

The HIGHLANDS Current



Movies on Main
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JUNE 16, 2017

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‘How Could This Happen?’

Beacon residents push back against development

By Jeff Simms

Dan Aymar-Blair says he didn’t set out to be an organizer. It’s just that he kept hearing the same question from his Beacon neighbors and friends: “How could this happen?”

They were talking about the rapid growth in the number of apartments and condos in the city, where more than 400 residential units are in construction at various sites within Beacon’s 5 square miles. Another 100-plus units have been approved, more than 400 are being considered by the Planning Board and 300 are “in discussion” but have not been submitted for review.

An intense discussion of these numbers began on Facebook about 10 days ago, and the voluminous dialogue quickly translated into offline reality. Suddenly, “boom! — it was like releasing this pent-up energy that was ready for discussion,” notes Aymar-Blair, one of the organizers of the newly formed Beacon People’s Committee on Development.

The grassroots organization will have its first meeting at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, June 22, at a home in Beacon. The plan is to discuss what the group perceives as overdevelopment, and to come up with ways to share their concerns with city leaders. For details, search on Facebook for “Beacon People’s Committee on Development.”



Can you identify each of these six Beacon developments? Answers are on Page 7.

Photos by J. Simms

“The things we’re hearing from people is that they don’t understand the process,” Aymar-Blair said, so the meeting will include discussion of the newly updated comprehensive plan.

City officials seem willing to be part of the conversation. Mayor Randy Casale said during the June 12 City Council workshop that he plans to hold town hall meetings to address the “buzz” on development and answer questions.

While the pace of the growth may seem overwhelming, Casale says it’s largely going according to plan.

“What’s happening now is the comprehensive plan is getting built out, and people are getting nervous,” he said. “Some of the problems that people are talking about, like parking, we have been addressing. It will take time to get to where we need to get with it.”

Following several well-attended public hearings, the (Continued on Page 7)

Putnam Sheriff Settles Defamation Case

County will pay \$125K; \$45 million suit looms

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

After apologizing for making false statements about then-District Attorney Adam Levy, Putnam County Sheriff Donald Smith on June 13 agreed to settle a defamation suit brought against him by Levy. The sheriff will pay Levy \$25,000 and the county, as Smith’s employer, will pay \$125,000.

The settlement occurred on the second day of a trial in Putnam County Supreme Court. In May, Smith dropped a countersuit, filed in 2014, after Levy called him “clearly delusional” and “absolutely paranoid.”

A separate, \$45 million lawsuit against Putnam County, Smith and three officers continues in federal court, where a judge on May 22 rejected a motion by the county to dismiss it. She ruled the plaintiff, Alexandru Hossu, had a plausible claim of malicious prosecution.

Smith, first elected sheriff in 2001, seeks his fifth term this fall.

Both lawsuits stemmed from his handling of a criminal case against Hossu, a personal trainer who occasionally stayed in the guest quarters of Levy’s home in Southeast and who in 2013 was accused of rape by the teenage daughter of Hossu’s girlfriend. Levy recused himself, bringing in Westchester County prosecutors, but assisted Hossu (Continued on Page 6)

Hard Lessons from Zion

A nuclear plant may close, but it doesn’t go away

By Brian PJ Cronin

The Indian Point Energy Center in Buchanan, which is scheduled to close in 2022, is one of six nuclear plants across the U.S. expected to shut down over the next decade. Each plant and the community around it will need to address the same crucial problem that plagues the 30 reactors decommissioned since 1957: where do you send millions of pounds of fuel rods that will remain radioactive for tens of thousands of years?

The answer, for now, is nowhere.

“There’s 2.2 million pounds of spent nuclear fuel rods on our lakefront, 300 yards from Lake Michigan,” said Al Hill, the mayor of Zion, Illinois, who spoke on June 9 at a forum at the Desmond-Fish Library in Garrison organized by the *Journal News*, Clearwater and the National Resources Defense Council.

The Zion plant closed in 1998, and the cleanup continues. (Continued on Page 8)



Technicians for ZionSolutions, the company decommissioning a nuclear plant in Illinois, removed the last large components to be shipped elsewhere in March 2016.

ZionSolutions



SOARING VIEW — On June 10, Sandy and Shelley Saunders hosted their 32nd annual barn dance at their farm on Old Albany Post Road in Garrison. For another take on the event, see page 19.

Photo by Dave Lant

Philipstown Adopts Climate Pledge

First locale in Putnam to pass state initiative

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

The Philipstown Town Board on June 7 pledged to make Philipstown a “climate-smart community” by cutting pollution-causing emissions and taking other steps to fight global warming. The step makes Philipstown eligible for state funding.

The Cold Spring Village Board considered the state’s Climate Smart Communities Pledge in May 2012 but took no action.

It was the Philipstown board’s second environmental initiative in less than a week. On June 1, it reiterated opposition to a proposal to create oil-barge anchorages on the Hudson River, including one between Beacon and Newburgh.

Climate-smart

By a 5-0 vote, the board adopted the Climate Smart Communities Pledge, which is promoted by six state agencies and locally by the Philipstown Garden Club.

In adopting the pledge, a local government promises to:

- Inventory and set goals for reducing emissions of “greenhouse” gases such as carbon dioxide that contribute to global warming.
- Decrease energy consumption in the community.

- Increase reliance on renewable energy.
- Establish waste-management and recycling programs.
- Implement “climate-smart” zoning, land-use and transportation policies.
- Support development of a green economy.

Statewide, about 200 communities have become Climate Smart Communities, and Philipstown is the first in Putnam County.

“Our water is threatened by flammable oil barges and our air and water supplies contaminated by methane and carbon dioxide,” wrote Karen Ertl, the garden club’s

Beacon Pledge

Beacon adopted the voluntary Climate Smart Communities Pledge in 2009, the year the program was established, and by late 2015 had taken action in seven of its 10 sections (see midhudsoncsc.org/communities.html).

At the time, Beacon had completed 16 of the more than 120 actions suggested by the state, including installing solar panels at City Hall, launching a community-wide yard sale to encourage reuse, transitioning to a paperless system, purchasing Renewable Energy Credits to offset carbon emissions, requiring newly constructed city buildings to be energy efficient, collecting yard and electronic waste and being recognized as a Tree City USA by the Arbor Day Foundation.



The Cold Spring waterfront

Photo by L.S. Armstrong

conservation chairperson, in a memo to the board. “If we adopt a course” that can “reduce solid pollution, create sustainable resources of energy, and protect our air and water for future generations, we ask: Where is the down side?”

The Town Board did not see one. Its resolution said Philipstown considers climate change “a real and increasing threat to our local and global environments” that will “endanger our infrastructure, economy and livelihoods; harm our farms, orchards” and ecology, including fish and wildlife; spread invasive species; reduce drinking water sources; and undermine

public health.

By making the designation, Philipstown becomes eligible for competitive Climate Smart Community Grants, which in 2017 will provide a total of \$9.5 million for 50/50 funding of projects related to flood risk reduction; preparation for extreme weather; reduction of vehicle miles travelled, and food waste, landfill methane leakage, and hydrofluorocarbons emissions from refrigeration and other AC equipment. In addition, \$500,000 will be distributed for projects related to certification requirements. Grants also are available for “clean fuel” vehicles. *(Continued on next page)*



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Haldane Names Top Students

Class of 2017 graduates June 17

Haldane High School will hold its annual graduation ceremony at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, June 17, at the school campus. Among those honored will be Catherine Parr, the class valedictorian, and Alessandra "Allie" LaRocco, its salutatorian. For photos of all 67 members of the Class of 2017 and of the graduation ceremony, see highlandscurrent.com.

Catherine Parr

Parr, the valedictorian of the Haldane Class of 2017, will attend the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania to study economics and public policy. She plans to take a course called Athens to Al-Qaeda: Political Theory and International Politics at the London School of Economics before returning to work at the Philipstown Recreation Department summer camp.

A longtime member of student government, Parr served as co-president of the student council during her senior year and vice president during her junior year. She also was vice president of her sophomore class and president of her freshman class.

In addition, Parr served as president and was named most dedicated delegate of Haldane's Model UN. She was also yearbook treasurer and a student representative on the selection committee for the high school principal. For her senior internship, she worked in the office of U.S.



Catherine Parr

Rep. Sean Patrick Maloney.

