

The HIGHLANDS Current



The Birds Return
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MAY 5, 2017

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Beacon Wall Comes Down

Residents question safety after it cuts into sidewalk

By Jeff Simms

A much-discussed wall that jutted several feet into a Main Street sidewalk near the Beacon Natural Market came down this week.

The wall was designed as a support for the upper floors of a residential and retail building being constructed at 344 Main St. It attracted attention because it extended about six feet past the adjacent natural market, leaving only a few feet of sidewalk near the intersection with Eliza Street.

The Beacon Planning Board approved plans for the project a year ago, granting the property owner, Fishkill-based developer Sean O'Donnell, permission to construct 24 apartments on three stories over a ground-level retail space. The project had earlier been approved for 18 units, but O'Donnell revised the plans to make the apartments smaller.

The support wall would have created a 5-foot alley between the building and the market, said project engineer Mark Day.

In late April, a number of Beacon residents began questioning on Facebook how the wall could have been allowed by the city. Some said they planned to protest on April 29 but those plans were dropped after word circulated that the wall was being removed. *(Continued on Page 8)*



IN THE DRIVER'S SEAT — Catalina Hussung enjoyed the fire engine far more than the fire extinguisher that her father, Bill, demonstrated to her brother, Liam, at the Garrison Volunteer Fire Department open house on April 30. See more photos at highlandscurrent.com.

Photos by Ross Corsair



Andrew Revkin

100 Days and the Environment

A conversation with Andrew Revkin

By Pamela Doan

Andrew Revkin, a longtime Philipstown resident, has been writing about the environment and climate change for nearly 30 years. He spent 15 years as a reporter for *The New York Times* and a decade writing its popular *Dot Earth* blog. In December he left the

Times to cover the climate and related issues for *ProPublica*.

In the wake of President Donald Trump's symbolic 100th day in office, we asked Revkin for his assessment of environmental policy under the new administration. His responses have been edited for brevity.

For people who are concerned about the environment, were the first 100 days better or worse than expected?

The biggest impact President Trump has had is by *(Continued on Page 6)*

Haldane High Names New Principal

Also ponders millions of dollars in upgrades

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

The Haldane school district named Julia Sniffen — formerly the middle school principal — as its new high school principal. She succeeds Peter Carucci, who resigned unexpectedly on March 31 after nine months on the job, citing the need to “support the health and needs of my family.”

At a May 2 meeting of the district's Community Leaders Group, an informal advisory panel, Superintendent Diana Bowers said the search committee realized that, with Sniffen, “we had the perfect candidate already here.” School board President Jen Daly said that, “she's going



After serving in an interim capacity, Julia Sniffen takes over as Haldane High School principal on July 1.

Photo by L.S. Armstrong

to do a fantastic job.”

Sniffen joined Haldane as an elementary school teacher in 1998 and was named principal of the middle school in 2015. Currently the acting high school principal, she will take over *(Continued on Page 3)*



Beacon resident Ori Alon posted a printout of a Facebook thread questioning the placement of the wall along the fence at 344 Main.

Photo courtesy of Ori Alon

Cold Spring Approves \$2.2M Budget

Plus, notes from April 25 and May 2 meetings

By Michael Turton

The Village of Cold Spring Board of Trustees approved three budgets for 2017-18 at its April 25 meeting, including \$2,169,550 in allocations to the general fund, which accounts for most village spending.

Property taxes and the fireman’s service tax will provide \$1.6 million, by far the largest source of revenue. The 1.48 percent tax levy increase over 2016-17 falls within the state-imposed 2 percent limit.

Village water and sewer budgets, which are funded through user fees and don’t affect the levy, were approved at \$821,287 and \$495,941.

In other business...

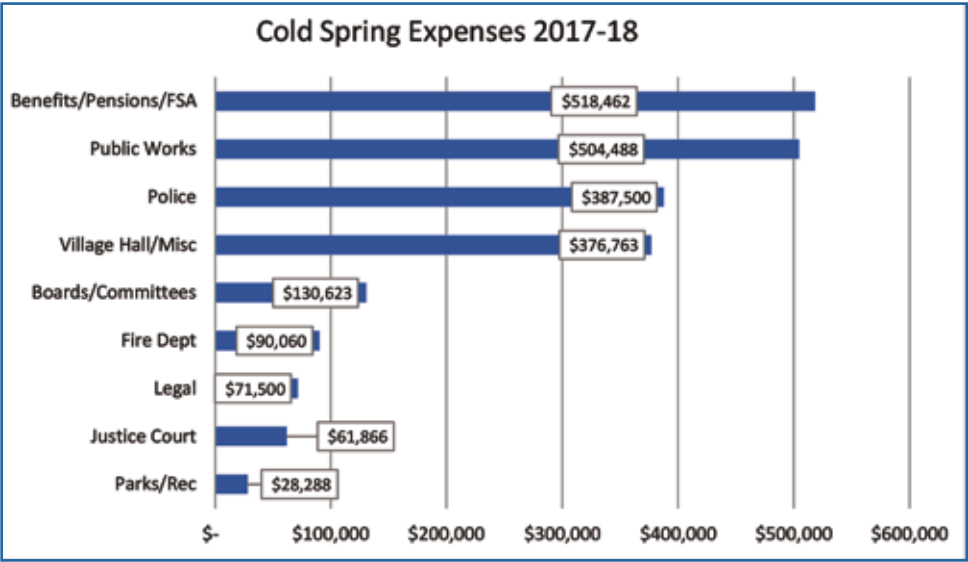
- The board approved a shared services agreement with the New York State Department of Transportation to assist the village during emergencies.
- A request by Our Lady of Loretto to limit Fair Street traffic to one-way for short periods on April 23, May 5 (Friday), and May 13 (Saturday) was approved. Trustee Lynn Miller cast the only “no” vote, stating that similar accommodations have not been granted for other churches. Fair Street traffic is limited to one-way on Sundays to facilitate park-

ing near the church.

- A temporary full-time laborer was hired for the highway department.
- The board approved a request from NBC Peacock Production to film in the village courtroom for a fee of \$1,000.

In May 2 business ...

- Tara Carroll asked to purchase the stoop at 69-71 Main St. for Barber and Brew, a new business. The board was divided. Trustee Fran Murphy favored selling the stoop as a means of reducing village liability. Mayor Dave Merandy opposed the sale, in part citing the need to have the Village Code address outdoor dining on stoops. Trustee Steve Voloto commented, “Right now there is no consistency, and we’re trying to create that.” Merandy pointed out that several similar situations along Main Street are being considered and promised a decision on Carroll’s request at the board’s next meeting.
- The board received a similar request to purchase a 30-by-125-foot strip behind 37 Fair St., the former site of Impellittere Motors. The building is unoccupied and in disrepair. The 3,750-square-foot property is part of the highway department yard, and trustees plan to visit the site to clarify its boundaries. Trustee Marie Early said a potential buyer, who was not



identified, is considering a restaurant.

- Trustees denied resident Roberto Muller’s request to perform acoustic music on Main Street. In a letter to the board, Muller said he hoped to earn money from passersby. Voloto commented, “It’s not a good idea for Main Street.”
- A parade will be held on Main Street on July 28 to celebrate the 15th anniversary of the Junior Fire Academy.
- Groombridge Games will again sponsor Cold Spring’s Independence Day fireworks, although a contract with Legion Fireworks was postponed pending information on possible rain dates. A barge is being considered as the launch

site instead of Dockside Park.

- The board made revisions to proposed guidelines for photography and video shoots in the village. Fees will range from \$100 to \$1,500 per day, depending on the scope of the production.
- The board will now review docking applications, a task previously handled by the Recreation Commission. “The board should have been doing it all along,” Merandy said. A 2011 law, enacted by the Village Board to allow commercial boats to dock, called for the board to grant the permits. A request for the Sloop Clearwater to dock on May 13 and overnight on July 24 was approved.

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ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a public hearing will be held by the Zoning Board of Appeals of the Town of Philipstown on

Monday, May 15, 2017, 7:30 p.m.

Philipstown Town Hall, 238 Main Street, Cold Spring, New York,

to hear the following appeal:

Grasso (Index Industrial Design) 1602 Route 9, Garrison, NY Tax Map # 71.20-1-17. The Applicant seeks to construct a building addition on the subject property which will bring the impervious surface coverage of the property to 69%. Town Code §175-11(B) - Dimensional Table, for the HC Zoning District provides for maximum surface impervious coverage of 60% (including all buildings, parking, driveways and any other paved surfaces) The property is in the HC Zoning District.

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

Dated 04/25/17

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

PHILIPSTOWN PLANNING BOARD

Public Hearing – May 18, 2017

The Philipstown Planning Board for the Town of Philipstown, New York will hold a public hearing on Thursday, May 18, 2017 starting at 7:30 p.m. at the Butterfield Library on Morris Avenue in Cold Spring, New York to consider the following application:

Stonecrop Gardens, Inc., 61-115 Stonecrop Cold Spring TM# 39.-2-10 - The application involves a 67.25 acre parcel which has been developed as an educational institution. The former visitors’ center on the property was destroyed by fire and the Center now proposes to replace the structure, generally on the same footprint, with a larger facility which will encompass a “welcome center” and also incorporate a workshop area. Parking at the site will also be expanded and include a handicapped accessible walkway to the new structure.

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

Dated at Philipstown, New York, this 27th day of April, 2017.

Anthony Merante, Chairman

Haldane High Names New Principal *(from Page 1)*

on July 1. She said she looked forward to working with parents, administrators and everyone involved with Haldane, “but above all, with the kids. I’m committed to this community. I’m excited.”

The district’s search will now have shifted to filling Sniffen’s position.

The \$7 million question

Bowers on May 2 also discussed infrastructure projects that could appear on a ballot as early as next year.

The first proposal, with a price tag of \$4 million to \$5 million, would include replacing or upgrading elementary school windows, improvements to the bathrooms, exterior door changes, additional parking, a new heating system in the main building, electrical capacity upgrades, new ventilators and the replacement of asphalt.

A second proposal calls for spending \$3 million to \$4 million for an addition to the high school that would function as a food service area or cafeteria as well as a multi-purpose space for classes and activities such as theater, yoga or media screenings. District officials believe state aid would cover about 35 percent of the costs.

Bowers said the proposals are preliminary, although the new heating system “is one of the things that just has to be done.”

