Selling Tourism

Visitors spend big bucks in Dutchess, not so much in Putnam. What’s the difference?

By Michael Turton

A new study of the Hudson Valley tourism industry contrasts Putnam and Dutchess — one a county in flux and the other seemingly a hive of activity.

Tourism Economics, Inc., looked at tourism revenues and costs across the state, then broke the data down by region.

Both Putnam and Dutchess counties are on the Hudson River, which is a focal point. Asked to name her county’s top five draws, Mary Kay Vrba, CEO and president of the non-profit Dutchess Tourism, quickly named the Walkway Over the Hudson, Dutchess County Fairgrounds, Culinary Institute of America, Franklin D. Roosevelt National Historic Site and Dia: Beacon. Only the fairground is not located within sight of the river.

The same is true for Putnam County, where major, river-based attractions include the Village of Cold Spring, Boscobel, the Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival, Constitution Marsh, Foundry Preserve and Breakneck Ridge. Breakneck, which last year drew some 70,000 hikers, sits at the border between the counties, which share a trolley that shuttles visitors between Cold Spring and Beacon with a stop at Breakneck.

Dutchess draws a considerably larger portion of the Hudson Valley’s tourist spending compared to Putnam: 16 percent versus two percent. Much of that difference can be attributed to the make-up of the two counties. Dutchess is 825 miles in area, has a population of about 296,000 and includes two cities, Beacon and Poughkeepsie. Putnam is 246 square miles in area, has a population of about 99,000 and no cities. Yet even taking into account the difference in scale, Dutchess County’s tourism marketing is stronger. In 2016 Dutchess will spend $1.6 million to promote tourism, or about $5.62 per capita. Putnam will spend slightly more than $214,000, or $2.16 per capita.

Dutchess’ more urban nature is a factor in its broader program and success. It charges a four... (Continued on Page 5)
Cooler weather in the fall means that grass is less stressed and getting ready to wind down its growing season. September and October are ideal months to renovate a lawn that has become overrun by weeds or pests.

Done haphazardly, lawns can be a major source of environmental degradation. Overfertilizing or fertilizing in such a way that it runs off rather than soaking into the grass creates algal blooms in waterways. Pesticide applications harm pollinators.

Gas-powered lawn equipment emits carbon monoxide, which contributes to greenhouse gases and climate change. According to the Union of Concerned Scientists, running a lawn mower for an hour emits the same amount of pollutants as eight new cars driving 55 mph for an hour.

Watering lawns uses up valuable resources that become scarce during a drought. Nationally, the Environmental Protection Agency estimates that a third of all residential water use goes to the landscape, using up to 9 billion gallons a day.

Here are some steps to rejuvenate your lawn this fall:

• Test the soil to determine the pH balance. This demonstrates nutrient levels to make sure the grass can get what it needs and determines if fertilizer is necessary. Grass likes a soil pH between 6.5 to 7.0 on a scale from 1 to 14, or neutral.

• Don’t despair if your soil is not within that range. Since soil will always revert back to its natural pH, you’ll have the least amount of maintenance by choosing a grass that will thrive. Soil around here tends to be more on the acidic side, lower on the scale.

• Aerating the lawn breaks up compacted soil and helps air and water circulate. Use a core aerator to pull small plugs from the soil. After the plugs have dried, they can be raked back into the soil. If the thatch layer is thicker than one inch, dethatching the lawn will make sure grass roots receive water. If too thick, a thatch layer blocks the elements.

• We’ve having another dry spell. Grass will naturally go dormant. Even if it looks brown, it isn’t dead and doesn’t need watering to survive, at least in current circumstances. Smart maintenance can help. Mowing high leaves the root systems of the grass intact and has the bonus of being less work. Letting cut grass tips stay on the lawn creates the healthy layer of mulch to protect the roots and hold moisture in.

• Weeds take over because the grass is weak. Dense grass will help keep weeds out. If possible, hand pull weeds and then overseed. Herbicides should be a last resort. The best time to apply them is around the time of the fall frost. The cold temperatures will assist in killing the weeds. Grass can only be seeded as late as it will have time to settle before it gets too cold.

• Grasses have different germination times. For example, ryegrass can establish in two to three weeks and if grass usually goes dormant in November, could be planted until early October. Kentucky bluegrass, however, takes 30 to 90 days and might not make it in time. Sod can be put down until temperatures dip below 40 degrees in the fall. Be careful to follow all the application instructions and do it in the most thoughtful way to prevent runoff.

• Finally, do you need all that lawn? While grass prevents erosion, it doesn’t have a lot of other sustainable qualities. Rain gardens filled with plants that appreciate wet conditions filter water and have aesthetic value. A pollinator island could be planted with native perennials that will attract butterflies and other beneficial insects. Bushes with berries will attract birds and provide natural shelter and habitat. And shaving 15 minutes off the mowing each week gives you an extra hour a month to relax.
Putting OKs Butterfield Lease, $800K Bond (from Page 1)

Barbara Scuccimarra, who represents Philipstown and was among the legislators who voted to approve the lease and bond for the $1.3 million project, said at the Sept. 6 meeting that the project was “not about partisan politics. It’s about a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to have a senior center in the heart of the village. We cannot let this opportunity pass us by.”

Prior to the 6-3 vote — and after it was determined that public comment would not be allowed until the end of the meeting — Chairwoman Ginny Nacerino (R-Patterson) addressed what she called a “ground-swell of inaccuracies” circulating about the lease that she claimed were designed to leave the impression that the project was shrouded in secrecy and “backdoor” deals.

“That is not the case,” she insisted. “This is something good for our seniors.”

While a copy of the lease that was approved in May was leaked to the media, the county has never released a version of the document, which Nacerino said is “confidential” and subject to the Freedom of Information Law simply because it is a living document.

However, when asked to weigh in, legislative counsel Clement Van Ross said that, in his opinion, “any resolution that has been passed by the legislature becomes a public record.”

Nacerino said that, despite criticism from those opposed to the terms in the leaked version of the lease, “it is not as cost-prohibitive as people would like to believe.”

While the lease, with unspecified amendments, was approved on Sept. 6 by the legislature, it is likely the agreement will continue to be tweaked. In fact, an updated version was given to lawmakers a few hours before the meeting but did not make it to the floor.

Joseph Castellano (R-Southeast) said he believed the county was getting a good deal from the developer, who will lease the property at a rate of $13 per square foot, rising to $17 by the end of the lease. Other tenants will pay as much as $25 per square foot, he said.

“It’s the only deal we have in front of us,” Castellano said. “We could walk away from it now, but it would not be fair to our seniors.”

While the lease, with unspecified amendments, was approved on Sept. 6 by the legislature, it is likely the agreement will continue to be tweaked. In fact, an updated version was given to lawmakers a few hours before the meeting but did not make it to the floor.

Albano maintained that the Butterfield lease has been treated “no differently” than any legal document and suggested opposition to the project has been “politically motivated.”

