APRIL SHOWERS — A worker clears snow from the sidewalk on Monday, April 2, outside the Dutchess County building on Main Street in Beacon after yet another storm dumped four to six inches on the Highlands. It had melted by Wednesday.  

Photo by Guy Peifer

Beacon Police Add Body Cameras

Policy that guides officers not yet released

By Jeff Simms

Using a $9,900 federal grant, the Beacon Police Department is outfitting its 20 patrol officers with high-definition body cameras, an upgrade the department says will increase transparency and secure prosecutions.

Lt. Tom Figlia is shown with a body camera (inset) attached at the center of his vest.

A Tap Great in Beacon

Page 11

The camera clips to the officer’s vest and records video and audio of whatever occurs in front of him or her. The officer pushes a button to start the device, which saves footage from 10 seconds before activation.

The technology has already paid off, according to Police Chief Kevin Junjulas, who said on April 4 that an officer’s camera captured footage of a suspect discarding evidence while... (Continued on Page 3)
Five Questions: BRETT FELLER

By Brian PJ Cronin

On April 5, Brett Feller opened a hardware store at 18 W. Main St. in Beacon.

What prompted you to open your third Brett's Hardware?

I've been thinking about it since I bought the glass cutter for one of my Orange County locations from Nichols when it closed six years ago. Because I live in Beacon, it was obvious to me the city needed a hardware store.

How big is your new store compared to the others?

This is 6,600 square feet. The others are each 10,500 square feet. We managed to squeeze in almost everything. For example, we have 8 feet of dog treats at the other stores, and here we have 4 feet. It's going to serve the community fine, because Beacon's going to be so happy there are 4 feet of dog treats to choose from. With grass seed, the other stores have 12 feet, here it's 8. But the fact people won't have to leave town to get grass seed will be great. I know how it is. It's a pain in the butt to leave town.

What will surprise people when they first walk in?

How much different stuff they can buy. We put in everything a hardware store should carry. I also think people will come in and say, “How did you get all of this in here?” From the outside, you can’t tell.

Do you have anything specific to Beacon?

Because so many people walk to the train to commute, and so many people come up on the weekends, we put in more drinks and snack food. People in the building are already asking us to put in a coffee shop. A lot of people walk down here by the station and they don’t always want to walk up to Main Street. But first we have to focus on the hardware.

You share a building with Two-Way Brewery, so at least people can get a beer after they shop, right?

I’ve always thought it would be cool to have a bar in one of my stores, so this worked out.

Philipstown Enacts Safe-Storage Gun Law (from Page 1)

The board continued to fine-tune the proposal as late as Monday (April 2), changing wording that said a violator “shall” be subject to a fine of up to $1,000 and/or a year in the Putnam County Jail to “may” be subjected to those penalties.

A public hearing on Feb. 21 nearly filled the Haldane school auditorium as proponents and opponents made impassioned arguments. After that outpouring of testimony, the board scrapped its plan for an immediate vote.

A draft introduced in December but discarded before the Feb. 21 hearing would have compelled gun owners to lock up or disable a weapon whenever it was not in the owner’s immediate possession, even if he or she were in the house.

In the Heller case in 2008, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that requiring that a gun at home always be disabled or locked up is unconstitutional because it makes it impossible for the owner to readily use the gun in self-defense.

In a March 31 email, Christopher Turan, secretary of the Putnam County Firearms Association, called the final draft “a watered-down version and not as bad as what they originally (Continued on next page)
for Safety, which backs the ordinance, on March 20 urged that the Town Board return to its earlier, tougher language. In an email to supporters, she wrote that the revised draft “is not strong enough to protect our children adequately” because “it would only require that a gun be locked up if the gun owner is not home.”

She encouraged residents to ask the board to stipulate that “when there is a child in the home, the gun must be locked up if the owner is home and doesn’t have it under their control.”

Best Practices for Body Cameras

- Require the department to delete “unflagged” [routine] footage within six months.
- Expressly prohibit footage-tampering and unauthorized access, and indicate that all access to recorded footage will be logged or audited.
- Expressly allow individuals who are filing police misconduct complaints to view all relevant footage.
- Sharply limit the use of biometric technologies (e.g., facial recognition) to identify individuals in footage.
- Other issues that have come up include whether an officer can record inside your home if you have not consented to a search.

Body cameras being charged at the Beacon Police Department

Photo by J. Simmons

John W. Fenner | WWW.FENNERLEGAL.COM

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The last straw

I was happy to hear about the decision by the River Restaurant Group (Angela’s, Taco Santana, Ziatun, Vegetalien, Beacon Bread) to stop providing straws with beverages (“No More Straws,” March 30). It’s about time more restaurants did this. It’s an unnecessary and environmentally costly waste. I hope it provides a push for other local businesses.

Maria Elena Hardman, Cold Spring

Go-Go Pops, Go-Go Joe and Veggie Go-Go offer fun, stripey paper straws, and all our disposables are compostable.

However, the challenge with anything that’s biodegradable, compostable, recyclable, made from wood fiber, corn starch or sugar fiber is that it will always be more expensive than plastic. While 10,000 plastic straws might cost about $30, the least expensive wholesale source I can find sells 10,000 paper straws for $44.80. The cellophane sleeves (made from wood pulp) used for packaging our pops cost us 7 cents each when plastic sleeves would only cost us 1 cent each but are not environmentally sustainable.

For quite some time I’ve been considering how local food service operators might work together to reduce the cost of sustainable disposables by purchasing on a larger scale. Although I doubt any of us has the room or financial resources to stockpile, I’d be interested in working with other businesses to establish a buying club or cooperative.

Lynn Miller, Cold Spring

Voting reforms

It appears from the New York budget that our state government has again chosen not to join the 37 other states that permit early voting. The state Assembly, which is in Democratic control, regularly passes election reforms such as early voting and the Republican-controlled state Senate regularly declines to approve them. The desirability of encouraging more participation in our democracy should be obvious. New York State ranked 41st for voter turnout in the 2016 presidential election.

It’s time for our own state senator, Republican Sue Serino, to realize voting in a democracy should be one of our highest priorities. If Sen. Serino continues to oppose election reforms such as early voting, it is our obligation to elect someone who prioritizes this all-important right.

Susan Anspach, Cold Spring

On Tuesday, April 10, at 7 p.m., Sandy Galef, a Democrat who represents Philipstown in the state Assembly, will hold a forum at the Croton Free Library to discuss early voting, automatic voter registration, easier access to absentee ballots and electronic poll books.

Beacon rentals

As many in our community know, no matter how much you plan and save, maintaining your quality of life after retirement is never a sure thing. The reality for many retirees is that they must sell their homes and leave behind the communities that they love, in pursuit of affordability on a fixed budget.

After finally achieving our dream of living in Beacon, that was not something my husband and I were going to do. We love this town — my husband was born in Beacon and spent many a summer here as a child, and later as an adult with myself and our children.

