Consolidation and Sharing Key to Town and Village Efficiency

State officials give tips and offer aid

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

Led by Assemblywoman Sandy Galef, officials from New York State’s Department of State last Thursday (May 29) briefed citizens and civil servants on the A-B-C-Ds of increasing local government efficiency, saving taxpayer money, and boosting state aid levels.

Their alphabet focused on A — alternative ways of thinking, B — better governance through efficiency, and C consolidation, sometimes achieved by D — dissolution of small independent jurisdictions.

Held at Cortlandt town hall, the event drew about 20 attendees, including administrators from the Garrison and Carmel public school districts. No one from the Cold Spring Village Board, Nelsonville Village Board, or Philipstown Town Board came, despite their ongoing consideration of consolidating their building departments.

A Democrat who represents Philipstown and other Hudson Valley towns, Galef highlighted both the pressures for, and advantages of, merging government functions. The impetus largely comes from Gov. Andrew Cuomo and state efforts to get local governments to freeze property taxes, meet a cap on tax increases, and save taxpayer money, with refunds for residents of those jurisdictions, including school districts, that do so, Galef said. (Continued on page 4)

Osborne Runs for Putnam County Clerk

Democratic Garrison resident wants to bring ‘fresh perspective’

By Kevin E. Foley

Garrison resident and active Philipstown Democrat Lithgow Osborne has decided to run for the office of Putnam County Clerk. Osborne, expected to formally announce at a Democratic fundraiser on Sunday, June 8, will gather petition signatures to run on the Democratic line. He will run in the November election against the current Republican fundraiser on Sunday, June 8, and dietary supplements will be added near the checkout area — a feature that Katz said is common at other Foodtown stores. The supermarket’s public restroom area is well underway. Noah Katz, co-president of PSK Supermarkets, the store’s parent company, told The Paper he expects renovations to be complete in four to six weeks. Work began two weeks ago. The project will see the former Cold Spring post office converted to become part of the grocery store. According to Katz, the expansion will increase Foodtown’s floor area from 4,500 to 8,500 square feet. He declined to indicate the cost of the project saying only that it represents “a substantial investment.”

Seafood section coming

The expanded area previously occupied by the post office will include four new grocery aisles, a craft beer area and “a little bit of everything” from the current store, Katz said. The additional floor space and alterations to the existing store layout will facilitate a number of other improvements such as a new, fresh seafood department and an expanded deli and bakery. The fruit and vegetable area will increase considerably in size. “There is going to be a huge focus on local and organic produce,” Katz said of the newly constituted store. “That’s very important to our customers. We give our produce manager complete authority to buy local.” An area featuring vitamins and dietary supplements will be added near the checkout area — a feature that Katz said is common at other Foodtown stores. The supermarket’s public restroom areas have been upgraded and improvements to the office and customer service area are in the works. Katz said he also hopes to add decorative graphics to the exterior of the former post office.

Haldane Teachers Reject Contract Settlement Terms

Staff reductions and program cuts to proceed

By Pamela Doan

When Philipstown voters went to the polls last month and approved the school budget, there was hope on the horizon that a last-minute deal a few days before would save the staff positions and program cuts that were slated for the 2014-15 school year. Those hopes were dashed on Tuesday (June 3) when the Haldane Faculty Association members, a union that represents 81 teachers and six teaching assistants in the district, voted against the terms of the settlement their bargaining team had brought back from months of talks with district representatives.

Interim Superintendent John Chambers explained that there was no guarantee the terms would be accepted and the district had already reduced the positions and programs with the caveat to the affected employees that things could change pending the results of the contract negotiations. Unless something else happens with the contract terms, the positions and programs will not be restored at this point.

At an emotional, standing room only meeting in early May, students, parents and the HFA president all spoke about the impact of the cuts and their hopes that other solutions would be found. This is the first time that the district has had to eliminate jobs in order to balance the budget.

While both parties issued statements about the vote results, no details are forthcoming about the issues that motivated the HFA members to reject the deal or exactly what happens next. In a joint statement about the settlement released a few days before the budget vote last month, Board President Gillian Thorpe and HFA President Leah Horn expressed positive views about the prospects for a new contract leading many to be surprised at this outcome. Certainly the parties will have to meet again and determine how to proceed. The board said it expected to have more information about the status available to the public at the next meeting on June 17.

Foodtown’s expansion is expected to be completed in four to six weeks.

Photo by M. Turton

These entries were featured in last weekend’s Philipstown Garden Club of America Flower Show. See article on page 7. (Photo by A. Rooney)
We don’t even make toast on these mornings anymore. Yet while Peter and I are now very nearly on the same page with regards to grits (our only difference being that he will eat the Quaker brand and I will not), quarrels continue to rage throughout the grits-loving world. These mostly have to do with nomenclature — though grits are called “hominy” in parts of the South, many food historians argue that true grits are not made from actual hominy, but rather from plain dried corn. Moreover, some people blur the distinction between grits and polenta. The difference is real, but irrelevant, unless your corn is ground with a millstone.

As for me, I am an open-hearted, diversity-embracing kind of gal these days. When it comes to grits, I do not know it. Indeed, made well, it is one of the most delicious dinners I know. Dinner? Wait a minute! I’m told that shrimp and grits is a breakfast dish, and should always only and ever be a breakfast dish, since it was first served to shrimpers in the mornings before they headed out onto the waters. To which I say: Oh be quiet and eat. And trust me: You will like it.

Shrimp and Grits

Make the shrimp stock first — unless you’re short on time, in which case you can substitute equal parts chicken stock and (but it won’t be quite as good).

For the shrimp broth
1 tablespoon olive oil
3 cloves garlic, sliced
3 cups water, plus more as needed
2 ribs celery, roughly chopped
1 medium onion, roughly chopped
1 medium tomato
½ cup beer
2 sprigs thyme
Reserved peels from 1 pound shrimp
1 plum tomato
2 planks wood
3 cloves garlic, smashed
1 cup beer
1 plum tomato
1 bay leaf
2 sprigs thyme
salt and pepper

In a heavy-bottomed saucepan over medium-high heat, heat the olive oil. Add the shrimp peels, onion, celery, and tomato, pressing them as they cook. After 2 minutes, season the shrimp with salt and pepper, and add the garlic, shallot, and jalapeño. Toss to combine. Cook until the shrimp are opaque, 3-5 minutes total, depending on size. Transfer the contents of the skillet to a plate.

Return the skillet to the heat; reduce to medium-low. Melt the butter; when it sizzles, whisk in the flour. Cook, stirring constantly, about 4 minutes. Gradually spoon the hot broth or stock into the flour mixture, whisking vigorously after each addition (if it starts to look like it’s separating into clumps, keep whisking and adding small amounts of stock until it becomes silky). When all the broth is incorporated, add the shrimp mixture back to the skillet and stir; heat just until warmed through. Serve over grits, topped with scallions. This is real, but irrelevant, unless your corn is ground with a millstone.

For the grits
3 cups water, plus more as needed
1 ½ cups andouille sausage or bacon, diced
1 cup grated sharp white cheddar cheese
1 recipe shrimp broth, hot (see below)
1 tablespoon butter
2 medium shallots, minced
1 jalapeño, seeded and minced
1 recipe shrimp broth, hot (see below)
3 cups water, plus more as needed
1 tablespoon butter
2 medium shallots, minced
1 jalapeño, seeded and minced

Make the shrimp stock first — unless you’re short on time, in which case you can substitute equal parts chicken stock and (but it won’t be quite as good).

