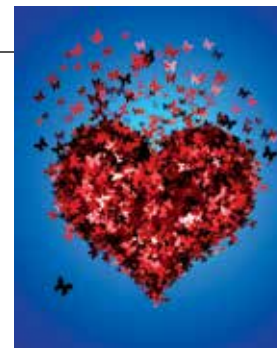


# The HIGHLANDS Current



FEBRUARY 9, 2018

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



**A FINAL SALUTE** – New York City police officers lined Fair Street in Cold Spring on Feb. 3 to salute Detective Nicholas Budney after his funeral service at Our Lady of Loretto. Budney, 36, who graduated from Haldane High School in 2000 and from the New York City Police Academy in 2005, committed suicide on Jan. 27 (Photo by Paul Lansdale). Inset, Budney is shown with his wife, Shannon; the couple married at Loretto in 2013.

## Beacon Names New Police Chief

*Mayor critical of 'leaks'  
about decision*

By Jeff Simms

The Beacon City Council has unanimously approved the appointment of Capt. Kevin Junjulas, a 23-year veteran of the police department, as chief of police, succeeding Doug Solomon, who resigned in December to take the same job in Newburgh.

Junjulas, who is a resident of Cold Spring, had been serving as interim chief. He was recommended by Mayor Randy Casale, who before the vote blasted council members for allegedly leaking the news that Junjulas would be appointed.

"Trust is a valuable word, and I have lost a lot of trust," Casale said, implying that the leak led some residents to protest the hiring process. The mayor said he had received emails suggesting he should have asked for input from the public before making his recommendation to the council.

"The people elect the mayor of Beacon as the CEO of the city," Casale said. "The person that I put up as chief, I have to know that he's going to follow through and lead with my vision."

Casale said that he told council members Jan. 29 during a closed session that he would name Junjulas, who will serve on a provisional basis until he takes the Dutchess County civil service exam for police officers, which is currently scheduled to be given in March 2019. If he scores highly, he could then be named permanent chief and begin a one-year probationary period.

At the council's Monday, Feb. 5, meeting, the debate focused on (To Page 6)



Beacon Police Chief Kevin Junjulas

## Candidates Launch Campaigns for Federal, State, County Offices

*Early challengers to  
Maloney, Serino*

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

They're off and running. Hopefuls for federal state and county offices are launching campaigns, seeking money and volunteers, and pursuing victory in the Nov. 6 general election.

Typically, several candidates declare for state or federal races; all must gather the required number of signatures of registered voters to appear on the ballot. Anyone running for U.S. House, for example, must gather at least 1,250 signatures in the six weeks beginning March 6.

### House of Representatives

Rep. Sean Patrick Maloney, the incumbent Democrat whose House District 18 includes the Highlands, has two Republican challengers, Jarred Buchanan and James O'Donnell, who share a background in law enforcement and enthusiasm for President Donald Trump's policies.

Raised in Yorktown, Buchanan gradu-

ated from Lakeland High School in 2001 and joined the New York City Police Department in 2007. He declared his candidacy on Facebook on Nov. 23, saying he was motivated to run by dismay at the federal response to the 2012 attack on the U.S. Embassy in Libya. Hillary Clinton, the U.S. secretary of state in 2012, "is a liar and never fully told the truth," he wrote, adding that Maloney, who served in the White House under President Bill Clinton, is "cut from the same cloth as those liars and corrupt, horrible people."

Buchanan called his target "tax-raise Maloney" and accused him of having a "socialist agenda"; criticized NATO leaders as "some of the most tactically unsound people I have ever seen"; said the United Nations "needs to leave America" because "those people are war criminals"; and described himself as "very pro-gun" and eager "to repeal all laws on the federal level [and] all local and state laws that stand against your right to have and carry a firearm."

The other GOP (Continued on Page 6)



For Congress: Sean Patrick Maloney, Jarred Buchanan, James O'Donnell





## Five Questions: JUDITH ENCK

By Brian PJ Cronin

Judith Enck is the former Environmental Protection Agency administrator for Region 2, which includes New York and Puerto Rico. She will be honored Feb. 11 at Clearwater's Spirit of the Hudson Gala at The Garrison.

**You spent seven years at the EPA before stepping down in January 2017, after President Trump took office. What are you most proud of?**

The massive amounts of PCBs [pollutants] we got out of the Hudson River. We also were able to get hundreds of aging public schools in New York City to remove lighting fixtures that contained PCBs. I'm also proud of a number of things we accomplished in Puerto Rico. This was before hurricanes Maria and Irma. We jumpstarted recycling, we filed important Clean Water Act lawsuits, and we got unexploded ordnance removed from Vieques. I paid special attention to Puerto Rico because I viewed a lot of the issues there as environmental justice.

**What challenges did the hurricanes bring about?**

The most urgent is the hundreds of thousands of people who are still without electricity. The federal government



Judith Enck

Photo provided

is spending massive amounts of tax dollars to put the old electrical grid back up, which means it will continue to mostly rely on oil and above-ground wires. During the next hurricane, it's going to come tumbling down again, and, because of climate change, we know the hurricanes will get more intense because the warmer ocean water is like rocket fuel for those

storms. Congress should direct FEMA [the Federal Emergency Management Agency] to fund renewables all over Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands: solar, local energy grids, wind, fuel cells.

**What should happen next with the PCB cleanup in the Hudson?**

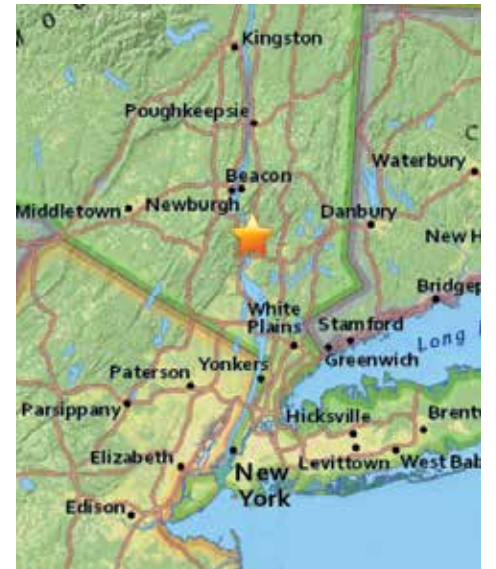
There's been criticism that the EPA didn't get enough PCBs out of the river. The agency got a lot out, but it's important for the State of New York to remove PCBs from the Champlain Canal, which runs parallel to the Hudson. The EPA couldn't touch the canal as part of the Superfund cleanup because it doesn't have the legal authority to do navigational dredging.

**What is your assessment of the EPA under Scott Pruitt, who was confirmed as administrator a month after you left?**

I'm surprised at how fast he has gutted the agency. I feel sad for my former colleagues, many of whom have been there for 25 or 30 years and feel they're watching it get torn apart. They tell me Pruitt does not talk to the agency's experts before making a decision, so they can't even put up a fight. The EPA posted on its webpage — because it's proud of this — a list of regulations that either have been or are being repealed. These are major environmental regulations being rolled back for no good reason other than that polluters have asked for it. Attorneys general from many states, including New York, are challenging a lot of these changes, but in the meantime the EPA is not enforcing the regulations.

**What can be done?**

Local and state governments can up their game while the federal government is missing in action. People also should donate to effective environmental groups like Clearwater or Earthjustice, which does a great job litigating. I have no financial interest in these groups, but if you normally would send \$10, send \$20.



The approximate location of the earthquake felt on Feb. 7.

USGS

## Yes, That Was an Earthquake

*2.2-magnitude tremor shakes Highlands*

A minor earthquake occurred about 4 miles below the surface of Putnam Valley at 6:14 a.m. on Wednesday (Feb. 7), prompting more than 280 people to report to the U.S. Geological Survey that they had felt the tremor.

The 2.2-magnitude quake was centered near Crofts Corners, according to the Lamont-Doherty Cooperative Seismographic Network, which helps track the many quakes that occur below the surface each day. Most are recorded by highly sensitive instruments but not noticed at ground level.

The last "micro earthquake" to be reported in the Highlands occurred at 10:46 a.m. on Saturday, July 5, 2014, off Route 403 in Garrison. It measured 2.4-magnitude and also occurred about 4 miles underground. One Cold Spring resident described it at the time as feeling and sounding like a large truck rumbling by.

According to the USGS, "moderately damaging" earthquakes strike the New York-Philadelphia-Wilmington corridor roughly twice a century, and smaller earthquakes are felt every two to three years.

### Other Earthquakes Reported Feb. 7

Anthony, Kansas, 4.6  
Isabela, Puerto Rico, 3.5  
Hawthorne, Nevada, 3.0  
Aguanga, California, 2.7

Source: earthquake.usgs.gov

## Seed-Sowing at Stonecrop Gardens



*Please join us for our first workshop of the season...*

**Part 1 - Saturday, March 3, 9 am-1 pm (Snow date March 4)**  
Learn the basic principles of seed propagation and seed-sowing techniques to sow a variety of annuals.

**Part 2 - Saturday, April 14, 9 am-1 pm (Snow date April 15)**  
Learn how to prick out the germinated seedlings into larger rounds to take home and grow in your garden.

Space is limited to 12 participants. Participants must attend both workshops.  
Registration and pre-payment required. \$80/\$60 for members.  
To register, please call (845) 265-2000 or email us at [garden@stonecrop.org](mailto:garden@stonecrop.org)



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# Butterfield Beech Blues

*Arborist recommends removal of a favorite tree*

By Michael Turton

An arborist has recommended that the iconic copper beech located on the lawn of the Butterfield redevelopment be removed because it has deteriorated to the point it cannot be saved.

In an undated letter to Unicorn Contracting, the company developing the site on behalf of Butterfield Realty and developer Paul Guillaro, arborist Joshua Maddocks wrote that the tree “is beyond a point of positive regrowth and has survived its anticipated life span.” He recommended cutting it down and replacing it with another colorful tree.

Matt Moran of Butterfield Realty forwarded Maddocks’ letter to Matt Francisco, who chairs the Cold Spring Planning Board, on Jan. 19. Francisco said it was discussed at the board meeting that evening.

