

# The HIGHLANDS Current

APRIL 21, 2017

161 MAIN ST., COLD SPRING, N.Y. | [highlandscurrent.com](http://highlandscurrent.com)

## Days Gone By



The fireplace was all that remained of the pub at the back of the former Guinan's on Garrison's Landing (right) as renovations on the building got underway. "A lot of stories were spun, a lot of problems put aside for another day, before the warmth of that hearth," recalled Gwendolyn Bounds, author of *Little Chapel on the River*, an appreciation of its proprietors and patrons. At left, a photo of the pub taken two weeks before it closed on Jan. 31, 2008.



Photo (left) by Russ Cusick; Photo (right) by Chip Rowe

## State Budget Draws Praise

*Increases for schools, conservation, water*

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 writ 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, said 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)



Gov. Andrew Cuomo announced April 7 that the legislature and executive branches had come to an agreement on the state budget. Budget Director Robert Mujica is in the background. Governor's Office photo



Dr. Michael O'Brien

Photo provided

## Doctor by Subscription

*A Beacon physician charges by the month. Is this the future of medicine?*

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. Instead of charging a patient for each visit, he collects a monthly subscription fee of \$125 for an adult or child or \$248 for all the adults and children residing in the single household.

In exchange, a patient gets as many visits, consultations and house calls as needed, as well as an annual physical.

The catch? O'Brien does not accept insurance except Medicare, although he recommends patients

purchase a high-deductible plan so they aren't bankrupted by dire emergencies or hospital stays. (Notably, the IRS also does not view Direct Primary Care as a health plan for tax purposes.). O'Brien argues that all the time he doesn't interact with insurance companies is better spent with patients.

By one count, there are more than 620 DPC practices in 47 states and Washington, D.C. O'Brien said he first encountered the model, which he compares to paying for a gym membership, as a medical student. Throughout his training, he found his ideal of the "old-time country doctor" of Norman Rock-

(Continued on Page 16)



O'Brien showed children how to give a stuffed bear a check-up during a Family Fitness night organized in March by the Beacon school district. Photo provided



## Roots and Shoots

## 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 ge-

netically 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



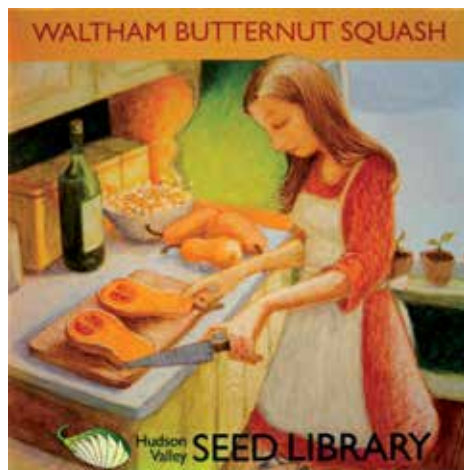
Ken Greene

Photo provided

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 life 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 [hudsonvalleyseed.com](http://hudsonvalleyseed.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.



A seed library packet

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# 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 non-sexual 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 a misunderstanding 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.

## 2017-18 State Aid to Public Schools

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.

	Haldane	Garrison	Beacon
Students	833	221	2,866
Tentative budget	\$23.5 million	\$10.6 million	\$68.6 million
Total state aid	\$2.94 million	\$881,867	\$28.1 million
Increase	\$171,855 (6%)	\$12,678 (1.5%)	\$867,806 (3%)
Foundation aid	\$1.6 million	\$524,162	\$18.5 million
Pre-K programs	0	0	\$373,181
BOCES	\$253,035	\$62,230	\$831,579
Disability	\$120,522	\$2,166	\$1.4 million
Technology	\$67,419	\$25,508	\$283,520
Transportation	\$216,323	\$43,096	\$2.1 million
Buildings	\$491,254	\$104,480	\$4.6 million
High tax aid	\$194,828	\$120,225	0

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 \$950,000.

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.



Beacon High School

File photo by Anita Peltonen

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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### 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, smirking 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.

