BLOWN AWAY — A nor’easter that hit the Highlands overnight on Oct. 29-30 destroyed three weeping willow trees at the Cold Spring riverfront. The North Highlands weather station reported more than 3 inches of rain, along with wind gusts of up to 22 mph.

Photo by Michael Turton

Ex-DA Says Putnam Sheriff Owes Him $50K

Both sides invoke politics in latest dispute

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

A lthough former Putnam County District Attorney Adam Levy settled his defamation lawsuit in June against Sheriff Donald Smith for $150,000, their dispute bounced back into court on Oct. 26 over an allegation that Smith owes Levy another $50,000 for violating the agreement.

Levy’s attorney, Michael Sussman, asserted that Smith backpedaled on a public apology delivered as part of the settlement agreement. Sussman filed his motion in Putnam County Supreme Court less than two weeks before the Nov. 7 election in which Smith, a Republican, is seeking a fifth term.

Both sides raised the specter of politics. Sussman claimed that though Smith apologized for disseminating falsehoods about Levy, he recently again belittled the former DA despite a provision in their settlement that prohibits Smith “from making public comments denigrating or deprecating to Mr. Levy.”

Consequently, according to the settlement agreement, Smith owes Levy an additional $50,000, Sussman stated. He asked the court for a Nov. 16 hearing.

Adam Kleinberg, who represents Smith, said he planned to file a counter-motion. “There was no violation of the settlement agreement,” he wrote in an email, suggesting the filing was a ploy to hurt Smith in the upcoming vote.

Although Levy sued Smith as an individual rather than in his capacity as sheriff, the Putnam County Legislature chose to pay $125,000 of the settlement. Smith agreed to pay $25,000.

In 2013, Smith issued two news releases alleging that Alexandru Hossu, a man accused of rape, lived in Levy’s house; that Levy interfered with the case; and that Levy should be investigated for harboring an “illegal alien” (Continued on Page 2)

Anyone Want a Cell Tower?

Discussion in Nelsonville expands to new site

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

N elsonville’s cell tower debate expanded onto new ground — literally — in late October when village officials informally suggested putting it on a relatively flat site in the Nelsonville woods, rather than the mountainous parcel officially under review.

Homeland Towers, which represents cell phone companies such as Verizon, has asked the village for approval to construct a tower on a 0.6-acre site on a steep hillside above the Cold Spring Cemetery. That project, near Rockledge Drive and Moffatt Road, is being considered by the Zoning Board of Appeals and Planning Board, which scheduled a joint public hearing for Wednesday, Nov. 15.

The Rockledge plans provoked strong opposition led by the grassroots Save the Cold Spring Cemetery Committee organized by Fran O’Neill, wife of Nelsonville Mayor Bill O’Neill. The O’Neills live on Moffatt Road, although whether the cell tower would affect their view is unclear.

Doug Logan, owner of the proposed tower site, runs the Cold Spring Cemetery. Given the ongoing debate, the Village Board proposed an alternative location: a roughly hexagonal, 4-acre, wooded tract owned by the village behind the Philipstown Volunteer Ambulance Corps headquarters and American Legion building on Cedar Street. The board scheduled a public meeting for Wednesday, Nov. 8, to discuss the idea.

A tale of two sites

If the vision of a 110-foot tower overlooking an historic cemetery proved contentious, so too could a plan to put it in the Nelsonville woods. (Continued on Page 9)

What the Candidates Say

In anticipation of the general election on Tuesday, Nov. 7, The Current asked each candidate running for Putnam County sheriff and seats on the Dutchess County Legislature that represent Beacon to respond in writing to questions posed by reporters Michael Turton (for Putnam) or Jeff Simms (for Dutchess). See Page 17.
Katy Behney and her husband, Buddy, in September opened Trax Espresso Bar & Coffee Roasters at 1 East Main in Beacon. The couple also owns Bank Square Coffeehouse and Mountain Top Outfitters.

**Why open a second coffee shop?**

Buddy is always thinking about what’s next. He can’t sit still. But the timing was never right. Once we saw the space we thought, this is nice, it’s new, there’s a lot competing with yourself in the same town. It keeps the costs down, since it’s kind of risky wanting to get into roasting more. That thought, this is nice, it’s new, there’s a lot never right. Once we saw the space we knew we wanted to do this. We wanted to make the place simpler and focus on the drinks and the roasting. Our manager at Trax has years of roasting experience. We’re working with him to come up with coffees and blends different from Bank Square and teach people more about the coffee from start to finish.

**Will your roasted coffee end up at Bank Square?**

Eventually, but now it’s mostly what’s bagged and on the shelf for sale. We don’t want to mess with the espresso at Bank Square because we like the espresso that Coffee Labs Roaster in Tarrytown makes for us. But we might rotate some of the offerings in terms of the drips and the iced coffees.

**What’s your favorite coffee?**

I’m a cortado girl. I like the espresso, but I don’t like it straight. Little bit of milk, not too much. Buddy’s favorite is straight-up espresso. He wasn’t a coffee drinker before we opened Bank Square. That’s what Coffee Labs did. They showed us how to treat the beans to get the best results. A lot of places don’t understand the complexity of the beans and the steaming of the milk. If you do it right, you don’t need sugar or syrup because it releases the sugars in the milk.

**What do you feel is the biggest change in Beacon in the past five years?**

The food scene has really changed. When we started serving beer at Bank Square, there wasn’t any place between here and Max’s on Main that served beer. Now craft beer is all over the place. Locally sourced food is huge, which is great. We’re not competing with the places on Route 9. We’ve become a destination. There are places opening all the time that I don’t even know about.

**What’s the best place you’ve been to recently?**

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Hamilton Fish Takes Leave at *New Republic*, Library

*Fallout from 'me too' reaches Highlands*

By Chip Rowe

The fallout from the “me too” movement sparked by the resignation of film producer Harvey Weinstein amid allegations of sexual misconduct has reached the Highlands.

On Oct. 30, the owner of *The New Republic* announced that Hamilton Fish, who has a home in Garrison and whose family has been prominent in Philipstown for more than a century, was taking a leave of absence following complaints by female employees at the left-leaning political magazine, where Fish has been president and publisher since February 2016.

Fish, 65, known as “Ham,” is the longtime chair of the Board of Trustees of the Alice Curtis Desmond and Hamilton Fish Library in Garrison, which was founded by his grandparents. He also serves on the board of Riverkeeper.

On Nov. 2, after a meeting held the day before, the Desmond-Fish board announced in a statement that Fish would step down before, the Desmond-Fish board announced that Fish would step down before.

In a letter to the staff of the magazine, McCormack wrote: “I have been made aware that a number of employees have come forward in the last few days to express concern about certain workplace interactions that have created an uncomfortable environment for them. As I understand them, these concerns relate specifically to interactions between Ham Fish and a number of women employees.”

Fish had long been associated with *The Nation*, working to rescue it in 1977, and serving as publisher until 1987. From 1995 to 2009, he was president of the Nation Institute. He also produces documentary films.

His father, Hamilton Fish Jr., served as a Republican in the U.S. House from 1969 to 1994. His grandfather, who was born in Garrison in 1888 and lived to be 102, was a Republican congressman from 1920 to 1944. The first, and best known, Hamilton Fish was elected as a Whig to Congress in 1842 and then served as governor of New York and in the U.S. Senate before being appointed secretary of State under President Ulysses S. Grant.

Ham Fish ran for Congress in 1988 and 1994 as a Democrat in Westchester County but lost. In the 1988 race, his grandfather famously supported his grandson’s Republican opponent.

The Board of Trustees of the Desmond-Fish Library, with regret, has accepted the request of Ham Fish for a leave of absence.

In a statement that Fish would step down before, the Desmond-Fish board announced that Fish would step down before.

Fish was appointed president and publisher of *The New Republic* after Facebook co-founder Chris Hughes, who also has a home in Garrison, sold the magazine to Win McCormack, owner of the literary journal *Tin House*.

In a letter to the staff of the magazine, McCormack wrote: “I have been made aware that a number of employees have come forward in the last few days to express concern about certain workplace interactions that have created an uncomfortable environment for them. As I understand them, these concerns relate specifically to interactions between Ham Fish and a number of women employees.”

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Thank you to walkers

Sunday, Oct. 22, was a beautiful day and an even better one to support BreastCancer.org (“5Q: Ashley Haines,” Oct. 6). At the Cold Spring Breast Cancer Walk, we had more than 80 walkers and 30 volunteers on the Haldane track helping us raise nearly $9,000 — and we are still counting as the pledges continue to come in!

Nearly 1,600 laps were walked, or about 320 miles, the equivalent of walking from Cold Spring to Wilmington, Delaware, and back. We had one centurion (100 laps) and at least three who reached the half-century (50 laps), along with walkers of all ages. We also know of five survivors who were walking, and there may have been more.

It was a great turnout overall. My parents and I, who helped me organize the walk, want to thank everyone. There are too many people to name everyone, but we had great participation from Haldane students led by teacher Kristen Peparo, who walked with her 3-year-old daughter.

We also had tremendous support from our sponsors. You know who you are, and thank you! You helped us on our feet (pun intended). And of course, none of this could have been possible with the support of Haldane High School and particularly our athletic director, Chris Saluma, as well as its athletic trainer, Megan Crowe, who provided medical support. We also thank the Blue Devil Booster Club, which manned the concession stand.

Again, thank you to everyone who came out to support the fight against breast cancer. We will be back next year to raise more money than we did this year. If you still would like to help the fight, please contribute at csbcwalk.weebly.com or Breastcancer.org.

Ashley Haines, Cold Spring
Haines is a junior at Haldane.

Reading the signs

TIME was just protecting its trademark when it contacted Philipstown Board candidate Tim Greco about its logo being incorporated into his campaign signs, which it must do (“Signs of the Time?,” Oct. 27). As to how TIME became aware of the similarity of the campaign sign to its logo, that could have happened in a number of ways: Some people who live here work in New York City and possibly even at TIME. Tourists come for the weekend.