Recognized as a "Commended Student" in the National Merit Scholarship competition, Catherine served as secretary of the Haldane chapter of the National Honor Society and was named four times to the Haldane Academic Hall of Fame. Her awards include the American Citizenship Award, New York State Senate Youth Leadership Award and the Xerox Award for Innovation and Information Technology.

As a senior, Parr was captain of the volleyball and indoor and outdoor track teams. She won sectional honors in a number of field events, including shot put, javelin and discus.

A longtime volunteer at Our Lady of Loretto, including as a lector, Parr also gave her time for the Knights of Columbus Eas-



Allie LaRocco

ter Egg Hunt, the "Souper Bowl for Caring" Food Drive, the Project Linus blanket drive and the Community Thanksgiving Dinner. In addition, she volunteered at the Outrun Autism 5K Run/Walk and Putnam ARC events and organized a sports clinic for elementary students.

Allie LaRocco

LaRocco, the salutatorian of the Haldane Class of 2017, will attend Yale University to study biomedical engineering. She gained an interest in bioethics through her senior internship at the Hastings Center in Garrison, where she conducted a research project on the water contamination crisis in Newburgh. She hopes to go into medical research, concentrating on improving treatment for neuro-degenerative disorders.

A member of the National Honor Society and a National Merit Commended Scholar, LaRocco was named to the Haldane Academic Hall of Fame for four consecutive years.

She founded a Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) program for girls at Haldane Middle School and presented a summer program to the Nora Cronin Academy, a middle school for girls in Newburgh. She volunteered as a math and science tutor at San Miguel Academy, a middle school for boys in Newburgh, and assisted with riding lessons with special-needs clients at the Topfield Equestrian Center.

LaRocco acted in many Haldane dramatic productions, including *Into the Woods* (as Cinderella), and *Pride and Prejudice* (Lydia), and was a member of the Blue Notes a cappella group that in April sang the National Anthem at a New York Mets game.

She also was a member of the band and chorus and was recognized for vocal and dramatic excellence. She was nominated for the choir of the National Association for Music Education, was an alternate on the All-State Mixed Chorus, and was a regional finalist in the state competition for Poetry Out Loud.

In addition, LaRocco was a member of the varsity track team, co-editor of Haldane's literary magazine and class vice president during her junior and senior years.

Philipstown Adopts Climate Pledge *(from previous page)*

The board voted six days after President Donald Trump announced the U.S. withdrawal from the international Paris Accord on fighting climate change. "Something has to be done," Supervisor Richard Shea said at an earlier board meeting a few hours after the president's announcement. "If we don't start doing it at the local level, it's not going to happen."

Councilor John Van Tassel on June 7 said that while driving down Route 301 to the board meeting, he had again been struck by how beautiful Philipstown is. Joining the state initiative "is a good step in the right direction to keep it that way," he said.

It "speaks volumes as to who we are as a town," said Councilor Nancy Montgomery.

Oil barges

By a 4-0 vote (with Councilor Mike Leonard absent), the board on June 1 passed a resolution supporting bills pending in the state Legislature to give New York greater authority over the establishment of anchorages for oil barges on the Hudson. Following industry requests, the U.S. Coast Guard in 2016 proposed the creation of 43 anchorage spots.

This past October, the Town Board approved a measure aimed at federal-level decision-makers opposing the anchorage proposal. The board's new resolution fo-

cuses on state-level activity and "won't be redundant," Shea explained. "It's all for the good, in my mind."

The legislation the board endorsed would allow state agencies to weigh the environmental impacts of anchorages and "tanker avoidance zones" when new anchorages are designated. The board's resolution states that enhancing Albany's role will help "ensure that the needs of the Hudson River and riverfront communities are protected."

Other business

At other recent meetings, the Town Board:

- Appointed Dennis Gagnon to the Planning Board. A resident of Philipstown

for more than 35 years, Gagnon in 1987 co-founded and became president of Poughkeepsie-based Arris Contracting Co., a general contracting and construction management firm, before selling his interest in 2014 to retire.

- Accepted a \$6,690 bid from Highlands Architecture to create plans to install an elevator in Town Hall, which would make the second-floor meeting room in the 150-year-old building accessible to those with physical limitations.
- Announced the retirement of longtime Town Hall employee Mariann Landolfi, clerk in the Building Department/Code Enforcement Office.

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PUBLISHER

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Cold Spring NY 10516-2818
291 Main St., Beacon NY 12508

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**Institute for
Nonprofit News**

The Highlands Current is a 501c3 nonprofit funded by grants, advertising and the generous support of our readers. Thank you.

THE HIGHLANDS CURRENT,
Vol. 6, Issue 25 (ISSN 2475-3785)
is published weekly by
Highlands Current Inc.,
161 Main St., Cold Spring, NY 10516-
2818. Nonprofit postage paid at
Newburgh, NY.

POSTMASTER: Send address
changes to The Highlands Current,
161 Main St., Cold Spring, NY 10516-
2818. Mail delivery \$20 per year.

highlandscurrent.com/delivery
delivery@highlandscurrent.com

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Breakneck crowds

Thank you to the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference for the outstanding job it is doing on Breakneck and for lowering the number of emergency calls from hikers ("Breakneck is Booming," June 9).

But the article and comments online fail to recognize the men and women of the Cold Spring Fire Department, who are called out after 6 p.m. — often after midnight — to rescue lost or injured hikers. To add insult to injury, most of those rescued say "Thanks for the lift down the mountain" and drive off.

It's a volunteer organization, but this one call — let's say it's a sprained ankle — causes Cold Spring Fire, North Highlands Fire and others to be dispatched, plus ambulance, police and maybe a helicopter, if it's bad enough.

Sometimes a thank you isn't enough for foolishness. If you are inexperienced,

hiked too late and it is dark, and you got lost, panicked and sprained your ankle, you should pay a fine.

Let me be the one to say thank you to everyone else who protects and serves while I'm sleeping and they are waking up at 1 a.m. on a work / school night to rescue another hiker.

Hikers, please use common sense and remember it's not just your life you're affecting on that mountain.

Michael Junjulas, *Cold Spring*

Thank you, *Highlands Current*, for this article. It gives numbers to what Cold Springers have known for some years now: that the situation on Route 9D by Breakneck is out-of-hand and needs a radical remedy before 1) someone gets killed on that overburdened road, 2) the trail is filled with litter, toilet paper and wastes, and 3) the natural habitat for birds, rep-

tiles, etc., is despoiled.

This situation has been created by a cascade of factors, not the least of which is the state Department of Transportation's gross incompetence to manage parking by blocking off large portions of the roadside, as was done at the Mohonk Preserve when it faced a tidal wave of visitors.

Metro-North is also to blame because it keeps bringing more trains and more people into an already absurd situation, likely because of the money it's making, without having to take any responsibility for its selfish actions.

I salute Hank Osborn and his dedicated colleagues for attempting to manage the situation, and New York State Parks for doing its share. However, Parks knew many years ago that the parking facilities on 9D, both at Breakneck and Little Stony Point, were inadequate, and I question why they were not proactive in their management, and why they didn't get other state agencies together to do something before it got overrun.

This was a failure of historic proportions. Let's call and email and write the agencies to shut down all parking on and along 9D, and only in discrete parking areas, and to give tickets to anyone who disobeys that. Once the lots are full, you have to go somewhere else. Mohonk Preserve was able to get the Department of Transportation and the police and their own supporters to do this on Route 44-55 by the climbing cliffs, which was a terrible mess, and we absolutely need to do that here.

Unless we rise up as our own tidal wave of wise public sentiment, we will continue to witness an unsustainable mess.

Pete Salmansohn, *Cold Spring*

Where are the environmentalists? Limit the footprints. Where is Gov. Cuomo? Time to make some money and charge a fee.

Edward Troj, *Poughkeepsie*

(Continued on next page)



Taking it to the Street By Anita Peltonen

How are you doing with your New Year's resolution? (See Jan. 6 issue.)



"I wanted to learn three new skills. I have happily had unplanned lessons resulting in Chinese dumplings, preserved lemons, and unexpected poems! Can't wait to see what happens next."

~ Patricia Angerame, Cold Spring



"My resolution was to keep Maya Café going. My year has been wonderful, even with the rain on Cinco de Mayo. We had a good tent."

~ Luis Pinto, Philipstown



"I vowed to take action on my resolutions. I wanted to write a play, so I joined a playwriting workshop!"

