Friday, March 21, 2014

New Farm and Food Projects — see page 6 & 7

According to Heather Howard, president of Shepherd’s View Animal Sanctuary, to keep animals warm in winter, their calorie intake must double, which in turn doubles the nonprofit’s monthly feed bill. See story, p. 3. (Photo courtesy of Heather Howard)

Garrison Board Appoints New Superintendent

By Pamela Dean

The Garrison Union Free School District Board of Education President Raymond O’Rourke announced at the regularly scheduled meeting Wednesday, March 19, that Laura Mitchell had been chosen as the next district superintendent. Following Gloria Colucci’s decision to retire last fall, the board had engaged The area Board of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES) to help identify candidates and a Community Advisory Board of parents, teachers and community members to be involved in interviewing and making recommendations. Dr. Brian Monahan has been the interim superintendent since January.

Mitchell is currently a Beacon resident and will begin her tenure at GUFPS on April 21. Monahan will assist with the transition. O’Rourke described Mitchell as “a leader, mentor and coach with a highly impressive record of academic accomplishment for the Young Women’s Leadership School.” Mitchell was a founder eight years ago of the Young Women’s Leadership School in Astoria, Queens, and is currently the principal. The school has nearly 600 students in grades 6-12 and is a public school.

Among Mitchell’s other distinctions, she was the assistant principal for the Young Women’s Leadership School in Manhattan. She has a master’s in education with a major in educational administration and also a master’s in library science. She was the school library media specialist at the FWIS in Manhattan and at Washington Irving High School. Mitchell’s local roots extend back to a few years at Haldane for elementary school.

“Laura Mitchell is an incredibly impressive visit. I saw some very innovative things going on in that school, a lot of project-based learning despite all of the constraints that we have. I’m looking forward to creating partnerships with parents and teachers and community members and doing great things for our school,” Board member Theresa Orlandi said.

Mitchell’s local roots extend back to a few years at Haldane for elementary school. Mitchell was a founder eight years ago of the Young Women’s Leadership School in Astoria, Queens, and is currently the principal. The school has nearly 600 students in grades 6-12 and is a public school.

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“Laura Mitchell is an incredibly impressive visit. I saw some very innovative things going on in that school, a lot of project-based learning despite all of the constraints that we have. I’m looking forward to creating partnerships with parents and teachers and community members and doing great things for kids,” Board member Theresa Orlandi commented. “I was fortunate enough to visit Laura’s school in Queens where we met with teachers and students. It was an incredibly impressive visit. I saw some very innovative things going on in that school, a lot of project-based learning despite all of the constraints that we have. I’m looking forward to the new direction.”

Positive financial news

Monahan reported that the 2014-2015 school budget is still in good shape, and they are waiting for the state budget to be passed to finalize it. As of now, all the school’s programs will be funded for next year. The state budget is expected to be presented in (Continued on page 5)

BOFA Wins Both Village Trustee Seats

Absentee ballots a factor

By Michael Turton

Your vote counts. That’s one undeniable lesson to be taken from Michael Bowman and Cathryn Fadde’s win in the Village of Cold Spring election for two trustee seats on March 18 (Tuesday). Running as the “BOFA” team, Bowman and Fadde earned 398 and 395 votes respectively in defeating first-time candidate Donald Mac Donald and incumbent Matt Francisco, who garnered 378 and 362 votes respectively. Mary Saari, clerk for the Village of Cold Spring, indicated that 1,411 residents were eligible to vote.

For 45 minutes after voting ended, reporters, a few members of the Cold Spring Fire Company and a handful of other onlookers waited rather nervously in the fire hall garage, while next door, election officials went about the business of finalizing (Continued on page 6)

Deep Dive Reveals Safety Flaws

Metro-North needs to change, says fed report

By Kevin E. Foley

The Metro-North system came under sharp criticism last week by federal elected officials, including Rep. Sean Maloney (D-Cold Spring), as the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) released its Operation Deep Dive report after an extensive review of the commuter line’s operations.

The FRA study was prompted by the December 2013 Sunday morning accident that took the lives of four people and injured 70 more after a southbound train entered a sharp curve at excessive speed just north of the New York City line. Philipstown’s James Lovell was among those killed.

On a media conference call on Friday, March 14, Joseph Szabo, administrator of the FRA, summed up the report’s conclusions: “The Metro-North railroad has a poor safety culture from top management down the line.”

Szabo said his agency had deployed 60 technical experts to study all aspects of Metro-North operations over a two-month period. Szabo said FRA had made 21 directed actions to Metro-North that they will be required to carry out. He further said the FRA would hold monthly accountability sessions with Metro-North to evaluate how the actions are carried out. (Continued on page 3)

Cathryn Fadde and Michael Bowman immediately after hearing of their victory at the Cold Spring Firehouse (Photo by K. E. Foley)
Small, Good Things

Mindful Awakening

By Joe Dizney

Spring 2014 officially arrived Thursday at 12:57 p.m., but as is typical for this time of year the temperature is consistently schizophrenic.

But you can’t fool Mother Nature, and signs of life below ground are beginning to reappear. As much as we’d like to rush this process, it’s as T.S. Eliot says: The faith and the love and the hope are all in the waiting. This is a time for mindful patience, and with an attitude of quiet awareness we can move cheerfully beyond all that went before and reverentially into a new cycle of warmth, life and growth.

I had the good fortune to travel south in late January for a brief escape from the cold. We drove hoping to enjoy the change in flora, fauna and temperature as we traveled, but our first planned stop in Richmond, Va., was greeted by the city’s second major snowfall of the season: 5-6 inches of powder from the first (bi-polar vortex of the season. After the February inch of powder from the first major snowfall of the season we traveled, but our first planned stop in Richmond, Va., was greeted by the city’s second major snowfall of the season: 5-6 inches of powder from the first bi-polar vortex of the season. After the February

...
Donations needed as spring arrives
By Michael Turton

It’s been the most challenging winter in years — even for the animals at Shepherds View Animal Sanctuary (SVAS) just outside Cold Spring. Sanctuary President Heather Howard said that the unrelenting cold weather has created an extra burden.

“Food is expensive in winter and it’s been tough,” she said. “Animals need double the protein to keep them warm.” The nonprofit organization receives contributions from local donation boxes; however, Howard said those funds are falling well short of the $600 a month currently needed for food and veterinarian services. Winter has also wreaked havoc with the site’s small shelters and barns, which she said are in need of spring repairs.

According to Howard, the sanctuary’s most immediate need is cash donations. She said food is sometimes donated, but cash contributions enable her to buy the best and most food at bulk rates. Funds are also needed for materials for barn repairs, as are volunteers with carpentry skills to help with the work. Donations and inquiries can be made directly via the sanctuary’s Facebook page facebook.com/shepherdsviewanimalsanctuary.

The sanctuary was established in 2011 to aid domestic, farm and exotic animals in need of a home. “Right now we have ducks, chickens, dogs, cats, goats and sheep,” Howard said. “Our newest resident is a 27-year-old severe macaw.” There are also nine adolescent domestic rabbits onsite that she said need a home and are ready to be rescued by qualified families.

Asked why she created the sanctuary, Howard said, “I just love animals — and especially helping the ones that can’t help themselves. Not just with my voice but by tending to God’s creatures day to day.”

The sanctuary’s food needs are as varied as the creatures that live there. “We use strictly nutritious food, including fresh produce, organic grains, dog and cat food, rabbit and duck pellets, and chicken feed,” Howard said. “And also a slew of vitamins and minerals, especially in winter.”

Cold Spring veterinarian Dr. Peter Bach serves on the SVAS board. “It’s a unique kind of shelter that deserves to be supported,” he said. “It provides a permanent home for animals that need it, and it’s not in competition with SPCA shelters.”

Howard said that the sanctuary is planning an open house this spring “so that the community can come and see what we’re all about.” Normally, visits are by appointment only.

Tough Winter for Local Sanctuary Animals
Deep Dive Reveals Safety Flaws (from page 0)

Asked about the current status of Metro-North, Stazo said the railroad had become “clearly a safer railroad over the last three months.”

All the elected officials, including Sen. Chuck Schumer (D-N.Y.) and Sen. Richard Blumenthal (D-Conn.), made critical comments about the management of Metro-North and the lack of safety training and procedures. They all called on Congress to appropriate President Obama’s request for $825 million dollars to fund the introduction of a positive train control system (PTC) as critical in the prevention of future accidents, on Metro-North.