On Jan. 22, Francisco said, he replied to Moran, asking that removal of the tree be delayed because its protection had been “a condition of approval on an active project” when the development’s site plan was approved by the board in 2015.

An easement also restricts the future owners of two homes that will be built as part of the project along Paulding Avenue from pruning the tree. The drip line for the copper beech extends over part of both residential lots.

Maddocks, who owns Garrison Tree Inc., said he has monitored and treated the tree since 2010 and that “it has never been in great shape.” Despite being treated for pests, fertilized and pruned, it “continues to be in a state of decline.” He also



Above, the copper beech was fenced off prior to construction. Inset, it was named one of the “five best trees in Philipstown” in an April 2016 article in *The Current* written to celebrate Arbor Day.

Photos by M. Turton

expressed concern about falling limbs.

At the Feb. 6 meeting of the Cold Spring Village Board, Mayor Dave Merandy said he would request a second assessment of the tree by arborists at SavAtree, the company that created a tree protection plan for the copper beech.

“It seems that the tree that was supposed to be protected and was a focal point during Butterfield approvals will

shortly no longer be, sadly,” Merandy said. He added that in 2013, SavAtree felt that the beech’s condition was not a concern

and that it was “savable” but that now, “four or five years later, it’s in need of being taken down.”



**ICE BREAKER** — The Coast Guard spent the weekend of Jan. 20 and 21 freeing barges from the frozen Hudson.

Photo by Michael Turton



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# The HIGHLANDS Current

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\*New York Press Association, 2013 - 2016



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Contest Awards**

\*National Newspaper Association, 2016

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## Horton Road project

I am the environmental consultant working for Horton Road LLC on the Hudson Highlands Reserve project in Philipstown ("Proposed Development Gets Pushback," Jan. 26).

Most of my work in recent years has involved opposing bad projects. I worked against casino projects proposed in Sterling Forest State Park and adjacent to Harriman State Park in Woodbury, as well as an IKEA that was proposed in New Rochelle and a residential/golf course project, also within Sterling Forest State Park. Recently, the state Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) used my arguments to deny permitting for the proposed 124-mile Constitution Pipeline, which had been previously approved by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. But I'm not anti-development, and it's a pleasure to work for a client that wants to do things right.

This project was designed to preserve the most environmentally and culturally valuable features of the property, and to place development on those areas most suitable for development. It is proposed to preserve about 74 percent of the 210-acre property, which will include all of the wetlands, streams, Ulmar Pond, primary wildlife corridors, unfragmented forest, an early-19th-century barn, and an historic stone-wall-lined road.

The developed portion of the project will utilize areas that have been previously disturbed and which contain invasive, non-native plant species, and which are already considered to be fragmented forest due to their proximity to Route 9 and existing residential and commercial development. A natural, 140-foot undisturbed buffer will be preserved around Ulmar Pond as part of the conservation easement that will be placed on all the preserved lands. The pond itself, which suffers from algal blooms, will be cleaned up and restored, which will include the planting of additional native plant material to replace non-native species.

The Clove Creek, streams and wetlands will be left completely untouched, with

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Letters to the Editor

*The Current* welcomes letters to the editor on its coverage and local issues. Submissions are selected by the editor to provide a variety of opinions and voices, and all are subject to editing for accuracy, clarity and length. We ask that writers remain civil and avoid personal attacks. Letters may be emailed to [editor@highlandscurrent.com](mailto:editor@highlandscurrent.com) or mailed to Editor, The Highlands Current, 161 Main St., Cold Spring, NY 10516. The writer's full name, village or city, and email or phone number must be included, but only the name and village or city will be published.

preserved buffers exceeding 300 feet. The original historic road through the property, which probably served as a major north-south thoroughfare prior to the existing Route 9 alignment, will be preserved as a linear park behind the proposed homes. The unfragmented forest to be preserved includes a 50-acre parcel that was purchased solely for the purpose of preserving it, and will bolster the functioning of the unfragmented forest contained in the nearby Fahnestock State Park.

Partnerships with private developers who are willing to set aside large portions of their land are an important mechanism to preserve land that would otherwise be too expensive or simply unavailable to purchase. That was indeed the purpose of creating the option for a conservation subdivision in the Town Code. In order to work, however, developers must be able to realize a sufficient return on their investment in order to support the donation of the remaining land for open space. It has to be a win-win for all sides.

This same property had been previously approved for a soil mine. The project now proposed instead can serve as a textbook example of environmentally responsible development, and if Michelle Smith of the Hudson Highlands Land Trust is correct about this proposal inspiring other similar developments in the area, this would be a very positive trend indeed.

Stephen Gross, *Warwick*

*Gross is the owner of Hudson Highlands Environmental Consulting and from 1988 to 1997 worked for Tim Miller Associates in Cold Spring.*

### Too much salt?

I am concerned about the exorbitant amount of salt being used on our roads in Philipstown, as well as throughout the region. On Avery Road in Garrison, where I live, town trucks recently applied salt long after an early morning's insignificant dusting of snow. When that was followed by rain, all that salt washed into Indian Brook, compromising the already imperiled trout stream and aquatic life.

In mid-January the Town Board held a workshop at which water quality issues were discussed, including salt use. Supervisor Richard Shea stated that during any given snowstorm, the amount of salt spread on Philipstown roads by the town, county and state could total between 600 and 1,000 tons. During the course of a typical winter, he said, a total of six inches of salt are put on our roads. Can this be?

We need to come up with a solution to this excessive and destructive practice before the last trout goes belly up, before our cars rust away, before the mature trees along the roads are eaten alive and before we are stuck with another tax increase to pay for this wasteful policy.

John Benjamin, *Garrison*

### Battling the flu

In years past, I have not seen many cases of flu among students, but this year there seems to be more ("Flu Bug Doubles Down," Feb. 2). Most of our children at Sargent and other elementary schools get an annual vaccination, but the strain of influenza that is out seems to be very strong.

Because of the increased cases and the concern of the Dutchess County Health Department, I have started sending health alerts to the parents of our students. Some of our children here have suffered with chronic medical conditions such as asthma and diabetes, which may compromise their immune system. I have found that sending parents medical alerts when we have multiple cases of any illness helps to keep the spread of that illness down.

When there are outbreaks of illness, we increase our cleanliness throughout the school. Now our custodian cleans all the doorknobs during the day and teachers will wipe down the areas that the children are in contact with more often. We also continually stress the importance of handwashing with our students and covering their mouths when they cough or sneeze.

Carmela Walden, *Beacon*

*Walden is the school nurse at Sargent Elementary.*





## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR (from previous page)

## One more memory

I remember skiing down the closed Metro-North tracks during a blizzard in the 1990s from Cold Spring to Garrison's Landing, with Guinan's as my destination ("Memories of Guinan's," Feb. 2).

When I walked in, Mr. Guinan, a plow operator and the mailman were hunkered down by the crackling fire watching an episode of *Perry Mason* on a black-and-white set. They wondered where I had come from. I wondered if I had entered *The Twilight Zone*.

Tom Ptacek, Garrison



Kelly Guinan behind the bar on Guinan's last night, Jan. 31, 2008, with the "wall of honor" of first responder patches behind her

Photo by Ed Ashton

## POSITION AVAILABLE

The Village of Nelsonville is seeking to fill a full-time position for Village Clerk-Treasurer. This position also includes the Duties of the Court Clerk, Registrar of Vital Statistics and secretary to the Building Inspector, Planning Board and Zoning Board of Appeals.

The position requires proficiency in MS Word and Excel, excellent communication, organizational and writing skills, strong interpersonal skills, and a strong financial background. The ability to work independently and manage multiple tasks concurrently is essential. Attending evening meetings is a requirement of the position. Salary and compensation, which includes benefits, is subject to experience.

Please send a cover letter and resume to:

Pauline Minners, Village Clerk, Village of Nelsonville, 258 Main Street, Nelsonville, New York, 10516 — or nelsonville@optonline.net

## LEGAL NOTICE

**Public hearing for a proposed local law to amend the code of the Town of Philipstown by adding a new Chapter 140 to be entitled, "Safe Storage of Firearms."**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Town Board of the Town of Philipstown, Putnam County, New York, will conduct a PUBLIC HEARING on Wednesday, February 21, 2018, at 7:30 p.m., Prevailing Time, at Haldane Central School, 15 Craigsides Drive, Cold Spring, New York, to consider a Proposed Local Law to Amend the Code of the Town of Philipstown by adding a new Chapter 140 to be entitled, "Safe Storage of Firearms."

All persons interested will be heard at the time, date and place specified above.

A copy of the proposed Local Law is on file in the Office of the Town Clerk and may be examined during regular business hours.

BY ORDER OF THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF PHILIPSTOWN  
Tina M. Merando, Town Clerk

Dated: February 7, 2018

## PHILIPSTOWN HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

**Immediate Full-time Driver Opening**

- Minimum 3 years driving experience required.
- Applicant must have a current and clean CDL license.
- Candidate must work 40 hours a week with long overtime hours.
- Resume must be submitted with application

Pick up applications at the Highway Department Office  
50 Fishkill Rd., Cold Spring

## NY Alert

For public safety and transportation alerts by text or email, visit  
[nyalert.gov](http://nyalert.gov)

## UPDATES TO PAST STORIES

## Haldane Will Have Student "Advisor"

After appointing a high school senior in November as a non-voting student member, the Haldane school board voted on Feb. 6 to change its bylaws to refer to the student as an "advisor" rather than a "representative" ("Students on Board," Jan. 26). A review of a 2003 state law that dictates requirements for student representatives prompted the Beacon school board to earlier re-appoint its two newly appointed representatives as advisors.



Edward Swarm

## Patrol Caption Resigns

Edward Swarm, appointed six weeks ago by newly elected Putnam County Sheriff Robert Langley Jr. as his captain of patrol, resigned on Feb. 1, citing personal reasons ("Langley Names Command Team," Dec. 22). The sheriff has not yet named a successor.

## Craig House Sale Final

The sale of the 64-acre Tioronda estate in Beacon, which includes the former Craig House facility, from the estate of philanthropist Robert Wilson to an investment group led by Bernard Kohn, Craig Realty Holding LLC, closed in October ("Craig House Sold to Investment Group," Sept. 22). The buyers paid \$5.5 million.



