



The Paper



Let the sap flow
See Page 20

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2016

161 MAIN ST., COLD SPRING, N.Y. | philipstown.info

Beacon Ex-Superintendent and Teacher Fire Back

Teacher's former husband sued for defamation

By Jeff Simms

The former superintendent of the Beacon City School District and the former Beacon Teachers Association president have filed a joint lawsuit against the teacher's ex-husband for public defamation.

The civil suit marks the latest chapter in a highly contentious 12-month period for the Beacon district, which saw the resignation of Superintendent Barbara Walkley and BTA head Kimberly Pilla, who is a physical education teacher.

The suit, filed Feb. 19 in U.S. District Court, paints Robert Atwell, Pilla's ex-husband and a math teacher as the architect of a scheme to release a series of private emails that Walkley and Pilla say defamed them. Atwell and Pilla were divorced in June 2015 after five years of marriage.

The filing alleges that Atwell violated the federal Stored Communication Act by accessing several of Pilla's password-protected email accounts. He then allegedly used the emails to "maliciously" accuse Walkley and Pilla of "corruption and improprieties, inflaming an entire community against them," the filing states.

The suit further alleges that some of the emails were "doctored," and that the "foreseeable public response to these falsehoods" caused Walkley and Pilla to resign their positions, leaving their personal and professional reputations "in tatters."

The suit does not seek a specific dollar amount in damages. That would be left up to a jury if the case goes to trial, said attorney Stephen Bergstein, who is representing Walkley and Pilla.

Walkley, who had served as an interim assistant superintendent twice previously in the Beacon system, was hired permanently as superintendent in February 2015. The Beacon Board of Education announced her resignation at a meeting on Jan. 21.

Walkley was paid \$181,050 as superintendent, according to her contract, which was to have run until June 2018. In addition to a \$45,000 buyout, Walkley was paid for her re-

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Transcare will continue service in Putnam County.

Photo by M. Turton

TransCare Ambulance Files for Bankruptcy

Putnam County service to continue

By Michael Turton

TransCare will continue to provide ambulance services in Putnam County despite the company filing for Chapter 7 bankruptcy earlier this week. Putnam and Dutchess counties are included in the company's restructuring plan and were not part of the bankruptcy claim.

Philipstown Deputy Supervisor Nancy Montgomery said she spoke with Emer-

gency Services Commissioner Anthony Sutton on Thursday morning and that he confirmed TransCare will continue its Putnam County operation, which includes Philipstown.

Sutton had addressed the County Legislature last July regarding TransCare's financial difficulties. Montgomery said contingency plans were put into place at that time that would enable the county to contract with other ambulance services in the event TransCare discontinued service in Putnam.

Locally, TransCare operates out of the Philipstown Volunteer Ambulance Corp facility on Cedar Street in Cold Spring.

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County Consumer Affairs Chief Pleads Guilty

State investigation finds she pocketed cash

By Kevin E. Foley

The offices of Putnam County Executive MaryEllen Odell suffered another harmful revelation this past week.

Three state agencies concluded that Jean Noel, whom Odell appointed to head the county's Consumer Affairs Department, had stolen more than \$4,500 in cash from the agency.

Noel, 64, resigned after pleading guilty to petit larceny, a Class A misdemeanor, in Town of Carmel court. In a plea agreement with the state Attorney General's office, she agreed to repay the money as well as part of her salary.

The resignation and plea was first reported by the *Journal News*.

In addition to the state Attorney General, the state Comptroller's Office and the state police were involved in the investigation, which began in 2014. In a joint statement, the three agencies said Noel had embezzled \$4,575 in cash payments made by contractors to her office to pay fines, such as for operating without a county-issued business license.

The Attorney General's office said the investigation was part of Operation Integrity, a joint task force with the comptroller's office that

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Barney Molloy

Photo by M. Turton

CS Trustee Candidate Barney Molloy

Former Village planning board chair

By Michael Turton

Barney Molloy, who served on the Cold Spring Planning Board for more than two years, including as its chair, is one of three candidates for two seats on the Village Board. Molloy ran for mayor in 2015 but was not elected; he also ran in 2013 but withdrew. He is running under the V.O.T.E. Party. See philipstown.info for similar interviews with candidates Lynn Miller and Steve Voloto that appeared in our Feb. 19 issue. All three

candidates will participate in a forum sponsored by The Paper/Philipstown.info at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 29, in the music room at the Haldane School; the election is March 15. Molloy's responses have been edited for brevity.

Why are you running for village board?

There's some frustration and disappointment over what we've seen evolve over the last nine or 10 months. Many of the issues that I brought forward remain on the table and haven't really been addressed. They're just as valid, just as pressing, just as necessary as they were a year ago — if not more so.

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Roots and Shoots

Go Find Your Shears

Pruning now will bring spring and summer results

By Pamela Doan

My blueberry bushes are getting a deep, reinvigorating cutback this February. In previous winters, I miss the moment for pruning because the snow pack has been too high to get to them, much less wield pruning shears without slipping and stabbing myself. Blueberries should be pruned annually to maintain healthy growth and production.

Blueberry yields decline over time, as the plant gets taller. The tall canes block light and it will only bear fruit on the exterior, as well as expending more energy into leafing. I can take out any canes more than one-inch in diameter, any that are damaged or rubbing against another, up to 20 percent of the bush.

Here are some other guidelines for late winter pruning:

Reasons to prune

Taking branches off a woody plant or tree can stimulate new growth, improve blooming and increase fruit production. Pruning can be done to remove diseased

sections and save a planting that might be lost otherwise. It's also an aesthetic choice and can be done to shape or control growth.

Removing suckers (shoots coming out from the base of the tree) focuses the tree's growth on production and thinning out branches improves air circulation.

Damaged branches should be cut to prevent injury or property damage. Be wary of tackling any job near power lines; leave that to pros. It's also fine to call for help with high branches and let someone with the proper equipment assist. I've been up on a ladder with an extended pruning saw working away when the branch came down more closely than I expected and it's not fun.

What to prune in winter

Summer blooming shrubs like Rose of Sharon, hydrangea that bloom in new wood, ornamental grasses, clematis, shrub roses, and fruit and berry producers like apple, crabapple and blueberries.

What not to prune now

Spring blooming woody plants like lilacs, forsythia, azalea, rhododendron. Although it won't harm the plant, the buds have already been set and pruning will af-



An early sign of spring: daffodil shoots

Photo by P. Doan

fect the flowers. If you want full blooming, wait until the flowers are finished.

In general, spruce and fir trees don't need pruning.

Trees like maples that have sap will ooze from the cut if pruned before they leaf out and should be left alone for now.

Does a warm winter change the rules?

January was the warmest recorded in weather-tracking history and this month has been a roller-coaster as well, with plummeting and rocketing temperatures day to day. I wondered if that had an impact on dormancy for winter pruning. "Plants like spice bush and witch hazel may already be growing at this point and that's not a problem," said Jennifer Stengle, the resource educator at Cornell Cooperative Extension. "It's fine to prune when plants are actively growing; they heal well and perhaps faster," meaning less opportunity for disease attack.

Learning opportunities

The Native Plant Center conference "Inspired by Nature: Designing with Native Plants" is coming up on March 14 and registration is open. I've attended their spring conference for several years now

and they gather some of the most interesting experts doing critical research and education about ecosystem challenges.

This year's conference at the center, which is located on the campus of Westchester Community College in Valhalla, will feature four speakers who will discuss how to create sustainable habitats in home gardens and one section devoted to a topic that every gardener can relate to: coping with deer. Larry Weaner, who I interviewed in August 2014 about "self-perpetuating landscapes," will also be presenting. His landscapes focus on using a plant's natural proclivity to spread and colonize as an advantage. You'll find details at sunywcc.edu/about/npc/npcevents.

Both Stonecrop Garden in Cold Spring (stonecrop.org) and the Cornell Cooperative Extension Putnam County (putnam.cce.cornell.edu) have announced classes on vegetable gardens in March and April, just in time for spring planting. The cooperative's Master Gardeners will offer other classes on a range of topics over the next few months, including a Spring Garden School on April 2 at the Desmond-Fish Library in Garrison that will cover pollinator-friendly gardening and alternative pest management strategies.

Seedling Sale Has Sprouted

County again offering trees and shrubs

As it does each year, the Putnam County Soil & Water Conservation District is offering seedlings for native trees, shrubs and flowers to assist landowners in providing food and shelter for wildlife; groundcover for erosion control, riparian buffers and rain gardens; and general beautification. Seedlings are sold bare root, hand dipped in a moisture protection gel, wrapped and bagged.

New trees and shrubs this year include Beach Plum, Bearberry, Coralberry, False Indigo, New Jersey Tea, Spruce and Wild/Woodland Strawberry. You do not have to be a Putnam County resident to order plants, but they must be picked up by a resident.

Orders must be received by Wednesday, March 30 for pick-up on April 22 and 23 at Veterans' Memorial Park in Kent. To order online with a credit card, visit putnamcountyny.com/keepputnamgreen or request a form by calling 845-878-7918.

In Cornwell, meanwhile, the Hudson Highlands Nature Museum is accepting pre-orders until March 11 for its Native Plant Sale, which takes place on May 21. Visit hnnaturemuseum.org/index.php/native-plant-sale or, for more information, call 845-534-5506 ext. 204.

Climate Change

Film & Conversation Series

Curated and hosted by filmmaker David Gelber, climate scientist Dr. Radley Horton & science journalist Andrew Revkin

Across the Spectrum - Friday, March 4, 7 p.m.

Short film program which reflects a myriad of climate change perspectives

Everything's Cool - Saturday, March 5, 4 p.m.

A "toxic comedy" about the most dangerous chasm ever to emerge between scientific understanding and political action - Global Warming

Chasing Ice - Sunday, March 6, 2 p.m.

Award-winning documentary follows National Geographic photographer James Balog across the Arctic capturing a multi-year record of changing glaciers

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Beacon Ex-Superintendent and Teacher Fire Back *(from Page 1)*

maining sick and vacation time, receiving a total of just under \$63,000.

Pilla was elected president of the Beacon Teachers' Association in 2008 and resigned in August 2015. She earned about \$4,500 annually in the position.

The controversy surrounding Walkley and Pilla has been well-documented. A Beacon parent, Melissa Rutkoske, filed a petition in December with the state Department of Education, calling for the dismissal of Walkley and school district attorney Michael Lambert. Rutkoske's petition quoted a number of emails between Pilla, Walkley and other district officials, and alleged that the relationship between Walkley and Pilla had resulted

in "unethical, inappropriate and illegal conduct."

In an email Thursday afternoon, Rutkoske said that the emails she cited in her petition were obtained in numerous ways — some were sent anonymously to all members of the Beacon City Council, some were obtained via the FOIL law and others were "out in the public," she wrote.

The 15-page suit filed against Atwell provides an alternate perspective into the events of the past two years.

