

The HIGHLANDS Current



Depot Folk with Mike & Ruthy
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MARCH 17, 2017

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



SNOWWHERE TO GO — A view of Ashley Biniakewitz's car at 2 p.m. on March 14 on Grove Street in Beacon. She decided to stay home from work. For more photos from the storm, see Page 13.

Photo by Joel Vetsch

Mother Nature Smackdown

Late snowstorm buries Highlands

By Anita Peltonen

February should have been our most wintry month, according to forecasters. So how did we end up with monster snow from winter storm Stella on March 14 and 15 (22 inches fell, according to an instrument measure on Route

9 near Route 301 in Cold Spring) just as the daffodils were about to blaze out?

It was a full moon. It was the ides of March. It was ... Mother Nature, and two of her most unruly children, El Niño and La Niña, who had a smackdown that helped switch out March's warm

(Continued on Page 18)



Niño vs Niña

Illustration by Lyle Booth

Board and Mayoral Candidates Make Case at Forum

Clash over firehouse, legal challenges, tourism

On March 13, *The Current* hosted a forum between the four candidates for two open seats on the Cold Spring Village Board, as well as the two candidates for mayor. The questions posed by reporters Michael Turton and Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong and the candidates' responses below have been edited for space. Additional questions and responses are posted at highlandscurrent.com, along with videos of each forum. The polls will be open from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. Tuesday, March 21, at the firehouse on Main Street.

On the need for firehouse repairs

Peggy Schatzle (challenger): I will find different ways to help firefighters because it's a disgrace that they have been putting up with these problems. It is falling apart. This building is a village asset and there's been no resolution. They rescue people. They were told they could go back to their firehouse with no air conditioning. They would like the repairs to be done, which



Frank Haggerty and Marie Early

Photo by Ross Corsair

should've been done years ago.

Frank Haggerty (challenger): The facility is also used for other purposes — as a community center, meeting space, emergency shelter. So there's multiple reasons to invest in and rebuild, and it's probably the biggest single item the village faces in terms of expenses, maybe \$5 million to \$7 million. We should initiate a referendum to get people voting. Will taxpayers support a \$3 million to \$6 million bond? It's a prudent investment. Also, repairs have to

be made.

Marie Early (incumbent): We expect to have in the 2017-18 budget a line item for a new roof. Air conditioning we haven't discussed in specifics. I agree there's a need. The office is air-conditioned; front room is air-conditioned. I don't think the firetruck room needs to be air-conditioned. The

fire company provided a list of items of they'd like to see done. We have asked them to monetize that number so we can understand how much money we're talking about.

Fran Murphy (incumbent): I don't think anybody is looking at a \$5 million to \$7 million building or even a \$3 million to \$4 million

(Continued on Page 8)

Joining the Harvest

Glynwood creates farmers' collective to grow CSA

By Brian PJ Cronin

It's a brisk, late-winter day in the hamlet of New Hamburg, north of Beacon, but at Obercreek Farm, spring is on the way. The high tunnels are bursting with winter greens, seeds are sprouting in a heated propagation house, a faded white

(Continued on Page 6)



CSA boxes ready for pickup at Solid Ground Farm in Kingston

Photo provided



**March 21, Vote for Experience & Commitment
Re-Elect Mayor Dave Merandy & Trustee Marie Early**

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Small, Good Things

The Wearing of the Green

By Joe Dizney

Long before he was St. Patrick, the patron saint of Ireland, the British-born (or so it is believed) Maewyn Succat was kidnapped by Irish pirates and sold into slavery in County Antrim.

During the six years he was indentured to a shepherd he became fluent in the native tongue and enamored of the culture. According to legend, God came to him in a dream and told him to go to the coast

where he would meet a boat that would take him to England. He did, and escaped. He eventually became a priest, later a bishop, taking the name we know him by.

St. Patrick purportedly had another dream in which the Irish called to him to walk amongst them again, which he also purportedly did, becoming the saint we commemorate on March 17 in observances religious, secular and culinary. Shepherd's pie (even if it wasn't invented by Aithcen, Patrick's household cook and the *de facto* patron saint of Irish chefs) is the obvious feast of choice.



Shepherd's Pie with a Colcannon crust

Photo by J. Dizney

Actually a homey casserole of seasoned, minced lamb and vegetables topped by a "crust" of mashed potatoes, shepherd's pie (not to be confused with cottage pie, made from ground beef) exudes the humble lack of pretense and familiarity of the best comfort food.

The vegetables added to the lamb generally include onions and carrots, occasionally turnips, but unfortunately a universal inclusion to most recipes is frozen peas. Now frozen peas in and of themselves are not a bad thing, being one of

the rare vegetables that does freeze well. They are also very British and do add a touch of green to the plate. But the substitution of another classic country food for the mashed potatoes might make for a more seasonally correct, and more truly Irish, meal: Colcannon, a mash of potatoes, butter and milk, plus cabbage or kale and herbs.

My offering below may not be a by-the-book version of the Irish classic — you could always add those frozen peas — but it's a worthy meal to celebrate the wearing of the green any time you feel the spirit.

Shepherd's Pie with Colcannon Crust

Lamb Filling

2 tablespoons olive oil
1 large onion, diced
4 cloves minced garlic
2 large carrots, diced
2 ribs celery, diced
1 tablespoon chopped fresh rosemary
1 teaspoon chopped fresh thyme
1½ lbs. coarsely ground lamb
1 tablespoon Worcestershire sauce
1 tablespoon tomato paste
1 teaspoon Dijon mustard
1 cup stock (beef, chicken or veg.) (or ½ cup stock plus ½ cup red wine)
Salt and freshly ground black pepper
¼ cup chopped flat leaf parsley

Colcannon

2 to 3 cups lightly packed kale (curly or lacinato), ribs removed, washed
½ cup heavy cream
½ cup (about 6) chopped scallions, greens only
Grating of fresh nutmeg
2 to 2½ lbs. Russet potatoes, peeled and cut in to equal-sized (about 2-inch) pieces
6 to 8 tablespoons butter
2 egg yolks
Salt and freshly ground black pepper
¼ cup Irish cheddar, grated fine, plus 2 to 3 tablespoons extra for topping

For the Lamb

1. Heat oil in a large, heavy skillet. Sauté onion 2 to 3 minutes until translucent; add garlic and cook a minute more. Add carrots and celery and cook for 3 minutes; add rosemary and thyme and cook for another 3 minutes.
2. Raise the heat to medium high and add lamb, breaking it up until it is well browned. Add tomato paste, mustard and Worcestershire sauce, stir to incorporate. Add stock (or stock/wine mixture) and reduce heat to medium low. Season to taste with salt and pepper and simmer 15 to 20 minutes until most (but not all) of the liquid is gone. Remove from heat, stir in parsley and reserve.

For the Colcannon

3. Fill a bowl with ice and water. In a large pot of boiling salted water, cook kale 4 to 5 minutes until leaves are wilted and tender but still bright green. Remove from pot (reserve water in pot to cook potatoes); submerge kale in ice water bath and chill for a couple of minutes; drain and squeeze out excess water. Chop and set aside while potatoes cook.
4. Bring pot back to boil, add potatoes and cook for 20 minutes. While potatoes cook, combine the milk, the scallions and a grating of nutmeg in a small pot and simmer for 2 to 3 minutes. Remove from heat and let steep.
5. Thoroughly drain cooked potatoes and return them to the pot or a bowl and mash by hand with a potato masher, keeping some lumps, then lightly whip in the cream/scallions; individually add the kale, egg yolks and most of the cheese, whipping until creamy. Add salt and freshly ground pepper to taste.

Final Assembly

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Spoon lamb mixture evenly into a deep casserole and spoon the colcannon over the lamb, gently flattening the potatoes with a knife or spatula. Make a wavy or crosshatched pattern in the colcannon crust by just barely dragging the tines of a fork over the surface. Sprinkle reserved grated cheese over the top. Bake for 50 minutes or until lightly browned. Serve hot.

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Beacon Schools Still Waiting for \$1.6 Million

Governor, legislators argue for new aid formula

By Jeff Simms

As Beacon school officials draw up the district's budget for 2017-18, there is a renewed push to secure millions of dollars — and billions state-wide — that educators say they're owed by New York state.

Last month, Gov. Andrew Cuomo released his proposed budget, which includes almost \$1 billion more in aid to New York's 700 public school districts.

That figure would also trigger a \$428 million increase in "foundation aid," which was established after a 2006 court ruling that found the state had deliberately underfunded schools in primarily black, Latino and lower-income communities. At the time, New York agreed to repay \$5.5 billion to boost those districts.

During the recession, however, the payments stopped. As a result, the Alliance for Quality Education (AQE), an Albany-based advocacy group, says school systems across the state are still owed \$3.9 billion, which includes \$1.6 million for Beacon.

While New York already spends the most money on education of any state, AQE and the state Board of Regents argue that Cuomo's proposal for education

spending next year is not nearly enough.

"The amount doesn't keep up with rising costs," said Billy Easton, executive director of AQE. "At best you're treading water."

The state regents, who oversee all educational activity, had asked Cuomo to increase school spending by \$2.1 billion. His proposal for the 2017-18 fiscal year, which begins April 1, amounts to less than half of that. It also includes a provision that AQE and other groups, including the New York State Council of School Superintendents, say scraps the formula for allocating foundation aid, opting instead to calculate future payments based on the 2017-18 distribution.

