

The HIGHLANDS Current



The perfect gift?
See Page 9

DECEMBER 9, 2016

161 MAIN ST., COLD SPRING, N.Y. | highlandscurrent.com



Illustration by Mhairi Koepke from *Thread Girl the Brave* (See story on Page 9.)

Cut-Your-Own Tradition Returns to Garrison

Idle for 20 years, Christmas tree farm springs to life

By Michael Turton

A cherished tradition dating to the 1940s is enjoying a revival in Garrison.

Guy Cockburn sold his first Christmas tree in Garrison in 1946. Over the years, his farm on Route 9 just north of Route 403 became so popular he had to start a waiting list. In 1981 *The New York Times* reported Cockburn had to turn away as many as 2,000 would-be customers from his “choose-and-cut” operation. Some people even had trees shipped to Florida.

Cockburn, who served as president of what is now known as the Christmas Tree Farmers Association of New York, was dubbed “the (Continued on Page 14)



Cortlandt Manor's Steven Connolly, wife Brittany and three-year-old daughter Ava select their tree for Christmas.

Photo by M. Turton

Garrison Fire District to Hold First Vote on Dec. 13

Nine candidates vie for five commissioner seats

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong and Chip Rowe

Garrison Fire District voters will go to the polls for the first time from 6 to 9 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 13 to elect five commissioners and decide whether to set aside \$40,000 in a reserve fund. The election takes place at the fire-house at 1616 Route 9.

The Philipstown North Highlands Fire

District at 504 Fishkill Road will hold its vote at the same time for two of its five seats. Johanna Rupp is seeking to return to the board for a five-year term and Amy Locitzer, who was appointed to fill a vacancy, for a one-year term. Both are running unopposed.

Garrison candidates

Nine candidates will appear on the Garrison Fire District ballot, including all five current commissioners (Sandra Bohl, David Brower, Joseph Mercurio, Nat Prentice and Rodney Tudor) and four challengers (Stanley Freilich, (Continued on Page 14)

Anchorage Proposal Faces Challenges

Opposition raises questions of need and legality

By Brian PJ Cronin

When the Coast Guard unveiled a proposal to add 43 barge anchorage spots distributed among 10 locations on the Hudson River between Yonkers and Kingston, it asked for public comment through an online portal.

The public responded. When the comment period closed Dec. 6, the Coast Guard had received more than 10,000 responses opposing the project.

The Coast Guard told *The Current* over the summer that the comment period would be followed by a series of public hearings in river towns up and down the Hudson sometime in 2017. But a few groups of sometimes unlikely allies have banded together to stop the proposal before it gets to that point. Over the past week, two coalitions released reports challenging the legality of the project.

When the plan was first made public, it drew immediate condemnation from environmental groups. Their reasons for opposing the project were numerous: That the anchors would scour the river bottom, destroying marine habitats. That the blinding lights and deafening noise of barges parked overnight would be a nuisance to river towns. And that the Tug & Barge Committee of the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, which had brought the request to the Coast Guard, conceded the industry stood to profit after the lifting of a federal ban on American crude oil exports.

That statement led to the fear that the river would turn into what Paul Gallay, president of the environmental organization Riverkeeper, called “a mobile pipeline,” with crude oil continually being shipped upriver. Currently, he said, the stretch of the Hudson between Yonkers and Kingston only has one anchorage ground, near Red Hook, which is seldom used.

The industry has argued that (Continued on Page 8)



Where to drop new, unwrapped toys

The campaign continues through Dec. 16

Butterfield Library
C & E Paints
Deb's Hair Salon

Downey Oil
Drug World
Foodtown

Gerelli Insurance
Nelsonville Deli
Putnam County News & Recorder

Roots and Shoots

Gifts for the Gardener

By Pamela Doan

Although not all gardeners are big readers, everyone usually makes an exception when it comes to reading about gardening. The offseason, which for most of us is roughly November to March, provides time to think and dream and conspire.

I find a lot of inspiration in books and that spans from how-to guides with practical ideas to reading about nature, environmental issues, conservation and garden histories and diaries. So here, in my fourth annual gift guide, are suggestions for gardener gifts.

I best knew Vita Sackville West as the basis for Virginia Woolf's *Orlando* until I found a used copy of her garden writing at Binnacle Books in Beacon. West created extensive gardens at Sissinghurst Castle and wrote a gardening column for the *London Observer*. Her columns are collected in *Garden Book* and grouped by season. The writing is lively and opinionated and made me think about design choices in a different light. Why not make an entire garden monochromatic?

To follow the thread of English castle gardens, accompany this gift with

Sissinghurst: Vita Sackville-West and the Creation of a Garden by Sarah Raven. It's full of color photos and Raven lived at Sissinghurst for a while and researched the family history.

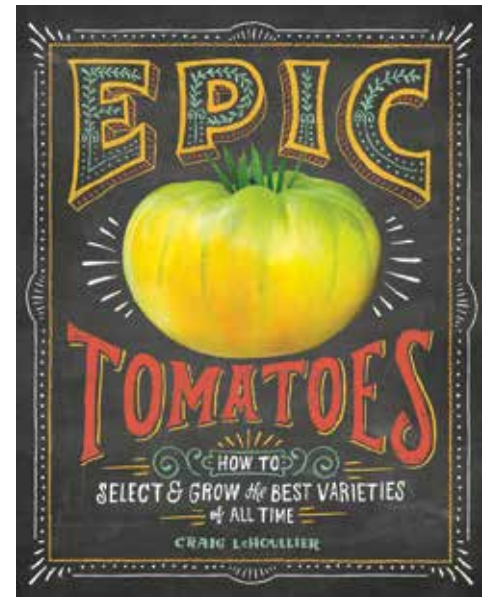
Trees: A Complete Guide to Their Biology and Structure, by Roland Ennos, is on my wish list. I've never thought about

the evolution of trees and now that I have, I want to know more. Trees are under threat from climate change and deforestation, and understanding their biology might make us view them with a different lens. Reviews call the book "accessible," meaning folks who aren't graduate students will understand it.

Another book that will allow your favorite gardener to impress his or her friends with cool knowledge is the revised edition of the *Handbook of Poisonous and Injurious Plants* by Lewis Nelson, Richard Shih and Michael Balick. Although it's nearly 400 pages, this is considered a portable field guide so you can carry it on hikes and warn your children before they pop a highly toxic but delicious-looking berry into their mouths. You'll never look at your landscape the same way again, I guarantee. It's available at the New York Botanical Garden website (nybg.org), and proceeds benefit its work.

An old favorite is the *Essays of E.B. White*. I've given this as a gift many times and reread it often, usually in winter or spring when the transition of seasons affects me the most. It isn't a high summer read. White observes closely the world around him and his characters are the geese on his farm and the raccoon family in a tree outside the bedroom window. He sees it all, though, the way each thing interacts with the other and what they need and what they get. These are essays of a person recognizing the rhythm of life and his role in it.

Let's face it; the election has many people wondering the effect of a new administration on the environment. *Will Bonsall's Essential Guide to Radical, Self-Reliant Gardening* may provide comfort. Bonsall, who is director of the Scatterseed Project, which is dedicated to preserving



crop diversity, has been doing subsistence farming in Maine and comes to it from an ecological perspective.

For the gardener who takes inspiration from history, pick up a signed copy at the Putnam History Museum at 3 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 10, of *Anna B. Warner — America's Gardening Pioneer*, by Barbara Hobens. The book chronicles Warner's gardening adventures on Constitution Island in the 19th century. She was a passionate gardener and writer who published more than 30 books and the Constitution Island Association has replicated some of her landscaping on the island. It's a model for a lovely native plant garden and was covered in pollinators when I saw it last summer.

Finally, here's a recommendation for a planting guide for the gardener who wants a serious game changer for next summer's harvest. Craig LeHoullier, a tomato expert who advises the Seed Savers Exchange on varieties and is the co-host of Tomatopalooza in North Carolina, condensed his knowledge and experience into *Epic Tomatoes*. As a bonus, the gardener who receives this gift from you might share the results of what they learn.

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& The Northern Light

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Circus of Dreams

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MTA Proposes Metro-North Fare Increase

Nearest public hearing is in White Plains

The Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) has proposed fare increases to take effect in March that would add \$15 to the cost of a monthly pass to Grand Central from Philipstown or Beacon and 50 or 75 cents to the cost of a one-way ticket.

The MTA put a positive spin on the proposal, calling it the “lowest fare increase since 2009.” About half of the MTA’s \$15.6 billion annual budget comes from fares and tolls. “The MTA continues to keep its promise to make sure that fare and toll increases, while necessary to keep our system running, remain as low as possible and that they are done in as equitable a way as possible,” said Chairman and CEO Thomas Prendergast.

The agency has scheduled eight public hearings in December. The closest to the Highlands is in White Plains on Dec. 20, which prompted state Sen. Sue Serino to urge the MTA to also schedule hearings in

Dutchess and/or Putnam counties.

“Time and time again our community gets shortchanged by the money-hungry MTA,” Serino said in a statement. “It’s bad enough that they continue to shift the burden of their out-of-control finances onto the backs of hardworking New Yorkers by proposing these fare hikes, but it’s even worse that they are once again disenfranchising a large number of riders by failing to hold public hearings in each of the affected counties.”

The White Plains hearing takes place at the New York Power Authority in its Jaguar Room, 123 Main St. (entrance on Hamilton Avenue). Registration to make




comments of three minutes or less is open from 4 to 8 p.m., and the hearing begins at 5 p.m. Comments may also be submitted at mta-nyc.custhelp.com/app/hearings/comment/h_id/24 or

by writing to MTA Government Affairs, 2 Broadway, 20th Floor, New York, NY 10004.