She noted the high school lacks a gym, cafeteria, art and music rooms and other typical facilities. “Can we exist that way? Yes,” Bowers said. “But it’s not a proper high school.”

Daly said residents and district officials “as a community have to decide what are our priorities.”

The budget

The Community Leaders Group previewed the proposed district budget for 2017-18, which includes \$23.5 million in spending and must be considered by voters on May 16. It is \$419,891 higher than the 2016-17 budget, an increase of about 2 percent.

The budget would be funded by about \$19 million in property taxes; \$2.9 million in state aid; \$895,000 from the district’s reserve accounts; \$722,160 in tuition collected from other districts, such as Garrison; and \$55,900 from a variety of other sources.

Voters also will be asked on May 16 to consider spending \$110,000 for a school bus and \$40,000 on maintenance equipment, which will not require payments until the 2018-19 school year, and \$100,000 to take from a reserve account for gym and library renovations. “We’re not asking voters for money,” only for permission to spend funds from the reserves, Bowers said regarding the gym and library plans.

The budget was approved by the school board at an April 18 workshop after being revised to account for a \$110,625 deficit. Notable changes included the reduction of sixth-period assignments (\$12,125 in savings) and the decrease in spending on new furniture (\$37,500 in savings, although each building still requires \$2,500 for replacement items).

Garrison School Board: Reconsidering Drug Forum

Parent wanted more emphasis on addiction as disease

By Lily Gordon

Sparked by public comment, the Garrison school board at its April 18 workshop discussed a forum it held on addiction three weeks earlier.

Melanie Matero of Philipstown, whose youngest son died of an overdose in 2014, said the panel failed to address what she believes is the most crucial part of combating addiction: identifying it as a disease.

“The roundtable was a painful reminder that stigma, fear and misunderstanding still thrive within our community,” she said.

The six-member panel included representatives from two religious organizations, the Putnam County commissioner of mental health, the Garrison School guidance counselor, Putnam County District Attorney Robert Tendy and Sheriff Don Smith.

“The true crime is that we as a society are continuing to allow and even expect law enforcement to treat a medical issue,” Matero argued. “Perhaps most upsetting was the realization that not once was the word *disease* mentioned.”

She said that education is the most important tool, not law enforcement, and that the panel may have given the impression to audience members who are battling addiction “that they are bad, they are criminals, and the jury is still out as to whether they are worthy of life-saving

medication” such as the opiate antidote Narcan, said Matero.

“When people with power make offhanded comments like D.A. Tendy stating that thankfully he didn’t have to worry about what was on his kids’ phones because he had good kids, it reveals the gaping divide between what is talked about and the actual perceptions.”

Board member David Gelber agreed that the panel “left a lot to be desired,” and asked about ways the community can help. Matero again emphasized the importance of education and also cited an example of local business owners hiring teens. In answering another question from Gelber, she said she believed opioids are “absolutely” being overprescribed by local doctors.

In other business ...

- The Garrison Children’s Educational Fund raised more than \$29,000 at its Spring Thaw fundraiser on March 25. GCEF also raised \$3,000 for audio-visual improvements at the school.
- The Philipstown Garden Club is donating a 14-foot Princeton Elm to the Garrison School. It will be planted with help from students.
- The board approved a proposition for the May 16 ballot to create a capital reserve fund with the same purpose as the current one: to finance the construction, improvement and reconstruction of district buildings. The fund balance would be transferred to the new account.

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

The Town of Philipstown Zoning Board of Appeals has changed the date of their regular monthly meeting to **May 15, 2017.**

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



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Haldane board candidate

I am running for the Haldane school board as a write-in candidate on Tuesday, May 16.

I am running because I believe Haldane needs to be a much more open and transparent district. Like many people in the community, I have questions and concerns about decisions made by the superintendent and school board and feel that we deserve better answers. Basic trust between the community and the school leadership is breaking down.

The superintendent and the board have not sufficiently communicated with parents and taxpayers. Announcements have been vague and poorly timed, resulting in a community filled with skepticism and an environment of rumors and ugly gossip.

Haldane has the potential to be a much stronger and unified district if the community felt more welcomed and included. As a board member, I would reach out



Sandy McKelvey

Photo by Anita Peltonen

and listen to the ideas and concerns of the community through open dialogue with community members in person on a regular basis. I could be available for informal

chats on the blacktop after school once a month, for example.

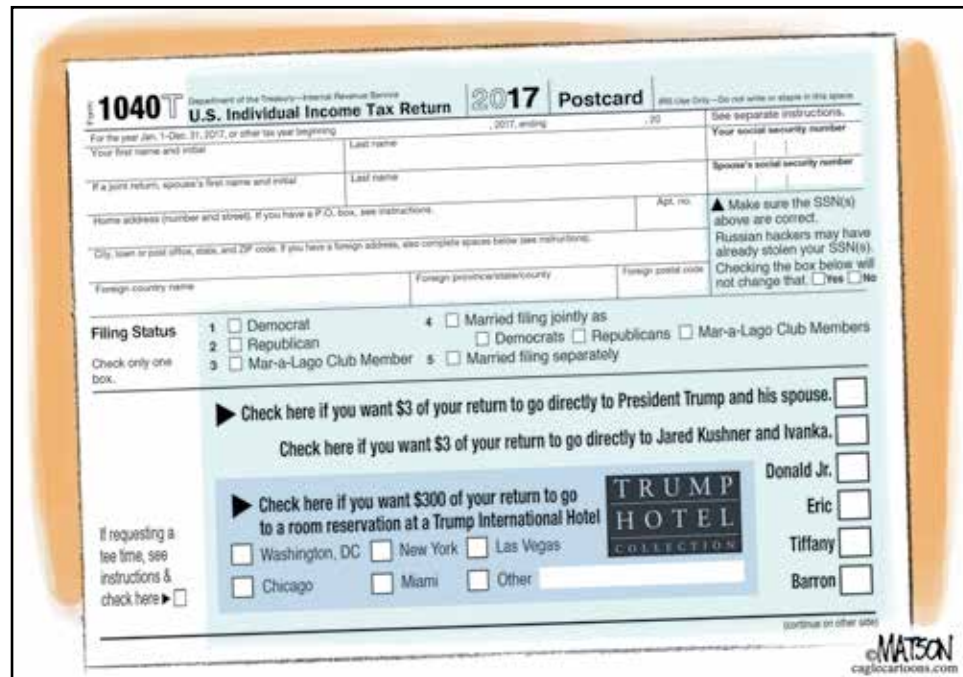
I would also reach out to Haldane faculty, staff and students to get a sense of how we are doing and how we can do better. Perhaps occasionally we could move our meetings to another venue in town to make it more accessible.

I would try my best to answer everyone's questions and concerns and give thorough explanations as to why some things need to be kept confidential in order to protect the people involved. Certain topics discussed in executive session cannot be revealed until the issues are resolved pursuant to New York State law. I would be clear and up front when those issues come up.

Among my qualifications:

- I have volunteered for eight years at Haldane elementary and middle schools and have a son in elementary school and a daughter in middle school.
- I have been an active member of the Haldane Wellness Committee for the past eight years.
- I developed and implemented Haldane's Farm to School Initiative, which now reaches every elementary and middle school student.
- I know most of the elementary and middle school teachers, and I am familiar with the curriculum and the changes that have been implemented during the past eight years.
- I participated in developing Haldane's current five-year strategic plan.
- I ran my own business for 30 years. I understand budgets and planning and implementing long-term projects.
- I am a good listener and communicator.
- I am open-minded and thoughtful in my decision-making.

(Continued on next page)



Taking it to the Street By Anita Peltonen

Is there a book you intended to finish but never did?



"Mrs. Dalloway. I love Virginia Woolf, but it was an incredibly hard read."
~ Kibby Dennehy, Beacon



"The Flounder, by Günter Grass. One of my favorites, but half was enough."
~ Roberta Upshaw, Beacon



"The Mists of Avalon, by Marion Zimmer Bradley. Life gets in the way."
~ Jennifer Jo, New Hamburg

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR (from previous page)

Cold Spring is an extraordinary community with people of many skills, talents and passions. I am passionate about making Haldane a school that is as remarkable as the community it serves. Anyone with questions may email me at sandy@odara.com.

Sandy McKelvey, *Cold Spring*

CCA claims

The letter from Diana Hird regarding Philipstown joining a Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) to purchase electricity included a number of unsupported claims ("Too good to be true?," April 21). It disparages local CCA efforts without providing any specifics about the shortcomings the author believes such efforts possess, or how they might be remedied.

If there is a flaw in the plan to purchase solar- and wind-generated electricity through a bulk-buying program, let's see what it is and how we can remedy it.

Some things are not too good to be true. Some things simply fall into the category of good decisions.

James Geppner, *Cold Spring*

Over the past year, we have been working to organize a CCA initiative in our local communities. We formed Renewable Highlands, a nonprofit, for this sole purpose. (It is a fiscally sponsored project of the Open Space Institute's Citizen Action Program.)

We're Philipstown residents who want to save money on our electricity bills and

get more of our energy from clean, renewable sources.

By setting up a CCA locally, we — you, your neighbors, us — can increase our leverage in the energy markets and buy cheaper electricity. Communities in Westchester have already done it, and they've cut their bills by nearly 10 percent. Any individual that does not want to participate can opt out at any time.

New York is the seventh state to authorize CCA. Electricity markets vary from state to state. What works in one state might not work elsewhere. That's why New York started with a pilot program in Westchester County.

Joule Assets, a firm founded by Michael Gordon, played a key role in establishing that pilot program. They organized municipalities and ran a competitive bidding process for electricity supply. The municipalities selected the supplier with the best pricing and terms.

The New York State Public Service Commission has since issued a framework for other communities to form CCA programs. It requires passage of a local enabling law, identification of an administrator, and approval of implementation and outreach plans. No municipality is committed to participating until after they know the bid results.

The Village of Cold Spring, the Town of Philipstown, the Town of Fishkill and the City of Beacon have all passed laws that enable — but do not require — partici-

tion in CCA. These municipalities are leading the way to more green energy and lower cost electricity for their constituents.

After comparing potential candidates, we recommended Joule Assets as administrator. We believe it offers the best value and were most interested in creating an innovative CCA with the goal of transforming a community's energy culture. Since it played a key role in making the pilot program a success, we thought it would have the best chance at replicating those results here.

