

The HIGHLANDS Current

MARCH 31, 2017

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



Time for Opening Day
Page 20

Finding a Way North

I-87 pipeline latest plan to move petroleum along Hudson

By Brian PJ Cronin

For those worried about pipelines crisscrossing the country, the news has not been reassuring lately.

A pipeline operated by Spectra Energy began operating in January, carrying natural gas north along the Hudson River past the Indian Point nuclear power plant south of Peekskill. The Keystone XL pipeline from Canada to Nebraska has been given the go-ahead by the White House after being rejected by President Obama. And this week, oil began flowing through the contested Dakota Access Pipeline, another project halted by Obama but revived by President Donald Trump.

Closer to home, a \$1 billion, double-barreled pipeline is planned for both sides of I-87 on the west side of the Hudson River, and activists are wasting no time in trying to block it. On Tuesday, April 4, at 7 p.m., the Beacon Democratic Committee will host a forum on the Pilgrim Pipeline project at the Howland Cultural Center, with representatives from environmental groups and the office of state Assemblyman Frank Skartados.

The proposed pipelines would be placed two to three feet underground for 170 miles from Linden, New Jersey, to Albany. According to Pilgrim Pipeline Holdings, one pipe would carry 200,000 barrels of Bakken shale oil south daily from Albany to New Jersey (Continued on Page 18)



Janie Mucci, Dave Mucci, Marge Mercier and Dee Carbone, all residents of Newburgh, prepared a banner last fall for a protest against the proposed pipeline.

Photo by Amanda Means

300-Plus Unit Development Proposed for Beacon Train Station Area

City planning board reviewing proposal

By Jeff Simms

A Beacon developer is moving forward with plans to construct more than 300 apartments at a site a half-mile from the Metro-North train station.

If approved, the project, dubbed Edgewater, would be the largest apartment or condominium development in Beacon.

Plans submitted to the Planning Board earlier this year by Scenic Beacon Develop-

ments, which is managed by Rodney Weber, call for 307 studio, one-, two- and three-bedroom apartments to be spread across seven buildings on the 12-acre site at 22 Edgewater Place. The materials state that Scenic Beacon expects current and new city residents to live at Edgewater, with the availability of smaller spaces there designed to keep and attract "millennials."

Shared amenities, including co-working space, would also "encourage the growth of new companies, jobs and technology," according to the plans.

Two existing buildings at the site would (Continued on Page 8)



A rendering of the 22 Edgewater Place project presented to the Beacon Planning Board



Dave Merandy

Photo provided

Merandy Wins Second Term

With absentee ballots counted, maintains Election Day margin

By Michael Turton

Cold Spring Mayor Dave Merandy won at the polls for the second time in a week, prevailing in the battle of absentee ballots on March 28 by a 21 to 20 margin, assuring his return as head of the village government.

The absentee-vote count, held at the Putnam County Board of Elections office in Carmel, gave Merandy a final total of 390 votes, or 52 percent. Challenger Alison Anthoine received 367 votes, a difference of 23 votes. They had been 22 votes apart on Election Day.

Sixty absentee ballots had been distributed, and 40 were returned before the polls opened. To be counted, any outstanding ballots had to be postmarked by March 20 and received by the board within seven days following the election. The board apparently received only one ballot after March 20.

To become mayor, Anthoine would have needed to win the absentee votes by a wide margin. Both candidates were at the Board of Elections office for the count.

After his victory was confirmed, Merandy said he had been "cautiously optimistic" about the March 28 count. "We thought we had the numbers," he said. "We had everything down pretty tight."

Asked how the close race might affect his second term, Merandy said, "I have to figure out why people (Continued on Page 2)



A banner announcing a protest meeting in Newburgh last November against the Pilgrim Pipeline

Photo by Amanda Means

Roots and Shoots

Deer Resistant? Give Me a Break

By Pamela Doan

After trying to grow flowers and vegetables for years in a yard that's surrounded by forest, I have learned a lot about the appetites of deer.

In Putnam County, there are as many as 100 deer per square mile in some places; the average is 40 to 60. Compare that to upstate areas where there are six to 10 deer per square mile and you can see the problem. As land has become more residential, there aren't wolves or mountain lions to prey on the deer and their numbers keep increasing.

Like many forests, mine is barren of plants and tree seedlings except for the invasive plants deer won't eat. Unless I put up a fence, that situation won't change. The ecosystem has shifted and habitat for other wildlife, insects and birds is lost, as well. I could fill this entire column with environmental and health issues but the point here is, what can you plant in these conditions?

Where I live, pretty much everything in the yard has been nibbled except for the awful Japanese barberry and the forsythia. I've learned that "deer resistance" is relative to how hungry the deer are. "All bets are off when they're starving," says Jennifer Stengle, an educator with the Cornell Cooperative Extension Resource of Putnam County.

At a forum on March 26 hosted by the

Hudson Highlands Land Trust, Stengle explained that deer are "adaptive generalists," which means they can live almost anywhere and are not picky about their diet and shelter.

Plants that deer tend to leave alone have milky sap like milkweeds, hairy leaves like lamb's ears and fragrant leaves like mints and lavender.

Some plants, shrubs and trees can withstand deer browsing better than others. Joe Pye weed, false indigo and bluestar are resilient and can recover. Two kinds of spirea — meadow-sweet and steeple bush or hardhack — are generally left alone. Stengle recommends fragrant sumac and shrubby cinquefoil.

Elderberries are a good example of a plant that evolved to protect itself from hungry wildlife. All parts of it are poisonous — the leaves, bark and buds — but when it produces fruit, the berries can be eaten. This strategy lets it produce new bushes because animals spread the seeds in their feces.

Deer have been found to browse pretty much all native evergreens and dogwoods, so these "need to be protected until they can get established" and become deer resistant, Stengle says.

All of these recommendations add value to the landscape beyond being deer tolerant. They feed pollinators or attract in-



Bluestar will tolerate some deer browsing but is usually not bothered. *Wildflower.org*



A whitetail buck browsing in the woods in springtime

Photo by Bruce Macqueen

sects for birds or make shelter for other wildlife. We tend to rely on the same daffodils, forsythia and grasses that don't have those qualities. By adding diversity and native plants, it's possible to create a sustainable habitat that's more than a pretty flowerbed.

I've heard of planting techniques to discourage deer that include surrounding deer favorites with deer-resistant plants. But Stengle says that doesn't work. "The deer go right through to the plant they want," she says.

The only defenses that research has shown to be effective are barriers and

spray repellents based on putrescent egg solids known as "the stinky ones." Stengle cautions against using herbal oil-based sprays because they can harm pollinators. "Oils don't dry and they form a film over the insect," she says. "If you spray plants that are blooming, you can kill the pollinators." The stinky sprays haven't been shown to do harm.

Want to grow vegetables? Spraying your tomatoes and lettuce with putrescent egg solids doesn't improve the flavor, so you'll need a fence. It needs to be about 6 feet high and buried 6 to 12 inches to keep out the woodchucks, rabbits and raccoons.

Merandy Wins Second Term *(from Page 1)*

wouldn't vote for me. It seemed like we had gotten a lot accomplished." He also said there was "a little bit of a mystery" to the slim margin, before adding, "I don't think it helped that Mr. Guillaro sued at the last minute," a reference to a \$2.5 million suit filed in federal court against the village on March 15 by Butterfield developer Paul Guillaro that named Merandy.

"We'll try our best and keep going," the

mayor said. "Hopefully our record will speak for itself. I might have to get out there a little more."

His challenger took her loss in stride. "I'm disappointed but elated," Anthoine said, referring to her near-victory as a first-time candidate. Asked if she might run for office again, she said, "I don't know what I'll do yet. I'll figure out how I can have an effect."



Andrea Basli, deputy commissioner of the Putnam County Board of Elections, with completed absentee ballots prior to the count

Photo by M. Turton

Anthoine, the former president of the Cold Spring Area Chamber of Commerce, said that during the campaign she received phone calls from residents "who have never felt empowered to talk to the village government before, at least in this past go-round. There's a chance here to still build bridges and make village politicians aware of things that people haven't felt comfortable talking about."

Absentee ballots were not a factor in the race for two open village trustee seats, won by the incumbents. Fran Murphy re-

ceived 34 absentee votes for a total of 503 and Marie Early got 22 for a count of 420. Challenger Peggy Schatzle received 21 for a total of 348.

Frank Haggerty, running for a second time as a write-in candidate, received 65 votes. Former trustee Bruce Campbell received two.

Thomas Costello, running unopposed for his fourth term as village justice, received 29 absentee votes for a total of 507. Jeff Silverstein, a partner with the marketing firm CLS, received three write-in votes.



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The Rise of the Falls

Authorities study ways to cut crowds at Indian Brook site

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

Shortly before storm Stella's last blast of winter, thoughts in Philipstown Town Hall turned to summer — and the challenges it brings as crowds descend on Indian Brook Falls.

"It's going to get abused again," predicted Councilor John Van Tassel at a workshop on March 8 as he and other Town Board members brainstormed with residents and state and county officials on how to combat the congestion.

One of the scenic allures of Hudson Highlands State Park, Indian Brook Falls stands near Indian Brook Road, a narrow and historic dirt lane that veers off Route 9D, about a mile south of Cold Spring, and winds uphill through woodlands.

For centuries mostly a local treasure, the waterfall has become popular in the wider world, thanks to the internet. In November neighbors asked the state to close access to the falls, at least temporarily, as a conservation measure.

Residents complained that boorish visitors drop trash, park haphazardly and quickly fill the eight parking spaces reserved for the Constitution Marsh Audubon Center and Sanctuary, downhill from the falls. Philipstown toughened parking restrictions but problems persist.

Moreover, despite bans on swimming, on hot days many visitors treat the falls as a backyard pool, as posts on social media attest.

At the workshop, Evan Thompson, assistant park manager for the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and

Historic Preservation, said he hopes new signage will lure swimmers and picnickers a few miles east to Fahnestock State Park, which offers picnic venues and Canopus Beach for swimming.

Thompson noted the relatively low staffing levels for Fahnestock (the site of his headquarters) and Hudson Highlands parks. He advised the residents and Town Board to write Gov. Andrew Cuomo and Parks Commissioner Rose Harvey to plead for more resources. "If you go to the top, that's where you get results," he said.

Thompson also suggested the state might provide a parking lot close enough to the falls for convenience but sufficiently distant to protect it. "That's the best solution," he said.

Sgt. William Quick of the Putnam County Sheriff's Department said he and fellow officers will continue to ticket cars parked illegally on Indian Brook Road and have them towed. "We're going to help you as much as we can," he said. "That road is a highway and there should be no parking there." He blamed many of the parking problems on "citiots."

Complicating matters, he said, are the private drones that have started to swarm over the waterfall and Audubon sanctuary. He foresees trouble, he said, "if one of these things drops out of the sky and hits someone."

Unfortunately, Quick acknowledged, sheriff's deputies cannot spend endless hours patrolling Indian Brook Road.

"I don't think it's a good solution to be tying you up, keeping you away from the rest of town," agreed Councilor Michael Leonard. He suggested that cars parked illegally could be "booted," immobilizing them until the driver pays the ticket.



