

The HIGHLANDS Current

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Loretto, Businesses Latest Victims of Burglaries

Break-ins may be related to \$1,300 theft in Beacon

By Michael Turton

Cash was stolen from a local church and food pantry donation jar in the latest round of burglaries in Cold Spring. A total of five burglaries or attempted break-ins took place between late Sunday, July 17, and early Tuesday, July 19.

Capt. William McNamara of the Putnam County Sheriff's Department told *The Current* that it was investigating with assistance from the Cold Spring Police Department. No arrests have been made, but a "person of interest" is being sought, he said. "Investigators are reviewing [closed circuit] TV recordings and interviewing potential witnesses."

The latest burglaries brings to nine the number of incidents under investigation. During the first week of June, break-ins also occurred at Moo Moo's Creamery on the Cold Spring waterfront and Go-Go Pops, Brassiere Le Bouchon and Kismet at Caryn's on Main Street.

Cash taken from food pantry box

Father Tom Kiley, pastor of Our Lady



An undetermined amount of cash was stolen from Our Lady of Loretto.

Photo by M. Turton

of Loretto, told *The Current* that he had locked all the church doors on the night of July 17 but that on Monday morning he discovered one open. He said there was no sign of forced entry. A cash box used to collect money from the sale of CDs was taken. Kiley said he (Continued on Page 3)

Putnam Makes Revisions to Ailes Senior Center Deal

But Scuccimarra says no plans to remove name

By Holly Toal

The Putnam County Legislature is finalizing its lease agreement to operate a senior center named for Fox News chairman Roger Ailes at the former Butterfield Hospital in Cold Spring in space the county will rent from developer Paul Guillaro.

The latest change to the lease involves a commitment from the county to provide transportation services for seniors to and from the site, although at a July 19

meeting of the Physical Services Committee, Barbara Scuccimarra (R-Philipstown) noted that transportation services have always been available to seniors at all county senior centers. "It's something we've been doing for 20 years," she said.

As part of the lease agreement, the county officially accepted a \$500,000 donation from ACI Senior Development Corp., a tax-exempt organization created in 2013 by Ailes, a Garrison resident, to renovate the space.

By accepting the donation, the county agreed to name the facility "The Roger Ailes Senior Center" with a sign in the lobby. The move required a change to county (Continued on Page 7)



An Eastern Tiger Swallowtail, captured (on film) in Garrison

Photo by Florinda Costa

Walking Beacon's Ward 1

Peggy Ross in the thick of things as Beacon grows

By Jeff Simms

Margaret E. "Peggy" Ross represents Ward 1 — the smallest, area-wise, of Beacon's four wards — on the City Council, but perhaps her greatest challenge involves the entire city.

Mayor Randy Casale appointed Ross in March as co-chair of a 14-person committee tasked with drafting Beacon's next comprehensive plan. More than any other document or council decision, the plan guides development and land use in Beacon.

It is typically revised every 10 years or so and this time around coincides with the city entering what is by virtually all accounts a critically important era of growth. The plan was last updated in 2007.

Ross says that she's hoping for significant community involvement as the committee begins crafting a blueprint for



Peggy Ross

File photo

Beacon. The first public meeting will be held on Sept. 22.

"This will be a statement of community (Continued on Page 5)

Small, Good Things

Just a Little Green

By Joe Dizney

Sometimes it pays to take a step back from an ingredient or preparation you think you’ve got all figured out. Take pesto (from the Italian verb *pestare*, for pounding or crushing), the ubiquitous green paste popularly identified with the region around Genoa, Italy.

Pesto is among Italy’s oldest recipes, with culinary roots going back as far as ancient Rome. An historical Roman comestible called *moretum* was made by mashing together garlic, salt, cheese, herbs, olive oil and vinegar; in the Middle Ages a common Ligurian sauce called *agliata* consisted of a paste of garlic and walnuts. *Pesto alla Genovese*, the version we usually think of when we say pesto, is made from ground pine nuts and basil, olive oil and cheese.

But today’s offering traces its lineage to *Pesto de Pistacchio Verde di Bronte*, Sicily’s equally venerable green pesto, made from ground pistachios and mint or a combination of mint and basil.

Pistachios have been cultivated in Sicily since antiquity, introduced there between the eighth and ninth centuries by Arab conquerors when the Roman Empire disintegrated under pressure from invaders.

Bronte is a town/commune in the Sicilian province of Catania situated 10-or-so miles west-northwest of Mount Etna. Bronte is economically reliant on agriculture, and in particular the farming of pistachio nuts. The volcanic terrain and subtropical Mediterranean climate of the *terroir* give the Sicilian pistachio unique characteristics — notably an intense green coloring of the raw seeds and a highly aromatic character.

The Bronte Pistachio is listed on The Ark of Taste, an international catalogue of endangered heritage foods maintained by the global Slow Food movement. (Caveat emptor: In the case of nuts marketed as “Sicilian pistachios,” assume that the origin is actually Turkey, Iran or California — all pistachios *processed* in Italy are called “Sicilian Pistachios” — Bronte is a very small geographical area and the indigenous pistachios are most certainly consumed by the locals.)

Traditionally, pistachios used in pesto are freshly picked while still green-ish and dried slightly (not toasted or roasted — in other words, raw), which enhances Pesto de Bronte’s storied bright green hue. Mint also brings out the flavor and color, but this pesto (which contains no other pine nuts or walnuts) is proportionately “nuttier” than its Genovese counterpart, typically upward of two-thirds pistachios by measure.

At table, Pesto alla Genovese is commonly used on pasta, traditionally with *mandilli de sae* (“silk handkerchiefs” in the Genoese dialect), *trofie* or *trenette*. (Potatoes and string beans are also traditionally added to the dish, boiled in the same pot in which the pasta has been cooked.)

This treatment certainly accommodates pistachio pesto, but Sicily’s mint and pistachio pesto is most commonly tossed with a good long pasta such as spaghetti or *spaghetti alla chitarra*, which is square rather than round. Whatever pasta you use should be of a high quality, either fresh or whole-grain. And the grated cheese sprinkled over the pesto to finish should be the best available.

Such slavish historical treatment also completely neglects this preparation’s



Pistachio-mint pesto Photo by J. Dizney

culinary flexibility. Delicate while at the same time incredibly rich, pistachio pesto is an ideal seasoning or addition to all sorts of sumptuous dishes. It can be used simply as a spread for hot or cold bruschetta, crostini, pizza or other flatbreads; it makes a sunning frame or accompaniment to raw, steamed or grilled seasonal vegetables. Try it as a flavoring and dressing for cold salads of cannellini bean or chicken. It really shines as a surprising condiment for roasted or grilled lamb or chicken.

As noted, you probably won’t be able to find authentic Sicilian pistachios; even unsalted raw nuts may be difficult to locate. But salted and lightly roasted kernels, which I found at Hannaford’s, make a supremely enjoyable approximation. Just adjust the salt accordingly. And a red-blooded Sicilian may tell you that a mortar and pestle is the only way to mash the ingredients, but a food processor makes short work of the traditional pounding and crushing.

Regardless, pistachio pesto presents an offer you really can’t refuse.

Pistachio-Mint Pesto

- Makes about two cups
- 1 cup roughly chopped mint leaves

1 cup shelled pistachios (either raw or roasted; preferably unsalted)

2 small cloves garlic
- ½ cup olive oil (or combination of olive and pistachio oil)

Juice of one lemon (about ¼ cup)

Salt and freshly ground pepper (white if available) to taste
1. Place the mint, pistachios and garlic in the bowl of a small food processor. Pulse until coarsely ground. Add lemon juice and the oils in batches until incorporated in to a crude paste. (I like this pesto a little runny so add oil until it is to your desired consistency.) Season to taste with salt and pepper.
- You can store leftover pesto in the refrigerator for up to a week. As with pesto alla Genovese, you can also freeze and store individual portions in ice cube trays.




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Loretto, Businesses Victims of Burglaries *(from Page 1)*

didn't know how much money was inside.

The Country Touch at 97 Main St. was burglarized the same night. Connie Kelley, the gift shop's owner, said she received a call on Monday morning from a tenant who lives above the store informing her that the store's back door was open and its window broken. Kelley said the cash register had been left open overnight and contained no money. (Many storeowners do this so thieves don't damage the register by forcing it open.) However, Kelley said the intruder was able to find a well-hidden can used to collect money for the Philipstown Food Pantry and stole \$4 or \$5.

About \$70 in cash was also taken from a bag that Kelley said was also well-hidden. Four rolls of pennies were not taken. Whoever was behind the robbery was "very neat," Kelley observed. "They put the lid back on the food pantry jar, zipped up the money bag and put it back where it belonged." Kelley had a new deadbolt

installed the same day. She said the shop had previously been robbed seven or eight years ago.

Beacon robbery

About 10 miles north, Tito Santana Taqueria, located at 142 Main St. in Beacon, was broken into late Monday night or early Tuesday morning. About \$1,300 in cash was taken, said Beacon Police Chief Doug Solomon. It was the only robbery reported during that period.

"We believe the burglaries in Dutchess and Putnam Counties are related, and we're pursuing active leads along with the other agencies," Solomon said. The restaurant's owner, Kamel Jamal, also owns Ziatun and Beacon Bread Company in Beacon and Angelina's in Cold Spring.

Failed attempts

A break-in at Bijou Galleries at 50 Main St. was thwarted by its alarm system. At around 3 a.m. Monday someone gained entry through a window, despite it being reinforced by steel bars. The intrusion set off an alarm that loudly blared, "Burglar! ... Burglar! ... Burglar!"

Ethan Timm, whose family owns the business and building, lives in an upstairs apartment. "I heard the alarm and then heard someone leaving," he said. The alarm was worth the investment, he said. "As far as we can tell nothing was taken." Timm said it was the first burglary attempt at the business, which has operated at that location for more than 20 years.

The thief or thieves also came up empty-handed at Hudson Hil's Café & Market at 129 Main St. Co-owner Hilary Hayes said the restaurant was broken into



Ethan Timm: Alarm was worth the investment.



Money was stolen from The Country Touch and a container used to collect money for the Philipstown Food Pantry.

Photos by M. Turton

through the kitchen door in the rear. The door was not damaged and nothing was stolen, including alcohol that was readily accessible, she said.

"We never leave cash on the premises overnight," Hayes said, adding that investigators from the sheriff's department took fingerprints and lead dogs around the prem-

ises on Tuesday morning. It was the first time the business had been broken into.

Yet another failed robbery took place a few doors down. Pierre Vittori, who operates a small bike shop at 141 Main St., said someone tried to force open its back door but could not.

Although a rumor circulated in Cold Spring that Moo Moo's Creamery on the waterfront had been robbed of \$5,000, owner Alexi Katsetos said no break-in occurred there.

Jeff Simms contributed reporting.



The break-in at Hudson Hil's yielded nothing.

Nelsonville Ponders Building Department Merger

Mayor says referendum possible

By Michael Turton

Nelsonville Mayor Tom Corless has shown little enthusiasm for a merger of the village's building department with those of the Town of Philipstown and Village of Cold Spring. At the July 18 meeting of the Nelsonville Village Board, however, he opened the door to the possibility of holding a referendum as part of Nelsonville's next election in March 2017.

