Sidewalk Woes in Cold Spring

Safety vs. expanding business

By Michael Turton

As Cold Spring’s Main Street Project nears completion (work on Furnace Street will begin July 11), how the new sidewalks are being used by village shop owners remains a thorny and complex issue.

In a letter to store owners on Main Street, Mayor Dave Merandy reminded store owners that, according to the village code, they cannot display merchandise more than three feet beyond the front wall of the store. At some shops, sandwich-board signs, tables, chairs and merchandise crept well beyond that limit. While the law is clear, the threat of paying a fine of as much as $250 or the theoretical possibility of spending up to 15 days in jail did not sit well with some merchants.

Pro and con

“There are too many laws and regulations for this tiny village,” said Patty Villanova, owner of Side Effects/NY Boutique at 137 Main. “They shouldn’t be wasting

Walking Ward 4 in Beacon

Diversity and growth in Beacon’s “entertainment district”

By Jeff Simms

Winding around Fishkill Creek, through parts of east Main (the section) and East Main (the street), Beacon’s Ward 4 could be the city’s most diverse.

Ali Muhammad, the ward’s 28-year-old City Council representative, knows every inch of it.

“I know a lot of the people who have grown up here,” he says, walking down Tioronda Avenue. “I know a lot of their families.” Every minute or two, he pauses to wave as someone drives by. He greets every person he passes on the street, even if he doesn’t know them, although chances are he does. “I want for my brother and sister what I want for myself,” he says. “Why not be friendly?”

His ward includes 1 East Main, which may ultimately be the city’s most high-profile housing development. Another
Cook On: 1 part chaos, 2 parts calm

Fish Taco Fill-up

By Mary Ann Ebner

Summer may not always live up to its lazy reputation, but when the season arrives, meals come together with a little less prep and a lot less urgency. With July's warmth and a more relaxed pace, salads and raw food medleys stand in as main dishes. And with minimal time at the grill while the rice cooker steams up a batch of long grain, anyone can pull together a platter of fish tacos to lighten up mealtime.

Old friends know that I share a fish-taco romance with my husband. He deserves credit for making taco night part of the ritual during our courtship when we lived along California's Central Coast. After evening runs from Monterey to Pacific Grove, dinner called and the caller was typically a plate of savory fish tacos somewhere on the peninsula, usually in town or the next town over. Fish tacos had long resembled their Costa Rican predecessors, even if reinvented with just a hint of corn tortillas.

After we left California and moved five or six more times before landing in New York's Hudson Valley, we realized of resemblance. It was our 2014 trip to Costa Rica that set our sons' hearts ablaze with a great taste they could appreciate. Served primarily with fresh corn tortillas slathered with a creamy curry sauce, our favorite taco tasting in Costa Rica was anchored with flaky grilled white fish, smothered with tomatoes and bright green cilantro.

Making them at home is now a family affair. Everybody helps out, from whipping up a curry sauce to grilling the fish. It's hard to pass on a Baja-style fried fish filet perched in a fresh tortilla, but for a slightly healthier plate, we lean more closely to a quick-cooking fish prepared in minutes on the grill. From Foodtown or the farmers' market, almost any fish will do. Try halibut, tilapia, mahi mahi or even tuna. Personally, I think the whiter fish are better in tacos. With a fork, flake cooked fish into bite-sized pieces and layer the fish with rice and beans into tortillas.

But as life seems to go, things often have a way of repeating themselves, even if reinvinted with just a hint of resemblance. It was our 2016 trip to Costa Rica that took us back not only to our own vows to each other but to fish tacos (though our personal vows run far deeper than those to any food devotion). Though not a California Baja fish-fried classic taco, the ones we sampled near Arenal and Manuel Antonio rekindled our affinity for this lost symbol of our courtship and set our sons' hearts ablaze.

Fish Tacos

Yield: Makes 8 generous servings.

1lb (1½ lbs) pounded flaky whitefish or your preferred fish
3limes (1 for juicing and 1 sliced in wedges)
1 avocado (pitted, peeled and thinly sliced)
1 small bunch fresh cilantro
1 small bunch fresh mint
1 bunch fresh cilantro (chopped)
1 bunch fresh lime (chopped)
1 tablespoon curry powder
1 cup mayonnaise (plus 2 tablespoons olive oil if using commercial mayonnaise)
2 fresh limes (1 for juicing and 1 sliced in wedges)
1 avocado (pitted, peeled and thinly sliced)
16 small corn tortillas or (8 medium flour tortillas)
1 sweet onion (chopped)
1 garlic clove (crushed)
1 cup mayonnaise
¼ cup olive oil
pinch of cayenne pepper
freshly ground black pepper
salt
1 small bunch fresh cilantro
1 small bunch fresh mint
1 small bunch fresh lime
1 sweet onion (chopped)
1 garlic clove (crushed)
1 cup mayonnaise
¼ cup olive oil
pinch of cayenne pepper
freshly ground black pepper
salt

1. Fold together diced fresh tomatoes, chopped onion and cilantro in mixing bowl. Add a splash of olive oil, salt and pepper to taste. Set aside.
2. Mix curry powder with mayonnaise and freshly squeezed juice of 1 lime. If using basic bottled mayo, beat in two tablespoons of quality olive oil. Set aside.
3. Brush fish with remaining olive oil and dust with salt, a twist of black pepper and cayenne pepper. Grill (or pan-sear) over medium heat until cooked just through.
4. Warm tortillas on stovetop or in microwave and make your own fish tacos immediately by slathering tortillas with curry sauce and filling with flaky fish and salsa. Rice and beans are also perfect options to fold into the tortillas. Serve with avocado slices and lime wedges. Try fresh pineapple and mango chunks as a side.
Former Beacon School Board President Files Complaint

Alleges discrimination in "broken" school system

By Jeff Simms

Former Beacon school board president Melissa Thompson, who stepped down this month after choosing not to seek re-election, has filed a federal complaint that would focus attention on one aspect of what she called a "broken" district.

"There's a degree of carelessness with regard to children with [special needs]," she told The Current. While she said there are people in the district "who work very hard for our children who learn differently," she added, "I can't say that all do, and that's a sad thing. I filed this on behalf of my son, but it's really about all kids that need an extra hand."

Citing racial discrimination as well (Thompson's son is African-American), she wrote in the OCR filing that she believes the "climate that presides in the Beacon City School District is one that has caught my son in the crosshairs and has adversely impacted his educational experience at Beacon High School."

Thompson's complaint alleged that Beacon teachers and administrators failed to accommodate her son's "504" — a plan drawn up to help students with learning and attention issues participate in the classroom — even after it was brought to their attention.

She also claimed her son's teachers showed little concern when his grades fell, which she believes was discriminatory. She says her son told her: "I am brown and I am passing. Nobody cares about me."

A spokesperson for the U.S. Department of Education could not say if OCR would investigate the complaint. Thompson, however, said the agency has told her it will proceed.

Beacon school officials declined comment, saying the district had not received a copy of the Thompson complaint. Another person who was elected as school board president on July 5, said that he, too, had yet to see it "in a school-system capacity."

Now that her son has graduated, Thompson called his situation a "non-issue" but indicated that she still wants the OCR to audit the Beacon district's approach to special-needs students "for the benefit of all children that hold a 504 or IEP" — an Individualized Education Program, another tool used to assist special-needs students.

Thompson said that she decided to file the OCR complaint after receiving a letter from the Beacon Educational Administrators' Association in May suggesting that she was "attempting to use [her] power as a board member to unfairly advantage [her] child ... creating a conflict of interest in [her] roles as board president and as a parent."

"When they finally accused me of harassment, that was the final straw," she said.

When asked how such allegedly glaring deficiencies could have occurred during her near-decade on the Beacon school board, Thompson said: "I was one out of nine. There was very little time to be proactive toward enriching programs for our kids because the board spent so much time re-acting to the current events of the district."

