

# The HIGHLANDS Current



Movie Music Magic  
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JANUARY 5, 2018

161 MAIN ST., COLD SPRING, N.Y. | [highlandscurrent.com](http://highlandscurrent.com)

## Longtime Antique Shop to Close

*Fountain Square will shutter  
in February*

By Michael Turton

The bench in front of 104 Main St. in Cold Spring is one of the things Walt Carmichael says he will miss most when he locks the door at Fountain Square Antiques for the last time next month.

"Sitting out on that bench in the summertime was a lot of fun," he says. "I made a lot of friends."

Carmichael and his daughter, Jeanine, have worked the antiques trade together for more than 20 years. He says they will continue to do so after he closes the store during the third week of February, but only at shows. "Until then there are plenty of bargains!" he says.

The business got its name from its original location on Fountain Square, a plaza on East Main Street in his native Beacon that had a fountain once used to water horses. He moved the shop to Cold Spring 23 years ago; the shop's current location is its third in the village.

Carmichael says he never viewed the antiques business as his livelihood. "It was just something I enjoyed" that grew out of his passion for knife collecting, he says. His "real jobs" included 18 years in construction and 19 as a corrections officer.

The business changed over the decades, primarily because younger people seem



Walt Carmichael

Photo by M. Turton



Kacie Grossman and her Airedale Terrier Bran braved the elements on Cold Spring's Main Street Thursday afternoon during the height of a winter storm that buffeted the entire East coast.

Photo by M. Turton

to have less interest. "If I see a dumpster at an estate sale, that's where I look now," he says. "These days younger people don't care about antiques — they just trash it."

That waning interest has made selling antiques more challenging, he says, with some pieces dropping in value 75 percent over the past 20 years, including Wedgewood, English China that dates back to the 1600s, and Waterford and Lalique crystal. Enthusiasm for hand tools, old bottles, postcards and colorful Depression-era glass has also declined, he says.

Then there was the 2008 recession. "We took a 60 percent drop in business," Carmichael says.

But Carmichael still revels in a great find such as "a beautiful, 1860s English Empire dresser made of solid tiger maple" that he came across a few months ago. A customer returned three times to the shop before buying it, a common occurrence with "serious buys," he says. Another buyer, a couple from Brooklyn, also returned three times before buying a 9-foot-tall, 1880s pier mirror.

One of his most prized finds was also one of the smallest: a 2-inch tall, carved ivory bust of a female slave that he found at a tag sale in Beacon. It sold within hours. "You have to be observant," he says.

The public also has become more observant thanks to television shows such as *Antiques Roadshow*, although Carmichael advises keeping those "finds" in perspective.

"Only the best of the best gets on *Antiques Roadshow* and it gives people the impression that everything is worth a lot of money," he

(Continued on Page 14)

## Development in Beacon: What Next?

*Debate likely to continue  
well into 2018*

By Jeff Simms

If 2018 is anything like 2017, the No. 1 topic of conversation in Beacon — from City Hall to coffee shops and street corners — will be the pace and scale of development.

With around 550 residential units under construction, 100 approved but not yet built and another 400-plus being reviewed, the conversation is far from over. But what else can be said after the issue has packed City Council and Planning and Zoning board meetings for months?

### A brief history

Once a thriving industrial river city, Beacon fell on hard times after its factories closed in the 1960s and '70s. By the early 1990s much of Main Street was deserted, with first-floor apartments, not merchants, in many cases occupying buildings.

In 2003, after the City Council spent several years amending zoning codes to encourage more residential sales, Dia:Beacon opened in the closed Nabisco factory building near Dennings Point. The city became a hub for creative types leaving New York City, and by 2016 Beacon's first seven-figure condominium was listed for sale.

Last year, with a number of developments in

(Continued on Page 3)



Zoning changes have been adopted in the Fishkill Creek corridor. Photo by J. Simms



The Roundhouse complex is one of several redeveloped industrial sites in Beacon.

Photo by J. Simms



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## Five Questions: STEVE BLAMIRE

By Alison Rooney

Steve Blamires, a native of Scotland who lives in Beacon, is a shipboard historian and expedition leader for National Geographic and Lindblad Expeditions. Beginning Jan. 17 at 7:30 p.m., and continuing through March, he will present a series of talks at Beahive Beacon about Scottish culture and his journeys to Antarctica, West Africa and South America.

**Given the current political climate, is the Antarctic Treaty in any jeopardy of being dissolved?**

Antarctica has never been owned or claimed by any state or nation. In 1961 the United Nations set up the treaty to keep it that way and open it to all nations for scientific research. This means that any research carried out there — climatology, meteorology, geology, etc. — can remain free from political or corporate intervention. It is not presently in jeopardy of being dissolved because mineral extraction there would be cost-prohibitive, but one day that may not be the case.

**Did Scotland actually once suffer an “ethnic cleansing”?**

The Gaelic-speaking Highlanders were a thorn in the side of the British royalty and government. Following an unsuccessful uprising in 1745, the British army spent



Steve Blamires

Photo provided

two years searching out “suspect” Highlanders and killing entire families without trial.

Legislation banning all signs and symbols of Highland culture — wearing the kilt, tartan, playing bagpipes, gathering in groups, carrying weapons — was used as a reason to send in troops to the glens.

This genocide was carried on right into the early 20th century by surrogate clan chieftains who forcibly evicted and deported thousands of families to make way for more profitable and less troublesome sheep.

**Who was Roald Amundsen?**

He achieved many firsts. From 1897 to 1899, he led the first expedition to over-

winter in Antarctica. In 1903 he was the first to navigate the fabled Northwest Passage, which took three years. In 1911 he was the first to reach the South Pole, beating Capt. Robert Falcon Scott by 33 days. In 1925, his aircraft crashed on the ice near the North Pole, so he spent three weeks shoveling 600 tons of ice to make a runway, surviving on one pound of food daily. In 1926 he made the first flight over the North Pole. In 1928, he disappeared in the Arctic during a rescue mission to find several missing Italian explorers. Despite all that polar activity, he managed to find time to have at least three affairs with married women.

**How do you define Celtic?**

Celtic is as inaccurate and meaningless as the term Native American. The notion that there was a vast, Europe-wide race called Celts with the same culture, traditions and beliefs is not true. Many of these present-day cultural beliefs, traditions, clothing and music were made up during the Victorian era.

**Is there anywhere in the world you still yearn to see?**

I have never been to the central area of Russia, where most Russians live. I would also like to travel in the foothills of the Himalayas. My father spent many years there and as a child in Scotland I was fascinated by his photographs and stories. But because I spend my winters in the Antarctic and my summers in the Arctic, I would love to spend some time anywhere hot.

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## Development in Beacon: What Next? *(from Page 1)*

construction and others under review by the Planning Board, a group of residents formed the People's Committee on Development and began attending city meetings en masse. In September, the City Council adopted a six-month development moratorium because of concerns about Beacon's long-term water supply.

The results of studies to find new water sources and to determine the maximum population that the city's water can sustain are expected in the next month.

### Planning and development

Dutchess County has created "Centers and Greenspaces" guidelines for several of its municipalities, including Beacon, that suggest where development can be supported by existing infrastructure while retaining agricultural and other open spaces.

In Beacon, the guide is largely in agreement with the city's comprehensive plan, identifying the east and west ends of Main Street as development centers, with the waterfront and the train station-to-Main Street linkage zone as an emerging center.

