DEC Almanac Chronicles

Weekly email report defines the seasons for us
By Kevin E. Foley

After a harsh winter of prolonged cold with snow and ice always underfoot, spring feels especially welcome. Just some sunshine on the face or the lengthening daylight or the sight of daffodils or forsythia blooming can cheer a darkened spirit. Everyone embraces daffodils or forsythia blooming can cheer a darkened spirit. Everyone embraces the seasons for us.

Among the observable phenomenon underway are:
• Spotted salamander, wood frogs, spring peppers and American toads all on the move from the woods to vernal or spring ponds for breeding. Some die crossing the road to get there.
• Bald eagle parents are in critical incubation periods for the arrival of newborns in their nests.
• All manner of bird species — blackbirds, robins, woodcock and many more — are arriving in our midst from their winter homes.
• Glass eel have come into the river from the sea. They will stay and grow into American eels eventually returning to the sea years later.
• Harbor seals feeding on the newly arrived herring schools.

These and many other reports come from an email blast that weekly advises anyone interested what an informal network of Hudson Valley watchers have observed in the woodlands, waterways and along the riverbank from Albany to the New York city line. The Almanac, said at least part of those words back into the lexicon of the communities, said Tom Lake, estuary specialist with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) where the Almanac originates.

Lake edits the Almanac, adding observations of his own as well as educational explanatory notes and gentle corrections when a correspondent may have erred in their identification of a species or activity. Sometimes an excited wolf sighting is really a breed of coyote with a deep history of sometimes cavorting with the odd wolf.

Reading the email regularly is akin to taking a broadly organized course in natural science complete with fellow student enthusiasm. Lake is an adjunct professor of anthropology at Dutchess Community College and lectures frequently at public venues on river valley geological and anthropological history. At those events he recruits new correspondents and readers. He said approximately 6,700 people receive the email each week.

Lake said that the Almanac helps to define the seasons for readers by bringing into whole host of details. “Seasons come in stages. Defining those stages brings awareness. Not everybody has the ability to take the time to be out there. A lot of people have told me this allows them to be outdoors without being outdoors,” he explained.

“The other thing I like is one of the interesting phenomenon we have in the Hudson Valley in that seasons do not arrive uniformly. You have ice in the Adirondacks while people are in shirtsleeves in Manhattan. Elevation differences can mean big weather differences. The ability to link 320 miles of the river appears to people,” Lake said. (Continued on page 3)

Standardized tests draw criticism and anxiety

Some Parents Refuse State Testing of Their Children
By Pamela Doan

Standardized tests have long been a point of contention. The stress it places on children, whether or not it’s an effective gauge of learning, and the time devoted by teachers to prepare students for tests are just some of the issues debated. The English Language Arts state tests that were administered to grades three through eight recently brought a new round of protests from parents across the state. Prominent roadside signs were visible throughout the region encouraging parents to opt out of tests on behalf of their children.

At the Garrison Union Free School District, Interim Superintendent Brian Monahan reported that five students sat out the tests, about 2 percent of the student body. “This is the first time that I remember this happening throughout the region,” Monahan said. “Certainly it’s taking on more life than at other times.”

Kim Schaufller, the parent of a second grade student and a seventh grade student at Garrison, was one of the parents who kept her child out. “It does nothing, it means nothing, it’s ineffective,” Schaufller said. “Teachers don’t even see the mistakes a child makes and can’t help them with their weaknesses. They lose days and days and days of learning in preparation for these tests.”

Schauffler’s position about testing came about as she researched the Common Core. “I’m against the Common Core, I’m all for good standards and a higher bar, but the Common Core is colorless and all about worksheets. My impression is this isn’t the first time this has happened. My impression is.” (Continued on page 16)

Village Budget Stays Under Cap

Resident suggests consolidating police services
By Michael Turton

The public hearing on the 2014-15 Village of Cold Spring budget opened and closed with little fanfare at the Tuesday (April 15) meeting of the Village Board.

Mayor Ralph Falloon read a brief statement on the proposed budget, which he said must be formally adopted by the beginning of May. The General Fund, which includes the majority of village services such as police, garbage collection and road maintenance, will total $1,543,011, an increase of 2.89 percent over last year, the exact amount permitted under the New York State imposed tax cap. Mayor elements will include the $769,030 Main Street project as well as $40,000 for paving and $20,000 for sidewalk repair.

The Sewer Fund will include $1,635,000 (Continued on page 3)
Traveling Light

I drove across the country last week, something I’d never done before. I had a friend with me, and a purpose: I was picking up a car in Seattle and bringing it back here, to reside in Philipstown for the foreseeable future.

The cross-country drive is an iconic trip — a trip everyone imagines taking at some point in their lives. Which may be exactly why it is so difficult to plan.

How long should it last? Which route is best? Should we follow back roads or interstates? The former are surely prettier, but can easily double the time you spend in the car — and, when Google Maps informs you that the drive will provide you with 45 hours of car-sitting time, minimum, who really wants to work in more of that?

In college, I had a friend who attempted the trip solo without stopping. Midway through his second all-nighter, a dancing bear crossed the highway, and he thought to himself, “Oh, there goes Bobo, the dancing bear,” and then, immediately, “I need some sleep.”

Anne and I spent six days, slept night and day for a new addition to a delightfully inspiring community anthology of poems and voices.

Anne and I are old enough to have no illusions about good meals appearing magically along the interstate.

We have also lived long enough to know that a body’s energy is a fragile thing, easily disturbed by too much of the wrong foods and too little of the right ones. We have discovered that deliciousness is not necessarily a precursor of happiness. And we understand that something is not necessarily a precursor of deliciousness.

For the most part, getting old is no fun. But every once in awhile, I realize that some little piece of wisdom I’ve acquired actually makes me happier than the wild-eyed irresponsible craziness that I used to think of as fun.

I crossed the Bear Mountain Bridge last Monday feeling clean, lean, and bright-eyed, happy to be home but also impatient to do it again — this time with my family. They have no use for my old-lady wisdom, but they do like a good peanut butter sandwich now and then just as much as my family. They have no use for my old-lady wisdom, but they do like a good peanut butter sandwich now and then just as much as my family.

I’ve never once got that woozy, blown-out feeling that had been such a familiar part of previous road trips.

We purchased bread in Seattle. Anne and I spent six days, slept night and day for a new addition to a delightfully inspiring community anthology of poems and voices.

Celebrating National Poetry Month

When invited to share a favorite poem, original or borrowed, Philipstown and Beacon neighbors responded with joy. Visit Philipstown.info each day for a new addition to a delightfully inspiring community anthology of poems and voices.

A Sandwich for the Road

A map of the states you’ve already passed through makes an excellent tablecloth. Do remember to pack a knife, and some baby wipes for cleaning up afterwards.

For each sandwich:

- 2 slices bread, preferably nutty or seedy, which seems to keep better
- ½ banana, sliced
- 1/2-12 dried blueberries or cherries
- 4 potato chips

Spread the peanut butter on the bread. Lay the banana slices over it. Sprinkle with the dried fruit. Top with the potato chips and the second slice of bread, if desired.

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Some Parents Refuse State Testing of Their Children

That when everybody gets done counting in all the districts, the number will be huge. The number of students there are that are similar in neighboring districts. About whether the Common Core was the issue at stake, Chaudoin went on to say, “I don’t think the Common Core should be confused with the tests. The letters we’ve received don’t mention it. Parents have said that they find the tests are meaningful and that they take away from learning.”

