D \textit{state budget draws praise} \\
\textit{increases for schools, conservation, water} \\
\textbf{by Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong} \\

Drawing bipartisan praise and a warm welcome from conservationists, New York State’s $153.1 billion fiscal 2018 budget boosts funding for education and environmental protection and deals with opioid abuse, tourism, economic development, consolidation and dozens of other issues important to the Highlands.

Based on the draft delivered in January by Gov. Andrew Cuomo, a Democrat, the budget won legislative approval April 9. It consists of $98.1 billion in operating funds and $55 billion from the federal government and other sources, mixes policy initiatives with spending and meets the state’s annual 2 percent cap on spending increases. The fiscal year began April 1.

However, the budget is not written in stone. Cuomo’s office warned of “looming threats from Washington,” where the administration of President Donald Trump has proposed deep cuts in aid to states. Should federal aid drop by $850 million or more, the state budget director must prepare for cuts that will be implemented automatically unless the legislature enacts another plan within 90 days.

**Education**

The state budget boosts school spending by about 4 percent, to approximately $25.8 billion, including $700 million additional in foundation aid, which goes to all public schools but focuses on those with growing enrollments or that teach a relatively large number of disabled or impoverished students.

The budget also launches a free-tuition program at state universities for students from families with annual incomes of less than $125,000.

Sandy Galef, a Democrat whose Assembly district includes Philipstown, made her chamber insisted on more education funding and prevailed. “That was really a big step forward,” she said.

She also observed that the budget provides $95.6 million to libraries for operations and $24 million for capital projects—a total increase (Continued on Page 6)

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**Doctor by Subscription**

\textit{a beacon physician charges by the month. is this the future of medicine?} \\
\textbf{by Brian PJ Cronin} \\

Stop the presses: Dr. Michael O’Brien, a general practitioner and pediatrician in Beacon, makes house calls.

The physician, who in November opened an office behind his home, is part of a movement called Direct Primary Care. (Continued on Page 16)
Know Your Seeds

By Pamela Doan

Seeds are our most basic resource and most of us know little about them. In the last century, the world has lost more than 90 percent of its vegetable seed varieties. As a result, we have become more vulnerable to famine and increased the risks to natural ecosystems, pollinators and human health from the intense use of chemical fertilizers, pesticides and herbicides.

Ken Greene, co-founder and creative director of Hudson Valley Seed Co. and founder of the nonprofit Hudson Valley Seed Bank, is on a mission to save seeds. Based in Accord and nearing its 10th anniversary, his company has grown from two people and 14 varieties of seeds to 10 people and 400.

Greene launched his mission after meeting farmers and gardeners at the library where he worked and asking questions about where food came from. He learned there is “this whole invisible industry behind food and farming that is destructive to our health and the environment,” he said.

Of the four types of seed, Greene sells only heirloom and open-pollinated seeds because he wants to be part of recovering and saving seed diversity. If you collect seeds from these plants and sow them again, they will grow true to type, like the original plants. The only difference between them is that heirlooms have been around for at least 60 to 100 years. Open-pollinated seeds have less history.

Hybrid seeds are bred by crossing two genetic lines. While it’s a natural process, seeds will revert to the parent type and it won’t grow as the same plant next season.

“The hybrid industry keeps the parent line secret and the first-generation seed may perform well based on breeding criteria and industrial priorities like ease of harvest, disease resistance or uniformity,” Greene said. “Because you have to go back and buy seeds every year, you’ve lost the independence and control to do your own selection.”

By “selection,” Greene means that when you plant an open-pollinated seed in the microclimate of your garden and then save seeds from the plants you like and replant them, you’re influencing its development and success rate for your own conditions and tastes. “This increases the diversity that we have and creates a more resilient food system for the nation,” he explained.

He said Hudson Valley Seed gets the most questions about genetically modified seeds, known as GMOs, for genetically modified organism. These seeds have genetic information technologically inserted that could never be bred into them naturally. Biotech and pharmaceutical companies do this mainly to make the plants resistant to toxic chemicals and kill pests.

The seeds are patented — a controversial measure — and it is illegal to save seeds from these plants. Worries about inadvertently planting GMOs are unfounded. They don’t come in the seed packs gardeners are familiar with and you have to sign a contract when buying them.

A regional seed source is an important issue as climate change creates unpredictability in weather patterns and temperatures. Seeds adapt and few are grown in the Northeast because it isn’t viable for corporations.

“We get to see which individual plants do well or suffer and which ones have some kind of resistance to pests and diseases,” Greene said of the seed bank. “To a certain extent, those that survive their full cycle with us are the ones that are most resilient and the ones that we’ll collect seeds from. That plant is improving over time in a regionally specific way.”

To peruse seeds, visit hudsonvalleyseseed.com. You’ll also find artwork created for seed packets, blog posts with growing resources and other products. Be careful: It’s easy to pass a couple of hours daydreaming there (which is why this column was late). You also can find its seeds at retailers such as Adam’s Fairacre Farms, Sabellico’s, Beacon Natural Market and Fishkill Farms.

Ken Greene

Photo provided
Teacher Reassigned at Haldane

Also, state aid less than district hoped for

By Lily Gordon

Students and parents at the April 4 Haldane School Board meeting protested the administration transferring an eighth-grade English Language Arts teacher to library duty.

Two students presented what they said was a petition containing the signatures of more than 200 middle- and high-school students opposing the transfer of Anna Pearce.

“It is my job to express to you, the administration, the concerns we have with the recent demotion of Ms. Anna Pearce,” said Abigail Duncan, the junior class president. She said students understood that Pearce would be moved from her classroom to the library effective April 18 “because of a complaint made by a few students.”

According to one source, Pearce was accused of teasing two male students about having a “bromance,” which Merriam-Webster defines as slang for “a close nonsexual friendship between men.”

Pearce and Superintendent Diana Bowers did not respond to requests for clarification, and it was not clear if the complaint was behind the move. School Board President Jen Daly said Pearce has been teaching at Haldane for 18 years.

“I don’t think that it was sufficient cause” for the move, Lourdes Laifer, a vice president of the Haldane PTA, told the board. “If the students in question believe that they were being called gay — I mean, that’s not what that term means — but certainly if there was an apology would’ve been appropriate. But to derail her career and remove her from the English department doesn’t feel right.”

Another Haldane parent, Maeve Eng-Wong, called Pearce “a shining star in the middle school. She is certainly not conventional … We all know and love that about her; the kids know and love that about her.” She said her sons “haven’t stopped talking about Ms. Pearce not being in that classroom.”

Daly said board members and administrators could not discuss personnel matters but that such decisions are not made “willy nilly.” Bowers later said she too could not comment on the matter but said, “She’s going to do an awesome job in the library and we’re happy she’s there.”

In a letter to eighth-grade parents, Middle School Principal Julia Sniffen wrote that “Mrs. Pearce has elected to pursue an open vacancy in the library for the fourth quarter of the school year” and that she would be replaced by fifth-grade teacher David Dougherty, who is certified to teach middle-school English Language Arts. At the April 4 meeting, Jennifer Rabe was hired by the board to take over Dougherty’s fifth-grade class through the end of the school year.

In another move, Patricia O’Rourke, who is teaching this year at the Haldane Academy, an alternative high school, resigned as of June 30 but will continue to serve as a substitute. The academy was told by the state it must move from the St. Basil Academy property in Garrison after this school year if it continues to be run by the school district.

State aid

Planning can be tough when the state won’t say how much money it will provide beyond estimates released in January. At the school board’s meeting on April 4, Business Manager Anne Dinio said the district should plan as if the state would not be providing more money than it had for previous year. In that scenario, the district faced a $126,000 deficit.

To eliminate that, Bowers suggested:
- Reducing teacher development funding by $15,000.
- Planning for three sections of second grade (instead of four) and hiring a part-time teacher to help with English and math blocks, for a savings of $50,000. Second-grade homerooms would most likely have more than 25 students in this scenario.
- Modifying the number of support services personnel in classes, possibly through attrition, for a savings of $30,000.
- Spending $5,000 less on furniture at each school, for a total savings of $15,000.
- No longer accepting first- or second-graders in the summer kindergarten transition program for a savings of $10,000.
- Reducing the technology budget by $5,000.

The board said it didn’t feel comfortable cutting a section of second grade. “New furniture is a luxury,” said Daly. “Class size is not a luxury.”