"Any city goes through a process of understanding what it wants to be, and the



One of many relics from Beacon's industrial past

*Photos by J. Simms*



The new Beacon City Council and Beacon-area county legislators were sworn in on Jan. 1. From left to right: Legislator Nick Page, Legislator Frits Zernike, Council Members Lee Kyriacou and George Mansfield, outgoing Council Member Pam Wetherbee, Assemblyman Frank Skartados and Council Members Amber Grant, Jodi McCredo, John Rembert and Terry Nelson. *Photo by J. Simms*

comprehensive plan is meant to be the guide that the community relies on for implementing how it will develop," said Eoin Wrafter, the county's planning commissioner.

He notes, however, that even with a comprehensive plan — Beacon's current plan was drafted in 2007 and revised in 2017 — external factors can be unpredictable. For example, high rents and the accessibility afforded by Metro-North led many Brooklynites to relocate to Beacon in the last decade.

Fifteen years earlier, the Taconic State Parkway was the impetus for similar growth spurts in East Fishkill, Lagrange and Beekman, he said.

"The community has to evaluate the pace and the type of development while looking at changing patterns," Wrafter said. "Then it has to look to its zoning to implement that."

To that end, Wrafter says that Beacon is on the right path. The City Council began discussing zoning adjustments in the Fishkill Creek district and along Main Street almost

*(Continued on page 9)*



Early construction in 2017 of The View, a development on Beekman Street

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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Deduction limits

In capping the deduction for state income and local property taxes at \$10,000 annually, President Donald Trump's tax law places a heavy burden on New York homeowners and taxpayers ("Philipstown and Beacon Taking Early Tax Payments," Dec. 29). New York is not the only state affected, and it is too glaring a point to be a coincidence that this bill largely affects "blue" states that Trump did not win.

It was up to small towns like ours to clean up the mess. The Town of Philipstown acted immediately to receive early payments of 2017 property taxes so residents could take advantage of the deductions before they were capped.

In order to subsidize his ill-conceived tax plan, the president has decided to place the burden of paying for it squarely on the backs of millions of working families all across America.

I agree with the majority of Americans that the tax code needed to be changed. But, as with any sweeping and important legislation, the details matter. This tax law was not given the appropriate amount of time for proper consideration and the process completely ignored established protocol for the implementation of legislation. Members of Congress who voted for it never even had time to read the bill. This legislation turned a blind eye to the concerns of more than 50 percent of Americans.

Whatever short-term benefit the temporary income tax breaks achieve will be dwarfed by the permanent elimination of the property tax deduction. All of this, and the law is only a week old. Now imagine what's in store for working families all over America.

Richard Shea, Philipstown  
Shea is the Philipstown supervisor.

### Grassroots opposition

In her book *The Hudson River Highlands*, which documents the preservation of our region over centuries, Frances Dunwell ends her preface by stating: "The spirit of the Highlands endures because people intervened to protect nature, beauty and a national heritage."

We are encouraged to see that, even in this digital age where we're tied to our devices, this spirit is alive and well. It has manifested in the recent opposition to proposed cell towers that will further our attachment to these very devices. However, it is not opposing the expansion of wireless. Rather, it is continuing the culture of preserving the beauty and heritage we cherish.

A perfect example of this spirit in action was the spontaneous formation of the group Philipstown Cell Solutions who, over a short time, raised funds, hired expertise, dived into Nelsonville's zoning code and state code, and gathered the necessary skills to put together a compelling argument for going about this technology expansion differently.

Pointing to both Nelsonville's scenic protections in its zoning code and the fact that the proposed cell tower site lies in a designated Scenic Area of Statewide Significance, they have focused the dialogue on how to expand wireless technology in a way that is not detrimental to our magnificent scenic beauty and cultural heritage.

We applaud these efforts and agree this is the route to follow. We share concerns that any decision here could be precedent-setting, especially under a telecommunications framework undergoing rapid change, as evidenced by the recent decision to reverse net neutrality.

We know the scenic-focused strategy

has worked well in other places. For example, the Adirondack Park Agency has a leading-edge policy on new cell towers that requires "substantial invisibility."

The Hudson Highlands is an area of unique, unparalleled scenic beauty that drives both our tourism industry and our attractiveness as a place to live. This, in turn, creates the need for more cell and data coverage. However, the installation of such infrastructure cannot come at the cost of what makes the Hudson Highlands so special in the first place.

Michelle Smith, Garrison  
*Smith is executive director of the  
Hudson Highlands Land Trust.*

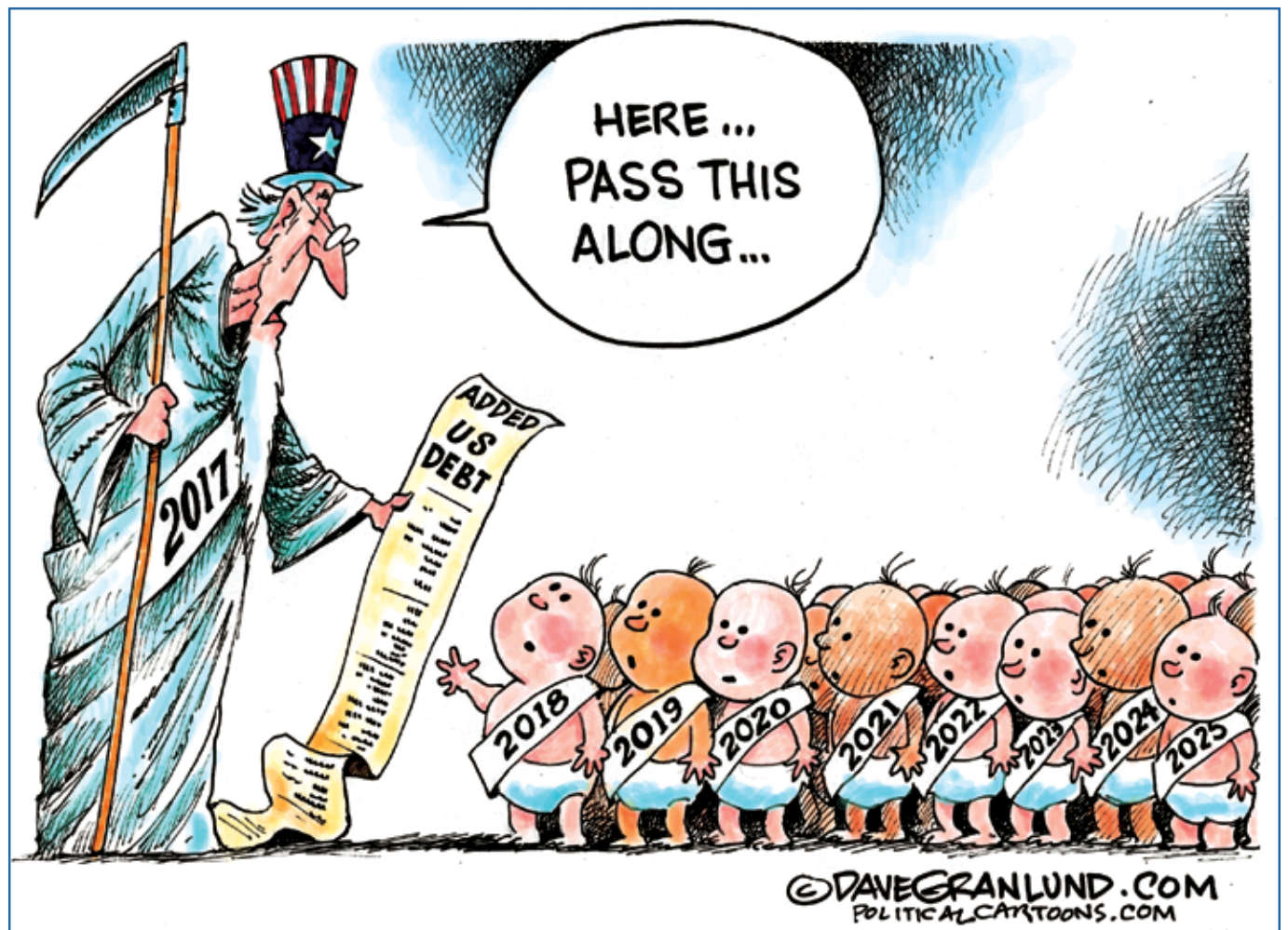
### Thyroid cancer

The recent journal article documenting high local thyroid cancer rates ("After Indian Point: What's Causing Local Thyroid Cancer Rates to Soar?" Dec. 9) is a call for officials to better understand causes. It is more than time!

