

The HIGHLANDS Current

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AUGUST 19, 2016

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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 some-

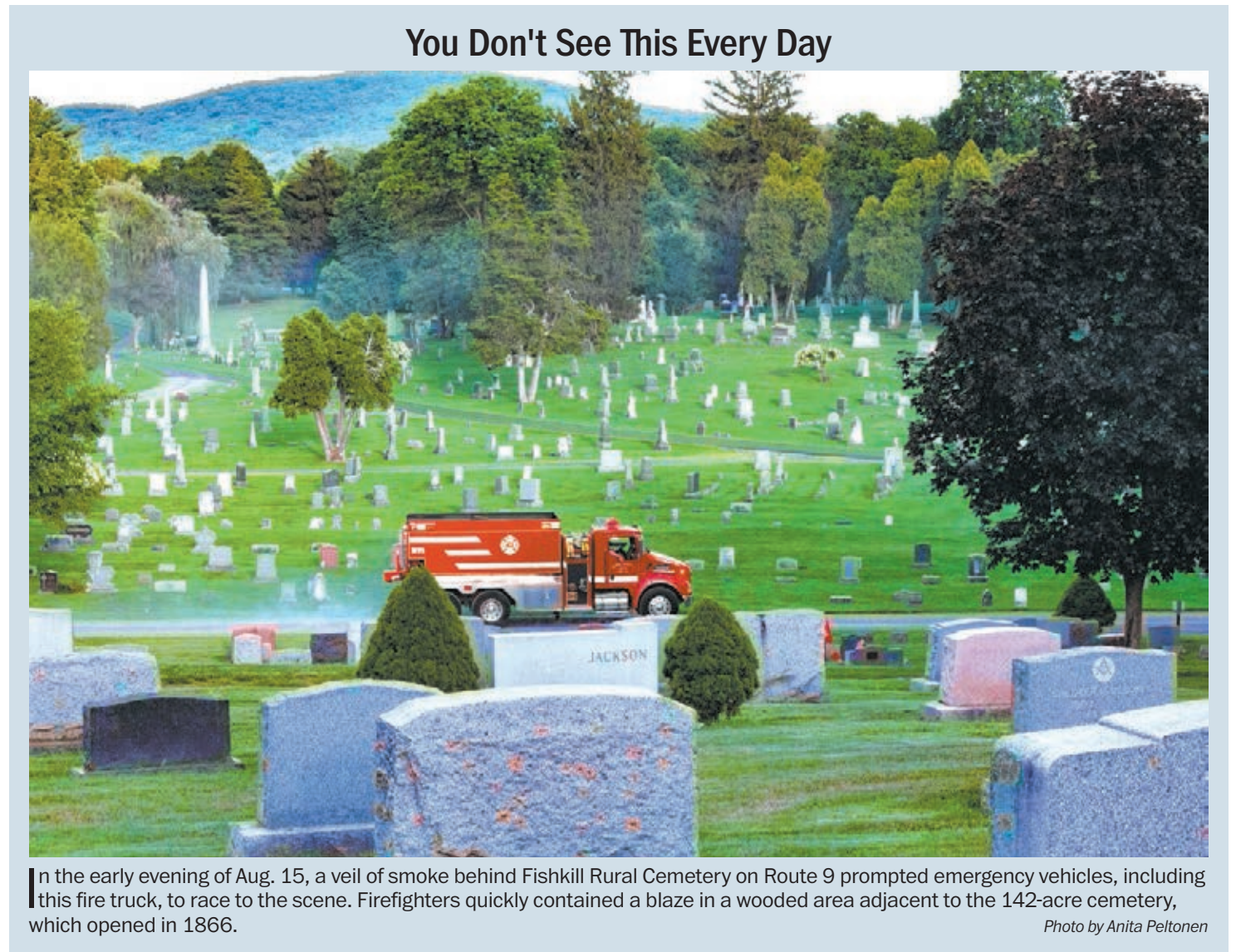


Lauree Ostrofsky

Photo by A. Rooney

thing. “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



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.

Photo by Anita Peltonen

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- (Continued on Page 3)

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 sec-

ond 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, appointing five interim commissioners: Sandy Bohl (chair), Nat Prentice (deputy chair), David Brower, Joe Mercurio and

Rodney Tudor. Bohl, Mercurio and Tudor are also members of the fire company. Garrison accountant John Greener was appointed as treasurer and Maura Fronio was named secretary. The district came into being on Jan. 2.

Feeling its way

Prentice told *The Current* that he and his fellow rookie commissioners have been “feeling their way” through the process of getting the district up and running.

