Nothing says Thanksgiving more than a family sitting down together to share a bountiful meal. For some families, thanks for the meal goes to the Philipstown Food Pantry, which provides food to area families in need year-round. Its mission somehow goes to the Philipstown Food Pantry, a donor with the rest of the special meal together to share a bountiful meal.

Food Pantry Continues Community Service Tradition

Thanksgiving dinner with all the trimmings

By Michael Turton

Food Pantry

Poverty is not a term that describes how average residents of Garrison, Cold Spring and other parts of Philipstown live. But there are people here in need of even the basics, not the least of which is food. The Philipstown Food Pantry, a mission of the First Presbyterian Church of Philipstown, is based in the church hall at 10 Academy St., in Cold Spring. Andrea Bach serves as coordinator.

“These are not people who sit around doing nothing,” Bach said, describing those who rely on the pantry for survival. “These are the working poor. For those who rely on the pantry for survival, it means holding two or three jobs, and still there isn’t enough money at the end of the month.”

Helping the hungry

This year, the pantry provided all the ingredients for Thanksgiving dinner to more than 30 families. Baskets included a large turkey, gravy, potatoes, fresh vegetables, pie and more. Turkeys were again provided by a single, anonymous donor with the rest of the special meal courtesy of donations from many members of the Philipstown community and area businesses.

Plumbush School Approved by Town Planning Board

Warehouse plan for Cyberchron site also reviewed

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

The Philipstown Planning Board Thursday (Nov. 21) approved plans for turning Plumbush Inn into a primary school, after the applicant, Manitou Properties Co. LLC, agreed to install a sprinkler system to increase safety in the historic building.

At the meeting, its monthly session, the board also began reviewing a proposal to convert the Cyberchron facility on Route 9 into a warehouse, nearly double in size of the current structure. (Some 75 Cyberchron employees once produced rugged, military-scale computers there.)

Manitou Properties school at Plumbush

Although their attorney argued that the law does not demand a sprinkler system, another Manitou Properties representative promised to provide it after Planning Board members again sharply questioned why the school, a for-profit venture, would not include sprinklers, required or not. A blaze broke out in the building in 2010 but did not thwart inn operations for long. Last summer, Manitou Properties announced plans to buy the property—now formally known as Plumbush Inn at the Parrot House—for a new school for children from preschool to grade 6.

Planning Board Member Anthony D. “Ade” Merante noted that the house is “an old wooden building with 75 young children” anticipated as enrollees. He said that in an emergency “you’re going to have significant problems” getting everyone out and that the board did not feel confident the pupils would be safe. He also observed that the building would have no elevator, which, he said, would handicap individuals from seeking employment in the upstairs offices. Manitou Properties indicated it “can’t afford an elevator and can’t afford a sprinkler system. I find that a bit daunting even to experienced professionals.”

Their Town

Young actors with Cold Spring roots share lead roles in drama

By Alison Rooney

Half a century ago, this year is Thornton Wilder’s emblematic American classic, Our Town. This is the 75th anniversary of the playwright’s greatest drama, and the role of the Stage Manager (the character name) is ambitious, with pages of uninterrupted text. The role is daunting even to experienced professionals. Director Martha Mchelakos, working with a complete double Cast (down to the smallest roles) chosen two young actors to play the roles: Aidan Gallagher, 17, a senior, who will perform Friday night, and Nolan Shea, 15, a sophomore, who performs on Saturday night. She based her decision on their auditions, and didn’t realize until it was pointed out later that, in...
The Scale of Things

For the longest time, I was convinced I had a problem with schedules. My parents, who can hardly bring themselves to steep a cup of tea for a visitor unless it was written down in their calendars ahead of time, have frequently lamented my capriciousness in their calendars ahead of time, have frequently lamented my capriciousness when it comes to making plans. They know, as of this writing, what they will be doing for most of March.

I, meanwhile, am not sure what I’m doing tomorrow.

Yet I realized some years back that I am no outlier in this regard; this is how most of my friends are, too. Our work lives may be governed by demanding timetables, of my friends are, too. Our work lives may be governed by demanding timetables, but our downtime is something we most-...
Food Pantry Continues Community Service Tradition

About 60 families are registered with the food pantry including as many as 10 seniors. On a normal Saturday morning, 20 to 25 families come to pick up food, but at Thanksgiving, traffic in and out of the pantry increases. Bach said that this year has been more difficult for some families, in part because social security payments have not increased in three years. The food stamp program also has recently cut back benefits.

“The law was changed in 2010 and food stamp cuts started this October,” she said. The initial decrease was $11 per person. “That may not seem much to you and me, but to someone who budgets every penny, it’s a lot. We’ve added four or five new families since October,” Bach said, adding that food stamp benefits can only be used for food—not personal care items such as soap, shampoo or toothpaste. The pantry does accept personal care products as donations.

Plumbush School Approved by Town Planning Board

Referring to himself as “one of the applicants and owners” of the school venture, Rajay Bagaria then informed the board that “I think we’re comfortable with the plans and site plan.” A similar notation is to be inscribed on the site plan itself. According to Tim Miller, of Tim Miller & Associates, Invites residents of the Garrison Fire Protection District to an information meeting regarding the Company’s request for an increase in its CF Diversified Corp. rating in the resolution granting site-plan approval that the main building would be fully equipped with an appropriate sprinkler system. A similar notation is to be inscribed on the site plan itself. The board passed the resolution.

Strengthening opposition from neighbors, she had no consideration whatsoever of fire safety and welfare in the town” and “to be consistent with the public health, safety and welfare in the town” and “to be consistent with the wetland.” Board Member Neal Everard to the wetland.” Board Member Neal Zuckerman wondered “what is going to be stored, and for what purpose?”

Susan Casmorton volunteers at the pantry along with her son, Steven, at Haldane High School and a former Scout leader. “It’s just something we always wanted to do. You don’t find time for it — until you make time for it,” she said. One thing that impresses Casmorton about the operation is that nothing goes to waste — with leftovers going to other local organizations such as St. Christopher’s Inn at Graymoor and the Walter Hoving Home in Garrison. She also sees the pantry as a place where community residents give of themselves. “I’m constantly amazed by the ex-Cyberchron building as “a paradise warehouse” for the owners’ personal items. Miller said the warehouse would not be open to the public and would generate little traffic. Also, he told the board, “there will be no disturbance whatsoever to the wetland.” Board Member Neal Zuckerman wondered “what is going to be stored, and for what purpose?”

