

The HIGHLANDS Current



Dog Days
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AUGUST 12, 2016

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Putnam County legislator Barbara Scuccimarra

Photo by M. Turton



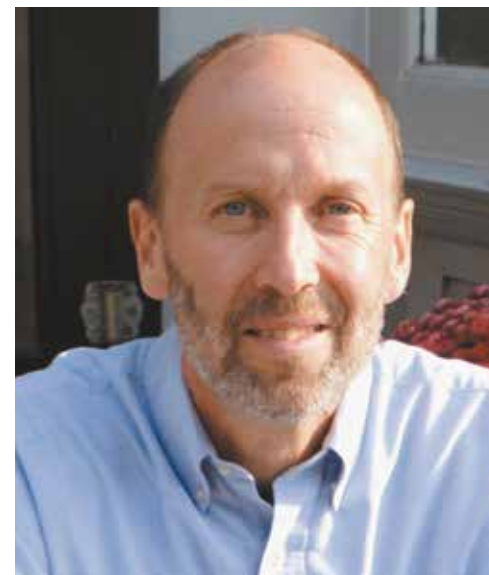
Cold Spring Mayor Dave Merandy

Photo by M. Turton



County Executive MaryEllen Odell

Photo by K.E. Foley



Richard Shea, Philipstown Town Supervisor

File photo

Government Leaders Look for New Path on Senior Center

MERANDY URGES "CLOSE ATTENTION" TO SENIOR CENTER DEAL

By Michael Turton

Cold Spring Mayor Dave Merandy is urging residents to "pay close attention" to ongoing plans to establish a new senior citizen center as part of the Butterfield redevelopment project.

The initiative stalled last week when Garrison resident and former Fox News CEO Roger Ailes and his wife Elizabeth withdrew their pledge of \$500,000 towards construction of the center. The Ailes' decision came after the Putnam County Legislature tabled an agreement that would have had ACI, a non-profit the Ailes' established, oversee the building of the proposed 6,000-square-foot center in the Lahey Pavilion in space leased by the county from developer Paul Guillaro.

At the Aug. 9 meeting of the Cold Spring Village Board, Philipstown town board member Bob Flaherty reported that Put-

nam County Legislator Barbara Scuccimarra had recently assured him that the senior citizen center project is moving forward — but in a statement at the end of the meeting, Merandy raised several questions about the project.

The mayor was critical of the tabled agreement — and of the Putnam County Legislature for its lack transparency in drafting it. "A lot of this is a mystery to everyone," he said. "For people who believe in the open meetings law, there should be some concern. Negotiating doesn't have to be held in public but I think before terms of an agreement are actually voted on the public should see it," Merandy said. "I think they (the legislature) are trying to do a runaround on laws which is a little ironic since they are a legislative board."

The public (Continued on Page 3)

SHEA OPTIMISTIC THE PROJECT CAN BE DONE

By Holly Toal and Kevin E. Foley

While a \$500,000 donation from Roger Ailes toward a new senior center in Cold Spring may be off the table after the former Fox News chairman withdrew his pledge, county lawmakers say they are committed to seeing the project completed.

Ailes and his wife Elizabeth, publisher of the *Putnam County News and Recorder*, had promised the funds in 2015 for a senior center at the Butterfield redevelopment, but last week said they will give the money to other charities.

"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 *PCNR*. "The family said they hoped to help the senior citizens of Philipstown but [it] is clear for political reasons their funding is not wel-

come. 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."

Ailes resigned last month from Fox News after a former anchor there sued him, alleging sexual harassment, and the company launched an internal investigation.

The announcement that he would withdraw his pledge came after an Aug. 2 meeting of the Putnam County Legislature in which more than a dozen Cold Spring residents voiced opposition to the proposal to name the senior center after Ailes, which was a condition of the charitable agreement.

Following the meeting, County Executive MaryEllen Odell (Continued on Page 3)

Beacon School Board to Fill Vacancies by Appointment

District residents will be invited to apply

By Jeff Simms

The Beacon City Board of Education has decided to fill its two vacancies by appointment rather than holding a special election.

Residents of the district who are interested in completing the terms of Jose Mu-

noz and Frank Garnot, who each resigned this summer, will be asked to submit an application and participate in two public forums. The appointees will have to run to keep the seats in the May 2017 election.

Candidates will be invited to participate in a "meet the candidates" forum similar to the one held at Beacon High School on May 11 and to also make a public statement at an upcoming board meeting. The seven members of the board will then interview candidates privately before voting

on the appointments.

During its Aug. 8 meeting, the board again debated the extent to which the public will be involved in the interview process, since voters are not being asked to decide who fills the seats.

Board member Bill Zopf questioned the logic of holding a candidates' event, saying "the public is not going to be giving their opinion" about which candidates are best.

Board Vice President Kenya Gadsden

said she'd rather give the public insight into the candidates being considered, even if the vote is ultimately private. "The final decision is with us," she said, "but we'd be allowing the public to ask the questions they want to ask."

Anthony White, who is board president, told *The Current* on Aug. 11 that he hopes to have the vacancies filled by the Sept. 26 meeting, adding that he hoped the public component of the interviews would lend transparency. (Continued on Page 7)

Roots and Shoots

Pests in Native Trees

Early detection is key to survival

By Pamela Doan

We import many of our problems when it comes to nature. Exotic species that are introduced, intentionally or mistakenly, tend to have the most potential to devastate native flora and fauna. It's a global problem that's been exacerbated by the flow of stuff — products, food, plants, animals — from country to country.

As I type this, I'm sure there's a garden writer in Asia doing a column about how a pest hitchhiked its way into their country from the U.S. For example, in its native environment the emerald ash borer, native to Asia and Russia, is kept in check by several species of wasps. Some of those wasps have been introduced as biocontrols in the U.S. The wasps parasitize the beetle's larva, resulting in fewer emerald ash borers and less damage without using pesticides or removing trees. The insects aren't eradicated, which is difficult, but they are managed.

The emerald ash borer, a serious threat to the ash tree population, was recently found in trees in Oneida County. The state Department of Environmental Conservation, which tracks infestations, issued a quarantine on moving firewood this spring to help stop it from spreading.

The quarantine zone means that it's illegal to move ash



Distinctive sap marks on a pine that look like popcorn are a sign of a Southern pine beetle infestation.



Asian longhorned beetles can be found in pool filters at this time of year.

Photos: bugwood.org

wood in any form as logs, firewood, trees, or even wood chips, beyond that border. Any of those activities could help the emerald ash borer travel without your knowledge. The entire Hudson Valley is in a quarantine border. Follow the containment guidelines and make sure that any time you're dealing with ash trees or wood, you know where it came from and how it was handled. Anyone with ash trees on their property can aid in monitoring for signs of an infestation and reporting it. If an ash tree looks unhealthy, showing dead areas in the canopy or yellow leaves in the summer, that could be a sign that the emerald ash borer is under the bark damaging it.

The emerald ash borer exits the tree in late summer (around now) and leaves a distinct D-shaped hole where it comes out after feeding under the bark since spring. The tree dies within a few years if untreated. The insect's feeding cuts off the flow of water and nutrients that it needs to circulate throughout its system.

The Southern pine beetle is another threat to our forests and has been found in traps in Bear Mountain State Park, Schunnemunk Mountain State Park near Newburgh and Minnewaska State Park Preserve. The New York-New Jersey Trail Conference has a volunteer network that has been monitoring the traps and they are always in need of more help in searching the forests for evidence of the Southern pine beetle.

"People have been out looking and so far we haven't found infested trees," said Linda Rohleder, the agency's director of land stewardship. "That's worrisome. The beetles are



The emerald ash borer leaves trails under the bark of an ash tree as it feeds.

here and we need to find them. If you can catch an infestation early, there's a better chance that we can do something about them." Even though the beetles haven't been spotted on this side of the river yet, they can fly.

Research hasn't determined why the Southern pine beetle has made it so far out of its normal range. It could be that climate change is making the habitat more suitable or that they were carried here by Superstorm Sandy.

Signs of infestation include areas on the pine where the needles turn coppery, meaning they're dying. Rohleder said to look on the trunk for places that look like popcorn, where pitch is coming out of the tree from the hole the beetle made. Anyone who finds something like that should take a photo and email it to invasives@nynjtc.org for confirmation.

The DEC is also enlisting public help in monitoring for evidence of the Asian longhorned beetle. The invasive insect has killed hundreds of thousands of trees in the U.S. and is a major threat to maples, which make up much of our native forests in New York. Anyone with a pool is asked to check the filter for the beetle. It comes out at this time of year and the DEC has identified it in areas of Long Island through this effort. More information is available at www.dec.ny.gov about how to submit information.



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Merandy Urges “Close Attention” to Senior Center Deal *(from Page 1)*

was unaware of the terms of the proposed agreement until *LoHud* columnist David McKay Wilson revealed its contents in an article published just prior to the Aug. 2 meeting of the legislature. At Tuesday's meeting Merandy urged residents to write to Putnam County legislators, asking them “to make that agreement public. From what's been written (in the media), this is a very bad agreement.”

Merandy also questioned the potential cost of the project, which the tabled agreement estimated at \$1.5 million. “This agreement could balloon to \$4 or \$5 million,” he said, without indicating the source of the increased cost estimate. The mayor acknowledged that the project will be paid for by Putnam County but added, “But that's our money. It's coming from us from our taxes and everyone should really pay close attention to that.” He also called upon local elected officials to hold the county legislature accountable. “It's our responsibility — the town boards — to put pressure on (the legislature) to show their constituents where that money is going.”

The possible loss of a \$250,00 grant from the New York State Dormitory Authority also has to be considered, Merandy said. That funding, which had been

supported by State Assemblywoman Sandy Galef and State Senator Sue Serino, has been called into question because the proposed agreement contained no language requiring contractors to pay workers the “prevailing wage.”

“Everyone wants to see a senior center,” Merandy concluded. “But we've got to know what the costs are and we've got to know what we're getting — and we really have no idea what we're getting.”

Contacted by *The Current* Legislator Scuccimarra summed up the situation very differently. “It was unfortunate to lose the Ailes' generous contribution ... but I'm hoping (the project) won't be delayed much,” she said. “We have to re-scope the project a bit but hopefully it will still be right on target.”

