Haldane High Principal Sends off 2012 Class

by Christine Simek

Saturday morning will mark a milestone in the lives of the seniors at Haldane. The journey each graduate will begin to make towards his or her distinctive future will most certainly prove to be as unique as the record of their individual pasts, but graduation day will be a moment the group will share, a sort of collective oeuvre created by the synthesis of these particular 66 voices, aptitudes, interests, and spirits coming together for the last time as the members of the Haldane Class of 2012.

Brian Alm, principal of Haldane High School, is confident that his teachers and administrators have prepared this artistic, motivated and eclectic group of young adults to be good citizens and good neighbors of our community and of our world, and he is especially pleased that the trend at Haldane seems to be towards better matching up the students with their future vocations at an earlier age—no matter what an individual’s interests or passions might be. The quality of competitive colleges that students are getting accepted into is steadily improving, and there has been an increase in the enrollment in vocational training over the past five years as well.

“All of our students are better positioned than ever to succeed. Whether they are choosing employment or a university or community college or whatever, (the students) are completing internships, outlining career paths, and are much more clear in setting goals,” he said.

By Christine Simek

Haldane High School Class of 2012

Photo courtesy of Haldane

“A Compassionate Bunch of Wholesome Good People”

Opposition Grows to Proposed Mine

Overflow hearing resumes July 9

By Liz Schevetchuk Armstrong

While about 60 residents, some visibly agitated, waited anxiously outside Town Hall on Monday (June 11), inside the building the Philipstown Zoning Board of Appeals heard a torrent of opposition to proposed soil mining in Philipstown.

Filling the meeting room, the largely critical audience encouraged the ZBA to reject the application by Lyons Realty and congressional representative.

Two other candidates, Duane Jackson and Tom Wilson, were no-shows after having made commitments to appear according to officials of the Philipstown Democratic Committee, which sponsored the event. Well over a hundred people sat on metal folding chairs and listened to opening statements and answers to several questions from moderator Neil Zuckerman.

All three candidates drew enthusiastic applause from an audience eager to hear criticism of Hayworth and Republican

Primary Candidates Eager for Race Against Hayworth

Maloney wins Democratic committee endorsement for June 26 contest

By Kevin E. Foley

Local Democrats jammed the North Highlands firehouse meeting room last Monday (June 11) to hear three of the five candidates for the Democratic Party nomination to oppose Rep. Nan Hayworth for the new 18th Congressional District seat. Matt Alexander, Dr. Richard Becker and Sean Patrick Maloney made spirited cases against the incumbent and tried hard to distinguish themselves while remaining supportive and respectful of their opponents. The primary election is June 26.

For approximately 75 minutes all three candidates hammered Hayworth for her votes in Congress, her affiliation with the Tea Party, and what they described as her protection of special moneyed interests in Congress as opposed to the interests of the over-burdened middle class.

They also expressed reasons why they would be the more effective candidate and congressional representative.

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All three candidates drew enthusiastic applause from an audience eager to hear criticism of Hayworth and Republican...
Schumer Endorses Hudson Fjord Trail

Shea tells Town Board of progress

By Liz Schertelthuk Armstrong

Sen. Charles Schumer Friday (June 8) endorsed the idea of a “Hudson River Fjord Trail” linking Cold Spring to Beacon, a project that also drew town, county and state officials to a brainstorming session with environmental groups on Thursday in Poughkeepsie.

During a speech to the Hudson Valley Economic Development Corp., meeting groups on Thursday in Poughkeepsie.

The following day, Schumer picked up a special fjord trail and urged state and federal governments to push ahead on it.

As envisioned thus far by a coalition of governmental and private organizations, the trail would stretch along the Hudson at least from Cold Spring to Beacon and perhaps further south as well. The project has won the enthusiastic backing of Philipstown Supervisor Richard Shea, who has regularly updated the Town Board about progress and delivered another report on Thursday night, following that day’s intergovernmental, inter-organizational trail discussions, whose attendees included a high-level regional member of Schumer’s staff. “It seems that this thing is going to move along. There are resources being committed,” Shea said. “There were some pretty exciting discussions regarding the availability of some funds and things. It was a productive day,” involving “definitely a higher-level discussion. We were at the DOT (Department of Transportation) headquarters and that says something” about DOT’s growing participation. “And also to have Sen. Schumer’s interest.”

The following day, Schumer picked up the trail theme in his Hudson economic development address.

On Thursday night, Shea said that the first piece of the trail is expected to run between Cold Spring and Breakneck Ridge. “There are a lot of ideas out there to get people off the road and off the tracks and onto a walking path,” he said. Currently, on many weekends the road is clogged with pedestrians walking along the shoulder from Cold Spring to Little Stony Point and beyond to the Breakneck trailhead, dodging vehicles zooming by on the road as well as cars turning onto wider areas along the shoulder to park. Shea said the DOT staff zeroed in on the need to improve the parking situation.

“Parking is so informal now, it’s a disaster,” he said. “The whole corridor is a disaster.”

To help mitigate the mess, Shea said the DOT members suggested “more formalized parking areas” at Breakneck and on the east side of the road at Little Stony Point, Shea said.

So far, he told the Town Board, well-drafted but preliminary designs exist for the trail. “The next steps is to try to define that plan a little bit more,” he explained.

A special screening by the Philipstown Reform Synagogue of

a documentary film by

Guto Barra & Béco Dornan

An exploration of the Brazilian music experience beyond its borders, featuring a sound-track of Brazilian classics reinterpreted by a new generation of artists.

BEYOND IPANEMA

Brazilian Beats in Global Music

Saturday, June 23, 2012
8 pm

A Q&A with the filmmaker

Refreshments and music: wear your dancing shoes!