Indian Brook Falls

Photo by L.S. Armstrong

Quick replied that while that strategy might work in Manhattan, there are no ATMs near the falls for drivers to get cash to pay their fines. Nor would deputies ferry drivers — often wearing only swimsuits — to Cold Spring, he said. "I can't be riding around with 18-year-old girls in bikinis in the back of my car."

Councilor Nancy Montgomery recommended greater collaboration between Philipstown, county and state officials, including lobbying in Albany. "Nobody's ever gone up there to talk to the governor," she said.

"Everything you do" helps, Quick said. "Throw everything at it."

As an immediate deterrent, Van Tassel proposed using boulders to line spots along Indian Brook Road that might be attractive for illegal parking.

In the weeks after the workshop, mounds of snow came, followed by runoff, mud and heavy rains. Van Tassel told *The Current* on a drizzly March 28 that when the weather cleared he and Highway Superintendent Carl Frisenda intended to scout out the best locations for the rocks.

Thank You



for encouraging me ~ for supporting me ~
for believing in me ~ for trusting me

I promise to continue to work hard for you

Fran Murphy
BACK TO BASICS

HUDSON HIGHLANDS
PUTNAM
HISTORY
MUSEUM
WEST POINT FOUNDRY

History of Valhalla Highlands

Encore Lecture with
Joseph Pell Lombardi

Saturday, April 8 at 3 p.m.

Join PHM for an encore presentation by world-renowned architect, Joseph Pell Lombardi. Joe's first lecture on March 11 was such a success, we decided to add another lecture date to give others a chance to see it. Lombardi will share a brief history of the North Highlands from the late 18th century to the early 20th century, followed by the history of Valhalla Highlands. He will also share his personal experiences in the Lake Valhalla community during the 1940s and 1950s, including the impact of World War II. Joe has been a part-time resident of Philipstown for most of his life including, for many years, having owned the James H. Haldane House on Paulding Avenue in Cold Spring. For more information about Lombardi, please visit www.josephpellombardi.com/.

Please note that seating is limited. To guarantee your seat, please register through our lecture Eventbrite at www.putnamhistorymuseum.org. Admission is \$5 for the general public and is free for members. Note the special early lecture start time, and join us after the lecture for some light refreshments. Contact Rachel with any questions at 845-265-4010.

Stop by PHM on Saturday, April 8 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. for special museum hours! This is a rare opportunity for you to view the museum during our seasonal closure.



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

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Seeking sanctuary

Claudio Vele was one of the first people we met when we arrived in Garrison 11 years ago. He worked for a local stonemason. He was undocumented. Claudio lived in Peekskill in a small apartment, where he also worked as a tailor on inclement days and during the worst of the winter. Claudio was Ecuadorian. He had come to the U.S. to earn money for his family 10 years before we met him. His goal was to ensure that his children were educated to the highest level they could achieve. During the time we knew Claudio, all of them went to university, completing advanced degrees in engineering and software development.

When we met Claudio he spoke little English, but my wife and I spoke Spanish, so we engaged in a daily dialogue with him as he built the walls and patios we had contracted through his employer. He quickly became more of a friend than an employee. Convinced that he could make more money as an independent contractor, we suggested he strike out on his own

and made calls to our friends, encouraging them to use his outstanding masonry skills to rebuild their century-old stone walls. One client led to the next and before long his hourly rate rose from \$10 an hour to \$25 and, for many of his clients, lunch was a part of the bargain. There are few streets in Garrison that have not been touched by the hand of this craftsman.

As the years passed, Claudio went from being a friend to a part of the family, joining us for Thanksgiving or Christmas celebrations. He would arrive at our house in a newly tailored suit and would show us pictures of his family and the house that his wife was building with his hard-earned money. It was during these moments that we began to encourage him to return to his family in Ecuador. Each year he would respond "Si, el año que viene" (next year), but that year would come and go and he would stay.

In retrospect, I realize that he was afraid to go home; he had become more American than Ecuadorian, his English honed from daily use. His life was here along the

Hudson; he was not only geographically but culturally distant from the city of his birth after almost 20 years away.

Finally, Claudio relented. He obtained an Ecuadorian passport, packed his bag and returned to Cuenca, a small city high in the Andes. When he arrived "home" he quickly discovered that his family had moved on during those years, depending on him for money but not love. His wife rejected him and his children had learned to live without him. He called us pleading to find a way for him to return. We contacted a lawyer who convinced us of the impossibility of this given his history as an undocumented citizen.

Over time, Claudio accepted his plight and retreated to a small farm outside the city, living alone. Two years after his return, he died of pneumonia at age 58 and was not found for many days.

Sanctuary is not a city or a state. It is a place in the heart. We must decide if our hearts are open or shuttered. Are we willing to see each person before us, without regard to the things that make us different, with generosity and compassion? Abraham Lincoln's call to "the better angels of our nature" on the eve of civil war resonates here and now with equal provocation and urgency.

Eric Stark, Garrison



We are all in this country because our ancestors came from somewhere.

Some came as stowaways, some came with first-class tickets. Some came in chains, some of their own volition. Virtually everyone in this country, however, has roots somewhere else.

At its best, America has been a beacon of liberty, a refuge for people seeking freedom; at our worst, we have been ourselves a source of oppression.

In this season, heading toward the holidays of Easter and Passover, it is time for us to recommit ourselves to the better angels of our nature. (Continued on next page)

Taking it to the Street

By Anita Peltonen

Have you ever been part of an April Fool's prank?



"When I was little, my family hid my three dogs and said they ran away. I was so confident they'd come back, my family then tried to convince me my face was bleeding."
~ Tyler Cruz, Hopewell



"My friends and I tell each other crazy lies." ~ Saleh Shoua, Cold Spring, with granddaughter Zohar



"My history professor announced that our three-hour class would only be an hour. After an hour, he said, 'April Fool's, suckers! You're staying here.'"
~ Nicole Bento, Putnam Valley

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR (from previous page)

It is time that we, as a community and as a nation, recommit ourselves to being a sanctuary for those who come to America seeking better lives.

A sanctuary is a powerful, concrete symbol of God's constant presence among people. God dwells with people, whoever they are, whatever they have done. Divine love is unconditional. No matter who you are and what you have done, God does not abandon you, and neither should those of us who consider ourselves to be servants of the Holy.

Our sacred writings tell us again and again that we are to care for those in need. The Book of Matthew (25:35) teaches in the name of Jesus, "I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me ... Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me."

In the Book of Leviticus (19:33) we are taught, "If a stranger sojourn with thee in your land, you shall not do him wrong. The stranger that sojourns with you shall be unto you as the home-born among you, and thou shalt love him as yourself; for you were strangers in the land of Egypt and I am the Lord your God."

Informed by the teachings of our traditions and our own moral consciousness, we call upon the Beacon City Council to pass a robust sanctuary city resolution.

As people of faith and conscience, we pledge to resist any federal policies to target and deport millions of undocumented immigrants and discriminate against marginalized communities. We will work to open up our communities as sanctuary spaces for those targeted by hate, and work alongside our friends, families and neighbors to ensure the dignity and human rights of all people.

We call on all people of conscience — whether our families have been here long enough that we are reckoned as insiders, or whether we just arrived — to welcome those seeking refuge because we, too, were stran-

gers in the land of Egypt, and this promised land, these United States, let us in.

Pastor Edward Benson, *New Vision Church of Deliverance, Fishkill*

Pastor Ben Larson-Wolbrink, *First Presbyterian Church of Beacon*

Pastor Ricardo Pacheco, *Tabernacle of Christ, Beacon*

Rev. Lieta Singleton, *St. James AME Zion Church, Beacon*

Rabbi Brent Chaim Spodek, *Beacon Hebrew Alliance*

Putnam tourism

As you reported ("Who Do You Work For?," March 24), I was a member (and treasurer) of the Putnam County Visitors' Bureau board of directors, but only for a short time. I decided to quit because I wanted to take a more active role at the bureau and applied to be its executive director, so it would have been a conflict of interest for me to remain on the board. I was of course disappointed when the board didn't choose me for the position, although I didn't expect it, and I knew the direction the rest of the board wanted to take.

I wish the board members the best and hope they will have the support of the county Legislature. It seems to me that some legislators are not playing fairly and certainly not helping the situation. The way the miniscule, stupid and totally unrelated infraction of the board chairman, Barney Molloy, who serves fairly and honestly, for no stipend, was brought up at the March 16 Economic Development Committee meeting demonstrated the legislators care more about appearance than substance. And the treatment by the legislators of interim Executive Director Frank Smith, who has tried to clean up the mess that the legislature made without any real help, demonstrates their ignorance and lack of discretion.

Tourism in Putnam County will never increase until the legislators show some progressive planning and initiative and look for ways for the county to make money rather than rely only on property taxes. They are supposed to be leaders.

Phil Tolmach, *Carmel*



Elizabeth Wolff (with phone), the daughter of mayoral candidate Alison Anthoine, and videographer Emilie Jackson are making a documentary about local politics. They are flanked at the March 28 absentee ballot vote in Carmel by Putnam County election commissioners Anthony Scannapieco Jr. and Catherine Croft. Photo by Michael Turton

Filmmaker says thanks

I would like to thank the residents and businesses of Cold Spring for welcoming Emilie Jackson and I these last few weeks as we documented the village elections. As a journalist and filmmaker, I'd been looking since the November election for a project that would explore and promote

civic engagement. So you can imagine my surprise when my mom, Alison Anthoine, came back from the Women's March in Washington, D.C., determined to run for mayor. Inspired in so many ways, I knew I had to document it. I look forward to speaking with as many residents and patrons of the Village of Cold Spring as I can.

Elizabeth Wolff, *New York*

Remember When?

This issue marks one year since we changed our name to *The Highlands Current* from *Philipstown.Info* and *The Paper* to better reflect our expanding coverage of the region. See highlandscurrent.com for a video by Gregory Gunder of the printing on April 1, 2016 of the first issue of *The Current*.

The board of directors, reporters and staff thank you for your continuing support of our nonprofit enterprise, which depends on readers and advertisers for its existence. We hope you will continue to support founder Gordon Stewart's vision of a community-supported news source not only financially but in other ways, such as commenting on stories, ordering mail delivery, following us on social media and telling merchants you saw their ad in *The Current*.

SITE VISIT - APRIL 9, 2017

The Philipstown Planning Board will meet on
Sunday April 9, 2017 at 8 a.m.

to inspect the site of the 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.

PHILIPSTOWN PLANNING BOARD

**The Philipstown Planning Board will be doing two site visits
April 9, 2017**

The Philipstown Planning Board will meet on Sunday, April 9, 2017 for the following site visits:

- **Index Industrial Design** - 1602 Route 9, Garrison, at 9:30 a.m.
- **Rockman - Berquist** - 67 Old West Point Road, Garrison, at 10:30 a.m.

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS MEETING CHANGE

The Town of Philipstown Zoning Board of Appeals has changed the date of its regular monthly meeting to April 24, 2017.

The meeting will be held at 7:30 p.m.
at the Philipstown Town Hall, 238 Main Street, Cold Spring, NY.



In Drug Epidemic, Looking for Answers

Forum considers 'gateway' drugs, Narcan, national security

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

Putnam County's top law-enforcement officials joined rehab experts, educators and an audience of about 50 people on March 28 at the Garrison School to discuss the parameters of a drug crisis that claimed three Garrison graduates over 18 months in 2014 and 2015 and a fourth more recently. There have been more than 40 unintentional overdose deaths in Putnam County since 2014.

