



THE FIGHT CONTINUES — The federal holiday on Monday, Jan. 15, celebrates the birthday of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., whose memorial in Washington, D.C., was dedicated in 2011. For a list of events in Philipstown and Beacon to honor the civil-rights activist, see Page 3.

Photo by Carol Highsmith/Library of Congress

Report: More Homeless in Hudson Valley

Strong shelter system can sometimes mask extent of problem

By Brian PJ Cronin

The number of people living on the streets or in shelters increased by 6.7 percent in the Hudson Valley in 2017, according to the latest annual estimate released last month by the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development.

The figures came as no surprise to Christa Hines, executive director of Hudson River Housing in Poughkeepsie. The biggest problem facing Dutchess County, she said, is the lack of affordable housing.

“When affordable housing starts to decrease beyond where it is now, there are no places for people to go,” she said. “We need to build a very inclusive community where there are options for everybody.”

Many of the people who find themselves homeless suffer from mental illness, Hines noted. “We’ve had to do a lot of training, not just in how to deal with people, but empathy training so we have an understanding of what they’re dealing with,” she said.

Linda Malave, who is the organization’s associate executive director, noted that for those used to the stability of a hospital or institution, the transition to the streets can be jarring.

“If you’ve been told when to eat and when to sleep and here’s your medicine and now you’re on your own, it’s scary,” she said. “And they’re landing in our shelter, which is not appropriate, either.”

A nonprofit, Hudson River Housing began in 1982 with 25 staff members and (Continued on Page 6)



The number of homeless people in the U.S. in 2017 rose for the first time in seven years. Higher urban rents have driven more people into the streets. *HUD photo*

Winter Waterline Woes in (Really) Cold Spring

‘The most difficult repair I’ve encountered’

By Michael Turton

Early on the morning of Tuesday, Jan. 2, with the temperature around 7 degrees and a major snowstorm predicted for later in the week, a leak was discovered in a waterline near Rock Street and Kemble Avenue in Cold Spring.

It took six village workers nearly three days and 111 collective hours to fix the break, working around the clock under terrible conditions. Superintendent of Water and Wastewater Greg Phillips recounted the effort as “the most difficult repair I’ve encountered in 20 years.”

Tuesday, Jan. 2

2 a.m. Robert Downey Jr. of the Highway Department notices water on Kemble Avenue near The Boulevard. Scott Monroe of the water department notifies Phillips, who checks computerized monitors that indicate a leak of about 75,000 gallons per day.

8 a.m. Phillips, Monroe and Charlie Norton of the Highway Department meet at the site to evaluate the break.

10 a.m. A microphone called an aquascope is used to locate the leak. Mayor Dave Merandy is notified. Due to the 30-inch deep frost, a backhoe is not able to excavate, and village dump trucks are unavailable because they have already been outfitted for sanding and salting in anticipation of the storm. Highway Department workers are unavailable because they have just finished the overnight garbage pickup. A private contractor is contacted.

4 p.m. The leak affects 350 to 400 residents in about 100 households. Each household is contacted, as are Putnam County emergency and health officials; water is still flowing.

Wednesday, Jan. 3

9 a.m. Traffic is detoured and excavation begins.

11:30 a.m. The initial aquascope reading that appeared to pinpoint the leak proves to be incorrect. The search moves to Rock Street, west of Kemble.

Noon. Residents begin to lose water pressure.

1 p.m. At the new site, additional equipment is brought in to break through the pavement and heavy frost. The pump hoses keep freezing. Heaters are employed to keep them operable and to give workers relief from the bitter cold. (During the repair, the temperature never rises above 29 degrees.) Residents are advised (Continued on Page 8)



Village workers battled frigid temperatures while repairing the broken waterlines. *Photo by Sal Pidala Jr.*

5 Five Questions: EUGENE GUERCIO

By Brian PJ Cronin

Eugene Guercio is co-owner, with Jody Lindh, of The Village Jerk, a jerky shop at 380 Main St. in Beacon.

Why jerky?

When Jody's son was younger and playing a lot of sports, she found that jerky was a good snack. Later, when we traveled in the Carolinas and Arizona, we started coming across jerky stores. They didn't have the mass-produced jerky you find at gas stations but healthier jerky made by small companies without all the additives.

Which are your favorites?

We love Highland Farms jerky, from Vermont; we always sell out of its garlic-flavored jerky. I'd also recommend Keto Carne from Brooklyn; Jojo's, which is big in Vegas; and Bubba's Carolina, which has great flavors such as Native Cranberry

and Orange Teriyaki. There's also jerky from California and Oregon that is less dry because they make it with wine.

How much jerky do you eat?

I'm always snacking on it. I have Type 2 diabetes, so I try to stay away from carbs and get more protein.

Is all jerky made from beef?

No, we have venison, salmon, bison, even vegan made from coconut or cactus, which tastes a bit like eggplant.

Do you stock anything besides jerky?

This is Jody's spot, so we wanted to sell items that she likes, which is rustic country. So we have cowhide curtains, wooden walking sticks, cowboy hats, leather goods and branding irons for steaks. And we also like hot sauce.



Eugene Guercio at The Village Jerk

Photo by B. Cronin

NEW BRIEFS

State Targets 'Patient Brokering' for Addiction

Gov. Andrew Cuomo on Dec. 27 announced a campaign to battle "patient brokering" in which middlemen collect commissions from addiction treatment centers and sober-living homes for referring patients with health insurance.

The patients then receive what the governor called "inadequate and ineffective treatment at outrageous costs." Many of the suspect clinics are located in Florida, Arizona and California.

As part of the campaign, the state Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services (OASAS) and the New York Association of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse

Providers are distributing posters that remind those suffering from addiction and their families that "when it comes to rehab referrals, beware of broken promises."

In addition, OASAS issued a directive that requires referrals in New York to be delivered by state certified and credentialed professionals, who are prohibited from collecting referral fees. New Yorkers can report suspicious activity by calling 800-553-5790 or emailing stoptreatmentfraud@oasas.ny.gov.

Those struggling with addiction or who have loved ones who need help can call the state's 24-hour hotline at 877-846-7369. Crisis/detox, inpatient, community residence or outpatient care can be located at findaddictiontreatment.ny.gov.

Maloney Pushes for 9/11 Care, Drug Cops

Sean Patrick Maloney, who represents Philipstown and Beacon in the U.S. House of Representatives, has asked the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health to allow the Mount Sinai Health System to establish a clinical care center in the Hudson Valley to treat 9/11 first responders

closer to their homes. The nearest facility is in Manhattan.

Mount Sinai provides care to 9/11 first responders who suffer from respiratory and gastrointestinal problems, musculoskeletal disorders, mental health conditions and cancer as a result of their service after the 2001 attack.

Maloney also wrote the Drug Enforcement Administration after it announced the creation of six teams, including one based on Long Island, to disrupt the flow of heroin and fentanyl. Noting that, according to state data, Dutchess and Orange counties have higher rates of opioid-related deaths per capita than Long Island, he asked the DEA to also focus on the Hudson Valley. The agency has said each team (others are located in Massachusetts, West Virginia, Ohio and North Carolina) will work not only locally but in the nearby region.

NY Alert

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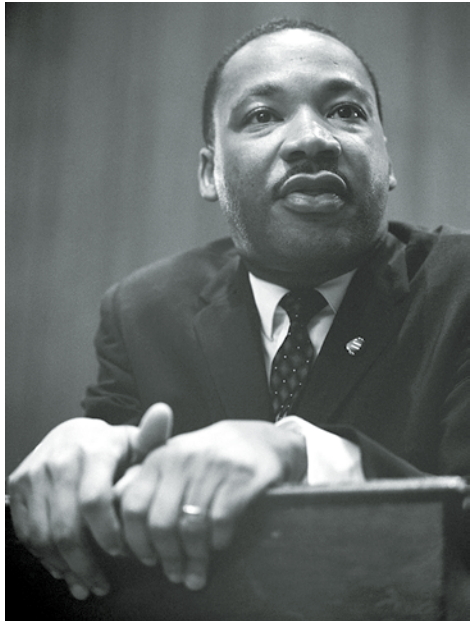
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Martin Luther King Jr. in 1963

Photo by Marion S. Trikosko/Library of Congress

Philipstown, Beacon to Honor Martin Luther King Jr.

Talks, parade, concert and music on schedule

The Desmond-Fish Library in Garrison will host two events to celebrate the birthday of Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., which takes place on the third Monday in January and happens this year to fall on his actual birthday, Jan. 15.

On Sunday, Jan. 14, at 6 p.m., the library will host a community potluck followed by a talk by Peter Egziabher, counsel and fellow in the Democracy Program at the Brennan Center for Justice at New York University, on voter disenfranchisement, the weaknesses of the registration system and how automation could help bring the more than 50 million unregistered voters in the U.S. to the polls.

On Monday, Jan. 15, at 1 p.m. the library will host a concert celebrating King's legacy with Tony Jefferson, Jon Sholle, Tony Garnier, Sherryl Marshall and Jonathan Kruk performing songs of civil rights and resistance. The library is located at the intersection of Routes 403 and 9D.

In Beacon, the Springfield Baptist Church will again host the annual celebration of King's birthday, beginning with a continental breakfast on Jan. 15 from 8 to 9:20 a.m. at the church, which is located at 8 Mattie Cooper Square.

The theme of the 2018 celebration is "If I can help somebody, then my living will not be in vain."

At 9:30 a.m., the line-up will begin for the fifth annual community parade (bring U.S. flags, posters and banners), followed

at 10:45 a.m. by the presentation of the fifth annual Southern Dutchess Coalition/Martin Luther King Jr. essay contest.

At 11 a.m., the third annual youth and adult talent presentation will take place, and then youth, choir members and seniors will have lunch at 11:50 a.m., followed by adults at noon.