After the state finalized its numbers on April 7, Haldane learned it would receive $15,000 more than the January estimate, a 6 percent increase in total aid over last year but not enough to cover the projected deficit, which is now about $111,000, Dinio said.

In Garrison, the district received $881,867 in state funds, or about $1,000 less than expected.

Lawmakers in Albany increased state aid for education by 4.4 percent overall, putting another $1 billion into public schools.

Beacon Schools Budget Set

Vote on finances and four seats scheduled for May 16

By Jeff Simms

The Beacon school board on April 17 approved a $68.6 million budget for 2017-18 that uses nearly $1 million in increased state funding to hire three elementary and two special education teachers and a Human Resource Director. Beacon residents will vote on the proposal on May 16.

In addition, voters will fill the four seats on the nine-person Board of Education now held by President Anthony White, Vice President Kenya Gadsden, Kristan Flynn and Craig Wolf. Petitions are not due until April 26; White has filed his while the other three say they plan to run.

New York lawmakers approved the state budget on April 9, increasing education spending by 4.4 percent. For Beacon, that translated as $27.7 million in state money, the remainder of revenue comes from $37.2 million in property taxes, $2.5 million of savings and miscellaneous sources of $590,000.

Beacon and many districts still feel stymied by the state tax cap, which restricts how much each district can raise its tax levy. The percentage changes each year, based on various factors, and for Beacon, the allowable levy for 2017-18 is 1.54 percent, more than double last year’s.

That’s good news in the short term, said White, who praised state legislators for allowing Beacon to hire more teachers, but in the long term, he said he’d prefer a predictable funding pattern. “That way the districts could plan accordingly,” he said. “Now it’s a guessing game each year.”

Voters will also decide on May 16 on a proposal by the district to spend $410,691 to purchase two 72-passenger buses, a bus that can accommodate wheelchairs and a 20-passenger van.

The amount of money given by the state to each district is calculated in large part on the relative wealth of its residents. Line items include educating students with disabilities, technology, transportation, building maintenance and funding to BOCES, which provides districts with support services. Funds are also provided for “high tax aid,” which is sent to districts where the property taxes are high relative to income.

To see the charts, go online.

PART-TIME HELP WANTED

Seeking part-time help to videotape, prepare minutes and maintain records for five boards. Evening work involving 6-8 hours/week.

For a detailed job description and qualifications contact Village of Cold Spring at (845)265-3611.

Send Resume and Letter of Interest by April 29, 2017 to: Mayor Dave Merandy, 85 Main Street, Cold Spring, NY 10516.
The “I don’t care” generation

There are kind, thoughtful, smart people in this world, of course, but in the 13 years I have been alive, careless, mindless and uneducated people overpower the rest.

Let’s get straight to the point: The world is dying right in front of our eyes. This wonderful world of culture, wildlife, plants, creatures and life is dying whether we want to believe it or not. But there is always room for change. I live in the new generation, a generation that needs to start waking up and start realizing our world is fairly quickly reaching its ending point.

Every day I go to school. I have math, social studies, science and English Language Arts. Many people I know get straight As. Good for them, they are smart. Are they educated about what’s truly important? Will they grow up and be the change that is needed to keep the earth alive? That’s what I find truly important.

I was once talking about a very important topic that could truly hurt a wide spread of wildlife, and one kid said, “I don’t care.” Another said, “Why does it matter? Our voices don’t matter.” It’s not the first time I have heard it. Once in class, we were learning about climate change. This is a major contributor to the problems we live in. I saw kids chewing their fingernails or rolling their eyes, smirk- ing and chuckling. This is not a time for selfishness and greed; it’s a time for the younger generation to recognize where the world is heading.

For the adults and parents reading this, make sure your kids know what is going on. Make sure your kids understand how important they are now, and how important they will be, in making a difference. Emilia Barth, Cold Spring

Barth is an eighth grader at Haldane Middle School.

Street name

In “Philipstown: What’s in a (Street) Name?” (April 14), you wrote that Beverly Warren Road was named for the owner of Warren’s Tavern, which was built in 1761 and operated until 1832. I always thought the road was named for Beverly Warren, a Cold Spring resident who was killed in a car crash in Peekskill in the 1980s.

Ann Brennan, Garrison

We both may be incorrect. In 1797, a “road through the woods” was bequeathed by Thomas Davenport, a pioneer of Philipstown, to his grandson Beverly Warren. “It was known and marked for many years as ‘Beverly Warren Road,’ ” wrote Dorothy Giles and Irma Franklin in their 1962 genealogy of the Davenport family. “During the Revolution, troops of the Connecticut Line camped along it.”

Snakes alive

I believe the snake you identified in “Signs of Spring” (April 14) as a “black snake” is actually a water snake.

Lou Kingsley, Philipstown

You’re right, according to Peter Ducey of the Department of Biological Sciences at SUNY Cortland, who operates the Cortland Herpetology Connection. Based on its scales, eye shape, head position and color, he said it appears to be a northern water snake (Nerodia sipedon).

(Continued on next page)

Taking it to the Street

Record Store Day is April 22. What album would you take to a deserted island?

By Anita Peltonen

“Blonde on Blonde,” by Bob Dylan.
- Deb Dichter, Cold Spring

“Sublime,” by Sublime.
- Dave Singley, Poughkeepsie

“Blue,” by Joni Mitchell.
- Karen Shea, Cold Spring
Lyme Bomb 2
More on tick explosion

After a report in our April 7 issue, “Lyme Bomb,” described the link between the population of mice in the Hudson Valley and the increased threat of Lyme disease, Michael Turton followed up with Richard Ostfeld, a disease ecologist at the Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies in Millbrook.

Deer are often portrayed as the culprit when it comes to Lyme, but are mice the bigger problem?

Deer are important as a host for the adult stage of the blacklegged tick, but deer don’t infect the ticks with the Lyme disease bacterium. White-footed mice are the most efficient host for transmitting Lyme infection to the ticks. This is why the abundance of mice is so important in determining how many ticks get infected.

A few other animals, including chipmunks and shrews, transmit infection to ticks, but less than mice. We have found the abundance of tick nymphs — the stage responsible for the great majority of cases of tick-borne diseases — is much more closely tied to the abundance of rodents than it is to deer.

A mouse can carry as many as 100 ticks on its face and ears. Why do ticks gravitate to that part of the mouse?

We suspect it’s because the ears and around the eyes and mouth have less fur so ticks have easier access to the skin. It’s also possible ticks try to feed on other parts of the mouse but are likely groomed off.

Is there any data on the number of mice in the Hudson Valley?

The numbers can vary from fewer than 5 per acre to more than 300 per acre. In the summer of 2016 we saw the biggest population in the 25 years we have kept records. Federal mapping shows the spread of Lyme disease beyond its origins in New England and Wisconsin. What is fueling that expansion?

There is some evidence that climate warming is spreading Lyme disease to the north and away from the coast into what might have previously been too cold a climate. But the spread to the south isn’t a function of climate change. There are multiple factors at play but these aren’t well evaluated.

Hikers and hunters are cautioned to check for ticks. Who else needs to be aware of the threat of Lyme disease?

Anyone who goes outside in the Hudson Valley should check themselves vigilantly and use repellents and treated clothing that kills ticks. Mice are pretty much everywhere; they occupy any habitat from pristine forest to wetland to trashy overgrown woodlot, to sheds, basements and kitchens. They go places deer won’t go.

Are pets vulnerable?

Dogs and horses are vulnerable, cats less so. Any tick that’s already attached to a pet isn’t of immediate concern to the pet owner because they stay attached for several days to a week and won’t feed again for months to a year. But if a tick is still crawling around on the dog or cat, it could crawl off and find a human host instead.

It was surprising to hear you say during an interview with NPR that the patchwork landscape of the Hudson Valley created by settlement, deforestation, agriculture, etc., is great for mice. Wouldn’t open fields, meadows and lawns make them more vulnerable to predators?

The opposite is true. The main predators — owls, hawks, foxes, weasels and bobcats — are more abundant and effective in larger, less disturbed forested areas. The population of mice is greater in small forest patches embedded in a non-forest matrix.
State Budget Draws Praise (from Page 1)
of $10 million.
State Sen. Sue Serino, a Republican who represents Philipstown and Beacon, called the level of school funding “unprecedented.”