Maloney recalls Lovell

Maloney agreed with the statements of his colleagues and also added a tone of personal urgency to the discussion when he recalled his visit to the Dec. 1 accident site.

“I just want to refocus everyone on what this (the accident) was like,” said Maloney. He described being escorted by a National Transportation Safety Board official down to where bodies were found in the wreckage. He said there were little flags dotting the area.

“And you know what, a couple of days later we were at the funeral of Jim Lovell, whose kids go to school with mine in Cold Spring, and you can’t look into the eyes of the Lovell kids and not feel a responsibility to do better. And I want to echo what Sen. Schumer said, that the report confirms our worst fears. But for the Lovell family their worst fears have already been realized. And nothing is going to bring back Jim Lovell, the husband and father who walked out the door on his way to work and never came home.

“We have to move forward in a way that guarantees this doesn’t happen again. And I want to tell you that there are real solutions here, and what I am concerned about is that we must not substitute recrimination for progress. There is plenty of blame to go around. I applaud the Deep Dive review for identifying all the things that should be going on that are not going on,” said Maloney.

Maloney went on to extoll the virtues of PTC and the necessity of funding its installation on Metro-North and on commuter lines around the country. “We know PTC would have prevented this accident. We need legislation requiring and funding this. “Safe enough is not good enough,” Maloney concluded.

Metro-North response

In a statement in response to the report, Metro-North’s new president, Joseph Giulietti, said: “Safety will be this railroad’s top priority. I will not allow any Metro-North trains to operate unless it is safe for them to run. We will not run this railroad any other way.”

Guilietti said several reforms were already in the works, including installing a PTC system. Among others were:

• “Improve how we train our employees and how we monitor their performance. • “Implement a confidential close-call reporting system so employees can report safety issues without fear of reprisal.
• “Improve how we inspect our tracks and how we perform maintenance on the right of way.”

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 for the year 2014 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 Vera M. Maramoros, 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, 2014 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, 2014.

DATED: March 19, 2014

BY ORDER OF THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF PHILIPSTOWN

Tina M. Merando
Town Clerk

PHOTO BY K.E. FOLEY
EPF boosts vitality of communities
Dear Editor:

Megastorms Sandy, Irene and Lee taught us a very hard lesson: We cannot take our river, open spaces and working landscapes for granted. Preserving these “green” assets is a community and state responsibility. The state primarily invests in protecting these assets through the Environmental Protection Fund (EPF).

The EPF is funded through a percentage of the real estate transfer tax. With a return of $7 for every $1 dollar invested, the fund has facilitated a successful track record in protecting drinking water supplies and local family farms, planning for sea level rise and revitalizing downtown riverfronts, saving open space and creating parks, all without raising our taxes. In recent years, inadequate EPF funding has left these natural treasures vulnerable. With the economy’s ongoing turnaround, including the real estate market, it’s time to strengthen the EPF so its programs can provide small investments that support collaborative government, nonprofit and business efforts to boost healthy and prosperous communities.

Local and regional plans recognize that a stable financial future depends on further developing the Hudson Valley’s economic development and resource protection by putting $200 million into the Environmental Protection Fund this year and support increases to Hudson Estuary Management. Protecting Our Open Spaces and Farmlands, and programs that revitalize the Hudson’s riverfront.

Contact please our elected representatives in Albany and ask them to support economic development and resource protection by putting $200 million into the Environmental Protection Fund this year.

Sincerely,
Maggie Benmour
Advertising Director

Michele Gedney
Managing Editor

Alison Rooney
Senior Correspondents

Kate Vikstrom

Kate Vikstrom

Kevin E. Foley

Michael Turton

Pamela Doan

Mary Ann Ehem

Jeanne Tao

Sommer Hixson

Pete Smith

Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

Executive Director

Hudson Highlands Land Trust

www.philipstown.info/letters

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Cold Spring ZBA Revokes C of O for Stone Street Shed

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

Cold Spring’s Zoning Board of Appeals last week revoked the certificate of occupancy for the backyard shed at 14 Stone St., finding that the structure, which has pitted neighbor against neighbor, violates village code provisions on setbacks – the appropri-ate distance for buildings from property lines.

The ZBA declared that the certificate of occupancy “was issued in error because the replacement shed” – the structure in question succeeded an old, decaying shed in the same location – “was constructed to increase the non-conformity of the side-yard setbacks in violation of the village code and is hereby revoked.”

However, while ruling on a crucial point in favor of Andrew Hall and his wife Susan Peehl of 13 Fair St., who raised the setback issue, the ZBA likewise found that the pair “failed to meet their burden of proof with all of their remaining allegations” against the shed.

The ZBA acted in the case March 12 by voting 4-0 to adopt a resolution laying out its conclusions. For two years or more, Peehl and Hall have challenged the shed on various procedural grounds. Built by Paul Henderson and Beth Sigler, it stands kitty-corner behind the Peehl yard.

The latest ZBA meeting proved as contentious as several prior shed discussions, including those at the Village Board of Trustees. Peehl repeatedly interrupted ZBA members as they spoke “and would not stop,” said ZBA member Marie Early, March 19. Eventually, she added, as the disruption continued, “I did, in fact, call the police.” Consequently, Early went on, things settled down and Peehl made a few non-heated remarks during the public-comment period of the meeting.

The latest stage of the conflict began on Sept. 5, 2012, when Cold Spring Building Inspector William C. Bujarski issued the now-revoked certificate of occupancy – a form of approval for use. (The Henderson-Sigler shed lacks electricity, running water and insulation and is designed for storage of gardening tools and related items as well as pets’ equipment, not for residential occupancy.) Shed history, though, dates back to 2008, when one of Bujarski’s predecessors granted permission to build the structure, intended as a replacement for the old shed.

According to the ZBA, the old, original shed had a footprint approximately 10 feet wide and 25 feet long, and was single-storied, with a roof about 11 feet high, while the new Henderson-Sigler model is 15 feet high and built atop the previous shed’s pre-existing foundation. Erected before the village had a zoning code, the original shed was, before its demise, considered a legitimate but “non-conforming” building, since it did not meet the setback spacing the code demanded.

The ZBA decision observed that the record includes “conflicting evidence presented as to whether the replacement shed ... over-hung, or was larger than the shed’s original foundation footprint.” However, it also stated, “the replacement shed has been expanded in violation of Village Code [Section 134-19(1)] which [specifies] that a non-conforming building can be repaired or replaced provided that such action does not increase the degree of, or create any new, non-conformity” under village regulations.

The ZBA added that testimony at a ZBA hearing (which continued for more than a year at odd intervals) and documentary evidence established “that a portion of the replacement shed, i.e., a build-out of the shed’s front portion, exceeds 11 feet in a westerly direction from the shed’s original foundation footprint.” The ZBA declared that the ‘front bump-out’ portion of the replacement shed violates village code because it creates a new area of non-conformity in the side-yard setbacks.”

Early said March 12 “this was the only reason for our finding” and revocation of the occupancy certificate. “The bump-out does not adhe to the side-yard setbacks.” She said that at the meeting, the board informed Henderson that either “he could tear the shed down or make it legal.”

She explained that to make the latter option possible, one approach would be for Henderson and Sigler to seek a new building permit solely for the “bump-out,” a request that almost certainly would be denied by Bujarski, who would advise the couple to go back to the ZBA for a variance, or exemption from the code.

Contacted March 19, Bujarski said, “I have no comment for or against the decision. The ZBA is handling the options available to [the] owners towards compliance.” Going forward, he noted, “I do not have any involvement until the shed is compliant.”
Every great town needs a little general store. So stated Deanna Muraszewski who, with her husband Craig, aims to provide this town with just that, in the form of their new business, Cold Spring General Store (CSGS), opening shortly in the former Old Souls space at 61 Main. (Old Souls, meanwhile, is expanding to larger premises next door.)

CSGS will be stocked with goods that they hope “people will create their connection with,” explained Deanna. There will be an equal mix of perishable and nonperishable goods, most of which will be foods reflective of both Muraszewskis’ backgrounds in the hospitality business. (They met while working in a restaurant.)

“We think of ourselves as locally sourced and mindfully chosen providers ... and we’re trying for all made in the U.S., handmade where possible and telling a story,” said Deanna. Craig added, “We’ve sought out a certain standard of care in terms of the people making the goods. We want products without GMOs or caramel coloring — things to enjoy without feeling guilty.”