“If I had purchased a building it would have been millions of dollars more,” he said at the Sept. 6 meeting, adding that the American Legion building, where Philipstown seniors currently meet, is insufficient. “It was not an option,” he said. “It never came before us.”

Roger Gross (R-Brewster), who voted against the lease agreement and bond, said the dynamics of the proposed project have changed too much. Besides the loss of

Legislators Dini LoBue and Kevin Wright

Says he will "connect the dots" between major players

David McKay Wilson, the Tax Watch Columnist for the Journal News who first reported on a non-profit tourism agency in Putnam County created by then-director Libby Pataki that didn’t appear to have a functioning board, says he will “connect the dots” between Pataki, former Fox News chief Roger Ailes, County Executive MaryEllen Odell and County Legislator Barbara Scuccimarra in a presentation at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 21, at St. Mary’s Church in Cold Spring, followed by a discussion.

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Taking it to the Street

by Anita Peltonen

What would be your ideal job?

“Travel correspondent for a luxury magazine.”
~ Hammad Akbar, Staatsburg, with son Zaym

“What I’m doing right now. Childcare. Substitute teaching.”
~ Patsy Johnson, Cold Spring

“I keep thinking about what kind of job I want after I retire.”
~ Nevena 2016

“Talking about what I love talking about, which is poetry.”
~ James Hoch, Garrison, with sons Owen and Aidan

Comments from HighlandsCurrent.com

As Holly Toal reported in The Current on Aug. 26, the Putnam County legislature was scheduled to consider on Sept. 6 an $800,000 bond to pay for a senior center on the Butterfield development site in Cold Spring (see page 1). Here are excerpts from comments posted online in response to her report:

Lillian Rosengarten
This is an extraordinary amount of money…. The county’s actions without supplying details is very worrisome…. What really upsets me is how once again the village is split and those who protest are vilified. It truly leaves a bad feeling and a loss of trust in the legislators.

Patty Villanova
Why is it that the taxpayers are funding an entire county legal department filled with attorneys, yet nobody can figure out what the hell is going on? Why is it that non-attorneys, politicians and volunteers are doing the review for the lease documents and the legal process instead of the highly paid county lawyers?

Frank Haggerty
Being part-time assignments with part-time-type pay puts [county legislators] at a disadvantage vs. interests and imperatives of the full-time executive and its cohort of full-time political appointees. The situation is similar at the state level. Legislators should be full-time positions….

Andrew Dale
It is 22 miles to Vassar Hospital in Poughkeepsie, 23 miles to Putnam Hospital in Carmel and 14 miles to New York-Presbyterian/Hudson Valley Hospital in Cortlandt Manor. Wouldn’t the time, effort and money be better spent for our community if an emergency room were built instead of a senior center?...

Ann Fanizzi
Do you have sufficient legal grounds and money to initiate a taxpayers’ lawsuit?

Anthony Merante
Hudson Valley is a better-than-good hospital and not much trouble for anyone who can drive. But what if the “seniors” are not sick but just need socialization or a place to gather, talk of old times and how much they have done for the younger generation?

Dutchess Legislature Seeks Volunteers

The Dutchess County Legislature is looking for volunteers to serve on the Environmental Management Council, Fish and Wildlife Management Board, Mental Hygiene Advisory Board and Task Force to Study Deer Tick Control and Lyme Disease Prevention in Dutchess County. If interested, send a resume and a brief letter to the Dutchess County Legislature, Attention: Carolyn Morris, 22 Market Street, 6th Floor, Poughkeepsie, NY 12601, or email cmorris@dutchessny.gov.
percent bed tax on each of its 2,200 hotel rooms, many of which are clustered in the Fishkill area. That tax alone accounts for the entire $1.2 million contribution the county makes to Dutchess Tourism. In contrast, Putnam County, which has virtually no large hotels, contributes $142,000 to its tourism agency.

Putnam Tourism in flux

The two county tourism agencies have vastly different organizational structures. Dutchess Tourism is overseen by a 27-member board made up of tourism industry and community leaders and headed by Andrea Reynolds, president of the Dyson Foundation.

The non-profit Putnam Tourism Office operates as a county department employing one person, interim director Frank Smith. In the wake of the resignation of director Libby Pataki after questions were raised about her management of the agency, the county advertised for volunteers to serve on a newly formed board of directors.

Smith did not respond to a number of attempts to reach him by email and phone to determine the status and makeup of the new board and to solicit his thoughts on tourism in Putnam County. However, two organizations contacted by The Current said they have been pleased with Putnam Tourism's recent efforts. Dave McCarthy, a board member with the Cold Spring Film Society, said that the Carmel-based tourism body had increased its grant to the popular outdoor summer movie program to $1,500 in 2016 from $250 last year. "It was very helpful," McCarthy said, adding that the society surveyed this year's moviegoers and will soon release the results. A previous survey showed that many audience members come from out of town and contribute significantly to the local economy. He said this year's series attracted more than 4,000 people.

Alison Antoine, who heads the Cold Spring Area Chamber of Commerce, also had kudos for Smith. "The Chamber has a solid, collaborative relationship with (him), and he continues to be supportive," she said, noting that Putnam Tourism was a major sponsor of the Summer Sunset Music Series at the riverfront.
Town Justice Candidates in Primary Race

Philipstown Dems in rare contest Sept. 13

By Kevin E. Foley

Registered Democrats in Philipstown have a choice to make this coming Tuesday, Sept. 13, about who will carry the party line for town judge into the November election.

This is a rare primary race for a relatively obscure, although critical, community position. The Current spoke with the two candidates who hope to face Republican Faye Thorpe on Nov. 8.

Luke P. Hilpert

When asked why he wants to be Philipstown Town Justice, Hilpert, 38, said “it’s something I have always wanted to do. It’s a great way to serve the community.”

Raised in Philipstown, Hilpert practices law with his father and brother. He says the town justice job is a natural extension of his upbringing, abilities and interests.

“Having a father who is a lawyer and seeing the small practice work, that’s what made me chose this route rather than working for a really large firm,” he said. “I really do like being in the community and dealing with people every day rather than with corporations and what-have-you.”

Based in Cold Spring and Croton, his 12-year practice involves both civil and criminal matters, including plenty of litigation, in Westchester, Putnam and Dutchess counties, so he said he is familiar with local courtrooms. “I believe that with my practicing background, I am particularly qualified,” he said.

A graduate of Pace University Law School, Hilpert stressed efficiency when considering the challenge of the town court. “I know the way the court should operate,” he said.

“Court is an unpleasant experience for most people, so efficiency is getting people in and out quickly. It’s about doing things in a correct and timely manner, getting decisions out, moving the process through but not at the expense of justice.”

Hilpert said he had also discussed his candidacy with the Conservative Party for a possible additional line on the November ballot.

“I was born and grew up in Philipstown and lived here almost my whole life,” Hilpert said. “I identify with the community. I am familiar with the kinds of cases before the court and the way it operates.”