In a large skillet over medium-low heat, brown the bacon or sausage until crisp, about 10 minutes. Push to one side of the pan. If there’s not much fat in the bacon, add 1 tablespoon of oil. Raise heat to medium-high, and add the shrimp, turning them as they cook. After 2 minutes, season the shrimp with salt and pepper, and add the garlic, shallot, and jalapeño. Toss to combine. Cook until the shrimp are opaque, 3-5 minutes total, depending on size. Transfer the contents of the skillet to a plate.

Return the skillet to the heat; reduce to medium-low. Melt the butter; when it sizzles, whisk in the flour. Cook, stirring constantly, about 4 minutes. Gradually spoon the hot broth or stock into the flour mixture, whisking vigorously after each addition (if it starts to look like it’s separating into clumps, keep whisking and adding small amounts of stock until it becomes silky). When all the broth is incorporated, add the shrimp mixture back to the skillet and stir; heat just until warmed through. Serve over grits, topped with scallions.

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Osborne (from page 1)

connected to the county is recorded and stored with the clerk’s office. The incumbent Clerk, Dennis J. Sant, is retiring after 13 years as clerk and 24 years as first deputy in office.

In an interview with The Paper, Osborne, 55, said he was running because he believes he is well suited to the duties of the office and thinks he could bring some innovative approaches to the way the office served the public.

“I am dogged in my determination to get things right. There’s a great dignity in doing your job correctly,” Osborne said as he described a business career that has included running several businesses either on his own or for others in the related fields of interior design, commercial and residential real estate and high-end antiques dealing. “Every one of those jobs has had something in common. And the commonality was it was a job that required me to do a lot of focused, concentrated research, attention to detail seeing jobs through to the end,” he said.

Asked what he would seek to change in the clerk’s office when he is elected, Osborne put technological advancement at the head of the list. “I would focus on the clerk’s presence on the county website. If you try to navigate your way through the website it seems cheery and informative but once you start getting in there, it’s really a mess,” he said. “It seems to be designed without thinking about who’s using the website.”

Osborne argued that the current site creates a layer of confusion and separation between the government and the taxpayer, which he would seek to dissolve by making much more information available digitally.

“If you cannot use a computer and find things you need in the same day, there’s a problem,” he said. Emphasizing best practices for website design and operation he noted: “The best websites lead you intuitively to find what you need.”

To support businesses in particular Osborne said he would look to create far more opportunity to file needed paperwork directly online, which he observed is the case in Westchester County. He said requiring use of regular mail or faxes created obstacles in today’s business environment.

To further engage the public and assist businesses, Osborne would create satellite office services around the county. Rather than trying to build permanent locations, which would be prohibitively expensive, his idea is to locate personnel on a rotating schedule in borrowed local government space. “Except for people in Carmel everyone else has to allocate the time in the day needed to drive to the office there,” he said.

Osborne, who is married to husband Chuck Burleigh, has lived in Garrison for four years and before that for eight years in Kent Cliffs. A native of Auburn, New York, in the Finger Lakes region, he lays claim to a long line of familial civic duty, including a relative who served as clerk of Auburn. He currently serves on the board of the Osborne Association, which for many years has offered services to state prisoners and their families to encourage positive reintegration into society. He is also the treasurer of the Philipstown Democratic Committee. Facing an uphill race given the larger side of the county and he believes there is a sufficient number of registered independents and independent-minded voters for him to win.

“The time is right for a fresh perspective. I will bring an organized, professional business background to the job. I know I’ll be good at it,” he said.

Lithgow Osborne on the road to Carmel

Photo by K.E. Foley

Toshi Seeger

The Beacon City Council passed a resolution this past week renaming Riverfront Park to Pete and Toshi Seeger Riverfront Park. Further plans for a permanent memorial to the two long-time Beacon residents are pending.

Photo by Russell Cusick

Pete Seeger

Photo by Kate Vikstrom

Football * Team * Family * Fun

Are you ready for some football?
Join us for the first annual

Philipstown Football & Cheer Day
June 27, 4:30 p.m.
Haldane Turf

Haldane Coach Ryan McConville and a few of his star players offer an exciting opportunity to learn the game and see it played.

Both returning and new players welcome! Cheerleaders will be on site to demonstrate their skills. Philipstown Hawks Football & Cheer registration is now open! Players must be 5 - 12 years old by August 1, 2014. Register by June 27 for the early-bird discount.

For more information about football and cheer, email footballhawks@gmail.com or visit www.eteamz.com/philipstownhawks.

TOM CHAPIN with Michael Mark
Concert
Saturday, June 7th
12:00pm
at Boscobel House & Gardens

The Paper June 6, 2014
Consolidation and Sharing

(from page 1)

Sandy Galef

Along with the rewards come obligations for governments to cut spending, she explained. “So there’s a big effort,” she said, “for us to learn to share services, coordinate our programs, consolidate services or consoli- date government whatever. If we want ourselves, as taxpayers, to get some money back from the state with the freeze in the future, we have to convince ourselves and the public and our local officials that we need to do things differently.”

Answering difficult questions

Mark Pattison, director of local govern- ment services in New York’s Depart- ment of State (DOS), said local jurisdic- tions need to ask “Is there a better way to provide services?” He pointed out that many of New York’s numerous govern- ment entities originated in the 18th or early 19th centuries, born of solitary hamlets and the distance easily covered on horseback. Over time, distances and borders between jurisdictions dis- appeared and individual governments re- mained and overlapped, he said. With that came extra costs — rapidly escalating costs in recent years, he said.

Pattison delineated ways local jurisdic- tions can share services or consolidate. For the latter, one option is dissolution of one municipality (or other jurisdiction) and its merger with another, a process that can either begin with a municipal- ity’s governing board, or at the initiative of residents who get a dissolution refer- endum on the ballot. As communities consider consolidation, “there are many questions to be answered,” Pattison ad- vised. “Larger is not always better.” At the same time, he observed, small juris- dictions face difficulties even keeping a government in place. “Some of our com- munities can hardly get people to run for office anymore,” Pattison said.

He advised communities everywhere to answer certain questions. Among them is not only whether “too many lay- ers of government exist,” but what “the right layer is,” he said. He offered the state’s assistance, including grants and financial aid, as local deliberations on consolidation, combining functions, and achieving other efficiencies ensue. “This is not a top-down thing,” Pattison em- phasized. “It’s an invitation and incentive for people to get together and think about their governments in a different way,” asking, “Is there a better way for us to do this? People are very likely have a sense where they want their communities to go,” he said. “Do they want to maintain some unique identity as a separate vil- lage or school district, perhaps at a cost?”

Moreover, according to Pattison, in consolidations, “it’s not always just the cost savings” that provide benefits, since consolidations “almost always result in opportunities for improved services.” For example, he said, combining disparate justice courts into a single larger court “can provide the idea of more proper fa- cilities and supports” for ensuring jus- tice in the community.

“We have lots of local courts in the dis- trict I represent,” Galef noted. Locally, consolidation of the Town of Philipstown, Village of Cold Spring, and Village of Nelsonville justice courts into one has been suggested for several years.

