Major Expansion at Stewart Airport

New name emphasizes proximity to NYC

By Michael Turton

Change is in the air at Stewart International Airport, and in the near future it may fulfill its early promise after the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey took charge of the Newburgh facility in 2007 and vowed to make it a viable alternative to the congestion of LaGuardia, Kennedy and Newark.

On Feb. 15, the Port Authority approved a $30 million expansion; a week later it changed the facility’s name to New York Stewart International Airport to emphasize its proximity to the city, especially to foreign travelers.

The Port Authority envisioned using Stewart to divert passengers from its three major hubs that collectively handle more than 125 million passengers annually. The agency projects Stewart will see 600,000 passengers in 2018.

While it offers few direct flights, Stewart provides many advantages to Highlands residents. It is about a 20-minute drive from Beacon and 30 minutes from Cold Spring, compared to 90 minutes to LaGuardia (if you’re lucky). The airport has only six gates and two baggage claim carousels to navigate. Long-term parking is $10 a day, compared to the $23 hourly rate.

THE BEAT GOES ON — Mira Bagriyanik (left) and Asha Marcus, both of Beacon, learn a xylophone piece influenced by the Zimbabwe marimba from instructors Gina Samardge (right) and Justin Keller, in background. Both girls are part of the Rompatom Ensemble at Compass Arts.

Cell-Tower Company, Verizon Sue Philipstown

Federal complaint alleges “arbitrary” denial of permit

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

Homeland Towers and Verizon Wireless sued the Town of Philipstown on Feb. 20, alleging it violated federal law and acted in an “arbitrary and capricious” manner to deny permits for their proposed 180-foot cell-phone tower near the Route 9 - Route 301 intersection. The tower was planned for a privately owned parcel off Vineyard Road.

Using the name of their joint enterprise, New York SMSA Limited Partnership, the companies filed the case 29 days after the Philipstown Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) and Conservation Board voted to deny its application to construct the tower, which needed a special-use permit from the ZBA and a wetlands permit from the Conservation Board.

On Jan. 22, ZBA members voted 4-1 to deny the permit, citing a series of reasons, including a lack of need for another tower in a town that already has nine and the negative impact on Philipstown’s scenic and rural character.

In its 6-0 vote the same night, the Conservation Board also denied the permit, citing fears of harm to a wetlands buffer. Its members earlier (Continued on Page 18)

Norwegian Air began international service at Stewart in July.

Police Investigate Threat at Beacon High School

Canine teams sweep district

By Jeff Simms

After a potential threat of violence against the Beacon City School District, police officers were stationed at Beacon High School and Rombout Middle School on Thursday (March 1), while other officers patrolled the district’s four elementary schools. The Beacon Police Department and other agencies also conducted searches of all six schools.

Superintendent Matt Landahl notified parents Wednesday afternoon that he had received information about “writing” in a bathroom stall at Beacon High School that mentioned March 1 and could be “perceived as a threat.”

Later that evening he contacted parents again to report that police had used 19 canine teams to search and secure each of the district’s buildings.

Beacon Police Chief Kevin Junjulas said Thursday morning that canine teams trained for explosives detection from the state and MTA police, the Dutchess and Orange County sheriff’s offices, and the town and city of Poughkeepsie and Middletown police departments combined with Beacon police to comb through each of the district’s school’s Wednesday night.

The teams searched for more than three hours but did not find any credible evidence of a threat, he said.

The threat was the third in Beacon since the Feb. 14 shooting that left 17 dead at a high school in Parkland, Florida. Two perceived threats against Rombout were investigated by police, as well.

School administrators and police are understandably cautious after the Florida slayings, in which a former student at Stoneman Douglas High School shot and killed 17 students and teachers despite repeated warnings to police that he might be dangerous. There have since been a rash of perceived threats investigated throughout the Hudson Valley, including in Fishkill, Wappingers and Pine Plains.

In Cold Spring, the Haldane superintendent last week sent an email to parents saying police were investigating “rumors” about potential security threats but that none had proved credible.

“I don’t know what to attribute it to,” Chief Junjulas said. “I think a bit of it could be the social media component.” That allows rumors to spread quickly and escalate concern. “This [BHS threat] could have been an attempt to create some type (Continued on Page 3)
Five Questions: Lidija Slokenbergs

Lidija Slokenbergs is a senior at Haldane High School.

Ten years ago, when you were 6 years old, your family left Cold Spring and moved to Latvia. Why?

My grandparents from both sides escaped from Latvia during World War II [the Nazis occupied the country in 1941] and settled here. My parents wanted to dig deeper into their heritage by living in Latvia for two or three years. We ended up staying for 10. My sister was born there. Latvia is an actual country. Or, they don't know the status: free or not free. Every four years, there's a big song-and-dance festival and you feel that passion to be free, because they didn't have the privilege under the Soviet Union.

What is your relationship to Latvia?

We speak it at home, so I began with that. I started to learn English when I was 4. I learned to read and write in both English and Latvian when I was in kindergarten. My name is pronounced Lydia in English but in Latvian it's more like Lidija. When people see how it is spelled, they come up with crazy pronunciations.

When did you learn to read and write in English?

When I first arrived at Haldane as a junior, I found the emphasis on college to be overwhelming. Last summer I finally started to think about where I want to be. I'm interested in theater and psychology. I reassure myself that I can always return to Latvia, whether it's for a gap year or community service or later in life, whatever. Something I've always admired about my parents — especially my mom — is that they never want anything to be set in stone.

What did you write about?

I highlighted the openness and friendliness people who don't know each other have in the U.S. Like when you go down the aisle in a supermarket and people just say “Hi.” That would never happen in Latvia, probably because there are things left over from the Soviet era; there's still that subtle tension. A lot of people don't know Latvia is an actual country. Or, they don't know the status: free or not free. Every four years, there's a big song-and-dance festival and you feel that passion to be free, because they didn't have the privilege under the Soviet Union.

What are your plans after you graduate in June?

When I first arrived at Haldane as a junior, I found the emphasis on college to be overwhelming. Last summer I finally started to think about where I want to be. I’m interested in theater and psychology. I reassure myself that I can always return to Latvia, whether it’s for a gap year or community service or later in life, whatever. Something I’ve always admired about my parents — especially my mom — is that they never want anything to be set in stone.

You won an essay contest sponsored by the Veterans of Foreign Wars. What did you write about?

I highlighted the openness and friendliness people who don't know each other have in the U.S. Like when you go down the aisle in a supermarket and people just say “Hi.” That would never happen in Latvia, probably because there are things left over from the Soviet era; there's still that subtle tension. A lot of people don't know Latvia is an actual country. Or, they don't know the status: free or not free. Every four years, there's a big song-and-dance festival and you feel that passion to be free, because they didn’t have the privilege under the Soviet Union.
Philipstown Names Anti-Drug Coordinator

Appoints Nelsonville resident to new position

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

The Philipstown Town Board was expected to name Danielle Pack McCarthy, co-chair of Philipstown Communities That Care, a volunteer organization that works to reduce substance abuse, as its first Prevention, Treatment and Recovery coordinator.