Any of these residents or visitors could have called TIME and reported the similarity or asked about it. We don’t know. But TIME is absolutely entitled to protect its mark.

Ann Beddingfield, Garrison

It would be wonderful if there was an ordinance barring all campaign yard signs until a week or so prior to the election. It is a most beautiful time of year with the fall foliage, and these signs are nothing short of visual pollution. Do residents learn anything of value from the proliferation of these signs? I don’t think so, and they certainly are unsightly and a source of trouble.

Suzanne Willis, Garrison
The Putnam election

is about.

This is not right; this is not what America

not so small — we act like barbarians?

after hurricanes, as we've seen), but when

things get together and help and respect

ethnicities, political persuasions or other
tactics. I'm quite sure I know who you are.

plete! Shame on those who resort to these

or high water, until the elections are com-

Sheriff candidate Robert Langley Jr., was

nity but nationwide.

The voters in this county have worked

attention to Putnam County from coast to

financial power to attract negative media

sons have used their clout and personal

former DA Adam

Editor's note: Langley was one of seven

Mahopac

This is not right; this is not what America

is about.

Leave any other party's signs alone — or

Carolyn Bachan, Cold Spring

The Putnam election

Anyone jaded, disillusioned or just dis-

appointed by the state of national affairs

must remember this: We have the power
to insist on change here in our own back-

yard. Putnam County deserves a sheriff
who puts the safety of our communities
above petty politics, and whose only focus
is on public service. On Nov. 7, please join
me in voting for Robert Langley Jr.

Robert Langley Jr., has been extremely vo-
tomed to working, as well as the depart-

the culture which the deputies are accus-

enforcement community and decimate

coast these past few years, it would abso-

utruly sicken me to see those same people

use Langley to destroy our county's law-

selves in jail to advance his own po-

able to work with our DA's office.

The voters in this county have worked
too hard to ensure that we have a func-
tioning and professional law enforcement
and criminal prosecutor office that works
as a cohesive team to have this destroyed.

If you care about Putnam County as the
home of your family, please vote on Nov.
7 to keep Donald B. Smith as our sheriff.

Andy Powers, Mahopac

Editor's note: Langley was one of seven
defendants in the 2003 lawsuit. The others

Here's what we have in Putnam County:

a sheriff who lied under oath, put an inno-
cent person in jail to advance his own po-

critical career and relied on taxpayers to bail

him out of a mess he made all by himself.

That sounds like rural Alabama 50 years

ago, not Putnam County in 2017.

David Gelber, Garrison

The Democratic candidate for sheriff,
Robert Langley Jr., has been extremely vo-
ciferous regarding Sheriff Donald Smith's
decision to agree to former DA Adam
Levy's condition that he make a public
statement to settle Levy's suit out-of-court
(and save the taxpayers the cost of a trial).

Langley held press conferences and orga-
nized demonstrations with his supporters
holding signs insulting Smith at the en-
trance of the Sheriff's Department, which
I feel was an embarrassment to Putnam
residents.

Langley was a county deputy for 23
years, from 1984 to 2007, 15 of which were
served under Sheriff Robert Thouborron,
who was unseated by Smith after Gov.
George Pataki ordered an investigation
into alleged corruption within the depart-
ment because of at least 10 complaints
and lawsuits against the sheriff and coun-

Langley was a named defendant in a
2003 action in which the plaintiff claimed
his accuser had sexual relations with
members of the Sheriff's Department and

a history of substance abuse and making
frivolous complaints with the department
against persons with whom she had had
relationships (Thomas v. County of Put-
nam, 262 F. Supp. 2d 241 [S.D.N.Y. 2003])

In another suit brought against the
department, a federal jury awarded an
employee $645,000 after concluding
Thouborron had used deputies to harass
employees who disagreed with him.

How could someone from that kind of
culture work cohesively with today's pro-
fessional law-enforcement personnel and
our new DA?

Appalled by the fact that certain per-
sons have used their clout and personal
financial power to attract negative media
attention to Putnam County from coast to
cost these past few years, it would abso-
lutely sicken me to see those same people
use Langley to destroy our county's law-
enforcement community and decimate

THE HIGHLANDS CURRENT

November 3, 2017

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

On Saturday, November 4th, Homeland Towers will be
conducting a “Balloon Test” between 8 and 10 a.m. on the
site of their proposed cellphone tower on Rockledge Road,
Nelsonville, overlooking the Cold Spring Cemetery.

The purpose of this test is to simulate the height of the
proposed tower so that the visual impact of the tower can be
evaluated.

Please note that the Cold Spring Cemetery is private
property and Rockledge Road is a private road. Please
respect the property-owners’ rights.

The test will be weather-permitting. Alternate dates are
every day thereafter until completed.

We encourage our citizens and neighbors to observe and
photograph this test from their homes and neighborhoods.

Respectfully,
Mayor and Trustees of Nelsonville

Important Public Meetings Addressing
Cellphone Towers in Our Community

November 1: Nelsonville Zoning Board of Appeals
Where: Nelsonville Village Hall
Time: 8 p.m.

November 8: Nelsonville Public Workshop
Where: Nelsonville Village Hall
Time: 7 p.m.

November 15: Nelsonville Joint Zoning Board of Appeals/
Planning Board Public Hearing
Where: Philipstown Town Hall
Time: 8 p.m.

If you want to learn the facts regarding the proposal for

ATTENTION:
NELSONVILLE CITIZENS
AND NEIGHBORS

ATTENTION:
NELSONVILLE CITIZENS
AND NEIGHBORS

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Letters to the Editor

The Philipstown election

Sadly, there was no apparent “culture of hate and intolerance” in Philipstown, as Town Board candidate Tim Greco, in his Oct. 27 letter to the editor, now claims exists, before the sojourn of Roger and Elizabeth Ailes in town. Greco’s reporting for their Putnam County News and Recorder only served to polarize what was once a loving and peaceful community. As with his reporting, his tone and its menacing intention is unbecoming a minister or a political candidate.

Rian Keating, Cold Spring

The opposition to my candidacy for Philipstown Town Board likes to link me to the late Roger Ailes. It’s true he was instrumental in getting me a job on a handshaked at his wife Elizabeth Ailes’ newspaper, the Putnam County News and Recorder. But, in fact, I worked for Elizabeth, who was the owner and publisher.

For years while covering Cold Spring, I watched its various boards block, stall and throw road blocks up against very decent property owners who legally had the right to develop their land within the confines of the law.

I witnessed the Democrats cannibalize themselves after then-Mayor Seth Galler decided the Butterfield project was, in fact, good for the Village of Cold Spring. I was the first to report that Mayor Dave Merandy wanted to end the Cold Spring Independence Day parade. At the time he denied it, but he could not deny the video-tape. Where are we today? Yes, indeed, the parade has been canceled.

Let’s not forget this fact: Those in open opposition to the PCNR gladly used the paper when they needed to. This was the paper that they turned to when they needed to help themselves or whenever they wanted to express an opinion. Is it just me, or do you see the hypocrisy?

Of course, they absolutely did not want me to cover them as they obstructed and dragged out due process to good people like Kenny Elmes and Paul Guillaro. That goes without saying. But as a reporter I had to do my job, which I did with integrity and pride, but in the end it was just a job.

People would often wonder where I got my “scoops” and “inside information.” Believe it or not, it was the various Democratic board memberships who, with a promise of confidentiality, spilled their guts many, many times.

My relationship to the Ailes family is my business and I don’t care to talk about them. I resigned over a year ago when I took another media position. I saw myself as a faithful employee who was an OK writer but an excellent reporter who shined a light on the good and bad. I believed it or not, it was the various Democratic board memberships who, with a promise of confidentiality, spilled their guts many, many times.

My relationship to the Ailes family is my business and I don’t care to talk about them. I resigned over a year ago when I took another media position. I saw myself as a faithful employee who was an OK writer but an excellent reporter who shined a light on the good and bad.

Let’s not forget these morsels of fact as we head to Election Day! The simple solution is: If you don’t like me, don’t vote for me.

But my hunch is there are going to be plenty of people who will stand with me and put me over the top at the polls just based on the negative comments being posted online.

Tim Greco, Garrison

The Beacon election

I am writing to offer my whole-hearted endorsement of Amber Grant for Beacon's Ward 4. Grant is a passionate, smart and principled individual who will bring experience in project and budget management, long-term strategic planning, and a fresh perspective that will benefit our city government.

From the day I met her, I knew she would be a good fit for Beacon. Of course, they absolutely did not want me to cover them as they obstructed and dragged out due process to good people like Kenny Elmes and Paul Guillaro. That goes without saying. But as a reporter I had to do my job, which I did with integrity and pride, but in the end it was just a job.

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But my hunch is there are going to be plenty of people who will stand with me and put me over the top at the polls just based on the negative comments being posted online.

Tim Greco, Garrison

JOIN US AS WE HONOR OUR VETERANS
AND DEDICATE OUR NEW MEMORIAL WALL
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 11
11:00 AM CEREMONY AT VETERANS’ MEMORIAL
ON ST. MARY’S LAWN
11:30 AM DEDICATION OF OUR NEW MEMORIAL WALL
AMERICAN LEGION HALL, CEDAR STREET, COLD SPRING
REFRESHMENTS TO FOLLOW

If you’re a Veteran, or know a Veteran who’s not a member, come talk with us about joining the American Legion and VFW.

Meeting Location Change

The Town of Philipstown Zoning Board of Appeals has changed the location of their regular monthly meeting. The meeting will be held:

Monday, November 13, 2017, 7:30 p.m.
at the Philipstown Recreation Department
107 Glenclyffe Drive, Garrison, New York

Public Hearing

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a joint public hearing will be held by the Zoning Board of Appeals and the Conservation Board of the Town of Philipstown on Monday November 13, 2017, 7:30 p.m. Philipstown Recreation Department, 107 Glenclyffe Drive Garrison, New York, to hear the following appeal:

Verizon Wireless, 50 Vineyard Road, Cold Spring, NY Tax Map # 38-3-24.21. The Applicant is seeking a special use permit to erect a wireless telecommunications services facility consisting of a 180-foot monopole with antennas, together with related equipment at the base thereof within a multi-carrier equipment compound. The applicant is also seeking to obtain a wetlands permit. The property is located in an OC zoning district.

