

The HIGHLANDS Current

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Historic cemeteries
[See Page 16](#)

Beacon Afterschool Program Likely to Move Forward

City parks also up for improvements

By Jeff Simms

The Beacon City Council appears poised to approve a 17-week test run for an afterschool program that would provide daily care and activities for children at three elementary schools in Beacon.

Five of the six council members (Councilperson Peggy Ross was not there) verbally agreed to fund the program during a workshop Tuesday night. An official vote is expected at the council's June 6 meeting.

If approved, the program will launch this September at South Avenue, J.V. Forrestal and Sargent elementary schools and run weekdays from 3:15 until 6 p.m. The schedule — which will be built around a daily theme, such as yoga, music, sports or cooking — will also include homework help and team activities for kids whose parents are busy during the day.

"I am thrilled about it and really grateful to the city for being willing to help the district in this way," said Meredith Heuer, who attended Tuesday's workshop and was elected (Continued on Page 6)



Beacon's South Avenue Park Photo by J. Simms



Memorial Day marchers approach Cold Spring Cemetery.

Photo by Michael Turton

Butterfield Still Under the Microscope

Which legal opinion will prevail?

By Michael Turton

The biggest and most complex development in Cold Spring since the establishment of the West Point Foundry in 1818 still faces what is perhaps its last hurdle. The Butterfield development project was again the focus of the village planning board on May 26, two weeks to the day after a heated meeting broached the same topic.

Other than a less confrontational tone, little had changed as the board again considered what has become a controversial

proposal for a change in use as part of the build-out of the former hospital site.

In an application submitted by Butterfield Realty on April 22, developer Paul Guillaro proposed swapping uses between two buildings. The senior citizen center and post office originally slated for Building No. 2, part of the new construction, would instead move to the Lahey Pavilion, an existing building that currently houses The Medical Center at Cold Spring. The medical facilities in Lahey would move to Building No. 2, a switch that is proving to be not so simple.

The crux of the matter

The core issue is which legal interpretation of the village code will determine how many parking (Continued on Page 3)

Study Cites Putnam Farming Possibilities

Greater local food production possible

(Second in a series on farming)

By Kevin E. Foley

Farming is moving closer to center stage in Putnam County, at least in the minds of policy makers. Officials released a report a few weeks ago on the status and prospects for farming, calling for a greater emphasis on farming as an economic engine for the county. But it will be some time before a significant increase in local food production can be realized given the present relatively small number and size of farms. Still, enthusiasm for the farming idea flows throughout the Keep Putnam Farming report by the Putnam Agricultural and Farmland Protection Board, (PAFPB) a volunteer advisory group to the county government.

The release of the report follows County Executive MaryEllen Odell's state of the county speech in March wherein she cited farming as a growth opportunity to be explored in her declared "year of business development."

Glynwood, the Cold Spring-based non-profit farm organization that serves as an incubator and training group for farming in the Hudson Valley region, advised and assisted PAFPB throughout a two-year process of meeting with and surveying the Putnam farm community.

"Through the efforts of this initiative we have identified active farms in Putnam County so that we can work on strengthening the economic viability of our farms by enhancing the awareness of all our local agricultural products and services for all our residents," said Lauri Taylor, district manager for Putnam Soil and Water Conservation. Taylor provided technical assistance for the study and will direct initiatives arising from the report.

The study, the first of its kind in the county, surveyed in depth 38 farms and makes several observations on the state of Putnam farming including:

- Almost one-third of the farmers who responded indicated they have been in Putnam County for 10 years or less. Most are farmers growing food products (Continued on Page 5)

Bear Sighting!

Sarah Gurland was one of several local residents who spotted a black bear (*Ursus americanus*) on the streets of Cold Spring Wednesday evening, June 1. Gurland first saw the bear in the area of Furnace Street and Marion Ave. She took this photo from her car near the corner of Chestnut and Wall streets. Sightings continued Thursday morning in Nelsonville and along Route 9D at the southern end of Cold Spring. According to the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) an average adult male weighs about 300 pounds while females average about 170 pounds.

Photo by Sarah Gurland



Roots and Shoots

You Say Apple, I Say Crabapple

Help with identifying a fruit tree

By Pamela Doan

There's been a long running discussion in my house about a fruit tree in our front yard. My husband calls it an apple tree; I think it's a crabapple. While the fruit looks like an apple, it's smaller than most apples and that's what I think of as a crabapple. Last summer, my husband and our one-year-old, who loves apples, decided to start eating the fruit from our tree and it wasn't bad tasting. Free food in the yard!

There's still a difference of opinion, though. I first turned to my tree identification materials but couldn't find a definitive answer. As far as fruit goes, a common definition is that a crabapple is just a smaller version of an apple, less than two inches in diameter. To settle the subject, I turned to an apple expert, Josh Morgenthau, the owner of nearby Fishkill Farms where they grow 40 acres of apples and have become a popular tourist destination.

Apples are classified by their Latin name in the genus *Malus*, part of the Rosaceae family along with pear and quince. Morgenthau said, "Any species that are not *Malus domestica* are crabapples. The fruit is much smaller, about the size of a golf ball or marble. They are generally pretty inedible or not good for eating raw because they are high in acidity and low in sugar." Crabapples are also *Malus* but they are considered to be the wild version of the tree, not the domesticated apple that is produced for food.

Morgenthau said, "There's some confusion generally about the topic because

there are a couple dozen species of apples in the world and only one species, *Malus domestica*, singlehandedly accounts for the majority of the apples that we eat." He used the metaphor of dog breeds to describe all the hybrids. There are many different types of dogs and they come in all shapes and sizes as do apples.

Apples aren't grown from seeds. If you planted the seed of a gala apple, for example, the tree wouldn't produce a gala apple. It could be any kind of apple. Apple trees are grafted, instead, to ensure propagation of the cultivar. Scions from a tree are placed onto rootstocks. It's a pretty interesting process that we've developed to maintain a steady supply of one of our most popular fruits.

Typically, trees can be identified by their foliage and bark, but my untrained eye can't tell them apart. Morgenthau said, "I can probably get a sense from looking at the fruit and tree but couldn't tell you how to do it or what to look for." The fruit tree guides I explored didn't have distinguishing information, either. Even a pear tree's leaves look pretty similar to me.

At Fishkill Farms, one of their most popular offerings is called the chestnut crabapple. Morgenthau said, "It complicates the distinction between *Malus domestica* and other species because some varieties of apple are known colloquially as crabapples because they are smaller — one to two inches in diameter." These apples are sweet and good for eating, just not as big as a typical apple. That seems to be the one thing that all the crabapple definitions agreed on: smaller size.

Mainly, crabapple trees are used ornamentally in the landscape. Many varieties have lovely, fragrant flowers at this time of year and they have a nice shape. One



Crabapples are the wild cousin of the apples we grow for food.

Photo by P. Doan

grower's website listed 40 different varieties of crabapple and most of the cultivars produce fruit, albeit small.

Ultimately, does it matter what my tree is? Morgenthau said, "If it tastes good, I would say no. Crabapples have a lot of tannins and can be astringent. If they are sweet and crispy and someone likes eat-

ing them, it doesn't matter. I'd be inclined to guess that they are at least partly or totally *Malus domestica*." Now that I've experienced the challenges of getting a toddler to eat, if she continues to enjoy the fruit from our tree this summer, she can call it whatever she likes and have as much as she wants.



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SCHOOL DISTRICT PUBLIC HEARING

A public hearing, related to the Smart Schools Bond Act Funding, is scheduled at the Haldane Central School District Board of Education Meeting on Tuesday, June 7, 2016 at 7 p.m. in the music room. Our community is encouraged to submit written feedback on this topic. For questions or comments, please email Leah Horn, Technology Integration/Innovation Specialist, at lhorn@haldaneschool.org. To learn more about the Smart Schools Bond Act Guidelines, go to: www.p12.nysed.gov/mgtserv/smart_schools/.