Haldane parent Caryl Cannova echoed those sentiments. “I was going to let my son take the test, I made a study plan for him. But then we went back to school, I had him sit out the make-up test.” Cannova expressed concerns about the difficulty and stress that her son was feeling under the Common Core curriculum. She described an exercise on Syria that dealt with the gassing of civilians by the government and conflict with President Obama that she felt were issues that should be addressed by witnesses, not 8-year-olds. “He used to love school, now he hates it. There’s at least an hour and a half of homework every night and I worry he is having trouble keeping up. He’s gone to tutors to help kids with it. It’s too stressful.”

Student data sharing will move forward

In related Common Core news, the Haldane board of student with third-party vendor inBloom by the NYS Education Department (SED) is moving forward. Anto- niou expressed her opposition to SED, said, “We are working with the legislature on privacy matters and do not expect the full release of the EngageNY Portal until the start of the next school year.”

Last fall, the Haldane and Garrison boards grappled with how to handle the EngageNY Portal, which was intended to give parents online access to student test scores, grades and other information. Districts that participate in Race to the Top, which Haldane has done, were expected to choose from three possible dashboard controls and report their choice to the SED by a November deadline.

Motorcycle Club on Route 9 near Route 301 just a few months prior. Fallon acknowledged that the cost of 10 officers would be “a big chunk of change” and he sympathized with the organizers. “They raised a lot of money (last year)...It’s a fundraiser, I’d hate to see them lose (money)” he said. “It’s such a beautiful place that we’re concerned with a violent incident involving the Old Bones Motorcycle Club on Route 9 near Route 301 just a few months prior. Fallon acknowledged that the cost of 10 officers would be “a big chunk of change” and he sympathized with the organizers. “They raised a lot of money (last year)...It’s a fundraiser, I’d hate to see them lose (money)” he said. “It’s such a beautiful place that we’re concerned with a violent incident involving the Old Bones Motorcycle Club on Route 9 near Route 301 just a few months prior. Fallon acknowledged that the cost of 10 officers would be “a big chunk of change” and he sympathized with the organizers. “They raised a lot of money (last year)...It’s a fundraiser, I’d hate to see them lose (money)” he said. “It’s such a beautiful place that we’re concerned with a violent incident involving the Old Bones Motorcycle Club on Route 9 near Route 301 just a few months prior. Fallon acknowledged that the cost of 10 officers would be “a big chunk of change” and he sympathized with the organizers. “They raised a lot of money (last year)...It’s a fundraiser, I’d hate to see them lose (money)” he said. “It’s such a beautiful place that we’re concerned with a violent incident involving the Old Bones Motorcycle Club on Route 9 near Route 301 just a few months prior. Fallon acknowledged that the cost of 10 officers would be “a big chunk of change” and he sympathized with the organizers. “They raised a lot of money (last year)...It’s a fundraiser, I’d hate to see them lose (money)” he said. “It’s such a beautiful place that we’re concerned with a violent incident involving the Old Bones Motorcycle Club on Route 9.
Galef supports Organ and Tissue Donor Awareness Month

April 14, 2014

To the editor: The NYS Assembly passed a resolution to proclaim April 2014 as Organ and Tissue Donor Awareness Month in the State of New York. It is hard to believe, but New York is ranked 50th nationally in the number of eligible people enrolled in the state organ and tissue donation registry (only 22 percent of New Yorkers are registered as donors). There are over 10,000 New Yorkers who are currently on the donor waiting list. New York has the third highest need for donors and makes up 10 percent of the national waiting list. We must reverse these numbers to help save the lives of many of our friends, relatives and neighbors. New Yorkers can help prolong another life by enrolling in the New York State Donate Life Registry (donatedeli- sty.org), which is a confidential database of individuals who can choose to donate their organs and tissues upon their death. You can join the registry through the New York State Department of Health, by enrolling online or when you apply for, or renew your New York State driver’s license, or non-driver’s license identification card, or on voter registration forms.

The organs and tissues from a single donor can help as many as 50 recipients, and during Organ and Tissue Donor Awareness Month, New Yorkers are reminded of the life-sustaining results of organ and tissue donation. I encourage you to consider this immense- ly generous and selfless act that extends another life.

Sincerely, Sandy Galef
Assemblywoman, 98th A.D.
914-941-1111

‘Twists’ to Proposed Butterfield Zoning Approved

Public hearing April 29

By Michael Turton

The stage finally seems set for a public hearing on a zoning amendment, which if approved by the Cold Spring Board of Trustees, will lead to the redevelopment of the Butterfield site. Trustees approved what should be final changes to wording of the proposed B4A zoning at their workshop on April 10. The Village Board had rejected an earlier attempt at amending the zoning in January 2013, after strong public opposition was expressed at the hearing. The amendment is required in order to bring the Medical and Healthcare Facility Mixed Use District proposed for But- terfield by developer Paul Guillaro, in line with the Village Zoning Code.

A changed political landscape

A lot has changed since early 2013, in- cluding the election of a new mayor and two new trustees and a reconstituted Planning Board. After two postpone- ments, the public hearing is now slated for 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, April 29, in the Haldane music room. If the revised zoning is approved at the close of the hear- ing, detailed site planning can begin. On March 11, 2014, Planning Board Chair Barney Molloy formally presented Mayor Ralph Falloon with that board’s comments on the new version of the zoning in a memo that was the by-product of some 14 Plan- ning Board meetings. Unlike the first pub- lic hearing, little if any public concern was raised during that process. After initial dis- cussions of the memo bore little fruit, the Village Board requested that Chuck Voss, consultant to the Planning Board, and Planning Board lawyer Anna L. Georgiou, prepare revised wording for the draft B4A Zoning based on the Planning Board’s sug- gestions. It was that wording that was the center of discussion last Thursday.

Tied to the proposed B4A zoning is Guil- laro’s concept plan for the 5.6-acre site that calls for mixed uses including retail, com- mercial, single-family housing, senior hous- ing and community center and government offices. Medical offices currently located in the Lahey pavilion would be kept as is. Input from Voss and Georgiou resulted in trustees approving a number of revi- siions to the Planning Board’s original position — including defining senior citizen hous- ing as “age-restricted facilities which meet the needs of a specific cohort of citizens, limit occupancy of each dwelling to no more than two persons, and comply with the ‘housing for older persons’ excep- tion from its.” Each senior citizen unit must have at least one person 55 years of age or older living in it, while no one under the age of 18 will be permitted to live there.

Building size and location

In response to concerns over the “mass” of proposed buildings, a clause was de- 

lected that would have permitted building size to increase by up to 10 percent more than shown in the concept plan. Three pri- vate residences that will front on Paulding Avenue, however, “may be of any size” as long as they conform to applicable vil- lage zoning. The Planning Board had suggested that consideration be given to allow buildings of up to 45 feet in height, but with reductions in their footprint of up to 25 percent, as a means of increasing the amount of open space on site. It was agreed that the maximum building height would remain at 35 feet. There was general agreement that the 25 percent reduction in footprint was too severe — and perhaps more importantly, Steven Barshov, Guil- laro’s lawyer, indicated that the developer had no interest in building to 45 feet. In implementing the site plan, place- ment of buildings will not be permitted to be moved by more than 15 feet, although if the Planning Board determines that “greater flexibility is warranted” they may be moved a maximum of 25 feet. Similar- ly, the orientation of buildings can’t vary from the concept plan by more than 10 degrees unless the Planning Board again considers flexibility to be appropriate — in which case a variance of up to 15 degrees could be permitted.

