



March 20 is
the Equinox.
Happy Spring!
See page 15

The Philipstown.info Paper

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Marie Early, left, Dave Merandy and Fran Murphy were all smiles after hearing the election results.

Photo by M. Turton

Trio Triumphs in Cold Spring Vote

Merandy, Early and Murphy win election by wide margins

By Michael Turton

Dave Merandy won convincingly in the race for the mayor's office in Cold Spring's Wednesday (March 18) election, defeating his opponent Barney Molloy by a vote count of 454 to 261.

In the battle for two trustee seats, Marie Early, Merandy's running mate, collected 508 votes, the most among the five candidates. Fran Murphy garnered 500 votes to claim the second trustee seat. Bob Ferris, who teamed up with Molloy, received 257 votes.

The vote totals are unofficial and will be confirmed by the Putnam County Board of Elections, which ran the Cold Spring election for the first time. The vil-

lage had run its own elections previously. The wide margins of victory mean that the 79 absentee ballots that are yet to be counted will not affect the outcome.

Polls closed at 9 p.m. and *The Paper* spoke with the winning candidates immediately after the results were announced at the Cold Spring firehouse.

"I'm just glad. I'm relieved," was how Mayor-elect Merandy reacted to his win. "I had a lot of people behind me and I'm happy for them. People worked really, really hard. They were incredible." Asked if he was surprised by the strength of his victory he said: "I didn't know what it would be. I've been in a bunch [of elections] and you never know. You feel like you have a lot [of support] but you really don't know until the end."

Merandy said he felt that he and running mate Early appealed to a broad cross section of voters. "I just think we pulled from all the demographics," he commented. He also said that letters of

support from other community leaders published in local papers were a significant factor. "The letters from Anthony Phillips, Joe Curto and Mark Villanti were really big," he said.

Assessing the campaign overall, Merandy said: "It was a lot quieter than others. Not a lot of rumor mill. Not a lot of nastiness. Everyone just got to work." His first meeting (Continued on page 3)

Butterfield Library Seeks Funding Increase

Vote to be included on Haldane's May ballot

By Michael Turton

Cold Spring's Julia L. Butterfield Library is seeking approval for \$73,150 in additional funding in a May 19 referendum.

Library Director Gillian Thorpe told *The Paper* that the increase is needed because in 2014 library expenditures totaled \$368,088 while revenues amounted to only \$310,625 — resulting in a \$57,463 deficit. The shortfall was partially offset by \$15,000 in fundraising, and the library borrowed against its endowment "to get to January 2015," Thorpe said.

Financial support of Philipstown's two libraries — Butterfield and the Desmond-Fish Library in Garrison — has become more complicated, and higher-profile, in recent years.

Historically, the bulk of Butterfield Library's operating budget has come from the Town of Philipstown, an amount that for several years totaled \$125,000. Things changed substantially in 2006 when the library went directly to voters and, in a binding referendum, received approval to increase Philipstown's annual support to \$276,000, a decision that was upheld by the New York State Supreme Court when the town protested. Under New York State law the town cannot reduce the annual allotment. (Continued on page 3)



Local students are frequent library users.

Photo by M. Turton

As Snow Fell, So Did Cash in Municipal Accounts to Pay for Removal

Road repairs continue

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

As the flaky white stuff fell this winter, so did the levels of cash kept by local municipalities for snow and ice removal. The fallout continues, as highway crews repair roads damaged by the storms.

And when they remove snow, where do they dump it? Alongside roads or in empty lots but not in the Hudson River. Snow is considered stormwater runoff which can contain pollutants.

Philipstown

For snow and ice removal the Town of Philipstown budgeted \$120,000 to cover personnel costs, and, according to Highway Superintendent Roger Chirico, that

wasn't enough. "We went over by \$8,500," Chirico said March 13, in an interview at his Highway Department office. He recalled that the bad weather typically began on weekends, which meant more money spent on overtime pay for workers, who were often busy at all hours. "You have to keep going and going and going" to keep up with a heavy snowfall, he said.

The town similarly earmarked \$195,000 for snow and ice control supplies and additional equipment but spent about \$211,000, Chirico went on. "It's hard to estimate what kind of winter we're going to have" and how much will be required, he said. He purchased 2,456 tons of salt, whose price rose recently, and used about 500 tons more salt this year than last. "Because of the price escalation, that put (Continued on page 4)



The salt shed, mounds of snow, and equipment at the Cold Spring Village Garage site.

Photo by L.S. Armstrong

Cook On: 1 part chaos, 2 parts calm

Humbled and Crumbled

By Mary Ann Ebner

From love to monkey, any number of agitators can disrupt life, and occasionally, life bubbles over in the kitchen. Some households claim a member who consistently burns the toast or shirks doing dishes. It wasn't dirty dishes that rattled our harmony, but herbs and spices.

Sugar and spice have long conjured images of everything nice, while herbs turn out favorable buzz for taste, color and health benefits.

Why the fuss? I was prepping dinner for a small party and came up short on cilantro. My husband offered to pick up a bunch and he was soon out the door and on his way to the market.

Cilantro or coriander, *Coriandrum sativum*, is widely used in the Middle Eastern kitchen. We lived in the Middle East at that time, in a neighborhood with its own small food co-op stocked with essentials. Before long, Greg returned from the co-op with an enormous bright green bunch — of parsley.



Eggplant (*Solanum melongena*), a species of the nightshade family

“How about the scent? Did you sniff it?”

If the story ended there, we would have settled on one of many uses for the parsley. But the same herb mix-up happened again, at least two or three more times. Purchasing cilantro went on to haunt us.

We weeded our way through the herb confusion, only to enter a new chapter tense on spices. At a women's-only gathering where food pageantry was secondary to warm hospitality and engaging discussion with family and friends, a dish made with eggplant and crumbled bread

Little in the produce section was labeled, and if the herbs had been identified they would have been marked in Arabic. No problem for those with a grasp of food group vocabulary, but his was yet to develop. Even though the pungent herb cilantro belongs to the parsley family (*Apiaceae*), it reserves its own taste and aroma, and my initial reaction lacked any sort of sympathetic herbal understanding.

“Did you notice the difference in the shape of the leaves?” I asked.



Use crumbled flatbread, eggplant and yogurt for this adaptation of fatta.

called *fatta* (*fatteh*, *fatha*, or any number of ways to spell it to match the varied ways to prepare it) outshone its competition. Though it was served with platter after platter of colorful selections incorporating grains, vegetables and lamb, I wanted to limit myself to a spoonful of everything else to dedicate room for an indulgent tasting of the *fatta* (local custom shunned eating lightly). The hostess accepted compliments and insisted on *second and third* servings with no resistance from the dozen guests at the table.

Closely associated (by marriage) with the royals, she described her family's preparation instructions. She didn't exactly have hands-on experience making the dish but knew expressly all ingredients (and quantities) required.

The ingredients soon made their way to my shopping list, but one proved difficult to find. Greg and I shopped everywhere looking for *suma'*, as one of my friends wrote down for me in Arabic

script. We passed up a perfect selection of *sumac* — which a spice vendor in Cairo's Khan el-Khalili market insisted was what we needed. Greg wanted to close the spice deal — but I resisted. Finally, back in the Gulf, my neighbor shared a package of assorted spices. One of them matched that ground reddish-purple spice I hesitated to purchase and turned out to be a petite pouch of sumac which she and other locals pronounced *suma'*.

Regrets and forgiveness ensued, and we finally made *fatta* finished with sumac (*Rhus coriaria*, ground from the dried berries of a Mediterranean shrub). *Fatta*, loosely translated, refers to a dish of crumbled bread, and for this regional adaptation from the Gulf, it calls for a traditional flatbread.

Bake your own flatbread, purchase it at a Middle Eastern restaurant or bakery, or substitute commercial pita bread, no pocket required. Tina's Basket in Cornwall offers white and wheat traditional flatbread. Consider day-old bread as an ingredient as it's destined for crumbling.



Flatbread

Photos by M.A. Ebner

Fatta

Serves 8

- | | |
|--|--|
| 2 medium or 1 large eggplant, rinsed | 1 teaspoon sesame oil |
| olive oil or light vegetable oil | 1 large onion, chopped |
| 2 to 3 pieces flatbread (or large flat pita bread) | 2 pounds minced meat (beef or lamb) |
| 16 ounces plain yogurt | ¼ cup pine nuts (or preferred seeds as nut substitute) |
| freshly squeezed juice from ½ lemon | 1 teaspoon sumac |
| salt | |
| freshly ground black pepper | |

1. Remove stem and thinly slice eggplant no more than 1/8-inch thick. Sauté in oil. Remove from pan and set aside in warm oven. Fry flatbread on both sides until crunchy. Cool 2 minutes on paper towels, crumble bread into small pieces and set aside. (To avoid oil, toast bread 5 minutes in oven at 400 degrees or toss it on a grill for a few minutes.)
2. Mix plain yogurt with freshly squeezed lemon juice, a pinch of salt, a twist of ground black pepper and sesame oil. Set at least 10 minutes.
3. Cook chopped onion, ½ teaspoon salt, a twist of ground pepper and the meat until it is browned through. If the meat is high in fat, drain excess.
4. Sauté pine nuts or sunflower seeds in 1 tablespoon olive oil for 2 minutes.
5. In casserole dish or flat-bottomed pan, layer eggplant, meat and another eggplant layer. Top second eggplant layer with crunchy flatbread pieces. Spoon yogurt mixture onto top layer. Dust with sumac and sprinkle with pine nuts or seeds. Serve immediately with green salad and fresh flatbread.



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Butterfield Library Seeks Funding Increase *(from page 1)*

Any increase in that funding would require another referendum.

Request shifted from town to school district

This time around, however, the vote on whether or not to increase funding will not include all Philipstown taxpayers. Instead it will be conducted in concert with the May 19 Haldane budget vote with only residents living within the Haldane Central School District taking part. The library referendum will be on the same ballot but is completely separate from the school vote and will have no impact on the school budget or potential school tax rebates. However, if the library referendum produces a “yes” vote, the school district would be responsible for collecting the funds on behalf of the library. Philipstown residents outside of the Haldane School District — in Garrison and Continental Village — would not be taxed as part of the Butterfield proposal.

The Desmond-Fish Library used the same method to secure approval for \$75,000 in additional annual funding as part of the May 2014 Garrison Union Free School District budget vote. In that case, only residents within the GUFS District were subject to the additional tax. Cold Spring and North Highlands taxpayers were not.

The Butterfield Library is required to submit a petition to the Haldane Central School District that includes at least 25 signatures in order to have its referendum placed on the May ballot. Thorpe said that 57 signatures have already been gathered and the petition submitted.

Cost would be \$27 per household

“We asked for \$276,000 in 2006 because that is what we needed for core services at the time,” Thorpe said. She said that at the time she thought a request for a subsequent increase would probably be made “in three or four years.” Instead,

the library has gone nine years with no increase in core funding.

“We fought hard to secure baseline funding from the town,” Thorpe said of the 2006 referendum, adding that because residents within the Haldane School District “use us more,” she feels that in May “it’s fair to ask a little bit more per household” within the school district, rather than all Philipstown residents.

Thorpe said that if the referendum passes, the average cost per household would be roughly \$27 or “about the cost of one hardcover book.” While school districts can go to the voters a second time if a budget referendum fails, the library cannot, although it would be able to hold a referendum again a year later. “If the community doesn’t want to support [the library] at a level to maintain current services then we’ll have to look at where to cut.”

