Grigoroff convicted for second time of shooting Garrison resident in 2008

By Michael Turton

A former Lake Peekskill man convicted in 2010 of killing Garrison resident John Marcincak during a robbery was convicted for a second time on Aug. 8 in a retrial ordered by a state appeals court.

After six hours of deliberation, the jury of six men and six women found Anthony Grigoroff guilty of the 2008 murder, following a trial at the Putnam County Supreme Court in Carmel.

Marcincak, 49, was shot and killed in the early afternoon on New Year’s Eve at his Route 9 garage, apparently after he returned in his tow truck and interrupted a burglary. The lifelong Garrison resident was found on a mound of snow close to the road, and at first it was believed he had been hit by a car.

Grigoroff, then 19, was at the garage with his identical twin brother, Erick, and a friend, Byron Mountain, 26, neither of whom were charged in the case. According to Anthony Grigoroff’s testimony at the first trial, (Continued on Page 5)

Crab, Kids, Shad and Shiners

Fish count at Little Stony Point one of 17 along river
By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

The children came from the area. The fish came from the river, along with a crab. The naturalist came from Wappinger Falls. And they all came together on Saturday, Aug. 5, at Little Stony Point for the Sixth Annual Great Hudson River Fish Count organized by the state Department of Environmental Conservation.

Before the event, those waiting on the beach included Jake and Enrica Haelen, who moved to Garrison from Brooklyn four months ago. They brought their two young children, Rafael and Agatha, and eight nieces and nephews, all under the age of 12, and all hoping “to see if we can catch fish and count some fish,” Jake Haelen said.

A few minutes later, they got their chance when estuary naturalist Tom Lake and his wife, Phyllis Lake, serving as his assistant, trolled a 55-foot seine through the water, scooping up whatever swam and scuttled there.

The result: young American shad, alewives and striped bass; white perch and spottail shiners — a total of 99 fish, plus a small blue crab.

After trolling, Lake guided the net ashore and carefully moved the fish into containers of (Continued on Page 6)

HIGH WIRE ACT — A worker prepares electric cable on the $4 billion Mario Cuomo Bridge in Tarrytown. One span is scheduled to open late in the day on Friday, Aug. 25, with the second span on target to be completed in 2018. It is replacing the aging Tappan Zee. For more photos, see Page 14.

By Jeff Simms

A judge on Aug. 8 reversed a decision by the Dutchess County Board of Elections to remove Beacon City Council Member Ali Muhammad’s name from the Sept. 12 primary ballot because some voters on his nominating petition printed their signatures instead of using cursive.

Muhammad, a two-term Democrat who represents Ward 4 but is running for an at-large seat, was removed from the ballot after objections to his petition left him about a dozen signatures short of the 220 needed.

The challenges were filed by Charles Kelly, a former council member, and Lee Kyriacou, an at-large member running for re-election. Each objection was reviewed by the two county election commissioners (one Democrat, one Republican).

After being informed he had fallen short, Muhammad appealed to Judge Maria Rosa of the Dutchess County Supreme Court, who heard the case in Poughkeepsie on Aug. 4 and 7.

Rosa’s decision to validate Muhammad’s petition creates a primary for the Democrats for the council’s at-large seats. On Sept. 12, voters will choose two of the three candidates — Muhammad, Kyriacou and incumbent George Mansfield — to face Republican Amando Downer on Nov. 7.

All in the details

Muhammad submitted a nominating petition with 298 signatures but fell short when about 80 were disallowed, including a number where voters had printed, rather than signed, their names, court records show.

The Republican commissioner at the Dutchess County Board of Elections, Erik Haight, tallied 207 valid signatures, and the Democratic commissioner, Marco Caviglia, stopped counting when he found 90 invalid signatures. That meant Muhammad needed Rosa to reverse the rulings on at least 13 signatures to reach the 220 he needed.

Muhammad brought to court affidavits from more than a dozen voters who had printed their names on his petition, each affirming his or her intent to support his candidacy. Based on that, Rosa reversed 12 rejections. That put Muhammad at 219 valid signatures. (Continued on Page 2)
Five Questions: ROBERT BLAIR

By Michael Turton

Blair, who lives on Route 9 near Cold Spring, has been organizing estate sales for 20 years. He does four to eight per year.

What led you to estate sales?
Initially it was just to help friends. But I’m also a third-generation collector. My first collecting was in the Sinai Desert in 1964, where I found bottles, ceramic pieces and shards of glass. Today my obsession is American wooden frames from the 19th and early 20th century.

What’s involved with organizing a sale?
It usually takes three weeks to arrange, clean and repair items and two days to price. Each sale is three days — Friday, Saturday and Sunday — and my fee is 40 percent of gross. It’s a handshake agreement.

What unusual items have you come across?
A Garrison couple who had lived here for 40 years didn’t realize they had a signed Picasso lithograph valued at $27,000 buried in a closet. I talked them into keeping it. Another Garrison home had cases of wines from the 1940s, ’50s and ’60s in the basement. I didn’t get to sell those.

Has anyone ever bought everything offered at a sale?
I did a sale in Ossining for a member of the rock group KISS. A man bought two pickup truckloads of mostly small items. I’ve never had anyone buy more than that.

Do valuable pieces sometimes go unsold?
An artist once told me that if any of his paintings didn’t sell for at least $2,000 each, they were to be discarded. I had to throw them all out. It was part of our deal. I’ll also usually move an important item to no more than three sales. I once had an 18th-century, Birdseye Maple, four-poster bed valued at about $3,200. It should have been in a museum. I took it to 10 sales before it sold for $275.

Council Member Back on Ballot (from Page 1)

Next, Haight noted that a signature that had been invalidated was actually acceptable, making 220. The judge then compared the signatures on the petitions to those on the voter rolls for six other signers, and found one close enough to confirm without further investigation. That made 221.

Rosa rejected objections that some of the dates with signatures were not in order, saying there is no rule that they must be sequential.

Kelly and Kyriacou also objected to a petition filed by Omar Harper, who represents Ward 2 and was seeking re-election as a Democrat. A review by the commissioners, Harper had only 58 valid signatures, five short of the 63 required. The difference was a sheet of signatures tossed because the witness does not live in Beacon.

The ballot
All six seats on the council are contested every two years. The two at-large seats are held by Kyriacou and Mansfield, both Democrats and both running for re-election.

Harper will still appear on the Nov. 7 ballot because he also filed a nominating petition to run as a Republican for his Ward 2 seat. He will face Democratic candidate John Rembert.

Along with Rembert, Kyriacou and Mansfield, the Beacon Democratic Committee has endorsed Terry Nelson (Ward 1), Jodi McCredo (Ward 3) and Amber Grant (Ward 4).