Craig House

Photo by Sami Fego

## Election Film

Elizabeth Wolff Dermont, daughter of Cold Spring mayoral candidate Alison Anthoine, who filmed Village Board meetings and interviewed Mayor Dave Merandy and board members for a documentary about small-town elections without revealing her connection to the campaign, says she has not yet done anything with the footage ("Letter: Filmmaker Says Thanks," March 31).

"Since working on and documenting my mother's local campaign in March, I've been busy producing other projects," said Dermont, whose father is political reporter Michael Wolff, author of the bestseller about the Trump White House, *Fire and Fury*. "There are no immediate plans for the footage but seeing how many women are coming forward to run for elected office is further proof that my mother's efforts were on the right side of history. Quite inspiring!"



Elizabeth Wolff Dermont (with phone) and videographer Emilie Jackson at the March 28 absentee-ballot vote in Carmel

File photo by M. Turton

## Lyme Outlook

In April, Richard Ostfeld, a disease ecologist at the Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies in Millbrook, who has studied Lyme disease for 20 years, said he expected 2017 and 2018 to be particularly risky years for the disease ("Lyme Bomb," April 7). He said on Feb. 7 that scientists had found "a strong increase in some life stages of the black-legged tick" in 2017 but that they have not yet analyzed the data, which is being collected as part of a long-term study.

"For this coming spring and summer, we expect more modest tick numbers, on the basis of low population sizes of white-footed mice in summer 2017," Ostfeld said. "Of course, it's important to realize that the threat of Lyme and other tick-borne diseases is always substantial in large parts of the eastern U.S., so that's not a license to relax your vigilance!"



## Candidates Launch Campaigns for Federal, State, County Offices *(from Page 1)*

contender, O'Donnell, declared his candidacy on Jan. 31. From 1973 to 1997, O'Donnell served in the New York State Police, rising to the rank of lieutenant colonel. He became chief of the Metropolitan Transportation Authority police in 1999 and next served for nine years as Orange County's deputy county executive. In 2016, he won a seat in the Orange County Legislature.

In launching his campaign, O'Donnell backed term limits for elected officials,

better regional transportation infrastructure (including a train stop at Woodbury Common and rail spur to Stewart Airport); and Republican control of Congress "so we can keep these programs going, where we have companies coming back to the country" and can "get secure borders but continue this country of immigrants and continue to prosper." He called Maloney "ineffective" as a representative.

Both men have registered with the Federal Election Commission (FEC), which enforces campaign finance laws but had not posted financial data on them as of Feb. 7. A third challenger, Alex Fernandez, has declared he will run on the Anti-Corruption Party and launched a GoFundMe page, but the FEC has not posted data on him.

By Dec. 31, Maloney had nearly \$3 million in campaign funds, according to FEC records. His campaign noted that, as in 2014 and

2016, the National Republican Congressional Committee has made him a "top target" for defeat. Although Trump won the district by 2 percent in 2016, Maloney defeated Republican Phil Oliva with 56 percent of the vote, losing only in Putnam County.

So far, Maloney has not confronted his challengers. "There will be plenty of time for politics later," he said on Wednesday (Feb. 7). "I'm focused on fixing our infrastructure, helping our veterans and fighting the heroin epidemic. The last thing we need is more partisan bickering, so I'm just going to do my job."

### State Senate

Incumbent Sue Serino, a Republican whose district includes Philipstown and Beacon, faces a threat from Joel Tyner, a Democrat who serves in the Dutchess County Legislature.



For County: MaryEllen Odell, clerk Michael Bartolotti



For State Senate: Serino, Tyner



Tyner, from Rhinebeck, announced his plans on Dec. 3 on Facebook. His platform includes promoting "a minimum wage that's a living wage, single-payer [health plan] for New York, full school funding, eliminating school property taxes by restoring truly progressive taxation of the wealthy, strict campaign finance limits, public funding of elections," and various other initiatives, including making New York fossil-fuel free by 2035 and legalizing marijuana use.

Labeling Serino "\$ell-Out-\$ue," on Jan. 27 he accused *(Continued on Page 8)*

## Beacon Names New Police Chief *(from Page 1)*

procedure and not on Junjulas' merits as a candidate.

"There's nothing more deteriorating to an organization than to have no leader," said resident Pat Kelliher, urging the council to approve the appointment.

But Lisa Marie Martinez asked that the council delay its vote, citing the lengthy search that the Beacon City School District undertook last year before hiring Matt Landahl as its superintendent.

"This is the city's opportunity to have an ally of the people and not more of the same from a department with a tarnished reputation and bad community relations," she said.

Council Member Amber Grant said that while she had no objection to Junjulas, "if the community wants to have some information about this person, I think they have that right."

Casale agreed but said, "I don't think [Junjulas] needs to answer to the community before I make the appointment. This isn't government by committee, this

is government by elected officials."

The discussion continued for nearly an hour, with each council member ultimately indicating his or her support for the appointment but not necessarily the procedure. "People just want to know how this process worked and how the decision was come to," Grant said.

Yet, said Council Member George Mansfield, "as much as I value the opinion of the public, I can't imagine how much it will actually influence our discussion with tangible information."

Three Beacon religious leaders — Pastor Ed Benson of the New Vision Church of Deliverance, the Rev. Ricardo Pacheco of Tabernacle of Christ Church and Rabbi Brent Spodek of the Beacon Hebrew Alliance — also emailed Casale to ask for a delay.

"We know the history of the Beacon police," Pacheco said in an interview on Feb. 7, referencing past oversight of the department by the U.S. Justice Department following allegations of brutality. "But we don't

know the new chief and we don't know his vision as far as community relations."

Three years ago, Pacheco helped initiate a dialogue that led to the creation of Beacon Speaks Out, a quarterly meeting of residents with police and city officials, including Solomon and Casale.

"That helped to quell some of the community's concerns at that time," he said. "We don't want to go back to having our police department [engaged in] racial profiling."

Solomon, who was confirmed by the Newburgh City Council on Feb. 5 as that city's provisional chief, has been credited with restoring order to the Beacon Police Department after he was hired in 2012. Federal oversight was lifted in 2016 after the department demonstrated "substantial compliance" with recommendations regarding the use of force, the type and quantity of ammunition carried by officers, the city's system for handling public complaints and officer training methods, among other issues.



Mayor Randy Casale at the Feb. 5 meeting

Photo by J. Simms

Junjulas, 50, was promoted to captain in 2015. He did not attend the meeting Monday, but Casale read a statement in which the officer pledged that the department under his leadership would "live and work in accordance with the highest ethical standards." He is scheduled to address the council at its Feb. 12 workshop.

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# Beacon to Study Airbnb Rentals

*Council will revisit issue raised three years ago*

By Jeff Simms

A year after Airbnb bookings jumped by 62 percent in Beacon, the City Council is preparing to explore whether to regulate the room-rental industry.

The council considered legislation in 2014 and 2015 to regulate short-term rentals, which would include those made through Airbnb.com, but deferred to the state Legislature, which was expected to pass its own law.

The law that was adopted, however, applied only to New York City, where legislators charged that nearly 75 percent of the city's 25,000 rental units were actually "illegal hotels" operated through Airbnb.

Outside of the city, municipalities face a number of challenges related to the daily or weekly rentals by the owners of rooms, apartments and homes. Critics of Airbnb suggest that, as properties get scooped up to create rental investments, housing prices will increase and residential neighborhoods will be disrupted.

Proponents counter that Airbnb provides a valuable stream of income for homeowners while also attracting tourists, especially in rural areas or smaller towns where there are not many hotels. It also can generate tax revenue for counties; Dutchess County collects a room tax on every Airbnb rental, just as it does with hotel rooms.

As in Philipstown and Cold Spring, Beacon's existing regulations raise questions. The city's code defines a "tourist home" — distinguishing it from bed-and-breakfast



Artwork posted on an Airbnb listing to promote a three-bedroom home near Main Street in Beacon that rents for \$147 per night

Airbnb



This restored 1966 camper, parked in Beacon, is available on Airbnb for \$51 a night.

Airbnb

facilities, hotels or boardinghouses — as a place in which overnight accommodations are provided or offered for transient guests. The code, however, does not outline restrictions for tourist homes as it does for the other classifications, such as the number of guests, length of stay or need for inspection.

"We need to have some kind of legislation," Beacon Mayor Randy Casale said during the council's Jan. 29 workshop. "I want to get a law for short-term rentals and I think simplest is easy. We can't just keep putting it off."

Regulation would certainly help get a grasp on how many Airbnbs there are in Beacon. Casale said he's heard a range of numbers from 100 to 125; a search for Beacon, New York, on Airbnb turned up 88, ranging in price from \$45 to \$375 per night.

Casale said he hopes the council will move quickly to consider a proposal that would require Airbnb hosts to obtain a

permit from the city and have their rental spaces inspected at least once a year. He also would like to see a requirement that rental spaces be owner-occupied, so that second homes could not be used exclusively as Airbnb rentals.

"I don't believe we should have people buying houses and just using them for Airbnb," he said. "The more houses you take off the market to do that, the less houses are out there and the more prices are going to go up."

City Attorney Nick Ward-Willis said he would draft a law for the council to review.

Statistics provided by Airbnb show that the number of hosts in Beacon grew by 40 percent from 2016 to 2017, and the website promotes everything from a camper to single rooms to a "palace on [the] creek" being offered in the city.

"It's a quality of life issue for me," said Council Member Terry Nelson. "If some-

(Continued on Page 8)



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## Beacon to Study Airbnb Rentals *(from Page 7)*

one next door to me buys a house and there's some new person coming in and out, that affects the quality of life for me and my neighbors. Where we stand now, it's the wild, wild west."

Several residents asked the City Council to look into short-term rentals last year after an Orchard Place property owner cut down more than a dozen trees, fueling speculation that the home was being refurbished as an Airbnb rental.

The owner, David Allis, said this week that work continues on the home, but he's unsure whether he'll list it for rental.

Rosemary Merhige lives on the outskirts of Beacon, where she rents two

*"It's a quality of life issue for me. If someone next door to me buys a house and there's some new person coming in and out, that affects the quality of life for me and my neighbors. Where we stand now, it's the wild, wild west."*

extra bedrooms through Airbnb for \$110 per night. Her clientele is mostly couples, hikers and wedding guests, she said, and she's booked for most weekends.