Philipstown and Cold Spring are already discussing a merger, a form of consolidation strongly encouraged by New York state. Several months ago, Cold Spring officials hired the Philipstown building department to complete inspections at the Butterfield redevelopment project. Nelsonville has participated in merger discussions but has made no decisions.

Philipstown Town Board member John Van Tassel attended the July 18 meeting and raised the topic with Corless and Deputy Mayor Thomas Robertson. Danielle Pack McCarthy, the third member of the village board, was not in attendance.

"We're at a point now where we need to know if you guys are willing to commit" to a building department merger, Van Tassel said, adding that he has worked on aspects of the consolidation with Pack McCarthy for nearly two years. "It makes no difference to us." He noted the town recently hired a new building inspector, Greg Wunner, and that town officials have been pleased with his work.



A public referendum could decide whether Nelsonville merges its building department with those of Cold Spring and Philipstown.

Photo by M. Turton

Corliss said he has discussed the idea of a merger with Philipstown Supervisor Richard Shea and the town's previous building inspector, Kevin Donahue. "I don't know where we are" on the issue, the mayor said. "Are our fees going to be your fees? Is it going to be a shared inspector or one employed by the town?" Van Tassel responded that the Philipstown building department operates by collecting fees, noting that Nelsonville issued only eight building permits in 2015. "We're not look-

(Continued on Page 7)

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Putnam Presents Plan to AG for Tourism Bureau

*County responds to inquiry
after Pataki resignation*

By Holly Toal

The acting director of the Putnam County Visitor's Bureau says the state attorney general's office was "supportive" of the agency's plan to move forward with a fully functional board of directors after the resignation and investigation of its former chief, Libby Pataki.

Acting Director Frank Smith reported on July 14 to the Putnam County Legislature's Economic Development Committee.

"They were supportive," he said of the state office. "They had questions regarding how we're moving forward into the future."

The attorney general's office opened an inquiry in February into the daily operations of the non-profit Visitor's Bureau after the Journal News reported its board of directors, which hires and oversees its executive director, did not meet regularly and was not providing the fiscal oversight required by law.

The inquiry also focused on a second



Libby Pataki and Frank Smith Source: LinkedIn

non-profit, the Putnam Tourism Corp., apparently created by Pataki without the legislature's or county executive's knowledge, that also did not appear to have a functioning board.

Pataki, the wife of former Gov. George Pataki and a Garrison resident, drew salaries from both organizations. She resigned in March, and Smith was promoted. A graduate of Syracuse University, Smith spent two years as an intern with the agency beginning in 2012 before being

appointed deputy director under Pataki in May 2014 and has since run its day-to-day operations.

Since the shake-up, the county has been advertising for volunteers to sit on the board of directors but has only heard from seven people, Smith said. All seven will be appointed, he said, to create the new board of directors.

"Our plan is to have our first board meeting the first week in August," said Smith, during which the board is expected to adopt bylaws, appoint additional members and review applications for a project coordinator.

Postings for that position have drawn more interest, with more than 40 applicants who "all appear to be extremely qualified," Smith told lawmakers.

Legislator Roger Gross (R-Southeast) said he is optimistic about the direction of the Visitor's Bureau. "We've cleared the air, gotten a fresh start, and I think that's healthy," he said.

Smith said he will meet again with the attorney general's office in September.

County May Change Job Criteria to Fit Candidate

*Law agency employee
recommended for Planning*

By Holly Toal

Putnam County lawmakers are considering changing the job requirements for the head of the Department of Planning, Development and Public Transportation — a position vacant since 2013 — in order to appoint an attorney who now serves as interim chief.

The person recommended for the commissioner job is Sandra Fusco, who has worked in the Putnam County Law Department since 2011 but for the past six months has been leading the planning department on a temporary basis.

In the law department, Fusco earned \$90,000; she now makes \$98,000 at planning. The salary budgeted for the permanent position is \$112,200.

The changes to the job requirements would include striking out the requirement that a candidate have "eight years of practical experience in regional, county or municipal planning" and four years of supervision of personnel planners.

At the July 13 Rules Committee meeting, Legislator Dini LoBue (R-Mahopac Falls), voiced her opposition.

"I was really surprised to see this and disappointed at the same time that we would be downgrading the credentials for this position," she said.

LoBue explained that in 2010, a charter review commission made up of members of the administration, legislature and public worked on drafting the requirements for the position.

"Everyone was in agreement that we needed higher standards, more credentials — not less," she said. "To me this is down-

grading the professionalism of Putnam County government ... This position is pivotal in terms of the future of the county."

In Dutchess County, LoBue noted, the same position requires a master's degree in planning or a related field and eight years of technical planning experience in community, regional or municipal planning, including four years in an administrative or supervisory capacity.

Ginny Nacerino (R-Patterson) countered that should the county name Fusco as commissioner, it would not be "downgrading" the position because Fusco has a doctorate in law.

"The person we are recommending is an attorney, so I think that speaks for itself," she said. "It's different, but I think it's not un-parallel ... She's very astute, she's very diligent, she's very knowledgeable, so I think it's already been demonstrated whether or not she's qualified to be at the helm."

LoBue responded that the county should not be comparing a law degree to a planning degree.

"We are going to be the only county that does not require a master's in planning and urban development," she said. "And also work experience; working in the field, working in management of municipalities, overseeing zoning and federal and state regulations for transit systems. You can't even compare the two."

Legislator Roger Gross (R-Southeast) said he is concerned the position is being "diluted" to fit a specific individual.

"The word 'planner' has been scratched



Sandra Fusco Source: Facebook

out, in terms of professional personnel," he said. "Basically the whole planning piece of the requirement has been scratched out, and this is a planner. I'm sure it was tailored for the individual, is what comes to me. Maybe the lady is great, I don't know her at all, but it seems that for commis-

sioner of planning you should have some sort of planning background."

Carl Albano (R-Carmel) said he was confident of the candidate's background, regardless of the written job requirements.

"When we create rules and a template to go by, that's for when you pull somebody off the street and you don't know how they're going to perform," he said. "Here you have someone who has proven herself ... You see people every day who don't necessarily meet all the requirements who can do an outstanding job. And in this case I think we have somebody here that would fit the bill."

Deputy County Executive Bruce Walker argued that the current job description is exclusionary to many otherwise qualified individuals.

"Many of our job specs are so narrowly scoped that they preclude a lot of very qualified and capable people," he said. "The fact of the matter is that with this job — and you pointed to urban planning — there are no urban areas in Putnam County, and so an urban planning degree is not a useful degree."

"Fortunately — or unfortunately, depending on how you look at it in this county — the plans that are required in this county are so obvious because there

(Continued on next page)

Beacon Police Blotter

July 8 to July 14, 2016

Officers handled 301 calls, including five auto accidents and seven domestic disputes. This is a selection of their reports.

Friday, July 8

11:45 a.m. – Caller reported being threatened. Both parties advised.

3 p.m. – Nemecio Mejia-Rosas, 52, of Newburgh, charged on Railroad Drive for operating a taxi without a medalion.

11:15 p.m. – Report of an assault on Main Street. Investigation continuing.

Saturday, July 9

2:30 p.m. – Caller reported items missing from residence on Caroline St.

Sunday, July 10

7:30 a.m. – Caller reported burglary at business on Main St.

Monday, July 11

5:30 a.m. – Wesley Seller, 35, of Poughkeepsie, Mark Lunsford, 54, of Beacon

and Latesha Sellers, 39, of Beacon, charged with burglary, criminal mischief and assault. According to Beacon police, the three are accused of forcing their way into a neighbor's apartment and beating the victim. Sellers is accused of kicking a second apartment door, causing damage. Wesley and Sellers then allegedly fled and were located in the Colonial Springs complex.



6:30 p.m. – Caller reported black iPod and a folding buck knife missing from vehicle on Maple St.

Thursday, July 14

7:30 a.m. – Caller reported items missing from vehicle on Monell Place.

9 a.m. – Caller reported window smashed on East Main St. building.

9 p.m. – Harassment reported by caller on Tompkins Terrace.

Walking Beacon's Ward 1 (from Page 1)

vision and an expression of our goals," said Ross. "We're becoming a city. Whatever we put in there has to accommodate increased density" as well as consider public transportation "and all the other enhancements of the city."

It was a Ward 1 concern that drew Ross to planning issues, and to the City Council, where she is now in her second term.

In 2009, shortly after moving to Beacon, she became involved with Beacon Deserves Better, a group that opposed the creation of a "transit-oriented development" along the city's riverfront, which is split between Wards 1 and 2. Pushed by the Metropolitan Transportation Authority, the project was, in Ross's view, a "gigantic parking structure with retail" that she says would have competed with — rather than complemented — Main Street.

"There's a phrase in planning. They say 'be a place, not a node,' and we were a node on their regional plan," she said. "There's no reason for us to be that, because everyone had a sense of [Beacon's] potential."

Shortly thereafter, then-newly elected Mayor Casale asked Ross to chair the committee for rezoning the Hudson River-to-Main Street linkage zone. In 2013, she was elected to the City Council.

Part of the linkage zone lies within Ward 1, and it's been in the news as the city grapples with how to balance the need for increased development with historic, small-town neighborhood charm.

Looking forward, Ross said she under-

"We're in a different economic climate than in 2007. Demands are different. This plan should prescribe where the growth is going to occur."

stands the importance of the committee's job as it considers the comprehensive plan. "This will provide guidance for the public agencies; it's what we refer to," she said. "It defends our land use and gives us direction."

So, for anyone concerned (or excited) about what Beacon might look like in 10 years, this is your chance. Mark Sept. 22 on your calendar.

"I'm very concerned about the built environment and what it looks like," Ross says. "We're in a different economic climate than in 2007. Demands are different. This plan should prescribe where the growth is going to occur."

TAG

SALE

3 Short Street, Cold Spring, NY
July 24, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
 (no early birds)

Items include:
 Thomasville Bedroom Set (king bed), oak desk and chair, writing secretary, riding lawn mower, 24" snow blower, tool cart, kitchen items and more.

County Again Pursues Sales-Tax Holiday

Senate passes bill for 10-day reprieve on clothing

A bill that would eliminate the county portion of sales tax in Putnam County over 10 days in late August has unanimously passed the state senate. The Putnam County legislature requested the tax holiday, which would lower sales tax on clothing and footwear priced under \$110 from 8.38 percent to 4 percent from Aug. 20 to 31.

The senate has passed the tax holiday in the past but it typically dies in the assembly. County officials say the lower tax would help retailers in eastern Putnam County compete with competitors in Connecticut during back-to-school shopping.

County May Change Job Criteria to Fit Candidate (from Page 4)

has been no infrastructure growth in the last 20 years in this county that tie in with the commercial corridors in this county. Most of the things that go through that department are legal in nature."

As an example, Walker referred to development of the Putnam Trailway bicycle/walking path, which he said is mostly contractual, as a project that hasn't required a planner.

"These contracts, when you look through them, they're 50 and 60 pages long," said Walker. "You need a lawyer to

be able to read through them. And an urban planner doesn't have the skillset."

LoBue countered that the county absolutely needs a planner, citing what she sees as poor management of recent projects. "We don't need a lawyer — we need someone that understand planning," she said.

"I don't think we have to be like other counties," said Barbara Scuccimarra (R-Philipstown). "We're a small county; we're built out."

