

The HIGHLANDS Current



Rip Van Winkle Awakes
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MARCH 23, 2018

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Beacon May Regulate Short-term Rentals

Council will hold hearing April 2

By Jeff Simms

The Beacon City Council will hold a public hearing on Monday, April 2, to hear feedback on a plan to regulate short-term rentals, including those made through Airbnb and similar websites.

While the hearing isn't focused solely on 51 Orchard Place, the property, owned by Beacon resident David Allis, has been front and center in the discussion.

Allis purchased the 2,400-square-foot, five-bedroom home after it was foreclosed in October. In December, some neighbors complained to the City Council after he cut down more than a dozen trees on the property. The city fined Allis \$250 for taking down too many trees without a permit, but other neighbors thanked him for clearing the property and at the council's March 5 meeting asked the city to refund the fine.

The home was refurbished in preparation for listing it on Airbnb.com; the effort prompted the city earlier this year to consider regulating short-term rentals. (The council also revised the city's tree-cutting regulations, changing the fine to \$350 per tree rather than \$250 per incident.)

Beacon's existing zoning code allows homeowners to rent out single-family homes, but the law is less clear when it comes to renting only part of a house. After hearing from the public, council members could also choose to allow rentals in non-residential parts of the city, like Main Street or the Linkage District. And any regulation the council adopts would likely require owners to obtain a permit for short-term rentals, along with regular inspections by the city.

"The concept is to allow it, but it has to be owner-occupied and there is a series of application requirements that it will need to follow," City Attorney Nick Ward-Willis explained during a council meeting last month.

Where the issue gets even more complicated is at the state level. New York law refers to owner-occupied rentals



DRAWING A CROWD — Illustrators fill the booths at Quinn's in Beacon during a session of Club Draw. See Page 20.

Photo by Ethan Harrison

in single-family dwellings as either traditional bed and breakfasts or "lodging houses," with the latter requiring fire sprinklers and other heightened safety measures. The state code considers newly built dwellings as lodging houses, while homes converted into rentals are bed and breakfasts.

Most of the short-term rentals operated in Beacon, even if legal within the city's zoning laws, probably violate the state's code for fire safety, no matter which category they fall under, Building (Continued on Page 18)

Fleming to Challenge Odell for Putnam Executive

State senate, U.S. House, governor seats also in play

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

As spring sets in (weather permitting), the political season revs up too.

In Putnam County, Maureen Fleming, the supervisor for the Town of Kent, earlier this month launched a campaign to become the next county executive. She hopes to replace MaryEllen Odell, who seeks a new three-year term in the Nov. 6 general election.

A Democrat who describes herself as "a pragmatic fiscal conservative," Fleming announced her candidacy on March 9. Formerly an attorney for the City of New York, she has been Kent's full-time supervisor since 2014. She said that her two terms in office there showed that when people of all political backgrounds unite, "we get the job done. I want to bring that kind of cooperation and respect back to county government."

Odell said on March 10 that "I welcome Maureen to the race and look forward to a substantive campaign on the issues."

According to Fleming's

(Continued on Page 6)



Fleming



Odell



Gabriel Berlin, a volunteer driver for Beacon Prison Rides with Laurie Dick, one of its founders. Berlin is holding a sign he displays so passengers can find him. Photo by Jeff Simms

Free Rides to Prison (and Back)

Beacon volunteers help families visit inmates

By Brian PJ Cronin

It costs \$5 per person, each way, for a cab from the Beacon train station to the Fishkill Correctional Facility, just down the road from Beacon High School.

As Helen Lake will tell you, that fare can add up quickly. The Bronx resident travels to Beacon twice a month to visit her husband at the prison, and she usually brings one or more of their three children with her.

"It usually costs me \$30 to \$40 just to

get back and forth, depending on how many kids I bring," she says. That's on top of the train fare.

The trip has been easier since her husband saw a flyer at the prison promoting the Beacon Prison Rides Project, a service in which volunteers provide free roundtrip transportation from the station to the prison, as well as the maximum-security Downstate Correctional Facility in Fishkill.

"It's a big help, especially to single mothers like myself who have their spouse incarcerated," Lake says. "It's one less thing to worry about."

The Beacon (Continued on Page 8)

5 Five Questions: IWAN BENNEYWORTH

By Alison Rooney

Iwan Benneyworth, of Wales, has written two mysteries, *Dark River* and *Heads Will Roll*, set along the Hudson River between Tarrytown and Beacon. He is planning a research trip to the Highlands for his third novel later this year.

What brought you to this neck of the woods?

When I vacationed in the States in 2012, a friend in New York took me on a road trip. The Hudson Valley captured my imagination, and I thought it would make a great setting for a mystery. I have the next few books already planned out, from a high school kidnapping, a bloody family feud to regain lost status, the hunt for Revolutionary War treasure that leads to murder, and the death of a journalist who found out more than he bargained for.

In what ways does your fictional town of Independence resemble the Highlands?

Independence is a combination of Cold Spring, Beacon and other places such as Tarrytown and the surrounding rural areas. Creating a fictional town allowed me the freedom to play around in a sandbox. It's quite different from my hometown of Llangefni, which, like a lot of Welsh words, can only be correctly pronounced

if you've learnt how to adjust your mouth and tongue. The easiest way of saying it phonetically would be *Lan-gev-nee*.

Which American mystery writers do you read?

Michael Connolly, James Patterson and Jack Kerley are always good. Ultimately I set out to entertain and, like those authors, create something that's easy reading but still has some depth and character development.

Your sleuth, Amanda Northstar, is the sheriff of Independence and a single mother. Is she based on anyone?

Primarily my mother, and Amanda's son is largely based on myself. Like Amanda, my mother is an army veteran, although she was military police and Amanda was a medic. Amanda is the protagonist, but her son and her deputies have just as much going on in their personal lives.

Did you meet Cold Spring's most famous Welsh shopkeeper, Leonora Burton, at The Country Goose?

I did indeed! We chatted about how her hometown had changed since she had left, as I used to live close by. I ended up leaving with a copy of her autobiography



Iwan Benneyworth

Photo provided

and some British chocolate. Hopefully I can update her again on Wales the next time I'm in town.

Fighting Back the opioid Crisis
a special report

Opioid Deaths Continue to Rise

Taxpayers pay billions for treatment

By Chip Rowe

Two reports by a public-policy think-tank in Albany released this month found that the number of deaths attributed to opioid overdoses continues to rise in New York and that taxpayers cover two-thirds of the costs of treatment.

The Rockefeller Institute of Government analyzed the most recently available state tally of opioid deaths, from 2016, as well as the source of payments for medical treatment.

The institute found a 29 percent increase in opioid-related deaths in New York over 2015, the largest year-to-year increase since 2010. Notably, deaths increased 39 percent in New York City and 23 percent in the rest of the state, a reverse of the previous trend.

In 2016, nearly 4,000 New Yorkers died of opioid overdoses, including 67 in Dutchess County (a 3 percent increase from the previous year), 23 in Putnam (a 21 percent increase) and 150 in Westchester (a 28 percent increase).

The increase statewide was 4.5 percent. By comparison, the death rate increased 21 percent in Washington, D.C., 13 percent in Maryland and 11 percent in Pennsylvania.

In New York, the largest rise in deaths was among 25- to 34-year-olds, at 44 percent, according to the data. Deaths among blacks increased 57 percent versus 26 percent for whites.

"Recent reports have suggested that opioid deaths may be slowing in some parts of New York," the report noted, although figures for 2017 will not be available until early next year.

Who pays?

The Rockefeller Institute also analyzed payment information for treatment for opioid abuse at hospitals and other medical facilities, the vast majority of which is in-patient.

It calculated that in 2015 in New York, 33 percent of treatment was paid for by private insurance and a total of 65 percent by taxpayers through Medicaid (43 percent, for low-income residents) or Medicare (22 percent, for the elderly). The source of payments for the remaining 2 percent were unknown or through other means.

The number of opioid-related visits paid for by Medicaid doubled between 2011 and 2015, according to the analysis, and at a faster rate than Medicare or private insurance. In 2016, Medicaid paid \$8.7 billion of the \$21.4 billion spent by insurers on opioid treatment in the U.S. Medicare paid another \$6.4 billion.

Notably, while the "face of the epidemic" has been poor, (Continued on Page 5)

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Farmers' Market to Stay Near Main

Sales jump 35 percent after move from waterfront

By Jeff Simms

The Beacon Farmers' Market will remain at its location near Main Street this year after organizers reached an agreement with neighboring businesses. The City Council approved the contract on March 19 with Common Ground Farm, which runs the market.

The market had been a mainstay at the Beacon waterfront for a dozen years before moving last spring to Veterans Place, next to the U.S. post office, after becoming a project of Common Ground Farm. The move allowed easier access to more people, especially low-income residents, said Sara Sylvester, the market's manager.

The market's farm vendors saw a 35 percent increase in sales in 2017 over the previous year at the waterfront, and the number of low-income residents receiving discounted produce nearly tripled, ac-

cording to Common Ground.

The market is open on Sundays from spring to fall and has 12 regular vendors, along with a handful of part-time merchants, who sell baked goods, fresh fruits and produce, wine, preserves and prepared foods, along with other products. In the winter it moves indoors at Memorial Hall at 413 Main St.

The market's contract with the city runs from April 22 to Nov. 18, excluding Spirit of Beacon Day (Sept. 30) and the Sunday of the annual Beacon Car Show.

When it came time to renew its contract, Phil Ciganer, the owner of the Towne Crier Cafe, asked the market to consider moving again. He noted that its vendors, some of whom are not local, sell products other than produce that create competition for Main Street stores, and that the live music had become disruptive.

