parents, PTA President Laura Danilov stressed how “important it is for parents to be in partnership with the administration.”

HSC is an advisory committee created by the Board of Education and consisting of a mix of parents — including many law enforcement and/or security professionals — Haldane staff, and a board member. They are charged to:

- Participate in the investigation and disposition of health and safety complaints, issues and concerns.
- Ensure that at least one member of the committee participates in the annual visual inspection.
- Consult with préstamo officials in completing safety ratings of all occupied school buildings.
- Monitor safety during school construction projects including periodic meetings to review issues and address complaints related to health and safety resulting from the project.
- Upon completion of a construction project, conduct a walk-through inspection to ensure the area is ready to receive complaints related to health and safety resulting from the project.
- Provide an annual report to the Board of Education.

HSC co-chair Bob Ferris (along with Tom Cunningham), who is a criminal investigator with the county sheriff’s department, spoke first, mentioning his eight years on the HSC. He said there was now “a real need to get up to speed, even though this is a small town,” saying that the process was a matter of “reviewing, upgrading, finding weaknesses.” He stressed the importance of “securing the building with the aim of slowing down any potential intruder and speeding up the arrival of trained emergency services at the building.”

The resumés of some of the other committee members in attendance spoke to the abundance of professional experience in the voluntary committee: former MTA Police Chief of Security Kevin McConvile; City of Beacon lead firearms instructor and district official, former New York Police Department, now Town of Fishkill police Sgt. Jim Spratt, who also works in private security; and Department of Homeland Security Special Agent Chris Shields. All have had children who attended Haldane.

Shields said he felt it important “to be proactive rather than reactive. I also want the teachers to feel relaxed, the students secure, and other local agencies more involved.”

Elementary/Middle School Assistant Principal Julia Sniffen described the formation of the HSC in 1999, after Columbine, when “Project Save” legislation was enacted, requiring school districts to have emergency management plans. She said the plan had undergone several revisions, the first large one in response to the Sept. 11 attacks, and now, in response to the recent tragic events, another point of reevaluation.

Elementary/Middle School Principal Brent Harrington got down to some specifics, explaining that “in the wake of Sandy Hook, we took a hard look at protocols, entrances and the significant shift in culture, balancing community feelings with recognizing the need to increase safety.” These changes include a shift in entrances and exits to the school; the positioning of two alternating “greeters” at the only entrance; the locking of doors earlier in the day, the evaluation of each door and each lock, and other measures. Harrington also stressed a change in “the practice and culture of all classrooms. Now all doors are locked when closed, though the doors can remain open at the teachers’ discretion, when they are shut, they are locked.” Harrington also referred favorably to the Cold Spring Police presence on campus during arrival and dismissal times.

High School Principal Brian Alm spoke next, mentioning the school’s lockdown drill, which had taken place the day before, calling it successful in most aspects. He described rehearsing that drill and another “more intense” safety drill that takes place every two years to ensure that new staff receives timely training. An evacuation plan is in place, taking into account those high school students who leave the campus for lunch. There is now a text-alert system in place, which would immediately get the word out to all students to stay away from campus in the event of any incident.

Later in the discussion, in response to a question from a parent, the committee decided to test the text_alert system in the form of a drill on occasion. In addition to enhancements in the identification system, key and swipe-card controls, which Alm called “much more meticulous now,” he called the “relationships with our students” the “biggest preventative measure. The addition of a school social worker two years ago is a tremendous asset.”

Director of Facilities Mike Twardy further defined some of the new measures already implemented, including making sure all chutes, mechanical and electrical rooms remain locked at all times; the changing of locks; the use of a swipe-card system, which he said aids greatly in determining who is coming and going; and the addition of numerous cameras. He broke things down into immediate and future goals, the future being contingent, of course, upon securing the funding needed, not an easy proposition nowadays. On his wish list are better video monitoring systems, programmable doors and more cameras. Considering limited funding, he is looking to integrate more systems among all buildings on the campus and is, at all times, using a multiple bid system.

Villanti said the HSC was “helping us develop a balancing point where we are as safe and secure as possible, while not making this environment different from the normal culture.” To further that, the school has just concluded a safety audit. Director of MSA Security Matt Dimmick, who has extensive background in both military and private security, served as the auditor. Dimmick said he first looked at the facility “from the perimeter out,” seeing “a layer of defense. How do we detect threats? Through the social work- ers, interactions with students, looking for odd behaviors, monitoring of Internet threats.” He then proceeded to “the building envelope, beginning with the façade: ‘How do I get in?’”

Dimmick provided more details on changes that had already been enacted, methods of ingress and egress, intercom systems, classroom doors (down to things as basic as hinges), etc., saying the ultimate goal was to set these things in place while still making “parents comfortable, children comfortable and hav- ing a place where education can happen, one of things that should impinge on a child’s ability to learn.” All methods of entry, including windows, tunnels and rooftops were looked into.

Shifting his remarks towards “active shooter response,” Dimmick described the three possibilities as “run, hide, fight” and spoke of a room-by-room evacuation and amination and teacher training on hid- ing and exiting. He called the “sheltering areas” [of each room] “large enough for all students to stay away from campus in the event of any incident.”

Saying that shooters “have many common statistics, but no real profile,” he reiterat ed the need to hopefully de- ter and use all delaying tactics possible to allow for a law enforcement response, and also to have things set up systemati- cally but not necessarily revealed to the public, for security’s sake. Dimmick said, “In a real crisis, things don’t follow a plan, because people will be scared,” nonetheless things like a designated site for all on campus to head to, and ways of alerting parents not to descend on buildings en masse, can be better facilitated.

