

The HIGHLANDS Current



Art for Aleppo
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APRIL 7, 2017

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Lyme Bomb

Tick population appears ready to explode

By Michael Turton

Scientists who study tick-borne diseases such as Lyme are sounding the alarm: There may be an explosion in the tick population this summer.

Richard Ostfeld, a disease ecologist at the Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies in Millbrook, who has studied Lyme for 20 years, expects 2017 and 2018 to be particularly risky years for the disease.

His prediction is based on an interaction of acorns, mice, ticks and humans.

In 2015 the oak forests of the Hudson

Valley produced a bumper crop of acorns, which typically occurs every two to five years. (Ostfeld has compared his 2015 research trips into the woods to walking on ball bearings.) The acorns, in turn, provided abundant food for mice, causing their population to boom. (The origins of the mouse plague, Ostfeld has explained, lies in the fact that the large forests of centuries ago have been fragmented by development, which has led to a decline in traditional mouse connoisseurs such as foxes, hawks and owls.)

When there are a lot of mice, there are a lot of ticks. After they hatch, tick nymphs attach their hind legs to grass or leaves and wave their forelegs. Very often they

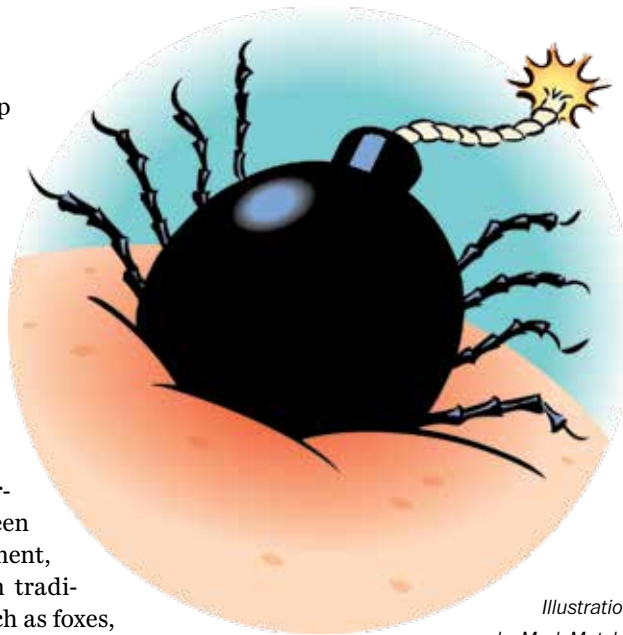


Illustration
by Mark Matcho

grasp onto a passing mouse and feed on its blood, which contains the bacterium that causes Lyme. A single mouse may have 50 to

(Continued on Page 7)

'Welcoming, Safe and Inclusive' – But No Sanctuary

Beacon Council adopts resolution but avoids word

By Jeff Simms

The Beacon City Council on April 3 adopted a resolution declaring the city a safe and welcoming place where all residents should feel comfortable interacting with police and other municipal officials.

The resolution notably does not use the phrase "sanctuary city," which has been derided by the administration of President Donald Trump, instead affirming that Beacon will be "welcoming, safe and inclusive" to all residents, whether in the country legally or not.

The council adopted the resolution unanimously, capping off several weeks of intense debate. Opponents have warned that criminals will be drawn to Beacon to bypass federal immigration laws, while supporters insisted the move would protect vulnerable residents who fear deportation.

The resolution was drafted principally by council member Lee Kyriacou and follows guidelines issued earlier this year by state Attorney General Eric Schneiderman.

It says that city employees and officials will not "stop, question, interrogate, investigate or arrest an individual based solely on actual or suspected immigration or citizenship status" or "inquire about the immigration status of an individual, including a crime victim, a witness, or a person who calls or approaches the police seeking assistance, unless necessary to investigate criminal activity" (Continued on Page 8)



A blacklegged tick

Photo by Robin Moore



At the American Legion, Putnam County Legislator Barbara Scuccimarra and Nutrition Site Manager Rhonda Haussmann explain the plans for the new senior center to be built in Cold Spring. See Page 6.

Photo by Michael Turton

Principal Resigns at Haldane High School

Peter Carucci leaves after nine months; search begins for replacement

By Chip Rowe

After nine months on the job, Haldane High School Principal Peter Carucci unexpectedly resigned for what Superintendent Diana Bowers said in a March 31 letter to parents and students were personal reasons.

"We are appreciative for the time he ded-

icated to Haldane High School," she said.

Carucci, who earned \$138,000 annually, wrote in an email that he was "heartbroken to leave the Haldane community," but needed to "support the health and needs of my family at this time." He will be on paid leave through June 30, Bowers said at the April 4 meeting of the Haldane School Board. "There is an agreement that we have that allows for some payment," she said in response to a question from an audience member.

Bowers said the search for a new principal had begun with the placement of

online advertisements, and that she had already received four resumes. She told the board she hoped to have a candidate for its consideration by late April or early May, for a July 1 start. In 2016, Carucci was one of three finalists among 50 applicants for the job.

Bowers said committees of students, faculty and community members were being formed to interview finalists after spring break, which begins April 10. Anyone interested in serving on a committee should email Linda Dearborn at ldearborn@haldaneschool.org. (To Page 19)



Peter Carucci

File photo by Alison Rooney

Cook On: 1 part chaos, 2 parts calm

Shared Luck

By Mary Ann Ebner

There's something organic about bring-a-dish gatherings with few rules that pull people together for musings on more than food. We all know someone who cringes at the mention of a potluck. He or she may avoid edible uncertainty, but that's part of the point. Bringing something you love can spark fresh perspectives for companions.

The starting point, at a minimum, should be a dish that can be served on a plate and eaten with basic utensils. Even without rules, it's unlikely everyone will bring their signature dessert, but worse things can happen besides a table loaded with sweets. There's usually a taste or two for everyone, with a range of gluten-free, vegan and carnivorous recipes.

Years ago, when I worked at a campus radio station, it was announced that the year-end party would be a potluck. The general manager and engineer were full-time employees, but the rest of us were students with limited

cash flow. We spent little time or money on cooking, and when we dined out it was usually at the Stagger Inn over pitchers of beer and platters of potato skins. That was high-end nutrition compared to the microwavable sandwiches peddled from campus vending machines.

As potluck day rolled around, our lack of money and cooking experience didn't stop us from covering a couple of desks with an assortment of contributions. At least three salads turned up, along with a fruit pie that was probably stocked from the freezer section, although its creator



Fresh spinach



Potluck spinach pie



Combine spinach and sunflower kernels for this flavorful phyllo pie. Photos by M.A. Ebner

chose not to say.

The fruit pie was popular, but the most sampled dish was a bowl of blackberry Jell-O. It wasn't spiked (or so we were told) or topped with whipped cream but represented the willingness to take part without making a fuss over ingredients and temperatures.

Shared meals not only spread the work around but bring communities together — the best payoff. Fresh spinach is a reliable crowd pleaser and does its work in simple or lavish recipes. This variation of *spanakopita* is essentially spinach pie made with phyllo sheets, which are easy to use but require quick work to prevent them from becoming brittle. If you find a few triangles left over, wrap them up. They'll taste even better the next day.

Potluck Spinach Pie

16 servings

3 eggs	3 to 4 bunches fresh spinach, trimmed
3 cups ricotta cheese	1 cup Italian parsley, chopped
1 cup Parmesan cheese, shredded	1 cup roasted sunflower kernels
3 tablespoons olive oil	20 sheets phyllo pastry, thawed
2 cups mushrooms, sliced	3 tablespoons butter, melted
4 cloves garlic, diced	sea salt
1 small red onion, chopped	black pepper

1. Lightly beat eggs with fork in mixing bowl, stir in ricotta and Parmesan, season with salt and pepper, set aside. Preheat oven to 375 degrees.
2. Sauté onion and garlic in 1 tablespoon olive oil. Add mushrooms. Cook over medium heat 2 minutes. Remove from heat and add to ricotta mixture.
3. Cook trimmed spinach in remaining olive oil until leaves wilt. Season with salt and pepper. Remove spinach from pan, drain and chop. Stir into ricotta mixture along with fresh parsley.
4. After all other ingredients are prepped, unroll phyllo sheets and cover with plastic wrap and a damp towel during assembly. Butter large baking pan and layer two sheets of phyllo dough over bottom of pan. Brush layer with butter and sprinkle with sunflower kernels. Repeat with three more layers. Spoon the spinach ricotta mixture over the top layer. Sprinkle with sunflower kernels. Cover with phyllo layer, brush with butter, sprinkle with sunflower seeds and repeat to use remainder of sheets. Brush top layer with butter. Using a serrated knife, cut into squares, then into triangles. Bake until golden, about 40 minutes.

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Horton Road Project Draws Scrutiny

Suburban sprawl or weekend paradise?

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

In January 2014, a development firm came to the Philipstown Planning Board with a concept for a weekender community in North Highlands complete with million-dollar homes, a small lake and horse stables.

More than three years later, the project, called Hudson Highlands Reserve, has expanded from 136 to 206 acres and from 24 to 29 homes. The development would be marketed as a leisure community that its chief architect likened to the Hamptons.

But the questions from the Planning Board continue — including whether, despite being a “conservation subdivision,” Hudson Highlands Reserve would replicate typical suburbia and its encroachments.

The board plans on April 9 to visit the property, located off Route 9 between East Mountain Road North and Horton Road to its south. It also borders Fahnestock State Park.

The site, which includes a former soil mining ground, is zoned rural residential and, in part, industrial-manufacturing, with aquifer, scenic protection and open-space conservation overlay (OSO) areas. Clove Creek runs through the property, which includes steep slopes and wetlands as well as the pond. It also contains the ruins of a mill, two old houses, stone walls and a barn built around 1815.