We now live on the same property that he has known for almost all of his life, and near our married daughters and their families, who relocated to Beacon to live near us. To make ends meet in our dream home, we realized we would have to get a little creative.

Home sharing did the trick. It has been the answer to our question of how we could stay in Beacon while enjoying retirement, and at the same time, something happened that we never expected — we’ve had a lot of fun. Though we host our guests for only a few days out of the month, I love seeing people from around the world all that our city and the Hudson Valley has to offer. And I know our stores, galleries and restaurants have appreciated the business that this tourism has brought through their doors.

As the City Council considers regulating Airbnb (“Beacon May Regulate Short-term Rentals,” March 23), I hope this is what they will remember: I am a typical Airbnb host in Beacon. We are longtime residents who respect and give back to our community — and as such, hold public safety needs to the highest priority — but depend on the income boost that home sharing provides.

For us, we can’t imagine another alternative to balance both retirement and keeping our homes. Please don’t legislate this lifestyle away from us.

Rosemary Merhige, Beacon

Haldane safety

The Haldane School Board met this week to discuss its budget for next year. There is a $330,000 deficit and reductions will be needed to balance it.

One of the cuts the board is considering is the elimination of the elementary school librarian/gardener position to pay for an armed school peace officer (SPO) and an unarmed security attendant at the lower cafeteria entrance to the main building. These positions would be in addition to the current school resource officer (SRO), who is a Putnam County sheriff’s deputy.

According to the Sheriff’s Department, the county has nine SROs. [See chart on next page.] Each of the districts with more than one officer has about 1,700 students or more. Haldane has 827.

It is highly questionable whether adding an SPO and/or security attendant at Haldane will make our kids safer. It may assuage fears, but that is not the same thing.

We all want our children to be safe. This unites us as a community. There is nothing political about the unified response to the tragedy in Parkland, Florida, was a call for action. But there is a lack of rigorous research and data on the effectiveness of a police presence in schools to reduce crime and protect students.

According to a 2013 report by the Congressional Research Service, the research that is available draws conflicting conclusions. The Haldane School Board claims that the public is calling for more police at the school. Is it true that the community wants to eliminate good educators in exchange for measures that haven’t been proven effective? Or are there a handful of loud voices grabbing the board’s attention?

Board members and Superintendent Diana Bowers are charged with making careful decisions. Sacrificing education for greater security when there is no evidence that it will keep our kids any safer is poor leadership.

There will be a board meeting on Tuesday, April 17, to finalize the 2018-19 budget. If you feel your voice is not being heard, I urge you to contact the board members and superintendent before then.

Sandy McKelvey, Cold Spring

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR
By the Numbers: Schools, Jobs, Energy, Bills

Graduation Rates

About 80 percent of students attending New York public high schools graduate, and about 6 percent drop out. Here are the rates for schools in the Highlands, based on data from the state Department of Education for students who entered the ninth grade in 2013 and were expected to graduate in 2017. The "top ELA" indicates the percentage of students who scored at the highest level in the Regent’s exam for English Language Arts.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District</th>
<th>Class of '17</th>
<th>% Graduate</th>
<th>% Top ELA</th>
<th>% Drop out</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Haldane</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>96</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beacon</td>
<td>214</td>
<td>82</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Put Valley</td>
<td>512</td>
<td>94</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>O'Neill</td>
<td>117</td>
<td>89</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Newburgh</td>
<td>795</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Sheriff's Department; data.nysed.gov

Employment

The national average weekly wage is $1,020 and the state average is $1,237. All but 10 of New York's 62 counties have average wages below $1,000.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District</th>
<th># of jobs</th>
<th>Weekly wage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Putnam</td>
<td>27,841</td>
<td>$1,011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dutchess</td>
<td>113,543</td>
<td>$1,023</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Westchester</td>
<td>437,557</td>
<td>$1,327</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manhattan</td>
<td>2.5 million</td>
<td>$1,907</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: U.S. Department of Labor, June 2017 (most recent figures)

Putnam School Resource (Police) Officers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District</th>
<th>Students</th>
<th>SROs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Brewster</td>
<td>3,119</td>
<td>3 (elem., middle, high)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carmel</td>
<td>4,173</td>
<td>2 (middle, high)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Garrison</td>
<td>207</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Haldane</td>
<td>827</td>
<td>1 (K-12)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mahopac</td>
<td>4,215</td>
<td>2 (middle, high)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Putnam Valley</td>
<td>1,696</td>
<td>1 (high + elem. SPO)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Sheriff’s Department; data.nysed.gov

Energy Prices

The average prices in New York state.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>March 2017</th>
<th>March 2018</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Motor gas per gallon</td>
<td>$2.42</td>
<td>$2.63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electricity per kWh</td>
<td>17.3 cents</td>
<td>17.7 cents</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Natural gas per MCF1</td>
<td>$9.81</td>
<td>$9.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Propane per gallon</td>
<td>$2.77</td>
<td>$3.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Propane (Highlands)</td>
<td>$2.58</td>
<td>$2.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heating oil per gallon</td>
<td>$2.71</td>
<td>$3.16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heating oil (Highlands)</td>
<td>$2.79</td>
<td>$3.28</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1 Compares January 2017 to January 2018

Source: New York State Energy Research and Development Authority

Cost of Living

The typical expenses, in 2017 dollars, for a two-parent, two-child family

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District</th>
<th>Annual</th>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Housing</th>
<th>Food</th>
<th>Child Care</th>
<th>Transport</th>
<th>Medical</th>
<th>Other</th>
<th>Taxes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Putnam</td>
<td>$139K</td>
<td>$11,563</td>
<td>$1,712</td>
<td>$1,002</td>
<td>$2,708</td>
<td>$1,349</td>
<td>$1,330</td>
<td>$1,095</td>
<td>$2,724</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dutchess</td>
<td>$118K</td>
<td>$9,821</td>
<td>$1,304</td>
<td>$842</td>
<td>$2,405</td>
<td>$1,293</td>
<td>$1,330</td>
<td>$866</td>
<td>$1,780</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Westch.</td>
<td>$129K</td>
<td>$10,764</td>
<td>$1,687</td>
<td>$853</td>
<td>$2,724</td>
<td>$1,134</td>
<td>$1,237</td>
<td>$1,025</td>
<td>$2,104</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Economic Policy Institute

Pruning is an Art

If you are looking for a "natural finish" and do not want to see your ornamentals cut back severely to dead wood, choose Artful Pruning. Artful Pruning allows your ornamentals to keep looking good.

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- Pest identification/management and soil building
- End of season crops for sowing in situ

Space is limited to 12 participants. Participants must attend both workshops. Registration and pre-payment required. $90/$70 for members.

For more information and to register on line, visit www.stonecrop.org

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Beacon Delays Vote on Airbnb

Many residents oppose proposed regulations

By Jeff Simms

A standing-room-only crowd, many of them Airbnb hosts, packed City Hall in Beacon on Monday (April 2) as the City Council sought input on a proposed law to regulate short-term rentals. Ultimately, however, it scratched a vote scheduled for the same night, opting instead to keep the conversation going at an upcoming workshop.

