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.

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.

For more, see fishkillfarms.com.

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)

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 upstream via the aqueduct that runs through Philipstown). He said he was also told 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 Scuccimarra 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 and treatment plant 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 decrees 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 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.
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 Scuccimarra (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 where there are fewer taxi services, before hearing Uber’s side” of the debate.

Carmel. She also said she “would like to see accessibility to buses as we do over here” in Putnam County, I think, is sort of unique. 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."

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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 anchorages 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 waters.”

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 hudsonriverPAWSA@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.

Current Feeds

Apple News — Search for “Highlands Current” in News on iPhone or iPad to make a Favorite.

Google News — Click gear, then Sources, then type in “Highlands Current” under Preferred.

Taking it to the Street

What freedoms do you most value?

By Anita Peltonen

“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
Dini LoBue (R-Mahopac) and Ginny Nacerrino (R-Patterson), who chairs the body. "We have a duty to the people we represent," Nacerrino said that had the Levy case proceeded, 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 himself, Levy provided Hossu with a lawyer and paid more than $300,000 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, Nacerrino 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."

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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 on 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 27-130. 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
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 departments 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.
The Highlands Current

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 budget for the firehouse, would have to be addressed. It includes a new boiler and possible repairs to the floor, would have to be addressed. “We’re kind overwhelmed here, to tell you the truth,” Merandy apologized for not moving ahead with the repairs more quickly. “We’re kind of overwhelmed here, to tell you the truth,” he said.

Cold Spring 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.

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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.

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.

What You Pay

Putnam County

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Local</th>
<th>Extender</th>
<th>State</th>
<th>MTA</th>
<th>County share (2017)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8.375%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>0.375%</td>
<td>$57 million</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Dutchess County

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Local</th>
<th>Extender</th>
<th>State</th>
<th>MTA</th>
<th>County share (2017)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8.125%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>0.375%</td>
<td>$184 million</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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 additional 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.
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 (Poughkeepsie 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.

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)
FRIDAY, JUNE 30
Requiem for the American Dream
(Documentary)
7 p.m. First Presbyterian Church
50 Liberty St., Beacon
moviethatmatterbeacon.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
Boscobel, 1601 Route 9D, Garrison
845-809-5838 | gallery66ny.com
Natalie Merchant
8 p.m. Bardavon
35 Market St., Poughkeepsie
845-473-2072 | bartonorchards.com
Vomit Fist
8 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
47 Main St., Beacon
845-765-3012 | howlandculturalcenter.org
New York Air Show
Noon – 4 p.m. Stewart Airport
New Windsor
atnyc.com
Antiques Show & Flea Market
8 a.m. – 4 p.m. Stormville Airport
845-221-6561 | stormvilleairportfleamarket.com
Free Guided History Tour
11 a.m. West Point Foundry Preserve
80 Kemble Ave., Cold Spring
845-473-4440 x238 | sceincudson.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
mellisa@constellation.com
SUNDAY, JULY 2
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
845-221-6561 | stormvilleairportfleamarket.com
Summer Reading Program Kickoff
3 p.m. Tompkins Corners Cultural Center
10 Morris Ave., Cold Spring
845-831-1134 | beaconlibrary.org
David Greely (Cajun Music)
1:30 p.m. Fiddlers/vocalists workshop
Tompkins Corners Cultural Center
See details under Saturday.
H.V. Renegades vs. Aberdeen
7:05 p.m. Dutchess Stadium
See details under Friday.
HVSF: Pride and Prejudice
7:30 p.m. Boscobel
See details under Friday.
SCIENCELETS (grades K-5)
10 a.m. Butterfield Library
10 Morris Ave., Cold Spring
845-265-3040 | butterfieldlibrary.org
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
H.V. Renegades vs. Staten Island
6:30 p.m. Dutchess Stadium
Putnam County Legislature
7 p.m. Historic Courthouse
44 Gemnels Ave., Carmel
845-208-7600 | putnamcountry.com
HVSF: Twelfth Night
7:30 p.m. Boscobel
See details under Friday.
THURSDAY, JULY 6
Summer Reading Program Kickoff
3 p.m. Tompkins Corners Cultural Center
10 Morris Ave., Cold Spring
845-831-1134 | beaconlibrary.org
Putnam County Legislature
7 p.m. Historic Courthouse
44 Gemnels Ave., Carmel
845-208-7600 | putnamcountry.com
H.V. Renegades vs. Staten Island
7:05 p.m. Dutchess Stadium
See details under Friday.
Lucky 5 Jazz Band
1:30 p.m. Fiddlers/vocalists workshop
Tompkins Corners Cultural Center
See details under Saturday.
H.V. Renegades vs. Aberdeen
7:05 p.m. Dutchess Stadium
See details under Friday.
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The Highlands Current
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 time, but that’s all part of the process.”

