

The HIGHLANDS Current



Beacon and Brooklyn
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AUGUST 26, 2016

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Legislator Dini LoBue Photo by Ross Corsair

With Donation Nixed, County May Issue Bond for Senior Center

Complaints about lack of transparency, and calls for action

By Holly Toal

Putnam County lawmakers are moving forward with the creation of a Cold Spring Senior Center with a proposal to issue an \$800,000 bond after the withdrawal of an offer by Roger and Elizabeth Ailes of Garrison to donate \$500,000 for the project.

The county plans to lease 6,000 square feet in the Lahey Pavilion at the former Butterfield Hospital site on Route 9D from developer Paul Guillaro for a term of 15 years. According to a version of the lease that was approved by the Legislature in May, the county would pay \$77,700 in rent the first year. The rent would increase annually by 2 percent or the consumer price index, whichever is higher.

In addition, the county would pay a "common-area maintenance" fee of about \$50,000 annually, which is said to represent the county's proportionate share (14 percent) of costs such as snow removal, landscaping and others. The fee does not include charges for water, sewer, electricity and other utilities, which will be paid for by the county. (Continued on Page 4)

Gypsy Moths Make Unwelcome Return

Destroy more than 20 percent of Mount Beacon trees

By Brian PJ Cronin

Hikers on Mount Beacon and Fishkill Ridge this summer certainly noticed its usually lush and green canopy has been dotted with huge patches of brown. They may have also spotted the six-inch hairy caterpillars raining down from the treetops at a disturbingly high clip.

This summer marked the worst outbreak of invasive gypsy moths in the region in more than 20 years. While the moths themselves are harmless, the caterpillars are voracious eaters of the leaves of more than 300 species of trees and in the past few months have defoliated nearly 20 percent of Mount Beacon's trees. The caterpillars destroy, on average, three million forested acres in the U.S. per year.

And yet, in the Hudson Valley, the gypsy moth is typically considered rare, with one egg sac in every 50 acres or so.

The reason for the outbreak? Mice and

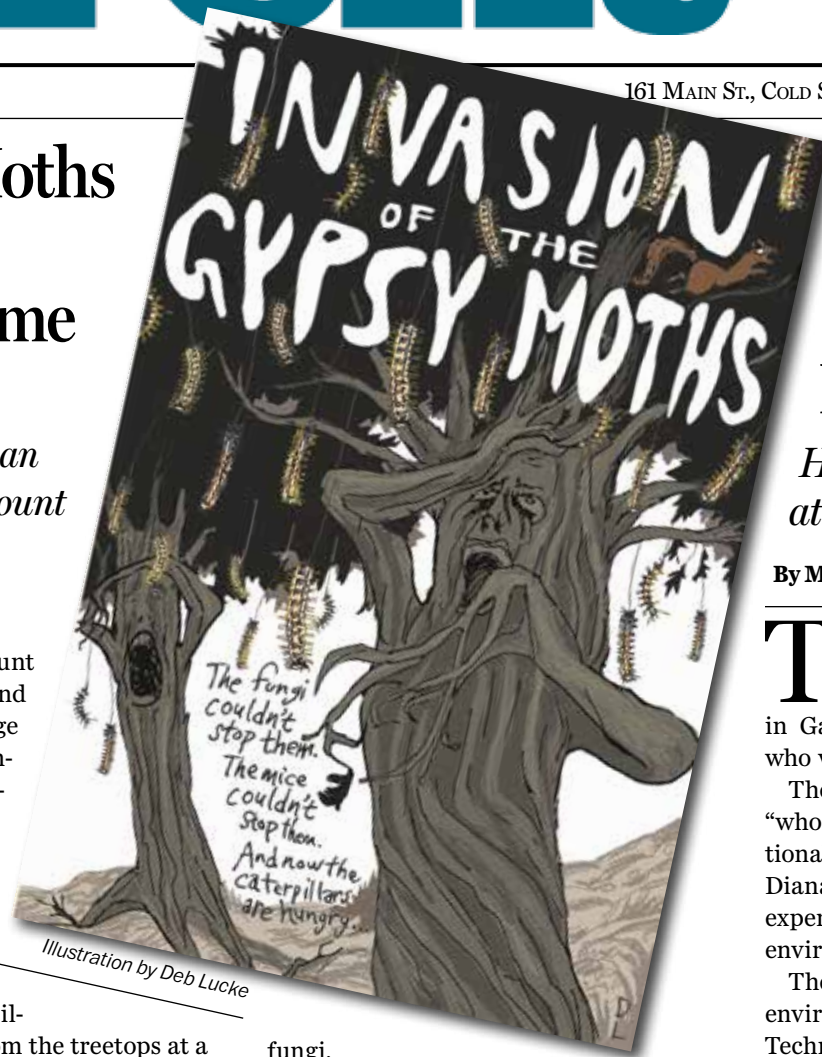


Illustration by Deb Lucke

fungi.

Clive G. Jones, a retired senior scientist and ecologist at the Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies in Millbrook, has been studying gypsy moths (*Lymantria dispar dispar*) for 30 years. He spoke at the Howland Public Library on Aug. 23 and gave background about the origins of the moth and the reason its caterpillar has proliferated this year.

Native to Europe and Asia, the gypsy moth first appeared in the U.S. in the 1860s when a French scientist living in Medford, Mass., imported their eggs to determine if the caterpillars could be used

(Continued on Page 3)

Haldane Launches Alternative High School

Haldane Academy opens at St. Basil on Sept. 1

By Michael Turton

The Haldane Central School District will open an alternative high school on Sept. 1 at the St. Basil Academy in Garrison for as many as 12 students who will attend afternoon classes there.

The program is designed for students "who don't do their best work in a traditional setting," explained Superintendent Diana Bowers. "It's a unique, hands-on, experiential program in a more relaxed environment."

The classes held at St. Basil will focus on environmental science as part of a Career Technical Education Program led by an instructor from Putnam-Northern Westchester BOCES, which offers vocational support to 18 districts, including Haldane.

"It's perfect for teaching environmental science," Bowers said of the 252-acre property on the Hudson River, which includes forest, trails, a stream and a waterfall, as well as a pool, gym and library.

The Haldane Academy will be overseen by newly hired high school principal Peter Carucci and Tony Showay, a student support services specialist. Patty O'Rourke will teach English and Social Studies for academy students during morning classes at the Mabel Merritt building at Haldane, while in the afternoon Gabe Horn will provide instruction in math and science at St. Basil, which is located on Route 9D south of Boscobel. Alexis Smith will be the teaching assistant.

Haldane plans to add a landscape architecture component to the academy "in which students design, create and rehabilitate a space on the Haldane campus," Bowers said. "They'll look at everything from soils to topography."

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A gypsy moth caterpillar

Photo by Didier Descouens

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Roots and Shoots

'Tis the Season for ... Root Vegetables

Still time for one more planting

By Pamela Doan

As we come up on Labor Day, you might have noticed that the garden harvest has peaked. However, if you're up for another round of planting, there are a few ways to keep the flow of produce to the table.

Consider the plants that are finishing their run as making space for other vegetables. While another round of tomatoes won't make it, cooler season vegetables will do fine. These are many of the same choices that can be planted early in the spring, but this is a reverse. Instead of going into cool soil that will be warming, they go into warm soil that will grow steadily cooler.

Be aware of the angle of the sun when you're planting now. It's lower in the sky as we go into fall, and there may be different shadows that affect how much sunlight plants get now.

Another way to extend the growing season is to use row covers or hoop beds. Row covers are a fabric that allows the sun's rays to come through but trap heat, keeping the soil warmer for longer. They're placed right on top of plants.

Hoop beds function similarly but are

raised higher off the plants and have a different structure. They can be arranged with or without raised beds. A half circle of tubing holds a cloth structure over the plants. Raised beds can potentially keep soil warmer for even longer when covered by either method.

To make sure you can harvest, timing is important. The frost date for our area is mid-October, and barring any major weather events, these possibilities should all be fine well into early November. Check seed packets for germination times and choose faster growing plants. For even faster production, use transplants.

The following can be planted without using anything else to keep the ground warm or protected from frost. Each of these will survive a light frost and most can survive temperatures that dip into the 20s overnight: Beets, cabbage, collard greens, Asian greens, kale, kohlrabi, lettuce (baby greens and head), radish (round and daikon), spinach, Swiss chard and turnips.

With something to extend the growing season like row covers or hoop beds, you could plant varieties of these that have short germination and fewer days to harvest: Carrots, cauliflower, broccoli, onions and rutabaga.

Since your soil was probably depleted of nutrients by the summer growing season, add in compost, too.



Now that the summer harvest is peaking, it's time to consider what you'll be eating this fall.

Photo by P. Doan

Alternatively, cover crops can be planted now. These are plants that fix nutrients in the soil, break up compaction, take up space where weeds would grow and can be left over the winter to hold soil and prevent erosion. Rye, oats or wheat can all be planted in September and worked into the soil in spring.

