

# The HIGHLANDS Current



Peak Puzzle  
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DECEMBER 1, 2017

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**Fighting Back** the **opioid Crisis**  
a special report

## Putnam Votes to Sue Drug Companies

*Claims negligent marketing of opioid pain pills*

By Chip Rowe

Putnam County is joining more than 100 other counties and states in suing drug companies that it claims contributed to the opioid addiction crisis through “fraudulent and negligent” marketing and careless distribution of pain pills.

During the county’s Nov. 15 Rules Committee meeting, Legislator Neal Sullivan (R-Mahopac) cited a *60 Minutes-Washington Post* investigation in October that detailed how the drug industry lobbied a handful of members of Congress to weaken regulations designed to prevent large shipments of opioids to corrupt doctors and pharmacists.

The report also noted the pharmaceutical industry has spent \$102 million lobbying Congress between 2014 and 2016.

“It is a clear indication [the pharmaceutical companies] are in it for the money,” Sullivan said. “They’re killing 91 people a day who overdose. We’re going to join this lawsuit to put some pressure on these companies.”

Legislator Barbara Scuccimarra (R-Philipstown) said she was pleased the county is moving ahead. “It’s not just to get monetary payback for what we’ve expended,” she said. “It’s to send a message to these companies that it’s time to change the way you do business.”

There is precedent for (To Page 7)



Purdue Pharma, which makes the painkiller OxyContin, has been sued by multiple counties. *Shutterstock*



**MOONSTRUCK** – Lydia Rosengarten peers through a telescope while her daughter, Emmy Barth, waits for a turn at the Desmond-Fish Library in Garrison on Nov. 26. Jack Chastain of the Mid-Hudson Astronomical Association (at left) assembled the optics to mark International Observe the Moon night. (The event was rescheduled from Oct. 26 due to rain.) The prospects for a clear view were dim until, after about 40 minutes, the clouds parted.

*Photo by Ross Corsair*

## 20-Year Voyage Comes To End

*Summer camp on Hudson shuts down*

By Michael Turton

After countless nautical miles rowed, paddled and sailed, Building Bridges Building Boats, the summer boating camp for teenagers that has operated in Cold Spring for 20 years, will cease operations.

David Hardy, the camp’s executive director, said the nonprofit’s board voted at its Oct. 18 meeting to dissolve the organization.

For the hundreds of Philipstown teenagers who took part in its weeklong camps, the Hudson River became an outdoor classroom. The sessions put students on the river every day, where they gained firsthand knowledge about everything from seamanship and the geography of the river to an understanding of tides, weather and navigation — not to mention the fun and camaraderie.

Hardy declined to discuss specifics of why the camps were ending but said the board had struggled with how to reinvigorate the program.

The decision “wasn’t easy,” he said. “But we all agreed.” He added that “our board

members have been amazing; many have stayed with us for years and years.”

Nick Groombridge, the board chair (and also a board member of Highlands Current Inc.), said “the organization has had a great run for more than 20 years, getting kids out on the river” but that “it’s time to move on for a lot of the people involved and we felt it would be better to go out on a high note (Continued on Page 14)

## Cataloging Nature

*Beacon committee creating natural resource inventory*

By Jeff Simms

It’s impossible to place a value on the Hudson River or Mount Beacon, or the cultural significance of the city that lies between the two — or is it?

Municipalities in New York state are increasingly cataloging their environmental and historical assets through Natural Resource Inventories, and they’re being rewarded by the state for doing so. In Beacon, the city’s Conservation Advisory Committee, a panel of 10 volunteers (with two open seats) expects to complete its NRI next summer.

NRIs are generally comprised of maps and information about significant natural resources such as forests, streams, wetlands and rocky ridges. Cultural resources like historic, scenic and recreational assets are often included, as well.

The state Department of Environmental Conservation promotes NRIs as essential for guiding municipalities as they update zoning codes or consider planning initiatives. The “big picture view” it provides is critical, the DEC says, but for city leaders the possibility of moving closer to the front of the line for state funding may be equally important.

“NRIs can be a springboard for pursuing other conservation goals, such as updating a (Continued on Page 6)



The BBBB team competes in an open-water rowing competition in Massachusetts in November 2014. *Photo by Damian McDonald*



# 5 Five Questions: DARREN SCALA

By Alison Rooney

**D**arren Thomas Scala is the owner of D. Thomas Fine Miniatures, which opened in October at 103 Main St. in Cold Spring.

## What intrigues people about miniatures?

Most people love them but aren't always sure what to do with them. But you don't need a doll house to love minis. You can own a specific piece, without context, simply because you like it.

## Is there a standard scale?

The 1:12 scale is the most traditional and popular. Anything can be recreated: pottery, flowers, fashion, furniture. Minis are a great way to capture a memory. For instance, a client's husband was retiring and leaving his home office of many years to move to Florida. It was hard emotionally for him, so she arranged to have it recreated in 1:12.

## How did you become interested in miniatures?

My dad was a cabinet maker who made



Darren Scala holding a miniature copper pot stand

Photo by A. Rooney

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credenzas and curio cabinets, working freehand. The smell of the wood intoxicated me. When I was 8 years old I announced I wanted a dollhouse. Although 8-year-old Brooklyn boys in the 1970s were not generally interested in dollhouses, my mom told my dad, "It doesn't matter, you're going to make him a dollhouse!" I developed a huge interest in miniatures from that.

## Has the digital era changed the market?

There was a generation not exposed to miniatures, but I saw signs of life online. I tapped into the "makers" movement, because with miniatures, you can construct them, paint, blow glass, so many things. Now there are hot spots for miniatures, including in Japan, Spain, Russia and Po-

land, along with the U.S.

## Why did you open your store in Cold Spring?

My retail operation was in Hastings and I was selling a lot of dollhouse items there but I wanted to reframe the story away from play and toward fine art. I looked for space in Beacon and elsewhere but my friends and I were visiting Cold Spring and happened upon The Shoppes [in the former Palen Drug Store] and all had the immediate reaction, "Here it is, the perfect place." There happened to be an empty space, and my display cabinet fit perfectly. I knew Cold Spring because, as a child, I came from the city with my family for brunch, the antiques and experiencing all the history.

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# Nelsonville Tower Deadline Extended into January

*Residents, village layer up lawyers*

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

The latest round of a continuing public hearing by the Nelsonville Zoning Board of Appeals on a cell tower proposed for Rockledge Drive consisted of another three hours of intense, three-way interaction that ultimately produced an extension, into January, of both the hearing and the deadline for the village to rule on the project.

Attesting to the depth of controversy, residents opposed to the tower brought legal and technical experts to the Tuesday (Nov. 28) session, held in Philipstown Town Hall to accommodate an audience that still spilled onto floor space and thronged in the doorway after the chairs were filled, as happened at the first hearing session on Nov. 15.

Homeland Towers, the firm proposing the tower with Verizon Wireless, again brought a several-man legal team; and before the hearing ended, the Zoning Board of Appeals and its partner in the review, the Planning Board, voted to augment their own advisors with a consulting firm, AKRF.

At issue is Homeland Towers' application to construct a 110-foot tower on 9.6 acres off Rockledge, a dead end that connects with Moffatt Road, which twists uphill from Route 9D to a village district zoned mountain-residential. The site overlooks the Cold Spring Cemetery.

Homeland Towers filed the application with the Village of Nelsonville on July 17, triggering a 150-day FCC "shot clock" for the ZBA to decide whether to grant a special-use permit. Along with the ZBA permit, under village law the tower needs site-plan approval from the Planning Board.

Because the village did not formally find fault in the application within 30 days of July 17 and thereby delay the shot clock, the deadline for village action was Dec. 17. However, before the Tuesday session adjourned, Homeland Towers and the ZBA agreed to extend the deadline to Jan. 8. The boards also kept the hearing open, scheduling the next session for Jan. 4.

The ZBA received new materials Tuesday from tower opponents, but old questions arose concerning the need for the tower, the extent of the applicant's rights, and the village's obligations under federal telecommunications law.

Cell tower attorney Robert Gaudio, again maintained that "it's not the applicant's burden of proof to show that there is a significant gap" in wireless service or that the proposed cell tower "is the least intrusive means" of filling it.

Challenging what he termed Gaudio's "misconceptions" and "misrepresentations," Jason Biafore, an attorney for the newly formed citizens' group Philipstown Cell Solutions, which opposes the Rockledge tower, said that



Robert Gaudio, an attorney for Homeland Towers, at the Nov. 28 public hearing

Photos by Ross Corsair

Nelsonville's zoning code requires applicants to prove the need for a cell tower and that federal courts "have held over and over that actual need refers to a significant gap."

He questioned "where counsel [Gaudio] is coming from when saying they don't have to show a significant gap." Biafore alleged that much of Gaudio's presentation at meetings "has been a misrepresentation. It's meant to intimidate" and "browbeat" the ZBA into a hasty decision favoring Homeland Towers, he charged.

Gaudio again referred to Section 253 of the federal Telecommunications Act, claiming that it "specifically and expressly says a municipality may not prohibit any telecommunications service" and that "it doesn't distinguish between voice service, data service, and so forth and so on." Currently, he said, often phone call "voice service is provided as a data service," so the issue of "voice versus data is a red herring."

Section 253, on "removal of barriers to entry," stipulates that "no state or local statute or regulation, or other state or local legal requirement, may prohibit or have the effect of prohibiting the ability of any entity to provide any interstate or intrastate telecommunications service." It does not specifically mention cell towers, or state that local governments must guarantee companies freedom to use them to deliver

all types of service everywhere.

In a written report to the board, Philipstown Cell Solutions argued that activities such as "sharing iPhone photos, streaming Netflix, etc., is not granted the same 'essential' status that mobile voice common-carrier services are afforded under the Telecommunications Act."

Critics of another application by Homeland Towers to construct a tower on Vineyard Road in Philipstown have made similar arguments.

Richard Comi, of the Center for Municipal Solutions, which provides telecommunications expertise to local governments, an advisor to Philipstown Cell Solutions, concurred with Biafore that the Nelsonville zoning code demands that cell tower applicants demonstrate a need. Moreover, he said, "I've not seen anything that says they [wireless companies] have to have ubiquitous service" at all levels.

A West Point graduate and former Cellular One executive, Comi noted that the tower has been seen as a replacement for the wireless antennas removed from the old Butterfield Hospital roof before the building was demolished a few years ago. But the hospital was in Cold Spring, not Nelsonville, he observed. "There's nothing I'm aware of that says because [a wireless company] took down a site in another community, *this* community has to give you one," he said.