The matter will now be addressed by the Personnel Committee.

HELP WANTED

The Philipstown Recreation Department is hiring for September! Please send all resumes to Amber Stickle at amber@philipstownrecreation.com. For more information, please call 845-424-4618.

Part-Time Teaching Assistants

The Learning Center at Philipstown Recreation is a play-based nurturing preschool setting. We are currently looking for two enthusiastic and flexible people to be part of a collaborative team working to create a positive learning environment. Some experience working with young children is required.

Before Care & After Care Assistants

The Haldane Before Care & After Care program is a recreational setting that will provide additional care for those students who parents might need a longer day. We are looking for enthusiastic and flexible people to help build this new program. Some experience working with children is required. Candidates do not need to be available for both the morning and afternoon programs.

Senior Fitness Instructor

The Fit For Life fitness program is a basic fitness class with the use of light weights and cardio movement. Candidates must be energetic, patient and be able to provide modifications to routines based on various fitness abilities. Candidates must have some fitness teaching experience. Experience with senior clients is a plus.

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Beacon School Board Finds Firm for Superintendent Search

Midwestern firm with Jersey office gets nod

By Jeff Simms

After considering five proposals from search firms who presented strategies to find a new superintendent for the Beacon City School District, the Board of Education has chosen Hazard, Young, Attea & Associates (HYA), a firm based in Illinois with offices in Jersey City.

HYA proposed a four-phase process designed to have a new superintendent in place by Jan. 1. Of the other four proposals, two were from firms based in New York state.

The board voted unanimously to select HYA during its meeting on July 18. A contract is expected to be approved at the next meeting on Aug. 8.

HYA's fee is \$21,500 — the highest of the five proposals. However, board member Meredith Heuer, who reviewed all five, said she believes there might be some room to get the price down slightly.

"I know it's expensive," Heuer said, "but I keep thinking of the money we've spent in the last 10 years paying off the wrong superintendents for this district, so it's a bargain compared to that."

The 32-page proposal submitted by HYA spells out the process and timeline for a nationwide superintendent search, as well as touting the firm's credentials — more than 1,000 school-related executive searches,

in districts of all sizes. Bill Adams, HYA's East Coast regional president, said that the Beacon district's recent history (six full-time superintendents have left the job since 2006) isn't "all that uncommon."

The national average for a superintendent to stay in office is just over four years, Adams said, and it's just over two years in the country's 35 largest urban districts.

"Today the expectation for transparency is across the board," said Adams, who worked as a superintendent himself for more than 30 years. "Everything is out in the open. That's good, but at the same time it puts more pressure on the leadership and increases expectations from the community."

Once the agreement is approved, Adams said HYA will likely begin the process by interviewing each member of the Beacon school board "to find out what the individual expectations are, as well as the individual biases."

Once summer vacation is over, the firm will gather input from teachers, PTAs/PTOs, volunteers and other groups, as well as through public forums, before advertising and recruiting for the position for 30 to 35 days. Based on its proposed timeline, candidate interviews could begin by mid-November.

If that timeline plays out, Adams said it's realistic to believe the job could be filled by the first of the year.

"As long as we have 30 to 45 days to recruit," he said, "we can make our chal-



Bill Adams

lenge, which is to make the board's job difficult by bringing them some outstanding people that we feel are a fit for the community."

This will be the first time the Beacon school board has hired a professional search firm to find a superintendent. The Dutchess County Board of Cooperative

Educational Services (BOCES) conducted the district's search in 2011, leading to the hiring of former Fort Lee, N.J., superintendent Raymond Bandlow, who resigned less than a year later.

After Bandlow's departure, the board enlisted Shaw, Perelson, May & Lambert, LLP, the district's legal counsel, to find its next superintendent. That wound up being Paul Dorward, former superintendent of the Berne-Knox-Westerlo Central School District in Albany County, who also left after about a year.

Other vacancies in recent years have been filled internally or by candidates that had previously served the district in interim capacities.

On Monday, Heuer characterized the hire of a professional firm as the "transparent and more ethical" way to move forward.

"Beacon has so much to offer," she said. "The student population is so amazing." She added that board members must also be transparent "about what we're doing to work well with each other."

Seat Still Empty on School Board

Members discuss special election vs. appointment

By Jeff Simms

Although the Beacon school board did not decide at its meeting on July 18 how to fill its vacant seat, its discussion provided some insight into the board's options.

Board member Jose Munoz resigned by email prior to the board's June 20 meeting. An on-the-spot push to cede his spot to Tracy Antalek Everett, who had lost her seat in the May election, failed that night.

On July 18, the board seemed to volley between appointing someone or holding a special election, which interim Superintendent Ann Marie Quartironi said would cost the district about \$13,000.

Board member Michael Rutkoske suggested district residents could apply for the position and appear at a board meeting for an "open interview" during which audience and board members could ask questions. Rutkoske later amended his motion, saying the interviews could be conducted in private but would include questions submitted by the public.

With board member Frank Garnot unable to attend and the Munoz seat empty, neither motion had the five votes to pass.

Whether the candidates would appear before the public appeared to be a sticking point.

Board member Bill Zopf said that unless residents are being asked to decide who fills the seat in a vote, it wouldn't make sense to interview candidates in public.

"What is the point of involving the public if you're not going to ask their opinion?" he asked. "I'm not advocating that we shouldn't get the public's opinion ... [but] this is not a regular election; this is really our selection to make. Unless we're

going to ask the public, 'Tell us which candidate you like,' what's the point of having things out in the open?"

Others also argued that an open interview process might intimidate candidates.

Antony Tseng countered that discussing issues before the public is inherent in the position: "That's sort of what you're signing up for by being a board member."

Al Marlin, the communications manager for the New York State School Boards Association, told *The Current* there's no standard procedure when filling vacancies.

"The law does not provide any details, so each school board has to decide what works best for them," he said. "We don't have recommended 'best practices' or a standard procedure. Some boards appoint the person who received the next-highest number of votes at the previous election, or seek candidates from among previous board members, or solicit applications from qualified residents."

"What one board does could be different from the last time there was a vacancy, depending on the circumstances," he continued. "While [the Beacon] appointment is only until the next election, boards should try to find someone who can best fill the position. Seeking community input can be another consideration, but ultimately the board must decide on the matter."

Beacon board member Georgia Patchen, who was appointed to fill a vacancy and is now in her third term, noted at the meeting that her application process was similar to the one proposed by Rutkoske, although she did not appear before the public to answer questions.

Other ideas discussed Monday included a Meet the Candidates event, like the one held at Beacon High School on May 11, and a public hearing to gather input from the community.

Ultimately the board elected to table discussion until its next meeting on Aug. 8.

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Putnam Makes Revisions to Ailes Center Deal *(from Page 1)*

law, as in March 2008 the legislature voted 8 to 1 to ban any county building or facility from being named in honor of a living person or after a deceased person within five years or his or her death. The text does not specify whether the county must own or lease the building for the law to apply.

Last year, when speaking to *The Current*, Scuccimarra seemed to interpret the law to mean that the county couldn't name a facility after a living person, but that the developer could. "It's his [Guillaro's] building, if he wants to name it, so be it," she said at the time, adding that she didn't believe Ailes cared either way what the center was called. However, the name is specifically required as part of the county's agreement with the developer.

County Executive MaryEllen Odell, then a legislator, voted for the ban in 2008, as did Vincent Tamagna, who represented Philipstown. According to the minutes, Tamagna stated "that there should be great sensitivity in naming a county facility" and that it should not be "done too soon."

Ailes has been in the news this month because of a sexual harassment lawsuit

filed against him by a former anchor. He has denied the accusation and others raised by former and current Fox employees to the media and during an internal investigation by Fox. According to various news reports, he is negotiating his resignation from the network.

Asked on July 19 if the reports had caused any legislators to reconsider naming the senior center for Ailes, Scuccimarra said, "No. We're going forward as planned."

The legislature in May approved the leasing of 6,000 square feet of space in the Lahey Pavilion over the course of 15 years at a cost of about \$3.5 million. County Attorney Andrew Negro declined to provide a copy of the proposed lease, saying it was not public information until it was executed. There is also a "charitable donation agreement" between the county and Ailes.

Legislator Carl Albano (R-Carmel) said any renovations to the property done by the developer and paid for with the Ailes donation is a savings to the county — as the renter — because it means the county won't have to bear those costs. "Indirectly it comes back to us," he said.

Nelsonville Ponders Merger *(from Page 3)*

ing for any subsidy from Nelsonville," he said. "The applicant would pay the fees for the inspector."

"So if I needed [the services of] the building inspector I would write a check to Philipstown?" Corliss asked.

"Yes, you would," Van Tassel replied, later adding that under the arrangement he envisions Nelsonville residents having access to a building inspector five days a week, eight hours a day. Nelsonville's inspector works only a few hours a week.

When Robertson asked what the length of an agreement might be, Van Tassel said he thought at year-end the board could decide whether to continue with the arrangement. Corliss pressed for a time-frame, asking if the question could be put off until the village board decides or a referendum is held. "We're sensitive to the needs to the village," Robertson said.

"The time frame is whatever you are comfortable with" Van Tassel replied.

Corliss commented that the legal aspects of any merger would have to be reviewed

by the village attorney and asked Van Tassel to submit a brief, written proposal. "It can be just a couple paragraphs," he said. "What are the fees? Who is responsible for what? ... (Give us) something concrete."

In other business ...

- An ongoing problem with a clogged private sewer line along Pearl St. near Pine remains unresolved. Mayor Corless said that residents in the area tentatively reached an agreement to collectively pay for the repair work but the proposal "went by the wayside" for some reason. "We're going to have to get those folks in here for a meeting" or possibly deal with the residents involved in writing, the mayor said.
- An update of the fees charged by the planning board was approved. The schedule was last revised in 1990.
- A request by the Town of Philipstown for a letter supporting its application for a consolidated funding grant was tabled pending a review by the village attorney.

Affordable Housing Topic of Hearing

Beacon council invites input on Aug. 1

By Jeff Simms

The Beacon City Council will hold a public hearing on Monday, Aug. 1, to gather input on changes to the city's affordable housing laws.

A number of changes have been proposed but the Aug. 1 hearing will address a modification that would make residents earning 65 percent or less of the area's median income eligible for below-market-rate housing, up from 30 percent.

At 65 percent, a subsidized one-bedroom apartment would cost just over \$1,000 per month, including utilities.

City officials plan to consider other components of the law in the months to come, such as a provision that every development with 20 or more units have at least 10 percent with rents below market rate. One proposal is to lower that requirement to 10 or more units, and/or to allow developers to pay a fee to the city instead of providing the units.

Phil's List



Free online local classifieds devoted to jobs, housing, tag sales, services, and more.

highlandscurrent.com

highlandscurrent.com/philslis

- A public hearing regarding the provision of cable television in Nelsonville was tentatively scheduled for September 19 at 7:15 p.m. at the village hall.
- Thomas Robertson said he was "very pleased" with what he saw in his audit

of Nelsonville's 2015-16 budget. The deputy mayor said he feels some budget lines ought to be expanded so that residents can better understand how village funds are spent.

PHILIPSTOWN DEPOT THEATRE

Teen players present

Damn Yankees

Thursday, July 28, 7p.m. • Friday, July 29, 7 p.m.