At 1 p.m., the Rev. Edward Benson of the New Vision Church of Deliverance in Peekskill will lead a worship service at Springfield Baptist. Music will be provided by Brandon Williams, Sharlene Stout, Shonna Robinson, and the Southern Dutchess Coalition Massed Choir. For more information, call the event chair, Jennifer Baker-McClinton, at 845-559-3076.

Philipstown Collects Millions in Early Tax Payments

Governor pledges state efforts to ease burden of deduction limits

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

Homeowners often hold off paying taxes as long as possible. But many Highlands residents rushed to pay theirs before the Jan. 1 arrival of reductions in the federal write-off for state and local taxes.

Philipstown received \$2.668 million in early payments on 2018 tax bills, said the town's tax collector (and clerk), Tina Merando. She opened her office on Saturday morning, Dec. 30, to allow residents to get their payments in before the end of the year.

In Beacon, Finance Director Susan Tucker said the city collected \$288,688 in early payments. Her office received "several hundred phone calls" during the last week of the year, she added. "We couldn't even answer all of them." Residents also stopped by in person during what is usually a slow time. "It was pretty crazy."

Adopted just before Christmas, the overhaul limits deductions for local and state taxes to \$10,000 on itemized tax

returns. By paying local property taxes (state income taxes were ineligible) before 2017 ended — instead of in early 2018 — residents hope to claim the fuller deduction one last time, if the Internal Revenue Service goes along.



To accommodate taxpayers in New York, one of the states hit hardest by the new federal law, Gov. Andrew Cuomo authorized municipalities to accept early payments on 2018 bills. Those that did included Beacon and Philipstown. Local school districts and the villages of Cold Spring and Nelsonville, whose budget cycles do not coincide with the calendar year, did not participate.

In his State of the State Address in Albany on Jan. 3, Cuomo called the new

federal tax law "an assault on New York." Limiting deductions on state and local property taxes, he warned, "effectively raises middle-class families' property and state income taxes by 20 to 25 percent." He said his administration plans a three-prong response:

- A lawsuit challenging the tax law as "unconstitutional — the first federal double taxation in our nation's history, violating states' rights and the principle of equal protection";
- A New York-led national "repeal-and-replace" campaign; and
- A pursuit of "a major shift in tax policy" at the state level by restructuring the income-and-payroll-based system and possibly funding public projects through charitable donations.

On Jan. 9, two members of Congress from New York, Democrat Nita Lowey and Republican Peter King, introduced legislation to repeal the section of the tax law that limits the deductibility of state and local taxes. According to the Tax Policy Center, the limit is expected to bring in \$36 billion in revenue to the U.S. Treasury in 2018 and \$644 billion over 10 years.



Second Home Hit

The new tax law also affects owners of second homes by reducing from \$1 million to \$750,000 the total amount of mortgage debt on which interest can be deducted on itemized returns for houses purchased after Dec. 15, 2017. If your primary residence is worth \$750,000 or more, that change eliminates the mortgage-interest deduction for any second home purchased after Dec. 15. The new law also eliminates the interest deduction on new and existing home-equity loans beginning in 2018.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Modern elections

The League of Women Voters of Putnam County spent the summer and fall working to educate voters on the November ballot measure that called for a state constitutional convention. We held educational forums, passed out brochures on the history and process of conventions, and encouraged voters to be open to both sides of the debate.

We were pleased so many voters turned over their ballots to vote on the convention question, but disheartened to see how many opposed holding a convention that could have resulted in much-needed ethics and voting reforms.

State legislative leaders, including the governor, opposed holding a convention. Legislators have reasoned that ethics and voting reforms are possible without calling a convention. Although true, they have been slow to move these reforms. New York State continues to rank among the worst states in the nation in voter turnout and participation. According to the group Nonprofit VOTE, we ranked 41st in the country in the 2016 election. That is shocking news in a place whose proud moniker is "the Empire State."

Now that the convention measure has failed, we should all be calling on both houses of the Legislature and the governor to put their words into actions and pass voting reform. Tell your state Assembly member, senator and the governor to bring our election procedures into the 21st century.

Eileen Reilly, *Putnam Valley*
Reilly is president of the League of Women Voters of Putnam County.

Our state has a voting problem. In the 2016 election, only 56 percent of eligible voters went to the polls. Our democracy thrives when all are able to engage in the election process. This means ensuring people's ability to vote.

New York State is one of only 13 states that does not offer early voting. Early vot-

Putting a Face to the Name

The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund is building a "Wall of Faces" for a new education center at the memorial in Washington, D.C. It is collecting photographs of each of the 58,318 men and women who lost their lives in the conflict and whose names are engraved on the wall. See vvmf.org/Wall-of-Faces.

New York state lost 4,126 service members, including 12 from Putnam County and 38 from Dutchess County. Those whose digital memorials do not have photos are listed below; images can be uploaded through the Wall of Faces site. If a memorial already has a photo, the fund says it will also accept additional images.

Putnam County

Robert C. Gillen, Army, Putnam Valley, d. Jan. 6, 1968

William H. Keeler, Army, Patterson, d. March 24, 1969

Michael W. McDonald, Army, Carmel, d. Feb. 22, 1966



PFC Keith Warren F Livermore
2/5/48 - 8/67 K.I.A. Viet Nam

Dutchess County

Everett E. Foster, Beacon, Air Force, d. July 20, 1967

Michael Garlo, Fishkill, Marines, d. Aug. 20, 1969

ing allows flexibility for voters to vote when they are able to, while juggling work and familial obligations, rather than struggling to find time to vote only on Election Day, or being prevented from voting altogether. Similarly, automatic voter registration, done through the Department of Motor Vehicles, streamlines the registration process. Same-day registration allows eligible voters to vote even if they did not have an opportunity to register before Election Day.

In order to apply for an absentee ballot in New York state, a voter must provide a reason for the absence or inability to make it to the polls. New York should join the majority of states and not require an excuse. Such policies do not protect our elections, or enhance the voting experi-

ence, but serve only as a deterrent and invasion of privacy.

When I polled my constituents, early voting and automatic voter registration had the support of nearly 70 percent of them. Same-day registration received support from 56 percent. This session I will continue my support of, and advocacy for, legislation that ensures that New York lives up to its promise and makes voting a right and not a privilege. The laws of the state should never be the reason an eligible person does not vote in our elections.

Sandy Galef, *Albany*
Galef represents Philipstown in the state Assembly.

Hidden treasures

Although online markets such as eBay can offer hundreds, perhaps thousands, of choices where an antiques store might offer one or two, if any, much has been lost in the depersonalizing of our search for the material past ("Longtime Antique Shop to Close," Jan. 5).

Meandering aimlessly through musty aisles in the hope of finding a treasure, and talking old times and bygone days with the shop owner — these are delights that are fast disappearing. I remember driving from Westchester to Cold Spring to go antiquing, and I have happily spent money in Walt Carmichael's Fountain Square Antiques.

Now that I've lived in Cold Spring for some years, I can say with certainty that he will be missed when he closes the store in February, along with so many other purveyors of the past who made our town all the richer.

Ron Soodalter, *Cold Spring*



For more letters, visit
highlandscurrent.com

Cell Tower Decisions, on the Clock

Deadlines extended as scrutiny continues in Philipstown, Nelsonville

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

Shot clocks expired this week on decision-making for the Highlands' two contentious cell tower proposals.

But the proceedings did not end for either the Vineyard Road cell tower, under review by the Town of Philipstown, or the Rockledge Road tower, under consideration by the Village of Nelsonville.

Instead, in Philipstown, the third round of a public hearing that began in mid-November ended Monday night (Jan. 8) with an agreement by cell tower applicant Homeland Towers LLC and two regulatory boards to heed the request of tower foes and ask the owner of the proposed site to put the 140-foot structure in a less conspicuous place on his property. One board also signaled reluctance, for environmental reasons, to allow the tower to use the site so far chosen for it.

Two days later, a similar Nelsonville hearing concluded with Homeland's promise to extend the Rockledge proposal "shot clock," or deadline, to Feb. 28. Nelsonville's two regulatory boards then set the deadline for residents to submit comments to Feb. 9, with a deadline of Feb. 20 for responses, and to re-convene the week of Feb. 26 to presumably approve or deny the application.

The shot-clock provision, mandated by the Federal Communications Commission, requires municipalities to act on tower applications within 150 days, although the applicant can agree to extend that.

Philipstown: Vineyard Road tower

Under the agreement reached Jan. 8, the Philipstown Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) and Conservation Board will resume discussions on Jan. 22 after the town and Homeland make overtures to the landowner, Chris Fadden, of CF Diversified Corp. Homeland has signed a lease for the use of a parcel on Fadden's 64-acre property.

The town has suggested using an alternative site on Fadden's land to make the tower less visible and intrusive. But at the meeting, representatives from Homeland Towers said Fadden has already declined to change the location.

"The block seems to be Mr. Fadden and that's what I'm trying to break," said ZBA Chairperson Robert Dee. "If he refuses to meet, it will be a very short hearing" on Jan. 22.

Like others, Dee expressed frustration that one person could thwart efforts to reach a compromise. "I just find it obscene," he said. Paul Eldridge, a neighbor, agreed, calling it "patently, grossly unfair. There's something wrong when somebody can dictate the situation and we have no recourse."

Vineyard Road winds uphill from Route 9 just south of the intersection with Route 301, known as Mekeel's Corner. The corner already contains a tower, not owned by Homeland, that serves Verizon and



At a hearing on Jan. 10, Nelsonville residents voiced concerns about the impact of a proposed cell tower on the Cold Spring Cemetery below the site. Photo by L.S. Armstrong

other carriers. However, Homeland, which is partnering with Verizon, considers the 20-year-old existing tower inadequate to meet what it calls a "significant gap" in high-tech, commercial wireless access.

Another tower, also about 20 years old, stands above Route 9 along Tower Road, 2.2 miles from the intersection.

