



Meet the World's Oldest Barber

Longtime Newburgh resident, 106, has cut hair for 95 years

By Michael Turton

At age 98, Anthony Mancinelli entered Guinness World Records as the world's oldest barber. Now 106, his record stands; he works an eight-hour shift every Monday and Tuesday at Fantastic Cuts at the New Windsor Mall. Earlier this month I interviewed him while at the same time getting a much-needed trim. (He asked if I wanted a crew cut, which brought a quick "No!")

Born in Italy on March 2, 1911, Mancinelli emigrated to the U.S. in 1919 at age 8 with his family after his father had established himself in Newburgh. Woodrow Wilson was the president; there have been 17 others since.

Life was not easy for the new Americans. "There were eight kids in the family and my father only earned \$25 a week" at a local factory, Mancinelli recalls. "We ate a lot of bread, I can tell you that."

At 11, Mancinelli decided to get a job to help out the family. "What can you do?" his father asked. "I'm going to deliver papers in the morning and afternoon, then go to the barber shop and learn the barber business," his son replied.

"I used to get up at 4 a.m. to do the morning papers, and then I delivered the *Newburgh News* in the afternoon, after school," he says. "My father got up later; nobody else was getting up that early." After the afternoon papers, Mancinelli went to the barber shop until about 8 p.m. before returning home for dinner.

He became a barber at age 12; his father was his first customer. "He had a moustache and I used to curl the ends of it," Mancinelli says. A haircut cost 15 cents and a shave was 10 cents. "We used hand clippers — nothing electric."

Early in his career, Mancinelli did more than hair and beards. Customers with high blood pressure came to him for treatment. "They'd say: 'Can you take some blood from me?'" he says, noting that the drugstore across the street sold leeches, which he bought for 2 cents each to apply to the customer's (Continued on Page 8)



FROSTING THE SNOWMAN — A young artist concentrates on his work during a Dec. 12 holiday cookie-decorating workshop at the Desmond-Fish Library in Garrison. For more photos, see Page 20.

Photos by Ross Corsair



Wanted: Firefighters

Amid national trend, volunteers harder to find

By Jeff Simms

Around 7:15 p.m. on Nov. 27, Beacon firefighters responded to a two-alarm house fire on North Elm Street.

On the scene within minutes, three firefighters soon had the blaze, which started outside and then entered the home, under control. Both occupants and their dog escaped without injury.

With three of the city's 13 full-time, or career, firefighters at the site until after 11 p.m., five off-duty career firefighters and volunteers from Rombout and Glenham manned Beacon's three stations in case of emergencies.

The night ended without further incidents, but Beacon Fire Chief Gary Van Voorhis said the blaze nevertheless provided a snapshot of a trend that's plagued departments nationwide for years: declining numbers of volunteers.

"At the beginning of every fire in Beacon, we're short-handed," Van Voorhis

said, "and the beginning is the most crucial time with a fire. It's when you need your manpower."

That evening, one full-time firefighter entered the house alone with a hose line. A volunteer had accompanied the three career officers to the site, but he was not certified for interior firefighting.

A second volunteer who was certified arrived moments later. But even that short time alone was critical, Van Voorhis said.

"We can pump all the water we want from the outside, but you have to get inside to make a rescue, to check for an extension of the fire and to extinguish the fire," he said. "What if he went in and the floor collapsed or the condition of the fire got worse? It's an unsafe practice for one person to go into a fire."

Shortage everywhere

The predicament isn't exclusive to Beacon. In Philipstown, the Cold Spring, North Highlands, Continental Village and Garrison fire companies are manned by volunteers, and all have reported the same challenges recruiting members.

Along with Beacon, each is listed at a (To Page 6)



Reporter Mike Turton with Anthony Mancinelli after Mike's trim Photo by Gregory Gunder

**DEAR
READER**

Your support allows *The Current*, which operates as a nonprofit, to remain **FREE** to the community, providing the best in local news and arts coverage. See highlandscurrent.com/donate. For a look behind the scenes, turn to Page 3 (and keep turning).



5 Five Questions: ED BENAVENTE

By Pamela Doan

Sculptor Ed Benavente created the Beacon Bicycle Tree in 2011 and the Bicycle Menorah in 2014.

What inspired the tree and menorah?

Artists have a particular knack for making something out of nothing. Since there was no budget for a big public Christmas tree, I was able to use what I already had to make the first rendition. It was meager at best but we encouraged people to make their own ornaments out of recycled materials. Once the tree was established, it was a no-brainer to include a menorah.

Where did you get the bike parts?

The majority came from Peoples Bicycle on Main Street.

Where did you get the idea to use bicycles?

A bicycle is a machine powered by people, just like a community. Beacon has struggled through tough times. But ultimately it was the people who made an effort to bring new life and prosperity to the area.

Why did you become a sculptor?

I have always enjoyed physical work. Sculpture requires a certain amount of physical abuse that lets you know you are alive. Creating a work that can exist out-of-doors is particularly gratifying because it can coexist with the natural world and be "discovered" by the public.

Where do the tree and menorah go during the off season?

Santa's helpers relocate everything to an undisclosed bicycle shop at the North Pole.



Ed Benavente at the Beacon Bicycle Tree Photo by Russ Cusick

Langley Names Command Team

New Putnam sheriff begins Dec. 29

Putnam County Sheriff-elect Robert L. Langley Jr., who will be sworn in Dec. 29, named the five captains who will make up his command team.

Jon Jennings, Bureau of Criminal Investigation

Jennings, who has been with the FBI for 22 years, has investigated homicide, drug trafficking, racketeering, money laundering and weapons trafficking. He was the lead case agent on a multi-year investigation of the Genovese crime family, resulting in prosecution of more than 100 defendants.

Kevin Cheverko, Putnam County Jail

Cheverko has been commissioner of correction since 2010 for the Westchester County Department of Correction, where he oversees the Westchester County Jail. Among other goals, Cheverko will work to have the Putnam County Jail nationally accredited.

Lisa Ortolano, Civil Division

Ortolano, who has been with the Putnam County District Attorney's Office since 2009, is a former supervisor for the Bronx County District Attorney's Criminal Court Bureau, where she oversaw the work of 60 attorneys in the prosecution of violent felony offenses and drug crimes.

Edward Swarm Jr., Road Patrol

Swarm served for 24 years with the New York City Police Department, where he led a unit that rotated into high-crime areas. After being promoted to lieutenant of detectives, Swarm managed a team of 20 detectives. Swarm also served as a patrol supervisor.

James Babcock, Communications

From 1993 until 2016, Babcock served in the Putnam County Sheriff's Department, where he was a field training officer and a member of the Marine Patrol and Emergency Response teams. In 2011 Babcock became a criminal investigator.

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Cell Tower Deadline Looms

Philipstown zoning vote scheduled for Jan. 8

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

Airing new information and old arguments, the public hearing on a cell tower proposed for Vineyard Road off Route 9 in Philipstown continued last week and will resume again in January — briefly — before the Philipstown Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) votes on the project.

After applicant Homeland Towers declined to delay a federally mandated deadline for the ZBA to make its decision, the panel extended its public hearing for an additional hour on Monday, Jan. 8, and scheduled a vote for that same evening. It instructed residents to submit comments by Friday, Dec. 29.

(Coincidentally, on Jan. 4, the Nelsonville Zoning Board of Appeals intends to continue its public hearing on a separate Homeland Towers proposal for a cell tower on Rockledge Road overlooking the Cold Spring Cemetery. The federal deadline on that review is also Jan. 8.)

The Philipstown ZBA announced its plans on Dec. 11 at a hearing held at the Philipstown Recreation Center following a sometimes heated session that lasted more than three hours. It again drew a crowd of residents who far outnumbered the Homeland Towers delegation.

In partnership with Verizon Wireless, Homeland Towers wants to construct a 140-foot tower on 64 acres slightly south of the intersection of Routes 9 and 301. Vineyard Road ascends to a dead end from Route 9 and leads to another dead end, Round Hill Road.

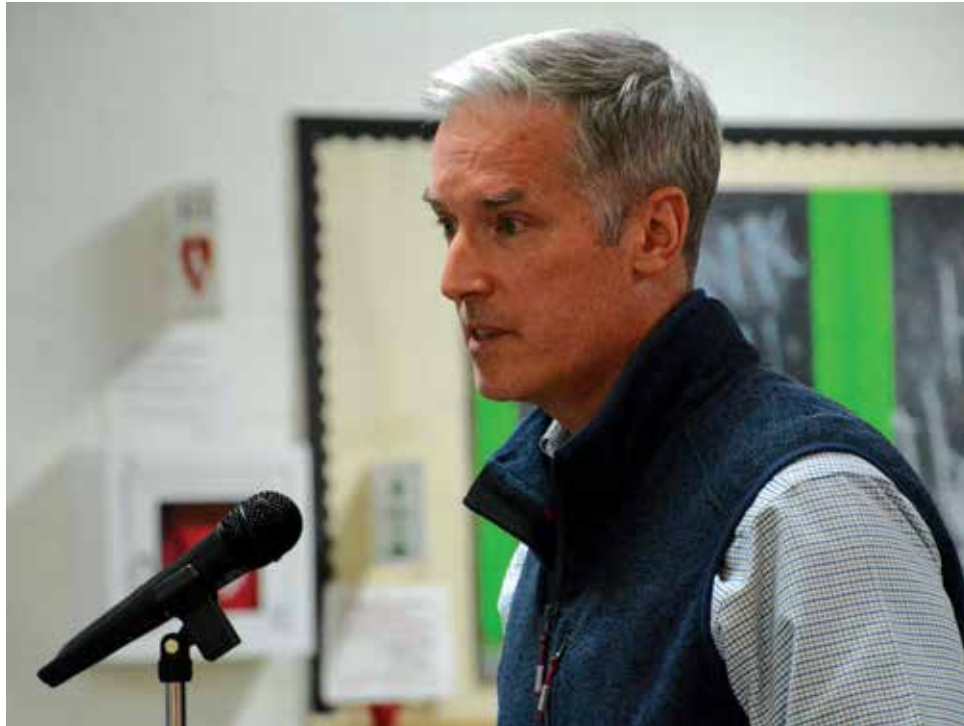
Under federal rules, municipalities must either deny or approve cell tower applications within 150 days. Homeland Towers submitted the application last summer, though it has since made changes, such as reducing the tower height from 180 feet to 140 feet. Along with a special-use permit from the ZBA, the project needs a wetlands permit from the Conservation Board, the ZBA's partner in the public hearing.

