

The HIGHLANDS Current



Don Nice posters on exhibit
See Page 9

AUGUST 5, 2016

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Second from left, Barbara Scuccimarra, County Legislator for Philipstown



Stephanie Hawkins



Assemblywoman Sandy Galef

Ailes Pulls Funds for Senior Citizen Center

More than 500 sign petition opposing proposed agreement

By Michael Turton

Roger Ailes has withdrawn his pledge of \$500,000 toward the creation of a new senior citizens' center as part of the Butterfield redevelopment project. The about-face came in the wake of Tuesday's (Aug. 2) meeting of the Putnam County Legislature, during which a proposed agreement between the county and ACI, a non-profit set up by Ailes, was tabled. The agreement called for ACI to oversee construction of a 6,000-square-foot senior citizen's center in the Lahey Pavilion in space leased by

the county from developer Paul Guillaro. An Aug. 3 article in the *Putnam County News and Recorder* by Eric Gross stated that Ailes and his wife Elizabeth, publisher of the *PCNR*, "are withdrawing the money, cancelling the contribution agreement and assigning the money to another one of their charities ..." It also stated that the Ailes' felt that "it is clear for political reasons their funding is not welcome."

The handwriting may have been on the wall for the proposed agreement when Legislator Dini LoBue commented at Tuesday's meeting that, "We don't have to accept this money ..." The motion to table later passed unanimously in the all-Republican body.

An online petition opposing the agreement was also a factor. Placed on the change.org website on the afternoon of July 30, the petition had more than 500

supporters — including more than 450 Philipstown residents — by the time it was sent to the legislature three days later, on the morning of Aug. 2, according to Laura Kaufman, a Cold Spring resident who helped organize the drive for signatures. In an email to *The Current* Kaufman said that she was part of a group of four local residents who created the petition. "We saw the (legislature's) agenda ... and knew the public had not seen the agreement," she wrote.

Part of the petition read that, "This deal has been withheld from public scrutiny. Its full costs, financial risks, and potential liabilities to (Continued on Page 3)"



Photos by Ross Corsair

Philipstown Residents Protest Ailes Deal and Naming

By Holly Toal

One by one, more than a dozen Philipstown residents stepped up to the podium at the Aug. 2 Putnam County Legislature meeting to voice their opposition to naming the proposed Cold Spring senior center after Garrison resident Roger Ailes, the former FoxNews CEO who resigned last month after accusations of sexual harassment. Ailes had pledged \$500,000 to the center in exchange for making it his namesake.

"He's contributed very little to our community," said Michael Robinson of Cold Spring. "Julia Butterfield gave us a hospital for the body; a library for the mind. What has Roger Ailes given us?"

"Money and power have become the white-washer of despicable deed," added Charlotte White, also of Cold Spring. "Is the integrity of my home less important than the money from Roger Ailes?"

Laura Kaufman presented lawmakers with a formal (Continued on Page 4)

Struggling to Make Ends Meet in Beacon

Wages often fail to keep up with housing costs

By Jeff Simms

Twenty-seven-year-old Katelyn Stampfer works two jobs in Beacon — during the day at Dia:Beacon and two nights a week bartending at Quinn's Restaurant on Main Street. Living in an apartment off Main with two roommates, the Plattsburgh State graduate says she wouldn't be able to afford rent otherwise.

"Most of the people I know have two or three jobs," she said this week. "That seems to be how to get by."

Sasha Freeman, 25, who bartends with Stampfer at Quinn's, is in a similar boat. Freeman is a freelancer by day, working with clients in the Hudson Valley and New

York City on content development and social media strategies. While she presently lives with her parents, she too says she wouldn't be able to make ends meet if she were paying rent in Beacon.

"I probably wouldn't live here," she says. "If I'm going to be paying \$1,500 a month for a one-bedroom (apartment), I would live somewhere where I could sustain that without working two jobs."

While the Beacon City Council considers a series of changes to its affordable housing laws, there are many qualified people living in the city unable to find the type of work they need to afford local housing prices.

"The housing costs here cater to weekenders," says Freeman, who studied public relations at Temple University. "I don't know anyone who is young and able to support themselves without doing a ser-

vice-industry job or a second job."

Of course, the situation isn't restricted to recent college graduates. One look at the line of cars on Beekman Street at 7 p.m. as commuters return from New York City confirms that.

According to the Newburgh-based Pattern for Progress, 30 percent of Beacon's roughly 15,000 residents work within the municipality. Just over 31 percent of the city's workforce travels to either Westchester County or New York City for work.

Overall, wages in the region just aren't keeping up with the rising cost of housing, "hence the term 'cost burden,'" says Joe Czajka, the senior vice president for research, development and community planning at Pattern for Progress and executive director of the organization's Center for Housing Solutions and Urban Initiatives. (Continued on Page 7)

Cook On: 1 part chaos, 2 parts calm

Salty Twist

By Mary Ann Ebner

Quarts of local blueberries, ears of Hudson Valley sweet corn and a mess of fresh greens boasted just-picked prominence at the Beacon Farmer’s Market last weekend, but crusty-on-the-outside, delicate-on-the-inside pretzels added to the market’s choice. These weren’t the stadium-style commercial fare thawed at the riverside and warmed up in assembly-line fashion, but individually prepared pretzels made with locally milled flour and pulled recently from the oven.

To describe the pretzels as “adequate” in size would be unforgivable. Twisted and baked by Beacon’s All You Knead Artisan Bakers, the day’s offerings ranged from generous to gigantic, so good and perfectly satiating for hungry market shoppers. My son (who worked up an appetite while playing Pokémon GO around town) promptly polished off one of the crispy golden purchases — hand-rolled, boiled, baked and finished with sea salt and butter — and we each saved another for later ... but not much later. We shared them at home that afternoon and made plans to test our own old-fashioned recipe.

A couple of years ago, friends took my family on a tour of one of the country’s oldest bakeries, the Julius Sturgis Pretzel Bakery in Pennsylvania’s Amish country. Tucked into an historic stone house in the town of Lititz, the bakery’s owners still turn out soft pretzels on site, in their building listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Before tasting their boiled and baked specialty, we learned how to hand-roll our own baking rope using a pre-measured piece of dough to shape it into a traditional design

with three open loops. We didn’t actually pop our own rope twists into the oven, but while we practiced the rolling and shaping technique, our docent shared a lengthy backstory of the pretzel and its early beginnings as a noble treat of baked dough twisted into a semblance reflecting crossed arms held in prayer. I hadn’t really made much of a connection between prayer and pretzels prior to that but lately I’ll admit to a quiet reflection with my pretzel indulgence, in hopes that I can polish off the salted symbol without seeing an immediate body bulge along with unwelcome pounds.

That’s the thing with just-baked bread and other wheat-based foods. Their richness packs a few calories but appreciating the taste of a warm slice of sourdough or a buttery garlic knot once in a while can be too much to resist. And freshly baked bread or just-twisted pretzels don’t have to fall into the luxury goods shopping cart. Homemade and bakery-fresh bread puts loaves with a long shelf life to shame and preparing yeast breads at home costs little — for ingredients or baking tools. For this pretzel recipe, the dough also works well in loaf form. Instead of breaking pieces into pretzel-sized portions, divide the batch of dough into four parts and shape into mini loaves. Follow all other directions for boiling and baking. When ready to eat the loaf, slice it down the middle but only half way through the loaf and stuff with a spoonful of egg salad or grilled vegetables. Or thinly slice your pretzel loaf and drizzle it with honey.

Working with a few ingredients turns basic dough into a shared pleasure and letting friends and family roll their own ropes into a range of custom shapes from twists to

knots makes the real work easy. The end result: a pretzel far better than any stadium-bought substitute.



Salty soft pretzels Photos by M.A. Ebner

Salty Soft Pretzels

Yield: 1 dozen pretzels

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1 package active dry yeast | 2 tablespoons kosher salt |
| 1¼ cups water (85 degrees) | For pretzel boil |
| 1 teaspoon granulated maple sugar | 3 cups water |
| 4 cups flour | ¼ cup baking soda |
1. In a large bowl, combine yeast and sugar in warmed water, (not exceeding temperature guidelines). Without stirring, yeast should activate in 5 to 10 minutes. Once activated, gradually add flour to bowl. Mix thoroughly until all flour is absorbed. Remove ball of dough and place on lightly floured surface. Knead dough firmly for a few minutes and cover dough mound with a moistened towel. Let rise 20 minutes. Uncover and pinch dough off into desired number of pieces for pretzels.
 2. Individually roll dough pieces on lightly floured surface into rope forms, about 15 inches in length. Twist the dough into any shape you like or go traditional starting with an upside-down U, crossing ends twice and dropping the large loop down to fold over onto the ends of the rope. Tuck ends under or over large loop.
 3. In a medium saucepan, bring water and baking soda to a low boil. With a slotted metal spatula, lower pretzels one at a time into boiling water and allow to float in boiling solution 30 seconds. Remove and place onto parchment paper-lined baking sheet. Sprinkle immediately with kosher salt or sesame seeds or your custom spice blend. Bake about 20 minutes at 400 degrees until golden brown. Remove from oven and serve warm or add your favorite dip ... hummus, mustard or salted caramel.



Shape dough into a rope and twist your own pretzel.

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Ailes Pulls Funds for Senior Citizen Center *(from Page 1)*

Putnam County taxpayers is unknown to your constituents," adding that "Seniors of Putnam County — men and women — will endure the indignity of passing under (Ailes') name to receive public services ... The naming of this public facility must respect our seniors, our values and Putnam County women." It was signed, "Putnam County Taxpayers for Transparency and Integrity."

Kaufman wrote that she sees the withdrawal of Ailes' funding as neither a victory nor a defeat for the center. "We see this as an opportunity for our community

to come together now that this agreement has been uncoupled from the building of the senior center," she said. "We must continue to put pressure on our legislators to build a senior center that we can all be proud to enter. As a community we must capture this moment and express our ideas for a senior center that is aligned with our values and our wallets."

Town of Philipstown Supervisor Richard Shea expressed surprise at Ailes' decision to revoke his promise of funding. "I don't really understand why. A commitment was made to the seniors," he said in

a telephone interview Wednesday afternoon. Shea said he planned on contacting Putnam County Executive MaryEllen Odell later that day to discuss options. "I think the county, town and village have to stand up ... if (the senior center) is what we really value. We have to," he said.

He also expressed optimism. "I think it will work out," Shea said. "I would not oppose a county budget increase of a quarter of a percent (to fund the center). I don't see that as being a big hit for the Town of Philipstown."

"It was unfortunate that (the agree-

ment) had to be tabled but we have every intention of moving forward," Putnam County Legislator Barbara Scuccimarra told The Current on Thursday. "But I want to make a strong assertion that we are not abandoning our seniors. They need services and I will do everything I can to make (the senior citizens center) happen. The County Executive (MaryEllen Odell) and I are both committed to that."

Calls and emails to Cold Spring Mayor Dave Merandy had not been returned by the time of publishing.

County Lease Agreement Raises Concerns

By Holly Toal

Garrison resident and former FoxNews CEO Roger Ailes and his wife, Elizabeth, last week withdrew their offer to donate \$500,000 to Putnam County to construct a senior center in Cold Spring following a media whirlwind surrounding the family name.

Cold Spring and Putnam residents got their first look at the proposed business arrangement between the county and Ailes last week, when LoHud.com published a story by columnist David McKay Wilson that exposed the charitable donation agreement between Putnam County and Ailes' nonprofit ACI Senior Development Corp.