For two-night stays, Merhige will give guests a spare key, but she said either she

or her husband are always at home overnight.

"The experience I've had with Airbnb has been perfect," she said, "but I can understand why the government wants to get involved if you're operating it as a full-fledged business."

The council's short discussion during the Jan. 29 workshop brought up a number of questions about how regulation would work. Who will determine how many rooms in a house are being used as a rental? What's the definition of an "owner"?

The council would also have to decide for property tax purposes whether to de-

fine Airbnb rentals as homes or businesses. When it discussed the issue three years ago, location — rental units may need to be at least 500 feet apart — was an issue, as well.

Casale said the owner-occupied issue could be particularly difficult to navigate. "If we want to control it so it ain't *Animal House*, somebody needs to be there that's going to be responsible," he said.

But Council Member John Rembert challenged: "If I rent something, do I really want [the owner] to be there? With a short-term rental, isn't that the whole purpose," to not have the owner there?

## Candidates Launch Campaigns for Federal, State, County Offices *(from Page 6)*

her of "devotion to corporations instead of us." A day later, he suggested voters elect someone "not afraid to stand up strong for what's right, no matter what the cost politically" as, he said, his actions the previous year demonstrated.

An eight-term veteran of the Dutchess Legislature, Tyner was censured in 2017 by colleagues there for language which, his critics claimed, likened a Dutchess official to a bureaucrat in Nazi Germany.

The New York State Board of Elections (NYSBOE) did not show any financial data for Tyner's campaign as of Feb. 7, while Serino reported campaign funds

totaling \$88,425. Her campaign Facebook page promoted a Feb. 10 gala but otherwise showed no signs of ongoing activity. She won her first term in 2014, defeating incumbent Terry Gipson.

### Putnam County

MaryEllen Odell, a Republican, seeks her third three-year term as Putnam County executive. As of Feb. 7, she had no apparent opponents and a campaign balance of \$3,448, according to NYSBOE.

Odell's campaign website cited her record as county executive in ensuring that Putnam "has the lowest tax bill of any of

the 62 counties in New York," while maintaining an excellent bond rating; keeping budget increases under the state's 2 percent cap; fighting the opioid crisis by suing "Big Pharma" drug companies; overseeing construction of a senior center in Cold Spring; and trying "to protect our citizens from an unwarranted invasion of their safety and personal privacy" by joining county clerks in rejecting a Freedom of Information Law request for gun owners' names and addresses.

Another Republican, County Clerk Michael Bartolotti, elected in 2014, announced on Feb. 6 that we will seek re-

election. He also had no early opposition. His campaign funds total \$7,094.

If elected to a second term, Bartolotti said, he will work for "the betterment of the community." He said he intends to focus on unveiling an electronic land records system; possibly opening Department of Motor Vehicles branches throughout the county; pressing Albany for "our fair share of DMV revenue to further offset property taxes; exploring emerging technology to streamline office operations" and advocate "the rights of pistol-license holders."

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# The Calendar

## Cooking with Color

*Beacon photographer blends her art with food*

By Alison Rooney

Meredith Heuer has a lot of irons in the fire at the moment. An exhibit of the Beacon artist's photos and watercolors opens at the Matteawan Gallery on Feb. 10, and on March 6 her photos will be published in *Six Basic Cooking Techniques*, written by Jennifer Clair and designed by Dan Weise, who are also both based in Beacon.

The works in *Colorfields*, her Matteawan exhibit, came about after Heuer (pronounced "hue-er") became intrigued by how much "the color of the thing, rather than the thing itself" was affecting her, she says. For instance, she prefers to organize her photos by color, not subject.

She decided to pursue a personal investigation of color and settled on, of all things, gelatin to help her do it. "It was a perfect medium because of the way light passes through it," she says.

Heuer mixed the gelatin in a rectangular Pyrex dish, and the difficulties inherent in removing the wiggly, dissolving matter become the foundation of the photos. She combined clear gelatin with pigments, then chronicled their interaction with the cleaves and splits.

The results became "a vehicle for expressing my inner feelings — I have a real visceral response to the colors — and eliciting an emotional response from the viewer," Heuer explains. "It's a difficult



A photo by Meredith Heuer of her son, August

model as it is in a constant state of change. Out of the refrigerator, this change is accelerated — it becomes slippery, shrinks and is entirely unruly. It seemed a poor choice, but then it made sense. Each challenge the gelatin presented turned out to be an opportunity to delve into abstract expressions of emotions through color."

Heuer grew up in Detroit, and when she was in high school, her stepfather, a photo hobbyist, gave her a camera. She went west to study French literature at the University of California at Berkeley, where she worked in a darkroom in the architecture building, which gave her a place for experimentation.

After moving to New York City, she found work as a photo librarian at the School of Visual Arts. Finally, there, she began to pursue photography. Her timing was right. "It was the era of the big budgets" for magazines, "and that made it a time when people were willing to

take chances," she recalls.

She traveled the world for *Fortune*, *Travel + Leisure* and *Gourmet*, specializing in travel stories for the latter — China, Vienna, farms — rather than close-ups of dishes. After nine years in Manhattan, Heuer and her husband, Thomas Wright, a designer, moved to San Francisco for five years. On the day their eldest son, Cleveland, now 13, was born, Wright and his Brooklyn-based partner, Joseph Fratesi, got a call from *Vogue*, which wanted to feature their AS4 furniture line. A bi-coastal living and working situation ensued, which Heuer calls "messy."

Heuer, who says she favors "stronger seasons" than San Francisco can muster, suggested they return to the East Coast. They chose Beacon somewhat accidentally after making a pit stop at the Yankee Clipper, then exploring the city more closely. Twelve years later, having roosted with Cleveland, his brother, August, 11, and a passel of chickens,



Meredith Heuer

Photo provided

Heuer and Wright say they are happily entrenched. In 2016, Heuer was elected to the city's school board.

Heuer's affection for the city was amply reflected in her 2013 Beacon Portrait Project, in which she photographed more than 100 residents, each in his or her own home and in natural light, with each subject recommending the next.

One of the people Heuer met soon after moving to Beacon was Jennifer Clair, the founder of Home Cooking New York. "We met through revolving pot-lucks," Heuer recalls. "We'd have lunch and talk about the food." They also did a show on the community radio station, The Ground. Her love of cooking, Heuer says, originated in high school when she and her brother each had to cook one meal a week for the family. "I'm comfortable taking on any recipe," she says.

Heuer, who has taken the photographs for four previous books, including *At Home in the Hudson Valley*, says she and Clair tried to balance the "make it look pretty" approach with the "make it look do-able" aesthetic. "You don't want to intimidate people with beautiful images that look difficult to do," she says.



Colorfield #83, giclée print, by Meredith Heuer



Colorfield #13, giclée print, by Meredith Heuer



A Meredith Heuer photograph of a Jennifer Clair recipe: casserole-roasted chicken with melted root vegetables



FRIDAY, FEB. 9

Winter Carnival Spaghetti Dinner & Movie  
(The Mighty Ducks)  
6 p.m. Philipstown Recreation Center  
107 Glenclyffe, Garrison  
845-424-4618 | philipstownrecreation.com

Beacon Players: Sweet Sound for Our Shed  
6:30 p.m. Beacon High School  
101 Matteawan Road, Beacon  
Email ellryjane138@gmail.com.

Minute-to-Win-It Valentine's Party (grades 6-8)  
6:30 p.m. Butterfield Library  
10 Morris Ave., Cold Spring  
845-265-3040 | butterfieldlibrary.org

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

North by Northwest (1959)  
7:30 p.m. Bardavon | 35 Market St., Poughkeepsie  
845-473-2072 | bardavon.org

You Can't Take It With You  
8 p.m. County Players Theatre  
2681 W. Main St., Wappingers Falls  
845-298-1491 | countyplayers.org

SATURDAY, FEB. 10

Hudson River Eaglefest Viewing  
9 a.m. – 4 p.m. Boscobel | 1601 Route 9D, Cold Spring | teatown.org/events/eaglefest

Cabin Fever Workshop: Napkin Basket Weaving  
10 a.m. Garrison Art Center  
23 Garrison's Landing, Garrison  
845-424-3960 | garrisonartcenter.org

Army vs. Navy (Women's Basketball)  
11 a.m. Christl Arena, West Point  
845-938-2526 | goarmywestpoint.com

Winter on the Farm  
11 a.m. – 2 p.m. Stony Kill Farm  
79 Farmstead Lane, Wappingers Falls  
stonykill.org

Gear Breakdown Workshop for Rockers  
1 p.m. Beacon Music Factory | 333 Fishkill Ave., Beacon | 845-765-0472 | beaconmusicfactory.com

5th Annual Philipstown Winter Carnival  
1 – 5 p.m. Philipstown Community Center  
1 – 5 p.m. Winter Hill, Garrison  
philipstownwintercarnival.com

Made & Given Valentine's Market  
1 – 9 p.m. 17 East Main St., Beacon  
facebook.com/MadeandGivenNY

Show Some Love for the Serpico Family (Fundraiser)  
7 – 11 p.m. Hudson Valley Brewery  
2 Churchill St., Beacon  
gofundme.com/help-the-serpico-family

Calendar Highlights

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

Hudson Opera Theatre: La Boheme (Abridged)  
7:30 p.m. Beacon Hebrew Alliance  
331 Verplanck Ave., Beacon  
845-831-2012 | hotopera.com

Valentine's Dance Party  
8 p.m. Howland Cultural Center  
477 Main St., Beacon  
845-765-3012 | howlandculturalcenter.org

You Can't Take It With You  
8 p.m. County Players Theatre  
2681 W. Main St., Wappingers Falls  
845-298-1491 | countyplayers.org

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

BEACON SECOND SATURDAY

Sound/Peace Concert  
4 p.m. St. Andrew's Church  
15 South Ave., Beacon | standrewsbeaconny.org

Anna West: The Chairs  
5 – 8 p.m. Denise Gianna Designs  
494 Main St., Beacon  
denise-gianna.squarespace.com

Mark Rosengarten: Hudson Valley Beauty  
5 – 8 p.m. RiverWinds Gallery  
172 Main St., Beacon  
845-838-2880 | riverwindsgallery.com

Group Show: (In)Action Figures / Knights of the Slice  
6 – 9 p.m. Clutter Gallery | 163 Main St., Beacon  
212-255-2505 | shop.cluttermagazine.com

ARTSGO Artists in Residence 2015-17 (Film)  
6 p.m. Beacon Institute | 199 Main St., Beacon  
845-838-1600 | beaconarts.org

Lori Adams: Studio at the Studio  
6 – 8 p.m. Theo Ganz | 149 Main St., Beacon  
917-318-2239 | theoganzstudio.com

Elizabeth Arnold: Some Memories Fade  
John Richey: Blue by You  
6 – 9 p.m. bau Gallery | 506 Main St., Beacon  
845-440-7584 | baugallery.com

Meredith Heuer: Colorfields  
6 – 9 p.m. Matteawan Gallery | 436 Main St., Beacon | 845-440-7901 | matteawan.com

Donna Mikkelsen: Live Drawing Performance  
7 – 10 p.m. Hudson Beach Glass  
162 Main St., Beacon  
845-440-0068 | hudsonbeachglass.com

SUNDAY, FEB. 11

Cabin Fever Workshop: Japanese Shibori Master  
10 a.m. Garrison Art Center  
See details under Saturday.