Plumbush School Approved by Town Planning Board

Board Member Steve Gaba said that “all site plans are supposed to be consistent with the public health, safety and welfare in the town” and “to say that on site-plan approval the board has no consideration whatsoever of fire safety is a bit of an overstatement.” However, given Bagaria’s declaration of Manhattan’s art collection. Subsequently encoun-
tering opposition from neighbors, she withdrew the application.

Two sources familiar with Planning Board activities confirmed that Olspan’s project involves Spanu.

The Garrison Volunteer Fire Company invites residents of the Garrison Fire Protection District to an information meeting regarding the Company’s request for an increase in its Length of Service Awards Program (LOSAP) benefits. The meeting will be at the Garrison Fire Co. Station Two Firehouse 1616 Route Nine 1 p.m., Sunday Dec. 1, 2013

Help Your Child Ace the College Essay

As a parent, could you fit your whole life onto three pages? Would you be able to write an introspective, thoughtful essay about yourself in 650 words? Your teen’s life experiences and extra-curricular activities can count for up to 40% of a college’s decision for acceptance – but only if their gifts shine through their essays.

Sound tough? It is. Help your son or daughter. How? We’re here. We have 25 + years of experience writing and editing for publications like the Wall Street Journal and the New York Times. We know how to make your child’s unique voice come through. We’ve also tutored hundreds of kids who’ve raised their SAT scores by 100 points, per test, and helped them get into better colleges. No small feat, considering 1.4 million kids applied for only 375,000 spots last year.

Contact Cynthia Kling at the Tutor Group: 845-265-2117 or email cking@panix.com

The Desmond-Fish Library

Holiday Boutique

Continues for two more long weekends

Thursdays - Sundays during library hours

December 5-15

Our boutique features gently used books & the finest hand crafted items from the Hudson Valley;

Holiday wreaths, quilts, hand made sweaters, hand painted silk scarves, pottery, jewelry, artistic photos, Grandma Phens’s Ginger Cookies, all natural bath and body products and much, much more.

Upscale Bake Sale

Sunday, December 15

Gourmet treats

At the Boutique

by the Friends of the Desmond-Fish Library

372 Route 9D Garrison, NY 10524

845-424-3020 desmondfishlibrary.org
LOSAP helps retain active volunteer firefighters

To: Philipstown Town Board Members,
Garrison Taxpayers

Re: Garrison LOSAP parity with neighboring towns

Our primary goal is to continue to provide fire and rescue services to our neighbors, the Garrison of the Garrison Fire Protection District, whom we have served since 1929.

To accomplish that goal, we face a difficult task of recruiting and retaining active firefighters. Many hours are invested in training new firefighters, and a good deal of money is banked in their gear (which is required by government regulations).

We need to protect that investment.

One program that has been working across the county is the Length of Service Awards Program (LOSAP), which provides active volunteer firefighters with a monetary benefit for reaching retirement age. LOSAP programs are authorized and controlled by state laws. LOSAP not only helps recruit, but more importantly it retains active volunteer firefighters. Fire districts that provide LOSAP benefits are better able to keep volunteers active than those that do not.

All four Philipstown fire departments have LOSAP plans. However, the Garrison Fire Department’s plan offers half the benefits of the other departments’ plans. We would like to have LOSAP parity with other departments in our community.

The Cold Spring, North Highmount, and North Central fire department plans provide quality facilities with a consistent design aesthetic while utilizing sustainable/green building practices and respecting historic character. The first project, the remodeling and winterization of the public bathhouse and life-guard facility, reflects this goal. Design on this initial phase was done “in house” by the Taconic Region of the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (NYSOPRH), under the supervision of senior architect Patrick Kozakiewicz, who advocated for restoration and renovation of the existing 30-plus-year-old building.

“One of the best things we can do to green is to reuse our existing buildings,” Kozakiewicz said. “It’s a good sustainable practice and makes the most sense in this case.”

On a tour of the almost-complete bathhouse building, Kozakiewicz pointed out many of the new features, including private toilet and shower facilities intended for family use and complete renovation of other areas designed for multiple patrons, the family rooms being a recent trend. “Sun tunnels” skylights and supplementary windows have been added to provide healthy natural light while artificial light is achieved with the latest LED technology designed to last more than 20 years. The building has been fitted with a new and efficient heating and ventilation system exceeding stringent code requirements. Now there is a zoned heat system designed to be used year round during the ski season as needed. Hot water for showers and sinks is provided by an array of solar thermal panels.

In addition to bathing facilities, on the beach side of the bathhouse is there is a New First Aid Center with life-guard facilities. Just outside this area is an exterior shower pedestal, a convenience much appreciated by beach users who need to quickly rinse off and depart.

The concession area, café space and ski center, is slated for renovation next. The design for this facility will be by Sullivan Architects. Newly-created vents will help retain heat in the winter while also better define pedestrian circulation. Reorganizing interior spaces will increase the amount of space and storage for the booming cross-country ski, snowshoe, and tube rentals. A new expansion of the building will give more space to the popular Acorn Café and the kitchen which serves it. Along with this, the new restrooms will help improve circulation and the overall patron experience. Stonewall seating and a fire pit will be the centerpiece of a naturally inspired and more functional outdoor space.

Building improvements slated

After this work is completed, plans shift to the beach area, dredging and expanding so that the beach is naturalized and has more water retention, and improving swimming areas. Also noted in the master plan: The beach will be made smaller and grass will be planted adjacent to the walkway and on both sides of the existing beach. The grass will be an alternative to the sand and will form a buffer to reduce erosion into the lake during rain events. A fully accessible fishing pier is to be installed, boat rentals will take place closer to the beach and the barbecue areas are to be moved. Grassy areas will be created, for non-sand activities. Features are to include beach volleyball, a new playground, an area for kayaking and a trail around the lake.

The projected work has taken into consideration the natural resources of the area and has...
Vera’s Market to Stay Open This Winter
New hours, products and business neighbors
By Michael Turton

Local residents are sure to do a double-take when an event — that like stockwork has always signaled the beginning of winter — fails to take place this year. Vera’s Philipstown Market will not close for the season. The popular roadside produce-and-more stand, located on Route 9 south of Fishkill Road, will keep its doors open after Christmas instead of closing as it has in the past.

“We feel that if we’re going to try it for a year — this is the year to do it,” Dominic Giordano said. “And we’ll add some winter hardware items such as salt, firewood, shovels and charcoal.” Vera’s opened in June 1983, and operating the business is no soft touch. Asked what the most difficult aspect is, Joanne replied, “It’s hard work, hard labor — seven days a week,” to which Dominic added, “And it’s hard being away from the rest of our families so much.”

