

The HIGHLANDS Current

Happy
Mother's Day!



FRIDAY, MAY 6, 2016

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



On Thursday, workers began pouring concrete as part of Cold Spring's Main Street improvements.

Photo by M. Turton

Village Police Told to Do More

Kane still in charge for now

By Michael Turton

Change may be in the air at the Cold Spring Police Department, though perhaps not as much as Mayor Dave Merandy had anticipated. At the May 3 meeting of the village board, Merandy said that he had hoped to make a change in CSPD but that a candidate in line to replace Officer-in-Charge George Kane is no longer available.

There has been no public discussion about replacing Kane, although at Tuesday's meeting Merandy said he had discussed issues related to the CSPD with village attorney John Furst.

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Beacon Zoning Debate Heats Up

Developer threatens lawsuit

By Jeff Simms

A decision on whether to rezone seven parcels on the west side of Beacon remains undecided, as the City Council will now look even further into the issue after hearing a second round of public comments on May 2.

About two dozen speakers addressed the council, with more than half favoring the petition submitted in February by a group of Beacon residents. The feedback, however, was more mixed than a month ago during the first public hearing, as a number of residents asked that the properties remain zoned as they are — for high-density growth.

The petition contends that seven parcels — two on South Avenue and five on Wolcott Avenue/Route 9D — were incorrectly included in Beacon's Hudson River-to-Main Street "linkage zone," which was adopted three years ago to connect Main Street to the river by encouraging more residential growth. The city's idea was that added development along Beacon's west side would create a more vibrant, walkable community and increase support for businesses on Main Street.

But the parcels in question also lie within the city's Historic District and Landmark Overlay, and the property owners believe dense development near their homes will spoil the character of their neighborhoods.

"It will be a stain upon the growth we're trying to have in Beacon," said Lisa Gal-

lina, who lives at the Hammond Plaza condominium complex on Beekman Street. "It will be too fast and too furious."

By filing their petition, they have asked the city to effectively "downzone" all seven parcels, returning them to the low- and medium-density classifications they held prior to the adoption of the linkage zone.

However, rezoning the parcels would handcuff one proposed development and another that may still take shape. They are the River Highlands, an approximately 70-unit complex proposed for the site known as Parcel L (the three lots immediately south of the Reformed Church of Beacon on Route 9D), and a potential development adjacent to St. Andrew's Episcopal Church on South Avenue.

Officials from the Episcopal Diocese of New York, which owns the St. Andrew's property, say they can't afford to restore the aging buildings and would prefer to test the market for development as a source of revenue for the church. They say no plans are imminent and the church is currently only seeking proposals.

"We haven't done anything yet except start to gather informa-

(Continued on Page 7)



Pictured above is a historic well on the Parcel L site, believed to date back to the 19th century.

Photo by J. Simms

Newburgh Water Under Scrutiny

State of emergency declared, then lifted

By Brian PJ Cronin

The city of Newburgh's water supply is drawing attention from state regulators after City Manager Michael Ciaravino declared a state of emergency on May 2 due to the presence of perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS), a man-made pollutant that was a key ingredient of the fabric protector Scotchgard and is still used in pesticides, cleaning products, and hydraulic fluids for aircraft.

Less than 24 hours later, the state of emergency was lifted after the city turned off the water supply from Lake Washington, where the PFOS was detected, and turned on the city's backup pump station at nearby Brown's Pond, as well as a tap into the Catskill aqueduct system.

"The water that's

(To Page 3)



Silver Stream flows under the fence from Stewart International Airport on its way to Lake Washington in Newburgh.

Photo by B. Cronin

Roots and Shoots

Reader Q and A

Busy people gardening; the best berry bushes

By Pamela Doan

Q: I don't have a lot of time but I'd like to have a vegetable garden this summer. What should I plant, and how should I begin?

The most time-consuming part of a vegetable garden is prepping for planting. Clearing a space, adding organic matter to your soil, finding a way to exclude deer, rabbits and other critters that will partake in your harvest — these are the initial challenges. Sowing seeds and transplanting vegetables can be done easily and quickly. Then you need to set aside time to water, weed and monitor.

There are low-maintenance ways to accomplish all of this, though. It sounds like you need something small and manageable that could be extended next year if you have more time or interest. Instead of trying to clear lawn or another area for a garden, consider container gardening or raised beds. These options make for less work but possibly more costs if you don't have the materials.

Containers can be placed anywhere that the plants will get ample sunlight (6 to 8 hours per day for vegetables like tomatoes, peppers, corn and squash and 4 to 6 hours

for greens). You can purchase organic soil to fill them. While anything can be grown in a pot as long as it's big enough to accommodate the plant's development, tomatoes, peppers, cucumbers, pole beans, greens and herbs are all easy choices.

A raised bed saves the work of clearing and tilling. Make a simple wood frame and don't forget to cover the bottom with hardware cloth to keep out burrowing pests. You can use a layering method to fill it. Alternate using any of these organic materials: peat moss, shredded leaves, compost, grass clippings or composted manure (not raw).

If you start your raised bed with decent soil, you can then top dress it in future years to keep the level up. There's less digging and bending, too. Raised beds retain water better than plants in the ground and it's easy to set up a drip line for watering.

That's a potential drawback for containers. The plants need daily watering and concrete and stone containers dry out faster and heat up quickly. Plastic containers are fine but avoid plastics with a 3, 6 and 7 — they can leach chemicals into the soil and therefore into your food. The same goes with treated and stained wood. Try cedar, redwood or teak, which are naturally better at holding up in rain and sun.

If you're ready to get out there and clear a space in the lawn for a garden, test the soil's pH to see what will grow best and whether it needs amending. (At the Master Gardener Plant Sale in Brewster on May 14, they're offering free soil testing or you can take a sample to the county



A creative solution for a time-strapped gardener? Garden anywhere, anytime.

Photo by P. Doan

Cornell Cooperative Exchange office at another time and pay a small fee.)

Another alternative is to grow some vegetables in containers and add edible plants to the landscaping or flower beds. Mixing flowers with vegetables could have lovely results.

Q: I like fresh berries but they're expensive. Are there some varieties I can have in my yard? How do I take care of them?

There are several native berry bushes that will do well. Lee Reich, who has turned his property in New Paltz into a farm (den "a little more than a garden, not

quite a farm") has decades of experience growing fruit and nut trees. Here were his recommendations:

- Highbush blueberry *Vaccinium corymbosum* (varieties: Earliblue, Bluecrop or Jersey)
- Lowbush blueberry *Vaccinium angustifolium*
- Juneberry *Amelanchier* spp.
- Mulberry *Morus* spp. (varieties: Illinois Everbearing, Oscar)
- Huckleberry *Gaylussacia baccata*

Keep in mind that blueberries thrive in acidic soil (pH of 4.0 to 5.0) while most berry producers do best in soil with a pH of 5.5 to 6.5. If that's the natural state of your soil, you're in luck. Otherwise, to successfully grow blueberries, you'll need amendments to get to that level and it will be a constant chore. Soil always reverts to its natural state.

Most berries need at least six hours of sunlight, so choose your site accordingly. Currants will grow in shadier spots. Be prepared to defend your harvest. Deer will munch the leaves and birds will enjoy the berries.

Correction: In past columns, I identified Michael Hagen as the former director of Stonecrop Garden. He was a staff horticulturist. Caroline Burgess is the longtime director.

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Newburgh Water Under Scrutiny *(from Page 1)*

now coming out of your faucet is perfectly safe to drink,” said Mayor Judy Kennedy at a press conference on Tuesday. “It has no PFOS in it as of now.” She added that the city’s measurements put the amount of PFOS at 140 parts per trillion, which is below the safety threshold of 200 parts per trillion (ppt) set by the federal Environmental Protection Agency.

However, the city remains under Stage III water conservation measures, which bans using water for non-agricultural irrigation purposes, or ornamental purposes such as fountains or non-public swimming pools. Food service establishments in Newburgh also may not serve water or ice unless it is requested.

Ciaravino said in a statement that although the PFOS in water samples analyzed by the New York State Department of Conservation are below recommended levels, the NYSDEC and Department of Health are recommending that Newburgh officials take steps to reduce or eliminate the compound. Further, he noted, the EPA is soon expected to reduce the maximum level of PFOS allowed in drinking water to levels below those found in the Newburgh water. Last summer the New Jersey Drinking Water Quality Institute, a

department of that state’s Department of Environmental Protection, recommended a threshold of 13 ppt, or 187 ppt lower than EPA guidelines and 127 ppt lower than the levels in Newburgh.

“The EPA must publish its new PFOA standard – yesterday. They promised to do it by spring, and here we are in May. ... Clear guidance from the federal government is needed to map out the best plan of action.”

In a joint statement, U.S. Senators Charles E. Schumer and Kirsten Gillibrand and Rep. Sean Patrick Maloney, whose district includes Newburgh, called on the EPA to immediately provide testing and planning assistance to the city of Newburgh and to release its new guidelines. “The EPA must publish its new PFOA standard – yesterday,” said Schumer. “They promised to do it by spring, and here we are in May. Clear guidance from the federal government is needed to map out the best plan of action.”

PFOS was detected in Newburgh’s water supply in 2014 as part of an EPA program to collect data on contaminants suspected of being present in drinking water but without health-based standards under the Safe Drinking Water Act.

PFOS has drawn increased scrutiny from environmental officials since it was first classified by the EPA as an “emerging contaminant” that could pose health risks. PFOS was invented by 3M in 1949; the firm phased the chemical out of pro-

duction in 2002 amid growing concerns about its toxicity. Studies on animals showed PFOS to cause cancer, stunted growth, endocrine disruption, neonatal mortalities and other ills. Once in the environment, the chemical does not biodegrade. It can only be removed through such technologies such as activated carbon filters or reverse osmosis units.

PFOS was detected three times in Lake Washington in 2014, with the levels ranging between 140 and 150 ppt, similar to the levels announced this past week. While the exact source of the contamination remains uncertain, Mayor Kennedy said the contamination was getting into

the lake via Silver Stream, a tributary that begins on the grounds of the Stewart International Airport.

“The lake itself is not the source of the problem,” she said. She also said that one possible solution to the problem would be to divert Silver Stream so that it no longer flows into the lake. “As we discover where the contamination is coming from, then that entity, wherever or whatever it is, will be partly responsible and part of the cleanup process,” she said.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Tseng for school board

I am supporting Antony Tseng in his candidacy for the Beacon City School District School Board. Mr. Tseng is concerned and dedicated to making some serious changes. He is very passionate and committed to the students and their families within the district.

Antony is a strong and inspiring advocate for getting the community more involved with what is going on throughout the district. He knows the district and knows what is needed to make it one of the better ones. Antony also wants to bring more entitlement to the special-needs students and their families. He plans on doing so by bringing more programs to help them. He wants to make the parents more aware of their rights and resources their

child has within the district and the community.

On May 17, please vote for Antony Tseng so he can apply this determination on behalf of your child.