2006 funding expanded programs, increased users

Thorpe, the library’s only full-time employee along with 10 part-time staff, said that the 2006 funding increase resulted in significant improvements, many of which were suggested in user surveys. The funds made additional staffing possible. Library hours were expanded by nine hours per week, including opening on Sundays for the first time and more than doubling Saturday hours. The number of computers available to patrons increased from two to more than a dozen. Internet access and the library website were also improved. Free access to Ancestry.com was added along with passes

to such sites as the Museum of Modern Art and Museum of Natural History in New York City as well as the Norwalk Aquarium. Programs offering training in CPR, defensive driving and babysitting were made available at affordable prices.

“The library’s philosophy is to make programs available to everyone in the community,” Thorpe said.

Things went very well for about four years, but Thorpe said that the recession soon began to take its toll. Costs continued to increase while revenue remained the same. “And we kept attracting more users than ever,” she said. Items borrowed by Butterfield patrons through the interlibrary loan service went from fewer than 350 requests in 2000 to more than 15,000 requests for materials in 2010. Circulation during the same period increased more than 700 percent.

Recent years marked by cost cutting

In recent years the library has had to tighten its belt. Maintenance, including landscaping and carpet cleaning, was reduced. Book acquisition was cut by 50 percent and program spending by 60 percent. One staff position was eliminated. High-speed Internet access was replaced by a free but much slower service. The pace of replacing what are now aging computers slowed. And at a time when libraries are more and more technology-based, Thorpe said she is concerned about having funds to provide consistent staff training. When technol-

ogy has been improved, it has not been cheap. Two Apple computers purchased recently cost \$1,200 each.

“Our board of directors has been saying that we can’t go on this way for about the past two years, that we have to go to the community,” Thorpe said. Butterfield Library is overseen by a five-member board: President Judy Meyer, Vice President Dennis Gagnon, Treasurer Michael LaRocco and Secretary Pam Markano. One seat is currently vacant due to a recent resignation. Commenting on the proposed funding request Meyer said, “We have tried to keep it realistic.”

Public hearings set for April

In addition to annual funding from the Town of Philipstown, Butterfield Library also receives an annual contribution from Putnam County, which although not a guaranteed or fixed amount, totaled \$32,867 in 2013. Other revenue that year included \$14,568 from library fundraising; \$9,786 from dividends and interest; \$7,176 from the Friends of Butterfield Library; \$7,010 in donations; \$2,308 in miscellaneous grants; and \$1,108 in fines. Fines are no longer levied for overdue material.

Asked if she is confident that the library will receive a “yes” vote in May, Thorpe said: “We’re hopeful. We feel we’ve done a really good job in the community and that people like our services. But this gives people a chance to vote and to speak their mind.” Thorpe said that 57 of the 66 libraries in the Mid-Hudson Library system have received funding through a public vote.

Public hearings on the funding proposal will be held at Butterfield Library on Wednesday, April 22, at 7 p.m. and Sunday, April 26, at 3 p.m. Background information on the referendum, including audit and annual reports, is available at butterfield.org. Click on “Vote Info” at the top right corner of the home page.

Trio Triumphs in Cold Spring Vote *(from page 1)*

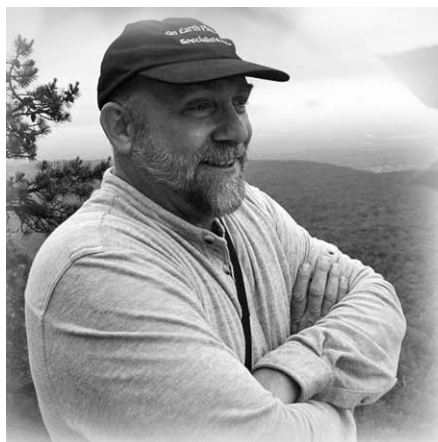
as Cold Spring’s mayor will be April 7. He said he will speak to Supervisor Richard Shea regarding his resignation from the Philipstown Town Board.

“I think people believed in us. I think we had their trust,” Early commented moments after hearing the results. “We were clear about what we want to accomplish, in very specific terms, and I think people embraced that. I think the numbers reflect that,” she said. Early said she was “incredibly surprised” by the margin of her and Merandy’s win. “We were expecting to have to wait until next week for the absentee ballots.” She seemed eager to get to work. “I think it’s going to be delightful working with Fran and ...

what’s his name? ... Dave!” she said. “I’m looking forward to that. It will be good.”

Murphy did not take a win for granted. “The margin really surprised me,” she said, adding that, if anything, as the campaign went on she felt that things might have been going “the other way.” The first-time candidate also said she didn’t mind how much work it took to get elected. “It was enjoyable,” she said. “I knocked on every door and I learned a lot about the village.”

Molloy was not present at the firehouse when the results were announced. *The Paper* attempted to contact him and Ferris on Thursday morning but had received no response by press time.




Care of Trees and Shrubs

with Steven Knapp

Sponsored by the Philipstown Garden Club
Sunday, March 22, 2 - 4 p.m.
St. Philip’s Parish Hall

Route 9D, Garrison (across from the Garrison school)
 Free admission. Refreshments will be served.
www.onearthplantcare.com
 A question and answer period will follow the presentation.
 Open to the public.




2015 Annual Members Meeting

Featuring Col. James Johnson on
Fort Constitution and the Great Chain in the American Revolution

Saturday, March 28
Meeting at 4 p.m., Lecture to follow

Dr. Colonel James M. Johnson, U.S. Army, retired, is the Dr. Frank T. Bumpus Chair in Hudson River Valley History, the Executive Director of the Hudson River Valley Institute at Marist College, and the Military Historian of the Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area. He has taught history for thirty years at West Point, the Naval War College, and Marist College. He is the author of *Militiamen, Rangers, and Redcoats*, co-compiler of *America’s First River*, and co-editor of *Key to the Northern Country: The Hudson River Valley in the American Revolution*.



The meeting and lecture is free and open to the public.
 RSVP: 845-265-4010 or shannon@putnamhistorymuseum.org

The Putnam History Museum
 63 Chestnut Street, Cold Spring, NY.
www.putnamhistorymuseum.org

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CleanSweepNY Helps Dispose of Chemicals

Schools and businesses register to get rid of pesticides

Putnam County businesses and schools now have a safe, convenient method to dispose of unwanted pesticides and other chemicals, much like Putnam's Household Hazardous Waste Day that provides residents an opportunity to get rid of environmentally unsafe substances. CleanSweepNY is an environmental benefit project, initiated by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation's Bureau of Pesticide Management. The early April event provides for the environmentally safe and economic collection and disposal of unwanted pesticides, school chemicals, golf course chemicals, elemental mercury and mercury-containing devices. CleanSweepNY collection efforts are not directed toward the general public since home and garden pesticides are accepted at the routine Household Hazardous Waste events, supported by the Putnam County Department of Health.

Preregistration is required to participate in CleanSweepNY. For information on how to participate and register, visit cleansweepny.org or call 877-793-3769.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Property tax relief for middle-income households

To the Editor:

We have a real opportunity in this year's state budget to adopt a new tax relief program to help those who pay too much of their household income for property taxes. If you believe that this could impact you and your family, I hope that you will be the strongest advocate for its adoption within the next two weeks. Gov. Cuomo introduced this program in his proposed budget as the Property Tax Credit Program which was also included in the Assembly budget.

I introduced the same concept many years ago with Sen. Betty Little called the Circuit Breaker Program. The concepts are similar. I believe that this approach would help many New Yorkers who pay more than 6 percent of their household income for property taxes and have a total adjusted gross income of less than \$250,000. As owners of homes, condos or co-ops, you would be entitled to an income tax credit on a sliding scale for property taxes you pay above the 6 percent level. On average, owners of property will receive a tax credit of between \$781 and \$1,500. That tax credit would help approximately 1.3 million middle income households in New York. Those who do not owe taxes at tax time would get a reimbursement for their outlay from the Tax Department.

This program offers middle class taxpayers a fair and balanced approach to property tax relief based on need and income. This really targets those who are struggling the most with their high property taxes and have less income to pay them.

I thank the governor and the NYS Assembly for being such strong advocates for this program, but be aware that during budget negotiations this important new tax relief program could fall through the cracks. If you support the Circuit Breaker call your New York State Senate representative now to push for this tax relief program in the 2015-16 State Budget. This tax credit will give tax help to many which will help keep families in their homes.

Sincerely,
Sandy Galef
NYS Assemblywoman, 95th AD

Cliff-hanger in Nelsonville

Looks like a second election needed

By Michael Turton

When the tally was conducted after the polls closed in the Wednesday (March 18) election in Nelsonville, poll workers may have thought that absentee ballots would break the surprising 89-89 tie between Thomas Robertson and Danielle Pack McCarthy that the day's voting had produced. The two first-time candidates are vying for a single open trustee seat on the Village Board. As it turned out, the absentee ballots changed nothing, other than the totals. Only two such ballots were submitted, from which both candidates collected one additional vote, leaving the final total as a 90-90 draw.

Nelsonville Village Clerk Pauline Minners told *The Paper* that under New York State election law, a second vote will be held to determine the winner, unless both candidates waive that option. If they do, the winner will be decided by drawing lots. If either candidate opts not to let chance determine the outcome, the second vote must take place. "I don't think this has ever happened in Nelsonville before," Minners said. The candidates have until the close of business on Friday, March 19, to inform Minners of their decision, otherwise plans for a new election will proceed.

Contacted Thursday afternoon by *The Paper*, Robertson said



Nelsonville trustee candidates Danielle Pack McCarthy and Thomas Robertson

Photos by Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

in an email that he prefers drawing lots. Pack McCarthy however said that she will opt for a second election. "I don't want this decided by chance," she said in a telephone interview. "The real story here is how people came out to the polls to vote. It wouldn't be right to decide it by chance."

The mayor's race produced no such drama as incumbent Tom Corless officially ran unopposed, collecting 131 votes. However, even in that race there was a twist, with last minute write-in candidate Dave Moroney receiving 35 votes.

As Snow Fell, So Did Cash in Municipal Accounts to Pay for Removal

(from page 1)

us in the hole," Chirico said, also noting that he tried using more sand and less salt — a practice the Town Board discussed with him last fall, expressing concern about the environmental effects of salt.

In clearing roads, Chirico said his crews pushed the snow onto the verges, although they can also pile it at the town's old landfill, off Lane Gate Road, or, in some cases, dump it at an agreed-upon Town of Cortlandt site.

Cold Spring

Village Clerk Mary Saari said Monday (March 16) that Cold Spring gets free salt and sand from Putnam County because it gives the county storage space at the village Highway Garage on Fair Street. Village Accountant Ellen Mageean reported that the village allocated \$12,000 for snow and ice removal and spent \$18,848.72. That's more than 1.5 times as much as expected. But it won't be a budget-breaker, Mageean said, because the village can move money from other highway budget lines to cover the excess.

Village Highway Department Foreman Ed Trimble said Wednesday (March 18) that the village piles the snow on the Highway Garage property.

Nelsonville

Nelsonville Mayor Tom Corless said at the Nelsonville Village Board meeting Monday night (March 16) that Nelsonville spent \$3,482.88 on road salt and that the operational costs of removal were covered by an ongoing contract for such work. Like Philipstown, Nelsonville saw its salt expenses increase over recent years: It spent about \$2,400 for the winter of December 2013–March 2014 and \$1,268 for January–March 2013, Corless said.

Village Clerk Pauline Minners said Tuesday (March 17) that removal crews shoved the snow to the side of the street and did not truck it elsewhere. She noted that New York State crews cleared snow from Nelsonville's portion of Main Street, Route 301, a state highway, and carted it off.

State and county

New York State has two other state highways — Route 9D (Morris Avenue–Chestnut Street in Cold Spring) and Route 9, plus the Cold Spring section of 301, in Philipstown. However, Putnam County handles snow removal for the state on 9D from its intersection with Main Street at the traffic light in Cold Spring to Beacon and on Route 301 from its start at the 1814 Courthouse in Carmel to Cold Spring, about 20 miles to the west.