My three daughters and I were diagnosed with thyroid cancer, and within months we all had our thyroid glands surgically removed. We lived within eight miles from Indian Point for over 14 years. There is no history of any cancer in my family.

I am told it is a "good" cancer because many survive. Not so! Having surgery, taking daily medication and continuously trying to adjust it, taking ultrasounds to see if the cancer has grown back, taking blood tests and living with the worry of it returning after it metastasized to lymph nodes.

The four of us have to live with this. Why and how can (Continued on next page) the Nuclear Regulatory Commission not only ignore





## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR (from previous page)

local disease and death rates but oppose any research that says otherwise? The NRC was created by Congress in 1974 to ensure the safe use of radioactive materials for beneficial civilian purposes while protecting people and environment.

For my family, it is too late. We have moved out of Rockland County but the cancer and aftermath have followed us. The children and families surrounding Indian Point are in need of your help.

Joanne DeVito, Branford, Connecticut

### Best wishes

I would like to thank Donald B. Smith for his 16 years of dedicated service as Putnam County sheriff. He served all of the people who make Putnam home, as well as visitors to our wonderful county.

Under Don's leadership, the Sheriff's Office has grown and evolved in the protection of our community, and strong progress has been made by our law enforcement officers and emergency services. We have all benefited. I would like to wish Don well as he begins a new chapter in his life.

Sheriff Robert L. Langley Jr., *Carmel*

### Thanks from BeaconArts

From the Board of Directors of BeaconArts, grateful thanks to all who participated in and contributed to the City of Beacon Christmas tree lighting and the Beacon Hebrew Alliance Illumin8tion bicycle menorah lighting in December.

Beacon is so very lucky to have such a dedicated and assured Recreation Department director in Mark Price, as well as his colleagues, the equally wonderful Heidi Harrison and Nate Smith, both of whom were on hand working with volunteers from the Recreation Commission and the Girl Scouts.

We are also very grateful to sculptor

and super-volunteer Ed Benavente for once again reinventing the Bicycle Christmas Tree and giving the community and the children of Beacon such unique and meaningful symbols of the season.

And special thanks to the Beacon Hebrew Alliance for all it does to honor so many in our community during the eight nights of Hannukah. Relocating the menorah to the Beacon Building (former City Hall) on the East End of Main Street truly helped to unite our 1.5-mile long Main Street and the two villages that became one beautiful City of Beacon.

Thanks to the Wee Play Community Project for providing a kids' craft at the tree lighting; to the Center for Creative Education for their "flash mobs" at the tree lighting and on the seventh night of Hannukah; to Emily Ellison for leading our community in song so beautifully; to Jeff McHugh for helping raise the tree; and to Timothy Parsaca for stage-managing the festivities.

Thanks also to Michael Bogdanffy-Krieh for capturing the event on film; to the Beacon Music Factory for their generosity in supplying equipment and support; and to the City of Beacon Highway Department for creating a Winter Wonderland at Polhill Park, not to mention all of the other things they do for our city and its citizens.

Kelly Ellenwood, *Beacon*  
*Ellenwood is president of BeaconArts.*

### Tattooed man

The best art is the result of collaboration. Let me give credit where it's due, to the group responsible for the tattooed man in *The Greatest Showman* ("The Woman in Charge of the Tattoo Suit," Dec. 29).

The original drawings were done by me, the body cast of the dancer was made

## 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.

by Louie Zakarian, department head of makeup on *Saturday Night Live*; my sister, Leslie Saulter-Yacuk, and I did the final drawings; and the daily application of transfers to the face and hands was done by Stacy St. Onge.

Cassandra Saulter, Cold Spring

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NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT I, Tina M. Merando, the undersigned Collector of Taxes of the Town of Philipstown, County of Putnam and State of New York, have duly received the tax roll and warrant for the collection of taxes within the Town of Philipstown for the year 2018 and that I will receive the same at the Philipstown Town Hall, 238 Main Street, Cold Spring, New York from January 1, 2018 through July 31, 2018 from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. In January ONLY the Tax Collector will be at the Town Hall at 7:30 a.m.

Taxes will be collected without penalty if paid on or before January 31, 2018. On all taxes paid after January 31, 2018, an additional 1% penalty will be assessed for each month or fraction thereof thereafter until such taxes are paid or until the return of unpaid taxes to the County Treasurer pursuant to law.

Partial tax payment (50% of total tax) will ONLY be accepted during the month of January 2018. The second partial payment will be assessed a 1% penalty charge each month until July 31, 2018, when all unpaid second partial payments will be turned over to the County Treasurer.

Full payment of taxes will be accepted without penalty during the month of January 2018. After the month of January, a 1% interest penalty will be assessed each month until May 1, 2018 when all "fully unpaid" taxes will be turned over to the County Treasurer for collection.

DATED: December 27, 2017

Tina M. Merando, Tax Collector  
Town of Philipstown

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### BUILDING DEPARTMENT SECRETARY

The Town of Highlands is accepting applications for a part-time secretarial position. The position is 20 hours per week. Applicants must be familiar with general office work and have strong computer skills.

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# Fire Protection Dispute Coming to a Head

*Special meeting may tell the tale*

By Michael Turton

After smoldering for more than a year, a dispute between Cold Spring and Nelsonville over fire protection costs may finally be settled next week. At the Dec. 19 meeting of the Cold Spring Village Board, Mayor Dave Merandy said that a public meeting scheduled for Wednesday, Jan. 10, will involve only one agenda item: Nelsonville's payment for fire protection. The Nelsonville Village Board and leadership of the Cold Spring Fire Company have been invited to attend the special 7 p.m. session at the Cold Spring Village Hall.

The conflict stems from an invoice for \$21,679 sent by Cold Spring to Nelsonville in October 2016, part of a twice-yearly billing. Nelsonville responded with a check that omitted \$1,004 identified as its share of the cost of the Length of Service Award Program (LOSAP), a pension for volunteer firefighters. Cold Spring has yet to cash the check over concerns that doing so would indicate formal acceptance of the smaller payment. Merandy has consistently stated that he would not accept what he considers partial payment. At a June 27, 2017, meeting, he said that the Nelsonville invoice reflects "fair distribu-



Greg Gunder

tion of fire company costs. We're not making money on it."

Nelsonville Mayor Bill O'Neill indicated at the time that a referendum may be held in 2018 to determine if Nelsonville residents support paying into LOSAP.

The Village of Cold Spring may be guilty of having been overly transparent in its billing. John Furst, the village attorney, has pointed out that in New York state municipalities typically issue fire protection invoices that list the total amount due, without breaking down costs.

Because of the impasse, the Cold Spring Fire Company is out the funds it normal-



Arne Saari

Photos by M. Turton

ly receives from Nelsonville's payment, which are used to cover operating expenses.