In addition to Harper and Downer, the Beacon Republican Committee has endorsed Wayne Theiss (Ward 1), Andrew Gauzza III (Ward 3) and Chris Bopp (Ward 4).

Paul Yeaple, a Ward 1 candidate running on the “Stand with Ali” slate, was ruled ineligible because he is not a registered Democrat and also had only 25 valid signatures of the 63 required.

More names may still be added to the ballot, because independent candidates have until Aug. 22 to submit nominating petitions. Williams has said he intends to file to run in Ward 4 as an independent.
Prosecutors Close Harrell Case Without Charges
Say insufficient evidence to prosecute Beacon guards
By Chip Rowe

The Dutchess County district attorney and a federal prosecutor both said on Aug. 2 they will not pursue criminal charges against guards at the Fishkill Correctional Center after the death of an inmate, Samuel Harrell, in 2015.

In a joint statement, Joon Kim, acting U.S. attorney for the Southern District of New York, and William Grady, the Dutchess County district attorney, said there was not enough evidence to charge any officers at the Beacon prison with violating Harrell's civil rights.

The men said they had met earlier that day with Harrell's family and its lawyers.

In a statement, Beacon Prison Action, a grassroots organization formed after Harrell's death, said its members were "horified" at the lack of charges, which it said ensured "that the deep culture of violence in our state prisons and the utter lack of accountability for corrections officers will continue." It called on Gov. Andrew Cuomo to make changes at the facility, including requiring guards to wear body cameras.

Beacon Prisoners

The Fishkill Correctional Facility, constructed in 1896 as the Matteawan State Hospital for the Criminally Insane, is a medium-security facility for male inmates.

- Prisoner population: 1,451
- Black: 46%; Latino: 27%; white: 22%
- Average minimum sentence: 9.8 years
- Convicted of violent felony: 70%
- Convicted of drug offense: 8%
- Under age 30: 17%; over 50: 33%
- Cells filled: 91%
- Number of officers: 812

Source: New York Department of Corrections

their statement, Kim and Grady said the lack of video evidence, inconsistent witness accounts and inconclusive medical evidence would hamper any prosecution. They also noted the difficulty of charging officers unless it could be established that they "acted intentionally, recklessly or negligently, and that their actions led directly to the injuries Harrell suffered." The autopsy did not make that connection, they said.

"To prove a violation of the federal criminal civil rights statute, prosecutors must establish, beyond a reasonable doubt, that a law enforcement officer willfully deprived an individual of a constitutional right, meaning that the officer acted with the deliberate and specific intent to do something the law forbids," they wrote. "Neither accident, mistake, fear, negligence nor bad judgment is sufficient to establish a federal criminal civil rights violation."

After an autopsy, the Orange County Medical Examiner's Office concluded Harrell's death was due to "cardiac arhythmia due to hypertensive cardiovascular disease following physical altercation with corrections officers." The coroner noted soft-tissue injuries to Harrell's arms, legs and head but concluded none were "a direct cause" of his death. The office did rule the death a homicide, meaning it was caused by another person but not necessarily that a crime occurred.

According to the prosecutors' account, on April 21, 2015, Harrell, 30, a native of Kingston, told guards he was leaving the Fishkill Correctional Facility, although he still had at least five years left on an eight-year sentence for felony possession of a controlled substance. His family says Harrell suffered from bipolar disorder and had not taken his medication.

After the mental health unit was summoned, Harrell ran headfirst into a locked exit door, according to the prosecutors. There was a struggle, they said, and Harrell was handcuffed and taken in a wheelchair to the medical unit. There, he was found to have no pulse. He was transported to St. Luke's Cornwall Hospital in Newburgh, where he was pronounced dead. Medical records indicate officers told EMTs that Harrell had probably overdosed on synthetic marijuana. (The autopsy found no drugs in his system.)

Luna Droubi, one of the Harrell family's attorneys, argued there had been "clear criminal wrongdoing by corrections officers" and said the family will continue to pursue wrongful death lawsuits it has filed in state and federal courts.

Droubi's firm, Beldock Levine & Hoffman, collected 19 affidavits and letters from inmates about the circumstances of Harrell's death. Beacon Prison Action, in its statement, said the prosecutors alluded to those when it stated that prosecutors had failed "to explain witness accounts of Sam being thrown down the stairs or officers stomping on him."
Wasted water

Why is Beacon searching for more fresh water before it addresses the 309 million gallons (more than 30 percent of the city’s delivery capacity) that never reaches residents or businesses due to leakage or unaccounted for due to theft and meter error?

Technologies exist to explore and repair this problem at lower cost to taxpayers than drilling wells. Even with new wells, more than 30 percent of any new water supply will continue to disappear. Is Beacon growing forward into the 21st century or stagnating in the 20th century?

Paul Ellis, Beacon

Sandra Nice

What a wonderful tribute to Sandra Nice (Obituary, Aug. 4). She cared so much for her family, students, friends and the community. Sandra was a strong, Midwestern gal who made the world a better place.

Mim Galligan, Garrison

Sandra inspired her students with her love of all things French. She taught them to make beignets and one summer we rode the Amtrak with several of her middle-school French students to Montreal where she arranged for the children to go to a French summer camp.

She introduced beauty wherever she could and was the most gracious teacher.

My daughters all loved Mrs. Nice and Beatrice studied in Paris as a result of her influence. Her classroom was always full of kindness and love.

Carolyn Copeland, Garrison

Taking it to the Street

Would you ever want to be president?

By Anita Peltonen

“Yes, I’d be able to enforce laws that would help a lot of people, like bringing back Obamacare.”

~ Emanuel Barnett, Beacon

“I would like it, in order to make certain rules. Rules to get people to do the right thing.”

~ Jordyn Johnson, Beacon

“Yes, so I could make innovations. And inventions like time machines!”

~ Josiah Delgado, Beacon
County Releases Statement on Sheriff Settlement

After public backlash over settlement, notes it can’t fire elected official

On June 22, the Putnam County Legislature voted unanimously to pay $125,000 to former District Attorney Adam Levy to settle a defamation suit he brought against Sheriff Don Smith. The sheriff agreed to pay an additional $25,000. In an apology issued June 13, Smith admitted that four years ago he made false statements about Levy, who was then the D.A. His admission ended a civil trial over the matter two days after it began. Levy had asked for $5 million.