Questions from the parents in atten- dance followed, on topics ranging from the school resource officer (as in the past), who would be funded 50/50 by the school and county, to the fine line between making children fear- ful and having them prepared, to putting up a proposition vote to the community to pay for further security enhancements — something Villanti seemed to think was a win-win in “taking the school to the next level” of protection.
Music at Winterfest

Warming up with the spirit of things, what better time to fundraise, and, in keeping it going, Riverfest’s organizers, looking to up the ante this year for this event, for which we wanted to do something more grassroots, but a lot of work for not a lot of return.

Riverfest, the free daylong music, food and crafts festival, has become one of Beacon’s signature and most popular public events, attracting an increasing number of crowds (more than 3,000 people attended last year) to its multiple stages each June. This year’s event, scheduled for June 29, will feature three stages and curated craft and food vendors. In order to keep it free and to keep it going, Riverfest’s organizers, Local 845, need to fundraise, and, in keeping with the spirit of things, what better way to do so than through music?

Enter Winterfest, a concert taking place this Saturday night (March 2) and the first to be held in the aptly named Waterfall Room (the falls are directly outside the huge, floor-to-ceiling windows) at The Roundhouse at Beacon Falls. With three headline acts and a fourth, homegrown “surprise,” the organizers are inviting attendees to “Come celebrate in communal warmth and brighten up the bleak, midwinter months ... in anticipation of the sunny days ahead.”

Local 845’s Stephen Clair, Winterfest’s organizer, wanted to up the ante this year for this event, for which all proceeds will go directly towards Riverfest. “For our first three years we did something entirely different: pancake breakfasts, which were nice, grassroots, but a lot of work for not a lot of fundraising,” said Clair. “In our first year we had some concerts at the Howland Center, which were kind of a mishmash of local musicians. This time we wanted to do something more gussied up.” With that in mind, he approached Brendan McAline of The Roundhouse, who “very generously provided the esquisite space.”

Winterfest will be a seated concert, with a bar open for drinks, some food served and a “classy set of artists performing.”

With the space secured, Clair booked bands he thought would work well with its “tremendous acoustics. Riverfest is about rock bands — it’s an outdoor festival. For Winterfest I looked more on the acoustic side of things,” he noted.

The Big Bright pulls together keyboardist Glenn Patscha and guitarist/vocalist Fiona McPhail of the popular Americana roots-rock band Ollabelle, with singer/songwriter Liz Tormes. Big Bright will make their Hudson Valley debut (their overall debut was last September at Rockwood Music Hall in Manhattan) and, according to concert press notes, “pour beautiful harmonies and understated arrangements over a surprising selection of Brit-pop and vintage New Wave guilty pleasures in support of a new disc called I Slept Through the ’80s.”

Dubbing themselves “the new wake of New Wave,” the Big Bright was, according to the release: “formed around a shared guilty pleasure — vintage New Wave and ’80s Brit-pop (think Depeche Mode, Tears for Fears, The Cure) — The Big Bright finds the beating heart in the melodies, lyrics and frailties hidden in the overblown, overly familiar period arrangements of retro-pop favorites, translating them into smart, dreamy — and original — contemporary pop soundscapes.”

Clair added, “Their new project is understated — it’s taken from the ’80s, but subdued.” To learn more and listen to a few tracks visit thebigbright.com and soundcloud.com/thebigbright. Also performing will be Antje Duvekot (pronounced aunt-yuh doo-va-kott), a Boston-based singer/songwriter with a classically sharp poetic sensibility. Duvekot is “the rare artist who can write about the social and the personal in the same breath,” said Boston’s folk icon Ellis Paul. “Her voice has a sound of innocence and naivete which makes razor-sharp insights into the human condition.”

Producer Neil Dorfman (Bob Dylan, Bruce Springsteen, Sting) added: “She creates an entire, detailed world in verse, and takes you there with beautiful and understated melody. Her songs are stunning paintings of color and shade.”

And as Springsteen biographer Dave Marsh said, “Antje is the whole package.”

Her latest album, New Siberia, was produced by folk legend Richard Shindell. Duvekot calls her lyric influences “the great: Dylan, Joni Mitchell, Paul Simon and Leonard Cohen, all Mount Rushmore-like figures.” To listen to her work, visit antjeduvekot.com.

“Jammy. Americas all-country rockers” Yarn will appear too, invited back after their 2010 Riverfest appearance because “people want to see them again,” said Clair. Press notes said Yarn “follows in the fine tradition of The Grateful Dead and Widespread Panic in working crowds into a mellow, communal frenzy. Yarn’s sound owes as much to Gram Parsons and Earl Scruggs as to Jerry Garcia and Elvis On Main Street-era Rolling Stones. Led by singer/songwriter Blake Christiana, their fourth and latest disc, Almost Home, produced by the multi-Grammy winning Bil VornDick (Alison Krauss, Ralph Stanley, Bob Dylan), comes close to capturing their blistering live shows and is certainly their most electric to date, but they are definitely best caught live.”

Yarn recently appeared at Austin’s famed South by Southwest (SXSW) festival in the New Frontier Showcase. Clair adds Yarn “a little louder, (Continued on page 11)
ne of our regular customers at the Goose is David Duffy who says he’s a novelist. He beer coffee and always has a rude comment for the boss. I think of him as the broiler or Chief because he'll accuse the boss of cheating him and leave the store with remarks like “See you next week if you haven’t been indicted for fraud.” If he is indeed a writer he's not the only artistic character around Philipstown. There are four biographers who will surely mention Cold Spring in their work.

