County Evaluates Impact of Nuclear Plant Closure

Concerns about electricity rates and local economy

By Holly Crocco

Putnam County officials are bracing for the impact of the scheduled closure of the Indian Point nuclear power plant in 2021, in the form of lost revenue for the county, lost jobs and the prospect of an energy rate hike, although a newly released study downplays the latter scenario. (See Page 8.)

The closure of Indian Point was announced in January by Gov. Andrew Cuomo and Entergy, which owns and operates the plant near Peekskill in Westchester County. The plant can produce up to 2,000 megawatts of power.

Tony Sutton, the county's emergency services commissioner, described the closure process to lawmakers during a meeting on Feb. 21 of the Protective Services Committee.

He noted that “spent” radioactive fuel rods were not supposed to remain at the facility, which opened in the 1970s. “It was always intended for the fuel to be shipped off-site and be recycled, but over the course of years and the evolution of the world, every single rod that was ever brought to Indian Point is still at Indian Point.”

When a reactor is refueled, the plant takes advantage of the system being down to complete hundreds of maintenance tasks, employing many steamfitters, carpenters, electricians, ma-sons and other workers, Sutton said.

“It basically doubles the workforce at the site,” he said. Contractors “descend on the plant and they work like bees to get it done” during the three-week refueling process.

Sutton said some officials have expressed concern that if any serious defects are found during the remaining refuelings, the reactor could be shut down earlier than scheduled without a replacement supply in place for the energy it produces.

However, he said, Entergy must order fuel a year ahead of time and plan for the large workforce that occupies the site during the refueling, so that scenario is unlikely. “The truth of the matter is, I think you’re going to see them honor those [closing] dates,” he said.

The governor can ask Entergy to keep (Continued on Page 8)

Sales-Tax Revenues Jump, Town Board Members Seek Share

Putnam says it distributes money by paying bills

By Liz Schevchuk Armstrong

At least on paper, Putnam County’s annual sales-tax revenue rose in 2016 by 9.5 percent, the second-highest increase of any county in New York.

In reality, the rise is less rosy than it seems.

According to Putnam County statistics and a Jan. 30 report from the New York State Comptroller’s Office, the county’s sales-tax income grew just over $59 million in 2016 from just under $53 million in 2015.

However, most of that upswing reflects “had the highest sales-tax growth,” he noted, but a year later, “had the highest decline in the state.”

Sales-tax revenue throughout the state rose by 2.3 percent last year, which the Comptroller’s Office considers “sluggish.” However, the Mid-Hudson Valley had the best regional increase at 2.9 percent. Dutchess County revenue rose 1.4 percent and Westchester’s 1.3 percent. Chautauqua County had the largest jump, 12.7 percent, after raising its sales-tax rate.

Unlike 46 of the 57 counties outside New York City, Putnam County does not share the sales taxes collected, a longstanding point of contention in Philipstown, where many tourists spend their cash.

At the Philipstown Town Board meeting on Feb. 16, Councilor Nancy Montgomery said the $5 million rise in sales-tax revenue between 2015 and 2016, although exaggerated by the state adjustment, still “makes us wonder once again what we are going to do about getting” a portion. The adjustment, she said, “does not mean there wasn’t some growth; even if there wasn’t, we are (Continued on Page 2)
Sales-Tax Revenues Jump, Town Board Members Seek Share

still looking to get our fair share.”

Councilor Mike Leonard proposed that the county use some of the higher revenue to replace funds it cut from its allocation for the upkeep of historic cemeteries. That appropriation dropped from $12,000 in 2016 to $8,000, divided among six towns. The county can afford to put at least $4,000 back, he said.

Leonard said Feb. 27 that cemetery committees from the six towns hope to convince County Executive MaryEllen Odell and legislators to restore the funding. The consistent rise in sales-tax revenue “should have delayed their need to cut what is clearly a shameful, low amount to begin with,” he said. “I would have found a way if I was handling the county budget. But then you have to care, first.”

Odell relies each year on sales-tax revenue to fill county coffers. In the projected 2017 budget, it accounts for 37 percent of projected revenue. (Other sources include property taxes, state and federal funds, and fees collected by county agencies.) When Odell went through the numbers at a public presentation in October, she called sales-tax revenue “critical to financial stability of the county” because it “offsets the need for higher property taxes, and/or reducing services.”

Carlin maintained that the county already shares sales-tax revenue, “not the actual cash” but “by paying for such services as community-college tuition and election expenses not presently charged back to municipalities, as is done in other counties.” Most important, he said, Putnam “guarantees 100 percent of the property-tax collections of each municipality in the county” — covering losses when someone fails to pay.

“That creates a demand on our cash flow that requires the county to keep pressures on the budget will be too great to share sales-tax revenue. The numbers simply won’t add up.”

So far this year, the sales-tax fortunes look promising. A chart provided legislators for a Feb. 27 meeting showed that in January the county collected $4.47 million, or $237,300 more than the same month last year.

Sales Tax Facts

• The sales-tax rate in Putnam County is 8.375 percent and in Dutchess, 8.125. This includes the state tax rate of 4 percent, plus the county rate, plus a commuter tax of 0.375 percent. The state’s highest rate is in New York City, at 8.875.

• Outside of New York City, 11 of 57 counties, including Putnam, do not share sales-tax revenue with local governments. (None of the 11 have cities.) Under a formula it adopted in 2013, Dutchess County distributes a flat $25 million from the 3.75 percent it collects. Poughkeepsie receives 38 percent ($9.57 million) and Beacon 17 percent ($4.16 million).

• Ninety-three percent of New York residents pay at least 8 percent. The highest rate in the nation is in New Jersey, where some residents pay 12.875 percent.

Source: Office of the New York State Comptroller
Meet the Trustee Candidates

Michael Turton interviewed each of the three candidates who will appear on the ballot for two seats on the Cold Spring Village Board: incumbents Marie Early and Fran Murphy and challenger Peggy Schatzle. Their responses have been paraphrased and edited for space. For their candidate statements, see highlandscurrent.com.

MARIE EARLY

Q: Why are you running for a second term?
A: There are still a lot more items to be addressed. I have the time and feel I should give back to the community. My family has a history of service to the village and being a trustee continues the work I have done on other village boards.

Q: What projects would you list as successes?
A: The Main Street Project and metering the municipal parking lot. Also updating a number of agreements that had expired, including fire protection for Phillipstown and Nelsonville.

Q: Nelsonville declined to pay the full amount it was invoiced by the village for fire protection. The Cold Spring Fire Company has also expressed concerns over funding issues. Can you comment on both situations?
A: The mayor of Nelsonville said they couldn’t afford full payment. I understand that. He left open the possibility of addressing it in the next budget cycle. He’s not running again but I hope the new mayor will address the issue. We will continue to fund the CSFC based on their actuals. The Village Board has agreed to spend money on the firehouse roof and to evaluate the cost of new air conditioning.

Q: There seems to be less discord on the board than in some past administrations, but isn’t disagreement among trustees a healthy thing?
A: It’s healthy to have levels of disagreement. It becomes unhealthy when trustees dig in their heels and refuse to discuss issues with an open mind. The current board is pretty much on the same page. We have not yet had a significant disagreement about a topic.

