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The Paper

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Haldane High School Class of 2012

Photo courtesy of Haldane

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.



Brian Alm, Principal Photo by Christine Simek

Opposition Grows to Proposed Mine

Overflow hearing resumes July 9

By Liz Schevtchuk 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 for a special use permit to open a soil mine along Route 9. The mine would be located between Mill Road and East Mountain Road North, in Philipstown's upper fringe. Owning 137 total acres, the company proposes to "disturb" about 33 acres for the mine and accompanying road. Now wooded, the site is zoned industrial in part and residential in part. Those who opposed the mine included neighbors.

The ZBA took no action other than to continue the public hearing at another

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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.

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 Republicans in Congress. From the Democratic committee's perspective, however, it was Sean Maloney who most impressed. The group, meeting in private after the forum, gave him their endorsement after what was described by a participant as a lengthy debate.

Maloney, a new Philipstown homeowner, proffered his experience working in senior positions for President Bill Clinton and Govs. Eliot Spitzer and David Patterson, his fundraising ability, strong union support, and involvement in numerous political campaigns as reasons to support his candidacy. He said President Clinton had endorsed him that very day. Maloney has also gathered support from state and national party officials who have a keen interest in a race that

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Schumer Endorses Hudson Fjord Trail

Shea tells Town Board of progress

By Liz Schevtchuk 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 at a resort near New Paltz, Schumer, a New York Democrat, referred to the proposed fjord trail and urged state and federal governments to push ahead on it. “We’re proposing it today,” Schumer said, in remarks quoted by the Poughkeepsie Journal newspaper. Other regional media noted that he focused on the safety, tourism, and scenic benefits the trail would bring, pointing to the success of the Walkway over the Hudson crossing the river at Poughkeepsie via an old railroad bridge.

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. The whole corridor is a disaster,” he said. To help mitigate the mess, 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 step is to try to define that plan a little bit more,” he explained.



Chaotic parking along 9D Photo by M.J. Armstrong



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Polhemus Pleads Guilty to Driving While Impaired

Republican leader cites dangers of medication and alcohol mix

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

Philipstown Republican leader Theresa J. “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 ses-

sion of a Putnam County victim-impact panel; payment of \$300 in a basic fine and \$265 in New York State surcharges for a total 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 prob-

(Continued on next page)


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Opposition Grows to Proposed Soil Mine

(from page 1)

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 upstairs and fielding verbal brickbats outside from would-be attendees denied ready access due to space initiations in the hall. (Sheriff's deputies at the doors allowed someone in as soon as another person left.) Shea 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 neighbor, Toshi Yano, mentioning a host of other likely and unwelcome mining spin-offs, from traffic snarls to industrial-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



Richard Butensky addresses the ZBA

Photo by L.S. Armstrong

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 somebody looking out for our interests," 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 overseeing what’s going on here. I believe they’ll take care of it.”

From a different perspective, Frederick 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 Society commented, too. “We are opposed to a special use permit” for the mine, said the organization’s representative, Connie Mayer-Bakall. “We believe the need has not been established” for mining.

Seeing the mine as unobtrusive

Representing Lyons Realty, Glennon Watson, president of Badey and Watson Surveying and Engineering P.C., emphasized 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 operation will be hidden," he said. He also said the operation would entail "extraction 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 occur.

Throughout the hearing, ZBA members 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 critical 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 concerned 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 over 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 responded. He said that the mining overlay in fact predated the new zoning code by about three years and evolved from discussions 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, 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 have mining at all,” Butensky shot back. “When we set up the new zoning, we could’ve had 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 this because we feel it is illegal spot zoning.”

Shea, who also lives in the general vicinity of the proposed mine, assured the residents that "I'm not trying to negate anyone's concerns here. These are all valid arguments; I'm not going to deny it."

Asked how they might affect the decision, 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 people turned out. It’s an important issue, an important decision. Everyone wants to see what’s best for the town.”