Environment
The budget funds the Water Infrastructure Act, which established a $2.5 billion program to support clean-water projects such as wastewater treatment facilities and drinking water systems. It also funds the acquisition of land with fresh water and the investigation and correction of water pollution.

Paul Gallay, president of the environmental group Riverkeeper, said the billions to be spent on water infrastructure “will solve a host of pollution problems emanating from aging water treatment plants, leaking septic systems, old landfills, lead in water supply lines, overburdened stormwater systems and the state’s expanding dairy farm industry” and that funding acquisition of open space to protect clean water “will help assure that in the coming years we’ll do far more to keep pollutants out of our water supplies to begin with.”

In a related line item, the budget increases from 50 percent to 75 percent the amount of state matching money for municipalities that establish Local Waterfront Revitalization Programs. Cold Spring has been working on an LWRP, while Beacon adopted its plan in 1991.

The budget also provides $300 million to the Environmental Protection Fund, including $19 million to mitigate the effects of climate change.

The state park system got $120 million in capital funding, $30 million more than the 2017 fiscal year, to pay for infrastructure improvements and other needs.

Randy Simons, a spokesperson for the state parks, said parks staff was excited about the funding and already compiling a list of improvements for specific parks. He said the list would likely be released by early May and that “once we organize our projects, design and work will start immediately on many.”

The state Department of Environmental Conservation will receive $70 million for capital projects, including those that focus on dam safety and flood control.

The budget also provides $200 million to complete the Hudson River Valley Greenway and Erie Canal trails and to develop a 750-mile Manhattan-to-Canada Empire State Trail for hiking and bicycling.

Ned Sullivan, president of Scenic Hudson, called the budget “truly extraordinary.” The environmental nonprofit in particular praised items such as the Environmental Protection Fund support for family farms, the tourism industry, the Hudson River Estuary and job creation.

Consolidation
The budget continues Gov. Cuomo’s push for local consolidation and includes a mandate that each county outside New York City, led by its county executive, draft a plan for governments to share services.

To develop the plan, the county executive must convene a panel consisting of the top elected official from each city, town and village. School districts could also be invited to participate. The plan would be presented at three public hearings and by Aug. 1 be submitted to the county legislature for recommendations; the county executive could incorporate these at his or her discretion.

The shared-services panel would then vote on the plan. However, before the vote, each panelist could excise anything that would adversely affect his or her municipality.

The New York Conference of Mayors praised the legislature for demonstrating “they actually understand local government and the vast amount of long-standing shared services” already in place.

The budget continues the Aid and Incentives for Municipalities (AIM) funding at its 2016 level. Beacon will receive $1,537,478; Philipstown, $33,820; Cold Spring, $16,537; and Nelsonville, $3,343.

Tourism and Uber
The budget provides $70 million for the “I Love New York” tourism campaign and $750 million to Regional Economic Development Councils. Beacon and Philipstown have both received REDC money in the past.

The budget also authorizes ride-sharing businesses such as Uber and Lyft to operate in the state outside of New York City as early as July. Frank Skartados, a Democrat whose district in the Assembly includes Beacon, praised the move, saying that with Metro-North train service augmented by Uber and Lyft cars, the area could more easily connect city residents and tourists “with our historic downtowns, world-class parks, outstanding restaurants and wineries.” (Continued on next page)
Beacon Council Unsure on Route to Affordable Housing
Declines to vote on proposal; extends public hearing

By Jeff Simms

Beacon council members, some of whom expected to vote on an affordable housing law on April 17 after the latest in a series of public hearings, have opted to wait and talk more about the proposal. It will be discussed again at the council’s workshop on April 24, with another hearing scheduled for May 1.

The latest draft of the proposal, which has been revised numerous times over the last year, sets income qualifications and creates a ranking system for applicants to receive below-market rate rent. The goal is to make sure people are not “priced out” of Beacon as developers add hundreds of apartments and condos, many of them high end, to the housing stock.

As of last week, there are 299 units under construction in Beacon and another 198 that have been approved by the Planning Board. The board is reviewing an additional 409, with 327 more in discussion, Building Inspector Tim Dexter said.

One East Main is one of many housing developments coming to Beacon. Photo by J. Simms

As written, the proposal would integrate below-market rate (BMR) housing throughout the city for residents earning up to 90 percent of the Dutchess County median income, which last year for a family of four was $87,100. It would give priority to emergency responders and public school employees.

Some developers argue the proposal is too restrictive and would discourage new investment. But during the April 17 hearing, resident Samantha Britton contended that “this city does not need any more luxury buildings, artists’ lofts or pricey studios.”

Mary Linge, the director of real estate development for Hudson River Housing, one of the agencies that has advised the city on the proposal, said that “the healthiest of communities are going to be ones that have mixed-income housing. There’s not any community that’s fully affluent that doesn’t need affordable housing.”

A sticking point for developers appears to be whether the law should apply to housing sales as well as rentals and if they will be rewarded for building affordable units. Currently, projects with 20 or more units must make 10 percent of the development affordable. The new law would lower the threshold to projects with 10 or more units, although Dexter said he knows of few projects in Beacon that are that small.

Still, “with these numbers, you are making development close to impossible to work,” said Zachary Lewis, a Main Street developer, during a hearing on April 3. “You have to think about risk/reward here, as I am taking a greater risk here with less reward than I could for better money and a safer investment in Brooklyn, where these issues do not arise. You’re in effect de-incentivizing development on Main Street.”

Another point of contention has been a “bonus” the law would provide developers by allowing them to build extra market-rate units in exchange for including additional affordable ones. The proposal offers one market-rate unit for every two extra (beyond what the law requires) that are affordable, capped at 10 market-rate units, although developers want the bonus increased.

“Density is how these affordable units can be produced,” argued Taylor Palmer, an attorney representing a number of Beacon developers.

The council this week voted 5 to 2 to continue its public hearing on May 1, almost a year after its first hearing on the issue, with Ali Muhammad and Mayor Randy Casale dissenting.

“We’ve heard the same stuff from the same people over and over again,” Casale lamented. “We always want to kick the can and never make a decision.”

State Budget Draws Praise (from previous page)

Local residents who don’t have cars will also benefit, he said.

Legislator views
Serino said in a statement that “while no budget is perfect,” she was happy with the final document. Galef agreed it was a “good budget,” but expressed concern about potential losses of federal funding for Medicaid, education, environmental protection and arts-cultural programs. “I have to hope the federal government doesn’t do damage to what our budget says,” she said.

The Highlands Current
April 21, 2017
The Highlands Current
New Police, Highway Chiefs

Familiar faces promoted in Cold Spring

By Michael Turton

The Cold Spring Village Board’s annual reorganizational meeting on April 18 produced more than the usual litany of reappointments to boards and committees. By the end of the evening, the police department had a new officer-in-charge and the highway department had a new crew chief.

Officer Larry Burke will begin his duties on May 1, succeeding George Kane, who has been with department since 2006. Mayor Dave Merandy told The Current he informed Kane of the change earlier in the week. It is unclear whether Kane will remain with the department. Merandy said he had been unsuccessful in a similar attempt to change the department’s leadership two years ago, early in his first term.

“Larry is better suited to the job,” Merandy said, adding that Burke, a retired New York Police Department officer, lives in the community and is known for his foot patrols when he stops to talk to residents. “The bottom line is that I have a better rapport with Larry,” he said. Burke joined the Cold Spring Police Department in 2013.

The mayor said enforcement is an issue that Burke will need to address, as well as possible reduction in night-shift coverage as a cost-cutting measure. “Larry would definitely be included in that discussion, along with the sheriff and state police,” Merandy said.

Merandy also announced at the meeting that Chris Hyatt, a Philipstown resident hired seven months ago for $28 an hour to lead the Highway Department, had been dismissed the day before. The trustees immediately approved promoting Charles Norton, a department employee since 2005, to succeed Hyatt. He will serve a one-year probationary period.

“Chris had certain skills, including mechanical abilities, and he was very energetic,” Merandy said. “But he turned out not to be a good fit.” He declined to elaborate.

Norton didn’t apply for the position when it was advertised last summer following the retirement of Ed Trimble, but Merandy said he expressed interest when asked about the job recently. The change creates an opening that Merandy said would be considered once Norton settles into his new position.