(Continued on Page 6)

PEGGY SCHATZLE

Q: What motivated you to run for a trustee position?
A: I’ve always felt I would run because I feel I can make a difference. I’m a good listener and I’m a person who does not take “no” for an answer. My family is from Cold Spring and we’ve seen more negative change than positive change. There’s been a loss of community. And there are issues that have been pending for years.

Q: How have you been involved in village life?
A: I’ve been president of the American Legion Women’s Auxiliary for seven years, organizing the Memorial Day parade, sending packages to the troops and helping my father with the Voice of Democracy essay program at Haldane. I also helped with his work at the senior center. Recently I also contributed to resolving the parking issue at Locust Ridge near Haldane.

Q: How does your professional background qualify you for public office?
A: As an educator in the Chappaqua School District I’ve written grants, including budgets. I work with parents constantly. You have to be level-headed and willing to listen to everyone’s opinions — to work as a team and resolve issues together.

Q: What do you feel are the major issues facing the village?
A: The dam: I don’t know why they let it go so long. We have engineers who live here who could have provided advice. The firehouse: they’ve been asking for help for at least seven years. The Village Board acknowledges it needs repair now, before the election, but that to me is all talk. They have not done anything to help. And definitely the budget. We are in serious trouble with pending lawsuits.

Q: Which personal traits will help you be an effective trustee?
A: I am trustworthy, have integrity and I persevere. I network and help people. I have positive connections in the community because people know that I care.

(Continued on Page 6)
**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**

**Sanctuary city**

A letter in your Feb. 24 issue proposed that Beacon should name itself a "sanctuary city" that would not participate in federal immigration dragnets. No one who is here illegally should be allowed to stay. If one law can be broken all could be broken, which means police should also not give speeding tickets, DWIs or arrest anyone for robbery, trespassing, illegal guns and on and on. If I ever commit a crime in a sanctuary city and get a ticket or arrested, it's game on!

Denise Gouldner Bartolotti, Hopewell Junction

**Local mergers**

You reported online that Philipstown Supervisor Richard Shea "outlined the latest steps toward consolidating the Cold Spring and Philipstown building departments but noted that Nelsonville appears no longer interested in a three-way merger." ("Notes from the Philipstown Town Board," posted Feb. 25)

This is what happens when people have a short history in a community. Philipstown provided building department and code enforcement for years, until the mid-1980s. While I was on the Village Board, and after, I pushed for consolidation for both building departments and the court, as a starter. This nonsense of "independence and identity" by Nelsonville is a sham and a disservice to the residents of the village and the town as well. There should be a general merger of... (Continued on next page)

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**Taking it to the Street**

By Anita Peltonen

**What was your most embarrassing moment?**

“I was in front of a classroom teaching Italian. A student said, ‘Do you know you’re wearing two different shoes?’”

- Anna Amico Lyons, Cold Spring

“I called my twins, Laura and Tess, by each other’s names. I should know better. I’m an identical twin, but they are not. And my brother and I could never fool our parents.”

- Jeff Toland, Beacon

“I was a first-grade teacher having my first parent-teacher conference. I met with a mother and went on about her son, Andrew. It turns out her son was Howard. She didn’t say anything until the end.”

- Ruthanne Cullinan Barr, Philipstown

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**Thunderstorm magic**

I had the good fortune to see the Stephen Sondheim play *Company* at the Depot Theatre on Feb. 25 (“It’s Hard to Stay Married!,” Feb. 17).

Directed by Maia Guest, it was my first Sondheim musical, and it was a wonderful presentation. We quickly forgot about the thunderstorm raging outside until the second act was about to begin. The lights in the theater and the surrounding neighborhood went out. The audience waited patiently for a half hour or more while the Depot’s generator kicked on for a minute or two and then off.

The house manager offered a complimentary ticket to another performance to anyone who wasn’t happy with the situation. No one took her up on it. The decision was made to continue the performance in the dark, with music “Sondheim without music is never going to work.” I heard one seasoned theater-goer exclaim. But the cast came out for the opening number and, lit by a few flashlights and cell phones, did an incredible job.

“I am thankful and amazed at the shared experience. The second act turned out to be as magical as the first. I was appreciative being part of such an accepting audience, as well as being able to enjoy the talents of each of the actors who created a memorable production.”

Kevin Speth, Ossining
The Highland Current
in Beacon.
wealthy land developers making it diffi-
city government who joined with
faithful believers in the mid-1990s and cleaned up, made
bought by Everlasting Covenant Church
articles like this? That theater was
search instead of misleading the public
This statement is not true. Why doesn’t
The Highland Current do proper re-
that was bought by Everlasting Covenant Church
Church in the mid-1990s and cleaned up, made
beautiful and habitable by the small
group of courageous, faithful believers in Christ in spite of constant opposition by the city government who joined with
wealthy land developers making it diffi-
city just wants to co-
vert the old stations to more housing. It
does not seem to even think about school
roads being overcrowded, plus our
rather for ways to get things done and
find ways to access grant money, or apply-
ing for low-interest loans. Fran is good for
our village; now be good to her and re-
elect her!

Theater history
In your story, “Beacon Theater to Re-
FEB. 24), you wrote that the theater was
now be new experience. Since that
time I have come to appreciate the val-
what the media does to the public. They
tell only the portion of truth they want
issue an indictment of the entire “media”

Beacon firehouses
Rather than building a central station, Beacon should fix the existing firehouses (“Beacon Still Looking for Land for Cen-
Feb. 17). They say it will cost too much, but I know plenty of people who
would volunteer. The city just wants to co-
vect the old stations to more housing. It
does not seem to even think about school
roads being overcrowded, plus our
taxes will go up instead of going down.

Joe Green, Beacon

Re-elect Murphy
Over the past two years Fran Murphy, who is running for re-election to the
Spring Village Board, has dedicated herself to the betterment of our village.
Several times a day I walk our Labrador
down Main Street and will see Fran going
into or coming out of Village Hall.

She’s not there to socialize but rather
loken up for use, not 4th Wall. But that’s
what the media does to the public. They
tell only the portion of truth they want
you to know.

Fran Beauchamps, Beacon
Editor’s note: Our story was not intend-
ed to present a history of every use of the
building over the decades between its uses
as a theater. That hardly seems reason to
issue an indictment of the entire “media”
or accuse us of “misleading” anyone.

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ing for low-interest loans. Fran is good for
our village; now be good to her and re-
elect her!

David Marion,
Cold Spring

Write-in candidate for trustee
I am announcing my campaign to
become a trustee on the Cold Spring
Village Board as a write-in candidate.
I was introduced to local politics in
March 2009 when Seth Gallagher, who
was running for mayor of Cold Spring,
unexpectedly stopped by. I had never
lived in a small town, so this visit for
me was a new experience. Since that
day I have come to appreciate the val-
ue of a small community, namely, the
opportunity for close interaction and
participation in local elections, democ-

ty and governance. In a small com-
unity, one person can make a difference.

The issue on my mind around the time
of Seth’s visit was the condition of the lo-
cal sidewalks, particularly in the winter,
especially near the intersection of Lunn
Terrace and Main Street. I was told they
would soon be repaired, but it was not un-
til seven years later, and two mayors, that
it finally happened.

Why did it take so long? A concern of
presumably wide and common interest
was not a priority until, in several elec-
tions, it was repeatedly drummed into the
heads of those running for office. It was
quite troubling, and remains so to the ex-
tent that non-representative behavior pe-
riodically reoccurs.