The Ailes' had offered to donate the half-million dollars to help renovate the Lahey Pavilion at the former Butterfield Hospital site. The county would lease the building from Butterfield Realty, LLC and Developer Paul Guillaro and, in exchange for the donation, the facility would be named the "Roger Ailes Senior Center."

However, many residents thought this would be distasteful in light of recent allegations of sexual harassment by Roger Ailes in his workplace, which ultimately led to his resignation from FoxNews last month.



A year ago, July 8, 2015, Roger and Elizabeth Ailes, left, celebrated the groundbreaking for the Butterfield development and their senior center project with officials.

File photo by Michael Turton

Last week, a day after the charitable donation agreement was made public, more than a dozen Philipstown residents traveled to Carmel for the County Legislature meeting to urge lawmakers not to name senior center after Ailes.

The following day, the Ailes' withdrew the offer.

"Mr. and Mrs. Ailes said the government approvals to make the senior center in Philipstown a reality took longer than World War II," reported the *Putnam Coun-*

ty News and Recorder, which is owned by Roger and Elizabeth Ailes. "They indicated several charities had reached out to them about the half-million dollars.

"The family said they hoped to help the senior citizens of Philipstown but (it) is clear for political reasons their funding is not welcome. Therefore they are withdrawing the money, canceling the contribution agreement and assigning the

money to another one of their charities who can put it to use immediately."

This comes after the Putnam County Legislature officially accepted the \$500,000 — a move that required the governing body to change the local law to allow the building to be named after a living donor.


According to Legislator Dini LoBue, R-Mahopac Falls, lawmakers were "pushed" to sign a lease agreement back in November because they were told the \$500,000 from Ailes would be taken off the table if a commitment was not made.

The county actually signed the lease in May of this year, and it states that Putnam will rent \$6,000 square feet of space over 15 years at a total cost of about \$3.5 million. The lease has never been made public, with the coun-

ty law department stating that contractual agreements are not made public record until they are implemented.

According to LoBue, the county was waiting for the donation check to be cut.

Per the charitable donation agreement, Ailes' ACI Senior Development Corp. agreed to hire Mountainview Construction of Patterson as the construction manager for renovations *(Continued on Page 4)*



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Gordon Stewart
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MANAGING EDITOR

Kevin E. Foley
editor@highlandscurrent.com

ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Chip Rowe

ARTS/FEATURE EDITOR

Alison Rooney

SENIOR CORRESPONDENT

Michael Turton

LAYOUT EDITOR

Kate Vikstrom

REPORTERS

Pamela Doan
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County Lease Agreement Raises Concerns *(from Page 3)*

and “use commercially reasonable efforts to use contractors and subcontractors from Putnam County and to employ trade persons residing in Philipstown and surrounding areas with Putnam County,” to complete the renovations.

The agreement further states “... renovations shall be delivered (to the county) as is without any warranty and the ACI shall have no obligations to the county with respect to ACI renovations or the center, including with respect to construction defects and claims by subcontractors for nonpayment.”

Concern over the fact that the agreement is absent of any language that would require “prevailing wages” to be paid were

“It provides none of the protections you would have in basic contract law. It’s not something that this county should sign.”

far-reaching, with Assemblywoman Sandy Galef, D-Ossining, even voicing her concern at the Aug. 2 Putnam County meeting.

“I’m concerned, now that I know a little more about the contract,” she said.

Galef, and State Sen. Sue Serino, R-Hyde Park, had recently expressed that they would pursue \$250,000 each from the state Dormitory Authority for the project. However, with allegations that

workers may not be paid a living wage, Galef said the Dormitory Authority may not be on board.

Divorce attorney Margaret Yonco-Haines of Cold Spring, who is the Putnam County organizer of the New York Democratic Lawyers Council, also spoke out at the Legislature meeting. She balked at the idea that the county would consider the proposed agreement with Ailes a good deal.

“It provides none of the protections you would have in basic contract law,” she said. “It’s not something that this county should sign.”

With the Ailes’ withdrawing the donation, it appears the county won’t be able to

Philipstown Residents Protest Ailes Deal and Naming *(from Page 1)*

petition against naming the senior center after Ailes. The petition had been circulating at change.org and is signed by “Putnam County Taxpayers for Transparency and Integrity.” As of Aug. 3, it had 533 signatures.

The petition reads, in part: “Taxpayers must have a say in the terms of this agreement. It must be fiscally responsible in the short- and long-term. The naming of this public facility must respect our seniors, our values, and Putnam County women... We ask that the Legislature make the agreement with Roger Ailes available for public scrutiny and public comment prior to taking any action.”

While the Legislature voted unanimously to table the proposal to name the senior center, the standing-room-only crowd assembled at the Historic Courthouse in Carmel continued to speak out.

Kathleen Foley of Cold Spring criticized the Legislature for making Ailes out to be an “angel investor” who is providing “seed money” for the center, while the actual price tag to the county is allegedly four times greater than his contribution.

“The project has never passed the smell test,” she said. “And now the reality of the project is coming to fruition.”

Foley took particular aim at Legislator Barbara Scuccimarra, R-Philipstown, who represents the district that houses the Butterfield property, saying the lawmaker has betrayed the people of Putnam

County and Philipstown.

“You have prostituted your constituency,” she said. “No one, no woman, should have to pass under the name ‘Ailes’ to receive public services.”

“You have prostituted your constituency. No one, no woman, should have to pass under the name ‘Ailes’ to receive public services.”

Cold Spring resident Stephanie Hawkins also singled out Scuccimarra, accusing her of knowing the “unfair” details of the agreement with Ailes all along, and still promoting it.

“You have been nothing if not a cheering squad for private interest and mowing over your own constituents,” she said. “You’re happy to come to meetings and misrepresent the truth.”

Lithgow Osborne, a Democrat from Cold Spring who challenged Scuccimarra for her seat in 2015, and who also ran unsuccessfully for Putnam County clerk in 2014, said that if the county goes through with the charitable donation agreement, it would be an insult to women.

“I understand that somebody offered money for a naming opportunity, but at this juncture, we cannot go forward until that matter is settled,” he said. “I’m here to ask you to consider holding off naming

that center until this business with Roger Ailes is cleared up.”

Legislator Carl Albano, R-Carmel, came under fire when he told residents at the meeting that the time for them to come forward was during discussions that took place at the committee level during the previous months.

“This really isn’t the time to bring this up,” he said. “Many of these items have been on the agenda for years... I’m glad to hear from you now, but it’s kind of in the 11th hour... This is years in the making.”

He further added that, with the accusations against Ailes having recently surfaced, the Legislature would be tabling the matter. “These accusations are new,” he said. “They’re hitting us in the face... We want to hear from you. Legislator Scuccimarra has every intent to do the right thing.”

Legislator Roger Gross, R-Southeast, also came to his colleague’s defense, telling the crowd: “Barbara Scuccimarra has worked totally and diligently to get a senior center in Cold Spring and some of your comments toward her are despicable.”

Legislator Dini LoBue, R-Mahopac Falls, who voted against the lease agreement in May, urged her colleagues to take residents’ comments to heart and go back to the drawing table. “We have to go back to the beginning, because we do not have to accept this donation,” she said.

Cold Spring Mayor Blasts PCNR Coverage

Recreation Commission meets with village board

By Michael Turton

Cold Spring Mayor Dave Merandy has strongly criticized the *Putnam County News and Recorder* over a recent article that referred to “a new war” and a “blowup” between the village and Butterfield developer Paul Guillaro. Merandy’s comments came near the end of the village board’s Aug 2 workshop. The village is in the process of determin-

ing fees to be charged for the Butterfield redevelopment project’s connection to the village sewer and water systems.

In remarks lasting more than 10 minutes Merandy said, “There was no blowup and there is no war ... the only war being waged is between the PCNR and fact.”

The mayor also commented that the developer had made a number of changes to the approved site plan. “Greg Phillips and our engineer Bart Clark have to review those plans and that takes time,” he said. “If the project has been delayed it is because of changes made by the developer

and not the village.” Later he added, “The intent is to act on behalf of our constituents and ensure that the project is built as approved.”

The July 27 article detailed little in the way of conflict other than to mention Guillaro’s frustration that a discussion with Cold Spring’s Superintendent of Water and Sewer Greg Phillips regarding Butterfield was removed from the July 26 village board agenda. The article quotes the developer as saying, “It is a sad day for the village when it retaliates by pulling Butterfield” *(Continued on next page)*

CS Mayor Blasts PCNR Coverage *(from previous page)*

from the Village Board Agenda ..." but does not explain what the village was allegedly retaliating against. The piece also pointed out that Guillaro's attorney had filed a Freedom of Information (FOIL) request with the village, requesting a number of documents.

Merandy acknowledged the FOIL request and said that the report by Phillips was tabled on the advice of village attorney John Furst pending further discussions between Phillips and Guillaro. "Mr. Guillaro was not on the agenda and was not to appear before the board," he said.

The article also indicated that Guillaro feels the hookup fees were determined very recently and are not part of the village code, although he is not quoted nor does the reporter indicate how he came to that conclusion. The current village code does not address projects as large as Butterfield.

"This is the first large-scale project in the village," Merandy said. "Greg Phillips is acting responsibly in representing the best interests of the village. At the same time we are trying to act fairly towards the developer" regarding fees.

Merandy challenged PCNR editor Doug Cunningham, who was covering the meeting, to explain PCNR's method of reporting, referring to it as "really crazy" while adding that "stirring the crap" is the paper's main interest. "You just want to make it divisive," Merandy said. The mayor asked Cunningham to comment a number of times but the editor declined. "You won't comment now but your paper will be riddled with comments tomorrow," Merandy said before adjourning the meeting.

There was no mention of Merandy's comments in an article written by Cunningham in the online edition of the PCNR on Aug 3. However, the meeting was videoed by the PCNR and has been posted on the paper's website.

In other business ...

- Five members of the seven-member Recreation Commission attended the workshop and discussed a wide range of issues that included fees charged for the use of Cold Spring dock and parks, maintenance, vandalism at public restrooms, utility costs, user



Mayor Dave Merandy

File photo

application procedures and cooperation with the Haldane Central School District.

- Anne Impellizzeri outlined plans for the unique construction of the new home she is building at 15 High Street. The house arrived on Aug 3 in the form of four modules loaded on flat-bed trucks. Assembly using a large crane was to be completed by week's end. Impellizzeri's original home was destroyed by fire in July 2014.
- Deputy Mayor Marie Early detailed steps being taken to improve pedestrian safety near the Haldane campus, including a total of four crosswalks added or improved in the areas of Mountain Ave., Locust Ridge and Craigsides Drive.
- Early also reported that gross revenues from the new municipal parking station on Fair St. have totaled \$6,006 through its first two months of operation. She said that the average stay has been three hours.
- Trustees declined a resident's request for the village to assist with cost of repairing a private water line on Parsonage St. Residents are responsible for maintaining water lines that run from the house to the village water main at the street. The Parsonage St. repair could cost as much as \$9,500.

Obituary

Susan Moss Homola

1959 - 2016

Beloved wife, mother, sister, daughter, friend, David gardener, painter and writer, Susan Sylvester Moss Homola passed away on August 3, 2016 at her home in Garrison, New York. She was 57 years old and a valiant warrior. A lifelong resident of Garrison and firm believer in family and community service, Susan led the initial Green Team for the establishment of gardens at the Garrison Union Free School, was an active member of the Phillipstown Garden Club in supporting gardens and education, taught religious instruction at Our Lady of Loretto Church in Cold Spring, was an enthusiastic supporter and photographer of son Drew's soccer and hockey teams (inspiring the Harvey Varsity Hockey team to raise over \$2,000 for cancer research), and managed teams for her daughters Isabelle and Gabrielle (each a champion step dancer who proudly wore heirloom dresses designed and embroidered by Susan).