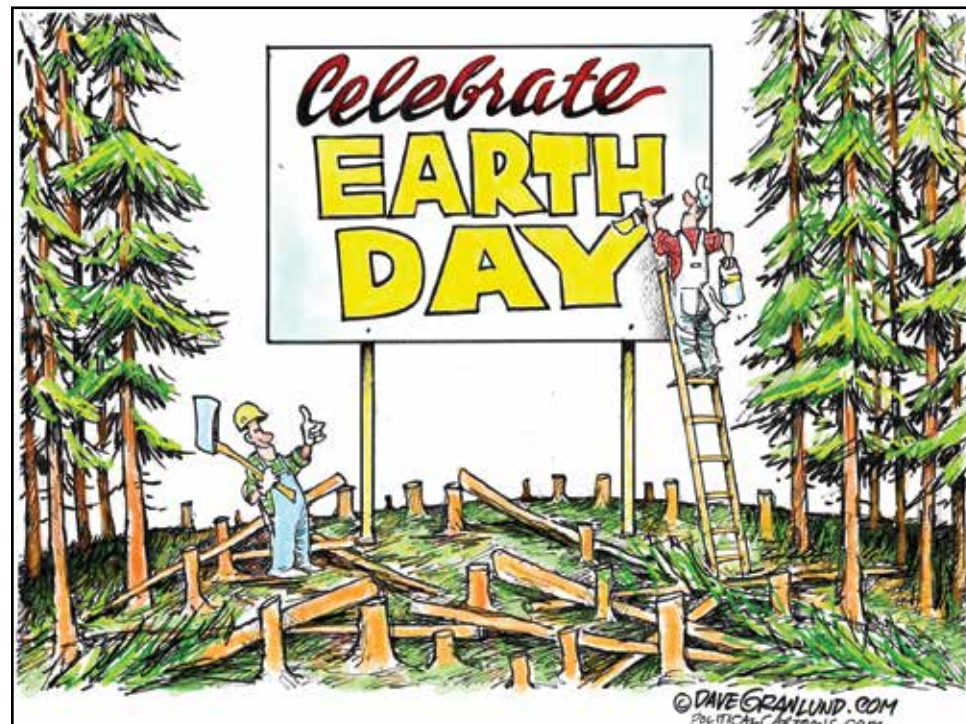
Lou Kingsley, Philipstown

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*).



A northern water snake Photo by Ross Corsair

(Continued on next page)



## Taking it to the Street

By Anita Peltonen

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



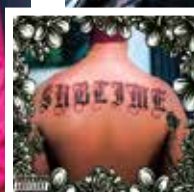
"Blonde on Blonde, by Bob Dylan."  
~ Deb Dichter, Cold Spring



"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 so 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



Richard Ostfeld tags a white-footed mouse as part of his research. Cary Institute photo

#### 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 ev-

erywhere; 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.

#### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR (from previous page)

#### Too good to be true?

If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is. That is how I see the Philipstown Town Board's foray into Community Choice Aggregation (CCA). Under the CCA, which the Town Board approved unanimously in February, Philipstown will join other communities to purchase electricity for its residents from an Energy Service Company (ESCO).

The board has been told by an energy industry consultant that if it joins forces with other local communities, it will have the leverage to get cheap, fixed-rate, green power from an ESCO, beating out

what Central Hudson can offer. The reality is that the ESCO industry in New York is rife with fraud and deceptive sales practices and ESCOs regularly charge more than utilities. With respect to green energy, there just isn't enough supply to go around, which is what a CCA in Westchester recently discovered.

Most of us recognize that global warming is the single greatest threat we face, but false promises in slick marketing presentations are not solutions. At best, the CCA will be a disappointment. At worst, it will be a quagmire for the town.

Diana Hird, *Cold Spring*



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## 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 storm-water 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

## State Spending

Select categories from the 2017-18 budget. Health and education spending account for 59 percent of \$158 billion in costs.

Health	\$60.2 billion
Education	\$34 billion
Transportation	\$10.6 billion
Higher education	\$10.5 billion
Social welfare	\$8.9 billion
Mental hygiene	\$6.9 billion
Criminal justice	\$5.3 billion
Elected officials	\$3.6 billion
Economic development	\$2.4 billion
Parks and environment	\$1.5 billion
Local government assistance	\$735 million