The tower site is not far from Mekeel's Corner, which already has a 19-year-old, 100-foot cell tower that Homeland Towers deems unsuitable for upgrading.

According to Robert Gaudio, Homeland Towers' lawyer, the Mekeel's Corner tower "doesn't work from a radio-frequency standpoint" and even if it were upgraded "a significant gap in service" would remain. The tower also "was not constructed to be doubled in height," he said.

Robert Dee, the ZBA chairman, reiterated that his board would consider a variance for a higher tower at Mekeel's Corner, which it sees as preferable to a new tower.

Gaudio noted that if Verizon moves its equipment to a new tower at Mekeel's, the old tower may continue to operate. Homeland does not own the existing tower, and it's not known, he said, if the company that does own it, Crown Castle, would keep it operational or cooperate with Homeland Towers and Verizon in



Allen Jordan addresses the Philipstown ZBA and Conservation Board about a cell tower proposed near his home.

Photo by L.S. Armstrong

installing a new tower to serve multiple carriers.

Andrew Campanelli, a lawyer representing residents who oppose the new tower, asserted that Homeland Towers wants a new structure because Verizon could make its own deal with Crown Castle to build a higher tower at Mekeel's Corner, cutting Homeland Towers out of the deal.

"They pick the cheapest location possible. These things fail all the time. They're not built to be as safe as possible; they're built to be as cheap as possible."

Furthermore, he argued, cell-tower companies generally want to build more towers, anticipating increased wireless demand. They also want to put them on sites they personally select because "what drives preferred location [for towers] is money," said Campanelli, whose practice focuses on telecommunications law. "They pick the cheapest location possible," with low rent, few trees and easy access.

The towers can pose safety threats, he added, because "these things fail all the time. They're not built to be as safe as possible; they're built to be as cheap as possible."

Like other critics, he questioned the need for a new tower and claimed that "Verizon's own website says it has absolutely no gaps in the precise area" where Homeland Towers says one exists. "You have seen zero direct evidence from Verizon that it has a gap in any type of service whatsoever," he told the boards.

Gaudio rebutted Campanelli's assertion as "absolutely not true."

Campanelli also said Verizon's standard is a call-completion rate of 98 percent or better, although federal telecommunications law does not require that level and

"does not guarantee seamless coverage."

Homeowners near the Vineyard Road site have reported no problems with wireless service and said driving tests reveal the same lack of difficulties. ZBA Member Vincent Cestone similarly said tests conducted from his car found no service lapses, even for streaming videos.

But Gaudio called such reports "anecdotal and unreliable."



Garrison Post Office Open Dec. 24

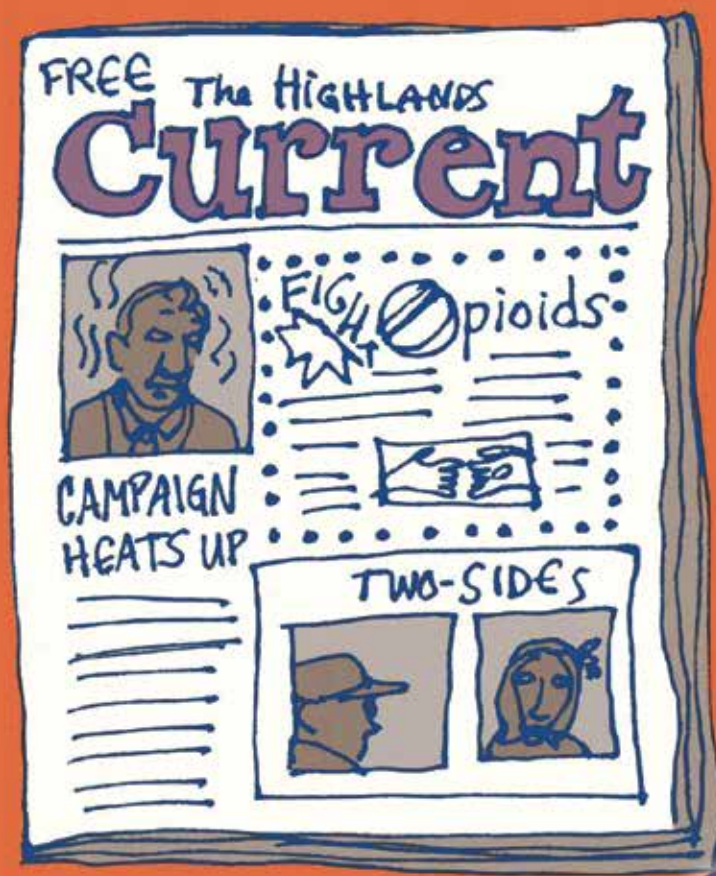
The U.S. Post Office in Garrison will be open on Sunday, Dec. 24, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. for Cold Spring and Philipstown package pickups.

In addition, Campanelli cautioned that, by law, a tower's height later can be increased, so that while Homeland Towers cropped 40 feet from the Vineyard Road tower, it could add 25 feet or more in the future.

He told the board that an "adverse aesthetic impact" of a cell tower on residents' properties "is perfectly logical and legal grounds to deny the application."

Allen Jordan, who lives on White Rocks Lane, said the Vineyard tower would be an intrusive presence looming over his house and expressed fears for its effect on the natural surroundings, including a stream already prone to flooding, and on his children. He predicted it will also prove "devastating" to his property values, adding that "I can't imagine that for a lot of people in this room it's not going to be devastating as well."

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters to the Editor

We welcome letters to the editor, which can be emailed to editor@highlandscurrent.com or mailed to 161 Main St., Cold Spring, NY 10516. As with online comments, we ask that writers remain civil and avoid personal attacks. All letters are subject to editing for length, accuracy and clarity. The writer's full name, email and phone number must be included, although only the writer's name and village or city are published. We do not print anonymous letters or those written under pseudonyms.

Safe storage

I was glad to hear that the Philipstown Board has resuscitated the safe storage gun safety discussion ("Philipstown Board Renews Push for Safe-Storage Gun Law," Dec. 15).

I write having had two cousins, from two different families, both young men, kill themselves. One was developmentally disabled, but working and living independently. One Christmas Eve, after both his parents had died, he shot himself, leaving a note about his loneliness. We do not know where he found the gun.

My other cousin a star student, who had friends and a bright future as a doctor. One Saturday night after he MC'd the medical school talent show, he went to his room and killed himself. His journals gave no hint of distress, and his family does not know where he found the gun.

We can argue all we want about the Second Amendment and its parameters, but I doubt our founders had suicide in mind. Please pass this sensible law.

Gretchen Dykstra, *Cold Spring*

Beacon development

Once again the City of Beacon Planning Board has chosen to side with mega-developers engaged in the uglification of a small city ("Edgewater Passes Environmental Muster," Dec. 15). The board is doing this by ignoring the teachers, principal, superintendent and parents and, most of all, shutting down their own common sense.

Hundreds of apartments can lead to hundreds of children who will flood into a school system already is strapped for funds.

The City Council should fire the members of the Planning Board and follow gender equality parameters in replacing them. That's the only way to stop developers who want to build more unaffordable artists' lofts while reaping the tax benefits. Absolutely no variances should be given to any mega-developer.

It was the Planning Board, the previous Republican-dominated City Council and variances that has given Beacon the monstrosity at 344 Main St. and the one going up at Elm. Unless the Planning Board

changes, we will get more of the same.

Naomi Canaan, *Beacon*

Beacon Mayor Randy Casale has two years left to his term in office; it's time we start thinking of alternatives to the current administration. Enough is enough. As a community, we need to find our voice and select a candidate who understands that development should work for the good of the community.

This is not to say that a developer should not realize a profit. But that the profit should not come at the expense of the community.

At a recent meeting of the Zoning Board of Appeals, I listened to the rational given for allowing the variances requested by the developers of 248 Main St. for the property and the adjacent property. This developer asked for and received variance that will allow him to maximize the footprint of his building, in addition to a maximum height of five stories.

You would have thought the horror show up the street at 344 Main St. would have caused the board to ask the developer to try again with something that fits in with the existing landscape.

At the Dec. 4 Beacon City Council meeting, it was apparent no one is looking at the overall effects of these projects. Maybe the council can ask the students at Beacon High School to use a computer-aided design program to create a rendering of what Main Street will look like if all these projects are completed.

We are still not addressing affordable housing in a responsible way. I don't know of any families that are in need of a studio or one-bedroom apartment. But if all goes in the direction the developers wish we'll

have a glut of them.

Donna Francis, *Beacon*

Sexual harassment

Sexual harassment is a problem that has permeated our society. I have heard stories from so many of my friends, my constituents and my colleagues of being sexually assaulted or harassed, and many of these stories do not end with the aggressor being held accountable.

In the wake of the #MeToo movement and in response to the many allegations of sexual harassment and assault that have come forward in recent weeks, I have introduced legislation to create a unified policy to address sexual assaults involving New York State employees. This is one step toward a better system to protect people in the workplace from being targeted, and give them recourse if they become victims of someone they work with.

However, this is not enough. Every entity must look internally at their policy for protecting their own, and all allegations must be investigated. It is unacceptable to brush these things under the rug or to turn a blind eye. I, and many other women, am tired of hearing the "as a father, as a husband, I am horrified" speeches upon the media's coverage of a problem that should have never been allowed to persist.

Furthermore, no person should have to live in silence because of something that happened to him or her. The only outcome worse than a blind eye is when a victim does not feel that they will be taken seriously when coming forward about being harassed or assaulted.

This is not an issue of one bad actor, or one career track having a toxic environment. It does not matter if you are the president, a CEO, a doctor, a parent, a colleague, a boss, a classmate or anyone else, an adult must be held responsible for their actions.

Sandy Galef, *Albany*

Galef represents Philipstown in the State Assembly.

Digital frontier

I'm sorry to go negative on this, but I am not impressed with the plans by the Desmond-Fish Library in Garrison for a technology lab, which I think mostly sounds like a waste of money ("Digital Frontier," Dec. 8).