The forum, organized by the Garrison school board, concluded with comments from the floor. These included impassioned remarks by Nancy Montgomery, a Philipstown Town Board member who lost her nephew to heroin two years ago, who called for more county treatment facilities. Another attendee, Heidi Snyder, the owner of Drug World, promised that its stores in Cold Spring and elsewhere would soon stock Narcan, an opioid antidote.

"As we all know, few communities have felt the pain of the opioid scourge in as concentrated a fashion as we have," said School Board President Raymond O'Rourke. "Our tiny school perhaps more than any other in the state has counted the cost of the epidemic in the lives of

recent graduates. This meeting grew out of our collective shock and sadness over these losses."

Those graduates include Anthony Yannitelli, who died of an overdose at age 23 in 2015 and whose mother, Mary Ellen Yannitelli, Montgomery's sister, told the group: "My son is one of the statistics referred to tonight."

A local national dilemma

Calling opioid abuse "the issue of our time," Putnam County Sheriff Donald Smith linked local drug problems to the defense of the nation. The drug trade involves organized crime and is "a matter of national security," he said. "I'm concerned about international terrorism and international cartels. They're destroying America from within and bringing this poison into our communities."

Michael Piazza, Putnam County commissioner of mental health, social services and the Youth Bureau, and Garrison guidance counselor Michael Williams both noted that addiction defies stereotypes so that children who've been mistreated may shun drugs, while some who seemingly have everything going for them become addicts. "No one can tell how things are going to turn out," Piazza said.

The panelists attributed the opioid crisis in large part to the proliferation, starting in the late 1990s, of prescription painkillers. Children typically steal pills from family medicine cabinets and share them with friends.

"The pills are the gateway drug" that leads to addiction, Gerber said. Williams noted that even grade-school students "know where to get them and who's doing it."

Gerber also argued that medicating children to boost attentiveness or for similar reasons can teach them "at a very early age that drugs take care of stuff; that drugs work."

He said the controversial idea that marijuana is a gateway drug that can lead to opiate addiction overlooks the larger concern, which is "just how dangerous marijuana is all by itself." In the 1960s, marijuana had a level of THC, which accounts for the high, of 5 percent; today marijuana has THC levels of 90 percent,



A deputy from the Putnam County Sheriff's Department sets up posters to accompany remarks by Sheriff Donald Smith at a roundtable at the Garrison School. Photo by L.S. Armstrong

and is mostly scentless and easier to conceal, even at school, he said.

Michelle Stringham, director of outreach at the Walter Hoving Home in Garrison, which assists women, said she believed marijuana led to her own past addiction.

Law enforcement

Asked what police might do to catch more drug dealers, Putnam County District Attorney Robert Tendy cited the limitations of law enforcement.

"I don't think arrests are going to enable us to get our arms around this problem," he said. "We're doing so much, trying so hard, doing so well [with arrests and convictions], and the problem is getting worse."

He noted that Putnam is 16th among New York's 62 counties in per-capita opioid overdose deaths. More than 300,000 Americans died from overdoses in the last seven years, he said. "That's insane; insane. I don't have the answer. I really don't." He added: "When a kid gets high, it's a relief from something, it's gratification, it's a mental stimulus, and they're going to do it again." He urged adults to help "fill their minds with something other than booze and drugs. If we don't do that, this is just another one of a million meetings that's gone on for the last 20 years."

Smith said tools are available, including his department's anonymous phone line to report suspected drug activity — "every one of those calls is followed up" — and prescription drug disposal boxes such as one installed in Philipstown Town Hall.

An antidote

The panelists agreed that Narcan, an opioid antidote that can be administered to revive someone who has overdosed, is

a crucial tool that saves lives.

Yet, the drug "is a double-edged sword," Gerber said. He cited instances of addicts being revived twice in the same day and reports of "Narcan parties," in which addicts purposefully overdose, knowing they can be saved.

Tendy said some abusers boast of multiple Narcan rescues. "When you get that screwed up, it's almost a sick game you're playing," he said.

Audience perspectives

Snyder, of Drug World, said she wants her stores to offer Narcan for customers who have addicts in their families to keep on hand. "We are your neighbors," she said. "I wanted to give you some solutions and not just more problems." New

York allows pharmacists to request permission from the state to provide Narcan, also known as naloxone, without a prescription.

After Smith highlighted efforts by County Executive MaryEllen Odell to battle addiction among young people,

Town Board member Montgomery objected.

Montgomery criticized the county for downplaying federal initiatives that offer funding to combat high-intensity drug-traffic areas. (The Putnam County Democratic Committee has likewise accused Odell, a Republican, of having "minimized federal assistance received from Democratic lawmakers for combating the heroin crisis.") Montgomery called for more drug-treatment facilities with beds for overnight stays for adolescents, an approach adopted by Dutchess County.

"We're here because our kids are in the ground and we want to know what you're going to do next," she told the county officials.

"We're here because our kids are in the ground and we want to know what you're going to do next."

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Haldane Plans Athletic Hall of Fame

Plus, other highlights from March 21 meeting

By Lily Gordon

Haldane High School would like to institute an athletic hall of fame on the wall of the gymnasium alongside banners that honor basketball players who have scored at least 1,000 points in their careers and cross-country record holders, pending board approval. The hall of fame would recognize students who graduated at least five years prior to induction, as well as coaches and teams, said Athletic Director Chris Salumn. Salumn told the board he envisions a nine-person committee comprised of

three Haldane coaches, a school administrator, a community member, the president of the Blue Devil Booster Club, two alumni and one retired employee. Salumn will oversee the group. The bylaws and details on nomination will be published by early May and inductees will be celebrated annually at a homecoming ceremony. While the 1,000-point club is a traditional way to recognize basketball players, a hall of fame would recognize athletes from all sports, bring alumni back to visit and highlight improvements to the athletic program, he said.

In other business...

- Morgan Hotaling, a senior at Haldane High School, was honored as a Student of Distinction by Putnam/Northern

Westchester BOCES. Hotaling, who will attend Orange County Community College next year, plans to pursue a career as a physical therapist.

- Haldane freshmen saw *Phantom of the Opera* on Broadway on March 30; sophomores visited Washington, D.C., from March 28 to 31; and the senior class left for a Habitat for Humanity service trip in New Orleans on March 28.
- The gymnasium was filled to capacity for all three performances of *Into the Woods* on March 17, 18, and 19.
- The board projected there will be two kindergarten classes next year (there are 39 students enrolled), three first-grade classes and likely four second-grade classes (up from three).

- Business Manager Anne Dinio proposed the purchase of a bus at \$110,000 and maintenance equipment including a rider mower and utility tractor for \$40,000 that won't require payment until the 2018-19 budget year.
- Because the district had five snow days this year, school will be in session on Friday, May 26.
- The board approved the 2017-18 school calendar. The first day of school will be Tuesday, Sept. 5.
- Putnam County has declared April to be Teen Driver Safety Awareness Month. Students who participate will receive preferred parking spots.
- The annual budget vote and trustee election is May 16.

Garrison School Finalizes \$10.5M Budget

Plus, other highlights from March 22 meeting

By Lily Gordon

The Garrison School Board will vote on a proposed \$10.48 million budget on April 5, followed by a public meeting on May 3 and a vote by the public on May 16. The projected budget reflects an increase in spending of \$188,849 from 2016-17. "It's a pretty restricted budget," said trustee David Gelber at the board's March 22 workshop. "The difference is basically for contract-mandated increases in teacher salaries." He asked Superintendent

Laura Mitchell: "Do you feel as though you're foregoing things that we need to keep it at this level?" Mitchell said she was confident the school had the experts it needed, and that the restructuring of staff will address concerns about literacy and math instruction. "We wanted to look at how we could redesign and restructure so we don't impact the budget so harshly," she said. "We're meeting programmatic needs with our own staff. These adjustments are saving us money, but we're still addressing our needs. We have the personnel." Garrison's "fiscal-stress level" is expected to increase to 17.8 percent from 13.3 percent in 2016. The monitoring system,

a tool of the state comptroller's office, is designed to be an early warning system for fiscal problems. A level of 25 percent or more triggers concern.

In other business ...

- Garrison teachers participated in a professional development learning day on March 17. They spent the morning in accelerated reader and math training with a consultant from the Lower Hudson Regional Information Center. Teachers also met with a consultant

from Putnam/Northern Westchester BOCES on classroom team-building and positive approaches to discipline.

- After being contacted by several families about sending Garrison graduates to public high schools other than Haldane in Cold Spring and James O'Neill in Highlands Falls, Mitchell said she has started gathering data on non-resident tuition and transportation costs.
- The board adopted the 2017-18 calendar. The first day of school will be Tuesday, Sept. 5.

Taking the Test ... or Not

Like all school districts in the state, those in the Highlands administered the Common Core English language arts tests to students in grades 3 to 8 on March 28-30, and as occurred last year, a significant percentage of parents opted not to have their children take the exam. (The state math exams will be given May 2-4.)

In 2014 about 5 percent of New York students did not take the test, but that number has since grown to about 20 percent statewide. In parts of Long Island, opt-out rates top 50 percent, with some districts approaching 80 percent. Battles lines have been drawn between advocacy groups such as the NYS Allies for Public Education ("You can refuse the test") and High Achievement New York ("Say yes to the test").

Parents may hold their children out of the tests (they are given something else to do) because they oppose them in principle, because their child has a learning disability, or because the child does not read English well. According to data compiled by the New York State Education Department (NYSED), the percentage of students who don't take the test because of learning disabilities has ranged from zero in Haldane last year to 40 percent in Garrison in 2015. Few of the children who don't take the test in the Highlands cite language challenges (0 to 3 percent).

Common Core test results will not be tied to teacher evaluations in New York until at least the 2020-21 school year.

Opt-out Rates on ELA Test (%)

Haldane	Beacon	Lakeland
2015 - 16	2015 - 30	2015 - 33
2016 - 18	2016 - 33	2016 - 43
2017 - 9 ¹	2017 - 33 ²	2017 - 43
Garrison	Carmel	Putnam Valley
2015 - 17	2015 - 38	2015 - 33
2016 - 26	2016 - 44	2016 - 35
2017 - 29	2017 - 37	2017 - 28

1 Haldane: 3.4 percent opted out in grades 3 to 5 and 14.4 percent in grades 6 to 8.
2 Elementary numbers in Beacon ranged from 16 percent at Glenham to 27 percent at Forrestral. At Rombout Middle School, it was 45 percent.
Source: NYSED "District Level Test Refusal" for ELA, 2015, 2016; school districts

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300-Plus Unit Development Proposed for Beacon Train Station Area *(from Page 1)*

be demolished. The rest of the area, which sits diagonally between the Tompkins Terrace development and the train station, is wooded, and plans call for the creation of an over one-acre park in the middle of the development.

On March 22, architect Aryeh Siegel told the Planning Board that Scenic Beacon is asking for three variances, the most notable of which is an exception to the city's limit of 36 units per building for the site's zoning

Concerns that the project will "look like any suburban apartment development."

district. Calling the proposed development a "more modern take on a large planning project," Siegel said that project designs call for as many as 59 units in some buildings to maximize capacity but reduce the construction footprint.