State legislators typically add more education funding before the budget is passed in late March or early April, but in a statement released this week, AQE blasted proposals by Republicans and independent Democrats in the Senate that include what AQE says is legislators' own "dramatic overhaul" of the foundation-aid formula.

"If you are a student in poverty or a student with disabilities, this budget plan says you do not matter," Easton charged.

In addition to increased funding for the coming fiscal year, Easton said AQE and other advocates are still pushing for a long-term plan to repay the billions they say have been owed to schools for a decade.

Adding to the complexity is the state-

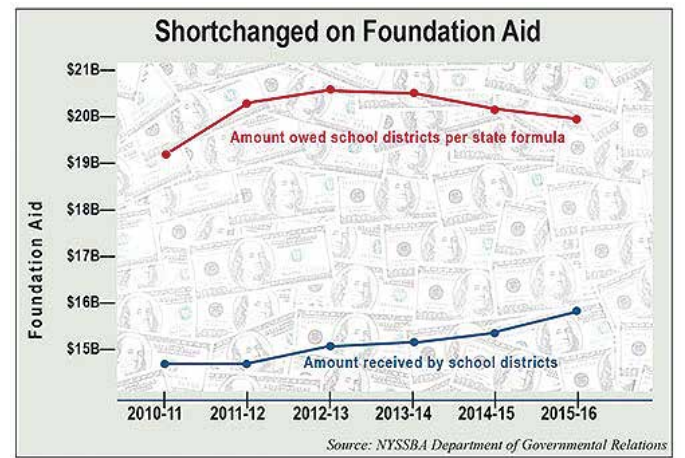
mandated tax cap, which requires school districts and local governments to raise property taxes each year by no more than 2 percent or the rate of inflation, whichever is less.

Last year the Beacon school board adopted a \$67 million budget but to maintain programming and staffing levels at its six schools while staying within the tax cap had to draw \$2 million from its savings. The district's budget the year before drew \$2.5 million from its reserves.

"It's not a good practice," school board President Anthony White said this week. "But we're still not receiving the funding that we should be based on the foundation-aid formula. That's what's hurting us."

The Beacon City Council passed a resolution last month calling for accountability and equity in school funding, while several board members have been part of grassroots campaigns to contact legislators asking for the same. But if the state budget doesn't meet local needs, White says the district will need to get creative. "We don't have the luxury of just increasing staff," he said.

The school board must approve its budget at least two weeks before it goes before voters on May 16. Four of the nine



board seats — those now held by White, Kenya Gadsden, Craig Wolf and Kristan Flynn — will also be on the ballot.

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Cold Spring Firehouse, 141 Main St.



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Nelsonville redux

Tom Campanile's March 6 letter addresses the Nelsonville referendum on March 21 to add two trustees to the three-member board. Initially I was not a booster for expansion, although now I support it. With only two trustees, the board is sometimes challenged to have a quorum. As head of the village Planning Board, I can attest that having a quorum even with five members was often a challenge. As a result, the review of applications stretched on and on, frustrating both the board and applicants.

Further, Highlands communities such as Nelsonville are facing ever-increasing pressures from tourism, demographic trends (population growth and aging) and the need to attract businesses to expand the revenue base. Even seemingly mundane issues such as street and sidewalk maintenance, parking, snow removal and safety and quality-of-life issues require greater focus. To meet these rising currents, we need more hands on the oars.

Bill O'Neill, *Nelsonville*

Considering how our outgoing trustee, Danielle Pack McCarthy, was shouted down every time she voiced a dissenting opinion, I wouldn't expect many from outside this men-only social club to be interested in running to fill five seats. I wouldn't want to be part of it.

Kristin Bentley, *Nelsonville*

In his letter to the editor in the March 10 issue, Bill O'Neill discusses his belief that Nelsonville should remain independent of Philipstown, including its building department. Nelsonville, for whatever reason, has decided not to take us up on our offer to combine the two departments. As confusing as this is to me, I have no interest in pursuing that line of inquiry. Why you would not want to provide the residents of Nelsonville with a fully staffed, fully qualified and full-time building department at no additional cost to taxpayers will have to remain a mystery.

The Village of Cold Spring, led by Mayor Dave Merandy, has worked diligently with the Town of Philipstown to bring about this change as a benefit to the residents.

We both feel it will offer improved service with regular business hours. Mayor Dave Merandy and I will be finalizing the terms of this cooperative agreement in the coming weeks. Residents of Cold Spring will then have full access to building department services Monday to Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. There will be no loss of autonomy by the Village of Cold Spring and all village codes will still apply.

O'Neill also was critical of the Town Board for "flirting with national political issues." Anyone who doesn't think that national issues have an effect on individual residents of all small towns is ill-informed. As a leader in this community, I feel not only a responsibility to do those things that would protect the health and rights of all people in Philipstown but a sworn duty.

Richard Shea, *Philipstown*
Shea is the Philipstown supervisor.

Cold Spring vote

Alison Anthoine is the best candidate for Cold Spring mayor. As president of the Cold Spring Area Chamber of Commerce, she led the Chamber to new heights. Her communication and people skills allowed her to mobilize qualified people to implement solutions. Her ability to identify skilled board members and unite them to action was demonstrated throughout her five years of service, bringing the Chamber to a new level of strength.

As a member of the Zoning Board of Appeals, Alison has used her wisdom and sound judgment to help resolve issues facing our community.

Her experience as a lawyer and an entrepreneur give her a perspective on matters that look outside the box to find solutions to matters at hand. As a mediator, Alison has reached across all parties to build bridges where walls existed. She has good working relationships with those in politics and business and fellow residents. Lastly, Alison's integrity has helped her rise above
(Continued on next page)



Taking it to the Street

By Anita Peltonen

What are your plans for the summer?



"To not slip on this ice."

~ Doug Price, Cold Spring



"We go to Cape Cod in August.

I love it, but I love snow, too."

~ Dylan Ann Ambrose, Cold Spring



"Beach chairs on the Hudson River
— and cocktails."

~ Jane D'Emic, Cold Spring

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR (from previous page)

(From previous page) the fray to make fair and honest decisions.

Debbi Milner, *Cold Spring*

Three candidates will get my vote on March 21: Alison Anthoine, Marie Early and Fran Murphy. All three are devoted to our village, hard-working, smart, knowledgeable, do their homework and have serious concern for the taxpayer. We need them to deal with the serious challenges ahead. I hope they will get your vote, too.

Anne Impellizzeri, *Cold Spring*

What I've observed over the years is a lack of action in Cold Spring's government on environmental issues and even a lack of a desire to deliberate. I see this as a serious shortcoming and to me the best candidate (for mayor or trustee) is the one willing and eager to make progress here. Who fits the bill? There are a number of easy things we can do that can make a big impact.

James Geppner, *Cold Spring*

We urge our neighbors to vote to re-elect Mayor Dave Merandy and Trustees Marie Early and Fran Murphy. Although their positions are part-time, they have devoted many hours to understanding the issues and have performed their duties prudently and diplomatically. As we worked to open a business in Cold Spring, Mayor Merandy assisted us and demonstrated sensitivity to the perspective of local businesses, just as he does with the rest of the village.

The mayor and trustees face an array of complex challenges, such as repairing the dam, updating the village code, restoring or replacing the firehouse, strengthening village finances and advancing the development of the Fjord Trail. As Main Street residents and retailers, we are pleased that the federal funds received by the vil-

lage have finally been put to work on improving our sidewalks, adding crosswalks and planting trees. In two years, Merandy, Early and Murphy have just gotten their feet wet, and now it's time for them to dig in. It would be a shame if the knowledge and experience they gained in their first term were lost.

Eliza Starbuck and Eric Wirth, *Cold Spring*

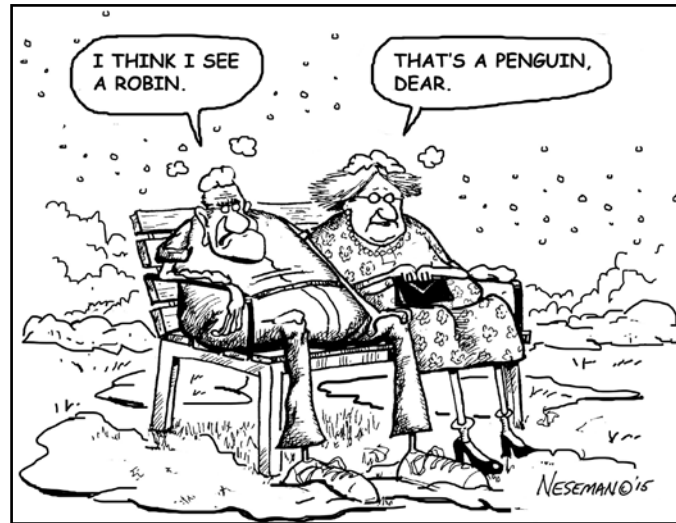
Please vote for Alison Anthoine for mayor on March 21. I can't recommend her more highly. She is extremely intelligent, has huge integrity, is a seasoned, common-sense attorney, and — while a lifelong Democrat — is a bridge-builder who cares about the well-being of everyone around her.