Following Hurricane Sandy, I observed
inadequacies in emergency planning and
services. Afterward I volunteered for the
village emergency preparedness task
force. The village

PHILIPSTOWN PLANNING BOARD
Site Visit – March 5, 2017
The Philipstown Planning Board will meet on Sunday, March 5,
2017, 10:30 a.m. to inspect the following site:
Manitou Property Co.,LLC
1656 Route 9D, Cold Spring

PHILIPSTOWN PLANNING BOARD
Site Visit – March 5, 2017
The Philipstown Planning Board will meet on Sunday, March 5,
2017, 9:30 a.m. to inspect the following site:
Stonecrop Gardens Inc.
(61-115 Stonecrop), Route 301, Cold Spring.

PHILIPSTOWN PLANNING BOARD
Public Hearing – March 16, 2017
The Philipstown Planning Board for the Town of Philipstown, New York, will
hold a public hearing on Thursday, March 16, 2017 starting at 7:30 p.m. at the
Burrfield Library on Morris Avenue in Cold Spring, New York to consider the
following application:

Kristin Sorenson, 1000 Old Albany Post Road, Garrison TM#6-20-1-18.
The applicant is proposing a lot line adjustment between two adjacent parcels
along the east side of Old Albany Post Road. The proposal is to transfer
approximately 0.324 acres of land currently owned by Thompson/Watt,
representing an un-used, narrow access way to their lot, to Sorenson.

No new development is proposed. This land transfer is deemed a
subdivision pursuant to Chapter12 of the Town of Philipstown Code.

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

Dated at Philipstown, New York, this 22nd day of February, 2017.
Q: What are the top issues facing the village?
A: No.1 is repairing the dams, which has a myriad of implications. Another is the roof at the firehouse — that has to be done. We also need to begin addressing infrastructure beyond Main Street, including sidewalks, and take a hard look at the budget and address areas that are growing beyond our control. We addressed revenue increases for fiscal year 2016-17. Now we have to take a look at where we spend our money — all of our expenditures.

Q: Which of those initiatives is most vital and the toughest to address?
A: They can all be addressed. The issue is finding the money. The biggest bill will be for the dams.

Q: Is there an initiative where you failed to make as much progress as you hoped?
A: I’d like to have completed the Main Street Project. It is “substantially complete,” but the contractor was unable to plant the trees last fall. And we are still waiting to hear from Central Hudson regarding a study it has completed on new LED lighting.

Q: What will be your top priority if re-elected?
A: I’d like to get a better handle on grants. It’s not just the applications; if you get a grant there is a lot of reporting to do. I’d also like to do a better job on getting our refunds. There is Consolidated Local Street and Highway Improvement Program money available to us, for example, but I need to get all the paperwork done.

Q: What is most difficult about being a trustee?
A: The volume of material that I’m required to understand; today it was a Bond Anticipation Note. Keeping up with the information flow is difficult. Doing a responsible job as trustee involves a lot more than two-hour meetings three times a month.

Q: What might be done to unify the community?
A: I wish I knew how to build a dam! I've heard of a divide and it breaks my heart. We are all hard-working people. We're all in this together. If we're going to think about division then it’s going to get worse. Having more meetings, and having more balance, more residents on committees would help. Also being out there more, going to the seniors to see how they are doing, looking at projects frequently, going up to the dams.

Q: What knowledge or skill would you need to be an effective trustee?
A: We’re at about a 7. We can do better on Facebook. I posted something recently that got about 200 hits — not bad in a small village. We’ve done more video of meetings. The clerk does email blasts to announce public hearings and the like. And the press covers our meetings. The onus runs both ways though. We’re not going to knock on peoples’ doors. If you want to know, there are ways to find out.

Q: Where has the current board come up short in your view?
A: The Boat Club: The village needs to honor the lease, with stipulations covering residents’ concerns, such as noise levels. The building needs to be put back up. Historically it has been there for a long time. The club is something positive for hard-working people, a way to enjoy the village where they pay taxes. The Fjord Trail: there is no plan for managing all the people who are going to come here. We can’t even manage the weekend now. I’m also concerned about residents who have lived here for generations but can no longer afford to. Things have to get resolved. Issues cannot be outstanding anymore. We need to have public meetings to hear people’s concerns.

Q: What would be your priorities if re-elected?
A: First, settle the lawsuits. Get our budget under our belt. Start helping our firemen. Get our parking resolved. Fix the dam. And be out there with the people — accountable and available.

Q: What knowledge or skill would you need to be an effective trustee?
A: I wish I knew how to build a dam! I'm quick to learn. I research. I read. I'd give up my time to learn and get the job done. I'm here to get things done.
Dear greater Cold Spring area residents:

Thank you to those who attended last November’s public meeting on the Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail. What began as a kickoff of the environmental review process for the trail quickly became an outpouring of views by some Cold Spring residents over the impacts of high visitation on village life and sensitive natural areas.

While the Fjord Trail planning project hasn’t caused these conditions, we were happy to provide a platform for open dialogue about them. We got a clear sense that visitation levels reached a tipping point in summer 2015, with the village attracting even more visitors last summer. Evidence suggests this trend will continue.

Clearly, Cold Spring needs a visitor congestion management strategy to ensure quality of life can be protected in the face of growing visitation to Hudson Highlands State Park Preserve as well as the village as a destination site. Fortunately, a proven formula exists—a strategy developed by the National Park Service for gateways into some of its parks. Among its recommendations:

- Formalize parking areas and place more controls on parking, such as no parking zones or metered parking.
- Use electronic systems to help reduce unnecessary movement, such as early notification that a parking lot is full.
- Improve public transportation—e.g., provide a shuttle.
- Make traffic improvements—better wayfinding to direct visitors, enhanced crosswalks, reduced speed limits.
- Inform people about trip planning, such as providing early notification if an area is congested and suggestions for less crowded alternatives.

What this makes clear is that if designed with these considerations in mind, the Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail will function as a visitor congestion management strategy. It will add controls around parking, lower the speed limit and improve pedestrian crossings on Route 9D, as well as support infrastructure to move pedestrians quickly and safely through the village.

In fact, this project started with a group of residents who wanted to improve pedestrian safety along Route 9D. Soon, they realized the trail also could support Main Street businesses and enhance quality of life. From there, the idea took off—attracting an impressive coalition of local, municipal, regional and state groups. Construction of improved and expanded formalized parking already is underway. More parking and the first trail sections (north of Breakneck) will commence soon. However, based on your input, we will review the recommended improvements again to determine if more congestion management techniques should be included.

We’re committed to working with Cold Spring area residents to ensure the project does all it can to serve as a congestion management tool. Already, we’re working closely with NYS Parks to coordinate how the trail’s management strategies dovetail with those under discussion for Hudson Highlands State Park Preserve and with NYS DOT to look at safety measures along Route 9D.

While no single entity can address the challenges high visitation pose to quality of life and natural habitat, the strong coalition behind the Fjord Trail has a significant opportunity to make meaningful, sustained improvements. We look forward to continued discussion with area residents and businesses to help find the right combination of tools and techniques to make life in Cold Spring and recreation in the Hudson Highlands safer and more peaceful for all.

Linda Cooper
Regional Director, Taconic Region, NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation

Amy Kacala
Scenic Hudson, Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail Project Manager
March 3, 2017

The Highlands Current

County Evaluates Impact of Nuclear Plant Closure (from Page 1)

Sutton said there are not only concerns about the impact of the closing on the plant’s 1,000 employees (“Everybody who works there makes a good salary,” he said) but on the economy in Putnam County.