CCA is a tool for municipalities. They define the criteria in the competitive bidding process, they decide the winner and they decide the best way to move forward. The bottom line is our public leaders decide whether this program is right for their communities. These four municipalities have demonstrated their interest and their leadership by passing local laws.

It's taken Renewable Highlands over a year to get to this point. Still, this is just the start. Over the coming months, we look forward to engaging our community members in a discussion about the benefits of creating a CCA in our community.

Michael Rauch and Jason Angell,
Philipstown

Rauch is the project director of Renewable Highlands. Angell is a member of its advisory board and director of the Ecological Citizen's Project.

Haldane Hall of Fame

I have seen a bunch of misinformation flying around town on the proposed Athletic Hall of Fame at Haldane High School. Athletic Director Chris Salumn has tried to clear it up on the superintendent's blog (haldaneschool.org/superintendents-blog), but I wanted to get the information out here as well.

First, there was never a proposal to remove any of the jerseys that are hanging in the gym. In fact, there are some ideas being worked on to honor them to a fuller degree.

Second, none of the banners displayed in the gym will be coming down. They may be moved and re-configured so they are more visually appealing but all will remain hanging in or around the gym area.

The Athletic Hall of Fame is a way to recognize athletes, coaches and teams that have distinguished themselves throughout Haldane's rich athletic history. It is a staple in every school I've ever visited and it's long overdue to find its way inside Haldane's walls.

I would ask that if you hear something on the street or via social media that doesn't make sense to you about this (or any other athletic concern at Haldane) to reach out to Salumn at csalumn@haldaneschool.org to get clarification before passing it on. Chances are if it doesn't sound right it's probably not true.

Jon Champlin, *Cold Spring*

New Trees in Cold Spring

Green hawthorn planted at 15 High St.

By Michael Turton

Cold Spring welcomed 10 trees to the village streetscapes on April 28 to celebrate Arbor Day, a holiday first observed in Nebraska City, Nebraska, in 1872 and now marked around the world

on the last Friday of April (arbor is Latin for tree).

The centerpiece of the activities was the planting of a green hawthorn in front of village-owned property at 15 High St. The tree, which can reach 35 feet, was donated by Anne Impellizzeri to replace a tree that had to be removed during the building of her new home.

Jennifer Zwarich, chairperson of the

Trees Coming Down?



Cold Spring's Tree Advisory Board will hold a public meeting at 7:30 p.m. on May 17, at Village Hall, 85 Main St., to review an application by Sarah DeFranco to remove 46 trees at Main and Cedar streets. DeFranco purchased the lot, which had been vacant since the 19th century in 2015, and built a three-bedroom modular home.

Photo by L.S. Armstrong



Boy Scouts help mulch a newly planted tree on High Street on April 28. Photo by M. Turton

tree advisory board, supervised the planting with assistance from members of Cub Scout Pack 137 (Wolf and Tiger dens), Girl Scout Troop 2013 and Girls Scout Junior Troop 1405. The mulch was donated by Habitat Revival and resident Pam Gunther contributed time and funds to decorate trees throughout the village.

Mayor Dave Merandy capped off the ceremony by reading Robert Frost's poem *The Sound of Trees*. The other nine trees were planted as one of the final elements of the Main Street improvement project.



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100 Days and the Environment (from Page 1) a treaty or a law and doing nothing. There are more than 500 positions in government that require Senate confirmation — not full hearings but like deputy assistant or administrator positions — and there are only about 34 nominees who have been named. A lot of career employees I'm talking to are saying they're sitting on their hands because they can't move forward on anything that isn't already budgeted.

There's a small group of Obama initiatives related to the environment that were put forward in the six months before the election that can be undone right away, and that's happening. But it's a small thing compared to undoing the Clean Power Act, Clean Water Act or methane rules. To do that, you have to have staff and political appointees and agencies to set it in motion, and it takes more time.

It's important not to get too distracted by President Trump if the concern is climate change and energy use and to think it equals problem or no problem. It's not a binary situation. The forces driving energy use and emissions trends globally are way beyond the power of one president to make things better or worse. It's the long-range-scale things that the president can do with Congress, such as sustaining research budgets and our capacity to understand and monitor the changing earth. The old model of global warming was that there was a simple solution that you pass

a done issue. Humans are slowly figuring we are in a two-way relationship with the climate and the earth and that awareness was only built in the last few decades

What is the most critical challenge of the next four years?

The good news is that climate change is so big, it's not like one president can magically flip a switch to undo it. The bad news is that it's so big that political action is hard. For example, it's difficult to demonstrate that Obama policies did anything to move emissions one way or another.

The biggest change has been the shift from coal as natural gas has become more plentiful through fracking. President Trump is doing as much as he can to get coal miners back to work, but the prime driver of loss of jobs in coal mining is not regulations on mercury and other emissions from coal plants. It's all the things that are changing the labor landscape throughout the world — automation, efficiency and abundant natural gas — that drive down the demand for coal.

In your view, what's the worst thing the president could do for environmental policy?

It's all about the budget for the Environmental Protection Agency, which gives grants to states to do the regulatory

it's done. This is not

"It's important not to get too distracted by President Trump ... It's not a binary situation."



The Earth

NASA

cities and industries to move ahead on reducing carbon emissions?

It depends on the time scale. The climate is a centuries-scale problem and the U.S. is a diminishing part of the global emissions pie. The U.S. has historically led on innovation. One of the things the federal government does is to keep money flowing so that the next generation of batteries can advance. Industry does its own development but it's always with a short time scale.

What is going to most affect our local community?

From what I've seen around Philipstown, a lot of people got woken up by Trump's win. The more a community understands its energy patterns and works at creative ways to cut use for financial or climate reasons, the better.

Some of the most interesting experiments I've seen are happening regionally. Scenic Hudson is a great example. It tries to acquire easements on land with high ecological value, and it's looking ahead at the effects of sea-level rise. So as Constitution Marsh becomes more of a bay, it's trying to predict where the bird habitat will emerge in 2100. It's a novel approach to deal with the changing climate, which is unavoidable. Climate change won't just stop even if we turned off all the machines on the planet.

work. Also, the budgets for science, the National Oceanic Administration, NASA and the satellite and research programs that monitor weather. If those budgets get too trimmed, the capacity goes down to observe change and understand risk from the climate system, whether or not global warming drives it.

What's being done?

Many environmental groups are filing lawsuits. That will be the strongest impediment to a swift retreat on environmental protection. Lawsuits can force the agency to respond and carry out the law.

You've described climate change as too big of a problem for the federal government. Is it enough for states,





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The side street entry 2nd unit was owner occupied and has ground floor BR with bath, plus 2 additional BRs, and also 1.5 baths, LR and DR. There is a full basement for storage and utilities, a usable rear yard and a detached garage.



Questions?
Contact Pat:
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LimitedEditionsRealty.com

Two Titans of Cold Spring Retire

Robert Lomino makes final cut

By Alison Rooney

When you have been in business as long as Robert Lomino was at the helm of Robert's Total Care Salon in Cold Spring, you don't think in terms of years. You think decades:

The '60s: "Everyone had their hair in rollers — and their moms did perms on their hair — sometimes they burnt it."

The '70s: "It was all about Vidal Sassoon: geometric haircuts done with tiny scissors."

The '80s: "Perms; lots and lots of curls. Guys were getting perms, too; even I had permed hair, pretty long, too — that was the style. In my other salon (in Jefferson Valley, before it closed in 1984), we had a guys-only room so they wouldn't get embarrassed."

The '90s: "Hair color. I thought that would be a 10-year deal, but it's gone on expanding. Oh, and *Friends* was a big influence. Not a good one. Everyone wanted dead-straight hair and then you couldn't do anything else with it, even with a curling iron."

Lomino, who ran Robert's with his wife, Mary, for more than 45 years, retired in February. The couple sold the business to Sal Viola of Soho Salon, which has three locations in Orange County. Mary Lomino, whom Robert calls the "backbone of the business," worked behind the scenes and took care of marketing and promotions, including a *Steel Magnolias* 50th birthday party.

Hair salons are famous for gossip but Robert says what was said in the salon, stayed in the salon. "I instructed all my staff: people will tell you things; you don't repeat anything," he says. "I'm not sure

why people confide but I think it's because of the situation: I've never met you before but first thing, I'm touching your hair!"

Raised in Bay Ridge, Brooklyn, Robert Lomino enrolled in hairdressing school in 1959 and in 1960 joined a salon in Peekskill run by his future father-in-law. The two men later opened Josef's Beauty Salon in Cold Spring, which in 1971 became Robert's.

At capacity, Robert's had seven or eight stylists. Often he would recruit new graduates from hairdressing school, which he called unusual because "most salons don't teach — they try to get people from other salons." Most of the hairdressers who were working at Robert's at the time of the sale are still there, including Wendy Dugain, a veteran of 26 years. Her colleague Laura McInnes recently retired after 25 years.

When he decided to sell the business, Robert says he vetted five potential buyers, and "the last one was Sal Viola — and he had everything I wanted. Most of all we just had a connection, which was important to me."

Two months into retirement, Lomino says he doesn't have a plan, nor does he want one. Mary is doing church volunteer work near their Fishkill home, and she's also involved with a women's program through Mount St. Mary College. Robert has joined a program called LIFE: Life is Forever Enriching for over-55s, started taking a chess class and is doing carpentry projects around the house. "It's whatever comes to be, comes to be," he says.

Also on the horizon is time with the latest member of the Lomino family: Robert and Mary have nine grandchildren and, as of April 18, their first great-grandchild, Hayden Grace.

In the '80s, the style was "perms; lots and lots of curls. Guys were getting perms, too; even I had permed hair, pretty long, too."
~ Robert Lomino

45 years



Robert and Mary Lomino

Photo provided



Bill Hussung and Bob McCaffrey

Photo by A. Rooney

McCaffrey leaves home(s)

By Alison Rooney

When Robert McCaffrey opened his Cold Spring real estate agency in 1975, he had no experience in selling homes, no one working for him and no internet steering potential clients his way. What he did have was his name.

"A lot of people knew me, knew my family," he recalls. "And that brought the first clients in."