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Butterfield Still Under the Microscope *(from Page 1)*

spaces must be provided at the relocated senior citizen center. Guillaro's attorney Steven Barshov did not attend the meeting but two weeks ago he was emphatic in asserting that "the code is not ambiguous ... It says no additional parking shall be required. It couldn't be clearer than that." In his view "no additional parking" means 35 spaces as identified in the site plan approved last November.

At the May 26 meeting, Guillaro reiterated that argument. "We went through a lengthy SEQRA (State Environmental Quality Review Act). The approval took three years," he said. "This was all evaluated. We addressed all this at that time. We had a parking table and we need to adhere to [it.]" The table he referred to identified 35 parking spaces at Lahey.

Village Attorney John Furst responded with the counterargument, pointing out that the application introduces new uses at Lahey. That, he said, "changes the parking calculations ... The switch of uses triggers a new parking table." Furst said his revised table would require 56 parking spaces.

Parking spaces don't generate revenue, a point not lost to Guillaro. "The only place the spaces [can] come from is for me to reduce the size of my development," he said. "There's nowhere else." He added that the proposed change moves the two uses by only 70 or 80 feet. "It may be an issue code-wise," he said, "but from a practical standpoint it shouldn't be an issue." He suggested that the planning board

ought to reconsider its position and "say what we can do to try and work things out here."

Timing is everything

Timing was also on Guillaro's mind. He asked a number of times about the schedule for moving his application forward. "Whether you approve or disapprove [the application], it's fine with me," Guillaro said. "I need to get to an end result. Are we [saying] the next meeting will resolve something?"

"It shouldn't be more than a couple meetings," Planning Board Chair Matt Francisco replied. "We're going to work as quickly as we can to move forward." He indicated that board members would work "offline," meaning they would discuss the application by email or one-on-one prior to the next meeting. However, any decisions would have to be made in public session, he said.

Mayor Dave Merandy was in attendance and said he planned to meet on May 28 with the lawyers from Rodenhause Chale, the Rhinebeck law firm that is providing the village with a second opinion regarding Furst's and Barshov's differing views. Contacted by *The Current* on June 1, Merandy declined to comment on the outcome of that meeting. Guillaro said that he has also sought a second legal opinion, adding, "there is no way" the village could win if the matter ends up in court.



Paul Guillaro, left, and attorney Steven Barshov at the May 12 meeting

File photo by M. Turton

It always goes back to the code

Numerous questions and opinions related to parking were posed during the nearly two-hour meeting, one in which discussion often wandered in a circular and repetitive fashion. Issues such as the developer's need to demonstrate how shared parking will function on the Butterfield site, the formulae for parking spaces per square foot of building space, non-conforming parking spaces, underground parking, the planning board's ability to issue up to a 20 percent parking waiver, the effect of designating Lahey as a public meeting place and how the amount of seating planned for the senior citizen center might affect the number of parking spaces required. But in the end, just as it had 14 days earlier, it remained clear that a resolution of Barshov's and Furst's starkly contrasting interpretations of the village code will determine what happens

next, or when.

While the May 26 meeting was much less fractious than the previous session, the public comment period did raise some hackles.

Point and counterpoint

Cold Spring resident James Geppner commented that the idea that the senior citizen center and post office planned for Butterfield are "somehow a gift from the developer ... misrepresents everything that has happened over the past few years." He said that there was an opportunity a long time ago to come up with a plan that that would benefit the village widely but that "the village was widely ignored.

There was arm twisting, misrepresentation, lies and every type of bullying."

Geppner described the planning board as having been "immensely reasonable and accommodating" but characterized comments on Butterfield at the county legislature as "outrageous."

When county legislator Barbara Scuccimarra responded that she was offended by Geppner's comments, he retorted, "I'm glad!"

She responded: "Mr. Guillaro offered the senior citizen center and post office at a very reasonable rate" because they are needed in the village. "If we lose the post office to Garrison the impact would be astronomical. [Guillaro] could have walked away from the senior citizen center and put whatever he wanted in there."

She then addressed the board, commenting that it is "making more out of this than it has to" *(Continued on Page 4)*

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NYS Comptroller: Putnam Employee Stole Cash from Consumer Affairs Department

By Holly Toal

The New York State Comptroller's Office released its official report last week that details the "misappropriation of cash receipts" within the Putnam County Consumer Affairs Office, which was the result of an investigation that led to the resignation of the department director and her pleading guilty to theft of county funds.

Jean Noel of Kent resigned after entering a guilty plea on Feb. 22 to the class A misdemeanor charge of petit larceny before Carmel Town Justice Joseph Spofford.

State Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli stated that between January 2012 and February 2014, Noel stole \$4,575 in cash payments from contractors intended to satisfy county-issued fines, including payments made by contractors for conducting various business operations in Putnam County without an appropriate county-issued license.

Noel's attorney, however, maintains that only \$275 in cash was taken, and that the rest of DiNapoli's figure is repayment of salary that she is responsible for, because she was allowed to continue working after she was notified that an investigation was ongoing.

As of March, Noel had repaid \$4,300 and owed another \$275 to fully satisfy restitution, according to the comptroller's report. Noel allegedly would have faced felony grand larceny charges if she did not agree to the plea deal.

As part of a plea agreement, Noel had to terminate her employment with Putnam County and was sentenced to a one-year conditional discharge.

DiNapoli reported several scenarios in which cash was recorded, but could not be accounted for:

In October 2012, while \$780 was recorded in the cash log, only \$280 was taken to the finance department. And in September 2013, \$891 was recorded in the cash log but only \$391 was accounted for; four months later, the remaining \$500 was brought to the finance department, according to the report.

In September 2013, Noel allegedly indicated in the cash log that she was bringing \$1,800 to the Finance Department, which was never deposited. In July 2014, auditors from the Comptroller's Office reportedly met with Noel, when she said she couldn't find the missing funds. However, two weeks later, an employee with the Consumer Affairs Office reported finding an envelope with \$1,800 mixed in with a stack of files that Noel had asked that person to organize.

In June 2013, one unlicensed contractor claimed to have paid a \$250 fine and a \$250 registration fee with five \$100 bills, but no record of the payment was made. A similar complaint was made by another contractor in December 2013.

Noel has remained steadfast in claiming that the investigation was the result of "injustices fabricated by disgruntled employees."

"I stand by my record of more than 25 years of public service and the results achieved," she said in a statement after pleading guilty. "I accepted a plea solely to bring closure to a two-year misdirected, malicious investigation fueled by disgruntled former employees. In the end I decid-

ed I would rather settle and pay \$275 and enjoy my retirement than spend any more of my life and tens of thousands of dollars battling state bureaucrats who were pursuing victory and certainly not justice."

In response to the comptroller's report, the County Executive's office said cash is no longer accepted as a form of payment for fees.

During a Putnam County Legislature Rules Committee meeting last month, Legislator Dini LoBue (R-Mahopac Falls) chided the county's administrative branch for allowing Noel to continue working after her alleged wrongdoings had been exposed, which required her to pay the county back the salary she earned during that time.

"It is my understanding that [Noel] was supposed to vacate the position Dec. 31, 2015" and yet continued to work as director until February. "The person could have been given leave with pay, and why this person was put back into the department where a crime was committed, to me, doesn't make any sense," LoBue said.

Legislator William Gouldman (R-Putnam Valley) expressed frustration over not knowing an investigation was ongoing, and said constituents asked him why legislators didn't know about the investigation prior to the news reports that exposed it.

"I think most of us were blindsided by this," he said. "I didn't find out about it until that evening."

Noel, a former member of the Kent Town Board, was appointed to her county post in 2012 by Putnam County Executive MaryEllen Odell.

Butterfield Still Under the Microscope (from Page 3)

be," also referring to its meeting only once a month. When Francisco corrected her, stating that the all-volunteer committee meets twice a month, she replied, "Well, maybe you should meet more often."

That didn't sit well with Francisco, who admonished Scuccimarra for having described the planning board as "obstructionist" in a recent article in the *Putnam County News & Recorder*. "To suggest [that], or that we have an agenda or ... that we hate senior citizens, to the extent that you convince people of ... these lies, you fray the fabric that makes up this community," Francisco said. "People understand that there's a code to be applied. That's it. There's nothing more."

