Women in Small Business

New group connects female entrepreneurs

by Alison Rooney

When the career coach Lauree Ostrofsky returned to Dutchess County three years ago to assist her parents with health issues after 15 years living in Washington, D.C., and New York City, she found herself productive by working alone but also missing something. “I didn’t know people,” she says. “I was missing the social interaction I had established elsewhere.”

In December 2014, Ostrofsky connected with Scott Tillitt of Beacon’s Beahive, who introduced her to a few like-minded professional women. It turned out there were many women like Ostrofsky in the Highlands attempting to take a talent or expertise and turn it into a small business. They all missed having a community of peers with whom they could share ideas, frustrations, skills, commiserations and celebrations.

“Scott was great about opening up his network to everyone,” Ostrofsky recalls. “I met with four or five other women; all of us had our own businesses. We talked a bit about that, and it just felt good to be around each other.”

In the 18 months since, the group, which Ostrofsky decided to call Hudson Valley Women in Business, has grown to nearly 500 women linked through Facebook. About 20 to 30 meet in person monthly to discuss topics such as marketing, sales, finance, employees, getting started, growing into the next stage and selling a business. The members who show up are typically from a wide geographical area, so the gatherings are rotated among towns such as Rhinebeck, New Paltz and Beacon. Many began their businesses in the past five years, but Ostrofsky says the group is attract-

The Business Side of Fire Protection

Garrison district prepares for first public vote

By Michael Turton

When Garrison residents smell smoke and call 911, the last thing on their mind is the fire department’s administrative structure. What they need is for the men and women of the Garrison Volunteer Fire Company to come to their aid — and fast. But without a second group of volunteers who pay the bills, there would be no local fire protection.

In December, Garrison residents will go to the polls for the first time to elect five commissioners to oversee the business end of the fledgling Garrison Fire District. Last November, the Philipstown Town Board ended its oversight of the fire company and established the Garrison Fire District as an autonomous elected body.

In the early evening of Aug. 15, a veil of smoke behind Fishkill Rural Cemetery on Route 9 prompted emergency vehicles, including this fire truck, to race to the scene. Firefighters quickly contained a blaze in a wooded area adjacent to the 142-acre cemetery, which opened in 1866.

The Garrison fire station on Route 9  Photo provided
Better than Butter

By Joe Dizney

What could possibly be better than butter—that “coagulated sunlight,” as pronounced by the Irish poet and playwright Seamus Heaney in his ode to the process of its manufacture, “Churning Day”?

It has been said pure white milk alchemically transmuted into gold was the result of a happy accident: when nomadic tribes of Central Asia transporting milk on camelback across the desert in leather saddlebags reached their destination, they discovered the transformative results of the journey. The kidne-y-jolting ride accomplished the churning necessary to emulsify milk’s butterfat into a rich, spreadable solid.

This magic-cum-science circulated throughout the civilized world: butter was heartily embraced by the Greeks and Romans who (as the ancient Hebrews did) considered it food and medicine. In India, butter was considered sacred, a reverence I completely understand.

And although southern Europeans exhibit a culinary preference for oils (particularly that of the olive), northern Europeans solidly adopted butter—none more so than the Normand French who made it a science, an art and a raison d’être.

Truly, what could be better? Which brings us to buerre noisette, or brown butter. Its French (quelle surprise!) appellation is an homage to the superior sleight-of-hand that occurs when sweet (unsalted) butter is heated just enough to boil off the (approximately 16 percent) water content, and — if watched carefully — magically browns the milk solids (the proteins and lactose or milk sugars) producing a golden, fragrant and nutty ingredient that is, well … even better!

(This effect is a textbook example of the storied “Maillard reaction” responsible for many favorite flavors including browned/seared meat, roasted coffee, chocolate, maple syrup and toast. Buerre noir — black butter — is of the same process, only exaggerated and ghee, the preferred Indian cooking fat, is produced in much the same manner except that the browned milk solids are ultimately strained out.)

Brown butter can be used in just about any recipe that calls for butter and imparts a whole other level of taste, richness and complexity. It is the secret to many classic French sauces — for seafood, vegetables, meats or eggs. And this enchantment isn’t strictly limited to savory dishes — sweet baked goods benefit from the substitution, and brown butter is the defining ingredient of the celebrated French financier, a small rectangular cake of flour, egg whites and powdered sugar.

This recipe for brown butter shortcake is an adaptation of that idea. Brown butter also pairs well with fruit, so I’ve included a simple recipe for a blueberry compote. (Most any berry would do, and pears or bananas are even suggested.) But truthfully, a light dusting of powdered sugar might be more than enough. It’s hard to top perfection.
Katie Hellmuth Martin (center) speaks to the Hudson Valley Women in Business group about email marketing. The meet-up was held in Martin’s new offices, from which she operates A Little Beacon Blog.

Women in Business (from Page 1)
Another successful police academy

The second annual Beacon Youth Police Academy was held during the last week of July. Its goals are to introduce young people to law enforcement, including the roles and responsibilities of police officers, the many facets of our criminal justice system and the multitude of career opportunities in these fields.

This year’s program included 18 motivated teenagers ages 14 to 17. In addition to workshops at Beacon High School and the Beacon Police Department, students traveled to several locations for tours and training.

Thank you to the New York City Police Academy, the New York City Office of Emergency Management, the Newburgh and Beacon courts and the Dutchess County Jail for their assistance, and a special thanks to the Paladin Training Center in Carmel for its generosity. The Beacon Recreation Department, school district, police department, Beacon PBA and the City of Beacon also contributed.

This program is an example of what makes Beacon great. People coming together to help, support and mentor others.

Stay tuned for next year’s program!

Officer Joseph Galbo (retired), Beacon Detective Jason Johnson, Beacon Parole Board process needs reform

John MacKenzie, 70, a prisoner at Fishkill Correctional Facility in Beacon, committed suicide on Aug. 4. After 41 years behind bars, he had been denied parole for the tenth time. Given the life expectancy of prisoners, it appeared he would never see the free world again.

When I talk to people about the need to treat prisoners humanely, the response I often get is, “They’re no angels, you know.” Certainly, MacKenzie was “no angel.” He was convicted in 1975 of killing (Officer Matthew Giglio) on Long Island during a botched burglary and sentenced to 25 years to life. But is that the end of the analysis?

During his decades in prison, MacKenzie not only had a flawless disciplinary record but earned three college degrees. He helped counsel prisoners about to be released to prepare them for life on the outside and to resist returning to crime. Perhaps most remarkable was MacKenzie’s commitment to paying his debt to society and to his victim’s family. To that end, he founded a program in which victims spoke directly to prisoners about the impact of their crimes.

From behind prison walls, MacKenzie even secured the funding to make the program possible.

The regulations governing the New York State Parole Board require it to take into consideration evidence of a person’s rehabilitation and the danger he or she poses to society. MacKenzie took responsibility for his crime and was far past the age of the vast majority of perpetrators. Nonetheless, the Parole Board was not willing to look past the gravity of his 1975 crime. Even after a state judge held the parole board in contempt for its rote denial of MacKenzie’s application, the board continued to disregard the law and again summarily denied Mackenzie parole.

I believe we owe it to prisoners and ourselves to show more humanity in our criminal justice system. MacKenzie’s case is representative of the impunity with which the Parole Board regularly denies parole to even our most deserving and elderly prisoners. I urge Gov. Cuomo to require detailed, written explanations of parole decisions, to require the videotaping of parole hearings and to allow the presence of legal representation at those hearings.