While it’s a challenge, they also see the bright side of the business. Joanne pointed to “Working together as a family” as one of the best aspects. Dominic complimented the quality of their customer base. “A lot of people come here because they really want to support local businesses.”

Joanne refers to those customers as, “The best in the Hudson Valley” — but is also willing to poke fun at them. “I love it when customers come in April and ask if all the produce is local!” But she was also quick to add that she’s seen a big improvement in people’s buying habits over the years. “People used to buy produce in bulk. There was a lot of waste. The store and Ios were very wasteful,” she said. “But now, people are much smarter with their shopping. They buy produce in smaller amounts, every two or three days. They’re very loyal — and they really like shopping locally.”

One thing that she said has not changed over the years is the dependability and quality of produce from regional farms that the market offers. “Walkill View Farms, Soons Orchards, Four Winds Farm — they’re all so great,” she said. During winter months, when regional produce is unavailable, Vera’s brings in products from further afield and will continue to offer value-added food products such as Reggiano cheese, olive oil and pasta imported from Italy.

Sitting at a picnic table in the kitchen area, the three Giordanos grabbed a steaming bowl of Vera’s homemade lentil soup, an old family recipe. Vera praised her grandchildren who often help at the market — including with Christmas tree sales this time of year. And while the market that bears her name will be staying open this winter, don’t look for Vera behind the counter. “I’m going down to Florida from the end of January until the end of March,” she said. When asked if Dominic and Joanne would be flying down to visit her, the three responded in near-perfect unison. “Are you kidding? We see each other seven days a week at the store!”

Cold Spring Coffee Pantry winter hours are: Monday through Wednesday, 6:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Thursday-Friday, 6:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday, 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. For On the Fly classes call 845-265-2830.

Resisting Fahnestock (from previous page)

been designed to respect and maintain species diversity. Katrina Shinleddecker, president of the Friends of Fahnestock and Hudson Highlands State Parks (FOPHHP), the all-volunteer nonprofit group dedicated to preserving, protecting, and improving the two new businesses to succeed.” After marketing the market in tandem with his mother Vera, his sister Joanne, and his cousin Maria, Giordano said of the decision to re-open the business neighbors — Cold Spring Coffee Pantry and On the Fly Cycling Studio. Both are tenants of the Giordanos and located in the same building. Staying open is a move to change the mindset of their customers who are used to seeing the building close beginning of winter — fails to take place this year. Vera’s Philipstown Market will stay open this winter along with two adjacent businesses, Cold Spring Coffee Pantry and On the Fly Cycling Studio.

Shinleddecker of FOPHHP added, “Campground and beach use have actually increased in recent years because many people aren’t taking big long-distance family vacations anymore. And then many of these park visitors head into Cold Spring afterwards and act as economic drivers. For me at the core is remembering to step back and focus on family and about what matters: making those memories for families. We want this place to be just that — a clean, safe and fun place where families can come to unplug and make great memories for generations to come.”

PHILPSTOWN DEPOT THEATRE

Philpstown Youth Players present: Treasure Island
by Robert Louis Stevenson, adapted by Diana Hirn, directed by Jean Lee and Diana Hirn
Friday, Dec. 6 at 7pm, Saturday, Dec. 7 at 3pm and 6pm • Tickets $12

Treasure Island: What Happened Next, A Play Reading
Saturday, Dec. 14 at 1pm, Sunday Dec. 15 at 2pm • Tickets $5 at the door

Tickets: www.brownpapertickets.com
www.philpstowndepottheatre.org • Garrison Landing, Garrison, NY

Custom-Printed Wall Vinyl

You design it - we print it in a variety of colors.
ARTWORK - GRAPHICS WORDS
Any Size - Any Shape
The possibilities are endless!
The Paper: How far back do your Philipstown roots go?

Nolan Shea: I think about 400 years — wait, let me text my father. (The correct information: “since before 1870” was relayed later.)

Aidan Gallagher: On my mother’s side of the family I believe it goes back to my great-grandfather — in that vicinity. My father’s family came from Ireland and Austria and I don’t think they have been living here, a lot like how it is in Our Town, as if we’re a big family, rather than reasons why everyone is so close. … it’s all because of what the town is, but we’re so similar it’s an interesting mirror of the play itself.

Shea: What is Philipstown’s soul?

Gallagher: I feel there is only one answer and that’s the Hudson River. If we were to be moved away from the Hudson, Cold Spring would never be anything remotely close to being the town it is today. All of the nature around us, the people that visit, and the image of the town would be completely different. The Hudson River is what made this town what it is today.

Gallagher: The soul of Cold Spring, to me, is its generational aspect. For hundreds of years, the same families have been living here, a lot like how it is in Our Town. And this contributes to the reason why everyone is so close … it’s almost as if we’re a big family, rather than small village, as cliché as it sounds.

The Paper: What was your reaction upon being cast as the Stage Manager?

Shea: It’s positive, I really enjoy seeing my cousins.

The Paper: In “Our Town” George (the young male character) decides against going away to agricultural college because he can get more from staying home. Do you plan on remaining in this area?

Gallagher: Because I’ve had such a small upbringing I would want future generations of Gallaghers to have a similar experience. It is very important to me that my family continues to live here.

Shea: I’m just a sophomore — I have no idea yet.

The Paper: In the first scenes of the play, the Stage Manager sets the scene of the town. “Up here is Main Street; way back there is the railway station … ’ There are references to the churches, Town Hall, the grocery store, the cemetery, and, particularly apply: “The same names as are around here now.” Does this sound, in many ways, like a contemporary description to you?

Gallagher: Yes, completely. It’s amazing how similar it is, from the rows of stores, to the churches found on the small hilltop overlooking off of Main Street. And it’s an expression of how in a small town everybody knows everything about everybody.

Gallagher: You can’t do anything without everyone knowing.

The Paper: The geographical setting is unusually similar to Cold Spring as well. As is this description of life here: “We’ve got a lot of pleasures here. We like the sun coming up over the mountain in the morning. We all notice a good deal about the birds. We watch the change of the seasons.” When you describe “Grover’s Corners’” are you envisioning this town as you speak?

Shea: In one scene in particular, at the beginning of Act III, I’ve planned out all the cousins I’m describing, watching them from standing on a hilltop: the range of hills, lakes in front of me.

Gallagher: Most Stage Managers have to fabricate some visual representation of what the town is, but we’re so similar it’s easier to visualize. I see Storm King, Bull Hill, all these different mountains.

The Paper: In the play a cornerstone is placed in a bank being built which will give people a thousand years from now an idea of the way we are now. What would you place in one now, for the same purpose?

