Cold Spring Mayor’s Race Too Close to Call
Absentee ballots will decide it; incumbent trustees re-elected

By Michael Turton

Cold Spring voters will have to wait a bit longer to learn who their next mayor will be. When the polls closed March 21, incumbent Mayor Dave Merandy led challenger Alison Anthoine by 22 votes, 369 to 347. Absentee ballots, which will be counted in Carmel on Tuesday, March 28, will determine the winner.

Catherine Croft, the Democratic commissioner for the Putnam County Board of Elections, said that 60 absentee ballots were issued and 40 had been received by Election Day. She said that any ballots the board receives by March 28 must have been postmarked on or before March 21 to be valid.

The tally is scheduled for 3 p.m. at the Board of Elections office. To become mayor, Anthoine will need to win the absentee ballots. Absentee ballots will decide it; incumbent trustees re-elected

In the race for two open trustee seats on the five-member board, incumbents Fran Murphy and Marie Early topped the polls with 487 and 398 votes, respectively. Challenger and first-time candidate Peggy Schatszle received 327 votes. There were 70 write-in votes cast. If you need help lowering your energy bills, Beacon has your back. If you need help lowering your energy bills, Beacon has your back.

OUTDOOR EDUCATION — Carolyn Llewellyn, an instructor at Haldane, shows off some of the more than 60 gallons of sap that has been collected from sugar maples on the school campus in Cold Spring. Elementary students assist with the harvest and visit the Taconic Outdoor Education Center to see the sap processed into syrup. For more photos, see highlandscurrent.com.

Saving Green
Energy program expands to Beacon

By Brian PJ Cronin

If you need help lowering your energy bills, Beacon has your back. On Tuesday, March 28, at 6:30 p.m., the city will launch its Energize Beacon program at the River Center in Long Dock Park. Funded by the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) and operated in partnership with the city’s Conservation Advisory Committee, the program offers homeowners an on-site assessment to find inefficiencies. More than 90 percent of Beacon residents will qualify for a free assessment, officials said, and Energize Beacon will then help find accredited contractors, subsidies, incentives and low-interest financing.

Butterfield Developer Sues Village in Federal Court
Claims mayor tried to sabotage project, run up costs

By Liz Schvetchuk Armstrong

Six days before the March 21 election in which Cold Spring Mayor Dave Merandy sought a second term, Butterfield developer Paul Guillaro sued the village in federal court for $2.5 million, accusing the mayor of attempting to sabotage the project and bankrupt him.

The suit, filed March 15 in the U.S. District Court for Southern New York and served on the village on March 22, alleges Merandy undertook “a malicious and intentional campaign of harassment, usurpation of authority and other unlawful actions” against the developer and his project. The filing does not suggest a motive for the alleged obstruction but does assert the mayor once called Guillaro “just another rich builder trying to take advantage of the village.”

Guillaro filed the action in federal court because he says his constitutional rights to due process were violated. He is far from the first developer to allege this after delays in projects (see Page 6).

The 13-page complaint claims Merandy frequently expressed, in comments “overheard” after Village Board meetings (the suit does not say by whom), a desire to kill the project. It cites Barney Molloy, who lost the mayoral election to Merandy in March 2015, as telling Guillaro that summer that “it was his understanding” that Merandy; the mayor’s wife, former Trustee Stephanie Hawkins; former Trustee Matt Francisco; and Kathleen Foley (a member of the Historic District Review Board, misidentifying in the (Continued on Page 6)
Do You Have an 'Indian Princess'?

By Valerie LaRobardier

So you think you have Native American ancestry — what now? If you believe this from a family legend or clues that pop up during your research, a DNA test might be a good first step. Be forewarned, however, that results are often inconclusive regarding distant ethnic percentages. Autosomal, or “family finder,” results match results are often inconclusive regarding distant ethnic ethnicities and may help by linking you to others who have documented links to regions or tribes.

In the meantime, investigate what you have heard of your family story. My father always said he was “English, Scotch, Dutch, Irish and a little bit Indian.” His roots were in Maine, where many people make such claims, so I disregarded it until a fellow researcher shared a grainy photo of our “brick-wall” ancestor, Rebecca (Day) Porter, whose face has clear indigenous traits and whose hair appears to have a tiny braid. A distant Porter cousin’s DNA test has since identified Rebecca as his most likely Native American ancestor.

The steps you take in researching an indigenous ancestor depend on whether you know in which line he or she resides. If you have only DNA test results that show you are some percentage Native American, or a non-specific family story, you should determine which of your lines have “holes.” Do your lines go back in New England to a time when white population was sparse? If you are of mixed race, did your ancestors live in an area near a reservation where freed slaves and indigenous likely intermarried?

An ancestral fan chart (below, left), which visually depicts your unknown ancestors by generation and line, can be useful for this strategy. In my case, we eliminated all but Rebecca Day’s family as the target for the family legend. My other lines could be documented far enough to rule out indigenous roots. I later found another Native American ancestor, quite by accident, further back on the other side of my tree — a story for another day.

In using ethnic-specific resources, keep in mind their shortcomings. First, these resources often cover only a limited number of tribes. Be wary of common misconceptions, such as the “Indian princess” often mentioned in family legends and ridiculed by reputable genealogists. The term “princess” was attached by whites in the English retelling. It doesn’t mean the story is false, only that the term princess may have been used in error. Another oft-reported legend is “Cherokee” heritage, which may be legit but more often comes from substituting a well-known tribe for “Indian” in the legend.

Oral history, also often discounted by genealogists, is particularly important. Cultures that did not have a written language passed their lineage and history through a trained individual in each generation, giving it a high degree of accuracy. However, as with written accounts, variations and minor embellishments may have crept into your family story over time. Secrecy and misdirection on the part of your ancestors may also make them difficult to spot as Native Americans. Put simply, if they hid their ethnicity, they will not be found in ethnic databases.

Vital records may not identify ethnicity. Census records also can be difficult. In the federal censuses for 1790, 1800 and 1810, Native Americans living off the reservation would have been listed as “all other free.” For 1820, 1830 and 1840, they were recorded as “free colored persons.” In 1850, “Indians not taxed” (meaning those on reservations) were not to be enumerated. The race designation “mulatto” would likely be used for a person who lived off the reservation and had dark skin. Keeping in mind the prevailing sentiment at the time, those who could “pass” were likely enumerated as white. In 1870 “half-breed” persons who had assimilated were to be recorded as white. From 1885 to 1940 special censuses were taken on reservations.

Tribes vary in their willingness and abilities to assist with genealogy. Tribal records can help in some cases but are limited in scope. If a tribe applied for official recognition, its documentation may help. The Dawes Rolls were taken beginning in 1887 to survey the “Five Civilized Tribes”: Cherokee, Choctaw, Chickasaw, Creek and Seminole. Ancestry.com provides indexes and reservation census schedules, although coverage can be spotty. You’ll get the best results by first placing your ancestor in an area and period when it can be proven that indigenous people were present and fleshing out your family history within the context of local history.

In eastern Dutchess County we are fortunate to have the Moravian Archives and the Yale Indian Papers that document early Native American history. The Yale papers, which begin in the 1600s, contain letters, petitions, deeds and court records, all digitized and available online. The Moravian documents, housed in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, cover the Eastern Dutchess missions for 1740s through 1760s, often documenting individuals and relationships by tribe, with Native and Christian names.

LaRobardier is a professional genealogist and president of the Dutchess County Genealogical Society. Every other month, she will discuss strategy and resources for research in Dutchess and Putnam counties and answer queries from readers. She can be reached at genealogy@highlandscurrent.com. Email her for a list of resources for researching Native American ancestry.
First Draft of Sanctuary Bill Making Rounds

Beacon document calls for “united community”

By Jeff Simms

Beacon officials have drafted a resolution designed to ensure that undocumented immigrants feel safe interacting with police in the city, but the document stops short of naming Beacon a “sanctuary city” that would not offer assistance to federal immigration officials seeking to locate or arrest undocumented residents.

The first draft of the resolution, which recognizes the city as a “united community,” calls for public safety services to “continue to be provided without regard to immigration status,” and states that Beacon police do not “have the authority nor the desire” to stop or arrest individuals based on their immigration status. Police Chief Doug Solomon confirmed that approach in an interview earlier this month but also said his department should operate independent of City Council oversight.

Council members George Mansfield, Ali Michael McKee, PhD

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How Kingston Did It

In November, more than 20 clergy members in Kingston asked Mayor Steve Noble to consider declaring the city a sanctuary.

Two months later, on Jan. 10, after three hours of discussion, the city’s council voted 5 to 3 in favor of a resolution “reaffirming Kingston as a welcoming and inclusive city.”

In an interview, Noble argued that sanctuary cities don’t violate federal law, as local enforcement of immigration laws is not mandatory.

Noble estimated that 60 percent of Kingston residents favor sanctuary status, which he called “a statement of values and goals” that “sets the tone” for the city. While he acknowledged some residents’ fears of increased crime, he said “we think the complete opposite is going to happen. We think people are going to feel more comfortable calling the police.”