For small vegetable gardens, oats would be a good choice. They establish quickly in the fall and die off in winter. The mulch left behind covers the soil, suppressing weeds in early spring, which can be worked into the soil as compost. One advantage is that they completely die off and won't compete with other plants in the spring. Rye can be problematic in affecting crops in the spring.

Fall mustard could also be planted but it needs to be done quickly to settle in before

colder temperatures. With this one, be sure not to let it go to seed or else it will be popping up in the spring. Mustard adds organic matter to soil and can reduce pests that winter through a chemical it releases. It can interfere with crop rotation, however.

It's part of the Brassica family and that would mean you shouldn't plant other plants from that family in the same location the following year. That would include kale, cauliflower, and broccoli, among others. On a small scale, I'm not sure how much it would impact a harvest, but try to avoid it.


One last reason to plant a crop of veggies now — flavor! Cooler weather brings out a sweeter taste. And who knows what the fall will bring; if these hot days continue, we might be gardening in December.



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Gypsy Moths Make Unwelcome Return *(from Page 1)*

in the commercial silk industry. Some escaped, and as is often the case with invasive species who lack natural enemies, the population exploded.

By 1889, Medford was faced with a plague of biblical proportions, with almost every outside surface covered in mounds of writhing caterpillars. At night the townspeople listened as the caterpillars devoured trees and their excrement hit the ground in waves. The population spread throughout the Northeast, arriving in New York state in the 1950s.

Thanks to two predators, the Hudson Highlands has largely escaped Medford's fate. The native white-footed mouse eats the moths in their pupal stage. But due to the moth's high reproductive rate, there has to be enough mice to control them.

The best way to measure the mouse population, said Jones, is to study the ground in the fall. If there are a lot of acorns, more of the mice will survive the winter to eat more gypsy moth pupae in the following summer. That also means



A gypsy moth caterpillar

Photo by Didier Descouens



Defoliation caused this summer by gypsy moth caterpillars in Rhode Island NASA photo

the female mice will begin breeding earlier, "and pack in another generation," he explained.

"By the time the gypsy moth gets to the pupal stage, in mid- to late-summer, there's a very large number of mice and they're a very voracious predator, and they can knock the population right down," Jones said. "But if the mouse population crashes, that can buy time for the gypsy moth population to rise up and escape the threshold of mouse control."

Even when the mouse population is too low to control the moths, a second pred-

ator, the fungus *Entomophaga maimaiga*, usually provides backup. A natural enemy of the moths, the fungus was imported in 1910 from the west coast of Japan in an effort to halt their spread. Unfortunately, it didn't work. The fungus reappeared in New York state in the late 1980s, although Jones said it's a mystery who released it the second time, or if it was even intentional.

Once the fungus established itself, scores of dead, mummified gypsy moth caterpillars began appearing head down on trees. As the cadavers decompose, the fungi spores spread to other caterpillars

Close to Home

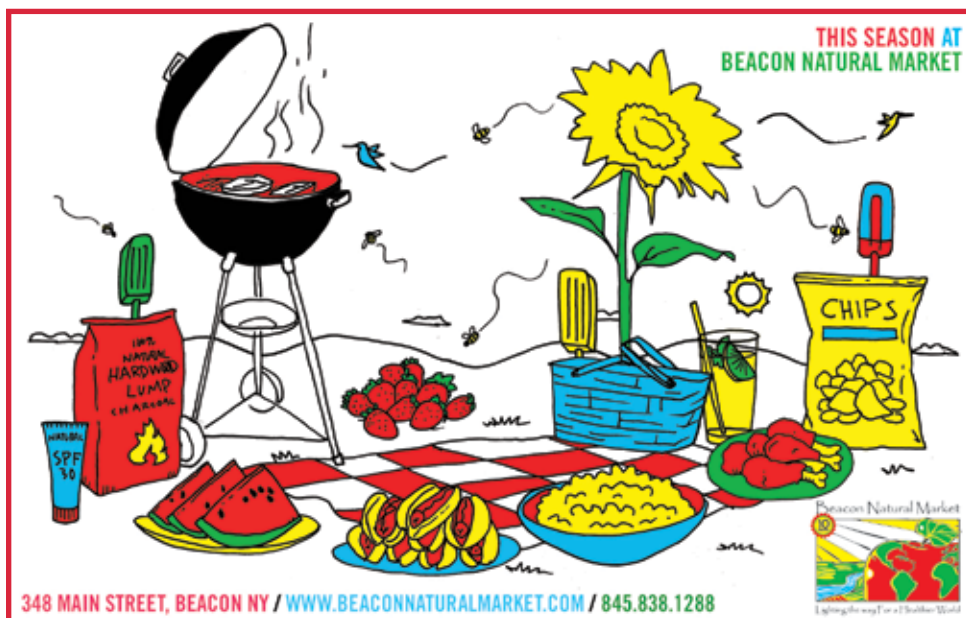
For advice from Jones about how to protect your trees from gypsy moth caterpillars, visit highlandscurrent.com.

and the soil below. Each spring, the spores are stirred by caterpillars walking on the leaf-strewn forest floor, and the cycle of fungal death begins again.

"Our work shows that once you get enough of the fungus in soil, you're never going to deplete that stock," said Jones. "You only need a couple of caterpillars to die of the fungus to recharge the spore load."

The spores, which can rest in the soil for 10 years or more, favor moist, warm conditions. And so the low-acorn count in the fall of 2015, and an unusually cool and dry spring, left both of the moth's primary predators unable to keep the population under control. As a result, gypsy moth caterpillars were able to feed largely unchecked.

A warm and moist spring in 2017 could turn the situation around, Jones said, by allowing the fungi to recover. But he cautioned that climate change makes it difficult to predict if this year's dry conditions will be an outlier or the norm. And even if there's a high acorn count this fall, there are downsides to a flourishing white-footed mouse population, because they carry the spirochete that causes Lyme disease. Either way, "we're between a rock and a hard place," Jones said.



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With Donation Nixed, County May Issue Bond for Senior Center *(from Page 1)*

The Ailes family withdrew its pledge earlier this month after criticism over the terms of an agreement with the county that gave Roger Ailes control over the project, including hiring contractors. It also offered the county no guarantee on the work. Ailes, the former chairman and CEO of Fox News, resigned after allegations arose in a lawsuit and internal investigation of sexual harassment, which he has denied. The center was to have been named after him.

The bond proposal was approved on Aug. 23 by the Physical Services Committee, which consists of legislators Carl Albano (R-Carmel), Joseph Castellano (R-Southeast) and Barbara Scuccimarra (R-Philipstown). If approved by the Audit Committee — Castellano, Albano and William Gouldman (R-Putnam Valley) — it will go to the full legislature. The Audit Committee next meets at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, Aug. 29, at the County Office Building, 40 Gleneida Ave., Carmel.

Kevin Wright (R-Mahopac), who was at the Physical Services Committee meeting on Aug. 23, criticized his colleagues for sending the bond referendum forward without documentation. Further, he argued the Butterfield lease should not be signed by the legislature before the bond is approved.

"There's a gap in the process," he said. "I want to know how much something costs before I buy it."

Another point of contention involved how much the county will be required to pay in property taxes as part of the lease.

While Legislature Chairwoman Ginny Nacerino (R-Patterson) and County Attorney Andrew Negro said the county will be responsible for about 52 percent of taxes associated with the Lahey Pavilion, which is 12,000 square feet, Dini LoBue (R-Mahopac Falls) maintained that is not the case.

The lease document approved in May reads: "Tenant agrees to pay as additional rent in each successive year of this lease to include percentage of real estate taxes. The additional rent which the tenant will be liable for at the commencement of the lease agreement shall be equal to 52.0833 percent of the total tax amount application to the tax year in which the lease commences, which shall be payable in equal monthly installments."

According to LoBue, the Butterfield property and its buildings are assessed at \$1.2 million, with \$66,000 in property taxes due each year. The lease states that the county is required to pay \$30,000, which is about half of the taxes on the entire property, not just the Lahey Pavilion, she said.

Further, LoBue warned that once the property reaches its full potential, with new buildings added and others being renovated, the assessment will only increase, and with it, the taxes. After the initial 15-year term, the county will have the option to re-lease the site for another



Legislators Castellano, Albano and Scuccimarra

Photos by Ross Corsair

er five years, she noted, or purchase the space at market rate. The lease does not say that the county will receive any credit for the \$4.3 million it will have paid in rent or other charges toward the property.

"There's no provision like that," she said. "There's no protection for the county."

The Physical Services Committee also unanimously approved an amendment to the lease for the legislature to consider that states the county will pay \$61,000 to the developer to pay for a new heating, ventilation and air-conditioning system in



The audience at the Aug. 23 Physical Services committee meeting

the Lahey Pavilion.

Much of the public criticism of county lawmakers revolved around the fact that the proposed lease has not been made public (although it has been leaked to the press and posted online), as well as legislators seeming unsure about its status.