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 Building Department at the Philipstown Town Hall.

Dated 10/26/2017
Robert Dee, Chairman, Town of Philipstown Zoning Board of Appeals.
claim to be fighting for.

Since President Trump’s inauguration, more people have been active in politics and government than I have witnessed throughout my tenure on the Beacon City Council. I’ve always believed participation in government is a civic responsibility. The ugliness of politics has shown me to be wary of the people claiming to be helping “our people.”

Gentrification is a euphemism for colonization. Our local Democratic leadership, committee and candidates have demonstrated that they are not committed to serving all of the residents of our city, only those who fall in line with their politics. They believe that speaking about our history is a form of liti- gigating the past. Like many politicians on both sides of the aisle, they give lip service to the efforts it takes to build relationships with the generations of people living in the marginalized communities.

This is not something that happens over an election cycle or through campaign literature and messaging. These politicians speak of mass incarceration, school-to-prison pipelines, public education and transportation in a city and county they know very little about. They have failed to educate themselves by getting to know, work with or communicate with residents entrenched in these issues.

Listening to the Democratic candidates for the Dutchess County Legislature at a forum speak about public transit and our county’s jail expansion was underwhelm- ing. Not only do they not ride public transportation, they don’t and haven’t attempted to relate with formerly incarcerated residents or any of us at higher risk of becoming an epidemic statistic.

Further, the local Democratic leadership, committee and candidates aren’t actually concerned about the affordability of housing in Beacon. They are not working toward assimilating and building an inclusive community. Instead these “advocates, allies and activists” are dividing Beacon so they can be the stakeholders who reimage and develop our city.

Actions speak louder than words. With the shared 24 years’ experience that Women’s Equality and Working Families Party candidates George Mansfield and Lee Krylakow have, especially with their focuses on zoning and planning, why are we only now fixing the problems? Why hasn’t their hindsight been our foresight? We deserve thoughtful planning, honest organizing and real participation by our elected officials and community leaders. We deserve better.

Presidents come, and they go. I’ve yet to see one that has solved the problems in our marginalized communities. The Demo- cratic leadership, committee and candidates for elected office hope you will vote for their hand-selected candidates. But regardless of party enrollment, don’t let your anger with the president or politics keep you from seeing the truth: too many local Democratic candidates don’t know our city or the issues that face our resi- dents. Vote independent of party politics and vote your conscience on Nov. 7.

Ali T. Muhammad, Beacon
McDonald represents Ward 4 on the Beacon City Council.

Please Vote For...

For more letters about the
Philips, Beacon, Dutchess
County and Putnam County races,
see highlandscurrent.com.

Visit highlandscurrent.com for news updates and latest information.

Putnam raises

To ask for an increase in salary when factoring a) it’s a part-time job and b) they are given benefits? (“Putnam Legislators Expected to Approve Own Raises,” Oct. 20). Outrageous! How many Putnam res- idents are working for less than what these greedy “legislators” are milking the county for? Just another example of lawmakers throwing money out the window, but right into their own pockets. Remember this when you head to the polls.

Robert Barclay

The voters should have the power to give them raises.

Peter Richter, Garrison

There is no reason for the Putnam County Legislature to exist and I believe that the charter form of government should be abolished. We should return to the Board of Supervisors. There is not one legislator who stands up for the taxpay- er. They don’t respond to letters, emails or phone calls. The position is basically a no-show job and now they have the audacity to raise their salaries at a time when the cost-of-living adjustment is under 1.5 percent and Social Security increases are under 1 percent. In the real world, none of these people would be able to hold a job. And yet, thanks to public apathy, the incum- bents keep getting re-elected, year af- ter year, most likely including the sheriff.

Patty Villanova, Putnam Valley

Andrew DeStefano

Captain, NYPD (ret)

JLDeStefano@aol.com • www.andrewdestefano.net

• With “Team Smith” at the Board of Elections unlawfully invalidating legal Republican signatures to protect their 16-year perennial incumbent
• And our schools infested with drugs, our roads THE most dangerous in NY, and YOU the taxpayer footing the bill for multiple misconduct lawsuits...

Why is the incumbent being rammed down your throat by the Board of Elections? Why???

WRITE IN ANDREW DESTEFANO for Sheriff November 7th

• Commanded an NYPD Precinct
• PhD candidate in Advanced Crime Analysis
• The experience to develop a modern, data-driven, comprehensive crime control model
(no more silly, baseless slogans like “Safest County”)
• Eliminate drugs in schools, reduce car accidents, reduce response time, greatly reduce unnecessary tickets, accountable for results
• Running on my name, not a political party line

WRITE IN ANDREW DESTEFANO for PUTNAM SHERIFF

There are so many political lines, you can’t tell one from the next. Because they’re all the same. Except a “WRITE-IN”. No political sponsorships, no favors owed, no politicians to be controlled by. The time for CHANGE is NOW. Vote for the person, not the political party.

WRITE IN “ANDREW DESTEFANO” for Sheriff.
ROBERT L. LANGLEY, JR.
A Real Cop with Real Experience

VOTE LANGLEY FOR SHERIFF
Tuesday November 7th

PAID FOR BY FRIENDS OF LANGLEY
Anyone Want a Cell Tower? (from Page 1)

In an e-mail, Dave McCarthy, who lives on Main Street near the proposed site, called the suggestion “troubling for a few reasons: It’s close to two cemeteries, it floods and is part of an aquifer; it’s next to the Nelsonville Nature Preserve; and, worst of all, it’s as close as you can get in Nelsonville to the Haldane Elementary School.”

Well-traveled footpaths wind through the woods, which get boggy in spots, and two graveyards, one dating from the latter 1700s and the other from the mid-1800s, are nearby.

“I fully expect there’s going to be substantial opposition, which is fine,” Mayor O’Neill said on Tuesday (Oct. 31).

The Village Board gave Homeland Towers permission to evaluate the Cedar Street parcel because it wants “to make available a site which from an aesthetic perspective is more acceptable to this community than the Rockledge site,” he said. At the Nov. 8 forum, the board intends “to present the facts, answer questions and give people the opportunity to express their views,” O’Neill added.

Homeland Towers looked at a number of alternatives in Philipstown and Nelsonville but found them unsuitable, Homeland Towers attorney Robert Gaudioso told the Nelsonville Planning Board on Oct. 25. The Secor property, however, “is a feasible alternative” to the Rockledge site, he said. At the Nov. 8 forum and said that if the Secor site is actually,” he said. He mentioned the Nov. 8 forum and said that if the Secor site is “a reasonable alternative from a village standpoint,” if the village agrees to a lease, and if the project passes environmental and related reviews and gets approved, “we would be happy to go to that as an alternative and drop this (Rockledge) application.”

Unlike the Rockledge parcel, the Nelsonville woods can be reached by village streets. Questions of access to the Rockledge Drive site came up at the Planning Board meeting. As designed, the tower would be approached over what Bill Bujarski, the village’s building inspector and code enforcer, described as about 75 feet of unimproved surface off the main road. For fire department vehicles, “getting to the site is the problem,” Bujarski said.

Gaudioso responded that the tower would be monitored from afar continuously but only checked in person occasionally. Moreover, he said, compared to the potential difficulties encountered in reaching private homes, “the issue of emergency services access is minimal.”

Homeland Towers representatives also said they might reconfigure their initial design to minimize accessibility concerns.
Beacon Schools Unveil Capital Plan

District officials say they won’t need to raise taxes

By Jeff Simms

The Beacon City School District is planning a series of public meetings in November to introduce a nearly $9 million capital improvement plan that includes the installation of an artificial-turf field at Beacon High School and air conditioning in a particularly stifling wing at Rombout Middle School.

Officials say the plan can be implemented without raising taxes.

Registered voters in Beacon, as well as in parts of Fishkill and Wappinger served by Glenham Elementary, will vote on the proposal on Dec. 5.

If adopted, the multi-use turf field will be the most visible component of the plan, with construction expected to begin in the summer of 2019. It would replace the boys’ varsity soccer field at Beacon High School and be equipped with lights for night play.

The field will also be designed to drain rainwater faster than Hammond Field, the flood-prone site on Matteawan Road where the high school plays football.

“The new field will be right behind the high school, where there are no houses, so lighting should not be an issue,” said school board member Mike Rutkoske, who chairs its Facilities and Operations Committee. “Everything really played out with that being a better location.”

Most other schools in the region already play on turf, Rutkoske added. The Haldane school district installed an artificial-turf field in 2013.

The capital plan also includes air conditioning on the second floor of Rombout Middle School and a state-of-the-art science wing and improvements to its home-and-careers classroom. In addition, there would be repairs to the Hammond Field track and maintenance, safety and accessibility upgrades throughout the district.

The $8.995 million project plan would be financed largely with state aid, which will reimburse 67 percent of the construction costs. In addition, the district still has $342,000 from a state program that supports school construction and renovation projects. Its reserves and a decrease in debt when several existing projects come off the books round out the financing plan — all of which adds up to no increase in the district’s tax levy.

“We’re excited to be able to put this plan out for the voters without it having an impact on taxes beyond what we would propose as part of the regular school budget process that the public votes on every May,” said first-year Superintendent Matt Landahl.

Public school districts in New York are required to conduct a survey of their buildings every five years. Completed in late 2015, Beacon’s assessment listed more than 100 items that needed upgrades, from carpets and cubbies in the four elementary schools and cubbies in the four elementary schools to fire-rated doors and frames and other safety improvements, to higher-profile projects such as the turf field.

The items were submitted to the state for a priority ranking, and the school board facilities committee then whittled the $18 million wish list to the approximately $9 million plan it will present to voters.

“Our goals were to do everything that was health and safety-related,” Rutkoske said. “Then we went through major projects that will help preserve our buildings. Then, we wanted to have something in every building that people could get excited for,” which ranged from the carpets in kindergarten classrooms to the air conditioning at Rombout, and the science and career labs.