Laurie Dick, Beacon

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

On Aug. 5, Michael Turton reported that five members of the seven-member Recreation Commission attended a Cold Spring village board meeting to discuss, among other topics, vandalism at the public restrooms at the foot of Main Street.

Lena Burton

“It has always been a bane to me about the free public toilets. When I lived in England, there was no such thing as a free public toilet. You had to put your coin in the slot in order to open the door to the toilet. The monies collected paid for the cleaning of the facilities.”

Carolyn Bachan

“Pay toilets were common in the U.S. until a few decades ago. There were some sorts of legal challenges and then pay toilets on public property were banned state by state (it was not a federal issue). As far as I know pay toilets are still illegal, at least on public property.”

Lynn Miller, Cold Spring Trustee

“It would be great to be able to put a pay-for-use lock on the public restrooms. However, New York State has a statute outlawing this practice. There’s not a lot of evidence that pay-per-use locks actually cover the costs of maintenance, anyway. Often, patrons hold the door open for the next user if there is a line. Also, the devices are often tampered with so the lock doesn’t latch when the door closes. The kind of damage and misuse we are seeing in our public restrooms is alarming. There has been significant, intentional damage to the fixtures within them as well. One would think some of our visitors were raised by wolves.”

In the July 29 issue, Joe Dizey wrote about the loss of his family’s dog, Rufus.

Bill Miller

“Way to go, Rufus! Sweet Joe — sadly and lovingly reminds me of our last two precious weeks with Gypsy.”

Fredericka Foster

“I’m a dog person too, and your tribute to Rufus caught the essence of a eulogy to a beloved friend. Like all dogs who have some freedom to do what they love, he seems absolutely unique. How lucky we are to know the world of dogs. Thank you, Joe.”

Jodi Cummings

“Thank you for sharing this beautiful story about your dog. Having owned a few Jack Russells, terriers in the past, you truly captured their unique spirit for life. One of mine had serious aggression issues, but like yours, was obsessed with the water and swimming. He was so laid back, peaceful and happy when swimming laps, and I often took him to water holes just so he could relax.”
Seeking House with a View to rent!

CHRISTOPHER RADKO and his well-trained thoroughly housebroken four-legged family Kyla and Ariel, are moving to Philipstown! But before finding the house of our dreams, we want to rent a house with a view, and better get to know the neighborhood.

If you’ve got, or know of, a great place you might consider renting for a year or two, let us know by calling 914-441-4109 and leaving a detailed message with your phone number. Or, send pictures to DollyReturns@gmail.com.
The Business Side of Fire Protection  
(from Page 1)

Comptroller’s Office, which oversees fire districts.

The 2017 budget was a priority, Prentice said, because the spending plan must be ready for public review by Sept. 27. The district is operating this year on the $610,000 budget inherited from the town.

Unlike New York school districts, residents don’t vote on fire district budgets, but state law does require public hearings, which the Garrison commissioners have scheduled for Oct. 18 at the firehouse on Route 9. “Commissioners can [then] make whatever adjustments they feel are required,” Prentice explained. The public does vote on major purchases such as new trucks.

Prentice pointed out that while state law will impose a tax cap on future spending, the initial budget is exempt from that requirement. Another part of the public conversation, Prentice said, will be an explanation of the costs of establishing the district. “We’re facing some unexpected expenses in our first year,” he explained, in particular, insurance, which had been part of the town’s coverage but now falls to the district. “Our insurance costs are amazing,” Prentice said. “It looks like the increase will be substantial.”

December vote

Prentice said the date of the fire district vote, Dec. 13, makes little sense, but is determined by state law. “At some point someone should look into that,” he said, suggesting it would be better if aligned with the November elections.

In the inaugural vote, the number of votes a candidate for commissioner receives will determine the length of his or her term. The candidate who gets the most votes will serve five years; the second-place finisher will serve four, and so on, with the fifth-place finisher serving a year. This is done to stagger the commissioners’ terms in office. In subsequent years all terms will be for five years. The commissioners are volunteers, but the treasurer (who serves a three-year term) and secretary (appointed annually) are paid positions.

For Prentice, being part of the new fire district is about community service and tradition. “I’m a lifelong resident of Garrison,” he said. “All my parents’ friends were fire company members. I’m 69 years old and this is an opportunity for me to do something for the fire company and to get everyone comfortable with the fact that we have a good fire district. It’s the continuation of a long tradition that dates back to 1929,” when the company began.

Public meetings

Garrison’s fire commissioners meet on the first and third Monday of each month at 7 p.m. at the firehouse on Route 8. (If Monday is a holiday, the meeting shifts to Tuesday.) All meetings are open to the public. On Monday, Aug. 29, at 7 p.m., the commission will meet to discuss the budget, and on Sept. 18 it will hold a public hearing will be held on Oct. 18 to discuss the proposed budget.

Garrison Fire Calls

The department posts its log at garrisonfd.org.

7-01 Authorized controlled burning
7-02 Search for person on land (lost hiker)
7-02 Good intent call (blown radiator)
7-05 Motor vehicle accident with injuries
7-07 Detector activation, no fire - unintentional
7-08 Detector activation, no fire - unintentional
7-10 False alarm or false call
7-16 Good intent call (smoke investigation)
7-17 Detector activation, no fire - unintentional
7-20 Medical assist, assist EMS crew
7-21 Detector activation, no fire - unintentional
7-22 Medical assist, assist EMS crew
7-22 Medical assist, assist EMS crew
7-25 Detector activation, no fire - unintentional
7-25 False alarm or false call
7-26 Motor vehicle accident with injuries
7-26 Detector activation, no fire - unintentional
7-28 Detector activation, no fire - unintentional
7-29 Detector activation, no fire - unintentional
7-29 Detector activation, no fire - unintentional
7-29 Detector activation, no fire - unintentional
7-31 Water problem
8-01 Good intent call (strange odor)
8-02 Power line down
8-05 Detector activation, no fire - unintentional
8-11 Detector activation, no fire - unintentional
8-13 EMS call, party transported by non-fire agency
8-16 Motor vehicle accident with injuries
8-17 Detector activation, no fire - unintentional
8-17 Detector activation, no fire - unintentional
8-18 Detector activation, no fire - unintentional

Joseph’s Fine Jewelry

Buying Gold, Silver, Diamonds, Coins, etc.
Specializing in estate jewelry. We buy to resell, not to scrap.
171 Main Street, Cold Spring NY 10516
* Thursday & Friday 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
* Saturday & Sunday 10 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Store: 845-265-2325 • Cell: 914-213-8749
Debates Continue on Beacon Development

Public weighs in on linkage zone, affordable housing

By Jeff Simms

The debate over whether to rezone a handful of properties within Beacon's west-side linkage zone, now six months old, appears primed to continue for at least another month — as does the ongoing discussion about how to calculate affordable housing citywide.

Both issues were the subjects of public hearings on Aug. 15, and both were adjourned pending input from Dutchess County planners.

The linkage debate began in February when a group of residents petitioned the city to rezone seven parcels within the zone, which was created three years ago to encourage increased residential development in the area between the west end of Main Street and the Hudson River. The petitioners argued that high-density linkage zoning would disrupt the neighborhoods surrounding the seven parcels, two of which sit on South Avenue, with five others on Wolcott Avenue/Route 9D.