We are already paying millions of dollars every year in school taxes to do pretty much the same things that this tech center proposes to do. I have no problem with how people spend their money, but it should be noted that this is a duplication of services (Continued on next page)



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR (from previous page)

that are already being provided by our school districts.

Also, if the goal is “making digital and cultural literacy” more than “a privilege for people who can afford to be a part of it,” as the library’s new digital services coordinator says, how about promoting a little bit of plain, old-fashioned literacy and culture instead of another visit to the Short-Attention-Span Theater?

Screen addiction is a very real problem, especially with our young people. If you go to any coffee shop, you will see the teens at a table, not talking to each other but clicking and swiping their screens. That is what passes for socialization. We do not need more “virtual” reality in our lives, we need more reality and human contact that is unfiltered by some device that is designed to take away our intelligence and humanity.

Patty Villanova, Putnam Valley

Editor’s note: Villanova’s comment was originally posted at highlandscurrent.

com. Some of the responses follow.

You’re stretching to find a negative here. The demand for technology help is huge and continues to grow. The library’s Project Code Spring introduced a lot of kids to coding and several of them are well on their way to great careers based on some of the things they learned from librarian Pam McCluskey. As this article notes, they had to turn kids away it became so popular.

I wish the Desmond-Fish well with this and applaud its effort. Remember, non-students can’t just walk into Haldane and ask to use the tech equipment. Providing a space that adults can go to, for free, and get technology help is a great service to the community. I can’t wait to check it out.

Dave McCarthy, Nelsonville

Teaching children technology and how to be fluent in coding is a version of literacy that we must provide. Let’s say they want to grow up and have two Etsy stores

to sell jewelry? This library even taught a class on Etsy! Having a public library to assist them in their dreams and aspirations is invaluable.

Hanging on to old-fashioned ways of communication is never going to help kids. We don’t etch things in stone anymore. We can trust this careful, beautiful library to make sound decisions with our tax money.

Debra Miller

Too much screen time for children and tech addiction are serious problems. My focus with many kids at Project Code Spring was the difference between *screen use* and *screen time*. Screen use means you are collaborating and communicating with others through technology to create something or improve someone’s life. Screen time is drooling in front of device and forgetting the world around you.

I helped countless parents learn how to lock their WiFi routers and also how to use K9 Web-protection (free software) to set time limits and to block sites. I sat down with children and parents to create screen-use “contracts.” We outlined what the screen use would be in their home and what sanctions would be implemented (by using K9) if rules were broken.

Rewards would be outlined, too. For instance, if a child got off the screen five minutes before the timer went off, he or she would earn five minutes of extra Minecraft time on their permitted hour Saturday morning. Learning to “bank” the time

helped kids learn time-management skills in a meaningful and positive way. Parents would then use K9 to set the Saturday timer to reflect the extra minutes.

Lastly, the contract would outline screen-free rooms and days. Sundays would be the screen-free day, or the kitchen table and bedrooms would be screen-free zones.

The contract was not all about the kids. Children learn what they see. Parents also could not use their screens in those rooms or on the screen-free day. They promised to model good screen use. For example, they had to get a real alarm clock. Using the phone as an alarm clock shows the kids you look at your screen first thing in the morning and then last thing in the evening. Parents had to stop using Facebook, Instagram or commenting online for a week to reflect on their own overuse of screens.

I believe both children and parents are nervous about being online. Parents feel they have no control and kids felt pushed by peers to go to uncomfortable places. The contracts relieved much stress for both parties so they could create with technology and not just consume it.

The above was not something covered in the schools. We did it at the library.

I have moved on to a different job, but still love my library and this community. Any parent who needs help with screen addiction can email me at pam@glory-horse.net or pop into the library and see Ryan Biracree. I will never waver from my commitment to digital literacy.

Pam McCluskey Doran, Hillsdale

Coming to New York on Jan. 1



Snowmobilers on a New York trail

NYS

The Paid Family Leave program provides an eight-week benefit funded through employee payroll deductions that for 2018 are capped at a maximum of \$1.63 per week. By 2021 the benefit will be 12 weeks at 67 percent of an employee’s weekly wage. The program is designed for employees who need time with a newly born, adopted or fostered child; to care for a family member with a serious health condition; or to assist loved ones when a family member is deployed abroad on active military duty. See ny.gov/paidfamilyleave or call 844-337-6303.

The third year of a four-year property tax rebate program begins. Homeowners who are STAR-eligible with incomes of \$275,000 annually or less and who reside in tax-cap compliant school districts will receive a check that will average \$380.

The state Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit will increase for taxpayers with incomes between \$50,000 and \$150,000 annually. The cap on qualifying expenses will rise to \$9,000 from \$6,000.

Couples filing jointly who earn \$40,000 to \$300,000 annually will see the beginning of a gradual, eight-year decrease in their income tax rate, from 6.65 to 5.5 percent. In the first year, about 4.4 million New Yorkers are expected to see savings.

A ballot initiative approved by voters on Nov. 7 will allow courts to reduce or revoke the public pension of a public official convicted of a felony related to his or her duties on or after Jan. 1.

The minimum wage outside of New York City will become \$10.40 per hour, up from \$9.70. The minimum-wage for fast-food workers outside of New York City will increase to \$11.75 per hour, from \$10.75.

The minimum fine for operating an unregistered snowmobile will be \$200, with half going to the Trail Development and Maintenance Fund. The new law also increases funding for police snowmobile patrols. Last winter there were 24 deaths over the winter, the most since 2008, with most caused by excess speed, collisions with obstacles covered in snow, or thin ice.

Also:

As of Dec. 19, schools are allowed to store and use epinephrine auto-injectors (EpiPens) on students or staff members in an emergency “whether or not there is a previous history of severe allergic reaction.”

As of Dec. 22, insurers may not require preauthorization for neonatal intensive care.



Wanted: Firefighters *(from Page 1)*

website, RecruitNY.org, and participates in a recruitment weekend in April, both projects of the Firemen’s Association of the State of New York. In September, the FASNY received a \$1.5 million federal grant to recruit members for the state’s 1,800 volunteer departments.

During the recruiting weekend last April, Chief Steve Smith of the Cold Spring

company, who has been a firefighter for 25 years, noted that one common misconception about volunteering is that there is an age limit.

“Our youngest volunteer is 16 and our oldest is 80,” he said, adding that a 50-year-old man asked about becoming an associate member but thought he would be too old. But not every member is



A closet holds marching caps, unused for 20 years or more, once worn by Beacon firefighters in parades.

Photo by J. Simms



Two Beacon firetrucks on a call

Photo by Scott Harrison

a firefighter and other roles such as assisting with traffic during calls must also be filled, he said.

According to the National Fire Protection Association, 70 percent of the nation’s 1.2 million firefighters are volunteers, and 95 percent of those volunteers are in districts that protect fewer than 25,000 people.

But the number of volunteer firefighters in the U.S. reached a 30-year low in 2011, the National Volunteer Fire Council says. There has been slow growth since then, but it hasn’t been enough to meet the increasing volume of calls, which have tripled due in large part to an increase in emergency medical calls. In Beacon, there’s also the added factor of 1,000-plus new housing

units planned or under construction.

The reasons for the shortage run the gamut from training requirements to facial hair, Van Voorhis says.

In New York state, volunteers must complete more than 130 hours of training to be certified for interior firefighting. When Van Voorhis began volunteering in Fishkill in 1971, the course load was 36 hours.

Volunteers must be clean-shaven (although moustaches are allowed) because the Occupational Safety and Health Administration says that facial hair breaks the airtight seal between the firefighter’s skin and an oxygen mask.

“Forty years ago, that stuff was overlooked,” Van Voorhis said. These days, not



The Art of Rick Austin

SallyeAnder is excited to host Rick Austin’s first art show in the Hudson Valley. Rick, the older brother of our founder Gary, is a professional artist. Landscapes and seascapes are his preferred subject matter. He uses a unique centuries-old oil glazing technique—mixing oil paint with non-toxic lavender spike oil—allowing him to achieve atmospheric effects that we see in nature.

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The Night of the Iguana
Jan. 14, 7 p.m.

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

Wanted: Firefighters *(from Page 6)*

only are the requirements stricter, but the career path has changed, as well. Volunteers typically want to become paid firefighters, and they're more likely today to relocate for a job than to wait for one in Beacon.

Beacon's career firefighters work in 24-hour shifts — one day on, three days off. One firefighter mans each of Beacon's three stations at all times and a corps of around two dozen volunteers — including junior firefighters and fire police — help on emergency calls when they can.

Years ago each fire company (Beacon's three stations are all individually incorporated) had twice as many volunteers, often with waiting lists. Many times, several generations of a family would serve.

"Everyone is working a lot more than they used to," said R.J. Trappe, who became a career firefighter in Beacon in 2014, at age 21. "When we had hundreds of volunteers, everyone worked in Beacon and the system worked well. Now people are commuting to the city and they just don't have time."

David Schlussman of Beacon is balancing a full-time job with the training required to become an interior-certified volunteer. He attends night courses two to three times per week.

"I signed up as a volunteer in high school but then moved," he said. "When I came back to Beacon, it was an impulse that it would be a good thing to do, but I didn't realize the commitment when I



Beacon Fire Chief Gary Van Voorhis and firefighter R.J. Trappe *Photo by J. Simms*

signed up again."

At 33, Schlussman is a rarity. "No one gets 25- to 35-year-old volunteers anymore," said Van Voorhis. "They're either newlyweds or they have young kids at that age, and that makes it a lot harder."

The majority of the city's career firefighters are either single or do not have children, he said.

So far this year, the Beacon Fire Department has responded to more than 1,000 emergency calls (all career firefighters in the city are also certified EMTs), and about 500 fire-related calls. But what can be done to create more volunteers?

Van Voorhis says a key strategy is to cultivate an interest in young people. The department has made nearly two dozen fire safety presentations this year at city schools, day cares, summer community programs and at parks. The Beacon and Cold Spring departments also run summer academies for students, some of whom later join the company as volunteers.

Still, it hasn't been enough. Sitting alone in the three-story Beacon Engine station on a Saturday afternoon, Ron Arigo, 48, a career firefighter since 2015, recalled that "we couldn't wait to get into the fire service when I was 16. But times have changed."

What Would It Cost?