2013 was a big year of change for the Muraszewskis. They get married, moved to Cold Spring and decided to start a business. Craig grew up in Carmel, and they had good friends here, resulting in years of visits here from Westchester, where they were living, attending parades and parties, becoming acquainted with the town and feeling it was right for them.

“Every time we came it felt like home,” said Deanna. But that new home “felt like something was missing, as far as where to go to get locally made things, because there are so many people here and around here making things. Craig and I fell in love through food and we kept feeling there was nothing here which ‘said’ Cold Spring or the Hudson Valley — that’s where the idea for the store came from.”

Their backgrounds in the food and hospitality industries serve them well for this new endeavor — Craig has been working in the hospitality industry since he was 15 and formerly worked at Thomas Keller’s restaurant Per Se in New York City, at the Four Seasons before that and also at hotels. Deanna has a media background, which she can put to use in promoting their business. The restaurant at which they met, Larchmont’s Plates on the Park, was “very much a farm-to-table type of place — we learned so much there, it was at the beginning of that whole movement,” said Deanna.

The timing worked out well in their quest for a small space in which to begin. “It’s ideal to start from,” said Craig. Choosing their stock came naturally to them as “over the years we’ve been known for our lists — of farmers, fishermen, people whom you can call up and say, ‘Hey Bob, I’ve got a customer with me who is interested in ...’ We have direct links to products, and the people who make those products, and their families.” Deanna calls CSGS “the opposite of a Big Box store.”

Some of their suppliers will be Woolen Farm, Overcreek Farm for salad greens and Garrison’s Long Hand Farm for vegetables. Perry’s Pickles, found at the Cold Spring Farmers’ Market on Saturdays, will be available at the store, too. The Muraszewskis emphasize that they don’t want to encroach on the Farmers’ Market, but see them as complementary, with a weekend destination of sorts and their store a place to buy some similar items over the week. (They haven’t set their hours yet but expect to be open on the late side to accommodate commuters returning home needing things for dinner.)

They’ll also be stocking other goods in the building right next door, once a garage, which they’ve dubbed the “Barn.” There they’ll have a seasonal selection of things like grill accessories, charcoal, walking sticks, even birdhouses.

Asked if they received “You shouldn’t, because of the slow winter’s advice from people before deciding to pursue their business, they both nodded, with Deanna saying, “Oh yes! We had lots of people sharing their insights.” But, while listening, they persevered.

“At the end of the day,” noted Craig, “if the whole community is thriving, people will come, year-round. There are 200,000 people coming to Fahnestock each winter. If we can link up with Glynwood dinners and other things, change can happen. It’s tough to break the mold, but we think it’s possible.”

Plans are for a hard opening on April 1, with a soft opening sometime between now and then. A visit on March 18 revealed shelving made from reclaimed wood salvaged from an early 1800s barn, and a newly built (by Craig) register area, again all wood. Amid boxes of stock yet to be opened were two of the objects they will offer for sale — one a beer growler (bottle to carry beer in) made by Plan B Brewery with 100 percent New York products, from label to hops and, as Craig said, “supporting another family.”

The other is the reusable jute Cold Spring General Store Market Bag, handcrafted in Bangladesh as part of the “Bangladesh Project” with a waterproof lining geared toward carrying rinsed vegetables from market to home, with a percentage of profits directed back to women’s initiatives in Bangladesh.

Other products are displayed on their new Facebook page, including candles from the Bee Man Candle Co., located in New York, and Massaman-curry, peanut-butter sandwich cookies made by Whimsy and Spice of Brooklyn.

Eventually, the goal is to expand and offer prepared foods as well, but for now the Muraszewskis are excited to open their doors to locals and visitors and welcome them to their General Store. Check with their constantly refreshed Facebook and Instagram pages for updates on the opening, and a website will be up and running soon as well.

Garrison Board (from page 1)

Monahan also announced that Standard & Poor’s had issued an AA+ credit rating for the district. “This is basically the best rating that a district of this size can get, and it’s certainly a credit to the board and to Sue Huettner (business manager) that the district is in such good financial shape.” The next public hearing on the budget is April 26 at the school. The board approved new contracts with the Garrison Teachers Association and Related School Personnel. O’Rourke said, “We extend our deep appreciation to everyone involved for settling these contracts in such an expedient manner.” The faculty will receive a 1 percent increase, and the contract was extended with similar terms for one year.
A n ambitious agricultural initia-
tive planned for New Paltz has its roots in Putnam County. Last week, Glynwood, an operational farm and multifaceted nonprofit based in Cold Spring, announced a new business incubator project that will ensure the next generation of Hudson Valley farm-
ers. In partnership with national envi-
ronmental conservation organization Open Space Institute (OSI), Glynwood is expanding its established farm appren-
tice program with a new three-year develop-
ment and training program that provides land and capital to entrepre-
neurs with viable business plans.

Glynwood’s Hudson Valley Farm Busi-
ness Incubator, to be located on an 856-acre parcel of land on the eastern escarpment of the Shawangunk Ridge, is currently accepting applications and business plans from farmers with a min-
imum of two years of experience. A pri-
ority will be given to livestock-focused enterprises and diversity of farm activ-
ity. Following a short review process, three initial entrepreneurs will be no-
tified of acceptance in September. The program, which provides full-time hous-
ing, shared equipment and hands-on professional mentoring and training, is set to launch in early 2015. The deadline to apply is June 30, 2014.

The incubator represents a pion-
eering effort of an agricultural organization and a land trust organization working together to ensure farm viability in the region,” said Kathleen Frith, president of Glynwood. “We believe the project will be instrumental in bringing more

land into production and in-
creasing the number of viable farm businesses in the Hud-
son Valley, which is critical to

achieving our mission of en-
suring that farming thrives across the region.”

“This will be the first incu-
bator of its kind in the Hudson Valley,” said Dave Llewellyn, Glynwood’s director of Farm Training. “The capacity to incu-
bate livestock producers makes it distinct nationally. Our partnership with a major land trust opens pathways to long-term land access for our graduates, whereas a lot of programs like this around the country struggle with where to put farmers once they fin-
ish the program.

“Ideally, these farmers will develop their businesses to the point where they are prof-
itable or turning toward profitability,” Llewellyn continued. “Then we will trans-
form them to the most suitable prop-
erty for their enterprise, through OSI or a network of other partners we have in this region.”

OSI is playing an integral role in start-
ing this endeavor. The organization is leasing the designated land, which is worth millions, to Glynwood for $1 per year. They are investing another $500,000 in soil analysis and improve-
ment, and an additional $350,000 in capital financing for participating entre-
preneurs. Two historic farms sit on 330 acres of the incubator parcel. Mohonk Preserve manages the remaining 336 acres.

“OSI will work with graduates of the incubator to address the pressing need of access to land,” said Kim Elliman, president and CEO of the Open Space Institute. “By working with farmers on a lease-to-own model, we are hoping that we can match them up with land and get them on that land affordably.”

The New World Foundation’s Local Economies Project recently announced a similar land-purchase and incubator program in Hurley, N.Y. Hudson Valley Farm Hub is complementary to Glynwood’s focus on livestock in that the Farm Hub’s emphasis is on large-scale vegetable production. Combined, the two programs show potential for stabilizing independent farming in the Hudson Val-
ley and helping to continue its agricul-
tural heritage.

New applicants will be added annually during the three-year program. Through its Farm Business Incubator program, Glynwood is projecting up to 15 new sustainable farming enterprises over the next five years.

More information and details on how to apply can be found on Glynwood’s website, glynwood.org/incubator-how-to-apply.

BOFA Wins Both Village Seats (from page 1)

the count. Tallying the votes using elec-

tronic voting machines provided by Put-
am County took only the push of a but-
ton. However, the paper ballots used in absentee voting had to be counted man-

ually, and only after the electronic count had been determined, in order to ensure that no one who submitted an absentee ballot had voted twice. Once that task was completed and verified, the final re-

sults were read aloud.

Absentee ballots made a difference

Absentee ballots played a much more significant role than in the 2013 elec-
tion, when only 37 such votes were cast. In Tuesday’s election, more than double

that number, 76 absentee ballots, were counted. Bowman and Fadde were the

big winners, collecting 46 and 43 votes respectively from the absentee ballots, while MacDonald and Francisco collect-

ed only 26 and 23 votes respectively. Had those numbers been reversed, MacDon-

ald and Francisco would have been the top two vote getters.