Polhemus

(from page 2)

lem resulted from a powerful combination of a new prescription medications, alcohol, and severe dieting. Telling the judge that Polhemus had been medically evaluated by a physician who had diagnosed the causes of her conduct, Abyss helped resolve the disposition of the case.

“Yes, I am” pleading guilty to the infraction of driving while impaired, Polhemus told the court.

"There was a clear medical component here," Hersh told the press after the judge's ruling. He said that Polhemus' blood-alcohol reading "was barely over the limit."

"I want to take responsibility for my actions," Polhemus said, outside the court, held at Philipstown Town Hall. She added that she likewise wants to warn others what can occur if they combine too many potentially hazardous substances. "I had started new medications about three days before. Also, I'd dropped a great deal of weight," she said. "This is how easily things can go awry. What happened to me was a bad thing, but people should still be careful" lest they get into a similar situation.

The court almost operated in the dark – literally – during the proceedings: A power failure shut off the electricity at

Town Hall, and downed computers and copying machines, leaving the courtroom shrouded in gray, lit only by windows.

Last fall, as the chairperson of the Philipstown Republicans, Polhemus spearheaded unsuccessful efforts to elect a Republican town supervisor and two Republican Town Board members. Her own bid in 2009 to win a Town Board seat also failed.

Theresa J. Polhemus *Photo by Liz Armstrong*

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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OPINION PIECE

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. Govs. 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 area 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-relief 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.

(The author is the Haldane Superintendent of Schools)

Mark Villanti

Philipstown.info The Paper is a commendable addition

To the editor:

We would like to take this opportunity to congratulate you and your staff for the publication of *Philipstown.info* The Paper.

The weekly publication of the printed version is a commendable addition to the public square of ideas in our community.

We appreciate the effort, its contribution to the flow, the exchange of information and points of view in Philipstown.

Sincerely,

Tony Bardes
President, Citizens of Philipstown.org

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environmental educator and author received the
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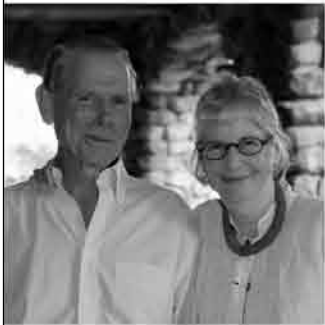
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The Calendar



Close-up reveals how turtle got its name

Photo by Alison Rooney

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.

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From the movie of Alfred Hitchcock



SITTING on the BENCH

by Tara



Village gossip can be fun but not so much when it targets moi and I must deal with one distressingly false rumor. Some people it seems, are whispering that I showed un-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, conscious of our similar roots in Canada and ready to say hello. It's also true that the invaders turned hostile, hissing and honking at me. It's certainly not true, as the gossip goes, that I turned and ran. I merely showed them my disapproving backside and strolled away with my usual savoir-faire because I decided they were noisy, vulgar, not worth my attention.

Long-time readers may recall as evidence against me that I once described hiding behind a knoll in the woods around Manitou when I saw two horses approaching. But it was discretion, not fear, that put me there. The horses were huge beasts and I merely decided to keep a civilized distance so that they would not be frightened of me.

Back to Dockside. I want to applaud the local clean-up crews who do 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 enjoy the scent of new-mown grass. I must add that the intruding geese had nothing to do with the boss's store, the Country Goose, where there is never any hostility and certainly no hissing and honking.

Indeed, you couldn't find anybody more welcoming than the boss. She greets everyone who comes into the store personally and tells them about her new items. Like the microfibre towels. She originally bought them for humans, but then found out they work just as well for drying dogs. Now, as soon as I have finished my swim she drapes me in the towel and it immediately absorbs the water. Voila, within minutes I am dry. Come on in and order some.

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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!

Scan the QR code above with your mobile device for more calendar details.

