

## Legislators Agree on Senior Center

*Differ on related issues*

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

Members of the Putnam County Legislature last Monday (Dec. 15) agreed on the need for a county senior citizens center in Cold Spring, but scrapped over related issues, such as the fate of the sheriff's Nelsonville substation and the adequacy of internal communication on county plans at the Butterfield redevelopment.

Butterfield came up two hours into a meeting in Carmel of the legislature's Physical Services Committee, after Legislator Roger Gross had sent a memo objecting to reviews by Legislator Barbara Scuccimarra and County Executive MaryEllen Odell of floor plans for county space at Butterfield. Airing of Gross' concerns only aroused further unease over Legislature Chairman Carl Albano's interaction with Butterfield developer Paul Guillaro. Scuccimarra, Albano and Legislator Ginny Nacerino make up the Physical Services Committee, whose meetings routinely draw other legislators as well.

Albano began the debate by saying that county plans remain unsettled regarding Butterfield, where Odell proposes to not only put a senior center but offices, or auxiliary offices, of some county departments. "Basically we've got to get a lot of information" in coming days and "to try to figure out what to do," Albano said. "We know what monies we have available already" but must "try to hammer down all the numbers and stuff. We're looking at around 6,000 square feet and the more information we get the more we can bring to the discussion" in the legislature.

### Questions about DMV and more

Gross said that after he sent his memo raising questions, to his relief he learned that the Odell-Scuccimarra look at floor plans involved only a senior center and auxiliary quarters for the Putnam County Sheriff's Department, "where we're all on board," not space for general county offices. But he also stressed the need for working with the legislature. He explained that officials in the Town of Southeast were asking "is the DMV [Department of Motor Vehicles] going to have longer lines here because of DMV over in Cold Spring siphoning off staff? I said, 'I don't have these answers,'" Gross remarked.

Referring to the county's fondness for invoking "process," he added that "I do want the process [followed] so we all know what's going on. I want to make sure the legislature is on board ... because we've been out of the loop on some things in the last three years. (Continued on page 3)



Physical Services Committee Members Barbara Scuccimarra, left, Carl Albano, and Ginny Nacerino; photo by L.S. Armstrong



Rachel Evans, concertmaster, leading musicians and singers in *The Hallelujah Chorus* Photo by Ross Corsair

## Array of Support Services Offered by Hudson Valley Hospital

*Programs designed for life's spectrum open to whole community*

By Alison Rooney

Inpatient, outpatient, critical care, rehabilitation, the vocabulary of hospitals can be tricky to navigate. So can what that vocabulary pertains to, whether it be a joyous event such as the birth of a newborn, or the opposite, a diagnosis of an unfamiliar, frightening disease. Regardless of the topic, there is usually a comfort in traveling these roads with others on them too, and that's the terrain of support groups and workshops, an increasing sideline of hospitals across the country, including Cortlandt Manor's Hudson Valley Hospital Center (HVHC, to be renamed New York-Presbyterian/Hudson Valley Hospital, effective Jan. 1). Each month, the HVHC's calendar listings detail numerous classes, groups and workshops, some on a series basis, a few in a one-day session format, and many free of charge. A quick look at the current calendar yielded details on one-session programs on a diverse range of topics including colorectal health, Alzheimer's disease, and living with celiac disease, to name a few.

"We try to be responsive to people in the community in establishing and running these groups ... It's part of our



A cholesterol check, at last year's Senior Health Fair. Photo courtesy of Hudson Valley Hospital Center

mission to serve the community," noted Victoria Hoffman, HVHC's director of marketing. She added: "There is an ebb and flow, depending on demand, and the availability of qualified instructors ... We also work with other, established groups, like Gilda's Club and Support Connection (whose services were described fully in a *Philipstown.info* story Aug. 28, 2013), trying to bring them together with us to best support the community, each doing what's best for them to do. We're glad to have them."

If the hospital isn't offering a particular support group, it finds and refers those who contact them to pertinent nearby groups. HVHC's groups are publicized on their website, through advertising and through their *Healthy Living* magazine sent out to an extensive mailing list in nearby communities, including Philipstown.

### Healthy living

Under the banner of health and wellness, the HVHC offers monthly early-evening seminars related to making comprehensive changes in eating and lifestyle habits, working toward goals of weight loss and better nutrition. An afternoon monthly group is targeted specifically at diabetes support. There is a free diabetes support group that meets the first Tuesday of every month — the next session is Jan. 6. The hospital also offers community CPR training classes every other month, on Saturdays; (Continued on page 3)

## 2014 *Messiah* Draws 500 to Benefit St. Mary's and Food Pantry

*Gordon Stewart, Rachel Evans praised*

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

On Sunday (Dec. 21), admirers of classical music, Gordon Stewart's genius, St. Mary's Episcopal Parish — or all three — jammed the church for Handel's *Messiah*, which Stewart led in the same place in 2013 but which this year went on without him, 25 days after his death.

Featuring soloists Gabriela Mikova Johnson, soprano; Steven Brennfleck, tenor; Nicholas Tamagna, countertenor; R. Frank Madden, bass; a 24-voice chorus; and a 21-member orchestra, as well as an empty maestro's podium denoting the loss of Stewart, the concerts packed the church, which holds about 250 people, for each of two performances.

Proceeds from the ticket sales go to St. Mary's, a historic but financially strapped congregation in the heart of Cold Spring, and the Philipstown Food Pantry.

A former White House speechwriter, business executive, volunteer firefighter, art connoisseur and founder of *Philipstown.info* and its weekly print edition, *The Paper*, Stewart also was an expert conductor and pianist.

In introducing the performances, the Rev. Shane Scott-Hamblen, St. Mary's rector, described the teamwork that made the *Messiah* performance possible. Stewart, "a classical and frustrated Viennese-trained musician had a big dream on his bucket list, and a poor but welcoming parish desperately needed funds," he said. "Both would be able to have their dreams realized" through the productions. Stewart and Scott-Hamblen also became close friends as Stewart battled illness.

The priest noted that in the 2013 concerts, when Stewart took a seat while the soloists sang, it was in part a salute to them but also "because he knew he was dying of emphysema and he needed to catch his breath, but he didn't want the public to know. He knew at this concert last year that he was dying."