The District 1 legislator took umbrage with Merandy's comments. “I totally disagree” with the mayor, she said. “The lease agreement is a good one. It's been discussed for six months at every meeting of the Physical Services Committee,” meetings that she said were all open to the public. “It was discussed ad nauseum,” she added.

Scuccimarra also disputed the mayor's claim that the cost of the senior citizen

center could increase to more than four million dollars. “I don't know where he got that figure. With the Ailes' money the total cost was about \$1.5 million.” She also downplayed any potential loss of Dormitory Authority funding, explaining that with the withdrawal of Ailes' contribution, which she pointed out was private money, the situation has changed. “Of course we will abide by Wicks Law,” along with paying prevailing wages and other legal requirements of publicly funded projects.

In other business ...

- The Village of Nelsonville Planning Board will act as lead agency for the environmental review (SEQRA) of a proposed 10-acre, three-lot subdivision at James Pond. The property, previously owned by the Haldane Central School District, has been sold to a private owner. Two lots will be developed as residences while the lot that includes James Pond will be used for educational purposes.

- Trustees approved the low bid of \$138,165 by East National Water LLC for the installation of new, cellular water meters. The Cold Spring water system also serves Nelsonville and

includes approximately 890 meters.

- New York State Department of Environmental Conservation is expected to sign off on completion of coal tar remediation at the Cold Spring Boat Club by week's end, enabling club members to resume use of the site.
- Greg Phillips, Superintendent of Water and Sewer, reported that three of five leaks in village water lines have been repaired, eliminating the loss of about 50,000 gallons of water per day. He also said that recent heavy rains have brought the village reservoirs on Lake Surprise Road back up to 95 percent of capacity.
- Residents have until the end of August to submit comments on the initial recommendations of the Code Update Committee (CUC) as part of its revamping of the Village Code. CUC's recommendations are available on the villager website (<http://coldspringny.gov>). Comments can be emailed to trustee Marie Early at trustee.early@coldspring.gov or submitted by mail to Village Hall, 85 Main St., Cold Spring, NY 10516 Attention: Code Update Committee.

Shea Optimistic the Project Can Be Done *(from Page 1)*

told WAMC-TV she was disappointed.

“I think the seniors in Cold Spring are very upset today to have to wonder whether or not the commitment is going to continue to have the senior center,” she said. “We've worked very hard for many, many years to get this project off the ground and it's really quite sad that at the final stage, all of a sudden, it becomes an assault — a personal attack — on two individuals who have been nothing but extremely generous and very committed...to our seniors.”

“And the donation was a personal donation,” she continued. “This was something that they felt very committed to and, quite frankly, it's a shame and it's an embarrassment.”

However, Odell said the county is still committed to giving Cold Spring seniors a place to gather and receive services.

“I spoke with the developer yesterday, Mr. [Paul] Guillaro,” she said. “I spoke with the supervisor in the Town of Philipstown, Mr. Richard Shea, and our commitment and our resolve is still there to provide a senior center. We will be looking at the budget. We will be looking at re-scoping the project.”

The county approved a lease agreement with Guillaro in May, with legislators Dini LoBue (R-Mahopac Falls) and Kevin Wright (R-Mahopac) voting against it. However, the lease has not yet been signed, as lawmakers had been working out the details of the charitable agreement.

Under the proposed lease, the county would occupy 6,000 square feet of space in Lahey Pavilion for 15 years at a cost of about \$3.5 million. This is in addition to the estimated \$1.5 million needed to renovate the space, of which \$500,000 would have come from Ailes.

In a phone interview, Shea acknowledged he has spoken with Odell and said he planned to do so again perhaps as early as the day (Aug. 11) he spoke with *The Current* from a vacation spot. The town supervisor expressed optimism that a way can be found to jumpstart the creation of a county senior center at the Butterfield development.

“My opinion is that things should go forward and stay at Butterfield if the details work out,” Shea said. “We have a project approved and a space approved. No matter what happens, the main goal is to make sure the seniors get a place.”

The first thing Shea said he needed was more detailed information especially about the costs of a lease at Butterfield. “We have to sit down with the county and discuss the real costs. And he said, “The developer has to be upfront about the costs as well.”

Exploring lease options such as a shorter term at the outset with an option to renew are part of Shea's thinking as the process begins. He emphasized that all parties-- government, business and citizens-- need to be open to rethinking things in order to move ahead.

“My opinion is that things should go forward and stay at Butterfield if the details work out. We have a project approved and a space approved. No matter what happens, the main goal is to make sure the seniors get a place.”

Shea, who serves as the budget officer for the town, said he believed the county would have to find a way to finance the building of a senior center in the leased Butterfield space. He said he hoped some “efficiencies” could be found within the county's \$150 million budget.

Town money

Asked if he thought the town might participate financially as well Shea said he did not rule that possibility out and said he thought The Village of Cold Spring might have to contribute as well. He emphasized that Philipstown taxpayers have

paid taxes to the county for a long time without getting the center or other services. “We deserve this (the senior center).”

Shea added that he did not think the center should be limited to only seniors although they should be the focus of planning. He said he thought use of the space should be open to other community needs such as public meetings.

Legislator Carl Albano (R-Carmel) said he, too, was disappointed that a Cold Spring senior center would be held up.

“I have every intention to see if the county can move forward with this project as I still feel this is a much needed fa-

cility for our seniors in Philipstown/ Cold Spring,” he said. “I feel the Butterfield site is ideal.... The Ailes offer was quite generous and it would have gone a long way for our seniors on the west side of the county. I plan to explore all possibilities to continue with this project for our seniors on the west side of Putnam County.”

Albano also issued a statement correcting what he called an “incorrect” comment in an Aug. 3 report in the Journal News that quoted him as saying he'd now “be in favor of purchasing a place” for a Cold Spring senior center, rather than leasing the space.

“As a result of the [Aug. 2 legislature] meeting, I never suggested the county seek to buy a building instead of renting from Paul Guillaro,” he wrote. “I did state that when we decided to create a new senior center in Cold Spring some years prior, I would have been receptive to purchasing a building if the circumstance were right. I also stated that no such option was available to us.”

The American Legion hall, where the seniors currently meet, was mentioned as an option, he said, but he did not recall it being offered for sale and “it was determined that the building did not have the potential to accommodate the type of center we were considering.”

“The proposed Butterfield site was an ideal location and I was glad that developer Paul Guillaro offered it to the county for rent,” Albano said. “Contrary to one legislator's statements, I know of no other potential sites for purchase or rent at this time.”

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor:

I was very disheartened to read of the Ailes family withdrawing their \$500,000 donation for an enlarged and upgraded Philipstown Senior Center. Mr. and Mrs. Ailes have very publicly courted the seniors for years with their promise of this donation. They repeatedly made very public statements that the seniors deserve a greatly improved center here. Unless the Ailes now feel otherwise, the seniors should not be punished for the situation that Mr. Ailes now finds himself in. Nor should residents, now sensibly objecting to the naming, be scapegoated for the Ailes family's ungifting.

I did not hear any comment from the public on refusing the money at the County Legislature meeting on August 2. I myself gave comment against proceeding with the naming of the Senior Center at this point in time. But even Mr. Ailes himself must understand the issue here. He reportedly explained in his resignation letter to FOX News that he did not want to be a distraction to the work at hand. The same principle applies here. This is not a political issue as stated in the Aug. 3rd edition of the *PCNR* newspaper. Abuse in any form is not a partisan issue. To suggest so is a blatant manipulation of the public's understanding and trust.

If the Ailes family still feels the same about the seniors, they should make good on their promise and not jeopardize this project. I for one support an upgraded and enlarged Philipstown Senior Center and welcome the Ailes' donation to help make that a reality. I urge them to reconsider and make their donation to the County, earmarked for a Philipstown Senior Center, with no other strings attached.

Sincerely,

Matt Francisco, *Cold Spring*

Dear Editor:

There's a lot of talk in today's politics about deals, both "good deals" (like the ones Donald Trump claims he makes) and "terrible deals" (like the ones he claims our government makes). I'd call the Barbara Scuccimarra-sponsored deal between Putnam County and Roger Ailes over the build-out and leasing of the senior center one of the "terrible" ones.

While the Ailes-owned *Putnam County News and Recorder* obfuscates the details of this contract by focusing on the public outrage over the naming of the facility, it continues its pattern of disservice to our community by evading details of the deal — a deal that Scuccimarra and Ailes were making on our behalf in total secrecy until the press inconveniently uncovered it. The *PCNR*'s recent denial of this secrecy contradicts the numerous denied FOIL requests for the draft agreement. Some legislators first saw the document only on the morning they were to vote on it, one of the reasons it was tabled.

The original Ailes "gift" of \$500,000 would have gone far in outfitting the \$850,000 project, leaving only \$350,000 to the taxpayer. A good deal! There's no explanation for why that \$850,000 jumped to \$1.5 million. Did it have something to do with the developer suddenly moving the seniors to Lahey Pavilion? Was it because Elizabeth Ailes, photographed in the *PCNR* with the "design team," had a design plan as elaborate as that of the *PCNR* offices?

The public was not privy to this conversation. Almost tripling the public tab from \$350,000 to \$1 million deserves some explanation, or at least a business plan. When property taxes are added to this equation the taxpayers would have

been on the hook for well over \$4 million in the next 14 years, and all this for what is a once-a-day senior lunch program for 20 seniors.

Although Scuccimarra was content for Roger Ailes to assume control of the construction, ignoring prevailing wage laws and not getting competitive bids, she knew he offered no warranty on the work, so any disputes with subcontractors that go to court that would normally be absorbed by the contractor would instead be the responsibility of her constituents. Faulty workmanship by underpaid workers? Scuccimarra made this our responsibility. The *PCNR*'s claim that there was in fact a warranty contradicts the words in the contract "delivered as is." I ask any homeowner: would you hire a contractor who declares no responsibility for the work they do in your home?

The secrecy of the deal has backfired. The state pledged as much as another \$500,000 to the project, but once it saw the terms it politely backed out. If Scuccimarra had brokered that deal on behalf of the taxpayers for whom she works instead of to the benefit of Ailes, that money might still be forthcoming.