The board announced the decision on Feb. 23 and was scheduled to vote at its March 1 meeting. McCarthy will earn $24 hourly for up to $10,000 annually.

McCarthy, who served as a Nelsonville Village trustee from 2015 to 2017, is a former Peace Corps volunteer in the Caribbean and founder of Denniston International, a nonprofit that aids disadvantaged children through educational projects there. She holds a master’s degree in social work from Columbia University.

The Town Board created the position in November. It hoped to have a one-stop place for residents to learn about the options for dealing with addiction.

Police Investigate Threat at Beacon High School

(from Page 1)

of disruption in the school day.”

The police involvement in Beacon capped a stressful two weeks during which parents, students and administrators have tried to make sense of school safety procedures.

At the Feb. 26 Beacon school board meeting, Landahl and board members wrestled with how to handle national student protests against school violence, including a 17-minute (one for each person killed in the Florida shooting) walkout on March 14, a march in Washington, D.C., on March 24 and a high school walkout on April 20, the anniversary of the 1999 attack on Columbine High School in Colorado.

Landahl said Monday that the district would not punish students who protest. But as far as the logistics, it’s uncharted territory, he admitted.

Board Member Michael Rutkoske said the district needs to clearly state its position and make sure it’s not condoning dangerous behavior. Regarding the possibility of assigning a police officer to the district, which was discussed last fall but tabled, he said, “That may be a conversation we want to pick back up again.”

Landahl said the district will add two additional lockdown drills to the four it already conducts each school year, along with eight evacuation drills. The district also plans to hire Altaris Consulting Group of Yorktown Heights, which specializes in school safety.

At the meeting, parents and board members expressed a range of emotions, from anger to confusion and fear. Some urged political action.

“I am going to put a challenge out to everyone,” said Lori Merhige, who is president of the Sargent Elementary School PTO. “Which of you is also willing to stick your neck out? Who of the adults in charge are also going to take a stand on keeping our kids safe by pushing our county, our state, our national government to take action on controlling the amount of weapons being circulated in our country that are being used against our kids?”

James Case, another parent, concisely verbalized what many parents have said they are feeling. “The urgency of this is not just the magnitude of the violence; it’s the frequency,” he said. “I’m scared. I’m genuinely scared.”

Making Threats

Those accused in New York state of making threats against schools are typically charged with making “terroristic threats,” which is a felony even if a person does not have the “intent or capability” to carry out an attack.

A number of teenagers and young adults have been arrested around the state in the past two weeks for allegedly making threats against schools, including a 21-year-old woman in Rochester who posted a comment on her former high school’s Facebook page; a 23-year-old man in Monroe County who uploaded a music video called “School Shooter” to YouTube; and a 16-year-old from Broome County who allegedly made threatening remarks while riding home on a school bus.

The Educator’s School Safety Network, an organization that tracks threats of violence against schools, reported that nationally as of March 1 there have been 673 threats against schools since the Parkland killings, or about 96 per school day. Before Parkland, the typical count was 10 per school day, it said.
Gun controls

Your Feb. 23 issue asks an essential question (“Are Schools Safe Enough?”). No school is safe, here or anywhere.

Growing up and while a young man, I hunted on occasion for duck, geese, pheasant, grouse, dove and deer. Now, I shoot only in defense of my garden with a 22-caliber rifle against ground hog and squirrel.

While undergoing Marine Corps training in 1956 and 1957 near Baltimore, I would hunt doves in the cornfields with a Browning 12-gauge shotgun. It held up to five shells and would be considered a semi-automatic. To get a hunting license in Maryland in those days, you had to put a plug in shotguns to limit the capacity to three shells. That was the state’s definition of a hunter: someone who could bring down a bird with no more than three shots.

The weapon used to kill 17 students and teachers in Parkland on Feb. 14, the AR-15, was developed as a weapon of war. It, too, is a semi-automatic but has a 30-round magazine (or 100 or more with a high-capacity magazine). The bullets have tremendous destructive power, hardly the effect you would want when hunting birds to eat. Despite multiple efforts to ban assault rifles, Congress has failed to act. In most states, almost anyone 18 years or older can walk into a gun store and walk out with an AR-15, multiple magazines and bullets. No license is required as I had to obtain in Maryland to hunt birds. No plug is required to limit firepower. There is no governmental oversight over how this weapon is used, just license to kill, if not encouragement by design.

This situation is a despicable case of group insanity. The sales of these weapons must be banned. Parents who hunt should support their children and other students by going to the march in Washington on March 24 to push for sensible gun control.

Bevis Longstreth, Garrison

I support the law being proposed by the Philipstown Town Board to require firearms owners to lock up their weapons (“Philipstown Board Postpones Gun-Storge Debate,” Feb. 23), but I want a fair debate. And I’m concerned my neighbors are being lied to by the New York State Rifle and Pistol Association.

When the town attorney read the draft law at the Feb. 21 public hearing — how it applies only when the firearm owner is away from home — there was an audible gasp from the audience. A lot of people in attendance believed, passionately, that the draft law would have required guns to be locked up at all times, and that it would clearly violate the Second Amendment. And I’m concerned my neighbors are being lied to by the New York State Rifle and Pistol Association.

The proposed law allows a gun owner to sleep with a loaded gun under his pillow. It allows a person to keep a gun under his child’s pillow, for that matter. The law only requires safe storage if the gun owner leaves the gun at home and is not there. I don’t want anyone’s gun stolen from a house when the owner is not there and used on me, my family or anyone else.

Donald MacDonald, Cold Spring

Historic buildings

It is disappointing that two historic buildings dating from the 19th century, which is the period of significance noted in the designations for both the local historic district and the National Register district, will be razed (“Duel Demolitions,” Feb. 23). While designers promise to build structures “in keeping” with the character of the historic, there is simply no replacement for the original.

I sincerely hope this does not encourage other building owners within the village to claim “disrepair” as an excuse for demolition. We must care for and safeguard our historic buildings, otherwise the special character of this place that we all love so much will be lost.

Lauren Hall, Cold Spring

Cold Spring’s Historic District has been designated for nearly 40 years. Thanks to the dedica-
tion and investment of property owners. Most buildings have been rehabilitated and continue in beneficial use. There have been very few demolitions. At this stage, the architectural standouts have had attention. Luckily, folks continue to want to live and do business here, so even buildings that are in poorer condition are being bought and rehabilitated. Repair and replacement in kind are always the preferred method for historic structures. Demolition is the least desirable and last-sought option, and owners have to meet a high bar to be approved.

The Historic District Review Board's purpose is to preserve character and historic fabric, and ensure that structural modifications are appropriate. Every application to the HDRB is considered individually, though all are held to the same standards. We use criteria in our local ordinance and the U.S. secretary of the Interior's Standards. The criteria in our local ordinance and the U.S. Environmental Quality Review Act shaped the review. It requires a deep dive on projects within or substantially contiguous to the National Historic District, including examining multiple mitigation scenarios. Importantly, factors tipped the scale for 35 Market and 126 Main.

The structure at 35 Market St. is a utilitarian building that, remarkably, survived many years of neglect. It has major structural failures and deterioration. Two consulting structural engineers agreed that it would not survive being moved to address foundation problems. We were already losing the structure; the plan ensures that its form, scale, and salvageable exterior fabric will be preserved.