When Trustee Steve Voloto asked if Norton has a Commercial Drivers’ License, which is required to operate heavy equipment, Merandy replied that it was not a requirement. “I’ve asked him to get one,” Merandy said, adding that had the position been advertised it would not have asked for a CDL “because it was so much fun the last time,” a reference to criticism directed at the mayor during the election for hiring Hyatt when he did not have a CDL.

New Mayor for Nelsonville

New Mayor for Nelsonville

April 11 meeting

• There was no public comment during a hearing on the proposed 2017-18 budget, which includes spending of nearly $2.1 million, about $1.6 million of which will be raised through property taxes. Trustees will vote on the budget on April 25.

• The village finished the year with a $453,000 balance, and the board approved spending $75,000 of it to repair the firehouse roof. The estimates for the job have ranged from $40,000 to $110,000.

• Chief Steve Smith told the board he expected the Cold Spring Fire Department rescue boat should be in the water within a month. CSFC will hold an open house from noon to 4 p.m. on Sunday, April 30, as part of an annual drive to enlist volunteer firefighters.

• CSFC President Matt Steltz told trustees that two air-conditioning units the department would like to install in the firehouse would cost $14,000 to $20,000. Trustee Fran Murphy suggested rental units be considered for the Junior Firefighter Academy in July.

In other business...

• There were only a few exceptions to the long list of annual reappointments: former Trustee Bruce Campbell was named chair of the Recreation Committee, succeeding Jeff Phillips; the reappointment of Mary Saari as clerk, treasurer and registrar was tabled as she considers retirement; and the naming of an acting justice to assist at the Justice Court and members of the Independence Day Committee were both tabled.

• Trustees accepted the resignation of Michael Mell, who had been video recording meetings and keeping minutes for various boards.

• Merandy said he expressed interest when Trustee Steve Voloto asked if Norton had a Commercial Drivers’ License, which is required to operate heavy equipment.

New Mayor for Nelsonville

Justice Dennis Zenz (left) administers the oath to new Nelsonville mayor William O’Neill at Village Hall on April 17. For coverage of the first meeting with O’Neill and new trustee Alan Potts, which included budget discussions, see highlandscurrent.com. Photo by Anita Peltonen
Painter Has First Show – at Age 95

‘Visual alchemy’ on Army surplus plastic

By Alison Rooney

In 1964, at age 42, Sam Bartman began to paint. He had been inspired after driving his 10-year-old daughter and her friends to art classes.

Nearly every evening from 7 to 9 p.m., he headed downstairs in his childhood home in Queens. He used standard brushes and paints but also unorthodox instruments such as a turkey baster or other items swiped from the kitchen, and maybe a few chemicals.

His canvases were 17-inch-by-17-inch U.S. Army surplus plastic sheets made by Minnesota Mining and Manufacturing Company (later 3M) that he bought on the street. Bartman rested five or six on a ping-pong table and, experimenting with colors and applications, layered on the paint. He frequently worked on multiple paintings at once and always took scrupulous notes on the alchemy of each work.

On April 7, at Gallery 66 NY in Cold Spring, Bartman, now 95, attended the opening of the first exhibit of his work, titled It’s About Time after his response when told he would have a solo show. It continues through April 30.

Bartman says he became devoted to painting because it let him experiment. “I took some paint, put it to it, saw that the material could be bent without cracking, then bought a batch of it and started to really work with it,” he recalls. “There was no expectation of what the outcome was going to be. Experimenting with different materials and processes I could see what the products were going to be.”

(Continued on Page 12)

Learning How to Act

Former HVSF director guides prisoners toward ‘civilian’ life

By Alison Rooney

Terry O’Brien, the founder of the Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival and its former longtime artistic director, will direct a show that opens on May 19 in Ossining. The one public performance has already sold out. Why such a hot ticket? It’s at Sing Sing, the maximum-security prison on the Hudson River.

O’Brien, who left HVSF in 2013 after 27 years, is directing a production of On the Waterfront starring prisoners at the facility through a nonprofit called Rehabilitation Through the Arts (RTA).

At 7 p.m. on Friday, April 28, at the First Presbyterian Church in Beacon, the Movies that Matter series will screen a 2015 documentary, Dramatic Escape, that documents the work of RTA and an earlier production at Sing Sing, The Odd Couple.

The organization, based in Katonah, hopes to help prisoners develop the social and cognitive skills they will need to reintegrate into the community after release. It began in 1996 with an original play shown only to other prisoners but now produces plays each year performed for audiences that include, at Sing Sing, about 250 “civilians.”

In addition, RTA provides as many as 200 prisoners with workshops in art, drama, dance and music taught by some 30 instructors who travel to five prisons in Westchester, Sullivan and Dutchess counties, including the Fishkill Correctional Facility in Beacon (where prisoners last year performed The Odd Couple) and Green Haven Correctional Facility in Stormville (Same Thing Make You Laugh).

After seeing a production of Golden Boy at Sing Sing, O’Brien realized “it had everything that good theater should have — passion and...”}

(Continued on Page 11)
FRIDAY, APRIL 21

Pizza Night & Ice Cream Social  
4 – 8 p.m. North Highlands F.D. | 504 Fishkill Road, Cold Spring | Call 845-265-7285 for take-out

Kids’ Night Out (ages 5+)  
6:30 – 9:30 p.m. All Sport | 17 Old Main St., Fishkill 845-496-6578 | allsportfishkill.com

Candlelight Vigil for Samuel Harrell  
7 p.m. Pohill Park | Main and Wolcott, Beacon  beaconsacredaction.org

Hear & Now: Chef Nicki Sizemore  
7 p.m. Polhill Park  |  Main and Wolcott, Beacon 845-265-7299 | allsportfishkill.com

SUNDAY, APRIL 23

Putnam Heart Walk SK  
9 a.m. Brewster High School  
50 Foggintown Road, Brewster | www2.heart.org

Putnam County Open Day  
10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Stonecrop Gardens  81 Stonecrop Lane, Cold Spring 845-265-2000 | stonecrop.org

POCKET LIST

Get your pocket-sized list of events for April 19-25 online at highlandscurrent.com/pocketlist

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Picturing the Past: Shakespeare in Love (1998)  
3 p.m. Old VFW Hall  34 Kemble Ave., Cold Spring 845-838-2880 | riverwindsgallery.com

WillFest: Free Workshops  
3 – 6 p.m. St. Mary’s Parish Hall  1 Chestnut St., Cold Spring 845-831-1617  |  stonykill.org

EARTH DAY EVENTS

Celebration and Hike-A-Thon  
9 a.m. – 3 p.m. Outdoor Discovery Center  
100 Muser Drive, Cornwall 845-534-5506 | hhnm.org

Volunteer Landscape Day  
9 a.m. – 2 p.m. Manitoba  |  584 Route 90, Garrison 845-424-3812 | visitgarrison.com

Trail Cleanup  
9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Boscobel  |  1601 Route 9D, Cornwall 845-534-5506 | hhnm.org

Beacon City Council Workshop  
7 p.m. City Hall (Courtroom)  |  1 Municipal Plaza, Beacon 845-202-7211 | loftsatbeacon.com

MONDAY, APRIL 24

Defensive Driving Course (First Session)  
6 – 9 p.m. Butterfly Center  See details under Saturday.

Tadashi Hashimoto Sculpture (Opening)  
6 – 8 p.m. Butterfield Library  1701 Main St., Peekskill 845-838-5011 | cityofbeacon.org

Beacon City Council Workshop  
5 p.m. City Hall (Courtroom)  |  1 Municipal Plaza, Beacon 845-202-7211 | cityofbeacon.org

TUESDAY, APRIL 25

New Moms & Infants Group  
11 a.m. – 1 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library  472 Route 403, Garrison | Email whiteside.ks@gmail.com

EARTHY EVENT OF THE WEEK

Garden Conservancy Open Day  
10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Stonecrop Gardens  81 Stonecrop Lane, Cold Spring 845-265-2000 | stonecrop.org

Dharma Talk by Rev. Ayes Yeshe  
2 p.m. Chugan/Yen Monastery  |  2020 Route 301, Carmel 845-225-1445 | bau.org

The Wizard of Oz (Youth Players)  
3 p.m. Philipstown Recreation Center  See details under Friday.

7th Annual Ariane One-Act Festival  
8 p.m. Philipstown Depot Theatre  See details under Friday.