Candidates react

Immediately after the results were an-
nounced, Bowman told The Paper that he is looking forward to working with the

new Village Board. “I think it was a very dark election,” he said, adding that one of his first priorities will be to “ex-
tend an olive branch” to those who op-
posed him.

Fadde said she felt that BOFA’s door-
to-door campaign had an impact. “We

talked to a lot of people, and we lis-
tened,” she said. “And we’re not going to let people down.”

MacDonald, who chairs the Zoning Board of Appeals, seemed unfazed by the loss. “This was the first time I put my-

self out there … and it was a wonderful experience,” he said. “I want to thank ev-
everyone who voted and all those who sup-
ported us.”

“I think it was great. It was the demo-
cratic process in action … and there was a big turnout,” Francisco said, just min-
utes after learning that he had not been returned to office. “I’m looking forward to getting back to private life,” he said, quickly adding, “but you’ll still see me at meetings.”

Vindication

The night was vindication for Bow-
man, who last March promised, “I will be back,” after being edged out by only nine votes by Stephanie Hawkins in his first run for the Village Board. Bowman collected 310 votes in 2013. In topping the polls with 398 votes in Tuesday’s election, he increased that total by 28 percent. In contrast, when Francisco was elected in 2012, he received 401 votes. The 362 votes he received in 2014 was a 30 percent decline.

The newly constituted Village Board will meet for the first time in early April. According to Saari, the current board will meet at least once and possibly twice before Bowman and Fadde are sworn in.

Glynwood’s New Farm Business Incubator Seeks Entrepreneurs

Open Space Institute a partner in venture

By Summer Hixson

Glynwood Farm in Cold Spring

Photo by A. Rooney

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By Alison Rooney

Still a seedling as it approaches its first birthday, Hudson Valley Seed (HVS), a new organization founded by Garrison’s Ava Bynum, has thrived and grown tremendously since its inception. With a mission to ‘establish educational gardens with nature-based curriculum in Hudson Valley schools,’ it has done just that in three schools, with two more set to begin in spring and potentially more in fall, plus a waitlist of nine strong eager to implement HVS’ combination of hands-on gardening and unique, guided curriculum that dovetails with Common Core–mandated standards in science, math, English, art and more.

Bynum’s work began at the Garden Road School in Peekskill, where she was hired as an ‘inside/outside’ teacher and asked to start a garden. She came to understand how ‘aligned both were and how each belonged in the other.’ Bynum realized that ‘funding and time are obstacles’ to teachers coming up with their own garden lesson plans, because ‘once teachers are done with what is now mandatory, so little time is left for anything else, and things are so easily relegated to afterschool activities and not integrated into the school day.’ Other impediments include the growing season, as ‘plants really grow when school isn’t in session. The solution is a four-season garden — one which produces food and serves as an instructional center.’

Factoring these elements, Bynum set about to take what she learned and apply this to a public school model. What she has come up with is structured with the requirement that each teacher who signs on is required to commit to one classroom hour each week, throughout the school year. Bynum has found that teachers have been ‘very much on board because it harkens back to their own garden days,’ and the program is ‘so applicable to high school as well. ‘Pre-calc has so many fascinating problems,’ said Bynum. ‘For example, in an examination of the parabola we look at low tunnels [where vegetables can be grown in cold weather] as parabolas, then calculate the focal point, where the light reflects through the plastic, where the concentration of heat is the highest.’

Bynum has developed the lessons from her experience, aided by shared information in the online community, though ‘often it’s more work to re-work it to your specific needs, and easier to create from scratch.’ She continued, ‘I’ve learned not to walk in with any assumptions … For instance I told some boys to ‘Go rake’ and discovered them trying to shift leaves with the prongs in the up position. They had never used one before, and I hadn’t thought about that.’

She’s learned that group mentality prevails — in a positive way. ‘If I just said, ‘Try kale’ — there would be resistance, but when a whole class has planted it and watched it grow and wondered what it will taste like together, it engages them in all sorts of hands-on ways and removes barriers,’ Bynum said. ‘With kale, they enthusiastically ate kale and potato soup, and they will eat it again, at

Memories Tapped, Talents Revealed in Writing, Bookbinding Workshop for Seniors

By Alison Rooney

Sometimes you think you don’t remember things, but then you take part in an activity, maybe art or cooking, and it catches you off guard — the memory comes.’ So spoke Kathy Curto at a gathering of the Writing and Bookbinding Workshop for Seniors, which is currently at the midpoint of a six-week session at the Friendship Center (senior citizen lunch site) in Cold Spring. Curto, a writer and professor of creative writing at Montclair State University, is conducting this series along with teaching artist Christina DiMarco, under the auspices of the Garrison Art Center and the Cold Spring Lion’s Club to assist seniors in developing a written piece, perhaps a memoir, short fiction or journal entries. This will then be placed into a bound book with a cover of their own design using the ancient Japanese art of suminagashi, or “floating on water.”

The group met first with DiMarco to create their covers. Over the course of two-and-a-half sessions, they produced the art then worked to fold and sew the books, binding them into journal-sized form, replete with pockets where photos or other objects can be inserted to further personalize them. For DiMarco, although she has done many previous bookbinding and marbling workshops at the Art Center, Mill Street Loft and elsewhere, this is the first time she has worked with a writer, and she has continued to attend the workshops beyond her own contribution to them, to see how

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www.philipstown.info Philipstown info

The Calendar

Hudson Valley Seed Takes Root in Regional Schools

Educational nonprofit values outdoor classroom

A young participant in a Hudson Valley Seed program

(Continued on page 11)

(Continued on page 11)

Photo by Ellie Lobovits

By Alison Rooney

S — describing and recording what they’ve observed in their garden journals.”

‘Non-regurgitation means retention,’ Bynum said. It’s applicable to high school as well. ‘Pre-calc has so many fascinating problems,’ said Bynum. ‘For example, in an examination of the parabola we look at low tunnels [where vegetables can be grown in cold weather] as parabolas, then calculate the focal point, where the light reflects through the plastic, where the concentration of heat is the highest.’

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(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!

Music
Bluegrass Gospel Jam
7 - 9 p.m. Our Savior Church
1420 Route 52, Fishkill
845-896-2371 | htkbluegrass.org

Line Dancing
7 - 11 p.m. Bear Mountain Inn
55 Hessien Drive, Highland Falls
845-786-2731 | vailbearmountain.com

Abba Anderson Trio
8 p.m. Bear-Runner Cafe
201 S. Division, Peekskill
914-777-1703 | bear-runnencafe.com

Thrown Together
8 p.m. Whistlin' Willy's
184 Main St., Cold Spring
845-265-2012 | whistlinwillys.com

The Real Lovely Boys
7:30 p.m. Tarrytown Music Hall
13 Main St., Tarrytown
914-633-3390, ext. 100 | tarrytownmusichall.org

The Real Original New York Doo Wopp Show
8 p.m. Paramount Hudson Valley
1008 Brown St., Peekskill
914-739-0039 | paramounthudsonvalley.com

Live Music
8 p.m. Cold Spring Depot
1 Depot Square, Cold Spring
845-265-9000 | coldspringdepot.com

Clancy Tradition
8:30 p.m. Towne Crier Cafe
379 Main St., Beacon
845-853-1300 | towneecler.ie

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

Higher Animals
9:30 p.m. Dogwood
47 E. Main St., Beacon
845-202-7500 | dogwoodbeacon.com

Orlando Mario Orchestra (Salso)
9:30 p.m. 12 Grapes
12 N. Division St., Peekskill
914-737-0624 | 12grapes.com

Meetings & Lectures
Free Computer Help
2 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library
472 Route 403, Garrison
845-424-3000 | desmondfishlibrary.org

Women’s Leadership Alliance Networking Mixer
6 - 8 p.m. Putnam County Golf Course
187 Hill St., Mahopac
powomenleadershipalliance.com

Musical Shabbat
7:30 p.m. Beacon Hebrew Alliance
333 VanPlank Ave., Beacon
845-831-2012 | beaconhebrewalliance.org

Stations of the Cross
6:30 p.m. St. Mary’s Episcopal Church
1 Chestnut St., Cold Spring
845-265-2539 | stmaryscoldspring.org

7:30 p.m. Our Lady of Loretto
24 Fair St., Cold Spring
845-265-3718 | ourladyofloretos.com

SUNDAY, MARCH 22
Hudson Valley Restaurant Week
hudsonvalleystreetfoodweek.com

Kids & Community
Cold Spring Farmers’ Market
8 a.m. - 1 p.m. Stonecrop Gardens
845-265-2012 | beaconhebrewalliance.org

Food Pantry
9 - 10 a.m. First Presbyterian Church
10 Academy St., Cold Spring
845-265-3220 | partynationafterschool.org

Recycling Center Open
9 a.m. - 3 p.m. 59 Lane Gate Road, Cold Spring
coldspringny.gov

Seed Sowing Workshop
9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Stonecrop Gardens
13 Main St., Tarrytown
845-265-2012 | beaconhebrewalliance.org

Baseball Card Show
10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Westchester County Center
196 Central Ave., White Plains
914-995-4059 | countyartsbiz.com

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

Wildlife Rehabilitator’s Workshop
10 a.m. - 3 p.m. Taconic Lake Reservation
1600 Spring Valley, Road, Ossining
914-792-2932, ext. 110 | teasom.org

Maple Sugar Tours
10 a.m. - 3 p.m. Outdoor Discovery Center
100 Music Drive, Cornwall
845-534-5506 | hhnaturemuseum.org

Wine Tasting
3 - 6 p.m. Artisan Wine Shop
See details under Friday.