Eight Putnam County roads run through Philipstown: Upper and Lower Station Roads, Sprout Brook Road, Snake Hill Road, Peekskill Road, Gallows Hill Road, Fishkill Road and the extension of Cold Spring's Fair Street from the village border to Route 9D.

Responding to a query from *The Paper*, state Department of Transportation staff members said the state does not break down its regional expenses in enough detail to provide costs on specific roads. And the expenses could continue, the calendar date notwithstanding. "The snow and ice season is not over yet!" Beau Duffy, state Department of Transportation communications director, pointed

out Wednesday (March 18).A request on Tuesday to Putnam County for information on its snow removal costs in Philipstown did not produce a response.

Dirt roads

Chirico said repairs to roads that suffered this winter continue. He described fixing dirt roads as the biggest burden and expense because dirt roads do not hold up as well as paved roads. Costs accrue not only for restoring the road surfaces — "you lose the crown on a dirt road" in plowing — but because of wear and tear to his equipment, he said. "We've had broken frames, you name it." Frost penetrates about 2.5 feet into dirt roads, but "it doesn't get as deep under a paved road," he said. Complicating matters, "now the thaw is the issue. The thaw out there is terrible," producing mud and gashing and gouging the surface, he said. "The heavens on them you wouldn't believe," he said. He predicted that every unpaved road will need attention. To that end, he anticipates spending \$1,000 a mile, or \$30,000 total, which covers both man-hours and materials, on the town's 30 miles of dirt roads. Those costs include stone, at \$15.75 a ton, "to put in the soft spots," he continued. "You've got to use stone. It's the only thing, because they're so wet."

As of March 13, when he had two bulldozers, three backhoes and two graders out on the job, dirt roads were "passable" and accessible to emergency vehicles, such as fire engines, as well as cars, Chirico said.

He said repairing

(To next page)

State of the County: Odell Defends Sales Tax Non-Sharing, Opposition to SAFE Act

Talk includes 2014 financial overview; touts Butterfield project

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

Delivering her 2015 State of the County Address, County Executive Maryellen Odell last week defended Putnam’s refusal to share sales tax and reveal gun-ownership data and highlighted the Butterfield project in Cold Spring as one of four ventures backed by her administration as a partner in economic development.

In her March 12 appearance at the Putnam County Golf Course, she also discussed final 2014 county finances.

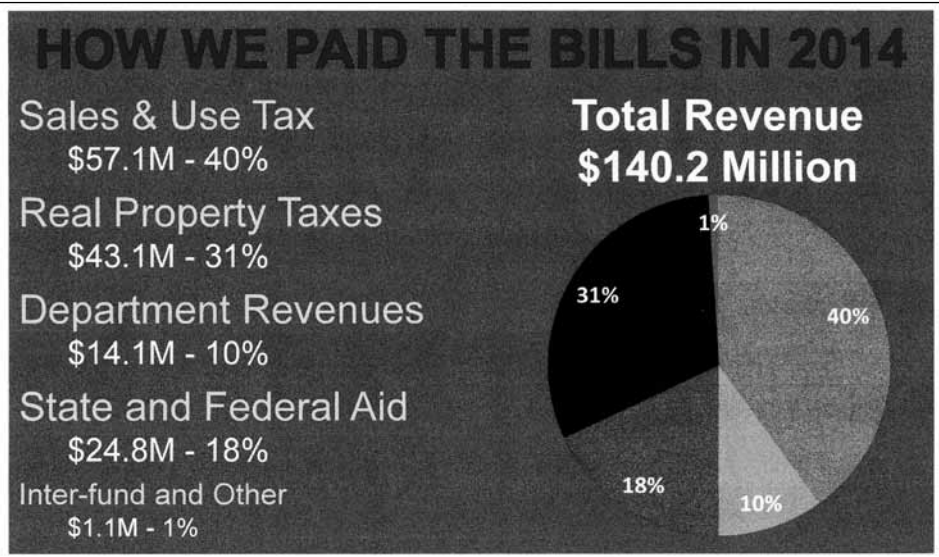
Like Odell’s 2014 address, this year’s, an hour and 13 minutes long, consisted of a PowerPoint slide show augmented by extemporaneous comments. Also as in 2014, this year’s talk featured a theme — the “Year of the Family,” with the oft-repeated slogan, “Putnam County Is Family, Family Is Everything”; last year

it was the “Year of the Senior.”

2014 finances

Odell reported that 2014 expenses totalled \$143.3 million, while revenue was \$140.2 million. The largest income source was sales and use taxes — \$57.1 million, or 40 percent of the total. Property taxes supplied the second-highest amount, \$43.1 million, or 31 percent of total income. Departmental revenue accounted for \$14.1 million, or 10 percent; other sources provided \$1.1 million — 1 percent of income; and state and federal aid of \$24.8 million represented 18 percent of total income. State and federal governments “hand us a bill for 75 percent of our budget but they give us 18 percent,” Odell said, again protesting unfunded mandates — programs and obligations imposed on lower-level jurisdictions — long a county complaint. According to Odell, mandates include various social service programs (\$17.5 million), Medicaid (\$10 million), the county jail (\$10 million) and some school costs (\$7 million).

Overall, in 2014 of total county outlays,



The State of the County presentation showed where the money came from in 2014.

\$33.7 million, or 24 percent, went for public safety, a category that includes the jail, Sheriff’s Department and emergency services bureau; public assistance, such as Medicaid and programs for senior citizens and veterans, took \$32.1 million, or 22 percent; general government functions consumed \$31.7 million, or 22 percent; the Health Department and similar services, such as mental health, cost \$12.4 million, or 8 percent; and educational funding accounted for \$9.8 million, or 7 percent.

Sales tax

Odell responded to frequent municipal criticism that unlike most counties, Putnam does not return a portion of sales tax to the town or village where it is collected. “If the argument is going to be that we don’t share, I would argue that we do,” she said. As examples of “county sharing” of sales tax, she listed \$3.2 million for community college charges that “we took off the towns’ backs”; \$25 million the county “floats in bonds so your budgets don’t have a hole in them” from unpaid property taxes in Putnam’s 10 school districts, six towns and three villages; and \$900,000 for the Help America Vote Act. She did not explain her inclusion of the Vote Act, a law that launched a national initiative, with federal funding, to improve election access and voting machines.

Odell also said that of the 8 3/8 percent sales tax, the county gets 4 percent, the state takes another 4 percent, and 3/8 percent goes to the Metropolitan Transportation Authority, which runs the Metro-North commuter railroad. According to recent information from county Finance Commissioner William Carlin, every year zip code 10516 — Cold Spring and vicinity — generates \$1.5 million in sales tax. Carlin said Wednesday (March 18) that ZIP code 10524, Garrison and surroundings, produces \$1.1 million annually in

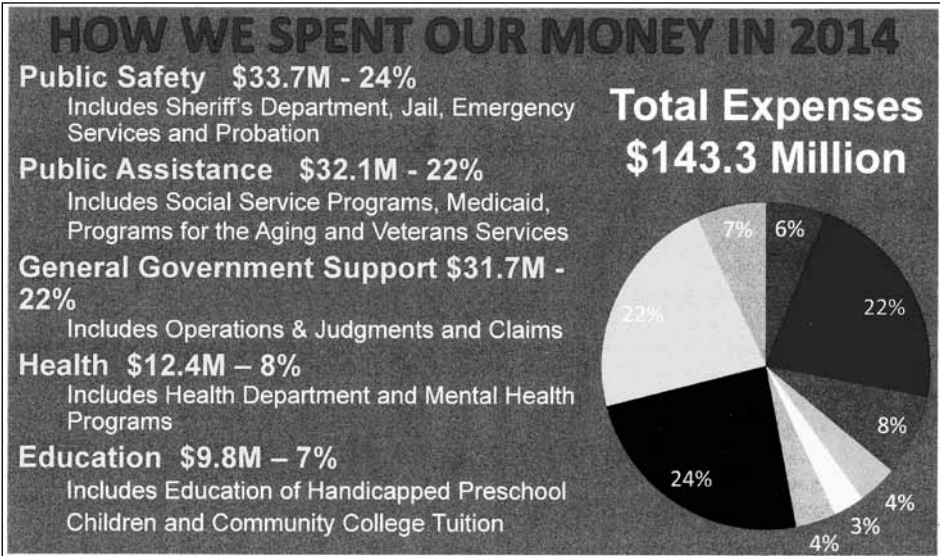
sales tax, based on data for the sales-tax period of March 2013 through February 2014. Thus, \$2.6 million yearly in sales tax comes from Philipstown.

Butterfield

Odell included Butterfield in a quartet of significant pending projects undertaken by “our partners” in economic development. She described the four as endeavors “promoting smarter economic growth and development in Putnam County” and an opportunity for “getting union families on these jobs and back to work.” Butterfield also is important, she said, “so the ‘west coast’ can have the services they’ve been underserved [with] for so, so very long.” Stretching eastward from the Hudson River, Philipstown has been nicknamed the “west coast” by county officials. Odell proposes to place some county offices at Butterfield. Because the redevelopment is being undertaken by a private-sector corporation, how many labor union members might end up working on its construction remains unclear.

Gun control

One PowerPoint slide urged “Repeal NY SAFE, the SAFE Act,” New York’s 2013 gun-control law, and Odell said her administration persists in challenging a court order to disclose public records on handgun ownership by residents who did not invoke a SAFE Act provision and “opt out” of disclosure. The Journal News requested information on gun owners who did not seek confidentiality, and the paper sued the county when it refused to divulge it. Putnam County lost a lower court ruling, filed an appeal with the Appellate Division and awaits that decision. “We are committed” to carrying on with the effort “should the court rule against us,” another of Odell’s slides announced. In ad-libbed remarks, she emphasized the point: “We will continue to fight and defend the Second Amendment.”



A chart in the State of the County presentation showed Putnam expenditures in 2014.

Rescheduled Audubon Event

Plant it and they will come: native gardening for birds

On Sunday, March 29, at 2 p.m. at the Howland Library in Beacon, The Putnam Highlands Audubon Society presents Kim Eireman, an environmental horticulturalist and master gardener who will share a lively and colorful program on how to attract and support birds with ecological design and proper plant selection.

Eireman teaches at the New York and Brooklyn Botanical Gardens and the Native Plant Center. She is an expert on lawn “meadow-scaping,” on healthy plantings for bees and pollinators, and on organic methods.



Image courtesy of PHAS

The Howland Library is located at 313 Main Street, Beacon. The event is free and refreshments will be served. For more information, visit putnamhighlandsaudubon.org or ecobeneficial.com.

As Snow Fell, So Did Cash ...

(from previous page)

paved roads costs one-tenth as much as fixing dirt roads, or \$100 a mile, and mainly involves such things as dealing with potholes. “A hard-surface road is a lot easier to maintain than a dirt road,” he emphasized. “We’re constantly on dirt roads, grading and grading and grading.” Moreover, “dirt roads take chemicals 12 months a year,” including the mixture used to wet them in summer for dust control, he stated. Nor can he use Philipstown’s share of about \$104,000 annually in Consolidated Highway Improvement Program (CHIPS) funds, distributed by the state, for ongoing repairs to dirt roads, he said. However, he observed, he could use CHIPS for long-term upgrades — like paving dirt roads.

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LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that upon application duly made by Richard Shea, Supervisor of the Town of Philipstown for an extension of time for the collection of taxes in such town pursuant to §938 of the Real Property Tax Law of the State of New York and it appearing to me that there are good and sufficient reason for extending the time for the collection of such taxes and Tina M. Merando, the Collector of Taxes of such town having paid to me, the taxes collected by her during the period ending on the first day of April, 2015 it is;

ORDERED, that the time for collection of taxes remaining unpaid in the Town of Philipstown be and the same hereby is extended to the first day of May, 2015.