Though I do not live in the village, I have been a Philipstown resident for 20 years. When Alison became a resident about six years ago, I saw her dive right in, join the Chamber of Commerce, ultimately become its president and subsequently join the Zoning Board of Appeals.

She is positive, upbeat, resourceful. I don't believe the village could ever do any better. She will be a fantastic public servant.

Susan Coleman, *Garrison*

Two years ago, when Fran Murphy first ran for village trustee, she promised to "talk to the experts and get the facts." She has more than kept that promise and the village has benefitted greatly from her contributions. Her professional experience and even temperament have been an integral part of her success as is evidenced by her board's many accomplishments: the Main Street Project, Boat Club con-



tamination cleanup, employee benefits, code update, grant writing and administration and more, not to mention the urgent matters that the trustees face on an almost-daily basis. But there is much more to do and Fran is offering her help. Let's take her up on her generous offer.

Fran is hard-working, even regularly covering the phones in Village Hall, and she does it all with a smile and a warm "hello." With the full knowledge and acceptance that as she puts it, "We know we can't please everyone," she is offering to do more. We made a great hire when we elected Fran as trustee two years ago and we should do it again on March 21 so we may all continue to benefit from her deep experience and work ethic. I look forward to voting for Fran and urge you to do the same.

Matt Francisco, *Cold Spring*

I am writing to express my support for the re-election of Dave Merandy and Marie Early. Under their leadership as mayor and deputy mayor they have created one of the most highly functional village boards that I have seen since moving here 15 years ago. This is evidenced in their

accomplishments in just the two years of their first term (the one with the learning curve!).

Lots of good things have been accomplished: the Boat Club coal tar remediation, Main Street sidewalks, paving the municipal parking lot and installing meters as a revenue stream (while forcing vacancy and availability), videotaping almost all village meetings and working with the standing boards to ensure the proper administration of the code to ensure consistent and predictable outcomes for all applicants. And there have been many more accomplishments moving the village in the right direction.

They have shown themselves to be focused on controlling costs, increasing revenue and planning for the future. Along the way they have made the hard decisions, always putting the best interests of all village residents and taxpayers first with the full knowledge and acceptance of the fact that not everyone will agree with those hard decisions.

In my mind that is the real lesson in fitness for government/public service. If they still want to sign on for more after being misunderstood, misquoted or cornered in Foodtown on a particular issue, that's a win for us, the residents of the village. With their combined deep, relevant professional experience (that now includes effective village and town government), I am confident that we have put our trust in the right hands: Two fully independent, smart individuals with very deep roots in this community who will put the future of the Cold Spring that we all know and love first. I look forward to voting for Dave and Marie on March 21 and urge you to do the same.

Matt Francisco, *Cold Spring*

POSITION AVAILABLE

The Town of Philipstown has a vacancy on the Philipstown Planning Board. Anyone interested in serving as a member, please send resume to:

Richard Shea, Supervisor
Town of Philipstown
238 Main Street, P.O. Box 155
Cold Spring, New York 10516

SITE VISIT - MARCH 26, 2017

The Philipstown Planning Board will meet on Sunday, March 26, 2017 at 9:30 a.m. to inspect the following site:

Hudson Highland Reserve, located at Route 9 and Horton Road.

The Board will meet at the cul-de-sac at the end of Horton Road. In case of inclement weather the site visit could be postponed, with notice given to Board members through a telephone chain previously established.

POSITION AVAILABLE

The Town of Philipstown has a vacancy on the Conservation Board. Any persons interested should submit their resume to:

Richard Shea, Supervisor
Town of Philipstown
238 Main Street, P.O. Box 155
Cold Spring, New York 10516
Or email: supervisor@philipstown.com

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

Town of Philipstown Highway Department

Sealed proposals will be received by the undersigned Town Clerk of the Town of Philipstown at her office in the Town Hall, 238 Main Street, Cold Spring, New York 10516 until 11 a.m. on, March 22, 2017, when the same will be publicly opened and read aloud for the sale to the Town of Philipstown of:

2011 BOMAG BW145D-40 ROLLER

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

DATED: March 15, 2017

Tina Merando, Town Clerk, Town of Philipstown

POSITION AVAILABLE

The Town of Philipstown has a vacancy on the Board of Assessment Review. Any persons interested should submit their resume to:

Richard Shea, Supervisor
Town of Philipstown
238 Main Street, P.O. Box 155
Cold Spring, New York 10516
Or email: supervisor@philipstown.com

Joining the Harvest *(from Page 1)*

shack straight out of an Edward Hopper painting is being converted into a brewery (for the third-acre of hops that will be grown) and stacks of beehives stand at the ready to be tended by a retired pediatrician who loves bees but hates honey.

Obercreek's main source of revenue is its 200-member Community-Supported Agriculture (CSA) program, in which subscribers receive food from the farm each week from June through November. Obercreek is 240 acres but only 14 are farmed. Plans are underway to expand to 25 acres, but for that to happen, farmer Justin Seelaus has to make sure there's demand.

"That's where the CSA Coalition has

been helpful," he says. "They gave us a marketing base."

The Hudson Valley CSA Coalition is a new program created by Glynwood Farm, the 20-year-old nonprofit in Philipstown. Funded by a three-year federal grant and modeled on a Wisconsin program called FairShare, the coalition hopes to bring Hudson Valley farmers together to address common problems. And the biggest problem right now is getting the word out about CSAs to increase membership.

"Most of us who are farming are limited in our ability to reach consumers, either because of time, lack of expertise or the ability to step away," says Faith Gilbert of the Letterbox Farm Collective in Hudson,



Jarrett Nelson, Glynwood's vegetable production manager Photo by Eva Deitch



Justin Seelaus and Jessica O'Callahan of Obercreek Farms in New Hamburg Photo by B. Cronin

which hosted a farmers' summit in 2014 at which the seeds of the coalition were sown.

There are about 100 CSAs in the Hudson Valley. Many have growing pains when they find their membership plateaus. Early recruitment strategies reach "the people who can be easily reached, and are easily attracted to CSAs," explains Sara Grady, the vice president of programs at Glynwood. "The question is: How do you reach beyond that?"

Grady says one farm told her it was having difficulty finding members in the community but could continue offering shares because they quickly sold out in Brooklyn.

"That speaks to a lot of different ideas around density, communication, and convenience," she says. "But it was also an illustration of the fact that here we are in this region, which is agricultural and has historically been a food-producing region, and farmers are having to work hard to reach their neighbors. That's one of the real motivations behind this, to engage residents of the Hudson Valley in the model of CSAs."

The coalition's first project is hudson-valleycsa.org, where consumers can find

and join nearby CSAs. The coalition has been marketing the portal aggressively, not only through print ads and ads on the Albany-based public radio station WAMC but on Top 40 stations as well. It also pushed "CSA Day" in February to encourage potential members to sign up early, when farmers are typically low on cash after ordering seeds and supplies. In New Hamburg, Seelaus says he noticed a significant uptick in memberships on CSA Day.

If the coalition can help CSAs sell out and expand their shares, it sees more farmland being protected and more sustainable food being grown. Many CSA farmers are keenly interested in food justice and would like to be able to reduce the cost of each share and offer subsidized or free shares to those who can't afford them. That won't happen until the CSAs can become sustainable themselves, and for that to happen, the public has to buy in.

"Within 20 miles of Hudson, which is a town of 7,500 people, there are over 20 CSA farms, 18 of which are in their first 10 years," says Gilbert. "That's exactly what we want, but we have to make sure that the general population is keeping pace."

Susan Carroll Berck, Ph.D., Psy.D.
Psychologist and Clinical Director

Berck Psychological Services
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March 21, Re-Elect Mayor Dave Merandy & Trustee Marie Early

Leaders for Every Street

Odell: Millennials Key to Growing Economy

Need to keep them living, working, spending in Putnam

By Holly Crocco

Putnam needs to do more to keep people in their 20s and 30s — the “millennial” generation — living, working and spending in the county, MaryEllen Odell said during her annual State of the County address on March 9 at the Putnam County Golf Course in Mahopac.

That means offering the most up-to-date technology and transportation services, the county executive said, as well as real estate and recreational opportunities.

“They’re a very demanding generation,” Odell said. “They know what they want, and they want it now. We have to give them what they need so they can grow and prosper.”

Odell said transit-oriented development is key. She cited Brewster, which is in the midst of a project to redevelop its downtown into a mini-metropolis adjacent to the train station, with retail on the street level and apartments on upper floors.

Having residential and retail space within walking distance of the station eliminates the need to own a vehicle, Odell said. That’s also why Putnam should welcome ride-sharing services.

“It could be very helpful for our local economy if Uber and Lyft make it here,” she said, explaining that this type of app-based technology gives millennials the on-demand mobility services they want. “We’re ready to discuss how government can utilize Uber and Lyft and not interfere with private business, and how it’s going to mix and meld with the needs of



County Executive MaryEllen Odell

Photo by H. Crocco

Putnam County.”

In addition, Odell said Putnam needs to offer technology that allows consumers to do business from their laptops, smart phones and other handheld devices. This includes online banking and mobile check depositing, managing home security systems, ordering take-out, purchasing railroad tickets and getting the daily news.