Scuccimarra and Ailes have often asserted their allegiance to our seniors and our town. It's puzzling then that they would subject us to this kind of liability. While the Ailes's paper so often champions "transparency," why would Roger Ailes so determinedly conceal details of how he — a private citizen — was spending taxpayer money? And why would Scuccimarra, whom we elected to be accountable for spending our tax money, be the vessel for this secrecy?

Michael Robinson,
Cold Spring

The Dirt on Dirt Roads

Highway chief talks gravel, rain and asphalt

By Michael Turton

Carl Frisenda is the rookie highway superintendent for the Town of Philipstown, having served in the position for only a few months since defeating incumbent Roger Chirico in the November election. But as he put it during a tour of recent projects: "I've been working on roads for 34 years. Nothing has shocked me on this job."

Frisenda's easy-going attitude came through as he recalled the torrential rains that fell in western Putnam County at the end of July and wreaked havoc with the town's dirt roads.

"We got about six inches of rain at the town garage," he said. "But it wasn't 'big-big;' it was more of a nuisance." Frisenda estimated that 20 miles of the town's 30 miles of dirt roads were damaged significantly; Indian Brook Road washed out,



Highway Superintendent Carl Frisenda

Photo by M. Turton

creating a gully four feet deep. "That was really rough," he said. Heavy flows along a stream shifted even the boulders that protect the shoulder of East Mountain Road, creating a situation Frisenda said "had to be taken care of before something major

happened."

After the storm, Frisenda said he told his 14-man crew, "Do what you gotta do.... I have a really good bunch of guys — they know how to do it." Knowing how to do it included borrowing a grader from the county. Three crews were put to work re-grading virtually all of the town's dirt roads.

A happy medium

Passions can run high in the dirt vs. paved debate. It's a tightrope that Frisenda walks cautiously. "I'm going to try everything I can to get [to] a happy medium," he said. "We're about half and half between dirt and paved." He admits that dirt roads are a challenge. "I see a lot of tax dollars going out the door every time it rains," he said, adding that he hates watching Item 4 gravel wash away into the woods. "You can't get it back — it's gone. And then you have to do it all over again. There are other projects we want to get going on, but it seems whenever we get caught up we have to start all over again."

(Continued on Page 8)

Beacon vs. Philipstown



Beacon clock tower File photo

A tale of two communities

By Michael Turton

Only seven miles separate Beacon and Philipstown. The neighboring municipalities share important characteristics. Many residents from both communities shuffle off to work in New York City via Metro-North. Both boast a variety of eateries and pubs along with robust offerings in the arts and sports. Tourists as well as those looking for a new place to call home are drawn to both. And both share the trolley that shuttles along Route 9D, itself an important link.

But the differences are also many, beginning with geography. Although both lie on the Hudson River, the City of Beacon is smaller, more compact and more densely populated than the bucolic Town of Philipstown, which includes the villages of Cold Spring and Nelsonville and the hamlet of Garrison. Beacon also has a more diverse population.

Source: U.S. census (factfinder.census.gov) and other data. Most recent figures available.

	City of Beacon	Philipstown
Incorporated	1913	1825
Square miles	4.7	48.7
Population	15,541	9,662
Population/square mile	3,279	198
Households	5,452	3,681
% White	64	93
% Black/African American	23	1.6
% Asian	1.6	1.4
% Hispanic/Latino	21	7
Median household income	\$63,284	\$99,095
% in poverty	13.2	6
% high-school grads	88	96
% college grads	31	52
% born outside U.S.	11.8	9.5
% age 65+	11.7	15.5
% minors	20	22.4
Military veterans	950	613
% non-English at home	19	11
Median home value	\$240,800	\$461,000
Median rent	\$1,061	\$1,452
Weekday train riders from	2,739	861
Weekend train riders to	3,993	1,398
Average work commute	37 min.	43 min.
Minority-owned businesses	367	141
Retail sales (millions)	\$144.6	\$56.7
Retail sales per capita	\$9,420	\$5,866

So this AVID FISHERMAN CAME IN AND ASKED US TO BUILD A TABLE TO BE USED OUTDOORS ON HIS DECK...
... HE WAS THRILLED WITH THE TABLE.

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I'd like to thank the following people, families, and businesses who have contributed to the Betty Budney memorial which will consist of a bench and brick pavers:

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- Annette & Bob Flaherty and Family
- Glenn & Gail Watson
- Ailes family
- Badey & Watson
- Butterfield Realty
- C&E Paint
- North Highlands Fire Department
- Knights of Columbus #536
- Cold Spring Fire Department
- PCNR

- Harold Lyons & Sons
- Joseph's Fine Jewelry LTD
- Valenti Concrete Inc.
- Nice & Neat
- Double Z Motors
- Pidala Electric
- Scanga Woodworking
- Cold Spring Lions Club

It is not too late to be part of this memorial for Betty. You can email Bob Flaherty RWF361@optonline.net, call me at 914-318-8076, or go to <https://philipstown.com> to get the order form until Sept. 16th.

Thank you very much for your support.

Regards, Bob Flaherty, Philipstown Councilman

John Greener, CPA

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Beacon Police Blotter

July 29 to Aug. 4, 2016

Officers handled 316 calls, including seven auto accidents and nine domestic disputes. This is a selection of their reports.

Friday, July 29

12:30 a.m. – After a traffic stop on Wolcott Ave., Christopher Hayden, 27, of Maybrook, charged with driving while intoxicated, unlicensed operation, improper lane use and equipment violations.

12:30 a.m. – Disorderly individual reported on Fishkill Ave.

3 a.m. – Robbery reported on School St.

Saturday, July 30

8:30 a.m. – Caller reported items missing from vehicle on North St.

10:30 a.m. – Caller reported items missing from vehicle on Laurel St.

11 a.m. – Larceny from vehicle reported on East Main St.

Sunday, July 31

11 p.m. – Caller on Dinan St. reported damage to windows of vehicle.

Monday, Aug. 1

8:45 a.m. – Caller on Forrestal Heights reported damage to vehicle.



9 a.m. – Caller on Dinan St. reported damage to window on vehicle.

10 a.m. – Larceny reported on Mason Circle.

7 p.m. – Dispute reported between neighbors on Meadow Ridge.

Tuesday, Aug. 2

12:15 a.m. – After a traffic stop on Amity St., Haqim Macock, 25, of Beacon, charged with unlicensed operation, no/ expired insurance and operating motor vehicle with improper plates. Fard Eggleston, 25, of Beacon, charged with possession of marijuana.

12:30 p.m. – Caller to headquarters reported harassing text messages.

2 p.m. – Koziem Robinson, 24, and Yanissa Colon, 19, both of Beacon, charged with petit larceny.

4:30 p.m. – Suspicious person reported on Main St.

8 p.m. – Caller reported items missing

from vehicle on Main St.

8:30 p.m. – After a traffic stop on North Ave., Edgar Henderson, 35, of Poughkeepsie, and Justin Lampley, 32, of Beacon, charged with possession of marijuana.

Wednesday, Aug. 3

7:30 a.m. – Caller on Rombout Ave. reported items missing from vehicle.

7 p.m. – Disorderly group reported on West Willow St.

11 p.m. – After a traffic stop on Fishkill Ave., Justin Pogact, 29, of Salem, charged with speeding and possession of marijuana.

11:50 p.m. – A 17-year-old male from Beacon was charged with grand larceny, petit larceny, conspiracy and endangering the welfare of a child. Three other juveniles from Beacon charged with grand larceny and petit larceny.

Thursday, Aug. 4

11 a.m. – Doris Perez, 31, of Fishkill, charged with possession of marijuana.



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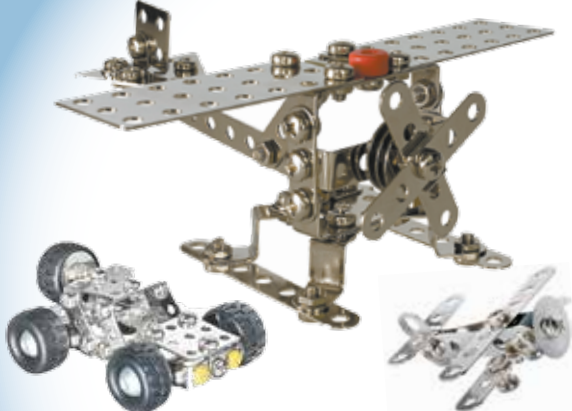



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Muhammad Short on Signatures in Assembly Bid

Beacon council rep could run as independent

By Jeff Simms

Ali Muhammad will not be on the ballot this fall as a Democratic challenger to Frank Skartados to represent the 104th district in the New York State Assembly.

Muhammad, 28, a member of the Beacon City Council, announced his intention in June to challenge Skartados, who is in his second term in Albany. To qualify, Muhammad needed signatures from at least 500 registered Democrats in the district, which includes Beacon and Newburgh.

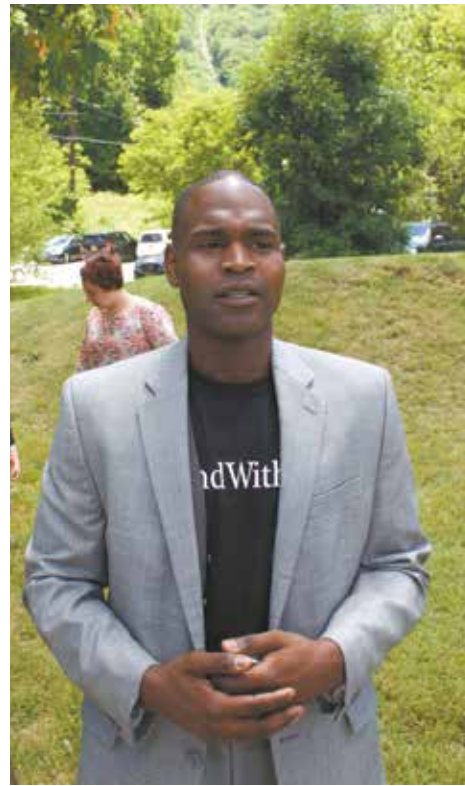
Had Muhammad been successful, his candidacy would have triggered a Democratic primary in September.

According to the state Board of Elections, Muhammad filed a petition on July

12 with 608 signatures. However, a challenge submitted two weeks later prompted a review that ruled 142 signatures invalid, leaving him 34 short. (Signatures are typically disqualified if a voter is not registered with the candidate's political party or signs a petition using an incorrect address, said John Conklin, a state elections board spokesperson.)