Select Fare Increase Proposals

Cold Spring/Garrison to Grand Central		
	Current	Proposed
Monthly pass	\$407	\$422
One-way peak	\$18.50	\$19.25
One-way off-peak	\$14	\$14.50
One-way senior/child	\$9.25	\$9.50

Beacon to Grand Central		
	Current	Proposed
Monthly pass	\$460	\$475
One-way peak	\$21.25	\$22
One-way off-peak	\$16	\$16.75
One-way senior/child	\$10.50	\$11



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Fighting animal abuse

Chief Ken Ross of the Putnam SPCA brings up very good points to close typical loopholes in an animal abuse registry law ("Putnam Set to Create Animal Abuse Registry," Dec. 2). One challenge, however, is those charged with animal abuse are rarely convicted of a misdemeanor that would get them on the registry. Most people take plea deals and are convicted of charges below the level that would place them on a registry.

For instance, the Dutchess County SPCA Humane Law Enforcement charged an individual with animal cruelty for putting his cat into a cardboard box, which he taped shut. He then abandoned the cat next to a dumpster. The judge allowed a plea deal, and the offender pleaded guilty to a violation charge of "Inappropriate Shelter for Dogs" and paid a nominal fine.

We receive about 1,700 calls and investigate more than 400 animal abuse cases

per year. We have a high conviction rate but of those charged with a misdemeanor animal cruelty crime, about 10 percent plead guilty to or are found guilty of the misdemeanor that would qualify offenders to have to register. That's about the same percentage as in Putnam County. It is not because of shoddy investigations or charges but because animal-abuse cases are generally seen as "court cloggers" and are disposed of as quickly as possible with plea bargains. Local judges need to change the way they handle these cases, take them seriously and treat them as they do with other criminal acts.

While I applaud New York counties for developing and enacting animal abuse registries, a statewide registry would be the most effective way to identify convicted animal abusers. Since it will be left up to those who are selling, giving away or adopting out animals to check the status of a buyer or adopter, it would make

sense to check a central registry. There are 62 counties in New York State. To have to check the information scattered on dozens of registries in order to release an animal to an individual is an arduous task.

Animal abuse is linked to violent crime, like child abuse and domestic violence, and the FBI now tracks animal-abuse statistics through its national crime reporting system. It is important that New York State also recognizes this link and takes action. By the state recognizing this important link and implementing a central registry, it can serve a dual purpose for the public as well.

Kim McNamee, *Senior Humane Law Enforcement Officer, Dutchess County SPCA, Hyde Park*

Editor's note: On Dec. 6, the Putnam County Legislature unanimously passed a law creating an animal-abuser registry. See highlandscurrent.com.

Butterfield solution

This old-timer says: Scrap the senior center planned for the derelict Butterfield annex in Cold Spring. We don't need it — it's a taxpayer subsidy/handout to a developer. But more than that, it is simply no fun!

Here's a better way to spend the \$25,000 per month that the county is going to pay in rent for this boondoggle:

All senior residents of Philipstown are automatically enrolled in this proposal. Thus we have 100 percent participation, not the minuscule one at present. All of their names are put in a large hat and on the first of each month, 25 names are randomly selected by cute kids from the community in front of the local news media. Each name selected is an immediate winner of \$1,000 cash!

And this happens every month! Twenty-five new winners and 300 winners every year. Once everyone in the pool of seniors has won, the (Continued on next page)



Taking it to the Street

By Anita Peltonon

Do you put up a real or artificial Christmas tree?



"Real. I love the smell of the real thing."

~ Susan Choi (with shy daughter Emmie), Garrison



"Real. We cut it down in Millbrook every year. It's traditional!"

~ Jessica Valenti, Cold Spring



"Artificial. I love real trees but I'm allergic."

~ Fernanda Arango (with son Gabriel), Garrison

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR (from previous page)

process repeats. I don't know how many seniors participate in the myriad activities provided by the county, but this plan assures 100 percent involvement.

Of course, it saves the county taxpayers tons of money because no overheated administration is required, no infrastructure, no busing, no personnel. The vacated space can be put back on the tax rolls and the developer can rent as he wishes. Philipstown taxpayers doubly benefit as all present senior programs can be scuttled.

And it's fun! We are all winners! \$1,000 each.

John Benjamin, *Garrison*

Crèche on city property

I find it very displeasing that there is a crèche labeled "Keep Christ in Christmas" on Beacon city property between the Visitor's Center and fire station.

Whatever your feelings or heritage, it should be clear as Americans that we do not permit our civil apparatus to promote a particular religious ideology. "Keep Christ in Christmas," moreover, is a politicized rallying cry that has an unsavory track record.

The risk of costly legal action alone should spur level-headed politicians to agree that the crèche does not belong on city property.

Erik Hoover, *Beacon*

Garrison voting

The New York State Town Law (Article 11, Section 175) sets the date and hours of a fire company election ("Little Reaction to \$10.5 Million Philipstown Budget," Nov. 11). It's not arbitrary. The commissioners can extend the hours by resolution, but



The crèche stand near the Visitor's Center in Beacon
Photo by Jeff Simms

not change the date, nor the 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. hours for voting.

All of this would have to be done before any public announcements and notices of the election. Any commissioner could have resolved to extend the hours, but obviously they are not well versed in this procedure, having just become a fire district. The North Highlands Fire District, of which both Philipstown Town Board Councilmen Bob Flaherty and John Van Tassel are members, follow the same rules.

Section 175 (B) sets forth the requirements for absentee ballots, again after a resolution passed by the board, and before the announcement of the elections. The only reasons someone can request an ab-

sentee ballot is illness, disability, a work or vacation commitment outside the county or jail. This means that just because it is inconvenient for you to vote at the given time and place is not a valid reason for an absentee ballot.

I encourage all Garrison Fire District voters to participate, but know the facts before you overreact as our Town Board members have done.

F.J. Spinelli, *Cold Spring*
Spinelli is a former chief of the Garrison Volunteer Fire Company.

Working life

I expect better from *The Highlands Current* than spreading this B.S. narrative of "millennial" laziness ("The Cartoon," Nov. 25). We are the first generation in U.S. history to have absolutely no possibility of achieving a higher standard of living than our parents. We are required to start our lives in student debt to enter the workforce, and you make fun of us for not wanting to participate in an economy that is destroying our planet. No thank you, *Highlands Current*. Stay classy.

Michael O'Brien, *Beacon*

I found this cartoon to be a fairly true representation of a good portion of the candidates who are entering the workforce. Having a business for 35 years, I have found that a lot of them feel entitled to start at the top. They have no work ethic and no experience but want all the benefits. I feel sorry for young adults entering the workforce saddled with enormous debt and disillusionment. You have to eat rice and beans before you can eat steak. I wish them the best of luck.

Tony Bardes, *Cold Spring*

Man Arrested Twice in Philipstown on Same Day

Sheriff detains suspect for marijuana and false report

Putnam County Sheriff's deputies arrested a man from Orange County twice on Nov. 28 in Philipstown.

At 8:44 a.m., a deputy sheriff said he smelled marijuana after stopping a speeding motorist on Route 9D. Kyle B. Hetman, 18, of Fort Montgomery, was arrested and charged with possession. He was processed at the scene and released pending a Dec. 19 date at the Town of Philipstown Justice Court.

At 11:31 a.m., Hetman made a report to the Sheriff's Department concerning a burglary in progress at a residence in Philipstown. Hetman told investigators that earlier that morning, while acting as the caretaker of the home of a friend, he encountered a man inside the residence. Hetman said the intruder assaulted him and fled into the woods.

A number of law enforcement agencies responded, including the New York State Police, Cold Spring police, MTA Police and Westchester County police, and K9 units and a helicopter were dispatched.

After being questioned about inconsistencies in his story, police say Hetman admitted to fabricating it. He was arrested and charged with falsely reporting an incident and making a false written statement, both misdemeanors. He was released pending a Dec. 13 date at the Town of Carmel Justice Court.

TOWN OF PHILIPSTOWN ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

The Town of Philipstown Zoning Board of Appeals will not hold a meeting for the month of December.

The next meeting will take place:

Monday, January 9, 2017, 7:30 p.m.
Philipstown Town Hall, 238 Main St. Cold Spring, New York

PHILIPSTOWN PLANNING BOARD

The Town of Philipstown Planning Board will not hold a meeting for the month of December.

The next meeting will take place:

Thursday, January 12, 2017, 7:30 p.m.
Butterfield Library, Morris Ave., Cold Spring, New York

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

Town of Philipstown Highway Department

Sealed proposals will be received by the undersigned Town Clerk of the Town of Philipstown at her office in the Town Hall, 238 Main Street, Cold Spring, New York 10516 until 10 a.m. on, December 15, 2016 when the same will be publicly opened and read aloud for the sale to the Town of Philipstown of:

- NEW CAB - CHASIS
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Meeting the specifications of the Town of Philipstown Highway Department. Copies of the specifications may be obtained from the office of said Town Clerk at the above address. The right is reserved to reject any and all bids. All purchase contracts awarded pursuant to this notice shall be subject to the provisions of Section 103-A, 103-B and 103-D of the General Municipal Law.

DATED: December 7, 2016
Tina Merando, Town Clerk, Town of Philipstown

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Meeting the specifications of the Town of Philipstown Highway Department. Copies of the specifications may be obtained from the office of said Town Clerk at the above address. The right is reserved to reject any and all bids. All purchase contracts awarded pursuant to this notice shall be subject to the provisions of Section 103-A, 103-B and 103-D of the General Municipal Law.

Dated: December 7, 2016
Tina Merando, Town Clerk, Town of Philipstown

Beacon Passes Safe-Storage Gun Law

One hundred gun locks will be available from Beacon police

By Jeff Simms

A hotly debated gun storage law has been adopted in Beacon, making it the first municipality in the Highlands to legislate safe storage while Philipstown considers a similar statute.