On Aug. 2, the Putnam County Legislature released this statement:

“In response to inquiries and comments made by residents of Putnam County regarding the action taken by the Putnam County Legislature regarding the Levy v. Smith case, please be advised that the Putnam County Legislature was not part of the negotiations that led to the settlement agreement in the Levy v. Smith case. The settlement was negotiated by the parties and their counsel, and then presented to the Legislature for approval or disapproval.

“After the trial had commenced, the county attorney, legislative counsel, trial counsel assigned by NYMIR (the county’s insurer) [the New York Municipal Insurance Reciprocal, which insures most municipalities in New York state] and NYMIR’s claims counsel all recommended the settlement so as to avoid the possibility of an adverse verdict, avoid the need to expend further legal fees, costs and expenses for the trial and any subsequent appeals, and in order to protect and preserve the interests of the taxpayers in separate pending litigation. (Smith is also being sued for $45 million by Alexandru Hossu, a fitness coach who occasionally stayed in Levy’s home in Southeast and who was accused of sexually assaulting a girlfriend’s teenage daughter but acquitted.)

“The Legislature considered the facts and circumstances of the case, as well as the advice of counsel, and determined that settlement served the best interests of the Putnam County taxpayers and avoided potentially greater exposure to liability.

“At the June 22 Special Full Meeting of the Legislature, the proposed settlement was approved by the Legislature. All of the Legislators in attendance voted in favor of the settlement. There were statements made by the chairperson of the Legislature along with several of the Legislators in attendance which specified upon advice of legal counsel this was the prudent action to be taken on behalf of the taxpaying residents of Putnam County.

“In closing, please be advised the Legislature does not have the authority to remove a sheriff from office. Only the governor has the authority to take such action. At the November election the residents of Putnam County will have the opportunity to vote their position.”

Garage Owner’s Killer Found Guilty – Again (from Page 1)

the three men planned to rob the business to get a few hundred dollars to party in Manhattan on New Year’s Eve.

Grigoroff was found guilty in 2010 of second-degree murder, criminal possession of a weapon and attempted burglary and sentenced to 25 years to life in prison. In 2015 the Appellate Division of the New York State Supreme Court overturned that verdict and ordered a new trial.

In its ruling, the appeals court said the Putnam County Supreme Court should not have allowed prosecutors to admit two pieces of evidence: testimony regarding a separate, earlier shooting involving Erick Grigoroff, and hearsay testimony by a witness who said she overheard Erick say Anthony was involved in Marcinkak’s death.

However, the appeals court also stated that the other evidence presented at the 2010 trial was “legally sufficient to establish the defendant’s guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.”

On Aug. 8, the second jury agreed. It found Grigoroff guilty of murder in the second degree and two counts of attempted burglary in the second degree.

“We can only hope this conviction will bring justice for John and peace to his family and friends who were present throughout the trial,” said Putnam County District Attorney Robert Tendy in a statement.

Among those who attended the trial were Marcinkak’s widow, Janet, and their three children: Julie, who was 13 at the time of her father’s death; John, who was 9 and this year graduated from O’Neill High School; and Joey, who was 8.

“The prosecutor did an amazing job, pointing out all the points in [Grigoroff’s] confession that couldn’t have been made up,” Julie Marcinkak told The Current.

In his defense, Grigoroff claimed he had falsely confessed to the crime after a 12-hour interrogation. “They promised me leniency if I told them what they wanted to hear,” he testified at the 2010 trial, insisting that it was Mountain who shot Marcinkak while he and Erick waited in the car. Grigoroff’s lawyer, Danielle Muscatello, said she intends to appeal.

“John Marcinkak’s murder is not the only tragedy in this case,” she wrote in an email. “The real killer is still out there, and an innocent man remains incarcerated for a crime he did not commit. I cannot think of a greater injustice.”

Julie Marcinkak believes a successful appeal is unlikely.

“I doubt they have grounds for an appeal,” she said. “But I’m confident any jury they present this case to will find him guilty way beyond reasonable doubt.”

The trial was presided over by Judge Edward McLoughlin, who will sentence Grigoroff on Sept. 26. He again faces 25 years to life.
Crab, Kids, Shad and Shiners (from Page 1)

water. He and Phyllis then identified and measured each one before returning the catch to the Hudson.

In nearly every step of the process, Lake invited the children, who were among about 30 spectators, to assist. “Glad you guys showed up to help,” he said. “Otherwise I would’ve been here all day.”

Before the young naturalists stepped forward, Lake provided a few simple — and for the fish, essential — instructions. “Make sure your hands are wet” before handling the fish, he directed. Contact with human skin removes the “slime” that coats fish and protects them from disease; “slimeless” fish often die. “You don’t that on your conscience,” he said.

The crab’s appearance prompted a brief lesson in its anatomy – “walking legs here, two swimming paddles,” claws. “We have millions of crabs, blue crabs,” in the river, Lake said. Many other animals, including seals, like to hang out there, too.

Fish have played an important role in the river’s history, he continued. In the 1960s, striped bass and the importance of sport fishing prevented construction of a power plant at the base of Storm King, across the river from Little Stony Point. “That mountain was saved because of fish,” he said.

Nearly 200 years earlier, he said, shad from the Hudson fed George Washington’s army and supporters in the Revolution. So fish also helped win American independence, he said, “not on the battlefield, but on the kitchen table.”

Little Stony Point, part of Hudson Highlands State Park, was one of 17 fish count sites on the Hudson, from the Mohawk River to Staten Island. The total in 2016 was 2,177 fish, from 45 species, at 19 sites, including Cold Spring and Long Dock Park in Beacon, according to the DEC. The 2017 tally was not complete by press time.

Tom Lake gets his feet wet while setting a 55-foot seine in the Hudson River at Little Stony Point.

Striped bass at Montauk, Long Island

Photo by Jim Levison

The Hudson estuary and its watershed are home to more than 200 fish species; to date, 56 have been recorded during the Great Hudson River Fish Count. The most common are striped bass and white perch, caught in both fresh and salt water. In fresh water, spottail shiners are the most frequent catch and in salty water, it’s the Atlantic silverside.

Little Stony Point (2016)

64 striped bass
52 white perch
49 channel catfish
36 spottail shiner
21 Atlantic menhaden
4 American shad
3 alewives
2 American eels
1 bluefish
County Responds to Concern Over Herbicides

Says it will investigate alternatives for spraying near brook

By Holly Crocco

The Putnam County Highway Department told lawmakers and Cold Spring residents on Aug. 9 there will be no more spraying of herbicides on a portion of Fishkill Road that overlooks Foundry Brook while it investigates other options. The brook provides drinking water to the village and Nelsonville.

“This has been a very difficult situation for the people of Cold Spring and Philipstown,” said Barbara Scuccimarra (R-Philipstown) during a meeting in Carmel of the legislature’s Health Committee.