St. Mary's subsequently installed a plaque in his honor, and that gesture and Stewart's memories of the performances "were so poignant to him and us," Scott-Hamblen added. "It was a rare thing to see Gordon cry. He knew he will always be remembered here."

Just as Scott-Hamblen praised Stewart, the latter's widow, Zanne Early Stewart, paid tribute to concertmaster Rachel Evans, a Garrison resident who worked with Stewart in creating the 2013 and 2014 performances and carried on alone in his absence. This year's concerts "would not have come to pass" without Evans, said Early Stewart in a statement read by Scott-Hamblen. Early Stewart explained (Continued on page 3)



Cook On  
1 part chaos, 2 parts calm

# Turnover the New Year

By Mary Ann Ebner

Food stations and tasting tables may save some sanity during peak celebration season, but nothing’s more personal than moving among a happy crowd to appreciate time with guests. If you’re hosting a gathering to usher in the New Year, consider passing delicate pastries and sharing conversation with those who have gathered to pause and enjoy each other’s company. Round up a smart serving tray (make it lightweight or you’ll be passing out before you pass the food) and dress it up with hors d’oeuvres.

If you don’t want to overdo it, forget elaborate selections and silverware. Some of us (that’s my hand in the air) are awkward with utensils to begin with. And who can manage when the task requires holding a petite plate, fork and knife, beverage and napkin, all while standing?

Appetizers enjoyed in a bite or two with one hand, or a fork if you must, help

prevent clumsy encounters. For this year’s upcoming string of New Year soirées, I’m proposing the practical but elegant miniature turnover. Consider

them distant cousins of empanadas, samosas, sambousiks, even pierogies and pot stickers. By any other name these amazing miniatures would taste as good. Toasted ravioli, easily the best small bite in Missouri, deserves a little love in this party-ready finger food category as well.

They’re all somewhat related and consist of a doughy cover or shell stuffed with vegetables, meat, cheese or a combination of fillings. Growing up, my first introduction to these tiny temptations was toasted ravioli, served with a marinara sauce. The best of these served in countless Italian restaurant dining rooms in St. Louis are crunchy and crispy yet not oily.

Amy Tan inspired a fascination with turnover-types when she introduced readers to *jiaozi* in *The Joy Luck Club* more than 20 years ago. Handmade Chinese dumplings started showing up on menus at restaurants from coast to coast. I couldn’t get enough ginger, soy sauce and boiled dumplings stuffed with pork but realized the best way to make them was with a group of friends creating a batch in assembly-line fashion.

Soon enough, I went on a bit of a binge buying frozen samosas — triangle-shaped and loaded with spices — from Trader Joe’s. I savored easy access when my family lived around the corner from TJ’s in central California. Later, I could drive 20 minutes or so to pick up a few boxes (packages of six) when I lived in Virginia. I still had a thing for these even when my commute stretched 50 miles to the nearest store. One of my neighbors, who worked in



Stuff turnovers with this squash mixture or create your own filling.



Curried turnovers

Photos by M.A. Ebner

an area near TJ’s, picked up my wish-list items once a month and continued to help me sustain the craving.

But change can be good, and I finally attempted to create my own take on the tiny pockets of flavor. The variation I’ve come to enjoy most is a curried turnover, baked and not too greasy. These are make-ahead appetizers that can be prepared a couple of days in advance of serving. Once prepared, freeze them on a tray for one hour and then store

them in a freezer bag or airtight container until party time. When you’re ready to share them, remove frozen turnovers from the freezer and bake for 25 to 30 minutes. What’s even more convenient, they’re delicious when served steamy-hot, but still a treat at room temperature.

Whether making turnovers in advance or just as you’re about to eat them, invite all hands to help with the assembly. Stuff turnovers with fillings from spinach and goat cheese to shredded meat or your favorite spicy vegetables and wrap up the year sharing a taste with family and friends.

## Curried Turnovers

Makes two dozen

### Pastry ingredients

- 1 ½ cups flour
- 1 teaspoon salt
- ¾ cup (12 tablespoons or 1 ½ sticks) unsalted butter
- 4 tablespoons cold water

### Filling ingredients

- 4 tablespoons butter
- 2 tablespoons flour

- ¾ cup milk
- 1 tablespoon curry powder
- 2 teaspoons kosher salt
- 1 pound butternut squash, cubed
- 1 large shallot, chopped
- 1 can (16 ounces) hominy (drained)
- ½ teaspoon freshly ground black pepper
- 1 cup fresh cilantro (finely chopped)

1. For the pastry, combine the flour and salt in a mixing bowl. Cut in the butter, mixing evenly with a pastry blender or two knives. Add the water gradually until dough holds together. Do not handle dough too much or your turnovers will bounce off their plates. Refrigerate dough for 15 minutes.
2. Melt 2 tablespoons butter in saucepan. Blend in flour. Add milk gradually, stirring to a low boil. Add curry powder and 1 teaspoon kosher salt. Cook 3 to 5 minutes over low heat. Set aside. Melt 2 tablespoons butter in frying pan. Add squash, shallots, hominy, salt and pepper. Cook over medium heat 15 minutes. Fold in curry mixture. Remove from heat and mash vegetable filling (I use a potato masher). Mix in cilantro.
3. Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Gently roll out dough on lightly floured surface. Using a round cookie cutter, pastry cutter or even a glass, cut dough into 3-inch circles. Add a tablespoonful of the cooked filling on one half of each circle, turning over the dough in half and sealing each circle. If dough does not hold, seal with a dab of water or egg white. Place turnovers on baking sheet and bake for 15 minutes in preheated oven until lightly golden. Serve warm or at room temperature.



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## Array of Support Services Offered by Hudson Valley Hospital (from page 1)

these do have a fee.

### Teaching Kitchen

A new initiative, the Chef Peter X. Kelly Teaching Kitchen, opened last July at the Dempsey House, a building on the hospital's grounds; a volunteer-run organic garden, supervised by master gardener Laura Perkins of Stone Barns, now in its third year, is nearby. The Teaching Kitchen's goal is to teach children and adults how to prepare healthy, and tasty, meals for themselves, reducing sugar and fat in their diets.