Camille S. Linson

Although long active in various roles within the Cold Spring community, Camille Linson, 49, sees the town justice role as “the first time since I’ve lived here to really use my professional skills in a way I think would benefit the community more broadly.”

Linson brings 20 years of broad legal experience as her principal qualification for the bench. At one time she worked for a large firm (Beck & Arad in New York), handling highly technical matters of commercial law in international settings. A Vanderbilt Law School graduate who has varying degrees of fluency in six languages, she is now a single practitioner who serves as outside counsel for companies with cross-border legal issues.

“Working in a large-firm environment, I was trained in a lot of the skills that would make for a strong judge,” she said. “My role is to interpret the law to my clients in layman’s language. As a town judge you are also often called upon to explain the law to the parties before you who don’t have legal backgrounds and might not have legal representation.”

Linson said she also handles civil disputes in family law, and real estate and the defense of minor criminal infractions.

“The work I do locally is satisfying in a different way [from corporate law], where
Who’s Not on the Ballot? (from Page 1)

In January, Diana Hird, a Cold Spring Democrat, announced her intention to challenge Maloney, who also lives in Cold Spring, for his seat in Congress. Candidates for congressional districts in New York must gather 1,250 votes from registered voters in the district who are members of their party. Each voter can only sign one nominating petition for each office.

Three months after her announcement, Hird said she had fallen 44 signatures short.

Gathering signatures is only half of the battle if anyone questions their validity.

In Beacon, Ward 4 council representative Ali Muhammad said in June that he would challenge a fellow Democrat, the incumbent Skartados, for the 104th District Assembly seat. Muhammad needed signatures from at least 500 registered Democrats in the district, which includes Beacon and Newburgh.

He submitted 608, but an objection from a Skartados supporter prompted a state Board of Elections review that ruled 142 invalid, leaving him 34 short. Muhammad considered running as an independent, but that would have required collecting 1,500 valid signatures by mid-August, all from district residents who had not already signed a petition for the office.

“You have to rely on other people (to gather signatures), and that’s the difficult part,” Muhammad told The Current on Sept. 2. “You need a machine behind you, and that’s what’s good about the [party] committees. They do a lot of the groundwork.”

State Board of Elections spokesperson John Conklin said that a common mistake occurs when signers tell the person circulating a petition that they are registered to vote, when in fact they are not. Or they may be registered, but not in the candidate’s party.

Further, “there’s a lot of confusion” among voters about eligibility for a primary election versus the general election, he said. For instance, a person may typically vote for a specific party, but if he or she is not registered with that party, the person is not eligible to sign a candidate’s petition.

Another common error is listing an address that does not match the address on the voter registration record. “You may write ‘Delmar’ [an unincorporated hamlet in Albany County] on a petition when you actually live in the town of Bethlehem,” Conklin said. “That’s the specific answer that’s needed on the petition.”

Unless a petition is challenged, it is presumed by the election board to be valid. And challenges can only be filed by a member of the candidate’s party, not the opposition.

An objector will typically claim that some or all of the signatures on the nominating petition are invalid, which is why candidates usually gather many more than required. For instance, in the race for the Republican primary for the 19th Congressional District, challenger Andrew Heaney filed 2,740 signatures, more than double the 1,200 required.

Like many challengers, Heaney portrayed the excess signatures as a sign of support when “the deck is stacked against us” by “Albany insiders” and “New York’s arcane election law.” Another Republican candidate in the 19th District, Bob Bishop, also portrayed the petition process as a tool that benefits incumbents. He wrote on Facebook on Apr. 15: “Yesterday I was proud to file for the Republican primary with over 1,850 signatures, 600 more than required by law. The petition process is designed to benefit candidates who are a part of the political class and keep political outsiders like myself off the ballot.”

Bishop’s petitions were disqualified, which is why Heaney lost in the primary to John Faso.)

After filing his petitions, Kenneth Del Vecchio, a Republican candidate in the 18th District, wrote on Facebook that the process of getting the 1,250 signatures had been “grueling” but that only a handful of people he asked had declined. Del Vecchio lost the primary by a wide margin to Phil Oliva, who will face Maloney in November.

After a challenge is filed, a bipartisan team of Board of Elections officials review the signatures. If enough invalid signatures are found to put the candidate below the threshold, he or she may request a hearing to appeal the findings, but only for the signatures in question. New signatures cannot be submitted.

It becomes a “numbers game,” Conklin said, as candidates seek to “rehabilitate” signatures while an objector seeks to prove them invalid.

Dutchess County Board of Elections records show that 127 candidates filed nominating petitions in 2016, with objections filed against 17. In Putnam County, 32 candidates have filed petitions, with objections have been filed against four.

The Signatures You Need

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Out of the Pool, Into the School

Beacon Rec introduces after-school programs

By Brian PJ Cronin

A fter a 10-year absence, the Beacon Department of Recreation has revived its after-school programs at the city’s three elementary schools for students in kindergarten through the fifth grade. The first of four sessions runs from Monday, Sept. 12, through Nov. 11.

After school is dismissed each day, students will walk to the gym or playground for 30 minutes of supervised, unstructured playtime followed by a snack and two blocks of rotating activities. The day ends at 5:45 p.m.

The first session will include birding with educators from the Constitution Marsh Audubon Center, baking with Five Hens Baked Goods, fine art camp, engineering, theatrical improv, gardening with Hudson Valley Seed and yoga with instructors from the newly opened BeBhakti Yoga.

“Baking has been the most popular class that kids are signing up for so far,” said Assistant Recreation Director Nate Smith. “Not surprising, since the kids are going to get to eat what they make.”

Homework help will also be available from high school tutors. “It works out great for the high school students, since they’re get volunteer hours in and a mentoring experience,” Smith said. “They’re a lot more familiar with Common Core math than any of us probably are.”

Over the year, programming will rotate throughout the schools, and new programs will be introduced. For instance, Terry Nelson, founder of the Beacon Independent Film Festival, will teach a class in which students will make their own public-service announcements.

“We’re trying to utilize businesses and educators in the community,” said Recreation Director Mark Price. “It helps give our programs some local flavor, to make them as deep and as diverse as our community. Hopefully we’ll have this huge group of people we can pick and choose from to keep things varied, interesting, and different.”

Sometimes that means being flexible, as when they learned that instructors from a karate studio and a gymnastics camp couldn’t commit to teaching a full session. “We realized that if we combine a half session of karate with a half session of gymnastics, we can call it Ninja Camp,” said Smith. “Who wouldn’t want to go to Ninja Camp?”

The signup process is also flexible. Students can attend from one to five days a week. A five-day session works out to $600 over 10 weeks, or about $60 an hour. Good luck finding a babysitter for less than that. Sibling discounts are also available.

Price said his department can offer payment installments so the entire cost doesn’t have to be paid up front and would like to work with the local parent-teacher organizations and other community groups to offer tuition assistance.

“We want to make sure that every child who wants to take part in this can, in one form or another,” said Price. “If parents are interested, they should get in touch with us so that we can have a conversation.”