Easy and tough cases

To begin merging and saving money, communities typically “take the small steps that build the common ground,” combining some functions; moreover some small jurisdictions have shared ser- vices quietly for years, Patterson pointed out. “The hard ones,” in his view, “are dissolution of villages or elimination of police departments.”

Carl Ublacker, land-use training spe- cialist in the DOS Local Government Division, outlined consolidations and shared-service projects recently under- taken across the state, among them:

• Merger of two school districts into one.
• Establishment of a shared public works facility to serve a school dis- trict, town, and village.
• Use of a common zoning code for a town and two villages.
• A BOCES (Board of Cooperative Edu- cational Services) and school dis- tricts’ merger of information technol- ogy, purchasing, and more.
• Creation by a school district, county, town and villages of a mutual records management center.

Ublacker also mentioned the consoli- dation of the Town of Saugerties and Vil- lage of Saugerties police. “It was pretty contentious,” he recalled. “The pro- visions of $676,586 annually was estimated but the move saved ‘slightly over $1 mil- lion’ yearly, he added.

“Fire services consolidation,” uniting individual departments, “is also often- times contentious,” Ublacker comment- ed. He said the state has funded a couple of fire-fighting consolidations and else- where paid for equipment for a merged department serving two villages and a town.

In controversial consolidations, both Patterson and Dede Scouzafava, New York’s deputy secretary of state, high- lighted the importance of dissemination of facts and sound information, so residents can vote with knowledge and objectivity.

“We all know that in a lot of these situa- tions it’s emotional and emotion is pow- erful,” Scouzafava said. “It takes a lot to work through some of these issues.”

Tax Rebates for
Frugal Schools and Governments

Galef explains program

By Liz Schevchuk Armstrong

At her forum on government tax- cutting and consolidation May 29 in Cortlandt, Assemblywoman Sandy Galef explained details of New York’s push for local governments to not only hold the line on property taxes but cut expenses. Galef chairs the Committee on Real Property Taxation in the Assembly.

The state initiative involves both lo- cal adherence to the state-imposed cap on property-tax increases and rewards in the form of rebates for taxpayers, for jurisdictions (including counties) that comply. However, the level of difficulty increases in the second year of the multi- year program.

Thus, Galef said, “if our school dis- tricts this year stayed within the cap that was apportioned to them, the State of New York will come in and pay the differ- ence in our taxes from last year to any increases this year, if the school budgets passed,” as all those in her district did in May. “There will be a check coming to residents of our community later this fall to cover that portion of the property-tax freeze program,” she said.

Similarly, she continued, in drafting 2015 budgets this fall, if local govern- ments — such as towns, which adopt budgets in November — stay within their tax cap, “there will also be a return to the taxpayers of anything that is an in- crease in taxes, but within the tax cap.”

Put another way, as Galef did in a writ- ten report in her latest constituent news- letter, “In Year 1, if school districts and other jurisdictions alike, ‘stay within the cap, property-taxpayers would receive a check for a tax credit in the mail to bring their increase down to zero.’

However, “the second year is differ- ent,” Galef cautioned. “In the second year, both our school [districts] and our local municipalities have to keep within the tax cap and also prepare for a 1 per- cent cut in the spending — 1 percent over three years — in order to be able to have their taxpayers again receive some additional monies from the state.”

She noted that to make reductions and achieve savings, Albany recommends program coordination, government con- solidation, or sharing of services by the state’s numerous local jurisdictions.

“There is a real effort to try to lower our costs. We live in very high-cost coun- ties in a very high-cost state,” Galef said.

Friday July 4, 2014
Independence Day Celebration

Cold Spring’s
Celebration

Anyone interested in marching in the parade or being a vendor, please contact the village office at 845-265-3611 for information.
Marilyn Heberling Closes Main Street Retail Shop

Art to Wear owner leaves lasting community legacies

By Kathie Scanlon

Marilyn Heberling, owner of Art To Wear on Main Street, closed up shop for the last time on May 30. Heberling's new store, Directions, Inc., on Main Street in Hyannis, Massachusetts, opened soon after. Friends and loyal customers, many wearing early American democracy through the Depot Theater and the Youth Theater art. A founding board member of the organization, she helped Marilyn inaugurated the Halloween Parade, on the list of the most beloved Cold Spring traditions. That first year about 150 treat bags were distributed and at last year's 20th anniversary, about 1,000 — an impressive rate of growth. David Heberling, the constant and steady presence behind the dynamos, packed and transported treat bags annually. The legacy lives on as Marilyn passed the parade baton to Melissa Carlson of Houlihan Lawrence.

Photo by A. Rooney

Although not always in the storefront of the iconic Skylab Building, Marilyn was a strong presence on Main Street for 25 years. Known not only as a shopkeeper, Marilyn had a passion for connecting the worlds of local business and art. A founding board member of the Youth Theater Program, she also worked with Karm Dunn to teach local sixth graders about early American democracy through the theater, collaborated with Barbara Galazzo for Fashion Week — bringing student designed fashion into Main Street shop windows, and mentored high school students in fashion and small business. As Chamber of Commerce president, she began the Annual Antique Show.

In 1993, Marilyn inaugurated the Halloween Parade, on the list of the most beloved Cold Spring traditions. That first year about 150 treat bags were distributed and at last year’s 20th anniversary, about 1,000 — an impressive rate of growth. David Heberling, the constant and steady presence behind the dynamos, packed and transported treat bags annually. The legacy lives on as Marilyn passed the parade baton to Melissa Carlson of Houlihan Lawrence.

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

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Town of Philipstown is issuing a Request for Proposals in order to develop a signage and way-finding program for the proposed Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail, including associated trail systems and recreation offerings, business districts, parking areas and cultural/historic sites along the Hudson River from Beacon to Cold Spring.

Sealed proposals must be received by the undersigned Town Clerk of the Town of Philipstown at her office in the Town Hall, 238 Main Street, Cold Spring, New York 10516 no later than 2:00 p.m. on June 11, 2014 at which time the same will be publicly opened and read aloud.

DVD or CD with an electronic version of your proposal and 10 hard copies (we will not accept faxed or emailed copies) are required.

Copies of the specifications may be obtained from the office of said Town Clerk at the above address. The right is reserved to reject any and all bids. All purchase contracts awarded pursuant to this notice shall be subject to the provisions of Sections 103-A, 103-B and 103-D of the General Municipal Law.

DATED: June 4, 2014
BY ORDER OF THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF PHILIPSTOWN

Tina M. Merando, Town Clerk

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500 B&W Business Cards - $32

Foodtown Expansion Underway (from page 1)

Transparent plastic sheeting now separates the existing store from the area under construction. Katz said that during the next four weeks every shelf in the store will be emptied and scrubbed to ensure “perfect cleanliness.” The location of the entrance and exit will remain the same with access to the new area via an opening created in the south-east corner of the store near the current ice cream section. Katz said that local plumbers and electricians are being used on the project with Brooklyn-based Ako Store Development serving as general contractor.

PSK Supermarkets was established in 1956 by Paul Katz, Noah’s grandfather. Today the company owns 11 Foodtown and Freshtown stores from Brooklyn to the Catskills. Noah’s father Sydney and brother Daniel are also part of the company. “We also belong to the 80-store Foodtown Cooperative which gives us greater buying power and enables us to keep prices down,” Katz said. “Our stores use an entrepreneurial style of management. Our employees can do whatever it takes to make customers happy. We’re family run — not corporate.”