Her complaint is the latest in a series of high-profile events that have battered the Beacon school system over the past 12 months.

One Beacon parent, Melissa Rutkoske, who is the wife of newly elected school board member Michael Rutkoske, filed a petition last year with the state Education Department, calling for the dismissal of then-Superintendent Barbara Walkley and school system attorney Michael Lambert.

Walkley resigned in January, marking the sixth time the superintendent's seat has been vacated — not including interim heads — since 2006.

A month later, Walkley and former Beacon teacher's union president Kimberly Pillia filed a defamation suit against Pillia's former husband, who is also a Beacon High teacher.

Thompson said she plans to make a public statement at the July 18 board meeting.

"I want them to understand the degree to which the system is broken," she said. "There are many, many kids like this. They're passing, but are we really giving them the tools to be successful at the next level?"

Walking Ward 4 in Beacon

(from Page 1)

er large housing complex is also planned nearby on Tioronda. While she said there are people in the district "who work very hard for our children who learn differently," she added, "I can't say that all do, and that's a sad thing. I filed this on behalf of my son, but it's really about all kids that need an extra hand."

Now he worries that his constituents, as well as residents citywide, may one day not be able to afford Beacon. "Things are changing because of the people who are moving here, because they're spending money," he says. Pointing at 1 East Main, he adds: "These factories were here already, and some people took the initiative and had the vision to change it. There's so much more now, but how do we make sure that people aren't priced out?"

The answer is not immediately evident, but for Muhammad it begins, at least, with participation. "We have so many underserved communities and it's extremely important to represent them," he says. "I'm from here and I care about this community. The more we put into our city, the better outcome there is. I've grown up here and I see the difference."

Ward 4 also includes University Settlement and Mt. Beacon, which, along with its riverside area, are perhaps the city's most vivid representations of its unique natural environment. "Between the river and the mountain there's so much energy and so much possible connectivity," Muhammad says.

There's also "new" and "old" Beacon — words Muhammad says he doesn't like. "This is not old Beacon, this is not 'new' Beacon," he says. "It's Beacon, New York. We're 15,000 people strong and we all have to participate." He stops again to greet someone on the street.

Muhammad is excited about the possibility of a pocket park being created on land donated to the city behind 1 East Main and the site of an up-and-coming brewery. The development and commerce represent Beacon and his ward's continued growth, while he envisions the park as a place where all of those people, new and old, can come together.

Like other council representatives, Muhammad is adamant that the continued success of Main Street is the key to the city's future. Recalling again the deserted Main Street of his youth, he notes there are now 75-plus businesses along Beacon's primary thoroughfare.

Parking is an issue in Ward 4, as it is throughout the city. Muhammad believes business owners should be educated to park elsewhere rather than take up a Main Street space for hours at a time. Two-hour parking limits should be enforced too, he says. Calling his ward the city's "entertainment district," Muhammad says his vision for 15 years from now is a thriving Main Street, more affordable housing and more and better activities for young people.

"This is the most beautiful ward, in my opinion," he says. "We have a lot of arts and culture here. And this is better than it was 15 years ago. It's safer than it was." He stops to greet a driver who slows and honks.

"We can come together and embrace one another," he says. "But you can't just stay home. Get offline and get to know your neighbor."
Beacon School Board Appoints New Leadership

Legal counsel will be put out to bid

By Jeff Simms

Moments after being sworn in on July 5, the three new members of the Beacon Board of Education wasted little time in reshuffling the deck.

Meredith Heuer, Michael Rutkoske and Antony Tseng each received applause from audience members — a number of whom were armed with signs with phrases like “New Board New Beginning” and “Yes We Can.” The trio replaced former members Melissa Thompson, Christine Galbo and Tracy Antalek Everett. The board must still fill a vacancy created by the resignation of Jose Munoz at its last meeting.

After Anthony White (with Bill Zopf and Frank Garnot dissenting) and Kenya Gadsden (unanimous) were elected as president and vice president, respectively, the three new members offered rapid-fire motions to consider new legal counsel for the district while also addressing the vacancy and the district’s ongoing superintendent search.

Tseng made the motion for the district to issue a request for proposals (RFP) for legal counsel. The motion passed unanimously, and the RFP will be issued this week, interim Superintendent Ann Marie Quartironi said.

Later in the meeting, the district’s agreement with its current counsel of Shaw, Perelson, May & Lambert, LLP, was extended for a year — with the provision that the agreement can be terminated with a 60-day notice.

The eight members of the board will discuss options for filling Munoz’s vacancy at their next meeting on July 18. Tseng suggested that the board hold a hearing to gather public input as well.

“We need to rebuild trust between the board and the community,” he said. “Will they trust us enough to do an appointment [for the vacant seat] ... or is a special election the only way ... for them to trust us more?”

In addition, the board created a committee, with Heuer as its chair, to review RFPs that have been submitted from search firms hoping to be hired to recruit candidates for the district’s open superintendent position.

Putnam County Hires New Consumer Affairs Head

Position now part-time, could save $60K annually

By Holly Toal

The Putnam County legislature has approved the hiring of a new director of the department of consumer affairs, following the resignation in February of Jean Noel after she pleaded guilty to embezzlement of county funds.

The legislators appointed Michael Budzinski to the post, which will now be part-time, a move expected to save the county about $60,000 a year.

County Executive MaryEllen Odell recommended Budzinski, a longtime health department employee from Patterson, to lead the agency, officially called the Department of Consumer Affairs/Weights and Measures/Trades Licensing and Registration. Budzinski, who earns $110,000 as director of engineering in the health department’s environmental health bureau, will add the duties of consumer affairs to his current role for an additional $20,000 annually.

“The full-time consumer affairs position was budgeted for $80,000 to $85,000. Personnel Director Paul Eldridge said that under the county executive’s proposal, Budzinski would spend about 20 to 25 percent of his time in the consumer affairs office and thus earn about a quarter of that salary.

Noel, who lives in Kent, resigned after the New York State Comptroller’s Office discovered she had stolen $4,575 in cash payments made to her office.

Eldridge, who said he has known Budzinski since he started with the county 34 years ago, called him a “top-notch individual. “I’m very pleased with this particular selection,” he told lawmakers at a prior Personnel Committee meeting.

“We need more oversight, not less. I do not believe we are saving any money. We’re going in the wrong direction.”

With the county administration looking to save money, Eldridge explained that he was asked to look into the pool of county employees to see if there was anyone qualified and interested in leading the consumer affairs department.

“Budzinski was one of the first individuals that came to mind,” he said. “He’s very excited about it. He’s qualified fully for the position.”

Budzinski has worked for the health department since 1982 after graduating from Clarkson University with a bachelor of science degree in civil environmental engineering. He has been a New York State-licensed professional engineer since 1987. He served as assistant public health engineer from 1982 to 1985, as public health engineer from 1986 to 1988, as senior public health engineer from 1989 to 1997, and as director of engineering since 1998.

The appointment is provisional since the position requires passage of the civil service exam, which Budzinski will need to take. The part-time contract ends on Dec. 31, when legislators could consider hiring a full-time director if the arrangement isn’t working out.

Eldridge said Budzinski will still be expected to maintain the same workload in the health department, and that Budzinski understands he may have to put in time after regular working hours to fulfill his new role.

Eldridge added that he is confident a part-time director is sufficient for the agency. He said that in the wake of the department shakeup earlier this year, the employees have shown they can keep the department running smoothly.

“They’ve really stepped up,” he said.

The only dissenting vote against the appointment came from Dini LoBue (R-Mahopac Falls) who said she opposed making the appointment for the vacant seat. “It devalues the department,” she said. “It opens the door for people to cheat consumers.”

LoBue cited the discovery of Noel’s theft earlier this year as a reason to enforce more stringent controls. “We need more oversight, not less,” she said. “I do not believe we are saving any money. We’re going in the wrong direction.”
Sidewalk Woes in Cold Spring (from Page 1)

The sidewalk is more than 17 ft. wide in front of the Garden Café.