Planning Board excluded

Earlier on May 26, a meeting initiated by County Executive MaryEllen Odell to discuss Butterfield was held at Philipstown Town Hall. Deputy County Executive Bruce Walker, Scuccimarra, Philipstown Supervisor Richard Shea, town board member Mike Leonard and Merandy attended along with Odell. No one from the Cold Spring Planning Board attended. Contacted by *The Current*, Francisco said he was not asked to take part.

In a June 1 telephone interview Merandy said that nothing significant came out of the meeting. He indicated he will continue to pursue a second legal opinion and hopes to address the issue at the next village board meeting.

Shea was more positive, commenting to *The Current* that "It's always good for municipal officials to sit down and talk." He said discussions included of such issues as traffic and parking at Butterfield along with possible improvements in transportation services for seniors.

Unedited video of the May 26 planning board meeting is available on the village Facebook page.

Beacon Marks Memorial Day



Beacon's Memorial Day Parade

Photo by Jeff Simms

Study Cites Putnam Farming Possibilities *(from Page 1)*

and looking to build their business and take advantage of the increased demand for local products;

- 58 percent of respondents own 20 acres of working farmland or less; several equine farmers report that they are diversifying their farm operations to include other types of live-stock, vegetable and fruit production;
- 50 percent of respondents indicated they provide agri-tourism activities on their farms;
- Importantly, 83 percent of respondents were over the age of 50 years, with 63 percent of these farmers over the age of 60 — suggesting that farmland succession is a pressing issue for this group of farmers. Over 40 percent of farmers also indicated that they are most interested in receiving assistance related to farmland preservation and succession planning.

The survey resulted in several recommendations for future work toward expanding farming, particularly food farming in Putnam. Among them:

- Formalize the Putnam County Farmers network;
- Training, education and technical assistance programs for farmers;
- Solutions to existing needs for processing services in Putnam County;
- Increase and diversify market opportunities for farms;

- Update the Putnam County Agriculture and Farmland Protection program.

From small things

A larger, more detailed study would be needed to determine the full extent of farming in Putnam, Taylor said. She placed the possible number of working farms as defined by the state (at least 7 acres and a minimum income of \$10,000) at about 70.

While acknowledging that the county farming community is modest in size, individuals involved in the study effort told *The Current* that the gathering of the information and bringing farmers together represents a significant step in beginning to realize the potential present in the county.

"The nature of agriculture in the county is changing. It used to be limited to horse farms ... (but) there is more food production than people realize. The purpose of the report is to reveal that aspect," said Sara Grady, VP for programs at Glynwood.

Grady explained that farming is not well understood in Putnam because it is generally not as visible as it would be in a traditional farming community such as those in western New York state. But she said that Putnam was following a national trend toward increased food farming in areas not historically known for it.

Even if relatively small in size, farming can have real economic benefits, according to Grady, given that farmers keep money flowing locally by their employ-

Obituary



James C. Cannon

James C. Cannon, 65, of Garrison, died on May 28, 2016. A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on June 1 at St. Joseph Roman Catholic Church in Somers, with interment at Gate of Heaven Cemetery in Hawthorne.

In lieu of flowers, gifts may be made to The V Foundation for Cancer Research in memory of James C. Cannon. Please include his wife, Julie Cannon (55 Canada Hill Dr., Garrison NY 10524), along with your gift to 14600 Weston Parkway, Cary, NC 27513, or jimmyv.org.

ment of workers and the purchase of local good and services. The report does underscore that Putnam farmers could use better access to feed supplies and processing services to help grow their enterprises.

Future prospects

The release of the report is seen as the first step toward creating a context for more robust farming activity in Putnam. Both Taylor and Grady believe maintaining and growing the farmers' network with periodic meetings and better communications is a key to future success.

The county executive has suggested the county-owned Tilly Foster Farm could be a place where training and other services could be provided, but while discussions

are underway about possibilities, they will depend on available resources. Taylor said having information about farms and available products for Tilly Foster visitors would be helpful.

Grady underscored that with farming now on the radar of planners and policy makers, it will be part of the conversation as the county moves forward and that alone is a milestone event.

NY Alert

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

PHILIPSTOWN PLANNING BOARD Public Hearing - June 16, 2016

The Philipstown Planning Board for the Town of Philipstown, New York, will hold a public hearing on Thursday, June 16, 2016 starting at 7:30 p.m. at the Butterfield Library on Morris Avenue in Cold Spring, New York, to consider the following application:

CF Diversified Corp/Olspan LLC, NYS Route 9 & Vineyard Road, Cold Spring, New York (TM# 38.-3-24.1) — The application represents a request for a lot line adjustment between 2 parcels totaling 72.909 acres along the east side of NYS Route 9, at Vineyard Road (a private road a/k/a "Roundhill Road"). The parcels are situated in a OC (Office/Commercial/Industry Mixed-Use) Zoning District. The Olspan LLC lot is currently developed with a commercial use. The CF Diversified Corp. lot is currently vacant and includes the private roadway.

It is proposed to transfer 0.498 acres from the larger (CF Diversified) lot to the smaller (Olspan LLC) parcel, which would make lot A-1a 66.911 acres, while lot A-2a will become 5.998 acres. Both lots meet all required bulk dimensional requirements. No new construction activities are planned.

At said hearing all persons will have the right to be heard. Copies of the application, plat map, and other related materials may be seen in the Office of the Planning Board at the Philipstown Town Hall.

Dated at Philipstown, New York, this 23rd day of May, 2016.
Anthony Merante, Chairman

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT A PUBLIC HEARING WILL BE HELD BY THE ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

of the Town of Philipstown on Monday, June 13, 2016 at 7:30 p.m. at the Philipstown Hall, 238 Main Street, Cold Spring, New York, to hear the following appeal:

Stephen C. Flavin, 51 Indian Brook Road, Garrison, New York, TM# 49.-1-17. Appeal # 894. The applicant is seeking a special use permit under section 175-63A of the Town Code for the construction of a conforming accessory structure with an accessory apartment on a legally non-conforming lot under section 175-12C of the Town Code.

Dated: May 17, 2016

Robert Dee, Chairman, Town of Philipstown Zoning Board of Appeals.

TOWN BOARD MEETING CHANGE

The monthly Philipstown Town Board Meeting
has been rescheduled
from June 2, 2016 to June 9, 2016.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The Village of Cold Spring is seeking residents to serve on the Zoning Board of Appeals or the Parking Committee.

Interested parties should send a letter of interest and resume to Mayor Dave Merandy, 85 Main Street, Cold Spring, NY or via email to vcscclerk@bestweb.net.

Beacon Afterschool Program Likely to Move Forward *(from Page 1)*

to the Beacon City Board of Education last month. “I really hope we can expand this program to the middle and high school as soon as possible. It’s another opportunity to enrich students’ lives and help build lifelong learners.”

Conceived by Beacon Recreation Director Mark Price, the program will cost around \$13 per day and is likely to include some structure for financial aid for those who need it. At a cost to the city of about \$105,000 for a 17-week trial from September to December, the program will break even if a minimum of 35 children participate at each school.

“I’m very confident that we’re going to have ample children using the program,” Price said. “I can’t imagine it not.”

Online and written surveys taken in recent weeks showed overwhelming support from the community, he said.

Price estimates that the program should bring in around \$115,133 against \$104,763 in costs, which include hiring a

full-time supervisor and part-time administrative assistant. If the program performs well, he’ll then ask the council to approve around \$260,000 in funding for 2017 as well.

On Tuesday, the council members were vocal in their support of the program.

“I think it’s going to have a valuable benefit to the community at large,” said George Mansfield, who cited studies showing the positive impacts such programs have had on children and local economies. “That’s why I’m willing to take whatever minimal risk there is with taxpayer money.”

In time, Price said, the city could expand the program to include summer camps and other offerings, which would provide year-round revenue to further offset costs.