One way the county is enhancing mobile technology is by upgrading its infrastructure. It is working with a Danbury, Connecticut, company to erect cell-phone towers throughout the county, she said. So far, two towers have been approved, and at least two more are in the works.

Odell said her administration is committed to enhancing and promoting some of the county’s best assets. “The Tilly Foster Farm and Educational Institute is going to happen in big, big ways,” she said of the county-owned and operated farm in Brew-

Putnam Democrats Respond

In its response to Odell’s State of the County address, the Putnam County Democratic Committee criticized the county executive for citing an “embarrassing litany of older technologies” and said that “with very little infrastructure, and almost no transit system, we cannot keep millennials here with Airbnb.”

It chided Odell for not mentioning the heroin crisis, which it cited as the greatest risk to millennials. “While Ms. Odell minimized federal assistance received from Democratic lawmakers for combatting the heroin crisis, she offered no new ideas,” the committee said. “There are virtually no beds in Putnam County for adolescent addicts to detox and rehabilitate.”

The committee also claimed Odell’s address was “sprinkled with many pieces of false information,” such as the statement that the county has received \$250,000 in state funds for the senior center at the Butterfield site in Cold Spring. “This funding has only been proposed,” it said.

“As long as our Republican county executive continues to hire unqualified political friends, we will continue to have little meaningful innovation and instead endure scandals like those in our tourism and consumer affairs departments,” it said. “Putnam County continues wasting our money on boondoggles like Tilly Foster and the Putnam Golf Course.”

ster. By partnering with Putnam/Northern Westchester BOCES to bring a culinary cooking program and farm-to-table dining experience to the property, Odell said the county hopes to attract visitors from Westchester and New York City to enjoy the landscape, dine and spend money.

If those visitors have a place to stay overnight, she noted, their spending in Putnam could double.

While the county still has no “leisure hotel,” Odell said Airbnb has been quietly operating in Putnam in at least 30

homes. If more homeowners get on board with the online hospitality service, she said Putnam can transform from a “day-cation” county to a “stay-cation” county.

The added sales tax from these visitors is what the county wants, and Odell said 2016 saw an increase of 9.5 percent in sales tax revenue.

“We had a good year on paper for sales tax,” she said. While there was a dip in 2015, Odell said that since 2012 Putnam has seen an average climb in sales tax of 3 percent per year.

HUDSON HIGHLANDS
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MUSEUM
WEST POINT FOUNDRY

Putnam History Museum’s Annual Meeting and Lecture

Benedict Arnold & the Battle of Ridgefield

Lecture with Dr. Larry Maxwell

Saturday, March 25
Meeting at 4pm,
lecture to follow

Join PHM for a presentation on *Benedict Arnold & the Battle of Ridgefield* by Dr. Larry Maxwell at the museum’s annual meeting

on Saturday, March 25. The meeting will begin at 4pm, with the lecture to follow. Most people in Putnam County have heard the story of Sybil Ludington’s 40 mile ride to call out the militia in response to the Crown Forces Raid on Danbury, Connecticut. However, few know the role Benedict Arnold played during that raid and the ensuing Battle of Ridgefield. Come meet Dr. Maxwell, Patterson Town Historian, and learn more.

The meeting and lecture are free and open to the public. Please RSVP to Rachel at 845-265-4010, ext. 10 or rachel@putnamhistorymuseum.org.

The Putnam History Museum is located at 63 Chestnut Street in Cold Spring. • www.putnamhistorymuseum.org



“Leonora Burton brought her own tastes from Wales to the Hudson Valley, but she caters to a wide range of preferences. Marmite is definitely a fun thing to sell. There are a ton of Brits living in the area and they come to the store for this item. In addition to the thick and sticky Marmite, which is made from yeast extract, The Country Goose also sells HP sauce and Branston Pickle, other favorite condiments among Brits that never seem to go out of style. Also in stock are over 100 varieties of cookies, chocolate, sauces and cordials.”



~ Mary Ann Ebner, *Highlands Current*

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Board and Mayoral Candidates Make Case at Forum (from Page 1)

building. It's not something we're going to ask taxpayers to foot the bill for. We are very aware our firehouse is a village asset. The roof is leaking. It's our building. It is not going to fall apart. And it's not that we're not being transparent. We discussed that roof in an open meeting. As things are presented, we are moving on them.

On the future of the Boat Club

Early: The Boat Club lease has seven years left. The intention of the village is to honor the lease. If we receive income from that land, we're liable for taxes. So the income would have to far exceed the tax. Certainly you could envision a restaurant there for people in the village and tourists. If the Boat Club wishes to put up a building, the village has to say, "Can the new building be structured such that there are some facilities of benefit to residents or the larger population?" Whether we lease it, do a land lease for some facility there, the options are pretty broad. Yes, the Boat Club can continue there. If they wish to build something and have the money, it's their prerogative.

Murphy: The Boat Club would like to put a building there. But they're not able to unless we extend their lease to something they can go to a bank with. They're asking us to give them another 20 years on their seven-year lease. We're not anywhere near to agreeing.

Schatzle: This is new to me about income from the land. It's about transparency. Issues like this are not really brought to the public. Of course the comprehensive plan's approach deserves support.

Haggerty: The comprehensive plan approach — why would I not support it? But it sounds like it maybe has conflicting objectives — income, or access for residents. The Village Board should organize a special committee of the board and Boat Club and hash this out.



Dave Merandy and Alison Anthoine

Photo by Ross Corsair

On why they should be elected

Schatzle: Our village is in crisis and in risk of going bankrupt.

Murphy: We are nowhere near being bankrupt. The village has a very comfortable general fund balance of more than \$500,000. We are doing very well. I've put a lot of time and effort in this; I'd ask you would allow me to continue. I enjoy what I do. I feel I owe that to the village.

Haggerty: The village is underfunded and therefore overloaded. Because of that and for other reasons it is mismanaged. The Village Board is overworked. They're making mistakes. Some people believe there's a transparency issue. Part of that is because village officials are under pressure and trying to get as much done as they can. But it's not working.

Early: The village budget is dictated by the New York State tax cap. I'd love to have more money, but we can't raise our taxes to generate more. We got a lot accomplished in two years. We have a proven track record. I ask you to re-elect us so we can do more for you.

The forum among the trustee candidates was followed by a discussion between Mayor Dave Merandy and challenger Alison Anthoine.

On reducing the cost of the police department

Merandy: An option used elsewhere is to have two 10-hour shifts with four hours overnight not covered. I'm not in favor of disbanding our police force and bringing in the Sheriff's Department or state police. We have tourists, a Main Street, businesses. It's totally a different animal than Nelsonville and Philipstown. We'd be paying higher salaries and benefits for sheriff's deputies or state troopers.

Anthoine: I need to study this. I'm familiar with the budget in round numbers but not in detail. We should explore all opportunities to save money. We need police coverage that does not adversely affect the safety and quality of life we have now.

On the cost of employee benefits

Anthoine: The whole country is dealing with rising costs. I'd approach it in a respectful and dignified fashion with all our employees. Benefits and salaries continue to rise and we're going to have to pay them. It doesn't make sense to limit ourselves to hiring those who don't need benefits. I want to talk to other villages of our size to find out how they deal with this.

Merandy: Village employees pay 7 percent toward their health insurance. In the private sector, we'd love to pay 7 percent. We're looking at increased contributions for new hires.

Also, retired employees pay nothing. The highway crew chief retired at 55 and we're paying for a premium full-family package of up to \$27,000 annually for the next 10 years. Employees missed a raise last year. It won't happen again but a lot of people in this day and age have not gotten raises.

On managing tourism

Merandy: If the state parks can't control the number of people, I don't see how we can control that part of tourism. The cruise boats generate income for us but are also detrimental to quality of life. Restaurants can't handle the number of people. We reached a tipping point last year. It was chaos on some weekends. It has to be slowed down but I'm not sure how. A vibrant Main Street is something we all want but not to the extent that you can't even enjoy your own village. There is no Fjord Trail yet and the problem is already here.

Anthoine: We have to address reality and look for ways to get ahead of this. We have to demand funds at the Fjord Trail planning table. Garbage is overflowing; bathrooms are a problem yet we can't burden our own taxpayers. We can't just say we have to stop the tourists. We have to reach out to county government. As president of the Cold Spring Area Chamber of Commerce I was able to get funds there.

On lawsuits and hiring practices

Merandy: The claims about the lawsuits aren't true. We have one lawsuit with residents of Nelsonville over a sewer line and there is a motion to dismiss. There have been notices of claim including one with Butterfield and one with an employee but no actions taken. I feel these are frivolous lawsuits and am confident they'll be thrown out. I'm comfortable with how we do our hires. We do everything we're required to do legally. In business people don't always get the boss they want. You hire the best person for that job; we have to refrain from just throwing out information on personnel. I'd love to bring some of these issues out into the open but we're following our attorney by not commenting.

Anthoine: I only know from rumors because nothing is disclosed. Whatever the hiring decisions are there's a way to conduct them in such a way that you're mindful of the existing employees. That's very important to provide the respect to current employees.



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Depot Folk

March 25 ~ Beppe Gambetta

April 8 ~ The Mammals

4 p.m. Workshop / 7 p.m. Concert

.....

Depot Docs

Best of Enemies

March 31, 7:30 p.m.

followed by Q & A and reception

.....

philipstowndepottheatre.org • **Tickets:** www.brownpapertickets.com

Garrison Landing, Garrison, NY (Theatre is adjacent to train station.)

