Barricaded Garrison Lot Still an Issue

Drive-thru loop may solve the problem

By Michael Turton

Garrison may be running a close second to Cold Spring when it comes to the frequency of issues that arise related to parking. Currently, Metro-North is undertaking extensive improvements to its parking lot at Garrison, causing some inconvenience, albeit in the name of a good cause — the end of very generous-sized potholes. Back in July, the Garrison Landing Association (GLA) erected signage reminding commuters that they are not allowed to park on its property west of the Metro-North tracks. Unauthorized parking on the privately owned riverfront property has been a problem for years. In addition to more regulatory signage, a bright orange plastic fence was put in place to prevent vehicular access to the area located between the Depot Theatre and the building formerly occupied by Guinan’s Pub. Those steps were taken after warning letters from the Putnam County Sheriff and the GLA placed on the windshields of illegally parked cars failed to deter commuters looking for a bargain.

Recently, the plastic barrier has been upgraded, replaced by a more substantial wooden picket fence, a move that has pleased some, but not others. Murray Prescott has lived at the Landing since just after filming of Hello Dolly wrapped up there in 1969. He has not been amused by the rogue commuter parking. "I pay for my parking through my rent. Why should they park for free?" he asked. "It really gets jammed up down here." Prescott also pointed out that commuters who park in the Metro-North lot on the opposite side of the tracks pay for parking through their ticket purchase.

Garrison resident Suzanne Willis recognizes that the illegal parking is an issue — but takes exception to rescinding the 1989 arrangement. "Since then they’ve grown significantly, and they were looking to get that overturned and put back the other way," he explained.

The new picket fence installed at Garrison’s Landing prevents illegal parking but makes drop-offs for the train more difficult.

By Liz Scheretchuk Armstrong

The Village of Nelsonville plans to soon restore total ownership of Post 275 to the American Legion and void a 1989 agreement that allowed the village to claim the building if post membership dropped below 15 persons. At their monthly meeting on Monday (Aug. 20), Nelsonville Village Board members discussed the transfer of the Cedar Street property, to be finalized after the village to claim the building if post membership dropped below 15 persons. At their monthly meeting on Monday (Aug. 20), Nelsonville Village Board members discussed the transfer of the Cedar Street property, to be finalized after the village's membership dropped below 15 persons. (Continued on page 6)

Also discusses dry hydrant woes, chime complaint, problem trees

DEC Wants Eagles Protected at Proposed Dunkin’ Donuts Site

Planning Board schedules public hearing for Sept. 18

By Kevin E. Foley

Bald eagles flew into the midst of the Cold Spring Planning Board’s deliberation of the Elmesco garage application to establish a Dunkin’ Donuts franchise and convenience store last Tuesday night (Aug. 21). The species, not actual birds, arrived via a letter from the state Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), indicating the agency’s concern that modifications to the Elmesco site not threaten bald eagles, an endangered species.

The DEC letter was in response to the board’s letter declaring its intent to become the lead agency in the Elmesco matter. The DEC indicated it was satisfied with the Planning Board assuming the lead role.

In each case the applicant will be expected to provide formal affirmation of either the absence of an environmental threat (to the eagles) or proof that the village wastewater department agrees there is no adverse impact. These items and many more will compose the Planning Board’s negative declaration as to environmental impact at the end of the process.

For nearly two hours, the board, Cameron, Elmes and his consultant Ronald Lezott, went over such details as the flow of storm water, removal of a waste oil tank, the glare level of proposed lighting, the positioning of a dumpster, the use of an order board and light, and the use of an order board and light, and the use of a drive-through that did not satisfy the board that members and board engineer-agency under the State Environmental Quality Review (SEQR) law. The letter underlined the role of other governmental agencies in local development issues. Board members and board engineer-agency's website for guidelines for protecting endangered species.

Eagle sightings have been a mainstay for nearly two hours, the board, Cameron, Elmes and his consultant Ronald Lezott, went over such details as the flow of storm water, removal of a waste oil tank, the glare level of proposed lighting, the positioning of a dumpster, the use of an order board and light, and the use of an order board and light, and the use of a drive-through that did not satisfy the board that members and board engineer-agency's website for guidelines for protecting endangered species.

Chimes from the Baptist Church, or Church on the Hill, annoy a neighbor.

Illustration by K. Vikstrom

To rescind the 1989 arrangement. “Since then they’ve grown significantly, and they were looking to get that overturned and put back the other way,” he explained.

Dry hydrant problems

Corless also reported that in a test, the village’s (Continued on page 3)
Ingredients gathered for the end of tomato season

Photo by C. Barbour

Mouths to Feed

A Tomato Skirmish

By Celia Barbour

Every August, tens of thousands of people get together to throw tomatoes at each other in the little town of Buñol, Spain. They fling over 100 tons of the fruits between 11 a.m. and noon, according to the official Tomatina festival website. If, to you, this sounds immature and wasteful, then you and I do not belong in the same kitchen together come late summer. Because I am in need of a little tomato catharsis right about now.

Although my CSA unloaded a mere 7 pounds of tomatoes on me last week, it could just as well have been a Spanish dump truck’s worth for all that I knew what to do with them anymore. I have already revered in tomato-garlic-basil salads, tomato-avocado-quinoa-and-cilantro salads, and tomato mozzarella salads; I have had tomato sandwiches (plain and with cold cuts), cold tomato soup, and warm, fresh-tomato pastrami sauce; I have roasted, simmered, seeded, peeled and pureed them. I have eaten tomatoes with my eggs for breakfast. At this point, I feel that I am very well acquainted with tomatoes.

My summer didn’t start out this way. Back in late July, when the first longed-for beauties started showing up at the Four Winds Farm stand at the farmers’ market, I actually woke up early — early! on Saturday! — in order to get there before Jay sold out. That first week, his tomatoes were gone by 10 a.m. But as before Jay sold out. That first week, his tomatoes were gone by 10 a.m. But as the weeks wore on, excitement dimmed to familiarity, and then — well, I don’t think I could ever bring myself to feel actual contempt towards a tomato — perhaps “lazitude” is a more accurate word.

It occurs to me that the trajectory of my affections might align me with people I am not necessarily proud to be identified with. I have often rolled my eyes at people who scramble to get into the latest, hottest, most-talked about restaurant or club, and then, four months later, wouldn’t be caught dead there, the place is so over. But it turns out that I am every bit as fickle! I am mad for tomatoes, and then — la-di-dah, ho-hum, yawn. Tomatoes? Sorry, I’m ready for the next thing.

Or maybe that’s unfair. Maybe my love for tomatoes is more like my love for dear friends whose company I adore, though not if they were to hang around in my kitchen for three months straight. And yet, no matter how much I grew to resent them, I would never wish them any harm. Likewise, I would find it difficult to lob a tomato at even my least-favorite co-worker, out of respect for the fruit, not the person.

