The HIGHLANDS



The Streak. Page 20

February 16, 2018

161 Main St., Cold Spring, N.Y. | highlandscurrent.com

What's Up with the Water?

Why Cold Spring supply is sometimes discolored

By Michael Turton

old Spring's water supply becomes discolored from time to time and a recent occurrence prompted numerous complaints to Village Hall. We asked Superintendent of Water and Waste Water Greg Phillips to explain why it happens. His responses have been edited and condensed.

What caused the most recent discoloration?

It was brought on by the water main breaks caused by frigid temperatures in early January. Changes in water flow during the repairs caused discoloration that persisted for several weeks, but which has subsided in the past week.

When does it otherwise occur, and why?

Typically, it is due to changes in water flow rates in the pipes. The greater the rate change, the more significant the discoloration. Also, warmer flows generally cause discoloration more frequently than colder flows, so you see it more often in the summer.

Is it affected by the age of the system?

Yes. Until September 1997, when the Foundry Brook Water Treatment Facility on Fishkill Road went online, water was not filtered or treated for corrosivity. For the better part of 100 years, corrosion was unabated.

Does discoloration occur in other towns and villages?

It happens everywhere, to one extent or

What is the solution?

In a perfect scenario, we'd have cementlined or PVC water mains, properly sized for increased flows, with no dead-end mains. We'd also have enough water and staff to flush the system whenever we wanted. The reality is that there is no simple or inexpensive remedy. The improvements to the Main Street water line last year cost more than \$900,000. Doing all the side street lines would cost several times that.

Is there a less costly solution?

Not that I am aware of, other than a more aggressive flushing program, consistently doing two flushes per year.

(Continued on Page 3)



HOW DO YOU STEER THIS THING? — Relatively warm temperatures (the mercury hit 41 degrees) put a damper on ice skating at the annual Philipstown Winter Carnival on Feb. 10, but the slushy conditions didn't stop sledders at Winter Hill. For more photos, see Page 13. Photo by Ross Corsair

Beacon Fire Victims Stable

Blaze raises question: Enough firefighters?

By Jeff Simms

Three Beacon residents remain in stable condition at Westchester Medical Center after suffering severe burns in a fire that destroyed a Rombout Avenue home on Feb. 9.

Three city firefighters arrived on the scene at 4:46 a.m. to find the home engulfed, said Chief Gary Van Voorhis.

The three injured residents — Gloria Gamble, Arielle Gamble and Raequan Keemer – escaped by running through the flames down a stairwell. A fourth resident, Christian Matias, suffered minor injuries after jumping from a second-floor window. A dog also died, while another was rescued.

"There was a lot of fire in the structure," Van Voorhis said. "They were very fortunate to get out of the house (To Page 6)



Beacon firefighters arrived on the scene at 4:46 a.m. on Feb. 9.

Reacon Fire Department

Putnam D.A. Talks Drugs, Immigration

Visits Village Board to answer questions

By Michael Turton

n Tuesday (Feb. 13), at a Cold Spring Village Board meeting, Putnam County District Attorney Robert Tendy answered questions from board members and the public about a range of topics. This is a condensed version of his remarks.

Immigration status

If you're a victim of a crime, my office, the Sheriff's Office and other local law enforcement agencies won't ask about your immigration status. We're concerned with who's victimizing you, finding them and dealing with them within the legal system. But, if you are victimizing someone and you get arrested, we will be concerned about your immigration status.

> "If you're a victim of a crime, my office, the Sheriff's Office and other local law enforcement agencies won't ask about your immigration status. But, if you are victimizing someone and you get arrested, we will be concerned about your immigration status."

Opioids

The biggest problem in the county and in the country is drug abuse. It's a disease. There's no shame in it. We're way past that. We don't get a big kick out of putting addicts in jail. That's the old days. We want to help.

Synthetic marijuana

It's not actually "synthetic"; it's laced with acetones and poisons. It can create psychosis that can last for weeks.

You're not supposed to smoke pot; it's illegal in New York unless it's for medicinal purposes. This is going to sound weird coming from a district attorney, but if you're smoking marijuana, at least know what you're smoking. There was a case several months ago where three kids had serious problems because they thought they were simply smoking marijuana. (Continued on Page 8)

Five Questions: Erin Drakontaidis

Prin Drakontaidis is the Hudson Valley coordinator for Pre-Dating Speed Dating. Her next events are scheduled for Feb. 26 in New Paltz and March 11 in Brewster.

How did you get involved with speed dating?

I participated in a Pre-Dating event in Albany. The company is based in Florida, and at the time they were looking for a Hudson Valley coordinator. My first event was in September.

Your events typically involve four men and four women who pair off for six minutes each. Is that enough time?

Sometimes before we start someone will say, "Six minutes — that's a long time!" But afterward the same person says, "It wasn't actually very long."

Do younger adults approach the events differently?

They tend to be more concerned about appearance. At my first event, a man came in, checked out the women and left. I suggest you sit and chat; you never know how or when a connection can form. I'd like to see more men in the 50-plus age bracket give it a try.



Erin Drakontaidis

Photo by M. Turton

Who's more nervous, men or women?

Women tend to be more anxious. On the other hand, men are more likely to back out because of nerves.

Do most people end up with dates?

I had one event where five of the eight people didn't connect with anyone, but that's unusual. On the other hand, rarely do you go eight-for-eight.



A majestic sycamore tree in Beacon

Photo by Michael Turtor

Saving Beacon's Trees

Council will consider increased penalty

By Jeff Simms

he Beacon City Council is expected to schedule a public hearing for Monday, March 5, on increasing the financial penalties for property owners who cut down trees without approval. The discussion was prompted by the removal of more than a dozen trees late last year by a property owner on Orchard Place.

The proposal would also allow Beacon Mayor Randy Casale to create a fiveperson Tree Committee that would meet when requested by the mayor or the city's building inspector. The committee would include an arborist and one member of the city's Conservation Advisory Committee.

The council has debated for several weeks whether to establish stricter guidelines for when trees can be removed. The current law requires a permit for taking down three or more mature (6-inch diameter) trees within a year and a blanket

\$250 fine for violations. While the proposal before the council maintains that guideline, it increases the fine to \$350 per tree.

At one point the proposed law would have required residents to apply for a permit when taking down any mature tree, taking down three or more 6-inch-diameter trees within 100 feet of each other within a year, or removing any threatened or endangered species of tree. However, the council at its Feb. 13 workshop scrapped those regulations after several members said they felt the draft was becoming too onerous.

"I would be comfortable if all we did was change the penalty," said Council Member Lee Kyriacou. "We're way overregulating here."

The Building Department would be responsible for approving tree removal permits, and violators could be required to plant replacement trees for those illegally downed.

During the Feb. 13 meeting, Council Member Amber Grant agreed that the law shouldn't be restrictive but pushed for it to include a standard for replacing trees.

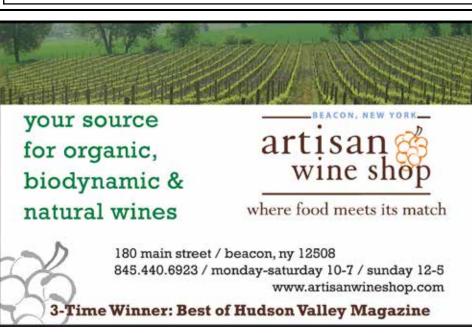
"We're an [Arbor Day Foundation] Tree City," she said. "If you want to go cut down 13 trees and you have a permit, great, but we've still lost something there."

Building Inspector Tim Dexter also cautioned the council against placing too much authority with the Building Department.

"We do not have the expertise to identify tree species," he said. "I'm a building official. I don't know anything special about trees."



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What's Up with the Water?

(from Page 1)

Why do you flush the lines?

The high rate of water passing through the pipes during a flush, up to 1,000 gallons per minute in places, scours the pipe walls, removing any buildup of film, loose particulate and sediment. We also determine if hydrants need to be repaired or replaced.

Are you changing the timing of the flushes?

We used to do it in the late spring and fall, usually June and October. But in the past two years, the reservoirs on Lake Surprise Road have been low toward the end of summer, causing us to cancel the fall flush. This year we are going to try for March and July.

Why do you flush the lines at night?

We would love to flush during the day;



A Cold Spring hydrant being flushed



Water before being filtered; filtered; and discolored after passing through pipes

Photos provided

it would be safer for workers and easier to coordinate staffing. However, because of the drop in water pressure and discoloration that occurs during the four or five days it takes to do a flush, schools, restaurants, salons and residents would not appreciate it.

