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 adopted 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 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)

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

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., 15 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 ($3 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 2006, Medicaid paid $8.7 billion of the $21.4 billion spent by insurers on opioid treatment in the U.S. Medicare paid another $6.6 billion.

Notably, while the “face of the epidemic” has been poor...
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, according to Common Ground.

“We have [outside] vendors who have brought in only one application, for a residential proposal and Weber’s mixed-use plan,” said City Council Member George Mansfield called the reduction “a win-win.”

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.

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

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

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 residential 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 $350,000 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 prominent 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. If 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 Abdelhady (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

As a mom concerned about gun violence, 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 limit their free-dom rights. However, 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 lives of 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-registra-tion 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 Dennehy, 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-auto-matic weapons into automatics (“Students Protest Gun Violence,” March 16). The innocent are tired of being preyed on by the sick and deprived.

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 alter-native 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 polit-ical 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 its gets from Fishkill, it will account for about 37 percent of the total supply (“Report: Plenty of Water in Fishkill,” 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 sup-ply 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 Coun-cil used the term “safe yield” (and the asso-ciated technical assessment), which was replaced in the mid-1990s by “sustainable yield” (and its less simplistic and more re-alistic 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 dur-ing the presentation, the average person uses 80 to 100 gallons of water per day, ac-cording to the U.S. Geological Survey; not the 55 gallons (Continued on next 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.

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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 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)
Fleming to Challenge Odell for Putnam Executive
(from previous page)

DeFrancisco, the deputy state Senate ma-

ority leader from DeWitt (near Syracuse),
also wants to be the Republican candidate.

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
points but that at least half of Republicans
said they would not vote for either man.

As of January, Cuomo had raised $304 mil-

lion for his campaign, compared to $792,290
for DeFrancisco and $100 for Molinaro.

U.S. House

In February, Republican officials en-

dorsed Orange County Legislator James
O’Donnell, a Goshen resident, to chal-

lenge Maloney, who hopes to win his
second term in Congress.

At a meeting of the Republican nomi-

nating 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 mes-

sage 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 for-
mer chief of the MTA police.

Maloney had $3 million in campaign

funds as of Dec. 31, according to the Fed-

eral Election Commission. FEC records

did not include any data on O’Donnell’s

finances as of Thursday.

Other races

Barbara Scuccionarra, a Republican

who represents Philipstown in the Put-

nam 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 Assembly-
man Frank Skartados, who represents
Beacon. He had $19,308 as of January.

Both are Democrats.

Anchorages 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 be-
tween Beacon and Newburgh, is dead
– for now.

A newly-completed safety assessment

by the Coast Guard does not recom-

mend adding anchorage grounds to the
two available at Yonkers and Hyde Park.
But it also did not rule out more anchor-
age sites being proposed in the future.

The initial plan, which came in Janu-
ary 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 com-
munities; 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 per-
cent 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 pro-
motion is dead.”

The Coast Guard report suggested the
formation of a Hudson River Safety Com-
mittee 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 communi-
ties, commercial tug and barge, the ship-
ing industry, the Coast Guard, biologists
representing the aquatic life of the river,
and everything in between,” said John Lip-
scomb of the environmental group River-
keeper. “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 construc-
tion 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 uni-
lateral decision that ignores their own
(safety assessment) report, they’ll have to
come explain that.”
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 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 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 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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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.
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 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 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. I pretended I was commuting from the city.

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 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.

What was it like after you took the PCNR job?

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.

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 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)
**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 | beahivebuzz.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沃尔科特 Ave., Beacon | 845-765-0667

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

**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. Motorcyclepedia 250 Lake St., Newburgh 845-569-9065 | motorcyclepediameuseum.org

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

**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 845-838-5011 | cityofbeacon.org

**Labyrinth Walk**
6:30 p.m. First Presbyterian Church 10 Academy St., Cold Spring 845-265-3220 | presbychurchcoldspring.org

**Health and Fitness Camp (ages 5-12)**
8 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. All Sport 17 Old Main St., Fishkill 845-896-5678 | allsporthealthandfitness.com

**School Break Mini-Camp (ages 6-9)**
9 a.m. – 3 p.m. Outdoor Discovery Center 100 Muser Dr., Cornwall 845-534-5506 | hvn.org

**Startlab (ages 5+)**
9:30 a.m. & 1:30 p.m. Boscobel 1601 Route 90, Garrison 845-265-3638 | boscobel.org

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

### 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 Corners Cultural Center 729 Peeksill Hollow Road, Putnam Valley 845-528-7280 | tompkinscorners.org

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

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

**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 Saturday.

### MONDAY, MARCH 26

**Health and Fitness Camp (ages 5-12)**
8 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. All Sport 17 Old Main St., Fishkill 845-896-5678 | allsporthealthandfitness.com

**How to Build Clean Energy, Save Important Lands (Forum)**
8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Wallace Visitor Center 4079 Albany Post Road, Hyde Park scenehudson.org/renewables

**Bird Walk**
9 a.m. Bear Mountain | Call 845-786-270, x293.

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

**Children’s Tea & Easter Egg Hunt**
10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Boscobel 10 Academy St., Garrison 845-424-3960 | garrisonartcenter.org

**Senior Luncheon**
1 p.m. Church on the Hill 245 Main St., Cold Spring | 845-265-2022

### 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+)**
8 a.m. Howland Public Library See details under the previous Friday.