At any rate, I have been thinking about ways to stash away tomatoes so that in a few months, when I miss their lovely company, I will be able to avail myself of it. Canning and freezing are both options I’ve explored. But today I was in the mood to make something balsamic and substantial, so I cut up some stale bread, picked a handful of thyme that I could find in my yard, and made a savory bread pudding. Into it went all the scarred and bruised tomatoes that were in danger of rotting — some 8 pounds of them in all — with the worst bits cut away. I made one to freeze and another to eat now, because I was already starting to get nostalgic at the thought of tomato season coming to an end.

Savory tomato bread pudding

Serves 6-10, depending on what else is for dinner.

8 slices of stale bread, crusts removed, cut into cubes (about 7 cups)
¾ cup olive oil
1 onion, finely chopped
5 cloves garlic, minced
1 tablespoon fresh thyme leaves
4 pounds tomatoes, cored and cut into rough dice
Salt & pepper
3 tablespoons butter
¼ cup panko breadcrumbs
¼ pound sharp cheddar cheese, grated

Preheat oven to 375° F. Place a cast-iron skillet (or one that can go from stovetop to oven) over medium heat. When warm, add half the olive oil, wait a minute, then add the cubed bread. Let it toast, turning occasionally, until golden and crispy. Transfer to a bowl.

In the same skillet, heat the remaining oil. When warm, add the onion and sauté until limp and light gold, about 4 minutes. Add the minced garlic and thyme and cook 1 minute more. Add all the cut-up tomatoes and their juice and the salt and pepper; turn the heat up to medium-high, and simmer until the tomatoes dissolve, the juice mostly evaporates, and the whole thing becomes a thick, somewhat creamy sauce, about 15 minutes.

Meanwhile, melt the butter in a saucepan and toss with the breadcrumbs. Transfer the bread cubes to the skillet containing the tomato mixture and toss until the bread is thoroughly coated. Level the surface. Sprinkle the cheese evenly over the top, followed by the butter breadcrumbs. Transfer to the oven and bake, 20-25 minutes, until brown and crispy on top. Serve immediately.

Ingredients gathered for the end of tomato season

Photo by C. Barbour

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DEC Wants Eagles Protected at Proposed Dunkin’ Donuts Site

(from page 1)

Weissbrod declared the issue a “deal breaker” for him. After the meeting he pointed to pictures provided by board member Arnie Saari of two Dunkin’ Donuts franchises in Vermont that displayed much more subdued colors mirroring the nearby natural areas.

Drive-thru glossed over

Mentioned only in passing was the Planning Board’s previously stated objection to a drive-thru window on the site. Elmes and Dunkin’ Donuts have insisted that the window is necessary for business success. At a previous meeting they rejected a compromise wherein they would accept approval without it and apply for reconsideration after the site was converted. “We are glossing over the drive-thru issues for now, but we will come back to them later,” said Barbaro. He said the board would be interested in the public’s views before reaching a final determination.

For now the board will be on hiatus for a few weeks on this issue while it awaits the responses of other governmental agencies on its intent to be lead agency. Barbaro said the public hearing would be on Tuesday, Sept. 18 at 7:30 p.m. at the VFW Hall on Kemble Avenue.

Nelsonville Board to Restore American Legion Full Ownership

(from page 1)

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Nelsonville plans to give up rights to the American Legion site. Photo by L.S. Armstrong

Dry fire hydrant near Peekskill Road at Bank Street produced water initially and then failed to draw an adequate flow. He said the hydrant, dug about 4 feet from the Foundry Brook streambed, was designed to rely on groundwater.

“We thought we had enough,” but in the testing, “it took between 4 and 6 minutes for the fire truck to pump 2,300 gallons out of there, and it was gone and just didn’t come back,” Corless explained. “It’s basically a swimming pool, a very small  swimming pool. That’s not cutting it for us. When you’re sinking it out in four minutes, it’s not going to sustain the kind of flow.” To remedy the problem, “we’re going to have to breach into the streambed, so we get a flowing,” he told his fellow board members.

Tree-trimming needs

In other business, Merante continued his plea for village action to deal with trees whose branches interfere with power lines or whose roots undermine sidewalks. “We’ve got to start working on this. A couple are really dangerous,” he said.

Money may be an issue, Corless responded. “We can’t go chopping down a billion trees or whose roots undermine sidewalks whose branches interfere with power lines or whose roots undermine sidewalks.”

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Nelsonville plans to give up rights to the American Legion site. Photo by L.S. Armstrong
Letters to the Editor

Letters may also be mailed to: 69 Main St., Cold Spring, NY. 10516. Please make sure to include your full name and area where you live. We reserve the right to edit letters for length. As is the case with our website, letter writers should avoid making personal attacks or unsubstantiated charges. Unless you indicate otherwise, letters will also be posted on our website.

Water main/mail delivery

To the Editor:

I write to let my neighbors on Fishkill Road know that the water pipe-cleaning project has stopped mail delivery to those houses served by the mail carrier who drives. Although the project has made our driveways accessible by pouring gravel over the pipe that now sits in the street along the curb, no such accommodation has been made for the groups of mailboxes.

I learned this only because the mail this week was unusually important to me. I was waiting for a check. After two days of an empty box, I went to the post office to see if my mail was being held there. Indeed it was, because something was “blocking the boxes.” “How many houses are affected?” I asked. “Probably eight or nine. There’s quite a pile back there,” was the answer. “Do you have any idea as to let me know you are holding their mail?” I wondered. “Apparently not,” came the reply. When I suggested the carrier might have parked the truck and put the mail into the boxes, I was told she did not get paid to do that.

I have no complaints about my mail carrier. She has many times put our mail at our door when it was too much for the box. In these days, though, when the post office struggles to survive nationally as well as to maintain its base in Cold Spring, I thought it might demonstrate enough consideration for its customers to inform us about the service interruption. “Neither snow nor rain nor sleet nor gloom of night” might stop the mail, but the slogan says nothing about a public works project. This week also brought an interruption in email service on Tuesday, but Cablevision at least apologized after a public relations interruption in email service on Tuesday, August 23. Our mail carrier just acknowledged the fact.

Letter writer

Mail Holdup Follows Water Main Work

No delivery for some on Fishkill Road

Residents along Fishkill Road in Nelsenville apparently became the first victims of glitches related to the water-main-relining project this week when they found their mail deliver-
yes suspended. The purported stumbling block: the temporary water line being used to supply the area as the major pipe project gets underway. In the work, being performed by Mainlining Services Inc., the Cold Spring Water Department is scouring and relining the aged and encrusted water pipe that runs beneath Main Street (with an initial spur off Fish-
kill Road) to bring tap water to Nelson-
vil-le and Cold Spring.