Earth Day Events

Celebrating Earth  
4 p.m. St. George’s Church  105 Grand St., Newburgh 845-534-5506 | vassar.edu

Silent Film Series: Celebrating Earth  
4 p.m. Chapel Restoration  45 Market St., Cold Spring 845-265-5537 | chapelrestoration.org

Newburgh Symphonic Choral: Celebrating Earth  
5 – 7 p.m. Hudson Valley Center for Contemporary Art  1701 Main St., Peekskill 845-788-0100 | hvcca.org

Mark Berghash: /s Closed /s Open (Opening)  
5 – 7 p.m. Hudson Valley Center for Contemporary Art  1701 Main St., Peekskill 845-788-0100 | hvcca.org

Newburgh Symphonic Choral: Celebrating Earth  
4 p.m. St. George’s Church  105 Grand St., Newburgh 845-534-5506 | vassar.edu

Mark Berghash: /s Closed /s Open (Opening)  
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9 a.m. – 3 p.m. Outdoor Discovery Center  100 Muser Drive, Cornwall 845-534-5506 | hhnm.org

Volunteer Landscape Day  
9 a.m. – 2 p.m. Manitoba  |  584 Route 90, Garrison 845-424-3812 | visitgarrison.com

Trail Cleanup  
9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Boscobel  |  1601 Route 9D, Cornwall 845-534-5506 | hhnm.org

Beacon Cleanup  
10 a.m. – 1 p.m. Beacon  greenbeaconcoalition.org/earth-day

Celebration  
10:30 a.m. – 3 p.m. Trailside Zoo  3006 Seven Lakes Drive, Bear Mountain 845-786-2701 | trailsidezoos.org

Celebration  
11 a.m. – 1 p.m. Story Hill Farm  79 Farmstead Lane, Wappingers Falls 845-831-8617 | storyhill.org

MONDAY, APRIL 24

Defensive Driving Course (First Session)  
6 – 9 p.m. Butterfly Center  See details under Saturday.

Tadashi Hashimoto Sculpture (Opening)  
6 – 8:30 p.m. Lofts at Beacon  |  18 Front St., Beacon 845-202-7211 | loftsatbeacon.com

Beacon City Council Workshop  
7 p.m. City Hall (Courtroom)  |  1 Municipal Plaza, Beacon 845-202-7211 | loftsatbeacon.com

TUESDAY, APRIL 25

New Moms & Infants Group  
11 a.m. – 1 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library  472 Route 403, Garrison | Email whiteside.ks@gmail.com

Family Farm Tour  
3:45 p.m. Glynn Farm | 362 Glynn Road, Cold Spring | 845-265-3338 | glynnfarm.org

Blueprint for Financial Success  
6:30 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library  See details under Saturday.

Beacon Historical Society  
7 p.m. Howland Cultural Center  |  477 Main St., Beacon 845-831-0514 | beaconhistorical.org

Re-Play Sale  
9 a.m. – 1 p.m. University Camp Settlement Settlem thepantrycs.com

The Wizard of Oz (Youth Players)  
3 p.m. Philipstown Recreation Center  See details under Friday.

7th Annual Ariane One-Act Festival  
4 p.m. Philipstown Depot Theatre  See details under Friday.

Helena & Martina Ballie (Classical)  
4 p.m. Chapel Restoration  45 Market St., Cold Spring 845-265-5537 | chapelrestoration.org

Newburgh Symphonic Choral: Celebrating Earth  
4 p.m. St. George’s Church  105 Grand St., Newburgh 845-534-5506 | vassar.edu

Mark Berghash: /s Closed /s Open (Opening)  
5 – 7 p.m. Hudson Valley Center for Contemporary Art  1701 Main St., Peekskill 845-788-0100 | hvcca.org

Beacon City Council Workshop  
5 p.m. City Hall (Courtroom)  |  1 Municipal Plaza, Beacon 845-202-7211 | cityofbeacon.org
Learning How to Act  *(from Page 9)*

a commitment to make believe. By the end, it was very moving, more so because as a viewer, you never really forget the context. At the end of the performance, the guards came out and said, “Guests to the front, prisoners to the back.” We go back to our lives and they go to their cellblocks.”

After speaking at length with Vockins, O’Brien volunteered to teach 12 improv sessions for a group of about 15 Sing Sing prisoners. Soon after, RTA asked him to direct *On the Waterfront*.

The play will be performed at Sing Sing Visitor Center. The security differs significantly from Boscobel, where HVSF has its productions, with multiple gates, pockets emptied, searches made, sleeves rolled up, cellphones surrendered. The stage is a platform with seating on three sides; a backdrop allows for crossovers. The play will be presented three times, twice for prisoners and once for the public, with the latter audience consisting mostly of family members.

Plays are chosen each year by RTA’s “steering committee,” a group of prisoners who have taken leadership roles within the organization. Auditions at Sing Sing were held in the usual manner. It was during rehearsals that the differences between working with professional actors and inmates became apparent, O’Brien says. He could not talk to his cast outside of rehearsals, for instance, and he never knew who would show up.

“All I can do is see who is there and work with it,” he says. “The great thing is that people will jump in and do someone else’s part with enthusiasm.” He said that even without formal training in drama, “their instincts are extremely smart. When I ask, ‘What is this about?’; they talk about more than plot. They get to the emotional life and are usually dead-on in the assessment. That’s been the biggest surprise for me.”

None of the prisoners share their personal stories with O’Brien, and they don’t know his. “That’s not why we’re there,” he says. “I only know them in the context of doing the play, and that’s enough. We’re there to do the work, to build empathy, collaborate and communicate loudly and clearly. If I knew anything about them, I’d probably have a different reaction, which isn’t what this is about.”

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**Etty Yaniv**

*Rising Under Currents*

*Opening Reception: Saturday, April 22, 5–7pm*

*Exhibition runs April 15 through May 7*

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**Eleni LaSenna**

*Evolution of A Work*

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*The Costellos - Free*

Sat., 4/22  8:30 p.m.  
*John Pizzarelli Quartet*

Sun., 4/23  11:30 a.m.  
*Art Labriola & Michael Goetz - Free*

Sun., 4/23  7:30 p.m.  
*Bookends*  
*“Simon & Garfunkel through the Years”*

Thurs., 4/27  7:30 p.m.  
*Diamond Hotel*  
*Open Book*

Fri., 4/28  7:00 p.m.  
*Cleverly Brothers - Free*

Fri., 4/28  8:30 p.m.  
*Tannahill Weavers*  
*from Scotland*

Sat., 4/29  6:00 p.m.  
*Russell St. George - Free*

Sat., 4/29  8:30 p.m.  
*Cash Is King*  
*“Songs of Johnny Cash & The Highwaymen”*

Sun., 4/30  7:30 p.m.  
*Tommy Castro & Mike Zito*
Lisa Breznak, who curated It’s About Time, notes that Bartman refers to his process as “self-assisted paintings” because, after he mixed medium and material, “the layers would move as they dried overnight, creating different effects. Mixing resins, varnishes, automotive paints and artist oils with water-based materials, he practiced a visual and technical alchemy with his ‘special sauce’ that enhanced drying and made reproducible chemical reactions that aided and abetted his visual experiments.”

Breznak, who is a decorative artist, was introduced to Bartman in November when he attended an exhibit of her work at bau Gallery in Beacon. He showed her photos of his art and she asked to see more. He had 2,000. “When I began going through boxes of his work, I became so excited and realized it should be a retrospective,” she says. “The front gallery is how he perceived and painted landscape over time. The middle gallery presents his abstracts and ways of working with materials and chemicals that flow and create fantasy spaces. The alcove was perfect to show some traditional vintage work from the 1950s and ’60s, and the case holds some studio tools, notes and materials he used to make his more signature work. The back gallery is a collection of works exploring imagery and techniques.”

Bartman, who worked on a soda delivery truck and later in manufacturing, says he never thought of selling his paintings. He donated some for fundraisers, and pieces were shown occasionally in group shows. “I never pushed on the art,” he says. He notes that some of the paintings in the show are 30 to 40 years old and still vivid. “The vibrancy of the color mixing has stayed true,” he says. Bartman is no longer painting; he gave it up two years ago to experiment with digital photography. He is often found in front of a computer, shooting portions of his paintings, blowing them up as abstractions, sometimes using them as backdrops for 3D models and figures. Seventy years ago, during his World War II service, Bartman used a Kodak Brownie he bought for $1 to document his experience. When he returned, he took all the money he had ($300) and bought a Leica, which he still has.