Saturday, July 30, 4 p.m. & 7 p.m.

Sunday, July 31, 2 p.m.

HVSF2: Seventh Summer Season at The Depot

Teenage Dick

August 3, 7:30 p.m.

by Mike Lew, directed by Moritz von Stuelpnagel

Vaguely adapted from *Richard III*

Book of Will

August 5, 7:30 p.m.

by Lauren Gunderson, directed by Davis McCallum

The drama behind the publication of Shakespeare's first folio

Pride & Prejudice

August 9, 7:30 p.m.

by Kate Hamill, directed by Eric Tucker

Adapted from the novel by Jane Austen

Our Town Bake-Off

August 11, 7:30 p.m.

by Hudson Valley citizens, directed by Noa Egozi

All tickets at brownpapertickets.com or philipstowndepottheatre.org

800.838.3006 • Garrison Landing, Garrison, NY (Theatre is adjacent to train station.)



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Controversial Beacon Residential Project Moves Forward

Beekman proposal continues to draw criticism

By Brian PJ Cronin

As the pace of development continues to quicken in Beacon, so does the public scrutiny of each new project. Few have been subject to the scrutiny given to The View, a proposed 50-unit apartment building that would sit near City Hall on Beekman Street facing West Main and overlooking the Hudson River.

When the project was unveiled a year ago, there was criticism of its design and perceived lack of harmony with the city's historic architecture, especially given its prominent location: It would be one of the first buildings visitors to Beacon by train would see as they make their way up to Main St.

In response, the seven-member City of Beacon Planning Board took the extraordinary step of creating an Architectural Review subcommittee to consider the design of this project and others brought before the board.

The planners of The View were asked by the board to redesign it so that it better blends in with the traditional architecture of the city. At its meeting on July 12, the board received the revised plans from Mark Day of M.A. Day Engineering on behalf of the developer, DMS Consolidators. Although board members still had issues with the design, they agreed to draft resolu-

tions of approval based on the drawings to consider at their next meeting.

To make the building blend in better, brick will now be used selectively throughout the design. In order to bring a sense of activity to the building, balconies and a patio were added, as well as a pocket park that would be for public use. A public stairway would help link Beekman Street to Route 9D, although the staircase as planned would not actually connect to Route 9D because of city property in the way. The board asked the designers to discuss with the city the possibility of obtaining an easement or other approval for connecting the stairway all the way out to 9D in order to increase its usefulness. An earlier plan to have valet parking for building residents was scrapped.

The architectural subcommittee also had suggestions. "We tried to introduce a kink to the building to echo the curve of the street and we discussed stepping the building back into the hillside to integrate it into the landscape," said board member David Burke, who is on the subcommittee,



A revised rendering of The View, a proposed apartment building on Beacon's Beekman Street

Image courtesy of M.A. Designs

"but we couldn't find a compromise with either of those ideas, and I think that was because we came late to the project."

Gary Barrack, also on the committee, agreed. "We got into this in the middle of the project, so it was difficult for us to tell the developer to eliminate their plans and start from square one again," he said.

The subcommittee members also were not entirely happy with a proposed "green" roof. "We struggled with the design to try and get it to be more responsive to the landscape," said Jill Reynolds. "The developer and engineer had reasons for not doing that, so we're kind of just left with the green roof, which at this point is just a three-foot border. I don't understand the point of that. The point of the green roof is to benefit the whole building in terms of energy consumption — it mitigates water runoff, it looks better, and it can enhance the roof deck experience. So I would like to see that developed more."

When the floor was opened for public comment, it became clear that some residents are still not satisfied with the design.

"This looks to me like a painted rect-

angle," said Jim Zellinger. "It doesn't seem to be keeping in the style of Beacon at all."

Colin Gentle told the board, "I would hope that we are not doomed to repeat the mistakes of urban renewals past in the quest for revenue. New families are moving to Beacon because of its charming, small-town feel. These proposed developments are far outside of those aesthetics and usage. We're not against new development; we are proponents of smart, sustainable, reasonably scaled and aesthetically appropriate structures which relate to our beautiful and historic architecture. We are the ones who will be living with this."

Peggy Ross, a Beacon City Council member who said she speaking as a member of the public, said she hoped the city could take lessons from the review of The View when dealing with future development.

"This is a crossroads for Beacon," she said. "I would like to ask that we all do better in working together. We no longer have to go begging for developers. I would use this occasion to ask that going forward we work closely with them to install some design standards."

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The Calendar

Load Up Your Plate at Firefly Feast

Third annual event scheduled for July 30

by Alison Rooney

It's hard to keep up with all of Beacon's new dining options. New eateries appear on a constant basis. Handily, Beacon's Third Annual Firefly Feast — to be held on Saturday, July 30 from 4 to 9 p.m. — can help the inquisitive and hungry food-focused by gathering many of their chefs up in one place, where one can tote one's plate along to individual cooking stations and sample away. Even better, it's all in aid of a good cause, Common Ground Farm's many donation, food access and education programs. This third incarnation has grown, as has CGF itself, stemming from the partnership it entered into with Obercreek Farm three years ago.

"This is an event that is about celebrating the greater community and

region, recognizing some of the farms that produce our food and nourish us with it, and the chefs that bring it to our plates every day," says Ben Giardullo, president of Common Ground's board of directors. Brewers, too. This year, in addition to seven participating breweries, there is, according to Giardullo, a "farm-based cider maker with absolutely delicious ciders." Each chef will be cooking in their own tent and diners will receive small plates which they can refill as often as they like while interacting and chatting with the chefs. Although it's a family event, with free admission for the under-12s, and an adjacent playground for the younger set to decamp to, the range of dishes is "designed for an adult's palate," Giardullo says. Along with the

(Continued on Page 11)



Diners enjoying last year's Firefly Feast

Photo by Ben Giardullo

Riverview's Ely Family Opens The Yankee BBQ

Beer garden and dining at Route 9 golf course

by Alison Rooney

"I liked the spot." It was as simple as that for Jim Ely, who always seems to have "owner of Riverview" attached to his name. Now he, along with his wife, Lori, may gain another attachment, "owner of The Yankee BBQ" as his second dining establishment has just opened, on the grounds of the Fishkill Golf Course just south of Home Depot along Route 9.

Knowing the long-available space could be fine-tuned to suit his concept for a new place proved irresistible for Ely, despite the demands of running Riverview.

"This place lends itself to the concept," he says, the concept being quite different to Riverview's fine dining. As Ely describes it, "Basically it's a beer garden/barbeque with a casual, social atmosphere, communal tables, an approachable, inexpensive menu and bar, plus live music. It's also multi-usage: an event space, dining space with entertainment."

Right now there's not much signage — it's coming — but at the turn-off for the golf course just head down to the parking area and look for the green awning to an entrance at the side of the clubhouse building. A large, decorative gate is adjacent and reveals many outdoor tables.



Left, six-seat outdoor tables combine with larger, communal ones in Yankee BBQ's large al fresco dining area. At right, the inside dining room is modeled on Cold Spring's Gus's Antique Bar, which closed in 1980. Table painting is by artist Cassandra Saulter.



Photos by A. Rooney

The name Yankee stems from the site's association with Revolutionary War history. "The whole area was a munitions depot for soldiers and a road ran through it, closer than 9D is now," Ely explains.

Entering the interior, one steps into the bar area; off to the right of that is the indoor dining room, modeled, Ely relates, after Gus's Antique Bar, which was located in the Hudson View Inn, now the site of the Hudson House.

"It was one of the oldest inns in America and was frequented by West Pointers, and so it held a lot of antiques because they'd bring things in and leave them

there — it's been gone since 1980." The walls are decorated with artwork and period décor, while the tables are more contemporary, with painted designs which still somehow echo the ambiance, from Cold Spring artist Cassandra Saulter.

Still, most of the action is outdoors. An outdoor bar with numerous stools to perch on is close to a cluster of six-seat umbrella tables. There are about 20 draft beers, including an assortment of local brews like Southern Tier Hop Sun, Farmer's Daughter Pale Ale, Czechr'd Past from Chatham, Newburgh

(Continued on Page 13)

ONGOING

Gallery Shows
highlandscurrent.com/galleries

FRIDAY, JULY 22

Mary Poppins (Youth Players)
7 p.m. Philipstown Depot Theatre
10 Garrison Landing, Garrison
845-424-3900 | philipstowndepottheatre.org

Dragonfly Story Hour: A Story Slam For Adults
7 p.m. Butterfield Library | 10 Morris Ave., Cold Spring
845-265-3040 | butterfieldlibrary.org

HVSF: Macbeth
7:30 p.m. Boscobel | 6 p.m. Friday Night Prologue
1601 Route 9D, Cold Spring
845-265-3638 | hvshakespeare.org

SATURDAY, JULY 23

Newburgh Last Saturday
facebook.com/NewburghLastSaturdays

Dragon Boat Race & Festival
8 a.m. – 3 p.m. HRRR Community Boathouse
270-272 N. Water St., Poughkeepsie
dutchessdragonboat.org

Mid Hudson Animal Aid Volleyball Tournament
8 a.m. – 1 p.m. Memorial Park, Beacon
midhudsonanimalaid.org

Putnam County Kennel Club Dog Show
8:30 a.m. – 4 p.m. Veterans Memorial Park
225 Gipsy Trail Road, Carmel
putnamkennelclub.com

Ultimate Comic Book Trade Show & Expo
10 a.m. – 6 p.m. Mid-Hudson Civic Center
14 Civic Center Plaza, Poughkeepsie
845-454-5800 | midhudsonciviccenter.org

River Imps and Fairy Tales Hike
10 a.m. Marcia’s Mile | Arden Point Trail, Garrison
845-424-3358 | hhlit.org

Herb Walk with Sarah Elisabeth
10 a.m. Arden Point, Garrison
sarahannelisabeth.com

Philipstown Reform Synagogue Blessing of the Animals
10:30 a.m. St. Mary’s Lawn
Corner of Main and Route 9D, Cold Spring
philipstownreformsynagogue.org

Family Sing-a-long with Chris Ruhe
11 a.m. Stony Kill Farm
79 Farmstead Lane, Wappingers Falls
845-831-1617 | stonykill.org

Lenape Lifeways
11 a.m. – 4 p.m. Fort Montgomery Historic Site
690 Route 9W, Fort Montgomery
845-446-2134 | nysparks.com

Calendar Highlights

For upcoming events visit highlandscurrent.com

Send event listings to calendar@highlandscurrent.com

Family Kite Making and Flying Workshop
1 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library | 472 Route 403, Garrison
845-424-3020 | desmondfishlibrary.org

Beacon 3D Sculpture Exhibit (Opening)
3 – 6 p.m. Bank Square Coffeehouse
129 Main St., Beacon | beacon3d.org

10th Annual Jazz & Blues Fest
3 – 10 p.m. Downtown Peekskill
facebook.com/PeekskillJazzandBlue

HVSF: Macbeth
3 & 4:15 p.m. Boats depart Beacon Institute Dock
845-265-3638 | bannermancastle.org

Mary Poppins (Youth Players)
3:30 & 7 p.m. Philipstown Depot Theatre
See details under Friday.