“Beyond Maracana is a brilliant overview of the insertion of Brazilian music worldwide” - The Huffington Post

$10 for film and reception - order tickets online at www.pdpresents.org or call 845-424-3900

Polhemus Pleads Guilty to Driving While Impaired

Republican leader cites dangers of medication and alcohol mix

By Liz Schertelthuk Armstrong

Philipstown Republican leader Terry Polhemus pleaded guilty Wednesday (June 13) in Philipstown Justice Court to a traffic infraction of driving while impaired, a non-criminal offense.

Justice Alan Steiner imposed a one-year conditional discharge involving a 90-day suspension of her license; completion of 35 hours of community service in four months; attendance at one session of a Putnam County victim-impact panel; payment of $565, and avoidance of further run-ins with the law for 12 months, with the license suspension postponed for 20 days to allow Polhemus time to arrange details of her job.

The New York State Police encountered Polhemus while she was in her parked vehicle along Route 9 early in the morning on April 27. At that time she was charged with driving while intoxicated, a more serious allegation. Putnam County Assistant District Attorney Heather Abyssi said that she and John Hersh, Polhemus’ attorney had discussed the case and that she agreed that Polhemus’ driving probation would be modified to a plea of guilty Wednesday.

Police responded to a call from Polhemus while she was in her parked vehicle along Route 9 early in the morning on April 27. At that time she was charged with driving while intoxicated, a more serious allegation. Putnam County Assistant District Attorney Heather Abyssi said that she and John Hersh, Polhemus’ attorney had discussed the case and that she agreed that Polhemus’ driving probation

(Continued on next page)
meeting in July. Monday’s session was already a continuation of the hearing from May 14. Along with about 110 members of the public (outside and inside), the hearing drew Philipstown Town Board Members John Van Tassel, Nancy Montgomery, and Betty Budney, along with Supervisor Richard Shea, who split his time between listening upstair and fielding verbal brickbats outside from would-be attendees denied ready access due to space initiatives in the hall. The ZBA’s deputies at the doors allowed someone in as soon as another person left. Shea also suggested that the town move the next round of hearing, set for July 9, to a large Haldane school facility.

At present, the Lyons tract is the only site in Philipstown of potential mining, covered by a soil mining overlay district in the updated zoning code adopted in May 2011. The zoning code states that mining activities require a special permit and are allowed solely in the Soil Mining Overlay District.

**Unwelcome by-products feared**

Opponents focused on what they regard as likely unwanted by-products of the mine. “There’s never been any dis- pute about this project generating noise, dirt, traffic, and possibly, pollution. You cannot approve this without condemning this entire residential area and its hundreds of people to a future all too easy to imagine,” Eugene White told the five-member ZBA. “I’m not willing to accept the risks that come with this and I certainly hope you aren’t either. Please reject this application.”

“We’re enormously concerned about the environmental impact,” said another resident, Toshi Yano, mentioning a host of other likely and unwelcome mining spin-offs, from traffic snarls to industri-al-sized disturbances of the peace. “All these little things start to add up,” he said. “I’d like to retire there (in his home) and not retire there as an insane person.”

Russell Cusick raised questions about water quality. “My biggest concern is having a soil mine in such close proximity to the Clove Creek aquifer and Clove Creek itself,” he said.

“We need a place that can foster a community that is going forward, not backwards,” another speaker, Hadrien Coumans, put in. “This [mine] is a step backwards.”

Some speakers questioned the legality of the zoning. Under current New York State law, the mining overlay is illegal,” said Diana Hird. “The only way the overlay could be legal is if it benefitted the general welfare of the community and if it was part of a comprehensive plan. It meets neither criteria.”

Richard Butensky, an ardent foe of the mine, said “I can only see spot-zoning here … and that’s illegal. If it is improper at its base, then you have the obligation to turn it down,” he told the ZBA. “It’s not determined if it’s illegal.” ZBA Chairman Vincent Cestone replied.

Butensky also dismissed the idea that the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, which regulates mining, would adequately safeguard the public. “We certainly should have been getting input for our inter-ests,” he said.

Tony Bardes, who unlike many at the hearing does not live near the proposed mine, took a different tack. President of Citizens of Philipstown.Org, a group formed largely in opposition to the rezoning in 2009, Bardes pointed to the “ton of input” from the public that went into the ultimate rezoning document. He described the new code as a good one, reflective of the community. “I urge you guys to follow the zoning,” he said to the ZBA. He added that the Lyons family has “always operated with integrity. And the DEC is doing a wonderful job protecting the environment and they’ll be oversee-ing what’s going on here. I believe they’ll take care of it.”

From a different perspective, Freder-ick Turner, a lawyer for Butensky and others, also asked the ZBA “to apply the code. I would say that under your local zoning code this application falls far short.” Along with threats to wetlands, Clove Creek (which he described as trout-spawning), and homeowner wells, he predicted difficulty with air pollution as a consequence of the mine.

The Putnam Highlands Audubon Soci-ety commented, too. “We are opposed to a special use permit” for the mine, said the organization’s representative, Connie Mayer-Rakall. “We believe the need has not been established” for mining.

**Seeing the mine as unobtrusive**

Representing Lyons Realty, Glennon Watson, president of Badwy and Watson Surveying and Engineering P.C., empha-sized the modifications already made in the mining plans to accommodate residents and ZBA concerns and said the mining operation would be unobtrusive. “You can see clearly that the mining op-eration will be hidden,” he said. He also said the operation would entail “extrac-tion of unconsolidated materials but not rocks. It’s not a quarry, though it would produce a hole,” he said. According to Watson, there’s no intention of filling up the hole but ongoing reclamation will oc-cur.