Open to all, the classes change monthly and include topics like homemade pizza recipes, "simply seafood,"

vegan cooking, cooking with a Mediterranean diet, baby-friendly first foods and couples' cooking classes. Additionally, there are "heart healthy" classes designed specifically for physician-referred adults, designed for those with specific health issues. Kids' classes utilize the garden with kids able to pull out vegetables from the earth and head right on over to the kitchen and cook them, in a state-of-the-art facility. There is a small fee for the adult classes. The participants in the children's classes include both those "at risk," referred by local pediatricians, and any other interested kids; HVHC is currently developing programs with nearby schools as well.

### Cancer treatment support

For those with a cancer diagnosis, and family members, there are a number of support programs. Emotional support to men and women newly diagnosed is the aim of the Living with Cancer Support Group, a program of Gilda's Club Westchester. This group meets twice monthly and is designed as a complement to medical care, with an opportunity for men



Moms and babies meet up at the breastfeeding support group.

*Photo courtesy of Hudson Valley Hospital Center*

and women with any cancer diagnosis to share their emotions and experiences.

A group designed specifically for those with breast cancer, pertaining to all stages, from diagnosis to post-treatment, led by a peer counselor — a trained volunteer who is a breast cancer survivor — meets the third Monday of each month, as does a Look Good ... Feel Better American Cancer Society-affiliated program offering professional wig fittings and makeup applications.

For caregivers, a Leave the Light On Foundation program, founded by a former HVHC employee who cared for an elderly parent, provides resources and opportunities for celebrating and pampering those taking care of loved ones with cancer, knowing that people cannot be effective caregivers if they're constantly burned out. This meets on Saturday mornings, once a month.

Individual and family support, either in person or by phone, is available through the hospital's social work department. Other referrals can also be made.

All of these, as well as a new lymphedema support group for men and wom-

en co-facilitated by a Gilda's Club Westchester licensed clinical social worker and an HVHC certified lymphedema physical or occupational therapist, and a cancer support book group, are free programs. To pre-register, call Patti Pelican, HVHC's community relations coordinator, at 914-734-3557. Pelican emphasizes that all of these groups are open not just to HVHC patients, but to anyone, perhaps someone who is receiving cancer treatments in New York City, who would like a more local support group.

### Baby care

Cold Spring's Linda LeMon, a registered nurse member of the International Board of Certified Lactation Consultants, heads up most of HVHC's "All About Baby!" classes and workshops. These include "Birthing with Confidence" one-day childbirth classes, which meet monthly (there is a fee for these), and free, monthly "Breastfeeding With Certainty" sessions, as well as a twice-monthly breastfeeding support group. There are also workshops relating to tips for grandparents on basic baby care and safety skills; "New Baby in the House" sibling classes, and others.

In addition, Katherine Whiteside, a certified doula (providing mothers with support before, during and after childbirth),

offers HVHC-affiliated programs at Garrison's Desmond-Fish Library. The hospital also operates a free "warm line" call-in number for help with breastfeeding. This is available to any new mother — not just those who have given birth at HVHC.

### Health fairs and speakers

Along with all of these groups and workshops, HVHC also hosts an annual Healthy Heart Fair; the 2015 edition will take place on Feb. 11, during National Heart Month, and will feature different educational "stations," including one on methods to quit smoking, in the lobby. Another event, the Silver Lining Healthy Aging Fair, held in October, is more specifically geared toward what is needed to keep older adults healthy within the hospital and other care facilities — things like proper hydration, the mobility program, which gets patients out of bed and walking around, and medication management.

For groups and others who would prefer a more targeted approach and who might not be able to come to the hospital, HVHC operates a Speakers Bureau, a free resource for local civic groups, service clubs and community organizations to have an expert come to talk about a particular topic. These can range from understanding diagnostic imaging and managing seasonal allergies to "aging eyes" and hand therapy — virtually any topic. Organizations are asked to place a request about four to six weeks prior to the desired date.

For more information on this and all of the HVHC's programs, call the marketing office at 914-734-3557, or view the full calendar and sign up online at hvhc.org/events. Most classes take place at HVHC, which is located at 1980 Crompond Road in Cortlandt Manor.

## 2014 *Messiah* Draws 500 to St. Mary's (from page 1)

that "one of my great pleasures over the past few years" was witnessing the collaboration between her husband and Evans, a violinist. "I, who don't 'speak music,' may not have understood all of their vocabulary, but the communication was unmistakable: pure joy. These

performances are dedicated to Gordon," Early Stewart concluded, "but it is Rachel's dedication to him and to the music that allow us all to be here today. Thank you, Rachel, for the grace and humor that have brought the 2014 Philipstown *Messiahs* to fruition."

## Legislators Agree on Senior Center (from page 1)

This is critical: the cost and the amount of personnel and what kind of services" the county brings to Butterfield. "I'm not opposed to the services" but want the legislators involved, he told his colleagues.

Albano emphasized that "the big thing is the senior center and the sheriff, to have a presence over there" in Philipstown. "That's our priorities."

Nacerino, the legislature's deputy chairperson, also objected to steps taken by Albano and others without notification of their peers. "To find out there's been communication behind closed doors or in separate meetings comes as a surprise. I think it was well intended, but I think a lack of communication existed. Unbeknownst to us, conversations were taking place. We're not saying there's no merit in that overture. We're just saying to the best of our knowledge no conversations were taking place" when in fact they were occurring, she said. "We should be discussing this as a group."

Apologizing for his handling of his meeting with Guillaro, Albano characterized it as an attempt at data gathering to aid legislative study. "My intention was to start getting more information so we would have stuff to look at," he said.

### Unidentified tenants for Butterfield

Scuccimarra, Philipstown's legislative representative, said her own work "was in no way meant to be not having everybody in the loop. It was just starting the ball rolling. We're concentrating on the senior center right now."

The derelict Butterfield Hospital has yet to be demolished and new construc-

tion has not begun. However, according to Scuccimarra "space is going" and Guillaro "has two floors leased already," though the identity of any lessee remains unknown. Nonetheless, the occupant is not the U.S. Postal Service, she said. "The post office isn't a 'go' yet" at Butterfield. They're still looking at other spaces."