In addition to the after-school program, the Recreation Department has contacted neighboring towns about creating a trail that would lead from the Beacon train station to the Walkway Over the Hudson in Poughkeepsie. New playground equipment is being installed. And the department was recently given a climbing wall and equipment from a climbing co-op in New York City that shut down.

Price said he would like to see a community climbing space at University Settlement Camp, but that there are still a few hurdles. “I hope that we can have a space for hard-core climbers and also free climbs for kids,” he said. “Good stuff is coming, because people expect things from their recreation departments and they’re willing to participate and volunteer to make it happen.”

To register for the after-school program, download an application at cityofbeacon.org or call 845-765-2470.
Hello (Again) Dolly!

Plans underway to mark 50th anniversary of filming in Philipstown

By Alison Rooney

I n 1969, when Christopher Radko was growing up in Scarsdale, there wasn’t an overabundance of kid-friendly mov- ies. So, when a film version of the Broadway musical Hello Dolly! starring Barbra Streisand and Walter Matthau opened over the holidays, his family jumped at the chance to go to the movies together.

Radko loved every minute. Even as a child, he says, he “had a fascination for the Victorian era: men in hats, horses and buggies — such a contrast to torn blue jeans and mini-skirts. In a kid’s imagina- tion it evoked an easy-going time when the idea of commu- nity really meant something.”

His affection for the material was rekindled as a young man when a college friend who happened to be a niece of Dolly’s composer and lyricist Jerry Herman appeared in a produc- tion of the show starring Carol Channing.

“I thought, Wow, what a classic Broadway production, especially at a time when all the new musicals were British,” he says. “With Hello Dolly! you could sing along to every song. It remind- ed me of My Fair Lady, the classics.” (A Broadway revival of Dolly is planned for 2017 starring Bette Midler.)

What Radko didn’t learn until later was that a good part of the movie was shot in Garrison and Cold Spring between May and September 1968, where he now hopes to make his home. The number Put on Your Sunday Clothes was filmed on Garrison’s Landing, standing in for Yonkers. Radko estimates the filmmakers injected the equivalent of $3 million into the local economy.

In an homage to the 50th anniversary of the filming, and to the sense of community Radko says he felt when attending the Made in Philipstown event last year, the entrepreneur is organizing a community-wide celebration for 2018.

Radko has already enlisted a number of cultural institutions, as well as luminar- ies connected with the film, which won three Oscars.

The steering committee for the anniversary events, dubbed “Dolly Returns!,” is documentary filmmaker Steve Ives; Davis McCallum, artistic director of the Hudson Valley Shake- nee Neary, who has a background as a film editor and voiceover actor. It was during a drive home that he had a “fleeting thought” about organizing a festival, after having seen footage of the Sun- dance Festival.

“I thought it would be great to have it in the fall, and that it would highlight a film presence here in the Hudson Valley, putting a stamp on the area,” he recalls. He proposed the idea to the non-profit Beacon Arts and found himself in charge. “It’s a lot of work, but we have a great team,” Nelson says of the volunteers who run the festival.

During the event’s first year, Nelson organized quarterly screenings at Beahive to publicize it. To get recommen- dations, he relied on industry contacts and a Beacon friend who was a screener for the Tribeca Film Festival. “We did a lot of cold calling,” he says. “I researched how film festivals across the country operated. I also enlisted a friend, Maur- reen Neary, who has a background as a director of operations, as it was very important for us to get organized, not letting our love of film get in the way” of practical considerations.

The Dolly Returns! Steering Committee: Radko (kneeling) with Davis McCallum, Nancy Swann, Steve Ives, Amy Dul, Emily Knapp of HVSF and David Lilburne

Beacon Film Fest Returns for Fourth Year

30 shorts and features to be screened Sept. 16-18

By Alison Rooney

F or those who love to overdose on films — the kind you watch on a large screen in the dark with other people, rather than on a palm-sized device — nirvana may be fast approaching when the Beacon Independent Film Festival (BIFF) on Friday, Sept. 16, begins its screening of 30 selections over three days.

“We look for interesting, provocative films which people might not normally have access to,” says Terry Nelson, who organized the festival, now in its fourth year. “Also, we want to make sure that our films are a reflection of the times we are living in.”

This year’s line-up is eclectic, with features, documentaries, shorts and films for and by children, as well as events such as an opening-night celebration at Dogwood and a filmmakers’ breakfast panel at The CineHub. Most screenings take place at University Settlement on Route 9D.

Nelson laughed as he described his move seven years ago to Beacon from Brooklyn. He commuted to the city for the first two years, working as a freelance editor and voiceover actor. It was during a drive home that he had a “fleeting thought” about organizing a festival, after having seen footage of the Sun-dance Festival.

“I thought it would be great to have it in the fall, and that it would highlight a film presence here in the Hudson Valley, putting a stamp on the area,” he recalls. He proposed the idea to the non-profit Beacon Arts and found himself in charge. “It’s a lot of work, but we have a great team,” Nelson says of the volunteers who run the festival.

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Initially the festival had no entry fee because, he says, “we hadn’t earned the right to charge.” The first year it showed 18 films. The next year it accepted 25 entries, then 44. This year organizers dropped the schedule back to 30, most of which have been shown elsewhere on the festival circuit. BIFF also now has an entry fee because Nelson found “it brings us filmmakers who place a value on their work.”

Nelson and his colleague Deana Morenoff pare and pair the selections, matching shorts with features. “Every year we seem to get

(Continued on Page 11)
Calendar Highlights

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

**MONDAY, SEPT. 12**

**Career Assistance Session**
11 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. Howland Public Library
313 Main St., Beacon | 845-249-4642
dutchessonestop.org | Appointment required.

**Boys’ Soccer vs. Harrison**
4:45 p.m. Beacon High School | 101 Mattawasan Road, Beacon | 845-838-6900 | beaconcityk12.org

**Cross Country vs. Dobbs Ferry**
6:30 p.m. Haldane School | See details under Saturday.

**Daria’s Ukelele Salon (First Session)**
6:15 p.m. Beacon Music Factory
See details under Saturday.

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

**Garrison Volunteer Fire Company**
1616 Route 9, Garrison
845-424-4046 | garrisonfire.org

**Writing Workshop with Susan Wallich (First Session)**
7 p.m. Butterfield Library | 10 Morris Ave., Cold Spring | 845-265-3040 | butterfieldlibrary.org

**TUESDAY, SEPT. 13**

**Primary Election Day**
Celebrate Unity in the Community Project
3:30 p.m. Howland Public Library
See details under Monday.

**New Moms & Infants Group**
11 a.m. – 1 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library
472 Route 403, Garrison
Email whiteside.ks@gmail.com

**Girls’ Yoga and Creative Play (First Session)**
3 p.m. SkyBaby Yoga | 75 Main St., Cold Spring | 845-265-4444 | skybabyoga.com

**Girls’ Soccer vs. Sleepy Hollow**
4:45 p.m. Beacon High School
See details under Monday.

**Garrison PTO Ice Cream Social**
6:30 p.m. Beacon High School | See details under Monday.

**Drum Lab for Adults (First Session)**
6 p.m. Beacon Music Factory | See details under Saturday.

**Essential Oils 101**
6:30 p.m. Howland Public Library
See details under Monday.

**Muslim Journeys Reading and Discussion (First Session)**
6:30 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library
See details under Tuesday.

