Haldane Fields Project Wins Voter Approval
Construction could begin as early as June 2013
By Michael Turton

Voters in the Haldane Central School District said “yes” by a substantial margin on Tuesday, Nov. 13, giving the green light to a $2 million project that will undertake a major upgrade to the main sports field on Haldane’s campus as well improvements to locker rooms and the school auditorium. Haldane School Board President Michael Junjulas read the final vote tally shortly after the polls closed at 9 p.m.: 553 “yes” votes to 267 “no” votes.

There were applause, handshakes, and hugs all around as board members, staff and residents in attendance celebrated the result of the referendum. “I’m a nervous wreck. I’m ecstatic,” Junjulas said. “I’m glad there was a turnover. A lot of people voted. It was almost like a budget vote.”

“This one tasted sweeter than any of them (past referenda), I think because of the last-minute shenanigans,” Superintendent of Schools Mark Villanti said after hearing the result. In informal discussions prior to learning the outcome of the vote, trustees expressed their displeasure with comments made recently on local blogs, Facebook and websites, some of which questioned the time frame, integrity and openness of the process that led to the referendum. “The district began its efforts towards this project over 18 months ago,” Villanti said as early as June 2013.

“We do not have a margin on Tuesday, Nov. 13, giving the green light to a $2 million project.”

He also said that “we have provided enough material on our website and during public discourse that I believe the public has been able to make an informed decision. Is there anything more we could have done? Possibly. But, communication is a two-way street.”

It’s been 10 years since we first began discussing this project,” Junjulas said. “And it’s been discussed at every single meeting since that time.” He also said that “we have provided enough material on our website and during public discourse that I believe the public has been able to make an informed decision. Is there anything more we could have done? Possibly. But, communication is a two-way street.”

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Villanti said that the Building and Grounds Committee will meet with the consultant on the project in about two weeks. After that, engineering specifications will be sent to the New York State Department of Education for review. “Then it’s a waiting game,” he said. Villanti said he hopes to be able to put out bids on the work in the spring with construction beginning as early as June.

Garrison Fields
Parents Express Hopes and Frustrations

Some describe a ‘glacially slow’ rate of change
By Jeanne Tao

A non-unanimous large crowd showed up for the last of three public workshops on Tuesday, Nov. 13 to update this year’s goals for the Garrison Union Free School Board of Education. The workshop coincided with a regular board meeting, with the workshop portion lasting over two hours.

Many parents expressed their hopes for Garrison School to become a model educational institution as well as concerns about the school’s slow rate of change.

Superintendent Gloria Colucci began the discussion by presenting a summary of the previous two workshops, which occurred Oct. 17 and Nov. 5. The first was attended by five parents and three board members, the second by seven parents and one board member — small showings compared to the 20-plus parents and five of seven board members present on Tuesday night.

The comments taken away from this and the last two workshops included a desire for more student involvement through inquiry-based learning, differentiated and individualized instruction, and high-quality professional development for faculty and staff. Parents also wished to see major improvements to the curriculum, integrating across disciplines as well as offering languages other than English in the early grades, dance and movement classes, frequent use of the school forest, and an inquiry-based math program.

Differentiated instruction

While Colucci and Principal Stephanie Impellizzeri insisted that they do see instances of differentiated instruction and group learning in the classrooms, they admitted that it is inconsistent, with the teachers sometimes “standing in front of the class” to teach.

Some parents said they have not witnessed differentiation at all, from the work brought home by children not at their level or the students’ boredom with or dislike of school. Marti Weidman, who described change at Garrison School as “glacially slow” and herself as “very dissatisfied with the experience here,” spoke first. “Differentiated instruction was the number-one thing that came up three years ago when we did this, and [for] my family personally, my four children in this school, I have not seen any of the things that I have requested specifically from teachers.”

Locals Provide Hurricane Relief
Several organizations pitch in to help New York City
By Jeanne Tao

A n ongoing donation drive, organized by Christine Peterson through the Facebook page Donation Drive for Sandy Victims, has collected and delivered to New York City several truckloads of much-needed supplies such as food, water, batteries and flashlights, toiletries, blankets, clothing, and cleaning supplies. Their first trip was made Saturday, Nov. 3 to the Rockaways in Queens, the second on Monday, Nov. 5 to Red Hook in Brooklyn, another to Staten Island on Saturday, Nov. 10, and returning to the Rockaways on Wednesday, Nov. 14. Peterson has also brought needed items to those whose homes were flooded at the Cold Spring waterfront.

Many organizations around Philipstown have been contributing to the relief effort, several of them collecting donations and bringing them to the North Highlands and Cold Spring Firehouses, where they are then loaded on trucks headed to the most devastated areas.

Haldane Central School recently got involved and has been collecting winter clothing and baby and school supplies for the firehouses to distribute. Garrison School is conducting a food drive to donate to the Philipstown Food Pantry, housed at the First Presbyterian Church in Cold Spring, which donates surplus food to the firehouses for the relief effort as well. Andrea Bach, food pantry coordinator, said that Garrison teachers, parents and students would deliver their collection to the food pantry on Friday, Nov. 16, during their half-day. Members of the church have also donated many other items to the cause and plan to continue collecting during the next week.

Other area churches have helped, as many, like the United Methodist Churches and St. Philip’s Episcopal Church in Garrison, have organized ongoing donation drives, organized by Christine Peterson through the Facebook page Donation Drive for Sandy Victims, and St. Philip’s Episcopal Church in Cold Spring has also been collecting food and other items for Lower Hudson Valley parishes in need as well as for the Cold Spring Firehouse trips. The youth at St. Philip’s Episcopal Church in Garrison have collected money toward the rebuilding of places destroyed in nearby Manhasset and on parts of Long Island.

Local church members have collected donations and plan to continue during December to help the people affected by Hurricane Sandy.

Philistown.info
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69 Main St., Cold Spring, N.Y. | www.philipstown.info
Roasted vegetables

I tried blowing the whistle. Honest. In staff meetings, I’d remark that preparing a 10-dish meal seldom actually qualifies as what most people think of as “simple.” I’d draw my colleagues’ attention to the fact that turkey alone takes three recipes, minimum (for the bird, the stuffing, and the gravy). And then there are side dishes (at least two), cranberry sauce, appetizers, and dessert. Most of the time we’d throw in a cocktail recipe, too, because Lord knows you’d need one.

I pointed out that describing such a menu as “stress-free” might in fact have the reverse effect, ratcheting up the pressure on readers by implying that there was something wrong with them if they broke a sweat while trying to get the Brussels sprouts to caramelize and prevent the gougeres from burning at the same time.

I even went so far as to suggest that we come right out and admit that preparing our latest version of the feast would be “challenging but fun!” or “stressful but super-satisfying!” My colleagues would smile at me as if I were a babbling and possibly dangerous alien who should be placated but not by means accommodat- ed, then move on.