### Sheriff's substation

Like Nacerino and Gross, Legislator Dini LoBue criticized a lack of communication. "I didn't know that anything definitive [had been determined], that there was a final decision made that the

senior center is going into Butterfield and that the sheriff would have defined offices there," she said. She said the legislators concur on adding two officers to work out of Philipstown, but she reminded everyone of the recent upgrading of the old Nelsonville firehouse for the Sheriff's Department. "We put a lot of money into the Nelsonville station," LoBue said. "We need to be very careful what we're saying tonight because comments were made that give the appearance that we are definitely building a senior center in Butterfield and definitely putting sheriff's offices in Butterfield."

Albano responded that the county is "receptive to those ideas" about sheriff's quarters at Butterfield but that "nothing is a done deal" in regard to placing county agencies there, beyond a senior center. "Nothing is done. If we have space there, if that makes sense, that was the thought" — to put other county offices at Butterfield as well, he said. "There's nothing definitive at all at this point."

Gross summed up the apparent, fragile consensus: "I just think we all agree a senior center is needed" in Cold Spring, "and it sounds to me like it could be at the Butterfield site. And we take it from there."

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# Beacon’s Rabbi Spodek Celebrates Hanukkah at the White House

*Spodeks chosen to represent Hudson Valley in Washington*

By Brian PJ Cronin

The holidays are a hectic time for everyone, but no matter how intense your last holiday gathering was, there’s a good chance it probably didn’t involve four separate security checkpoints.

Not so for Rabbi Brent Spodek of the Beacon Hebrew Alliance. Spodek and his wife Allison, a professor of chemistry at Vassar, were invited to celebrate Hanukkah at the White House last week on Wednesday, Dec. 17, as representatives of Beacon and the Mid-Hudson Valley. The invitation came shortly before Thanksgiving, even though Spodek still isn’t entirely sure why they were selected for this honor.

After passing through the aforementioned quartet of checkpoints, Spodek presented one of the Secret Service agents with a gift for the president: a miniature replica of the giant menorah made out of bicycles that is currently installed at the park on the corner of Main Street and Route 9D in Beacon. The replica was created by Ed Benavente, the same sculptor who created the giant menorah itself as well as the bicycle Christmas tree that stands in the same park (see the *Philipstown.info* story from Dec. 21).

“The transformation of old bicycles into new art is a symbol of the transformations we are capable of, working together,” the Spodeks wrote in a letter to the president that accompanied the gift. “We are deeply honored to represent our communities at the White House, and hope that when you see this menorah, you will think of the progress this little town has made and the progress of which this great nation is capable.”

With the gift in good hands, the Spodeks followed the crowds into the East Wing of the White House for a kosher dinner. Spodek then proceeded into the Portrait Hall to hear the president speak, as a few hundred people all angled to be close to the podium. “Imagine if a mosh pit erupted at a Yo-Yo Ma recital at Carnegie Hall, and you’ll have a



Rabbi Brent and Allison Spodek in front of the Treasury building next to the White House  
Photos courtesy of Beacon Hebrew Alliance

sense of things,” Spodek wrote of the event.

After a speech by the president and the lighting of the hanukiah by Rabbi Bradley Shavit Artson of the American Jewish University in Los Angeles, Spodek was able to share a brief moment with the first lady. “There was a very large Secret Service agent between us, but I told her that the Jewish community and the entire town of Beacon, New York, sends its love,” Spodek wrote. “She patted her heart and blew me a kiss and I acquitted myself by not fainting on the spot.”

Afterwards, Spodek reflected on the remarkable journey that the Jewish people have had in America, from being once publicly deemed as separate from the “real” America to now being celebrated in the most hallowed halls of political power.

“To stand in the White House and see the president of the United States stand with a rabbi and chant Hebrew prayers felt quite literally to be a glorious miracle,” he wrote.



The Beacon Bicycle Menorah, built by Ed Benavente

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6:45pm Spin Stretch (Ashley)

7:30pm Battlerope Suspension Training (Jose)

Tuesday

9:45am High Intensity Interval Spin 45 (Leslie)

6:00pm Total Body Barre (Deanna)

Wednesday

9:30am Barre 60 (Deanna)

6:15 Battlerope Suspension Training (Jose)

6:45pm Spin 45 (Sam)

7:30pm Battlerope Suspension Training

Thursday

9:45am Spin 45 (Sam)

6:45pm Barre Cardio Sculpt (Deanna)

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8:00am Barre 60 (Deanna)

9:15am Spin 45 (Ashley)

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# The Calendar



**Building Snowmen** multimedia work by Cameron Henderson  
“Building Snowmen was actually inspired by a song of the same name by a Danish jazz trio (the Vestbo Trio), as well as the work of Czech animator and illustrator Jaromir Plachy. I wanted to make something whimsical that embodied a large number of materials and approaches, as well as the playful side of winter. It consists of watercolor, colored pencil, marker, ink, graphite and a number of papers combined through collage.”  
*Images courtesy of Gallery 66 NY*



**Below Zero** photograph by Talia Mistretta  
“I really enjoy the crisp look of the water and the air that winter provides. In this image you can feel the crispness of the air by looking at it. I used my Nikon D5100 DSLR.”

## The Face of Winter: Juried Exhibition of High School Art at Gallery 66

*First Friday opening reception Jan. 2, 6 to 9 p.m.*

By **Alison Rooney**

Winter is a hopeful season if youth embodies hope. Celebrating the colder months and the promise of nascent artists, Gallery 66 NY is bringing both to its gallery with a January exhibit titled *The Face of Winter*. The gallery extended an open call to all high school-age artists living in Philipstown, Newburgh, Beacon, Peekskill and Wappingers Falls, soliciting their work for a juried art exhibition, asking them to interpret “The Face of Winter,” connecting it somehow to their own lives, moments in time, favorite landscapes, etc., in either literal or abstract form. Responses came from students at three regional schools: Haldane, Newburgh and Hopewell Junction’s John Jay. Of these, 20 were chosen for the exhibit. The gallery describes the entries as “a trove of rich and diverse

pieces that will be a pleasure for the visitor to view, while providing a rare opportunity for our local young artists to exhibit their work in a major Hudson Valley gallery.” The young artists will be in attendance at an opening night reception, Jan. 2, from 6 to 9 p.m., and will discuss their art. Also on display, in the gallery’s two other galleries, are donations of artwork and services from local professional artists as well as students, collected into a silent auction fundraiser for Haldane’s class of 2015 senior service trip to New Orleans. In a repeat of last year’s very successful inaugural trip, this year’s seniors will be traveling and working with Habitat for Humanity to rebuild homes. Services from the class of 2015 that can be bid on include babysitting, snow shoveling and makeovers, while donations include limited edition silkscreen prints commemorating this event, vintage art prints, rare photographs, paintings and ceramics. The collection, dubbed *Winter Mardi Gras*, will be on exhibit from Jan. 2. A Mardi Gras party and *(Continued on page 8)*