Is there a health risk associated with discolored water?

Discoloration can become a safety issue if chlorine levels become too low; we monitor that diligently. Our drinking water, after filtration, is disinfected with sodium hypochlorite to ward off pathogens. We are required by the New York State Sanitary Code to maintain a residual of free chlorine throughout the system. We monitor five days a week to ensure residual chlorine is sufficient.

We performed extra bacteriological sampling and analysis in January and continue to sample in February. Generally speaking, discoloration is an aesthetic problem, not a health-related issue. However, we cannot be everywhere, all of the time, and cannot speak in absolutes. If water is discolored to the point where you are not comfortable consuming it, a multi-stage water filter can reduce the suspended solids and dissolved solids that are frequently the cause of discoloration.



Village water is often discolored after hydrants and lines are flushed.

Photo by M. Turton



Votes for Women!

Putnam County in the Struggle for Women's Suffrage in New York State Lecture with Sarah Johnson Saturday, February 24 at 3 p.m.

Join PHM for a presentation on Votes for Women! Putnam County in the Struggle for Women's Suffrage in New York State by Sarah Johnson, Putnam County Historian, on Saturday, February 24 at 3 p.m.

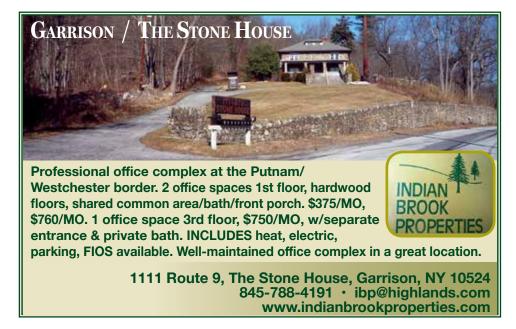
Sarah will discuss local involvement in the national Women's Suffrage movement. She will examine how Putnam County's towns voted and the contributions by local women and men for and against this important legislation.



Stop by PHM on Saturday, February 24 from 12 noon to 3 p.m. for special winter hours! This is a rare opportunity for you to view the museum during our seasonal closure. This includes PHM's latest exhibition, *Treason! Benedict Arnold in the Hudson Highlands*. This exhibition tells the story of Benedict Arnold, his command of West Point, and his acts of treason.

Admission is \$5 for the general public and is free for members. Please RSVP at 845-265-4010 or www.putnamhistorymuseum.org.

The Putnam History Museum 63 Chestnut Street in Cold Spring. www.putnamhistorymuseum.org





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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

New Beacon chief

Before leaving the Beacon City Council last year, I was informed that Police Chief Doug Solomon would be leaving ("Beacon Names New Police Chief," Feb. 9). I was unsure how our city administration and newly elected City Council would assure residents that the position would be filled in a transparent manner.

Given our diverse and evolving population, having a clear and open hiring process would reassure residents that a diverse pool of applicants has been encouraged to apply and considered. In today's social climate, it is urgent to have committed community leaders who will contribute to our collective growth and development. A way to foster this ideal is by having responsible and responsive leaders who reflect our population.

I was sure about what I wanted to see in a new chief but insecure about how the transition would happen. I had a long conversation with Mayor Randy Casale, who told me how the city appoints officers to the captain and chief positions, and the timeline and requirement that the chief score high on the civil-service exam. He stressed that an open hiring process is needed at times, such as when we went out of the department to hire Chief Solomon. But he felt strongly that Capt. Kevin Junjulas would continue to serve residents well and follow the charge that our chief executive officer (the mayor) has set.

I had my reservations until recently, after listening to what our mayor had to say. In this case, I would ask that the citizens of Beacon stand with our city administration, City Council and law enforcement. On Feb. 6, Junjulas, Casale and Yvonne and Lavonne McNair, two members of Beacon's Commission on Human Rights, met productively with the New Covenant Learning Center parents who were victimized this past summer when a driver removed barricades and drove through its Bike Day event.

I would suggest that we improve upon our public relations as a municipality. Working on that weakness will foster a stronger relationship between our citizens, law enforcement and public officials. A better informed and more educated

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 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.

public can only help as the culture is shifting in our magnificent city.

Ali Muhammad, Beacon Muhammad is a former member of the City Council.

During the discussion at the City Council meeting on Feb. 5 of the hiring of the new police chief, the mayor's yelling and outbursts when questioned about the hiring process were shocking and inexcusable. His tone of voice, public reprimanding of the Council, and allegations of problems within the Beacon City School District he alluded to but wouldn't explain were out of line.

The Current should have reported on this meeting's tone overall and how the mayor bullied his constituents for writing emails and speaking up at meetings.

I'm extremely disappointed that this person represents Beacon as our mayor. If he can't take input, criticism, questions and suggestions calmly from his constituents, he should not be mayor.

Erin Giunta, Beacon

Airbnb in Beacon

Once again, the Beacon City Council and its angry mayor seek to enact regulations to solve a problem that doesn't appear to be represented by any aggrieved parties ("Beacon to Study Airbnb Rentals," Feb. 9). Every concern mentioned during the Feb. 5 Council meeting were "what-if" scenarios, with scary terms like *Animal House* and "wild west" thrown around to build fear.

Meanwhile, it is the wild west in Beacon for developers who can steamroll the Planning Board and Zoning Board of Appeals, rolling back any need for parking or setbacks or height restrictions nearly every single time they are requested.

It's time once again for residents of Beacon to ask why the City Council is focused on what taxpaying residents are doing without evidence of harm and instead giving blank checks to any developer who has a need for variances.

In fact, let's put this Airbnb issue aside until the Beacon Theater and 344 Main St. are fully occupied with renters. Let's live with the day-to-day impact of waiving the need for dozens of parking spaces to support those apartments, and question whether the City Council is focused on the needs of residents.

Steve Smith, Beacon

Short-term rentals do affect neighborhoods. There are two or three houses in my area, which is zoned for single-family homes, whose owners rent rooms illegally. One has cars parked all over the front yard, with questionable renters (the police have been there numerous times); another is like a hotel with different people renting every weekend.

If someone wants to rent rooms, they should buy a house zoned for two or four families. The City Council needs to enforce the zoning laws.

As far as Main Street, I have no issues with developers building and restoring the area. Years ago there were three- and four-story buildings on Main which were torn or burned down. If you look around the tri-state area at similarly sized cities, they are all going through redesigns of their Main Streets. As long as the developers follow the zoning laws, they have a right to invest and make money.

Charlie Symon, Beacon

Gun storage

Our elected leaders of Philipstown need to focus their time, energy and taxpayers' dollars on our opioid crisis instead of a partisan safe-storage gun law ("Gun Storage, Again," Jan. 19).

We had a least five deaths in Philipstown related to opioid overdoses in 2017 and probably more. Philipstown has not had an accidental firearms death in years and years. And don't attempt to argue it will prevent suicides: people who want to kill themselves will find a way with or without a firearm.

The town's misguided attempt to solve a problem that is not a problem in Philipstown is nothing short of anti-gun, fear-mongering rhetoric, which I find appalling. The board's proposed law will hinder my ability to protect my home, myself and my family.

I find it hard to believe that this lovely town to which *(Continued on next page)*



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR (from previous page)



I moved to 25 years ago would have duly elected officials who think it is OK to operate above the law when they know that the safe storage act is unconstitutional.

Your voice can be heard during a public hearing on this proposal scheduled

for Wednesday, Feb. 21, at 7:30 p.m. at the Haldane school auditorium.

Rodney Dow, Garrison

Last year, during a discussion at a Philipstown Town Board meeting about the

proposed safe-storage gun ordinance, many people made statements in opposition to this unnecessary, illegal and unenforceable shackling of the right of lawabiding citizens to defend themselves and their families.

At the meeting, several certified firearms instructors, hunter safety instructors and range safety officers, including myself, offered to volunteer to teach firearm safety to young people. The Town Board did not seize on this opportunity, but it would help the entire community by teaching respect for firearms, not fear.

Target shooting, in particular, teaches discipline, order, sportsmanship, respect, concentration and fun in a friendly, competitive manner. This would benefit all boys and girls, but in particular those who may not be inclined to participate in traditional athletics, including students with disabilities.

It is incumbent upon the Town Board to take advantage of these freely offered and heartfelt resources and initiate a program. Yet since that meeting last year, we have not received one letter, email or phone call from any board member to move forward.