A Fishkill Road resident (see letter above) inquired briefly and learned of the suspension of delivery to about nine homes with mailboxes on sidewalks in places where the USPS driver must cross the water pipe to reach a mailbox without leaving the delivery jeep.

Contacted around noon on Thursday (Aug. 23), a USPS employee at the Cold Spring post office referred questions to the manager, who was said to be unavailable until late afternoon. A consumer affairs staff mem-
er of the regional USPS offices in White Plains said that normally residents facing delivery suspensions would be alerted in advance but “only if we were notified ahead of time” of the pending construc-
tion work. She promised to investigate the matter.

Later Gregory Phillips, Cold Spring wa-
ter superintendent, said he would have the contractor coordinate with the post office.

Entergy Gives Grants to Cold Spring Police & North Highlands Fire District

Money supports emergency and civic groups

The Cold Spring Police Department and North Highlands Fire District received grants in the latest round of funding under Entergy’s 3-year-old Indian Point Safety Responders Fund. Putnam County also received a grant. The nuclear-power corporation operates the Indian Point Energy Center on the outskirts of Peekskill, just south of Philip-
town and the Westchester-Putnam County line.

Philpstown’s two recipients join 16 other first-responder and civic groups in winning this summer’s grants, which total $225,400. In unveiling the list of awardees last week (Aug. 15), Entergy did reveal the amount of each organization’s individual grant.

Village and North Highlands fire dis-

tinguished officials had no immediate comment and said Thursday afternoon (Aug. 23) that they awaited formal details from Entergy.

According to John Ventura, site vice president and top Entergy official at the Indian Point Energy Center, “our commu-
nity first responders and emergency per-
sonnel are dedicated professionals and often risk their own safety to keep others safe. Entergy is appreciative of the work done by professionals and volunteers in our communities and proud to be able to make these considerable investments that help fund worthwhile programs and initiatives.”

The corporation said it created the grant program “to help fund training and equipment purchases for first responders in the vicinity of Indian Point.”

Other winners include the Westchester County Police, City of Peekskill Office of Emergency Management, Phelps Memo-
rinal Hospital, and Somers Youth Sports Organization.

County Invites Seniors to Computer Classes

Seniors may also volunteer as teachers

Putnam County Executive MaryEllen Odell has invited seniors interested in learning about computers to register for a variety of classes offered by the Putnam County Office for the Aging at the Putnam Valley Senior Center, 177 Town Park Lane, Putnam Valley and the Koehler Senior Center, 180 Rt. 6, in Mahopac. The Program is supported by the Putnam Coun-
ty Office for the Aging, Friends of Senior Citizens of Putnam County, and a grant from New York State Office for Aging.

The next registration will be held on Sept. 6 at both centers from 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. Classes being offered are Computer Fundamentals, Maintaining Your Computer, Internet and Email, Digital Photography, Picasa and many more. They also offer free workshops such as How to Buy a New Computer, Copy and Paste, Word Processing, Setting up Your New Tablet, Keyboard shortcuts, Windows Explorer, Everything Mac, Computers for the Utter Novice, Medi-

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Red Cross to Local Families: Plan for Emergencies Now

By Michael Turton

I

It is hurricane season once again, and events in the recent past are a reminder that Philipstown is not immune to the vagaries of Mother Nature — or to the need to plan for worst-case scenarios.

Last August, Tropical Storm Irene swept through the area, causing widespread flooding, downed trees and loss of electrical power while washing out roads and necessitating the dramatic rescue of residents from their homes. Fire halls doubled as shelters, and local officials set up a command center to coordinate responses to numerous emergency situations that arose. Irene was by no means the only one-off event. In September 1999, Hurricane Floyd was just as serious. At the end of October 2011, a freakish snowstorm left much of Philipstown without power for days. This week, Tropical Storm Isaac has been building, threatening to gain hurricane strength. The storm will undoubtedly head north, and the question is, as Hurricane Irene did, how well prepared will residents be?

The Philipstown EOC has practiced its emergency plan.

During Tropical Storm Irene, families had to be rescued from their homes along Route 301 by the Cold Spring and North Highlands Fire Departments when Clove Creek became a raging torrent.

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Barricaded Parking Lot Still an Issue as School Days Near

(from page 1)

to the picket fence. “As an older person with a sometimes handicapped husband, it makes it much less convenient,” she said. “The turnaround space is woefully inadequate. It’s hard to get in and out without ending up on someone’s porch. And when the weather is bad, it makes it a much longer trek for older people.”

Peter Hoffman, GLA president, explained why the fence was installed. “We’re trying to eliminate parking down there. With the construction at the [Metro-North] parking lot, activities at the theatre and summer camp at the Garrison Art Center — people were parking everywhere,” he said. Despite the fact that the Landing is privately owned, Hoffman said that behavior exhibited by people parking there illegally has been less than exemplary. “People have been rude,” he said. “They screamed at [GLA board member] Margaret O’Sullivan and at the Sheriff — saying we have no right to do what we’re doing. It’s private property. We do have the right.”

Hoffman also tried to put the issue in a larger context. “We want the goodwill of the community, and we want the Landing to be a pleasant place for the community,” he said. “We try to rent to those who will make it good — like the Art Center. We want no bad will. We got very upset when people accused of us having bad intentions.”

But Willis thinks that the fence goes too far. “I think civic-minded people would make it more accommodating for residents,” she said. “It seems a little arbitrary. There really isn’t anything going on down there — not yet.”

That is about to change. Plans call for a restaurant to be established in the old Guinan’s location, tentatively scheduled to open in 2013. “We’re hoping it will start soon,” Hoffman said. “There will be equipment and trucks down there during construction. It will be dangerous — just not a place to park.” He also said that once the restaurant opens, it will use the area where parking is currently banned for customer parking. “And when the restaurant gets busy, people will have to use the Metro-North parking lot.”

With summer winding down, school just around the corner, and people returning from summer vacations, the number of commuters being dropped off at Garrison Landing each morning will soon increase significantly. There may be an interim solution in the works that will once again enable drop-offs closer to the train platform. When asked if GLA would consider creating a drive-thru lane which would still prohibit parking but allow vehicles to drive up close to the platform, Hoffman said, “We are definitely considering that,” adding, “but definitely no parking.”

David Libbreu, owner of Antipodean Books at the Landing, agrees that a drive-thru loop is the way to go. “That would be optimal at this stage,” he said. “There really are people who need to get closer to drop people off.”