Gallagher: If Cold Spring were to make a cornerstone for future generations to see what life was like here, it might almost seem necessary to include a scale model of the gazebo, which seems integral to the community of the village. Or maybe even a painting of a local range of mountains, to reflect on the scenic parts of Cold Spring. It’s things like that — that identity Cold Spring as Cold Spring.

Shea: There are a lot of things I would like to put in the cornerstone but the most important ones are: a piece of the great chain that crossed the Hudson; a cannon ball forged at the foundry; a piece of granite from the quarry at Little Stony Point; a model of the gazebo; a painting of the Hudson River; and finally a picture of everyone in the whole town down in the cemetery on Memorial Day.

The Paper: What would you call the “soul” of Cold Spring? Is it a specific location, a time in history, something about the people who choose to live here, some feature of the landscape, or anything else?

Shea: I feel there is only one answer and that’s the Hudson River. If we were to be moved away from the Hudson, Cold Spring would never be anything remotely close to being the town it is today. All of the nature around us, the people that visit, and the image of the town would be completely different. The Hudson River is what made this town what it is today.

Gallagher: The soul of Cold Spring, to me, is its generational aspect. For hundreds of years, the same families have been living here, a lot like how it is in Our Town. And this contributes to the reason why everyone is so close … it’s almost as if we’re a big family, rather than small village, as cliché as it sounds.

The Paper: What was your reaction upon being cast as the Stage Manager?

Gallagher: At first it was intimidating; it was a cumbersome amount of lines. But I’ve found it’s easier for me to channel this character because it’s so easy for me to relate to him.

Shea: When the casting list was put up I started looking at [the character of] George and followed down from there. I thought I guess I didn’t get a part, and then I moved my eyes to the top and couldn’t believe it. I read the play last year in drama so I knew it, but now I’ve read it eight or nine times and it has stuck to me. It was terrifying at first but I’m a lot happier with it now. It’s a lot to learn but we’re trying to break it up and we’re excited to do it.

Gallagher: It’s terrifying but exhilarating.

The Paper: There is a lot of conjecture about who or what the Stage Manager is; some say he is God, others disagree. What do you think?

Gallagher: It’s universally acknowledged that he is some sort of deity, but he is also a civilian in the town. He’s enlightening the audience as to the daily lives of the people, so in that sense he’s a human being, but he’s all-knowing too. The spectrum is broad because of the two different roles he has.

The Paper: One of the Stage Manager’s lines goes something like: “You’re 21 and you make a few decisions then whiskish, you’re 70 … and that white-haired lady at your side has eaten over 50,000 meals with you. How do such big things begin?” As 17- and 25-year-olds, can you relate to that idea?

Gallagher: Yes. It’s weird, but it’s so true. Time goes by so quickly, and you can easily make rash decisions, which then affect so much of your life.

Shea: You see, through the play, how much can happen in just nine years, and you realize it’s true.

The Paper: How do you think the Haldane High School audience will react to this production?

Gallagher: I can’t even begin to imagine. It has a very solemn atmosphere. Shea: It does start out funny — and we’ll definitely be playing those scenes out.

Gallagher: I think the high school and the community will respect it. Maybe it’s not “entertaining” as some of our other shows in a ha-ha kind of way; it’s more of a moral and ethical play.

Shea: It’s kind of a test run to see if we can continue to do stuff like this in the future.

Gallagher: It’s almost a play about Cold Spring. The audience will see it as an accurate reflection of life here and I think they will really enjoy it.

Our Town will be performed at the Haldane auditorium at 7 p.m. on Dec. 6 and 7. Tickets, available at the door, are $12 for adults, and $5 for seniors and students.

The Paper: In “Our Town” the audience gets to see the entire panorama of human life… how much can happen in just nine years.

Gallagher: Absolutely. It’s amazing how much can happen in just nine years, and you realize it’s true.

The Paper: How do you think the Haldane High School audience will react to this production?

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Our Town will be performed at the Haldane auditorium at 7 p.m. on Dec. 6 and 7. Tickets, available at the door, are $12 for adults, and $5 for seniors and students.
Haldane Drama Presents
Thornton Wilder’s ‘Our Town’

Play poses big questions in small town Dec. 6 and 7

By Alison Rooney

D r. Eric Richter, who has taught English and dramatic literature at Haldane High School for decades, began including ‘Our Town’ as a class text about seven years ago. “What I like about it,” he says, “is the characters they can relate to.”

Richter had been gently urging Haldane Drama Director Martha Mechalakos to consider ‘Our Town’ for the fall drama production for a few years, and this year, the 75th anniversary of the original production, she decided to challenge students used to appearing on not just small-town life, but life itself. By all accounts the students — so many eager to appear in it that during the audition process Mechalakos decided to double-cast each of the 20-plus roles — have embraced the play, which they will present on Dec. 6 and 7 at Haldane.

Mechalakos began the rehearsal period by gathering the cast together to talk about the play and their response to its content. Divided into three acts, the play, alternately (and sometimes concurrently) comedic and reflective, ultimately grapples with questions about eternity and whether human beings are capable of fully appreciating the day-to-day moments, which collectively equal one’s life. Mechalakos insisted that each cast member read the whole play, advising them “there is information about your character not necessarily in the scenes you are in.” She also urges them to “find out what all the words mean, and if it says heliotrope or burdock, know what those plants look like and how they smell.”

When Richter has taught the play in his drama class (in which dramatic literature, not acting, is studied), there are always limitations of time, which preclude a full acting out of the play during class time. “I do ask students on a voluntary basis, from time to time, to act out roles, as I find that giving plays a sense of performance lends itself more readily to an appreciation of them,” Richter said. He says that although ‘Our Town’ is known as a very American play, it also “has that universal quality of Greek tragedy.” He always asks students to reflect on how much Cold Spring is like Grover’s Corners, the fictitious small New Hampshire town in which the play is set. “I talk about the history of it, how ‘Polish Town’ (in the play) is described as ‘across the tracks, in the poor area of the town,’” and how Cold Spring’s Italian immigrant population of the early 1900s lived in a similarly demarcated area. We talk about how Cold Spring was very much a Protestant community prior to the 1900s and how people forget how there was a real division between Nelsonsville and Cold Spring. “There are so many good parallels, for instance there was a drugstore on Main Street with a soda fountain in it [as there is in the play] — there are just so many great hooks for the students.”

Along with its charming scenes of the awkward stirrings of young love and its depictions of the warm bonds between long-married couples, there is a darker undertone to the play, touched upon throughout, but (Continued on page 14)
The Calendar

Looking for things to do in and around Philipstown? Grab The Calendar and go. For more details and ongoing events, visit philipstown.info. Send event listings to calendar@philipstown.info. See you around town!