Project Code Spring (ages 5-14)
4 p.m. Beacon Hebrew Alliance
333 VanPlank Ave., Beacon
845-831-0012 | beaconhebrewalliance.org

Community Garden Season Kick-Off
4 - 7 p.m. Quartz
330 Main St., Beacon
845-231-4424 | communagrounds.org

Cinco de Mayo Fundraiser
5 - 8 p.m. South Putnam Animal Hospital
230 Baldwin Place Road, Mahopac
845-681-5190 | putnamcountygov

Health & Fitness
Common Ground Farm Season Kick-Off
4 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library
472 Route 403, Garrison
845-424-3000 | codefishlibrary.org

Nutrition and Fitness
7 - 9 p.m. Putnam County Golf Course
187 Hill St., Mahopac
pomwomenleadershipalliance.com

A Poem a Day Won’t Kill You was a concept borrowed from KRBD Radio Station in Ketchikan, Alaska, which has made this an annual tradition for nearly 20 years.

It might even make you laugh, cry, think, feel, and get inspired.

Philipstown.info invites you to nominate yourself as a participant in its celebration of April as National Poetry Month. Each day in April, our site will feature a new video of a community member reading or reciting a favorite poem, original or borrowed.

To be considered, please send an email to poetry@philipstown.info with your name, address, phone, the text of the poem you’ve chosen, and a brief description of your connection to Philipstown or Beacon.

We will contact you to arrange the taping. Our goal is to represent Philipstown and Beacon people and poetry as broadly as possible, but we have a limited number of days and therefore may not be able to feature everyone.

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

Julie Heckert in rehearsal for 1776, which ends its run at the Depot Theatre March 23

Soup Kitchen
11 a.m. Presbyterian Church
50 Liberty St., Beacon
845-861-5322 | beaconpresbyterian.org

Spring Under Glass (Members’ Preview)
noon - 4 p.m. Stonecrop Gardens
845-265-2000 | stonecrop.org

Meet the Animals
1 & 2:30 p.m. Wildlife Education Center
25 Boulevard, Cornwall-on-Hudson
845-534-7781 | hhnaturemuseum.org

Pet Rabies Vaccine Clinic
2 - 5 p.m. South Putnam Animal Hospital
333 VanPlank Ave., Beacon
845-831-0012 | beaconhebrewalliance.org

The Very Hungry Caterpillar
2 p.m. Tarrytown Music Hall
13 Main St., Tarrytown
914-633-3390, ext. 100 | tarrytownmusichall.org

Wine Tasting
3 - 6 p.m. Artisan Wine Shop
See details under Friday.

Preschool Open House (Members Only)
3:30 - 6 p.m. Outdoor Discovery Center
100 Music Drive, Cornwall
845-534-5506 | hhnaturemuseum.org

Shabbat Sing-Along (Preschool)
4 - 7 p.m. Quartz
330 Main St., Beacon
845-231-4424 | communagrounds.org

Project Code Spring (ages 5-14)
4 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library
472 Route 403, Garrison
845-424-3000 | codefishlibrary.org

Health & Fitness
Cinco de Mayo Fundraiser
7 - 9 p.m. Putnam County Golf Course
187 Hill St., Mahopac
pomwomenleadershipalliance.com

To benefit American Cancer Society

(To next page)
The Calendar

Garrison Art Center
9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Door: Life Drawing & Painting (Short Pose)
5 - 7 p.m. Open Studio Drawing
See details under Saturday.

Music

Island at the Center of the World
Book Group:
101 Matteawan Road, Beacon
914-872-5269 | fsw.org

34 Kemble Ave., Cold Spring
10 a.m. - 1 p.m. VFW Hall

Cold Spring Lions Club
6:30 p.m. Call for location
914-456-9689 | coldspringlions.com

Vet2Vet Support Group
6:30 p.m. Field Library
4 Nelson Ave., Peekskill
914-872-5269 | fox.org

Open Mic Night
7 p.m. Towne Crier Cafe
See details under Friday.

Beginning Guitar (First Session)
7:30 p.m. Garrison Art Center
23 Garrison’s Landing, Garrison
845-424-3890 | garrisonartcenter.org

Hudson Valley Library
914-838-6900 | beaconlibrary.org

Beacon School Board
7 p.m. Beacon High School
101 Matthewson Road, Beacon
845-638-6900 | beaconlibrary.org

Bowman Group: Island at the Center of the World
7:30 p.m. Town Hall
238 Main St., Cold Spring
845-265-5200 | philipstown.com

Zoning Board of Appeals (Scheduled)
7:30 p.m. Town Hall
238 Main St., Cold Spring
845-265-5200 | philipstown.com

Swimming Lessons (Short Pose)
3:45 - 5 p.m. YMCA

Senior Day Center
10:30 a.m. - 2 p.m. Bethlehem Lutheran
100 Old West Point Road, East Garrison
845-424-3184 | graymoorcenter.org

Howland Public Library
10 a.m. - 1 p.m. Open Play
10 a.m. - 1 p.m. VFW Hall
10 a.m. - 1 p.m. WPV Hall

Rock Painting Workshop
2 p.m. - 4 p.m. Beacon Institute
195 Main St., Beacon
845-638-1600, ext. 10 | binc.org
Registration required.

Howland Public Library
9:45 a.m. Come & Play (ages 0-3)
10:30 a.m. Toddler Tales (ages 2-3)
3 - 5 p.m. Drop-in Homework Center (grades 1-8)
See details under Friday.

Mah Jong Open Play
10 a.m. - 1 p.m. VFW Hall
34 Kemble Ave., Cold Spring
845-424-4618 | philipstown.com

Desmond-Fish Library
10:15 a.m. Music and Movement for Toddlers
1:30 p.m. Preschool Story Hour (ages 3-5)
See details under Tuesday.

Indoor Tot Lot
Noon - 2 p.m. Philipstown Community Center
See details under Monday.

Riverstreet Kids Chorus (ages 9-13)
4 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
477 Main St., Beacon
845-264-3393 | riverstreetkids.org

Health & Fitness
Breastfeeding Support Group
11 a.m. Hudson Valley Hospital
1980 Crondon Road, Cortlandt Manor
914-734-3896 | hvhc.org/evets

Red Cross Blood Drive
11:30 a.m. - 7 p.m. West Point
See details under Monday.

Marge’s Kitten Circle for Women with Cancer
6:30 p.m. Support Connection
40 Triangle Center, Suite 100, Yorktown Heights
914-962-6402 | supportconnection.org

Theater & Film
Westchester Jewish Film Festival
2:30 p.m. The German Doctor
5 p.m. The Reigning Bastards with Q&A
7 p.m. A Cultural History of Fiddler on the Roof (Talk)
7 Jacob Burns Film Center
See details under Friday.

Out in the Dark
Westchester Jewish Film Festival
2:30 p.m. The German Doctor
5 p.m. The Reigning Bastards with Q&A
7 p.m. A Cultural History of Fiddler on the Roof (Talk)
Jacob Burns Film Center
See details under Friday.

Wanda Sykes (Comedy)
8 p.m. Tarrytown Music Hall
13 Main St., Tarrytown
914-634-3390, ext. 100 | tarrytownmusichall.org

Music
The People’s Choir With Cat Gubrie
7 p.m. Beacon Music Factory
12 Hanna Lane, Beacon
845-202-3555 | beaconmusicfactory.com

Open Mic Night
7 p.m. Towne Crier Cafe
See details under Friday.