FRIDAY, JUNE 15

Kids & Community

Reading Dog for Kids
3:30 – 5 P.M. DESMOND-FISH LIBRARY
472 Route 403, Garrison | (845) 424-3020
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 | philipstownsoccer.org
Must be born 8/1/01 – 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
Tickets: \$8/adult; \$5/child. Order at brownpapertickets.com.

Jiro Dreams of Sushi film
7:30 P.M. PARAMOUNT CENTER FOR THE ARTS
1008 Brown St., Peekskill | (914) 739-2333
paramountcenter.org | Tickets: \$7-\$9

The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel film
8 P.M. DOWNING FILM CENTER
19 Front St., Newburgh | (845) 561-3686
downingfilmcenter.com | Tickets: General \$8.50; Seniors/students \$7; Members & Under 16 \$6

Music

Open Mic
7:30 P.M. HOWLAND CULTURAL CENTER
477 Main St., Beacon
(845) 831-4988 | howlandculturalcenter.org
Requested donation: \$3

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

Michael Bolton
8 P.M. TARRYTOWN MUSIC HALL
13 Main St., Tarrytown
(914) 631-3390 Ext. 100 | tarrytownmusichall.org
Tickets: \$58-\$140

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
468 Piermont Ave., Piermont
(845) 359-1089 | turningpointcafe.com
Tickets: \$25

Meetings & Lectures

North Highlands Fire District Special Meeting
5:30 P.M. NORTH HIGHLANDS FIRE HOUSE
504 Fishkill Road, Cold Spring
(845) 265-7285 | nhfd21.org

SATURDAY, JUNE 16

Kids & Community

Cold Spring Farmers' Market
8:30 A.M. – 1:30 P.M. BOSCOBEL
1601 Route 9D, Garrison
csfarmmarket.org

Food Pantry
9 A.M. FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF PHILIPSTOWN
10 Academy St., Cold Spring
(845) 265-3220 | presbychurchcoldspring.org

Haldane High School Graduation
10:30 A.M. - NOON HALDANE SCHOOL
15 Craigsides 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 8080 | clearwater.org/festival
Tickets: \$75 advance/\$85 gate; discounts available; children 12 & under free with adult

Starlab Planetarium Show
6 P.M. & 7 P.M. MID-HUDSON CHILDREN'S MUSEUM
75 N. Water St., Poughkeepsie
(845) 471-0589 | mhcm.org
Fee: \$4. Reservations required.

Saturday Late Night & Family Free Time
5 – 8 P.M. MID-HUDSON CHILDREN'S MUSEUM
75 N. Water St., Poughkeepsie
(845) 471-0589 | mhcm.org

Health, Fitness & Outdoors

Snapping Turtle Walk & Morning Nature Programs
7:30 A.M. – NOON BOSCOBEL
1601 Route 9D, Garrison
(845) 265-3638 | boscobel.org
Admission: \$18; children 12 & under free

Constitution Marsh Kayak Tour
7:30 A.M. HUDSON VALLEY OUTFITTERS
63 Main St., Cold Spring
845-265-0221 | hudsonvalleyoutfitters.com
Cost: \$110. 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: \$8 for Rockland County residents
Register online at brownpapertickets.com

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3 – 4:30 P.M. GARRISON ART CENTER
23 Garrison’s Landing, Garrison
(845) 424-3960 | garrisonartcenter.org

Carl Van Brunt’s Digital Paintings Opening Reception
5 – 7 P.M. ORIOLE 9
17 Tinker St., Woodstock
(845) 679-5763 | oriole9.com

Parametric City: Beacon Exhibit Opening Reception
6:30 P.M. SCHOOL OF JELLYFISH
183 Main St. Beacon
(845) 440-8017 | schoolofjellyfish.org

Theater & Film

Anne of Green Gables Youth Theater Workshop play
11 A.M. TARRYTOWN MUSIC HALL
13 Main St., Tarrytown
(914) 631-3390 Ext. 100 | tarrytownmusichall.org
Tickets: \$8-\$13

The GLEEful Project musical performance
4 P.M. PHILIPSTOWN DEPOT THEATRE
10 Garrison Landing, Garrison
(845) 424-3900 | philipstowndepottheatre.com
Tickets: \$8/adult; \$5/child. Order at brownpapertickets.com.