Snow Day  
11 a.m. – 3 p.m. Outdoor Discovery Center  
Muser Drive, Cornwall  
845-534-5506 x204 | hhnrm.org

Made & Given Valentine's Market  
Noon – 6 p.m. Beacon  
See details under Saturday.

Hudson River Sloop Clearwater Gala  
3 p.m. The Garrison  
2015 Route 9, Garrison | clearwater.org

Pianist Charlie Albright  
4 p.m. Howland Cultural Center  
477 Main St., Beacon  
845-765-3012 | howlandmusic.org

Hudson Opera Theatre: La Boheme (Abridged)  
4 p.m. Beacon Hebrew Alliance  
See details under Saturday.

Rodgers & Hammerstein's Cinderella  
5 p.m. Eisenhower Hall  
655 Ruger Road, West Point  
845-938-4159 | ikehall.com

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

Ben Neill and Nicolas Collins  
7:30 p.m. Dogwood  
47 E. Main St., Beacon | dogwoodbar.com

Love Letters  
8 p.m. Philipstown Depot Theatre  
See details under Saturday.

MONDAY, FEB. 12

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

Beacon School Board  
7 p.m. Beacon High School  
101 Matteawan Road, Beacon  
845-838-6900 | beaconk12.org

TUESDAY, FEB. 13

Morning at the Museum (ages 2-4)  
10 a.m. Putnam History Museum  
63 Chestnut St., Cold Spring  
845-265-4010 | putnamhistorymuseum.org

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

Word Blaster Game Night  
5:30 p.m. Butterfield Library  
See details under Friday.

Cold Spring Board of Trustees  
7:30 p.m. Village Hall | 85 Main St., Cold Spring  
845-265-3611 | coldspringny.gov



Valentine's Day

Margrit Wenzel and Katelin Kirby: Appendage (Opening)  
6 – 9 p.m. Catalyst Gallery | 137 Main St., Beacon  
845-204-3844 | catalystgallery.com

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

Nelsonville Village Board Workshop  
7 p.m. Village Hall | 258 Main St., Nelsonville  
845-265-2500 | villageofnelsonville.org

Steve Blamires: Scotland's Ethnic Cleansing (Talk)  
7:30 p.m. Beahive Beacon | 291 Main St., Beacon  
845-765-1890 | beahivebzzz.com

Love Letters  
8 p.m. Philipstown Depot Theatre  
See details under Saturday.

THURSDAY, FEB. 15

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

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

FRIDAY, FEB. 16

Zine Club  
3:30 p.m. Howland Library  
313 Main St., Beacon  
845-831-1134 | beaconlibrary.org

Talk and Tasting: Beers  
7:15 p.m. Valley Restaurant  
2015 Route 9, Garrison  
845-424-3604 x39 | thegarrison.com

Open Mic  
7:30 p.m. Howland Cultural Center  
See details under Feb. 9.

Depot Docs: An Inconvenient Sequel (2017)  
7:30 p.m. Philipstown Depot Theatre  
See details under Saturday.

Marc Cohn  
8 p.m. Paramount Hudson Valley  
See details under Sunday.

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# A Room Above the Spoon

*Five hotel rooms open over Cold Spring cafe*

By Alison Rooney

The Silver Spoon Cafe in Cold Spring expanded in November to the second floor of its Main Street building, adding five bed-and-breakfast rooms with private baths. They are rented through Airbnb for \$136 per night.

Owner Abdelhady (Jimmy) Hussein says when he bought the building four years ago, he never considered opening a B&B. But once the idea hit him, he gave the tenants in the two apartments notice and, eight months later, began renovating.

"I pulled out the lights, decided upon the beds and colors, everything," he says, with backing from his friend (and fellow Egyptian) Arafat Ali, owner of Alley's Way Car Service in Philipstown.

Each room at Cold Spring Bed & Breakfast has a carved mahogany queen bed and stained-glass windows. The bathrooms have walk-in showers, toiletries and hair dryers. There is a common area at the second-floor landing with a table of snacks, water and juice. Breakfast is served at the Silver Spoon, and dinners for guests are 50 percent off. Hussein says he's had many guests who are visiting West Point; he has received rave reviews on Airbnb.

Soon after the B&B opened, its website was hacked (along with the website for the Silver Spoon), and the content replaced by the image of a skull and bones. Hussein says he doesn't want to know who was responsible but that he believes it was designed to compel him to close shop, which he says he will not do.

Hussein, who lives in Wappingers with his wife, Mona, and their three children first came to Cold Spring to work at the Depot Restaurant after having worked in the hospitality business



Inside one of the rooms at Cold Spring Bed & Breakfast

for 15 years.

Cold Spring Bed & Breakfast is located at 124 Main St. See [coldspringbedandbreakfast.com](http://coldspringbedandbreakfast.com) or call 845-265-2525.



Cold Spring Bed & Breakfast is upstairs from the Silver Spoon Cafe. Photos by A. Rooney

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# Meet the Highlands' Youngest Fire Department

*Despite logo, no 'Mickey Mouse' organization*

By Michael Turton

The smiling, fire-hose-wielding Mickey Mouse that adorns Dutchess Junction Fire Department vehicles has to be the most distinctive logo of any fire company in the state.

"We got permission from Disney to use it," explains Chief John Miller. "We put Mickey on our first truck, purchased from Mahopac Falls Fire Department in 1973," the year after the Dutchess Junction company was founded, and it became a tradition.

Miller notes that the volunteer company, which serves 550 residents and has a firehouse on Slocum Road in Beacon, is not only one of the smallest in the state, but one of the youngest, having been established only 45 years ago. By comparison, the Beacon Fire Department was founded in 1886, Cold Spring in 1896, Garrison in 1929, Continental Village in 1950 and North Highlands in 1969.

The Dutchess Junction district covers a swath along Route 9D between Breakneck Ridge and Slocum Road, south of Beacon. Hudson Highlands State Park makes up 90 percent of the district, Miller said.

The department has 20 to 25 firefighters, with nine or 10 serving as its core, according to Assistant Chief Sean Barry, who has been a firefighter with the com-



Assistant Chief Sean Barry and Chief John Miller with the Dutchess Junction Fire Department engine and its distinctive Mickey Mouse logo

Photo by M. Turton

pany for 43 of its 45 years.

Before 1972, fire protection for the area was provided by the Fishkill and Beacon departments, Barry said. The rates they were charging got too high, he said, so residents formed their own district, which is overseen by five commissioners.

Its annual budget is \$85,000. "And that's for everything," Miller said. "Insurance, workers' compensation, vehicle payments, fuel, heating, maintenance, snow plowing — the works."

Chief Miller also has a wealth of experi-

ence. He's been a volunteer with the company for five years after spending 26 years with the Castle Point VA Hospital Fire Department. He's also been a volunteer with the Beacon Fire Department for 50 years.

The company averages a little more than a call a week. "Last year we answered 64 calls, a record," Miller said. Calls have gradually increased over the past few years, in part, he said, due to a housing development constructed just below the fire house about 10 years ago. The

## Mutual Aid from the Public

The Dutchess Junction Fire Department offsets its expenses with two annual fundraisers. On Saturday, Feb. 17, it will host its seventh annual roast beef dinner from 4 to 8 p.m. at the firehouse, at 75 Slocum Road. Tickets for eat-in or takeout are \$18 per adult, \$16 per senior and \$12 for children younger than 12. It has also held a pancake breakfast every Palm Sunday since 1973.

increased popularity of Breakneck Ridge has also added calls, especially to rescue lost or injured hikers.

The department has a 23-year-old, 2,500-gallon tanker, a 1986 Jeep utility vehicle and an engine purchased in 2015, the first new vehicle it ever bought. It provides mutual aid to a number of nearby departments, including North Highlands, Garrison, Cold Spring, Glenham, Chelsea, Rombout, Fishkill and Castle Point.

Miller and Barry agree that, like with most of the roughly 1,500 all-volunteer fire companies in the state, recruitment is a constant concern at Dutchess Junction.

"Young guys are often interested," Barry said. "But after their senior year at Beacon High School, they go away to college." Residents who work two jobs or commute to the city are also less likely to volunteer. "The amount of time required for training is a challenge," he said.

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# Talking Shot at Photographers' Salon

*Highlands group meets monthly at Garrison Art Center*

By Alison Rooney

The conversation was flowing freely at the January meeting of the Highland Photographers' Salon at the Garrison Art Center.

The seven photographers at the get-together peppered each other with questions and comments.

"Do you have a primary lens?"

"That one's a 24-105."

"What number, on the gourds?"

"24."

"That's a straight 50."

"Are you bracketing with aperture? Bracket with shutter and you won't have any problems."

"An F16 aperture, one-and-a-half seconds open."

"Can I ask what paper you're printing on?"