According to the filing, Atwell "procured" entry into Pilla's email accounts sometime between July 2014 and late spring 2015. He did so "willfully and intentionally" in order to determine her

whereabouts and to potentially find information to "publically humiliate" Walkley and Pilla. The suit further alleges that Atwell "spread false and malicious rumors" that Walkley and Pilla were involved romantically and that Walkley had "abused her authority in granting Pilla inappropriate and improper privileges."

The suit describes the Jan. 11, 2016, Beacon school board meeting as the "final act" that led to Walkley resigning 10 days later. Without a quorum of its nine members, the meeting was canceled. However, nearly 400 community members arrived for the meeting with a "mob mentality," the suit alleges, and organized an impromptu meeting "not authorized by the

Board of Education or the Beacon School District."

A number of speakers that evening called on Walkley, who was not present, to resign.

The next step, Bergstein said Wednesday, is for Atwell to file a response to the suit. After that, the parties will meet with a judge to set a schedule for discovery — the exchange of documents and depositions related to the case. One of three things can happen, he said: the parties could settle out of court, a judge could dismiss the case if he or she believes it lacks merit, or the case could go to trial.

Beacon School Board to Weigh Hiring Options

Attorney defends actions during turmoil

By Jeff Simms

In their quest to hire a new superintendent, the members of the Board of Education of the Beacon City School District will review four sample requests for proposals (RFPs) from neighboring counties before they potentially draft one of their own.

An RFP — if the Beacon board chooses that route — would be used to solicit search firms to find candidates for the position.

The samples did not arrive in time to be reviewed prior to the Feb. 22 board meeting, but board member Anthony White proposed placing the discussion on the March 7 agenda. Several members have indicated they would like to use a search firm to locate candidates.

White also suggested posting the RFP samples at boarddocs.com/ny/beacon/Board.nsf/Public for public review.

Other options for identifying candidates would include using the Dutchess County Board of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES) or hiring from within.

On Monday, Beacon Teachers' Association President John Burns urged the board to retain interim superintendent



Barbara Walkley

File photo

Ann Marie Quartironi during the 2016-17 school year.

"We need a people person," Burns said, adding that teacher morale has rebounded since Quartironi, who he said has provided "stable leadership," was named interim chief on Jan. 21, following Barbara Walkley's resignation.

Attorney responds

At the close of the Feb. 22 meeting, school system attorney Michael Lambert

spoke about accusations that have been swirling for months.

Lambert is a partner at Shaw, Perelson, May & Lambert, whose attorneys represent 60 school districts throughout the Hudson Valley.

A petition filed with the state Department of Education in December by Beacon parent Melissa Rutkoske called for Lambert's dismissal due to his alleged "failure" to protect the district from "incompetent, unethical, inappropriate and illegal behaviors."

On Monday, Rutkoske criticized Lambert again, accusing him of favoritism, fraud and corruption.

"This is exactly what we have been rallying against, but our legal counsel has refused to take part in the rally," she said, asserting that Lambert had not fully investigated the "irrefutable" evidence of wrongdoing by Walkley and former teachers' association head Kimberly Pilla.

"Who does counsel think he represents?" Rutkoske asked. "Does he represent the superintendent, the former BTA president or the school district? Policy states that he represents the school district."

"Who does counsel think he represents? Does he represent the superintendent, the former BTA president or the school district? Policy states that he represents the school district."

Lambert fired back later that evening, saying, "I've worked extremely hard to establish my professional reputation, and I value it." He confirmed that last year he reviewed emails and conducted interviews on behalf of his client, the Board

of Education, and advised that no action be taken against Walkley or Pilla.

"I did not believe there was a basis for recommending that the board bring action against either of those individuals," he said.

Lambert said that while the public may want to see "action," he must consider the rights of those in-

involved, the merits of a case and the likelihood of success when advising any client, including the school board.

"My job as a representative of the school district," he said, "is not to advise them to initiate litigation against individuals that does not have a likelihood of success. My advice was informed by those principles and I continue to believe that the advice was, in fact, appropriate."

"This position was informed by my 30 years of practicing law and 20-something-odd years representing school districts," he said.



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Board asks for help with Albany *Working to restore lost funding*

As we dive into our school budget season, we are faced with the consistent and detrimental challenges of funding. We are dealing with state aid that has not been increased and a Gap Elimination Adjustment that has not been relevant since 2008. We are forced to do more with less and our students are paying the price.

We want to guide our students into the 21st century with college and career readiness, yet this mandate keeps getting harder to pursue as our budget diminishes and our costs continue to increase. We need to tell our government that the way they are funding (or perhaps more accurately, not funding) our schools is not working. They need to invest in our schools, our students, and in our communities in a meaningful way.

Please go to haldanepta.org and join their advocacy mission to make change. Our collective voices do make a difference. Let's stand up together.

Thank you on behalf of the Haldane Board of Education.

Jen Daly, *President, Haldane Board of Education, Cold Spring*

All students should be served *Important to fund special education*

Last week, my wife and I learned that the Garrison Union Free School District would be cutting its communications class due to budget constraints. The communications class was Garrison's self-contained class which created a smaller setting for students who required additional supports. Our son attended the class as part of a consortium Haldane maintains with Garrison.

As an educator, I am fully aware that tight school budgets often create tough decisions for school administrators to make. I am also aware that, historically and currently, students with special needs are often at the forefront of those cuts. Time and time again, school districts have made the decision to save money by removing special-education programs from their communities. This practice forces local students with special needs to be educated apart from their local peer groups, and eliminates the opportunity for current students to learn and socialize with students of diverse and varying needs.

At the Jan. 27 board meeting, District Superintendent Laura Mitchell stated that eliminating the communications class "may help us on our end, to save a little money." That may be true financially, but our investment in children should not be solely a monetary one. As a parent, I'm

concerned as to what message this may be sending our children. When schools fail to find a way to educate their own, we have to begin to question our values and priorities as a community.

As we move into the future, let's hope that our schools can begin to make a commitment to serve our most diverse students, and provide all of our children the opportunity to attend schools that value and celebrate students with special needs.

Steve Corbett, *Nelsonville*

Beacon schools shortchanged *Serino should fight for more state funds*

Senator Sue Serino is absolutely right — our kids can't wait another year while politicians in Albany drag their feet. But when we look at her policies, we have to ask: Whose kids is she really advocating for? Because she's certainly been neglecting us.

Her initiative to pay back the Gap Elimination Adjustment (GEA) will primarily benefit middle-income and wealthy school districts, and will not meet the needs of our kids in high-needs schools who are struggling to survive with dwindling resources.

On the other hand, the Foundation Aid formula is designed to distribute funds equitably, so that we can begin to address multi-generational inequalities in our public education system. Additionally, Foundation Aid would provide sufficient funding to make a meaningful difference in the quality of our schools.

In the Beacon City School District, students living in poverty (51 percent of the student population) and students with disabilities (17 percent) have been hit hardest by the state's refusal to fund Foundation Aid. Vital services and support for these students have disappeared. An entire generation of students have experienced a downgrade in the quality of their education under the watch of politicians like Serino who have refused to prioritize quality public education over the whims of billionaires.

The numbers reveal a stark difference between the GEA payback and the actual needs of our students. Serino's proposal to pay back the GEA alone is \$344,896. The Foundation Aid required by the New York State Court of Appeals for Beacon to provide a "sound and basic education": \$3,794,216. So the additional funding our schools need to meet the basic standard for a quality education is nearly ten times the amount they will receive under Serino's proposal.

We need a state senator who will look out for us. Serino's actions so far have

shown us that she is doing the opposite. By advocating to eliminate the GEA and ignoring her constituents' need for Foundation Aid, she is looking out for her own interests and the interests of her campaign donors. Worse, she is willfully confusing voters by positioning herself as a champion of education.

If you are concerned about the welfare and rights of the most vulnerable children in your district, we are asking you to stand up for our kids. You can do this by fighting for a \$1.1 billion increase in Foundation Aid in the 2016 budget and for full funding of Foundation Aid in the near future. Stop throwing us under the bus. Stand up for kids!

Terry Nelson, *Beacon*

Trustee endorses Molloy *Bowman: We need independent voice*

Anyone who attended or saw a Cold Spring Planning Board meeting under the leadership of Barney Molloy knows that he is the only candidate to vote for this March. If you haven't had the opportunity, please take the time to view one of the recorded meetings available from the PCNR.

As planning board chair, Molloy led in a professional, knowledgeable and methodical way that helped guide the Butterfield Project to a successful conclusion. This [came] at a time when the divisions in our community had many expecting the project to end up in the courtroom, rather than a groundbreaking. Barney understood that a tax-positive development at Butterfield, though a hard decision for our community, was in the long run the best outcome for the future of Cold Spring.

And that is what this election is about: the future. A future full of increased expenses and rising costs, and very few opportunities for revenue. We need someone on our Village Board that knows the ins-and-outs of state policy and finances, and who has imaginative ideas on how to improve the efficiency and income potential for Cold Spring.

For me, though, most importantly we need an independent voice on the Village Board, someone who will stand up to the triumvirate that currently exists and will call for consistency and transparency in Cold Spring, as Cathryn Fadde and I have done for two years.

That is why I urge you to cast one vote on Election Day — vote once for Barney Molloy.

Michael Bowman, *Nelsonville*
Bowman is a trustee on the Village Board. He is not seeking reelection.

(Continued on next page)