When Albano, who is chair of the Physical Services Committee, said the lease had been signed, Nacerino corrected him, saying it has been "approved" by the legislature, but not yet signed.

"Once the document is finalized, the public will see it," said Albano.

This led residents in attendance to

question how they can share their opinions on the project if they do not know what the county is agreeing to.

Lourdes Laifer of Cold Spring voiced support for a new senior center but at a lower cost to taxpayers. "This lease deal is good for the developer and lousy for the taxpayers," she said.

Cold Spring Mayor Dave Merandy asked the legislature why voters, and lawmakers at the town and village level, have not been able to see the lease.

"It's not transparent," he said.

"We don't know what's going on. The bottom line is the people I represent are concerned about the cost of it. It's upsetting and it's not proper government."

Steve Voloto, a Cold Spring Village trustee, presented letters from residents who are concerned about the county overspending on the project, and chided the legislators for not making the lease document available so residents could familiarize themselves with the proposal.

"There are concerns that people can't just pick up the document and see for themselves," he said. "And this is their money; this is our money."

Philipstown Town Supervisor Richard Shea pointed out that development of the Butterfield property is going forward regardless of the county's participation. He added that the town reviewed many other options for a senior center before pursuing space at the Butterfield site and determined that building a center from the ground up would be too costly.

"I'm hoping this thing can get resolved," he said. "I do want to see the best possible lease negotiated."

Donna Anderson of Cold Spring implored lawmakers to move forward. She said that 30 percent of Philipstown residents are over the age of 60 and need a place to go to receive nutritional, social and other services. "The current senior center is inadequate to serve the population," she said.

Shirley Norton of Cold Spring also urged the Legislature to make the proposed center a reality. "The first time I came here was about three years *(Continued on Page 6)*

Suggested Revisions

A petition at change.org signed by 233 people as of Aug. 24 called on the Putnam County Legislature to make changes to the lease agreement between the county and Butterfield Realty, including:

- a shorter term with no penalty for early termination
- no use restrictions or obligations
- a share of property taxes proportionate to the space used by the county
- lower rent, maintenance costs and fees
- the right to audit and dispute maintenance charges
- reimbursement for labor and materials spent improving the property
- an option to "rent to own"
- a limitation of liability for public services such as water and sewer connections on private property

Man Shot and Killed in Beacon

Homicide believed to be first since 2010

By Jeff Simms

Beacon man was shot and killed on Aug. 22, marking the first homicide in the city since 2010. Police Chief Douglas Solomon confirmed on Wednesday that a 25-year-old male was shot once in the torso at the Davies South Terrace apartment complex around 9:30 p.m. He was transported to St. Luke's Cornwall Hospital in Newburgh, where he was pronounced dead.

The victim's name was not released. The complex where the shooting took place is located off of Davies Avenue in Beacon, between South Avenue and Wolcott Avenue/Route 9D. "We don't think this was a random act," Solomon said. "Whether there's spin-off from this remains to be seen." Anyone with information should call Beacon police at 845-831-4111. *The Poughkeepsie Journal* reported that the killing was the first fatal shooting in Beacon since 2007. A non-fatal shooting was reported earlier this year and a man was stabbed to death in 2010, the *Journal* reported.

911 Dispatcher Saves Beacon Infant

Thanked at firehouse – she was ex-chief's granddaughter

On Aug. 10, Paul Reinheimer, a Dutchess County dispatcher, and four emergency medical personnel gathered at the Lewis Tompkins Hose Station 2 in Beacon so they could be thanked for helping to save the life of an 11-month-old girl who happened to be the granddaughter of former Beacon Fire Chief Tim Joseph. Four days earlier, Reinheimer had answered a 911 call from Joseph's wife, Tammy, who said her granddaughter was not breathing due to an obstructed airway. Reinheimer instructed Tammy Joseph

how to clear the airway and kept her calm until help arrived. A grateful Tim Joseph invited Reinheimer and the first responders – Mobile Life Support Services EMT Bruno Sambolin and Paramedic Valerie Pagliaro, Beacon Volunteer Ambulance Corps EMT Michael Zingone and Firefighter and EMT Ronnie Arrigo – to the firehouse so the family could thank them personally. "I'm grateful to Paul, Ronnie and all the emergency personnel responsible for keeping Aubrey alive," Joseph said. "The services our emergency services personnel provide to the community are critical and we should take the time to recognize them for their selfless acts of heroism."



Sambolin, Pagliaro, Zingone, dispatcher Reinheimer with Aubrey, and Arrigo Photo provided

PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a public hearing will be held by the Zoning Board of Appeals of the Town of Philipstown on Monday, September 12, 2016 at 7:30 p.m. at the Philipstown Recreation Department, 107 Glenclyffe Drive, Garrison, New York, to hear the following appeal:

Christopher and Maria Marrison, 7 Old Manitou Road, Garrison New York, TM# 82.-1-29. The Applicant is seeking to construct a two-story addition of about 1700 square feet which would require a 21-foot setback from the required 60 feet, from section 175-11 B of the Town Code.

Dated 8/18/16
Robert Dee, Chairman, Town of Philipstown Zoning Board of Appeals

ADVERTISEMENT FOR PROPOSALS

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

With Donation Nixed, County May Issue Bond for Senior Center *(from Page 4)*

ago," she said. "I'd like you to vote tonight, to make your decision I trust my legislators. If they voted for the lease, I trust they know what they're doing."

Patricia Sheehy, director of the county's Office for Senior Resources, said that while the public is entitled to a level of transparency, residents need to leave certain decisions up to their elected officials and trust the right decisions are being made.

"We need to move this project forward," she said. "It's very easy to poke holes in things, and it's much more difficult to move forward and do the right thing."

Ed Cook of Mahopac said laborers are looking forward to seeing the project advance with public leases. "We are in strong favor of building this," he said. "But let's plan it right."

LoBue told labor union members assembled at the meeting that Butterfield is not the only project on the county's radar. "Guys, we've got tons of projects," she said. "This is a bad deal. It's pro-developer. Unfortunately, the seniors have been used in this project, because it has nothing to do with seniors."

Albano concluded the meeting by addressing some of the concerns brought up by residents. "There are no secrets here," he said of the lease. "This is the way it's been done with all legal documents."

County to Again Consider Changing Planner Position

Committee sends tabled proposal back to legislature

By Holly Toal

While Putnam County lawmakers earlier this month tabled an administration proposal to downgrade the job requirements for the head of the Planning Commission, the matter will again go before the legislature on Sept. 6.

The Personnel Committee on Aug. 15 voted 2-1, without discussion, to send the proposed revision to the county charter, which would remove the requirement in the county charter that the planning commissioner have a master's degree in planning and "eight years of practical experience in regional, county or municipal planning" and four years of supervision of "planners," back to the legislature. Ginny Nacerino (R-Patterson) and Joseph Castellano (R-Southeast) voted to approve the resolution, and Kevin Wright (R-Mahopac) voted no.

The person recommended by the administration for the position, which has been vacant since 2012, is Sandra Fusco, a longtime member of the county's law department who has been leading the department in an interim capacity for the past six months. The charter would be changed so Fusco, who has a juris doctorate degree in law, could be given the job. Fusco earned \$90,000 in the law department and now makes \$98,000 at plan-

ning. The salary budgeted for the permanent position is \$112,200.

While the Personnel Committee did not discuss the proposed change, there was much debate immediately prior during a meeting of the Rules Committee, which consists of Dini LoBue (R-Mahopac Falls), Carl Albano (R-Carmel) and Barbara Scuccimarra (R-Philipstown). Committee meetings tend to occur one after the other, so other legislators are present.

During the Rules Committee meeting, Nacerino argued that, in Fusco's case, "holding a doctorate degree does not dilute the conferring of a master's degree; actually the reverse is true." She added that she felt it was important to have an attorney in the position "because it is important to be able to pursue the grants, be able to scope through the tedious verbiage in contracts, and be able to be familiar with general municipal law" and the State Environmental Quality Review Act.

Wright countered that the qualifications for the job listed in the charter were there for a reason. He questioned the wisdom of changing the charter and suggested the legislature would "invite ridicule when we throw out a charter provision for those credentials and substitute six months of experience with eight years and a master's [degree]."

He also said that there had been no reports to the legislature by the administration of efforts to find a qualified candidate.

"If, for the last year, there had been monthly or quarterly updates from the personnel director of the extensive, extraordinary efforts at recruitment made that were at yet unsuccessful, and some litany of issues that were backing up or problematic as a result of the inability of the personnel director to find a qualified applicant ... then that might be something else that would weigh into the equation," he said.

Deputy County Executive Bruce Walker replied that the position had evolved into a much broader one over the years and today requires skill in cutting through red tape more than anything else.

"It really has to be evaluated on what the merits of the job are, and what the actual requirements about the job are, not what we've called it in the past," he said.