“We’ve been busy getting policies in



The Garrison fire station on Route 9 Photo provided

place — basic stuff,” he said. “We spent six months just trying to sort that out. It’s pretty tedious!” One particular challenge, he said, has been making sure the district complies with all applicable laws. The district has a lawyer on call and each commissioner received training from the New York State (Continued on Page 6)

Small, Good Things

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 manufac

ture, “Churning Day”? It has been said pure white milk al-chemically 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 kidney-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

Brown Butter Shortcake

Yields: 8 servings

- 1 cup sugar

1½ sticks plus 1 tablespoon unsalted butter

1 cup plus 2 tablespoons all-purpose flour
- 4 large eggs

1 teaspoon baking powder

¼ teaspoon salt

½ cup buttermilk
1. Heat oven to 350° F. Place a 10-inch cake pan on parchment paper; trace and cut out a circle. Grease the pan (bottom and sides) with one tablespoon butter; press the parchment circle into the pan. Flip the parchment over, buttered side up, and sprinkle 2 tablespoons flour on parchment. Tap to coat bottom and sides of pan and discard the excess. Sift 1 cup flour, baking powder and salt together and set aside.

2. Melt 1½ sticks butter over medium-high heat. Simmer, whisking often to incorporate any solids that sink to bottom. (This whisking is important to avoid burning). The butter will foam and “spit”—this is the water boiling off. Continue whisking and when butter is golden-amber and smells nutty (about 4 to 6 minutes), remove from heat and pour into a heatproof measuring cup to cool at room temperature.

3. Bring a large pot with about an inch of water in it to a simmer over medium-high heat. Set a large heatproof bowl over the boiling water (bowl should not touch the water; this is a primitive double boiler). Reduce heat to low and whisk eggs and sugar together in the bowl. Continue whisking until the mixture has tripled in volume (4 to 5 minutes) and remove the bowl from the heat.

4. Using an electric hand mixer whip egg-sugar mixture on high speed until thick and pale (about 2 to 3 minutes). Reduce speed to low and slowly drizzle in warm butter. (Adding it too quickly will cause batter to separate.) Use a rubber spatula to scrape browned bits into batter.

5. Using a large whisk, gently fold one-third of the dry ingredients into the batter, then half the buttermilk. Repeat, ending with last third of dry mixture. Pour batter into the cake pan and bake until cake sides pull away from pan and center resists light pressure, about 20 to 25 minutes.

6. Remove shortcake from oven and let rest for about 10 minutes. Run a knife around edge of pan to release cake and invert onto a rack to cool completely. Slice into wedges and serve topped with blueberry compote.

Blueberry Cardamom Compote

- 7 to 8 cardamom pods

2 cups fresh blueberries
- ½ cup fine sugar

½ cup water

Crack the cardamom pods, remove and finely grind the seeds in a mortar and pestle or spice grinder. Mix the cardamom, blueberries, sugar and water in a saucepan and bring to a boil over medium heat. Reduce heat and simmer, stirring occasionally, for about 10 minutes until sauce thickens. Remove from heat and cool.



Brown butter shortcake Photo by J. Dizney

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 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 (hence the moniker *noisette*: hazelnut) 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.

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Women in Business *(from Page 1)*



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.

Photo by A. Rooney

ing more experienced owners as well.

The gathering for August was held in the new Beacon premises of Katie Hellmuth Martin's online businesses: A Little Beacon Blog, Tin Shingle and InHouseDesign Media. "I've been home for 11 years, working with a lot of people," says Hellmuth Martin. "Now it is time to get out and meet people."

The first hour was devoted to chatting and networking. Hellmuth Martin then offered advice on using the email marketing service Mailchimp, and asked each woman to introduce herself and briefly describe her business. The occupations included graphic designer, bed & breakfast owner, film producer, marketing specialist for nonprofits, real estate agent, caterer, doula, marriage and family therapist, travel planner, photographer, Reiki practitioner, a woman who hoped to start a business helping people save money by strategically shopping online, and a former preschool teacher of 25 years who is "trying to find out what to do when I grow up."

Ostrofsky, says she sought out women for a group because "there's something special about how we 'do' business and 'do' community. Women have an emotional component in an empowered, strong way. We approach things differently, valuing community and growth. When one woman finds something that works for her, she wants her friends to know. We want other women to feel sup-

ported; that's our desire."

Ostrofsky came to her calling as a career coach in a startling way. At age 28, she was diagnosed with a brain tumor. While recovering, a nurse advised her: "What we think about, we create in our lives."