Throughout the hearing, ZBA mem-bers mostly listened, offering a few comments at the end. One member, Bill Flaherty, noted that the DEC has said it anticipates “no adverse impact on criti-cal environmental areas,” a finding that “we can’t just file and forget.” In any case, he said, “nobody wants to deface a mountain. We see that in Fishkill. That's not going to happen here.” At the board level, he added, “I think we all are con-serning about this and are going to make a decision in the best interest of all.”

**A debate outdoors too**

While the hearing continued inside, Shea engaged in a long debate outside with Butensky, who likewise moved from one venue to the other throughout the course of the evening. Again, Butensky questioned the overlay and process that developed it.

As a town government, “you have the right to create an overlay,” Shea re-sponded. He said that the mining overlay in fact predated the new zoning code by about three years and evolved from discus-sions that began around 2005. “It was thought out for a long period of time” and then “the decision was made by the [Town] Board that this should be allowed in this town,” he said. Thus mining “is, right now, a permitted use in the Town of Philipstown.” At the beginning of the day, a far larger area was proposed for mining, but town officials reduced that extensively, he said. “We went from 50 square miles in play to essentially 23 acres in play.” Moreover, “there had always been soil mining; it had always been in town,” Shea observed. “I’m not either defending it or speaking against it.”

“The town didn’t have to mining at all,” Butensky shot back. “When we set up the new zoning, we’d have no mining.” He warned of a lawsuit if the ZBA grants a special permit for the mine. “If they do approve it, then the town will have to fight against all of us, because we’ll challenge the court because we feel it is illegal spot zoning.”

Shea, who also lives in the general vi-cinity of the proposed mine, assured the residents that “I’m not trying to negate anyone’s concerns here. These are all val-id arguments; I’m not going to deny it.” Asked how they might affect the deci-sion, he urged them to “get up and voice your legitimate concerns. Those things need to go in the record ... need to be taken into account.”

After the hearing adjourned and the crowds inside and outside dispersed, he told Philipstown.info that “I’m glad peo-ple turned out. It’s an important issue, an important decision. Everyone wants to see what’s best for the town.”
STATE BUDGET EDUCATION SUPPORT AT CRITICAL STAGE

Continued cuts threaten more than just the students

By Mark Villanti

Dear Jon Q. Public:

As a lifelong educator and public servant I am worried about the future of public education. Three years ago under then-Governor Patterson public school aid was slashed to balance the budget and those cuts have never been restored. Goves Mario Cuomo and George Pataki cut educational funding mid-term, but restored most of the aid during the next budget cycle. The GAP elimination line item provides balance to the N.Y. State budget by reducing local school aid. Essentially, the burden of our state economy was shifted to the local taxpayer. The GAP cuts remain today and are scheduled by law to continue through 2015-2016.

Before I am accused of “whining” let me be specific. At Haldane, which is deemed a high-wealth and low-needs school district, our aid has been reduced by 20 percent. High-needs, low-wealth districts’ aid has been reduced by a lower percentage, but because those districts rely on state aid for a larger share of their budget the cuts are just as significant. Haldane has lost a half million dollars a year for now our third year in GAP cuts. On a $22 million dollar budget in the words of my father, “that’s a lot of moola.” Many schools across the country are predicting that they will become insolvent in the next two to three years.

School officials are relieved that almost all school budgets in the area were passed during the May vote. At Haldane we experienced our highest budget approval rate and the lowest number of no votes. But like most areas districts not without a price. In our Westchester/Putnam County region 346 jobs were lost, a third being professional positions. Most districts in addition to cutting jobs leveraged fund balance and reserves to slow the “bleeding” of lost aid. Haldane did the same thing.

Why should anyone care other than parents with public school-age children? I can argue that quality public schools like Haldane even the playing field. A blue-collar kid like me born to immigrant parents has a fair chance of making it. My parents, tradesmen, fought their way to a middle-class lifestyle. Public schools gave me the opportunity, but as with everyone who attends public schools that is no guarantee, nor should it be. You have to earn your way in life. The American Dream still exists for children of parents like mine, but is that changing?

But equal opportunity is not reason alone to support our schools. Schools with better education preserve housing values more than areas with weaker schools. Public education is an investment. A thriving economy and an educated workforce go hand in hand.

During my childhood California was hailed as the No. 1 state for public education in the U.S. Tax-reform legislation was introduced over a decade and slowly the quality of public education in California eroded and became the story for documentaries like First to Worst. Where would you prefer to own a home, California or Putnam County?

Why am I writing this editorial? New Yorkers are fighters. Does the average resident understand the true state of aid to public education when they hear that our schools will receive a 4 percent increase? When we have the facts we are inspired to action. In the words of Abe Lincoln: “I am a firm believer in the people. If given the truth, they can be depended upon to meet any national crisis. The great point is to bring them the real facts.” I am happy to meet with anyone to discuss the New York State budget and education aid and provide the details for what I described. Like Lincoln I believe in the common-sense wisdom of the people. If we can get the facts out, New Yorkers will act and in the end we will be stronger for it.

(As the author is the Haldane Superintendent of Schools)
Desmond-Fish Library Associates Awards Dinner
The Desmond-Fish Library celebrated the eighteenth annual Associates Awards Dinner on Monday, May 28th, 2012 at the Bear Mountain Inn at Bear Mountain.

Angela Lansbury, actress and former Philipstown resident received the Hamilton Fish Award.

Pete Salmansohn, environmental educator and author received the Alice Curtis Award in recognition of his exceptional contribution to the education of children in the Philipstown community.