Muhammad, who is in his second term representing Ward 4 on the Beacon council, said that he still has one "Hail Mary" option: if he can collect 1,500 valid signatures by Aug. 23, he will appear on the November ballot as an independent. However, the 1,500 signatures must be from district residents who have not signed another petition for the same office.

In addition to Skartados, who lives in Milton, William Banuchi, a Republican from Newburgh, has filed to run for the 104th seat.



Ali Muhammad

File photo by K.E. Foley

Beacon School Board to Fill Vacancies by Appointment *(from Page 1)*

"What I hope is that the public will know what [the candidates'] beliefs are, even if they can't make the determination," he said.

In other business

- The board agreed to discuss at its Aug. 29 meeting the five bids the district has received for legal counsel, including from its current counsel, Shaw, Perelson, May & Lambert. In recent months, many parents have asked the board to sever its longtime agreement with the firm, and on July 5, the board voted unanimously to issue a request for proposals. That same night, board members extended the agreement with Shaw, Perelson, May & Lambert for a year, with the provision that the contract can be terminated with 60 days notice.
- Board member Meredith Heuer said she would come to the next meeting with a proposed charge for the creation of a diversity committee on the board. The perceived lack of diversity among teachers and administrators has been a frequent topic at board meetings.
- The board approved its contract with Hazard, Young, Attea & Associates (HYA), a firm based in Illinois with offices in Jersey City that will conduct the district's search for a superintendent. The contract with HYA was for \$20,500, down \$1,000 from the firm's initial estimate. HYA will begin interviewing district employees on Aug. 30 to gather information on needs and expectations. The firm will also hold public forums on Sept. 14 at 9 a.m. and 7 p.m. HYA representatives say they hope to fill the job by Jan. 1.

Courtside in Beacon



The city of Beacon has installed new surfaces to the tennis and basketball courts at South Avenue Park. The recreation department promises pickleball is coming. *Photos provided*



Support Groups

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

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The Dirt on Dirt Roads *(from Page 4)*

For their part, paved roads “hold up for the most part — as long as you don’t have a hurricane.”

New methods

Frisenda said he is willing to work to keep dirt roads a part of the local landscape. In June, Ken Skorseth, a consultant from South Dakota, addressed the town board and residents about preservation methods. “He suggested that we use bentonite, a clay that you mix with the item 4,” Frisenda said, explaining that the clay congeals the gravel, enabling rainfall to simply run off with much less erosion. “We just ordered some and we’re going to try it on a small section of road.” Frisenda said a number of good ideas came out of the June session. “I’ll try to do whatever we can to preserve the roads — but it’s not cheap.”

Frisenda is also trying out two methods on seven roads, including Hustis, Wood, Beal, Joanne, Fenchel, Hiram and Clove Brook — each marked by badly cracked asphalt. A product called FiberMat, which consists of a modified asphalt emulsion and strands of chopped fiberglass, has been laid on each road, then covered with a thin layer of fine gravel. In September crews will coat the streets with Slurry Seal, a mixture of asphalt emulsion, aggregate, mineral fiber and water that dries to a hard black surface.

“I’ve spoken to other highway superintendents and they swear by it,” Frisenda said. “They said it helps preserve their roads at a fraction of the cost. We’re saving taxpayers money by doing this and it’s pretty much the same as blacktop.”

The endless list

Frisenda said he understands he will always have a to-do list. “We always have work to do,” he said. “We just have to prioritize.” The priorities include a new bridge on Avery Road and rebuilding Manitou Station Road. Both projects are waiting on state wetland permits.

Avery Road will be completed mainly by contractors but Manitou Station will be done by the highway department. The latter project, which Frisenda calls a “biggie,” will entail raising the road substantially where it passes through the wetland while adding equalizer pipes to allow water to flow freely back and forth through the marsh.

Other projects in the works include repairing two washouts on East Mountain Road and replacing gabion baskets on Horton Road and Indian Brook Road.

An unwanted challenge

Asked to name his department’s biggest need, Frisenda answered immediately: “I need some new trucks,” he said. “We have some that are pretty old and it’s time to replace them, but I have to stay within the



Erosion protection must be rebuilt along this stream on the shoulder of South Mountain Pass Rd.

Photo by M. Turton

budget. We lease the trucks and buy them after five years. I can ask but the town board has limits, which I understand completely. They’ve been very supportive.” The department is expecting a new six-wheel dump truck to arrive by the end of August, which will help.

Frisenda, a Democrat, had to win an election to become superintendent but said he doesn’t encounter politics in the position. “It’s just about fixing the roads,” he said. “They don’t say ‘Hey, I voted for you.’ Everybody wants something done and

that’s understandable. They pay taxes.”

Asked to sum up his first months on the job, Frisenda replied: “It’s a new adventure every day. I’m enjoying it. You do have times where you scratch your head a little bit because something new comes up and you have to stop what you’re doing. It’s a challenge but it’s good.”

There is one challenge that he could do without. “If you look at Jim Witt’s weather calendar, I think there’s a hurricane penciled in for the middle of September,” he said. “I’m hoping that it’s not true!”



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The Calendar



The Falls Theatre used to be a music hall, movie theater and home to a flea market.



Bill Peckham, who has been involved with County Players for decades, is pictured in a dressing room plastered with posters from previous shows.

Photos by A. Rooney

It Began with a Newspaper Ad

County Players prepares for 59th season

By Alison Rooney

In 1958, a newspaper ad was placed seeking people interested in forming a community theater. Nearly 60 years later the theater is on solid ground, but County Players is always looking for new actors, designers, technical types, marketing whizzes and anyone else interested in theater, especially young people, to help put on shows four times a year at its

renovated space in Wappingers Falls.

The group's first show in 1958 was *Bell, Book and Candle*; the first season featured *Laura*, *The Glass Menagerie* and *Born Yesterday* and pulled in 100 subscribers. More than 200 shows later, the non-profit has enjoyed frequently sold-out houses but also endured a fire next door and a roof that nearly collapsed.

"We're focusing now on trying to get younger people involved and to attract a younger audience," says Bill Peckham, who has been designing and construct-

ing sets, directing and occasionally acting for the company for decades.

Peckham says the theater, which has about 400 seats, is the perfect size. "We sell out but rarely extend," he says, "but they're good houses, usually half-full to full, always for musicals, often for straight plays too. We have a big following and a very loyal subscription base."

Each show is performed eight times over three weekends, typically in September, November, February and May. The season includes a spring musical, a comedy, a drama and one from any category. Audience members come from all over the region, including from across

the river and north to Rhinebeck and south to Beacon.

In the beginning, County Players didn't have a theater of its own; its first shows were staged at the Wappingers Junior High School auditorium. The set would be built on the weekend prior to the Friday night opening and taken down each night so the space could be used for school activities. Throughout the 1960s, County Players continued to expand its audience and developed offshoots such as the High School Drama Awards, in which judges saw 20 or more performances each year and hosted a dinner for the student actors, something that continued until 1989.

Despite a (Continued on Page 12)

The Wilder the Better at the Hairdressers Ball

Charity hair show includes Cold Spring salon

By Alison Rooney

Though the aim of most runway shows is to be fashion-forward, the "Hairdressers Ball" is seeking the opposite and is looking fashion-backward for its Aug. 14 charity hair show, which invites participants to "walk down our red carpet time machine" sporting over-the-top do's from decades past, all in service of raising funds to provide assistance for those in the Hudson Valley living with HIV/AIDS and other chronic diseases. Included in the 16 hairdressers representing salons from Poughkeepsie to Woodstock is Cold Spring's Sharon Verardo, the proprietor of A Twist of Fate salon on Main Street.

Given the 1970s as her theme (each salon was given a particular decade), Verardo has been hard at work conceiving and creating two looks for the occasion, one evoking a flower, with "petals" of hair and pink, yellow and orange extensions in the front, and a daisy ponytail behind. For the other she is planning a "Hi-top 'Fro" dyed orange,

(Continued on Page 13)



Alice in Wonderland characters, recreated in the 2015 Hairdressers Ball

Photo by Lauren Beale

ONGOING

Gallery Shows

highlandscurrent.com/galleries

FRIDAY, AUGUST 12

Friends of the Library Book Sale
(Member Preview)

6 – 8:30 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library
472 Route 403, Garrison
845-424-3020 | desmondfishlibrary.org

HVSF: *Macbeth*

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

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

SATURDAY, AUGUST 13

Second Saturday in Beacon

Bring the Kids! Tour: Create a Sundial
(ages 6-11)

9 a.m. Boscobel | 1601 Route 9D, Garrison
845-265-3638 | boscobel.org

Family Music Sing-a-Long

10 a.m. Beacon Music Factory | 629 Route 52, Beacon
845-765-0472 | beaconmusicfactory.com

Friends of the Library Book Sale

10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library
See details under Friday.