First up is journalist Gabriel Sherman of New York Magazine who is writing a biography of lidkeeper and husband of the owner of the PCNF, Roger Ailes. Next comes Mr. Ailes himself who promises to write an authorized biography of Ailes, this one about Mr. Ailes and include passages on

Photography by Phil Haber
10 A.M. - 8 P.M. MONDAY AND WEDNESDAY NOON - 5 P.M. WEDNESDAY AND THURSDAY SATURDAY NOON - 5 P.M. SUNDAY
BUTTERFIELD LIBRARY 10 Morris Ave., Cold Spring 845-265-3040 | butterfieldlibrary.org Ends March 14

Robert Rodriguez Jr. Photographs NOON - 6 P.M. WEDNESDAY TO SUNDAY RIVERWINDS GALLERY | 172 Main St, Beacon 845-838-2880 | riverwinds-gallery.com Ends March 4

Say Peckskill by Ben Altman 9 A.M. - 9 P.M. MONDAY, TUESDAY THURSDAY 11 A.M. - 6 P.M. SATURDAY 10 A.M. - 5 P.M. SUNDAY
FIELD LIBRARY GALLERY | 4 Nelson Lane, Peekskill 914-788-0100 | hccn.org Ends March 28

The Stifting by Lillian Tomasko In Search of America by Stephen Cox 10 A.M. - 5 P.M. TUESDAY TO SUNDAY GARRISON ART CENTER 23 Garrison’s Landing, Garrison 845-424-3960 | garrisonartcenter.com Ends March 3

Studio Mail by Francois Deschamps NOON - 6 P.M. SATURDAY AND SUNDAY FOWEX EXHIBITIONS 143 Main St, Beacon 917-930-0030 | fowexexhibitions.com Ends April 7

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

Summer Art Institute
Students entering 9th–12th grade July 15 thru August 2, 2013 10:15 to 4:45 Fine Arts Immersion for Aspiring Young Artists painting, drawing, sculpture, ceramics, printmaking and portfolio development Summer Art Institute provides serious young artists with a haven for creative thinking and exploration while developing skills and connecting with peers and professional artists.

Art & Design
Aspects NOON - 6 P.M. THURSDAY TO SUNDAY MARINA GALLERY | 153 Main St, Cold Spring 845-265-2204 | themarinalgallery.com Ends March 31

As the Crow Flies 9 A.M. - 5 P.M. MONDAY TO THURSDAY 11 A.M. - 5 PM SATURDAY NOON - 5 P.M. SUNDAY
BEACON INSTITUTE | 659 Main St, Beacon 845-838-1600 | fire.org/events | Ends March 2

Eldor Smokeles: These Are Mine NOON - 6 P.M. FRIDAY TO SUNDAY TRIO GANZ STUDIO | 149 Main St, Beacon 917-318-2239 | trioganzstudio.com Ends March 3

Family NOON - 5 P.M. MONDAY TO SATURDAY MAD DOLEY GALLERY | 197 Main St, Beacon 845-702-7045 | Ends March 24

Figuratively Speaking NOON - 6 P.M. THURSDAY TO SATURDAY GALLERY 66 NY | 66 Main St, Cold Spring 845-809-9388 | gallery66ny.com Ends March 31

Peckskill Project V: The New Hudson River School | Ends July 28 The Power of Place | Ends April 28
Hudson Valley Center for Contemporary Art 1701 Main St, Peekskill 914-788-0010 | hvcca.org

Stop by and find out more about the classes at the Summer Art Institute.

The Calendar
Looking for things to do in 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!
Hudson Valley Swappers

The Hudson Valley Swappers will hold a food swap at the Beacon Farmers Market on Sunday, March 3. It's a chance to swap homemade or homegrown foods with other people in the area.

Source: facebook.com/HudsonValleySwappers

SUNDAY, MARCH 3

Kids & Community

Not Your Mama’s Sunday School (ages 8-16)
11 A.M. - 2 P.M. SCHOOL OF JELLYFISH
143 Main St., Beacon
845-440-8017 | schoolofjellyfish.com

Farmer’s Market
11 A.M. - 3 P.M. SCENE HUDSON’S RIVER CENTER
Long Dock Road, Beacon
845-234-9205 | thebeaconfarmersmarket.com

Hudson Valley Food Swap
NOON - 3 P.M. BEACON FARMERS MARKET
Long Dock Road, Beacon
845-234-9205 | thebeaconfarmersmarket.com

Meet the Animals
1 & 2:30 P.M. WILDLIFE EDUCATION CENTER
225 Main St., Beacon
845-628-4730 | beaconlibrary.org

Free Computer Help
2 P.M. DESMOND-FISH LIBRARY
472 Route 403, Garrison
845-424-3020 | desmondfishlibrary.org

Meetings & Lectures
AA Meeting
10 A.M. - NOON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
216 Main St., Cold Spring | 845-265-3365

Religious Services
Mass at Our Lady of Loretto
5:30 P.M. 24 Fair St., Cold Spring
845-265-3718 | ourladyofloretos.com

Friday, March 1

10 a.M. Constitutional Marsh Audubon Center
127 Warrin Landing, Garrison
845-265-2601 | constitutionalmarshaudubon.org

Maple Sugar Festival
10:30 A.M. - 3 P.M. OUTDOOR DISCOVERY CENTER
100 Moore Drive, Cornwall
845-534-5506 | htratemuseum.org

Meet the Animals
1 & 2 P.M. WILDLIFE EDUCATION CENTER
225 Main St., Beacon
845-628-4730 | beaconlibrary.org

Wine Tasting
3 - 6 P.M. ARTISAN WINE SHOP
313 Main St., Beacon
845-234-9205 | thebeaconfarmersmarket.com

Proud to be Employee Owned

ARTIFICATIONS

OPENING

Prisoners
8 P.M. PHILIPSTOWN DEPOT THEATRE
Details under Friday.

God of Carnage
8 P.M. THE BEACON THEATRE
Details under Friday

See details under Saturday.

Theater & Film

Auditions for Beyond the Fringe
10 A.M. - NOON & 1 - 3 P.M. PHILIPSTOWN DEPOT THEATRE
10 Garrison Landing, Garrison
845-424-3900 | philipstowndepottheatre.com
Email: josephdunn9@gmail.com

Join Us This Saturday!
Tickets Available at the Door.