No matter. The truth is, we all develop our own strategies for managing the holiday workload. Most people I know go potluck, asking guests to bring the desserts or the appetizers, or even outsourcing everything but the turkey-stuffing-gravy trifecta. My own method involves spending hours of cooking (be- cause not only do I love the hands-on work, I also kind of like the stress of orchestrat- ing a complex meal), plus lots of paper and painter’s tape. I write out my complete menu on one sheet of paper, and tape that to the wall beside the stove. Next to that, I tack up a schedule of what needs to happen when — from chopping the celery and onions for the stuffing to gelling the cranberry sauce to whipping the cream for the pies. And then I photocopy every single recipe (except the ones I know by heart) — because it’s chaotic to have three open cookbooks lying around the kitchen at once, and frustrating to try to read through last year’s spilled gravy. The recipes get taped to the wall, too. The only page that doesn’t wind up on the wall is my shopping list, which goes into my handbag.

One other sanity-preserving strategy I’ve adopted over the years is soup. I made it some years back as a way to shoehorn a favorite new recipe into my holiday menu, but I realized right away how valuable an ally it is. Soup can be a deep breath and untie my apron before I turn my complete menu over to my colleagues. Sometimes, I’ll plunk the gougères from burning things with me if they broke a sweat for the Brussels sprouts. The gleaner, fruit, and garden cook until soft, 7 minutes. Add the minced ginger, garlic, and sage and cook, stirring, until the seeds puff up, pop, and begin to color. Turn off the heat, let the seeds sit for 1 minute, then drizzle on the honey.

• Spread the seeds on a plate to cool.

Winter squash and cider soup (recipe follows)

To make the soup, add a squeeze or two of lemon juice right at the end to balance the flavor.

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Winter squash and cider soup

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**Teacher professional development**

The dissatisfaction with the absence of differentiation led to the parents’ desire for more professional development for teachers. One parent said, “I have a lot of ideas about really helping teachers understand the multiple ways kids learn,” saying there is a need for better understanding of gender differences in learning and multiple intelligences.

Others said that teachers did not understand the idea of managing a class without relying on a system of rewards and punishments. “We want to move to ways of motivating them,” one parent said, about sparking students’ interest in learning instead of promising a prize. “It’s just something they haven’t heard about before. I think it’s why I always go back to professional development.”

With what Colucci estimated to be roughly half of teachers’ professional development this year devoted to mandates such as the new teacher evaluation system or the new Common Core Learning Standards, other initiatives will require more funding and a creative use of time, especially now that one of their five professional development days was lost. Phillips said “a mass availability” day missed during Hurricane Sandy.

**Between mission and reality**

While the meeting was a workshop on updating the School Board’s goals, parents did not disagree with the current goals, which include such directives as to “provide all children with the individualized learning experience that small class size makes possible.” (The goals can be seen at the school website, guis.org.) What they did find was a gap between those goals and what actually happens in the school.

“The truth is, I agree with the goals of the school,” said parent Danielle Martineau. “The area where I’ve felt frustration as a parent is actually seeing these goals manifest in the classroom.”

Another parent, James Hoch, summarized: “Part of what we’re hearing is that this disjunct conversation between what is possible and then what’s being actualized. There’s always that discrepancy, in any institution, in any organization, however you’re hearing a certain amount of broken-heartedness over that discrepancy that we’re just doing a lot of work, a lot of money, lots of time, shifts in geographic location, with the hopes that this school would embody some of our values.”

**Taskforce and/or mandate**

Many parents discussed the formation of a committee or task force to be charged with immediate and concrete action, to avoid the problem of change happening “too slowly.” Phillips said, “I think the day to day.” A parent said, “In a short period of time, especially now that one of their five professional development days was lost.”

David Gelber repeatedly reminded the board that he hoped to leave the meeting with something accomplished. “A lot of the things in here that in the short term something would come out of this evening with respect to more individualized instruction and more professional development.”

**Communication**

One issue that the community said they would like to address immediately is communication between parents and the school. Most parents who spoke thanked the board for the opportunity to voice their wishes and concerns, but as Walker suggested, “I think that the frustration that I’m clearly communicating would be less pent up if there were regular opportunities to have that communication.” She recommended surveying parents and then publishing and using the results to make improvements, or to regularly meet with parent committees to discuss how the school is doing, as the new Haldane principals do.

In order to communicate, board member Anita Prentice asked at the end of the meeting that all parents who presented handouts send those documents to the superintendent so that they could be posted on the school website soon. The board members all thanked parents for coming to the meeting and expressed hope that there would be continued participation from them at future meetings, which take place once every two weeks.

**Asking for assurance**

Martineau’s question to Colucci earlier in the evening was on behalf of many parents: “Is this the school for us? I know we’re asking a lot; we’re asking to do more than just teach the Common Core.”

The meeting was adjourned as early as possible, but that parent wanted to know that there would be a group or task force to be set up in the classroom with the teachers, side-by-side; teachers would be modeling lifelong learning, and their paradigms would shift dramatically.”

It was also noted that the rubrics used to assess teachers should reflect the commitment to those best practices.
Metro-North rescues itself

Dear Editor,

The week before last saw the most recent mauling of our region by dramatic weather. For many of us, our lives were put on hold: power lost, roads impassable, schools closed, and offices shut down. And for those in this county who commute into New York City, Metro-North stopped operating.

Metro-North serves as a vital economic engine for Putnam County. Thousands of us commute north and south daily via Metro-North for work, bringing those earned dollars back into this county. When Metro-North stops working, many of us stop working.

We each saw shocking images, whether we wished to or not, regarding Sandy’s attack on our commuter train infrastructure: The ground underneath the railroad tracks was swept away along the Hudson near Cortlandt; a boat literally came to rest on top of the tracks in Ossining; countless trees collapsed along the Harlem Line into eastern Putnam County; saltwater overrode components of the electrical system; and the Croton-Harmon repair shops shut down.

Power is still not fully back to the region, and yet, Metro-North was back online in a matter of days. This was a herculean effort to return service to this county in a safe and efficient manner. The chronology of progressive service restoration is impressive:

After a prescient, precautionary shutdown on Sunday night, Oct. 28, all power was lost to the system by Monday at noon. The cleanup began on Tuesday, within 24 hours, there was limited service on the Harlem Line between North White Plains and Grand Central. By Thursday, Nov. 1, Harlem Line service was extended north from Mount Kisco to Southeast Station. By Friday, Hudson Line service was resumed to Croton-Harmon, with the New Haven Line restored all the way to New Haven. By Saturday, the Hudson Line was restored to Poughkeepsie, and by Monday, a week later, the Harlem Line was restored with regular service to Wassaic.

Personally, I was blown away not only by the speed of this repair, but also by the transparency and frequency of communication; Metro-North used every digital and analog means to get out the word on service conditions. Not only was Metro-North diligent in repair, but they understood that in a crisis, knowing what is going on is as important as what is going.

Metro-North Day 2012

By Frederick Osborn III

Like many men my age, I was drafted into the U.S. Army and served in the Republic of Vietnam for a year. The experience had a great impact on my life.