With proper training, a young person who comes across a firearm will not pick it up out of curiosity. This would save not

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just his or her life, but countless others by not forcing gun owners to lock up their primary source of protection.

Kenn Sapeta, Cold Spring



At Guinan's, 1985

One more memory

This watercolor [above] shows my sister Mari and wife Eugenie (standing) at Guinan's Pub around 1985 with two friends, Dori and Kathy ("Memories of Guinan's," Feb. 2). We have many good recollections of the Garrison's Landing Yacht Club, aka Guinan's. Mr. Guinan was extremely friendly and I had some good "crac" with him about my family in Ireland.

Dennis Boland, Cold Spring

Taxes in Philipstown

Those who pay, and those who don't

By Chip Rowe

Philipstown tax payments were due Jan. 31, or by Feb. 28 with a 1 percent penalty.

The rate for taxes due to the town, Putnam County, local libraries and the Garrison Fire Company is about \$15,000 per \$1 million in assessed property value, which is 47 percent of estimated market value.

For the Garrison school district, which collects its taxes in the fall, the rate is about \$20,400 per \$1 million, plus \$173 for the Desmond-Fish Library.

The following data was taken from public records compiled by the Town of Philipstown, Garrison and Haldane school districts, Putnam County and New York State.

10 Largest Bills

The totals below typically include multiple properties. For example, BMR Funding LLC, of Greenwich, Connecticut, owns 19 parcels in Philipstown, including 1,168 acres in Lake Valhalla.

The figures show the total assessed values in 2016 of all properties owned by each entity, followed by an estimate of the taxes paid, including school taxes.

- 1. New York State, \$33.2 million (\$1.2 million)
- 2. Garrison Golf Club, \$5.3 million (\$189,000)

- 3. Central Hudson, \$5.2 million (\$185.000)
- 4. Mark and Angela Williams, \$4.8 million (\$171,000)
- 5. BMR Funding LLC, \$3.2 million (\$163,000)
- 6. Nancy Spanu, \$2.7 million (\$95,000)
- 7. Verizon, \$2.6 million (\$93,000)
- 8. New York City, \$2.6 million (\$92,000)
- 9. Sounds in the Grass, \$2.5 million (\$90,000)
- 10. Cloudbank House LLC, \$2.5 million (\$88,000)

10 Largest Unpaid Bills

The 10 largest debtors in Philipstown over the past three years owe a total of \$608,000 as of Feb. 13, according to the county Finance Department. The owners of the 10-acre industrial property on the southwest corner of Lane Gate Road and Route 9 owe \$118,000; the remainder of the top 10 are homeowners in arrears for a total of \$35,000 to \$82,000 each. When a property tax bill is not paid, Putnam County places a lien on the property. If it remains unpaid for several years, the county attempts to foreclose.

10 Largest Exemptions

This list excludes STAR rebates, which in 2016 exempted about \$64 million worth of property from school taxes. The figures below are the assessed value of property, by category, that is exempt from town, county and school taxes, and an estimate of the taxes that would be collected if it were on the rolls.

- 1. Veterans: \$96 million (\$3.4 million)⁽¹⁾
- 2. Religious: \$52.4 million (\$1.86 million)
- 3. Educational: \$25.6 million (\$911,000)⁽²⁾
- 4. Government: \$25.2 million (\$896,000)
- 5. Nonprofits: \$17 million (\$607,000)⁽⁴⁾
- 6. Low-income: \$15.8 million (\$356,000)⁽⁵⁾
- 7. Volunteer fire/ambulance: \$15.7 million (\$558,000)
- 8. School districts: \$12.3 million (\$438,000)
- 9. Farmland: \$4.4 million (\$157,000)⁽⁶⁾
- 10. Railroad: \$2.4 million (\$85,000)

- 1. There are a number of categories, including disabled, combat and Cold War.
- 2. This includes land preserved by the Open Space Institute and Scenic Hudson.
- 3. This includes land owned by the town, village, county, state and federal governments, including parks and cemeteries.
- 4. This includes properties such as Stonecrop Gardens, Boscobel, Garrison's Landing, Lake Surprise Camp, the Fresh Air Farm and Manitoga.
- 5. This includes residents who are disabled and/ or over the age of 65.
- 6. This includes properties such as Lanza Farms and Saunders Farm in Garrison.

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 Craigside 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

Beacon Fire Victims Stable (from Page 1)

without sustaining more severe injuries."

At least four fundraising pages have been created at gofundme.com to assist the family with medical costs and replacing its possessions (search for "Beacon fire"). Fire officials have not determined the cause of the blaze.

"For my department, it's all about the initial on-scene arrival. That's when you need the manpower, and this fire was overwhelming for the manpower we had."

Five full-time and 10 volunteer firefighters later joined the three first responders to battle the flames in 14-degree temperatures. "For my department, it's all about the initial on-scene arrival," Van Voorhis said. "That's when you need the manpower, and this fire was overwhelming for the manpower we had."

A dwindling number of volunteers has raised questions in Beacon and in other municipalities about whether they must add to their paid staff.

"If we were to go to a paid staff, with no volunteers, the minimum I think we would need is double what we have right now," said Beacon Mayor Randy Casale. "And I think that would cost more than \$1 million to get started."

Beacon has 13 full-time firefighters, three of whom are on duty at any time. The latter has been the standard for more than 100 years, Van Voorhis said. But today there are only about two dozen regular volunteers who assist at the city's three fire companies.

A 2015 study by the Firemen's Association of the State of New York, which supports volunteers, estimated that it would cost almost \$112 million annually to provide all-paid fire protection throughout Dutchess County, excluding pensions, as well as \$223 million to make the necessary upgrades to the county's fire stations, vehicles and equipment.

However, Beacon's chief doesn't believe it's an all-or-nothing equation. "I don't think we need to have a fully paid fire department here," Van Voorhis said, although any additional paid staffing would help, he added.

Newburgh is facing a similar numbers



Arielle Gamble recovering at Westchester Medical Center, in a photo taken from a GoFundMe campaign created by a family friend

crunch. Twelve of the city's 68 paid firefighters are in danger of losing their jobs when the federal grant funding that pays their salaries expires this summer.

City Manager Michael Ciaravino said on Tuesday (Feb. 13) that he will ask the Newburgh City Council to approve spending more than \$500,000 in sales tax revenue to retain the firefighters through the end of the year while city officials work on a fix.

Casale said that Beacon must think outside the box because the city simply can't afford to add as many firefighters as it needs, nor does it have excess funding like Newburgh. One option, he said, would be offering volunteers a per diem stipend to stay on call at certain times. Right now, volunteers only respond to emergency calls if they're available.

But because of tougher training requirements, today's volunteers often lack the qualifications — for interior firefighting, for example — of previous generations.

"You could have 50 volunteers at a fire, but in addition to what time they get there, it's what they're capable and qualified to do," Van Voorhis said.

Casale said he sees fire protection as a regional effort, as Beacon often assists nearby fire companies when emergency



The home at 98 Rombout Ave. after the fire was extinguished

Beacon Fire Department

calls come in. Ciaravino has made the same appeal in Newburgh, saying the city's paid fire department has historically subsidized neighboring municipalities' volunteer companies.

"It should be addressed at the county level," Casale said. "Otherwise, I don't know how we're going to afford it."

Current Culting Control of the HIGHLANDS

Thank you for your contributions!

During our annual appeal, we met our \$28,000 goal — and beyond — for a TRIPLE MATCH, with funds from News Match and a major donor! The News Match program was sponsored by the Knight Foundation, the MacArthur Foundation and the Democracy Fund.





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Changing the Game

Democrats push for early voting, fewer elections

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

s campaign season returns, so do calls for election reform.

In his State of the State Address in early January, New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo advocated measures to make it easier for citizens to vote and harder for politicians to engage in chicanery.

At a forum later that month hosted by Sandy Galef, a Democrat who represents Philipstown in the state Assembly, she and residents endorsed some of Cuomo's proposed changes and suggested others.

The governor, also a Democrat, recommended that New York join 37 other states that permit early voting, in which citizens can cast ballots before Election Day. Under Cuomo's plan, every county would leave at least one polling station open for a total of at least eight hours on weekdays and at least five hours on weekends during the 12 days before a general election.

He argued that early voting would reduce lines and counter the limitations of absentee ballots, which are available only under certain circumstances, such as being away on Election Day.

Cuomo also promoted automatic voter registration, so that the name of anyone who submits an application to a state agency would be forwarded to the relevant county Board of Elections unless the person specifically declined to register. Currently only the state Department of Motor Vehicles offers simultaneous voter registration.