Responding, Gaudio attacked Comi's credentials and said that earlier this fall Nelsonville had hired a consulting engineer who, like Homeland Towers, concluded "that carriers had significant gaps in service" locally.

Similarly, Gaudio declared that Nelsonville's village attorney had agreed with Homeland Towers "that we're allowed to bring utilities" to the Rockledge tract via an old right-of-way across the property of a neighbor who objects to the tower.

But Mark Blanchard, an attorney for the neighbor, asserted that the right of way simply grants authorization to cross the property, not to use it as a gateway to a large commercial venture operating "at the expense of your neighbors." As a user of the right-of-way, Homeland Towers "is not allowed to make permanent changes" to it, he said, advising the ZBA to not condone anything that harms his client.

The boards also heard from residents.

Eleanor Chew, a 9-year-old Haldane student, informed the Homeland Towers delegation that "my mom has always told me to stand up to bullies and have my friends' backs. You, sirs, are bullies. Please don't put an eyesore of a cell tower in our lovely town."

Heidi Wendel and Joe Hirsch moved to Nelsonville in September after visiting regularly for some 20 years to hike and enjoy nature. Opposing the tower, Hirsch predicted "it would hurt the aesthetics of the village and bring down property values" and "be a major intrusion aesthetically, historically and psychologically."



Jason Biafore, an attorney representing cell tower opponents, addresses the Nelsonville ZBA-Planning Board on Nov. 28.

## POSITION AVAILABLE

The Village of Nelsonville is seeking to fill an opening for a part-time Assistant to the Village Clerk-Treasurer. Duties will also include assisting the Court Clerk, Registrar of Vital Statistics and secretary to the Building Inspector, Planning Board and Zoning Board of Appeals.

The position requires proficiency in MS Word and Excel, excellent communication, organizational and writing skills, strong interpersonal skills, and a strong financial background. The ability to work independently and manage multiple tasks concurrently is essential.

The position currently pays \$15/hour.

**Please send a cover letter and resume to:**

Pauline Minners, Village Clerk, Village of Nelsonville  
258 Main Street, Nelsonville, New York, 10516

or Nelsonville@optonline.net



# The HIGHLANDS Current

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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Garrison Fire District vote

Each year, on the second Tuesday in December, one of five positions on the Garrison Fire District Board of Commissioners is to be filled by the voters in a public election. This year it will be Dec. 12. The polls at the Garrison Firehouse at 1616 Route 9 are open from 6 to 9 p.m.

I urge district residents to show up, and I ask you to vote for me — for the simple reason that the commission needs to be more open to the public.

In 2016, the district's first board, whose members were appointed approved a 27 percent increase in the budget for the Garrison Volunteer Fire Company. This past fall, the first elected board approved a \$770,000 budget for 2018, despite an \$80,000 surplus in 2017.

Of even greater importance is the fact that between 2018 and 2020, final payments on two leases and a mortgage totaling \$210,852 will be made (expenses that will not recur). An open and informed discussion needs to be undertaken about what will happen with this budget opportunity.

However, one expense that will recur between 2018 and 2020 is the \$25,000 in annual rent that Garrison taxpayers pay to the Garrison Fire Co. Say what? That is correct. Garrison taxpayers, who pay the mortgage, maintenance and utilities on the firehouse, also pay \$25,000 per year to



Photo by Michael Turton

the fire company for the Fire District's use of the building.

The board has been unwilling to obtain from the fire company any information as to what it intends to do with the \$50,000 in rent payments received to date and the \$75,000 still due to the non-profit company under the agreement.

I urge you to vote for me on Dec. 12 so that the Garrison taxpayers and community have a voice in how your money is going to be spent and see that it is accounted for.

Joe Regele, *Garrison*



## Philipstown Passes \$10.9 Million Budget

*Town Board discusses costs  
of emergency services*

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

With little ado in a nearly empty meeting hall, the Philipstown Town Board on Nov. 16 unanimously adopted a 2018 budget of nearly \$10.9 million.

The budget, which takes effect Jan. 1, anticipates collecting \$7.8 million in taxes (about \$200,000 more than 2017) and \$1.98 million in miscellaneous revenues, with the remaining portion covered by ex-

isting balances of \$1.1 million.

"We're still under the cap" set by New York State for property tax increases, Supervisor Richard Shea said before the board's vote. The state limits property tax increases to 2 percent or the rate of inflation, whichever is lower, but allows for some variances; it also grants credits to municipalities that consistently meet the cap.

Shea's salary for 2018 will remain at \$27,000 annually and Councilors Nancy Montgomery, John Van Tassel, Michael Leonard and Robert Flaherty again will each earn \$18,000. The pay for Clerk Tina Merando will rise from \$63,000 to \$64,250 and Highway Superintendent

As a very concerned resident I urge you to vote for Joe Regele for Garrison Fire District commissioner.

Last December, after the appointed fire commissioners approved a 2017 budget increase of 27 percent, the community turned out in unprecedented force seeking fiscal responsibility and transparency.

Unfortunately, little has changed. Despite administrative corrections and the final payment of a mortgage, resulting in 10 percent savings this year and every year going forward, there have been no savings for the taxpayer. This is effectively a 10 percent increase in the budget for 2018.

Perhaps more important is the lack of transparency. There is an extreme reluctance on the part of the fire company board and the majority of the commissioners to obtain the information required by the commissioners to do their job and ensure fire protection for the community that is safe and effective for both the firefighters and those they serve.

Joe Regele has been asking questions for years that have largely gone unanswered. His election will switch the voting balance on the board and enable transparency and efficiency to be achieved at last.

Stan Freilich, *Garrison*  
*Freilich is a Garrison Fire District commissioner.*

Carl Frisenda from \$89,000 to \$90,000.

The Highway Department budget will rise by 3 percent, to \$3.7 million.

The amount earmarked for workers' compensation will increase by 22 percent, to \$54,939. For 2017, the town budgeted \$44,860 but by Nov. 16 had already spent \$54,919. In 2016, it budgeted \$43,861.

### Emergency services

Spending for fire protection will remain steady at about \$1.875 million. Philipstown is served by four fire departments: North Highlands, Garrison, Cold Spring and Continental Village. For 2018, the Philipstown payment to Continental Village will be (Continued on Page 7)



# An Even Split

By Chip Rowe

With the Nov. 7 election results in Putnam County now certified, Robert Langley Jr. defeated Sheriff Don Smith by 324 votes, of nearly 25,000 cast, a margin of 1.3 percent.

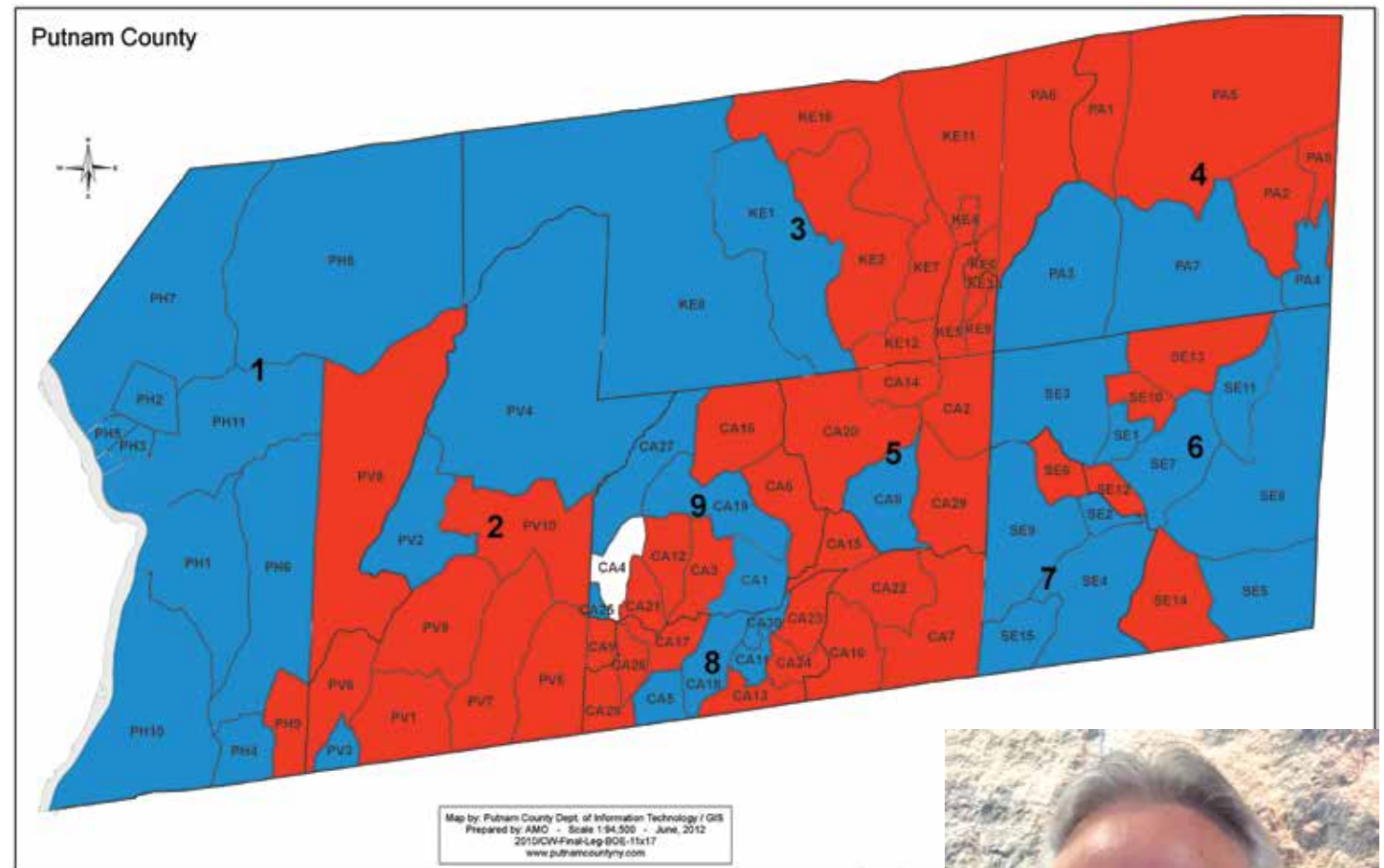
How did he do it? Langley, who lives in Garrison, carried Philipstown, where the voter turnout was the highest in the county, at 50 percent, by a more than 2-to-1 margin, 68-32. That landslide created a cushion that Smith, even though he won four of the five other districts, could not overcome.