That name (McCaffrey is the third generation of his family to live in Philipstown) is still on the business McCaffrey ran for 42 years until he sold it earlier this year to Bill Hussung, his office manager and a sales associate. There was never talk of a new sign.

"The name has great value," says Hussung. "It has a huge recognition factor, particularly in the luxury market."

McCaffrey became a real estate agent while teaching business classes at Lakeland High School. Friends encouraged him to get his license, and he opened his first office in the space next door to its current location at 140 Main St. For a while he rented at 75 Main St. but soon bought the building at 143 Main now occupied by the Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival (the two organizations swapped offices in early 2016).

The internet has been the most fundamental change in the business, McCaffrey says. "Someone from the city approached me about using it, and the calls started coming in right away," he recalls. The downside, notes Hussung, is that "there's a lot of incorrect information out there now," such as sites that estimate home values.

Once focused on the immediate area, McCaffrey Realty now has listings all over the region. Its founder says buyers are no more demanding than in the past, "but they do know more." The agency repre-

sents slightly more buyers than sellers, he says, but, says Hussung, "listings are the center of gravity because sellers attract buyers. We do both — different skill sets."

Like any real estate agent, Hussung expresses optimism about the local market. "Village houses continue to be popular," he says. "Not only can people walk to the train, but their kids can walk to the station and meet them." He said demand is outpacing supply, with village inventory at an eight-year low. As prices rise, "at some point that will entice sellers and the supply will increase," he says.

"We're also seeing a lot more activity in the luxury market," he adds, although the agency's "bread and butter" are homes in the \$400,000 to \$500,000 range. "People are looking for turn-key, move-in ready. Our prototype is a young couple from Brooklyn or Queens, with one child. And it's not money alone that's driving people out of the city. People want a change of lifestyle. We're also seeing fewer weekenders — more people want to live here year-round."

Hussung himself is a city transplant; he and his wife moved from the Upper West Side, where he had a career in television news production. "We explored areas on both sides of the river and decided Cold Spring was too busy" after visiting Main Street on a beautiful afternoon, he recalls with a laugh. After a return visit, they realized "it wasn't always that way. We fell in love with the landscape first, then the community."

McCaffrey will remain as a salesperson (one of a dozen) at the agency that bears his name but also plans to travel, including to New York City. "I have lots of friends there, and I belong to all the museums," he says. "I also love to go out to the Pocanos, to Boston, the Jersey shore."

42 years

"A lot of people knew me, knew my family. And that brought the first clients in."
~ Robert McCaffrey



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Guardians of the Galaxy

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SUN 12:40 4:00 7:20
MON 7:20, TUE 12:40 4:00 7:20
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6:20 9:40, SUN 12:20 3:40 7:00
MON 7:00, TUE 12:20 3:40 7:00
WED & THU 7:00

Beacon Wall Comes Down *(from Page 1)*

"I was confused when I saw it as to why it came so far forward from the building next to it," said Beacon resident Jessica White, who had planned to protest. "After it came up, it appeared this could be a permanent issue that would affect pedestrian safety. It didn't seem greedy or malicious, but more careless."

During a City Council meeting on May 1, City Administrator Anthony Ruggiero said the parcel's property line does extend into the sidewalk, but the developer "realized how it looked and he wanted to do the right thing." On May 3, Day added that O'Donnell "wants to work in the city. He



Before its removal, the support wall at 344 Main St. extended several feet past the neighboring Beacon Natural Market.

Photo by Andrew Bell

wants to be a good neighbor."

Day said O'Donnell would shorten the building by six feet to align with the market. He plans to rent parking spaces from the nearby Citizens Bank for tenants. Day said he did not know what business would open on the ground floor or when construction would be completed.

O'Donnell purchased the property in 2013 after the city foreclosed on it. He presented his initial plan to the Planning Board in 2014; it was later revised to reduce the number of stories from five to

four to conform to requirements of the Central Main Street zoning district. (A five-story building would have required O'Donnell to include additional affordable housing units and to make 15 percent of its street-level area open to the public.)

The developer will not need Planning Board approval again after removing the wall, Ruggiero said, although revised plans will be reviewed by the board's architectural review subcommittee. It's not known whether the building's smaller footprint will affect the number of apartments.



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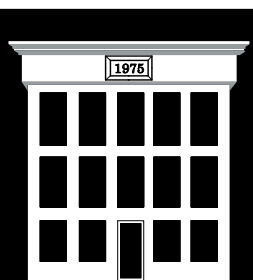
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The Calendar



Nancy Teague with Allie, one of Putnam Service Dogs' Farm puppies

Photo provided



Anna, left, and Amy, are two of Putnam Service Dogs' first three pups.

Photos provided

Friends for Life

New Putnam County facility trains service dogs

By Alison Rooney

As a volunteer puppy raiser for Guiding Eyes for the Blind, Nancy Teague felt enriched by the experience but frustrated by the oversupply of dogs. Although by one estimate only 2 percent of blind people use a guide dog, there are 13 accredited facilities around the country that train them.

Meanwhile, another national organization Teague was familiar with, Canine Companions, which places service dogs with people with physical disabilities, such as mobility or hearing difficulties, has a waiting list.

To fill this unmet need, Teague last fall founded a nonprofit, Putnam Service Dogs, to provide free animals to people with disabilities other than blindness. The group has just received its first three puppies for training, all rescues from high-kill shelters in the South.

"Put an incredible dog with a person who can benefit from it and that person becomes better and stronger," Teague says. "There's nothing more rewarding."

A former art gallery owner and real estate agent, Teague moved five years ago from Brooklyn to Brewster, where her organization is based. For Putnam Service Dogs, she decided to use mixed-breed rescue pups rather than the more common purebred labs and

(Continued on Page 11)

Leaving Zendik Farm

Helen Zuman spent five years in a commune. Was it a cult?

By Alison Rooney

In 1999, soon before her graduation from Harvard, a place in which she says she felt as much like a misfit as she had in high school, Helen Zuman began looking for an "intentional community" — a place where people lived communally, often subsisting off the land.

She won a \$13,500 grant to explore alternative communities and visited a number of them, spending three weeks at the Reeves Mountain School of Self-Reliance in Arizona, "where the ruling couple seemed pleased with their seclusion and the only other intern left before I did"; a day at the Alpha Farm in Oregon, "where I was told to sit in the garden and give it my 'love energy' (subtext: we're overwhelmed by our own chaos; we can't help

you with yours)"; and a night at the San Francisco Zen Center's Green Gulch Farm in Muir Beach, California.

The one that stuck was Zendik farm, a commune in rural western North Carolina with about 60 residents. Zuman recalls taking a bus from Brooklyn with a plan to stay for two weeks. "I was thinking I would walk the Appalachian Trail if it didn't work out," she says. Five years later, when she finally left, she was convinced she had been part of a cult.

The farm

Zendik was founded in Texas by Wulf Zendik (born Larry Wulfinf) with his wife Arol Wulf (Carol Merson) before moving to North Carolina and later West Virginia. It was best known for the T-shirts and bumper stickers members hawked on the street that read, "Stop Bitching, Start a Revolution." Wulf died in 1999 and Arol in 2012, and in 2013 the commune disbanded.

Since leaving the group, Zuman, who in 2015 moved with her husband in Beacon, has been analyzing why she



Helen Zuman at the now overgrown Zendik farm in North Carolina

Photo provided

became a part of Zendik and what draws others to places like it. In April she raised \$16,000 on Kickstarter to prepare her

memoir, *Mating in Captivity*, for publication next year by She Writes Press.

"The Zendiks (Continued on Page 12)

FRIDAY, MAY 5

Ada Pilar Cruz: *About Stories / Stories About* (Opening)
6 – 8 p.m. Buster Levi Gallery
121 Main St., Cold Spring
845-809-5145 | busterlevigallery.com

Donald Alter and Vincent Salem Nicolai (Opening)
6 – 9 p.m. Gallery 66 NY | 66 Main St., Cold Spring
845-809-5838 | gallery66ny.com

Annual Evening Frog Walk
7:30 p.m. Outdoor Discovery Center
100 Muser Drive, Cornwall
845-534-5506 | hhn.org

What Do We Mean by Conservation? (Talk)
7:30 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
477 Main St., Beacon | cheetah.org

SATURDAY, MAY 6

I Love My Park Day
ptny.org/events/i-love-my-park-day

Spring Clean-Up
8 a.m. – Noon. Van Wyck Museum
504 Route 9, Fishkill
845-896-9560 | fishkillhistoricalsociety.org

Birds of Storm King Walk
8 a.m. Storm King Art Center
1 Museum Road, New Windsor
845-534-3115 | stormking.org

Nelsonville Fish & Fur Club Fishing Derby
8 a.m. Cold Spring Reservoir, Fishkill Road
Open to children and teens up to age 14

Riverkeeper Sweep
9 – 11 a.m. Manitou Station, Garrison
9 a.m. – Noon. Arden Point, Garrison
9 a.m. – Noon. Dockside Park, Cold Spring
9 a.m. – 1 p.m. Little Stony Point Park
9 a.m. – 3 p.m. Denning’s Point, Beacon
Noon – 1:30 p.m. Beacon Waterfront
914-355-0874 | riverkeeper.org

Birdwatching Tour
9 a.m. Castle Rock | Route 9D, Garrison
putnamhighlandsaudubon.org

Hazardous Waste Collection Day
9 a.m. – Noon. Canopus Beach Parking Lot
1498 Route 301, Kent
putnamcountyny.com/green-putnam

Open Farm and Plant Sale
9 a.m. – 2 p.m. Poughkeepsie Farm Project
51 Vassar Farm Lane, Poughkeepsie
farmproject.org

Self Made Market
10 a.m. – 6 p.m. University Settlement
724 Wolcott Ave., Beacon | selfmademakers.com

Calendar Highlights

For upcoming events visit highlandscurrent.com.