Source: openbudget.ny.gov

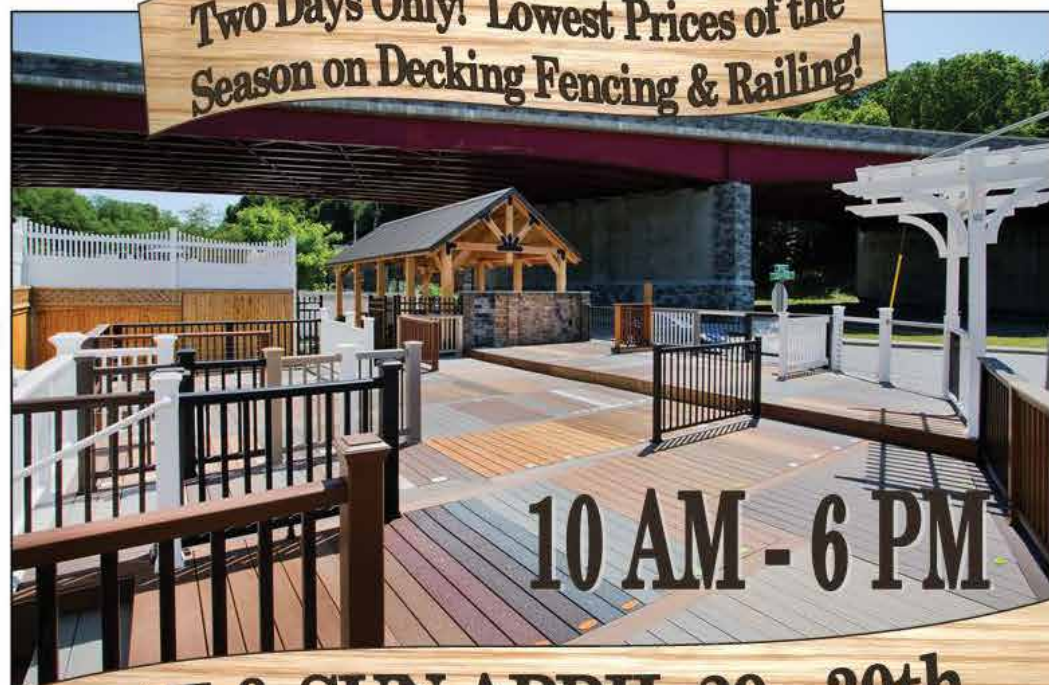
\$750 million to Regional Economic Development Councils. Beacon and Philipstown have both received REDC money in the past.

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)

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# 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 ad-



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

ditional 409, with 327 more in discussion but not yet ready for review, said Building Inspector Tim Dexter.

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 municip-

pal 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.

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# 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.

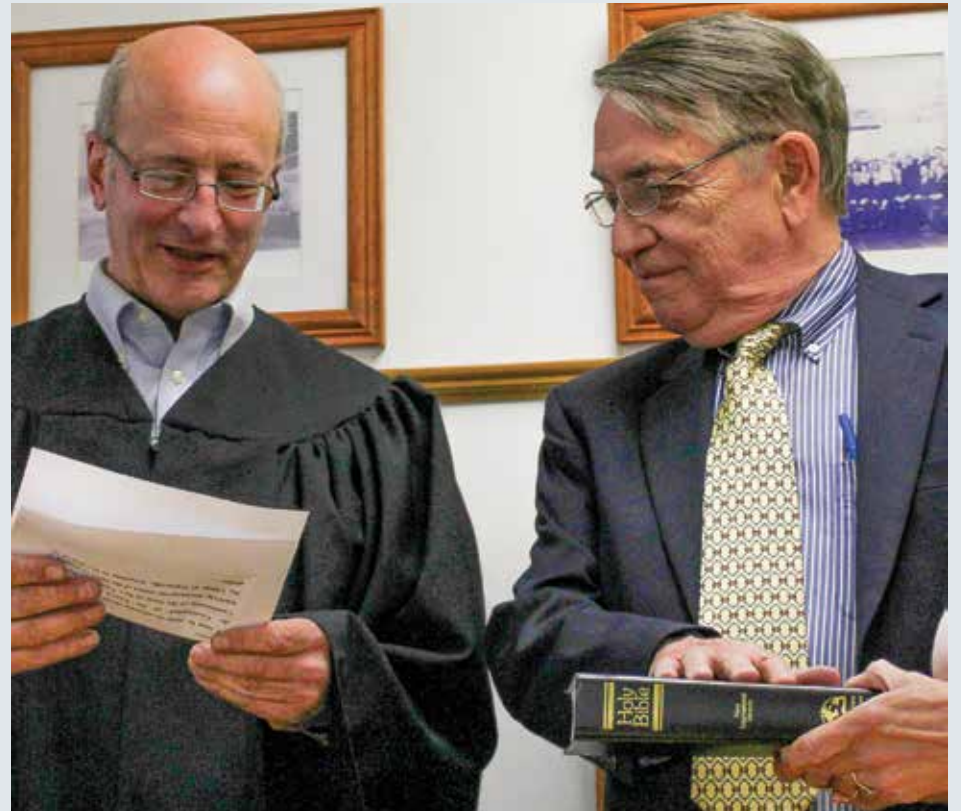
## In other business ...

- 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 had distributed a survey to residents and business owners west of the Metro-North tracks and on Fair Street to get their thoughts on the increase in bicycle and foot traffic over the past three years, which he hoped to share with the Fjord Trail Steering Committee. He said he planned more surveys throughout the village in the months ahead.

## 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.

## 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](http://highlandscurrent.com). Photo by Anita Peltonen



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



# The Calendar

## 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



Sam Bartman, seated by a selection of his paintings, explains his technique.

Photo by Howard Goodman

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 (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, *A Few Good Men*, from auditions to curtain call.