## In other business ...

Merandy and other Village Board members thanked Arne Saari and Greg Gunder for their many years of dedication. Gunder joined the Zoning Board of Appeals in 2005 and began chairing it in 2015. He is moving to Florida and stepped down on Dec. 31. Saari served on the Planning Board for 12 years. He was the only member to serve through the entire, and often controversial, Butterfield redevelopment review.

The mayor and trustees received the Historic District Review Board's draft update of Chapter 64 of the Village Code, which deals with the Historic District. They will next respond to the HDRB, taking into account Furst's comments. A public hearing will be held after the proposed text has been ironed out.

A request by residents for installation of "Children at Play" signs on Fair Street was not granted. Mayor Merandy indicated that, legally, such signs can only be used near playgrounds and schools. The village insurance company also advised against the signage.

The board approved Officer-in-Charge Larry Burke's request to add a surveillance system at Village Hall and the Cold Spring Police Department office. A grant obtained through the office of New York State Sen. Sue Serino will pay half of the \$5,015 cost.

An appreciation night for village employees and volunteers will be held on Friday, Jan. 26, at 6 p.m. at the Cold Spring Fire House.

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# MAGAZZINO

# ITALIAN ART



# The Calendar

## Movie Music Magic

### *Improv bootcamp will score short films*

By Alison Rooney

Freedom can be intimidating; improvisation downright scary.

When it comes to music, saxophonist Brad Hubbard aims to quell those fears by bringing people together in collaboration. Liberated from the requirements of formal composition, Hubbard hopes, participants will respond to the sounds each person creates and join together to score short films. No experience is required, and any instrument is fine. You need not even provide the instrument.

In his new Beacon Music Factory series, called Free Improv Bootcamp, participants will use short, silent films from different eras as inspiration for spontaneous ensembles to enhance the film. The 90-minute class meets weekly from Monday, Feb. 5, through March 12, and culminates in a March 16 performance. (Email [play@beaconmusicfactory.com](mailto:play@beaconmusicfactory.com) to reserve a spot at a free sample class on Sunday, Jan. 21.)

Hubbard is well aware that people are sometimes nervous about dipping into “free improvisation, free music, avant-garde jazz — call it what you want. When people hear group improvisation that’s not played in a traditional jazz setting with set rhythms and chords, it can seem like the players are doing ‘whatever,’ but if you’re doing it as music done for an audience, it’s not that at all. In my own playing, in a group like that, is it serving what the music needs to be?”

“The older I get, the technical part is important, but it’s not the thing that gives it life,” he adds. “It’s having a conversation with someone. It’s not necessary to have technical expertise in order to have emotional content.”

Course participants will listen to a few soundtracks but will then “take the music away and work on our own,” Hubbard explains. “We’ll start by doing an exercise where everyone plays one note, loud, soft, short or long, the only stipulation being that you have to wait until the person preceding you finishes. Then we’ll do another version, but with three notes.

“It’s a lot like teaching kids how to speak, one word at a time. We’ll explore how it can be mimicked with an instrument,” he says. “Everyone will bring their own personality. Every ensemble must listen to each other to make it special. The exercises are designed to develop a

common language and the ability to listen and react to others in the group. We will explore the expressive nuances of ‘structured’ unstructured music and learn how to develop longer forms of this music as a group.”

*“The technical part is important, but it’s not the thing that gives it life. It’s having a conversation with someone. It’s not necessary to have technical expertise in order to have emotional content.”*



Baritone saxophone

Shutterstock

No one, even those with zero musical background, should feel intimidated about signing up, he says. “This will be a very supportive and positive space to step out of the comfort zone. Any mistake you make: I have made that mistake and plenty more 1,000 times already. Mistakes lead to cooler things than what you first thought of. You find things you wouldn’t have seen otherwise.”

If you don’t have an instrument — never fear, Beacon Music Factory has plenty, including piano, keyboards, drum sets, guitars, and possibly a saxophone and a flute.

Hubbard says his goal is to demystify the music.

“I’ve heard my whole life, ‘But you understand this music and I don’t,’ but



Brad Hubbard

Photo by A. Rooney

music is an expression of how you may be feeling,” he explains. “You don’t have to be able to play all of your scales. If you’re open to it, you’ll get an emotional reaction to it. Both scores and film will function as cues to play your instrument in certain ways in particular sections.

“So, there is a lot of free expression, but at the same time there is a road map, of sorts. It’s pretty exciting stuff and truly amazing how composed the music will begin to sound once everyone in the group gets to know each other’s tendencies.”

Hubbard, a native of western North Carolina, began his life in music after being handed a clarinet in seventh-grade school band. He shifted to saxophone and then a teacher took stock of Hubbard’s height and talent and directed him to the baritone sax, in 10th grade.

The teacher promised that if Hubbard learned to play the sax, they would form a school jazz band. After taking the instrument home, Hubbard discovered he could “make the walls of our house rattle, which I thought was really cool, and that was that.”

He went on to study saxophone at the North Carolina School of the Arts, augmenting his classical training there

with jazz. He later spent 16 years playing the baritone with the New Century Saxophone Quartet, which in 1992 became the first sax quartet to both reach the finals and win the Concert Artist Guild International Competition, after which the group toured the world, including Europe, Asia and Central America. It also played in 1993 for President Bill Clinton at the White House.

Four years ago, after 20 years living in New York City, Hubbard, his wife, Twinkle, and their son, Ezra, who is now 13, decamped to Beacon.

“In New York City, if you’re not touring or on a TV show, it’s hard,” he says. “Shake a tree and 5,000 saxophonists will fall out. There’s not enough work to go around.”

He now works both in the city and Beacon, where he teaches and gives private lessons (his students range in age from 9 to 67). He enjoys teaching at Beacon Music Factory, he says, because “everyone is there because they want to be there; there’s no hyper-competition. Fun overrides technical perfection. Emotional content is the real spirit of music.”



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## Development in Beacon: What Next? *(from Page 3)*

immediately after adopting the moratorium last fall.

Density-reducing changes were approved along Fishkill Creek at the end of 2017 and the council is set to continue the Main Street discussion this month.

But what's not happening in Beacon, says Dan Aymar-Blair, one of the organizers of the People's Committee on Development, is a more fundamental shift.

"People want to see a significant change in the culture of development," Aymar-Blair said. "It should be 'How can development support a community?' and not just 'How many units should there be?'"

He agrees that development should go where infrastructure can support it, but with a better mix of uses, rather than hundreds of new apartments.

"People want to work here, and it's a smarter formula for taxes," he said.

*"People want to see a significant change in the culture of development. It should be 'How can development support a community?' and not just 'How many units should there be?'"*

### 'Smart Growth'

The issues facing Beacon aren't unique, said Alex Hutchinson, an economic and community development specialist with the Washington D.C.-based Smart Growth America.

"A lot of towns are going for an approach where land uses are clustered



Beacon's 344 Main St. in 2017, shortly after construction began. Photo by J. Simms

around transportation access, and there are unique businesses that people can walk to," he said. But as these communities experience growing pains they often "worry that they're losing a bit of their soul, and when they see new development happen it can trigger a natural response of, 'I don't like this change.'"

Hutchinson pointed to Frederick, Maryland, a city with a population of 70,000 that is within driving distance of Baltimore and Washington. Like Beacon, it has also become an attractive destination for people priced out of the surrounding metropolitan areas who want "authentic, and not strip malls."

Hutchinson suggested there are a number of ways that a city like Beacon can smartly manage its growth.

A variety of transportation options, like bikeways and public transportation, will allow more people to live in and visit a city that maintains its character without the

cost of expanding roads or parking. A standardized and simple review process will guide builders toward "easy and predictable" development plans, he said.

Hutchinson also suggested that city leaders perform a parking audit, so they know how much parking their streets can accommodate and they can plan ahead for overflow situations.