MUSIC

Beacon Winterfest
7 - 11 P.M. THE ROUNDHOUSE AT BEACON FALLS
2 East Main St., Beacon
917-806-1348 | local845.com

T Jay
9 P.M. MAX’S OX MAIN | See details under Friday.

Saturday, March 2

Four Seasons Hike One: Winter
10 A.M. MOUNT BEACON PARK
Route 9D and Howland Avenue, Beacon
845-473-4440, ext. 273 | scottinhudson.org

Public Eagle Hike
10 A.M. CONSTITUTION MARSH AUDUBON CENTER
127 Warrin Landing, Garrison
845-265-2601 | constitutionalmarshaudubon.org

Maple Sugar Festival
10:30 A.M. - 3 P.M. OUTDOOR DISCOVERY CENTER
100 Moore Drive, Cornwall
845-534-5506 | htratemuseum.org

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See details under Saturday.

(Continued on next page)
Summer Arts on the Hudson

Students entering Kindergarten thru 8th grade
June 24 thru July 12, 2013  9:30 to 3:00

Creative fun indoors and out!
* painting, drawing, sculpture, ceramics, book crafts, and more!
* And all at an inspiring place down by the riverside on Garrison’s Landing

Find out what parents have been raving about for nearly three decades.
"...the world of education can often be about memorization, in contrast, [Summer Arts on the Hudson] awakens young minds to the potential, awareness and ability to problem solve.... And best of all, it puts hard work into the context of enjoying oneself."  — Parent SAH 2012
The Calendar (from page 10)

Member Meeting 7 p.m.  COLD SPRING BOAT CLUB 5 New St., Cold Spring  845-265-2465 | coldspringboatclub.com
PCNR Candidates’ Forum 7 p.m.  Haldane School (Cafeteria) 15 Craigside Drive, Cold Spring  845-265-0468 | secc.org
Parents Support Group 7 p.m.  COLD SPRING HEALING ARTS 6 Marion Ave., Cold Spring | 914-522-9044
Sponsored by Haldane and Garrison PTAs
AA Big Book Meeting 8 p.m.  ST. PHILIP’S EPISCOPAL CHURCH 1101 Route 90, Garrison  845-424-3571 | stphilipsnh.org

TUESDAY, MARCH 5

Kids & Community

Indoor Tot Park
9 - 11 A.M. & NOON  - 2 P.M.  PHILIPSTOWN RECREATION CENTER | Information under Friday

Muddy Buddies (grades K-2) First Session 3:45 p.m.  OUTDOOR DISCOVERY CENTER 100 Muser Drive, Cornwall  845-534-5506, ext. 204 | ihtrnaturesum.org

Block Party (1-3) & Logo Club (4+)
8 A.M.  HOWLAND PUBLIC LIBRARY 313 Main St., Beacon  845-831-1134 | beaconlibrary.org

Kids Craft Hour
4 - 5 P.M.  DESMOND-FISH LIBRARY | 472 Route 403, Garrison  845-424-3020 | desmondfishlibrary.org

Music

The Dream Choir 7 p.m.  YOGASONG STUDIO 27 Travis Corners Road, Garrison  845-424-4340 | yogasongstudio.com

Meetings & Lectures

Knitting Club 10 A.M.  HOWLAND PUBLIC LIBRARY 313 Main St., Beacon | 845-831-1134 | beaconlibrary.org

The Lives and Legends of Hudson River Fishes 6:30 p.m.  SCENA HICUSON’S RIVER CENTER Long Dock Road, Beacon  845-473-4424, ext. 273 | scenahudson.org Part of the Natural Lecture Series

AA Open Meeting 7 p.m.  ST. PHILIP’S EPISCOPAL CHURCH 1101 Route 90, Garrison  845-424-3571 | stphilipsnh.org

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

Board of Trustees Workshop 7:30 p.m.  VILLAGE HALL | 85 Main St., Cold Spring | 845-265-3611 | coldspringgvt.org

Cold Spring Planning Board 7:30 p.m.  VILLAGE HALL | 85 Main St., Cold Spring | 845-265-3611 | coldspringgvt.org

Women’s AA Meeting 7:30 p.m.  FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH 10 Academy St., Cold Spring  845-265-3220 | presbychurchcoldspring.org

Religious Services

Contemplative Prayer 7 A.M.  FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF PHILIPSTOWN 10 Academy St., Cold Spring  845-265-3220 | presbychurchcoldspring.org

Morning Marian 8:30 A.M.  BEACON HEBREW ALLIANCE 330 Verplanck Ave., Beacon  847-831-2012 | beaconhebrewalliance.org

Bible Study and Mass 9:30 A.M.  JOHN KIRK PARISH, 6TH FLOOR Graymoor, 1350 Route 9, Garrison  800-338-2600 | graymoorcenter.org

Bible Study 7:45 P.M.  CHURCH ON THE HILL 245 Main St., Cold Spring | 845-265-2022 | coldspringchurchonthill.com

THURSDAY, MARCH 7

Kids & Community

Indoor Tot Park
9 - 11 A.M. & NOON  - 2 P.M.  PHILIPSTOWN RECREATION CENTER | See details under Friday.

Brain Games for Adults 10 A.M.  HOWLAND PUBLIC LIBRARY | 313 Main St., Beacon | 845-831-1134 | beaconlibrary.org

AARP Tax Assistance 10 A.M. - 2 P.M.  HOWLAND PUBLIC LIBRARY See details under Monday.