A 2015 study commissioned by the Firemen's Association of the State of New York, which represents volunteers, estimated the cost of converting volunteer companies to paid departments in salaries, equipment and retrofitting stations with sleeping and dining facilities. Its consultants concluded Putnam would need an additional \$129 million annually, the equivalent of a 56 percent increase in county taxes, and Dutchess would need \$335 million, or a tax increase of 45 percent.

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Meet the World's Oldest Barber (from Page 1)

skin to draw blood.

For customers who complained of chest pains, he employed “cupping,” which involved placing glass cups on their chest to “draw the pain out,” he says. “I was the only barber doing that. I don’t know if it was legal or not, but nobody stopped me.” (The technique wasn’t his invention. Egyptians used the method as early as 1550 B.C.)

With all that work, what did he do for fun? “I didn’t play ball or anything else,” he says. “I just stayed in the barber business; I’ve worked all my life.”

Mancinelli is well-known beyond New Windsor. Besides his recognition by Guinness, which came in 2010 when he was employed at Antonio and Pasquale Barber Shop in Vails Gate (since closed), the mirror in front of his barber’s chair displays a 2016 entry from the newspaper strip *Ripley’s Believe It or Not!* and congratulatory letters from President Barack Obama and New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo. For 40 of his 95 years as a practicing barber, he owned his own shop on Liberty Street in Newburgh.

Mancinelli served in the U.S. Army during World War II, “but because I had a wife and kids, I wasn’t sent overseas,” he says ruefully. “I lost my job; I was supposed to the [military] company barber.”

He isn’t impressed with today’s trendy cuts. “They want this and that,” he says. He prefers the styles of yesteryear, which may be one reason he cuts his own hair, and that of his son Robert, 81.

He has never considered retiring. “You get old fast doing that, so I might just as well work,” he says. “So far, thank God, I have no problems.”

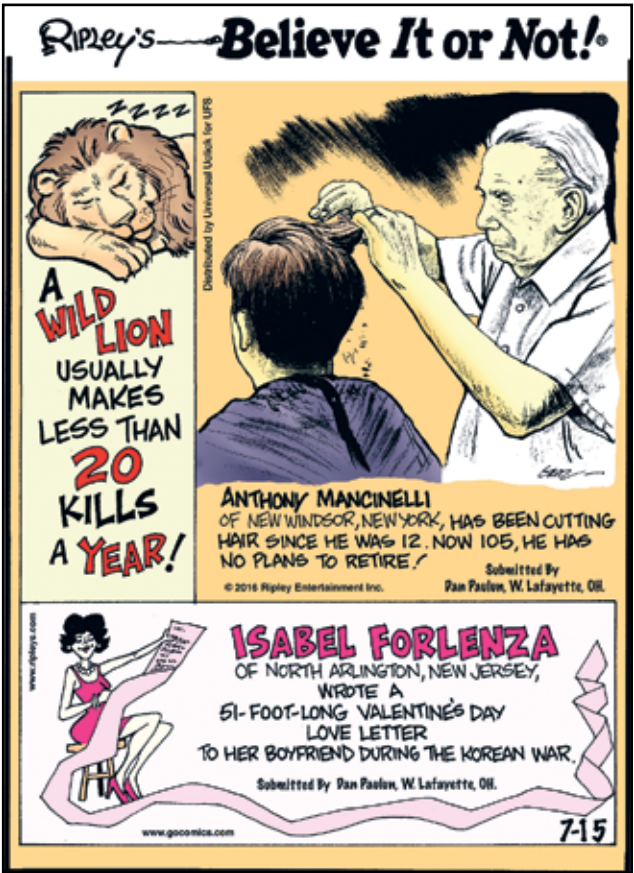
He admits his response might be different if his wife of 69 years were still alive. “We’d go places,” he says. The two traveled together to Europe, Hawaii, South America and the Panama Canal.

Mancinelli attributes his long life in part to the fact that he doesn’t drink or smoke. He does enjoy cooking. “Chicken and steak but mostly pasta, making the sauce and meatballs,” he says.

He’s not the first in his family to live a long life. His grandfather Anthony died at age 103. “He was up on a ladder picking olives on his farm in Italy when he fell,” he says. The grandson remembers picking olives, threshing wheat and stomping grapes as a very young boy. “I was almost up to my waist in grapes,” he recalls. “We didn’t get paid but it was all the grapes you could eat.”

Mancinelli turns 107 in March. “I’ll just keep going until I peter out,” he said. He has told his son that when he

dies he wants scissors and a comb placed in his coffin. “I might find a customer up there who needs a haircut!”



Reprinted by permission of Andrews McMeel

Anthony in Action

For a video by Gregory Gunder of Michael Turton’s haircut/interview with Mancinelli, see highlandscurrent.com.

It’s Never Too Late

- The oldest recorded **yoga teacher** is Ida Herbert, who was still teaching at the Orillia YMCA in Ontario, Canada, at age 95.
- The oldest full-time **secretary** is Verna Theus Davis Willmon, 97, who worked at the First Assembly of God in Victoria, Texas, until 2007.
- The oldest professional **artist** is Moses Aleksandrovich Feigin, 102, who had an exhibit at the Central House of the Artist in Moscow, Russia, in 2007.
- Dr. Leila Denmark of Portal, Georgia, was the oldest practicing **physician** when she retired at age 103.
- The oldest **judge** was Albert Alexander of Plattsburg, Missouri, who retired in 1965 at age 105.
- The oldest convicted **bank robber** is J.L. Hunter Rountree, 92, who in 2003 held up a Texas bank for \$1,999.

Source: Guinness World Records

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The Calendar

Having Your Cup, and Eating It Too

Beacon firm creates edible glasses, straws

By Brian PJ Cronin

Chelsea Briganti and Leigh Ann Tucker's appearance on the ABC reality show *Shark Tank* in 2015 was nearly a year in the making. After months of interviews with producers, the entrepreneurs were presented with plane tickets to Los Angeles to ... wait.

"They warn you that they don't know if they're actually going to bring you to the studio," Tucker recalls. "Then one night they tell you: 'We're picking you up in a few hours and bringing you to the studio, but you might not get picked to go on. And even if you do get picked, your part might not get aired.'"

The pair did get picked, which meant facing down a squad of wealthy investors to introduce, as well as defend, the flagship product of their company, Loliware.

"We were fully prepared for them to rip us to shreds," says Tucker. "I mean ... it's an edible cup."

The sharks did not rip them to shreds. Instead, all but one saw the potential in a

cup made of a seaweed-based bioplastic. They each ate a cup. And then, after two offers to pay \$600,000 for a 25 percent stake in the company, five of the six started bickering over who should get the deal.

In the end, Briganti and Tucker partnered with Dallas Mavericks owner Mark Cuban. The night the episode aired, \$130,000 worth of orders poured into their website, which was a problem



Chelsea Briganti and Leigh Ann Tucker

Photos provided



A cherry-flavored drinking cup, after being sampled

because the women had been making 500 cups a day by themselves at a space in Queens.

"All of a sudden, we're getting these orders for 100,000 cups," says Briganti.

Since then, much has changed. Their cups are produced en masse at a small, female-staffed factory in Mexico. Loliware relocated (Continued on Page 11)

Bringing Vision to Others, and Themselves

Philipstown volunteers trek to Peru to offer eye tests

By Alison Rooney

An eyesight test is so familiar that few people think much about it. A screen is pulled down with lines of black

letters of various sizes. You cover one eye, then the other, reading what you can.

Yet many people don't have access to this simple test, such as the indigenous people of Peru, many of whom descend from the Inca. Because they are among the country's poorest citizens, regular preventative and diagnostic medical care



Four Desportes y Vida students

Photo by Marion Dunn



Jon Lilburne and Marion Dunn, back home in Garrison

Photo by A. Rooney

is not something they can depend on.

Knowing this, many medical missions focus on establishing short-term clinics. One organization is Cross-Cultural Solutions, a New Rochelle-based nonprofit which has sent around 35,000 volunteers abroad since its founding in 1995.

Marion Dunn, 80, a therapist who lives in Garrison and is a member of the Cold Spring Lions Club, which focuses on vision projects, signed up with the organization to spend two weeks at a clinic at Villa El Salvador on the outskirts of Lima. Volun- (Continued on Page 12)



FRIDAY, DEC. 22

Rick Austin: Hudson Valley Winter Showcase (Opening)

6 – 8 p.m. SallyeAnder | 1 E. Main St., Beacon
315-343-0793 | sallyeander.com

Christmas Gospel Celebration & Candlelight Service

6:30 p.m. First United Methodist Church
245 Liberty St., Newburgh | 845-561-4365

A Christmas Carol

7 p.m. Hudson House River Inn
2 Main St., Cold Spring
845-265-9355 | hudsonhouseinn.com

Free Show: Open Book

7 p.m. Towne Crier
379 Main St., Beacon
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com

SATURDAY, DEC. 23

Cold Spring Fire Company Santa Run

12:30 – 2:30 p.m. Cold Spring
See Page 16 for stops.

Fine Arts and Crafts Fair

1 – 5 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
477 Main St., Beacon
845-831-4988 | howlandculturalcenter.org

The Colonial Nutcracker

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

A Very Slambovian Christmas

8:30 p.m. Towne Crier
See details under Friday.