Bats & Brews
7 p.m. Outdoor Discovery Center | 100 Muser Drive, Cornwall | 845-534-5506 | hhnaturemuseum.org

Brick Town Theatre: Murder at Priorswell Manor
7 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
477 Main St., Beacon
845-765-3012 | howlandculturalcenter.org

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

CSFS: The Magnificent Seven
8 p.m. Dockside Park, Cold Spring
coldspringfilm.org

The Machine Performs Pink Floyd
8 p.m. Paramount Hudson Valley
1008 Brown St., Peekskill | 914-739-0039

SUNDAY, JULY 24

Desmond-Fish Library closed

Mid Hudson Animal Aid Volleyball Tournament
8 a.m. – 1 p.m. Memorial Park, Beacon
midhudsonanimalaid.org

Ultimate Comic Book Trade Show & Expo
10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Mid-Hudson Civic Center
See details under Saturday.

Mary Poppins (Youth Players)
Noon. Philipstown Depot Theatre
See details under Friday.

Brick Town Theatre: Murder at Priorswell Manor
3 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
See details under Saturday.

HVSF: Macbeth
3 & 4:15 p.m. Boats depart Beacon Institute Dock
845-265-3638 | bannermancastle.org

Adult Kayak Trip
4:30 p.m. Audubon Center and Sanctuary
Warren Landing Road, Garrison
845-534-7781 | hhnaturemuseum.org

H.V. Renegades vs. Aberdeen
5:05 p.m. Dutchess County Stadium
1500 Route 9D, Wappingers Falls
845-838-0094 | hvrenegades.com

National Theatre Live: The Audience
6 p.m. Downing Film Center | 19 Front St., Newburgh
845-561-3686 | downingfilmcenter.com

Sunset Music Series: Jessica Lynn
6 p.m. Foot of Main Street, Cold Spring
facebook.com/coldspringmusicseries

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

MONDAY, JULY 25

NYS Health Insurance Info
3 – 6 p.m. Butterfield Library
10 Morris Ave., Cold Spring
845-265-3040 | butterfieldlibrary.org

Yoga with a View
6 p.m. Boscobel | 1601 Route 9D, Cold Spring
845-265-3638 | boscobel.org

H.V. Renegades vs. Aberdeen
7:05 p.m. Dutchess County Stadium
See details under Sunday.

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

TUESDAY, JULY 26

Coloring for Enjoyment & Creativity (Adults)
10:30 a.m. Butterfield Library
10 Morris Ave., Cold Spring | 845-265-3040

Kids’ Craft Hour: Harry Potter Fun
4 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library
472 Route 403, Garrison
845-424-3020 | desmondfishlibrary.org

Coloring Books for Adults
6 p.m. Howland Public Library
313 Main St., Beacon
845-831-1134 | beaonlibrary.org

Zen and the Art of Coloring for Adults
6 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library
472 Route 403, Garrison
845-424-3020 | desmondfishlibrary.org

H.V. Renegades vs. Aberdeen
7:05 p.m. Dutchess County Stadium
See details under Sunday.

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

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

WEDNESDAY, JULY 27

Let’s Go Make a Kite Workshop for Adults
1 p.m. Howland Public Library
See details under Tuesday.

NYS Health Insurance Info
3 – 5 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library
See details under Tuesday.

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

Free Movie Night: Poltergeist
8 p.m. Visitor’s Center
Main St. at Route 9D, Beacon
845-765-0444 | beaonchamberofcommerce.com

THURSDAY, JULY 28

Free Admission
10 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. Storm King Art Center
1 Museum Road, New Windsor
845-534-3115 | stormking.org

Up in Arms Puppets (grades K-6)
2 p.m. Howland Public Library
See details under Tuesday.

Harry Potter Coloring
4 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library
See details under Tuesday.

Family Fishing Night (grades K-8)
5 – 8 p.m. Scenic Hudson River Center
8 Long Dock Park, Beacon
845-473-4440 x273 | scenichudson.org

Damn Yankees (Teen Players)
7 p.m. Philipstown Depot Theatre
10 Garrison Landing, Garrison
845-424-3900 | philipstowndepottheatre.org

Book Discussion: Mary Shelley’s Frankenstein (1818)
7 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library
See details under Tuesday.

H.V. Renegades vs. Staten Island
7:05 p.m. Dutchess County Stadium
See details under Sunday.

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

Beacon Showcase: The Whispering Tree
7:30 p.m. Towne Crier Café | 379 Main St., Beacon
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com

FRIDAY, JULY 29

Ready Readers Story/Craft Program (ages 3.5 to 6)
11 a.m. Howland Public Library
See details under Tuesday.

45th Annual Putnam County Fair
11 a.m. – Midnight. Veterans Memorial Park
201 Gipsy Trail Road, Carmel
845-278-6738 | putnam.cce.cornell.edu

Anime Movie Afternoon (grades 6-12)
3 p.m. Howland Public Library
313 Main St., Beacon
845-831-1134 | beaonlibrary.org

Damn Yankees (Teen Players)
7 p.m. Philipstown Depot Theatre
See details under Thursday.

International Film Night: Brooklyn (Ireland, 2015)
7 p.m. Howland Public Library
See details under Tuesday.

HVSF: Measure for Measure
7:30 p.m. Boscobel
See details under July 22.
6 p.m. Friday Night Prologue

Warrior: The Life of Leonard Peltier (Documentary)
7:30 p.m. First Presbyterian Church
50 Liberty St., Beacon
moviesthatmatterbeacon.org

You’ve Got a Friend: The Music of Carole King & James Taylor
8 p.m. Paramount Hudson Valley
1008 Brown St., Peekskill
914-739-0039 | paramounthudsonvalley.com



Load Up Your Plate at Firefly Feast *(from Page 9)*

food there'll be plenty of music, from local favorites The Big Takeover, The Chases, The Costellos and Steamboats.

CGF's food donation and education programs have grown substantially in the past three years. They currently farm nine acres of land leased from Stony Kill Environmental Center, in Wappingers, just north of Beacon off of Route 9D. CGF, which is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, is dedicated to educating people of all ages about agriculture that is ecologically sound and economically viable. Giardullo explains that they are currently "seeking key strategic partnerships and financial support to support our mission and to realize the full potential of the farm. We have the exciting opportunity to expand onto approximately 100 adjacent acres, which would enable us to distribute more fresh food throughout the greater Beacon, Newburgh, and Poughkeepsie communities for many years to come."

In rebuilding the farming program, including increasing the amount of food donated to food pantries and kitchens, fine-tuning and expanding distribution has been key. CGF works to sell the foods and also, under the banner of "food justice" to get it to those who need it, either at low or no cost. Along with expanding the number of food pantries and food kitchens they work with, they carefully monitor what is being donated, avoiding the frequent model of sending off whatever food is available, where the priority "isn't always the most healthy, most local," Giardullo explains, continuing, "We're growing [the food] for them as a customer. We want to provide them with what they want, when they want it, and not give them leftovers. It's our first priority: equitably distributed food, throughout the community. To do that we figure out how much to see at full cost, and go on from there." CGF has expanded



Children playing in a field near Common Ground Farm's barn Photo by Dana Devine-O'Malley

out to Fishkill and points in Putnam and Westchester counties, and has recently been working with Dutchess Outreach in Poughkeepsie. Next on the wish list is to form partnerships in Newburgh and other places across the river.

CGF is always seeking volunteers. Areas of need include labor on the farm, event support, board service, fundraising and assistance with educational outreach. The best way to express interest in volunteering is to go to the website and locate the person or people responsible for that area on the staff/board page and make contact with them directly.

Firefly Feast, as well as being fun and satisfying to the belly, is an important part of CGF's fundraising goals and its outreach to the community. Participating farms at this year's event include Obercreek Farm, Fishkill Farms, Glynwood, Blooming Hill Farm, and Hudson Valley Harvest and CGF itself.

Participating chefs and food establishments include Barb's Butchery, Beacon Bread Co., Beacon Pantry, Café Macchia-to, Ella's Bellas, Harry's Hot Sandwiches,

Homespun Foods, Kitchen Sink, Marbled Meatshop, Poppy's Burgers, Stock Up, The Kitchen, Ziatun and Zora Dora's.

Beverages will be provided by Hudson Valley Farmhouse Ciders, Chatham Brewing Co., Two Way Brewing Co., Newburgh Brewing Co., Pull Brewing Co., Peekskill Brewery, North River Brewing Co., Mill House Brewing Co., Drink More Good, Tas Kafe and Ella's Bellas.

Firefly Feast will take place at 4 Hanna Lane in Beacon. Tickets are \$40 at store. commongroundfarm.org or \$50 at the gate; kids under 12 are admitted free. Tickets include food from local chefs and food establishments, as well as unlimited soft drinks. Additional drink tickets will be available for purchase on-site.

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"Ice Age: Collision Course" (PG)
FRI 1:45 4:45 7:45, SAT 12:15 3:15
6:15 9:15, SUN 12:15 3:15 6:15
MON 2:15 7:15, TUE 1:15 4:15 7:15
WED & THU 2:15 7:15

"Ghostbusters" (PG13)
FRI 2:00 5:00 8:00
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- Cliff & DeWindt Street • *Flowers for Alice*/Herman Roggeman
- Cliff & DeWindt Street • *Columbina*/Sarah Haviland
- 276 Main Street at Cafe Amarcord • *Tools of Mass Consumption*/Ed Benavente
- 296 Main Street at Trendy Tots Take Two • *Xeno*/Emil Alzamora
- 380 Main Street at The Carriage Works Building • *Harvest*/Wilfredo Morel
- 427 Main Street at The Beacon Bldg • *Lifeboat*/Ann Provan
- 427 Main Street at The Beacon Bldg • *In the Same Boat*/Ed Benavente
- 477 Main Street at The Howland Cultural Center • *Heritage*/Insun Kim
- 477 Main Street at The Howland Cultural Center • *She*/Judy Sigunick

Check out the website beacon3d.org for information on the artists.

Lifeboat by Ann Provan | Photo by Michael Bogdanffy-Kriegh

Real Estate

\$1 Million Beacon Condos

There are at least three condominiums in Beacon being offered at \$1 million or more.

At the 1 East Main St. development, a two-bedroom, two-bath unit on the fourth floor with 2,035 square feet is listed for \$1.1 million. The property taxes are estimated at \$19,140 annually.

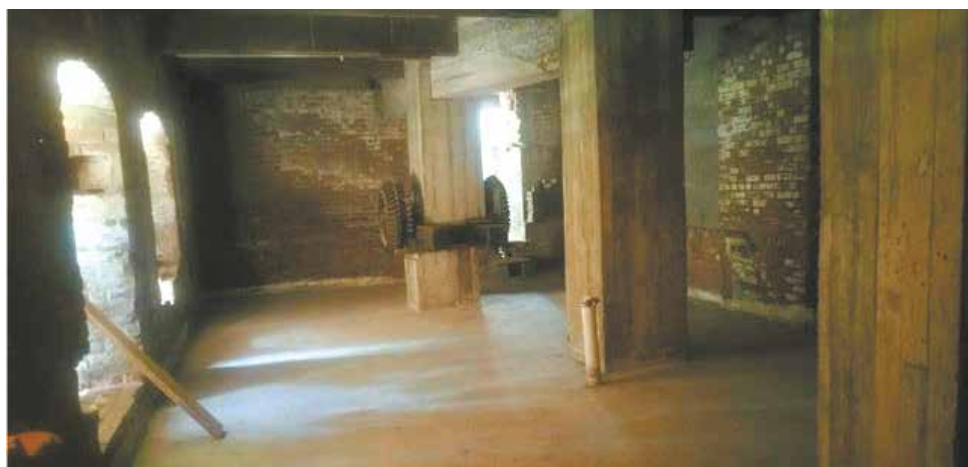
At the six-unit Creek Loft project, a converted brick factory building on Fishkill Creek, a 4,559-square-foot duplex with three bedrooms, three baths, two half baths is listed at \$1.5 million and a 3,150-square-foot unit with two bedrooms and two baths is \$1.1 million.