“It would be the perfect transition, I think, for the department,” he said, “to bring those kids in from the after-school programs into summer programs. That’s the first expansion in my mind, once we have established programming.”

Parks projects coming

The recreation department is also gearing up for capital projects that will improve several Beacon parks.

Using \$60,000 in Community Development Block Grant funds, along with approximately \$36,000 from the city’s recreation budget, a new playground structure and pavilion will be installed at South Avenue Park this fall.

In addition, the basketball and tennis courts will



Tennis courts at Beacon's South Avenue Park

Photo by J. Simms

be resurfaced at South Avenue, restroom facilities will be rehabbed at Memorial and Green Street parks, and a new pavilion will be added at Memorial Park, Price said. Those projects will be funded by the recreation budget, which is supported by fees for new development in Beacon.

The basketball and tennis courts, as well as the restroom rehabs, should be finished this month. The new Memorial Park pavilion is also scheduled for the fall.

“We have a 10-year plan for rehabbing what we have, and I’m hopeful to add some (new facilities) as well. It’s all getting better,” Price said.

He added that in time the city would like to create a “discoverable trail” of play areas at South Avenue, and hopefully this year’s grant award will create some momentum in that direction.

“This was the first time that we got a pretty good chunk of (grant) money for parks in my eight years here,” Price said. “I’m hopeful we can start this year and then continue to build and add a little more to it.”



PHILIPSTOWN
DEPOT THEATRE

Don't miss the boat! Just five more performances of **HMS Pinafore** at Philipstown Depot Theatre:
June 3 & 4, 8 p.m. • June 5, 3 p.m.
June 11, 7:30 p.m. • June 12, 2 p.m.

Depot Docs presents: **Mavis!**
June 17, 7:30 p.m.
 followed by Q&A with the director Jessica Edwards and editor Amy Foote

Music Tracks: **Tony Caroleo and Tannersville**
June 25, 8 p.m.
 Auditions for summer teen production of **Damn Yankees**
June 25, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

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The Calendar

And The Tony Could Go To: Jennifer Simard

In comedy you must throw, pass and know when to hold the ball to let your partner hold the light

By Alison Rooney

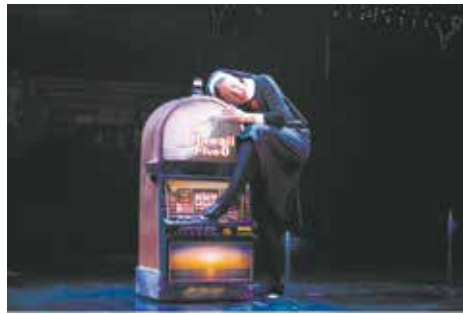
Jennifer Simard is living the dream right now, but her feet are planted firmly in the reality which supports that dream. After over two decades spent as a working actress, Simard has been nominated for a Tony Award for best featured actress in a musical for her portrayal of a gambling-addicted nun, Sister Mary Downy, in *Disaster!* Topping off the double rewards of being both a critical and audience favorite, the Tony excitement was tempered by the earlier than anticipated closing of the show itself, the vicissitudes of show business in their full display.

Still, Simard, who began rehearsals for *Disaster!* as one of the then-lesser-known cast members, emerged as, well, if not quite the understudy who came out the star — she has four Drama Desk nomina-

tions, has sung on about 10 cast albums, and appeared on Broadway previously in *Shrek the Musical*, *The Putnam County Spelling Bee* and *Sister Act! the Musical* (apparently if there's a show with either 'the Musical' or an exclamation point, or both, Simard's in it) — the most talked about, particularly in a scene which defies its description of "a nun caressing a slot machine while singing the '70s disco hit *Never Can Say Goodbye*."

Putting her own touches on a characterization

Lest anyone think Simard, who lives in Cold Spring, is portraying this nun in



Jennifer Simard in *Disaster!*

Photo by Jeremy Daniel



Jennifer Simard

Photo by Jordan Matter

a mean-spirited or ill-considered way, the opposite is true. "A nun is a stock role for a character actress, and I've enjoyed playing them before, but this nun is so different, so dark. It's been fun to play

such a great character on stage, adding layers to her. She is so many other things, and I came to believe that she became a nun because she thought it would cure her gambling (Continued on Page 9)



Poet Natalie Diaz

Photo by Cybele Knowles



Poet Patricia Smith

Photo by Beowulf Sheehan, courtesy of Blueflower Arts



Novelist Bethany Ball

Photo by Elena Siebert

Spoken Word Poets Patricia Smith and Natalie Diaz Read at Sunset Series

They are joined by novelist Bethany Ball in a free reading and reception

By Alison Rooney

That haven for the spoken word in Philipstown, the Sunset Reading Series (SRS), its title a slight misnomer for its always-at-4 p.m.-on-a-Sunday starting time, makes a late spring return on June 12 when a trio of authors, poets

Patricia Smith and Natalie Diaz and writer Bethany Ball, speak their work at Cold Spring's Chapel Restoration. As with all of the SRS readings, the public is invited at no charge, and a wine and cheese reception follows, in the lovely

setting overlooking the lapping waters of the Hudson. This year's readings are being organized by co-founder Rebekah Tighe in association with poet and Sarah Lawrence Professor Jeff McDaniel, who is standing in for (Continued on Page 10)

ONGOING

Gallery Shows

highlandscurrent.com/galleries

FRIDAY, JUNE 3

Group Show: *Improvisation* (Opening)

6 – 9 p.m. Gallery 66 NY
66 Main St., Cold Spring
845-809-5838 | gallery66ny.com

Group Show: *Works on Paper* (Opening)

6 – 8 p.m. Buster Levi Gallery
121 Main St., Cold Spring
845-809-5145 | busterlevigallery.com

Dragonfly Story Hour for Adults

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

Calling All Poets

8 – 10 p.m. Center for Creative Education
464 Main St., Beacon
914-474-7758 | callingallpoets.net

Gilbert and Sullivan's *H.M.S. Pinafore*

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

SATURDAY, JUNE 4

Snapping Turtle Walk

7:30 a.m. Boscobel | 1601 Route 9D, Cold Spring
845-265-3638 | boscobel.org

5th Annual Open House & Car Show

9 a.m. – 6 p.m. Dutchess County Airport
263 New Hackensack Road, Wappingers Falls
845-463-6000 | dutchessny.gov

Putnam County Sheriff Voluntary**Vessel Inspection**

9 a.m. – 1 p.m. Garrison Yacht Club
Garrison's Landing, Garrison
845-225-4300 x266 | putnamsheriff.com

Butterflies and Bugs Hike for Tots

10 a.m. Ann Odell Butterfly Garden
Fahnestock State Park | 845-424-3358 | hhlt.org

Putnam Secret Garden Tour

10 a.m. – 4 p.m. | putnamsecretgardentour.com

Starlab Inflatable Planetarium (ages 4+)

10 & 11 a.m. & Noon. Boscobel | Details above

Free Guided History Tour

11 a.m. West Point Foundry Preserve
80 Kemble Ave., Cold Spring
845-473-4440 x238 | scenichudson.org

Open Studios

Noon – 5 p.m. Peekskill
peekskillartsalliance.org

Calendar Highlights

For upcoming events visit highlandscurrent.com

Send event listings to calendar@highlandscurrent.com

Open House

12:30 – 3:30 p.m. Chapel Restoration
45 Market St., Cold Spring
845-265-5537 | chapelrestoration.org

Hudson Valley Cider/Cheese Tasting & Market

1 – 4 p.m. Basilica Hudson
110 South Front St., Hudson | ciderweekhv.org

**Putnam County Sheriff Voluntary
Vessel Inspection**

1 – 4 p.m. Oscawana Lake Marina
96 Dunderberg Road, Putnam Valley
845-225-4300 x266 | putnamsheriff.com

Ballet Arts Studio Presents *Moving Images*

2 & 6:30 p.m. Bardavon | 35 Market St.,
Poughkeepsie | 845-473-2072 | bardavon.org

