

The HIGHLANDS Current



Hey — It's For You
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SEPTEMBER 1, 2017

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TOWERING SHOT — Using a camera attached to a drone, Beacon photographer Scott Snell took this photo over Castle Rock in Garrison. For an interview with Snell about his work, see Page 2.

Photo by Scott Snell

Nelsonville Residents Object to Cell Tower Plan

*Say it would be too close to
school, cemetery, homes*

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

Residents packed a Nelsonville Zoning Board of Appeals meeting on Aug. 29 to denounce a proposal to erect a cell phone tower on a mountainside above a cemetery, elementary school and woodland homes belonging to birds and deer as well as humans.

Proposed for a 9.6-acre tract owned by Doug Logan at 15 Rockledge Drive, a dead-end lane that intersects Moffatt Road, the 110-foot tower would serve Verizon and AT&T, with capacity for two additional carriers and emergency services.

The Manitou School stands off Moffatt Road below the site and the 152-year-old Cold Spring Cemetery spreads beneath it on Peekskill Road.

The proposed tower is the second to stir opposition in recent months. The other, proposed for a hillside on Vineyard Yard, off Route 9, just east of Nelsonville and Cold Spring, is under review by the Philipstown government (see Page 14). Both tower applications were presented by Homeland Towers LLC, which represents wireless providers.

The meeting was moved from Nelsonville to Philipstown Town Hall because of the expected turnout.

Robert Gaudioso, a Homeland Towers attorney, said that (Continued on Page 6)

Beacon on Board for Skate Park

*Organizers ready to roll for
possible fall opening*

By Jeff Simms

Two Beacon residents are hoping to bring skateboarding back to the city in a big way, and the city is on board — no pun intended.

Luke Conway, 29, and Joe Linksman, 30, are partnering with the Beacon Recreation Department to build a skateboard park at Memorial Park. Plans call for converting several little-used tennis courts in the park's northwest corner.

"There's such a community here of people who grew up skating and want their own kids to grow up with it, too," Conway says. "But they don't have any place to ride."

Mark Price, Beacon's recreation director, says the idea of constructing a skate park has arisen from time to time, "but you need a community to drive a project like this. These guys have carried the baton farther than anyone else."

A similar project in Newburgh was proposed to the City Council in 2013 by a group of skateboarders but not approved until this past July. The facility, budgeted at nearly \$500,000 and funded in large part by state grants, is expected to open

in November at the Delano-Hitch Recreation Park.

Conway and Linksman appeared before the Beacon City Council in July to formally propose a park but had been working behind the scenes for several months with Price and Mayor Randy Casale. Now they're awaiting site prep from the Rec-

reation Department before launching a campaign to fundraise and get the public involved.

"It's going to be a true community project," says Linksman, an environmental attorney who doesn't skate but was inspired to get involved after hearing Conway speak at a public forum (Continued on Page 8)



Joe Linksman and Luke Conway are working to create a skateboard park at Memorial Park in Beacon.

Photo by J. Simms



Nelsonville ZBA Chairman William Rice

Photo by L.S. Armstrong

5 Five Questions: SCOTT SNELL

By Chip Rowe

Scott Snell, 49, of Beacon, is a long-time broadcast camera operator (he's worked at the U.S. Open for the past 15 years) and photographer. A video he produced and directed, *Aloft: New York*, was awarded a silver medal on Aug. 26 at the first New York State Fair Drone Film Festival. It can be seen at highlandscurrent.com.

You've been a broadcast cameraman for 28 years. Which sport do you find the most challenging?

Hockey, because you have to anticipate where the puck is going. Football is similar, because you can get faked out. That happens to every camera operator because the plays are designed to fool guys standing five feet away, and we're 50 to 75 yards away. You know the operator got caught by a quarterback's pump fake when you see a little bob in the picture.

What prompted you to buy your first drone?

I had just finished a season of *Monday Night Football*. I flew cameras for that, but they were on wires. I saw an online ad for a drone and after a few clicks found myself watching *Santa Monica Airlines* in which the photographer, Robert McIntosh, flew a drone down the beach, through the Fer-

ris wheel at the pier and down the rollercoaster. He finished with the sunrise. I thought, why am I not doing this?

What rules do you have to follow?

First, you don't fly over crowds. If the drone crashes, you could hurt someone. If you are a commercial operator, you need an FAA license, which limits you to 400 feet, and your rig has to be insured and registered and can't fly at night without a waiver. As in any business, there are rules of etiquette. For instance, I don't think it's ethical to fly a drone over a military funeral, as has been done.

Have you ever crashed?

I use a spotter, because it's easy to get distracted, and you change direction often. Once, I realized only when watching the footage that I had missed a wire by inches. I crashed while shooting in Philadelphia for an NBC show when the drone went berserk and I had to put it in the river. That cost me \$1,500. I also crashed a \$6,000 rig during a wakeboarding shoot. I was skimming the water when an armature motor died. But in that case, a dive team recovered it for me.

Does drone photography risk losing its visual power? It seems to be everywhere.



Scott Snell

Photo provided

I suppose if everyone jumps on the bandwagon, it could get old, but we're not even close to that. There are infinite angles in the air, and the light and weather changes, and you have fog. I have shot bridges around here many times, but it's always different. The Mid-Hudson Bridge has 10,000 faces. I also love shooting at the Mohonk Preserve. I get a lot of therapy there.

Maloney Asks Army to Rename Lee Barracks

Rep. Sean Patrick Maloney, a Democrat who represents the Highlands in Congress, plans to ask the Secretary of the Army to rename a cadet barracks at West Point that honors Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee, according to an Aug. 16 report in the *Times Herald-Record* of Middletown.

The request comes in response to violent protests in Charlottesville, Virginia, over the removal of a statue of Lee. There also are at least two portraits of Lee at the military academy, one in the mess hall and one in the library.

Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand (D-N.Y.) also said she planned to ask that the name be changed. Maloney and Gillibrand are members of the 15-person West Point Board of Visitors, which advises the academy.

Lee graduated second in the West Point Class of 1829 and ran the academy from 1852 to 1855. The barracks are adjacent to Grant Hall, named for Ulysses S. Grant, an 1843 graduate who accepted Lee's surrender at Appomattox in 1865.

On Aug. 18, West Point opened a new barracks named for Gen. Benjamin Davis Jr., who was the only black cadet when he arrived in 1932, lived alone on campus and was shunned by his classmates.

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George Mansfield

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Scenic Hudson, Open Space Institute Donate Land to Philipstown

Also, work continues on Climate Smart Community

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

The Philipstown Town Board informally agreed on Aug. 23 to accept a donation of nearly 11 acres of land, large enough for two athletic fields and a building, in Garrison.

The property, a gift from Scenic Hudson and the Open Space Institute, is located at 982 Route 9D opposite the Highlands Country Club and across Route 403 from the Desmond-Fish Library. The town government and donors are working out the legal terms for preserving the site as parkland.

In a workshop session at Town Hall, Councilors Robert Flaherty, Michael Leonard, and Nancy Montgomery joined Supervisor Richard Shea in support of accepting the tract, which appears to have been previously farmed and contains a stream. Councilor John Van Tassel was absent but had earlier consented, Shea said.

The supervisor explained that the board will officially ratify its decision by passing a resolution in coming weeks and meanwhile will address related needs, such as getting the parcel surveyed. Based on estimates, there may be costs of several thousand dollars to the town to prepare for the transfer.

Claudio Marzollo, a member of the town Recreation Commission, said the site could accommodate a soccer field, a Little League field and parking, though because of the stream and other conditions, it cannot have a running track.

Leonard said the board hopes to plant native species along the stream and other board members suggested that part of the parcel might be used for a community

garden or similar purpose.

"It's a beautiful spot," Shea observed.

"A nice piece of property," agreed Montgomery.

"There has to be some action, because this is really, really, really urgent. The climate science is here."

Climate Smart Community

The board conferred with Karen Ertl, who chairs the Philipstown Garden Club's Conservation Committee, on the next steps, to become a Climate Smart Community, such as establishing a task force. So far, 27 residents have expressed interest in serving, Ertl said.

The board voted in June to participate in the Climate Smart Communities campaign, which is overseen by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and designed to reduce greenhouse gases and other forms of pollution that contribute to climate change.

Ertl, who has advised the board on Climate Smart matters, said the requirements to become certified can seem overwhelming but that the town can proceed incrementally. "The commitment needs to be there," Ertl said. "But don't feel pressured to do it [all] next week."

Resident Pamela Doan, who is a contributor to *The Current*, urged substantive initiatives. "There has to be some action, because this is really, really, really urgent," she told Ertl and the board. "The climate science is here."

Another resident, Jason Angell, offered to begin preliminary work on one benchmark, an inventory of local greenhouse gas emissions.



The boundaries of a 10.8-acre parcel that would be donated to the Town of Philipstown are shown in blue on a Putnam County tax map. The Desmond-Fish Library is located just north of the property, across Route 403.

Town Board members observed that becoming a Climate Smart Community dovetails with the updating of the 11-year-old Comprehensive Plan and that some

recent actions, such as making town government buildings more energy efficient, mesh with the program's goals.



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Airbnb hosts

I have spent more than 30 years going to Cape Cod every summer and we've always rented directly from a private owner ("Airbnb Bookings Jump 75 Percent in Philipstown," Aug. 18). This isn't a new concept — the difference is that Airbnb makes it much easier for hosts to supplement their incomes and guests to lower the cost of their vacations.

It is clear we need more hotel rooms, and it is clear that space is at a premium, and Airbnb provides the only stopgap for the time being. If 150 people come to a

wedding at Boscobel, where do we expect them to stay? Is it worth losing visitors to Fishkill or Beacon? I agree with Supervisor Richard Shea's assessment [in his letter in the Aug. 25 issue] of how it affects our restaurants' dinner service, or even prevents ventures from opening.

Ultimately, absentee hosts are no more dangerous than absentee landlords. It is incumbent upon the property owner to police their guests, paying or otherwise, and maintain order. But it is also incumbent upon neighbors to complain, directly, if there is anything amiss with short-term lodgers, just

as they would with long-term renters.