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There Are Many Ways Of Seeing: A Point of View

Garrison photographer Brian Nice represents how he sees the world after a brain injury

By Alison Rooney

An inarguable statement about art as a whole is that in whatever form it may be produced, it represents how its creator views what is being represented. Perhaps that view is colored by political leanings or family history or an influential trend, but whatever the coloration, the final product is a representation of the artist’s eye. In Garrison Art Center’s current exhibit, A Point of View, photographer and Garrison resident Brian Nice has represented how he sees the world, quite literally. His images, some with multiple exposures and layering, most with vivid, saturated colors, some with echoing, shadowy duplications, are not some kind of statement as to what he thinks the world is coming to. Rather, they are an accurate visual representation of how he, once a top fashion and commercial photographer, now actually physically sees the world after experiencing a traumatic brain injury out of the blue three years ago.

Nice, whose injury has affected his motor skills and has physically confined him to a wheelchair for now, has retained his creative spirit and artist’s eye, the internal one. With this new work he wanted to show others how he now sees the world. “That was my main objective: to show people how I really see now.” After receiving a camera as a gift from a friend after his first brain surgery, Nice returned to his former vocation, but in a very different way. Program notes quote him as saying, “This camera is special, because it is honest. Everything is done in the camera: cropping, double exposure, color, etc. I come from the old school of film.” (Continued on page 15)
As an animal, I hesitate to reproach humans, partly because they believe they are a superior breed. But I think my admirers, on certain important occasions, would expect me to make my views known.

In that belief, I refer my reader to the parking for outside the Foodtown supermarket. In particular, I note that customers too often empty their shopping carts into their cars and then leave the carts higgledy-piggledy all over the lot instead of returning them to basics. This course leads to problems when arriving shoppers try to park only to find a cart in their way.

It can, and has, also created conflict as I shall now describe. The other day, a woman transferred her shopping into her vehicle, then left the empty cart in the middle of the parking lot. A fine example of laziness, you might think, but no. However, this action was noticed by another woman parked in the lot who admonished the guilty party, suggesting that it would be nice if she returned the cart to its proper place instead of leaving it where it belonged near the supermarket entrance.

The naughty lady was afforded. She indicated this by finding the energy to steer the cart so that it blocked the path of the complainant who was about to drive away. “You put the damned cart back,” she cried, and triumphantly drove off. The other lady was then forced to leave her car and remove the cart so that she could drive home. One hopes and expects that she returned the cart to its proper place before leaving the scene.

The unfortunate incident reminded me of the recent occasion at Dockside Park when the boss reprimanded a dog owner who failed to pick up after her pet. He responded with a spew of rude words and stalked off. Humans are superior, aren’t they?

At the Country Goose, all customers are certainly considered superior. The boss has just come back from the Gift Show in New York and has ordered an incredible array of superior merchandise. So next time you take a stroll down Main Street stop in and let me introduce you to my plans for holiday gift giving.
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845-765-2721 | bire.org

Fishkill Revisited Lecture & Signing
4 – 5:30 P.M. VAN WYCK HOUSE
845-896-9560 | fishkillhistoricalsociety.org

SUNDAY, AUGUST 26

Kids & Community

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75 N. Water St., Poughkeepsie
845-471-0589 | mhcm.org | Fee: $5/family

Wounded Warrior Benefit Day & Air Show
10 A.M. OLO RHINEBECK AERODROME
9 Norton Road, Rhinebeck
845-752-3200 | oldrhinebeck.org

Beacon Flea Market
8 A.M. – 3 P.M. HENRY STREET PARKING LOT
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845-202-0054 | beaconflea.blogspot.com

New York Renaissance Faire
10 A.M. – 7 P.M. 600 ROUTE 17A, TUXEDO
See details under Saturday.

Events

Theater & Film

HVSF In Process: A Magic Moment (Theater)
7:35 P.M. PHILIPSTOWN DEPOT THEATER
See details under Friday.

Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival: Romeo & Juliet with C taught in the Act (Theater)
7 – 11 P.M. BOSCOBEL | See details under Friday.

Music

Live Music Night
Silver Spoon Café
124 Main St., Cold Spring
845-265-2625 | silverspoonscoldspring.com

Riverfront Music: Six Stories Told
5:30 – 7:30 P.M. RIVERFRONT BANDSTAND, COLD SPRING
845-265-3200 | coldspringareachamber.org

West Point Concert Band: Super Heroes
7:30 – 9 P.M. TROPHY POINT AMPHITHEATER
Culm Road, West Point
845-938-2617 | westpointband.com

Traditional Irish Music
5 – 8 P.M. WHISTLING WILLET’S
154 Main St., Cold Spring
845-265-2012 | whistlingwilleys.com

Religious Services

Our Lady of Loreto
7:30, 9, & 11:45 A.M. 24 FAIR STREET, COLD SPRING
845-265-3718 | ourladyoflorettos.org

St. Mary’s Episcopal Church
8 & 10 A.M. 1 CHESTNUT ST., COLD SPRING
845-265-2539 | stmaryscoldspring.org

St. Philip’s Episcopal Church
8 & 10 A.M. 1101 ROUTE 9D, GARRISON
845-424-3571 | stphilipshighlands.org

South Highland Methodist Church
9:30 a.m. 10 Snake Hill Road, Garrison
845-265-3365

First Presbyterian Church
10 A.M. 10 ACADEMY ST., COLD SPRING
845-265-3220 | presbychurchcoldspring.org

St. Joseph’s Chapel
10:15 A.M. 74 UPPER STIXON ROAD, GARRISON
845-265-3718 | ourladyoflorettos.org

Church on the Hill
10:30 A.M. 245 MAIN ST., COLD SPRING
845-265-2022 | coldspringchurchonthehill.org

United Methodist Church
11 A.M. 216 MAIN ST., COLD SPRING
845-265-3365

Phildowns Friends (Quaker)
12:30 – 1:30 P.M. WHITTY HOUSE
845-424-3625 | calfor directions.

KIDS & YOUTH

Bridge Club
9 A.M. – 12:30 P.M. ROWLAND CULTURAL CENTER
477 Main St., Beacon | 845-631-4988
howlandculturalcenter.org | Fee: $3

Free Books at Used Book and Media Sale
1 – 3 P.M. DESMOND-FISH LIBRARY
See details under Saturday.

Health, Sports & Outdoors

Yoga With a View
6:35 – 7:15 P.M. PHILIPSTOWN RECREATION CENTER
107 Gyldenclift Drive, Garrison
845-424-4618 | philipstownrec.com
For grades 6-8. Cost: $1

Healthcare Professionals

(Continued on page 10)

(Continued on page 10)
The Calendar

**Art & Design**

Cheval Glass Exhibit
9:30 A.M. – 5 P.M. BOSCobel
See details under Friday.

GAC Current Sculpture Exhibition
9:30 A.M. – 5:30 P.M. BOSCobel
See details under Friday.

**Theater & Film**

Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival: The 39 Steps (Theater)
7 – 10 P.M. BOSCobel | See details under Friday.