The structure at 126 Main St. had multiple additions and modifications; most of its historic fabric had been removed. Poor condition is not the single deciding factor in demolition; integrity is considered, as well. A few exterior and interior design elements survived, along with some framing, though many structural members were compromised. Still, we "read" its history because of its form, mass, scale, and details like the parapet wall, brackets and side bay. The new building will echo these, reusing historic fabric to the greatest extent possible. It will read like the building we know, consistent with the character of Main Street but recognizable as a product of its time. Kathleen Foley, Cold Spring
Foley is vice chair of the Historic District Review Board.

Tax burden
It's understandable that one would seek to reduce their taxes as much as possible. At the federal level it's a reasonable enough pursuit. However, at the school and local level, one owner's exemption is their neighbor's burden ("Taxes in Philipstown," Feb. 16). Each of these exemptions requires the rest of us to subsidize it through an increase in our own taxes.

Of course, there is a legal allowance to enjoy an exemption, and many property owners may have actually earned that exemption. But the ethics, the neighborliness and the community impact of some of these exemptions is questionable. It's merely shifting the taxes from one side of the fence to the other. Perhaps a donation to your local school foundation would be a good way to offset the guilt.

James Hoch, Garrison
Hoch is a member of the Garrison School Board.

PHILIPSTOWN PLANNING BOARD

Public Hearing – March 15, 2018

The Philipstown Planning Board for the Town of Philipstown, New York will hold a public hearing on Thursday, March 15, 2018, starting at 7:30 p.m., at the Old VFW Hall, 34 Kemble Ave. in Cold Spring, New York to consider the following application:

**Surprise Lake Camp** – The application proposes various site improvements within the 465-acre parcel in the vicinity of the Administrative Building and lake shore, to improve vehicular circulation, pedestrian/camper safety, as well as reconfigure the existing walking paths to improve site circulation. No new structures or additions are proposed.

The property is situated at the end of Lake Surprise Road in an “IC” (Institutional Conservation) Zoning District in the Town of Philipstown. TM# 27.1-1.1.

At said hearing all persons will have the right to be heard. Copies of the application, plat map, and other related materials may be seen in the Office of the Planning Board at the Philipstown Town Hall.

Dated at Philipstown, New York, this 23rd day of February, 2018
Anthony Merante, Chairman

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Town Board of the Town of Philipstown, Putnam County, New York, will conduct a HEARING on Wednesday, March 7, 2018 at 7 p.m., Prevailing Time at the Town Hall, 238 Main Street, Cold Spring, New York 10516.

The purpose of the Hearing is to hear the appeal of Homeland Tower, LLC from the decision of the Town Conservation Board to Deny the application of Homeland Tower, LLC and New York SMSA Limited Partnership d/b/a Verizon Wireless for a wetlands permit sought in connection with an application for

A special use permit to erect a wireless telecommunication service facility consisting of a 180-foot monopole with antennas, together with related equipment at the base thereof within a multi-carrier equipment compound.

The property at issue is located at 50 Vineyard Road, Cold Spring, New York in an OC zoning district.

BY ORDER OF THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF PHILIPSTOWN

Tina M. Merando, Town Clerk

Dated: February 28, 2018
I see no reason that the risk assessment is greater than I can remember. On the flip side, stalling a pipeline almost directly next to Indian Point, which sits a mile from the gas pipeline installed 105 feet from the safety of a 42-inch diameter fracked duct the necessary studies to determine mission, both of which have failed to con –


Funny how all the debate is about in –


Water filters

I use a whole house self-flushing filter. I didn’t install it because of discoloration, but it does an excellent job of capturing the suspended materials we sometimes get in the village water supply (“What’s Up with the Water?” Feb. 16).

I’ve worked on a lot of old houses in many old towns, and one never knows what the drinking water is flowing through. I’ve seen lead pipes, galvanized steel, rusty steel and the like. I installed a filter in every house I have owned. I also have a second filter in the kitchen for my drinking water.

I am glad to give more information to anyone interested in learning about the system I installed. Email me at trustee. voloto@coldspring.gov.

Steve Voloto, Cold Spring Voloto is a Village of Cold Spring trustee.

Foam trays

My children received notice of an Earth Day poster contest sponsored by the New York State Senate. It’s sweet that the state is encouraging students to exchange ideas on waste reduction, yet no school is required by law to recycle. Many schools also serve lunch on polystyrene foam trays purchased from the state.

If the Beacon school district wanted to do away with the massive amounts of plastic thrown into the garbage every day, it would have to pay for trays out of its slim budget. Parent-teacher organizations and parents have been trying to institute recycling in the schools but because it’s not mandated, we volunteer at lunch to sort the trash.

Is the point of the Earth Day poster campaign to put the responsibility on children to take care of the earth? Why isn’t Sen. Sue Serino, or any other state senator, doing his or her part? Is the point to have volunteer moms save our planet so elected officials can continue to lack the political will to mandate recycling and eliminate the use of foam in schools?

We need to press the state to lead by example. A poster contest isn’t going to stop the unnecessary pollution of our planet, but legislation will.

Lori Merhige, Beacon Merhige is president of the Sargent Elementary PTO.

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**PHILIPSTOWN PLANNING BOARD**

**Workshop – March 15, 2018**

The Philipstown Planning Board will hold a workshop meeting on March 15, 2018 at the Old VFW Hall, 94 Kemble Ave., Cold Spring, New York at 7 p.m. for the following application:

Hudson Highlands Reserve, NYS Route 9 & Horton Road, Cold Spring, NY Dated at Philipstown, New York, this 23rd day of February, 2018. Anthony Merante, Chairman

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**PHILIPSTOWN PLANNING BOARD**

**Site Visit – March 11, 2018**

The Philipstown Planning Board will meet on Sunday, March 11, 2018, at 9:30 a.m. to inspect the following site:

James Copeland, Hudson Structures Inc. 3052 Route 9, Cold Spring

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**TOWN OF PHILIPSTOWN**

**Public Hearing Notice**

NOTICE is hereby given that the Town Board of the Town of Philipstown will conduct a Public Hearing on March 8, 2018 at 7:15 p.m. at the Town Hall, 238 Main Street, Cold Spring, New York to hear comments for/against a proposed Local Law to amend the Code by repealing and re-enacting Chapter 156: Article VIII entitled “Cold War Veterans Exemption” to remove the ten-year limitation thereon.

A copy of the proposed Local Law is on file in the Town Clerk’s office where it may be examined during regular business hours. All persons interested will be heard at the time, date and place specified above.

BY ORDER OF THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF PHILIPSTOWN

Tina M. Merando, Town Clerk

DATED: February 28, 2018, Cold Spring, New York

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**NOTICE**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a public hearing will be held by the Zoning Board of Appeals of the Town of Philipstown on Monday, March 12, 2018 at 7:30 p.m. at the Philipstown Town Hall, 238 Main Street, Cold Spring, New York to hear the following appeal:

Pamal Broadcasting, 22 Sky Lane, Philipstown New York. Tax Map #83-18-23. The applicant seeks Amended Special Permit approval and a setback variance to the extent required, to replace the existing public utility tower to support collocation. The application includes the like kind replacement of the existing WHUD radio tower at 22 Sky Lane, Garrison, Town of Philipstown, NY. The property is in the SR Zoning District.