DATED: March 18, 2015
BY ORDER OF THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF PHILIPSTOWN
Tina M. Merando, Town Clerk

Zero to Go Wants to Create a Compost Culture in Beacon

Meeting on program at
Howland Cultural Center
March 21

By Brian PJ Cronin

Sarah Womer, founder of the education-based waste management company Zero to Go, has been trying to bring curbside composting to the City of Beacon for years. Now she’s about to roll out the first phase of an ambitious new project to make composting as accepted and commonplace in Beacon as curbside recycling.

“It’s been my dream for some time,” she said. “I can’t die until this is done.”

By mid-April, a select group of Beaconites will have their food scraps picked up once a week via cargo bike to be turned into compost, the nutrient-rich organic matter that farmers and gardeners alike refer to as “black gold” for the way it miraculously improves soil health. Womer is currently accepting applications to take part in the pilot program at zerotogo.org, with two town hall meetings at the Howland Cultural Center at 477 Main St. in Beacon to discuss the program further and answer questions. The first meeting was slated for Thursday (March 19), and the second meeting will be on Saturday (March 21), from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

According to a report from Mid Atlantic Solid Waste Consultants, 291,000 tons of municipal solid waste is produced in Dutchess County each year. The EPA estimates that approximately 116,000 tons of that waste is compostable, but instead of being recycled and converted into compost in order to benefit the county’s agricultural health, it’s either hauled five hours away to a landfill or taken to an in-

cinerator in Poughkeepsie with the rest of the county’s trash. Both the landfills and the incinerator produce an enormous amount of methane, the greenhouse gas that’s 20 times more potent than carbon dioxide. Add in the fuel that it takes to haul waste to landfills and the natural gas injected into the incinerator to make the fires burn hotter, and the county is spending a hefty sum and causing great environmental harm to dispose of something that farmers are willing to pay money to get their hands on.

In this light, it’s no wonder that Seattle and San Francisco have introduced mandatory composting into their waste management systems. Why pay money to have someone turn your trash into something harmful, when instead people could pay you to turn your trash into something beneficial?

“People don’t really understand what’s going on with waste in Dutchess County,” said Womer. “I do, because I was curious and I wanted to figure it out.” And once she figured it out, she drew up a three-phase plan to do something about it.

Under the first phase of the program, 30 homes and four businesses will be issued industrial-grade compost keepers. The home version contains a six-gallon compostable bag and a carbon filter to make sure that food odors stay inside the bin. Womer has been road-testing hers for over a month now, dumping fish in it, and can verify that the bins are indeed odor free. “These are serious containers,” Womer said. “I’m not messing around with cheap stuff and I don’t want any chance of restaurants being unhappy with odors.”

Once a week, bin owners simply pull out the bag, tie it up and put the bag in a special five-gallon bucket that Zero to Go will also be providing. The bucket then gets placed outside on the curb or porch. At that point, Womer or someone else from Zero to Go rides by one of the company’s custom-built electric-assisted cargo bikes, pulls out the bag, throws it in the back of the bike and pedals off.

After all of the week’s compost is collected, a hauler from the Albany-based compost management company Empire Zero will pick up the city’s compost and deliver it to farms and compost processing centers throughout the Mid-Hudson Valley. So the carrot top you dump into the compost bin this year could help to grow a carrot that you eat next year.

The initial monthly cost of taking part in the program will be \$40 for homes and \$105 for restaurants, although those who take part in the program’s first phase will receive the compost keepers and buckets for free. Womer is expecting the costs to come down once the program ramps up in Phase II. By then, Womer will have collected and analyzed two months’ worth



Zero to Go’s Sarah Womer, left, and Ali T. Muhammad, right, catch up with a friend while collecting compostable materials at the Hudson Hop & Harvest Festival in Peekskill in October 2014.

Photo courtesy of Sarah Womer

of data, worked out any problems that have arisen, and be ready to accept another 20 homes and six more restaurants.

At first, those taking part in the program won’t have access to the finished compost itself. That might make the program less attractive to Beacon’s current crop of backyard composters who are churning out small batches of compost for their own personal use, but Womer isn’t worried about that. To her, those people are already part of the solution.

“I don’t want to tell people that are already composting that they have to stop what they’re doing and work with me now,” she said. “I want those people to tell their friends and their neighbors that they’re doing it and then get them to do it. I want to build compost culture here in Beacon.”

Building compost culture is what Phase III is all about.

By 2016, Womer hopes to be able to purchase a \$100,000, 1,000-square-foot in-vessel composter capable of accepting up to a quarter ton of food waste a day. The composter would become a permanent piece of local infrastructure, turning food waste into compost right here in Beacon for the environmental and economic benefit of the entire city. There are currently only two other industrial compost processing centers in the Mid-Hudson Valley. Zero to Go is hoping to make Beacon the third.

“Beacon could be sitting on a gold mine here,” Womer said. “I’m not sure exactly how I want to partner with the city yet, but I’m not going to sit around and wait anymore. The timing is right.”

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THU 2:00 7:30

Hudson Valley Premiere

Losing Ground (NR)

Directed by Kathleen Collins

*SUN 1:00, MON 7:15 (Encore Screening)

*Q&A follows Sunday’s premiere with late filmmaker’s daughter and music composer

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Work Gets Underway

The Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail is a tangible step closer to becoming a reality. On Thursday, March 19, workers began clearing trees and undergrowth across from Little Stony Point Park at the northern edge of Cold Spring. The work marked the beginning of construction of a new parking lot which will serve the trail. The Fjord Trail will run through the heart of Hudson Highlands State Park, connecting Cold Spring and Beacon while providing safe access to Breakneck Ridge — a recreation destination that has been decried as the most popular day hike in the country.

Photo by Michael Turton

5th Annual Ariane One Act Play Festival:

March 20 & 21, 8 p.m. • March 22, 4 p.m.

Tickets \$15/\$12

Plays by Albi Gorn, Patrick J. Lennon, Rich E Knipe, Jr., Anthony Marinelli, and Kristina Zill

.....

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

PHILIPSTOWN

DEPOT THEATRE

The Calendar

Micah Parker's Fox & Castle Designs: There Needs to Be a Story

Cold Spring–raised jewelry and textile designer launches her own line

By Alison Rooney

Micah Parker did all the things that Philipstown children who lean toward the visual arts tend to do: She attended Garrison Art Center summer programs and was Mrs. (Jean) Cendali's "art helper" during her years at Haldane. During high school, she worked at the Heaven and Earth boutique, then on Cold Spring's Main Street, where the owner, Terah Cox, began selling some of the jewelry Parker made on her own at home. "It stuck with me that I could make things that sold," she recalled.

After graduating, she migrated south to the city to study fashion design at Parsons, where a professor set her straight, saying, "This is not right for you."

Rather than seeing this is a setback, Parker readjusted. "He was right," she said. "I switched to illustration and sculpture." She later transferred to a joint liberal arts/conservatory program with Tufts and the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, studying illustration, ceramics and graphic design. She began her career as a children's book illustrator, teaching art on the side.

Throughout all of these art iterations, at home she continued to create jewelry, something she has done continuously since childhood. "Even though I loved illustration, I missed working with my hands," Park said. After a short stretch staying on in Boston after college, Parker returned to New York, first to the city and then, wanting more space both in and out of doors, coming back to the Hudson Valley.

With the advent of Etsy and the culture of the handcrafted, Parker revisited her avocation. "So many people want to buy something from someone directly, knowing what it's made out of and why it is made," she said.

Now as a young adult, along with teaching and the other miscellaneous things artists are prone to do, Parker has melded her training and her passions. After years of making gifts for her friends, which led to requests for more of these items for purchase, she has started her own line, Fox & Castle, which launched last fall and specializes in handcrafted artisan jewelry, textiles and housewares currently made in a Cold Spring studio.

Much thought goes into each object or design she produces. "There needs to be a story ... I'm fascinated by any kind of traditional craft-making, and I incorporate

Above, tools of Micah Parker's trade surround her horseshoe earrings. (Photo courtesy of Fox & Castle) Right, designer Micah Parker, wearing some of her wares (Photo by A. Rooney)



Fox & Castle leather bracelet designed by Micah Parker Photo courtesy of Fox & Castle

Two Locals Involved in Films Screening at 2015 Tribeca Film Festival

Premieres by writer/director Ivy Meeropol and actor Charlie Plummer

By Alison Rooney

What are the odds of films connected with two local households gaining acceptance into the estimable Tribeca Film Festival (TFF) in the same year? Even acknowledging Philipstown's roster of top-flight creative citizenry, those odds are slim.



A still from Ivy Meeropol's Indian Point Image courtesy of Ivy Meeropol

Yet the selections for this year's festival include such a pair, with Cold Spring's Ivy Meeropol and Charlie Plummer attached to films premiering at Tribeca.

Meeropol's Indian Point

Documentary filmmaker Meeropol, whose community involvement extends to co-founding the Sunset Reading Series at the Chapel Restoration, and who serves as a member of the Depot Docs selection committee, will have her newest documentary, *Indian Point*, which she wrote and directed, shown in the World Documentary Feature Competition. An earlier film of Meeropol's, *Heir to an Execution*, was shown at the 2004 TFF.

A large contingent of female filmmakers will have feature films in this year's festival (33 percent, a TFF record).

Meeropol described *Indian Point* as a "feature documentary film about one of the most controversial nuclear power plants in the U.S., located just 35 miles from Times Square in New



Charlie Plummer, left, and Cory Nichols in a scene from King Jack Photo by Brandon Root

York City." She said the story is told from the inside and out, and from all sides, and that "the plant becomes a microcosm from which we can better understand the impact of the events in Fukushima, the role of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and the issues that will determine the future of nuclear power in the U.S. (Continued on page 11)

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!

FRIDAY, MARCH 20

Kids & Community

Little League Registration Deadline

philipstownlittleleague.com

Kids' Night Out (ages 5+)

6:30 - 9:30 p.m. All Sport Health & Fitness
17 Old Main St., Fishkill
845-896-5678 | allsportfishkill.com

Sports

Haldane vs. Lake George (Boys' Basketball, Class C Semifinal)

5 p.m. Glen Falls Civic Center
1 Civic Center Plaza, Glens Falls
845-265-9254 | haldaneschool.org

Theater & Film

Don Quixote Ballet (Film)

8 p.m. Paramount Hudson Valley
1008 Brown St., Peekskill | 914-739-0039

Off the Wall Improv

8 p.m. The Beacon Theatre | 445 Main St., Beacon
845-453-2978 | thebeacontheatre.org

Robert Klein

8 p.m. Tarrytown Music Hall | 13 Main St., Tarrytown
914-631-3390, ext. 100 | tarrytownmusichall.org

5th Annual Ariane One-Act Play Festival

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

Music

Open-Mic Night

8 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
477 Main St., Beacon | 845-831-4988
howlandculturalcenter.org

Frank Kohl Quartet

8 p.m. BeanRunner Café
201 S. Division St., Peekskill
914-737-1701 | beanrunnercafe.com

Willi Amrod Band

8:30 p.m. Towne Crier Cafe | 379 Main St., Beacon
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com

Central Perkes Trio

9 p.m. Whistling Willie's
184 Main St., Cold Spring
845-265-2012 | whistlingwillies.com

Live Music

9:30 p.m. Max's on Main | 246 Main St., Beacon
845-838-6297 | maxsonmain.com

Mike Milazzo & Broken Arrow

9:30 p.m. 12 Grapes
12 N. Division St., Peekskill
914-737-6624 | 12grapes.com

Roxy Perry

10 p.m. The Hudson Room
23 S. Division St., Peekskill
914-788-3663 | hudsonroom.com