Candidates Forum for Cold Spring Village Board

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presents

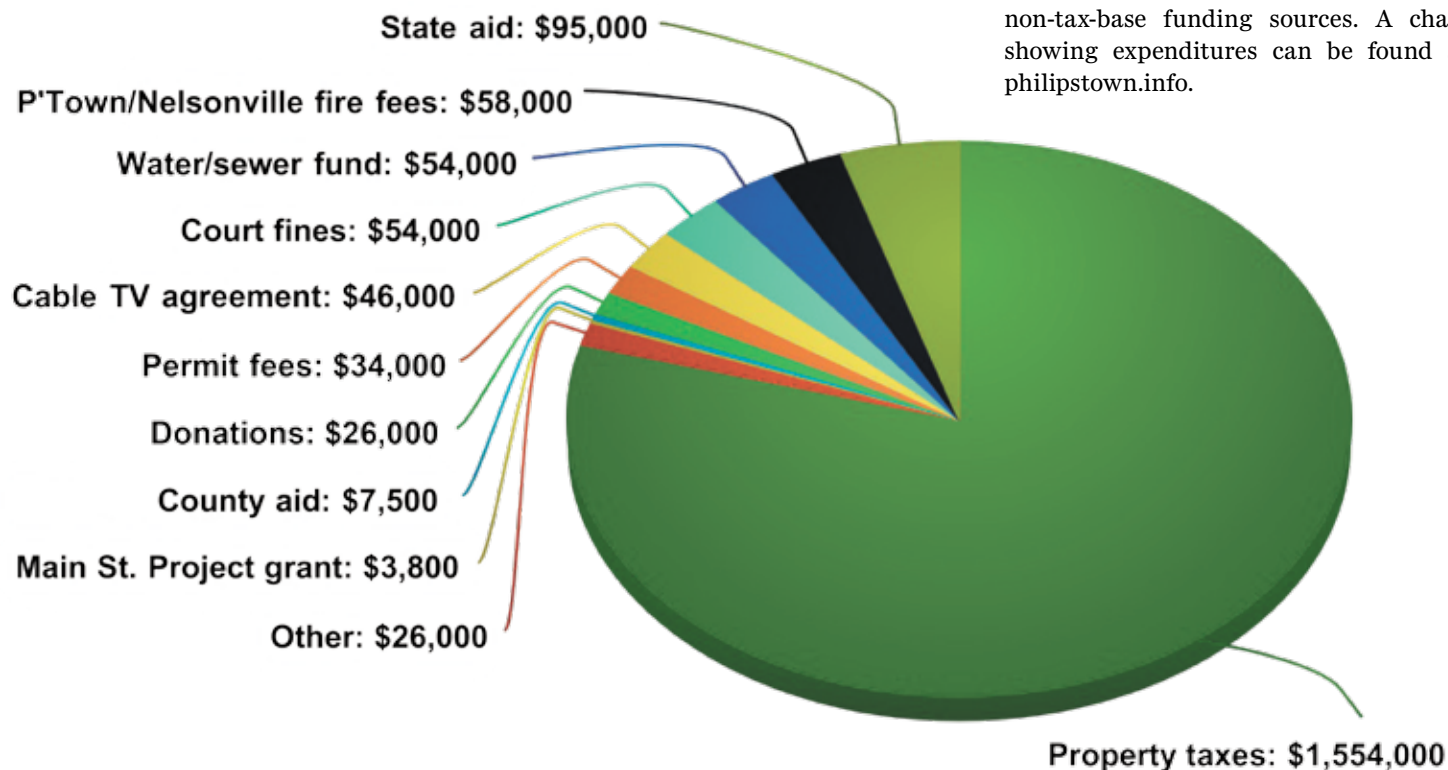
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(Election to be held Tuesday, March 15)

All Invited!

- Lynn Miller
- Barney Molloy
- Steve Voloto

Where the Money Comes From

Village of Cold Spring revenue



The Cold Spring Village Board is about to begin drafting the 2016-17 budget. The chart below details village revenue in 2014-15. There have been numerous calls of late for finding new, non-tax-base funding sources. A chart showing expenditures can be found at philipstown.info.

Total revenues:
\$1.96 million

Notes:

- Philipstown/Nelsonville fire fees: Paid to village for fire protection
- Water/sewer fund: Transfers from Water and Sewer Fund to General Fund
- Cable TV agreement: Franchise fees from cable provider
- Donations: Includes \$2,500 from Putnam Tourism Corp. for Christmas lighting and a \$9,000 donation for Fourth of July fireworks
- County aid: Funds to supplement garbage collection.
- Main Street Project: Grant from federal government
- Other: Includes such items as sale of the Grove property (\$5,000); permits and waivers, mainly cruise boat docking fees (\$9,958); the Hudson House rental of Boat Club parking lot (\$4,728); birth certificates (\$2,525).

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR (from previous page)

Vote for Barney Molloy

Candidate has long list of qualities

Cold Spring voters, do you want someone on your Board of Trustees who is highly skilled and qualified, totally competent, smart, intelligent, highly efficient, extremely thorough and has great management skills? Someone who gets the job done properly, appropriately, efficiently, expeditiously, correctly and on time, always keeping his cool and maintaining his professionalism? Someone who has a

heart and mind for what is right and just for village residents, who is trustworthy, dignified, awake, mentally and emotionally honorable, polite, a good listener and easy to talk to, friendly, respectful and who has shown he really cares about Cold Spring and its citizens by his previous service to the community?

He is honest, a gentleman, good-looking, handsome, responsible, respectable, dependable, faithful, tireless, of good humor, loyal and therefore has shown him-

self to be of good solid character, as well as being very experienced and knowledgeable in village government leadership?

Wow! Who is this amazing person? Why, it's Barney Molloy! Of course! I know all this about him because I have witnessed these things in him time and time again for the past four years since I moved to Cold Spring. You would really be crazy not to vote for him. Please get out and vote for Barney.

Shirley Norton, Cold Spring

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Position is generally 9-to-5 but does require flexibility to work some weekends and other assigned hours. A competitive wage plus benefits and paid time off are offered. References are required. To apply, email a resume to: HR@garrisoninstitute.org or fax to 845-424-4900. Please, no phone calls.

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CS Trustee Candidate Barney Molloy *(from Page 1)*

What are three important issues that the Village Board must address?

The need for long-term planning and asset management. We need multi-year and capital planning. Some of our senior people are approaching 20 years of service. Our village clerk, highway supervisor and water superintendent have expressed varying degrees of interest in pursuing other opportunities or retiring. How are we going to address that? It hasn't been discussed. And there's a revenue problem. Realistically our fixed expenses are going to exceed the \$1,800 tax cap. Again, I don't see any discussion taking place in public. I don't see anybody being reasonable or anybody leveling with the taxpayers about what that means going forward. Maybe they don't understand it.

What qualifications, skills and experience make you a strong candidate?

I participated on the Emergency Planning Task Force, which opened a lot of questions to be addressed in the Comprehensive Plan and LWRP [Local Waterfront Revitalization Plan]. My service on the Zoning Board as "the shed" was coming to full flower—an issue that illustrated weaknesses in how our processes work. And two-plus years on the Planning Board (dealing with) the Butterfield Project. That compendium of work indicates my skills, ability and accomplishments on behalf of the village.

What is one area where you need to improve?

Probably the one I've struggled with my entire life—patience. I have a tendency to look at a problem, gather the facts, invite conversation and discussion, but then we have to move on. We have to decide on a plan of action and we have to execute it. Sometimes I get a little impatient because when you do all the fact-gathering and you make a decision, you have to implement it.

Has the Village Board become too politicized?

Yes and no. Given what a Village Board's responsibilities are, it's way too partisan. If you have an opinion, it seems you pursue that opinion single-mindedly to the exclusion of everybody else's opinion—and it isn't necessarily fact-based. I found during Butterfield that people would articulate a position that really had no basis in fact or law; that isn't supportable. And I think that carries over to the Village Board. If you look over the last nine months at some of the management, transparency and process—it's as bad as it's ever been. People may inaccurately assign that to politics or partisanship when it might just be more [about] competence and integrity.

What is one aspect of village business that interests you personally?

Asset management and capital planning. I have no idea where this village will be in five years. As far as I can see I'm one

of the few who even asks that question.

What personal traits make you a good candidate?

My ability to maintain an even temperament, for the most part. My ability to research, to work with others. My demonstrated leadership ability—working on the Butterfield Project and other projects. I'm fairly calm and level-headed [although that] doesn't mean I always agree.

Cold Spring faces a tax cap of 0.12 percent for the 2016-17 fiscal year. Can village spending be trimmed?

The tax cap is basically a Ponzi scheme. It's been the state's way of pushing costs down to local municipalities, telling them to live within their means. Meanwhile there's been no mandate relief, no revenue sharing. Aid to municipalities has been cut to the bone. I don't think the tax cap is sustainable. Even the governor says he doesn't want to give out rebate checks anymore under the cap. He wants to make it a tax credit that taxpayers have to apply for. So he knows it doesn't work.

What are your thoughts on cost saving through streamlining of local government?

Part of it is where the village could save money. Our spending on legal services is pretty much out of control. There's a default to always go to the attorney, and they don't pick up the phone unless the [billing] clock is running. There's an opportunity to manage legal costs more efficiently. Where are we with the fire company? We need to deal with that issue; I think [there could be] some kind of consolidation or shared economies with fire services. The police represent a \$500,000 hit in our budget. I'm not saying eliminate the police department, but there's no way you can't find ways to manage an item that comprises 30 percent of your budget more

cost effectively.

What is your view on whether the Cold Spring election should be held March or moved to November?

I'm not supportive of moving it. It should stay in March. Look at what we're facing. It's a presidential election year. The circus is coming to town. I've seen this impact other small municipalities. Local issues fall to the bottom of the pail. By the time you get through November, everyone's exhausted. Nobody wants to talk about local issues.

People need to pay more attention to the state of the village. In March you can focus on what's important here; you need more involvement. November [elections] mean you'll get less. [I disagree with] the argument that you're going to have new trustees who have to get their feet wet and can't deal with the new budget. You should have budget conversations, adjustments throughout the year. You can start in October. You're always going to have new trustees—they should study the budget [before being elected], not get up to speed on the taxpayer's dime.

What do you do to relax? What is recreation for you?

I have been an avid kayaker for 20 years. That's part of what drew me to Cold Spring 25 years ago. I'll be leaving here shortly go to kayaking pool sessions down in Ossining. My roll is a little bit rusty!

What is the biggest reason why should Cold Spring residents should vote for you?


I have a proven record and demonstrated history of managing issues effectively. A lot of the [current] issues I raised in the last election. Some may have been addressed. But like I said last year: show us a plan. How are you going to achieve results? My record demonstrates I can do that.

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County Consumer Affairs Chief Pleads Guilty *(from Page 1)*

investigates the finances of local and state agencies.

Although she pleaded guilty and resigned, Noel told the *Journal News* she chose to quit rather than fight the charges, which she attributed to disgruntled employees.

Tourism under investigation

The Attorney General continues its investigation of two nonprofits involved in promoting tourism in Putnam County.

One county legislator, Roger Gross, who represents Southeast, has called for Tourism Director Libby Pataki, a Garrison resident, to step down after reports she set up a second nonprofit tourism organization, raised private, tax-deductible funds and paid herself \$50,000 without notifying the legislature or following legal procedures necessary to operate a 501(c)(3) such as having an active board to provide oversight. Pataki was already authorized to collect a \$70,000 annual salary from the Putnam Tourism Bureau, itself a nonprofit organization that accepts both state

and county funds.

"I felt I had to say something about it," Gross said. "I am not going to sweep it under the rug." Gross added that he had "great respect" for Libby Pataki when she was the First Lady of New York and her husband, George, was governor. "But this situation doesn't pass the smell test, it just doesn't wash."

Gross, a member of the legislature's economic development committee, which has jurisdiction over tourism, said he hopes the legislature will do its own public review of the matter after the Attorney General's office completes its investigation. He said he had not heard from colleagues about this issue since he announced his position.

Gross said the fact that Pataki took an additional \$50,000 in compensation without legislative knowledge or review is especially galling. "I feel it is a blemish on the county," he said. Many county employees he has spoken with are upset with the situation given last year's imposition



Attorney General Eric Schneiderman



Roger Gross

Official photo

of higher health care costs for them under an Odell-driven budget, he said.

For her part, Pataki has avoided any public discussion of the tourism operation, preferring to attack the media, especially David McKay Wilson of the *Journal News*, who broke the story. Pataki has not issued any official statements, but in an "exclusive" article in the Putnam County News and Reporter, she called the *Journal News* coverage "wrong and unfair." She did not elaborate, stating only that she in-

tended to remain as tourism director.