Angela Pagliaro, *Beacon*

There is a candidate for the Beacon City School District Board of Education who exemplifies the entire scope of what a community seeks in having its children's educational programs protected, enhanced, relevant and essential. Antony Tseng is that candidate.

Antony, a Beacon citizen for many years, has worked and volunteered his time and efforts to improve the quality of life in the Beacon community. He volunteers in various organizations that exist to serve

people in need, in dangerous and difficult situations, and in preparing others to also take part in making a significant contribution to their community. In addition, the voice of parents in a school district is critical to the success of the educational life of each child.

As a proud and conscientious parent, Antony will maintain a voice to be heard. Parents of Beacon's children can feel confident that Antony will work hard to create a transparent board and as a member of the Board of Education he will be there to serve, respect and respond to their views and concerns.

Beacon residents, on May 17, please cast your vote for school board candidate Antony Tseng. You'll be glad you did!

Florence Northcutt, *Beacon*

Beacon School Board Candidates

Three newcomers and one incumbent seek three seats

By Jeff Simms

Voters on May 17 will decide between four candidates vying for three seats on the Beacon City Board of Education.

The Beacon City School District has been rocked by controversy and high-level turnover; it is in the midst of a superintendent search, its sixth in 10 years. Former superintendent Barbara Walkley resigned in January, almost 12 months after being promoted from interim to full-time district chief. The two permanent (non-interim) superintendents who preceded her lasted less than two years combined.

Legal issues have made headlines, as well. As accusations of impropriety swirled around the board, a Beacon parent, Melissa Rutkoske, petitioned the state education department in December to remove Walkley and school system attorney Michael Lambert. (Her husband, Michael Rutkoske, is one of the board candidates.)

Walkley and former teachers' union president Kimberly Pilla, meanwhile, have sued Pilla's ex-husband, who is a Beacon High School teacher, claiming he leaked personal emails that harmed their careers. Community members have also asked the board numerous times to seek competitive bids for the district's legal counsel, a slot currently filled by the firm of Shaw, Perelson, May & Lambert.

There have also been bright spots. Interim superintendent Ann Marie Quartironi has been widely praised for stabilizing the district in less than four months on the job. While she does not intend to compete for the full-time position, Quartironi has said she will stay on in the interim post until a permanent hire is made.

Parental engagement is on the upswing, too. The Advocates for Beacon Schools, formed last year, has been active organizing and engaging the community around the superintendent search.

The school board is guaranteed at least

two new faces. Board president Melissa Thompson, a three-term veteran, is not running, nor is board member Christine Galbo.

What issues will the new board face? The search for lasting, effective leadership is foremost. In addition, questions about the lack of diversity among district staff and administrators and the ongoing struggle to do more with fewer resources will rank highly.

Below are statements each candidate submitted at our request. Polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. on Tuesday, May 17. City of Beacon residents vote at Beacon High School and Fishkill and Wappingers residents vote at Glenham Elementary School. The three candidates who receive the most votes will join the school board at its organizational meeting in July.

TRACY ANTALEK EVERETT

First, I want to express my gratitude for the opportunity to introduce myself and share my thoughts on my candidacy.

I have been a Beacon resident for more than 20 years, although I'm originally a "Jersey girl." I was blessed



Tracy Antalek Everett

to meet the late Shawn Antalek, move to Beacon and marry into the Antalek family, which makes my son a fourth-generation Beaconite in the school district. He is a senior in the high school and will be graduating in June. It appears he will be scheduled to pitch for Beacon varsity baseball at Dutchess Stadium on Wednesday, May 11, in what I believe will be Senior Appreciation Night, with family and friends in attendance, and for that I will miss the Meet the Candidate night.

I am a Cook College, Rutgers University graduate who had every intention of

getting into a professional sports team and instead was introduced to human resources, where I work today. I have been lucky enough to work for several Fortune 500 corporations, either directly or as a contractor, including Lafarge, Avery Dennison, BASF and now Volvo Cars US. In the past I also have done consulting work, providing human resource solutions to smaller, local companies. I donate many hours to a charity focused on serving underprivileged youth around the world.

When I first moved to Beacon, there were lots of empty storefronts and barely a decent pizza place! Look at how far we've come! It's exactly that growth that is both wonderful and, at the same time, challenging to our town and our schools.

Although I have already been on the Board of Education for the past three years, I am running again because I want to continue to represent all of the dynamic, diverse groups we have. More than

50 percent of our students qualify for reduced lunch and at the same time, we now have real estate properties listed for more than \$900,000. We have upscale accommodations and more than 100 homeless students. We have had an influx of fairly new residents while at the same time we have escalating costs and taxes for our existing seniors, with less and less affordable housing available.

I will continue to bring the perspective of someone who has seen where we have been and balance that with the vision for our future district, to embrace the needs and opinions of all taxpayers and not just select groups or demographics. My vision for the district includes a plan focused on stability by hiring a leader who will commit to a long-term improvement plan, by collaborating and partnering with our administrators, teachers and staff. We all would like to see BCSD united and strong again. Thank you for your consideration in this endeavor.

(Continued on next page)

Beacon School Board Candidates *(from previous page)*

MEREDITH HEUER

Born in Detroit and educated in Detroit public schools, I am a big believer in public education.

My husband and I bounced back and forth for many years between the coasts before settling in Beacon to raise our two children. We were attracted to the natural beauty, the proximity to New York City (my husband had a job there at the time but has since moved his business to Newburgh) and the size and diversity of the community. We recognized early on there were many inspiring stories of community engagement in Beacon where someone identified a gap and used it as an opportunity. Pat Kerr and the Beacon Soccer Club is a great example. In 1978,



Meredith Heuer

Mr. Kerr decided he wanted to share his passion for soccer with the children in this area so he founded BSC, which has been serving the community for almost 40 years.

Inspired by his story and others like it, when my older son started kindergarten six years ago, I went looking for opportunities to help in the Beacon City School District.

This happened to be the year that Pete Seeger donated \$20,000 to the Beacon Arts & Education Foundation (BAEF) to rescue the Calico Ball, a treasured tradition for all third-graders that has been in the district

for more than 25 years. As a professional photographer, working toward more arts in education programming was a natural fit, so I joined BAEF as co-chair.

I had big dreams of adding new programs for students and starting a district-wide initiative that would provide an avenue for community members to share their knowledge and talents with students. As it turned out, with the econo-

my crashing and the high superintendent turnover, our role was more about saving programs than starting new ones. In spite of this, our efforts in fundraising and grant writing have allowed us to sponsor over \$100,000 worth of programming in the BCSD.

Still, I have been continually frustrated with the lack of district support of arts in education programming and with a general attitude of "I can't" that has led to a long list of missed opportunities for the students. I believe very deeply in the talent and dedication of our teachers, but I feel our district has failed to support them and that has led to stale programming and fewer opportunities for our kids. In the last year, I have pushed hard for straight answers from members of our Board of Education about how and why decisions have been made that seem to have little to do with the well-being of the children in the district. The answers have been unsatisfactory, to say the least, and so I decided to run for the board.

Here are my primary focuses:

Vision: As we look for new leadership, our district must ask stakeholders to participate in a meaningful conversation about who we are as a community in order to create a vision of who we want to be and how we are going to get there. Lip service has been paid to this idea but the efforts seem neither authentic nor is there any evidence that efforts of stakeholders to participate in this process have truly been heard. We live in a diverse community that could be much better reflected in our district's staff and curriculum.

Accountability and Transparency: There has been a serious lack of transparency and accountability for decisions made by the Board of Education. Our last superintendent's appointment from interim to permanent superintendent occurred over the period of one weekend without a proper superintendent search or inclusion of stakeholders in the decision. The board must make the next superintendent's search transparent with significant stakeholder input.

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PHILIPSTOWN PLANNING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING – MAY 19, 2016

The Philipstown Planning Board for the Town of Philipstown, New York, will hold a public hearing on Thursday, May 19, 2016 starting at 7:30 p.m. at the Butterfield Library on Morris Avenue in Cold Spring, New York to consider the following application:

Garrison Station Plaza, Inc., 7 Station Road, Garrison, New York — for a proposed mixed-use development comprised of 2 apartments, wine bar and a restaurant for the former Guinan's Store in Garrison. The existing structure lies on a 6.674 acre parcel, and will be renovated as part of this application. An on-site wastewater treatment facility is proposed, which will involve a surface discharge.

The property lies along the easterly shore of the Hudson River, and is within the 100-year flood boundary.

The property is situated in a "HM" (Hamlet Mixed use) Zoning District in the Town of Philipstown. TM# 60.17-1-7.

At said hearing all persons will have the right to be heard. Copies of the application, plat map, and other related materials may be seen in the Office of the Planning Board at the Philipstown Town Hall.

Dated at Philipstown, New York, this 27th day of April, 2016.

Anthony Merante, Chairman



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Beacon School Board Candidates *(from Page 5)*

Diversity: The Equal Employment Opportunity Commission's report on the BCSD shows very clearly that this district suffers from a lack of diversity in the staff that is crucial, especially given the racial makeup of our student body. If children of color do not see themselves in their leadership, they are less likely to succeed and if all children do not see a diverse leadership, they are more likely to grow up with bias and prejudice.

My belief in the potential of this district and my commitment to working with community stakeholders to improve it for the students of the BCSD could not be stronger. I look forward to serving this community as a school board member and helping students reach their full potential.

MICHAEL RUTKOSKE

I have lived in the district for 10 years with our four children, three whom have graduated from the BCSD and one who will be a senior next year.

I became involved with the board following concerns about the former superintendent. I quick-



Michael Rutkoske

ly found that there were bigger issues within the operation of the board itself. I started speaking to others about these issues and realized that many others had concerns and frustrations about the operation of the district. This all resulted in an amazing display of the democratic process. Those concerned came together with a common focus to improve the BCSD for our children and our community. We all identified the major problem as the dysfunctional operation of the board and their relationship with the superintendent and legal counsel. Only then were we able to speak and be heard as one overwhelming voice which the board could no longer ignore.

As anyone who has either attended or seen a board meeting can clearly see, the board does not function well, if at all:

- There have been nine superintendents in the last 10 years.
- The vice president, who has been on the board for 21 years, states its sole function is writing policy, yet Dutchess County Board of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES) clearly states it also includes judicial duties (e.g., governance and oversight).
- The board attorney attends all meetings and executive sessions, which is in direct contrast to attorney conduct at every other school present at a BOCES training I attended.
- Information was provided to the vice president and attorney

regarding the inappropriate relationship between the former superintendent and former BTA president, but their only action was to conduct an undocumented investigation and then do nothing with the results.

- As recently as April 26, the board would not agree to even discuss competitive bidding for new legal services representation.
- The board does not know the basics for conducting a meeting in accordance with Robert's Rules of Order and constantly refers to the attorney for guidance.
- The president of the board made known her bias against the current BTA president during a board meeting on April 26 when his request to amend his letter of resignation due to incorrect information was not approved.
- I took the time to speak with a class of high school seniors about the election and budget vote process this past March. I was not campaigning, nor did I mention my candidacy. However, the president contacted the state to ask if I had violated campaign rules without discussing her concern with me. She stated that I may have a "leg up" on the other candidates even though no one else took action to reach out to our young people.