SATURDAY, MARCH 21

Kids & Community

Cold Spring Farmers' Market

8:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. St. Mary's Church
1 Chestnut St., Cold Spring | csfarmmarket.org

Annual White Elephant Sale

9 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. St. Philip's Parish House
1101 Route 9D, Garrison | 914-204-3619
stphilipshighlands.org | 8:30 a.m. Early birds \$5

Common Ground Farm Work Party

9 a.m. - 3 p.m. 19 South Ave., Beacon
845-231-4424 | commongroundfarm.org

Invasive Species in the Hudson Valley (Forum)

9 a.m. - Noon. Cary Institute of Ecosystems Studies
2801 Sharon Turnpike, Millbrook
845-677-7600, ext. 325 | caryinstitute.org

Spring Volunteer Landscape Day

9 a.m. - 2 p.m. Manitoga | 584 Route 9D, Garrison
845-424-3812 | visitmanitoga.org

12th Annual Fresh Air Fund Maple Celebration

10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Sharpe Reservation
436 Van Wyck Lake Road, Fishkill
845-897-4320 | freshair.org/sharpe

Contemplative Hike

10 a.m. Little Stony Point
3011 Route 9D, Cold Spring
845-831-2012 | beaonhebrewalliance.org

Snakes Alive Program

10 a.m. Wildlife Education Center
25 Boulevard, Cornwall-on-Hudson
845-534-7781 | hhnaturemuseum.org

Child ID Program

10:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. Howland Public Library
313 Main St., Beacon
845-485-4480 | beaonlibrary.org

Maple Sugar Tours

10:30 a.m. - 3 p.m. Outdoor Discovery Center
100 Muser Drive, Cornwall
845-534-5506 | hhnaturemuseum.org

Westchester County Home Show

11 a.m. - 6 p.m. Westchester County Center
198 Central Ave., White Plains
914-995-4050 | countycenter.biz

Rabies Pet Vaccination Clinic

2 - 5 p.m. South Putnam Animal Hospital
230B Baldwin Place Road, Mahopac
845-808-1390, ext. 43127 | putnamcountyny.gov

Free Admission

5 - 8 p.m. Mid-Hudson Children's Museum
75 N. Water St., Poughkeepsie
845-471-0589 | mhcm.org

St. Patrick's Day Dinner

7 p.m. St. Mary's Church | 1 Chestnut St., Cold Spring | 914-419-6839 | stmaryscoldspring.org

Charles Hustis Fundraiser

8 p.m. Silver Spoon Café
124 Main St., Cold Spring | gofundme.com/n5bkw8

Health & Fitness

Babysitter Course (ages 12+)

9 a.m. - 3 p.m. All Sport Health & Fitness
17 Old Main St., Fishkill
845-896-5678 | allsportfishkill.com

Yoga for Back Pain Workshop

1 p.m. SkyBaby Yoga
75 Main St., Cold Spring
845-265-4444 | skybabyyoga.com

Art & Design

Arm Knitting Class

10 a.m. RiverWinds Gallery
172 Main St., Beacon
845-838-2880 | riverwindsgallery.com

Group Show: The Alternet (Closing Reception)

2 - 4 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library
472 Route 403, Garrison
845-424-3020 | desmondfishlibrary.org

Members-Only Docent Tour of Love Show

2 p.m. Hudson Valley Center for Contemporary Art
1701 Main St., Peekskill
914-788-0100 | hvcca.org

Mentor Show and School Invitational Theme

Exhibition (Opening)

3 - 5 p.m. Garrison Art Center
23 Garrison's Landing, Garrison
845-424-3960 | garrisonartcenter.org

Theater & Film

HVSF Touring Company: Macbeth

2 p.m. Paramount Hudson Valley
1008 Brown St., Peekskill
914-739-0039 | paramounthudsonvalley.com

Off the Wall Improv

7 p.m. Family-friendly
9 p.m. Adults Only
The Beacon Theatre | See details under Friday.

Silent Film Series: Monte Cristo (1922)

7 p.m. Butterfield Library
10 Morris Ave., Cold Spring
845-265-3040 | butterfieldlibrary.org
Rescheduled from Feb. 14

5th Annual Ariane One-Act Play Festival

8 p.m. Philipstown Depot Theatre
See details under Friday.

Los Monologos de la Vagina

8 p.m. 925 Calle South, Peekskill
917-671-7772
facebook.com/embarkpeekskill

Music

Ubaka Hill (Drumming)

3 p.m. St. Andrew's Church
17 South Ave., Beacon | 845-219-5790

Jazz Vespers

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

Great Blue, Dave Hull, Chick's Candy Store (Acoustic)

7 p.m. Putnam Arts Council
521 Kennicut Road, Mahopac
845-803-8622 | putnamartscouncil.com

Contra Dance Party

7:30 p.m. St. John's Church
55 Wilbur Blvd, Poughkeepsie
845-473-7050 | hudsonvalleydance.org

Live Music

8 p.m. The Depot Restaurant
1 Depot Square, Cold Spring
845-265-5000 | coldspringdepot.com

Lady Got Chops Women's Music Festival

8 p.m. BeanRunner Café
See details under Friday.

Richard Shindell & Lucy Kaplansky

8 p.m. Tarrytown Music Hall
See details under Friday.

Clancy Tradition

8:30 p.m. Towne Crier Cafe
See details under Friday.

Crossroads Band

9 p.m. Whistling Willie's
See details under Friday.


Live Music

9:30 p.m. Max's on Main
See details under Friday.


The Brothers of the Road Band

9:30 p.m. 12 Grapes
See details under Friday.

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Phone 845.297.3786 Hours: Friday, Saturday & Sunday 10 a.m.-6 p.m.

Soul Fusion

10 p.m. The Hudson Room
See details under Friday.

Meetings & Lectures

Legislative Forum for People with Disabilities

8 a.m. Registration | 9 a.m. Town Hall Meeting
Putnam Hospital Center
670 Stoneleigh Ave., Carmel
845-808-1641, ext. 46019 | putnamcountyny.gov

Environmental Threats, New and Old (Forum)

2 p.m. Beacon Sloop Club
2 Red Flynn Drive, Beacon
845-463-4660 | beaconsloopclub.org

SUNDAY, MARCH 22

Kids & Community

Common Ground Farm Work Party

9 a.m. - 3 p.m. 19 South Ave., Beacon
See details under Saturday.

Maple Sugar Tours

10:30 a.m. - 3 p.m. Outdoor Discovery Center
See details under Saturday.

Westchester County Home Show

11 a.m. – 5 p.m. Westchester County Center
See details under Saturday.

Beacon Farmers Market

11 a.m. - 3 p.m. Scenic Hudson River Center
Long Dock Drive, Beacon
845-234-9325 | beaconfarmersmarket.org

Winter Tree Identification

1 p.m. Fort Montgomery Historic Site
690 Route 9W, Fort Montgomery
845-446-2134 | nysparks.com

Care of Trees and Shrubs (Talk)

2 p.m. St. Philip's Parish Hall
1101 Route 9D, Garrison
Sponsored by the Philipstown Garden Club

Finger Fables & Stories to Step Into With Jonathan Kruk

4 p.m. The Pantry
3091 Route 9, Cold Spring
845-265-2840 | thepantrycs.com

Art & Design

Hudson Valley Modern Quilting Guild

1 – 3:45 p.m. Howland Public Library
313 Main St., Beacon
845-831-1134 | beaconlibrary.org

Theater & Film

Losing Ground (1982) With Q-and-A

1 p.m. Downing Film Center
19 Front St., Newburgh
845-561-3686 | downingfilmcenter.com

Los Monologos de la Vagina

3 p.m. 925 Calle South, Peekskill
See details under Saturday.

Off the Wall Improv (Family-friendly)

3 p.m. The Beacon Theatre
See details under Friday.

The Lives of Hamilton Fish

3 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library
472 Route 403, Garrison
845-265-3652 | desmondfishlibrary.org

5th Annual Ariane One-Act Play Festival

4 p.m. Philipstown Depot Theatre
See details under Friday.

She's Beautiful When She's Angry (2014)

With Q-and-A

4 p.m. Jacob Burns Film Center
364 Manville Road, Pleasantville
914-747-5555 | burnsfilmcenter.org

Music

Traditional Irish Session

6 - 8 p.m. Silver Spoon Café | 124 Main St., Cold Spring | 845-265-2525 | silverspooncs.com

Roosevelt Dime

7:30 p.m. Towne Crier Café
See details under Friday.

Meetings & Lectures

History of the Hudson River Valley (Talk & Signing)

2 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
477 Main St., Beacon
845-831-4988 | howlandculturalcenter.org

Second Annual Women's Passover Seder

3 p.m. Beacon Hebrew Alliance
331 Verplanck Ave., Beacon
845-831-2012 | beaconhebrewalliance.org

MONDAY, MARCH 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

Babies and Books Early Literacy Program

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

Developmental Check-up (ages 2–4)

2 - 4 p.m. Howland Public Library
313 Main St., Beacon
845-831-1134 | beaconlibrary.org

Philipstown Adventures (grades K–6) (First Session)

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

Film & Theater

Losing Ground (1982)

7:15 p.m. Downing Film Center
See details under Sunday.

TUESDAY, MARCH 24

Kids & Community

Open House

9 - 11 a.m. Holy Angels of the Hudson Valley
7 Cozzens Ave., Highland Falls
845-446-6741 | holyangels-of-the-hudsonvalley.com

Howland Public Library

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

Kids in the Kitchen (ages 3–5)

12:30 p.m. Butterfield Library
10 Morris Ave., Cold Spring
845-265-3040 | butterfieldlibrary.org

Desmond-Fish Library

Noon. Highland Knitters
4 p.m. Kids' Craft Hour (grades 2+)
472 Route 403, Garrison
845-424-3020 | desmondfishlibrary.org

Cooking With Cheese (Class)

7 p.m. The Beacon Pantry
382 Main St, Beacon | chefstefny.com

Health & Fitness

Diabetes Self-Management (First Session)

9:30 a.m. Butterfield Library
10 Morris Ave., Cold Spring
845-265-3040 | butterfieldlibrary.org

Yoga With Kathie Scanlon (First Session)

9:30 a.m. VFW Hall
34 Kemble Ave., Cold Spring
845-424-4618 | philipstownrecreation.com

Film & Theater

The Butterfly Circus (2009)

7 p.m. Graymoor (Pius X)
1350 Route 9, Garrison
845-424-2111 | atonementfriars.org

The Films of Bong Joon-Ho: The Host (2006) With Q-and-A

7:30 p.m. Jacob Burns Film Center
See details under Sunday.

Music

Country Line Dancing

7 p.m. Bear Mountain Inn
55 Hessian Drive, Highland Falls
845-786-2731 | visitbearmountain.com

Meetings & Lectures

Highland Garden Club

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

Conservation Easements: What, Why & How?

6 p.m. Scenic Hudson
8 Long Dock Road, Beacon
845-473-4440, ext. 238 | scenichudson.org

Beacon School Parents

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

Board of Trustees

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

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25

Kids & Community

Annual Tree & Shrub Seedling Sale Deadline

845-878-7918
putnamcountyny.com/keepputnamgreen

Howland Public Library

9:45 a.m. Come and Play (ages 0–3)
10 a.m. - 1 p.m. Child ID Program
3 p.m. Toddler Tales (ages 2–3)
See details under Tuesday.

Desmond-Fish Library

10:15 a.m. Music & Motion for Toddlers
1:30 p.m. Preschool Story Hour
3:30 p.m. Lego Builders Club
See details under Tuesday.