Homeowners near the proposed Vineyard Road site have argued that their wireless service is fine. The debate over the perceived gap, and its significance, has continued since the application surfaced in June.

The last-ditch effort to persuade Fadden came after another long evening of often heated exchanges. Homeland needs a special-use permit from the ZBA and a wetlands permit from the Conservation Board to build the tower.

Manny Vicente, the president of Homeland Towers, which is based in Danbury, chastised community members for objecting to cell towers and the Philipstown government for being uncooperative. He said Homeland Towers approached Philipstown in February 2010 about possible sites and "got no advice, no help, no recommendations."

Yet, "not only is there a history of a need for commercial wireless service" in Philipstown, he said, "there's a public safety need" for emergency services communications.

Vicente cited a 2011 report commissioned by the Town Board that reported firefighters saw a need for better radio communications and that other towns have partnered with cellphone companies to reduce the costs of equipment. Even seven years later, Vicente said, "there is a fundamental resistance to development of this infrastructure in this community."

As the hearing concluded, members of the Conservation Board presented a statement expressing reservations about the tower as proposed.

"The Conservation Board has never allowed a building in a wetlands buffer or encroachments on water courses unless there is an absolute, compelling reason to do so," it read. "The fact the landowner will not allow alternative sites on his property to be investigated is *not* a compelling reason."

Nelsonville: Rockledge Road tower

Stretching for more than three hours, the Jan. 10 joint hearing by the Nelsonville Zoning Board of Appeals and Planning Board

also featured sharp exchanges about a 110-foot tower proposed for a 9.6-acre, hillside plot above the Cold Spring Cemetery.

As he had at the Philipstown hearing two days earlier, Robert Gaudio, a lawyer for Homeland Towers, reiterated the need for a tower to deal with dropped calls and insufficient access. "It's inside buildings and inside vehicles that you have a problem," he said.

Steve Marino, who chairs the Planning Board, noted that his family does have difficulty making calls from their home on Main Street. Yet he also wondered if another technology, such as a distributive antenna system, would work. "I'd like it

justified as to why it can't be done here," he said. "It's a less visibly intrusive option."

Gaudio challenged that and cautioned that a municipality cannot legally demand that a wireless provider use a specific technology or vote "to prohibit service."

Albert Tagliaferri, area director of the Center for Municipal Solutions, which advises local governments on telecommunications issues, said the planned "monopine," or tower disguised to resemble a tree, "is the wrong structure to service this area" and proposed distributed antennas as a better option.

Michelle Smith, executive director of the Hudson Highlands Land Trust, questioned why Homeland Towers seemed to dismiss the fact that the site is protected by the state as an "area of scenic significance."

"I'm very puzzled why you think that does not apply," she told Gaudio. Smith said the Rockledge tower would be visible from Storm King and Crow's Nest mountains across the Hudson River as well as, closer to home, Bull Hill, which looms over Cold Spring and Nelsonville, and vantage points leading to its summit.

Doris Chandler, who moved to Cold Spring from Alabama to become the pastor at the First Presbyterian Church of Philipstown, spoke of the uniqueness of her new home. "It's extraordinary. It's a treasure," she said. "You have great a responsibility to be stewards, to be caretakers. I hope you'll give due consideration to preserving the beauty of this place."

PHILIPSTOWN PLANNING BOARD

Public Hearing

The Philipstown Planning Board for the Town of Philipstown, New York will hold a public hearing on Thursday, January 18, 2018, starting at 7:30 p.m. at the Old VFW Hall, 34 Kemble Avenue, Cold Spring, New York 10516, to consider the following application:

Hudson Highland Reserve, Route 9, Horton Road & East Mountain Road North

The 210.1-acre tract, involving 6 separate tax parcels, is located on the east side of Route 9 between Horton Road and East Mountain Road North. The eastern edge of the property has frontage on East Mountain Road South. The largest part of the property, 194.5 acres, is located in the "Rural Residential" (RR) zoning district, of which 153.5 acres are also in the "Open Space Overlay" (OSO) district. There are 11.1 acres of the property, in the most westerly part of the tract with frontage along Route 9, that are located in the "Industrial/Manufacturing" (M) zone. The remainder of the property, 4.5 acres is located in the "Highway Commercial" (HC) zone along Route 9. The application for Preliminary Approval is being processed as a "Conservation Subdivision" pursuant to the standards contained within §175-20 of the Zoning Ordinance. A minimum of 154 acres of the overall tract is proposed to remain undeveloped, and protected as "Open Space". The Applicant seeks Preliminary Approval of a subdivision that includes 25 residential lots, each containing approximately 1 acre. The 25 lots will be served by individual wells and community wastewater treatment facilities. An equestrian center is also proposed. The 4.5-acre parcel, which is improved with an office building will remain a separate but smaller lot making room for the proposed access road.

At said hearing all persons will have the right to be heard. Copies of the application, Full Environmental Assessment Form, Subdivision Plat and other related materials may be seen in the office of the Planning Board located at the Philipstown Town Hall Annex, 2 Cedar Street (behind the Town Hall), Cold Spring, New York between 8:30 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Dated at Philipstown, New York on this 3rd day of January 2018
Ande Merante, Chairman

Report: More Homeless in Hudson Valley *(from Page 1)*

a six-bed emergency shelter. It has since grown to include more than 130 employees and 60 beds. (The shelter is located on the grounds of the former Hudson River Psychiatric Center, which closed in 2001.) That's still not enough; during the winter there are typically 20 to 30 people who must stay in a transitional housing facility the group runs in the same building.

Those seeking access to the shelter are screened at the Family Partnership Center at 29 North Hamilton St. in Poughkeepsie. Transportation is provided to and from the shelter, which is open every night from 7 p.m. to 7 a.m. During the day, those seeking shelter can stay at the Living Room Program run by Mental Health America out of the Family Partnership Center.

Both Hudson River Housing's shelter and the Living Room Program offer more than beds, showers and hot meals. Case managers work with visitors to connect them to social services and obtain benefits that in many cases they don't know they qualify for. Employment help is available, although in some cases, shelter guests already have jobs but are making minimum wage and can't afford housing. In those cases, Hudson River Housing tries to match them with roommates.

Hudson River Housing also offers financial assistance for people moving from the shelter for the first month's rent, security deposits, utilities or anything else that would prevent people from be-

ing able to move. Case managers inspect apartments and speak with landlords to make sure that people aren't being taken advantage of.

Once a person is off the streets, the group works to provide training, clothes for interviews and help with resumes. Last year, Hudson River Housing converted the former Poughkeepsie Underwear Factory at 8 North Cherry St. into affordable housing and artists' lofts with a cafe and kitchen that offers further employment options.

"People need opportunities. They need work if they're able to work, and they need to get the resources that are available to them."

"People need opportunities," said Hines. "They need work if they're able to work, and they need to get the resources that are available to them."

The group's efficiency, including the 24-hour care it provides, can mask the pervasiveness of the problem. Since people have somewhere to go, there can be fewer homeless people on the street, and the group also has programs that prevent people from being evicted and becoming homeless.

"If we didn't have these shelters and



HUD photo

resources available, you'd see a lot more people out," said Hines.

More resources will be available on Sunday, Jan. 21, as the nation undertakes an annual Point-in-Time survey of homeless people mandated by the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

In Dutchess County, social workers and students from the Department of Social Work and Sociology at Marist College will search the streets and visit areas that the police have identified as places that homeless people tend to congregate, including a Poughkeepsie shelter.

In Beacon, the count will be done at the Tabernacle of Christ A/G Church at 483 Main St., which hosts a soup kitchen during the week.

"I would love to get a podiatrist in here. I know it's difficult because of insurance, but when we get people in here at the crisis center, their feet are in horrible shape."

The survey is about more than the count, explained Sue Tallardy of Mid-Hudson Addiction Recovery Centers in Poughkeepsie. "It's about connecting people and giving back to them, as well."

When Tallardy took over overseeing the count in Dutchess County a few years ago, they gave out backpacks filled with toiletries and other supplies. Now the pro-

Homeless by the Numbers

- On a single night in January 2017, an estimated 553,000 people were homeless in the U.S., including 89,500 in New York state. Of those in New York, 4,500 were living on the streets, 5,000 were considered chronically homeless and 2,800 were under the age of 25.
- The number of homeless people in New York state has increased 36 percent since 2010.
- There are nearly 300,000 more shelter beds in the U.S. than in 2007, an increase of 47 percent.

Source: 2017 Annual Homeless Assessment Report to Congress

gram has volunteers on hand such as barbers, beauticians and healthcare workers. ShopRite hands out applications and in the past has hired people on the spot. To volunteer, call Tallardy at 845-471-0310.

"I would love to get a podiatrist in here," she said. "I know it's difficult because of insurance, but when we get people in here at the crisis center, their feet are in horrible shape."

Please join us for a VALENTINES DAY DINNER DANCE



Saturday, February 10th, 6 - 10 p.m.
Dutchess Manor
263 Route 9D, Beacon, NY
\$75 per person/\$140 couple
Dinner, dancing and cash bar
Music by DJ Van Ritshie of WALL Radio

Event hosted by, make checks payable to:
 The Philipstown Republican Committee
 PO Box 216, Garrison, New York 10525
 (845) 522-2764

Check out our Facebook page (Philipstown Republican Committee) to view the menu!

RSVP no later than Friday, January 26, 2018

Martin Luther King Day Celebrations



at the
Desmond-Fish Library
 472 Route 403, Garrison, NY
 845-424-3020 for more info

Potluck Picnic and Talk Sunday, January 13th at 6pm

Bring a dish or beverage to share if you wish
 Featuring Peter Egziabher, NYU Brennan Center.