The many people who argued to leave well enough alone appeared to surprise the council.

“I assumed this discussion would be fairly straightforward,” Council Member George Mansfield said afterward. “The arguments were relatively clear in my mind. I was surprised to see the subtlety of everyone’s different experiences.”

Much of the discussion about regulating short-term rentals such as those arranged on Airbnb and similar sites has focused on whether residents should be permitted to rent out part or all of an apartment or home that isn’t their primary residence.

Residents expressed concern that permitting short-term rentals without some restrictions would amount to allowing hotels in residential neighborhoods, with their accompanying traffic and noise. Elaine Ciaccio presented the council with a petition signed by 70 people making that point.

The council has leaned toward prohibiting non-owner-occupied short-term rentals, but on Monday it heard a variety of opinions.

“I consider it a public service,” said Laeri Nast, the owner of Play on Main Street, who leases a second house that he purchased for rentals and part-time personal use. The home is “a dog-friendly place, it’s a fenced yard. People love it. You can’t do that in any other place.”

Many other speakers also pointed out the unique experiences Airbnb and other rental services provide that traditional lodging does not.

“It’s not legal to have a short-term rental in Beacon,” said Seth Porges, a writer and Airbnb host, “so we either have to make a law to make them legal or we have to enforce the law. I’m not going to be sitting at the head of the city not enforcing something that’s illegal now.”

In addition, there has been confusion about what is and isn’t legal. While Beacon’s zoning permits property owners to lease their homes, it doesn’t allow for rentals of 30 days or fewer, City Attorney Nick Ward-Willis said.

The proposed law would require hosts to register with the city and have their rental spaces inspected by the Building Department. It would prohibit short-term rentals in apartments or homes that are not occupied by the owner and would cap short-term rentals at 100 nights per year. (According to Airbnb, the typical host in Beacon rents for about 50 nights per year.)

Adding to the complexity are state regulations that require fire sprinklers and other safety measures for newly built dwellings used as “lodging houses.” New York’s laws are not as strict for homes that have been converted to traditional bed-and-breakfasts but still require features, such as marked fire exits, that most homes lack.

Increased scrutiny of short-term rentals has put the city in a position where it must act, Beacon Mayor Randy Casale said.

“It’s not legal to have a short-term rental in Beacon, he said, “so we either have to make a law to make them legal or we have to enforce the law. I’m not going to be sitting at the head of the city not enforcing some.”

(Continued on Page 14)
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New York Budget Answers Putnam Protests  (from Page 7)

Taxes on state land

Although Cuomo wanted to change the way New York pays taxes on state-owned land, such as state parks, the state Legislature refused.

Currently, municipalities assess the “ad valorem,” or value, of state-owned parcels. The state then compensates local governments for the revenue they would be collecting were the land in tax-payers’ hands.

Cuomo proposed scrapping the ad valorem assessment for a formula that would apply statewide, namely that the state’s annual payment would equal a parcel’s value in the prior year plus 2 percent or the level of inflation, whichever is less. The change would have ended the role of local assessors in determining a state-owned parcel’s value, which presumably reflects local real estate trends.

“We’d be losing money if the state goes forward with this,” predicted Lisa Johnson, director of Putnam’s Real Property Services Agency, at a meeting on March 26 of the legislature’s Audit Committee.

In a later email to The Current, Johnson said Cuomo’s proposal contained no provision on handling any future purchases of land by the state. She also said Albany could fund the program for a year or two and then “decide that there will be one pool of money and pro-rate the amount given to each taxing jurisdiction. That would create a revenue discrepancy for schools, county, towns, villages and other authorities.

As a precedent, Johnson cited a requirement that county officials take continuing education courses, which originally the state funded, although now in “most years it’s become an unfunded mandate” that the county must pay for.

The Audit Committee passed a resolution saying Putnam “vehemently and stalwartly opposes” the changes. It noted that the state owns more than 25,000 acres in Putnam, for which it paid the county $4.6 million last year in lieu of property taxes. That included $561,460 to town and village governments and fire districts in Philipstown and $1.17 million to the Garrison and Haldane school districts and Butterfield and Desmond-Fish libraries.

The resolution also criticized the amount of state park land in Putnam, arguing that residents, businesses and municipalities are “unreasonably and unfairly constrained and prohibited from using” parks “for commercial, industrial or even residential purposes,” fostering an inability of municipalities to attract and sustain business and development.”

According to Johnson, the state ranked third in land ownership in Putnam, with property worth $123.9 million, behind New York City with property valued at $711.4 million and land worth $129.5 million owned by New York Electric and Gas Corp.

William Carlin, the county finance commissioner, said that, especially in western Putnam, affluent buyers often acquire extensive land, build a home on a portion and convey the rest to a nonprofit environmental group, which transfers it to the state as park land.

Along with Hudson Highlands and Fahnestock state parks and the Castle Rock Unique Area in Philipstown, Putnam contains Big Buck and California Hill State Forests, the Bog Brook Unique Area, the Cranberry Mountain and Great Swamp Wildlife Management Areas, and the White Pond and Ninham Mountain Mutual Use Areas.

Forest land

The Audit Committee also objected to the governor’s proposal to provide new tax breaks for forest land. The state Legislature eliminated it from the final budget.

Under the plan, a forest owner — whether an individual or corporation — who fulfilled stewardship requirements could receive a 40 or 70 percent tax break on the property. While the program generally would have prohibited participation by local governments, it would have established grants for those that manage forests — a potential aid for communities such as Nelsonville, which owns woods.

The state Department of Environmental Conservation said that, among other benefits, the initiative would preserve open space and wildlife habitats, increase sustainable production of wood in private forests, fight against climate change, and give wood from New York forests preference in state government procurement. It also promised to reimburse municipalities for tax losses from the initiative.

“It appears if this goes through, the large parcel owners — i.e., wealthy — will get tax breaks and the rest of us will pay for it,” Johnson told Putnam legislators before state legislators shut down the idea. She estimated that the initiative would affect 400 properties in Putnam County.
The studio’s signature Bikes and Bags class begins with 30 minutes of cycling, then goes to the mat for core and strength training through bag and mitt work, including punching combinations.

The couple moved to the Hudson Valley after Laura visited Cold Spring while pregnant with Quinn. “It felt like a bit of kismet,” she says. Sam recalls: “Laura told me I would love it there. I did, but we both wanted more of a city feel, and Beacon was perfect. We decided to take a chance.”

“It’s a big goal of ours to attract city transplants and also those born and raised here,” says Laura. “We’re really aware of gentrification and while acknowledging that we’re a part of it, we also want to be a community space.”

In their first few months in business, the couple have found early morning and early evening classes fill fast. “We tried a 10:45 a.m. class, but people weren’t biting,” says Sam. They were also surprised that more people come to work out when the weather is better.

Asked about the challenge of being married and working together every day, Sam is philosophical. “If you’re going to be yelling at someone, it might as well be at someone you love!” she quips.