The layout of the unit at 1 East Main St. being offered for \$1.1 million

Source: Gate House Realty

The broker for all three units, which are under construction, is Charlotte Guernsey at Gate House Realty in Beacon.



A listing photo of the interior at 11 Creek Drive, for sale for \$1.5 million



Above, a listing photo of the Creek Drive building. Two of its six units are priced at \$1 million or more. Below is a listing photo of the interior at 11 Creek Drive, for sale for \$1.5 million.



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Weekend Retreat Features Local Practitioners

Feldenkrais Method is one of several body/mind practices to be presented at Garrison Institute's summer retreat

by Alison Rooney

The Garrison Institute hosts many retreat weekends each year, many designed for specific interest groups. Every so often, though, they expand their offerings in order to expose those interested in mind/body practices in a broad sense an opportunity to learn what each offers, specifically. That's what will be happening at their "Embodying Practice: A Special Summer Retreat" weekend, Aug. 12 to 14. During the course of these three days, five practitioners, four of whom live and work locally, will be explaining their form, then conducting workshops, guiding attendees in a hands-on way.

Those presenting include Philipstown's Ron Hershey, who will be teaching "Breath Body Mind" which combines ancient and modern techniques to relieve stress and improve physical and emotional well-being; Teresa Peppard, teaching the art of Tai Chi Ch'uan, a moving meditation practice that harmonizes body, mind and spirit in the practitioner. Rooted in the martial arts, Tai Chi is also a study in relationship to self, the environment and to others; and Richard Vilella, co-owner of Cold Spring's Living Yoga, who currently has a thriving yoga practice helping people with pain and aging-related problems which have resisted traditional western medicine cures.

Also participating is Ann Herington, a mindfulness meditation teacher, retired business leader, mother, partner, food enthusiast, and recent transplant to the Hudson Valley. She will be offering mindfulness meditation instruction.

Garrison's Mary Newell will also be on hand, discussing perhaps the least-known



A yoga class inside the Garrison Institute

Image courtesy of the Garrison Institute

(at least in this part of the country — it's much more widely practiced on the West Coast) of the disciplines, the Feldenkrais Method (FM). Newell, whose large studio is surrounded by woodland views, calls FM a "lab for learning a better way of moving. It employs movement with awareness to improve the quality of actions. By focusing attentively on sensations as you move through a coordinated sequence of movements, you learn to eliminate tensions and find greater ease and range of movement with improved flexibility and coordination."

FM is based on the dynamics of the brain and nervous system as it relates to movements, including breathing. Newell describes her FM classes as "attending to the details of movement to clarify for your brain what would be a better option. The idea is to attend very specifically to all the sensory changes that are happening during the movement, using the part of the

brain which relates to movement in two ways, sensory and motor. FM helps you to unlearn things ... knowing before the pain tells you. It's about introducing into the sensory cortex what is possible and more effective so that your brain will remember it; it's not cognitive learning. The hope is that this will become semi-automatic, that the information will come learned. And that's the job of both the practitioner and the client, to create independent learning."

Newell, similarly to other FM practitioners, works with clients in both individual and group class settings. In group classes, everyone works with movement "patterns" which allow for individualization. In the one-to-one context, most useful for those who are in acute pain from a recent incident or who have serious chronic disorders but also for those who simply want targeted, individualized attention to a particular issue or goal, Newell works with the client to determine their goals. "It's not arbitrary; we'll figure out how you can get moving toward the experience you want to have. I look at the 'presenting problem' in the context of the whole person — their physical capabilities, limitations and activity level, as well as their life goals."

For some this relates to a long-term or

recent injury or condition, such as back pain or a stroke — even with people whose professional lives include using their bodies in what are unnatural conditions, violinists being an example. "It's the whole person ... Finding that clarity through each person and making a meaningful change for something that matters to them." Above all, everyone is encouraged not to over-extend. "It's my job to notice when someone is trying to do too much. My skills are in looking, observing and teaching at a rate the person can learn. Sometimes it's like a good meal — you may want to give a person all the great things in your fridge, but they'll wind up with indigestion," Newell states.

Clients are referred to Newell by doctors, physical therapists and chiropractors, as well as through other practitioners, as "Feldenkrais is not an either/or with other modalities. For instance, it's great in combination with yoga and Tai Chi."

Newell is a certified practitioner of FM and a writer. She has a Ph.D. from Fordham, as well as two M.A.s: one from Columbia University in English and the other from Teachers College, Columbia University in Movement Sciences. She has taught at Fordham, West Point, Queens College and elsewhere. Currently she offers individual sessions, classes and workshops at her studio; visit flexible-comfort.weebly.com for details.

The "Embodying Practice" retreat is designed to "appeal to those looking to align their bodies, hearts and minds in the serenity of a contemplative environment," according to Garrison Institution notes, which also describe the weekend as an opportunity to "spend quiet time in your personal spiritual practice. Practice how to become more aware of the body and trust in its innate wisdom." The weekend will begin with a panel discussion with all of the instructors discussing the practices they will be teaching. The instructors will also be on hand at mealtimes and other times to talk further with participants. There will be a hike with a local Garrison guide and on Saturday evening, a campfire round the fire pit. All sessions will be held in the Main Meditation Hall.

Fees for the retreat are \$280 for a commuter rate for those attending the daily sessions, \$390 for a double room and \$420 for a single room. Register at secure.garrisoninstitute.org/GI/Registration.aspx?EventKey=R16EMBODY.

Riverview's Ely Family Opens Fishkill BBQ (from Page 9)

Cream Ale and Confusion, from Beacon's 2Way Brewery. These are joined by others from around the country as well as Delirium Tremens from Belgium. Full, engaging descriptions of each are found on the menu. There is also a full range of beer in cans, priced from \$4 to \$7.25, nearly all manufactured in the U.S., with a few interlopers from Canada and Germany. A Magners Cider from Ireland rounds things out.

As for the food to go with the drink, there's more than one associates with barbeque. It's more of an outdoors, largely from the grill kind of menu, with five types of burgers (one's a veggie), four types of hot dogs and sausages, fish, steak and vegetable tacos and even steamed mussels in a coconut curry broth joining more traditional barbeque staples like pulled pork and beef brisket sandwiches, BBQ chicken, and baby back ribs.

There's a bit of an international bent, with poutine, pierogis, pork tamales and

German potato salad making appearances along with an arugula salad with watermelon, feta and a basil vinaigrette. Prices, dependent on portion size, fall mainly within a \$4 to \$14 range.

Ely calls the golf course owners, Jack Villetto and Co. "very helpful in contracting this whole project. He also praises Den Anderson, at Super Space forge in Newburgh, for his painstaking work rebuilding the ornate entry gate. Other furnishings, including benches and planters, were constructed out of repurposed wood and other materials by Ely and his staff.

Yankee BBQ, located at 387 Route 9 just south of I-84, is open for lunch Tuesday through Friday, 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. and from 11:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday to Sunday and for dinner from 5 to 9 p.m. (Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Sunday) and 5 to 10 p.m. (Friday and Saturday) evenings. For more information visit theyankee BBQ.com or the Facebook page or phone 845-202-7384.



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Food, Farm and Sun

By Anita Peltonen

Noon broke hot over Glynwood's Food and Farm Day on Saturday, July 10.

But lemonade, and honey- and ricotta-tasting, helped ease the heat index. Under shade trees by the main farmhouse, children threw themselves into gunny-sack, or "no-legged" races, and ... the sprinkler. Also a

favorite: two rows of kids and adults lined up Virginia reel-like for a competitive egg-toss.

Walking and hayride tours of the farm circulated, too. A tomato care demo took place near the Farm Store tended by Jarret Nelson, the vegetable production manager. He also runs the farm's Volunteer Dirt Days, scheduled for Aug. 21, Sept. 25 and Oct. 10, when the farm asks volunteers to harvest garlic, onions and beans.

And along the service road, spotted pigs demonstrated how to cool off in their water troughs, or in the mud.

Right, the garlic harvest is highly popular, and any overgrowth is used to enrich compost and soils at Glynwood Farm. Below, vegetable production manager Jarret Nelson

Photos by A. Peltonen



Lines were longest at the Photos with Baby Goats pen, set on the farmhouse lawn.



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Friday, 7/29 8:30pm THE BAREFOOT MOVEMENT	Saturday, 8/13 8:30pm JUNIOR BROWN
Saturday, 7/30 8:30pm STEVE FORBERT	Friday, 8/19 8:30pm JONATHAN EDWARDS
Sunday, 7/31 7:30pm ALLMAN BROTHERS TRIBUTE! BROTHERS OF THE ROAD BAND guest ANDY ALEDORT	Saturday, 8/20 8:30pm IRIS DEMENT BAND
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Obituaries

Obituaries may be submitted to editor@highlandscurrent.com. Photos are welcome.

John H. Whitson (1949-2016)

John H. Whitson, 67, died July 12, 2016, at St. Luke's Cornwall Hospital in Newburgh. Born in Beacon on May 26, 1949, he was the son of Herbert and Ruth (Baker) Whitson.

A Beacon High School graduate, John was a security officer with the Indian Point Power Plant and a U.S. Army veteran who served two tours in Vietnam.

Survivors include a brother, Andrew Whitson of Florida; a sister, Nancy Handley (husband Albert) of Hartford, N.Y.; close friends Dominic and Maribel Virtuoso of Beacon, a goddaughter, Clarissa Virtuoso; and his sister-in-law, Georgia Whitson, as well as many nieces and nephews.

A graveside service with military honors was held on July 16 at Fairview Cemetery in Beacon. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Animal Rescue Foundation, 54 Simmons Lane, Beacon, NY 12508. Arrangements were by the Libby Funeral Home of Beacon.



Melissa Louise Lewis (1959-2016)

Melissa Louise Lewis, 56, of Beacon, died on July 14, 2016, at her residence. Born in Cold Spring on Aug. 6, 1959, she was the daughter of Joseph F. and Barbara (VanScoy) Lewis.

Melissa was employed at the FDR Campus of the VA Medical Center in Montrose. Survivors include sons T. Steven Petrocine and his wife Patricia of Wappingers Falls and Jason Petrocine and his wife Dawn of Beacon; her sister, Beth Ann Lewis of Beacon; two brothers, James J. Lewis and his wife Laurie of Highland Falls and Timothy J. Lewis of Beacon; four grandchildren, Erick, Elijah, Madeleine and Zekiel Petrocine; nieces and nephews Michael B. Carter, Christopher J. Lewis, Nicole Blasingame, Jacob Lewis and Brooke Brylowski, as well as many great nieces and nephews.