Every Airbnb I've stayed in has its own "house rules" and a reasonable noise curfew is certainly one of them. As for parking — laws are laws, whether you're a resident or a tourist. If someone is parked illegally, report it and have the car towed.

As for fees/taxes attached to short-term rentals, let's put them directly into a dedicated fund to address tourism. Send it to the Fourth of July committee or the Cold Spring Film Society, or place more recycling bins on Main Street. Everyone wins. There are plenty of towns around the Hudson Valley where nobody wants to go. Let's not be one of them.

Sean Conway, *Cold Spring*

Why not send out permit applications to all Airbnb hosts in our area with an invoice for a \$500 fee? This would surely boost revenues and we could apply some of this money to much-needed infrastructure improvements.

Joanne Kenna, *Cold Spring*

The new Guinan's

This area is steeped in history, going back to the Revolutionary War and earlier. Why not honor recent history and keep the name Guinan's? ("Restoration at Former Guinan's Well Underway," Aug. 25). It had that name for nearly 60 years.

Charles H. Park Jr., *Cortlandt Manor*

Not enamored of Dolly's as a name — the association with *Hello, Dolly!* is little known to most people. Why not something simpler and more accurate, such as The Landing?

John Carr

The André and Arnold?

Frank Haggerty, *Cold Spring*

Guinan's Lower Station Cafe and Pub?
When we lived (Continued on next page)



Taking it to the Street By Sheila Williams

What was your favorite childhood book?



"*The Diary of a Young Girl*,
by Anne Frank. I enjoyed learning
about people's lives."
~Annette Pidala, Cold Spring



"*The Jungle Book*, by Rudyard Kipling.
I loved the idea that animals could
communicate with people."
~ Brandon Williams, Garrison



"*Go Dogs Go*.
I loved Dr. Seuss."
~Helanna Bratman, Beacon

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR (from previous page)

in Garrison, I always loved going there for the Sunday paper. All the original Garrison people will always call it Guinan's, anyway.

Suzi Merritt

For those of us who regret coming here too late to get to know Guinan's, this seems like a fine way to give it new life. Best of luck on the restoration, and we'll see you for dinner!

Ron Soodalter, *Cold Spring*

The Klan

We were just talking about the history of the Ku Klux Klan in New York last night ("Looking Back: The Local Klan," Aug. 25). The KKK burned a cross in Altamont during the 1928 election as opposition to Democratic presidential candidate Al Smith [who was Catholic]. Of course, the brave bastards didn't have enough nerve to do it in Albany!

Edward Cahill, *Albany*

I have lived in Dutchess County since the mid-1980s. Over the last two years, I have seen Confederate flags and other white supremacist symbols on t-shirts and decals and as tattoos. A few weeks ago, I untied a noose conspicuously displayed in the Poughkeepsie Home Depot.

It appears our current political discourse is devolving.

Bryan Henry, *Hyde Park*

This article is uncalled for. Is there nothing else for you to write about? Disturbing and very sad, *Highlands Current*.

Craig Muraszewski, *Cold Spring*

Seastreak

As usual, the Village "trustees" have complete disregard for the merchants of Main Street who rely on the Seastreak cruise ship passengers for our last quarter income and profits ("Seastreak Plans Return," Aug. 25). Since when does a village government have the right to act in restraint of trade [by limiting the number of ships that can dock]? Since when does Mayor Dave Merandy and company have the right to interfere in private business and control who comes in and out of the village?

The free market will take care of the Seastreak traffic. If visitors can't find a place to eat where and when they want, they will find other options, or if it's that important to them, they will post a review on Yelp or somewhere saying what a horrible experience they had.

The Seastreak brings us hundreds of people who come here for a few hours and spend a lot of money, some of which ends up in the government coffers. The Breakneck hikers don't spend any money to speak of and cause a huge demand for emergency and other municipal services. If anyone needs to be discouraged, it's the Breakneck visitors.

Patty Villanova, *Putnam Valley*
Villanova is a Cold Spring shop owner.

When discussions regarding the Seastreak arise, I'm always happy to accom-

modate guests who arrive by boat, alleviating some of the parking congestion we suffer. Many patronize my shop and help me keep a roof over my head, as do those who come to hike our trails. But there are only so many I can serve effectively, given our size. This is the case for every business owner on Main Street and negative Yelp reviews, especially about issues beyond my control, hurt my business. Cold Spring's reputation as a whole is negatively impacted when visitors have an unhappy experience.

It's my responsibility as one of those charged with protecting the interests of Cold Spring as a whole to do my best to proactively manage the throngs that come here during the autumn season. Allowing more people to disembark at our dock than our village can reasonably accommodate eschews that duty and raises the risk of harm to residents, tourists and our valuable village character.

Limiting the number of vessels and people the Seastreak brings and the time these huge boats remain at the dock assures that our infrastructure is not overtaxed, our visitors enjoy their stay no matter how they arrive, and that our villagers can enjoy the beauty of our environment and safety their property taxes pay for. Unbridled tourism, as some desire, would do just the opposite and only assure degradation of Cold Spring's long-term viability and all that we love about our home.

Lynn Miller, *Cold Spring*
Miller is a village trustee and Cold Spring shop owner.

Beacon likely would be more than happy to accommodate Seastreak on weekends during the autumn. The Newburgh-Beacon ferry operates only during the week, so a conflict there is no issue. Seems worthy of consideration!

Greg Zuman, *Beacon*

Why not raise prices? Seastreak finds it profitable to sell tickets to 500 passengers per boat, and even bring three boats into Cold Spring on fall days. Let's say that Cold Spring raised docking fees to \$24 per foot, from \$6. Seastreak, to maintain its margins, would just boost ticket prices, which would trim demand. Even if half as many people might be able to afford the trip (and quickly find a place to sit), the village revenues would more than double. Why not give the market a chance to sort this out?

Michael Armstrong, *Cold Spring*

Beacon Council endorsements

Democrats have an important choice to make during the primary election on Sept. 12. The Beacon Democratic Committee, which has 20 voting members and represents all segments of the party and the community, chose overwhelmingly to endorse Lee Kyriacou and George Mansfield, the current incumbents, to represent the party in November for the two council at-large positions.

In order for George and Lee to represent Democrats in November, they need to

Photo OF THE WEEK

By Ross Corsair



Inside the butterfly tent at the Outdoor Discovery Center in Cornwall on Aug. 12. High-resolution submissions welcome. Email photos@highlandscurrent.com.

win the primary in September.

There is really no comparison of Lee and George and their challenger. If Democrats want consistent, thoughtful and experienced leaders for their candidates in November, they will vote Kyriacou and Mansfield. The polls are open from noon to 9 p.m.

Charlie Kelly, *Beacon*

Since 2013, I have had the privilege to serve with two exceptional councilmen at large, George Mansfield and Lee Kyriacou. Together, they have brought to City Council a wide spectrum of skills and qualities. I am writing to affirm their invaluable contributions to the city of Beacon.

Kyriacou's analytical skills, knowledge of the tax code and legal training have been a great bonus to the council. His deep institutional knowledge of city government dating back to the 1990s has been of particular help to those of us who were new to Council. He offers the long-view of zoning, planning and fiscal policy, as well as valuable historical context for

our successes and, more critically, for our challenges.

Mansfield has brought extraordinary common sense, civility and decency to our work. Clearheaded, ethical and pragmatic, his experience as a businessman who has given the city a special "third place" in Dogwood, he also brings considerable experience as a contractor and a member the Planning Board. As everyone who knows him will agree, he has his ear to the ground. Personally, he has been a touchstone for me in seeking a path through the maze of information presented to us both as council members and concerned citizens.

To sum up, what both council members bring to our immediate challenge of managing growth is experience and proven, time-tested leadership. We cannot afford less.

Peggy Ross, *Beacon*

Editor's note: For more endorsements of Kyriacou and Mansfield, as well as a statement by the candidates, see highlandscurrent.com.

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Nelsonville Residents Object to Cell Tower Plan *(from Page 1)*

the tower was necessary because of “a significant gap in service in and around Nelsonville” and because the demand for wireless service, including for devices other than phones, continues to escalate.

Residents challenged the need.

“I get perfect service,” said Harold Akselrad, of Moffatt Road, one of many to make the point.

“Why is this tower being built?” asked George Eisenbach, of Billy’s Way. “If this tower wasn’t built, what would go wrong?”

1 fake vs. 47 real

Along with the tower, designed to mimic a tree, the facility would include a 3,250-square-foot compound and an 8-foot fence. The installation would require removing 47 trees, according to Gaudio.

ZBA Member Steve Merando predicted the public would object. “There’s a lot of

old standing wood up there,” he said.

Nor did the idea of disguising the tower as a tree appeal to audience members. “No one is going to confuse a tower with a tree,” said Jeff Rossi, of Rockledge Road.

Jon Champlin, whose parents live on Rockledge, noted that “there are no 110-foot trees” in the area. “It would stick out like a sore thumb” and “lower property values.” He was not alone in that concern.

Health and environmental worries also came up.

“What is the [tower] microwave going to do to my kids, and the wildlife?” asked Richard Villella, a father of three who said he shares his yard with a flock of turkeys and moved to Rockledge Road because of its rural peacefulness.

“We have eagles and hawks,” asked Kenneth Levine, of Healy Road. “What’s the impact on them?”

Cui bono?

Besides expressing 21st-century concerns, critics echoed an ancient query: *Cui bono?* To whose advantage? “What are we gaining by this?” Levine said. “I don’t see the benefit coming to the community.”

Some residents suggested that, if a tower is needed, placing it on town property could generate revenue for the local government.

“Why should one person stand to benefit from it?” Villella asked.

ZBA Chairman William Rice observed that “Who benefits?” seemed to be the most common question among audience members.

The tower would require a special-use permit from the Zoning Board, site-plan approval from the Planning Board, and possibly — depending on interpretations of state law — a variance to gain access to the site.

Garrison resident Sandy Saunders suggested the tower could be placed on a commercial lot he owns at 3 Brook St., where it “would barely be visible from the cemetery,” whereas “the proposed [Rockledge] location seems stupid,” he said.