**Norse Goddess of Winter** photograph by Jenna VandeMerwe



**Snow Day** photograph by Allisen Casey  
“The face of winter to me is cuddling up in your bed on a snow day, and the light that leaks in from your windows is pure and bright from its reflection on the snow, so I decided to portray that in a photo. I wanted the white sheets to seem endless, and for my model to look small and comforted. I used my Sony 3100 DSLR camera.”









Croton Sunset by Maria Pia Marrella, on view at Riverview Restaurant (See details on page 9.) Photo courtesy of the artist

Jessica Lynn/Over the Top/Joni Blondell

9 p.m. The Hudson Room  
See details under Friday.

Ali Isabella/Sponge Worthy/Phineas & the Lonely Leaves

9 p.m. Paramount Hudson Valley  
1008 Brown St., Peekskill  
914-739-0039 | paramounthudsonvalley.com

The Differents

9 p.m. Whistling Willie's  
Details under Friday

Chris O'Leary Band/Simi Stone/Milton

9:30 p.m. Towne Crier Cafe | Details under Friday

The Jon Bates Band

10 p.m. 12 Grapes | See details under Friday.

Meetings & Lectures

Swearing-In Ceremony

5 p.m. Putnam County Historic Courthouse  
44 Gleneida Ave., Carmel  
845-208-7800 | putnamcountyny.com

THURSDAY, JANUARY 1

Happy New Year

Kids & Community

First Day Hike

9 a.m. Rockwood Hall State Park  
Route 9, Sleepy Hollow | sawmillriveraudubon.org

First Day Hike

10 a.m. Walkway Over the Hudson  
61 Parker Ave., Poughkeepsie  
845-454-9649 | walkway.org

Interfaith Prayer for World Peace

10 a.m. Chuang-Yen Monastery (Kuan Yin Hall)  
2020 Route 301, Carmel | 845-225-1819  
baus.org | Lunch served at noon.

Music

Lou Year's Day (Lou Reed Tribute)

8 p.m. Quinn's  
330 Main St., Beacon  
845-831-8065 | beaconmusicfactory.com

FRIDAY, JANUARY 2

First Friday in Cold Spring

Garrison Art Center closed

Kids & Community

Vacation Camp (ages 5-12)

8 a.m. - 5 p.m. All Sport Health & Fitness  
See details under Monday.

Health & Fitness

Navigating Healthcare Options

10 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. Howland Public Library  
313 Main St., Beacon | 800-453-4666  
misn-ny.org. Appointment required.

Sports

Westchester Knicks vs. Maine

1 p.m. Westchester County Center  
198 Central Ave., White Plains  
914-347-4409 | nba.com/dleague/westchester

Visit [www.philipstown.info](http://www.philipstown.info) for news updates and latest information.

Art & Design

Group Show: The Face of Winter (Opening)

6 - 9 p.m. Gallery 66 NY  
66 Main St., Cold Spring  
845-809-5838 | gallery66ny.com

Music

The McKrells/Mandolin Madness

8:30 p.m. Towne Crier Cafe  
See details under Dec. 26.

Patrick Murphy McDowell

9:30 p.m. 12 Grapes | See details under Dec. 26.

Craig 'Holiday' Haynes

10 p.m. The Hudson Room | Details under Dec. 26

Charlie Sabin

9:30 p.m. Max's on Main | Details under Dec. 26

Meetings & Lectures

Personal Retreat Weekend (Opens)

3 p.m. Garrison Institute | 14 Mary's Way, Garrison  
845-424-4800 | garrisoninstitute.org

ONGOING

Art & Design

Visit [philipstown.info/galleries](http://philipstown.info/galleries)

Religious Services

Visit [philipstown.info/services](http://philipstown.info/services)

Meetings & Lectures

Alcoholics Anonymous | Visit [philipstown.info/aa](http://philipstown.info/aa)

Support Groups | Visit [philipstown.info/sg](http://philipstown.info/sg)