The plan was presented at the Rombout PTO meeting on Nov. 1, and presentations are scheduled for PTO and PTA meetings at the other five schools this month. Community meetings will be held at the Beacon Recreation Department on Nov. 16 and at Beacon High School on Nov. 30.

The polls will be open for voters from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. on Dec. 5 at Glenham for Fishkill and Wappinger residents and at Beacon High School for Beacon residents.

The district expects to have more debt come off its books in 2022 and 2023, which should line up with the next phase of capital improvements, Rutkoske noted.

MICHELANGELO PISTOLETTO WALKING SCULPTURE

Michelangelo Pistoletto’s performance will begin at 12.30pm by the Gazebo at the end of Main Street on the Hudson River Waterfront.

November 4, 2017
Cold Spring, NY
Dar Williams: Thinking in Bridges
Lessons singer learned in 1,000 towns
By Alison Rooney

After touring countless towns to perform, singer and songwriter Dar Williams will roost at her own, Cold Spring, on Nov. 19 at the Chapel Restoration. She’ll sing but also read from her new book, What I Found in a Thousand Towns.

The book, whose subtitle is “a traveling musician’s guide to rebuilding America’s communities — one coffee shop, dog run and open-mic night at a time,” describes what Williams says she has learned from visiting so many places across the country and around the world.

At its core is a concept she calls “positive proximity.” She explains: “When people transcend the myth that proximity means conflict and invasion of privacy, they gravitate toward finding ways to integrate the talents and skills of their community members.”

Williams begins the book with a rolling account of a mash-up of talents who contribute to creating a sledding hill in an unnamed town. There’s the person who has the idea, who mentions it to an acquaintance who tamps the earth on a suitable hill, who gets his “guy with a plow” friend to make a track when snow appears.

An arborist clears some trees. Kids begin using it, accompanied by a parent who sells hot chocolate to fund PTA afterschool programs; volunteers gravitate back to the school; the library joins in.

At the same time, Williams says she doesn’t look at villages such as Cold Spring with rose-colored glasses. “My post-Aquarian theory for community building is we (Continued on Page 13)

Caught in the Metal
Jewelry artist finds two halves make more than a hole
By Alison Rooney

As a self-described stubborn teenager, Kit Burke-Smith was anti-jewelry. Or at least anti jewelry-making. Intrigued by working with metals, something she was exposed to at Interlochen Arts Academy in Michigan, she was more interested in making cups and bowls than adornments.

However, at the Rhode Island School of Design (RISD), where she enrolled as an undergraduate, the focus of the metalsmithing program was jewelry.

“When Burke-Smith designs paired objects such as earrings, though they may look the same, they are not identical. “Earrings begin from a strip of metal which looks like a piece of linguini, sawed in half,” she says. “Seeing how the halves come out gives them a relationship. My wedding rings may have the same texture inside both, and only the couple wearing them knows. There’s a relationship not just between you and the person who sells hot chocolate to fund PTA afterschool programs; volunteers gravitate back to the school; the library joins in. Williams goes on to chapter-length anecdotal descriptions of nine locales where variants of this community-building have occurred. The first chapter details Beacon’s transformation over the past 15 years.

Yet, as the country appears to fracture and divide, at least politically, and personal animosity rages on social media, how is such linkage possible? “Communities thrive when there is a general sense of accessibility, and a center,” Williams says. “What helps us to get out of our own homes, find ourselves in the commons, and become committed to it? How do we give the most people access to it, physically, economically? "I looked at communities where people had hometown pride and worldly welcomes. They had identified roots, whether it was a food culture, an arts or history culture, who welcomed the world in, either as residents or travelers,” she says. “You'll grapple, but it's a good thing.”

At the same time, Williams says she doesn’t look at villages such as Cold Spring with rose-colored glasses. “My post-Aquarian theory for community building is we (Continued on Page 14)
FRIDAY, NOV. 3
Tim D’Acquisto and Grace Kennedy (Opening) 6 – 8 p.m. Buster Levi Gallery 121 Main St., Cold Spring 845-809-5145 | busterlevigallery.com
Willy Wonka Jr. 7 p.m. Philipstown Depot Theatre 10 Garrison’s Landing, Garrison 845-434-3900 | philipstowndepottheatre.org
Acoustic Harvest 7 p.m. Graymoor 1350 Route 9, Garrison 845-424-3549 | atonementfriars.org
Legend of Sleepy Hollow (Film) with Jonathan Kruk 7 p.m. Tompkins Corners Cultural Center 729 Peeskill Hollow Road, Putnam Valley 845-528-7280 | tompkinscorners.org
NY Kings Comedy Tour 8 p.m. Paramount Hudson Valley 1008 Brown St., Peekskill 914-739-0039 | paramounthudsonvalley.com
Wait Until Dark 8 p.m. County Players Theater 2681 W. Main St., Wappingers Falls 845-298-1491 | countyplayersonline.org

SATURDAY, NOV. 4
All About Bulbs Workshop 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. Stonecrop Gardens 845-424-3812 | stonecrop.org
Family Workday and Bonfire 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. Manitoa 584 Route 9D, Garrison 845-424-3812 | visitmanitoga.org
Daylight Saving Time Ends Turn clocks back one hour

SUNDAY, NOV. 5
Daylight Saving Time Ends Turn clocks back one hour
Life Drawing 11:15 a.m. – 2:15 p.m. Create Community 11 Peeskill Road, Cold Spring info@createcommunityspace.com
Beacon Hocus-Pocus Halloween Parade 12:30 p.m. Line-up 1 p.m. Parade | Starts at Wolcott and Main Rescheduled from Oct. 29
Children and Families: Biomorphic Sculptures 1 p.m. Storm King Art Center 1 Museum Road, New Windsor 845-534-3115 | stormking.org
Stacy Bass: Gardens at First Light (Talk) 2 p.m. Winter Hill | 20 Nazareth Way, Garrison RSVP to lmoses@gardenconservancy.org
Willy Wonka Jr. 2 p.m. Philipstown Depot Theatre See details under Friday.
Björn Meyer-Ebrecht (Artist’s Talk) 3 p.m. Matteawan Gallery 472 Route 9, Garrison 845-440-7901 | matteawan.com

MONDAY, NOV. 6
Watercolor Art Show (Opening) 2 – 4 p.m. St. Francis Convent, Graymoor 845-424-3625
Beacon City Council 7 p.m. City Hall Courthouse 1 Municipal Plaza, Beacon 845-534-5506 | beaconcouncil.org
Beacon School Board 7 p.m. Beacon High School 101 Matteawan Road, Beacon 845-838-6900 | beackonschool.org
Beaux Arts: From Berlin to Beacon (Talk) 7:30 p.m. Cornwall Presbyterian Church 477 Main St., Beacon 845-838-6900 | beaconcouncil.org
Roots: From Berlin to Beacon (Opening) 3 – 5 p.m. Howland Public Library 477 Main St., Beacon 845-838-4988 | howlandpubliclibrary.org
Wilbur Wonka Jr. 4 & 7 p.m. Philipstown Depot Theatre See details under Friday.
The Lost Community of Nitgedaiget (Talk) 4 p.m. Butterfield Library 10 Morris Ave., Cold Spring 845-265-3040 | butterfieldlibrary.org
Full Moon Hike 6:30 p.m. Outdoor Discovery Center 100 Muser Dr., Cornwall 845-534-5506 x204 | hhnm.org
Sloan Waagner 7:30 p.m. Tompkins Corners Cultural Center See details under Friday.
Wait Until Dark 8 p.m. County Players Theater See details under Friday.

TUESDAY, NOV. 7
Election Day 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. Polls open
Fun Day (ages 5-10) 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. Beacon Recreation Center 23 West Center St., Beacon | cityofbeacon.org
New Moms & Infants Group 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. Desmondt Fish Library 472 Route 403, Garrison Email whiteside.k5@gmail.com.
“Think in bridges. Find them, cross them; it always expands who you are. I don’t see a lot of lines anymore, because I’ve met so many people.”

In Philipstown, Williams feels engaging each sector of the populace is crucial, beginning with retirees. “They have so much expertise,” she says. “They hold the history of the town, and are often very patient with children.”

Also important is finding the right blend of commerce that caters to both locals and tourists. “The only way to keep the pulse of downtown is to have the whole layer of fancy stuff that the visitors will buy,” she says. “Without some of this, you can’t have the parades and all the great things that bring life into downtown. It won’t all flow naturally, she says. “Effort has to be made, because so many things are pulling us out of downtown. In Franklin, Tennessee, I couldn’t find an aspirin. It has history, fantastic jewelry, a gorgeous theater, but no aspirin. The challenge to the old guard is not new residents, it’s the big box stores, malls and the deterioration of pedestrian culture. Having a downtown that sells shovels and Scotch tape and milk that’s somewhat affordable is essential.”

Whatever its fissures and growing pains, Philipstown is home sweet home to Williams, who spends much of the year touring. “I appreciate how much I feel like I belong in this town,” she says. “I can be my real self here. I see people wearing their pajama bottoms as they walk their kids to school. I can invite friends in without clearing the breakfast dishes.”

“I went to a town out West which had many similar things to this one, but it was uptight and unfriendly. People weren’t smiling and you could feel the unease. Our town has a bulletin board full of fliers for weird events, and lots of cross-pollination: the library trying out a zombie night, the outdoor films shown by the river, the firefighter academy for kids. There is so much vitality here.”

Her free program, which begins at 4 p.m., is part of the Chapel Restoration’s Sunset Reading Series. A wine and cheese reception will follow. The chapel is located next to the Metro-North train station in Cold Spring, where parking is free on weekends.
could work in the production end of someone else’s designs.”

She moved to Brooklyn and freelanced for five years. “It was almost like being an apprentice,” she says. “I learned to work faster. I was meticulous but needed a faster pace in the real world. Eventually I felt like I had lost touch with the ‘mind’ side of things, and that’s when I decided to go to grad school” at SUNY New Paltz.