The project is still early in the Planning Board's review process. The board must next determine if the development meets environmental safety requirements. If it does, the city's Zoning Board of Appeals could then vote on the variances and the

Planning Board could schedule a public hearing on the project.

Feedback was lukewarm at the March 22 meeting. Planning Board member Jill Reynolds noted that she's not "crazy about the overall approach" of the project, saying it will "look like any suburban apartment development."

Board Chairman Jay Sheers said he's concerned about added traffic the devel-

opment will bring, and suggested that the developer could scale the project back slightly.

In addition to moving toward the environmental review process, the Planning Board voted to hire an engineer to review a traffic study on the project, and to have its architectural review subcommittee review building plans.



A view of the site at 22 Edgewater Place in Beacon

Beacon Committee Suggests Charter Changes

Voters would decide on longer terms, health insurance

By Jeff Simms

A citizen committee has recommended that the terms for the Beacon City Council's two at-large members be extended from two to four years and that all six members and the mayor lose the option of paid health insurance — earning an increased stipend instead.

The recommendations by the nine-member committee, appointed last year by Mayor Randy Casale, would require changing the city charter. The committee also suggested a number of changes to the language of the charter, but the term extensions and health-care changes would need voter approval.

Beacon has four wards, each of which is represented by a council member, plus the at-large members. All members are elected to two-year terms, and each seat is contested at the same time. The mayor serves four years.

Four-year terms for the at-large members would encourage longer-term planning, the committee wrote, while the ward-based seats would continue to be contested more frequently, allowing the council to remain closely attuned to neighborhood concerns. Any changes to the at-large terms would go into effect after the 2019 election.

The city has offered health insurance to council members, who work part-time, since at least 1988, but the provision

was only added to the charter last year.

According to Gerald Benjamin, associate vice president for regional engagement of the SUNY-New Paltz Benjamin Center, who advised the committee, the city pays \$47,000 annually to insure the three council members who opt for coverage. The increased stipends — \$2,000 for each council member, as well as a \$5,000 raise for the mayor (who now earns \$25,000) — would cost the city \$17,000.

Council members currently earn \$9,000 annually. If the health coverage provision is removed from the charter, they (and the mayor) would be permitted to buy insurance through the city plan. While many municipalities offer insurance to elected officials, Benjamin said he knew of no other in New York that includes the provision as part of its charter.

The majority of the committee members believe that the city should not provide such benefits to part-time elected officials, Benjamin said, adding that doing so has "created some skepticism among members of the community."

"The value of these benefits exceeds the salary for council members," the committee wrote. "Members who accept these benefits are therefore effectively compensated at a much higher rate than are colleagues who do not, creating an inequity."

Because of rising costs, paying for health insurance for elected officials is a concern across the state, Benjamin said.



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The Calendar



Second Time Around

Beacon shop specializes in refinishing paints

By Alison Rooney

When Jessica Cole and her husband decided to move closer to his family in the Hudson Valley, the cost of shipping their furniture from Las Vegas was so expensive they sold it instead.

The plan was to buy new furniture in New York, but of course that was also expensive and quickly depleted their budget. Undaunted, Jessica hit flea markets and yard sales. She found plenty of furniture, but most needed refinishing.

How hard could that be? After doing research online, she soon was collecting “oohs” and “aahs” from friends, family and neighbors. A side business — perfect for the mother of two young children — was born.

That sideline has since turned into a Beacon storefront, Knot Too Shabby, where customers can purchase paints and other finishes for refinishing as well as take workshops to learn how to do it.

Having learned about Chalk Paint, a brand from the British company Annie Sloan, Cole adopted its no sanding, priming or stripping techniques. Scouring yard sales, she learned by doing, and

Left, examples of furniture handily double as showcases for many of the other items found at Knot Too Shabby. Above, Jessica Cole with a selection of Chalk Paint

Photos by A. Rooney

started “flipping” refinished furniture for a reasonable profit on Craigslist and Facebook.

The first piece she refinished sold within hours for \$350. “One piece turned into five, and it snowballed from there,” she recalls. “I was selling pieces and taking refinish requests, sometimes up to 10 per week.”

People began asking, “Do you have a store?” and where to find Chalk Paint, which can’t be purchased online. Her husband, who is a police officer in Westchester County, convinced her to think about a retail space. She contacted Annie Sloan about becoming a dealer, or

“stockist,” for its products. After a long phone interview in which she described her vision for the store, she was sent by train for a visit to the company’s headquarters in Louisiana.

She did not go into the venture cold. After growing up as a “military brat” in the south and southwest, Cole landed in Las Vegas, where she worked in design and construction and in the engineering department at MGM Resorts before moving east.

Cole says she enjoys leading workshops at the store, which are three hours long and held outside store hours. “My passion is teaching people how to do it

(Continued on Page 11)

Write On!

Author meets with students to foster ideas

By Alison Rooney

“OK, this is kind of complicated: As long as you have the orb nobody will wake up. They have to combine their orbs to make the sun rise.”

With that vivid introduction to her plot, sixth-grader Maya Gelber grabbed the attention of the other young writers at the table, all eager to share their work as part of the Aspiring Writers Experience Club for Tweens and Teens (A.W.E.) led by young-adult author Kimberly Sabatini. The group, launched in August, meets on the first Thursday of each month at the Desmond-Fish Library for an hour of talking and writing.

A recent meeting began with an



Kimberly Sabatini

Photo by Deb Ball

exchange of ideas, with writers offering explanations of their starting points or talking shop. “I had a dream and got a lot of ideas from it,” said Kate Parker, another middle-schooler. “You get invited to this place; there are kids with special powers which are mined from sapphires. They enchant them and make an army of jewel soldiers.”

Sabatini, who lives in Garrison,

encouraged the students while also peppering them with questions. “This is vivid,” she said, “but I want to get a mental picture. Is this a current setting, medieval? What about the buildings — are they like castles, Hogwarts, or futuristic, maybe? Do you have a main character?”

After this exchange, Sabatini brought out a worksheet designed to get each writer thinking about

her work (all six regulars are girls; at this session they were joined by Sabatini’s sixth-grade son, Aidan). Titled “Seven Major Structure Steps,” the sheet elicited responses to challenges such as the protagonist’s weakness, problems, moral flaw, desire and what plan the protagonist would use to defeat their opponent and reach their goal.

“This is a great way to start the process,” Sabatini explained. “You have a wonderful hook but you still need to come up with your main character and a desire. This is a rough draft that you’re not so emotionally attached to that you can’t alter it. Even a picture book should have all these points.”

A discussion of the word *opponent* followed, with Sabatini noting an opponent in a story doesn’t always equate to “bad guy.” In fact, it is smart to give the opponent some qualities that a reader can relate to. She drew a comparison to a mother not giving permission to her child doing a risky activity. This opened a window for another writer, Noura O’Reilly, who asked “Can my opponent not be a person?” (“Yes”), and another, Lorelei McCarthy, who had a lightbulb moment, exclaiming “I just figured it out!”

After discussing “battles which illuminate

(Continued on Page 12)

FRIDAY, MARCH 31

Party Like an April Fool (grades 6-8)
6:30 – 8 p.m. Butterfield Library
10 Morris Ave., Cold Spring
845-265-3040 | butterfieldlibrary.org

The Who's Tommy (Musical)
7 p.m. Beacon High School
101 Matteawan Road, Beacon
beaconplayers.com

Strange Fruit (Documentary) with Q&A
7 p.m. First Presbyterian Church
50 Liberty St., Beacon
moviesthatmatterbeacon.org

The Drowsy Chaperone
7 p.m. O'Neill High School
21 Morgan Road, Fort Montgomery
845-446-4914 | hffmcsd.org

An Evening of Spoken Word with Poet Gold
7:30 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
477 Main St., Beacon
845-765-3012 | howlandculturalcenter.org

Depot Docs: Best of Enemies with Q&A
7:30 p.m. Philipstown Depot Theatre
10 Garrison's Landing, Garrison
845-424-3900 | philipstowndepottheatre.org

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

BMF Lollapalooza Show
10 p.m. Dogwood | 47 E. Main St., Beacon
845-202-7500 | dogwoodbar.com

SATURDAY, APRIL 1

Annual White Elephant Sale
9 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. St. Philip's Church
1101 Route 9D, Garrison
845-424-3571 | stphilipsnursery.org
8:30 a.m. Early Birds (\$5)

Boscobel Opens for Season
9:30 a.m. – 5 p.m. 1601 Route 9D, Cold Spring
845-265-3638 | boscobel.org

Easter Egg Hunt (ages 2-10)
10 a.m. Garrison School Field
Upper Station Road at Route 9D
Sponsored by GVFC Auxiliary

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

Babysitting Basics (ages 10+)
10:30 a.m. Desmond-Fish Library
472 Route 403, Garrison
845-424-3020 | desmondfishlibrary.org

Southern Dutchess NAACP
10:30 a.m. Howland Library
313 Main St., Beacon | facebook.com/naacpsd

Pet Photos with the Easter Bunny
11 a.m. – 4 p.m. Brewster Feed Barn
1515 Route 22, Brewster
845-225-7777 | puthumane.org
Benefits Putnam Humane Society

Wine and Chocolate Festival
11 a.m. – 4 p.m. Patterson Rec Center
65 Front St., Patterson
Benefits Partners with PARC

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Calendar Highlights

For upcoming events visit highlandscurrent.com.

Send event listings to calendar@highlandscurrent.com

Trout Weekend
Noon – 4 p.m. Wildlife Education Center
25 Boulevard, Cornwall
845-534-5506 | hhn.org
1 & 2:30 p.m. Meet the Trout
1:30 & 3 p.m. Brook trout feeding

Center for Creative Education
12:30 p.m. Creative Strings Orchestra (First Session)
1:30 p.m. Drumming (ages 10+) (First Session)
464 Main St., Beacon
creativestringsimprovorch@gmail.com

Photoshoot with Mark Berghash
1 – 5 p.m. Hudson Valley Center for Contemporary Art | 1701 Main St., Peekskill
914-788-0100 | hvcca.org

Easter Basket Raffle
2 p.m. Veterans Building | 413 Main St., Beacon
845-440-6344 | Sponsored by Marine Corps League of Dutchess County

The Who's Tommy (Musical)
7 p.m. Beacon High School
See details under Friday.

The Drowsy Chaperone
7 p.m. O'Neill High School | See details under Friday.

Ann Wilson of Heart
8 p.m. Paramount Hudson Valley
1008 Brown St., Peekskill
914-739-0039 | paramounthudsonvalley.com

The Scottish International Tattoo
8 p.m. Eisenhower Hall Theatre, West Point
845-938-4159 | ikehall.com

SUNDAY, APRIL 2

Beacon Flea Market Opens for Season
8 a.m. – 3 p.m. 6 Henry St., Beacon
845-202-0094 | beaconflea.com

Wine and Chocolate Festival
11 a.m. – 4 p.m. Patterson Rec Center
See details under Saturday.

Trout Weekend
Noon – 4 p.m. Wildlife Education Center
See details under Saturday.

Photoshoot with Mark Berghash
1 – 5 p.m. Hudson Valley Center for Contemporary Art | See details under Saturday.