*The Footsteps of Selma:
 Protecting the Right to Vote*

Songs of Civil Rights and Resistance Monday, January 14th at 1pm

A musical celebration with
 vocalist Tony Jefferson, Jon Sholle on Guitar,
 Tony Garnier on String Bass,
 and special guest, Sherryl Marshall.
 Storyteller, Jonathan Kruk as MC

Cold Spring to Consider Private Garbage Collection

Royal Carting asked to do test run in village

By Michael Turton

The Village of Cold Spring may be getting out of the garbage collection business.

At the Jan. 9 meeting of the Village Board, Mayor Dave Merandy announced that Royal Carting will do a test run on Jan. 30, collecting both garbage and recyclables throughout the village. The board and Royal will then evaluate whether the company should take over from the Highway Department.

Merandy, who has wanted to reassess garbage collection since first taking office, commented that contracting out collection would free up the Highway Department to concentrate on other duties. "Garbage and recycling take up so much time,"

he said.

However, Merandy expressed concern over how Highway Department workers might be affected. "We're not out to kill anyone's job," he said, stating that he wants to ensure "the guys who have been working here are employed and stay with us."

Merandy also emphasized that the cost to taxpayers would have to be considered. If the change is adopted, "individual homeowners would be responsible for pickup and for contracting with Royal," he said. "The village would be out of the business totally." The cost to residents won't be known until Royal completes the test run. "There are a lot of variables," Merandy said. The company has indicated that residents would be charged a reduced rate due to the large number of homes involved.

Village workers pick up garbage beginning at 1 a.m. on Tuesday and collect recyclables on Friday. Royal will begin the Jan.

30 test run at 4 a.m. Two trucks will work in tandem, one handling garbage and the other recyclables. Workers from the Highway Department will accompany them.

The test run will be done at no cost to the village, and any revenue from recyclables will be refunded.

Royal handles garbage collection in a number of Hudson Valley communities including Beacon, Fishkill and Wappingers Falls. They also do garbage pickup in

Police Report

The Cold Spring Police Department handled 63 calls for service in December. Two arrests were made, for disorderly conduct and for unlicensed operation of a vehicle. Thirty-one parking tickets were issued along with 25 traffic violations.

Nelsonville under contract with the village, not with individual residents. Cold Spring's Forge Gate condominiums also contracts with Royal.

Fire Protection Détente

Nelsonville mayor gives Cold Spring new check

By Michael Turton

When Nelsonville Mayor Bill O'Neill placed a check for \$20,674.75 on the meeting table at Cold Spring Village Hall on Wednesday (Jan. 10), it marked the first tangible progress toward ending a year-long dispute between the two municipalities over the cost of fire protection.

Both village boards participated in the two-hour marathon that often wandered from topic to topic with no clear resolution in sight.

The Jan. 10 payment replaced a check from October 2016 that Cold Spring refused to cash because it did not include \$1,004 for the cost of the Length of Service Award Program (LOSAP), a pension for volunteer firefighters. Nelsonville balked at paying into the program.

That sticking point was eliminated when both sides agreed that future bills will not break down costs in detail. In-

stead, invoices will include a single figure that reflects Nelsonville's share of the aggregate cost of operating the Cold Spring Fire Company, excluding capital improvements such as pending roof repairs.

The boards also agreed that contracts will be for one year rather than five as suggested by Cold Spring. Billing and contracts will mirror the format used when Cold Spring bills the Town of Philipstown for fire protection.

The test of the détente will come in the months ahead as Cold Spring determines the amount of Nelsonville's semi-annual invoice. Even after two hours of discussion, there was no firm agreement on how Nelsonville's "fair share" of fire company costs should be determined. Possible criteria included using the rate of assessed property values, population, number of calls by the company and the relative area of the municipalities.

Michelle Ascolillo, Cold Spring's accountant, suggested the fire company's actual costs be used. In that scenario, the contract would be adjusted up or down once actual costs from the previous year are confirmed.



TAKING THE OATH — Philipstown Supervisor Richard Shea (left) was sworn in on Jan. 8 for his fifth, two-year term. His wife, Karen, held the Bible and U.S. Rep. Sean Patrick Maloney (right) administered the oath.

Photo by L.S. Armstrong

Please join the

Hudson Highlands Pipe Band for our 12th Annual

Traditional Burns Night Supper

honoring the
Scottish Poet Robert Burns

Saturday, January 27, 2018

7 - 11 pm

Scottish inspired dinner with haggis,
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Tickets at <https://burns-supper2018.eventbrite.com>

HALDANE CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Town of Philipstown Putnam County, New York Notice of Utilization of the Repair Reserve Fund

The Board of Education of the Haldane Central School District, Town of Philipstown, Putnam County, New York, hereby gives notice that the School District will hold a public hearing on the 16th day of January 2018 at 6:30 p.m., in the Haldane Middle School/High School Library, located at 15 Craigsides Drive, Cold Spring, New York, to hear all persons interested in the following matter:

The School District proposes to appropriate the sum of \$200,000 from the Repair Reserve Fund for the total renovations of the first floor boys and second floor girls elementary wing toilets to include, but not limited to piping, electrical, fire alarm and exhaust modifications, fixture upgrades, and wall and floor finishes.

Information regarding the project is on file in the District Office.

Julia Famularo, District Clerk, Haldane Central School District

Winter Waterline Woes *(from Page 1)*



to boil their water for drinking and cooking.

3 p.m. The frozen ground further inhibits excavation. Daylight is waning. The trench fills with ice-cold water.

4:15 p.m. Portable lighting is set up.

5 p.m. A HydroVac, which excavates with pressurized water and a vacuum, arrives from Buchanan.

5:40 p.m. An 8-foot-deep trench is finally excavated. Three small, decrepit water lines are discovered. They are more than a century old and it's not clear if they still supply any homes. Some older waterlines have never been mapped. Over the next two-and-a-half hours, the three lines are clamped off at the 6-inch Rock Street main after it has been cleaned of corrosion.

8 p.m. While attempting to re-pressurize the Rock Street main, water is detected

A jackhammer was needed to chip away granite under the cracked Kemble Avenue main. The vertical pipe is used to remove water, rock and debris from the trench.

Photo by Sal Pidala Jr.

coming from the original trench, as well as from one of the old, clamped-off lines.

8:30 p.m. Just north of the original excavation site, a fracture is discovered in the 6-inch Kemble Avenue main, which lies on granite less than 3 feet beneath the road. (The typical depth of a main is 4 feet to avoid problems with frost.) The line cracked around its entire circumference, creating a 360-degree leak.

9 p.m. The Philipstown Highway Department lends the village a jackhammer to remove some of the granite.

10 p.m. After the bedrock is removed, workers apply a clamp. But a new issue surfaces: another of the old clamped lines is feeding water into the Rock Street trench, indicating it is connected to a main in another location. The old line is an odd size and the Cold Spring crew doesn't have the proper fittings to repair it.

11 p.m. Phillips sends photos of the odd-sized line to John Pizzella, a contractor who is a 30-year veteran of the Peekskill Water Department.

Thursday, Jan. 4
Midnight. Pizzella arrives with the fittings and the repair is completed.

12:45 a.m. Slowly, water pressure is restored to the area. All the fittings appear to be watertight.

1 a.m. Over the next few hours, fire hydrants on Kemble Avenue, Constitution Drive and Forge Gate Drive are flushed under low pressure to allow air to escape and prevent damage to residential lines.

The Highway Department workers, including Ken Trimble and Zach Langer, backfill, set up barricades and lay steel plates, clean up the site and remove equipment and the detour signs. After little sleep, they return to plow during the snowstorm.

Testing of the water for bacteria is delayed due to the treacherous roads. The boil advisory is left in place.

Friday, Jan. 5
9 a.m. Samples are sent to EnviroTest Laboratories in Newburgh for testing that involves a 24-hour incubation period.

Saturday, Jan. 6
5:39 p.m. The lab tells Phillips the water is safe. He informs the Putnam County Health Department, and the boil advisory is lifted.



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Remo Salvadori
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MAGAZZINO

ITALIAN ART

The Calendar

Slambovian and Son

Guitar duo makes sparks fly at Towne Crier

By Alison Rooney

Sharkey and the Sparks — which is Sharkey McEwen, lead guitarist for Slambovian Circus of Dreams, and his 14-year-old son, Ben — return to the Towne Crier Café in Beacon at 7 p.m. for a free show on Thursday, Jan. 18, following their packed debut there in November.

Ben began playing guitar at age 11, a year earlier than his dad had started. “There was always lots of music in the house,” says Sharkey (born Mark) of his childhood home in Davis, California. But he was more interested in astronomy than music, and recalls being fascinated by an oversized atlas.

Even in his 30s and 40s, he says, he found himself surprised that he had become a musician. Unlike many of his friends, he never had an epiphany that he wanted to make music but says that by age 15 he was playing pubs and colleges around Davis and eventually

joined a band called Staggerwing. (“It was some kind of aircraft, I think,” he says with a smile.) By 17 he was playing professionally.

He moved to Los Angeles in his early 20s, teaming up with The NuKats, “a smart, nerdy, band” from Minnesota. “It turned out to be successful, which allowed me to go back to school and finally study theory and composition and take piano classes,” he says.

Sharkey says he had lots of musical ideas but “didn’t have anything to say lyrically. That led me on a kind of a spiritual path, which took me to a lot of places around the world. I ended up in New York, working in a music studio in Manhattan, and that’s where I met Joziah and Tink Longo,” his fellow Slambovians.

They hired him for their band, The Ancestors, after asking him to help audition guitarists and realizing he was the best candidate. They found a drummer and took the name Gandalf Murphy and the Slambovian Circus of Dreams.

Sharkey isn’t sure how the name came about. “Joziah was going to an art class,



Sharkey and Ben McEwen

Photo provided

and he made a poster saying ‘Gandalf Murphy Presents,’” he recalls. “Gandalf also is a character in *Lord of the Rings*, and Joe was always saying ‘Murphy,’ as in, ‘Come on, Murphy.’ It also may have been inspired by a walk through the woods at Sleepy Hollow.