Terry O'Brien

The film will be followed by a discussion led by Katherine Vockins, who founded RTA and is its executive director, and program coordinator Charles Moore.

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



From a performance of *The Wizard of Oz* at Sing Sing

RTA photo

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 Correc-

tional 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 845-896-5678 | allsportfishkill.com

**Candlelight Vigil for Samuel Harrell**  
7 p.m. Polhill Park | Main and Wolcott, Beacon beaconprisonaction.org

**Hear & Now: Chef Nicki Sizemore**  
7 p.m. Garrison School  
1100 Route 9D, Garrison | gufspta.org

**The Wizard of Oz (Youth Players)**  
7:30 p.m. Philipstown Recreation Center  
107 Glenclyffe Drive, Garrison  
845-424-4618 | philipstownrecreation.com

**Shabbat with Yom Hashoah**  
8 p.m. Reform Temple of Putnam Valley  
362 Church Road, Putnam Valley  
845-528-4774 | rtpv.org

**7th Annual Ariane One-Act Festival**  
8 p.m. Philipstown Depot Theatre  
10 Garrison’s Landing, Garrison  
845-424-3900 | philipstowndepottheatre.org

**Lou Gramm**  
8 p.m. Paramount Hudson Valley  
1008 Brown St., Peekskill | 914-739-0039

SATURDAY, APRIL 22

**Newburgh Last Saturday**

**Vegetable Gardening (First Session)**  
8:45 a.m. Stonecrop Gardens  
81 Stonecrop Lane, Cold Spring  
845-265-2000 | stonecrop.org

**Lions’ Club Shredder Day**  
9 a.m. – Noon. The Nest  
44 Chestnut St., Cold Spring | coldspringlions.org

**Ree-Play Sale**  
9 a.m. – 1 p.m. University Camp Settlement  
724 Wolcott Ave., Beacon  
weeplayproject.org/ree-play-sale

**Outrun Autism 5K Run/Walk**  
9:30 a.m. Cold Spring Gazebo  
outrunautism.weebly.com

**WillFest: Costume Photo Booth**  
9:30 – 11 a.m. Farmers’ Market  
1 Chestnut St., Cold Spring | hvshakespeare.org

**Science in the Kitchen (Grades 1-5)**  
Noon. Butterfield Library | 10 Morris Ave., Cold Spring | 845-265-3040 | butterfieldlibrary.org

**WillFest: Free Performances**  
Noon – 3 p.m. Cold Spring waterfront  
hvshakespeare.org

**I'm Tired Project / Beacon Schools Show (Opening)**  
2 – 4 p.m. Howland Public Library | 313 Main St., Beacon | 845-831-1134 | beaconlibrary.org

**Composting Workshop**  
2 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library | 472 Route 403, Garrison | 845-424-3020 | desmondfishlibrary.org

**WillFest: Shakespeare in Love (1998)**  
3 p.m. Old VFW Hall  
34 Kemble Ave., Cold Spring | hvshakespeare.org

**WillFest: Free Workshops**  
3 – 6 p.m. St. Mary’s Parish Hall  
1 Chestnut St., Cold Spring | hvshakespeare.org

**Melissa Braggins: Secret Gardens (Artist Talk)**  
4 p.m. RiverWinds Gallery | 172 Main St., Beacon 845-838-2880 | riverwindsgallery.com

**Art for Aleppo Fundraiser and Reception**  
5 – 9 p.m. Catalyst Gallery  
137 Main St., Beacon | artforealeppo.org

Calendar Highlights

For upcoming events visit highlandscurrent.com.

Send event listings to calendar@highlandscurrent.com

ETTY YANIV & ELENI LASENNA (Opening)

5 – 7 p.m. Garrison Art Center  
23 Garrison’s Landing, Garrison  
845-424-3960 | garrisonartcenter.org

Silent Film Series: The Gold Rush (1925)

7 p.m. Butterfield Library | See details above.

WillFest: Chimes at Midnight (1965)

7 p.m. Old VFW Hall | See details above.

The Wizard of Oz (Youth Players)

7:30 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.

Charlie Daniels Band

8 p.m. Paramount Hudson Valley  
See details under Friday.

Disco Planet Fundraiser

8 p.m. St. Mary’s Parish Hall | See details above.