The petition has drawn particular attention for including “Parcel L,” the name used for the three lots just south of the Reformed Church of Beacon on Route 9D. Parcel L is owned by Beacon Ridge Associates and a builder, Unicorn Contracting, has proposed a 70-unit development called River Highlands for the site.

On Aug. 10, the Beacon Planning Board submitted a memo to the City Council recommending that all seven properties, including Parcel L, revert to their pre-linkage zoning. In the case of Parcel L, the planning board said it believed increased density there would be “inconsistent with adjacent parcels along Route 9D.”

Based on “the desire to keep a consistency in land uses” on 9D, the planning board recommended reverting back to the 2009 comprehensive plan zoning for Parcel L, which was low-density residential. The board made a similar recommendation to the council in April to accept the residents’ petition, which asks for all seven properties to revert to their pre-linkage zoning.

After two public hearings (Aug. 15 was the third), it appears Beacon officials agree with the planning board on four of the seven properties. The current draft of the proposal before the council shows four parcels being reverted to their pre-linkage, low-density classifications.

The notable exception is Parcel L, which is proposed for rezoning to a medium density of five to nine units per acre — a reduction from its present status but not the low density of one to two units per acre requested by residents.

On Aug. 15, comments from the public focused almost exclusively on that exception.

This is about you.

Join us, the Desmond-Fish Library, to talk about your aspirations and goals for our community. All are welcome.

Community Conversation

Wednesday, August 24

Cold Spring Coffee Pantry
3091 Route 9, Cold Spring

3 p.m.

Please respond to 845-424-3020

The Story of “Parcel L”

Nineteenth-century maps of Fishkill Landing (now known as Beacon) show that much of the land known as “Parcel L” was once owned by the prominent Kittredge family. A single home occupied the site for much of the 20th century.

As part of a comprehensive plan adopted in the 1970s, the lot was rezoned for medium-high density (10 to 15 units per acre). In 1995, its zoning was changed to one unit per acre and the lot was included in a newly adopted Historic District and Landmark Overlay that added restrictions for exterior alterations.

In 2002, Parcel L was subdivided into three lots. In 2007 a new comprehensive plan changed the zoning to 5 to 9 units per acre. In 2009, the city restricted construction on the parcel further, zoning it for 1 to 2 units per acre. But in 2013 the city, as part of its new linkage zone, changed the zoning to high density, opening the door for multi-unit buildings.

In February, residents asked the city to return seven properties, including the three lots in Parcel L, to pre-linkage zoning, which would revert the land to its 2009 low-density designation.

“Why is it being considered in a completely different manner?” asked Garin Carapola, a resident of the Hammond Plaza condominium complex, just downhill from Parcel L. “Is it because it’s the only section of land named on the petition that developers have actively shown interest in?”

Unicorn Contracting has appeared only once before the Beacon planning board, making a preliminary presentation in Nov. 2015. However, Ronald J. Piccone II of Beacon Ridge Associates in May threatened legal action if the Parcel L lots are rezoned. He implied that Unicorn would also sue.

Beacon Administrator Anthony Ruggiero told The Current on Aug. 18 that the city has not heard from Beacon Ridge or Unicorn regarding litigation since then. During the Aug. 15 hearing, several speakers, most of them from Hammond Plaza, urged the City Council to heed the Planning Board and rezone all seven lots.

“When the comprehensive plan was crafted there was a very forward-thinking effort … to ensure the future of Beacon,” argued Claire Reed, a Hammond Plaza resident. Suggesting that the potential of medium- or high-density zoning for Parcel L “does not make sense,” Reed added. “We will live to regret a change that is so philosophically different from what these people [who drafted the comprehensive plan] clearly intended … and unfortunately I think it would be a very long-lasting mistake.”

The council agreed to adjourn the public hearing until Sept. 19 while it awaits input from the Dutchess County Planning Board.

Affordable housing

Feedback was more mixed during another public hearing on Aug. 15, this one on a proposal to (Continued on Page 8)
Debates Continue on Beacon Development (from Page 7)

set a price threshold on affordable “workforce” housing — units within new developments that are made available at lower than market-value costs — in Beacon.

City officials have proposed a change that would make households earning 65 percent or less of the area’s median income (AMI) eligible for reduced-cost housing. The AMI is around $58,900, so households earning about $38,000 annually or less would meet the eligibility requirement.

Adjusting the income threshold — the current law is unclear regarding income limits — would increase the number of households that could save by renting or buying workforce housing.

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, if the city adopts the change, eligible households earning 65 percent or less of the AMI would be able to rent or purchase workforce units at a cost not exceeding 30 percent of their income. Including utilities, that works out to housing costs of just over $1,000 per month.

The second, and much less controversial, change being proposed 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.

On Aug. 15, developers again asked the council to “grandfather” already approved building projects, which would bind them to the affordable housing standards in place at the time of planning board approval for their projects and not to any changes the City Council may adopt.

Beacon developer Rodney Weber estimated that if the council adopts the changes, it would cost him more than $38,000 per year “in perpetuity” on a single project. “It really does affect my project in particular,” Weber said. “Grandfathering for me is important because it comes down to investors and banks. Half a million dollars is nothing to shake a stick at.”

Hammond Plaza resident Lisa Gallina, however, exhorted the council to adopt the changes. “The biggest scourge upon this city would be to lose its cultural diversity — to lose police officers, firefighters, teachers and nurses — all the working people who would like to live here,” she said. “We need to have affordable housing at all different levels, and the developers should not be driving the conversation. Their profiteering has nothing to do with this city.”

The public hearing on the affordable housing proposal was adjourned until Oct. 3, again as the city awaits feedback from Dutchess County.
Brewster Film Fest Again Opens at Chapel Restoration

Six years ago, while on vacation in California, Bob Dumont and his wife, Stacy, who live in Brewster, stumbled upon an independent film festival at Big Sur. It consisted of little more than “a screen hoisted between two trees,” he recalled.

When the couple, both film lovers, returned home, they decided to create their own film festival. So began the VOBFF (the Village of Brewster Film Festival), which over the past five years has grown to become a county-wide event. Last year’s festival attracted 700 people, including many of the filmmakers. Held this year over Labor Day weekend, the festival will screen about 10 feature films and 40 shorts. It opens (as it did last year) at the Chapel Restoration in Cold Spring on Thursday, Sept. 1, and then travels to Brewster, Southeast and Carmel. “Every year we try to add a location,” says Dumont, who is festival chairman. This year’s newbie is Arts on the Lake in Kent Lakes. “The idea is to show them at great places around the county, nice spots to see films at,” he said.

The festival this year received 150 entries; a panel of 12 judges whittled that down and smaller committees rated the survivors. Those with the highest scores went to the festival board for approval.

The festivities begin at the Chapel Restoration on Sept. 1 with a wine tasting at 7 p.m., followed by a selection of short films. Admission is $20 and includes a bottle of wine to take home.

(Continued on Page 11)

A Center of Creativity in Beacon

Arts nonprofit comes to city with big plans

Want to mix your fitness training with Motown? Is your eight-year-old drawn to the cello? After years serving the Kingston community, the Center for Creative Education has opened a satellite in Beacon at 464 Main St., where it is offering classes like these, with more to follow in the fall.