Nance Williamson and Kurt Rhoads were presented with the Patricia Adams Award for community service particularly for providing outlets for "the actor" in all of us.
Turtles Snap To It at Boscobel

Saturday’s expanded snapping turtle program includes other nature activities for kids
by Alison Rooney

rising early to catch the annual “Snapping Turtle Walk” presented by Constitution Marsh at Boscobel is well worth it, as these ancient creatures, native to this area, never fail to fascinate.

This year’s program, which takes place this Saturday, June 16, has been expanded beyond the traditional presentation by Marsh naturalists, which consists of a show-and-tell talk about the turtles followed by a walk around the Boscobel grounds searching for the obscured nests where the turtles come each spring to lay their eggs. Those same naturalists will be conducting a bird walk, along the woodland trail, in quest of songbirds, and there are likely to be “some really nice birds to be heard early in the morning in late spring,” according to Marsh center director Eric Lind. The Hudson Highlands Nature Museum is a first-time participant, offering a pondside exploration and a nature scavenger hunt directed at younger children.

Seeking to rectify some of the misinformation out there about snapping turtles, Lind answered a few questions from Philipstown.info:

What about this region makes it such a welcoming habitat for the turtles?
The Hudson River Valley has a wonderful diversity of turtles; there are 12 native species in the region, several of which are quite rare, and in fact the region ranks highly in the world in terms of diversity of turtles. They all need our attention in order to thrive. Some of the species co-exist, while others are isolated and are drawn to the specific habitats they need. Some are aquatic; one species, the terrapin, is restricted to the lower, more salty parts of the river; and some are terrestrial species, like box turtles.

How long have the snapping turtles been here?
In evolutionary development turtles go way back. They are native and quite common and don’t have really specific survival requirements like other species. They’re very widespread, not of serious conservation concern, although they suffer from the same predators as other turtle species, namely man. Not only from being hit by cars while crossing the road, but in other states they are now being collected and exported as a food item.

They survive well here because of their approach to life: they’re tough, rugged organisms; they’re not that specialized, and eat a lot of vegetation, carrion — they can actively hunt. However they do acquire a lot of contaminants from the river, mostly PCBs; they live a long time and accumulate toxins. Once over a certain size there is nothing hunting them, no predatory birds because they’re too big. But just because they’re strong and adaptable doesn’t mean they should be ignored — don’t take them for granted."

Has Constitution Marsh conducted research on the snapping turtle population?
Yes, we had a long term tagging program in which female turtles were tagged through a system of holes drilled through the back edge of their shells. Coding with these holes helped identify individual turtles to see if they chose the same nesting points each year; we also did counts. A while back there were easily over 500 female snapping turtles in our area.

When, and why, do the turtles usually emerge?
It’s dependent on temperatures, and in a typical season that means the first couple of weeks of June. This year a warm spell in May brought some out the last week of May. But generally they spend the first two weeks of June looking for nesting sites, although it can be earlier if they’re in a pond setting.

In terms of nests they look for a place to dig which also gets some sunshine — that’s why they love Boscobel’s mulched gardens and the wooded area along the trail at the Marsh. We don’t know why they make their specific choices, but it always involves a dig-able surface in which to bury the eggs. A lot of eggs get dug up and eaten by skunks, raccoons and other predators, but enough survive to maintain a stable population.

What else should we know about snapping turtles?
There’s a lot of misinformation out there: “... they’re dangerous, they can bite your arm off ...” They can bite fiercely, but they have limited options — they don’t make decisions like we do. It’s important that we don’t make a judgment about an animal based on their habits or the way they look. They’re not oddities that should be feared or taunted. Think objectively about what this animal is, and what our approach should be. They do require respect; they are strong and want to be left alone. And we largely do that — except for a couple of hours during the snapping turtle walk!

The cost for Saturday’s program, which begins at 7:30 a.m., is $18 for adults, and children 12 and under are free. Purchase tickets in person, over the phone or online at Boscobel.org.
Village gossip can be fun but not so much when it targets me and I must deal with one distressingly false rumor. Some people it seems, are whispering that I showed an American weakness when confronted by a squadron of geese that landed and congregated Mafia-style on the pristine grass of Dockside; across the river from Storm King.

It’s true that I approached the gangster geese, not far from one of our similar roots in Canada and ready to say hello. It’s also true that the invaders turned hostile, hissing and stomping at me. It’s certainly not true, as the gossip goes, that I once turned vulgar, not worth my attention. Because I decided they were noisy, vulgar, not worth my attention.

Long-time readers may recall that I showed un-American weakness by two horses approaching. But it was the distance so that they would not be invaders turned hostile, hissing and stomping at me. It’s certainly not true, as the gossip goes, that I turned vulgar, not worth my attention. Because I decided they were noisy, vulgar, not worth my attention.

To Dockside, I want to apologize the local clean-up crews who did such a splendid job of mowing the grass and emptying more trash bins than you can throw a bone at. It’s one of my favorite places to walk, relax and run. I merely showed them my disapproving backside and strode away with my usual savoir-faire true, as the gossip goes, that I turned vulgar, not worth my attention. Because I decided they were noisy, vulgar, not worth my attention.

Back to Dockside, I want to apologize the local clean-up crews who did such a splendid job of mowing the grass and emptying more trash bins than you can throw a bone at. It’s one of my favorite places to walk, relax and run. I merely showed them my disapproving backside and strode away with my usual savoir-faire true, as the gossip goes, that I turned vulgar, not worth my attention. Because I decided they were noisy, vulgar, not worth my attention.