He said his department, for example, expects to suffer a $420,000 loss in revenue provided by Entergy for emergency services, and that the company also underwrites firefighter training and safety drills and funds community events such as fireworks. “It’s going to be a big hit,” said Sutton.

Sutton said funding to the county from Entergy won’t dry up immediately, because the plant will still require maintenance and safety work while it is decommissioned. For example, he said, for about 16 months after spent fuel is loaded into a pool, it needs to be monitored because if the pool loses water, the rods can spontaneously combust in what is called a zirconium fire. After that period passes, the monitor centers and response organizations located off-site can close.

Sutton also explained that Entergy has been banking money over the years to help with the cost of the eventual closure of the plant. “There’s a large pot of money available for cleaning up the site and making it safe,” he said.

It is likely the buildings onsite will eventually be demolished, he added.

Bill Nulk, president of the Mahopac-based Putnam County Chamber of Commerce who also serves on the board of the Putnam County Industrial Development Agency, warned legislators that if a reliable replacement of the energy to be lost by the closure is not found and energy prices become destabilized, businesses will not want to come into or remain in Putnam County. “If you lose that and you can’t replace it, that’s a big detriment to attracting the businesses that we need in this area,” he said.

In addition, the many Putnam residents who are employed by the plant will be left without income, which will also impact ancillary businesses such as restaurants and groceries, he said.

He asked legislators to stay on the heels of “the powers that be” to make sure the region finds a replacement energy source to keep people working, keep energy available and rates manageable.

In a blog post in January, Jennifer Maher, the chamber’s board chair, expressed similar concerns. “Entergy has been a good community citizen and an active participant in bolstering the economy of the lower Hudson Valley,” Maher wrote. “This is going to create quite a mess, and the question to be asked is, ‘Why?’”

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He asked legislators to stay on the heels of “the powers that be” to make sure the region finds a replacement energy source to keep people working, keep energy available and rates manageable.

In a blog post in January, Jennifer Maher, the chamber’s board chair, expressed similar concerns. “Entergy has been a good community citizen and an active participant in bolstering the economy of the lower Hudson Valley,” Maher wrote. “This is going to create quite a mess, and the question to be asked is, ‘Why?’”

Sutton also explained that Entergy has been banking money over the years to help with the cost of the eventual closure of the plant. “There’s a large pot of money available for cleaning up the site and making it safe,” he said.

It is likely the buildings onsite will eventually be demolished, he added.
For Susan Walsh, inspiration comes in waves

By Alison Rooney

I n talking about what inspires her art, Susan Walsh often uses words like compelled, contemplated, observed and noticed. “I noticed how old Polaroids were curled up,” she says. “It reminded me of leaves.” Or, she says, “one day I noticed how when peeling wallpaper fell to the ground it formed a sculpture, and that made me think about what we put in our homes and how it comes and goes.”

Walsh, a Beacon resident whose work will be exhibited in a solo show at the Matteawan Gallery there beginning March 11, could be described as a “noticer.” Consider her Wave Drawings series. “I mostly work with light and I wanted to try other elements,” she explains. “I tried wind, and it didn’t work. Then an idea came to me: couldn’t I collaborate with the waves? Couldn’t I mark a moment in time with a wave?”

After drawing a line of gouache across the center of a piece of paper, Walsh holds it down in shallow ocean water as waves wash over. The motion of the waves records her location and a specific moment in time. “When they’re shown in a line, you can see the time the tide crashed through it; you can almost see the tide in it,” she says. “You get the energy of the water. Seen as a group you get the idea of horizon and the water pushing and pulling.”

In Walsh’s Only The Sun Can Prove That I Am Useful series, noticing and marking are again factors. After spotting a sundial on the ground near her home, Walsh became fascinated by them. Spotting nails on a wall, and the shadows they created, Walsh made a connection to the sundial and made sculptures of wood panels using paint, nails and the graphite. This reminded her of connections made between one gallery and another at Dia:Beacon, which she visits often, and she noted the GPS coordinates between them and recreated it sculpturally.

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Walsh then photographed the panels and printed one version of each on drawing paper. Her photos capture a specific moment when

(Continued on Page 12)

The Calendar

‘Greece is Our Happy Place’

Greek goods store to open in Cold Spring

By Alison Rooney

C hristine Zouzias and her family have been enamored of the ancient isles of Greece since her first trip to the country in 1988. “Greece is our happy place,” she explains. Now she hopes to import a bit of its charm to the Highlands with her store, Meraki, which is scheduled to open in Cold Spring on Saturday, March 11. Along with Pink Olive and Flowercup Wine, it is part of a trio of new businesses on Main Street at the intersection with Fair Street.

Although commonly mistaken for Greek, Zouzias, who has lived in Cold Spring with her husband, Christos, and their three children (now all adults) since 2001, is Italian. Christos (who works in the maintenance department at Haldane) is half-Greek; his father was born there. Christine grew up on Staten Island and Christos in Yonkers — they met in his father’s village, no one speaks English, and we get taken around to people’s houses — they bake the bread and invite us in to taste their olive oil, their cheeses.”

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(Continued on Page 12)
FRIDAY, MAR. 3

Erica Hauser (Opening)
5 – 7 p.m. McCaffrey Realty
140 Main St., Cold Spring
845-265-4113 | mccaffreyrealty.com

Bernard Mindich: On Reflection (Opening)
6 – 8 p.m. Buster Levy Gallery
121 Main St., Cold Spring
845-809-5145 | busterlevigallery.com

Group Show: Duality of Feminine and Feminist (Opening)
6 – 9 p.m. Gallery 66 NY
66 Main St., Cold Spring
845-424-3900 | philipstowndepottheatre.org

Lend Me a Tenor
6 p.m. Clove Creek Dinner Theater
18 Westage Business Center Dr., Fishkill
845-202-7778 | clovecreekdinnertheater.com

Shabbat Across America
6 p.m. St. Mary’s (Parish House)
845-424-3900 | philipstownreformsynagogue.org

Sabbath Across America
8:30 p.m. Reform Temple of Putnam Valley
362 Church Road, Putnam Valley
845-528-4774 | rtpv.org

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

SATURDAY, MAR. 4

A Garden of Colors (Talk)
10 a.m. Putnam Valley Free Library
500 Old Larkin Rd., Putnam Valley
845-528-3242 | putnamvalleylibrary.org

Eagle Walk
10 a.m. Audubon Sanctuary
127 Warren Landing Rd., Garrison
845-809-5065 | manitoucountryschool.org

Shabbat Across America
9 a.m. Putnam Valley Synagogue
407 East Lake Rd., Huguenot
845-627-2006 | putnamvalleysynagogue.org

Rickie Peete, with Mike Heintzman and John Halverson
7 p.m. Historic Courthouse
110 River St., Beacon
845-297-6800 | buttermilklibrary.org

Sunny Side Live: Make a New Friend
10:30 a.m. & 2 p.m. Mid-Hudson Civic Center
14 Civic Center Plaza, Poughkeepsie
845-454-5800 | midhudsonciviccenter.org

Southern Dutchess NAACP
10:30 a.m. Anthony J. D’Amico Family YWCA
31 Main St., Beacon
845-242-7822 | facebook.com/naacpsd