Trustee Stephanie Hawkins questioned the potential impact that a coffee shop/lun- cheonette at Butterfield might have on sim- ilar existing businesses in the village. She also questioned the maximum 1,000 square feet permitted for such an operation — cit- ting the negative impact on existing restaurants. Trustee Cathryn Padde, who owns Cath- ryn’s Tuscan Grill on Main Street, said she didn’t feel a luncheonette would have a negative effect on other local restaurants. There was considerable agreement that 1,000 square feet was more than what is needed for a luncheonette, which suggested that the maximum number of seated customers to 15 is appropriate. At Trustee Mike Bow- man’s suggestion, the maximum square footage was reduced to 750 square feet.

‘That ship has sailed’

Planning Board member Anne Im- pelizzeri suggested that if the develop- ment included more commercial space it would help assure a tax positive project however no action was taken on the idea. When Hawkins asked Falloon if he would consider having an independent financial review of the proposed proj- ect undertaken to evaluate its overall impact on the village, the mayor replied that he didn’t think it was a good use of taxpayer dollars. Falloon said he was sat- isfied with the Planning Board and con- sultant’s review of related information provided in the EAF and that the village assessor had indicated that the tax rev- enue estimates contained in that docu- ment were a bit low.

Hawkins persisted, questioning the fi- nancial impact of the 55 condominiums, which pay a reduced tax rate. Barshov said that the Planning Board had met “a gazillion times on that” and that the analysis was done. “That’s over,” he said.

Barshov was consistent in his message regarding Hawkins’ questioning of finan- cial impact, or having to make any major changes to the concept plan. He said that while “twisting” was understandable, major changes at this stage would be a problem. “That ship has sailed,” he said more than once.

Residents want concept renderings

The meeting was conducted without the benefit of maps or illustrations depicting the concept plan for Butterfield, at least for the audience. Trustees were able to refer to the concept plan. Cold Spring resident Joe Patrick urged Guillaro to provide il- lustrations of the proposed development at the upcoming public hearing. Former Trustee Matt Franco agreed and sug- gested that a 3D model be made available. Long Island and past chairman of the Zoning Board of Appeals Donald MacDonald sup- ported that idea, commenting that residents are being asked to approve some- thing “when we don’t have the image of what it looks like.” Barshov replied, “We’ll look at what we can do.”

The revised zoning and the concept plan are available on the Village of Cold Spring website.
Alternatives Presented for Dockside Protection

Designs expected by July

By Michael Turton

The second and final public meeting to discuss how to best protect Dockside Park from erosive forces of the Hudson River was held on April 3 at the Cold Spring Fire Hall. The project is being funded by a $75,000 grant from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) and the Hudson River Estuary Program in part of the project, ways to address flood-protection measures being considered include refur-bishing an old boat ramp for use by non-motorized watercraft and the creation of a small lagoon. In the corner, an area created on landfill, a boulder shelf, emergent vegetation and walkway are among the alternative treatments. In the south-west section a stacked boulder wall and a raised walkway are being considered.

Hopes and concerns

Mayor Ralph Falloon attended the meeting and told The Paper that he thinks the consultants are putting forward interesting concepts. “Some of their ideas are pretty neat,” he said. “I think that no matter what (is decided), people just really want to be able to get right down to the shoreline.”

Donald MacDonald, former chair of the Cold Spring Zoning Board of Appeals, was also in attendance and expressed concern that the height of some proposed shoreline plantings might interfere with the expansive upriver views. “The answer I heard was that view would now be had in selected spots. I’d like to know more about what that means,” he said in an email to The Paper. He also echoed comments at the meeting from Planning Board member Anne Impellizzeri who said that she hoped the designers would not forget to accommodate “the human things” that people like to do at Dockside. But overall, MacDonald said he is “totally positive” about the project. “It’d like it to be … tailored, as much as possible, to our village and how we actually use the river,” he said.

Next steps

In an email to The Paper, Carabetta said that the group of consultants that she is working with now is in the process of drafting a final plan. “I’d like it to be… tailored, as much as possible, to our village and how we actually use the river,” she said.

The Paper
Shea Seeks Public Input into Cell Tower Decision

Neighbors express concerns, town to proceed warily

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

A week after residents voiced reservations about the proposed installation of a cellphone tower at the old landfill, Town Supervisor Rich Shea reiterated his intent to proceed carefully, aware both that the idea might prove feasible -- and generate appropriate income -- and that it might not.

Now home to the town recycling program, the landfill lies off of Lane Gate Road, above Route 9. A cellphone “dead zone” along that stretch of highway prompts desires by the industry to install a tower. During a March 26 presentation to the Town Board, a representative of Homeland Towers, a firm that installs the structures for such carriers as AT&T, proposed locating a tower at the landfill in return for supplying an unspecified amount of rent as well as a new town generator.

At the Town Board’s formal monthly meeting April 3, when landfill neighbors demonstrated resistance to the tower concept, Shea promised ample opportunity for input: “It’s not the sort of thing where we’d want to make that decision without public input,” he said.

Nonetheless, he also repeatedly declared that a cell tower will probably go somewhere near the landfill and that it makes sense to put it there and earn money for the town government. “We have a former landfill that is not utilized” to any extent, Shea observed. “It could generate some revenue for us. So we’re cautiously exploring putting a cell tower at the landfill. Whether or not the town does it, the tower ‘could be put on private property.’ Town officials “would hate to see” a case where “we lose that revenue while the cell tower still goes in and we sort of lose control. One of the other benefits would be that the emergency services antennas could go on this, our highway radio tower could go on top, the county could get space” on the tower as well, and Homeland Towers offered a generator, which we currently don’t have up there” for emergency services when electrical power goes out.

Councilor Nancy Montgomery pointed to another emergency services issue, the difficulties that arise during a road accident or similar incident if volunteer responders’ phones fail. “It becomes a liability for the town when it’s a dead zone,” she said.

Supervisor Shea assured the audience that the board members “want to go into this with eyes wide open. The last thing we’re looking to do is disturb people or put a cell tower in somebody’s backyard.”

However, he cautioned, “A lot of the time it’s tough to stop these things” if cellphone carriers want to go ahead. “New York State has a mandate for coverage. With the mandate, they said, ‘geeze, I lost my cell service.’ We all want it. But it’s not that everybody wants it in their backyard.”

Supervisor Dave Merandy said that when Town Board members surveyed the landfill as to its suitability for a tower, they focused on residents’ interests. “I think on our visit that was our main concern.” And the board is nowhere near a decision, Merandy noted. “It’s really just at the beginning stage.”

Six days after residents and the board discussed the matter, Shea, Merandy and Councilor Mike Leonard met in a workshop and talked about the cell tower again, recalling the residents’ feedback and expressing uncertainty about how much money the town might actually receive in a deal. “It’s probably far from a sure thing,” Shea said April 5. “So if it’s not worth it, it’s not worth it.”

Car Wash Intended for Garage Site in Garrison

Planning Board receives submission

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

The building at 1510 Route 9, in its current state.

Philpstown vehicles in need of “suds and scrubs” might soon enjoy more cleanup opportunities close to home: Philpstown’s Planning Board last week received an initial submission from a business seeking to convert a trucking facility in Garrison to a car wash.

The applicant, RDR Equities LLC, seeks to convert the building at 1510 Route 9, near the intersection with Route 403, to Acme Suds & Scrubs car wash, which would be open seven days a week from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., eventually employ about 10 workers, and accommodate only cars — no buses or large trucks.