She says she became so focused on getting well that "I was able to heal myself. It propelled me forward. I quit my job, went to art school, started [her business] Simply Leap, traveled, moved to a new city and ended my marriage. With each choice I believed that more was possible than I could ever imagine, and each time it came true. I thought, If I'm sitting on that kind of power, what if my job was to help people realize that they have that power too, and shouldn't feel beholden to anything?"

Her clients tend to be women who want to change careers or start businesses. Hudson Valley Women in Business "becomes a place to get away from saying, 'But I'm not good at that' by building confidence in a nurturing way," she says. "We have many barbers come from our group, and women using other women's businesses. What sets this group apart is that it's very supportive, welcoming and safe. A place where you can figure it out while being slightly awkward."

The next meet-up is scheduled for Sept. 12 at the One-on-One Salon in Rhinebeck. For more information, visit hudsonvalleywomeninbusiness.com.



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Town of Philipstown
Town Hall, 238 Main Street, Cold Spring, NY 10516

The Town of Philipstown is seeking Requests for Proposals (RFP) for the following:

HUDSON HIGHLANDS FJORD TRAIL GENERIC ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT AND CONSTRUCTION-READY ENGINEERING & BID DOCUMENTS FOR THE RIVERFRONT TRAIL SEGMENT

The Town of Philipstown, in concert with its project partners, is working to advance an envisioned 7-mile trail connecting Cold Spring and Beacon in the Hudson Highlands region of the Hudson River Valley, known as the Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail. The Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail emerged from local concerns over safety conditions along State Route 9D near the Breakneck Ridge Trailhead for the Hudson Highlands State Park Preserve. A recently completed Preliminary Draft Master Plan (Plan) identifies a preliminary preferred route for the trail using a segment-by-segment approach. The Plan, and the preferred route it identifies, will now undergo environmental review in accordance with 6 NYCRR Part 617 State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQR) provisions.

The New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP) is the designated Lead Agency for the SEQR review of this project. A positive declaration was issued for the project on October 7, 2015, requiring the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). Given the regional and phased nature of the project, the environmental review will be completed as a Generic Environmental Impact Statement (GEIS).

A Draft Scoping Document for the Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail has been prepared by Scenic Hudson and OPRHP. The Scoping Document is intended to serve as the foundation for the identification and evaluation of benefits and potentially significant adverse impacts that are pertinent to the development of the Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail and to identify appropriate mitigation measures, as well as, viable alternatives. The Draft Scoping Document and the Preliminary Draft Master Plan for the Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail documents are available on the project website: www.hudsonfjordtrail.org/.

The Town and its partners now seek an interdisciplinary Consultant or team of Consultants to complete a two-part planning and engineering process, as described below:

Part 1: Complete a Generic Environmental Impact Statement (GEIS) on the Plan.

Given the Draft Scoping Document has already been prepared, completion of the GEIS is anticipated to entail:

- Completing a Final Scoping Document based on comments received during the public meeting and public comment period.
- Conducting special studies and field verifications as needed
- Leading multiple public meetings to receive public comments on presented material regarding alternatives analysis and anticipated impacts of the project and possible mitigation measures;
- Completing the Master Plan and GEIS process and documents in a way that can be used by a non-expert audience and enable the general public to meaningfully engage in the discussion.
- Conducting a detailed survey and engineering feasibility assessment and design study on the Riverfront Trail section between Little Stony Point and Breakneck Ridge (which includes a bridge over Metro-North Railroad tracks at the Breakneck Ridge Trailhead) to ascertain feasible routes and conceptual designs and their respective potential impacts. It is anticipated that this will include working with Metro-North Railroad, the NYS Department of State, the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, and other project partners to develop alternatives that include consideration of sea level rise resilience of the railroad and trail infrastructure as a key variable.
- Working with project partners to bring the Final Master Plan/Final GEIS forward for adoption by OPRHP and the four municipalities along the route: Village of Cold Spring, Town of Philipstown, Town of Fishkill, and City of Beacon.

Part 2: Develop full construction-level engineering drawings, bid documents, and permitting for the Riverfront Trail section.

- Once the Final Master Plan and GEIS have been published, the Consultant will then bring the final preferred alignment for the Riverfront Trail section to complete design and construction-level engineering drawings, bid documents, and cost estimates, and securing any necessary permits and approvals.

The full RFP document and supporting materials may be obtained from the Office of the Town Clerk, 238 Main Street, Cold Spring NY 10516, or by contacting Ms. Tina Merando, Town Clerk, at 845-265-3329.