During the discussion, another possible location surfaced: the Philipstown Highway Department garage on Fishkill Road. Gaudio said he had talked to Philipstown Supervisor Richard Shea several weeks ago about that site. “We’d certainly be agreeable,” he said, but “it has a long way to go.”

“Let’s look into that one,” urged Chris Keeley, a ZBA member.

Rice said the ZBA will discuss the tower proposal at its next meeting and advised Homeland Towers to respond to the concerns raised.



An entire industry exists devoted to disguising cell phone towers. This “tree,” identified by the photographer as an example of “Pinus Cellarius,” is located in Tucson, Arizona. Towers have also been disguised as flag poles, cactuses, water towers and silos. Photo by Bill Morrow



The audience awaits the start of the Nelsonville ZBA discussion of the proposed cell tower. Others crowded the doorway and far wall, out of camera range. Photo by L.S. Armstrong

HIGH HOLY DAYS 2017/5778

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Friday, September 29th • 8:00 pm

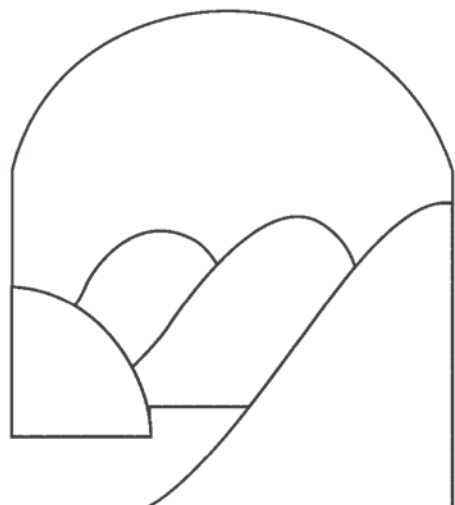
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DeStefano Off Ballot — Again

Appeals court says candidate missed deadline

By Chip Rowe

With less than two weeks before the Sept. 12 primary, Andrew DeStefano, a candidate for sheriff of Putnam County, has again been removed from the ballot.

DeStefano, a former New York City Police captain, hoped to challenge incumbent Don Smith in the Republican primary. The winner would face Democratic candidate Robert Langley Jr., of Garrison, on Nov. 7.

After two challenges, the county Board of Elections invalidated DeStefano's nominating petition, ruling that he fell short of the 1,000 valid signatures required.

DeStefano appealed to the Putnam County Supreme Court in Carmel, where on Aug. 16 Judge Paul Marx ordered the board to place DeStefano's name on the ballot, forcing a primary.

However, on Aug. 23, a state appellate court unanimously reversed Marx's ruling. The four justices offered no thoughts on the validity of DeStefano's petition but simply ruled he had missed a deadline.

The decisions by Marx and the appellate justices revealed a sharp difference in the interpretation of state election law, which required DeStefano to commence

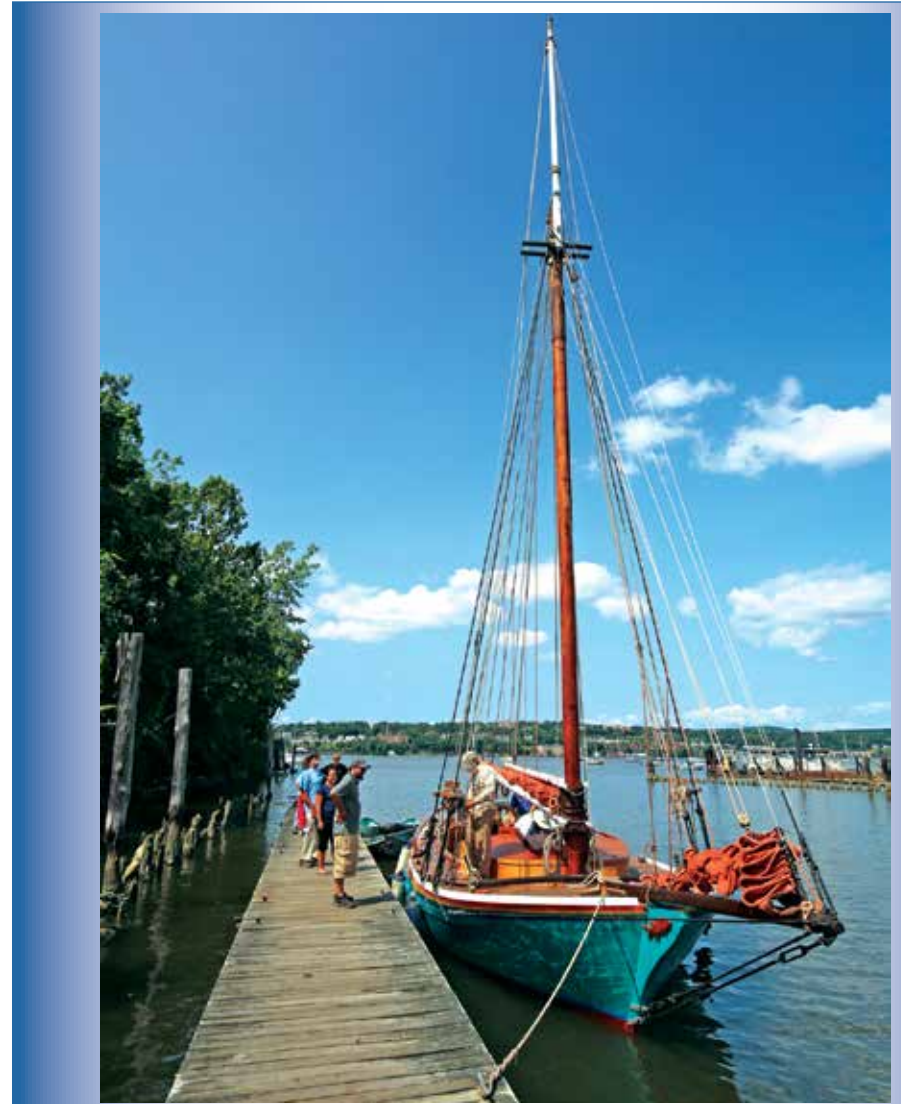
his appeal within three business days. The Board of Elections invalidated his petition on Wednesday, July 26, giving him until Monday, July 31, to file. (In a somewhat Orwellian argument, the Board of Elections insisted the clock starts the moment it makes its ruling, not when it notifies the candidate.)

The law does not specifically require "service," or notification to the other parties involved, by that date, but state appellate courts have consistently interpreted it that way.

DeStefano filed his appeal with the Putnam County court at 4:32 p.m. on July 31 but did not notify the other two parties — James Borkowski, who objected to DeStefano's petition, and the Board of Elections — until Aug. 2 and Aug. 3, respectively.

In his Aug. 16 decision, Marx admitted he was "diverging from years of precedent" but argued that since 1992 New York has been a "commencement by filing" state, meaning that a case begins when paperwork is filed. He noted the appellate court, in its rulings that service must also be completed by the three-day deadline, typically cite as precedence a case decided in 1944.

The four justices on the state appeals court, based in Brooklyn, did just that in removing DeStefano from the ballot. On Aug. 30, the state's highest court, the Court of Appeals, refused to hear DeStefano's case.



GOOD AS NEW — After a two-year, \$400,000 restoration, the Woody Guthrie returned to the Beacon waterfront on Aug. 26 to be re-christened. The sloop is expected to resume its free public trips by mid-September. *Photo by Russ Cusick*



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Beacon on Board for Skate Park *(from Page 1)*

about the need for a park. “We’re going to raise the money ourselves, do the construction ourselves and maintain it ourselves. Once we get approval we’ll start gathering sponsors and volunteers.”

Conway, who works in conservation, said there was no skating scene in Beacon when he moved to the city in 2012. But in the five years since, he said, there has been an “influx of people” who ride.

Beacon had a skate park years ago, but participants could only use it when a “gate-keeper” with a key was on duty. After it

closed, skateboarders began congregating at the old Tuck Tape factory building near Madam Brett Park and Fishkill Creek. A fire last winter shut down skateboarding at the factory, which was never a long-term or particularly legal option, anyway.

In April, Conway spoke about the need for a park at a “Citizen Soapbox” at First Presbyterian Church. Linksman was there, he said, as an organizer of the event, but also to find a project to jump into (or onto).

“This is the one that hooked me,” he



A skateboarder performs an "ollie."

Shutterstock



NEWBURGH PARK UNDERWAY — In 2014 the city contracted a skate park construction firm to create a design, shown here. After years of discussion, the \$479,850 project was approved by the City Council in July and should be completed by November.

Grindline Skate Parks

said. Despite not being a skateboarder (though Conway is working to change that), Linksman says he “liked how excited so many people got, and so quickly. It’s been a ton of fun attending meetings with the mayor talking about a skate park. I don’t know of anything cooler than that.”

With the opening last fall of refurbished tennis courts at South Avenue Park, the Memorial Park space can be repurposed, said Price, the recreation director. About two-thirds of the space will be used for the skate park and the remainder for batting cages for the Beacon High School girls’ softball team. A fence will separate the two.

“Once we get the surface prepped, they could drop in some modular ramps,” Price said. “Then we’ll see the major construction in the spring.”

Conway and Linksman have selected a contractor for oversight but say much of the construction will be done by volunteers. They hope to build a half-pipe (possibly a mini) as well as several smaller ramps suitable for BMX biking as well as skateboards.

Helmets will be required, with elbow and kneepads recommended. Like other teams that play volleyball or basketball at Memorial Park, participation will be at your own risk, and entrance will be free.

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The Calendar

Don McLean Returns to His Roots

His classic song, American Pie, written in Philipstown

By Alison Rooney

Although Don McLean was born in New Rochelle, Philipstown has every right to call him a favorite son.

The singer-songwriter spent four years living in Cold Spring, followed by a much longer stretch in Garrison, and his time in the Highlands was the most productive of his career. Both of his No. 1 hits, *American Pie* and *Vincent*, were written while he lived here. On Sept. 15, he will perform them and many other of his songs when he returns to the area for a concert at the Paramount Hudson Valley in Peekskill.

McLean's connection to the Highlands began in 1967 while he was studying

business at Iona College. He spotted a two-inch square ad in *The New York Times* for a folk festival at Castle Rock Farm in Garrison organized by Pete Seeger to raise money to build a 75-foot sloop, later christened the Woody Guthrie.