A funeral service was held on July 18 at Libby Funeral Home in Beacon.



Joan Ladue Vercruse (1956-2016)

Joan Marie Ladue Vercruse, 59, of Cold Spring, died of lung cancer on July 6, 2016 at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in New York City with her family at her side.

Joan was born in Plattsburgh on November 16, 1956, to Joseph Francis and Anita (Poissant) Ladue. In 1964, she and her family moved from Chazy, N.Y. to Highland, N.Y., where she graduated in 1975 from Highland High School. She went on to earn an associate's degree from Ulster Community College. On August 4, 1984, she married Robert Vercruse at Our Lady of Loretto Church in Cold Spring. She and her husband resided in Cold Spring for their 32 years of marriage.

In addition to her husband, Joan is survived by her mother, Anita Ladue of Highland. Her father, Joseph Ladue, passed away in 2013. She is also survived by her siblings Mary Jo Goth and her husband Gary of Pleasant Valley; Stanley Ladue and his wife Debra of Highland; Lou Ann Judge and her husband David of Highland; Susan Ladue-Tong and her husband Perry of Highland; Carol Doyle and her husband Douglas of Ulster Park; Christine Paine and her husband Ronald of Highland, and Michael Ladue and his wife Jeannine of Poughkeepsie.

She leaves behind many nieces and nephews to not only cherish her memory, but also to carry on her legacy of kindness and generosity to others: Johanna Goth Finegan and her husband Timothy and their daughters Rachel and Hannah; Karen Goth Cabarrus and her husband Brian and their daughter Aubree; Danielle Ladue Platt and her husband Kevin and her daughter Olivia; Christopher Ladue; Kevin Judge and his wife Kelley and their son Aaron; Sarah Judge Delfini and her husband Tony and their twin sons Connor and Ethan; Megan Doyle; Douglas Doyle; Jeffrey Paine; Robin Paine; Michael Ladue; Nicholas Banney; Caitlin Banney; Thomas Banney and Samantha Banney. Her loving friend Kevin Reisman was a huge part of her life. She and Bob truly thought of Kevin as the child they never had, and she would have been unable to fight this battle without him by her side. He has been and will continue to be caretaker of her two beloved dogs, Luke and Molly.

Joan had boundless energy and always kept busy. Many may remember her from her bartending days at Easy Street in Hyde Park and La Fonda del Sol in Wappingers, where she met her husband. She and Bob enjoyed boating and were avid skiers. Joan volunteered at her local animal shelter where she spent countless days and nights caring for the dogs and cats, fostering many of them in her home, nursing them back to health, and making sure they were placed with loving families. For years she worked with her Bob in the film industry and then she put to good use all the woodworking and home maintenance skills she'd learned from her father. She and her husband ran their own home repair and house painting business until she was overcome by her disease. She also enjoyed gardening at their mountainside home. An accomplished musician, her love of music carried her through some of the most difficult times of her illness and brought her great comfort as she passed.

As Joan received her chemotherapy, she felt very cold. In her usual style, she solved her problem by making herself a fleece hat and a warm blanket. Always thinking of others' needs, Joan then used her exceptional sewing abilities to make throws and animal hats for the numerous children and adults who were also receiving treatments at Columbia Presbyterian Hospital. Contributions of money and materials were instrumental in making this project happen. A heartfelt "thank you" goes to her friends, and especially Bob's co-workers.

Joan did not want her pain, suffering and death to have been in vain. Her final request to all, but especially her friends and family is: If you don't smoke, please do not start. If you do smoke, please quit now.

Services and burial will be private in the "North Country" near Lake Champlain in accordance with her final wishes. Memorial donations may be made to either the American Cancer Society or an animal shelter of your choice. Arrangements are by Lawson Funeral Home and Cremation Services in Long Branch, N.J.



Mary Gioia (1921-2016)

Mary Gioia, 95, of Marlboro, died on July 11, 2016. Born in San Michele, Italy, on March 7, 1921, she was the daughter of produce farmers Giulia and Leo Spinnelli. At 17, Mary emigrated to the Bronx with her family and worked as a dressmaker in Manhattan's Garment district, where she met her husband, the late Carlo Joseph Gioia.

Mary devoted most of her life to being a homemaker. She was an extremely strong-willed lady who always spoke her mind. We will always remember her offering words of wisdom and forever exclaiming that spending extra time cleaning house will keep you healthy, off the street and out of trouble.

Survivors include sons Leo Gioia of Wappingers Falls and Thomas Gioia of Winter Garden, Fla.; a sister, Jenny Guercio, and several nieces and nephews. She is also survived by three grandchildren: Jonathan Anthony Gioia and Vincent Carlo Gioia of Newburgh and Daniella Marie Gioia of Jersey Heights, N.J. Arrangements were by Libby Funeral Home in Beacon.



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Have your dog blessed on July 23

Photo provided

Synagogue to Host Blessing of Animals

Takes place at St. Mary's lawn July 23

Philipstown Reform Synagogue will hold a Sabbath service for the blessing of the animals at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, July 23 on the great lawn of St. Mary's Church of the Highlands in Cold Spring. Rabbi Helaine Ettinger will provide the blessings.

This service is being held in honor of St. Mary's Church, its congregation, and leadership who have graciously provided a holy space for the synagogue for more than 10 years. The synagogue will encourage participants to offer donations which will be given to St. Mary's to help meet their goal of preserving its remarkably beautiful and historic lawn, which has been a hallmark of Cold Spring for nearly 150 years at the corner of Route 9D and Main St.

"The synagogue has been honored to use St. Mary's parish house for its services and activities for most of its history," said Cathy Duke, president of the Philipstown Reform Synagogue. She thanked Father Shane Scott-Hamblen and the congregation for the assistance the church has given to the Jewish community, and to their spirit of true fellowship.

In the event of rain, the service will be held inside the parish house. For more information, call 845-265-8011 or visit philipstownreformsynagogue.org.



Charles Stewart flying a kite train

Photo provided

Go Fly a Kite!

Programs scheduled for Garrison and Beacon

Kite enthusiast Charles Stewart will lead the decoration and assembly of diamond-shaped kites at the Desmond-Fish Library in Garrison at 1 p.m. on Saturday, July 23, in a program for adults and children age 7 and older who are accompanied by an adult, and for adults at the Howland Public Library at 1 p.m. on Wednesday, July 27. Each participant will receive a kite; all supplies are included.

Stewart, who the New York Daily News once called "The Kite Whisperer," will share the basics of "kite theory": how and why they fly, why wind flies the kite (not the owner), and what to do when there isn't enough wind for lift.

Both programs are free, but registration is required. Call the Desmond-Fish at 845-424-3020 or the Howland at 845-831-1134.

Health Insurance Answers

Specialist will assist with marketplace

Cathy Quaranta, an application counselor with Putnam Community Action Partnership, will make stops in Cold Spring and Garrison to answer questions

about the New York State Health Insurance Marketplace.

On Monday, July 25, from 3 to 6 p.m., Quaranta will be at the Butterfield Library in Cold Spring, and on Wednesday, July 27, from 3 to 5 p.m. at the Desmond-Fish Library in Garrison.

Registration is recommended. Call 845-424-3020 to make an appointment in Garrison or 845-265-3040 for Cold Spring.

At the Howland Library in Beacon, a specialist from the Maternal-Infant Services Network (MISN) is available for health care insurance consultations each Friday from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Call MISN at 800-453-4666 to make an appointment.

Clearwater Will Return July 31

Relaunch ceremony at Cold Spring

After an \$800,000 hull restoration and a short delay awaiting a U.S. Coast Guard inspection that scuttled plans for an Independence Day relaunch, the sloop Clearwater has begun her sailing season on the Hudson River. To celebrate, Clearwater will host a ceremony at 6 p.m. on Sunday, July 31, at the pier at the foot of Main Street in Cold Spring.

Following the ceremony, the sloop will depart at 7 p.m. for a public sail, which has sold out. (As of press time, tickets remained for the 3 p.m. sail.) Tickets are available at clearwater.org/come-sailing/public-sail-schedule. Fundraising continues for the hull project, with about \$70,000 remaining.



Clearwater

Photo by Dorice Arden

Putnam County Fair Begins July 29

45th annual event continues through Sunday

The 45th annual Putnam County 4-H Fair opens on Friday, July 29, in Carmel, and continues on Saturday and Sunday



Kids and goats at the Putnam County Fair

Photo provided

with music, games, crafts and animals.

The fair also includes contests for photography, quilts, baked goods, vegetables and crafts. (You don't have to be a 4-H member to enter.) There will be a Master Gardener Plant Sale, a Country Auction at 3 p.m. on Saturday of tools, paintings, antique farm equipment and patio furniture, and visits from Tony's World of Science and Magic. Plus, pet shows, a youth talent show, face painting, Civil War and Revolutionary War encampments, horse demonstrations, a fishing contest and a chicken barbecue at 5 p.m. on Saturday.

The fair takes place from noon to 6 p.m. on Friday, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Saturday and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Sunday at Veterans' Memorial Park, 201 Gypsy Trail Road. Admission and parking are free. Only dogs pre-registered for the dog show are allowed on the fairgrounds.

For more information, and to register for contests, visit the website of the Cornell Cooperative Extension of Putnam County, which sponsors the fair, at putnam.cce.cornell.edu/putnam-county-fair.

Bats and Brews

Museum to host July 23 mixer

The Hudson Highlands Nature Museum will host its first Bats and Brews event at 7 p.m. on Saturday, July 23, at its Outdoor Discovery Center on Muser Drive, across from 174 Angola Road in Cornwall.

Museum educators will discuss the bats of New York while guests enjoy local microbrews. "Bats may have a creepy reputation, but they are an important part of our ecology," said Emily Nestlerode, manager of the Wildlife Education Center. "For example, they are vital to the control of summer insects such as mosquitoes and stink bugs. In addition, they also assist in the pollination of some of our favorite summer fruits, including peaches and mangoes." The presentation will be followed by a short hike to look for bats over the ponds and fields.

Admission is \$10 (\$7 for museum members). You must be at least 21 years of age with a valid ID to drink. For more information visit hnhm.org or call 845-534-5506, ext. 204.

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COMMUNITY BRIEFS



A tricolored bat

Photo provided

David Amram Quintet to Play Tompkins

Teams with Out to Lunch band

The David Amram Quintet, with Kevin Twigg, Rene Hart, Adam Amram and Elliot Peper, returns to the Tompkins Corners Cultural Center in Putnam Valley at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, July 30.

Amram is a composer, conductor and multi-instrumentalist who has composed more than 100 orchestral and chamber works and written many scores for Broadway and film, including for *Splendor in the Grass* and *The Manchurian Candidate*.

The Out to Lunch band with Howie Bujese, Larry Cohen, Susan Sassano, Wayne Fugate, Michael Sassano and Joe Selly will also perform. Founded in the 1980s, Out to Lunch incorporates mandolins, guitar, fiddle, bass and a hammered dulcimer.

The cultural center is located at 729 Peekskill Hollow Road. Tickets are \$20 at brownpapertickets.com/event/2565246 or call 845 528-7280 to reserve seats.