Guitarist Tom Carter

8 p.m. Center for Creative Education | 464 Main St., Beacon | facebook.com/elysiumfurnaceworks

EARTH DAY EVENTS

Celebration and Hike-A-Thon

9 a.m. – 3 p.m. Outdoor Discovery Center  
100 Muser Drive, Cornwall | 845-534-5506 | hhnmm.org

Volunteer Landscape Day

9 a.m. – 2 p.m. Manitoaga | 584 Route 9D, Garrison  
845-424-3812 | visitmanitoga.org

Trail Cleanup

9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Boscobel | 1601 Route 9D, Cold Spring | 845-265-3638 | boscobel.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 | trailsidezoo.org

Celebration

11 a.m. – 1 p.m. Stony Kill Farm  
79 Farmstead Lane, Wappingers Falls  
845-831-1617 | stonykill.org

SUNDAY, APRIL 23

Putnam Heart Walk 5K

9 a.m. Brewster High School  
50 Foggintown Road, Brewster | www2.heart.org

Ree-Play Sale

9 a.m. – 1 p.m. University Camp Settlement  
See details under Saturday.

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. Ayya Yeshe

2 p.m. Chuang-Yen Monastery | 2020 Route 301, Carmel | 845-225-1445 | baus.org

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 Baillie (Classical)

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

Newburgh Symphonic Chorale: Celebrating Earth

4 p.m. St. George’s Church | 105 Grand St., Newburgh  
845-534-2864 | newburghsymphony.org

Mark Berghash: I’s Closed I’s Open (Opening)

5 – 7 p.m. Hudson Valley Center for Contemporary Art  
1701 Main St., Peekskill | 914-788-0100 | hvcca.org

MONDAY, APRIL 24

Defensive Driving Course (First Session)

6 – 9 p.m. Butterfield Library  
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 | 845-838-5011 | 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

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Family Farm Tour

3:45 p.m. Glynwood Farm | 362 Glynwood Road, Cold Spring | 845-265-3338 | glynwood.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

Adapting to Climate Change in the Garden (Talk)

7 p.m. Mahopac Library | 668 Route 6, Mahopac  
845-628-2009 | mahopaclibrary.org

Beacon School Board

7 p.m. Beacon High School | 101 Matteawan Road, Beacon | 845-838-6900 | beaconcityk12.org

Showing Up For Racial Justice (SURJ)

7:30 p.m. Beacon Hebrew Alliance | 331 Verplanck Ave., Beacon | beaconsurj@gmail.com

Pechakucha Beacon

8 p.m. Quinn’s | 330 Main St., Beacon  
facebook.com/PechaKuchaBeacon

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 26

Senior Trip to Fishkill

10 a.m. Chestnut Ridge  
845-424-4618 | philipstownrecreation.com

Blueprint for Financial Success

1:30 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library  
See details under Saturday.

Farmer Training Workshop: Irrigation

6 – 8 p.m. Glynwood Farm  
See details under Tuesday.

BeaconArts Meetup

6:30 p.m. Beacon Hotel  
424 Main St., Beacon | beaconarts.org

Community Holocaust Commemoration

6:30 p.m. Dutchess Community College  
53 Pendell Road, Poughkeepsie  
beaconhebrewalliance.org

THURSDAY, APRIL 27

Blood Drive

8 a.m. – 2 p.m. Beacon High School  
101 Matteawan Road, Beacon  
800-933-2566 | nybloodcenter.org

Naomi Oreske: Climate Change – What Next? (Talk)

5 p.m. Vassar College | 124 Raymond Ave., Poughkeepsie | 845-437-5370 | vassar.edu

8th Annual PFCS Adult Team Spelling Bee

6 p.m. Starr Ridge Banquet Center | 38 Starr Ridge Road, Brewster | 845-225-2700 x136 | pfcsinc.org

Farm Dinner

6:30 p.m. Glynwood Farm | Details under Tuesday.

Girl Scout Info Night

6:30 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library | 472 Route 403, Garrison | Email jrodulfo@girlscoutshh.org.

Poetry Reading by Tony Pena

6:30 p.m. Howland Library | Details under Saturday.

FRIDAY, APRIL 28

Arbor Day

Stitch’ n Sip

5 – 7 p.m. The Pantry | 3091 Route 9, Cold Spring  
845.265.2840 | thepantrycs.com

Evolution and Adventures of a Rational Naturalist (Talk)

6:30 p.m. Boscobel | See details under Saturday.

International Film Night: Coming Home (China, 2014)

7 p.m. Howland Library | Details under Saturday.

Dramatic Escape (Documentary, 2015) with Q&A

7 p.m. First Presbyterian Church | 50 Liberty St., Beacon | moviesthatmatterbeacon.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



A performance of *Twelfth Night* at Sing Sing

RTA photo



A performance of *MacBeth* at the Green Haven Correctional Facility in Stormville

RTA photo

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."

## Etty Yaniv *Rising Under Currents*



Etty Yaniv with *Labyrinth*

Opening Reception: Saturday, April 22, 5-7pm  
Exhibition runs April 15 through May 7

## Eleni LaSenna

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**John Pizzarelli Quartet**

Sat., 4/29 6:00 p.m.  
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Sun., 4/23 11:30 a.m.  
**Art Labriola & Michael Goetz - Free**

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

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

Sun., 4/30 7:30 p.m.  
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Thurs., 4/27 7:30 p.m.  
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## Painter Has First Show – at Age 95 (from Page 9)

could throw back at me.”