"Right now I can't open my windows" during the market, Ciganer told the City Council at its March 12 meeting. "There are food smells and more noise than I care to

deal with. It's too much competition."

Sylvester said this week that she and Ciganer had agreed to a compromise. There will no longer be amplified music, she said, unless it's in collaboration with a Towne Crier event or for a special occasion, such as opening day. A fiddle player who wanders the market will remain.

Sylvester and Ciganer also resolved parking issues that had frustrated Towne Crier acts trying to load equipment, and they've agreed to disagree on what vendors sell. While most of the vendors are local, two long-running and popular merchants drive in from northern New Jersey.

"We have [outside] vendors who have seen the market through lean years," Sylvester said. "They have a dedicated cus-

tomers base." If those vendors ever leave, organizers will try to replace them with local merchants, she said.



Despite some pushback about amplified music at the Beacon Farmers' Market, a fiddler will still roam the corridor.

Photo provided

City Sells Former Highway Garage Site to Developer

Mixed-use development planned

By Jeff Simms

Beacon has sold the site of its former highway garage, a 2.6-acre lot on Creek Drive, to developer Rodney Weber, who plans to build nine residential units along with a 12,000-square-foot "co-working" space.

Weber already owns the adjacent parcel, which has been approved for 46 resi-

dential units and is nearly complete. He could have built 10 more units on the parcel, but those will be shifted to the former Department of Public Works site and reduced by one. The two properties will share access, making the land sale, as Council Member George Mansfield called it, a "win-win."

The city issued a request for proposals on the parcel several years ago but it brought in only one application, for a residential development. A second request, issued more than a year ago, generated two residential proposals and Weber's mixed-

use plan.

The council approved the sale for \$150,000 at its March 19 meeting. The agreement also requires Weber, who is developing the proposed Edgewater project on the west side of Beacon, to make significant improvements to the site, including building a public park that would tie into the planned Fishkill Creek Greenway & Heritage Trail and a smaller pocket park between the two buildings.

After tearing down the highway garage, Weber will construct the mixed-use building in the historic industrial style promi-

nent along Fishkill Creek, architect Aryeh Siegel said. The developer will seek a variance from the Zoning Board of Appeals for the height of the mixed-use building. It and the building under construction will both be four stories, but because the ground is lower in that area, they'll appear shorter, Weber said.

The nine residential units at the highway garage site would range from 2,000 to 3,000 square feet. The plan for the co-working space, he said, is to "attract innovative think-tanks and new ideas and companies."



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Gun meeting

It was extremely distressing to read that Abdelhaby (Jimmy) Hussein, owner of the Silver Spoon Cafe, felt it necessary to cancel a planned fundraiser by the Philipstown Gun Owners because of boycott threats from opponents of gun rights ("Cold Spring Restaurant Cancels Gun-Rights Fundraiser," March 16).

I am not a gun-rights devotee. However, gun owners not only have rights under the Second Amendment, they enjoy the First Amendment's protection of their rights to freedom of speech and freedom of association. Business owners also have the right to offer their goods and service to all law-abiding persons. Threats of economic harm by means of a boycott in an instance such as this is unprincipled and threatens democratic norms.

I am certain that had a boycott of the Silver Spoon for catering an American Civil Liberties Union or NAACP fundraiser been threatened by individuals opposed to those organizations' policies, the same individuals who threatened the instant boycott would have been outraged. Hence, a caveat: those who would abandon a neutral principle of freedom of speech or association will have little ground to stand on when those seeking to limit their freedoms come for them.

William Hellerstein, *Garrison*
Hellerstein is a retired law professor.

It's worth pointing out that individuals can't threaten anyone's First Amendment rights. The First Amendment limits what our government can do to us.

Also, I'm curious what "anti-Second Amendment groups" Philipstown Gun Owners believes issued threats. All the gun owners I know are in favor of sensible gun-violence prevention. I don't know anyone who is "anti-Second Amendment."

Anne Marie Nicholls, *Cold Spring*

As an activist for gun control, I was originally upset by the planned fundraiser, but I give Jimmy the benefit of the doubt now that he has canceled the event. I hope people believe his statement that he was unaware and is not involved with Philipstown Gun Owners. I'm glad people

voiced displeasure.

The Silver Spoon is not a restaurant I frequent, but I hope people can move on from this mistake. It's too bad sensationalism was added to this situation, i.e., "restaurant receiving threats."

Paul Mooney, *Cold Spring*

I have great sympathy for the owner of the Silver Spoon, who has unintentionally found himself at the localized crux of a national debate that has absolutely nothing to do with him or his business. I don't know Jimmy, but I am certain he welcomes all of us to his establishment. Winners are tough on Main Street businesses.

Greg Miller, *Cold Spring*

As a mom concerned about gun violence, to me the National Rifle Association represents a powerful force looking to get guns into as many hands as possible. To gun owners, I look like someone who wants to take away their right to protect themselves.

In reality, the truth is somewhere in between. The only goal I have is to keep our children safe in school by making guns harder to get. New York has some of the strictest gun laws in the country but that doesn't stop guns from coming into New York illegally or from falling into the wrong hands. It also doesn't protect the rest of the children in America from the liberal gun laws in their states.

A universal age requirement for firearms purchases is a no-brainer. Young adults can't buy alcohol until they're 21, but they can buy an AR-15. I want background checks, user training, gun-registration requirements, gun-education requirements, periodic gun-safety inspections — basically what you would need to do to own and operate a car.

The things that us "cry-baby liberals" want are things that most reasonable gun owners would do as a matter of course. We all agree that the senseless slaughter of children needs to stop. We live in a special place where neighbors take care of each other. The solution is for us to come together to find a solution, instead of fighting each other and letting outside sources stir the pot and make enemies out of friends and neighbors.

Eileen Denehy, *Cold Spring*

Student protest

The most refreshing thing I have seen in over a year are the actions of 17- and 18-year-old students in Florida who are standing up against gun violence and have already made a huge difference, with the Florida Legislature raising the minimum age to buy a firearm there from 18 to 21, adding a three-day waiting period for most gun purchases and banning bump stocks that can effectively turn semi-automatic weapons into automatics ("Students Protest Gun Violence," March 16). The innocent are tired of being preyed on by the sick and depraved.

John Milner, *Cold Spring*

The Haldane middle and high school students who walked out of class on March 14 to protest gun violence did not say the Pledge of Allegiance, as you reported. This is an important distinction because the pledge was part of the alternative to walking out offered by Haldane that took place inside the school. Many students did not want to take part in the alternative and walked out at the risk of being punished. The photo you published was of the students who walked out, and those students did not say the pledge.

Rebekah Tighe, *Cold Spring*

Local administrators emphasized that schools cannot endorse any particular political view. I believe children shouldn't be at risk of a mass shooting in school. Since when did that become a "political view"?

Aaron Freimark, *Cold Spring*

Beacon water

When the City of Beacon increases the amount of water it gets from Fishkill, it will account for about 37 percent of the total supply ("Report: Plenty of Water in Beacon," March 16). What happens when the contract ends and Fishkill decides it wants to keep the water? What happens if Fishkill makes bad land-use decisions and screws up the supply?

You only have to look across the river to see what can happen when a city's supply is outside of its jurisdiction. Is there something I'm missing? Some extra layer of protection that makes us feel OK with relying on the Village of Fishkill?

Ryan Palmer, *Beacon*

I have two concerns: (1) the consultant from Leggette, Brashears & Graham who presented the water report to the City Council used the term "safe yield" (and the associated technical assessment), which was replaced in the mid-1990s by "sustainable yield" (and its less simplistic and more realistic assessment); and, (2) the difference between the "safe yield" and the projected peak demand in 2035 is way too close. I don't see an acceptable factor of safety.

Joshua Kogan, *Beacon*

Kogan is an environmental engineer.

Contrary to what the public heard during the presentation, the average person uses 80 to 100 gallons of water per day, according to the U.S. Geological Survey, not the 55 gallons (Continued on next page)



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR (from previous page)

per day attributed to residents of Beacon, with usage projected to drop to 37 gallons if low-flow fixtures are installed.

In reality, Beacon will need 6 million gallons a day to supply future growth. According to the city, the water department's current max is 4 million gallons per day and in 2016 it was averaging 3.9 million gallons per day. The water usage at the sewage treatment plant is another story!

Theresa Kraft, *Beacon*

Why over the past few years have we been told Beacon is in a drought and that we must conserve water, while at the same time we are told it is no problem to add residents, because there is plenty of water?

I sure hope that in four or five years we will not be hearing the city say we need to raise water rates to add new supplies. That's what happened in the early 1990s. Let new residents pay for any additions. We already paid.

Charles Symon, *Beacon*

If we ever have to rely on Fishkill Creek as a backup, God help us. That creek dries up to a trickle by midsummer.

Mary Fris, *Beacon*

Beacon building

Beacon is a place rocked by demolition and rabid anti-density sentiment ("Development in the Highlands: Where Things Stand [Beacon]," March 9). The city will be resilient, alive and vibrant when its last parking lot or vacant lot is built upon. It

is a model walking city. Those dedicated to automobile-dependent and low-density sprawl ought to consider moving to the South. There's plenty of sprawl there to satisfy their needs.

Beacon shouldn't have to rely on tourists to survive. The city can build its own economy by adding residents, and specifically residents who aren't enslaved by automobiles and are willing to walk for errands.

Jared Rodriguez, *Stony Point*

Opioid Deaths Continue to Rise (from Page 2)

mostly white, rural counties, the institute found that most treatment paid for by Medicaid takes place in relatively affluent, "less-white" counties. It suggested this may be because doctors are less accessible in poor counties and/or more reluctant to take on Medicaid patients than larger institutions, which can absorb the federal program's lower insurance reimbursements.