The Highlands Current Calendar Highlights
For upcoming events visit highlandscurrent.com. Send event listings to calendar@highlandscurrent.com

Maple Sugar Tours
11 a.m. – 3 p.m. Outdoor Discovery Center
100 Muser Drive, Cornwall
845-534-5016 | hbtnaturemuseum.org

St. David’s Day (Patron Saint of Wales) Party
Noon – 3 p.m. The Country Goose
115 Main St., Cold Spring
845-265-2122

22nd Annual Dutchess County St. Patrick’s Parade
1 p.m. Route 9D, Wappingers Falls
845-297-0800 | dsscpc.org

Open House
1 – 3 p.m. Manitou School
1650 Route 9D, Cold Spring
845-809-5600 | manitoucountryschool.org

Dr. Seuss Birthday Party
1 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library
472 Route 403, Garrison
845-424-3020 | desmondfishlibrary.org

Lend Me a Tenor
6 p.m. Clove Creek Dinner Theater
18 Westage Business Center Dr., Fishkill
845-202-7778 | clovecreekdinnertheater.com

100 Women’s History Month Art Exhibit (Opening)
3 – 6 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
472 Route 403, Garrison
845-765-3012 | howlandculturalcenter.org

School Invitational Theme Exhibition (Opening)
3 – 5 p.m. Garrison Art Center
23 Garrison’s Landing, Garrison
845-424-3960 | garrisonartcenter.org

Solea with Stephen (Opening)
6 p.m. Historic Courthouse
110 River St., Beacon
845-297-6800 | buttermilklibrary.org

SUNDAY, MAR. 5

Maple Sugar Tours
11 a.m. – 3 p.m. Outdoor Discovery Center
100 Muser Drive, Cornwall
845-534-5016 | hbtnaturemuseum.org

Sesame Street Live: Make a New Friend
1 p.m. Mid-Hudson Civic Center
14 Civic Center Plaza, Poughkeepsie
845-454-5800 | midhudsonciviccenter.org

Sesame Street Live: Make a New Friend (First Session)
11:30 a.m. Beacon Recreation Center
23 West Center St., Beacon
845-265-2601 | beaconrec.org

Irish Dance
2 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library
845-424-3689 | gdfsbody.org

Make the Forest Great Again (Puppet Musical)
2 & 8 p.m. Philipstown Depot Theatre
10 Garrison’s Landing, Garrison
845-424-3900 | philipstowndepottheatre.org

Dionne Warwick
7 p.m. Paramount Hudson Valley
1098 Brown St., Peekskill
914-739-0039 | paramounthudsonvalley.com

Hudson Valley Restaurant Week Begins
valleytable.com/hwr

Art & Sensory Exploration (ages 18 mo. to 3)
10:15 a.m. Create Community
See details under Sunday.

Defensive Driving (First Session)
6 – 9 p.m. Beacon Recreation Center
Call 914-329-8226 to register.

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

TUESDAY, MAR. 7

Garrison School Budget Workshop
9 a.m. Garrison School
1100 Route 9D, Garrison
845-424-3689 | gdfsbody.org

Zumba Gold for Seniors (First Session)
8 & 8:15 p.m. Philipstown Depot Theatre
10 Garrison’s Landing, Garrison
845-424-3900 | philipstowndepottheatre.org

Hudson Valley Poets Poetry Night
8 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
See details under Saturday.

WEDNESDAY, MAR. 8

International Women’s Day
Fit for Life for Seniors (First Session)
9 a.m. Garrison School
1100 Route 9D, Garrison
845-424-3689 | gdfsbody.org

Dionne Warwick
7 p.m. Paramount Hudson Valley
1098 Brown St., Peekskill
914-739-0039 | paramounthudsonvalley.com

MONDAY, MAR. 6

Hudson Valley Restaurant Week Begins
valleytable.com/hwr

Eagle Walk
10 a.m. Audubon Sanctuary
127 Warren Landing Rd., Garrison
845-809-5065 | manitoucountryschool.org

Sandy Galef Town Hall Meeting
10 a.m. Desmond-Fish Library
472 Route 403, Garrison
845-424-3020 | desmondfishlibrary.org

Sunday Services for Seniors (First Session)
2 & 8 p.m. Philipstown Depot Theatre
10 Garrison’s Landing, Garrison
845-424-3900 | philipstowndepottheatre.org

THURSDAY, MAR. 9

Great Books: Excellence and Its Discontents (Reading Series)
6:30 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library
See details under Thursday.

History of Hops in the Hudson Valley (Talk)
7 p.m. Beacon Sloop Club
2 Red Flynn Dr., Beacon
845-463-4660 | beaconsloopclub.org

Neko Case
8 p.m. Paramount Hudson Valley
See details under Thursday.

Chess and Backgammon Club
8 p.m. Chill Wine Bar
173 Main St., Beacon
845-235-8833

FRIDAY, MAR. 10

Family Bingo & Pasta Night
6:30 p.m. Philipstown Recreation Center
See details under Friday.

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

Company
8 p.m. Philipstown Depot Theatre
See details under March 3.

Hudson Valley Poets Poetry Night
8 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
See details under Saturday.

Visit highlandscurrent.com for news updates and latest information.
dolmades (grape leaves), cans of gigante beans and regional olive oils, including from the Zouzias family groves.

Zouzias says she was inspired to open Meraki while figuring out what she was going to do with herself after her youngest child left for college. (She left a long-time job at the Hastings Center in Garrison to start the business.) A week after the couple put down a deposit on the storefront, they made an impromptu trip to Greece for a buying and planning tour. Christine was not unprepared; she had already logged hours online researching handmade Greek products not available in the U.S.

As so often seems to happen in Greece, the trip included many unplanned encounters. For example, while taking a ferry to the island of Aegina to visit a soap factory, the couple met an elderly shipping broker who insisted on visiting their third-floor walk-up, where he talked for hours about neighborhoods where they could find unusual crafts. While walking one of his routes, they came upon a shop where a young couple was making bowties and watches from wood.

After their return to Cold Spring, Zouzias spent the next few months waiting for her ships to come in with her stock. She says she had to learn quickly about consolidated container shipping, customs brokers and import regulations.

Meraki, located at 82 Main St., will be open Wednesdays through Sundays. See mymerakishop.com or call 845-666-7600.

It’s Maple Syrup Time

With maples dominating local forests, there are a number of chances in March to see how trees are tapped and the sap is made into syrup while enjoying the tasty results on pancakes.

The annual maple festival at the Hudson Valley Maple Farm at the Taconic Outdoor Education Center in Fahnestock State Park east of Cold Spring, will be held Sunday, March 12, from 8:30 a.m. to noon; it includes a pancake breakfast and tour of the boiling operation. Breakfast is $10 for adults and $6 for children ages 5 to 12. (Children ages 4 and younger are free.) Call 845-265-3773. The center is located at 75 Mountain Laurel Lane, off Route 301.

The Randolph School in Wappingers Falls will host its annual Maple Fest on Saturday, March 11, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Jacob and David Bernz will lead a Pete Seeger sing-a-long as part of a dedication of a new music space. Other activities include storytelling, face painting, crafts and hikes, as well as demonstrations of collecting and boiling sap to make syrup. A pancake lunch served from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. costs $10 for adults, $5 for children or $25 per family. Call 845-297-5600.