The president then went on to say how having speakers go to classes to discuss topics such as the vote is a great opportunity. The list goes on and on.

My platform is simple:

- Transparency
- Governance and oversight
- Financial responsibility

The district needs to start with the basics and focus on children, community and education professionals. We will then build trust and maintain strict financial responsibility. Only then will we be prepared to work on improving our programs and education and have the funding to do so.

In order to make this work, however, Tseng, Heuer and Rutkoske all need to be elected; here's why:

There are nine members on the board and almost all decisions require a majority vote. Of the nine, there are seven who currently vote on one side of issues

without question and one or two who challenge the issue. With the addition of Tseng, Heuer and Rutkoske, the board will be much more balanced, which will drive greater discussion and progress.

We represent the new board, ready to take action. The other candidate, Tracy Antalek Everett, is a current board member and represents the "no action," "business as usual," "can't do" attitude that has paralyzed this board and taken the focus off our children. She has even declined to participate in the Meet the Candidates night planned for May 11.

The BCSD is not operating properly and needs a change in leadership. Please elect all three, Tseng, Heuer and Rutkoske in order to make that happen. You can read more about me on my Facebook page "Michael Rutkoske for Beacon Board of Education."

ANTONY TSENG

I believe we can do better through more community engagement with the Beacon City School District, accountability of the board as public elected officials and fostering a can-do environment to benefit our



Antony Tseng

children. I have volunteered in parent committees and the experiences varied from fulfilling to frustrating. Proper public engagement involves all stakeholders to make a school district better. A good idea can be a much better idea if we can bring diverse perspectives to the table for conversation and the likelihood of success can increase incrementally from stakeholder buy-in. However, this takes work. I am not afraid of work nor afraid to have difficult conversations. I have the sincere desire to represent all segments of the community, be responsive to human needs, able to listen for real consensus and willing to obtain all the necessary facts before making a decision.

What I would bring *(To next page)*

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Beacon School Board Candidates *(from previous page)*

to the board: I have held various positions of leadership with nonprofits and other community service projects, advocated for issues concerning diversity, parents, and quality of life, and am vested in the success of the local community. I am a first-generation American. I was born in Manhattan, grew up on the edge of Chinatown speaking Spanish and English, sometimes have relied on public assistance growing up, put myself through college, and moved to Bea-

con in 1999 to raise a family.

I believe that my mother's value of education is one of the greatest gifts she could have given me. In spite of struggles and challenges that are a part of life, I have been able to use my knowledge, curiosity and willingness to work hard to solve these problems and to help others. Throughout my work in both the public and private sector, I have made the quality of my work and professionalism my biggest priorities. In

my personal life, I am a single parent and I have tried to lead by example, teaching my children the importance of social responsibility and contributing to the community we live in. I don't intend to forget where I came from and I have a sincere desire to address the education needs of all children in our district.

My vision for the district is continuing to evolve as I continue to have conversations with stakeholders to help put a vision into focus, and I appreciate every one of them.

From recent conversations, I have adopted the top three beliefs for a district vision: a physically and emotionally safe environment that is inspiring, joyful, and beautiful which invites curiosity; a rigorous curriculum that inspires students to learn and facilitates a challenging academic experience, establishes age appropriate expectations, and cross-curricular creativity; and work to break down the walls.

For more information on me, visit tinyurl.com/tsengforschools.

Beacon Zoning Debate Heats Up *(from Page 1)*

tion," said Rich Dambra, a member of St. Andrew's. "Trust us, we really want to do what's right for the community."

Dambra said that St. Andrew's wants to avoid a situation like what happened with the United Methodist Church of Fishkill, where a dilapidated building still stands near the church, which doesn't have the money to improve it. But if the City Council supports the residents' petition, "they are voting for an eyesore to develop, just like it did in Fishkill," he said.

Church neighbors, particularly those across the street from St. Andrew's, fear that large-scale development on the two lots — although it would bring in significant revenue — would scar their neighborhood as well.

"Who doesn't want to trust a church?" said Beacon resident Claire Reed. "But churches have to deal with bottom lines just like everybody else does. [St. Andrew's] plans sound nice, but that's not the way we should operate."

As for the River Highlands proposal, Ronald J. Piccone II of Beacon Ridge Associates, the owners of Parcel L, submitted a comment to the council by email, warning that if the lots are rezoned, "I will have no recourse but to litigate this

recent turn of events."

He added: "I am sure that the developer [Unicorn Contracting] will also sue to recoup his to-date investment. We followed a path, worked within your zoning, and with changes in the wind, we may lose substantial investments."

Neither River Highlands nor St. Andrew's representatives signed the property owners' petition. However, city statutes allow for the review of properties within

a zoning district if 50 percent of the property owners in a given block within the district sign a petition requesting the review.

The Beacon planning board last month voted to support the petition for rezoning, agreeing that the parcels' current zoning conflicts with the city's comprehensive plan. Mayor Randy Casale said Monday that the City Council will again discuss the issue at its May 23 workshop, a meeting that's open to the public but does not allow for public comment.

Having heard from planners, neighbors and developers, the members of the council will be tasked with trying to balance the needs of a growing city with the small-town charm that has helped attract much of that growth.

"Trust us, we really want to do what's right for the community."



Beacon resident Lisa Gallina points toward the Hudson River vista she believes could be lost to development within the linkage zone.

Photo by J. Simms



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Village Police Told to Do More *(from Page 1)*

While there will be no immediate change in the officer-in-charge, the mayor said Kane will be required to write a detailed job description for the position. He also underscored that a lack of enforcement by CSPD has been a common complaint and that Kane will be asked to “step up” those efforts.

Lax enforcement has been brought up numerous times in recent years, especially with regard to parking violations. CSPD’s reports indicate that during the past two years officers have issued an average of fewer than two parking tickets per day. Merchants have voiced particular concern over the lack of enforcement when commuters park on Main Street for an entire day, something they say occurs on a regular basis.

Merandy also said Kane will be asked to provide better monthly reports tracking police activity.

“We understand the importance of the police department ... and the pressure to find cost savings,” Merandy said. The village spends about \$400,000 annually to operate the police force, which provides round-the-clock coverage. “We understand that’s a huge chunk of the budget,” he said. The department accounts for about 20 percent of village spending.

Merandy said that some of the issues involved in assessing CSPD could not be discussed in public, adding that the vil-

lage contract with the police department is up for renewal this year.

Remediation behind schedule

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) has told village officials that the remediation of toxic coal tar at the Cold Spring Boat Club, including removal of the large tent on the site, will not be “substantially complete” until July 1. When the project got underway last fall, the plans called for work to be complete in time for the boating season. However, there were delays, most notably when substantially more rock than expected was encountered during excavation.

Merandy said that the DEC and contractor have agreed to give boat club members access to the site on the weekends of May 14 and 21 to install docks and get their vessels in the water. “They’re trying to be accommodating,” he said, adding that a truck and steel piles will be removed from the site to help facilitate access.

Main Street project on track

Deputy Mayor Marie Early reported that the Main Street Project is progressing quickly. She said that if all goes well, new concrete would be poured and walkable from the pedestrian tunnel to Kemble Avenue by next week. “Even with the bad weather we’re on schedule,” she said. It was thought that due to rain the first

concrete would not be poured until May 9. However, because the weather improved late in the week the contractor was able to begin the first pour on May 5.

Trustee Lynn Miller commented that some of the temporary ramps being put in place along Main Street seem inadequate, pointing specifically to the makeshift wooden walkway at the Foundry Cafe. “Businesses really need to look accessible”

during construction, she said.

The owner of the building at 113 Main Street addressed the board to ask that the ramp in front of his building remain in place. The consultant for the Main Street Project consultant had recommended that it be replaced with a curb for safety reasons. Merandy said there would be enough time to consider the request prior to the board’s next meeting.

Hiroko Merante

In loving memory of Hiroko Merante, who passed away one year ago on May 4. We remember her kindness, gentleness and her love of all things — as a wife to Tony, mother to Ryo (Leahann) and Peter (Christine), grandmother to Aidan and Matthew and friend to many.

Traditional Jewish Memorial Prayer

In the rising of the sun and its going down, we remember them.

In the blowing of the wind and the chill of the winter, we remember them.

In the opening of buds and in the rebirth of spring, we remember them.

In the blueness of the sky and in the warmth of summer, we remember them.

In the resulting of the leaves and in the beauty of autumn, we remember them.

In the beginning of the year and when it ends, we remember them.

When we are weary and in need of strength, we remember them.

When we are lost and sick at heart, we remember them.

When we have joys we yearn to share, we remember them.

As long as we live, they too shall live, for they are now a part of us, as we remember them.



Hiroko Merante with sons Peter, left, and Ryosuke



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The Calendar

Cancer Survivor, 15, to Show His First Film

Beacon High freshman focuses on those who help

by Alison Rooney

Noah Cory doesn't remember any of it. He spent more than three years battling a stage 4 neuroblastoma tumor, but all he can recall is the remission party. He doesn't remember the chemotherapy and radiation treatments because the battle began when he was 18 months old.

Cory, now 15, may not be able to summon up the experience, but its influence over his life — first and foremost, the fact that he has life — guided the making of his first film, a 30-minute documentary called *Ordinary People with an Extraordinary Life*. It will premiere at 7 p.m. on Friday, May 13, at the Seeger Auditorium at Beacon High School. Tickets will be \$5 at the door, with all proceeds donated to the Ryan McElroy Children's Cancer Foundation (ryansfoundation.org), a Pawling-based charity devoted to helping children in the mid-Hudson Valley with life-threatening illnesses, and the Ronald McDonald



Theresa Cory and her son Noah at their Beacon home

Photo by A. Rooney

Houses of Westchester and Albany.

Cory, who is a freshman, took a filmmaking class at school in the fall that got him hooked. He had been assigned to find a small project but “as I got going it

became an actual film.” He had wanted to make a film about childhood cancer but changed course after he learned more about the Ryan McElroy Foundation.

“I decided that instead it would be

about people who help kids who are going through cancer,” he says. “My teacher taught me the basics, including proper alignments, and as I went along, I got better — in fact when I watch the film now I can tell which interviews were the earlier ones. Now I have a better editing program and just more experience.”

When considering the topic, Cory had to decide if it would be his own story or about other kids. After conducting the first interviews, he instead decided to focus on those who form the support system behind a child going through treatment. This includes not only parents and siblings but the doctors and nurses. The film shows the human side of these medical personnel as Cory asks why they do it, how they do it and how it affects them.

“People know it's hard for the child, but they don't know how they are helped, they don't know what the doctors go through,” Cory says. “My oncologist is up late nights, crying.”