The Beacon law, passed Dec. 5 by the City Council on a 6-1 vote, requires gun owners to keep loaded firearms in a “safe-storage depository” (gun safe) or to be equipped with a “gun-locking device” when children and teenagers 16 years or younger live in or are visiting a home.

The law does not contain an earlier provision that would have allowed handgun bullets to be sold only to gun owners with a firearms license. During the Dec. 5 meeting, the council also removed language that would have applied the law to circumstances involving the mentally ill or persons under restraining orders.

Although Council members admit the law will be difficult to enforce, it includes fines of up to \$250 or jail time of up to 15 days. On a second offense or when a first offense results in injury or death, violators may be fined up to \$1,000 or face jail time of up to a year.

Council member George Mansfield said that while he supports teaching gun safety to children and teenagers, “I don’t believe education is the answer to this and it certainly should not be in lieu of this. I don’t think you’re going to be educating toddlers, and toddlers are often the ones who are hurt in homes.”

Mayor Randy Casale cast the lone vote against the measure, calling it redundant and saying “it’s not going to accomplish what we want it to accomplish.”

The law is modeled after one passed by the Albany city council in 2015 but adds the language regarding minors. Gun-

rights advocates criticized the proposal during two public hearings, calling it unconstitutional and unenforceable. However, City Attorney Nick Ward-Willis advised the council that the statute passes constitutional muster.

“Even if it’s never enforced and it’s only from education that people further secure the devices in these instances with minors, that’s a good thing,” Councilperson Lee Kyriacou said before the vote.

The safe-storage movement began to gain momentum in New York after Nicholas Naumkin, 12, was killed in 2010 in Saratoga County by a 12-year-old friend playing with a handgun found in the home. A proposal for a statewide law was approved by the Assembly last year but failed to pass the Senate.

Safe-storage measures have been adopted in Albany, Syracuse, Buffalo, Rochester, Saratoga Springs, Westchester County and New York City.

Gun-rights supporters were dissatisfied with the Beacon council’s vote, noting that New York already requires background checks on firearm buyers. Peter Pavelock, a Beacon resident and retired Dutchess County law enforcement officer, called the measure a violation of the Second Amendment. “It’s a fruitless law,” he said. “We don’t need a law like that and there’s nobody to enforce it.”

Philipstown resident Alex Dubroff, who is the Hudson Valley coordinator for New Yorkers Against Gun Violence and has urged the Philipstown Town Board to adopt a gun storage law, applauded the move.

“This law will increase awareness of the need to maintain the safe and secure storage of firearms and significantly reduce the possibility of a tragedy in the city of Beacon,” she said.

The Beacon Police Department recently received 100 locks for handguns and will be putting together a program to distribute the devices.

Beacon Council Approves Budget

Includes modest decrease in property taxes

By Jeff Simms

The typical Beacon homeowner will receive a property tax break of between \$40 and \$65 next year based on the city’s 2017 budget, which was adopted by the City Council Dec. 5.

Although the total assessed value of properties in Beacon rose, the budget includes a 2.43 percent tax decrease on homes and a 0.43 percent decrease on commercial properties. That amounts to about \$43 on a home assessed at \$200,000 and \$64 for a \$300,000 home.

The \$26.9 million budget includes the addition of a police officer — bringing the total to 35, including 28 on patrol — and the continuation of an afterschool program run with the Beacon school district, yet stays within the state-mandated 2 percent tax cap and offers residents the tax break, the first since 2008. The budget was adopted unanimously by the council after there were no comments during a public hearing, also held Dec. 5.

Instituted in 2012, the tax cap requires school districts and local governments to raise property taxes each year by no more than 2 percent or the rate of inflation, whichever is less. The 2017 allowable increase is 0.68 percent.

The tax decrease only applies to Beacon property taxes, not school district taxes, which voters are asked to approve each May. The Dutchess County budget scheduled for a vote on Dec. 8 also includes a proposed property tax break.

Other Beacon budget highlights include:

- A 10 percent increase in sewer rates with residential water costs unchanged.
- More than \$250,000 in recreation spending, which will fund the city swimming pool for another summer.
- Usage of \$162,980 from city savings, down from \$247,500 last year.

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WE NEED YOU!

Tuesday, December 13, 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Please come out and help us support the first Fire District Commissioner elections.

The Garrison Volunteer Fire Company is supporting these 5 candidates for the position of Fire Commissioner:

Sandra Bohl, David Brower, Joseph Fronio, Joseph Mercurio and Rodney Tudor

Four of the five commissioners have served their first appointed year while Joseph Fronio, a career FDNY firefighter, is joining the team bringing his expertise and knowledge to the volunteer team serving the community.

In this first year, the Commissioners worked diligently to organize a new government entity (the Fire District) and merge NY State laws, regulations, OSHA, PESH, NFPA safety standards, SOG's (Standard Operating Guidelines) and organize many other yearly mandatory equipment testing and procedures moving a company to a fire district.

The bulk of the time this year was spent organizing a first budget. This arduous task was not taken lightly. The Fire Company had been shorted through budget cuts by the Town of Philipstown for several years before becoming a Fire District in 2016. In 2011 the town cut \$156,000 off the budget and instructed the Company to spend all its reserves to fill the gap, which the fire company did to help meet town budget needs. Subsequently, the NYS tax cap came into existence and the town would not adjust our budget back to where it had been and it needed to be.

During any budget year tools need to be replaced, everything from chainsaw blades to the pads on heart defibrillators, trucks need maintenance and complex equipment like thermal image cameras and gas sensors need calibration and upgrades, hoses and pumps need to be tested, certified and replaced, and OSHA (Occupation Safety and Health Administration) PESH, NFPA safety standards for gear and equipment need to be met. With budget austerity things are not where they should be and the safety of the fire fighters and the public they serve is compromised.

In addition, there have been delays on major maintenance and capital projects. For example, several of the truck bay doors at the fire station do not have working safety devices operating to stop the doors from injuring a firefighter or the apparatus. Station One on Upper Station Road does not have a generator so in the event of a local power outage the equipment stops being charged and the bay doors need to be opened by hand delaying response time to fires, car accidents and medical emergencies. There are several dry hydrants that either need repair and maintenance or replacement since they have not had service during the recent austerity.

When the town set up the first year's budget, the Fire District had to pick up new mandated expenses as well as a variety of insurance budget items that had been separate in the town budget. And there was still no reestablishment of reserve funds that the State Comptroller recommends, for capitol emergencies and truck replacements.

After the startup first budget prepared by the commissioners, all future budgets will be subject to the state mandated budget cap of 2% or inflation, whichever is lower. In its first budget the state exempts Fire Districts one time to adjust to the expenses and the past austerity, but then they are required to have strict budget controls. Only the small fire tax portion of the Garrison Fire Districts residence bill will be increased.

An example property, at full valuation of \$528,387, with an assessed value of \$245,700, the fire tax is only \$393.21 per year. The estimated 2017 new fire tax would be \$498.77 per year. Note that the decisions creating the new budget include things like maintaining two fire stations, and other items, which should keep fire insurance rates lower especially in the southern part of the district.

Please come and help your local first responders our volunteer fire fighters. Please support Sandra Bohl, David Brower, Joseph Fronio, Joseph Mercurio and Rodney Tudor

PAID FOR WITH DONATIONS.

Anchorage Proposal Faces Challenges *(from Page 1)*

it needs anchorage grounds as a matter of safety, as they allow barge captains to drop anchor to rest crews and deal with inclement weather. But the Hudson River Waterfront Alliance, an coalition of lawmakers, mayors, business owners and environmental groups that held a news conference Dec. 1 at the Yonkers waterfront, disputes that.

"Our communities need safety," Galloway said. "The tanker operators? They have safety. The Coast Guard already authorizes emergency berthing when there's bad weather, for all the barges that have transited the river for decades. This isn't about safety. It's about staging barges to collect oil in Albany. It's about storing oil on the Hudson. If it's about safety, why are 42 of these 43 anchorages for long-term storage?"

Mayor Mike Spano of Yonkers argued that the phrase *long-term* has no legal definition, leading to fears that barges could remain parked on the Hudson for weeks. "The barge industry has not provided sufficient justification for the additional barges, plain and simple," he said. "They haven't even told us how long they would be there. We don't know what a short stay or a long stay is."

The Yonkers waterfront is undergoing a revitalization that was decades in the making and has already cost hundreds of millions of dollars — a project lawmakers said would be in jeopardy if the anchorage proposal goes through.

"You see these beautiful buildings here?" asked state Assemblyman Gary

Pretlow. "The reason why they're here is because people want to be near the river — a river that doesn't smell, a river that is beautiful. We don't want to look at the river and see 40 of those parked outside," he said, gesturing to a barge that was, as if on cue, slowly making its way upriver.

The Alliance has sent the Coast Guard a memorandum prepared by Mark Chertok of Sive, Paget & Riesel that challenges the legality of the project.

"This may well be a proposal to let barge owners and other tanker owners use the river to park vessels in order to allow demand to increase at the refineries and thereby get higher prices for the cargo," Chertok explained. "We call this a form of 'rivering arbitrage,' which basically allows free use of a public resource of incredible value for private profit. We don't believe that's within the confines of the statute that allows the Coast Guard to act."

The Alliance also charged that the Tug & Barge Committee should be required to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement. A few days later and a few miles upriver, another group of lawmakers and environmentalists argued that the Coast Guard should be responsible for an environmental review, and it should have been completed before the agency solicited public comment.

On Dec. 5, a group of students from the Pace University Environmental Policy Clinic, with support from lawmakers such as State Senator Sue Serino (who repre-



Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano speaks at the Yonkers waterfront alongside the Hudson River Waterfront Alliance in a press conference held Dec. 1.