Finally, an active small-business association will help get local merchants on the same page with

marketing and events. "That will make a downtown lively and productive and will help create the core vitality that's needed to help an area survive," he said.

### Affordability

Many residents cite affordability as an issue in Beacon, as well.

In 2017, the City Council increased the overall number of "affordable" housing units that developers must include in projects in Beacon, and on Dec. 29 the state Homes and Community Renewal agency announced \$4.5 million in funding for the West End Lofts project adjacent to City Hall.

Approved by the Planning Board in September, the Lofts will include 73 units of middle-income and artists' spaces within walking distance of Main Street and the train station. Developer Ken Kearney calls the development "a good fit for Beacon's current synergy."

and Google Drive.

- Garrison installed GoGuardian, a web filtering tool, on school computers to monitor student usage and to better understand which tools are being used, Superintendent Laura Mitchell reported.
- A new handbook has been completed for substitute teachers.
- Board Member David Gelber suggested that the district explore establishing a systematic way of keeping track of families choosing not to send their children to the Garrison School.
- Griffiths presented some of the results of the annual New York State Math and English Language Arts proficiency tests given in grades 3 to 8. Statewide, about 40 percent of students were found to be proficient in English Language Arts and Math at their grade level; at Garrison those figures were 53 percent in ELA and 64 percent in math. The board discussed Garrison's opt-out rate, which was 29 percent, and how it may be affecting scores. Griffiths said he wasn't able to identify a particular type of student who opts out. Statewide about 19 percent don't take the tests. The rate was 9 percent at Haldane, 33 percent at Beacon and 43 percent at Lakeland.

### In other business...

- On the next professional development day in January, teachers will receive training in online tools such as Wixie

"This will address some of the concerns you've heard in the last year," he said, "because there are a lot of people who were being priced out of the market but weren't eligible for some of the other units that have income restrictions."

Kearney, who began his development career in Beacon in the early 1990s, said he's seen a number of communities live through growing pains while others simply stopped growth. "A community has to continue to evolve and grow," he said. "How you balance it is the question."

### Next steps

Beacon Building Inspector Tim Dexter says activity has slowed considerably in his department since the moratorium was adopted.

Meanwhile, developers have speculated that the building freeze, combined with zoning changes — the Fishkill Creek rezoning does not include a grandfather clause for approved developments that have not significantly progressed — will scare investors away from the city.

At the Jan. 2 City Council meeting, Lee Kyriacou, who holds an at-large seat, suggested that the council move quickly to continue the discussion of zoning on Main Street. Speaking a day later, Beacon Mayor Randy Casale said that the council is listening to the public.

"We're listening, but that doesn't mean we're going to just roll over and stop all development," he said. "I never believe everybody is going to be happy, but I believe we're on the right track. When it's said and done, whatever is done by the City Council will be for the best for our city."

## Catching Up with Local School Boards

By Lily Gordon

### Garrison School

The Garrison School is taking measures, including focusing on early intervention and piloting a new reading and writing curriculum, to bolster its literacy program.

Before this past fall, the public school district had gone five years without specialized reading support, Principal John Griffiths said at the Nov. 15 board meeting.

"Our numbers were the highest when we had reading teachers [and] early intervention," said Debbie Earle, a third-grade teacher. "Once those positions were absorbed somewhere else, that's when we started to see our numbers drop."

Nobody in the room denied the importance of early intervention. "Why did it go away five years ago?" asked parent Jennifer Mercurio.

The answer: It wasn't in the budget. Mary Karp, now a special-education instructor, had been providing reading support.

Thirty-five Garrison students currently

receive reading support twice a week, in groups of five. The ideal ratio is three students to one teacher, meeting five times per week, said Julie Greene, a teacher assigned as a reading specialist.

Aside from creating Greene's role, Garrison hired two literacy consultants from Words of Advice a year ago and adopted the reading and writing curriculum from Columbia University's Teachers College.

During a presentation at the Nov. 15 meeting, teachers described that curriculum as a fluid one, building on the previous year's efforts. With workshops starting in first grade, students are shown how their reading and writing skills need to develop to meet the expectations of the next level.

A month later, at the board's Dec. 13 meeting, Griffiths said that since the curriculum was introduced, teachers have been requesting more professional development and parents are offering testimonials, such as one about a student who only liked nonfiction but is "devouring fiction" since he found his appropriate reading level.

### In other business...

- On the next professional development day in January, teachers will receive training in online tools such as Wixie

### Haldane

The application period to find a successor for Superintendent Diana Bowers, who is retiring in June, will continue through February, with interviews planned for March.

Putnam/Northern Westchester BOCES is leading the search, promising a process that "ensures transparency, encourages participation and demonstrates alignment between the board and community stakeholders," said John McCarthy and Lynn Allen, assistant superintendents from BOCES who spoke to the board on Nov. 20.

### In other business...

- On Nov. 7, Haldane senior Mae McGrath was welcomed as a nonvoting member of the board who will serve as a liaison with students.
- Haldane's attorney is continuing discussions, or attempted discussions, with Monolith Solar, the company renting space for panels on the roofs of Haldane buildings. The panels at one site have been inactive since a fire a year ago. The attorney is "talking about the type of litigation that could potentially ensue," Bowers said on Nov. 7.
- The board met with an architect on Dec. 19 to discuss building improvements, specifically to the heating systems.
- Haldane will host a forum on Tuesday, Jan. 30, to discuss the opioid addiction crisis.





Zack Parks, Garrison Volunteer Fire Company open house, April 30

## Great Shots of 2017

One of the frustrations of printing a newspaper is never having enough room to share the many great shots captured by local photographers. Here are a few photos by Ross Corsair taken in the Highlands in 2017 that haven't appeared in print – until now.



MEMORABLE VIEWS — A visitor to the Cold Spring waterfront on Aug. 31 takes in the sunset.



Two by Two Zoo, Desmond-Fish Library, Garrison, June 29



St. Mary's Carnival, Cold Spring, Sept. 17



Twin Forts Day, Fort Montgomery, Oct. 6



## Mouths to Feed

## Tracing My Taginealogy

By Celia Barbour

The first thing I ate when I grew up was a tagine.

This is a 100 percent true fact. Before that, when I was fresh out of college and living, as we all lived, three-to-a-bedroom in some illegal sublet in New York City, weekends meant grabbing a street-cart pretzel en route to a party that was an exact replica of the one we'd attended the week before and the week before that and so on, going all the way back to campus.

In rooms packed as full as subway cars, we'd drink and drink, and shove a handful of chips into our mouths if we happened upon a bowl of them. After a year or two of this, the fancy ones among us began adding things like baked artichoke dip and hummus to our menus, and wearing cocktail dresses and painful heels at holiday time.

Eventually, we acquired our own apartments, or at least our own bedrooms; we made friends with people with lofts. We could breathe, in other words, and maybe find a sofa to sit on as the night wore on. But the basic pattern for a party remained unchanged. It was an event whose beating heart was a table crammed with cheap wine, beer and spirits, plus plastic Solo cups that might be clean or used; you took your chances.

And then my friend E hosted a dinner party and served tagine.

I had tasted tagine before — when I was a child, my mother's best friend was a Morocco-phile. A dinner party, too, was not entirely new. Throughout college, I had attended and even hosted little get-togethers: four people and some spaghetti, that kind of thing. But E's party was a real event. Twelve guests around a beautifully set table; food served in courses, and wines that had actually been chosen to go with each. It was a bold move, and it unnerved me. E was announcing that



The raw ingredients

Photos by Henry Weed

she felt entitled to assume an identity the rest of us were still too timid or oblivious to claim.