In the article and in an unusual column by the PCNR's editor that attacked Wilson for reporting the story, Wilson and the *Journal News* were dismissed as "out-of-county" entities. The Gannett-owned daily, which is published in White Plains and distributed through the region, has covered Putnam County for decades.

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

TransCare Ambulance Files for Bankruptcy *(from Page 1)*

On Wednesday, numerous media outlets reported that TransCare had filed for bankruptcy, ending its ambulance services in Westchester County and New York City, where it had provided about 10 percent of the ambulance coverage. TransCare, the largest privately owned ambu-

lance service in the Mid-Atlantic region, has also provided ambulance service to parts of Long Island, Delaware, the Baltimore-Washington corridor and numerous locations in Pennsylvania, including Pittsburgh.

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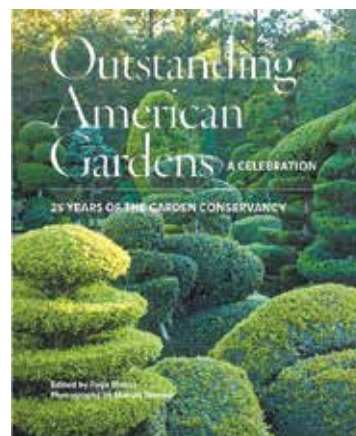
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This program is free of charge and open to the public.

Space is limited. To register, contact Lori Moss
lmoss@gardenconservancy.org

Winter Hill is located at
20 Nazareth Way in Garrison.



Does Solitary Confinement Go Too Far?

Beacon forum addresses prison reform

By Jeff Simms

As the one-year anniversary of inmate Samuel Harrell's death at the Fishkill Correctional Facility approaches, residents in Beacon continue to seek ways to ensure that what happened last April doesn't happen again.

Beacon Prison Action (BPA), a community organization formed in the wake of Harrell's death, hosted a forum Tuesday night (Feb. 23) at the Howland Cultural Center, where speakers discussed life behind bars and what they called the harsh realities of prison brutality.

"Most of us in Beacon know the Fishkill Prison is there," said Jeff Golden, a Beacon resident and one of the organizers of BPA. "But most of us don't really know anything about what goes on in there. Yet this institution has a profound impact on the lives of many people who work there and are incarcerated there, the murder of Sam Harrell being a horrific example of that."

"This was an important opportunity to create bridges between that world and ours, to help people get a better understanding of what goes on in there, to appreciate the humanity of the people in there, and to see how we can help make it a better place for everyone."

In addition to Harrell, whose sister was present, much of the forum focused on, as moderator Paul Mersfelder said, the belief that a culture of violence remains "deeply woven into the fabric" of prisons in New York.

A lengthy investigation of Harrell's death by *The New York Times*, published last August, cited the accounts of 19 inmates who said that as many as 20 officers kicked



Pictured above are Beacon Prison Action organizers as well as forum speakers.

Photos provided by Isaac Scott

and punched Harrell, handcuffed him and dragged him down a flight of stairs. Prisoners claimed some guards shouted racial slurs at Harrell, 30, who was black.

The officers on duty at the prison, which is located in Beacon, told an ambulance crew that Harrell had overdosed on K2, a synthetic marijuana. However, the Orange County medical examiner (who had jurisdiction because Harrell was pronounced dead at St. Luke's Cornwall Hospital) classified his death as a homicide. The term means a person's death was caused by another, not necessarily that a crime was committed. The autopsy found no illicit drugs in Harrell's body.

A New York State Police investigation was launched but, to date, no disciplinary charges have been filed against the officers accused of killing Harrell, Mersfelder said.

Harrell, who had bipolar disorder, was one of some 620 inmates at Fishkill who suffer from mental health problems, said Scott Paltrowitz, an associate director of the Prison Visiting Project of the Correctional Association of New York, at the forum. Those prisoners, as well as the elderly, are victimized by what he called an "entrenched culture of brutality."

"If you name any prison in this state," Paltrowitz said, "you'll have cases of

extreme human brutality."

A second speaker, Wesley Caines, a re-entry specialist and advocate for Brooklyn Defender Services, reasoned that the U.S. system of reform — one which he said uses force to gain a desired outcome — may not actually encourage the healthy rehabilitation of inmates.

"We need to find out what created them," he said. "What created that lifestyle? If you humanize them, they will humanize you, and that can only help the system."

The effects of solitary confinement — described as "a space where you can touch both walls with your arms outstretched" — were also addressed. The Fishkill Correctional Facility is one of eight prisons in New York with solitary facilities. Harrell had completed a lengthy stint in solitary just days before his death.

Johnny Perez, an advocate at the Urban Justice Center Mental Health Project, suggested that prisoners be separated but not isolated. "You can hold somebody accountable but you don't have to treat them inhumanely," he said.

Above all, the speakers agreed, they seek not just accountability as it relates to Harrell, but an end to the violent culture of violence they said exists in U.S. prisons. By ending solitary confinement, for instance, and closing "infamously abusive prisons," Paltrowitz said he believes the culture could evolve from one of abuse to one of empowerment.

Around 75 people attended the forum, inspiring Isaac Scott, the fourth invited speaker. Said Scott, a self-taught graphic designer and artist who was released early for good behavior after serving nearly eight years of a nine-year sentence in various New York prisons: "This [event] makes me feel like there's a shot at change."

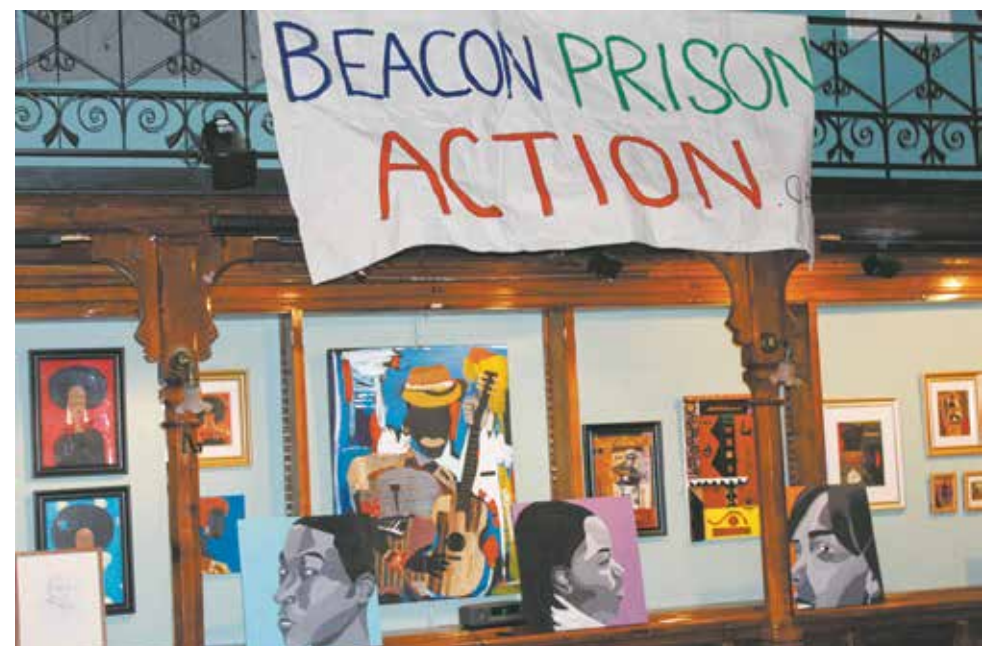
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A Beacon Prison Action display at the Howland Center in Beacon

The Calendar

East End of Main: Then & Now

Exhibit carries visitors back to Beacon's early days

By Alison Rooney

Beacon Bath and Bubble (BBB), the retail store specializing in just those things, is hosting an exhibit curated by and benefiting the Beacon Historical Society (BHS) consisting of vintage photos, objects and ephemera relating to Beacon's East End. The comparisons between then and now are made all the more fascinating by the ability to simply open the door, step outside and view the "now" before returning to peruse the "then."

That easy connection between the not-so-long-ago past and what remains today is what draws many to the archives of the historical society. "What I love about Beacon is that old and new exist here at the same time," said board member Diane Lapis, who has been involved with the society since moving to the area five years ago. "It's real, it's in your face."

Because so much of the East End remains — if not intact, at least quite recognizable through time — it's easy to identify the buildings in the photographs on display. Just across the street from BBB, in what is now the Seoul Kitchen restaurant, stood Hoysradt Ormsber Brothers Undertaker. There is an arrest-

ing image from 1912 of what was originally the Dibble Hotel, a 75-room establishment with Federal-style columns that were removed in 1926. Then there's the Maze Hook & Ladder firehouse, at 425 Main St., built in 1911 for the "Hooks," Matteawan's second volunteer fire company.



A hat made by Matteawan Manufacturing Company is among the objects displayed

Photo by A. Rooney



The Carroll Straw Hat Factory at One East Main, which was built in 1911

BHS collection

And did you know that Joe's Pub, at 455 Main St., has been a bar for more than 100 years? So has 554 Main, always a "drinking establishment." During Prohibition it was Alphonse Pietrowski's Soda Fountain, though "hard liquor was also known to be gotten," according to the exhibit. Liquor is still "being gotten" there — it's now The Hop.

The list goes on, from the Beacon Theatre (a late bloomer, arriving in 1934) to the earlier First Methodist Church, shown in a 1910 postcard. Erected in 1869 and 1870, its 114-foot steeple still

dominates the East End landscape. Images of the "Brown Block," as the stretch of Main in which BBB is located was known a century ago, show a reasonably unchanged architectural landscape and of course are part of what appeals to residents and visitors today.

Rounding the bend, it's an easy correlation between images of the Matteawan Railroad Station, located at Main and Churchill, with what remains today. Many railroads used the facility, the New Haven Railroad being the last to offer regular

(Continued on Page 11)

Small-Town Confessions

A mosaic of monologues at the Depot

By Alison Rooney

While the small town of *Small Town Confessions*, Phil Geoffrey Bond's new play, is not Philipstown, the denizens, oddballs and otherwise of Anitola, Louisiana, might unintentionally call to mind a similar type or two found hereabouts simply because a variant on most of these types is found in just about every small town.

Bond's play, which will be performed at the Depot Theatre in Garrison on March 4 and 5, is a collection of monologues by an assortment of citizenry, some upright and righteous, others unhinged. There's Tito Watts (played by André



Sally Mayes in *Small Town Confessions*

Photo by Alex Pearlman

Herzogovitch), "a down-on-his-luck drug addict who is convinced that Christ wants him to sell tickets to eternal life," Bond explains. It's the only character

Bond will admit to cribbing from real life, or at least, "ripped from the headlines." Then there's Doris Kitteridge (Julie Heckert): Anywhere that there's a congregation of people, there's a Doris, whom "everyone has to report to. She has a burgeoning problem with alcohol, and she married up — for clout," Bond says.

Peer up into a bedroom window and you'll find young William Curtis Jr. III, otherwise known as Billy Curtis — the longer moniker being his "stage name" — giving attitude. Bond describes him as a "show-choir loving, full of attitude, gonna-be-famous-any-second teenager with a bitchy demeanor which he uses to deflect that he is gay." Bryce Edwards, seen in the Depot's *On Golden Pond*, performs this monologue, which starts out sassy then reveals a bit of what lies beneath the sass.