Beacon Culinary Crawl Tour

2 p.m. Main and Cross streets
845-249-6129 | hudsonvalleyfoodtours.com

Artist's Talk with Gabe Brown

3 p.m. Matteawan Gallery | 436 Main St., Beacon
845-440-7901 | matteawan.com

Avery Danziger: *Seeking Permanence* (Opening)

3 – 5 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
477 Main St., Beacon
845-765-3012 | howlandculturalcenter.org

An Evening with Theodore Roosevelt

5 p.m. Mount Gulian Historic Site
145 Sterling St., Beacon
845-831-8172 | mountgulian.org

HVSF 30th Anniversary Gala

5 p.m. Boscobel | 1601 Route 9D, Cold Spring
845-265-3638 | hvshakespeare.org

America

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

East Coast Jazz Trio

8 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
477 Main St., Beacon
845-765-3012 | howlandculturalcenter.org

Gilbert and Sullivan's *H.M.S. Pinafore*

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

Jay Ungar and Molly Mason

8 p.m. Tompkins Corners Cultural Center
729 Peekskill Hollow Road, Putnam Valley
845-528-7280 | tompkinscorners.org

SUNDAY, JUNE 5

Desmond-Fish Library closed**23rd Annual Fine Art & Craft Fair**

10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Main St., Fishkill
fishkillbusinessassociation.com

Big Truck Day

11 a.m. – 3 p.m. Butterfield Library
10 Morris Ave., Cold Spring
845-265-3040 | butterfieldlibrary.org

KFest Music Festival

Noon. Dutchess County Stadium
1500 Route 9D, Wappingers Falls | k104online.com

Open Studios

Noon – 5 p.m. Peekskill | peekskillartsalliance.org

Volunteer Dirt Day: Weed Wars

1-3 p.m. Glynwood Farm
362 Glynwood Road, Cold Spring
845-265-3338 | glynwood.org

Wildflower Walk and Book Signing

1:30 p.m. Manitoaga | 584 Route 9D, Garrison
845-424-3812 | visitmanitoga.org

Gilbert and Sullivan's *H.M.S. Pinafore*

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

Hudson Highlands Land Trust Open House

4 – 6:30 p.m. Winter Hill | 20 Nazareth Way, Garrison
845-424-3358 x7 | hhlt.org

Newburgh Symphonic Choral

4 p.m. St. George's Church
105 Grand St., Newburgh | newburghsymphony.org

Anita Merando (Jazz)

5 – 8 p.m. Whistling Willie's | 184 Main St., Cold Spring | 845-265-2012 | whistlingwillies.com

Interfaith Solidarity Walk

5:30 p.m. Walkway Over the Hudson, Poughkeepsie
845-471-7333 | dutchesscountyinterfaith.org
7:15 p.m. Vegetarian Potluck | First Evangelical
Lutheran Church | 25 Mill St., Poughkeepsie

MONDAY, JUNE 6

Spanish Children's Story Hour (ages 0-5)

9:45 a.m. Howland Public Library
313 Main St., Beacon
845-831-1134 | beaconlibrary.org

Garrison Fire District Meeting

7 p.m. Garrison Volunteer Fire Company
1616 Route 9, Garrison
845-424-4406 | garrisonfd.org

TUESDAY, JUNE 7

Yoga with Kathie Scanlon (First Session)

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

Coloring for Enjoyment & Creativity (Adults)

10:30 a.m. Butterfield Library | Details under Friday

New Moms & Infants Group

11 a.m. – 1 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library
472 Route 403, Garrison
Email whiteside.ks@gmail.com

Speed Up Your PC Workshop

6:30 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library
472 Route 403, Garrison
845-424-3020 | desmondfishlibrary.org

Putnam County Legislature

7 p.m. Historic Courthouse | 44 Gleneida Ave.
Carmel | 845-208-7800 | putnamcountyny.com

Haldane School Board

7 p.m. Haldane School (Music Room)
15 Craigsides Drive, Cold Spring
845-265-9254 | haldaneschool.org

HVSF: *As You Like It* (Preview)

7:30 p.m. Boscobel | 1601 Route 9D, Cold Spring
845-265-3638 | hvshakespeare.org

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 8

Senior Bus Trip to Fishkill

10 a.m. Chestnut Ridge, Cold Spring
845-424-4618 | philipstownrecreation.com

Build Your Own Brushbot (grades 3-5)

3:30 p.m. Butterfield Library | 10 Morris Ave., Cold Spring | 845-265-3040 | butterfieldlibrary.org

Mariposa & The Saint

7 p.m. Beacon Hebrew Alliance | 331 Verplanck Ave., Beacon | juliastealeallen.com/portfolio/mariposa

HVSF: *Macbeth* (Preview)

7:30 p.m. Boscobel | See details under Tuesday.

THURSDAY, JUNE 9

Senior Trip to Bronx Botanical Gardens

9 a.m. Chestnut Ridge, Cold Spring
845-424-4618 | philipstownrecreation.com

Student Exhibit (Opening)

6 – 8 p.m. Hudson Valley Center for Contemporary Art
1701 Main St., Peekskill | 914-788-0100 | hvcca.org

Introduction to Mindfulness Meditation

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

HVSF: *Measure for Measure* (Preview)

7:30 p.m. Boscobel | See details under Tuesday.

Philipstown Board Meeting

7:30 p.m. Town Hall | 238 Main St., Cold Spring
845-265-3329 | philipstown.com

Rescheduled from June 2.

FRIDAY, JUNE 10

***The Government Inspector* by Nikolai Gogol**

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

***Dear President Obama* (Documentary, 2016)**

7:30 p.m. First Presbyterian Church | 50 Liberty St., Beacon | moviesthatmatterbeacon.org

HVSF: *As You Like It* (Preview)

7:30 p.m. Boscobel | See details under Tuesday.

Paul Reiser (Comedy)

8 p.m. Paramount Hudson Valley
See details under Saturday.



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And The Tony Could Go To: Jennifer Simard (from Page 7)

addiction, which it didn't." Simard, who has been involved with *Disaster!* since its off-Broadway run in 2013, was able to shape her character, with the encouragement of the show's creators, Seth Rudetsky and Jack Plotkin, whom she describes as "the best kinds of collaborators in that they were secure and open to new ideas. They allowed me to put some frosting on what was already a great, gooey cake. For instance, I kept adding moments where, from the most gentle of brushes, she kept falling down: great physical comedy bits."

The interplay with her fellow comedic performers was a highlight of performing in *Disaster!* for Simard. "In comedy you must throw, pass and know when to hold the ball to let your partner hold the light. Selfishness is not good for anyone. One person wins, we all win. In this show, people had nothing to prove. They couldn't have been happier for my success and that's a lesson I hope to remember when I'm in that position."

Type-casting

One of the best things about portraying Sister Mary for Simard was that she got an opportunity to originate a role in a new production, something which happens rarely. Asked what her dream roles might be, she was quick to respond with "roles that have yet to be written. I love new work." Having a clear-eyed

sense of self has served Simard well since her career began. After growing up in New Hampshire, she briefly attended The Boston Conservatory but left partway through because she was already getting plenty of professional work, embarking on a career path which, even at the outset, saw her performing in many revues and satirical pieces, putting her talents at impersonating a wide variety of 'types' to good use.

From a young age, Simard knew what she might be and, more specifically, what she probably wouldn't be, in terms of casting. "Even in high school, when I watched *Rear Window* I never thought I'd be Grace Kelly, I knew I'd be Thelma Ritter," she explains, continuing, "As an actor you can get into trouble with yourself — the competition is too tough, so illusions are no good. There are so many people as or more talented than you. That said, you don't want others to limit your belief in yourself. Sometimes you have to convince others if it's something you know you can do. The longer you have a relationship with casting directors, the better. Once in a blue moon you can break the mold and change opinions, but it's rare. Because I'm in between a leading lady and a character actress — I'm attractive enough to play the leading lady but I'm unusual enough to look or sound like different types, it's sometimes helped and other times not."