Intro to the Graphic Novel (First Sessions)

4:30 p.m. Ages 9–14 | 6:30 p.m. Ages 15+
Howland Cultural Center
477 Main St., Beacon
845-831-4988 | howlandculturalcenter.org

Dog Obedience Classes (First Sessions)

5:45 p.m. Beginner | 7 p.m. Advanced
Philipstown Recreation Center
107 Glenclyffe Drive, Garrison
845-424-4618 | philipstownrecreation.com

(To page 10)



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The Calendar *(from page 9)*

Flavors of Italian Wine Meal
6 p.m. Culinary Institute of America (Caterina)
1946 Campus Drive, Hyde Park
845-471-6608 | ciarestaurantgroup.com

Introduction to Indian Cooking (Class)
6:30 p.m. Homespun at Home
259 Main St., Beacon | 917-803-6857
homecookingny.com/hudsonvalley

Health & Fitness

Living Well Workshop (First Session)
10 a.m. Putnam Hospital Center
670 Stoneleigh Ave., Carmel
845-279-5711, ext. 2702 | health-quest.org

Film & Theater

The Films of Ruben Ostlund: *Force Majeure* (2014)
7:30 p.m. Jacob Burns Film Center
See details under Sunday.

Music

The Stacks
9 p.m. Quinn's | 330 Main St., Beacon
845-831-8065 | quinnfbeacon.com

Meetings & Lectures

Recreation Commission
7 p.m. Village Hall
85 Main St., Cold Spring
845-265-3611 | coldspringny.gov

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

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To be considered, please send an email to:
poetry@philipstown.info

Include your name, address, phone number, the text of your poem and your connection to Philipstown or Beacon.

We will contact you to arrange the recording.

“One Poem a Day Won’t Kill You” is a concept borrowed from KRGBD radio station in Ketchikan, Alaska, which has made this an annual tradition for nearly 20 years.

Philipstown.info

The Paper

THURSDAY, MARCH 26

Kids & Community

Musical Stew for Toddlers
9, 10 & 11 a.m. Howland Cultural Center
477 Main St., Beacon
917-318-7801 | compassarts.org

Howland Public Library
10 a.m. Brain Games for Seniors
10:30 a.m. Pre-K Story Time (ages 3–5)
3:45 p.m. Lego Club (ages 4+)
See details under Tuesday.

Free Tax Assistance for Seniors & Low-Income
10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Howland Public Library
See details under Monday.

Winter Meat and Vegetable Store
3 - 6 p.m. Glynwood Farm
362 Glynwood Road, Cold Spring
845-265-3338 | store.glynwood.org

Children Read to Dogs
3:30 - 5 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library
472 Route 403, Garrison
845-424-3020 | desmondfishlibrary.org

Keep Putnam Farming Community Forum
4:30 p.m. Glynwood Farm
362 Glynwood Road, Cold Spring
845-265-3338 | glynwood.org

Ladies Night Out (Relay for Life Benefit)
5 - 8 p.m. The Grandview
176 Rinaldi Blvd, Poughkeepsie
allsporthealthandfitness.com

Open House
5 - 7 p.m. Mount Saint Mary College (Cotter Library)
330 Powell Ave., Newburgh
845-569-3467 | msmc.edu

Cold Spring Area Chamber Mixer
6 - 8 p.m. Doug's Pretty Good Pub
54 Main St., Cold Spring
845-265-3200 | coldspringareachamber.org
Rescheduled from Feb. 26

Haldane's Got Talent (Benefit)
6 p.m. Dinner | 7 p.m. Show
Towne Crier Cafe, 379 Main St., Beacon
845-265-9254
haldaneschoolfoundation.org

Disney Live! Three Classic Fairy Tales
7 p.m. Westchester County Center
198 Central Ave., White Plains
914-995-4050 | countycenter.biz

Health & Fitness

Tai Chi/Qigong Class (First Session)
10 a.m. Fei Lung
11 Peekskill Road, Cold Spring | 845-809-5158

Sports

Haldane vs. Beacon (Softball)
4:30 p.m. Haldane High School
15 Craigside Drive, Cold Spring
845-265-9254 | haldaneschool.org

Film & Theater

World Stage on Screen: *A View From the Bridge*
3 p.m. Jacob Burns Film Center
See details under Sunday.

Lewis Black (Comedy)
8 p.m. Tarrytown Music Hall
See details under Friday.

Music

Jim Price and Ben Collier
9 p.m. Quinn's
See details under Wednesday.

Meetings & Lectures

Suicide Prevention: Means Matter (Forum)
9 a.m. - Noon. TOPS Building Auditorium
112 Old Route 6, Carmel | mhaputnam.org

PTA Meeting / School Budget Workshop
9:15 a.m. Garrison School
1100 Route 9D, Garrison
845-424-3689 | gufs.org
Rescheduled from March 5

Haldane PTA
3:30 p.m. Haldane School (Makerspace)
15 Craigside Drive, Cold Spring
845-265-9254 | haldanepta.org

Code Update Committee
7 p.m. Village Hall
85 Main St., Cold Spring
845-265-3611 | coldspringny.gov

Ecological Citizens' Project
7 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library
472 Route 403, Garrison
845-424-3020 | desmondfishlibrary.org

FRIDAY, MARCH 27

Kids & Community

Free Tax Assistance for Seniors & Low-Income
10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Howland Public Library
See details under Monday.

Preschool on the Farm: Sheep (ages 2–4)
10 a.m. Common Ground Farm
79 Farmstead Lane, Wappingers Falls
845-231-4424 | commongroundfarm.org

Disney Live! Three Classic Fairy Tales
7 p.m. Westchester County Center
See details under Thursday.

Teen Night Zombie Party (grades 9+)
7 p.m. Butterfield Library
10 Morris Ave., Cold Spring
845-265-3040 | butterfieldlibrary.org

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

Support Groups

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

Health & Fitness

Navigating Healthcare Options
10 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. Howland Public Library
313 Main St., Beacon | 800-453-4666
misn-ny.org | Appointment required.

Film & Theater

International Film Night: *The Lunchbox* (India)
7 p.m. Howland Public Library
313 Main St., Beacon
845-831-1134 | beaconlibrary.org

Music

Joey Ray Band
8 p.m. BeanRunner Café
See details under March 20.

Matt Marshak Band
8:30 p.m. Towne Crier Cafe
See details under March 20.

Sweet Clementines
9 p.m. Quinn's
See details under Thursday.

Live Music
9 p.m. Max's on Main
See details under March 20.

Thrown Together
9 p.m. Whistling Willie's
See details under March 20.

Rob Roy
9:30 p.m. 12 Grapes
See details under March 20.

Showtime Dance Band
10 p.m. The Hudson Room
See details under March 20.

Meetings & Lectures

Master Nan Lu: The Dragon's Way (Opens)
3 p.m. Garrison Institute
14 Mary's Way, Garrison
845-424-4800 | garrisoninstitute.org

ONGOING

Art & Design

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The Paper

Micah Parker’s Designs: There Needs to Be a Story *(from page 7)*

skills I’ve mastered to go into my final products.”

Fox & Castle’s line includes jewelry, along with block-printed textiles, including cloths and sachets filled with potpourri made from elements Parker has foraged in the woods.



Hand-printed flour sack cloth by Fox & Castle, designed by Micah Parker

Photo courtesy of Fox & Castle

Lingering behind her work, philosophically, is Parker’s Cherokee heritage. “My dad was Cherokee. I’ve never been raised in a directly Cherokee way, and I have a problem with cultural appropriation so I would never take a Native American theme approach — like I would never, for example, use a Navajo print or make a dream catcher; it can be a tough line to cross — but I try to stay true to the ideal of not wasting anything.”

This aim to never waste any element shows in Parker’s tassel necklaces, for example, which are made from the fringes of the European-milled linens she uses. Her “Northern Lights” bracelets feature polymer stones on deerskin, the stone a byproduct of the metal

industry mixed with a powder made from brass and copper, and the deerskin never used from animals killed solely for harvesting leather. Little baskets turned into necklaces are composed of scraps, fashioned into tiny works of art. Her block printing begins with her own carving out of designs from linoleum.

It’s all quite time-consuming. “It takes me a long time to release a new product. I eat a lot of my own money. Although the time is definitely worked into the pricing, there is more time behind that, learning the skills, which of course I can’t weave into my prices. That’s why I also teach and do events and take on other work, which allows me to support this. I need to buy supplies and mess up. But the mess-ups are why what I begin with often turns into other things,” Parker explained.

She’s not in a rush. “I’m still developing,” she acknowledged. “In fact it’s all developing faster than I thought it would; I’m really happy at the rate it’s going. Before releasing the line, it took five years to get to the point where I felt I could. When that happened, I bought a domain name and thought, ‘Let’s just do it.’”

As for the name, Fox & Castle was chosen, Parker said, “because it’s related to nature and also to something else: the grounded, structural, world. Two opposite things which are simple, revealing things, yet are not associated with any one thing.”

Right now Parker is selling largely online, through the contemporary marketplaces of sites such as Instagram. She also sells at some shows, including the WORK: SHOP Holiday Salon in Beacon last December. Asked to define her work, Parker reflected, “Simple, small things, understated but not basic looking; always with a bit of interest, complementing your own beauty or style.” Visit foxandcastle.net to see the full collection.



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Two Locals’ Films Screening at Tribeca Film Festival *(from page 7)*

and the world.”

Meeropol was “thrilled to be invited” to Tribeca. “Most of my crew and all but one of my key subjects are New York-based, so having them at the premiere and subsequent screenings and Q-and-A’s is a wonderful bonus to launching the film at a major festival like Tribeca.”

Right after its showing at TFF, Meeropol will be heading to Toronto, where it will screen three times at the revered all-documentary HotDocs Festival. “We have not sold any of the theatrical, cable or other distribution rights so our hopes out of the festival(s) are to find a home on television for the film and possibly a theatrical run, too. We hope to show it at other festivals around the country and the world, too,” Meeropol explained.

Plummer in *King Jack*

Charlie Plummer, 15, is the lead actor in the feature film *King Jack*, which will be shown four times (exact screening times had not yet been released at press time; tickets go on sale on March 22) in the *Viewpoints* section. The category features 27 films, a mix of narrative and documentary films from 12 countries, all centered on the theme of identity.

Plummer lives in Cold Spring when not residing in Salt Lake City, Utah, where he has finished filming the third season of the ’60s spy drama *Granite Flats*, working alongside such notables as “indie queen” actress Parker Posey and *Back to the Future*’s Christopher Lloyd, as well as his mother, Maia Guest. His father, John Plummer, wrote the entire

season. In the early stages of his career (meaning about five or six years ago) — he could be seen learning his craft in many a Depot Theatre production.

Plummer taped his audition for *King Jack* while shooting season two of *Granite Flats* in Salt Lake City, and then was asked to come in for a callback. Once he returned to New York, he was asked to come in and audition a third time for the writer/director, Felix Thompson. Afterward, the casting director called to say that Plummer was her first choice, but that due to the size of the role and the intensity of the shooting schedule (Jack is in nearly every minute of the film), Thompson wanted to spend some time with Plummer to get to know him. They played basketball, walked around the West Village and had a long lunch. Shortly thereafter, Plummer got the call that he would be playing Jack.

King Jack was shot in Kingston, New York, with a few days in Hudson in the summer of 2014. Its TFF description reads: “Jack is a scrappy 15-year-old kid stuck in a run-down small town. Trapped in a violent feud with a cruel older bully and facing another bout of summer school, Jack’s got all the problems he can handle. Set over a hazy summer weekend, *King Jack* is a tough and tender coming-of-age story about friendship and finding happiness in rough surroundings.”

For more information on the Tribeca Film Festival and screening times and tickets, visit tribecafilmfestival.com.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

(From previous page) Copeland will screen her short film *Erstwhile*, which has recently been accepted to the Cannes Film Festival (Short Film Corner). The film, which was shot entirely in Garrison, focuses on four sisters and the last night they spend together before the eldest goes to college. Copeland is an independent filmmaker living and working in New York. In January, she directed *Evergreen*, another short film shot in Cold Spring, involving 25 local kids and over 60 Christmas trees. She is currently a field producer on a new A&E docu-series being shot in NYC.