Others in the cast include Tess Dul, playing that girl who landed a exciting job — Disney television spokesperson — and couldn't wait to move out of town but found it not all that she anticipated. Bond



Phil Geoffrey Bond

Photo provided

himself will play Roger Wilkins, a man with an active imagination whose mother has just died. His claim to fame is that he once met Diana Ross, although maybe that didn't happen. Broadway veterans Sally Mayes and Jennifer Lee Andrews play, respectively, manicurist JoBeth Maybelline, keeper of all the town's big secrets, and Juliet Monsignor, a "special" woman who has survived a lot in life and is turning to a "different" spiritual power. The quotation marks are courtesy of the playwright, who

(Continued on Page 12)

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 26

The Big Draw (Opening)

6 – 9 p.m. The Catalyst Gallery
137 Main St., Beacon
845-204-3844 | catalystgallery.com

PTA Movie Night: *The Sandlot* (1993)

7 p.m. Garrison School
1100 Route 9D, Garrison | gufspta.org

Birth / *The Black Power Mixtapes*

7:30 p.m. First Presbyterian Church | 50 Liberty St., Beacon | moviesthatmatterbeacon.org

Jiayan Sun (Piano)

7:30 p.m. Philipstown Depot Theatre
10 Garrison Landing, Garrison
845-424-3900 | philipstowndepottheatre.org

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 27

Newburgh Last Saturday

facebook.com/NewburghLastSaturdays

Maple Sugar Tours

11 a.m. – 3 p.m. Outdoor Discovery Center
100 Muser Drive, Cornwall
845-534-5506 | hhnaturemuseum.org

Army vs. Lehigh (Men's Basketball)

Noon. Christl Arena, West Point
845-938-2526 | goarmywestpoint.com

The Big Draw

Noon – 6 p.m. The Catalyst Gallery
See details under Friday.

2016 Chili & Brew Bash

2 – 6 p.m. Mid-Hudson Civic Center
14 Civic Center Plaza, Poughkeepsie
845-454-5800 | chilibrewbash.com

Mandolin Workshop

2 p.m. Beacon Music Factory
629 Route 52, Beacon
845-765-0472 | beaconmusicfactory.com

Free Lacrosse Clinic (grades K-2)

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

Artist Talk: Marieken Cochius

3 p.m. Matteawan Gallery | 436 Main St., Beacon
845-440-7901 | matteawan.com

Artist Talk: Betsy Jacaruso

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

Clearwater Benefit Concert

5 p.m. 299 Washington St., Newburgh
clearwater.org

Word (Opening)

5 – 7 p.m. Hudson Valley Center for Contemporary Art
1701 Main St., Peekskill | 914-788-0100 | hvcca.org

Calendar Highlights

For upcoming events visit philipstown.info.
Send event listings to calendar@philipstown.info.

A Night of Opera with Neal Goren

7:30 p.m. Philipstown Depot Theatre
See details under Friday.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 28

Hudson Valley Reptile Expo

9:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Mid-Hudson Civic Center
14 Civic Center Plaza, Poughkeepsie
845-454-5800 | midhudsonciviccenter.org

Maple Sugar Tours

11 a.m. – 3 p.m. Outdoor Discovery Center
See details under Friday.

The Big Draw

Noon – 6 p.m. The Catalyst Gallery
See details under Friday.

Lifeboat (1944)

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

Piano Festival: Lise de la Salle

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

Disney's *Beauty and the Beast*

5 p.m. Eisenhower Hall Theatre | 655 Ruger Road, West Point | 845-938-4159 | ikehall.com

Kids' Open Mic

6 – 8 p.m. 12 Grapes | 12 N. Division St., Peekskill
914-737-6624 | 12grapes.com

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 29

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.

Organizing a Residence for Seniors

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

Village Board Candidate Forum

7:30 p.m. Haldane School (Music Room)
15 Craigside Drive, Cold Spring
Sponsored by *The Paper/Philipstown.info*

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

TUESDAY, MARCH 1

Modern Dance (First Session)

10 a.m. Philipstown Community Center
See details under Monday.

Zumba Gold for Seniors (First Session)

10 a.m. Chestnut Ridge Community Room
845-424-4618 | philipstownrecreation.com
Free to Philipstown residents age 62 and older.

New Moms & Infants Group

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

Understanding Social Security & the Work Incentives

1 – 2:45 p.m. Dutchess Community Action Agency
10 Eliza St., Beacon | 845-452-3913 x119
dutchesscap.org | Appointment required.

Bad Kitty in the Kitchen (ages 3-5)

1:30 p.m. Butterfield Library | 10 Morris Ave., Cold Spring | 845-265-3040 | butterfieldlibrary.org

Center for Digital Arts

5:30 – 7:30 p.m. Paul Theriault: *Often Software* (Opening) | 6:30 p.m. Artist's talk
7 p.m. Using Social Media to Market Yourself and Your Art (Talk) | 27 N. Division St., Peekskill
914-606-7304 | westchestergallery.wordpress.com

Town Hall with Dutchess Executive

6:30 p.m. City Hall | 1 Municipal Plaza, Beacon
845-486-2000 | dutchessny.gov

Haldane School Board

7 p.m. Haldane School (Music Room)
15 Craigside Drive, Cold Spring
845-265-9254 | haldaneschool.org

Putnam County Legislature

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

Board of Trustees

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

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 2

Chair Yoga for Seniors (First Session)

9:30 a.m. Continental Village Clubhouse
See details under Monday.

Power Hour Exercise for Women (First Session)

9:30 a.m. Philipstown Community Center
See details under Monday.

Mexican Cooking Workshop

10 a.m. Philipstown Community Center
See details under Monday.

Senior Bus Trip to Fishkill

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

Fit for Life for Seniors (First Session)

10:30 a.m. Chestnut Ridge | Details under Tuesday

Riding Lessons (ages 18+) (First Session)

2 p.m. Therapeutic Equestrian Center
115 Stonecrop Lane, Cold Spring
845-265-3409 | myfeettakewings.org

Garrison School Board

7:30 p.m. Garrison School | 1100 Route 9D, Garrison | 845-424-3689 | gufs.org

THURSDAY, MARCH 3

Zumba Gold for Seniors (First Session)

9:30 a.m. Continental Village Clubhouse
See details under Monday.

Garrison PTA Budget Workshop Meeting

10 a.m. Garrison School | Details under Wednesday

Inclusive Playgroup (grades K-5) (First Session)

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

Native Pollinators: "The Unstung Heroes" (Talk)

6 p.m. Scenic Hudson River Center
8 Long Dock Park, Beacon
845-473-4440 x273 | scenichudson.org

How to Stage Your Home for Sale

6:30 p.m. Howland Public Library | 313 Main St., Beacon | 845-831-1134 | beaconlibrary.org

Town Board Meeting

7:30 p.m. Town Hall | 238 Main St., Cold Spring
845-265-3329 | philipstown.com

FRIDAY, MARCH 4

Chair Yoga for Seniors (First Session)

Chestnut Ridge Community Room
See details under Tuesday.

Sesame Street Live: *Let's Dance!*

10:30 a.m. Mid-Hudson Civic Center
14 Civic Center Plaza, Poughkeepsie
845-454-5800 | midhudsonciviccenter.org

Intro to Italian Language and Culture (First Session)

2:30 p.m. Butterfield Library | 10 Morris Ave., Cold Spring | 845-265-3040 | butterfieldlibrary.org

Plastic Harvest (Opening)

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

Riding Lessons (ages 12-18) (First Session)

6 p.m. Therapeutic Equestrian Center
See details under Wednesday.

Shabbat Across America Service

6 p.m. St. Mary's Parish Hall
1 Chestnut St., Cold Spring
845-265-8011 | philipstownreformsynagogue.org

Climate Change Film & Conversation

7 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library | 472 Route 403, Garrison | 845-424-3020 | desmondfishlibrary.org

U.S. Navy Band

7 p.m. Mid-Hudson Civic Center | 14 Civic Center Plaza, Poughkeepsie | 845-454-5800

Small Town Confessions

8 p.m. Philipstown Depot Theatre
10 Garrison Landing, Garrison
845-424-3900 | philipstowndepottheatre.org

Calling All Poets

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

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East End of Main: Then & Now (from Page 9)



The hotel at 426 Main St. circa 1912. In 1926 its Federal-style columns were removed.

Postcard from BHS collection

passenger service in 1933. Further along, as Main becomes East Main, there's the Carroll Straw Hat Factory, built in 1911.

The many entities with Matteawan in their name are reminders that Beacon was formed, in 1913, by the merging of Fishkill Landing, a port town, and the more easterly Matteawan, which found its identity in manufacturing, with many mills and factories. A number of books delving into Beacon's history are available for sale at the exhibit, including *Historic Beacon*, from the Images of America series, and a volume produced three years ago: *Beacon at 100, Celebrating Our Centennial*.

The Beacon Historical Society proposed the exhibit to Beacon Bubble & Bath owner Brenda Murname, a history buff, who was happy to host it. "Brenda was so accommodating — she wants to see us succeed," Lapis says. Murname, who has researched the history of her store, located at 458 Main St., determined that the property once belonged to the Marchio family and held an ice cream shop where Murname now produces the soaps she sells. She created a new soap, "Mt. Beacon Air, 1892," to benefit the historical society.

There has been a great deal of interest in the exhibit, which continues through April 2. The opening reception on Feb. 13 drew more than 100 people, and another reception is scheduled for



Matteawan State Hospital nurses march on Main Street in the National Recovery Act Parade, 1933.

BHS photo

Second Saturday, March 12. The society hopes that understanding how lives were lived in the buildings still standing may help to prevent their loss in the future. Although much of Beacon is preserved, a great deal was lost in the 1960s to what was then called "progressive" urban development. Perhaps that's a subject for a future exhibition.

For more information, visit beaconhistorical.org. The society's website offers a self-guided historic walking tour of the East End of Main, which is good preparation for visiting the exhibit. *East End of Main — A Journey Into the Past* is open during BBB's store hours, which are 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Wednesday through Sunday and noon to 4 p.m. on Sunday.



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STORIES from the COUNTRY GOOSE

After the rush of the holiday season, one would think calm would reign at The Country Goose. But a February flurry of activity has ensued to prepare for that most underappreciated event — St. David's Day on March 1st. Welshman for a day, Jonathon of Bear Mountain Coffee Roasters, has created an aromatic St. David's Day brew exclusive to The Country Goose.



St. David is the patron saint of Wales. His last words remain inspirational: *"Be joyful, brothers and sisters. Keep your faith, and do the little things that you have seen and heard with me."*

Indeed it's the little things that are noticed on Main St., coupled with an energy vortex centered at The Country Goose that leads to unexplained serendipitous happenings.