Theresa Cory, Noah's mother, says of that doctor, Dr. Mandy Mack, “She absolutely saved Noah's life.” The diagnosis of stage 4 cancer meant there were

(Continued on Page 11)

Garrison Café Getting a Makeover

Wine bar and table service to be added

By Michael Turton

The Garrison Café is about to begin a transition from what is now mainly a take-out operation to a small dine-in restaurant and wine bar. At its meeting on April 21, the Philipstown Planning Board gave final site plan approval to what it deemed minor changes to the

cafe operated by Garrison residents Matt and Lydia McMahon and located just south of the Garrison post office on Route 9D.

Lydia McMahon told *The Current* that she and her husband envision their café becoming an *enoteca*, a Tuscan-style meeting place where customers can “enjoy a great bottle of wine but don't have to have a full meal,” she said. “We want the café to become a local hangout.” Details have not been finalized but McMahon said the wine bar will likely be open Thursday through Sunday from about 6 to 10 p.m.

While the exterior of the building will remain the same, the interior will undergo gradual change. The deli cooler will be removed to make way for “The Redoubt” wine bar. The café has had a liquor license for some time but, McMahon said, “We had the wine list but not the setting.”

The changes will also



Lydia McMahon

Photos by M. Turton

include wait service. To accommodate weekend hikers who often don't want a sit-down meal, the take-out window will be put to much greater use, she said. The window operation will be expanded soon, McMahon said, while the interior changes will be phased in gradually.

The existing restroom will be upgraded to make it handicap-accessible, a requirement of the recent change in zoning to restaurant status.

“We're excited about the

(Continued on Page 13)



The Garrison Café

FRIDAY, MAY 6

Paintings by Daisy de Puthod (Opening)

5 – 8 p.m. Robert McCaffrey Real Estate
140 Main St., Cold Spring
845-249-2751 | mccaffreyrealty.com

Group Show: *Spirits* (Opening)

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

Yoko Yoshimatsu / Setsuya Kotani (Opening)

6 – 8 p.m. Buster Levi Gallery | 121 Main St., Cold Spring
845-809-5145 | busterlevigallery.com

Meet the Makers (Forum)

6:30 p.m. Boscobel | 1601 Route 9D, Cold Spring
845-265-3638 | boscobel.org

Beatles Sing-a-Long

7 p.m. St. Mary's Church (Parish Hall)
1 Chestnut St., Cold Spring

Bas Relief with Stacey Farley (First Session)

7 p.m. Garrison Art Center | 23 Garrison's Landing, Garrison | 845-424-3960 | garrisonartcenter.org

Desmond-Fish Library Associates Awards Dinner

7 p.m. The Roundhouse at Beacon Falls
East Main Street, Beacon
845-424-3020 | desmondfishlibrary.org

Step Afrika!

7 p.m. Bardavon | 35 Market St., Poughkeepsie
845-473-2072 | bardavon.org

The Secrets of Stone Chambers (Talk)

7 p.m. Putnam Valley Grange Hall
128 Mill St. Putnam Valley
914-949-4679 | putnamvalleygrange.org

Annual Evening Frog Walk

7:30 p.m. Outdoor Discovery Center
100 Muser Drive, Cornwall
845-534-5506 | hhnaturemuseum.org

Calling All Poets

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

SATURDAY, MAY 7

2016 Riverkeeper Sweep

8 a.m. – 1 p.m. Denning's Point, Beacon
9 – 11 a.m. Beacon Waterfront
9 – 11 a.m. Manitou
9 – 11:30 a.m. Arden Point, Garrison
9 – 11:30 a.m. Garrison Landing
9 a.m. – 1 p.m. Little Stony Point
9 a.m. – 1 p.m. Cornish Estate/Northgate
10 a.m. – 1 p.m. Dockside Park, Cold Spring
riverkeeper.org

Cold Spring Farmers' Market

8:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. Boscobel
1601 Route 9D, Garrison | csfarmmarket.org

24th Annual Hudson Valley AIDS Walk and 5K Run

8:30 a.m. Walkway Over the Hudson | 61 Parker Ave., Poughkeepsie | hudsonvalleycs.org/aidswalk

Household Hazardous Waste Collection

9 a.m. – Noon. Fahnestock Park
Canopus Beach Parking Lot, Route 301, Kent
845-808-1390 x43150 | putnamcountyny.gov

I Love My Park Day Clean-Up

9 a.m. – 1 p.m. Bannerman Island
9:30 a.m. – 3 p.m. Bear Mountain
ptny.org/events/i-love-my-park-day

Live Poultry & Farm Animal Market

9 a.m. – 1 p.m. Putnam Valley Grange
128 Mill St. Putnam Valley | putnamvalleygrange.org

Philipstown Garden Club Plant Sale

9 a.m. – 1 p.m. North Highlands Fire Dept.
504 Fishkill Road, Cold Spring
facebook.com/PhilipstownGardenClub

Hudson Valley Comic Con

10 a.m. – 6 p.m. Gold's Gym | 258 Titusville Road, Poughkeepsie | hvcomiccon.com | Continues Sunday

Calendar Highlights

For upcoming events visit highlandscurrent.com

Send event listings to calendar@highlandscurrent.com

Apple Blossom Festival and Mother's Day Picnic

10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Fishkill Farms | 9 Fishkill Farm Road, Hopewell Junction | 845-897-4377 | fishkillfarms.com

Spring Celebration and Plant Sale

11 a.m. – 3 p.m. Stony Kill Farm
79 Farmstead Lane, Wappingers Falls
845-831-1617 | stonykill.org

Student Recitals (Haldane, GUFS, Manitou)

11 a.m. & 2:30 p.m. Chapel Restoration
45 Market St., Cold Spring
845-265-5537 | chapelrestoration.org

Common Ground Farm Plant Sale

Noon – 3 p.m. Tito Santana | 142 Main St., Beacon
845-231-4424 | commongroundfarm.org

Hudson Valley Center for Contemporary Art

Noon – 6 p.m. Free admission for mothers
5 p.m. Madness & Nudity: Women in Art
1701 Main St., Peekskill | 914-788-0100 | hvcca.org

Pete Seeger Open House/Open Mic

Noon – 6 p.m. Beacon Sloop Club | 2 Red Flynn Drive, Beacon | 845-463-4660 | beaconsloopclub.org

Loyalists in the Hudson Valley Campaign (Talk)

1:30 p.m. Stony Point Battlefield
44 Battlefield Road, Stony Point
845-786-2521 | Reservations required.

Asian-American Artists of the Hudson Valley (Opening)

2 – 5 p.m. Howland Cultural Center | 477 Main St., Beacon | 845-765-3012 | howlandculturalcenter.org

The Olate Dogs

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

Turn! Turn! Turn!: Celebrating Pete Seeger in Dance and Music

3 p.m. Beacon High School | 101 Matteawan Road, Beacon | turnturnturn.eventbrite.com

Riverside Art Auction and Exhibition

3:30 p.m. Garrison Art Center | 23 Garrison's Landing, Garrison | 845-424-3960 | garrisonartcenter.org

Karen Madden: The Art of Fiber (Talk)

4 p.m. RiverWinds Gallery | 172 Main St., Beacon
845-838-2880 | riverwindsgallery.com

The Big Takeover (Reggae)

8 p.m. Howland Cultural Center | 477 Main St., Beacon
845-765-3012 | howlandculturalcenter.org

Bert Rechtschaffer Jazz Trio

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

10th Anniversary Celebration

9 p.m. Max's on Main | 246 Main St., Beacon
845-838-6297 | maxsonmain.com

SUNDAY, MAY 8

Mother's Day

Buddha Bathing Ceremony & Mother's Day Garden Party

9:50 a.m. – 3 p.m. Chuang-Yen Monastery
2020 Route 301, Carmel | 845-225-1819 | baus.org

Garden Conservancy Open Day with Tea in the Garden

10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Stonecrop Gardens | 81 Stonecrop Lane, Cold Spring | 845-265-2000 | stonecrop.org

Mother's Day Nature Hike

10 a.m. Outdoor Discovery Center | 100 Muser Drive, Cornwall | 845-534-5506 | hhnaturemuseum.org

Free Admission for Mothers

Noon – 6 p.m. HVCCA | See details under Saturday.

Free Admission for Mothers

1 – 5 p.m. Mount Gulian | 145 Sterling St., Beacon
845-831-8172 | mountgulian.org

K104 Cupcake Festival

1 – 5 p.m. Main St., Fishkill | k104online.com

16mm Film Screenings with John Froats

8 p.m. Dogwood | 47 E. Main St., Beacon
845-202-7500 | dogwoodbar.com

MONDAY, MAY 9

Zumba Gold

8:15 a.m. Beacon Recreation Center | 23 W. Center St., Beacon | 914-475-0493 | cityofbeacon.org

Fit for Life for Seniors (First Session)

11 a.m. Continental Village Clubhouse
845-424-4618 | philipstownrecreation.com
Free to Philipstown residents age 62 and older.

Decoding the Past: Portraiture of Dutchess County

Noon. Locust Grove Estate | 2683 South Road, Poughkeepsie | 845-471-1630
dutchesscountyhistoricalsociety.org

NYS Health Insurance Info & Enrollment Session

3 – 6 p.m. Butterfield Library | 10 Morris Ave., Cold Spring | 845-265-3040 | butterfieldlibrary.org

Bored? Games! (grades K-6) (First Session)

4 p.m. Philipstown Community Center
107 Glenclyffe Drive, Garrison
845-424-4618 | philipstownrecreation.com

Haldane Sports

4:30 p.m. Lacrosse vs. Carmel
4:30 p.m. Baseball vs. Pawling
4:30 p.m. Softball vs. Pawling
15 Craigside Drive, Cold Spring
845-265-9254 | haldaneschool.org

Egg Freezing for Fertility Preservation

6:30 p.m. Putnam Hospital Center | 670 Stoneleigh Ave., Carmel | 845-230-4797 | health-quest.org

TUESDAY, MAY 10

Pasture Walk

9 a.m. – Noon. Glynwood Farm | 362 Glynwood Road, Cold Spring | 845-265-3338 | glynwood.org

Boscobel Open for Artists

9:30 a.m. – 4 p.m. 1601 Route 9D, Cold Spring
845-265-3638 | No public admission.

Senior Bus Trip to Fishkill

10 a.m. Chestnut Ridge, Cold Spring
845-424-4618 | philipstownrecreation.com

New Moms & Infants Group

11 a.m. – 1 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library
472 Route 403, Garrison
Email whiteside.ks@gmail.com.

Healthy & Homemade (grades K-6) (First Session)

4 p.m. Philipstown Community Center
See details under Monday.

Paddler Consulting Sessions

6:30 – 8:30 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library
472 Route 403, Garrison
845-424-3020 | desmondfishlibrary.org

Old-Timey Southern Fiddle Jam

7 – 10 p.m. Howland Cultural Center | 477 Main St., Beacon | 845-831-4988 | howlandculturalcenter.org

Listening Session: Introduction to Funk

7 p.m. St. Mary's Church | 1 Chestnut St., Cold Spring
Hosted by Rob Scheps and Jeff Haynes

Board of Trustees

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

WEDNESDAY, MAY 11

Reductive Woodblock Printing (First Session)

10 a.m. Garrison Art Center | Details under Friday

Zumba Gold

2:30 p.m. Beacon Recreation Center
See details under Monday.