Noble said the council included the term “sanctuary city” in the resolution even though some municipalities have avoided it. “It was important for us to say that,” he said.

The Beacon council is working on a second draft of the resolution which clarifies that the city would assist federal immigration enforcement if community safety is threatened. The council will discuss the issue further at its March 27 workshop.

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Kingston Mayor Steve Noble
O’Neill responds

In his letter in the March 17 issue, Philipston Supervisor Richard Shea says my imagined opposition to the full, free services of Philipstown’s building department “will have to remain a mystery.” To me too: I have never expressed opposition to shared services. The real mystery: Shea says these services will be provided “at no additional cost” to Nelsonville taxpayers. Impressive. Do these “free” services include lunch? Really, Mr. Supervisor, our citizens are smarter than that.

Shea says that Cold Spring agreed to shift its building department to the town. A triumph, I’m sure, but for whom? If I were mayor of Cold Spring, I’d be glad to hand off the hot potato of the Butterfield project. With a multimillion dollar lawsuit pending against Cold Spring, the supervisor better have legal counsel carefully review this agreement — it might be ticking.

Shea states I am ill-informed about government. Possibly. But during my business career I worked with U.S. House committees, a U.N. agency in Geneva, the European Union and New York state. I understand government and federalism. My letter was too polite and subtle — Shea missed the point. I said he was flirting with national political issues; the operative word is “political.” Prodded by Eric Stark, a local activist, Shea is embracing an ideologically charged agenda that can only provoke the same poisonous divisiveness infecting our national body politic.

I am neither a Democrat nor a Republican. Call me a peace party candidate — I want to promote the domestic tranquility of my community.

With no apparent irony, Shea proposes a “Citizens’ Bill of Rights,” a proposal that seems to be largely focused on non-citizens. Let’s drop the double-speak. He sponsors nullification of federal law and promotes enmity between federal and local law enforcement. Nullification was tried before — in the antebellum South against federal anti slavery laws. The West Point Foundry is a reminder that this effort didn’t work out so well.

Stark warns that “time is of the essence” to pass this rights amendment, and Shea agreed. Let me soothe their hysteria. The helicopters they hear over the town are not carrying the dreaded jack-booted teams of federal agents ready to ravel down and invade local residences. It’s only West Point Cadets on maneuvers.

Shea states that he has sworn an oath to protect the health and rights of the people of Philipston. I found this stirring but must admit I am unfamiliar with the supervisor’s oath. Is there anything in there about upholding the law?

As mayor, I will cooperate with Philipston, but I will continue as a citizen to criticize Shea and any board member who diddled with silly politically correct straw men on the citizens’ dime.

Bill O’Neill, Nelsonville

Sanctuary city

So now our Philipston government can pick and choose which federal laws it wishes to abide by? (“Sanctuary in the Highlands,” March 10). Illegal aliens are illegal. No sanctuary — go file the paperwork and do it right. If my “so-called” (and I use that loosely) local leaders make Philipston a sanctuary city, I can go get another handgun, but this time without registration. Call it a “sanctuary gun.” It’s not illegal because Philipston doesn’t follow federal laws. I choose not to follow this one.

If the handgun is never used in a crime, nobody knows I have it. It may be dangerous, or it may just be fine, kind of like an illegal living in a sanctuary city. Nobody can do anything about them being there, they may be dangerous, they may be fine, you don’t know, because they were never registered as citizens. But once a crime is committed by either illegal — the gun or alien —

(Continued on next page)
then and only then may we enforce the law, and we now can ask for local help as well. But before this, their hands and mouths were wired shut under the “sanctuary law.” Now isn’t that just the dumbest thing you ever heard?!

Obviously, the town board officials are out of their Democratic minds. We are a country of laws — follow them!

If Eric Stark, who proposed this to the board, wants to speed up the immigration process, that is outstanding. I agree with him. The U.S. is a melting pot. But let’s do it the legal way — the way so many millions have done it before. Is it fair to them to cheat and cut the line? Sanctuary cities are just wrong.

Michael Junjulus, Cold Spring

I am retired after 36 years in law enforcement and I find it offensive to even talk about non-compliance with other law enforcement officials. Our judicial system provides a forum for interpreting laws, so let the courts do their job. This nation is in chaos because some people think we don’t need structure, discipline and rules.

My family are immigrants from Sicily. They were poor, but managed to get on a ship and come through Ellis Island, where they followed all the rules of citizenship. They went to work immediately, worked hard and raised their family here. This is supposed to be a civilized nation and there are protocols in place to keep it that way. This is not Nazi Germany. Trump is not Hitler and we are not white supremacists. Our energy is better used working to figure out how we can reduce this nation is in chaos because some people think we don’t need structure, discipline and rules.

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Cindy Trimble, Cold Spring

Parking solution?

I am not a native of Cold Spring so perhaps I see things that others do not. I do know that parking, especially on weekends, is at a premium. During the summer months and on weekends the school parking lots are vacant, leaving room for possible income for the town — at a dollar a car, anyone would be willing to walk up and down the hills of Cold Spring.

This came to me as I looked for a parking space.

Ruth Bilodeau, Cold Spring

Banner day

Word on the (Main) street is that there’s a fair amount of criticism of the “No Hate! No Fear!” banner on the white building across from Memorial Park in Beacon [below].

I’d like to offer a counterpoint. I applaud those stalwarts of the community who hung the banner for taking a stand to counter the toxic, disheartening and destructive rhetoric that our supposed national leaders are spewing all over the media.

And while expressing support for those more vulnerable among us should not be controversial, these concerned citizens are surely smart enough to know it would be. I applaud their courage.

We all should appreciate these voices of acceptance in our little community on the river. (Pete Seeger would be proud.) Please don’t let the negative voices drown them out. Messages of hope can overshadow despair, and love should trump hate.

Scott Tillitt, Beacon

In order to become a U.S. citizen, an applicant must take an oral civics test with a U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services officer, who asks 10 random questions from a list of 100. The applicant must correctly answer six. (Ninety-two percent do.) At least 16 states, not including New York, require high school students to pass the same or a similar test before graduating. Beginning in 2019 in Arkansas, for example, students who hope to graduate will have to correctly answer 60 of the 100 questions on the naturalization test, although with the benefit of multiple choice. (One lawmaker there introduced a bill to also require state legislators to pass the test.)

Here is a selection of 30 questions from among the 100 that could be presented to an aspiring citizen. Some have more than one possible answer, but only one needs to be provided. You can find the correct responses at highlandscurrent.com.

1. What is the supreme law of the land?

2. The idea of self-government is in the Constitution. What are these words?

3. What do we call the first 10 amendments to the Constitution?

4. What are two rights in the Declaration of Independence?

5. What is the rule of law? A group of new citizens during a naturalization ceremony at the Putnam County Courthouse in 2015. County photo

6. What are the two parts of the U.S. Congress?

7. How many U.S. senators are there?

8. We elect a U.S. senator for how many years?

9. Who is one of your state’s U.S. senators?

10. The House of Representatives has how many voting members?

11. Name your U.S. representative.

12. If both the president and the vice president can no longer serve, who becomes president?

13. Who is the chief justice of the United States?

14. Under our Constitution, some powers belong to the federal government. What is one power of the federal government?

15. What is the capital of your state?

16. There are four amendments to the Constitution about who can vote. Describe one of them.

17. Name one right only for United States citizens.

18. What are two rights of everyone living in the United States?

19. Why did the colonists fight the British?

20. Who wrote the Declaration of Independence?

21. There were 13 original states. Name three.

22. The Federalist Papers supported the passage of the U.S. Constitution. Name one of the writers.

23. What territory did the United States buy from France in 1803?

24. Name one war fought by the United States in the 1800s.

25. What did Susan B. Anthony do?

26. Who was the president during World War I?

27. Name one of the two longest rivers in the United States.

28. Name one U.S. territory.

29. Name one state that borders Canada.

30. What is the name of the national anthem?
Butterfield Developer Sues Village in Federal Court (from Page 1)

document as a trustee) were “going to do whatever it took” to thwart the project. Molloy oversaw review of the Butterfield project as Planning Board chairperson from July 2013 to April 2015, when Merandy replaced him with Donald MacDonald. Molloy remained on the board until November 2015, resigning after Merandy named Francisco to succeed MacDonald. During a Village Board meeting March 16, the day after the court filing, Merandy said he and the village attorneys were confident they will prevail. “I know where I was on this,” he said. “I know where the people in this office were, and the people that are implicated in this, and there is absolutely no truth in it. I’m sorry that it has to come to that ... that Mr. Guillaro feels that this is true. We’ll see where it goes. It’s unfortunate.”

He commented after his opponent in the mayoral race, Alison Anthoine, the former president of the Cold Spring Area Chamber of Commerce, raised the issue during the public remarks portion of the meeting. Thanking Anthoine for the “cheery little note,” Merandy said the lawsuit “is coming at a really perfect time, I have to say,” and quipped: “It’s not political, I don’t think. And you going up there [to speak at the meeting] is not political, either. I’m just saying ... Thank you for that information [about the lawsuit] and Mr. Guillaro for the timing on that.”