Planning Board members began reviewing the project at their April 10 meeting, which also drew a group of the site’s neighbors, anxious to make comments. The board did not allow them to do so, explaining that the time for public remarks still lies ahead. “This is preliminary,” Chairman Anthony D. Merante said. “We have to get it in the pipeline before we take public comments.” In a follow-up with Philpstown.info/The Paper, he later characterized April 10 as a night when the board “just listened to a preliminary pitch.”

According to application materials RDR filed with the board, anticipated work on the site includes renovating the existing metal building, adding an “automatic car wash tunnel,” getting rid of a residential section, creating an automotive detailing area, and installing new signs outside. The property lies in the Highway-Commercial Zoning District but also falls into the zoning Regional Aquifer Overlay District.

Planning Board consultant planner Susan Jainschek noted in a memo that Annsville Creek crosses the property and on April 10 water inspired some of the board’s questions — such as an inquiry on the disposal of used car wash water.

RDR’s representative Ron Wegner, of Cronin Engineering, a Cortlandt Manor firm, said the car wash “will have a reclamation system” for the dirty water. “We’re looking at doing a 100 percent recycle,” he said.

Questions also arose about the car wash’s possible impact on traffic, since it is near the Appalachian Market and gas station at the junction of Routes 9 and 403.

Wegner assured the board that overall “we are not proposing any great changes” to 1510 Route 9.

Modern Earth Day

Join us for a talk & a convivial dinner

Thursday, April 24, 7PM
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And a talk by veteran environmental journalist Andy Revkin

An Earth Day talk by veteran environmental journalist Andy Revkin

The building at 1510 Route 9, in its current state.

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Library Turns a Page with New Director Jen McCreery
Librarian shares plans for Desmond-Fish future
By Alison Rooney

Wishing for a more purposeful avocation, Jen McCreery gave up a life in the theater, as a company manager, for one in a less dramatic venue: the library.

Jen McCreery, newly-appointed director at Desmond-Fish Library
Photo by A. Rooney

The contrast of two artworks at HVCCA contributes to the theater taking part in between them.

Hudson Valley Center for Contemporary Art Series Acts Out
Art and theater intersect to create pivotal interaction
By Alison Rooney

Right off a busy Peekskill thoroughfare, as eyes scan what’s passing, seeking a “museum-like” edifice, big bold lettering atop a large, non-descript complex of brick buildings announces with a kind of emphatic pull: “It’s What’s Outside That Counts.”

Of course this beckons one to go inside, where upon entering the enormous (12,500 square feet of exhibition space) interior, once a lumberyard, one finds the permanent and rotating collection of the Hudson Valley Center For Contemporary Art (HVCCA). There amidst galleries filled with art devised from different media, a performance series, Acting Out: Words That Connect, is taking place in the form of four performances, over the course of March through July. The second of these, works by Donna Barkman and Tony Howarth, both directed by Mara Mills, takes place at 7 p.m. on Saturday, April 26, and at 5 p.m. on Sunday, April 27.

The founder and director of HVCCA, Dr. Livia Straus, sees this interaction as pivotal. In program notes she states: “Works of art may speak to us through our visual senses, but, when enriched by the spoken word, the works have the capacity to expand what is accessible to our imaginations, to overlay the imagery of one artist upon that of others and to permit us to take the world in so as to offer myriad possibilities.”

HVCCA’s Jo-Ann Brody explains that the collection is the “brainchild of Dr. Marc and Livia Straus, who have been collecting contemporary art since their college years. They were looking for a place to store their collection and were actually on the brink of signing papers for another space in Ossining when an issue arose related to altering a site listed on the National Register of Historic Places.”

In a re-think, explained Brody, “They decided to share it, to make it into a family foundation museum.” Finding this space, which is all-cement, and renovating it with new flooring, electricity, and plumbing, the museum was opened in 2004, and since then has displayed, on a rotating basis, artworks from the permanent collection as well as special exhibits. It prides itself, according to Brody, on “showing some work that has never been in a museum; this includes younger artists who have caught the eyes of the curators.”

In addition, the HVCCA has played a leading role in many community initiatives including five editions of Project Peekskill, a public art project, with art produced in response to the Hudson Valley displayed at multiple locations throughout the city and the Trail of Tiles, a three-year-long program in which approximately 2,200 schoolchildren worked on creating Delftware-inspired tiles, which are now permanently embedded.

After studying playwriting and screenwriting early on, McCreery, raised in Oregon and Indiana, drifted into production work in order to “support my writing habit,” she says. This led to company managing, being that person that cast and crew turn to for help, from the personal to the fiscal — “kind of like being a camp counselor.”

A long stretch, from 2003 until 2010, spending summer seasons with the Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival, living at Graymoor, introduced her to this area. Wanting to further help people in need, she gave it up and returned to college, receiving her master’s in library science in 2011 from Queens College. Stints as a temporary librarian at the...
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April 18, 2014

The Paper

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10:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. The Living Room
103 Main St., Cold Spring | bazaaronhudson.com

Beacon Farmers’ Market
11 a.m. - 3 p.m. Stonic Hudson River Center
Long Dock Drive, Beacon
845-234-9325 | thebeaconfarmersmarket.com

Open Barn
11 a.m. - 1 p.m. Stone Kill Farm
See details under Saturday.

Meet the Animals
1 & 2:30 p.m. Wildlife Education Center
See details under Saturday.

Art & Design
Free Admission for Beacon Residents
11 a.m. - 4 p.m. Dia:Beacon
See details under Saturday.

Highlights Tour
2 p.m. Storm King Art Center
See details under Friday.

Lighthouse Talk
7:30 p.m. Storm Point Battlefield
845-786-2521 | nysparks.com

Religious Services
Graymoor
8 a.m. Tenebrae
8 p.m. Great Vigil of Easter | Details under Friday

St. John the Evangelist
9 a.m. Tenebrae | Noon. Blessing of Food
See details under Friday.

St. Mary’s Church
7 p.m. Great Easter Vigil with Open Baptism
See details under Friday.

Church of St. Joachim
8 p.m. Easter Vigil | See details under Friday.

Our Lady of Loreto
8 p.m. Easter Vigil | See details under Friday.

Church & Film
The Ten Commandments (1956)
3 p.m. Paramount Hudson Valley
1008 Brown St., Poughkeepsie
914-739-0039 | paramounthudsonvalley.com

Music
Pick and Grin Acoustic Session
6 p.m. Dogwood
47 E. Main St., Beacon
845-202-7500 | dogwoodbar.com

Sunday Sounds
6 - 9 p.m. Virgo’s Sip N Soul Café
450 Fishkill Ave., Beacon
845-631-1543 | virgosipsnsoul.com

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

Indigo Girls
8 p.m. Tarrytown Music Hall
13 Main St., Tarrytown
914-631-3930 x100 | tarrytownmusichall.org

Meetings
The Magick of Beltane
4:30 p.m. Notions-n-Potions
175 Main St., Beacon
845-765-2410 | notions-n-potions.com

Religious Services
Graymoor
6:00 a.m. Sunrise Service
11 a.m. Easter Chrisht (Easter Sunday)
See details under Friday.

Our Lady of Loreto
7:30 & 9 & 11:45 a.m. Mass
See details under Friday.

St. John the Evangelist
7:30 & 10:30 a.m. Mass
See details under Friday.

St. Mary’s Episcopal Church
8 & 10:30 a.m. Mass | 11:45 a.m. Easter egg hunt
See details under Friday.

St. Philip’s Episcopal Church
8 & 10:30 a.m. Service
8:30 a.m. Easter Sunday Service
See details under Friday.

St. Luke’s Episcopal Church
8 & 10:30 a.m. Service
855 Wiltseatt Ave., Beacon
845-831-2642 | stlukesbeacon.org

Church of St. Joachim
9 a.m. & Noon. Mass | See details under Friday.