“Slambovian, I think, came from

slammin’, like in ‘That was slammin’ as a reaction to something good being played.”

The name has since been simplified to Slambovian Circus of Dreams, but Sharkey admits it may not be the best moniker. “The Who, U2: short, memorable,” he says. (Continued on Page 11)

Birders in Winter

Audubon plans cold-weather excursions

By Alison Rooney

The world may slow down during the winter, but not for birders.

Between the Christmas counts and February’s eagle-spotting along the

Hudson, members of the Putnam Highlands Audubon Society (PHAS) will keep their wings aloft.

Grassland excursion

On Saturday, Jan. 20, Ryan Bass and Pete Salmansohn, who is the education coordinator for the Seabird Restoration Program for Audubon, will lead a birding trip to the Shawangunk Grassland National Wildlife Refuge, an unusual



A short-eared owl

Photo by Tim Greenfield/Cascades Raptor Center

“Bring binoculars if you have them and dress in layers, as the grasslands can be quite windy. As the sun goes down the owls tend to show themselves.”

habitat in Ulster County known to attract short-eared owls and northern harrier hawks. The group will carpool from Foodtown in Cold Spring at 3 p.m. for the 45-minute drive, then walk to the grassy, shrubby habitat in search of the “uncommon and inspiring birds,” Salmansohn said.

“Bring binoculars if you have them and dress in layers, as the grasslands can be quite windy,” he advised. “As the sun goes down the owls tend to show themselves. We will bird the area for perhaps an hour and then start back for Cold Spring. Other possible species during the late afternoon include northern harrier, rough-legged hawk, red-tailed hawk, snow buntings and horned larks.”

Bad weather cancels; check putnam-highlandsaudubon.org or email puff-pete@gmail.com or ryan.j.bass@gmail.com. If traveling separately, meet at the Shawangunk parking area near the observation deck at 3:45 p.m.

(Continued on Page 12)

How Many Birds?

Each year PHAS participates in the Peekskill Bird Count and the Putnam County Christmas Bird Count. This year, during the latter, Putnam County spotters recorded 79 species, plus five additional species were seen during that week, according to Charlie Roberto, who compiles the records.

At a Nov. 30 excursion led by Ryan Bass at West Point Foundry Preserve, a total of 66 birds were seen or heard, representing 23 species. The highlight was a peregrine falcon that flew past with prey in its talons. A pair of peregrines has built a cliffside nest, or “eyrie,” at Storm King.



Malachy Cleary will speak on Jan. 28 about his years-long attempt to establish a purple martin colony in the Highlands.

File photo by Michael Turton

FRIDAY, JAN. 12

Beacon Basketball Pink Out
4:15 p.m. Girls vs. O’Neill
6:15 p.m. Boys vs. Lourdes
Beacon High School
101 Matteawan Road, Beacon | beaonk12.org

Member Exhibit (Opening)
5 – 7 p.m. Garrison Art Center
23 Garrison’s Landing, Garrison
845-424-3960 | garrisonartcenter.org

Plain White T’s
8 p.m. Paramount Hudson Valley
1008 Brown St., Peekskill
914-739-0039 | paramounthudsonvalley.com

SATURDAY, JAN. 13

StarLab: Indoor Planetarium
10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Outdoor Discovery Center
Muser Drive, Cornwall
845-534-5506 x204 | hhn.org

Family Music Hootenanny
10 a.m. Beacon Music Factory
333 Fishkill Ave., Beacon
845-765-0472 | beaconmusicfactory.com

Met Live in HD: Ades’ *The Exterminating Angel*
1 p.m. Bardavon
35 Market St., Poughkeepsie
845-473-2072 | bardavon.org

Wee Bitty Kidz Grand Opening
1:30 p.m. Puppet Show
6:30 - 9:30 p.m. Jenny Donovan Photography
(Opening)
178 Main St., Beacon | 845-765-2067

Philipstown Depot Theatre
4 p.m. Vocal Workshop with Claire Wellin
7 p.m. Youth in a Roman Field (Folk)
10 Garrison’s Landing, Garrison
845-424-3900 | philipstowndepottheatre.org

Cold Spring Film Society: *Gandhi* (1982)
7 p.m. Old VFW Hall
34 Kemble Ave., Cold Spring
845-424-4618 | coldspringfilm.org

Get On Up, Get On Down Dance
7 p.m. Elks Lodge
900 Wolcott Ave., Beacon | 845-765-0667

SECOND SATURDAY

Elementary School Art Exhibit
2 – 4 p.m. Howland Public Library
313 Main St., Beacon
845-831-1134 | beaconlibrary.org



Calendar Highlights

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

Group Show: *Cloth & Memory*
3 – 5 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
477 Main St., Beacon | 845-831-0514
howlandculturalcenter.org

Mary Ann Glass and Christine Irvin: *Timeless Greece*
5 – 8 p.m. RiverWinds Gallery
172 Main St., Beacon
845-838-2880 | riverwindsgallery.com

Group Show: *Celebration*
5 – 9 p.m. Catalyst Gallery
137 Main St., Beacon
845-204-3844 | catalystgallery.com

Group Show: *Lucky 13*
6 – 9 p.m. bau Gallery
506 Main St., Beacon
845-440-7584 | baugallery.com

Donna Mikkelsen: *Ambi Work*
6 – 9 p.m. Hudson Beach Glass
162 Main St., Beacon
845-440-0068 | hudsonbeachglass.com

Ron English: *I Heart Skull!*
6 – 9 p.m. Clutter Gallery
163 Main St., Beacon
212-255-2505 | shop.cluttermagazine.com

SUNDAY, JAN. 14

Howland Chamber Music: Orion Weiss (Piano)
4 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
477 Main St., Beacon
845-831-0514 | howlandmusic.org

Martin Luther King Jr. Day Potluck and Speaker
6 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library
472 Route 403, Garrison
845-424-3020 | desmondfishlibrary.org

MONDAY, JAN. 15

Hudson Highlands Girl Scouts Annual Skating Event
9:30 – 11:30 a.m. Roller Magic
4178 Route 9, Hyde Park
845-229-6666 | aunteda@hotmail.com

Howland Public Library Open Today
9:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.
See details under Saturday.

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY

40th Annual MLK Jr. Birthday Celebration
8 a.m. Continental Breakfast
9:30 a.m. 5th Annual Community Parade
10:45 a.m. 5th Annual Essay Contest Presentation
11 a.m. 3rd Annual Youth/Adult Talent Presentation
11:50 a.m. Youth/Choir Members/Senior Lunch
Noon. Adult Celebration Lunch
1 p.m. Annual Celebration Service
Springfield Baptist Church
8 Mattie Cooper Square, Beacon

Songs of Civil Rights and Resistance
1 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library
See details under Sunday.

TUESDAY, JAN. 16

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

Haldane vs. Westlake (Girls’ Basketball)
6:15 p.m. Haldane School
15 Craigsides Drive, Cold Spring
845-265-2500 | haldane.org

Haldane School Board
6:30 p.m. Public Hearing on Use of Repair Reserves
7 p.m. Board Meeting (Workshop)
Haldane Music Room
15 Craigsides Drive, Cold Spring
845-265-9254 | haldaneschool.org

Beginner Swing Class
7 p.m. Elks Lodge
See details under Saturday.

Middle Company: New Works (Readings)
7 p.m. Old VFW Hall
34 Kemble Ave., Cold Spring
themiddlecompany.com

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

Cold Spring Board of Trustees
7 p.m. Village Hall
85 Main St., Cold Spring
845-265-3611 | coldspringny.gov

Nelsonville Board of Trustees
7:30 p.m. Village Hall
258 Main St., Nelsonville
845-265-2500 | villageofnelsonville.org

Dutchess Genealogical Society
7:30 p.m. LDS Church
204 Spackenkill Road, Poughkeepsie
dcgs-gen.org

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 17

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

Haldane vs. Peekskill (Girls’ Basketball)
6:15 p.m. Haldane School
See details under Tuesday.

Beacon vs. Henry Hudson (Girls’ Basketball)
6:15 p.m. Beacon High School
See details under Friday.

Army vs. Holy Cross (Women’s Basketball)
7 p.m. Christl Arena
Fenton Place, West Point
845-938-2526 | goarmywestpoint.com

Garrison School Board
7 p.m. Garrison School
1100 Route 9D, Garrison
845-424-3689 | gufs.org

Steve Blamires: *Antarctica – An Overview*
7:30 p.m. Beahive Beacon
291 Main St., Beacon
845-765-1890 | beahivebzzz.com

THURSDAY, JAN. 18

Creative Completion Workshop
6 p.m. Butterfield Library
See details under Wednesday.

Women Veterans’ Group
6 p.m. Cornerstone Building
Route 52 and Fair, Carmel | mhaputnam.org

Farm Dinner
6:30 p.m. Glynwood
362 Glynwood Road, Cold Spring
845-265-3338 | glynwood.org

Funky Dawgz Brass Band
8 p.m. Paramount Hudson Valley
See details under Friday.

FRIDAY, JAN. 19

Haldane vs. Yonkers Montessori (Boys’ Basketball)
6 p.m. Haldane School
See details under Tuesday.

Middle School Pizza and Paint Party
6:30 p.m. Butterfield Library
See details under Wednesday.

Open Mic Night
7:30 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
477 Main St., Beacon
845-831-0514 | howlandculturalcenter.org

Blue Oyster Cult
8 p.m. Paramount Hudson Valley
See details under Jan. 12.

Support Groups

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

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THEATRE

Depot Folk

Youth in a Roman Field

Jan 13, 4 p.m. Vocal Workshop • 7 p.m. Concert

.....

Excellent Creature, Dialogues with Drama Reading

The Night of the Iguana

Jan. 14, 7 p.m.

.....