Photo by B. Cronin

sents Philipstown and Beacon) and Westchester County Executive Rob Astorino, unveiled their own memorandum charging that the Coast Guard did not follow its own procedures before making the proposal public. In addition to the lack of safety assessments, the students argued that Coast Guard guidelines required the agency to seek public input and expert counsel before publishing the proposal.

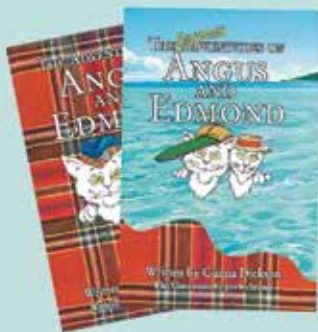
"I suspect the Coast Guard knew the proposal would not survive the level of public scrutiny its own procedures re-

quire," said John Cronin, a faculty member at the Pace clinic. "The Coast Guard essentially ran a covert regulatory process in plain sight."

Even if the proposal continues to the next stage, it will almost certainly face stiff and mounting opposition. "When you have environmental groups and the folks who are investing money in our local economies and waterfront economies agreeing, you need to pay attention," said Ossining Mayor Victoria Gearity, a member of the Hudson River Waterfront Alliance.

ROAD TRIP!

Just back from the Highlands of Scotland, Angus and Edmond pack up their tartan gear, and find themselves looking for beachwear.



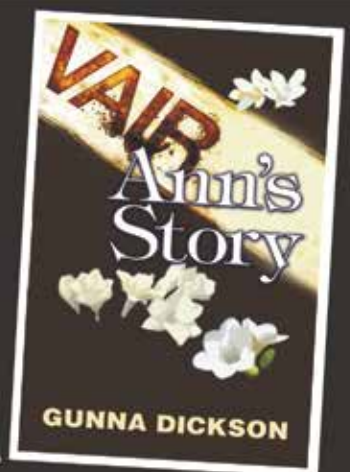
In this book of lively cat tales, the brothers receive a surprise invitation to Key West and set off on a road trip from their New York home. On the way they see the Liberty Bell and Rocky Balboa in Philadelphia, patriotic sites in Washington D.C., and a Civil War battlefield in Maryland.



A feast of fun for animal lovers and children of all ages.

Author Gunna Dickson is a New York based writer, editor and translator. Illustrator and fineartist Jon McIntosh lives and works in Key West.

"The Key West Adventures of Angus and Edmond" (ISBN 978-1-62137-878-5) is published by Virtualbookworm.com. It is available in hardcover and softcover at Amazon.com, Amazon.co.uk and numerous other online sites.



With the reign of terror over, a tale of love, loss and political subterfuge emerges. Where VAIR ends, "Ann's Story" begins.



VAIR-- A taut historical thriller that follows a series of bizarre modern-day murders using weapons linked to the 16th century. The killings appear to follow the path of a U.S. visit by an heir to the British throne.

Author Gunna Dickson is a New York based journalist. She has worked for a major NY newspaper and a global news agency and translated six books. This, her fourth book, honors the memory of her husband, Stewart Dickson, a Scottish foreign correspondent. Ann's Story may be ordered on amazon.com

The Calendar

Garrison Resident Enters Consumer Protection Program

Best known for book on Guinan's, journalist now leads product-rating giant

By Kimberly Hiss

In 2014, after 20 years as a reporter for *The Wall Street Journal*, Garrison resident Gwendolyn Bounds took a leap: She joined *Consumer Reports* and began commuting to Yonkers to run its video department.

Two years later, Bounds, who is best known in Philipstown for her 2005 book about the former Guinan's pub on Garrison's Landing, *Little Chapel on the River*, has risen quickly and now oversees all content, including the magazine and website (which together have about 7 million subscribers) and television and video programming. To maintain its independence, the nonprofit magazine and site accept no advertising and refuse to allow manufacturers to use its name or ratings as an endorsement.

Bounds recently took a break from what she describes as a typically "insane" schedule to greet me at *Consumer Reports* headquarters with a smile and brisk

handshake. We toured the testing labs, including the thickly padded anechoic chamber where speakers are evaluated; the television lab, where experts were scrutinizing the blackness of a dozen screens; and the washing machine lab, where swatches of stained fabrics were undergoing standardized abuse.

As a child growing up in North Carolina, Bounds says she remembers her parents consulting *Consumer Reports* before any crucial purchase. In Pittsburgh, where she worked as a reporter after graduating from the University of North Carolina, she turned to the magazine before buying a car, and during her 20-year tenure at the *Journal*, she became so curious about the publication and its mission that she wrote an article about it in 2010 after visiting the Yonkers labs.

But it was the transition from renter to the owner of a ramshackle Garrison home in 2003 that Bounds says best prepared her



January 2017, new design



September 2016, old design

for *Consumer Reports*. "My first housewarming gift from a neighbor was a chain saw," she recalls. "I thought 'Whoa, I'm never going to use that!'"

She soon found the responsibilities of renovating the house and caring for its land became an education in what matters to millions of consumers who don't live in city apartments. "When you own a home and you're using snow blowers and power tools, you understand a consumer-product portfolio in a different way than when you're renting in the city," she says, letting some industry lingo slip in. "I came to have incredible respect for the longevity of tools and products — I actually have three chain

saws!"

Life at CR

Consumer Reports has three branches, Bounds explains. One is the testing branch, which buys every product at retail stores and puts each through unforgiving evaluations. The second is content, which crafts the magazine pieces and web and video content. And the third is advocacy, which uses the testing and editorial to lobby for consumer protection laws.

"The testers' depth of knowledge and care for what they do is unlike anything

(Continued on Page 11)



Gwendolyn Bounds

Photo by K. Hiss

Thread Girl to the Rescue

Author will share book for children who feel overwhelmed

By Alison Rooney

In the weeks following Sept. 11, 2001, therapist Mhairi Koepke worked with children who were at the scene of the World Trade Center collapse and witnessed the destruction. One child in particular became so withdrawn she stopped speaking.

"It took quite a while for her to find her voice," Koepke recalls. "Others were having trouble identifying their feelings because they had so many."

Koepke searched for books to share with the children that "dealt specifically with the sense of inner chaos and emotional turmoil so many of us were feeling." She eventually wrote one herself, *Thread Girl the Brave*, and will introduce it Dec. 17 at a workshop for younger



Mhairi Koepke

Photo provided

children at the Desmond-Fish Library in Garrison.

The inspiration for *Thread Girl* comes from Koepke's childhood. "She was that calm inner being I relied on in times of



Illustration by Mhairi Koepke from *Thread Girl the Brave*

turmoil like moving from Scotland to Canada at age six, and going to four different schools in four years," says the author, who has lived in Cold Spring for more than 20 years. Knowing even as a teenager that she wanted someday to work with children, at age 13 she began using imagination to connect with children with autism and physical disabilities.

That's also when she first envisioned

creating healing picture books. She would years later begin her professional life as an artist, illustrator and figurative sculptor. Her fascination with the human form led to medical illustration and then to massage therapy, specializing in treating children. "It was a natural progression," she says. "I also have a bachelor's degree in art and children's literature and all of these experiences added to my

(Continued on Page 12)

FRIDAY, DEC. 9

Sparkle! Holiday Celebration
5 – 9 p.m. Boscobel | 1601 Route 9D, Garrison
845-265-3638 | boscobel.org

Trim-a-Tree Party (grades 4-8)
6:30 – 8 p.m. Butterfield Library
10 Morris Ave., Cold Spring
845-265-3040 | butterfieldlibrary.org

A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court (Youth Players)
7 p.m. Philipstown Depot Theatre
10 Garrison's Landing, Garrison
845-424-3900 | philipstowndepottheatre.org

8 x 7 (Readings by Local Writers)
7:30 p.m. Chapel Restoration
45 Market St., Cold Spring
845-265-5537 | chapelrestoration.org

This Wonderful Life (One-Man Show)
8 p.m. Paramount Hudson Valley
1008 Brown St., Peekskill
914-739-0039 | paramounthudsonvalley.com

Calling All Poets
8 p.m. Center for Creative Education
464 Main St., Beacon
914-474-7758 | callingallpoets.net

SATURDAY, DEC. 10

Breakfast with Santa
9 a.m. Garrison Fire Company
1616 Route 9, Garrison
845-424-4406 | garrisonfd.org

Candlelight Tour and Cookie Decorating (ages 5-11)
9 a.m. Boscobel | See details under Friday.

Boy Scout Holiday Tree & Wreath Sale
10 a.m. – 4 p.m. North Highlands Fire Department
504 Fishkill Road, Cold Spring
914-523-8331 | jmaasik@gmail.com

Music for Kids! Family Music Hootenanny
10 a.m. Beacon Music Factory
333 Fishkill Ave., Beacon
845-765-0472 | beaconmusicfactory.com

Pearl Harbor: From Infamy to Greatness (Talk)
10 a.m. Putnam Valley Free Library
30 Oscawana Lake Road, Putnam Valley
845-528-1024 | putnamvalleyhistory.org

Soul Stroll: Shabbat Walk
10 a.m. Little Stony Point (Railroad Bridge)
3011 Route 9D, Cold Spring
845-831-2012 | beaonhebrewalliance.org

Cookies and Tee (Shirts)
11 a.m. – 5 p.m. Cold Spring Pet Supply
169 Main St., Cold Spring
Benefits Mid Hudson Animal Aid.