**Music**

Community Chorus
7 – 9 P.M. HOWLAND CULTURAL CENTER
477 Main St., Beacon
845-831-5068 | howlandculturalcenter.org

Jazz Open Jam Session
8 – 11 P.M. TURNING POINT MUSIC CAFE
468 Piermont Ave., Piermont
845-359-1089 | turningpointcafe.com
Admission: $5

Meetings & Lectures

Butterfield Committee Meeting
7:30 P.M. VILLAGE HALL
85 Main St., Cold Spring
845-265-3611 | coldspringny.gov

**Tuesday, August 28**

Kids & Community
Ready Set Go! Kindergarten Playgroup
9:30 A.M. & 10:30 A.M. MID-HUDSON CHILDREN'S MUSEUM | See details under Tuesday.

Wacky Wednesday: It's Not Magic
1 P.M. MID-HUDSON CHILDREN'S MUSEUM | See details under Tuesday.
Fee: $2 plus admission

Health, Sports & Outdoors
Mal Jongg Open Play
10 A.M. – 1 P.M. VFW HALL
Kennbec Street, Cold Spring
845-424-4618 | philipstownrecreation.com

Hudson Valley Renegades
6:30 P.M. DUTCHESS COUNTY STADIUM | See details under Friday.

Art & Design

Cheval Glass Exhibit
9:30 A.M. – 5 P.M. BOSCobel | See details under Friday.

GAC Current Sculpture Exhibition
9:30 A.M. – 5:30 P.M. BOSCobel | See details under Friday.

Nice/Sarrantonio Exhibition
10 A.M. – 5 P.M. GARRISON ART CENTER | See details under Friday.

ArtFull Living Luncheon
12:30 – 2 P.M. GLASSBURY COURT
3370 Route 9, Cold Spring
845-265-3616 | coldspringarts.com | Cost: $40

**Theater & Film**

Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival: The 39 Steps (Theater)
7 – 10 P.M. BOSCobel | See details under Friday.

Music

Open Mic Night
8 – 11 P.M. WHISTLING WILLIE'S
184 Main St., Cold Spring
845-265-2012 | whistlingwillies.com

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 29

Kids & Community
Ready Set Go! Kindergarten Playgroup
9:30 A.M. & 10:30 A.M. MID-HUDSON CHILDREN'S MUSEUM | See details under Tuesday.

**Thursday, August 30**

Meetings & Lectures
Beacon Historical Society
7 P.M. HOWLAND CULTURAL CENTER
477 Main St., Beacon
845-831-4988 | howlandculturalcenter.org

Cold Spring Board of Trustees Workshop
7:30 P.M. VILLAGE HALL
85 Main St., Cold Spring
845-265-3611 | coldspringny.gov

Women's AA Meeting
7:30 P.M. FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
10 Academy St., Cold Spring
845-265-3220 | presbychurchcoldspring.org

Life Support Group
7:30 – 9:30 P.M. PHILLIPSTOWN RECREATION CENTER
1101 Route 9D, Garrison
845-424-3571 | gachs.org

PHILLIPSTOWN TOWN BOARD WORKSHOP
7:30 P.M. TOWN HALL
238 Main St., Cold Spring
845-265-5200 | philipstown.com

THURSDAY, AUGUST 30

Meetings & Lectures
Bible Study
7 – 8 P.M. CHURCH ON THE HILL
245 Main St, Cold Spring
845-265-2022 | coldspringchurchonthehill.org

Garrison School Board
7:30 P.M. GARRISON SCHOOL
1100 Route 9D, Garrison | 845-424-3689 @Garrison

LIFE SUPPORT GROUP
7:30 – 9:30 P.M. PHILLIPSTOWN RECREATION CENTER
1101 Route 9D, Garrison
845-424-3571 | gachs.org

PHILLIPSTOWN TOWN BOARD WORKSHOP
7:30 P.M. TOWN HALL
238 Main St., Cold Spring
845-265-5200 | philipstown.com

Art & Design

Nice/Sarrantonio Exhibition
10 A.M. – 5 P.M. GARRISON ART CENTER | See details under Friday.

GAC Current Sculpture Exhibition
9:30 A.M. – 5:30 P.M. BOSCobel | See details under Friday.

Free Admission Day at Storm King Art Center | See details under Saturday.

Theater & Film

Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival: Romeo & Juliet (Theater)
7 – 10 P.M. BOSCobel | See details under Friday.

HVSF In Process: The Dork Knight (Theater)
7:30 P.M. PHILLIPSTOWN DEPOT THEATRE | See details under Friday.

**Kids & Community**

Ready Set Go! Kindergarten Playgroup
9:30 A.M. & 10:30 A.M. MID-HUDSON CHILDREN'S MUSEUM | See details under Tuesday.

演员/社区

金发/萨恩托尼奥展览
10 A.M. – 5 P.M. GARRISON ART CENTER | See details under Friday.

**Health, Sports & Outdoors**

Hudson Valley Renegades
7:30 – 9:30 P.M. PHILLIPSTOWN RECREATION CENTER
1101 Route 9D, Garrison
845-424-4618 | philipstownrecreation.com

Adult Co-Ed Volleyball
7:30 – 9:30 P.M. PHILLIPSTOWN RECREATION CENTER
107 Glenmoor Dr, Garrison
845-424-4618 | philipstownrecreation.com | Cost: $24/night | Ages 18 and older, Philpstown residents only.

**Health, Sports & Outdoors**

Meditation Class
9:30 A.M. & 10:30 A.M. PHILLIPSTOWN RECREATION CENTER
107 Glenmoor Dr, Garrison
845-424-4618 | philipstownrecreation.com | Cost: $5/night

**Meetings & Lectures**

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Garrison School Board
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1100 Route 9D, Garrison | 845-424-3689 @Garrison

LIFE SUPPORT GROUP
7:30 – 9:30 P.M. PHILLIPSTOWN RECREATION CENTER
1101 Route 9D, Garrison
845-424-3571 | gachs.org

PHILLIPSTOWN TOWN BOARD WORKSHOP
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Fee: $2 plus admission

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6:30 P.M. DUTCHESS COUNTY STADIUM | See details under Friday.

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7 – 10 P.M. BOSCobel | See details under Friday.

Music

Open Mic Night
8 – 11 P.M. WHISTLING WILLIE'S
184 Main St., Cold Spring
845-265-2012 | whistlingwillies.com

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concluded with Gonzalez-Tornero following Cullom to Atlanta, and then, in the usual 1960s progression, to a small railroad-flat apartment in Greenwich Village where they and their growing family vied for space with their artistic pursuits. Fate intervened when Gonzalez-Tornero’s publisher visited the basement of their Manhattan home and questioned how they could live and work there. He insisted that they go and live in his vacation place in Mahopac, making them an offer they couldn’t refuse: “Work there and you can buy my house in Mahopac in exchange for prints.” Hundreds and hundreds of prints later, the home became theirs, and Mahopac has been their residence since 1970. Cullom adds, “And the car we have now was in exchange for a painting!” It was Cullom long stretch working in black and white that inspired her wish to switch to color. She described the beginnings of her mask-making: “With my engravings, I started doing 3-D work. Then I began to learn how to knot, with an eye to dying the work myself. I took out a book and started practicing knots. There were some 3,000 to learn, but unless you’re going to run off with a sailor … it wasn’t necessary for what I do to do all those other knots … I had worked before in clay and with cast heads — the bare minimum of sculpture … It started as a process, working from the house I started with these inspirations, things just in my head became the process of doing something.”