The salon began last April through the efforts of Christine Ashburn of Cold Spring and Erin Wik of Garrison, who are both professional photographers. The January session attracted three other seasoned photographers, along with a dentist and a house painter/wallpaperer.

The salon was inspired by one that Wik attended in Woodstock after she decided to pursue photography as a career in 2011. She grew up in Garrison and remembers asking for the latest point-and-shoot camera at every birthday. She apprenticed at Coco B. Sweet Photography in Beacon for a year before launching a "lifestyle portraiture" business.

Ashburn began her career in photography 10 years ago in the darkroom at the art center and "turned pro" about five years ago. Her clients include *Chronogram* and *Hudson Valley Magazine*, and in 2014 the Hudson Highlands Land Trust published a collection of her work called *Connecting: The People and Places of the Hudson Highlands*.

Anyone, at any level, is welcome to attend the salon, share his or her work in print or digital form, and to offer comment, constructively.

"Be respectful in giving opinions; this is a chance for people to grow," Ashburn told the group in January.

Each of the other photographers introduced themselves, before one took out his large prints (no digital work was shown at this session) and displayed them on a low table for the group to examine. The other photographers shared their images in the same way.

David Nicholls' photos were taken mostly during his annual holiday visit to his native England. "I'm trying to get beyond the documentation side of architecture," he said. His passing mention of ON1, an image-processing software, led to a discussion comparing it to others.

For Jack Gish, it's all about tugboats, a natural subject for someone who sees them pass regularly by his Manitou home. "I have an app which allows me to identify when one is coming, where it has come from and where it's going, as well as its history," he explained.

Mark Vrzala said he shoots "anything but screaming kids. This is my weekend; I've enjoyed art since I was little. When I get into shows, it's a nice feeling when someone likes something and wants it on their wall."

Nancy Faulds' journey began with classes at the Putnam Arts Council in the 1990s. She also belongs to a Digital Discussion Group in Mahopac. Her subjects are landscapes and architecture, particularly abandoned buildings, some of which she visits with a group called Abandoned America.

"I've been trying to figure out a way to make money from this," she said. "I haven't been successful in that yet but have been in some juried shows."

Craig Watters went to school to study photography, then worked in commercial photography, largely marketing and advertising-oriented, in particular catalog work for the automotive industry.

"There was crossover between technically proficient and



David Nicholls (left) responds to a question from Erin Wik (right) about his photography.

Photo by A. Rooney



Walking With Monet, photo by Mark Vrzala



Blue On Blue, photo by Mark Vrzala



Tugboat Marie J. Turecamo, by Jack Gill

creative work," he said. "I'm more on the technical side, but this turned out to be niche work. Then digital came in and changed the economics of it all. I tried other genres, but they weren't my thing, so I 'retired.' " Now working in real estate, he said he has developed an interest in drone photography and brought examples.



Posts and Beams by Nancy Faulds



Age 13, Lake Valhalla, by Christine Ashburn



Grandma at Home, Lake Hopatcong, New Jersey, by Erin Wik

## Beacon Photographers

The Beacon Photography Group hosts an annual show of its members' work at the Howland Public Library. Its 300 members share and discuss images at [facebook.com/groups/beaconphotogroup](https://facebook.com/groups/beaconphotogroup).

Salons occur on the last Wednesday of the month. The next session will be held at 7 p.m. on Feb. 28 at the art center on Garrison's Landing. The fee is \$5 for art center members, or \$10 otherwise.





## Spring Programming at Philipstown Recreation Center

Registration opens February 5: Residents

February 12: Non-residents

Book is available at [www.philipstownrecreation.com/booklets](http://www.philipstownrecreation.com/booklets)

Call 845-424-4618 or 845-424-4662 to register

R = Resident / NR = Non-Resident



### EARLY EDUCATION

#### Indoor Tot Park

T,TH 9-11am & M-F 12-1:30pm  
\$1 per session

#### Little Sluggers (age 3)

Starts April 21  
\$70 R / \$85 NR

#### Pre-Ballet (ages 3-5)

Starts April 10 or 12  
\$85 R / \$100 NR

#### T-Ball (ages 4-5)

Starts April 21  
\$70 R / \$85 NR

#### The Learning Center (ages 3-5)

Registration opens March 19th  
for the 2018-19 school year!

### YOUTH/TEEN PROGRAMS

#### After Care & Before Care Programs

Registration opens March 19th  
for the 2018-2019 school year!

#### Building Bonanza (Grades K-6)

Starts March 15  
\$50 R / \$65 NR

#### Breakfast Buffet (Grade K-6)

Starts April 21  
\$50 R / \$65 NR

#### Color Splash (Grades K-6)

Starts May 9  
\$40 R / \$55 NR

#### Fruit to Art (Grades K-6)

Starts March 12  
\$55 R / \$70 NR

#### Potions 101 (Grades K-6)

Starts May 10  
\$40 R / \$55 NR

#### Quilting for Kids (Grades K-6)

Starts May 7  
\$40 R / \$55 NR

#### Sweet Treats (Grades K-6)

Starts March 13  
\$55 R / \$70 NR

### SPORTS AND MOVEMENT

#### Beginning Ballet (Grades K-1)

Starts April 10 or 12  
\$85 R / \$100 NR

#### Beginning Ballet (Grades 2-3)

Starts April 12  
\$85 R / \$100 NR

#### Baseball Skills & Drills (Grades 2-7)

Ongoing  
\$1 per night

#### Basketball Skills & Drills (Grades 3-8)

Ongoing  
\$1 per night

#### Co-Ed Soccer Clinic (Grades 1-6)

Starts April 21  
\$45 R / \$60 NR

#### Floor Hockey

Starts March 21  
\$40 R / \$55 NR

#### Lacrosse (Grades K-8)

Philipstown Highlanders  
Teams for Boys and Girls

#### Teen Night (Grades 6-8)

March 10  
Residents only!  
\$5

#### Teen Movie Nights (Grades 6-8)

*Captain American Civil War*  
Pre-Registration is required

### FAMILY

#### Winter Carnival

February 11

### CERAMICS

#### Adults

Starts April 10 or 12  
\$360 R / \$365 NR

#### Afterschool (Grades K-3)

Starts April 10 or 11  
\$240 R / \$255 NR

#### Afterschool (Grades 4-6)

Starts April 12  
\$240 R / \$255 NR

#### Teens (Grades 7 and up)

Starts April 10  
\$240 R / \$255 NR

#### Mudbunnies (ages 3-5)

Start April 11  
\$180 R / \$195 NR

### SENIORS

#### Chair Yoga

Continental Village Clubhouse  
Starts March 8  
Chestnut Ridge  
Starts March 9

#### Core Strength & Balance

Chestnut Ridge  
Starts March 14

#### Fit for Life

Continental Village Clubhouse  
Starts March 12

#### Zumba Gold

Chestnut Ridge / Starts March 13  
Continental Village / Starts March 8

#### Paint Your World

April 10 or 12: Van Gogh  
May 8 or 10: Monet

#### Line Dancing

Continental Village  
March 14, 28, April 11, 25, May 23

#### Mah Jongg Open Play

Old VFW Hall, Cold Spring  
Ongoing Wednesdays

#### Senior Luncheons

February 28 / May 4

#### Senior Bus Trip to Fishkill

Feb 14, 27, March 14, 25, April 11, 25, May 8, 23, June 6, 20

## Summer Camp is coming!

Camp brochure will be available March 7

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Registration opens March 12

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#### Trip St. Patty's Day at Aquaturf Club

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#### Trip New York Botanical Gardens & Lunch

April 13  
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#### Trip Empire City Casino & Lunch

May 2  
\$46 R / \$61 NR

### ADULTS - EDUCATION

#### Write Your World

Starts March 21  
\$95 R / \$110 NR

### ADULTS - EXERCISE

#### Ballet for Adults

Starts April 10 & Jan 12  
\$130 R / \$145 NR

#### Basic Pilates/Buffer Bones

Starts March 16  
\$85 R / \$100 NR

#### Cize Live

Starts April 9  
\$85 R / \$100 NR

#### Intermediate Pilates

Starts March 26  
\$85 R / \$100 NR

#### Power Hour for Women

Starts April 9 or March 21

#### Yamuna Body Rolling

Starts March 5  
\$45 R / \$60 NR

#### Yoga with Kathy Barnes

Starts April 9  
\$75 R / \$90 NR

#### Yoga with Kathie Scanlon

Starts March 13  
\$75 R / \$90 NR

#### Zumba

Starts March 22  
\$85 R / \$100 NR

### SPORTS (18+)

#### Volleyball

Thursdays 7:30-9:30, Sundays 6-8  
\$3 R / \$5 NR



## Small, Good Things

# Things That May Be Eaten in Italy and Elsewhere

By Joe Dizney

Winter has certainly settled in and while the overall effect has lately been more arctic than alpine, February generally reinforces an appetite for ingredients and combinations common to — of all places — the ski lodge: warm, oozy cheeses (think Raclette or fondue), potatoes (Raclette, again, or if you're Québécois, *poutine*) and ... buckwheat pasta?

You may be familiar with *soba* (Japanese for buckwheat) noodles, but the European Alps have a history of embracing

buckwheat: in Lombardy in Northern Italy, *pizzoccheri*; in the French Savoie, *crozets*; and recipes that use either or both to create humble but distinctive comfort foods.

Pizzoccheri (*peet-zoh-CHAY-ree*) is believed to be one of the earliest forms of pasta, as it was cut in pieces or strips from larger sheets of buckwheat lasagna and proscribed in size and shape (2½ inches wide by 3 to 4 inches long) by the Academy of Pizzoccheri in the Lombard village of Teglio. The dish Pizzoccheri alla Valtellina (a reference to the valley which produces the casena and bitto cheeses in the official recipe) is described as early as 1550 in Ortensio Lando's *Catalog of Inventories of Things That May Be Eaten in Italy*.