Great Hudson River Estuary Fish Count

10 a.m. Scenic Hudson River Center
8 Long Dock Park, Beacon
845-473-4440 x273 | scenichudson.org

Wildflower Walk

10 a.m. Audubon Center | Warren Landing Road, Garrison
845-265-2601 | cmacs@audubon.org

Hudson Valley Pet Expo

People for Pets Motorcycle Run
11 a.m. – 4 p.m. Mesier Park, Wappingers Falls
hudsonvalleypetexpo.com

Clam Bake

Noon – 7 p.m. North Highlands Fire Department
504 Fishkill Road, Cold Spring
845-265-7285 | nhfd21.org

Community Coloring Murals (Opening)

2 – 4 p.m. Howland Public Library | 313 Main St., Beacon
845-831-1134 | beaconlibrary.org

Culinary Crawl Tour

2 p.m. Main and Cross, Beacon
845-249-6129 | hudsonvalleyfoodtours.com

Susan Thompson on Louise Lawler

2 p.m. Dia:Beacon | 3 Beekman St., Beacon
845-440-0100 | diabeacon.org

Don Nice: *Icon* (Opening)

5 – 7 p.m. Garrison Art Center
23 Garrison's Landing, Garrison
845-424-3960 | garrisonartcenter.org

Odyssey (Juried Photography Show)

5 – 8 p.m. RiverWinds Gallery
172 Main St., Beacon
845-838-2880 | riverwindsgallery.com

Joseph Pimentel: *Ancient Civilizations* (Opening)

6 – 8 p.m. Theo Ganz Gallery | 149 Main St., Beacon
845-831-2239 | theoganzstudio.com

Calendar Highlights

For upcoming events visit highlandscurrent.com
Send event listings to calendar@highlandscurrent.com

Group Show: *Fire Clay Paint* (Opening)

6 – 9 p.m. Hudson Beach Glass
162 Main St., Beacon
845-440-0068 | hudsonbeachglass.com

Melissa Robin: *Photographs* (Opening)

6 – 9 p.m. bau Gallery | 506 Main St., Beacon
845-440-7584 | baugallery.com

Group Show: *Kaleidoscope of Kyoot* (Opening)

Jenn & Tony Bott: *Cryptic Creatures* (Opening)
6 – 9 p.m. Clutter Gallery | 163 Main St., Beacon
212-255-2505 | shop.cluttermagazine.com

Tour of *Constellation*

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

Benny Havens Band: *Dancing Under the Stars*

7:30 p.m. Trophy Point, West Point
845-938-4159 | westpointband.com

HVSF: *As You Like It*

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

Hudson Valley Jazz Festival: Eric Person Quartet

8 p.m. BeanRunner Café | 201 S. Division, Peekskill
914-737-1701 | beanrunnercafe.com

Junior Brown

8:30 p.m. Towne Crier Café
379 Main St., Beacon
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com

SUNDAY, AUGUST 14

Desmond-Fish Library closed

Hudson Hewn: *New York Furniture Now* (Closes)

9:30 a.m. – 5 p.m. Boscobel | 1601 Route 9D, Garrison
845-265-3638 | boscobel.org

Garden Conservancy Open Day with Tea in the Garden

10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Stonecrop Gardens
81 Stonecrop Lane, Cold Spring
845-265-2000 | stonecrop.org

Clearwater Public Sail

11 a.m. & 2 p.m. Beacon Dock | clearwater.org

Beacon Sloop Club Corn Festival

Noon – 5 p.m. Seeger Park | 1 Flynn Drive, Beacon
845-255-6436 | beaconsloopclub.org

Friends of the Library Book Sale

1 – 5 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library
See details under Friday.

HVSF: *Dork Knight* at Bannerman Island

3 & 4:15 p.m. Boat departs Beacon Institute Dock
845-265-3638 | hvshakespeare.org

Sunset Music Series: Spuyten Duyvil

6 – 8 p.m. Cold Spring Bandstand
facebook.com/coldspringmusicseries

Open Auditions for *The Last Five Years*

7 p.m. County Players
2681 W. Main St., Wappingers Falls
845-298-1491 | countyplayers.org

Breakneck Ridge Revue

7:30 p.m. Towne Crier Café
See details under Saturday.

HVSF: *Macbeth*

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

MONDAY, AUGUST 15

Yoga for Tweens and Teens (ages 11+)

11 a.m. Howland Public Library
313 Main St., Beacon
845-831-1134 | beaconlibrary.org

Friends of the Library Book Sale

2 – 5 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library
See details under Friday.

Beacon City Council

7 p.m. City Hall (Courtroom) | 1 Municipal Plaza, Beacon
845-838-5011 | cityofbeacon.org

Open Auditions for *The Last Five Years*

7 p.m. County Players | See details under Sunday.

HVSF: *So Please You*

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

Nelsonville Village Board

7:30 p.m. Village Hall | 258 Main St., Nelsonville
845-265-2500 | villageofnelsonville.org

TUESDAY, AUGUST 16

New Moms & Infants Group

11 a.m. Desmond-Fish Library
472 Route 403, Garrison
Email whiteside.ks@gmail.com

Friends of the Library Book Sale

2 – 8 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library
See details under Friday.

HVSF: *So Please You*

2 p.m. Boscobel | See details under Friday.

Coloring Books for Adults

6 p.m. Howland Public Library
313 Main St., Beacon
845-831-1134 | beaconlibrary.org

North vs. South All-Star Game

6:35 p.m. Dutchess County Stadium
1500 Route 9D, Wappingers Falls
845-838-0094 | hvrenegades.com

HVSF: *Macbeth*

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

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 17

Leaf and yard debris pickup at Cold Spring

Friends of the Library Book Sale

2 – 5 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library
See details under Friday.

Fahrenheit 451 (1966)

6:30 p.m. Butterfield Library
10 Morris Ave., Cold Spring
845-265-3040 | butterfieldlibrary.org

H.V. Renegades vs. Auburn

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

HVSF: *As You Like It*

7:30 p.m. Boscobel
See details under Friday.

Free Movie Night: *Blazing Saddles*

8 p.m. Visitor's Center
Main St. at Route 9D, Beacon | 845-765-0444
beaconchamberofcommerce.com

THURSDAY, AUGUST 18

Friends of the Library Book Sale

2 – 8 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library
See details under Friday.

A.W.E. (Aspiring Writers Experience)

Tween and Teen Writing Club Kick-Off Meeting
4 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library
472 Route 403, Garrison
845-424-3020 | desmondfishlibrary.org

Mighty Spectrum

7 p.m. Great Lawn, Bear Mountain State Park
845-786-2731 | visitbearmountain.com

H.V. Renegades vs. Auburn

7:05 p.m. Dutchess County Stadium
See details under Wednesday.

HVSF: *Measure for Measure*

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

George Clinton & Parliament Funkadelic

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

FRIDAY, AUGUST 19

Friends of the Library Book Sale

2 – 5 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library
See details under Aug. 12.

Annual CSA Farm Dinner

6:30 p.m. Glynwood Farm
362 Glynwood Road, Cold Spring
845-265-3338 | glynwood.org

H.V. Renegades vs. Auburn

7:05 p.m. Dutchess County Stadium
See details under Wednesday.

HVSF: *As You Like It*

7:30 p.m. Boscobel
See details under Aug. 12.
6 p.m. Friday Night Prologue

Open-Mic Night

8 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
477 Main St., Beacon
845-831-4988 | howlandculturalcenter.org
Sign-up begins at 7:30 p.m.

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Their Current Address is “Our Town”

Cast members, many new to acting, talk about their experience

by Alison Rooney

The Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival’s community-inspired and populated production of Thornton

Wilder’s *Our Town*, which will be presented over Labor Day weekend at four locations, including Peekskill, Garrison and Newburgh, sold out of its free tickets in just about an hour on the day they were offered. (A small amount of additional tickets will be made available in late August via ‘pop-up’ ticket booths in various locations; visit hvshakespeare.org for updates.)

For the cast, which is made up of people from all walks of life and from all over the region, this has only added to the rewards of becoming part of this production. *The Highlands Current* asked a few of them about their experience in rehearsals, and their thoughts about the character they are portraying. Go to highlandscurrent.com over the next month to see more posted each week.

Our Town Profile: Bernadette Humphrey-Nicol

What’s your name, where are you from and what do you do for a living?

My name is Bernadette Humphrey-Nicol; I am originally from Brooklyn, NY. My wife and I moved from NYC to Beacon 13 years ago and we have never regretted that decision. I currently work for the MTA/ NYC Transit; I have been employed with NYC Transit for 14 years. During the past 11 years I have held several management positions throughout the organization. Presently I work with the Paratransit division, which provides transportation to the eligible residents of NYC, in compliance with the ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act).

What’s something we should know about your role – either something Thornton Wilder refers to, or something you’ve come up with yourself?

I find the role of Mrs. Gibbs to be somewhat of a paradox. It serves as a

reminder that sometimes dreams deferred go unfulfilled. However, it also makes us reflect on the fact that sometimes the happiness we seek is right in front of us if we but take the time to “see.”

What has surprised you most about the workshop/rehearsal process?

I have been lucky to perform in quite a few productions in the past few years; what strikes me as unique to this particular production is director John Christian Plummer’s focus on ensuring that the cast understands the significance of being in tune with one another. We have spent a significant amount of time participating in exercises that help us listen and feel connected. It is not just



Bernadette Humphrey-Nicol

about playing the roles we have been assigned; it is about understanding that we are all connected and therefore unified. This unique understanding about our connection will help bring the dynamic of authenticity that is needed for the production.

In what way does *Our Town* resonate with you most?

In today’s chaotic world, with all of the fear, intolerance and uncertainty, it is wonderful to work with a diverse group of individuals on a project that speaks to the unity, connection and commonality of us all.

Our Town Profile: Zuri Bremmer

What’s your name, where are you from and what do you do for a living?

My name is Zuri Bremmer. I will be entering my freshman year of high school at Newburgh Free Academy’s main campus in September.

What’s something we should know about your role – either something Thornton Wilder refers to, or something you’ve come up with yourself?

The character I play is Wally Webb, who I enjoy playing. Unfortunately Wally’s appendix ruptures. You should have seen my face when I was reviewing the play and saw that I have to die!

What has surprised you most about the workshop/rehearsal process?

John Christian Plummer and Sean McNall put together a lot of unusual and challenging exercises that help us prepare for rehearsing. The exercises also help to stretch your abilities/talent. I would say that these experiences have been very challenging for me especially



Zuri Bremmer

because playing Wally Webb is my first acting role. While I love public speaking, I was not used to the techniques that they use. Each experience that I have had as a cast member of *Our Town* has been great, life changing too! It has made me want to pursue a career in the performing arts.

In what way does *Our Town* resonate with you most?

Our Town is a great story. I love to read but

I had never read anything by Thornton Wilder before. Reading the play and being a part of the production exposed me to something new, which my Dad says is always an opportunity to build your character as a person. Now I can add “as an actor” too. I have met great and talented performers. From the director, producers, cast members and everyone involved, they have been very supportive ... like a family. We have worked hard and I know that every one that comes to see *Our Town* will enjoy it!



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It Began with a Newspaper Ad (from Page 9)

donation of two acres of land for a scene shop, County Players did not have its own theater until the late 1970s, when it purchased the Academy Theater, which had begun as a music hall in the 1920s, then served as everything from a basketball court to a movie theater and finally hosted a flea market before sitting empty for 15 to 20 years.

"When we bought it, it was a bone of contention — a 5-to-4 vote" of the board, Peckham says. "But since then nobody has argued that it wasn't the right decision."