"I had loved Pete since junior high school, and had actually written to him," recalls McLean, 71. "I borrowed a car from my mother, and had a wonderful adventure on the Bear Mountain Bridge and Route 9D finding Garrison."

There were 200 to 300 people at the day-long festival when he arrived, and a stage made to look like a boat, "on which the man himself was standing. I paid a few dollars and watched, then went over to him. He remembered I was the kid who wrote to him.

"A lot happened afterward," McLean says. "Rather than getting a job, I went up the Hudson River to sing with Pete."



Don McLean performing in 2014

Photo by Chris Michael

American Pie, Dissected

- The song popularized the expression "the day the music died" to describe the deaths of Buddy Holly, Ritchie Valens and The Big Bopper in a plane crash on Feb. 3, 1959. In interviews, McLean has recalled learning of the crash while he was folding newspapers for his route ("February made me shiver/with every paper I'd deliver").
- McLean has said the song is a lament, lending support to common hypotheses that "drove my Chevy to the levee" refers to the end of the innocent 1950s, and that "bye bye, Miss American Pie" is a play on "as American as apple pie."
- In 2015, the original 16-page manuscript and notes for the song sold at auction for \$1.2 million. In the catalog, McLean confirmed references to Elvis as "the king" and to Bob Dylan as "the jester" and that the song ends with a description of the killing of Meredith Hunter at the Altamont Free Concert in 1969 while the Rolling Stones performed.

In 1968, McLean toured up and down the Hudson with funding from the New York State Council on the Arts. He lived in a gatehouse in Cold Spring belonging to James Benenson, who was then his business manager.

"It was a little house on a large property, seven acres; I lived near the entrance," he says. "You had to drive to the bottom of Cold Spring, then take a left-hand turn, and snake around a mountainous area to find it."

He found Cold Spring in the late 1960s to be a "closed little community with a lot of tension in it." He lived in Philipstown until 1971 and says he wrote

about half of *American Pie* here.

"In that time I wrote *Vincent*, *American Pie* and *Castles*," he says. "It was a creative time for me because the Seegers were very creative people and they were magnets for creative people."

"Pete suffered a lot," he says. "When the sloop was finally built, in 1969, members of the American Legion came and threw bottles at it. To be truthful, Pete was a Communist, but he was a wonderful person with a beautiful mind. His wife Toshi, too, she was at least half of the game. It was his undergirding but her creation."

(Continued on Page 11)



Anita Jacobson

Photo by A. Rooney

Cross Pollination

Garrison artist, co-founder of Tenement Museum, depicts the web of life

By Alison Rooney

Germinating is taken literally and figuratively in a nature-themed, four-woman exhibit, *Cross Pollination*, which opens on Second Saturday, Sept. 9, at the Catalyst Gallery in Beacon.

The women are sculptor Cindy Booth (Peekskill), photographers Cali Gorevic (Garrison) and Jane Soodalter (Cold Spring) and collage artist Anita Jacobson (Garrison). They have known each other for years and "offered each other new seeds of stimulation and insight," according to Gorevic, explaining the theme and title of the show.

Though Jacobson is trained in historic preservation — she graduated from NYU, attended The Cooperstown Graduate

Program in Museum Studies and co-founded New York City's Tenement Museum (see Page 12) — she has always been interested in nature and the environment. Today she divides her time between the city and Garrison, where she has lived since 1978, following in the footsteps of her brother, an architect, who wound up designing her home.

When in Garrison, she's often found in the woods. "They make me feel connected to the world," she says. "I can't believe the construction of flowers. The shapes in nature are miraculous."

Jacobson's collages depict nature's beauty and ravages, and she is particularly interested in birds and insects. "My creatures have an industrial part to them, which combines with who they are," she explains. "They're sometimes whimsical, but they always have a message. It's about man as the invasive species.... We are all connected, in an intricate, delicate balance, for better or worse. The web of



The Monster with Shell, a collage by Anita Jacobson

life both nurtures and destroys."

She works with a variety of materials — paper, tissue paper, shells, sea glass, bark and fungus — among them, to build her pieces. "I like collage, because you can make mistakes and then rip it to shreds, from which it evolves into something else," she says. "It surprises me all the time."

(Continued on Page 12)

FRIDAY, SEPT. 1

Eric Erickson: *Diagrams* (Opening)

6 – 8 p.m. Buster Levi Gallery
121 Main St., Cold Spring
845-809-5145 | busterlevigallery.com

Past, Present, Future (Opening)

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

H.V. Renegades vs. Vermont

6:35 p.m. Dutchess Stadium
1500 Route 9D, Wappingers Falls
845-838-0094 | hvrenegades.com

Teach-in to End Solitary Confinement

7 p.m. First Presbyterian Church
10 Academy St., Cold Spring | afj-ny.org

HVSF: *The General from America*

6:15 p.m. Prologue | 7:30 p.m. Performance
10 p.m. 21+ Trivia Night
Boscobel, 1601 Route 9D, Garrison
845-265-9575 | hvshakespeare.org

SATURDAY, SEPT. 2

Antiques Show & Flea Market

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

Help Rehab Trails at Breakneck Ridge

8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. B.R. Parking Area
430-442 Breakneck Road, Beacon
geoff@nynjtc.org | 201-512-9348 x819
Registration required.

Free Guided History Tour

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

Auditions for *Steel Magnolias*

Noon – 4 p.m. Philipstown Depot Theatre
10 Garrison's Landing, Garrison
845-424-3900 | philipstowndepottheatre.org

StoryWalk Opening Day

Noon – 4 p.m. Wildlife Education Center
25 Boulevard, Cornwall
845-534-7781 | hhnaturemuseum.org

Beacon Football vs. John Jay

1:30 p.m. Beacon High School
101 Matteawan Road, Beacon | beaonk12.org

Support Groups

For a full list of area support groups,
visit: highlandscurrent.com/sg

Calendar Highlights

For upcoming events visit highlandscurrent.com.
Send event listings to calendar@highlandscurrent.com

Haldane Football vs. Rye Neck

1:30 p.m. Haldane High School
15 Craigsides Dr., Cold Spring
haldaneschool.org

A Bite of History

2 – 5 p.m. Putnam History Museum
63 Chestnut St., Cold Spring
845-265-4010 | putnamhistorymuseum.org

The Farm Show 2017 (Opening)

2 – 6 p.m. Saunders Farm
853 Old Albany Post Road, Garrison
845-528-1797 | collaborativeconcepts.org

Hispanic-American History Month Art Exhibition (Opening)

3 – 5 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
477 Main St., Beacon
845-831-4988 | howlandculturalcenter.org

HVSF: *Love's Labour Lost*

6 p.m. Storm King Art Center
1 Museum Road, New Windsor
845-265-9575 | hvshakespeare.org

H.V. Renegades vs. Vermont

6:35 p.m. Dutchess Stadium
See details under Friday.

Doansburg Chamber Ensemble

7 p.m. St. Mary's Church
1 Chestnut St., Cold Spring
845-265-2539 | stmaryscoldspring.org

Free Movies: *Song of the Sea/Moby Dick*

8 p.m. Dockside Park, Cold Spring
coldspringfilm.org

Howland Wolves '17

8 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
See details earlier on Saturday.

SUNDAY, SEPT. 3

Antiques Show & Flea Market

8 a.m. – 4 p.m. Stormville Airport
See details under Saturday.

Help Rehab Trails at Breakneck Ridge

8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. B.R. Parking Area
See details under Saturday.

Following the Traitor's Trail (Hike)

10 a.m. Philipstown Recreation Center
845-424-3358 | hhl.org

Dharma Sunday School (ages 5+)

12:30 p.m. SkyBaby
75 Main St., Cold Spring
917-362-7546 | skybabyyoga.com

Revolutionary War Panel Discussion

1 p.m. West Point History Museum
New South Post Road, West Point
hvshakespeare.org

West Point Band: Labor Day Celebration

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

HVSF: *The General from America*

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

MONDAY, SEPT. 4

Labor Day**Help Rehab Trails at Breakneck Ridge**

8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. B.R. Parking Area
See details under Saturday.

HVSF: *Pride and Prejudice*

6 p.m. Lawn Party | 7:30 p.m. Performance
Boscobel | See details under Sunday.

TUESDAY, SEPT. 5

Haldane Girls' Soccer vs. Bronxville

4:30 p.m. Haldane High School
See details under Saturday.

Putnam County Legislature

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

Haldane School Board

7 p.m. Haldane School (Music Room)
See details under Saturday.

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 6

Farmer Training: Cover Cropping

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

H.V. Renegades vs. Aberdeen

6:35 p.m. Dutchess Stadium
See details under Friday.

Howl at the Moon Cabaret

7 p.m. Garrison's Landing
brownpapertickets.com/event/3049714

THURSDAY, SEPT. 7

Haldane Boys' Soccer vs. Schechter

4:30 p.m. Haldane High School
See details under Saturday

Creativity Workshop

6 p.m. Butterfield Library
10 Morris Ave., Cold Spring
845-265-3040 | butterfieldlibrary.org

H.V. Renegades vs. Aberdeen

6:35 p.m. Dutchess Stadium
See details under Friday.

Philipstown Town Board

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

FRIDAY, SEPT. 8

Beacon Lions Food Drive

1 – 7 p.m. Key Food | 268 Main St., Beacon
Benefits St. Andrews/St. Lukes Pantry

Haldane Sports

4:15 p.m. Girls' Tennis vs. Pawling
4:30 p.m. Volleyball vs. Westlake
See details under Saturday.

Horror Film Night on Bannerman: *Dracula*

7 p.m. Boat leaves Beacon dock
855-256-4007 | Registration required.

Schwervon

8 p.m. Beacon Music Factory
333 Fishkill Ave., Beacon
845-765-0472 | beaonmusicfactory.com

The Drifters

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

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Garrison Art Center
THE RIVERSIDE GALLERIES

Don McLean Returns to His Roots (from Page 9)

American Pie, which was released in November 1971, changed McLean's life. He bought a house in Garrison on Old Manitou Road, near the entrance to Man- itoga, and became friends with his neighbor, designer Russel Wright.