The proposal by Horton Road LLC, based in New York City, is the first conservation subdivision application under Philipstown’s 2011 zoning code update, which emphasizes preservation of the environment and the town’s rural character. The code says at least 60 percent of conservation subdivision property must be kept as open space, an amount that increases to 80 percent in an OSO. About 153 acres of the Hudson Highlands Reserve property are covered by an OSO.

Designed to encourage “walkability” and a sense of neighborhood, a conservation subdivision concentrates buildings in one area, generally clustered in close proximity. That’s not the model used for Hudson Highlands Reserve, although the plan does confine development to about

40 acres of the property, with about 165 acres left open.

According to a plan dated March 1, the project groups the houses around a pond and looped road with the equestrian center nearby. Each home, priced at \$1 million to \$3 million and containing 3,000 to 4,000 square feet, would sit on a one-acre lot, and most would have their own, rather than a shared, driveway.

At its January and March meetings, Planning Board members questioned various aspects of the plans, including the spacing of the houses.



An early conceptual drawing by architect Anthony Sunga of the interior of a home at the development

“This to me looks like suburban sprawl,” said then-board member Mary Ellen Finger in January. “Is there any way to incorporate a little more cluster housing?” She also pointed to the one-acre lots: “You can’t make them any smaller than that?”

“That would not be attractive to this project from a marketing point of view,” replied Glennon Watson, of Badey & Watson Surveying and Engineering, who is working with Horton Road LLC. “This is not going to be marketed to people who want a [smaller] lot.” Moreover, he said, clustered housing requires installation of a common water system.

Anthony Merante, who chairs the Planning Board, asked if the housing could consist of two units per structure.

“There is no intent of having two houses under one roof,” replied Ulises Liceaga, the architect and principal developer for Horton Road LLC. “The intention is to have a weekend community. I hate to use this analogy, but it would be similar to what happens on the east end of Long Is-



land.” He noted that, as weekenders, Hudson Highlands Reserve’s residents would not use the Haldane school system, the usual mail delivery or other local services and infrastructure.

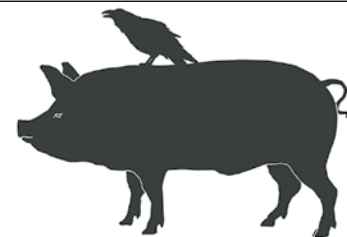
When he initially approached the Planning Board in January 2014, Liceaga said he and his wife had purchased land on East Mountain Road North around 2000 and built a house where they lived on weekends with their five children. “Avid horseback riders, we looked for a place to have some horses” and began envisioning Hudson Highlands Reserve, he said. Horton Road LLC acquired the land in a series of transactions between May and December 2013.

Before appearing before the board in March 2017, Horton Road LLC moved the houses on their plan farther back from the pond, although Liceaga pointed to other

ponds and small lakes in the Highlands where homes near the water apparently cause no problems. “Development close to a lake is not necessarily adverse to its health,” he argued, responding to concerns about run-off or other environmental risks.

Glennon Watson expressed frustration with the time it had taken the Planning Board to review the project. “We’ve been on this, in one fashion or another, for more than three years,” he said. “We haven’t gotten to the point where we really have anything [decided]. We need to move this along.”

The Planning Board’s engineer, Ron Gainer, responded that studies involving conservation and similar matters had only been finished recently, and Steve Gaba, the board attorney, said the time spent on detailed legwork would expedite the review going forward.



Home on the Free Range Eighth Annual Earth Day Dinner Thursday, April 20, 7 p.m. at the Garrison Institute 14 Mary’s Way (Rt 9D at Glencliff)

Tickets at garrisoninstitute.org/earthday

Ruby Duke (local pig farmer and founder of Raven & Boar) tells her story as we enjoy a meal prepared by Fresh Company inspired by Ruby’s connection to Italian farming methods and using pork from Raven & Boar, local dairy, wheat and all that April brings in the Hudson Valley.

Vegetarian options available.

Menu:

Hors d’oeuvres

Assorted Raven & Boar charcuterie

Bratwurst, rillettes & pâté

Hudson Valley cheeses

Garrison sourdough bread & pickled vegetables

Drinks

New York beer, wine & hard cider, house-made shrub

Dinner

Arugula salad, rhubarb, beets & pine nuts

Sautéed spring greens

Whey-cooked pork shoulder / heirloom beans

Fresh ricotta agnolotti

Pancetta & chive / mushroom, onion & sage

Dessert

Cider-poached pears

Thyme pound cake & crème fraîche

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THE VALLEY
Table



An early conceptual drawing of the equestrian center at the development by architect Anthony Sunga

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Small-town politics

I was surprised to learn from her letter to the editor in the March 31 issue that one member of the two-person crew who attended and recorded some Village Board meetings since the beginning of March, and who was present at all of the electoral events of the last few weeks, was mayoral candidate Alison Anthoine's daughter ("Filmmaker says thanks").

Before the start of the March 7 board meeting, the mayor and I and the other board members were approached by two women. One carried a video camera, and the other introduced herself as Elizabeth Dermont. She said they were professional media people in the city and wanted to make a short film about small-town elections.

She suggested that they had, by luck, stumbled upon our quaint village's election season, and asked us if they could film the meeting. She did not mention that her mother lived in Cold Spring and was running for mayor. Her mother was at the meeting and sat no more than 6 feet from her daughter and never once indicat-

ed through conversation or body language that they had ever met. Not suspecting we were being lied to, we held our meeting, and the mayor gave them a one-on-one interview afterward.

Now to learn this woman is Elizabeth Wolff, daughter of Anthoine, I am dumbfounded. What type of "journalist filmmaker" shows up to record her own mother's "determined" campaign, an event that should have her boasting with pride and proclaiming her hopes for her mom's ambition to make a difference in the world, but then gives the board a false name and pretends she and her mom don't know each other?

I can only wonder what advantage they hoped to gain by duping the village into thinking they were just budding filmmakers trying to capture small-town America exercising its democratic duties. What was her motivation to lie in such a way?

To read Wolff's letter, one would think she had been upfront about her connection to one of the candidates from the moment she arrived. The truth about her

time spent in Cold Spring is not as she or Anthoine, in her campaign for mayor, would like to spin it. I feel her actions after the fact to paint a fairy-tale picture about the work she did here stands as a clear example of gaslighting.

If *The Current* was aware of this story and not reporting on it, I'm concerned about your concept of what qualifies as newsworthy.

Steve Voloto, *Cold Spring*

We were not aware that Wolff, who is married to Andrew Dermont, was Anthoine's daughter until she revealed it during an off-the-record conversation on Election Day.

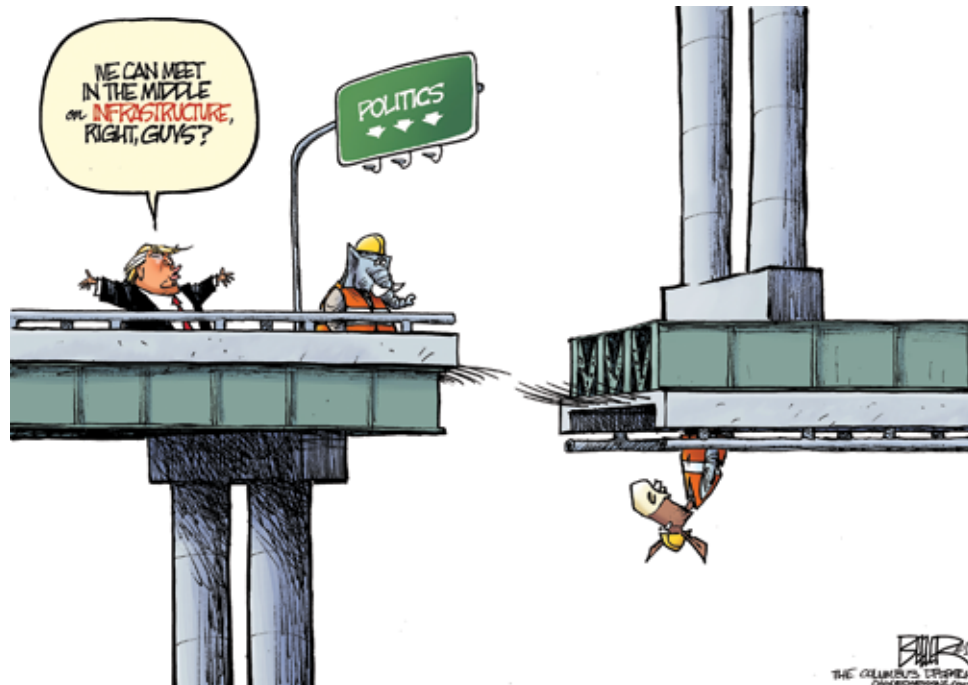
Garrison drug forum

Kudos and appreciation to *The Highlands Current* and reporter Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong for her thorough and thoughtful account of the Garrison School Board's opioid roundtable on March 28 ("In Drug Epidemic, Looking for Answers," March 31). While the event attracted a large crowd by school-board meeting standards, it is so important that the content of our discussions, the concerns expressed by the audience and insights and opinions of our expert panel reach the broader Philipstown community.

Thanks also to those parents and other community members who joined us to ask questions and share their experiences, in several cases as family members of victims of the opioid scourge. I suspect our panelists, who battle the epidemic from the trenches every day, were heartened by the showing of support and engagement.

Most important, we are indebted to our panelists, who gave generously of their insights, experiences and opinions. If there was one key takeaway from our discussion, it is that the opioid scourge presents an infinitely complex societal challenge that must be fought simultaneously across many and varied fronts. Our best hope is to remain

(Continued on next page)



Taking it to the Street

By Anita Peltonen

What was your best find at the St. Philip's Nursery sale?