Marge’s Knitting Circle for Women with Cancer
6:30 p.m. Support Connection
40 Triangle Center, Suite 100, Yorktown Heights
914-962-6402 | supportconnection.org

Meetings & Lectures

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

Highland Knitters
Noon. Desmond Fish Library
472 Route 403, Garrison
845-424-9000 | buttfilerlibrary.org

Conservation Advisory Commission
7 p.m. 1 Municipal Plaza, Beacon
845-838-5000 | cityofbeacon.com

Haldane School Board (Budget Discussion)
7 p.m. Haldane School
15 Craigside Drive, Cold Spring
845-269-9254 | haldaneschool.org

Philippston Recreation Commission
7:30 p.m. Phillipston Rec Center
107 Greenville Drive, Garrison
845-424-4618 | philipstownrecreation.com

Cold Spring Recreation Commission (Scheduled)
8:30 a.m. Village Hall
85 Main St., Cold Spring
845-265-3040 | coldspringny.org

THURSDAY, MARCH 27

Indoor Tot Lot
9 - 11 a.m. & Noon - 2 p.m.
Philipstown Community Center
See details under Monday.

Red Cross Blood Drive
10 a.m. Brain Games for Adults
10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Free Tax Assistance for Seniors and Low Income
10:30 a.m. Peak Story Time (ages 3-5)
3:45 - 5 p.m. Lego Club and Block Party
See details under Tuesday.

Senior Day Center
10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Mother Lurana House
306 Old West Point Road, Garrison
See details under Tuesday.

Meetings & Lectures

10:30 a.m. Bouncing Babies (ages 0-2)
Butterfield Library
3:30 p.m. Support Connection
472 Route 403, Garrison
845-424-9000 | buttfilerlibrary.org

Meat & Egg Store Open
3 - 6 p.m. Glenwood Farm (Dairy)
360 Glenwood Road, Cold Spring
845-471-0589 | nhm.org

Peachkucha Night
5:45 p.m. Social
6:30 p.m. Presentations
The Garrison
360 Route 9, Garrison
845-424-3004 | jeocharougharison.com

Ladies Night Out (Fundraiser)
6:30 - 9:30 p.m. Grandview
176 Riverview Blvd, Poughkeepsie
845-896-5875 | allsporthealthandfitness.com
To benefit Relay for Life

Be Decadent, Make Marmalade (Class)
7 p.m. Philippston Recreation Center
107 Greenville Drive, Garrison
845-424-4618 | philipstownrecreation.com

Health & Fitness
Qi Gong/ Tai Chi
8:30 a.m. Butterfield Library
10 Morris Ave., Cold Spring
845-424-8304 | buttfilerlibrary.org

Red Cross Blood Drive
11:30 a.m. - 7 p.m. West Point
See details under Monday.

Women’s Prenatal/Postpartum Discussion Group
7 p.m. Hudson Valley Hospital Center
1980 Crondon Road, Cortlandt Manor
914-734-3896 | hvhc.org/evets

Adult Co-Ed Volleyball
7:30 p.m. Philippston Rec Center
See details under Monday.

Sen. Terry Gipson welcomed the Haldane Blue Devils Volleyball Championship Team to the state Senate March 12.

Photo courtesy of Sen. Gipson
The Calendar (from page 10)

Memories Tapped in Writing, Bookbinding Workshop for Seniors (from page 7)

Curto develops the project:
Throughout the hour-and-a-half-long session, Curto kept things flexible and positive. Participants were invited to read what they had written over the week, or not, if they didn’t wish to share. Suggestions were made as to possible forms to use: haiku, letter writing, short stories, six-word memoirs, journaling. “There are lots of ways we can go with this,” Curto said. “Even though reading and writing are solitary, they connect us with the world.”
In order to provide them with “an appetizer,” she played two examples of oral histories from StoryCorps, which she notes as being “a project which embraces the telling of stories, but also the listening to them ... I chose those two because they are both poignant and powerful,” she said.

“Where did your minds and hearts go, listening to these stories?” she asked. Addressing a snarl in one of the stories, she focused in on it: “At some point in a story that’s too ideal, we notice it and search for reality. I happen to believe great pieces of writing bring both the tough and the tender on the page.”
The connection between generations and the goodness stories between sharing stories was discussed by the group. A woman named Mary, a first-time attendee, said that “getting children to sit down with some kind of recorder and listen to memories would be a great project for them because as we get older we’re just ‘grandma.’ ... It seems to me that we were never young. ... I’ve given my children journals. I say, ‘Write it down before you go to bed.’ We think we’re going to forget it, but you don’t.” — Curto concurred and saw other benefits to it. “When someone is no longer with you, you’ll have glimpses of them in your siblings or even your children. In this age of technology, why not use it to build a bridge with different generations — develop a desire and appreciation for history.”
DiMarco then mentioned that her sister, “very thoughtful, did a beautiful interview with my grandson, who now has dementia. We play the tape for her and it brings things back for her.”

Van Valkenburg, a retired teacher and new author, chose it as her subject. “It’s a family love story, a family history. ... I say, ‘Write it down before you get older.’ We think we’re going to forget it, but you don’t.” — Marie Van Valkenburg, who made reference elsewhere she was glad to help them with.

With all this activity in just the first week, CVS is operating at full capacity, and the challenge for Bynum going forward is on trying to figure out how to bring on more educators.

“Right now the program can’t assessments as well, one noting, “The conflict made it a story.”

Van Valkenburg, who made reference to “going to the A&P in Beacon,” grew up in the Bronx and came up to this area in 1955 to teach (first at Haldane, then in Beacon and, finally, at Putnam Northern Westchester BOCES), wanted to create this memoir for her family. “This story has always made my family laugh,” she said, explaining why she chose it as her subject. “It’s a family joke.”

Van Valkenburg heard about these classes from her daughter and came to the Friendship Center for the first time because of them. She had thought about putting things down on paper previously: “There was a time I thought I’d love to write a memoir about teaching — I’d have liked to put it down. I’m happy people enjoy the story today.”

After receiving a sheet of prompts, among them “The smell of a place you loved and you could go back to,” a reading of a few done as “homework” from the week before: “Cheesecake rising, hot, wafting into dreams, cooling to sweet perfection,” read one, and “My new friend Naomi has a granddaughter age 13. Mine’s 12 — how great!”

In order to provide them with “an appetizer,” she played two examples of oral histories from StoryCorps, which she notes as being “a project which embraces the telling of stories, but also the listening to them ... I chose those two because they are both poignant and powerful,” she said.

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

NY Alert
For the latest updates on weatherrelated or other emergencies, sign up at www.
Putnam County Offers Programs for Child Abuse Awareness

During April, National Child Abuse Awareness Month, the Putnam County Child Advocacy Center (CAC) is joining National Children’s Alliance and thousands of its members and supporters across the country to bring attention to the issue of child abuse prevention and intervention. The Putnam CAC will once again launch their Blue Campaign with encouragement for county residents to wear blue on Friday, April 4, in recognition and support of victims of child abuse. The CAC will present the workshop “Protecting Your Child: Lessons Learned from Sex Offenders” from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. at the TOPS Center, 110 Old Route 6 on the Donald B. Smith Campus in Carmel. “Everyone has the ability and responsibility to protect our children,” said Marcia Behler, program coordinator of the CAC. “We need to become more educated about how to recognize the signs, how to respond and how to intervene. Protecting our children should be everyone’s top priority. The statistics we see are unacceptable and unacceptable. This administration is trying to help and so we’ve launched our Putnam County Child Abuse mobile app for Android phones to provide police officers with contact information is available,” said County Executive MaryEllen Odell. In addition, the CAC will hold their 9th Annual Children’s Expo & Public Safety Fair on Saturday, April 26. The event is free and open to the public.

Other Child Abuse Prevention exhibit displays will be at the following locations:
- April 1-11: Putnam Hospital
- April 15-22: Putnam Library
- April 21-25: Julia L. Butterfield Memorial Library, Cold Spring
- April 28-May 2: Health Department

For more information on local events related to National Child Abuse Prevention Month, visit putnamcountyny.org and under “Departments” select Child Advocacy Center, or visit nationalchildrensalliance.org. Also visit their Facebook page at facebook.com/putnamcac.

