

The HIGHLANDS Current



Hudson River Beer
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JUNE 30, 2017

161 MAIN ST., COLD SPRING, N.Y. | highlandscurrent.com



In **Beacon**, the annual Independence Day Celebration will begin at 3 p.m. on Saturday, July 1, at Memorial Park. There will be music, food vendors and children's activities, followed by fireworks at dusk with a musical display by Joseph Bertolozzi. The event is organized by the city and I Am Beacon.

The Independence Day celebration in **Cold Spring** will take place on Tuesday, July 4, at 4 p.m., with a bicycle-decorating contest, specialty food and beverages and performances by the Big Takeover, the Breakneck Boys and the Crossroads Band at the main stage and, at 4:30 p.m., Tenbrooks Molly at the bandstand. The fireworks, sponsored by Groombridge Games, begin at 9 p.m. The rain date is Labor Day weekend.

The annual Independence Day service at the **MeKeel's Corner Chapel**, with readings and songs, will be held at 10 a.m. on July 4. The chapel is located at the intersection of Routes 9 and 301 in Philipstown.

Fishkill Farms in Hopewell Junction will host its annual Independence Day Bash on July 1, with cherry picking, music, yoga, line dancing, sunset wagon rides, a bonfire and lawn games. Admission is \$5 per person, with children ages 12 and younger admitted free. See fishkillfarms.com.

Washington's Headquarters in Newburgh will host an Independence Day celebration on Sunday, July 2, from noon to 4 p.m. A tour with stereoscopic views will be offered for \$5 per person from noon to 3 p.m. Reservations are suggested; call 845-562-1195.

West Point will present its annual Independence Day concert on Saturday, July 8, at 7:30 p.m. at the Trophy Point Amphitheater. The rain date is July 9. The free performance will be followed by fireworks. See westpointband.com.



STAY CLOSE, EVERYONE – Geese in Perkins Pond in North Highlands

Photo by Anita Peltonen

Village Raises Concerns About Herbicide

County sprays near Cold Spring water supply

By Michael Turton

Putnam County has used an herbicide to kill weeds around guardrails on Fishkill Road that overlook the Cold Spring reservoir, despite a warning on the product that it should not be applied near water. The reservoir provides drinking water to the village and Nelsonville.

A resident alerted Greg Phillips, Cold Spring's superintendent of water and wastewater, about the spraying. One of the two herbicides applied was DuPont's Oust XP, which states on its label, "Do not apply to water, or to areas where surface water is present."

Phillips expressed frustration with the county's response, or lack of one, especially since he had encountered a crew spraying along the road a year ago who assured him the practice would end. "Well, it's happened again this year, and to me it looks worse," he said. Dead, brown vegetation can be seen beneath many of the guardrails adjacent to the water.

The *Current's* emails to Putnam County Highway Commissioner Fred Pena and Deputy Commissioner John Tully were referred to the County Executive's office but no response was (Continued on Page 2)

Putnam Will Pay in Defamation

Legislators OK \$125,000 settlement with former D.A.

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

Although they voiced frustration, Putnam County's legislators voted unanimously on June 22 to pay \$125,000 to former District Attorney Adam Levy to settle a defamation suit he brought against Sheriff Don Smith. The sheriff will pay an additional \$25,000.

They justified the expenditure as necessary to avoid the costs of further litigation, including those that would arise if Smith sued the county to force it to pay the bulk of the settlement.

In an apology (Continued on Page 5)



Levy attributed his 2015 election loss in part to attacks by Sheriff Donald Smith.

File photo by L.S. Armstrong

Uber, Lyft Arrive in Highlands

Ride-hailing now available

By Chip Rowe

Uber and Lyft arrived in the Highlands at 12:01 a.m. on Thursday, June 29, following a change in state law that allows ride-hailing services to operate outside New York City. But the law also allows counties to ban them.

Through a phone app, ride-hailing services connect passengers with drivers using their private cars. Uber and Lyft face less regulation than taxi companies, primarily because the services are considered "prearranged" rides while taxis can legally stop for fares who flag them down.

Under the law, the Department of Motor Vehicles will regulate ride-hailing drivers (and the state (Continued on Page 2)



Herbicide *(from Page 1)*

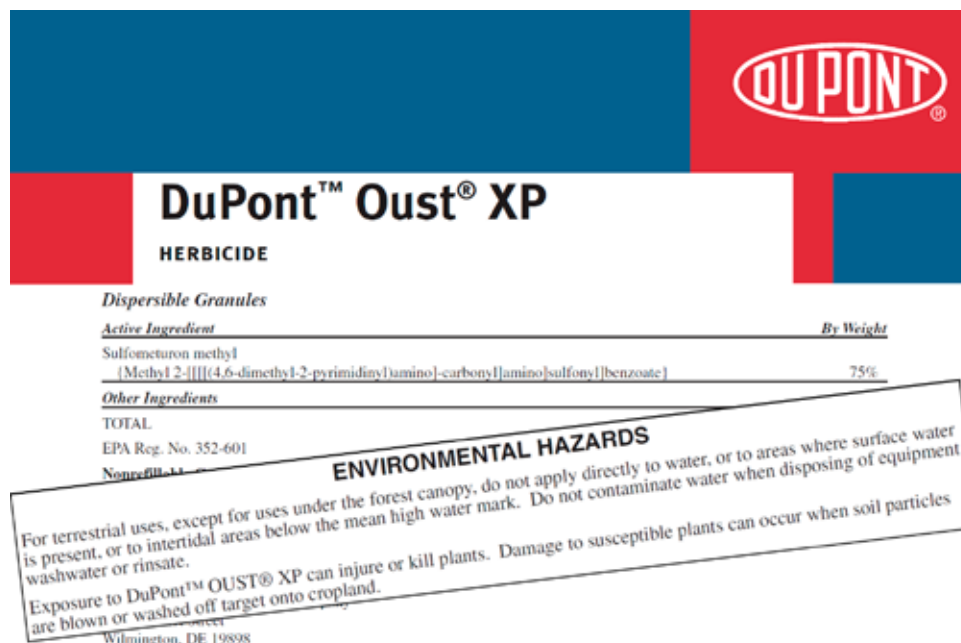
received by press time.

The villages' drinking water flows down Foundry Brook from two reservoirs near Lake Surprise Road to a third reservoir and treatment facility on Fishkill Road. Foundry Brook parallels a considerable portion of the road.

Mowers are used along much of the road but herbicides are applied around guardrails where mowing is difficult. More than 15 guardrails, some longer than a football field, line the road's numerous turns between Route 9 and Nelsonville. Some of the railings are positioned less than 10 feet from Foundry Brook.

Phillips said he called the county Highway Department on June 7, asking which chemicals had been used, the name of the applicator and other information that would be on the permit required by New York State.

He said he was told the county has a New York City Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) permit because most of the county's roads lie within the city watershed (it obtains water from upstate via the aqueduct that runs through Philipstown). He said he was also told



Oust XP, sprayed by the county on vegetation near Foundry Brook, which supplies drinking water to Cold Spring, includes a warning that it should not be applied near surface water or crops.

that the DEP has stringent regulations, so any herbicides approved for use county-wide were also safe along Fishkill Road.

Phillips disputes that interpretation, based on the quantities of water involved. New York City uses a billion gallons of water a day. By contrast,

Cold Spring uses 250,000, so any herbicides that enter the system would be far more concentrated.

He said he received safety data sheets from the county about the herbicides on June 27, nearly three weeks after he requested them, despite support from Legislator Barbara Succimarra and the county Department of Health.

"It should have taken a day," he said. "I don't think they paid attention to the fact that our water supply and treatment plant are there. I need to make sure the water

supply is safe."

He said the county has not told him who applied the herbicides, although he suspects a private company was contracted. He wonders if the county told the sprayers that Fishkill Road is located in a water supply area. If the company knew, "it's negligence," he said.

The DEC requires village water to be tested every three years for contaminants that include herbicides and pesticides. This is not a testing year but "we're going to test for them now," Phillips said. The results will take a few weeks. Sampling will include water upstream of the treatment plant as well as downstream. To conduct the tests, the village first had to know what chemicals it was looking for.

Public opinion is also on Phillips' mind; the spraying prompted a lot of discussion on social media. "People may think we're not doing our job," he said, "but we've been trying to get answers all along."

Phillips noted that about a week before being alerted to the spraying, the state Department of Environmental Conservation contacted him. It wanted to organize a meeting with Cold Spring, Nelsonville and Philipstown officials to discuss surface-water protection.

Uber, Lyft Arrive

(From page 1)

will collect a 4 percent "assessment fee" on every ride-hailing trip while prohibiting counties and towns from collecting sales tax). The plan did not go over well with Westchester County, which has its own commission to oversee taxis and limousines, or Putnam County, which does not but where legislators heard complaints that Uber and Lyft create unfair competition.

In Westchester, the legislature considered opting out of ride-hailing rules established by the DMV, saying it wanted to create its own, stricter regulations. It held a public hearing on June 28 but ultimately decided not to opt out. Instead, it will provide decals for ride-hailing drivers who voluntarily pay \$90 to be fingerprinted. Legislators in Putnam discussed their options on June 22.