"Sometimes you're going to lose the role to someone who looks more the way the character is imagined. But breaking through to get to play a role you might not have been considered for is a great joy."

Always a limited-run engagement, *Disaster!*, though popular with the audiences which did come to see it, struggled to expand on that audience. Citing the location of the Nederlander Theater (it's the southernmost of Broadway houses, on 41st Street, away from a lot of passing-by potential ticket-buying foot traffic), Simard calls it "always a difficulty alchemy as to what makes shows sell. The good thing is that one cause is that Broadway as a whole is thriving, and theaters are needed." That's ultimately good news for both Simard and her husband, who works as a stagehand. Fittingly, they first met during a production of *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change*. "He has a bit more stability. His role as the primary provider in our home has helped me achieve my artistic goals," Simard says.

A move to Cold Spring

The two moved to Cold Spring around a year and a half ago, after spending "10 happy years living in Washington Heights." They were drawn to the area partially because of the ability to commute fairly easily into the city and also because West Point, from which one of Simard's two brothers graduated, is a place of great sentiment for her family, an increasingly poignant one since her

mother's passing not long ago. "Having a touchstone to childhood roots is very appealing, and it's probably the main reason we're here." After moving to the area, Simard was briefly a member of the Cold Spring Historic District Review Board, before having to resign because of her increasing work commitments. "I was happy to volunteer; we need to have a healthy appreciation of what's here. The 19th-century infrastructure, things like having train tracks bisecting the village, is rare in America and should be valued and cherished. We also love and appreciate it for its beauty."

Simard's next job is in the "can't talk about it yet" stage, but in the meantime, there is this time to savor. A groundswell campaign by her peers, including such Broadway notables as Audra MacDonald, to convince the Tony Awards producers to include Simard's showstopper number in the June 12 telecast, is still underway, something that moves Simard deeply. "It's been a shock; it really took off. The best part of this campaign has been having the love and respect of one's peers — it makes me feel like weeping. In a more than 20-year career it's feeling like your community is going 'Hey, we love you for who you are; you are enough.' I've hit some kind of jackpot just from this love. I've won something even greater." In this heady ride, Simard is "trying to enjoy it all — it'll be over in a blink."

As for what she'll be wearing on the big night, Simard was succinct and sly: "Clothes. I'll be wearing clothes."



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Spoken Word Poets Patricia Smith and Natalie Diaz Read at Sunset Series (from Page 7)

the other co-founder, Ivy Meeropol, who is otherwise engaged with her duties on the National Geographic Channel's "Years of Living Dangerously" documentary series, which explores human impacts of climate change on Americans and others around the world.

This will be the first time that Smith and Diaz have read together, something which surprises McDaniel, because he "would have expected them to have performed together in terms of their popularity at this moment — they both get a lot of attention. We lucked out, schedule-wise. Both routinely get flown across the country to do readings."

Smith has been at it far longer. A four-time National Poetry Slam Champion — the most successful in that competition's history, she was a 2008 National Book Award finalist for her book *Blood Dazzler*, which, using a variety of poetic forms, chronicled the experience of Hurricane Katrina through disparate voices, including those of nursing home patients, an abandoned dog, politicians and the hurricane itself. *Blood Dazzler* was also designated one of National Public Radio's (NPR) Top Books of 2008. Her other collections include *Teahouse of the Almighty* and *Shoulda Been Jimi Savannah*, which won the 2014 Rebekah

Bobbitt Prize from the Library of Congress (for the most distinguished book of poetry published in the previous two years) and the 2013 Academy of American Poets Lenore Marshall Poetry Prize (for the most outstanding book of poetry published in the previous year). Reflective of her position as a tenured professor at the College of Staten Island, Smith curated *Staten Island Noir*, which featured other writers' takes on that borough. Other acknowledgments include the National Poetry Series, two Pushcart Prizes and MacDowell and Yaddo fellowships.

"More so than any other poet in America, Smith has bridged the gap between page and stage," McDaniel says. "She started out doing spoken word at the Green Mill, a jazz club in Chicago. She is a master of persona poems, written in a wide range of voices. Both she and Diaz have a deep interest in social justice that comes through in their work. Both also write about family and the challenges of family with nuance and deep feeling. They both also grew out of Walt Whitman."

Diaz, who was a 2015/16 Lewis Center Hodder Fellow at Princeton, was born and raised on the Fort Mojave Indian Reservation in Needles, California. She has since lived in Mohave Valley, Arizona where she directs a language revitalization program at the Institute of Ameri-

can Indian Arts in Fort Mohave, working with the last remaining speakers of Mojave to teach and revitalize that language. Her debut collection of poems, *When My Brother Was An Aztec*, was published in 2012 and, in English, Spanish and Mojave imagery and words, examined the dynamics of a family struggling with one member's addiction to meth, in the context of contemporary and traditional tribal life.

Diaz has been awarded a 2013 Pushcart Prize, the Bread Loaf 2012 Louis Untermeyer Scholarship in Poetry, the 2012 Native Arts and Cultures Foundation Literature Fellowship, and a 2012 Lannan Literary Fellowship and Residency. Diaz is at work on her second collection of poems.

McDaniel calls Diaz "a performer too, but in a different way: she played Division I basketball at Old Dominion and played professionally overseas. Often, before a reading, she will go to a gym and shoot buckets, calling it her 'anti-depression medication.' We're hoping to have her play here, at Mayor's Park or at the Rec Center." McDaniel notes that both Smith and Diaz are lovers of this area and want to make a weekend out of it. "More time in the community for them could really work out well, with the river flowing both ways."

The two poets will be joined by novelist Bethany Ball, whose first book *(Continued on next page)*



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**Alice Through
the Looking Glass** (PG)

FRI 1:45 4:30 7:15, SAT 12:00 2:45

5:30 8:15, SUN 1:15 4:15 7:15

MON 7:15, TUE 1:15 4:15 7:15

WED & THU 7:15

Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles:

Out of the Shadows (PG13)

FRI 2:30 5:30 8:15, SAT 12:45 3:30

6:15 9:00, SUN 1:30 4:30 7:30

MON 7:30, TUE 1:30 4:30 7:30

WED & THU 7:30

X-Men: Apocalypse (PG13)

FRI 2:00 5:15 8:30, SAT 11:45 3:00

6:30 9:45, SUN 12:30 3:45 7:00

MON 7:00, TUE 12:30 3:45 7:00

WED & THU 7:00

Studio 6 ~ Classic Film

Three Came Home (NR)

(1950) with Claudette Colbert

MON (June 6) 2:00

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Spoken Word Poets Read at Sunset Series *(from previous page)*

will be published by Grove Atlantic in 2017. An excerpt from it was published in *Bomb* magazine in May 2014. McDaniel participated in a reading with Ball recently and listened to her read "an incredible story about adultery. I thought it would be a perfect fit on this bill, in part because of the economy of her language, how she gets to the heart of the matter. That story, *The Housewife*, was published in the Spring 2015 edition of the *American Literary Review*. (Those so inclined can read it online before or after the reading.) Born and raised in Detroit,

Ball now lives in New York with her family.

There will be at least two, possibly three, more readings this year, including renowned poet and president of the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation Edward Hirsch, who will appear in October.

The Chapel Restoration is located adjacent to the Cold Spring Metro-North station, and free parking is available there over the weekends. Donations supporting the Sunset Series are gratefully accepted at the event.

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Share news and announcements with the readers of *The Highlands Current*. To submit your upcoming events and announcements for consideration in our Community Briefs section (in print and online) submit a text-only press release (250 words or less) along with a separately attached high-resolution photograph to arts@highlandscurrent.com.