Archery (grades K-6) (First Sessions)

4 & 5 p.m. Philipstown Community Center
See details under Monday.

Preschool Open House

5 – 6:30 p.m. Beacon Hebrew Alliance
331 Verplanck Ave., Beacon
845-831-2012 | beaconhebrewalliance.org

Meet the School Board Candidates

7 p.m. Beacon High School
101 Matteawan Road, Beacon

Pat Benatar and Neil Giraldo

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

THURSDAY, MAY 12

Art Class for Seniors

11 a.m. – 1 p.m. Beacon Recreation Center
See details under Monday.

Authors & Art (grades K-6) (First Session)

4 p.m. Philipstown Community Center
See details under Monday.

Haldane vs. Greeley (Softball)

4:30 p.m. Haldane School | Details under Monday

Paddler Consulting Sessions

6:30 – 8:30 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library
See details under Tuesday.

Meet the School Board Candidates

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

FRIDAY, MAY 13

Free Admission for Grandparents

9:30 a.m. – 5 p.m. Mid-Hudson Children's Museum
75 N. Water St., Poughkeepsie
845-471-0589 | mhcm.org

Sacred Harp

5 p.m. Workshop | 7:30 p.m. Performance
Tompkins Corners Cultural Center
729 Peekskill Hollow Road, Putnam Valley
845-528-7280 | tompkinscorners.org

Cruise Tour of Bannerman Island and Hike to Summit

6 p.m. Beacon dock
800-979-3370 | bannermancastle.org

Forum: Get Safely Home (grades 7-10)

6 p.m. Beacon Recreation Center
23 W. Center St., Beacon | facebook.com/iambeacon

Gary Hilderbrand: Kindred Landscape (Talk)

6:30 p.m. Boscobel | 1601 Route 9D, Cold Spring
845-265-3638 | boscobel.org

Peekskill Film Festival

6 p.m. Reception | 7 p.m. *But Not For Me* with Q&A
10 p.m. Live performance of film score
Paramount Hudson Valley | 1008 Brown St., Peekskill | peekskillfilmfestival.org

Altima (Documentary) by Peter Sanders

7 p.m. SkyBaby Studios | 75 Main St., Cold Spring
To benefit the Garrison Art Center

Ordinary People with an Extraordinary Life (Documentary)

7 p.m. Beacon High School
101 Matteawan Road, Beacon

Cancer Survivor, 15, to Show His First Film *(from Page 9)*

not great odds. "In the beginning you think your child won't be here for that long," Theresa Cory recalls. "He went through chemo, radiation, bone marrow treatment and many surgeries, and she's the reason he got through this. Now he goes through a check-up every six months with a doctor who specializes in long-term effects in teenagers. Noah has a twin brother and an older sibling who does remember it all. All three have handled it well, done amazing things and moved on from it ... Noah has taken a difficult experience and turned it into a positive."

Before the screening, a representative from the Ryan McElroy Foundation will share remarks, letting people know where the money is going. Cory will speak as well, most likely after the screening. The parents who are interviewed in

the film will also be there. In the film, one father is interviewed about his child, who died. "I wound up staying out of the room [while Cory conducted the inter-

view] — I didn't realize the effects it would have," says Theresa Cory. "I'm grateful for still having my child sitting with me."

Cory is now planning a fictional film to be shot over the summer. He aspires to attend NYU or another university with a strong film program. For his mother, the experience has motivated her to, once again, become involved in helping. "We had a foundation after Noah was sick, but it was hard, as a single mom with a fulltime job, to maintain it," she says. "Now I'm becoming more involved with the Ryan McElroy Foundation," which was founded by Chip and Judy McElroy after they lost their son to cancer just before his fifth birthday.



Noah Cory and his nurse, Melonie Rooker-Forget, at the time he was undergoing treatment.

Images courtesy of Noah Cory



Noah Cory, filmmaker and former patient of "Nurse Melonie" interviews her for his film.

Theresa adds: "Noah decided to use his enthusiasm for the film class to inform everyone about childhood cancer. He has gone to multiple hospitals, met with many families and spoken with child life specialists and families who are fighting this battle every day. He's a smart, kind, athletic and very determined freshman!"

Farmers' Market Moves Outdoors

Open Saturdays at Boscobel starting May 7

The Cold Spring Farmers' Market, which this year marks its 14th season, moves from St. Mary's Parish House to Boscobel on Saturday, May 7, and also moves its starting time forward to 8:30 a.m. The market, which closes at 1:30 p.m., will be held at Bosco-

bel, located at 1609 Route 9D just south of Cold Spring, until mid-November.

The popular market provides shoppers with the opportunity to purchase locally grown and produced food, support regional farms and enjoy activities programmed by schools, wellness and community centers. The market stock includes produce (both organic and conventionally grown), fish, meats, breads, fruits, preserves,

cheeses, pastas, syrups, sauces, honey, savory pastries, gluten-free baked goods, plants, flowers, coffee, wines, herbs, teas, liquors, ciders, wools, soaps and lotions.

In addition to Hillrock Distillery's "farm-to-glass" whiskey blends, the market this summer will offer edible flower arrangements from Growing Heart Farm, a two-acre farm in Pawling, and pour-over iced coffee from The Pantry on Route

9 in Cold Spring. For more information, visit csfarmmarket.org.

NY Alert

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 SUN 1:00 4:15 7:30
 MON 7:30, TUE 1:00 4:15 7:30
 WED & THU 7:30

Keanu (R)
 FRI 2:45 5:30 8:15
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 SUN 1:30 4:30 7:15
 MON 7:15, TUE 1:30 4:30 7:15
 WED & THU 7:15

The Best Trees in Philipstown: The Sequel

Can anything top the Cold Spring sycamore?

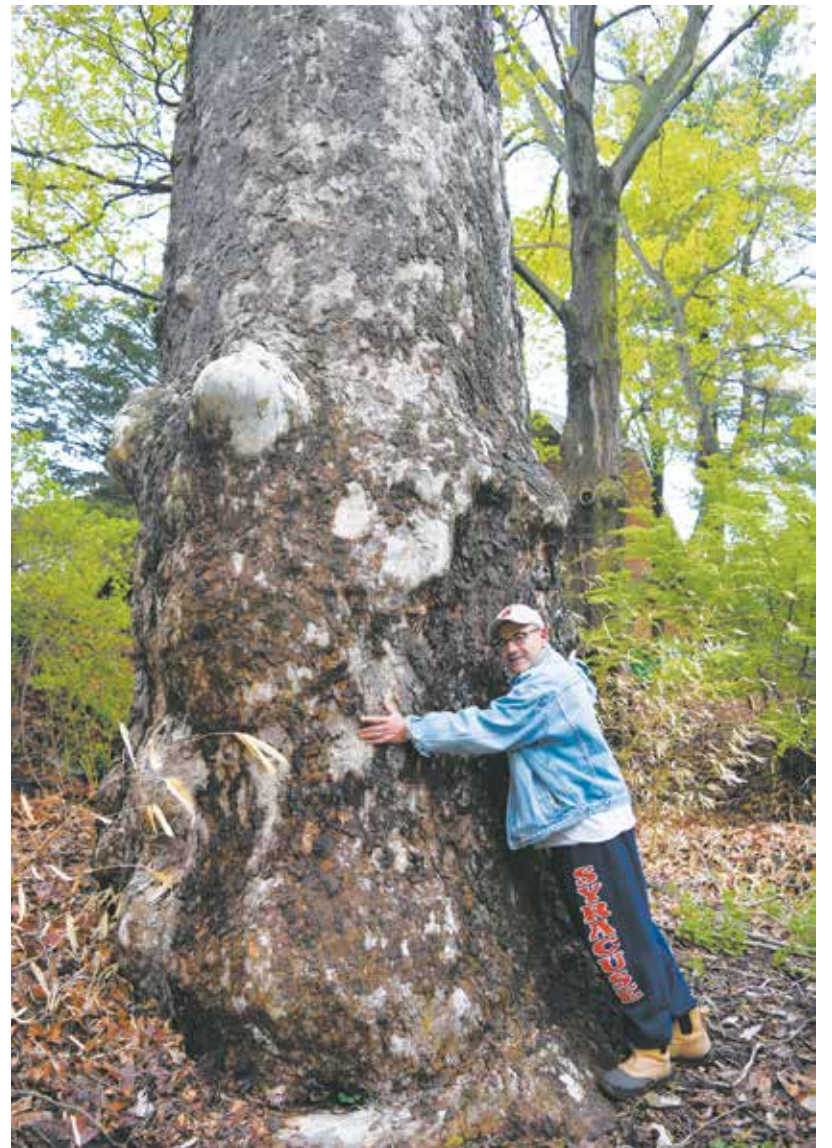
By Michael Turton

On Arbor Day (April 29), *The Highlands Current* announced its picks for the five best trees in Philipstown. Each is magnificent in its own way, but the giant sycamore behind Foodtown at the end of Marion Avenue in Cold Spring was selected as the single greatest in the town based on its immense stature, impressive branch structure and inherent beauty.

The massive *Platanus occidentalis* is well established behind the home of Joe and Cathy Curto. Joe, a businessman and former president of the Haldane School Board, described the pride of his backyard this way: "It's pretty big."

We decided to quantify Joe's rather subjective comment. With two people holding the tape, the sycamore measured 23 feet in circumference at chest height, or 7 feet 4 inches in diameter. To put that in perspective, the Los Angeles Lakers' star Kareem Abdul-Jabbar was a mere 7 feet, two inches tall.

The challenge to find a tree greater than Joe Curto's pretty big sycamore continues. William Erichson, commenting on Facebook, suggested that the "ultimate tree is up in Cornish Estate just before the lake at the top," while at *highlandscurrent.com*, Stephen Rose wrote, "Don't forget that huge white oak visible from the Boscobel grounds looking north in the open field." Further nominations are welcome.



It would take several Joe Curtos to properly hug the best tree in Philipstown.

Photo by M. Turton

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Robert A. McCaffrey Realty is excited to host artist Daisy de Puthod's work in our office for the month of May. The opening reception will be Friday evening, May 6th, beginning at 5pm. The show will include local farm scenes along with local river scenes and nearby seacoast scenes. All paintings are Plein-Air oils plus a pastel of a horse. Stop in for a visit and support the local arts scene!

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Garrison Café Getting a Makeover (from Page 9)

changes," McMahon said. While she hesitated to use the term "tapas," small plates will be available. Some existing menu items such as the gourmet Biko burger will still be offered, but as "sliders." And, she said, items more in keeping with the wine bar will be added, including a

cheese and meat plate and oysters.