Arts & Crafts Show and Sale
Noon – 5 p.m. Putnam Arts Council
521 Kennicut Road, Mahopac
845-803-8622 | putnamartscouncil.com

Charles Ruppmann: Unseen New York (Opening)
2 – 5 p.m. Field Library
4 Nelson Ave., Peekskill
914-737-1212 | peekskill.org

Sip & Shop
2 – 8 p.m. Main St., Cold Spring

Anna B. Warner, America's Gardening Pioneer (Talk)
3 p.m. Putnam History Museum
63 Chestnut St., Cold Spring
845-265-4010 | putnamhistorymuseum.org

A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court
5 and 7 p.m. Philipstown Depot Theatre
See details under Friday.

Calendar Highlights

For upcoming events visit highlandscurrent.com.

Send event listings to calendar@highlandscurrent.com

smallWORKS / Tatana Kellner (Opening)
5 – 7 p.m. Garrison Art Center
23 Garrison's Landing, Garrison
845-424-3960 | garrisonartcenter.org

Sparkle! Holiday Celebration
5 – 9 p.m. Boscobel | See details under Friday.

Jerron "Blind Boy" Paxton
7:30 p.m. Tompkins Corners
729 Peekskill Hollow Road, Putnam Valley
845-528-7280 | tompkinscorners.org

Doug Ferony and the Four Aces
8 p.m. Paramount Hudson Valley
See details under Friday.

Bert Rechtschaffer Jazz Trio
9 p.m. Chill Wine Bar | 173 Main St., Beacon
845-765-0885 | facebook.com/chillwinebar

BEACON SECOND SATURDAY

Work:Shop Winter Market
10 a.m. – 6 p.m. Wickham Studio
578 Main St., Beacon | workshopwintermarket.com

Beacon of Love Bake Sale
11 a.m. – 7 p.m. Open Space Gallery
510 Main St., Beacon
Benefits refugees resettling in Hudson Valley.

Beetle and Fred (Fabric/Sewing) Grand Opening
Noon – 9 p.m. 171 Main St., Beacon
beetleandfred.com

Josép Martinez-Cubero (Tenor) and Maximillian Esmus (Pianist)
2:30 p.m. St. Andrew's Church
15 South Ave., Beacon
845-831-1369 | standrewsbeaconny.org

City of Beacon + BeaconArts Tree Lighting
4 p.m. Polhill Park
Main Street & Route 9D, Beacon
beaconarts.org | Santa arrives at dusk.

Caroling at the Crèche
4 p.m. Polhill Park, Beacon

Holiday Art Exhibit (Opening)
4 – 6 p.m. Bannerman Island Gallery
250 Main St., Beacon
845-416-8342 | bannermancastle.org

Group Show: Seeing Music (Opening)
5 – 7 p.m. Howland Public Library
313 Main St., Beacon
845-831-1134 | beaconlibrary.org

Hudson River Science Exhibit (Opening)
6 – 8 p.m. Beacon Institute
199 Main St., Beacon
646-483-1338 | bire.org

Jack Zero and Pamela Zaremba (Openings)
6 – 9 p.m. bau Gallery | 506 Main St., Beacon
845-440-7584 | baugallery.com

Wendy Lindbergh: Luminous Ground (Opening)
6 – 8 p.m. Theo Ganz Gallery
149 Main St., Beacon
917-318-2239 | theoganzstudio.com

Group Show: Gift Wrapped
6 – 9 p.m. Clutter Gallery | 163 Main St., Beacon
212-255-2505 | cluttermagazine.com

SUNDAY, DEC. 11

Breakfast with Santa
8 – 11 a.m. Cold Spring Firehouse
154 Main St., Cold Spring
845-265-3611 | coldspringfd.org

Alexander Hamilton Walking History Tour
10 a.m. Meet at Beacon riverfront, near station
845-249-5305 | midhudsonadk.org

Beacon Farmers' Market
10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Veterans Building
413 Main St., Beacon | beaconfarmersmarket.org

Boy Scout's Christmas Tree & Wreath Sale
10 a.m. – 4 p.m. North Highlands Fire Department
See details under Saturday.

St. Philip's Choir: A Ceremony of Carols
10:30 a.m. St. Philip's Church
1101 Route 9D, Garrison
845-424-3571 | stphilipshighlands.org

Snow Globe Workshop
11 a.m. Outdoor Discovery Center
100 Muser Dr., Cornwall
845-534-5506 | hhnaturemuseum.org

Work:Shop Winter Market
11 a.m. – 5 p.m. Wickham Studio
See details under Beacon Second Saturday.

Shop Crafts & Art in the Gallery
Noon – 5 p.m. Putnam Arts Council
See details under Saturday.

Blood Drive
1 – 7 p.m. Beacon Hebrew Alliance
331 Verplanck Ave., Beacon
800-933-2566 | nybloodcenter.org

No-Strings Marionettes
1 p.m. *Jack and the Beanstalk*
4 p.m. *Handsome and Gretel*
Howland Cultural Center | 477 Main St., Beacon
845-831-1134 | beaconlibrary.org

An Irish Tenors Christmas
3 p.m. Eisenhower Hall, West Point
845-938-4159 | ikehall.com

Living Nativity
6 p.m. Church on the Hill
245 Main St., Cold Spring | 845-265-2022

MONDAY, DEC. 12

Toddler Time
11:30 a.m. Desmond-Fish Library
472 Route 403, Garrison | 845.424.3020

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

Beacon School Board
7 p.m. Beacon High School
101 Matteawan Road, Beacon
845-838-6900 | beaconcitkyk12.org

Showing Up For Racial Justice (SURJ)
7:30 p.m. Beacon Hebrew Alliance
55 Fishkill Ave., Beacon
facebook.com/groups/beaconsurj

Healthcare Options for the Self-Employed
7:30 p.m. Beahive Beacon | 291 Main St., Beacon
845-765-1890 | beahivebzzz.com

TUESDAY, DEC. 13

Boscobel Open for Artists
9:30 a.m. – 4 p.m. | See details under Friday.

Garrison Fire District Vote
6 – 9 p.m. Garrison Fire Department
1616 Route 9, Garrison

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

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 14

Meet the Winemaker
5 p.m. Kitchen Sink | 157 Main St., Beacon
845-765-0240 | kitchensinknry.com

Garrison School Board
7 p.m. Garrison School | 1100 Route 9D, Garrison
845-424-3689 | gufs.org

THURSDAY, DEC. 15

Haldane PTA
9 a.m. Butterfield Library | See details under Friday.

An Evening of Winter Poems (Reading)
7 p.m. Howland Public Library
See details under Beacon Second Saturday.

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

FRIDAY, DEC. 16

Sparkle! Holiday Celebration
5 – 9 p.m. Boscobel | See details under Dec. 9.

A Christmas Carol Dinner Theater
7 p.m. Hudson House | 2 Main St., Cold Spring
845-265-9355 | hudsonhouseinn.com

International Film Night: Gloria (Chile)
7 p.m. Howland Public Library
See details under Beacon Second Saturday.

Holiday Caroling
8 p.m. Redoubt Wine Bar
1135 Route 9D, Garrison
845-424-3463 | redoubtwinebar.com



beBhakti
yoga center

Discover the meaning of Bhakti at Beacon's new yoga center.

Bring this ad to the studio for 10% off packages & classes.

beBhaktiyoga.com | 845.440.8855
89 Dewindt St., Beacon, NY

Garrison Resident Enters Consumer Protection Program (from Page 9)

I've seen," Bounds says while sitting in her Yonkers office, which overlooks a timbered hill and includes a photo of a Garrison farm. Of her own team — 135 people report to her — she expresses respect and gratitude. "Being a journalist here is a privilege and a great responsibility because you are informing people about some of their most important purchasing decisions and you can't take that lightly," she says. "The journalists reporting up through my team are some of the best, and they take their mission very seriously."

This year, *Consumer Reports* is marking its 80th anniversary with a rebranding that includes a new moniker (CR), logo and ratings design.

"Everything we do is for the consumer," Bounds says, noting that her job also involves gathering feedback through social media and e-mail from consumers about their experiences with products. One of her favorite examples of this was the "Bendgate" controversy in 2014 when the internet exploded with complaints that the iPhone 6 and 6 Plus were bending. *Consumer Reports* testers responded by subjecting iPhones and other models to compression tests before reporting confidently that the iPhones weren't as bendy as feared.

Bounds also says she is particularly proud of stories focused on broader marketplaces such as health care. A report on "superbugs" examined the risks of overusing antibiotics. Another project (named a finalist for a National Magazine Award), "A Beautiful Death," told the story of a retired New York dentist with terminal cancer who decided against being a consumer of health care services such as chemotherapy so he could focus his final days on family and friends.



The vacuum cleaner testing room at *Consumer Reports* Photo by K. Hiss

A long time coming

Pushed north by the 2001 attacks on the World Trade Center, which damaged her lower Manhattan apartment and *The Wall Street Journal* offices, Bounds drifted to the Highlands, expecting someday to return to the city. But she says she began to feel such a strong connection to Garrison that when she learned Jim Guinan, the beloved proprietor of Guinan's, was struggling to keep the pub and market going, she began helping out behind the counter.

"People spend most of their lives searching for a place they truly feel is their home, and every fiber of my being is now rooted to the Hudson Valley," she says. "I don't drive across the Bear Mountain Bridge without thinking how lucky I am."

My Five Favorite Products

By Gwendolyn Bounds

Snow blower

Mine's a two-stage gas Craftsman model with a 28-inch clearing width, and I bought it in 2008 after realizing the snowplow service would inevitably leave all my driveway's gravel in piles, which then had to be redistributed every spring. Not so fun. I love the strategy involved in clearing snow properly — it's like a game — so much that I sometimes do my neighbor's driveway.

Coffee French Press & Burr Grinder

Using these tools adds an extra five minutes in the morning, but it's worth it. As a journalist, I never feel like I get enough good coffee.

1999 BMW 323i

I bought this manual transmission car when I first moved to Garrison after 9/11 and can't bear to part with it. Fortunately, despite its age, when I take it to the *Consumer Reports* auto test track, the testers think it's a very cool car.