Salem Tabernacle
9 & 11 a.m. Service | See details under Friday.

Reformed Church of Beacon
9 a.m. Easter potluck & 10:30 a.m. Service
1113 Wiltseatt Ave., Beacon
845-831-8153 | rcbeacon.org

United Methodist Church
9:30 a.m. Service
216 Main St., Cold Spring
845-205-3365

Church on the Hill
10:30 a.m. Service
245 Main St., Cold Spring
845-205-2022 | coldspringchurchonthehill.org

MONDAY, APRIL 21

Kids & Community
Monday Bird Walk
7:30 a.m. Tarrytown Lakes
Nepper and Sunnyvale, Tarrytown
914-666-6503 | sawmillriveraudubon.org

Bridge Club
9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Hudson Cultural Center
477 Main St., Beacon
845-631-4988 | howlandculturalcenter.org

Indoor Tot Lot
10 a.m. - 1 p.m. Philipstown Rec Center
107 Glendyffe Drive, Garrison
845-424-4618 | philliptownreccreation.com

 getPage 20
The Mouse and the Meadow, written and illustrated by Chad Wallace, a rising young star from the Hudson River Valley, New York

Chad will be signing his book at The Gift Hut, 86 Main Street, Cold Spring, NY 10516
Saturday, April 26, 1-3 p.m.

Pre-order your copy early. Retail price: Paperback: $8.95  Hardback: $16.95


The Calendar (from page 9)

Project Code Spring for Girls
3:30 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library
472 Route 403, Garrison
845-424-3020 | desmondfishlibrary.org
Board Game Night
7 p.m. Cup and Saucer | 165 Main St, Beacon
meetup.com/Beacon-Board-N-Bored

Health & Fitness
Hudson Valley Hospital Center
1 p.m. Behavioral Support Group
4 p.m. Grandparenting 101
1980 Crompond Road, Cortlandt Manor
914-666-4228 | hvh.org/events

Neuro Support Group
3 p.m. Putnam Hospital Center
670 Stonewall Ave, Carmel
845-279-5715 x1048 | healthquest.org
Basketball at Philpston Rec
6:15 p.m. Youth Skills/Drills (grades 3-8)
7:30 p.m. Adult Mor’s Pickup
107 Glynwood Drive, Garrison
845-424-4618 | philpstonrecreation.com

Breast Cancer Support Group
7 p.m. Hudson Valley Hospital
1980 Crompond Road, Cortlandt Manor
914-962-6402 | supportconnection.org

Self-Care Acupressure (Workshop)
7 p.m. Philpston Recreation Center
107 Glynwood Drive, Garrison
845-424-4618 | philpstonrecreation.com

Art & Design
Garrison Art Center
9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Drop-in Life Drawing & Painting (Short Poses)
5 - 7 p.m. Open Studio Drawing
23 Garrison’s Landing, Garrison
845-424-3960 | garrisonartcenter.org

Theater & Film
Social Justice Film Series: Race to Execution
1:30 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
477 Main St., Beacon
845-265-3336 | supportconnection.org
TUESDAY, APRIL 22
Earth Day
Kids & Community
Philpston Recreation Center
9 - 11 a.m. & Noon - 2 p.m. Indoor Tot Lot
4 p.m. Introduction to Theatrical Makeup (grades K-3) (First Session) | 6:30 p.m. Foot in Mouth Players (ages 12-19) | See details under Monday.

TEN WEEKS TO HAPPINESS

The Gift Hut presents: Author & Illustrator Chad Wallace
Book Signing, April 26 86 Main Street, Cold Spring, New York
A curious young mouse boldly ventures into the meadow for the first time. There he is given a crash course on life — from creatures both friendly and not so friendly. He witnesses a caterpillar becoming a chrysalis. He marvels that fireflies can glow. Thoughtful encounters with a turtle and a rabbit help prepare him for danger.

Science and story blend seamlessly in this entertaining coming of age tale. But do animals talk and help each other? Thoughtful back matter explores the phenomenon of animal altruism and what we are learning of animal communication, and delves deeper into the lives of meadow mice and the wonders of a meadow.

The Mouse and the Meadow, written and illustrated by Chad Wallace, a rising young star from the Hudson River Valley, New York

Chad will be signing his book at The Gift Hut, 86 Main Street, Cold Spring, NY 10516
Saturday, April 26, 1-3 p.m.

Pre-order your copy early. Retail price: Paperback: $8.95  Hardback: $16.95

Art & Design

Highlights Tour  
2 p.m. Storm King Art Center | Details under Friday  

Addressing History & Spirituality Through the Arts (Panel)  
6:30 p.m. Hudson Valley Center for Contemporary Art | 1701 Main St, Beacon | 914-788-0100 | hvcca.org

Film & Theater
Beacon Poet Laureate Laurence Sansone  
6:30 p.m. Howland Public Library | 313 Main St, Beacon | 845-833-1134 | beaconlibrary.org

Faragalle North  
8 p.m. The Beacon Theatre | Details under Friday

Music
Arbeau Presents In the Mood (Big Band)  
2 p.m. Bardavon | 35 Market St, Poughkeepsie | 845-473-0207 | bardavon.org

Piano Bar Night  
7 p.m. Bear Mountain Inn | 55 Hosselin Drive, Highlands Falls | 845-786-2731 | visitbeaconmountain.com

Ervis Costello & The Attractions Band Camp (First Session)  
7 p.m. Beacon Music Factory | See details under Monday.

Ryan O’Connor  
7 p.m. Cup and Saucer  
165 Main St, Beacon | 845-833-6287

Michael Tomaszeski & Friends  
7:30 p.m. Town Sign Inn Café  
Details see details under Friday.

Karaoke Night  
5:30 p.m. Mac’s on Main | Details under Friday

Meetings & Lectures
BNA Book Club: Holy, A Tragedy  
10 a.m. Barie Square Coffee | 129 Main St, Beacon | 845-833-0012 | beaconlibrary.org

Dutchess County Historical Society  
5:30 p.m. First Presbyterian Church  
1576 Main St, Pleasant Valley | 845-471-6300 | dutchesscountyhistoricalsociety.org

Inside the New Yorker Cartoon with Bob Merrick  
7:30 p.m. Jacob Burns Film Center | 263 Main St, Elmsford | 914-747-5555 | jacobburns.org

FRIDAY, APRIL 25

Kids & Community
Indoor Tot Lot  
9:15 a.m - Noon & 2 p.m. | Philipstown Community Center | See details under Monday.

Relay for Life of Fishkill Kick-Off Party  
5:30 p.m. Elks Club | 1111 Main St, Fishkill | relayforlifesr.org

Chamber of Commerce Awards Dinner  
6:30 p.m. Duchess Manor | 203 Road 50, Millbrook | 845-265-3200 | chamberrf.org

Container Gardening Workshop  
7 p.m. Story Kill Farm  
97 Farmstead Lane, Wappingers Falls | 845-831-1617 | stonykill.org

Earth Day Dinner and Talk  
7 p.m. Garrison Institute | 34 Mary’s Way, Garrison | 845-424-4800 | garrisoninstitute.org

Reservations required

Health & Fitness
Qi Gong/ Tai Chi  
8:30 a.m. Butterfield Library | 10 Morris Ave, Cold Spring | 845-265-3240 | butterfieldlibrary.org

Women’s Personal Wellness Retreat  
5:30 a.m. 845-360-8343 | newmoon@bb.net

Discussion Group  
7 p.m. Hudson Valley Hospital Center | 1980 Davenport Road, Cortlandt Manor | 914-736-7700 | northwesterlaxis.com

Gong Meditation  
7:30 p.m. Beacon Yoga Center  
464 Main St, Beacon | 530-380-8343 | 7mountainlives.com

Adult Co-Ed Volleyball  
7:30 p.m. Philipstown Recreation Center | See details under Monday.