~ Caitlin O'Heaney, Nelsonville

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR (from previous page)

My wife runs Chalet on the Hudson, located on Route 9D directly adjacent to Breakneck. The venue is not open to the general public; it is a catering facility reserved for weddings and special events. The hikers will come looking for water or to use the restroom and are rude and arrogant when they are told that it is private. They don't get it that people spend thousands of dollars for a party and as such are entitled to a private gathering, not a meet-and-greet with sweaty hikers.

The parking on 9D is a serious concern as well and I'm amazed someone hasn't been killed yet. Something needs to be done to control the situation.

Paul Wiggers, *Poughkeepsie*

How much money do these hiking trails bring to local towns? Not much, I bet, but hunters can't touch that land and we contribute a lot more than hikers do.

Luis Galarza, *Beacon*

The concerns being raised about Breakneck are important and I wanted to make people aware that plans to address them are already far along. In particular, the Breakneck Connector Project should begin construction this winter and will address the following:

- Building trails from the train station and parking areas to the trailhead so hikers will not have to walk along the road.
- Formalizing parking in the lot and road into well-designated areas.

- Traffic-calming infrastructure to slow vehicles and keep everyone safe.

The coalition working on the Breakneck Connector is made up of a number of partners including state agencies, Metro-North, local and county governments, the Cold Spring Fire Department and nonprofits such as the Trail Conference, Hudson Highlands Land Trust, Little Stony Point, and Friends of Fahnestock and Hudson Highlands State Parks under the leadership of Scenic Hudson and the Town of Fishkill.

Members of various partner organizations will be on hand at the Sip & Shop from 2 to 6 p.m. on Saturday, June 17, on Main Street in Cold Spring, to answer questions about the project.

Michelle Smith, *Executive Director Hudson Highlands Land Trust, Garrison*

Maloney update

Liz Armstrong's article and interview with U.S. Rep. Sean Patrick Maloney were excellent ("Maloney on Opioid Crisis, Environment, Healthcare — and Trump," June 9). She presented the congressman in an insightful and balanced manner, depicting him as a sensible leader in today's poisonous political climate.

As an independent I may not agree with Congressman Maloney on all issues. Nonetheless, I admire him for his leadership in seeking bipartisan approaches to address issues of importance to his constituents and indeed the nation. Rep. Maloney is a rising star in the Democratic party and deservedly so. He represents the best tra-

ditions of JFK's Democratic Party and has the courage to reject the venomous rhetoric infecting too many of his fellow Democrats.

Like many of our citizens, we take pride in having Congressman Maloney and his family as friends and neighbors in our community.

Bill O'Neill, *Nelsonville*

Beacon development

The city of Beacon is on the verge of another revolution, the one of overdevelopment versus the one found in history books for the important role it played in the American Revolution.

Unfortunately, many local municipalities are indifferent to the value of their historic heritage, architecture and its culturally rich land and scenic vistas. Many of these irreplaceable historic treasures are endangered and disappearing at an alarming rate in the Hudson Valley.

Let's prevent this from happening in our historic river city. It will take more than grassroots or preservation group efforts to put a stop to the haphazard overdevelopment that potentially could cover every available parcel of land in our city — and now its airspace, with rising build-

Letters to the Editor

We welcome letters to the editor, which can be emailed to editor@highlandscurrent.com or mailed to 161 Main St., Cold Spring, NY 10516. As with online comments, we ask that writers remain civil and avoid personal attacks. All letters are subject to editing for length, accuracy and clarity. The writer's full name, email and phone number must be included, although only the writer's name and village or city are published. We do not print anonymous letters or those written under pseudonyms.

ing heights — without rhythm or reason.

It will take strong leadership from within our city's administration to save and protect what has made our city unique. Beacon is becoming overpriced, and overpopulated, with a high burden on the infrastructure, schools and parking. Many people of Beacon profited in the 1960s from federal Urban Renewal destruction and today many of these same principles are being followed. We need to slow down the gravy train.

Theresa Kraft, *Beacon*

Beacon March for Truth



Members of March for Truth rallied at Polhill Park in Beacon on June 3. The group, which protests at the park each Saturday at 3 p.m., has called for an independent commission to investigate President Trump and force the release of his tax returns.

Photo by Gayil Nalls/The Massing Lab

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Week of June 9



Breakneck Keeps Booming



Is it Art, or a Sign?



Haldane Loses Another Principal



Eleven Hopefuls — So Far — For Six Seats



Court Says Cold Spring Can Seek Dismissal of Lawsuit

Plans for the Fourth?

Mayor calls for holiday volunteers

By Michael Turton

Cold Spring Mayor Dave Merandy put out an SOS at the June 13 meeting of the Village Board, calling for volunteers and donations for this year's Fourth of July celebration. Merandy said that the Independence Day Committee chaired by Bruce Campbell has dwindled to two members.

The village is also looking for financial contributions. Merandy said that Putnam County, which last year contributed \$1,500, is providing no financial support this year. The village is canvassing local businesses for donations and has also requested help from Philipstown, which contributed \$500 last year.

Merandy said festivities will again center on the riverfront beginning at 4 p.m. on July 4 and include food, a bicycle-decorating contest, children's activities and live music, followed by fireworks sponsored by Groombridge Games. The area west of the Metro-North tracks will be closed to traffic.

No parade will be held this year. Merandy said that members of the American Legion and VFW, many of whom are elderly, expressed concerns, largely due to the heat. The mayor said that cost and a shortage of volunteers also influenced his decision.

Residents who want to help with planning, assist on July 4 or make a financial donation should email vcsclerk@coldspringny.gov or call 845-265-3611.

For more coverage of the Village Board, see highlandscurrent.com.



Matthew Bowen and his daughter Charlotte prepare signs for the June 3 rally.

Photo provided

Putnam Sheriff Settles Defamation Case *(from Page 1)*

by providing a lawyer — Levy's brother-in-law — and paying more than \$100,000 of his legal expenses.

After being arrested at his Brewster residence, Hossu spent more than a year in jail before being acquitted of all charges by a jury, whose members wondered why he had been arrested and said they doubted the credibility of the accuser.

A Romanian citizen, Hossu met Levy in 2006 and became his trainer. Two years later, Levy was elected district attorney.

Levy accused Smith, a fellow Republican, of arresting Hossu as payback for Levy's effort to clean up corruption in the county and break up the "old-boys network." In his lawsuit, he said Smith, "motivated by malice and political gamesmanship, orchestrated a public smear campaign" against him.

At a press conference on June 13 after the case was settled, Levy said Smith's "barrage of false and misleading media accounts" contributed to Levy's loss in the



Former Putnam County DA
Adam Levy



Putnam County Sheriff Don
Smith

Photos provided

DA's race in 2015 to Robert Tendy. "Clearly his actions had an impact on the voters of this county," Levy said.

Levy said county residents should talk to the sheriff about the \$125,000 the county must pony up.

"The monies that I sought in order to settle this case I expected to come from

Mr. Smith," he said. "However, Smith made it clear that he was not prepared to pay the entire amount, and instead would go to the Putnam County taxpayers to pay the largest portion, despite the fact that it was based upon his misconduct."

Hossu's arrest in spring 2013 — nearly two-and-a-half years after the alleged rape — occurred as Smith faced a re-election challenge from one of Levy's assistant district attorneys. Ultimately, the assistant DA did not run. But Smith and one of his top officers, Capt. William McNamara, issued two news releases erroneously stating that, when

arrested, Hossu lived in Levy's home; that Levy had interfered in the Hossu proceedings, and that Levy warranted investigation for harboring an "illegal alien."

"I retract these releases unequivocally and apologize for the statements contained therein," wrote Smith in a state-

ment posted June 13 on the Sheriff's Department website. "These statements were untrue and I should not have made them." He acknowledged that the releases embarrassed Levy and "spawned substantial litigation."

That litigation includes Hossu's federal suit, filed in June 2016, naming Smith, McNamara and investigators Stephen Tricinni and Patrick Castaldo. Hossu alleges he was arrested without probable cause so Smith could gain a political advantage over Levy, and that Smith and his officers fabricated police reports and "maliciously prosecuted" him.

In a brief filed June 5, the county denied the allegations.

In a 54-page document explaining her decision to allow the case to continue, Judge Cathy Seibel of the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York said that Hossu had "plausibly alleged" his accusations against the sheriff, including the claim of a lack of probable cause for his arrest. The lawyers must complete pre-trial paperwork by Feb. 6.

Holly Crocco contributed reporting.