Send event listings to calendar@highlandscurrent.com

Hudson Valley Comic Con
10 a.m. – 7 p.m. Gold’s Gym | 258 Titusville Road, Poughkeepsie | hvcomiccon.com]

Dia:Beacon Spring Benefit
10:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. 3 Beekman St.
diaart.org/support/gala-benefit

Free Guided History Tour
11 a.m. West Point Foundry Preserve
80 Kemble Ave., Cold Spring
845-473-4440 | scenichudson.org

K104 Cupcake Festival
1 – 5 p.m. Main St., Beacon | k104online.com

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

Protecting Civil Rights and Civil Liberties (Talk)
2 p.m. St. Andrew’s Church
15 South Ave., Beacon
845-831-1369 | standrewsbeaconny.org

Constitution Marsh Spring Benefit
4 p.m. Boscobel, 1601 Route 9D, Garrison
845.265.2601, ext. 11

Kentucky Derby Party
4 p.m. Topfield Equestrian Center
115 Stonecrop Lane, Cold Spring
topfieldkentuckyderbyparty.eventbrite.com

Beatles Sing-a-Long
7 p.m. St. Mary’s Parish Hall
1 Chestnut St., Cold Spring

Destination Unknown: Watchdogs & Wildflowers (Music)
8 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
477 Main St., Beacon | 845-765-3012
howlandculturalcenter.org

Bert Rechtschaffer Jazz Trio
9 p.m. Chill Wine Bar | 173 Main St., Beacon
845-765-0885 | facebook.com/chillwinebar

SUNDAY, MAY 7

Pet Rabies and Distemper Clinic
9 a.m. – 1 p.m. Memorial Park, Beacon
845-831-5161

Apple Blossom Festival
10 a.m. – 3 p.m. Fishkill Farms
9 Fishkill Farm Road, Hopewell Junction
845-897-4377 | fishkillfarms.com

Hudson Valley Comic Con
10 a.m. – 6 p.m. Gold’s Gym
See details under Saturday.

Community Blood Drive
11 a.m. – 5 p.m. Lewis Tompkins Hose Co.
13 South Ave., Beacon | nybloodcenter.org

Pete Seeger Festival
2 – 5 p.m. Tompkins Corners Cultural Center
729 Peekskill Hollow Road, Putnam Valley
845-528-7280 | tompkinscorners.org

Serenade of the Soul (Concert)
3 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
See details under Saturday.

Stephen Fry: *The Secret Life of the Manic Depressive* (Documentary)
7:30 p.m. More Good | 383 Main St., Beacon
storyscreenbeacon.com

MONDAY, MAY 8

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

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

TUESDAY, MAY 9

Boscobel Open for Artists
9:30 a.m. – 5 p.m. 1601 Route 9D, Garrison
Closed to general public.

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

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

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

WEDNESDAY, MAY 10

Senior Luncheon
Noon. Philipstown Community Center
107 Glenclyffe Drive, Garrison
845-424-4618 | philipstownrecreation.com

Guided Tour: Alpine Plants
5:30 p.m. Stonecrop Gardens
81 Stonecrop Lane, Cold Spring
845-265-2000 | stonecrop.org

Memento (2000)
7:30 p.m. Harry’s Hot Sandwiches
449 Main St., Beacon | storyscreenbeacon.com

THURSDAY, MAY 11

Rummage Sale
9 a.m. – 3 p.m. St. Joachim’s Church (Gym)
51 Leonard St., Beacon

Backyard Family Farm Skills
3:45 p.m. Glynwood Farm | Details under Tuesday.

Haldane District Voter Registration
4 – 8 p.m. Haldane Elementary
15 Craigsides Drive, Cold Spring
845-265-9254 | haldaneschool.org

Hope on the Hudson (Documentary)
6 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St., Beacon
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com

FRIDAY, MAY 12

Rummage Sale
9 a.m. – 2 p.m. St. Joachim’s Church
See details under Thursday.

Putnam Service Dogs Golf Tournament
10:30 a.m. Centennial Golf Club | 185 John Simpson Road, Carmel | putnamservicedogs.org

François Chaignaud & Cecilia Bengolea (Performance)
3 p.m. Dia:Beacon | 3 Beekman St., Beacon
845-440-0100 | diabeacon.org

LuLaRoe with Erin and Leigh Pop-Up Shop
3 – 8 p.m. A Little Beacon Space
291 Main St., Beacon | lularoe.com

How to Dance in Ohio with Q&A (grades 6-8)
5:30 p.m. Butterfield Library | 10 Morris Ave., Cold Spring | 845-265-3040 | butterfieldlibrary.org

Beacon Open Studios Kick-Off
6 p.m. Oak Vino Wine Bar
389 Main St., Beacon | beaconopenstudios.org

A Mindful Mother’s Day Weekend Retreat (Opens)
6 p.m. Garrison Institute | 14 Mary’s Way, Garrison
845-424-4800 | garrisoninstitute.org

I Now Pronounce You ... Lucy Stone
6 p.m. Beacon Elks Lodge | 900 Wolcott Ave., Beacon | Email gonzo4851@aol.com
Benefits Madam Brett Homestead Roof Fund

From Villa to Mansion: The Journey from Democracy to Aristocracy (Talk)
6:30 p.m. Boscobel | 1601 Route 9D, Garrison
845-265-3638 | boscobel.org

Hudson Valley Poets
7 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
See details under Saturday.

Anne Carson Reading
7 p.m. Binnacle Books | 321 Main St., Beacon
845-838-6191 | binnaclebooks.com

The Manhattan Transfer
8 p.m. Paramount Hudson Valley
1008 Brown St., Peekskill
914-739-0039 | paramounthudsonvalley.com

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Friends for Life (from Page 9)

retrievers, which she believes too often have genetic deficiencies due to in-breeding.

Ideally the adoptions are completed when a puppy is 8 to 10 weeks old, she says, because "from 3 to 14 weeks is the critical learning period, and using that time to give them experiences to make them as confident as possible is key."

"They cannot be timid," she explains. "They need to be exposed to all the novelty they will encounter. The No. 1 reason dogs are released from service is a lack of confidence. They have to be friendly and be able to navigate crowds and need to focus; they can't be easily distracted. Basically the dog can't be a dog in the sense that they can't socialize with other dogs. They need to focus on the person."

About two of every three potential service dogs fail the training, she says.

"Dogs can even be trained to push buttons to open elevator or entry doors, help people dress and operate light switches."

"Labs, retriever and shepherd mixes do best." Dogs that don't meet the standards are adopted out.

"We need good retrievers for people who drop things and need assistance that way and also small, alert dogs for those with hearing difficulties," she says. "Dogs can even be trained to push buttons to open elevator or entry doors, help people dress and operate light switches. Each person's needs will be different, and therefore each dog's training needs to be individually tailored."

Formal training begins at 15 months. Before that, volunteer puppy raisers teach basic commands and socialization, which will be useful later because a dog often helps its person overcome isolation. While people might shy away from a stranger with a physical handicap, a dog makes them more approachable.

Along with its continuing fundraising

(its first golf tournament will be held May 12 at the Centennial Golf Club in Carmel), Putnam Service Dogs is recruiting puppy raisers, who must meet stringent guidelines, as do any dogs they own.

"If there's a dog there who jumps on visitors, unfortunately we can't place a puppy in that home because dogs copy the behavior of other dogs," Teague says. "We also need people who are home all day, because at this age, the puppies can't be left alone for more than an hour." For information, see putnamservicedogs.org.



Amy and Allie

Photo provided

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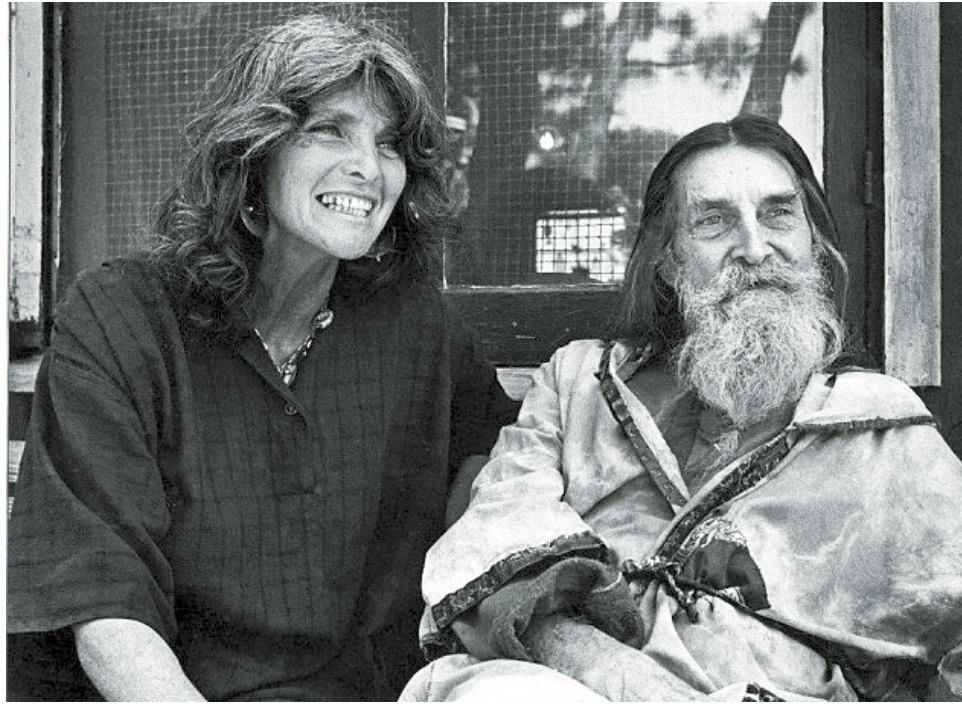
Leaving Zendik Farm *(from Page 9)*

— rugged, fierce, mostly young — claimed to be starting a revolution to save humans from death by competition and lies, and the Earth from ecocide,” she wrote in a synopsis of the book. “It didn’t hurt that the farm was crawling with hot guys. Or that, at 22, I’d yet to have sex or a serious relationship. When I discovered that the Zendiks used go-betweens to arrange sexual assignations, or ‘dates,’ in cozy shacks just big enough for a double bed and a nightstand, I rejoiced — here, the mating dance was choreographed. And I could get help with the moves. Within two weeks, I’d handed over my grant money and vowed to stay for life.”

However, there was a catch. After Wulf died, Arol took over, and she was “an aging matriarch bent on ruling every heart. She split up lovers who grew too close, warning sexual corruption would lure us to betray the revolution. Dissolving into her panopticon, I surrendered love after love.”

Zuman felt early on that Zendik fit the pattern of a cult. “My working, sound-bite definition of a cult is a group of people in thrall to a leader who uses fear, false hope and magical thinking to exploit and control them,” she wrote in 2008. People join these isolated communities as “a response to deficits in the broader culture,” she says. They see the structure of an everyday life and, for whatever reason, can’t embrace it.