Residents voiced concern in June about the spraying of herbicides on the edges of the road and under guardrails to kill weeds that the Highway Department says reduces visibility for drivers on the snaking road.

One of two herbicides applied was Dupont’s Oust XP, which states on its label that it should not be applied to water, “or to areas where surface water is present.”

In a memorandum to Scuccimarra, the county’s commissioner of highways and facilities, Fred Pena, said his department strives to maintain “safe, effective and environmentally-friendly operations,” including the use of chemical products.

“Herbicides, including their mix design and application, have been studied and modified for decades in order to provide for safe use,” he wrote. “When properly applied, herbicide use provides less environmental impact than other methods of control, and is done under strict standards.

The county has a permit from the New York City Department of Environmental Protection for this practice, since much of the city’s drinking water originates upstream. However, Scuccimarra said the situation in Cold Spring is unique because the brook is much smaller than the New York City reservoirs and extremely close to the areas being sprayed.

“The water is right up to the road and sometimes goes under the guardrails,” she said.

The outcry from my constituents is such that we can’t have it sprayed on Fishkill Road anymore” – or Peekskill Hollow Road, she added. “I know you’re not going to spray anymore this season, but going forward, we just can’t.”

Tully assured residents that the county Highway Department is also concerned about health and safety. “Please don’t mistake our use of this as us not being sensitive to water quality,” he said.

Cold Spring Village Trustee Lynn Miller expressed the frustration that a herbicide was sprayed even after village officials objected.

In a July 27 letter to Pena, Cold Spring Mayor Dave Merandy wrote that “any possible contamination of our drinking water is unacceptable — especially when it is preventable.” He asked Pena to, in writing, prohibit Highway Department use of herbicides along the road.

When herbicides were sprayed along the road in 2016, Phillips said he was assured by a county employee that the practice would cease.

Michael Turton contributed reporting.

PHILIPSTOWN PLANNING BOARD

Public Hearing — August 17, 2017

The Philipstown Planning Board for the Town of Philipstown, New York, will hold a public hearing on Thursday, August 17, 2017, starting at 7:30 p.m. at the Old VFW Hall, 34 Kemble Ave., Cold Spring, New York, to consider the following application:

Manitou Properties Co., LLC, 1656 Route 9D, Cold Spring

TMI #49-6-2-1

The application represents a site plan review of a development proposal which involves a 5.269 acre parcel in the HM Zoning District and includes a new 2,600 sf structure and an addition of 770 sf to the existing building.

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

Dated at Philipstown, New York, this 7th day of August, 2017.

Anthony Merante, Chairman
Burglars Hit Joseph’s Jewelry

Break-in took fewer than four minutes

By Michael Turton

Joseph’s Fine Jewelry in Cold Spring was burglarized in the early morning hours of Monday, Aug 8. To gain access, the intruders used a rotary saw to cut a square out of the lower half of the glass front door that was large enough to squeeze through, said Joseph Immorlica, who owns the store with his wife, Bridget.

“They were only inside for three, maybe four minutes,” he said, adding that an alarm was activated at 3:01 a.m. when the thieves entered the shop at 169 Main St.

Footage from the store’s security cameras show two burglars wearing masks, gloves and hoodies. They grabbed silver serving pieces from the front-window displays and an interior shelving unit, although Immorlica said he has not yet calculated the value of the loss. It was the first time the store had been robbed, he said.

Immorlica said a Cold Spring police officer responded so quickly he nearly caught the perpetrators in the act. The department and the Putnam County Sheriff’s Department are investigating, including a review of footage from security cameras at businesses along Main Street. The Putnam County News & Recorder reported its security camera recorded the burglars walking down Main Street, headed west, carrying a laundry basket filled with the stolen goods.

By the time Joseph’s opened on Thursday morning, its front-door window had been replaced.

Photo by M. Turton

C&E. Paint Supply, Inc.
Tools • Hardware • Plumbing & Electrical Supplies
Benjamin Moore
Monday - Thursday 8 - 5:30
Friday & Saturday 8 - 5
Tel. 845.265.3126
158 Main Street • Cold Spring, NY 10516
The Calendar

Art Director
Cold Spring artist, theater-trained, will exhibit paintings

By Alison Rooney

The last time Carin Jean White showed her paintings at The Catalyst Gallery in Beacon, a number of friends came from the city to the opening. Knowing that she is a theater director as well as a visual artist, they told her of the connection they saw in her work between both pursuits. She saw it, too, she says, but not before it was pointed out.

Growing up in a Bay Area household where art supplies were always lying around (courtesy of her father, a graduate of the Art Institute of San Francisco), White was often found crafting dioramas. At the same time, she began acting in plays at age 4 and directed her first play in high school. Plus, she was interested in science.

All of these elements come together in the Cold Spring resident’s current work, much of which is interdisciplinary, drawing upon site-specific questions, applications of design extending to sound, consideration of spatial qualities and other strands of exploration.

Her latest Catalyst show, which opens with a reception from 6 to 9 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 12, is her third in the space. While it focuses on her painting, most of her work rests at the intersection of theater and visual installation.

“I’ve always been interested in various forms, though all my formal training is in theater — it’s been the through line,” says White, who earned a master’s degree in directing from Columbia and teaches expository writing there. She finds it “a great way to gain another perspective on parts of the human experience that are puzzling.”

(Continued on Page 12)

The Email List That Grew and Grew

Cold Spring resident behind popular listing service for artists

By Alison Rooney

Stephanie Diamond loves a good list. That’s because a list — one of her own invention — changed her life.

Diamond, who moved to Cold Spring in July with her husband and daughter, is the founder of Listings Project, a free weekly email for artists with information on living and studio/performance/rehearsal spaces and opportunities such as exhibits; open calls; internships; jobs; services; items for rent; sale or barter; events, and classes.

Diamond launched the project 12 years ago from her Yahoo account after emailing about 50 friends in search of a Manhattan apartment. After she found one, she kept getting tips about space so shared them with the group. Then a friend then asked her to “list” a space he had available, which led to more listings.

As the project grew, she realized it could have a larger purpose. “I had a need” for an apartment, she says. “When my need was met, I was able to see the potential of that need being met for others.” She maintained it as a hobby for eight years. But after being laid off from a teaching job, she needed to generate income.

“As an artist I thought, I can’t charge,” she recalls. “There’s a stigma to charging.”