Bouncing Babies 10:30 A.M.  BUTTERFIELD LIBRARY 10 Morris Ave, Cold Spring | 845-265-3040 | butterfieldlibrary.org

Health & Fitness

Adult Co-Ed Volleyball 7:30 p.m.  PHILIPSTOWN RECREATION CENTER 107 Graymoor Drive, Garrison  845-424-4618 | phlptownrecreation.com

Breakthrough Wellness Workshop 7-9 p.m., The LIVING ROOM | 103 Main St., Cold Spring | 648-246-6767 | delcassiusnutrition.com

Music

Hudson Valley Comhaltas 6:30 p.m. - CLASSES 8 P.M.  SESSION 7 P.M. ST. PHILIP’S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Meetings & Lectures

Poetry Writing Workshop/Open Mic 6 P.M.  BEACON CAFE 205 S. Division, Peekskill  914-737-1701 | beaconcafe.com

Beacon Board Not Bored 7:30 P.M.  COLD SPRING ART CENTER 23 Garrigan’s Landing, Garrison | hanyokeck.com

Garrison/PTA 7 P.M.  GARRISON SCHOOL 1100 Route 90, Garrison  845-424-3689 | gwar.org

Philipstown Tech Group: IT Professionals 7 P.M.  Costume Workshop 76 Main St., Cold Spring | 845-809-5959

Relay for Life Organizational Meeting 7:30 P.M.  NICOL’S ITALIAN RESTAURANT 3620 Route G, Cold Spring  845-440-2521 | relayforlife.org/phlptown

Town Board Meeting 7:30 P.M.  PHILIPSTOWN TOWN HALL 236 Main St., Cold Spring  845-265-8200 | philipstown.com

AA Step Meeting 8 P.M.  ST. MARY’S EPISCOPAL CHURCH 1 Chnstlnt St., Cold Spring  845-265-2539 | stmaryscoldspring.org

Philipstown Freemasons 8 P.M.  Masonic Lodge | 318 Searl St., Niskomille 845-265-2244 | philipstown32flm.org

Religious Services

Hill Top Visionaries (Young Adults) 6:30 P.M.  CHURCH ON THE HILL 245 Main St., Cold Spring | 845-265-2022 | coldspringchurchonthill.com

Light, Dîr & Longing: Exploring Genesis in the Jewish and Christian Traditions 7:30 P.M.  BEACON HEBREW ALLIANCE 330 Verplanck Ave., Beacon  847-831-2012 | beaconhebrewalliance.org

Warming Up With Music at Winterfest (from page 7) but sensitive to the room, and they will round out the night.” To listen and read more, visit yarmusic.net. The fourth and unadvertised act will be the Beacon Music Factory House Band. Consisting of many of the Factory’s disparate teacher-musicians, this band, whose members include a conservatory-trained violinist, a jazz trumpeter and a harmonica master, will, according to Clair, “debut their super sonic and cool sound. We began, thinking of it initially, as an outreach effort and thought ‘if we put them in a room together it will be fantastic.” Truthfully, it was a rough start at first, as they were coming from such different schools, but they have really learned how to work together. They will bring their unique instruments to a handful of songs, including the standard “Lazy River.”

The doors will open at 7 p.m. The Roundhouse is located at 2 E. Main St. in Beacon. Tickets, which cost $45, may be purchased at the door or in advance by calling 845-202-3555 or on brownpapertickets.com. There are a few VIP tickets designated “Snow Angels” with front-and-center seating, and these cost $90.

Desmond-Fish Librarian Polly Townsend Retiring (from page 7) stories are read. Townsend is looking forward to spending more time in her own garden now that she’ll have more free time. She’ll also tap the maple trees on her property, care for her chickens and bees and increase the number of hours she volunteers at the Therapeutic Equestrian Center in Cold Spring. Surely, Townsend will be missed. “Polly’s watched children grow up here,” said Library Director Carol Donick. “She’s passed on a love for reading and appreciation for all of the wonderful things that libraries have to offer.”

The Desmond-Fish Library hosts children’s programs throughout the year. Music and movement classes for toddlers as well as story and craft hours for elementary-aged children are held weekly. Special programs are scheduled for weekends, so watch your calendar for programming.”
Gardens Needed for Partners With PARC Tour

Partners with PARC, a nonprofit dedicated to securing the financial future of people with disabilities, will host its annual Putnam County Secret Garden Tour on Saturday, June 8, and gardens are needed for this year’s fundraiser.

The tour, which runs from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, June 8, is a self-guided driving tour of gardens across Putnam County. Tour organizers are looking for unique, memorable and special gardens to profile for this year’s tour.

“Building on the success of our past garden tours and our well-known Cold Spring By Candlelight House Tour, we are in need of new and exciting gardens to showcase for this year’s Putnam County Secret Garden Tour fundraiser,” said Rand Otten, director of development for Partners with PARC. “With the support of our Putnam County friends and neighbors, we hope to expand our tour and include gardens that are rarely seen and off the beaten path.”

A total of 12 gardens from across Putnam County are needed for this year’s event. Tour organizers are looking for formal gardens, charming country gardens, water gardens, alpine gardens, perennial flowering landscapes, rose gardens, and much more. All garden owners will be given a trip for four to Cancun, Mexico (accommodations for this year’s tour will be guaranteed) for each garden that is chosen.

“Partners with PARC has partnered with the Putnam County Secret Garden Tour fundraiser,” said Diane E. Russo, executive director of the Putnam County Secret Garden Tour fundraiser. “Rand Otten and the board of PFCS. The tour, which runs from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Howland Cultural Center, 477 Main St. in Beacon, and will be followed by a reception to meet the artists.

Main St. in Beacon, and will be followed by a reception to meet the artists.

New on PFCS Board

Partners with PARC, a nonprofit dedicated to securing the financial future of people with disabilities, has augmented its governing body of the Carmel-based nonprofit with three new members.

Winning the Naumburg Chamber Music Award in 1989, the Peabody Trio gave their New York debut in 1990 at Alice Tully Hall and has since performed in chamber music series across the United States and internationally. They tour frequently in England, Japan and Israel. Their reputation as champions of new music garnered them an invitation to the first Biennale for contemporary music “Tempus Fugit,” in Tel Aviv.