At a public hearing in 2015, some Garrison residents objected to a more extensive expansion of the café, citing concerns about possible increased traffic, parking problems and what they deemed an overall negative

impact on a neighborhood they described as "peaceful and pin-drop quiet after dusk." Largely as a result of those objections, the proposal was withdrawn. McMahon said that she knew of no objections raised by neighbors regarding the scaled-down changes.



Inside, the cafe will look more like a restaurant, less like a deli.

Photo by M. Turton

Meet the Artist: Maddi Angelini | Saturday, May 7 1 to 4 p.m.



Maddi Angelini will be at The Gift Hut on Saturday, May 7, showing her wonderful one-of-a-kind pieces of jewelry. She crafts every piece by hand using antique and vintage buttons from all over the world.



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Hudson Natural Opens in Beacon

Organic mattresses, Asian textiles featured

by Alison Rooney

Marnie Henricksson has hung up her chef's apron and is shifting her energy to sleeping instead. No, the owner of Marnie's Asian Kitchen, the restaurant she ran in Putnam Valley for many years and, in a pop-up edition, in Cold Spring last summer, is not getting some shuteye, she's simply doing something different now.

Hudson Natural, a new retail shop located in Beacon's east end, featuring all-natural bedding, mattresses, home goods and textiles, is about to open — a soft opening is planned for May 7, while the official takes place on Second Saturday, May 14.

"I like having my own business," Henricksson says. "I tried doing food again, but it didn't work out," she said, referring to her culinary history in the region: After Henricksson closed up her popular restaurant, much to the dismay of her loyal customers, she decided to cook again, on a much smaller scale, in a pop-up kitchen which operated out of St. Mary's Church in Cold Spring, but it lasted only a couple of months before being foiled when the church was told it would have to make major modifications to their kitchen to accommodate a commercial enterprise.

"I thought about opening another res-

taurant, in a commercial space in Cold Spring, and looked and looked during the fall, but it was impossible to get a new food business space and no one there is going anywhere," Henricksson says. "I just lost the enthusiasm, as the process is grueling."

Meanwhile, after shuttering her restaurant, Henricksson has not been idle. She



A textile throw is draped over a crib featuring an organic mattress at Hudson Natural.



Hudson Natural's Marnie Henricksson is pictured in front of some of the textiles the store features.

Photos by A. Rooney

has spent the past four years working for Healthy Choice Mattresses, a company which manufactures handcrafted organic mattresses, made in Connecticut with materials produced in the U.S.

It has four retail stores, including one in Mount Kisco, where Henricksson spent most of her time. Looking at this region, Henricksson determined that there was no organic mattress store between Westchester and Albany, and with Hudson Natural, which sells these mattresses, along with other products, she is remedying this, opening what she describes as "a very personal little store. ... I'm it — running it myself. We're open five days a week, closed Tuesday and Wednesday."

In stock, along with the mattresses, are an assortment of textiles, in the form of throws, pillowcases, quilts and more, made in Asia, using forms like the Indonesian ikat. After living in Tokyo years ago, Henricksson took a long trip back through southeast Asia. "I always loved the textiles and brought home a lot of stuff. You can find some similar things online, but you don't know the story behind them — how the people making them are treated. I'm starting with a few things I know are done right."

Hudson Natural also sells organic cotton sheets from South Carolina's Organics and More. "All of their cotton is grown in the southwest U.S. and is certified GOTS — Global Organic Textile Standard." There are also organic wool accessories, including a 3-inch topper, comforters and

pillows, and a line of vintage Indian saris repurposed into throws, which Henricksson calls suitable for use as picnic blankets or draped at the bottom of a twin bed. There are lots of bedding items for infants, befitting the Beacon baby boom, something Henricksson has been taking note of, watching the passers-by.

The mattresses, all made to order, are toxin-free, made from talalay latex, a natural rubber, produced in Connecticut. "Our mattresses are not treated with chemical flame retardants, and there are no petro-chemical emissions from the foam core. There are two inches of organic wool under the cotton and thin pads of liquefied sand act as fire barriers. If you're going to do anything natural in your life, make it your food and your bed — you spend so many hours there — it's an investment," Henricksson says.

Adjustable bed bases from Leggett and Platt are also for sale. Delivery, by someone associated with the store — "He knows what he's doing," Henricksson says — is available throughout the area.

"I feel lucky to have this store," she says. "I believe people will come to Beacon from areas like Rhinebeck, Hudson and Millbrook — of course I welcome people from nearby too." Henricksson intends to hang artworks on the walls of the serene store, once she gets things up and running. "One great thing about Beacon is that you can participate in the art community without having a gallery. I'd love to promote anything I can."

Of the location, around the curve of Main Street and a few blocks down, near The Hop, across from condo developments and associated new retail establishments,

Henricksson isn't concerned, saying "Being away from heavy retail is okay. We're a destination store." Henricksson is happy to be in Beacon. "Beacon's development took a while, but doing this now feels right."

Hudson Natural is located at 544 Main St. As of now, information can be found at hcmattress.com, but a website and Facebook page are under development. For more information, call 845-440-6019.

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New Strategies in the War Against Ticks

Scientists and dads unveil projects to halt spread of lyme

By Brian PJ Cronin

As spring arrives, it's time to dust off the grill and gardening tools but also the bug spray, tweezers and magnifying glasses. From now until early July is prime tick season in the Hudson Valley, when the dreaded blacklegged ticks, capable of spreading lyme disease as well as other illnesses, emerge to feed on the blood of whatever warm-blooded creature walks nearby.

Dutchess County has one of the highest rates of lyme disease in the country. It's so prevalent that some long-time residents joke that if you haven't gotten it yet, it just means you haven't lived here long enough.

Thankfully, that could soon change. This year, two projects have been unveiled by Hudson Valley residents to help with the scourge of tick-borne illnesses: A long-term project spearheaded by two experienced scientists, and a project with an immediate impact hatched by two experienced dads.

The long-term effort is The Tick Project (tickproject.org), an ambitious five-year study to determine the safest and most effective ways for neighborhoods and municipalities to kill ticks. The project is co-directed by Richard Ostfeld, a senior scientist at the Cary Institute of Ecosystem

Studies in Millbrook, and Felicia Keesing, a professor of mathematics and computing at Bard College.

Ostfeld and Keesing have collaborated before when they co-edited a book on the ecology of infectious diseases. "This is a project that Rick and I have wanted to do for a really long time," said Keesing. "We've been trying to understand the factors as to what makes certain places and times riskier for tick-borne diseases. But for years we've been wanting to do a project in which we took that knowledge and tried to use it to prevent cases from happening in the first place. That's an expensive thing to do, if you're going to do it right."

Thanks to a \$5 million grant from the Steven & Alexandra Cohen Foundation, the project is underway. (The gift accounts for more than half of the \$8.8 million the Cary Institute hopes to raise.) This summer, the scientists will visit 50 neighborhoods throughout Dutchess County, including in Beacon, Fishkill and East Fishkill, that have had an unusually high number of cases of lyme disease. After conducting baseline readings to determine the average number of ticks in each neighborhood, the scientists will return in the summer of 2017 to test two methods of tick control.

Keesing said that it was important that the methods were not only commercially available but environmentally safe as well, with studies that showed they had no negative effects on people, pets, wildlife and beneficial insects such as honeybees



Disease ecologist Richard Ostfeld and project assistant Nicholas Jakubek of the Cary Institute collect ticks.
Photo by Pamela Freeman

and earthworms. "We chose not to spray chemicals on people's lawns," she said. "We're not comfortable with that."

The first method is a Tick Control System, which is a small baited box that attracts rodents such as mice, chipmunks, and shrews. Although blacklegged ticks are commonly referred to as "deer ticks," rodents are responsible for infecting the ticks with the lyme bacterium. When the rodent enters the TCS, they are exposed to a low dose of fipronil, the active ingredient in many tick treatments for dogs and cats. The rodents are unharmed, but the ticks soon die.

The second system is a fungal spray commercially available as Met52. It is

made of a naturally occurring fungus that has been shown to kill ticks but has no adverse effects on people or wildlife.

Residents who have been invited to take part will have their yards treated with both methods, although some will unknowingly receive placebo versions of each treatment. Keesing believes residences that receive both methods will show the lowest rate of tick infections, but it's important to test both methods separately to gauge their individual effectiveness.

Keesing hopes that when the project is completed in five years, she'll be able to tell people what they can do to halt the spread of tick-borne illnesses. "Rick and

(Continued on Page 19)

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Cold Spring \$525,000

Village colonial with 4 BRs, 3 full baths, new appliances, granite counter tops, tiled baths, C/AC and income apt. above the garage. Walk to village proper for all necessities and the commuter rail line.

Questions?

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COMMUNITY BRIEFS



Niemisto, Montroy, Pidala and Ohle

Photos provided

Open Space Names McHenry Scholars

Student from Philipstown among winners

The Open Space Institute has announced the recipients of its 2016 Barnabas McHenry Hudson Valley Awards, which provide grants of up to \$6,000 to undergraduate and graduate students to work with nonprofits on projects related to the Hudson River Valley. Since 2007, the Open Space Institute has awarded nearly \$260,000 to 38 McHenry Award grantees. The 2016 recipients are:

Nicole Pidala, an undergraduate at the University of Vermont whose family lives in Garrison, will work with Hudson Highlands Land Trust and the town of Philipstown to update the town's Open Space Index and Open Areas Inventory within its Comprehensive Plan. First compiled in 2006, the data is intended for use by residents, local boards, project applicants, nonprofit land conservation organizations and state agencies to guide protection of ground and surface water, biodiversity, community character and recreation.

Allison Montroy, a graduate student at Clarkson University, will work with the Beacon Institute for Rivers and Estuaries to create an educational exhibit about the Hudson River. The exhibit at the Institute's Sensor Place will integrate digital art and real-time data from the River and Estuary Observatory Network — an observation and monitoring system of New York's Hudson, Mohawk and St. Lawrence river watersheds.

Maija Niemisto, a graduate student at Stony Brook University, will partner with Hudson River Sloop Clearwater to research the distribution of fish and plankton in the estuary via sonar. Combining fish sampling data collected from the organization's historic sailboat with sonar

data, Niemisto hopes to reveal insights into the fish food chain and how it might be impacted by factors such as climate change and habitat loss.

Otto Ohle, an undergraduate at SUNY Purchase, will work with Prattsville Art Project Inc. to develop a series of multimedia digital workshops for rural youth. Hosted by the Prattsville Art Center, the workshops will explore the experiences of young people growing up among the forests and mountain valleys of the northern Catskills. Ohle's project will culminate in a film festival.

Secret Garden Tour is June 4

Tickets on sale for annual benefit

The annual Putnam County Secret Garden Tour, a driving tour of some of the most beautiful private gardens in the county, including formal gardens, perennial flowering landscapes, pastoral fields and vistas and herb and flowering vegetable gardens, has been scheduled for 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, June 4. The event benefits Partners with PARC, which assists children and adults with developmental disabilities.

Tickets are \$30 in advance or \$40 on the day of the tour and include admission to Boscobel in Garrison and Stonecrop Gardens in Cold Spring. For tickets, visit PartnerswithPARC.org. For more information, call 845-278-7272, ext. 2287.