Drop-ins are $22, with unlimited classes for $109 per month ($97 for students). On Tuesdays, Beacon residents can ride for $15. See thestudioatbeacon.com or call 845-765-1144.

Cold Spring Studio Goes Beyond Bikes

By Alison Rooney

When the youngest of the four children of Dawn Scanga became a teenager, the former fashion buyer turned stay-at-home mom decided to reinvent herself.

“I’ve been an athlete my entire life,” says Scanga, who grew up in Cold Spring. “I played softball and basketball at Haldane and I learned more life skills from sports than from any book. There’s a Nike slogan which says ‘If you have a body, you’re an athlete. No matter who you are, you train for life.’

Scanga studied exercise science and wellness and became certified as a personal trainer with the National Academy of Sports Medicine. And a year ago, she took over what had been the Route 9 spin-cycling studio called On the Cage, where trainers provided one-on-one workouts. The larger front space is where group classes take place, which include Barre (a fusion of Pilates, yoga, ballet barre and orthopedic stretching) and Barre Interval, which is faster and more intense. There’s also FitNow!, a class designed by Scanga that includes foam rolling and stretching for people “easing back into fitness”; Battlerope Suspension Training, led by José Matos, which uses weighted ropes for interval, cross-training and agility work; Core + Cardio, which uses hand weights; Full Body Blast, Total Body Conditioning and Total Body Toning, which are higher intensity workouts; and Rock Bottom, which focuses on the lower half of the body with ankle weights and resistance bands.

Along with personal training, Scanga is certified in corrective exercise, which focuses on rehabilitation after injuries or surgery. “Corrective exercise got me to be a science geek,” she says. “You also can use it for injury prevention, working opposite muscle groups. Injuries can affect you your entire life.”

She says the business has been a family affair, with support from her husband, John Paul Scanga, and her teenagers. “One of my kids has worked on the marketing flyers, another wipes down the equipment at the end of each day,” she says. “It’s teamwork!”

Drop-ins are $20, and unlimited classes are $129 per month ($69 for students and schoolteachers). Unlimited cycle classes are $69 per month. Cold Spring Fitness also allows members to use the studio to work out when classes are not in session. See coldspringfitness.com or call 845-265-2833.
FRIDAY, APRIL 6
Grace Knowlton / Harry Leigh (Opening)
6 – 8:30 p.m. Buster Levi Gallery
121 Main St., Cold Spring
845-809-5145 | boroughslibrarygallery.com

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

Trans-Atlantic Horn Duo
8 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
477 Main St., Beacon
845-831-4988 | howlandculturalcenter.org

SATURDAY, APRIL 7
Household Hazardous Waste Disposal / Electronics Recycling
8 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Dutchess Solid Waste Management, 27 High St., Poughkeepsie
845-486-3604 | co.dutchess.ny.us

Open House
10 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. Howland Public Library
23 Garrison’s Landing, Garrison
845-838-6900 | beaconlibrary.org

AARP Taxaide for Seniors and Low-Income
3:30 p.m. Howland Public Library
313 Main St., Beacon
845-831-1134 | beaconlibrary.org

Poetry Open Mic
6 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library
472 Route 403, Garrison
845-424-3020 | desmondfishlibrary.org

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

Hope on the Hudson: The Restoration of the Clearwater (Film)
7 p.m. Beacon Stoop Club
See details under Wednesday.

Joseph Plumb Martin & His Comrades (Talk)
7 p.m. Fort Montgomery Historic Site
690 Route 9W, Fort Montgomery
845-448-2134 | nysparks.com

THURSDAY, APRIL 12
AARP Taxaide for Seniors and Low-Income
10 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. Howland Public Library
313 Main St., Beacon
See details under Monday.

SUNDAY, APRIL 8
Fun with Science: Honeybees
10 a.m. – 3 p.m. Farmers’ Market
413 Main St., Beacon | beaconhebrewalliance.org

Adaptive Family and Foster Care Coalition
Support Group
2 p.m. Beacon Hebrew Alliance
331 Verplanck Ave., Beacon
845-831-2012 | beaconhebrewalliance.org

Can Gardens Be Saved? (Talk)
2 p.m. Winter Hill
20 Nazerath Way, Garrison
RSVP to lmoses@gardensconservancy.org

John Hathorn and his Militia (Talk)
2 p.m. Van Wyck Hall
1095 Main St., Fishkill
fishkillafricanhistory.org

Paola Ochoa (Artist’s Talk)
3 p.m. Matteawan Gallery
436 Main St., Beacon
845-440-7901 | matteawan.com

Parker Quartet with Charles Neidich
4 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
See details under Friday.

HVSF Designing Stories Workshop
5 p.m. Garrison Art Center
23 Garrison’s Landing, Garrison
845-809-5750 x18 | hshakespeare.org

MONDAY, APRIL 9
AARP Taxaide for Seniors and Low-Income
10 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. Howland Public Library
313 Main St., Beacon
Registration required. Call 211.
A Tap Great Shuffles into Beacon

Brenda Bufalino, 80, is known for her improvisation

By Alison Rooney

One of the pre-eminent tap dancers of the past 50 years will visit Beacon this month. Brenda Bufalino, 80, is scheduled to talk about and demonstrate her improvisational style at Ballet Arts Studio at 11 a.m. on Sunday, April 15.

Along with Tony Waag and the late Charles “Honi” Coles, Bufalino co-founded the American Tap Dance Orchestra (later the American Tap Dance Foundation), whose members performed around the world from 1986 to 1999. The company also operated the Woodpeckers Tap Dance Center in New York City, which became a magnet for talented performers.

“Tap dance, in all its myriad colorations, has spread and is being developed around the globe, and I’m so happy to still be a part of that process,” Bufalino says.

The dancer, who has soloed at Carnegie Hall, the Apollo Theater and the Kennedy Center, recalls in her memoir, Tapping the Source, how she was steered to tap classes as a girl because she was judged to be too “distracted.” Even then, she was drawn to improvisation, rather than routines.

“Improvisation is a way of life,” she wrote, recalling that her mother told her: “Take risks. There’s nothing to lose. The worst that can happen is that you end up back where you started.”

At age 13 Bufalino began commuting from her home in a Massachusetts town to Boston to study traditional rhythm tap. But she also loved the improvisation of Dizzy Gillespie and Charlie Parker. Although she stood out as a white girl in what was then a largely black and male world of tap, notes Margaret Fuhrer in American Dance: The Complete Illustrated History, by age 16 Bufalino was performing in nightclubs. Soon after she moved to New York and began training with Coles.

“Some black tappers frowned upon colleagues who trained white dancers,” reports Fuhrer, “but Coles shrugged off such criticism. ‘No blacks want it, and she does,’” he said. ‘Nobody else can do it, but she can.”

Bufalino left tap for a few years in the early 1960s to write plays and poetry but returned in the 1970s and in 1977 released a documentary.