The nonprofit designs its programs to reach “kids who wouldn’t otherwise have access to high quality arts programs,” explains executive director Drew Andrews. No child is turned away because his or her family is unable to pay, and its programs, which run the gamut from dance to computer to spoken word and visual arts, are open to the public. CCE also works with schools, community centers and religious institutions “to provide a platform for young people and adults to have a voice, to learn more about each other, to share, to reflect,” Andrews says.

CCE was founded in Seattle in 1987 by percussionist Evry Mann, stemming from his work with the homeless. After moving to New York, he started a drum ensemble to keep kids engaged after school. A decade later, in 1997, the Percussion Orchestra of Kingston, or POOK, was born. It has since given hundreds of concerts.

A dance fitness program was the second component of CCE. Born in Brooklyn, Andrews, the founder of the hip-hop dance troupe Energy, moved to the Kingston area to become a corrections officer. But, he found, “I didn’t want to work on intervention. I wanted to work on prevention.” He studied at Alvin Ailey and with Debbie Allen’s company before dancing with salsa teams and has recently taught and studied in Cuba.

In 2001 Andrews formed the Energy Dance Company at the Kingston YMCA. A teacher took the class and thought it would resonate with kids, so Andrews partnered with Mann. They found music and dance to (To Page 12)
**FRIDAY, AUGUST 19**

**Annual CSA Farm Dinner**  
6:30 p.m. Glywood Farm  
362 Glywood Road, Cold Spring  
845-265-3338  
| glywoodfarm.org  

**H.V. Renegades vs. Auburn**  
7:05 p.m. Dutchess County Stadium  
1500 Route 9D, Wappingers Falls  
845-638-0094  
| hvrenegades.com  

**HVSF: As You Like It**  
7:30 p.m. Boscobel  
| 1601 Route 90, Garrison  
845-265-3638  
| hvsf.org  

**Constellation Art Project for Kids**  
Noon. Long Dock Park, Beacon  
RSVP info@melissamcgillconstellation.com  

**Friends of the Library Book Sale ($5/bag)**  
1 – 5 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library  
See details under Saturday.  

**Dirt Day: Onions**  
1 p.m. Glywood Farm  
362 Glywood Road, Cold Spring  
845-265-3338  
| glywoodfarm.org  

**Brick Town Theatre: Sentimental Journey, The Return Trip**  
3 p.m. Howland Cultural Center  
See details under Saturday.  

**Attacca Quartet**  
4 p.m. Chapel Restoration  
45 Market St., Cold Spring  
845-265-5537  
| chapelrestoration.org  

**Galina Krasnkova: The Odyssey (Artist’s Talk)**  
4 p.m. RiverWinds Gallery  
172 Main St., Beacon  
845-838-2880  
| riverwinds_gallery.com  

**Kids’ Open Mic Night**  
6 – 8 p.m. 12 Grapes  
914-737-6624  
| 12grapes.com  

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

**MONDAY, AUGUST 22**

**Intro to Digital Photography**  
1 p.m. Howland Public Library  
313 Main St., Beacon  
845-831-1134  
| beaconlibrary.org  

**Friends of the Library Book Sale (Free)**  
2 – 5 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library  
See details under Saturday.  

**Haldane School Board**  
6 p.m. Haldane School (Music Room)  
15 Craigside Drive, Cold Spring  
845-265-9254  
| haldaneschool.org  

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

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 21**

**Desmond-Fish Library closed (except for sale)**
Brewster Film Fest Opens in Cold Spring (from Page 9)

Reservations are recommended.

On Friday, Sept. 2, the festival will host Dinner and a Movie at 6 p.m. at the Bull and Barrel Brew Pub in Brewster with another screening of shorts and the feature, The Congressman, directed by Jared Martin and Robert Mrazek and starring Treat Williams as a disgruntled Maine congressman. The tickets are $50; the event sold out last year.

The morning of Saturday, Sept. 3 is for kids, with a selection of animated and family friendly films from around the world starting at 10 a.m. at Empire Cinemas in Brewster. Tickets are $7 online or at the door (cash only).

A centerpiece of the weekend, the free outdoor Short Film Festival, will begin at 6 p.m. at Ryder Farm in Brewster. Food from the farm will be available for purchase. Check facebook.com/VOBFilmFestival for weather updates.

On Sunday, Sept. 4, an all-day Flick Fest will take place at Studio Around the Corner in Brewster. Starting at 11:30 a.m., the festival will run back-to-back screenings of a feature film and two shorts. Each session is $7 (plus $2 if booked online); reservations are recommended.

Finally, Arts on the Lake will host a number of events on Sept. 3 and 4. On Saturday, Sept. 3 is for kids, with a selection of animated and family friendly films from around the world starting at 10 a.m. at Empire Cinemas in Brewster. Tickets are $7 online or at the door (cash only).

Sat. & Sun. 10 a.m. brunch/dinner
Mon. - Fri. 4 p.m., Closed Tuesday
379 Main St., Beacon • townecrier.com • 845.855.1300

“A gem ... They take their food seriously”– NY Times

A scene from No Letting Go, which will be shown on Sept. 4 at the festival

For a schedule of films and panels and to purchase tickets, visit vobfilmfestival.com. The festival is run by volunteers; if you are interested in helping, email Judy Brewster at jbrew31@gmail.com or call 914-469-6611.

Riverside Crafts Fair
AUGUST 20 & 21, 10 to 5

65+
POP UP SHOPS
Handmade goods & gifts

Diane Luedemann
Full Circle Quilting
Winnie Chai

Riverside location • Food & picnic court
Free parking • Admission $8. Kids free

Garrison Art Center
845.424.3960
garrisonartcenter.org

NY Alert
For the latest updates on weather-related or other emergencies, sign up at nyalert.gov.
A Center of Creativity (from Page 9)

be a natural fit and secured a studio. “We placed a special emphasis on offering programs to kids that are underserved, who didn’t have this at arm’s reach,” Andrews says. The kids in their classes began to do better at school.

In the years since, they have seen a large number of students not only graduate from high school but attend college, where they continue to take classes in the arts. Some have returned to CCE to teach. Other teachers have discovered and joined CCE after attending a performance or through the Hudson Valley artists’ community.

“Some years ago we perceived a need in Beacon, and at the same time, a new energy there,” Andrews says. “We began offering a program at South Street School, then decided to open a studio, smaller than Kingston’s, but with the same concept.”

As in Kingston, the space, located on the east end of Main St., near Beacon Bagel, offers programs for kids and adults. Dance is at the forefront for now, with ongoing evening classes in tango, salsa and hoop dance aimed largely at adults, some followed by open dance sessions to show off newly mastered steps. In the fall, the classes will expand to include pre-schoolers through teenagers and go beyond dance to drumming and storytelling, Groove (a program for kids to explore “moving in their own way”), spoken word, visual arts, theater programs and DanceXFitness, a blend of dance, kickboxing, strength training and soul line-dancing created by Andrews.

A program called Arts Commando Ensemble, or ACE, will blend spoken word, social justice work and hip-hop into a piece choreographed, conducted and composed by students and performed at the space. And the violinist Gwen Laster’s Creative Strings Improviser’s Orchestra, which took place at CCE over the summer, will return.