Silent Film Series: The Lodger
7 P.M. BUTTERFIELD LIBRARY
10 Morris Ave., Cold Spring
(845) 265-3040 | butterfieldlibrary.org

The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel film
2 P.M., 5 P.M. & 8 P.M. DOWNING FILM CENTER
See details under Friday.

River Valley Rep Season Kick-Off
7 P.M. MARIST COLLEGE
Campus Boathouse, Poughkeepsie
(845) 235-9241 | rivervalleyrep.com
Tickets: \$75/person

Music

String Players Workshop With Daisy Jopling
5 – 7 P.M. GARRISON ART CENTER
23 Garrison Landing, Garrison
(845) 424-3960 | garrisonartcenter.org
Fee: \$50

Jazz Vespers
5:30 – 6:30 P.M. FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
10 Academy St., Cold Spring
(845) 265-3220 | presbychurchcoldspring.org

Days Gone By
8 - 11 P.M. WHISTLING WILLIE’S
184 Main St., Cold Spring
(845) 265-2012 | whistlingwillies.com

Lori Lieberman & Jim Dawson
8:30 P.M. TOWNE CRIER CAFE
130 Route 22, Pawling
(845) 855-1300 | townecrier.com
Tickets: \$30 advance/\$35 door

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Meetings & Lectures

Great Decisions Discussion Group: Indonesia by James Castle
2 – 3:30 P.M. DESMOND-FISH LIBRARY
472 Route 403, Garrison
(845) 424-3020 | desmondfishlibrary.org

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

Bannerman’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.

Audition Notice: 4th Wall Productions’ Children’s Fairy Tale Theater Troupe
1 – 4 P.M. THE BEACON THEATRE
445 Main St., Beacon
(845) 453-2978 | thebeacontheatre.org
Ages teen through adult.

The GLEEful Project musical performance
See details under Saturday.

The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel film
2 P.M. & 5 P.M. DOWNING FILM CENTER
See details under Friday.

Music

Charles & Bernard
1 P.M. PEEKSKILL COFFEE HOUSE
101 S. Division St., Peekskill
(914) 739-1287 | peekskillcoffee.com


Concert: Cameron Brown (bass) & Sheila Jordan (vocalist)
4 P.M. CHAPEL RESTORATION
45 Market St., Cold Spring
(845) 265-5537 | chapelrestoration.com

Direct From Texas Kinky Friedman
4 P.M. TURNING POINT MUSIC CAFE
468 Piermont Ave., Piermont
(845) 359-1089 | turningpointcafe.com
Tickets: \$40

Kids’ Open Mic Night
6 – 8 P.M. 12 GRAPES
12 N. Division St., Peekskill
(914) 737-6624 | 12grapes.com


West Point Band Music Under the Stars: Celebrating the Army’s 237th Birthday
7:30 P.M. TROPHY POINT AMPHITHEATER
Cullum Road, West Point
(845) 938-2617 | westpointband.com

(Continued on page 10)