(Continued on Page 11)
Calendar Highlights
For upcoming events visit highlandscurrent.com. Send event listings to calendar@highlandscurrent.com

FRIDAY, AUG. 11
H.V. Renegades vs. Brooklyn
7:05 p.m. Dutchess Stadium
1500 Route 9D, Wappingers Falls
845-838-0094 | hrrenegades.com

HVSF2: The Odyssey, by Kate Hamill
7:30 p.m. Philipstown Depot Theatre
10 Garrison’s Landing, Garrison
845-424-3900 | hshakespeare.org

SUNDAY, AUG. 13
Butterfly Weekend
10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Outdoor Discovery Center
174 Muser Dr., Cornwall
845-534-5506 | beaconchamberofcommerce.com

Group Show: They Came from Planet Rainbow
6 – 9 p.m. Chamber Gallery
163 Main St., Beacon
212-255-2505 | cluttermallgallery.com

Samantha Palmeri: Stories from the Green Couch
8:30 – 10:30 p.m. Oak Vino
389 Main St., Beacon
845-765-2400 | oakvino.com

THURSDAY, AUG. 17
Marvelous Marvin: Brain Circus (grades K-6)
2 p.m. Howland Library
See details under Wednesday.

Creativity Workshop
6 p.m. Butterfield Library
See details under Tuesday.

Burger and Beer Bash
6 – 10 p.m. Dutchess Stadium
1500 Route 9D, Wappingers Falls
845-838-0094 | hvshakespeare.org

Women Veterans’ Group
6 – 8 p.m. Cornerstone Building
Route 52 and Fair St., Carmel
mputnam.us

Latin Groove NY (Jazz)
6:30 p.m. Newburgh Waterfront
ferrygoddmother.com

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

Bonomo (Documentary, 2003) with Q&A
6:30 p.m. Newburgh Waterfront
moviethatsmatterbeacon.org

Support Groups
For a full list of area support groups, visit: highlandscurrent.com/sg
The Email List That Grew and Grew  
(From Page 9)

and I was afraid to ask.” She was surprised that, when she did begin to require a fee for submissions (but not to receive the weekly email, which remains free), subscribers did not protest but instead congratulated her. They wanted to contribute, she says.

Listings Project has grown largely by word-of-mouth, without benefit of social media or advertising, Diamond says. It today reaches 160,000 subscribers in about 70 countries, although most real estate listings are in New York City. The volume of listings increased to the point where Diamond hired three employees (a technology officer, graphic designer and community manager), each of whom works remotely, to help her screen each submission.

“That’s at the core of the project,” she says. “I’m protective of artists not being taken advantage of.” She and her team says. “I’m protective of artists not being

making. As a painter uses paint and canvas or as a sculptor uses a chisel and stone, Social Practice artists use social systems, situations and public space as their materials.”

She says she realized her Listings Project was a form of Social Practice when someone asked her to speak about it. “Social Practice approaches creating with a community,” she explains, “as opposed to creating for a community.”

How to Sign Up

To subscribe to Listing Project, which is free, visit listingsproject.com. The fee for a listing is $30 if submitted by 10 a.m. Tuesday for the following week, or $60 for the same week. (Brokers, managers and third-party services are not allowed to post.) There are also “extended deadline” fees of $60 to $180 if you miss the cut-off for the same week’s mailing.

An example of the weekly email

Diamond grew up in Manhattan, where her mother was an artist, and I was afraid to ask.” She was surprised that, when she did begin to require a fee for submissions (but not to receive the weekly email, which remains free), subscribers did not protest but instead congratulated her. They wanted to contribute, she says.

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Art Director (from Page 9)

White is attuned to the use of space. “When I began to pursue directing, I thought I wanted to learn about space,” she says. “I went to a program that allowed me to study direction and design.” She didn’t do scenic design until later in her directing career but says it began drawing closer to her artistic work beginning with her play, Rivers and Tributaries. The play asks whether fear can be a catalyst for the creative process, she says. “I did the scenic design, and the play also had dance sequences and a photography project layered into it. It was a shift in my work. I found it exhilarating and fulfilling.”

That experience, she says, led to “a series of pieces, devised or scripted, and some site-specific and street theater; asking, how do we use space in storytelling? How can we re-contextualize architecture for an audience?”

At the same time, she began painting, triggered, in part, by the tough moments of writing. “I discovered a method I enjoyed,” she recalls. “If I was hitting speedbumps in a script, I could work on a painting, and just doing something physical allowed me to be more intuitive. I was also able to shift between my gut and my training. It allowed me to let images bubble, and not get fixated; to pause, step back.”

Since Rivers and Tributaries, which was produced in 2011, White has worked as the resident director during Spiegelworld’s tenure in New York City. Its tent hosting Empire, a reinvention of circus and cabaret traditions in a variety show. She also was asked by the Prague Quadrennial Theatre Festival to create a show, Secret Life, which explored the history of the city through allegory, dance and installation.

What I love most about showing in a gallery is the conversations. They help you gain insight on what you are making.

In addition, she directed, adapted and designed a production called Hamlet CUBED for Access Theatre in New York City and she conceived and directed Dealing with Ophelia, using Governor’s Island as a vision of Hamlet’s Denmark with mimes, music and water balloons.

For a more recent project, Earthsong, White created permanent visual and sound installations at Earl W. Brydges Artpark State Park in Lewiston, New York. Based upon conversations White recorded with Haudenosaunee Native Americans, the sound installation was placed on a newly created path near a burial mound. As visitors walk through the installation, they hear layers of sound from speakers camouflaged by bark, including voices and the river, cicadas and wind, to be reminded of those who came before, she says.

Rivers and Tributaries brought White to Cold Spring. During the New York City performances, the village “always felt like a good place to get centered,” she says. “I began thinking that if I moved here I could be in the city for a few days each week but also have a mountain!”

White rented for four months on Market Street. “I loved looking at the barges” on the river, she says. “I started writing, and didn’t want to leave.” In Beacon on Second Saturdays, she met several gallery owners, and Erica Hauser of Catalyst expressed interest in her art. “What I love most about showing in a gallery is the conversations,” White says. “They help you gain insight on what you are making.”

White’s paintings will be on view at Catalyst, at 137 Main St., through Sept. 4. See carinjeanwhite.com.
COME ON BY — Five residents of Philipstown have launched a monthly luncheon for seniors. From left are Susan McCutchen-Tice, Maria Custudio and Donna Anderson. (Not pictured are Shirley Norton and Marie Tompkins.) The next luncheon will be at 1 p.m. on Thursday, Aug. 31, at the Church on the Hill, 245 Main St., in Cold Spring.

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August 11, 7:30 p.m.

HVSF2 Rip Van Winkle
August 13, 7:30 p.m.

New play reading announced!
Providence
by Jonathan Reynolds, directed by John Christian Plummer
Thursday, August 17, 2 p.m.