Friday, November 29

Local schools and libraries closed
Cold Spring Village offices closed
No recycling pickup in Cold Spring

Kids & Community

Holiday Pottery Sale
10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Garrison Art Center
23 Garrison’s Landing, Garrison
845-424-3960 | garrisonartcenter.org

Wildlife Education Center Events
11:30 a.m. Fun Facts About Turkeys
1 & 2:30 p.m. Meet the Animals
25 Boulevard, Cornwall-on-Hudson
845-534-7781 | Nehalemuseum.org

Noon. Jacob Burns Film Center
364 Mainville Road, Pleasantville
914-707-5565 | burnsfilmcenter.org

Santa Visits Walkway Over the Hudson
1 - 3 p.m. 61 Parker Ave., Poughkeepsie
845-896-9560 | fastriplehistoricalsociety.com

Lighting of the Memorials: Educators
4 p.m. Cross and Main Streets, Beacon
845-833-0121 | beaconbrewwalliance.com

Wine Tasting
4 - 7 p.m. Artisan Wine Shop
180 Main St., Beacon
845-440-6923 | artisanwineshop.com

Wine & Cheese
5 - 8 p.m. Antipodean Books
29 Garrison’s Landing, Garrison
845-424-3867 | antipodean.com

Saturday, November 30

Small Business Saturday in Cold Spring
4 p.m. Cross and Main Streets, Beacon
845-834-2867 | walkway.org

Santa Visits Walkway Over the Hudson
1 - 3 p.m. 61 Parker Ave., Poughkeepsie
845-896-9560 | fastriplehistoricalsociety.com

Noon. Jacob Burns Film Center
364 Mainville Road, Pleasantville
914-707-5565 | burnsfilmcenter.org

Wildlife Education Center Events
11:30 a.m. Fun Facts About Turkeys
1 & 2:30 p.m. Meet the Animals
See details under Friday.

Noon. Jacob Burns Film Center
364 Mainville Road, Pleasantville
914-707-5565 | burnsfilmcenter.org

Wine Tasting
3 - 6 p.m. Artisan Wine Shop
See details under Friday.

Code Springers (ages 5-14)
4 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library
472 Route 403, Garrison
845-424-3020 | desmondfishlibrary.org

Alumni Basketball Game
5 p.m. Haldane School | 15 Croagdige Drive, Cold Spring
845-265-9254 | haldaneschool.org

Lighting of the Memorials: Nourishers
5:30 p.m. Cross and Main Streets, Beacon
845-831-2012 | beaconbrewwalliance.com

Health & Fitness

Adult Pick-up Indoor Soccer
7:45 p.m. Hudson Valley Sportsteam
240 Milton Turnpike, Milton
meetup.com/hudsonvalleysoccer

The Best Christmas Pageant Ever
8 p.m. County Players
2685 W. Main St., Wappingers Falls
845-238-8141 | countyplayers.org

Music

Set to Stun
8 p.m. Whistling Willies
184 Main St., Cold Spring
845-265-2012 | whistlingwillies.com

Live Music
8 p.m. Cold Spring Depot | 1 Depot Square, Cold Spring
845-265-5000 | coldspringdepot.com

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

Talking Machine
9:30 p.m., Max’s on Main | 246 Main St., Beacon
845-838-6297 | maxsonmain.com

Artisan Brothers Tribute Band
9:30 p.m. 12 Grapes | 11 N. Division St., Beacon
845-762-2912 x110 | teatown.org

Wine Tasting
3 - 6 p.m. Artisan Wine Shop
Details under Friday

Red Cross Blood Drive
9 a.m. - 2 p.m. Carmel Ambulance Corps
6 Garrett Place, Carmel
800-733-2767 | redcrossblood.org

Tai-Chi Chuan Group
9 a.m. - 2 p.m. Carmel Ambulance Corps
6 Garrett Place, Carmel
800-733-2767 | redcrossblood.org

Red Cross Blood Drive
10 a.m. - 3 p.m. United Methodist Church
915 Meeker Ave., Wappingers Falls
800-733-2767 | redcrossblood.org

Adult Pick-up Soccer
Noon. Beacon Memorial Park
meetup.com/hudsonvalleysoccer

Sports

Army vs. Houston Baptist (Men’s Basketball)
1 p.m. Christ Arena, West Point
845-938-2526 | goarmysports.com

Art & Design

Free Admission to Boscobel Grounds
9:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. Boscobel Grounds, Garrison
845-265-3638 | boscobel.org

Free Admission for Beacon Residents
11 a.m. - 4 p.m. Dia:Beacon
3 Beekman St., Beacon
845-440-0100 | diabeacon.org

Holiday Kickoff Event
5 - 8 p.m. Back Room Gallery
475 Main St., Beacon
845-838-1838

The Nutcracker
475 Main St., Beacon | 845-838-1838

Theater & Film

The Best Christmas Pageant Ever
8 p.m. County Players
See details under Friday.

We take our food as seriously as our music
Farm-fresh dining and legendary desserts
Brunch/Lunch Saturday & Sunday, 10 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.
Dinner nightly from 4:30 p.m., no show ticket needed
Closed Tuesdays.
Winter Show
New Seasonal Work and Discounted Older Work
Saturday, December 7, 6:30 p.m.
TD Studio


#165 Main St.
Cold Spring, NY
terencedonovan.net
917-974-7303
Join us Saturday, December 7th 12-4pm

Champagne & Shopping

3612 Route 9, Cold Spring, NY (845) 265-9246 JaymarkJewelers.com

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**Meetings & Lectures**

**Justice Court**
6 p.m. Village Hall | 85 Main St., Cold Spring
845-265-3611 | coldspringny.gov

**Beacon City Council**
7 p.m. Municipal Center Courthouse
1 Municipal Plaza, Beacon
845-838-5000 | citibean.org

**Board Game Night**
7 p.m. Cup and Saucer
165 Main St., Beacon
mudpup.com/Beacon/Board-not-Bored

**Member Meeting**
7 p.m. Cold Spring Boat Club
5 New St., Cold Spring
845-265-2465 | coldspringboatclub.com

**Member Meeting**
7 p.m. Putnam Valley Grange
128 Mill St., Putnam Valley
845-828-2565 | putnamvalleygrange.org

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**The Calendar**
(from page 9)

**Meetings & Lectures**

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5 New St., Cold Spring
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**Member Meeting**
7 p.m. Putnam Valley Grange
128 Mill St., Putnam Valley
845-828-2565 | putnamvalleygrange.org

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**Kids & Community**

**Phillipstown Community Center**
9-11 a.m. & Noon-2 p.m. Indoor Tot Lot
3:45 p.m. Holiday Ceramic Workshop (grades K-3)
6 p.m. Holiday Ceramic Workshop (Adults)
6:30 p.m. Foot in Mouth Players (ages 12-15)
See details under Monday.