This free event is open to the public. The Desmond-Fish Library is located at the corner of Route 9D and Route 403 in Garrison. For more information, call the library at 845-424-3020 or visit desmondfishlibrary.org.

Boscobel Lecture Series Begins April 10

Members admitted free to all lectures

This year, Boscobel's annual spring lecture series presents three topics of focus: interior design, architecture and landscape. The talks will take place in the grand entry hall of the mansion from 6 to 8 p.m.

Friday, April 10: Thomas Jayne of Jayne Design Studio
Living With Antiques, A Quarter Century of Interior Design

To celebrate the 25th anniversary of his New York design studio, Jayne will focus on his favorite interiors created between 1990 and 2015. The presentation will illustrate the core ideas that have consistently informed the designer's work. From family-oriented households to more formal historic house interiors, Jayne will discuss how objects, both antique and modern, can be successfully blended to create comfortable, beautiful and unique environments.

Friday, April 24: John Paul Hulguley of Building Art, LLC, and the American College of the Building Arts
The Art of Building

During the last century, the art of building has suffered, due to the lack of skilled artisans and the introduction of cheap quality materials into the built environment. The eradication of skilled building practices has not only had a negative impact in the restoration of historic structures but has also adversely affected the way we build the structures in which we work and live.

Friday, May 8: James Doyle and Kathryn Herman of Doyle Herman Design Associates

The Language of Landscape: Simplicity, Scale & Structure

Doyle and Herman will share images and work from their new book, *The Landscape Designs of Doyle Herman Design Associates*. It features the firm's varying projects that illustrate strong geometry, bold structural forms and clean symmetry.

The Friends of Boscobel membership program includes free admission to lectures year-round. Lecture seating is on stairs and chairs, and a wine and cheese reception will follow in the Carriage House where guests may chat with the speakers and purchase books for signing.

Members can register at Boscobel.org. Admission for non-members is \$20/lecture. Memberships, reservations and tickets are all available at Boscobel.org.



The Parker Quartet

Photo courtesy of HCMC

Beacon

Parker Quartet Plays Howland Chamber Series

March 29 performance includes Mozart, Widmann, Brahms

The Howland Chamber Music Circle welcomes back the Parker Quartet: Daniel Chong and Ying Xue, violins; Jessica Bodner, viola; and Kee-Hyun Kim, cello, to open the spring portion of its series.

Founded in 2002, the Grammy Award-winning Parker Quartet began touring on the international circuit after winning the Concert Artists Guild Competition as well as the Grand Prix and Mozart Prize at the Bordeaux International String Quartet Competition in France. Chamber Music America awarded the quartet the prestigious biennial Cleveland Quartet Award for the 2009–11 seasons. The Parker Quartet recently joined the faculty of Harvard University's Department of Music as Blodgett Artists-in-Residence.

For their concert at the Howland Center, the members of the Parker Quartet have chosen to play Quartet No. 17 in B-flat major, K 458, nicknamed *The Hunt*, by Mozart; Quartet No. 3, *Jagdquartett* (*Hunting Quartet*) by Joerg Widmann; and the Quartet No. 3 in B-flat major, Op. 67, by Brahms.

The performance will take place on Sunday, March 29, at 4 p.m. at the Howland Cultural Center, 477 Main St. in Beacon, and will be followed by a reception to meet the artists.

Tickets at \$30 (\$10 for students) can be reserved by calling 845-765-3012 or at the Chamber Music Circle's website, howlandmusic.org, where further information on this and other presentations by HCMC can be found.

Beacon 3D Announces Sculpture Trail Artists

Exhibit runs May 15 through Oct. 15 with June 13 opening

Beacon 3D announces that 20 artists will exhibit their work in the third annual outdoor public art event from May 15 through Oct. 15, and that the official opening and ribbon-cutting with Beacon Mayor Randy Casale will take place on Second Saturday, June 13.

The following 20 artists will each exhibit one sculpture along or near Main Street in Beacon: Kenneth Wright, Naomi Tepich, Jennifer Smith, Judy Sigunick, Peter Schlemowitz, Judith Rose, Jon Reichert, Rosemarie Oakman, Franc Palaia, Lori Merhige, Maria Lago, Matt Kinney, Insun Kim, Sarah Haviland, Ian George, Geoff Feder, Charles Engleman, Ada Cruz, John BonSignore and Ed Benavente.

The work of 10 new artists will be included in this year's lineup, and new locations around the city will show works as part of

Share Your News With Our Readers

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efforts to create a true sculpture trail along Main.

Beacon 3D will introduce a free downloadable app, developed specifically for the 2015 exhibition by Eric Feinstein, founder and creator

of Otocast, LLC. Viewers will be able to scan the bar code with their smartphones and listen to brief statements about the sculptures in the artists' own voices. Otocast can be downloaded for free from the iTunes store.

The purpose of *Beacon 3D* is to provide and enhance the community's access and enjoyment of art in a free long-term installation as well as to promote and highlight the work of a diverse range of actively engaged artists. In 2014, *Beacon 3D*, just in its second year, was awarded the Dutchess County Arts Award for Art in Public Places, a program of Arts Mid-Hudson (artsmidhudson.org).

For further information, contact Eleni Smolen, founder/director of *Beacon 3D*, at 917-318-2239 or theoganzstudio@tds.net.

Andra Watkins to Talk at Howland Library March 28

Author of *Not Without My Father* discusses journey on Natchez Trail

Author and public speaker Andra Watkins will speak about her freshly published memoir, *Not Without My Father*, at the Howland Public Library on Saturday, March 28, at 1 p.m. Watkins will look back on her poignant and often hilarious 444-mile journey with her father on the Natchez Trail. She will tell of how their dysfunctional relationship changes forever on the trip.

This special one-hour event is free, and no registration is required. Light refreshments will be served. Books will be on hand for sale and signing. To learn more about Watkins, go to andrawatkins.com.

For more information about the event, contact Alison Herrero, adult services librarian, at 845-831-1134. The Howland Public Library is located at 313 Main St. in Beacon. To see all upcoming events at the Howland Public Library, go to beaconlibrary.org and click on Calendar.

'Poetree' Workshop at Howland Library April 11

Children create poems about Beacon's trees for Arbor Day

Students ages 9 through 12 are invited to a special Poetry Month/Arbor Day Workshop called "Poetree" on Saturday, April 11, from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. at Howland Public Library on 313 Main St. in Beacon.

Students will have an opportunity to create poetry in honor of Main Street's local trees with Beacon's poet laureate, Thomas O'Connell. Participants will each choose a tree along Main Street, create a poem about it and then have their work put on display (along with a photo of "their" tree) in the shop/business window that it stands in front of. After all, Beacon is a documented "Tree City."

This event is part of Beacon's Arbor Day (April 24) celebration. Register by contacting Ginny Figlia, head of youth services, at 845-831-1134, ext. 103, or youth@beaconlibrary.org. For information about all youth programs, check the calendar at beaconlibrary.org.

Citizenship, Immigration Law Talk at Library

Attorney explains relief program and rules March 31

Allan Wernick, immigration attorney and director of CUNY Citizenship Now!, will present an informative talk on the topic of citizenship and immigration law at the Howland Public Library on Tuesday, March 31, at 6:30 p.m. Covered in the presentation will be information on President Obama's Administrative Relief program, history of the law pertaining to citizenship and immigration, and qualification rules. Bring questions to this one-hour, free presentation. No registration is required.

Wernick is also a professor at Baruch College and a *New York Daily News* columnist. For more information on CUNY Citizenship Now!, go to cuny.edu/citizenshipnow.

For information, contact Alison Herrero, adult services librarian, at 845-831-1134. The Howland Public Library is located at 313 Main St. in Beacon.

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NY Alert

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Haldane’s 25 Years of Immersion

Full-day program aims to awaken a hunger for language and culture

By Alison Rooney

It can be difficult for language students to push past the tedium of language learning, the drills and vocabulary retention, and into the exploration of language to a living, breathing culture — particularly so in high school, where curriculum standards often prescribe a course of study that separates the structure of the language from its spoken life. To take language away from the textbooks, and to help students reared in Philipstown gain exposure to the world beyond it, the Haldane language immersion program, a day of saturation in cultural activities and cuisine related to the French and Spanish languages, occurs each March.

Begun over two decades ago as the brainchild of then Haldane Spanish teacher Phil D’Amato, who developed it along with his colleagues Kathryn Robb and Eva Cagianese, the program has evolved over time, but at its core the goal, said Nina Ortiz, current Haldane Spanish teacher and foreign language chair, is exposure: “Even though it’s only a day, it’s a taste of what it’s like and hopefully awakens that hunger, which most of them already have, for language and culture. Hopefully they can continue being engaged in it and pursue it beyond high school.”

All three former teachers were present at this year’s event March 6; they enjoy returning each year. D’Amato spoke of immersion’s beginnings: “The original need was there because kids didn’t travel a lot and they needed to come in contact with those who came from other countries, in a way which didn’t take them out of Philipstown ... The first year was a shoestring with no budget, and volunteer



Haldane language department teaching staff, including Nina Ortiz, second from right, and Phil D’Amato, third from right, along with guest presenters, enjoying lunch at Immersion Day 2015

Photo by A. Rooney

presenters.”

Over the course of a breakfast-through-dinnertime day spent at the Taconic Outdoor Education Center, host to the event each year, students rotate between talks given by guest presenters, performances by musicians from a country where the language is spoken and a presentation of their own in a student “coffeehouse” where they are able to perform or recite something of their choice. The centerpiece is an “international” lunch, prepared by Mike Gasparri of the Taconic Center and his staff, highlighting dishes from the national cuisines of French- and Spanish-speaking countries.





The day is funded by the Haldane School Foundation; their grant is then matched by Haldane itself, with the students adding a small contribution.

About 50 students attend, with the language teachers choosing which students to invite, with enthusiasm and affinity factoring in as much as high grades. The invited students, largely though not exclusively upperclassmen, then have to fill out an expression of interest, detailing

why they wish to attend and how they plan to contribute to the day. Options include documenting the event through photography, composing thank-you notes and other tasks. Planning for the event begins soon after the previous year’s has concluded, said Ortiz, with the scouting of presenters and musicians and lining up of the many components.

This year, for the first presentations, the students divided up between their languages, with the Spanish students sitting down to a presentation by Salvadoran-born poet Jose Gonzales on “my life as a Latino, as an immigrant, as someone who grew up in El Salvador,” interspersed with a reading of some of his poems. Rodriguez began by discussing the term “Hispanic,” noting that the term itself came from the U.S. government in the 1970s and indicates a connection with Spain, a link, he noted, that is not always positive. “Spain conquered,” he said succinctly. He then spoke of the quandary some Latinos feel when presented with the labeling of ethnicity: The simple “Am I (To page 16)

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Roots and Shoots:

Happy First Day of Spring

By Pamela Doan

Daffodils are pushing up through the mud. I saw a purple finch at the bird feeder this week (they migrate through). Constitution Marsh posted a photo of skunk cabbage emerging (one of the earliest bloomers). There's hope.

I'm frequently asked about how to learn more about gardening and where to buy plants. We're fortunate to have top-notch resources nearby. Here are some places to look:

Cornell Cooperative Extension in Putnam County: The extension program exists to spread the knowledge from Cornell researchers to home gardeners and industry professionals alike. The best thing about their workshops is that everything is based on tested scientific principles, and they're forward thinking, dealing with real-life issues about climate change and the ecological impact. Their garden and landscaping workshops are free or low cost. Monday, March 23, is Health Soil, Healthy Crops at the Mahopac Library. See the full schedule at putnam.cce.cornell.edu.