Many festivals including Tanglewood have been home to their summer performances, and they have appeared on radio broadcasts such as Saint Paul Sunday Night, NPR’s Performance Today, WGBH in Boston, and others.

Clarinetist Charles Neidich will join the trio later in the program. He regularly appears as soloist and as collaborator with leading ensembles in the United States as well as in Europe and Asia.

For its concert at the Howland Center, the Peabody Trio gave their New York debut in 1990 at Alice Tully Hall and has since performed in chamber music series across the United States and internationally. They tour frequently in England, Japan and Israel. Their reputation as champions of new music garnered them an invitation to the first Biennale for contemporary music “Tempus Fugit,” in Tel Aviv.”

“Partners with PARC has partnered with the Putnam County Secret Garden Tour fundraiser,” said Diane E. Russo, executive director of the Putnam County Secret Garden Tour fundraiser. “Rand Otten and the board of PFCS.

For more information, visit http://www.fcsinc.org or facebook.com/PFCSinc.

Garrison Resident New on PFCS Board

Putnam Family and Community Services, Inc. (PFCS) has augmented its Board of Directors with a number of new members. Recent additions to the governing body of the Carmel-based nonprofit, which provides mental health and chemical dependency services to residents of Putnam County, include:

Tracy S. Bernstein, Esq. of Garrison, founding partner of Manhattan-based Himmel & Bernstein, LLP
Lori Downing of Clinton Corners, area retail manager with Hudson Valley Federal Credit Union;
Michelle L. Gasparr, of Brewster, president of Meridian Benefits Consulting; Susan Kesman of Pawling, contract optimization analyst with Boehringer Ingelheim Pharmaceuticals, Inc.;
Mary Mcilguin of Carmel, retired small business owner;
and Michael J. Novenhal, M.D. of Carmel, attending physician and chairman of the Department of Medicine at Putnam Hospital Center, Putnam County corno- ner, and local physician in Brewster.

PFCS Executive Director Diane K. Russo said, “I would encourage anyone who wants to make a difference in the lives of their neighbors to join a local not-for-profit board of directors and to choose an agency that does work that you are passionate about. It’s the best way to give back to your community.” Russo can be reached at 845-225-2700.

PFCS is also a private nonprofit agency providing recovery-based mental health, chemical dependency treatment and prevention services in Putnam County. PFCS offers hope and healing to people of all ages through a comprehensive range of services including individual and group counseling, case coordination, family advocacy, parenting education, community outreach, psychiatric rehabilitation and medication management. For more information, visit http://www.fcsinc.org.

Peace Pilgrimage for Nuclear-Free Future to Stop in Cold Spring

Pullock dinner at St. Mary’s to welcome group on March 6

On Wednesday, March 6, a group of five to 10 people on a peace pilgrimage for a nuclear-free future, led by Japanese Buddhist nun of the Nipponzan Myohoji Buddha, Rev. and Swaim is a long-time naturalist educator and has led international trips for bird- watchers and eco-tourists. This program is being sponsored by the Putnam Highlands Audubon Society and is the first session in a series being offered this spring in the identification of birds. This program begins at 8 a.m. on Saturday, March 11, 2011. “We walk together step by step as a testament of our commitment in pro-"
Shop Putnam Expo to Promote Businesses

Businesses from throughout the country are encouraged to promote themselves at the 2013 Shop Putnam Business & Home Expo, the largest regional event in the area. The event, which is being hosted by the Greater Mahopac-Carmel Chamber of Commerce, is being held at Putnam Hospital Center on Saturday, May 11, from noon to 5 p.m.

Exhibitors will have their choice of showcasing their displays indoors (limited) or outdoors. Oversized spots are also available. In addition to offering a spacious location for the vendors, the committee decided to hold the expo on a Saturday rather than a working weekday, giving more people an opportunity to attend the event. Also for the first time, food and catering vendors will have an opportunity to be featured at the expo.

Vendor opportunities are open to all Putnam and Northern Westchester’s businesses. Chamber mates exist for any business that is a chamber member of any of the Putnam County Chambers of Commerce. For more information or to register as an exhibitor, visit shopputnamexpo.com, email info@shopputnamexpo.com or call 845-628-5553. Putnam Hospital Center is located at 970 Honealech Ave. in Carmel.

St. Philip's Celebrates at Annual Meeting

At the annual meeting held Sunday, Feb. 24, the community of historic St. Philip's Church in the Highlands thanked outgoing vestry members and welcomed newcomers to governance roles.

Sister Warden Nathaniel Prentice is retiring after a total of 10 years of service, including six as a vestry member, two years as junior warden and two years as senior warden. Incoming Senior Warden Jan Anderson thanked Nat for helping to build a strong church community and for leading the St. Philip's congregation in maintaining the church’s financial health in the face of a serious recession. Anderson also thanked Belle Newton, who is stepping down after six years, during which time she served as clerk of the vestry.

Dan Melvoin is the new junior warden of St. Philip’s, returning to the vestry after previous service as treasurer. Lynn Carano and Terri Akbas are the two newly elected vestry members, and elected to the vestry are Michael McKee and Jeff Sculley. Member Shelagh Speers was re-elected for two more years.

Reports from church working groups and committees covered the music program, welcoming efforts, fundraising, physical assets, charitable outreach, Sunday School, Nursery School, Youth Group, and Altar Guild. The Welcoming Committee members serve as stewards to visit the church as well as St. Philip’s website and Facebook page, for ongoing updates on church activities: philipstownch.org.

For further information, contact the Rev. Frank Geer at 845-424-5571.

Sunset Reading Series Holds DJ Dance Party

The Sunset Reading Series celebrates its fifth anniversary with a fundraising party at Cathryn’s Tuscan Grill on Friday, March 1, 8 p.m. The series has brought authors, poets and musicians to Putnam’s own Cathryn’s Tuscan Grill for free Sunday afternoon performances that have captivated a growing audience of local regulars and tourists alike.