Neither Village Attorney John Furst nor Salvatore Ferlazzo, Guillaro’s attorney, responded to requests for comment. Nor has Merandy said anything further.

Guillaro has actively pursued redevelopment of the former Butterfield Hospital site since 2011, when he presented a design to the Village Board. After four years of proceedings before assorted committees — a period during which Guillaro says he spent more than $1 million — the Cold Spring Planning Board approved a final site plan consisting of two office-retail buildings; two buildings with 55 market-rate condominiums for older residents; the existing Lahey Pavilion, which contains medical offices; and three single-family homes.

In 2015 Guillaro revised his plan to put a lost a survey of court cases around on his opponents in one of the new office-retail buildings and instead said it would be placed in Lahey, while medical offices would occupy the new building. Guillaro argues in the suit that this swap constituted “a minor modification” but that “Merandy seized upon it” and told the building inspector not to authorize it, forcing Guillaro to incur more costs.

The lawsuit recites a litany of other complaints, including that after being elected Merandy fired the consultants on the project, forcing Guillaro to pay to bring new consultants up to speed; intentionally fired an engineering and planning firm based in Connecticut to cost Guillaro money; instructed William Florence, a firm based in Connecticut to cost Guillaro money; instructed William Florence, a firm based in Connecticut to cost Guillaro money; instructed William Florence, a firm based in Connecticut to cost Guillaro money; instructed William Florence, a firm based in Connecticut to cost Guillaro money; instructed William Florence, a firm based in Connecticut to cost Guillaro money.

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In 2015 Guillaro revised his plan to put a new director of public works to take any action on Butterfield without his approval (a charge the suit asserts the inspector and ”director of public works” personally confirmed). Cold Spring does not have a director of public works. Greg Phillips, the superintendent of water and sewers, said on March 22 that the reference was probably to him. He noted that the mayor and

Developers vs. Mayors

A survey of court cases around the state indicates, Cold Spring is far from the only municipality to be sued by a developer. Three examples:

March 2015: Litigation began in 2012 over a proposed 167-unit housing-and-restaurant complex on the Erie Canal in Pittsford. The developer sued the village. Residents sued the developer. The developer sued the residents. The residents sued the village. Finally, the village board sued its planning board for allegedly allowing the developer to make changes to the approved final site plan and accepting free golf outings.

April 2008: A developer sued Westhampton Beach for $25 million, claiming his plans to build a 39-unit housing complex were illegally delayed by an arbitrary 15-month construction moratorium and the threat of a $300,000 environmental review unless he hired the village planner to create a new plan. The developer’s lawyer said his client had appeared before various village boards 50 to 75 times, which he suggested must be a record.

November 2007: A developer sued the Village of Quogue for $25 million, claiming the mayor and board refused to approve any of three plans to raze a historic building at the city center and replace it with (1) an 11-condo building, (2) a 26,000-square-foot office building or (3) six single-family homes, because he is Italian.

trustees comprise the Board of Water Commissioners, with whom a superintendent would discuss important matters.

“If I had a question regarding the Water Code, would I not defer to a conversation with the mayor and/or the board?” he wrote in an email. “This project is unlike any other in our community, and I wanted to make sure that the village’s interests were covered with respect to metering and fees, as well as to review of any portions of the water or sewer utilities not part of the approved site plan. From my end, I see no issues. There were no directives to me from the mayor and/or board.”
Who Do You Work For?

Tourism bureau says it doesn’t answer to legislature

By Holly Crocco

A fter introducing the newly hired executive director of the Putnam County Visitors’ Bureau to county lawmakers during the March 16 Economic Development Committee meeting, acting director Frank Smith brought legislators up to speed on where the department stands financially.

Smith was made the acting executive director of tourism more than a year ago after Libby Pataki resigned following allegations that neither the nonprofit Visitors’ Bureau nor another she set up without the legislature’s knowledge had functioning boards, as required by state law. It is not clear if Smith, who earns $50,000 annually, will continue to work at the bureau.

Smith told legislators that in addition to the $60,000 in funds the bureau receives from the state as part of its “I Love New York” campaign — money that is matched by the county and must be spent outside Putnam — the department relies on about $180,000 from the county.

At the end of 2016, the legislature voted to release only part of its funding to the bureau. Since that time, two members of the six-member volunteer board, Philip Tomach of Carmel and Deborah Walker of Cold Spring, have left. Putnam County legislator Barbara Scuccimarra, who represents Philipstown, said Tolmach had resigned after applying for the executive director position and Walker had job demands that made contributing to the board difficult. She said the board planned to add two members, including Laura Lee Holmbo of Cold Spring, the former marketing director for The Valley Table.

Smith told lawmakers on March 16 that the Visitors’ Bureau will be out of funds by the end of April if the legislature doesn’t release the remaining $100,000 into its bank account. He said the funds pay the operational expenses associated with the department, including salaries, insurance, taxes and supplies.

Matters became heated when Dini LoBue (R-Mahopac Falls) expressed disappointment over how the bureau has been run over the past year, saying she has been unable to reach anyone in the office to answer questions about its financials.

“Now that Bruce [Conklin, the new executive director] is here on a full-time basis, we have a presence in the office throughout the entire day,” countered Smith, who confirmed that an accountant has been hired and that the county is in compliance with state requirements.

However, when Smith said he had been advised by legal counsel not to answer questions about the accounting agency the bureau used last year during its restructuring, LoBue said he is required to report to the legislature.

“You work for me; you work for us,” said LoBue. “We appropriate your budget.”

“Under the advice of counsel, I am not answering that question,” Smith again replied.

LoBue asked Smith if he was still collecting a $50,000 salary, which Smith confirmed.

Barney Molloy, who chairs the four-member tourism board, came to the Smith’s defense. He said the bureau is a nonprofit organization that has a contract with and reports to County Executive MaryEllen Odell, not the legislature. “I’m afraid you need to go back and check your records,” he told LoBue. “We are here as a courtesy at the request of the county executive to report on the matching grants appointment. It is not an open-ended fishing expedition.”

LoBue begged to differ.

“You are not here at the request of the county executive; you are here at the request of the chairwoman of the committee,” she said to Molloy. “I know you feel very uppity tonight, but I don’t work for you — you don’t question me, I question you.”

She then called for Molloy’s removal from the board, citing his arrest in Cold Spring in February on petit larceny charges for allegedly stealing $10 worth of newspapers from bundles outside a coffee shop. (The case is ongoing; Molloy has pleaded not guilty.)

“Are you in court right now?” LoBue asked.

“Shut up,” Molloy said.

Molloy asked why he had been removed from the board.

“The chairwoman of the legislature, you’re out of order,” said Ginny Nacerino (R-Patterson), to LoBue. “It’s inappropriate and should not be tolerated.”

County Attorney Jennifer Bumgarner clarified that the Visitor’s Bureau has a contract with Putnam County, which includes the legislature, that is executed by the county executive.

However, she said it’s not clear if the bureau is subject to the state Freedom of Information Law (FOIL) and must disclose information to lawmakers. “An argument can be made either way,” she said. “In the past, based upon the characteristics of the organization, it has been our opinion that they are not subject to FOIL.”

LoBue asked Bumgarner to seek an advisory opinion from the state Committee on Open Government. However, when The Current filed FOIL requests on March 20 with the county clerk concerning the Visitor’s Bureau, the newspaper was told for the first time that it has been determined (by the county law department) that the Putnam County Visitor’s Bureau is not a “county agency” subject to FOIL.

The county law department did not respond to a request to explain its ruling. The Visitors’ Bureau was incorporated in 1998.

The discussion is expected to continue at the April meeting of the Economic Development Committee.
The Senior Center
Construction could begin before summer
By Michael Turton
Now that the ink has dried on the final amendment to the lease between Putnam County and developer Paul Guillaro, County Legislator Barbara Scuccimarra says construction of Philipstown’s long-awaited senior citizen center will soon get underway. The 6,000-square-foot facility will be located in the Lahey Pavilion, part of the redevelopment of the former Butterfield Hospital site in Cold Spring. Scuccimarra said March 22 that Guillaro told her construction at Building No. 2 adjacent to Lahey is ahead of schedule. As a result, she said, work on the senior center could begin soon. “I’d like to see seniors in there this fall,” she said. “That would be great.”

The 37-page lease agreement includes an initial 15-year term with an optional 10-year renewal. Putnam County can exercise an option to purchase the facility anytime after the initial term and before the end of the renewal period.

The final amendment was approved by the Putnam County Legislature on Dec. 7. County Executive MaryEllen Odell and Guillaro signed off on Dec. 19 and Dec. 29, respectively, ending what had been a litany of amendments often marked by rancorous debate at the Legislature and its Physical Services Committee.

The amended lease guarantees that Putnam County will provide “round-trip transportation services to any senior citizen resident of Philipstown who wishes to participate in on-site programs.”

Scuccimarra noted that the county provides busing at each of its senior centers and “Cold Spring would have been no different. We’ve been doing that for 20 years.”