Both reports are available at rockinst.org.



A map created by the Rockefeller Institute suggests why fewer residents of poor counties seek treatment, despite Medicaid coverage; most of the services in Sullivan County are located within the light green triangle.

For more letters, visit
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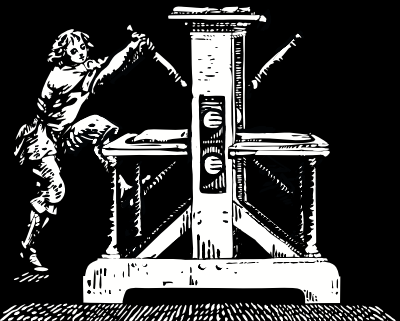
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Fleming to Challenge Odell for Putnam Executive *(from Page 1)*

campaign, in Kent she has improved services while adding more than \$1 million to the general fund without a tax increase.

In her State of the County address on March 15, Odell cited her own fiscal record. Among other points, she said that Putnam County has the lowest county tax charge — 9 percent of property tax bills — of New York's 62 counties and that her budgets have remained under the state tax-increase cap.

"We continue to move Putnam County in the right direction, with smart growth and key investments all while maintaining a solid financial operation," she said.

A former county legislator who was elected county executive in 2011, Odell serves as president of the New York State Association of Counties, which represents county governments in Albany and Washington.

Fleming responded to Odell's State of the County address by saying it "lacked professionalism and a vision" and "rehashed and repackaged" old, "stalled" ideas.

"Putnam deserves better than we're getting from the Odell administration," she said. "Putnam County has the highest sales-tax rate in the region, forcing consumers away" from local businesses to those in nearby counties and Connecticut. "And yet, our property taxes rise every year, making it more expensive to live here."

Fleming promised to provide

"professional management of our tax dollars" if elected as Putnam's executive.

As of the January filing deadline, Odell had \$3,448 in her campaign account, according to the New York State Board of Elections. There are no records so far on Fleming's finances.

State Senate

In the race to represent the 41st State Senate district, which includes the Highlands, Joel Tyner, a Dutchess County legislator, suspended his campaign, clearing the way for Karen Smythe to challenge Republican incumbent Sue Serino. Dutchess County Democratic Party officials endorsed Smythe on March 1, two days after she entered the race.

A Vassar College graduate and Vassar trustee, Smythe has an MBA from the

University of Virginia. She oversaw her family's construction firm, C.B. Strain & Son, before becoming executive director of the Beatrix Farrand Garden Association in Hyde Park. She lives in Red Hook.

Smythe said she wants Serino's seat because "Hudson Valley families and businesses, especially the small businesses that are the backbone of our community, are being under-served in Albany. We deserve better. We need economic development support, increased school aid, tax relief, and greater protections for our natural resources."

The state Board of Elections lists Smythe as a candidate but had no campaign financial information as of March 22.

Governor

Terry Gipson, who represented the Highlands in the state Senate before losing to Serino in 2014, on Wednesday (March 21) abandoned his campaign to become the Democratic gubernatorial candidate by ousting incumbent Andrew Cuomo.

After withdrawing, Gipson endorsed actor Cynthia Nixon, best known for her role on *Sex and the City*, who launched her own Democratic campaign on Monday. Nixon said she is running because "it can't just be business as usual anymore" in Albany. "If we're going to get at the root problem of inequity, we have to

turn the system upside down." Growing up, she said, "I was given chances I just don't see for most of New York's kids today. Our leaders are letting us down."

Nixon has never held elected office but is known for her advocacy on education and involvement in LGBTQ causes.

Another activist in those causes, U.S. Rep. Sean Patrick Maloney, a Democrat who lives in Philipstown, on March 8 criticized Nixon's plan to challenge Cuomo.

Maloney, who in 2014 married his partner, Randy Florke, in Cold Spring, recalled that Cuomo "took on the marriage equality issue when few politicians dared," providing "unabashed efforts, often to his political detriment. That's called leadership." Maloney urged the LGBTQ community to support Cuomo, "the leader and friend who supported us. It doesn't work any other way."

On the Republican side, Dutchess County Executive Marc Molinaro is expected to announce his candidacy for governor on April 2. A former mayor of Tivoli and county legislator, he was elected county executive in 2011 and re-elected in 2015. John

(Continued on Page 7)



Dutchess County Executive Marc Molinaro is expected to announce his campaign for governor on April 2.

Photo provided



Cynthia Nixon has announced a challenge to Gov. Andrew Cuomo.

Campaign photo

Bowman, Moroney Win in Nelsonville

Village Board expands from three to five seats

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

On Tuesday (March 20), Nelsonville voters elected Michael Bowman and Dave Moroney to two-year terms as trustees on a newly enlarged Nelsonville Village Board. Bowman, who received 98 votes, and Moroney, with 74, defeated Rudolf van Dommele, who collected 68.

The election gives Nelsonville a five-member Village Board for the first time since 1898, when the board's size was reduced for reasons lost to history.

Incumbent Trustee Thomas Robertson ran unopposed for a one-year term and got 96 votes.

Nelsonville has 382 registered voters; 132 participated, for a 35 percent turnout.

Bowman served a term as a Cold Spring village trustee before moving to Nelsonville, where he grew up. Moroney is a local contractor.

"I look forward to working with these guys," Bowman said of his new colleagues. He said the village faces various challenges — before the election he mentioned the questions posed by cell towers as an example — and predicted that "more hands on deck" with a larger Village Board will make it easier to address them.

Moroney noted that this election was "a lot different than last time," when he ran in 2015 as a write-in candidate for mayor. "It's going to be an experience, to get to see how politics really works," he said.

The three newly elected trustees are expected to be sworn in before the April 16 Village Board meeting.

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Sherlock Gnomes (PG)
FRI 2:00 4:45 7:30
SAT & SUN 1:30 4:15 7:00
MON & TUE 4:15 7:00
WED 1:30 4:15 7:00, THU 4:15 6:45

A Wrinkle in Time (PG)
FRI 1:45 4:30 7:15
SAT & SUN 1:15 4:00 6:45
MON & TUE 4:00 6:45
WED 1:15 4:00 6:45

Ready Player One (PG13)
THU 3:45 7:00

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Fleming to Challenge Odell for Putnam Executive

(from previous page)

DeFrancisco, the deputy state Senate majority leader from DeWitt (near Syracuse), also wants to be the Republican candidate.

A Siena College poll released Monday found DeFrancisco led Molinaro by 4 points but that at least half of Republicans asked remain undecided and 13 percent said they would not vote for either man.

As of January, Cuomo had raised \$30.4 million for his campaign, compared to \$792,290 for DeFrancisco and \$100 for Molinaro.

U.S. House

In February, Republican officials endorsed Orange County Legislator James O'Donnell, a Goshen resident, to challenge Maloney, who hopes to win his fourth two-year term in Congress.

At a meeting of the Republican nominating committee, Jarred Buchanan, a Lakeland High School graduate and New York City police officer, withdrew from the race and endorsed O'Donnell.

"I'm looking forward to taking my message of good government and my record of results to the front doorsteps of the people

of the Hudson Valley," said O'Donnell, a retired state police commander and former chief of the MTA police.

Maloney had \$3 million in campaign funds as of Dec. 31, according to the Federal Election Commission. FEC records did not include any data on O'Donnell's finances as of Thursday.

Other races

Barbara Scuccimarra, a Republican who represents Philipstown in the Putnam County Legislature, did not return a phone call asking if she intends to run for re-election for what would be her third, three-year term. Nor have Philipstown Democrats endorsed a candidate.

No opponent has filed to challenge Sandy Galef, who represents Philipstown in the state Assembly. Her campaign had \$75,505 on hand as of January, according to the state Board of Elections. Nor has any candidate filed to oppose Assemblyman Frank Skartados, who represents Beacon. He had \$19,308 as of January. Both are Democrats.

Anchorage Away

Barge parking proposal dead in water — for now

By Brian PJ Cronin

The U.S. Coast Guard's proposal to create 10 anchorage sites in the Hudson River, including one between Beacon and Newburgh, is dead — for now.

A newly completed safety assessment by the Coast Guard does not recommend adding anchorage grounds to the two available at Yonkers and Hyde Park. But it also did not rule out more anchorage sites being proposed in the future.

The initial plan, which came in January 2016 at the request of the Tug & Barge Committee of the Port of New York and New Jersey, would have created space for up to 43 barges to anchor in the river between Yonkers and Kingston.

The Tug & Barge Committee said that the anchorages were needed to allow crews to rest on trips between the New York Harbor and Albany. Opponents argued the distance is too short to require such a large number of anchorages; that the anchorages would harm marine life and the quality of life for riverfront communities; and that the proposal would lead to oil-laden tankers parking in the river for weeks at a time while waiting for the price of oil to reach a favorable amount in the Port of Albany.

The Coast Guard received more than 10,000 comments, the most it had ever received on a proposal. More than 98 percent opposed the anchorages.

"We stood on this waterfront several months ago and made a promise to the people of the Hudson Valley that we would kill this proposal, and we have delivered on that promise," declared U.S. Rep. Sean Patrick Maloney on March 19 during a news conference in Yonkers. "This proposal is dead."

The Coast Guard report suggested the formation of a Hudson River Safety Committee that has already met twice. There also have been a number of workshops with various stakeholders.

"What was historic and wonderful with these workshops was that, in the same room, for the first time to the best of my knowledge, you had waterfront communities, commercial tug and barge, the ship-



Riverkeeper's John Lipscomb, Scenic Hudson's Andy Bicking, Yonkers Councilman Mike Breen, Congressman Sean Patrick Maloney and Eliot Engel, Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano and Westchester County Executive George Latimer at a news conference in Yonkers celebrating the Coast Guard's decision to not recommend anchorages along the Hudson

Photo by B. Cronin

ping industry, the Coast Guard, biologists representing the aquatic life of the river, and everything in between," said John Lipscomb of the environmental group Riverkeeper. "The safety committee continues that advance. Only good can come out of these kinds of relationships where groups that had been adversaries are encouraged to work out solutions."