From Mary Gaitskill to Tom Wolfe, Ai- mee Bender to Valerie Martin, and Sam Tuthill to John Updike, the series has attracted major writers who are known for dynamic delivery of their work. The last event of the 2012 season had an overflow crowd mesmerized by local poet Jeffrey McDaniel and singer/songwriter Joan Baez. A Policewoman. This year promises to be a stellar one with E.L. Doctorow, one of the greatest American novelists, kicking off the season on May 5.

The series is made possible, in part, with public funds from the New York State Council on the Arts Decentralization Program. In Putnam County the Decentralization Program is administered by the Putnam Arts Council. Unfortunately, the 2013 grant for the Sunset Reading Series was cut in half due to state budget cuts. The series will be unable to fund four to five readings per year without more support from the private donors. All are invited to join them on March 1 for a night of cocktails and dancing to support and celebrate the reading series.

Tickets for the fundraiser are $35, which includes dancing, one sunset cocktail and hors d’oeuvres. Go to sunstereadingseries.com or RSVP to the series contact at info@putnamhighlandsaudubon.org for more information on the party and how to donate.

Hudson Valley Restaurant Week Returns March 11-24

Hudson Valley Restaurant Week, the dining event heralding spring, returns March 11-24, featuring more than 170 restaurants across seven counties, it is one of the largest Restaurant Week events in the country.

“The Hudson Valley is a rising star in the culinary world,” said Janet Crawford, founder of the event. “Home to the country’s foremost cooking school, world-class wineries and distilleries, award-winning cheese makers and some of the top chefs in America,” Crawford noted, “it makes for world-class dining on par with the best dining destinations in the world.”

The Hudson Valley, in fact, is one of only three U.S. destinations recently named by National Geographic as a “must-see” destination in part because of its vibrant food scene.

Local purveyors who are leaders in their field, such as Millbrook Vineyards, Tuthilltown Spirits and Continental Or- ganics (apenonios) supply many of the participating restaurants. For example, the cheeses of Sprout Creek Farm in Dutchess County can be found in dishes at Restaurant 28, The Cheese Cafe and Terrapin. Hudson Valley Foie Gras is known worldwide, and they are featured on many menus, including those at Tarry Lodge and The Ship Lantern Inn. Hudson Valley Restaurant Week features prix fixe, three-course dinners for $29.95 and lunches for $20.95 (plus bev- erage, tax and tip). Diners can enjoy a variety of international flavors with a lo- cal flare including Argentinian, French, German, Greek, Irish, Italian, Japanese, Latino, Mediterranean, Mexican, Moroc- can and Swiss. A complete list of participating restaurants is available at hud- sonValleyRestaurantWeek.com.

Patrons arriving by train will find more than 65 venues are near Metro-North train sta- tions. To make a reservation, call the restau- rant directly or visit Opentable.com.

Galef Submits Suggestions to Moreland Commission

Constituents want better communications with utility companies

Assemblewoman Sandy Galef sent a letter to the Moreland Commission (established by Gov. Andrew Cuomo to investigate New York’s power util- ity companies) voicing her constituents’ concerns about utility storm prepara- tion and response. In her January 2013 Newsletter included a questionnaire about how to improve local utility com- panies based on their response to the storm. About 350 people responded.

The majority of responses called for:
- Improving pre-storm maintenance such as trimming of poles and transformers, and stockpiling materials.
- Requiring the utilities to hurry lines for new developments especially in vulnerable areas or along highways.
- Improving communication between the utility companies and clients dur- ing and after storms.
- Requiring gas stations to have gener- ators.

Constituents indicated a growing con- cern regarding how the needed improve- ments would be paid for. Some suggested creating alternative options like putting consumers on the Public Service Commit- tee (PSC) board as well as helping people become less reliant on the utilities.

Visit www.putnamount.info for news updates and latest information.
Hudson Highlands Land Trust Mission Grows in the Town

By Mary Ann Ebner

Conservation easements contain much more than easy overtures. Even Andy Chmar, Hudson Highlands Land Trust executive director, didn’t fully understand conservation easements until he signed on himself to help preserve undeveloped land in the North Highlands. Those days were before Chmar started scouting the Hudson Highlands to carry out the HHLT mission to preserve clean air and water, natural habitats, local food resources and scenic beauty.

According to the Land Trust Alliance, of which HHLT is an accredited member, the fiscal cliff deal recently passed by Congress renewed conservation easement income tax deductions for 2013 and retroactively to 2012. The Land Trust Alliance noted that by removing a property’s development potential, a conservation easement could impact the value of the property, typically lowering it. The incentive may not only help landowners with taxes, estate planning and charitable giving, but may also help land preservation endeavors.

“We have made conservation easements the cornerstone of the organization’s mission. We have identified preservation consideration. Solidifying a conservation easement marks the beginning of a permanent legal agreement, and with that comes a labor-intensive commitment. In addition to researching prospective properties, the HHLT staff continues to maintain responsibility for its existing 72 conservation easements. HHLT’s Director of Land Preservation Katrina Shindledecker oversees conservation easement stewardship.

“The IRS expects us to monitor the conservation easements annually,” Chmar said. “In many respects, Katrina (Shindledecker) has been doing the job of two people. We prepare a baseline document report for each property, and that document is updated each time we visit the property.”

Property visits, which are mandated annually, can reveal topographical changes, forestation, invasive species, or any number of encroachment issues that deviate from agreements in a property’s conservation easement.

“With most cases, these issues are resolved with a phone call or a letter,” Chmar said. “We partner with the owner to get the issue remediated. In most cases, it’s not been the property owner, but an adjoining owner who has done something that encroaches on the property.”

MJ Martin, HHLT director of Outreach and Development, said that the organization takes a proactive approach to upholding their end of agreements.