Putnam County Gardens Needed for Fundraiser

Secret Garden Tour set for June 7

In a joint partnership with South Putnam Animal Hospital’s veterinarians in Mahopac, Cornell Cooperative Extension’s 4-H Youth Development Program in Putnam County, the Walter Fire Company No. 1 for over 60 years and the Cold Spring Lions, will host its 3rd Annual Garden Tour set for June 7. The registration fee of $100 for non-members, $70 for 4-H members, or $80 for 4-H members, will include enrollment and workshop materials. Prior participants are not eligible. Space is limited to 12 on a first-come, first-served basis. Early registration is advised. Only a non-refundable, non-transferable registration will reserve workshop space.

A registration form is available at cce. cornell.edu/putnam. Call 845-278-6738 for more information.

Voluntary Simplicity Course to Meet at Desmondfish Library

The Northwest Earth Institute’s Voluntary Simplicity five-week discussion course will meet from 7 to 8:30 p.m. in the Desmondfish Library’s Community Room on Thursday evenings, March 27 through April 24.

Course Description: “Our decisions on how we live and consume are not made in a vacuum. The consumer culture and society around us, Voluntary Simplicity helps participants examine how modern society influences our personal choices, whether you explore how consumption patterns have an impact on you and your relationships, as well as the environment. We discover ways to slow down and live simply.” Register by March 19 so that the library can order enough copies of the course book. Course participants may purchase the books from the library or purchase a copy to keep for $25.

Class size is limited to 12 students. Register at the library desk or call 845-424-3020. See more at wnei.org/discussion-classes-2/voluntary-simplicity/

Registration Open for 4-H Junior Vet Program

In a joint partnership with South Putnam Animal Hospital’s veterinarians in Mahopac, Cornell Cooperative Extension’s 4-H Youth Development Program in Putnam County, the Walter Fire Company No. 1 for over 60 years and the Cold Spring Lions, will host its 3rd Annual Garden Tour set for June 7. The registration fee of $100 for non-members, $70 for 4-H members, or $80 for 4-H members, will include enrollment and workshop materials. Prior participants are not eligible. Space is limited to 12 on a first-come, first-served basis. Early registration is advised. Only a non-refundable, non-transferable registration will reserve workshop space.

A registration form is available at cce. cornell.edu/putnam. Call 845-278-6738 for more information.

Voxare String Quartet Returns to Howland

The Howland Chamber Music Circle will present a return engagement of the Voxare String Quartet in a concert of music spanning five centuries. Voxare’s performances have included appearances at Avery Fisher Hall with the New York Philharmonic, the Guggenheim Museum and Carnegie Hall. The quartet has had performing residences at Dartmouth College and Columbia University, and has been a quartet-in-residence at New York’s Bargemusic, an event featured live on Soundcheck WNYC and has its concerts broadcast on WNYC. Voxare’s performances have included the quartet Chamber Music America’s 2005 ASCAP Award for Adventurous Programming. For their concert at the Howland Center, the members of the quartet have chosen to play J. S. Bach’s Cello Suite No. D Minor for Two Violins (arranged for string quartet), Arab-American composer Mohammed Fairouz’s The Named Angels, and Felix Mendelssohn’s String Quartet, Opus 18.

The concert will take place Sunday, March 30, at 3 p.m. at the Howland Cultural Center, 477 Main St., Beacon, and will be followed by a reception to meet the artists.

Tickets at $30 ($10 for students) can be reserved by calling 845-297-5434 or at howlandmusic.org where further information on this and other presentations by the Chamber Music Circle can be found.
Garrison Art Center announces Try Your Hand, an art open house from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, April 5. The public is invited to visit studios and participate, free of charge, in a variety of art activities designed to please artists and non-artists alike, from toddlers to seniors.

Try Your Hand workshops will be offered as morning and afternoon sessions with activities ranging from pottery, hand-building in clay, 3D paper creations, and printmaking, to marble, experimental drawing and painting. Visitors are welcome to stay as long as they like, bring a picnic lunch, and spend time down by the riverside enjoying the view.

In partnership with the Aldrich Museum’s annual Draw On! community event, the open house will include a workshop for all ages, Stamping, Printing, Rolling, to encourage participants to experiment with new ways of making marks using traditional and non-traditional methods. This open house is made possible, in part, through the Putnam Arts Council’s Arts Link Grant Program with funds from Putnam County. Visit garrisonartcenter.org or call 845-424-3960. Garrison Art Center is located at 23 Garrison’s Landing, Garrison.

Free Open House at Garrison Art Center

Haldane to Hold Baseball/Basketball Fundraiser March 27

On March 27, a Haldane baseball/basketball fundraiser will be held at Max’s in Beacon. The cost will be $60 per person for dinner, drinks and musical entertainment. There will also be some silent auction items. The fundraiser will provide monies for both teams to be summer travel teams. Ten percent of the proceeds will benefit the Haldane Blue Devils’ Booster Club. Tickets can be purchased through Coach Tommy Virgadamo at 845-242-2662 or tvirgadamo@haldane.k12.ny.us.

Juried Photo Exhibition Calls Entries

The Riverside Galleries at Garrison Art Center announces a call for entries to its juried exhibition, PhotoCENTRIC, to take place Sept. 13–28. Amateur and professional photographers alike are invited to submit original images in all photographic mediums: digital, film, alternative processes, pinhole, photomontage, black and white or color, and in the People, Nature and Open categories. Juror Marvin Heiferman, an independent curator and writer, organizes projects about photography and visual culture for institutions such as the Museum of Modern Art, Smithsonian Institution, International Center of Photography, Whitney Museum of American Art, and the New Museum. A contributing editor to Art in America, Heiferman has written for numerous publications, catalogs, monographs and magazines, including The New York Times, Artforum, Aperture and BOMB. His most recent book is Photography Changes Everything (Aperture, 2012). The Best in Show award is a $1,000 prize, and first, second and third prizes will be given in each category; all prizes include images and bio in a book as well as on the Garrison Art Center website.

The entry fee for five images is $35 by the early entry deadline of May 14; the regular entry fee of $45 will be charged by the final entry deadline, June 6. For more information on submission guidelines, visit garrisonartcenter.org and go to “Juried Photography.”

Audubon Society to Hold Annual Spring Dinner

The Putnam Highlands Audubon Society will hold their Annual Spring Dinner Saturday, March 29, at 5 p.m. at the Taconic Outdoor Education Center. The event begins with a social hour and opening remarks by state Sen. Terry Gipson at 6 p.m., followed by a buffet dinner. The keynote speaker is New York State Department of Environmental Conservation biologist Ron Novak, speaking on northeastern cottontail rabbit conservation efforts. A live auction will end the evening.

This informal but major fundraiser takes place in the park setting of the Highland Lodge at TOEC and provides an opportunity to get together with locals who are interested in birds, wildlife and the natural world. Make reservations to Paul Kuznia at swissblue@hotmail.com or 845-265-3773, ext. 102. Tickets are $38 at the door or payable by check to PHAS at PHAS, P.O. Box 292, Cold Spring, NY 10516. PHAS requests that no children under 12 be brought by attendees.

To reach the Highland Lodge, take Route 301 to Dennytown Road (between Taconic State Parkway and Route 9); go 1/4 mile to Indian Brook Road; turn right and go 1/4 mile to Mountain Laurel Lane; then turn left and go 1/2 mile to the lodge.

Lynne Ward, LCSW, is pleased to announce her collaboration with Dr. Julia Wellin, a board certified psychiatrist. Dr. Wellin will be available by Psychiatric Consultation to adults and adolescents, Medication Management, Hypnosis and EMDR. She specializes in the evaluation and management of Depression, Anxiety, Bipolar I and II, and Obsessive Compulsive Disorder. Although Dr. Wellin and I will accept referrals independent of each other, our aim is to provide integrated care when possible. We consider this to be a model of care increasing our ability to provide our fragmented medical system. Dr. Wellin believes in a holistic approach that includes working with the patient’s primary care doctor and psychotherapist, if desired by the patient.

Dr. Wellin is a graduate of Barnard College and Albert Einstein College of Medicine. She completed her residency at Jacobi Hospital, Department of Psychiatry. She has also served on the faculty of Lenox Hill Hospital and Albert Einstein College of Medicine. Dr. Wellin maintains a private practice in New York City but is excited to begin working with adults and adolescents in the Cold Spring, Garrison and surrounding areas.