"Book, boots and a ball gown."

~ Lila Sawyer, Garrison,
with daughter Lauri



"Big LEGOs!"

~ Charlize Reyes, The Bronx



"This Corelle, a dragon tea cup and good Kitchenaid appliances."

~ Karon Larson, Garrison

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR (from previous page)



Putnam County Sheriff Donald Smith at the March 28 forum

Photo by L.S. Armstrong

committed and to work cooperatively as parents, teachers, service providers and at every level of government.

Raymond O'Rourke, *Garrison School Board*.
O'Rourke is president of the Garrison School Board.

It was generous of our panel of local officials to give up an evening to tell worried parents what we can do in the Hudson Valley to reduce the threat of the opioid/heroin epidemic, but I left the meeting wanting to know (and do) more. If ever there was a national problem that requires a forthright response from conscientious leaders, this is it.

Deaths from prescription opioids have quadrupled since 1999. A glance at the opioid statistics reveals, rather shockingly, that the amount of prescription opioids sold in the U.S. has also quadrupled since 1999 even though there's been no change in the amount of pain that Americans report.

To President Trump, it's all about Mexican drug lords. This is what he said a few days ago: "Drug cartels have spread their deadly industry across our nation, and the availability of cheap narcotics, some of it comes in cheaper than candy and has devastated our communities."

But the drug lords aren't the ones spending billions of dollars to quadruple the prescription of opioids for whatever ails you. Big Pharma, with its war chest in the billions and its unrivaled political clout, does that. Their lobbyists get legislators to turn a blind eye while their marketing geniuses gin up demand. Now, legal opioid use and opiate deaths are both at an all-time high.

Of course, when addicts can no longer afford opiates or when prescriptions run out, they turn to cheap heroin, much of which does come across the Mexican border. Trump's answer is we need "a great wall along our southern border" to stop drugs from flowing in at an "unprecedented rate." That will cost about \$26 billion, but contrary to what Trump claims, it won't stop heroin from coming in. Law enforcement experts well know that most heroin comes in through legal crossing points, in trucks, cars, clothing and even, I imagine, birthday piñatas. So that costly

border wall will do nothing to protect our children from opioid or heroin addiction.

Trump obviously doesn't know what he's talking about, but here's the saddest part: when he campaigned for president, Trump made lots of promises, especially to communities where opioid addiction is worst, that he would spend whatever it takes to help addicts get healthy again. Instead, his 2018 budget proposes to cut 16 percent of funding from the Department of Health and Human Services, which funds programs for opioid addicts. And his proposed replacement for Obamacare

would have left about 3 million Americans without the addiction treatment they need to get better.

Trump makes it easy to dismiss him. But that's not enough. If we're to bring down the death toll from opioids and heroin, we'll need to insist on leadership willing to tell the truth about this awful scourge and then to mobilize the public against those who are responsible for it.

David Gelber, *Garrison*

Gelber is a trustee on the Garrison School Board.

Early baseball

In "Opening Day, 1865" (March 31), you mentioned that the National Association of Base Ball Players (NABBP) crafted the rules of the game. However, one of its rules, set in 1867, was that black Americans would not be allowed to play in their league. This became the ugly trend in baseball and other sports, not to mention much of American life.

Aaron Wolfe, *Cold Spring*

Michael Turton responds: "Historian Bob Mayer notes that African-American teams were playing in New York City as early as the 1840s, but the first record of a game he has found in this area was on



July 4, 1870, in Peekskill, when the Westchesters defeated the Fear Nothings, 29-18. The NABBP vote took place in 1867 after the Pythian BBC of Philadelphia, captained by Octavius Catto, a schoolteacher and black rights activist, applied for admission. The association voted not to accept any club that had even one black player. Its logic was: 'If colored clubs were admitted there would be, in all probability, some division of feeling, whereas, by excluding them no injury could result to anybody.' This effectively drew the first color line in baseball, Mayer says. Catto was murdered in Philadelphia in 1871.

"One tidbit Mayer told me that I didn't include in the story was that the pitching in those early games was underhand, and the batter often told the pitcher where he wanted the ball. That, in part, accounts for the high scores."

More on sanctuary

I am a lifelong resident of Beacon and concerned about the negative publicity the city will receive with the designation of "sanctuary city."

I wonder how many of the people who have been attending Beacon City Council meetings to express their support know what that term means. A "sanctuary city" is a municipality that harbors "criminal" immigrants and protects them from arrest and deportation by federal immigration and customs enforcement officers. The local police are directed not to cooperate with these officials. This is illegal for a city to do and as punishment the federal government can withhold federal aid.

I believe that most Americans welcome legal immigrants because they followed the rules to citizenship. The illegal immigrants have not followed procedure and as a result are subject to deportation. And many of these "illegals" have committed serious crimes and are the ones being sought by ICE for arrest and deportation.

What kind of a role model is a city setting for its residents when it defies federal law? I am proud of the progress Beacon has made in becoming the most admired city in the Hudson Valley. Let's not destroy all of this by making one mistake. We don't have an immigrant problem in this city, so let's not create one.

I believe the people advocating this are the same people who can't accept the results of the last election. Get over it. Let's put the country ahead of politics and work together to solve all of our many problems. I have the same message for our six council members. Put the politics aside and don't destroy Beacon's image.

Ange Pomarico, *Beacon*

It's always surprising to me to hear immigrants referred to as dangerous people whom we need protection from. These are our neighbors — people we pay to do the hard work we don't want to do. They help us in so many ways and contribute to the fabric of our communities.

No one is suggesting that state and federal laws not be applied when warranted. All that's trying to be said is not to have these people, many of whom are diligently working towards citizenship, live in fear of harassment or deportation for having a tail light out.

It might be useful to remember that unless you are a Native American, we are all immigrants here who, together, have made this a great country.

There's no telling what our present immigrants' stories are and what hardships they may be overcoming. Perhaps some compassion for their circumstances may reveal a person of integrity trying to work within our increasingly difficult path to citizenship.

Yes, those with poor intentions (not necessarily immigrants) should be accountable to our federal laws. But I can't understand the vitriol and fear toward immigrants as a whole. Perhaps we could be kinder to those who are less fortunate.

Trisha Mulligan, *Garrison*

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ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a public hearing will be held by the Zoning Board of Appeals of the Town of Philipstown on Monday, April 24, 2017, 7:30 p.m. at the Philipstown Town Hall, 238 Main Street, Cold Spring, New York, to hear the following appeal:

Stonecrop Gardens, Inc., 81 Stonecrop Lane, Cold Spring (Tax Map # 39.-2-10.2) the applicant is proposing to construct a new building which would serve as a welcome center/storage and workshop area. The proposed building will include a cupola rising to a height of 37 feet and will be located in the Ridgeline Protection Area. The Applicant is seeking relief from the requirements of Town Zoning Code 175-36(C)(2) of the Philipstown Code (the Ridgeline Protection Area has a maximum height restriction of 30 feet). The Applicants lot is located in the IC Zone.

At said hearing all persons will have the right to be heard. Copies of the application, plat map and other related materials may be reviewed in the office of the Building Department at Philipstown Town Hall.

Dated 3/30/17

Robert Dee, Chairman of the Town of Philipstown Zoning Board of Appeals

Touring the Senior Center

Still two-dimensional but soon underway

By Michael Turton

With construction of the Philipstown Senior Center set to begin in the next few months as part of the Butterfield redevelopment project, *The Current* took a quick “tour” of the layout with Barbara Scuccimarra, who represents Philipstown in the Putnam County Legislature and championed the project even as critics persistently questioned its cost.

The lease was signed in December by both County Executive MaryEllen Odell and developer Paul Guillaro, clearing the way for the construction inside Lahey Pavilion, where the 6,000-square-foot center will fill about half the structure.

The floor plan is on display at the current space leased by the county for seniors, the Cold Spring Friendship Center, at the American Legion Hall on Cedar Street. The pending move will be a wel-

come change for both seniors and the staff of the Putnam County Office for Senior Resources, who have long lamented the cramped quarters.

Putnam County has issued a call for bids for the construction and outfitting of the center, which will cost an estimated \$1.3 million, Scuccimarra said. The floor plan, which the legislator shared with seniors on Feb. 2, is dominated by multipurpose rooms and a dining room, one corner of which will feature a seating area and gas fireplace.

“I wanted a focal point,” Scuccimarra explained. “I don’t want it to look institutional. I want it to be comfortable so seniors come in, sit and chat.”

The multipurpose area can be divided into two or three rooms with retractable walls. “If we need one large room we’ll have it; if we want to do crafts, exercise and a book club at the same time we can do that also,” Scuccimarra said. She said she had heard concerns that the room would not be large enough for exercise

classes, but said “there is going to be plenty of room for that. I’m excited about this room; it will be a real draw for people.”

The kitchen will also be a major upgrade over the Friendship Center, with a convection oven, microwave and gas oven that will allow for more on-site cooking. It also will be outfitted with a fire suppression system.

“There was some question whether we needed sprinklers, but it’s not in the village code,” she said. “We have multiple exits, more than we need, and we’re going to have fire extinguishers” throughout the building.

Rhonda Haussmann, the nutrition and site manager, and Ed Cleary, the outreach worker, will both have offices, something that the Friendship Center lacks. A third office will be available for visiting Office for Senior Resources staff, interviews, counseling or as a quiet work space.

The center will have five restrooms, including one for staff, storage, and a mechanical room.

The current entrance to Lahey will be the entrance to the senior center, as well, with an adjacent outdoor patio. There will be 22 parking spaces and the county will provide busing for seniors who need it.

Scuccimarra noted that left turns are now prohibited when entering or exiting the property from Route 9D, which she said was mandated by the state Department of Transportation due to poor site lines at the curve.