## Pizzoccheri alla Valle dell'Hudson

Serves 6 to 8

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 8 tablespoons (one stick) unsalted butter                                     | ¾ pound savoy cabbage, sliced into about quarter-inch strips (substitute spinach, Swiss chard or any leafy brassica or spinach) |
| 4 to 6 cloves garlic, smashed   | 10 to 12 ounces of Fontina, Montasio, Raclette or other semi-soft, Alpine-style cheese, sliced into sticks/batons               |
| 8 fresh sage leaves   | 1 cup grated Grana Padano or Parmesan cheese  |
| 1 pound (Yukon Gold) potatoes, peeled and sliced into ¼-inch sticks or batons | ½ cup bread crumbs  |
| 1 pound pizzoccheri pasta, cut as wide fettuccine and into 4-to-5-inch strips | Salt and freshly ground black pepper  |

1. Put a large pasta pot three-quarters full of water on to boil and salt it like the sea. Butter a large (about 4-quart) casserole dish and set aside. Preheat oven to 350 degrees.
2. Melt butter in a small saucepan over medium-low heat. Add garlic and cook enough to flavor oil but not brown the garlic. Remove from heat, discard garlic and set aside. Add sage leaves to cooling butter.
3. Once the water is boiling, add potatoes and cook about 3 minutes. Add the pasta and cook all for an additional 2 minutes. Add cabbage and as soon as it is wilted (about 1 minute) drain all to a large strainer.
4. Return drained pasta and vegetables to the pot and douse with the sage and butter; toss lightly to coat. Evenly scatter and lightly toss the sliced cheeses into the pasta-vegetable mixture. Pour all into the buttered casserole.
5. Combine grated cheese and breadcrumbs and sprinkle evenly over casserole. Bake in center of oven for 30 to 45 minutes until topping browns lightly. Serve hot.



Pizzoccheri alla Valle dell'Hudson

Photo by J. Dizney

In addition to buckwheat pasta and Alpine cheeses, the sanctioned recipe includes slivered or cubed potatoes, cabbage, garlic-infused butter and the specific herbal flavor of sage. If it sounds complicated, it's not: the potatoes, pasta and cabbage are incrementally boiled together in the same pot and tossed with the garlic-infused butter, sage and cheeses.

Because we are not in Lombardy, you are authorized to alter the ingredients for an Americanized, Hudson Valley version. Substitute Fontina, Montasio or an American-made Raclette for the *casera*, or a combination and some Emmenthal, Gruyere or Gouda for the *bitto*.

Savoy cabbage is traditional, but any hearty crucifer (chard, kale, radicchio) or spinach will do.

Authentic pizzoccheri pasta may be hard to come by, but it can be found pack-

aged dry online or at Eataly or Buon Italia in the Chelsea Market in Manhattan. Dry pastas will require an adjustment in the sequence and time of the one-pot cooking method.

Fresh buckwheat pasta can be had from Rafetto's and elsewhere but it needs to be cut into shorter strips for proper texture. If you're a real cook, make your own, but the nutty character of the grain is what makes pizzoccheri, well, pizzoccheri. If worse comes to worse, an imperfect but acceptable substitute is whole wheat (or spelt) fettuccine.

Pizzoccheri alla Valtellina is traditionally tossed and served straight from the pot, but I've incorporated a variation suggested by Marcella Hazan and present it as a casserole topped with a bread crumb-parmesan crust. This allows you to prepare it ahead of time or freeze a batch.



### Love Letters by A.R. Gurney

Performed by Phil Geoffrey Bond and Jennifer Lee Andrews

Feb. 10, 11, 14 ~ All shows at 8 p.m.

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Depot Docs

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## COMMUNITY BRIEFS



Registration for Philipstown Little League has begun.

Photo by Robert Ferreria

## Play Ball ... Soon

*Little League registration open*

The Philipstown Little League has opened registration for the spring season and is offering early bird discounts through Feb. 16. See philipstown-littleleague.com. Children in kindergarten through seventh grade (age 12) of any skill level are welcome to play.

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

## Photo Show Features Local Artists

*Opens Feb. 10 in Poughkeepsie*

The Barrett Art Center in Poughkeepsie will open its 31st annual *Photo-work* show with a reception from 3 to 6 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 10. Among the 58 photos are works by Beacon artists Evan D'Arpino and Denise DeVore and Cold Spring artists Jane Soodalter and Bidu Tashjian. The photos were selected from



CIRCUS ARTS — Fifth-graders at the Garrison School practiced their stilt-walking during "Circus Week" with the Amazing Grace Circus & Westchester Circus Arts Center. Activities included acrobatics, tight-rope walking, human pyramids and physical comedy, a.k.a. "clowning around."

Photo provided

among 800 submissions by E. Jason Wabsgams, the 2017 Pulitzer Prize winner for photography. See [barrettartcenter.org](http://barrettartcenter.org).

## Genetic Testing and Cancer

*Webinar will discuss diagnostic tool*

Support Connection, a cancer support organization for people affected by breast and ovarian cancers, will host a free webinar on genetic testing at 8 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 15. Dr. Wendy Chung will discuss and answer questions about how genetic testing can be used by people who have been diagnosed with breast or ovarian cancer. Register by calling 914-962-6402.

## Birds of the Night

*Museum to host guided hike*

Join a two-hour Owl Prowl with Hudson Highlands Nature Museum educa-



The Hudson Highlands Nature Museum will host two-hour "owl prowls" on Feb. 17 and 18.

Photo by Jim Ridley

tors and learn about native owls and their habits. The hike on Saturday, Feb. 17, will begin at 7 p.m. at the Wildlife Education Center and on Sunday, Feb. 18, at 7 p.m. at the Outdoor Discovery Center. Both are in Cornwall. After introducing an owl from the museum's wildlife rescue, an educator will use a calling device to attract owls in the wild. See [hnnm.org](http://hnnm.org).

## Beacon

### Valentine Pop-Up

Made & Given, a curated market of handmade Valentine's Day gifts, will be held at 17 East Main St. in Beacon on Saturday, Feb. 10, from 1 to 9 p.m. and on Sunday, Feb. 11, from noon to 6 p.m. The selection includes Le Marais Chocolate, Rock Dove Rings, paintings by Johnny Defeo, cards and personal-care products. See [facebook.com/madeandgivenny](https://facebook.com/madeandgivenny).

### The Book of Love

*Reception at gallery for new release*

An art and poetry book by Margrit Wenzel and Katelin Kirby exploring the many facets of love will be released on Valentine's Day, Feb. 14, with a reception from 6 to 9 p.m. at Catalyst Gallery in Beacon. *Appendage* will be on display and available for purchase. See [catalystgallery.com](http://catalystgallery.com).

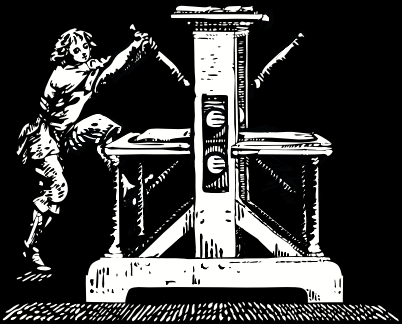
### Dance Your Heart Away

*Valentine's Dance on Feb. 10*

The Howland Cultural Center in Beacon will host a Valentine's dance party with the Louie Tunes Band at 8 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 10, with everything from Motown to rock to disco. Admission is \$10 per person or \$15 per couple.

*(To next page)*

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4:45 7:15, SUN 1:15 3:45 6:15  
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MON 4:45 7:15, TUE 7:15  
WED 1:00 3:30 6:15, THU 7:15



## COMMUNITY BRIEFS (from previous page)



The Harlem Wizards will perform at Beacon High School on Feb. 23.

Photo provided

## Magic on the Court

### Harlem Wizards to perform

The Harlem Wizards basketball team will play members of the Beacon City School District staff at Beacon High School on Friday, Feb. 23, in a benefit for the Rombout Middle School PTO, Beacon High School PTO and the National Honor Society. The game begins at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$10 to \$35 at the door or [romboutpto.org/p/harlem-wizards.html](http://romboutpto.org/p/harlem-wizards.html).

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

## Wellness Tours

### Beacon Pilates has new space

Beacon Pilates will open its new space at 18 W. Main St., from 5 to 8 p.m., on Saturday, Feb. 10. Receive a tour, meet the instructors and bring donations of new indoor or outdoor sporting goods for the Children's Home in Poughkeepsie.

On the same day, from 1 to 10 p.m., the Beacon of Light Wellness Center (formerly Shambhala) at 4 S. Chestnut St. will celebrate its grand opening with tours, food, children's activities and a holistic fair. There will also be live music at 7 p.m. See [beaconoflightwellnesscenter.com](http://beaconoflightwellnesscenter.com).



# 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? Kelly and Tyler Pellerin of Wappingers Falls shared this photo of their son, Ellis, just home from neonatal intensive care after being born two-and-half months early, with Lily, his new protector.

If you have a photo of a baby and a dog, submit it for consideration to [editor@highlandscurrent.com](mailto:editor@highlandscurrent.com).




**THE PURSUIT** — This painting by Stephanie Del Carpio is among the small works that will be on display at the Bannerman Island Gallery in Beacon starting with a reception on Second Saturday, Feb. 10, from 4 to 6 p.m. The other featured artists are Amanda Brown and Kate Manire.

Image provided



**THREE BRIDGES** — Mark Rosengarten's photography, including this shot, will be on display at RiverWinds Gallery in Beacon beginning with a reception from 5 to 8 p.m. on Second Saturday, Feb. 10. The exhibit is called *Hudson River Beauty*.

Photo provided



**LYNX OR BOBCAT?** — Lucy Freilich of Garrison took this photo of what appears to be a bobcat near her home. Bobcats are sometimes mistaken as lynx. Although similar in appearance, the state Department of Environmental Conservation says lynx are extirpated in the state.

## 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](mailto:calendar@highlandscurrent.com).

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# Sports

## Haldane Drafts Athletic Code of Conduct

*Would remove discretion from coaches*

By Chip Rowe

The Haldane Central School District has drafted a code of conduct for sports and extracurricular activities that removes the discretion of coaches in how a student will be punished for using alcohol, tobacco or drugs or other

violations of the law.

If adopted by the school board, the draft, dated Feb. 1 and posted on the Haldane website, would prohibit students taking part in athletics or extracurricular activities such as plays, musical performances and student government from using or possessing alcohol, tobacco or other illegal drugs, including vaping pens and steroids or "lookalike products that appear to be illegal drugs," as well as

abusing prescription drugs or over-the-counter products.