They'll have their work cut out for them. Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano noted that on March 2, during one of the recent Nor'easters, six barges carrying construction materials for the Mario Cuomo bridge came loose from their moorings.

Although five of the runaway barges were intercepted by the Coast Guard and the Westchester County Police Marine Unit, one sank at the Yonkers waterfront. Spano said the incident couldn't help but make him think about what would have happened had it been an oil barge.

"We wouldn't have seen the recovery from that in our lifetime," he said.

Maloney said in a statement on March 22 that he had inserted language into the federal omnibus spending package that will require the Coast Guard to notify Congress before it again proposes anchorages on the river.

The 2016 proposal "was buried in the *Federal Register*," he said. "If the Coast Guard wants to go rogue and make a unilateral decision that ignores their own [safety assessment] report, they'll have to come explain that."

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Free Rides to Prison (and Back) *(from Page 1)*

Prison Rides Project was launched in December by Beacon Prison Action, an activist group founded in 2015 in response to the death of inmate Samuel Harrell. Harrell died after a violent incident involving several guards at the facility who prisoners said were known as “the beat-up squad.” Although Harrell’s death was ruled a homicide, the Dutchess County district attorney and a federal prosecutor in August both said there was insufficient evidence to bring charges.

Laurie Dick, a Beacon resident who helped create the prison rides program, recalls Harrell’s death as a wake-up call.

“There was this shock that this could have happened in our city limits,” she says. “Just because people behind bars aren’t living in Beacon voluntarily, does that mean that they’re not part of our community? There was this feeling that we needed to step up and become more aware and try to hold our elected officials accountable for the inhumane conditions at these prisons.”

Since its founding two years ago, Beacon Prison Action has advocated less solitary confinement and organized letter-writing campaigns against proposals that would restrict which books families can send to New York prisoners. The prison rides project is its latest initiative.

“We thought this is one small thing that we could offer to people,” says Dick. “More than just the money it would save them, it’s also a friendly face and a little bit of a



An aerial view of the Fishkill Correctional Facility in Beacon

connection to the place where your loved ones are, and seeing that there’s a community here for you.”

She adds, “Just because someone’s coming to Beacon for a specific purpose that’s not tourism, that’s no reason to not show them the same friendliness, and to welcome them.”

Gabriel Berlin, one of about 15 volunteers who provide rides, said that his passengers have been friendly and appreciative. “It’s one small way to do something about the inequalities in the criminal-justice system and the prison industrial system,” he says.

The Beacon Prison Rides Project also provides transportation for volunteers from the Parole Preparation Project, a

Need a Ride?

To arrange a ride from the Beacon train station to nearby correctional facilities, email beaconprisonrides@gmail.com or call 845-288-1865.

nonprofit in New York City that trains people to help prisoners prepare for their parole hearings. Inmates in New York are not allowed to have lawyers or other advocates accompany them to the hearings.

Dick said she hopes the rides project will help preserve the connections between inmates and their families. “When a person gets out of prison, reintegration to the world outside is so much easier if

New York State Prisons

- 54 facilities
- 52,344 inmates
- 95% are male
- Average age is 38 years
- Average minimum sentence is 10 years
- 25% are white
- 49% are black
- 24% are Hispanic
- 10% are foreign-born
- 60% have children
- 5% are veterans
- 64% convicted of a violent felony
- 13% convicted of a drug crime
- 13% convicted of a property crime
- 16% had no prior arrest
- 59% are high school graduates
- 798 assaults on staff (2017)
- 1,220 assaults on other inmates (2017)
- 2,753 in solitary confinement (2018)

Source: NYS Department of Corrections.
Figures as of Jan. 1, 2016, unless indicated

they’ve maintained contact with their community and their family,” she says. “That lowers recidivism rates as well.”

Helen Lake is way ahead of her. After 25 years behind bars, her husband was paroled and will be released in May. Lake has already scheduled a physical and mental exam for him and referrals to job placement and training programs.

“We’re trying to make his transition as smooth as possible,” she says. “We want to make sure we give him the right tools.”

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The Calendar

Plays for the People

HVSF hires organizer to engage neighbors

By Alison Rooney

The Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival wants to break more boundaries. After the wild success of its 2016 production of *Our Town*, in which



Elizabeth Audley

Photo by Martin Anderson

residents of Philipstown, Beacon, Peekskill and Newburgh filled nearly all the roles, the nonprofit decided to push further outside the Boscobel tent. It has launched a long-term initiative called Full Circle and hired a director of community engagement.

That hire, Elizabeth Audley, is an actor, director, writer, producer, arts consultant and experienced organizer — she worked on the Obama campaign in Pennsylvania in 2008 and, for another job, linked local garden groups with the Brooklyn Botanical Garden, “leveraging the institution to lift up the neighbors,” she says.

HVSF will return to the *Our Town* model this year with a commissioned adaptation of Washington Irving’s 1819 short story, “Rip Van Winkle,” entitled *Rip Van Winkle; or Cut the Old Moon into Stars*, written and directed by Seth Bockley.

As with *Our Town*, workshops will be held in Cold Spring, Garrison, Beacon, Peekskill, Newburgh and Tarrytown (in a nod to Irving, who lived near there) to



An illustration by Arthur Rackham from a 1905 edition of *Rip Van Winkle*, by Washington Irving. “A troop of strange children ran at his heels ...”

scout out a cast. Unlike *Our Town*, Audley says, this production will be written around the talents of the performers.

“For instance, if we get an amazing banjo player, it’ll wind up in the play,” she explains. “Our challenge is to make it appealing for those who don’t necessarily think of themselves as actors. What’s great about this is it has fantastical

elements to it: ghosts, pirates, tall tales. There will be a central storyline with sidebars and interludes which are fantastic in a literal sense.”

There will also be more ways for community members to participate behind the scenes, such as designing and creating props and costumes. HVSF especially hopes to engage military veterans, Audley (Continued on Page 14)

When Fox Came to Town

Former PCNR editor recounts his two years in Philipstown

By Michael Turton

Joe Lindsley was appointed the editor of the *Putnam County News & Recorder* in 2009, soon after Roger Ailes, then the head of Fox News, moved to Garrison and purchased the weekly newspaper with his wife, Beth. A graduate of Notre Dame, Lindsley had been a researcher at the *Weekly Standard* when the Ailes tapped him at age 25 to oversee the *PCNR* and the *Putnam County Courier*.

Lindsley’s forthcoming book, *Fake News: True Story*, describes the two years he worked for the Aileses before they had a falling out. He now lives in New Orleans. His responses have been condensed and edited.

Why did you write the book?

Working at the *PCNR* affected me greatly, personally. I felt my bad experience with the Aileses shouldn’t stop me from being a journalist who believes in reporting the truth. I was privy to things that no one else was. I had an obligation to tell the story in a way that is charitable but also accurate.

You fictionalized parts of the story. Why is that?

Many reporters have written a novel based on real life. The dilapidated state of our local and national discourse, the level of crassness and spewing of gossip about people, were a big part of why I rejected the world

of Roger Ailes and Fox News. The book doesn’t attack the Aileses; it examines the psychosis that was inflicted on all of us there. People’s names don’t need to be dragged into it again. I didn’t want my book to be Foxified.

Have your political views changed?

I’m a dyed-in-the-wool federalist. I was obsessed with it then; I published the *Federalist Papers* in the *PCNR*. But I became less passionate about politics for a while after I left. I have an aversion to labels and heated

“I thought I was losing my mind. I’m not sure whether the goal was to keep tabs on me to assuage his paranoia, or to undermine my sanity.”

arguments; they don’t serve anyone well. It was hard for me to break old habits and it will be hard for the nation to break the habit of casting aspersions and always being on the rampage.

What was it like after you took the PCNR job?

Early on, things were weird. The Aileses said I was an old friend, which wasn’t true. I was not allowed to tell anyone that I was living on their estate in Garrison. I pretended I was commuting from the city.

Did Roger Ailes have you followed?

Yes. I thought I was losing my mind. I’m not sure whether the goal was to keep tabs on me to assuage his paranoia, or to undermine my sanity.

What did you learn while covering Philipstown?

It was a great education in local politics. Roger and I



Joe Lindsley

Photo provided

always called it a microcosm, although that negates its importance. It is its own thing. It’s about how people live together in a place.

Did you have any conflicts over coverage?