Carmel and Southeast each had the lowest turnout, at 39 percent. Langley won Southeast, 52-48, while Smith prevailed in Putnam Valley by six points, Kent by four, Patterson by six and Carmel by eight.

The map at right shows, in blue, the districts won by Langley, a Democrat, and, in red, by Smith, a Republican. In the white district they tied.

Smith also had to contend with a write-in challenge that Andrew DeStefano mounted after his nominating petition for the Republican primary was thrown out. Of the 486 write-in votes for sheriff, DeStefano received 428, according to the Putnam County Board of Elections.

In the other local race that was too close to call on Election Night, Robin Lois, a Democrat, leads Republican incumbent Jim Coughlan as Dutchess County comp-



Legend: PH = Philipstown; PV = Putnam Valley; KE = Kent; CA = Carmel; PA = Patterson; SE = Southeast. The large numbers are legislative districts, each of which contains about 10,000 residents.

troller by 412 votes of nearly 63,000 cast, but the results have not yet been certified by the Dutchess County Board of Elections.

## Langley Selects Undersheriff

On Nov. 18, Putnam County Sheriff-elect Robert Langley said Michael Corrigan, 54, of Carmel, would be his undersheriff. Corrigan spent 21 years with the Putnam County Sheriff's Department, including 18 years as a criminal investigator. A 1995 graduate of the FBI National Academy at Quantico, Virginia, he also has worked as an officer for the Village of Cold Spring.



Michael Corrigan

Photo provided

## PHILIPSTOWN Community Congress

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## Cataloging Nature *(from Page 1)*

comprehensive plan or developing an open space plan, and funding is available to support these kinds of projects, including Hudson River Estuary Grants and Hudson River Valley Greenway Grants,” says Laura Heady, a conservation and land use coordinator for the DEC’s Hudson River Estuary Program. “The process of developing an inventory can also identify data needs for a community. While working on its NRI, the city of Kingston realized it needed a street

tree inventory and subsequently applied for and was awarded a \$50,000 Urban and Community Forestry Grant.”

Cities that develop an NRI are also eligible for grants of up to \$100,000 from the state’s Climate Smart Communities program.

### Scenic resources

Another component of the Beacon report, a scenic resources inventory, is being completed by six students from Cornell



Would this Fishkill Creek corridor be considered a scenic resource?

Photo by J. Simms



Sarene Shaked, a student at Cornell, explains the group’s work to passersby on Oct. 28 outside the Beacon Institute on Main Street.

Photos by Bill Staffeld/Cornell AAP College

University’s College of Architecture, Art and Planning, who visited the city in October.

The group was charged with cataloging not only landscape features such as the Hudson and Mount Beacon but also cultural assets, which could include historic structures and other aspects of the city that are appreciated and enjoyed by the public.

In a preliminary presentation to the Conservation Advisory Committee (CAC) next week, the students will state that the protection of these resources should extend beyond Beacon’s boundaries, said George Frantz, a Cornell professor in the college’s Department of City and Regional Planning.

“It’s very interesting working in the Hudson River Valley because a scenic resource for a city or municipality often is not actually in that municipality,” Frantz said. “One of the defining bits of information is that it’s going to take inter-municipal cooperation to protect these places.”

As the Cornell students complete their work, the CAC is concurrently working to create maps that depict Beacon’s geology, water resources, wildlife habitat land-use planning.

“We’re taking this information and interpreting it through the lens of the environment and hoping that the city will utilize it” when it makes zoning and other land-related decisions, explained Brian



Victoria Neenan and Osamu Tsuda, students at Cornell, examine a map created by the group with Professor George Frantz.

DiFeo, chair of the CAC.

The CAC plans to present its NRI to the public and City Council next summer. If the council adopts the plan, DiFeo said he hopes the CAC can begin work on a detailed open space plan.

### Other initiatives

Formed in early 2017, the **Green Beacon Coalition** sponsored Earth Day cleanups around Beacon. The plan for 2018 is to put on a “proper mini-festival” as residents clean up Mount Beacon, the Fishkill Creek and Hudson River banks and other spots, DiFeo said. The group also hosts Environmental Citizen Soapbox events where residents share ideas related to the environment, conservation and sustainability.

In 2017, the CAC sponsored the launch of **Energize Beacon**, part of the non-profit Energize NY network created to increase energy efficiency. Homeowners can sign up at [beacon.energizeny.org](http://beacon.energizeny.org) for a free energy assessment and to learn if they qualify for subsidized home improvements.

Because Beacon is under a Stage 1 drought alert, the CAC posted a list of **water conservation tips** at [cityofbeacon.org/Government/cac.htm](http://cityofbeacon.org/Government/cac.htm). Recommendations include turning off the water after you wet your toothbrush and, to check for leaks, reading your meter before and after a two-hour period when no water is being used.



Brian DiFeo

Photo provided



## HALDANE SCHOOL DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT SEARCH *WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!*

### Community Forum

The Board of Education of the Haldane School District will be holding an open forum and conducting an online survey to get feedback from the community members about the type of leader they would like to see as the school district’s next Superintendent. Parents and Community members are invited to attend this important meeting and/or complete the online survey.

**Forum Date:** Monday, December 11<sup>th</sup>

**Time:** 7:00 pm – 8:30 pm

**Location:** Band/Music Room ES/MS

If you wish to complete the survey, please go to [www.haldaneschool.org](http://www.haldaneschool.org) and click on the Superintendent Search tab on the main page of the website.





## Putnam Votes to Sue Drug Companies *(from Page 1)*

holding large corporations responsible for downplaying the health effects of their products. In 1998, 46 states settled with the tobacco industry for \$200 billion after arguing manufacturers had covered up the risks of smoking.

"As president of the New York Association of Counties, I think it is imperative that we learn from the tobacco lawsuits of the 1990s and collectively go after the source of the prescription opioid epidemic," said County Executive Mary Ellen Odell in a statement.

Putnam County Attorney Jennifer Bumgarner noted the lawsuit was not part of a class action but rather one of many individual suits filed by counties and states. In June, Dutchess County sued 11 pharmaceutical companies, and Orange, Rockland, Westchester and at least eight other New York counties also have sued as part of a coordinated effort called the

New York Opioid Cost Recovery litigation.

In addition manufacturers and distributors, looking for evidence they knew of the risks of addiction to pain pills. Most recently, officials in four towns in West Virginia sued a nonprofit that sets standards for hospitals, arguing it had spread "misinformation" beginning in 2001 in its directives on using opioids for pain management.

The challenge for plaintiffs is that opioids are not tobacco. People who abuse prescription opioids, which are approved by the FDA for pain relief, are not using them as directed and taking more than prescribed (unlike cigarettes, which people do use as designed). In addition, most marketing is aimed at doctors, not the user. Like gunmakers, the drug companies and distributors likely will argue that people, not its products, are responsible.

Bumgarner said the lawsuit will not cost the county anything, because the firm that

many neighboring counties have hired, and which advised Putnam officials — Napoli Shkolnik, based in New York City — is working on a contingency basis, meaning it will be paid from any settlement.

"They have absolutely agreed to provide us the resources, and that they will do the legwork and look through the documents themselves," said Bumgarner.

The Legislature met Nov. 21 to approve the lawsuit, which seeks damages for "deceptive acts and practices, false advertising, public nuisance, fraud and unjust enrichment" from the "largest manufacturers and marketers of opioid pain medications," such as Purdue Pharmaceuticals, Teva Pharmaceutical Industries, Johnson & Johnson and Endo Pharmaceuticals; as well as the largest distributors, which are McKesson Corp., Cardinal Health and AmerisourceBergen.

According to the resolution, the goal of

the litigation is to compensate the county for costs incurred from prescription opioid abuse, including loss of productivity in the workplace, health care costs such as treatment, and criminal justice costs.

But Legislature Chairwoman Ginny Nacerino (R-Patterson) said the chief objective of the litigation isn't financial. "We don't anticipate receiving a lot of money," she said. "But it is important to send a message. It is important to stop what has been going on for so many years."

Paul Jonke (R-Brewster) called the litigation a good first step, saying the lawsuit and others like it send a message to drug companies "that we're going to hold them responsible for the crisis they've created in our little community. Hopefully they'll see some financial obligation down the road, or we'll be able to recoup some funds for education, and get some folks help."

*Holly Crocco contributed reporting.*

## Philipstown Passes \$10.9 Million Budget *(from Page 4)*

\$269,150; to Cold Spring, \$69,643 (for town areas just outside the villages); to Garrison, \$771,302; and to North Highlands, \$764,984. Only property owners in the territory covered by a given fire department pay for its services. The Garrison and North Highlands fire districts set their own budgets, but the tax revenue is channeled through the town.

Philipstown likewise has two ambu-

lance providers: the Philipstown Volunteer Ambulance Corps and the Garrison Volunteer Ambulance Corps. For 2018, Philipstown will receive \$317,110, an increase of 17 percent, and Garrison will receive \$200,429, an increase of 16 percent.

Together, fire and ambulance coverage will cost nearly \$2.4 million, accounting for about 22 percent of the budget. Shea called that outlay "striking," noting that five other

Putnam County towns spend less.

Even when population and geographic differences among the six towns are factored in, "we're way above" the others in emergency services spending, Councilor Nancy Montgomery added. She recalled that when the town undertook an evaluation, with state approval, of emergency services needs and spending, they learned that "we were in the top 5th percentile for

per capita costs." State officials "looked and said, 'What are you doing?'" she said.

Board members did not take any immediate action. In 2010, when the board brought in a retired fire chief-turned-consultant to conduct a study of emergency services, the effort provoked outrage even before he recommended merging the four fire departments and two ambulance corps under one administrative umbrella.