When Cullom begins to make a mask, she has no idea how it will turn out. “I don’t even know if it will be a provable, or if it will have two eyes,” she says. “I start, and see what happens. I give them titles long after I’ve knotted them. I see them as masks to view the world.” Their very evocative titles include: Mask for Political Discourse and Mask for Enjoying Long and Sultry Summers.

Cullom begins with a board to which she adds a stick to hold the strings, making sure all begin at an even length, secured by even numbers of square knots. “The fun is in lead up with extra eyes, an odd nose, tufts of hair — you have to add more string.” She characterizes the masks more fully with found materials: her grandmother’s bead and shirt yielding unusual buttons.

The smallest masks take Cullom about a year; the bigger ones much longer. “You don’t just knot them out,” she says, wryly, “however, I’m a Speedy Gonzales if you look at other arts which take years. Engraving is also a very slow process. Maybe slow processes give me time to think.”

Gonzalez-Tornero describes his work as a “fusion of two distinct things: a compulsion towards modernist form and a fascination with the historic cultures of the Pacific Northwest. I respond to their art above all, which I see as a deeply spiritual and gloriously formalist view of life.”

In notes for the exhibition, Gonzalez-Tornero describes his work as a “fusion of two distinct things: a compulsion towards modernist form and a fascination with the historic cultures of the Pacific Northwest. I respond to their art above all, which I see as a deeply spiritual and gloriously formalist view of life.” Invited, years ago, to visit a Canadian friend who was living in what are known in colonial terms as the Queen Charlotte Islands, an archipelago located off the coast of British Columbia, Gonzalez-Tornero was immediately entranced by what the aboriginal people call Haida Gwaii. “To me the place had magic; I was captivated by it and have returned six times,” he said.

While reading a book of Haida myths and stories, he discovered a character, “The Chief of Kloo,” and zeroed in on him. Transporting the words through the process of his paintings, he sees the Chief of Kloo as “a dramatic character, a geometrical personage defined by intersecting straight lines most convenient for the construction of hard-edged, articulated color spaces.”

Asked if the masks and the Chief of Kloo seem to get along, sharing the space of the Marina Gallery as they do, both artists immediately assented, Cullom pronouncing it “amazing that string and paint get along!”

The exhibition concludes its August run this Saturday, Aug. 26. The works are on view Thursday to Sunday from noon to 6 p.m. or by appointment. The Marina Gallery is located at 153 Main St., and the phone is 845-265-2204, or visit their Facebook page.
Junior Golfer Makes Her Shots
Garrison's Kristin Scali improves game on Hudson Valley courses

By Mary Ann Ehner

Kristin Scali crushed her first shot of the day into the fairway and followed it up with a drive back into her golf bag. A subtle smile signaled her satisfaction with the shot, and she went on to play the course with steady presence. This summer, the Garrison teenager took her game on the road with the Hudson Valley Junior Golf Association Team Match Series. After swing- ing clubs for a few years and giving her father a decent challenge on the golf course, Kristin found herself in need of advanced playing partners. She joined a league and has made her way around the Hudson Valley over the past several months, playing pristine courses and improving her game.

"Playing with different people and with people that are better than me has really helped me improve my game," Kristin said. "The Hudson Valley junior golf league is a friendly league, and I want to go out there and do my best."

Kristin's best this season ranks well for a rising eighth grader. A student at the Garrison Middle School, she posted a 94 best during summer league play, turning in sub-100 rounds at Vassar, Beekman, Mansion Ridge, Warwick and Dutchess Golf & Country Club, where she shot a 97 Aug. 16 to wrap up her season.

Mary Selber, league statistician for the Hudson Valley Junior Team Match Series, believes that Kristin has what it takes to master the game.

"We've seen Kristin grow from being shy and uncertain of herself to being confident and eager to play," Selber said. "Her scores are getting better with each and every tournament, and she's playing against some girls who are 17 and 18 years old. The girls she plays with are amazing young ladies."

Kristin's father, Vinny Scali, isn't feeling left out now that his daughter has moved on to play golf more competitively, and boasts of being beaten on the course by one of his kids is a reward of parenting.

"We took Kristin out a few times to play when she was about 10 and she just had one of those natural swings," Scali said. "For a while, she was only playing with me, but now, she's taking a lesson once a week and playing in the league with talented young athletes. That's what she was missing."

Kristin's schedule includes practice at home, on the course, and at Saturday morning lessons with her coach, golf professional Lee Ferrero, in Pine Island in Orange County.

"To be able to shoot in the low 90s by age 12 or 13 is quite good," Ferrero said. "Her scores will continue to improve and I think by next year, Kristin will be shooting in the 80s. She's a really smart young lady and she understands what she needs to do."

And Kristin finds it easy to motivate herself, balancing her studies and family commitments.

"My home course is the Highlands Country Club," Kristin said. "During the summer, I try to play at least nine holes five days a week. I'll also putt for 30 minutes, and then I'll do the drills at home that my coach wants. Sometimes I do strength training, and during the school year, I still make an effort to practice put-
Howland Chamber Music Circle Announces Anniversary Season

The Howland Chamber Music Circle (HCMC) is beginning its 20th season of bringing classical concerts to the area. The acoustically intimate space of the Howland Cultural Center in Beacon seems to be built just for that purpose.

The Walden Chamber Players will launch the season on Sunday, Sept. 23, with a program that includes Schubert’s popular Trout Quintet. Cellist Sunil Jani will return, followed by two string quartets new to HCMC’s audience, the Brooklyn Rider Quartet, who will bring both traditional and contemporary pieces, and the Doric Quartet from England, with Schubert’s Death and the Maiden and other works.

The spring part of the season starts with the Peabody Piano Trio, featuring Misiaen’s Quartet for the End of Time with clarinetist Charles Neidich. Classical guitarist William Kanengeiser will follow with a varied program. Then the Alexander String Quartet will return to play pieces by Schubert and Britten.

For the finale of this 20th season, HCMC welcomes back their friends, the Brentano Quartet. Their performance will feature the Cesar Franck Quartet with pianist Thomas Sauer. A gala reception to celebrate 20 successful seasons will conclude the afternoon.