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



Sam Bartman

Photo by A. Rooney

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

*“The vibrancy of the color mixing has stayed true.”*



Simplistic Scene - Uplifting, by Sam Bartman

Photo by Howard Goodman



Fire Amiss, Harmony, by Sam Bartman

Photo by Howard Goodman

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](http://gallery66ny.com) or call 845-809-5838.



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# 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



Ursula Schneider

Photo by A. Rooney

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



Gunnera 5, by Ursula Schneider



Aster and Asteroids, by Ursula Schneider

Australia’s Northern Territory. Relocating to New York in 1980, Schneider made her way to Tomkins 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](http://busterlevigallery.com).

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## COMMUNITY BRIEFS

## 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](http://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.

The association is planning a fundraiser for Saturday, June 24, on the island called "Constitution Island Turns Tropical!" The evening will feature a lobster dinner and the tropical sounds of the West Point Steel Band. Tickets are available at [constitutionisland.org](http://constitutionisland.org) or by calling 845-265-2501.

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](http://hvshakespeare.org).

## 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 Skills 101

*Learn to better manage your money*

Two upcoming workshops at the Desmond-Fish Library in Garrison will focus on financial planning.

On Tuesday, April 25, at 6:30 p.m., and again on Wednesday, April 26, at 1:30 p.m., financial services agent Ardal Powell will lead a free Blueprint for Financial Success workshop. It will cover debt, savings and preparing for unexpected events.

On Saturday, April 29, at 10:30 a.m., Michael Martin, a lawyer who specializes in estate planning, will present "Estate Planning: How to Protect Your Parents and Yourself." He will cover

everything from Social Security benefits to planning for medical care, wills, taxes and probate.



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 (Continued on next page)



Students at Whitwell Middle School in Tennessee, the subject of the documentary *Paper Clips*, created a Children's Holocaust Memorial on school grounds inside a car once used to transport Jewish prisoners.



A view of the Hudson River from Constitution Island

File photo by L.S. Armstrong

## 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

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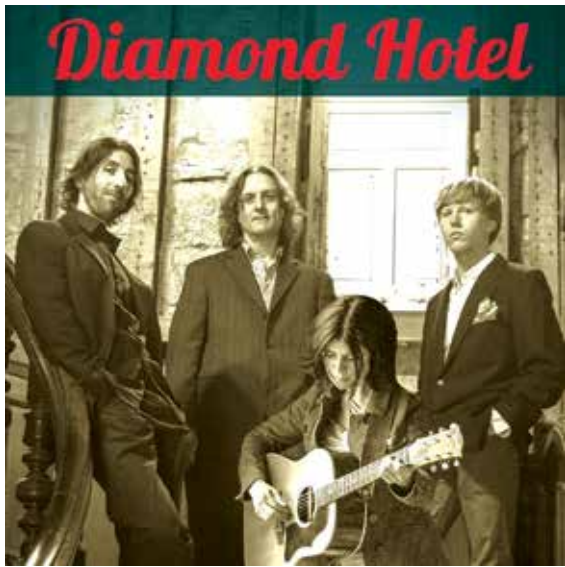
## COMMUNITY BRIEFS

(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](http://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 Masten on bass and David Hollander on electric guitar. Tickets are \$15 at [townecrier.com](http://townecrier.com). The duo Open Book will open the show.



Diamond Hotel

## 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 [community-foundationshv.org/FarmFreshFood](http://community-foundationshv.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 screening at 7 p.m. on Saturday, April 29, of the 2013 documentary *Real Value*. The event



Indigo

UIC Heritage Garden photo

takes 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 [semler@commonground-farm.org](mailto:semler@commonground-farm.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 Alexander String Quartet will perform at the Howland Cultural Center on April 30.

Photo provided

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](http://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](http://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.



Detail from a sculpture by Tadashi Hashimoto

Image provided

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



## 5Q: Ulysses Torres

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 literature, but Ulysses is a common name in Latin America. Although 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 lessons. 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.



Ulysses Torres

Photo by Chip Rowe

## 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 re-

lationship 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



O'Brien's logo calls to mind the concept of the "country doctor."

be your personal doctor."

Beacon Wellness Center is located at 4 Jackson St. in Beacon. See [beaconprimarycare.info](http://beaconprimarycare.info) or call 845-883-8633.



O'Brien and an assistant check vitals on a teddy bear during the Family Fitness Night.