An extension renovation of the newly renamed Falls Theatre, through work parties, began. "It was a dump," Peckham recalls. "There were no seats, canvas on the walls, nothing," and it was filthy.

"When we bought it, it was a bone of contention — a 5-to-4 vote" of the board. "But since then nobody has argued that it wasn't the right decision."

Through the efforts of dozens of volunteers, according to a history of the theater written by Peckham with Rachel Cassidy, "a new thrust stage was added, lights hung, 400 seats acquired and

bolted into place, a backstage created, the public bathrooms brought to function, and the marquee repaired in time to advertise our first show in our first home. There was no heat, no plumbing backstage. Heat for rehearsals was provided by an industrial kerosene

heater. The air was musty, dusty and rank — but our own!"

Over the years, under the supervision of restoration chairman John Sloper, two mini-stages were built, a new electrical system and lights installed, new seats donated by IBM (the employer of many a



There are just under 400 seats at the Falls Theatre.

Photos by A. Rooney



Props fill every nook and cranny of a backstage room

Photos by A. Rooney



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volunteer) and new curtains, draperies and a fire alarm system installed. The updates, including the creation of a sound booth, have continued through the years. Sloper, who died in 1983, provided generously for County Players in his will, affording it a fiscal security unusual for a community nonprofit.

"We've been pretty much out of the red for 30 years, and our mortgage is paid off, which is very rare and lucky," says Peckham, a now-retired landscape architect who came to County Players with an interest in set design not unlike the scale models he designed and built for a living.

After overcoming a severe snow storm which imperiled the roof and caused leaks, a truck which crashed into the marquee, a nearby gas explosion and fire, County Players faced another dire situation when the apartment complex next door burned down. (Firefighters battled the flames from the theater's roof.) The owner didn't rebuild, and the empty lot was sold to the city, and then to County Players. It hopes for state funding to expand into the space to enhance the lobby, provide handicapped access and increase storage.

The company is overseen by a 12-member board of governors, each of whom have two or three designated jobs while also working with other volunteers.

"The vision of this company depends on that," Peckham adds. It is plugged into the network of other small theaters in the region, exchanging everything from costumes to marketing ideas.

There are usually about 10 proposals from directors for musicals or plays before each season. The directors "need to show an interest in the company before we give them a show," says Peckham. "It's competitive." Each show has two production managers responsible for pulling together the creative and technical teams. "Usually we've all worked together and know what we can, cannot do," he says. "We have a lot of regulars, but it's always a constant struggle to get more volunteers. We'd love them to come to auditions and tell us what they'd like to work on — we'll find room."

The upcoming season begins on Sept. 9 with the Neil Simon comedy *Laughter on the 23rd Floor* and continues with the two-hander musical *The Last Five Years* before moving on to *Amadeus* and, finally, *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels*. Auditions for *The Last Five Years* are scheduled for 7 p.m. on Sunday, Aug. 14 and Monday, Aug. 15. For details, see countypayers.org, which also has ticket and subscription information. (The box-office number is 845-298-1491.) The Falls Theatre is located at 2681 W. Main St.

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The Wilder the Better at the Hairdressers Ball *(from Page 9)*

red, hot pink and yellow, to be sported with a red bandana, a la Jimi Hendrix. Verdardo is working along with a friend, Robin McDowell, who is creating the accompanying make-up. Cold Spring's Sammi Phillips, a Haldane senior studying cosmetology and interning at A Twist of Fate, is assisting. Each salon is responsible for the full look, including costumes. The models for the looks will



A Bride of Frankenstein look, shown on Daniela Velez, was served up at last year's Hairdressers Ball.

Photo by Lauren Beale

be Cold Spring's Marcus Plummer and as well as Taylor Tadlock.

Hairdressers Ball, now in its sixth year, will take place at 4 p.m. at the Ramada Conference Center in Fishkill, and is one of Hudson Valley Community Services' (HVCS) signature events, drawing hundreds to an intentionally zany runway show, designed to display creativity in an enjoyable way, complete with voting for the most amazing look as part of the proceedings. There's a red carpet reception with hors d'oeuvres and door prizes (and a cash bar) before the big show, and an after-party with DJ Prephab at 6:30 p.m. in the Brass Rail nightclub.

The ticket purchase supports the HVCS's many activities in the region.

HVCS's mission is to "promote prevention and wellness for all people, to encourage life-affirming decisions maximizing their quality of life, and to coordinate care for those living with complex health conditions. We envision a world where people live healthy lives and have access to the coordinated care they need."

With nine offices located throughout the region (the closest to Philipstown and Beacon are in Newburgh, Poughkeepsie and Putnam Valley), HVSC offers its clients — among other things — health services coordination, nutritional outreach support, a housing program, an emergency food pantry, legal support, transportation assistance, and they conduct support groups. Last year they provided services to over 3,500 individuals. Jay Dewey of HVCS notes, "Typically we work with people who have few resources and don't know where to turn for help. We do everything we can to ensure our clients remain connected to the medical care and support services they need to have a better quality of life." Each May, they host another fundraiser, a Hudson Valley AIDS Walk and 5K run.

Verdardo would love to have some locals on hand to cheer her models on. "Let's show them what Putnam County can do!" she exhorts (A Twist of Fate is Putnam's sole representative in the contest). Verdardo opened up her Main Street salon three and a half years ago, almost by accident after coming to Cold



Twist of Fate's Sharon Verdardo re-working her "model's" hair in preparation for the real look to be shown at the Hairdressers Ball

Photo by A. Rooney

Spring and liking what she saw. Although she knew no one here, "I thought it was a really neat little town and decided to give it a try." She's happy she did, saying "I'm holding my own and I like it here." The salon gets a mix of tourists who decide to get a haircut on a whim (some of them come back again,

too, just for another cut from her) and locals. Verdardo notes that she tries hard to keep her pricing low; she also enjoys talking to her clients.

Tickets for the Hairdressers Ball cost \$30 and are available at A Twist of Fate, 135 Main St., 845-809-5880 or online at hairdressersball.com/

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Judy Sigunick with her sculpture SHE, outside the Howland Cultural Center earlier this year

Photos provided.

Second Outdoor Sculpture Destroyed in Beacon

Vandals strike Beacon 3D

By Brian PJ Cronin

For the second time in two months, a sculpture that was part of Beacon 3D, the annual exhibit of outdoor public artworks, has been vandalized.

Judy Sigunick's clay sculpture *SHE*, installed outside the Howland Cultural Center at 477 Main St., was decapitated sometime in the early morning hours of Sunday, Aug. 7. Eleni Smolen, the founder and director of Beacon 3D, told *The Current* that a neighbor reported hearing a rowdy crowd outside the Howland Center at 3 a.m. There are no surveillance cameras at the Howland or any of the surrounding buildings.

"I have to wonder why after three years of no incidents of vandalism for Beacon 3D sculptures, why, in 2016, we have two so far," Smolen said. In the early hours of June 5, John Reichert's sculpture *The Yawner* was found broken in half outside the Beacon Bread Company. Reichert has repaired the sculpture and reinstalled it on the patio of Bank Square Coffeehouse.

"Last year we had 20 sculptures on Main Street without a problem," said Smolen. "Beacon is going through some growing pains and I can only hope that the sculpture project is not getting scapegoated as a symbol of gentrification as development in the city escalates. Best-case scenario is that it was some outsiders partying a little too hard that have no connection to the

community here.

"The irony for me is that I started this project for the community and the families and artists that live and work and raise their kids here — for the people in town who might not otherwise go into galleries and look at art."

The remnants of the sculpture are back in Sigunick's studio. "Everybody's caught in the headlights and we're all a little stunned," said Sigunick. "But as I'm thinking about how to repair it I'm becoming a little unstunned."

Sigunick created the sculpture in 2009 for an outdoor exhibit at Ulster Community College. "It's a very special piece for me because of the way it was made," she said, which was with clay that a friend dug up from her yard in New Paltz. During the process of making the sculpture, the clay fractured and "did all sorts of funky and wonderful things," said Sigunick, whose work often addresses the beauty revealed when objects break down or fall apart. *SHE* was inspired by the high number of birds that die each year by flying into windows.

Although the work is currently in pieces, the fractures have revealed ways in which Sigunick said she can make the piece stronger. She's already identified a spot in the new cracks where a stake can be installed to fortify it.

Sigunick hasn't made up her mind yet if she would like to reinstall the repaired work for the remaining two months of the Beacon 3D exhibit, although she said

that if she does, it won't be back in front of the Howland. She's preparing to take down a show in Manhattan but hopes to find the time to have *SHE* repaired by the end of next week. "If it is going to be reinstalled, it should happen quickly," she said.

While the vandalism has been a discouraging trend to Beacon's community of artists, Sigunick isn't letting it slow her down.

"I'm an artist," she said. "And so, with pride, I will make it bigger and better than I did before. When disaster strikes, you can't just grin and bear it. You smile and use it as an opportunity."



The damaged sculpture on the morning of Aug. 7



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HAWKS EVENT CALENDAR

June 12	Hawks Coaches Clinic, 11:30am, Haldane turf, with Haldane Coach Ryan McConville.
June 13-17	Philipstown Youth Football Camp, 4:30pm, Haldane Turf, for current grades 4-7. Sign up through Rec.
June 26-30	Hawks Road Trip to Jim Kelly Football Camp in Buffalo. Sign up through Daniel Miller (contact info below).
August 8	Tackle practice begins, 6pm, Mayor's Park. Flag practice begins August 15.
September 9	Annual Hawks Potluck Dinner, Mayor's Park.
September 18 Weekend	First games!
November 5	Hawks Army Day at West Point.

For more information, contact Philipstown Hawks President Daniel A. Miller at 917.854.2830 or footballhawks@gmail.com

Appalachian Trail Brings Unlikely Visitors to Cold Spring

2,200-mile journey attracts hikers from all over the country

By Clayton Smith

On the morning of Thursday Aug. 4, two men sat down to breakfast outside the concession stand at Clarence Fahnestock State Park. The food this morning was especially satisfying, given that the two traveled from Georgia and were fueling up to continue their on-foot trek to Maine.