Taxi companies in Philipstown have pushed for authorities to hold Uber and Lyft drivers to the same standards as those who drive cabs. Carmel Taxi, which runs Village Taxi in Cold Spring, operates under a license from the Westchester Taxi and Limousine Commission, which requires drivers to be fingerprinted for background checks and conducts drug testing.

"As a taxi company, we have a lot of expenses," Ruth Ayala-Quezada of Carmel Taxi told Putnam legislators on June 22. "We are not going to be able to compete with Uber prices because they don't have the same requirements. We want to make sure we have fair competition."

Eric Maas, who drives for Alley's Way Car Service in Philipstown, proposed the county require Uber and Lyft to pay a fee that would be used to compensate taxi and limousine services. "That would be a great barrier, a great cure," he told legislators. In remarks to *The Current*, he described the approval of ride-hailing upstate as "a joke," attributing it to "money talking" after intense lobbying by Uber and Lyft. Those efforts included a "Because Upstate Matters" campaign by Uber that cited opposition by "special interests" in Albany.

Joseph Castellano, the county legislator who represents Brewster, which has its own taxi commission, leaned toward opting out, noting that while "all of New York State —

(Continued on next page)



A guardrail along Fishkill Road overlooking the reservoir that supplies Cold Spring's drinking water

Photo by M. Turton



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upstate especially — really wants Uber and Lyft because of a lack of taxicabs, Putnam County, I think, is sort of unique. We have a lot of taxicab companies that operate here.”

In 2013 the Putnam County Transportation Advisory Committee, chaired by Vincent Tamagna, recommended the county ask the state for permission to create a taxi commission, but municipalities such as Brewster, Kent, Southeast and Patterson, resisted. By contrast, Cold Spring backed the idea.

At the June 22 meeting, Barbara Scucimarra (R-Philipstown) asked her colleagues to consider the needs of residents on the western side of the county, where there are fewer taxi services, before quashing ride-hailing.

“For a person to say to a taxi, ‘Come over to this side of the county,’ is like \$70,” she said. “Uber would be a lot more reasonable for them to be able to get around the county when they don’t have the accessibility to buses as we do over here” in Carmel. She also said she “would like to hear Uber’s side” of the debate.

The new DMV regulations require ride-hailing drivers to be at least 19 years old, pass a criminal background check and have a clean driving record. (Uber and Lyft currently require its drivers to be at least 21, and the companies conduct their own background checks.) A bill waiting for Gov. Andrew Cuomo’s signature co-sponsored by state Sen. Sue Serino, who



Uber spent more than \$750,000 on lobbyists in Albany during the first half of 2016 to push for ride-hailing services to be legalized across the state, according to a report by the Joint Commission of Public Ethics. This image was part of its campaign. *Uber*

represents Philipstown and Beacon, also would prohibit the DMV from allowing Level 1 sex offenders from becoming ride-hailing drivers. Level 2 and 3 offenders are already banned.

Upstate New York is one of the last places in the continental U.S. to hold out against ride-hailing, although many upstate officials argue it will provide jobs and better transportation options for rural areas, as well as cut down on drunk driving.

“Upstate cities are undergoing a revitalization but that can’t continue unless we have the most basic services that nearly

every other city in the U.S. enjoys,” read a letter sent in December to the governor signed by, among others, Dutchess County Executive Marc Molinaro. “When visitors arrive in Albany, Buffalo, Syracuse, Rochester, Utica and other cities, they are simply stunned when they open up their Uber app and see that they can’t get a ride here.”

After hearing complaints from cabbies, Beacon police have ticketed drivers, often from Newburgh, at the Metro-North station who do not have medallions issued by the city or taxicab operator licenses issued by the police department. Brewster

cabbies on June 22 complained to legislators about ride-hailing drivers from Connecticut who picked up fares at the train station there.

Holly Crocco and Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong contributed reporting.

Sample Fares

Cold Spring to Garrison

\$8

Cold Spring to Beacon

\$13

Garrison to Peekskill

\$17

For Uber economy service in the Highlands on June 29 from town centers. The base fare is \$2.55, plus 35 cents per minute and \$1.75 per mile. The minimum fare is \$8.

Uber takes about 20 percent of each fare in commission.

Michael McKee, PhD

Licensed Psychologist
Cognitive Behavioral
Psychotherapy (CBT)

35B Garrison Landing
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45 Popham Road
Scarsdale, N.Y. 10583

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PUBLISHER

Highlands Current Inc.
161 Main St.
Cold Spring NY 10516-2818
291 Main St., Beacon NY 12508

FOUNDER

Gordon Stewart (1939 - 2014)

MANAGING EDITOR

Chip Rowe
editor@highlandscurrent.com

ARTS/FEATURE EDITOR

Alison Rooney
arts@highlandscurrent.com

SENIOR CORRESPONDENT

Michael Turton

REPORTERS

Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong
Brian PJ Cronin
Joe Dizney
Pamela Doan
Mary Ann Ebner
Anita Peltonen
Jeff Simms

LAYOUT EDITOR

Kate Vikstrom

ADVERTISING DIRECTOR

Michele Gedney
For information on advertising:
845-809-5584
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Coast Guard Suspends Anchorage Proposal

*Admiral orders workshop to
assess hazards*

By Chip Rowe

The U.S. Coast Guard put the brakes on a proposal to create 10 anchorage grounds with 43 berths along the Hudson, including five between Beacon and Newburgh, for oil barges making the trip to processing plants in Albany.

The agency had received more than 10,000 negative comments about the proposal, and both Democrat and Republican politicians had condemned it as a danger to the river and those who live near it.

In bringing the proposal to the Coast Guard, the industry argued that anchorage spots are needed between Yonkers and Kingston for safety reasons, to allow captains to pause their trips much like a long-distance trucker would pull into a

rest stop. There are currently two anchorage sites, at Yonkers and Hyde Park, along the 100-mile stretch from New York City to Albany.

The American Waterways Operators, a trade group which represents the barge industry, calls the current anchorages "woefully inadequate" and said that "Coast Guard policy must not be driven by aesthetics but by safe usage of the waterways."

However, after reviewing the public comments, Rear Adm. Steven Poulin, commander of the First Coast Guard District, on June 28 suspended the process for at least a year and instead ordered a two-day workshop to assess hazards along the river that might impede barges.

U.S. Rep. Sean Patrick Maloney, who represents Beacon and Philipstown and introduced legislation to stop the proposal, said the admiral's decision effectively

killed it.

"I am glad the Coast Guard has come around to our way of thinking," he said in a statement. "Our river is a national treasure that should be preserved and protected for generations — not turned into a parking lot for commercial oil ships."

River Review

To be considered as a participant in the Coast Guard workshop, which will take place in the fall, email hudson-riverPAWSA@uscg.mil by July 21 with your name, contact information, connection to the river, experience and related skills.

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.

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Taking it to the Street

By Anita Peltonen

What freedoms do you most value?



"I'm pregnant for the first time with a daughter. I hope she'll be able to speak her mind when she's ready to. A lot of women don't have that freedom."
~ Erika Dasilva, Highland Mills



"The freedom to travel, not only in your country, but around the world. It heightens our sense of being members of the global community."
~ Donald Arrant, Cold Spring, with his son, Robin Huckleberry



"Everyone should be able to say what they want. And no one should be turned away because of their color or race."
~ Josephine Foley-Hedlund, Cold Spring

Sticking to the Plan

Beacon's building inspector discusses the city's growth

By Jeff Simms

Tim Dexter, who has been Beacon's building inspector since 1994, wears multiple hats, including fire inspector, plumbing inspector, code enforcement officer, flood plain administrator and zoning administrator. He spoke with *The Current* about planning, infrastructure and development. His responses have been edited for brevity.

Can you explain the functions of the Planning and Zoning boards?

The Planning Board administers zoning regulations. It doesn't have a whole lot of discretion. The Zoning Board of Appeals is a relief valve. When a community adopts zoning, it can't possibly think of every scenario and every property, so the zoning board grants variances.

You have developed a presentation about Beacon's revitalization. What do you say?

I talk about how we had to break down the good-old-boy system and give the building inspector enforcement tools. Beacon was a horrible place — and I was



Beacon Building Inspector Tim Dexter

Photo by J. Simms

born and bred here — and full of illegal housing units. Storefronts had been converted to apartments. The city would approve any project that came along. Now, after changing some of the zoning, we're in a more comfortable position, but Beacon still has to stay sharp.

What do you think of the pace of development in Beacon?

In 2007, the community had a vision that went into the comprehensive plan. Zoning laws were adopted to implement the plan. Now we're seeing that play out and people are saying it's horrible. Is it? This is what the community wanted. You make tough decisions, you adopt laws and you back the people empowered to carry out the laws. When elected officials start to waver on that, that gives me concern.

People who own land are entitled to develop it, in accordance with the zoning set forth by the comprehensive plan. The naysayers have no

(Continued on Page 6)

Defamation Case

(from Page 1)

issued June 13, Smith admitted that four years ago he made false statements about Levy, who was then D.A. His admission ended a civil trial over the matter two days after it began. Levy had asked for \$5 million but settled for \$150,000 and the public apology.

Although Levy sued Smith "individually and not in his capacity as an employee of the County of Putnam," the county, which employed both men at the time of the 2013 filing, became enmeshed.