Photo provided

## 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.

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# Bits of Beacon History

By Robert Murphy

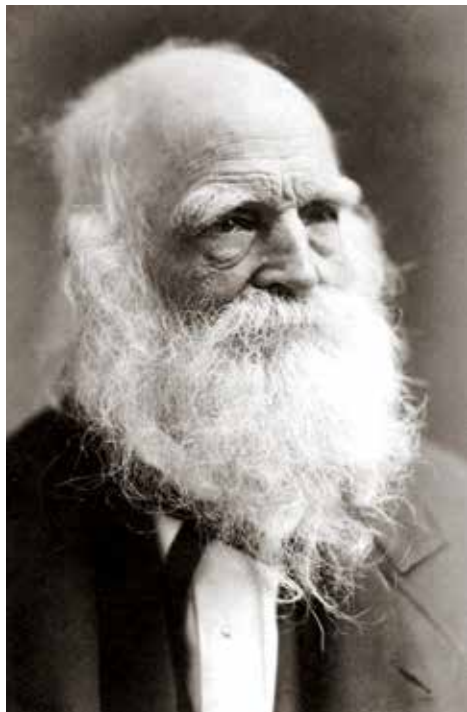
## On the banks of the Hudson

**A**ges 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



William Cullen Bryant

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, sallied 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 Morse with twins Billy and Betty and two-year-old Priscilla in 1938

Photo courtesy of Ralph Morse

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

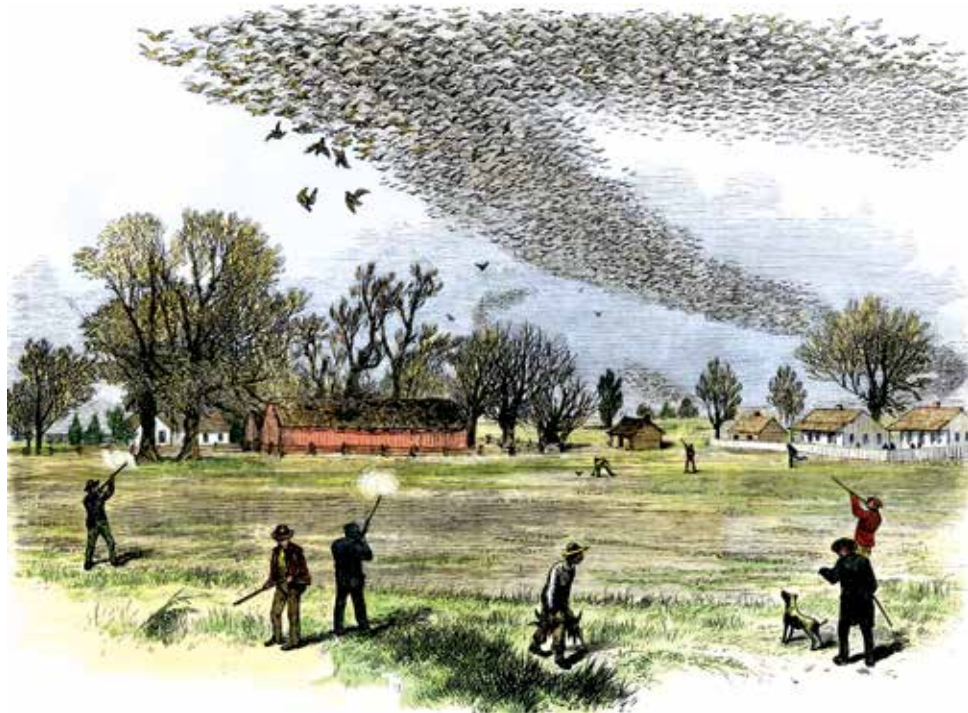
had a Westinghouse from A.C. Smith & Co. on Main Street) and a meter box was installed in which you placed two nickels each day to pay it off. Typically, the appliances cost \$100 to \$150, so you would be dropping nickels daily for three or four years.

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-

(Continued on next page)



A drawing shows farmers shooting at a flock of passenger pigeons in northern Louisiana in 1875.



Early Morning at Cold Spring, (1850) by Asher Durand

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## Bits of Beacon History

(from previous page)

gan in 1904. Her father, Major John Henry Doughty, had been a surgeon during the Civil War and later was chief surgeon at Highland Hospital.

As a girl, Phebe witnessed a number of medical emergencies when people were brought to the family's home on Schenck Avenue. "I remember one man was bitten by a mad dog," she recalled. "Father sucked the wound. We were all frightened, but he took care of himself and was all right. The man recovered, too."

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](http://beaconhistorical.org).*

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## Haldane Senior Class Trip



The Haldane High School senior class traveled to New Orleans from March 28 to April 1 to work on a Habitat for Humanity home.