The stipulation that busing be guaranteed was part of a compromise reached between the developer and the Village of Cold Spring that also reduced the number of parking spaces to 24, the rationale being that providing seniors with transportation would reduce the number of cars at the center. The amendment also states that visitors will be permitted to use spaces elsewhere on the site “within reason” after business hours.

The Cold Spring Planning Board approved the wording in the amendment at its March 9 meeting after receiving a copy of the document on March 3.

Putnam County will receive the building “as is” and is responsible for the cost of renovations, outfitting and utilities. Butterfield Realty will provide a new entrance door, two water lines and $25,000 toward a rooftop HVAC system.

Fran Murphy said she was glad the election is over and expressed gratitude for being elected to a second term. “I think people like me and trust me and I think that makes a difference,” she said. “I’m all for getting the facts and some people were just throwing stuff out there without the facts. It annoys me when people try to influence the election by doing that.”

Regarding the close race for mayor, she said, “I’ve worked with Dave for two years and enjoy working with him very much. But if Alison wins, I’ll work with Alison.”

“The job we did in the last two years was a compelling argument to vote for us,” said Marie Earley, also elected to her second term. Asked if she felt the federal lawsuit filed against the village by Butterfield developer Paul Guillaro and naming Merandy six days before the election was a factor in the mayor’s race, she responded, “I think it had a significant effect.”

Although he received at most 70 votes, Frank Haggerty said he took some satisfaction from the results. “I largely accomplished what I wanted to achieve,” he said, which was “to get the papers to publish my information, get people to read it and understand it and discuss it. People indicated they voted for me based on what I wrote.”

He also commented that a write-in campaign (this was his second attempt) isn’t the most effective way to get elected. Peggy Schatzle was at the firehouse for the vote count but left soon after and attempts to reach her the next day for comment were not successful.

The election marked the end of Cold Spring’s tradition of voting in March. Beginning in 2018 the village will go to the polls in November, at the same time as state and national elections.
It’s High School Musical Season!

The Who’s Tommy and The Drowsy Chaperone

By Alison Rooney

High school musicals are a staple of March, capping off months of latenight winter rehearsals with some roar-of-the-greasepaint glory. Haldane recently staged Into the Woods and Beacon High School and O’Neill High School in Fort Montgomery, which many Garrison residents attend, are gearing up for shows of their own.

The Beacon and O’Neill productions couldn’t be more poles apart, as Beacon revs up the 1969 rock opera, The Who’s Tommy, and O’Neill serves up a valentine to musical comedies of the 1920s with The Drowsy Chaperone.

Tommy began its life as the popular album (20 million copies sold) by the British band The Who. A film adaptation was done in 1975, but it wasn’t turned into a Broadway musical until 1992. Chaperone debuted in Toronto in 1998 and finally made it to Broadway in 2006 for a successful run.

Performances for both musicals are scheduled for Friday, March 31, and Saturday, April 1, at 7 p.m. and Sunday, April 2, at 2 p.m.

Tommy

At Beacon High School, the students help choose each year’s musical (this year there were two, including a fall production of Grease). Director Anthony Scarrone had a few suggestions, including Mary Poppins, but the teens weren’t buying it.

“They told me, ‘We really want to do something with a little more craziness to it,’” he says. “Tommy came up, and that was that.”

He notes the show has only three or four lines of dialogue, “so it really is a rock opera, with these incredible songs: ‘Pinball Wizard,’ ‘I’m Free,’ ‘Sensation.’ But the story of the pinball-playing, deaf, mute and blind boy who triumphs over his adversities is important in it. There’s a boy who is totally affected by a traumatic event, which his parents don’t recognize right away. They have to come to recognize his talent and allow themselves to be happy about things. It’s a beautiful storyline.”

The high school actors, known as the Beacon Players, are joined in the production by Beacon fifth- through eighth-graders cast through auditions.

Scarrone says he believes the production values will surprise audiences. “We have the stage raised up four feet above our regular stage.”

(Continued on Page 12)

Flour Power

Journeyman baker brings bread from his house to yours

By Brian PJ Cronin

The first rule of Journeyman Bakery is: Don’t go looking for Journeyman Bakery.

“I get these people who are, like, rabid fans of the bread,” explains Michael Sellers, the man behind the bakery. “And they call me upset because they’re driving around Peekskill and they can’t find my store.”

The problem is that there is no store.

Sellers operates from a spare bedroom in his home. There, in less than 150 square feet, he cranks out up to 150 loaves of exquisite bread a week. When frustrated callers find this out, it leads to further questions, such as “Can I just come by your house?”

Sellers sells one- and four-week subscriptions at journeymanbakery.com. He began with two customers in June as an add-on to the Glynwood Farm CSA and now has 150. (He also sells loaves at the farm’s store.) Every Wednesday at 5 p.m., he cuts off orders for the week and feeds his sourdough starter. Thursday he bakes, using a three-level oven the size of a small dishwasher that

(Continued on Page 16)
The Met Live in HD: Mozart’s Idomeneo
1 p.m. Bardavon | 35 Market St., Poughkeepsie
845-473-2072 | bardavon.org

Rabies Pet Vaccination Clinic
2 - 5 p.m. South Putnam Animal Hospital
2308 Baldwin Place, Mahopac
845-808-1390 x43127 | putnamcounty.gov

Anniversary Meeting & Lecture
4 p.m. Putnam History Museum
63 Chestnut St., Cold Spring
845-265-4010 | putnamhistorymuseum.org

Putnam Highlands Audubon Dinner
5 p.m. Taconic Outdoor Education Center
75 Mountain Laurel Lane, Cold Spring
716-913-1641 | swioblue@hotmail.com

St. Patrick’s Day Dinner
10 p.m. St. Mary’s Parish Hall
1 Chestnut St., Cold Spring
845-265-2539 | stmaryscoltspring.org
Rescheduled from March 16.

Streets Jam
7 p.m. Elks Lodge | See details under Friday.

Middle School Teen Night
7 p.m. Philipstown Recreation Center
107 Glenclyffe Drive, Garrison
845-424-4618 | philipstownrecreation.com

NAACP Women’s History Month Celebration
8 p.m. Beacon City Hall
101 Matteawan Road, Beacon
845-838-6900 | beaconcityhall12.org

Fred Rich: Saving Nature – A Bipartisan Solution (Talk)
7:30 p.m. Cornwall Presbyterian | 222 Hudson St., Cornwall
845-534-5506 | hhm.org

Coloring for Adults
6 p.m. Howland Library
See details under Friday.

Business Plan Writing (SBA Workshop)
6:30 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library
472 Route 403, Garrison
845-424-3020 | desmondfishlibrary.org

Drug Awareness Roundtable
7 p.m. Garrison School
1500 Route 9D, Garrison
716-937-4677 | gsp.org

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

Eckert/Gilwood: Music For Two Pianos
3 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
See details under Friday.

National Theatre Live: Saint Joan
4:30 p.m. Downing Film Center
19 Front St., Newburgh
845-561-3668 | downingfilmcenter.com

Hypnotype
5 p.m. Paramount Hudson Valley
See details under Friday.

WWE! Live
7 p.m. Westchester County Center
196 Central Ave., White Plains
914-995-4050 | countycenter.biz

MONDAY, MARCH 27
Teen/Pre-Teen Dance Troupe (First Session)
4 p.m. Center for Creative Education
Teen/Pre-Teen Dance Troupe (First Session)
Beacon School Board
7 p.m. Beacon High School | 101 Matteawan Road, Beacon
845-838-6900 | beaconcityhall12.org

Fred Rich: Saving Nature – A Bipartisan Solution (Talk)
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716-937-4677 | gsp.org

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

TUESDAY, MARCH 28
Selling on eBay
6 p.m. Howland Library
See details under Friday.

THURSDAY, MARCH 30
Haldane’s Got Talent (Fundraiser)
8 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St., Beacon
haldaneschoolsfoundation.org

SUNDAY, MARCH 26
HHLT Sustainability Forum: Deer? Oh Dear!
1 p.m. Paramount Hudson Valley
845-561-3686 | downingfilmcenter.com

Cinema Gold
7 p.m. BeaconArts Meet-Up
1:30 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library
See details under Tuesday.

FRIDAY, MARCH 31
Boy Scout Troop 1 Dinner
5 p.m. Christ Church
60 Union St., Beacon | 845-392-8870

Save the Date
Please plan to join us to celebrate and support the outstanding research, education, and habitat protection being done by our locally funded conservation professionals! For more information, please call Constitution Marsh (845) 265-2600.