"My house and his site were part of King's Quarry, which provided cobble- stones for New York City," he says. "My house had been headquarters for the quarry and had a massive granite foundation."

Living in Garrison suited McLean, who says he's "always been sort of a solitary character." He recalls riding his horses into the hills to look at the Bear Mountain Bridge. "I'm not prone to being terrifically happy, but I did like it there," he says.

At the same time, he distanced himself from the folk-music scene. "I grew tired of the anti-American sentiment which pervaded the Seeger crowd, and found the



The photo for McLean's self-titled follow-up to *American Pie*, released in 1972, was taken on a hillside overlooking the Cold Spring waterfront.

folk thing controlling," he says. "If you sang a song by someone like Irving Berlin, you had to be tongue-in-cheek and that didn't sit well with me." Eventually

Pete Seeger on *American Pie*



The *American Pie* album cover

From a radio performance in early 1971:

"Later this week you're going to have one of the most talented young singer-songwriters I know come to help raise money, Don McLean. He's just written a brand new song that has got me bugged — I can't get it out of my head, even though I can't sing it right. It's a history of rock 'n roll in six verses, and it's got a beautiful chorus."

To hear Seeger perform the song, and McLean sing at a Clearwater fundraiser in 1969, see highlandscurrent.com.



Don McLean and Pete Seeger circa 1969, when they performed together as part of the Sloop Singers.

McLean moved to Nashville, where he says he found it easier to record.

The songwriter is reluctant to discuss his best-known composition, each lyric of which has been "decoded" and analyzed *ad nauseam* over the decades. He says such scrutiny dilutes the song's impact.

McLean instead brings up the lyrics of *Primetime*, released in 1977, which describes America being resurrected "as a game show with a quizmaster. It's what we have today: *Ted Mack's Amateur Hour*, someone trying to learn to be

chief. It's real reality television."

At his performance in Peekskill on Sept. 15, McLean will play the classics as well as more recent songs. "I make it up as I go along," he says, "because I don't like to be constrained by anything, be it a set list or having too many people around. That's why I moved to Maine for 25 years. I like open spaces."

For tickets, which start at \$55, see paramounthudsonvalley.com. The opening act will be Open Book, a Philip- stown-based duo.



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See website for times & details

Excellent Creatures Dialogues with Drama reading:

Mother Courage
Sept. 27, 7:30 p.m.

Depot Docs:
Cutie and the Boxer
followed by Q & A and reception
Sept. 29, 7:30 p.m.

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



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CROSS POLLINATION

"Wheel of Life" by Jane Soodalter



Cindy Booth
Cali Gorevic
Anita Jacobson
Jane Soodalter

"Pinwheel" by Cali Gorevic



Catalyst Gallery, 137 Main St Beacon, NY 914-486-1575
Sept 8 - Oct 1, 12 to 6, Fri - Sun

Opening Reception - Sept 9, 6 to 9

Cross Pollination *(from Page 9)*

Jacobson began exhibiting her art seven years ago, after being invited to talk at a program serving underprivileged youth. That spurred her to connect with fellow artists in the Hudson Valley, including as part of the Gallery 66 collective in Cold Spring. Most recently her work has been shown in a group exhibit, *The Grass Menagerie*, at the Reeves-Reed

Arboretum in Summit, New Jersey.

Catalyst Gallery, located at 137 Main St., in Beacon, is open Friday through Sunday from noon to 6 p.m., or by appointment. On Second Saturday, the gallery will be open until 8 p.m. See anitajacobson-artist.com or catalystgallery.com. *Cross Pollination* continues through Oct. 1.



Bird with Cape, a collage by Anita Jacobson

The Museum of Immigrants

Before devoting much of her time to art, Anita Jacobson dedicated her energy to the Lower East Side Tenement Museum. "I was looking for something to do once my kids were grown," she recalls. "I began volunteering for the restoration of the Eldridge Street Synagogue, and there I met Ruth Abrams, who had grown up in the South and was deeply interested in civil rights and tolerance."

Abrams proposed a museum. "One day I was walking down Orchard Street and I saw a sign on a window. I got in touch with the owner, walked in and was bowled over — it was unchanged since it was shuttered in 1935. It was as if the building found me."

They rented the building, built in 1863, and eventually purchased it. "It was Ruth's idea to create three or four apartments and interpret them as they were," Jacobson explains. Each apartment is devoted to a different immigrant group of the period. "We've become a part of the National Parks Service and had 250,000 visitors last year," Jacobson notes. Last year the museum added a second building whose exhibits will focus on immigrants who arrived after 1935: Holocaust survivors, Chinese, Puerto Rican. "It's going to be a wonderful continuation of the story," she says.

During the early days of the museum, Jacobson says, many historians had not focused on the social history of the period. Today, with immigration as a touchpoint, "docents are trained to deal with issues that come up, because a lot of people think they can express themselves in an intolerant way."

The museum, at 97 and 103 Orchard St., can be seen only by guided tour with tickets purchased at tenement.org or by calling 877-975-3786.

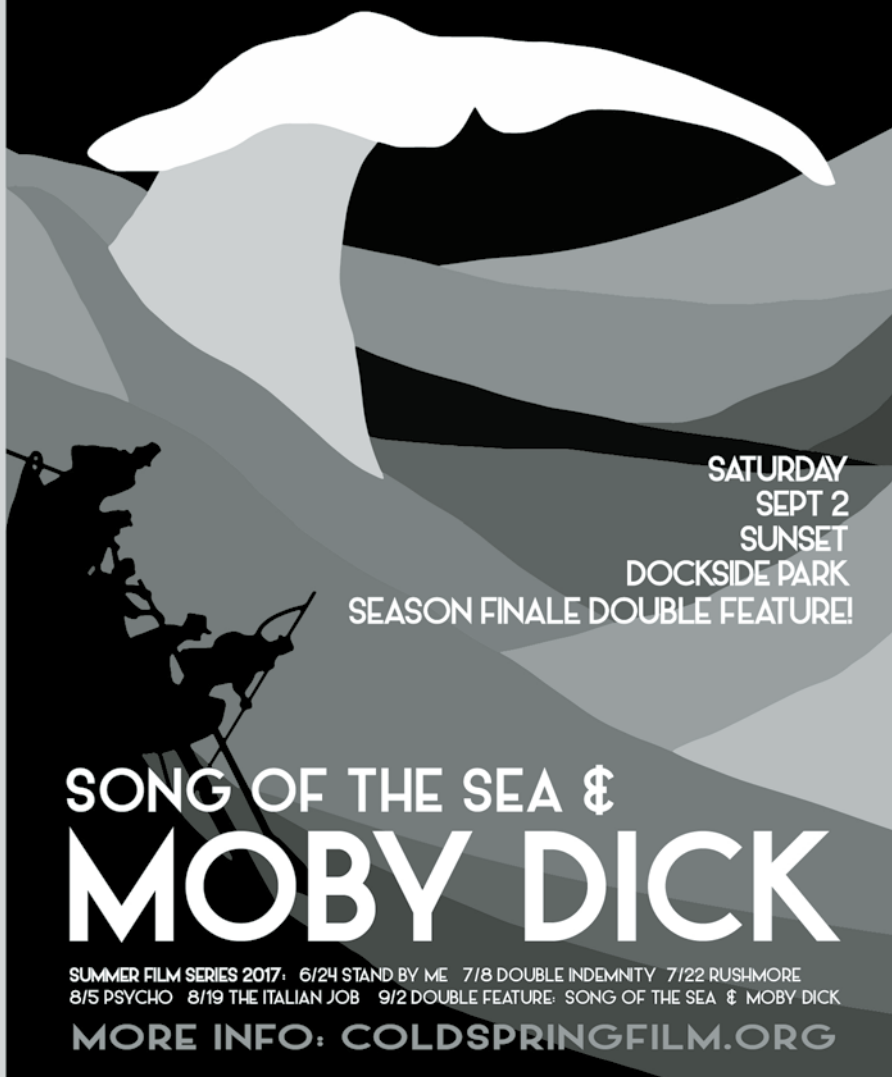


The Tenement Museum Photos by Keiko Niwa



A kitchen inside the Tenement Museum

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Day Trip

Iona Island

From bombs to birds at former military base

By Michael Turton

You can't just show up for a tour of Iona Island, located south of the Bear Mountain Bridge. The only person allowed to take anyone around the place, which is closed to the public, is naturalist Donald "Doc" Bayne, who has explored and studied its 125 acres for more than 20 years and is known as "the mayor of Iona Island."

Bayne conducts three-hour tours six to eight times a year between May and October. Call 845-786-2701 to inquire.

The island, now a wildlife sanctuary and part of Bear Mountain State Park, has played a role in every chapter of Hudson River history, including during World War I, which the U.S. entered a century ago, in 1917. In its earlier days it was home to Native American encampments and Dutch settlers, supported vineyards and orchards and was a training ground for a champion boxer. It may even have been trod upon by dinosaurs.

An island at war

During the American Revolution, Iona Island was occupied by British troops. Its U.S. military history began in 1899 when the Navy purchased the property to store munitions. The government constructed 164 buildings, including a hospital, firehouse, barracks, officers' quarters, icehouse, shell and powder buildings and storage bunkers. Locomotives circled the island, powered by compressed air.

Four machine gun nests and an anti-aircraft gun defended the enclave, and 100 Marines patrolled its shores.

Because high explosives could not be stored in New York City, the Navy shipped them to Iona Island on barges to be placed in "shell houses," Bayne says. "The fuse was taken off the top and sample powder



A view of Iona Island from Bear Mountain, looking toward Peekskill

NYNJTC



Doc Bayne stands in the bunker where he encountered a protective mother coyote.

Photo by M. Turton

tested in another building to ensure it was explosive enough."

On Nov 5, 1903, workers had trouble removing a fuse and forced the issue using a wrench. The shell exploded, setting off thousands of others. Six men were killed and almost every building damaged or destroyed.

Submarines on the Hudson

During World War II, submarines came to the island (the water is 100 feet deep at that point in the river) to be armed with torpedoes. In 1942 the Navy purchased nearby Round Island, where a private quarry had

provided stone for the Brooklyn Bridge.