Burke-Smith’s designs combine what she learned at school with metalworking basics. “Sawing and piercing are two of the first skills learned in metalsmithing,” she says. “I like refining it using methods that are unique to me. It’s very low-tech, all cut by hand. I also do a lot of casting and fabrication, soldering with acetylene torches or oxypropane mini-torches. I also work with sheets of thin wax, filing, cutting and carving, creating a mold which is then put in a kiln. You force molten wax into the negative space in the mold, then crack the mold. It’s sent to the city, and it’s kind of like magic: I send them waxes and they send back silver and gold.”

While attending SUNY New Paltz, she moved to Cold Spring and then, six years ago, to Beacon. There she has met many other women involved in the arts, including jewelers and metalsmiths. “We developed a kind of jeweler version of borrowing a cup of sugar: ‘I need to borrow a cup of flux,’ ” she says. (Flux is a paste for soldering.)

Burke-Smith also teaches metalsmithing, drawing, color theory and fiber design at New Paltz (“I get inspired by my students and by millennials in general. I think they get a bad rap. They have so much knowledge about what concerns them”), sells her work online and in a few galleries and stores, and does commission work such as wedding rings.

“I mainly design necklaces, earrings and rings,” she says. “Fewer rings, because they’re harder to sell because of the sizing requirement, but I love making them. I work mostly in sterling silver and 18K gold, and occasionally in neoprene rubber, Peruvian opal and Tahitian pearls.”

Caught in the Metal (from Page 11)

in the mold, then crack the mold. It’s sent to the city, and it’s kind of like magic: I send them waxes and they send back silver and gold.”

Three O’Clock Shadow

“I make my ‘Me and My Shadow’ earrings the same way each time, but on different days,” says Kit Burke-Smith. “They are asymmetric sterling silver loops paired with black neoprene loops made from the distorted shadow of the silver loops. At exactly 3 p.m. in the afternoon, the sun comes in at a right angle. I trace the shadow, then cut it out in metal and neoprene.

“I intentionally put them together so that the shapes are flipped in some way. They never line up perfectly and so the neoprene becomes the shadow of the metal. This way the shapes relate to each other but aren’t identical. Sisters but not twins! I like the fact that they’re related but don’t line up. Someone told me, ‘You should make jewelry that can only be worn on a rainy Thursday!’”

“Me and My Shadow” earrings

Kit Burke-Smith’s “Me and My Shadow” earrings

Photo by Liam Goodman

Unfolded abstract metal ornament made by Kit Burke-Smith

Photos provided

Dangling earrings with triple folding cups cast in silver, by Kit Burke-Smith.

GROOMBRIDGE GAMES

STORE WILL CLOSE PERMANENTLY ON SUNDAY NOV 26TH

EVERYTHING MUST GO!


STORE WILL CLOSE PERMANENTLY ON SUNDAY NOV 26TH

EVERYTHING MUST GO!


SEEING RED?

VOTE BLUE!

The smaller the race, the bigger the impact YOUR vote has. Don’t sit it out.

VOTE DEMOCRATS ON NOV 7TH!

ELECT OUR DEMOCRATIC REPRESENTATIVES

Ward 1 Council – Terry Nelson

Ward 2 Council – John E. Rembert

Ward 3 Council – Jodi McCredo

Ward 4 Council – Amber Grant

At Large Council – George Mansfield & Lee Knyiacou

Legislature, District 16 – Fritz Zernike

Legislature, District 18 – Nick Page

Dutchess County Comptroller – Robin Lois

NYS Supreme Court Judge – Judge Christi Acker

For more info: www.beacondemocrats.org

NOVEMBER 7TH

VOTE

ROW A

ALL THE WAY

BEACON DEMOCRATS
WE, THE UNDERSIGNED, express our support
for Richard Shea for Town Supervisor, Michael Leonard & John Van Tassel for Town Council,
Robert L. Langley, Jr. for Putnam County Sheriff,
and Christi Acker for NYS Supreme Court Judge

Andre Adams
Joy Albrecht
John Allen
Susan Allen
Joan Alvis
Libby Anderson
Jason Angell
Jocelyn Apicello
Doug Banker
Sarah Banker
Kathleen Barnes
Dianne Bauer
Jean Baxter
Sarah Bayne
Francesca Beghe
Green
John Benjamin
Tamarah Benjamin
Sarah Berry
Taschinkel
Emily Bickford
Robert Bickford
Roy Bjornoy
Joyce Blum
Christine Bokhour
Raymond Bokhour
James Bopp
Shelley Boris
Diane Botnick
Susan Branagan
Susan E Brune
Justine Bruno
Bill Burbach
Gil Burke
Charles Burleigh
Anthony Burton
Leonora Burton
Peter Bynum
Chris Caccamise
Sean Carmody
Evelyn Carr-White
Tom Carrigan
Ellen Chandler
Joe Chapman
Paula Clair
Fred Clarke
Malachy Cleary
Rachel Comey
Kim Conner
Andrea Connor
Julie Corbett
Ross Corsair
Clare Cossette
Ellen Counihan
Jack Counihan
Robert Cutler, Jr.
Tim D’Acquisto
Carla d’Orchimond
Eileen Dahlia
Chris Daly
Kate Dayton
Dorothy Dee
Robert Dee
Anthony Deos
Deb Dichter
Joe Diebboll
Lisa Diebboll
Sarah Diebboll
Joe Dizney
Maya Dollarhide
Bruce Donohue
Alexandra Dubroff
David Duffy
Amy Dul
Debra Eecokk
TERRANCE EECOK
David Eisenhower
Ruth Eisenhower
Elizabeth M Ellis
Susan English
Mike Enright
Karen Ertl
Holly Evarts
Lynda Anne Ewen
Julia Famularo
Judy Farrell
Ellin Feld
Robert Ferguson
Annette Flaherty
Bob Flaherty
Mary Flaherty
William Flaherty
Larry C Fleischer
Christine Foertsch
Kathleen E Foley
Jon Scott Francis
Miller Francis
Matt Francisco
Richard P Franco
Stan Freilich
Aaron Freimark
Antoinette Friasenda
Carl Friasenda
Denise Friasenda
Melissa Gabriels
Sandra Gable
Ann McGrath
Gallagher
Marika Gallagher
Shelly Gilbert
Suzie Gilbert
PRISCILLA S GOLDARF
Dick Gordon
Paige Gordon
Cali Gorevic
Roger Gorevic
Daniel Greenberg
Ian Groombridge
Alex Grossman
Kacie Grossman
Maia Guest
Sarah Gurland
John Haines
Jane Hanley
David Hardy
Stephanie Hawkins
Elizabeth Healy
John H Hedlund
Paul Henderson
Bryan Hickey
Elizabeth Hires
Peter Hofmann
Kelly House
Thomas Huber
Evian Hudson
Anne E Impellizzeri
Stephen Ives
Tyrell J Jones
Marc Kemeny
Grace Kennedy
Susan Kenny
Cynthia Kline
Judy Kropf
Noel Kropf
Jonathan Kruk
Lars Kulsees
Marit Kulsees
Terry Lahey
Lydia J A Langley
Nancy E Lauterbach
Carolyn Lengel
Meghan Leonard
Michael Leonard
Michael Leonard Jr.
Martina Leonard
Fossum
Martene Levi
Peter Lewis
Cathy Liburne
David Liburne
Cathy Lim
David Limburg
Stanton Loveworth
Joe Lucca
Joseph Mahon
Jeremy Mahoney
Carol Marquand
MJ Martin
Claudio Marzollo
Jean Marzollo
Michael McKee
Sandy McKelvey
Ann Meeropol
Michael Meeropol
Annie Mennes
Dave Merandy
Anthony Merante
Joe Meyer
David Minkin
Judie Mirra
Nancy Montgomery
Christina Moon
Peg Moran
Hass Murphy
Carol Newman
Anne Marie Nicholls
Irene O’Garden
Shannon O’Sullivan
Lithgow Osborne
Dawson Pack
McCarthy
Charlotte Palmer-Lane
Joe Patrick
Barbara Perkins
Michael Phelan
John Pielmeier
Bob Plante
Michael Plante
Charlie Plummer
John Christian
Plummer
Kathy Plummer
Nat Prentice
John Rabias
Ellen Raphael
Collins
Mike Rauch
Ned P Rauch
Sheila Rauch
Bert Rechtschaffer
Sheilah Rechtschaffer
Joe Reubens
Robert Rhodes
Siona Rhodes
Dianne L Richey
Sonya Rhodes
Diane L Richey
Michael Robinson
Jose Rodriguez
Lillian Rosengarten
Stephanie Rudolph
Johanna Rupp
Wendy Sanderson
Ann Schilda
Carl Schilda
Nico Schweizer
Karen Shea
Richard Shea
Toby Shimin
Beth Sigler
Christine Simek
Darrin Smith-Leonard
Paul Smith-Leonard
Adele Stern
Henry Stern
Zanne Stewart
Anne Symmes
Linda Tafaposky
Donald Taffurelli
Sam Tallerico
Rosanne Testa
Marcelline Thomson
Lucille Tortora
Henry Turner
Joan Turner
John VanTassel
Ellyn Varela-Burstein
Lara Demberg Voloto
Steve Voloto
Eric Wagner
Jennifer Wagner
Miriam Wagner
David Ward
Rosemary Ward
Phil Weiss
Dick Weissbrod
Suzanne Willis
Dan Willson
M Robertson Work, Jr.
Margaret Yonco-Haines
Marilyn Young
Matthew Zaklad
Grey Zeien
Sharon Zeien
Heather Zuckerman
Neal Zuckerman

POLLs ARE OPEN 6AM - 9PM:
Cold Spring Methodist Church
216 Main St, Cold Spring
North Highlands Fire House
504 Fishkill Rd., Cold Spring

Garrison Volunteer Fire Department
1616 Rt. 9, Garrison
Continental Village Clubhouse
49 Highland Dr., Garrison

PHILIPSTOWN VOTES NOVEMBER 7TH, ROWS A & I

ADD YOUR NAME at philiptowndemocrats.org/support
Core Beliefs

By Celia Barbour

One year, when I was in college, I lived in an off-campus house with my three best friends. We had not yet learned how to be OK with our differences, so while we loved each other dearly, we also fought in ways that confused and distressed us.