After that, we grew braver, however, and began hosting our own chic dinner parties. Before another year was out, we'd developed a knack for them, and for conjuring up all kinds of tagines — with olives or prunes, root vegetables or lamb. I must have eaten a dozen in my mid-20s. At the time, this whole passage felt seamless and natural, part of what I assumed was an inexorable progression from Budweiser to Barolo, Ruffles to risotto.

The other day, I made a chicken-almond-apricot tagine for my family. I was craving something warm and aromatic, satisfying but not rich. Everyone loved it. Peter declared it one of my "top six" all-time best dinners. (I didn't ask where he got that number. Only six?)

Henry said, "Why haven't you ever made this before?"

"I have," I said, defensively.

"When?"

"All the time," I said, and then realized, "um — before you were born."

After that, I began wondering what had made me drop the tagine from my repertoire. Was it because tagine had been the quiche of its era? Was it because other, more "authentic" North African foods took its place? Was it because we all learned that tagine, like salsa, is a word

that doesn't mean what we thought it meant?

Yes, yes and yes! But more importantly, I think, tagines came to symbolize for me the things I did when I was trying to impersonate a grown-up, during those fragile, yearning years. Like so many styles that I adopted and discarded back then (thank heaven there was no Instagram to

,memorialize them), tagines became associated in my mind with a pretentious kind of sham-adulthood.

How silly. Actual adulthood turns out so very shammy, after all. Right now, as we emerge from the season when we're most likely to wake up remembering those bygone Solo cups, it's the perfect time to celebrate the everlasting art of growing up — and down, and sideways, too.

It's time, in other words, to play house by making an unforgettable tagine.

Chicken Tagine  
with Almonds and Apricots

Serves 4

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1 ½ pounds boneless skinless chicken thighs                        | 5 garlic cloves, chopped                                   |
| 1 teaspoon each ground cinnamon, ginger and paprika                | several sprigs cilantro, parsley and mint (about 25 total) |
| ½ teaspoon each ground turmeric, cumin, coriander and black pepper | 1 ½ cups water   |
| 2 teaspoons salt   | ⅓ cup whole, blanched almonds (see note)                   |
| 5 tablespoons olive oil  | ½ cup dried apricots, cut in half                          |
| 1 red onion, quartered lengthwise then sliced ¼ -inch thick        | ½ cup orange juice   |
|  | Couscous for serving                                       |
|  | Harissa (optional) for serving                             |

1. Preheat oven to 325°. Place the chicken in a medium bowl. In a small dish, mix together the spices, 1 teaspoon salt and 1 tablespoon olive oil. Toss spice blend with the chicken until all the pieces are well coated. Set aside. (You can do this up to 3 hours before cooking; place the chicken in the refrigerator.)
2. In a Dutch oven (or clay tagine if you're lucky enough to own one), heat 2 tablespoons olive oil over a medium flame. Add the sliced onion and ½ teaspoon salt, and saute until soft, mixing frequently, about 8 minutes. Add the garlic and cook, stirring, until softened, about 2 minutes. Add the reserved chicken, turning the pieces over until they are combined with the onion mixture. Add the water and bring to a simmer.
3. Meanwhile, remove the leaves from the parsley, mint and cilantro and set aside. Tie the stems together with kitchen twine, and add this bundle to the pot with the chicken and onions.
4. Once the chicken mixture begins to simmer, transfer the pot to the oven and reduce the heat to 275. Cook, uncovered, for 45 minute to 1 hour, until the chicken almost falls apart when you prod it with a fork.
5. While the chicken is cooking, heat the remaining 2 tablespoons olive oil in a frying pan and toast the blanched almonds until golden and just beginning to blister, 2 to 3 minutes. Place the apricots in a small saucepan, add the orange juice, and simmer over very low heat until the apricots are plump and soft. Ten minutes before serving, mix the apricots and reduced orange juice with the tagine.
6. Prepare couscous according to package directions. Chop the mint, parsley and cilantro leaves. Just before serving, toss herbs with finished couscous. Sprinkle almonds over tagine. Serve hot, with harissa on the side. Note: If you can't find blanched almonds, it's easy to make your own: Bring a small saucepan of water to a boil, add raw almonds and simmer 1 minute; drain and rinse under cold water. When cool, gently squeeze the almonds and they'll slip out of their skins.



Chicken tagine with almonds and apricots



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Depot Folk:

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Excellent Creature, Dialogues with Drama Reading

**The Night of the Iguana**

Jan. 14, 7 p.m.

philipstowndepottheatre.org

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



## COMMUNITY BRIEFS

## New Year, New Art

*Buster Levi group show opens Jan. 5*

The Buster Levi Gallery in Cold Spring opens a group show today (Jan. 5) with a reception from 6 to 8 p.m. The show, which will be on display through Jan. 28, includes works by John Allen, Martee Levi, Lucille Tortora, Grace Kennedy, Ursula Schneider and Maria Pia Marrella. The gallery is open on Saturdays from noon to 5 p.m. for the month. See [busterlevigallery.com](http://busterlevigallery.com).

## Holiday Spirit in Philipstown

*Chamber recognizes holiday decorating*

The Cold Spring Area Chamber of Commerce has recognized four businesses for their efforts to "light up Philipstown" with holiday decor. On Main Street, Archipelago was recognized for "Best Light," Once Upon a Time for "Most Creative" and Houlihan Lawrence for "Most Sophisticated." The "Best Off-Main Street" award went to the Philipstown Recreation Center in Garrison. Ten businesses participated.

## Stargazing Indoors

*Skylab open on Jan. 13*

See the stars at the Hudson Highlands Nature Museum in the Skylab Indoor Planetarium on Saturday, Jan. 13. Three sessions will be offered, at 10 a.m., 11:30 a.m. and 1 p.m.

Families and children ages 4 and up can learn how to identify major constellations and stars and hear Native American and Greek stories about how they were created. The event will be held at the Outdoor Discovery Center in Cornwall and registration is required. See [hnhm.org](http://hnhm.org).



The Skylab Indoor Planetarium at the Hudson Highlands Nature Museum will offer views of the Milky Way on Jan. 13.

*Image provided*

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



WORLD PREMIERE — Charlie Plummer of Cold Spring (second from left), with co-stars Mark Wahlberg and Michelle Williams and director Ridley Scott at the premiere of *All the Money in the World*, which opened on Dec. 25

*Photo by Eric Charbonneau/CTMG*

## Children's Fund Announces Grants

*More than \$14,000 raised in fall*

The Garrison Children's Education Fund which supports learning for students in the Garrison Union Free School District, raised more than \$14,000 during its fall fundraising drive. The money will be distributed for spring programs, including two-day workshops with the

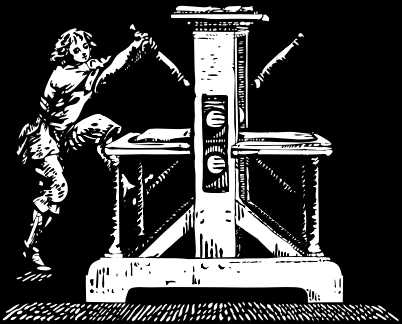
Garrison Arts Center for all grades, a sail aboard the sloop Clearwater for fifth-grade students, and transportation to the New York Museum of Science for grades 3 to 5. See [gcef.net](http://gcef.net).

## Out with the Old

*How to dispose of old electronics*

Since many people received electronics as holiday gifts, the state Department of Environ- (Continued on next page)

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## 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? Ed and Fran Murphy of Cold Spring shared this shot of their great-grandson, Jaxon, on his first Christmas, with pal Coco Beans. If you have a photo of a baby and a dog, submit it for consideration to [editor@highlandscurrent.com](mailto:editor@highlandscurrent.com).