**THE HOWLAND CULTURAL CENTER  
PROUDLY PRESENTS**

**The Annual Holiday  
Fine Arts and Craft Small Gifts  
Holiday Show**

Amy Barry  
Ann Egan  
Cecilia Dinio Durkin  
Cheyenne Mallo  
Christine Groppe  
Cynthia Petrovits  
Hudson Valley Chocolate  
Itoko Kobayashi  
Jaquiline Awando  
Jeep Johnson  
Jennie Chien  
Karen Lloyd  
Kelly Shultes  
Liliana Washburn  
Linda Awando  
Lori Erbes  
Make Your Mark Pottery  
Pamela Garfield  
Paola Bari  
Russell Cusick



**December 5-23, 2017  
Opening Reception:  
Saturday, December 16, 3-5pm**

Gallery hours: 1:00-5:00pm  
Open every day except Saturday December 9

The Howland Cultural Center - 477 Main St., Beacon, NY - 845.831.4988

**The No-Strings Marionettes Are Back!**

**Sunday, December 10, 2017**

The Howland Public Library  
& The Howland Cultural Center  
present for the 14th consecutive year  
Two Magical and Enchanting Performances



**Sunday, 1PM  
Nick of Time**

**Sunday, 4PM  
Scrooge, A Christmas Carol**

**All Children admitted FREE**  
must be accompanied by an adult  
adult tickets \$10 each performance

Both performances held at the  
Howland Cultural Center 477 Main Street, Beacon, NY  
For further information and/or directions please contact  
Ginnie @ library 831-1134 or Florence @ Howland 831-4988





A southbound Metro-North train approaching Garrison

Photo by Michael Turton

## Train Control Behind Schedule

### *Skepticism about 2018 launch*

By Holly Crocco

U.S. Sen. Charles Schumer made a stop in Putnam County on Nov. 20 to criticize the Metropolitan Transportation Authority for delays in installing a system known as Positive Train Control on its lines, including Metro-North.

"We all know that safety has to come first when it comes to travel, and rail travel in particular," said Schumer, the Democratic minority leader, during a news conference at the Brewster station.

He was joined by Nancy Montgomery of Garrison, whose husband, Jim Lovell, was killed, along with three other passengers, on Dec. 1, 2013, in a Hudson Line derailment at Spuyten Duyvil.

Montgomery, a member of the Philipstown Town Board who has championed rail safety, thanked Schumer and legislators in Washington for passing the Rail Safety Improvement Act in 2008, which mandated that Positive Train Control (PTC) be installed on most trains in the U.S. by 2015 (a deadline since extended by Congress to 2018). The 2008 law was in response to the collision of two trains in Los Angeles in which 25 people died.

The federal government has done its job, she said, and "now it's time for the MTA to step up and do their job and implement this really important technology that will save lives."

As it has found with other train accidents, the National Transportation Safety Board said PTC would have prevented the 2013 Hudson Line derailment. Its investigation found the train was traveling 80 mph in a 30 mph zone when it crashed. The engineer, who suffered from sleep apnea, had fallen asleep.

In addition to testing engineers for sleep apnea, Schumer said the MTA needs to implement PTC to counter human error. "When, God forbid, something happens because an engineer falls asleep or is distracted, PTC will stop the train from crashing and falling off the track, and slow it down," he said.

"This is not a money issue," he said. "You don't have to take money away from anything else to install Positive Train Control."

Although Metro-North has expressed confidence in the past that it will meet the December 2018 deadline to have PTC in all its locomotives, according to a quarterly report the agency must file with the Federal Railroad Administration, there is much work to be done on the \$968 million project. As of July 31, the railroad had trained nearly all of the required 2,915 employees but only equipped 104 of 531 locomotives with the system and installed nine of 104 radio towers. None of its 384 miles of track are currently equipped for PTC.

On Nov. 13, at a meeting of the MTA's Capital Program Oversight Committee, whose 15 members include Neal Zuckerman, of Garrison, the agency reported that the project was



Neal Zuckerman represents Putnam

County on the MTA board.

Photo provided

on schedule. But, according to the minutes, Zuckerman, who represents Putnam County, expressed his "disappointment and deep concern" at the lack of progress, noting that December 2018 was not the operational goal but only when Metro-North hoped to achieve benchmarks established by the Federal Railroad Administration.

Zuckerman was assured that Metro-North was focused on full implementation but that software and design setbacks were making that a challenge. A representative of the railroad noted that Metro-North had finished installing Advanced Civil Speed Enforcement on its locomotives, a safety system that uses transponders in the track, coded circuits and digital radio. But PTC is far more advanced, with GPS tracking, radio towers, trackside signals and remote control.

Chip Rowe contributed reporting.

By appointment at  
magazzino.art  
2700 Route 9  
Cold Spring, NY 10516  
@magazzino

Giovanni Anselmo  
Marco Bagnoli  
Domenico Bianchi  
Alighiero Boetti  
Pier Paolo Calzolari

Luciano Fabro  
Jannis Kounellis  
Mario Merz  
Marisa Merz  
Giulio Paolini

Pino Pascali  
Giuseppe Penone  
Michelangelo Pistoletto  
Remo Salvadori  
Gilberto Zorio

# MAGAZZINO

# ITALIAN ART



# The Calendar

## The Paws that Refresh

*Artist finds inspiration in four-legged friends*

By Alison Rooney

Which came first — the chicken or the ... dog? In Chantelle Norton's case, it was the feathers. She lived with a flock of chickens, and later with a Boston terrier adopted from the friend of a friend. In both cases, her surprise at the bonds she formed with the animals, and their distinctive personalities, led to a visual exploration of the interactions.



Paw on Rug, by Chantelle Norton



Chantelle Norton, with *Dog Days of Summer*

Photo by A. Rooney

The oil paintings, drawings and giclées that resulted are on exhibit at the Theo Ganz Studio in Beacon through Jan. 28 as an exhibit called *Dog Days*. A collection of Norton's chicken portraits, *Brood*, was shown there in 2013.

The terrier was named Lulu. It was the first dog Norton ever owned and she found she "wanted to document the tenderness" that develops between animal and owner. She also was captivated by paws. Her paintings at Theo Ganz show them stretched out against a backdrop of patterns from bed linens, blankets and rugs — intimate "glimpses into the fabric of a home."

*"I got interested in how they developed as breeds and how humans have altered them for their purpose."*

A dog "links one to home by insisting on rituals of daily walks, sniffing out the smells of local terrain and beasts, their sleeping arrangements and their feeding," she says. "Yet I've never lost sight that they are animals; they don't speak our same language."

Norton says it was hard for her to put these feelings into words, which is why she painted them instead. "In my experience with Lulu, I not only got interested in the bonds, but in how dogs get trained to be companions, or to round up other animals, or hunt," she says. "I got interested in how they developed (Continued on Page 11)"

## A Classic Holiday Dance



Henry Timmer

Photo by A. Rooney

### *Garrison student lands role in Nutcracker*

By Alison Rooney

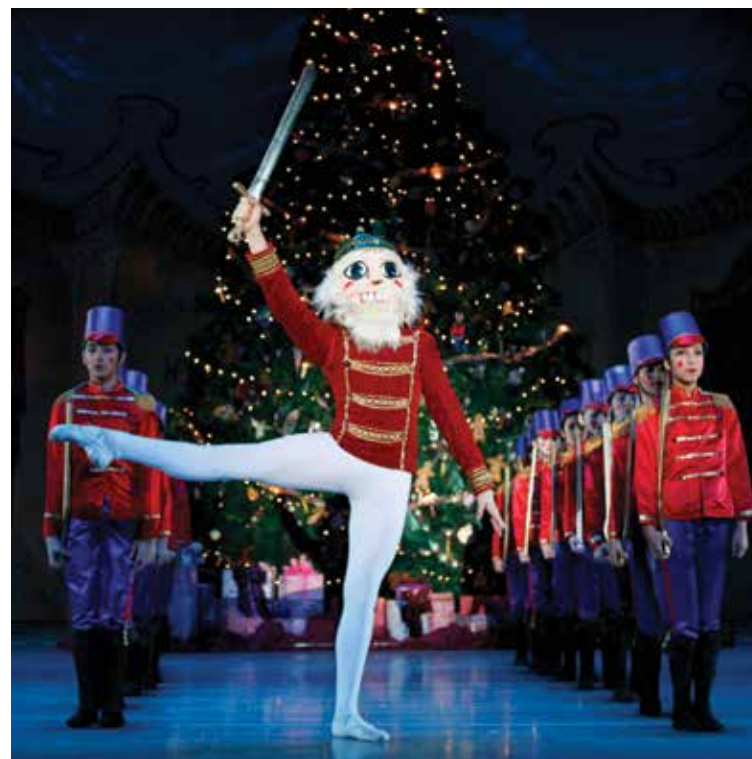
When Henry Timmer says he "moved around a lot" as a child, he is not referring to geography but kinetics.

Henry, 12, of Garrison, is an accomplished dancer who will play the role of Clara's brother, Fritz, in the Westchester Ballet Company's *The Nutcracker*, which runs from Dec. 15 to 17 at the Westchester County Center in White Plains.

His early affection for movement was one reason his parents, Ted and Nell Timmer, suggested dance lessons, he says. He also loved watching clips on YouTube of Fred Astaire (for one birthday, Henry asked for a tuxedo) and physical comedians such as Charlie Chaplin and Buster Keaton.

Now a seventh-grader at the Garrison School, Henry enrolled at age 7 at the Logrea Dance Academy in Ossining and it's since been "five years of single-minded focus," his mother says. He initially studied tap, ballet and jazz but soon focused on ballet and modern dance, he says, noting that he has been inspired by the skill of an older male ballet student at Logrea.

"A lot of people think ballet is just (Continued on Page 12)"



The Nutcracker prepares to battle the Mouse King in a past performance of the Westchester Ballet's *Nutcracker*.

Photo provided



FRIDAY, DEC. 1

**December Show (Opening)**  
6 – 8 p.m. Buster Levi Gallery  
121 Main St., Cold Spring  
845-809-5145 | busterlevigallery.com

**Mount Saint Mary College Gala**  
6 p.m. Kaplan Center  
330 Powell Ave., Newburgh  
845-569-3609 | msmc.edu/gala

**Reel Life Film Club: *To Be Heard***  
6 p.m. Howland Public Library  
313 Main St., Beacon  
845-831-1134 | beaonlibrary.org

**Hudson Valley Poets Open Reading**  
7 p.m. Howland Cultural Center  
477 Main St., Beacon  
howlandculturalcenter.org

**Dragonfly Story Hour**  
7 p.m. Butterfield Library  
10 Morris Ave., Cold Spring  
845-265-3040 | butterfieldlibrary.org

***The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time***  
7 p.m. Haldane Auditorium  
15 Craigsides Drive  
845-265-2500 | haldane.org

***What Would Jesus Buy?* (Documentary)**  
7 p.m. Universalist Fellowship  
67 S. Randolph Ave., Poughkeepsie | uupok.org

**Westchester All-Stars Concert for Veterans**  
7:30 p.m. Paramount Hudson Valley  
1008 Brown St., Peekskill  
914-739-0039 | paramounthudsonvalley.com

***A Charlie Brown Christmas***  
8 p.m. County Players Theater  
2681 W. Main St., Wappingers Falls  
845-298-1491 | countyplayers.org

Calendar Highlights

For upcoming events visit highlandscurrent.com.