SUNDAY, DEC. 24

Local libraries closed

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

Tabernacle of Christ Church A/G

9 a.m. Blue Christmas Service
10 a.m. Bilingual Service
483 Main St., Beacon
845-831-4656 | tabernacleofchristchurch.com

St. Mary's Episcopal Church

3:30 p.m. Family Pageant
10:30 p.m. Midnight Mass
1 Chestnut St., Cold Spring
845-265-2539 | stmaryscoldspring.org

Calendar Highlights

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

Our Lady of Loretto

4 & 8 p.m. 24 Fair St., Cold Spring
845-265-3718 | ourladyofloretto.org

St. Joachim's Catholic Church

4:30 p.m. Children's Mass | Midnight. Mass
51 Leonard St., Beacon
845-838-0915 | stjochim-stjohn.org

St. Philip's Episcopal Church

5 p.m. Family Pageant | 11 p.m. Midnight Service
1101 Route 9D, Garrison
845-424-3571 | stphilipshighlands.org

First Presbyterian of Philipstown

5:30 p.m. 10 Academy St., Cold Spring
845-265-3220 | presbychurchcoldspring.org

St. John the Evangelist

4:30 (English) & 6 p.m. (Spanish) | 35 Willow St.,
Beacon | 845-838-0915 | stjochim-stjohn.org

St. Joseph's Chapel

6 p.m. 74 Upper Station Road, Garrison
845-265-3718

Church on the Hill

6 p.m. 245 Main St., Nelsonville | 845-265-2022

St. Andrew's Church

7 p.m. 15 South Ave., Beacon
845-831-1369 | standrewsbeaconny.org

South Highland United Methodist Church

7 p.m. 19 Snake Hill Road, Garrison
845-526-3788 | facebook.com/CSSHUMC

First Presbyterian Church of Beacon

8 p.m. 50 Liberty St., Beacon
845-831-5322 | beaconpresbychurch.com

Graymoor Spiritual Life Center

9:30 p.m. 1350 Route 9, Garrison
845-424-3549 | atonementfriars.org

St. Luke's Episcopal Church

10 p.m. 850 Wolcott Ave., Beacon
845-831-2643 | stlukesbeacon.org

Salem Tabernacle

10 p.m. 7 Delavan Ave., Beacon
845-831-0114 | salemtabernacle.com

MONDAY, DEC. 25

CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICES

St. John's, Beacon

7:30 & 10:30 a.m. | See details under Sunday.

St. Joachim's, Beacon

9 a.m. and Noon. | See details under Sunday.

St. Philip's, Garrison

10 a.m. | See details under Sunday.

Our Lady of Loretto, Cold Spring

10 a.m. | See details under Sunday.

TUESDAY, DEC. 26

Cold Spring Village Hall closed**Putnam County offices closed****Butterfield and Desmond-Fish libraries closed****Winter Break Fun for Kids**

9:30 a.m. & 3 p.m. Boscobel | 1601 Route 9D,
Garrison | 845-265-3638 | boscobel.org

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 27

School Break Mini-Camp (ages 6-9)

9 a.m. – 3 p.m. Outdoor Discovery Center
100 Muser Drive, Cornwall
845-534-5506 | hhnmm.org

Highland Photographers' Salon

7 – 9 p.m. Garrison Art Center
23 Garrison's Landing, Garrison
845-424-3960 | garrisonartcenter.org

Town Board Year-End Meeting

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

THURSDAY, DEC. 28

School Break Mini-Camp (ages 6-9)

9 a.m. – 3 p.m. Outdoor Discovery Center
See details under Wednesday.

Winter Break Fun for Kids

9:30 a.m. & 3 p.m. Boscobel
See details under Tuesday.

Children's Holiday Tea

Noon. Mount Gulian
145 Sterling St., Beacon
845-831-8172 | mountgulian.org

Welcome to Your New Device (Talk)

6 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library
472 Route 403, Garrison
845-424-3020 | desmondfishlibrary.org

Holiday Open House

6:30 p.m. Van Wyck Museum
504 Route 9, Fishkill
845-896-9560 | fishkillhistoricalsociety.org

Dance Jam

7 p.m. Towne Crier Café
See details under Friday.

FRIDAY, DEC. 29

School Break Mini-Camp (ages 6-9)

9 a.m. – 3 p.m. Outdoor Discovery Center
See details under Wednesday.

Army vs. Boston University (Women's Basketball)

3 p.m. Christl Arena
Fenton Place, West Point
845-938-2526 | goarmywestpoint.com

Putnam County Swearing-In Ceremony

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

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Having Your Cup, and Eating It Too *(from Page 9)*

from New York City to the outskirts of Beacon. And the women are scouting locations in the Hudson Valley for a factory to produce their latest invention: sugar-free, flavored, edible drinking straws that dissolve after 24 hours. (Loliware has launched a Kickstarter campaign to raise \$30,000 by Jan. 10 to begin production. Nearly \$14,000 has been pledged.)

"We're not asking the consumer to stop using straws, we're giving them a better straw."

If biodegradable cups and straws become a standard, they could have a huge impact on the environment. Americans use an estimated 500 million plastic straws each day, many of which

end up in waterways and the oceans. Most are made from polylactic acid (PLA), which takes so much time and energy to break down that many composting facilities won't take them.

Loliware's straws, which are made of seaweed, have the potential to become what Briganti refers to as "one silver bullet out of the 100 that are needed to solve the plastics crisis."

She adds: "We're not asking the consumer to stop using straws, we're giving them a better straw. When you start punishing people and taking away things, you have less compliance."

Briganti says the company has overcome one major obstacle by reducing the cost of making an unflavored Lolis-



A citrus-flavored, edible drinking cup, after being sampled

Photos provided



Lolistraws

Photo provided

traw to that of a PLA straw. With more cities adding composting to their waste management flow, and Seattle about to ban plastic utensils and straws altogether, the company pitches its products as a way for businesses to reduce costs while also being compliant with new regulations.

The straws are more than simply good for the environment; they add flavor. For instance, a lemon straw turns water into lemon-flavored water. Coffee shops could serve vanilla straws with iced coffee. (Even a grape prototype I

tested with the only beverage within reach — hot coffee, not exactly a pairing that Briganti and Tucker have in mind — was surprisingly tasty.)

With the right formula, the straws could have nutritional benefit for uses both fun (a smoothie shop serving protein-infused straws) and lifesaving (refugees provided with vitamin-infused straws). Next, they have their minds set on outer space. "We want to make edible packaging that can go to Mars," Briganti says.

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Bringing Vision to Others, and Themselves *(from Page 9)*

teers test the vision of children at a school there, then deliver free frames and lenses.

She mentioned her plan to a fellow Lion, David Lilburne, who thought his son, Jon Lilburne, might be interested in accompanying her.

Jon, 27, who grew up in Garrison, was indeed interested. He began fundraising

to pay the expenses for the trip. Much of the money came from the Lions as a group and individual members, he says, as well as other friends and neighbors. "The community here was so generous — it was humbling."

Particularly in light of the impoverished conditions they encountered in Villa El



Jon Lilburne, making an eye exam fun

Photo courtesy of Jon Lilburne



A recipient of new red glasses

Photo courtesy of Cross Cultural Solutions

Salvador, Dunn and Lilburne were impressed by the school, Desportes y Vida, to which they were assigned.

"The parents pay a small fee or contribute their time," Dunn said. "They have great classrooms; it was so impressive. The children were so eager to see us, giving us lots of hugs. This in a place where there was often no running water."

After being trained to administer the tests, the Philipstown residents and three other volunteers worked in pairs to check each student's eyesight. One volunteer handled the equipment, while the other guided each child (who ranged in age from 3 to 14) through the experience.

About a quarter of the children needed corrective lenses. A team of Peruvian ophthalmologists worked long hours over a few days, refining prescriptions. The 500 pairs of frames and lenses the volunteers brought were then distributed.

The volunteers also tested teachers and a few children who didn't attend the school, said Lilburne. "The parental involvement is incredible, especially because they all have to work many hours," Lilburne said. "They're the people cleaning houses, selling fruits on the street, and this school allows them to

have a real voice in how their children are being educated."

Lilburne and Dunn said they were changed by their experience for a number of reasons. First, there was their inter-generational travel. "Getting to befriend and begin to love a non-relative youngster like Jon was wonderful," she said. "I probably had more patience with him than I might have had with my children or grandchildren."

Lilburne was equally enthusiastic. "It was an incredible experience traveling with Marion," he said. "She is a kind, enthusiastic and pretty damn funny woman!"

He added: "I don't want this to sound like one of those 'I went to a poor country and changed people's lives' clichés, but it truly does feel like I got more than I gave. You're going into a school where 230 kids are giving you hugs. It was beautiful to feel the love, to see how much they appreciated the help."

Dunn, who is no stranger to travel in South America — her late husband was Brazilian and they visited that country many times — calls her days in Peru "something I've always wanted to do, because I've been so blessed. These are the payback years."



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Making Music Together

Toddlers shake, rattle, roll in Nelsonville

By Alison Rooney

Music Together doesn't require a lot of bells and whistles to engage the attention of some of the youngest 'uns, although bells are part of the proceedings of the early childhood music program offered twice a week in Nelsonville.

Founded in

1987, the national program was run in this area for quite a few years at the Desmond-Fish Library. Over the course of a 45-minute session, which includes call-and-response; rhythm instruments; shake, rattle and roll; circle activities, and free dance, children learn how to "speak music."

The participants at a recent Saturday morning session at Create Community on Peekskill Road, led by Alexia Tate ranged in age from 9-month-old Jack, who watched as everyone got on their feet, to 7-year-old Fischer, who came along with her little brother, Snowden. Most were toddlers, accompanied by parents and/or grandparents.

Tate, who became familiar with the program when she took her son to a session in Queens (she now lives in Peekskill) comes from a background in children's musical theater. She also founded Story Garden, a musical story time for young children.

Tate says she "fell in love with the philosophy of the class." She completed training to become an instructor and, upon moving to the Hudson Valley, looked around for an area where there weren't any classes. That was Philipstown. She now leads



Alexia Tate

classes on Thursday at 10 a.m. and Saturday at 9:30 a.m. in 10-week sessions. The next series begins Jan. 11. (See musictogetherwithalexia.com or call 646-872-8147.)

At the recent session, participants got right into it with "let's rock and rock and rock and clap and clap and clap" and then sang welcomes to each other, using each child's name. The adults were asked for each child's favorite activity, and the answers, which included "play with Play-Doh, chase the dog, crawl around, play with Legos and read," became incorporated into song.

Next up were the rhythm sticks, singing in harmony, and a song with a parade of Australian animals, wombat to platypus. Along the way there was dancing and a circle activity, followed by serene cool-down time and, finally, the singing of "Goodbye, So Long, Farewell My Friend" (until the next week, that is).



Holland, a current and future percussionist

Photos by A. Rooney



Harrison finds the beat with rhythm sticks.