An attendee at the Philipstown forum, which Galef hosted at the Desmond-Fish Library in Garrison on Jan. 27, suggested the federal government automatically register every citizen on his or her 18th birthday. Galef said that was a great idea, although implementing it could be complicated.

Galef and many forum attendees lamented the number of people who are eligible to vote but don't.

Although local turnout for the 2016 election was high (about 70 percent of eligible voters in Dutchess and Putnam counties

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Putnam County putnamboe.com

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dutchesselections.com 845-486-2473

went to the polls), it was only 57 percent statewide. In 2014, with no presidential election, it was 29 percent statewide.

"Even in exciting elections, it's not that high," said Galef, whose district includes parts of Westchester County. "How do we get more people to vote?"

Suggestions at the forum included making absentee ballots available to anyone who asks, and longer polling hours for elections in small jurisdictions, such as fire districts. In the most recent contested fire district election in Garrison, for example, polls were open for only four hours. No absentee ballots were available.

Dave Brower, a Garrison Fire District commissioner, said a state requirement that fire districts pay election workers no more than \$50 a day makes it difficult to keep polls open longer.

Galef noted that fire district elections also typically take place in the evening, creating problems for voters who commute or cannot drive at night. To accommodate them, "fire departments need to have absentee ballots," she said.

Brower replied that absentee ballots would be "just more money" spent on fire district elections, when "people complain about our budgets now."

To encourage the use of absentee ballots, Galef drafted legislation, previously approved by the Assembly but not the Senate, to drop requirements that voters explain why they need an absentee ballot.

Forum participants also discussed combining elections. Some village elections occur in March, school board elections in May, the U.S. Congress primary in June, state primaries in September, the general election in November, and fire district elections in December.

At least two consolidation bills await action in Albany, one introduced by state Sen. Dave Carlucci, a Democrat who repre-



President Barack Obama voted a month early — on Oct. 7 — in the 2016 general election at his precinct in Chicago.

White House photo

sents parts of Rockland and Westchester counties, would move all village elections to November and permit village and town elections only in even-numbered years to coincide with state and federal elections. (Currently, town and some village elections occur in odd-numbered years.)

Another Carlucci proposal would move school board elections from May to November. Both bills are pending in the Elections Committee. Neither would apply to fire districts.

Forum participants also talked about turning Election Day (the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November) into a federal holiday, or moving it to an existing holiday, such as Veterans Day.

Legislative Reform

A long with voter-law changes, Gov. Cuomo's electoral agenda includes making service in the state Legislature a full-time job; limiting how much money state lawmakers can earn from outside jobs to 15 percent of their legislative salaries; and requiring that local government officials, including county executives, file financial disclosure forms if they earn more than \$50,000 annually.



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March 8 - 25

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







Putnam D.A. Talks Drugs, Immigration (from Page 1) **DWI** prosecutions Fentanyl

Mayor Dave Merandy: About 20 percent of your prosecutions are DWI related. We're focused on opioids, but I would think alcoholrelated problems and deaths are as widespread. That point seems to be getting lost.

Tendy: You're right. People with serious alcohol problems who have been arrested are being accepted into the Putnam County Drug Treatment Court more often than in the past. But it isn't treatment but asset forfeiture that is a big part of our dealing with alcohol-related driving offenses. We do want you to get help, but if you're driving drunk and it's your second conviction, we're going to take your car.

Drug dealing

From the audience: What steps are you taking to stop drug dealers?

Tendy: We're tough on them, but we can be tougher. There are two kinds of dealers: those who are in it for the profit and don't care what they do to people; and "mules," or addicts used by dealers to transport drugs. If you're transporting for a seller, we'll do everything we can to get you help.

I don't want this to become political, but we have to do something about the drugs that come over the border from Mexico. Thousands of kilos a year are getting stopped but the amount getting through is ridiculous. If you want to change that, don't talk about immigration, about people. Talk about doing something about border security to stop the flow of drugs.

Trustee Steve Voloto: How does a legal painkiller like fentanyl end up in a street

drug like heroin? We know who's manufacturing the fentanyl.

Tendy: A lot of it comes from China. It's cheap and extremely profitable. It's also extremely potent. Anybody who is lacing heroin with fentanyl should be jailed for a long time because they basically don't care whether they will kill someone.

We're not talking about humanitarians; we're talking about people who are flooding our country with heroin. The demand is high. We're the biggest purchaser in the world. It's a social issue, and there are many theories as to why.

Suing the drug companies

From the audience: Can you update us on the lawsuit that Putnam County is pursuing against pharmaceutical companies over the marketing of opioids?

Tendy: It's in the formative stages. A



Putnam County D.A. Robert Tendy spoke to the Cold Spring Village Board on Feb. 13.

Photo by M. Turton

number of states have filed suits. They are not dissimilar to the lawsuits filed against cigarette manufacturers years ago.

In the early 1990s everyone was being told to put their kids on various drugs. Kids 4-, 5- and 6- years old were taking pills. They were told, this is going to help you get through school, help you to pay more attention. Doctors were overdiagnosing attention-deficit disorder. There was a lot of money being made.

The pharmaceutical companies pushed legal drugs into our kids and our society in the mid-2000s. It was the perfect storm. All this cheap heroin started coming in; everybody started taking prescription pain pills; and suddenly you had a generation of kids who were taught that this was OK. And their parents and school counselors were told that it was OK. And all of it came from the drug manufacturers.

Why sue?

From the audience: Is the goal of the suit to stem the tide of opioids?

The tide has already washed the beach away. The lawsuits are going to force a settlement, with the funds going to education programs, treatment facilities and to prevent people from becoming part of the problem.

Village Board

For more on the Feb. 6 and Feb. 13 meetings of the Cold Spring Village Board, see highlandscurrent.com.

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

Giovanni Anselmo Marco Bagnoli Domenico Bianchi Alighiero Boetti Pier Paolo Calzolari

Luciano Fabro Jannis Kounellis Mario Merz **Marisa Merz** Giulio Paolini

Pino Pascali Giuseppe Penone Michelangelo Pistoletto Remo Salvadori Gilberto Zorio

The Calendar

A Body of Music

Hip-hop artist takes drums everywhere — even to shower

By Mark Westin

s a child growing up in Israel in the 1980s, Michael Feigenbaum was obsessed with hip-hop but never imagined his youthful passion would lead to a career as a "body percussionist."

"I wanted to play the drums, but my parents said it was too noisy," recalls the musician, who teaches his craft at the Beacon Music Factory. "So I had to start improvising."

In 1988, the hip-hop practice of "beatboxing," or mimicking drum sounds with the human voice, was relatively



Feigenbaum leads a beatboxing workshop at the Beacon Music Factory.



Michael Feigenbaum

Photos by M. Westin

unknown outside of urban America. But groups such as Run-DMC, LL Cool J and The Fat Boys performed in Israel and made Feigenbaum realize he was "hooked on rhythm."

Beatboxing remained a hobby as he pursued a degree in mechanical engineering. But at age 24, Feigenbaum was asked to join a *Stomp*-like theatrical company in Tel Aviv called Mayumana.

"That's where I learned to mix dance with percussion and beatboxing," he says. "I knew I didn't have the professional skills I needed, so I took lessons. I bought a drum and started reading rhythmic notation. I took contemporary dance classes and learned about theater.

"I wanted to be able to come to a production and understand all the language regarding staging, lighting, and how to work with a director and choreographer," says Feigenbaum, who also studied the moves of Fred Astaire, Gene Kelly and Michael Jackson.

Feigenbaum traveled to New York City in 2007 and 2010 to perform off-Broadway with Mayumana. He was soon collaborating with other artists, such as a cappella group Voca People and Franco Dragone, (Continued on Page 11)



Elizabeth Arnold

Photo provided

Art of the Mind

Psychologist returns to early passion

By Alison Rooney

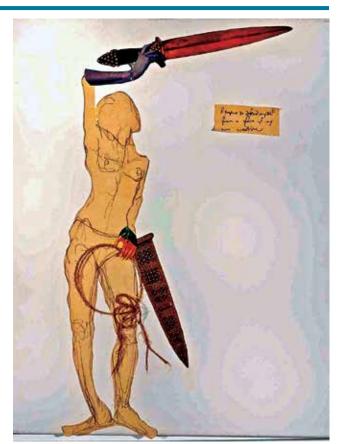
pursue a career as an artist or spend years training to become a clinical psychologist.