The legislators, who voted 8-0 to approve the payment (with one absent) "fully acknowledge that using taxpayer monies to settle this case is troublesome to us, as it is to every taxpayer," said Ginny Nacerino (R-Patterson), who chairs the body. While the case "shatters trust in elected officials," she said, "we are not here to judge, but to make a sound decision."

"This is a matter of saving the taxpayer money," said Dini LoBue (R-Mahopac Falls), adding that she was "very upset" and "disgusted at what happened."

The money will come from the county's contingency fund.

Nacerino said that had the Levy case continued, the county risked a courtroom loss, appeals, and higher legal costs.

Responding to a question from *The Current*, Smith on June 29 said he did not pay the entire \$150,000 himself because "under state law, municipalities are required to pay for the defense of their officials and employees in litigation relating to their official duties. In this case, I personally paid a portion of the settlement amount to facilitate closure of the case."

A separate, related lawsuit still looms. Both lawsuits stem from Smith's handling of a criminal case against Alexandru Hossu, a fitness coach who occasionally stayed in Levy's home in Southeast before moving to Brewster. In 2013, he was accused of raping a girlfriend's teenage daughter. Recusing him-

self, Levy provided Hossu with a lawyer and paid more than \$100,000 of his legal expenses. Hossu spent more than a year in jail before being acquitted. He subsequently sued Smith and Putnam County for \$45 million.

When the Sheriff's Department arrested Hossu in 2013, Smith issued news releases falsely stating that Hossu lived at Levy's address; that Levy had interfered in the proceedings; and that Levy had harbored an "illegal alien" (Hossu is Romanian). In his June 13 apology, the sheriff retracted the releases, stating that they "were untrue and I should not have made them."

Barbara Scuccimarra (R-Philipstown) said she once "had a lot of faith" in the sheriff but, like her colleagues, considers his conduct "disappointing." Nonetheless, she said she regarded the \$125,000 payment as "the way to proceed."

Asked whether Smith had threatened to sue Putnam County if it did not make the \$125,000 payment to Levy, Nacerino said he had not, to her knowledge. "But this doesn't mean that's not a possibility," she said.

Ann Fanizzi, a former Cold Spring resident who now lives in Southeast, told the legislators she was "appalled that this Legislature would even think of supporting an elected official that held himself out as a paragon of patriotism and honesty but instead betrayed the public trust by misusing his office to defame a political opponent. Mr. Smith's wrongdoing should not be foisted on the backs of taxpayers."



Sheriff Donald Smith addressed an anti-drug forum at the Garrison Union Free School in March. Photo by L.S. Armstrong

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

ON THE PROPOSED FINANCING BY THE Continental Village Volunteer Fire Department, Inc.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Town Board of the Town of Philipstown, Putnam County, New York will meet at the Town Hall, 238 Main Street, Cold Spring, New York in said County on July 6, 2017 at 7:30 P.M., Prevailing Time, for the purpose of conducting a Public Hearing on the question of whether a tax-exempt lease-purchase obligation should be issued by "Continental Village Volunteer Fire Department, Inc. (the "Fire Company") to finance the cost of the purchase of a new Marion custom pumper and equipment, Truck & Chassis. The maximum aggregate face amount of the obligation to be issued with respect thereto will not exceed \$340,000.

At said Public Hearing said Town Board of the Town of Philipstown will hear all persons interested in the subject matter thereof.

DATED: Cold Spring, New York
June 28, 2017

BY ORDER OF THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF PHILIPSTOWN, PUTNAM COUNTY, NEW YORK by,

Tina M. Merando
Town Clerk

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a public hearing will be held by the Zoning Board of Appeals of the Town of Philipstown on Monday, July 10, 2017 at 7:30 p.m. at the Philipstown Town Hall, 238 Main Street, Cold Spring, New York, to hear the following appeal:

Martin McHugh, 200 Lake Surprise Road, Cold Spring, New York.

Tax Map # 27-1-29 and 27-1-30. This application is a Planning Board referral to the Zoning Board of Appeals. The applicant seeks to subdivide the subject property, with a lot line change. With the proposed lot line change, one of the existing lots, which currently lacks the minimum road frontage of 250 feet, will have its road frontage further reduced to 157.43 feet. The property is in the RR Zoning District. The applicant seeks an area variance to allow for the subdivision and lot line change, with a resulting deficiency in the minimum road frontage requirement.

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

Dated 6/19/17 • Robert Dee, Chairman, Town of Philipstown Zoning Board of Appeals

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Nelsonville Hires Bujarski as Inspector

Job eliminated in Cold Spring three weeks ago

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

Nelsonville Mayor Bill O'Neill on June 19 announced the selection of Bill Bujarski as the village's building inspector and code enforcement officer.

He was hired about three weeks after his position as inspector for the Village of Cold Spring disappeared when Philipstown and Cold Spring merged their departments. He had held the position since December 2009.

The appointment seems to end — at least for the immediate future — the possibility of Nelsonville merging its department with Cold Spring and Philipstown.

Bujarski succeeds George Duncan, who retired. An architect, Bujarski also works part-time as a Cold Spring police officer.

Because he lives in Putnam Valley, the board approved a resolution stating that a non-resident can hold the job.

Paying \$5,570 annually, the post is part time. "We're not exactly on the cusp of a building boom here," the mayor observed.

Bujarski also will serve as Nelsonville's fire inspector. He "will not start kicking down the door" but will take action if a property appears to harbor fire and safety hazards, O'Neill said.

O'Neill and Nelsonville's board have assiduously defended the autonomy of the approximately 500-person village. In a letter to *The Highlands Current* in March, Philipstown Supervisor Richard Shea expressed incredulity at Nelsonville's refusal to offer residents a "fully staffed, fully qualified and full-time building department at no additional cost" through a merger.

O'Neill responded with doubts that a merger comes at no cost. "Our citizens are smarter than that," he wrote.

Sticking to the Plan *(from Page 1)*

idea of the amount of planning behind the scenes. Will there be more traffic? Will parking be more difficult? Sure, but the city has plans. They're talking about how we're going to manage parking. We're looking at additional sources of water, even though our water studies show we can support 19,000 people. [Beacon's population is about 14,000.]

How do cities measure what their infrastructure can sustain?

There are formulas for how many gallons of water a single-family home or a single apartment unit uses per day. There are also formulas for how many acres of open space you need per 100 people.

It makes sense to build where there's [already] infrastructure. All the pipes in the ground, sewer or water, have to be replaced, and if there's more people to help pay that cost, that's where I want to be. Beacon should measure its growth in a thoughtful, carefully planned way, and I feel very confident that the city is on track.

"Is there a saturation point where we can't develop any more? You'll know that through the review process."

Is there a finish line in sight?

Is there a saturation point where we can't develop any more? You'll know that through the review process. The fire chief is going to say, "I'm operating at max capacity," or the schools will say they're bursting at the seams. We know our sewer plant was designed for 6 million gallons a day and we're at 3 million gallons now. All that stuff is analyzed.

Does growth in cities tend to be cyclical?

Sure. Look at Beacon. In the 1950s we were hot, and then we started to cool down in the '70s. In the 1980s we were ice cold but now we're on fire. The secret is to keep your edge, so you slow the cycle down. The mayor is doing that with the comp plan. From 2007 to 2017 a lot had changed, so it was time to refresh the numbers and see if that's where the community still wants to go.

What do you think Beacon will look like in 10 years?

I don't think there will be a huge population jump. If we get to 18,000 or 19,000 people, I don't think that's horrible, if the city stays sharp. You have to stay on top of your code enforcement.

I see it not much different than it is today, except the building you see going on will be completed. I see Beacon flourishing with restaurants and places to go out. With the money that the tax base will bring in, I see the infrastructure being brought up to where it needs to be. I see Beacon being as good a place to live as it is today.

What should people do if they are unhappy about the changes?

Come to public hearings. That's the time to speak out. If you're open-minded and your intentions are genuine, the mayor is always looking for volunteers for zoning boards or planning boards or other committees. That's a way to be positive and productive.

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Bill Bujarski speaks at a Cold Spring Village Board meeting in 2015.

File photo by L.S. Armstrong

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No Fire Protection Agreement for Nelsonville

Cold Spring rejects 'partial payment'

By Michael Turton

The Village of Nelsonville will be without fire protection as of July 1 after failing to renew its agreement with the Village of Cold Spring. But at the June 27 meeting of the Cold Spring Village Board, Mayor Dave Merandy said that the Cold Spring Fire Company would continue to answer calls in Nelsonville.

A contract proposed by Cold Spring would require Nelsonville to pay \$44,824. Nelsonville offered \$41,500, which Cold Spring rejected. "We are not accepting a partial payment," Merandy said.

Merandy described the counteroffer as "puzzling, at best," given that Cold Spring has provided fire protection since Nelsonville disbanded its own department.

In a letter that accompanied Nelsonville's alternative plan, Mayor Bill O'Neill said that agreeing to a provision that required payments to be "evaluated and adjusted each year" would be "fiscally irresponsible" on the part of the Nelsonville board.