Bert Rechtschaffer Trio
2 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library
See details under Saturday.

David McKay Wilson on Fake News
2 p.m. Putnam Valley Library
30 Oscawana Lake Road, Putnam Valley
845-528-3242 | putnamvalleylibrary.org

Civics Seminar: Constitutional Law
2 p.m. St. Philip's Parish House
1101 Route 9D, Garrison | riseupny.com

The Drowsy Chaperone
2 p.m. O'Neill High School
See details under Friday.

The Who's Tommy
2 p.m. Beacon High School
See details under Friday.

Make a Pollinator Victory Garden
2 p.m. Howland Library
313 Main St., Beacon
putnamhighlandsaudubon.org

Classics for Kids: Peter and the Wolf
3 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
477 Main St., Beacon
845-765-3012 | howlandmusic.org

Fourth Annual Women's Passover Seder
3 p.m. Beacon Hebrew Alliance
331 Verplanck Ave., Beacon
845-831-2012 | beaconhebrewalliance.org

Organist Gail Archer
3:30 p.m. Cadet Chapel, West Point
845-938-2308 | usma.edu

Pianist Yalin Chi
4 p.m. Chapel Restoration
45 Market St., Cold Spring
845-265-5537 | chapelrestoration.org

MONDAY, APRIL 3

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

Book Club: Hamilton
7 p.m. Butterfield Library
See details under Friday.

TUESDAY, APRIL 4

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

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

Pilgrim Pipeline Forum
7 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
477 Main St., Beacon | beacondemocrats.org

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 5

Storm King Opens for Season
10 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. 1 Museum Road, New Windsor
845-534-3115 | stormking.org

Hudson Valley Food & Wine Experience
6 – 9 p.m. Villa Barone Hilltop Manor
466 Route 6, Mahopac
845-628-9284 | pnwwrc.org

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

THURSDAY, APRIL 6

100th Anniversary of America's Entry Into WWI
11 a.m. National Purple Heart Hall of Honor
74 Temple Hill Road, New Windsor
845-561-1765 | thepurpleheart.com

Good Food: What to Eat and Where to Shop
6 p.m. Howland Library | 313 Main St., Beacon
845-831-1134 | beaconlibrary.org

Writing Club for Tweens and Teens
6:30 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library
See details under Saturday.

Marketing Strategies (SBA Workshop)
6:30 p.m. Butterfield Library
See details under Friday.

Henry Knox & His Train of Artillery (Talk)
7 p.m. Fort Montgomery Historic Site
690 Route 9W, Fort Montgomery
845-446-2134 | nysparks.com

Philipstown Town Board
7:30 p.m. Town Hall
238 Main St., Cold Spring
845-265-5200 | philipstown.com

Peter Frampton
8 p.m. Paramount Hudson Valley
See details under Saturday.

FRIDAY, APRIL 7

Passover Seder
6 p.m. Reform Temple of Putnam Valley
362 Church Road, Putnam Valley
845-528-4774 | rtpv.org

Sam Bartman: It's About Time (Opening)
6 - 9 p.m. Gallery 66 NY
66 Main St., Cold Spring
845-809-5838 | gallery66ny.com

Ursula Schneider: A Matter of Fact (Opening)
6 – 8 p.m. Buster Levi Gallery
121 Main St., Cold Spring
845-809-5145 | busterlevigallery.com

Dragonfly Story Hour for Adults
7 p.m. Butterfield Library
See details under March 31.

New Cicada Trio (Music)
8 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
See details under March 31.

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Second Time Around *(from Page 9)*

themselves,” she says. Chalk Paint 101 teaches participants how to use four basic finishes, while 102 delves into specialized techniques like gold leaf, decoupage and stenciling. Cole is planning workshops on kitchen cabinets and plans to open a garden behind the shop for crafting parties and outdoor workshops.

Although the distressed farmhouse look is popular, Cole says “it’s not all rustic.” The water-based paints come in 35 colors and are odor-free, dry quickly and adhere to metal, glass, plastic and lamp bases, as well as wood, she says.

Cole estimates that 85 percent of her customers come specifically for the paint. “Most know I’m here; they come from Connecticut, lots of Westchester, across the river and even from the city for the workshops,” she says. Knot Too Shabby also stocks greeting cards, handmade signs, pillows, totes and jewelry, and there are additional furniture pieces stored offsite that are shared on Facebook.

Knot Too Shabby is located at 155 Main St. Call 845-440-8001 or visit knottooshabbyny.com.



Photos by A. Rooney



Saltwash is a popular product at Knot Too Shabby.



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6:30 9:45, SUN 1:00 4:15 7:30
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Write On! (from Page 9)

the story — conflict that results in the hero having a self-revelation, which shows change and growth, either psychological or moral” — there was writing time.

“I don’t care if you write or not, I care that you like to write,” Sabatini said of her teaching style. “I always format a

“I absolutely wanted to be a writer as a kid, but I realized that if people read my words, they would know what I was thinking. I didn’t feel brave enough to defend my thoughts.”

small exercise they can incorporate into their writing, and a lot of this is sharing, talking to each other.”

Sabatini grew up in Beacon and attended Beacon High School, where she said she wasn’t open about her writing. “I absolutely wanted to be a writer as a kid, but I realized that if people read my

words, they would know what I was thinking. I didn’t feel brave enough to defend my thoughts.

“Instead of being so vulnerable and honest, I switched to writing things that didn’t have much emotional depth. Not surprisingly, it didn’t feel good. I’ve always considered writers to be amazing and talented people and I just didn’t see myself that way.”

Sabatini, whose young-adult novel,



Kimberly Sabatini advises a group of young writers at the Desmond-Fish Library in Garrison.

Photo by A. Rooney

Touching The Surface, was published in 2011, does many school visits, including

in Newburgh, where she found an attentive audience. “I was the first kid in my family to go away to college,” she told the students. “I was in the guidance office every day for a year and a half, looking for scholarships and opportunities. At that time no one ever told me about the possible job options open to writers. I was unaware that I could use writing as a path to working for a publishing house, becoming an editor or working in library science. So I became a teacher.”

Sabatini worked as a special-education teacher for years, returning to writing when her father passed away in 2005 as a way to “make sense of that experience.” She submitted her first novel to 32 agents before one took her as a client and sold the book to a division of Simon & Schuster.

What: Writing class for tweens and teens

Where: Desmond-Fish Library, Garrison

When: Thursday, April 6, at 6:30 p.m.

When talking to students, Sabatini uses this as an example of perseverance and the necessity of editing and re-editing. She has said her favorite part of writing is when she realizes “unintended threads” have “woven themselves throughout the story.... My subconscious seems to know more about me than I can ever imagine.”

Students are welcome to join A.W.E. at any time. It next meets at the library at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 6.

Visit highlandscurrent.com for news updates and latest information.

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Notes from the Cold Spring Village Board

Budget hearing set for April 11

By Michael Turton

A public hearing to consider the 2017-18 Cold Spring budget will be held at Village Hall, 85 Main St., at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, April 11. It calls for general fund spending of just under \$2.1 million, with about \$1.6 million raised through property taxes, an amount that falls within the state-imposed tax cap.

State law requires that the annual budget be adopted by May 1. The tentative plan is available at coldspringny.gov and copies will be made available at the hearing.

In other business ...

- The village plans to write state Assemblywoman Sandy Galef and state Senator Sue Serino to urge them to reject Gov. Andrew Cuomo's proposal to mandate that all county executives develop a municipal consolidation plan for voters to consider.
- Seven property owners along Peekskill Road and Route 9D said they will hire a consultant to recommend possible improvements to their privately owned water line. Greg Phillips, the superintendent of water and wastewater, said his department carried out emergency repairs to the line in December after

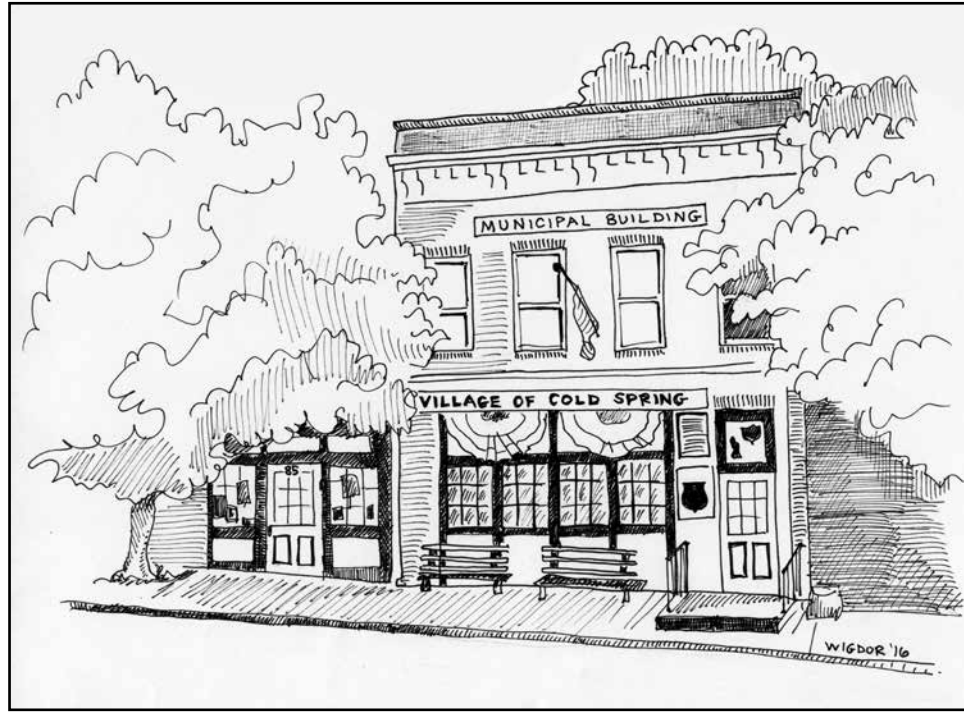


Illustration by Dana Wigdor

it developed a 100,000 gallon-per-day leak, and residents were billed for time and materials. Phillips said the line was also repaired about 18 years ago.

- Phillips reported that work on the Fair Street sewer line should begin around May 1.
- Anne Impellizzeri was appointed to the Code Update Committee, filling a vacancy created by the resignation of

Donald MacDonald.

- The Altice Group and Cablevision of Wappingers Falls said it will seek renewal of its cable-television franchise with the village, which is set to expire in 2020. Last year the village received \$44,000 from the agreement.
- The Planning Board has submitted a new application form for board review. Planning Board Chair Matt Francisco

said the new form can be filled out electronically, includes more user-friendly language and should expedite the applications process.

- Trustees approved the Planning Board's request to grant a parking waiver for 124 Main St. as part of the conversion of the second floor above the Silver Spoon Restaurant to a five-room hotel.

From March 16

- Phillips reported that nearly 90 percent of the new cellular water meters have been installed in Cold Spring and Nelsonville. He said the village should consider penalties for the 100 or so accounts for which owners have not arranged for the free installation. Once the installation contract expires residents will have to pay the cost of installing the meter.
- Phillips also reported that a draft report from Tectonic Engineering on design alternatives for repairs to the upper reservoir dam is expected by the end of March. He said he also is exploring ways to reduce noise from the new wastewater treatment plant building on Fair Street after complaints from neighbors. The Tree Advisory Board is selecting trees and shrubs to screen views of the plant.