*Haldane photo*

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# 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:

- ½ cup vinegar
- ½ 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 wipe, removing the dirt and grime. For stubborn dirt, allow the liquid 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.

Source: www.OrganicGardening.com



## 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 filters the soap and grime.
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:

Commercial drive-through car wash:  
\_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ gallons

41 - 6      25 + 25

Self-Service car wash:  
\_\_\_\_\_ gallons

5 + 5 + 5

Washing your car at home:  
\_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ gallons

100 - 20      70 + 70



"Well, dinner is cancelled. Someone washed a car in our dining room!"

Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Use the skills and strategies of the reading process to follow written directions. Math: Compute written amounts.

## 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!

## 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.

Standards Link: Research: Use the newspaper to locate information.

## Kid Scoop Puzzler



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

\_\_\_\_\_ feet



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?

\_\_\_\_\_ feet

Standards Link: Research: Use the newspaper to locate

## Double Double Word Search

WATERLESS  
VINEGAR  
FILTERS  
LIQUID  
DIRTY  
GRIME  
SPRAY  
STORM  
SCRUB  
SHINE  
SOAKS  
SOAP  
SOIL  
RIDE  
OIL

Find the words in the puzzle. Then look for each word in this week's Kid Scoop stories and activities.

L I V V I B U R C S  
N L I O Y A R P S R  
G R N O G O M E T E  
C A E R S R L R O T  
D L G K W R I A R L  
S I A S E D Q M M I  
H O R T E S U O E F  
S S A T S H I N E L  
U W T P Y I D O N S

Standards Link: Letter sequencing. Recognized identical words. Skim and scan reading. Recall spelling patterns.



## Earth Day Bingo

Take a walk with friends or family members and see if you can find all of the things on these Earth Day Bingo Cards. The first person to find all their items wins!

A WEED	A FLOWER	A TRASH CAN
A ROCK	A BIRD	BIKE LANE
POND OR STREAM	AN INSECT	MOSS

A FIELD	A FLY	A RECYCLE BIN
SOME MUD	FALLEN LEAVES	A PUDDLE
BROWN GRASS	GARDEN HOSE	A CAT

A SHADOW	A DIRT PATH	A COMPOST BIN
A SPIDER	A FLYING BUG	A FLOWER
A PINE TREE	GREEN GRASS	A HILL

MOSS	FALLEN LEAVES	AN ANT
BLUE SKY	A BRANCH	A FIELD
A BEE	FRUIT TREE	FLUFFY CLOUD

Standards Link: Research: Use the newspaper to locate information.

## Write On!

## Earth Day Hero

What are three things kids can do to protect the environment?

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## Sports

### 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 Romanino, who retired after 20 years in the position. Nemecek, who earned \$134,000 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 their four victories from the 2016 football season and seven of their boys' basketball wins because of an ineligible player.

The athletic director collects rosters from each coach before the fall, winter and spring seasons to ensure that all players are eligible.

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 Quartironi and football coach Tony Truscello also did not respond to requests for comment.

On Jan. 5, Nemecek and Quartironi 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 be 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.

The student "was in no way at fault" for the snafu, Quartironi 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," Quartironi 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 Quartironi 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.*



Martin Nemecek  
*Beacon Schools photo*



Will O'Hara showed his form in a Philipstown Little League game last spring. Opening Day this year is Saturday, April 22.

*Photo by Ross Corsair*

### 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 13, Beacon 12  
Eliana Lotero (3 goals), Jessica Musacchio (3)

#### Baseball

Haldane 8, Hamilton 1  
Haldane 6, Pawling 0  
Beacon 10, Yonkers 1  
Lenny Torres and Kevin Heady combined for no-hitter  
Beacon 13, Sleepy Hollow 6  
Torres (4-for-5 with homer, 4 RBI)  
Lakeland 8, Beacon 5

#### Golf

Beacon 297, North Salem 270

#### Softball

Haldane 18, Blind Brook 3  
Haldane 15, Briarcliff 12  
Haldane 6, Pawling 0  
Beacon 27, Ossining 3  
Savannah Mora (4-for-4)

#### Tennis

Hendrick Hudson, 6, Beacon 1  
Khalil Kamara/Christian Pilcurima (6-2, 6-1)

#### Track

Red Raider Relays, Theils  
Jummie Akinwunmi  
1. Girls' High Jump (5-1.75)  
2. Girls' Long Jump (14-6.5)  
2. Girls' Pentathlon (2,722)  
4. Girls' 800-meter run (2:32.86)  
Ethan Burgos  
1. Boys' 110-meter hurdles (16.10)  
2. Boys' High Jump (5-5.75)  
2. Boys' Pentathlon (2,607)



Brian Haines

*File photo by Michael Haines*

### 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 (4-3) 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.