Merandy said that Nelsonville objected to paying a portion of CSFC's workers' compensation and pension costs. O'Neill wrote that the Nelsonville board may call for a referendum in 2018 to determine if residents support paying part of those costs.



The Cold Spring firehouse roof is in need of repair.

Photo by Dave Lant

"When this referendum is completed we may be in a position to establish a longer term agreement," he wrote.

The CSFC budget each year is used to determine how much money is contributed by Nelsonville and Philipstown, which relies on the fire department for coverage of some areas. In the past, Cold Spring has billed Nelsonville while the fire company has dealt directly with the Town of Philipstown, Merandy said. He termed the practice unlawful. All billing he said, will now be done through the Cold Spring Village Board.

Deputy Mayor Marie Early added that billing for fire protection is based on the taxable assessed valuation of property in

the areas served by CSFC, as calculated by Putnam County.

Merandy said billing provides a "fair distribution of fire company costs," a formula that does not charge Philipstown or Nelsonville for such CSFC expenses as utilities, fuel for vehicles, maintenance and capital improvements. He challenged a comment by former Cold Spring mayor and CSFC member Ralph Falloon several weeks ago that Nelsonville's fire protection bill had become a source of cash for Cold Spring. "We're not making money on it," Merandy said.

In his letter O'Neill said he is willing to continue discussions.

A week earlier, several members of the

CSFC attended a Village Board meeting to discuss ongoing needs at the Main Street firehouse.

Merandy said that \$75,000 had been taken out of the year-end fund balance for roof repairs. The village expects to issue a request for proposals in July. The leaky roof has been an issue for some time and Merandy apologized for not moving ahead with the repairs more quickly. "We're kind of overwhelmed here, to tell you the truth," he said.

CSFC had also asked the Village Board to fund temporary air conditioning units for July and August, especially during its 15th annual Junior Firefighters Academy. "We can't approve temporary AC units for two months," Merandy said. "We don't have it in the budget."

He added that because it is early in the new budget year, which began June 1, it is more difficult to reallocate funds. "I can't find the money; I can't find it for other items, either," he said. Merandy said that in the next budget cycle items at the firehouse, including a new boiler and possible repairs to the floor, would have to be addressed.

Communications have been strained lately between the board and CSFC. During 2017-18 budget preparations, the board asked CSFC for its spending "actuals" a number of times, but the fire company did not respond. On the other hand, correspondence from CSFC to the village has at times apparently been misplaced.



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.



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Showdown in Albany Over Sales Tax

*Dutchess faced \$49M loss,
Putnam \$14M*

By Holly Crocco

The state legislature caused a panic among county executives when it balked at renewing legislation that allows New York counties to collect an additional 1 percent sales tax. Putnam County stood to lose about \$14 million annually and Dutchess \$49 million.

What You Pay

Putnam County

8.375%

County – 3 percent
Extender – 1 percent
State – 4 percent
MTA – 0.375 percent

County share (2017) = \$57 million

Dutchess County

8.125%

County – 2.75 percent
Extender – 1 percent
State – 4 percent
MTA – 0.375 percent

County share (2017) = \$184 million

After being called back by Gov. Andrew Cuomo for a special session, lawmakers on June 29 sent an omnibus bill to Cuomo for his signature that extends the sales tax measure for three years.

The state Legislature ruled in 2005 that counties could impose an extra half a percent of sales tax for a two-year period, which was increased to a full percent in 2007 and has been extended every two years.

The extender, typically a routine bill, this year was tied to mayoral control of New York City schools. Until the Senate and Assembly agreed, the ability of counties to collect 1 percent of their sales tax in 2018 remained in limbo.

The current extender expires Nov. 30, so counties could have seen their revenue dip as early as December without the extender. Counties conceivably would have had two options: raise property taxes or make drastic cuts, such as layoffs.

“In one fell swoop state leaders could undo everything that has been done in the past 10 years to curtail property tax increases,” said William Cherry, president of the New York State Association of Counties (NYSAC), in a statement.

In a letter to state lawmakers, Putnam County Executive MaryEllen Odell urged passage of the extender, noting that sales tax revenue accounts for 37 percent of the county budget. In Dutchess, it’s 39 percent.

NYSAC advised counties to draft their budgets with the expectation they would receive the 1 percent.

In April, the Putnam County Legislature voted 8 to 1 to request that the state Senate and Assembly extend the addition-

al 1 percent sales tax through 2019. Dini LoBue (R-Mahopac Falls) was the lone dissenting vote, saying the county needs to implement cost controls instead of relying on sales tax revenue.



GOT HERBS? — Girl Scout Junior Troop 1405 recently planted a community herb garden at St. Mary-in-the-Highlands Church in Cold Spring. The herbs include basil, parsley, thyme, rosemary, cilantro, sage, fennel, dill, marjoram and oregano. An honor-system donation box will help sustain the garden. To sign up, volunteer, make suggestions or for more information, email darsnowden88@gmail.com.

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The Calendar

Beer by the Hudson

Brewer and Riverkeeper team up for Ship Rocked IPA

By Brian PJ Cronin

Lots of Hudson Valley craft brewers are making IPAs these days, but only one brewer is doing it on a boat.

The Mill House Brewing Company in Poughkeepsie teamed up with the environmental organization Riverkeeper to brew 22 gallons of Ship Rocked IPA using 17th-century methods to call attention to a 21st-century problem: the need to protect sources of drinking water such as the Hudson.

As Mill House's Jamie Bishop explained while tapping a keg aboard the Evening Star — a boat owned by Trinity Cruise Company — the India Pale Ale (IPA) style wasn't invented by brewers trying to be hip or trendy. They were trying to keep people alive.

In the 1600s, the East India Trade Company sent ships from England to the Far East. Because drinking water stored on board would absorb the salty sea air over the months-long trips and turn brackish, the company loaded barrels of hoppy beer. The hops acted as a preservative, and the rocking motion mixed the beer and deepened its flavor.

For Bishop, who grew up in Poughkeepsie and spent a lot of time playing and fishing in the river, the idea of brewing a beer using the rocking of a boat sounded like too much fun not to try. At a symposium of small business owners who rely on the Hudson (Pough-

keepsie is one of the seven municipalities that use it for drinking water), Bishop mentioned the idea to Dan Shapley, Riverkeeper's water quality program director.

"I thought, well, I know somebody with a boat," Shapley recalled.

Mill House brewed four barrels of the IPA at their Poughkeepsie facility and stored them aboard the Evening Star for 16 days as the ship went about its normal routes. After periodic sampling, Bishop declared the beer fit to drink and the Evening Star filled its decks with brewers, reporters, environmentalists and politicians for a sunset tasting cruise.

The excursion was fun but also carried an important message, Shapley said. More than 100,000 people rely on the Hudson for drinking water, which is one of the reasons that protecting it is so important. "Most of you in the Hudson

Highlands get your drinking water from reservoirs up in the mountains that are surrounded by protected forests," he said. "Not everyone is so lucky."

Like all Mill House beers, Ship Rocked IPA is brewed with Hudson River water. Bishop noted that many beer

styles came about as a result of the specific characteristics of nearby rivers. The pristine rivers of the Czech Republic gave birth to pilsner, for example, whereas the mineral rich waters of Ireland are responsible for stouts.

The Hudson (Continued on Page 12)



Jamie Bishop and Larry Stock, brewmasters at Mill House Brewing Company, roll a barrel of Ship Rocked India Pale Ale onto the Evening Star.

Photo provided

Kristen Spooner: End-of-Year Report

A final check-in with new Haldane fifth-grade teacher

by Alison Rooney

In October, *The Current* profiled newly hired Haldane fifth-grade teacher Kristen Spooner. A former lawyer, she had previously taught for eight years at a high school in the Bronx. We checked in with Spooner in February to see how the year was going and visited with her most recently as the school year came to a close.

Unlike the 60 or so fifth-graders she hung out with this year, Spooner won't be moving on to middle school. Instead, in the fall she and her two colleagues who teach fifth grade will be back in their second-floor classrooms at Haldane Elementary with a new group of former fourth-graders.

A few weeks before the end of the year, Spooner already sounded wistful about the end of class.

"The kids are ready to move on," she says. "They were such babies when they came in, but now they have the desire to become more autonomous. It's there in the little things," (Continued on Page 11)



Kristen Spooner in her classroom near the end of her first year teaching at Haldane Elementary

Photo by A. Rooney



Larry Stock secures a barrel of Ship Rocked IPA aboard the Evening Star.