The Calendar



At left, third grader Ada Caccamise at the keyboards; above, sixth-graders Sadie Remillard, Liv Vilella and Fiona Shanahan on the ukuleles

Photos by Sheila Williams

Classical Café

Haldane students serve music with lunch

By Alison Rooney

Once a month, instead of the clanging trays and silverware of the Haldane school cafeteria, music fills the air for the students, played by their peers. Classical Café is a once-a-

month series that merges lunch with food for the soul as performed by elementary- and middle-school students under the guidance of Haldane parent and Broadway musician Greg Smith and music teachers Kathy Sireno, Melissa Frabotta and Dan McGroarty.

Classical Café resembles an organized free-for-all, meaning that the organizers don't always know who will perform, or what they'll play, until the last minute.

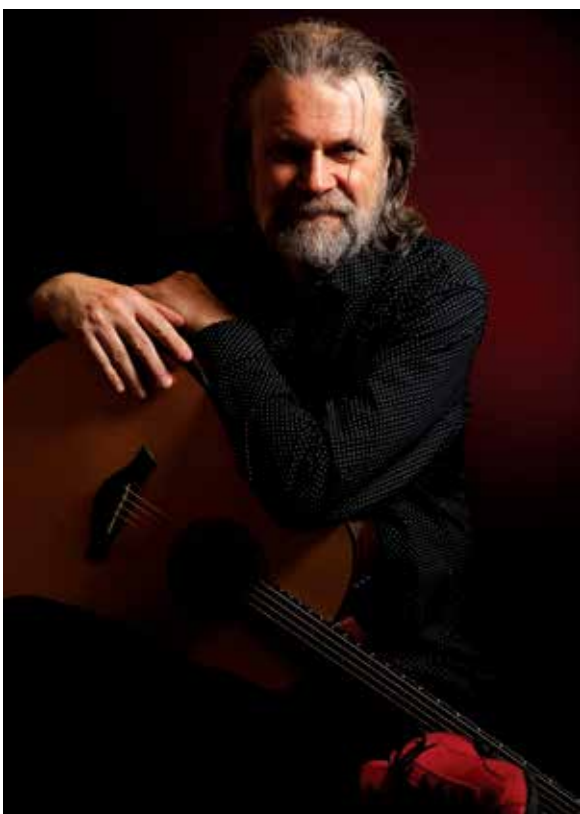
Students can sign up or appear impromptu. At the March 13 café, Smith noted he had just been told that 17 ukulele players wanted to perform.

As the first group of students came into the cafeteria, Smith welcomed them with Bach's *Goldberg Variations* on the keyboard while explaining the background of the piece. When sixth-grader Raunaq Kapoor volunteered to perform next, Smith suggested he first finish his

lunch. Kapoor ate fast, then got the room jumping on the keyboard with "Rhythm Machine."

A table of sixth-grade girls said they appreciated his performance and Classical Café. "A lot of kids come and play instruments who I didn't know could," said one. Another added, "It's something new, and it's entertaining."

As students streamed in and out of the cafeteria (Continued on Page 12)



Beppe Gambetta

Photo by Michael Schluter

Folk Series Launches at Depot

Musicians will present workshops, then perform

By Alison Rooney

A new series at the Philipstown Depot Theatre — Depot Folk — will pair workshops with concerts in a format that encourages audiences to participate, although just listening is OK, too. The first concerts will feature Beppe Gambetta on March 25 and The Mammals, featuring Mike and Ruthy, on April 8.

In the afternoon workshops, each artist will highlight and demonstrate a facet of what he or she does. "You'll get to talk to, learn from, these artists — participate and have a conversation with them," explains Ned Rauch, who is coordinating the series in partnership with the American Center for Folk Music in Beacon. "Both show and workshop

"You'll get to talk to, learn from, these artists — participate and have a conversation with them."

are open to musicians and non-musicians and one can buy a combination, or just one or the other. I don't think anyone outside of festivals is doing workshop-plus-performance format."

Between the 4 p.m. workshop and the 7 p.m. performance, Greg's Good Eats food truck will sell wraps and sandwiches outside the theater.

Gambetta, who spends half the year in his native Genoa, Italy, and has recorded 11 albums, performs American roots music fused with music in the Ligurian tradition, in which "emigration songs and folk ballads, steel-string guitars and vintage harp guitars not only co-exist but interact," he has written. Gambetta is considered one of folk music's top pickers, Rauch says, with a style characterized by "flashy licks, intricate cross-picking patterns, open tunings and fluid slides up and down the neck of the guitar."

Mike Merenda and Ruthy Ungar, the husband-and-wife duo who front The Mammals, have a strong connection to the Hudson Valley. Ruthy is the daughter of Jay Ungar, who co-wrote *Ashokan Farewell*. "They know about and care about this side of the world," says (Continued on Page 16)

FRIDAY, MARCH 17

St. Patrick's Day
Into the Woods (Musical)
7 p.m. Haldane School
15 Craigside Dr., Cold Spring
845-265-9254 | haldaneschool.org

St. Patrick's Day Party
7 p.m. Fred Astaire Dance Studio
3182 Route 9, Cold Spring
845-424-6353 | fredastairecoldspring.com

Open-Mic Night
7:30 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
477 Main St., Beacon
845-765-3012 | howlandculturalcenter.org

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

The McKrells
8:30 p.m. Towne Crier Café
379 Main St., Beacon
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com

SATURDAY, MARCH 18

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

iPhoneography Workshop
10 a.m. RiverWinds Gallery
172 Main St., Beacon
845-838-2880 | riverwindsgallery.com

Mid-Hudson Orchid Society Spring Show & Sale
11 a.m. – 3 p.m. Union Presbyterian Church
44 Balmville Road, Balmville | mhos.us.com

Saturday Makers: Shrinky Dinks
11 a.m. Howland Public Library
313 Main St., Beacon
845-831-1134 | beaconlibrary.org

The Met Live in HD: Verdi's La Traviata
1 p.m. Bardavon
35 Market St., Poughkeepsie
845-473-2072 | bardavon.org

Beacon Lions Club
1:30 p.m. Howland Public Library
313 Main St., Beacon | 845-232-9525

Citizen's Soapbox: Community Congress
2 p.m. St. Philip's Parish House
1101 Route 9D, Garrison

Hadrien Coumans (White Bear): Power & The Illusion of Power in Lenapehoking
2 p.m. Healing Arts Center
1191 Route 9D, Garrison
RSVP to bradteasdale@gmail.com

Calendar Highlights

For upcoming events visit highlandscurrent.com.
Send event listings to calendar@highlandscurrent.com

HVSF: Romeo and Juliet
2 p.m. Paramount Hudson Valley
See details under Friday.

Alexandra Eastburn: Passe – Partout (Opening)
5 – 7 p.m. Garrison Art Center
23 Garrison's Landing, Garrison
845-424-3960 | garrisonartcenter.org

Jazz Vespers
5:30 p.m. First Presbyterian Church
10 Academy St., Cold Spring
845-265-3220 | presbychurchcoldspring.org

Into the Woods (Musical)
7 p.m. Haldane School
See details under Friday.

Silent Film Series: Sparrows (1926)
7 p.m. Butterfield Library
10 Morris Ave., Cold Spring
845-265-3040 | butterfieldlibrary.org

Wonderland with Rob Daniels
7:30 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
See details under Friday.

SUNDAY, MARCH 19

Writing the Walls Poetry and Prose Workshop
1 p.m. Hudson Valley Center for Contemporary Art
1701 Main St., Peekskill
914-788-0100 | hvcca.org

Asian Dumpling-Making Class
2 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library
472 Route 403, Garrison
845-424-3020 | desmondfishlibrary.org

Civics Seminar: How a Bill Becomes Law
2 p.m. St. Philip's Parish House
1101 Route 9D, Garrison

Into the Woods (Musical)
2 p.m. Haldane School | See details under Friday.

Signs of Spring Family Walk
2 p.m. Hubbard Lodge
2920 Route 9, Cold Spring
putnamhighlandsaudubon.org

The General's Lady (Talk)
2 p.m. Washington's Headquarters
84 Liberty St., Newburgh
845-562-1195 | nysparks.com

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

Improv Patrol Show
7 p.m. Center for Creative Education
464 Main St., Beacon
845-625-4929 | improvpatrol.com

Breakneck Ridge Revue
7:30 p.m. Towne Crier Café
379 Main St., Beacon
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com

MONDAY, MARCH 20

First Day of Spring
Fit for Life for Seniors (First Session)
11 a.m. Continental Village Clubhouse
Ox Yoke Road, Garrison
845-424-4618 | philipstownrecreation.com

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

Nelsonville Board of Trustees
7:30 p.m. Village Hall
258 Main St., Nelsonville
845-265-2500 | villageofnelsonville.org

13th (Documentary, 2016)
8 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
477 Main St., Beacon
Benefits NAACP | Rescheduled from March 13.

TUESDAY, MARCH 21

Fun with Food: Science in the Kitchen
3:30 p.m. Butterfield Library
See details under Saturday.

SBA Resources for Small Businesses
6:30 p.m. Howland Public Library
See details under Saturday.
Includes How to Start a Business, postponed from March 14.