Send event listings to calendar@highlandscurrent.com

Steel Magnolias

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

SATURDAY, DEC. 2

**Breakfast with Santa**  
9 & 10:30 a.m. Garrison Fire Company  
1616 Route 9, Garrison  
Call 845-424-4406 for seats.

**Craft Fair and History Exhibit**  
10 a.m. – 4 p.m. St. Mary's Parish House  
1 Chestnut St., Cold Spring  
845-265- 2539 | stmaryscoldspring.org

**Self Made Holiday Bash**  
11 a.m. – 7 p.m. American Legion/VFW  
413 Main St., Beacon | selfmademakers.com

**Craft Showcase and Sale (Opening)**  
Noon – 5 p.m. Putnam Arts Council  
521 Kennicut Hill Road, Mahopac  
845-803-8622 | putnamartscouncil.com

**Shibori Indigo Workshop**  
Noon – 2 p.m. Colorant | 146 Main St., Beacon  
nytextilelab.eventbrite.com

**West Point Band: *A West Point Holiday***  
1:30 p.m. Eisenhower Hall  
845-938-4159 | westpointband.com

**Auditions for *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof***  
2 – 5 p.m. Philipstown Depot Theatre  
Email info@excellentcreature.com.

***A Charlie Brown Christmas***  
2 & 5 p.m. County Players Theater  
See details under Friday.

**Joyeux Noel (2005)**  
3 p.m. Putnam History Museum  
63 Chestnut St., Cold Spring  
845-265-4010 | putnamhistorymuseum.org

**Beacon Community Kitchen Benefit**  
4 – 7 p.m. St. Rocco Society  
26 S. Chestnut St., Beacon | fareground.org

**Jazz, Shakespeare & Improv**  
4 p.m. Butterfield Library | See details under Friday.

**Holiday Tree Lighting**  
6 p.m. Riverfront Bandstand  
Main Street, Cold Spring

**Mark Nepo: *The Way Under the Way* (Reading)**  
7 p.m. Garrison Institute | 14 Mary's Way, Garrison  
845-424-4800 | garrisoninstitute.org

**Steel Magnolias**  
7 p.m. Philipstown Depot Theatre  
See details under Friday.

***The Curious Incident of the Dog in Night-Time***  
7 p.m. Haldane Auditorium  
See details under Friday.

**Annual Holiday Show**  
7:30 p.m. Howland Cultural Center  
477 Main St., Beacon  
845-765-3012 | howlandculturalcenter.org

**Chris Botti**  
8 p.m. Paramount Hudson Valley  
See details under Friday.

**Mars Williams: *An Ayler Xmas* (Jazz)**  
8 p.m. Atlas Studios  
11 Spring St., Newburgh  
845-391-8855 | atlasnewburgh.com

Bert Rechtschaffer Jazz Trio

9 p.m. Chill Wine Bar | 173 Main St., Beacon  
845-765-0885 | facebook.com/chillwinebar

SUNDAY, DEC. 3

**Red Hot Winter Fishing**  
10 a.m. Outdoor Discovery Center | Muser Drive, Cornwall | 845-534-5506 x204 | hhnrm.org

**West Point Band: *A West Point Holiday***  
1:30 p.m. Eisenhower Hall  
See details under Saturday.

**Blood Drive**  
2 – 6:30 p.m. Beacon Hebrew Alliance  
331 Verplanck Ave., Beacon  
845-831-2012 | beaonhebrewalliance.org

**Philipstown Community Congress Forum**  
2 – 4 p.m. Haldane Cafeteria  
15 Craigsides Drive, Cold Spring  
ecologicalcitizens.org

***A Charlie Brown Christmas***  
2 p.m. County Players Theater  
See details under Friday.

**Steel Magnolias**  
3 p.m. Philipstown Depot Theatre  
See details under Friday.

**Labyrinth Baroque Ensemble**  
4 p.m. Chapel Restoration  
45 Market St., Cold Spring  
845-265-5537 | chapelrestoration.org

**Auditions for *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof***  
7 – 10 p.m. Philipstown Depot Theatre  
Email info@excellentcreature.com.

**Hard Hitting Songs Concert and Benefit**  
7 p.m. Towne Crier Café  
379 Main St., Beacon  
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com

**The Blind Boys of Alabama Christmas Show**  
7 p.m. Paramount Hudson Valley  
See details under Friday.

MONDAY, DEC. 4

**Beacon City Council**  
7 p.m. City Hall Courtroom | 1 Municipal Plaza, Beacon | 845-838-5011 | cityofbeacon.org

TUESDAY, DEC. 5

**New Moms & Infants Group**  
11 a.m. – 1 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library  
472 Route 403, Garrison  
Email whiteside.ks@gmail.com.

**Putnam County Flu Clinic**  
2 – 6:30 p.m. Health Department  
1 Geneva Road, Brewster  
845-808-1332 | putnamcountyny.com

***She's Beautiful When She's Angry* (Documentary)**  
6:30 p.m. Ossining Public Library  
53 Croton Ave., Ossining | 914-941-1111

**Haldane School Board**  
7 p.m. Haldane Music Room  
15 Craigsides Drive, Cold Spring  
845-265-9254 | haldaneschool.org

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

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 6

**Deep Heap Circle with Garrison Concierge**  
1:30 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library  
472 Route 403, Garrison | 845-424-3020  
desmondfishlibrary.org

**Garrison School Capital Improvement Plan**  
6 p.m. Walkthrough | 7 p.m. Forum  
1100 Route 9D, Garrison  
845-424-4733 x2 | gufs.org

***Ethetics / Dressed for Protest / The True Cost of Fashion* (Documentaries)**  
7 p.m. First Presbyterian Church  
50 Liberty St., Beacon | moviesthatmatterbeacon.org

THURSDAY, DEC. 7

**Philipstown Seniors Club**  
10:30 a.m. Chestnut Ridge  
62 Chestnut St., Cold Spring | 845-809-5924

**Sixth Annual Tree Lighting**  
5:30 p.m. Winter Hill  
20 Nazareth Way, Garrison

**Haldane vs. Irvington (Girls' Basketball)**  
6:15 p.m. Haldane Gym  
15 Craigsides Drive, Cold Spring  
845-265-2500 | haldane.org

**Choosing Your Retirement Path**  
6:30 p.m. Howland Public Library  
See details under Friday.

**Citizens' Climate Lobby**  
6:45 p.m. Beahive Beacon  
291 Main St., Beacon | citizensclimatelobby.org

**More Good Gala for Generosity**  
7 – 10 p.m. Hudson Valley Brewery  
2 Churchill St., Beacon  
Email info@drinkmoregood.com.

**Wynotte Sisters Holiday Bash for Planned Parenthood**  
8 – 11 p.m. Dogwood | 47 E. Main St., Beacon  
facebook.com/wynottesisters

**Peter Gansevoort's (Not-so) Unusual Regimental Coat (Talk)**  
7 p.m. Fort Montgomery Historic Site  
690 Route 9W, Fort Montgomery  
Reservations required | 845-446-2134

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

**The Music of STYX**  
8 p.m. Paramount Hudson Valley  
See details under Friday.

FRIDAY, DEC. 8

**Bakeology 101: Holiday Cookies**  
3:30 p.m. Howland Public Library  
See details under Dec. 1.

**Beacon vs. Lakeland (Girls' Basketball)**  
6:15 p.m. Beacon High School  
101 Matteawan Road, Beacon  
845-838-6900 | beaonk12.org

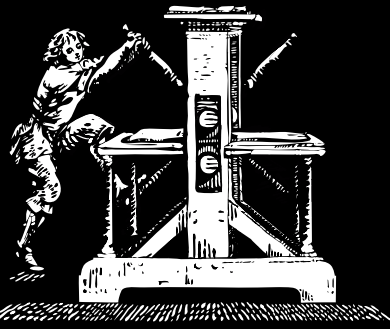
**Holiday Party (grades 6-8)**  
6:30 p.m. Butterfield Library  
See details under Dec. 1.

***Elf the Musical Jr.***  
7 p.m. Beacon High School  
101 Matteawan Road, Beacon  
774-249-8943 | beaonperformingartscenter.com

**Blood, Sweat and Tears**  
8 p.m. Paramount Hudson Valley  
See details under Dec. 1.

**Steel Magnolias**  
8 p.m. Philipstown Depot Theatre  
See details under Dec. 1.

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## The Paws that Refresh *(from Page 9)*

as breeds and how humans have altered them for their purpose."

As an artist, she also found herself intrigued by the "variations of looks, from the little hairless dogs to St. Bernards, Chihuahuas to wolfhounds," as well as their role in early history and mythology.

Born in Ireland to an Irish father and an American mother, Norton was raised in both countries. "I always knew that I wanted to create," she says, "It was more like, in what way? And, what do I want to say?"

She attended the Rhode Island School of Design for a year, couldn't continue for lack of funds, took a year off, then enrolled at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. After a year there, she moved to Dublin, studied for a year at the National College of Art and Design, then returned to the Art Institute, where she completed her bachelor's degree in fine arts. She also has an associate degree in fashion design from Parsons and worked for years as a freelance designer for Henri Bendel.

Norton and her partner, Dan Dobson, a musician, came from Brooklyn to Philipstown 10 years ago, when they began renting a property over the winter. It was during one of these stays that they were introduced to chickens as providers of eggs and destroyer of ticks. "They are remarkable little creatures," Norton has written, praising their "perfect combination of beauty and utility."



*The Pack*, a giclée print by Chantelle Norton

*Image provided*

To prepare her poultry series, Norton photographed the birds, then transferred sketches to plates for etchings. (Chickens are "perfect subjects because using fine lines really captures them," she says.) She also reproduced the images on ceramics, and it was at a Garrison Art Center pottery show that Eleni Smolen of Theo

Ganz saw them and suggested a show.

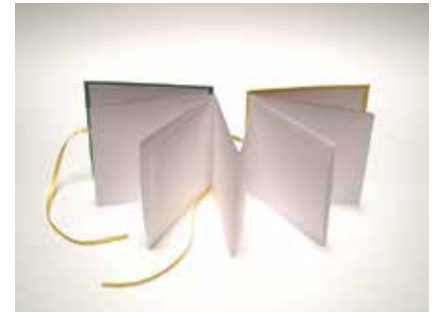
Norton, who now lives on 11 acres in Kent, mixes freelance design work with commissions. "Pigs, goats, I'm open to anything," she says with a smile.