For a while after I returned home in 1968, I would wear my handsome Army dress uniform to show how proud I was of my country and my service. Big mistake.

I was often shocked and saddened to see the extent to which our service to this country was not appreciated — wearing the uniform would engender mutterings and even outright fury; twice I was actually spit upon by finger-shaking civilians who seemed to be saying that the unpopular war in Vietnam was my fault.

So you can imagine how important it has been over the last 45 years for me to be be granted SOME recognition for the risks I’d taken and the tasks I’d accomplished.

Last week, my twin granddaughters invited me to their concert at the Garrison School, at which veterans would be called up and thanked with a song that the children had learned. I proudly attended, and my heart was soaring as I heard the names of parents and family members of the students who had served in the U.S. armed forces, each ex-soldier, sailor, marine and airman striding up to the front of the room amidst thunderous applause.

My name wasn’t called. I was surprised at the depth of my hurt and anger. Images came flooding back of people yelling at me, deriding me for being a fool to allow myself to be drafted, chanting anti-war slogans just because I was near.

My wife said the children had asked that any veteran whose name might have been left off the list to please join the group at the front. A legacy of my war service is bad hearing, and I was stewing in self-pity and didn’t hear it.

The song they sang was wonderful, and I just wished I’d been singing it to me.

Returning home that night, I was trembling in anger, shame, and frustration.

The concert managers had made a point, though, of inviting veterans to a ceremony the next morning at which the children of the school would make a more formal tribute to veterans, I changed my schedule to attend.

It was a lovely sunny morning, a light breeze almost enough to flutter the listless American flag at our lovely little school.

About 12 other “elderly” veterans joined me outdoors as the students trooped out of the building in age order, each child holding a small white flag, which he or she had decorated with symbols, words, and drawings to show their appreciation for those who’d served our country.

Faculty member Mr. Williams asked the veterans to recite the verses to his impromptu poem. After the recitation, he and the children planted their flags in the lawn along Route 9D at the school’s entrance. There were over 200 of them, the older children going first so they could help the younger ones push their sticks into the soft ground.

When they’d reassembled, Mr. Williams asked the children to look at the veterans — “Take a good look. These are the men who fought for your freedoms. It’s because of them that you’re able to go to school in a safe environment.”

Then Mr. Williams asked the veterans to look at the children — “Take a good look. These students are the future of this country. They are the reason you served our country. They are proud and extremely grateful for what you have done.”

I basked in the tribute, tears welling up in thanks that THEY had thanked ME.

The school had given the students a tactile activity to help each express gratitude in a highly individual way. Then, by planting the flags together, the kids made a symbolic and collective statement of appreciation with an impact and meaning far greater than the sum of its parts.

I am now a receptionist for the PTA, at which the eighth graders served refreshments and mingled with the veterans. My older granddaughter was part of that group, and she presented me with the words to the song that her sisters had sung the night before, saying, “This was sung for you.”

As a veteran, I was basking in the tribute, tears welling up in thanks that THEY had thanked ME. The school had given the students a tactile activity to help each express gratitude in a highly individual way. Then, by planting the flags together, the kids made a symbolic and collective statement of appreciation with an impact and meaning far greater than the sum of its parts.

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Local Hurricane Relief Efforts (from page 2)

The donation drive that has sprung up around the firehouses was a grassroots effort consisting of a few people who took charge and decided not to wait for someone else to collect donations and transport them.

For the Staten Island trip on Saturday, a group of eight volunteers in three loaded trucks from Beacon and Cold Spring saw residents along the island’s shores still struggling without power and spending their daylight hours cleaning out the wet and molding remains of flooded houses and basements.

Laurie Marigliano and Ryan Barkman, both of Cold Spring, drove their own trucks full of donations, canvaas-style, while Michael Bowman made a separate trip in his truck. After making a drop of supplies to a restaurant in Totten-town where they were available to those who needed them, Marigliano, Barkman and four other volunteers made their way along the shore in search of neighborhoods in need. They stopped at the VFW Hall in Oakwood Heights, which was running on generators as an emergency relief center, receiving and distributing donations, cooking free hot meals, and offering charging stations. Many volunteers were gathered there, some to help clean homes, others organizing and distributing supplies. Some spontaneously helped direct traffic and unload donations. Residents, some of them crying, came to pick up food, toiletries, and cleaning supplies.

After unloading the bulk of the donated supplies, which came from various organizations and individuals in Philip-town and other parts of Hudson Valley, including Boy Scouts in Peekskill and the rowing team of the Newburgh Free Academy, the six Beacon-Cold Spring volunteers loaded up Barkman’s Sprinter with boxes of food and toiletries donated by Feed the Children, an international relief organization, to distribute to homes in the neighborhood. Making their way down the streets, some still flooded, the volunteers saw homes marked with red signs declaring them unsafe — one with an entire wall missing — and many others with yellow signs indicating that people were allowed to clean inside during the day.

Most people who passed asked primarily for bottled water and bleach; some wanted tools and extension cords, which were not available. One woman said she had not eaten a hot meal in days, in her earnestness to get the cleaning done, even though the VFW was only a few blocks away. One man expressed his gratitude to the volunteers for a pair of work gloves and cleaning supplies, because then he wouldn’t have to leave his house and belongings open to looters. Another asked for a pair of socks, because he hadn’t been able to change his for days. A couple of volunteers asked where the nearest portable toilets were, because there was no working plumbing in the area. And as the day wore on and the sky grew darker, more requests were for flashlights and batteries.

The Rockaways and Breezy Point

On Wednesday’s trip (Nov. 14), Bark-man drove down with Bridget O’Brien to deliver donations to the Rockaways area. In Breezy Point, there was a large military presence, with Marine Corps helping to open the area, but unlike the situation in Staten Island, where many residents had returned to start the clean-up process, few had returned to start mucking out the houses. Many streets were still impassable, with cables blocking roads, and power had still not been restored, but Barkman and O’Brien were able to help those present with cleaning supplies. In the Rockaways, winter clothing was sorely needed, as they still had no heat or electricity. Some drop points had been overwhelmed, so Barkman’s van was loaded again to bring donations to neighborhoods and newer relief centers.

Barkman said that four blocks inland, he saw the water line had been over his head, and there was a huge area miles long where refuse and garbage were piling up “like the worst landfill you’ve ever seen.” As daylight waned in the projects, Barkman noted, people were friendly and orderly, lining up for flashlights, while the eerie silhouettes of tall buildings in the pitch black loomed overhead. He promises to return to the area next Wednesday, Nov. 21 with more volunteers for a mucking-out effort.

Help still needed

Donations are still being accepted at the Cold Spring Firehouse at 152 Main St. Food, water, blankets and baby items are still in need, but they are not accepting any clothing because there are too many coats and the like. The next trip is planned for New Jersey on Saturday, and they are asking mainly for cleaning supplies such as contractor bags, mops, brooms, sponges, work gloves, rubber gloves, and bleach or other cleaners. Volunteers may still be needed to help with flooded homes in Cold Spring. For more information, please visit the Facebook page or email Peterson at christinemarie1229@gmail.com.