Tickets: brownpapertickets.com • 845.838.3006 • philipstowndepottheatre.org
Garrison Landing, Garrison, NY (Theatre is adjacent to train station.)

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First Span of Mario Cuomo Bridge (the New Tappan Zee) to Open Aug. 25

The first span of the Gov. Mario M. Cuomo Bridge, which will replace the adjacent Tappan Zee over the Hudson River at Tarrytown, is scheduled to open after the evening rush hour on Friday, Aug. 25, according to state officials. Both spans of the bridge, which will cost about $4 billion, should be open next year.

On Aug. 25 workers will shift four lanes of westbound traffic to a completed span of the Cuomo bridge. Eastbound traffic will be shifted to the span in the fall. The traffic will be separated by a jersey barrier until the second span of the new bridge is finished in 2018.

In addition, the Metropolitan Transit Authority plans to have “cashless tolling” in place at all New York City area bridges and tunnels by the end of the year, including Throgs Neck in September and Bronx-Whitestone in October.

With cashless tolling, overhead sensors and cameras record the E-ZPass or license-plate number of each passing vehicle and drivers do not have to slow or stop at toll gates. An invoice will be sent to the registered owners of vehicles that do not have E-ZPass.

Beat the Heat!
Free Programs in August!

Tuesday, August 22 from 10 to 11 am: Morning at the Museum. This new program is perfect for children ages 2 to 5 and includes story time, crafts, and a snack. We will learn about historic inventors, including Benjamin Franklin and Thomas Edison. To guarantee a spot, please register at www.putnamhistorymuseum.org.

Contact Rachel at 845-265-4010 or rachel@putnamhistorymuseum.org.

The Putnam History Museum is located at 63 Chestnut Street in Cold Spring. www.putnamhistorymuseum.org
Creative Deconstruction

By Joe Dizney

The creation myth surrounding the Tarte Tatin inevitably begins in late-19th century France with les soeurs Tatin — restaurateurs Caroline and Stéphanie (the chef) — who purportedly rescued an overcooked apple pie filling by covering it with pastry and finishing it in the oven. The inverted tart was met with immediate approval by the patrons of the Hotel Tatin.

Whatever the case, the traditional recipe is now celebrated globally, and nowhere more comprehensively than by the Friends of the Tarte Tatin founded by Bernard Munos, a native of Lamotte-Beuvron, home of the Hotel Tatin, who now lives in Indianapolis.

His website at tartetatin.org features both a baseline recipe for the dessert as well as a solicitation for “improvements,” which made me wonder what Munos would think of the “creative destruction” and/or disruption suggested by Vidalia Onion Tarte Tatin.

When I asked him by email, he was nonplused. “Basically any fruit or vegetable that keeps its shape while cooking and contains sugar (or can tolerate its addition) can be used for a Tarte Tatin-style dish,” he wrote, the operative qualifier being Tarte Tatin-style. “This includes other fruits (peach, pear, pineapple, etc.) or vegetables (onions, tomatoes, etc.).”

Sure enough, there are iterations of all of these, and on the savory spectrum, tomato, endive and root-vegetable versions. To that end, Munos suggests, “fruits or vegetables lacking natural acidity may benefit from added lemon juice.”

The onion idea seems to hold universal promise. Here I’ve used Vidalias, which are sweeter and at present a bargain, but yellow onions, red onions, spring onions, are sweeter and at present a bargain, but yellow onions, red onions, spring onions, leeks or shallots would do the trick. For acidity, add a little vinegar and Balsamic adds another layer of complex sweetness. Slow, covered, stovetop cooking of the onions in a rich stock ensures tenderness and the preliminary reduction of that stock provides a bit more caramelization/Maillard effect.

In the spirit of innovation, I suggest either a handful of chopped black olives (and/or anchovies) scattered over the onions before baking to take it into pissaladière territory, or goat cheese and fresh chopped basil once the tart is plated but still warm. It makes a perfect summer lunch with a salad of fresh greens or is a great match with roasted or grilled meats. Writing this, it occurs to me that a combination of the classic apple Tarte Tatin with an equal measure of onions would up the ante of a roast pork feast.

Small, Good Things

Vidalia Onion Tarte Tatin

Makes 1 tart; serves 6 to 8

1 tablespoon fresh thyme leaves
1 tablespoon sugar
3 tablespoons butter
1 tablespoon fresh thyme leaves
1 teaspoon chopped garlic (about one clove)
¾ cup rich chicken broth
1 tablespoon Balsamic vinegar
Salt and freshly ground pepper to taste

About 2 pounds Vidalia onions; peeled, root end trimmed but not removed, cut into about 2-inch wedges, root end holding the wedge together
3 tablespoons butter
1 tablespoon sugar
1 tablespoon frozen puff pastry, thawed as per package directions

1. Barely melt the butter in a 10-inch heavy ovenproof skillet or Dutch oven with lid. When just melted, remove from heat and sprinkle sugar evenly over the butter.

2. Beginning at the outer edge of the skillet, alternate the onion wedges (skin side, cut side, etc., root end to the center) in concentric circles until the skillet is tightly filled in one layer. Evenly distribute the garlic and thyme over the onions. Salt and pepper to taste. (If there are onions left over, thinly slice them and scatter over the top.)

3. Cook, uncovered, over medium high heat for about 5 minutes. Shake pan slightly and rotate on burner to ensure onions cook evenly and do not stick to pan. Reduce heat to medium and cook for another 5 minutes or so.

4. Pour stock and vinegar over the onions bringing it to a lively simmer, reduce heat to low, cover skillet and cook undisturbed for 30 to 45 minutes until onions are completely tender.

5. Remove cover and raise heat to medium-high/high heat and cook liquid until almost completely reduced to a syrupy consistency (about 7-10 closely watched minutes). Remove skillet from heat and allow to cool slightly. Preheat oven to 375 degrees.

6. Lay pastry sheet out on a lightly floured surface and cut to a circle slightly larger than the skillet. Wrap circle around a rolling pin and unroll over skillet tucking the edges in around the onions.

7. Bake in pre-heated oven for 30 to 45 minutes until golden and bubbling. Remove from oven and allow to cool for 10 to 15 minutes. Run a knife around the edge and over a sink and using oven mitts, carefully and quickly invert into a larger diameter serving plate. Serve warm or at room temperature garnished with more thyme.
Special Performance at Depot Theatre

Jonathan Reynolds play will be read

John Christian Plummer will direct a reading of *Providence*, a new historical drama by Jonathan Reynolds, at the Philipstown Depot Theatre in Garrison at 2 p.m. on Thursday, Aug. 17.