Gallery 66 NY, located at 66 Main St. in Cold Spring, is open noon to 5 p.m. on Friday to Sunday. See gallery66ny.com or call 845-809-5838.
Back in the Groove
A teacher retires, and a painter returns

By Alison Rooney

Ursula Schneider, whose work is being shown at the Buster Levi Gallery in Cold Spring through April 30, came to the U.S. from her native Switzerland in 1968 to attend the San Francisco Art Institute and “see whether I could become an artist,” she recalls. Nearly 50 years later, there is no doubt about that.

After retiring from teaching in 2014 after 27 years on the faculty at Sarah Lawrence College, Schneider “felt at a loss for awhile.” But her studio work altered that course. “I’m back in the groove. Having a show puts you on the spot.”

She notes that her first degree was in ceramics, not painting. “My mother had a ceramics business, and I worked with her,” she recalls. “I switched because there were more possibilities. I tried painting and sculpture and wound up doing more painting. Then I added woodblock printing. I found printing to be related to ceramics, as each is a distinct process.”

During her early days in San Francisco, she would go outside with a flashlight during full moons to draw. Working in the dark, “you don’t get caught up in the detail,” she says. “You get the gestalt of it because you have to relate to it in almost an emotional way. That was a pivotal experience.”

Schneider’s focus on formations in landscape led her to Iceland, where she became fascinated by the “landscape devoid of human alteration: the movement in the earth, the forming and the erosion, the weather, the water, and the vegetation,” she says.

During visits to the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in Alaska, Schneider completed a series of pastel drawings and paintings. Later travels included Australia’s Northern Territory. Relocating to New York in 1980, Schneider made her way to Tompkins Cove, on the west bank of the Hudson, in Rockland County.

Schneider begins her paintings by drawing on site. She selects an elevated spot so that she has a wide view of a river or mountain range, then waits until something is revealed. After her move to Tompkins Cove, it took Schneider “three years to see what was there,” she says.

“Usually I make a whole bunch of drawings, then digitalize them, and print them,” she explains. “I use neo-colors, which are like a wax crayon; you can take the brush and make it wet and it becomes a watercolor. I make about 12 drawings exploring ideas and options.”

At Buster Levi, a trio of paintings feature the gunnera plant, which Schneider came upon at Stonecrop Gardens in Cold Spring. Each panel, done from the same drawing, seems radically different in color and temperament. “I was very inspired by the architecture of the plant, and by what the plant can do,” she says. “There’s a big leaf on the bottom, which is ready to die, while there’s a small one at the top, ready to open — a life cycle. The architecture of veins and folds make it sculpturally solid, but it’s just a leaf.”

A large work, Aster and Asteroids dominates the gallery space. Based on a vantage point along the Hudson, looking east, the painting is a mixture of observed objects and the fantastical. Another grouping of paintings depicts old apple trees. “I saw them in Switzerland and photographed them, distilling each one’s angst or grace,” she explains. “They’re survivors.”

Buster Levi, located at 121 Main St., is open noon to 6 p.m. Friday through Sunday. See busterlevigallery.com.

A Taste of the Valley
Spring Fundraiser At Glynwood A Food, Wine & Spirits Festival that Celebrates The Local Flavors of the Hudson Valley

Featuring the area’s top purveyors of food and drink, including Angeline’s Tennessee BBQ, The Caterers, On-A-Dime Bakery, Pangaea Seafood, Focacceria, Greg’s Good Eats, Huber’s, Juanito’s Kitchen, Lopez Farm Meats, Moehl’s, The Original Cookie Company, Tamarindo Restaurant, Tapas, Ti Sana, Trucking Willie’s, D. Yannett’s Fine Wines & Spirits, Bistro, and more.

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April 29th / 6:30pm

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Remembrance Event
Synagogue to screen documentary
The Philipstown Reform Synagogue will mark Holocaust Remembrance Day on Saturday, April 29, by showing the documentary *Paper Clips* at the Desmond-Fish Library in Garrison. The screening, which begins at 1 p.m., will be followed by a discussion with Henry Stern, a Holocaust survivor who lives in Philipstown. The 2004 film follows middle-school teachers in Tennessee who created a Holocaust education class. Their students embraced the idea of paper clips worn by Norwegians as a symbol of resistance and collected 11 million of them, one for each victim of the Holocaust, for a permanent display inside a rail car in the school courtyard.

Farm Tours for Earth Day
Families welcome to meet the lambs
Enjoy crafts, meet the lambs and learn about the activities that go on at the Stony Kill Environmental Education Center and Common Ground Farm on April 22 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. The center and farm are located at 79 Farmstead Lane in Wappingers Falls. See commongroundfarm.org.

Two Board Members for Constitution Island
Group also announces June dinner
The board of directors of the Constitution Island Association elected two new members at its quarterly meeting on April 13. Bruce Taylor, who lived in Garrison for 37 years before recently moving to New Hamburg, is president of the Garrison Golf Association and a former longtime accounts manager with American Packaging Corp. and president of JD Packaging. John Greener, who has lived in Garrison since 1989, directs development as a board member of the SoHo Playhouse.

Financial Skills 101
Learn to better manage your money
Two upcoming workshops at the Desmond-Fish Library in Garrison will focus on financial planning.

Be a Quitter
Free help from county
The Putnam County Department of Health will offer a series of free weekly classes beginning on Monday, May 8, to help county residents quit smoking. The eight-week program explains effective strategies and includes nicotine replacement products. To register, call 845-808-1390, ext. 43258.

Financial advisor Ardal Powell
Financial advisor Ardal Powell
Financial advisor Ardal Powell

Oak Wilt Prevention
Prune in fall and winter, not spring
In an effort to control oak wilt, which can kill a tree in four to six weeks, the state Department of Environmental Conservation recommends pruning oaks in the fall and winter rather than the spring and summer because the beetles that spread the disease are active from March through June and feed on live tree sap. For more information, call 800-698-2877.

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Gardening Classes
Get your thumb green again
On Tuesday, April 25, at the Mahopac Library, Pamela Doan, the gardening columnist for *The Current*, will speak on how to adapt to climate change in your garden. She will cover ways to reduce your carbon footprint and be more sustainable. The free talk begins at 7 p.m.

On Saturday, April 29, also at the Mahopac library, the Spring Garden School, led by Cornell Cooperative Extension Master Gardener volunteers, will share how to make planting decisions that are eco-friendly and site-appropriate. Topics include soil microbe management, plant communities, matrix planting and the New Perennial Movement. The workshop runs from 10 a.m. to 2:45 p.m. and the cost is $25, which includes materials. The library is located at 668 Route 6.

HVSF to Hold ‘WillFest’ on April 22
Free performances, screenings, workshops
The Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival will host “WillFest,” its annual celebration of World Shakespeare Day, on Saturday, April 22, with free performances, screenings, workshops and activities in Cold Spring. Events will take place at St. Mary’s Parish Hall, the Old VFW Hall and at HVSF’s offices on Main Street. See hvshakespeare.org.

[Continued on next page]
(From previous page) Disease are now active and are attracted to the cuts in the wood. Oak wilt was first seen in New York in 2008 in Glenville and last year was discovered on Long Island and in Brooklyn and Ontario County. See dec.ny.gov.

Diamond Hotel to Release Album
Will perform at Towne Crier April 27

The folk-rock noir band Diamond Hotel will release its self-titled debut album with a performance at the Towne Crier in Beacon at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 27. The Cold Spring-based band features Raquel Vidal on acoustic guitar and keyboards, Todd Giudice on drums, Seth Mason on bass and David Holland on electric guitar. Tickets are $15 at townecrier.com. The duo Open Book will open the show.

Beacon
Foundation Awards Fresh Food Grants
$270,000 distributed

The Community Foundations of the Hudson Valley has awarded $270,000 in grants to 20 nonprofits as part of the Hudson Valley Farm Fresh Food initiative. The program, which began three years ago and is active in Dutchess, Putnam and Ulster counties, collects, distributes and serves farm food and meals through Community Supported Agriculture (CSAs), food pantries, soup kitchens and shelters.

Among the organizations receiving grants were Common Ground Farm, Dutchess Outreach, Hudson River Housing, Hudson Valley Seed and the Newburgh Community Land Bank. See communityfoundationshv.org/FarmFreshFood.