Chain saws

When I first moved here, a gracious neighbor gave me a gas Stihl Mini Boss as a housewarming present. I thought it was a joke. They said, "Trust us!" And when the tree limbs started coming down after the first storm, I got some chaps and a lesson from John Guinan and Lew Kingsley. Now I've added an electric model and battery-powered one for smaller jobs.

WaterRower

If you watch *House of Cards*, you know this is Frank Underwood's secret workout weapon. There aren't a lot of close gym options living in the woods, so I've built my own at home. This machine's design is elegant and it gets bonus points for its "Very Good" rating by *Consumer Reports*.

SHOP MAIN STREET *
— The HOLIDAY Event —

Five Fab Stores — One Fun Day of Festive Shopping

Join Old Souls, Cold Spring Apothecary, Swing, Cold Spring General Store and Burkelman for a day of holiday shopping and all around good cheer. Stock up on stuffers, find gifts that wow, and grab a little something for yourself, all while sipping complimentary bubbles with your besties or kicking it with a brew bro. So grab a friend and head on down to shop the best Main Street in the Hudson Valley.

Main Street, Cold Spring Village
Saturday, December 10
12 – 8 p. m.

Sip * Shop * Win



TheoGanz Studio
149 Main Street Beacon, NY 12508
theoganzstudio.com

Wendy Lindbergh
Luminous Ground, the shared field

December 10 - 31, 2016
Opening Reception
Saturday, Dec. 10th / 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Thread Girl to the Rescue *(from Page 9)*

understanding.”

Koepke's approach is to help children identify feelings by noting that “very often we aren't feeling just one thing, we are feeling multiple things all bundled on top of each other,” she says. “The idea is to give them skills to reduce their sensory input. Then help kids to identify and tease out feelings and just be with them all, to help them find compassion for themselves in the situation they were in and then to be able to articulate their experience. Together we look for the little inner person who is hidden deep inside.”

Thread Girl, mirroring Koepke's practice, is “a story about a girl who is made up of thread and yarn in a distant galaxy,” she explains. “She is so excited and full of energy that she sets out for Earth, bursting with enthusiasm, and begins to explore. As she does she begins

to unravel and all the feelings that were held

inside her spill out until she finds herself having an incredibly colorful meltdown. She then picks up her pieces and has to figure out how to put herself back together again.”

After Sept. 11, Koepke discovered books for younger readers that explained basic emotions but none that spoke about being overwhelmed. “I wrote and illustrated this book to explain the nuts and bolts of a tantrum in a nonjudgmental way and to show how chaotic energy can be transformed into creativity,” she says. “In the past, when we were growing up, there were two acknowledged emotions: happy and sad. There wasn't a lot of time spent on understanding nuances or even considering that young people struggled with the complexity or

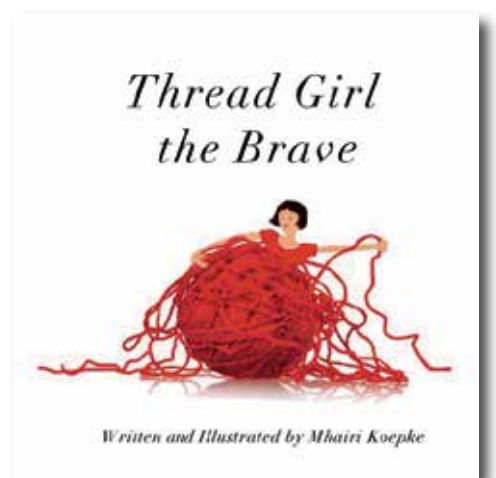
“We've come a long way in seeing children as the highly developed people they are instead of assuming they have little feelings because they are small.”

conflicting feelings the way adults do.”

She adds: “We've come a long way in seeing children as the highly developed people they are instead of assuming they have little feelings because they are small. This book is for children who find it

hard to focus, have difficulty expressing emotions, are sensitive, overstimulated or hyperactive. It deals with common stumbling blocks like anxiety, impatience, mood swings and messy rooms.”

Koepke also treats adults, many of whom find her through her site at flowerwaterheaven.com. “Most adults experience times when they feel overwhelmed or out of control,” she says. “Learning how to manage emotions is part of the human experience.” Parents see her, too. “My goal is to educate the whole family so that they can continue to



care for each other.”

The free Dec. 17 workshop, which starts at 2:30 p.m., is targeted to 5- to 7-year-olds but any child is welcome to attend. *Thread Girl the Brave* is available in hardcover and ebook editions at blurb.com and in paperback and for the Kindle at Amazon.com.



View from Mount Beacon, by Amanda Epstein, on display at the Bannerman Island Gallery's holiday art exhibit which opens Dec. 10 Image provided

Holiday Tours at Mount Gulian

Dutch Colonial home will have candlelight tours

The historic Dutch Colonial home of the Verplanck family in Beacon has been decked out for the holidays with period styles. Candlelight tours are offered beginning Sunday, Dec. 18, from 4 to 7 p.m. and continue Dec. 20 to 22 from 1 to 5 p.m., with the last tour at 4 p.m.

The Sunday program includes wassail and holiday desserts with the ticket and storyteller Lorraine Hartin Gelardi at 5 p.m. Tickets for Dec. 18 are \$6 to \$10. Weekday tours are \$4 to \$8.

On Dec. 29, families are invited to the annual Children's Holiday Tea from noon to 2 p.m. The tables will be set with fine linens and china in the two main rooms of the house. Children can make a craft and the menu will include traditional refreshments such as scones, breads and finger sandwiches. Tickets are \$15 for children and \$20 for adults. Visit mountgulian.org for details.

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Five Voices as One

Highlands singers form ensemble (and they have costumes)

By Alison Rooney

A new vocal quintet, the Brasiles Ensemble (pronounced *brah-zee-lez*), will debut at Boscobel's Sparkle! celebration on Friday, Dec. 16 and Saturday, Dec. 17, with its members — Laura Danilov, Madeleine DeNitto, Kimberly Hiss, Paul Philips and Ed Robinson — attired in Dickensian costumes constructed by Kassie Chapman from items purchased at the Graymoor thrift shop. The group will be singing carols and other winter-themed works and have already booked performances into 2017, including Nov. 25 at the Chapel Restoration.

Founder DeNitto says the idea for the ensemble came to her a few years ago following an All Souls' Day concert called "Nocturnal" by the choir at St. Philip's Church in Garrison. The concert featured soloists accompanied by piano but led a few of the singers to discuss forming an *a capella* group, she recalls.

DeNitto says the group does plan to invite other singers. "We want to grow but always within the boundaries of having an ensemble that not only has strong voices but is filled with people who are great to work with," she says. "We are limited to those who have the time to do this, which is a big factor. I couldn't have asked for four better people to get this started."

The group members — only Danilov is not a member of the St. Philip's choir — get together for two hours each Tuesday morning to practice, learn the music and

perfect the harmonies. Their repertoire has included madrigals, folk songs, sacred material, carols and opera. DeNitto says they are always scouting for rare pieces while also practicing familiar works and carols.

Danilov (alto), a life coach from Cold Spring, has sung everything from musical theater to rock and also taught Williamson Technique movement at the Actors' Movement Studio in New York. DeNitto (soprano), a professional organizer, spent a decade performing with an opera company in Atlanta. Proficient in sacred and early music, she was a member of a madrigal group for several years. Soprano Kimberly Hiss, a magazine writer and editor (and contributor to *The Current*), who lives in Peekskill, studied vocal performance at Penn State and has sung with the Young People's Chorus of New York City and the Russian Chamber Chorus of New York.

Paul Philips (tenor), a Highland resident who works in educational publishing, was an original member of the Oberlin Obertones and has performed with the New York Chamber Symphony Chorus, the Judith Clurman Chorale, the Juilliard Choral Union and the Oxford University Press Choir. Finally, Ed Robinson (bass) of Yorktown, a retired mechanical engineer, has sung with the Manhattan Borough-Wide Chorus and the Saint Augustine Chapel Choir with Trinity Parish.

DeNitto says the name of the group originates with her family history. On July 4, 1921, her grandparents Salvatore



The Brasiles Ensemble: Kimberly Hiss, Paul Philips, Madeleine DeNitto, Ed Robinson and Laura Danilov

Photo by Clayton Scales

and Madeleine DeNitto arrived in New York harbor from Italy. Madeleine's three children would later recall their mother singing opera in her kitchen while baking French loaves. "Madeleine left behind her native country, her beloved family and her maiden name, Brasiles," DeNitto says. "It is in her honor that I

lend her given name to a group of fine musicians whom she would certainly have adored."

For more information, visit facebook.com/thebrasilesensemble. To contact the group, which is available for hire, call 917-536-2033 or email thebrasilesensemble@gmail.com.



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Garrison Fire District to Hold First Vote *(from Page 1)*

Joseph Fronio, Linda Lomonaco and Joseph Regele). The Garrison Volunteer Fire Company has endorsed four commissioners (excluding Prentice, who cast the lone vote against the district's budget) and Fronio, a member of the fire company.

The terms of the newly elected commissioners begin Jan. 1 and will be staggered, with the candidate receiving the most votes serving a five-year term, the candidate receiving the second-highest vote total serving a four-year term, etc.

The Current asked each of the nine commissioner candidates by email to answer the same questions (below). Their responses are posted at highlandscurrent.com.

- Why do you want to serve as a Garrison Fire District commissioner?
- What skills or experience would you bring to the post? Are you a past or

current member of the Garrison fire company or another company?

- What is your view of the proposed budget?
- What is your recommendation to voters on the \$40,000 reserve fund?