Love Letters by A.R.Gurney

with Phil Geoffrey Bond and Jennifer Lee Andrews

Feb. 10, 11 and 14

.....

philipstowndepottheatre.org

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

Slambovian and Son (from Page 9)

"It's a pretty good name," Ben interjects.

Joiah and Tink Longo moved to Cold Spring about 2005 and the McEwen family (which also includes Sharkey's wife, Isho, and daughters Michelle and Ruby) followed a year later. Ben began playing guitar in the sixth grade, after being introduced to the instrument during a music class at Haldane Middle School.

"He surprised me by playing Misirlou, a surf song which you have to use a pick for. He's got some ballast. He's amazingly composed onstage. For me, it was like introducing Ben to the community."

"My dad taught me the basics, then I branched out, looking up tabs, trying out riffs," he says. Ben likes music from the 1960s, '70s and '80s but not the '90s. ("He draws the line at that," Sharkey says.) The teenager also loves to cook, tutored in the culinary arts, he says, by the "University of YouTube."

Early in 2016, Sharkey began stepping outside the Slambovians in small ways.

"I started going to open mics," he says. "My role has always been accompanying and doing background singing. Ben had been learning to play, in the meantime, so we started doing open mics



Ben and Sharkey McEwen

Photo by Stuart Berg

together. Last year I ended up doing this journey to Peru, where I participated in a traditional Ayahuasca healing ceremony. The experience empowered me to branch out." He calls playing with his son a "wonderful gift."

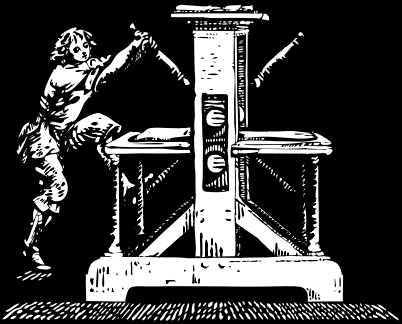
Last year Ben and Sharkey performed two songs at the annual Haldane talent show held at the Towne Crier.

"He and I had a blast," Sharkey says. "I've been trying to help Ben play guitar, in particular with a pick. He surprised me by playing *Misirlou*, a surf song which you have to use a pick for. He's got

some ballast. He's amazingly composed onstage. For me, it was like introducing Ben to the community."

Last June, after father and son performed at a Towne Crier open mic, owner Phil Ciganer asked them to put together a set. They assembled 14 songs and debuted at the club to a full house on Nov. 3 that included many of Ben's teammates from the Haldane track team. When the duo returns on Jan. 18, look for more Sparks to fly when Ben's sisters join in.

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Birders in Winter (from Page 9)

Purple martins

Malachy Cleary will speak at the Butterfield Library in Cold Spring at 2 p.m. on Sunday, Jan. 28, about his decades-long efforts to restore a colony of purple martins to the Highlands. After many attempts to establish a colony, which are few and far between, Cleary had success last summer at Glynwood Farm when 50 pairs nested.

Reptiles of the Hudson

On Saturday, Feb. 3, at 2 p.m. Ed McGowan, director of the Trailside Museums and Zoo at Bear Mountain State Park, will speak at the Desmond-Fish Library in Garrison about reptiles and amphibians that live in this part of the Hudson River Valley. He'll compare records from the 1880s and the 1920s with the types of frogs, snakes and other creatures found today.

Wintering eagles

The PHAS will lead a 90-minute field trip to hotspots along the Hudson in search of wintering bald eagles at 10 a.m. on Saturday, Feb. 17. Check putnamhighlandsaudubon.org for details closer to the date.



A Wilson's snipe
Photo by Ron Dudley/Featheredphotography.com



A hawk stands over the remains of its prey near the edge of Route 9D near Boscobel.
Photo by L.S. Armstrong

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Hangin' with Birders

Two experienced birders each describe a day of spotting, demonstrating what you can see and hear if you pay attention.

Perry Pitt

"On Dec. 16, a cold, windy morning, we parked near Annsville Circle and started for the river's edge, noting six Canada geese overhead. Twenty-eight more followed as we made our way to the shoreline. We counted two mallards, 16 ring-billed gulls, six hooded mergansers, three crows and 10 common mergansers. There was also a raft of 42 ring-necked ducks and hooded mergansers. Two downy and one red-bellied woodpecker looked on.

"At Mariandale Retreat we encountered hundreds of ducks in the Hudson. Two redheads, a bufflehead, 20 scaups, 280 canvasbacks, and 300 ruddy ducks in the raft were identified. Two common goldeneyes and some ring-billed and herring gulls flew nearby. Twenty more geese flew overhead.

"We walked the grounds and saw 40 goldfinches, two red-bellied woodpeckers, two downy woodpeckers, two blue jays, 12 crows, 10 chickadees, five

tufted titmice, two white-breasted nuthatches, two red-tailed hawks, two immature and one mature bald eagle, 24 starlings and grackles, two mockingbirds, 10 song sparrows, 10 white-throated sparrows, 40 juncos and four cardinals.

"Before we arrived at Mariandale, a winter wren, a ruby-crowned kinglet, house finches, a raven, and 20 fish crows were identified. Finally, we saw four red-tailed hawks from inside a nearby diner while we were thawing out."

Ryan Bass

"On Dec. 30, during the Christmas Bird Count, we had fleeting views of a brown, long-billed shorebird at Foundry Cove. We imagined it could be a Wilson's snipe, but to be conservative felt it was best to identify it as a 'spuh' [slang for a bird not identified] or 'shorebird species.'

"A few hours later, we visited Constitution Marsh, where a bird caught my attention in the Indian Brook outflow by the canoe launch. Lo and behold, it was a Wilson's snipe probing in the mud. It was a life bird [a species seen and identified for the first time for that birder] for me and most of the others."

The HIGHLANDS

Current

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Winter Wonderland

Until you have to shovel

Photographers love to be called during the middle of snowstorms and asked to “go outside and get some shots.” Russ Cusick, who lives in Philipstown and has a gallery in Beacon, made the mistake of answering the phone but captured some great images. Here are a few.



New Zoning Laws Lead to Quick Redesign

Plans approved in 2014, but Beacon developer had to revise

By Jeff Simms

The Jan. 9 Beacon Planning Board meeting provided the first look at how some developments — in this case, the long-delayed 248 Tioronda project — will look after the city's recent zoning changes.

The development, which was approved in 2014 with 100 one- and two-bedroom apartments on a 9-acre parcel, has yet to begin construction. Project officials were due to appear before the City Council this month as a condition of a special use permit extension it received in 2016.

Three weeks ago, however, the council changed the zoning in the Fishkill Creek district where 248 Tioronda is located, voiding its approved plans. The development must now seek new approval for its concept drawings from the City Council and site-plan approval from the Planning Board.

To meet the new zoning requirements, the project was scaled back from 100 to 64 units, said Larry Boudreau, the project's engineer.

"It's been extremely difficult to revise," he said while sharing preliminary sketches with Planning Board members on Tuesday (Jan. 9). "All the infrastructure costs — with

600 feet of road going up to Wolcott Avenue and the greenway trail — we had them all set and ready to go, and now we're trying to make it work with less units."

The new plans show the 64 two-bedroom units in two creekside buildings along with a 20,000-square-foot commercial building. A pavilion was retained from the previous plan but a tenant clubhouse was scrapped.

A 2,000-foot greenway — a major component of Beacon's planned Fishkill Creek Greenway & Heritage Trail — is still there, although Alexander Blakely, an architect, was unsure where it would lie.

"The challenge now is making the project viable for 64 units, a larger commercial area and what is becoming a challenging

situation with the parking," he explained. With the addition of the commercial space, the development requires about 190 spaces, 40 more than before.

The council's rezoning included a provision that buildable, rather than gross, acreage would be used to determine a parcel's building density. In the case of 248 Tioronda, density is now calculated on just under 6 acres, rather than 9, with 3 acres of floodways, steep slopes and wetlands removed.

The changes also require developments in the creekside zone to include at least 25 percent commercial space. The council is now considering zoning changes for the Main Street corridor and could extend the density-calculation provision citywide.



The future site of the 248 Tioronda development

File photo by J. Simms

Planning Board Chair John Gunn called the new plans for 248 Tioronda a "vast improvement." Board member David Burke praised them as well, but still said it looked too dense.

The buildings — formerly designed with peaked roofs — were redesigned with an industrial look that "has more of a Beacon-type feel," Boudreau said.

Beacon Hopes to Prevent Loss of Revenue

Proposed law would eliminate tax break for converted rentals

By Jeff Simms

The Beacon City Council will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, Jan. 16, on a proposed law that could save the city from a potential tax revenue loss if any of its hundreds of rental apartments are converted to condos.

The calculation is complex. New York State law allows owner-occupied condominiums to be assessed at their estimated rental value, not their market value. For example, if a condo sells for \$200,000, its taxes are determined by an estimate of what it would bring as a rental, not the sale price.

In many cases, the estimated rental value is less than what the unit will sell for. As a result, a condo owner will likely pay less in taxes than the owner of a comparable single-family home.


At the same time, the owners of rental buildings pay a higher tax rate. Under the proposed law, the city's apartments would be ineligible for the condominium-rate assessment if they're ever converted from rental (one owner) to condo (multiple owners). By comparison, there are 82 condos in Beacon now, with 40 more under construction.

"What our law is going to say is if you didn't build your place as a condo, you're not entitled to the [lower] condo assessment if you convert it from rental to condos," said Beacon Mayor Randy Casale.

"The city is exploring this purely as a protective measure," said Judson Siebert, a city attorney who briefed the council. Beacon would be among the first Hudson Valley municipalities to adopt such a law but "we might as well have it in our arsenal," City Council Member George Mansfield said last month.