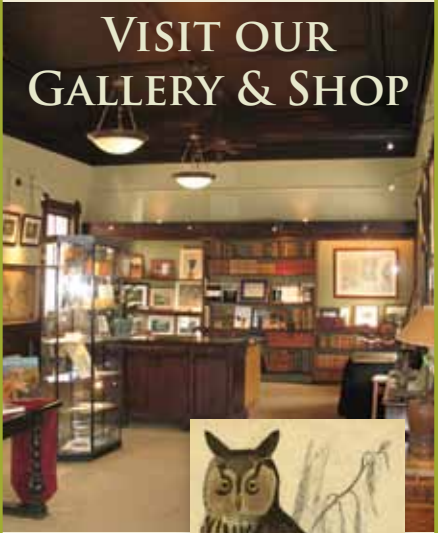


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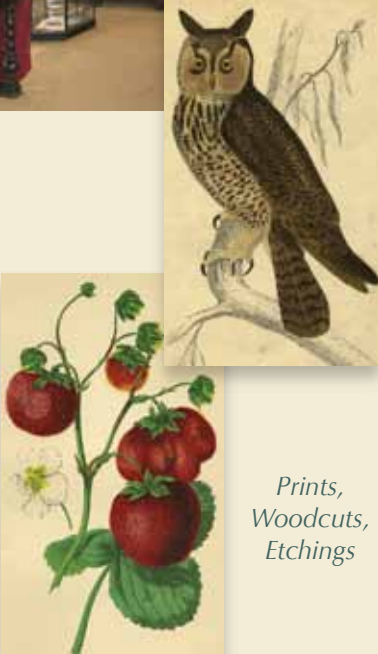
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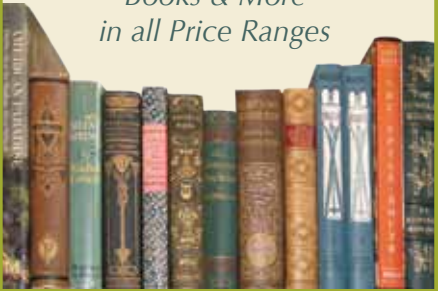
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The Calendar (from page 9)

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) 831-4988 | 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

Nelsonville Village Board Meeting
7:30 P.M. VILLAGE HALL
258 Main St., Nelsonville
(845) 265-2500 | villageofnelsonville.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

Meetings & Lectures

Haldane Board of Education Meeting
7 PM. HALDANE SCHOOL
15 Craigside Drive, 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

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 20

Kids & Community

Garrison School Graduation
6 P.M. GARRISON SCHOOL
1100 Route 9D, Garrison
(845) 424-3689 | gufs.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

Philipstown Town Board Workshop
7:30 P.M. TOWN HALL
238 Main St., Cold Spring
(845) 265-5200 | philipstown.com

THURSDAY, JUNE 21

Kids & Community

O'Neill High School Graduation
7 – 9 P.M. EISENHOWER HALL
655 Ruger Road, West Point
(845) 446-4914 | hffmcasd.org

Health, Fitness & Outdoors

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

Theater & Film

The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel film
2 P.M. & 7:30 P.M. DOWNING FILM CENTER
See details under Friday.

Life Stories Reading & Cocktail Reception
7 P.M. DRUM HILL SENIOR FACILITY
90 Ringgold St., Peekskill
(914) 788-8860 | drumhill.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

Cold Spring Zoning Board of Appeals Meeting
7 P.M. VILLAGE HALL
85 Main St., Cold Spring
(845) 265-3611 | coldspringny.gov

Philipstown Planning Board Meeting
7:30 P.M. VFW HALL
Kemble Avenue, Cold Spring
(845) 265-5200 | philipstown.com

Summer Writing Workshop

Conducted by poet and Sarah Lawrence professor Jeffrey McDaniel

Poet and 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, *Masks, 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.



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Five 2012 Grads Talk about Life at Haldane

Excitement, sadness and disbelief are just some of the emotions that Haldane's 2012 graduates are experiencing

By Michael Turton

It'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 seems crazy that I won't be in school at Haldane ... that I will graduate this Saturday," she said. "It's a little sad — but exciting to turn a new chapter." She'll attend Marist College, studying history and political science. "I'm going to get my education certificate and paralegal certificate. But I don't have a full plan yet."



Sal Baisley



Torrie Lebron



Emily Lombardo



Matt Hughes



Mike Colamarino

Photos by Michael Turton

"Winning the state volleyball championship was a big highlight," she said. "The parade through town after winning will stay with my whole life." Class president, she was also named "senior of the year."