(To Page 12)
A Tap Great Shuffles into Beacon

Great Feats of Feet, and began organizing tap shows around New York. That led to the American Tap Dance Orchestra, and Pulver credits Bufalino with pioneering group tap choreography after decades of solo performers.

Katie Bissinger, who teaches tap at Ballet Arts, and who arranged for Bufalino’s visit, says that the lesson for dancers in watching Bufalino is that she is able to let go of the fear of “doing it wrong.” Although the traditional conservatory approach to dance, particularly ballet, focuses on precision, she says, it’s also “important to teach young people that they can make mistakes. I’m hoping Brenda loosens everyone up!”

Bufalino, who lives in Cold Spring, contacted Bufalino after watching a video produced by The New York Times as part of its “Daily 360” series in which Bufalino dances around a room. The video includes a brief reference to Gardiner, New York, and Bissinger realized the tap great was “in our backyard.” (Bufalino has since moved to New York City.)

Bissinger hopes her students will appreciate not only Bufalino’s place in dance history but the depth of her skills.

“I want the kids to make the connection of what she did to ‘here she is,’” the instructor says. “I want them to think about how you create the dances, how you make music with your feet. We’re musicians, not just dancers. ‘The floor is a drum’ is a saying we use with dancers when they’re little. As a tap dancer, you need to learn what an eighth note is, a 16th; you have to be versed in that language."

For her part, Bufalino observes that “finding your voice or your style is a mercurial and illusive process. It would be more appropriate to say, How can I get out of my own way, so my voice can find me?”

The two-hour workshop costs $25 for Ballet Arts Studio dancers or $35 otherwise. RSVP to info@balletartsstudio.com or 845-831-1870. The studio is located at 107 Teller Ave. in Beacon.

Visit highlandscurrent.com for news updates and latest information.

A Short History of Tap

Modern tap originated around 1920 when “taaaps” were nailed or screwed into shoes at toe and heel. In Shuffle Along (1921) a chorus line appeared with “tap shoes.” Vaudeville variety shows expanded tap’s appeal, as did nightclubs and musicals. In 1934, Shirley Temple, 6, trained by Bill “Bojangles” Robinson, made the first of her 24 films and caused enrollment to skyrocket in tap classes. Much later, variety shows on television kept dancers employed.

Several tap companies formed in the 1970s and 1980s, including the Jazz Tap Ensemble in 1979, Rhapsody in Taps in 1981 and the American Tap Dance Orchestra in 1986. But only when Gregory Hines came on the scene in the 1989 film Tap did it soar back into the public imagination. That was followed in 1996 by Savion Glover’s musical Bring in ‘da Noise, Bring in ‘da Funk, which won him a Tony Award for choreography. More recently, Michelle Dorrance, who leads her own company and is a MacArthur “Genius Grant” recipient, in March was commissioned to create three works for the American Ballet Theater.
College Deans’ Lists

Each university is different, but generally to be named to the dean’s list a student must achieve a grade-point average of 3.3 or 3.5 and higher. This list is for the fall quarter of the 2017-18 school year.

Clarkson University (Potsdam)
Kerri Moseman, Beacon (Biomolecular Science/Chemistry)
Sarina Matalon, Garrison (Physics)

Colgate University (Hamilton)
Noah Campbell, Cold Spring (Mathematics)

College of Saint Rose (Albany)
John Rotando, Cold Spring

East Stroudsburg University (Pennsylvania)
Alexa Stephenz, Garrison (English)

Hudson Valley Community College (Troy)
Alexia Morgan, Beacon
Jonathan Underwood, Beacon

Ithaca College
Amanda Erickson, Garrison (Theatre Studies)

Le Moyne College (Syracuse)
Bernadette Boscia, Cold Spring (Biology)
Steven Casement, Cold Spring (History)
Marissa Lisikatos, Cold Spring (Chemistry)

Manhattan College (Bronx)
Sarah Poons, Beacon (Accounting)

Marist College (Poughkeepsie)
Megan Brief, Garrison (English)
Manfred Cabintoy, Beacon (Professional Studies)
Sydney Dexter, Beacon (Liberal Arts)
Sarah Galante, Beacon (Psychology/Special Education)
Veronica Grech, Beacon (Business Administration)
Caroline Schweikart, Cold Spring (Psychology)
Robert Vahos, Cold Spring (Environmental Science & Policy)
Sarah Warren, Cold Spring (Applied Mathematics)
Marcus Zimmermann, Cold Spring (Computer Science)

Morrisville State College (New York)
Christopher Buonanno, Garrison (Criminal Justice - BTech)

Roger Williams University (Bristol, Rhode Island)
Alyssa Repetto, Garrison

Siena College (Loudonville)
Dale Gerundo, Beacon
Katina Pagones, Beacon

Springfield College (Massachusetts)
Bridget Walsh, Garrison (Athletic Training)

SUNY Albany
Victor Calderon, Garrison
Shain Clyburn, Beacon
Erik Greiner, Garrison
Daniel Hernandez, Garrison
Kacee Lahey, Beacon
Ryan McCoollum, Cold Spring
Riley Palermo, Garrison
Sophia Shurlati, Garrison
Nolan Shea, Cold Spring

SUNY Cortland
Alexandra Cinquanta (Speech Pathology)

SUNY Geneseo
Mary-Margaret Dwyer, Cold Spring
Elizabeth Osborn, Cold Spring
Shauna Ricketts, Cold Spring

SUNY New Paltz
Larisa Bartosh, Beacon
Summer Berry, Beacon
Allisen Casey, Cold Spring
Caroline Casparian, Cold Spring
Aidan Gallagher, Cold Spring
John McCann, Garrison
Christopher Mendez, Beacon
Paige O’Toole, Garrison
Lian Petrie, Cold Spring
Suzanne Ricottilli, Beacon

SUNY Oneonta
Abby Antake, Beacon
Amber Butler, Beacon
Emily Hill, Beacon

SUNY Oswego
Gabrielle Kerr, Beacon (Chemistry)
James Koller, Beacon (Business Administration)
John Thompson, Beacon (Creative Writing)
Eleni Vakirtzis, Beacon (Zoology)

SUNY Potsdam
Leah Giavatto, Beacon

SUNY Purchase
Kristina Daniels, Beacon (Visual Arts)
Alison Duncan, Nelsonville (Arts Management)
Anaela Hurt, Beacon (Theatre and Performance)
James Kerkapoly, Garrison (Music Production)
Leandra Rice, Cold Spring (Arts Management)
Hali Traina, Cold Spring (Cinema Studies)

University of Delaware
Matthew Gallinger, Garrison

University of Hartford
Terrel Davis, Beacon
Nicole Etta, Cold Spring

University of Vermont
Emma Parks, Garrison (Environmental Sciences)

SUNY Purchase
Kristina Daniels, Beacon (Visual Arts)
Alison Duncan, Nelsonville (Arts Management)
Anaela Hurt, Beacon (Theatre and Performance)
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University of Hartford
Terrel Davis, Beacon
Nicole Etta, Cold Spring

University of Vermont
Emma Parks, Garrison (Environmental Sciences)
Beacon Delays Vote on Airbnb *(from page 6)*

Many of the speakers on Monday said they would accept some regulation by the city but hoped it wouldn’t be so onerous that it eliminated any incentive to offer short-term rentals. They argued that would not only hurt tourists who rent rooms but the local businesses where they spend money. According to Airbnb, more than 9,000 people rented rooms in Beacon through the service in 2017.