At said hearing all persons will have the right to be heard. Copies of the application, plat map and other related materials may be reviewed in the office of the Building Department at Philipstown Town Hall.

Dated 2/23/2018

Robert Dee, Chairman of the Town of Philipstown Zoning Board of Appeals

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**Garrison Union Free School**

presents a series of

**Budget Workshops**

- Learn about the 2018-2019 Budget
- Ask questions
- Share ideas and advice

**Workshop Dates:**

- Thursday, February 15
- Saturday, March 10
- Wednesday, March 14

7 p.m.
10 a.m.
9 a.m.

at the Garrison School

For additional information, call Superintendent Laura Mitchell 845-424-3689 x224
Mayor Cautions Against Butterfield ‘Community Center’

Plus, Cold Spring recycling gets costly

By Michael Turton

Cold Spring Mayor Dave Merandy spoke out strongly against the possibility of the senior center planned for the Butterfield development also serving as a community center, asserting at the Feb. 27 meeting of the Village Board that it would violate Planning Board approvals for the project.

Barbara Scuccimarra, who represents Philipstown on the Putnam County Legislature, has suggested naming the facility, which is still under construction, the Julia L. Butterfield Senior/Community Center. But she said County Executive MaryEllen Odell wanted input from seniors and local officials.

At Tuesday’s meeting, Bob Flaherty, who is a member of the Philipstown Town Board, said the board had been asked for its input. Asked if county officials have also contacted the village, Merandy replied, “Not that I know of.”

“I just want to remind everyone that the [Butterfield] approvals were based on it being a senior center,” Merandy said. “I was very specific.”

Merandy said concerns about expanding the scope of the center were first raised in April 2016, when developer Paul Guillaro moved the senior center from Building No. 2 to the Lahey Pavilion, where there was less parking. The remedy proposed by county officials at the time, the mayor said, was a pledge to provide busing for any senior who wanted to go to the center, thus reducing the number of parking spaces required and on-site traffic on the site.

“If the county believes that they can turn this into a community center, there is going to be a problem,” Merandy said.

“Before people name it a community center they should come and talk to the Village Board and the Planning Board.”

On Thursday, Scuccimarra said that Odell sent a letter to the Town of Philipstown and others requesting input, but that Cold Spring was inadvertently excluded. “It was an oversight,” she said.

“Part of my mission is to bring more county services to Cold Spring,” Scuccimarra said, adding that she hopes that when seniors are not using the new facility, other services such as the DMV and services for women can be offered. “That’s what I mean by ‘community center,’” she said. “It would not be hordes of people and cars, and it would only be when seniors are not using the building.”

Recycling gets costly

The cost of disposing of Cold Spring’s recyclables has jumped from zero to $43.18 per ton.

Deputy Mayor Marie Early said the village received notice of the increase on Feb. 1 from ReCommunity, the Beacon-based recycling company. Several years ago, the village received a small amount of revenue for recyclables. More recently it has been a no-cost service.

“The problem is that China is no longer purchasing recyclables, so there’s no market for them,” Early said. The new pricing will cost the village about $60,000 annually, based on current volume.

Highway changes

Two members of the Highway Department — Crew Chief Charlie Norton and laborer Zach Langer — are leaving after taking jobs elsewhere. Trustees appointed Robert Downey Jr. as interim crew chief. Resolving staffing at the Highway Department may depend on whether garbage collection is privatized, which the board is considering. Highway workers spend two days each week on pickup.

Merandy said the department needs at least three workers and so applications for a laborer are being accepted. The mayor said the village could contract with Royal Carting for pickup, with the cost borne by taxes, or residents could contract with the company individually, something he feels “would not go over well.”

Once Royal provides a proposal, the issue will be discussed at a public meeting. Merandy said the company has suggested the village would receive a favorable rate because collection is concentrated over a small area.
The Next Cooper’s Town

Barrel-making returns to the Hudson Valley

By Brian PJ Cronin

John Cox had been making cabinets for almost 30 years when a friend alerted him in 2014 about the crisis, and an opportunity.

New York had a barrel shortage. A law passed in 2007 had allowed more than 100 distilleries to flourish in the state, but thanks to hard-core lobbying in 1933 by the Cooper’s Union, federal regulations require that whiskeys be stored in charred-oak barrels that, with some exceptions, cannot be reused. In addition, there were only about 40 barrel makers, or coopers, in the U.S., and they were predominantly in Kentucky (for whiskey) and the Napa Valley (for wine).

After researching the industry, in 2016 Cox opened Quercus Cooperage (quercus is Latin for “oak”) in High Falls, making him the only cooper operating in the Hudson Valley and one of four in the state. He’ll talk about the art of barrel-making and the relationship between coopers and shipbuilders at the Beacon Sloop Club at 7 p.m. on Thursday, March 8.

During his two years of research before he opened his shop, Cox looked for information on how to build traditional barrels, which are constructed without glue or nails. He relied on a few YouTube videos made in Hungary, studying them frame-by-frame, even making notes as to what tools were hanging on the walls.

Cox joins a rich history of Hudson Valley cooperages. In the 19th century, the industry turned out barrels to ship concrete, pine tar and other goods. The wood came from the Catskill and Shawangunk Mountains, where farmers would cut down saplings and spend the winter by the woodstove fashioning the green wood into hoops to bind the barrels. Cox found a historical record that noted that in 1881 alone, 55 million wooden hoops were made in the Catskills.

Tools in hand, Cox says he reverse-engineered a barrel to figure out what each one did. “I’d look at this,” he says, holding what looks like a corkscrew encased in armor, “and ask myself ‘Why is this like this? Why is it tapered? What did this do?’ ”

The device in question turned out to be a bunghole reamer, made to drill the holes — known as bungholes — in the side of the barrel to get at its contents. The drill is designed to pull the wooden shavings out as it enters the barrel, depositing them in the casing instead of in the whiskey inside.

Cox is not a Luddite, and uses modern technology when he can. Even so, it takes about 11 hours for him to make each barrel, a pace that has its drawbacks. “I mean, look at this,” he says, pointing to a mechanical... (Continued on Page 19)
Scorcher!

Classic Tennessee Williams play comes to Depot Theatre

By Alison Rooney

Tennessee Williams, whose most famous play, *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, was first performed on Broadway in 1955 and won him the Pulitzer Prize for Drama, considered it “a snare for the truth of human experience.”

Unfortunately, a central truth of the play — questions of homosexuality in a central character — was subverted in the 1958 film starring Elizabeth Taylor and Paul Newman, and that is the adaptation most people are familiar with.

A version that opens with a preview on Thursday, March 8, at the Philipstown Depot Theatre in Garrison will use a script revised by Williams for a 1974 revival first performed by the American Shakespeare Theatre in Stratford, Connecticut, and then on Broadway. Williams restored much of the text he had removed at the recommendation of the original Broadway director, Elia Kazan, and revised the third act.