Putnam County Declared Disaster Area, Eligible for Individual Assistance

Recovery center at Philipstown Rec in Garrison

Gov. Andrew Cuomo announced on Monday, Nov. 12 that four more counties have been added to the major federal disaster declaration for Hurricane Sandy. The major federal disaster declaration now offers Individual Assistance to residents of Orange, Putnam, Sullivan and Ulster counties.

“I thank President Obama for adding these four counties to the major disaster declaration,” Cuomo said. “The destructive effects of Hurricane Sandy are far-reaching and will require the maximum amount of federal assistance so these communities can rebuild and recover.”

On Oct. 30, President Obama granted Cuomo’s request for a federal disaster declaration for seven counties: Bronx, Kings, Nassau, New York, Richmond, Queens and Suffolk. On Nov. 2, Cuomo announced that an additional two counties, Rockland and Westchester, were approved to receive federal disaster assistance as a result of Hurricane Sandy. These counties are eligible for Individual as well as Public Assistance.

The federal disaster declaration was approved to enable the federal government to provide assistance and resources to New York state and local governments to support activities related to evacuation, sheltering, and other protective measures, including debris removal, logistics management and electric power generation.

In response to the major disaster declaration of Putnam County, Philipstown Deputy Supervisor Nancy Montgomery announced that residents affected by Hurricane Sandy should continue to file for individual assistance at www.disasterassistance.gov. For more help in filing for disaster assistance, contact FEMA at 1-800-622-5317. A FEMA representative was also reported to be visiting homes in Nelsonville and Cold Spring on Wednesday, Nov. 14 to find out if assistance was needed.

Philipstown Supervisor Richard Shea, Putnam County Director of Emergency Management Thomas Lannon, along with Putnam County Executive MaryEllen Odell have arranged for a FEMA Individual Assistance representative to be here in Philipstown this week. The recovery center will be set up at the Claudio Marzotto Community Center, Philipstown’s Recreation Center at 107 Glyncliff Drive in Garrison. The town office will announce the exact date for FEMA’s arrival.

The town still only has a limited number of residents’ contact info. Please call and ask your neighbors to call Supervisor Shea with contact info at 845-265-5200. Contact the town clerk to be added to Philipstown’s e-blast list: townclerk@philipstown.com.

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31 Stephanie Lane • Cold Spring • New York • appointments suggested
Shea: Cutting saves money and environment

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

Cutting savings to both money and the environment, Philipstown Supervisor Richard Shea last week revealed that the town intends to pave trouble-prone dirt road sections in 2013.

He commented Nov. 8 as the Town Board continued drafting the fiscal 2013 budget, which takes effect on Jan, 1 and which the board expects to complete on Tuesday, Nov. 20.

Based on submissions from the town’s units and departments, the preliminary Philipstown 2013 budget shows a 2 percent increase to $8,997,052 from fiscal 2012’s $8,815,276. However, as Shea noted several times during the deliberations, final figures on many budget lines remain undetermined and he expects the ultimate total to go down.

“There are going to be changes and it is going to go down. The final budget is definitely going to be lower than this,” Shea said. “Anywhere that we can cut, we’re cutting. We’re going to go lower than 2 percent” as an increase over 2012.

One way to cut costs is to pave parts of rural roads, he asserted. He and Town Board Member John Van Tassel cast the argument in terms of not only saving nature, lives, and property as well as dollars.

According to Van Tassel, paving dirt roads “is a life-saving issue.” Even without flooding and other hurricane damage, the roads can be difficult for emergency vehicles to use, he said. “If the road is nonexistent, it’s really impossible. There’s a chance where you’re going to have a problem of someone losing their life or home because an ambulance or a fire truck couldn’t get to them.”

Moreover, dirt roads tend to wander or vanish over time, especially in storms. Shea said. “It’s very tough to make them stay put. They are material-intensive; they are capital-intensive” and demand inordinate attention “to the detriment of other parts of the town,” he said. “We as a town cannot afford to keep doing what we’re doing. We’ll have discussions, we’ll listen to people. But there’s going to be paving this [coming] year. I’m not going to mince words. I’m not going to lie. It’s going to happen.”

As the supervisor outlined it, likely targets include the Saunders Hill stretch of Old Albany Post Road, a separate patch of Old Albany Post Road, and the western end of South Mountain Pass, along with sites in Continental Village.

In general, the town will focus on areas “where we’ve had no success in maintaining the drainage because everything just washes out,” Shea explained, giving Saunders Hill as an example. “We spend $50,000 on drainage and then during a big storm we watch it just disappear; it goes down into the brook.” He acknowledged that such a paving project “is anathema to some people. But it’s in all likelihood going to happen. We can’t keep watching pollution [occur] and the surface disappear.”

Like Saunders Hill, Shea said, South Mountain Pass, climbing uphill from Route 9D, “has been a perennial problem. No matter what we’ve done on that hill over the years, it has just not saved it.” He also mentioned Old Albany Post Road “going down toward Chapman and Canopus, where the road ‘washboards out. It disappears,’ despite thousands of hours of work and application of additives to strengthen it. And treating road surfaces raises other questions. ‘People think of dirt roads as being green,’ Shea observed. ‘They’re not. They use chemicals 12 months of the year. It’s a constant source of not only physical pollution but chemical pollution.’

Besides, Shea warned, the Federal Emergency Management Agency [FEMA] will not provide funds indefinitely for reconstruction of dirt roads. “The only way you get funding in catastrophic events, hurricanes, through FEMA, going forward, is if you make a permanent improvement — i.e., pavement,” he said. “I’m not trying to dispose dirt roads. I lived on a dirt road for many years. Now that it’s paved, I’m happy.”

On Thursday, the Town Council passed an amendment to its capital budget that includes $250,000 for the paving project. Shea said the town has proposed a “Plan B” if the controversial Butterfield Hospital redevelopment, whose plans include a multi-government building, does not go through.
I consider ‘Harvest’ performing literary magazine A Swan Song for the Art Garden

www.philipstown.info

scary to read, but our audiences are Art Garden to be “a safe place. It is describes as “a warm evening of shared O’Garden presides over what she request that the content lean towards relating to the appointed theme. With a songsmiths — come to the stage, each invited local authors — poets, essayists, and making it a performance, it gives needed three things: “A subject, a decade ago, she recognized that scribes has never previously written a poem. experience, and have ranged from a reader must have attended an Art Garden those who have performed before. Each Garden since its inception. Generally about 15 to 17 perform at each edition, all GIs, whose notion it was years ago of time, knowing it will be performed writing something new in a short period “What’s interesting is the challenge of Ortega, poet and essayist, and a veteran Garden muse and challenge. Frank Ortega, poet and essayist, and a veteran of many Art Gardens, put it this way: “What’s interesting is the challenge of writing something new in a short period of time, knowing it will be performed live for an audience. Also, it’s ephemeral, everything comes together then whoosh — fireworks — that’s it.” Some thematic interpretations are literal, though rarely obvious, while others are a shade off-kilter. Two years ago the theme was Gold, and, according to the press release, even the initial suggestions prompted an array of ideas: “Whether it’s a wedding band, a medal for achievement, or a star on a child’s composition, gold is more than the for achievement, or a star on a child’s words or images, which makes them feel good about their humanity. “There’s widening interest in a site where people can share their own reasons,” she said. “My task now is the (Continued on page 11)
Goose