Earlier this month, two young gentlemen entered The Goose with accents as thick as leek and potato soup, one from Swansea and the other from Newport, the hometown of Herself. Well within a half hour, all three were old friends. The one from Newport said he managed a Subway in Llanwern, a mere three miles from Herself's sister, Sally.

The young men were guided to The West Point Foundry Preserve to admire the Welsh slate of the newly renovated cupola of the Office Building and advised to take lunch at Hudson Hil's, known for their leek quiche. Before setting off, the lads remarked on the Welsh invasion in Cold Spring. They reported that they'd just admired an authentic Davy Welsh coal miner's lamp at the Cold Spring Antique Center invented around 1815. Unfortunately, it was too costly for them.

Off they went and Herself immediately went to the Antique Center and secured the lamp and then went to Hudson Hil's to drop it off. Alas, the lads were a no-show at the cafe and no names had been exchanged.

But it's a small world after all. Sister Sally was given the task of locating the touring Subway manager. Mission accomplished, name and number passed off, indicating a genetic component to skillful private investigation. The Davy lamp is on view at The Goose until November when Jack, the gent from Llanwern, returns for another holiday.

The Country Goose

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Small Town Confessions (from Page 9)

also describes the character as a "goofy Satanist."

George Kimmel, playing Sam Smith, an addled conspiracy theorist, and Elizabeth Shanahan, as Betsey, a devoted housewife who once had ambitions of being a country-western singer, round out the cast.

All are directed by Donald Kimmel, whom Bond tapped after last year's *Goblin Market*, which

Kimmel directed. "He's very smart, very insightful and is kind of like a therapist," Bond says. "He doesn't just throw it up there, he keeps digging for stuff that adds so much more texture to it."

Bond, who spent years programming and producing shows at Manhattan's top cabaret rooms (he still produces his long-running series, *Sondheim Unplugged*, monthly at 54 Below, and has for the past few years presented similarly themed evenings at the Depot), began writing the first two of the nine monologues that would become *Small Town Confessions* without knowing where it would take him. He regards the piece as an "Anitola tour of homes. We go from monologue to monologue visiting each person in their own environment, each with their unique outlook on the world."

The playwright admits that he thought



George Kimmel in *Small Town Confessions*

Photo by Alex Pearlman

he was inventing characters but that "they're all me — exaggerated — well, except for Doris. She is based on a *grande dame* of Columbus, Indiana." Indiana is where Bond grew up, the deep south locale of *Small Town Confessions* notwithstanding. He says he has an affection for towns, and happens to be fond of the one he now calls home after relocating from New York City about five years ago. "I love it here," he says. "It may be unusual, but I've encountered only nice people here. And though some disagree, I find Philipstown very diverse, in terms of a mix of incomes and kinds of people."

The two performances of *Small Town Confessions* on March 4 and 5 both start at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$25 and can be purchased at brownpapertickets.com/event/2469100. The Depot Theatre is located on Garrison's Landing, adjacent to the Metro North station.

Dennis Hopper Portrayed in Restored Doc

Co-director will answer questions at Beahive

By Kevin E. Foley

Older aficionados of cinema will recall the impact of *Easy Rider* when it opened in theaters in 1969: Motorcyclists on a rebel journey through the southwest of America to the beat of a rock 'n roll soundtrack (*Born to be Wild*), with money, guns and a lawyer played by a heretofore journeyman actor, Jack Nicholson.



Photos for *The American Dreamer* copyright Polaris Communications

Co-starring in and directing the film was Dennis Hopper, an actor who had played many roles in film and television in the 1950s and '60s. He teamed with Peter Fonda (son of Henry, brother to Jane) to play a pair of drug-dealing hippies off to see the country and perhaps find peace and meaning in some not-quite-articulated way. The music and photography more than any dialogue carried the message of the film.

Seen as groundbreaking in its capturing of a dark, poetic, reflection of the end of 1960s idealism at a time of tremendous social tumult, the film was a success critically and at the box office. For Hopper, the film's achievement meant he had arrived at filmmaking's mountaintop. He would soon learn that maintaining such a position required attributes not in his otherwise considerable toolbox.

Two years after *Easy Rider*, just as Hopper was in the midst of his second directorial effort, *The Last Movie*, which would crash and burn, a couple of other movie people, Lawrence Schiller and L.M. Kit Carson, decided Hopper would make a great subject for a documentary, given his creative accomplishments, personal anarchy, bad-ass attitude and roguish charm. Hopper apparently thought so, too. He not only cooperated, he more-or-less co-opted the film.

Never released commercially, *The American Dreamer* was pretty much lost, with only a few people having ever seen

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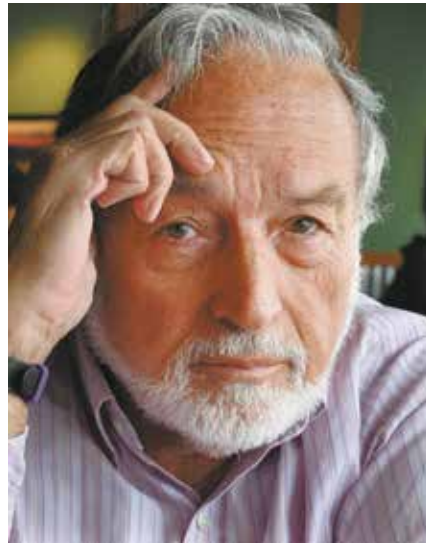
Dennis Hopper Portrayed in Restored Doc (from previous page)



Photos for The American Dreamer copyright Polaris Communications

documentary films, for preservation after it made the college film circuit. Over time the center raised money for a restoration and proceeds from the new distribution benefit the center.

In published interviews, Schiller has described the making of *American Dreamer* as a struggle of wills between the filmmakers and the subject, which all gets documented in the final product, making for an out-of-the-ordinary expression of an individual's struggle with the consequences of artistic and commercial success.



Lawrence Schiller

Photo provided



it. If you would like to be among a small but growing number of film enthusiasts who have, or you might enjoy a jolt of 1970s cultural history, your opportunity is at hand.

On Tuesday, March 8, the remastered documentary, sponsored by the Beacon Film Society, will screen at 7:30 p.m. at the Beahive in Beacon.

While Hopper's directorial career was short-lived, he did go on to create several memorable characters as an actor, such as the photojournalist in Francis Ford Coppola's *Apocalypse Now*.

Schiller in the house

Co-director Schiller will be in attendance for a Q&A session after the screening. Schiller is a below-the-celebrity-radar individual who has worked many important and controversial stories as a photographer, television producer/director, researcher and filmmaker. Marilyn Monroe, O.J. Simpson and Gary Gilmore are among the subjects he has chronicled either visually or textually.

Schiller worked closely with writer Norman Mailer in the development of Mailer's *The Executioner's Song* about convicted murderer Gilmore who was executed by firing squad in Utah in 1976. The book won the Pulitzer Prize in 1980. Schiller then directed a television-movie version in 1982 in which Tommy Lee Jones won an Emmy for portraying Gilmore.

Schiller and Carson donated *American Dreamer* to the Walker Art Center in Minneapolis, which specializes in



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The Menu with 100 Margaritas

Baja 328 opens in Beacon with southwestern touch

By Alison Rooney

The tequila's been flowing since Baja 328 opened its doors on Beacon's Main Street just prior to Halloween last year. With 108 varieties on hand, all ready to complement the southwestern cuisine, it's been a busy spot.

That comes as no surprise to its owners, brothers Danny, Frank and Gasper Maniscalchi, who, with a family background in the restaurant business, put a lot of thought into this one before open-

ing. Situated in the rapidly becoming busier "middle" stretch of Main Street adjacent to Quinn's, the owners are looking forward to the warmer temperatures of spring when they will be able to open the doors wide and turn the front part of the restaurant into an outdoor café. "Whenever we do that, our business doubles," Gasper says. "People gravitate to it."

Although their family business, Leo's Restaurant Group, specializes in food from their heritage (hint: the names of their three restaurants are Leo's Italian Restaurant and Pizzeria — located in Newburgh, Wappingers and Cornwall — the Cornwall branch having been in opera-



Some of the many tequilas at Baja 328

Photo by A. Rooney



Baja 328 manager Joe Howley and co-owner Gasper Maniscalchi

tion since 1981) the brothers wanted something different for Beacon. After spotting an article a few years back that alluded to Beacon becoming a "new Brooklyn," they spent, according to Gasper, "three, four years looking for the right space; we could see how Beacon was growing."

Frank devised the concept of southwestern food served in combination with a tequila bar. "We knew that tequila was 'hot' and could also see that Mexican restaurants always seemed to be busy," Gasper says. "We didn't want to do straight Mexican so we did a bit of studying, looking into different ideas, seeing what others were doing, and figuring out ways to do it better than them!" Beginning with a concept of "agave," they arrived at their southwestern grill desert theme.

Hoping for a "trendy, more Manhattan" feel, they envisioned having at least one communal table, but it didn't suit the space so they've altered that design into a large front room with a long bar overlooked by shelves stocked with tequilas, and higher than usual tables and chairs, all designed to keep patrons at the exact same eye level in that room. The adjoining rear area is narrower and stretches to the back. There, the tables are lower and the emphasis on dining. Country music plays throughout, and Gasper says the atmosphere is designed so that anyone can feel comfortable, from the 20s and 30s crowd at the bar and front tables to families and other diners — one couple in their 70s has been coming a couple of times a week since the opening.

There are a variety of quesadillas, tacos and salads on the menu, the southwestern touches evident in the ingredients, which include a fair share of roasted corn and chipotle. "In a Bowl" selections include barbacoa chile and a rice bowl with

a choice of pork belly, sirloin, chicken or beer-battered fish served over cilantro rice, avocado and Sierra Nevada black beans. Just want a burger? Baja 328's got that covered, along with pulled pork, grilled chicken and more. The most popular menu item thus far, according to Gasper, has been chicken enchiladas.

As for the tequila, a separate menu is divided into three categories, blancos, reposados and añejos:

- Blancos are aged for less than two months, often times altogether "un-rested," the menu notes. "This creates a tequila with a crisp finish, with little to none of the woody flavor found in longer-aged tequilas."
- Reposados, which translates to rested, has been aged anywhere from two months to a year. "This aging process often gives more of a woody favor, and as it ages, various other flavor notes develop to create a more intricate flavor profile than the younger blancos."
- Añejos, meaning connected, describes "flavors which are infused and developed over time by resting for one to three years. This group often has the most intricate flavor profile, and often the most woody flavor."

The tequilas can be served in "flights" or servings of three types, in a progression; mezcals, described as the "single-distilled, smoky cousin of tequila" are also on hand.

Baja 328 offers 100 varieties of margaritas. Specials are offered each week, and happy hour takes place Monday through Friday from 4 to 6 p.m. As well as participating in Hudson Valley Restaurant Week(s), which runs this year from March 7 to 20, Baja 328 will host a special event on Monday, April 4 called Tacos and Tequila, with Malcolm Mitchell, a Food Network chef working with Baja's chef, John Franco. There will be a set price for two drinks and all-you-can-eat tacos. Normally the restaurant is closed on Mondays, but is open the rest of the week from lunch to late night.