One recurring fight was about apples. Stephanie, an artist, wanted to keep them in a bowl on the kitchen table. Laura, a pre-med, thought they belonged in the refrigerator because apples get mushy if you leave them out.

At heart, I sided with the pragmatic Laura. No one likes a mushy apple. But, as a philosophy major, I felt it was my job to see both sides. Apples are pretty, I thought to myself. My brain automatically formed the words: If there’s one thing I definitely do not need to buy, it’s apples. Nonetheless, I came home an hour later with seven apples. They looked so pretty, taut and rosy-green, I couldn’t help myself.

As I put them away, I wondered if parts of my refrigerator function like buried areas of my subconscious. The shelf of denial. The dissociative drawer.

The next day, my husband, Peter, returned from New Hampshire with eight apples. He had gone up there with his brothers to shut down the old farmhouse for the winter, and the tree by the well had been “laden” with them.

“Thank you,” I said, thinking: Laden? But you brought back only eight? As is surely clear by now, this is all just a setup for a third-grade word problem: “If you have 14 apples in the refrigerator, eat one apple, buy seven more apples, and then your husband comes home with eight apples, what do you have?” By my calculation, the only right answer is applesauce.

Of course, there are many other excellent things to do with apples, from salads to sauce making all those weeks of refrigeration for the winter, and the tree by the well had been “laden” with them.

Meanwhile, as I was busy coring, slicing, simmering, lamenting and pureeing, I turned from New Hampshire with eight apples. He had gone up there with his brothers to shut down the old farmhouse for the winter, and the tree by the well had been “laden” with them.

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Meanwhile, as I was busy coring, slicing, simmering, lamenting and pureeing, lunchtime came and went. Suddenly I was starving. I remembered a certain grilled cheese. But most of these use five apples, tops, and I needed to go nuclear. So I began playing around — apples, cardamom, and lime; apples, lime, and jalapeno; apples, ginger, and raspberry — slicing and simmering, and, frankly, feeling a bit defeated. Apple-sauce makes all those weeks of refrigeration irrelevant; it’s an art major’s solution.

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What the Candidates Say

In anticipation of the general election on Tuesday, Nov. 7, The Current asked each candidate for the two seats on the Dutchess Legislature that represent Beacon, as well as three candidates for a four-year term as Putnam County sheriff, to respond in writing to questions posed by reporters Jeff Simms (for Dutchess) or Michael Turton (for Putnam). The candidates are presented in alphabetical order. Responses from candidates for the Philipstown Town Board and Beacon City Council can be found at highlandscurrent.com.

DUTCHESSE LEGISLATURE (DISTRICT 16)

There are 25 part-time representatives in the Dutchess Legislature who each serve two-year terms. In Beacon, District 16 includes Ward 4 and part of Ward 3.

Explain the importance of the Legislature, particularly for Beacon residents.

John Forman (Independence): Dutchess County government has a county executive and 25 members that make up the county Legislature. The Legislature is the policy-making body in county government, and the single most important job of the Legislature is the final adoption of the county budget. County laws can be created, adjusted or eliminated by the county Legislature. All bonding for large construction projects and large purchases can only be approved by the county Legislature. As far as sales tax is concerned, the two cities (Beacon and Poughkeepsie) have the ability to charge and collect their own sales tax and break apart from their partnership with the county. But the numbers prove the two cities collect a significantly larger share of the sales tax by partnering with Dutchess County.

Frits Zernike (D): There’s a pretty big difference between what the Legislature does and what it could do. The Republicans and their allies in the Independence Party hold a supermajority — 18 of the 25 seats. The county executive is also a Republican. That amounts, basically, to one-party rule. Most of the legislative initiatives come from executive offices, and the Legislature acts on, as one incumbent put it, “what comes across our desk.” But the Legislature is supposed to be an equal branch of government, acting as a check on the executive, challenging his initiatives — not necessarily to defeat them so much as to ensure that the best version of them emerges from vigorous debate — and proposing new and innovative legislation.

Where the rubber hits the road is that the county levies taxes. Dutchess gets more of its revenue from sales tax than from property tax. Since the reformulation of the county tax in 2013, 15 percent of the sales tax collected in Beacon goes into a discretionary fund — right now it contains $60 million — to be doled out by the executive. That’s undemocratic and unfair, particularly to Beacon.

If you are a new candidate, what do you bring to the table? If you're an incumbent, why should you be re-elected?

Forman: As an incumbent, I run on my track record. Several years ago, I authored a resolution to require that all elected officials at the county level contribute toward their monthly health insurance premiums. This obviously did not sit well with my colleagues in the legislature. However, after much debate, all elected officials at the county level now contribute toward their taxpayer-funded health insurance premiums. That was extended to all of the management and confidential employees who are employed by the county of Dutchess. This resolution is saving the taxpayers more than $200,000 per year! And in 2017, I again authored a resolution extending the polling hours in Dutchess County on Primary Day from noon to 9 p.m. to 6 a.m. to 9 p.m., the same hours as the general election in November. We need to give the voters every opportunity to cast a vote. This was not happening in Dutchess County. The new polling hours will begin in 2018.

Zernike: I have been involved in Beacon politics through Beacon Deserves Better. I also have 10 years of experience running a small business, and I hold a law degree, both of which will allow me to bring relevant experience and perspective to the job. The incumbent has served in the Legislature for 12 years. When he introduced himself to me early in the summer, he promised an issue-oriented, clean campaign, and he has honored that commitment, for which I am very grateful. As I see it, I am not running against my opponent, I am running for his seat. I’ll leave it to the voters to decide which of us they’d like to see represent them.

What should be priorities for the Legislature?

Forman: Addiction and mental health initiatives are priorities in the budget. Prevention education, accessible drug-drop boxes, Narcan training and 24/7 crisis and support services will continue to be budgeted for and supported. Second, continued investment for improvements

(Continued on Page 18)

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What the Candidates Say (from Page 17)

if Dutchess County is going to be a player in attracting new businesses, then we have to continue to fix, repair and replace our bridges and roads and make sure there is enough water. Third, criminal justice reform.

Zernike: Dutchess is losing jobs and we’re facing increasing costs. Whatever agenda the Legislature sets, it will have to address those two brute facts. By enacting legislation that fosters more locally rooted businesses and development, we can work toward an economy that better sustains the county. One thing I am thinking about is a push for a law prohibiting candidates and elected officials from taking contributions from companies that do business with the county. The Republican-dominated Legislature will not bring a vote on ending “pay-to-play” to the floor, but we need it.

DUTCHESS LEGISLATURE (DISTRICT 18)

In Beacon, District 18 includes Wards 1 and 2 and part of 3.

Explain the importance of the Legislature, particularly for Beacon residents.

Jerry Landisi (Independence): County government provides a wide array of services, including sheriff’s patrols, road maintenance, public parks and social services. It also is in a unique position to assist municipalities as Beacon is by awarding grant money, including the Community Development Block Grants and shared services grants. In 2017, I helped to secure $160,000 in CDBG funding that will pay for the installation of new sidewalks on Main Street.

Page (D): As per the county charter, the Legislature handles appropriations, legislation and policy creation. In order for a measure to be passed, it must be agreed upon by a majority of legislators and signed by the county executive. Should the county executive refuse to sign, that can be overridden by a two-thirds vote of the Legislature. Currently, there is an 18 to 7 Republican supermajority, including the two Independence Party legislators who represent Beacon, who caucus with and nearly exclusively vote in concert with their Republican colleagues.

As a result, there is little to no countervailing force of the Republican county executive’s agenda. What are the implications? The recent sales tax reformulation has seen Beacon hand the county $4.58 million in revenue since 2013. A strong and independent Legislature would be ready and able to stand up for the needs of its respective communities.

If you are a new candidate, what do you bring to the table? If you’re an incumbent, why should you be re-elected?

Landisi: My record speaks for itself. In just under two years in office I have delivered real results for my constituents. I supported a budget that reduced the property tax levy and tax rate while continuing to provide robust services. We also continued to increase our investment in key growth industries such as tourism, arts, agriculture and economic development. I voted in favor of expanding the home-delivered meal program for seniors to five days a week. I championed a resolution that re-established the Human Rights Commission and helped secure funding to assist in our outreach mission. I have also been a strong supporter of the new Crisis Stabilization Center as we seek to revamp the way in which we address addiction and treatment in our community. I am an independent, and as such I am beholden only to my constituents, not to a partisan agenda. I have listened to the people who elected me and have been willing to work with anyone regardless of party and have been successful in bringing Beacon’s voice to county government and delivered real results for residents.

Page: A fresh eye and terrier-like enthusiasm.

What should be priorities for the Legislature?

Landisi: In the coming years, we must continue to be vigilant in making sure that we protect taxpayers so people can afford to stay here. I will build on my strong record of curbing tax increases while continuing to find ways to provide smarter, more streamlined and efficient services to our constituents. We must continue to make smart investments in our budget that will help grow the economy and provide career opportunities for the 21st century so that our children and grandchildren can make their lives here. The opioid crisis is also one of the top issues that must be addressed. If re-elected, I will continue my work as a strong advocate for the Stabilization Center and will assure that this facility has all of the resources it needs. I will continue to support and work to expand our educational programming to make sure people understand the magnitude of this problem. It is time we recognize this issue for what it is, a public-health crisis. I will also work to make sure that Beacon is adequately represented at the county level and will continue to advocate for our fair share of grant dollars and funding.