The sidewalk is more than 17 ft. wide in front of the Garden Café. Photos by M. Turton

At Hudson Hill's the sidewalk is only 5' 6" wide.

The Current, Cannova complained that while retail shops such as hers must comply to the letter of the law, restaurants with tables and chairs extending out onto the sidewalk more than three feet do not. She used GoGo Pops as an example, stating that its tables and chairs stick six feet out onto the sidewalk. Responding by email, Miller said she is "not trying to skirt the law by using my position, to get around the 3-foot display restriction." She explained that the tables were placed over steel basement doors because in the past pedestrians had tripped on the hinges. Miller also pointed out that she put a bicycle and sandwich board on the west edge of the raised stool at Gallery 66 NY, adjacent to GoGo Pops. They also extend more than three feet from the building. She said that was necessary because pedestrians had also tripped over the edge of the stool.

“We chose to position our sidewalk sign and chairs to prevent injuries to pedestrians,” she said. Measurements taken by The Current showed that GoGo Pops' tables and chairs extend five feet from the building. Between the tables and chairs and Main Street the open sidewalk is nine feet wide.

In an email Merandy commented further, saying “any changes made to our code would have to be very detailed. If we extend the distance, there has to be a minimum-clear pedestrian walk. That would have to be clear in the code.”

He added. “I'm fine with restaurants having tables on the sidewalks if they are kept tight and there is plenty of sidewalk left,” he said, using Cold Spring Pizza and the Garden Café as examples. “But I'm dead against having merchants stack their wares up all over the sidewalks past three feet.”

The Code Update Committee is revising much of the existing village code but the section dealing with sidewalks is not currently being reviewed.

time on this nonsense.”

Caryn Cannova, owner of Kismet at Caryn’s at 72 Main, agreed. “I am so angry at the mayor for how he has handled this,” she said. “He told the police flat out he wants merchants ticketed. He is so anti-merchant, it’s frightening.”

Not everyone sees it that way, of course. Leonora Burton, the longtime owner of The Country Goose at 115 Main, said she supports enforcement of the three-foot law. She said enforcement had all but ceased and some businesses took advantage. She said that at times it had become difficult for pedestrians to navigate the sidewalks, especially those pushing strollers or wheelchairs.

The law is designed to protect pedestrians in part because the village could be held liable for injuries on public sidewalks. The village owns not only the sidewalks but also most of the stoops, porches and patios along Main Street, as well as the benches and trees, all of which come into play with foot traffic.

Sidewalk widths

The issue is complicated by the fact that Main Street sidewalks vary greatly in width. No two blocks are the same. In front of the Garden Café at 116 Main, the sidewalk is more than 17 feet wide. Just across the intersection the sidewalk in front of the Hudson Hill's Café & Market is less than six feet in width.

Stoops and porches further complicate matters. The porches at Hudson Hill’s and the Silver Spoon Café at 124 Main are owned by the Village of Cold Spring. Both extend beyond three feet from the front wall of the building and technically speaking may be in violation of the law.

The straw that broke the enforcement camel's back may have come when the Silver Spoon placed tables and chairs on the sidewalk in front of the porch. Merandy's letter soon followed. The tables and chairs were removed, and enforcement became more vigorous.

A number of shops also have slate patios. Slightly raised, they are separate from the sidewalk. Even though most are six feet or more in width they fall under the three-foot limit for display of merchandise. Some shop keepers feel that entire patio could be used to display goods since they are not part of the pedestrian walkway.

The patio at the Cupocinno Café at 92 Main is one of the thoroughfare’s many anomalies. Slightly more than six feet wide, it was “grandfathered” when Jesse Arguello and her husband John bought the business several years ago, allowing them to use it as a small seating area beyond the three-foot limit. Arguello said that the café's certificate of insurance removes the village from any liability.

Turning the law inside out

Villanova believes the law should allow sidewalk signs and merchandise within four feet of the front of the building “whether it's the structure, a porch or a stoop.” Cannova, while clearly unsatisfied with the situation, is less definitive. “Each shop has different configurations,” she said. “If there are going to be sandwich boards, there should be criteria for how each one looks. But again, that gets murky. Honestly, it’s just common sense on what works and what doesn’t. But that seems to have gone by the wayside as well.”

Arguello pointed to a possible approach that would turn the existing law inside out. “No two sidewalks are the same width,” she said. “Perhaps the code could be written in such a way that it requires a certain width of the sidewalk to be left unobstructed,” rather than restricting merchants to the use of only three feet. She suggested that the mandatory width be adequate to allow four pedestrians to walk side-by-side.

Merandy told The Current he is “absolutely” open to examining the village’s sidewalk issues, adding that Arguello’s approach may be a good way to rethink the three-foot law.

The mayor also said that municipalities such as Cornwall charge a fee for outdoor dining areas located on municipal property, something he feels Cold Spring should consider for restaurant porches. He said the village needs to have an assessor determine price guidelines for the possible sale of porches owned by the village. Hussein (Jimmy) Abeldahy, owner of the Silver Spoon, has expressed interest in purchasing his porch. Many residences also have porches located on village property.

In the spotlight

Lynn Miller, co-owner of GoGo Pops at 64 Main, is experiencing the three-foot law firsthand, and because she is also a member of the village board, the spotlight shines a bit brighter on her.

In an email to The Current, Cannova complained that while retail shops such as hers must comply to the letter of the law, restaurants with tables and chairs extending out onto the sidewalk more than three feet do not. She used GoGo Pops as an example, stating that its tables and chairs stick six feet out onto the sidewalk.

Responding by email, Miller said she is “not trying to skirt the law by using my position, to get around the 3-foot display restriction.” She explained that the tables were placed over steel basement doors because in the past pedestrians had tripped on the hinges.

Miller also pointed out that she put a bike and sandwich board on the west

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Roger Ailes Sued for Sexual Harassment

Former host alleges Garrison resident “sabotaged” career

By Jeff Simms

Fox News chairman Roger Ailes, who lives in Garrison and owns the Cold Spring-based weekly Putnam County News and Recorder, is being sued for sexual harassment by Gretchen Carlson, a former Miss America and Fox News host who left the network last month, according to reports in numerous national media outlets.

The Associated Press reports that Carlson, 50, filed a lawsuit on July 6 in Bergen County, N.J., alleging that her contract with Fox was not renewed and her career “sabotaged” after she refused Ailes’s sexual advances and complained of harassment.

Ailes, 76, immediately issued a statement denying the charges and asserting that Carlson filed the lawsuit as retaliation because her contract was not renewed last month. The Minnesota native had been the co-host of “Fox & Friends” until 2013 and also hosted “The Real Story with Gretchen Carlson.”

In his statement, Ailes said Carlson “conveniently” began to pursue the suit only when it became apparent her contract would not be renewed. Fox News, he said, provided Carlson “with more on-air opportunities over her 11-year tenure than any other employer in the industry, for which she thanked me in her recent book.”

He added: “This defamatory lawsuit is not only offensive, it is wholly without merit and will be defended vigorously.”

Sherman, contains other accusations of harassment. Carlson is also suing her co-host, Steve Doocy, but not the network. Its parent company said in a statement that it has not only offensive, it is wholly without merit and will be defended vigorously.”

Among other allegations, Carlson claimed Ailes told her during a meeting she requested in September 2015 to discuss her complaints that “I think you and I should have a sexual relationship a long time ago and then you’d be good and better and I’d be good and better.” She further alleged that Ailes made suggestive comments about her legs and encouraged her to wear outfits that accentuated her figure.

Carlson’s attorney told reporters that the harassment was “very consistent and very pervasive” and that she has “very powerful evidence.” He noted that a 2014 book about Ailes, “The Loudest Voice in the Room,” by Gabriel Sherman, contains other accusations of harassment. Carlson is also suing her co-host, Steve Doocy, but not the network.