Baja 328 is located at 328 Main St. in Beacon. For more information, call 845-838-2252 or visit baja328.com.



Baja 328's taco salad

Photo provided

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Beacon Elks Honor First Responders

More than 100 people attend seventh-annual dinner

Beacon Elks Lodge No. 1493 on Feb. 6 honored nine emergency responders for their valor or long service. More than 100 people attended the sold-out event.

Brendon Hernandez has been a volunteer firefighter with the Beacon Fire Department since 2004. In 2008 he saved a victim of a house fire and in 2013, while working as an EMT in New York City, wrestled a gun away from a patient who had shot a police officer. Hernandez was instrumental in the dedication ceremony for the new ladder truck at Mase Hook and Ladder Company.

Karen Piga has spent 40 years with the Beacon Volunteer Ambulance Corps (VAC). She began as a junior member in 1976 and not only is certified as an EMT but also has served as a lieutenant, recording secretary, board member, financial secretary and on the brunch and Catherine S. Partridge Scholarship committee.

Linda DiBrita (EMT), Richard Antonaccio (paramedic) and Antony Tseng (EMT) were recognized for their actions on Feb. 1, 2015, when the Beacon VAC was dispatched at about 10 p.m. to Interstate 84 in the area of the Newburgh-Beacon Bridge Toll plaza for a report of a 38-year-old man experiencing chest pain. The crew found the victim in his car in cardiac arrest. He was stabilized at the scene and transported to Vassar Brothers Medical Center, where he was found to have one artery with a 90 percent blockage and another with a 70 percent blockage. The victim was discharged four days later.

Terrence Davis of the Fishkill Correction Facility, who also volunteers for the Beacon FD and Beacon VAC, was working the night shift on Nov. 1, 2015, when a co-worker in another unit began to lose consciousness. Davis quickly assessed that she was having an allergic reaction and administered injections of Epinephrine and Benadryl, then stayed with her until the ambulance arrived.

Dennis Cable of the Slater Chemical Fire Company in Glenham was recognized for his 50 years of service, only the



Front row, from left: Brendan Hernandez (Beacon FD); Linda DiBirta, Karen Piga, Richard Antonaccio (all Beacon VAC); Dutchess County legislator Jerry Landisi; Terrence Davis (Fishkill Correctional Facility); and George Dionysius (Beacon Elks Lodge Exalted Ruler). Back row, from left: Antony Tseng (Beacon VAC); Dennis Cable (Slater Chemical Fire Company); Tom Williams (Dutchess Junction Fire Company); Sgt. Robert Sellick (Beacon PD); and Carl Oken (Beacon Elks Lodge Esteemed Lecturing Knight).

Photo by Samantha Tseng

third member in company history to reach that milestone. Cable joined the company on May 3, 1966, at the age of 18. He has served as a 1st and 2nd lieutenant as well as vice president and president. Cable also served the Glenham Fire District as assistant chief.

Tom Williams was also honored for lifetime achievement. He joined the Lake Mohegan Fire District at age 18 before serving with the U.S. Navy in the Vietnam War. After returning home, he was appointed a career firefighter, where he served for 30 years before retiring with the rank of lieutenant. Williams was also New York State Fire Instructor who taught ladder operations at the Westchester County Fire Academy. When Williams moved into Dutchess Junction, he joined the fire company there and served as chief. With the assistance of his vast knowledge of fire trucks, Dutchess Junction purchased its first new pumper.

Sgt. Robert Sellick of the Beacon Police Department was recognized for his actions on May 7, 2015, when at about 3:45 p.m., dispatchers received a report of a carjacking at knifepoint at Memorial

Park. Although Sellick's shift had ended (he was in the locker room changing), he put his uniform back on to respond. The perpetrator had abandoned the stolen vehicle at the north end of North Elm Street and fled on foot. Sellick, listening to radio transmissions, calculated that the subject was headed to Interstate 84 and drove his

patrol car there, where he saw the man run from the woods. Sellick pursued him on foot until the suspect encountered a fence and turned with the knife to engage the sergeant, refusing his commands to drop the weapon. Sellick fired three rounds, striking the suspect twice.



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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

PARC Looking for Gardens

Secret Garden Tour set for June

Partners with PARC, a non-profit that works with people with disabilities, will host its annual Putnam County Secret Garden Tour on Saturday, June 4, and needs gardens.

The annual fundraiser, which supports programs and services for children and adults with autism, disabilities and special needs, is a self-guided driving tour of unique and memorable gardens across the county.

The tour will include 12 gardens that could include formal gardens, charming country gardens, water gardens, alpine gardens, perennial flowering landscapes and rose gardens. All garden owners who participate will receive accommodations for four in Cancun, Mexico.

For more information, call 845-278-7272, ext. 2287 or email rand_otten@putnamarc.org

Swine School

Learn how to raise pigs

Food journalist Barry Estabrook and Niman Ranch Pork Company founder Paul Willis will lead a farmer-training workshop on Thursday, March 10, at Glynwood Farm in Cold Spring on raising pigs humanely. The day begins with indoor presentations and moves outside in the afternoon, weather permitting, to spend the afternoon with some porcine friends.



A Glynwood pig

Photo provided

Estabrook is the author of *Pig Tales: An Omnivore's Quest for Sustainable Meat*. Willis has owned and operated the Willis Free Range Pig Farm in Iowa since 1975.

To register, visit glynwood.org/event/farm-skills-workshop-swine-school, or call 845-265-3338 for more information. The workshop runs from 11 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. and costs \$25, which includes lunch.

Grand American Gardens

Author to share outstanding examples

The Philipstown Garden Club and The Garden Conservancy have invited Page Dickey, author of *Outstanding American Gardens*, to discuss and sign her book at Winter Hill in Garrison at 2 p.m. on Sunday, March 6.

Dickey will share photos of many of the gardens featured in her book, which celebrates 25 years of The Garden Conservancy, which is based in Garrison. Dickey writes about gardening and garden design for *House and Garden*, *House Beautiful*, *Horticulture*, *Elle Decor*, *Fine Gardening* and *Garden Design*.

The program is free but space is limited. To reserve a seat, email Lori Moss at lmoss@gardenconservancy.org. Winter Hill is located at 20 Nazareth Way.

A Trashy Exhibit

Artists turn garbage into art

An upcoming exhibit by two Hudson Valley artists will challenge gallery visitors to rethink terms they have long taken for granted, including resource, discard, harvest, family and possibly even art.

Plastic Harvest, which opens with a reception at Gallery 66 from 6 to 9 p.m. on Friday, March 4, features a collaborative work by Cassandra Saulter of Cold Spring and Michelle Mercaldo of Beacon. Their medium is discarded plastic. "We need to start seeing the near-infinite supply of plastic trash as an 'unnatural resource' waiting to be harvested," Saulter said.

Delphine, a six-foot, sculpted figure created almost entirely from plastic bottles, is the centerpiece of Saulter's installation. "Delphine's world," as Saulter calls it, em-



Rings made by Michelle Mercaldo from the necks of plastic bottles

Photo provided

braces the trappings of a family home — from furniture and wall art to a pet dog. The difference is that Delphine's home has been created almost exclusively from throwaway bottles.

Mercaldo has worked in metals, using classical methods to create her jewelry. "Using plastic as a raw material, married with natural materials such as metal and stone has made me question where we place value," she said. The jewelry she created for the exhibit is a collection of rings made from the threaded necks of plastic bottles, encircled with thread made of silver and gold.

The exhibit is on view Friday to Sunday from noon to 5 p.m. through March 27. Gallery 66 is located at 66 Main St. in Cold Spring. For more information, visit gallery66ny.com or call 845-809-5838.

Market Your Art on Social Media

Expert will discuss strategies



Ron Kavanaugh

Ron Kavanaugh, social media coordinator for the Bronx Museum of the Arts and executive director of the Literary Freedom Project, will speak at the Center for the Digital Arts in Peekskill at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, March 1, on how artists can use social media to market themselves and their work. Kavanaugh manages the Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Vine, Tumblr and Pinterest accounts for the museum.

The talk is free but reservations are required. Email peekskill@sunywcc.edu to reserve a seat. The center is located at the Peekskill Extension Center of Westchester Community College at 27 N. Division St.

The center also opens a new exhibit on March 1 by the New Haven-based artist Paul Theriault, *Often Software*, with a reception scheduled for 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. and a gallery talk at 6:30 p.m. The show continues through April 9. It features digitally constructed artwork displayed on laptops, desktop computers and video monitors, including a series called *Scanner Paintings*, in which oil paint was applied to the scanner bed.

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

Let's Talk Climate Change

Desmond-Fish hosting film/discussion series

The Desmond-Fish Library will present a weekend of films and conversations about climate change from March 4 to 6. The series will feature documentaries selected by documentary filmmaker David Gelber, environmental journalist Andrew Revkin and climate scientist Radley Horton.

The series begins at 7 p.m. on Friday, March 4, with a selection of short films curated and hosted by Revkin and Horton, including *Why People Don't Believe in Climate Science*; *Common Ground with Climate Skeptics*; *The Greening of Planet Earth* (1992); an episode of National Geographic Explorer called *Bill Nye's Global Meltdown*; an animated short, *Trend and Variation*; an episode of Cosmos titled *Weather Versus Climate Change*; and an episode from the Emmy-award winning *Years of Living Dangerously* selected by Gelber, who was the series' producer.

At 4 p.m. on Saturday, March 5, Gelber and Horton will present a screening of *Everything's Cool*, a 2007 documentary that examines the divide between scientists and the general public over global warming. Finally, at 2 p.m. on Sunday, March 6, the series closes with the documentary *Chasing Ice* (2012), which examines the planet's rapidly melting glaciers.

Audience members are invited to stay after each screening for a conversation about the films and the issues they explore.

"We hope this series will serve as a forum for our community members to express their concerns about climate change and its effects and seek out answers and ideas from experts working in the field," said Desmond-Fish Library Director Jen McCreery.

The Desmond-Fish Library is located at 472 Route 403 (at the corner of 9D) in Garrison. For more information visit desmondfishlibrary.org or call 845-424-3020.

Powerhouse Taking Applications for Summer

Theater program starts June 23

Now in its 32nd season, the Powerhouse Theater Training Program at Vassar College in Poughkeepsie, which will run from June 23 to July 31, is accept-

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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

ing applications from rising high school seniors and college-age students. Participants choose a curriculum focused on acting, playwriting or directing, and together form a company to performs works for the public. Applications are due by April 1. The fee, including room and board, is \$5,000. Visit app.getacceptd.com/power-housetheater.

The Man in the Woman's Shoes

Irish actor brings award-winner to Kent

The Irish actor Mikel Murfi will perform *The Man in the Woman's Shoes* at Arts on the Lake on Saturday, March 5.

Originally developed at the Hawk's Well Theatre in Sligo County, Ireland, the one-man show won the Stewart Parker BBC Drama Award in 2013 and was nominated for the Best New Play in the Irish Times Theatre Awards in 2014. Last year, it was a New York Times Critic's Pick when it played at the Irish Arts Center in New York.