CCE, which is funded through the efforts of its board, a booster club, performance donations and grants, has plans beyond Kingston and Beacon. As well as a capital campaign to move from its bursting-at-the-seams space in Kingston, it hopes to expand into Peekskill. It is also looking at training younger, Poughkeepsie-based artists to become teaching artists.

“Artists are great at many things, but we all need to learn how to share and become nimble enough so young people can integrate themselves into it and make changes,” Andrews says. “Our programs use the arts to teach basic life skills such as persistence, teamwork, discipline, focus and mastery. We place a strong emphasis on having a healthy mind and a healthy body and the importance of education as a path to a better life.”

For a schedule of classes, visit cce4me.org or call 845-338-7664.
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, distributed all of its free tickets in

just about an hour on the day they were offered. (A small number of tickets will be made available in late August via pop-up booths; see hvhshakespeare.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. We will share new profiles here and/or online each week up to show time.

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

My name is Cristina Pronzati, I’m originally from Italy and have been living in Mahopac Falls for five years after 20 years in the city. I am a visual artist and illustrator and have my own little creative venture called TheSquareHeads, a world of original illustrated characters inspired by my non-profit animal rescue DakotaLove Pet Project, and featured on artisanal goodies, children’s books and gifts.

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

My character in Our Town is the Man in the Auditorium. My interpretation of the role is it serves as a small “reality check” of sorts for the audience’s view of Grover’s Corners. By this, I mean that it is not the perfect little town. It is more like any other town in that there is disparity, diversity, ranges of income and opportunity, as well as bias. I believe my job is to get you to question your beliefs. Mr. Webb responds to my query of social injustice and industrial inequality: “I guess we’re all hunting like everybody else for a way the diligent and sensible can rise to the top and the lazy and quarrelsome can sink to the bottom …” The note from Thornton Wilder is that Webb responds (tolerantly). Mr. Webb is the voice of Grover’s Corners. He is the publisher and editor of the local paper. People read what he has to say. Webb strikes me as being guilty of being the show” as opposed to “rehearsing the show.” By that, I mean it has been a creative group effort guided by [director] John Christian Plummer and the amazing production crew, as opposed to a strict mandate of required sequences and rules that must be followed. They continually encourage the actors’ input. We have created our Our Town.

In what way does Our Town resonate with you most?

Our Town resonates with me through my daughter Isabella, who recently performed in Our Town elsewhere as Emily. I worked on the set construction for that production and was able to watch her grow into the role as the creative process unfolded. When I saw the notice for HVSF’s production and the use of local talent, I was hooked, hoping to do it with her. Alas, it was not to be, as she will be starting college during tech week. I will be channeling her (and hopefully Mr. Wilder, of course) during the run.

Robert Convertino

Robert Convertino, living in Garrison for 14 years, via Montclair, via New York City, I’m a builder in the Hudson Valley region.

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

My character in Our Town is the Man in the Auditorium. My interpretation of the role is it serves as a small “reality check” of sorts for the audience’s view of Grover’s Corners. By this, I mean that it is not the perfect little town. It is more like any other town in that there is disparity, diversity, ranges of income and opportunity, as well as bias. I believe my job is to get you to question your beliefs. Mr. Webb responds to my query of social injustice and industrial inequality: “I guess we’re all hunting like everybody else for a way the diligent and sensible can rise to the top and the lazy and quarrelsome can sink to the bottom …”

The note from Thornton Wilder is that Webb responds (tolerantly). Mr. Webb is the voice of Grover’s Corners. He is the publisher and editor of the local paper. People read what he has to say. Webb strikes me as being guilty of being the show” as opposed to “rehearsing the show.” By that, I mean it has been a creative group effort guided by [director] John Christian Plummer and the amazing production crew, as opposed to a strict mandate of required sequences and rules that must be followed. They continually encourage the actors’ input. We have created our Our Town.

In what way does Our Town resonate with you most?

Our Town resonates with me through my daughter Isabella, who recently performed in Our Town elsewhere as Emily. I worked on the set construction for that production and was able to watch her grow into the role as the creative process unfolded. When I saw the notice for HVSF’s production and the use of local talent, I was hooked, hoping to do it with her. Alas, it was not to be, as she will be starting college during tech week. I will be channeling her (and hopefully Mr. Wilder, of course) during the run.

Cristina Pronzati

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

My name is Cristina Pronzati, I’m originally from Italy and have been living in Mahopac Falls for five years after 20 years in the city. I am a visual artist and illustrator and have my own little creative venture called TheSquareHeads, a world of original illustrated characters inspired by my non-profit animal rescue DakotaLove Pet Project, and featured on artisanal goodies, children’s books and gifts.

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

My character in Our Town is the Man in the Auditorium. My interpretation of the role is it serves as a small “reality check” of sorts for the audience’s view of Grover’s Corners. By this, I mean that it is not the perfect little town. It is more like any other town in that there is disparity, diversity, ranges of income and opportunity, as well as bias. I believe my job is to get you to question your beliefs. Mr. Webb responds to my query of social injustice and industrial inequality: “I guess we’re all hunting like everybody else for a way the diligent and sensible can rise to the top and the lazy and quarrelsome can sink to the bottom …”

The note from Thornton Wilder is that Webb responds (tolerantly). Mr. Webb is the voice of Grover’s Corners. He is the publisher and editor of the local paper. People read what he has to say. Webb strikes me as being guilty of being the show” as opposed to “rehearsing the show.” By that, I mean it has been a creative group effort guided by [director] John Christian Plummer and the amazing production crew, as opposed to a strict mandate of required sequences and rules that must be followed. They continually encourage the actors’ input. We have created our Our Town.

In what way does Our Town resonate with you most?

Our Town resonates with me through my daughter Isabella, who recently performed in Our Town elsewhere as Emily. I worked on the set construction for that production and was able to watch her grow into the role as the creative process unfolded. When I saw the notice for HVSF’s production and the use of local talent, I was hooked, hoping to do it with her. Alas, it was not to be, as she will be starting college during tech week. I will be channeling her (and hopefully Mr. Wilder, of course) during the run.

Robert Convertino

Robert Convertino, living in Garrison for 14 years, via Montclair, via New York City, I’m a builder in the Hudson Valley region.

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

My character in Our Town is the Man in the Auditorium. My interpretation of the role is it serves as a small “reality check” of sorts for the audience’s view of Grover’s Corners. By this, I mean that it is not the perfect little town. It is more like any other town in that there is disparity, diversity, ranges of income and opportunity, as well as bias. I believe my job is to get you to question your beliefs. Mr. Webb responds to my query of social injustice and industrial inequality: “I guess we’re all hunting like everybody else for a way the diligent and sensible can rise to the top and the lazy and quarrelsome can sink to the bottom …”

The note from Thornton Wilder is that Webb responds (tolerantly). Mr. Webb is the voice of Grover’s Corners. He is the publisher and editor of the local paper. People read what he has to say. Webb strikes me as being guilty of being the show” as opposed to “rehearsing the show.” By that, I mean it has been a creative group effort guided by [director] John Christian Plummer and the amazing production crew, as opposed to a strict mandate of required sequences and rules that must be followed. They continually encourage the actors’ input. We have created our Our Town.

In what way does Our Town resonate with you most?