Three-hour window

The limited voting hours for the first Garrison Fire District election has drawn criticism from the Philipstown Town Board. State law only requires districts to have polls open from 6 to 9 p.m. on the second Tuesday in December. Commissioners can extend those hours and provide absentee ballots for limited circumstances but must do so before the election details are announced about a month prior to the vote.

Philipstown Supervisor Richard Shea promised at the Dec. 1 meeting of the town board to "do what we can" to get

the hours extended and the polling place moved to a more central location, such as the Garrison School.

"It's about as undemocratic a process as you could hope to have," said Regele, a commissioner candidate and longtime critic of GVFC management practices, at the meeting. "We're restricting the hours and putting it in a location that's inconvenient and has the potential for being hostile."

Councilors John Van Tassel and Michael Leonard both said they also had contacted the district about extending the voting hours. Leonard expressed concerns about senior citizens driving in the dark.

"To not have daytime hours might follow state law, but, I'm sorry, it is not acceptable," he said.

Shea said the town board would continue to push for longer voting hours for the 2017 district election.

No vote on budget

Because the Garrison Fire District is in its first year, state law allows the commissioners to set a budget without the approval of voters. The five commissioners appointed by the Town of Philipstown when the district was created in 2014 approved expenditures Oct. 28 totaling \$777,907 — a 27 percent increase — by a 3 to 1 vote, with Prentice dissenting and Mercurio absent. Future budgets will be restricted by the state tax cap.

Town board members have expressed dismay at the size of the budget, which commissioners justified by saying it made up for cuts by the board when it supervised the fire department through 2014. At the Dec. 1 town board meeting, Shea questioned the district's financial practices, noting it will soon pay off large debts, freeing funds for other uses. "Where's that money going to go?" he asked.

Cut-Your-Own Tradition Returns to Garrison *(from Page 1)*

Babe Ruth of Christmas Tree Contest Ribbon Winners" and "the Godfather of Christmas Trees." During the Ford and Carter presidencies, Cockburn Farm trees adorned the White House.

Cockburn stopped growing trees in the mid-1990s and died in 2003 at age 88. His four-acre farm had been idle for about two decades when Sean Barton and Josh Maddocks, both from Garrison, purchased it in 2015 and once again began growing and selling choose-and-cut trees.

"We wanted to bring a family tradition

back to the Hudson Valley," Barton says. Cutting your own tree "is mainly about the experience. And it's a very local experience."

They also bring in trees from western Pennsylvania, Barton says, although a freshly cut tree "absolutely lasts longer" than an imported one. The varieties include Douglas, Fraser and white (concolor) firs. Cut trees are replaced each spring; at full capacity the farm could yield about 4,000 trees, he says.

The search for the perfect tree at Cockburn Farm was an experience that Nia Gourgareas and Joe Ruggiero are unlikely to forget. When the Cortlandt Manor couple arrived Dec. 4 and began searching the grounds, Gourgareas came upon a tree that stood out — large letters attached to the tree spelled out an important question: "Nia — will you marry me?"

She said yes.

While every visit may not be quite that memorable, Barton says he and Maddocks



Nia said yes.

Photo provided



Sunday afternoon visitors search for the elusive perfect tree.

Photo by M. Turton

strive to make it a pleasant holiday treat. Customers are treated to free hot chocolate and cookies and each family who purchases a tree receives a "Cockburn Farm 2016" ornament. Santa Claus will stop by each Saturday and Sunday from noon until 4 p.m. through Dec. 24, and a variety of wreaths and decorations are available in the gift shop.

Cockburn Farm is open daily from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. For more information visit cockburnfarm.com.

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Philipstown Approves Higher Building-Permit Fees

Also, presses Putnam official on sales taxes

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

At its Dec. 1 meeting the Philipstown Town Board raised most building-permit fees, although they remain comparable to nearby municipalities.

The board didn't increase fees outright but instead changed the formula used to calculate them. Under the previous schedule, a permit cost 40 cents per square foot. Under the revision, which was adopted unanimously by the five-member board, the charge is now \$10 per \$1,000 of value.

For a 1,600-square-foot home, a permit under the old fee would have been \$640 (1,600 x 40 cents). Under the new schedule, assuming the same home is worth \$200,000, the fee would jump \$2,000 (\$1,000 x 200).

Three nearby towns charge more: The fee per \$1,000 of value is \$12 in Fishkill and Carmel and \$20 in Putnam Valley. Under pending changes in Kent, the rate would increase to \$10. Only Southeast charges less, at \$9.12.

Permits for renovations and additions will continue to be calculated on a dimensional basis, at 60 cents per square foot.

Supervisor Richard Shea said the fees needed to be increased because they were not covering the town's expenses in the permitting process.

The changes were proposed by Greg Wunner, the newly appointed building inspector and code enforcement officer, who



Jill Varricchio, president of the Putnam County Economic Development Corporation, addressed the Philipstown Town Board on Dec. 1. Photo by L.S. Armstrong

came to Philipstown from Fishkill.

Consolidation

Wunner's department soon may see other changes as well. At the meeting, Shea announced that Philipstown and the Village of Cold Spring are pushing ahead on consolidation of their building inspection and code enforcement operations. Shea said he, Wunner and Cold Spring Mayor Dave Merandy were scheduled to meet Dec. 6 to work out the details. "I know the village is anxious to do it," Shea said. "It's all positive." Bringing the Village of Nelsonville into the consolidation

remains an option, Shea said.

The two villages and town discussed consolidation in 2014 but Cold Spring backed out. However, in 2015 the town and village agreed to have Kevin Donohue, then the Philipstown inspector, handle oversight of the Butterfield redevelopment project in Cold Spring. This past summer, the Village Board authorized Merandy to sign a letter of intent on merging the town and village departments. Philipstown and Nelsonville also resumed discussions.

Sales taxes

The board used a routine get-acquainted visit by Jill Varricchio, president of the Putnam County Economic Development Corporation, to push — again — for the county to share sales-tax revenue. Unlike most counties in New York, Putnam does not return a portion of sales tax revenue to the towns and villages in which it is collected.

"We generate a lot of sales tax revenue for a small community and we'd like to get something back," Shea said. "We really feel the strain" of supporting "all our roads" and other services used by visitors as Highlands tourism booms, he said.

"We're adding stresses to our resources but we're not getting anything," added Councilor Nancy Montgomery, while Councilor Mike Leonard pointed out that officials and residents would be motivated to do more for tourism and business growth if they saw some financial return from the county.

Shea suggested Varricchio host a meeting of all the town supervisors in Putnam to vent their frustrations with the sales-tax situation. "That's the one thing that brings everybody together," he said.

"OK — good thought!" Varricchio replied. In her presentation she outlined the basic work of the Putnam EDC (putnamedc.org), which promotes the creation and retention of businesses and provides information on commercial properties, incentives, resources and demographics to encourage development.

"We market the county's assets" and try to increase the tax base, Varricchio explained. "We strive for balanced growth." She presented board members with plaques of appreciation for their public

service and distributed tape measures bearing the Putnam EDC logo. (Each came in a box stamped "Made in China.")

East Mountain Road South

Towns don't often lose roads, or parts thereof. Nor do they want to lose state money associated with upkeep. To ensure it doesn't happen to East Mountain Road South, the board passed a resolution reasserting its jurisdiction over its entire 6.1-mile length, from Route 9 to the Fishkill border. The road has 3.4 miles of pavement and 2.7 miles of dirt surface.

The board also agreed to notify the New York State Department of Transportation of the action, thereby ensuring that state highway funds flow smoothly. If the state is thus duly re-apprised of town jurisdiction over the road, it appears that some residents remain ignorant — another reason for the board's declaration.

"Some of this comes from people being a nuisance and claiming the road," Shea said. "If you want to claim the road, maybe you can claim the maintenance on it." He described various encroachments, such as reflector poles and other impediments, installed in the mistaken belief that a homeowner's property extends halfway across the road. "These are public roadways" which the town must keep open, he said. "Let's work together on this, doing what makes sense."

New Citizens



Stanley and Cicily George of Brewster and their children Acsah and Nathanael were naturalized during a Dec. 7 ceremony at the Historic Courthouse in Carmel. They were among 23 Putnam County residents who became U.S. citizens. The event was the fifth of its kind since County Clerk Michael Bartolotti brought the ceremonies back to the county after taking office in 2015. Photo by Holly Crocco

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COMMUNITY BRIEFS



Bears enjoying holiday fun at the Trailside Zoo at Bear Mountain

Photo provided

Feed the Bears

Holiday treats at the zoo

The Trailside Museums & Zoo at Bear Mountain invites guests to give the resident bears a tasty holiday snack on Saturday, Dec. 17. Beginning at 10:30 a.m. at the Bear Den, visitors can make gift boxes that the bears will be given at 11 a.m. to unwrap. A \$1 per person donation is requested and parking is \$10. The park's skating rink and merry-go-round will be open, as well as many hiking trails. Visit trailsidezoo.org for information.

Putnam County Nonprofits Awarded Grants

Four chosen from among 22 applicants

The Community Foundation of Putnam County has awarded grants to four nonprofits, from among 22 applicants. Building Bridges, Building Boats, Hudson Valley Seed, the Philipstown Depot Theatre and the Putnam History Museum will each be recognized at a reception Dec. 13 in Cold Spring.

The grants will fund requests that ranged from staff development to technol-

ogy purchases and upgrades. Four other Putnam County organizations, including the Putnam County Sheriff's Department, will receive grants from other Community Foundation programs.

Poets to Lead Workshop

Retreat runs three days at Garrison Institute

A Garrison Institute workshop, "Imagining Your Voice on the Page," will bring poets Gregory Pardlo and Robert Polito to the area for a weekend retreat starting Dec. 16. Register at garrisoninstitute.org.