Photo provided

FRIDAY, JUNE 30

Requiem for the American Dream (Documentary)
7 p.m. First Presbyterian Church
50 Liberty St., Beacon
moviesthatmatterbeacon.org

H.V. Renegades vs. Lowell

7:05 p.m. Dutchess Stadium
1500 Route 9D, Wappingers Falls
845-838-0094 | hvrenegades.com

HVSF: Book of Will

6:15 p.m. Prologue
7:30 p.m. Performance
Boscobel, 1601 Route 9D, Garrison
845-265-9575 | hvshakespeare.org

Natalie Merchant

8 p.m. Bardavon
35 Market St., Poughkeepsie
845-473-2072 | bardavon.org

Vomit Fist

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

SATURDAY, JULY 1

New York Air Show
Noon – 4 p.m. Stewart Airport
New Windsor
airshowny.com

Estate Sale to Benefit Haldane Booster Club
8 a.m. – 2 p.m. 224 Main St., Cold Spring

Antiques Show & Flea Market
8 a.m. – 4 p.m. Stormville Airport
428 Route 216, Stormville
845-221-6561 | stormvilleairportfleamarket.com



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SUN 12:45 4:00 7:15
MON 1:45, TUE 12:45 4:00
WED & THU 4:00 7:15

Despicable Me 3 (PG)
FRI & SAT 3:00 5:15 7:45
SUN 1:00 3:30 6:00
MON 2:00, TUE 1:00 4:15
WED & THU 4:15 6:45

**Transformers:
The Last Knight** (PG13)
FRI & SAT 2:15 5:30 8:45
SUN 12:30 3:45 7:00
MON 1:30, TUE 12:30 3:45
WED & THU 3:45 7:00

Calendar Highlights

For upcoming events visit highlandscurrent.com.

Send event listings to calendar@highlandscurrent.com

Free Guided History Tour

11 a.m. West Point Foundry Preserve
80 Kemble Ave., Cold Spring
845-473-4440 x238 | scenichudson.org

Lucky 5 Jazz Band

3 p.m. Tompkins Corners Cultural Center
729 Peekskill Hollow Road, Putnam Valley
845-528-7280 | tompkinscorners.org

H.V. Renegades vs. Aberdeen

7:05 p.m. Dutchess Stadium
See details under Friday.

Benny Havens Band

7:30 p.m. Trophy Point, West Point
845-938-4159 | westpointband.com

HVSF: Twelfth Night

7:30 p.m. Boscobel
See details under Friday.

Constellation Sunset Boat Cruise

7:45 p.m. Beacon Institute Dock
melissamcgillconstellation.com

SUNDAY, JULY 2

New York Air Show
Noon – 4 p.m. Stewart Airport
See details under Saturday.

Antiques Show & Flea Market
8 a.m. – 4 p.m. Stormville Airport
See details under Saturday.

David Greely (Cajun Music)

1:30 p.m. Fiddlers/vocalists workshop
4 p.m. Performance
Tompkins Corners Cultural Center
See details under Saturday.

H.V. Renegades vs. Aberdeen

5:05 p.m. Dutchess Stadium
See details under Friday.

HVSF: Pride and Prejudice

7:30 p.m. Boscobel
See details under Friday.

MONDAY, JULY 3

H.V. Renegades vs. Aberdeen
7:05 p.m. Dutchess Stadium
See details under Friday.

HVSF: Book of Will

7:30 p.m. Boscobel
See details under Friday.

TUESDAY, JULY 4

See Page 1 for Independence Day events

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

WEDNESDAY, JULY 5

Beacon Players Summer Workshop
9 a.m. – Noon. Beacon High School
101 Matteawan Road, Beacon
845-234-9403 | beaconplayers.com

Community Blood Drive
2 – 8 p.m. St. John-St. Joachim Church
31 Willow St., Beacon
800-933-2566 | nybloodcenter.org

Desmond-Fish Library

6 p.m. Potluck picnic and sing-a-long
6:30 p.m. Writing Club for Tweens and Teens
472 Route 403, Garrison
845-424-3020 | desmondfishlibrary.org

HVSF: Twelfth Night

7:30 p.m. Boscobel
See details under Friday.

Town Board Meeting

7:30 p.m. Town Hall
238 Main St., Cold Spring
845-265-5200 | philipstown.com

FRIDAY, JULY 7

27th Annual Hot Air Balloon Festival
10 a.m. – 10 p.m. Barton Orchards
63 Apple Tree Lane, Poughquag
dcrcc.org/balloonfestival

Building Readers Story/Craft (ages 4-6)

11 a.m. Howland Library
See details under Thursday.

Maria Pia Marrella: Distopia (Opening)

5 – 8 p.m. Buster Levi Gallery
121 Main St., Cold Spring
845-809-5145 | busterlevigallery.com

Karen Madden, Bob Madden, Colleen Kavana (Opening)

6 – 9 p.m. Gallery 66 NY
66 Main St., Cold Spring
845-809-5838 | gallery66ny.com

Spellbound (2002) (grades 6-8)

6 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library
See details under Thursday.

HVSF: Book of Will

7:30 p.m. Boscobel
See details under June 30.

Green Beacon Coalition Meeting

6:30 p.m. Beahive Beacon
291 Main St., Beacon
greenbeaconcoalition.org

Putnam County Legislature

7 p.m. Historic Courthouse
44 Gleneida Ave., Carmel
845-208-7800 | putnamcountyny.com

H.V. Renegades vs. Staten Island

7:05 p.m. Dutchess Stadium
See details under Friday.

HVSF: Pride and Prejudice

7:30 p.m. Boscobel
See details under Friday.

Summer Movie Series: The Time of Our Lives

8 p.m. Beacon Visitors' Center
South and Main, Beacon
beaconchamberofcommerce.com

THURSDAY, JULY 6

Summer Reading Program Kickoff
9:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. Howland Library
313 Main St., Beacon
845-831-1134 | beaconlibrary.org

Sciencetellers (grades K-5)
10 a.m. Butterfield Library
10 Morris Ave., Cold Spring
845-265-3040 | butterfieldlibrary.org



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Kristen Spooner *(from Page 9)*

like taking ownership of their cubbies, and the bigger things, like not constantly raising their hands asking for permission to do everything."

The structure of fifth grade at Haldane, in which students shift rooms and teachers during the day, contributes to this sense of independence, she says, "despite the organizational challenges it brings up for some kids."

Spooner faced some challenges of her own. "This was my first time with the curriculum, and I definitely had some pacing issues and had to do a bit of catch-up, but that's all part of the process," she says. "It was a nerve-wracking at times, but I was able to circle back later in the year."

She said the support from parents were "over-the-top amazing" — from buying books for the classroom to PTA events such as Teacher Appreciation Week, "which I didn't know actually existed."

Spooner lives in Cold Spring with her husband, Ben, a 1998 Haldane grad, and their two preschool sons. "I was a little nervous at first about living in the same place as teaching," she says, "but it hasn't been challenging at all. From experiencing Parrott Street at Halloween to getting 'flocked' [waking up to find 30 plastic pink flamingos on her lawn as part of a varsity softball fundraiser], it's all been good. No one has caught me or beat me up at Foodtown about anything just yet."

Spooner says she was most surprised by similarities between Haldane students and those she taught elsewhere. "I naively assumed I wouldn't encounter certain behaviors here," she says. "It's been a learning experience to see that kids are kids despite the socio-economics involved."

She says the resignation of Elementary Principal Brent Harrington, who will leave on June 30 to take a job in Sleepy Hollow, was "tough news" for her. "He has been truly supportive," she says. "The unknown is always a little unnerving. I never experienced an administrative change in all the time at my school in the Bronx, but I'm sure whoever they hire will be great." (On June 21, Haldane hired David Wallick, most recently with the Middle Country Central School District on Long Island, to succeed Harrington.)

Over the summer, Spooner will be joining a number of other Haldane faculty at a project-based learning conference in St. Louis and enjoying some R&R — or as much as possible while she and her husband take trips in a small camper with 2- and 4-year-old boys. In the fall, their older son will start kindergarten at Haldane.

If Spooner could provide advice for other first-year elementary teachers, it would be to preserve their sense of humor (including laughing at yourself) and to be flexible about plans and expectations. She said she would be pleased if her students felt the class had

challenged them. "They all have learned, but I hope it went beyond that — my expectations are high," she says. "I hope they feel that my class had something for everyone. Everyone has an aptitude for different things, and it's great to see kids run with something which inspires them."

"These kids have really touched me," Spooner says of her fifth-graders. "I'll miss them, and hope they pop in to say hello in the fall — plus, I plan on helping with basketball, so I'll see some of them again through that." Spooner wrote each of her students an end-of-year card, which is something she did in the Bronx, as well.

For the first two stories in this series, see highlandscurrent.com.

2017 Graduates We Missed Last Week

O'Neill High School

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Purchase College

Jared Bernacchia, Beacon (Journalism)
Simon Lai, Garrison (Sociology)
Anna Ledwith, Cold Spring (Arts Management)
Julia Meslener, Garrison (New Media)

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Emily Eraca, Beacon
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Beer by the Hudson *(from Page 9)*



Larry Stock and Jamie Bishop, brewmasters at Mill House Brewing Company, roll a barrel of Ship Rocked India Pale Ale to the Evening Star.

Photo provided

sports a clean and light flavor profile since it's fed mostly from storm runoff, which is one of the reason that Matthew Vassar built what was, at the time, one of the nation's largest breweries in Poughkeepsie more than 100 years ago. "Other brewers would kill to brew with this water," Bishop said. Since the Hudson's waters are relatively mineral free, it allows Mill House to build whatever flavor profile they want.

"It would be too expensive if we had to take things out of the water, and it creates a lot of waste," he said.

Bishop admitted he was worried how the beer would turn out. The weather in

the Hudson Valley over the past month has seen temperature swings between 40 and 96 degrees. But turning over the final steps of the brewing process to Mother Nature was part of the fun.