Our Town resonates with me through my daughter Isabella, who recently performed in Our Town elsewhere as Emily. I worked on the set construction for that production and was able to watch her grow into the role as the creative process unfolded. When I saw the notice for HVSF’s production and the use of local talent, I was hooked, hoping to do it with her. Alas, it was not to be, as she will be starting college during tech week. I will be channeling her (and hopefully Mr. Wilder, of course) during the run.

Cristina Pronzati

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

My name is Cristina Pronzati, I’m originally from Italy and have been living in Mahopac Falls for five years after 20 years in the city. I am a visual artist and illustrator and have my own little creative venture called TheSquareHeads, a world of original illustrated characters inspired by my non-profit animal rescue DakotaLove Pet Project, and featured on artisanal goodies, children’s books and gifts.

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

My character in Our Town is the Man in the Auditorium. My interpretation of the role is it serves as a small “reality check” of sorts for the audience’s view of Grover’s Corners. By this, I mean that it is not the perfect little town. It is more like any other town in that there is disparity, diversity, ranges of income and opportunity, as well as bias. I believe my job is to get you to question your beliefs. Mr. Webb responds to my query of social injustice and industrial inequality: “I guess we’re all hunting like everybody else for a way the diligent and sensible can rise to the top and the lazy and quarrelsome can sink to the bottom …”

The note from Thornton Wilder is that Webb responds (tolerantly). Mr. Webb is the voice of Grover’s Corners. He is the publisher and editor of the local paper. People read what he has to say. Webb strikes me as being guilty of being the show” as opposed to “rehearsing the show.” By that, I mean it has been a creative group effort guided by [director] John Christian Plummer and the amazing production crew, as opposed to a strict mandate of required sequences and rules that must be followed. They continually encourage the actors’ input. We have created our Our Town.

In what way does Our Town resonate with you most?

Our Town resonates with me through my daughter Isabella, who recently performed in Our Town elsewhere as Emily. I worked on the set construction for that production and was able to watch her grow into the role as the creative process unfolded. When I saw the notice for HVSF’s production and the use of local talent, I was hooked, hoping to do it with her. Alas, it was not to be, as she will be starting college during tech week. I will be channeling her (and hopefully Mr. Wilder, of course) during the run.
Stony Point Battlefield

Site known for bayonet attack on British

By Mary Ann Ebner

A visit to Stony Point Battlefield State Historic Site may not take you far from Philipstown or Beacon, but you'll find the past close to home. Walk the scenic trails on this preserve along the Hudson River that also boasts a museum and the Lighthouse at Stony Point, the Hudson River's oldest, which overlooks the river on a bluff. Built in 1826, it remained lit for 99 years before its decommissioning in 1925 and restoration in 1995. Located in Rockland County about a half hour from Cold Spring and 40 minutes from Beacon, the Stony Point site marks the location of the significant battlefield on which Continental light infantry forces conducted a midnight assault on British forces in July 1779. Without ammunition in their muskets but with bayonets fixed, the Revolutionary forces commanded by Brig. Gen. Anthony Wayne relied on hand-to-hand combat.

“The battle was a bayonet attack, and the symbol for the battlefield has always been five bayonets,” said site manager Julia Warger.

The museum houses bayonets, tools and other artifacts, while programs include reenactments of 18th-century military camp life, cannon and musket demonstrations, and children's activities. Senior historian Michael Sheehan has worked at the facility for 10 years and enjoys taking visitors back in time. He not only looks the part when he dons his traditional Scottish bonnet and British regimental coatee, but he knows what he's talking about, having spent most of his waking hours studying the period, participating in reenactments, giving lectures (see sidebar, below) and sharing stories with visitors.

“People will tell me they went in and just bought this stuff off the shelves,” Sheehan said. “I got very lucky with my uniform research, and I've learned to make my own repairs. I've lived in Stony Point my whole life, and this is a great way to teach people.”

In addition to the museum, the site allows visitors to see a resident blacksmith at work. His schedule varies but he can often be found in the Soldier's Camp Wednesday through Sunday to discuss military smithing and demonstrate how new items and repairs were made.

The Stony Point Battlefield State Historic Site is located at 44 Battlefield Road in Stony Point. For more information, visit nysparks.com/historic-sites/8/details.aspx or call 845-786-2521.

Schedule
• 10 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Wednesday to Saturday
• Noon - 4:30 p.m. Sunday
• Closed Monday (except Labor Day from noon to 5 p.m.) and Tuesday.

Trip tips
• Pick up a self-guided walking tour brochure at site entrance.
• Handicapped golf-cart transportation from parking lot to main site available upon request on weekends. Museum wheelchair accessible.
• No photographs allowed in museum.
• Cold picnics welcome, no grills.
• No trash cans on site. Carry-in-carry-out facility.

Learn More About Stony Point

On Thursday, Aug. 25, at 7 p.m., the Fort Montgomery Historic Site in Fort Montgomery will present a lecture by Michael Sheehan, senior historian of Stony Point Battlefield, on the storming of the fort on July 16, 1779, by Gen. Anthony Wayne, who led 1,150 men in a bayonet-only assault up steep hills against the heavily defended British garrison. The force captured 500 defenders and 15 pieces of artillery in under a half hour. Although Stony Point was held for only a few days, the assault was a major morale booster for the Americans. To reserve a seat, call 845-446-2134.

On Saturday, Aug. 27, at 2 p.m. at the Stony Point Historic Site, Sheehan will discuss the New York Campaign. Over five months of 1776, Gen. George Washington lost every major battle. His soldiers fought desperately during a retreat from the East River to the Delaware River. Call 845-786-2521 for reservations.

Reenactment Day at Constitution Island

Annual event scheduled for Aug. 27

The Constitution Island Association will host its annual reenactment day from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 27, with demonstrations of muskets, rifles and cannons, inspections, drills, and tactical formations. The West Point Cadet Black Knights Drill Team and West Point Band’s Hellcats will perform, along with storyteller Jonathan Kruk, and guided tours will be offered of the Island's redoubts and batteries. Hotdogs and drinks will be available, or pack a picnic lunch. Register via constitutionisland.org.

To reach the island, vans will take guests from the far end of the Cold Spring Metro-North station from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Bring a photo ID for passengers ages 16 and older.
Beacon Police Blotter

Aug. 5 to Aug. 11, 2016

Officers handled 396 calls, including eight auto accidents and nine domestic disputes. This is a selection of their reports.

**Friday, Aug. 5**
11:45 a.m. – Larceny reported from vehicle on South Cedar St.

**Saturday, Aug. 6**
9:45 a.m. – Caller reported damage to Beacon 3D statue on Main St.
11 a.m. – Caller reported package stolen from porch on South St.
5:50 p.m. – Caller to headquarters reported being harassed at work.

**Sunday, Aug. 7**
7:30 p.m. – Caller reported front tire of vehicle slashed on Rombout Ave.

**Tuesday, Aug. 9**
1 a.m. – Cab fare dispute on Colonial Road.
11:45 a.m. – After a traffic stop on Main Street, Isaiah Seeley, 28, of Beacon was charged with possession of marijuana, failure to yield to a pedestrian and not wearing a seat belt.
12:30 p.m. – Caller reported damage to vehicle on VanKleeck Ave.

**Wednesday, Aug. 10**
9:20 p.m. – Vehicle reported stolen from West Church St.

**Thursday, Aug. 11**
11 a.m. – After a dispute on South Ave., Lamerica Hakim, 23, of Beacon was charged with attempted assault.
11:45 a.m. – Aboating event on Lake Mahopac that Sgt. Michael Szabo played a key role in organizing.