Stonecrop Gardens: This public garden here in Philipstown covers 12 acres and has diverse plantings, none very formal. You can learn a lot about design just by visiting frequently throughout the season. They offer guided tours and classes, too. The gardens open for the year at the end of March. Check stonecrop.org for upcoming classes.

Putnam Valley Grange: Originally a fraternal order of farmers, the Grange is now a nonprofit open to anyone in the community. They offer a Backyard Farming Series that focuses more on livestock. The upcoming series in April includes raising chickens, turkeys and beekeeping. Details and registration are at putnamvalleygrange.org.

New York Botanical Garden: If you're ready to study horticulture, gardening or landscape design in depth, the NYBG (nybg.org) has certificate programs on these and other subjects and is known for the quality of their education.

The Hudson Valley Garden Calendar (hvgardencalendar.com) has listings for anything and everything related to gardening, including classes, shows, sales and seed swaps.

Resources for purchasing plants

Plant sales are held by Putnam County Soil and Water Conservation District March 25 (order deadline), Native Plant Center April 25, Stonecrop Alpine Plant Sale April 25, Philipstown Garden Club May 9 and Master Gardeners May 16. All of these are plant sales that you can visit on the date noted except the Soil and Water sale. Their seedling sale is online or you can mail in the order form and then pick up plants in April. Every year they offer a great selection of seedlings and bare root plants, many of them native to our area. It's affordable (less than \$2 a bush for blueberries, for example) and an easy way to add value to your yard for birds and pollinators. Visit putnamcountyny.com/keepputnamgreen.

For a better selection of plants than you'll find at a big box store, I like to visit Sabellico Greenhouses in Hopewell Junction for their wide variety; many are natives, and many are grown onsite in their own greenhouses. Their staff is knowledgeable and helpful, too.

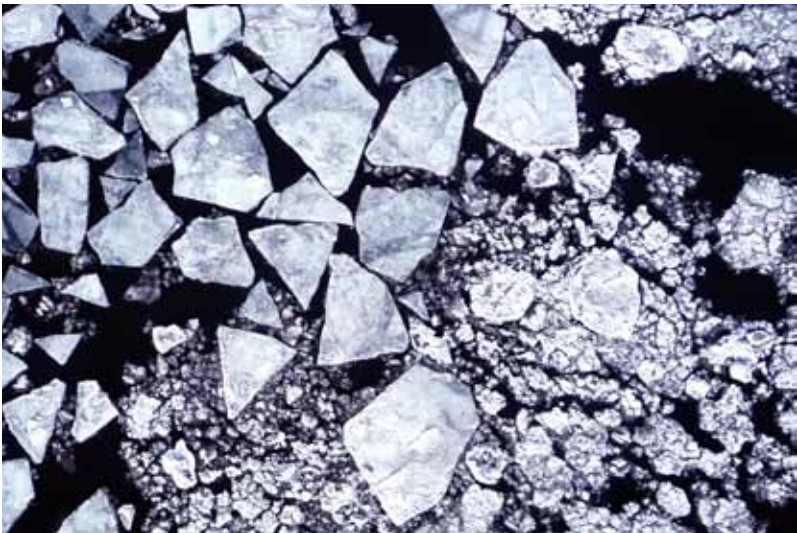
Researching what to plant and where to plant it

The Native Plant Center maintains lists of recommended native plants for our area. Wildflower.org has an extensive database of native plants. Gardening.cornell.edu has resources for vegetables, herbs, perennials, woody plants and trees. Every plant has specific requirements for maximum growth and yield; this website can help make that happen.



Signs of spring

Photo by P. Doan



Spring break-up on the river, viewed from the Walkway Over the Hudson

Photo by Kate Vikstrom

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Sports **Haldane Tops Stony Brook in Regional Final Win**

Boys basketball off to state Final Four in Glens Falls

By Peter Farrell

Haldane basketball took a road trip to Suffolk County Community College located in Selden, Long Island, last Friday, March 13, to take on the Stony Brook Bears in the Class C regional finals. The 70-plus Blue Devils faithful who made the 2 ½ hour trek to Long Island to root for their team, as well other fans watching via streaming Internet feed, knew that they were in for a special night after the opening tipoff.

Haldane guards Tucker Beachek (7 points) and Ryan McCollum (10 points) immediately attacked the Stony Brook defense with determined drives to the basket that helped give Haldane an early 8-0 lead they would never surrender. The Stony Brook Bears, as well as their fans, were stunned and could not recover. The start of this game was the equivalent to boxer Mike Tyson in his early days, running out from his corner at the opening bell and hitting his opponent as quickly and as hard as he could. Tyson in his prime was unstoppable.

Haldane boys basketball, when clicking on all cylinders, is similarly unstoppable. The Blue Devils have a shutdown defense that takes out the best scorers on every team. That's their game: Shut down the opponents with in-your-face defense and score some baskets. So when Beachek and McCollum attacked at the start of the game, clearly it was going to be a good night for the Haldane Blue Devils and their fans, even though this was no easy task, since the Stony Brook Bears had some size and sharp shooters on their team. But Haldane didn't wait to see them get started; they went for it at the opening bell, just like Tyson would.

When senior Garrett Quigley went down with an ankle injury with 3:30 left in the first quarter and Haldane leading 11-0, the up-tempo game that Haldane was playing suddenly came to a stop. As Quigley was being attended to, a few fans wondered if the flow Haldane



Haldane players celebrate Class C regional final win over Stony Brook. Photos by P. Farrell

had established would stall, and maybe the Bears just caught a break with that extended injury timeout. But the Blue Devils would not lose the focus and continued to play their hearts out for their fallen senior. Will Zuvic replaced Quigley, and Haldane continued its assault on the Bears. Haldane had a first quarter lead of 13-0 before the Bears scored their only basket with 3 seconds left in the quarter, trailing Haldane 13-2.

Haldane continued to attack on offense and defense in the second quarter. Haldane came out scoring, building the lead to 20-4 before a relatively quiet mass of over 200 Stony Brook fans. The smaller but loud and proud group of Haldane fans continued to cheer their team on with every defensive stop and offensive basket. With the Blue Devils leading 22-4 and 1:45 left in the half, the Stony Brook Bears needed a little offense run to get back in the game, so they attempted to attack on offense, setting up their shooters, only to have Haldane players and their long arms standing between them and the hoop. The Bears did manage a 5-0 run in the final minute of the half but were stopped short on their next possession by a determined Haldane defense, entering the half trailing the Blue Devils 22-9.

Moving onto the third, these Blue Dev-

ils were not done yet. They continued to pour on the offense, going on a 7-0 run before the Bears would score their next basket with 3:53 remaining in the third, cutting the Haldane lead to 29-11. Junior forward Zuvic (8 points) wanted those points back and quickly found an opening in the Bears' defense for an easy layup to put Haldane up 31-11. Haldane would not score again in the final 3:40 of the third quarter as the Stony Brook defense was pressing and desperately trying to turn the game around, but their defense did not let up, limiting the Bears to 3 points in the third quarter. Haldane entered the fourth leading the Bears 31-12.

That's when things got a little interesting. Did someone say it was Friday the 13th? The Bears' offense came out of hibernation and started to hit some baskets. Haldane, up by 20, didn't panic, but their shots weren't falling and the Stony Brook defense started to press. With every basket that the Bears made, their fans started to roar a bit louder, and the Bears players' confidence started to grow. Haldane fans, delirious from an awesome three quarters of Blue Devil dominance, were now wondering what was going on: We should be closing the door, not opening it.

The Bears continued to press Haldane

on defense and make them work for every possession, pass and basket. Soon the Haldane 20-point lead was in single digits, but the clock was also running out on the Bears' season, and Haldane knew that their defense would win the game, and they did, holding off the Bears to end 39-32. The Haldane fans and players celebrated the win courtside and then packed up for the long happy ride back home to Cold Spring.

The leading scorers for Haldane were McCollum, followed by Zuvic and Edmund Fitzgerald with 8 points.

Haldane will now head north to the New York State Class C Final Four, to be held on March 20 at the Glens Falls Civic Center in Glens Falls. The Blue Devils will play Lake George in the semifinal game starting at 5 p.m. The Haldane faithful will be making the journey once again to cheer their champions on to victory and help Haldane bring home the Class C title. GO BLUE!



Blue Devils' point guard Tucker Beachek drives to the hoop in the opening minutes of Haldane's victory over the Stony Brook Bears March 13.

Haldane's 25 Years of Immersion (from page 14)

white?" issue, and all the pondering it presents for those asked to define who they are in a word. Gonzalez urged the students to "be aware of what the preferences are and be aware that many of the terms we use for immigrants, we gave to them." He then gave a personal history of his trajectory from his childhood as the son of a man who sold soap on the street in order to save money for his family to emigrate to the U.S. to his experiences as a young immigrant suddenly transplanted to Connecticut and, finally, to his young adulthood, transformed by a love of Shakespeare, eventually receiving a master's degree in English.

Meanwhile, the French language students were treated to something altogether different: a fencing workshop, replete with not only a discussion of the French terms used in the sport but active participation, as the students were outfitted in the gear and were taught to parry, dodge and lunge. The students also learned of the creativity involved in fencing and were encouraged to make a list of French vocabulary as they went through the actions.

And the laden-with-food buffet table beckoned, as Gasparri explained each dish and its ingredients, urging each student to try a little of everything. The students (and teachers) dove into paella, empanadas, ratatouille, quiche, roasted sage potatoes, baguettes, and mush-



Musicians, one playing a 36-string Peruvian harp, perform at Haldane Immersion Day. Photo by A. Rooney

rooms stuffed with chorizo sausage, before finishing everything off with a mousse au chocolat.

After lunch the groups were split again. The French 4 class had this to report about their presentation: "Ms. Jerrice Baptiste is a poet of Haitian origin

who hosts a radio show called *Women of Note*, which features world music. Prior to meeting with Ms. Baptiste, our teacher prepared her poems with the students of French 4 and 5. We translated some of her poems from English into French, and read them at Haldane High School's cultural immersion day. She wore a fabulous traditional Haitian outfit, and she spoke in calm, wise tones. She challenged the group to compose individual poems about their grandparents using color associations. She has previously collaborated with Haldane French students and faculty to translate her work."

The Spanish students were treated to a talk by 2008 Haldane grad Lily Rubino, who gave a personal history of her years since graduating from the College of William and Mary with a degree in anthropology and environmental science, years in which she has spent time, in various capacities, in the Dominican Republic, Costa Rica and Colombia. Most of her presentation detailed the time she recently spent in Leticia, in the Amazon region of Colombia. "I wanted to challenge myself and actually do research in Spanish,"

she said, describing herself initially as "really nervous, but then I forced myself and reaped the benefits. People laughed at my Spanish in a kind way, and I laughed at myself." Rubino brought along a number of artifacts from the region in which she spent time going house to house interviewing and gleaning information from the indigenous people of the area on their access to potable water supplies. Singing the praises of travel in terms of acquiring language skills, she noted: "Once I was in Leticia I became so excited about actually learning and speaking Spanish. Try different avenues, you won't regret it — get out into the world."

The talks were followed by an afternoon of music. Before the Viva México mariachi band took to the stage, several students delivered reports in both Spanish and English on the history of that musical form. Once the band got into action, students didn't need much urging to rise from their chairs and hit the improvised dance floor.

A more tranquil presentation from a trio consisting of players on keyboards, drums and a 36-string Peruvian harp followed, and then the activities concluded with the students' own "coffeehouse" in which they performed in French and Spanish. A mixture of poems and songs and even a Harry Potter sketch translated into Spanish were highlights of the afternoon, which ended with another meal.