Theo Ganz Studio is located at 149 Main St., in Beacon. It is open from noon to 5 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays, or by appointment. Call 917-318-2239.

## HANDMADE HOLIDAY WORKSHOPS

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Saturday, Dec. 9**



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HAND PRINTED  
WRAPPING PAPER

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1:30–4:30

\$40

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WED 7:30, THU 2:00 7:30

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Monroe, NY 10950 • 845.395.9055  
www.monroecinema.com

**Wonder** (PG)  
FRI & SAT 1:40 5:00 8:20  
SUN 12:20 3:40 7:00  
MON 3:45 6:45, TUE 6:45  
WED 12:45 3:45 6:45, THU 6:45

**Coco** (PG)  
FRI & SAT 2:00 5:20 8:40  
SUN 12:40 4:00 7:20  
MON 4:00 7:00, TUE 7:00  
WED 1:00 4:00 7:00, THU 7:00

**Justice League** (PG13)  
FRI & SAT 2:20 5:40 9:00  
SUN 1:00 4:20 7:40  
MON 4:15 7:15, TUE 7:15  
WED 1:15 4:15 7:15, THU 7:15

**Holiday Inn** (NR, 1942)  
WED (12/6) 2:00 (In Studio 6)



**Steel  
Magnolias**  
By Robert Harling

*Directed by Sally Mayes*

*December 1, 2, 3 - 8, 9, 10 - 15, 16, 17*

*Tickets: \$25 adults  
\$20 students & seniors*

**800-838-3006**

BROWN PAPER TICKETS

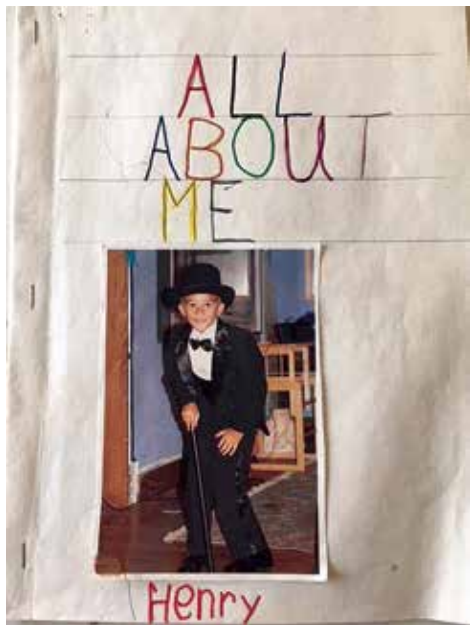
STEEL MAGNOLIAS is presented by special arrangement with Dramatists Play Service, Inc., New York, NY.



## Holiday Dance (from Page 9)

for girls and that it's not physical," says Henry, who is the eldest of five Timmer children. "It's very athletic, actually, and if you look at a lot of the male dancers at ABT [the American Ballet Theatre company in New York City], you can tell. When we do our shows, we try to make it look easy, when it takes a lot of practice."

Auditions for *The Nutcracker* are held each September. Henry says he was thrilled to be cast as Fritz. "He's the boy in the party scene who is a troublemaker," he says, and (spoiler alert) "he breaks



Henry had an early interest in dance — and tuxedos.

*Photo provided*



Henry Timmer at the barre *Photo provided*

the nutcracker, Clara's toy."

Timmer says he was hopeful he would be cast because the dancer who had played the role for the past four years "got too tall." At the audition, when asked to display the irritation Fritz feels toward

## A Short History of *The Nutcracker*

**1816** German writer E.T.A. Hoffmann writes a story, *The Nutcracker and the Mouse King*.

**1844** French writer Alexandre Dumas adapts Hoffmann's work into his own story, *The Nutcracker*.

**1892** Russian composer Tchaikovsky

(who also composed *Swan Lake*) and choreographers Marius Petipa and Lev Ivanov adapt Dumas' story into a ballet that premieres on a double bill at the Mariinsky Theatre in Saint Petersburg.

**2017** By one estimate, 40 percent of most companies' ticket revenue comes from the ballet.

Clara, Henry says that "since I have three brothers and a sister, I get angry, so I kind of popped back to those moments."

Henry also plays a soldier and a jester. The cast is mostly students; professionals dance the solos.

Henry says he likes ballet but that modern and jazz allow him to "move more. Ballet is important for flexibility and strength; it's more precise. Modern and jazz get on the floor a lot, and you don't have to be perfect — and there's no foot-pointing."

He encourages boys to try dance, saying, "Usually when you start, the teachers are super nice. You develop technique. When you get older it's kind of hard because there is lifting and partnering involved."

Nell Timmer says she can see many ways in which ballet has "enhanced Henry's overall body awareness. He is

able to pick up things like swimming and martial arts because he has a sense of his body in space that many boys his age have not been trained to have."

Henry isn't sure he wants to dance professionally. In assessing his strengths, he says he's best at jumps and splits but needs to work on his pirouettes and spotting, which is keeping one's head forward.

Sometimes Henry's classmates at Garrison come to watch him perform. "My brother's [fifth-grade] class might come, too," he says. "I'm excited." In the spirit of brotherly "bro-ness," Jasper Timmer, 10, says: "It's cool because I get to see all his performances, but sometimes that can be boring, too."

*The Nutcracker* will be performed at 12:30 and 4:30 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 16, and at 2 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 17. (There is also a 10 a.m. performance on Dec. 15 for school groups.) Tickets are \$27 for adults or \$23 for seniors and children ages 10 and younger. Call 800-745-3000 or visit ticketmaster.com. Tickets at the door are \$32. The County Center is at 198 Central Ave., in White Plains.

### Ballet Terms

- Adagio – Slow, continuous motion
- Allegro – Fast motion, such as jumping steps
- Balletomane – Ballet fan
- Cavalier – Anonymous male partner of female star
- Corps de ballet – Dancers who do not have solos
- Danseur – Male dancer

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**Jerry Kitzrow - Free**

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# Putnam History Museum Goes Digital

*New software spurs effort to scan and catalog*

By Christine Simek

The Putnam History Museum is in the midst of the challenging task of digitalizing its expansive collection of documents, ephemera and photographs with the goal of making its collection more easily accessible.

The board of directors of the nonprofit museum, which is located in Cold Spring, made the decision to go digital two years ago and has since worked to secure funding. It purchased collections management

software called PastPerfect that has made the project easier.

Many museums, historical societies and libraries have pushed to scan their collections, which has the added value of reaching new audiences and potential donors if put online. The Desmond-Fish Library has an archive at [desmondfishlibrary.org/lisa.html](http://desmondfishlibrary.org/lisa.html) created with funding from Jeanne Livingston and John Svirksy, and a site established by the Hudson River Valley Institute at [hrvh.org](http://hrvh.org) includes archives for the Putnam County Historian, the Dutchess County Historical Society and the Newburgh Free Library.

John Duncan, the collections associate for the Putnam History Museum, said digitalization also will help create exhibits and speed up responses to research



Robert Parker Parrott developed the American version of the rifled cannon known as the Parrott gun.



Gouverneur Kemble (1786-1875), who helped establish the West Point Foundry



A view of Northgate around 1900, prior to the construction of the house on what is now known as the Cornish estate

requests. Until last year, all research requests were handled by volunteers using a card catalogue and handwritten records. Once digitalization is complete, the process will be more self-service.

Duncan said the project began earlier this year with the creation of a digital catalogue of the museum's books and the scanning of 600 glass-plate negatives. Duncan, along with photo archivist Jan Thacher and volunteers Corinne Giunta and Bob Polastre, are now organizing and scanning the museum's 7,000 photographs, a few of which are shared here. Next up will be the creation and upload of reference photos of its artifacts, paintings and larger items.

Duncan says he is working out the technical kinks to place the scans and digital catalog online at [putnamhistorymuseum.org](http://putnamhistorymuseum.org) and hopes to have it live within the next month or so.



A gathering at Marshmoor, the home of Gouverneur Kemble: Seated on the porch is U.S. Army Gen. Winfield Scott (1786-1866), who ran for president in 1852 as the Whig Party candidate. Dignitaries often ferried over from West Point to visit the home, which was a center of social activity in Cold Spring.

## Senior Center Bids Higher Than Expected

*Work will be delayed at Butterfield site*

By Holly Crocco

Putnam County is faced with a setback in the construction of a senior center at the Butterfield site in Cold Spring because the bids for the work came in much higher than expected.

Last year the Legislature approved an \$800,000 bond referendum for the initial costs of retrofitting space inside the Lahey Pavilion at the former hospital site. It plans to lease 6,000 square feet from the developer for 15 years at a cost of about \$4.5 million, including rent, taxes, common charges and costs.

Barbara Scuccimarra (R-Philipstown) said at the Nov. 22 Physical Services Committee meeting that the county received three bids to complete construction for the senior center, and that the lowest was \$1.8 million.

She said the county would re-bid the project. That will delay progress at least 30 days, she said, although the center is still expected to open in the spring.

"When the price comes in high, what else can you do but look at the scope again and re-bid, or change the direction of the project?" she asked.

The county's Highways & Facilities Department completed the demolition work in the Lahey space, which Scuccimarra said may help reduce bids. She noted that construction at other projects in the eastern part of the county, such as at Tilly Foster Farm in Brewster and the Putnam County Golf Course in Mahopac, was done by county employees to reduce costs, and asked why this can't be done at Butterfield.

"I would like to see the county do more," she said.

John Tully, deputy commissioner of Highways & Facilities, said the county was reviewing the project plans to see if any areas were overdesigned; the second

look may also reduce incoming bids.

He added that location may add costs if the county sends workers to Cold Spring. "Tilly Foster was easy because all of our guys report to this side of the county; it's

in our backyard," he said. "It's a little remote over there."

Visit [highlandscurrent.com](http://highlandscurrent.com) for news updates and latest information.



### Steel Magnolias

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Directed by John Christian Plummer

co-produced by Excellent Creature and The Depot Theatre

Dec. 2 and 3

Garrison Landing, Garrison, NY (Theatre is adjacent to train station.)