The Hudson Highlands Nature Museum in Cornwall will offer tours of its syrup operation every weekend in March. See hhnm.org for tour times and tickets. Admission is $8 to $10 per person.
Another series, *Only Mark The Bright Hours*, evokes the sundial more directly, on wood panels painted bright yellow, upon which straight graphite lines contrast with loose linear threads. The threads' shadows serve as a reminder of the incremental changes in landscape caused by sunlight.

After growing up in Chicago and spending her 20s there (she earned a master’s in fine art from the University of Illinois at Chicago), Walsh moved to New Mexico, living for five years in a place where, as she puts it, “the open sky helped me to see things in a different way, and gave me a contemplative practice.” At age 40 she moved to New York City and later Beacon, where her studio in the old Beacon High School contains “glorious light which streams through huge windows,” she says.

Walsh moved to New York for a number of reasons. “As an artist I knew I would have a much broader audience, and also there's something about leaving the place that you grew up in that creates new worlds for you,” she explains. “My work changed so much because everything was so creative, vibrant and new. I do well with extreme contrasts and my work is really ‘quiet,’ whereas New York is like my fire tunnel.”

Her exhibit, *Only Mark the Bright Hours*, continues at Matteawan through April 2. The gallery, at 436 Main St., is open from noon to 5 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays. Call 845-440-7901.
Obituary

Dr. Mary Ellen Finger (1951-2017)

Dr. Mary Ellen Finger, 65, co-owner with her husband, Dave Vickery, of Horsemen Trail Farm in Philipstown, died Feb. 8, 2017.

Born in Larned, Kansas on Dec. 30, 1951, she was the daughter of Leonard and Agnes (Bondracek) Finger. She graduated from Kansas State University, where she was one of only four women in her class, with a doctorate in veterinary medicine. She also later held a license in massage therapy.

Dr. Finger moved to New York City, where she founded the East Village Veterinary Clinic. She retired in the early 1990s after a cancer diagnosis and moved to the 20-acre Horsemen Trail Farm, off Route 9 in the North Highlands, with the goal of providing healthy food for herself and her family. Her mantra of “let good food be your medicine” was a driving force in her life.

Mary Ellen’s father instilled in her the idea that land is always a good investment, and she had a passion for real-estate development. She bought and sold properties in Philipstown and New York City, including a derelict East Village building she converted into a 12-unit condominium with space for her family and veterinary clinic. She met her husband while working on a house renovation at 4 Garden St., in Cold Spring.

Her insatiable thirst for health knowledge was evidenced by her passion for books, workshops and conferences as a participant or speaker. Locally she served on the boards of the Putnam County Agricultural and Farm Land Protection Board and the Philipstown Planning Board. She also had a keen sense of adventure and travelled extensively, carefully planning each trip with an emphasis on being as thrifty as possible.

Besides her husband, she is survived by her mother, Agnes Finger of Larned; her children, Johanna Altmann and Leonard Altmann, both of Cold Spring; her brothers, Mark Finger of Lawrence, Kansas, Tom Finger of El Dorado, Kansas, and Greg Finger of Belpre, Kansas; and her sisters, Margaret Scheufler of Sterling, Kansas, Susan Latimore of Larned and Phoenix, and Julie Borchardt of Wallpole, Massachusetts.

Mary Ellen’s drive to educate people about their health choices led her and her husband to co-found the Red Chapel Center, a facility which includes the historic red chapel building that the couple purchased in 2014 and relocated from Route 9D to the farm. The center will include a Sustainable Living Library and the Kaqun oxygen bath therapy spa.

Memorial contributions or investments may be made at redchapelcenter.com. For more information, call 845-590-8846.
COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Lynne Ward, LCSW
Licensed Psychotherapist
Individuals • Couples • Adolescents • Children
Psychotherapy and Divorce Mediation
Addiction Counseling
75 Main Street
Cold Spring, NY 10516
(917) 597-6905
lynneward99@gmail.com
(845) 831-1134, ext. 103

Student Work on Display
Center hosts artists from 12 schools

The Garrison Art Center will open its annual School Invitational Theme Exhibition and Mentor Program on Saturday, March 4, with a reception from 3 to 5 p.m. With the assistance of mentors, students from 12 schools, including Hal dane, Garrison and the Beacon district, addressed the theme “iconoPOP!” using the media, politics, social issues and the economy. The show will be on display until March 12. See garrisonartcenter.org.

Sign and Sing
Free Beacon class for children

A free three-session weekly class called Sign & Sing begins on Wednesday, March 8, at the Howland Public Library in Beacon. Taught by Lydia Adams Davis, a singer and songwriter with a master’s degree in deaf education, the classes will teach sign language to parents and caregivers and children ages 3 to 6 using music and furry friends. Registration is required by calling 845-831-1134, ext. 103, or emailing youth@beaconlibrary.org.

Feminine and Feminist

Gallery 66 NY has mounted a juried exhibit that continues through April 2 called Duality of Feminine and Feminist. Curated by Karen Gutfreund, who is known for promoting “art as activism,” it includes works from 29 artists. The gallery is open from noon to 5 p.m. Friday to Sunday. See gallery66ny.com.

Visit highlandscurrent.com for news updates and latest information.

One-Day Market
Handcrafted goods in Nelsonville

Create Community at 11 Peekskill Road in Nelsonville will host a one-day market on Saturday, March 11, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. with handcrafted and homemade goods, including home and garden items, sweets, jewelry, bath and body products, apparel, art and ceramics. See facebook.com/createcommunity.

The Story of Valhalla Highlands

An architect who specializes in conserving and restoring landmark buildings will speak about the cultural and historic significance of the Valhalla Highlands at the Putnam (Continued on next page)
Monk to Speak on Sacred Texts
Will visit Desmond-Fish Library on March 12

Khen Rinpoche, abbot of the Tashi Lhunpo Buddhist monastery in Bylakuppe, India, will speak at the Desmond-Fish Library in Garrison on March 2 p.m. on Sunday, March 12, on the way books are created, focusing in the U.S. for more than 30 years; his monastery in exile is currently raising funds to double the size of its library. See tashihunpo.org/projects.

Saturday, March 4
The 22nd Dutchess County St. Patrick’s Day Parade, with more than 3,000 participants, kicks off rain or shine at 1 p.m. along Route 9D in Wappingers Falls. For a map and lineup, see dcsppc.org.

Sunday, March 5
The Desmond-Fish Library in Garrison will host a free Irish dance performance at 2 p.m. by students from the Kelly Oster School of Irish Dance. At West Point’s Eisenhower Hall Theatre, Rhythm of the Dance will take the stage at 3 p.m. Tickets are $40 at ikenhall.com.

Saturday, March 11
The annual Parade of Green will be held on Main Street in Beacon starting at 11 a.m. See facebook.com/paradeofgreen. In Peekskill, the Annual St. Patrick’s Day Parade, with more than 3,000 participants, kicks off at 11 a.m. See facebook.com/peekskillparade.

Sunday, March 12
The Greymoor Spiritual Life Center in Garrison will host its annual corned beef and cabbage buffet at about 12:30 p.m. (after the 11 a.m. liturgy at the Chapel of our Lady of the Atonement). The buffet is $20 for adults and $10 for children ages 6 and older. (Children ages 5 and younger are free.) Call 845-424-2111 for reservations.