 UPCYCLE COLLABORATION WORKSHOP
11 a.m. - 3 p.m. Old Route 52, Cold Spring
845-265-3040 | butterfieldlibrary.org

Bowling for Paws (Benefit)
1 p.m. Spins Bowl | 1008 Brown St., Peekskill
914-739-0039 | paramounthudsonvalley.com

Tai Chi and Qigong
23 West Center Street, Beacon
March 24 - 26
Wednesdays
Beginners: 7-8:30 p.m
Advanced: 8:30-10:00 p.m
Sundays
Beginners: 9-10:30 a.m
Advanced: 10:30-noon
Beginners: $10/class (4-week sessions $45)
Advanced: $20/class (10-class card $150)
MarcSabin.com 212.960.3238 Facebook.com/HVTaiChi
Pastor hopes to engage church with community

By Alison Rooney

The first Pentecostal church did not arrive in Beacon until 1951, with the founding of an Assembly of God congregation. But by 1974 the group had dwindled to only a dozen people and its Delavan Avenue home was slated to become a funeral parlor. Asked to preach before the shutdown, a young man named Phil Aarstad wound up reviving the church and staying for 40 years.

By the time the Rev. Aarstad retired in 2011, the church had become non-denominational and renamed The Oasis. He turned the reins over to his longtime assistant, his eldest son, Mark, who changed the church's name to Salem Tabernacle, a reference to the word shalom and a Brooklyn church called Salem Gospel Tabernacle that his family attended.

Today Salem Tabernacle has nearly 400 people in its congregation yet remains unfamiliar to many Beacon residents, something the younger Aarstad says he is working to change. While his father was well-known in the city, “because I was assistant pastor for 17 years and came from here, I never went around and introduced myself,” he concedes. (He and his wife, Danielle, who oversees the music and women’s ministry, have three children: Haakon 19, Bryn 16, and Lena 12.)

Pentecostalism is a Christian movement centered on the belief that one’s faith must be experiential and dynamic, driven by the power of God moving within the body and mind. Those traditions mingle today at Salem Tabernacle with an emphasis on ancient liturgies, Aarstad says.

The fact that the church is non-denominational is a draw, he says, especially among Christians who dislike what they perceive as the “hang-ups” of denominations. In the past few years, Aarstad has led the church to “the Christian convergence,” which he describes as “bringing in the best in tradition and matching that with contemporary ways of expression.”

While Aarstad has introduced many changes, “this congregation has a lot of trust, an intellectual curiosity and an open-mindedness, as opposed to the small-mindedness of fundamentalism,” he says. He notes that the term pentecostal is often misunderstood, especially as applied to Salem Tabernacle. “Pentecostalism for me is not a flat, monolithic thing; it’s diverse,” he says. “Our vibe and style is unpredictable.”

Music is a vital part of that equation. In college, Aarstad taught himself to play piano and wrote songs. After he graduated, he took over the music at the church, serving under his father from 1994 to 2011. “I brought in the sort of music I gravitate to: James Brown, Fred Hammond, Andraé Crouch,” he says. “I was changing the sound of the church from white evangelical music to black gospel.”

Aarstad says visitors to the Sunday service should expect to be surprised. “We start with a formal call to worship and reading from the lectionary,” he says. “Then the band kicks in. This is not a church where you’ll hear moralism, and there are no politics. The high point of our service is a celebration of the Eucharistic liturgy; very spirited and personal, not rote or mechanized.”

The pastor says his church’s greatest challenge is to make Beacon a better city by “finding a way to help the schools flourish, to help people get out of their poverty, to support the arts and commerce, and help police and government officials resolve the challenges they face.” He adds: “That’s God’s intention for sending his son. There’s an improvement in a quality of life that comes because of the presence of Jesus in this community of Salem. This year we’re 66 years old. When my dad came here things were different — the principal asked clergy to walk through the halls of the high school because of racial tension.”

Aarstad says when he realized he had not embraced his hometown as his father had, he visited Mayor Randy Casale, “apologizing for our low visibility,” he says. “He introduced me to Better Together, which is led by Rabbi Brent Spodek [of Beacon Hebrew Alliance] and Pastor Ben Larson-Wolbrink [of First Presbyterian]. It’s been a great personal relationship, despite the pastor and rabbi’s liberal traditions and my conservative tradition, both theoretically and politically.

“It’s been great to work together to present to the greater community the brotherhood and sisterhood of faith,” he says. “The benevolence in their hearts allows them to be candid. It frees you up to be honest and have healthy dialogues. It’s an assist to the city to have clergy who rise above differences. It doesn’t happen everywhere.”

For more information on the church, located at 7 Delavan Ave., call 845-831-0114 or visit salemtabernacle.com.
Maggie Haley as The Drowsy Chaperone

—from Page 9— it gets pretty intense. The band is onstage. There are eight pinball machines, which move around on their own. There are trap doors into this new stage for some of the characters to rise out of. There are more costumes for this show than any other show I’ve done. We have World War II-era jackets, hand-made, and regimental uniforms. There’s also lots of video footage, streaming across the stage, for example when Captain Walker is shot down you see black-and-white images of parachutes descending. We go from the 1940s to the 1960s.”

Scarrone directed Tommy some 20 years ago and said he has enjoyed repeating the experience. “I’m loving reliving it all with different kids who have different ideas,” he says. “Our music director, Susan Wright, has moved them from musical theater to the style required for this music. We have one boy, who plays Cousin Kevin, who has never been on stage before but has played in a rock band for four years. Then there’s the ability to add today’s technology to the show.”

Referring to last spring’s production, Scarrone puts it succinctly: “This ain’t no Peter Pan. This takes them down a whole new path.”

This year the Beacon Players launched a “First Look” event on March 10 in which students from a number of high schools in the region came to Beacon to preview excerpts from all the troupe’s musicals.

Tommy will be performed in the Pete and Toshi Seeger Theatre at the high school at 101 Matteawan Road. Tickets, which are $12 for general admission and $5 for seniors and students, can be purchased at the door or at beaconplayers.com.

The Drowsy Chaperone

A show within a show is the conceit of The Drowsy Chaperone. This makes for a fun combination of contemporary wit mixed with old-fashioned musical theater, comedy and dance. As a musical-theater devotee known as Woman in Chair spins the soundtrack of her favorite show, it comes to life. Her droll commentary brings the audience in and out of the show, which features archetypes such as the 1920s follies girls, silly crooks, butlers and a tipsy chaperone.

Director Christine Brooks Bokhour of Cold Spring, who is working with O’Neill students for the third time, said the actors had a study tool that became available only in the past decade or so: YouTube clips of the show and from the period, which have helped them model manners of speech, singing and carriage.

“They ‘get’ the style,” she says. “I have told them to watch clips of silent films, to see how dramatic they were.”

The director describes Chaperone as “a modern commentary on the classic style of musicals. It’s both a celebration of them and a send-up. It’s written for laughs and plays so well with any age kids playing these roles. It’s witty, it’s wacky, and the music is so, so great.”

Bokhour, who danced on Broadway, is going back to basics with this show — she started a tap workshop for the students in January and says she has been impressed.

The musical director of the production is Paul Heckert of Garrison, and the cast includes Alexandra Angelopoulos, Ethan Penner and Isaac Walker of Garrison.

Tickets at the door will be $12 for adults and $6 for students and seniors. To reach the high school, cross the Bear Mountain Bridge and take Route 9W north to the Highland Falls exit. At the top of the ramp make a left and the school driveway will be on the right. The address is 21 Morgan Road, Fort Montgomery.
Exploring – and Saving – the Outdoors
Mountain club members hike, walk and conserve

By Alison Rooney

The one-two combination of river and mountains has drawn people to the Highlands for decades, if not centuries, turning many into hikers, kayakers and outdoorsy types. The mid-Hudson branch of the Adirondack Mountain Club (ADK) was formed in 1947 by a collection of those folks, many of them associated with Vassar College.

Since its inception, the chapter — one of 27 nationwide, with 30,000 members — has extended its reach west and south of Poughkeepsie and now includes the Highlands. It has 750 members who take part in organized outdoor activities, classes, trips and conservation. Its backpacking trips and canoe expeditions are paired with trail-maintenance “work parties” in a swath that stretches from the Shawangunk Ridge to Harriman State Park.

The national ADK was formed in 1921 to help New York state develop trails and prevent forest fires. Headquartered at Lake George, it runs two lodges; works with corporations to sponsor programs at Lake George, it runs two lodges; works with corporations to sponsor programs in the department of Environmental Conservation as a hiking guide, specializes in historical walking tours to the eight places in Beacon associated with the 1994 Paul Newman film Nobody’s Fool. The entertaining excursion — which Cring says he designed to “get people out in winter” — begins and ends at the Yankee Clipper Diner, which was featured in the film.

Cring’s other hikes include one to Anthony’s Nose and a popular one that relates Alexander Hamilton’s time in and around Beacon. For that walk, which he has led eight times, Cring says he dug into more than 22,000 documents, including journals, wills, diary entries, government records. He brings along some of his finds to read aloud at relevant stops along the way. “You get a whole different feeling for history that way,” he says.

Establishing a level of difficulty can be highly subjective, Cring notes, and he encourages participants to contact the leader to discuss specifics. “Safety is at the forefront of everything,” he says. Leaders must complete ADK training and have some level of wilderness certification.

Cring, who is certified by the state Department of Environmental Conservation as a hiking guide, specializes in historical walks that attract both children and older people who may not be able to complete the more difficult treks.