Foodtown’s Cold Spring branch has 45 employees.

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

THIS IS NOT A PERMIT

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
Notice of Complete Application

Date: 05/30/2014
Applicant: TOWN OF PHILIPSTOWN
PO BOX 155, COLD SPRING, NY 10516-0155

Facility: OLD ALBANY POST RD OUTLET CHANNEL, OLD ALBANY POST RD - SE SIDE OF SPROUT BROOK RD, GARRISON, NY

Application ID: 3-3726-00314/00001
Permits Applied for: 1 - Section 401 - Clean Water Act Water Quality Certification 1 - Article 24 Freshwater Wetlands Project is located: in PHILIPSTOWN in PUTNAM COUNTY

Project Description: The applicant proposes 1,050 square foot disturbance within the protected adjacent area of NYS Freshwater Wetland PK-3 (Class 1) to clean out a silted-in section of the Old Albany Post Road drainage channel and remove the remains of a silted-in dam on a tributary of Canopus Creek. The area of disturbance lies on private, residential property. Work will be done by Town of Philipstown, at the affected property owners’ request.

Availability of Application Documents:
Filed application documents, and Department draft permits where applicable, are available for inspection during normal business hours at the address of the contact person. To ensure timely service at the time of inspection, it is recommended that an appointment be made with the contact person.

State Environmental Quality Review (SEQR) Determination
Project is an Unlisted Action and will not have a significant impact on the environment. A Negative Declaration is on file. A coordinated review was not performed.

SEQR Lead Agency: None Designated

State Historic Preservation Act (SHPA) Determination
The proposed activity is not subject to review in accordance with SHPA. The permit type is exempt or the activity is being reviewed in accordance with federal historic preservation regulations.

DEC Commissioner Policy 29, Environmental Justice and Permitting (CP-29)
It has been determined that the proposed action is not subject to CP-29.

Availability For Public Comment
Comments on this project must be submitted in writing to the Contact Person no later than 06/30/2014 or 10 days after the publication date of this notice, whichever is later.

Contact Person
JEAN V MCAVOY
NYSDEC
21 SOUTH PUTT CORNERS RD
NEW PALZ, NY 12561-1620
(845) 256-3054

www.philipstown.info • Philipstown.info
June 6, 2014 5

Foodtown Expansion Underway (from page 1)
Cheese and Charcuterie: A Taste at Beacon Pantry

By Alison Rooney

This past March 1, the world grew a bit brighter for Beacon’s cheese and charcuterie enthusiasts. Beacon Pantry (BP), which specializes in just those things — along with an array of baked goods, condiments and specialty food items — opened on a bustling Main Street corner just across from Max’s.

“We’re trying to fill a void in Beacon, to the extent possible in a small space,” BP owner Stacey Penlon said. “We surveyed many people and what they aspired to miss is specialty foods — sort of what to serve at 5 p.m. on a Saturday — things one might have had to make a run to Adams to get a hold of.”

Penlon’s devotion to cheese has increased since she decided to choose it as her store’s framework. “It’s become more of a passion since she decided to choose it as her store’s framework. “It’s become more of a passion since she decided to choose it as her store’s framework.”

Cut to order

The cheese case stocks 40 to 50 varieties: the vast majority cut to order and testable. Silver sticks on products throughout the store indicate that a taste may be requested. “I’m a firm believer in try-before-you-buy … the fact that I cut to order makes it approachable — just ask for dollars’ worth and it’s fine. My philosophy is ‘buy less, more often’ and don’t let cheese turn into a science project in your fridge,” Penlon says.

Relying on a couple of distributors, she carries an array of international and local cheeses. “When I first opened, the vast majority of my cheeses were domestic, but it was always a dream, then, all of a sudden this space became available. I saw it and thought ‘that’s it’. The location near Key Food was a huge benefit because people can shop there and then buy specialty things here,” she said. “And it’s a great corner, with Max’s and Alps [chocolates] nearby. And we’ve felt very much welcomed by everyone.”

Though a babe in the storeowner woods, Penlon’s background has served her well as she’s logged excellent early results. “Things have gone smoothly; my attention to detail, ability to plan and financial background have come in handy and my client service background is crucial,” Penlon said. “I will try my best to fulfill making sandwiches at 8 a.m. or to get an esoteric product that someone asks for.”

“Things have gone smoothly; my attention to detail, ability to plan and financial background have come in handy and my client service background is crucial,” Penlon said. “I will try my best to fulfill making sandwiches at 8 a.m. or to get an esoteric product that someone asks for.”

What’s been most challenging is typical: the perishable aspect — knowing how much to order, minimizing waste. As with many new business owners, the hours are punishing, but essential, according to Penlon. “We’re open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. six days a week, and from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. on the seventh, and some of the busiest times are late in the day, with people coming home from work, looking for something for dinner. Because of this we make sure to stock day-to-day products: pasta, bread, so that you can compose a dinner. It’s fulfilling but hard. But it’s crucial that we stick with the hours we’ve set, and we’ll keep those hours for at least a year before we do any tweaking.”

This was brought home for Penlon on a slow Tuesday, when it had been dead for hours and she was thinking of closing 15 minutes early. At 7:50 a.m. a customer came in and asked for some prosciutto for that night’s dinner. “If I’d left she’d have been disappointed,” Penlon says. “Once someone thinks you are flaky, they won’t return. If you’re going to sell things it’s kind of good to be open!”

Beacon Pantry is located at 267 Main St., Beacon. Visit the Facebook page or phone 845-440-8923; a website is being developed.

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- Art Gallery • Prints Available
- Specializing In Local Scenes • Old And New

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Finn Lovell Memorial Show Takes Main Street

By Clayton Smith

On Friday, May 23, the sidewalk outside The Living Room on Main Street in Cold Spring buzzed with teenagers eager to enter and hear some music. Luke Ferrara opened the show as the only solo artist and grabbed everyone’s attention with his impressive acoustic performance. Then daisychain, a pop-punk band from Peekskill, handed over an energized set with Finn on guitar. After that, Poughkeepsie-based Inflected kept the crowd on its feet with more heavy-hitting lyrics and guitar riffs. Following Inflected was Firestarter — in town from Albany — delivering a selection of powerful songs from start to finish. Last but certainly not least, Finn closed the night with his last set ever on vocals with North Run- ner. This performance set itself apart due to the raw emotion displayed by band members as well as the audience.

“I couldn’t have asked for a better turnout or crowd reaction,” Finn said. “There is true beauty in witnessing your friends, family, even people you don’t know, sing along to a song you poured your entire heart into. Thank you to everyone who made that night so special.”

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Palette of Professionals Shares Expertise at Haldane’s First Fifth Grade Arts Day

Students sample workshops conducted by local artists of all stripes

By Alison Rooney and Michelle McEwen

That Philipstown is home to a large number of professionals with lengthy resumes in the arts was demonstrated in the halls of Haldane last week. More than 15 of them shared their expertise with the entire fifth-grade class in a new, full-day initiative devoted to a wide range of art forms.