Susan attended Garrison Union Free School, graduated high school from The Northfield Mount Hermon School and received her Bachelor of Arts from New York University in 1981. Over 17 years at Citibank, N.A., Susan served in its North American Investment Bank, International Finance and Arbitrage Unit and was a Vice President in Citicorp Futures; she completed the Citibank Management Training Program, the Citicorp Institute for Global Finance (Credit Training) Program, and pursued graduate studies in related fields at the NYU Stern School of Business and the New York Institute of Finance.

Susan is survived by her loving husband and dear friend of more than 25 years, Andrew Homola, her cherished children Isabelle Mary Homola, Gabrielle Anna Homola and Drew Michael Moss Homola, her mother Kathryn Casale Moss, her siblings Mary Moss Appleton, Catherine Moss Warner, Amy Margaret Moss, John Hugh Moss, Gerard Casale Moss, Hugh MacMillan Moss, P. Quinn Moss and Barbara Ann Moss. Susan was predeceased by her father, William John Moss, and her sister, Elizabeth Moss Bradley.

A memorial mass will be held on Thursday, August 11, at 11 a.m. at Our Lady of Loretto Church, 24 Fair Street, Cold Spring, NY, with a reception to follow at The Chalet on the Hudson, 3250 Route 9D, Cold Spring, NY. In memory of Susan, donations may be made to the American Horticultural Society, 7931 East Boulevard Drive, Alexandria, VA 22308 or to the Phillipstown Garden Club (Susan Homola Garden Support Fund) to support the maintenance of gardens at the Garrison School, P.O. Box 255, Garrison, NY 10524. For further information, please contact the Clinton Funeral Home, 21 Parrott Street, Cold Spring, NY.



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Beacon Youth Police Academy



Eighteen young men and women ranging in age from 14 to 17 participated in the second annual Beacon Youth Police Academy last week. The one-week program gave participants an opportunity to learn about the roles and responsibilities of the police and included a trip to police facilities in New York City and the Hudson Valley.

Photo provided

Another Beacon School Board Vacancy

Board now has two seats to fill

By Jeff Simms

The Beacon City School District now has two vacancies to fill after Frank Garnot, whose term was due to end in 2018, has resigned from the board.

Garnot, who had been on the school board for seven years, informed district officials of his decision on Monday, board President Anthony White said. White added that Garnot cited personal commitments and time constraints as the reasons for his decision.

Board member Jose Munoz resigned from the board prior to its June 20 meeting, so, now with Garnot's resignation, the nine-member board is down to seven.

"It definitely changes the discussion about how to fill the seats," White said Tuesday, adding that he was "a little disheartened" that the board had thus far been unable to come to a decision on how to fill the Munoz vacancy.

Reached earlier this month, a spokesperson for the New York State School Boards Association said that there is no specific pro-

tocol in place to fill school board vacancies.

"The law does not provide any details, so each school board has to decide what works best for them," said Al Marlin, the communications manager for the school boards association. "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."

After Munoz's seat was vacated, the Beacon board had discussed soliciting applications for candidates to fill the seat or possibly holding a special election — although that option would come at a considerable cost to the district (approximately \$13,000, according to interim Superintendent Ann Marie Quartironi).

Whatever the choice, it probably needs to be made soon, White said.

"We're still a nine-member board and we need five (members) for a quorum," he said. "We have to make sure we have enough for a quorum."

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Struggling to Make Ends Meet in Beacon *(from Page 1)*

Gone are the days, Czajka says, of large companies employing hundreds or more members of the community. Today, 90 percent of the businesses in the Hudson Valley — these figures include Columbia and Greene counties — have less than 20 employees. Almost 80 percent employ fewer than 10.

"It's small business that wins," Czajka says, and he believes municipalities in the region should create incentives for people to go into business for themselves.

One model would phase in tax assessments on small business owners. Say an entrepreneur buys a building on Main Street in Beacon and then puts an additional chunk of money into rehabbing the building before opening for business. Tax the entrepreneur on the initial cost of the investment, Czajka suggests, and then phase in the increase as the business grows.

"It gives them the opportunity to get the business up and running and they can enjoy a bit of a revenue stream. Then, as the business develops, they have more ability to pay for it," he said.

In Beacon, Mayor Randy Casale says "we have people coming here everyday who want to do something in Beacon. But



Beacon City Council member
George Mansfield

File photo

to find a spot — that's hard to do."

Casale said he hopes that a committee appointed earlier this year to draft the city's next comprehensive plan will help resolve ongoing zoning issues at its waterfront. If that happens, he said, "then we'd have an area to try to entice someone to come."

Still, the two-term mayor said he recognizes that housing costs continue to

rise in Beacon. That's simple economics, he says: "If people are willing to pay the price, people are going to charge the price."

City Council member George Mansfield owns Dogwood Bar & Restaurant on East Main Street, and probably employs at least a handful of Beacon's twenty-somethings.

"That's the problem with a tourist-based economy," he says. "It's all service-based. We need to diversify the economy. In order to do that the city needs to have someone hyping it and saying, 'This is what we have to offer.' And possibly offering incentives. That's the way things get done. But you have to have a vision. The city needs to be in the drivers seat."

Mansfield also believes Beacon's waterfront area could be an asset if it's used for more commercial office space. Tech offices, for instance, complemented by restaurants and some residential development along the waterfront might bring some of the workforce back from New York City and Westchester.

"When you have office space and commercial development, it's far more lucrative financially for a city than residential

(building)," he said. "You don't have (additional children in) schools, and there are fewer fire, sewer and water costs. And it gives you a much more diverse economy."

For Stamper, the Plattsburgh State grad working two nights a week at Quinn's, Beacon is a great place to live. There's a flourishing arts community and tremendous natural resources. The lack of work is the only major drawback. "I would love to stay local," she says, adding that she's not planning to leave anytime soon, "but there just really isn't much out there."

But as the city continues to grow, Mansfield says he believes Beacon will ultimately outshine other Hudson Valley municipalities by attracting and then supporting higher-paying industry.

"A lot of developers will probably show you numbers saying there's 'X' amount of office space in Dutchess County that's empty," he said. "I think Beacon is unique and we have to play our cards smartly. Those numbers don't really represent what Beacon has going for it. I think we have a great community and I think a lot of offices will want to be here."

Developers Object to Proposed Housing Changes in Beacon

Vote expected later this month

By Jeff Simms

The Beacon City Council is expected to vote on Aug. 15 on the first in a series of changes designed to create more affordable housing in the city.

The proposal — which would make households earning 65 percent or less of the area's median income (AMI) eligible for reduced-cost "workforce" housing — was the subject of a public hearing during the Council's Aug. 1 meeting. The AMI is around \$58,900, so households earning about \$38,000 annually or less would meet the eligibility requirement.

The public hearing will continue at the Aug. 15 Council meeting, after which Beacon Administrator Anthony Ruggiero said he expects council members to vote on the change.

Lowering the income threshold is part

of a complex formula that would make an increased number of households eligible for workforce housing — units within new developments that are made available at lower than market-value costs. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development defines unaffordable housing as that which requires a household to pay more than 30 percent of its gross income on housing costs, which include rent and utilities or a mortgage payment, utilities, insurance and taxes.

Therefore, the city's proposal states that eligible households earning 65 percent or less of the AMI would be able to rent or purchase workforce units at a cost not to exceed 30 percent of their income. Including utilities, that works out to housing costs of just over \$1,000 per month.

"Having these rules and regulations in place is how we set our budgets. [A change] could definitely affect our bottom line."

The second change to be voted on this month would set a priority list — giving households that include emergency responders, municipal and school system employees, and current and former members of the military first crack at workforce housing.

During the public hearing on Monday, representatives of the local development community objected to the proposed changes, saying they're unfair to builders who have sought financing based on an anticipated return — one that could be compromised if they're forced to create more below market-rate housing.

"Ultimately these developers get financing and represent to their lenders what it is that they're proposing," said Taylor

Palmer, who spoke on behalf of the developments Beacon 248 and The Lofts at Beacon. "With these changes it does reflect differently than [what developers have] represented to their lenders and it does have some impact."

Palmer asked that the city first allow approved developments to proceed based on the affordable housing laws that were in place at the time of their approval and, second, to consider other methods, such as density bonuses, to reduce the "unfair" burden of added below market-rate units on local developers.

Rodney Weber, also a Beacon developer, seconded Palmer by asking that the city consider "grandfathering in" housing proposals that have already been approved.

"Having these rules and regulations in place is how we set our budgets," he said. "[A change] could definitely affect our

(Continued on Page 8)

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Recommended Updates to Village Code Aired

Project to run through 2018

By Michael Turton

Part of the long and arduous road that will eventually lead to an overhaul of the Village of Cold Spring Code was traveled by about 15 residents who attended a public meeting on Aug. 3 during which members of the committee charged with updating the badly outdated document presented their first set of recommended changes.

Each of the five volunteer members of the Code Update Committee (CUC) — Carolyn Bachan, Ethan Timm, Norah Hart, Paul Henderson and Donald MacDonald — presented portions of the group's recommendations at the nearly two-hour



About 15 village residents attended the code update meeting.

Photo by M. Turton

meeting held at the Cold Spring firehouse on Main Street.

The complete update will address five subject areas: uses; appearances; environment; procedures and consistency/clarity. Recommendations in each of those areas will be presented at public meetings as part of a marathon effort that is projected to be finished by 2019. Ultimately the village

board will have to approve any revisions proposed by the committee.

The August 3 public meeting dealt only with the "use" section of the code which covers 10 topics, including recommended standards for permitted uses, home occupations, accessory buildings, accessory apartments, garages, livable floor area, overnight accommodations, waterfront recreation and parking, along with restricting Main Street store fronts to commercial uses.

ation and parking, along with restricting Main Street store fronts to commercial uses.

A few highlights ...

A sampling of numerous recommendations highlighted at the meeting included:

- The Marathon property to be zoned to permit mixed uses such as residential, recreational, open space, work-live, small retail and offices;
- Home-based businesses to be permitted based on "performance-based standards" rather than an attempt to list acceptable and unacceptable enterprises;
- Accessory buildings and garages to be limited to a height of 20 feet;
- With certain restrictions, independent dwelling units will be permitted as an accessory to existing residences;

- Updated code to include a Parks and Recreation District;
- Overnight accommodations such as Air B&B to be approved by permit, restricted to three rooms and to require fire inspection and annual re-certification;
- Payment in lieu of parking by village businesses to become an annual, rather than one-time, fee.

Much of the impetus for the code update came from recommendations contained in the 2011 Local Waterfront Revitalization Strategy and the Comprehensive Plan adopted by the village in 2012. In 2013 Cold Spring received a \$75,000 grant from the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) to help fund the update. Greenplan, a Rhinebeck-based consulting firm specializing in municipal planning was then hired to assist the CUC.

The CUC's recommended revisions are available on the village website (www.coldspringny.gov) along with a power-point presentation that summarizes the project overall and the committee's work to date. A printed version of the recommendations is also available at Village Hall, 85 Main Street. In addition a video of the complete Aug. 3 meeting will be available on the village website.

Written comments regarding the CUC's recommendations can be submitted through August 31, 2016 via email to Trustee Marie Early at trustee.early@coldspring.gov or by mailing comments to Village Hall, 85 Main St., Cold Spring, NY 10516 Attention: Code Update Committee.

Developers Object to Proposed Housing Changes in Beacon

(from previous page)

bottom line."