Carlson’s attorney told reporters that the harassment was “very consistent and very pervasive” and that she has “very powerful evidence.”

The suit seeks unspecified financial damages for mental anguish.

Cold Spring Trees Need Trimming

But estimates nearly double what was budgeted

By Michael Turton

The good news is that Cold Spring’s Tree Advisory Board is keeping close tabs on the health and well-being of the more than 400 village-owned trees that line the streets. The less-than-good news is that, like everything else, their care comes at a cost.

At the July 5 meeting of the village board, advisory board members Kory Riesterer and Charles Day presented a report that recommended the removal or pruning of five trees that are dying or have dead limbs.

The village budget includes $4,000 for tree removal, maintenance and replacement. The estimated cost of the work is $7,000 based on quotes from several tree-service companies.

The budget may be the lesser of two issues. “Once you identify liability and don’t do anything about it ... We have to find the money somewhere.”

Merandy said he will check with Central Hudson for assistance. The utility provides prunings when its power lines are involved. Trustee Steve Voloto will inspect the trees to help determine priorities.

Jennifer Zwarich chairs the Tree Advisory Board. The other members are Tony Bardes and Gordon Robertson.

In other business ... 

• A joint meeting of the Recreation Commission and the village board, planned for July 5 was postponed. Merandy said the purpose of the session, which will be rescheduled, is to clarify the commission’s role, responsibilities and priorities, such as the fees for boats tying up to the village dock and use of village parks.

• Anne Dinio, business manager for the Haldane Central School District, will fill in as village accountant until Michelle Ascolillo returns from maternity leave. The board approved hiring Dinio for $45 per hour.

• The village continues to receive requests to film in Cold Spring. The latest is from William Biavati and Ashley Bassett, both students who live in the village. The shoot will occur in mid-August.

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Obituary

Marcia DiCastro
(1947-2016)

Marcia A. DiCastro, 69, of Cold Spring, died on June 30, 2016 at NewYork- Presbyterian/Hudson Valley Hospital in Cortlandt Manor. Born in Cold Spring on January 5, 1947, she was the daughter of Bernard J. and Mary E. (Ciccarelli) Dillon. Her husband Vincent D. DiCastro died in 2012.

Mrs. DiCastro, a lifelong Cold Spring resident, attended Our Lady of Loretto and Haldane schools and was a parishioner of Our Lady of Loretto. She will be sadly missed by all who knew her.


A Mass of Christian Burial was held on July 6 at Our Lady of Loretto. Donations may be made in Mrs. DiCastro’s name to the American Cancer Society at cancer.org.

Shea Says Route 9D to Get a Needed Facelift

Work south of Cold Spring should improve bicycling and walking

By Kevin E. Foley

Bicyclists, walkers and drivers should appreciate that the state Department of Transportation intends to resurface and upgrade the section of route 9D immediately south of Cold Spring this summer.

Town of Philipstown Supervisor Richard Shea said he was able to get the director of Region 8 (which includes the lower Hudson Valley), Todd Westhuis, to personally inspect the roadway and agree the work was warranted.

The supervisor had petitioned the agency in the past but an impromptu encounter at a meeting for the proposed Fjord Trail put the project on the director’s radar.

Shea said his office has received numerous complaints about the condition of the road and, in particular, the lack of shoulder space for bicyclists on a road designated by the state as a bikeway. Shea said he hoped that once the work was complete, it would provide “a more pleasurable experience for bicyclists, for drivers and for people who want to walk to Boscobel,” which on Saturdays during the summer is the site of the Cold Spring Farmers’ Market.

The cost of the work is not known yet. But Shea said the project will come under a routine DOT maintenance account and will not require a special appropriation.

Cold Spring Trees Need Trimming

(from previous page)

produce a 30-second commercial and involve a crew of seven.

• Voloto reported that a number of residents expressed concern to him about the presence of police officers at the Cold Spring Independent Day celebrations on July 3 armed with automatic rifles and wearing body armor. Merandy said the officers were from the Putnam County Sheriff’s Department. Trustee Fran Murphy noted that the U.S. Department of Homeland Security now requires such a presence at large public gatherings. “It doesn’t make a lot of sense,” Voloto commented. Merandy said he would get more information.
Zuckerman named to MTA Board
Sees safety, service, and value as crucial

Putnam County Executive MaryEllen Odell named Neal Zuckerman of Garrison to represent Putnam County on the board of the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA). Zuckerman has represented the Metro-North Railroad Commuter Council in the Putnam County seat since 2010 and since 2014 also served on the MTA board in a non-voting capacity representing the MNRCC.

Zuckerman is a partner and managing director of The Boston Consulting Group, where he advises major corporations on business strategy, growth and operations. He specializes in providing advice to companies transforming their businesses in the digital era.

"I am thrilled to have Neal Zuckerman represent the county on the MTA Board, especially since we have already worked together on a range of MTA issues," Odell said. "His business experience and career as a U.S. Army aviation officer, where he dealt extensively with safe flying operations, make him a great choice for this position."

Zuckerman said he sees the needs of riders as three-fold: “safety, above all else; reliable, professional service, which MTA employees deliver every day; and value—the price has to be justified by the service. As a commuter, as well as board member, I will advocate strongly for these needs.”

Zuckerman succeeds Robert Bickford of Cold Spring, who served for nine years on the MTA Board. He will continue to serve as the county’s Ethics Committee chair.

Zuckerman, his wife and two children reside in Garrison. A graduate of the United States Military Academy at West Point and Harvard Business School, he is a member of the Philipstown Planning Board and a member of the board of the Putnam History Museum and the Desmond-Fish Library.

Mozzino Control Day in Putnam July 12

County Executive MaryEllen Odell and interim Commissioner of Health Dr. Michael J. Nesheiwat are calling on residents to dump all standing water on their property during Mosquito Control Day on Tuesday, July 12.

Free Zika education bags will be available at Philipstown Town Hall at 238 Main St. in Cold Spring during business hours while supplies last. Each bag contains information about mosquito control and Zika virus, and two mosquito “dunks.” These donut-shaped mosquito control products are made from a biological larvicide that kills mosquitoes before they are old enough to bite. The kits also include a sample DEET wipe.

“Residents should check their yards and dump all standing water that can be removed,” said Odell. “If the water cannot be easily emptied, consider using a mosquito dunk. This will help reduce the mosquito population.”

Nesheiwat said “another crucial strategy is to prevent mosquito bites. Apply an EPA-approved insect repellent, such as those containing DEET, and dress in long sleeves and pants which may be unpleasant on hot and humid summer days.”

Fortunately, he added, “the mosquito that could prove to be a local carrier of the Zika virus is not currently in Putnam.”
Shedding Light on an Historic Site

Lantern tours introduced at West Point Foundry

by Alison Rooney

Scenic Hudson’s monthly, seasonal guided tours of its West Point Foundry Preserve have been exceedingly popular since their inception in 2014. To supplement these first Saturday of the month offerings, this summer it will be conducting two night-time “lantern tours” on Tuesday, July 19, and Thursday, Aug. 18, to illuminate the striking ruins of the 19th-century manufacturing complex.

“People never get to see the preserve at night, but it operated 24 hours a day, at least during the Civil War,” explained Reed Sparling, who will conduct the tours and also leads the daytime tours along with Cold Spring’s Mark Forlow. He will share voices of a newspaper reporter, painter John Ferguson Weir (whose notebooks, Sparling says, “contain wonderful accounts of the inside of the casting”) and foundry employees.

“We’ve been asked if it’s going to be a ghost tour,” he says. “There are no accounts of ghost sightings, but I found an account that one young apprentice was killed there by a cannon discharge, and, of course, there were many killed elsewhere” by... (Continued on Page 11)

McCaffrey Realty Doubles as a Gallery

Paintings by former Haldane teacher on exhibit

by Alison Rooney

After McCaffrey Realty traded places with Hudson Valley Shakespeare in January, switching across-the-street-from-each-other locations, Managing Agent Bill Hussong had an idea. Looking at the stretches of brick wall lining the new premises, he thought, Let’s start an art gallery.