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COMMUNITY BRIEFS



Max Hadden, Andrew Platt and Ethan Penner

Photo provided

Three New Eagle Scouts

And one more on deck

Max Hadden and Andrew Platt of Cold Spring and Ethan Penner of Garrison are the latest Eagle Scouts from Philipstown Boy Scout Troop 437.

Hadden, a sophomore at Poughkeepsie Day, built landscape stairs and replaced a fence at the Randolph School in Wappingers Falls for his Eagle Scout project; Platt, a senior at Haldane High School, made picnic tables and refurbished outdoor furniture for the Putnam History Museum; and Penner, a senior at O'Neill High School, built and set up four bat houses for the Desmond-Fish Library.

A fourth Scout, Colin Waldron of Garrison, will soon go before the Eagle Board of Review to discuss his project, an outdoor stage at the Garrison School.

Boscobel Opens for Season

Site will host kids' series and talks

Boscobel opens for the season April 1 with a calendar of events that includes regular behind-the-scenes tours and the start of its Bring the Kids series at 9:30 a.m. on Saturday, April 8. Designed for children age 4 and older, the series continues on the second Saturday of each month through December with hands-on chores, a tour, games and a craft.



Steve Miller, executive director of Boscobel, prepares to open its doors for the season on April 1.

Photo provided

The site will also host two design lectures in April. On Friday, April 14, curator Jennifer Carlquist will discuss how the Federal-era Boscobel mansion was relocated to Garrison from Montrose after being sold to a wrecker. On April 28, Edwina von Gal will speak on toxin-free land management practices. Both talks begin at 6:30 p.m. See boscobel.org.

Youth Book Festival

Garrison library to host authors

The Desmond-Fish Library in Garrison has invited authors and illustrators of books for children and young adults for two hours of activities and readings at 2 p.m. on Saturday, April 8. Participants include Lori Adams (*Timeless Triops: A Prehistoric Creature*), Regina Gelfer (*The Kiss Box*), Gary Golio (*Strange Fruit: Billie Holiday and the Power of a Protest Song*), Jean Marzollo (*I Spy* series), Irene O'Garden (*Forest, What Would You Like?*).

Also scheduled to appear are illustrator Pat Schories, Susanna Reich (*Stand Up and Sing!: Pete Seeger, Folk Music and the Path to Justice*), Kimberly Sabatini (*Touching the Surface*) and Pete Salmansohn (*Project Puffin*).

First Friday in Cold Spring

Galleries to host opening receptions

On Friday, April 7, Gallery 66 NY in Cold Spring will host a reception to open a retrospective of 60 years of paintings by 95-year-old artist Sam Bartman of Greenwich, Connecticut. *It's About Time* includes landscapes, abstracts, fantasy imagery and patterns that the self-taught artist created on repurposed World War II Army surplus reflective plastic sheets. It is his first solo show. The reception will be held at the gallery at 66 Main St. from 6 to 9 p.m., and the exhibit continues through April 30.



An untitled work by Sam Bartman, 95, whose first solo show at Gallery 66 NY begins on April 7

The Buster Levi Gallery at 121 Main St. will open *Paintings: A Matter of Fact* by Ursula Schneider with a reception from 6 to 8 p.m. The exhibit includes artwork from three series, including some from Schneider's Hudson River paintings, inspired by the view from her window. Other paintings use abstract shapes to capture the power of plants and apple trees. The show continues through April 30.



Easter-egg hunts are on the horizon. Photo by Alexander Shalamov

Easter Fun

Bunny and eggs are coming

Cat Rock Farm and the Garrison Art Center will hold a farm visit and art event on Saturday, April 8. At 2 p.m. Cat Rock Farm will host an hour-long open house to meet the chickens and roosters. At 3 p.m. the Garrison Art Center will organize egg decorating for young artists. Tickets are \$38 for adults and \$28 for children ages 12 and younger and includes chili, cornbread, coffee and cupcakes as well as eggs and supplies. See garrisonart-center.org.

Also on April 8, the Knights of Columbus, Loretto Council No. 536, will hold its annual egg hunt at McConville Park. The event, which begins at 11 a.m., is open to children ages 7 and younger. Bring a basket or bag. In the event of rain, the hunt will be held on April 15.

On Sunday, April 9, Fishkill Farms will host its annual Egg-Stravaganza from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The event includes a visit from the Easter Bunny, an egg hunt in the orchard, hayrides and planting sunflowers. Tickets are \$15, and food will be available for purchase. See fishkillfarms.com.

In Beacon, Alps Sweet Shop and the city Recreation Department have an Easter Egg Hunt and Spring Fling planned for Memorial Park on Saturday, April 15, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. for children ages 1 to 12. Along with a visit from the Easter Bunny, there will be an egg hunt, petting zoo, crafts and music, and food available for purchase. See cityofbeacon.org.

Celebrating Passover

Seder meals for women and families

The Rosh Hodesh group at the Beacon Hebrew Alliance will host its fourth annual Women's Passover Seder at the Beacon Community Center, 23 W. Center St., from 3 to 6 p.m. on Sunday, April 2. This is an opportunity for teenagers and women to celebrate Passover with music, prayers, readings, dancing and vegetarian holiday dishes. RSVP to Laura Liebeck at lliebeck@aol.com.

On Friday, April 7, the Reform Temple of Putnam Valley will host a family friendly Seder at 6 p.m. with homemade Passover dishes, a search for the Afikoman, songs and conversation. The cost is \$10 for adults and \$5 for children younger than 12. RSVP to lisakeogh@optonline.net.

Garrison Resident Wins Spirit Award

Honored by Support Connection

Gary Wawrzycki of Garrison will be honored April 7 with a Spirit Award from Support Connection. Wawrzycki became involved with the organization in 2012 and spread the word about its free support services for people affected by breast and ovarian cancer. Because of his efforts, Gary's employer, Wells Fargo, became a sponsor and has provided nearly \$20,000 in grants.

The presentation will take place during the center's Spring Benefit in Mahopac. See supportconnection.org/spring-benefit.

County to Hold Passport Day in Philipstown

Putnam clerk will be at Town Hall on April 8

The Putnam County Clerk's Office will hold its first Passport Saturday in Philipstown from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. on April 8 at Town Hall, 238 Main St., in Cold Spring to provide information and accept applications. Call 845-808-1142, ext. 49301 with questions.

Committee Offers College Scholarships

Deadline April 14 for Putnam residents

The Putnam County Children's Committee is accepting applications for scholarships of at least \$500 awarded each year to high school seniors in the county. The deadline is April 14.

To apply, send a letter stating your desire to be considered, financial need and plans for your education, including information about siblings; a transcript; two letters of recommendation and a letter from your (Continued on next page)

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

(From previous page) guidance counselor; a financial plan, noting college costs, money available, anticipated loans, scholarships, gifts and projected earnings; and a federal student-aid application report.

The awards will be made based on commitment to service to the community, strength of purpose in achieving an education goal, ability and maturity.

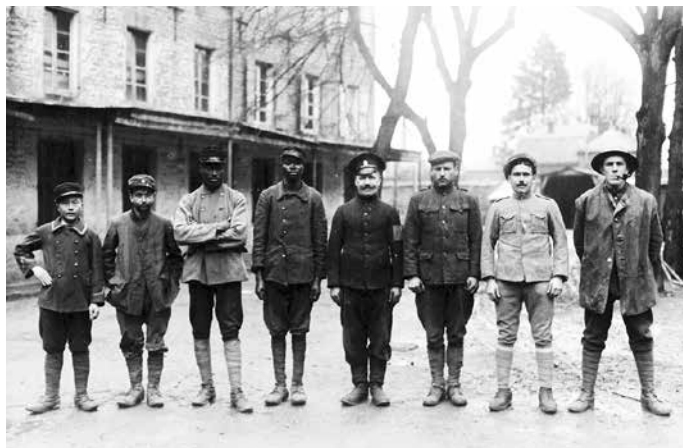
Learn to Fish

Annual 4-H clinic set for June 10

Registration is open for the annual 4-H Fishing Clinic for Putnam County residents ages 7 to 14 who have not participated before. The clinic will be held on Saturday, June 10, rain or shine, at Memorial Park in Carmel.

Each of the 150 participants will receive a rod, reel, tackle kit, fishing directory and hat.

Registration is required at reg.cce.cornell.edu. The event is sponsored by Cornell Cooperative Extension's 4-H Youth Development program and the Oasis Sportsmen's Club with support from the Jack Stewart Jr. Memorial Fund.



A German photo of a group of captured Allied soldiers during World War I: Anamite (Vietnamese), Tunisian, Senegalese, Sudanese, Russian, American, Portuguese and English

National Archives

100th Anniversary of World War I

Ceremony to mark entry by U.S.

The National Purple Heart Hall of Honor in New Windsor will hold a commemorative program at 11 a.m. on Thursday, April 6, to mark the 100th anniversary of the U.S. entry into World War I.

The program will begin with a flag-raising and bell-tolling to recognize those lost during the Great War. Staff members will wear period uniforms and an exhibit with a World War I uniform and equipment will be on display. Call 845-561-1765 to reserve a seat.

Tour of Putnam Returns

Registration open for July 9 bike ride

Registration is open for the Tour of Putnam community bike ride, which returns on Sunday, July 9, with three road routes of varying difficulty that start and end at Memorial Park in Carmel. The race

is hosted by Pawling Cycle & Sport.

The cost is \$35 at bikereg.com or \$40 on the day of the ride, which will take place rain or shine. A kids' loop and mountain bike loop will be set up in the park. Admission is \$10, including food and music.

The first route is a 14-mile loop for all levels of riders, and the second covers 26 miles that mimics Sybil Ludington's ride when she awoke the local militia to counter attack the British at Danbury. The third is a 62-mile or metric century loop around the county.

No Brush Burning

State ban continues to May 14

The state Department of Environmental Conservation says its annual ban on residential brush burning, which continues this year through May 14, has decreased wildfires by 35 percent since the restrictions were enacted in 2009. Open burning of debris is the largest single cause of spring wildfires in the state.

The regulations allow residential brush fires in towns with fewer than 20,000 residents during most of the year but prohibit burning in the spring. Campfires using charcoal or untreated wood are allowed, but people should never leave fires unattended. Burning garbage or leaves is always prohibited.

Beacon

NAACP to Discuss Civil Rights

Official will speak at monthly meeting

The Southern Dutchess branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) will have a guest speaker at its monthly meeting at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, April 1, at the Howland Public Library. Jody Miller, who became Dutchess County's first Equal Employment Opportunity/Human Rights Officer in February 2016, will speak about how her office addresses civil- and human-rights complaints. Call 845-420-0141 or email SDNAACP@gmail.com for information.

Israeli Chamber Project at Howland

Concert scheduled for April 9

The Israeli Chamber Project will perform as part of the Howland Chamber Music Circle series at the Howland Cultural Center at 4 p.m. on Sunday, April 9. The quartet with violin, viola, cello and piano will play *Piano Quartet in E-flat Major, K493* by Mozart, the *String Trio* by Jean Francaix and *Piano Quartet in C Minor*,



The Israeli Chamber Project

Photo by Yoav Etziel

Op.13 by Strauss. Tickets are \$30 and can be reserved at howlandmusic.org.