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Position is generally 9-to-5 but does require flexibility to work some weekends and other assigned hours. A competitive wage plus benefits and paid time off are offered. References are required.

To apply, email a resume to: HR@garrisoninstitute.org or fax to 845-424-4900. Please, no phone calls.

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Richard Shea, Supervisor
Town of Philipstown
238 Main St., P.O. Box 155, Cold Spring, NY 10516

'How Could This Happen?' (from Page 1)



The development underway at 344 Main St. in Beacon

Photo by J. Simms

City Council in April adopted changes to the comprehensive plan that significantly scale back development plans included in the 2007 document.

The principal changes include the rezoning of much of Beacon's waterfront district as parkland, while limiting the density of development on the east side of the Metro-North station. Land to the north and adjacent to the station (east of the tracks) is being rezoned for waterfront development, with heights restricted to preserve views of the Hudson River.

The city had encouraged development in the waterfront, including a hotel, but persistent flooding and other environmental issues led planning officials to switch gears.

The revised comprehensive plan locates the highest-density development north-east of the train station, in a "linkage" zone that connects the waterfront with Main Street, in the Main Street Central Business District, and along the Fishkill Creek on Beacon's east side.

"Most folks I know aren't anti-development, per se," says Scott Tillitt, the founder of Beahive on Main Street. "But they are justifiably concerned about the rapid pace of development and all the real side effects of that: environmental impacts, traffic, city infrastructure, affordability, schools, etc."

It's not just the volume of construction that has people concerned, he said, but "input from residents, the aesthet-

ics of the buildings, motivations of the developers, scale, plus a sudden influx of new residents," must be considered as well.

The Newburgh-based Pattern for Progress issues regional housing reports each year, and Joe Czajka, executive director of the organization's

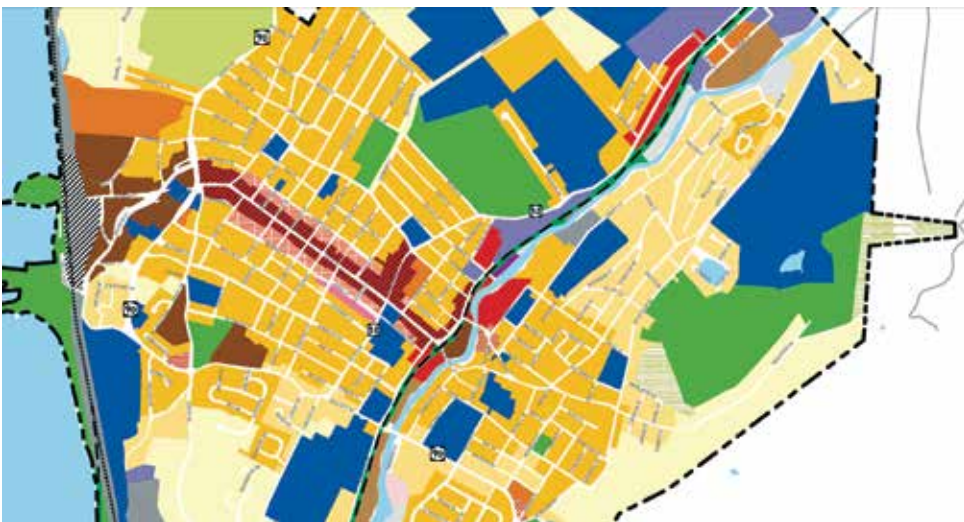
Center for Housing Solutions and Urban Initiatives, says the perception among housing professionals is that Beacon officials are being prudent. He noted their regular attendance at Pattern's Mid-Hudson Mayors Forums and other training events.

"They're always asking questions about proper growth rate," he said. "They're doing their best to do their homework."

Earlier this year, the City Council revised Beacon's housing laws to require developers to include more affordable units as part of their projects and expanded the pool of people who are eligible for below-market rates. The city also sold a 3.14-acre parcel of land adjacent to City Hall to developer Ken Kearney for less than its appraised value with the understanding that Kearney would build affordable housing there. (His 98-unit project, which includes artists' lofts and middle-income apartments, is among the developments before the Planning Board.)

But for every step forward, Aymar-Blair and others involved with the Beacon People's Committee worry that elsewhere zoning variances are hastily being granted and parking requirements waived.

"We have this sense that things are being executed dutifully and in the interest of the public," Aymar-Blair says. "But once the concrete is poured, you see something else and you ask — 'What else is going on?'"



Detail from a map of future land use in the Beacon Comprehensive Plan. The dark orange is medium- to high-density residential (10 to 15 dwellings per acre), dark red is the Central Business District, dark blue is religious/cemetery/institution, green is open space and dark brown is high density (16 to 50 dwellings per acre).

Answers for Page 1 collage, from top:

The View, a Scenic Beacon property near Madam Brett Park, 1 East Main, Beacon theatre, 344 Main St., The Lofts at Beacon

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Lessons from Zion *(from Page 1)*

"There was never an understanding that the Zion community would be the host of a radioactive dump," Hill said. "That was not part of the deal."

When the plant opened in 1974, it brought jobs and tens of millions of dollars in annual tax revenue to Zion, a city of 23,000 people located about 40 miles north of Chicago. But when the plant closed, the city's economy collapsed almost overnight, Hill said.

"There was never an understanding that the Zion community would be the host of a radioactive dump. That was not part of the deal."

While many cities have had factories close, fewer have to deal with factories that become nuclear-waste dumps. Hill said that when construction began on the plant in 1968, Zion officials understood that the 400-acre lakefront parcel

would be eventually returned to the city for redevelopment. "Maybe the people who entered that deal back in 1968 were naïve," he said. "But that was the deal."

The Desmond-Fish forum brought together nuclear experts, activists, scientists and lawmakers to discuss the challenges that communities such as Zion face when nuclear plants are decommissioned. Symposia planned for the fall will address how to replace the electricity that

Indian Point generates and how to train and find jobs for the 1,000 people who work at the plant.

As long as the nuclear waste remains at Indian Point, its redevelopment is impossible. And the waste won't be moving anytime soon, since the U.S. does not have any place to safely store it for tens of thousands of years.

That's not for lack of trying. The government has spent 25 years on a plan to build a facility inside Yucca Mountain, Nevada.

Nevada lawmakers oppose the plan because Yucca Mountain sits over a water table and near earthquake fault lines. Temporary sites in West Texas have been proposed, but many experts argue that, given the risks, nuclear material should be moved once or not at all.

In the meantime, Zion remains a de facto storage facility, and Hill said the Hudson Valley should expect the same thing at Indian Point. "Unless something happens really fast with Yucca Mountain or some other permanent repository, you're going to have nuclear waste being stored in your community," he said.

At the forum, David Kraft, director of the nonprofit Nuclear Energy Information Service, which opposes nuclear power,



A private company began decommissioning the Zion plant in 2010.

ZionSolutions

said states have few legal options when facing off with the federal Nuclear Regulatory Commission. One strategy is to argue, as Nevada has, that the waste threatens groundwater, rivers, and streams. But if the federal government can find a way around water protections to proceed with Yucca Mountain, it could set a precedent that would work against using the argument to protect the Hudson River.

Mayor Hill is working with Sen. Tammy Duckworth (D-Ill.) on a bill that would compensate communities such as Zion based on the amount of waste stored. For

Zion, it would provide about \$15 million a year, which Hill said would allow the city to ease the burden on taxpayers. Such a law would ostensibly provide payments at least to the Village of Buchanan.

"I'm going to call all your mayors" to support the bill, Hill said. "Our school board members are going to call all your school board members. Our librarians are going to call all of your librarians. And we're all going to ask you to call your members of Congress. Because if you're going to have to store nuclear waste in your community, you should be compensated."



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The Calendar

Movies on Main

Story Screen eager for premiere at new home

By Alison Rooney

A date has not been set, but later this summer the movie complex Story Screen plans to open in the former Beacon Theater on the east end of Main Street, returning that space to its original use after a months-long renovation.

The theater is expected to have three screens, says Story Screen founder and programmer Mike Burdge. It will show first-run fare in the largest theater, which will have 85 seats, and independent and foreign flicks in the second theater, which will have 25. “We have access to every type of film you can think of,” he says.

The smallest of the three spaces will be available for events, panel discussions and private screenings. The complex

will also include a bar and coffee house that Burdge hopes will become a hangout before and after shows.