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Sunday 12/28 7:30pm

THE GARLAND JEFFREYS BAND

Wednesday 12/31 9:30pm

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avec Michael Doucet

Saturday 1/10 8:30pm

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ALL STARS BAND

Friday 1/16 8:30pm

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& THE BLUEBIRD JUBILEE

also THE KENNEDYS

Saturday 1/17 8:30pm

JOE LOUIS WALKER BAND

Sunday 1/18 7:30pm

BILL HELLER BAND

Friday 1/23 8:30pm

MARTHA REDBONE

ROOTS PROJECT

Saturday 1/24 8:30pm

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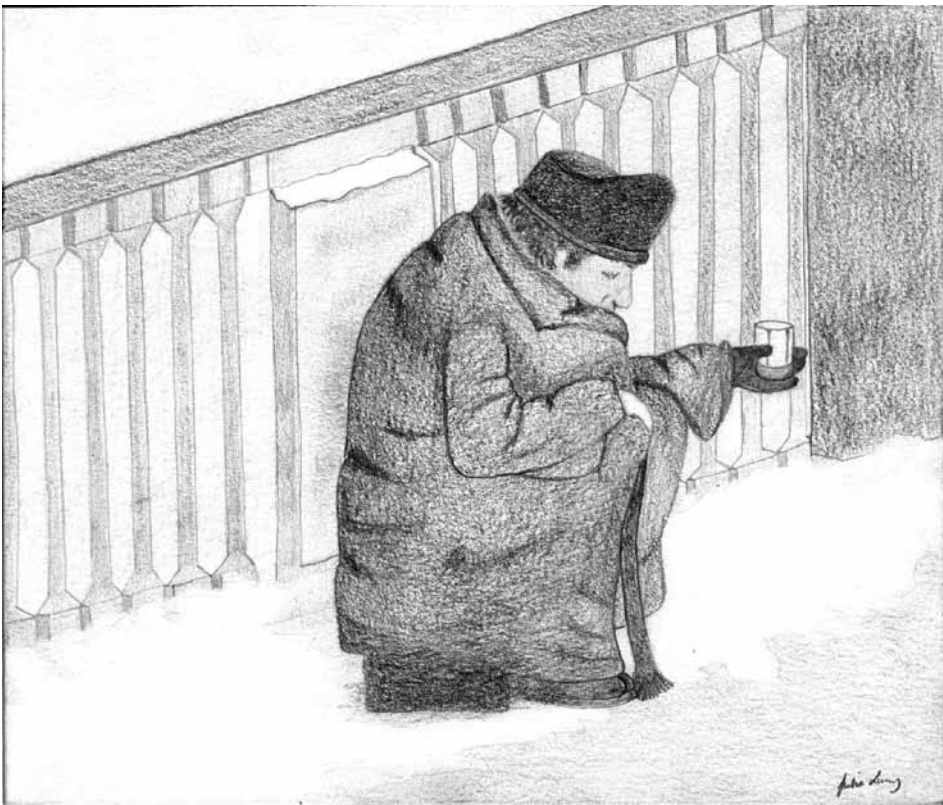
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Kitchen closes 9:30pm (Fri. & Sat. at 10:30pm)

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The Face of Winter: High School Art at Gallery 66 (from page 5)



Above, *Ice, 1* photograph by Matthew Reinhold; at left, *Reality*, pencil drawing by Julia Sweeney. “*Reality* is a pencil piece, and my inspiration came from the other side of the holidays. The people who can’t support their families, let alone themselves. Most people think of it being the best time of the year and it is, but I think we should think about others not as fortunate as us and help them out when we can.” Images courtesy of Gallery 66 NY

Santa Run



Firefighters, members of the Axillary and friends gathered at the GVFC Station 2 firehouse to giftwrap presents for the Tuesday Santa Run to the Walter Hoving Home and Graymoor. Photo courtesy GVFC

auction, with a suggested donation of \$10 at the door, will take place on Jan. 17; reservations are requested by Jan. 9. The high school artists exhibiting in *The Face of Winter* are: Tabitha Barnett, Allisen Casey, Grace Cham, Patricia Cobey, Melissa Diakantonis, Anna DiFede, Gianna Galazzo, Cameron Henderson, Gregory Jagelski, Kassie Lerman, Nubia Lorenzana, Talia Mistretta, Eleni Neckles, Zoe Provan, Matthew Reinhold, Eduardo Salazar, Julia Sweeney, Jenna Van de Merwe, Randy Wilson and Claire Wu. Both exhibits are on view from through Jan. 25. Gallery 66 NY is located at 66 Main St., Cold Spring. Regular winter hours are Thursday through Sunday from noon to 5 p.m. For more information, visit gallery66ny.com or call 845-809-5838.

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Linda Lalita Winnick, MA, owner of Shakti Yoga Studios in Woodstock, Saugerties, and Kingston, has practiced multiple styles of yoga for 25 years. She also holds a master's degree in Ayurvedic medicine and yogic philosophy.



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Maria Pia Marrella at Riverview Restaurant

Paintings on view through March

Maria Pia Marrella’s paintings will be on exhibit at Riverview Restaurant, 25 Fair St. in Cold Spring, from Dec. 22 through March 30. Her paintings explore Marrella’s interest in painting the rich local and Mediterranean landscape from direct observation to reconstructing the spatial, color and rhythmical forces of nature. Marrella connects past modern movements with the present — informed by Cezanne’s Cubism, Fauvism and the work of the late Louisa Matthíasdóttir and Leland Bell. Every work is created with a different approach to seeing the abstract and capturing the nostalgic.

#HVThankful Contest for Donation to Nonprofit

Public invited to enter to win \$1,500 for organization of choice

#HVThankful is a phrase that’s popping up all over the Hudson Valley this season. It’s on billboards, on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram. It all began when a group of Hudson Valley companies decided to spread some goodwill and gratitude from Thanksgiving through the holidays and into 2015. And it will end with a \$1,500 donation to a local nonprofit group.

Ashworth Creative, a marketing agency located in Poughkeepsie, sparked the original concept. “We wanted to plan a holiday gift for our clients that went beyond the typical fruitcake and chocolates, and came up with the idea of donating the funds that we usually would devote to holiday gifts to a local nonprofit and the idea kind of grew from there,” said Eve Ashworth, co-owner of Ashworth Creative.

People can enter the contest by visiting hvthankful.com and following any of the linked HVThankful accounts on Twitter, Facebook or Instagram and then posting what they are thankful for in the Hudson Valley with the hashtag #HVThankful. Each post that has the

phrase #HVThankful within it is entered into the contest, and on Jan. 5, one participant will be randomly selected. The winner will receive a donation of \$1,500 to the local charity of his or her choice.

Ashworth Creative is happy to provide a flier and imagery to any local nonprofit who would like to promote this contest on their own social media accounts or within their own organizations. Email Courtney@ashworthcreative.com for more information.

Minecraft Mania Night at the Butterfield Library

Kids in grades 3–5 with Minecraft accounts invited Jan. 9

Minecraft fans are invited to the Butterfield Library after hours on Friday, Jan. 9, to see it transformed into a Minecraft world where they can battle friends and enjoy some snacks.

The program starts at 5:30 p.m. and runs until 7 p.m. This is a drop-off event for Philipstown students in grades 3 through 5. Important: Participants need a registered Minecraft account to compete and should bring their own devices with Wi-Fi connection. The library will have a limited number of devices available for use, but they may have to be shared. Pre-registration is required. No walk-ins/drop-ins will be permitted. Children must be picked up promptly at the end of the program.