**St. Philip’s Choir: Faure’s Requiem**
7:30 p.m. St. Philip’s Church 1101 Route 90, Garrison 845-424-3571 | stphiliphighlands.org
EVENTS INCLUDE:

* NEW Hello Again, Dolly! Exhibit at the Putnam History Museum, featuring rare props, costumes, set designs and memorabilia, including Barbra Streisand’s iconic dress worn during her scenes in “Put On Your Sunday Clothes”

* 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!

* Romantic Hello, Again Dolly! Evening Hudson RIVERBOAT CRUISE organized by Garrison Art Center.

* And so much more!

Donations Requested by March 31st
Corporate Sponsorships Welcomed

Your donations support the Putnam History Museum Exhibit and its ancillary events such as the parade, film screening and programs of Tommy Tune and Patricia Kelly, all of which promote the sharing of educational information, cultural appreciation, and celebration of this film.

This is our community festival. Your tax deductible donations benefit cultural, art and educational programs.

The film Hello, Dolly! is a copyright 1968 production of 20th Century Fox. All rights reserved.

DONATE ONLINE
www.helloagaindolly.com
Donations requested by March 31st

DONATE BY MAIL
PUTNAM HISTORY MUSEUM
63 CHESTNUT STREET
COLD SPRING, NY 10516
(845) 265-4010

For updates visit www.HelloAgainDolly.com
What is the goal of the book?

O'Reilly. What was that like?

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

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 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.

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 Philpstown zoning maps, getting the community involved in the discussion. There was a brief time when we worked with the community, a kind of peaceful moment of empathy and goodness, but it all imploded.

What were the reaction to Fox News when it launched in 2010?

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 paranoid people I have ever met, hiding behind their castle gates, wildly throwing flames on the facts.
A MAPLE-FLAVORED COMIC

Follow the signs or follow your nose...

...both will lead you to the Taconic Outdoor Education Center at Fahnestock State Park where they're turning maple sap into syrup!

Hike to the Maple Grove!

A lumberjack/educator will tell you the Algonquian tribes were the first to tap maple trees. They used birch-bark buckets which burn, so the sap had to be poured in a wooden trough and boiled by adding hot rocks. It took forever!

Learn how to tap! Hammer the tap in six inches and attach a bucket. Wait for the sap to drip, drip, drip.

Saw up logs to go on the fire! It's fun! It's educational!

MUSH!

Some kids even take notes!

Choose either blueberry or chocolate chip pancakes, but...

...it's absolutely required that you douse them heavily with warm, freshly-made, tree-to-table maple syrup.

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

Pipe for sap

Leave feeling stuffed!

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

For sale
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.”

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.”

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

**How to Get Involved**

**Save the Date**
Spring Benefit to support CONSTITUTION MARSH CENTER & SANCTUARY

Sunday, May 6th, 2018
3:00pm - 6:00pm

Hosted by:
Lisa Mechailey and Andy Revkin
Wendy Bounds and Lisa Bernhard

Join us and hear “Into The Woods” to celebrate and learn about the outstanding research, education, and habitat restoration being done by our locally funded conservation professionals!

For more information, please contact Constitution Marsh at (845) 265-2601 or cmarshes@eastburn.org

**NY Alert**
For public safety and transportation alerts by text or email, visit nyalert.gov

**Kids’ Kayak Classes**
July 9-13 and July 23-27
Week-long series of classes get your kids outdoors and on the water.

**Hudson River Expeditions**
Grown-Up Kid Stuff

By Joe Dizney

"Bowls 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 conversational 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 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 vegetarian, the inclusion of sweet Italian pork or fennel-laden luganica sausage makes sense to those who self-identify as meatheads. 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 tablespoons olive oil
1¼ pound coarse ground fresh pork sausage (Italian Sweet or luganica) (optional)
1 large onion, chopped roughly
2 celery stalks, diced medium
1 large or 2 medium carrots, diced large
2 tablespoons tomato paste
Salt and freshly ground black pepper
½ teaspoon red pepper flakes
2 large cloves garlic, minced
¾ cup dry white or red wine or bean cooking liquid
4 ounces kale (or spinach or chard), roughly chopped
2¼ cups crushed tomatoes (28-ounce can minus 1 cup; freeze the rest)
Salt and freshly ground black pepper
Up to ½ cup broth (vegetable or chicken) or bean cooking liquid
½ pound mozzarella, grated coarsely and ½ cup grated Parmesan* (optional)
2 tablespoons flat-leaf parsley (or basil) chopped for garnish (optional)

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 you have a deep ovenproof skillet or Dutch oven, this is a relatively fast one-pot meal.
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

1. Antsy
2. Giving
3. Meritocracy
4. Defection
5. Leathery
6. Synonymous
7. Trotting
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 hhnm.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.

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.

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.
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.

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-Saëns’s Carnival of Animals, a classic where each movement represents an animal. The performers are Max Milian on piano and cello, Kaelen 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@beavonvac.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 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 Orquist harmonize as the Trouble Sisters.
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 “commonsense 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 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 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 Ciaccio, 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.”
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 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 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.”
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 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.”