The largest of the three theaters will be open daily, while the mid-sized room

will operate on weekends. Burdge says the theater will have “luxury stadium” seats, strong sound-proofing between the theaters and an emphasis on showing



Scott Brenner, Mike Burdge, Brendan McAlpine and Jason Shuler

Photo by A. Rooney



Mike Burdge and Jason Shuler place posters over the Beacon Theatre doors.

Photo provided

films in proper ratios and volume levels. It will also have zero tolerance for cellphone use, he says.

Burdge founded Story Screen by showing free films once in a while in 2014 at the now-defunct Main Squeeze Juice Bar, where he worked, and at Quinn's. In 2015 he first produced a popular horror film marathon at various venues. A successful screening at More Good in 2016 served both entities well, leading to the installation of a permanent screen and the further development of storyscreenbeacon.com, which (Continued on Page 11)

Cold Spring Stories

Haldane students search for good news in village

By Michael Turton

A group of ninth- and 10th-grade Haldane students wants your good news about Cold Spring. Their We Are Cold Spring story-gathering initiative is part of an innovative program now in its second year at the high school.

Sophomore Theo Bates said the aim of the project is to “create a hub of feel-good Cold Spring stories that people can tap into.” Further, he says, the students hope to learn more “about what our town is.”

Max Barkman, another sophomore, says too often people view each other in negative ways, often based on stereotypes such as “tourist” or “student.” He offered: “We’d like to create a positive stereotype for everybody.”

As for how people might view them, Bates said the group hopes to “change the idea that high school students are troublemakers. We want to share that

there are good things going on at Haldane.”

The story gathering is part of a project-based course, called Discover Create Innovate, taught in the middle and high schools by Simon Dudar.

The participants in this particular project (the other students are Grace Tomann, Natalie Sandick, Luke Hammond, Philip Cairns and Owen McGinley)

have so far collected a dozen stories, including Haldane sixth-grader John Kisslinger’s video documentary on human rights in Somalia, how the

community rallied to help Cupoccino Café owner John Arguello battle cancer, author Jean Marzollo’s contributions to the arts at Haldane and Mike Procopio allowing his Cold Spring Pizza to become a safe Main Street hangout for students.

“Projects are designed to give an authentic outcome and be collaborative,” Dudar explains. We Are Cold Spring came out of a conversation he had with members of the Philipstown Communities that Care Coalition, who were looking for ways to emphasize positive aspects of community life.

The aim of the project is to “create a hub of feel-good Cold Spring stories that people can tap into.”

The students hope to learn more “about what our town is.”



Cupoccino's Jesse Arguello (left) speaks to Haldane ninth graders Natalie Sandick and Grace Tomann about the We Are Cold Spring story project.

Photo by M. Turton

“The main goal is for the students to learn something new, apply the many skills they learn in other classes in a real-world scenario, work together, and find ways to persevere through any obstacle they encounter,” Dudar says. “This project is definitely hitting on all of those aspects.”

Discover Create Innovate follows an approach used by a Google-affiliated company that the class visited in Man-

hattan in January.

“No matter what the project, each person is responsible for designing their own task within it, centered around their own strengths and interests,” Dudar explains. “Some of the students are into social media; others, computer programming, writing, storytelling or photography.”

The project has been an eye-opener for students who asked business owners and residents (Continued on Page 12)

FRIDAY, JUNE 16

HVSF: Twelfth Night
7:30 p.m. Boscobel | 1601 Route 9D, Garrison
845-265-3638 | hvshakespeare.org
6 p.m. Lawn Party | 6:15 p.m. Prologue

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

SATURDAY, JUNE 17

NYS Path Through History Weekend
paththroughhistory.iloveny.com

Ultimate Family Yard Sale
8 a.m. – 4 p.m. Stormville Airport
428 Route 216, Stormville
845-221-6561 | stormvilleairportfleamarket.com

Clearwater Great Hudson River Revival
9 a.m. – 9 p.m. Croton Point Park
clearwaterfestival.org

Guided Hike of Iona Island
9 a.m. Iona Island parking area
hnhm.org/adult-programs-adventures

Repair Café
10 a.m. – 1 p.m. Boscobel | 1601 Route 9D, Cold Spring
845-265-3638 | boscobel.org

Roosevelt Reading Festival
10 a.m. – 5 p.m. FDR Library
4079 Albany Post Road, Hyde Park
845-486-7770 | fdrlibrary.org

Hike to 1945 Mount Beacon Crash Site
10 a.m. Fishkill Ridge Lot
36 Sunnyside Road, Fishkill

Haldane High School Graduation
10:30 a.m. Haldane | 15 Craigsides Dr., Cold Spring
haldaneschool.org

Community Choice Aggregation Q&A
10:30 a.m. Howland Public Library
313 Main St., Beacon
renewablehighlands.com

Hudson Valley Family Fest Pet Expo
11 a.m. – 3 p.m. Dutchess Stadium
1500 Route 9D, Wappingers Falls
845-838-0094 | hvrenegades.com

River Architects Passive Studio Tour
11 a.m. – 3 p.m. 178 Main St., Cold Spring
riverarchitects.com

KFest Music Festival
Noon – 10 p.m. Bethel Woods
200 Hurd Road, Bethel | k104online.com

SallyeAnder Grand Opening
Noon – 6 p.m. Beacon | 1 East Main St., Beacon
315-343-0793 | sallyeander.com

Calendar Highlights

For upcoming events visit highlandscurrent.com.

Send event listings to calendar@highlandscurrent.com

Historic Postcard Walking Tour
1 & 3 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
477 Main St., Beacon
845-765-3012 | beaconhistoricalsociety.org

Mandeville House Open
1 – 4 p.m. 122 Lower Station Road, Garrison

Community Choice Aggregation Q&A
2 p.m. Fishkill Recreation Center
793 Route 52, Fishkill | renewablehighlands.com

After Yorktown: The Path to Newburgh (Talk)
2 p.m. Washington's Headquarters
84 Liberty St., Newburgh
845-562-1195 | nyparks.org

Sip and Shop
2 – 6 p.m. Main Street, Cold Spring

Conversation with Marylyn Dintenfass
3 p.m. Garrison Art Center
23 Garrison's Landing, Garrison
845-424-3960 | garrisonartcenter.org

The American Soldier on Bannerman Island
3 p.m. Departs Beacon dock
855-256-4007 | bannermancastle.org

Ben Franklin's Visit to Fishkill
4 p.m. Trinity Episcopal Church | 5 Elm St., Fishkill
fishkillhistoricalsociety.org

Summer Solstice Celebration
4 p.m. Storm King Art Center
1 Museum Road, New Windsor
845-534-3115 | stormking.org

HVSF: Book of Will (Preview)
7:30 p.m. Boscobel | See details under Friday.

Concerto for Jazz Violin and Orchestra with Gwen Laster
7:30 p.m. Rhinebeck High School
45 N. Park Road, Rhinebeck | ndsorchestra.org

World Wrestling Entertainment
7:30 p.m. Mid-Hudson Civic Center
14 Civic Center Plaza, Poughkeepsie
845-454-5800 | midhudsonciviccenter.org

West Point Band: Army Birthday Celebration
7:30 p.m. Trophy Point
845-938-4159 | westpointband.com

America
8 p.m. Paramount Hudson Valley
1008 Brown St., Peekskill
914-739-0039

SUNDAY, JUNE 18

Father's Day

NYS Path Through History Weekend
paththroughhistory.iloveny.com

Clearwater Great Hudson River Revival
9 a.m. – 9 p.m. Croton Point Park
See details under Saturday.

Behind the Scenes
10 a.m. Wildlife Education Center | 25 Boulevard, Cornwall | 845-534-7781 | hhnaturemuseum.org

HVSF Playwriting Workshop
Noon. Desmond-Fish Library | 472 Route 403, Garrison | 845-424-3020 | desmondfishlibrary.org

Historic Postcard Walking Tour
1 & 3 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
See details under Saturday.

Children's Day
1 – 4 p.m. New Windsor Cantonment
374 Temple Hill Road, New Windsor
845-561-1765 | nyparks.org

Free Admission for Fathers
1 – 5 p.m. Mount Gulian Historic Site
145 Sterling St., Beacon
845-831-8172 | mountgulian.org

HVSF: Pride & Prejudice (Preview)
7:30 p.m. Boscobel | See details under Friday.