**New York City and the Hudson River Valley (Talk)**
7 p.m. Fort Montgomery Historic Site
690 Route 9W, Fort Montgomery
845-446-2134 | nysparks.com

**FRIDAY, SEPT. 16**

**Rhyme Time by The Hudson (ages 1-5) (First Session)**
9:30 a.m. Boscole | See details under Saturday.

**Yoga for Teens (First Session)**
3:30 p.m. SkyBaby Yoga | See details under Tuesday.

**Beacon vs. Haldane (Volleyball)**
4:30 p.m. Beacon High School | See details under Monday.

**Dragonfly Story Hour**
7 p.m. Butterfield Library | See details under Monday.

**Beacon Independent Film Festival**
7 p.m. University Settlement | 724 Wolcott Ave., Beacon | 9:30 p.m. Dogwood | 47 E Main St., Beacon | beaconindependefirst.org

**Aery Theatre 20/20 Play Festival**
8 p.m. Philipstown Depot Theatre
10 Garrison Landing, Garrison
845-424-3900 | philipstowndepottheatre.org

**New Riders of the Purple Sage**
8 p.m. Paramount Hudson Valley
See details under Sept. 9.

**Laughter on the 23rd Floor**
8 p.m. County Players | See details under Sept. 9.
Hello (Again) Dolly! (from Page 9)

spare Festival; Amy Dul and Nancy Swann of the Philipstown Depot Theatre on Garrison’s Landing; John Maasik of the Philipstown Recreation Department; and David Lilburne, co-owner of Antipodean Books, Maps & Prints, also on Garrison’s Landing.

Among the activities being planned:
• A flash re-enactment parade, sung and danced live (with the help of surround sound) over the bridge to Garrison Landing, to Put On Your Sunday Clothes, in the same spot the number was filmed.
• A performance by Patricia Kelly of her one-woman show about her late husband, Gene Kelly, who directed the film.
• A screening by the Cold Spring Film Society at Dockside Park.
• A live conversation with key talents from the film.
• A West Point Band concert of Hello Dolly! songs at Trophy Point, the setting of the film’s — spoiler alert — grand finale wedding.
• A Putnam History Museum exhibit of material related to the film and the filming, including Kelly’s original script, set-design illustrations and original costumes.
• A documentary short by Ives tracking the story of a Hollywood studio setting up camp in tiny Garrison.
• A jazzy cabaret-and-cocktails performance of songs by Broadway couple Marin Mazzie and Jason Danieley.
• An HVSF staged reading of Thornton Wilder’s 1953 farce, The Matchmaker, which was the basis for the Broadway production.
• A Depot Youth Theatre summer camp production of the musical for grades 8-12, including — another spoiler alert — cameos by Garrison residents who appeared in the film as kids.
• Hat-making at the Garrison Art Center on parade day.
• A Garrison’s Landing renewal with restored carpentry details, repainting buildings, garden plantings and Victorian signs.

Top, a scene from Hello Dolly! shot at the Garrison train depot; above, a scene shot from the north end of Garrison’s Landing park

• A book by Radko about the making of the film with anecdotes, rare photos and memorabilia. He’s already spoken with longtime Garrison residents such as members of the Guinan family who recalled being driven to school on occasion by Kelly’s chauffeur. Anyone with stories to tell should email Radko at dollyreturns2018@gmail.com or visit dollyreturns2018.com.

Radko, well known as a designer of glass holiday ornaments, says he volunteered to organize the anniversary as a “gift to the neighborhood.” Any profits will be distributed to HVSF, the Depot Theatre and Philipstown Recreation for creative arts scholarships.
Beacon Film Festival Schedule

For film descriptions, see beaconindiefilmfest.org. Unless indicated, all films will be shown at University Settlement, 724 Wolcott Ave.

**Friday, Sept. 16**
- 7 p.m.  Bridge Music (16 min)
- A Song For You: The Austin City Limits Story (94 min)

**Saturday, Sept. 17**
- 9 a.m.  Filmmaker breakfast at The Cinehub, 20 W. Main St.
- 11:15 a.m.  Under A Stone (23 min)  Disassociationville (90 min)
- 1:45 p.m.  The Bad Kids (101 min)  Panel discussion (45 min)
- 5 p.m.  Solo, Piano - N.Y.C. (5 min)  Kate Plays Christine (112 min)
- 7:30 p.m.  Au Pair (21 min)  Women Who Kill (93 min)

**Sunday, Sept. 18**
- 10 a.m.  Spark Media Project/BIFF Kids Workshop  Spark Media Project  Sesame Street  Fodder (6 min)  Performance by Compass Arts’ Pompadom Ensemble
- 11 a.m.  Landfill Harmonic (90 min)  Let’s Get The Rhythm (54 min)
- 2:15 p.m.  A Rhythm Roundtable hosted by Compass Arts  Bach Star Cafe (40 min)
- 3:30 p.m.  A Box Came to Brooklyn (27 min)  I, Destini (14 min)  Black Belt (11 min)  This Little Light of Mine: The Legacy of Fannie Lou Hamer (27 min)
- 5 p.m.  FYD (Follow Your Dreams) (17 min)  Clinica De Migrantes: Life, Liberty and The Pursuit of Happiness (40 min)  Visit 57 (10 min)

Festival tickets are $12 for each of the 10 blocks of films, or $35 for a three-day pass ($10 for anyone who holds a NYS Benefits Card). Seniors and students receive a 10 percent discount. Nelson recommends buying tickets in advance at beaconindiefilmfest.org, as some screenings typically sell out. The festival is funded by entry fees, ticket sales, sponsorships and grants, including substantial support from Arts Mid-Hudson.

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**Four Winds Farm's Organic Heirloom Tomatoes**

at the

Cold Spring Farmers' Market

Saturdays, 8:30 to 1:30

Come see the tastiest, biggest, nicest collection of heirloom tomatoes in the Hudson Valley! Over 40 varieties.

We also deliver Heirloom Tomatoes to Foodtown and Vera’s on Tuesday mornings.
Where’s the Fruit?

**Extreme spring weather causes shortages now**

By Pamela Doan

It hasn’t been an easy year for farmers in the Northeast, including those at Meadowbrook Farm in Wappingers Falls and Fishkill Farms in Hopewell Junction. Both lost a significant part of their harvests to extreme weather this past winter and spring. Meadowbrook lost half of its apple harvest, 90 percent of its peaches and all of its plums. Fishkill Farms, which has nearly 300 acres to grow fruit and vegetables, lost all of its stone fruits (peaches, apricots, nectarines and plums), 40 percent of its apples and 15 percent of its cherries.