I fought vociferously to cover Putnam County politics vigorously, thoroughly, professionally. We did some great things, but near the end journalistic standards were violated. The boundaries of civility were broken at times. I believed in the nobility of journalism, until about a year later. There was incredible (Continued on Page 12)

FRIDAY, MARCH 23

Contemporary Art Video Series: Walter Robinson
7 p.m. Buster Levi Gallery
121 Main St., Cold Spring
845-809-5145 | busterlevigallery.com

International Film Night: *Queen of Katwe* (Uganda)
7 p.m. Howland Public Library
313 Main St., Beacon
845-831-1134 | beaonlibrary.org

***Making a Killing: Guns, Greed and the NRA* (Documentary)**
7 p.m. First Presbyterian Church
50 Liberty St., Beacon
moviesthatmatterbeacon.org

Reception Honoring Beacon Volunteer Ambulance Corps
7:30 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
477 Main St., Beacon
845-831-4988 | howlandculturalcenter.org

Cat on a Hot Tin Roof
8 p.m. Philipstown Depot Theatre
10 Garrison's Landing, Garrison
845-424-3900 | philipstowndepottheatre.org

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

SATURDAY, MARCH 24

Easter Egg-Stravaganza
10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Fishkill Farms
9 Fishkill Farm Road, Hopewell Junction
845-897-4377 | fishkillfarms.com

RiverWinds Gallery
10 a.m. Paint Pouring Workshop
6 p.m. Working with Quartz Crystals
172 Main St., Beacon | riverwindsgallery.com

Hudson Valley Farm & Flea
10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Motorcyclopedia
250 Lake St., Newburgh
845-569-9065 | motorcyclopediamuseum.org

Log-Grown Shiitake Workshop
10 a.m. – Noon & 1– 3 p.m.
Clearpool Model Forest
33 Clearpool Road, Carmel
clearpool.greenchimneys.org/shiitake

Art Industry Media (Panel)
11 a.m. Peekskill Central Market
900 Main St., Peekskill
artindustrymedia.com

Art+Feminism Wikipedia Edit-a-thon
11 a.m. – 3 p.m. Howland Public Library
313 Main St., Beacon
845-831-1134 | beaonlibrary.org

Training Classes
11 a.m. Community CPR
1 p.m. Narcan Training
Garrison Ambulance Corps
1 Buena Vista St., Garrison
facebook.com/events/799577283567047

March for Our Lives
11 a.m. Walkway over the Hudson
Parker Avenue, Poughkeepsie
facebook.com/events/193658025337753

***Fluxional Clay* (Opening)**
1 – 3 p.m. The Hat Factory
1000 N. Division St., Peekskill
peekskillclaystudios.com

Free Pet Rabies Vaccination
2 – 5 p.m. Department of Health
1 Geneva Road, Brewster
845-808-1390 x43150 | putnamcountyny.gov

Calendar Highlights

Submit to calendar@highlandscurrent.com

For complete listings, see highlandscurrent.com

Hudson River Gurdjieff Society
2 p.m. Beahive Beacon | 291 Main St., Beacon
845-765-1890 | beahivebzzz.com

Cat on a Hot Tin Roof
4 & 7:30 p.m. Philipstown Depot Theatre
See details under Friday.

The Chain that Saved the Colonies (Talk)
4 p.m. Putnam History Museum
63 Chestnut St., Cold Spring | 845-265-4010

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

New Standard Trio (Jazz)
8 p.m. Atlas Studios
11 Spring St., Newburgh | atlasnewburgh.com

SUNDAY, MARCH 25

Palm Sunday

Maple Syrup Day
10 a.m. – 1 p.m. Little Stony Point
3011 Route 9D, Cold Spring
facebook.com/littlestonypointpark

Living with Bears
11 a.m. Tompkins Corner Cultural Center
729 Peekskill Hollow Road, Putnam Valley
845-528-7280 | tompkinscorners.org

Cat on a Hot Tin Roof
2 p.m. Philipstown Depot Theatre
See details under Friday.

Drug & Alcohol Addiction: Disease or Natural Brain Habit? (Talk)
2 p.m. Howland Public Library
See details under Friday.

***Endless Poetry* (Film)**
4 p.m. Hudson Valley Center for Contemporary Art
1701 Main St., Peekskill
914-788-0100 | hvcca.org

Brasiles Ensemble (Benefit)
4 p.m. St. Mary in the Highlands
1 Chestnut St., Cold Spring
thebrasilesensemble.wordpress.com

Concert for Kids: *Carnival of the Animals*
4 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
See details under Friday.

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www.hudsonbeachglass.com

Digital Literacy Workshop
6 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library
472 Route 403, Garrison
845-424-3020 | desmondfishlibrary.org

***La Dolce Vita* (1960)**
7 p.m. Paramount Hudson Valley
See details under Friday.

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

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 28

Health and Fitness Camp (ages 5-12)
8 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. All Sport
See details under Monday.

School Break Mini-Camp (ages 6-9)
9 a.m. – 3 p.m. Outdoor Discovery Center
See details under Monday.

HVSF: Clowning Workshop for Kids
10:30 a.m. & 1 p.m. Boscobel
See details under Monday.

OZO Invent-a-Game (ages 7-11)
3 – 5 p.m. Howland Public Library
See details under Friday.

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

Highland Photographers' Salon
7 p.m. Garrison Art Center
23 Garrison's Landing, Garrison
845-424-3960 | garrisonartcenter.org

THURSDAY, MARCH 29

Health and Fitness Camp (ages 5-12)
8 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. All Sport
See details under Monday.

School Break Mini-Camp (ages 6-9)
9 a.m. – 3 p.m. Outdoor Discovery Center
See details under Monday.

Winter Break Fun for Kids (ages 5+)
1 p.m. Boscobel | See details under Monday.

Hudson Valley Renegades Job Fair
4 – 6 p.m. Dutchess Stadium
1500 Route 9D, Wappingers Falls
845-838-0094 | hvrenegades.com

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

Small Business Workshop
6:30 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library
See details under Tuesday.

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

Dave Davies of The Kinks
8 p.m. Paramount Hudson Valley
See details under Friday.

FRIDAY, MARCH 30

Good Friday

Health and Fitness Camp (ages 5-12)
8 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. All Sport
See details under Monday.

***Wonder* (Film, ages 8+)**
4 p.m. Howland Public Library
See details under March 23.

St. Philip's Choir: *Faure's Requiem*
7:30 p.m. St. Philip's Church
1101 Route 9D, Garrison
845-424-3571 | stphilipshighlands.org

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- * Live "Put On Your Sunday Clothes" Costume Parade down Garrison Landing with TOMMY TUNE! Question & Answer with Mr. Tune to follow.
- * Tommy Tune Tonight! Live show at Paramount Peekskill
- * Outdoor Screening of *Hello, Dolly!** at Garrison Landing park
- * Guest lecture series on the legacy of the film and its historical and Broadway antecedents
- * Live performance of Thornton Wilder's *The Matchmaker* (the comedy on which *Hello, Dolly!* is based).
- * Gene Kelly: The Legacy: A live presentation on the life of legendary *Hello, Dolly!* film/actor/dancer/director with wife Patricia Kelly at the Peekskill Paramount
- * West Point Band concert featuring songs from *Hello, Dolly!*
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Donations requested by March 31st

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63 CHESTNUT STREET
COLD SPRING, NY 10516
(845) 265-4010

VISIT: www.HelloAgainDolly.com

When Fox Came to Town *(from Page 9)*

pettiness and so much venom, and I got caught up in that.

What was the reaction to Philipstown.info (now *The Current*) when it launched in 2010?

Part of me was furious. How dare these people come after us? You feel you're being attacked. But at other times you feel you are on the commanding heights of the mountaintop and you're just playing chess. Kings and pawns. There were moments of paranoia and fear; we were seized by that and unable to think rationally. But beyond those moments, underlying it was the game of democracy.

"It was not a well-oiled conspiracy — it was a frenzy. It involved some of the most paranoid people I have ever met, hiding behind their castle gates, wildly throwing flames on the facts."

Politics can be nasty. Is that because of the people or the issues?

Definitely the former. Some might have painted the community as peaceful and happy before Roger bought the paper, but there was plenty of nastiness already. We should have fought against that nastiness rather than becoming a part of it.

You spent time at the Ailes home in Garrison with Fox personalities such as Sean Hannity and Bill O'Reilly. What was that like?

It was always so weird. I heard extraordinary, crazy things up there, but I had no one to share it with. I was like an undercover agent in town. On Mondays, the bagpipers would be at the Silver Spoon and invite me to sit with them, but it was always a stilted conversation. I couldn't talk about anything. If anyone asked what I had done over the weekend, I couldn't say Roger and I were at Chuck Norris' house and he didn't feed us. That would have sounded crazy.

What is the goal of the book?

It's not an analysis of the bad things people did at Fox. The reader experiences what I did, the psychosis, the rage, the confusion, the people who had great power and who could execute it quickly. It was not a well-oiled conspiracy — it was a frenzy. It involved some of the most



The cover of Lindsley's book

paranoid people I have ever met, hiding behind their castle gates, wildly throwing flames on the facts.

Seven years later, do you have regrets?

I regret not being real, not just in dealing with residents but with the Aileses. I was like a tank: I know how to do this; you guys are wrong. There were moments of empathy and goodness, but in general I was not being real.

There were battles with the Aileses over coverage, but I never said, "What are you afraid of?" I wasn't capable of that. It was a long process to figure that out — how foibles, fears or hang-ups in certain people in power can do a lot of damage.

What are you most proud of?

I remember going to the printer and seeing the paper roll off the press. There were issues that created great buzz because of a beautiful front-page photo, the less salacious stuff. People lined up to get copies. I'm proud of publishing the Philipstown zoning maps, getting the community involved in the discussion. There was a brief time when we worked with the community, a kind of peaceful situation, but it all imploded.

Alison Rooney contributed reporting. Turton and Rooney both worked under Lindsley at the PCNR before leaving in 2010 to join Philipstown.info.

Coming Soon: The Roger Ailes Story

At least three films are in the works about Roger Ailes, the former Garrison resident who died in May at age 77.

- Alex Gibney, best known for the 2015 film *Going Clear: Scientology and the Prison of Belief* (2015), is making a documentary about Ailes. Two producers visited Philipstown last fall to film interviews with people who knew or worked with him.
- Charles Randolph, who won an Oscar for his screenplay for *The Big Short* (2015), is working on a script for a feature film based on the story of "the women who united to take down the former Fox News boss" on sexual harassment charges, according to a December 2016 report in *Variety*.
- Gabriel Sherman, author of an Ailes biography, *The Loudest Voice in the Room*, is writing a Showtime mini-series called *Secure and Hold: The Last Days of Roger Ailes*, with Tom McCarthy, the director and co-writer of *Spotlight*, which won the Oscar for Best Picture in 2016.