Art would be a “great way to emphasize what Cold Spring is all about: the creative community,” he says now. Plus, “the idea seemed a natural for the space and also who we are: local, blue chip — a boutique agency before that became trendy.” Since April, the real-estate office has displayed the work of a different artist each month, with multiple works sold and all revenue going to the artist.

July’s exhibit came about by chance, as former (former in this case meaning really former — more than 50 years ago) Haldane art teacher Bob Digiovanni was in the area and got together with his former student, McCaffrey, as he usually does when he visits. After Digiovanni showed McCaffrey a copy of one of his paintings, McCaffrey brought it over to his office and passed it around; everyone there thought it would be great to have an exhibit of his work.

A week later, Digiovanni loaded his daughter’s Jeep with 11 of his paintings (all but one are recent works), drove to Cold Spring from his home in Massachusetts, and a day later the exhibit was hung, the doors opening with a reception on July 1.

It’s not the first Cold Spring exhibition for Digiovanni — the first time his work, around 25 paintings, was shown was at Butterfield Library in 1960. That capped off a three-year period living in Cold Spring and teaching art to all 13 grades at Haldane. His time here ended when he received a scholarship to pursue an M.F.A. at the University of Notre Dame. After receiving his degree, Digiovanni taught briefly at Lakeland Central School in Peekskill before returning to his native Boston area.

Digiovanni, who radiates the energy of someone decades younger, says his “love for Cold Spring has never wavered.” Noting that he “got to know all the students,” Digiovanni described them as “wonderful. There were no drugs or alcohol back then that I saw. Main Street was pretty dead then, very quiet, very peaceful — except for McCaffrey’s Bar, of course.” (Continued on Page 12)
Calendar Highlights
For upcoming events visit highlandscurrent.com
Send event listings to calendar@highlandscurrent.com

FRIDAY, JULY 8

Little River Band
8 p.m. Paramount Hudson Valley
1006 Brown St., Peekskill
914-739-0039 | paramounthudsonvalley.com

SECOND SATURDAY

Community Free Day
11 a.m. – 6 p.m. DiaBeacon
2 p.m. Courtney J. Martin on Robert Ryman
3 Beekman St., Beacon
845-440-0100 | diabeacon.org

Isabel Lewis: Occasions and Other Occurrences
Noon – 5 p.m. Long Dock Park
See details under Saturday.

One-Year Danceiversary
4 p.m. Fred Astaire Dance Studio
3182 Route 9, Cold Spring
845-424-6353 | fredastairecoldspring.com

HVSF: Measure for Measure
7:30 p.m. Boscobel | See details under Friday.

MONDAY, JULY 11

Career Assistance Session
11 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. Howland Public Library
313 Main St., Beacon | 845-249-4642
dutchessonestop.org | Appointment required.

Core Cardio Class for Women (First Session)
7 p.m. Philipstown Community Center
107 Glenclyffe Drive, Garrison
845-424-4018 | philipstownrecreation.com

H.V. Renegades vs. West Virginia
7:05 p.m. Dutchess County Stadium
1500 Route 9D, Wappingers Falls
845-838-0094 | hvrenegades.com

As You Like It
7:30 p.m. Boscobel | See details under Friday.

TUESDAY, JULY 12

Boscobel Open for Artists
9:30 a.m. – 4 p.m. 1601 Route 9D, Cold Spring
845-265-3638 | boscobel.org

No public admission.

Howland Public Library
3 – 4:30 p.m. Tech Drop-in
6 p.m. Magazine Paper Bowls Workshop
313 Main St., Beacon
845-831-1134 | beaconlibrary.org

Casual Bike Ride
7 p.m. People’s Bicycle | 430 Main St., Beacon
facebook.com/PeoplesBicycle

WEDNESDAY, JULY 13

Leaf and Yard Debris Pickup in Cold Spring
Animal Embassy: Athletes of the Animal Kingdom
11:30 a.m. Butterfield Library | 10 Morris Ave., Cold Spring | 845-265-3040 | butterfieldlibrary.org

H.V. Renegades vs. West Virginia
7:05 p.m. Dutchess County Stadium
See details under Monday.

HVSF: As You Like It
7:30 p.m. Boscobel | See details under Friday.

THURSDAY, JULY 14

CSFS: The Maltese Falcon
8 p.m. Dockside Park, Cold Spring
coldspringfilm.org

TUESDAY, JULY 12

H.V. Renegades vs. West Virginia
7:05 p.m. Dutchess County Stadium
See details under Monday.

HVSF: As You Like It
7:30 p.m. Boscobel | See details under Friday.

Free Movie Night: Super Trooper
8 p.m. Visitor’s Center | Main St. at Rt 9D, Beacon
845-765-0444 | beaconchamberofcommerce.com

FRIDAY, JULY 15

H.V. Renegades vs. West Virginia
7:05 p.m. Dutchess County Stadium
See details under Monday.

HVSF: As You Like It
7:30 p.m. Boscobel | See details under Friday.

Colin Hay (Men at Work)
7:30 p.m. Bardavon | 35 Market St., Poughkeepsie
845-473-2072 | bardavon.org

Open Mic Night
8 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
477 Main St., Beacon
845-831-4988 | howlandculturalcenter.org
Sign-up begins at 7:30 p.m.
“People listen to his every word. He has such great knowledge. We relate a lot there through the story of the Parrott Gun.”

A Parrott Gun, built at West Point Foundry

Phil’s List
Free online local classifieds devoted to jobs, housing, tag sales, services, and more.

highlandscurrent.com • click on “Free Ads”
New student special: $50 for 1-month unlimited yoga (Hussong explained: “It’s Whistling Willie’s now. Bob grew up above his father’s bar.”)

Although he is still in touch with many students from the years he taught, Digiovanni is unaware of any teaching colleagues still around with the exception of Frank Milkovich, who retired as assistant to the superintendent (and, before that, as principal) of the Haldane School District in 1988 after 32 years affiliated with the school. Milkovich is still active with the Cold Spring Lions Club.

After his return to Massachusetts, Digiovanni switched to college-level teaching, working for two decades at Boston State College, and then Bunker Hill Community College. In between those jobs he had a six-month stretch of unemployment — his first encounter with it. Feeling low, he was receptive when his daughter suggested they travel to Egypt for three weeks. They had a wonderful time — “I got rid of my angst,” Digiovanni says — and that trip spurred the travel bug. Digiovanni has since explored both Europe and the U.S., all reflected in his paintings, which include the abstracted geography of places as disparate as a Roman-built viaduct in Luxembourg, sunset at Florida’s Pompano Beach, spring in Sicily, as well as the sands of Egypt. He’s very much looking forward to his next trip, to Norway. Throughout his teaching life his work was exhibited in shows at educational institutions, arts associations and at Boston Gallery Seven, all in the Boston area.

The other artists who have exhibited at McCaffrey’s are George Stevenson, Rick Thurston and Daisy De Puthod. Hussong says most visitors come in for real estate but then engage with the work, which, until this exhibit, has largely reflected local landscapes and scenes. One McCaffrey agent purchased a work for her client, considering it a perfect welcome-to-the-neighborhood gift.

Asked what Bob McCaffrey was like in high school, Digiovanni had only good things to say, “He was the most endearing student. His nickname was ‘Bumpy’ and, well, he looked like an angel. I remember that every time I complimented him he would turn beet red. He was the most popular student in the grade.”

The Digiovanni exhibit runs through July during regular business hours at 140 Main St. For more information visit McCaffreyrealty.com or call 845-265-4113.
Do You Fear the Kohlrabi?

Chef will discuss what to do with your CSA share

by Alison Rooney

Although owning a share of a Community-Sponsored Agriculture (CSA) brings never-before-sampled vegetables well beyond beyond green beans and lettuce to the kitchen, many people find they never get around to actually cooking or even peeling some of the more obscure selections. Let’s face it, there have been times when you forget which one is the tatsoi and which one is the name-you-can’t-even-remember and as not to confuse it with the tatoonie.