The legislator hinted at other uses for the facility. “The first goal is to get the seniors

To view the floor plan,
visit highlandscurrent.com.

in here,” she said, adding her job will then be “to bring whatever [services] I can to the western side of the county.” Seniors will generally be finished at the center by 2:30 p.m., she said, although evening computer classes or safety courses are a possibility.

“I’d like to have the Department of Motor Vehicles provide services on site once a week,” Scuccimarra said, adding that the building could also serve as a women’s resource center. “People who are having trouble, domestic problems, don’t want to drive 26 miles [to Carmel] to get counseling. Why can’t they have it here?”

She also floated the idea of youth programs. “I’d like to see seniors mentoring some of our youth,” she said, suggesting the large-screen TVs planned for the center could be used for movie nights.

“There are a lot of things we can do here,” she said. “We have never had a county facility on the western side. Let’s take advantage of it.”

Construction on Butterfield’s Building No. 2 is ahead of schedule due to the fair weather. “If you peek inside, you’ll see they’re doing well,” Scuccimarra said. Once the building is finished, the medical offices housed in Lahey will relocate there, making room for construction of the senior center later this spring or over the summer. The northeast corner of Lahey, which will not be part of the center, will be rented out by the developer.

Michael McKee, PhD

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Individual & Family Office Services

TOWN OF PHILIPSTOWN CONSERVATION BOARD

The Town of Philipstown Conservation Board has rescheduled their monthly meeting to

Tuesday, April 18, 2017, 7:30 p.m.

to be held at the Town Hall, 238 Main St., Cold Spring.

PHILIPSTOWN PLANNING BOARD

Public Hearing – April 20, 2017

The Philipstown Planning Board for the Town of Philipstown, New York, will hold a public hearing on Thursday, April 20, 2017 starting at 7:30 p.m. at the Butterfield Library on Morris Avenue in Cold Spring, New York, to consider the following application:

Jeremy & Amy Samson, 362 Old West Point Road, Garrison TM#71.-2-42.

The applicant is proposing a Subdivision Merger of 3 lots into 2 parcels by merging portions of the lot to be eliminated into the adjoining residential parcels. The two lots that remain after the merger presently contain single family residences. As the size of the property conveyance exceeds 10% of the smaller of the original lots, this property transfer is deemed a “subdivision” pursuant to §112 of the Town’s Land and thus requires “Subdivision approval” from the Planning Board. The property is located in RR District.

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

Dated at Philipstown, New York, this 28th day of March 2017.
Anthony Merante, Chairman



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Lyme Bomb *(from Page 1)*

100 ticks on its face and ears, and it usually infects about 95 percent of them, according to Ostfeld. Deer also help spread ticks around.

Scientists can estimate the number of infected ticks based on the mouse population the year before, which they can predict based on the acorn harvest the year before that. Ostfeld first outlined this cycle in 2006.

While the Lyme bacterium does not harm ticks, they pass it along when they bite humans. And warmer winters due to climate change have helped ticks spread to places they have never before been seen, including west across the U.S. and in Europe and the forests of Asia.

Hudson Valley residents are well versed in the importance of daily "tick checks," but that is not the case in

More Tick Problems

Other common tick-borne diseases in the U.S. include:

1. Anaplasmosis (blacklegged tick)
2. Babesiosis (blacklegged tick)
3. Ehrlichiosis (lone star tick)
4. Rocky Mountain spotted fever (American dog tick, Rocky Mountain wood tick)

Source: Centers for Disease Control

areas where infected ticks are now showing up. As a result, the early flu-like symptoms of the disease are not recognized as Lyme and go untreated by antibiotics, leading to long-term health problems such as inflammation of the joints, spinal cord and brain. Ostfeld has called this development "the perfect storm" for Lyme, especially since there is no vaccine for humans.

Hikers, hunters and others who venture into the woods were traditionally considered most at risk, but public health officials now warn that cutting the lawn, gardening and other backyard activities should also prompt tick checks, especially since the nymphs can be as small as the period at the end of this sentence.

Ostfeld and his wife, Felicia Keesing, a professor of mathematics and computing at Bard College, are in the midst of a five-year



Richard Ostfeld of the Cary Institute holds a white-footed mouse.

Photo by Robin Moore

study that includes research in Beacon to determine the safest and most effective ways for neighborhoods and municipalities to kill ticks.

How to remove a tick

1. Grasp the tick as close to the skin as possible with fine-tipped tweezers. Don't delay or wait for a tick to drop off; you usually have about 24 hours before a Lyme-infected tick passes on the bacterium.
2. Pull upward with steady, even pressure. Don't twist or jerk the tick, which can cause the mouth-parts to break off and remain in the skin. If this happens, remove them with tweezers. If you are unable to remove them easily, let the skin heal.
3. After removing the tick, clean the bite area and your hands with rubbing alcohol, an iodine scrub or soap and water.
4. Dispose of a live tick by submersing it in alcohol, placing it in a sealed bag/container, wrapping it tightly in tape or flushing it down the toilet. Never crush a tick with your fingers.

Source: Centers for Disease Control

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*The Episcopal Church
of
Saint Mary-in-the-Highlands*

MAUNDY THURSDAY
13TH OF APRIL
7:00 PM MASS (LAST SUPPER)

GOOD FRIDAY
14TH OF APRIL
12:00 PM ECUMENICAL SERVICE
WITH VENERATION OF THE CROSS
RECEPTION FOLLOWS WITH "HOT CROSS BUNS"

EASTER VIGIL
15TH OF APRIL
7:00 PM CANDLELIGHT SERVICE
WITH OPEN BAPTISM (BRING A BELL)

EASTER SUNDAY
16TH OF APRIL
8:00 AM MASS (SPOKEN)
10:30 AM FESTIVE MASS
WITH SUNDAY SCHOOL
THE CHILDREN'S EASTER EGG HUNT AT NOON

Corner of Routes 9D & 301 in Cold Spring
(845) 265-2539 www.stmaryscoldspring.org

Join us for First Friday!

April 7th, 5 to 7pm



Robert A. McCaffrey Realty is excited to host artist Herman Roggeman's work in our office for the month of April. The opening reception will be Friday evening, April 7th, beginning at 5pm. In 1999, he founded the non-profit arts group, Collaborative Concepts, which organizes the yearly, much-loved, outdoor sculpture show at Saunder's farm. Stop in for a visit & support the local arts scene!

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'Welcoming, Safe and Inclusive' - But No Sanctuary *(from Page 1)*

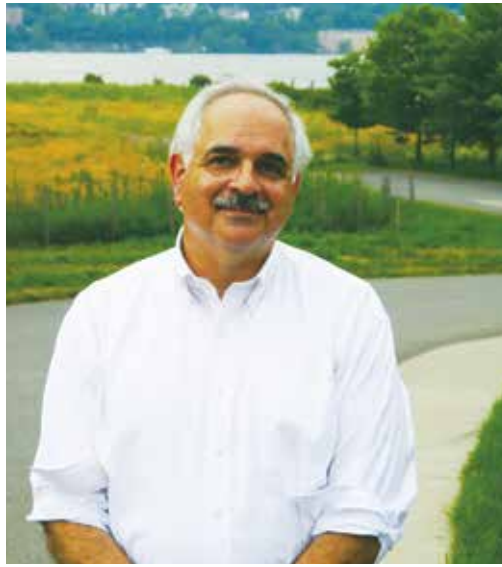
by that individual."

While Police Chief Doug Solomon said weeks ago that immigration is rarely within the jurisdiction of local law enforcement, the movement to clarify municipal policies has grown nationwide as the federal government has threatened to crack down on undocumented immigrants.

Last month, U.S. Attorney General Jeff Sessions announced that the Justice Department will stop awarding grants to cities or local police departments that fail to comply with federal immigration enforcement. However, Beacon City Attorney Ed Phillips said he was confident that "the way the resolution reads, we are in a very safe place in terms of federal funding and complying with federal law."

The U.S. Department of Justice provides about \$30,000 to the city annually, although the city has applied for a DOJ grant of \$125,000.

Sessions' requirement focuses mainly



Lee Kyriacou

File photo by J. Simms

on Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) requests for local police to detain undocumented individuals charged or convicted of serious crimes.

The Beacon resolution respects the federal mandate because it stipulates that city employees and officials only comply with such requests when they are accompanied

Philipstown Considers Sanctuary

The Philipstown Town Board was expected to vote on an "Equal Protection" resolution at its meeting on Thursday, April 6. Its version of a "sanctuary city" resolution is shorter than Beacon's but more direct, saying that because "the current administration is turning away from our nation's long-standing commitment to immigration and the plight of refugees, it is incumbent upon us as citizens to keep safe those in our community that are the most vulnerable and to ensure that they are given equal protection." The town board moved the 7:30 p.m. meeting from Town Hall to the Haldane School auditorium in anticipation of a crowd.

by a judicial warrant, or the police chief has determined there is probable cause to believe that the individual has illegally re-entered the country after a previous removal and has been convicted of a serious felony or engaged in terrorist activity.

The resolution also compels the police chief to report any request for immigration enforcement to the mayor and City Council.

Kyriacou said the passage of the resolution provides "clearer guidance" for the city by "formalizing a policy that has generally been the practice, and communicating that policy."

The debate grew rancorous on April 3 as council members heard public comment for more than an hour before their vote. With the audience spilling into the lobby of the city courtroom, the differences of opinion were stark.

"We're dealing with criminals," said Beacon resident Michael DiPompo. "I've heard allusions to racism if you oppose this, and I'm so insulted by that. These are criminals. We're bringing people in who kill us. Are you kidding me?"

Moments later, Tina Bernstein chided the council as it debated the title of the resolution.