Goose terrors who would run from my entirely

Goose terrors who would run from my entirely

can be tucked into the front of a coat

It has an adjustable hook that

bulbs. It has an adjustable hook that

he throws things at the squirrels. Of

My chauffeur becomes so upset at

in the Spring they seek the seeds in

indictment of squirrels. I found that

discovered another justification for my

which the impudent little creatures

suppose. How do I know so much about

will spring from branch to branch at the

what Mr. O’Reilly calls stuff. They

are slightly more attractive than snakes

issue. And I must admit that squirrels

disturbing sight indeed.

sanctuary, it saw the store’s open door

cars and roving pedestrians. Seeking

and seeds, it encountered dangerous

Spring where instead of finding nuts

happened. The squirrel was foolish

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Nov 23 – Dec 2, 2012

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Garrison Art Center

Nov. 16, 2012 9

The Paper
Monday, November 19

Kids & Community

Bridge Club
9 a.m. - Noon, Howland Cultural Center
107 Glenclyffe Dr, Garrison
845-831-4988 | philipstownrecreation.com
Cost: $3

Little Bookworms (2 1/2 to 5 years)
1:30 p.m., Butterfield Library
10 Morris Ave, Cold Spring
845-265-3040 | butterfieldlibrary.org

Indoor Tot Park
Noon - 2 p.m., Philipstown Recreation Center
See details under Friday.

Health, Sports & Outdoors

Breast Cancer Support Group
10:15 a.m., Mahopac Public Library
686 Route 6, Mahopac
800-532-4290 | supportconnection.org

Youth Basketball Skills/Drills (Grades 6-8)
6:15 - 7:15 p.m., Philipstown Recreation Center
107 Glenclyffe Dr, Garrison
845-424-4618 | philipstownrecreation.com
Cost: $1

Men's Basketball
7:30 p.m., Philipstown Recreation Center
107 Glenclyffe Dr, Garrison
845-424-4618 | philipstownrecreation.com
Cost: $3. Philipstown residents only.

Art & Design

Reflections Renewed: Hudson River Images Revisited - Free Admission for Veterans
9:30 a.m. - 4 p.m., Boscobel
See details under Friday.

Music

Community Chorus
7 p.m., Howland Cultural Center
477 Main St, Beacon
845-831-4988 | howlandculturalcenter.org

Jazz Open Jam Session
8 p.m., Turning Point Music Cafe
468 Piermont Ave, Piermont
845-359-1089 | turningpointmusiccafe.com
Admission: $5

Meetings & Lectures

Noraville Board of Trustees
7 p.m., Village Hall
258 Main St, Noraville
845-265-2500 | noravillelibrary.org

First Presbyterian Church
9 a.m. Adult Bible Study
10:30 a.m. Services
10 Academy St, Cold Spring
845-265-3220 | presbychurchcoldspring.org

Antoinella Piemontese, youcanshallbeours/you #2, 2012, Ink on cotton, linen, frame with glass
Several printmakers in the exhibition Prints Without Pixels will be on hand for an informal discussion of their work and techniques on Saturday, Nov. 17 at 2 p.m. Hiro Ichikawa, the curator of the show, and Barbara Smith Gioia can describe the printmaking classes available at the Garrison Art Center. The discussion is at Theo Ganz Studio, 149 Main St, Beacon. For more information, visit the website theoganzstudio.com or call 917-318-2239.
O f course there is no “I” in “team,” right? What if you were the lone member of your school’s varsity program swimming for another high school? For Hyland sophomore Emmanuelle Palikuca, this is a reality she wouldn’t have any other way. Emmanuelle began swimming as a child in the pool behind her house but began swimming competitively at the age of 9. Her idols in the sport include Olympic medalists Missy Franklin and Rebecca Soni. Emmanuelle particularly admires how Franklin swam for the love of the sport and for keeping her amateur status so she could continue to swim in college. Emmanuelle herself has had to let her love of the sport continue to swim in college. Emmanuelle’s travel swim team is also Emmanuelle’s situation is very unique, she wouldn’t discourage someone else from swimming who would follow in her footsteps. “I think you really have to be committed and a team player,” she warned. “You’ll need to try and see how it goes,’ I don’t think anyone to swim for a different school.”

Emmanuelle always planned on attending Haldane High School but knew there was no varsity swim team. So as the time grew near, Emmanuelle and her mother began planning just how the young swimmer could continue the sport she loved. Her mother reached out to Haldane Athletic Director Tom Cunningham in the fall before Emmanuelle entered high school. Cunningham began the process to allow Emmanuelle to swim for Beacon High School. This was expedited because Coach Larry Colins of Beacon High School’s varsity swim team is also Emmanuelle’s travel swim coach.

Emmanuelle swims in all events but specializes in the 100-meter breaststroke and freestyle events. She views her situation as a positive way to expand her social horizons. “It’s fun to be able to go do something new,” said the swimmer. “Being in such a small school, it’s nice to meet new people, despite how cliché that sounds.” Cli-chés aside, Emmanuelle is quick to point out she is not as alone on the team as one may think. “Several of the girls I swim with for Beacon have swim on my travel teams, so I’ve been good friends with them since I was 9.”

Yet being the only varsity swimmer from her high school has its drawbacks. “Nobody here knows I swim,” said Emmanuelle, “I’m often looked at as someone who doesn’t do sports, which isn’t the case, because I think swimming is a very demanding sport.” Even though Emmanuelle’s situation is very unique, she wouldn’t discourage someone else from walking in her shoes. She did, however, bare one warning to potential future swimmers who would follow in her footsteps. “I think you really have to be committed and a team player,” she warned. “If you’re thinking, ‘Oh, let me give this a try and see how it goes,’ I don’t think it’s for you. You really need to love swimming and be committed to the team to swim for a different school.”

Despite her academic allegiance to Haldane, there is no questioning Emmanuelle’s commitment to her Beacon swim team. When asked about her own personal goals, she is quick to jump into team goals, showing her dedication to her fellow swimmers. “We are 7-1 so far and we want to keep it up. This is the best record ever for a Beacon swim team. We would also like to send more people to sectionals.” After talking to Emmanuelle briefly, it isn’t a shock that the event she is focusing on most is a team relay event. The girls’ time is one second off from a state qualifying time, and with one of the team members being a senior, Emmanuelle senses the urgency to win now.