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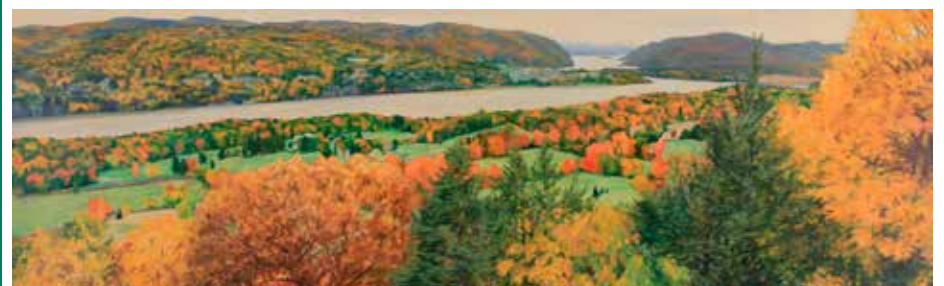
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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Cold Spring to Flush Hydrants

Will take place overnight June 5 to 10

The Cold Spring Water Department plans to flush hydrants in its entire distribution system beginning Sunday, June 5. The flush will take place from 9 p.m. to 4 a.m. through Friday, June 10. Residents may notice periods of little or no water pressure during the hours of the flush and discoloration each morning thereafter. They are advised to run their cold water taps until clear.

The department also will be performing fire-flow testing in many areas of the village from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., from Tuesday, June 7, to Thursday, June 9. This flow data will be used by the Insurance Services Office to calculate Fire Protection ratings in the district. This may also cause periods of low pressure and discoloration, but it is being planned to coincide with the flush in order to minimize its effects.

Six Bands, Six Genres,
Six Sculptures

Storm King to host art and music fest

In a first-time collaboration, Storm King Art Center will partner with Orange County's Ferry Godmother Productions to present a day of art and music on Saturday, June 11, with six bands playing six genres (country, swing, jazz, world, oldies



Jason Casterlin will perform country music at the Storm King fest on June 11.

Photo provided

and rock) at six locations throughout the Art Center's 500-acre site.

The event, which takes place from noon to 6 p.m., is included with regular Storm King Admission. Tickets are \$12, or \$10 if purchased online before June 6 (children ages 4 and younger are free) at sixbands.eventbrite.com. Visitors are encouraged to bring portable chairs. The rain date is Sunday, June 12. Storm King is located at 1 Museum Road in New Windsor.

Golf Outing to Benefit
Support Connection

*Scramble set for June 15
at The Garrison*

The 11th annual golf outing to benefit Support Connection will take place at The Garrison on Sunday, June 15. The Yorktown Heights-based organization provides emotional, social and educational support ser-

vices to women, their families and friends affected by breast and ovarian cancer.

Hosted by Club Fit, the tournament is a shotgun scramble; each player in a four-some hits a shot, then proceeds to the location of the best shot and hits from there. The day begins with registration and breakfast at 8:30 a.m. Play begins at 10 a.m. The cost to participate in the tournament is \$225 per golfer or \$900 per foursome. The cost is \$75 to attend only the evening cocktail hour, dinner reception and award ceremony.

For more information, visit supportconnection.org/golf-outing. The Garrison is located at 2015 Route 9 in Garrison.

Yoga with a View Begins
at Boscobel

First session is Monday, June 13

The popular Yoga with a View program at Boscobel begins at 6 p.m. on Monday, June 13. Taught by Ellen Forman, this class fits the needs of all levels, from beginner to expert. It continues weekly through Monday, Sept. 5, although there is no class on July 4.

The walk-in fee is \$18, with a 10 percent discount for Friends of Boscobel members and multi-class packages are available at boscobel.org/events/yoga-with-a-view. Attendees are encouraged to bring their own mats and water.

Become a Master
Gardener Volunteer

Interviews begin soon

The Cornell Cooperative Extension of Putnam County plans to begin interviews in June for its Master Gardener Volunteer program. Volunteers teach classes, answer questions at farmers markets and help homeowners identify insects and solve pest problems on the horticulture hotline.

Training, which begins Sept. 7, involves one full day weekly for 12 weeks. Classes are conducted by members of the Cornell University faculty, Cornell Cooperative Extension educators, members of the industry and senior Master Gardeners Volunteers. Trainees receive a resource manual that contains the texts for each class plus materials on ecological lawn care, pruning trees and shrubs and tree identification. The course fee is \$375.

Each Master Gardener Volunteer makes a commitment to 30 hours per year of volunteer activity for the Cornell Cooperative Extension of Putnam County's Environmental Horticulture and Natural Resources educational initiatives. For more information or to receive an application packet, contact Kate Everitt at 845-278-6738.

Visit **highlandscurrent.com** for news updates and latest information.

HVSF to Hold Playwriting
Workshops

Preparation for short play "bake-off"

The Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival will host free community playwriting workshops on Saturday, June 11 (1 to 3 p.m.) and Sunday, June 12 (2 to 4 p.m.) at St. Philip's Church in Garrison.

The workshops will feature exercises to present the basics of playwriting and storytelling. All participants will be invited to submit a short play to be considered for the "Our Town Community Bake-Off: An Evening of Short Plays" performed by professional actors on Aug. 11 at the Philipstown Depot Theatre in Garrison as part of the HVSF2 reading series.

Created by playwright Paula Vogel, a Bake-Off is a communal event in which writers are given a random list of "ingredients" to incorporate into their play, e.g., a kitchen sink, a front porch, a withheld secret. The ingredients for the Our Town Bake-Off will be revealed at the playwriting workshops. Submissions will be due July 5.

Adults and children ages 11 and older are welcome. Bring a notebook and a pen or pencil. To reserve a spot, contact Emily Knapp at eknapp@hvshakespeare.org or 845-809-5750, ext. 20.

Chase Handles First Case

Sheriff K-9 assists lost hiker

The newest member of the Putnam County Sheriff's Office, K-9 Chase, and his handler, Criminal Investigator Randel Hill, recorded their first official, successful track on Tuesday, May 24. Chase is an 18-month old bloodhound who recently completed his training.

Chase and Hill were called at about 8:40 p.m. to assist members of the New York State Police who responded to a hiker who called 911 after she realized she had become lost in a wooded area of the Michael Ciaiola Conservation Area in Patterson. Chase picked up the hiker's scent from her vehicle on Stage Coach Road. Hampered by the rain and (Continued on next page)



Chase with his handler, Criminal Investigator Randel Hill

Photo provided

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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

darkness, not to mention an errant black bear, Chase nevertheless led Hill to the woman after a mile-long hike into the woods.

The department has set up a Facebook page for Chase at facebook.com/K9Chase.

Registration Open for Football and Cheer

Philipstown Hawks begin practice Aug. 1

Registration has begun for the fall season of Philipstown Hawks Football and Cheer for boys and girls entering grades K to 6. The Hawks have four teams: flag football for grades K-2, tackle football for grades 3-4, tackle football for grades 5-6 and cheerleading for grades K-6.

The fees are \$155 for tackle and \$105 for flag football or cheer through July 1, after which prices increase. Practices for all teams begin Aug. 1. To register, visit eteamz.com/philipstownhawks. For more information, email Hawks President Daniel Miller at footballhawks@gmail.com

The Hawks will also host a week-long youth football camp for players in grades 4 to 7 at the Haldane field starting June 13; sign up with Philipstown Recreation by calling 845-424-4618.

Practice Mindfulness

Library to host intro workshop

In advance of their upcoming six-week Mindfulness Meditation course at the Desmond-Fish Library, Ann Herington and Rick Steinberg are offering an hour-long introductory workshop at 7 p.m. on Thursday, June 9 and again at 2 p.m. on Saturday, June 11.

Herington is a certified Mindfulness Meditation teacher and a recent transplant to Cold Spring. Steinberg is a retired holistic physician who studied and taught mind-body medicine and yoga. He has sustained a regular meditation practice for more than 20 years that has included many silent retreats with teachers of multiple disciplines and orientations.

The library is located at 472 Route 403 in Garrison.

Wonderland as Futuristic Ballet

Poughkeepsie troupe to perform classic

On Saturday, June 11, the Poughkeepsie City Ballet, featuring students from the New York Academy of Ballet, will present its futuristic, steampunk-infused interpretation of the fantastical world of Wonderland imagined by Lewis Carroll 150 years ago. Act II features a Jabberwocky Battle choreographed by Steve Rooks, former principal dancer with the Martha Graham Dance Company.