John Christian Plummer, who directs, calls Williams’ 1974 revision “more

Laurence Wallace as Brick and Christine Bokhour as Maggie in *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, which opens March 8 with a preview at the Philipstown Depot Theatre

Photo by Ross Corsair

Building the Perfect Recipe

Beacon writer publishes first cookbook

By Alison Rooney

When Jennifer Clair first stepped into what is now her Beacon home, her eyes widened in the kitchen. After years of Brooklyn living, she took a shine to the corner house with ample room to cook.

Kitchens are important to Clair because she’s been obsessed with cooking since her childhood in suburban Connecticut. Today she runs Home Cooking New York, a school in New York City, and on March 6 will publish her first cookbook, *Six Basic Cooking Techniques: Culinary Essentials for the Home Cook*, designed by Dan Weise and with photographs by Meredith Heuer, who also both live in Beacon.

“Even as a young child, I loved food,” says Clair. “My friends and I would create pretend restaurants, and write up menus. I was my best self around food.”

She took her first cooking classes in Florence during a year abroad while studying history at the University of Pennsylvania. “Seeing all the small shops, which specialized in just one thing, was a revelation,” she says.

After graduating, she taught third grade but decided it wasn’t for her. She found a job as an assistant to a cookbook author and won a scholarship to the Peter Kump New York Cooking School. There she found herself, for the first time, in a room full of people who felt the same way she did about food. “We’d talk about food all day long, then go out and eat more, heading to outer boroughs to find it,” she says.

Following an internship at *Saveur* magazine, and shepherding cookbooks to publication at William Morris, she landed a job as the food editor for Martha Stewart’s website. It was there she learned the art of recipe presentation.

“Instead of saying, ‘Sauté for approximately two minutes until done,’ you need to say, ‘Sauté until the chopped onions turn brown at the edges,’” she explains. “You owe it to the reader to be as clear and precise as possible. Amazing chefs are not necessarily great recipe writers.”

The book outlines the six basic techniques that Clair teaches her home cooking students to give them “a solid culinary foundation,” such as how to handle a chef’s knife, how to cook meat, how to create pan sauces, and three methods to prepare vegetable dishes. It also discusses what Clair considers essential ingredients like Kosher salt, extra-virgin olive oil and Parmigiano-Reggiano cheese.

*Six Basic Cooking Techniques* will be available at homecookingny.com and Utensil in Beacon.
SUNDAY, MARCH 4

Hudson Valley Auto Show
11 a.m. – 5 p.m. Mid-Hudson Civic Center
14 Civic Center Plaza, Poughkeepsie
845-454-6800  |  midhudsonciviccenter.org

Maple Sugar Tours
11 a.m. – 3 p.m. Outdoor Discovery Center
See details under Saturday.

Intro to Girls’ Softball (grades 2-7)
1 p.m. Philipstown Recreation Center
107 Glenclyffe, Garrison
845-424-4618  |  philipstownrecreation.com

Winter Tree Program Hike
1 p.m. Bear Mountain
3006 Seven Lakes Drive, Bear Mountain
Email chris.osullivan@parks.ny.gov.

Creative Cluster: The Artist’s Way (First Session)
1:30 p.m. A Little Beacon Space
3:45 p.m. Bardavon
3:45 p.m. Beacon High School
Haldane vs. Millbrook/Seward (Girls’ Basketball)
7:30 p.m. Beacon High School
101 Matteawan Road, Beacon
haldaneschool.org

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

TUESDAY, MARCH 6

Haldane vs. Millbrook/Seward (Girls’ Basketball)
3:45 p.m. Beacon High School
101 Matteawan Road, Beacon
haldaneschool.org

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

Haldane School Board
7 p.m. Haldane (Music Room)
15 Craigside Dr., Cold Spring
845-265-9254  |  haldaneschool.org

THURSDAY, MARCH 8

International Women’s Day
Teen Library Council (First meeting)
3:15 p.m. Howland Public Library
See details under Friday.

Great Books Discussion Series: On Race – A Mercy
6:30 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library
See details under Saturday.

Citizen’s Climate Lobby
7 p.m. Beahive
291 Main St., Beacon
facebook.com/ccny18

The Art of Barrel Making
March 2, 2018
7 p.m. Sloop Club
2 Flynn Dr., Beacon
845-838-4888  |  beaconloopclub.org

Cat on a Hot Tin Roof (Preview)
March 2, 2018
7:30 p.m. Depot Theatre
10 Garrison’s Landing, Garrison
845-424-3900  |  philipstowndepottheatre.org

FRIDAY, MARCH 9

The Sacred Run (Documentary)
March 2, 2018
7 p.m. Tompkins Corners Cultural Center
See details under Saturday.

Cat on a Hot Tin Roof
March 2, 2018
8 p.m. Depot Theatre
See details under Thursday.
The AFTER-SCHOOLERS

You know when you’ve been in school all day and now it’s over and you have so much energy that you don’t know what to do with your limbs?

Um... yeah.

You’ve headed for victory.

Inbetween turns, you’re allowed to:

explore break dancing...

...and yoga...

...kick a ball...

...or do lunges...

The target isn’t actually that far away. Pretty soon, you get one in.

...whatever falls under the activity of being a kid.

Go, RedTeam!

Go, BlueTeam!

Cheering for both sides is encouraged.

You’re not too sad when you don’t win because...

We lost?

...someone just put a bottle of glue in your hand and you hear there’s glitter.

*Assistant Director, Beacon Recreation Department

© deblucke
true to the struggle of what this play is about.” He notes that it reflects the universal desire for human connection, in part because it was written in the early 1950s “by a gay man who was forced by society to hide his true sexuality. People will always wrestle with who they are.”

The 1958 film, Plummer says, “was written for an audience that was not allowed to know homosexuals existed. It went through the Hollywood filter; it’s a papered-over version. If you liked the movie, you’ll love this, and if you didn’t like it, you’ll still like this!”

The action centers around that staple of many art forms: a dysfunctional family. In this case, it’s a wealthy Mississippi clan presided over by a patriarch celebrating a birthday and deciding which of his two sons will receive the bulk of his estate.

One son, Brick, a former star athlete, is favored, although his confidence has been eroded by his own demons and a demanding, sensual and deprived wife. The other son, Gooper, is bitter over his unsuccessful jockeying for position.

Christine Bokhour plays the iconic role of Margaret, aka Maggie the Cat, who is Brick’s wife.

“Every speech she has is a different tactic to try and get what she needs,” says Bokhour. “Her situation is dire, and if you didn’t like it, you’ll still like this!”

Maggie the Cat is a mask that Margaret flaunts, plays with, hides behind. And under that is every range of human emotion: sadness, fear, joy, jealousy, love, rage, all of it. Above all she is dying to connect and to be noticed.”

“It appears to be so grounded in the Mississippi Delta and plantation life, but that is just the setting for these humans who are trying to sort through stacks of lies between them to find a truth they can live with.”

The production also stars Laurence Wallace as Brick, Raymond Bokhour as Big Daddy and Nancy Swann as Big Mama, as well as Jim Cairf, Maia Guest, Andre Herzegovitch, Tim Harbolic, Francisco Illanes Salas, Kalista Parrish and Freya Wood-Gallagher. The lighting is by Zach Weeks, the costumes by Katja Andreiev and the set design by Carin Jean White. Evan Schweikhart is the stage manager.