The Country Goose
115 Main Street • Cold Spring NY
845-265-2122 • www.highlandlakesbaskets.com

The Calendar
Looking for things to do in and around Philipstown? Grab The Calendar and go. For more details and ongoing events, visit philipstown.info. Send event listings to calendar@philipstown.info. See you around town!

FRIDAY, JUNE 15
Kids & Community
Reading Dog for Kids
3:30 - 5 P.M. DESMOND-FISHER LIBRARY
472 Route 603, Garrison | (845) 424-3200
desmondfishlibrary.org | Call to register.

Health, Fitness & Outdoors
Boys Travel Soccer Tryouts
6:30 – 7:30 P.M. PHILIPSTOWN PARK
1239 Route 9D, Garrison
(845) 926-7187 • philipstownsoccersoccer.org
Must be born 9/1/01 - 7/31/04.

Theater & Film
The GLEEful Project musical performance
7 P.M. PHILIPSTOWN DEPOT THEATRE
10 Garrison Landing, Garrison
(845) 424-3900 • philipstowndepottheatre.com

Jiro Dreams of Sushi film
7:30 P.M. PARAMOUNT CENTER FOR THE ARTS
2500 Brown St., Peekskill | (914) 735-2333
paramountcenter.org | Tickets: $7-9

The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel film
8 P.M. DOWNING FILM CENTER
19 Frant Street, Newburgh | (845) 561-3686
downingfilmcenter.com | Tickets: General $8.50; Seniors/Students $7; Members & Under 18 $6

Meetings & Lectures
North Highlands Fire District Special Meeting
5:30 P.M. NORTH HIGHLANDS FIRE HOUSE
504 Fishkill Road, Cold Spring
(845) 265-7285 • nhfh211.org

Music
Open Mic
7:30 P.M. HOWLAND CULTURAL CENTER
477 Main St., Beacon
(845) 834-4988 • howlandculturalcenter.org
Requested donations: $3

Set to Stun
8 - 11 P.M. WHISTLING WILLIE’S
164 Main St., Cold Spring
(845) 265-2012 • whistlingwillies.com

Michael Bolton
8 P.M. TARRYTOWN MUSIC HALL
13 Main St., Tarrytown
(914) 631-3300 Ext. 100 • tarrytownmusichall.org
Tickets: $58-5140

John Gisser: Acoustic Soul Rock
8 P.M. MCGUIRE’S ON MAIN
54 Main St., Cold Spring

Peter Karp & Sue Foley’s He Said She Said CD Release Party
9 P.M. TURNING POINT MUSIC CAFE
486 Piermont Ave., Piermont
(845) 359-1049 • turningpointcafe.com
Tickets: $25

Constitution Marsh Kayak Tour
7:30 A.M. HUDSON VALLEY OUTFITTERS
63 Main St., Cold Spring
(845) 265-0222 • hudsonvalleyoutfitters.com
Cost: $15. Call to register.

Art & Design
Manitoga/The Russel Wright Design Center Rockland County Day
11 A.M. & 1:30 P.M. TOURS, MANITOGA
584 Route 9D, Garrison
(845) 424-3812 • russelwrightcenter.org
Discounted rate: $5 for Rockland County residents
Register online at brownpapertickets.com

Special Exhibition Event: Beekeeper Tours of Peter Coffin’s Untitled
NION, STORM KING ART CENTER
1 Museum Road, New Windsor
(845) 534-3115 • stormking.org

Introducing SUNSET KAYAK TOURS
Every Friday
RESERVE NOW: 845-265-0221
10% off if you mention this ad!

SUNDAY, JUNE 16
Kids & Community
Cold Spring Farmers’ Market
8:30 A.M. – 1:30 P.M. BOSCobel
1601 Route 9D, Garrison
cottammarket.org

Haldane High School Graduation
10:30 A.M. – NOON HALDANE SCHOOL
11 Coach’s Drive, Cold Spring
(845) 265-9254 • haldaneschool.org

Clearwater’s Great Hudson River Revival
9 A.M. – 9 P.M. CROTON POINT PARK
1A Croton Point Ave., Croton-on-Hudson
(845) 265-8060 • clearwater.org/recreation
Tickets: $75 advance/$85 gate, discounts available; children 12 & under free with adult

Starlab Planetarium Show
6 P.M. & 7 P.M. MID-RUSSIAN CHILDREN’S MUSEUM
75 N. Water St., Poughkeepsie
(845) 471-0589 • mcm.org
Free: $4. Reservations required.

Saturday Late Night & Family Free Time
5 – 8 P.M. MID-WESTERN CHILDREN’S MUSEUM
75 N. Water St., Poughkeepsie
(845) 471-0589 • mcm.org

Health, Fitness & Outdoors
Snapping Turtle Walk & Morning Nature Programs
7:30 A.M. – NOON BOSCobel
1601 Route 9D, Garrison
(845) 265-9388 • boscobel.org
A admission; children 12 & under free

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!
SUNDAY, JUNE 17

Kids & Community
Beacon Flea Market
8 A.M. – 3 P.M. HENRY STREET PARKING LOT
6 Henry St., Beacon
(845) 202-0094 | beaconflea.blogspot.com

Clearwater’s Great Hudson River Revival
See details under Saturday.

Free Admission for Fathers!
11 A.M. – 5 P.M. MID-HUDSON CHILDREN’S MUSEUM
75 N. Water St., Poughkeepsie
(845) 471-0589 | mhcm.org

Health, Fitness & Outdoors
Banmaner’s Castle Hard Hat Kayak Tour
7:30 A.M. HUDSON VALLEY OUTFITTERS
63 Main St., Cold Spring
845-265-0221 | hudsonvalleyoutfitters.com
Cost: $130. Call to register.