All proposals must be received in the office of the Town Clerk by 4 p.m. on Friday, September 9, 2016. Specific submission requirements are contained in the RFP document which is available from the Town Clerk. The last date questions on the RFP may be submitted is August 23, 2016. All such inquiries must be written, submitted by e-mail and cite the RFP section in question.

OWNER RIGHTS RESERVED:

The Town of Philipstown hereinafter called the OWNER, reserves the right to reject any or all Proposals and to waive any informality or technicality in any Proposal in the interest of the Owner.

STATEMENT OF NON-COLLUSION:

Parties submitting Proposals are required to execute a non-collusion bidding certificate pursuant to Section 103d of the General Municipal Law of the State of New York.

The Town of Philipstown hereby notifies all parties submitting Proposals that it will affirmatively ensure that in regard to any Contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, minority business enterprises will be afforded full opportunity to submit proposals in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, or national origin in consideration for an award.

Date: 8/26/2016

By: Tina Merando, Town Clerk

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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 expec-

tancy 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 that made 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

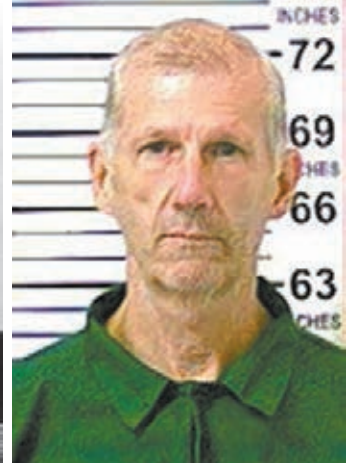
crime and was far past the age of the vast majority of perpetrators. Nonetheless, the Parole Board was not willing to look past the gravity of his 1975 crime. Even after a state judge held the parole board in contempt for its rote denial of MacKenzie's application, the board continued to disregard the 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*



Officer Matthew Giglio



John Mackenzie

Comments Posted at HighlandsCurrent.com

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.

Leonora Burton

"It has always been a bafflement 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."



Rufus, in mushroom hunting regalia Photo by Joe Dizney

In the July 29 issue, Joe Dizney 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 Russell 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 only at peace and happy when swimming laps, and I often took him to water holes just so he could relax."

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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 9. (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



Commissioners Nat Prentice, Joe Mercurio and David Brower at the firehouse
Photo by M. Turton

information session from 1 to 3 p.m. at the Desmond-Fish Library. Another 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
7-24	Medical assist, assist EMS crew
7-24	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
8-08	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

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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.



A view of Parcel L

Photo by J. Simms

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)

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.

Susan Carroll Berck, PhD, PsyD
CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGIST



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Community Conversation

Wednesday, August 24

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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 in-

clude 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.”

Daniel Laub, an associate at Cuddy & Feder, which represents The Lofts at Bea-

“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.”

con, Beacon 248 and Weber Projects, told the council that “trying to now switch around the amount of money that’s dedicated to these [affordable] units now will change drastically their figures for what [developers] were originally proposing and how they got their approvals.”

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.



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The Calendar



The festival added the Chapel Restoration in Cold Spring as one of its sites last year.

Photos provided



Evelyn and Craig Watters of Garrison with screenwriter Raolat Abiola and filmmaker Kevin Boon at the 2015 festival

Brewster Film Fest Again Opens at Chapel Restoration



Stacy and Bob Dumont

50 short and feature films shown all over county

By Alison Rooney

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

By Alison Rooney

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)



Evry Mann

Photo provided

Drew Andrews

Photo by A. Rooney

ONGOING

Gallery Shows
highlandscurrent.com/galleries

FRIDAY, AUGUST 19

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
1500 Route 9D, Wappingers Falls
845-838-0094 | hvrenegades.com

HVSF: As You Like It
7:30 p.m. Boscobel | 1601 Route 9D, Garrison
845-265-3638 | hvshakespeare.org
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.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 20

47th Riverside Crafts Fair
10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Garrison Art Center
23 Garrison's Landing, Garrison
845-424-3960 | garrisonartcenter.org

Friends of the Library Book Sale (50% off)
10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library
472 Route 403, Garrison
845-424-3020 | desmondfishlibrary.org

Tomato Canning Workshop
10 a.m. Hilltop Hanover Farm
1271 Hanover St., Yorktown Heights
brownpapertickets.com/event/2541637

Back to School Block Party
Noon – 4 p.m. South Avenue Park, Beacon
facebook.com/lamBeacon

Calling All Poets Annual Poetry Marathon
Noon – 11 p.m. Roost Studios | 69 Main St., New Paltz | 914-474-7758 | callingallpoets.net