Putnam Deputy Named Marine Officer of Year

Sgt. Michael Szabo cited for outstanding service

Sgt. Michael Szabo of the Putnam County Sheriff’s Department has been named the state’s Marine Law Enforcement Officer of the Year.

Sheriff Donald Smith praised the sergeant for his outstanding service in the county Marine Unit, pointing out that Szabo played a key role in organizing a boating event on Lake Mahopac that raised funds for veterans groups. The sheriff called the sergeant “a great sheriff’s office ambassador for community policing in Putnam County” and said his family could rightfully be proud of him.

Szabo has trained more than 400 residents in boater safety and instructed other officers in marine law enforcement. The citation noted the officer’s “fun and creative approach” to encourage children to wear life preservers by handing out ice cream treats to youngsters seen wearing them while boating with their families on Lake Mahopac.

The selection committee for the citation was made up of officials from the Bureau of Marine Services, a division of the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation.

Visit highlandscurrent.com for news updates and latest information.

Two Charged with Garrison Graffiti

Deputies arrest suspects from Cortlandt Manor

Putnam County Sheriff’s deputies arrested two males from Cortlandt Manor on suspicion of spray painting a bridge on Indian Brook Road in Garrison.

At about 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, Aug. 11, deputies Benjamin Levine and Robert Detlef responded to a report of several men “tagging” a concrete bridge support but were unable to locate the suspects. The person who called in the report had provided a license plate number, and deputies located the vehicle at the Appalachian Market on Route 9.

Deputies said that John D. Darling, 18, and Kevin L. Dyckman, 17, admitted to tagging the support. The deputies recovered a backpack containing six cans of spray paint in colors that matched the graffiti. Darling and Dyckman were each charged with a felony (criminal mischief) and two misdemeanors (making graffiti and possession of graffiti instruments) and taken to the Putnam County Correctional Facility pending arraignment.

Scammers Posing as Tax Reps

Hack caller ID systems

The New York State Department of Taxation and Finance warns taxpayers that con artists are “cloning” the agency’s fraud hotline phone numbers so they appear on caller ID, giving the impression they are from the department. If either of the following Tax Department numbers appear on a caller ID system, it means the caller is not legitimate: 518-457-5181 or 518-457-0578.

The agency doesn’t use these numbers for outgoing calls.

“Many of the imposters who call demand payments on iTunes gift cards and other reloadable debit cards, which are obvious red flags,” said Jerry Boone, the commissioner of taxation and finance. To reach the Tax Department, call 518-457-5434. You also can create an account at tax.ny.gov to confirm liabilities and manage your taxes.

Whole Child Developmental Group offers over 15 years of high-quality behavior analysis experience. We maintain a child-centered approach. We offer:

1. Applied Verbal Behavior
2. Applied Behavior Analysis program consulting and troubleshooting
3. Functional Behavior Analysis/ Behavior Intervention Plans
4. Parent and Child Early Childhood Social Skills Classes
5. Parent training

Register by August 30 and receive a 10% discount on 8 weeks of social skills classes, September 24 - November 12.

Free introductory classes on Saturdays, September 10 & 17.

Register online
www.wholechildgroup.com
347-573-3691
**Grimm’s and Ghosts**

*Tompkins Corner to host storyteller*

On Friday, Aug. 26, Tompkins Corners Cultural Center in Putnam Valley will host storyteller Judith Heineman in an evening of stories for the family, including Grimm’s Fairy Tales and ghosts.

“We’re hoping for good weather so we really can have the event around a campfire in the yard,” said Maaike Hoekstra, president of Tompkins Corners. “And we’ll have marshmallows for roasting and makings for s’mores.” The event begins at 7 p.m., following the farmers’ market.

Tompkins Corners is located at 729 Peekskill Hollow Road. The suggested donation is $10 but children age 9 and under are free. Reservations may be made by calling 845-528-7280 or emailing info@tompkinscorners.org.

**How Green is Your Thumb?**

*Masters Gardener training begins Sept. 7*

On Sept. 7, the Cornell Cooperative Extension of Putnam County will begin a weekly, 15-session Master Gardener certification course in Carmel covering botany, entomology, plant pathology, soil and turf science, perennials, annuals, trees and shrubs, pruning, animal control, plant propagation, environmental issues and community education.

After completing the course and a final project, Master Gardener volunteers must spend at least 30 hours each year on Cooperative Extension education projects. Master Gardener training is available every other year, and therefore will not be offered in Putnam County again until 2018. The fee is $375. For more information, email Katherine Everitt at kee43@cornell.edu or call 845-278-6738.

**Hunting and Trapping Permits Available**

*Deadline for permits is Oct. 1*

The state Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) will be selling one-year hunting, trapping and deer management permits through Oct. 1. Deer management permits are issued through a random selection process. All new hunters and trappers must complete a free mandatory education course. To locate a course or purchase a permit, visit www.dec.ny.gov or call 866-933-2257.

Special permits are also available for junior hunters (ages 12 to 15) and trappers (under 12) for deer, wild turkey, pheasants and waterfowl.

New York has more than 500,000 licensed hunters, and last year was the first since the 1950s in which no hunters were killed, which the DEC attributes in part to its training requirement.

**Sitting as a Setting**

*Gallery looking for chair art*

Gallery 66 NY in Cold Spring has put out a call for artists to make or decorate a chair for an event at the beginning of October. Any type of chair will be considered (e.g., painted, welded, wood, cardboard, felted, cement) but the more artistic or outrageous the better, as long as the chair remains functional.

There is no fee but artists must email a proposal and/or a photo of the chair to gallery66ny@gmail.com. It does not have to be completed but the concept should be explained. The deadline is Thursday, Aug. 25.

**Getting Close to the Earth**

*Museum to host “belly botany”*

The Hudson Highlands Nature Museum in Cornwall will host a program, “Belly Botany,” at 10 a.m. on Sunday, Aug. 21, in which adults and children ages 5 and older will lie on their bellies to discover what they can see in a square foot of nature. “While on your belly, you can only focus on what is in your small space,” explained Emily Nestlerode, who will lead the program. “This gives people a chance to explore and appreciate a whole other world living just below our feet.”

The fee is $5 for adults and $3 for children who are museum members; otherwise, it’s $7 and $5. For more information, visit hhnm.org or call 845-534-5506, ext. 204. The program will take place at the Outdoor Discovery Center, on Muser Drive, across from 174 Angola Road.

**4-H Offers Dog Care and Vet Science Programs**

*Open to Putnam County students ages 9 and older*

The Cornell Cooperative Extension of Putnam County is offering two programs for students who are interested in animals. The first, 4-H Dog Care & Basic Training, takes place at 6:15 p.m. on Sept. 14 and Sept. 21 in Carmel. Dog ownership is not required. The course teaches grooming, first aid and diet, as well as basic handling, commands and guidance on competition, including at the Putnam County 4-H Fair.

The program is open to residents of Putnam County ages 9 and older, with a limit of 12 students. (Continued on next page)
**Free Puppet Performance**

The beacon Recreation Center at 23 W. Center St. will host a free performance of *Hook, Line & Sinker: Fishing the Hudson River*, by the mask-and-puppet theater Arm of the Sea at 6 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 26. The show features live music and low-tech special effects that reveal the river’s complex inner life.