Asked why the county has not advertised the position, Walker said the administration did not want to "pigeonhole" itself by looking for a candidate with a narrow set of qualifications.

"We've been able to get the work done and we wanted to have a clear understanding of what exactly we were looking for, what skillset we needed for the person that was coming in, rather than just relying on their ability to sit in college for four years and get this magic degree called 'planner,'" he said.

The legislature is expected to again consider the proposal at its next monthly meeting, which begins at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 6, at the Historic Courthouse on Gleneida Avenue in Carmel.

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For more details of my professional experience and local volunteerism, please find me on Facebook @ "Camille Linson for Town Justice"

Please VOTE in the Democratic Primary
Tuesday, September 13

Obituary

Marina Yashina (1945-2016)

Memorial service scheduled for Sept. 4

Gallery owner and artist Marina Yashina, of Cold Spring, died of a brain tumor on Aug. 21, 2016. A memorial celebration will be held at 11 a.m. on Sunday, Sept. 4, at the Chapel Restoration, 45 Market St.

Marina was born in Moscow in 1945 and attended the Moscow Art School for gifted children and in 1967 graduated from the Fine Art Institute there. In 1974 she immigrated to New York City with her eight-year-old daughter, Olga, where she pursued a career in fine art restoration, working with some of the finest conservators in the city.

In 2002 she moved to Cold Spring, where she opened a studio space on 153 Main St. for her high-end restoration work; she was among the team that restored the magnificent ceilings at Grand Central Station. She also worked on the Kremlin building in Moscow. In partnership with artist Martee Levi, she began to show artwork, and so Marina Fine Art and Restoration also became known as Marina Gallery. She could be found there most afternoons, dispensing wisdom and dog treats. A gifted painter, champion fisherwoman and avid poker player, she will be much missed by her many friends.

Her daughter, Olga Besen, died in 2010.

Funeral arrangements are by Halvey Funeral Home in Beacon.



Marina Yashina in front of her Main Street gallery and studio in 2013

Photo by Anne Meadows/Chronogram

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



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Two district residents will be appointed to vacant seats

Applications to fill two vacant seats on the Beacon City School District are available at the District Office or at beaconcityk12.org. They should be mailed to District Clerk Kelly Pologe, 10 Education Drive, Beacon, NY 12508 or sent by email to pologe.k@beaconk12.org. Applications must be received by 4 p.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 7.



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The HIGHLANDS
Current

Obituary

Mazie Johnson, Beacon Resident for 80 Years, Dies at 106

Long, colorful life; survived by 101-year-old sister

Mazie Martin Whitener Johnson, of Beacon, died at Kingston Hospital on Aug. 19, 2016, two weeks before her 107th birthday, leaving a host of family, friends and admirers.

The centenarian was well known in Dutchess County after a profile in *Hudson Valley Magazine* and an appearance on "The Today Show." She was also honored by the City of Beacon, the Dutchess County Legislature and the New York State Senate.

Mazie was born on Sept. 2, 1909, on a farm in Jenkinsville, S.C., one of 16 children of Robert and Dollie Martin. She is survived by a sister, Thelma Martin Feaster, 101, of Hampton, Va. Her sister Gladys Martin Covin, of Beacon, to whom she was particularly close, died in 2014 at age 101 and her sister Bernice Martin Curry, formerly of Beacon, died that same year at age 97. They were descendants of Moses Martin, who was elected to the South Carolina state legislature after the Civil War.

Mazie was an alumna of Allen University in Columbia, S.C., as was her sister Gladys. "The people would all laugh and yell 'Hey, here come the people from the country,'" Johnson told a documentary filmmaker



Mazie Johnson in 2013 Photo by Kristen Cronin

in 2013. "But I wasn't thinking about them; I was there to get an education." She taught in elementary schools built by philanthropist Julius Rosenwald for black children in the rural South before moving to Beacon in 1936 as a newlywed with her husband, Henry Whitener, who was employed as a chef at the V.A. hospital in Montrose.

Mazie found work as a maid at the Holland Hotel, then at Karteganer's and SonoTone. After her retirement, she volunteered as a bus monitor for First Student and later as a receptionist at Highland Hospital.

Raised in the A.M.E. church, she and her husband joined St. James African

Methodist Episcopal Zion Church as soon as they settled on Beekman Street in Beacon. Mazie served for many years as the Sunday School superintendent, chair of the Board of Trustees, Deaconess and president of the Missionary Society.

In 1963, Mazie participated in the March on Washington, where she was among those who heard Dr. Martin Luther King give his "I Have a Dream" speech. In the 1950s, she was a member of a committee of Beacon and Newburgh residents responsible for the hiring of the first teachers of color in Dutchess and Orange counties. In the 1970s, working with the late Rev. Barbara Baker, she became the first fundraiser for the Southern Dutchess Coalition. Mazie also was active in the NAACP, Les Soeurs Amiables Civic Club, the PTA and the Christian Women's Club.

After her husband Henry died, she married Julius Johnson, who died in 1976.

Besides her sister, Mazie is survived by her four children: Melvin Whitener (Angela) of Clinton, N.C.; Joyce McCollum (Ted) of Hampton, Ga.; Connie Whitener Perdreau, her caregiver, of Beacon; and Pamela Dawkins of Glenham. In addition, she leaves five grandchildren: Andre Whitener, Sherry Dyer, Ted McCollum, Jr., Maurice Perdreau and Ernesto Dawkins, Jr. Her granddaughter Terri Lynne McCollum died



Mazie Johnson

her. Mazie also leaves a number of great grandchildren, great-great grandchildren and nieces, nephews and cousins around the country.

A service was held on Aug. 25 at the St. James A.M.E. Zion Church in Beacon, with interment at Fishkill Rural Cemetery.

Visit highlandscurrent.com for more obituaries.



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The Calendar

Brooklyn and Beacon

Just how alike are these oft-connected places?

By Jeff Simms

By now, the clichés, as they tend to do, have all gotten pretty ... cliché. Brooklyn on the Hudson. The new Brooklyn. Perhaps the best one yet: NoBro. (Has anyone ever actually uttered that word?)

Still, *The New York Times* has covered it. The realty and tourism industries use it in their advertising. Magazines in the city and the Hudson Valley have written about it too. Even the *Boston Globe* ran a story.

Apparently lots of people from Brooklyn have moved, and are moving, to Beacon. Find any one of the dozens of articles on the phenomenon and you'll likely read something about Beacon's artsy culture and relative affordability. It's a haven, some say, for so-called hipsters priced out of their borough — which, ironically, was once the alternative



The Soldiers and Sailors Memorial arch in Brooklyn Photo by Jeffrey Gustafson (Wikipedia)

for folks no longer able to afford living in Manhattan. Beacon has a small-town, almost-in-the-country vibe that gels with a sweet spot on the Metro-North train line and easy access to the city so many have seemingly left behind.

"Eighty percent of my clients are from



Beacon's Main Street

Photo by J. Simms

Brooklyn," says Jonathan Miller, the principal broker at JonCar Realty on Main Street in Beacon. "Beacon has a 'Brooklyn vibe' to it. People like it because it's diverse here. We actually have people say to us, 'If you can't find me Beacon, I don't want it at all.'"

But is Beacon really "Brooklyn on the Hudson"? Is the comparison warranted?

Statistically, the two are entirely dissimilar. Brooklyn is 71 square miles with a population of 2.5 million. Beacon is five square miles and home to 15,000 people. They *(Continued on Page 12)*

Four Winds: A Thriving Organic Farm

And a perennial Cold Spring Farmers' Market favorite

By Michael Turton

Jay and Polly Armour established Four Winds Farm near Gardiner in 1988. As original vendors at the Cold Spring Farmers' Market, they have cultivated a devoted local following, especially during the heirloom tomato season. I caught up with Jay on Aug. 24 at his 24-acre farm, which produces an amazing array of food. His responses have been edited for space.

Why did you get into farming?

Because I liked making my own tomato sauce. I wanted organic tomatoes but realized no one produced



Heirloom tomatoes are a big seller at the Cold Spring Farmers' Market.

them in quantity on Long Island [where they were living]. I thought maybe I should consider farming.

How does the Cold Spring Farmers' Market compare with others?

Cold Spring is what has kept this farm alive. It's why we're still here. I think about this a lot. At one time we were small and that market was small. The market grew as we grew. Introducing heirloom tomatoes to that market was the best thing I've done in my life!

Is there a difference in how things sell at different markets?

The difference is amazing. In Cold Spring it's tomatoes. In Woodstock it's blueberries. For a while New Paltz was kale; now it's a little bit of everything.

Where else do you sell your produce?

Vera's Philipstown Market and Foodtown in Cold Spring. And Vera has the best mozzarella in the Hudson Valley.

How much farming background did you have?

None. Teaching was the logical profession to go into because it would give me summers off to farm. I got a teaching degree and we moved up here [to Gardiner] and I got a job teaching in one of the prisons. I stayed for 14 years and ended up loving it. There were some good perks: a good union, a good pension, good health care.