Haldane School Board Workshop
7 p.m. Haldane Music Room
15 Craigside Dr., Cold Spring
845-265-9254 | haldaneschool.org

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 22

Sign and Sing (ages 3-6)
4 p.m. Howland Public Library
See details under Saturday.

Community Advocacy Skills Workshop
6:30 p.m. Scenic Hudson River Center
8 Long Dock Park, Beacon
845-473-4440, x273 | scenichudson.org

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

Self-Care Acupressure Workshop
7 p.m. Philipstown Recreation Center
107 Glencllyffe Dr., Garrison
845-424-4618 | philipstownrecreation.com

THURSDAY, MARCH 23

Family Movie: Homeward Bound
5 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library
See details under Sunday.

Baseball Skills and Drills (grades 2-7)
5:30 – 7 p.m. Philipstown Recreation Center
See details under Wednesday.

Buying on eBay (Talk)
6 p.m. Howland Public Library
See details under Saturday.

Putnam County Chamber Trailblazers Awards
6 – 9 p.m. Villa Barone
466 Route 6, Mahopac | pcctrailblazers.com

Haldane PTA: Get to Know Haldane High School
6 p.m. Haldane School Library
15 Craigside Dr., Cold Spring | 845-265-9254
haldaneppta.org | Rescheduled from March 15.

Breaking Points (Documentary) with Discussion
7 p.m. Haldane School | philipstownctc.org

FRIDAY, MARCH 24

Center for Creative Education
6 p.m. Free Improv Class for Teens
7 p.m. Improv Class for Adults
See details under Sunday.

International Film Series: Ridicule (France)
7 p.m. Howland Public Library
See details under Saturday.

Gentle Yoga and Singing Bowls
7 p.m. Living Yoga | 3182 Route 9, Cold Spring
845-809-5900 | livingyogastudios.com

Hear & Now: Environmentalist John Cronin
7 p.m. Garrison School
1100 Route 9D, Garrison | gufspta.org

Beacon Music Factory Sly and Dylan Show
8 p.m. Elks Lodge | 900 Wolcott Ave., Beacon
beaconelks1493.com

Guitarist David Torn
8 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
See details under March 17.

Ralphie May (Comedy)
8 p.m. Paramount Hudson Valley
See details under March 17.

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Beacon Rec Adding Two Summer Camps

Buoyed by success of afterschool program

By Jeff Simms

The Beacon Recreation Department in July will launch two new children's summer camps, while a multi-sport camp returns for its second year, along with the long-running tennis camp.

South Avenue Park Days will be offered free on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at the Recreation Center and a week-day program, Camp @ the Camp, will run for five weeks at University Settlement, the 100-acre former residential camp site on Route 9D.

Funding for both new programs was recently approved by the City Council.

Nate Smith, the city's assistant recreation director, said that feedback from the department's elementary afterschool program introduced last fall led the agency to consider the new summer programs. The afterschool program averaged about 50 children

per day, receiving high marks from Beacon parents for its affordability and quality programming.

Similarly, Camp @ the Camp will have weekly themes such as archaeology, woodland dwelling and ecology. The camp, which also will include swimming, hiking, storytelling and other "classic" camp activities, will run weekdays from 8:30 a.m. to 3:15 p.m.

The first week of camp begins July 10 and the final week begins Aug. 7. Registration begins March 20 for children ages 5 to 11 at cityofbeacon.org. Each week costs \$175 per child until April 30, after which it will increase to \$195. Tuition assistance is available and an extended day (until 5 p.m.) is available for an extra \$50 per week per child.

The South Avenue Parks Days program will run for eight weeks beginning July 3 and is open to younger children as well as teenagers. It will be held rain or shine from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and will offer "come and go as you please" arts, crafts and athletics, as well as free lunch.

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Re-Elect: Mayor Dave Merandy and Trustees Marie Early and Fran Murphy!

The current Village Board functions well together, and is getting a lot of difficult work done. To replace anyone would throw a wrench into a process that is now running smoothly and moving the Village forward on many challenging issues.

To unseat any of these incumbents that are consistently putting in huge amounts of time, and are genuinely passionate about making Cold Spring thrive would be a disservice to the Village. It would be a disruption that could set back a lot of good works currently underway, make a difficult job tougher, and would in fact add up to a waste of precious funds.

The current board approaches challenges professionally. Any arguments are over particulars of the policies we are working on. Not the result of clashing non-fact-based agendas being played out. The Village can't afford to waste time and money on such folly.

The day to day functions of the board are not glamorous or particularly exciting, but they are extremely time consuming. Finding ways to keep Cold Spring solvent, and better prepared to face upcoming challenges is difficult enough. To think of replacing any of the experienced hard-working and thoughtful members of this current board with new people that think they would simply wade into the process and fix everything, would render a difficult job impossible.

This board can do more than just get the bills paid and keep the trash picked up. We are working hard to improve this Village. Give us a chance to do more.

Thank you, Steve Voloto Village Trustee

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Classical Café *(from Page 9)*

during lunch periods, the musicians kept on coming. “When you’re practicing in the waiting room, you get very nervous, but when you’re out there playing, it’s actually so much fun,” said Elliott Goldberg, who performed in a flute trio with Amanda Johanson and Mairead O’Hara.



Third-grader Fiona Mooney
Photo by Sheila Williams



A sixth-grade flute trio featured Amanda Johanson, Mairead O’Hara and Elliott Goldberg.
Photo by A. Rooney



Raunaq Kapoor was the first to perform, tackling “Rhythm Machine.”
Photo by A. Rooney

Next came a quartet of sixth-grade girls — Isa Schmidt (trumpet), Kate Meisner (clarinet) and sisters Niamh and Fiona Fortuna (both on flute). TAsked if it was intimidating playing for classmates, Meisner offered that she didn’t mind playing for other grades, “but I hated playing in front of my brother!” Schmidt said she enjoyed the performances because they create an opportunity for students who “want to do a music performance but not a band performance, which is where you’re one of many.” Vocalists were part of the proceedings, as well. Helen Chiera, who tackled “Titanic”

Live, in Concert

FFor a video by Gregory Gunder of students performing on March 13 during the Classical Café at Haldane, see highlandscurrent.com.

from the musical *Heathers*, said afterward that performing in the cafeteria for her peers was “worse than NYSSMA” (for the New York State Music Association programs in which students perform solo for a judge). “It was terrible and terrifying,” she said with a smile.

Even some spoken word entered into the mix as Graeme McGrath had fun with a recitation of *Five Little Monkeys*. “We have just gone cabaret,” Smith observed. When he finished, the appearance of chairs and music stands signaled the arrival of the sixth-grade music class and its ukuleles, along with a few percussionists.

Together with their teacher, Frabotta, they launched into a rousing rendition of “When The Saints Come Marching In.” Frabotta explained to the diners that it was the first song they had learned together. “Everyone has had experience playing five or six chords now,” she said.

As younger elementary students arrived to eat, many were eager to take the microphone, with the line at least 15 students deep at one point. The set included several renditions of “Twinkle Twinkle Little Star.” When one girl sat behind the keyboard, a classmate was overheard saying: “I wanna see this. Delia’s *really* good at piano.”