He needn't have worried. To this reviewer, the brew was crisp, only mildly hoppy with delicate citrus notes and a pleasant caramel finish, as opposed to the often overwhelming flavors of other craft IPAs.

Although the inaugural batch of Ship Rocked IPA has been consumed, Bishop said he'd like to brew 40 barrels next year. "I just need somebody with a bigger boat."



COOL SPOT — The Beacon Pool at 724 Wolcott Ave. has opened, and not a moment too soon. Family season passes have sold out, but day passes are available for \$4 for adults and \$3 for children and seniors. Any resident of New York state is welcome.

Photo provided

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Depot Theatre Gets Approval for Patio Rehab

Metro-North says it can tear up concrete

By Chip Rowe

As part of its Looking Swell campaign, which raised about \$200,000, the Philipstown Depot Theatre replaced its 67 seats and renovated its backstage. The last phase of the overhaul was replacing 4,500 square feet of broken and uneven concrete between the theater and the Metro-North tracks and add drainage, new lampposts and outdoor seating.

There was one complication: The railroad owns the land up to the theater's entrance (including a few feet under its alcove), as it does property on either side of the tracks along the Hudson and its other lines.

On June 23, the MTA Board approved a licensing agreement with the nonprofit theater to allow it to upgrade the space, which will cost about \$60,000. The agreement is for five years, with two five-year renewals, and the theater will send the railroad a small lease payment.

"Metro-North gave us a very generous rate in recognition of fact that we're put-



Executive Director Amy Dul and Artistic Director Nancy Swann of the Philipstown Depot Theatre stand on the patio that the nonprofit plans to transform with new concrete, lighting and seating.

Photo by C. Rowe

ting \$60,000 into the renovation, and it will clean up a little bit of a liability for them and turn an eyesore into a vibrant meeting place," said Steve Ives, chairman of the theater board.

The theater had only about \$15,000 left from its campaign for the patio rehab before an anonymous donor stepped for-

ward with the remaining \$45,000, Ives said. Several Metro-North departments need to sign off on the plans, he said, but the theater hopes to begin the project in October.

Built in 1892, the depot served train riders until shortly before it was sold in 1962 to the Garrison Landing Association,

which has been leasing the building to the theater since 1996.

The next project for the theater, Ives said, is to find permanent storage for its scenic shop and costumes. The costumes are now at the Philipstown Recreation Department and the scenic shop in donated space at Winter Hill in Garrison.

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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Cajun Music Concert

Performer will also lead workshop

On Sunday, July 2, David Greely will lead a two-hour workshop for Cajun fiddlers and vocalists followed by a concert at Tompkins Corners Cultural Center in Putnam Valley. The workshop begins 1:30 p.m. and the concert at 4 p.m.

Greely, the founding fiddler of the Mamou Playboys, focuses on "home music" designed for listening rather than dancing. This allows him to use more archival material and an expanded palette of moods and modes, minor keys and esoteric tunes.

The suggested donation is \$20 for the workshop, \$15 for the concert, \$30 for both, or pay what you can. Reserve a space at tompkinscorners.org. The cultural center is located at 729 Peekskill Hollow Road.



David Greely will perform Cajun music on July 2 in Putnam Valley. *Photo provided*

History Museum to Host Lawn Party

Annual fundraiser set for July 8

The Putnam History Museum will hold its annual lawn party from 5 to 7 p.m. on Saturday, July 8, at the home of the Pugh family at 3 Rock St. in Cold Spring. The attire is summer whites for the rain-or-shine event. Tickets are \$70 through July 3, or \$80 at the door. Valet parking will be available.

The party will include a sneak peek of scenes from the forthcoming production

by the Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival of *The General from America*, which opens at Boscobel on Aug. 8. The production will coincide with the exhibit *Treason! Benedict Arnold in the Hudson Highlands*, which opens at the museum on July 23. Museum admission is \$5 for adults, \$2 for seniors and students, and free for children and members. It is open from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesday to Sunday.

Cold Spring Openings

New art shows on July 7

Fiber artist Karen Madden and stone sculptor Bob Madden, along with painters Colleen Kavana and Nicole Hughes, will display their work during a show that opens with a reception from 6 to 9 p.m. on Friday, July 7, at Gallery 66 NY in Cold Spring. It continues through July 30. The gallery, located at 66 Main St., is open noon to 6 p.m. Friday to Sunday.

At Buster Levi Gallery, at 121 Main St., a show called *Distopia* will feature the

work of Maria Pia Marrella. It too opens with a reception on July 7, from 5 to 8 p.m., and continues through July 30. It will be the 13th solo show for Marrella, who is a founding member of the gallery, which opened in 2014. The show will also feature a short film on the artist, *Putting the Fire Out*, by Leah Galant. The gallery is open from noon to 6 p.m. Friday to Sunday.

Central Hudson Trimming Cold Spring Trees

Clearing branches and vegetation near power lines

Central Hudson over the next few weeks will be in Cold Spring clearing vegetation and tree branches that are interfering with electric lines. Most of these shrubs and trees are located along roadways, but some may be on private property.

For information, see coldspringtree.weebly.com. If you have concerns about clearance work on village trees, call the village clerk at 845-265-3611. For concerns about trees on private property, call Central Hudson at 845-452-2700 to be put in touch with a field supervisor.

Sponsor a Tree Guard

Main Street project in Phase 1

The Tree Advisory Board of the Village of Cold Spring plans to plant two pink flowering Kwanzan Cherry trees and install painted steel tree pit guards, permeable grass pavers and garden plantings in a 50-foot run adjacent to 93 to 91 Main Street and Village Hall as the first phase of the Main Street Beautification Project. The trees will be planted in the fall and the guards and landscaping completed once fundraising is finished.

A number of existing trees also will be fitted with tree guards. To sponsor a guard (plaques are available) or make a donation, email jzwarich.cstab@gmail.com.



An example of a treeguard in New York City *Photo provided*

Hit the Trail

Museum organizes mountain hike

The Hudson Highlands Nature Museum has organized a four-hour mountain hike for adults on Saturday, July 8, beginning at 9 a.m. Adam Harlec will lead the group up Schunnemunk Mountain, the highest in Orange County at 1,664 feet. The hike is about four miles with 1,200-foot elevation.

The cost is \$7 for museum members or \$10 otherwise. Prepaid registration is required. See hnhm.org or call 845-534-5506, ext. 204.

Later that day, at 8 p.m., the museum will host a full-moon hike at its Outdoor Discovery Center in Cornwall. A guide will share lunar and celestial stories. The cost is \$8 (\$10) for adults and \$5 (\$7) for children. See hnhm.org.

Have Your Soil Tested

Master Gardeners will be at market

Master Gardeners from the Cornell Cooperative Extension of Putnam County will have a booth at the Cold Spring Farmers' Market at Boscobel from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. on Saturday, July 8, to answer gardening questions. They will also offer soil pH tests for \$5.

Beacon

South Avenue Summer

Drop-in program begins July 3

A free drop-in program for children sponsored by the Beacon Recreation Department begins Monday, July 3, at South Avenue Park. Activities include sports, arts and crafts, games and team-building and nutrition lessons. The city also works in partnership with Kids R Kids Feeding Program to provide free lunch. (see below)

The program takes place Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. through Friday, Aug. 18. Registration is not required.

Free Summer Lunch

Available to children and teens

The Kids R Kids Feeding Program and its partners are again offering free lunches throughout the summer to children and teenagers age 18 and younger at three locations in Beacon.

The meals are offered weekdays from noon to 12:45 p.m. (except July 3 and 4) through Aug. 25 at Tompkins Terrace (194 Tompkins Ave.), Davies South Terrace (52 Davies Ave.) and the Beacon Community Resource Center (23 W. Center St.). For information, call 845-242-1973.

(Continued on next page)



The Putnam History Museum will recall Thomas P. Rossiter's 1863 painting, "A Pic-Nic on the Hudson," with its own on July 8.

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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Baseball Camp Registration Open

Led by Beacon High School coach

The 17th annual Beacon Bulldogs baseball camp, which takes place from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Aug. 21 to 24, is open for registration. Led by Beacon High School Coach Bobby Atwell and Assistant Coach Tim Newman, the camp is open to boys and girls ages 6 to 12.

The fee is \$100 per camper, and payment is due by Aug. 14. The camp is held at Memorial Park. See beaconjuniorbaseball.com/beacon-bulldog-baseball-camp, or call 845-389-2356.

The Hudson in Art

Gallery features tribute to river

On Second Saturday, July 8, the Banerman Island Gallery in Beacon will open a group exhibit focused on the Hudson River with works by 25 artists. The show, called *B.I.G. Hudson River Art Exhibition*, continues through Sept. 3.

Located at 150 Main St., the gallery will hold a reception from 5 to 8 p.m. The gallery hours are noon to 5 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday.

Dragon Boats Will Race July 22

Benefits Habitat for Humanity

Individual and team registration is open for the annual Dragon Boat Race & Festival in Poughkeepsie, which will take place Saturday, July 22, at the Hudson River Rowing Association Dock. The event benefits Habitat for Humanity of Dutchess County.