## Baby and Dog

This feature is designed as a counterweight to all the bad news in the world that weighs people down. We could share a photo of a baby, or a photo of a dog, but we are giving you both. How many newspapers can say that? Christine Wright of Beacon shared this photo of her son, Max, with the family Basset Hound, Ginny. If you have a photo of a baby and a dog, submit it for consideration to [editor@highlandscurrent.com](mailto:editor@highlandscurrent.com).



Campers pause near the Esopus lighthouse during a 2012 paddle from Albany to Cold Spring. *Photo provided*

## 20-Year Voyage Comes To End *(from Page 1)*

rather than take the chance we wouldn't be able to maintain the programs at that high level."

Lynn Rubicam, a former Cold Spring resident who served on the BBBB board for 13 years, wrote in an email that part of its legacy was in helping "people in the community strengthen their relationship with the Hudson River" and raising awareness about access to the riverfront. She noted it had been established as an alternative high school program but grew to involve families in a variety of river-based activities.

In addition to its camps for teens, the organization offered public rowing, canoe-building and other community initiatives.

"There was always something new, from our Tales from the Yardarm nautical readings to our high hopes for a permanent boat house at Dockside," she recalled.

Hardy said one his "tireddest" memories is from 2008, when BBBB campers completed the Great Hudson River Paddle from Albany to New York City.

Stefan Carlson, who attended BBBB camps from seventh grade through high school, was part of that 11-day excursion. "As high school kids it was daunting to even think about, but we accomplished our goal," he said. "It stands as one of my

proudest accomplishments."

For Carlson, the camps offered more than simply learning about boats and the river. "It absolutely had a major impact on my development as a person," he said. "It was the first time I was truly thrust out of my comfort zone. Kids learned to get along, be respectful and work together. It's not often that kids are forced to rely on each other like that, sometimes in very serious situations."

In its early years, the organization built three 15-foot shad boats and a 26-foot gig; it also refurbished used vessels and borrowed crafts when needed. Campers participated in rowing competitions up and down the Hudson and in November 2014 won the Northeast Regional Youth Open-Water Rowing Championships (a.k.a. the Icebreaker) in Hull, Massachusetts.

The organization has also been known for its community service, especially its participation in the annual Great Hudson River Sweep. Other projects included gathering relief supplies for hurricane victims and assisting in making a local home handicap-accessible.

Hardy said the organization's assets, including its boats, will be distributed among other nonprofits with similar missions. He said BBBB will likely close its books by next summer.



Nolan Shea rowing in the Icebreaker in 2014 as part of the BBBB team

*Photo by Damian McDonald*

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## Small, Good Things

## Simple Is As Simple Does

By Joe Dizney

Food writer Molly O'Neill once called chowder “edible democracy.” It is certainly one of the most American of recipes — if you can simply call it “a” recipe. Chowder is more a state of mind, and in its myriad forms captures the essence of the American spirit: ruggedly individualistic, assertive and proud of its heritage; at its best, humble, substantial, inclusive and comforting.

As such, recipes abound in every region and micro-region of the country, each proclaiming itself original and authentic, which, like all self-identified Americans, all certainly are.

There is fittingly a sketch of a recipe included in the great American novel *Moby Dick*, Herman Melville’s homage to the sea and this country; the American statesman Daniel Webster is famous for his much-circulated version and President John F. Kennedy, a Bostonian, was particularly fond of his “chowdah” and his preferred recipe is preserved in the National Archives.

Ostensibly the culinary and etymological descendent of Breton’s Acadian fishermen, chowder (*née chaudree*, named from the pot, *chaudron*, in which it was prepared) is a simple seafood stew featuring the catch of the day, originally thickened with hardtack (ships’ biscuits) but now more commonly potatoes, almost universally seasoned with onions, pork, salt

and pepper and enriched with butter and eventually milk.

Like all culinary classics, it has been subject to generational and commercial “improvements”: spices or spirits, additional vegetables (corn, celery) and even a roux or heavy cream to thicken this delicate celebration of the sea to a porridge-like (at best) or wallpaper-paste consistency. Possibly the most abhorred defilement is the addition of tomatoes as in Manhattan clam chowder, an abomination at its

worst, but perhaps an acceptable stew or soup variant when viewed kindly.

None of these additions offers any

substantial increase in enjoyment to this concoction of onions, pork, spuds, fish and dairy in which each element holds its own but all come together in a bowl of warm comfort and national celebration on a cold winter day.

Regarding its individual ingredients: Select firm, white-fleshed fish — cod, hake, haddock and halibut — whatever is available, freshest and affordable. (Clams or other shellfish can be used but that’s another story.) If you’re energetic and/or authentic enough, a fine seafood broth can be made from fish heads or other less appealing bits from whole fish or even the eventual chowder fish chunks, parboiled briefly in water with onions and a couple of bay leaves. Marbled Meat Shop on Route 9 in Philipstown was offering its own seafood stock in quart containers a few weeks ago and bottled commercial clam broth will do in a pinch.

*Chowder is more a state of mind, and in its myriad forms captures the essence of the American spirit ...*

## Simple Seafood Chowder

2 tablespoons unsalted butter  
¼ cup salt pork or thick smoky bacon,  
¼-inch diced  
2 onions, roughly chopped  
3 cups seafood stock (or bottled clam broth)  
2 bay leaves  
5 to 6 medium-large, all-purpose potatoes  
(Yukon Gold), peeled and cut into 1-inch  
thick-thin wedges (See story note on  
technique.)

3 pounds firm-fleshed white fish  
(cod, haddock, hake, halibut) cut  
into 2- to 3-inch chunks  
3 cups warmed whole milk  
Salt  
Freshly ground black pepper  
¼ cup minced parsley  
Additional unsalted butter for  
serving

1. Melt butter in a 3- to 4-quart stockpot over medium heat. Sauté pork or bacon five to six minutes to render some fat. Add onions and continue to cook until slightly caramelized. Add stock and bay leaves, bring all to a low boil and simmer for two to three minutes.
2. Add potatoes and simmer for 10 minutes. Add fish and simmer for another 10 minutes. Add warmed milk and return to a low simmer for five minutes. Salt to taste and add a generous amount of freshly ground black pepper. Stir in the parsley and cut the heat, allowing the chowder to steep. This will give you just enough time to make some toast to serve with the chowder.
3. Serve hot in large bowls, garnished with a healthy knob of butter.



Simple seafood chowder

Photo by J. Dizney

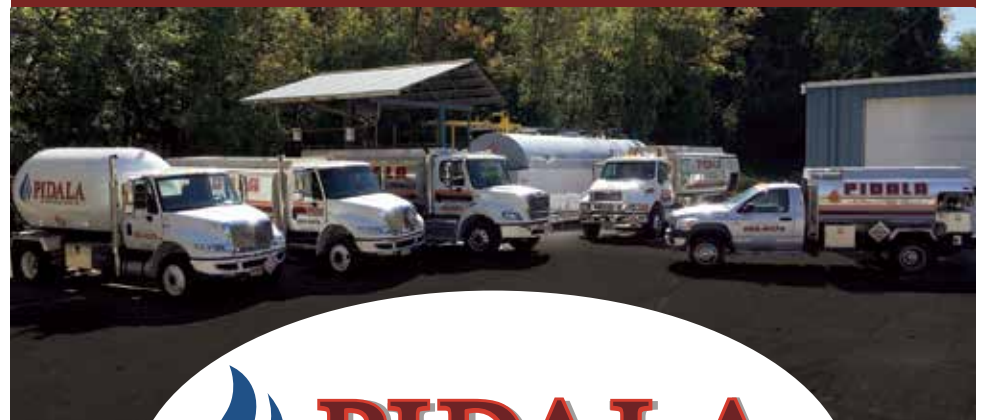
Salt pork is traditional but can be hard to find, but thick-cut bacon adds an additional smoky edge to the proceedings.

The food writer and Maine native John Thorne, whose definitive study, “Down East Chowder,” appears in his thoroughly enjoyable and enlightening book, *Serious Pig*, offers the one “innovation” worth taking seriously. He specifies that potatoes should be cut in the manner referred to as “thick-thin.” This simple technique involves cutting your potatoes (any all-purpose potato will do, although Yukon Golds are consistently available and dependable)

into bite-sized wedges “the shape of an ax head” by casually circling the peeled spuds with a paring knife. This allows the thin parts to “melt” into and thicken the chowder while leaving larger chunks to provide a creamy counter-texture to the flaky chunks of fish.

Warming the milk before adding it speeds up the proceedings. A dollop of butter added to the bowl when serving provides an inviting puddle of liquid gold. The only thing you could possibly need is a slice or two of toasted country bread for a comforting and satisfying meal.

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## COMMUNITY BRIEFS

## HOLIDAY CRAFT FAIRS

The Desmond-Fish Library Holiday Boutique continues in Garrison from Thursday to Sunday until Dec. 10 during library hours, and offers handmade gifts that include art, crafts, soaps, jewelry and candles.

St. Mary's Episcopal Church in Cold Spring will hold its Craft Fair and History Exhibit on Saturday, Dec. 2, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The fair features Christmas décor, homemade baked goods and stews, and gift baskets and crafts. There will also be documents and photos on display marking the 140th anniversary of the death of Robert Parrott, the inventor of the Parrott cannon, West Point Foundry superintendent and warden of St. Mary's.

Self Made: A Makers Collective will host a holiday bash on Saturday, Dec. 2, from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. at the American Legion/VFW Hall at 413 Main St., in Beacon. The event features 28 craftspeople and designers from the region, along with food and music. Admission is \$2, although children younger than 12 are free. See selfmademakers.com.

The Howland Cultural Center kicks off its Holiday Fine Arts and Crafts Small Gifts Show on Tuesday, Dec. 5, from 1 to 5 p.m. It will be open Tuesday to Saturday through Dec. 23, with the exception of Saturday, Dec. 9. A reception with exhibiting artists will be held Dec. 16 from 3 to 5 p.m.



A necklace by Ann Egan, whose work will be available at the Holiday Fine Arts and Crafts Small Gifts Show that opens on Dec. 5 at the Howland Cultural Center in Beacon

Photo provided

The Hudson Valley Artisan Marketplace will take place on Saturday, Dec. 9, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Old VFW Hall in Cold Spring. The show will feature jewelry, knit items, baked goods and artwork. See hvartmarket.wix.com/hvartmarket.

The Putnam Arts Council will open its Craft and Art Showcase and Sale from noon to 5 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 2, and continue it daily through Dec. 10 at the Belle Levine Art Center in Mahopac. (It is open until 7 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 7.) The sale includes pottery, jewelry, artwork, glass and body-care products. See putnamartscouncil.com.