Re-Elect
Frances
(*Fran*)
Murphy

for Cold Spring Village Trustee

Let’s continue to get *BACK TO BASICS*

~~~~~

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**Beauty and the Beast (PG)**  
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After purloining a suet block from a bird feeder, a snow-cruste squirrel enjoys a feast.

Photo by L.S. Armstrong

# Stella!

## Nor'easter dumps 2 feet of powder on Highlands

“Snow falling soundlessly in the middle of the night will always fill my heart with sweet clarity.”  
~ Novala Takemoto

“A lot of people like snow. I find it to be an unnecessary freezing of water.”  
~ Carl Reiner

“Be like snow – cold, but beautiful.”  
~ Lana Del Rey

All Heaven and Earth  
Flowered white obliterate ...  
Snow ... unceasing snow  
~ Basho Matsuo

“Sunshine cannot bleach the snow, nor time unmake what poets know.”  
~ Ralph Waldo Emerson

For more photos, see [highlandscurrent.com](http://highlandscurrent.com)



Snowplowing in front of Hudson House

Photo by Anita Peltonen



At left, Main Street in Cold Spring became a cross country ski trail (Photo by Michael Turton) Above, the Mora children of Cold Spring, on church hill with their snow gear (Photo by Anita Peltonen)



Left, Main Street, Beacon (Photo by Jeff Simms); above, Main Street, Cold Spring (Photo by Ross Corsair)



## COMMUNITY BRIEFS

## Pet Rabies Vaccination Clinic

*Available for Putnam dogs, cats and ferrets*

The Putnam County Department of Health will sponsor a free rabies vaccination clinic for dogs, cats and ferrets from 2 to 5 p.m. on Saturday, March 25, at South Putnam Animal Hospital, 230B Baldwin Place Road, Mahopac. Bring photo ID as proof of residency and written evidence of prior rabies vaccination. (Tags are not acceptable.) If you do not have a written certificate, the pet will receive a one-year vaccine.

All dogs must be leashed and well-controlled and cats and ferrets must be in a carrier. Call 845-808-1390, ext. 43127.

## Coalition to Screen Documentary

*Film examines drug abuse by teens*

The Philipstown Communities That Care Coalition will screen a 30-minute Partnership for Drug-Free Kids documentary, *Breaking Points*, at the Haldane School auditorium at 7 p.m. on Thursday, March 23.

The film examines the stresses in a young person's life and how he or she may be coping, including by abusing prescription drugs. The film will be followed by small-group discussions.

The event is for adults only. Representatives from a number of nonprofit and county agencies specializing in child development, mental health and substance misuse prevention will be in attendance, and childcare and refreshments will be provided. RSVP at philipstownctc.org. The film is sponsored by the Lions Club and the Haldane PTA.

The film will be preceded at 6 p.m. by a discussion with Principal Peter Carucci called "Get to Know Haldane High School."

## How Much Time is Your Child Online?

*Film addresses growing up in digital age*

The documentary *Screenagers: Growing Up in the Digital Age* will be shown at the Highland Falls Intermediate



A scene from the documentary *Screenagers*

School auditorium at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, March 22. The film, which addresses the amount of time teenagers spend staring at screens and the friction this can cause in families, is appropriate for students ages 8 and older. To register for the free screening, visit [impactflow.com/event/1544](http://impactflow.com/event/1544).

## Cat Guthrie to Lead Choral Sessions

*Eight-week group starts March 23*

Cat Guthrie of Garrison will host an eight-week choral group series at the Tompkins Corners Cultural Center in Putnam Valley starting at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, March 23. "Harmony is the greatest equalizer," she says. "Each voice is just as important as any other."

The cost is \$90. To register, visit [tompkinscorners.org/dreamchoir.html](http://tompkinscorners.org/dreamchoir.html) or call 845-528-7280.

## Environmentalism Will Speak at Garrison

*"Hear and Now" series continues March 24*

The Garrison School PTA will present the latest in its monthly series of "Hear and Now" talks for middle-school students, parents and community members at 7 p.m. on Friday, March 24, when John Cronin, senior fellow for environmental affairs at Pace University and co-founder of Riverkeeper, will speak in the library.

A \$5 donation is suggested. Future speakers include chef and food stylist Nicki Sizemore on April 21, Jason Angell of Longhaul Farm CSA on May 19 and artist Melissa McGill on June 9.

## Land Trust to Host Forum on Deer

*Will discuss strategies to combat overpopulation*

The Hudson Highlands Land Trust will host a forum, "Deer?! Oh Dear!," on Sunday, March 26, to discuss the impact of overpopulation and how to mitigate it. The free event, which will take place from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Highlands Country Club, 955 Route 9D in Garrison, will include a 90-minute panel discussion in the morning, a complimentary lunch and two 40-minute breakout sessions in the afternoon. A \$10 donation is suggested. Register at [hhlt.org/sustainExpo.html](http://hhlt.org/sustainExpo.html).

## Ink on Wax

*Gallery opens exhibit on March 18*

The Garrison Art Center will open an exhibit of inked works by Alexandra Eastburn, *Passe — Partout*, on Saturday, March 18, with a reception from 5 to 7 p.m. The show con-



On March 3 the Philipstown Reform Synagogue hosted a communal Sabbath dinner at St. Mary's parish house as part of Shabbat Across America. Rabbi Helaine Ettinger is shown with Father Shane Scott-Hamblen, and synagogue members at the dinner.

*Photo provided*



An ink-on-wax work by Alexandra Eastburn on display at the Garrison Art Center

tinues through April 9.

Eastburn's scroll paintings are done on waxed butcher paper foraged in and near her neighborhood. The artist, who lives in Memphis and has a bachelor's in fine arts from the Memphis College of Art, is a member of the all-girl punk band Nots and an artist in residence at a Los Angeles gallery called PANEL.

The gallery, at 23 Garrison's Landing, also will open an exhibit by Charles McGill, *Temporal Presence*, in which he explores the way in which things are perceived using deconstructed vintage golf bags. The gallery is open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday to Sunday.

## Maple Syrup Day at Little Stony Point

*Annual meal with music set for March 25*

The Little Stony Point Citizens Association will celebrate spring with its annual Maple Syrup Day from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, March 25, at the entrance to the park. Free pancakes with maple syrup and coffee and cocoa will be served, and music provided by local musicians. Donations are welcome.

## Power and the Illusion of Power

*Cold Spring resident to discuss Lenape*

The Healing Arts Center in Garrison will host a talk at 2 p.m. on Satur-

day, March 18, by Cold Spring resident Hadrien Coumans (White Bear), director of the Lenape Center. The suggested donation is \$30. Coumans' presentation is titled "Power & The Illusion of Power in Lenapehoking (Calibrating to Mother Earth Through Building Altars — For Individuals, Families and Communities)." Lenapehoking is the homeland of the Lenape people renamed the Delaware Nation by European settlers.

RSVP to [bradteasdale@gmail.com](mailto:bradteasdale@gmail.com). The center is located at 1191 Route 9D.

## Panel Discussions

*Library to host quilting events*

The Desmond-Fish Library in Garrison will hold three events as part of National Quilting Month. On Tuesday, March 21, at 6:30 p.m., residents are invited to create a simple quilt front for the *Every Quilt Has a Story* show that continues at the library through March 29, after which they will be donated to the Linus Foundation ([projectlinus.org](http://projectlinus.org)). Material and sewing supplies will be provided and machines will be available if you don't have one to bring. New quilters are welcome. Call 845-424-3020 to register.

On Wednesday, March 29, at 1:30 p.m., the library will host a quilt show-and-tell. The library is located at 472 Route 403.

Visit [highlandscurrent.com](http://highlandscurrent.com) for news updates and latest information.



## COMMUNITY BRIEFS



**NIGHT FALLS ON POPPY'S** — After eight years, at least two TV appearances and thousands of grass-fed burgers, Poppy's in Beacon has closed. Its owner and chef Paul Yeaple said he's selling the building and moving the restaurant from Beacon to another yet-to-be-determined location in the Hudson Valley. *Photo by Brian PJ Cronin*

## Beacon

## Buying and Selling on eBay

*Expert will provide strategies and tips*

**R**ick Feingold, an eBay PowerSeller who has an MBA from Penn State, will present two workshops at the Howland Public Library in Beacon.

On Thursday, March 23, at 6 p.m., Feingold will discuss how to register as an eBay user, how to search for items, pricing and bidding strategies, how to check the seller's reputation using eBay feedback and paying for your item safely.

On Thursday, March 30, at 6 p.m., he will explain how eBay works, safe trading, selecting items to sell, learning the value of items, pricing merchandise, writing descriptions, taking photos, using PayPal, shipping goods and handling feedback.

## Improve Your Advocacy Skills

*Workshops designed for effective activism*

**S**cenic Hudson will host a free workshop at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, March 22, at its River Center at Long Dock Park in Beacon called "Advocacy 101 — First Steps to Civic Engagement."

The nonprofit organization's director of public policy, Andy Bicking, who has 19 years of experience as an advocate, will outline how citizens can be most effective in getting their voices heard by decision-makers. Topics will include tips for communicating with elected officials, tactics for developing advocacy campaigns and how bills become law. RSVP to Anthony Coneski at [aconeski@scenichudson.org](mailto:aconeski@scenichudson.org) or 845-473-4440, ext. 273.

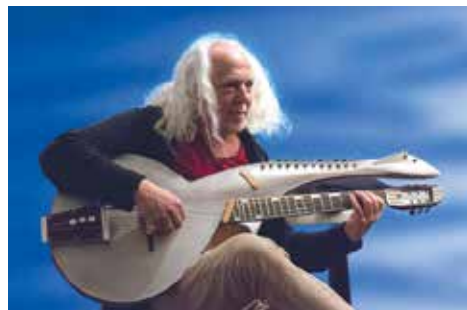
## New Music Series at Howland

*Launches with David Torn on March 24*

**T**he guitarist David Torn will perform at the Howland Cultural Center in Beacon at 8 p.m. on Friday, March 24, as the first in a series of concerts produced by Elysium Furnace Works.

Admission will be \$20 at the door. The Howland Cultural Center is located at 477 Main St.

Elysium Furnace Works is a cooperative led by Mike Faloon, James Keepnews and Steve Ventura. In addition to Torn's performance, it will present concerts on April 20 (Karl Berger/Ingrid Sertso Quintet), May 4 (Fly or Die at St. Andrew's Church) and May 26 (Jason Kao Hwang Trio). See [facebook.com/elysiumfurnaceworks](http://facebook.com/elysiumfurnaceworks).



Guitarist David Torn

## NAACP to Celebrate Women's History

*Documentary and tributes planned for March 25*