Jay Armour

Photos by M. Turton

What do you like most about farming?

I like the fact that I'm doing things differently, and better, and slowly being recognized for it.

What do you hate about farming?

Some customers drive me crazy, especially the ones who want to get rid of all the pennies in their pocket. I don't want them either!

Anything else drive you crazy?

People sometimes want oranges. They don't understand why they can't buy *(Continued on Page 11)*

ONGOING

Gallery Shows

highlandscurrent.com/galleries

FRIDAY, AUGUST 26

Dutchess County Fair

10 a.m. – 10 p.m. Dutchess County Fairgrounds
6550 Spring Brook Ave., Rhinebeck
dutchessfair.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
313 Main St., Beacon
845-831-1134 | beaonlibrary.org

HVSF: *Macbeth*

7:30 p.m. Boscobel | 1601 Route 9D, Cold Spring
845-265-3638 | hvshakespeare.org
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
1008 Brown St., Peekskill
914-739-0039 | paramounthudsonvalley.com

Blues Harp Showdown

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

SATURDAY, AUGUST 27

Newburgh Last Saturday

facebook.com/NewburghLastSaturdays

Reenactment Day

9 a.m. – 4 p.m. Buses at Cold Spring station
constitutionisland.org

Dutchess County Fair

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

Wildflower Walk

10 a.m. Audubon Center | Warren Landing Road,
Garrison | RSVP to cmacs@audubon.org

Howland Public Library

11 a.m. Introduction to Babysitting Course
11 a.m. Upcycle Art Studio for Teens
313 Main St., Beacon
845-831-1134 | beaonlibrary.org

Cops & Rodders Car Show

Noon – 4 p.m. Mayor's Park, Cold Spring
845-803-6884

Calendar Highlights

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

Guided Tour

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

Putnam Independent Living Services**Info Session**

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

Dance Night

7 p.m. Beacon Elks Lodge
900 Wolcott Ave., Beacon | 845-765-0667

Wrestling Under the Stars V

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

HVSF: *As You Like It*

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

Hudson Valley Freestyle Summer Jam

8 p.m. Mid-Hudson Civic Center
14 Civic Center Plaza, Poughkeepsie
845-454-5800 | midhudsonciviccenter.org

A Cause for Paws Benefit

5 p.m. Towne Crier Café
See details under Friday.

Bert Rechtschaffer Jazz Trio

9 p.m. Chill Wine Bar
173 Main St., Beacon
845-765-0885 | chillwinebarbeacon.com

SUNDAY, AUGUST 28

Desmond-Fish Library closed**Dutchess County Fair**

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

Living History: Military Reenactment Day

11 a.m. – 4 p.m. Boscobel | 1601 Route 9D, Cold
Spring | 845-265-3638 | boscobel.org

Hudson Valley Modern Quilting Guild

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

Kazzrie Jaxen Jazz Quartet

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

Sunset Music Series: Acoustic Open Mic

6 – 8 p.m. Foot of Main, Cold Spring
facebook.com/coldspringmusicseries

HVSF: *Measure for Measure*

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

Steve Swell / Frode Gjerstad / Chris Corsano (Jazz)

8 p.m. Beacon Yoga
464 Main St., Beacon | 212-353-6971

MONDAY, AUGUST 29

Yoga with a View

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

Beacon City Council Workshop

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

Beacon School Board

7 p.m. Beacon High School
101 Matteawan Road, Beacon
845-838-6900 | beaoncityk12.org

HVSF: *So Please You*

7 p.m. Boscobel
1601 Route 9D, Garrison
845-265-3638 | hvshakespeare.org

Billy Mintz Quartet (Jazz)

9 p.m. Quinn's
330 Main St., Beacon
845-831-8065 | quinnbeacon.com

TUESDAY, AUGUST 30

Aqua Zumba

11 a.m. Beacon Pool
724 Wolcott Ave., Beacon
914-475-0493 | cityofbeacon.org

Citizen Science Sail: Microplastics

6 p.m. Beacon Dock
clearwater.org/come-sailing/public-sail-schedule

Taghkanic Chorale Summer Sing, Verdi's *Requiem*

7:30 p.m. Yorktown Church of the Nazarene
1343 White Hill Rd., Yorktown Heights
taghkanicchorale.org

Board of Trustees

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

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 31

Lego Club

3:30 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library
472 Route 403, Garrison
845-424-3020 | desmondfishlibrary.org

Citizen Science Sail: Aquatic Invasive Species

6 p.m. Beacon Dock
clearwater.org/come-sailing/public-sail-schedule

Free Movie Night: *Phantom*

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

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 1

Estate Planning and Elder Law

6:30 p.m. Howland Public Library
313 Main St., Beacon
845-831-1134 | beaonlibrary.org

Marisa J. Futernick: *13 Presidents, 13 Stories* (Talk and Signing)

7 p.m. FDR Library | 4079 Albany Post Road, Hyde
Park | 845-486-7745 | fdrlibrary.marist.edu

H.V. Renegades vs. Vermont

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

Dàimh (from Scotland)

7:30 p.m. Towne Crier Café | Details under Friday

The Wallflowers

8 p.m. Paramount Hudson Valley
See details under Friday.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 2

Blood Drive

3 – 7:30 p.m. Beacon Elks' Lodge
900 Wolcott Ave., Beacon
800-933-2566 | nybloodcenter.org

Group Show: *wAteR waTer* (Opening)

6 – 9 p.m. Gallery 66 NY | 66 Main St., Cold Spring
845-809-5838 | gallery66ny.com

Vincent Baldassano: *Travel Inspirations* (Opening)

6 – 8 p.m. Buster Levi Gallery
121 Main St., Cold Spring
845-809-5145 | busterlevigallery.com

H.V. Renegades vs. Vermont

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

Bellissime

8 p.m. Chapel Restoration | 45 Market St., Cold
Spring | 845-265-5537 | chapelrestoration.org



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photo by Paul Wardhol

Four Winds: A Thriving Organic Farm *(from Page 9)*

something that doesn't grow in this area.

Would you want your children to be farmers?

My parents supported me in whatever I wanted to do, even if it wasn't what they would have liked me to do. So I'll support my kids in whatever they want to do.

What is your assessment of the state of Hudson Valley farming?

The local food movement has revolutionized the marketing of produce. When it started about five years ago, I felt like I was riding the crest of a tidal wave. All of a sudden there was demand for local, high-quality food. People understood how supporting a local farm was good for the environment, the community, the local economy. It was great to be already established as a farm and to be a part of that whole awakening.

What does this particular plot of land offer?

We are sitting right on a boundary where the landscape transitions from gravel to clay, from New Paltz down to Wallkill. Right along that line are numerous freshwater springs. Even during a drought, we don't have to worry about water or our well going dry.

What animals do you raise?

We keep a herd of 14 beef cattle. Primarily they supply manure that we compost and use in the fields. I mix it with horse manure that I buy. They also



Healthy soil means healthy plants — and no need for herbicides or pesticides.

Photos by M. Turton

provide us with meat. We have a couple of Berkshire pigs, mostly for us, but we do sell the meat. And we still raise turkeys for Thanksgiving. But no more chickens. I don't like plucking chickens.

What about produce?

Tomatoes are our cash crop, 46 varieties if you count the cherry and paste tomatoes. Plus chard, kale, onions, beets, carrots, peas, beans, potatoes, asparagus, winter and summer squash, blueberries, and we have apple and pear trees.

What do you do in the winter?

Ski, if there's snow. I didn't do much skiing last winter. I do a lot of hiking up in the Catskills, too.

How many people work on the farm?

Polly doesn't work on the farm and I'm trying not to. We have two full-time and one part-time employee.

What critters pose a problem?

We are fortunate not to have a deer problem. Probably groundhogs are the biggest problem. And birds. They're always digging up the soil looking for worms. They scatter plants all over the place.

What's the last book you read for fun?

I'm not much of a reader but I enjoy a Dick Francis novel once in a while.

What's your pizza of choice?

Probably pepperoni. There's a place



A Berkshire pig at Four Winds

down the road that's the best. You can even get smoked duck pizza there.

Do customers become friends or is it strictly business?

I wouldn't call them friends — we only interact at the market. But there's some sort of a — I don't know how to describe it — sometimes there's a little more personal level of conversation.

What does a new tractor cost these days?

I paid \$24,000 for a small, 24-horsepower New Holland.

Do you run the Second Wind CSA here as well?

No, I rent them the land. They do their own planting, their own marketing. I don't charge them a lot of rent, so it's a good deal for them.

What is your take on the GMO debate?

It could have been a good thing but it went in the wrong direction. You could have had genetically modified corn that would enrich the soil — changing the famine issue in developing countries. Instead corn was modified to withstand herbicides, which increased corn production in the developed world rather than staving off starvation in the developing world. They say there is no herbicide residue, but I can't believe that. And we've created a system in this country that produces food with very little nutritional value.