Christine Bokhour says she was surprised that the play, which is more than 60 years old, still addresses contemporary, and perhaps timeless, issues such as the power of female sexuality and the struggle for gender equality.

“It appears to be so grounded in the Mississippi Delta and plantation life,” she says, “but that is just the setting for these humans who are trying to sort through stacks of lies between them to find a truth they can live with.”

Cat On a Hot Tin Roof opens with a 95 preview on March 8, followed by shows on Friday and Saturday evenings and Sunday afternoons through March 25. There are also two Saturday matinees. Tickets are $25, or $20 for seniors and students, at brownpapertickets.com/event/3331858. Because of the play’s mature themes, it is not recommended for children under age 13.
Joint Venture

Magazzino and Garrison Art Center partner for exhibit

By Alison Rooney

In their first collaboration, Magazzino and the Garrison Art Center will mount a show featuring three artists whose works are part of the collection at the Italian art space in Philipstown.

Only one piece, *Annio Coeli* by Marco Bagnoli, has previously been on display at Magazzino, which re-opened for the season on March 1.

The Garrison Art Center show, with pieces by Bagnoli, Domenico Bianchi and Remo Salvadori, will open with a reception at the Garrison’s Landing galleries from 5 to 7 p.m. on Saturday, March 10. It continues through April 8.

Magazzino, founded in 2017 by Nancy Olnick and Giorgio Spanu of Garrison, is centered around their collection of what is known as Arte Povera. Bagnoli, Bianchi and Salvadori, who were all born in the decade after World War II, represent the generation of artists that followed Arte Povera.

“The launch of our partnership with the Garrison Art Center represents one of Magazzino's core elements in regard to its mission,” explains its director, Vittorio Calabrese. “Since before the opening of the art space, we have been getting to know the organizations that make up the artistic constellation of the Hudson Valley.”

He calls the Garrison Art Center “a compass for us in order to start exploring the needs of a community that has been historically active in the arts and is developing extremely fast.”

At the art center, Exhibition Coordinator Becky Gordon said the collaboration “will allow us to think more strategically on how we can, together, implement more engaging arts events.”

Magazzino opened its own exhibit on March 1 featuring works by 12 artists associated with Arte Povera. The art space is open by appointment from Thursday through Monday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. See magazzino.art or call 845-666-7202.

The Riverside Galleries at the Garrison Art Center are open Tuesday through Sunday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. See garrisonartcenter.org or call 845-424-3960.
pared to $39 at LaGuardia.

The project will expand the terminal by almost 20,000 square feet, allowing passengers arriving on domestic and international flights to be processed at the same time. A four-booth inspection service for U.S. Customs and Border Protection agents will permit screening of up to 400 international travelers per hour, which the Port Authority says should also increase the number of domestic passengers who use Stewart.

“The goal is to bring more flights and tourism dollars to New York,” said Rick Cotton, the executive director of the Port Authority, in a statement.

The airport expansion also will include a 450-space, solar-powered carport with charging stations for battery-powered vehicles. It is scheduled to be completed in 2020. Signature Flight Support has received the OK to build a hangar for private planes as part of an agency goal to increase private flights by 20 percent.

The addition in July of low-cost Norwegian Air, which offers regular international flights to Bergen, Norway; Dublin; Shannon; Belfast; and Edinburgh, brought nearly 200,000 more passengers to the airport in 2017 than it handled in 2016, a jump from 275,000 to nearly 450,000.

On Feb. 26, Norwegian Air announced it would add a second daily flight from Stewart to Dublin beginning April 26, with tickets starting at $89 each way. One flight will depart at 12:25 p.m. and the second at 8:30 p.m.

In addition, Coach USA express buses since June have carried passengers daily from the Port Authority terminal in Manhattan to Stewart, which is about a 90-minute trip each way. Tickets are $20 each way for adults, $10 for children.

The domestic airlines that fly out New York Stewart International in 2018:

- Allegiant, American, Delta and JetBlue.
- USGlobal Airways, a startup based at Stewart that is seeking Federal Aviation Administration certification as a carrier, said last year it intends to operate flights to Paris, Barcelona and Tel Aviv.

The Port Authority says it has invested nearly $200 million at Stewart since taking over its ownership in 2007, when passenger traffic peaked at 910,000. The 2008 recession hurt the airport, as did the loss of Skybus (which folded in 2008), American Eagle’s flights to O’Hare (which ceased in 2007) and AirTran (which stopped service in 2008, citing fuel costs).

In July, U.S. Rep Sean Patrick Maloney, whose district includes Stewart (as well as Beacon and Philipstown), announced $1.6 million in funding to rehabilitate Stewart’s two runways, one of which is more than 2 miles long.

The airport expansion is expected to create 140 on-site jobs and $10.6 million in wages, according to the Port Authority. Regionally, the project will generate $45 million in economic activity, it said.

How Time Flies: Stewart History

1930: Samuel Stewart donates 220 acres of his Stony Lonesome farm to the City of Newburgh for an airport.
1934: The federal government purchases the property for $1.
1939: At the suggestion of Douglas MacArthur, then-superintendent of West Point, an airstrip is built for cadet training. (One of West Point’s gates is still named Stony Lonesome.)
1948: Stewart Army Airfield becomes Stewart Air Force Base.
1970: Stewart Air Force Base is deactivated.
1981: The 52 Americans held hostage in Iran for 444 days land at Stewart.
1982: The airport’s operations are transferred to the state Department of Transportation.
1990: American becomes the first commercial airline to offer daily flights from Stewart.
1996: Stewart is privatized under a Federal Aviation Administration program. Marriott opens the three-star, 78-room Courtyard Newburgh Stewart Airport.
1999: National Express Corp. is granted a 99-year lease to operate Stewart. A year later it becomes the nation’s first privately run commercial airport.
2001: Stewart takes in planes as flights are grounded worldwide after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.
2006: JetBlue and AirTran begin flights out of Stewart.
2007: The Port Authority pays $78.5 million to take over the private lease.
2015: The annual New York Air Show makes its debut at Stewart, the largest event ever held there.
2018: The Port Authority announces a $30 million terminal expansion and changes the name of the airport to New York Stewart International Airport.
New Orleans-Hudson Valley "Barbecue" Shrimp

Serves four as an appetizer, or two as an entree.

1 pound large (12 count) head-on ECO Shrimp
1/4 cup shrimp stock (made from the shrimp heads and shells)
3 tablespoons plus 4 additional tablespoons unsalted butter, softened
1 teaspoon finely chopped fresh rosemary leaves
1 teaspoon minced garlic
1 teaspoon Italian-Creole spice blend (see below)
1 tablespoon Worcestershire sauce
1/2 cup dark beer
Salt to taste
( Optional: a dash of Tabasco (or Crystal) hot sauce or squeeze of fresh lemon juice)

Peel shrimp, saving the heads and shells for stock. Set peeled tails aside.