The Calendar (from page 10)
The People’s Choir with Cat Guthrie  
7 p.m. Beacon Music Factory | 12 Hanna Lane, Beacon | 845-202-7500 | dogwoodbar.com

Meetings & Lectures
Shachrari Shemil Shel Peasach  
9 a.m. Beacon Hebrew Alliance | 331 Verplanck Ave, Beacon | 845-424-2612 | beaconhebrewalliance.org

Zoning Board of Appeals (Public Hearings)  
7 p.m. Village Hall | 85 Main St, Cold Spring | 845-265-8611 | coldspringny.gov

A Mother and Father’s Worst Nightmare (Talk)  
7 p.m. Haldane High School (Music Room) | 15 Craigside Dr, Cold Spring | 845-995-4050 | haldaneptd.org

Town Board Workshop (Building Departments)  
7:30 p.m. Town Hall | 217 Main St, Cold Spring | 845-265-5200 | Philipstown.info

Poem in Your Pocket Day  
8 a.m. Butterfield Library | 10 Morris Ave, Cold Spring | 845-835-5200 | philipstown.info

3 - 6 p.m. Glynwood Farm (Dairy)  
362 Glynwood Road, Cold Spring | 845-736-7700 | northeastdoulas.com

4:30 - 6 p.m. Howland Public Library  
313 Main St, Beacon | 845-835-6900 | beaconlibrary.org

8:30 a.m. Bank Square Coffee | 165 Main St, Beacon | 845-831-6287

7:30 p.m. Beacon Hebrew Alliance  
845-202-7500 | beaconcityk12.org

Meetings & Lectures  
7:30 p.m. First Presbyterian Church | 845-838-6900 | beaconlibrary.org

6:30 p.m. Dutchess Manor  
Chamber of Commerce Awards Dinner  
6:30 p.m. Duchess Manor | 203 Road 50, Millbrook | 845-265-3200 | chamberrf.org

Container Gardening Workshop  
7 p.m. Story Kill Farm  
97 Farmstead Lane, Wappingers Falls | 845-831-1617 | stonykill.org

Earth Day Dinner and Talk  
7 p.m. Garrison Institute | 34 Mary’s Way, Garrison | 845-424-4800 | garrisoninstitute.org

Reservations required

Health & Fitness
Qi Gong/ Tai Chi  
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Gong Meditation  
7:30 p.m. Beacon Yoga Center  
464 Main St, Beacon | 530-380-8343 | 7mountainlives.com

Adult Co-Ed Volleyball  
7:30 p.m. Philipstown Recreation Center | See details under Monday.

HV Center for Contemporary Art Series Acts Out (from page 7)
**Drug Education Forum to be held April 23 at Haldane Music Room**

The Haldane School District PTA, in association with the Philipstown Community, is inviting the community to hear a Mother and Father’s Worst Nightmare at The Garrison School, Monday, April 23, in the Haldane Music Room.

The panel includes guest speakers Susan and Steve Salomo, co-founder of Death Penalty Focus in Washington, D.C., and the Salomos founded the organization following the death of their son, Justin, from a drug overdose, and will speak of their experience dealing with Justin’s addiction and their family’s journey.

An additional presentation will follow by Doreen Lockwood, director of Putnam Family & Community Services, and Elaine Santos, coordinator with Putnam County Communities That Care Coalition.

**The panel will include:**

- What’s the average age of first-time drug use?
- What are the signs I need to look out for?
- How easily and readily available are drugs to our kids?
- What is Molly?
- How do I talk to my children about the dangers of drugs?
- When is 8 age appropriate to do so?

The Haldane PTA is bringing this forum to families as part of its commitment to educate parents on the dangers that drugs present in school, and in an ongoing effort to keep children safe. Content is for mature audience members only; no children may attend.

**YWCA Orange County Co-Sponsors Race to Execution at Downing**

As part of a Social Justice Film Series, the YWCA Orange County and the Downing Film Center are hosting a screening of the film Race to Execution at the Downing Film Center, 19 Front St., on the Newburgh waterfront.


The feature, which addresses the punishment system, Race to Execution invites dialogue into the larger community about the justice system.

The Downing Film Center has limited seating. Reservations are strongly suggested. Call 845-856-1234 or visit www.ywcon.com to reserve tickets. The screening is free — donations welcomed. For those interested, a Talk-Back will follow the screening.

**Friends of the Butterfield Library hold Wine Tasting April 27**

Those interested in learning more about wine are invited to Wine Tasting, April 27, at Butterfield Library.

**Friends of the Butterfield Library will hold the event from 3 to 5 p.m., to include a program by Steve Warren, who has worked in the wine industry for decades. The tasting includes a selection of wine from Italy, France and Spain, paired with meats and cheeses. Cost is $25 per person, or $45 for two. Call 845-265-3040. Visit butterfieldlibrary.org.**

**Annual Differences Day Teaches GUSD Students About Autism**

On Friday, April 11, the Garrison School celebrated the second annual “Differences Day,” where K through eighth graders participated in activities developed to educate students about learning differences. Last year, students learned about Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder. April is Autism Awareness Month and this year the student body focused on Autism Spectrum Disorder.

The goal behind Differences Day is to create a genuine understanding, tolerance, empathy and acceptance of those who learn in a different way,” explained guest speaker Michael Cohen. “One of the ways we teach learning differences at the Garrison School is to have our older students research the topics first and then teach to our younger students what they have learned.”

Students researched Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASDs) and created Powerpoint presentations for students in fifth through eighth grades. Students welcomed one of their teachers, Susan MacFaroe, who spoke about her experiences raising her son with autism. They had the fortune of hearing from another guest speaker, Kenneth Crow, who is a freshman at James I. O’Neill High School and was diagnosed as being on the spectrum last year. Middle school students also visited elementary classrooms to read children’s books on autism to younger students.

“As we observed the guest speakers present their personal experiences with autism, it was clear by the reaction of our students that their message of acceptance and understanding of other’s differences was powerful and many students were inspired. It was a perfect example of why these programs are so important.”

**Five Haldane Student-Artists Advance to State in PTAs Reflections**

The creative work of five Haldane students was recently selected to be shown at the state level in the national PTA program that promotes creativity. Reflections. Of those five, one, a musical composition titled “The 3 Cs: Community, Collaboration, Conservation,” was chosen by state-level judges to advance to the national level. The other students were Lucy Anastasi (literature), Gabriel Keller (music composition), Sara Labriola (music composition) and Cassandra Laijer (visual art).

The PTA Reflections program was founded in 1969 by Mary Lou Anderson, and the national PTA organization describes it as “encouraging students to express their thoughts and feelings by giving positive recognition for their artistic efforts.” Each year, a theme is chosen and students in different grade levels are invited to submit works in a variety of categories including: literature, film, photography, visual art, music and architecture.

This year’s theme was “Believe, Dream, Inspire” and the number of entries allowed to advance from each district varies. Two students from each category in each level, so 10 were submitted to the Taconic regional level, then 35 entries advanced to the state, five of which were from Haldane. From those entries submitted to the state, Gabriel’s entry was chosen to advance to the national level. Gabriel wrote the lyrics of the song and described his composition relating to the theme: “My song is called Touch The Sky. I was inspired by it because if you try hard enough, you will be surprised by what you can accomplish. Touch The Sky relates to the theme of ‘Believe, Dream, Inspire’ because it is all about trying your hardest even when things take a turn for the worse.”