Enter Rebecca Weber to help save the weekly share. The Culinary Institute of America graduate and fairly recent Nelsonville transplant (she moved here about two years ago) spoke on June 30 at the Desmond-Fish Library in Garrison on what to do with your CSA share as part of her monthly Food Forum series there. The Thursday evening sessions include a little bit of presentation, then a little bit of cooking, followed by consumption of what’s been prepared.

On June 30, after a bit of introductory conversation about everyone’s favorite summertime dish, participants were asked what vegetables stumped them. Kohlrabi won by general consensus, albeit the kohlrabi still didn’t quite get its moment in the sun. Weber did offer that the bulbous vegetable—which is considered a “brassica” with cabbage, broccoli and cauliflower because it grows above ground rather than below it—grows somewhere between cabbage and broccoli stems but milder and sweeter. The taste and texture apparently falls somewhere between cabbage and broccoli and which one is the name—you-can’t-even-remember and as not to confuse it with the tatsoi.

Weber began her series at Desmond-Fish in January with a New Year’s Resolutions (remember those?) theme and has since addressed seasonal cooking; how to roast a whole fish with chimichurri and herbed butter; breakfast crepes; and making standard and gluten-free dumplings. Future topics include homemade pasta-making— which is popular in German, Indian and Vietnamese cuisine. It is best prepared in a frying pan with butter, and it also works well in gratin dishes. Further exploration is warranted, as it’s handily loaded with Vitamin C and potassium too.

Recipes for all the prepared sauces, the chef’s slicing techniques for grilling vegetables, including how best to hold the knife. She urged everyone to “watch and focus on what you’re doing to get a straight cut.” She also showed how to chop and dice vegetables slat to be included in dishes like ratatouille. Interspersed with advice on these techniques, Weber whipped up a delicious baba ghanoush.

Then it was demonstration time, as Weber showed slicing techniques for grilling vegetables, including how best to hold the knife. She urged everyone to “watch and focus on what you’re doing to get a straight cut.” She also showed how to chop and dice vegetables slated to be included in dishes like ratatouille. Interspersed with advice on these techniques, Weber whipped up a delicious baba ghanoush.

Independent food writer and food critic Alison Rooney is the author of the book "Flavor: A Fresh Look at the History of Food" and has written for the New York Times, Serious Eats, The Local Palate and other food publications.

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

NY Alert

PHILIPSTOWN DEPT Theatre
Youth Players present: Mary Poppins
Thursday, July 21, 7 p.m.
Friday, July 22, 3:30 p.m. & 7 p.m.,
Saturday, July 23, 3:30 p.m. & 7 p.m. • Sunday, July 24, 2 p.m.

Teen players present Damn Yankees
Thursday, July 28, 7 p.m. • Friday, July 29, 7 p.m.
Saturday, July 30, 4 p.m. & 7 p.m.
Sunday, July 31, 2 p.m.

All tickets at brownpapertickets.com or philipstowndepottheatre.org
800.838.3006 • Garrison Landing, Garrison, NY (Theatre is adjacent to train station.)
Cold Spring Celebrates Independence Day

An impromptu serenade by Slam Allen at Dockside Park in Cold Spring on July 3

Cold Spring kids Clark Brown and Amalia Timm danced to Slam Allen and also the Slambovians at Dockside Park before the fireworks.

Fireworks above spruce trees at Dockside Park in Cold Spring

Cold Spring puppy review portion of Main St. parade
A fun day was had by all.  Photo by Michael Turton

Lynette Rajala and grandchildren Anya and Gio Mercurio at the Cold Spring waterfront. Rajala is a local kindergarten teacher.  Photo by A. Peltonen

Cold Spring pipers parade down Main Street.  Photo by Anita Peltonen

Above, Natalie Diaz and Kelly Ann Vega with her daughter Naomi Smith; below, Mike and Noah

Beacon Celebrates Independence Day
Beacon Memorial Park, July 3
Photos by Anne Wykstra

Laquian Jones with daughter Myla Ballard

Beacon Memorial Park, July 3
Photos by Anne Wykstra

Community events and movie times.
on Sundays.

Winged Jewels Land at Museum

Dragonfly program set for July 16

On Saturday, July 16, the Hudson Highlands Nature Museum in Cornwall will present its popular annual “Dazzling Dragonflies” program at 9:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. at its Outdoor Discovery Center on Muser Drive, across from 174 Angola Road. Environmental educators will discuss dragonfly anatomy, behavior, identification and what makes them unique.

“Adult dragonflies are sometimes referred to as ‘mosquito hawks’ because they catch and eat up to 300 mosquitoes and other small insects daily,” said educator Sasha Boucher. “Dragonflies use their spiny legs to scoop up mosquitoes right out of the air; they even eat the mosquitoes while in flight.” After the presentation, participants will be invited to guided walk through the fields to collect, identify and release some of the winged jewels.

Admission to the museum is $8 for adults ($6 for members) and $6 for children ($4 for members). For more information visit hhnm.org or call 845-534-5506, ext. 204.

Dvořák in America

Chapel to present musical play, with puppets

On Sunday, July 17, the Chapel Restoration in Cold Spring will present the musical play, The New World Symphony: Dvořák in America, written and directed by puppeteer Vit Horejš. The performance, which is free, begins at 4 p.m.

The piece, which premiered at New York City’s La Mama Theater in March, depicts the life of Bohemian composer Antonín Dvořák from 1882 to 1895, when he spent three years in the U.S. as director of the National Conservatory of Music of America in New York. He declared that African-American and Native-American music would be the foundation on which new American music would rise, and composed The New World Symphony inspired by spirituals and the Hiawatha story.

The performance will include 50 puppets, eight performers and three musicians. Music will range from Dvořák compositions, to spiritual and work songs, to jazz and rock. The performance features composer, musical director and jazz saxophonist James Brandon Lewis, bassist Luke Stewart and drummer Warren Trae Crudup III.

The Chapel Restoration is located at 45 Market Street, adjacent to the Metro-North train station, where parking is free.

Downing to Celebrate 10th Anniversary

Film center offers reduced tickets and popcorn

The Downing Film Center on the Newburgh waterfront will celebrate its 10th anniversary on July 22. It showed its first film, Water, directed by Deepa Mehta, on July 22, 2006, in what had been the basement of a furniture warehouse and later the Yellow Bird Gallery.

The 55-seat Downing will mark the anniversary with two screenings of the Academy Award-winning film Cinema Paradiso (1988), Giuseppe Tornatore’s classic celebration of the magic of the movies, at 2 and 7:30 p.m. on Monday, July 18. Admission is $5, or free for Downing members.

In addition, from Friday, July 22, through Thursday, July 28, ticket prices will drop to their 2006 levels for other films: $8 for adults, $7 for students and members of the military, $6 for seniors and children under 16, and $5 for Downing members. The price of popcorn will also be reduced to its opening-day price of $2.

Tickets are available at the box office at 19 Front St. during movie hours, as well as at downingfilmcenter.com. For more information, call 845-561-3686 or email downingfilmcenter@gmail.com. Seating is on a first-come, first-served basis.

Glyndwood to Host Farm Day, Burger Night

Fresh Company to cater both events

Glyndwood Farm in Cold Spring will hold its second annual Food + Farm Day, which it calls “an immersive celebration of our regional food system,” from noon to 5 p.m. on Saturday, July 16. The family friendly event will include tours of the farm, hands-on demonstrations, tastings of local products, live music and a marketplace.

The demonstrations include horse-shoeing, making your own ice cream, beekeeping and caring for your tomatoes. There will also be games and storytelling just for kids and hay rides for all ages, as well as farm animals. Lunch, soft drinks, beer and hard cider will be provided by Fresh Company. The event will take place rain or shine.