She chose the latter, earning advanced degrees from Harvard and Columbia. The Nelsonville resident says she wanted to tame her "wild streak" within a structured environment. "Intuitively, I knew it was the right path," she says. "I needed to learn about human development and what can happen in the human brain."

In the following 20 years, however, she remained drawn to the visual arts. Although the last formal training she had was a life-drawing class she took in her 20s at the Art Students' League, six years ago she rejoined the pursuit and on Feb. 10 her first solo show, *Some Memories Fade*, opened at the bau Gallery in Beacon.

Earlier in her career as a psychologist, Arnold worked with people transitioning from prisons, shelters and drug treatment. "I was working with institutionalized people, finding incredible beauty and resources in people who had been discarded and relegated to the fringes of our society," she says.

She says witnessing what "traumatic stress can do to memory and to a person's sense of self-cohesion" informs her art. Its themes of memory, symbols and



A collage by Elizabeth Arnold titled *I Prepare to Defend Myself From a Form of my Own Creation*

archetypes arise from "years of therapeutic work with combat veterans with PTSD at the Veterans Affairs hospital in Brooklyn, or with the effects of incest and neglect that would lead a 7-year-old growing up in an (Continued on Page 12)

FRIDAY, FEB. 16

Talk and Tasting: Beer

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 477 Main St., Beacon 845-831-4988 | howlandculturalcenter.org

You Can't Take It With You

8 p.m. County Players Theater 681 W. Main St., Wappingers Falls 845-298-1491 | countyplayers.org

Marc Cohn

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

SATURDAY, FEB. 17

Cabin Fever Workshops

10 a.m. Suminagashi 1 p.m. Winter Wonder Photo Walk Garrison Art Center 23 Garrison's Landing, Garrison 845-424-3960 | garrisonartcenter.org

Army vs. Lehigh (Women's Basketball)

1 p.m. Christl Arena, West Point 845-938-2526 | goarmywestpoint.com

Seventh Annual Roast Beef Dinner (Fundraiser)

4 – 8 p.m. Dutchess Junction Fire Department 75 Slocum Road, Beacon

Owl Prowl

7 p.m. Outdoor Discovery Center Muser Drive, Cornwall 845-534-5506 x204 | hhnm.org

Calendar Highlights

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

Silent Film Series: Underground (1928)

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

You Can't Take It With You

8 p.m. County Players Theater See details under Friday.

Al Di Meola

8 p.m. Paramount Hudson Valley See details under Friday.

SUNDAY, FEB. 18

Family & Friends CPR Course

9 a.m. Putnam Hospital Center 670 Stoneleigh Ave., Carmel putnamncadd.org | Registration required.

You Can't Take It With You

2 p.m. County Players Theater See details under Friday.

Owl Prowl

7 p.m. Outdoor Discovery Center See details under Saturday.

MONDAY, FEB. 19

Presidents' Day

Howland Library Open

9:30 a.m. – 5 p.m. 313 Main St., Beacon 845-831-1134 | beaconlibrary.org

Winter Workshop for Kids (grades K-8)

10 a.m. – 3 p.m. Garrison Art Center See details under Saturday.

TUESDAY, FEB. 20

Winter Workshop for Kids (grades K-8)

10 a.m. – 3 p.m. Garrison Art Center See details under Saturday.

Winter Wildlife Survival

1 p.m. Fort Montgomery 690 Route 9W, Fort Montgomery 845-446-2134 | nysparks.com

Beacon City Council Meeting

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

Nelsonville Village Board

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

Beginner Writing Class (First Session)

7:30 p.m. Howland Cultural Center 477 Main St., Beacon 845-765-3012 | juliechibbaro.com

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 21

Winter Workshop for Kids (grades K-8)

10 a.m. – 3 p.m. Garrison Art Center See details under Saturday.

Army vs. Colgate (Women's Basketball)

Noon. Christl Arena, West Point 845-938-2526 | goarmywestpoint.com

Intermediate Writing Class (First Session)

7:30 p.m. Howland Cultural Center See details under Tuesday.

Public Hearing: Safe Gun Storage

7:30 p.m. Philipstown Town Hall 238 Main Street, Cold Spring philipstown.com

Gin Blossoms

8 p.m. Paramount Hudson Valley See details under Friday.

THURSDAY, FEB. 22

Writing Lab (grades 9-12)

2:30 p.m. Howland Public Library 313 Main St., Beacon 845-831-1134 | beaconlibrary.org

Three Dog Night

8 p.m. Paramount Hudson Valley See details under Friday.

FRIDAY, FEB. 23

Harlem Wizards

7 p.m. Beacon High School 101 Matteawan Road, Beacon romboutpto.org

I'm Not Your Negro (Documentary)

7 p.m. First Presbyterian Church 50 Liberty St., Beacon moviesthatmatterbeacon.org

You Can't Take It With You

8 p.m. County Players Theater See details under Feb. 16.



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A Body of Music (from Page 9)

former Cirque du Soleil director. Feigenbaum also worked as a body percussion choreographer in Rome and Paris.

"I can teach anyone to do this," he says. "It only requires practice, and you'll do rhythms you wouldn't think you could do. The shower is a good place to practice because the sounds are so clear."

There is a downside to being a body

percussionist — you can't put your instrument away. "At this point, I cannot *not* hear rhythms all the time," he says. "If I see someone walking in the street I'll walk at their same pace and play a beatboxing groove in my head based on their steps. Then a car comes by and I add that as an effect. It's an ongoing exploration."

How to See Michael Perform

eigenbaum collaborates with violinist Daisy Jopling as the String Pulse Duo, fusing classical with hip-hop. They will perform Feb. 28 at the Winery at St. George in Mohegan Lake. Tickets start at \$20. See thewineryatstgeorge.com.

For a video story about Feigenbaum that includes samples of his work, see highlandscurrent.com/beatbox or point your phone's camera at the code at right with a QR reader.

Point your phone at this code with a QR reader at right to watch Michael Feigenbaum perform.







Michael Feigenbaum outlines the sequence of sounds to a class at the Beacon Music Factory.



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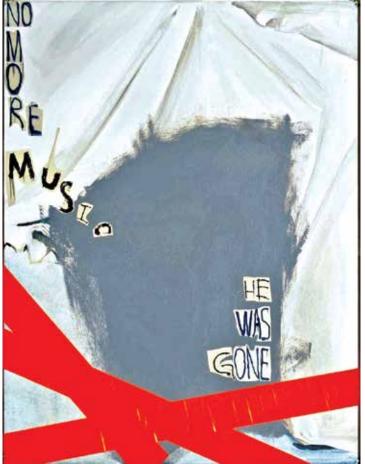
Art of the Mind (from Page 9)

inpatient unit in the Bronx to draw herself without an outer perimeter," she says. "Each person I saw over time seemed to have their own personal symbolic language."

Through her work, she learned a lesson about art, she says. "Visual symbols can cross cultural boundaries and communi-



Alchemy: Composition / Decomposition, which Arnold assembled at the bau Gallery Photos provided



Mourning Piece, a collage by Elizabeth Arnold

cate what words cannot about universal human experience: hunger, longing, fullness and emptiness, exhaustion and renewal, birthing and dying, experiences of beauty, love and connection. These experiences are so huge that they turn into their own type of sadness that is also about beauty and love, and how fleeting it all is, and how impossible to hold on to."

Seven years ago, Arnold lost three people close to her, each of

whom died in his or her 40s. She was the same age, and the deaths led her to reflect on her own choices and aspirations.

"Loss was a catalyst," she says. She rented a studio space to begin making art, despite wondering if she "would just sit there and have a panic attack." Instead, she says, she found she "could take the rawness of emotions and translate them into visual, tactile, physical forms."

After moving to the Highlands, Arnold rented a Nelsonville studio and began taking life-drawing classes at the Garrison Art Center. One day this past November, Herman Roggeman, co-founder of Collaborative Concepts and a member of the bau Gallery, who once had a studio in the same building, visited his old haunt. He spotted Arnold's work and was impressed enough to reach out. That was followed by an



Self-Portrait as Mother Bear, an assemblage of glass, fur, shell and paper by Elizabeth Arnold

invitation to mount a show.

Some of Arnold's work is a combination of paint and found objects. "When I walk, I'm always looking down," she says. "Whatever I collect, at some point, will end up next to something else in the studio and make sense." She says in these discarded objects she sees how "art creates beauty out of sadness, fear, ugliness and pain.