A history buff who loves the outdoors, Cring uses primary sources to design and illustrate his routes. He has led a number of hikes tied to Veterans’ Day and Memorial Day, the latter being more difficult as the group hikes to the U.S. flag located along the Beacon Fishkill ridge. The flag has been maintained for two decades by the family of Robert Darcy, a veteran who died in 1994. It flies high at a clearing with a spectacular view overlooking the Hudson Valley. This mountain range happens to be where patriots maintained a lookout to protect George Washington’s headquarters in Newburgh.

In a different vein, Cring has also led walking tours to the eight places in Beacon associated with the 1994 Paul Newman film Nobody’s Fool. The entertaining excursion — which Cring says he designed to “get people out in winter” — begins and ends at the Yankee Clipper Diner, which was featured in the film.

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Learn More
To learn more about the Mid-Hudson ADK and browse a list of upcoming excursions, visit midhudsonadk.org.
History Museum Plans Annual Meeting
Will include lecture on Benedict Arnold
The Putnam History Museum will hold its annual meeting at 4 p.m. on Saturday, March 25, followed by a lecture by Larry Maxwell, who is the Patterson town historian and founder of the Living History Guild.

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.

RSVP to Rachel at 845-265-4010, ext. 10, or rachel@putnamhistorymuseum.org.

Haldane Talent on Display
Annual show at Towne Crier
The Haldane School Foundation will host its third annual talent show, Haldane’s Got Talent, on Thursday, March 30, at the Towne Crier Café in Beacon. Tickets are $25 for adults and $15 for students at haldaneschoolfoundation.org, or $5 additional if available at the door.

Stacey Labriola and Craig Roffman are hosting. Dinner begins at 6 p.m. and the show at 7 p.m.

Garrison School Board to Host Opioid Forum
Panel will convene March 28
The Garrison school board will host a panel at 7 p.m. on March 28 to discuss strategies for dealing with the opioid crisis. It will include Putnam County Sheriff Donald Smith and D.A. Robert Tendy, David Gerber of St. Christopher’s Inn, Michael Piazza Jr., the county commissioner of mental health, Michelle Stringham of the Walter Hoving Home and Garrison School guidance counselor Michael Williams.

The panelists will describe the scope of the drug problem locally, trends in illegal drug use in the region, warning signs, community resources and strategies to combat the scourge.

“This event grew out of our collective shock and sadness over losses we have suffered,” said board president Raymond O’Rourke.

The school is located at 1100 Route 9D.

Chamber Accepting Scholarship Applications
Open to high school seniors in Philipstown
Applications for the Philip Baumgarten Memorial Scholarship presented by the Cold Spring Area Chamber of Commerce are due April 7.

The scholarship will be awarded to a student who has shown community spirit and commitment by volunteering for a Philipstown nonprofit or charitable organization and/or by working for or with a local business. Seniors are asked to submit two letters of recommendation with the application, which is available from Carol Hopper at Haldane, Suzanne Blöse at O’Neill or by emailing Nat Prentice at natprentice@mac.com.

Blood Drive at West Point
Set for March 27 to 30 at Ike Hall
The American Red Cross will hold a blood drive at Eisenhower Hall at West Point from noon to 7 p.m. on March 27, 28 and 29 and from noon to 6 p.m. on March 30. Donors must be at least 17 years old, in good health and weigh at least 110 pounds. See redcrossblood.org.

Nonprofit Grants Symposium
Learn how to find them and apply
The Community Foundation of the Hudson Valley and the Putnam County Service Network will present a three-hour symposium for nonprofits on finding and applying for grants at 8:30 a.m. on Thursday, March 30, at the Mahopac Library.

The event, which will be followed by lunch, costs $20 for members of the Greater Mahopac-Carmel Chamber of Commerce or $25 otherwise. To register, call 845-628-5553 or visit mahopaccarmelchamber.com.

Adult Spelling Bee
Annual fundraiser set for April 1
Teams of up to 10 spellers, cheerleaders and spectators are invited to join the Putnam Family and Community Services’ annual spelling bee at 6 p.m. on Saturday, April 1, at the Starr Ridge Banquet Center in Brewster. The cost is $30 per person, which includes a buffet dinner at 5:30 p.m. Register at pfcsinc.org.

Babysitter Training
Desmond-Fish class on April 1
The Desmond-Fish Library will host a four-hour workshop on babysitting basics for students ages 10 and older on Saturday, April 1, at 10:30 a.m.

The course covers interview tips, communication skills, ages and stages of babies and toddlers, safety and first-aid tips and feeding and caring for children, including diaper changing. Register by calling 845-424-3020.

Easter Egg Hunt
GVFC Auxiliary to host on April 1
The Auxiliary of the Garrison Volunteer Fire Company will host an Easter egg hunt for children ages 2 to 10 on Saturday, April 1, at 10 a.m. at the Garrison School field. Bring a
Chapel Music Series Opens
First concert is Sunday, April 2
The Sunday Music Series at the Chapel Restoration in Cold Spring resumes on Sunday, April 2, with a concert at 4 p.m. by pianist Yalin Chi, a native of Beijing, who will perform works by Berg, Brahms and Schubert.
A schedule of the other concerts in the series can be found at chapelrestoration.org. The chapel is located adjacent to the Metro-North lot. The 2017 concerts are dedicated to the memory of Theodora Nichols by her sisters, Marianne Dawkins and board member Marcelline Thomson.

Site for Teens and Tweens
Has homework help, books news
The Butterfield Library in Cold Spring has created a web site, JBLteens, with news about the latest books and events, homework help, services and opportunities. See butterfieldlibrary.org/jblteens.

Civics Refresher Course
Two more talks scheduled on basics
The penultimate of four talks on basic civics is scheduled for 2 p.m. on Sunday, April 2, at the parish house of St. Philip’s Church in Garrison.
William Hellerstein, an adjunct professor of constitutional litigation at NYU Law School and a professor at Brooklyn Law School, will present a brief overview of constitutional law. The Garrison resident has argued hundreds of cases in state and federal courts and made four appearances before the U.S. Supreme Court.
The final talk in the series on April 9 will address how to run for office. It will be presented by Kim Connor, former chair of the Philipstown Democratic Committee, with assistance from Philipstown Councilor Nancy Montgomery and Putnam County Democratic Board of Elections Commissioner Cathy Croft.
The series was organized by RiseUpNY and the Ecological Citizen’s Project. See riseupny.org.

Buckley vs. Gore
Depot Docs presents Best of Enemies
Depot Docs, the ongoing documentary series at the Philipstown Depot Theatre, will screen Best of Enemies at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, March 31, followed by a discussion and reception with executive producer Julie Goldman.
The film examines debates broadcast on ABC-TV during the Democratic and Republican conventions in the summer of 1968 between William F. Buckley Jr., a leader of the new conservative movement, and Gore Vidal, a leftist novelist and polemicist. Their exchanges, which drew huge ratings, have been compared to rounds of a heavyweight fight, filled with policy debates and insults. For tickets, which cost $20, call 845-424-3900 or visit brownpapertickets.com/event/2889179.

Wine and Chocolate Festival
Partners with PARC event April 1-2
Partners with PARC, a nonprofit that aids people with disabilities, will host its Hudson Valley Wine & Chocolate Festival on Saturday and Sunday, April 1 and 2. The fundraiser, which runs each weekend from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., will be held at the Patterson Recreation Center at 65 Front St. The most recent festival in November raised more than $85,000.
Advance tickets are $25 or $10 for designated drivers. See hwwineandchocolate.com or call 845-278-7272, ext. 2287.

Eyes Open
Artist will shoot photos for exhibit
Mark Berghash, an artist-in-residence at the Hudson Valley Center for Contemporary Art in Peekskill, will be taking portraits at the gallery from 1 to 5 p.m. on April 1 and 2 of people with their eyes open and shut for his show Is Open Is Closed: Aspects of the True Self, which opens April 24. For information, see hvca.org.

Beacon
Artist to Discuss Iceland
Her sketches from country on display
Emma Tapley, whose exhibit at the Theo Ganz Gallery in Beacon, Icelandic Sketches, runs through April 2, will discuss at 4 p.m. on Sunday, March 26, an art residency she took in the northernmost town of Iceland and how the landscape inspired her work.

New Cicada Trio
Band will perform on April 7
The sounds of cicadas will accompany Iva Bittová on violin, Timothy Hill on guitar and David Rothenberg on clarinet during an Equinox series performance on April 7 at the Howland Cultural Center in Beacon. The show begins at 8 p.m. and tickets are $15 at the door.

History of a Protest Song
Movie series to show Strange Fruit
Movies that Matter Beacon will screen the documentary Strange Fruit at 7 p.m. on Friday, March 31. The film examines an anti-lynching song written by Abel Meeropol, a Jewish schoolteacher and union activist, and recorded by Billie Holiday, as well as other protest songs, while weaving together the lives of civil rights leaders, radical teachers and organizers and the music industry. Filmmaker Joel Katz and guest Michael Meeropol will answer questions following the film. In addition, Katz will preview 17 minutes of his documentary-in-progress, The People of the #1 Bus, in which he uses a New Jersey bus stop to examine the lives of the working poor.
The free event takes place at the First Presbyterian Church, 50 Liberty St. See moviesthatmatterbeacon.org.