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MON 4:20 7:45, TUE 7:45  
WED 12:40 4:20 7:45, THU 7:45

**Star Wars:**  
**The Last Jedi (PG13)**  
FRI 2:20 6:00 9:30, SAT 1:20 5:00 8:30, SUN 12:20 4:00 7:30  
MON 4:00 7:30, TUE 7:30  
WED 12:20 4:00 7:30, THU 7:30

**Jumanji: Welcome to The Jungle (PG13)**  
FRI 2:00 5:40 9:15, SAT 1:00 4:40 8:15, SUN 12:00 3:40 7:15  
MON 3:40 7:15, TUE 7:15  
WED 12:00 3:40 7:15, THU 7:15

**McLintock (NR, 1963)**  
WED 2:00 (In Studio 6)



## COMMUNITY BRIEFS (from previous page)



Under state law, outdated computers and electronics must be recycled.

mental Conservation sent out a reminder that it is illegal to discard computers, printers, monitors, televisions or tablets in household trash. These items must be recycled.

In Philipstown, electronics, paper, cardboard and metals can be deposited at the town landfill on Lane Gate Road on Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. for \$2 per carload or \$5 per truckload. See [philipstown.com/recyclingcenter.pdf](http://philipstown.com/recyclingcenter.pdf). Many manufacturers also offer free postage to mail items for recycling.

## Shoot, Score, Win

*Annual free throw contest is Jan. 11*

Loretto Council No. 536 of the Knights of Columbus will host its annual Youth Free Throw Competition for girls and boys ages 9 to 14 beginning on Thursday, Jan. 11. (The snow date is Jan. 18.) Registration is at 5:45 p.m. at the Capuchin Youth and Family Ministries Gym on Route 9D in Garrison. Winners advance to district, regional and state competitions.

## Beacon

### Swing Your Partner

*Four-week dance series begins Jan. 9*

Got2Lindy Dance Studios, which specializes in swing, will launch a four-week series of classes for beginners at the Beacon Elks Lodge on Tuesday, Jan. 9. The style has been around since the 1930s and had a revival in the '80s. The package of classes is \$85 per person and bringing a partner is not necessary. See [got2lindy.com](http://got2lindy.com).



**HONORED FOR SERVICE** — On Dec. 8, the Continental Village Fire Department in Garrison named Dylan Meaney (left) as its Junior Firefighter of the Year and Mathew Cashman (right) as its Firefighter of the Year.

*Photo by Cooper Cardenase*

## Ori Alon Begins Residency

*Matteawan hosts artist in January*

Starting Saturday, Jan. 6, Ori Alon will be working at the Matteawan Gallery at 436 Main St., in Beacon, as its annual winter artist in residence. He will be at the gallery on Saturday and Sunday from noon to 5 p.m. through Jan. 28, with a closing reception that day as well as an artist's talk.

Alon is the founder of the Center for Supportive Bureaucracy (Empowering Clerks Network), which produces a For-giver's License, Joy Permits, Open Carry



Ori Alon, shown here filling out Joy Permits, will be the artist in residence in January at the Matteawan Gallery in Beacon.

*Photo by Amile Clark Wilson*

Permits for musical instruments, the OK Parent Award, the Village Fool Diploma, a Racism Release Form and, for his January stay, the White Men Registry.

## First Chamber Series Concert

*Pianist will perform on Jan. 14*

Pianist Orion Weiss will perform at 4 p.m. on Sunday, Jan. 14, at the Howland Cultural Center in Beacon in the first con-

cert of the Howland Chamber Music Circle's new Piano Festival season. Weiss will play Brahms' *Selections from Six Klavierstücke, Op. 118*, Debussy's *La Boîte à joujou*, Schumann's *Waldszenen, Op. 82* and Ravel's *Le Tombeau de Couperin*. Tickets are \$30 (\$10 for students). See [howland-music.org](http://howland-music.org).

## Support Groups

For a full list of area support groups, visit: [highlandscurrent.com/sg](http://highlandscurrent.com/sg)



Orion Weiss will perform on Sunday, Jan. 14, at the Howland Cultural Center. *Photo provided*

# AVAILABLE

<p><b>Butterfield Square</b> Join NewYork-Presbyterian Medical Group! Medical   Office   Financial 700 – 15,000 ± SF Available</p>	<p><b>Philipstown Square</b> Join Grano Focaccia Restaurant! Storefronts   Retail   Office 450 – 1,600 ± SF Available</p>
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## Longtime Antique Shop to Close

(from Page 1)

said. He believes another popular show, American Pickers, is staged. "Nobody just rides here and there and finds a beautiful barn full of antiques," he says. "Once in a lifetime maybe, but every week?"

Carmichael saw firsthand how antique shops helped revitalize Main Street in Cold Spring.

"When I grew up in Beacon, Cold Spring was a pretty closed little town," he recalls. Like many communities, the village declined in the 1960s and early 1970s with the growth of plazas and shopping centers. Eventually there were 30 to 35 shops in Cold Spring that brought thousands of customers to Main Street. "There were weekends when you couldn't see the sidewalk for people, and they were here just for antiques," he says.



Walt Carmichael enters his shop

Photo by M. Turton

## New Leaders for Putnam Legislature

*Philipstown representative named to four boards*

By Holly Crocco

In keeping with the practice of rotating the leadership of the Putnam County Legislature, a new chairperson was named Tuesday (Jan 2) during the board's

organizational meeting at the Historic Courthouse in Carmel.

Joseph Castellano (R-Southeast) took the reins after serving as deputy chairman in 2016 and 2017 under Ginny Nacerino (R-Patterson).

Castellano is in his sixth year on the Legislature. Previously, he served on the Southeast Zoning Board of Appeals. His appointment was unanimous.



The 2018 Putnam County Legislature — Back row: Neal Sullivan of Mahopac, Bill Gouldman of Putnam Valley, Paul Jonke of Brewster, Amy Sayegh of Mahopac Falls. Front row: Barbara Scuccimarra of Philipstown, Carl Albano of Carmel, Joseph Castellano of Southeast, Ginny Nacerino of Patterson and Toni Adonizzio of Kent. All are Republicans.

Photos by H. Crocco

Toni Adonizzio (R-Kent) was named deputy chairperson. Her appointment was also unanimous.

Barbara Scuccimarra (R-Philipstown) was appointed to serve as a representative on the Region 3 Forest Practice Board, the Putnam County Soil and Water Conservation District Board, the Board of Health, and the Agricultural and Farmls and Protection Board.



New Legislature Chairman Joseph Castellano (R-Southeast) and Deputy Chairperson Toni Adonizzio (R-Kent)

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## Haldane Basketball Hopes to Defeat Juvenile Diabetes *(from Page 16)*

worked with varsity Coach Joe Virgadamo to organize the fundraiser, want to educate people about the disease and the toll managing it takes on children and their families.

"Most of the time when people ask me about T1D, they are not educated and think it's caused by eating too much sugar," says Krissy Irwin. "That can be very upsetting to a parent and child. Liam's pancreas was attacked by a virus, leaving it not functioning and not producing the insulin his body needed."

Her husband, Bill, "has had T1D for 37 years and gives him pointers on playing competitive sports with T1D," she says. "Increased blood-sugar testing and eating the right things before and after practices and games is a key to better managing high and low blood sugars. Being good in math is always a plus for a diabetic as they have to manage insulin-to-carb ratios and correction factors to get their blood sugar back to the agreed-upon target as per their endocrinologist. It's certainly not easy for a teenager, but with the family support it makes it easier, for sure."