"Can we find beauty, or consciously make beauty out of ugliness, recycling what is thrown away, finding wonder and awe in unusual places?" she asks. "Can we hold on to our humanity in times of fear, through threats of scarcity, of us versus them?"

The bau Gallery, at 506 Main St. in Beacon, is open Saturdays and Sundays, noon to 6 p.m., or by appointment. See baugallery.com.



Gaia, a digital print by Elizabeth Arnold





www.hudsonbeachglass.com



Need Room for Your Stuff?

Storage chain opens location in former bowling alley

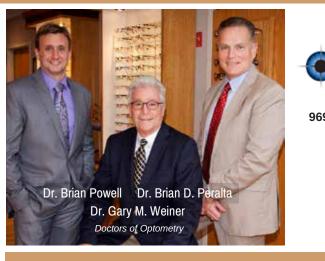
By Michael Turton

n one of his trademark routines, George Carlin ranted that "all life is about is trying to find a place for your stuff," pointing out that an entire industry is dedicated to keeping an eye on people's stuff. (After his death in 2008, Carlin's stuff was donated to the National Comedy Center in Jamestown, Ohio.) That industry is known as "self storage," and it's booming. Case in point: the conversion of the former Southern Dutchess Bowl on Route 52 in Beacon into the latest facility in the Guardian chain, its 14th in Dutchess, Orange and Ulster counties.

The facility's general manager, Judy Motter, notes that the industry is relatively young; it began in Texas in the late 1960s. During her 31 years in the business, Motter says she has seen the number of facilities at least double. There are now more than 44,000 in the U.S. that feed a

iness, Mottel says sie has seen the number of facilities at least double. There are now more than 44,000 in the U.S. that feed a

Guardian's latest facility is located in the former Southern Dutchess Bowl on Route 52.





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Guardian's latest facility is temperature-controlled and features ceilings at least 10 feet high. Unit sizes range from 5-by-5-feet for \$79 per month to 10-by-30-feet for about \$300. "You can put a lot of stuff in that!" Motter says.

Although most Guardian customers are homeowners, she says businesses sometimes rent space because it can cost less than what they are paying in rent

When asked what most people store, Motter responds with her own question: "If you needed storage, what would you put in it?"

The answer is soup to nuts. Rentals rise and fall with the economy, she says. "When the economy is good, we have more things we want to hold on to."

A mythology has arisen around self-storage units, fueled by cable shows such as *Storage Wars*, in which the contents of abandoned units are auctioned, sight unseen, full of

treasures to be discovered. (In 2012 one of the show's former stars claimed the auctions were staged and valuable items planted.)

In reality, most units are filled with "vacuums, couches, mattresses" and other household items you'd expect to find when people are downsizing or moving, Motter says. "They're not storing John Lennon's handwritten music notes!" The most unusual item she ever discovered was a 10-foot-tall Santa Claus.

Nevertheless, there is the occasional high-profile find. After a woman named Vivian Maier died in 2009, the contents of her storage unit were auctioned and included tens of thousands of unpublished prints and negatives depicting life in New York City and Chicago in the 1950s through 1970s. Maier is now considered one of America's most accomplished street photographers.

When it's time to empty an abandoned unit, Motter says an auctioneer is called,



Judy Motter has worked in the self-storage industry for 31 years.

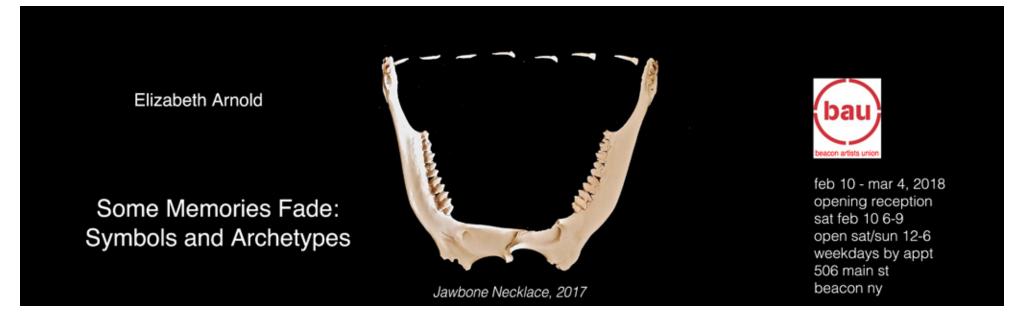
Photos by M. Turton

the lock is cut and the contents photographed. Bidders are allowed to stand at the entrance but can't go inside. The contents are sold in bulk, as is.

Could you live in a self-storage unit, such as the couple did in the 2010 romantic comedy series *Self Storage* when they ran out of money? Motter says there's no way, at least at Guardian. For starters, an employee checks the lock on each unit at least once a day.

In March, Motter will travel to Orlando, Florida, for the annual three-day conference and trade show hosted by the Self Storage Association. The keynote speaker will be astronaut Mark Kelly, the husband of former U.S. Rep. Gabrielle Giffords.

The industry trends that will be discussed include multi-story storage buildings that are typically found in urban areas due to the cost of real estate; wine-storage units in the Finger Lakes and Napa Valley; and art-storage units popular outside major cities, such as in West-chester County.



Roots and Shoots

Tech in the Garden

There's an app for that

By Pamela Doan

ow that winter is on its way out of our hearts and minds and spring is the fantasy of a happier version of our days, it's time to plan the garden.

As a person who isn't skilled with drawing garden plans, I've been exploring tools to capture my vision. Here are my experiences with three popular websites and one app. They are much easier to use with a tablet or computer than on a phone.

Yardmap.org

This site, a project of the Nature Conservancy and the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, has more resources than a typical landscape or garden planning site. It lets you map your property and account for everything that is growing there, plus water and land features.

It displays all of this in the context of your EcoRegion, the unique, native and natural environment where you're located. For example, Philipstown, with its deciduous forest with understory trees and spring wildflowers, is an Eastern Broadleaf Forest area.

Yardmap includes a guide to native plants and making habitat choices for birds and pollinators. Get your neighbors to join in and make a bigger impact by tracking how you can use multiple landscapes to restore fractured and lost habitats

Gardeners.com

This Vermont-based garden supply company has a tool to help plan a vegetable garden. Based on the square-foot method, enter the measurements for your garden and choose the vegetables. Once you place carrots, for example, the planner brings up specifications, including how many plants are ideal per square foot. You can save and print your design when finished.

iScape

This app pushes getting professional help in your planning but is a good visual tool. I could upload a photo of my property and then choose trees, shrubs, plants and features like an arbor, path or wall to see how it might look.

The plant listings don't include their Latin names, which is a problem if you're trying to find more information elsewhere about the exact tree or plant. A big warning sign is that the app's database also includes invasive species like amur maple (Acer tataricum var. ginnala) and burning bush (Euonymus alatus) that are banned or regulated in New York and other places because they escape their original planting and out-compete native plants. While the app is useful for experimenting with types of plantings, I wouldn't rely on it to



It's time to begin planning for spring.

Photo by P. Doan

make any final decisions.

Better Homes and Gardens

Years ago, when I had less experience gardening, I tried bhg.com and didn't like it. Was it me or the tool that didn't work well? I find it even less appealing now. It has the same shortcoming as iScape in including invasive species among its selections and lacks important information about plants.

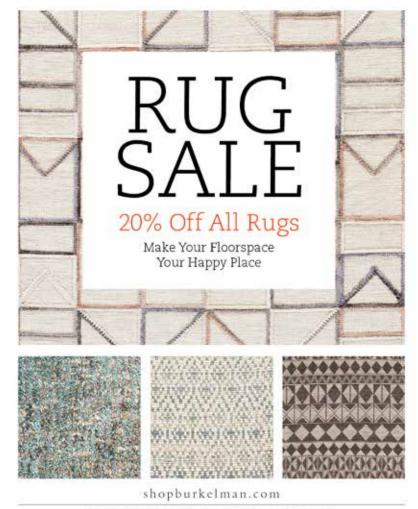
While there are more than 1,000 choices for plantings, it doesn't include zone,

which determines if a plant could survive in your climate. Many features like uploading a photo of your property are only available in a paid version that costs \$19. Using this tool could lead a gardener to make a lot of timely and costly mistakes.

After reviewing what's available, I'll probably return to my notebook, graph paper and spreadsheet for another season.