It also would ban students from hosting or "actively participating" in parties where drugs or alcohol are consumed by minors, posting photos online that depict the use of drugs or alcohol, or engaging in "vandalism, theft, harassment, intimidation, bullying, assault (verbal or physical), hazing or other serious, inappropriate acts."

It is not clear from the draft if the code would apply to students during the off-season of their sports, including the summer. Currently, discipline for infractions that occur off school grounds are left to the discretion of each coach.

If adopted, the new Haldane policy calls for a minimum two-week suspension for a first offense within a calendar year, a suspension for 50 percent of the remaining games or activities for a second offense, and a year-long suspension after a third offense. Coaches and administrators will be able to impose additional punishment. It does not outline an appeals process.

The Haldane school board said on Oct. 3 it would draft a policy after complaints from parents at what they saw as a lax attitude by some coaches toward athletes caught using alcohol or drugs.

In Beacon, the school district forbids

athletes from using alcohol, tobacco, illegal drugs or performance-enhancing drugs from the start of the fall season to the last day of the spring season, regardless of the sport. The punishment for a first offense is a two-week suspension from sports; for a second offense, removal for one sports season or two months, whichever is longer; and for a third, removal from the athletic program for one year.

Appeals may be filed within five days to the Beacon athletic director for review by an appeals committee of the A.D., a neutral coach and an administrator.

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# Sports

## Haldane Explains Neutral-Site Decision *(from Page 20)*

“invite the teams to practice together [at Haldane] and share a meal as a way to build friendships and promote a positive relationship.”

In her own letter to parents, Wills said the bad blood began in February 2016, when “an incident occurred on the Putnam Valley campus following a boys’ basketball game with Haldane which resulted in the significant injury of one of our students by a fan of the opposing school.” According to witnesses, the student was punched and required hospitalization.

Wills said that the player who took the lewd photo “received swift consequences by the school to the extent allowable and immediate removal from the basketball team.” The second two students “received school consequences in addition to a team consequence.”

In a comment posted at highlandscurrent.com, Michael Monteleone, the father of two Haldane girls’ basketball players who said he attended multiple meetings

with administrators, coaches and a Putnam County sheriff’s deputy about the incident, expressed disappointment with the responses of both administrators. He argued that the reason the games were moved was simple: To allow the two boys still on the team to play in the “away” game.

“The three players from Putnam Valley made a bad choice,” he wrote. “One crossed a serious line. Punishment was given — not enough in my judgment, but I was OK with it. What I don’t agree with is the decision by Putnam Valley administrators to make a basketball game more important than sexual misconduct against 11 girls who ranged in age from 13 to 16.”

He added: “After the incident, Putnam Valley played at Haldane [during the 2016-17 season] without the three boys, and there were no incidents. In fact, the schools compete in many sports with no issues. So why move the two games this year?”

Bowers said she was writing her Feb. 5 letter “because a local reporter is about to



The student section was empty during the Feb. 5 girls' basketball game at Haldane versus Putnam Valley. *Photo by Scott Warren*

share intimate details about the situation” that were “provided by an individual not affiliated with our district.”

The reporter, Rich Thomaselli, who writes the online *Hudson Valley Sports Report* and contributes sports coverage to the *Putnam County News & Recorder*, reported on the change of venue in the paper’s Feb. 7 issue. The previous week, he had written a column for the *PCNR* blasting administrators at both schools for being “two-faced” and “disingenuous” for not saying more about what happened.

In her letter, Wills said that “the public might not be fully informed” about the

move “due to the responsibility of school districts to maintain confidentiality about discipline and student issues.

“We know that as educators we are responsible to help students learn from mistakes, even egregious ones,” she wrote. “Adolescence is a time when we use every opportunity to turn errors into learning opportunities when students learn about consequences, remorse, forgiveness and making amends. We are seeking the most balanced approach, holding students accountable, but allowing them to move forward without permanent exclusion from positive community experiences.”



SENIOR NIGHT — The Haldane boys' basketball team recognized its seniors on Feb. 1 at their game against Pawling. From left: Anthony Lombardo, Nick DiPalo, Liam Irwin, Coach Joe Virgadamo, Aiden Siegel, Anthony Sinchi, Ronan Tinsley and Daniel Rotando. Seven of the nine players on the 2017-18 squad will graduate in June; the other two are sophomores. *(Photo by Sharon DiPalo)*

## Highlands Current Team of the Week

After blanking Carmel, Ketcham and Arlington in the past week, the Beacon High School girls’ bowling team finished a perfect season with a 16-0 record, winning 112 straight games without a loss.

Player	Pins	Avg.	Game	Series
Selena Virtuoso	9,235	196	266	687
Jenna Maffei	9,166	195	243	660
Brianna Virtuoso	8,466	180	224	596
Alexia Alexander	6,604	157	217	552
Jamie Brown	3,473	124	161	449
Julia Lahey	2,737	130	175	411
Kaitlyn Bierce	728	121	150	267
Lia Muscat	192	96	125	192

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Sports

Haldane Explains Neutral-Site Decision

*Boys' basketball games against Putnam Valley played in Brewster*

By Chip Rowe

The Haldane and Putnam Valley school districts conceded this week that they played their two boys' varsity basketball games this season at a neutral site — Brewster High School — because of an incident last season involving Putnam Valley players who were visiting Haldane for a joint practice.

Athletic directors at the schools said on Jan. 26 that the change of venue was due to past conflicts, but did not provide specifics. The superintendents of both districts released letters this week providing more details.

After conflicts between fans last season, including a fistfight after the game at Putnam Valley, administrators arranged a peacemaking dinner and practice with the boys' varsity teams from both schools that took place at Haldane. During the practice, the superintendents said, the Putnam Valley players dressed in the girls' locker room, which is standard practice for visiting teams.

According to the superintendents, the boys found a phone in the locker room,

which other sources say belonged to a female junior varsity player. It did not have a password, and two boys used it to take a "selfie" of their faces while a third player snapped a photo of his genitals that he sent to the phone's contact list, which included many of the players on the girls' junior varsity team.

According to the accounts provided by the superintendents, all three boys were removed from the team and suspended from school. In addition, Haldane sent the three boys notice that if they returned to the Haldane campus, they would be charged with trespassing.

Before the 2017-18 season, Putnam Valley asked if the two boys who had taken the selfie could play in the game at Haldane, arguing they were less culpable than the third boy who had taken the lewd image, according to Haldane Superintendent Diana Bowers. (Putnam Valley Superintendent Fran Wills wrote that the school viewed the situation as two separate incidents.) Haldane declined to lift the trespassing order but agreed to play the boys' games at Brewster.

As part of the agreement, no students were allowed to attend either game and the junior varsity games were canceled. The schools also agreed that the two Putnam Valley players would not attend either of the girls' games as spectators.

In addition, on Feb. 5 Haldane barred students from the girls' varsity game at Haldane against Putnam Valley and abruptly canceled the junior varsity girls' game scheduled for that same day. Police officers were present at the Feb. 5 girls' game, as well as those played at Brewster.

Putnam Valley is in Class B, based on its student population, while Haldane is Class D, but the two schools have a long and competitive athletic rivalry. In one sport, wrestling, two Haldane students compete with the Putnam Valley team, and the track and football teams have practiced together.

The Journal News reported on the neutral-site agreement on Jan. 26. At the time, Chris Salumn, the Haldane athletic director, and Brian Burrow, the Putnam Valley athletic director, declined to comment about the reasons for the move, but Salumn told the paper "there have been issues with Putnam Valley in the past."



Sheriff's deputies were positioned near the gym entrance during the Haldane versus Putnam Valley girls' basketball game on Feb. 5.

Photo by Scott Warren

On Feb. 5, Bowers, saying she was writing in anticipation of further reporting on the matter, told parents and community members that the agreement had been made due to "problematic behaviors that infiltrated our sporting events."

(Haldane and Putnam Valley are not the only match-ups in which spectators, including parents, have displayed poor behavior. A parent from Westlake was thrown out by referees during the Hal-

dane girls' home victory on Feb. 2.) "Over the past few years, there have been circumstances where spectators at the games did not show the appropriate level of sportsmanship and inflamed tempers that shifted positive events to negative ones," Bowers wrote.

She said she and the high school principal at the time (Peter Carlucci) met with administrators from Putnam Valley and decided to (Continued on Page 19)



Nick DiPalo (11) drives against Putnam Valley on Feb. 3. Relatively few spectators were allowed into the game.

Photo by Richard Kuperberg Sr.

Varsity Scoreboard

Boys' Basketball

Haldane 55, Pawling 43  
Putnam Valley 46, Haldane 32  
Haldane 56, Edgemont 41  
Nick DiPalo (25), Matt Champlin (15)  
North Salem 52, Haldane 50  
Beacon 47, Henry Hudson 45  
Dayion Thompson (10)  
Beacon 69, Cornwall 63  
Manny Garner (18)  
Beacon 71, Lourdes 55  
Jemond Gallaway (17)

Girls' Basketball

Haldane 48, Pawling 27  
Haldane 53, Westlake 35  
Olivia McDermott (17)  
North Salem 42, Haldane 34  
Putnam Valley 35, Haldane 28  
Henry Hudson 50, Beacon 22  
Pearl River 50, Beacon 23  
Beacon 40, Peekskill 30

Boys' Bowling

Beacon 7, Carmel 0  
Beacon 5, Ketcham 2  
Beacon 7, Arlington 0

Girls' Bowling

Beacon 7, Carmel 0  
Beacon 7, Ketcham 0  
Beacon 7, Arlington 0

Indoor Track

Haldane at Varsity Classic

Top finishers

Girls' 800 meters  
48. Emma Rippon (2:35.79)

Girls' 1,600 meters  
47. Shannon Ferri (5:57.86)

Girls' 4 x 400-meter relay  
15. Haldane (4:45.40)

Boys' 1,600 meters  
37. Nicholas Farrell (4:47.80)

Boys' 4 x 800-meter relay  
23. Haldane (8:39.66)

Boys' long jump  
34. Justin Gonzalez (17-04.50)

Boys' triple jump  
35. Justin Gonzalez (36-06.50)