Former art director for Nickelodeon, check; documentary filmmaker whose work has been on the Academy Awards documentary shortlist, check; actress/singer who has appeared on Broadway, check; multi-volumed poet, check — and that’s not even getting a top choice. The day was also designed to expose students to forms they might not have even been aware of before, sometimes not getting a top choice. As the day was also designed to expose students to forms they might not have even been aware of before, sometimes not getting a top choice worked out even better.

Tallulah Bates set out an overview, replete with multiple categories, devised to embody the purpose of a flower show — to please the garden club article — and don’t take your pencil off the paper. "You’re training your eye to see what is here rather than what you think is here," Steve Bates added, "In that silliness you’re going to catch one or two really interesting details." Work in other disciplines varied from quiet, focused instruction to looser, physically-oriented sessions. A few observations:

In their Drawing 1.0 class, Steve and Tallulah Bates set out an overview, replete with goals and an "After the Workshop, Try This at Home" follow-up. After equipping students with paper and various drawing implements, and setting up a still life of various objects, they told the students they would be working on four different kinds of drawing, described as "ways of seeing." Steve Bates made a comparison to Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson, noting that when Holmes said to Watson "How did you see that? You see but you don't observe" what was meant was "Focus, perception, not just seeing." Mary Bates then described the first exercise, blind contour drawing, as "working with lines and with shapes, volume, depth and tone. Keep your eyes on the still life," she instructed. "Don’t look at your paper and don’t take your pencil off the paper. You’re training your eye to see what is here rather than what you think is here." Steve Bates added, "In that silliness you’re going to catch one or two really interesting details." Work in other forms followed.

Brent Harrington, to start, because it actually became one, as Ivy Meeropol, "celebrate the arts and plant a seed for future passion. We have such a rich resource in the community with so many talented individuals; we were lucky to get a healthy spectrum of them to share with us today."

They did, as the workshops took place on several levels of the building, with groups of students moving excitedly between the disciplines. The day was divided into three sessions, each with a choice of five separate workshops. Students were given a list of all and asked to note their top three choices, and organizers did their best to provide each child with at least one. As the day was also designed to expose students to forms they might not have even been aware of before, sometimes not getting a top choice worked out even better.

Philipstown.info sampled portions of quite a few of the workshops, which varied from quiet, focused instruction to looser, physically-oriented sessions. A few observations:

In their Drawing 1.0 class, Steve and Mary Bates set out an overview, replete with goals and an "After the Workshop, Try This at Home" follow-up. After equipping students with paper and various drawing implements, and setting up a still life of various objects, they told the students they would be working on four different kinds of drawing, described as "ways of seeing." Steve Bates made a comparison to Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson, noting that when Holmes said to Watson "How did you see that? You see but you don’t observe" what was meant was "Focus, perception, not just seeing." Mary Bates then described the first exercise, blind contour drawing, as "working with lines and with shapes, volume, depth and tone. Keep your eyes on the still life," she instructed. "Don’t look at your paper and don’t take your pencil off the paper. You're training your eye to see what is here rather than what you think is here." Steve Bates added, "In that silliness you're going to catch one or two really interesting details." Work in other forms followed.

Next door, Room 216 resembled a film set, because it actually became one, as Ivy Meeropol, (Continued on page 14)
Looking for things to do in and around Philipstown? Grab The Calendar and go. For more details and ongoing events, visit philipstown.info. Send event listings to calendar@philipstown.info. See you around town!
Building Bridges Building Boats
2014 Summer River Workshop on the Hudson
for kids grades 6 through 12

3 Sessions: June 20 - July 4
July 7 - July 11
July 17 - July 21

Register or more info
845-265-4210 or
directline@buildingboats.org

Lovely 4 Bedrooms. 2.5 bath single level home sited on 2.3 park-like acres is within walk to RR commute. Great location and setting.

Questions? Contact Pat at 845.222.5820.
The Calendar (from page 9)

Peekskill Open Studios
Noon - 5 p.m. Various locations
peekskillartalliance.org

Kent LuBell: Stained Glass (Opening)
3:30 - 5:30 p.m. Butterfield Library
845-265-3040 | butterfieldlibrary.org

In the Garden of Sonic Delights (Opening)
5 - 7 p.m. Hudson Valley Center for Contemporary Art | 150 N. Water St., Peekskill
914-788-0100 | hvcca.org

Theater & Film
Cassar and Chopitra (1945)
1 p.m. Downing Film Center
18 Front St., Newburgh
914-561-3686 | downingfilmcenter.com

10-Minute Play Festival:
8:45 a.m. - 1 p.m. Feldstein Auditorium
19 Front St., Newburgh
Poughkeepsie Dance Center:
A Midsummer Night’s Dream
2 p.m. Half Moon Theatre | Details under Friday.

3:30 p.m. Tarrytown Music Hall
Night’s Dream
914-631-3390 x100 | tarrytownmusichall.org
13 Main St., Tarrytown

5 - 7 p.m. Hudson Valley Center for Contemporary
In the Garden of Sonic Delights
(Opening)
845-265-3040 | butterfieldlibrary.org
10 Morris Ave., Cold Spring

3:30 - 5:30 p.m. Butterfield Library
45 Market St., Cold Spring | 845-265-5537 |
4 p.m. Chapel Restoration
1500 Route 9D, Wappingers Falls

11 a.m. - 11 p.m. Dutchess County Stadium
K104 Music Festival
Music & Dance
Council of Five
(1945)
Rudolph, Bloch, Weill, Gershwin, Shostakovich
107 Glenclyffe Drive, Garrison
Noon - 2 p.m. Philipstown Recreation Center
Basketball at Philipstown Rec
6:15 p.m. Youth Basketball Skills/Drills (grades 3-8)
1601 Route 9D, Garrison
845-265-3638 | boscoe5.com

Community For Forum with Attorney General Eric Schneiderman
6:30 p.m. Towne Crier Café
3:30 p.m. Project Code Spring for Girls
Desmond-Fish Library
3:30 p.m. Project Code Spring for Girls
4:30 p.m. Summer Reading Kick-off Party
75 Main St., Beacon
845-424-4618 | phillipstownreform synagogue.org
3:30 p.m. Community Chorus
Open-Mic Night
6:30 p.m. Vet2Vet Support Group
7 p.m. Towne Crier Café
See details under Friday.

Meetings & Lectures
Community Forum with Attorney General Eric Schneiderman
6:30 p.m. Field Library | 4 Nelson Ave., Peekskill
914-872-5299 | threeway.org

Beacon School Board
7 p.m. Beacon High School | 101 Mattawasan Road, Beacon
845-838-6500 | beaconchamber.org

TUESDAY, JUNE 10

Kids & Community

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

Senior Day Center
10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Mother Lunara House
160 Old West Point Road East, Garrison
845-424-3184 | graymoorcenter.org

Field & Forest Homeschool (ages 4-14)
11:15 a.m. - 3:15 p.m. Eden Village Camp
392 Downtown Road, Putnam Valley
877-397-3336 | edenvillagecamp.org
Pickup available in Cold Spring.