Page: Environmental action: The vigorous exploration of local production of, and investment in, renewable energy via wind, solar, hydroelectric, geothermal and any other means available or to be discovered. A county-wide adoption of the Community Choice Aggregation program that allows citizens to act as a buying unit and secure affordable green energy, while establishing the market for the same. Encouragement of increased recycling and composting initiatives. 2) Holistic alternatives to incarceration: We must shout a firm “No!” to a record investment in incarceration via the proposed $250-plus million county jail project, while singing a joyful “Yes!” to programs that support young families such as universal pre-kindergarten, summer job and educational programming for teen-agers (such programming has been subject to recent county cuts), and compassionate support for people suffering from mental health and addiction problems. 3) Cut county sales tax and return sales tax revenue to municipalities. Our sales tax in Dutchess is higher than that of Westchester County (8.125 percent to 7.375 percent). This regressive tax especially harms low-to-middle-income households that spend a greater portion of their incomes on essential goods. This tax must be reduced and a good starting point would be the elimination of sales tax on non-luxury clothing items that are less than $100. We must also return sales tax revenue to our communities. As mentioned above, the recent reformulation of the sales tax has seen more than $4.5 million redirected from the city of Beacon to county coffers since 2013. While an estimated $850,000 has been returned via grants, this money should be spent within our community and at our discretion. The county is sitting on a $59 million fund balance, due in no small part to the countywide sales-tax grab, and is in a fine position to do right by its citizenry.

PUTNAM COUNTY SHERIFF

The sheriff serves a four-year term. The Republican incumbent, Donald Smith, is seeking his fifth term against challengers Robert Langley Jr., the Democratic candidate, and Andrew DeStefano, who is campaigning as a write-in.

What are your views on consolidation of police services in the county?

DeStefano: As sheriff, I will carry out the mandate of residents as it relates to any consolidation, as it is their tax money, and I will do so to the best of my ability, whatever their decision may be. In any event, as sheriff I will see to it that every part of the county has access to department resources.

(Continued on next page)
**What the Candidates Say**

**Langley:** Consolidation can’t be a top-down decision — the discussion needs to engage the people we serve. There are many questions to consider. How would consolidation affect the level and quality of police protection in individual communities? What are the financial ramifications? How would infrastructure be organized? Would town and village police stations become substations or would all patrols be deployed from Carmel? How would that impact response times? How would our officers and support staff be redeployed to maintain jobs? The sheriff must control taxpayers’ costs but never at the sacrifice of community protection.

**Smith:** Our democratic system of government is based on the separation of powers; government is empowered by the people at various levels. In that spirit, the Sheriff’s Office partners with local, town and village departments providing needed support such as narcotics enforcement, investigations, canine, road patrol and marine support. We work closely with all police agencies in our county and our district attorney. We provide support to our schools through the School Resource Officer Program. We do our part to keep our county safe through communication, coordination, cooperation and support of our emergency service first responders. Any consolidation initiatives are a “home-rule” issue.

**Integrity has been raised as an issue during the campaign. How does your record qualify in that regard?**

**DeStefano:** In law enforcement, integrity has several meanings. Under this sheriff, the systems are corrupted, much like a computer. There exists no system of quality assurance to ensure the integrity, or accuracy, of crime reporting. Therefore, there is virtually zero credibility in the “safest county” slogan. With road supervision, there exists no meaningful “no-chase” policy under this sheriff, which has led to many unsupervised, unnecessary, high-speed car chases. In 2016 alone, one unsupervised high-speed chase for a relatively low-level offense led to a crash and the deaths of three people and five lawsuits filed against taxpayers. And there is no integrity of investigations. The Alexander Hossu case, in which a politically-motivated arrest resulted in a $45 million lawsuit against you, the taxpayers, never would have occurred had this department instituted a crime-control model which relies upon comprehensive and timely data analysis. That wrongful arrest would have been shut down immediately. In modern policing, integrity is not simply a word to keep everything running the way it’s supposed to. Only years of major-league experience can make integrity happen.

**Langley:** I will return integrity to the office of sheriff. I’m a real cop with real policing experience, having served 23 years in the Putnam County Sheriff’s Department. I’ve worked in corrections, patrol duty and forensics. I was cited for outstanding service in 2002 and 2003, and twice in both 2004 and 2005. I received commendations for my service to the mentally ill, my exemplary performance in narcotics investigations and arrests, for criminal apprehensions and for giving life-saving assistance to a fellow deputy. In my service as a volunteer firefighter I received the 2012 Meritorious Service Award and the Medal of Honor from the Garrison Fire Company.

**Smith:** I have dedicated my life to serving in two of our most noble and honored professions — the U.S. military and law enforcement. I stand behind my 16-year record serving as sheriff for all the people in Putnam County in providing leadership for the law enforcement and emergency services team that keeps Putnam County the safest county in New York and one of the safest counties in the U.S. Each and every day we serve with integrity, dignity and respect. The people of Putnam County know me and what I stand for.

**Should the sheriff be an elected position?**

**DeStefano:** A benefit to having an elected sheriff is having one chosen by the people. A negative to having an elected sheriff is what we see right now in Putnam County, a politically powerful politician who has the money and friends to stay in office while running the department into the ground. This election is a perfect example: I collected more than enough legal signatures, yet the sheriff’s protector at the Board of Elections unlawfully invalidated my petitions anyway, deliberately preventing a Republican primary the incumbent clearly would have lost.

**Langley:** I believe the office of the sheriff should be an elected position because the people’s vote maintains a check and balance on power. The people should choose who they feel is the most qualified individual to protect the residents of Putnam County and our Constitutional rights. The election process gives the people an opportunity to make necessary changes to the system when our interests and assets need better protection. After 16 years and four terms under Smith, now is the opportunity for the people to bring change for the better.

**Smith:** The office of sheriff should be an elected position directly accountable to the people. Historically, those elected to serve in that office have been defenders of the principles of our founding documents, the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution and the Bill of Rights, protecting our civil liberties and freedom. The proud history of the office of sheriff as the chief law enforcement of the county has served as well and today most of the 3,080 sheriffs serving across the U.S. continue to be elected.

**What additional resources does the department need to do its job effectively?**

**DeStefano:** None. This department already has the blocks and people in place to succeed in the 21st century. What they need is a sheriff with the command experience and training to implement a crime-control model. Nothing in this Sheriff’s Department is measured, and what gets measured gets done. And no one is held accountable for results. There is no more faking his way through this. In this race I’m the only candidate with the knowledge and background to accomplish what needs to be accomplished.

**Langley:** All of our officers should wear body cameras, so both our deputies and the public are held accountable. I’d like to deploy the resources we already have more strategically. I’ve patrolled every mile of Putnam County. I know our communities, and I understand the capacity of existing police forces. I know where deputies need a strong presence and where they serve best as backup. I will match protection to needs, deploying services for optimal safety and cost efficiency. I will emphasize community policing and get our deputies into communities. Distance between deputies and the people they work for is not strategically advantageous. We all need to trust each other and work together.

**Smith:** We continue to have a positive relationship with our county executive and the Legislature and work to submit a responsible budget that provides the programs we need to help keep the county safe. We strive to limit the burden on our taxpayers and keep Putnam with one of the lowest county-level taxes in the state. Our low and declining crime rate is indicative that we are getting the needed resources. We may need more resources as we continue to fight the war on drugs and opioid abuse.

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### Putnam Sheriff’s Race

**Revenue and expenses, as of Nov. 1**

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<tr>
<th>Friends of Langley</th>
<th>Raised: $23,776</th>
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<tr>
<td>Largest donors</td>
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<tr>
<td>In-kind donation</td>
<td>$1,000 from James Borkowski for lawn signs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Expenditures</td>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>Friends of Don Smith</th>
<th>Previous balance: $13,882</th>
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<td>Rights</td>
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<tr>
<td>Largest donors</td>
<td>William Butt ($2,000), George Wipple ($1,309), Teamsters ($1,000)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expenditures</td>
<td>$13,470</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: New York State Board of Elections

**As a write-in candidate, DeStefano has not filed campaign expenditures and revenues with the state.**

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**Highlandscurrent.com**

**November 3, 2017**
Get Things Rolling
Italian artist to recreate walking sculpture

I talian artist Michelangelo Pistoletto, whose works are in the collection at Magazzino, the art space in Philipstown, will re-enact his 1967 performance, Scultura da Passeggio (Walking Sculpture), at the Cold Spring waterfront at 12:30 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 4.

Working with local publica tions, including The Current, sent to him in Italy, Pistoletto created a sfera di giornali, or “sphere of newspapers.”

Pistoletto will invite the public to help roll the sphere along a portion of Main Street, then circle back to the bandstand where the artist, along with Magazzino founders Nancy Olnick and Giorgio Spanu, will share remarks.

The artist, who has donated the work to Magazzino, earned acclaim in the early 1960s for his Mirror Paintings and produced a set of works, Minus Objects, that are considered fundamental to the birth of Arte Povera, the movement predominantly featured at Magazzino. To visit the art space, see magazzinoart.com.

Garden Talk
Beatrix Farrand will be discussed

K aren Smythe, executive director of the Beatrix Farrand Garden Association, will discuss the landscape designer’s work at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, Nov. 6, at the Cornwall Presbyterian Church.

Farrand was known in the early 1900s for her advocacy of landscaping with native plants and creating complex flower beds. One of Farrand’s designs, at a garden in Hyde Park, was recently restored. Admission is $5 for members of the Hudson Highlands Nature Museum, or $8 otherwise.

Veterans Salute
All Sport to hold fundraiser

A s part of its third annual Salute to Our Veterans fundraiser to benefit the Hudson Valley Veterans Alliance, All Sport in Fishkill will hold a ceremony at the club at 11 a.m. on Friday, Nov. 10. Sponsor a flag to display at All Sport or join an outdoor cycle class as a sponsor or rider from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 11 at Adams Farm at Wappinger Falls. See allsporthandfitness.com/veterans.

Claremont Trio at Chapel
Latest in classical music series

The Claremont Trio will return to the Chapel Restoration in Cold Spring at 4 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 12. Em bruskim (violin), Julia Bruskin (cello) and Andrew Lam (piano) will perform Mozart’s Trio in B-flat Major, K. 502 and Mendelssohn's Trio in D Minor, Op. 39. Admission is free but donations are welcome.