**Junior Day Center**
10 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. Mother Lurana House
161 Old West Point Road East, Garrison
845-404-3800 | gvaec.org

**Homeland Public Library Events**
10 a.m. Knitting Club
10:30 a.m. Baby & Me (0-2)
3-5 p.m. Drop-in Homework Center
See details under Monday.

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**Health & Fitness**

**Putnam Hospital Center**
12:30 p.m. Heart Disease Support Group
3 p.m. Pre-Surgery Joint Replacement Class
670 Stoneleigh Ave., Carmel
845-279-5711 | healthquest.org

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**Meetings & Lectures**

**Highland Knolls**
Nixon, Desmond-Fish Library
472 Route 403, Garrison
845-434-5000 | desmondfishlibrary.org

**Digital Salon**
7 p.m. Beahive Beacon | 291 Main St., Beacon
845-769-5890 | beahivebeacon.com

**Library Board Meeting**
7 p.m. Hawley Public Library
313 Main St., Beacon
845-831-1134 | beaconlibrary.org

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

**Cold Spring School Board**
7:30 p.m. Cold Spring School | 15 Craigside Drive, Cold Spring
845-265-9246 | coldspringny.gov

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**The Gift Hut**
Featuring ecofriendly, made in the U.S. unique gifts, wooden toys, games, and puzzles for the whole family

86 Main Street, Cold Spring, NY 10516

Hours: Friday, Saturday & Sunday
10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

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**The Cold Spring Area Chamber of Commerce**

**Annual Holiday Dinner Dance**

**Thursday, December 12, 2013**  
Chalet on the Hudson, Route 9D, Cold Spring
6:30-9:30 p.m.

**Join us for an evening filled with holiday cheer! Bring the entire office to the party!**

**Annual Adults – Silent Auction – Tall Dance Raffle – Cash Bar – Dining with Bands & Company**

**RSVP by December 6, 2013 to 845-265-3000 or www.coldspringareachamber.org and pay online**

$35 per chamber member/$40 each additional guest/$325 for table of 10

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**2nd Annual Christmas Tree Lighting at WINTER HILL**

20 Nazareth Way
Just East of Route 9D on Snake Hill Rd

Thursday, December 5th, 2013 at 5:30 – 7 p.m.

Christmas carols led by the Walter Hoving Home Choir

Food and Drinks aplenty!
The Calendar (from page 10)

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 4

Curbside Bagged Leaves and Yard Debris Pickup - Cold Spring

Kids & Community

Howland Public Library
9:45 a.m. Come & Play (ages 0-3)
10:30 a.m., Toddler Tales (ages 2-3)
2 p.m. Origami Decorations
3 - 5 p.m. Drop-in Homework Center
See details under Monday.

Howland Cultural Center
10 a.m. - 1 p.m. Chess Club
4 p.m. Rhyme Time Story Hour (ages 2-4)
See details under Monday.

Mah Jong Open Play
10 a.m. - 1 p.m. VPW Hall
34 Kemble Ave, Cold Spring
845-424-4618  |  philipstownrecreation.com

Desmond-Fish Library
10:15 a.m. Music and Movement for Toddlers
1:30 p.m. Pre-school Story Hour
See details under Tuesday.

Philpottown Community Center
Noon - 2 p.m. Indoor Tot Lot
12:30 p.m. Holiday Ceramic Workshop (ages 3-5)
4 p.m. Holiday Ceramic Workshop (grades K-3)
See details under Monday.

Lighting of the Menorah: Artists
5:30 p.m. Cross and Main Streets, Beacon
Lighting of the Menorah: Artists
12:30 p.m. Hanukkah at the Forest Preserve
See details under Saturday.

Philpottown Community Center
Noon - 2 p.m. Indoor Tot Lot
12:30 p.m. Holiday Ceramic Workshop (ages 3-5)
4 p.m. Holiday Ceramic Workshop (grades K-3)
See details under Monday.

Howland Public Library
6 p.m. Garrison Art Center | Details under Sunday

Music

Open Mic Night
7 p.m. Towne Crier Café | Details under Friday

Howland Public Library
10 a.m. Brain Gamies for Adults
10:30 a.m. Pre-K Story Time (ages 3-5)
3:45 p.m. Lego Club and Block Party
See details under Monday.

Senior Day Center
10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Mother Lorana House
See details under Tuesday.

Holiday Boutique
2 - 9 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library
See details under Saturday.

Desmond-Fish Library
8:30 a.m. Qi Gong/Tai Chi
9 a.m. Holiday Ceramic Workshop (Adults)
9 -11 a.m. & Noon - 2 p.m. Indoor Tot Lot
See details under Tuesday.

Senior's Computer Class Registration
10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Mother Lurana House
Senior Day Center
See details under Tuesday.

The Paper
November 29, 2013 11

THE HALDANE CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT INVITES PHILPOTTOWN SENIOR CITIZENS TO:

A coffee hour at the Julia L. Butterfield Library on Thursday, December 5, 2013, followed by Haldane High School’s final dress rehearsal of Our Town by Thornton Wilder.

The coffee hour will begin at 6 p.m. at the library and the performance will be at the Haldane Auditorium at 7 p.m.

Transportation from Chestnut Ridge to the library and back is available by calling the library at 845-265-3040 by Monday, December 2. Otherwise, please park at the back of the library and by the bell at the school.

We look forward to seeing Philpottown seniors on December 5 for this wonderful presentation of this classic play!
C
ome to Philipstown.info at 69 Main St., Cold Spring, at 5 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 8, and see a broad range of your local writers in a production from the Opéra de Paris. The new documentary combines movie clips, home movies, television appearances and live performance footage with new interviews with John Waters, Ricki Lake, Mink Stole, Tab Hunter, Holly Woodlawn and mother Frances Milstead (who provided her final interview months before she passed away). The private production is not rated and is limited to 200 guests, seniors $7.50; students (18-21) $7.50 and members $5.50. Tickets can be purchased at the box office or at downingfilmcenter.com. The Downing Film Center is located at 19 Front St., Newburgh. For more information, call the box office at 845-561-3686 or visit the website.