Craft Hour for Kids
4 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library
4:30 p.m. Garrison Rec Center
845-424-3020 | desmondfishlibrary.org

Free Buffet for 10th Anniversary (Opens)
5 p.m. - closing, Silver Spoon Café
3127 Old Cold Spring Rd., Garrison
845-424-2486 | themichudsonark.org
Email webberd@yaho.com

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The HasTings Center OPEN HOUSE & SEMINAR
Tuesday, June 10 2014
Meet the Author:
Barron H. Lerner
and hear him speak about his new book

The Good Doctor
A Father, a Son, and the Evolution of Medical Ethics

The story of two doctors, a father and son, who practiced in very different times and the evolution of the ethics that profoundly influence health care

“An absolutely compelling treatise on bioethics told thru the lens of a physician’s relationship with his physician father. If you want to understand the modern state of ethics in medicine, read this book.”

—Mehmet Oz, MD


- Presentations and discussion: 6:00-7:00 PM
- Reception and book signing: 7:00-8:00 PM

21 Malcolm Gordon Road, Garrison
**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 11**

**Kids & Community**

**Dutchess County Historical Society Centennial Breakfast**
7:30 a.m. The Grand Hotel
40 Civic Center Drive, Poughkeepsie
dutchesshistoricalsociety.org

**Come & Play (ages 0-3)**
9:45 a.m. Howland Public Library
315 Main St., Beacon
845-833-1134 | beaconlibrary.org

**Mahjong Open Play**
10 a.m. - 1 p.m. VFW Hall
34 Kemble Ave., Cold Spring
845-424-6469 | philipstownrecreation.com

**Senior Bus Trip to Fishkill**
10 a.m. Pickup at Chestnut Ridge, Cold Spring
845-265-3040 | butterfieldlibrary.org

**Desmond-Fish Library**
10:15 a.m. Music and Movement for Toddlers
10:30 a.m. Pre-School Story Hour (ages 3-5)
472 Route 403, Garrison
845-424-3000 | desmondfishlibrary.org

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

**Riverbend Kids Chorus (ages 9-13)**
4 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
477 Main St., Beacon
845-264-3300 | howlandkids.org

**Summer Car Show**
6 - 9 p.m. Bear Mountain State Park
55 Hessian Ave, Bear Mountain
845-786-2707 | vvvyr.com

**Kayak Group Paddle**
6 p.m. Long Dock
845-833-1997 | mountaintopsonline.com

**Health & Fitness**

**Young Women's Breast Cancer Support Group**
7 p.m. Support Connection
40 Triangle Center, Suite 100, Yorktown Heights
914-962-6402 | supportconnection.org

**SummerTime Health Workshop**
7 p.m. At Sport
17 Old Main St., Fishkill
845-896-5678 x163 | supportconnection.org

**The Two Gentlemen of Verona (Preview)**
7 p.m. Boscobel
See details under Tuesday.

**Music**

**Open Mic Night**
7:30 p.m. Depot Docs presents: *Daisycutter*
34 Kemble Ave., Cold Spring
10 a.m. - 1 p.m. VFW Hall
845-264-3300 | howlandkids.org

**Meeting & Lectures**

**Overeaters Anonymous**
9:30 a.m. First Presbyterian Church | 50 Liberty St., Beacon
845-838-0581 | saoga.org

**Knotting Club**
10 a.m. Howland Public Library | 313 Main St., Beacon
845-833-1134 | beaconlibrary.org

**Book Club: Wilt: Lost From Lost on the Pacific Crest Trail**
1:30 p.m. Howland Public Library | 313 Main St., Beacon
845-833-1134 | beaconlibrary.org

**Beacon Recreation Committee (Scheduled)**
6:30 p.m. Beacon Rec Department
23 West Chester St., Beacon
845-705-9440 | cityofbeacon.org

**Beacon Planning Board (Scheduled)**
7 p.m. 1 Municipal Plaza, Beacon
845-838-5002 | cityofbeacon.org

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

**Tioronda Garden Club**
7 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
477 Main St., Beacon
845-833-1400 | howlandculturalcenter.org

**Life Support Group**
7:30 p.m. St. Philip's Church
1120 Route 9D, Garrison
845-424-3571 | dorishelp@lansdell.org

**Historic District Review Board**
8 p.m. Village Hall
85 Main St., Cold Spring
845-265-3611 | coldspringny.org

**THURSDAY, JUNE 12**

**Kids & Community**

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

**Senior Day Center**
10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Mother Lunara House
See details under Tuesday.

**Howland Public Library**
10 a.m. Brain Games for Adults
3:45 - 5 p.m. Lego Club
See details under Tuesday.

**Bouncing Babies (ages 0-2)**
See details under Tuesday.

**Children Read to Dogs (ages 7-10)**
9:30 - 5:30 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library
472 Route 403, Garrison
845-424-3020 | desmondfishlibrary.org

**Culinary Workshop: Making Your Own Bitters**
6 p.m. Glynwood Farm
362 Glynwood Road, Cold Spring
845-265-3338 | rivertownkids.org

**Suculent Cork Magnet Workshop**
7 p.m. Story Kill Farm
79 Farmstead Lane, Wappingers Falls
845-833-1617 | storystory.org

**Full Moon Paddle (Intermediate)**
7:30 p.m. Foundry Park, Cold Spring
845-457-4052 | rivertownkids.org

**Registration required.**

**Health & Fitness**

**Qi Gong/Tai Chi**
8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Dutchess County Fairgrounds
845-265-9225 | nhf2000.org

**Centennial Breakfast**
7:30 a.m. The Grand Hotel
1601 Route 9D, Garrison
845-265-2840 | thepantrycs.com

**NHFD District Meeting**
7 p.m. North Highlands Fire House
504 Fishkill, Cold Spring
845-831-1617 | nhfdny.org

**200th Anniversary of Putnam County Courthouse**
7 p.m. Dimsdale Ave., Carmel
putnamcountyny.org

**FRIDAY, JUNE 13**

**Kids & Community**

**National Motorcycle Meet & Machinery Show**
8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Dutchess County Fairgrounds
6550 Spring Brook Ave., Rhinebeck
tickets@nationalmost.com

**Poughkeepsie Library Book Sale**
8 a.m. - 10 p.m. 5 St. Andrews Road (at Route 9), Hyde Park
poklib.org

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

**Fridays at the Farm (ages 2-4): Strawberries**
10 a.m. Common Ground Farm
79 Farmstead Lane, Wappingers Falls
845-265-4424 | commongroundfarm.org

**Ongoing**

Visit www.philipstown.info for news updates and latest information.
Shaw’s Caesar and Cleopatra Screens at Downing on June 8

As part of its special programming, the Downing Film Center will feature in HD the award winning comedy by George Bernard Shaw, *Caesar and Cleopatra*, at 1 p.m. on Sunday, June 8. *Caesar and Cleopatra* is a witty and seductive comedy about the relationship between a veteran Roman political strategist and an enchanting Egyptian teenage queen. Now movie audiences can witness the acclaimed performance of legendary Canadian actor Christopher Plummer, and experience the drama, intrigue and comedy of George Bernard Shaw’s celebrated play. The production also stars Nikki M. James, who later went on to receive the 2011 Tony Award for Best Featured Actress in a Musical for her role as Nabulungi in *The Book of Mormon*. The high quality production captures the true experience of witnessing Shaw’s celebrated play on the prestigious Stratford Festival stage.