The Chamber Music Circle will again present its popular mid-winter Piano Series. Three of the performers are new to the audience. Juho Pohjonen from Finland made a big splash at last year’s Mostly Mozart Festival. Jenny Lin will follow with a variety of pieces. Next will be the young pianist Kos-Wei Lio from Macau. To close out the Piano Series, a favorite of HCMC’s audience, Austrian pianist Till Fellner returns in April.

All concerts take place on Sundays at 4 p.m. at the Howland Center, 477 Main St., Beacon.

Subscriptions to the chamber music series are available for four to eight concerts, from $125 to $175. The subscription for the piano festival is $80 for three and $105 for all four concerts. Tickets to individual concerts are $30. All students get in free.

For a detailed brochure, visit howlandmusic.org. A lecture, "Volunteer Landscape Day at Manitoga," will be held on Sunday, Sept. 23, from 2 to 4 p.m. at the Howland Center. For more information, contact volunteer@russwrightcenter.org or call 845-424-3812.

Roll Up Your Sleeves: Volunteer Landscape Day at Manitoga

Manitoga’s quarry pond trail.

The Howland Cultural Center in Beacon seems to be built just for that purpose.

The Brentano Quartet will perform during the 20th anniversary season. Photo by Peter Schaar

On Saturday, Sept. 23, community members are invited to Manitoga to "roll up your sleeves and meet other arborists, horticulturists, garden designers and landscape enthusiasts." Volunteers of all skill levels are welcomed. Volunteer Landscape Day will take place rain or shine, and lunch will be served. For more information about volunteer opportunities at Manitoga, visit their volunteer page. To register for this event, email volunteer@russwrightcenter.org or call 845-424-3812.

Also in September, a particularly beautiful time of year at Manitoga, a hike to Lost Pond will be offered as part of the regional Hudson River Ramble program. The $10 admission helps support trail maintenance. The hike, of moderate difficulty, is suitable for older children who have hiked previously, and adults. It takes place on Sunday, Sept. 23 from 2 to 4 p.m., and reservations are required. For more information visit hudsonrivervalley.com/ramble. To register for this event, email info@russwrightcenter.org.

Ballet Arts Studio/Dance Beacon Holds Open House on Sept. 1

Studio welcomes new faculty

Celebrating 43 years as Beacon’s oldest ballet school, the Ballet Arts Studio/Dance Beacon, also known as Dance Beacon, is welcoming three new ballet instructors to its faculty this year. The studio will introduce the new instructors, welcome back returning faculty, and provide demonstrations of a variety of dance instruction at an Open House on Saturday, Sept. 1 from 10 a.m. - noon at the studio, located at 307 Teller Ave. in Beacon. Joining the faculty this year, and bringing decades of teaching and performance experience to the studio, will be Adrienne Zetterberg, Elizabeth Bruning and Todd Hall.

Zetterberg trained at the School of American Ballet in New York City and the North Carolina School of the Arts. She was a principal dancer in the Boulder Ballet in Colorado and was also in the Professional Division/Corps de Ballet of the Pacific Northwest Ballet. She has danced as a principal dancer and soloist in North Carolina, New York and Massachusetts. She has been teaching ballet, pointe and variations for the past 13 years.

Bruning spent 14 years as a soloist and corps de ballet dancer with New York Theatre Ballet, performing classical and modern ballets across the U.S. and in Europe. At the age of 17, Bruning began bal-
Downtown Comedy Migrates Upriver to Beacon's Main Street

By Pete Smith

Recently, at a comedy club in lower Manhattan, the categorically un-funny topic of ethnic hatred was mentioned so often during the act that it eventually emerged as a theme for the evening. Despite the low audience appeal for topics like ethnic divisions, intention al provocation has become a staple of “downtown comedy,” a subculture within the comedy universe that has enjoyed ever-increasing mainstream validation lately with comic alumni like Zach Galifianakis and David Cross.

Sixty miles north of the city in Beacon, two comedians have been routinely staging shows since 2009 that are both alternative and funny. “I feel like we fit in the ‘alt-comedy’ alternative and funny. ‘I feel like we fit pretty comfortably in the ‘alt-comedy’ spectrum of comedy and whether they are credibly ‘downtown,’ Rees offered, “it’s two-man, character-based comedy.”

The team’s fondness for writing becomes logical in light of the day jobs they do as reporters. Anderson is editor-at-large with The New York Times, a position that affords him the chance to write thoughtful essays on subjects ranging from video games to 9/11. His national profile has been enhanced by numerous citations, like a recent mention in The New York Times Book Review, suggesting he was a standard-bearer for emerging long-form journalists. Rees has the book clearly falls within the realm of school comedy. It’s two-man, character-based comedy."

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Call Smart Home Services for all Residential & Commercial Needs! ELECTRIC • PLUMBING • HVAC • SOLAR • GENERATORS

Sam Anderson left and David Rees

Photo by P. Smith

and (2) having one’s dishes washed after a formal meal, to name two recent offerings. Some of the auctioned services, performed by Anderson and Rees themselves, fetched upwards of $100.

As talk came back to their place in the spectrum of comedy and whether they are credibly “downtown,” Rees offered, “it’s two-man, character-based comedy.”

But Anderson countered, “We’re sampling from both traditions. We have that old-school structure. But I think our sensibility is fairly evolved. We do a lot of dumb jokes. And the joke is that the joke is so dumb.”

“You are criticizing my jokes?” asked Rees, feigning umbrage.

But in arriving at a downtown perspective, they pointed to the fact that some of their skits, and even some of the routines of their guests, fall into the category of thought pieces that require a bit more processing on the audience. “You want some of that uncomfortable silence,” said Anderson.

“Wow, as long as you’re a part of the show, we’ll have plenty of that,” replied Rees.

Tickets for the shows are sold at the door, usually for the retrograde price of $5. Find the Beacon Comedy Research Group fan page on Facebook for upcoming show dates and more information.
There Are Many Ways Of Seeing: A Point of View (from page 7)

He is reflective on his new life, back in his first home, Garrison. "When I got sick I learned you don’t have to go over all the world to make nice pictures, you just have to take the time. Now I’m forced to sit on the porch and look at the tree." At this his mother, Sandra Nice, interjects aptly, "Some people don’t even see the tree.”

Nice’s subjects now are the elements of the world he sees, as he has the camera with him all the time: trees from his porch; whatever catches his eye on the frequent drives to and from his physical therapy at the Helen Hayes Rehabilitation Hospital Center in West Havensw ork; the Bear Mountain carousel; swimmers and kayakers in an event near the shoreline of the Hudson; even Pete’s Home-town Deli in Nelsonville. Therapy is helping him with all the things one never gives much thought to until difficulties arise: sitting up, holding the camera, standing and walking, just generally working to get stronger.