The Navy built 20 bunkers at the south end of Round Island, one of which survives. At low tide a footpath leads from one island to the other. The Navy closed Iona Island as a munitions depot in 1947.

Dinosaurs?

In 1972, fossilized *coelophysis* tracks dating to 200 million years ago were discovered in Blauvelt, a few miles south. "It's the same kind of terrain and very close," notes Bayne. "Why not here?"

Five thousand years ago Iona Island was home to members of the Delaware Indian tribe drawn by its plentiful food.

"There was lots of striped bass, sturgeon, crab, shell fish" and oysters weighing up to seven pounds, Bayne says. Early inhabitants used the rock shelters as dwellings. Today, the Trailside Museum at Bear Mountain has a clay pot and other artifacts from the encampments.

In 1683 the Dutch purchased the island from its Native American inhabitants and began cutting trees and building houses. Foundations are still visible on the north end and there are a dozen on Round Island. "At that time the Dutch put their animal pens inside their houses," Bayne says.

Then known as Salisbury Island, Iona was sold to John Beveridge in 1847, who gave it to his son-in-law, Dr. E.W. Grant, who changed the name to Beveridge Island. Grant planted 20 acres of grapes and 2,000 fruit trees. Unfortunately, people didn't like the bitter "Iona grapes," Bayne says.

(Bayne says newspaper accounts claim the name "Iona" was a send-up of Grant, who attended horticulture meetings in New York City and had a habit of introducing himself by saying, "I own an island...")

After the banks foreclosed on the vineyard and fruit operation, investors turned the island into a playground. Steamers brought visitors from the city by the hundreds. The entertainment included a merry-go-round.

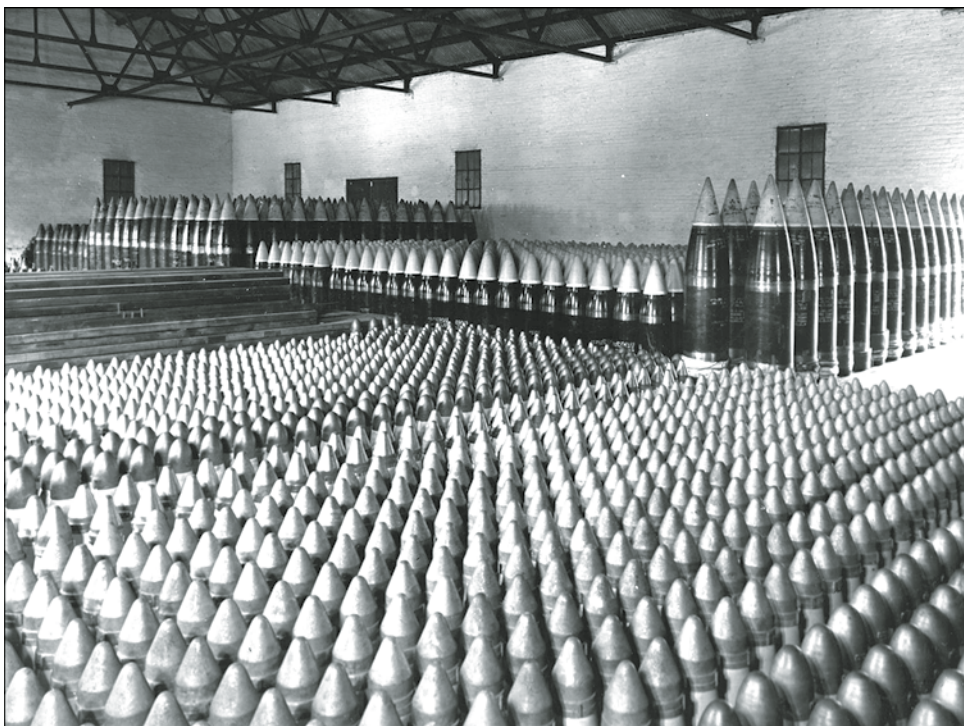
"It was such a popular destination they say that you couldn't walk more than 10 feet on weekends without stepping on a blanket," Bayne says. John L. Sullivan, the first heavyweight champion of gloved boxing, trained there on occasion.

After the wars

When the state parks system bought the island from the Navy in 1965, the plan was to convert the barracks into a Hudson Valley Museum. A bowling alley, swimming pool and playing fields were also proposed. It never happened, and in 1980 vandals destroyed the barracks.

Bayne says he was initially upset that the island was never developed but now sees the silver lining. "It's back to what it was like when the Native Americans were here," he says. "There's milkweed everywhere," along with butterflies, deer, bear, coyote, fox, rabbits, wild turkeys and eagles.

Even Bayne, the caretaker, isn't always welcome. Recently, at the entrance to the bunker, a coyote whose four cubs were inside came out growling. "I wound up on top of the door," Bayne says. "I still don't know how I got there."



An Iona Island shell building

Photo courtesy Doc Bayne

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Progress Report: Philipstown Development

Where things stand with Manitou School, Horton Road, cell tower

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

The Philipstown Planning Board continued its review of a plan by the Manitou School on Route 9D to expand, while various local government panels continued their scrutiny of the two other proposals — the Hudson Highlands Reserve housing complex and cell phone tower near the intersection of Routes 9 and 301.

Manitou School

What's happened: Based in a house once owned by Robert Parrott, the superintendent of the West Point Foundry, the private Manitou School wants to add space to serve its growing enrollment.

The pre- and elementary school, which occupies 5¼ acres at the intersection of Route 9D and Peekskill Road at the edge of Cold Spring and Nelsonville, plans a 760-square-foot annex to the historic house, a 2,600-square-foot gym, and extra parking.

What's next: Initially Manitou proposed a larger annex that would contain four classrooms and the gym. But after pushback from Planning Board members and neighbors about the scope of the project, the school changed its drawings.

Although generally receptive to the revised plans, some Planning Board members at their Aug. 17 meeting questioned the wis-



An amended site plan, presented to the Philipstown Planning Board on Aug. 17, shows the proposed Manitou School expansion.

Photo by L.S. Armstrong

dom of creating more impervious-surface parking. Chairman Anthony Merante noted that the board prefers to limit impervious surfaces, which do not absorb rain or melting snow and can create run-off and storm water management problems.

"We can certainly look at that," replied Glennon Watson, of Badey & Watson Sur-

veying & Engineering, who is working with Manitou on the project.

Hudson Highlands Reserve

What's happened: The Planning Board in July and August continued to review plans for the Hudson Highlands Reserve, an upscale, equestrian-oriented

housing development proposed for North Highlands. It would be constructed on a 206-acre parcel bounded by Route 9, Horton Road, East Mountain Road North, and East Mountain. The project first came to the board in 2014.

The developer, Horton Road LLC, calls the proposed development a "conservation subdivision." However, the zoning law, adopted in 2011, envisions a conservation subdivision as a complex that groups houses together as in a traditional hamlet, with ample undeveloped land left around the buildings.

The Hudson Highlands Reserve plans call for homes spread around a pond on 1-acre lots, not clustered. The homes, each 3,000- to 4,000-square-feet, would sell for \$1 million to \$3 million. Conservation subdivisions can receive certain zoning breaks not available to sprawling conventional subdivisions.

Along with the issue of whether the complex is a conservation subdivision, other questions raised by members of the board and public involve the number of houses (figures have ranged from 22 to 29); a possible rezoning of a section of the property once intended for soil mining operations; whether the project's open space is too fragmented for conservation purposes; and whether horseback-riding trails would adversely affect steep slopes or wetlands.

What's next: With the board's ongoing feedback, the developer has prepared a detailed Environmental Assessment Form (EAF). Glennon Watson, representing the developers, said on Aug. 17 that they hope to complete the third major part of the EAF in time to present it to the Planning Board in September or October. The Philipstown Conservation Board also has been looking at the plans.

Vineyard Road cell tower

What's happened: Homeland Towers LLC, working with Verizon, proposed a cell phone tower for a hillside off Vineyard Road, which intersects with Route 9 slightly south of Route 301. After neighbors and other residents objected, a proposal to put the tower in the town's old landfill, first floated in 2014, was revived.

What's next: The Philipstown Zoning Board of Appeals and Conservation Board continued their reviews of plans for the Vineyard Road cell tower, while Vincent Xavier of Homeland Towers said the firm would again evaluate the landfill site. The Zoning Board did not meet in August.

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Last Call for Pay Phones

We gave photographer Sheila Williams a simple assignment: Take a shot of every pay phone in the Highlands. If it has a dial tone, all the better.

After following a number of leads, she found two — at Whistling Willie's in Cold Spring and the Philipstown Recreation Center in Garrison, neither working — or three if you count the empty phone booth near the former Guinan's at Garrison's

Landing.

According to the Federal Communications Commission, which still tracks such things, there are 20,716 working pay phones in New York state and 99,832 across the country. But Williams struck out in Beacon. She reported:

"The Post Office no longer has a pay phone out front. The employees I spoke with said it hasn't been there for at least five years. A couple of locals said



The phone booth at Guinan's, since moved during remodeling of the building

Photos by Sheila Williams



The pay phone near the entrance of the Philipstown Recreation Center in Garrison



The pay phone at Whistling Willie's in Cold Spring

they had seen a pay phone at a cleaner on Route 52 in Carmel. I phoned a few but none had a pay phone.

"The gas station in Beacon used to have two out front. They were removed when it was remodeled. The Yankee Diner used to have one but I was told it was taken out about four years ago because people never used it.

"According to a few people I spoke to,

businesses have to pay to have pay phones and since people no longer use them it doesn't make sense to have them.

"I also checked several locations from an online directory of pay phone numbers in Beacon and Philipstown. I even called a few antique stores in Cold Spring to see if maybe they sold old pay phones. No one did."

Have you seen a phone? Let us know at editor@highlandscurrent.com.

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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Public Canoe Trip

15 spots open for Sept. 10 excursion

The Constitution Marsh Audubon Center and Sanctuary in Garrison will host a three-hour public canoe trip at 2:30 p.m. on Sunday, Sept. 10. Participants must be at least 7 years old.