Sacred Harp Singing

Cultural center will host workshop, concert

On Friday, May 13, Tompkins Corners Cultural Center in Putnam Valley will host an evening of sacred harp singing with Tim Eriksen, who will host a workshop at 5 p.m. followed by a performance at 7:30 p.m.

Sacred harp shape note singing is non-denominational American choral music from the 19th century that began in New England and spread through the south. It



Tim Eriksen will lead an evening of sacred harp singing.

Photo provided

was communicated through songbooks at community gatherings, but reading music is not required. There is a special "shape note" system in which the sounds of "fa sol la" are represented as squares, triangles and circles that can be applied to any singing key. This music is often referred to as "Fa Sol La" singing. Some of the songs were composed in the 1790s and make special religious references.

Eriksen, who is also the leader of the punk/folk band Cordelia's Dad, will perform ballads, Appalachian music, instrumentals and vocals with his band. The cultural center is located at 729 Peekskill Hollow Road. The suggested donation for the workshop and performance are \$10 each, or \$15 for both. Tickets are available at brownpapertickets.com/event/2542004 or call 845-528-7280.

Three Plant Sales on May 7

Cold Spring, Beacon, Wappingers Falls

The Philipstown Garden Club will host a plant sale from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, May 7, the North Highlands Firehouse, with 10 percent of the proceeds benefiting the Garrison School's Wildlife Learning Garden.

The sale includes unique member plants, pollinator plants, perennials, annuals, herbs and heirloom vegetables, as well as a bake sale. Free coffee will be provided. There is a \$10 minimum purchase on plant sale purchases. The firehouse is located at 504 Fishkill Road, near Route 9, in Cold Spring.

In Beacon, Common Ground Farm will hold a plant sale on May 7 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Tito Santana, 142 Main St. It will have vegetable, herb and flower seedlings, and farmers will be on hand to answer questions.

Stony Kill Farm will hold a spring celebration and plant sale from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on May 7 in Wappingers Falls. The farm will have vegetables, herbs and houseplants for sale. There will also be sheep shearing, kids' crafts, baby animals, local crafters and music by the Howland Wolves. Visit stonykill.org for more information. The farm is located at 79 Farmstead Lane. The rain date is May 8.

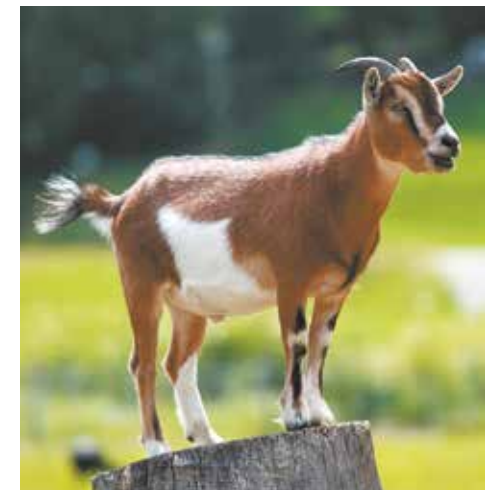
Visit **highlandscurrent.com** for news updates and latest information.

Poultry and Farm Animals for Sale

Market held on first Saturdays

The Ultimate Brooder Co. will hold a live poultry and farm animal market at the Putnam Grange Hall in Putnam Valley from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, May 7, and continuing on the first Saturday of each month through October.

The selection includes chickens (pullets, bantams, laying hens, roosters), turkeys, guinea fowl, ducks, pigeons, doves, quail, goats, sheep, rabbits and other small animals, plus brooders and poultry supplies. The Grange Hall is located at 128 Mill Street at Peekskill Hollow Road in Putnam Valley. For more information, visit facebook.com/theultimatebrooder. Vendor spaces are also available.



Manitoga Tours Begin May 13

Illuminated paintings by Peter Bynum on exhibit

Ecstatic Light, an installation of illuminated paintings by Peter Bynum, will be on display in Russel Wright's house and studio beginning May 13, marking Manitoga's first presentation of a contemporary artist within its interiors.

Bynum "has conceived a new way of painting," explained Executive Director Allison Cross. "He presses paint between multiple sheets of glass to release its primal energy, then infuses it with light to expose paint's intrinsic branching behavior." Says Bynum: "When paint is suffused with

(Continued on next page)



From *Ecstatic Light*, by Peter Bynum

Spring Splatt



The Friends of Philipstown Recreation would like to say thank you to all our runners, volunteers and sponsors for helping to make the Spring Splatt 2016 a great event.

Spring Splatt 2016 Sponsors:

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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

light, this 'secret life' of paint is revealed."

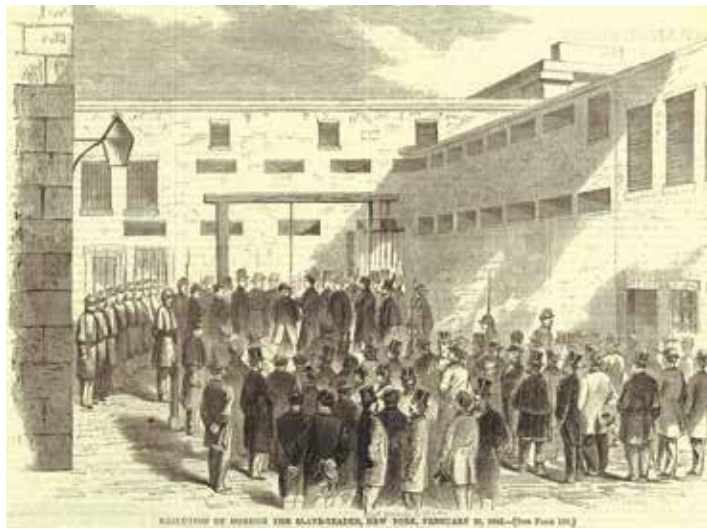
Manitoga is located at 584 Route 9D. Tours will take place through November on Friday through Monday at 11 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. See visitmanitoga.org for details. Manitoga also opens an exhibit on May 13 of spun aluminum designs by Wright.

Capt. Gordon's Notable Death

Only person hung in U.S. for slave trading

On a frosty day in Feb. 1862, hundreds of people gathered in New York's "Tombs" prison to watch the execution of Nathaniel Gordon. A sea captain from a respected Maine family, Gordon was about to become the only man in U.S. history to be hanged for slave trading.

Although a crime for some 40 years prior, the law against slave trading had never before been enforced. What events led up to this pivotal moment? At 10 a.m. on Saturday, May 14, at the Putnam Valley Grange Hall, Ron Soodalter of Cold Spring will discuss the many compelling issues surrounding the case and his book, *Hanging Captain Gordon: The Life and Trial of an American Slave Trader*. The talk is part of the Putnam Valley Historical Society's Our American History series. The Grange Hall is located at 128 Mill St.



The execution of Capt. Gordon in 1862.

Friars to Host Annual Sunset Party

Reservations accepted until May 9

The Franciscan Friars of the Atonement will host their seventh annual Sunset on the Hudson cocktail party at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, May 12, at X20 Xaviars on the Hudson, 71 Water Grant St., in Yonkers, with hors d'oeuvres and desserts by chef Peter X. Kelly. The evening will also feature live music and a silent auction. The event's honorary chair is novelist Higgins Clark; Kacey Morabito of WHUD will serve as master of ceremonies.

The benefit supports the work of the Franciscan Friars, a Roman Catholic order founded at Graymoor in Garrison in 1898. Its ministries

include Christian unity; interreligious dialogue among Christians, Jews, Muslims, and Buddhists; serving the homeless and those suffering from alcoholism, drug addictions, and HIV/AIDS; preaching the gospel in parishes around the world; and offering respite and hope to those in need of spiritual renewal.

Tickets are \$185 per person and reservations will be accepted until May 9. For information, call 845-424-2137 or visit atonementfriars.org/Sunset.

Violinist and Pianist to Perform Schubert, Brahms

Free concert at Chapel Restoration on May 15

Violinist Rolf Schulte and pianist Wayne Weng will perform Schubert's Sonata in A Major, D 574 and Brahms' Sonata No.1 in G Major at 4 p.m. on Sunday, May 15, at the Chapel Restoration in Cold Spring as part of its Sunday Music Series. The concert is free, although donations are welcome.

Schulte began playing the violin at age five and under his father's tutelage, studied with Kurt Schäffer at the Robert Schumann Conservatory in Düsseldorf. He made his orchestral debut at age 14 with the Philharmonia Hungarica in Cologne, and his recording of Schoenberg's Phantasy Op. 47 and String Trio Op. 45 was nominated for a Grammy. In 2013 he joined the faculty of the Graduate Center, City University of New York, where he teaches violin and chamber music. He performs on a 1780 violin made by Lorenzo Storioni, Cremona.

Weng holds degrees from the Eastman School of

Music, Mannes College of Music, Guildhall School of Music and Drama and Yale University. He is pursuing a doctorate of musical arts at the Graduate Center of the City University of New York.

The 2016 Sunday Music Series is dedicated to the memory of Theodora J. Nichols, with a gift from her sister, board member Marcelline Thomson. The Chapel Restoration is located at 45 Market Street, across from the Metro-North train station, where parking is free on Sundays.



Rolf Schulte, left, and Wayne Weng Photos provided

Birdathon Underway on May 7

Teams have 24 hours to find species

The Putnam Highlands Audubon Society will hold its annual Birdathon starting Saturday, May 7, during which birding teams try to identify as many species as possible between Long Island and the Catskills.

The 2016 teams are Beakin' Beginners (Scott Silver, captain, and Perry Pitt, co-captain), Garrison Gumshoes (Lew Kingsley, captain), Putnam Valley Bogtrotters (Rich Anderson, captain) and Wappingers Creakers (Eric Lind, captain). This year, the birders are again dedicating their efforts to the memory of three stalwarts, Jim and Doug Rod and Marty McGuire.

Tax-deductible contributions for the Birdathon teams help pay for public programs for children and adults, the care of the de Rham, Reese and Watergrass wildlife sanctuaries, support for the Constitution Marsh Audubon Center & Sanctuary, summer internships at Constitution Marsh for high school students and the chapter's newsletter and action alerts.

Donations may be sent to PHAS, P.O. Box 292, Cold Spring, NY 10516.

Women's Health Symposium

Putnam Hospital Center hosts discussions

Putnam Hospital Center will host a Women's Health Symposium from 9 a.m. to noon on Saturday, May 14, in the Michael T. Weber Community Auditorium at 672 Stoneleigh Avenue in Carmel.

The symposium will feature physicians on the medical staff at Putnam Hospital Center who will discuss women's health issues and treatment options from breast cancer to gynecological procedures to urinary problems.

The speakers, all from CareMount Medical, are breast surgeon Lyda Rojas, obstetricians and gynecologists Susan Vosko and Katie Burgess and urologists Sheldon Axelrod and Mark Nogueira.