"I am extremely disappointed that this body is so afraid to use language that clearly states that we have the back of members of our community who are concerned about how the political climate will affect them as undocumented immigrants," she said. "No one is talking about opening up the floodgates to criminals. We live in a time of suspicion and I wish people were not so afraid of what might happen if we take a stand."

Several others read statements from children of immigrants in Beacon who said they fear losing their parents.

"We live in a time of suspicion and I wish people were not so afraid of what might happen if we take a stand."

Beacon Sloop Club
SAIL CLASS
8 consecutive Wednesdays
April 12 - May 31, 7 - 9 p.m.
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At Beacon Sloop Club
2 Flynn Drive, Beacon, NY
Information: Jim 201.259.9634
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www.beaconsloopclub.org

**ACTIVIST PUPPETRY:
PAST AND PRESENT**

With filmmaker
Winnie Lambrecht, PhD,
and Patrick Wadden of the
Arm of the Sea

Thursday, April 13, 7 p.m.
Beacon Sloop Clubhouse
2 Flynn Dr., Beacon NY

www.beaconsloopclub.org
845.463.4660
FREE

PHILIPSTOWN
**DEPOT
THEATRE**

Depot Folk
The Mammals
Saturday, April 8
4 p.m. Harmony Workshop with Mike & Ruthy
7 p.m. Concert

Dialogues with Drama presents:
The Good Person of Szechuan
by Bertolt Brecht
April 12, 7:30 p.m.

philipstowndepottheatre.org • Tickets: www.brownpapertickets.com
Garrison Landing, Garrison, NY (Theatre is adjacent to train station.)

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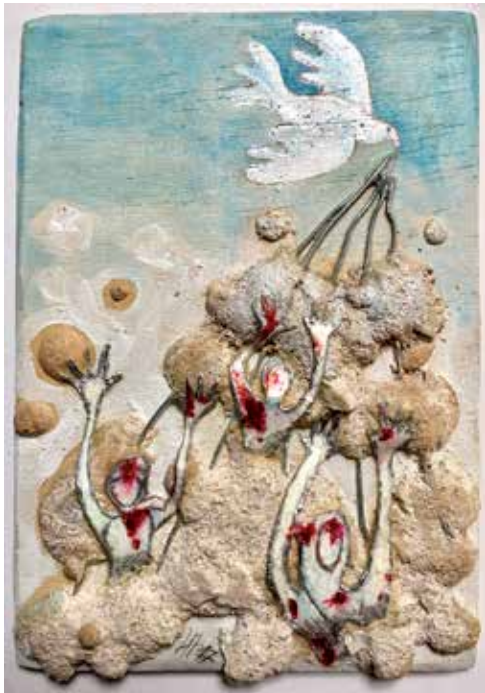
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The Calendar



Monica Weisblott, California



Lydia Huffnungsthal, Spain



Krisztina Asztelos, Hungary

Art for Aleppo

Delivering relief for Syria by postcard

By Alison Rooney

Russell Ritell, an animator and painter who lives in Cold Spring, recalls his frustration watching footage from the affluent city of Aleppo, which has been largely destroyed by the Syrian civil war. As he and his two daughters watched news coverage, one of them said, "I wish I could do something."

That, and Facebook posts by outraged artists, got him thinking. He realized he could do something — with art. He reached out to Carla Goldberg, a fellow artist from Cold Spring, and they recruited David Link to help with the information technology for what would become *Art for Aleppo: Postcards to Humanity*.

Goldberg proposed using postcards. "It made complete sense," said Ritell. "I was going to make it a regional project, but the postcard made it worldwide. Postcards, and mail in general, have this tangible, connecting-people quality."

The group asked artists and anyone else with a creative impulse to create a postcard that reflected their feelings about the Syrian crisis. The pieces will be sold for \$25 each at a reception scheduled for noon to 9 p.m. on April 22 at the Catalyst Gallery at 137 Main St. in Beacon, which has donated its space, and afterward online. All proceeds will be donated to the Save the Children's Syrian relief fund. There will also be an exhibition catalog available on April 20 at blurb.com.

The guidelines to create a postcard are specific but simple: "If it's the size of an A6 postcard (5.8 by 4.1 inches) and postage will stick to it and you can put an address on it, we will accept it." See artforaleppo.org for details and a mailing address; all cards must arrive by Saturday, April 15. Organizers so far have received contributions from 14 countries. See more at highlandscurrent.com.



Carol Flaitz, Newburgh



Franc Palaia, Hudson Valley



Sue Miller, Wappingers

Margot Kingon, Ontario

FRIDAY, APRIL 7

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 – 9 p.m. Butterfield Library
10 Morris Ave., Cold Spring
845-265-3040 | butterfieldlibrary.org

New Cicada Trio
8 p.m. Howland Cultural Center | 477 Main St.,
Beacon | 845-765-3012 | howlandculturalcenter.org

SATURDAY, APRIL 8

Forum for People with Disabilities
8 – 11 a.m. Putnam Hospital Center
670 Stoneleigh Ave., Carmel
845-808-1641, x46019 | putnamcountyny.com

Putnam County Passport Day
9:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. Town Hall
238 Main St., Cold Spring
845-808-1142 x49301 | putnamcountyny.com

The Struggles, Loves and Triumphs of Human Oddities (Talk)
10 a.m. Putnam Valley Free Library
30 Oscawana Lake Road, Putnam Valley
845-528-3242 | putnamvalleylibrary.org

Family Music Hootenanny
10 a.m. Beacon Music Factory | 333 Fishkill Ave.,
Beacon | 845-765-0472 | beaconmusicfactory.com

Opening Day of Grasshopper Grove (ages 2–6)
10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Outdoor Discovery Center
174 Muser Dr., Cornwall
845-534-5506 | hhnmm.org

Soul Stroll: A Shabbat Walk in the Woods
10 a.m. Little Stony Point (Railroad Bridge)
3011 Route 9D, Cold Spring
845-831-2012 | beaconhebrewalliance.org

Knights of Columbus Easter Egg Hunt (ages 0–7)
11 a.m. McConville Park, Cold Spring
Rain date: April 15

Laurie Berkner (Music for Kids)
11 a.m. Paramount Hudson Valley
1008 Brown St., Peekskill
914-739-0039 | paramounthudsonvalley.com

Egg Decorating Party
2 p.m. Open house at Cat Rock Farm
3 – 5:30 p.m. Egg decorating at Garrison Art Center
845-424-3960 | garrisonartcenter.org

Youth Book Festival
2 – 4 p.m. Desmond–Fish Library
472 Route 403, Garrison | 845-424-3020
desmondfishlibrary.org

History of Valhalla Highlands (Talk)
3 p.m. Putnam History Museum
63 Chestnut St., Cold Spring
845-265-4010 | putnamhistorymuseum.org

Classical Guitarist David Temple
4 p.m. Beahive Beacon
291 Main St., Beacon | howlandmusic.org

Organist Reilly Xu
4 p.m. St. Andrew's Church | 15 South Ave., Beacon
845-831-1369 | standrewsbeaconny.org

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

The Mammals (Folk)
7 p.m. Philipstown Depot Theatre
10 Garrison's Landing, Garrison
845-424-3900 | philipstowndepottheatre.org

Calendar Highlights

For upcoming events visit highlandscurrent.com.

Send event listings to calendar@highlandscurrent.com

Hudson Valley Philharmonic: *21st Century Giants*
8 p.m. Bardavon | 35 Market St., Poughkeepsie
845-473-2072 | bardavon.org

Kazi Oliver's Unity Concert
8 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
477 Main St., Beacon
845-765-3012 | howlandculturalcenter.org

SECOND SATURDAY OPENINGS

Annual Artist–Members Exhibit
3 – 5 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
477 Main St., Beacon
845-765-3012 | howlandculturalcenter.org

Melissa Braggins: *Secret Gardens*
5 – 8 p.m. RiverWinds Gallery | 172 Main St., Beacon
845-838-2880 | riverwindsgallery.com

Group Show: *The Fine Art of Watercolor*
5 – 7 p.m. Bannerman Island Gallery
250 Main St., Beacon
845-416-8342 | bannermancastle.org

Cheryl Vlachos: *Impressions of Nature*
6 – 9 p.m. Hudson Beach Glass | 162 Main St.,
Beacon | 845-440-0068 | hudsonbeachglass.com

Rampage Toys: *The Return of Rampage*
6 – 9 p.m. Clutter Gallery | 163 Main St., Beacon
212-255-2505 | cluttermagazine.com

Laura Gurton: *Paintings 2010–2017*
6 – 8 p.m. Theo Ganz Gallery | 149 Main St., Beacon
917-318-2239 | theoganzstudio.com

Pamela Zeremba & Joel Werring: *Short Stories*
6 – 9 p.m. bau Gallery | 506 Main St., Beacon
845-440-7584 | baugallery.com

Group Show: *Post–Magic Symbiosis*
6 – 9 p.m. Matteawan Gallery | 436 Main St., Beacon
845-440-7901 | matteawan.com

Photographs by Ross Corsair
7 – 9 p.m. Oak Vino | 389 Main St., Beacon
845-625-7668 | oakvino.com

SUNDAY, APRIL 9

Palm Sunday

Long Dock Park Hike
9 a.m. Kayak Pavilion, Beacon
845-453-0871 | ruidisch3@gmail.com

Easter Egg–Stravaganza
10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Fishkill Farms
9 Fishkill Farm Road, Hopewell Junction
845-897-4377 | fishkillfarms.com

Adult Easter Egg Hunt (Benefit)
1 p.m. Putnam County Humane Society
68 Old Route 6, Carmel
845-225-7777 | puthumane.org

Children's Author/Illustrator Pat Schories
2 p.m. Tompkins Corners Cultural Center
729 Peekskill Hollow Road, Putnam Valley
845-528-7280 | tompkinscorners.org

Civics Seminar: How to Run for Office
2 p.m. St. Philip's Parish House
1101 Route 9D, Garrison | riseupny.org

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

Munich Philharmonic String Quartet
3 p.m. St. George's Church | 105 Grand St., Newburgh
845-534-2864 | newburghchambermusic.org

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

Artie Tobia Band
7:30 p.m. Towne Crier Café | 379 Main St., Beacon
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com

MONDAY, APRIL 10

Passover

School Break Mini Camp (ages 6–9)
9 a.m. – 3 p.m. Outdoor Discovery Center
100 Muser Drive, Cornwall
845-534-5506 | hhnmm.org

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

Beacon School Board
7 p.m. Beacon High School | 101 Matteawan Road,
Beacon | 845-838-6900 | beaconcitky12.org

TUESDAY, APRIL 11

School Break Mini Camp (ages 6–9)
9 a.m. – 3 p.m. Outdoor Discovery Center
See details under Monday.