“One of the benefits that we have of being a local land trust,” Martin said, “is that our staff is out in the community. We hear about things and we can address them.”

Founded in 1989 and growing in acreage and community participation, HHLT recently conducted an extensive search to hire a full-time stewardship coordinator to help address concerns and assess conservation prospects. Every project that the land trust engages in is expensive to assess and impacts the land trust, the local municipality and the public. HHLT has named Matt Deckner as the organization’s new stewardship coordinator, bringing the organization’s full-time staff to five employees. Deckner will be based at the nonprofit’s offices at Winter Hill in Garrison, reporting directly to Shindledecker.

“Our new employee (Deckner) is a recent graduate of the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies,” Chmar said. “He’ll provide stewardship for 1,700-plus acres that preserve land for conservation easements.”

Chmar said that Deckner’s expertise in GIS, energy management, geographic information systems and field work would increase the organization’s ability to protect the region’s natural resources and manage the stewardship of the land trust’s conservation easements. The HHLT Board of Directors anticipates that the newly created stewardship coordinator position will be underwritten in part by a grant from the Land Trust Alliance, but Chmar said that the decision to move forward with the staffing addition was wholly supported with or without the grant.

Martin said that in addition to the 200-plus properties that the land trust is currently focused on assessing through its Legacy Landscapes Project, the organization is furthering outreach and community collaboration in the Hudson Highlands.

“One of the cornerstone of our community outreach is our ‘Take-A-Hike!’ program,” Martin said. “This year’s hikes will take place on both sides of the river and will range from family friendly to expert advice all levels. We fund each a wealth of outdoor experts and volunteer historians to lead the hikes, and we wind up attracting hundreds of hikers throughout the season.”

Though hikes are open to the public, events often fill to capacity. And some hikes are for members only, publicized in membership announcements. Though membership may sound select, it’s anything but exclusive. Anyone can sign up, and as long as they provide an email or mailing address, HHLT will keep them on the membership roll (currently at 1,002 but changing continuously). Chmar noted that the organization welcomes new members with appreciation, and there is no charge to join.

“We want to place any hurdles in front of anyone,” Chmar said. “We set the bar so low it’s on the ground. We’ve even got people far away, even in Scotland, who made a contribution because he loves it up here.”

Though membership is free, contributions are welcome and essential. Land conservation serves as the heart of the organizational mission, but outreach, public policy efforts and education round out mission objectives. To fuel those efforts, the organization relies on contributions. It’s not unheard of to see the hat passed around at HHLT hikes and other events where participants may donate a few bills. But collections from hat passing are largely supplemented by significantly increased support program services. In fiscal year 2011, HHLT received 27 percent of total contributions from these programs. In 2012, one contributor donated 10 percent of the land trust’s total contributions.

“Like many nonprofits,” much of the HHLT budget is designated to support program services. In fiscal years 2012 and 2011, expenses for program services totaled $584,576 and $581,490, respectively, with an increase of $3,081, or 0.5 percent. In 2011, HHLT received $584,576 and $581,490, respectively, with an increase of $3,081, or 0.5 percent. In 2011, HHLT received 27 percent of total contributions from these programs. In 2012, one contributor donated 10 percent of the land trust’s total contributions.

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to their conservation team. Kathy Hamel and Andy Chmar are eager to welcome new staff member Matt Decker from previous page) environmental land stewardship to school children in the five school districts of Haldane, Garrison, Putnam Valley, Cornwall and Highland Falls/Fort Montgomery.

“Spring is a fantastic time for environmental education,” Martin said. “Our environmental educators are working right now indoors, but we are usually incredibly booked when the crocuses are waking up. Irene O’Garden (environmental educator) is doing a three-day poetry intensive language arts component for fourth and fifth graders, and any teacher in all five of our school districts can request our programs.”

HHLT will also orchestrate a teacher-training seminar this spring. The seminar will be held May 17 at their office and will feature a sustainability community forum on invasive species, to be held in April at Highlands Country Club.

Family Festival, the annual sleeper under the stars, also returns in 2013. Working in conjunction with the Haldane School Foundation, the Garrison Children’s Education Fund and Philipstown Recreation Center, the event welcomes experienced and first-time campers and will be held June 8 at the Claudio Marzollo Community Center.

HHLT will continue to focus on clean-ups throughout the year and help champion the environmental cause on both sides of the Hudson. Membership and Public Policy Coordinator Kathy Hamel regularly attends community meetings in the Town of Highlands, and HHLT endeavors to be available as a resource.

“It’s a step-by-step process,” Hamel said. “They struggle with some of the same issues as Philipstown, and we’re always here to help them beautify and green the community.”

The local land trust continues to advocate public policy for the preservation of open space and natural resources. Short-term opportunities to voice opinions with HHLT take place March 6 with Environmental Protection Fund Lobby Day and March 13 with American Farmland Trust Lobby Day in Albany.

In allocating resources to further environmental public policy, community awareness, educational programming and land conservation, the local land trust is growing its presence in Philipstown and setting the community for a sustainable future.

Hudson Highlands Land Trust

• Office location: Winter Hill, 20 Nazareth Way, Garrison
• Postal Address: P.O. Box 226, Garrison, NY 10524
• Website: www.hhlt.org
• Phone: 845-424-3358
• E-mail: info@hhlt.org
• Executive Director: Andrew T. Chmar
• Chairman: Christopher Davis

Number of employees: Five full-time employees, small staff of part-time educators, countless volunteers with room for more to help with a variety of indoor and outdoor events and programs.

• Fiscal Year ending Sept. 30, 2012 Operating Revenues: $837,919, Operating Expenses: $722,452
• Fiscal Year ending Sept. 30, 2011 Operating Revenues: $678,220, Operating Expenses: $673,065

Number of conservation easements: 72

Land currently preserved: 1,700+ acres

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