Constitution Marsh Kayak Tour
8 A.M. HUDSON VALLEY OUTFITTERS
63 Main St., Cold Spring
845-265-0221 | hudsonvalleyoutfitters.com
Cost: $110. Call to register.

Theater & Film
Anne of Green Gables Youth Theater Workshop play
See details under Saturday.
Monday, June 18

Theater & Film
Audition Notice: 4th Wall Productions' Children's Fairy Tale Theater Troupe
7 - 9 p.m. The Beacon Theatre
See details under Sunday.

Music
Howland Cultural Center Community Chorus
7 - 9 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
477 Main St., Beacon
(845) 265-9254 | howlandculturalcenter.org
From 7th-grade level to adult.

Meetings & Lectures
Butterfield Book Group: Q & A by Vikas Swarup
7 p.m. Butterfield Library
10 Morris Ave., Cold Spring
(845) 265-3040 | butterfieldlibrary.org

Tuesday, June 19

Theater & Film
The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel film
7:30 p.m. Downing Film Center
See details under Friday.

Music
Old-Timey Southern Fiddle Tunes Jam Session
7 - 10 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
477 Main St., Beacon
(845) 831-4988 | howlandculturalcenter.org

Wednesday, June 20

Kids & Community
Garrison School Graduation
6 p.m. Garrison School
1100 Route 9D, Garrison
(845) 424-3689 | garrison school.org

What Does It Mean to be an Architect?
6:45 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. Butterfield Library
10 Morris Ave., Cold Spring
(845) 265-3040 | butterfieldlibrary.org
For ages 5 to 18.

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

Theater & Film
The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel film
7:30 p.m. Downing Film Center
See details under Friday.

Music
Open Mic
8 - 11 p.m. Whistling Willie's
184 Main St., Cold Spring
(845) 265-2012 | whistlingwillies.com

Meetings & Lectures
Haldane Board of Education Meeting
7 p.m. Haldane School
15 Craigside Dr., Cold Spring
(845) 265-9254 | haldaneschool.org

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

Thursday, June 21

Kids & Community
O’Neill High School Graduation
7 - 9 p.m. Eisenhower Hall
665 Ruper Road, West Point
(845) 449-4914 | tfcmcsd.org

Health, Fitness & Outdoors
David Rothenberg, Why Birds Sing
7 p.m. Center for Environmental Innovation & Education
199 Dennings Ave., Beacon
(845) 765-2721 | cei.org | Call to register.

Theater & Film
The Happy Together Tour 2012
8 p.m. Tarrytown Music Hall
13 Main St., Tarrytown
(914) 631-3390 Ext. 100 | tarrytownmusichall.org

Music
The Happy Together Tour 2012
8 p.m. Tarrytown Music Hall
13 Main St., Tarrytown
(914) 631-3390 Ext. 100 | tarrytownmusichall.org
Tickets: $55 - $125

Westchester Rock Jam & Band Showcase
8:30 p.m. 12 Grapes
12 N. Division St., Peekskill
(914) 737-6624 | 12grapes.com

Meetings & Lectures
Philipstown Town Board Workshop
7:30 p.m. Town Hall
239 Main St., Cold Spring
(845) 265-5200 | philipstown.com

Meetings & Lectures
Cold Spring Zoning Board of Appeals Meeting
7 p.m. Village Hall
85 Main St., Cold Spring
(845) 265-3611 | coldspringny.gov

Summer Writing Workshop
Conducted by poet and Sarah Lawrence professor Jeffrey McDaniel
Philipstown resident Jeffrey McDaniel is offering an eight-week writing workshop designed for seasoned and aspiring writers alike. The workshop will take place in Cold Spring, on Thursday evenings, from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m., from June 21 to Aug. 9. Each week, students will bring in a new piece of writing. Both poems and prose pieces are welcome. The informal, but rigorous, approach of this workshop makes it good for an experienced writer, seeking to maintain a productive rhythm, as well as those who are newer to imaginative writing or looking for a creative jumpstart.

Jeffrey McDaniel has been teaching creative writing at Sarah Lawrence College for eleven years and taught community-based workshops for seven years before that, in Los Angeles and Washington D.C.

The cost is $200 for the eight sessions. Contact jmcdaniel@slc.edu or 917-796-5641 to register, or for information on future classes, which include a one-day Intensive, Maska, Personas, and the Literal I, which takes place on July 14 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Manuscript consultations and private conferences are also available.
I t’s exciting, definitely different. We all love each other — but we need to experience new things,” said 18-year-old Mike Colamarino. “When we were freshmen the seniors told us it would go by ‘just like that.’ It’s gone by so fast,” he said. Colamarino is headed for Iona College in New Rochelle in the fall. His plans are a work in progress. “Right now I’m undecided. I’ll likely go into business after the first semester,” he said. At Haldane he liked “being able to walk up the hill in the morning, knowing everyone. You could never do that anywhere else.” Colamarino was an active student-athlete, playing football, lacrosse and participating in track, while also belonging to the International Club. He likes the idea of coming home after college. “Ideally, I’d like to be able to live in this town and commute to my job in the city.”

For 17-year-old Emily Lombardo, leaving Haldane feels odd. “It’s crazy that I won’t be in school at Haldane since kindergarten. She’ll attend the New York State Institute of Arts and Technology, now known as Westchester Community College, and hopes to become a high school math teacher. There is one aspect about Haldane he did not care for — AP exam week. “The amount of work you have to put into it — and then having to do SATs the same week. You just never stop studying.” But he does think Haldane’s small size is a plus academically. “I’m going to get my education certificate and para-legal certificate. But I don’t have a full plan yet.”