The pair preferred to be called Cruiser and Texas Hippie and no, their parents did not simply have a sense of humor when naming their children. These are their trail names: unique labels that hikers of the Appalachian Trail are given or choose for themselves to symbolize that they are leaving their normal lives behind. The idea is that hikers distinguish themselves and join the eclectic culture of Appalachian hikers. Sure, one might meet a few people named Chris on the trail, but how many people are bound to go by Cruiser?

The Appalachian Trail is a 14-state hike spanning the Appalachian mountain range along the eastern United States. Travelers can choose to either go south to north or the other way around, although the colder weather in the north limits the amount of time hikers have to complete the trail. Given it is the longest "hiking-only" footpath in the world, traversing the entire trail from Springer Mountain, Georgia to Mount Katahdin, Maine is considered an impressive feat. Those who complete the AT are referred to as "thru-hikers" within the Appalachian hiking community, a highly respected distinction.



Appalachian Trail marker

While Cruiser hailed from Greenville, S.C., Texas Hippie came all the way from — you guessed it — the Lone Star state. Although they didn't know each other before their journey, they started hiking together in West Virginia and have been together since then. They stressed that the trail brings people together and makes them feel like family. As of Thursday, the two had logged 1,421 miles and were well over halfway through their trip.

Each had a personal reason for challenging himself to such an unforgiving task. For Cruiser, this hike is a sort of redemption. He attempted the entire trail with his brother in 2005 and unfortunately twisted his ankle after 532 miles.

Texas Hippie decided to hike the trail after meeting Jeff Alt, an author who wrote the book "A Walk for Sunshine" in which he recalled his own adventures on the Appalachian Trail. The book was dedicated to the author's brother, who has cerebral palsy and inspired an annual fundraiser to support his home for the disabled.

While the trail is certainly challenging, it does not come without reward. Something called "trail magic" is a widely accepted phenomenon within the hiking community. It refers to the random acts of kindness between hikers as



Cruiser, left, and Texas Hippie stand outside the concession stand at Clarence Fahnestock State Park.

Photos by C. Smith

well as lucky circumstances that can bring up someone's mood. Trail magic can refer to anything from receiving a candy bar from a generous fellow hiker or seeing a rare animal on the trail. "It doesn't have to be a five-star restaurant," said Texas Hippie. "Any little thing helps."

It is clear that a culture of giving back is important to hikers on the AT. Cruiser and Texas Hippie were humble, yet aware of the enormity of the challenge they were undertaking. They stated that it's the people who make the journey a competition who usually fall behind. Rather than speed through, they prefer to enjoy every step.

Like Texas Hippie said, "If you're in a hurry, you're wasting your time."

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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Borrow-a-Bag at Foodtown



Some local activists in Cold Spring have organized a Borrow-a-Bag bin at the entrance to Foodtown. Donate cloth shopping bags and borrow bags if you forget yours. Each week the bags will be collected and washed.

Klezmer Music and Yiddish Songs

Tompkins Corner to host concert

On Saturday, Aug. 20, at 7:30 p.m., the Tompkins Corners Cultural Center in Putnam Valley will present a concert of klezmer fiddle music and Yiddish songs performed by violinist, vocalist and composer Alicia Svigals and accordionist Lauren Brody.

Svigals, a longtime resident of Putnam Valley, is the world's best klezmer fiddler and a founder of the Grammy-winning Klezmatics, which she led for 17 years. She has appeared on David Letterman, MTV, PBS' "Great Performances," NPR's "Prairie Home Companion" and "Weekend Edition" and played and composed for violinist Itzhak Perlman, the Kronos Quartet, playwrights Tony Kushner and Eve Ensler, the late poet Allen Ginsburg and Robert Plant and Jimmy Page of Led Zeppelin.

Brody is a pioneer of the klezmer revival in the U.S. and a founding member of the

band Kapelye. A Fulbright scholar, her research has led to two reissues of 78 rpm recordings of Bulgarian folk music, *Song of the Crooked Dance* (Yazoo Records) and *Outsinging the Nightingale* (JSP Records).

The cultural center is located at 729 Peekskill Hollow Road. Tickets are available at brownpapertickets.com/event/2584969.



Murali Coryell

Blues Maker

Murali Coryell will perform at 6 p.m. on Sunday, Aug. 21, at the bandstand on Cold Spring's waterfront as part of the Summer Sunset Music Series sponsored by the Cold Spring Area Chamber of Commerce. Coryell, whose most recent album is *Restless Mind*, was inducted into the New York State Blues Hall of Fame in 2013 and was a 2014 Blues Music Awards nominee.

Riverside Crafts Fair Opens Aug. 20

More than 80 artists to participate

The Garrison Art Center will hosts its annual Riverside Crafts Fair on Garrison Landing from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., rain or



RoseAnna Glass Art will be one of the more than 80 artisans at the Riverside Art Fair.

shine, on Aug. 20 and 21. Now in its 47th year, the juried fair includes works from more than 80 artists, including furniture, photography, jewelry, gourmet food, glass items, fashionable clothing, fine art, ceramics, wooden utensils and tableware.

Free parking is available at the Garrison Metro-North station. An entrance fee of \$8 supports the art center. This year's major sponsors are The Garrison, Gerelli Insurance Agency, Hudson Valley Magazine and Robert A. McCaffrey Realty.

Military Reenactors to Camp at Boscobel

Living History day set for Aug. 28



Boom!

Photo provided

Boscobel will host its annual Living History military reenactment day from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Sunday, Aug. 28. The event, presented in partnership with the Living History Education Foundation, will include encampments from the American Revolution, the War of 1812, the Civil War and World War II. Reenactors will demonstrate camp life with inspections, formations, musket firings, artillery demonstrations and drills.

The event, which takes place rain or shine, is included in the price of admission to the Bosco-

bel grounds, which is \$11 for adults and \$5 for children ages 6 to 14. Boscobel members, Blue Star Museum Members and children under age 6 are free. For more information, visit boscobel.org.

County Fair Discounts End Aug. 21

Advance admission, ride tickets available

Discount tickets for admission and rides at the 171st Dutchess County Fair, which will be held Aug. 23 to 28 at the fairgrounds on Route 9 in Rhinebeck, are available through Sunday, Aug. 21, at Foodtown in Cold Spring. They can also be purchased at Adams in Newburgh and Wappingers Falls and at Stop &



A ride at the 2015 Dutchess County Fair

Photo provided

Shop in Wappingers Falls.

The fair also sells discounted tickets at dutchessfair.com for admission, rides and grandstand shows. Advance admission is \$12 (versus \$15 at the gate) for adults and children and teens ages 12 and older. Tickets are \$10 for seniors ages 65 and older and active military, and children 11 years and younger are admitted free. A \$50 week-long pass can be purchased at the administration office at the fairground until 4 p.m. on Aug. 22.

Admission is \$10 all day on the first day of the fair, and \$7 after 5 p.m. on Thursday, Aug. 25. On Aug. 24, wristbands for all-day rides will be \$25.



The Attacca Quartet

Quartet to Perform at Chapel Restoration

Program features Haydn, Grieg

The Attacca Quartet will perform at the Chapel Restoration in Cold Spring at 4 p.m. on Sunday, Aug. 21. The quartet is Amy Schroeder and Keiko Tokunaga on violins, Nathan Schram on viola and Andrew Yee on cello. It will perform Haydn's *Quartet in D major, Op. 76* and Grieg's *String Quartet in G minor, Op. 27*.

Admission is free, but contributions are welcome. The chapel is located at 45 Market St., adjacent to the Metro-North station. For more information, visit chapel-restoration.org or call 845-265-5537.

Hudson Valley to Host All-Star Game

Best of Class A league face off Aug. 16

The 14-team New York-Penn League will hold its 2016 All-Star game at Dutchess Stadium, home of its Hudson Valley Renegades franchise, at 6:35 p.m. on Tuesday, Aug. (Continued on next page)



Lauren Brody



Alicia Svigals

Photo by Tina Chaden

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

(from previous page) 16. The team last hosted the game, which pits the American League affiliates against the National League, in 2007.

The game is sponsored by Marist College. Tickets are available at hvrenegades.com or by calling 845-838-0094.

HVSF to Present *So Please You*

Two free family matinees scheduled

The Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival will present four upcoming performances of a family friendly play, *So Please You*, including two free matinees. Based on the story of a servant named Dennis who appears only once in *As You Like It*, the farce traces his underdog's journey as a struggling actor who discovers friends, foes and plenty of tomfoolery on his climb to stardom. Conceived and directed by Zachary Fine, the production stars members of the HVSF Conservatory Company.

There will be two evening performances at Boscobel at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, Aug. 15, and Monday, Aug. 29 (the latter preceded by a family workshop at 6 p.m. and followed by a "Caught in the Act" discussion with the cast). There also are free matinees at 2 p.m. on Tuesday, Aug. 16, and Tuesday, Aug. 23. Purchase or request tickets at hvshakespeare.org.

Beacon

Sentimental Journey Returns to Howland

Concerts sold out in 2015

Jennifer Hepburn, who is appearing in *Mamma Mia* on London's West End, returns to the Howland Cultural Center in Beacon on Saturday, Aug. 20, and Sunday, Aug. 21, for a repeat performance of *Sentimental Journey*, which sold out when presented at the Howland last summer. The Brick Town Theatre's musical trip down memory lane also features Russell Cusick, Nancy Johnston, Kelly Ellenwood, Stephanie Hepburn and Tyler Mell.

The Aug. 20 performance begins at 7 p.m. and the Aug. 21 show at 3 p.m. Tickets are \$20 at the door for adults and \$15



Jennifer Hepburn

for students and seniors. Children under age 10 are free. Call 917-579-0671 for reservations. The Howland Cultural Center is located at 477 Main St.

Digital Camera Workshop at Howland

Photographer will explain best settings

On Monday, Aug. 22, photographer Sally Delmerico will explain basic digital terminology and demystify the menus of digital cameras. The presentation begins at 1 p.m. at the Howland Public Library in Beacon. It will focus on the most important settings to achieve the best exposure, including Program, Aperture, Shutter and Manual. She will also offer tips on composition and answer questions.

Delmerico, who owns Sally Delmerico Photography, has been involved in all aspects of photography for more than 20 years. Her work includes black and white, color, 35mm, medium format and digital with subjects ranging from candid portraits to landscapes and wildlife.

Bring a camera with a charged battery. No registration is required.