**Send a Clown to Costa Rica**

*Performer hoping to play for poorest kids*

Emily Ellison, a music therapist at the MidHudson Regional Early Education Center/Preschool for Children with Special Needs in Poughkeepsie who often performs in Beacon, is raising funds to join the clown doctor Patch Adams on a trip to entertain the children who live in the poorest neighborhood in Costa Rica.

The Gesundheit! Institute, founded in 2006 by Adams (who was portrayed in a 1998 film by Robin Williams), focuses on “humanitarian clowning” and community development focused on health care. The institute organizes eight trips a year. Ellison has raised about $700 of $2,000 needed for airfare and the purchase of simple musical instruments and trinkets to share with the children. Donations can be made at youcaring.com/emily-ellison-590433 or by sending a check to Emily Ellison, P.O. Box 103, Chelsea, NY 12512.

**Library to Offer Free Babysitting Course**

*Open to students ages 10 and older*

A free introduction to babysitting course for students ages 10 and older will be held from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 27, at the Howland Public Library in Beacon. Participants will learn job interviewing tips, communication skills, ages and stages of babies and toddlers, safety and first aid tips, and the feeding and care of children, including diaper changing. Students should bring pen and paper and a bag lunch and drink for the break.

The instructor, Amanda Tucker, is a kindergarten teacher who holds certifications in Early Childhood, General Education and Special Education as well as a master’s degree in literacy. To register, call 845-831-1134, ext. 103, or email youth@beaconlibrary.org.

**Hand Puppets**

Wool hand puppets are all created in Canada with recycled wool, specially treated with an eco-friendly process that ensures that each hand puppet is unique, as well as soft and perfect for any kid or adult who loves puppets!

**Support Groups**

For a full list of area support groups, visit: highlandscurrent.com/sg
Watch the Skies! Hurricane Season “Backloaded” to Late Summer

Simple steps to prepare for severe storms

By Anita Peltonen

Meteorologists expect 2016 to be the most active hurricane season since Sandy ripped up southeast New York in 2012 and Irene and Lee demolished the Northeast in 2011. While hurricane season generally starts in June, Weather Underground says the storms appear to be “backloaded to late summer,” which continues through Sept. 21. In other words — right about now.

The American Red Cross is calling the Louisiana inundation the worst disaster since Katrina. Watching fatalities there rise with the floodwaters — so much bad weather is connected, with Delta storms raging up the Atlantic seaboard and hurricanes being “seeded” by storms off western Africa — it’s time to get real about disaster preparedness.

Get with the program

First, get programmed. Sign on for updates on hazardous storms by texting GETEMERGENCY to 90999, or by searching “Red Cross Emergency” in Apple Apps or Google Play. Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA) alerts are at fema.gov/mobile-app. A hurricane warning means one is expected within 36 to 48 hours; a watch means it’s possible.

Next, assemble a safety kit (see www.nhc.noaa.gov/prepare). Remember that the river towns of the Highlands, which suffer shoreline and inland flooding risk, are widely forested, increasing the risk that escape routes may be blocked by fallen trees or limbs. Dirt roads and elevated areas add landslide and accessibility risk.

The numbers

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration foresees a season of more powerful and frequent hurricanes (17). With only five having hit the U.S. so far, the worst-case scenario includes a dozen more in the next few months, with warmer water in the Atlantic increasing the odds they’ll be more forceful. Four are expected to be major. Most hurricanes are believed by National Geographic and other scientific organizations to have been super-sized by human activity.

One danger of hurricanes is that they often don’t seem “real” until it’s too late. A category 1 hurricane, with sustained winds of 74 to 95 mph (enough to damage shingles, vinyl siding and gutters and topple power-line poles), can quickly become far more intense. For an animated vision of the damage that can be done to your home by the exponential power of these storms, visit the National Hurricane Center at www.nhc.noaa.gov/aboutsshws.php.

Logistics

When severe weather strikes, the Red Cross coordinates with town, city and county officials. But the organization doesn’t “activate” or tell people where to go before a storm comes.
Hurricane Patricia as seen from the International Space Station on Oct. 23, 2015  

(from previous page) close. Depending on the type of disaster, “we don’t know if that [pre-approved] location will be standing or have power — or be close enough to the population in need,” explained Kelly Formoso, the Red Cross program manager for Dutchess County. However, Beacon does have Red Cross-approved shelters, vetted for water and fuel supply, accessibility and other safety measures at the ready, and Beacon Fire Chief Gary VanVoorhis said his department can request the use of Beacon High School.

In Philipstown, the Recreation Center on Route 9D in Garrison was certified this year by the Red Cross as a shelter. Previously, the closest approved shelter was in Carmel.

To get the designation, the Town of Philipstown had to upgrade the Recreation Center, said councilmember John Van Tassel, who worked on the project. That included making the bathrooms and showers handicap accessible and adding a generator. Cots and other supplies are stored in a trailer at the site by the Red Cross, which would bring in food and water. The Recreation Center already had a commercial kitchen.

Trainees needed

The town would rely on volunteers during an emergen-
Hudson Valley Renegades Host NY-Penn All Stars

Game showcases best of Class A minor league

By Michael Turton

It was North versus South as the Hudson Valley Renegades hosted the NY-Penn League All-Star game at Dutchess Stadium on Aug. 16. After a third-inning rain delay, the South prevailed 9-5 behind a fourth inning, three-run home run by MVP Erlin Cerda, who plays third base for the Mahoning Valley Scrappers.

The North, which included seven Renegades all-stars, got off to a dramatic start when Tyler Hill, an outfielder with the Lowell Spinners, hit the first pitch in the bottom of the first inning over the left field fence for a quick 1-0 lead.

An affiliate of the Tampa Bay Rays, the Renegades sent infielders Nathaniel Lowe, Miles Mastrobuoni and Jim Haley; outfielder Angel Perez and pitchers Adrian Navas and Joe Serrapica. Their hurler Travis Ott started on the mound for the North, which was led by Renegades manager Tim Parenton.

The NY-Penn League has a storied history dating back to its formation as the New York-Ontario-Pennsylvania (PONY) League in 1939. Now a Class A Short Season league with 14 teams (including six in New York), its rosters have included many players who worked their way up to the big leagues and became standouts, including Curt Schilling, Dwight Gooden, Randy Johnson, Andy Pettitte, Billy Wagner and Jonathan Papelbon. Prior to the start of the All-Star game, league president Ben Hayes announced the latest inductees into the league's Hall of Fame: Dick "Richie" Allen, Jorge Posada and Pete Rose.

The Renegades won league championships in 1999 and 2012. With a 32-22 record, the team is in first place by a half-game over the Staten Island Yankees. For schedule and ticket information, visit hvrenegades.com. The Renegades have a three-game home stand against Connecticut starting Tuesday, July 23, with the first pitch at 7:05 p.m. each night. Tickets start at $6.

Dutchess Stadium: field of dreams

Photos by M. Turton

Climbing the Ladder

Minor league levels (ascending)

• Rookie
• Class A Short Season
• Class A
• Class A Advanced
• Double-A
• Triple-A

In New York, Syracuse, Rochester and Buffalo have Triple-A clubs and Binghamton has a Double-A team.

"Take me out to the ball game!"

All eyes on the ball

Fans asked the All-Stars for autographs.