Emmanuelle Palikuca’s future seems more will figure that out as the time draws near, but right now she has more important goals ahead of her with the Beacon swim team. She is also busy proving something else that is important for everyone to learn, something it is clear Emmanuelle understands. This truth is that no matter what the circumstances, there is never an “I” in “team.”

A Swan Song for the Art Garden (from page 7)

Irene O’Garden hosting the Snow edition of Art Garden. Photo courtesy Irene O’Garden

The Paper Nov. 16, 2012 11
Twilight Tours Show Boscobel in Different Light

Over the Thankgiving weekend, Boscobel will hold a total of six Twilight Tours. Illumination by candle creates a step back in time. Donning authentic period costume, guides will share stories of customs of the early 1800s, especially those traditions practiced by families like the Dyckmans, who wanted to flaunt their impressive wealth.

Twilight Tours take place at 6 and 6:30 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 23; 5:30 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 24 (6 p.m. on Nov. 24 has sold out at press time) and 5 and 5:30 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 25. Tours are limited to 15 people, so advance ticket purchase is highly recommended. Admission fees are $18/adult, $16/20/mem-

ers, $15/senior, $8/child 6-14 and FREE for children 5 and under. Purchase your tickets online at Boscobel.org or by phone 845-265-3638 or in person, any
day except Tuesday.

Boscobel will offer cider and cookies after each tour.

Boscobel is located on scenic Route 164 in Garrison. November and December hours are 9-30 a.m. - 4 p.m., last tour at 3 p.m. The museum and gift shop are open
every day except Tuesdays, Thanksgiving, and Christmas. For more informa-
tion, visit Boscobel.org.

Antipodean Will Sell Books Instead of Storing in Basement

Antipodean Books, Maps and Prints in Garrison reported that none of the books in their basement got wet during Hurricane Sandy, “but they’re not go-
ing back downstairs!”

The seller of fine, old and rare books and prints is now holding a Hurricane Sandy Sale, with hardcover books going for $5 each. Most volumes date from be-
fore 1970, with categories including art, architecture, literature, children’s, mili-
tary, natural history, religion, science and philosophy, travel, music, and more. Sale items will be located on white tables only.

Antipodean is open Monday through Thursday 9-30 a.m. - 5 p.m. and Saturdays and Sundays 1 - 5 p.m. The store is lo-
cated at 29-31 Garrison’s Landing in Gar-

rison. For more information, visit their website, antipodean.com, call 845-424-
3867, 914-456 9698 or 845-242 4067, or email info@antipodean.com.

Desmond-Fish Holiday Boutique Opens Nov. 24

The grand opening of the Desmond-
Fish Library’s Holiday Boutique will take place Saturday, Nov. 24 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday, Nov. 25 from 1 to 5 p.m. It will continue the following two weekends from Thursday to Sunday during

library hours. The sale is an opportunity to help out the local library, support area artisans, and shop for holiday gifts in a relaxed at-
mosphere. Hot, mulled cider and cookies will be available.

The sale includes handmade quilts, pottery, glassware, jewelry, specialty soaps, Christmas wreaths and handknit apparel. There is also a large selection of
gently used books for sale at discount prices. Edible gifts include Grandma Ple-

ey’s ginger cookies, confections and jams from Mil Galligan, and gingerbread and brownies from the Merry family.

New vendors include Leigh Schneider’s herbal skin care products. Rich Merry’s carved walking sticks, Hiko Kohayashi’s ori-
gami, and Vicki Harkness’ decorated soaps. The hours of the sale are Thursday, Nov. 29 and Dec. 6 from 2 to 9 p.m.; Fri-
days, Nov. 30 and Dec. 7 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Saturdays, Dec. 1 and 8 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; and Sundays, Dec. 2 and 9 from 1 to 5 p.m.

The Desmond-Fish Library is located in Garrison at 472 Route 403. Twenty-
five percent of sales from the boutique will benefit the library’s collections and programming. For questions about the boutique, call 845-424-3000.

Avoid Lines and Chaos at GAC Holiday Sale

The Garrison Art Center’s Annual Hol-
day Pottery Sale will open Nov. 23, Black Friday. There are many reasons for shoppers to attend the holiday sale — to avoid the lines and chaos at the malls, the traffic, the elevator Christmas music — but also to support regional art and artists, purchase unique gifts, and keep the local art center thriving. The River-
side Galleries will be filled with pottery as well as fine art and crafts. Many piec-
es have been made by a few of the artists who use the GAC’s ceramic studio to create their works. There will be more than 30 other regional artists featured.

A member-only preview and sale will take place from 1 to 5 p.m. on Black Fri-

day. Coffee and hot cider will be served. Members will get first dibs and receive a 10 percent discount. The GAC can regis-
ter new members at the preview and will make the membership good through De-

cember 2013; the member discount could also be used at next year’s member pre-

view sale!

The public opening and party is 5 to 7 p.m. that evening. Customers can en-
joy refreshments and browse the galler-

ies. The sale will also be open every day through Dec. 3, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Visit www.philipstown.info for news updates and latest information.

Guided Painting Mixes With Drinks

Eat-Paint-Love hosts Cocktails & Can-

vas events at local venues where peo-

gle can be artists for a few hours as they enjoy guided painting and cocktails.

On Sunday, Nov. 18 from 2 - 5 p.m. and Sunday, Dec. 9 from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m., Eat-Paint-Love will be hosting the first of these events to be offered in Cold Spring at The Living Room, 103 Main St. The cost is $35 per painter, which includes paints, brushes, easels, aprons and a 16-by-20 inch canvas to be painted and taken home. All guests are welcome to BYOB — bring your own beverage — and something to nibble on will be provided.

A twilight view from Boscobel’s main lawn

Photo by C. Cina

For future events and to sign up, visit the “Purchase an Event” section of eat-
paint-love.com. Select a featured paint-
ing you would like to create, with a date, time and place that will work for you, and continue to the checkout page. For more information, email info@eat-paint-

love.com.

Presbyterian Church Holds Harvest Bazaar

Saturday, Nov. 17 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., the Friendly League of The Presbyte-

rian Church will hold its annual Harvest Bazaar. Christmas crafts, baked goods of all kinds, books, jewelry, etc., will be for sale. Soup, chili, rolls, coffee cake, coffee, and tea will also be available all day. All proceeds go to the work of the church.

The Harvest Bazaar takes place at the First Presbyterian Church of Philip-

ton at 10 Academy St. in Cold Spring. For more information, call 845-265-3220.

Rabies Vaccination Clinic Rescheduled for Nov. 17

The Putnam County Department of Health is inviting county residents to bring their dogs, cats and ferrets to a FREE rabies vaccination clinic on Satur-
day, Nov. 17, from 2 to 4 p.m. at Brook Farm Veterinary Center, Routes 22 and 164, in Patterson.