Food + Farm Day will be followed at 6 p.m. by Glyndwood’s inaugural Community Burger Night. Shelley Boris of Fresh Company will prepare an alfresco meal with the farm’s grass-fed, pasture-raised beef as the centerpiece.

Tickets to the Burger Night are $25 for adults and $15 for children. Children ages four and under are admitted free to both events. Glyndwood is located at 362 Glyndwood Road, off Route 301. In addition to Fresh Company, other sponsors are Chronogram and Zero to Go. For more information, call 845-265-3338.
Butterfield to Hold Three Events for Kids

**Athletic animals, fitness quest and “mad science”**

The Butterfield Library in Cold Spring will host three events for children over the next week.

Wednesday, July 13, at 11:30 a.m., Animal Embassy will visit to share a program called “Athletes of the Animal Kingdom” with visitors such as a veiled chameleon, an Argentine tegu and a carpet python. On Thursday, July 14 at 10:30 a.m., in a Fitness Quest adventure, Jason Edwards will lead children on a grand quest to find the secret formula to health and fitness and build research skills along the way. Finally, on Friday, July 15, at 10 a.m., in a Mad Science show, children will be invited to explore the laws of motion by creating jet packs and a rocket-propelled car.

**Big Kids Read to Little Kids**

Butterfield continues “Buddies” program

Reading a book aloud is one of the best things beginning readers can do to improve their skills. Since younger children love reading to “big kids,” the Butterfield Library in Cold Spring will continue to offer its Reading Buddy program. Reading Buddies must be in sixth through 12th grades and younger children should be in kindergarten through fifth grade. Once registered, partners will be matched. The Reading Buddies will be responsible to schedule their meeting time during regular library hours and the time they spend together will be logged. For more information, email Maureen McGreath at jbl.libraryservices@gmail.com.

**Beacon**

**Library to Share Works by Autistic Artists**

“Discovering What is Underneath” opens July 9

The Howland Public Library in Beacon will host an opening reception from 5 to 7 p.m. on Saturday, July 9, for Xposure: Discovering What is Underneath, an exhibition of work created by adult artists in the Anderson Center for Autism’s Expressive Outcomes program. The exhibit will be on display through Aug. 6 during library hours at 313 Main St.

The Anderson Center for Autism, located in Staatsburg, is a non-profit organization that provides programming for children and adults with autism. Its Expressive Outcomes program held its first art exhibit in 2004. At the exhibitions, artists discuss their inspiration, techniques and ideas. For more information, visit andersoncenterforautism.org.

**Dance Jam on July 14**

Towne Crier hosts monthly event

The next Towne Crier Dance Jam will be held on Thursday, July 14, beginning at 7 p.m. with soul, R&B, Latin (all styles), funk, reggae, rock and disco spun by DJ Rhoda Averbach and partners Al Brando-nisi and Efrain “La Voz” Colon. “The dance jam is a perfect night out, right here in Beacon,” said Averbach. “Nothing gives us more pleasure than seeing people loving this beautiful music and interacting so freely with each other.”

We thank Towne Crier Café owner Phil Ciganer for welcoming this event.” Said Carrington Hall, of Philipstown: “This is a Studio 54 atmosphere in an informal setting. Why go schlepping down to the city when you can have a ball right in the neighborhood?”

The Towne Crier is located at 379 Main St. in Beacon. Admission is $10. For more information, visit meetup.com/Towne-Cri-er-Dance-Jam.

**Library to Present Adult Reading Events**

Crafts and comedy at Howland

The Howland Public Library in Beacon will host three events in the coming week as part of its “Exercise Your Mind” adult summer reading program.

On Saturday, July 9, artist Vickie Raab will lead a free workshop starting at noon on creating painted parasols. All supplies are included, and participants should dress for messy fun.

Finally, on Tuesday, July 12, at 6 p.m., Amina Chaudhri will explain how to make coiled bowls out of magazine paper. The event is free and all supplies are included. Registration is required for these two events at beaconlibrary.org or by calling 845-831-1134.

Finally, on Wednesday, July 13, at 1 p.m., join magician and ventriloquist Bob Condor for a free show for adults that features comedy, puppets and a touch of magic. No registration is required. The library is located at 313 Main St.

**Free Lunch for Kids and Teens**

Nutritious meals served weekdays

Children and teenagers ages 18 and younger can receive a free, nutritious meal between noon and 12:45 p.m. weekdays through Aug. 26 at three locations in Beacon: Tompkins Terrace (194 Tompkins Ave.), Davies South Terrace (52 Davies Ave.) and the Beacon Community Resource Center (23 West Center St.).

For more information visit ccedutchess.org/nutrition/summer-food-service-programs or call 845-677-8223, ext. 122. The program is administered by Kids R Kids Feeding Program, New Vision Church of Deliverances and the Beacon Nutrition Advisory Committee.

(Continued on next page)
Feel the Need to Weed?

Common Ground Farm in Wappingers Falls has launched Weeding Wednesdays. Each week from 2 to 4 p.m., the farm is open for volunteers who want to get their hands dirty, help farmers complete weeding tasks and see how their food is grown. Email susan@commongroundfarm.org for information.

Bannerman Island to Honor Gardeners

Party and opera music scheduled on July 16

The late Harrison Libby of Beacon, a longtime member of the Bannerman Castle Trust board of directors, will be honored with a plaque in the garden on the island during a ceremony on Saturday, July 16, for his work in restoring the island’s gardens. There will also be a garden party for visitors with a performance by opera singers Lorraine Helvick and Danielle Davis. Since 2007, volunteers have been working to recreate Helen Bannerman’s gardens, and the Saturday program will also honor three Bannerman Castle Trust gardeners for their work. The event is being catered by Pandorica Restaurant in Beacon, and guests will be able to take a self-guided tour of the island.

For tickets, which are $50, visit zerve.com/Bannerman/Garden. The boat leaves the Beacon dock at 3 p.m. for the three-hour event.

Opera singers Lorraine Helvick and Danielle Davis will perform on Bannerman Island.
Feeding Fido
Cold Spring vet concerned about what many dogs eat
By Michael Turton

By one estimate Americans spend $45 billion annually on dog food and another $6 billion on treats. And yet, not all dog food is created equal. Dr. Peter Bach of the Animal Hospital of Cold Spring has expressed concern about what many dogs are being fed, so we asked him for more details. His responses have been edited for space.

What should a healthy canine diet look like?
It should contain a high amount of protein and a small amount of fat. Also roughage, which is not the same kind of fiber that humans consume. It should be probiotic, with a type of bacteria that normally grows in the gut that is sometimes missing from the animal’s gut. It should also include vitamins and minerals but not many carbohydrates — maybe about 6 percent carbs — which is very hard to find in dog foods.

Do dietary needs vary much from breed to breed, other than amounts?
A working dog needs a lot more calories than a dog that basically sits with the owner and watches TV all day.

What are common mistakes owners make regarding diet?
They fall into traps. The industry is overselling the concept of a grain-free diet. They should actually be promoting carbohydrate-free diets. Another mistake is using a raw diet that is not freshly made. Nothing against raw diets, but most of the commercial food contains too much bacteria and it’s often harmful to both the pet and the human. Home-cooked meals often don’t get enough of the right amount of trace nutrients and vitamins.

And finally, just feeding a dog scraps from the table — what our grandparents and parents used to do — does not increase the animal’s longevity. Scraps contain too many fats, especially saturated fats, and too many of the sugars and carbs found in most North American diets. I understand the owners desire to share and give in to begging, but it’s not actually a good thing.