Set in the late 17th century, the play follows Roger Williams as he flees religious persecution in Europe only to face it again in New England. “It’s about his constant struggle to fight for freedom of expression,” said Plummer. “And it’s about the 17th century having a conversation with the 21st century.”

The reading will feature Sean McNall, Kate Hamill, Jason O’Connell and Mark Bedard, along with Christine Bokhour, Tiberio Saraceno, Gregory Porter Miller, Dan Gonon and Josie Altucher. The suggested donation is $20 at the door; see brownpapertickets.com/event/3062792 to reserve a seat.

How West Point Was Built

Professor to discuss landscape

On Malinowski, a professor of geography at West Point, will talk on Thursday, Aug. 17, at the Fort Montgomery Historic Site about the academy’s landscape during its first three decades, from 1802 to 1830.

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Providence, a new play about Roger Williams (top right) will be read at the Philipstown Depot Theatre on Aug. 17 by a troupe of actors who include Sean McNall and Kate Hamill. Photos provided

Yard Debris Pickup

Begin weekly in Cold Spring Aug. 16

Starting Wednesday, Aug. 16, the Village of Cold Spring will pick up yard debris on the third Wednesday of each month through November, and then beginning again in April. Small branches should be bundled and tied and leaves and debris bagged. All items should be left at curbside for pick-up by the Highway Department.

One-Acts and Klezmer
Two events at Tompkins Corners

On Friday, Aug. 18, at 7:30 p.m., the Tompkins Corners Cultural Center and the Aery Theatre Co. will present an evening of one-act, staged readings by local playwrights, including Albi Gorn, Julie Heckert, Pat Lennon and Matt Tomasino. The suggested donation is $5 and a question-and-answer session with the playwrights will follow.

On Saturday, Aug. 19, at 7:30 p.m., klezmer fiddlers Alicia Svigals and Lauren Brody will perform songs by women in conjunction with a poster exhibit commemorating the 100th anniversary of women’s suffrage in New York. The suggested donation is $20. See tompkinscorners.org.

Pow Wow in Carmel

Ninham returns on Aug. 19

For the 17th year, the Daniel Ninham Intertribal Pow Wow will take place on Aug. 19 and 20 at Veterans’ Memorial Park, 201 Gypsy Trail Road, in Carmel. The hours are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. each day. There will be drum performances, traditional music, dancing, storytelling, crafts and food.

The event, which benefits the Wounded Warrior Project, is free, although a $1 donation is welcome. See crazycrow.com/site/event/daniel-ninham-intertribal-pow-wow. Ninham (1726–78) was the last sachem of the Wappinger (Nochpeem).

Desmond-Fish Book Sale

Opens Aug. 18 with members’ preview

The Friends of the Desmond-Fish Library in Garrison will open the annual secondhand book and media sale at 6 p.m. on Friday, Aug. 18, with a reception and preview for members. (Memberships start at $25 annually and may be purchased at the door.) Most books are $1 to $2 each, although there also will be a section of rare and signed volumes.

The sale will be open from Aug. 19 to 29. The hours are 2 to 5 p.m. on Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 2 to 8 p.m. on Tuesday and Thursday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday and 1 to 5 p.m. on Sunday.

The sale will end on Saturday, Aug. 26, with a 50 percent off sale (excluding “specials”), on Aug. 27 with a $5 per bag or box sale and on Aug. 28 with free books with a donation requested but not required.

Backyard Bees

Glynwood to offer training

Glynwood will offer a 90-minute, hands-on backyard beekeeping workshop with Rodney Dow, who has maintained the apiary at the farm for two decades, on Saturday, Aug. 26, at 1:30 p.m. Tastings of raw honey and hard cider are included. Tickets are $40. See glynwood.org.

Jazz in the Valley

Enjoy free jazz at the parks near Walkway Over the Hudson in Poughkeepsie on Sunday, Aug. 20. In Upper Landing Park, the concerts begin at 1 p.m. with performances by the New Groove, Poughkeepsie Funk and the Dutchess Community College Alumni Jazz Combo.

In Waryas Park, a ticketed event begins at noon with the Jeff “Siege” Seigel Sextet, Christopher Dean Sullivan Ensemble, Elio Villafranca and the Jazz Syncopators, Swing Unlimited and Mongo Santamaría Centennial Project. General admission is $50 in advance, $60 at the gate and $20 for students. See jazzinthevalleyny.org.
Beacon

Second Saturday Art Events

Galleries open new shows

Alden Gallery, David Link's The Physical World opens in the main gallery with minimalist sculpture, while in the Beacon Room is Jennifer Graham's Symmetry of Light, black-and-white photography shot with 35mm film in daylight. Clutter Gallery will host a solo show by Josh Mayhem and the annual cute-and-colorful group show, They Came from Planet Rainbow Sparkles. At Hudson Beach Glass, Joy Brown opens a solo show of bronze sculptures that coincides with a public installation of her work in New York City. The opening receptions are all from 6 to 9 p.m. At RiverWinds Gallery, a retrospective of Margaret Ryan's painting includes realistic still-life work, abstractions and impressionism. The opening is from 5 to 8 p.m. At the Howland Library, the Beacon Thursday Painters, a group of seniors who meet at the Beacon Recreation Center, will unveil two collaborative pieces at a reception scheduled for 5 to 7 p.m. Finally, the Theo Ganz Gallery will be open from noon to 8 p.m. to introduce The Art of Cape Dorset, a selection of prints and sculpture. Highlights include works by the late Tim Pitsiulak such as Tattooed Whale, Swimming Bear and Red Walrus.

Testament of Faith

Film examines German who challenged church

Bonhoeffer, a documentary about Dietrich Bonhoeffer, a Lutheran minister, who challenged his church to stand with the Jewish people in Nazi Germany, will be shown at 7 p.m. on Thursday, Aug. 17, at the First Presbyterian Church of Beacon as part of the Movies That Matter series. A panel discussion moderated by Pastor Ben Larson-Wolbrink of First Presbyterian will follow with Imam Abdullah Masjid Ar-Rashid of the Islamic Teaching Center, the Rev. Leita Singleton of St. James AME Zion Church and Rabbi Brent Spodek of Beacon Hebrew Alliance. The screening is free. See moviesthatmatterbeacon.org.

Get in the Act

Play to be performed on Bannerman

Whiskey Women, an interactive play, will be performed on the outdoor stage on Bannerman Island at 5 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 19. Set in the 1920s during Prohibition, the play follows three women who created and saved the whiskey industry. Guests are encouraged to attend in period dress. Tickets are $65 and include the boat trip to the island. Boats depart at 3:15 p.m. and 4:15 p.m. from the Beacon dock. See bannermancastle.org or call 845-256-4007.