Heat a heavy skillet over high heat for 1 - 2 minutes. Add 3 tablespoons of the butter, rosemary, shrimp stock and peeled shrimp. Cook, shaking the skillet vigorously back and forth until the butter melts and emulsifies into the sauce. Add Worcestershire sauce, white wine and a tablespoon measure of the Italian-Creole spice blend. The spicy mess is traditionally served with crusty French bread to soak up every last drop of the tosseahe, savory sauce.

The version offered here is an adaptation of James Beard award-winning chef Frank Brigtsen (who was mentored by Prudhomme) and whose eponymous five-bean-rated restaurant (in New Orleans, it’s beans instead of stars) suggests a stovetop version, with peeled shrimp (shells and heads providing a rich stock for the sauce), garlic, dark beer, Worcestershire and mostly dried herbs livened with fresh rosemary and — by necessity — lots of butter.

The original calls for Louisiana Gulf shrimp which can be a tad difficult to find in the Highlands, so the punchline to this New-Orleans-by-way-of-the-Hudson-River-Valley version is indoor-farmed-raised Pacific White (whiteleg) shrimp from Newburgh’s ECO Shrimp Garden (ecoshrimpgarden.com). Marbled Meat Shop on Route 9 distributes the shrimp locally, and it is also available from the source (99 S. William St.) Wednesday, Thursday and Friday from noon to 4 p.m.

Whereas Brigtsen’s recipe calls for Prudhomme’s Seafood Magic spice blend, I’ve included an additional recipe for the required New Orleans Italian-Creole blend.

If using the commercial product, add it in the same 2 tablespoon measure. Just don’t forget the bread and napkins.

New Orleans-Hudson Valley "Barbecue" Shrimp

Photo by J. Dizney

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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Further Conversations
Levi Gallery continues group show
The Buster Levi Gallery will open its new group show, Conversations, Part II, with a reception from 6 to 8 p.m. today (March 2). The exhibit includes works by Maria Pia Marrella, Lynn Kotula, Martee Levi, Grey Zeien, Ursula Schneider, Sharon Brant, Grace Kennedy, Cara Wood-Ginder, Lucille Tortora, Mary Newman, John Allen and Adrienne Cullom. The Cold Spring gallery, located at 121 Main St., is open Saturdays and Sundays from noon until dark. See busterlevigallery.com.

Play (Soft)ball!
Girls invited to workshop
Girls in grades 2 to 7 are invited to an introductory 90-minute workshop to learn to play softball. Led by coaches and players from the Haldane varsity team, the session will take place at 1 p.m. on Sunday, March 4, at the Philipstown Recreation Center in Garrison. Registration forms for league play will be available or email philipstownlittleleague@gmail.com.

Ready, Set, Race
Cub Scouts to hold derby
The Philipstown Cub Scouts will hold its annual Pinewood Derby at noon on Saturday, March 10, at the Philipstown Recreation Center. Boys who are interested in Scouting are welcome to attend.

Taxes for Small Business
Chambers sponsor seminar
The Beacon and Cold Spring Area chambers of commerce will co-sponsor a breakfast seminar for small business owners at 8 a.m. on Tuesday, March 13, at St. Mary’s Episcopal Church in Cold Spring. A panel will discuss how changes in the federal tax code will impact businesses and will offer strategies. The event is free for chamber members or $10 otherwise. Search for “CSACC” at eventbrite.com to register.

Trees for Sale
Also shrubs, perennials and ferns
The Cornell Cooperative Extension and the Putnam County Soil and Water Conservation District will offer a selection of trees, shrubs, perennials and ferns at their annual sale, which continues through March 28. Order online and pick up seedlings on April 20 and April 21 at Veterans Memorial Park in Kent. A list of available plantings with photos and requirements can be viewed at putnamcountyny.com/keepputnamgreen. Native-tree seedlings like redbud can be purchased as a bundle of 10 for $15. Bat houses and birdhouses are also available. Order early for apple and peach tree seedlings; the supply is limited.

Spring Means Move
Salamander and frog counters needed
The state Department of Environmental Conservation is... (To next page)
COMMUNITY BRIEFS (from previous page)

BEACON ROOTS — The Whispering Tree, a folk duo based in Beacon, will perform with singer Leticia VanSant of Baltimore at Dogwood at 8 p.m. on Tuesday, March 6.

Photo provided

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? Tom Champi of Garrison submitted this archival shot of his month-old son, Derek, who is now 18, with Spike. If you have a photo of a baby and a dog, submit it for consideration to editor@highlandscurrent.com.

Pancake Breakfast
Benefits Putnam Sheriff Cadets

The Putnam County Sheriff’s Cadets will host a pancake breakfast in Carmel on Saturday, March 10, to raise money to attend the Cadet Academy.

The meal takes place from 8 to 10 a.m. at the Carmel Fire Department, 94 Gleneida Ave. The cost is $10 per person, or reserve a table for 12 for $100. Tickets are available by calling 845-225-4300, ext. 42266.

Beacon
Call for Artists
Theme: Responses to death

The Amity Arts Center at the First Presbyterian Church in Beacon has put out a call for submissions for its spring exhibition. The theme is “a loose meditation on death; what happens upon death as well as the effects on those left behind,” according to organizers. All mediums are accepted. The exhibit will be on view from April 8 through May 27, and an intention to participate is due by March 15. See facebook.com/amityartscenter.

Garden Club Meetings
Spring is approaching

The Tioronda Garden Club will meet on Wednesday, March 14, at 6:30 p.m., at the Howland Cultural Center in Beacon after taking a break for the winter months and continue on the second Wednesday of each month. Among the club’s activities are decorating Main Street with hanging flower baskets and landscaping around Beacon. For information, call Gary Barrack at 845-831-9199.

Swing Your Partner
Square dancing at Howland

Come with or without a partner to an evening of square dancing at the Howland Cultural Center on Saturday, March 10, at 8 p.m. The caller is Liz Slade (who also will provide lessons); and the Devil’s Box with Harry Bolick, Susie Deane, Jacques DiCroce and Jim Garber will provide music. Admission is $12 at the door and refreshments will be served.

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Three Nelsonville Candidates for Two Village Seats
Board will expand from three to five members
By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

The Village of Nelsonville election on Tuesday, March 20, promises a blend of old and new.

Voters will select trustees for two Village Board slots, each with a term of two years. In addition, they will vote in a third trustee for a one-year term. The staggered terms allow the village to phase in the restoration of an old institution: a five-person board, consisting of a mayor and four trustees.

Three men have filed the necessary paperwork to appear on the ballot for the two-year terms, according to the village clerk: Michael Bowman, a Cold Spring Fire Company member and former Cold Spring village trustee who now lives in Nelsonville, on the James Pond Party ticket; David Moroney, a contractor who ran as a write-in candidate for Nelsonville mayor in 2015, on the Shamrock Party slate; and Rudof Van Donmele of the Block Party.

Trustee Thomas Robertson, who was elected to a two-year term in 2016, is seeking the one-year term and is running unopposed, barring a write-in candidacy.

Nelsonville’s Village Board consisted of five members from 1855 to 1898. Then, for reasons now obscure, the composition changed to a mayor and two trustees.