The PTA extends congratulations to all students who submitted work this year, other entries included those from Hannah Frith (photography), Julian Geller (literature), Isabelle LaRocco (literature), John Swartzwelder (photography), and Brooke Vahos (visual arts). Visit taconipep.org/index.php/programs/reflections/

**Haldane’s Got Talent ... and Shows It Off April 25**

Back for another entertaining evening is the Haldane Talent Show, featuring a stellar lineup of some of Haldane’s best singers, musicians, dancers, and other more offbeat performers. This year’s show is called All The Casts Join In and will open with a Lindy hop performed by the Haldane Cool Cats to Benny Goodman music. All of Philipstown is invited to join in.

Returning favorites who perform to acclaim last year include a yo-yo master, a toga-clad bouzouki player, a satirist, a poet, and the not-so-secret spectacular teachers’ “Big Dance Number,” which all ways tries to out-do itself year after year. Members of some of Haldane’s musical groups, including the Haldane Percussion Ensemble and the Blue Notes will also take to the stage. A house band will be on hand as well. The artists whose songs and/or music will be covered are an eclectic bunch and include: The Black Keys, Elvis Presley, Duke Ellington, Steve Rubino, Pink, Steven Sondheim, Rihanna, Lizzo, Adam Cohen, The Lumineers, Taylor Swift, The Beatles, Amy Winehouse, Ingrid Michaelson and Django Reinhardt.

The talent show, direct-ed by Debbie Contini and Stacy Labriola and choreographed by Katie Bissinger, (Continued on next page)
Modern Earth Day at Garrison Institute

On April 24 at 7 p.m., all are invited to a Modern Earth Day Dinner, a convivial meal at the Garrison Institute with hors d’oeuvres, dinner, wine and beer, and featuring environmental journalist and Dot Earth blogger Andrew Revkin. Barred Owl Photos courtesy of Constitution Marsh

Audubon Center and Sanctuary

The Williams Choral Bacardi Falcon Performing Arts Competition not only provides students with scholarship monies to further their studies, it gives them the extraordinary and rare opportunity to perform with an established, well-respected performing arts ensemble.

The competition takes place on Saturday, April 26, beginning at 10 a.m. at Immanuel Lutheran Church, 647 North Main St., in Attillo, The public is invited.

Beacon

CraftyKids with Mill Street Loft at Library

Crafty Kids continues in April. Come create Springtime Gardens with Mill Street Loft from 4 to 5:30 p.m. on Thurs-day, April 24, at Howland Public Library, 335 Main St., Beacon. Students in grades K through fifth will build a mixed media garden using clay, paint, wood, cardboard, and other elements found in nature with a Mill Street Loft artist. Discover what fun it is to see gardens come to life.

Register for this free program by contacting Ginny Figlia at youth@beaconlibrary.org or 845-831-1134, ext. 103. Mill Street Loft is a multi-arts educational center with award winning art programs such as: Dutchess Arts Camp, The Art Institute, Project ABLE and PASSWORD that changes lives through the arts.

Beacon Poet Laureate Laurence Sansone to Read at Howland Library

Listen to the insightful and lyrical poetry of Beacon Poet Laureate Laurence Sansone from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 24, at the Howland Public Library. Sansone will read selections from his Beacon Main Street Poems project as well as a variety of other poetry he has written.

This event is free and no reservations are required. Light refreshments will be served. April is National Poetry Month. To learn more about Sansone’s Beacon Main Street Poems project, go to beaconmainstreetpoems.blogspot.com. To learn more about library events, visit beaconlibrar-y.org and click on Calendar.

TheWilliamsChoralBacardiFalconPerformingArtsCompetition

Stonecrop Gardens in Cold Spring will offer a spring trough-making work- shop from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, May 3, and Sunday, May 4. Cost is $80/ $80 per person, with credit cards accepted prior to the event, or $45 cash or check at the door. A percentage of the dinner price will be donated to Chef’s Collaborative, an organization that promotes sustainable cuisine through education and supports local farmers. Organic Valley, a dairy co-op, will match donations.

WOMSX Call for Artists

In 2014, Window on Main Street invites local artists to participate in the 11th and most spectacular installment of this annual art exhibition. Visit beaconwindows.org for details and to apply.

Game: On. Games are formalized expressions of play, which allow people to go beyond immediate imagination and direct physical activity. Put your creativ-ity to the test by crafting a site-specific installation for WOMSX this summer.

Think of WOMSX as Beacon’s city-wide summer art game. Artists are challenged to create a unique piece of art inspired by and installed in a business along Beacon’s Main Street. To celebrate the 10th year of this public art event, juried awards and prizes will be offered. This year’s event encourages more thoughtful and thorough projects than ever before. Apply early to secure a storefront. Application process in progress. Email windowsonmainstreet@gmail.com.
Library evolution in a digital world

"As a librarian, I can help so many different aspects of people’s lives," McCreery said. "It’s different every day — whoever walks in the door will have a different need. Plus library skills are evolving really quickly and you have to evolve with them, there’s so much technology you have to stay on top of. We offer a lot of computer help here but one charming thing about this library is that we have both worlds — there are people who love books and those who love computers. It’s a great challenge to know that your services will need to expand exponentially outwards. There are also always financial challenges to face in providing what people are demanding. The definition of libraries is evolving — they become real community centers, but people also want to feel that they can access them from home. We have a digital library available 24/7. The main challenge is advocating for support for all the services we offer."

All of the library’s current programs, from the many children’s play sessions to the special holiday sales, the summer reading programs and annual events like the Martin Luther King Jr. Day talks, will continue and will be augmented by new initiatives McCreery hopes to launch. These include a health literacy program, with presentations by nutrition experts and other professionals, as well as a renewed emphasis on the Hudson River — flora and fauna to art, the written word and beyond.

“We have such a wealth of expertise in this area on the Hudson and I’d like to do a series of programs relating to it,” McCreery says. She also envisions using the large expanse of outdoor greenery more, orchestrating a community potluck, getting the children’s garden going again and continuing in the vein of other outdoor programming such as rain barrel building, introduction to geocaching and last year’s visit by denizens of a llama farm.

Asked what she felt was unique about the services we offer.”

“The library is also continuing its extremely popular Project Code Spring workshops. Drawing more and more kids, the excitement is about to rise with the imminent donation, from Dave McCarthy at Tightrope Interactive, of a 3-D printer to be shared between the library, Garrison School and Haldane.

McCreery calls one her goals as library director “to establish more collaboration in the community. Lucille Merry will be doing a story hour at the Farmers’ Market, we’d love to do a free library take-a-book, leave-a-book type of thing, near the Garrison Metro-North platform — things like that.”

McCreery would also like to expand programs for teens, “maybe a gaming night or even a gaming room,” and seniors. “We’re looking at home delivery. There’s a long list of services we’d like to add and it’s mostly a matter of figuring out how to along with keeping up our priorities with all of our patrons.” McCreery also looks forward to working more with Butterfield Library, saying she is “just getting to know them, but already I feel like they’re a great resource for ideas and collaboration.