Planting Turtle Sprouts (grades K–8)
3 – 5 p.m. Scenic Hudson River Center
8 Long Dock Park, Beacon
845-473-4440, x273 | scenichudson.org

Passover Seder
6 - 10 p.m. Beacon Hebrew Alliance
331 Verplanck Ave., Beacon | 845-831-2102
admin@beaconhebrewalliance.org

Cold Spring Board of Trustees
7 p.m. Public hearing on budget | 7:30 p.m. Regular
meeting | Village Hall, 85 Main St., Cold Spring
845-265-3611 | coldspringny.gov

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 12

School Break Mini Camp (ages 6–9)
9 a.m. – 3 p.m. Outdoor Discovery Center
See details under Monday.

Senior Trip to Fishkill
10 a.m. Chestnut Ridge
845-424-4618 | philipstownrecreation.com

Fancy Flower Pots (grades K-8)
3 – 5 p.m. Scenic Hudson River Center
See details under Tuesday.

Farmer Training: Mycorrhizal Fungi
6 p.m. Glynwood Farm | 362 Glynwood Road, Cold
Spring | 845-265-3338 | glynwood.org

Sailing Basics (First Session)
7 p.m. Beacon Sloop Club | 2 Red Flynn Drive,
Beacon | 845-497-3658 | beaconsloopclub.org

***The Good Person of Szechwan* (Reading)**
7:30 p.m. Philipstown Depot Theatre
10 Garrison's Landing, Garrison
845-424-3900 | philipstowndepottheatre.org
Rescheduled from March 15.

THURSDAY, APRIL 13

School Break Mini Camp (ages 6–9)
9 a.m. – 3 p.m. Outdoor Discovery Center
See details under Monday.

Plant Observation Skills (grades K-8)
3 – 5 p.m. Scenic Hudson River Center
See details under Tuesday.

**SBA Workshop: Government Contracts /
Global Exports**
6:30 p.m. Howland Public Library | 313 Main St.,
Beacon | 845-831-1134 | beaconlibrary.org

Activist Puppetry: Past and Present (Talk)
7 p.m. Beacon Sloop Club
See details under Wednesday.

MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICES

St. Mary's Episcopal Church
7 p.m. Mass (Last Supper) | 8 p.m. – Midnight.
Eucharistic Watch | Routes 9D and 301, Cold Spring
845-265-2539 | stmaryscoldspring.org

United Methodist Church
7 p.m. 216 Main St., Cold Spring
845-526-3788 | facebook.com/CSSHUMC

First Presbyterian of Beacon
7 p.m. 50 Liberty St., Beacon
845-831-5322 | beaconpresbychurch.com

St. Joachim Church
7:30 p.m. Evening Mass of Lord's Supper (Bilingual)
51 Leonard St., Beacon | 845-838-0915

St. Philip's Church
7:30 p.m. 1101 Route 9D, Garrison
845-424-3571 | stphiliphighlands.org

First Presbyterian Church of Philipstown
7:30 p.m. Maundy Thursday Service
10 Academy St., Cold Spring
845-265-3220 | presbychurchcoldspring.org

Our Lady of Loretto
7:30 p.m. 24 Fair St., Cold Spring
845-265-3718 | ladyofloretto.org

Graymoor (St. Francis Chapel)
8 p.m. 40 Franciscan Way, Garrison
845-424-3625 | graymoor.org

Beacon Chess and Backgammon Club
8 p.m. Chill Wine Bar | 173 Main St., Beacon
(845) 235-6833 | metrogammon@yahoo.com

FRIDAY, APRIL 14

School Break Mini Camp (ages 6–9)
9 a.m. – 3 p.m. Outdoor Discovery Center
See details under Monday.

Starting Seeds (grades K-8)
3 – 5 p.m. Scenic Hudson River Center
See details under Tuesday.

Boscobel Lost & Found (Talk)
6:30 p.m. Boscobel | 1601 Route 9D, Cold Spring
845-265-3638 | boscobel.org

Hudson Valley Poets
7 p.m. Howland Cultural Center | 477 Main St.,
Beacon | 845-765-3012 | howlandculturalcenter.org

GOOD FRIDAY SERVICES

St. Mary's Episcopal Church
Noon. See details under Thursday.

Graymoor (St. Francis Chapel)
3 p.m. See details under Thursday.

Our Lady of Loretto
3 p.m. Service of Lord's Passion | 7:30 p.m. Stations
of the Cross | See details under Thursday.

St. Joachim, Beacon
5:30 p.m. Spanish Way of the Cross
7 p.m. Stations of the Cross | Details under Thursday

South Highland United Methodist Church
7 p.m. 19 Snake Hill Road, Garrison
845-424-3096 | facebook.com/CSSHUMC

First Presbyterian of Beacon
7 p.m. See details under Thursday.

St. Philip's Church
7:30 p.m. Brahms' *A German Requiem*

Puppet Politics

Activists jump hand-first into debate

By Brian PJ Cronin

It's a rainy Sunday in Beacon, and Matthew Chase, Benjamin Lybrand and Jaime Pivar are taping a segment for their weekly news show about the failed attempt to overhaul the Affordable Care Act. They're prepping Speaker of the House Paul Ryan, who is lying on the floor with tire marks across his chest.

For the record: Paul Ryan is a weasel,

and a puppet.

The trio's show, *Puppet World News*, each week recaps political news with the antics of a meddlesome group of forest animals, including a beaver with an orange toupee, and the intrepid critter reporters who pursue them. The production is an offshoot of the group's musical puppet show, *Make The Forest Great Again*, which premiered in Beacon in January.



A performance last year in Newburgh by the Arm of the Sea Theater

Photo provided



A Puppet World News report by anchor Felt Mouse on Beaver, the "so-called" leader of the forest, who has been accused of working with Russian bears

"We were joking around about the idea [of doing a weekly show], but then the immigration ban happened," Chase says. "That led to the idea of a migration ban — banning birds from migrating and building a dam instead of a wall to keep them out. The news these days has been so absurd that it keeps working."

"You're looking for the humor in everything," adds Pivar, "instead of the despair."

The show, which can be viewed at youtube.com/c/MaketheForestGreatAgain and soon at puppetworldnews.com, is useful for anyone who avoids watching the actual news to retain his or her sanity. The idea of a foreign government colluding with shadowy hackers to infiltrate political parties is easier to absorb if it's a bear with a Russian accent and a group of geese calling themselves SqwakiLeaks

(Continued on Page 13)

Hudson Beach Glass

Fine art gallery located on second floor

Impressions of Nature

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Ghost Stories

Garrison producer brings nightmares to life

By Maria Ricapito

When Cecile Weiland took a ghost tour of Boscobel a few years back, she probably should have asked for a professional discount. As co-executive producer and show runner since 2014 of the paranormal series *A Haunting*, which airs Fridays at 9 p.m. on TLC, she's somewhat of an expert in modern-day specters.

The hour-long show's format features interviews with people who claim or believe

they have encountered ghosts interspersed with reenactments of spirit outbreaks. Filmed in Virginia, *A Haunting* began its 10th season on March 17.

The show features people in ranches, split-levels and Victorians a lot like those in the Highlands. The difference: These homes are supposedly packed with ghosts, demons, poltergeists and shadows. A key element to the success of *A Haunting* is the producers' ability to create suspense. "It's like composing music, a combination of silence, sound and sound effects, learning when to be quiet and let things play out," Weiland explains.

As show runner, Weiland (who is known professionally as Cecile Bouchardeau Wei-

land) oversees the creative aspects and day-to-day operations of *A Haunting*. For the most part, she works from her Garrison home, though she travels to Virginia for casting and filming. That means many hours on the phone and Skype working with the production and research team and editing footage on her computer for episodes with titles such as "Living Nightmare," "Mother's Terror" and "Fear Feeders."

Weiland majored in French at Cornell and earned a master's degree in broadcast journalism from Northwestern University. "Northwestern was so amazing because I learned ethics!" she says with a smile. "Even though I work in entertainment TV, we have rigorous fact-checking that goes on for each episode."

Fact checking? "We have a team of researchers who spend hours interviewing the victims of hauntings and the paranormal investigators, the mediums, the psychics over the phone," Weiland says. "While it can be difficult to identify whether these people are pulling our leg, the more witnesses to the haunting we interview, the more credible the haunting to the viewer. What is important is that we remain faithful to the person's experience."

The producers take creative license with the ghosts and demons, she says, but "as in all spooky movies, we have learned that less is more, so we try to avoid full-on shots of the entities and leave the rest up to the viewers' imaginations."