Verdi’s Falstaff/Opera at Downing Film Center

As part of its opera special programming, The Downing Film Center presents Giuseppe Verdi’s Falstaff at 1 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 1. Captured live at the Opéra de Paris and screened at The Downing in HD, Verdi’s final opera is a raucous comedy about the penniless, portly old knight Falstaff who gets tricked – time and again – by the young ladies who rebuff his romantic overtures. This rep of an opera delights in a production from the Opéra de Paris. Tickets are $12 for general admission – $10 for members of The Downing. Tickets can be purchased at the box office or at the website at downingfilmcenter.com. The Downing Film Center is located at 19 Front St., Newburgh. For more information, call the box office at 845-561-3686 or visit the website.

Garrison Students Share Message in This Old Gingerbread House

On Thursday, Nov. 14, Garrison School students in kindergarten through third grade performed This Old Gingerbread House, a musical play written by Teresa Jennings and directed by music teacher Karen Brennan. The musical featured songs and dances by all of the students including solos by the lead performers, third graders Matteo Cervone, William Davis and Caroline Nelson who played Gretel. Dozens of children dressed as adorable woodland creatures helped themselves to sweets on Hansel and Gretel’s gingerbread house. Once they were discovered by Hansel and Gretel, the woodland creatures felt relieved and set about to make things right by the siblings. “The play centers on themes about respect and admitting when you have done something wrong,” said Ms. Jennings. “The musical was challenging and students have been rehearsing since late September to get the story out hard and had fun but they listened to the message of the story and learned, too.”

The colorful props, sets and scenery were provided by art (To next page)
Students and teachers gathered at the Hudson Valley to advance a statewide estuary study. 

advance a statewide estuary study.

Haldane Middle and High School students were stationed at Little Stony Point’s beach in Cold Spring, with teachers HHILT’s educators Cathie Bakker and stewardship coordinator Matt Decker, and parents Krista Osborn and Lyn Berkley at Garrison Landing on Oct. 12. Garrison School art teacher Coulter Young instructed students on sketching from nature. To learn more about the study, visit hhilt.org or call 845-448-3305, ext. 6.

Beacon
WorkSHOP! Holiday Sale Set for Dec. 14 at Wickham Solid Wood Studio in Beacon

Wickham Solid Wood Studio will host WorkSHOP!, a curated holiday artisan sale featuring high quality gift items and handcrafted works produced by nine notable local businesses. The event will take place from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 14, 578 Main St., Beacon, coinciding with Second Saturday holiday events in town.

“We are very proud to present some of the finest artisans in the Hudson Valley at the sale this year. This is a great chance to acquire affordable pieces from some extraordinary makers,” says Jessica Wickham. The one-day event will be held in the Wickham workshop, a renovated hat factory building on the shores of the Fishkill Creek. “The idea is to have the sale in a working studio, with an emphasis on sharing some of the process behind the work.”

Artisans participating in the sale include Beacon Bee — body care products using bee wax from local hives; Beth Bolgia Ceramics — functional stoneware; Evan Cohen — woodblock prints; Fabhaus Beacon — laser-fabricated goods; KC Lim — sewn goods; ModCraft — modern handmade ceramics; Rexhill Furni- ture — wooden boxes and puzzles; Ten West Will — hand blown Malfatti glassware and Wickham Solid Wood Studio — natural edge charcuterie boards. For more information, visit jessicawickham.com.

Howland Public Library Leads Holiday Decorating Workshop

The holidays are upon us. Why not let your kids do the decorating? Howland Public Library and the Wee Play Community Project will lead a home decorating workshop from 10:30 a.m. to noon on Saturday, Dec. 7, at Howland Public Library, 313 Main St., Beacon. Tina Chan Sweeney will help children of all ages (with a parent or guardian) find all sorts of unique items to create an amazing centerpiece, wreath ornament, or wall hanging. Children can let their imaginations take over — design a centerpiece with a snowy dinosaur, a bedazzled pinecone wall hanging, or maybe even a wreath made from recycled objects.

There is no registration necessary, and all ages are welcome, accompanied by an adult or guardian. Families may drop in any time after 10:30 a.m. In lieu of a materials fee, Wee Play will give any donations to The Grace Smith House, an organization providing “an open door for victims of domestic violence.”

BeaconArts Brings City of Beacon Together Through Holiday Art Events

BeaconArts is celebrating the holidays by uniting the community through the arts, with a menorah and a Christmas tree from salvaged and welded bike parts created by Beacon sculptor Ed Benavente.

Each night, the different candles — or in this case wheels — of the Beacon Health and HalcyonArts bicycle menorah will be illuminated to honor a different segment of the Beacon community. It can be found at the pocket park on Cross and Main Streets and will be lit at 5:30 p.m. from Wednesday, Nov. 27, through Wednesday, Dec. 4, with the exception of Friday, Nov. 29, when the menorah will be lit at 4:00 p.m. On the first night of Hanukkah, Nov. 27, the group celebrated will be children. Pizza and fun will follow at School of Jeflysh, 183 Main St., sponsored by the Beacon Inde- pendent Film Festival.

The BeaconArts bicycle Christmas tree lighting will take place from 4:10 to 6 p.m. on Dec. 14. The First Presbyterian Church Choir and the Beacon Music Factory’s Ukulele Holiday Hayride and People’s Choir will lead a Christmas carol sing-a-long. The Yanarella School of Dance will perform a holiday-themed piece, and Santa will officially welcome the holidays. The event is sponsored by the City of Bea- con, BeaconArts and People’s Bicycle. The bicycle tree lighting will be at the same location alongside the bicycle-hanukkah, at Cross and Main Streets.

On Wednesday, Dec. 4, BeaconArts will host their membership renewal party at Beacon’s newest performing arts venue, the Town Crier Café, 379 Main St. Wednes- day, Dec. 4, is the last night of Hanukkah, and the artistic and creative community are being honored. All are welcome.

Benavente, the artist behind the menorah and Christmas tree, chose bicycles to repre- sent the Beacon community for a specific reason. He says, “The city and community of Beacon, New York, has demonstrated what is possible when you re-invent, re- imagine and re-joice. Bicycles, like communities, are powered by people.” Visit beaco- nærts.org/2013-beacon-n.y-holiday-events/
Haldane Drama Presents Thornton Wilder’s Our Town (from page 7)
especially in the last act. “We’ve talked about the darker layers underneath the town,” says Mechalakos, “as well as all the foreshadowing.” Richter calls the first two acts “Norman Rockwell, but Wilder really sets you up in those acts — he manipulates you so when you get to Act Three it has more impact.”