Sally Delmerico

Free Constellation Family Workshop

Artist and poet will guide kids at Long Dock Park

On Aug. 21, families can join artist Melissa McGill and poet Edwin Torres for a free program sponsored by the Lulu & Leo Fund that uses the public art project Constellation as inspiration. The workshop is free and takes place at Long Dock Park in Beacon from noon to 2 p.m. Registration is required by emailing info@melissamcgillconstellation.com.

On Aug. 27, nature science educator Evan Miklos will lead a family tour of Bannerman Island to see the lighting of Constellation up close and from the water. The tour and workshop is geared toward families with children five years and older. Tickets are \$45 per adult and \$40 per child at melissamcgillconstellation.com/visit/book-boat-tours, and the

boat leaves the Beacon Institute floating dock at 6:45 p.m. The tour will be repeated on Sept. 30.

Comedy Night at Dogwood

Free show scheduled for Aug. 24

Dogwood Bar in Beacon will host a free comedy night starting at 8:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Aug. 24 with Ryan DeNisco, Keith Black, Channing Tyner, Damon Lewis, Ian Lazarus, Alec Vanacore and Dan DiMarino. Jody Lee will host. The event is free but sponsor funds from Firthcliffe Technologies and JEG3 will benefit the Garden Belt Movement. Dogwood is located at 47 E. Main St.



Ryan DeNisco will headline the Dogwood show. Photo by Celeste Echols

Poetry Marathon on Aug. 20

8th annual event set for New Paltz

Calling All Poets will hold its 8th Annual Poetry Marathon from noon to 11 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 20, at its new home, Roost Studios, 69 Main St., New Paltz. (It had been meeting on the first Friday of each month at the Center for Creative Education in Beacon.) General admission is \$5, or \$4 for CAPS and Roost members and \$3 for students and seniors.

More than 50 poets will share their work, and there will also be an open mic. Pizza will be served from 6 to 7 p.m. New to the Marathon this year is the Hudson Valley Book Fair, during which poets and regional publishers will offer books for sale. The second CAPS Anthology has recently been published and CAPSCASTS, archival readings from the series, can be heard on Beacon's Community Internet Radio Station (theground.town) as well as SoundCloud, YouTube and callingallpoets.net.

Donations to CAPS, which recently became a non-profit organization, can be made at gofundme.com/y8r9jc/donate.

Main Street Closure in Beacon

Water and sewer lines to be installed

Due to the installation of water and sewer lines related to the hotel project at 151 Main St., the city of Beacon has announced intermittent closures of Main Street from Monday, Aug. 15, to Monday, Aug. 22, between Cross Street and Route 9D.

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6:00 9:00, SUN 1:00 4:00 7:00
MON 7:00, TUE 1:00 4:00 7:00
WED & THU 7:00

"Suicide Squad" (PG13)
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6:30 9:30, SUN 1:30 4:30 7:30
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Bear Mountain Pow Wow

The annual Bear Mountain Pow Wow, a celebration of Native American heritage, took place August 6 and 7 at Harriman State Park. The Pow Wow is a program of the Redhawk Native American Arts Council.

Photos by Kate Vikstrom

Photographic Journey



Friends, by Sandra Belitza-Vazquez

RiverWinds Gallery in Beacon will open its 13th Anniversary juried photography show, *Odyssey*, with works by 16 artists, on Saturday, Aug. 13, from 5 to 8 p.m., followed at 4 p.m. on Sunday, Aug. 21, with an artist's talk by Galina Krasskova. The show runs through Sept. 4 at 172 Main St.



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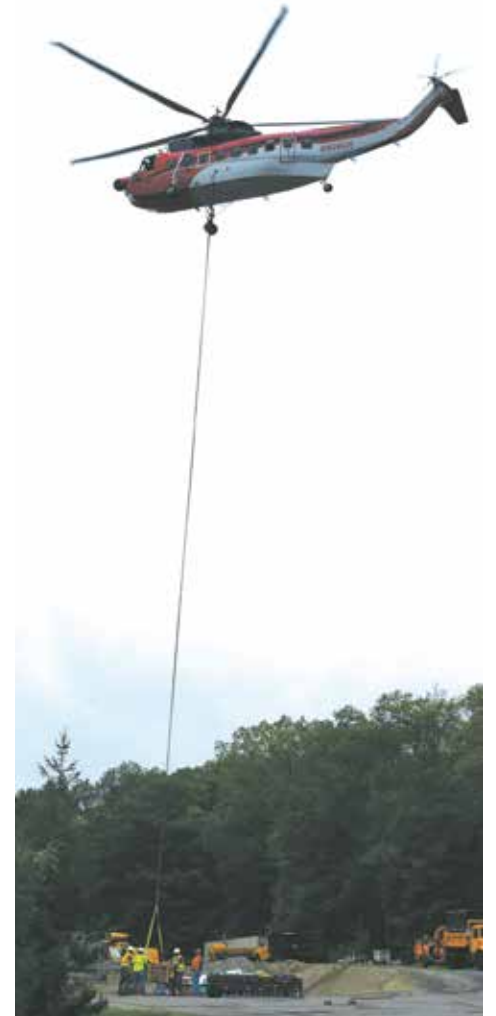
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A Major Local Lift-off



Photos by Michael Turton



Workers attach the payload

On Aug. 10, the New York City Department of Environmental Protection conducted maintenance on two chamber buildings that are part of the Catskill Aqueduct just east of where it crosses under the Hudson River at Breakneck Ridge.

Because one of the buildings is located on a ridge inaccessible to vehicles, an industrial helicopter was used to airlift materials and equipment to workers who hiked to the worksite. The aircraft, which flew in from Chicago, made several flights

to the site, using the Philipstown Highway Department yard as a base. The Catskill Aqueduct is one of the major sources of water for New York City.

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Dogs and Their People



Denise Murphy walks 16-year-old Rody, a Brittany, in evening sun on the Foundry path in Cold Spring. *Photos by Anita Peltonen*



Cold Spring: Bug and his human, Ethan Timm, sit outside Main Street's Figure Ground Studio, where architect Timm is a founding partner.



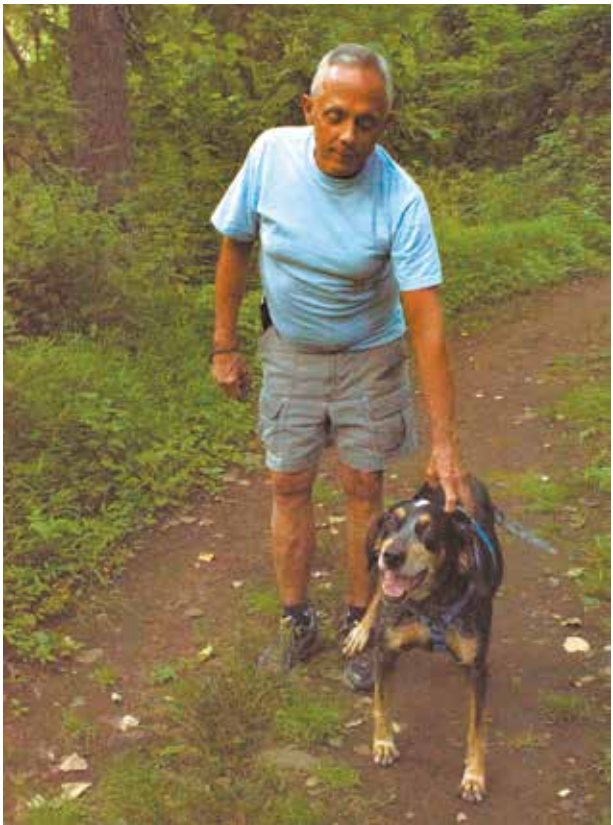
Sofia Sinanovic of the Bronx often brings Brady to Cold Spring to romp. The 1-year-old Goldendoodle has just gotten hydrated by hose — after knocking over her waterbowl. Sinanovic and her partner found Brady in a pet store in Yonkers and "couldn't leave without him."



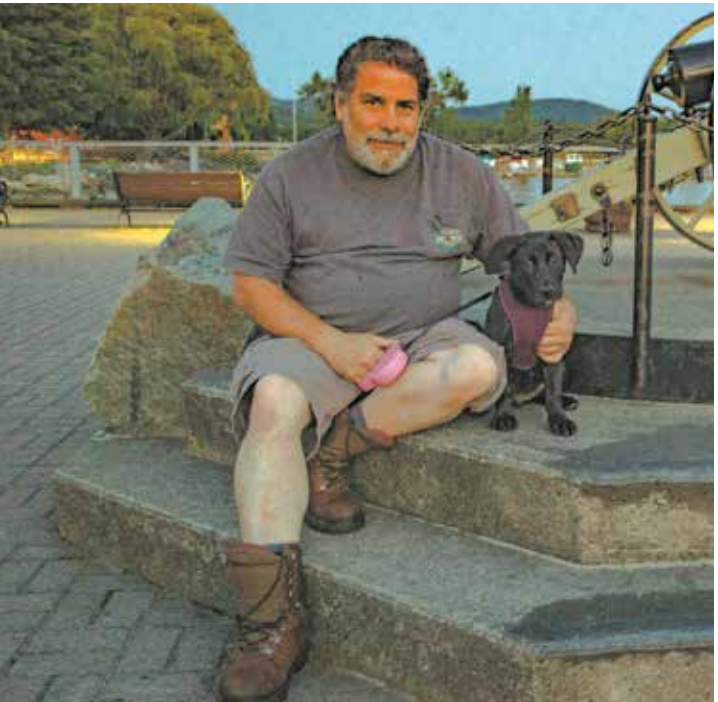
Cold Spring canine newcomers Althea, left, and Elvis hang with their humans, Charmaine Choi and Patrick Biesemans at Dockside Park.



Amelia Gallay of Railroad Ave., Cold Spring, with her 14-year-old hound mix, Toffee. Toffee was rescued from a New York shelter as a puppy.



Jim and Blue of Beacon hurry home from an evening walk on Denning's Point.



Robert Beyer and black lab pup Cinder, take a break on their night walk from Nelsonville.



Allison Sassano plays at home near Fishkill Ridge with young Labradoodle Lacey.



Kaylasha Fryer waits with Puggie while her mom orders DVDs inside Beacon's Howland Library.