Visitors “need a place to stay right here in Beacon,” Dennis Swindell, an Airbnb host, told the council. “We push them to [visit] the city and that’s where they spend their dollars, going up and down Main Street.”

Other residents said the income from rentals allows them to stay in Beacon despite rising costs. Renting on Airbnb for the last three years “provided an income that allows us to live and work in Beacon and not have to commute,” said Jessica Jelliffe. “This is extremely important to us as we are fully committed to being active participants in this great city that we love.”

Andrew Kalloch, an Airbnb representative who specializes in public policy, submitted comments opposing the law and suggesting that Airbnb hosts should not be held to the same building code standards as full-time commercial establishments such as bed-and-breakfasts.

Beacon Police Add Body Cameras *(from Page 3)*

recommended the opposite — that officers should be permitted to review video footage in which they were involved before making a statement about the incident. “Reviewing footage,” it said, “will help officers remember the incident more clearly, which leads to more accurate documentation of events. The goal is to find the truth, which is facilitated by letting officers have all possible evidence.”

The ACLU recommends police save for three years all footage that shows the use of force, commission of a felony, events leading up to an arrest for a felony or an encounter that resulted in a civilian complaint. Otherwise, video should be retained for six months and then automatically deleted, it said.

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Spring Awakening
By Celia Barbour

I was 15 the summer my parents sent my big sister and me to France to live with our third-cousin Christine and her family in an old stucco villa overlooking a vineyard by the sea, just south of Brittany.

Fifteen is one of those years you spend constantly recalibrating who you are in the world — trying to align the person you always believed yourself to be with how others see you. For me, a geek from Indiana with less than a year of public-school French under my belt, negotiating those contradictions in a foreign land was both exhilarating and terrifying.

Christine’s friends, a gang of two dozen or so French kids ranging in age from just older than I was to 22 or 23, might as well have been a flock of pelicans as far as I was concerned. Their daily lives seemed governed by inexplicable collective urges. Out of the blue, they would all decide to go to Pornic or Les Moutiers, and I’d find myself on the back of a Vespa zipping down the coast, my arms flung around myself on the back of a Vespa zipping.

That’s a breakneck pace by American standards. And yet, I didn’t mind. I could flip a crêpe with a flick of her wrist, an entrancingly sophisticated skill in my eyes, and after the summer was over, I practiced until I could send crêpes somersaulting gracefully through the air. In my 20s, I graduated from plain white-flour to buckwheat, preferring its deep mineral tang, its beautiful cashmere color. I never acquired a troupe of friends with which to share my skill, however. (I never again rode on the back of a Vespa, either.)

Last Monday, I was seized by a powerful craving for buckwheat crêpes, perhaps prompted by this year’s idea of spring, which is behaving an awful lot like a teenager who doesn’t know what it wants to be, and is pissed off at having to even try.

Perhaps I was prompted by the fact that an unexpected snow day landed me with a troupe of actual teenagers lounging around my house.

As it happens, crêpes, like teens, don’t respond well to sudden demands; the batter needs to rest two hours in the fridge before it’s ready to cook. Fortunately, that’s enough time to contemplate a full repertoire of fillings. If you know how to turn a roux into a Mornay with milk and Gruyere, or into a veloute with broth, you can make a fancy baked-crêpe dish using almost anything in your fridge — mushrooms, chicken, ham, spinach, eggs, even scallops or shrimp — with said sauce poured over the top.

But on Monday, I wanted a more spontaneous crêpe in which to collect a few spears of asparagus, a slice of Gruyere, a piece of ham. Indeed, I’m now convinced that such hand-held DIY crêpes are a perfect dish for this uncertain season, when yearnings (for asparagus, ramps, strawberries) are being constantly dashed by realities (another 3 inches of snow). They allow you to gather up your tender, green hopes along with your winter comforts, enfold them together in a little buckwheat jacket, crisp at the edges and pliant within, cradling them in your hand, then devour them. And what better way to resolve contradictions than with a single, happy gulp?

The Highlands Current
April 6, 2018

For fillings:
Blanched asparagus; sliced Gruyere and ham; poached eggs
Smoked salmon; crème fraiche with lemon zest
Sautééd apples; Brie
Sautééd spinach or chard; cheddar, Brie or Mornay sauce
Sautééd mushrooms with shallots and thyme; Mornay sauce
Sautééd ramps; scrambled eggs; mint

For crepes:
3 tablespoons butter, plus more for frying crêpes
1 cup low-fat milk
3 eggs
½ teaspoon salt
¼ cup buckwheat flour
½ cup white flour
½ to 1½ cup water, to thin

1. Prepare fillings of your choice; set aside
2. Melt the 3 tablespoons of butter and set aside to cool slightly. In a blender, combine the milk, eggs and salt, and blend on low speed. With the blender running, add the flours and melted butter. Turn the speed to high and whisk for one minute. Transfer to a pitcher, cover and refrigerate for at least two hours, or up to 6.
3. Heat a medium skillet over medium heat for two minutes. Brush with butter, and return to heat. Pour in about ¼ cup batter, tilting and swirling the pan to distribute it evenly. Cook two minutes, or until crepe loosens easily from the pan. Flip and cook 30 seconds on the reverse side.
4. Fill and eat as they’re ready, or set aside to serve later. To serve, heat crepes briefly in a dry skillet, melting optional cheese onto each as you go. Add remaining filling, roll up and serve.

Buckwheat Crêpes

The first crêpe always fails. Don’t worry — the rest will be better. Finished crêpes can be stacked between sheets of waxed paper and frozen for up to two months; reheat in a skillet over medium-low heat before serving.

7 LITTLE WORDS
1. SLEIGHT, 2. GENERATIONS, 3. SKIPPER, 4. FLAK, 5. ORDER, 6. SCRAPS, 7. FLAMES

PC3348 PC038
and the League of Women Voters, as well as Putnam County election commissioners Catherine Croft and Anthony Scan napieco Jr. See assembly.state.ny.us/mem/ Sandy-Galef. The library is located at 171 Cleveland Dr.

Alexandra Beliakovich will perform at the Chapel Restoration in Cold Spring on April 15.

Pianist at Chapel Program on The Revolutionaries

The Chapel Restoration in Cold Spring will open its Sunday Music Series at 4 p.m. on Sunday, April 15, with pianist Alexandra Beliakovich. Her program, titled The Revolutionaries: Intrepid Piano Music, will feature selections by Haydn, Debussy, Satie, Burleson and Chopin. The concert is free but donations are welcome.