Weber also suggested that developers could set a temporary, one-year price for units currently ready to be filled — to give the council "a little bit more time" to deliberate its workforce housing laws.

Another speaker, Fishkill resident Ozzy Albra, cautioned the council that afford-

able housing units built along the Route 9D corridor in Fishkill have sat empty, as "developers could not sell them." Affordable units in the town were meant for police, teachers and others, in a way similar to what Beacon is considering.

"That's not what happened," he said. "Abject failure. Be very careful."

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The Calendar



New York New York, silkscreened poster by Don Nice

Image courtesy of Garrison Art Center



Don Nice, in his Garrison studio

Photo by A. Rooney

“I Let The Piece Tell Me What To Do”

40 years of Don Nice posters on exhibit at Garrison Art Center

by Alison Rooney

Whether commissioned to design a poster as a commercial job, or when creating them on behalf of the nonprofits he has supported through donations of his art, renowned Garrison painter Don Nice has given each his careful consideration. It's a consideration of the color and angles, that cause the eye to be pulled a certain way and other things that the casual viewer might not pick up on. Perhaps some surmising may come more easily after viewing a roomful of Nice's poster designs at the Don Nice ICON: 40 Years of Posters exhibit

which opens — with a reception for the artist from 5 to 7 pm. — at the Riverside Galleries at Garrison Art Center on Aug. 13 and runs through Sept. 11. The show, curated by Nice's manager and daughter, Leslie Nice-Heanue, will include many of his originals, done on a large silk screen, along with signed and unsigned prints.

In Nice's studio, located upstairs at his home overlooking the Hudson, a quick glance at the poster-filled walls provides an instant view of the scope of his clients and affiliations. The commissioned work, done for auspicious clients such as the Mostly Mozart Festival at Lincoln Center and the Lake Placid Olympics Committee, and their international equivalents, is interspersed with many others heralding local and regional institutions, including many environmental protection advocacy groups in the area.

Garrison Art Center, in its exhibition notes, calls Nice “a classic figure in American art of the past half century. He burst upon the scene in the early 1960s when the Whitney Museum of American Art acquired his “American Series #5.” He was recognized part of the innovative group of “new perceptual realists” who wanted to put content back into painting. Nice integrates a gestured technique gleaned from earlier expressionist and Abstract Expressionist painters with a realist focus and energy derived from Pop Art. Combining a naturalist's interest in observation with an artist's compulsion for artistic vision, Nice embraces aspects of popular culture and certain critical issues of our time. He paints classic American products like sneakers, candy wrappers and soda bottles with the same intensity he

lavishes on quintessential site-specific landscapes from the Hudson River Valley to the Sierra Nevada Mountains. In doing so, he has created a distinctive vision of civilization's detritus in league with cultural concerns for the environment.

Nice says “Posters bring the awareness of the public to my art.” The original silkscreened work was done on a hand-cut screen and is very detailed, with each color done separately. The work requires a great deal of concentration. “You can't make mistakes,” he says simply. As for the determination of color, “To be frank, it's just in me. I let the piece tell me what to do. Within that framework there are considerations of composition.” Choosing a horizontal image on a poster as an example, Nice points out “the boot, put on the right end to stop the
(Continued on Page 11)



Author Franz Nicolay Photo by Susan Lirakis

Musician/Writer Franz Nicolay's Book is Launched at Binnacle

“It's a book about the way young people with progressive expectations function in states in which those expectations are frustrated.”

by Alison Rooney

Living an itinerant lifestyle is part of the deal if you're in a successful band. Touring, whether it's in a regional or world circuit, and playing live concerts, is still — despite the digital exchange of music around the planet — both a goal and a yoke of kinds. Franz Nicolay, a member of the popular band The Hold

Steady, had seen parts of the world multiple times over, traveling frequently to Germany, the U.K. and all parts of the U.S. Despite the band's success, the life he was leading, simply getting from one place to another rather than the enriching side of travel, was getting to him. His other interests were sidelined. A “Slavophile” dating back to a Russian literature class in high school, his fascination with that region and beyond was enhanced during college, through the study of the music from the Balkans. “That part of the world was at the top of my list,” he notes. Various descriptions of The Hold Steady, which began as a Brooklyn musicians' collective, incorporate such labels as punk, soul, klezmer, jazz, tango, and their influences are described as extending from the Weimar Republic to Leni, Philip

K. Dick and cheap red wine, so there's certainly a connecting thread between Nicolay's interests and music.

Nicolay jumped ship and boarded a train — many, actually — in 2009, departing from the successful band and striking out on his own, not just professionally, but in every way. Setting off for parts of the world he hadn't seen, he traveled with not much more than a guitar, banjo and accordion, spending five years, journeying, sometimes alone, sometimes with his wife, writing about what he encountered while doing so, mixing the journey and the pen in the literary traditions of his predecessors, from Rebecca West to Paul Theroux. “I wanted to visit the countries I'd spent years imagining, to put myself in the paths of past traveloguers and literary portrait-eers and to
(Continued on Page 12)

ONGOING

Gallery Shows
highlandscurrent.com/galleries

FRIDAY, AUGUST 5

Blood Drive
2 – 8 p.m. North Highlands Firehouse
504 Fishkill Road, Cold Spring
800-933-2566 | nybloodcenter.org

Bill Kooistra: Paintings (Opening)
6 – 8 p.m. Buster Levi Gallery
121 Main St., Cold Spring
845-809-5145 | busterlevigallery.com

Kunstleben, Our Town Photos
Crane, Woman Form (Openings)
6 – 9 p.m. Gallery 66 NY | 66 Main St., Cold Spring
845-809-5838 | gallery66ny.com

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

HVSF2: Book of Will
7:30 p.m. Philipstown Depot Theatre
10 Garrison Landing, Garrison
845-424-3900 | philipstowndepottheatre.org

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

Calling All Poets
8 p.m. Center for Creative Education
464 Main St., Beacon
914-474-7758 | callingallpoets.net

Discussion of Forthcoming Film Baato
8 p.m. Beahive Beacon | 291 Main St., Beacon
roadtonepal.com

War
9 p.m. Paramount Hudson Valley
1008 Brown St., Peekskill
914-739-0039 | paramounthudsonvalley.com

SATURDAY, AUGUST 6

Newburgh-to-Beacon River Swim
8 a.m. Newburgh waterfront | riverpool.org/swim

Live Poultry & Farm Animal Market
9 a.m. – 1 p.m. Grange Hall | 128 Mill St., Putnam Valley | putnamvalleygrange.org

Sleuthing for Animals
10 a.m. Outdoor Discovery Center | 100 Muser Drive, Cornwall | 845-534-5506 | hhnaturemuseum.org

Bear Mountain Pow Wow
11 a.m. – 8 p.m. Wayne Recreation Area
Harriman State Park, Stony Point
718.686.9297 | redhawkcouncil.org
1 and 4 p.m. Grand entry of dancers

Bird Festival
11 a.m. – 3 p.m. Trailside Zoo
3006 Seven Lakes Drive, Bear Mountain
845-786-2701 | trailsidezoo.org

Butterfly Festival
11 a.m. – 3 p.m. Stony Kill Farm
79 Farmstead Lane, Wappingers Falls
845-831-1617 | stonykill.org

Colonial Carpentry
11 a.m. – 4 p.m. Fort Montgomery | 690 Route 9W, Fort Montgomery | 845-446-2134 | nysparks.com

Free Guided History Tour
11 a.m. West Point Foundry Preserve
80 Kemble Ave., Cold Spring
845-473-4440 x238 | scenichudson.org

Hudson Valley Exposition
1 – 9 p.m. Riverfront Green Park, Peekskill
hvexposition.com

Calendar Highlights

For upcoming events visit highlandscurrent.com

Send event listings to calendar@highlandscurrent.com

Group Show: Emerging & Emeritus (Opening)
2 – 4 p.m. Putnam Arts Council
521 Kennicut Road, Mahopac
845-803-8622 | putnamartscouncil.com

Group Show: Portraits 2016 (Opening)
3 – 5 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
477 Main St., Beacon
845-765-3012 | howlandculturalcenter.org

Don Mengay: Soft Targets (Artists' Talk)
4 p.m. Hudson Beach Glass
162 Main St., Beacon
845-440-0068 | hudsonbeachglass.com

Artist-led Tour of Ecstatic Light
4 p.m. Manitoga | 584 Route 9D, Garrison
845-424-3812 | visitmanitoga.org

Kids Night: Story Time with Quintette 7
6:30 p.m. Trophy Point, West Point
845-938-4159 | westpointband.com
6 p.m. Instrument petting zoo

H.V. Renegades vs. Mahoning Valley
7:05 p.m. Dutchess County Stadium
See details under Friday.

Tour of Constellation
7:15 p.m. Boat leaves Beacon Institute Dock
347-244-3044 | melissamcgillconstellation.com

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

CSFS: To Catch a Thief
8 p.m. Dockside Park, Cold Spring
coldspringfilm.org

Dead On Live
8 p.m. Paramount Hudson Valley
1008 Brown St., Peekskill
914-739-0039 | paramounthudsonvalley.com

Jerry Garcia Symphonic Celebration
8 p.m. Bardavon | 35 Market St., Poughkeepsie
845-473-2072 | bardavon.org

SUNDAY, AUGUST 7

Desmond-Fish Library closed

Summer Wildflowers Walk
10 a.m. Outdoor Discovery Center
See details under Saturday.

Bear Mountain Pow Wow
11 a.m. – 7 p.m. Wayne Recreation Area
See details under Saturday.



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

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 10

Energy Efficiency Workshop
2 p.m. Howland Public Library | 313 Main St., Beacon | 845-831-1134 | beaconlibrary.org

Support Connection 20th Anniversary Party
5:30 – 8 p.m. Briarcliff Manor
25 Studio Hill Road, Briarcliff Manor
914-962-6402 | supportconnection.org

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

Free Movie Night: Into the Woods
8 p.m. Visitor's Center | Main St. at Route 9D, Beacon
845-765-0444 | beaconchamberofcommerce.com

THURSDAY, AUGUST 11

Story Laurie (grades K-6)
2 p.m. Howland Public Library
See details under Wednesday.

Burger and Beer Bash
6 – 10 p.m. Dutchess County Stadium
1500 Route 9D, Wappingers Falls | hvmag.com

7th Grade Trivia Party
6:30 p.m. Butterfield Library | Details under Monday

Beacon Democrats Meet-up
6:30 – 8:30 p.m. The Hop
458 Main St., Beacon | 845-264-4772

Community Conversation
7 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library | 472 Route 403, Garrison | 845-424-3020 | desmondfishlibrary.org

Monthly Dance Jam
7 p.m. Towne Crier Café | 379 Main St., Beacon
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com

HVSF2: Our Town Bake-off
7:30 p.m. Philipstown Depot Theatre
10 Garrison's Landing, Garrison
845-265-9575 | hvshakespeare.org

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

FRIDAY, AUGUST 12

Garrison School Board
7:30 a.m. Garrison School | 1100 Route 9D, Garrison | 845-424-3689 | gufs.org

Rhyme Time by The Hudson (ages 1-5) (First Session)
9:30 a.m. Boscobel | 1601 Route 9D, Garrison
845-265-3638 | boscobel.org

Origami Workshop for Teens
3 p.m. Howland Public Library
See details under Wednesday.