Created by interviewing people in rural Ireland, *The Man in the Woman's Shoes* tells the story of cobbler Pat Farnon as he walks five miles into town to deliver a pair of shoes to Kitsy Rainey, a "screeching tyrant of a woman."

Tickets for the performance, which begins at 8 p.m., at \$15 and available at artsonthelake.org or by calling 845-228-2685. Arts on the Lake is located at 640 Route 52 in Kent Lakes.

Playwrights to Share One-Acts

Performance set for March 5

On Sat., March 5, Michael Heintzman and fellow playwright and actor John Pielmeier will read from a series of one-acts they promise will "get you out of the winter blues ... or keep you there." The performance takes place at the Butterfield Library in Cold Spring at 7 p.m.

Heintzman is the author of *Odd-jobbers*, a monologist's play produced at the American Place Theatre in New York. He also is the writer, actor and director of *Jerry The Series* (funnyordie.com/msh).

Eva Rubin Headlines Music Tracks

Singer/songwriter will play Depot Theatre

Eva Rubin, a singer and songwriter who won the Towne Crier Cafe's 2014 Open Mic Finals, will perform her music, described by the Poughkeepsie Journal as "honest, authentic, with little bit of an edge and whole lot of heart," at 7 p.m. on Sunday March 6, at the Philipstown Depot Theatre in Garrison as part of its ongoing



Eva Rubin

Photo provided

"Music Tracks" series. Singer/songwriter Charlie Phillips will open the show.

Tickets are \$15 at brownpapertickets.com/event/2511980. For more information, visit evarubinmusic.com.

Navy Band Will Play Poughkeepsie

March 4 concert part of 23-city tour

The U.S. Navy Band, which is currently on a 23-city tour of the U.S., will perform in Poughkeepsie on Thursday, March 4, at the Mid-Hudson Civic Center. The concert begins at 7 p.m.

The Navy Concert Band, the premier wind ensemble of the U.S. Navy, will play a variety of marches, patriotic selections, orchestral transcriptions and modern wind ensemble repertoire. As the original ensemble of the Navy Band, the concert band has been performing for nearly 90 years.

The free concerts are family friendly events meant to be entertaining to veterans, families, individuals and those interested in joining the Navy.



Musician 1st Class Jonathan Yanik, of Simsbury, Conn., performs with the U.S. Navy Band.

Photo by Adam Grimm

Beacon

Synth Society Launches

Quinn's will host monthly jams

The monthly Quinnsonic Electronic Music Society kicks off on Tuesday, March 8, at Quinn's in Beacon, with a performance by electro-acoustic musi-



Students hanging out at Lincoln High School, from *Paper Tigers*

cians David Rothenberg and Leon Gruenbaum. The doors open at 6 p.m. and the music begins at 8:30 p.m.

A featured artist will open each gathering, with the rest of the night working like a traditional open mic, but with synthesizers. Bring your favorite synth, module, laptop, mobile device or other audio-generating contraption to demonstrate or otherwise show off, or enjoy the food, drinks and electric sounds.

Space and time will be limited — artists will need to work in nothing larger than a 2' x 3' space and be ready to set up quickly. Quinn's will have DIs available so artists can utilize its PA system.

Interested artists are encouraged to come early to sign up — email bookquinn@gmail.com to request a slot. Quinn's is located at 330 Main St.

Arrange Your Home to Sell

Expert will discuss "staging"

Karen Gray-Plaisted, owner of the Warwick-based Design Solutions KGP (designsolution-skgp.com), will discuss "staging" homes for sale to motivate buyers at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, March 3, at the Howland Public Library in Beacon. Gray-Plaisted will explain during her hour-long presentation the basics of how to make your home stand out and demonstrate with photos how home staging works.

The Howland Public Library is located at 313 Main St. For more information, call 845-831-1134 or visit beaconlibrary.org.



March for St. Patrick

Parades in Beacon, Wappingers Falls

The first "Parade of Green" is scheduled for Main Street in Beacon at 11 a.m. on Saturday, March 12. Visit facebook.com/beaconparadeofgreen for information on marching or sponsorship.

The 21st annual Dutchess County parade will be held a week earlier, at 1 p.m. on Saturday, March 5, rain or shine, in Wappingers Falls. The kid-friendly event starts at the corner of West Main Street and Delavergne Avenue. For more information, visit dcsppc.org.

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Garrison School Releases Honor Roll

Students recognized for second-quarter work

Academic Excellence

8th grade: Gaetano Cervone, Madison Clark, McKenzie Clark, Lukas DeRoche, Henry Heckert, Solana McKee, Emerson Smith, Isaac Walker, Rexford Young; 7th grade: Fallon Barry, Ava DuBois, Sophie Stark, Benjamin Strol; 6th grade: Charlotte Dinitz, Evelyn Higbee, Sidonie Weed.

High Honor Roll

8th grade: Benjamin Higbee, Remy Mancuso, Aurora McKee, Conor McMahon, Benjamin McPherson, Anna Rowe; 7th grade: Elizabeth Nelson; 6th grade: Tim Ben Adi, Jayda Kirkwood, Chase Mayer, Madison Smith.

Honor Roll

8th grade: Peter Angelopoulos, Anna Brief, Denis Driscoll, Megan Horan, Valerie Mancuso, Hayden Mayer, Connor O'Reilly, Adam Sharifi, William Stark, Nicholas Vasta, Kaklyn Vele; 7th grade: Amy Albertson, Emerson DelMonte, Autumn Hartman, Rachel Iavicoli, Sasha Levy, Kyle Mayo, Ariana Shahbodaghi, Zachary Shannon, Luke Wimer; 6th grade: Evan Maasik.

Support Groups

For a full list of area support groups, visit:
philipstown.info/sg

NY Alert

For the latest updates on weather-related or other emergencies, sign up at www.nyalert.gov.

Putnam Officers Honored for Saving Life

Sheriff commends both for preventing a suicide

In a ceremony on Feb. 16, Putnam County Sheriff Donald B. Smith commended Deputy Sheriff Daniel Hunsberger and Sgt. Timothy Keith for their actions in preventing a suicide last November in Southeast. The officers responded to a call to check on the welfare of a 53-year-old man and came upon him standing on a ladder next to his garage with a noose around his neck.

When the man jumped off the ladder, the officers scrambled up the ladder and supported his weight, even as he attempt-

ed to push them away. The officers pulled on and broke the roof support that was holding the noose, and all three men fell to the ground. The officers administered first aid to the victim, who was transported to Danbury Hospital. Hunsberger and Keith were treated for their injuries at Putnam Hospital Center.

At the ceremony, Smith paid tribute to Keith and Hunsberger for what he called "their selfless and valiant acts of valor, performed in spite of peril to themselves, which prevented a tragic death." Because of their actions, he said, "another human being has been given a second chance at life, and for that we are all very grateful and proud."



From left, Sgt. Keith, Deputy Hunsberger and Sheriff Smith

Photo provided



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Sports



Haldane Track and Basketball

At left, top, Marina Martin competes in the 55-meter dash at the New York State Qualifiers in New York City on Feb. 22. At left, below, Theo Henderson competes in the 3000-meter at the same event.



Above, Haldane (12-9) shut down Hawthorne Cedar Knolls, 67-38, in the Section 1 Class C quarterfinal at the Haldane gym on Feb. 19. Will Zuvic (33) had 26 points and 11 rebounds, followed by Nick Chiera with 12 points.

Photos by Peter Farrell

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Let the Sap Flow

Maple syrup: nature's sweetest product

By Michael Turton

The past week produced undeniable proof that spring is on the verge. Players headed south to limber up for the upcoming baseball season. And closer to home, maple syrup began to flow at the Taconic Outdoor Education Center (TOEC).

Pancake lovers can thank North America's indigenous people for discovering the thick, sweet liquid — although they were more interested in producing hard maple sugar than syrup. And if simple is good, maple syrup has to be considered the best. Sap drained from sugar maple trees is boiled until it thickens. The result is maple syrup. End of story.

Liquid gold

Locally, the liquid gold is produced at TOEC's facility on Mountain Laurel Lane just off Dennytown Road. "Gold" is only a slight exaggeration. According to the USDA, the average retail price of a gallon of maple syrup in New York state last year was \$45.

TOEC harvests sap at three local wooded areas, including from some 300 taps in the sugar maples at Hubbard Lodge just off Route 9. "We've collected about 1,000 gallons of sap so far," said John Stowell, TOEC's program director. "Trees have tremendous vascular structure," Stowell said. "The average tap will produce up to 25 gallons of sap per season." It takes 40 gallons of sap to make a gallon of syrup, and TOEC hopes to produce at least 100 gallons of syrup by the end of the season, which will come in early April if the



Sap buckets near Hubbard Lodge

Photos by M. Turton

weather cooperates, he said.

Asked if tapping can harm trees, Stowell joked: "I've never had one complain!" He added, "We harvest such a small amount of sap in relation to what each tree can produce. I equate it to a human donating blood."

The weather

Climate change has not been a major factor in maple syrup production, although Stowell said research has shown the range of sugar maple trees is retreating north. Whether a particular winter is severe or mild is also not critical; it's all about the weather once the trees are tapped, he said. Cold, frosty nights followed by warm sunny days are ideal for sap production — exactly the type of weather experienced recently. Stowell said

TOEC produced about 80 gallons of sap during last year's cold winter and shorter harvesting season.

Once harvested, the raw sap is boiled down in a wood-fired evaporator. "We can process 200 gallons of sap per hour," Stowell said. Sap turns to syrup when it reaches 219 degrees Fahrenheit, or seven degrees above boiling point.

From delicate to robust

Maple syrup changes from a light color and delicate flavor early in the season to darker and more robust later. "Currently we're producing Golden Delicate," Stowell said. "As the season progresses it will change to Amber Rich and Dark Robust. It is not uncommon for the grade to change back and forth at various



John Stowell feeds TOEC's wood-fired evaporator.

times during the season."

Syrup is made from the sap of the sugar maple (*acer saccharum*) because, of the more than 100 species of maple, it contains the most sugar, about two percent by volume. "All maple trees can be tapped," Stowell said. "But the others require a bit more work. Red maple requires 80 gallons of sap to make one gallon of syrup."

TOEC sells its maple syrup at the nature center. Maple syrup events are planned at TOEC on March 13, Sharpe Reservation in Fishkill on March 19 and Little Stony Point on March 26.

Sap trivia

- The province of Quebec produces more than 75 percent of the world's maple syrup, about eight million gallons per year.
- Vermont is the leading U.S. producer at 900,000 gallons per year.
- New York state produces about 312,000 gallons per year.

- Virtually no maple syrup is produced outside North America.
- Maple syrup is one of the least-fattening natural sweeteners, with 215 calories per quarter cup. It is also loaded with minerals and antioxidants.
- Birch, walnut, box elder, hickory and palm trees can be tapped to make syrup.



New York state's four grades of syrup.



The final product on sale at TOEC