The mild winter with early warm temperatures in February and March caused fruit trees to set flowers sooner than usual. Then the frost in April killed the buds when, for three days, nighttime temperatures fell below freezing.

Some apple varieties disappeared completely. Fishkill Farms won’t have any Empires, a popular smaller variety, and Tricia Greco, assistant manager at Meadowbrook, said she doesn’t expect any apples there in early 2017. “We won’t have apples into the following season this year,” she said. “Last year, we had apples into April.” The season is starting later, as well. Usually apples are ready to pick by now.

Josh Morgenthaler, the owner of Fishkill Farms, said he manages his fruit losses by planting more vegetables and diversifying his crops. In recent years, Fishkill Farms has held events such as a Tomato Festival, farm dinners and outdoor yoga. It also will launch a line of hard cider in coming weeks that uses the farm’s heirloom apples.

Both farmers recommended that pick-your-own fans come early, because by mid-October supplies may be running low.

Fishkill Farms, at 9 Fishkill Farm Road, has Gala, Jonamac, Cortland, Honeycrisp, Golden Delicious, Red Delicious and other varieties of apples, plus cider and cider donuts beginning in mid-September. It is open daily from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Admission is $5, with children ages 12 and under admitted free. Check facebook.com/fishkillfarms for updates.

Meadowbrook, at 29 Old Myers Corners Road, will have Gala, Golden Delicious, Jonagold, Mutsu (Crispin), Red Delicious and other varieties available for picking starting Saturday, Sept. 17. It is open daily from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. For more details, visit meadowbrookfarmmarket.com.

**Can you name your New York state apples? Answers at right.**

**Apple answers:** From top left: Golden, Jonamac, Jonagold, Honeycrisp, Red Delicious, Gala, Empire, Cortland, Crispin (Source: nyapplecountry.com)
**Real Estate**

**Cedar Homes Made to Order**

_Lindal dealership in Cold Spring largest in the world_

By Alison Rooney

Near the intersection in Philipstown of Routes 9 and 301, there’s a small, head-turning sign for Lindal Cedar Homes. A visit to learn more about the business, appropriately located in a wooded grove, provides for more head-turning at its models and images of its post-and-beam designs.

Founded in Seattle, Lindal has been producing homes for more than 70 years. It operates through independent dealerships such as Atlantic Custom Homes in Cold Spring, the largest Lindal dealership in the world, which is owned by Greg and Jan Buhler.

The Buhlers began as customers. After purchasing land in Garrison — a parcel Greg describes as “very challenging” in terms of slope and septic — they met with the then-owners of the company, Jim and Susan Johnston, who brought to life a concept that focused on the views from the property. Jan oversaw construction and 28 subcontractors, and the house was completed in 2002. “It was a wonderful experience, and we still love our house,” Greg says.

In 2005, the Johnstons put the Lindal dealership up for sale. Greg was working for a law firm in the city, but the commute and the 9-11 attack had caused him to take stock. “We decided to buy the business and it greatly improved my life,” he recalls. “We had no prior small business experience, and luckily the [Johnstons] stayed on for six months to show us the ropes.”

The dealer’s role is to advise the homeowner on siting, engineering, estimates, building codes, design, materials, green building and hiring contractors. Buyers often bring in an architect, and the couple “Lindalize” the designs. All of the cedar is transported from the Pacific Northwest by rail, truck and ship, and more than 50,000 homes have been built, including about 50 in this area. Atlantic Custom has built homes throughout New York as well as in Pennsylvania, Connecticut, Massachusetts and North Carolina. The Johnstons, who ran the business for more than 20 years, built homes in the Caribbean and, surprisingly, Lebanon. “Each house is engineered for the local climate conditions,” Greg explains. “For instance, you don’t see a lot of wood in the Caribbean because there are so many insects, but they’re not attracted to cedar.”

When Sir Walter Lindal, a Canadian, founded the company in 1945, its most popular design resembled a chalet, with prow-like windows and extensive glass. That design is still available, but contemporaries are now more common. All feature post-and-beam construction with the outside wall left unstructured so that it is effectively replaced by glass. “Even as we build the home, designs can change because of the post-and-beam structure,” he says.

(Continued on next page)
Cedar Homes Made to Order (from previous page)

their personalities in their homes,” Greg says. Adds Jan: “You can breathe in these homes,” noting that many are built in the woods and/or overlooking a lake.

There are three varieties of modern, each with any number of floor plans; there is also a high-end, architect-designed line. The smallest Lindal design is for a 400-square-foot space; the largest is “infinite,” Jan says. Each home comes with a lifetime structural warranty.

“Our process is more predictable [than others]; we’re always in control of it and so there are no surprises with the materi-
als” for siding, stairs, hardware and the frame-out, Greg says. (Contractors take care of the HVAC and other components.) “Once the design is set, we start really looking at the numbers, so people have a reasonable expectation” of cost.

The company’s “glu-laminated” beams are made from smaller trees, engineered for the weight of the house, with no wood wasted. Lindal also participates in the Global ReLeaf program run by the non-profit American Forests, which plants trees to restore damaged ecosystems.

About 50 percent of clients come to Atlantic Custom to design a home before they own the land. At that point, assessments are made about slopes, easements, wetlands and legal restrictions such as setbacks to make sure customers obtain a parcel they can build on. Because of that planning, “it’s not instant gratification,” Jan says, although most homes take only six months to a year to build.

Atlantic Custom Homes is located at 2785 Route 9 in a Lindal model home. For more information visit lindalny.com or call 845-265-2636.

Jan and Greg Buhler inside a Lindal home  
Photo by Deborah DeGraffenreid

★ VOTE FOR ★
Camille Linson
for Philipstown Town Justice

Experience.

Integrity.

Commitment.

Be informed before you vote!

Did you know:

• The majority of Town Justices in New York State are not attorneys (let alone litigators in a courtroom), so courtroom experience is not a prerequisite for being a competent Town Justice.

• All newly-elected Town Justices receive the same training in a Certification Course for the position of Town Justice, provided by the Office of Court Administration.

• In assessing whether someone will make a good Justice, the essential qualities to consider are intelligence, integrity, civic-mindedness and the ability to communi-
cate well.

• Camille Linson has demonstrated the above qualities in her professional and educational background, as well as years of volunteerism in Philipstown.

• Camille Linson has 20+ years of experience in legal subject areas that are tried before the Town Justice Court.

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

The Buhlers will host an open house from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 17.
Four Local Artists in Pawling Show
Meeting Past opens Sept. 9

The work of four artists from Philip-
stown and Beacon are included in the
6th annual art exhibit Meeting Past at the
Akin Library and Museums in Pawling,
which opens Sept. 9. The local artists are
Carla Goldberg of Cold Spring, Dale Leif-
este and Rieko Fuginami of Beacon and
Sheilah Rechtschaffer of Garrison.
Curator Bibiana Huang Matheis will
host an artists’ reception from 3 to 5 p.m.
on Sunday, Sept. 11. The exhibit continues
through Oct. 23. The gallery, at 378 Old
Quaker Hill Road, is open from 11 a.m. to
4 p.m. on Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

Lions to Roast Pig
Fundraiser at Glynwood on Sept. 17

The Cold Spring Lions will host a pig
roast at Glynwood Farms at 3 p.m.
on Saturday, Sept. 17. The event is rain
or shine. Tickets are $50 each, which in-
cludes lemonade and beer and wine, and
can be purchased at coldspringlions.org
or by calling 914-472-6806. There will also
be live music and a cash bar.