Assemblyman Frank Skartados Office Hours
1 – 2:30 p.m. Howland Public Library
313 Main St., Beacon
assembly.state.ny.us/mem/Frank-Skartados

Sunset Tour
5 p.m. Manitoga | 584 Route 9D, Garrison
845-424-3812 | visitmanitoga.org

Artist-Led Tour of Constellation
7 p.m. Beacon Institute Dock
347-244-3044 | melissamcgillconstellation.com

Brick Town Theatre: *Sentimental Journey, The Return Trip*
7 p.m. Howland Cultural Center | 477 Main St., Beacon
845-765-3012 | howlandculturalcenter.org

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

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

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

CSFS: *The Shining*
8 p.m. Dockside Park, Cold Spring
coldspringfilm.org

Dave Attell (Comedy)
8 p.m. Paramount Hudson Valley | 1008 Brown St., Peekskill | 914-739-0039

SUNDAY, AUGUST 21

Desmond-Fish Library closed (except for sale)

Calendar Highlights

For upcoming events visit highlandscurrent.com

Send event listings to calendar@highlandscurrent.com

47th Riverside Crafts Fair
10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Garrison Art Center
See details under Saturday.

Sara and Art Labriola (Gypsy Jazz)
11:30 a.m. – 2 p.m. Towne Crier Café
379 Main St., Beacon
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com

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. Glynwood Farm | 362 Glynwood Road, Cold Spring | 845-265-3338 | glynwood.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 Krasskova: The Odyssey (Artist's Talk)
4 p.m. RiverWinds Gallery | 172 Main St., Beacon
845-838-2880 | riverwindsgallery.com

Kids' Open Mic Night
6 – 8 p.m. 12 Grapes | 12 N. Division St., Peekskill
914-737-6624 | 12grapes.com

Sunset Music Series: Murali Coryell
6 – 8 p.m. Foot of Main, Cold Spring
facebook.com/coldspringmusicseries

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.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 23

Dutchess County Fair
10 a.m. – 10 p.m. Dutchess County Fairgrounds
6550 Spring Brook Avenue, Rhinebeck
dutchessfair.com

Summer Soiree for Seniors
10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Putnam County Golf Course
187 Hill St., Mahopac
845-265-3952 | putnamcountyny.gov

HVSF: *So Please You*
2 p.m. Boscobel | See details under Friday.

Family Farm Tour
3:45 p.m. Glynwood Farm | 362 Glynwood Road, Cold Spring | 845-265-3338 | glynwood.org

Beacon Historical Society
7 p.m. Howland Cultural Center | 477 Main St., Beacon | 845-831-0514 | beaconhistorical.org

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

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

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

Showing Up For Racial Justice (SURJ)
8 p.m. Beahive Beacon | 291 Main St., Beacon

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 24

Dutchess County Fair
10 a.m. – 10 p.m. Dutchess County Fairgrounds
See details under Tuesday.

Howland Public Library
11 a.m. Ready, Steady, Go! (ages 5-8)
2 p.m. Hoop Dance Foundations for Teens
See details under Monday.

Community Conversation
3 p.m. Cold Spring Coffee Pantry
3091 Route 9, Cold Spring
845-424-3020 | desmondfishlibrary.org

Guided Tour: Systematic Order Beds
5:30 p.m. Stonecrop Gardens
81 Stonecrop Lane, Cold Spring
845-265-2000 | stonecrop.org

Garrison School Board
6:30 p.m. Garrison School | 1100 Route 9D, Garrison
845-424-3689 | gufs.org

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

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

Free Movie Night: *Alice in Wonderland*
8 p.m. Visitor's Center
Main St. at Route 9D, Beacon | 845-765-0444
beaconchamberofcommerce.com

Comedy Night
8:30 p.m. Dogwood | 47 E. Main St., Beacon
845-202-7500 | dogwoodbar.com

THURSDAY, AUGUST 25

Dutchess County Fair
10 a.m. – 10 p.m. Dutchess County Fairgrounds
See details under Tuesday.

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

Summer Reading Finale with Marco the Magician
11 a.m. Butterfield Library | 10 Morris Ave., Cold Spring | 845-265-3040 | butterfieldlibrary.org

Snapology: Lego Scientists
1 p.m. Howland Public Library
See details under Monday.