Four Residents Remember Graduation

By Michael Turton

F rannis (Terry) Lahey graduated from Haldane High School in 1948. His graduation took on a form very different from what the Class of 2012 will experience. His graduation was spread over four days. “Friday was a ‘class night’ and the key to explaining that the evening was a roast — with the graduates as the center of attention. On Saturday evening, a dinner was held at the Bear Mountain Inn. “That was a big deal,” Lahey said. A baccalaureate service was held on Sunday afternoon, presided over by clergy from each of the local churches. The graduation ceremony was held on Monday evening. “I enjoyed high school. Those were good days,” Lahey said. Sports were a big part of that enjoyment. “We won the Putnam County football championship in 1945 and in 1948 we won the first county track championship,” he said. At least one member of his family has attended Haldane every year since 1939. “And my grandson Lucas graduates this year,” he said. Student parking was certainly not an issue in the 1940s. “In my senior year only one other guy and I had cars!” Lahey remembers. After graduating, Lahey attended the New York State Institute of Arts and Technology, now known as Westchester Community College, and went on to work as a construction engineer for New York State for 32 years.

Chuck LaRosa went to Dewitt Clinton High School in the Bronx, graduating in 1954. “Graduation was big deal then. All my aunts and uncles came down and we all went out to dinner.” One of his favorite activities was arguing with his teachers about politics, including heated discussions about the infamous Sen. Joe McCarthy. LaRosa remembers one highlight from high school very well. “In 1951, I played hockey and went to the playoff game between the New York Giants and the Brooklyn Dodgers. The Dodgers won that one,” he said. He undoubtedly wishes he had waited one more day. In the next game, Bobby Thomson hit the “shot heard (Continued on page 12)
Lacrosse ‘P.L.A.Y. Day’ Draws 500 Players

Tourament concludes with ‘Clan Reunion Game’

More than 500 “lax-ers” in grades 1 through 6, along with a contingent of local high school and older alumni players, competed across the Philipstown Park and Garrison school fields last Sunday, June 3, in the 16th annual P.L.A.Y. Day lacrosse tournament. The tournament, organized by the Philipstown Lacrosse Association (Youth) in cooperation with Philipstown Park and Recreation for ongoing support of Haldane’s cafeteria and farm to school program.

Throughout June, Haldane will be getting lettuce, radishes, scallions and maybe some spinach and turnips as well. Over the summer, parent-volunteers will be processing the summer vegetables and freezing them for the fall. “Imagine Cindy’s homemade marinara sauce with local Glynwood tomatoes,” McKevelcy mused.

Come fall, the students will return to a salad bar featuring local salad greens, tomatoes, and cucumbers. And in the colder months they’ll have carrots, beets, kale, broccoli, onions, arugula, squash, and pumpkins.

Serving healthier meals in the cafeteria, improving student nutrition and providing agriculture, health, and nutrition education in the classroom are at the core of Haldane’s Farm to School initiative and McKevelcy’s organization. The seeds have been planted. Any parents who would like to volunteer for the summer processing should email McKevelcy at sandy@hvfs.org.

To learn more how you can support Haldane’s and Garrison’s Farm to School programs, check out the blog “Hudson Valley Farm to School” at www.hvfs.org. Hudson Valley Farm to School is a special project of the Hudson Highlands Land Trust.

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Four Residents Remember Graduation

(from page 11)

The fast-paced format saw the teams play a series of three or four games of 20 minutes each in round-robin fashion. The Philipsport Highlanders grades 5-6 team won three of its four games while the grades 3-4 team went two for three, and the grades 1-3 team played hard and well in their three games.

In what has become a Highlander’s tradition, the competition concluded with “The Clan Reunion Game,” a match on the Garrison school field between local high school players and veterans including coaches, former college standouts and a number of top-flight current college players. This year the alumni edged out a very strong and well-conditioned high school team, 12 to 10.

A barbecue and pot luck buffet followed for all of the players and their families at the Garrison Volunteer Fire Department’s Upper Station Road facility. Organizers estimate they served more than 1,000 attendees.

P.L.A.Y. officials expressed their thanks and appreciation to a number of organizations and individuals who helped make the day an outstanding success for the players and the entire community. Among them: Philipstown Recreation for ongoing support of youth lacrosse; the Garrison Volunteer Fire Department; the Garrison Union Free School District for its facilities; and Dain’s Lumber for the giant grill and tent. Also acknowledged were the director of Recreation youth lacrosse, Brian Kelly, and dedicated coaches Matt Beachek, Josh Dinardo, Matt McMahon and Chuck Twoguns for grades 1-2; Matt McMahon, Rob McColllum, Rick McKeel and Spiro Angelopoulos for grades 3-4; and Chuck Twoguns, Brian Kelly, Ed Mcgowan and Tom Champi for grade 5-6.

Coaching the Highlander Clan Reunion game were Bob Freeman, Rick McKeel, John Benjamin and Chun Lai. Additionally, officials thanked the parents and friends who helped with set-up, managed finances, shopped, worked the grill, prepared pot-luck dishes, stocked the serving tables and cleaned up afterwards.

Four Residents Remember Graduation

round the world” — perhaps the most famous home run in baseball history, giving him the pennant. After graduating from 1967. “I remember it was held indoors — and it was pretty warm!” As with so many Haldane alumni, sports were important to her. “I think I played every sport,” she said. When asked what she did after high school she was quick to respond. “I loved school. I didn’t have any pet peeves. I enjoyed every moment of it!” Her first job, which she began while attending Haldane, was at Palen’s Drug Store on Main Street. She also participated in a co-op program, working at IBM, while continuing her high school classes.