Lombardo feels strongly about her friends in the Class of 2012. "We're family. I know that if I have car trouble I can call on any of them for help." On the other hand, she says, "they've also seen you growing up, seen you at your worst. Like those awful middle school pictures!"

Sal Baisley, also 17, has gone to Haldane since fourth grade. About graduating he says, "It's a real transition to real life now." He'll study adolescent math education at Siena 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. "You get a lot of one-on-one help from teachers."

Baisley excelled in track and field, was team captain, and specialized in shotput and discuss. He'll celebrate grad-

uating in style, "I'm going to Las Vegas next week with my family."

Matt Hughes is a 13-year veteran of Haldane. The 18-year-old says of graduation: "It feels weird. You see light at the end of the tunnel — but you don't know if you should go see what's there." He'll attend the University of Delaware to study criminal justice. After that? "Either law school or working for the federal government — the FBI."

A volunteer with the Cold Spring Fire Company, he excelled in sports, playing football, lacrosse and participating in track — while also serving as president of the honor society. He lists beating Tuckahoe in the sectional football championship as a particularly fond memory.

When it comes to a pet peeve about Haldane, Hughes is very clear. "Listening to girls screaming in the hallways — either out of joy or anger. It's hard on the ear drums!"

Torrie Lebron is 17 and has attended Haldane since kindergarten. She'll attend the College of William and Mary and study pre-law. "I want to be an attorney working in defense of animals," at such organizations as the World Wildlife Fund, she said.

Lebron thinks differently than her classmates who can't believe how time has flown. "It has seemed like an eternity," she said. If she has a pet peeve about Haldane it relates to sports. "We don't have a running track. Winter track was insanely difficult running in hallways and in the snow." About graduation she says: "It's exciting knowing we're going our separate ways. But it's extremely sad. We've been friends for 13 years — and you can't beat this town."

Theater has been one of her favorite aspects of life at Haldane — including progressively more challenging roles in recent years. One of her best came in *Grease*. "I played a crazy character - Patty. My personality is not like hers at all. It was great morphing into that person," she said. An athlete as well, she said winning the sectional championship in soccer this year was also a highlight. "It was great to go as far as we did."

But it's the "sense of community" that she puts at the top of the list of Haldane's bests. "You don't find that anywhere else — other kids have 500 in their graduating class. I have a couple of friends I consider sisters since kindergarten."

Four Residents Remember Graduation

By Michael Turton

Francis (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 'class night,'" he said, 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



Cathy Greenough



Chuck LaRosa



Gary Tooth



Terry Lahey

Photos by Michael Turton

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 construc-

tion 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 hooky and went to the play-off 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 Thompson hit the "shot heard" (Continued on page 12)

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Haldane Cafeteria’s Salad Bar Goes Local

Glynwood vegetables delivered to cafeteria

Thanks to the generous donations made at Glynwood Farm’s annual gala fundraiser last fall, Haldane has begun receiving local produce for the school cafeteria. The Garrison Union Free School is receiving Glynwood produce as well for their weekly PTA-sponsored lunches.

Sandy McKelvey, Haldane parent and director of Hudson Valley Farm to School, recently delivered the first batch of fresh lettuce, radishes and beet greens to Cindy Miozzi, Haldane’s food service director. They were served the following day at the school salad bar.

“Dave Llewellyn, Glynwood’s CSA (Community-Sponsored Agriculture) manager, is our local champion. From the very beginning, he has campaigned hard to support Haldane’s and the Garrison School’s Farm to School programs,” said McKelvey. The gift to Haldane will be worth over \$5,000, and will save the school money that would otherwise have gone to food purchases.

Over the winter Llewellyn and McKelvey picked out seeds to plant especially for 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,” McKelvey 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 McKelvey’s organization. The seeds have been planted. Any parents who would like to volunteer for the summer processing should email McKelvey 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.