County residents are asked to bring their pets’ ID as proof of Putnam County resi-
dency, as well as written proof of prior rabies vaccination. Tags will not be ac-
cepted. Without written certificate docu-

mentation prior rabies vaccination, pets will receive a one-year rabies vaccine. All dogs must be leashed, and cats and fer-

rets must be in a carrier. An animal infor-

mation/release form will be available and can be completed at the clinic site. For more information and directions, please call the Putnam County Department of Health at 845-808-1390, Ext. 44127.

For more information, visit the Depart-

ment of Health website at putnamcount-
y.com or (Continued on next page)
Opera in Service of Dogs: A Benefit Concert by Solaris Voices

Saturday’s concert raises funds for Beacon Dog Park

O

n Saturday, Nov. 17 at 6:30 p.m., mezzo-soprano Audrey Babcock and soprano Irina Mozyleva will join vocal forces at the Howland Cultural Center in a benefit for the Friends of Beacon Dog Park. The program will include art songs, opera arias and duets celebrating beloved pets, animals, nature and a wom-anhood. The varied repertoire includes the Flower Duet from the opera Lakmé, Rossini’s Cats duet, and songs featuring the works of contemporary poets. Also on the program are works by Mendelssohn, Poulenc, Weill and Bernstein. Babcock and Mozyleva will be accompanied by Miriam Charnley and Douglas Coates.

Babcock, Mozyleva, and Coates are all residents of Beacon and have themselves opened their homes to rescued pets. “When Audrey and I thought of doing a concert together, the choice of having the concert to benefit the Beacon Dog Park was a natural one for both of us,” said Mozyleva. “My husband, Aryeh Siegel, donated his architectural services to design the dog park, and our family and two dogs, two cats, five fish and two shrimp – a full house. Audrey and her husband David Majzlin have two gor-

Cancer Support Available in Hudson Valley

S

upport Connection, Inc., a not-for-profit organization that provides free, confidential support services for people affected by breast and ovarian cancer, of-

fers a wide range of free support groups for women with breast and ovarian cancer.

Groups focus on topics pertaining to living with cancer through all stages of diagnosis, treatment and post-treatment. They are offered in Westchester, Putnam and Dutchess Counties, and by toll-free teleconference. For a complete calendar of groups at all locations, visit supportconnection.org. Advance registration is required for all groups; call 914-962-6492 or 800-532-4290.

The following support groups are scheduled in Putnam and Dutchess in December:

At Putnam Hospital Center in Carmel:

1. Breast and Ovarian Cancer Support Group: Monday, Dec. 10 at 10 a.m.

2. Breast and Ovarian Cancer Support Group: Wednesday, Dec. 19 at 7 p.m.

3. Breast Cancer Support Group: Thurs-

day, Dec. 20 at 7 p.m.

At Mahopac Public Library in Mahopac:

• Breast Cancer Support Group: Mon-
day, Dec. 17 at 10:15 a.m.

East Fishkill Community Library in Hopewell Junction:

• Breast and Ovarian Cancer Support Group: Tuesday, Dec. 11 at 10:15 a.m.

For tickets visit cfhvny.org. To read more about the performers and the dog park, visit solarisvoices.org, audreybabcock.com, irinamosyleva.com and beacondogpark.org.

By teleconference:

For those unable to attend groups in-

Cancr, there are monthly Telephone Support Groups via toll-free teleconfer-

e, enabling women to participate re-
gardless of their location and from the comfort of their homes. Call a few days ahead to learn how to participate.

The Ovarian Cancer Telephone Group will take place on Wednesday, Dec. 12 at 8 p.m. The Telephone Group for Women Recently Diagnosed or in Treatment for Breast Cancer will take place on Tuesday, Dec. 18 at 8 p.m.

Visit the online fundraising page at firstgiving.com/supportconnection.

This year’s focus to “re-invent, re-
cycle and rejoin” is Beacon’s answer to “Where should we go this year to cel-
brate the holidays?” For more informa-
tion on this event and all of the Beacon Holiday Events, go to beaconarts.org.

Nature Museum Presents

Bear Necessities

T

he Hudson Highlands Nature Muse-

um, in partnership with the Hudson Highlands Land Trust, is bringing its environmental expertise to the east side of the Hudson. On Sunday, Dec. 2 from 2 – 3:30 p.m. families will learn about Or-

tange County’s largest mammal, the black bear, at Hubbard Lodge, 2880 Route 9 in Cold Spring.

While human populations have been increasing, bear populations have also been expanding. Environmental Edu-
cator Carl Heitmuller will speak about the black bears that share our landscape. Discussions will include how to avoid bear conflicts, hibernation, bear biology and anatomy using bear skulls and pelts.

Hubbard Lodge is part of Fahanstock State Park, and the sign for the entrance is on the east side of Route 9 just north of Route 301. This program is for adults with or without children, and for chil-
dren ages 5 and older. Admission fees will help care for the museum’s ani-
mals at the Wildlife Education Center in Cornwall. Admission is $7 for adults and $5 for children ages 5-12. Museum mem-
bers pay $5 per adult and $3 for children ages 5-12. For more information, call 845-554-5906, Ext. 204.

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Regency Glaze

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Sunken Mine Road Hike: A Morning Exploration

By Alison Rooney

Perhaps it was a wistful attachment to autumn, and its vibrant leaves, as the threat of a storm loomed, but an enthusiastic group of walkers took to the road — Sunken Mine Road, in Fahnestock Park — seduced by the burnished orange and red vistas and the description of the walk: “A morning exploration of the wonders of Sunken Mine Road, a section of Fahnestock Park rarely seen by most park visitors — exploring a whole variety of birds, wildlife, plants, mushrooms, and just about anything seen or heard on this 1-to 2-mile walk. A beaver pond, a lake, and a cascading stream all are part of the itinerary.”

Sponsored by Putnam Highlands Audubon Society, the walk on Saturday, Oct. 27 was conducted by the very knowledgeable Ian Kingsley, who graduated Oct. 27 was conducted by the very knowledgeable Ian Kingsley, who graduated from the SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry two years ago. Kingsley, who now works as an arborist, was very familiar with both the woods and the enormous variety of tree, plant and bird life found within.

During the walk Kingsley pointed out varieties of trees, grasses, insects, fungi groundcovers and everything else growing in the woods and noted the many challenges to their survival in the woods. He pointed out several varieties of fungi, including tinder conk, which had adjoined to trees, causing slow destruction. Sometimes it is a multiparticipant chain, for example there is a scale insect that feeds on the bark of a beech tree in search of feeding tubes. This wounds the tree and allows fungi to take hold. Participants were instructed to bring binoculars if they could, and Kingsley frequently brought the group to a halt, hearing a bird song; seconds later, the bird could usually be spotted. Amongst the many trees and shrubs seen along the route, the group encountered witch hazel, Christmas fern; barberry (really invasive, according to Kingsley); ironwood trees with their striated bark; mapleleaf viburnum (with an instruction given to never eat berries of that color — blue — except blueberries and huckleberries); Virginia creeper vine; cloethria; mugwort (“Don’t allow it to spread — it has brittle white roots and it’s really hard to get out”). Lilac; shagbark hickory; meadow rue; a chestnut tree; wintergreen; witches’ butter; spicebush; black birch; and elderberry (“You can make jam and jelly from it as long as you cook the berries, or else…”).