Both Mechalakos and Richter take umbrage at those who have called Our Town sentimental. “There’s no way it’s sentimental,” says Mechalakos, with Richter adding, “It’s completely non-judgmental, too. There are no villains. Like Shakespeare, Wilder makes everyone human; there’s a gentleness to it.”

As for the play’s other frequent categorization, that it’s “so sad,” Mechalakos said she advised the cast to look at it differently and to reflect upon what it ultimately asks: “Most people reject the choices made in the other plays, because they’re finding it rewarding,” says Mechalakos, adding, “I think our audience will as well.”

Neither an indictment of small towns, nor a valentine to them, Our Town, one of the most widely produced plays in the world, will play in this town at 7 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, Dec. 6 and 7, in the Haldane auditorium. Tickets, which cost $12 for adults, $8 for seniors and students, will be available at the door. See the additional story on Our Town on the front page.

World’s End Theater Readings Return to First Friday in Cold Spring
Donald Kimmel directs The Lion In Winter


“What shall we hang, the holly or each other?” Most families experience a bit of tension around the holidays. This family, however, has more to fight about than cranberry sauce. Who will be the next king of England? The royal succession is at stake, and everyone has a stake in the game. Henry, the aging but still mighty conqueror with an eye on posterity; Eleanor, his estranged wife, legendary Queen and maker of Kings; Richard Lionheart, the eldest, consummate warrior and mama’s boy; Geoffrey, the middle son with all that goes with it, John, the baby of the family, Daddy’s least favorite. An intimate portrait of larger than life historical figures, warts and all, The Lion in Winter premiered on Broadway in 1966, starring Robert Preston and Rosemary Harris, who won a Tony Award for her portrayal of Eleanor. It was adapted by James Goldman into an Academy Award-winning 1969 film of the same name, starring Peter O’Toole and Katharine Hepburn. The play has been produced numerously, including Broadway and West End revivals. In 1980, Goldman reflected on the success of the play: “Most everyone who talks to me about The Lion in Winter is totally convinced the play has always been a great success. Even people who actually saw it during its run on Broadway are apt to mention what a hit it was or that they caught it in its second year. In point of fact, Lion opened on March 3, 1966, to highly contradictory notices, including a thunderous dismissal in The New York Times. Eighty-three performances later, it closed and sank from sight for what I was convinced would be forever. Then came the film.”

And the rest, as they say, is history. Hundreds of productions are done all around the world every year, and in 2003 it was made into a television movie starring Patrick Stewart and Glenn Close. The World’s End Theater reading will feature Philipstown residents Nancy Swann and Donald Kimmel as Eleanor and Henry. Also featured will be Broadway veteran Aurr Galligan-Stierle (Phantom, Ragtime), Kelsey Ossen (WET’s The Seagull, The Way of the World) and Hudson Valley Shakespeare veterans Charlie Murphy, Mark Coughout and Taylor Walsh.

The production will be directed by Kimmel. The performance takes place at 8 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 6, at The Paper, 69 Main St., Cold Spring. Admission is free of charge on a first come, first served basis.
By Pamela Doan

It’s a sign of the season that local garden centers are lining up rows of freshly cut spruce and fir trees. With Thanksgiving coming later in the month than usual, many people will head out this weekend to choose one. There’s almost a glut of them this year, don’t require a new investment, and uses in production. China is the largest producer of artificial trees and that adds in a significant carbon-producing shipping distance, too. Real trees, in their life cycle, aid in reducing carbon dioxide. According to Earth911, “A single farmed tree absorbs more than 1 ton of CO2 throughout its lifetime.” Real trees can be mulched after the holiday and don’t end up in a landfill. Tree farms have a valuable role in our communities, too, keeping land forested and undeveloped. While an informal survey didn’t uncover tree farms in Putnam County, there were several options listed in neighboring counties. At many, you can even cut your own. For a complete list, check out this website picture.com/NYmassephp. I called a couple of local garden centers, Vera’s Marketplace and Garden Center and Sabellico Greenhouse and Florist, and neither had a local source for their stock. Many Christmas trees are shipped from Canada.

Another option is to bring home a potted, live tree that can be planted in the yard after Christmas. Sabellico has potted trees in all sizes from tabletop to full size available. To prepare it for transplant, dig the hole now before the ground is completely frozen. Make a hole about double the depth of the root ball and leave sufficient room on the sides. Evergreens generally prefer sunny locations. Mix compost into the soil if you can.

After the holiday, move the tree to a sheltered spot outside, preferably the garage, to let it acclimate from the warm house to the cold outdoors for a few days before planting. Keep it watered well throughout. When you’re ready, hopefully there aren’t a few feet of snow on the ground, place it in the hole and water it well again. If it’s on the small side and you’re in a heavy browsing area for deer, protect it with fencing or deer-resistant spray. Spruce trees are less likely to be nibbled on, but fir trees will make a snack during winter. If you’ve got a little space in the yard and want the experience of growing your own tree, check the Putnam County Soil and Water Conservation District, which has an annual seedling sale in the spring. Last year, the list of seedlings included Colorado Blue Spruce, Eastern White Pine, and White Spruce, all of which would make great Christmas trees. The seedlings come in packs of ten and cost $22. Those prices might shift in 2014, but that’s a little more than $2 per tree. With a little time, care and patience, those seedlings could become your future holiday trees, a truly green solution. For the finishing touch, don’t forget the LED lights!

Artificial trees can be used year after year, don’t require a new investment while they last, and no live trees are cut down. However, most are made from PVC, a material that doesn’t biodegrade and uses in production. China is the largest producer of artificial trees and that adds in a significant carbon-producing shipping distance, too. Real trees, in their life cycle, aid in reducing carbon dioxide. According to Earth911, “A single farmed tree absorbs more than 1 ton of CO2 throughout its lifetime.” Real trees can be mulched after the holiday and don’t end up in a landfill. Tree farms have a valuable role in our communities, too, keeping land forested and undeveloped. While an informal survey didn’t uncover tree farms in Putnam County, there were several options listed in neighboring counties. At many, you can even cut your own. For a complete list, check out this website picture.com/NYmassephp. I called a couple of local garden centers, Vera’s Marketplace and Garden Center and Sabellico Greenhouse and Florist, and neither had a local source for their stock. Many Christmas trees are shipped from Canada.

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SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14
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Jenny Lee Fowler
jennylefowler.etsy.com
ModCraft
modcraft.com
Rezhill Furniture
rezhillfurniture.com
Malfatti Glass
malfattiglass.com
Wickham Solid Wood Studio
jessicawickham.com

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