A question-and-answer period will follow the presentations. A continental break-

fast will be served from 9 to 9:30 a.m. For more information, call 845-230-4777.

Union Bound Will Screen at Paramount

Film accompanied by musical performances

Union Bound: The Tour, which is making stops in 15 cities, will appear at the Paramount Hudson Valley in Peekskill on Tuesday, May 17. The evening will feature musical sets from Collin Raye and Nikki Nelson, lead singer of Highway 101. A feature film, *Union Bound*, released on April 22, will also be shown. It tells the story of a Union soldier, Sgt. Joseph Hoover, who is captured by the Confederacy, escapes and uses the Underground Railroad to return to the North. The film is based on two journals Hoover kept during his ordeal.

The show begins at 7 p.m. For tickets, which are \$55 and \$75, visit paramounthudsonvalley.com. The Paramount is located at 1008 Brown St.

Beacon

Voters Approve Library Budget

Elect three trustees to board

Voters in Beacon on April 28 approved the 2016-17 Howland Public Library budget by a vote of 168 to 31. They also elected three trustees. Incumbents Randy Lashua (130 votes) and Jan Dolan (129) were re-elected to five-year terms and Lillian Glauda (113) joined the board for a one-year term. Incumbent Rajene Harde-man (107) was not re-elected.

Margaret Fuller's Legacy

Display at library; marker to be dedicated

The Beacon Historical Society and the Howland Public Library have mounted a display at the library about the writer, editor, journalist and early women's rights advocate Margaret Fuller that continues through May 31. (To next page)

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COMMUNITY BRIEFS (From previous page)

Fuller (1810-1850) stayed in Fishkill Landing in the fall of 1844 to begin her seminal work, *Woman in the Nineteenth Century*. A historic marker in Fuller's honor will be placed at Polhill Park in Beacon at 11 a.m. on Saturday, May 21.



A daguerrotype of Margaret Fuller taken in 1846

Library to Present Student Art

Exhibit features work from all grades

The Howland Public Library will present *Between the Lines*, an annual exhibit of artwork by students in the Beacon City School District. An opening reception will be held on Second Saturday, May 14, from 2 to 4 p.m., and the exhibit will continue through June 4.

The exhibition was organized with assistance from Claudine Farley, the school district's art department coordinator, and features the work of students from Beacon High School, Rombout Middle School and J.V. Forrestal, Glenham, Sargent and South Avenue elementary schools.



Art by Mia Sarchill, a sixth-grader at Rombout Middle School

Beacon Hebrew Alliance to Open Preschool

Open houses scheduled for May 11, 15

The Beacon Hebrew Alliance in September 2016 will open a progressive, garden-based Jewish preschool for children ages 2 to 4. The school will be led by Ilana Friedman, founder of Beacon Craft Workshop. Rabbi Brent Spodek, Cantor Ellen Gersh and Rabbi Shoshana Hantman, the BHA director of education, will support a team of teachers, as will BHA members Jennifer Rutner and Yoni and Vivian Stadlin, founding directors of the Jewish farm-to-table sleepaway camp, Eden Village Camp.

The preschool will hold open houses from 5 to 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, May 11, and from 4 to 5:30 p.m. on Sunday, May 15.

For more information, visit beaconhebrewalliance.org/content/masa-preschool-0 or email ilana@beaconhebrewalliance.org. The school will run weekdays from 8:45 to 11:40 a.m. at the Beacon He-

brew Alliance at 331 Verplanck Ave., from Sept. 7 to June 15. Fees will range from \$2,890 to \$6,850 annually, depending on the number of days a child attends.



Children at play at the Beacon Hebrew Alliance

Photo provided

Camp Open for Teen Performers

Will focus on opening number of 13

The Beacon Music Factory is accepting registrations from students ages 11 to 13 for a week-long performance camp to be held Aug. 29 to Sept. 2. Under the direction of Sarah Terrell and Stephen Clair, the campers will learn the opening number from the Broadway musical *13* and perform it on the last day of camp for family and friends.

Campers will meet at the Beacon Music Factory, 629 Route 52, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. daily. The fee is \$300. For more information, visit beaconmusicfactory.com. Scholarship applications are due by June 1.

Visit highlandscurrent.com for news updates and latest information.

Beacon Summer Sports Camps

Open for early registration

The City of Beacon Recreation Department has opened registration for its summer sports camps.

A multi-sport camp for students entering grades 6 to 8 will take place from 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. from July 11 to 15 and Aug. 1 to 5 at Memorial Park and Rombout Middle School. The cost is \$100 per week for Beacon residents and \$125 otherwise.

The department will also hold a tennis clinic led by Beacon High School boys' tennis coach Dave Ryley at the courts at Beacon High School for students ages 8 to 19. A clinic for high school players will be held from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. from July 11 to 15 and July 18 to 22. Sessions for children ages 8 and up, including middle school, will

be held from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The cost is \$60 per week for Beacon residents and \$75 otherwise.

Register at cityofbeacon.org by June 24 for the tennis clinics and by July 8 for multi-sports camps.

Groups to Host Teen Forum

Will address interactions with police and authority

I Am Beacon and Beacon Speaks Out will host a forum from 6 to 9 p.m. on Friday, May 13, for students in grades 7 to 10 called "Get Home Safely." The discussion will address how to best interact with law enforcement and members of authority.

The forum will take place at the Beacon Recreation Center at 23 W. Center St. Pizza will be provided. For more information or to register, email info@iambeacon.org or visit facebook.com/iambeacon.

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New Strategies in the War Against Ticks *(from Page 15)*

I get asked all the time by people whose kids got lyme disease what they can do in their yards," she said. "We've never had a good answer for them. So being able to say to them, 'This is what you need to do, this is how it works, and this is how long it's going to take,' would be very exciting."

All well and good for 2021. In the meantime, tick checks remain the most effective preventive measure. If you need a reminder, Bill Braine and Mikey Jackson of Cornwall have a way to remind you.

For years, any time he finds a tick on one of his two children, Braine has posted a reminder on social media for friends to do their own tick checks. His friend Jackson, co-owner of the 2 Alices Coffee Lounge in Cornwall and Newburgh, kept a sign in the bathroom reminding him to do a tick check on his son every night before he got in the bath. But as anyone who has attempted to do a thorough tick check on a squirming toddler can attest, the process is not without its perils.

"I said 'I need something that's going to make the tick check easier,'" said Jackson. "What if I had a magnifying glass and a flashlight and a timer all in one so I could make sure I didn't rush through it?"

Although neither men described themselves as the type to hardwire a contraption in their garage, they nevertheless began work on such a prototype until one night Jackson looked at his iPhone and realized it already had a timer, a flashlight and a camera with a zoom lens. He ran

out the door to Braine's house.

"We're good friends, but it's still unusual for him to just show up unannounced like that," recalled Braine. "He just looked at me and said 'It's an app!' And I said 'Oh, that makes a lot more sense. And then you could set it to remind you, and remind all your friends over Facebook and Twitter.'"

After a year of development with Danny Nanni, one of Jackson's baristas who had just enrolled in graduate school at NYU for app development, the men in early March introduced TickTime in the iTunes app store for \$1.99. TickTime not only can be set to deliver notifications at certain times to remind you to do a tick check, it assists in the process using the phone's timer, flashlight, and camera zoom lens. It can also be set to play a song already stored on the device to make the process less threatening for youngsters. If you find a tick, it's easy to take a picture for identification purposes, and other menus within the app detail the best methods for tick removal and other resources.

While the app has already helped hundreds of people with their own tick checks, the two men say one of its greatest benefits is that it normalizes the tick check process for kids, who often thrive on routine.

"Sometimes parents forget with doing the dishes after dinner and rushing to get the kids ready for bed, to do a tick check," said Jackson. "Making it a routine like this helps the kids to remind the parents that it's time for a tick check."

Sports

Haldane's Bridget Goldberg competes in the Distance Medley Relay at the Beacon Jumpfest at Beacon High School on April 28.

Photos by Peter Farrell



Sophomore Nick Farrell competes in the Steeple Chase at the Beacon Jumpfest.

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Niamh Fortuna, age 11, won the prize for hauling in the smallest fish. Photo provided

27th Running of the Trout

Derby kids make impressive catches

By Anita Peltonen

Lightning strikes were forecast, so Mike Savastano called to strike down the tents early on May 1 at the annual Tony Savastano Memorial Kids' Fishing Day.

Despite the nasty weather — rain, fog, chilly air — about 55 kids participated in the 27th year of the fishing derby at the Cold Spring Reservoir on Fishkill Road, held in memory of Mike's father, who founded the event after retiring from a many-faceted career that included steamfitting.

That's only half the attendance high-mark of recent years. But those who came got smashing results. As Accuweather and many anglers concede, rain can make for better fishing. The overall winner was Haldane School student Desirea Hyatt, 12, who caught the biggest fish — an 18 1/2 inch rainbow trout. Niamh Fortuna, 11, also a student at Haldane, had the smallest fish, at four inches.

The water was stocked with trout for the event: mostly rainbows, but a handful of goldens, too.

The moss-covered rocks along the reservoir waters were bright green in the steady rain, and the outtake sluices filled with whitewater. Hot dogs and beverages were served, and prizes such as fishing rods given away.

Organized with the help of the Nelsonville Fish and Fur Club, the event is supported by donations from an assortment of backers, including the Town of Philipstown, the Village of Nelsonville, the Village of Cold Spring, Harold Lyons & Sons, The Gift Hut, Pidala Oil, C&E Paint Supplies, Powers & Haars, Mid-Hudson Concrete, the Cold Spring Boat Club, North Highland Engine Co. No. 1, the Philipstown Masonic Lodge, the Cold Spring Fire Department, American Legion George Casey Post No. 275.

Also, Wilson Multipower Oil Co., the Philipstown Volunteer Ambulance Corps, Joe Torchia, Buggsies Pest Services, Nelsonville Salvage (Dutch), Angelina's, Cold Spring Pizza, the Cold Spring Water and Sewer Department, Bob Simon, Jane Rist, Foodtown, Joseph's Fine Jewelry, Rich Losee and the *Putnam County News & Recorder*.

"We wouldn't be able to do it if it weren't for local support," said Savastano.

Visit highlandscurrent.com for news updates and latest information.



Joshua Phillips shows off a fine catch. Photo provided by organizer Mike Savastano



Members of the Nelsonville Fish and Fur Club, from left, Bill Kimmel, Jet Warren, John Shanahan, Carly Vilegas, Tom Robertson, Mike Savastano, George Willson, Chuck Rhoda, Mark Frisenda, Ed Engelbride, gather for a group shot in the rain after sending the kids home early due to forecasts of lightning.



Ralph Fleming of Cold Spring shows off his nephew's catch on a rainy May 1 at the Tony Savastano Memorial Fishing Derby. Children as young as 18 months participated. Photo provided by Mike Savastano.



Desirea Hyatt, 12, won for biggest fish: a rainbow trout clocking in at 18 1/2 inches.

Photo provided

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Photo by A. Peltonen