Julia A. Wellin
MD, PC 19 Main St., Ste. 1 Cold Spring, NY 10516 212-734-7362
By Appointment Only

Northeastern cottontail rabbit in Maine

Photo by A. Rooney

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

Community Briefs

Weekly updates and latest information.
Haldane Girls’ Storybook Run Ends in Troy

Lose to Chautauqua Lake 61-39

By Jeffery McDaniel

After four inspiring postseason victories, the storybook run of the Haldane Lady Devilshad spiraled to a halt in Troy in the New York State Class C semifinals. It might be useful to think of a state tournament as a system of caves. In each cave, a dragon waits for you. You win by slaying the dragon. The reward is another cave, with an even bigger dragon inside. On Saturday afternoon at Hudson Valley Community College, Haldane found itself in the ultimate cave, facing a dragon from Chautauqua Lake. Word on the street was that Chautauqua had several sturdy bigs to watch out for. Height in basketball is similar to gold; occasionally it’s overrated, but it almost always retains value. Chautauqua’s bigs definitely put on their hard hats and bashed underneath—dlogging the paint, altering and blocking shots, gobbling up rebounds, and converting bread-and-butter layups. But the adversary that surprised, the adversary hidden in the proverbial horse, if you will, was guard Courtney Hewes. Now if you saw Hewes walking on the street, you might not expect much—she’s an unassuming, almost petite, 5-foot-5—but she unveiled a bona fide arsenal: a couple right-handed layups after quick-fingered steals, a full-speed, coast-to-coast left-handed layup, and four 3-pointers, including one in the third quarter where she dribbled in transition from half-court to the top of the key and calmly buried a high-arcing dagger.

You could almost hear the Haldane fans thinking, Are you kidding me? She scored a very loud 19 points, 16 of them coming before halftime, when the tone of the game was being established. When Chautauqua broke a tough second-half Haldane press with three crisp passes, and then a role player promptly swished a jumper from the foul line extended, with about 6 seconds running off the shot clock, the Haldane faithful had to wonder: Is Chautauqua really this good? Or did they perhaps offer up a sacrificial lamb before driving east from Lake Erie to curry favor with the basketball gods and hence are having the game of their lives?

The Haldane girls kept fighting, hustling, persevering. They are a valiant bunch, and they definitely left it all on the court and performed with class and passion and made the whole community proud with their achievement and hustle. Seniors Cali Schweikhart, Jess Harrison and Shauna Ricketts battled under the boards. Freshmen Marissa Lisikatos and Hannah Monteleone scrapped and trapped tenaciously.

But Chautauqua’s combination of size, speed, intensity and precision was too much, the three-quarters-court press they systematically employed in the first quarter stifled the flow of the Haldane offense, making it hard to get clean looks and fouling a number of Haldane hitters. Their disciplined, swarming 2-3 zone was also a major nuisance, thanks to their long arms, quick feet and fast hands, making it tough on all the Haldane players, especially star scorer Allie Monteleone.

When Allie dribbled past a pony-tailed guard, a very tall defender was always there to meet her. Hands were constantiy swiping at her dribbles, and the zone collapsed in on her. In the second half, she did create some space for herself, but shots that would normally drop rolled around the rim like a roulette wheel before trickling out. Hopefully Allie will have a chance to come back to the state tournament next year, when she’s a senior, and write herself a different ending, the ending she deserves.

Speaking of writing endings, Senior Sam Lisikatos whipped up a doozy in her last game in a Haldane uniform. Is there a greater athlete in Cold Spring than speedy Sam Lisikatos? Last week against Friends, she caught a hard elbow to the cranium, winced and gathered herself for a few minutes, then buried one of the free throws. Against Chautauqua, the combination of her quick release and soft salty flavor of defeat in their mouths, and the whole community and parents proud. They made it to the final four, close enough to smell the rose petals of ultimate glory. And they had their hearts broken on a warm Saturday in Troy at the end of a historically cold winter. It is this way with tournaments. The deep you go, the bigger and stronger the competition. They were slain by Chautauqua Lake, a dragon from 400 miles to the west, a dragon that would win the state championship the following day.

It was a courageous run for the Lady Blue Devils. They made their fans and community and parents proud. They are graduating four strong seniors in Lisikatos, Schweikhart, Harrison and Ricketts. But they have a lot of homegrown talent coming back under the inspiring tutelage of Coach Tyrone Searight. They have the passion and made it to the final four, close enough to smell the rose petals of ultimate glory. And they had their hearts broken on a warm Saturday in Troy at the end of a historically cold winter. It is this way with tournaments. The deeper you go, the bigger and stronger the competition. They were slain by Chautauqua Lake, a dragon from 400 miles to the west, a dragon that would win the state championship the following day.

If there was a thing that has made the whole community and parents proud is the storybook run of the Haldane Lady Devils. This is the handiwork of Coach Tyrone Searight. The Lady Devils had an excellent year. They won four huge games in the post-season, taking home the sectional and regional banners. Out of the 64 or so teams in the Class C post-season bracket, they made it to the final four, close enough to smell the rose petals of ultimate glory. And they had their hearts broken on a warm Saturday in Troy at the end of a historically cold winter. It is this way with tournaments. The deeper you go, the bigger and stronger the competition. They were slain by Chautauqua Lake, a dragon from 400 miles to the west, a dragon that would win the state championship the following day.

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The Case Against Lawns

By Pamela Doan

The Native Plant Center based on the campus of Westchester Community College is a tremendous local resource and advocate for preserving and conserving our native foliage. Every year they host a conference that is attended by landscape designers and architects, managers that oversee public and nonprofit landscapes, and gardeners who want to learn more.

This year’s subject at the March 17 conference was “Creating Landscapes That Sustain Nature.” Presenters ranging from researchers and educators to community project leaders discussed ways that personal landscaping choices impact the well-being and survival of whole ecosystems. The fates of butterflies, bees and other pollinators, birds, and amphibians were the focus.

There were several areas of overlap in the discussions and a great deal of consensus, yet each presentation included a common image of a suburban house set in a large expanse of lawn. It’s a familiar image to all of us and a common style for many of the developments in our area.

All the large trees are removed during development — the oaks, maples, white pines, birch — and then the plot is leveled before the structures are built. Topsoil is brought in at the end and turf grass is planted to create a sweeping acre or two of lawn. A few arborvitae, juniper, or rhododendrons are placed across the front of the house. There might be a birch or a forsythia, a Bradford pear, or flowering tree in the front yard for color. There are usually a last resort flower.

For many of the developments in our area.

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Another reason to cut back on lawn size is savings in time and money for mowing, which is a source of pollution.

The problem is, the planting that I just described doesn’t have value to sustain wildlife. Landscaping takes some time and effort; there’s no other way about it. We have the challenge of living in a high-browse area for deer, too.

My big frustration overall with any discussion of sustainable landscapes is that it needs to address a management plan for the deer population. Unless and until deer are managed with a strategy that goes beyond hunting, no garden is sustainable without fencing. Browsing deer have decimated the native foliage in our forests, and it’s impossible to restore. The only things thriving in the forest are the invasive plants that deer won’t eat, like Japanese barberry, knotweed, some mountain laurel, ferns and wild grape. Other invasive plants are starting to take hold, too, as our climate is warming.

Deer are a big reason that we all have the same plants in our yards. We can only plant certain things that the deer won’t eat. Try finding a tulip bed in an unfenced yard once this unrelenting snow is completely gone. Chances are, you won’t. Deer love tulips. Daffodils aren’t a great source for sustaining pollinators, though. They are usually a last resort flower.

Back to lawns, alternately referred to as “green deserts” and “sterile landscapes” during presentations at the conference. Those large expanses of turf grass don’t offer sustenance, not even to deer. (Deer aren’t grazers but pick out the clover and other tasty treats that are intermixed.)

Consider creating a native plant garden that can be fenced, instead. Plantings that begin blooming in early spring and last into the late fall create an enjoyable and colorful view throughout the months and will benefit the ecosystem you’re trying to support. It isn’t a perfect solution, but it’s a way to bring nature back into our “sterile landscapes.”

Another reason to cut back on lawn size is savings in time and money for mowing, which is a source of pollution. One hour of mowing with a gas-powered lawn mower is the equivalent in terms of carbon released into the atmosphere of driving a car for four hours. Although setting up a new bed takes time and effort, if it could cut back on 30 minutes or an hour of mowing each week during the summer, it would be well worth it. The exercise and enjoyment of tending to a flowerbed certainly trumps sitting on a bumpy, loud riding mower for the same amount of time. In upcoming columns, look for plant lists and further information about sustaining wildlife in home landscapes.
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