An Evening of Spoken Word
Poet Gold to perform at Howland
A companioned by the 845 Band, the Dutchess County poet laureate, Bettina “Gold” Wilkinson, will perform during “An Evening of Spoken Word” at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, March 31, at the Howland Cultural Center in Beacon. A suggested donation of $10 includes hot d’oeuvres and wine.

Free Improv Classes for Teens
Improv Nation now has Beacon outlet
The nonprofit Improv Nation in Wappingers Falls has started holding classes, performances and open mics at the Center for Creative Education, 464 Main St., in Beacon.
Open mics and shows take place at 6 p.m. on the last Sunday of each month. Free, one-hour improv acting classes for teens occur at 6 p.m. each Friday and 10 a.m. each Sunday, while adult classes are $35 and take place at 7 p.m. Friday. Call 845-825-4929 or email info@improvpatrol.com.
Flour Power (from Page 9)
can bake a dozen loaves at once. Friday, he drives around an ever-expanding delivery area (currently from Beacon to the north to White Plains to the south). Some Saturdays he’ll set up at a farmers’ market. By Sunday, he’s done. Call him on a Sunday, and there is no bread for you. “I don’t like to hold the bread for more than two days,” he said.

Sellers doesn’t plan on hiding in his room like a baker-monk forever. “I thought this would be cool in the beginning, you know, this solitary life,” he said. “But it gets very boring, very quickly.”

He has had a lot of time to think about bread.

“My whole philosophy behind bread is that you’re creating a product that’s actually feeding a community,” he said. “Communities all across the world all live on bread. I want a place that I’m comfortable working in and can produce a lot of bread but that also becomes a gathering place. I want to get involved in the local politics, the local city stuff, not just be the baker guy.”

Sellers says he is looking for a location in the Hudson Valley that needs a gathering place, which rules out Beacon, which already has three bakeries, including one that inspired Sellers. “I like the vibe you get at the Beacon Bread Company,” he says. “You go in and you can just sit down and talk to people. That’s what I’m looking for.”

Sellers spent 20 years working in communications for New York City hospitals but says a weeklong class at the King Arthur Baking School in Vermont changed his life. “I had been baking bread on my own for years,” he said, but it was during the class he realized he might be able to do it for a living. He kept studying and apprenticing, including a stint in Portland, Oregon, with Tim Healea of Little T American Bakery, who had similarly left his job in New York publishing to attend cooking school.

It was when people Sellers didn’t know became fans of his bread that he knew he was ready to leave the office behind. “When your friends try the bread, you know they’re going to say nice things,” he said. “But when complete strangers tried the bread, liked it, and wanted to know if they could buy some, that’s when I knew it could be something.”

Until he finds a place of his own, he’ll continue lugging 50-pound sacks of flour up his stairs. “If I can find a retail space that’s large enough, I want to put in a mill and mill my own flour in-house,” he says. “I know a lot of people who are doing that, and they swear you can taste the difference.”
Recent Beacon Home Sales

$101,000
19 Annan St.
0 beds, 1 bath, 448 sq ft
Built 1890; 0.1 acre

$189,000
6 Birch Dr.
3 beds, 1 bath, 1,216 sq ft
Built 1955; 0.2 acre

$250,000
578 Washington Ave.
3 beds, 2 baths, 1,712 sq ft
Built 1876; 0.45 acre

$281,250
783 Wolcott Ave.
4 beds, 2 baths, 2,100 sq ft
Built 2002; 0.23 acre

$300,000
25 Garden Place
3 beds, 3 baths, 3,243 sq ft
Built 1985; 0.45 acre

$418,000
39 Verplanck Ave.
3 beds, 3 baths, 2,333 sq ft
Built 1930; 0.29 acre

$486,833
18 South Ave.
5 beds, 4 bath, 2,300 sq ft
Built 1920; 0.2 acre

$510,500
37 Victor Road
4 beds, 4 bath, 3,178 sq ft
Built 2006; 0.52 acre

$615,000
20 Van Kleecck Ave.
2 beds, 2 bath, 2,000 sq ft
Built 1958; 4.4 acres

Source: Realtor.com
Boutique Hotel Planned over Silver Spoon

Second floor to be converted into five rooms

By Michael Turton

Hussein Abdelhady, owner of the Silver Spoon in Cold Spring, plans to transform the second floor of the building that houses his Main Street restaurant into a five-room hotel.

The project, which will convert two existing apartments, is before the Planning Board. “I can begin construction the day I get my building permit,” said Abdelhady.

Jimmy, as he is known to anyone who walks by or drops into the Spoon, said he came up the idea about nine months ago while quietly sipping coffee at the restaurant. “I’m designing the hotel myself,” he explained, flashing a trademark grin. He said he looks for furnishings and accessories almost every day — everything from furniture and beds to tile, bathroom fixtures and draperies.

“The decor of each room will be unique,” he said. “And everything will be top-notch.” The rooms will each include a queen-size bed, so the maximum capacity will be 10 guests.

It hasn’t taken long for word about the hotel to get out, he said. “I’m already getting calls from people wanting to book a room.” He wouldn’t speculate when the renovation will get underway but said, “You will be surprised how quickly this project will get done.”

Abdelhady hasn’t set prices but said he plans to have weekend specials and meal plans. Much of that marketing will center on the talents of head chef Javier Fercano who specializes in seafood, steaks and a variety of artfully presented entrees. The hotel will have its own menu, which Fercano describes as “even more than top-notch.”

Room service will be available and hotel guests will be able to order from a separate wine list. And all bookings will include a full breakfast.

“I want our hotel guests to go out to other restaurants too,” Abdelhady said. “I want them to enjoy Main Street, the shops and everything Cold Spring has to offer.”

Judith Napenas, assistant manager at the 13-room Hudson House Inn on the riverfront, said she was happy to learn of Abdelhady’s plan, because “we don’t have that many rooms, and when we’re full it will help bring more business to the village.”

Abdelhady said that when the project is finished he plans to invite the entire community to a celebration that will include a special buffet and tours of the hotel. The only detail he hasn’t figured out, he said, is a name. Let the suggestions begin.

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Saving Green (from Page 1)

it estimates has created nearly $13 million in economic activity, $5.1 million in energy savings and the reduction of 5,125 tons of greenhouse gas, or the equivalent of removing 1,068 cars from the road.

The state, eager to see similar successes in other counties, has expanded the program to three communities in the Mid-Hudson Valley: Red Hook, Hyde Park and Beacon.

Tom Bregman, a senior consultant with Energize NY who wrote the grant application to bring the program to the Hudson Valley, said it focuses on “building science,” which he defines as “the interaction between the climate, weather, humans and the systems that heat and cool homes.”

While the presentation on March 28 will provide plenty of free or low-cost home improvements, Bregman hopes to recruit homeowners for the free assessments, which typically takes two to four hours. (There is also a sign-up form at beacon.energizeny.com.)

He says that although many people assume window replacement is the priority, typically it’s an expensive investment when compared to the energy savings it would provide. Instead, “the most common suggested improvement that comes out of the assessment is sealing and insulation in the attic and in the sills and around any exposed interior basement foundations, and sealing up holes that people can’t see,” he said. “Those are also the most cost-effective improvements.”

After insulating and sealing the basement and attic, which Bregman refers to as the “hat and boots” of the house, the next most common suggestion after an assessment is to upgrade the home’s HVAC system. That could range from replacing an older, low-efficiency boiler to insulating ductwork and sealing gaps around windows.

“This is something that individuals can do to have an impact on their personal daily lives, their cash flow, reducing their energy costs, making their home more comfortable, and that translates to a lower carbon footprint,” said Bregman. “When you’re using 20 percent less energy, it means you’re emitting 20 percent less greenhouse gas.”

The Highlands Current

Y thanks to the voters of Nelsonville for their vote of confidence in electing me Mayor. Please be assured that I and Trustee Thomas Robertson and newly-elected Trustee Alan Potts are committed to serving you faithfully.

Nelsonville voters also supported adding two additional trustees to the Board effective next year. May I ask each citizen to consider running for these positions.

On behalf of the citizens of Nelsonville, profound thanks to outgoing Mayor Thomas Corless and Trustee Danielle Pack-McCarthy for their service to our Village.