After graduating from Northwestern, Weiland gravitated toward documentary film, landing her first job at Walter Cronkite's production company. In the mid-1990s she worked as a producer for



Cecile Weiland

Photo provided



A scene from Season 9

Photo courtesy Destination America

Great Books, a series hosted by Donald Sutherland in which actors re-enacted scenes from classics such as Nathaniel Hawthorne's *The Scarlet Letter* (clearly a gateway experience). In the 20 years since, she's done stints in reality TV — MTV's *Real World: Paris* and *I Want to Be a Hilton*, with Paris Hilton's mom Kathy.

"Reality TV taught me the art of observing; you watch and anticipate what people are going to do," she says.

"You're with them at the moment when they are feeling something. With *A Haunting*, you have to get to the essence of the moment when they felt the most fear."

Weiland has become an expert not just in the types of ghosts but in the types of people who hunt them. "There are so many paranormal investigators — police officers, private investigators, clairvoyants, mediums, psy-

(Continued on next page)

"You're with them at the moment when they are feeling something. With A Haunting, you have to get to the essence of the moment when they felt the most fear."

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Ghost Stories *(from previous page)*

chics, demonologists and ministers who are allowed to perform exorcisms," she explains. "Certain people specialize in closing portals where demons come in. Others specialize in sending ghosts back to the light from limbo."

The producers talk to everyone involved, including skeptics — mothers, fa-

thers, kids — the more the merrier. The ghost stories that scare her most, Weiland says, are when a person finds him or herself being haunted while home alone. "We're following the psychological journey of fear with this person, on a step-by-step journey in their head."



A reenactment from Season 9

Photo courtesy Destination America

Puppet Politics *(from Page 11)*

monitoring the chicken coop.

Puppets have always been an effective tool for satire during political turmoil, noted Winifred Lambrecht, a lecturer at the Rhode Island School of Design, who will speak about "Activist Puppetry" at the Beacon Sloop Club at 7 p.m. on Thursday, April 13. "It's portable and it can be done on a shoestring budget by a small group of people who can appear and disappear very quickly," she explained. It's also appealing to both young and old.

The talk will also feature Patrick Wadden, who founded the Arm of the Sea Theater, based in Saugerties, in 1982 with Marlena Marallo as an offshoot of Clearwater's environmental education

work. Last year in Beacon, they performed *Hook, Line & Sink*, which told the story of generations of Hudson River fishermen and the dangers of PCB contamination.

Back at the Puppet News Network studio, the three producers must make judgment calls as to who gets a puppet. Chase spent 12 hours creating an Elizabeth Walnuts puppet because they believe Sen. Elizabeth Warren will continue to be in the news. But when it came time for an appearance by fired national security advisor Michael Flynn, "we just grabbed a stuffed crow from a Halloween store we had lying around and called it Michael Flying," he said. "He was just in one shot. But who knows, maybe he'll be back?"

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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Easter Services

The St. Philip's Church choir will perform Brahms' *A German Requiem* at 7:30 p.m. on Good Friday, April 14. Julie Heckert and Mike McKee will be the featured soloists and music director Durward Entrekin will conduct. The performance is free, although donations are accepted.

On Holy Thursday, April 13, at 8 p.m., Graymoor will hold a Mass of the Lord's Supper at Our Lady of the Atonement Chapel, followed by a procession and adoration. On Good Friday, April 14, Graymoor will host three prayer services, at 8 a.m., 3 p.m. and 8 p.m.

As part of its Easter Week services, the Episcopal Church of St. Mary-in-the-Highlands in Cold Spring will have an open baptism on Saturday, April 15. The church welcomes anyone, with no questions asked, to receive the sacrament. "St. Mary's hopes to show that the church exists to include people, not to exclude them," said Fr. Shane Scott-Hamblen. To receive baptism, contact the rector at frshane@op-tonline.net or arrive at 6:30 p.m.

Also at St. Mary's, the Maundy Thursday Mass on April 13 will begin at 7 p.m. but the church will remain open for prayers until midnight. That will be followed on Good Friday by a community service at noon.

For more Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services, see page 10.



The Hudson Highlands Nature Museum will bring out the rabbits on April 15

Photo provided

Wascally Wabbits

Museum to talk bunnies

The Hudson Highlands Nature Museum in Cornwall will host a program on rabbits on Saturday, April 15, at 9:30 and 11 a.m. Museum educators will discuss the animals' habits, introduce a rabbit, lead a short hike to spot Eastern cottontails and lead children in making a craft. Families with children ages 2 and older are welcome. See hhn.org.

Nature Walk

Get outside with the family

Lisa Mechaley, an environmental educator who lives in Cold Spring, will lead a family friendly walk into the woods and wetlands of the Hubbard-Perkins portion of Fahnestock State Park at 2 p.m. on



Lisa Mechaley will lead a family friendly hike on April 9.

Photo by Marian Goldin

Sunday, April 9. The free event is sponsored by the Putnam Highlands Audubon Society and is designed to help participants become more aware of how nature reacts to warming temperatures and increased daylight. Hikers may see butterflies, migratory birds, spring wildflowers and beaver activity along the creek. Meet at Hubbard Lodge, 2920 Route 9. See putnamhighlandsaudubon.org.

Take-A-Hike

Land Trust announces excursions

The Hudson Highlands Land Trust has announced its schedule for eight free, guided hikes. The first, a 90-minute bird walk in Watergrass Sanctuary, takes place at 8:30 a.m. on Saturday, April 15. Meet at the Frazier Road entrance in Garrison and bring binoculars. Registration is required. See hhl.org/takeAHikeSched.html.

Drawing Contest

Children invited to enter at Drug World

Drug World at 55 Chestnut St. in Cold Spring is holding a Easter egg drawing contest for children ages 1 to 4 and 5 to 8. The submission deadline is Wednesday, April 12; community members will be asked to vote for their favorites on April 13 and 14 and winners will be announced on April 15.

Beacon

Planned Parenthood Fundraiser

Silent auction, raffle and music

A silent auction with items from artists, artisans and Beacon businesses, a raffle and live music fill out the (Re)Fund Planned Parenthood benefit scheduled for 7 to 10 p.m. on Saturday, April 15, at Beahive Beacon, 291 Main St. Tickets are \$25 in advance or \$30 at the door and include two drinks and hors d'oeuvres. Search for "beahive" at eventbrite.com.

Flip the Sixth

Fundraiser to aid Georgia Democrat

A grassroots organization that pairs sol-hike Aid Democratic congressional districts



Jon Ossoff, who is running for Congress in Georgia with support from Hudson Valley Democrats

Campaign photo

to raise money for Democrats running in traditionally solid Republican districts will host a fundraiser from 3 to 5 p.m. on Sunday, April 9, at Dogwood, 47 E. Main St., for a candidate in Georgia. The Sister District Project has the New York's 18th district, which includes Beacon and Philipstown, supporting 30-year-old Democrat Jon Ossoff, who is running in Georgia's 6th District, north of Atlanta, in an April 18 special election to succeed Rep. Tom Price, who left to become secretary of Health and Human Services. Although the district has not voted Democrat in decades, the Republicans have 11 people on the ballot. For information, see sisterdistrict.com or email Alison Miller at miller.alison202@gmail.com.

Civil Rights Hero

Actor portrays W.E.B. DuBois

Brian Richardson portrays the early civil-rights activist W.E.B. Du Bois in *A Man for All Times* at the Howland Public Library at 1 p.m. on Saturday, April 15. The free production, from the Pulse Ensemble Theatre in Manhattan, brings to life the first (Continued on next page)



W.E.B. DuBois

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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

(From previous page) black American to graduate from Harvard and co-founder of the NAACP. See beaconlibrary.org.

Beacon Second Saturday (April 15)

Hudson Beach Glass will open an exhibit of waterscapes and landscapes by Hudson Valley artist Cheryl Vlachos with a reception from 6 to 9 p.m. The show will be on view until May 7. See hudsonbeachglass.com.

Theo Ganz Gallery will host a reception from 6 to 8 p.m. to open an exhibit by Laura Gurton, *Paintings 2010-2017*, on view until April 30. See theoganzstudio.com.

Oak Vino at 389 Main St. will show photographs by Ross Corsair of Garrison in a show called *Still Here*. The opening reception is from 7 to 9 p.m. and his work will be on view until May 10.

See oakvino.com.

Bannerman Island Gallery will open a group show called *The Fine Art of Watercolor* featuring works influenced by the Hudson Valley. The reception is from 5 to 7 p.m. and the work will be on exhibit until April 30. See bannermancastle.org.

RiverWinds Gallery is planning a reception for *Secret Gardens*, an exhibit by Melissa Braggins, from 5 to 8 p.m. The show is on view until May 7 with a talk by the artist at 4 p.m. on April 22. See riverwindsgallery.com.

The Beacon Artist Union (bau) will open shows in both of its galleries. Pamela Zaremba and Joel Werring will show narrative paintings, drawings and photographs, while Brett Phares has a multimedia installation. The reception is from 6 to 9 p.m.; see baugallery.com.

Matteawan Gallery opens a group exhibition with nine artists titled *post-magic symbiosis* and curated by Lacey Feishazy. The reception is from 6 to 9 p.m., and the show is up until May 7.

See matteawan.com.



Phantasmagorique #15, by Kathy Goodell, will be part of a group show at Matteawan Gallery. *Image provided*



A photo by Ross Corsair, whose work will be exhibited at Oak Vino starting April 15

The Howland Cultural Center will present its annual exhibit featuring the work of artist-members. A reception for the 42 participants will be held from 3 to 5 p.m., and the show will be on view through April 27. At 8 p.m. Rudy Sarica, Rick Aparicio and Carla Springer will present a concert in tribute to Cat Stevens and Neil Young. Tickets are \$10. Call 845-831-4988.