To reserve one of the 15 spots, call 845-265-2601, ext. 15, or e-mail cmacs@audubon.org. The fee is \$45 for adults, \$40 for seniors, students and Audubon members, and \$30 for children and teens ages 7-15.

Revolutionary Dining

Sample what the colonists ate

As part of the Week of Revolution, the Putnam History Museum will host a program called A Bite of History on Saturday, Sept. 2, from 2 to 5 p.m. with homemade, Revolutionary War-era food. There will also be trivia and children's activities. Admission is \$5 for adults and \$2 for children; or free for members. The museum is located at 63 Chestnut St. in Cold Spring.

Orchestra Rehearsal Begins

Putnam Symphony looking for musicians

The Putnam Symphony will begin practice on Wednesday, Sept. 6, for its Nov. 18 performance. Rehearsals are from 7 to 9 p.m. weekly at Brewster High School. Call 845-228-4167.

Farm Fair

Yorktown event opens Sept. 8

The Yorktown Grange Fair opens on Friday, Sept. 8, and runs through Sept.

10. It will feature music and entertainment, competitions, 4-H livestock exhibits and rides. Admission is \$8 for adults and \$5 for children ages 2 to 12. For a schedule, see yorktowngrangefair.org.

Music Season Opens at Chapel Restoration

Jazz Master to perform on Sept. 10

Jazz pianist Toshiko Akiyoshi will perform at 4 p.m. on Sunday, Sept. 10, at the Chapel Restoration in Cold Spring. The concert is free but donations are welcome. Akiyoshi, who has been named a Jazz Master by the National Endowment for the Arts, will play both standards and her own compositions.



Jazz pianist Toshiko Akiyoshi will perform at Chapel Restoration on Sept. 10.

Photo provided

Farm Dance Gala

Glynwood fundraiser is Sept. 9

Glynwood's annual Farm Dance Gala will take place from 4 to 9 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 9. Tickets are \$275 per person at glynwood.org.

The gala includes dinner, dancing and a live auction celebrating agriculture in the Hudson Valley and the farm's 20th anniversary. Fishkill Farms will be awarded the Harvest Award.



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Two Solo Shows Open

Garrison reception on Sept. 9

Two solo shows will open at the Garrison Art Center with a reception from 5 to 7 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 9.

Laura Kaufman makes her debut with sculpture, prints and textiles. Her work reflects a Japanese landscape architecture technique known as *shakkei*, incorporating the background into the foreground.

Canadian painter Mike Bayne will share his oil paintings of commonplace life based on reproducing his photographs in predominantly postcard-size works. Both exhibitions are on display until Oct. 1.



Hole Over Hole, by Laura Kaufman, one of the works in her solo show at the Garrison Art Center that opens Sept. 9

Photo provided

Big Band at Boscobel

Swinging jazz at end-of-season bash

Boscobel will host its end-of-season Big Band Concert and Sunset Picnic on Sunday, Sept. 10. The gates in Garrison open for picnicking at 5 p.m. and the music begins at 6 p.m. The rain date is Sept. 17.

Food and soft drinks are available for purchase. The 20-piece Big Band Sound will perform swinging jazz and the Fred Astaire Dance Studio will demonstrate swing dancing. See boscobel.org for tickets.

Hebrew School

Putnam Valley temple to host open house

The Reform Temple of Putnam Valley will host an open house for its Hebrew

School from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 9. Visitors can meet the rabbis, speak with students and congregants and observe classes. See rtpv.org.

Marsh Intern

Garden Club sponsors student

The Philipstown Garden Club's summer intern, Anne Gundeck, spent two months doing field work at the Constitution Marsh Audubon Center and Sanctuary. She was assigned to control of phragmites, the invasive reed that is managed by smothering the plants with geotextile.

Gundeck also worked on seining (a fish census), identifying native plant and bird species, guiding canoe trips, and greeting and providing information to visitors.

A 2017 graduate of Poughkeepsie Day School, Gundeck will attend Bates College. The Garden Club sponsors interns each summer in partnership with environmental, horticultural and conservation organizations. See pgc1914.com.



Anne Gundeck interned at Constitution Marsh as part of a program sponsored by the Philipstown Garden Club. Photo provided

Beacon

Horror at Bannerman

Island to screen classic films

Bannerman Island will host two classic horror films on consecutive Fridays. On Sept. 8, a boat will leave the Beacon Institute dock at 7 p.m. for a screening of *Dracula* (1931), starring Bela Lugosi. A boat leaves at the same time on Sept. 15 for a showing of *Bride of Frankenstein* (1935), with Boris Karloff.

The evenings will also (To next page)

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COMMUNITY BRIEFS



The 1931 film *Dracula* will be shown at Bannerman Island on Sept. 9.

include guided tours of the island; the boats will return to the Beacon dock at 10:30 p.m. The cost is \$35 per person. The screenings are not suitable for children under age 13. Information: 855-256-4007 or bannermancastle.org.

Hispanic-American Art

Cultural Center opens show

The Howland Cultural Center in Beacon will open a show featuring artwork by Hispanic-American artists from the Hudson Valley on Saturday, Sept. 2, with a reception from 3 to 5 p.m.

Earth: A World of Colors, Values, Imagination includes 16 artists representing the Caribbean, Cuba, Mexico, Peru, Puerto Rico, Spain and Brazil. Their work includes painting, sculpture and photography. The show will be on view until Sept. 30. See howlandculturalcenter.org.



Death and Rebirth, by Joe Pimentel, will be on display at the Howland Cultural Center in Beacon as part of its exhibit of works by Hispanic-American artists. *Image provided*

Chef's Island Dinner

Seventh annual event on Sept. 9

The seventh annual Chef's Farm Fresh Dinner will be held on Saturday, Sept. 9, on Bannerman's Island to raise money for restoration work at the site. A boat will leave the Beacon Institute dock at 3 p.m. and 4:15 p.m. There will be two seatings for the five-course meal prepared by Chef Noah Sheetz and the Hudson Valley Chefs Consortium. Reservations are required; see bannermancastle.org. The Judith Tull-och Band will perform.

Independence and Bikes

Program will celebrate both

A program celebrating the bicycle's role in women's suffrage will take place at the Walkway Over the Hudson in Poughkeepsie at 10 a.m. on Saturday, Sept. 9. Historian Kjirsten Gustavson will appear in period costume on a vintage bicycle to explain the bike's impact on women's social status in New York state during the years before they were given the vote.

A 30-minute ride on the park trails will follow, and lemonade and treats will be

served at the Poughkeepsie entrance. Call 845-834-2867 to reserve a spot.

Classics Concert for Kids

Music program at Howland

Children are invited to visit the Howland Cultural Center in Beacon at 3 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 9, for a concert. Before the performance, children will be allowed to handle and play the instruments. The event is free but reservations are required at howlandmusic.org.

Suffrage Celebration

Actors will portray women who fought for vote

Mount Gulian in Beacon will celebrate the centennial of women's suffrage in New York on Sunday, Sept. 10, with actors portraying suffragists Lucretia Mott and Alice Paul. In addition, Sally Dwyer-McNulty, a history professor at Marist College, will share details of the fight for women's rights.

The event takes place from 1 to 4 p.m. Registration is recommended by emailing info@mountgulian.org or calling 845-831-8172. Admission is \$4 to \$12 per person.

Visit highlandscurrent.com for news updates and latest information.

Fixing Breakneck

Volunteers needed for trail work

Volunteers will meet at 8:30 a.m. each day over the Labor Day weekend at the Breakneck Ridge Parking Area in Beacon to build and rehabilitate trails. The effort continues at the same time on Sept. 7 to 11, Sept. 14 and 15, Sept. 18, Sept. 21 to 24, and Sept. 29 and 30. The work is overseen by a New York-New Jersey Trail Conference manager and members of the Conservation Corps.

To participate, contact Geoff Hamilton at geoff@nynjtc.org or 201-512-9348, ext. 819. Anyone under age 14 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.

Cause for Paws

Fundraiser to aid Texas pets

On Thursday, Sept. 7, the Towne Crier Café in Beacon will host Cause for Paws II, a fundraiser to aid pets caught in the Texas floods. Proceeds will benefit Pets Alive in Austin. The first Cause for Paws assisted pets caught in the Louisiana floods last year.

The show begins at 7 p.m. and features Richard Shindell, Jude Roberts, Elaine Romanelli, the Kurt Henry Band, Keith Kelly, the Costellos, Open Book, David Massengill, Montgomery Delaney and a few surprise guests. Call 845-855-1300 or visit townecrier.com.

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Putnam Considers Awarding Service Medals to Veterans

Challenge would be determining who's eligible for honor

By Holly Crocco

Putnam County is considering awarding a service medal to veterans but has discovered it may not be so simple.

The only medal the county has ever issued was the Putnam County Service Medal, given around 1919 to those who served in World War I, according to Maj. Roderick Cassidy, a military lawyer who serves in the New York Army National Guard and lives in Brewster. He suggested to legislators at the county's Aug. 22 Rules Committee meeting that, nearly a century later, it's time to recognize those who served in World War II and more recent conflicts.

In 2016, Westchester County began honoring all who served on active duty in the Vietnam War era with a special distinguished service medal, he said. Westchester has distributed about 1,500 medals, at a cost of about \$7 each.

The challenge isn't producing the medals (at least two jewelers have expressed interest) as much as deciding who qualifies to receive one, Cassidy said. Lawmakers will have to define "veteran" status, based on criteria that could include class at discharge or whether a person saw combat. Further, does a veteran have to be born in Putnam County or be a resident during his or her service?

Westchester has broad guidelines, he said. Even those who served on the Navy tank landing ship USS Westchester County during the 1950s and 1960s are eligible. However, if you were born and raised in the Bronx, served out of the Bronx, and moved to Westchester after your service, you are not eligible, he said.



Westchester County Executive Robert Astorino (right) presents a service medal to a veteran at a ceremony in October 2016. Putnam County legislators are discussing whether to do the same for its veterans. Photo provided

There are other difficulties, especially if you set out to identify veterans. Westchester officials experienced this firsthand last year when they awarded a Westchester County Vietnam Service Medal to 800 veterans and families of deceased veterans in a public ceremony and mailed 700 more to veterans who could not attend, based on a database maintained by its Veterans Service Agency. But some veterans still said they were overlooked.