Summer Reading Ice Cream Party
4 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library | 472 Route 403, Garrison | 845-424-3020 | desmondfishlibrary.org

The Storming of Stony Point
7 p.m. Fort Montgomery Historic Site | 690 Route 9W, Fort Montgomery | 845-446-2134 | nysparks.com

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

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

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

Toad the Wet Sprocket / Rusted Root
8 p.m. Paramount Hudson Valley
1008 Brown St., Peekskill
914-739-0039 | paramounthudsonvalley.com

FRIDAY, AUGUST 26

Dutchess County Fair
10 a.m. – 10 p.m. Dutchess County Fairgrounds
See details under Tuesday.

Senior Trip to Culinary Institute of America
10:30 a.m. Philipstown Community Center
845-424-4618 | philipstownrecreation.com

Anime Movie Afternoons (grades 6-12)
3 – 5 p.m. Howland Public Library | 313 Main St., Beacon | 845-831-1134 | beaconlibrary.org

Arm of the Sea Theater: *Hook, Line & Sinker*
6 p.m. Beacon Recreation Center
23 West Center St., Beacon
littlefriendsofbeacon.com

Bellissime
7 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
477 Main St., Beacon
845-765-3012 | howlandculturalcenter.org

International Film Night: *Beijing Bicycle* (China, 2001)
7 p.m. Howland Public Library
See details under Monday.

NY Latin Concert 2016
7 p.m. Westchester County Center
198 Central Ave., White Plains
914-995-4050 | countycenter.biz

HVSF: *Macbeth*
7:30 p.m. Boscobel | See details under Aug. 19
6 p.m. Friday Night Prologue

***The Yes Men* (Documentary)**
7:30 p.m. First Presbyterian Church
50 Liberty St., Beacon
moviesthatmatterbeacon.org

Boz Scaggs
8 p.m. Paramount Hudson Valley
See details under Thursday.

Blues Harp Showdown
8:30 p.m. Towne Crier Café
See details under Thursday.



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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/VOBFilm Festival 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



Ryan Merriman, George Hamilton and Treat Williams star in *The Congressman*, to be shown at the Brewster film festival



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

Saturday from 1 to 4 p.m. several films will be shown followed by a panel discussion on women in film. Admission is \$7. On Sunday, the feature *No Letting Go* will be screened at 12:45 p.m., followed at 3 p.m. by six short films and a panel, "The Film Festival Experience."

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.

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Sunday, 8/21 7:30 p.m.
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Friday 8/26 8:30 p.m.
Blues Harp Showdown

Saturday, 8/27 8:30 p.m.
John Sebastian

Sunday, 8/28 7:30 p.m.
Beacon Music Showcase

Thursday, 9/1 7:30 p.m.
Dàimh from Scotland

Friday, 9/2 8:30 p.m.
Compton & Newberry

Saturday, 9/3 8:30 p.m.
Popa Chubby Band

Friday, 9/9 8:30 p.m.
Gratefully Yours

Saturday, 9/10 8:30 p.m.
Brother Sun
guest The Cupcakes

Sunday, 9/11 7:30 p.m.
Altan from Ireland

Friday, 9/16 8:30 p.m.
Girsa

Saturday, 9/17 8:30 p.m.
Commander Cody Band

Sunday, 9/18 7:30 p.m.
Marcia Ball Band

Friday, 9/23 8:30 p.m.
Driftwood

Saturday, 9/24 8:30 p.m.
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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.

“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.”

“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

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.



Violinist Gwen Laster teaches her Creative Strings Improviser's Orchestra class at the Center for Creative Education.

Photos provided

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 Improvisers' 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.

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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 popular 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 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. We will share new profiles here and/or online each week up to show time.

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?

I'm part of the ensemble and I sing in the choir; I envision my character as a bohemian woman drawn to the arts who decided early on she didn't want to



Cristina Pronzati Photos by Ashley Garrett

leave her town, and happily made a life there, sacrificing the adventure of the unknown, but still remaining artistic and creative in her community, and she sings for her church's choir.

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

How quickly throughout the process everyone seemed to come together and become more and more open to

experimenting and creating something magical together. It's been a blast.

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

The spirituality of the play. The recurrent themes of life and loss and time being all pieces of the same puzzle, all one. It's beautiful to be engaged in the process of manifesting something deeper, something spiritual.

Robert Convertino

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

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



Robert Convertino

judge and jury of who is lazy and who is diligent and attempts to distance himself from the issues.

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

The most surprising thing to come out of the workshop/rehearsal process would be a focus on the progression of "creating 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.



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Current

Day Trip

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



Stony Point Battlefield State Historic Site offers a self-guided tour that includes 17 interpretive signs.

File photo by M.A. Ebner

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, par-

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.