David Amram

Photo provided

Kayak the Marsh

Museum to host guided tour

The Hudson Highlands Nature Museum will host a kayak nature tour led by museum educators at Constitution Marsh on Sunday, July 24, with launch at 4:30 p.m. Participants must provide their own kayaks, paddles, water and life jacket or personal flotation devices.

The program is limited to older teens and adults, and the fee is \$30 per person



Constitution Marsh

Photo provided

(\$25 for museum members). To register, visit hnhm.org or call 845-534-5506, ext. 215.

Reggae on the Hudson

The Big Takeover, formed in 2008 and fronted by Jamaica native NeeNee Rushie, will perform at the bandstand at the foot of Main St. at 6 p.m. on Sunday, July 31, as part of the Cold Spring Area Chamber of Commerce's summer music series. The band, which is working on its third album, also plays the Firefly Fest in Beacon on Friday, July 30.



The Big Takeover

Photo provided

Hudson Valley Noir

Library to show 1959 feature

The Butterfield Library in Cold Spring will screen the 1959 heist thriller *Odds Against Tomorrow*, directed by Robert Wise and starring Harry Belafonte, at 7 p.m. on Saturday, July 30.

Wise's film is considered the first noir with a black protagonist (it was promoted with the tagline, "Money brought them together. Racism tore them apart"), and it marked the last time the director shot in black and white, which gave his noir films what has been called "a gritty realism."



Harry Belafonte, Ed Begley and Robert Ryan in a scene from *Odds Against Tomorrow*.

(His later films include *West Side Story* and *The Sound of Music*.)

Filmed in New York City and Hudson, N.Y., the film also stars Robert Ryan, Ed Begley, Gloria Grahame and Shelley Winters.

Yoga for Women with Cancer

Free weekly class starts Aug. 6

Support Connection has announced a free weekly yoga class at Club Fit in Jefferson Valley open to women living with breast, ovarian and gynecological cancers. Led by Mia Azcue, the class takes place from noon-1:30 p.m. on each Saturday in August. Registration is required. Call 914-962-6402. Club Fit is located at 600 Bank Road.

Beacon

Beacon Pre-K Has Openings

Child must be age 4 by Dec. 1

The Beacon City School District pre-kindergarten program still has openings for the fall. It provides instruction and activities for two-and-a-half hours each weekday and focuses on cognitive, linguistic, physical, cultural, emotional and social development, including emergent English literacy.

Registration appointments can be made by calling Gail Morgan at 838-6900, ext. 2002. Transportation is provided to school for morning students and for afternoon students going home. Mid-day transportation runs are not provided.

To register, a child must be four years old by Dec. 1. A birth certificate, up-to-date immunization/shot record, copy of last physical exam, proof of residency (utility bill, rent receipt, lease agreement, mortgage statement, paystub, correspondence from government agency), government-issued photo ID of a parent/guardian and custody, guardianship or foster care documentation, if applicable, are required.

Beacon 3D Hosts Opening

Lawn party set for July 23

Beacon 3D will host an open lawn party at Bank Square Coffeehouse at 129 Main St., from 3 to 6 p.m. on Saturday, July 23, for this year's exhibit on and near Main St. The party will take place at the site of Jon Reichert's sculpture, *The Yawner*.

The public art project began in 2013 with three sculptures, and with assistance from Arts Mid-Hudson has in its fourth year expanded to include 12 works by 11 artists: Wilfredo Morel, Ann Provan, Herman Roggeman, Insun Kim, Judy Sigunick, Sarah Haviland, Ed Benavente, Ken Wright, Emil Alzamora, Jon Reichert and Naomi Teppich. For more information, visit beacon3d.org.

According to exhibit founder Eleni Smolen, organizers have launched an acquisition fund to acquire works and plan to make their first purchase in the fall.



Insun Kim with her *Weeping Cherry* at 477 Main St. in Beacon

Photo by Michael

Bogdanffy-Kriegh, courtesy Beacon 3D

Shelter to Host Volleyball Tournament

Annual event at Beacon park

Mid Hudson Animal Aid, a no-kill shelter for cats based in Beacon, will host its annual volleyball tournament fundraiser on Saturday, July 23, and Sunday, July 24 at Beacon Memorial Park.

The Saturday competitions will include men's doubles and quads and women's doubles and quads. The Sunday contests will include co-ed doubles and quads, with at least two women on each team for quads.

Registration is from 8 to 8:45 a.m. each day, with a 9 a.m. start time. The cost is \$30 per player, or \$50 for both days, and all proceeds benefit MHAA. For more information, call the shelter at 845-831-4321.

Visit highlandscurrent.com for news updates and latest information.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS (From previous page)

Beacon Girls' Soccer to Hold Camp

Open to players entering grades 3 to 9

The first Beacon High School girls' soccer camp will take place from Monday, Aug. 1 to Friday, Aug. 5 from 8:30 a.m. to noon at Beacon High School. The camp, which is open to girls entering grades 3 to 9, will be led by Beacon girls' varsity coach Hugo Alzate, with assistance from boys' varsity coach Craig Seaman and assistant coaches Tim Newman and Caitlin Morrison. Beacon varsity players will also provide instruction.

The camp is open to any girl, regardless

of whether she attends school in the Beacon City School District. Each camper must bring her own ball, cleats, shin guards and water. The cost is \$100 per player, and registration and payment are due by Aug. 1.

For a registration form, search for "BHS Girls Soccer" at facebook.com. For more information, call Alzate at 845-206-2916.

Series to Present Film on Leonard Peltier

Native American convicted of killing two agents

The Movies That Matter series in Beacon will present the 1992 documen-

tary, *Warrior: The Life of Leonard Peltier*, at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, July 29, at the First Presbyterian Church, 50 Liberty St. There is no admission charge but donations are welcome. The film will be followed by discussion and refreshments.

Directed by Suzie Baer, *Warrior* tells the controversial story of Peltier, a Native American leader given a life term after being convicted of the murders of two FBI agents during a shoot-out in 1975 on the Pine Ridge Reservation. Peltier maintains his innocence, and Amnesty International and more than 50 members of Congress have called for him to receive a new trial.



Leonard Peltier

Support Groups

For a full list of area support groups, visit:
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Sports

The Continued Demise of Big League Baseball

A long-time fan's personal lament

By Michael Turton

It can be deceiving to view the past through the lens of nostalgia. But nostalgia isn't major league baseball's problem. A decades-long decline in the nature of America's pastime is.

Curt Flood, an outfielder with the 1969 St. Louis Cardinals, bears some responsibility. His refusal to be traded eventually led to players winning free agency. True, up until then players were basically enslaved by owners and deserved a better deal. But free agency grossly inflated wages. Flood wanted to be paid \$100,000 a year. Today, the Miami Marlins' Giancarlo Stanton's contract is worth \$325 million.

Big wages in turn made fans slaves to equally inflated ticket prices. Premium seats at Yankee Stadium now go for more than \$600. The cheapest ticket at Fenway Park averages \$48. Is any game worth \$600? The better question may be what percentage of the public can afford it? One percent comes to mind.

Free agency also put an end to a kid's ability to grow up cheering for a group of players who only moved on due to age or a trade. Players come and go now like commuters on Metro-North. The Derek Jeters of the game who stay with one team for their entire career are now few and far between.

The obsession

In 1973 the American League introduced the designated hitter. With it came an obsession with the home run as baseball's ultimate moment. Gone were small ball, the bunt, the hit-and-run, the double steal and the manager's need to strategize. Should I keep my pitcher in the game — or go with a pinch hitter? The National League may now be considering the designated hitter. The downward spiral continues.

The "home-run derby," now a fixture at the annual All-Star game, underlines the addiction for seeing a baseball fly over a fence. The "how far can you hit a ball that is lobbed at you" derby is tedious. A contest highlighting more skills would be much more compelling. Outfielders nailing the throw to home plate? Pitchers in an accuracy duel? The quickest players vying for the fastest time running the bases? And, yes, an abbreviated home-run derby.

The lost mystique

Interleague play was introduced in 1997 and with it vanished a mystique that used to hang in the baseball air all season long. Which league is stronger? Could my Tigers beat the Cardinals? Questions only partially answered once a year at the World Series. Once rare clashes between the two leagues have become mundane.



The 1939 All-Star Game at Yankee Stadium

There is no turning back the clock to the days when one team emerged to win the pennant based solely on their regular season record. No team ever won the pennant by accident then, an accomplishment that was nearly as exciting as the Series itself. Playoffs were introduced in 1969 and are arguably very good for baseball, if not overdone. Some fans argue it already is. If more and more teams make the playoffs, making the World Series means less and less.

Shouldn't uniforms be uniform?

The idea of a team uniform is that it be — well — uniform. That is not the case in baseball today. Some players wear pants that go to their knees, proudly displaying their team socks. Others with less baseball fashion sense wear their pants down to their heels for a look that bears a remarkable resemblance to pajama bottoms. Research shows that while one of the Chicago teams is the White Sox and Boston has the Red Sox, no team in baseball history has been named the Pajama Bottoms. It's time to put the socks back in the game. Uniformly.

Even more egregious is the wearing of jewelry on the field. Necklaces have no place as part of a baseball uniform. The game would be well served if a player's player — Mike Trout perhaps — would refuse to bat if the pitcher is wearing a necklace. Angels' manager Mike Scioscia could then come out of the dugout to support Trout and protest the game, arguing that the necklace distracts the batter. Many of the solid-gold necklaces are quite flashy. Alternatively, if MLB really believes uniforms ought to be

uniform it could require all baseball players to wear a necklace, though earrings would be less offensive.

To err is human

MLB ought to do away with the video review of close calls. Part of baseball's beauty and charm is the slowness of the game, but it does not need to be any slower. More importantly, the game is played by humans, watched by humans and officiated by humans, all of whom make mistakes. The best hitters are wrong more than six times out of ten. With the rare exception of a perfect game, every pitcher makes several mistakes in every game. And umpires sometimes get it wrong (though not often). Leave it at that. Bad calls give fans something to argue about, sometimes for decades.

Also worthy of being discarded are the "impromptu" celebrations that occur regularly at home plate after a game-winning hit in the bottom of the ninth. It has become expected that the hero of the moment is swarmed by his teammates as together they enjoy a touching group hug while jumping up and down like a bunch of 12-year-olds. And why? Because the team is now only 19 games out of first place.

Equally lame is the "spontaneous" drowning of the game's hero under a bucket of ice-cold Gatorade that also drenches an unlucky reporter. Spontaneity is great. Contrived celebrations, probably promoted if not required by MLB, are an annoyance.

The corporate takeover

Perhaps the most disheartening trend are the stadium names. While Yankee Stadium, Wrigley Field and Fenway Park and others uphold tradition, long gone are Tiger Stadium, Candlestick Park and Three Rivers Stadium. Enter the corporations: US Cellular Field, Target Field, Comerica Park. Cincinnati's Great American Ball Park sounds perfect, except that it's named for the Great American Insurance Group. The best-of-the-worst award goes to San Diego's Petco Park. Forget about 10,000 Matt Kemp bobblehead dolls. Gimme my free bag of kibble.

Through it all baseball remains a great game. If not at Citi Field at least at Dutchess Stadium or in Williamsport, Penn.

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Hudson Beach Glass in Beacon Photo by Michele Gedney

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