MONDAY, JUNE 19

Haldane PTA
3:30 p.m. Haldane School (Music Room)
15 Craigsides Dr., Cold Spring | 845-265-9254
haldanpta.org | Rescheduled from June 15.

Yoga with a View
6 p.m. Boscobel | See details under Saturday.

Beacon City Council
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 | beaconcitk12.org

Nelsonville Board of Trustees
7:30 p.m. Village Hall | 258 Main St., Nelsonville
845-265-2500 | villageofnelsonville.org

TUESDAY, JUNE 20

New Moms & Infants Group
11 a.m. - 1 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library
Email whiteside.ks@gmail.com.

Coloring Books for Adults
6 p.m. Howland Library | 313 Main St., Beacon
845-831-1134 | beaconlibrary.org

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

HVSF: Twelfth Night
7:30 p.m. Boscobel | See details under Friday.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 21

Summer Solstice Yoga
6 – 8 p.m. Long Dock Park, Beacon
nomadalwaysatom.com

West Point Band: Music Under the Stars
6:30 p.m. Trophy Point
845-938-4159 | westpointband.com

H.V. Renegades vs. Staten Island
7:05 p.m. Dutchess Stadium
See details under Saturday.

HVSF: Book of Will (Preview)
7:30 p.m. Boscobel | See details under Friday.

The Secret Life of Girls with Q&A
8 p.m. Beahive | 291 Main St., Beacon
beaconfilmsociety.org

Summer Movie Series: Sherlock Holmes
8 p.m. Beacon Visitors' Center | South and Main, Beacon
beaconchamberofcommerce.com

THURSDAY, JUNE 22

Farm Dinner
6:30 p.m. Glynwood Farm | 362 Glynwood Road, Cold Spring | 845-265-3338 | glynwood.org

H.V. Renegades vs. Staten Island
7:05 p.m. Dutchess Stadium
See details under Saturday.

HVSF: Book of Will (Preview)
7:30 p.m. Boscobel | See details under Friday.

FRIDAY, JUNE 23

International Film Series: Rudo y Cursi (Mexico)
7 p.m. Howland Library | 313 Main St., Beacon
845-831-1134 | beaconlibrary.org

H.V. Renegades vs. Staten Island
7:05 p.m. Dutchess Stadium | Details, see Saturday

HVSF: Pride & Prejudice
6:15 p.m. Prologue | 7:30 p.m. Performance
See details under June 16.

Toto
8 p.m. Paramount Hudson Valley
See details under Saturday.

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Join The Highlands Current Summer Photofest

The Highlands Current is collecting high-resolution, color pictures from local photographers of summer scenes and themes. We prefer photos taken this year. The best of these (in our opinion) will be featured in The Highlands Current. Limit: three photos weekly per person. Please title photo file with your name and photo location (for example: JohnDoe-ColdSpringDock.jpg).

Send photos by July 8 to photofest@highlandscurrent.com.

Cold Spring series draws visitors

By Alison Rooney

With its first summer outdoor movie screening approaching on Saturday, June 24 — a showing at dusk of *Stand by Me* — the nonprofit **Cold Spring Film Society** is gearing up to break attendance records once again at Dockside Park. At least three of the screenings last summer attracted more than 1,000 people.

The screenings, which include *Double Indemnity* (July 8), *Rushmore* (July 22), *Psycho* (Aug. 5), *The Italian Job* (Aug. 19)

Fresh Air Films

and *Song of the Sea* and *Moby Dick* (Sept. 2), begin as soon as it's dark enough to see the picture clearly. Admission is free, but donations are welcome at the showing or online at coldspringfilm.org (a \$20 membership gets you free popcorn throughout the season).

The funds pay for the licensing of the films, equipment upkeep and stipends for five high school students who assist with set up, publicity and operations.

Candy, popcorn and lemonade are available for sale. Dogs are welcome as long as they are leashed and owners clean up after them.

For more on the series and its films, see

highlandscurrent.com.

Two other organizations are also showing free outdoor films over the summer. The **Beacon Visitors' Center** at South and Main screens a movie each Wednesday at dusk; the next showing, on June 21, will be *Sherlock Holmes*, the 2009 film starring Robert Downey Jr.

In Poughkeepsie, **Walkway Over the Hudson** will begin showing films at Upper Landing Park on Saturday, June 24, with a screening at sundown of *Raiders of the Lost Ark*, following a 7 p.m. concert by Murali Coryell. Parking is available at the Children's Museum.

Movies on Main (from Page 9)

includes reviews, podcasts and commentary.

"When Mike was doing nomadic pop-up screenings, Scott Brenner and I saw the potential, so we created a semi-permanent home for it in our retail store," says Jason Shuler of More Good. "Every Sunday we transformed into a 40-seat theater. Sometimes we had just two people turn up, while other nights we were packed with 40. There was definitely a demand for it and it worked with our vision for our space as an incubator."

Meanwhile, Roundhouse developer Brendan McAlpine had a look at what Burdge, Shuler and Brenner were doing and approached them about linking Story Screen to his Beacon Theatre development. They planned a single, 200-seat theater in the 1934 building but changed the concept to three. Shuler and Brenner will be handling concessions.

"We're going to pull a lot of people from Fishkill, Poughkeepsie, because this will be state-of-the-art," McAlpine says. "We've designed the space with the guest experience in mind."

Burdge says he fell in love with the movies as a child. "It was a way for my family to connect," he recalls. "My uncle shared movies that no 7-year-old has a right to see!"

After joining military as a way to pay for film school through the GI Bill, he made a few shorts and wrote screenplays but discovered he was "more in love with sharing and talking about film than creating it."

Burdge believes the timing is right for Story Screen.

"For the last 15 years, Beacon has been blooming and growing, but there's been no place to appreciate film, so to be able to build a cinema which will make Beacon proud is a big-deal thing," he says. "One of the biggest challenges facing theaters these days is an unwillingness to adapt." Theaters need to demonstrate that they can provide a place "where people can come together and share the experience of watching."

Shuler says the convenience of being able to walk to a theater will be a draw. It also keeps the profits in Beacon, Brenner says, and the jobs. Says Shuler: "We have 15 employees at More Good, and they all live in town."



Story Screen showed *Casablanca* at Oak Vino on Valentine's Day

Photo provided

Conversation with the Artist:

MARYLYN DINTENFASS

Saturday June 17, 3–4:30pm

Garrison Art Center is hosting a book signing and Artist Talk with Marylyn Dintenfass and ARTMUSE founder, Natasha Schlesinger. There is no charge for admission, but seating is limited, so please plan to arrive early



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Cold Spring Stories *(from Page 9)*

during a field trip into the village for their opinions about local students. Dudar says the perceptions the students encountered “weren’t all that great.” That, he said, provided students with “a great deal of motivation to change that perception.”

Dudar says the most challenging part of the project for the students has been “human relations skills, by far.” Communi-

cation skills required for a project such as We Are Cold Spring, which includes talking to strangers, are not generally taught in traditional classrooms, he notes.

“It is really amazing to see the students become more comfortable each day, speaking with people and becoming successful in conveying their message and ideas,” he says.

Share Your Story

Stories are being collected via Twitter (#wearecoldspring), Instagram (@wearecoldspring) and at facebook.com/wearecoldspring. Stories can also be submitted by email to wearecoldspring@gmail.com. The hope is that the project will become self-sustaining, Dudar says.



Haldane students Theo Bates, Philip Cairns, Max Barkman, Natalie Sandick, and Luke Hammond with their teacher, Simon Dudar

Photo by M. Turton

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Kate Vander Linden at the keyboard during a singing class

Photos provided

Performing Arts Center Opens in Beacon

Geared to children and teens with Broadway dreams

By Alison Rooney

It's fewer than 90 minutes from Beacon to Broadway, but for children with theatrical dreams, it's a long and winding road. A new nonprofit, the Beacon Performing Arts Center (BPAC), hopes to be a guide along the way, offering acting, voice, dance, improvisation and piano classes, along with workshops, productions, camps and audition coaching.

Though a number of outlets such as the Philipstown Depot Theatre and 4th Wall Productions have long offered theater instruction that feeds the drama departments at Haldane and Beacon high schools, BPAC co-founders Kate and Jake Vander Linden and Tim Grady felt Beacon was missing what they wanted to offer — a multi-disciplinary program.

What better way to introduce their program than to put on a show? On Sunday, June 25, it will present a concert, *Bringing Broadway to Beacon*, at the Towne Crier Café. Seven professionals with Broadway and national tour credits will co-star with local teenagers in solo, duet and group numbers.