Senior historian Michael Sheehan with a regimental coatee worn by British soldiers during the Revolutionary War

File photo by M.A. Ebner

ticipating in reenactments, giving lectures (see sidebar, below) and sharing stories with visitors.

Sheehan, 25, who studied history at Ramapo College of New Jersey, conducted an extensive search to gather various uniforms and costumes.

"You can't go in and just buy 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.
- Living history military camp open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday and noon to 4 p.m. Sunday, weather permitting. Artillery drills are presented at 3 p.m. on both days.

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.



The lighthouse at Stony Point Photo provided

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.



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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

7:10 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

1 a.m. – After a traffic stop on Fishkill Ave., Alyssa Grippo, 22, of Beacon was charged with driving while intoxicated, unlicensed operation and refusal of pre-screen test.

11 a.m. – After a dispute on South Ave., Lamerica Hakim, 23, of Beacon was charged with attempted assault.



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 Detlefs 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 com-

missioner 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.

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



Sgt. Michael Szabo (center) was recognized as Marine Officer of the Year for the state of New York. *Photo provided*

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.

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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

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 Maaikie Hoekstra, president of Tompkins Corners. "And we'll have marshmallows for roasting and



Judith Heineman performing at the statue of Hans Christian Andersen in Central Park

Photo provided

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?

Master 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

A Poem Lovely as a Tree



Photo courtesy of HHLT

The fifth annual River of Words Poetry Walk, organized by the Hudson Highlands Land Trust and the Constitution Marsh Audubon Center, continues through Sunday, Aug. 28, at Constitution Marsh in Garrison. The self-guided tour, which is open from dawn to dusk, features nature-inspired poems selected from among hundreds written by students from both sides of the river during the past school year. The featured poems include those by fourth graders Frankie DiGiglio, Brynn Martin and Henry O'Neil at Haldane Elementary.

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 hnhm.org or call 845-534-5506,



Children take part in a "belly botany" workshop at HHNM

Photo provided

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)*

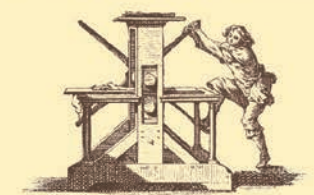


The Farm Store at Glynwood is open from 3 to 6 p.m. on Tuesdays and Fridays and from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturdays.

Photo provided

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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

(from previous page) The non-refundable registration fee is \$15 for 4-H members and \$45 otherwise. Prior participants are not eligible.

The Cornell Cooperative is also offering its six-week 4-H Junior Vet Series, which meets weekly starting at 6:30 p.m. on Sept. 21. The program allows students to shadow veterinarians and explore a career in Vet Science. It is open to Putnam County residents ages 9 to 14, with a limit of 12 participants. The fee is \$80 for 4-H members and \$110 otherwise.

Visit putnam.cce.cornell.edu/events to register, or call 845-278-6738.



Dr. Kathi Heiber of the South Putnam Animal Hospital with students during the 4-H Junior Vet Series Photo provided

Beacon

Hula Hoop for Teens

Howland to offer class for "hoopers"

A workshop for new "hoopers" will be held at the Howland Public Library in Beacon at 2 p.m. on Wednesday, Aug. 24, to help teenagers become comfortable spinning hula hoops around their waists and with their body's rhythmic flow. The class will explore off-body hooping, toning the arms and improving coordination.

No experience is necessary and hoops are provided. Participants should bring water and dress in comfortable clothes. To register, email communityart@beaconlibrary.org or call 845-831-1134, ext. 101.



Get ready to hula at the Howland.

Photo provided

Send a Clown to Costa Rica

Performer hoping to play for poorest kids

Emily Ellison, a music therapist at 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



Emily Ellison

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.