Elections Panel

Galef to hold forum on reforms

Sandy Galef, who represents Philipstown in the state Assembly, will host a forum on proposals on early voting, election security, and how elections could be improved. It will be held Thursday, April 10, from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Croton Free Library. The panelists include specialists from the Brennan Center, Iona College and the League of Women Voters, as well as Putnam County election commissioners Catherine Croft and Anthony Scan napieco Jr. See assembly.state.ny.us/mem/ Sandy-Galef. The library is located at 171 Cleveland Dr.

The Old Road Society of Philipstown is organizing a dirt road cleanup for April 7 and 8. Shown here is Old Albany Post Road near Travis Corners. Photo by Daniel Case

The Highlands Current

April 6, 2018

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Dirt Road Spruce-Up

Society asks for volunteers

The Old Road Society of Philipstown is organizing a dirt road cleanup for Saturday and Sunday, April 7 and 8. Residents are encouraged to join neighbors to remove debris on local roads. Email Terry Zaleski at tzaleski@sprynet.com with questions.

Writers’ Circle

Institute group meets April 11

Each month, the Garrison Institute hosts a two-hour gathering for writers of all experience levels with meditation and sharing. The next session begins at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, April 11. If you would like to share, bring three copies of up to 5 pages of a work in progress. RSVP at garrisoninstitute.org.

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Garrison School Benefit

Spring Thaw set for April 14

The Garrison Children’s Education Fund will host its annual Spring Thaw fundraiser on Saturday, April 14, from 6 to 9 p.m. at Glynnwood Farm in Philipstown. Paella and drinks are included in the $90 ticket, and there will be a silent auction and raffles. GCEF is raising money to purchase a play structure at the Garrison School. See gcef.net.

Men of Action

Two talks on Revolutionary figures

At 2 p.m. on Sunday, April 8, Sue Gardner, the deputy town historian of Warwick, will speak at Van Wyck Hall in Fishkill on John Hathorn, an Orange County military leader, politician and activist. The hall is located at 1095 Main St. See fishkillhistoricalsociety.org.

On Thursday, April 12, at 7 p.m., historian James Kirby Martin will lecture at the Fort Montgomery Historic Site on Joseph Plumb Martin, a private in the Continental Army who left behind an invaluable memoir of his experiences. Reservations are required; call 845-446-2134.

MFA Show

Reception in Garrison on April 14

A group show, An Opera of Canaries, will open with a reception from 4 to 7 p.m. on Saturday, April 14, at the Garrison Art Center. Curated by James Siena and Becky Gordon, it includes works by Avner Chaim, Lauren Faigels, Joe Hoyt, Andrew Julka, Hye Soo Kim and Edwin Smalling, each of whom is a recent graduate of the School of Visual Arts or Yale School of Art.

Beacon Student Art

School show opens April 14

The third annual Beacon City School District student art show will open at the Howland Public Library with a reception from 2 to 4 p.m. on Saturday, April 14. It features work by elementary, middle and high school students and will remain on view through April 26. More art from Beacon elementary students will be displayed in the windows at 307 Main St. The library is located at 313 Main St.

Fun with Science

Month-long event begins April 8

April is Fun with Science Month in Beacon, with citywide events for all ages organized by the Howland Public Library and Miss Vickie’s Music. On Sunday, April 8, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., educators from Stony Kill Farm will present an interactive program at the Beacon Farmers’ Market about honeybees, including local honey tastings.

Throughout the month, the Beacon Institute for Rivers and Estuaries will also share a hands-on demonstration of a watershed, a Hudson River salt sensor, and touchscreens showing its research. The events are for children age 4 and older. See bire.org for more.

Student Competition

Deadline is May 1

School-aged children in Dutchess County are invited to enter an art competition sponsored by the county’s Task Force Against Human Trafficking. The deadline is May 1 and all media will be accepted except photos of faces. The winner will receive a $300 gift card and his or her art will be used in the task force’s educational materials. See dutchessny.gov/CountyGov/Departments/CountyExecutive/28947.htm.

Historical Events

Ribbon cutting, bar talk

With assistance from the Beacon Chamber of Commerce, the Beacon Historical Society will hold a ribbon-cutting at its new home in the former rectory of St. Andrew’s Church on South Avenue at noon on Saturday, April 14. From noon to 4 p.m. the society will host an open house and volunteers will lead walking tours of the West End.

The next day, on Sunday, April 15, from 3 to 5 p.m., at Dogwood, the society will present Beacon History on Tap, a presentation about bars and drinking establishments in the city over the past 150 years. Tickets are $25 and include appetizers and discount-price drinks. See beaconhistorical.org. Dogwood is located at 47 E. Main St.

Visit highlandscurrent.com for news updates and latest information.
Finances for Women
Resource center to give seminar

The Howland Public Library in Beacon will host a two-hour seminar at 7 p.m. on Saturday, April 14, for women who would like to learn more about making sound financial decisions. The presenters will discuss strategies to manage money, set goals and organize funds. The program is sponsored by In My Mother’s House Resource Center for Women.

Disaster Prep
Training on how to respond

Beacon residents are invited to a training session on Tuesday, April 17, about how to prepare for and respond to disasters. The free class begins at 7 p.m. at Fire Station No. 2, 13 South Ave., and includes a Citizen Preparedness Corps kit. See dhses.ny.gov/aware-prepare.

Sloop Club Happenings
Plans film, annual dinner

On Thursday, April 12, at 7 p.m., the public can learn how the Clearwater and Woody Guthrie were restored. The program at the Beacon Sloop Club by shipwright Jim Kricker includes a showing of the documentary Hope on the Hudson.

On Sunday, April 15, from 5 to 10 p.m., the club will hold its annual Woody Dinner at the Chalet on the Hudson, 3250 Route 9D, north of Cold Spring. The $60 ticket includes a buffet, drinks and live music. See beaconsloopclub.org.

Record Release
Plan B to perform April 14

Plan B, an electro-acoustic ensemble, will drop its debut album, From Outer Space, with a performance at the Howland Cultural Center at 8 p.m. on Saturday, April 14. The band is Joe McPhee on saxophones and trumpets, James Keene on guitar and laptop and Dave Berger on drums. Tickets are $20 at the door.

BVAC Brunch
Fundraiser for ambulance corps

The nonprofit Beacon Volunteer Ambulance Corps will host a benefit brunch on Sunday, April 15, at Dutchess Manor on Route 9D. There will be two seatings, at 10:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. Tickets are $22 for adults, $20 for seniors and $15 for children ages 6 to 12. For details, email brunch@beaconvac.org or visit beaconvac.org.

Garden Party
Center to celebrate opening

The One Nature Garden Center, which specializes in native, edible and medicinal plants, opened for the season April 1. It is located in Beacon next to Binnacle Books, 221 Main St. To celebrate, the center will host a garden party on Saturday, April 14, from 5 to 7 p.m. with live music, drinks and snacks. The next day, on Sunday, April 15, from noon to 5 p.m., its staff will help visitors celebrate Earth Day by making native seed “bombs,” a mixture of wildflower seeds, compost and clay that can be tossed into a landscape. See onenaturellc.com.