**T**he Southern Dutchess NAACP will host its annual Women's History Month Celebration at the Howland Cultural Center at 7 p.m. on Saturday, March 25. It will include a screening of the documentary *The Legacy of Michelle Obama*, a musical commemoration of the 90th birthday of soprano Leontyne Price and a tribute to Patrisse Cullors, Opal Tometi



The Breakneck Ridge Revue performing at the Towne Crier

*Photo by Russ Cusick*

and Alicia Garza, who created Black Lives Matter. A \$5 donation is suggested, and refreshments will be provided.

## Breakneck Ridge Revue Returns

*Will perform at Towne Crier March 19*

**T**he Breakneck Ridge Revue will return to the Towne Crier Café in Beacon for a performance at 7:30 p.m. on Sunday, March 19. Its house band is Andy Revkin, David Ross, Dan Einbender, Patrick Stanfield Jones, Mark Murphy and Todd Giudice, and guests include Suzanne Jarvie, Kate Fenner, Chris Brown and Christine Foertsch, who will perform a "justice rap." For tickets, call 845-855-1300 or visit [townecrier.com](http://townecrier.com).

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Leontyne Price performing with the Philadelphia Orchestra in 1971

*University Musical Society*

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## Folk Series Launches at Depot (from Page 9)



The Mammals, featuring Mike and Ruthy, in concert

Photo by Bob Smyth

Rauch. “Mike and Ruthy each play a bunch of instruments really well and are amazing singers and songwriters. They might do a workshop on harmony, or banjo or ukulele.”

In 2013 Merenda and Ungar founded the Summer and Winter Hoot, a pair of annual music festivals benefiting the Ashokan Center in Olivebridge. Last year they received invitations to 15 music festivals in the U.S. and Europe. NPR’s Folk Alley named their 2015 album, *Bright as You Can*, one of the 10 best of the year.

Rauch says he plans to emphasize different aspects of folk music with upcoming performances. “There’s a lot of room to run with this concept,” he says. “We want to get more first-time performers there. ‘Folk’ encompasses so many types of music. Half the songs out there are about trains, anyway!”

Tickets are \$20 for each workshop and \$25 for each concert, or \$60 for all four. See [brownpapertickets.com/event/2889121](http://brownpapertickets.com/event/2889121) and [brownpapertickets.com/event/2889144](http://brownpapertickets.com/event/2889144).



Sara Labriola, second from left, performing at the Django A GoGo Festival Photo provided

## How Did She Get to Carnegie Hall?

*Practice, of course*

Guitarist Sara Labriola of Garrison performed at Carnegie Hall on March 3 as part of the Django A GoGo Music Festival, a celebration of Belgian guitarist and composer Django Reinhart (1910-1953), who popularized Gypsy jazz.

“It was a surreal experience to not only play on stage at Carnegie Hall — the same stage Django played on with Duke Ellington — but to also share the same stage with your biggest idols,” she said. “The ovation of the crowd vibrates the entire stage and it was completely overwhelming in a beautiful way!”



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**The New McKrells**

Fri., 3/24 8:30 p.m.  
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& Carole King

Sat., 3/18 6:00 p.m.  
**Dead End Beverly - Free**

Sat., 3/25 6:00 p.m.  
**East Coast Jazz - Free**

Sat., 3/18 8:30 p.m.  
**Clancy Tradition**

Sun., 3/19 11:30 a.m.  
**Tony Garnier &  
Art Labriola - Free**

Sat., 3/25 8:30 p.m.  
**Special EFX**

Sun., 3/19 7:30 p.m.  
**Breakneck Ridge Revue**

Sun., 3/26 7:30 p.m.  
**Guy Davis  
& Fabrizio Poggi**

Thurs., 3/23 7:30 p.m.  
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# 100 Years, 100 Works, 101 Women

*Howland Center celebrates women, including its president*

By Alison Rooney

To mark the 100th anniversary of New York in 1917 becoming the first eastern state to enfranchise women, 100 female artists from the Hudson Valley have contributed to an exhibit at the Howland Cultural Center in Beacon. Called *100!*, it continues through Sunday, April 2, as part of Women's History Month.

At the opening on March 4, the Howland Center's force of nature, Florence Northcutt, who earlier that week announced she would be stepping down as board president, was honored for her 30-year dedication to the center. She was presented with flowers and a gift, but remarks were kept to a minimum



Bibiana Huang Matheis and Florence Northcutt at the opening of the 100! exhibit Photos by Frank Matheis

*"When the artwork started to arrive, in all shapes and sizes, it was a big puzzle to put together. But somehow they all fit, in a magical way."*

owing to her wishes that a fuss not be made. The Dutchess County poet laureate, Bettina "Gold" Wilkinson, read a poem she wrote for the occasion.

Bibiana Huang Matheis, a photographer and painter, conceived of the exhibit and served as its curator, inviting artists within a

100-mile radius of Beacon to contribute. She says she told contributors to "show what you want to show, bearing in mind

the size of the space" but provided no other guidelines. As a result, the contributions vary greatly in terms of media, intent, size and focus and include paintings, sculpture, ceramics, photography and even armor.

Huang Matheis, whose family emigrated from China, says that part of the desire to come here was based on freedom of speech and voting rights. "We didn't take that for granted," she says, adding that about 20 percent of the



Florence Northcutt was honored with flowers at the opening of the 100! exhibit



Bettina "Gold" Wilkerson reads a poem she wrote for the occasion at the 100! opening.

artists exhibiting happen to be immigrants. Working with so many artists at once was "quite a test," she admits. "When the artwork started to arrive, in all shapes and sizes, it was a big puzzle to put together. But somehow they all fit, in a magical way."

A number of works were created specifically for the exhibit. A wool installation by Mimi Czajka Graminski includes a flowing mass of red, acknowledging women's voices. Amy Manso's piece is made from recycled plastic materials, evoking the recent women's marches, while Amy Farrell contributed a pencil-and-ink drawing of 100 women.

Much of the work deals with issues of freedom and liberty and of having one's own voice. "There's not much protest art," Huang Matheis notes. "Instead it is about pulling us together."

The exhibit is open from 1 to 5 p.m.



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Friday through Monday, with the exception of Sunday, March 19, when it is closed due to a concert presented by the Howland Chamber Music Circle. The cultural center is located at 477 Main St.

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## Mother Nature Smackdown *(from Page 1)*

weather for cold.

The siblings are climate patterns that affect both the ocean and the atmosphere. Just as El Niño should have been making way for La Niña — he goes a few rounds controlling our weather, then she does — he pulls off a feint. Switching winds churn up colder waters from the bottom of the Pacific Ocean off western South America, and — wham! — El Niño takes back the winter.

His return took many long-range forecasters by surprise.

It was supposed to be La Niña's turn for at least six months. She protects the Northeast from harsher storms by keeping the colder ones west of the 750-mile St. Lawrence River, which runs between the eastern U.S. and Canada.

### Grand slam extended

"So I got March wrong," admits long-term forecaster

Jim Witt, who lives in Cold Spring, "and I'm going to study what happened."

In October, El Niño was fading and La Niña ascending. Based on that, a few hefty snowstorms were predicted for February, followed by a temperate March. But thanks to the quashing of La Niña, we got just one big slam Feb. 9, and a skiers' weekend expected for Feb. 16 to 19 never materialized. Those storms seem to have rescheduled themselves for March.

"March is proving to be colder than it should be," says Witt. "We are 2.6 degrees below normal. The average is 48 degrees daytime, and 29 degrees nighttime. The average snowfall for March should be 7 inches."

"When you have [a dominant] La Niña, ocean warmth from the previous summer and autumn, and in this case, early winter," is preserved, he explains, and keeps our winter from being too severe. Several winters have fit that profile. Now, due to the out-of-season shift, all bets are off.



A street scene in Beacon after a four-day blizzard that began on March 11, 1888  
BHS/beaconhistorical.org

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# The HIGHLANDS Current

20 MARCH 10, 2017

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## Haldane Girls Fall Short in Regional Final

The Haldane varsity girls' basketball team achieved one goal this season — defeating Pine Plains, which had twice knocked them out of the state tournament — but could not get by Section 11 champ

Port Jefferson on March 9, falling 43-30 at SUNY Old Westbury in the Class C regional final.

Port Jefferson, which earlier in the month won a sectional title for the first time in 90 years, advanced to the final four in Troy on March 18.

After a five-point run in the second

quarter, Port Jefferson never trailed. It led by double digits for most of the fourth quarter, led by senior Courtney Lewis, who has scored 2,000 career points and finished with 18 in the game.

Allison Chiera led the Blue Devils with 12 points, Abbey Stowell added eight and Olivia McDermott had six. Haldane shot only 27 percent from the floor.

The Blue Devils finished 18-6.

## Lisikatos Has Solid Season at Oneonta

Samantha Lisikatos, a 2014 Haldane graduate, averaged five points, 2.5 rebounds and three assists during the 2016-17 season for the SUNY Oneonta women's basketball team, which finished at 15-11 (12-6 conference). The junior guard scored a season-high 14 points and had seven assists against Clarkson on Nov. 19.

## Cool Under Pressure

Madison Chiera of Cold Spring defeated five other 12-year-olds to win her age group at the Hudson Valley Knights of Columbus Regional Free Throw Competition on March 12 at Lourdes High School in Poughkeepsie. She made 16 of 25



Madison Chiera

Photo provided



Sam Lisikatos drives to the basket against Buffalo State on Feb. 3. She had six points and six assists in the win

SUNY Oneonta photo

## On March 21<sup>st</sup>, Re-Elect Leaders for Every Street



Watch Dave, Marie & Fran at the *Highlands Current* Candidate Forum  
[www.highlandscurrent.com](http://www.highlandscurrent.com)

See and Hear Their

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**Trustees Marie Early & Fran Murphy**

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**March 21<sup>st</sup> Vote for fiscally-responsible, fact-based leadership for every street in our Village.**

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