The assessment formula originated in New York City decades ago, Siebert explained, as an attempt to establish equity for condos and apartments, which could conceivably be located on the same block and generate similar usage of city services, such as schools or garbage pickup.

Outside of that urban environment, however, it often provides what amounts to a 20 to 30 percent tax break for condo owners compared to what the owners of single-family homes pay.



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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? *The Current's* Jeff Simms contributed this shot of his niece, Lindsay, with her steed, Sera. If you have a photo of a baby and a dog, submit it for consideration to editor@highlandscurrent.com.



Small, Good Things

Needs Must

By Joe Dizney

Cabin fever reared its frosty head a bit earlier than usual this year. With single-digit temperatures, negative wind-chill factors and drifts of sugary snow to beat back, even the dog refused to go out.

Comfort food is in order for situations like this, but with the pantry stripped bare after the long stretch of holidays, and an icy drive preventing a trip to the

market, you have to make do with what's on hand.

Cacio e pepe (cheese and pepper) is a humble and underrated Roman recipe that exemplifies *cucina povera*, the cuisine of exigency. Or, as the Brits say, "needs must," i.e., necessity compels.

Although simple to the point of almost sounding boring, a bowl of pasta coated in silky cheese and bright pepper is a nearly universal contentment. After all, what is macaroni and cheese but the Americanized version of this archetypal meal?

Cacio e pepe is the mother

Pasta with Cheese and Pepper
(Cacio e Pepe)

Four servings

- 1 pound dry pasta (spaghetti, bucatini, thin linguine)
- 2 to 3 tablespoons freshly ground (medium to coarse) black pepper

- ¼ cup olive oil
- 3 cups Parmesan or Grana-Padano, grated fine (or a mix of 1½ cups Pecorino-Romano and 1½ cups Parmigiano-Reggiano or Grana-Padano)

1. Have all ingredients on hand. Bring 5 to 6 quarts of water to a boil in a large pot for the pasta. Salt generously. (It should taste like the sea.) When the water is ready, add pasta and cook as per directions (about 11 minutes), stirring regularly.
2. In another small pan, over medium heat, toast the ground pepper for about 45 seconds until fragrant. Add the olive oil and about one cup of the pasta water and bring to a simmer, whisking to combine.
3. When pasta is done, reserve about two cups of the pasta water and drain pasta. Transfer the pepper sauce to the pasta pot over low heat and add drained pasta. With tongs, toss the pasta in the sauce to coat, slowly adding the cheeses in batches to melt evenly. Once all the cheeses have been incorporated, add more pasta water to maintain a saucy consistency.
4. Serve immediately in bowls with more cheese and pepper at table.



Cacio e Pepe: the original macaroni and cheese

Photo by J. Dizney

recipe of at least three culinary inventions: *pasta gricia* (pasta with cheese and guanciale, which is cured unsmoked pork jowl); *cacio e uovo* (pasta with cheese and egg); and the most familiar, *pasta carbonara* ("pasta in the manner of the charcoal makers," a creamy combination of cheese, eggs and pork).

Each dish was the result of making the best of what was on hand. (It has been suggested that pasta carbonara came about after Allied troops shared their rations with Roman cooks.) The other salient feature of these dishes is the speed with which the hungry cook can whip them up. Outside of grating and grinding, dinner can be on the table in under 30 minutes, as opposed to hours-long, sim-

mering meat sauces.

"Authentic" Roman recipes call for spaghetti or bucatini, sharp-salty Pecorino Romano sheep's milk cheese and enough grated pepper to color the sauce. Common variations include the substitution or combination of milder and nuttier Parmigiano-Reggiano or Grana-Padano cheeses, which offer a smoother contrast to the pepper.

Butter is a no-no, except when it's not. Same with milk and cream. You therefore also have permission to add peas (*cacio e pepe e piselli*), as a friend does when she needs to sneak vegetables into her children, or asparagus, should it appear. Whatever you like. Comfort food should be, above all, accommodating.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

BEACON SECOND SATURDAY

Howland Public Library

The opening reception for the *Art is Elementary* exhibit will take place from 2 to 4 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 13. It features art by students in grades kindergarten to 5



A composition by Clyde Marshall, a fourth-grader at Sargent Elementary in Beacon, is among the works that will be on display at the student exhibit at the Howland Public Library starting Jan. 13.

Image provided

from J.V. Forrestal, Glenham, Sargent and South Avenue elementary schools organized by teachers Sallie Farkus, Susan Wurtz and Cathy Pezzo. The work includes drawings, paintings, collage and mixed-media pieces by seven students from each school. It will be on view until Feb. 17.

bau Gallery

bau celebrates its 13th anniversary with a group show in which each artist interpreted the theme "Lucky 13." Participating artists are Carla Goldberg, Erica Caginalp, Gary Jacketti, Grey Zeien, Herman Roggeman, Joan Phares, Julie Jacobs, Kirsten Lyon, Melissa Schlobhom and Pamela Zaremba. The opening reception is from 6 to 9 p.m.

Howland Cultural Center

There will be a reception from 3 to 5 p.m. for the four artists whose work makes up the mixed-media exhibit *Cloth & Memory*: Mimi Graminski, Riva Weinstein, Harriet Cheney and Mary McFerran. On Saturday, Jan. 20, at 2 p.m., all four will discuss Memory and Textiles in Art.

Catalyst Gallery

The opening reception for *Celebration*, featuring work by "womxn" artists, will take place from 5 to 9 p.m. The show is on view until Feb. 3.

Hudson Beach Glass

Donna Mikkelsen's *Ambi Work* opens with a reception from 6 to 9 p.m. It features drawings, inks and acrylics and "Word Alchemy" paintings. Mikkelsen is ambidextrous and has explored symmetrical drawing while experiment-

ing with material, sequence, size and directions.

Clutter Gallery

The opening reception for Ron English's solo show, *I Heart Skull*, will be from 6 to 9 p.m.

RiverWinds Gallery

The show *Timeless Greece* includes photographs by Mary Ann Glass and Christine Irvin documenting changes in the country. The opening reception is from 5 to 8 p.m. Glass will also teach a workshop on taking photos with an iPhone on Saturday, Jan. 20, at 10 a.m. at the gallery. See riverwindsgallery.com.



RiverWinds Gallery in Beacon will host a reception on Jan. 13 with baklava and retsina for Christine Irvin and Mary Ann Glass for their photographs from Greece. Glass took this shot.

Photo provided

COMMUNITY BRIEFS



Laura Danilov of Cold Spring rehearses for the reading of her play that will take place at the Old VFW Hall on Jan. 16.

Photo provided

Arts Lab to Host Reading
New company to share plays

The Middle Company, a new theater arts laboratory in the Hudson Valley, will debut its Winter New Works Reading Series on Tuesday, Jan. 16, at the Old VFW Hall in Cold Spring. A play by Laura Danilov will be read. On Jan. 23, works by Cal Lane, Emma Myers, Margaret Gobi Wright and Linda Rafferty will be presented. Both readings begin at 7 p.m. See themiddlecompany.com.

Girl Scout Family Skate
Roll into the new week

The Hudson Highlands Girl Scouts will host skating at Roller Magic in Hyde Park on Monday, Jan. 15, from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. Friends and families are invited to join them at this annual event. Admission is \$10 and \$8 for siblings. Skate rental is \$2 to \$4.

Saturday Folk
Series continues at Depot Theatre

The Depot Folk Series returns Saturday, Jan. 13, with a workshop and performance. Claire Wellin (below) will lead a vocal harmony workshop at 4 p.m. followed by a concert by her band, Youth in a

Roman Field, at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$20 for the workshop, \$25 for the show or \$40 for both. See philipstowndepottheatre.org.

Tales of Forbidden Love
Symphony to perform Jan. 20

Forbidden love is the theme of the Greater Newburgh Symphony Orchestra's concert on Saturday, Jan. 20, at Mount Saint Mary (Continued on next page)



Russell Ger will conduct the Greater Newburgh Symphony Orchestra in a performance on Jan. 20.

Photo provided



Claire Wellin

Photo provided

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COMMUNITY BRIEFS (from previous page)

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.



GIVING WARMTH — Six members of the Church on the Hill in Nelsonville (back row) are shown as they delivered winter gear to residents of a local homeless shelter as part of the church's "I Glove You" ministry.

Photo provided

College's Aquinas Hall. The program, which begins at 7:30 p.m., will feature Mozart's *Don Giovanni Overture*, Tchaikovsky's *Romeo and Juliet Fantasy*, and Berlioz's *Symphonie Fantastique*. Russell Ger will conduct. Tickets are \$22 to \$45 at newburghsymphony.org.

Meet the Predators

Hawks, falcons, eagles, owls

See live birds at the Wildlife Education Center in Cornwall on Saturday, Jan. 20, from 6 to 8 p.m. The program focuses on the role of birds of prey in the environment and includes hawks, falcons, eagles and owls. Admission is \$10 for members or \$15 otherwise. See hnhm.org.

Support Groups

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

Beacon

Elementary Artists Needed

Deadline extended for Dutchess contest

The United Way of the Dutchess-Orange Region has extended the deadline for its Children's Art Contest to Jan. 22. Submissions to the contest, which is open to students in grades 1 to 3, should celebrate the United Way's 80th birthday and show how the child will make the world a better place. The winning piece will be used as the cover of the annual service awards dinner program. See uw-dor.org/childrensartcontest.

Armchair Travelers

First of wanderlust talks is Jan. 17

The first of six presentations by Steve Blamires, a Beacon resident who spent two decades as a shipboard historian and expedition leader on small cruise ships sailing to the Arctic, Antarctic, West Africa, South



CREATING FUN — The Garrison Children's Education Fund launched a campaign to build a playground (shown above) adjacent to the outdoor pavilion at the Garrison School. The group has pledged \$25,000 toward the \$50,000 cost and plans to raise the rest in the community. See gcef.net to contribute.