A dragon boat is a 40-foot-long canoe, 4 feet wide, made of fiberglass, with a carved painted dragon head on the front, a wooden tail on the back and the hull painted with dragon scales. The paddles represent the claws. Each boat holds 16 paddlers in eight rows.

The registration fee for each paddler is \$55, which will include three or four races. See dutchessdragonboat.org. Admission to the riverside festival is free.

Howland Launches Summer Reading

Events scheduled for July and August

The Howland Public Library's 10th annual Adult Summer Reading Program will kick off Thursday, July 6. Stop by the library between 9:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. to learn about the four-week program, which includes drawings for prizes donated by local merchants. Participants receive one entry for each book read.

A number of events have been scheduled. On July 17, at 2 p.m., Joanne Barclay will present a Stampin' Up nautically-themed card-making workshop; on July 19 at 1 p.m., Sally Delmerico will explain



The Beacon Historical Society will host a postcard show and sale on July 8 at the Memorial Hall Building.

how to take great vacation photos with a digital camera; on July 26 at 2 p.m., Kevin Woyce will present a slideshow of photographs of lighthouses of Cape Cod and Rhode Island.

Other events are scheduled for August. Only the card-making workshop requires registration. Call 845-831-1134.

Vintage Postcard Show

Historical society event on July 8

The Beacon Historical Society will host a vintage postcard show and sale at the Memorial Hall Building on Saturday, July 8, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission will be \$3. The hall is located at 413 Main St. See beaconhistorical.org.

Free Day at Dia:Beacon

Museum will open doors on July 8

Dia:Beacon will offer free admission on Saturday, July 8, from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. as part of its Community Free Day for residents of Dutchess, Putnam and other counties. At 2:30 p.m. Anna Lovatt, a professor of art history at Southern Methodist University in Dallas, will discuss the work of Michelle Stuart. See diart.org/freeday. The museum is located at 3 Beekman St.

50 Miles from Woodstock

Museum puts out call for artists

An upcoming exhibit called *Radius 50* will feature work by artists who live within 50 miles of Woodstock. The submission deadline is July 5.

For guidelines, see woodstockart.org/radius-50-exhibition-online-application-now-available. The exhibit is sponsored by the Woodstock Artists Association & Museum.

Head Coverings Explored

Sikh, Muslim and Jewish traditions

The Mid-Hudson Folk Arts Program and Mid-Hudson Heritage Center will present a program, "More Than a Hat: Religious Head Coverings in Everyday Life," with Sikh, Muslim and Orthodox Jewish community leaders at 1 p.m. on Sunday, July 9, at the center.

Members of each group will talk about the meaning of their head coverings and how it is an outward expression of their faith. They also will answer questions. Call 845-454-3222. The center is located 317 Main St., in Poughkeepsie.

Cannonball Run

Course ends at pool

The Beacon Recreation Department is sponsoring a "cannonball run" through the University Settlement property on Saturday, July 8. Choose a 5-kilometer or mile-long course; both end with a jump into the Beacon Pool. A donation of \$20 for the 5K and \$5 for the mile is suggested to benefit the Beacon Rec tuition assistance program. Cash and exact change are appreciated. See facebook.com/events/250417638699785.

Reflecting the Natural World

Matteawan show opens July 8

The Matteawan Gallery in Beacon will host a reception from 6 to 9 p.m. on July 8 to open *Super Natural*, a group exhibit of paintings, drawings, and prints by Julia Whitney Barnes, Gabe Brown, Cecilia Whittaker-Doe, Matt Frieburghaus, Charles Geiger and Eleanor Sabin, each of whom focuses on the natural world. The show runs through Aug. 21.

Cultural Center Organizes Trip

Group will visit botanical garden

The Howland Cultural Center will lead a day trip on Tuesday, Aug. 8, aboard an air-conditioned motor coach to the New York Botanical Garden to see an exhibit of Dale Chihuly's glass sculptures. The bus will leave from the Yankee Clipper parking lot at 9 a.m. and return about 6 p.m. Tickets are \$70 (\$65 for members), which includes transportation and admission. Call 845-831-4988.

Acting Workshops

High school students invited

The Beacon Players will hold summer workshops at Beacon High School each Wednesday over the summer from 9 a.m. to noon starting July 5. The workshops will include audition tips for the fall production of *Cinderella*, theater games and improv and instruction in set design, lighting and costumes. All high school students are invited, including incoming freshmen.

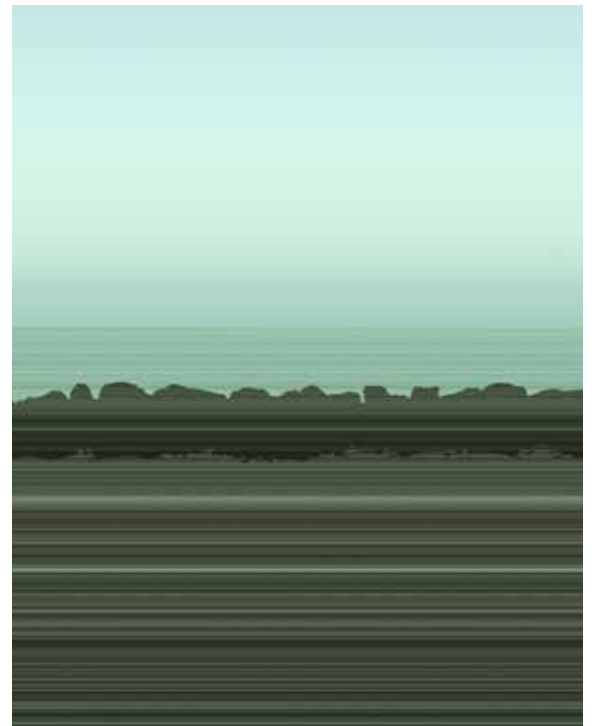
New York Air Show

Takes place at Stewart Airport July 1 and 2

The U.S. Navy Blue Angels will headline the 2017 New York Air Show at Stewart International Airport on Saturday, July 1, and Sunday, July 2.

The U.S. Air Force will commemorate its 70th birthday with its latest, most advanced aircraft, the F-35 Lightning II Joint Strike Fighter, as well as demonstrating the capabilities of the F-16 Viper.

The show runs from noon until 4 p.m. both days. The gates open at 9 a.m. and early arrival is recommended due to traffic. See airshowny.com.



"Bay," a digital print by Matt Frieburghaus, will be on display at the Matteawan Gallery starting July 8.

Image provided

Roots and Shoots

What to Feed the Food?

Making sense of fertilizer

By Pamela Doan

As an organic gardener, I'm suspicious and baffled by the options in the fertilizer aisle. My approach has been to do nothing. Prior to planting, I add compost and organic matter to build up healthy, rich soil in my raised beds and nature does the rest. But I get mixed results. I turned for advice to Jarret Nelson, who oversees 6 acres of organic vegetables at Glynwood and feeds hundreds of people through its CSA.

If you start with healthy soil, do vegetables need fertilizer?

It depends how much compost you start with. The primary nutrient requirement for plants is nitrogen, and it can be released slowly or quickly. Compost, like most organic sources, releases a steady amount as it breaks down. If you started with a pound per square foot (roughly a 2-inch top dressing), you're probably fine. If you didn't, you might want to add organic fertilizer.

Do all vegetables need the same amount?

There can be significant differences. A lettuce head that will be there for 50 to 60 days needs a lot less than a tomato plant that's in for 100 days. Some crops are heavy feeders: tomatoes, potatoes, cabbage, Brus-



Adding compost before you plant vegetables ensures a steady diet during the season.

Photo by Filippo Giuliani/Shutterstock

sels sprouts, eggplant, peppers, cauliflower, broccoli. If you have kale or chard and want to keep them going for a long time, you need more fertilizer.

The label on fertilizers says N/P/K, for Nitrogen, Phosphorus/Phosphate and Potassium/Potash, giving the amounts that are included. How much of each do you need?

Phosphorus and potassium are less important than nitrogen. Nitrogen is soluble and leaches out of soil quickly. That's why you need to have things continuously breaking down. Phosphorus is not very soluble and if you have high levels of it, you don't need to add any.

Potassium leaches out but not as much as nitrogen and you may not need to add more.

Soil tests are a good idea to know what's going on.

Can you do harm by adding fertilizer?

One issue is runoff and too much nitrogen will also attract certain pests like aphids. It changes something about the biochemistry of the plant.

Phosphorus stays in the soil and you can turn your soil infertile if you continuously add too much. You'd have to be putting in a fair amount every year, though. I'm not sure if you can overdo potassium, but going crazy dumping stuff isn't a good idea.

If I check pH balance for acidity and alkalinity, does that indicate the nutrient level?

That tells you how easily plants can up-

take nutrients. Adding nutrients won't help if pH is too low or too high. You want to be in the 6-to-8 range.

What does "organic" fertilizer mean when you see it on a label?

If you see OMRI, that means it's Organic Materials Review Institute certified. That's the only claim that means something, which is that there are no chemicals. Most OMRI fertilizers are made from products such as soybeans, fish, seaweed, blood, feather or bone, peanuts, alfalfa.

How are they different from conventional fertilizers?