Above all, McCreery wants to make the library “feel like a home, because it is for some people. I feel really lucky to have landed at this specific library,” she says, “protecting our collection and providing access to it. I’m really excited to start getting the lay of the land, keeping the great things going and expanding — it’s exciting.” Asked if she herself still found time to write, McCreery replied, “I think there will probably be a book about being a librarian someday.”
Walk into any garden center now and you’ll be confronted with a wall of pallets spilling out plastic bags filled with chemicals to dump on everything growing in your yard. Whether you want to make things grow or kill something — plant or insect — there’s a special mix for it, and sometimes you can get all three in one bag. The promise of perfection and all that’s required is a spreader.

Fertilizing isn’t always necessary and over the next few weeks I’ll cover the basics for perennials, vegetable gardens, trees, and shrubs. Since plants get nutrients from soil, the first step is to analyze what’s in your dirt. Soil is affected by many factors, including climate, parent material, topography and climate. Your yard might have several different types of soil with different nutrients and different pH balances. Don’t assume that it’s all the same, but test various patches.

Holy Week and Easter at Graymoor

The Franciscan Friars of the Atonement invite the public to their Holy Week and Easter vigils, prayer services and Masses at Graymoor in Garrison.

Good Friday, April 18, Tenebrae: Office of Readings and Morning Prayer will take place in St. Francis Chapel at 8 a.m. There will be a Celebration of the Lord’s Passion.

Holy Saturday, April 19, Tenebrae: Office of Readings and Morning Prayer will take place in St. Francis Chapel at 8 a.m. There will be a Celebration of the Lord’s Passion.

Easter Sunday, April 20, the Sunrise Service begins at 6:09 a.m. at the Founders’ Tomb. Eucharist is offered at Our Lady of the Atonement Chapel at 11 a.m.

Call 845-424-2111 or email GSLC@atonementfriars.org. The Graymoor Center is located at 1350 Route 9, Garrison.

Making Sense of the Fertilizer Aisle

By Pamela Doan

The pH of the soil, whether it’s acidic or alkaline, determines the availability of nutrients, and soil type, which varies from sand, silt, loam and clay, determines how well the soil will hold water for plants and how much air flows through it. It’s important to pay attention to both.

Once you know what you’re working with in the soil, you can determine what the plants in that spot might need. Commercial fertilizers contain three active ingredients — nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium, designated as N, P and K, and three numbers, such as 5/10/5, indicate the amount of each in the bag. The rest of the bag is made up of inactive ingredients. The rule of thumb is nitrogen for shoots, phosphorus for roots and potassium for flowers and fruits. Organic fertilizers are made from organic material and micronutrients.

When fertilizer is applied incorrectly and in amounts greater than what is needed by plants, it runs off the area or leaches away. Runoff nitrogen has caused the de-nitrification of salt water and phosphorus, which is banned for use on lawns, causes algae to grow in fresh water, depriving fish and plants from oxygen. Consider the environmental consequences before deciding to take that bag of commercial fertilizer home.

Q-and-A

I have a flowerbed on each side of my front porch. It’s a mix of rudbeckia, coneflowers, sunflowers and a few annuals, like coleus. In several years, I’ve never added anything to it and the flowers seem fine, should I add fertilizer anyway? What should I use?

Adding organic matter, like compost, to a flowerbed in the spring is probably all that the perennials need. An inch or two of compost filled in on top of the existing soil, it doesn’t even need to be worked in, can give your plants all the nutrients they need if the soil is relatively healthy, which it sounds like it is. Since several years have passed from the initial planting, testing the soil is a good idea, too. It doesn’t need to be done annually; every three to four years is adequate.

Adding fertilizer would probably overfeed the plants making them leggy and it won’t add to blooms.

No. Poor soil quality will contribute to the plants’ problems, but fertilizer won’t make up for lack of sunlight.

Perennial blooms don’t necessarily need fertilizer.
Kayaks that Fit Like Custom-Made Suits

New business epitomizes craftsmanship

By Michael Turton

IT Cold Spring Custom Kayaks (CSCK) goes on to become a thriving, niche-market business, customers can thank the New York Rangers.

Bernie Kohler and Stefan Carlson, founders of the fledgling enterprise, met in the spring of 2012 at a house party centered on a Rangers Stanley Cup playoff game. Between periods, Carlson learned that Kohler had built a kayak, and asked him to teach him the skills he’d need to do the same — shortening the learning curve Carlson would need if working alone. The two hit it off right away but nothing happened until the following year, when Kohler offered to build kayaks for their friends.

When the conversation again turned to kayaks, Carlson had a proposition for Kohler. “Why don’t we build 10 of them?” he asked. Kohler was intrigued but pointed out that materials alone cost about $1,200 per kayak. “Why don’t we start with four and see what happens?”

Carlson, a local contractor and avid outdoorsman, wanted a chance of pace from building houses, garages, bridges and decks. “I wanted to build something I could keep — and use,” he said.

Anything but an assembly line

CSCK got off the ground officially in August 2013, and is based in a shop on Route 9 between Route 301 and Fishkill Road.

“We’ve built five and one-half kayaks to date,” Kohler said. According to Kohler, their custom-built kayaks each take between 600 and 700 man-hours to produce.

CSCK’s prototype kayak is now on display at Old Souls on Main Street in Cold Spring and is generating rave reviews.

The glossy, cedar boat is so aesthetically pleasing that more than one customer has remarked that they could never put their hands on it.

The Cedar Heaven

So why make a kayak from wood?

“It’s the fiberglass that makes these kayaks so strong,” Kohler said. The fiberglass used is a very thin fabric that is completely invisible once applied to the wooden surface. Carlson said that their boats are anything but fragile. “They’re extremely durable,” he said. “They’re virtually indestructible — and easily repairable.”

CSCK kayaks are made to order and built to suit the person who will paddle them. A number of factors including the kayaker’s height and weight are taken into account. Special needs can also be accommodated. “If someone in a wheelchair wants to kayak, we can build one with outriggers so that it can’t capsize,” Kohler said. “Fishermen use outriggers as well.”

Quality craftsmanship, custom orders and building from scratch come with a price. CSCK kayaks cost “$4,800 to whatever” Kohler said. Visitors are welcome at their shop located in the rear of the building at 3021 Route 9 across from Phat Custom Cycles.

The building was once a restaurant, and Kohler said the couple planned to open a new business there after the kayak business takes off.

Bernie Kohler works on one of CSCK’s “everything from scratch” cedar strip sea kayaks.

DEC Almanac Chronicles Spring’s Arrival

The genesis of the Almanac came in the 1990s as a group of fisherman, hunters, hikers, and environmentalists formed a citizen’s advisory committee for the DEC. Lake recalled that they often spoke before meetings exchanging tales of wildlife sightings, the fish that got away and other outdoor experiences. Lake and others agreed that capturing these stories would add to the public consciousness about the Hudson River Valley.

The effort started out as an annual book but thinking moved toward more frequent use of the received information. Beginning on the vernal equinox March 20 is seen as significant in celebrating renewal or new beginnings. “People are always looking for something interesting to read,” Kohler said.

While the Almanac celebrates the whirl of nature’s turns it does not shy from the melancholy aspects of the encounter with wildlife. Lake mentions a recent report of a dead harp seal found off Croton Point. A Long Island research organization has said they will investigate possible cause of death. Lake believes such mammals enter the river because they are ill. The Arctic-based snowy owl has enjoyed some notoriety with its appearance this winter. But while it is an entrancing bird all puffed up with its feathers, Lake said they are actually starving, driven from their northern habitats in search for food. Many, he said, will die in the Hudson Valley trying to adapt to different foods from the lemmings they historically fed on.

Lemmings are scarce these days in northern regions.

To find the Almanac go to dec.ny.gov.

Photo by M. Turton

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