Cindy Miozzi at Haldane Cafeteria

Four Residents Remember Graduation

(from page 11)

round the world” — perhaps the most famous home run in baseball history, giving the Giants the pennant. After graduating high school LaRosa worked as a tax assessor for the City of New York. He is now retired and lives in Cold Spring.

Gary Tooth graduated in 1982 and like many Haldane alumni attended the same school for 13 years — although in his case it wasn’t Haldane — it was Hanley, a school located in Stoke-on-Trent in England. His “graduation” could not have differed more from Terry Lahey’s four-day celebration. “Classes finished that last day and we had our picture taken on the steps of the school, and that was it. It was like, ‘Thanks for being here for 13 years,’” Tooth said. “There was no ceremony, no emotion. It was very British.” The lack of hoopla didn’t hold him back. He pursued his talent in art, studying it progressively at three different colleges. Today he is a graphic designer and lives locally.

Cathy Greenough has helped many a resident from inside her rather cramped customer service office in Foodtown. She graduated from Haldane in 1966. “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 disliked about 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.

Lacrosse ‘P.L.A.Y. Day’ Draws 500 Players

Tournament 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 for Youth (P.L.A.Y.) in cooperation with Philipstown Recreation, attracted 15 teams from across the region.

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 McCollum, Rick Mekeel

and Spiros 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 Mekeel, 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.



(L-R) Emad Jamal, Kamel Jamal and Ray O’Rourke.

Photo courtesy of GUFS

The fast-paced format saw the teams play a series of three or four games of 20 minutes each in round-robin fashion. The Philipstown 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 stand-outs 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

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Candidates Eager for Race Against Hayworth *(from page 1)*

appears winnable for a Democrat.

Still, the other two candidates had supporters in the room and it is important to bear in mind Philipstown is a small part of a geographically large district encompassing all of Putnam and Orange Counties as well as chunks of Dutchess and Westchester.

Alexander, the mayor of Wappinger Falls, is well known to local activists and gets high marks for his knowledge of the needs of the area, his effectiveness as a local government official and his oft-stated commitment to poorer citizens. “She [Hayworth] doesn’t believe government should be involved in helping people but I believe government has a role,” he said to applause.

Becker, a cardiologist and councilman in the Town of Cortlandt, relishes the prospect of a doctor-against-doctor race against Hayworth, an ophthalmologist. He emphasized a commitment to broad health-care coverage, including support for the controversial Affordable Care Act, as well as his practical business experience. Becker wasn’t shy about asserting that the national medical community would likely put significant funds behind his candidacy because

they largely support his views on the health-care system, which track with the Obama administration.

All three candidates expressed support for increased government expenditures particularly for national infrastructure projects to create jobs and further stimulate the moribund economy. They also agreed that a return to Clinton-era tax rates would help relieve national indebtedness by raising revenue through shifting the income tax burden more to the wealthiest Americans.

The Indian Point nuclear plant, which is located in Buchanan, within the 18th District, would not receive re-licensing support if any of these three became the congressman. They all urged its closing on safety and environmental grounds. Instead they prefer additional tax credits for alternative sources of energy such as solar and wind. And they would end tax breaks for oil companies.

Becker said he would be the best candidate to represent Democrats because he would take the fight directly to Hayworth. “You can’t be gentle with her,” he said as he listed various protests he has led against her over the last year, including the most recent over her aide’s offen-



Audience in firehouse applauds all three candidates Photo by K.E. Foley

sive remarks about Democratic women.

Alexander, who several times referred to arguments with his Republican father as training for the debate with Hayworth, said he would seek to put the contrast of his positions with Hayworth’s at the center of his campaign strategy. He said his fundraising was strong but from small donations and he eschewed the necessity of bringing in big money from outside the district. “We can change the game,” he said.

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.

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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 mem-

bers 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 adolescence.

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 lega-

cy 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 sophomores 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



The Haldane Blue Devils: 20 - 4 in 2012

Photo by Michael Turton

Coach looking ahead to next year

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 sim-

ply 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.

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.”



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(Continued on page 16)

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