The Work:Shop Winter Market will host its fifth annual sale with work from 20 artisans on Saturday, Dec. 9, and Sunday, Dec. 10. Gift items include body-care products and candles from Beacon Bee, wool hats from Beaconknits and spirits from Dennings Point Distillery, along with ceramics, jewelry, glassware and baked goods. The market will be open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Dec. 9 and 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Dec. 10 at the Wickham Solid Wood Studio in Beacon. See workshopwintermarket.com.

## TREE LIGHTING CEREMONIES



The Beacon Bicycle Tree in 2014

Photo by Ethan Harrison



COLOMBIA TO NELSONVILLE — Nicole Gutierrez and Pahola Porras, cousins visiting from Bogota, decided to escape the hustle and bustle of New York City on Thanksgiving to hike in Philipstown. After getting off the train in Cold Spring and walking up Main Street, they came across a sign outside The Church on the Hill and joined 50 people inside for its fourth annual Thanksgiving breakfast. From left are Gutierrez, Kathy Toris-Rowe and Porras.

Photo by Rene Games-Ford

Cold Spring's annual tree lighting is scheduled for 6 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 2, at the riverfront bandstand. There will be music and a visit from Santa Claus.

The sixth annual Winter Hill tree lighting will take place on Thursday, Dec. 7, from 5:30 to 7 p.m. at 20 Nazareth Way in Garrison, just east of Route 9D off Snake Hill Road. There will be food and drinks as well as Christmas carols sung by the Walter Hoving Choir.

The Bicycle Christmas Tree Lighting at Beacon's Polhill Park at Main Street and Route 9D will take place on Saturday, Dec. 9. The activities begin at 3:30 p.m. with a children's craft; at 4:30 p.m., the Beacon High School Choir will lead caroling; and at 4:50 p.m. Santa will arrive. The tree will be lit at 5 p.m. and Santa will greet families until 6 p.m. Parking is avail-

able at City Hall across the street. Bring a mug for hot cider or chocolate. As part of Second Saturday, galleries and shops will be open until 9 p.m.

Sculptor Ed Benavente, who created the bicycle tree (which has doubled in size since it first appeared in 2011), also creates a menorah from bicycle parts that will be lit from Tuesday, Dec. 12, to Dec. 19 at the Beacon Building at 427 Main St. at 5:30 each evening, with the exception of Dec. 15, when it will be lit at 4:45 p.m. Each evening will honor a different part of the community, including (in order) volunteers, educators, first responders, children, business owners, clergy, activists, and artists and musicians.

## Group Show at Buster Levi

Continues through Dec. 30

The Buster Levi Gallery in Cold Spring will open a group show on Friday, Dec. 1, with a reception from 6 to 8 p.m. It features the work of member artists Ada Pilar Cruz, Tim D'Acquisto, Barbara Smity Gioia, Jenne M. Currie, Bill Kooistra, Vincent Baldassano and Eric Erickson, and continues through Dec. 30. See busterlevigallery.com.

## Superintendent Search

Haldane to hold public forum

The Haldane Board of Education will hold a public forum and conduct an online survey to solicit feedback from community members about the type of leader they would like to see as the district's next superintendent- (Continued on next page)

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## COMMUNITY BRIEFS (from previous page)

dent after Diana Bowers retires in June. The forum will take place at 7 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 11, in the music room at the elementary/middle school. The survey can be accessed at [haldaneschool.org](http://haldaneschool.org) under the Superintendent Search heading.



A photograph by Steven Edson, whose work will be on display at the Garrison Art Center starting Dec. 9. Image provided

## Road Works

*Steven Edson photos at art center*

The Garrison Art Center will open *Road Paint*, an exhibit of photographs by Steven Edson that explore the textures, lines and shapes of road systems, with a reception from 5 to 7 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 9. It continues through Jan. 7 and runs concurrently with *PHOTOcentric*, the art center's annual juried photography exhibit. See [garrisonartcenter.org](http://garrisonartcenter.org).

## Putnam Flu Shot Clinic

*Scheduled for Dec. 5 in Brewster*

The Putnam County Department of Health will hold its final walk-in flu vaccine clinic of the year on Tuesday, Dec. 5, from 2 to 6:30 p.m. at its Brewster office. Any county resident aged 18 or older is eligible. The shot is \$25, or free for anyone 65 years or older or who has a Medicare card. Call 845-808-1390.

## International Crèches

*Graymoor exhibit through Jan. 14*

Graymoor's annual *Christmas Around the World* crèche exhibit will be on view through Jan. 14 with crèches from nearly every country and continent in the world. The materials used to create the nativity scenes include straw, wood, paper, stone, ceramics and animal horns.

## Regimental Coat

*Historian to explain uniform*

Historian Phil Weaver will discuss the Revolutionary-era regimental coat

worn by the commandant of Fort Schuyler, Col. Peter Gansevoort Jr., in a talk at the Fort Montgomery Historic Site on Thursday, Dec. 7.

Many uniform experts initially believed the coat was unique, or possibly German in origin, but Weaver has documented that it was typical of several styles worn during the period. His talk, Peter Gansevoort's (Not-so) Unusual Regimental Coat, begins at 7 p.m. The suggested donation is \$5, and reservations are required. Call 845-446-2134.



A regimental coat that belonged to Col. Peter Gansevoort Jr., and was made around 1776, will be discussed at Fort Montgomery on Dec. 7

*National Museum of American History*

## Beacon

### Elf, Live!

The newly formed Beacon Performing Arts Center will present a production of *Elf the Musical Jr.* at Beacon High School on Friday, Dec. 8, and Saturday, Dec. 9. The cast includes student actors who range in age from 5 to 17. Tickets are \$10 at [beaconperformingartscenter.com](http://beaconperformingartscenter.com).

## Literary Salon

*First gathering Dec. 10*

Get Lit Beacon will hold its first informal gathering for writers on Sunday, Dec. 10, from 5 to 7 p.m. at Oak Vino Wine Bar. Organized by Julie Chibbaro, the salon is an opportunity for writers to socialize, share their work and hang out. Search for "Get Lit Beacon" at [facebook.com](https://facebook.com). Oak Vino is at 389 Main St.



Pete Seeger (left) and Woody Guthrie in a snapshot taken about 1950

## Concert Celebrates Seeger

*50th anniversary of Seeger-Guthrie book*

To mark the 50th anniversary of the publication of Pete Seeger and Woody Guthrie's book on American folk songs of the Depression and labor movement of the 1930s, *Hard Hitting Songs for Hard-Hit People*, the Towne Crier Café in Beacon will host a benefit concert at 7 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 3, for the Beacon Food Pantry and the American Center for Folk Music. The performers will include John Cohen of the New Lost City Ramblers, Happy Traum, Guthrie's Ghost (Hope Machine, Amy Fradon, Jacob Bernz and David Bernz), and The Rix (Rick Nestler and Rick Palieri).

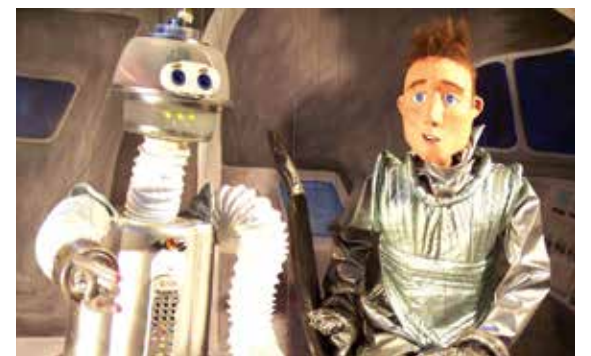


**WINNING PHOTO**  
Nicole Zeko of Clinton Corners, near Millbrook, won Central Hudson's fifth annual Fall Foliage Photo contest with this shot taken in Stanfordville.

## Puppets From the Past and Future

*No Strings returns to Howland*

The Howland Public Library will host a performance by No Strings Marionettes at the Howland Cultural Center in Beacon at 1 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 10. *Nick of Time* tells the story of astronaut Nick Eastman, who is sucked into a time warp, meets dinosaurs, then jumps forward into a bizarre future. Admission is \$10 at the door for adults; children are admitted free. The holiday film *Scrooge* will be shown at 4 p.m.



Glitch the robot and astronaut Nick Eastman will appear in a No Strings Marionettes show at the Howland Cultural Center on Dec. 10. Photo provided

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1. United Church, Routes 301 and 9



2. St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, Beacon

# Steeple Answers

(from Page 20)



3. Beacon Engine Co. No. 1



4. St. Joseph's Church, Garrison



5. Hustis Barn, Route 9, Philipstown



6. Our Lady of Loretto, Cold Spring



7. South Highland United Methodist Church, Garrison



8. U.S. Post Office, Beacon


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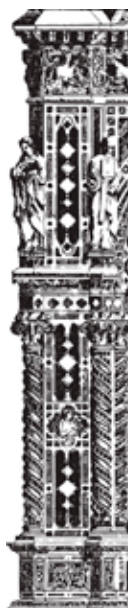
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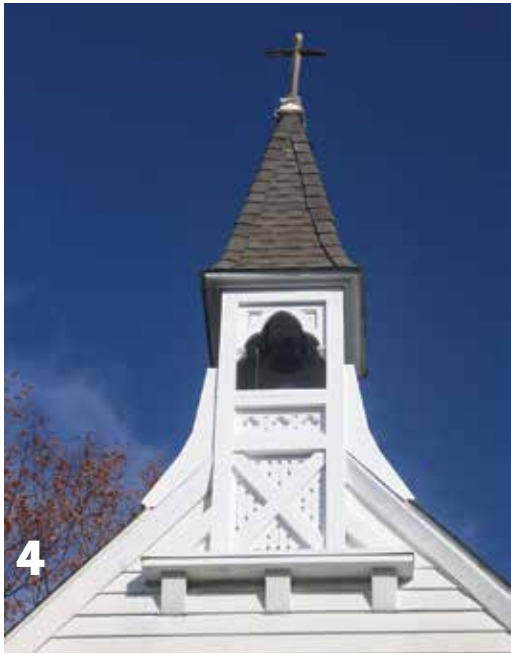
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**Hidden in Plain Sight**

**Steeple Chase**

**Photos by Michael Turton**

**H**ow often do you look up? Likely not enough. Can you identify these steeples and cupolas in Philipstown and Beacon?

**The answers are on Page 18.**