Variety Show in Nelsonville
Pop-up performance on Nov. 11

A community variety show will be held at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 11, at Create Community in Nelsonville. The performance, hosted by Suzanne Schatzle, will feature music by Jacob Bernz, Mary and Jim Mechalakos, William Speziale and Justin Roffman, and comedy with Narinder Singh and Pete Smith. The suggested donation at the door is $8 and light refreshments will be offered.

Local Poets to Share Work
Reading at Butterfield on Nov. 11

J oe Pitkin and Irene O’Garden will read from their recent poetry collections and discuss their work at the Butterfield Library on Saturday, Nov. 11. The event begins at 4 p.m. and will be followed by a reception. Pitkin’s most recent collection is Rendering and O’Garden’s is Fulcrum.

Virtual Job Fair
Continues through November

T he Putnam-Westchester Workforce Development Board has created an online job fair where employers can post open jobs and job seekers can post resumes, review postings and receive assistance from career coaches. See westchesterputnamonestop.com.

Pruning is an art

If you are looking for a “natural finish” and do not want to see your ornaments cut back severely to dead wood, choose artful pruning. Artful Pruning allows your ornaments to keep looking good.

Artful Pruning gracefully brings your ornaments back to a more appropriate smaller size. For an artful, natural finish, call Gregory, the artful pruner, with over 10 years as a career gardener specializing in natural and restorative gardening.

Claremont Trio will perform in Cold Spring

The Claremont Trio will perform in Cold Spring on Nov. 12. Photo provided

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**Beacon**

**Paint a Kindness Rock**

*Positive messages can make a day*

Anyone ages 10 and older is invited to join the Kindness Rocks Project at the Howland Public Library in Beacon and paint a positive message on a rock from 11 a.m. to noon on Saturday, Nov. 4. The project is designed to spread good will to anyone who happens upon the rocks. RSVP to community@beaconlibrary.org.

**Veteran’s Day Hike**

*Group will ascend to flag*

On Saturday, Nov. 11, join a hike to the Veteran’s Flag on the Beacon-Fishkill ridge. Meet at 9:30 a.m. at the Pocket Road Trail Head in Beacon for a 3-mile moderate-to-strenuous guided hike. At 11 a.m., there will be a moment of silence and taps will be played. Bring water and snacks. RSVP to christopher.cring@gmail.com or 845-249-5305.

**Beacon Artists Recognized**

*Recognized as ‘under-recognized’*

Two Beacon artists, Antonella Piemonte and Andrea Moreau, were among the five recipients of the Arts Mid-Hudson Under-Recognized Artist Awards Program funded by the Pollock-Krasner Foundation. The award includes exhibits and cash. They will receive their awards at a reception on Friday, Nov. 17, at 5:30 p.m., at the Mount Gulian Historic Site in Beacon.

**Chamber Music Recital**

*Cello and piano concert on Nov. 12*

The Howland Chamber Music Circle will present a cello-and-piano concert on Sunday, Nov. 12, at 4 p.m. at the Howland Cultural Center in Beacon. Cellist Narek Hakhnazaryan and pianist Noreen Polera will perform music by Schumann, Brahms, Ligeti, Tchaikovsky and Shostakovich. Tickets are $30, or $10 for students, and can be reserved by calling 845-765-3012 or visiting howlandmusic.org.

**A Look at a Devastating Oil Spill**

*Movies That Matter to present documentary*

Movies That Matter Beacon will screen the 2015 documentary *After the Spill* on Friday, Nov. 10, at 7 p.m. at the First Presbyterian Church of Beacon. The film examines the damage to the coast of Louisiana after it was hit by Hurricane Katrina and then flooded with 200 million gallons of oil five years later, following the Deepwater Horizon explosion. Admission is free and a discussion will follow. See moviesthatmatterbeacon.org.

**Pop-Up Holiday Shopping**

*Open from Nov. 10 to 12*

Made & Given has gathered 10 New York-based independent brands for a pop-up shop at A Little Beacon Space that will be open from Friday, Nov. 10 to Sunday, Nov. 12. The artisans create jewelry, soaps and candles, bow ties and headscarves, leather goods, ceramics and holiday cards. See facebook.com/madeandgivenny.

Visit highlandscurrent.com for news updates and latest information.

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Election Day, Nov. 7

Polls are open from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. To find your polling place, visit the Putnam (putnamboe.com) or Dutchess (dutchesselections.com) board of elections.

For a list of candidates for the Philipstown Town Board, Beacon City Council, Putnam County sheriff and Dutchess Legislature District 16 and 18 races, as well as their responses to questions posed by The Current, see other pages in this issue and highlandscurrent.com. Below are other items you will see on the ballot. The three statewide proposals will appear on the back of the ballot.

PROPOSAL 1

Every 20 years, voters are asked if they would like to amend or rewrite the state constitution, which hasn’t been revised since 1938. This is done through a constitutional convention. If approved, delegates would be elected in November 2018 and the convention would convene in April 2019. In November 2019, voters would consider every amendment proposed by the convention.

Proponents argue that the constitution could be updated and revised more easily with a convention and vote than through the legislative process. For instance, the New York State Bar Association says a convention could help streamline New York’s convoluted court system. Opponents argue it would open the door for intense lobbying by special interests and political insiders that could threaten labor rights, pension benefits and environmental protections. It also would be expensive, they argue, costing tens of millions of dollars.

PROPOSAL 2

This proposal would allow judges to reduce or revoke the state pension of any public officer convicted of a felony related to his or her duties.

PROPOSAL 3

This proposal would create a 250-acre “land bank” that would allow towns, villages and counties to request state Forest Preserve land for projects where they have no other option. For example, a town may want to eliminate a dangerous road curve. In exchange, the state Legislature would need to add 250 acres to the Forest Preserve. Only municipalities located in 16 rural counties west or upstate of the Highlands would be allowed to use the land bank, including Ulster, Greene, Sullivan and Delaware. The proposal also would allow bike paths, sewer lines and utility lines along highways on preserve land.

State Supreme Court Justice, 9th District (14-year term)

The 9th District (of 13) covers Dutchess, Putnam, Orange, Rockland and Westchester counties.

Christi Acker (D) — principal court attorney, New York Office of Court Administration; town justice, Pine Plains; Villanova Law 1992

Linda Murray (R) — associate court attorney, Poughkeepsie City Court; Albany Law 1997

Dutchess County Comptroller (4-year term)

The comptroller is the chief accounting and auditing officer for the county.

Jim Coughlan (R) — incumbent, first elected 2009

Robin Lois (D) — co-owner and controller of a commercial property management group and Taconic Sport & Racquet Club in Hopewell Junction

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“Quality Care”
Double, double toil and trouble;

Fire burn and caldron bubble.
Fillet of a fenny snake,
In the caldron boil and bake;
Eye of newt and toe of frog,
Wool of bat and tongue of dog,
Adder’s fork and blind-worm’s sting,
Lizard’s leg and howlet’s wing,
For a charm of powerful trouble,
Like a hell-broth boil and bubble.

Double, double toil and trouble;
Fire burn and caldron bubble.
Cool it with a baboon’s blood,
Then the charm is firm and good.

—William Shakespeare (*Macbeth*)

Photos by Ross Corsair
at Cold Spring’s Halloween parade, Oct. 28
Three Teams Still Alive in Tourney

Haldane soccer, volleyball, football play today to advance in playoffs
By Leigh Alan Klein

Girls' soccer
Class C Regional Final
Friday, Nov. 3, 4 p.m.
Diamond in the Pines Park, Coram
Against: Section 11 champ Southhold/Greenport (13-4)
Next up: State semi-finals, Nov. 11

Last year's Long Island champ, Port Jefferson, knocked the Blue Devils out of the playoffs with a 3-0 regional final victory before repeating as Class C state champions. This year Southhold/Greenport emerged from Section 11 as the team to beat, taking its first Suffolk County title in 30 years with a 3-1 win over Stony Brook. Haldane (7-10-2) has been playing its best soccer at the right time. On Oct. 31, the Blue Devils defeated Millbrook 2-1 in overtime on a game-winner by senior Allison Chiera in the 87th minute. Saoirse Maguire had tied the game with a goal in the 44th minute.

On Oct. 29, Haldane won its seventh consecutive Section 1, Class C title with a 2-0 victory over Pawling. Jade Villella scored both goals. Haldane last won the Class C state championship in 2014.

Girls' volleyball
Section 1, Class C Semi-Final
Friday, Nov. 3, 4:30 p.m.
Haldane High School
Against: Keio Academy (Purchase)
Next up: Final at Pace University, Nov. 5

In September, Haldane defeated Keio 3-0. The Blue Devils (14-7) won their last three matches of the season and enter the playoffs as the No. 2 seed in Section 1. The other bracket has top-seeded Rye Neck against No. 4 Pawling. Rye Neck is 7-0 against the field and only lost one set to its Class C opponents. It defeated Haldane in September, 3-1.

Football
Section 1, Class C Final
Friday, Nov. 3, 4:30 p.m.
Mahopac High School
Against: Tuckahoe
Next up: Regional vs. Section 9 winner, Nov. 10

The only two Class D schools in Section 1, Haldane and Tuckahoe, play every year for the title. Haldane upset the Tigers in last year's championship game but the Eastchester school defeated the Blue Devils earlier this season, 22-12.

Cross country
Haldane and Beacon will be among the teams competing at the Section 1 Championship at Bowdoin Park in Wappingers Falls on Saturday, Nov. 4.

Girls' swimming
The Beacon girls' swim team (6-4) competed in three relay events on Nov. 1 during the qualifying round of the Section 1 Championship. In the 400-yard freestyle, Chloe Tomlins, Claire Wood, Dania Gil- lins and Adrianna Bonnes finished 36th in 4:49.43; in the 200-yard freestyle, Jolene Lagunda, Thandiwe Knox, Natalie Negron and Cassandra Ruffy finished 36th in 1:58.48; and in the 200-yard medley, Wood, Ruffy, Negron and Knox finished 32nd in 2:15.08.

Coaches and Parents
We welcome your contributions of scores, highlights and photos. Email sports@highlandscurrent.com