Roger Ailes

Photo by Wesley Mann/Fox News

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A MAPLE-FLAVORED COMIC

By Deb Luke

Follow the signs or follow your nose...

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Hike to the Maple Grove!



eventually they got metal pots

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Some kids even take notes!



Men who like machinery can find out how the evaporator works. (It's the same process as the trough and hot rocks, but faster.)



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(Just like some of the displays in the Main Hall.)



Plays for the People

(from Page 9)

says, because there are parallels in the story: “Someone goes away, comes back, doesn’t feel they belong there anymore.” HVSF also plans to “work with other, largely unseen, populations, elevating their stories.”

As for the rest of her new job, she is on a listening tour at the moment. “One person is leading me to another, each providing a different perspective,” she says. “From there, we can decide together on projects that are meaningful to everyone.”

“The arts are the best place to practice all of the skills you need in other aspects of life: taking risks, collaborating, compromising, finding a creative solution.”

Audley, who recently relocated with her husband from Brooklyn to Beacon, believes “the arts are the best place to practice all of the skills you need in other aspects of life: taking risks, collaborating, compromising, finding a creative solution.”

She adds: “Arts participation is a great platform on which to build civic ideas, because people have demonstrated that they have shown up and have the ability to make decisions together. The building-community part of the mission is not an end to itself; there’s a bigger dividend.”



Our Town was performed in 2016 by an ensemble of community members and HVSF actors.

Photo by Ashley Garrett/HVSF

How to Get Involved

HVSF will host six storytelling and two design workshops in April in preparation for four performances of *Rip Van Winkle* over Labor Day weekend. Free tickets for the shows will be available on Aug. 1.

Storytelling

- Wednesday, April 4, 7 p.m., Safe Harbors of the Hudson, Newburgh
- Thursday, April 5, 7 p.m., Desmond-Fish Library, Garrison
- Friday, April 6, 7 p.m., Old VFW Hall, Cold Spring
- Friday, April 13, 7 p.m., Beacon Recreation Center

- Saturday, April 14, 1 p.m., Peekskill Youth Bureau
- Sunday, April 15, 1 p.m., Sunnyside, Tarrytown (including a tour)

Design

- Sunday, April 8, 5 p.m., Garrison Art Center
- Wednesday, April 11, 6:30 p.m., Safe Harbors of the Hudson

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Small, Good Things

Grown-Up Kid Stuff

By Joe Dizney

“B owls Are the New Plates” read a headline in the *Wall Street Journal* two years ago. It certainly seems to be playing out.

And where there are bowls, there is ... bowl food! You have soups, of course, but also Hawaiian pokés, smoothie bowls and taco bowls, salads (Chopt), and pasta (Pasta Flyer). The trend seems to speak to an informality and familial “hominess” that we lean toward in unsettled times.

“Pizza beans” (or Pizza-in-a-Bowl, as I call it) is a bowl-food meme which seems to exemplify the trend and illustrate its salient features. The recipe’s author, Deb Perelman, is known for her blog, *Smitten Kitchen*. Her casual recipes and conversa-

tional style spawned *The Smitten Kitchen Cookbook* and *Smitten Kitchen Every Day*, the source of this recipe.

What started out as “a mashup of a giant-beans-in-tomato-sauce dish from Greece and American-style baked ziti, with beans instead of noodles” became “pizza beans” to entice a legume-hating 3-year-old. Topped with melted cheese and served in a bowl, it’s as comforting and familiar to a kid as a bowl of Cheerios and as heartily satisfying to an adult as a *cassoulet* — with about one quarter of the work. Disregarding the bean-cooking pot, if you have a deep ovenproof skillet or Dutch oven, this is a relatively fast one-pot meal.

Giant white dried Royal Corona beans are the gold standard; Rancho Gordo’s are available online and are sold otherwise as *fagioli corona* (Italian), *gigantes/gigandes* (Greek) or in one form or another in Eastern markets. I am told Walmart has



Pizza Beans or, for the less imaginative, Tomato-Braised Bean Gratin Photo by J. Dizney

giant dried limas that work just fine.

Regular-sized white beans such as cannellini are OK, but they have a less refined taste and texture. (You can use canned, drained and rinsed cannellini but the texture will be even further off.) Soak and prepare dried beans as per common instructions. Reserve the cooking liquid if you like as a readymade and nutrient-rich alternative to the broth and/or wine called for in the recipe.

Whereas Perelman’s recipe is vegetar-

ian, the inclusion of sweet Italian pork or fennel-laden luganica sausage makes sense to those who self-identify as meat-heads.

Although her recipe calls for kale, any other hearty green works, such as spinach or chard. The absence of herbs also begs customization: sage, oregano or basil are obvious choices. For the cheese-intolerant, substitute a seasoned breadcrumb topping to enter the realm of the aforementioned cassoulet.

Tomato-Braised Bean Gratin (“Pizza Beans”)

Adapted from *Smitten Kitchen Every Day*; serves 8

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1 pound cooked giant white beans (see above for substitutes) | 2 large cloves garlic, minced |
| 2 tablespoons olive oil | ¼ cup dry white or red wine (or bean cooking liquid) |
| 1¾ pound coarse ground fresh pork sausage (Italian Sweet or luganica) (optional) | 4 ounces kale (or spinach or chard), roughly chopped |
| 1 large onion, chopped roughly | 2¼ cups crushed tomatoes (28-ounce can minus 1 cup; freeze the rest) |
| 2 celery stalks, diced medium | Salt and freshly ground black pepper |
| 1 large or 2 medium carrots, diced large | Up to ¾ cup broth (vegetable or chicken) or bean cooking liquid |
| 2 tablespoons tomato paste | ½ pound mozzarella, grated coarsely and ⅓ cup grated Parmesan* |
| Salt and freshly ground black pepper | 2 tablespoons flat-leaf parsley (or basil) chopped for garnish (optional) |
| ½ teaspoon red pepper flakes | |

1. Heat oven to 425 degrees. Heat the olive oil on medium-high in a 2½- to 3-quart deep ovenproof sauté pan or Dutch oven. Add the onion, celery and carrots.
2. Cook, stirring regularly for about 5 minutes. Add the red pepper, garlic and sausage (if using), cooking for another 5 minutes, crumbling sausage as you stir.
3. Add wine (if using) to scrape up any stuck bits, then simmer until it disappears, or 1 to 2 minutes. Add kale or spinach and cook for 1 to 2 minutes until wilted. Add tomatoes and bring to a simmer. Add beans. If the mixture looks too dry or thick, add broth ¼ cup at a time (up to ¾ cup). Simmer over medium heat for 10 minutes; adjust salt and pepper.
4. Remove from heat. If your pan isn’t ovenproof, transfer the mixture to a 3-quart baking dish or casserole. Top the beans first with mozzarella, then Parmesan, and bake for 15 to 20 minutes until browned on top. If you’re impatient or want a deeper color, run it under the broiler.
5. Finish with parsley and serve warm. Leftovers reheat well: put it in a small gratin dish and warm in the oven; add more cheeses and run it under the broiler. It is also an excellent candidate for freezing.

* For a dairy-free alternative, use a mixture of ½ cup bread crumbs, 1 teaspoon paprika, 1 teaspoon ground black pepper and ½ teaspoon salt moistened with a splash of olive oil and sprinkled evenly over the top. You may have to adjust the bake time so that the top does not burn.

7 LITTLE WORDS

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COMMUNITY BRIEFS



Catching a moment with the Easter bunny at McConville Park. This year's egg hunt is scheduled for March 24.

File photo by Maggie Benmour

Hoppy Easter

The annual Knights of Columbus Easter Egg Hunt organized by Loretto Council No. 536 will be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, March 24, at McConville Park (Tots' Park) in Cold Spring. Children age 8 and younger are welcome and should bring baskets. In case of rain (or snow), the event will be held on March 31. Call 845-265-3191 with questions.

The First Presbyterian Church in Cold Spring invites community members to join a labyrinth walk at 6:30 p.m. on Sunday, March 25. The circular, meditative design is based on the labyrinth in the medieval cathedral in Chartres, France, a pilgrimage site from the Middle Ages. Sunday is the beginning of Holy Week for many Christians.

Mount Gulian in Beacon will hold its annual Children's Spring Tea and Easter Egg Hunt on Tuesday, March 27, from noon to 2 p.m. The tea will be set up like a social gathering from the 1800s, when the Verplanck family lived in the home. See mountgulian.org.

An Egg Hunt and Spring Fling sponsored by the Alps Sweet Shop, the Beacon Recreation Department and Wee Play will be held at Memorial Park in Beacon on March 31 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Children ages 1 to 12 are invited to search for 7,000 foil-wrapped chocolate eggs. The Easter Bunny plans a visit and there will be a bounce house, bike and basket raffles, a petting zoo, music, face painting and crafts.

Learn about rabbits at the Hudson Highlands Nature Museum in Cornwall when it presents a Funny Bunnies program at 11:30 a.m. on Saturday, March 31. Meet a pet rabbit, take a walk outside to look for signs of wild rabbits, and make a

bunny craft. Register at hhn.org or call 845-534-5506, ext. 204.

St. Mary's Episcopal Church will hold an open baptism at 7 p.m. on Saturday, March 31. Call Father Shane Scott-Hamblen at 845-265-2539 or arrive at 6:45 p.m. See stmaryscoldspring.org for a schedule of its Holy Week services.



The Hudson Highlands Nature Museum will present a Funny Bunnies program on March 31.