Before her death, Arol rejected the



Arol Wulf and Wulf Zendik

idea that Zendik was in any way a cult, writing that her husband “never wanted to be anyone’s guru. He wanted people to think for themselves They were always free to do as they please and certainly to come and go as they pleased.”

Getting out

Arriving at Zendik’s compound, Zuman had misgivings about the isolation. But as time went by, she became “more willing to subject myself to whatever suffering was coming my way,” she says. She says she accepted Arol’s dominion; and the ensuing years became a “push-and-pull between

the mind and the body. Inside you may be going, ‘Uh-oh,’ but there’s a desire to belong that’s so strong it overwhelms” any doubts about the details.

After two-and-a-half years at Zendik, after having a relationship ended by Arol and struggling to sell the newspaper and merchandise that supported the farm, Zuman reached a tipping point. Zendik had created something called an “out” in which members could return to the “DeathKultur” for a while to renew their commitment to the commune.

Zuman traveled during her out, mostly by hitchhiking. But after an

assault, she decided to return. “When I came back I was a little more self-possessed, but I was immediately called out for that,” she says.

In the ensuing months, Zuman said, another relationship budded only to be squashed by Arol. Zuman believes that Arol “believed her own rhetoric, but she also did knowingly practice deception, which she justified by saying, ‘But we’re saving the world.’”

Zendik’s move from a complex in North Carolina to a single house in West Virginia revealed further chinks in the guru armor, Zuman says. “I had hoped that when we moved, some of the hierarchy would dissipate,” she says. After Zuman performed poorly on a selling trip, a meeting was called about what to do with her. “The group decided that I should go,” she says. “People were periodically kicked out. It was a way to maintain cohesion and a reminder that ‘your place here is never guaranteed.’” She was given \$10 and driven to the nearest highway.

“Part of me had a sense of doom,” she says of her freedom, but she found a farming job and eventually returned to Brooklyn. In 2008 she began writing a blog about her experience at the farm and was contacted by other former members. “We talked not about what was wrong with us, but with them,” she says. Arol and others left disparaging comments, Zuman says, but “the biggest negative response came from people who had left the farm but still believed.”



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Say Hello to Our Summer Guests

Migratory birds return to marsh to nest

By Jeff Simms

May is the ideal month to spot migratory birds as they return to the Highlands from their winters away. Some 74 species have been documented breeding in and around Constitution Marsh, the 270-acre wildlife sanctuary that has been managed by Audubon since 1970.

Here is a guide compiled with the assistance of Eric Lind, the marsh's director, to several birds you are likely to see there, as well as a few others that may require more patience. The marsh's spring benefit will be held on Sunday, May 7, from 4 to 7 p.m. at Boscobel. Call 845-265-2601, ext. 11.

COMMON

Marsh wrens are small, energetic and vocal birds that are nevertheless vulnerable because they are exclusively dependent on marshy habitats. They winter along the Gulf Coast and in Mexico.



Marsh Wren

Tree swallows arrive in the Highlands by April to nest in old woodpecker holes in dead trees found along the shores of the marsh. In the past, flocks of tens of thousands of tree and other swallows would assemble in the late summer before heading south. While still common, these numbers have diminished greatly over the past 20 years, most likely due to diminished food sources and environmental contaminants.



Tree Swallow

The **Red-eyed Vireo** spend the winter over a large portion of South America and return to the region to nest in tall trees. Researchers have discovered a red-eyed vireo that lived for more than 10 years and thus made this transcontinental trip at least 20 times over its lifespan. Like many migratory songbirds, vireos eat caterpillars and other insects but also fatten up on berries in the late summer.



Red-eyed Vireo

Cedar Waxwings are a good example of a more opportunistic traveler that only makes a long seasonal trip if it has to. They will migrate southward, but if it is a mild winter with plenty of lingering fruits from native trees and shrubs, they will stay in our area all year long. Like many other songbirds, they can benefit from human efforts to plant and restore native vegetation to our parks, lawns and gardens.



Cedar Waxwing

LESS COMMON

Like most marsh birds, the **Least Bittern** can be difficult to spot, and you may only hear their cooed vocalizations. These herons winter as far south as Central America.



Least Bittern

Veeries winter in South America and fly more than 100 miles each night at high altitudes to return to the Highlands. They are a type of thrush, related to robins and bluebirds, and nest in low branches or on the ground where there is a thick understory.

Like Tree Swallows, **Louisiana Waterthrushes** return in April after wintering in Central and South America and the Caribbean. They are actually not a thrush but a warbler, and are dependent on the clean, fast-moving and well-vegetated freshwater streams that course through the Highlands' forests. They nest



Veery

Photo by Simon Pierre Barrette

under fallen logs or in other openings in protected stream banks. The bird shown here has yet to develop the sleek, attractive feathers of an adult.

Photos provided by Constitution Marsh



Louisiana Waterthrush

Bird Marathon

On Saturday, May 13, the Putnam Highlands Audubon Society will hold its annual Birdathon, in which teams in Beacon, Garrison, Putnam Valley and Wappingers spot as many species as possible from Long Island to the Catskills to raise money for programming and conservation. Anyone can participate; email Perry Pitt at perrypitt@yahoo.com. To donate, see putnamhighlandsaudubon.org or send a check to PHAS, P.O. Box 292, Cold Spring, NY 10516.

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COMMUNITY BRIEFS



George Leiter and Walter Hoess will visit China this summer as part of a youth orchestra. Photo provided

Haldane Musicians Headed to China

Trumpeters part of youth orchestra tour

Haldane junior George Leiter and eighth-grader Walter Hoess are headed to China in July as part of a 10-day Children's Orchestra Society tour. The orchestra will play with the Shanghai Youth Orchestra at Shanghai Symphony Hall and also perform in Hangzhou and Ningbo.

Greg Smith, a professional musician who volunteers at Haldane, heard that the orchestra's founder and director, Yeou-Cheng Ma (a sister of Yo-Yo Ma), needed trumpet players for the tour. He recommended Leiter and Hoess, who impressed Ma in auditions. Founded in 1962, the orchestra is a nonprofit dedicated to "teaching the language of music" to children and teens.

Garrison Student Advances in Science Fair

Seventh-grader wins at regional level

Charlotte Dinitz, a seventh-grader at the Garrison School, on April 22 won



Charlotte Dinitz

first place in the middle school Earth/Space Science division at the Annual Tri-County Science & Technology Fair for her project, "Mud Power." She was also among a group of seven students from Putnam, Westchester and Rockland counties who scored 90 percent or better, allowing her to advance to a national competition to be judged this summer.

Among Garrison elementary students, Jasmine Wallis, Charles Rowe and Frank Lanza each received awards of excellence. The fair, which was held at White Plains High School, is organized by the Putnam Children's Discovery Center in Carmel.

Rubber Ducky Race

Eighth graders raise \$1,200 for trip

With a rubber ducky race in Philipse Brook, the eighth-grade class at the Garrison School on April 29 raised more than \$1,200 for an overnight trip to Boston. The ducks, each numbered, floated 75 yards down the brook near the Walter Hoving Home. Supporters paid \$5 to sponsor each duck with a chance at a \$200 prize. It was won by Raymond O'Rourke, a 2014 graduate of the school, who donated his winnings to the class.

Libraries Launch Film Club

Designed for middle school students

The Howland, Butterfield and Desmond-Fish libraries have launched a

movie series for middle school students. The Reel Life Film Club kicks off at 5:30 p.m. on Friday, May 12, at the Butterfield Library in Cold Spring with *How to Dance in Ohio*, a documentary about teens and young adults on the autism spectrum preparing for a spring formal.

On Friday, June 2, at 6 p.m., the Howland Library in Beacon will show *Racing Dreams*, which chronicles three young racers as they compete in the World Karting Association series.

A third film selected by the students will be shown at the Desmond-Fish Library in Garrison at 6 p.m. on Friday, July 7. Pizza will be served at each screening and the films' directors will answer questions.

Needed: Women Artists

Putnam Arts Council issues open call

The Putnam Arts Council has issued an open call for an exhibit, *Celebrating Women*, that will be on view at its Mahopac gallery from May 21 to June 16. Art may be brought to the gallery on May 7 or May 21 for the show, which coincides with the 100th anniversary of women receiving the right to vote in New York. For entry fees and size restrictions, see putnam-artsCouncil.com.

Lions Club Scholarship

Open to residents of Philipstown

For the 57th year, the Cold Spring Lions Club will award a \$3,000 college scholarship to a 2017 high school graduate who is a resident of Philipstown. The award is based on need, academic record and the potential to succeed. Applications are available in the guidance offices at Haldane, O'Neill and Panas high schools and must be returned by May 17. Applicants will be interviewed on May 25 and 26.

Cold Spring Needs Committee Members

Parking and July 4 vacancies

The Cold Spring Board of Trustees is seeking volunteers for its parking and Independence Day committees. Send a letter and brief resume to the village clerk at 85 Main St., Cold Spring, NY 10516. The deadline is May 16.

Leaky Toilets Be Gone

County launches pilot program

The Putnam County Department of Health has launched a pilot program to

help homeowners identify leaking toilets. Free tablets are dropped into the tank; if they indicate a leak, a \$15 kit can be used to replace the flush valve. Call 845-808-1390.

Get Ready to Plant

Sales scheduled for May

The Philipstown Garden Club has moved its annual plant sale to the Garrison Firehouse on Route 9, and on Saturday, May 13, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., it will be selling organic vegetables, herbs, annuals, perennials, garden supplies and gifts. The club also will have baked goods, activities for kids, fresh flowers, raffles and members available to answer gardening questions. Ten percent of plant sales will benefit the Garrison and Haldane school gardens.

Haldane will hold a seedling sale on the blacktop at the school from 3 to 4 p.m. on Wednesday, May 10, to benefit its garden. It will include flowers, vegetables, assorted annuals and perennials and strawberry plants.

Common Ground Farm will hold its annual plant sale at Tito Santana Taqueria on Main Street in Beacon from noon to 3 p.m. on Saturday, May 13, offering vegetables, herbs and flowers. An order form can be downloaded from commongroundfarm.org.