A lot of conventional fertilizers are ammonia based, created in a lab, and made out of natural gas. That's part of why it's an environmental issue. Also, because it's based on a finite resource, it's not sustainable. They are a lot more powerful. A common organic fertilizer will be 5/3/4 (N/P/K) while a common conventional one will be 30/30/30.

Should you add manure to compost or directly?

Manure is a good nutrient source. There are some food safety concerns, though. Either apply it in the fall before planting in the spring or add it to compost. I wouldn't recommend it as a mid-year fertilizer. In general, liquid fertilizers are more quick acting and work well later in the season for a boost. Solids are better before you plant. If I were a gardener, I would just put a lot of compost down.

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From Hair to Health Care

Dorothy Carlton changed careers — at age 53

By Michael Turton

A midlife career change may seem daunting, but even after age 50 you may still have 15 to 20 years before retirement. In one survey of 2,000 older Americans, 82 percent said they had changed not only jobs but careers after age 45. Among the most common paths are teaching and nursing, with 55 percent of nurses in the U.S. now over age 50.

That has been the route for a number of Highlands residents, including Dorothy Carlton of Cold Spring, who owned a salon for nearly 30 years until, at age 53, she graduated last year with a bachelor's degree in nursing from Mount Saint Mary College. Now an RN at St. Luke's Hospital in Cornwall, she works the midnight shift on a surgical floor. Her responses have been edited for brevity.

What inspired you to change careers?

My interest in nursing goes back to the birth of my first child 19 years ago. During labor and delivery, I saw the vital role that nurses play; it was so important to have someone who was on your side, supporting you, making sure you had what you needed. I wanted to be an advocate for women. It was a distant but untouchable dream for many years because I had small children.

What was it like being older than the other students?

They were all kids in their early 20s. I don't think the age difference mattered but if I walked into a room and the other students didn't know me they thought I was the instructor. They had questions for me!

Was college difficult after being away from the books for so long?

I was terrified at first. I didn't think that my brain had the capacity to retain the information. I didn't know if I had the ability to learn on the level I needed. But statistically, older students do better because we are focused. We want this; failure is not an option.

What went through your mind your first day as an RN?

Am I going to remember anything I learned in school? Am I going to be able to do this job? But they bring you in gently. And it was exciting: "I'm finally here. This is what I've worked for all this time."

What is it like working midnights?

Better than I expected. I'm not as tired waking up in the evening as opposed to 5 a.m. I feel I need less sleep between shifts. It's quieter, but not less busy.

Is it a big adjustment for your two sons?

Julian is 19, so he's fine. Alex is 14 and stays with his father when I work. He misses me but he likes to call me and order his breakfast or lunch to be brought to his school on my way home!

What has been your scariest moment?

When a patient goes into crisis, you call a "Rapid Response" to head a "Code Blue" off at the pass. About 10 people come into the room, sometimes within seconds. I made the call — now I have to give the doctors all the information so they can assess the situation — and you don't have the paperwork in your hand. It's scary; it's a lot of stress.

What's been your biggest reward?

As a hairdresser you're a freelancer and you constantly have to go after the work; it never changes. Nursing is a great job with benefits and security. My sense of accomplishment, though, is more about achieving my goal. I never liked science yet now have a bachelor's degree. It's remarkable. And it's very nice to have a steady job.

Do most patients appreciate your work?

Some patients don't understand how much we do on the front lines. But a lot of people appreciate it; they get how hard we work. It's about half and half.



Dorothy Carlton

Photo by M. Turton

Have doctors treated you differently than the younger grads?

They probably expect more because nobody knows I'm new. But I tell them right off the bat. "I'm new — so tell me what you need and I'll give it to you." My maturity is an advantage, as are my life skills.

What would you say to a 40-something who is thinking about doing what you did?

You're never too old. I plan on getting a master's degree, become a nurse practitioner and earn a doctorate in nursing. It's not just about wanting to help people. Are you *capable* of helping people? That's the big thing.

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5 Five Questions: Peter McGivney

By Brian PJ Cronin

Peter McGivney has been a librarian at the Howland Public Library for 30 years.

How has being a librarian changed?

The year after I got my master's degree in library science, the World Wide Web was invented, making everything I had just learned obsolete. Days with 50 reference questions were common; now on a busy day we get 11. The questions we get now are about local history or how to find information online.

Do people tend to put too much trust in what they find online?

There's an entry on Joseph Howland on Wikipedia. How do you know any of that is right? I mean, I know it's right, because I wrote it. But how do you know that I know what I'm talking about?

Do you have an area of expertise?

Local history. There is no one-volume history of Beacon. People come in and say "My house was built in 1820, I want to learn something about it." Well, unless your house was built by the Dutch, there's no book about it. Or people will be looking for information about dead relatives. "My great-great grandfather was born in 1911, why can't I find his birth certificate?" In 1911 there was no Beacon, so all of those records are at Fishkill Town Hall.

You're an avid photographer. What do you look for?

Everybody looks for Cartier-Bresson's "decisive moment." It doesn't take long to figure out that those moments only happened to him. In Beacon, if you're waiting for one of those decisive moments, you're going to be waiting awhile. I think they

occur on alternate Tuesdays during Lent and that's about it. Lately I've been going into bars and clubs and taking pictures of musicians.

What do you read?

History, mostly. I'm reading an ungodly thick book about the history of the Mediterranean. I did read Proust's *In Search Of Lost Time*. The man wrote a book in which nothing happens and he describes at great length the ways in which nothing is happening and how it reminds him of something else that didn't happen a long time ago. On the other hand, I read *Pride and Prejudice* for the first time when I was 45, and the only



Peter McGivney

Photo by Michelle Rivas

awful thing about *Pride and Prejudice* is that you can only read it for the first time once.

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Italian Art Space Opens in Philipstown

Grand party marks arrival of Olnick Spanu collection

by Alison Rooney

Magazzino Italian Art, the long-gestating art space that holds by far the largest collection of Arte Povera (“poor art”) outside of Italy, opened with a grand party on June 28, following a press preview four days earlier. Its founders and patrons are Nancy Olnick and Giorgio Spanu of Garrison.

The Magazzino building, although visible from Route 9 just south of the intersection of Route 301, feels far removed from that busy artery. Spanish architect Miguel Quismondo worked from the original structure, a warehouse (*magazzino*) that had once been a dairy distribution center and more recently the Cyberchron computer factory. He kept the factory-high ceilings, their beams now covered with white paint, but otherwise rendered the space unrecognizable.



Vittorio Calabrese, director of Magazzino and a new Beacon resident, at the June 28 opening

Photo by Zach Hilty/BFA

The building has 20,000 square feet, which includes nearly 18,000 to display artwork, and a 5,000-volume library, the latter to be ready in January. The original L-shaped footprint has been altered into a rectangle with the addition of a second gallery built of concrete and metal girders. It surrounds a courtyard, while skylights provide natural light and everywhere there are huge glass windows, affording immersive views of the landscaping.

Arte Povera was the term given in the late 1960s to a Turin-based movement of artists opposed to the commercialization of art and industrialization. Working with everyday, mundane materials — including, surprisingly, neon created with the abundant reserves of lead found in that area — the artists largely created sculpture and installations, repurposing industrial materials. Their often large-scale works require the ample space that Magazzino has provided.

One side of the complex will mostly hold pieces from the permanent collection, while the other will host biannual



Nancy Olnick and Giorgio Spanu with Michelangelo Pistoletto's "Stracci Italiani" (2007)

Photo by Marco Anelli

exhibitions starting in March related to post-war and contemporary Italian art. The inaugural show highlights the collection of gallery owner Margherita Stein and includes about 70 works of artists she fostered.

The permanent collection includes not just Arte Povera but a selection of works by artists in the generation that followed. They are arranged to provoke thought and questions about each artist's intention, explains Magazzino Director Vittorio Calabrese, an Italian who has relocated to Beacon. The works are arranged loosely by themes, particularly duality, identity and time. Some are minimalist and centered on the materials while others draw from literature, myth, theater and Italian heritage.

“It’s a dialogue, a conversation,” he says. “Arte Povera is like an umbrella, but we are going beyond and highlighting the individual process. We want the viewer to have an emotional, personal response, not an academic one.”

To reinforce that goal, there are no wall plaques. Instead, visitors are given a pam-



Magazzino Italian Art

Photo by Marco Anelli

phlet designed to be read after seeing the art. Although tours will be offered from time to time, most visitors are encouraged to browse at their own pace.

Calabrese says Arte Povera was Italy's last avant-garde group movement. “The generation after that rejected it, but now there is a third generation, which has become interested again,” he says. “Their work is less conceptual, more experimental.”

Magazzino intends to support projects by emerging artists in Italy and the U.S.

and recently sponsored a project by Beacon-based Melissa McGill, *The Campi*, a sculptural sound project relating to Venetian squares.

The creation of the art space, from construction to installation, was captured by photographer Marco Anelli, whose book, *Building Magazzino*, will be published in October by Rizzoli.

Located at 2700 Route 9, Magazzino is open by appointment. To reserve a two-hour visit, see magazzino.art/booking.



Detail of an untitled work by Jannis Kounellis (1989)

Photo by Marco Anelli



A view of one gallery with works by Luciano Fabro, Alighiero Boetti, Michelangelo Pistoletto and Mario Merz

Photo by Marco Anelli