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Fri., 12/22 8:30 p.m.
Upstate Rubdown

Sat., 12/30 8:30 p.m.
Garland Jeffreys

Sat., 12/23 8:30 p.m.
Slambovian Circus of Dreams Christmas Show

Sun., 12/31 7:00 p.m.
Nellybombs - Free Salon

Thurs., 12/28 7:00 p.m.
Dance Jam

Sun., 12/31
New Year's Eve Celebration
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Fri., 12/29 7:00 p.m.
Mike Heaphy - Free

Fri., 12/29 8:30 p.m.
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Prof. Louie & The Crowmatix
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Small, Good Things

Sweet Milk and Bitter Chocolate

By Joe Dizney

Dulce de leche (Spanish for “jam or sweet made of milk”) is a confection known, by one name or another, throughout most of the civilized world.

Although Spanish and particularly Latin America cultures have elevated its use to a culinary art form — flavoring innumerable desserts, cakes, candies, cookies, flans and sauces — its sweet essence is also celebrated in British toffee-based treats, Scandinavian or Eastern European boiled- and baked-milk goodies, Dutch *stroopwafel*, and French *crème caramel* and *confiture de lait*. Its universal appeal is best evinced by the success of Häagen-Dazs’ dulce de leche-flavored ice cream.

Whatever your point of entry, it’s a simple, almost primal preparation of caramelized, sweetened milk cooked low and slow. And although commercially available (Nestlé, Eagle), dulce de leche is incredibly easy to make at home.

To be sure, one could, if so inclined, fashion an artisanally correct version from the raw milk of grass-fed cows, sweetened with raw sugar, flavored Madagascar vanilla beans or Ceylon cinnamon. Online, you’ll find convoluted “improved” preparations — slow-cooker/crockpot in-

structions and others — but all that is needed is a large pot, water and a can of condensed milk and these short instructions:

1. Remove the label from the unopened can or cans and completely submerge them in room-temperature water in a pot. (Don’t use tab-top cans — I’ve never had them explode, but it has been reported.)

2. Slowly bring the pot to a low simmer and keep it there for at least 2½ to 3½ hours; the longer you cook, the thicker the milk gets. Flip the can with tongs every 30 or 45 minutes. When done, remove the pot from the heat, with the cans still submerged, and allow the water and cans to cool to room temperature before using. When cool, the sweet can be stored as the cans may remain unsealed.

The only caveat is to never allow the water level to drop below the top of the cans, or you risk an explosion and a nasty mess.

For this recipe, adapted from Chez Panisse pastry chef David Lebovitz’s *My Paris Kitchen*, I used a whole can, cooked three hours and reheated briefly in a *bain-marie*, then whisked slightly to even out the texture to make it spreadable. The combination of dulce de leche and bittersweet chocolate is properly indulgent for the holiday season.



A salted cocoa crust, sweet, milky interior and bittersweet chocolate custard topping

Photo by J. Dizney

Dulce de Leche and Bittersweet Chocolate Tart

Adapted from *My Paris Kitchen*; serves 10

For the shell:

6 tablespoons salted butter, at room temperature
¼ cup powdered sugar
1 large egg yolk
1 cup all-purpose flour
⅓ cup Dutch-process or natural unsweetened cocoa powder
¼ teaspoon flaked sea salt

For the filling:

1 cup (or more) dulce de leche (*see above for preparation*)
8 ounces bittersweet chocolate, roughly chopped
2 large eggs
1¼ cups whole milk
½ teaspoon vanilla extract, or 1 teaspoon dark rum
More flaked sea salt to sprinkle over the tart

Make the tart shell:

1. With an electric mixer, beat the butter and powdered sugar in a medium-sized bowl on low speed until just smooth. Add egg yolk, scraping the sides of the bowl until it’s fully incorporated.
2. In another bowl, whisk together the flour and cocoa powder; add to the butter mixture, mixing just until a dough comes together. Form into a tight disk, wrap in plastic and let rest for 30 minutes at room temperature.
3. Using the heel of your hand, press dough evenly into a 9-inch tart pan (with removable bottom). Get the bottom as flat as possible and press the dough up the sides to the rim. Sprinkle salt over the dough, pressing it into the surface. Chill tart shell in freezer for 30 minutes.
4. Preheat oven to 400 degrees. Remove chilled tart pan and crust from freezer, tightly line inside of shell with aluminum foil and cover with pie weights or dried beans. Bake for 15 minutes in preheated oven. Remove foil and pie weights and bake for an additional five minutes. Remove tart from oven; decrease oven temperature to 300 degrees.

While the shell is baking, prepare the filling:

5. Warm dulce de leche in a Pyrex measuring cup placed in a gently simmering pot of water. Melt chocolate in a bowl set over a pan of simmering water; once it’s melted, remove bowl from the heat. Set a mesh strainer on top.
6. Whisk eggs in another bowl. Heat milk in a saucepan. Gradually whisk the warm milk into the eggs. Scrape mixture back into saucepan and cook on medium heat, stirring constantly, until steamy and slightly thickened (about 3 minutes). (If it separates, remove from the heat and whisk vigorously to bring back together.) Pour custard through the strainer into the chocolate; add vanilla and stir until smooth.

Assemble and bake the tart:

7. Spread dulce de leche over the hot tart shell in an even layer (careful as you work to not break the bottom of the tart). Set the dulce de leche-filled tart shell on a foil-lined baking sheet. Pour chocolate custard over the dulce de leche, smoothing the top. Lightly sprinkle with flaky sea salt.
8. Bake tart in 300-degree oven for 20 minutes. Turn off oven heat and let tart cook in the oven for another 25 minutes in slowly cooling oven. Remove tart from the oven and cool further before serving. Serve with whipped cream, vanilla (or dulce de leche) ice cream or in its naked glory.

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Looking Back in Philipstown

By Chip Rowe

150 Years Ago (December 1867)

An investigation by Constable Travis revealed that the roofing materials stolen from Lewis Barley at Breakneck had been taken by wagon to Cold Spring and were being used atop a small building on Garden Street. The owner of the wagon pleaded an error over ownership of the material.

A noisy party that filled three wagons going up the hill on a Friday night were seen going down the hill Saturday morning and, when asked what was going on, they replied, "A good time." It seems they had been at the residence of Mr. H. Dykeman, in the Highlands.

The Matteawan Quartette sang but the receipts were not enough to pay for the room because it was also pay night at the Foundry and there was a meeting of the Sons of Temperance at the same time.

George Clooney was taken to the county jail in default of his bail on the charge of assault by his family, who had "borne with his tyrannical manner under forbearance [that] has ceased to be a virtue."

John McKiel of Cold Spring and Robert McCauley of Newburgh held a 3-mile rowing race of their 17-foot, 100-pound boats on the Hudson for a \$100 purse [about \$1,500 in 2017 dollars]. As 800 people watched from the docks, McKiel won in 34 minutes.

Philip Phillips, author of the bestselling *Sabbath School Music Books*, *Singing Pilgrim* and *Musical Leaves*, will perform at the South Highlands M.E. Church near Garrison's, in a benefit for the church school.

A resident asked: "What shall we do to keep the children from coasting with their sleighs upon the sidewalk? The practice is clearly forbidden by our village laws ... and yet year after year this goes by, and we are threatened with personal injury every time that we walk out."



Harbor Traffic, by Charles Locke

75 Years Ago (December 1942)

A tablet was dedicated with 23 stars inside St. Mary's Episcopal Church to honor

the members of the parish who are serving in the Armed Forces.

FBI Special Agent R.R. Granville spoke to the Cold Spring Lions Club at the Hudson View Hotel about the history of the agency and its work on espionage and sabotage cases. He asked for the co-operation of the Lions in aiding the FBI but cautioned not to be too hasty in sending in unverified accusations.

Police Chief Andrew Reilley wrote an article for *The Shadow* magazine called "Village Without Crime" about his experiences over 25 years policing his hometown of Cold Spring.

Trustee William Dardess Jr. was appointed mayor of Cold Spring following the resignation of Robert Mooney, who was hired for a government project in the Bahamas. Dardess was office manager at the Hudson River Stone Corp. quarry.

A wash painting by Charles Locke of Garrison called Harbor Traffic was included in the 1942-43 exhibition of contemporary art at the Whitney Museum of American Art in New York City. [The painting was purchased by the Whitney, one of 18 works by Locke in its collection.

He died in 1983.]

50 Years Ago (December 1967)

The Putnam County Libraries Association was formed during a meeting held at the Butterfield Library in Cold Spring.

Mary Beckwith, in a letter to the editor, warned that if Garrison school boys "continue breaking the neighbors' win-

dows, as they have mine, twice, they will get into jail, and not have the respect or trust of even their best friends."

Authorities warned of a scam in which residents in Cold Spring and Beacon received a card in the mail saying the person had won a free wig and needed to either pick it up in Philadelphia or send \$2.35 for postage and handling plus a "styling" fee. A Beacon woman reported she sent \$12.95 and received a "ratty looking wig of many colors" which she gave to her children to use at Halloween.

The Haldane boys' basketball team won their second game of the season, over Oakwood, 59-40. John Zuvic had 14 points and Coach John Rath said Tom Impellitieri played a good game. The Blue Devils won their first game over St. Peter's of Peekskill, 64-40. Zuvic had 15 points and 19 rebounds.

More than 60 people turned out to hear Chief Curico of the Bureau of Criminal Investigation discuss narcotics abuse. He

warned that smoking marijuana would lead a user to heroin, and that less than 1 percent of heroin addicts are ever cured.

The Cold Spring Lions served more than 4,000 pancakes, 800 sausage links and 900 cups of coffee at their Aunt Jemima Pancake Jamboree at the Haldane cafeteria.

On the afternoon of New Year's Eve, Jean Saunders officiated at the cutting of a 6-pound English fruitcake at the Putnam County Historical Society.

25 Years Ago (December 1992)

Seven members of Philipstown Cub Scout Pack 137 replaced the decaying railroad ties lining the lawn of the Butterfield Library. Meanwhile, 10 members of Brownie Troop 1405B planted 400 daffodil and tulip bulbs at the entrance of the Butterfield Memorial Hospital.

The Brazilian soccer star Pele wrote a letter of encouragement to Dawn Kavana, a senior at Haldane who was the first girl to ever score a goal in boys' soccer in the Bi-Valley League. Kavana had been seriously injured in an auto crash on Route 301.

Three 15-year-old Garrison boys were charged with 12 counts each of criminal mischief after they were accused of destroying mailboxes along Old Albany Post Road during a 2 a.m. run. A witness wrote down their license-plate number.