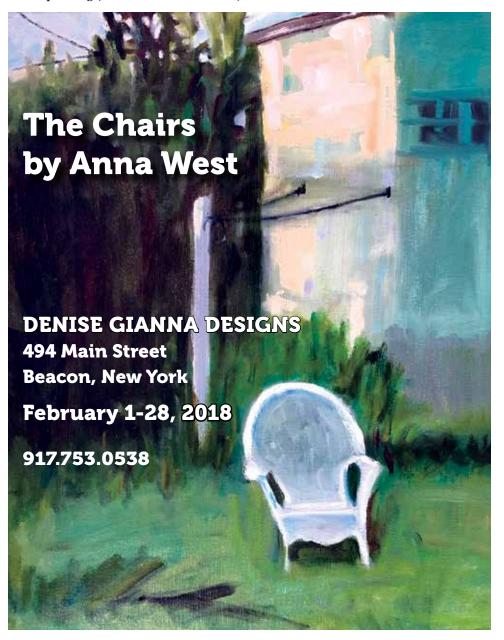
Have you used tech in the garden? Email rootsandshoots@highlandscurrent.com.

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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Eyes on You

Art show stares back

he Cold Spring Antique Center at 77

▲ Main St. will share art by Suzanne

Mancuso, Ellen Hayden and others in a

show called Here's Staring at You, Kid.

Each piece is designed with the subject

looking back at the viewer. The show con-

tinues through the end of February.

Know Your Books?

Students invited to 'battle'

The Butterfield Library in Cold Spring I will hold informational meetings for students interested in joining its Battle of the Books teams.

Students in grades 5 to 8 will meet at the library on Wednesday, Feb. 28, at 3 p.m. and high school students at 5 p.m. Both teams will read eight books over the spring and summer before competing in September against other libraries.

Eagles and Education

Hike scheduled for Feb. 17

n Saturday, Feb. 17, naturalists Scott Silver and Programme 17 ver and Pete Salmansohn will lead the monthly Putnam Highlands Audubon Society bird-watching hike at Little Stony Point near Cold Spring. It's estimated that 150 eagles can be found between Croton and Beacon. Meet at the parking lot on Route 9D at 10 a.m. and bring binoculars if you have them.

The society also will present a free talk on Sunday, Feb. 25, at 2 p.m. at the Butterfield Library by Carolyn Llewelyn, who will discuss her experiences at the National Audubon camp on Hog Island off the coast of Maine. Supported by a PHAS scholarship, Llewelyn spent a week honing her skills in environmental education. See putnamhighlandsaudubon.org.



Sharon Acocella

Benefit for Sharon

Will be held at Foundry Cafe

A benefit with live music will be held on Tuesday, Feb. 27, for Sharon Acocella, a familiar face at the Foundry Cafe in Cold Spring, who has been hospitalized with pneumonia. The fundraiser will be held at the cafe, 55 Main St., from 7 to 10 p.m. The suggested donation is \$20.

Visit highlandscurrent.com for news updates and latest information.



by Suzanne Mancuso, is the subject of an exhibit at the Cold Spring Antique Center that continues through the end of the

Sugaring Season Begins

Nature museum opens taps

The Hudson Highlands Nature Museum in Cornwall will host its annual Sugaring Off Celebration at the Outdoor Discovery Center on Saturday, Feb. 25 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Activities include a tree-tapping demonstration, crafts and games, and Native American storytelling.

Beginning on Feb. 25 and continuing every weekend through March 18, museum guides will offer tours of the sugar shack and maple trees hourly between 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. See hhnm.org.

Eat Well, Support Local **Farms**

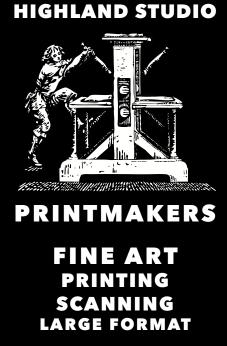
Third annual CSA Day is Feb. 23

The third annual CSA Day will be observed on Saturday, (To next page)



Greens at Obercreek, which is one of the farms participating in CSA Day on Feb. 23

Photo provided



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Animated (PG): FRI 5:45, SAT 1:00 5:45 SUN 4:30, TUE 7:30, THU 2:00 Live Action (R): FRI 8:00, SAT 3:15 8:00 SUN 2:00, TUE 2:00, WED & THU 7:30

Free Screening in Recognition of Black History Month Daughters of the Dust (1991, NR) MON (2/19) 2:00

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Fifty Shades Freed (R) FRI & SAT 2:45 5:30 8:30, SUN 1:45 4:30 7:30, MON 1:00 4:15, TUE 7:30 WED 1:45 4:30 7:30, THU 7:30

Black Panther (PG13)

FRI & SAT 2:15 5:15 8:15, SUN 1:15 4:15 7:15, MON 12:45 4:00, TUE 7:15 WED 1:15 4:15 7:15, THU 7:15

Peter Rabbit (PG) SUN 1:30 4:00 6:15 MON 12:30 2:45 5:00, TUE 7:00 WED 1:30 4:00 6:15, THU 7:00

Moonstruck (1987, PG) SAT (2/17) 7:00

Road to Bali (1953, NR) WED (2/21) 2:00



The Hudson Highlands Nature Museum will begin offering maple sugar tours on Feb. 25. Photo by George Potanovic Jr.

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COMMUNITY BRIEFS (from previous page)



Feb. 23, to promote farms that offer subscription services to provide produce through the growing season. Glynwood in Cold Spring and Obercreek Farm in Wappingers Falls are two of nearly 2,000 farms participating. See csaday.info.

Beacon

Exercise for a Cause

Studio to host fundraiser

Zoned Fitness, a personal training studio, will host a partner workout on Saturday, Feb. 17, at 11 a.m., and Sunday, Feb. 18, at 9 a.m., to raise money for the I Am Beacon Making a Difference Scholarship. Bring a friend or partner and work out together. The cost is \$10 per person. Call 845-214-0350 to participate.

Visit highlandscurrent.com for news updates and latest information.

Teen Voices at the Library

Heart of Robin Hood.

Cold Spring on Saturday, Feb. 10, for a part in the Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival's summer production of *The*

Photos provided

Beacon library looking for feedback

The Howland Public Library in Beacon plans to create a Teen Library Council to engage young people in creating programs, selecting books and movies for the collection, decorating a teen area, and joining in community service projects. The first meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 8, at 3:15 p.m. Pick up a registration form at the library or contact Michelle Rivas at community@beaconlibrary.org or 845-831-1134, ext. 101.

Black Lives and Black Rights

 $Film\ club\ to\ show\ civil-rights\ doc$

Movies That Matter Beacon will screen the Oscar-nominated 2016 documen-



A pro-segregation rally in Little Rock, Arkansas, from *I Am Not Your Negro*, a documentary that will be shown in Beacon on Feb. 23

Magnolia

Magnolia Pictures



his 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? Douglas Anderson of Nelsonville shared this photo of his son, Jack, 1, with Rossi, 2, a Vizsla. If you have a photo of a baby and a dog, submit it for consideration to editor@highlandscurrent.com.



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.

tary *I Am Not Your Negro*, at First Presbyterian Church at 7 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 23. The film draws connections between the history of the civil-rights movement and Black Lives Matter. Narrated by Samuel L. Jackson, it is based in part on an unfinished book by James Baldwin. See moviesthatmatter.org.

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Sports

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Shaheim Fryar

Hoops at a Higher Level

Statistics for the 2017-18 season as of Feb. 15

(1) **Sam Lisikatos** (Haldane 2014) Senior, SUNY Oneonta 5.3 points, 2.2 rebounds, 2.6 assists Scored 16 against NYU on Nov. 26

(2) **Ally Monteleone** (Haldane 2015) Junior, Pace University

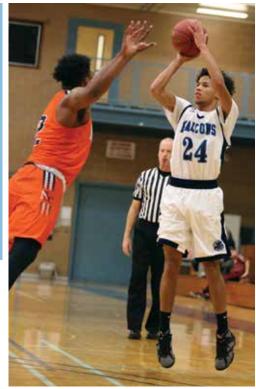
12.8 points, 3.6 rebounds, 1.4 assists Scored 27 against Stonehill on Dec. 17

(3) **Peter Hoffmann** (Haldane 2015) Junior, Hamilton College

13.5 points, 4.5 rebounds, 1.7 assists Scored 27 against Connecticut on Jan. 13 Scored 1,000th point on Feb. 13 (4) **Lauren Schetter** (Beacon 2017) Freshman, Pace University 8.7 points, 6 rebounds, 1.3 assists Scored 23 against Post on Nov. 18

(5) **Alfredo Robles** (Beacon 2017) Freshman, Dutchess Community College 19 points, 6.1 rebounds, 2.7 assists Scored 31 against Rockland on Nov. 7

(6) **Shaheim Fryar** (Beacon 2017) Freshman, Dutchess Community College 15.4 points, 6.1 rebounds, 2.2 assists Scored 27 against Nassau on Feb. 11



Alfredo Robles

DCC



Ally Monteleone





Top, Sam Lisikatos (SUNY Oneonta), **Above, Peter Hoffmann** (Photo by Josh McKee)



Lauren Schetter Pace

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Sports

Boys' Relay Wins Class C Gold

Also, three school records fall

By Michael Haines

onas Petkus, a senior at Haldane, set two school records and won gold as a member of the Blue Devils' 800-meter relay team on Feb. 12 at the Section 1 Class C indoor track state championships at the Armory in New York City. Fourteen schools competed.