Camp Registrations Open

Beacon sessions begin in July

The Beacon Recreation Department still has openings for its five-week summer camp beginning July 10. Children ages 5 to 11 will play at Settlement Camp in activities designed to build community, nourish creativity and engage with the ecology. The Recreation Department also is hiring summer staff and counselors-in-training. See cityofbeacon.org.

Beacon's 4th Wall Theatrical Productions will hold its summer camps this year for children ages 5 to 14 at Clove Creek Dinner Theater in Fishkill beginning July 5. Activities include dance, musical theater, acting and song performance. See 4thwallproductions.org/education.

Beacon Flea is Back

Market opens for season on April 2

The Beacon Flea Market will open for the season on Sunday, April 2, at 6 Henry St. Its regular hours on every fair-weather Sunday are 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., with the exception of April 16, when it will be closed for Easter. Shoppers can find vintage items, antiques, ephemera, jewelry, clothes, household goods and handmade items. See beaconfleamarket.com.

Sailing Classes at Beacon Sloop Club

Eight-week session begins April 12

The Beacon Sloop Club will offer a weekly class on the basics of sailing beginning at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, April 12. The eight-week course is \$50 and includes a textbook. After learning how to sail in the classroom, students can get hands-on experience on the historic sloop Woody Guthrie. Email jbirmingham@hvc.rr.com.

Farmers' Market Has New Manager

Sara Sylvester oversees Beacon operation

Sara Sylvester, a former home furnishings textile designer, stylist and production manager who in 2013 started an upholstery business in Beacon called Studio Selva, has been named manager of the Beacon Farmers' Market.



Beacon Farmers' Market manager Sara Sylvester

Photo provided

Spring Break in the Park

Scenic Hudson hosting family events

Scenic Hudson will host two hours of crafts and activities for children and teenagers daily from April 11 to 14 at the River Center in Long Dock Park.

The events, which take place from 3 to 5 p.m., are appropriate for elementary and middle-school students; parents or caregivers are asked to attend. RSVP to snaukam@scenichudson.org or 845-473-4440, ext. 265.

Visit highlandscurrent.com for news updates and latest information.

No Charges in Probe of Democratic Fundraising in 2014

Questions raised over contributions sent to Putnam County

By Chip Rowe

The Manhattan District Attorney's office says it found no criminal wrongdoing after investigating accusations of improper campaign fundraising in 2014 by the mayor of New York City that benefited, among others, two state Senate candidates in Putnam County. But it also concluded the actions amounted to an improper "end run" around campaign finance laws.

"The transactions appear contrary to the intent and spirit of the laws," wrote D.A. Cyrus Vance Jr. in a 10-page letter detailing the findings. He said his office could not prove beyond a reasonable doubt that a crime had occurred, both because the mayor and his aides had relied on the advice of their attorneys and because the election laws are open to interpretation.

The investigation focused on two races in 2014 that included parts of Putnam County. In October of that year the Putnam County Democratic Committee distributed hundreds of thousands of dollars, raised largely in New York City by aides and associates of Mayor Bill de Blasio, to the campaigns of incumbent Terry Gipson, who represented District 41, which



New York Mayor Bill de Blasio

Photo by Kevin Case

includes Philipstown and Beacon, and Justin Wagner, who was running for the District 40 seat, which includes eastern Putnam County. The mayor made clear that year he wanted to obtain a Democratic majority in the Senate to further the city's agenda.

The district attorney's probe began after the state Board of Elections concluded de Blasio's team had engaged in a coordinated effort to raise the money and distribute it through county committees to circumvent campaign contribution limits



A chart from D.A. Cyrus Vance's report displaying how contributions were collected and dispersed by state Democrats during the 2014 legislative campaign



Then-state Senator Terry Gipson in Cold Spring in May 2014

File photo by Michael Turton

and disguise the names of contributors. At the time, Board of Elections Chief of Enforcement Risa Sugerman wrote that the violations appeared to be "willful and flagrant."

State law limits the amount of money that individuals or groups can contribute to a legislative race; in 2014 it was \$10,300 per general election cycle (now \$11,000, after adjustments for inflation). County committees, however, in 2014 could receive contributions up to \$102,300 from a single source (now \$109,600). They also are not limited in how much they can contribute to a candidate but are not permitted to accept donations earmarked for a particular candidate.

According to the report by the Manhattan D.A., the Putnam County Democratic Committee received contributions totaling \$671,329.79 in 2014, after having never raised more than \$38,652 in a year. The Putnam Democrats transferred \$273,750 to Gipson's campaign and \$367,000 to Wagner's campaign, both of which "almost immediately" spent the funds on political consultants. Gipson lost his seat to Republican Sue Serino (he challenged her in 2016 but lost again), while Wagner was defeated by Republican Terrence Murphy.

Similarly, the Ulster County Democratic Committee received contributions totaling \$364,000, having previously raised no more than \$50,438. In October 2014, nearly all of the funds were transferred to the campaign of Cecilia Thacyzk, the Democratic incumbent for the 46th District, which extends from Amsterdam to Kingston. Thacyzk won her seat in 2012 by 18 votes over George Amedore but lost in a rematch in 2014 by 11,000 votes.

In a statement, Terrence Murphy, who was re-elected in 2016, called the decision not to prosecute "incredibly disappoint-

ing," terming the contribution to the Putnam Democrats "a blatant attempt to evade campaign finance limits." Murphy has introduced legislation to make what he called the "de Blasio loophole" from an election-law felony to the equivalent of money laundering.

When the investigation was announced last year, the Putnam Democrats said all the contributions received and expenditures were within the law, and that the committee had disclosed to the Board of Elections each contribution and payment. In a memorandum prepared for the committee, attorney Laurence Laufer wrote: "It is hard

to conceive how a political party committee choosing to participate in the party's statewide effort to help elect the party's slate of candidates to the state Senate could be characterized as a mere straw donor in a conspiracy unless you found evidence that the committee's officers and members were held hostage and forced to deposit and disburse funds at gunpoint. I am guessing that's unlikely."

A separate federal investigation of Mayor de Blasio also concluded without charges. In a statement on March 16, Joon Kim, the acting U.S. attorney for the Southern District of New York, said his office and the FBI had investigated whether de Blasio and others in 2013 had solicited donations from individuals who sought favors from the city and then "made or directed inquiries" on their behalf to city agencies.

Kevin E. Foley contributed earlier reporting.

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The Search Goes On

Beacon Council hears three new options for central fire station

By Jeff Simms

After its proposal to build a central fire station near Sargent Elementary School was rejected by the Board of Education, Beacon fire officials have identified three new possible sites.

Several studies have concluded that the city's three aging fire stations should be consolidated into one facility. But with little developable land within Beacon's five square miles, finding a suitable location has been challenging.

The department's first choice now is an expansion of the 106-year-old Mase Hook and Ladder station at 425 Main St. The second and third choices are the dog-run area at Memorial Park and a portion of the Elks Lodge property on Route 9D.

An eight-member site selection committee presented the new choices to the City Council on March 27. The three-story Mase station — the department's headquarters — is the clear favorite, said Fire Chief Gary Van Voorhis.

While any of the three sites would work, "the whole thing is about response time," he said. "When you draw a circle on the city, it's pretty easy to determine that Mase is in the center of it." He said firefighters could reach much of the city within four minutes from Mase, and outlying areas within six minutes.

None of the three sites are without challenges. Building at Memorial Park, for instance, could prove tricky due to the loss of open space. The city would probably need to acquire additional private property for parking at the Elks Lodge, and the Mase site would be the costliest



The Mase Hook & Ladder Co. at 425 Main St. would be expanded under one proposal before the City Council. File photo by Anita Peltonen

to expand.

"No one site was perfect," Van Voorhis said, adding that the committee, formed in 2015, has considered at least 17 locations.

Expanding the fire station at Mase would likely require razing the building next door, formerly City Hall, for parking, as well as demolishing the rear portion of the city-maintained Memorial Building at 413 Main St. The offices in the front of the building would be preserved and renovated for the veterans groups that use the facility.

A new station at the site could be built higher rather than broader with addition-

al space for municipal offices, said developer Rodney Weber, a member of the site-selection committee.

Although the committee has created

renderings, the city has not discussed acquisition of any of the properties. It will now be up to the City Council to decide how to proceed.

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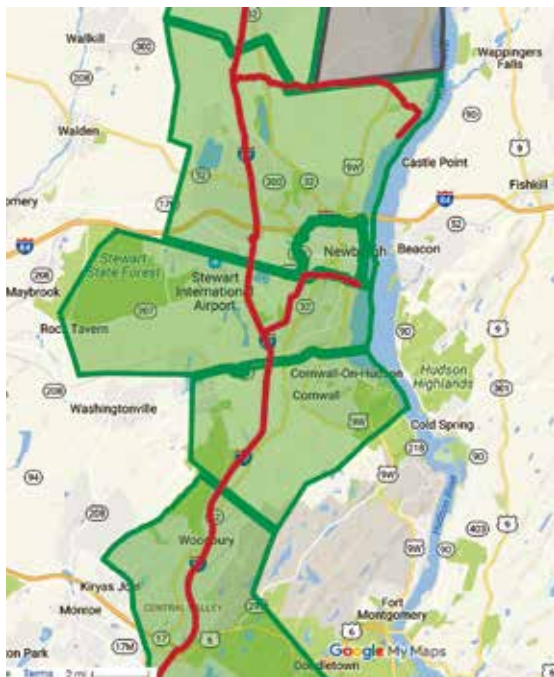
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Finding a Way North *(from Page 1)*

while the other would transport 200,000 barrels of refined products such as gasoline, diesel, heating oil and jet fuel from the New York harbor to points north.

The company says its preliminary plans for the project, which it says will cost up to \$1 billion, call for pipes no larger than 24 inches in diameter. Two single pipes would branch off from the pipe-



A map prepared by the Coalition Against Pilgrim Pipeline shows the general route of the proposed pipeline near the Highlands. Municipalities outlined in green have passed resolutions opposing the project. Two lateral pipes would carry petroleum to the waterfront.

line, including one that would follow the Quassaick Creek through New Windsor and Newburgh to waterfront refineries.

Not so fast, says Sandra Kissam of Orange Residents Against Pilgrim Pipelines (Orange RAPP). Based in Newburgh, the group has been protesting the pipeline and lobbying municipalities to oppose the project, which she said is "generally acknowledged to be a threat to our local quality of life, environment and residents."

The pipeline as proposed would cut through three rivers used for drinking water, two aquifers, hundreds of smaller regulated streams and residential neighborhoods, opponents say, and Bakken crude oil is known to be highly combustible and volatile.

Pilgrim Pipeline Holdings counters: "The differing levels of volatility inherent to different types of crude are rendered moot during pipeline transportation, as there is no air pressure or jostling that occurs inside a pipeline — the necessary factors for an explosion to take place."

Beyond their environmental concerns, Riverkeeper's Jeremy Cherson and Scenic Hudson's Audrey Friedrichsen, who will both speak at the forum, argue the project



Dee Carbone, Dave Mucci and Marge Mercier are residents of Newburgh and members of Orange County RAPP.