A gilt and painted wood carving of a spread-winged eagle sold for \$19,500 at a

Beacon City Council

For coverage of the 2018 budget and zoning changes in the Fishkill Creek corridor, see highlandscurrent.com.

Hudson Riverkeeper benefit auction.

The state education commissioner announced he was recommending a study be made of combining the Garrison school district with Putnam Valley. Garrison was one of 139 districts he suggested be studied for consolidation, including all districts that did not include grades K-12.

10 Years Ago (December 2007)

At a board meeting, Cold Spring Mayor Anthony Phillips said of high school students: "We need to find ways for them to hang out in a non-destructive way.... We've been discussing this since I was a teenager hanging out in 1950. The difference is now it's destructive; we've lost 200 light bulbs off the bandstand. That's why the police disperse them - not because they are teenagers."

The board also discussed building a firehouse on land offered by developer Paul Guillaro at the old Butterfield Hospital site, where he plans to construct an assisted-living facility and condos for seniors. But the mayor said a firehouse on the parcel would be a "tight fit."



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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Santa Run

Kringle will make rounds Dec. 23

Assisted by the Cold Spring Fire Company, Santa Claus will be touring the village on Saturday, Dec. 23, to chat with children and their families. The first stop is White Hill Place at 12:30 p.m., followed by West Belvedere Street at 12:40, the Tiny Tot Park at 12:50, the parking lot at Spring Brooke at Northern Avenue at 1, the Riverfront dock at 1:10, Forge Gate and The Boulevard at 1:20, Foodtown at 1:30, Pine and Parrott at 1:40, Pearl and Main at 1:50, Billy's Way and Main at 2, and Orchard and Mountain Avenue at 2:10.

Winter Breaks

Get the children out of house

Boscobel will host programs for children on Tuesday, Dec. 26, and Thursday, Dec. 28, with sessions at 9:30 a.m. and 3 p.m. On Tuesday, children will make candles, pomander balls and globe ornaments. On Thursday, they will build countdown clocks, funny hats and noise-makers for the New Year. Tickets are \$10 for each adult and child who are members and \$20 otherwise. Additional guests are \$5 each.

The Hudson Highlands Nature Museum in Cornwall is holding a mini-camp for children ages 6 to 9 from Wednesday, Dec. 27, to Friday, Dec. 29, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.



The Hudson Highlands Nature Museum will host a minicamp from Dec. 27 to 29.

Photo provided

each day at the Outdoor Discovery Center. Children can attend one to three days. They'll meet a different animal each day and learn about its winter habits, as well as make crafts, go outdoors, play games and hike. The cost is \$42 per day for members and \$48 otherwise. See hhn.org.

Grab a Discount

Lions Club cards available

The Cold Spring Lions Club's latest discount card, which provides a 10 percent discount or perks at restaurants and businesses such as Angelina's Pizza, Hudson Hil's, Romeo and Juliet, Riverview and Drug World, is available for \$15 at Antipodean Books and Maps on Garrison's Landing, the Country Goose and Romeo and Juliet on Main Street in Cold Spring, Zara's Cleaners at Philipstown Square or by calling René Ford at 914-552-5547. The proceeds support scholarships, library projects and other initiatives by the Lions.

Musicians Needed

Orchestra plans April concert

To celebrate its 40th season, the Putnam Symphony Orchestra is planning a themed performance, Space and Beyond, for April 29. Musicians interested in participating should contact conductor Christine Smith at 845-228-4167 or putnamsymphony@verizon.net. Weekly rehearsals begin Wednesday, Feb. 7.

NY Alert

For public safety and transportation alerts by text or email, visit nyalert.gov

Shakespeare Fest Awarded \$75K Grant

Will provide training for early-career actors

The Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival received a \$75,000 grant from the state Regional Economic Development Council for Generation Next, a free training program for early-career actors and other theater professionals. Applications are due Dec. 31 for the Conservatory Company and Jan. 31 for the Intern Company. See hvshakespeare.org.

Changes at St. Christopher's

Father Drobach relocating to Italy

Father Bill Drobach, who has been CEO/president of St. Christopher's Inn in Garrison since 2010, will depart on Jan. 1 to become director of a house for Friar novices in Assisi, Italy.

He will be succeeded as president of the shelter and substance-abuse treatment center by Father Dennis Polanco, who ministers at the Inn. Polanco will work with Sandra Iberger, who in September was named the facility's CEO/executive director. She had most recently been with the Greater Hudson Valley Healthcare System.



Father Dennis Polanco is the new president of St. Christopher's Inn at Graymoor, and Sandra Iberger (below) its new CEO/executive director. *Photo provided*



New Position at HHLT

Karen Doyle to address policy and planning

Karen Doyle of Cold Spring has joined the Hudson Highlands Land Trust as its first manager of public policy and planning. An attorney, Doyle has worked with non-profits and governmental law offices and served on the Cold Spring Planning Board, Special Board for a Comprehensive Plan and Local Waterfront Revitalization Plan, and Code Update Committee.



Karen Doyle is the new manager of public policy and planning at the Hudson Highlands Land Trust. *Photo provided*

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TUE-THU 12:00 2:40 5:20

**Star Wars:
The Last Jedi (PG13)**
FRI 2:20 5:40 9:00, SAT 1:20 4:40
8:00, SUN 12:20 3:40, MON Closed
TUE-THU 12:20 3:40 7:00

**Jumanji: Welcome to
The Jungle (PG13)**
FRI 2:40 6:00 9:20, SAT 1:40
5:00 8:20, SUN 12:40 4:00
MON Closed
TUE-THU 12:40 4:00 7:20

COMMUNITY BRIEFS (from previous page)



SHARED SERVICES — Clergy and members of St. Mary's Episcopal Church in Cold Spring and the Philipstown Reform Synagogue, which for years has met in the Parish hall, gathered on Dec. 16 to unveil a new sign outside the church. *Photo provided*

Beacon Students Honored

Named Outstanding Graduates

Samantha Brittain and Kenneth Wright of Beacon were among the SUNY New Paltz graduates named by its faculty as Outstanding Graduates at a ceremony on Dec. 14 at the university.

Visit highlandscurrent.com for news updates and latest information.

Share Your News With Our Readers

To submit your upcoming events and announcements for consideration in our Community Briefs section (in print and online) submit a text-only press release (250 words or less) along with a separately attached high-resolution photograph to calendar@highlandscurrent.com.



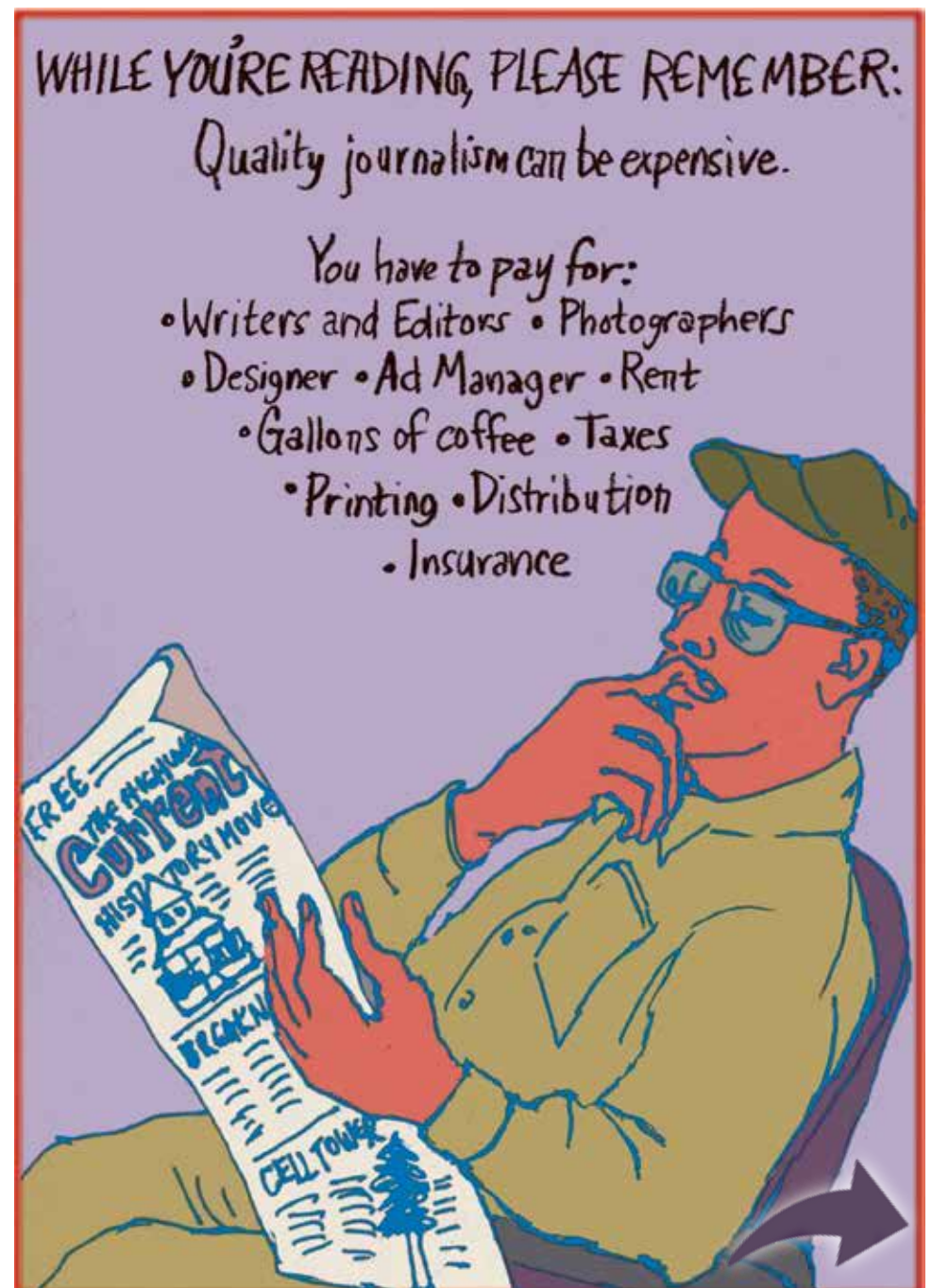
HELPING THE CAUSE — City of Beacon firefighters manned the kettle at Key Food on Dec. 16 to raise money for the Salvation Army. *Photo provided*



NELSONVILLE NATIVITY — About 200 people gathered at The Church on the Hill on Dec. 10 for its annual outdoor Living Nativity. *Photo by Laura Lee Holmbo*



MAKING PROGRESS --Reconstruction at 7 Garrison's Landing, formerly Guinan's Country Store and Pub, continued this week with installation of the wastewater treatment plant. Del Karlen, president of Garrison Station Plaza, owner of the property, estimated the cost at \$53,000. Fresh Company co-owner Shelley Boris hopes to have a yet-to-be-named café open on the site in the spring that will cater to commuters and have a full service bar in the evenings. *Photo by Michael Turton*



'Catastrophe Waiting to Happen' at Philipstown Square

Philipstown board wants gas tankers to stop backing in

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

Wary of "a catastrophe waiting to happen," Philipstown Town Board members on Dec. 7 called for multi-faceted action to control gasoline tankers at Philipstown Square, the shopping center on Route 9 at the northern edge of town.