In Brewster, the Master Gardener Plant Sale will be held at the Cornell Cooperative Extension office on Saturday, May 20, from 8:30 a.m. to noon. It features heirloom and hybrid varieties of vegetables, herbs, annuals and perennials. Master Gardeners will be available to answer questions and provide free soil pH tests (bring a two-cup sample). See putnam.cce.cornell.edu.

The Hudson Highlands Nature Museum will host its Native Plant Sale on Saturday, May 20, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Outdoor (Continued on next page)



Members of the Putnam County Young Republican Club celebrated Earth Day on April 22 by picking up litter at Mayor's Park in Cold Spring. Photo provided



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COMMUNITY BRIEFS



Half Moon in the Hudson Highlands, a photograph by Joseph Squillante, will be auctioned at the Garrison Art Center.

Image provided

(From previous page) Discovery Center in Cornwall. The selection includes plants that attract pollinators, butterflies and hummingbirds. Many are also drought-tolerant and deer-resistant. See hhn.org.

Garrison Art Center Auction

Annual riverside event is May 13

The Garrison Art Center will hold its annual Riverside Art Auction on Saturday, May 13. It will begin with refreshments and viewing at 3:30 p.m., followed by the auction at 5 p.m. A select group of works is available for bidding at garrison-artcenter.org.

How Women Shaped the Valley

Historian to discuss female leaders

Vernon Benjamin, author of *The History of the Hudson River Valley: From the Civil War to Modern Times*, will discuss women leaders and heroines from the American Revolution through the 1960s in a talk scheduled for 5 p.m. on Saturday, May 13, at the Putnam History Museum in Cold Spring. Admission is \$5 for non-members. To reserve a seat, search for "Putnam History Museum" at eventbrite.com.



Historian Vernon Benjamin will speak on women who shaped the Hudson Valley.

Photo provided

Love in the Air

Ensemble to perform May 13

The Brasiles Ensemble, a vocal chamber group, will perform a concert focused on springtime love at 7 p.m., on Saturday, May 13, at the Chapel Restoration in Cold Spring.

The group — sopranos Madeleine Denitto and Kimberly Hiss, alto Laura Danilov, tenor Paul Phillips and bass Edgar Robinson — will highlight composers from the Renaissance to contemporary times. The suggested donation is \$12 (\$10 for seniors).

Slavery in New York

Historian to discuss new research

Dennis Maika, senior historian and education director at the New Netherland Institute, will speak at 10 a.m. on Saturday, May 13, on new research into the origins of slavery in 17th-century New Netherland and the Hudson Valley. The free program will be held at the Putnam Valley Library at 30 Oscawana Lake Road. Call 845-528-1024.

Free Campouts for Newbies

State hopes to get families into parks

New York State will provide free stocked campsites this summer at various state parks to encourage families who have never camped to get into the woods. The First-Time Camper program, which takes place on weekends from July 7 through Aug. 25, hopes to provide a "turnkey camping experience" for families, especially those from underserved communities, by providing a family sized tent, sleeping bags and pads, camp chairs, a lantern and firewood, as well as onsite lessons in Camping 101.

Reservations will be taken on a first-come, first-served basis starting at 9 a.m. on May 17. Call 518-474-6718.



Restoring the Woody Guthrie

Photo provided

Beacon

Sloop Restoration Nearly Done

Fundraiser aimed at final phases

The Beacon Sloop Club will hold a fundraiser for the final phases of the restoration of sloop Woody Guthrie from 1 to 8 p.m. on Saturday, May 13, at the Sloop Brewing Co. in Elizaville. Tickets are \$60 and include beer, an outdoor pig roast or vegetarian fare, lawn games, a brewery tour and a souvenir glass. Live music will be provided by The Conniptions, CREW, the Judith Tulloch Band, Nellybombs and others. See beaconsloopclub.org.

Climate Advocate Training

New chapter of activist group

A newly formed chapter of the Citizen's Climate Lobby will hold a Climate Advocate training session from 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, May 13, at the Howland Library in Beacon. The lobby says it hopes to build positive, respectful relationships with elected officials and to focus on consumer-friendly and market solutions with bipartisan support. Email CCL.NY18@gmail.com.

Free Admission for Moms

Mount Gulian open on May 14

The historic Mount Gulian house and grounds will offer free admission to moms on Sunday, May 14, to celebrate Mother's Day. Admission for other family members is \$8 for adults and \$4 for children ages 6 to 18. Children ages 5 and younger are free. Tours begin at 1 and 2:15 p.m. See mountgulian.org.

How the Hudson Shaped Franklin Roosevelt

Lecture to discuss river's influence on president

Neil Maher, a professor who teaches environmental and political history, will speak at 7 p.m. on Thursday, May 11, on Nature's New Deal: The Great Depression and Franklin Roosevelt in New York's Hudson Valley as part of the Beacon Sloop Club lecture series.

The free event, which takes place in the sloop clubhouse next to the train station, will address how Roosevelt's experiences growing up on the banks of the river influenced his approach to the New Deal and the Civilian Conservation Corps. See beaconsloopclub.org. The lecture was rescheduled from February.



Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1937 aboard the U.S.S. Potomac on the Hudson River near Hyde Park

FDR Library

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Walk Right In

Open Studios returns to Beacon for ninth year

By Brian PJ Cronin

Samantha Palmeri came to Beacon a few years ago to check out its Open Studios event, in which artists welcome visitors to view their process and art. When it was over, she didn't want to leave.

"The quantity and quality of art is what made me decide I wanted to live here," said Palmeri, who moved to Beacon with her family soon after. The abstract painter has not only participated in every Open Studios

"Some people want to see how artists work. I'm a big fan of that because I'm a sculptor. I hope people will see it as a working space so that I can talk about ideas that I'm working on, and they can see my process."

since but this year took over as director.

The event begins on Friday, May 12, from 6 to 9 p.m., with a party at Oak Vino, 389 Main St., followed by open studios from noon to 6 p.m., on Saturday and Sunday. Some 50 artists are taking part at 20 locations, including facilities like the old high school and Spire Studios and homes and garages. (See beaconopenstudios.org for a map.)



Effluence, by Lori Merhige, will be installed in front of Beacon's Municipal Building.

Photo provided

On South Chestnut Street, Lori Merhige will welcome visitors to the garage studio behind her home. "Some people just come for the free snacks and booze, and honestly that's fine, I've been that person," Merhige says. "Some people come because they look at it like a gallery and they want to buy." Merhige, who teaches art in the Beacon afterschool program, will have crafts and activities for children. (Expect glitter, she says. Lots of



Save Me From My Desires, by Samantha Palmeri Image provided


glitter.) She didn't participate last year because she had just completed an ambitious work — a sculpture made of reinforced gypsum that spent the

summer on display at the Reeves Reed Arboretum in Summit, New Jersey — and her studio was empty.

This year that piece, called *Effluence*, is back in the studio, disassembled, as Merhige prepares for it to be installed in front of Beacon's Municipal Building. Weather permitting, she plans to set up large-scale works in her driveway. She also has models and poured iron pieces that serve as inspiration for larger works.

Many of her pieces bring to mind cloth, which is no surprise in that she grew up working with textiles at a factory owned by her family. "It's like alchemy," she says. "Because of my background in fabrics, I want to transform the fabric by freezing it in time."

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Small, Good Things

Be Here Now

By Joe Dizney

After the endless grey days of winter and early spring, when change happens at a glacial pace, spring is a rapid-fire feast for the senses. The fragrance of viburnums is replaced overnight by the perfume of lilacs and the garden and woods fill with transient treats. The delicate trilliums are floral cues that wonders are afoot — Asparagus! Ramps! Morels! — each with a sinfully abbreviated season of three to four weeks. The time is now.



Morchella esculenta : the yellow morel, literally “edible mushroom,” and who are we to argue?

Ramps, also known as wild garlic or wood leeks, were the first of these I noticed, and my neighbor and I have been harvesting a slope of them for weeks. The whole plant is edible, and the flavor and smell is a pungent combination of onions and garlic.

At the Cold Spring Farmers’ Market on April 29, Madura Farms offered the first morels I’d seen locally and prompted this week’s recipe. And glory-of-glories, three days later, while walking my dog, I stumbled upon my first wild morels. (Last year I logged them in around May 20.) Commonly called yellow or golden morels, they are found in forests, orchards, yards and gardens, usually near deciduous trees, particularly ash, sycamores, tulip trees, aged apple trees or dying elms.

Morels are a relatively safe bet as most of the notoriously poisonous varieties — the amanitas and such — are “in season” much later. Their only lookalike is the “false morel,” which is nominally edible but requires specific preparation and par-boiling to avoid gastric complications. (In fact, all wild-foraged mushrooms should be cooked, and by no means should you attempt an amateur identification.)

Given these caveats, there are few gastronomic partnerships as compatible as the meaty earthiness of morels and the pungent richness of ramps. Unless, of course, you add the delicate vegetal sweetness of, say, asparagus, which is in season now and can be culled in the wild (I’ve found large specimens along a trail on Mt. Beacon).

In this recipe, briefly cooked asparagus and sautéed mushrooms are tossed with



This moment will not come again soon: farro salad with asparagus, ramps and morels

Photos by J. Dizney

raw ramps, spring onions and crunchy cooked farro, an Italian grain made from dried spelt berries. Although it may sound exotic, Bob’s Red Hill brand is available at Foodtown or Nature’s Pantry.

If you want to get a bit wilder, substitute fiddleheads (also just appearing) for the asparagus. Or, if you’re hesitant, substitute cultivated shitake mushrooms (also available at Foodtown and most markets) for the morels, and green onion tops for the ramps.

Just don’t wait too long: this moment won’t last forever.