Photo by Amanda Means

doesn't make much economic sense. Cherson claimed the terminals in Albany and Linden have said they don't want to deal with crude oil from the pipeline, "so we're not sure who this pipeline company wants to do business with."

Friedrichsen added: "Since the completed pipeline would be digitally monitored, the number of permanent jobs this project would produce is around two. Our region would bear all of the risk and receive none of the reward."

Pilgrim Pipeline Holdings says construction of the pipeline would create 2,000 union construction jobs and that the project "will provide the region with a more stable supply of essential refined petroleum products." Further, it argues, "the pipeline will provide the region with a far safer and more environmentally sound way of transporting petroleum products."

Cherson said that while the pipeline might be seen as a better alternative to

to move oil along the Hudson than trains or tankers, "it's not an either/or proposition. It's different companies, and different industries, pushing for these different proposals. There's some connection in that they're proposing to move the same product, but they each have their own financial interest."

"This product is going to come down the Hudson Valley every way this industry can find," said Friedrichsen.

Since Pilgrim first proposed the pipelines in 2015, the company has not sought permits for the project except from the New York Thruway Authority, which oversees the free-way and its right of way.

Cherson and Friedrichsen said the delay may be to the relatively low price of oil, which removes some of the economic incentive for the project. Kissam said she's heard from landowners in Orange County who say they have been approached by Pilgrim about land rights. She also warned that just because the company isn't pushing ahead with permits doesn't mean it plans to abandon the project.

"We have a number of examples where pipeline companies have ignored the fact that they don't have all their permits and just moved forward," said Kissam. "The Spectra pipeline, near Indian Point, was pushed forward before they had all their permits. These guys are not nice guys. We should not be wide-eyed and innocent and think they're going to do everything according to the rules."

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Lawmakers Target Hudson Anchorage Proposal

Bill would strengthen state oversight of river

By Brian PJ Cronin

The U.S. Coast Guard's controversial proposal to establish 10 anchorage zones for barges traveling along the Hudson River faces new opposition after state Senator Sue Serino, who represents Philipstown and Beacon, and Didi Barrett, a member of the Assembly whose district includes northern Dutchess County, introduced a bill to strengthen New York's control of the river.

Since unveiling the proposal last year at the request of the Tug & Barge Committee of the Port of New York and New Jersey, the Coast Guard's plan has drawn almost universal condemnation from lawmakers as well as environmental groups, business owners and riverfront municipalities. A chief concern of critics is that the anchorage zones would increase the volume of crude oil transported on the river and allow tankers to park to wait for better market prices before delivering their loads to Albany. The Tug & Barge Committee says its request is driven by the

expected increase in crude oil supplies as well as safety issues.

Lawmakers remain skeptical.

"Our communities have worked far too hard for far too long on revitalizing our waterfront to risk compromising the Hudson River," Serino said.

The bill was written with the assistance of Scenic Hudson. According to Andy Bicking, the nonprofit's director of public policy, the bill would update regulations put in place in the wake of the 1989 Exxon

Valdez spill in Alaska. The laws helped establish the state's authority over navigation on the Hudson, he said.

In the decades since, New York has developed policies to protect riverbed habitats, water intakes and the economic health of waterfront communities that depend

on the Hudson. The bill would require the state to take those into account before establishing tanker avoidance zones.

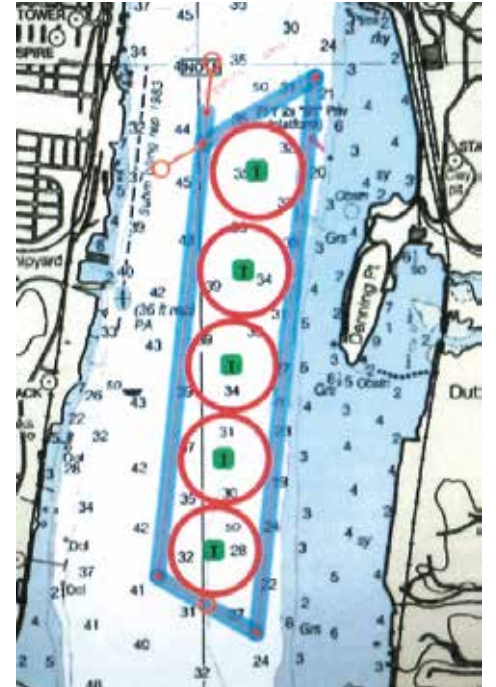
"Essentially, it gives state and local governments another tool to manage the riverfront the way they see fit," Bicking said.

It's a contrast to a bill introduced in Congress by Rep. Sean Patrick Maloney, who represents the 18th District, which

includes Philipstown and Beacon, that would outlaw the creation of anchorage grounds within five miles of a Superfund site or nuclear power plant, national historic site or critical habitat of an endangered species. Since the majority of the Hudson is a Superfund site due to PCB contamination, that alone would shield nearly the entire river.

Although Bicking said Scenic Hudson supports Maloney's bill, the legislation faces an uphill battle given the political climate in Washington. This makes the state's bill all the more important, he said.

"You don't need to look any further than some of the executive orders coming out of the White House that are talking about removing federal review and permitting processes for high-priority oil and gas infrastructure projects to realize how important this is," he said. "You can imagine the scenario if someone in the oil industry said, 'We need all those new anchorage berths.' Because of that, the state needs to act quickly to guide the conversation."



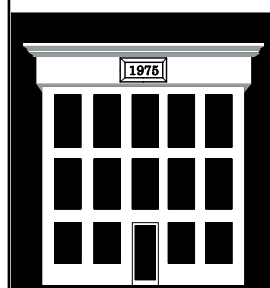
A map of the five barge anchorage spots proposed between Beacon and Newburgh

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Opening Day, 1865

Highlands baseball thrived in a bygone era

By Michael Turton

Baseball fans will celebrate Opening Day on Monday, April 3, a tradition that for the Yankees began in 1913 and for the Mets in 1962. But in the Highlands, opening day dates to the mid-19th century, when the game was moving up the Hudson River from New York City.

"The game of base ball has now beyond question become the leading feature of the outdoor sports of the United States," wrote Charles Peverelly in his 1866 *Book of American Pastimes*. "It is a game peculiarly suited to the American temperament and disposition."

Cold Spring in the 1860s and 1870s had at least three amateur teams: the Kelloggs, the Undercliff and the Putnams. The Undercliff, established on Aug. 10, 1865, wore a uniform of a white cap, white shirt and blue pants and took its name from the Cold Spring estate of poet and journalist George Pope Morris. The Kelloggs were named for Clara Louise Kellogg, an opera singer whose home was across from present-day Boscobel. Both teams practiced at their namesakes' estates. Games typically began at 4 or 5 p.m.

The teams were male social clubs as much as they were about sports, with elected officers and members — in 1866 the Undercliff had about 50. The sport was far less costly than yachting or rowing, since the only expense was the uniform.

By the 1880s the village had a number of teams, including the West Point Foundry, Klondykes, Pastimes, Hardly Ables and Never Sweats, according to Bob Mayer, a longtime member of the Society of American Baseball Research who lives in Putnam Valley. Games were played at Vinegar Hill, near Fair Lawn, the home of artist Thomas Rossiter off Route 9D south of Cold Spring across from what is now the Manitou School, and at Kemble Field off present-day Kemble Avenue near the Foundry Preserve.

Other early teams included the Matteawan Lone Stars (Beacon), Newburgh Active, Newburgh Hudson River, Newburgh Magnolia, Rhinebeck Lorillard, Fishkill Village Petroleum and Poughkeepsie Juniors.

With baseball flourishing in New York City, in 1857 the Knickerbockers Base Ball Club proposed standardized rules at the annual meeting of the National Association of Base Ball Players (NABBP), including the nine-inning game and nine-player lineup. The Newburghs, established in 1856, were the Hudson Valley's first team. The Hudson River Base Ball Club, also in Newburgh, was organized in 1859.

In 1869 the NABBP allowed clubs the freedom to declare themselves professional if owners or sponsors wanted to pay their players. Cold Spring's players remained amateurs. A report in *The Cold Spring Recorder* on July 11, 1874, noted



A Cold Spring team from 1906

Photo courtesy of Bob Mayer

that "never in the history of base ball was the game so popular as it is now, and not in the so-called 'good old days' was amateur playing so flourishing as at the present time."

The Recorder includes accounts of a number of games, such as on Aug. 23, 1873, when it reported that the Kelloggs had lost on Wednesday, Aug. 6, at Vinegar Hill to the Newburgh

Active, 25-17. Two weeks later, the team traveled to Newburgh for a rematch. "The Active went to the bat and brought in two tallies, while the Kellogg were white-washed [unable to score] three times in succession, the Active in the meantime scoring six, and having got the lead maintained it to the end," the paper reported.

Although it was an away game, the Kelloggs supplied the umpire, named



A baseball cap with the logo of a baseball team active in Cold Spring around the turn of the 20th century, available at Old Souls on Main Street

Photo provided



Klondyke A.C., a baseball team that played in Cold Spring in the 1890s

Photo courtesy of Bob Mayer

Cold Spring Undercliff

1865 Season: 4-3

Aug. 12: Undercliff 49, Highland 33
Aug. 19: Undercliff 31, Highland 23
Aug. 30: Poughkeepsie 33, Undercliff 26
Sept. 5: Undercliff 37, Poughkeepsie 30
Sept. 13: Poughkeepsie 33, Undercliff 23
Sept. 29: Rhinebeck 62, Undercliff 43
Nov. 9: Undercliff 30, Fishkill Petroleum 21

1866 Season: 2-2

May 26: Undercliff 89, Cedar Grove 23
July 20: Newburgh Hudson River 23, Undercliff 21
Aug. 8: Undercliff 19, Matteawan 18
Aug. 15: Albany 81, Undercliff 30

Source: *Book of American Pastimes*, by Charles Peverelly (1866)



A Cold Spring team active around the turn of the 20th century

Putnam History Museum Photo Collection

Lloyd, who the Active players and fans concluded had been "the best and most impartial umpire that ever came to the city with an outside club."

After the game, the Kelloggs were fed supper and escorted down Water Street by the Newburgh players to the ferry, "where after bidding adieu to them went on board the boat amid cheer after cheer, which was returned with great enthusiasm."

The following Saturday, the Undercliff, wearing new uniforms of blue knee breeches, white shirts and striped stockings, played at Poughkeepsie, where they lost 18-15 after giving up four runs in the bottom of the ninth. *The Recorder* noted that "the grounds were miserable, there being two circus rings in the center of the field" and that the Juniors had used several professional players. The Poughkeepsie team also did not speak as kindly of umpire Lloyd's calls.

The next summer, on July 11, 1874, *The Recorder* reported on a July 4 game in which Undercliff hosted the Magnolia Club of Newburgh at Vinegar Hill. The home team prevented the visitors from scoring in seven of the nine innings and won, 14-3. On the following Monday, July 6, a large crowd gathered at Vinegar Hill to watch the Undercliff take on its intervillage rivals, the Kelloggs. "A great deal of heavy batting was done by the Kelloggs," *The Recorder* reported. "The Undercliffs became demoralized and the score ran up very high," with the Kelloggs winning, 50-15. The outcome, the paper said, had not been unexpected.

Garrison historian James Kelly contributed research.