At the Paramount Hudson Valley, Celtic Crossings with Phil Coulter and Andy Cooney will share “an evening of Celtic tranquility” at 3 p.m. to benefit the Franciscan Sisters of the Atonement at Graymoor. Guests include Geraldine Branagan and the Irish Pops Ensemble. Tickets are $30 to $55.

Friday, March 17
(St. Patrick’s Day)

The Hudson Highlands Nature Museum invites children to its program on St. Patrick’s Day. Snakes at the Outdoor Discovery Center in Cornwall. It begins at 6 p.m. See hhnm.org. The Butterfield Library in Cold Spring will host a St. Patrick’s Day edition of its monthly Minecraft Mania at 6:30 p.m.

Joe’s Irish Pub at 455 Main St. in Beacon will have live Irish music all day and corned beef and cabbage from noon to 6 p.m.

A free St. Patrick’s Day dance party will take place at 8 p.m. at the Fred Astaire Dance Studio on Route 9 in Cold Spring, with a group lesson at 7 p.m. Call 845-424-6353.

The New McKrells will perform their Celtic-influenced “folkgrass” at the Towne Crier at 8:30 p.m. Tickets are $20. The following week, on March 18, the Irish family band Glancy Tradition will take the stage at 8:30 p.m. Tickets are $25.

History Museum
Will visit Desmond-Fish Library on March 12

Kken Rinpoche, abbot of the Tashi Lhunpo Buddhist monastery in Bylakuppe, India, will speak at the Desmond-Fish Library in Garrison on March 12, on the way books are created, focusing in the U.S. for more than 30 years; his monastery in exile is currently raising funds to double the size of its library. See tashihunpo.org/projects.

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Summer at the Farm (Camp)
By Michael Turton

A number of close-to-home summer camps help children and teenagers appreciate the importance of the slogan, “No Farms, No Food.” Each camp offers scholarships.

Common Ground
At Common Ground, located just north of Beacon at the Stony Kill Environmental Center, campers are organized into groups of 12 to explore their relationship with food and nature. Its “classrooms” are the garden, pond, field, barn and trails. Weekly themes include animals, living wild, farmers and living off the land, science at the farm, nature and art, think like a chef and local food with global flavor.

Day camps for children ages 3 to 12 run weekdays from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., from July 17 through Sept. 1. Before- and after-care is available. For registrations completed before April 1, the cost is $210 per week for half day and $260 per week for full-day programs. There is also an eight-week counselor-in-training program for students ages 13 to 16 for $600. Visit commongroundfarm.org or email Education Director Sember Weinman at sember@commongroundfarm.org.

Sprout Creek
Located in Dutchess County, Sprout Creek Farm offers day and overnight camps on a 200-acre dairy farm that includes a creamery. Children interact with the animals while learning what it takes to run a farm. Summer is the busiest time for milk production from cows and goats, the vegetable garden is full and the creek is finally warm enough to take a dip.

Week-long day camps for children ages 5 to 11 are held from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. for eight sessions beginning June 26. Early arrival and late stay are available. The fee is $395 per week.

Weeklong overnight boys’, girls’ and co-ed camps include morning chores and meals cooked with chefs trained at the Culinary Institute of America. The cost ranges from $1,100 to $1,300 per week. A session also takes place from July 5 to 7 for $550. See sproutcreekfarm.org or email info@sproutcreekfarm.org.

Phillies Bridge
Located south of New Paltz, the Phillies Bridge Farm Project offers one-week and two-week day camps for children ages 4 to 12. The 65-acre farm includes vegetable fields, an herb garden, a discovery garden, woodlands, wetlands, rolling pastures, trails and views of the Shawangunk Ridge. The one-week camp is Farm Camp (starting June 26) and the two-week camps are Farm Fresh Cooking (July 10 and Aug. 7) and Forests and Fields (July 24).

The camps take place from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The fees are $325 for the Farm Camp and $525 and $650 for the two-week camps. See philliesbridge.org or email Camp Director Jasmine Wood at jasmine@philliesbridge.org.

Muscoot Farm
Located on Route 100 in Katonah, Muscoot is owned by the Westchester County Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation. It offers a Young Farmers camp for children entering grades 1 to 8 in which campers help take care of the animals and complete daily chores as well as hiking, cooking and doing crafts. The child-to-counselor ratio is 6 to 1.

The weeklong camp is offered from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. during six weekly sessions starting July 10. The cost is $350 per week. See muscootfarm.org.

And for high school students...

The nonprofit Stone Barns Center for Food & Agriculture near Sleepy Hollow offers 11th and 12th graders, as well as motivated 10th graders, an “intensive, delicious and mind-opening exploration of food and farming” in two-week sessions that begin June 26, July 10 and Aug. 7.

The Summer Institute, which runs weekdays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., costs $1,510 to $1,675 per session. See stonebarnscenter.org or email summerinstitute@stonebarnscenter.org.
Summer Science & Nature Camp
- Week-long day camp for ages 4 to 15
- Changing science & nature themes
- Fascinating field trips each week
- Early drop off & late pick-up options
July 3 to August 21
- Experienced staff
- Beautiful location in Cornwall, NY

For information visit www.hhnm.org or call 845-534-5506 ext. 211

Summer Camp at Sprout Creek Farm

Summer marks the height of activity at Sprout Creek Farm.
Day and overnight campers will:
- Care for and learn about animals
- Work in our garden
- Cook with CIA-trained chefs
- Do crafts and farm projects
- Explore our creek & pastures
- Get excited about animals, fresh foods and their environment
- A true Farm-to-Table experience

For more information, visit our website at www.sproutcreekfarm.org or email Katie Williams, Director of Education and Camps at camps@sproutcreekfarm.org.

NEW! DANCE EXPLORATION WITH KATIE BISSINGER
July 10-14, Ages 6-11, 9am-noon, $180 for the week
Performance on Friday, July 14 at noon
Each day of the week during this special camp, dancers will explore a different kind of dance- ballet, modern, tap, jazz and musical theater.

PRE-BALLET & LOWER SCHOOL I BALLET
Wednesdays, June 28, July 5, 12 & 19, Ages 3-6
9:30-10:30am, $60 for the 4 class session
For our youngest dancers, this class, taught by Katie Bissinger, encourages a love of movement and sets the foundation for classical dance.

BEGINNING TAP
Wednesdays, June 28, July 5, 12 & 19, Ages 5+
10:30-11:30am, $60 for the 4 class session
Students will learn the fundamentals of Broadway tap with former Rockette Katie Bissinger.

MUSICAL THEATER AND BALLET INTENSIVES!
Ballet: August 7-11
Musical Theatre: August 14-18
10am-4pm, Ages 12+
$375 for the week
Performance on Friday at 6pm
During these two separate five-day programs, mornings will be devoted to warm-up and dance training. In the afternoons, Musical Theater will workshop a Broadway performance piece and Ballet will work on Variations, with each having a studio performance on Friday. Musical Theater taught by Katie Bissinger.

BALLET, MODERN AND JAZZ TECHNIQUE CLASSES
June 13-15, 20-22, 27-29 and August 22-24, 5:30-7pm
Ages 12+, $18 single class or $50 for 3 classes
Tues - Jazz / Wed - Ballet / Thurs - Modern
Technique classes in a different discipline each day- Jazz, Ballet and Modern- taught by Ballet Arts Studio faculty.