Putnam County Sheriff-elect Robert Langley, Jr., a Garrison resident who attended the board's formal monthly meeting at Town Hall, promised better law enforcement at the site after he takes office.

Board members said problems occur when tanker trucks, each carrying 6,000 to 7,000 gallons of gasoline, attempt to supply the station, located on the opposite side of the juncture of Fishkill Road, a county road, and Route 9, a state highway.

Councilor John Van Tassel, a member of the North Highlands Fire Department, which responds to accidents there, said two collisions had occurred, each involving a car that broadsided a tanker angled across Route 9 for a delivery. The most recent incident took place a few evenings before the board met, he said.

Van Tassel noted that despite numerous warnings, tankers continued backing into the station, with the cab in the Lyons supply yard at the intersection's southwest corner and the rear of the truck stretched across the highway into the gas station. "It's a catastrophe waiting to happen," he said, noting the risks include not just a disastrous crash but gas spilling across the road and into the area aquifer.

Board members said gas deliveries occur as frequently as twice daily and that Putnam County Sheriff's deputies have said they can do little, because, as Coun-



The Gulf station (at left) at the intersection of Route 9 and Fishkill Road

Google Maps

cilor Nancy Montgomery reported, "apparently it's not a violation to back a tractor trailer filled with gasoline off of Route 9." However, she said, she had found sheriff's officers "very resourceful and helpful and willing to work together, so I'm looking forward to finding a solution."

Langley commented that "for a deputy to say there's no ticket he can write is actually inaccurate," because deliveries necessitate on-the-road traffic control, as in the case of tree-cutting crews operating along the highway.

Likewise, any driver angling a truck with the front on one side of the highway and the rear at the other "is backing up unsafely, creating a public hazard. There are summonses that can be issued and that will be addressed" after he becomes sheriff, he pledged.

Board members blamed the problem in part on an indifference to the site plan approved by the Planning Board for handling vehicles at the site. Failures to follow a site plan can result in its revocation by the town government, forcing business owners to re-apply in order to operate.

After the latest incident and a visit from the building inspector, Van Tassel said the station owners promised to instruct tanker drivers to stop backing onto the premises.

The intersection has a three-way light controlling traffic going north and south on Route 9 and to or from Fishkill Road

but no light on the fourth side, at the exit and entry to the gas station, creating confusion.

Supervisor Richard Shea said Fred Pena, superintendent of the Putnam County Highway Department, agreed to look into the matter and that the two will likely confer soon with the New York State Department of Transportation.

Manitou Station Road

Turning to another road matter, the board expressed satisfaction at the work undertaken this fall under the direction of the Philipstown Highway Department to raise Manitou Station Road two feet. It still could flood in a major storm, but its elevation should keep it open the vast majority of the time, Van Tassel said. The effort represents the initial stage of planned improvements, Shea observed.

Running west from Route 9D along a marsh toward the Hudson River, the road has suffered severe washouts and the area flooded in 2012 during Hurricane Sandy, forcing emergency evacuations of some residents. Conditions there have prompted discussions for some 10 years by various governmental players, including Philipstown, Putnam County, the Army Corps of Engineers and Metro-North Railroad, whose tracks parallel the river.

MTA Advisory Board

The board recommended to state and county governments the appointment of Cold Spring resident Stephanie Hawkins to the Metropolitan Transportation Authority's Permanent Citizens' Advisory Committee, a panel that assists the MTA governing board but lacks voting power.

Neal Zuckerman, a Garrison resident who previously served as an advisor from Philipstown, is on the MTA board. Hawkins is a former Cold Spring village trustee and the spouse of Cold Spring Mayor Dave Merandy.

Sports

Varsity Scoreboard

Boys' Basketball

Haldane 43, Solomon Schechter 37
Woodlands 60, Beacon 56
Beacon 68, John Jay 56
Aaron Davis (34), Josiah Turner (10)
Beacon 78, Roosevelt 45

Girls' Basketball

Dobbs Ferry 47, Haldane 44
Haldane 50, Croton-Harmon 48
Valhalla 49, Haldane 46
Beacon 51, Sleepy Hollow 40

Boys' Modified Basketball

Beacon 61, Haldane 16

Girls' Modified Basketball

Haldane 30, Beacon 8
Carmela Cofini (6), Marisa Scanga (6),
Liv Villella (5)
Garrison 28, Haldane 11

Girls' Bowling

Beacon 7, Arlington 0
Beacon 7, John Jay East Fishkill 0

Boys' Bowling

Beacon 7, Arlington 0
John Jay East Fishkill 7, Beacon 0

Boys' Swimming

Beacon 87, Poughkeepsie 82
200 Individual Medley
1. Kent Patino 2:25.22
200 Freestyle
1. David Paschal 2:14.59
100 Butterfly
1. Kent Patino 1:05.69
500 Freestyle
1. David Paschal 6:13.26
100 Breaststroke
1. Ian Oliva 1:15.48
Minisink Valley 64, Beacon 34
Beacon 92, Port Chester 61

Wrestling

Beacon 45, Pawling 35

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Rural Setting Helps Congressman Keep Pets and Perspective

From D.C. 'swamp' to Highlands 'barnyard'

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

For at least three days a week Sean Patrick Maloney labors in the frenetic world of national politics, serving the Mid-Hudson Valley (including Philipstown and Beacon) in the U.S. House of Representatives. It's a job with constant challenges for a moderate Democrat when Republicans dominate Congress and Donald Trump occupies the White House.

The rest of the time, Maloney retreats from Capitol Hill to a hill above Nelsonville, where he shares an estate, Lower Windwolde, with his spouse, Randy Florke; their teenage daughters, Essie and Daley (their adult son, Reiniel, lives and works in California); two dogs, and a number of pets who masquerade as farm animals.

Located off Lane Gate Road, the 8-acre property includes a restored, century-old house, lawns and fields, a few outbuildings, and views of the Hudson River. There Maloney can trade his business suits and dress shoes for jeans and boots, and chat with Florke over breakfast as a puppy, Logan, cavorts at his feet.

Coming home to Lower Windwolde and its routine "is a normalizer" for Maloney, said Florke, who, with their daughters, handles most of the household and barnyard chores.

Though he often drags House work back with him, Maloney readily agreed. "A bad day in the barnyard is better than a good day in the 'swamp,'" he quipped. "I'd rather be at home and deal with horseshit than in D.C. dealing with bullshit."

The couple adopted the horses about 18 months ago after the pair were found eking out an undernourished existence



Haze hangs over the Hudson in a summer view from the lawn of Sean Patrick Maloney and Randy Florke.

in a garage along a highway. "You could see her ribs when we got her," Maloney says of Arie, a thoroughbred-Arabian mix, who remains friendly and good-natured despite her daunting past. Male quarter-horse Poco is more skittish. "I don't know if he was abused, or what," Maloney said.

Once confined, Poco and Arie now enjoy ample food, care from doting humans, a cozy barn, and a field for kicking up their hooves. They like their surroundings so much they sometimes surreptitiously try to see more of Philipstown and visit neighbors. But "they only went to town once" — central Nelsonville — Maloney recalled. "That was an adventure!" Judy Meyer, a neighbor, "came running to tell us our horses were downtown."

(Meyer recalls that, soon after alerting them, she spotted a Cold Spring squad car slowly escorting Randy as he walked the horses home.)

Along with the horses and puppy, Maloney and Florke have an adult dog, Bella; two sheep, Lilly and Nelly; and a male mallard who hangs out with two white farm ducks, a male and an egg-laying female, all so far unnamed. According to Florke, the critters can each expect treats or collars and leashes for Christmas.

In the House, Maloney belongs to the Animal Protection Caucus, whose 156 members span the political and geographic spectrum.

Maloney noted that Ted Yoho, a Republican from Florida, "is one of the most conservative members of the House. We agree on very little," except the importance of "preventing cruelty to animals. He's a former veterinarian and aware of some of the cruel things done to horses, in particular."

He and Yoho, joined by 269 other representatives, sponsored legislation (H.R. 1847), pending in committee, to ban "soring," or the application of chemicals or sharp impediments to the feet of Tennes-



Accompanied by dog Bella and sheep Nelly, Randy Florke (left) and Sean Patrick Maloney, holding Logan the puppy, spend time with their horses, Poco (left) and Arie.

Photos by L.S. Armstrong

see Walking Horses and similar breeds to make movement painful, forcing them into a high-stepping gait.

A second caucus-backed bill (H.R. 2790) would prohibit testing of cosmetics on animals and a third (H.R. 1406) would forbid sale of cat and dog meat for human consumption.

Asked whether concern for animals and keeping pets helps those in power remain humble, Maloney looked toward Logan. "If you can't have two teenage girls to keep you humble, a puppy is probably the next best thing," he said.

He also noted, wryly: "You should know, the president does not have a pet!"



Pet sheep Lilly and Nelly live at Lower Windwolde.



All the ducks, lined up in a row: A male mallard, right, and two domestic ducks form a family at Lower Windwolde.

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Cartoon by Deb Lucke

OUR FOUNDER:
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The Highlands
Current

Cookie Season

The Desmond-Fish Library in Garrison hosted a holiday cookie-decorating workshop on Dec. 12. Everything created was consumed, despite warnings that Santa usually looks for his share on Dec. 24.

Photos by Ross Corsair