Respectfully,
Bill O’Neill, Nelsonville Mayor-Elect
### Go Blue Devils!  
**Haldane Spring Varsity Sports Schedules**

**Baseball**  
Games begin at 4:30 p.m., unless noted  
- April 5 (Wed.) @ Woodlands  
- April 7 (Fri.) @ Irvington  
- April 10 (Mon.) @ Peekskill (11 a.m.)  
- April 11 (Tues.) @ Putnam Valley  
- April 13 (Thurs.) @ Putnam Valley  
- April 14 (Fri.) @ Tuckahoe (Noon)  
- April 17 (Mon.) @ Hamilton (Noon)  
- April 19 (Wed.) @ Pawling  
- April 21 (Fri.) @ Pawling  
- April 24 (Mon.) @ Pleasantville  
- April 26 (Wed.) @ Woodlands  
- April 28 (Fri.) @ Poughkeepsie (4 p.m.)  
- April 28 (Fri.) @ Hamilton (6:45 p.m.)  
- April 29 (Sat.) @ Peekskill (7 p.m.)  
- May 1 (Mon.) @ Coleman Catholic  
- May 2 (Tues.) @ North Salem  
- May 3 (Wed.) North Salem  
- May 5 (Fri.) @ Millbrook (7 p.m.) @ Dutchess Stadium  
- May 9 (Tues.) @ Schechter  
- May 15 (Mon.) @ Yonkers Montessori Academy  

**Softball**  
Games begin at 4:30 p.m.  
- March 24 (Fri.) @ Dobbs Ferry  
- March 27 (Mon.) @ Beacon  
- April 3 (Mon.) @ Irvington  
- April 5 (Wed.) @ Croton-Harmon  
- April 6 (Thurs.) @ North Salem  
- April 7 (Fri.) @ Keio Academy  
- April 10 (Mon.) @ Beacon  
- April 11 (Tues.) @ Hamilton  
- April 13 (Thurs.) @ Briarcliff  
- April 17 (Mon.) @ Blind Brook  
- April 19 (Wed.) @ Pawling  
- April 20 (Thurs.) @ Rye Neck  
- April 24 (Mon.) @ Westlake  
- April 25 (Tues.) @ Putnam Valley  
- April 27 (Thurs.) Putnam Valley  
- May 2 (Tues.) Sleepy Hollow  
- May 3 (Wed.) Ossining  
- May 4 (Thurs.) Croton Harmon  
- May 5 (Fri.) @ Keio Academy  
- May 7 (Sun.) @ Westlake  
- May 8 (Mon.) North Salem  
- May 9 (Tues.) Sleepy Hollow  
- May 10 (Wed.) Sleepy Hollow  
- May 11 (Thurs.) Ossining  
- May 12 (Fri.) Sleepy Hollow  
- May 13 (Sat.) Sleepy Hollow  

**Golf**  
Home matches played at Garrison CC  
- April 3 (Mon.) @ Byram Hills  

### Go Bulldogs!  
**Beacon Spring Varsity Sports Schedules**

**Baseball**  
Games begin at 4:15 p.m., unless noted  
- April 6 (Thur.) @ Lakeland  
- April 7 (Fri.) @ Arlington (4:30 p.m.)  
- April 10 (Mon.) TBD @ Dutchess Stadium (9 a.m.)  
- April 10 (Mon.) @ Brewster  
- April 12 (Wed.) @ Byram Hills (4:30 p.m.)  
- April 13 (Thurs.) @ Peekskill (4:30 p.m.)  
- April 17 (Mon.) @ Lourdes (4:30 p.m.)  
- April 18 (Tues.) @ Sleepy Hollow  
- April 21 (Fri.) @ Walter Panas (7 p.m.)  
- April 22 (Sat.) Lincoln (3 p.m.)  
- April 24 (Mon.) Somers  
- April 25 (Tues.) @ Sleepy Hollow (6:45 p.m.)  
- April 27 (Thurs.) Hendrick Hudson  
- April 28 (Fri.) @ Peekskill (4:30 p.m.)  
- April 29 (Sat.) @ Peekskill (4:30 p.m.)  
- May 4 (Thurs.) @ Sleepy Hollow  
- May 5 (Fri.) Ossining (4:30 p.m.)  
- May 6 (Sat.) Yonkers (3 p.m.)  
- May 8 (Mon.) Lourdes (4:30 p.m.)  
- May 10 (Wed.) @ Peekskill  
- May 11 (Thurs.) @ Lakeland (4:30 p.m.)  

**Softball**  
Games begin at 4:15 p.m., unless noted  
- March 29 (Wed.) Roosevelt  
- March 31 (Fri.) @ Lakeland  
- April 1 (Sat.) @ Tappan Zee  
- April 3 (Mon.) @ Yonkers  
- April 4 (Tues.) Harrison  
- April 6 (Thurs.) Byram Hills  
- April 7 (Fri.) @ Brewster  
- April 10 (Mon.) TBD @ Dutchess  
- April 12 (Wed.) @ Peekskill  
- April 14 (Thurs.) @ Sleepy Hollow  
- April 17 (Mon.) @ Lourdes  
- April 19 (Wed.) @ Peekskill  
- April 20 (Thurs.) Sleepy Hollow  
- May 4 (Thurs.) Sleepy Hollow  
- May 5 (Fri.) Ossining (4:30 p.m.)  
- May 6 (Sat.) Yonkers (3 p.m.)  
- May 8 (Mon.) Lourdes (4:30 p.m.)  
- May 10 (Wed.) @ Peekskill  
- May 11 (Thurs.) @ Lakeland (4:30 p.m.)  

**Track and Field**  
March 28 (Tues.) @ Putnam Valley (4:15 p.m.)  
- April 3 (Mon.) @ North Salem (League Meet)  
- April 17 (Mon.) @ Briarcliff (4:30 p.m.)  
- April 21 (Fri.) @ Kingdom (9 a.m.)  
- May 10 (Wed.) Putnam Valley (League Champ.)  
- May 13 (Sat.) @ Loucks Games  
- May 20 (Sat.) @ Northern County Championship  
- May 26 (Fri.) Class C Championships  
- May 30 (Tues.) Warwick Valley  

**Boys’ Lacrosse**  
Games begin at 4:30 p.m., unless noted  
- April 4 (Tues.) Croton Harmon  
- April 6 (Thurs.) Albertus Magnus  
- April 8 (Sat.) Carmel (2 p.m.)  
- April 10 (Mon.) Briarcliff  
- April 12 (Wed.) @ Rye Neck  
- April 16 (Tues.) Ossining  
- April 21 (Fri.) O’Neill @ West Point  
- April 24 (Mon.) Keio Academy  
- April 27 (Thurs.) Westlake  
- April 28 (Fri.) North Salem  
- May 2 (Tues.) @ Pawling  
- May 5 (Fri.) Blind Brook  
- May 6 (Sat.) Lourdes (3 p.m.)  
- May 9 (Tues.) Putnam Valley  
- May 11 (Thurs.) @ Edgemont  
- May 13 (Sat.) Sleepy Hollow (11 a.m.)  

**Girls’ Lacrosse**  
Matches begin at 4:30 p.m., unless noted  
- March 29 (Wed.) Roosevelt  
- March 31 (Fri.) @ Lakeland  
- April 1 (Sat.) @ Yonkers  
- April 3 (Mon.) @ Pawling  
- April 4 (Tues.) Harrison  
- April 6 (Thurs.) Byram Hills  
- April 10 (Mon.) @ Tappan Zee  
- April 20 (Thurs.) Hendrick Hudson  
- April 24 (Mon.) @ Sleepy Hollow  
- April 26 (Wed.) Lourdes  
- May 4 (Thurs.) Sleepy Hollow (4:30 p.m.)  
- May 5 (Fri.) @ Lourdes  
- May 6 (Sat.) @ Nyack (6:30 p.m.)  
- May 8 (Mon.) Sleepy Hollow (4:30 p.m.)  
- May 10 (Wed.) Lourdes @ Dutchess Stadium  
- May 12 (Fri.) @ Lourdes  

**Track**  
Meets begin at 4:15 p.m.  
- April 4 (Tues.) @ Sleepy Hollow  
- April 18 (Tues.) @ Hendrick Hudson  
- April 20 (Thurs.) @ Sleepy Hollow  
- April 24 (Mon.) Lourdes  
- April 26 (Wed.) @ Peekskill  
- May 1 (Mon.) @ Hendrick Hudson  
- May 2 (Tues.) @ Lakeland  
- May 3 (Wed.) Sleepy Hollow (4:30 p.m.)  
- May 5 (Fri.) @ Lourdes  

**Boys’ Tennis**  
Matches start at 4:15 p.m., unless noted  
- March 30 (Thurs.) @ Tappan Zee  
- April 3 (Mon.) Somers  
- April 5 (Wed.) Ardsley  
- April 6 (Thurs.) @ Walter Panas  
- April 7 (Fri.) @ Brewster  
- April 10 (Mon.) @ Peekskill  
- April 18 (Tues.) @ Hendrick Hudson  
- April 20 (Thurs.) @ Sleepy Hollow  
- April 24 (Mon.) Lourdes  
- April 26 (Wed.) @ Peekskill  
- May 1 (Mon.) @ Hendrick Hudson  
- May 2 (Tues.) @ Lakeland  
- May 3 (Wed.) Sleepy Hollow (4:30 p.m.)  
- May 5 (Fri.) @ Lourdes  

**Golf**  
Home matches played at Garrison CC  
- April 3 (Mon.) @ Byram Hills  

Schedules subject to change.