Training dancers since 1961

Ballet Arts Studio

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Training dancers since 1961

Ballet Arts Studio
Keep your kids active this summer!

Camp FIT Open House
Sat. April 22nd
11am – 2pm
All Sport Outdoor Club

Camp FIT at All Sport is an active summer day camp for ages 4 – 14. Take a tour, meet the counselors! Your kids can try QuickStart Tennis, bounce in our castle, try our GaGa Pit, new 9 Square game, make arts & crafts and more! Special Tennis, Swim & Teen Travel Camps!

- Hands-on experience with a variety of Instruments
- Kids will create their own bands and drum corps
- They will romp and play musical theater games in Memorial Park (next door to BMF!)
- Jam sessions with our pro- musician teachers
- Musical instrument inventing and building
- They’ll even accompany a silent film

WIN GREAT PRIZES!
Enter to win a week of Camp FIT & door prizes at the Open House!

WANT MORE INFO? GET IT AT 845.896.5678
ALLSPORTHEALTHANDFITNESS.COM

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Building Boats
2017 Summer River Workshop
Rowing on the River

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9 am to 3 pm
July 10 - 14
July 17 - 21
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for kids grades 6 through 12

Register or more info:
call 845.265.4290
or e-mail
director@buildingboats.org

www.buildingboats.org

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MUSIC FACTORY CAMP
(Full Day Camp for Kids Ages 5-12)
Inspire your child with a musical experience like no other!

- Hands-on experience with a variety of Instruments
- Kids will create their own bands and drum corps
- They will romp and play musical theater games in Memorial Park (next door to BMF!)
- Jam sessions with our pro- musician teachers
- Musical instrument inventing and building
- They’ll even accompany a silent film

OTHER CAMPS AT BMF:
TEEN ROCK BAND CAMP (Half day)
 Tween Rock Band Camps (Half day)
 Adult Rock Band Camp Intensive (Full Day)

Each camp is for one week, Monday thru Friday, with a performance on Friday.

Schedule & Registration at www.beaconmusicfactory.com
333 Fishkill Ave, Beacon NY // play@beaconmusicfactory.com // 845-765-0472
Camp Guide

All Sport Camp Fit (Fishkill)
845-896-5678 | allsportfishkill.com

Ballet Arts Studio (Beacon)
845-831-1870 | balletartsstudio.com

Beacon Music Factory (Beacon)
845-765-0472 | beaconmusicfactory.com

Building Bridges Building Boats (Cold Spring)
845-265-4290 | buildingboats.org

Camp Hillcroft (Lagrangeville)
845-223-5826 | camphillcroft.com

Common Ground Farm (Wappingers Falls)
845-231-4424 | commongroundfarm.org

Garrison Art Center (Garrison)
845-424-3960 | garrisonartcenter.org

Hudson Highlands Nature Museum (Cornwall)
845-534-5506 x211 | hhnm.org

Shakespeare Camp (Cold Spring)
845-809-5750 x13 | hvshakespeare.org

Shattemuc Sailing Camp (Ossining)
914-941-8777 | shattemucyc.org

Sprout Creek Farm (Poughkeepsie)
845-485-8438 | sproutcreekfarm.org

For more camps, see highlandscurrent.com/camps

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Offering sailing instruction and safety skills for young people ages 9-16

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Email us at sailingacademy@shattemucyc.org and visit at www.shattemucyc.org

Shattemuc Yacht Club, 46 Westerly Road, Ossining, New York (Next to Boathouse Restaurant)

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Summer Arts on the Hudson (K – 8th grade)

JULY 17 – AUGUST 4
Summer Art Institute (grades 9 – 12)
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Programs fill quickly—sign up early!

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garrisonartcenter.org

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or email: education@commongroundfarm.org
Is Playing Video Games a 'Sport?'

Of course, says Garrison resident who co-founded first professional league

By Brian PJ Cronin

In 2009, Sundance DiGiovanni and his business partners met with the video-game company Activision Blizzard, which owns the bestselling Call of Duty and World of Warcraft series. Their pitch wasn’t an idea for a game but for a new way of playing them: Professionally.

DiGiovanni, who lives in Garrison with his family, cofounded Major League Gaming in 2002 with a fellow gamer and co-worker, Mike Sepso, based on the premise that if ESPN could turn street lug and bungee jumping into professional sports via the X Games, there was no reason video gaming couldn’t follow the same path. Activision Blizzard said the concept was interesting but unlikely to evolve into anything substantial.

That was the wrong call. Today Major League Gaming streams multi-day tournaments and programming on MLG.tv that reaches more than 500 million people monthly in 175 nations. Its gaming platform, Battlegrounds, has more than 9 million members. It hosts regular tournaments in Las Vegas, Atlanta and other cities in which teams compete at Call of Duty or other games for prize money. That’s when, he says, he knew that somebody was going to create something, and that we could be the ones to get in early and build the infrastructure and the model for what professional video gaming would look like.

DiGiovanni says he studied NASCAR and professional wrestling to learn how to build grass-roots support for a sport but also saw the United States Tennis Association as a model for a system in which novice players could work their way into the big leagues.

“We always wanted to hold onto that aspirational model of it,” he says. “Once you have your computer, your mouse and your headset, you can compete in the same arena with the best in the world.”

While millions of people watch games through MLG.tv, which is headquartered in New York City and also produces programs such as “eSports Report,” those interested in seeing if they have the skill to go pro can join GameBattles to chase cash, points and a seat at an MLG tournament. (The next event is a Call of Duty competition in Forth Worth, Texas, from March 17 to 19.) GameBattles organizes tournaments for more than 80 games, including Call of Duty, Destiny, Doom, Mortal Kombat, Halo, Overwatch, a number of sports titles and even Uno and Mario Kart. You can compete as a single player or as part of a team. The prizes are typically a few hundred dollars.

“At first, you’re going to get stomped,” DiGiovanni says. “You have to put in the time. Just like if I want to make the baseball team, I’m going to hit the batting cage. Play with improvement in mind. Watch a tournament, or one of our events, watch what the pros do, how they play, how they identify patterns. It’s all about pattern recognition. And have fun. Because if nothing else, you’re going to make friends and meet like-minded people from all over the world.”

Now that DiGiovanni has children of his own, he plays against them more than with friends. But he still enjoys basketball and other outdoor sports. “I made the move to cut down on screen time in our house, so we’re playing a lot of board games,” he says. “But it’s still competitive. Even when we play chess, my youngest son keeps track of how many times he wins against his mom.”

DiGiovanni hasn’t gone cold turkey, of course.

“I play a lot of Clash Royale on my iPhone,” he admits. “I’m ranked in the top 1,000 players globally, which is pretty crazy but also shows you how addicted to it I am.”

DiGiovanni continued at New York University, where DiGiovanni and friends would play months-long seasons of NHL Hockey on a single Sega Genesis console by tracking the results on graph paper.

After he graduated, DiGiovanni and his roommates and friends held late-night Tekken and Halo tournaments in their Tribeca loft, with consoles hooked to projectors and prize money. That’s when, he says, he had an epiphany that would change his life: While dozens of people showed up to play, dozens more came just to watch.

“That was 2002,” he says. “I thought about how the internet was getting faster, computers were getting better and consoles were starting to get connected online. It seemed obvious this was the beginning of something, and that we could be the ones to get in early and build the infrastructure and the model for what professional video gaming would look like.”

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