Kate Vander Linden, a native of Sioux Falls, South Dakota, wasn't a child performer. In fact, she didn't see her first show until she was 18. But that was enough — she pursued a bachelor's in musical theater from Millikin College in Decatur, Illinois, where she met her husband, Jake, who was working toward the same degree.

After graduating, they moved to New

York City. Kate starred as Jovie in the first national tour of *Elf, the Musical* and Jake appeared in the first national tour of *Ghost, the Musical*. He also has directed eight children's theater productions in the Hudson Valley. The couple moved to Beacon 14 months ago. "There were teaching and directing opportunities in the Hudson Valley, and we fell in love with the art and history here in Beacon," Kate explains.

She met Grady, who grew up in Boston, during the *Elf* tour. A choreographer, he is the red-carpet correspondent for the Actors' Equity Foundation and *Backstage*. A theater graduate of Wagner College, Grady teaches musical theater, jazz and tap.

The performance on June 25 "goes with our mission of providing professional education," Grady says. "We've brought artists up from the city to integrate with the students. We held an audition workshop, which showed them how an audition works. The kids submitted videos for consideration."

Those accepted participated for free, with the only stipulation being they sell a few tickets each. The production "will showcase the talent within and outside of the community, and it also has shown the kids that these professionals are normal, nice people," he says. "Doing this, which might seem so far out of reach, is something they can strive for and reach; this motivates them to go for that next level."

Central to the BPAC experience is the ensemble. "Even though it's such a competitive field, we've found that most theater artists support each other, and we're emphasizing this," says Kate Vander Linden.

The center will hold two week-long camps over the summer followed by full-production workshops in the fall. The

goal for the winter is to offer a full slate of classes.

The first camp, Broadway Babes, which will run from 9 to 11 a.m. the week of July 17 at the Center for Creative Education, is designed for children ages 3 to 5 and promises "twirling and singing to the songs of Broadway" as the students build a character and play as an ensemble. The cost is \$100.

During the Musical Theatre camp, held the week of July 24, a group of 5- to 11-year-old campers will learn music, scenes and choreography from Broadway musicals, throwing in improv and harmony, with an emphasis on "making choices without judging." The week ends with a free public performance on July 28. The camp is full but a waiting list has formed.

BPAC also offers a biweekly class to prepare high school sophomores and juniors to audition for college programs,



Jake Vander Linden

and offers private dance and music lessons.

In the fall, BPAC will begin rehearsals for two productions: *Seussical*, for grades kindergarten to five, with performances in February at the Howland Cultural Center, and *Elf, Jr.* for grades six to 12, with performances in December at the Cunneen Hackett Arts Center in Poughkeepsie. Both casts will practice on Saturdays starting in September. The cost is \$410 and \$480, respectively.

Tickets to *Bringing Broadway to Beacon* are \$20 (\$15 for seniors and children under 10). See beaconperformingartscenter.com or call 845-855-1300.



Tim Grady, right, leads a choreography class.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Dinner and Dancing on the Island

Seafood soirée scheduled for June 24

The Constitution Island Association will hold its annual tropical party and seafood soirée from 4 to 9 p.m. on Saturday, June 24. The menu includes lobster, clams and oysters, and the Benny Havens Band from West Point will perform.

The association will honor Rick Camarda, who is retiring after 33 years as the West Point harbormaster, as well as Betsy and Emerson Pugh for their dedication and contributions. Reservations are

required for transportation. Tickets start at \$125. See constitutionisland.org.

Cold Spring Releases Water Report

Village handles 65 million gallon supply

The Village of Cold Spring released its 2016 water quality report, available at coldspringny.gov. It found no problems. The village uses three reservoirs and relies on rain and snow to maintain its supply of about 65 million gallons. The water flows to the Foundry Brook reservoir along Fishkill



Part of the reservoir at the Cold Spring water system plant on Fishkill Road

File photo by Kevin E. Foley



Staff Sgt. Jeremy Gaynor and Sgt. 1st Class Brandon Nelson of the Benny Havens Band, which will perform on Constitution Island on June 24

Photo provided

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The River Architects office in Cold Spring under renovation in April

Photo by Michael Turton



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COMMUNITY BRIEFS



LEARN TO FISH — The Hudson Highlands Nature Museum in Cornwall will host fishing lessons at 8:30 a.m. on Sunday, June 25. A license is not required. Register at hnhnm.org.

Photo provided

Computing Skills

Library to offer free clinics

The Desmond-Fish Library in Garrison will offer free computer clinics on Tuesday nights over the summer. On June 20, “cybrarian” Pam McCluskey will share tips on how to use Gmail, Google Docs and Google Drive. On June 27, she will offer instructions on creating 3D plans of your home.

On July 11, learn HTML5 and CSS, the building blocks of the web. Finally, on July 25, the topic is family robotics. No registration is required if you bring your own laptop. Otherwise, call 845-424-3020.

Manitou Students Complete “Minimester”

HVCCA hosts students from Cold Spring school

Students from the Manitou School in Cold Spring worked with artists Elisa Pritzker, Jinsu Han and Orly Cogan at the Hudson Valley Center for Contemporary Art in Peekskill during a recently completed “minimester” in which they studied the arts through observation and Socratic reasoning.

The students also studied the artwork of environmentalist Todd Murphy and Peter Bynum, who uses glass, light, sound and acrylic paint.

At the conclusion of the series, students

led tours for their families and shared their own art in an exhibition at HVCCA.

Musicians Needed

Symphony planning holiday concert

The Putnam Symphony Orchestra is recruiting musicians for its holiday concert scheduled for Nov. 19. Rehearsals begin Sept. 6 and are held every Wednesday at 7 p.m. at Brewster High School. Call 845-228-4167 or see putnamsymphony.homestead.com.

Beacon

Battle of the Books

New team forming for high schoolers

The Howland Public Library in Beacon is forming a high school team for Battle of the Books for the first time. The middle school team, Beacon Bees, has been named regional cham-

pion in 2010, 2013 and 2015.

The first meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 20, from 5 to 7 p.m. The team will meet every Tuesday to discuss books, practice and share pizza and snacks. Contact Michelle Rivas at 845-831-1134, ext. 101, or community@beaconlibrary.org.

Summer Solstice Yoga

12 studios will participate at Long Dock Park

Beginning on Wednesday, June 21, nOMad will open a season of yoga at Scenic Hudson’s Long Dock Park. The Summer Solstice event includes 12 yoga studios, henna, food trucks and vendors.

General admission is \$10. Bring a yoga mat. In addition, on every Wednesday until Sept. 20 a different studio will lead the weekly class from 6:30 p.m. until sunset. The suggested donation is \$15 per class. See nomadalwaysatom.com/hudson-valley-yoga-mala.

Jazz at Howland

Performance on June 24

The jazz septet Mostly Other People Do the Killing will perform at the Howland Cultural Center in Beacon at 8 p.m. on Saturday, June 24. Tickets are \$20 at the door. This concert was organized by the Elysium Furnace Works, a cooperative that presents contemporary music. The Sylvie Courvoisier Trio performs next in the series, on July 22.



Mostly Other People Do the Killing will perform at the Howland Cultural Center on June 24.

Photo by Peter Gannushkin

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Sports

Bad Fall Hurts Stowell

Junior finishes sixth in pentathlon at state finals

A bad spill on her last jump in the 100-meter hurdles — the first time she had ever fallen in competition — stymied Abbey Stowell’s pursuit of a state high school pentathlon title for Haldane on June 9. She recovered, jumping up to finish in 18.09 (she had set a school record earlier in the year at 15.85) but fell behind the leaders.

Over two days, each participant competes in the high jump, long jump, shot put, 100-meter hurdles and 800-meter run. Stowell, a junior, finished sixth in Division II and 21st overall. “The top performer in the division was a senior, so I am gunning for the top spot next season,” she said.

Stowell qualified for states by easily winning the sectional qualifier on June 1 and 2 with 3,058 points, another school record.

Among other Highlands athletes competing at the state tournament, which took place in Endicott, Beacon’s Jummie Akinwunmi tied for fifth in the high jump and the O’Neill High School 4x800-meter relay team that included Garrison residents Kailyn August and Anna Northup finished 22nd.

For more, see highlandscurrent.com.

Philipstown Little League

The Brewers upset the Indians, 5-1, to win the Majors Championship in a well-played game on June 14. For photos and coverage, see highlandscurrent.com.