Robertson pushed in early 2017 to restore the five-member board. After this election, all members will serve two-year terms. Nelsonville voters approved the expanded board in March 2017.

Nelsonville will provide the only village-election excitement this spring. Cold Spring voters in 2016 approved moving its Village Board elections to November, beginning this year.

Cell-Tower Company, Verizon Sue Philipstown (from Page 1)

had issued a statement saying the board had “never allowed a building in a wetlands buffer or encroachments on water courses unless there is an absolute, compelling reason to do so.”

The board had “never allowed a building in a wetlands buffer or encroachments on water courses unless there is an absolute, compelling reason to do so.”

The boards spent dozens of hours from June through January scrutinizing the proposal and listening to comments about it — largely negative — from neighbors and other residents.

The 72-page complaint, filed with the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York, names the Philipstown Town Board; the ZBA; the Conservation Board; Greg Warner, the building inspector and code enforcement officer for the town; and Max Garfinkle, the town’s wetlands inspector and natural resources review officer.

Filed by Robert Gaudio, Homeland Towers’ attorney, the complaint asks the federal court to order the town to immediately issue the necessary permits; return thousands of dollars in application and escrow fees, which it described as “an illegal tax”; and pay the plaintiffs’ attorneys fees and other, unspecified, “damages and interest.”

In part, the complaint, (posted at highlandscurrent.com), alleges that:

• The ZBA and Conservation Board each issued “an unwritten, verbal denial” of the application and “failed to meet the requirement for a written decision” — a resolution or similar formal statement accompanying each board’s vote.

• ZBA members’ votes “were not supported by substantial evidence in the record, contradicted evidence” from town and Homeland-Verizon consultants, and were “unreasonable, arbitrary, and capricious and not supported by law.”

• The Conservation Board offered nothing “clearly indicating” its reasons for denying the application.

• The town failed to act on the application, filed in May, “within a reasonable period of time.”

• Town officials, in essence, denied “provision of personal wireless services to current and future potential subscribers.”

• Supervisor Richard Shea and other Town Board members improperly influenced ZBA and Conservation Board members through various means, including expressions of support for the ZBA’s work and Shea’s criticism of cell-tower companies at a public hearing on a separate but similar Homeland Towers application filed with Nelsonville.

• By denying the application, the town is “preventing Verizon and the [North Highlands] Fire Department from installing equipment needed to improve service” and thus “causing irreparable harm to the public interest in deprivation of reliable emergency communications.”

The complaint also faulted town officials for “catering to a small but vocal group of politically influential objectors.”

Shea did not immediately respond to a request for comment. Philipstown must reply to the lawsuit by March 14.

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The Highlands Current
March 2, 2018

The Next Cooper’s Town (from Page 8)

spindle-shaper that he has jury-rigged with metal hoops and C-clamps. “I can’t put some 19-year-old kid on this for $10 an hour. It’s too dangerous and there’s too much skill involved.”

Or consider the contraption Cox refers to as “the sled.” It looks like a medieval torture device for blasphemous peasants but is used to pull nascent barrels into a form Cox refers to as *mise en rose*, French for “the heart of the rose.” Cox acquired the winch that powers the device from the estate of the John Henson, son of puppeteer Jim Henson. “In every barrel I make, there’s a Muppets connection,” he quips. “That’s important to me.”

Cox is in the process of removing some of his shop’s walls to bring in larger machinery. He wants to streamline the process so that “every single step doesn’t have to be done by me.”

Some parts of the production can’t be rushed. The Catskills are the northern tip of the range for white oak, and Cox uses only New York white oak in his barrels. Barrels have to be made with oak because of the high quantity of medullary rays, which are the winding, ribbon-like formations that grow perpendicular to the tree’s growth rings.

The rays contain gate valves (tyloses) that close as the wood dries, making it watertight, Cox explains. This means the oak has to be aged at least 24 months before it can be used, yet it still must be green enough to bend, something that Cox says anyone who has worked on a wooden ship will appreciate.

“Boatbuilders bend the wood to keep the water out, and we bend the wood to keep the water in,” he says.

Responding to Growth

Beacon council to consider trees, water, condos

By Jeff Simms

The Beacon City Council will hold a public hearing at its Monday, March 5, meeting and may also vote on a proposal for taxing converted condominiums at their market — rather than rental — value.

The hearing will allow the public to weigh in on a draft law that would increase the penalty for property owners who remove trees without a permit.

After several weeks of discussion, the council has opted to stick with the existing law for tree removal — property owners must have a permit to take down three or more mature (6-inch diameter) trees within a 100-foot proximity per year. But the proposed law would increase the penalty for violators from a $250 fine per incident to $350 per tree.

The council will hold a special workshop at 7 p.m. on March 14 to discuss studies conducted over the last several months by the Water and Sewer Department.

The city adopted a six-month building moratorium in September after being told that Beacon’s water supply could be strained if its population continues to grow. The moratorium expires this month.

Beacon officials have been trying to pinpoint the maximum population that the city’s water infrastructure can support while also looking for additional sources.

The results of the studies, which have not yet been released, will determine whether the council could extend the moratorium. A building moratorium typically must be lifted if remedial action has addressed the underlying issue — in this case, water.

7 Little Words

Find the 7 words to match the 7 clues. The numbers in parentheses represent the number of letters in each solution. Each letter combination can be used only once, but all letter combinations will be necessary to complete the puzzle.

**CLUES**

1 fans (8)
2 trapeze artists (10)
3 mess up, as hair (8)
4 a little more than two (7)
5 instrument’s keyboard (7)
6 faithfulness (7)
7 kneecap, technically (7)

**SOLUTIONS**

ADM, VE, LI, RS, DIS
IA, IER, LLA, RAL, TY
CLAV, YAL, VEL, STS, AER
HE, PATE, IRE, LO, SE

See answers: Page 14
The Haldane girls’ basketball team advanced to regional competition in the state tournament on Saturday (Feb. 24) with a convincing 50-30 win at Pace University over Keio Academy. It was the fifth consecutive season the Blue Devils (12-10) have won the gold ball as Section 1, Class C champions.

Senior Allison Chiera, who scored 21 points and had 11 rebounds, was named the tournament MVP for the third straight year. Chiera and sophomore Olivia Monteleone were also named to the All-Tournament team.

The Blue Devils next take on the Section 9, Class C champ (either Millbrook or Seward, who played on March 2 for the title) at 3:45 p.m. on Tuesday (March 6) at Beacon High School.

To reach the Final Four on March 16 at Hudson Valley Community College in Troy, Haldane needs to defeat the Section 9 champ on Tuesday and the Section 11 champ on Friday, March 9.

Hamilton wins boys’ title

In the second game of the day at Pace, the Haldane boys’ team fell to Hamilton, 66-47, in the Section 1, Class C title game. The Blue Devils advanced to the final after a dramatic 54–46 overtime win against Tuckahoe on Feb. 20.

Against Hamilton, senior Nick DiPalo scored 14 points and sophomore Matt Champlin had 11 for the Blue Devils, who finished 16-7. Both players were named to the All-Tournament team.


Haldane received an honorable mention in the New York State Sportswriters Association Class C rankings for the week ending Feb. 25, and Hamilton was ranked tenth.