Photo by Jim Ridley

Garden Club Internships

Applications due April 15

The Philipstown Garden Club is accepting applications from rising high school juniors and seniors and graduating seniors for summer internships at Stonecrop Garden, Manitoga and the Constitution Marsh Audubon Center. The positions provide a stipend of \$1,600 and

require eight to 20 hours per week. For more information, see pgc1914.com.

Cut the Cord

How to unplug from cable

The Desmond-Fish Library in Garrison will present a workshop at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, March 27, by its digital services coordinator, Ryan Biracree, on how to use streaming media channels and smart devices to access less expensive and more versatile digital services. He will provide a brief tour of the cordless marketplace and explain how to determine which devices or services are right for your home. The workshop is part of the library's ongoing Digital Literacy series.

Don't Burn Those Leaves

Ban in effect until May 14

The state Department of Environmental Conservation has banned burning leaves and other yard debris through May 14. Once warmer temperatures dry out leaves and debris on the ground, wildfires can easily start from burning piles and are difficult to contain because of wind and lack of vegetation.

Since implementing the spring ban in 2009, the DEC has recorded a nearly 40 percent drop in seasonal wildfires. For more information or to report a violation, visit dec.ny.gov.

Food Match

New site combats hunger

A new site at FeedHV.org matches food donors in the Hudson Valley to distribution agencies. A project of the Community Foundations of the Hudson Valley and the Hudson Valley AgriBusiness Development Corp., the Community Food Network connects farmers, restaurants

and caterers to volunteers who transport and process donated food for organizations that have assistance programs.

Capitol Art Competition

Deadline is April 20 for annual contest

High school students are invited to submit their artwork to the Newburgh office of U.S. Rep. Sean Maloney for the annual Congressional Art Competition. The deadline is Friday, April 20. The winning artwork will be displayed at the U.S. Capitol Complex for a year and the artist and a guest will be flown to Washington, D.C., for a reception.

In addition, all submissions will be displayed on Maloney's Facebook page beginning April 23 to be judged with "likes" for a social-media award. For details, see seanmaloney.house.gov/services/art-competition.



Angel, by Alana Green of Mahopac, was the winner of the 2017 Congressional Art Competition. Entries are now being accepted for the 2018 contest.



A FeedHV volunteer loads food donated by a Poughkeepsie farm for distribution to nonprofit organizations.

Photo provided

COMMUNITY BRIEFS (from previous page)

Free Rabies Shots for Pets

Vaccines offered on March 24

Bring dogs, cats and ferrets to the South Putnam Animal Hospital in Mahopac from 2 to 5 p.m. on Saturday, March 24, for a free rabies vaccine shot. The clinic is sponsored by the Putnam County Department of Health and is open to all county residents.

Photo identification and proof of prior rabies vaccination is required (tags are not acceptable) for a multi-year vaccine. Without proof of a prior shot, pets will receive a one-year vaccine. Dogs must be on leash and cats and ferrets in carriers. Call 845-808-1390, ext. 43160, for details.

Beacon

Spring Break Events

Library to host activities

The Howland Public Library in Beacon has scheduled two events for spring break. On Wednesday, March 28, from 3 to 5 p.m., children ages 7 to 11 can program Ozobots at OZO Invent-a-Game. On Friday, March 30, at 4 p.m., the library will screen the 2017 film *Wonder* for children ages 8 and older. See beaconlibrary.org.



The Howland Public Library will host an Ozobot programming session March 28.

Classics for Kids

Concert at Howland on March 25

A concert by children for children will be held at the Howland Cultural Center in Beacon at 4 p.m. on Sunday, March 25. The narrated program is Saint-Saen's *Carnival of Animals*, a classic where each movement represents an animal. The performers are Max Milian on piano and cello, Kaelem Michael on piano and Nathaniel LaNasa on piano. All are associated with the Lyra Music Festival. Tickets are \$10 for adults; children are free. To RSVP, see howlandmusic.org.

Tag Sale Items Needed

Ree-Play Sale set for April

Donate gently used children's clothes, maternity clothing, toys, equipment, movies and games for the Ree-Play Sale, a fundraiser for the Wee Play Community Project. Contributions are accepted at the Beacon Recreation Center, Fishkill Recreation Center or Butterfield Library in Cold Spring. The sale will be held April 27 to 29 at the University Settlement Camp Theater. See facebook.com/weeplaybeacon.

Lifesaving Techniques

One-hour classes on March 31

The Beacon Volunteer Ambulance Corps will hold one-hour classes on Saturday, March 31, on how to control severe bleeding. Register by calling 845-831-4540 (prompt 5) or email stopthebleed@beaconvac.org.

New Concert Series

Begins March 31 at Howland Center

Elysium Furnace Works, a cooperative that presents vanguard artists, will begin its 2018 season with a performance at the Howland Cultural Center at 8 p.m. on Saturday, March 31, by tenor saxophonist James Brandon Lewis and



Max Milian will perform on piano and cello in a show for kids on March 25 at the Howland Cultural Center.

Lyra



Baby and Dog

This feature is designed as a counterweight to all the bad news in the world that weighs people down. We could share a photo of a baby, or a photo of a dog, but we are giving you both. How many newspapers can say that? Allison Britton of LaGrange shared this shot of her daughter Lindy with Mo. If you have a photo of a baby and a dog, submit it for consideration to editor@highlandscurrent.com.




James Brandon Lewis will perform at the Howland Cultural Center on March 31.

Photo provided

drummer and percussionist Chad Taylor. It will be followed with a performance by Karuna on May 4 and Kid Millions and Sarah Bernstein on June 30. Admission to each show is \$20 at the door.

Revue to Perform April 1

Hudson Valley group at Dogwood

The Breakneck Ridge Revue will perform traditional, classic and roots-tinged music at Dogwood in Beacon on Sunday, April 1, with Sam Anderson, a journalist and comedian, as its spoken-word guest. Andy Revkin and David Ross lead the Revue with Todd Giudice, Dan

Einbender, Patrick Stanfield Jones and Mark Murphy, while Karen Brooks, Laurie Siegel and Melissa Ortquist harmonize as the Trouble Sisters.

The HIGHLANDS

Current




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Beacon May Regulate Short-term Rentals *(from Page 1)*

Inspector Tim Dexter said.

Airbnb, one of the largest platforms for short-term rentals, is happy to work with municipalities on “common-sense regulation” that “works for both local government as well as our community,” said Josh Meltzer, head of Northeast Policy for the company. “We look forward to finding a path [in Beacon] that not only addresses the need for transparency and public safety but empowers hosts to continue using their homes to earn extra income.”

According to the company, there were 110 Airbnb hosts in Beacon in 2017, with 94 percent of them listing a single



David Allis, the owner of 51 Orchard Place, inside the home

Photo by J. Simms

property. No hosts had more than two listings.

Guests stayed an average of two nights, with an average group size of just over two people — evidence, Airbnb says, that travelers staying in Beacon are primarily couples and families coming for weekend trips. The typical host in the city earned about \$8,800 through the service last year.

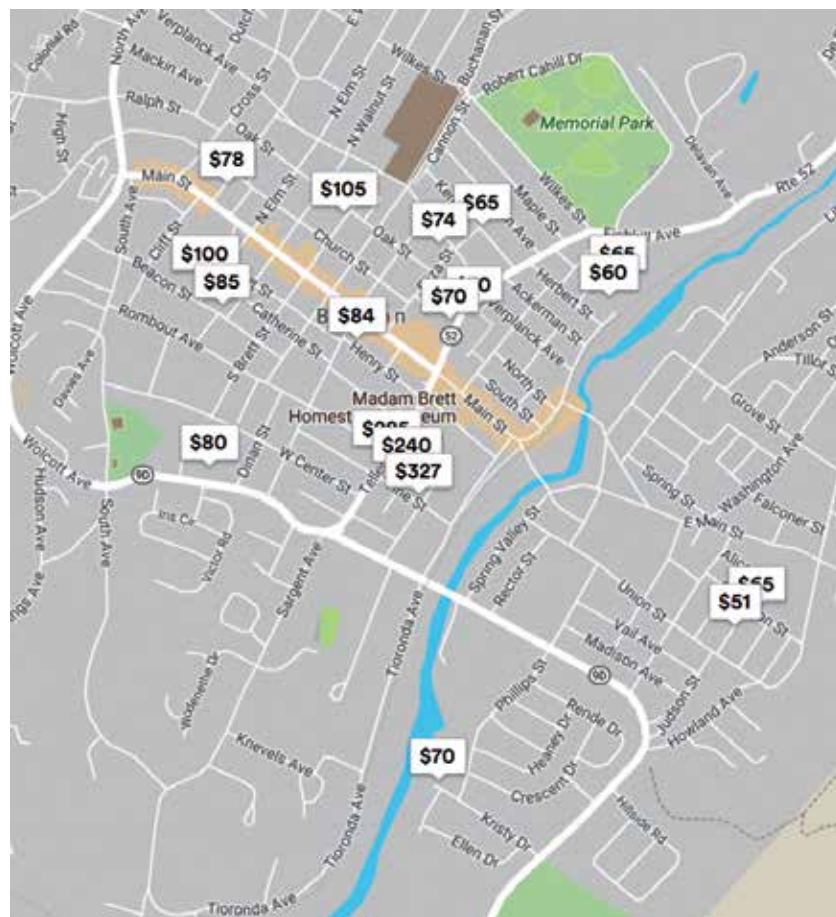
Unlike Putnam County, Dutchess County collects a 4 percent room tax on every Airbnb rental, just as it does with hotel rooms. Earlier this month, more than 200 hosts and advocates gathered in Albany to urge lawmakers to adopt legislation that Airbnb says would modernize state laws, allowing New Yorkers to earn extra income through the rentals while addressing safety concerns and providing what is says would be \$100 million in tax revenue.