Birds sighted included juncos; white-throated sparrows; swamp sparrows; dowry woodpeckers; and hairy woodpeckers. Passing a large lake that the road skirts along, Kingsley pointed out the handiwork of beavers — at least a pair, possibly two pairs, have been traversing a series of ponds and lakes here and northwards, building dams. A “beaver deceiver” piping device, which helps with water control and flooding issues, is located in the pond. As beavers are nocturnal, none were spotted during the walk. Participating in the walk was Ralph Odell, master birder and retired director of Natural Resource Protection with the Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation for New York state as well as board member of Putnam Highlands Audubon. Obviously, a font of knowledge, Odell enhanced the walks with his asides everything from the toothpaste properties of sassafras leaves to his own childhood experiences along this very trail. It was then privately owned, by Bill and Alice Field, and “so pristine because Alice was tough about it — she’d say ‘I have about thirty-six hundred acres here and if I walk into it, I’m disturbing wildlife.’”

Sunken Mine Road was named for the water control and flooding issues, is located in the pond. As beavers are nocturnal, none were spotted during the walk. Participating in the walk was Ralph Odell, master birder and retired director of Natural Resource Protection with the Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation for New York state as well as board member of Putnam Highlands Audubon. Obviously, a font of knowledge, Odell enhanced the walks with his asides everything from the toothpaste properties of sassafras leaves to his own childhood experiences along this very trail. It was then privately owned, by Bill and Alice Field, and “so pristine because Alice was tough about it — she’d say ‘I have about thirty-six hundred acres here and if I walk into it, I’m disturbing wildlife.’”

Kingsley was happy to conduct the walk on behalf of Putnam Highlands Audubon. He spoke of how difficult it was to get young people — referring to those in their twenties and early thirties — out exploring nature; he feels there’s a gap between childhood enthusiasm for the outdoors, and the time when people come to appreciate it all again, usually when they’re 35 or beyond. Countering the trend, a group of Haldane ninth-graders were also visiting Sunken Mine Road that day; on a hike with English teacher Mike Klubnik, the two groups passing each other en route. This is the second nature walk Kingsley has conducted and he is planning to do more. To be placed on the Putnam Highlands Audubon email list, visit them online at putnamhighlandsaudubon.org.

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<th>Day</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<td>Monday</td>
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<td>Bodylanguage Total Body Fitness Training</td>
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<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>9-10:30 am</td>
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<td>Thursday</td>
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Photos by A Rooney
Lawyering up – latest round

The board also again discussed the Hist-
oric District Review Board’s insistence on its
own attorney, ostensibly sought for as-
sistance with an upcoming public hearing on
demolition of the old Butterfield Hos-
pital. The HDRB has repeatedly clashed
on demolition of the old Butterfield Hos-

torial preservation and demolition.

...as well as with Gallagher over the
Butterfield project, the HDRB’s role, and

torney, as well as with Gallagher over the

hospital. The HDRB has repeatedly clashed
its own attorney, ostensibly sought for as-

protection and demolition.

On Oct. 23, the Village Board voted
1 to 1 to allow the HDRB to consult an
outside lawyer, though the debate con-
tinue. Tuesday’s go-round ended with an
informal board consensus that if the
trustees wish to supply the HDRB with

a public hearing

the HDRB request and “the risks to the

25 years experience

ability to handle that himself, he said,

The mayor observed that Butterfield Re-

“the HDRB uses its own lawyer.

the weight of the thing has reached the

point where if the HDRB feels this way

us as much as possible,” he said.

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4 to 1 to allow the HDRB to consult an
outside lawyer, though the debate con-
tinue. Tuesday’s go-round ended with an
informal board consensus that if the
trustees wish to supply the HDRB with

the HDRB request and “the risks to the

an outside lawyer, they will interview the
potential candidate and see if the choice
makes sense. “The Village Board should
do the same things, basically, that
Steve [Gaba] would do” for a public hear-
ing. “I’m very confident in Steve” and his
ability to handle that himself, he said,

noting that Gaba has 25 years experience

in advising municipalities and handling
litigation. Furthermore, “when the village
gets sued, it’s the village that gets sued,”
not the HDRB, the mayor said. “It’s our
decision who their attorney is, just as it’s
our decision what kind of code we adopt,
what our vision of a historic district is. We
put it into code and they [HDRB mem-
bers] administer it. When it seems like
they’re doing more than just administer-
ing it, it’s up to us to say, ‘Yes; no; this
makes sense; this doesn’t make sense.’”

Trustee Matt Francisco, Village Board
liaison to the HDRB until a recent re-
shuffle, pointed to HDRB perceptions of
meddling. “We’ve seen a lot of commu-
nication and e-mails where the word ‘in-
terference’ is being used,” he said. “That’s
why I want to stay, very clear, on the right
side of this, as far as their right to seek in-
dependent counsel. I don’t want decisions
that are made and everybody saying they
are made and there are issues of inter-
ference. To the extent that we can avoid
issues at the same cost [of attorney ser-
vices] I would like to do that.” However,
he also asked Gaba about the propriety of
the HDRB request and “the risks to the
village if an autonomous board is allowed
to go get independent counsel.”

The mayor identified the central stick-
ing point as not one of interference but
interpretation. “The danger for us is not
the issue of interference, because what
we’re talking about is interpretation of
the code, which is really what we’re there
for,” he said. “The danger is when you’re
not adhering to the code or you have ex-
parte communications, things like that.”

Asked by Francisco to weigh in, Gaba
said that the Village Board “is the only
one that can approve that expenditure”
of an HDRB lawyer. The HDRB “can’t
go out and hire their own attorney. The
[Village] Board can say ‘no’ to that,” he
said. At the same time, he cautioned, “it
would put me in a very difficult position
at this point if I had to go and represent
them. They should be comfortable with
the counsel they have. I think perhaps
the weight of the thing has reached the
point where if the HDRB feels this way
perhaps it would be best for everyone” if
the HDRB used its own lawyer.

The mayor observed that Butterfield Re-
ally LLC, the hospital property owner and
seeker of the demolition permit, has re-
portedly hired its own top-notch litigation
lawyer, skilled in municipal law and board
processes. Consequently, “it wants me to
have our best team together, to protect
ourselves as much as possible,” he said.
Last Sunday evening's sold-out performance (Nov. 11) of John Gay's The Beggar's Opera at the Depot Theatre completed the production's successful three-week run. The show featured several of Philipstown's finest actors and singers joined on stage with musicians from well-known orchestras in New York City.

"Conducting and directing are not about control or power. They are exercises in humility, proof that greater powers exist ready to come to life — composers, authors and performers," said Gordon Stewart.

Look for a presentation of highlights from the production on Philipstown.info in the near future.

Photos by Ross Corsair

Members of the ensemble

LOCKIT (Sterling Swann)