Friends of the Library Book Sale (Members' Preview)
6 – 8:30 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library
472 Route 403, Garrison
845-424-3020 | desmondfishlibrary.org

HVSF: Macbeth
6 p.m. Friday Night Prologue
7:30 p.m. Boscobel | See details under Aug. 5

Curfew (Short Film) with Q&A
7:30 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
477 Main St., Beacon
845-765-3012 | howlandculturalcenter.org

Hudson Valley Jazz Fest: Lindsey Webster
7:30 p.m. Towne Crier Café
379 Main St., Beacon
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com

Hudson Valley Jazz Festival: Slide Attack
8 p.m. BeanRunner Café
201 S. Division, Peekskill
914-737-1701 | beanrunnercafe.com

“I Let The Piece Tell Me What To Do” (from Page 9)

eye; the strap on the binoculars to carry us forward. Angles, repetitions.”

Nice grew up in Woodlake, California, a place he calls “an absolute paradise, at the base of Sequoia National Park, 20 feet above sea level: cattle on the hillsides, trees. I grew up in the country.” Noting that his wife, Sandra, grew up in White Bear Lake, Minnesota, Nice says both settings were places where “kids could get out into mischief.” Their move to Garrison came after a period living in Brooklyn, without a lot of money. “At those times — the late 60s — nobody sold any art. I had this truck and could hardly wait until spring to take my son Brian out. We looked at Connecticut, New Jersey, but then friends of ours in Garrison were redoing a barn, so we visited. We pulled into this driveway and knew this was it; we’ve been restoring it ever since. In 1820 this was a school for boys, four stories high. Around 54 boys lived here, with bedrooms all over the place!”

In between his growing up years and his adult life, Nice, his artistic talents already evident, attended the University of Southern California on a football scholarship, earning a teaching certificate and attending art classes at night. According to the Garrison Art Center’s notes, “At the end of the Korean War, Nice studied painting in Rome under the GI Bill. While living in Florence he met many artists and went to Salzburg for the opportunity to study with Oskar Kokoschka, whom he calls his biggest influence.

Nice recalls that, “Kokoschka taught me ‘how to see’ and to ‘forget about making paintings and concentrate on painting.’”

From Italy, Nice went to Paris and saw a major exhibition called *The New American Paintings*. Excited by the work of Willem de Kooning and Jackson Pollock and the possibilities of Abstract Expressionism, he returned to America. “I felt an energy and felt I had to come back,” Nice says, continuing “I wound up destroying a lot of previous work. I decided to reintroduce subject matter into my paintings — but really, I didn’t know how to paint things. I started by doing a drawing, putting on grid on it, then transferring it to canvas. The first painting I did — it’s now at the Walker Art Center — was of a bunch of grapes. I like to challenge the idea of a still life by lining things up rather than making them into an arrangement.” In 1962 Nice was accepted to the graduate school of painting at Yale University. Fellow students included Chuck Close, Richard Serra and others. After receiving his MFA from Yale in 1964, Nice taught at the School of Visual Arts for many years.

Despite periods of ill health in recent years, Nice continues to paint regularly, and the interest in his work keeps growing. Recent exhibitions include shows at the Driscoll Babcock Gallery and at Pace Prints, both in Manhattan. For the past year or so, Nice’s daughter has taken on the job of managing the business end of her father’s art, working

with galleries around the world, as well as extensively archiving the collection and updating his website. These activities prompted this show, in a way, as she relates, “I was digging around all his works when I was organizing and I came upon these posters here and there and thought they told a real story of the work he has done through the



An array of Don Nice's posters in a corner of his studio

Photos by A. Rooney

years. As we had been talking to Carinda [Swann, executive director of the Garrison Art Center] about an exhibit, I said, “How about a poster show?”

The Art Center was immediately on board, its exhibition notes explaining why: “... this selection of posters feature iconographic imagery from American culture. The exhibition shows viewers that the originals of a Nice poster are actually fine art paintings with a written message, mostly in the hand of the artist.”

Even with the travails of illness, the past year has been gratifying to Nice in unexpected ways, he explains: “The wonderful thing that happened because I was quite ill is that I, like a lot of others, worried about ‘What will happen to the

art?’ as I hadn’t paid attention to that side of things. I was never good about promoting my work either. Nowadays you really need someone to do this, and Leslie is that someone.”

The Riverside Galleries at Garrison Art Center, 23 Garrison’s Landing, are open Tuesday through Sunday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information visit donnice.com and garrisonartcenter.org or call 845-424-3960.

Support Groups

For a full list of area support groups, visit:
highlandscurrent.com/sg



The tools of his trade: Don Nice's paints and brushes



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PHILIPSTOWN DEPOT THEATRE

HVSF2: Seventh Summer Season at The Depot

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

.....
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Musician/Writer Franz Nicolay's Book is Launched at Binnacle *(from Page 9)*

compare their impressions, sometimes a century or more old, to mine in the present day," Nicolay writes in his introduction.

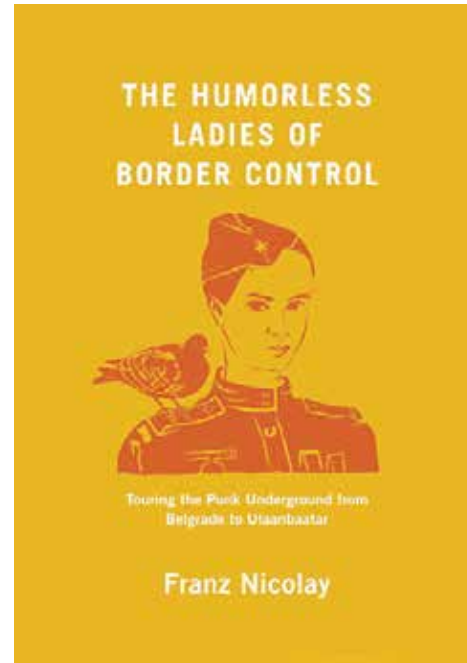
The book it yielded, *The Humorless Ladies of Border Control*, has just been released by The New Press, and Beacon's Binnacle Books is hosting the official release party on Saturday, Aug. 13 at 7 p.m., with a reading, signing, short performance, all accompanied by free wine. The public is welcome.

The underpinnings of the trips — which eventually took him to Russia, Ukraine, Bulgaria, Poland, Hungary, parts of the former Yugoslavia, the Balkan peninsula and Romania — were the club dates Nicolay was able to book along the way, using concerts to facilitate his route. "There's an archipelago of kids connecting on the internet, and I was plugged into that world because of the bands I've played with. All these kids are exposed to the music but for the most part bands don't go there, so there's a certain excitement which means you can draw audiences just by showing up." Press notes describe the places Nicolay performed as the "anarcho-leftist squats and DIY spaces of the punk rock diaspora." Asked to elucidate what that means, for those not part of it, Nicolay says simply, "The scene is young people putting on noisy acts where they can."

Nicolay describes a crossfading of his interests in the period before he began his independent travels, with writing

usurping making music. Combining the two was a way of adjusting the knobs, perhaps in a less than radical way for someone whose band was noted for "lyrically dense storytelling, narrative-based songs ... often with recurring characters" (David Dye, NPR Music). Nicolay emphasizes that "for the most part this is not a book about music, it's a book about the way young people with progressive expectations function in states in which those expectations are frustrated. Young people's access to the internet elevates certain hopes. Punk is a way of carving out a way of coping. There are certain similarities to the original punk movement, particularly in Russia and, to an extent, in Bulgaria. There are fascist skinhead gangs along with left-wing punks. There are great contrasts between places — in Russia, the young punks were cynical, passive, feeling there's nothing they can do to change things, whereas Ukrainians were really feeling their strength, directed at things they can be working toward."

In the book's introduction, Nicolay explains it further: "On one hand, it is a backward-looking story, in which a surprising number of aging rebels, from scenes and bands that had defined themselves in opposition to authoritarian communism in the 1970s and 1980s, took an unexpected (or perhaps not, like grouchy old American punks who discover a misanthropic taste for guns



and libertarianism) turn toward reactionary nationalism in the 1990s and 2000s. On the other hand, it is a forward-looking series of portraits, in their own words, of a young and internet-enabled generation with a utopian idea of American punk, DIY, progressive politics, and communitarian ethics. This idea of punk provides this generation with the moral fortitude to carve out a fragile, tenuous, but extensive and resilient autonomous zone for themselves ..."

Like most great journeys, this one was marred by the unexpected, when tensions with Russia escalated rapidly in Ukraine

during Nicolay's time there. He notes, "It turned different in Ukraine. The other places were a reckoning with the past. A kid in Kiev said to me 'It's like reading a book of history and I don't know how it will end yet.'" In his introduction, Nicolay discusses topicality and why, despite the ever-increasing swift discarding of "news", detailing it is important: "The story of history unfolds fast enough that the telling of it cannot hope to keep pace, and parts of this book may read like old newspapers by the time of its publication — but there is a value in capturing how people felt in the transient moment."

As for the book's title, despite the imagery it instantly evokes, Nicolay explains, "There's a broader explanation. There were so many border crossings, but the people I'm describing represent a borderless community. I'm not making any claims for this particular community. But you hear pundits describing that alternate civil societies are needed to counteract what is going on. These kids have airlifted an ideology from the generation of punk rockers in the '80s. But that ideology doesn't exist here any more, so they're enacting more of a pure version of American ideals."

Binnacle Books is located at 321 Main St., Beacon. For more information visit binnaclebooks.com or phone 845-838-6191.

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Community Conversations at Desmond-Fish Library

by Alison Rooney

The evolution of libraries over just the past couple of decades has been pretty radical. Those hushed institutions have reinvented themselves, propelled by the digital era and a population dependent on a wide spectrum of services. Taking this even further, Garrison's Desmond-Fish Library is initiating a series of "Community Conversations," a 'talking across the kitchen sink' of kinds for community members, library patrons or not, to exchange aspirations, ideas and concerns for the community as a whole, and work together to make the community even better. In other words, it's not just about the library.

The first of a planned five conversations extending through October will be held on Thursday, Aug. 11 at 4 p.m. at Desmond-Fish Library. The days of the week and times of the meetings are intentionally varied; see the end of this article for full details. These gathering of the community meetings, all informal and open to the public (i.e. not just Garrison residents) will continue over a series of months, at a variety of locations. They are part of a planning initiative by the Library's Board of Trustees.

The idea for all of this began with Red Hook's Libraries Transforming Communities (LTC) team, which set out to



DFL Director Jen McCreery, left, and board of trustees member Anita Prentice

Photo by A. Rooney

engage local residents there. They learned that, as in most places, people were frustrated that problems in their community—even obvious ones—often went unaddressed. In describing their process, an article on the American Libraries Association's website gave an example of the process, which began with a consensus on a small, but important issue for that town:

"When the discussion around commu-

nity aspirations began in 2014, most residents reported how much they loved living in this community. A couple of issues quickly rose to the top that needed to be addressed, including one iconic one: the town's only stoplight ... [This] was emblematic of their concerns and came up in many discussions with residents. The LTC team took action and brought officials together to figure out how to fix the problem. This seemingly

small act sent a signal to the community that it was possible to make things happen, which has led to people stepping forward to work together on other issues that are keeping Red Hook from being more livable and connected.

The library is playing a central role in convening these groups and has become a model for how other organizations want to work in the community ... Choosing to act on this was a critical decision; it sent a signal that change was possible and that people's concerns mattered ... The LTC team's efforts have inspired residents to get involved in ways they weren't before. The library is playing a convening role, but in many cases, residents are developing solutions to problems."