Tickets are $30 for general admission, $20 for seniors and students, and $10 for Downing members. Tickets can be purchased at the box office or at downingfilmcenter.com. For more information, call the box office at 845-561-3686 or visit the website. The Downing Film Center is located at 19 Front St., Newburgh.

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Fizz! Boom! Read! Summer Reading at Desmond-Fish Library

Join Mrs. Merry and singer-songwriter Stacy Labriola at the Desmond-Fish Library in Garrison for the Fizz! Boom! Read! Summer Reading Program Kickoff Party at 4:30 p.m. next Tuesday, June 10. Kids can register for summer reading, pick up their calendars and stampers and a kickoff prize. The event will feature live music, snacks, and paper airplanes.

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Writing Workshop for Adults at Butterfield Library Begins June 23

Using the Amherst Writers and Artists method, Susan Wallach provides a safe and encouraging atmosphere to write, using prompts (evocative prose, poetry, photos, and props) to spark creative voice. An adult writing workshop starts Monday, June 23, and runs through Monday, July 28, at Butterfield Library, 10 Morris Ave., from 7 to 9 p.m. The cost is $120 for two one-hour sessions for six weeks and is limited to eight participants. Pre-registration required. To register or make inquiries, email susanwallach1@verizon.net.

Participants will explore and take risks in writing. Everyone has their own voice and stories to tell, whether the stories stem from imagination or memory. This is your workshop if you always wanted to write but think you’re not a writer, are a writer and need encouragement/inspiration, are blocked or don’t know how to move forward, or want to hone your craft and explore stories for personal memoir.

Wallach, an accredited Amherst leader, was an editor at Random House, and is a published author. Other projects include ghostwriting for Holt Henry Books for Young Readers and Temple University Press.

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Young dancers to perform in Dancing Through Time June 7 at Haldane

This Saturday, June 7, at 2 p.m. at Haldane Auditorium, Studio B at The Beacon presents their Third Annual Spring Recital *Dancing Through Time*. The show will examine how popular dance forms have changed over the last 250 years and will feature over 60 young dancers performing ballet, tap, hip hop and musical theatre dance. Studio B dance director and former Radio City Rockette Katie Bissinger is excited to showcase her students in everything from classical 19th-century ballet to swing dance-inspired Fosse to disco tapping!

Tickets are $12 for adults and $5 for children 16 and under and are available at the door. The emcees for this year’s show are graduating seniors Alison Duncan and Gabrielle Evans. Come to the show and enjoy the dance-filled trip down memory lane.

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Constitution Island Association to Hold Seafood Gala

Fundraiser set for June 28

The Constitution Island Association will hold its signature fundraising event, the “Seafood Gala,” back on Constitution Island from 4 to 8:30 p.m. on Saturday, June 28. The event will be catered by Mount Kisco Seafood, featuring oysters, clams, shrimp, and poached salmon. Dinner includes whole Maine lobsters, chicken, salad, desserts, and an open bar of wine, beer and soft drinks.

The gala will feature a talk by Richard de Koster, CIA retiring executive director, and call the Health Department. If a family pet encounters a wild animal, avoid immediate handling, or use rubber gloves and call the Health Department.

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Rabies Concerns Increase with Warmer Temperatures

With warmer temperatures, people spend more time outdoors and the potential for contact with wildlife increases. Raccoons, skunks and foxes, as well as feral cats, can carry the rabies virus, found in the saliva and nervous tissue of an infected animal. Exchange can occur through an animal bite, or if saliva comes in contact with an open wound, or an individual’s eyes, nose or mouth.

To educate children about the risk of rabies, teach them to:

- Avoid wild animals, including new litters of baby animals in spring. (Everyone should resist the urge to touch or pet a wild animal or unfamiliar pet.)

- Tell an adult about any contact with a wild animal or unfamiliar pet.

- Never touch a bat. If a bat is found indoors, call the Health Department.

All animal bites and/or contact with wild animals should be reported promptly to the Department of Health at 845-808-1390. After hours or on weekends/holidays report the incident by calling the Environmental Health Hotline at 845-808-1390 and press “3.” A Health Department representative will promptly return your call. The Health Department will test any animal for possible rabies after an incident involving human or pet contact. If a family pet encounters a wild animal, avoid immediate handling, or use rubber gloves and call the Health Department.

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on “The Women of Constitutional Island,” celebrating the lives of Margaret Slocum Stage and Anna and Susan Warner.

In 1836, attorney Henry Warner bought the island. In the panic of 1837, Warner lost all of his other properties and settled his family on Constitution Island. Susan Warner’s Wide, Wide World was the first American book to sell over one million copies worldwide. Anna Warner’s Jesus Leans Me is one of the best-loved hymns ever composed.

Later, philanthropist Margaret Olivia Slocum Steinmetz purchased Constitution Island and gave it to the United States of America for the use of the U.S. Military Academy.

The Warner House is currently closed for renovations. The chair of the Constitution Island Association, Frederick Osborn III of Garrison, USBMA superintendant, and the West Point garrison commander have made the house reno-

vation and construction of an education center a priority so that they may be enjoyed by the public once again.

Transportation will be by boat only, departing from West Point South Dock at 4 and 5 p.m. and Garrison’s Landing at 4:15 and 5:15 p.m. (free parking at both locations). Cost is $150 per person, with a discount for active duty military and family. Make reservations or purchase tickets at 845-265-2501, or visit constitutionisland.org, or email the "CIA" at csairpwp@gmail.com.

Regents Approve New Old Road Society Charter

The New York State Board of Regents approved the new charter for the Old Road Society of Philipstown at its May meeting in Albany on Tuesday, May 22. The Old Road Society is officially recognized as a historical society under the auspices of the New York State Education Department’s Office of Cultural Educa-

tion and construction of an education center so that they may be enjoyed by the public once again.

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Transportation will be by boat only, departing from West Point South Dock at 4 and 5 p.m. and Garrison’s Landing at 4:15 and 5:15 p.m. (free parking at both locations). Cost is $150 per person, with a discount for active duty military and family. Make reservations or purchase tickets at 845-265-2501, or visit constitutionisland.org, or email the "CIA" at csairpwp@gmail.com.
Haldane’s First Fifth Grade Arts Day

assisted by sound man Nick Poholchuk, and still photographer Rudolf Van Dommele led the fifth graders in making a film documenting Haldane’s history, starting first with an interview with Philipstown historian and (very) long-term resident Donald MacDonald, who attended Haldane for two years, from 1940 to ’42 prior to his service in the Navy during World War II.

As the preliminary set-up was taking place, Meeropol had some advice for the student interviewers: “We take great pains in documentaries to hide our microphones. You want to feel that everything is natural. We use the boom mike for back-up and ambient sound … What you want to do is come up with a way of asking the questions so that the person you want to do is come up with a way of giving “adjustments” in characterizations: “I respond to directorial instruction by making “adjustments” in characterizations: “I respond to directorial instruction by making...

With huge, actor-y, big, big choices, really

workshop. As the kids warmed up and tried to emulate Hoffman’s perfect split, the librarian explained the history of the circus, in particular the significance the Cirque du Soleil has had in revolutionizing circus arts with the introduction of acrobats and aerialists.