How do you thrive without using herbicides and pesticides?

We have very healthy soil. When you have healthy soil, you have healthy plants. When you have healthy plants, they can withstand pests a lot better than weak plants.



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Brooklyn and Beacon (from Page 9)

have Prospect Park; we have Memorial Park.

In Brooklyn, there is (seemingly) a Starbucks on every corner. (A quick check of Starbucks.com actually shows about two dozen in the borough.) In Beacon, no Starbucks.

Digging deeper, many ex-Brooklynites say they came to Beacon for its own attributes, not because the city is a carbon copy of anywhere else.

“I’ve never bought into the similarity thing,” says Terry Nelson, who in 2009 moved with his wife, Alison Chi, from Park Slope. “There was a reason why we left Brooklyn — some of it was financial and some of it was quality of life.

“We came here for a housewarming party when we had just begun to explore living outside of the city,” he said. “Beacon spoke to us. We appreciated its diversity because ... frankly, I felt that the New

York City I grew up in was changing.”

Nelson said he continued to commute into the city but eventually began working from home — he launched the Beacon Independent Film Festival in 2013 — and connected with the local arts community.

“If you want to be involved in the arts in Beacon, it’s easily there for you,” he said. “You can join as an individual. It’s not distant or sprawling. It’s here and you can enjoy it. That wasn’t necessarily the case in Brooklyn.”

Peter Russo has lived in Brooklyn for 10 years but has visited Beacon many times and has friends who have moved here. “What attracts people from Brooklyn to Beacon is not so much the similarities but the differences,” he said.

For those who have made the move north to Dutchess County, Russo said, it’s about a quality of life that may not be as easy to grasp in the city. “It could be the potential to work remotely,” he said.

“Perhaps it’s also the promise of a deeper connection to nature or a certain kind of environment in which to raise a family.”

Of course, there are similarities. Michael Schein and his wife, Sally, moved with their daughter from Brooklyn last year and immediately felt at home, Schein says.

“When we came

	City of Beacon	Brooklyn
Incorporated	1913	1816
Square miles	4.7	71
Population	15,541	2.5 million
Population/square mile	3,279	35,211
Households	5,452	925,371
% White	64	43
% Black/African American	23	34
% Asian	1.6	11
% Hispanic/Latino	21	20
Median household income	\$63,284	\$46,958
% in poverty	13.2	23.4
% high-school grads	88	79
% college grads	31	16
% born outside U.S.	11.8	37.5
% age 65+	11.7	11.8
% minors	20	16
Military veterans	950	47,085
% non-English at home	19	46
Median home value	\$240,800	\$273,246
Median rent	\$1,061	\$1,189
Average work commute	37 min.	41 min.
Source: U.S. census (factfinder.census.gov) and other data. Most recent figures available.		

to Beacon, we absolutely loved it,” he says. “It was a positive to us that the creative mindset that had attracted us to Brooklyn was happening in Beacon.”

Schein says he’s found a number of vibrant creative outlets here, including a local writing group, the do-it- *(To next page)*

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Mid Run Reception:

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Saturday, 8/27 5 p.m.
“A Cause for Paws”
Benefit Concert & Silent Auction
to benefit Louisiana animal shelters
John Sebastian rescheduled to a later date

Sunday, 8/28 7:30 p.m.
Songwriters Showcase
Johnny “Stickerboy” Owens,
Nellybombs, Pat McGinn

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Dàimh from Scotland

Friday, 9/2 8:30 p.m.
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Saturday, 9/3 8:30 p.m.
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Thursday, 9/15 7 p.m.
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Brooklyn and Beacon

(from previous page)

yourself music scene, alternative book-stores and local food.

"I liked being around people who are into creative pursuits and quirky things," he says. "I was a little bit worried that we would lose that, but we found the exact opposite."

While Brooklyn on the Hudson may be a hasty generalization (and NoBro an abomination of a word), the intent behind the comparison makes some sense. Most would agree that Beacon shares a penchant for independent thought and creativity with its much larger half-cousin to the south. But look just a little below the surface and there's much more — more than enough to make Beacon uniquely Beacon.

"There are so many things here," Nelson says. "Beacon really embraces the arts community. It's the walkable Main Street. It's being able to see your neighbors. You really can't go a block or two without seeing someone you know, and I find that comforting. It gives me a feeling of home."



Béatrice Coron, in collaboration with Elizabeth De Sole, *Fashion Statement* (2010)

Photo by A. Rooney

Words as Art

Juried exhibit focuses on letters and language

by Alison Rooney

Eliza Doolittle, who famously uttered "Words words, words, I am so sick of words" in *My Fair Lady*, might find herself disgruntled at the latest exhibit at the Hudson Valley Center for Contemporary Arts in Peekskill. Titled *WORD: Word in Art / Art in Word*, it is filled with art relating in some way to the organization of letters into formations we call words.

The juried show, which opened in February and has been extended to Dec. 17, includes works by 45 artists selected from 145 who submitted. The only stipulation, according to HVCCA's JoAnn Brody, was that each work had to contain at least one letter, from any language. A few artists, known for their work using words graphically or conceptually, were invited to participate.

Wandering through HVCCA's cavernous space (the exhibit fills the downstairs and some of the upstairs), I found artwork in which the connection to words was strong and clear, while others were more mysterious and a few outright puzzling.

Entering the space, you are greeted by Robert Indiana's iconic *LOVE* sculpture, and, to its right, Laura Kimpton's *Let the Positive Come Out*, an installation of stainless steel umbrellas

(Continued on Page 14)

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Words as Art (from Page 13)

suspended from the ceiling with uplifting words sprinkled between. Nearby is *sometime*, a Bill Schuck sculpture in which the description of media used — grass, plaster, wood, rubber, plumbing — gives a hint that this is not an inert object. In fact, despite watering by the HVCCA staff at the artist's request, it is



Elizabeth Arnold, *R.I.P.* (2012)

Photo by Sarah Conners/HVCCA

brown and withered, something the artist considers part of the process, according to Brody.

Elizabeth Arnold's *R.I.P.* spells with strips of tape to punctuate the work and communicate the phrases "No More Music" and "He Was Gone." Other pieces pose questions about themselves: Béatriz Colon's *Fashion Statement – Word Robe* (shown on previous page) is a dress cut from Tyvek with further cut-outs on the form becoming a commentary on fashion.

Emma Rivers used text as a backdrop in her series of wooden diorama boxes depicting emotional scenes from her youth. There are conceptual works, like Adam Nikiewicz' *Tabula Rasa*, a display of perhaps a hundred books, all the same size, and all open to a blank page. Kristyna and Marek Milde's installation, *Home in a Home*, upon closer inspection, will surprise you when its wallpaper is revealed to show highly designed text. A questionnaire, to be filled in by those seated on a couch in the installation, asks visitors to describe what a home means to them, and completes the work.

A few pieces, among them



Patricia Miranda, *Florilegium* (2015)

Photo by A. Rooney

Patricia Miranda's *Florilegium*, are made from books. Miranda used found pages, which she dyed with cochineal and mounted on a bamboo skewer, their vivid color meant to be digested in some way. Other works have a sly humor, such as Willie Wayne Smith's droll *Surrogates* that combines sweet line drawings and a childlike color palette with pithy word-play. The way words will be digested in the future is seen in Nicolae Golici's *Nature Motherboard*, in which one is encased in lumber.

HVCCA will host a number of events in the next few months related to the exhibit. To learn more, visit hvcca.org or call 914-788-0100. For the first time, it also is conducting an online silent auction of much of the artwork on display, with 40 percent of proceeds returning to the non-profit museum. Search for "Hudson Valley CCA" at biddingforgood.com.

Visit highlandscurrent.com for news updates and latest information.






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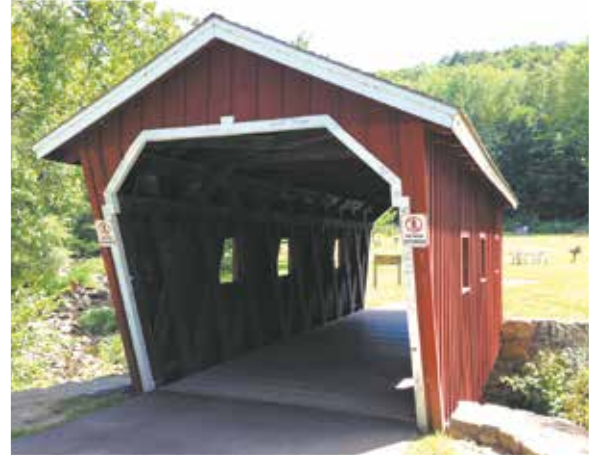
Kent Falls

State park provides escape for Hudson Valley residents

By Clayton Smith

While Cold Spring and Garrison offer their share of scenic waterfalls, a pleasant surprise lies just over the state line. Kent Falls State Park is a 295-acre expanse of natural pools and dramatic cliffs northeast of Kent, CT.