Petkus, who will attend Carnegie Mellon in the fall, started his night by setting a school record in the 600-meter run with a time of 1:26.33, shaving nearly two seconds off Eric Saari's 2002 mark of 1:28 and winning the silver medal. Twenty minutes later, with a time of 37.87 in the 300-meter run. Petkus broke the school record he set. a week earlier.

In other races, Adam Silhavy took the silver medal in the 1,000-meter run in 2:45.20 and the boys' 4 by 800-meter team of Nick Farrell, Silhavy, Joseph Abate and Petkus won gold in 8:45.69, ahead of Irvington and Pawling.

For the girls, the relay team of Maura Kane-Seitz, Ashley Haines, Emma Rippon and Heather Winne, who two weeks ago



At the Section 1, Class C championships on Feb. 12, Jonas Petkus took nearly 2 seconds off the Haldane record for the boys' 600-meter run set in 2002 by Eric Saari. Photo by M. Haines

set a school record in the 4 by 800-meter relay in 10:43.96, were 20 seconds better at 10:21.45, good for the silver medal. They were pushed by perennial Class C champi-

Beacon at Section 1. **Class B Championships**

Girls' 300-meter

3. Naomi Anderson-Benjamin (43.76)

Girls' high jump

3. Jummie Akinwunmi (5-00)

Girls' long jump

2. Jummie Akinwunmi (16-04)

Girls' shotput

3. Ennie Akinwunmi (29-00.50)

Girls' weight throw

2. Ennie Akinwumni (30-02)

Boys' 55-meters

3. Cavin Vaughan (6.79)

Boys' 55-meter hurdles

2. Ethan Burgos (7.98)

Boys' 4 x 200 relay

3. Beacon (1:35.32)

ons Bronxville, which took gold as it has done for more than 20 years in the event.

Other top finishers were Emma Rippon. who was sixth in the 1,000-meter run at 3:19.30; Kane-Seitz, who was fifth in the 1,500-meter run at 5:15.74; Winne, who was sixth in the 600-meter run at 1:44.68: Farrell, who was fourth in the 1,600-meter run at 4:38.58; and Justin Gonzalez, who was fifth in the long jump at 17-11.50.



BEST MARK - Terrel Davis, a 2016 Beacon grad, set a University of Hartford record on Jan. 27 with a long jump of 24 feet, 1.5 inches.



Cold Spring Wrestler Wins Championship

vevin Barry, a Cold Spring resident Who is a senior at Archbishop Stepinac High School in White Plains, won the Catholic High School Athletic Association state wrestling championship on Feb. 11 in the 182-pound class.

Barry entered the tournament, held on Staten Island, as the sixth seed of 16 wrestlers in the weight class. He won the title after executing a double overhook throw against an opponent from Long Island and pinning him at 1:06 in the first period.

To reach the title match, Barry pinned a wrestler from Buffalo in 42 seconds and defeated the division's top seed (and third overall), from Long Island, 11-0. On the second day, he defeated a wrestler from Iona Prep in New Rochelle and another from Buffalo to reach the finals.



Kevin Barry, left, won the state Catholic high school wrestling title for Archbishop Stepinac in the 182-pound weight class, while teammate and Putnam Valley resident Joe Garbowski placed fourth in the 285-pound class. Photo provided

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Sports

Bright Future for Beacon Hoops

Junior varsity boys extend win streak to 33 games

By Leigh Alan Klein

f the streak was going to end, this might be the night. The Beacon junior varsity boys' team had won 32 straight games. They

had not lost in 2017. They had not lost in 2018. But for the final game of the season on Feb. 12, they were missing a key element: Dayi'on Thompson, who averaged 23 points a game, had been called up two weeks earlier to the varsity in preparation for the state tournament.

Still, you don't win 32 straight games without a deep bench, and the Bulldogs outlasted the Sailors, 55-46.

"This group went 33-1" over the past two seasons, noted John Philipbar, who has coached the J.V. for four years. "We hope it translates to varsity" when many of the

State Tournament Bovs' Basketball

Beacon 70, Yonkers 54

Beacon vs. Hendrick Hudson, Feb. 16 Haldane vs. Tuckahoe, Feb. 20

Girls' Basketball

Walter Panas 56, Beacon 33 Haldane vs. Schechter/Pawling, Feb. 20



players advance next year.

The team's last loss was on Dec. 6, 2016, in the season opener against Tappan Zee. "We made a huge comeback after being down 16 to take a one-point lead with 5.5 seconds left," Philipbar recalls. "They hit a shot at the buzzer to beat us, 64-63. I still think about that game just about every day."

(Had the shot not dropped, the streak would be 38 straight.)

There have been a few close calls. Against Poughkeepsie earlier this season, the Bulldogs were down by 20 points before rallying to win by 10.

"I have coached high school basketball for 12 years, and this was the hardestworking group of kids I have had," he said. "At times our practices were more competitive than some

of the games." Against Hendrick Hudson on Feb. 12, the Bulldogs jumped to a 7-0 lead. Beacon did a good job of sharing the ball in the first quarter, and its full-court pressure defense caused four Sailor turnovers.

Without Thompson, the team's scoring is balanced. Six players

scored in the first quarter, which ended with the Bulldogs ahead, 17-11.

In the second quarter, the game tightened to 17-16, but Beacon took a nine-point lead before Hendrick Hudson mounted another run to cut the margin to five, 31-26, at the half.

The scoring slowed in the third. The Sailors would hit back-to-back threes and were back within one, 35-34. But Kam Torres executed a beautiful back-door cut and converted a strong drive to push Beacon's advantage to 39-34.

Hendrick Hudson came out strong in the fourth, attacking the glass for rebounds, and the momentum shifted. With five minutes, the Sailors led, 44-42.

But after Shane Greene nailed a threepointer for the Bulldogs off a pass from Deandre Williams, Beacon never trailed. Greene hit an-

How Much Longer?

'he junior varsity boys' team from Fredericton High School in New Brunswick won 207 straight between 2006 and 2012. The longest streak in New York by a boys' varsity team is 104 by Belleville, a hamlet north of Syracuse, from 1966 to 1971.

The Streak

Walter Panas, 64-43 North Rockland, 67-49 New Rochelle, 68-62 Peekskill, 71-45 FDR, 59-54 Sleepy Hollow, 60-45 Hendrick Hudson, 65-42 Walter Panas, 62-44 Poughkeepsie, 57-54 Lourdes, 53-40 Sleepy Hollow, 51-16 Hendrick Hudson, 53-44 Lakeland, 64-27 Lourdes, 73-50 Putnam Valley, 63-28 Lakeland,74-36 Ketcham, 44-35 Putnam Valley, 72-58 Tappan Zee, 69-57 Ardsley, 77-51 Woodlands, 78-52 Poughkeepsie, 62-52 Scarsdale, 76-56 Peekskill, 82-58 North Salem, 89-36 Lourdes, 94-61 Poughkeepsie, 71-55 Blind Brook, 73-64 Peekskill, 86-60 Lourdes, 64-52 Hendrick Hudson, 48-42 Cornwall, 57-56

Below, the Beacon junior varsity basketball team Photo by L. Klein

Hendrick Hudson, 55-46

Lionel Cumberbatch other three to seal the Caden Cutinella

Adrian Davis Caleb Evans Shane Greene Marguise Hatton Regan Ladue Tsamaj Powell Stephen Schneider Tre' Smith **Dayi'on Thompson Kamron Torres Deandre Williams** Josh Zangerle

Beacon Junior

Varsity

lan Bautista