Library trustee Anita Prentice explains that as a public library, Desmond-Fish is effectively mandated to talk to the community. "Our aim is to ask 'How can we help you achieve your goals?' then using simple tools, like asking questions like 'What are your aspirations for the community? What changes could happen to help you achieve these ideals?' to help them achieve them. Prentice and Desmond-Fish Library Director Jen McCreery noted that Mid-Hudson's coordinator for library sustainability Rebekkah Smith Aldrich, had been extremely helpful to them, meeting with the board

(Continued on Page 15)

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"Jason Bourne" (PG13)

FRI 1:45 4:45 7:45,

SAT 12:15 3:15 6:15 9:15

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Bringing Joy to Politics, With Paperwork

Beacon's Center for Supportive Bureaucracy travels to Cleveland and Philadelphia

By Brian PJ Cronin



Ori Olon, right, presents a Joy Permit to the Cleveland Police Department

Photo provided

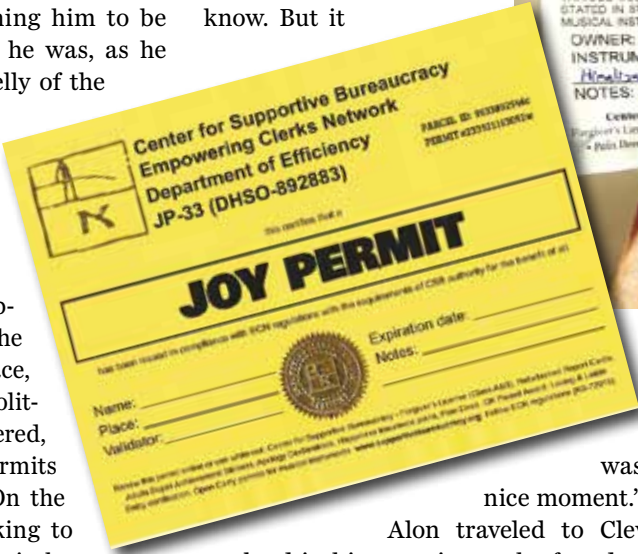
Ori Alon of Beacon didn't know what to expect when he traveled to Cleveland for the Republican National Convention two weeks ago. With the threat of violent protests hanging over the city, and friends warning him to be careful, Alon wondered if he was, as he put it, "driving into the belly of the beast."

But Alon couldn't let fear stop him. He was traveling to Cleveland on an important mission: To hand out paperwork.

He went down to the public square near where the convention was taking place, where protesters of every political persuasion were gathered, and issued Open Carry Permits for Musical Instruments. On the bus, he spent an hour talking to a woman about the troubles in her life she had overcome, and issued her a Forgiver's License and a Certificate of Recognition. He issued Diplomas for people on the street to be officially certified as Village Fools. He adopted a man he met on the street as his Uncle, via a Chosen Family Affidavit that declared he was adopting him "in recognition of all the ways in which you have enriched, supported, enlivened, and filled my life." And to the Cleveland Police Department, as he has in the past to the Poughkeepsie and Beacon police depart-

ments, he issued a Joy Permit.

"Maybe it will make them happy," said Alon. "Maybe it won't. I don't know. But it



Left, Joy Permit; above, an example of an Open Carry Permit for Musical Instruments

Photos provided

was a nice moment."

Alon traveled to Cleveland in his capacity as the founder of the Center for Supportive Bureaucracy, a project that began ten years ago on the streets of West Jerusalem. Back then, Alon would sit at the outdoors market and help people write letters to themselves or to other people, then type them out on a typewriter. With their permission, he'd type out two copies of the letter so that he could keep one for himself as part of an eventual book. "They gave me something, but I also gave them something by listening to them," he said. "I felt like a clerk,

providing a service."

One day two students who had just found a box of blank report cards in a recycling bin approached him in the market and asked him if he had ever had a bad year at school. As it turns out, Alon did have a particularly traumatic experience in first grade. His teacher caught him writing a certain four letter word and sent him to the principal's office. He never made it to the office. On the way there, he ran into the bathroom, too terrified to bring himself in for punishment. When Alon recounted this story in the marketplace, the students took one of the blank report cards, wrote out a new first grade report card for him with straight A's that praised

(Continued on Page 19)




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Community Conversations at Desmond-Fish Library *(from Page 13)*

and guiding a series of preliminary workshops in the spring, which took board members through this very process. What the board members took from their own sessions was a consensus that people “want to live in a community that feels more connected; having more places for people to gather.” Sustainability, protecting the environment and providing more outdoor education — getting kids in particular away from screens — were also important to them. Another area of concern was finding a better way to welcome people into the community, particularly those without children, who can find it isolating here. Some suggestions for improving in that area included meet-ups and specially targeted events, brochures given to realtors, and information packets, all less family-focused, to be more inclusive.

McCreery says the board found the process “inspiring — they wanted to take it to the community.” A pair of two different board members each time will moderate the public sessions, which McCreery said emphatically, should not be considered formal forums. “It’s a natural fit for us to support this. The tools we’ll provide are so people can achieve their goals. For us this will help re-focus on our purpose. We have been very involved with our physical building and our collection, and now we can look beyond that and it will be good to have

the feedback on that larger purpose. In a release from the library about this series, she stated, “The Library is a reflection of the community we serve. Hearing directly from our friends and neighbors in Philipstown will help us to focus our efforts and resources in support of our community’s larger goals.” According to David Lilburne, a Library trustee involved in planning the workshops: “These conversations are a chance for us to better understand people’s aspirations for our community, the concerns they have, and what they believe might make a difference in strengthening the community.”

To reach diverse sectors of the community, publicizing the Community Conversations, the Library has sent out eBlasts, started a Facebook page devoted to the series, handed out information at the farmers’ market. In addition to attending the Community Conversations, Prentice urged all interested community members to attend Desmond-Fish Library’s board meetings, which take place three times a year. “They’re open to the public and it’s not an elite group.” Anyone interested should contact the library for more information.

Schedule and locations for the Community Conversations:

- Thursday Aug. 11 at 4 p.m.: Desmond-Fish Library, Route 403, Garrison

- Wednesday Aug. 24 at 3 p.m.: Cold Spring Coffee Pantry, 3091 Route 9, Cold Spring
- Saturday, September 24 at 10 a.m.: Philipstown Recreation Center, 107 Glenclyffe, Garrison
- Friday, Sept. 30 at 9 a.m.: Garrison School, 1100 Route 9D, Garrison
- Thursday, Oct. 6 at 3 p.m.: St. Philip’s Church Parish House, 1101 Route 9D, Garrison. Childcare will be available for this workshop.
- If possible, please let the Library Director know if you plan attend; call McCreery at 845-424-3020

For those unable to attend a scheduled Community Conversation, a short survey is available on the Desmond-Fish Library website at desmondfishlibrary.org. This survey is also available in paper form at the Library and will be distributed at the Friends of the Library Book Sale beginning Aug. 13 at the Library.

NY Alert

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



Mystery Object

The staff at Mount Gulian Historic Site in Beacon were puzzled by a Revolution-era gun lock that came into the office earlier this month. The tag reads: “Lock from the effects of Capt. Silas Talbot, USN. Revolutionary War Hero. Given me by his Gt. (4) Grandson Wm. R. Talbot, Jr. S.C.” Mount Gulian asked on Facebook for help identifying what type of gun the lock would have been used on.

William Covington, a history professor in Texas, replied that it appeared to be from a Brown Bess musket because of the slight backward flair at the rear of the hammer, the non-pierced jaw screw and the jaws themselves.

Capt. Silas Talbot is best known for commanding the USS Constitution (“Old Ironsides”) from 1799 to 1801. He earlier had served as a Congressman from Brooklyn.

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Robert A. McCaffrey Realty is excited to host Cali Gorevic, an award winning black and white fine art photographer living in the Hudson Valley. Her work springs from her strong connection with nature. She often travels to unusual environments for the inspiration she finds among trees and rocks. The opening reception will be Friday evening, August 5th, beginning at 5pm. Stop in for a visit and support the local arts scene!

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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Turkey Survey Underway

State needs volunteers to count gobblers

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation has put out a call for volunteers to count wild turkeys during the month of August.

Participants are asked to record the sex and approximate age of all flocks observed during normal travel. (Be alert: Turkeys can run as fast as 12 mph.) To take part, download an application form at www.dec.ny.gov/animals/48732.html. Survey cards can be obtained by calling 518-402-8886 or e-mailing wildlife@dec.ny.gov with "Turkey Survey" in the subject line, or observations can be submitted online.

The DEC has conducted the survey since 1996 to estimate the number of wild turkey poults per hen statewide. Weather, predation and habitat conditions during the breeding and brood-rearing seasons can all impact nest success, hen survival and poult survival.

Music on the Water

The KJ Denhart Group will perform at the Cold Spring bandstand at 6 p.m. on Sunday, Aug. 7, as part of the summer music series sponsored by the Cold Spring Area Chamber of Commerce. Denhart's *Album No. 9*, a collection of 1960s jazz, pop and rock standards, will be released in the fall.

The following Sunday, Aug. 14, American roots band Spuyten Duyvil takes the stage. Its latest release, *The Social Music Hour*, Vol. 1, was among five finalists earlier this year for Album of the Year at the International Folk Music Awards.



KJ Denhart



Formed in 2008, Spuyten Duyvil is based in Yonkers

Photo provided

Visit highlandscurrent.com for news updates and latest information.



Guests at a past Special Needs Picnic *Photo provided*

4th Annual Special Needs Picnic

Dutchess hosts event in LaGrange

Dutchess County will host its fourth annual picnic for children special needs, their families and support agencies at noon on Tuesday, Aug. 16, at Freedom Park, 212 Skidmore Road, in LaGrange. The picnic is free but reservations are required and limited to the first 200 people who RSVP at dutchessny.gov/rsvp.

The picnic will include live music, dancing, recreational activities, a firetruck and face painting, as well as a visit from a K-9 officer from the Dutchess County Sheriff's Office. The Mid-Hudson Children's Museum will bring its popular Imagination Playground, and agencies such as Abilities First, Taconic Resources and MidHudson Regional Hospital will have representatives on hand to answer questions.

The picnic is made possible by donations; businesses may call 845-475-3578 to become sponsors.

Clam Bake Set for Aug. 13

Lunch and dinner will be served at NHFD

The North Highlands Fire Department will host its annual clam bake on Saturday, Aug. 13, at the firehouse at 504 Fishkill Road in Cold Spring. Raw clams will be served (along with burgers, hot dogs, sausage and peppers, chili and clam chowder) beginning at noon, and a surf 'n turf dinner will follow at 5 p.m. with steak, steamers, salad, potatoes and corn on the cob. Beer, wine and soda are included in the cost, which is \$50.

For more information, call 845-265-9595.

Nominations Open for Service Awards

For contributions to Putnam County community

The Putnam Community Service Network is seeking nominations for its annual awards for individuals and organizations that have made outstanding contributions in

community and/or human services in the county. The awards will be presented at a breakfast in October.

There are 10 categories, and more than one nomination may be made in each. Download a nomination form and descriptions at putnam.cce.cornell.edu. The deadline is Friday, Aug. 19.

For more information, call Marjorie Keith of the Cornell Cooperative Extension of Putnam County at 845-278-6738. The PCSN is one of its educational programs.

Farm Dinner to Feature "Vegetable Shaman"

Atlanta chef will host vegetarian feast

Glynwood Farm will host its annual GCSA Farm Dinner at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, Aug. 19, with chef Steven Satterfield preparing a vegetarian feast with organic produce from local farmers. Tickets are \$75 and available at glynwood.org/events.

Dubbed "the vegetable shaman" by the *New York Times*, Satterfield is executive chef and co-owner of Miller Union in Atlanta. His book, *Root to Leaf*, explains how to make the most out of the edible parts of plants.

Glynwood is located at 362 Glynwood Road, off Route 301, in Cold Spring.