Farro Salad with Asparagus, Ramps and Morels

Serves 6

2 cups cooked farro (1 cup dry, prepared to package directions)
 ½ lb. morels (substitute shitakes), cleaned and quartered
 2 medium shallots, minced fine
 1 lb. fresh asparagus (tough ends removed)
 ¼-to-½ lb. sustainably harvested ramps, cleaned and sliced into a thin (¼ in.) chiffonade*

4 large (¾-to-1-in. bulbs) spring green onions (scallions), bulbs only, sliced thin*
 1 tbsp. fresh lemon juice
 1 tbsp. white wine vinegar
 1 tsp. Dijon mustard
 Salt and freshly ground black pepper
 Extra virgin olive oil (about 1 cup total)

1. Heat a couple of tablespoons of olive oil in a medium sauté pan over medium-high heat. Cook one tablespoon of the minced shallots until just softened and add the morels, cooking for about 5 minutes to remove any moisture. (Add a splash of soy sauce to them while cooking if it’s handy for extra umami.) Remove from heat and reserve.
2. Bring a wide pot or skillet with at least 3 to 4 inches of salted water to a boil, and cook the asparagus spears for a mere 2 minutes. Immediately drain them and plunge into an ice water bath to stop cooking. Drain thoroughly; bias cut spears into 2-to-3-inch pieces and reserve.
3. Make vinaigrette, whisking the lemon juice, vinegar, remaining minced shallot, salt and pepper to taste with ½ cup of the olive oil.
4. Toss all the ingredients together lightly to mix, adding extra oil if necessary. Correct the seasoning if necessary and serve.

*Reserve the onion greens for another use or substitute them for the ramps.

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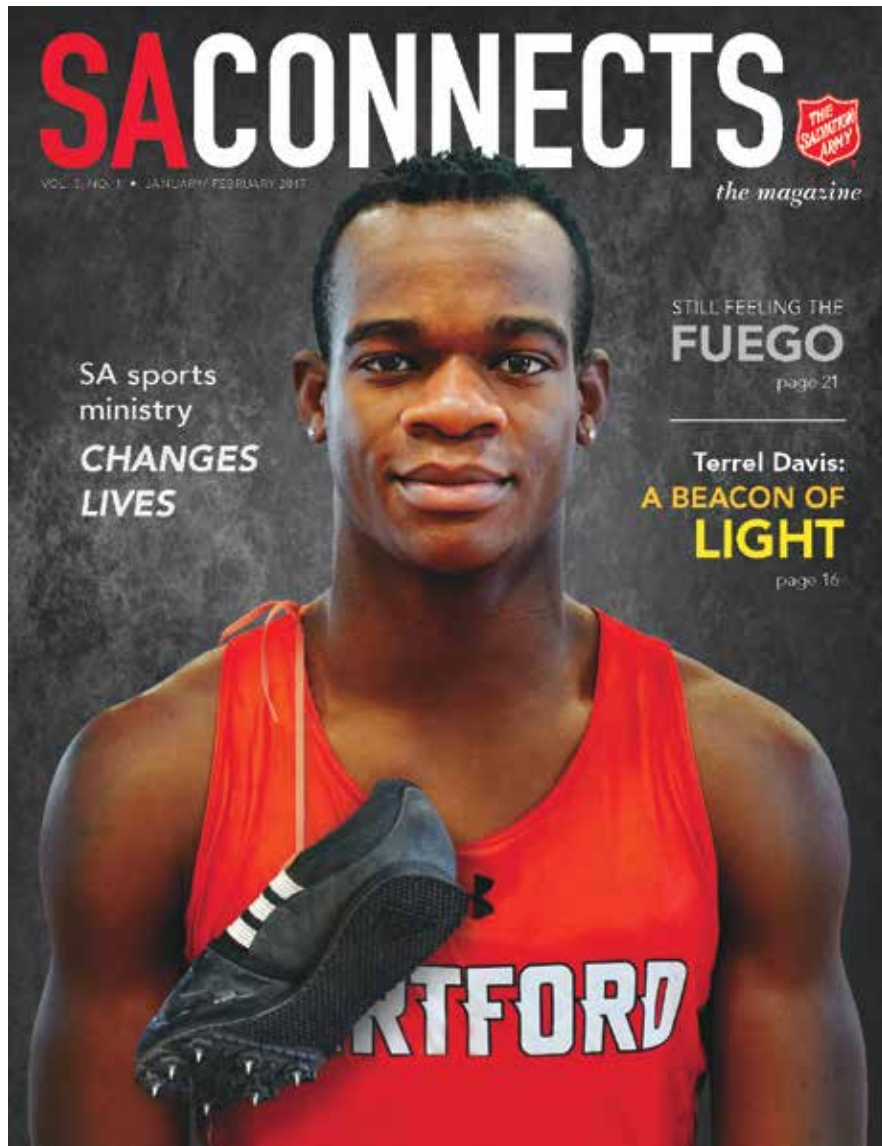
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Sports



Highlands Current Athlete of the Week

Terrel Davis, University of Hartford

Davis, a 2016 Beacon High School graduate and former indoor state champion in the long jump, set a University of Hartford record on April 22 with an outdoor leap of 7.25 meters at the UAlbany Spring Classic. More recently, the 5'8" freshman, who is studying architectural engineering,

won the event at the Yale Springtime Invitational on April 30 with a jump of 6.99 meters. In January Davis was featured on the cover of *SA Connects*, the magazine of the Salvation Army (left). He and his mother, Cheryl, are both senior soldiers in the Beacon Corps.

High School Varsity Scoreboard

Boys' Lacrosse

Haldane 11, North Salem 9
Sam Giachinta (6 goals)
Lourdes 10, Haldane 5
Haldane 4, Pawling 3 (OT)

Girls' Lacrosse

Beacon 10, FDR 9
Bulldogs notch first win

Baseball

Haldane 11, Poughkeepsie 10
Aidan Siegel (2 doubles, triple)
Haldane 9, Hamilton 6
Haldane 8, Hamilton 7
Kyle Kisslinger, Justin Maldonado (both 4-for-4)
Haldane 10, Coleman 1
Haldane 10, North Salem 4
North Salem ranked No. 2 in state in Class C
Beacon 6, Arlington B 4

Beacon 3, Albertus Magnus 2

Alex Callaway (3-for-3); Frankie Fusco (2-for-3);
Joe Decandia (5 innings, one earned run)
Beacon 19, Peekskill 0
Callaway: 3-for-5 (HR)

Softball

Haldane 10, Putnam Valley 3
Abigail Platt (3-for-3)
Haldane 24, Beacon 9
Pawling 18, Haldane 3
Walter Panas 20, Beacon 0
Hendrick Hudson 18, Beacon 11

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Sports

Haldane Defeats Beacon in Rematch

The Haldane girls' softball team traveled to Beacon on May 1 for a rematch with the Bulldogs. In their first game on April 10 in Cold Spring, the Blue Devils came from behind to win in nine innings, 5-4. This one was not as close, with Haldane prevailing, 24-9.

Photos by Ross Corsair



Beacon senior Lauren Schneider pops up a foul ball. Molly Siegel is the Haldane catcher.



Freshman Bela Monteleone



Junior Madison Scarchilli



Freshman Shianne Twoguns



Haldane Coach Nick Lisikatos seems skeptical speaking with the umpire.



Senior Hannah Monteleone races for home.

Sports

Passing the Baton

Haldane team runs at Penn Relays 33 years after dramatic finish by coach – and mom

By Leigh Alan Klein

On Thursday, April 27, the Haldane High School 400-meter girls' team — Abbey Stowell, Ashley Haines, Jamie Calimano and Heather Winne — competed in the 123rd annual Penn Relays in Philadelphia, finishing their heat in 4:25.14. It was just one of more than 70 races that day at the event, which takes place at the University of Pennsylvania over three days and features hundreds of high school, college and Olympic athletes.

After the races on Friday, the Penn Relays held a dinner to enshrine some top performers into its "Wall of Fame," including the Villanova women's team that won the 1984 distance-medley relay. The Wildcats were anchored by a freshman, Lauren Searby of Oyster Bay — now known as Lauren Haines of Cold Spring, and as the mother of Ashley Haines, who anchors the Blue Devils team.



Ashley Haines with her mother, Lauren Haines, at the Penn Relays on April 27

Photo by Michael Haines



Haldane Coach AJ McConville, Ashley Haines, Heather Winne, Jamie Calimano, Abbey Stowell and Assistant Coach Lauren Haines at the Penn Relays on April 27

Photo by Michael Haines

"It was a warm day [80 degrees], and we had a slight lead, a few yards" when the baton came to her, recalls Haines, who is an assistant coach on the Haldane track team. "I knew I was up against Joetta Clark from Tennessee, a senior who was really fast. Going out, after my first quarter [as anchor, she ran four laps], the coach yelled out, '52 seconds!' which was a quick pace.

"I knew Joetta was close behind me; I saw her shadow and I could hear her breathing," Haines says. "I was told that she tried to pass me three times. In the last 200 meters, I switched gears. I didn't realize what happened, I just remember my teammates coming over and celebrating."

Villanova finished in 10:53.27, carving 15 seconds off the world outdoor record. (Three decades later, the record stands at 10:36.50.) Joetta Clark went on to run in four Olympics. Haines in 1984 was named both an indoor (1,500 meters) and outdoor (3,000 meters) All-American. She finished her collegiate career as a seven-time Big East champion.

Because the 4x800 race at the Penn Relays on April 29 was run in honor of the 1984 Villanova team, Haines was asked to present the traditional gold watch to the first-place finishers, which happened to be Villanova. The day before, the Wildcat women's distance-medley team also won. "That was our team 33 years ago," she says. "The energy was incredible with 55,000 people there."

In high school, Haines was the only girl on her

What is a "distance medley"?

It's a four-person relay of about 2.5 miles in which each runner covers a different distance. In order, the legs are 1,200 meters (three laps on a 400-meter track), 400 meters (one lap), 800 meters (two laps) and 1,600 meters (four laps).

track team and she had not run in a relay until she arrived at Villanova. As a Haldane coach, she says she enjoys "motivating and inspiring" the athletes. "I know what they are going through, and they know I relate," she says. Her daughter, who turned 16 on the day of the Penn Relay race, asks for advice, "but I try not to be overbearing," she says. "It's a fine line as coach and mom." She does concede that it brings pride "to see how beautiful her stride is."

Haines sees running as a reflection of life. "It mirrors the highs and lows," she says. "Track is the ultimate training tool for other sports and for life."



Lauren Searby edges Joetta Clark in the final leg of the women's distance-medley relay at the Penn Relays in 1984.

Photo by Mike Feldman/UPI



LITTLE LEAGUE ACTION — Milo Pearsall, at left, belted a two-run homer to give the Yankees a 2-0 lead on April 29. Above, Ryder Griffin of the Mets receives instructions from the first-base coach, his father Aaron Griffin, during the game. At right, Jessica Tudor pitches for the Mets.

Photos by Robert Ferreria