June, by Susan Hennelly, will be on display at Bannerman Island Gallery. *Image provided*

St. Andrew's Church will host a concert at 4 p.m. by 14-year-old organist Reilly Xu, a ninth grader at Suffern High School who studies at Juilliard. This is his second recital at the church; he will play its tracker organ, which was recently restored. The church is located at 17 South Avenue.



Reilly Xu, 14, will perform an organ recital at St. Andrew's Church on April 15. *Photo provided*

Grasshopper Grove



Grasshopper Grove at the Hudson Highlands Nature Museum in Cornwall opens for the season from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, April 8. *Photo provided*

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Around Town

Cold Spring Mayor Dave Merandy is sworn in on April 3 for his second term by Village Justice Thomas Costello. Merandy's wife, Stephanie Hawkins, held the Bible.



Trustee Marie Early is sworn in for her second term by Village Justice Thomas Costello. Her sister, Susan Early, held the Bible.



Trustee Fran Murphy is sworn in for her second term by Village Justice Thomas Costello. Murphy's husband, Ed, held the Bible.

Photos by Michael Turton

Cold Spring Boat Club members repaired (right) and installed (far right) docks at the Hudson River on April 2. Boat and social memberships are available to Philipstown residents. Email Commodore Mark Patinella at patinella@yahoo.com.

Photos by Robert Plante





The newly formed Boy Scout Pack 403 in Garrison held its first Pinewood Derby on March 31. From left, third-grader Harry Stevenson won for best decorated car; fourth-grader Jasper Timmer had the best time averaged over four heats; his brother, second-grader Emmett Timmer, finished second; and second-grader Ari Barta finished third. All four boys attend the Garrison School.

Photos by Sheila Williams



Four cars by members of Pack 403 after crossing the finish line at the Garrison School gym. Each car raced in four heats, one on each track, and the times were averaged.



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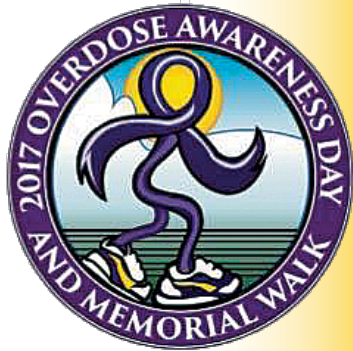
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Beacon Approves Updates to Comprehensive Plan

Sets tone for growth over next decade

By Jeff Simms

The Beacon City Council on April 3 approved updates to the city's comprehensive plan, setting the tone for growth and development in Beacon over the next decade.

The principal changes to the plan, which was revised by a committee appointed by Mayor Randy Casale a year ago, include the rezoning of much of Beacon's waterfront district as parkland, while limiting the density of development allowed on the east side of the Metro-North station.

The rezoning move would apply to about 44 acres and is consistent with Beacon's decades-long effort to revitalize its waterfront.

Land to the north and adjacent to the train station (all east of the tracks) will be

rezoned for waterfront development, with building heights restricted to preserve views of the Hudson River.

The plan is a significant step back from what was being considered for the waterfront area a decade ago. At the time, a hotel and increased development were encouraged but flooding and other environmental concerns led the committee to switch gears.

Following two well-attended forums last fall, the committee — which worked with BFJ Planning — held public hearings on the updated comprehensive plan in February.

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Putnam Frees \$100,000 for Tourism

Also supports drug treatment for inmates

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

The Putnam County Legislature on April 4 voted 8 to 1 to free \$100,000 in sequestered money to fund the Putnam County Visitors' Bureau for the remainder of the year.

The money had been held back by legislators following the resignation last year of Libby Pataki as executive director and an investigation by the state attorney general of the bureau's finances and compliance with state law that regulates non-profits. The legislature gave the bureau \$41,996 of the \$141,996 it had promised, to cover the first quarter of 2017. It will receive the remaining money at a rate of \$11,833 monthly.

Dini LoBue (R-Mahopac Falls), who cast the sole "no" vote, urged her colleagues to keep the money sequestered. She said she wondered whether the bureau was in compliance with nonprofit regulations. "I'd like to see that verified," she said. She proposed the Legislature investigate and, if all is well, release the funds in May.

Toni Addonizio (R-Kent) said that the Visitors' Bureau must be in compliance to receive "I Love NY" promotion money from the state.

Barbara Scuccimarra (R-Philipstown) argued to release the \$100,000. "In order to do the work they need the funds," she said.

Carl Albano (R-Carmel) said the Legislature needed to show support for the bureau. "This is the season for tourism," he said, when Putnam should "get brochures down to Grand Central, do all the things that we would normally do to encourage tourism." Joseph Castellano (R-Southeast

added that for "every \$1 we spend on tourism, we get \$7 back."

Oil barges

Legislators voted unanimously to allow Putnam County to join the Hudson River Waterfront Alliance, a coalition of communities opposed to a proposal to create anchorage spots for oil barges, including between Beacon and Newburgh.

They also passed a resolution backing legislation introduced in Albany by state Sen. Sue Serino, who represents Philipstown and Beacon, to strengthen state control over the river and create "tanker avoidance zones."

Drug abuse treatment in jails

The legislature unanimously approved a resolution drafted by the New York State Association of Counties to fund drug-addiction treatment in county jails.

Philipstown Town Board Councilor

"Treatment instead of incarceration is certainly more effective," and trying to cure addiction in jail settings "is a frightening thought."

Nancy Montgomery thanked the legislators for supporting treatment but also advocated the creation of facilities for younger addicts, an approach

she said had been adopted by Dutchess County. "Treatment instead of incarceration is certainly more effective," she said, and trying to cure addiction in jail settings "is a frightening thought."

Capital projects and roads

The Legislature unanimously approved spending \$250,000 for improvements at the Putnam County Golf Club; \$50,000 for an elevated walkway in the Sheriff's Department; and \$50,000 for heating and air conditioning upgrades in the Highway and Facilities Department.

Separately, the Legislature voted unanimously to issue \$1 million in bonds to pay for repairs to county roads, including Snake Hill Road in Philipstown.

Principal Resigns at Haldane High School

(from Page 1)

For the remainder of the academic year, Bowers said she or Dean of Students Christopher Salumn will be at the high school at all times during the school day; the board on April 4 approved Middle School Principal Julia Sniffen as acting high school principal. "It's unfortunate that this is the situation, but we will do whatever is in the best interest of our students," Bowers said.

Before joining the Haldane staff in July, Carucci was assistant principal at Tuckahoe Middle School and High School in Eastchester. He succeeded Brian Alm, who left after nine years to become director of secondary teaching and learning with the Ossining Union Free School District.

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Baseball Preview

By Leigh Alan Klein

Beacon

Coach: Bobby Atwell
Last season: 11-11
Team to beat: Hendrick Hudson, which was 16-5 last year and seeded No. 1 in the Section 1 tournament.
Outlook: “For us to make a deep run, we know we need to hit better than last year,” Atwell said. “Fans can count on this team to play hard every play, every game. The interest is strong — more than 40 players came out for the team.”

Players to watch:
Alex Callaway (senior), pitcher/3B. A four-year starter, Callaway is the team’s best hitter. He will play next year for Dominican College in Orangeburg.
Lenny Torres (junior), pitcher, short-stop, outfield. See Athlete of the Week.

Haldane

Coach: Tom Virgadamo
Last Season: 6-15
Teams to beat: North Salem, Putnam Valley, Tuckahoe
Outlook: “Our success will depend on the depth of our pitching,” said Virgadamo. “Ideally, we would like to get five innings out of each starter on any given night. Brian Haines, Ryan Duffy, Anthony Sinchi and Devin Siegel should be our starters and Justin Maldonado, Adam Hotaling and Aidan Siegel will come in for middle relief or to close the game out.”
Style of play: “We will rely on aggressive base running and small ball to manufacture runs,” he said. “If we can make all of the routine plays, and keep our opponents to 3 to 4 runs a game, we will be competitive.”
Key performers: Seniors Maldonado, Haines, Duffy; juniors Siegel, Sinchi, Daniel Rotando; sophomores Siegel, Hotaling, Matt Mikalsen and Justin Markey



The Haldane varsity lacrosse team opened its season on April 4 with a loss at home to Croton, 8-5. [See more photos from the match at highlandscurrent.com.] At right, a young fan practices his technique.

Photos by Ross Corsair



Lenny Torres Photo provided

Highlands Current Athlete of the Week

Lenny Torres,
Beacon High School

The right-hander pitched three scoreless innings in the Bulldogs’ season opener on April 3, a 4-4 tie at Tappan Zee that was called due to darkness. The junior struck out eight batters and gave up no hits.
“Lenny is a hard thrower with a very good change-up, and he has now developed a cutter,” said Coach Bobby Atwell.



Varsity Sports Scoreboard			
Boys’ Lacrosse Croton 8, Haldane 5		Boys’ Tennis Beacon 4, Somers 3	
Girls’ Lacrosse Lakeland-Panas 4, Beacon 0 Pawling 12, Beacon 7 Harrison 16, Beacon 5		Golf Beacon 305, Arlington 257	
Baseball Beacon 4, Tappan Zee 4		Track Beacon @ Pirate Relays Top Five Finishers	
Softball Haldane 16, Irvington 4 Haldane 5, Croton Harmon 3 Lakeland 21, Beacon 0		Girls’ High Jump 4. Jummie Akinwunmi (4-10)	
		Girls’ Pole Vault 3. Anna Manente (8-0)	
		Boys’ Triple Jump 4. Richard Kish (38-2)	

Sophomore Adam Hotaling waits on deck at Haldane practice on April 5, while Metro-North races for home in the background.

Photo by L.A. Klein

Philipstown Soccer Club (Week 1)

Dover 4, U-16 Chargers 3
Newburgh 4, U-14 Warriors 3
See highlandscurrent.com for game summaries

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