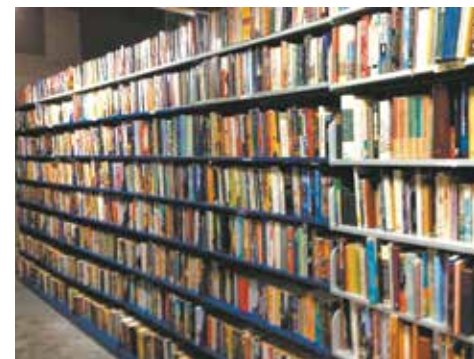


Steven Satterfield

Desmond-Fish Book Sale Opens Aug. 12

So many books library had to shut off donations

The annual used book and media sale organized by the Friends of the Desmond-Fish Library kicks off with a members' only preview from 6 to 8:30 p.m. on Friday, Aug. 12. All proceeds fund children's programs and the purchase books, DVDs and audiobooks for the library. Memberships will be available at the door.



The shelves are full for the Desmond-Fish sale

Photo provided

The sale continues daily through Aug. 22. Most books are \$2, and there will be a section of rare and signed books as well as CDs and DVDs. The Desmond-Fish received so many books this year it stopped accepting donations in mid-July.

The sale hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturdays, 1 to 5 p.m. Sundays and 2 to 5 p.m. weekdays (open until 8 p.m. on Tuesday and Thursday). On Aug. 20, books will be marked down 50 percent (excluding specials), on Aug. 21 a box or bag of books will be \$5 each and on Aug. 22, books will be free, with a donation suggested but not required.

The library is located at the intersection of Routes 9D and 403 in Garrison.

Pow Wow at Bear Mountain

Celebration scheduled for Aug. 6, 7

The annual Bear Mountain Pow Wow will take place on Saturday, Aug. 6, and Sunday, Aug. 7, at the Anthony Wayne Recreation Area at Harriman State Park (Exit 17 on the Palisades Parkway). The celebration of Native American heritage is open from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. each day, with a grand entrance of dancers at 1 and 4 p.m.

Tickets are available at the event or online at BearMountain2016.eventbrite.com for \$12 for adults, \$10 for seniors (age 65 and older) and \$8 for children (ages 6 to 12). Children age 5 and under are free. Family packs are available online for \$35. Parking is \$8. For more information, visit redhawkcouncil.org.



A dancer at the 2014 Bear Mountain Pow Wow

Photo by Thousand Words Photography

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Majestic Stare

The Trailside Zoo at Bear Mountain State Park will host a festival to celebrate the birds of New York from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 6. The event will include a Bird Olympics and Great Migration Challenge.



Bald Eagle

Photo by Chris O'Sullivan

The Lumineers Headline Dutchess Fest

Second annual event set for Aug. 7

The Dutchess County Airport in Wappingers Falls will again host its annual Speed of Sound musical festival on Sunday, Aug. 7, with The Lumineers as headliners. Presented by Radio Woodstock and Friendly Auto Group, the all-day event also will include performances by Simone Felice, Rayland Baxter, Swear and Shake, Nicole Atkins and Fiction of the Future.

Advance tickets start at \$45; children ages 10 and under are free. Parking is \$10, and the festival will provide a free shuttle to and from the New Hamburg Metro-North station. The doors open at 1 p.m.

For ticket information and a schedule, visit speedofsoundfest.com.



The Lumineers

Putnam Golf Course to Host Amateur Championship

Registration deadline is Aug. 13

The Putnam County Golf Course in Mahopac will host its second Amateur Golf Championship on Saturday, Aug. 15. Any individual with a USGA handicap

can participate. Golfers will be split up by age, gender and ability. Divisions include men's regular, senior (older than 60) and women for both handicap and non-handicap golfers.

The tournament "offers any golfer the opportunity to compete," said Jim Woods, the PGA Professional at the course. "Many golfers have never felt the pressure of actually competing in a tournament where every score counts."

The registration deadline is 6 p.m. on Thursday, Aug. 13. The \$85 fee includes greens fee, cart, prizes and food. In addition to a trophy, the

winners in each division will receive a golf course gift card.

The Putnam County Golf Course is located at 187 Hill St. For more information, visit putnamcountygolfcourse.com.

Manitoga Trails Open to Public

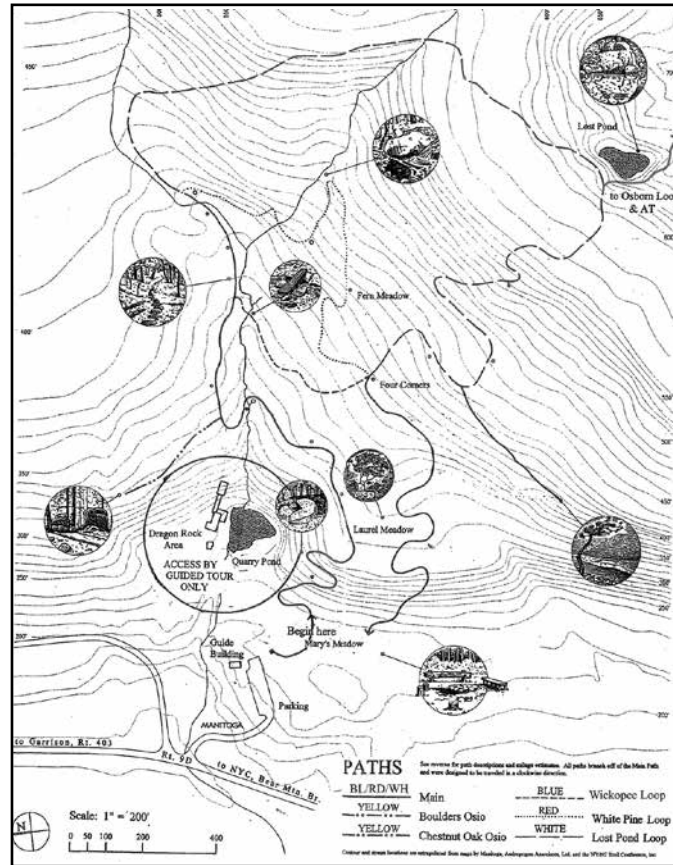
Open Space secures easement for Wright footpaths

Manitoga has reached an agreement with the Open Space Institute to provide permanent public access to its trails, providing an access point to the Appalachian Trail through Hudson Highlands State Park.

Designed by Russel Wright, the 2.1-mile woodland trail network passes by forest, rocky outcroppings, woodland streams and a pond and has stunning views of the Hudson Valley. The easement, secured by OSI for \$120,000, includes a 15-car parking area for visitors.

The trail network joins a stretch of land conserved by OSI near Hudson Highlands State Park, including Philipstown Park, Philipse Brook Gorge and the Garrison Institute.

A Hudson Valley cultural landmark, Manitoga consists of Wright's former home, studio and 75 acres of woodland garden. Wright (1904-1976) and his wife Mary acquired the site, then an abandoned quarry, in the 1940s and transformed it. He designed its trails to begin adjacent the house; the footpaths offer moderate loop hikes on the west-facing slopes as well as access to extended hiking on the Osborn Loop Trail and Appalachian Trail in the Hudson Highlands State



A Manitoga trail map by David McAlpin

Park.

Under the terms of the easement, Manitoga will continue to own, manage and maintain the trails, which will be open during daylight hours.

Vinyasa with Scenery



Yoga at Dockside

Photo provided

A community yoga class led by Krystal Ford takes place at 8:30 a.m. each Saturday morning through September at Dockside Park in Cold Spring. The suggested donation is \$5. Ford also leads a class on the lawn of the Desmond-Fish Library in Garrison at 6 p.m. on Tuesdays. A \$10 donation is suggested, a portion of which goes to the library. For more information, email info@mountainriveryoga.com.

Beacon

Specialist to Discuss Home Energy Savings

State agency promotes efficiencies

James Kopp from RUPCO, a Kingston-based contractor for the New York State Energy Research and Development Author-

ity (NYSERDA), will present a workshop at 2 p.m. on Wednesday, Aug. 10, at the Howland Public Library in Beacon to explain the agency's Home Performance with Energy Star. The program provides homeowners with a comprehensive, whole-house approach to improving energy efficiency and comfort while saving money.

For more information, visit saveenergyhudsonvalley.org. The library is located at 313 Main St.



James Kopp

Howland to Offer Yoga for Teens

Classes scheduled for Aug. 8, 15

Students ages 11 and older are invited to the Howland Public Library for Yoga for Tweens and Teens with Amy Soucy at 11 a.m. on Aug. 8 and 15. The hour-long classes will include yoga and mindfulness using postures, breathing practices, creative visualization, and relaxation and meditation techniques.

A segment will also be devoted to discussions that center on teen-related issues such as self-esteem, accomplishment, body image, stress, anger and happiness.

This program is free but registration is required. Email communityart@beaconlibrary.org or call 845-831-1134, ext. 101.

Film Festival to Screen Oscar Winner

Short-film director will stay for Q&A

The Beacon Independent Film Festival will screen the Oscar-winning short film, *Curfew*, at the Howland Cultural Center at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Aug. 12. A question-and-answer session with writer and director Shawn Christensen will follow, along with a reception.

The 19-minute film, released in 2012, won the Academy Award for Best Short Film — *Live Action* and was the basis for Christensen's 2014 feature film, *Before I Disappear*. The film follows Richie, played by Christensen, who at the lowest point in his life is asked to look after his nine-year-old niece, Sophia (played by Fatima Ptacek), for a few hours.

Admission is \$20 at the door, with proceeds benefiting BIFF and the Cultural Center, (Continued on next page)

COMMUNITY BRIEFS (From previous page)

Film Festival to Screen Oscar Winner

(from previous page)
which is located at 477 Main St. in Beacon. For more information about the film, visit curfewfilm.com.



A scene from *Curfew* with Scott Christensen and Fatima Ptacek

Sloop Club to Host Corn Festival Aug. 14

The Beacon Sloop Club will hold its annual Corn Festival at the Pete & Toshi Seeger Park from noon to 5 p.m. on Sunday, Aug. 14. The festival includes sweet corn, watermelon and homemade chili. Performers on two solar-powered stages will include April Mae & the Junebugs, Hank Woji, Haynes & Samuel, Heather & Ghost River Gypsy, Jann Klose and Spook Handy. There also will be children's activities, environmental displays and food and craft vendors.

The festival will be held rain or shine at the park, located at 1 Flynn Drive. For more information, visit beaconsloopclub.org.

Beacon Needs After-school Aides

New program for K-5 students begins in fall

The City of Beacon is hiring aides for an after-school program for grades kindergarten through 5 that will be introduced this fall. Aides will work from 3 to 6 p.m. on weekdays when school is in session. You must be 18 years old and pass a mandatory background check. To apply, visit the Beacon Recreation Center at 23 W. Center St. between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. on weekdays or download an application at goo.gl/3KQ38T.

Breakneck Ridge Revue

Folk musicians will play Aug. 14

The Breakneck Ridge Revue, a collective of seasoned Hudson Valley musicians and songwriters, will perform at the Towne Crier Café in Beacon at 7:30 p.m. on Sunday, Aug. 14. The performers include David Ross (president of the nascent American Center for Folk Music), Chris Brown, Dan Einbender, Todd Giudice, Al Hemberger, Pat Jones, James Jospe and David Rothenberg, along with surprise guests.

They'll play as an ensemble and also in solo, duo and trio variations, offering originals and classic 1970s folk. The Towne Crier

is located at 379 Main St. To order tickets, which are \$10, visit townecrier.com.

Poet Laureate Applications

Beacon appointment will begin Jan. 1

The Howland Public Library is accepting submissions from residents of the Beacon City School District to serve a two-year term as Beacon Poet Laureate. Duties include readings at select government and community-wide events.