The park consists of a series of waterfalls on the Falls Brook mountain stream. Beginning in the town of Warren, the stream drains roughly seven square miles and then flows into the series of waterfalls within the park. The water continues into



the valley to the Housatonic River.

After entering the park, visitors will notice a spacious picnic area with tables and grills. Beyond that is an impressive chain of waterfalls. Although swimming is prohibited, children and adults alike can be found wading in the shallow pool closest



Top, entrance to the park; above, the lower falls at Kent Falls State Park Photos by C. Smith



Kent Falls State Park

Source: ctvisit.com



The lawns at the falls

Photo by walkinggeek

to the picnic area.

To the right of the falls is a wooden staircase leading to some of the more notable sights. Lookout decks are positioned at every few flights that jut out toward the cliffs, giving guests a closer look at the colossal falls and rock formations. The limestone has been carved into intriguing shapes and potholes. The true prize of the hike comes at the top, where you can see a dramatic 70-foot cascade.

There is evidence that early Native Americans, who called the area *Scatacook*, fished and camped by the falls. The park was originally 22 acres in size, purchased in 1919 by the White Memorial

Foundation and expanded over the years with donated or purchased adjacent land. In the 1930s, the Civil Works Administration developed the area and in the 1970s the Youth Conservation Corps of Connecticut reconstructed the trails.

The park is open during the summer months from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. During the rest of the year it closes at sunset. Parking is \$15 for out-of-state vehicles during the weekend and free during the week. Dogs are allowed but must be leashed. The park is located at 462 Kent Cornwall Road (Route 7) in Kent, about an hour drive from Cold Spring or Beacon.



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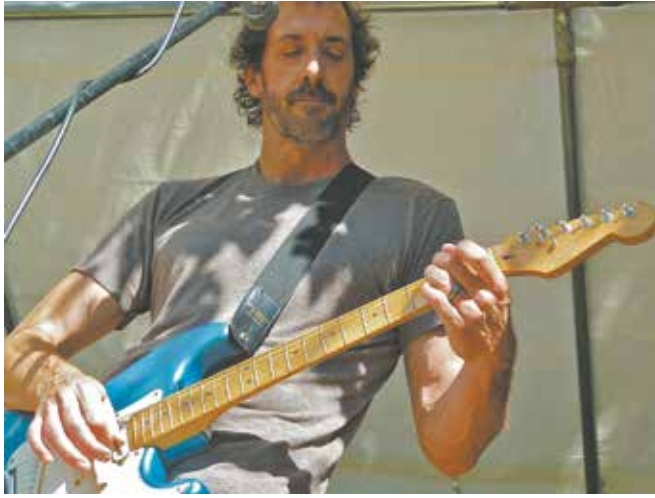
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COMMUNITY BRIEFS



Neal Santelmann

Sunset Music Series to Finish Season

All-Philipstown finale set for Aug. 28

The Cold Spring Area Chamber of Commerce will close out the Summer Sunset Music Series on Sunday, Aug. 28, with an acoustic competition among six Philipstown-based bands and performers.

During the show, which takes place from 6 to 8 p.m., each act will play two songs. The audience will pick the winner, who will play a third song and receive a check for \$250.

The performers are Jim Mechalakos, Constellation (Virginia Califano and friends), Karen Kapoor and Stacey Labriola, Dave Llewellyn, Crazy Mike & Friends (Michael Koles) and Neal Santelmann.

Little League Opens Fall Registration

One 10U and two 12U teams planned

The Philipstown Little League has opened registration for its fall season, which will include a Minors (ages 10 and under) and two Majors (ages 12 and under) teams. For details, visit philipstownlittleleague.com or email philipstownlittleleague@gmail.com. The cost is \$100 per player. Field preparation will begin Sept. 10.

stowlittleleague@gmail.com. The cost is \$100 per player. Field preparation will begin Sept. 10.

Museum to Debut Fall StoryWalk on Sept. 3

Name of newly acquired opossum also to be revealed

The Hudson Highlands Nature Museum in Cornwall will open the fall version of its popular StoryWalk from noon to 4 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 3, featuring the book *Night Animals*, by Gianna Marino. The walk is designed for children ages 2 to 6 accompanied by adult. Tours will be offered at 1:30 and 3 p.m.

At 1 p.m., the Wildlife Education Center



A new opossum will be introduced at the Hudson Highlands Nature Museum on Sept. 3.

Photo by Jenny Brinker

at the museum also will introduce its new opossum, and reveal her name, as chosen by votes on the museum's Facebook and Instagram pages. She will also greet visitors at 2:30 p.m. and on Sept. 4 at 1 and 2:30 p.m.

The wildlife center is located at 25 Boulevard. For more information, visit hhnm.org or call 845-534-5506, ext. 204.

Taking on Water

Gallery show bottles liquid rhythms

Gallery 66 NY will open its latest exhibit, *wAtER waTer*, with a reception from 6 to 9 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 2, for Carla Goldberg, Bob and Karen Madden and Barbara Galazzo, who have each taken on the subject of water in their art for this group show.

The exhibit continues through Oct. 2.



Artwork by Carla Goldberg Image provided

A portion of sales will be donated to the Hudson River Watershed Alliance.

Gallery 66 NY, located at 66 Main St., is open Friday through Sunday from noon to 6 p.m. For more information, visit gallery66ny.com.

Putnam Looking for Fireball Run Team

Need two contestants for eight-day television trek



The Putnam County tourism office is looking for two people to take part in a 2,000-mile journey as part of the tenth anniversary of the show *Fireball Run*, which will film 26 episodes over eight days beginning in western New York, then winding through Pennsylvania and Maryland and returning to New York before concluding in Amesbury, Mass. Putnam County will be featured near the end of the trek, on Sept. 30 and Oct. 1.

The total cost for the event is \$8,500. The tourism bureau hopes to pay some or all of that cost through sponsorships. Contestants will need to be able to drive for long periods of time. If interested, call Frank Smith, acting director of tourism, at 845-808-1015.

Cops & Rodders Set for Aug. 27 in Cold Spring

Annual PBA car show begins at noon

The Cold Spring Police Benevolent Association will host its third annual Cops & Rodders benefit car show at Mayor's Park from noon to 4 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 27.

The free event, which will take place rain or shine, includes music, food and vendors. Car registration, which is \$20, begins at 8 a.m. (Call 845-803-6884 for information.) Mayor's Park is located at 61 Fair St.

Designer to Discuss "Stylish Small Stuff"

Lecture scheduled for Sept. 9 at Boscobel in Garrison

On Friday, Sept. 9, author and designer Susanna Salk will speak about her latest book, *It's the Little Things: Creating Big Moments In Your Home Through the Stylish Small Stuff*, as part of Boscobel's fall design lecture series.

Salk, who lives in Connecticut, has written seven other books. Her first, *A Privileged Life, Celebrating WASP Style*, arose from her upbringing on Boston's North Shore. Her later titles covered design, from the (Continued on next page)

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COMMUNITY BRIEFS



Susanna Salk

Photo provided

(from previous page) personal weekend spaces of style makers in *Weekend Retreats to Room for Children: Stylish Spaces for Sleep and Play and Be Your Own Decorator: Taking Cues and Confidence from Today's Leading Designers*.

The presentation begins at 6:30 p.m. at Boscobel, which is located at 1601 Route 9D in Garrison. Admission is \$20, or free for members, and tickets can be purchased or requested in advance at boscobel.org. The talk will be followed by a reception sponsored by Munder-Skiles Garden Furniture in Garrison.

Beacon

Towne Crier to Host Louisiana Fundraiser

Will benefit animal shelters affected by floods

In response to the recent catastrophic flooding in Louisiana, the Towne Crier Café in Beacon on Saturday, Aug. 27 will host A Cause for Paws, a benefit to raise funds for shelters dealing with displaced pets in the affected areas.

John Sebastian, who had been scheduled to perform that evening, agreed to reschedule his show for October.

The event will start at 5 p.m. with performances by many Hudson Valley musicians, including the founder of the band Orleans (and former U.S. Congressman) John Hall. At the same time, Ron English, Michael D'Antuono, Russell Cusick and other artists have donated pieces for a silent auction, as have many merchants and individuals.

Admission is free, but donations are suggested to benefit the Louisiana State Animal Response Team (lsart.org). The Towne Crier is located at 379 Main St. Visit townecrier.com or call 845-855-1300.

Mandolin Virtuoso Returns to Quinn's

Will perform with band there on Sept. 4

The virtuoso double-neck mandolinist Snehasish Mozumder and his ensemble SOM (Sound of Mandolin) returns to Quinn's in Beacon for a performance at 8 p.m. on Sunday, Sept. 4.

Mozumder is among the few established musicians in India who has mastered the art of playing mandolin and blended the style of Hindustani Indian classical music with jazz and rock. In July he was a featured artist at the first New York International Mandolin Festival.