Airbnb points to several examples where city officials have revised regulations of short-term rentals. In Portland, Maine, officials last year passed a law allowing short-term rentals in which the owner is not present, although registration fees are lower if a

unit is owner-occupied.

In East Hampton, on Long Island, hosts applying for a short-term rental permit must submit a notarized Rental Property Self-Inspection Checklist that includes having the house number visible from the street, handrails on all stairways, properly marked electrical panels, smoke detectors installed and working in every bedroom, and fireplaces or wood-burning stoves having doors or screens, as well as pool safety requirements.

Allis, the Orchard Place



A sampling of Airbnb rentals in Beacon

property owner, says he plans to give renters a tour of the \$475-per-night home, including its fire exits and other safety features, and if they have any concerns, he's just a text message away.

“People would rather come into a home where they can work, turn on the TV and have a fireplace,” he said. “And if you get a bad tenant, they're gone in a day.” Short-term rentals, he argued, are “perfect to promote Beacon,” while giving property owners the chance to earn extra income.

But other residents express concern that short-term rentals could disrupt neighborhoods.

“If somebody wants to rent a room in their home, with some regulation and registration, or do a vacation exchange, I don't have a problem with that,” said Elaine Ciccio, who lives a block from 51 Orchard Place. “But when you get people buying houses in residential neighborhoods as investment properties, then you're starting to disrupt the community. I don't want to live next to a small hotel. And if things should go south with the economy, these are the first people who are going to get out.”

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Finding Sanctuary

After eight years away, shop returns to Beacon

By Alison Rooney

Laura Gould’s “conscious-living” shop, Sanctuary, has done some traveling. She opened in 2002 on the east end of Beacon, moved a few years later to the opposite end of town, went across the Hudson to Nyack for eight years, and a year ago returned to Beacon.

Customers have been happy to discover and rediscover her shop at 192 Main St., which is filled with decorative objects evoking south and Southeast Asia, many with a spiritual bent, along with clothing, furniture, baskets, candles, lamps and rugs.

“Everything in the shop is ethically sourced,” Gould says. “The global goods are all fair trade. Ever since I opened 16 years ago, my business model has been ‘having a conscience.’ Now it’s easier, because people are more aware of what they are buying.”

She says customers are sometimes puzzled by her stock and “ask if everything is from India, or if everything is Buddhist.” She explains that it’s not where an object is made “but how it was sourced, what the soul of it is. I like to know that nothing is being produced in sweatshops. It’s particularly widespread with clothing, but I look for women’s cooperatives.

“The dynamics have changed and business is far more global now, and is affected by things people don’t necessarily think about: tariffs from China; wars that



Laura Gould, proprietor of Sanctuary

interfere with trade; people becoming more mindful of knock-offs,” she adds. Raised in Rockland County, Gould had many early professional lives. She worked on Wall Street (which she recalls as “soul sucking”), then spent five years at a literary nonprofit before joining a gallery that specialized in Asian art and antiques. It was there she was exposed to Buddhist philosophy, she says, and was especially taken by “the notion that mistakes are part of life, that nothing is perfect. I also got interested in the melding of Hindu and Buddhist traditions in Java and its art.” When the gallery struggled financially, Gould struck out on her own. She and her husband decided to open their own shop in Beacon despite visiting during a



A colorful corner of Sanctuary

Photos by A. Rooney

blizzard. “We saw the architecture, we drove down Main Street and saw the mountains and thought it was the most beautiful town we had seen,” she says. She combined running the gallery with interior design work for clients in Cold Spring and Garrison. (She and her husband live in Goshen.) Soon after she opened, Gould and others, including Carl Van Brunt, Florence Northcutt and Thom Joyce of the Howland Center, and John and Wendy Gilvey of Hudson Beach Glass,

founded the Beacon Arts Community Association (BACA), now known as BeaconArts. “We were early investors in the town,” she recalls. “And by investors I mean money, heart and soul. We had an idealistic vision.” Returning to Beacon has been rewarding, she says, particularly when longtime customers are surprised to see her. “When they come by to visit and shop again, there’s nothing more gratifying,” she says. “My heart has always been invested here.”



The shop at 192 Main St. in Beacon

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	SOLUTIONS
1 unable to sit still (5)	_____
2 unselfish (6)	_____
3 system based on ability (11)	_____
4 leaving for the other side (9)	_____
5 tanned and tough (8)	_____
6 expressing the same idea (10)	_____
7 moving at a good clip (8)	_____

ANT	LEA	RIT	GIV	ACY
ME	SYN	NG	THE	TRO
RY	MOUS	ECT	OCR	ING
DEF	TTI	SY	ONY	ION

See answers: Page 15

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PHILIPSTOWN

DEPOT

THEATRE

Excellent Creature and Philipstown Depot Theatre present:
Cat on A Hot Tin Roof
by Tennessee Williams, directed by John Christian Plummer
Now through March 25
See philipstowndepottheatre.org for times and tickets.
Garrison Landing, Garrison, NY (Theatre is adjacent to train station.)

Drawn Together

Gathering attracts people with pens

By Alison Rooney

On the first Tuesday evening of each month, Quinn's in Beacon draws a crowd that draws. They come to the Main Street restaurant for Club Draw, a gathering founded in 2013 by designer Dan Weise. The next session, its 55th, is April 3. On this page are examples of the invitation created each month by a member of the group.

The artists who fill the booths at Quinn's sketch and socialize, create podcasts and listen to a DJ spin background music. The crowd is a mix of professionals, amateurs and people who haven't drawn since they were using crayons. Satellite events have been held at the Hudson Valley Center for Contemporary Art in Peekskill and at University Settlement Camp in Beacon, where last year's club picnic attracted more than 200 people and 12 bands.

Community art projects were not on Weise's mind while growing up in Salt Point. It was all snowboarding, all the time, except when he was skateboarding. Not a lot of his friends shared his passions, so after high school he moved to Vermont, where he met "people like me, who were interested in snow and art."

He next moved to Denver to enroll in the Rocky Mountain College of Art and Design. He and other students were frustrated that the college split the art and design schools and protested. "It was a powerful moment of organization, merging these two worlds," he recalls. "It made a big impression."

After a year in Australia, Weise returned to Denver. He hooked up for a while with a gallery large enough to hold a skateboard ramp, then came to New York with a girl, Kalene Rivers, then active in the city street art scene and now his wife and partner in their design firm, Thundercut Studios.

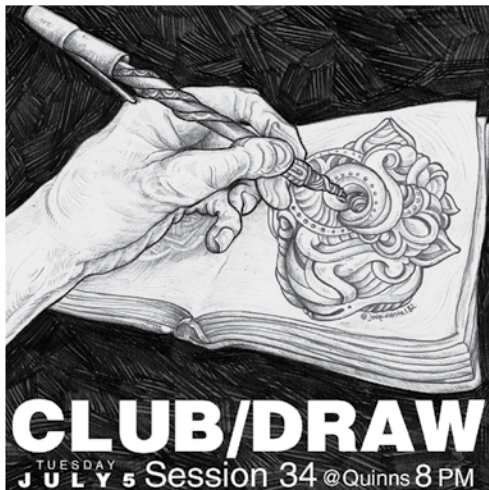
They began in Brooklyn, but after their rent doubled, moved to Carmel. Weise went looking for studio and gallery space, which brought them to Beacon in 2007.

The couple's space in Beacon happens to be opposite a former electric blanket factory, which inspired Electric Windows in 2010. "Along with Nicole and Jeff from Beacon Art



Dan Weise

Photo by A. Rooney



Joe Pimentel

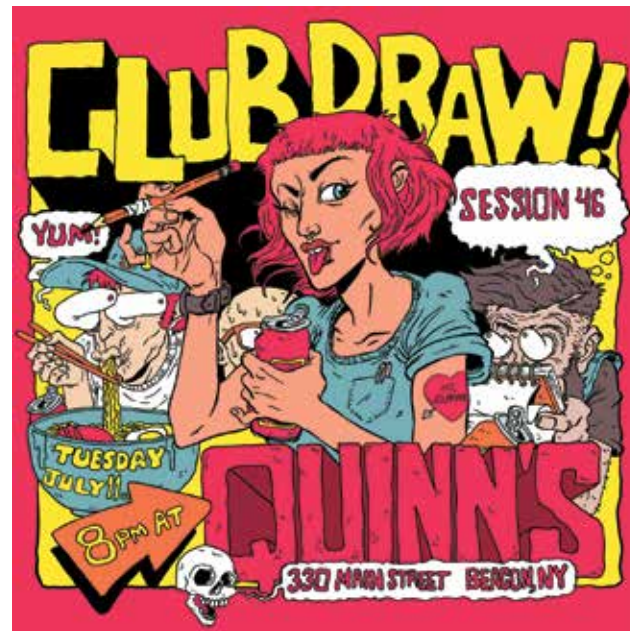


Ken Rabe

Supply, we envisioned artwork installed in each of the windows," he says. "We asked 24 artists we knew, 'Want to come to Beacon and paint for a weekend?'"

That collaboration was followed by another with Cary Janks, Electric Projected, in 2011, in which animated shorts were projected onto the building's façade. In a more recent partnership, Weise joined with author Jennifer Clair and photographer Meredith Heuer, both fellow Beaconites, to create a cookbook.

Weise hopes to continue working with other artists and organizing. "Inspiring people and helping facilitate feels like my life's creative project," he says. "Every day I'm usually thinking of how I can bring multiple pieces of family and community together in an unexpected way."



MC Wolfman



Summer Pierre



Kit Burke-Smith



Jon Reichert



Illustrators fill a booth at Quinn's.

Photo by Ethan Harrison

Join the Party

For a gallery of Club Draw invitations, see highlandscurrent.com.