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 administrativ e 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.)

S pooner 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 they 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
John Marcinak

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

Sienna College
Emily Eraca, Beacon
Daija Green, Garrison

Harrington.

S

For the first two stories in this series, see highlandscurrent.com.
Sports a clean and light flavor profile since it’s fed mostly from storm runoff, which is one of the reasons 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.

“I 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.

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

Beer by the Hudson (from Page 9)

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Sat., 7/01  6:00 p.m.
Jerry Kitzrow - Free
Sat., 7/01  8:30 p.m.
Professor Louie & The Crowmatix
with Woodstock Horns
Sun., 7/02  11:30 a.m.
Brunch with East Coast Jazz
Sun., 7/02  6:00 p.m.
Cleverly Brothers - Free
Sun., 7/02  7:30 p.m.
Larry Moses’ Latin Jazz Express
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Thurs., 7/06  7:00 p.m.
Youth Open Mic - Free
Advance sign-up required
Fri., 7/07  7:00 p.m.
Mike Heaphy - Free
Fri., 7/07  8:30 p.m.
The McKrells
Sat., 7/08  6:00 p.m.
Peter Calo - Free
Sat., 7/08  8:30 p.m.
Cherish the Ladies
Sun., 7/09  7:30 p.m.
Carpenter & King
Tribute to Karen Carpenter & Carole King
Thurs., 7/13  7:00 p.m.
Dance Jam

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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 putting $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 forward 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 1986.

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.
**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 tomkincorners.org. The cultural center is located at 729 Peeksskill Hollow Road.

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**History Museum to Host Lawn Party**

**Annual fundraiser set for July 8**

The Putnam History Museum will host 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 or-shine event. Tickets are $70 through

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**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 trimming vegetation and tree branches that are interfering with electric lines. Most of these shrubs and trees are located along roads, but some may be on private property.

For information, see coldspringtree, weebly.com. If you have concerns about clearing 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.

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**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.estab@gmail.com.

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**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-feet elevation.

The cost is $7 for museum members or $10 otherwise. Prepaid registration is required. See hhhm.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 hhhm.org.

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**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.

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**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.

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**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 1:25 p.m. (except July 3 and 4) through Aug. 25 at Tompkins Terrace (394 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)

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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 beaconjuniorsbaseball.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 Bannerman Island Gallery in Beacon will open a group exhibit focused on the Hudson River with works by 25 artists. The show, called R.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 nautical-themed card-making workshop; on July 19 at 1 p.m., Sally Delmerico will explain 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.

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

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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 improve 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.
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, Brussel 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 uptake 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.
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?

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.

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

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.

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 pamphlet designed to be read after seeing the art. Although tours will be offered from time to time, most visitors are encouraged to浏览 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.
Most prints of the Declaration of Independence, such as this one, are made from a copperplate engraving created in 1823 by William J. Stone. At that point, the original parchment document was already fading. It is now preserved at the National Archives but so faint it is nearly impossible to read.