Tied Up in Blue
Documentary on indigo textiles

Common Ground Farm and Textile Lab will launch a year-long project to grow, process and dye with indigo with a screen-printing, textile repurposing and dyeing process and dye with indigo with a screen-printing, textile repurposing and dyeing techniques will be held in the fall. Email sember@commongroundfarm.org for details.

Alexander String Quartet to Perform
Concert set for April 30 at Howland Center

The Alexander String Quartet, a San Francisco ensemble known for its interpretations of Beethoven, Mozart, Shostakovich and Brahms, will perform at the Howland Cultural Center at 4 p.m. on Sunday, April 30, as part of the ongoing Howland Chamber Music Circle series.

The group will play String Quartet in B-flat Major, K 589 by Mozart, String Quartet No.1 in D Major, Opus 25 by Benjamin Britten, and String Quartet in E Minor, Opus 59 No.2 “Razumovsky” by Beethoven. Tickets are $30 for adults and $10 for students at howlandmusic.org.

Postcards for Aleppo
Fundraiser sale April 22

The Catalyst Gallery will host a fundraiser and reception on Saturday, April 22, from 5 to 9 p.m. for Art for Aleppo: Postcards to Humanity, to benefit the Syrian Children’s Relief Fund. For the past two months, the gallery has been accepting submissions of postcards with images and words responding to the crisis in Syria. The postcard art will be for sale and the proceeds donated. Loretta Olek, a poet and psychotherapist who volunteered in a Syrian refugee camp, and Simon Dudar, a Haldane teacher who uses problem- and project-based learning to address real-world situations, will speak about their work and experiences. For details, see artforaleppo.org.

Lofts to Open Exhibit
Tied to International Sculpture Day

The Lofts at Beacon Gallery will host a reception with Tadashi Hashimoto from 6 to 8:30 p.m. on Monday, April 24, for an exhibition tied to International Sculpture Day. The show will be on view until May 1 and features models that Hashimoto used for his outdoor sculptures that demonstrate his use of light and color.

Diamond Hotel

Diamond Hotel

The Alexander String Quartet will perform at the Howland Cultural Center on April 30. Photo provided

Indigo

Indigo

A reception with Tadashi Hashimoto will take place at More Good, 383 Main St., in Beacon. In May, seedlings will be transplanted at Common Ground Farm in Wappingers Falls and anyone is invited to help care for, harvest and process the indigo. Workshops on textile repurposing and dyeing techniques will be held in the fall. Email sember@commongroundfarm.org for details.

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THU 2:00 7:30

Fate of the Furious (PG13)
FRI 1:40 5:00 8:20
SAT 11:20 2:40 6:00 9:20
SUN 12:40 4:00 7:20
MON 7:20, TUE 12:40 4:00 7:20
WED & THU 7:20

Going in Style (PG13)
FRI 2:00 4:40 7:40, SAR 11:40 2:20
5:20 8:00, SUN 1:00 3:40 7:00
MON 7:00, TUE 1:00 3:40 7:00
WED & THU 7:00

Boss Baby (PG)
FRI 2:20 5:20 8:00
SAT 12:00 3:00 5:40 8:20
SUN 1:20 4:20 7:40, MON 4:40
7:40, TUE 1:20 4:20 7:40
WED & THU 7:40

FRI 2:20 5:20 8:00
SAT 12:00 3:00 5:40 8:20
SUN 1:20 4:20 7:40, MON 4:40
7:40, TUE 1:20 4:20 7:40
WED & THU 7:40
Ulysses Torres, 26, is in his first year as the music teacher at the Garrison School.

1. What’s your middle name?
I don’t have one! Both my parents have middle names. My mother’s name is Virginia Leticia Damian Galvan Torres. People ask me all the time if my parents loved their children enough to give them middle names. It’s a common name in Latin America, although most of my siblings’ names are Jason, Lesley and Vanessa (laughs).

2. What instrument do you play?
The tuba. I started in the fourth grade with the trumpet. But my sixth-grade music teacher, Mr. Sachs, said to me, “You look like a tuba player.” He asked me years later, “Do you know why I switched you to tuba, Ulysses?” “No, why?” “You were an awful trumpet player. It was pretty hopeless.”

3. What is the challenge of playing the tuba?
It’s heavy. My tuba was made in the 1930s, so it’s made of thicker brass. It was made for the U.S. Navy band and began as an upright but has been altered and is now a Frankentuba. My repair guy bought a bathtub, they use for sheep so he can wash it.

4. What is Songcatchers?
It’s a program I’ve been involved with for about 20 years that provides low-cost lessons for inner-city students. We have a site at songcatchers.org. I started with it when I was 7, along with my brother and sister. We had a tough time after our apartment burned in 1997. But a nun in New Rochelle, Sister Beth Dowd, started an after-school program that offered $5 lesson packages. I’m now on the board of directors.

5. You are a long-suffering soccer fan.
I love Newcastle United [in an English professional league]. They’re bad and have been relegated to the second division, but I like underdogs. It’s so much more special when they achieve.

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Doctor by Subscription (from Page 1)
well paintings and Marcus Welby, M.D. providing personal care to his neighbors slamming up against the reality of what he calls the “medical-industrial complex.” “It’s not designed for the care of human beings,” he said. “It’s designed for these large institutional structures to move people through systems, and at every stage they’re extracting wealth from someone.”

The system is not “intentionally malicious,” he said, but for hospitals and health practices to survive, they need to perform a high volume of procedures on a high volume of people. “It’s this pathological economy where a portion of the population is very ill and needs a lot of medical intervention, and then another part of the population is economically dependent on those people being very ill,” he said.

“Instead of me surviving on how many procedures I do, can I survive on my relationship with you?” he said. “Because if there’s no middleman, my economic incentive is to care for you as well as I can, spend as much time with you as I can, and be your personal doctor.”

Beacon Wellness Center is located at 4 Jackson St. in Beacon. See beaconprima-rycare.info or call 845-883-8633.

Community Medicine
Dr. Michael O’Brien and Rebekah Azzarelli of Brooklyn Homeopathy each month host what they call the Beacon Wellness Commons, which they describe as the equivalent of a farmer’s market for health care, with demonstrations and free consultations. The event also allows residents to discuss their struggles and frustrations with the health care system, and what can be done to change it locally. The next Commons takes place from 2 to 6 p.m. on Sunday, April 30, at Beahive, 291 Main St.

O’Brien and Azzarelli hope to create a Beacon Wellness Cooperative that would operate much like healthcare did in the U.S. in the 1920s and ’30s, before the rise of large insurers, when members paid into a pool to hire physicians and voted on where to spend any extra funds.

NY Alert
For public safety and transportation alerts by text or email, visit nyalert.gov
By Robert Murphy

On the banks of the Hudson

Ages ago as a student in Beacon High School, I had to read the poem Thanatopsis, by William Cullen Bryant. How much more palatable that homework assignment would have been had we known that Bryant once walked the streets of Beacon and wrote one of his poems here.

Bryant (1794-1878) was a frequent sojourner in our community, spending several summers in a boarding house while visiting his wealthy friends. In 1827, while waiting for the ferry at Fishkill Landing, he wrote A Scene on the Banks of the Hudson (“Cool shades and dews are round my way, / And silence of the early day; / Mid the dark rocks that watch his bed, / Glitters the mighty Hudson spread…”). In 1850 Asher Durand transposed Bryant’s ferry poem into a painting but changed the setting to Cold Spring.

Passenger pigeons

“The air was filled with them; their undulation was like the long waves of the ocean in a calm, and the fluttering of their wings made a noise like the crackling of fire among dry leaves.”

So wrote Philip Hone in his diary on Nov. 4, 1835, after viewing a sight no one shall ever see again — massive flights of wild passenger pigeons darkening the skies over Beacon.

Hone, who had been a one-term mayor of New York City in 1826, and an investor and director of the Matteawan Company (located about where the One East Main Street building is today), was in Beacon (then called Matteawan) to view his cotton-cloth factory and to check the account books. Hone wrote:

“The mighty army came from the west, and crossing the valley where I was, passed the top of the mountains. Every man and boy in the Matteawans who could get a gun, and was willing to lose part of a day’s work in the factory, saillied out on murder bent; pigeon pie became an unexpected dish on many a table.”