Minecraft is an open-ended, exploration and creation-focused video game. Players can create items and buildings from scratch using materials they can harvest from the world around them. Once night falls, creatures come out and must be fought off with swords and bows. There isn’t any gore, however. Players can interact with each other through private, non-moderated servers, although it is not necessary to engage online to enjoy the game.

To register for Minecraft Mania or for more information about upcoming programs and library services, visit butterfieldlibrary.org or call 845-265-3040.

Visit [www.philipstown.info](http://www.philipstown.info) for news updates and latest information.

Peekskill Farmers’ Market Expands Winter Season

Winter Market Opening Day Jan. 10 at Field Library

The City of Peekskill announced that beginning Jan. 10, the Peekskill Farmers’ Market, sponsored by the Peekskill Business Improvement District (BID), will have an expanded winter season. “The summer and winter farmers markets are important Peekskill family events,” said Jason Angell, executive director of the BID.

Peekskill Mayor Frank Catalina said, “There has been a great deal of enthusiasm for the market to become a year-round Saturday event. Thanks to the efforts of Corinna Makris, program director, the Peekskill Farmers’ Market tripled in size this year, in both the number of vendors and shoppers. We’re very happy we found an indoor space that works.”

Hot chocolate and cookies will be provided by Kathleen’s Tea Room on Winter Market Opening Day Saturday, Jan. 10.

Vendors will include Eight Mile Creek Farm, Cooperstown Cheese, Edenesque, Arch River meats, along with some new specialty grocery items. Expect rotating artisan and handcraft vendors such as local clothing designer Jeorgia Shea. A complete list of vendors will be updated on the market website PeekskillFarmersMarket.com.

The Peekskill Farmers’ Market winter season will take place from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. every Saturday from Jan. 10 through April 25, on the main floor at the Field Library, 4 Nelson Ave., Peekskill, near the corner of Main Street (Route 6).

Beacon

Kids’ Art Workshops at Howland Library Continue

‘Roller Derby Print Making’ focus of Jan. 14 session

Children ages 4 and up are invited to get creative during the cold-weather months by participating in two winter “Art Workshops With Tina” presented by artist Tina Chan Sweeney at Howland Public Library on 313 Main St. in Beacon. Sweeney will help the children explore different arts and crafts mediums as they use their imaginations to create unique pieces of art. The workshops will take place on Wednesdays, Jan. 14 and Feb. 11, from 4 to 5 p.m.

The library is currently taking registrations for the Jan. 14 “Roller Derby Print Making” workshop. It will be an afternoon filled with texture. Using ev-

erything but the kitchen sink, children will test out different methods to create patterns and color.

Parents/guardians must register children for the January workshop by contacting Ginny Figlia, head of youth services, at youth@beaconlibrary.org or 845-831-1134, ext. 103. Adults must accompany younger children.

Beacon Film Festival to Accept Submissions

Films will be accepted from Jan. 1 to May 31



On Jan. 1, the Beacon Independent Film Festival (BIFF) will begin accepting films for consideration for the third annual festival. The open submission process will extend until May 31. The 2015 festival will be held at University Settlement Camp in Beacon Sept. 18–20.

Filmmakers can submit their films directly through the film festival’s website, beaconindiefilmfest.org, or by going to filmfreeway.com and searching for the Beacon Independent Film Festival. BIFF accepts narrative and documentary feature films, short films and works in progress. Animated films can be submitted within those categories. All rules and regulations can be found on the organization’s website.

Founded by Beacon resident Terry Nelson, the Beacon Independent Film Festival celebrates filmmaking and the act of watching films with others in your community. It is a grassroots event that strives to make good film accessible to everyone. Films screened either do not have a distributor or are only lightly distributed; all represent a diversity of voices and perspectives. Local, national and international filmmakers are featured and many of them participate in discussions with the audience after their movies are shown. Within its own community, the Beacon Independent Film Festival wants to create a strong film program to further enhance Beacon’s current reputation as an arts mecca.

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# West Point Literary Club Continues 120-Year Legacy

By Jennifer Phonexayphova

New literary clubs in the U.S. can boast of a 120-year history as rich and diverse as the one at the United States Military Academy at West Point.

The West Point Ladies' Reading Club (LRC) was founded by Mrs. Lusk in 1894, a time when women were only referred to by their husbands' titles and typically didn't have access to a formal education like most men did. Despite the confines society placed on them, 16 women from West Point came together to form one of the oldest continuous literary clubs in America. With a strong desire to educate themselves on everything from Greek mythology to world politics, these women came together to empower and teach one another in the comforts of their own homes.

**Traditions**

Like much of West Point, the LRC is steeped in tradition and still functions in

many ways as it did over a century ago. A new theme is still agreed upon every year, and members select a book of their choosing and take turns presenting their selection to the group. Once a year, members also participate in a group read, where everyone reads the same book and discusses it together. Field trips have always been an important part of the club; in the past members would take theater trips to New York City. Current members enjoy visiting local historical sites, such as Sunnyside Manor and Mark Twain's house.

"I love to think that this club has been handed down through the generations to the current group of West Point women, who are trying hard to keep the traditions alive, while still adding some modernity," said LaNon Neary.

Neary, who is in her second term as president of the club, looks forward to the annual birthday luncheon, a tradition where members meet to celebrate the anniversary

of the club by listening to guest speakers and enjoying food and fellowship.

"I am always overwhelmed by the history of our group during this celebration," she said.

Darlene Johnson, who has been a member for nine years and is currently in her eighth year as club secretary, looks forward to the annual "Love Feast" and said it's a wonderful tribute to a woman who was an integral part of the club. Each May, the Love Feast is held on Constitution Island, in honor of Anna Bartlett Warner, one of the founding members who lived on the island with her sister, Susan. Warner was the first honorary member to join the club; while not a military spouse, she was actively involved with West Point and taught Sunday school to the cadets for 40 years. Warner and her sister were both prolific writers and had 106 publications between them, including the famous "Jesus Loves Me," which was originally published as a poem.

cess for membership.

"In the beginning, you had to be handpicked by members, and the group remained very homogenous," Johnson said. "Over time, many in the West Point community grew to view the club as very exclusive and secretive."