America, Greenland and Russia, will take place at the Beahive in Beacon at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 17. Blamires will provide an overview of Antarctica. The suggested donation is \$10. See beahivebuzz.com.

Body Beat

Class will teach self-percussion

Michael Feigenbaum will teach a three-hour workshop at Beacon Mu-

sic Factory on Saturday, Jan. 20, to show children and adults how to use the body as a musical instrument. (It also can be a great workout.) The class begins at 11 a.m. and costs \$50 per person. See beaconmusicfactory.com. Beacon Music Factory is located at 333 Fishkill Ave.

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Could It Be Diabetes?

Millions of Americans don't realize they are afflicted

By Alison Rooney

Frank Milkovich, 84, of Cold Spring, was in his 50s when he was diagnosed with Type 2 diabetes. As part of an initiative by Lions Club International, he is distributing bookmarks to educate people about the disease.

Type 2 diabetes afflicts about 29 million people in the U.S. and is the sixth-leading cause of death among American adults. It typically is not diagnosed in people younger than 40 and is more likely to strike those who are overweight and don't exercise. Warning signs include increased thirst, fatigue, blurry vision, high blood



A woman with Type 2 diabetes checks her blood sugar levels after exercising.

Warning signs include:

- Increased thirst
- Fatigue
- Blurry vision
- High blood pressure
- Sleep difficulties
- Sores that heal slowly

pressure, sleep difficulties and sores that heal slowly. If a close family member has the disease, it increases the risk.

The aim of the Lions Club campaign is to encourage people to be tested, because often the symptoms of Type 2 diabetes are attributed to the stresses of daily life.

"It's important to become aware, because diabetes can affect so many things: circulation, nerves, kidneys, the cardiovascular system and vision," says Milkovich, a former Haldane principal who has been a Lion for nearly 50 years. "Some-

times people wind up with amputations, particularly of toes and feet, when not treated in time."

(Another group — members of the Haldane varsity boys' basketball team and their parents — are attempting to educate people about Type 1, or juvenile diabetes, which affects about 1.25 million people in the U.S. The team will host a fundraiser during its home game on Friday, Jan. 19, for research into the disease. See highlandscurrent.com for a story on their effort published in the Jan. 5 issue.)

Diabetes involves insulin, a hormone that moves through the blood allowing sugar to be transported to cells for energy. Without insulin, the sugar remains in the blood, and the measure of blood glucose (the number of milligrams of glucose are in each deciliter of blood) climbs until there's a loss of consciousness.

Type 1 diabetes is an autoimmune disease: the body targets insulin-producing beta cells in the pancreas until the organ can no longer produce any. People who have this type of diabetes inject themselves or use a pump to compensate.

In Type 2 diabetes, the immune system doesn't attack beta cells. Instead, it loses its ability to respond to insulin. The body reacts by producing more insulin, and the stress this places on the beta cells can destroy them. The insulin resistance leads to elevated levels of sugar in the blood, usually at a slower rate than Type 1, which means it can go undetected for years. Millions of Americans have Type 2 diabetes but have not been diagnosed, Milkovich notes.

People with Type 2 have to watch what they eat because carbs move quickly into the blood and sugar spikes can overwhelm the body's ability to manage its blood sugar levels. In some cases, the disease can be countered by losing weight and exercising. "That's why diagnosis and diet is so important," says Milkovich. "In my case, exercise was at the top of the list, and now I'm going strong."

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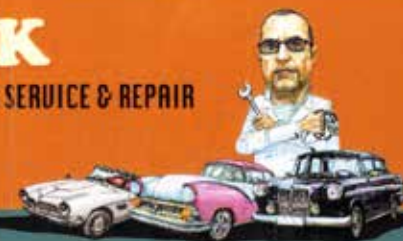
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Sports

Varsity Scoreboard

Football

All-State Team, Class D

Sam Giachinta, Haldane, RB,
Third Team
Brandon Twoguns, Haldane, QB,
Honorable Mention

Boys' Basketball

North Salem 71, Beacon 63
Aaron Davis (15), Jemond Galloway
(15), Manny Garner (12)
Beacon 72, Peekskill 59
Demetrius Galloway (21), Dasean
Turner (16), Davis (11)
North Salem 52, Haldane 50
Haldane 40, Pawling 34

Girls' Basketball

Lourdes 90, Beacon 23
Haldane 60, Hastings 48
Bela Monteleone (18), Olivia
McDermott (15), Abbey Stowell (12)
Haldane 68, Pawling 11
Allison Chiera (12), Kara Giachinta
(12), McDermott (8)

Girls' Bowling

Beacon 7, Ketcham 0
Beacon 7, Mahopac 0

Boys' Bowling

Ketcham 5, Beacon 2
Matthew Maffei (211, 178, 216 = 605)
Beacon 7, Mahopac 0

Boys' Swimming

Pelham 91, Beacon 79

Indoor Track

Beacon at Ocean Breeze Freedom
Top Finishers

Girls' High Jump
3. Jummie Akinwunmi (5-2)

Girls' Triple Jump
7. Jummie Akinwunmi (35-3.25)

Boys' 55-Meter Dash
4. Kaleb Istvan (6.94)

Boys' 1,600-Meter Run
4. Ryan Cory (4:40.40)

Boys' Long Jump
2. Xavier Collins (18-2.5)

Haldane at Rockland Invitational
Top finishers

Boys' 600-Meter Run
6. Jonas Petkus (1:30.70)

Highlands Current Athlete of the Week

Bela Monteleone, Haldane

A sophomore in her first varsity season, Monteleone scored a career-high 18 points on Jan. 8 to lead the Blue Devils past undefeated Hastings, 60-48.



Coaches and Parents

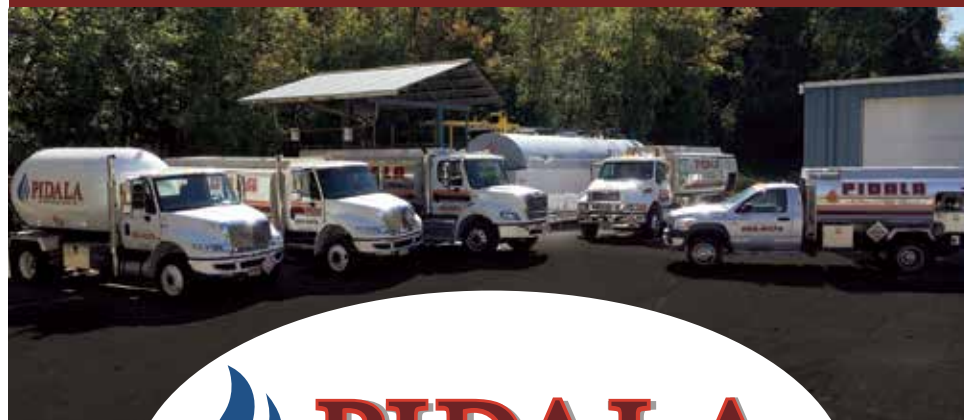
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Sports

Beacon's Girl Bowlers: So Far, Perfect

Bulldogs, at 70-0, powering past challengers

By Leigh Alan Klein

Laughing and smiling in their navy polo shirts, the Beacon High School bowling teams started off the second half of the 2017-18 season on Jan. 3 taking on Roy C. Ketcham High School of Wappingers Falls at Schneider's Fishkill Bowl.

The warmth in the building was not just a sharp contrast from the frigid temperature outside but a reflection of the sportsmanship on display.

Each player slapped high fives after every roll with teammates and opponents alike. Parents clapped for both teams.

High school bowling has been in a long decline. There was a time when Coach Brian Mahon had to make cuts because so many students came out for the team, but he says that seems like a long time ago. Now in his 20th season, he answered the call because the team needed a coach. He didn't bowl competitively and his children didn't bowl.

Ideally, Mahon says he would have 10 to 12 bowlers on both the boys' and girls' teams. This season he suits up seven boys and nine girls, including two sets of siblings. He has done his best, he says, to get students at Rombout Middle School interested in the game and has weighed going into the elementary schools.

Something is working. The Bulldogs girls' team through Jan. 10 has not lost in



its first 10 matches. It is 70-0.

"We all know each other," explains junior Brianna Virtuoso. "We've been playing together since seventh grade. We ask each other for help and support each other."

In the first game against Ketcham, Brianna finished with four straight strikes to finish with 199 pins.

Her sister, Selena, has been the surprise of the season, says Mahon. She leads the team with a 195 average.

The anchor is junior Jenna Maffei. Mahon cites her dependability in clutch situations.

"We are doing better this season than I expected," Maffei says. "We want to go to states. My approach is to keep focused and question what am I doing wrong or right through-



Members of the Beacon' bowling teams, with Coach Brian Mahon (far right)

Photos by Dawn Sela

out the match." She finished the first game against Ketcham with 197 pins.

The key to victory, according to Mahon, is to pick up the spares. "Consistency is key," he says. "It's about the ability to adjust to the lanes and for players to find their mark."

At 44-26, the boys' team sits in third place in the league behind John Jay and Ketcham.

Matt Maffei is one of the leaders, averaging 195 pins. He says he finds the sport fun and enjoys the competition with his sister, Jenna. He began bowling in 2007.

"Our parents wanted a sport that we could play together," he says. A highlight

last season was a 270 game in which he had 10 strikes. Against Ketcham, he sealed the win in the first game with a strike on his last ball, following a spare in the 10th frame for an impressive come-from-behind victory with 211 pins.

The boys lost to Ketcham, 5-2, but Mahon said the team was missing a few bowlers due to illness, including Vincent Bourdau, who like Maffei has a 195 average.

Kyle Giamportone is a senior in his third year on the team. Maffei recruited him to play. Asked about his technique, he replies: "When I approach, I focus on holding the ball tight and having a consistent release."



Jenna Maffei



Matt Maffei



Kyle Giamportone



Brianna Virtuoso



Selena Virtuoso