T1D, a chronic autoimmune disease, occurs when the pancreas stops producing insulin, the hormone that controls blood-sugar levels. T1D develops when the immune system mistakenly destroys insulin-producing pancreatic beta cells.

While there is likely a genetic component, people of all ethnic backgrounds

have T1D, though the incidence generally increases in populations north of the equator. Many are diagnosed in early elementary school or as preteens, around growth spurts or hormonal changes.

There is nothing anyone can do to prevent T1D and, despite recent advances, no cure. People with T1D continuously balance insulin intake with eating, exercise and other activities. They measure blood-sugar levels multiple times each day in blood drawn through a finger prick or by wearing a continuous glucose monitor.

The illness affects the entire family, says Amy Kubik. "As a family, you all have to change the way you operate in all aspects. For our family, it became a new normal, with 'Mommy has to stop and pay close attention to your sister,' day in, day out; it was arduous."

What stands out for Kubik is how "invisible it is for these kids. They do all that their peers do, while carrying this burden, which isn't noticeable. And it's different for each family living with this: What kind of insurance coverage do you have? Is it a one-parent or two-parent family? Are there siblings at home? What are the economics of the household?"

For Krissy Irwin, "we are all in this fight together. When Liam was diagnosed at the age of 13, it was our worst nightmare. But on the positive side — if you could say there is one — this actually was comforting to Liam because he was aware of how

a person lives with it as he watched his father deal with it over the years and understood that you can live with diabetes.

"There is a constant struggle with T1D; you have good days and bad days and have to educate yourself on how many carbs are in the foods you are eating so you can give yourself the proper dose of insulin to cover that," she says. "Family support is very important; it's a life-or-death matter."

The Kubiks had no clue that diabetes would afflict them; there was no family history of the disease or other signs. When Cassie, at age 3, seemed listless, it was believed she had a virus. "She didn't want to go to her dance class, which was unusual," Amy Kubik says. "It was a Friday and the doctor could have easily said, 'See you Monday.' Thankfully, he didn't; if we had waited the weekend, she would have died."

En route to the hospital, Kubik called her aunt, who is a nurse. "I told her, 'Her blood sugar is 1,200. Is that bad?' My aunt paused and said: 'Yeah, honey, it's real bad.' Luckily for us, we found out early; it's crucial to know in the first few days."

Insulin is provided to the body through injections or a pump, which has to be worn at all times. It correlates to a computer program that provides a constant measure of blood-sugar levels. If there is a problem, an alarm sounds. For Kubik, a recent switch to the pump means she no longer must wake up each night at 3 a.m. to check on her daughter.

"Blood sugar has to be checked before you eat and when you don't feel well, or if you're getting a bug," Kubik says, but "you can eat whatever you want. You just have

to manage it well and get medication to match what you're eating."

This can be difficult for teenagers. "Most suffer some kind of burnout at times," Kubik says, "and this is what you're most fearful of as a parent. Hopefully by the time they leave for college they have the maturity to handle it all."

She praises Haldane's support of kids with diabetes, calling it "kind and professional, which isn't always the case. Our kids need access at any time to a pile of stuff — their blood sugar can crash at any time. At Haldane we've never had to fight for anything."



Cassie Kubik, in a photo taken when she was 4 years old, is surrounded by a year's supply of her diabetes medication and equipment.

Photo by Juan Delgado

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# Haldane Basketball Hopes to Defeat Juvenile Diabetes

Game will raise funds to fight disease some Blue Devils know well

By Alison Rooney

In a charity fundraiser to fight a disease some players and their families know well, the Haldane boys' varsity basketball team will hit the court against Yonkers Montessori Academy on Friday, Jan. 19, to support Riding on Insulin, an organization that supports research into Type 1 Diabetes (T1D), or juvenile diabetes.

Two Haldane players, Liam Irwin and Anthony Sinchi, have the disease, as does Irwin's father, Bill. Cassie Kubik, the sister of another player, Alex Kubik, is also managing the illness, which, according to the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, affects 200,000 Americans under age 20, along with more than 1 million adults.

The Haldane game, which begins at the school gym at 6 p.m., is free but donations will be accepted and there will a raffle and auction. The concession will also offer low-carb, low-sugar snacks.

Amy Kubik, Krissy Irwin and Susan Richardson, who (Continued on page 15)



(Left to right) Alex Kubik, Liam Irwin and Anthony Sinchi Photo by Amy Kubik

## Section 1 Leaves County Center

Hoops tournament to be held at Pace

By Leigh Alan Klein

The Gold Ball will no longer live at the Westchester County Center. Starting this year, Pace University in Pleasantville will host the Section 1 boys' and girls' basketball championship games.

With two exceptions (1987 and 2005), the White Plains venue hosted the Section 1 boys' finals every season since 1933 and the girls' since 1999. Much of the basketball legacy of four counties — Westchester, Rockland, Putnam and Dutchess — has transpired there.

"We are definitely disappointed about the move," said Scott Timpano, who coaches boys' varsity basketball for Beacon High School. "Pace is a very nice facility, and they definitely do a great job there, but it's not the same."

"A lot of adults are disappointed because of the tradition, but to the kids, all they know is the County Center and playing there under the lights," he added. "It's disappointing that Westchester County and Section 1 couldn't come to an agreement. I would think that a group of adults looking out for the best interest of the kids would be able to make something happen."

Pace University's Goldstein Center, with 2,400 seats, is a smaller but less expensive alternative than the 4,000-seat County Center. Teams and fans won't miss the \$10 parking fee but will miss the public transportation options.

It's not clear why Section 1 made the move, although lower costs may have been a factor. The Section 1 Athletics Council has said only that it "tasked officials with seeking a state-of-the-art venue for finals that is easily accessible to teams and their fans from across the four-county region, while providing affordability and a family friendly competitive environment." But some critics of the move expressed concern that Pace



The Haldane girls' basketball team held aloft the Gold Ball at the Westchester County Center on March 4 after winning its fourth consecutive Section 1 championship. Photo by Richard Kuperberg Sr

will not have enough seats or parking.

After Section 1 President James Macklin, who is principal of Hendrick Hudson High School, confirmed on Dec. 12 that tournament games would not be held at the county Center, at least 15 members of Section 1 basketball tournament committees resigned in protest, according to *The Journal News*. A White Plains lawyer has agreed to represent the coaches at no charge.

## 'Pink Out' on Jan. 12

The Beacon High School boys' and girls' basketball teams will be holding a "Pink Out" fundraiser on Friday, Jan. 12, to remember former Beacon City School District nurse Donna Pedersen, who died of cancer on Dec. 4 at age 46.

There will be halftime performances, a concession stand and a presentation to the Pedersen family during halftime of the boys' game against Lourdes, which begins at 6:15 p.m.

The girls' team will play James O'Neill High School at 4:15 p.m. isn the first game of the doubleheader.

A \$5 donation will be requested at the door to benefit the Pedersen family. Pink shirts also will be on sale for \$12. To reserve your size, email Claire Vigna at [vigna.c@beaconk12.org](mailto:vigna.c@beaconk12.org).



Donna Pedersen

## Varsity Scoreboard

**Boys' Basketball**  
Beacon 62, Ketcham 44  
Beacon 75, Lourdes 53  
Spackenkill 73, Beacon 57  
Haldane 52, Chester 45 (2OT)  
Haldane 62, Clark Academy 39

**Girls' Basketball**  
Beekmantown 46, Haldane 44  
Haldane 58, Woodlands 40

**Boys' Bowling**  
Ketcham 5, Beacon 2

**Girls' Bowling**  
Beacon 7, Ketcham 0

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