Proceeds from the event will support
college scholarships. Guiding Eyes for the
Blind, Louisiana flood and Italian quake
victims and a number of programs serv-
ing Philipstown such as the food pantry.
Founded in 1939, the Cold Spring Lions
also have contributed to Code Springers at
the Desmond-Fish Library, the Waterfront
Park andTot Park in Cold Spring and Eye
Glasses for the Needy.

Time to Get Fit for Prizes
Health Quest launches fall challenge

The Get Fit Hudson Valley six-week
challenge, which begins on Saturday,
Sept. 10, offers prizes to encourage partici-
ants to exercise in parks, fitness centers
and other sites in Dutchess and Putnam
counties.
Participants exercise for at least 30 min-
utes and enter their activity at getfithv.
com or post about their workout on so-
cial media with the hashtag #getfithv. The
more entries submitted, the better the
chances to win an Apple Watch, Nutribul-
mate Rx, CamelBak hydration pack, Dick’s
Sports Goods gift cards and other priz-
es. Entries on Facebook will only count if
the account’s privacy settings are public.
Visit getfithv.com for a list of more than
65 check-in sites, including Foundry Dock
Park in Cold Spring, Gold’s Gym Fishkill,
Madam Brett Park in Beacon, Manitou
Point Preserve in Garrison, Mount Bea-
con Park, the Putnam County Trailway,
Long Dock Park in Beacon, the West Point
Foundry Preserve in Cold Spring and Walk-
way Over the Hudson in Poughkeepsie.

Health Quest organizes the challenge
each fall and spring. More than 250 peo-
ple logged about 1,000 workouts during
the spring challenge.

Rabbis to Lead Hike at
Little Stony Point
Contemplative walk on Sept. 18

Rabbis Brent Chaim Spodek of the Bea-
con Hebrew Alliance, Marcelo Bron-
stein of B’nai Jeshurun in New York City
and Rachel Cowan, former executive direc-
tor of the Institute for Jewish Spirituality,
will lead a contemplative hike at 10 a.m.
on Sunday, Sept. 18, at Little Stony Point.
There is no fee, although donations are
welcome. Little Stony Point is located at
3011 Route 9D in Cold Spring. For infor-
mation, call 845-831-2012. A Shabbat Shu-
va hike at Little Stony Point is scheduled
for Oct. 8.

Sing with Dream or
People’s Choir
Fifth season will focus on
music of ‘60s

The Dream and People’s choirs led by Cat Guthrie
are set to begin their fifth seasons. The Dream Choir,
which practices weekly in Garrison, begins Sept. 14.
“The choirs are becoming known for
building a beautiful community of sing-
ers who are friends and neighbors,” says
Guthrie. “We have lots of fun resonating
with each other. We sing songs from different traditions and
cultures, with a focus this time on music
from the ‘60s. You don’t have to know mu-
sic; learn as you go.”

The fall sessions will culminate in a
concert, followed by a potluck dinner.
To register for the Garrison choir, which
meets at 27 Travis Corners Road, call 914-
420-4515. To register for the Beacon choir,
which meets at the Beacon Music Factory,
call 845-765-0472. The cost for each 16-
week program is $160, although the first
session is free for potential members who
would like to try it out.

Butterfield to Host
Creativity Workshop
Leave with a goal and steps
to achieve it

Are you frustrated by starting creative
projects and not finishing them? Do you
have a desire to create something,
but not sure what? Have you had ideas
for years but are not sure how to start?
Robin’s Nest will hold a free 90-minute
workshop on Tuesday, Sept. 13, at 7 p.m.
in the Butterfield Library in Cold Spring to
encourage participants to start or finish
or discover creative endeavors. A second
workshop will be held on Sept. 27. You
will leave with one creative goal to focus
on and the steps you can take. For more
information, email Robin Hutchinson at
robin@artnology.us.

All-Brahms Program at
Chapel Restoration
Baritone and pianist to perform on
Sept. 18

On Sunday, Sept. 18, the Chapel Resto-
ration in Cold Spring brings together
two accomplished performers and fre-
quent collaborators — baritone Thomas
Meglioranza and pianist Reiko Uchida
— in a Brahms program that includes
the piano solo Variations on an Original
Theme No. 1, and the vocal works Four Se-
rious Songs and selections from German
Folk Songs.

The concert, which begins at 4 p.m., is
free, but donations are welcome. The Chap-
el Restoration is located at 45 Market St.,
across from the Metro-North Train Sta-
tion, where parking is free on weekends.

Teams Off to Battle
of Books
Regional competition takes place
Sept. 17

Students from Philipstown and Beacon
will travel to Columbia-Greene Commu-
nity College in Hudson on Saturday, Sept.
17, to compete in the 12th
Annual Battle of the Books against two dozen other libraries in the Mid-Hudson Library System. The Beacon Bees are the defending champions in the event, which draws some 200 students in grades 6 to 9. Participants read eight select books over the summer, and compete in trivia battles about them. 200 students in grades 6 to 9. Participants read eight select books over the summer, and compete in trivia battles about them.

State Assembly Members Offer Internships

Sandy Galef, who represents Philipstown in the New York State Assembly, and Frank Skartados, who represents Beacon, are accepting applications from high school and college students for unpaid internships during the 2016-17 school year.

Interns undertake various tasks that can include letter writing, creating press releases, researching legislation, data entry and working on material for newsletters, forums, television shows and other projects. They also assist constituents.

Applications to work in Galef’s office can be submitted online at assembly.state.ny.us (search for “Sandy Galef.”) For more information, email fieldstaff@assembly.state.ny.us or call 914-941-1111.

Skartados has openings for unpaid interns in the fall at his district office in Newburgh. An application can be downloaded at assembly.state.ny.us (search for “Frank Skartados”) and should be mailed with a résumé to District Office of Assemblyman Frank Skartados, 154 North Plank Road, Suite 2, Newburgh, NY 12550, or faxed to 845-561-5218.

Beacon

Author to Share Tips on Non-Fiction

Program takes place at Howland on Sept. 18

Former federal prosecutor Ronald D. Brown, now an author, will share “Insider Tips on Writing for the Non-Fiction Market” at 1 p.m. on Sunday, Sept. 18, at the Howland Public Library in Beacon. Brown will explain how to narrow your focus, keep readers interested and organize your research.