Pardlo was awarded the Pulitzer Prize for poetry in 2015 for his collection *Digest*. He teaches in the creative writing program at Rutgers University at Camden. Polito is the founding director of the graduate writing program and the Riggio Honors Program at the New School and a former president of the Poetry Foundation in Chicago. His most poetry collection is *Hollywood & God*.



Gregory Pardlo Photo by Rachel Eliza Griffiths

Community Harmony

Two choirs will present concert

Two choirs will join voices for a concert and sing-a-long at the First Presbyterian Church in Cold Spring at 3 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 18. Cat Guthrie founded and

leads both community groups; her Dream Choir meets in Garrison and the People's Choir in Beacon.

The free event will feature songs by the Beatles and Beach Boys as well as holiday favorites. The church is located at 10 Academy St. and the suggested donation is \$5.

Free Vitamins for Children

Drug World launches healthy kids program

Drug World in Cold Spring is offering free chewable vitamins for children ages 2 to 12 as part of its Good Neighbor Pharmacy Healthy Kids program. Request an enrollment form at the pharmacy to receive a punch card for a bottle of vitamins every 30 days for each child in your household. Drug World is located at 55 Chestnut St.

Dinner Theater at Hudson House

Dicken's A Christmas Carol set for Dec. 16

Theatre on the Road will bring its production of Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol* to the Hudson House Inn on Friday, Dec. 16, at 7 p.m. The interactive event costs \$65, which includes dinner, tax and gratuity with a cash bar. Reserve tickets by calling 845-265-9355 and visit hudsonhouseinn.com for the menu.

Nativity Scenes at Graymoor

International crèches in display in Garrison

The Franciscan Friars of the Atonement have assembled a free exhibit of international crèches at the Graymoor in Garrison that will be on view until Jan. 12. It's open daily from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

"The crèche is a Franciscan tradition," explained Father Thomas Orians, director of Graymoor Spiritual Life Center. "St. Francis of Assisi in 1223 first created a crèche scene in the village of Greccio, Italy. He wanted people to remember that Jesus was born in a humble stable. Today it has become a humble, simple representation of the true meaning of Christmas."



The Dream Choir and People's Choir perform at First Presbyterian Church. Photo provided

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COMMUNITY BRIEFS



A nativity scene from Central Africa on display at Graymoor

Image provided

Beacon

Wee Play to Create Plan for Playground

Asks for feedback through survey

The Wee Play Community Project is drafting a master plan with Bryan Quinn of One Nature LLC for Memorial Park playground and looking for feedback from Beacon residents. The group hopes community members will share ideas and

comments about the play space at survey-monkey.com/r/WeePlayMasterPlanSurvey or by picking up a survey at the Howland Public Library or the Beacon Recreation Department. The deadline is Jan. 31.

Quinn will use the feedback to design three potential plans to be voted on by the community in early 2017. Funds for the site will be raised during Wee Play's annual Ree Play Sale and matched by the city of Beacon. For more information, email heidi@weeplayproject.org or call 646-379-1213.

Second Saturday Openings

Galleries to host receptions Dec. 10

Bau Gallery at 506 Main St. is presenting work by Jack Zero in an exhibit titled *Wild & Diverse* in the main gallery while Pamela Zaremba's *Girls* appears in the Beacon Room. The shows opens Dec. 10 with a reception from 6 to 9 p.m. and will be on view until Jan. 2. The gallery is open Saturday and Sunday from noon to 6 p.m.

Zero's work includes sculpture, painting and ceramics. Zaremba will be showing photographs of childhood exploring her own memories of growing up, translating that moment when a memory becomes an interpretation of an event.

The **Howland Public Library** is opening an exhibit by the Beacon Photography Group, *Seeing Music: Photography and the Art of Sound*, with a reception from 5 to 7 p.m. The juried show features music-themed and music-inspired images and will be on display in the Community Room until Jan. 7.

Catalyst Gallery at 137 Main St. is opening its fourth annual Small Works Show with a reception from 6 to 9 p.m. The show features works by more than 40 artists in painting, sculpture, photography, prints and mixed media. It will continue through Jan. 8. The gallery is open Saturdays from 1 to 9 p.m. and Sundays from 1 to 6 p.m. See catalystgallery.com.

The Beacon Institute for Rivers and Estuaries is opening *Hudson River*

Science from 6 to 8 p.m. in its gallery at 199 Main St. The exhibit features digital art by Allison Montroy, a recent Clarkson University graduate student in data analytics, that interprets complex ecosystems. It is designed to be a teaching tool demonstrating the balance of a river and the impact of humans.

The Bannerman Island Gallery opens its Winter Holiday Art Exhibition from 4 to 6 p.m. It features works less than 14 x 14 inches, including framed art, ceramic and glass sculpture. Some of the art depicts local scenes and Bannerman Castle. The exhibit is on view until Jan. 29 and the gallery's hours are Saturday and Sunday from noon to 5 p.m.

Hanukkah Events

Bicycle menorah will be lit Dec. 24

The Beacon Hebrew Alliance will celebrate Hanukkah with BeaconArts by lighting a Bicycle Menorah in Polhill Park at 5 p.m. on Dec. 24. The lighting will continue for eight nights until the menorah is completely lit on Dec. 31. Every night has a theme; see the calendar at beaconhebrewalliance.org for the schedule.

On Sunday, Dec. 18, the community is invited to a Hanukkah party for children from noon to 2 p.m. at the Beacon Hebrew Alliance at 331 Verplanck Ave. Bring your favorite latke for a tasting contest. Call 845-831-2012, ext. 3, for information.

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Sports

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Boys' Basketball

Beacon 64, Valley Central 57
Zamere McKenzie (18 points),
Alex Benson (16)

Tappan Zee 64, Beacon 40
Jemond Galloway (7 points, 15
rebounds) Jerome Henderson (9
rebounds)

Solomon Schechter 55, Haldane 43

Girls' Basketball

Beacon 45, Tappan Zee 40
Beacon 53, Pelham 47
Haldane 47, Hastings 34
Ketcham 48, Beacon 33

Track and Field

Section 1 Kickoff
The Armory, New York City

Girls' Long Jump

3. Brittany Gona (Haldane) 15-03.25

Girls' Shotput

8. Catherine Parr (Haldane) 27-00.00

Girls' High Jump

1. Jummie Akinwunmi (Beacon) 5-00.00

Boys' 55-meter Hurdles

4. Ethan Burgos (Beacon) 8.73

Boys' 55-meter dash

2. Alex Laird (Beacon) 6.99

Boys' 1,000-meter run

2. Nicholas Farrell (Haldane) 2:42.15
7. Conor Van Riper (Haldane) 2:45.14
8. Adam Silhavy (Haldane) 2:47.10

Boys' Triple Jump

5. Richard Kish (Beacon) 38-11.00
8. Justin Gonzalez (Haldane) 35-07.00
10. Jose Mendoza (Haldane) 35-05.00

Boys' 4 x 200-Meter Relay

4. Laird/Istvan/Burgos/Compagnone
(Beacon) 1:39.31

Girls' Hoops Preview

Haldane and Beacon both start campaigns with wins

By Leigh Alan Klein

The Haldane and Beacon girls' basketball teams, which had been scheduled to face off Dec. 10 in Cold Spring in a game since postponed to Jan. 5, are both poised to have strong seasons.

Haldane returns all five starters from last season's 12-win campaign that ended with a 47-31 loss to Pine Plains in the regional semifinal of the state Class C tournament.

The 2016-17 season began Dec. 5 with a convincing 47-34 road victory against Hastings. The team played at Irvington Dec. 8 and has its first home game on Monday, Dec. 12, against Valhalla.

After three consecutive Section 1 titles, the Blue Devils should have another winning season, although they face "an extremely tough schedule," noted head coach Tyrone Searight. "The girls are working hard to improve with each practice and game to get ready for the postseason."

Senior guards Missy Lisikatos and Hannah Monteleone will play important roles along with junior forward Allison Chiera, who averaged 15 points per game last season and was named fourth-team All-State.

In Beacon, Christina Dahl, in her 15th year as head coach, says she's excited to get the season underway. "We have a great group of unselfish players who trust each

other," she said.

Last year's 10-win season provided valuable lessons and playing time to a young core, she said. The approach has been to improve and get better each day to compete in Section 1 Class A with rivals Peekskill and Lourdes.

The Bulldogs started with two wins, defeating host Tappan Zee in the Tappan Zee Tournament and capturing the title with a 53-47 victory over Pelham. They lost their home opener Dec. 6 to Ketcham, 48-33, and next travel to Putnam Valley on Tuesday, Dec. 13.

Opposing defenses shouldn't be able to focus solely on senior Lauren Schetter, who averaged 19 points and 12 rebounds a game a season ago and earned 12th team All-State honors, said Dahl. "We can put four other players on the court who can score, rebound and contribute," she said.

Raven Encarnacion, a transfer student, will start at point guard, while junior forward Brianna Dembo is a "double-double" threat working the pivot, Dahl said. (Dembo was named Most Valuable Player of the Tappan Zee tournament.) The team also has two strong freshman guards, Enita Rodriguez and Skyler Kurtz. (Dahl's voice perked up when talking about her freshmen. "This team has a lot of ninth-graders who love the game and want to improve," she said.) Dahl said she feels fortunate to have "10 committed players" who so far appear hungry to win.

"We have a great group of unselfish players who trust each other."

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Highlands Current Athlete of the Week

*Lauren Schetter,
Beacon High School*

Schetter became the fifth Beacon girls' basketball player to score 1,000 points while leading the Bulldogs to the Tappan Zee tournament title. The 5'10" senior forward, who has committed to Pace University, is highly effective in the lane as a passer and scorer.



The Beacon Bulldogs after winning a tournament on Dec. 3. Athlete of the Week Lauren Schetter is third from left.

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