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Candidates Eager for Race Against Hayworth (from page 1)

Maloney on the other hand trumpeted that he had raised more money than Hayworth in the first quarter of the year. “No one else has the support I have,” he declared, as he listed the AFL-CIO and the teachers, hospital workers, electricians and carpenters unions among other unions and political organizations. “I have worked on campaigns all my life; when we all come together, we win,” he said.

Audience in firehouse applauds all three candidates

Photo by K.E. Foley
Haldane High School Principal Sends Off the Class of 2012

(from page 1)

These improvements can be attributed to several changes that Alm and the faculty have implemented over the past few years, changes to curriculum (for one, an increase in the number of AP classes offered, though that is a much more nuanced discussion than this space allows), as well as increased academic support with the creation of the 10th-period H.E.A.R.T. program (Haldane Encourages Achievement, Research, and Teamwork) that provides after-school help to students in need of academic support. Another change, the shift to a common high-school lunch period that was made four years ago, might seem superficial on the surface, but Alm said an entire student body having the opportunity to break bread together each day helps define and strengthen the culture and atmosphere of a school as well.

Nearly five years ago the Class of 2012 came together for the first time, probably on a sunny end-of-vacation morning when their adolescent minds were still fixed on the receding days of summer and they could barely imagine that a day of parting would ever come. Some members of the group would have known one another since preschool, others may have met in grade school by way of a Philipstown sports team or the Depot Theatre, and there were a few to whom Haldane was entirely new but, over time, the group coalesced, Alm said. “This group is a paradox, though. We talk about each class tending to take on a distinct identity of their own that it carries for its time here, but this group has also retained a kind of autonomy within that.” Alm explained, “These kids seem pleased to follow their own unique callings instead of being held hostage by a collective consciousness. They are very much a group of strong individuals that have very specific endeavors and goals and are well poised to go out into the world to seek their own individual dreams.” This kind of self-determination might seem like an impossible ambition for teenagers. The pressures of our greater culture, the Internet, advertising and the simple desire to just want to “fit in” can produce an environment that isn’t conducive to the formation of a whole, self-reliant person. Alm said that being able to address these impediments is one of the biggest benefits of a small school. The intimate quality of the relationships between teachers and students at Haldane, amplified by the addition of a full-time social worker who meets with students regularly, allows for a real appreciation and knowledge of each student. Teachers and staff, through this understanding, can then encourage confidence and self-awareness — attributes necessary to maintain a healthy sense of self amid the sometimes tumultuous waters of puberty.

Alm made it clear that “we haven’t schooled the best intentions and passions out of this group, either. I’m confident that these students are leaving with just as many sparks and just as much enthusiasm as they had when they came to us — even their resistances and their protests,” he laughed. “Along the way we taught diplomacy, good politics. We filled them with knowledge and some good old-fashioned human kindness, and they have become a very classy and compassionate bunch of wholesome good people.” To this point, Alm said that the legacy of the Class of 2012 will not be a prank — something that in past years has been customary at the end of senior year. He observed that over the past few years student interest has begun to move away from the tradition of leaving a negative mark. Instead, internships, college acceptance letters and senior projects such as student-made films have become a trend. “You see seniors screening their cinematography projects and grabbing showtimes and juniors, dragging them into the room to see their film. They are saying: these are the capstones of my high school career.”

No matter what a graduate’s plans might be — whether college or a job or a bit of time off — the students will find that days will never again have the same rhythm or familiarity as they did when they were at Haldane. And though this reality might bring trepidation or come as relief, the graduates can take solace in the fact that, wherever their adventures may scatter them, they will always have a place in Cold Spring as members of the Haldane Class of 2012 — each individual 1/66th of a whole.

What a Season for Haldane Baseball Blue Devils

By Michael Turton

The 2012 Haldane Blue Devils came within one game of bringing home a state baseball championship — which would have been a first for the school. Their 5-3 loss to a strong Lansing High School team in the final game of the state tournament held last weekend (June 9) in Johnson City was a bitter pill to swallow. But with a final record of 20 wins against only four losses, players, coaches and fans will look back at this season as something special — including league, sectional and regional championships.

In the semi-final game against Voorheesville, ace right-hander Dan Kinnaird led the Blue Devils to a 6-0 shutout, allowing only six hits while picking up his eighth win of the year. Haldane’s playoff run included a 22-inning streak during which they did not allow a run.

Head coach Tom Virgadamo made no excuses for the team’s loss in the final. “We had many opportunities to score runs and failed to do so,” he said. “John Rotando pitched great all year and simply struggled for one inning. It happens. I’d go with him again when the time comes. It wasn’t meant to be.”

Despite the heartbreaking loss, the team received a rousing welcome back in Cold Spring. “The parade was amazing — our guys deserved it,” Virgadamo said. “Our guys weren’t unfinished business to take care of,” he said. “Our guys weren’t satisfied with being No. 2. We don’t settle for second best in life.”

The Blue Devils will lose three very talented seniors in 2013 — but Virgadamo is already thinking next season. “I’m counting down the days ... we have some unfinished business to take care of,” he said. “Our guys weren’t satisfied with being No. 2. We don’t settle for second best in life.”
Haldane High School Graduates

Peter Allen  Conor Austin  Salvatore Baisley  Andrew Balducci  Judith Barcavage  Elizabeth Bengel  Conner Brennan

Terrence Brennan  Gavin Brower  Michael Colamarino, Jr.  Brian Costello  Adriana Corti  Bryant Dain  Sean Daly

Elizabeth Landreano  Patrick Deponte  Raymond DiFrancesco  Michael Exa  Jacqueline Ferguson  Kelsey Flaherty  Miller Francis

(Continued on page 16)

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