SOM features Mozumder on a custom-built double-neck mandolin, Nick Gianni on saxophones and flutes, Michael Gam on bass and Vin Scialla on drums. There is no charge but a donation of \$10 is requested for the musicians. Quinn's is located at 330 Main St.



Snehasish Mozumder

Photo provided

Sharpie Seashells

Artist to demonstrate technique

The artist Sue Todd will lead adults in decorating large scallop seashells with fine-tipped Sharpie markers at the Howland Public Library in Beacon at 1 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 3. Each participant will leave with two decorated shells.



Sharpie shells

Photo by Jean Wright

All supplies are included in this free workshop but registration is required. Call Alison Herrero at 845-831-1134. The library is located at 313 Main St.

How to Help Louisiana

Dutchess County Executive encourages residents to assist

Dutchess County Executive Marc Molinaro has asked residents to assist with relief efforts in Louisiana following the unprecedented flooding that has displaced thousands of people. A number of organizations, including United Blood Services, the Salvation Army, the Red Cross, the United Way and Samaritan's Purse, are recruiting on-site volunteers to sort donations, muck and gut homes and pack and distribute food boxes.

Organizers in Louisiana ask that donations be sent only after contacting the group that will receive them. Used clothing is *not* needed, and cash donations are always the best way to help. For a list of relief funds, see volunteerlouisiana.gov/disaster-services/donate.

Paddle for a Cure Sept. 10

Beacon-to-Cold Spring event benefits Support Connection

On Saturday, Sept. 10, at Long Dock Park in Beacon, the Hudson River Watertrail Association will host Paddle for a Cure to benefit Support Connection, which provides support to women with cancer.

The nine-mile, current-assisted Paddle route flows down a beautiful stretch of the river: launching from Long Dock, past Bannerman's Island and finishing at Dockside Park in Cold Spring for the post-paddle party.

Paddlers (kayaks, canoes, standup paddleboards) are welcome to participate as individuals or in teams. To register, visit brownpapertickets.com/event/2555479. The cost is \$65 in advance or \$75 on the day of the event, which begins at 9 a.m.

Library to Exhibit Small Works

Submission deadline for benefit is Aug. 30

The Friends of the Howland Library's first-ever fundraiser on Sept. 10 will include a small works exhibit, and the group has put out a call for Beacon artists to submit their work. Fifty percent of the sale price of each piece will benefit the Howland Public Library.

The submission deadline is Tuesday, Aug. 30. Each artist may submit one work, and each work may be no larger than 20 inches wide or tall. For more details, visit beaconlibrary.org/2016/08/21/call-for-artists or call 845-831-1134, ext. 101.

Visit highlandscurrent.com for news updates and latest information.

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.

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WED & THU 7:15

"Pete's Dragon" (PG)
MON 7:00, TUE 1:00 4:00 7:00
WED & THU 7:00

Phil's List



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Haldane Launches Alternative High School *(from Page 1)*

Non-traditional learning

There is no "typical" student who chooses to attend an alternative high school, Bowers said; there can be any number of social or academic reasons a student functions better in a non-traditional classroom. The initiative "provides what's best for the kids and what's best for the district."

The fall semester will include 10th and 11th grade students but the program may be expanded during this school year or the next to include students from outside the district. "For now it's a Haldane pro-

gram," she said, but it could be overseen by BOCES. "We'll modify the program depending on who else [enrolls]."

Students at the academy will follow the same academic calendar as Haldane. Busing will be provided to Haldane for the morning classes and to St. Basil for the afternoon sessions. Buses will return academy students to Haldane at the end of the school day.

What it saves

The Haldane Academy will save taxpayers between \$70,000 to \$120,000 a year, Bowers said, by reducing the costs Hal-



Haldane Academy morning classes will be held in the Mabel Merritt Building.

Photo by M. Turton

New Haldane Staff, 2016-17

Peter Carucci, Principal, HS

Anthony Showah, Student Support Specialist

Chris Ciboso, Social Studies (Leave Replacement), HS

Erin DeMartino, Grade 1 Teacher (Leave Replacement)

Calvin Dinio, Teacher Aide, ES

Melissa Frabotta, Music

Gabriel Horn, Teacher, Haldane Academy

Janine Junjulas, Attendance Aide/Greeter, ES/MS

Christi Kelly, Teacher Aide, ES

Carolyn Llewellyn, Teaching Assistant/Garden Educator, ES

Megan Lyons, Teacher Aide, ES

Daniel McGroarty, Music

Kristen Mosco, Guidance Counselor, HS

Lisa Needleman, Special Education Teacher, ES

Kathryn O'Hara, School Nurse

Patty O'Rourke, Teacher, Haldane Academy

Dawn Rossano, Psychologist

Alexis Smith, Teaching Assistant, Haldane Academy

Kristen Spooner, Grade 5 Teacher (Leave Replacement)

Amy Sylvester, Mathematics (Leave Replacement), HS

HS = High School; MS = Middle School; ES = Elementary School

dane now pays for programs outside the district. If the academy expands to include students from outside the district, Haldane will also benefit from tuition revenue.

Rebecca Piersall, the director of education and clinical services at St. Basil, which was founded in 1944 by the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America, shares Bowers' enthusiasm. "It's innovative, not just in terms of education but also in how the district's budget is used," she said. She described the environmental science curriculum as "expedition learning."

In return for Haldane's use of its facilities and grounds, St. Basil will receive a credit of \$65,000 for Haldane services, including special-education testing and

tuition for St. Basil students who attend Haldane High School. There are currently 22 students, from preschool to college age, living at the St. Basil Academy, whose mission is to "provide love, shelter, food, education, protection and a home for orphans, children of chronically ill or destitute parents or children from broken homes."

Grade school students who reside at St. Basil attend Bishop Dunn Memorial School on the campus of Mount Saint Mary College in Newburgh. Four teenage residents attend Haldane High School, for which St. Basil pays the district \$13,176 in annual tuition for each.

(To next page)

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Haldane Launches Alternative High School *(from previous page)*

Student input

Bowers said Haldane students helped plan the academy. "We asked what their

perfect school program would look like," she said. Bowers emphasized that students participating in the program are still able

to take part in all extracurricular activities. "They are still Haldane students," she said. "But for part of the day they will be learning in a different environment that just offers them more."

Bowers said the district began looking for an off-campus space for the academy because it had no room at the high school. Academy students will take morning classes in Haldane's Mabel Merritt Building. Afternoon sessions at St. Basil will be held in a former school building there. "There wasn't a lot that had to be done," Bowers said. "Renovations were minimal ... mainly having to do with meeting fire regulations."

St. Basil sits on part of the former estate of Jacob Ruppert, a brewer and Congressman who owned the New York Yankees from 1915 until his death in 1939. Babe Ruth was a frequent visitor to the property, known as Eagle's Rest. The 500-acre estate sat empty for five years after Ruppert's death until the church purchased it; in 1976 St. Basil sold 250 acres, mostly marshland, to the Audubon Society. It was named for St. Basil, who founded orphanages, hospitals and homes for the elderly in fourth-century Caesarea in Asia Minor.

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St. Basil Academy was once Eagle's Rest, the estate of Jacob Ruppert, a brewer and owner of the New York Yankees.

Photo by M. Turton

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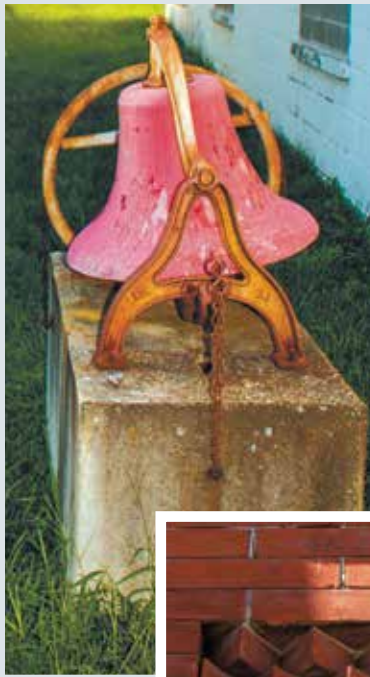
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Classic Firehouses

Photos by Anita Peltonen

Many old firehouses have been torn down or renovated to accommodate growing populations and improved lifesaving equipment. The ones that remain range in style from Renaissance and Gothic Revival to more utilitarian modes of the time they were built.

Left, the old Nelsonville fire bell



At right, firehouse architectural detail, Beacon



Beacon Engine Station 1 at 57 E. Main St., built in 1889



The former Lewis Tompkins Hose Co. at 162 Main St., in Beacon, is now home to Hudson Beach Glass.



The central tower of the Mahopac Falls station



The garage annex at the Village of Fishkill fire station on Route 52



The Mase Hook & Ladder Co. in Beacon, built in 1911, at 425 Main St.. has features of Federalist and New York Gothic Revival style.