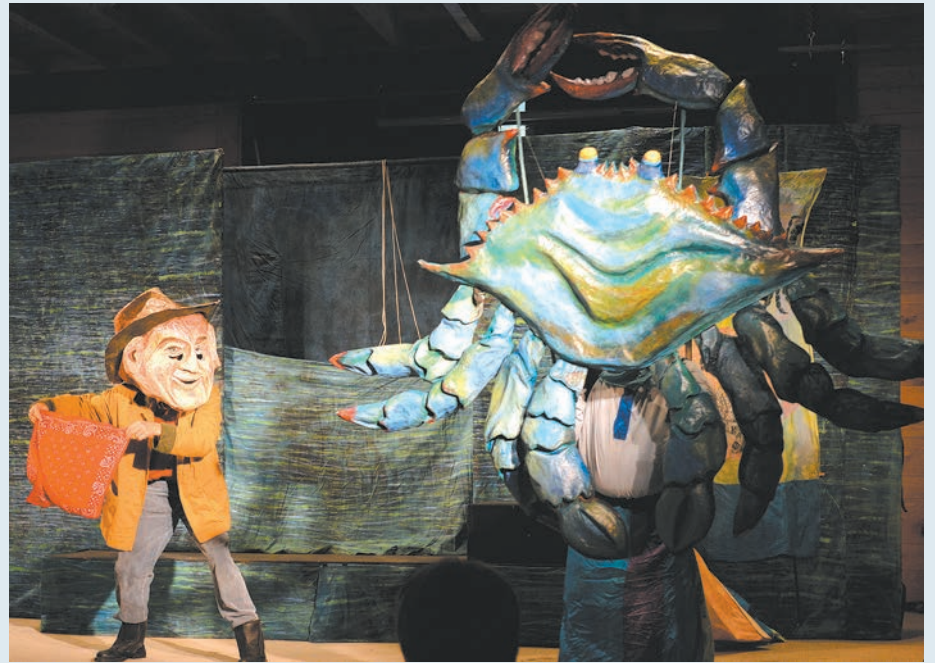
Library to Offer Free Babysitting Course

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.

Free Puppet Performance



The Beacon Recreation Center at 23 W. Center St. will host a free performance of *Hook, Line & Sinkers: 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.

Share Your News With Our Readers

Share news and announcements with the readers of *The Highlands Current*. To submit your upcoming events and announcements for consideration in our Community Briefs section (in print and online) submit a text-only press release (250 words or less) along with a separately attached high-resolution photograph to arts@highlandscurrent.com.

Visit highlandscurrent.com for news updates and latest information.

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3:15 6:15 9:15, SUN 1:15 4:15
7:15, MON 7:15, TUE 1:15 4:15
7:15, WED & THU 7:15

"Pete's Dragon" (PG)
FRI 1:30 4:30 7:30
SAT 12:00 3:00 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

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 clobbered 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. Even without a hurricane, heavy rain, snow or blackouts could lie ahead.

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 Man-



Tracks of major Atlantic hurricanes from 2006 to 2014
(NOAA graphic)

agement 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 shin-

gles, 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 (To next page)



The American Red Cross trailer, filled with supplies, parked at Philipstown Rec

Photo by A. Peltonen

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csfarmmarket.org & [facebook.com/cold-spring-farmers-market](https://www.facebook.com/cold-spring-farmers-market)

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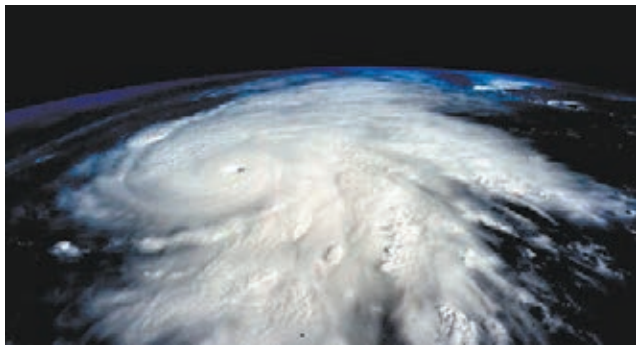
(from previous page) close. Depending on the type of disaster, “we don’t know if that [pre-approved] location will be standing or have power — or be close enough to the population in need,” explained Kelly Formoso, the Red Cross program manager for Dutchess County. However, Beacon does have Red Cross-approved 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-



Hurricane Patricia as seen from the International Space Station on Oct. 23, 2015

Photo by Scott Kelly/NASA



The Philipstown Recreation Center this year became a Red Cross certified emergency shelter.

Photo by A. Peltonen

cy, said Amber Stickle, director of Recreation and Parks, to help cook and distribute food to those at the shelter. The Red Cross instructs volunteers in supply and shelter management, and so far 10 residents have been trained.

Above all, says Van Tassel, unless there is an evacuation order, “the safest place to shelter is in your home.” If evacuated, be ready with personal essentials, as shel-

ters can only provide the basics. And when emergency workers say, “Go,” go! To delay is to risk lives: yours, your neighbors’, and the emergency workers.

Van Tassel noted that the Philipstown shelter is pet-friendly. Dogs, cats and other animals would be placed in the center’s basement.

“Hopefully,” he said, “no one shows up with a horse.”

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Dutchess Stadium: field of dreams

Photos by M. Turton

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 Ren-

egades 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 his-

tory 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.

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.

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 hvrengades.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.



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All eyes on the ball



Fans asked the All-Stars for autographs.