The nomination process was very elaborate, and by the 1960s women on post viewed the selection process as a popularity contest. Women nominated had to have five members sponsor them, and voting was done by ballot. As of 1947, all the women's husbands wore the rank of lieutenant colonel or above, with the exception of two majors. Maj. Gen. D.V. Bennett, superintendent of USMA in 1966, wrote to the club suggesting they open it to all who were interested. Shortly after, everyone was free to join.

"Life is simply less formal now, and within the Ladies' Reading Club, military rank plays no role," said Pojman.

### Changes

Preserving traditions has always been an important part of the LRC, but like the changing world around them, the club has in many ways evolved, too. Yearly dues have increased from \$0.25 to \$15. Advances in technology allowed greater freedom in research and writing, as well as the ability to preserve club history. Topics and themes varied greatly throughout the years, reflecting the changing times, advances in science and technology, and personal interests.

Some years were darkened by the shadows of war. During World War II, very little was recorded and meetings became less frequent. Time was spent helping the war effort and adjusting to life during wartime with food shortages, gas rationing and disaster preparedness. Annual events were cancelled and the money instead went to the Red Cross. The LRC was a big supporter of the Red Cross, donating much of their time and money whenever possible.

Victorian-era formalities and strict parliamentary procedures for club meetings gave way to less formal proceedings. Trudy Pojman, a member since 2006, noted that parliamentary procedure is exercised only when needed, and meetings are less structured and more focused on the social aspects.

"Socializing is always important ... but there is less focus on the intellectual side than in the past. Our officers addressed this and we continue to seek a good balance between past tradition and current needs and realities," she said.

Perhaps one of the biggest changes the club has undergone is the selection process for membership.

### Bonds

Two things time has not altered in any way are the friendship bonds formed and a continued appreciation for literature.

"I enjoy the entire package, really — learning about new books and ideas among women who represent a wide range of ages and experiences, along with wonderful friendships," Pojman said.

"Being in the LRC has enriched my life in many ways," added Neary. "It has led to many new friendships ... and I am always reminded by these [book] presentations that you truly cannot judge a book by its cover ... this club has encouraged me to break away from my usual type of book."

Johnson echoed this sentiment. "The LRC has made me open to more book genres than I was before and has broadened my horizons," she said.





Neary and Pojman agree that it is always fascinating to see what books other members choose, and Pojman enjoys discovering the variety of ways a particular theme is understood and interpreted by members.

Neary added: "I may think I know someone, but then she will choose a book that I never would have expected her to. I love when new pieces of my friends are revealed to me in such ways."

These strong bonds of friendship, along with a deep respect for preserving the past and willingness to evolve, are what keep this group thriving and strong. The ever-changing group of diverse and intelligent women continues to build upon an already rich history, and likely will continue to do so for many more years to come.

(See photo on next page.)

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# Garrison Fourth-Graders Produce Their Own Newspaper

Issue available online as Garrison Gazette on school website

Fourth-grade students in Jennifer Kirkpatrick's and Amy Kuchera's classes at Garrison Union Free School this month produced their own print edition of *The Paper/Philipstown.info* (renamed the *Garrison Gazette* online) filled with news about coyotes in Garrison, blazing trails at the School Forest, how yoga can help kids, a look back at Butterfield Hospital, interviews with Superintendent Laura Mitchell and many other reports.

"After attending several workshops at Haldane on project-based learning, I wanted to incorporate an exciting, inquiry-based project during our nonfiction unit," explained Kirkpatrick, who teaches English and social studies. In particular, she was looking for a project that addressed reading, writing and speaking standards.

Students began by reading a variety of news and feature articles from local and national newspapers. The venture's chief editors (Kirkpatrick and Kuchera) then



Students in Amy Kuchera's fourth-grade class at Garrison School read the issue of *Philipstown.info* they produced, hot off the press. Photos courtesy of Garrison School

handed out assignment letters asking the students to produce an article aimed at the readers of *Philipstown.info*.

"The driving question they had to keep in mind when was, 'What is important to you in your community?'" Kirkpatrick said. Students researched their topics and interviewed community members before drafting their articles. Throughout the editing process, the teachers invited journalists and other guest speakers to help guide students and provide feedback.

The most exciting part for her, said Kirkpatrick, was the moment after the students were told to start reporting. "Once students were given their assignment letters, they asked so many thoughtful questions," she said.

The *Garrison Gazette* is posted online at gufs.org.



# Central Hudson Debuts Enhanced Website

New layout designed to be more user-friendly

A new look and improved navigation are two of the features now found on Central Hudson's updated website.

"We're pleased to debut improved features, as online resources have become one of the most important ways our customers communicate with us," said Denise D. VanBuren, vice president of public relations.

The new website was designed with customers in mind. "We've incorporated information gathered on how our customers use our site, for example the most visited pages, and used online survey feedback in developing the new layout," said VanBuren.

Central Hudson's website offers a wide range of self-service options and features, such as:



The homepage of Central Hudson's website provides easier navigation and instant access to features and services used most by customers. Image provided

- Online bill payment and electronic billing enrollment;
- Signing up for text alerts;
- Viewing billing and energy use history;
- Providing information on opening and closing accounts;
- Obtaining rebates on energy efficiency upgrades;
- Reporting power conditions and streetlight outages;
- Educational materials for school children;
- Electric and natural gas safety information;
- Timely topics on electric vehicles, and much more.

Additional improvements are underway. "We are building off this new design to make further enhancements to our site, and we will strive to continue adding new features, services and options going forward," said VanBuren.

To see the new site, visit CentralHudson.com.



The West Point Literary Club

Photo provided



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*Love came down at Christmas,  
Love all lovely, Love Divine;  
Love was born at Christmas,  
Star and Angels gave the sign.*

*Worship we the Godhead,  
Love Incarnate, Love Divine;  
Worship we our Jesus:  
But wherewith for sacred sign?*

*Love shall be our token,  
Love be yours and love be mine,  
Love to God and all men,  
Love for plea and gift and sign.*

*~ by Christina Georgina Rossetti*

Source: *The Poetical Works of Christina Georgina Rossetti, with a Memoir and Notes by William Michael Rossetti* (1904)



Top row, Cold Spring; second row, Garrison; third row, Nelsonville; bottom, Cold Spring

Photos by Maggie Benmour