For this show, Nice began with 900 images, which were first whittled down to 300 and then edited to 60 by Garrison Art Center’s director, Carinda Swann. Swann originally envisioned an exhibit contrasting Nice’s earlier, black and white work, with the current photographs. After she saw the new work, she reconsidered the idea. “I immediately felt this work needed to have its own exhibition. The earlier Greenland work was beautiful in a more traditional way, but there was no point in including it.”

“A good call,” said Nice. Continuing, Swann says: “We had a lot more freedom to make a beautiful show this way. We were toying with names and suddenly came up with Point Of View, which says a whole lot of differ-ent things. Then we decided to hang the show with a new point of view. We built benches that seat people at Bri-an’s eye level, and hung the pictures at that level too. It’s rea-dily different when you’re seated.” Nice concurs, “I love it. I like the fact that I can share how I re-ally see things.”

The exhibition, which opened on Aug. 11 and continues through Sept 2, has been very suc-c-essful, with estimates of over 300 people attending the opening reception and, at press time, 26 of 35 pieces sold already. (The negatives are scanned to make the digital, archival pigment prints, and more can be made upon demand.) Nice has been visiting the gallery every Satur-day from noon until 2 p.m. as he will do for the run of the show, and has enjoyed interacting with the attendees and fielding their questions, a frequent one being why he hasn’t framed the works. “I just wanted to show the image. Your focus goes to the frame [when there is one] and I want your eyes to go right to the image because that’s what counts.” Nice says and people also often talk about dimensions of the colors.

Nice’s own written words sum things up: “My current work is very different, yet helps me express and show how I see the world now. It allows me to continue my art and gives me a real sense of my-self. I will connect to the world through a camera – I just have a different perspec-tive. This validates that there are many ways of seeing and relating to life, none being better than another, just different.”

The Riverside Galleries at the Garrison Art Center are open from Tuesday through Sunday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Visit gar-risonartcenter.org for more details. For more information on Brian Nice or to read his blog, visit helpbriannice.com.
A Dog Days’ Tale Ends Happily After New Jersey Adventure

Wherefore art thou, Romio?

By Kara Raynaud

My dog Romio leads a very predictable life and is not fond of change. He’s gets up at 7 a.m. and does what we call a “lock down,” where he circles the cottage like a herd dog backing as if to say “back off coyotes — we’re up now.” Like the majority of us, Romio has a skewed view of himself. When he looks in the mirror he sees a Bernese mountain dog, but in all actuality he is a 12-pound fluffy white Havanese.

So I was pretty shocked two Mondays ago at 10:45 a.m., when he sprinted out the door and disappeared up the mountain while I was preparing for our walk. As a former city dog, he’s usually pretty obsessed about walking on the leash and often barks for me to hurry up. I called and called. Gone. I had a feeling he was not coming back.

I immediately was referred to John Funck. I soon learned, John — affectionately called “St. John of Assisi,” — runs a nonprofit lost animal rescue service with a network of over 800 people. I had no idea this kind of thing existed. John immediately took charge and began printing posters, sending emails, and making calls to alert his posse. Within an hour or two, neighbors began showing up with treats, scouring through the woods searching for Romio.

Later, I learned most of what happened. Joe Binetti and his girlfriend Denise Wagner from Closter, N.J. spotted him crossing Route 9D as they were heading into Cold Spring. ‘Get him!’ Joe shouted, pulling over as Denise jumped from the car and captured him. They then took him into Cold Spring, thinking perhaps someone might recognize him. Coincidentally, they had their dog’s leash in the car, so they snapped it on him and walked through town. I guess my “stranger danger” lectures fell on deaf ears.

Their first stop was Moo Moo’s. In actuality, this is Romio’s favorite ice cream shop. With us, he usually gets a vanilla cup. With his new friends, he ended up with vanilla cherry. Joe remembers thinking, “He’s been here before.”

After that, they ventured upward into town. As they passed Romeo and Juliet hair salon, Denise turned to Joe and said “Romeo and Juliet — let’s call him Romio.” Little did they know that was his name, given to him by my daughter Juliette, though we spell it with an “i.”

At Reigning Dogs & Cats Too, they went inside and bought a big bag full of treats and toys. I could just imagine his devilish little face as he was walking out of there! Meanwhile, we’re hightailing it all over Garrison, getting eaten to death by mosquitoes, posters are flying up, the phone is buzzing, Facebook is cranky and still everyone is wondering — Wherefore art thou, Romio?

After making several attempts to call the number on his tag to no avail, Joe and Denise decided to take him home. So they brought him to their home and set him up with food and treats fit for a king. When I asked Joe later if Romio appeared to be sad he replied, “Not all! I’ve rescued dogs before, and they’re always happy! Dogs forget easily. He even slept in Denise’s bed!” STOP.

Did you just say he slept in Denise’s bed? Turn the knife a little harder, why don’t you? How could he? The ultimate betrayal! I raised him, fed him and moved him from the city to the country so he could chase birds and foxes! (That’s not entirely true — we wanted to leave, too.) How dare he — the lying cheating scoundrel! I felt like one of those men or women who “had no idea.”

Meanwhile, with the help of John Funck and his group, we continued looking for the rest of the day and into evening. At this point I thought he was in deep trouble. Like most people whose pets become lost, I couldn’t sleep as my mind obsessed about all the terrible things that could have or could be happening to him.

The following day John sent another email out pleading for help as I worked and waited. Around 1 p.m. I got a call from Allie from the Cortland Animal Patrol. Apparently someone had called her and said he found a little white dog and was taking him home to Jersey. After I finally reached him all I wanted to say was, “Where do you live? What’s your address?” Instead we talked about what a lovely day the three of them had. I waited anxiously, hoping he wasn’t going to ask for ransom or tell me he had indeed fallen in love with Romio and had decided to keep him. Finally, he gave me their address.

Around 6 p.m., I went to pick up our little Romio. Upon arrival, he looked momentarily shocked, like, “Darn it, I’m caught!” But he recovered quickly, smiling — wagging his tail — and then jumped into my arms. I chatted with Joe and Denise for a while and they showed me pictures of their splendid day with Romio. I promised to keep them posted on Romio’s life as we bade farewell.

As we started to pull away, I have to admit I felt slightly betrayed when Romio jumped up and placed his paws on the window as if to say goodbye to his new-found friends. I turned to him, “How could you leave us? I can’t believe you could just run away like that!” I waited, no answer. He just crawled into his usual spot on the floor of the car. He hates long car rides.

To be added to John Funck’s Lost Pet Network and receive email alerts about missing animals, please email him at johnfunck@optonline.net or reach him by phone at 845-424-6017. He suggests that any dog or cat owner in Philipstown might want to email him a labeled image of his/her pet(s), along with full owner contact information, and that image will be kept on file to be distributed rapidly in case the animal ever goes missing.

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