After stretching, the students divided into small groups to rotate around four stations: juggling, stilts, a video of an aerialist performance, and the main activity every kid was just dying to try — the silks. Two purple silk sashes hung from a support structure 10 feet in the air. On the silks, under Hoffman’s guidance and supervision, each of the students learned how to hang upside down, lie suspended in midair, and loop around in a circle floating successfully.

The next rotation saw workshops in creative writing with Kathy Curtor; The Art of Breath in Song, in which opera singer and teaching singer Linda Milone Speciale worked on specific breathing techniques, explaining them anatomically; and drama and dance with Jenn Lee where kids learned how to move circuses and aerialists.

Meanwhile, a more “home girl” professional, middle and high school librarian, Juli Hoffman, who had showcased her acrobatic talents at the high school talent show this April, led a group of nine students in the Aerial and Circus Arts.

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Combing Home to Their Garden
By Pamela Doan

A lthough I visited too late in the season to catch the fragrance and beauty of the tree peonies, Debo rah Little and Rebecca Sperling’s garden was still full of color. The Cold Spring residents have a staggered bloom time for their flowers throughout the spring that gives them gorgeous color for several months, including tris, hydrangeas, and rhododendron. In the summer, they look forward to the blooming of the dahlias and sunflowers.

A landscaper owned the house before them and when they bought it 11 years ago many of the multiple varieties of peonies were there. They’ve added a pond, a vegetable garden, a container garden and several trees. A river birch they planted three years ago for privacy has added textural visual interest in the back corner and now needs to be pruned for the spot.

Their landscape has multiple areas for entertaining and enjoying the outdoors. “The house is very small and three seasons of the year, we’re out here,” Little said. Sperling added, “Each of these areas are really like rooms.” As any good gardener does, they steal ideas from the inspiration of other gardens they’ve seen. Some friends took them up to Italy gave them the idea for a section on


garden. Sperling added, “Each of these ar- to feel like the peach tree is grant bush no one could recall the name of, and blueberries. A foundation from a second structure that was torn down became the platform for a seating area they covered with a pergola over a large dining table. Little said that they started screening movies out there, too, with a projector and a sheet. It’s been used as a dance floor for parties and celebrations.

An arbor that’s built over a spot where they can park a car has old grape vines that precede them, too. “We’ve put in a few replacements for some that died, but we’ve given grapes to a neighbor who made wine from them. Every little area has some story.” A dogwood tree they believe dates back to when the house was first built more than 100 years ago was the first focal point they used to create an outdoor entertaining area. ‘It’s about

10 degrees cooler under there,” Sperling said. They describe their yard as a constant- ly shifting and evolving experience. “We aren’t very methodical about it. We have a few nurseries we love to go to and we walk around and it’s whatever grabs us.” Little said. Sperling added that she was more conservative about color, but now feels, “bright is pretty and now I’ll put anything in.”

Mistakes can be made. Sometimes a planting becomes bigger than expected and needs to be pruned or moved. “We don’t follow the rules,” Little said. “We enjoyed the blueberries so we added a peach tree, a sour cherry tree, and a pear tree.” Now they feel like the peach tree is too large for the front and are trying to figure out what to do with it. The fruit is a source for summer pies.

From left, Deborah Little and Rebecca Sperling have created a lovely outdoor space in their yard in the village, full of flowers, fruit trees and vegetables. Photo by P. Doan

MTV and Shakespeare in Haldane Midsummer/Jersey
By Michelle McKwen

What happens when A Midsum - mer Night’s Dream meets The Jersey Shore? MTV and Shakespeare collide in the upcoming Haldane Middle School Drama Depart - ment’s production of the comedy Mid - summer/Jersey by Ken Ludwig (the tal- ented playwright who wrote Crazy for You, among other works). A play chosen by the director, Martha Mechelakos, for its unique blend of the classic and the contemporary, Midsummer/Jersey sets Shakespeare’s play on the boardwalk of a seaside town in modern-day New Jersey. Hermia, Lysander, Demetrius, and Hel - ena become Mia, Lyle, Dennis, and He - lene. The Duke of Athens, Theseus, turns into the young and hip Governor of New Jersey, Chris, the rustic metamorphose into gabby beauticians; and of course, ev - eryone speaks in a Jersey accent.

The story begins when Mia and Lyle become stars of a reality TV show and flash back six years to recount the events that led up to their wedding. As the play unfolds, the plot revolves around the imminent marriage of the Governor of New Jersey, the sandy love affairs of four high school classmates, a colorful crew of fairies, and the stylists of the local beauty salon. Magic transforms the night when the mischievous Oberon and Puck make their entrance with a powerful love po - tion that will devastate several weddings and the acting careers of six stylists — unless true love can ride out the wave.

For those who love Shakespeare, Mechelakos assures that the play is written in verse for a seamless script. For those who love the modern twist, Mechelakos continues, “the playwright left explicit instructions to keep it very current, so there are a lot of tempo - rary references.” Such hilarities await the audience as Puck replaces an old成年, Oberon plays an electric guitar on the beach, and the wild, spaky-haired fairy dances to the 2014 hit Happy by Pharrell Williams. Parodying Shake - speare while jesting pop culture, this ro - mantic romp makes the timeless timely.

About 50 students auditioned for the production as one of the largest casting ever witnessed at Haldane’s Middle School, a testament to the building suc - cess of the drama program. Commenting on the department’s progress, Meche - lakos asserts: “It seems like every year, things just get better. We learn with each year that we do. I think that it doesn’t matter if it’s drama, music, or sports — when you establish levels of excellence, more people want to be in - volved, and when more people are in - volved, you have a bigger pool to make selections from. Even that in itself begets a superior product.”

Haldane Drama will perform Midsum - mer/Jersey at 7 p.m. Friday and Saturday, June 13 and 14, in the Haldane School Auditorium. Tickets will be sold at the door for $12 for the general public, and for $5 for students and seniors.
Sports

Lady Blue Devils Claim Fourth Straight Softball Title

By Kathie Scanlon

The Lady Blue Devils grabbed their fourth consecutive Class C sectional title on May 30 against Alexander Hamilton. The game ended in the bottom of the fifth inning with the mercy rule as Haldane dominated 24-1. Haldane drove in 13 runs in the first inning allowing Hamilton’s only run. With four in the second, six in the third and one in the fourth, Haldane was unstoppable. Marley Chefalo pitched four first-pitch strikes for a total of five strikeouts. Morgan Hotaling had three R.B.I. while Allie Monteleone added three hits and two R.B.I. Chefalo, Missy Lisikatos and Melissa Tringali each contributed two R.B.I.

The Lady Devils advance to the regional semifinals against Chester at 3:30 p.m. on June 5, at Minisink Valley High School.

Blue Devils Events

Thursday June 5, Varsity Softball

Class C Regional Semifinals vs. Chester

3:30 p.m. at Minisink Valley High School

Friday June 6, Varsity Baseball

Class C Regional Semifinals vs. Chester, 4 p.m.

at John Jay Cross River High School

Saturday June 7, Varsity Track

Division 2 State Meet at Cicero, 10 a.m. at North High School

Haldane Varsity Softball turned in a 24-1 victory over Alexander Hamilton in the Class C sectional championship on May 30 at North Rockland High School.

Photo courtesy of Chantal Lisikatos

Haldane Varsity Boys Track 4x800 relay team is on to states. The qualifying meet was held in White Plains on May 30.

Photo courtesy of Diane Hughes

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