Brown is the author of Dying on the Job: Murder and Mayhem in the American Workplace. The Howland Public Library is located at 313 Main St. Concert at Howland Center on Sept. 18

The Juilliard String Quartet will open the 24th season of the Howland Chamber Music Circle in Beacon at 4 p.m. on Sunday, Sept. 18. The quartet — Joseph Lin and Ronald Copes on violin, Roger Tapping on viola and Astrid Schween on cello — will perform two quartets by Beethoven, String Quartet in F Minor, Op. 95 and String Quartet in F Major, Op. 59 No. 1 (Razumovsky), and String Quartet No. 1 by Bela Bartok.

Tickets can be ordered at howlandmusic.org or by calling 845-765-3032. The Howland Cultural Center is located at 477 Main St. The series will continue with the Escher, Jasper and Alexander string quartets and the winter Piano Festival. Tickets are $30 ($10 for students) or subscriptions start at $80.

Dinner Will Benefit School Gardens

Hudson Valley Seed event on Sept. 20

Hudson Valley Seed will host a buffet dinner on the patio at Homespun Foods from 6:30 to 9 p.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 20, to benefit Beacon School District gardens for grades kindergarten to 5.

The menu will include roasted carrot cumin puree, beef hummus, summer ratatouille with polenta, creamy corn and chive custard, Moroccan meatballs and, for dessert, biscuits and basil tatouille with polenta, creamy corn and chive custard, Moroccan meatballs and, for dessert, biscuits and basil.
Air Show Wows Huge Crowd

Second annual aerial display at Stewart International

By Michael Turton

The second annual New York Air Show drew thousands of spectators both at Stewart International Airport west of Newburgh and at countless Labor Day weekend backyard barbecues.

On the morning of Sept. 2, Hudson Highlands residents received a jaw-dropping preview of the show as the U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds made a number of low-altitude, high-speed passes over West Point.

The military academy's Black Knights Parachute Team opened the show at Stewart by delivering the Stars and Stripes with a jump from 5,000 feet.

The Thunderbirds were the featured act, closing the show on both Saturday and Sunday afternoons. The six F-16 pilots performed 40 high-precision maneuvers, including their trade-

Kent Pietsch landed his plane on top of an RV going 60 mph. Photos by M. Turton

What Makes for a Good Superintendent?

Beacon school board asks for feedback

As part of its search for a new superintendent for the Beacon City School District, the Board of Education will hold two public forums in which district voters may comment on the characteristics they would like to see in the person hired for the position. Community members are also welcome to complete an online survey at beaconk12.org.

The forums will take place at 9:30 a.m. and 7 p.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 14. The morning session will be held at the District Office at 10 Education Drive and the evening session at Beacon High School, 210 Matteawan Road. To RSVP, email Kelly Pologe at pologe.k@beaconk12.org.

Cold Spring Welcomes New Students

The Haldane School Foundation on Aug. 31 greeted the 40 members of the Haldane Class of 2029 with treats donated by Go-Go Pops.
Air Show Wows Huge Crowd *(from previous page)*

The three-man crew of a C-17 Globemaster III cargo plane stationed at Stewart Air National Guard Base demonstrated the enormous and surprisingly quiet aircraft’s maneuverability at speeds as slow as 120 mph. In contrast, a Navy FA/18 Hornet capable of flying 1,200 mph made several thundering passes.

The Geico Skytypers were again a hit, flying six vintage Texans in tight formation. Known as the Harvard in England and Canada, the Texan was used to train thousands of Allied pilots and also flown in combat. Only 11 are known to exist.

Another World War II-era plane, the B-25 Mitchell bomber, made a return visit to Stewart. The twin-engine craft made its mark when Lt. Col. Jimmy Doolittle led a flight of 16 B-25s on a raid on mainland Japan four months after the attack on Pearl Harbor.

Pilot Kent Pietsch grabbed the crowd’s attention when he attempted to land an Interstate Cadet on the roof of an RV traveling at 60 mph on the runway. After one aborted attempt, Pietsch stuck the landing. Other acts included a simulated Coast Guard rescue; David Windmiller’s acrobatic Edge 540; Buck Roetman’s Pitt Special and Larry Labriola’s Czechoslovakian-built L-39 Cold War-era turbojet.

See more photos at highlandscurrent.com
Haldane Football Opens Season

The Haldane varsity football team opens its season at home against Tuckahoe at 1 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 10. To prepare, the Blue Devils scrimmaged Rye Neck on the Haldane turf on Sept. 3.

Photos by Kim Giachinta

Above, left, Will Westerhuis; right, junior Luke Junjulas; at left, Bennett McConville, son of Coach Ryan McConville, with his grandfather, Kevin McConville; below, junior Liam Irwin

Junior quarterback Brandon Twoguns

Kelly Vahos

Kelly Vahos, a 2015 Haldane graduate, has appeared in six matches this season as a redshirt freshman for the James Madison University, starting in three. She recorded eight digs and an ace against Washington and 12 kills and 13.5 points against Holy Cross. Vahos, who is 6-foot-2, is majoring in kinesiology. The Dukes (6-1) next play Villanova on Sept. 9.

Melissa Tringali, a 2016 Haldane grad, is a defensive specialist for the Gettysburg College women’s volleyball team.

Scoreboard

Cross Country
Haldane @ Washingtonville Wizard Invitational
Boys’ Three-Mile: (5) Nicholas Farrell, 16:22.24
Girls’ Three-Mile: (38) Ruby McEwen, 24:54.99

Football
Rye 42, Beacon 7
Alex Bonson 90-yard kickoff return

Boys’ Soccer
Arlington 7, Haldane 1
Solomon Schechter 5, Haldane 0
Beacon 3, Carmel 2
Goals: Lambe (2), Nikolai

Girls’ Soccer
Croton-Harmon 6, Haldane 3
Goals: Montelone, Chira, Cinquanta

Haldane 4, Fox Lane 2
Goals: Montelone (2), Cinquanta, Rotando

Haldane 2, Carmel 0
Harrison 3, Beacon 1
Goal: Antalek

Girls’ Tennis
Beacon 3, Brewster 2

Volleyball
Haldane 3, Mahopac 2
Beacon 3, Carmel 0
Dembo: 5 kills, 14 assists

Philipstown Soccer Club

Opening day schedule
Sunday, Sept. 11

Philipstown Park
• Noon. Hawks (Girls U-9) vs. Beekman
• 1:15 p.m. Force (Boys U-9) vs. Latinos de Pok Jr. Anjeles
• 2:30 p.m. Dragons (Boys U-11) vs. Rhinebeck

Haldane Field
• 2 p.m. Raptors (Girls U-13) vs. Shrub Oak

Away Games
• 1:15 p.m. Storm (Boys U-6) @ Yorktown
• 1:30 p.m. Strikers (Boys U-11) @ Shrub Oak
• 1:45 p.m. Phoenix (Girls U-12) @ Eastern Dutchess
• 2 p.m. Chargers (Boys U-16) @ Beekman
• 2 p.m. Arsenal (Boys U-13) @ East Fishkill
• 3:30 p.m. Warriors (Boys U-14) @ New Paltz

Philipsburg, on left, hold the line against Rye. Photo by Rem Dinio