Karl Rohde, director of the Putnam County Veterans Service Agency (and a Westchester native who has received the county medal), said Westchester eased its burden by creating an application. "It's not just given out be-

cause you served and meet certain criteria," he said.

He also noted that National Guard and Reserves members are not legally considered veterans unless they complete 180 days of federal active duty, so the county would have to decide how to treat those individuals, as well as veterans who have died.

Rohde suggested the county stagger the awarding of medals to spread out the cost, starting with World War II and Korean War veterans, then Vietnam veterans, and then other conflicts.

"I don't want to sound like I'm trying to dissuade anyone, especially because we're losing our World War II and Korean War veterans rapidly," he said.

While one veteran in the audience cautioned the legislators against making it too difficult to receive the medal, the lawmakers were assured there are plenty of candidates. Cassidy said that while the U.S. Census counted nearly 5,000 veterans in Putnam County, only about 1,600 are enrolled in a discount program offered through the county clerk's office.

Having to apply will probably cut the numbers of medals that could be awarded by half, he said, "but there will still be hundreds to give."

Cassidy said if lawmakers stick to the basic requirement of veterans who were born in Putnam, served out of Putnam, or returned to and still live in Putnam, there would at least be a few hundred candidates. "It would be very restrictive to say you could have never left Putnam," he added.

Joseph Castellano (R-Southeast) who brought the matter before the legislature, said the county should start identifying World War II veterans. "I don't think that would be more than 100 people," he said.

Carl Albano (R-Carmel) said legislators "should put a couple of scenarios together, run some numbers, see what kind of statistics we have."

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Small, Good Things

The Shell Game

By Joe Dizney

“Good cooking is when things taste of what they are.”

That pronouncement, by Curnonsky (aka “Cur,” or Maurice Edmond Sailland, a French gastronome who died in 1956), punctures like a ripe tomato the Gallic pomposity that defined the exclusive world of cuisine for many years, when “good cooking” was a province far beyond the reach of mere mortals.

It is from this perspective I suggest we celebrate the humble bean. The word is wildly inclusive — snap beans, wax beans, sugar snaps and other varieties in which the pods are consumed, as well as legumes, or shell beans, with plump, edible seeds and less-edible pods.

The common ancestor of both varieties is, along with squash and corn, one of the “three sisters” of indigenous agriculture of the Americas. Shell beans, in particu-

lar, were embraced and widely acculturated as Italian cannellini (white beans) and borlotti (cranberry beans), French flageolets, English shelling beans and butter beans, or Lima beans.

Modern heirloom cultivars number in the hundreds, from Black Turtles, Great Northern Whites and Red Kidneys to the more exotic Dragon’s Tongues, Rattlesnakes, Tiger’s Eyes, Tongue of Fire, Trail of Tears and Yellow Eyes.

While shell beans are best known in their dried form, most varieties can be eaten fresh. Cooking is required, but the time is much shorter (30 minutes or so simmering in an aromatic bath) and no lengthy soaking is required. At the market, look for pods with a fresh green stem end — too green or too “fresh” means that the beans inside aren’t mature. Select pods that are a bit heavy for their size, indicating plump beans. Cooked with a couple of smashed cloves of garlic, a hank of fresh herbs and a splash of extra-virgin olive oil, the results are a much creamier



Fresh shell bean and tomato gratin

Photo by J. Dizney

version of their dried counterparts.

As a late-summer crop increasingly available at farmers’ markets, they can be enjoyed as most other summer vegetables — alone or in combination with other market features of this golden season — tomatoes, corn, squash and greens — in salads, summer soups, purées, with pasta or in gratins.

But again, it’s best to heed the advice of Curnonsky: “Above all, keep it simple!”

For my money, this simple shell-bean-and-tomato gratin (based on a recipe

from Alice Waters’ *Chez Panisse Vegetables*) is a celebration of fresh beans, heirloom cherry tomatoes and herbs that even Curnonsky couldn’t argue with. The crunchy breadcrumb topping provides a textural foil to the creamy beans and bright, sweet-and-tart tomatoes.

A few final tips: Save any extra bean cooking liquid for other uses (soups or braising liquid) and be sure to save this recipe for the cold months as it’s almost as good prepared from quality dried beans.

Shell Bean-Tomato Gratin

Adapted from *Chez Panisse Vegetables*; 6 to 8 servings

- | | |
|--|---|
| About 3 pounds fresh shell beans (shelled to make at least 3 cups) | 1 bay leaf |
| extra-virgin olive oil | 1 onion, diced small |
| 6 cloves garlic (2 cloves smashed, 4 cloves sliced thin) | 1-pint cherry tomatoes, halved; or two medium tomatoes, chopped roughly |
| 2 small sprigs of basil, rosemary, oregano or marjoram | salt |
| | pepper |
| | ½ cup breadcrumbs or panko |

1. Put shelled beans in a medium saucepan with cold water to cover by about an inch. Add smashed garlic cloves, the bay leaf, one of the sprigs of your chosen herb and a generous slug of olive oil (about 2 tablespoons). Bring pan to a medium boil; immediately reduce heat and simmer, stirring occasionally, until tender, about 30 minutes. Remove from heat, remove the herb sprig and bay leaf and season the liquid with salt to taste. Set the beans aside to cool in the cooking liquid. Drain the cooled beans, reserving the liquid.
2. Preheat the oven to 350 degrees. Warm a medium sauté pan over medium heat and add 2 tablespoons of the olive oil and the onion. Season with salt and cook until the onion is translucent. Add sliced garlic and sauté until fragrant, about 1 minute. Add tomatoes and herbs and cook for 2 to 3 minutes more until tomatoes soften. Season to taste with salt and pepper.
3. Combine and mix the beans and onion-tomato mixture in a 1-quart gratin dish or casserole. Add enough of the bean-cooking liquid to nearly cover. Mix breadcrumbs, a pinch of salt and a healthy grinding of pepper with about 2 tablespoons olive oil to moisten. Sprinkle crumbs over vegetables in a light, even layer. Bake in preheated oven 35 to 45 minutes, until breadcrumbs are evenly browned and vegetables are bubbling at the edge. Serve warm.



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Sports

Football Preview

Haldane and Beacon open seasons at home on Sept. 2

By Leigh Alan Klein

The Haldane Blue Devils' trip last season to the state semifinals may have seemed improbable after a 1-6 season but senior quarterback Brandon Twoguns is shooting for the Class D championship game.

"We want to prove we are a regional contender," said Twoguns.

With a core of returning players, Haldane has a lot of experience in key positions.

"They see the big picture and want to build on the excitement of last year," said fourth-year head coach Ryan McConville. "We will take it one week at a time. It's a long road against very good teams".

Haldane opens its season on Saturday, Sept. 2, at 1:30 p.m. by hosting Rye Neck, which last year beat the Blue Devils, 38-21.

For McConville, coaching Haldane football has been a homecoming. He grew up playing for the Philipstown Hawks, then starred at Haldane before playing four years at St. Lawrence University.

Besides Twoguns, who last year was honorable mention All-State, junior Sam



Haldane players practice defensive rushing.

Photos by L.A. Klein

Giachinta, also honorable mention All-State, returns at running back. The line is anchored by senior Anthony Lombardi and junior Will Westerhuis. On defense, watch senior cornerback Luke Junjulas and linebacker Brad Dowd.

With only 24 players on the roster, most of the Blue Devils will play on both sides of the ball. "It puts a lot of responsibility on you to do your job correctly," said Giachinta, who also plays linebacker.

Beacon

Many coaches believe it's the August practice days that determines if a season will be a success.

Weeks before school starts, in front of no one besides the occasional jogger on the school track, the Beacon Bulldogs worked to improve on last season's four victories — later vacated for use of an ineligible player — and opening-round sectional defeat in the state tournament.

"The practices before the season are the most important," says second-year head coach Tony Truscello. "You have to have numbers for competitive practices. You need more than the 25 players who suit up for a game."

The Bulldogs open the season at home on Saturday, Sept. 2, against regional power John Jay. Its schedule also includes Brewster and the defending state Class A champions, Somers.

Senior Jaden Navarro, who played quarterback last season, will move to wide receiver and junior Joseph Decandia will take over at quarterback after playing the position on the modified and junior varsity teams. Junior running backs Manny Gardner and Willie Rivera will lead the ground attack.

The offensive line is mostly intact behind Trey Dinio, a team captain. It includes Qiantae Stephens, a transfer student from Atlanta. Senior captain Joe Sarcone and sophomore Angel Feliz will direct the defense as linebackers.

Truscello, who lives in Wallkill, has coached football for 40 years. During a practice on Aug. 28 he was standing in for the quarterback while he worked with the offensive line. The team was fresh off a three-team scrimmage at Marlboro.

The coach noted that one of the challenges Beacon and many other schools face is that athletes who in the past would play two or three sports now focus on one year-round. That can mean six or eight athletes who would contribute to the football team may not be on the field, having chosen to play only basketball, soccer, baseball, or another sport.

This Week's Games

Saturday, Sept. 2

Haldane Football vs. Rye Neck, 1:30 p.m.
Beacon Football vs. John Jay, 1:30 p.m.

Tuesday, Sept. 5

Haldane Girls' Soccer vs. Bronxville, 4:30 p.m.
Beacon Volleyball vs. John Jay, 4:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Sept. 6

Beacon Girls' Tennis vs. Poughkeepsie, 4:15 p.m.

Thursday, Sept. 7

Haldane Boys' Soccer vs. Schechter, 4:30 p.m.
Beacon Volleyball vs. Brewster, 6 p.m.

Friday, Sept. 8

Haldane Girls' Tennis vs. Pawling, 4:15 p.m.
Beacon Girls' Soccer vs. Rye, 4:15 p.m.
Haldane Volleyball vs. Westlake, 4:30 p.m.



Running back Sam Giachinta and quarterback Brandon Twoguns



Coach Tony Truscello works with the offensive linemen during a Beacon practice.

While participation is down at the varsity level, Truscello said he is encouraged by the turnout for the junior varsity and eighth-grade teams.