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Cook On: 1 part chaos, 2 parts calm

Peasant Panzanella

By Mary Ann Ebner

Panzanella, the rustic salad made with day-old bread, puts stale loaves to use and serves as a perfect summer side or stands in as a main course.

Though tomatoes and bread form the foundation of panzanella, olive oil pulls the Tuscan dish together.

Nancy MacNamara knows olive oil. As a vendor at the Cold Spring Farmers' Market, she markets extra virgin olive oil for the Kontoulis family, based in Larchmont. The family maintains a small grove

in Messinia, Greece, where they cold-press olives within 48 hours of harvesting.

Farmers' market shoppers stopping by the Kontoulis Family Olive Grove booth at Boscobel on Saturday mornings will find MacNamara offering samples and describing how it is produced.

"I went to Greece with the family last year and we harvested their olives" from the family's Koroneiki trees, an ancient variety, MacNamara says. "We took the olives to the plant and stayed for every step of the process."

"Olive oil is my essential staple," she adds. "The Greeks drizzle olive oil on everything and they finish each dish with it."

Panzanella

1 clove garlic, halved
1 teaspoon kosher salt
4 to 5 medium tomatoes
1 shallot, slivered
1 small red onion, thinly sliced
½ cup basil leaves, torn
4 cups day-old bread pieces
salt and pepper

Vinaigrette

1 clove garlic, diced
½ cup extra virgin olive oil
⅓ cup red wine vinegar
juices from wedged tomatoes

1. Cut tomatoes into wedges and toss into a colander-lined bowl. Add kosher salt and let stand 20 minutes.
2. Rub bread with cut side of garlic clove. Cube bread and toast on baking sheet for 10 minutes at 400 degrees.
3. Place tomatoes, shallots, red onions, basil and bread cubes in large mixing bowl.
4. Dice garlic halves and whisk with extra virgin olive oil, vinegar and juices drained from salted tomatoes. Pour over salad ingredients and mix thoroughly. Add salt and pepper to taste. Let salad stand 30 minutes to allow bread to absorb flavors before serving.



Give day-old bread a second chance by tossing it with a few basic ingredients to make panzanella.

Photo by M.A. Ebner

Forever immersed in food circles, MacNamara spent a chapter in her culinary life as a producer and purveyor of herbs, growing a crop of greens north of Newburgh at her Honey Locust Farm. She supplied a host of high-end restaurants and came to know the Kontoulis family as a fellow vendor at farmers' markets.

Salads like panzanella, made with simple ingredients picked fresh from the garden, please everyone and are "amazing with fine olive oil," MacNamara says. "That's what makes it so rich."

With olive oil and artisanal bread on hand, this salad comes together quickly. Tomatoes are usually the focus, but toss in

asparagus, peppers, cucumbers or greens while waiting for summer's Sungolds or beefsteaks. If you finish off the sourdough or ciabatta before it has a chance to stale, toast pieces of a country loaf or a baguette to mimic yesterday's loaf.

It takes only a few minutes to turn out crusty cubes to mingle with the vinaigrette. The bread soaks up the oil, vinegar and tomato juice and the result tastes more like a feast than a bread-inspired peasant meal. The classic Italian salad that relies on olive oil provides a second act for stale bread and gives tomato lovers something to celebrate when summer fruit ripens.



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Free-Range Learning

Some Highlands students have familiar teachers – their parents

By Anita Peltonen

A few years back, whenever a towering stack of books hit the busy front desk at Cold Spring's Butterfield Library, employees knew Ezra Hubbard was behind it.

Much taller now at age 13, Ezra's always been a hungry reader. Yet he has never attended a traditional school.

Ezra learns at home in Beacon with his mother, educator and performing artist Twinkle Burke, and his dad, baritone sax player Brad Hubbard. His instruction includes music, math, English Language Arts, science and social studies. Then the teen steps out to learn physical science at a friend's house, or chemistry at Homeschoolers-on-the-Hudson, which meets in Poughkeepsie. For physical education, Ezra rides his bike, plays touch football, swims and jumps on a friend's trampoline. He also takes a Native American Outdoor



Homeschool parent of Ezra Hubbard, Twinkle Burke, an educator and performing artist *Photo provided*

Survival course. Since age 6, he's been in an architecture class, too.

The subject mix changes, but the intensity of learning does not.

Parents homeschool their children for practical and philosophical reasons. They may be involved in the performing arts, or move around often because of military assignments. Children with certain disabilities may find it easier to be educated at home. Some families have deep religious beliefs. Or, parents may not like the teacher-to-student ratio, standardized testing, bullying or lack of diversity in schools.

"Beacon is diverse, but not integrated," says Burke.

The Burke-Hubbards are a mixed-race family. Burke says they didn't want Ezra segregated by age, socioeconomic or skin color.

In Cold Spring, Sakura Ozaki wanted to homeschool her two daughters through elementary school to maintain a close bond with them, she says. She and her husband, Paul Kottman, also wanted to provide multilingual education.

Helena builds chemistry models and learns biology, math and history at a kitchen table framed by books, games and plants. She will enroll in sixth grade next year at Manitou School. Sophia enrolled in

- 18,000 homeschooled students in New York state (excluding NYC)
- 3,000 in New York City
- 26 in Beacon district (2,923 enrolled)
- 11 in Haldane district (825 enrolled)
- 0 in Garrison (207 enrolled)



Students are urged to express and challenge ideas during a philosophy class at Rivertown Homeschool Hub at Compass Arts in Beacon. *Photo by A. Peltonen*



Sakura Ozaki homeschooling her daughter Helena, age 11, at the kitchen table

Photo by A. Peltonen

seventh grade at Haldane Middle School last year, and became an honor student.

Many homeschooling parents in the Highlands rely on teaching and learning cooperatives. Some split teaching duties among five parents over five days, says Gail Morgan, the Beacon school district's registrar.

Most parents who homeschool say they emphasize integration rather than separation of topics. For instance, a trip to the Metropolitan Museum may cover archaeology, architecture, arms and art. Local libraries have free museum passes, and

books can be retrieved on almost any topic through interlibrary loan.

Through Rivertown Homeschool Hub, students ages 10 to 18 can take a weekly philosophy class at Compass Arts in Beacon. One recent Wednesday, Dan Fisherman led 10 kids through a thicket of debate about whether more than one person should be arrested for a "heinous crime," even if only one person held the gun.

Burke believes homeschoolers are better socialized than the typical classroom student, *(Continued on next page)*



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Free-Range Learning *(from previous page)*

because they interact closely with people of all ages, not just kids in the same grade. They aren't cloistered mini-adults, she adds; a homeschooled teen is still a teen.

A growing number of homeschooled students are leaving the dining room table to join small multitudes of others to go rock-climbing, scouting, and even hold proms. Because there are an estimated 2 million homeschooled students in the U.S., there is a rich market in teaching aids. Ezra Hubbard takes online courses offered by a community college and will be joining Rivertown Homeschool Hub.

"We buy curricula for our students as a group," explains his mother, who administers the support group Homeschool New York, and they help each other meet what she calls "stringent" state regulations.

Diana Bowers, superintendent of the Haldane Central School District, says homeschooled students require little work on her part. Her office approves parents' initial lesson plans and requests their quarterly reports. Districts send the data to the New

York State Department of Education.

Ozaki says her daughters never asked to go to public school. "I tried to make it fun," she says. "That was our biggest goal,

to create a love of learning before getting into the drilling and content testing in the public schools."

Ezra is looking ahead to college. He talked for a while about SUNY New Paltz but

after seeing the Michael Moore documentary, *Where to Invade Next?*, he became curious about (free) college in Slovenia.

Burke says she dares not predict what route he'll take.



A philosophy class for homeschooled students taught by Dan Fisherman, left, at Compass Arts in Beacon

Photo by Anita Peltonen

What is required

School attendance became compulsory in every state nearly 100 years ago. Some give homeschooler parents nearly unfettered authority, but New York has one of the most closely regulated systems.

New York parents who want to apply to homeschool children ages 6 to 16 must file a Notice of Intention to Instruct at Home with their public school district by July 1, with some leeway for families that move.

An Individualized Home Instruction Plan, or IHIP, listing instructors and subjects, is due Aug. 15. In New York, homeschooled students cannot participate in public-school sports. Students must take standardized tests; alternative assessment is permitted in some cases.

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