Flocks of the passenger pigeon were still seen in Dutchess County as late as 1875 but most naturalists agree that by 1898 they were extinct throughout the state.

A new fridge!

“Good reason to buy a new refrigerator” was the line for a Central Hudson advertisement in 1938 that featured a Davis Street mother, Betty Morse, and her three children: Priscilla, 2, and twins Billy and Betty, 1. It was part of a campaign to promote the utility’s Meter-Ice Plan in which a customer could replace an ice box with an electric refrigerator for only two nickels a day!

The plan worked like this: you picked out a refrigerator from any appliance dealer (the Morse family had a Westinghouse from A.C. Smith & Co. on Main Street) and a meter box was installed in which you placed two nickels each day to pay it off. Typically, the appliances cost $100 to $150, so you would be dropping nickels daily for three or four years.

What happened if you forgot, or were a nickel short? The power was cut off and you were left with a glorified ice box.

Dr. Doughty

Phebe Van Vlack Doughty, born in 1873 in Matteawan, became the first female doctor based in southern Dutchess County after she earned her medical degree from the University of Michi-
Bits of Beacon History
(from previous page)

Phebe Van Vlack Doughty when she graduated from Vassar in 1895

Phebe wanted to become a teacher and graduated from Vassar in 1895. But after her brother Thomas, who began to practice with their father in 1896, died suddenly at age 33, she decided to join the family practice, which she did in November 1904. We can imagine her dismay when her father died unexpectedly in January 1905.

“A woman physician was a brand new thing then,” she recalled in 1957. “I began making calls with Debbie, a little brown horse, and a runabout. I had sunny disposition, a pretty good practice, and a pretty good time. In the flu epidemic of 1918, I had more than 100 patients and lost only two — a baby and one old person.”

Dr. Doughty kept her practice in Beacon until 1926, when she retired after being injured in a car crash. She died in 1967 at age 93.

Robert Murphy has been president of the Beacon Historical Society since 1998. These items were excerpted from his blog at beaconhistorical.org.

Visit highlandscurrent.com for news updates and latest information.
Living room car wash?

Would you let someone wash their car in your living room? Imagine what a mess that would make!

Would you drive your car into a creek and wash it in the middle of the creek? Hopefully not. That would make the creek dirty for the fish and animals and could cause them to get sick and die.

Clean Cars = Dirty Creeks?

If your family washes your car on the street or in a driveway and the water runs into the gutter and the storm drain, then all of the dirt, oil and pollutants hitch a ride in the rinse water and go into your local creek.

It's like washing your car in the fish's living room!

(Almost) Waterless Car Wash

Here's a way to wash your car with very little water.

You will need:
- 1 cup vinegar
- 1 teaspoon natural liquid soap
- 2 cups of water
- spray bottle
- clean rag
- soft cloth for buffing

Put the liquid ingredients in the spray bottle and shake to mix. Spray a small area of your car with the liquid and allow it to sit for a few minutes before wiping off or use a non-abrasive kitchen scrub cloth. Use a soft cloth to buff the area to a shine.

For a clean car and clean creeks, try one of these:

1. Wash your car at a carwash that recycles water.
2. Wash your car on an unpaved area so that the rinse water soaks into the ground. The soil, gravel and vegetation filter the soap and grease.
3. Mix up a bottle of the Almost Waterless Car Wash solution following the directions on this page.

Do the math to discover which is the best way to wash your car:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Commercial drive-through carwash: to</th>
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<th>Washing your car at home: to</th>
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“Wells, dinner is cancelled. Someone washed a car in our dining room!”

A Colorful Reminder

You can make every day Earth Day by being careful not to waste our natural resources.

Color this reminder and display it in a kitchen or bathroom as a reminder for your family.

NEVER WASTE WATER!

A Kid Scoop Puzzle

This tree is 552 inches tall. There are 12 inches in a foot. How many feet tall is the tree?

This fish lives 4 fathoms below the surface of the ocean. There are 6 feet in a fathom. In feet, how deep in the sea would you have to go to find this fish?

Extra! Extra!

Just the Facts

Look through the newspaper for articles about the environment. Find at least three facts about the environment in the articles. Write a paragraph using these three facts.

A Kid Scoop Word Search

Waterless Vinegar Filter

Dirty Lime Shrink

Soaks Soap Soil Ride Oil

Write On!

Earth Day Hero

What are three things kids can do to protect the environment?
Facing Dismissal, Beacon A.D. Retires

Timing suggests teams' forfeits played role

By Chip Rowe

In an agreement with the Beacon City School District, the high school athletic director will be allowed to retire in July after being told in February he would be fired, according to documents obtained through the Freedom of Information Law.

Martin Nemecek was hired by the district as the Beacon High School athletic director in February 2015 to succeed Eric Romano, who retired after 20 years in the position. Nemecek, who earned $334,000 annually, came to Beacon from Putnam Valley High School, where he was the athletic director for three years. Prior to that, he had been A.D. at Utica High School for five years.

At the Beacon school board's April 17 meeting, Cecilia Dansereau Rumley, the assistant superintendent for instructional services, said the district had received 38 applications for the position. She said a committee of 12 to 14 people, including members of the community, would be formed to select applicants for interviews, with the goal of having a finalist by June.

It is not clear from emails and letters released by the district why Nemecek was told he would be dismissed, but the announcement of his departure came less than three weeks after the Bulldogs forfeited four victories from the 2016 football season and seven of their boys’ basketball team to inform them the results would be changed to 2-0 victories in their favor.

The student “was in no way at fault” for the snafu, Quartroni said at the Jan. 9 school board meeting. To be eligible for sports in New York state, a public high school student must be enrolled in at least three classes plus physical education.

“The district regrets the error and is working actively with Section 1 (officials) to ensure that any similar incidents are prevented in the future,” Quartroni said at the time. Section 1 includes schools in the lower Hudson Valley from Dutchess, Putnam, Rockland and Westchester counties. The school board president, Anthony White, added that the district was trying to determine “where the gaps were, because we don’t want this to happen again.” (White said on April 19 he could not comment on specifics regarding personnel matters.)

Nemecek and Archer met with Quartroni on Jan. 13, and she informed the athletic director she would recommend to the school board at its Feb. 13 meeting that he be terminated as of March 13.

Instead, on Jan. 26, the board approved a separation agreement in which Nemecek agreed to resign as of July 1. He also agreed not to sue the district. In his letter of resignation, dated Jan. 25, he said he was leaving “for the purpose of retirement.”

Jeff Simms contributed reporting.

Varsity Scoreboard

All-State
Basketball: Alex Benson, Beacon (12th Team)

Boys’ Lacrosse
Haldane 13, Yonkers 2
Sam Giachinta (4 goals), Brandon Twoguns (2), Riley Johanson (2)

Girls’ Lacrosse
FDR 12, Beacon 12
Eliana Lotero (3 goals), Jessica Musacchio (3)

Baseball
Haldane 8, Hamilton 1
Trent French (3-for-4, 2 doubles, 2 RBI)

Tennis
Haldane 8, Pawling 0
Lenny Torres and Kevin Heady combined for no-hitter
Beacon 297, North Salem 270

Golf
Beacon 13, Sleepy Hollow 6
Girls’ 800-meter run (2:32.86)

Sargent Elementary School principal Brian Archer, the union representative for administrators in the district, told The Current in an email that Nemecek had “retired to be closer to his family upstate,” but that neither he nor the athletic director would comment further. Interim Superintendent Ann Marie Quartroni and football coach Tony Truscello also did not respond to requests for comment.

On Jan. 5, Nemecek and Quartroni informed the administrator who oversees Section 1 athletics, Jennifer Simmons, of the ineligible player. According to New

York State Public High School Athletic Association rules, any victories the athlete participated in had to forfeited. On Jan. 6, Nemecek wrote to the coaches whose teams had lost to the basketball team to inform them the results would be changed to 2-0 victories in their favor.

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Highlands Current
Athlete of the Week

Brian Haines, Haldane High School

Haines, a pitcher for the Haldane baseball team and four-year starter, has a record of 2-1 for the Blue Devils (4-5) with 26 strikeouts in 11 2/3 innings. “His fastball tops out at 80 mph, and his best pitches are his slider and curveball,” said Coach Tom Virgadamo.

In Haldane’s 8-1 victory at Alexander Hamilton on April 17, the senior also went 2-for-3 at the plate with a two-run homer and four runs batted in.