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Individual & Family Office Services
Notes from the Cold Spring Village Board
Aug. 1 and 8 meetings
By Michael Turton

From Aug. 8 meeting ...
• Village Accountant Michelle Ascolillo reported that 94 percent of property taxes, totaling $1,501,145, have been collected. She also said that two months into the fiscal year, building permit fees and parking meter revenues are well ahead of budget.
• Officer-in-Charge Larry Burke noted that Cold Spring Police Department officers are available to check on homes when residents are out of town. Call 845-265-3447.
• Seastreak, the New Jersey-based cruise line, will again seek permission to bring ships to Cold Spring during several fall weekends.
• The village has received a request from Cold Spring Police Department officers to allow authorized personnel to make purchases of less than $700 at their discretion.

From Aug. 1 meeting ...
• Representatives of the Cold Spring Fire Company discussed repairs to the boiler at the Main Street firehouse estimated to cost $3,500. Also, the Village plans to issue a request for proposals for repairs to the roof.
• The cost of liability insurance for the village will be $80,546 for the current fiscal year. It has budgeted $81,000, an increase over last year due to the purchase of new vehicles.
• Mayor Dave Merandy said he had been advised by the village's insurer that Internet access provided by Verizon at the water treatment facility had been out for the better part of nine days and that he is investigating a switch to Optimum. Dozens of residents also suffered loss of service.

The board amended village policy to allow authorized personnel to make purchases of less than $700 at their discretion.
• Water Supervisor Greg Phillips noted that Internet access provided by Verizon at the water treatment facility had been out for the better part of nine days and that he is investigating a switch to Optimum. Dozens of residents also suffered loss of service.
• The Dale family has submitted plans to issue a request for proposals for repairs to the roof.

The Dale family has submitted plans for a plaque they are donating for installation near the riverfront bandstand to commemorate Francis and Imogen Dale, whose efforts led to the founding of the Cold Spring Musical Society and construction of the bandstand in the 1920s. Trustees requested further information regarding the wording and placement of the plaque.
• The annual senior citizen's picnic will be held at Mayor's Park on Saturday, Sept. 16, from noon to 4 p.m.

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Around the Village

Highway Department (June)
Garbage picked up: 66.3 tons
Recycling picked up: 30 tons
- Painted crosswalks and No Parking areas on Main.
- Repaired drywell on Constitution Drive.
- Repaired catch basin on Pine Street.
- Cleaned and organized property at garage.
- Cut grass and trimmed trees.
- Filled sinkhole in front of Mayor’s Park gate.
- Cleaned leaf debris from village office roof and gutters.
- Filled potholes throughout Village.
- Placed three trash cans and two recycling cans on Main.
- Cleaned riverfront and weed-whacked dock.
- Trimmed trees at waterfront.
- Cleaned streets with sweeper on Bobcat.
- Painted parking spots at riverfront.
- Placed trash cans at riverfront and dockside.
- Placed fencing at Highway Department.
- Hung July 4 banner and buntings.

The Highlands Current
highlandscurrent.com
Beacon Hoops: Two Decades Strong (from Page 20)

Highlands from as far away as North Carolina and Virginia to play in tournaments. “Leaman was like a father figure for a lot of us growing up, and Wayne's vision for us was ideal,” says Reuben Simmons, who played in Beacon Hoops as a child and returned as an adult to coach. “It was a great thing to give us something to do.”

Simmons, who is also now the city's highway superintendent and a founder of I Am Beacon, says the men showed him as a child the importance of giving back to your community.

Griffin and Anderson emphasize not only basketball skills but developing a sense of responsibility and values. One example of the importance of fair play is the “three-tech” rule, which has been in effect for years. If a player is assessed three technical fouls over the course of a season, he or she is immediately ineligible for the remainder of the games, no questions asked.

Years ago, Griffin recalled, a star player had received two technical fouls during the season. Just as the second half began in the league championship game, he received his third.

The men faced a tough decision: Do they let it slide with the score close and only minutes left in the season? They did not. “What we say is what we mean,” Griffin says. “You have to stay within the lines.”

Anderson adds: “Now we're looking to hand it off and teach others the same system. We're at the stage of our lives where we're setting up for retirement.”

Until that happens, both remain committed to the program, giving hours of their time to officiate and run the court with players 50 years younger (among many other responsibilities).

“When these kids start at 6 years old and go through the program, they're indoctrinated in fair play and sportsmanship,” Griffin says. “They get more out of it than just basketball. That's the reward for me and it's the reason I'm here.” Unfortunately, however, for his retirement plans, he says, “my nature won't let me walk away and not let that happen.”
Beacon Hoops: Two Decades Strong
Founders hope to hand off summer program
By Jeff Simms

Wayne Griffin and Leaman Anderson say they’ve been trying for years to “retire” from Beacon Hoops, but until someone steps up to fill their sizeable sneakers, the summer basketball program’s co-founders don’t appear to be leaving the court anytime soon.

About 150 kids participate in the program, which has divisions for boys and girls between 6 and 16 years old. Younger children, from ages 6 to 9, play on Mondays and Wednesdays at Pete and Toshi Seeger Riverfront Park, where there are courts with baskets lower than the standard 10 feet. Ten- to 12-year-olds play on Mondays and Wednesdays at the South Avenue court, and 13- to 16-year-olds play there on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

The cost to participate is kept to a minimum ($50 for Beacon residents and $60 for non-residents).

“When you talk about pillars of the community, Wayne Griffin and Leaman Anderson are a foundation here,” says Mayor Randy Casale, who is also an assistant basketball coach at Beacon High School. “They’ve made a difference in a lot of peoples’ lives.”

Anderson, 56, and Griffin, 57, founded Beacon Hoops in 1996. As the city’s economy stagnated in the 1980s and ‘90s, both had noticed a drop-off in the number of young people playing basketball. As a result, Beacon High School squads suffered as inexperienced players rose through the ranks.

There was a summer youth league in Beacon when they were growing up, Griffin recalls, and it made the city “a mecca for basketball.” The men knew there was still plenty of talent in Beacon's neighborhoods, and “that's what inspired me to put back what was given to me as a young man,” Griffin says.

What better way, they reasoned, to bring children back to basketball, and keep them off the streets, than to start them young?

“Somehow we made it work,” Anderson says. “Between Wayne’s family and my family, it’s been nonstop.”

During its heyday in the 1990s and early 2000s, more than 350 children and teenagers took part each summer. Teams traveled to the

(Continued on page 19)