Applications are available at the library at 313 Main St. The deadline is Friday, Sept. 9. The city's third poet laureate will be named in November and will begin Jan. 1, succeeding Thomas O'Connell. Larry Sansone was named the first poet laureate in 2013.

Volunteers Needed for Tick Task Force

Dutchess legislature puts out call

The Dutchess County Legislature is recruiting volunteers to serve on its Tick Task Force, which includes 12 members of the public who serve two-year terms, two legislators and a representative from the Dutchess County Health Department.

County residents may apply by emailing a resume and a brief letter to Carolyn Morris at cmorris@dutchessny.gov or by mail to Dutchess County Legislature, Attention: Carolyn Morris, 22 Market Street, 6th Floor, Poughkeepsie, NY 12601.

Here's Looking at You

Center opens exhibit of portraits

The Howland Cultural Center in Beacon will share portraits by 17 artists in an exhibit opening on Saturday, Aug. 6, and continuing through Aug. 29. An opening reception is scheduled for 3 to 5 p.m. on Aug. 6.

The works in *Portraits 2016* range from traditional sittings to the whimsical to the abstract to folk-art expressionism. The artists are Rosanne Cerbo, Russell Cusick, Michael D'Antuono, Alan Dingman, Stacie Flint, Claudia Gorman, Cynthia Harris-Pagano, Emilie Houssart, Helen Lang, Raphael Lopez, Nestor Madalengoitia, Joe Radoccia, Richard Taddei, Donald Whitely, Scott Wohlberg, David Yawman and Bob Zahn.

Gallery hours are from 1 to 5 p.m. Friday to Monday and 1 to 9 p.m. on Second Saturday, Aug. 13. The cultural center is located at 477 Main St.



Paint 9, by Richard Taddei

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Bringing Joy to Politics, With Paperwork *(from Page 14)*

him as one of the best students in the class, and gave it to him.

It was a joke, but it worked. The effect was transformative.

Alon continued the letter-writing project after moving to New York City, but it wasn't until he moved to Beacon a few years ago, and began doing the project around town, that he figured out where he wanted to go with it. "Doing it here in Beacon was special because everyone here is so supportive of me," he said. When he wrote a letter for one man who needed to tell his landlord that he wouldn't be able to pay his rent that month, Alon thought back to the students with the report cards in Jerusalem and how he could turn his participatory art project into something that operates in a more official capacity, that could enact real change. The vast majority of the bureaucratic paperwork that we encounter is negative: Citations, summons, things with dire legal consequences. Why not use bureaucracy to positive ends?

"It's not about if the government is big or small, it's about if the government has a heart," he said. "No matter what you think of government, it's something we have; so let's use it to increase compassion."

Alon and his volunteer clerks could soon be seen around Beacon at festivals issuing Clown Visas, Apology Declarations, Joy Permits and Happiness Insurance Cards



Filling out Joy Permits during the Democratic National Convention
Photo by Amile Clark Wilson

to insure the Joy Permits. "You write on the insurance card who your happiness provider is, the people who bring you the most happiness," he said. As Alon came up with more ideas for more forms, he began carrying around heavy, color coded binders wherever he went to keep track of it all. "One of the many ironies about this project is that I'm actually really bad with paperwork," he admits. "I've had to become much more organized."

Like the students who issued him a refurbished report card back in Jerusalem, the project is, essentially, a joke. "My job is to make people laugh," said Alon. "But it's also to make people think and to subvert authority. That's the real job of a clown. And I'm also a therapeutic clown,

offering services that are emotional and sympathetic." If you've been issued a laminated Forgive's License, wouldn't you be more inclined to forgive those around you? What harried parent, after a particularly bad day, wouldn't want an officially dated and stamped OK Parent Award?

"I saw people in Cleveland with shirts that said 'Free Hugs,'" said Alon. "I'm basically doing the same thing, but instead of 'Free Hugs,' it's 'Free Paperwork.'"

After the Republican National Convention, Alon traveled to Philadelphia for the Democratic National Convention. Instead of the diversity of protesters that he encountered in Cleveland, Alon found that the majority of the protesters there were the "Bernie or Bust" supporters, who bitterly complained that the primary had been stolen from them.

Alon issued them Joy Permits.

"One woman told me that the Joy Permit inspired her to look beyond the primary," he said. "And to think about the continued role that citizens have to play in our democracy."

Those looking for their own Karma Inspections or Pain Deeds can usually find Alon or one of his CSB clerks at various Beacon festivals, or they can go online to <http://www.supportivebureaucracy.org/> in order to become a CSB clerk and issue



A sign posted by Alon at the Beacon Post Office
Photo provided

the documents themselves. "You can also go illegal and become an undocumented clerk," he said. "We support that."

Or, you may soon be able to go down to City Hall. As one more sign that the project is coming full circle, members of the Beacon City Council have spoken to Alon about the possibility of certifying the Beacon city clerks as CSB clerks so that they can "officially" issue his paperwork as well.

"It's not like these are expensive forms to print, and if you've got to go down to City Hall anyway, why not make it fun?" he said. "Why shouldn't a city be able to issue its own Joy Permits?"

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The Siren Call of the Waterfall

Look, but don't fall

By Anita Peltonen

There's not much that beats finding a waterfall with spillwater wading pools, deep in the forest. Arcing over them you might see small rainbows, bent birches or a hand-hewn bridge. They feel primitive, and, largely, they are. The gneiss and granite that lie beneath Hudson Highlands waterfalls "is sometimes upwards of a billion years old," says Aaron Donato, Outdoor Educator at Cold Spring's Taconic Outdoor Education Center (TOEC).

There are hundreds of cascades and cataracts across New York, he adds, and they differ in appearance from east to west. The Highlands were "formed during the Grenville Orogeny, the geological event responsible for the creation of much of the Appalachian Mountains."

Particular to the Mid-Hudson Valley region is the shadowy "clove" — Dutch for "cleft" or a narrow rock gorge — that draws snow and water down highland slopes to form falls.

Today, there are state and regional parks that provide paths, viewing promenades and bridges for many of New York's rock canyons and waterfalls. For the wilderness falls that appeal to climbers and hikers, the ideal mode is to "view them from afar," says Donato. But being human, we'll try to get close anyway, thus our safety tips, below.

And as tempting as it is, Donato recommends that you don't swim unless it's permitted, "as many waterfalls have a strong undertow and recirculation pools hidden underneath the falls, with various snags that can cause drowning."

In other words, the most beautiful conditions under which to approach waterfalls are almost always the most hazardous.

Local chutes and lore

An example of a dramatic nearby clove lies off Route 9 in Cold Spring by the Putnam-Dutchess border. Along Clove Creek gorge lie the remains of an old stone grist mill. Last week, churning waters from recent storms there formed some of the loveliest types of falls found anywhere: ledge and curtain falls, as well as a curved, powerful slide section just north of Horton Road.

"After the weekend, the falls sounded like airplanes," said Warren Eggerton, who lives with his wife Ellen in a hollow near the grist mill, and worries about his dogs going in whenever the main Clove Creek sluice becomes this forceful. He swore it was a "mere trickle" during the drought.

Meanwhile, Kristin Kucer of Beacon, who takes evening walks by Clove Creek from a friend's house, relates local tales of United Nations Secretary-General Dag Hammarskjöld coming to sit by the great cascade here as a quick, meditative escape from New York City. (He died in a plane crash in 1961 on a UN work mission.)

Short and day-trips to falls abound. Cave-bound falls are as close as eastern



Grey heron at Clove Creek, near Horton Road, Cold Spring

Photo by Matti Peltonen

Dutchess County, at Dover Plains' Church Creek Caves off Tinkertown Rd. In Beacon, many of the manmade falls you see were harnessed for industrial purposes during its hatmaking heyday; Beacon's natural whitewaters are edged by popular fishing and hiking spots. Some are formed by spill-off from dams like the Melzingah Reservoir at Dutchess Junction, where Beacon and Fishkill meet just north of Breakneck Ridge.

Most dramatic in the state? The falls and gorges at Ithaca are associated with the history of the Algonquins and Lenape. Taughannock Falls have the highest vertical drop in New York, at 215 feet.

Indian Brook Falls at Cold Spring are attached to a Native American tale involving the Wappingers tribe. As Donato relates it, a Wappinger named Manteo fell in love with a captured Dutchman and pleaded he be spared so she could marry him. But one day he saw a Dutch-flagged ship and made a swim for it. Bereft Man-

"If you are climbing or navigating a dangerous area, it's not the time to be holding your camera, getting out your sunglasses, or swigging from your water bottle."



The waters of Indian Brook Falls, between Cold Spring and Garrison, feed into the Hudson River at the Audubon bird conservation area a few hundred feet downriver.

Photo by A. Peltonen

teo eventually "flung herself from the top of Indian Brook Falls, drowning in the pool below. Whistling Willie's restaurant [at Routes 301 and 9D, Cold Spring], once bore the name Hotel Manteo, in honor of her." The name is still emblazoned on the wall in the room to the right of the bar.

Horribly beautiful

The magical call of waterfall may span the ages, but today more than ever, it's time to know the hazards that accompany their beauty. This isn't just about the careless selfie-taker, although they now count among the too-many New Yorkers who die or are injured around waterfalls.

This is also about the frequency and ferocity of inundations we've seen in recent years, with storms like Sandy and Irene. More recent waterfall deaths have been reported at Letchworth in western New York, Roaring

Brook in the Adirondacks, and Kaaterskill near Hunter Mountain, among others. Statewide statistics are hard to come by, say rangers, as waterfall accidents are sometimes counted as drowning or hiking accidents. At Roaring Brook, one death came when a photographer slipped on wet rocks; another occurred when a 12-year-old boy was killed by a falling boulder, according to the online *Adirondack Almanac*.

So while *The Current* would like you to explore our regional cascades, we also hope to provide an informal guide to climb or walk them safely.

As the state parks department notes (nysparks.com/parks/), many falls are "on undeveloped, untamed land... The environment is so unpredictable, the chance of something happening if you visit a lot of waterfalls is considerable."

You may confront water surges or flash floods, slippery mosses, sharp lichens, unlodged logs, sink holes, and more.

Keep a gear head

No guide can be perpetually up to date with on-the-ground conditions.

To deal with both normal and extreme waterfalls conditions, then, think hard about your footwear and clothes. Wear serious hiking shoes with strong soles, and try crampons to "give your shoes the extra needed grip for slippery creek-walks and waterfall climbing," says NYS Parks. "Don't wear loose clothing that can snag on branches."

As on most hikes, you should bring drinking water. Fast-moving water is not a guarantee against bacterium like giardia. "If you are climbing or navigating a dangerous area, it's not the time to be holding your camera, getting out your sunglasses, or swigging from your water bottle," warns NYS Parks. "The only thing you should be holding on a tough hike is a reliable walking stick." Yes, just one. The other hand may be needed to break a fall.

Steady

When you push boundaries around waterfalls, you risk your life, your hiking companions', and emergency and rescue workers'. Rangers advise people never to do falls or creek trails alone.

If using any special equipment, train carefully. If there's going to be or has been heavy rain or snow, it's best not to creek-walk in narrow gorges. In cooler months, look for ice under mud and mist that freezes on rock surfaces; in warmer, watch for algae, and in hunting season, be aware there may be hunters.

Finally, most people don't obey the warnings like Danger! and No Trespassing, but they should. There's a reason one hears so many tragic tales about the most alluring falls.



Roundhouse Falls, at night, in City of Beacon

Photo by A. Peltonen