Poetry Reading Postponed
Library event will be rescheduled

A poetry reading scheduled for Thursday, April 12, at the Howland Public Library to celebrate Ghost Opera, a collection by Argentine poet Mercedes Roffé translated by Beacon resident Judith Filc, has been postponed until the fall. Filc was profiled in the March 30 issue of The Current.
Angela D’Amato (1926-2018)

Angelina D’Amato, 91, of Cold Spring, died March 19, 2018. Angela was born April 11, 1926, in Jersey City to Philip and Maria (Reale) Peraccio. The family moved to Cold Spring in 1937, where her father opened a cobbler and shoe repair business on Main Street. Angelina graduated from Haldane High School in 1943. One of her fondest memories was playing the clarinet with the Haldane band at the 1939 World’s Fair in New York. After graduation, Angelina attended the Peekskill Business School.

After high school, Angela worked at Selleck’s Law Office on Main Street in Cold Spring. During World War II, she helped with the war effort by working in a rubber factory in Beacon that manufactured life rafts for the U.S. Navy. During World War II, she helped with the war effort by working in a rubber factory in Beacon that manufactured life rafts for the U.S. Navy.

On Nov. 24, 1946, she married Antonio D’Amato (Cynthia) of Hopewell Junction and Philip D’Amato (Patricia) of Nelsonville; her granddaughter Maria D’Amato of Beacon and Philip James D’Amato (Melissa) of Norwalk, Connecticut, and a sister, Mary Massara of Fairfax, Virginia.

A Mass of Christian Burial was held March 23 at Our Lady of Loretto, with interment at Cold Spring Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to the Philipstown Volunteer Ambulance Corps.

Helen Ann Dye (1921-2018)

Helen Ann Dye, 96, a lifelong Cold Spring resident, died March 20, 2018. She is well remembered for her 25 years as head waiter at Guis’s Antique Restaurant & Bar when it was located at the Cold Spring waterfront. Born in Cold Spring on Nov. 20, 1921, she was the daughter of Walter and Anna (Ryan) Atkinson. She married Joseph Dye. She is survived by two sons, Jack Allen (Louise) and Gordon Allen (Barbara), both of Cold Spring; nine grandchildren; 20 great-grandchildren; and six great-great-grandchildren.

A Mass of Christian Burial was offered March 26 at Our Lady of Loretto, with interment at Cold Spring Cemetery. Memorial donations may be made to the church.

Ralph Lyons (1934-2018)

Ralph Lyons, 83, of Cold Spring, died March 29, 2018. He was born Dec. 1, 1934, in Cold Spring to Gordon and Rose (Landolfi) Lyons. He grew up in Cold Spring and attended the Cold Spring High School, where he was a four-letter athlete. He was a veteran of the U.S. Marine Corps. and a union carpenter for 50 years.

In 1957 he married Elizabeth Ann Allen and together they enjoyed traveling to the many destinations where their granddaughter was playing sports. His wife died in 2012.

He is survived by his daughter, Ann Lyons of Beacon; his sons, James Lyons of Glenham; and his grandchildren Megan Rose Lyons (fiancé James Dain), Dylan Lyons, Cody Lyons and Jimmy Lyons.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated April 3 at Our Lady of Loretto, with interment at Cold Spring Cemetery.

Lois Sutton (1933-2018)


Lois was an eucharistic minister and a former trustee of Our Lady of Loretto, a member of the Putnam County Historical Society and a past member of the Highlands Garden Club. She was active in Boujicans Art Gallery and a member of the Ladies Golf League.

She is survived by her sons, Arthur J. Sutton Jr. (Susan) of Hopewell Junction and David J. Sutton of Poughkeepsie; her grandchildren Karla Anderson (Scott) and AJ Sutton III (fiancé Janine Gallois), a great-granddaughter, Penelope Anderson, and a sister, Claire Costello.

A Mass of Christian Burial was held March 22 at Our Lady of Loretto, with interment at Cold Spring Cemetery. Memorial donations may be made to the church.

Information provided by Clinton Funeral Home. For more obituaries, see highlandscurrent.com.
Looking Back in Philipstown

By Chip Rowe

150 Years Ago (April 1868)
The Cold Spring Board of Trustees authorized the arrest of “all persons violating the laws of the village by the ringing of bells, blowing of horns or other unusual noises calculated to break the peace of the village.” The Cold Spring Recorder said it hoped the action would “deter the boys from any more of these foolish performances.”

Many steamboat passengers who found themselves fog-bound overnight in the river came into Cold Spring in small boats to catch the early trains into the city.

In April 1893, James Bailey relocated his livery stable in Cold Spring to a former carpentry shop at the corner of Railroad and Stone Street.

125 Years Ago (April 1893)
The coroner opened an inquest into the death of one of the triplets born in November to Louisa Miller, 31, the wife of Ellsworth Miller of Nelsonville, who over the previous nine years had birthed 17 children, including three sets of twins and three sets of triplets. (Only five of the children were living — a girl, 10; a male twin, 6; a boy, 3, and the other two newborn triplets.) The jury ruled that the child had died of natural causes. In a later interview, Mrs. Miller denied that she kept a “baby farm” or that the family lived in a “squalid tenement, although the house needs painting.” She said she had refused offers of money from photographers “because I don’t want my house to be like a dime museum. When the previous triplets were born everybody ran there, and it was very annoying.”

The Rev. W.F. Overhiser scheduled a humorous lecture, Glasses and Goggles, at Academy Hall to benefit the Haldane Union School Library.

The governor vetoed a bill to purchase Polipell’s Island for $25,000 and erect a statue of Henry Hudson.

George Pimer, a former Cold Spring resident, was arrested in Newburgh on charges he failed to support his wife and two children. His mother-in-law testified that he “used rough language at times.”

The governor vetoed a proposal championed by State Sen. George Pataki that would have provided Putnam County with $1.6 million in “payments in lieu of taxes” on state parkland.

The First Presbyterian Church of Philipstown launched its Community Nursery School with an eight-week spring session.

25 Years Ago (April 1993)
Haldane Elementary students participated in a Jump Rope for Heart event that raised $4,894 for the American Heart Association. The top pledge collectors were Amy Peterson, Amanda Gorges and Courtney Lyons.
Haldane Lacrosse Gets Off to Fast Start

**Holds opponents scoreless in first two matches**

The Haldane varsity boys’ lacrosse team came out firing in its first two games, winning at Yonkers, 16-0, in its opener on March 29 and defeating Peekskill at home, 15-0, on April 4.

Against Peekskill, senior Brandon Twoguns had five goals for the Blue Devils, freshman Darrin Santos scored a hat trick and sophomore Jagger Beachak finished with two goals and three assists. Junior Arlan Thornquist also scored twice.

The 19-man Haldane squad travels to Hyde Park today (April 6) to take on Roosevelt High and plays at Pawling on Monday.

For more photos, see highlandscurrent.com.

*Photos by Skip Pearlman*