Audience members are invited to dress as *Alice in Wonderland* characters. A



Cast members from *Alice in Wonderland*

Photo by Robert L. Furlong

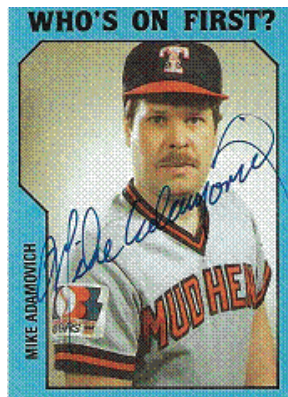
prize for best costume will be awarded during intermission at both performances, which take place at 2 and 6:30 p.m. For tickets, visit bardavon.org or call 845-473-2072. Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$12 for seniors, students and veterans.

Collecting Baseball

Historian to discuss memorabilia

Historian and collector Mike Adamovich will discuss baseball memorabilia and how it reflects America's pastime during a free talk at the Putnam Valley Grange at 10 a.m. on Saturday, June 11. The presentation is part of the Putnam Valley Historical Society's ongoing "Our American History" series.

In addition to the program, titled "Basically Baseball," there will be door prizes donated by the Hudson Valley Renegades, Rockland Boulders and the Yogi Berra Museum and Learning Center.



Adamovich, a Yonkers native, is a 24-year veteran of the Army Reserve and was a Senior Court Officer for almost 33 years. A job-related accident prompted him to restart his childhood card collection, which he expanded to include equipment and game-worn uniforms. The grange hall is located at 128 Mill St., at Peekskill Hollow Road.

Beacon

Beacon Set for Citywide Garage Sale

Takes place Saturday, June 11

The City of Beacon will host a city-wide garage sale from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, June 11. A list of addresses will be available at the Beacon Recreation Center or online at cityofbeacon.org, and each registered seller will be given a yard sign to display. There will also be a flea market at the Memorial Park Pavilion.

Downing to Present *Sold*

45 tickets must be sold by June 6

The Downing Film Center in Newburgh will present *Sold*, a feature film about child trafficking, at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, June 13, as long as 45 tickets are purchased

by June 6. The film, based on Patricia McCormick's novel of the same title and starring Niyar Saikia, Gillian Anderson and David Arquette, focuses on human trafficking that affects an estimated 2.4 million people, predominantly women and girls, around the world, including in the U.S.

Sold tells the story of 13-year-old Lakshmi, who journeys from a pastoral, rural village in Nepal to a gritty brothel/prison called Happiness House in Kolkata, India. The screening is made possible via Tugg, a web-based platform for bringing movies on-demand to smaller theaters. Tickets, which are \$9, must be reserved at tugg.com/events/114712.

The film is rated PG-13 with a running time of 97 minutes. More information can be found at soldthemovie.com. The Downing Film Center is located at 19 Front St.

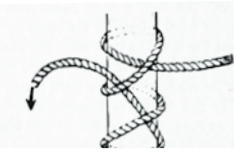


A scene from *Sold*

Photo provided

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COMMUNITY BRIEFS (From previous page)

\$40K for Microplastics Prevention*Foundation awards grant to Clearwater*

The Dorr Foundation has awarded Hudson River Sloop Clearwater a two-year, \$40,000 grant to combat microplastics pollution. The grant will fund activities such as teacher training, class workshops, shoreline programs and sails on the sloop Clearwater for 1,250 students.

Teachers will collect samples using a net called a manta trawl, enabling them to witness pollution first hand. Classroom workshops will demonstrate microplastics debris and include learning stations for hands-on exploration of water chemistry, watershed dynamics, wastewater treatment and environmental issues facing river communities. Sails and shoreline programs will cover the same material while also giving students the chance to study microplastics debris in the river.

"While a federal ban on microbeads was recently signed into law, this will take care of only a small portion of the problem,"



Students examine microplastics fished out of the Hudson River.

Photo provided

said Dave Conover, Clearwater's interim executive director. "For example, microplastic fibers from fleece clothing are shed in every wash cycle. Understanding what types of microplastics are entering the Hudson and from where will help us best address how to reduce this pollution."

Beacon Artist Pays Tribute to Charleston Victim*Portrays Ethel Lee Lance for exhibit*

Principle Gallery in Charleston, S.C., asked nine artists, including Paul W.

McCormack of Beacon, to each draw a victim of the shooting at Mother Emanuel AME Church for an exhibit to mark the first anniversary of the killings on June 17. The drawings were unveiled privately to the victim's families at the gallery on May 29, followed by a public reception. *A Tribute to the Emanuel Nine: A Portrait Project* continues through June.

The portraits were donated to the families by the artists.

McCormack was asked to draw Ethel Lee Lance, 70, the mother of five children and a sexton at the church who had been a member there for 35 years. Her

daughter, Sharon Risher, recalled that her mother loved fine perfumes. "After putting on the perfume she would always say, 'God is sweet.'"

The artist said of his subject: "How I wish I could have met Ethel Lee Lance. As the portrait came to completion, I said to myself with an overwhelming sadness,



At left, Ethel Lee Lance, by Paul McCormack; above, McCormack in his studio

Images provided

"She looks truly beautiful and happy." It is my hope that Ethel's family will find some comfort in my portrayal and all who view this portrait will feel the same."



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Sports

Haldane Runners Set Three Records

The 22nd annual Fast Times Relays at Warwick Valley High School on May 31 brought out the best of the Haldane track and field relay runners, who set three school records. In the girls' 4 x 100, Abbey Stowell, Adele Westerhuis and Michaela and Marina Martin won their heat in a Haldane record of 52.51. In the boys' 4 x 800, Nick Farrell, Jonas Petkus, Adam Silhavy and Theo Henderson finished in a record time of 8:06.92. And in the girls' 4 x 400 relay, Alii Sharpley, Abbey Stowell, Marina Martin and Heather Winne beat the previous Haldane record by 11 seconds, coming in at 4:11.30.



Adam Silhavy competes in the 4 x 800 at the Fast Times Relays at Warwick Valley High School on May 31.

Photos by Peter Farrell



Alii Sharpley, left, starts off the 4 x 400 relay at Warwick Valley High School on May 31.

SIGLER HENDERSON STUDIO
architecture

A photograph of a modern kitchen interior. It features a large wooden island with a red and white striped base, a stainless steel range hood, and open shelving with various items. The floor is made of light-colored wood. The overall style is contemporary and bright.

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photo by Paul Warhol

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Restoration of Historic Cemeteries Underway

By Michael Turton

Repairs to 40 tombstones at Mountain Avenue Cemetery in Cold Spring signaled the start of restoration efforts at four historic Philipstown graveyards. Garrison resident John Benjamin and Putnam Valley resident Taggart Lake are completing the work as part of a project initiated by the Philipstown Cemetery Committee. New York State law requires towns to

maintain inactive cemeteries.

Mountain Avenue Cemetery has 655 gravestones, according to PutnamGraveyards.com. The oldest, that of Cold Spring's first settler, Thomas Davenport, dates to 1759. Names associated with other prominent settler families such as McKeel and Jaycox can also be found on numerous tombstones. Cold Spring's oldest cemetery is the final resting place of noted author and poet George Pope Morris,

many West Point Foundry workers and veterans of the Civil War.

Improvements to early area cemeteries

on Cedar Street, at McKeel's Corners and in North Highlands will also be completed as part of the project.



Taggart Lake, left, and John Benjamin reset a large gravestone at the cemetery.



Above, Cold Spring's historic Mountain Avenue Cemetery dates back to the mid-18th century. Left, many tombstones are broken or have fallen over.

Photos by M. Turton



Taggart Lake is pictured with this repaired marker, which, engraved only with the words "Little George," remains a mystery.

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Sarah Mead's tombstone, dated 1788, is the oldest that workers have found at the Mountain Avenue cemetery.



Some of the historic tombstones could be considered works of art.