Is part of the problem that pet owners tend to anthropomorphize their dogs?
That’s an issue in all aspects of veterinarian medicine and dog ownership. But you cannot take that out of humans. It’s one of the hardest things for me to explain to people — don’t overfeed an animal, and don’t just give in to what you think the dog’s needs might be as a substitute for love. Human-grade protein — muscle meat — is not necessary in dog food. They can have a lower-grade protein. The nutrients that a dog needs are counterintuitive; it needs nutrients to make hair; it needs to constantly renew its nails; it needs roughage that you would probably consider unacceptable food at your table. A dog needs that fiber to have good, healthy bowel movements and so forth. And no, Fluffy should not eat until he bursts. Just because he demands food three times a day doesn’t mean he needs it.

What do dogs need?
They typically don’t get enough exercise. There’s a study that says that dogs should have a type of enhancement, some life enrichment by having a walk once or twice a day. Just letting him out into the back yard to sniff and poop is not an enrichment; they know all the smells in the backyard. They need something different than the ordinary daily life of the human — a nice walk in a neighborhood they haven’t been to before or at least a chance to check out their neighborhood to see who has been there and what’s going on. Dogs decline mentally if they don’t have that type of enrichment.

What do you recommend as a nutritional treat for dogs?
Baby carrots are very good.

Are organic foods showing up in canine diets?
I’m sure it is but there’s no research to support that. There’s absolutely nothing that I am aware of that says organic foods will increase a dog’s longevity or make them healthier. It stands to reason that the things that make our life better also make the dog’s life better. But there are differences. Cadmium, for example, is a toxin for humans but doesn’t play a role in dog’s kidneys; they don’t collect cadmium. So maybe all toxins we humans worry about are not detrimental to a dog’s health. Didn’t we just talk about anthropomorphism?

What about wet versus dry food?
I’m more concerned about the content of the wet food than the dry food. If we were talking about a cat I’d give you a completely different answer, but for dogs, it’s not as important since dogs drink sufficiently. It becomes a convenience issue for the owner. Dry food you can put out and leave out all day and the canned food, at least in the summer, attracts all kinds of bugs and things. There’s not really a big difference nutrition-wise, unlike cats, which need the canned food.

Some owners favor raw diets for dogs. The American Veterinary Medical Association commissioned a study that found that the biggest objection to raw diets is the bacteria that is often found. Also raw diets aren’t very well researched. Some people do no research and just use their gut instinct to add things that are indigestible in dogs. Cottage cheese, for instance. It sounds like a great idea to put it in dog food but the University of Pennsylvania’s senior canine nutritionist has shown it does not work in dog food. It sounds good; kind of warm and fuzzy, but it isn’t a dog food.

The core of my objection to small manufacturers is that they have no idea what to put in dog food. This is a little bit exaggerated; but the standard for trials in dog food is that if the dog is fed for six weeks and doesn’t die, the dog food passes. The AIFCO (Association of American Feed Control Officials) standards are not very tight and stringent.

How common are food allergies in dogs?
Lately they’re becoming a big thing and much more common than environmental allergies. Pollen and carpet cleaners are also big but food allergies really trump everything else.

What should people do to plan their dog’s diet? Search online?
Research online is at the point where anybody can publish anything. It’s more disturbing than good. I like to have people start by talking to me about diet concerns. I’m very open minded but I’m not for a raw diet and I’m not for a high amount of table scraps. I can also provide recipes. Dogs that eat food from a company that does its own research live the longest. Research looks at what micronutrients and vitamins are needed and what diseases the dogs get, and they design their dog food based on that research. There are at least three such companies doing that, including Purina, Waltham and Hills.
is available at these locations:

**BEACON (Main Street)**
After the Barn, 508 Main St.
All In One Food, 1020 Wolcott Ave
Artisan Wine, 180 Main St.
Baja 328, 328 Main St.
Bank Square Coffeehouse, 131 Main St.
Beacon Bagel, 466 Main St.
Beacon Creamery, 134 Main St.
Beacon Falls Café, 472 Main St.
Beacon Natural Market, 348 Main St.
Beacon Pantry, 382 Main St.
Dogwood Café, 47 E. Main St.
Ella’s Bellas, 418 Main St.
Harry’s Hot Sandwiches, 449 Main St.
Homespun Foods, 232 Main St.
Howland Cultural Center, 477 Main St.
Hudson Beach Glass, 162 Main St.
Key Foods, 268 Main St.
Marbled Market - Stock Up, 29 Teller Ave.
Moore Good, 383 Main St.
Poppy’s Burgers, 184 Main St.
Riverwinds Gallery, 172 Main St.
Scarborough Fare, 257 Main St.
Sukhothai, 316 Main St.
The Hop, 458 Main St.
Tito Santana Taqueria, 142 Main St.
Utensil, 480 Main St.
Vogel Pharmacy, 234 Main St.

**BEACON (Other)**
Dia:Beacon Café, 3 Beekman St.

**COLD SPRING (Main Street)**
Bijou, 50 Main St.
Butterfield Library, 10 Morris Ave.
C&E Hardware, 158 Main St.
Chamber of Commerce Information Booth, foot of Main St.
Cold Spring Apothecary, 75 Main St.
Cold Spring Pet Supply, 169 Main St.
Cold Spring Pizza and Deli, 120 Main St.
Cold Spring Village Hall, 85 Main St.
Country Goose, 115 Main St.
Country Touch, 97 Main St.
Cup-o-ccino Café, 92 Main St.
Dancing Dialogue, 26 Main St.
Depot Restaurant, 1 Depot Square
Doug’s Pretty Good Pub, 54 Main St.
Foundry Café, 53 Main St.
Gallery 66 NY, 66 Main St.
The Garden Café, 116 Main St.
The Gift Hut, 86 Main St.
Go-Go Pops, 64 Main St.

RiverWinds Gallery, Beacon Photo by Michele Gedney

Hudson Hill’s, 129 Main St.
Hudson Holistic, 156 Main St.
Hudson House, 2 Main St.
Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival, 140 Main St.
Joseph’s Fine Jewelry, 171 Main St.
McCaffrey Realty, 140 Main St.
Moo Moo’s Creamery, 32 West St.
Old Souls, 61 Main St.
Pig Hill Inn, 73 Main St.
Riverview Restaurant, 45 Fair St.
Romeo & Juliet, 155 Main St.
SkyBaby Studio, 75 Main St.
Swing, 65 Main St.
Whistling Willie’s, 184 Main St.

**COLD SPRING (Foodtown Plaza area)**
Animal Hospital of Cold Spring, 55 Chestnut St.
Angelina’s, 41 Chestnut St.
Cold Spring Healing Arts, 6 Marion Ave.
Drug World, 55 Chestnut St.
Foodtown, 49 Chestnut St.
Grey Printing, 35 Chestnut St.
Lahey Pavilion, 1756 Route 9D
Limited Editions Realty, 10 Marion Ave.
The Main Course, 39 Chestnut St.
Putnam History Museum, 63 Chestnut St.
River Architects, 8 Marion Ave.
Yannitelli Wines, 55 Chestnut St.

**COLD SPRING (Boscobel)**
Boscobel (Front Desk), 1601 Route 9D
Cold Spring Farmers Market
(Saturday a.m. May-Nov)

**NELSONVILLE**
Deb’s Hair Salon, 290 Main St.
Hudson Hounds, 290 Main St.
iGuitar, 290 Main St.
Nelsonville Deli, 289 Main St.
Nelsonville Village Hall, 258 Main St.
Philipstown Town Hall, 238 Main St.

**GARRISON**
1-2-3 Stop, 871 Route 9
Antipodean Books, Garrison’s Landing
Appalachian Market, 1467 Route 9
Desmond-Fish Library, 472 Route 403
Garrison Art Center, Garrison’s Landing
Garrison Café, 1135 Route 9
Gergely Pediatrics, 34 Route 403
Garrison Restaurant, 2534 Route 9
Philipstown Depot Theatre, Garrison’s Landing
Philipstown Recreation Center, Route 9D
The Stadium, 1308 Route 9

**FISHKILL**
All Sport Health and Fitness, 17 Old Main St.
Maya Café, 448 Route 9

**SCHOOLS**
Beacon High School
Garrison School
Haldane High School

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