Assemblyman Skartados Dies at 62
Represented Beacon in the state Legislature

By Chip Rowe

Frank Skartados, the Greek immigrant and developer who served four terms in the state Assembly representing Beacon, Newburgh and Poughkeepsie, died at age 62 on Sunday (April 15) of pancreatic cancer. The Democrat, who lived on a farm in Milford, had been diagnosed in late January and entered St. Luke’s Cornwall Hospital in Newburgh on March 24 with respiratory problems.

Because Skartados’ seat was vacated after April 1, under state law the governor can only call a special election to fill the position if the legislature is called into a special session. Otherwise, it will remain empty until Jan. 1. (See Page 3).

Born Jan. 3, 1956, on the Greek island of Astypalaia as the seventh of eight children, Skartados grew up on a small farm which he helped his father maintain, according to a biography shared by his chief of staff, Steve Gold.

On July 4, 1970, at age 14, Skartados arrived in New York City with his mother. According to his official biography, within months his mother had returned to Greece and the teenager was left to learn English and work his way through school. He graduated from George Washington High School in Manhattan, worked four years for the city and went on to graduate from New York University, where he specialized in architecture.

The Current

Larry Burke Did Not Call You
Scammer claims to be Cold Spring police chief

By Chip Rowe

A telephone crook claiming to be Cold Spring Officer-in-Charge Larry Burke last week demanded that callers send immediate payment for a supposed tax debt under threat of arrest.

“This is a complete scam,” Burke said when told about the calls. “Neither I nor anyone from the Cold Spring Police Department would ever call anyone for any kind of payment owed,” particularly for a federal agency such as the Internal Revenue Service. Even notification of debts owed for traffic tickets and fines would be sent by mail through the Cold Spring Justice Court system, he said.

A lawyer and former Federal Trade Commission manager in Atlanta who spent years in telemarketing enforcement emailed The Current on Friday (April 13) saying his wife had received a robocall from someone who “breathlessly and imperatively” claimed to be from the Internal Revenue Service and demanded a return call to an 845 number or police would be on the way to arrest her.

The number registered in Newburgh to a wireless was:

Officer-in-Charge Larry Burke

5 Candidates for 2 Seats on Haldane Board
Garrison incumbents have no challengers

By Pamela Doan

Five candidates filed nominating petitions by the April 16 deadline for two open seats on the Haldane school board. Incumbent Margaret Parr is among them, but board member Evan Schwartz chose not to run for re-election after serving since 2007.

The election, as well as a vote on the proposed Haldane budget, is scheduled for Tuesday, May 15.

In Garrison, David Gelber, James Hoch and Ray O’Rourke will run unopposed to retain their seats on the seven-member board. (Gelber and Hoch are seeking their third, three-year terms and O’Rourke his fourth.) The nine-member Beacon school board has three open seats; the deadline for nominating petitions is April 26.

Following are introductions to each of the five Haldane candidates, in alphabetical order:

Continued on Page 5

A CENTURY IN COLD SPRING — The Village Board threw an early birthday party for Joe Etta at its Tuesday (April 17) meeting. The 1938 Haldane grad, who turns 100 on Sunday, is flanked by his daughter, Maureen Etta, and Mayor Dave Merandy. The village is also planning a celebration for June. See story on Page 6.

Continued on Page 7
Five Questions: Chris Reisman

By Jeff Simms

Chris Reisman owns Hudson Valley Vinyl at 267 Main St. in Beacon.

Record Store Day is tomorrow (April 21). Why don’t you participate?

It’s designed to say that records are back “in” style, but I don’t think they ever went out of style. It also promotes limited editions, but you don’t need that to enjoy records. People should buy records every day, not just one day a year.

How did you get hooked on LPs?

There were two kinds of kids when I was growing up — the kids who liked sports and the kids who liked music. Music made me feel good, so I started buying records, and it turned into an obsession. As I got older I started looking for more obscure things, and it became an addiction. There’s something not right with us record people.

Will people ever stop buying records?

It’s never going to go away. I see everybody from kids just graduating high school to 70-year-olds in here. Everyone’s passing good music down. The MP3 is a convenience. You can’t put a record player in a car or wear one while you’re jogging, so there’s a need for digital but in the end, people love records.

What do you specialize in?

Vintage soul, jazz and rock. And obscurities. A week after we opened we bought a 7,000-piece jazz collection spanning the late 1950s into the ’80s. We had two Alan Watts records walk in off the street the other day. You don’t see them too often.

What are your desert-island discs?

For me, it would be John Coltrane, A Love Supreme or Nat Coleman, The Shape of Jazz to Come. Metallica, Master of Puppets. From the Beatles, Rubber Soul or Revolver. And Abdul Wadud, By Myself. It’s an improvisational cello record and it’s one of the most beautiful things I’ve ever heard.

24 Dutchess Inmates Reported to ICE

Dutchess County Jail officials released 24 prisoners to federal authorities from 2016 through mid-2017, according to The Journal News. A spokesman told the paper that jail policy is to notify U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement whenever anyone in custody was born outside of the U.S.

The Putnam County Jail does not have a similar policy, said a spokeswoman.

About 10 percent of the population of Putnam and Dutchess counties is foreign-born, and the highest percentage of immigrants in the state, aside from New York City and Long Island, is found in the Hudson Valley, according to the state comptroller.

State Recovers $4.1 Million in ‘Stolen Wages’

More than $4.1 million in "stolen wages" were repaid last year to 2,389 people in the Hudson Valley after enforcement by the state Department of Labor.

According to the agency, the most common ways that employers underpay wages include paying tips only; paying a day rate that turns out to be less than the minimum wage; not paying for overtime, training or travel time between work assignments on the same day; withholding the final paycheck; and charging employees for required uniforms or equipment.

To file a complaint about wage theft, call 888-469-7365.

Tuition-Free College

The application window opened last month for the Excelsior Scholarship program for the 2018-19 school year for families who earn $110,000 annually or less. Combined with other financial aid, the scholarship this year allowed 22,000 New York residents to attend a SUNY or CUNY two- or four-year college tuition-free.

The application is open to anyone entering SUNY or CUNY in the fall and students who have never applied.

See hesc.ny.gov/excelsior.
Assemblyman Skartados Dies at 62  (from Page 1)

Frank Skartados was up for re-election to the state Assembly in November. Under state law, because the seat was vacated after April 1, the governor can schedule a special election to fill it only if the Legislature is called into special session.

“Without that, the vacancy is unfilled,” explained Jerry Goldfeder, a New York attorney who is the author of Goldfeder’s Modern Election Law.

If a special election is announced, political parties select candidates and independents can file nominating petitions. There is no primary. The winner in this case would serve until Dec. 31. Regardless, the primary and general elections will still take place to determine who takes the seat on Jan. 1.

Will the Seat Be Filled?

Across the state, there are special elections scheduled for April 24 to fill two state Senate and nine Assembly vacancies that occurred before April 1.

The New York State Legislature, which has 63 senators and 150 Assembly members, frequently has vacancies, typically because an official is elected or appointed to another job. For example, one assemblyman was elected as a county clerk and another appointed as regional administrator for the Environmental Protection Agency. The closest special election to the Highlands on April 24 will be for the Senate District 37 seat in Westchester most recently held by George Latimer, who was elected in November as county executive.

Tributes

"Our community has lost a truly remarkable advocate and public servant. My heart goes out to his loved ones and to the dedicated team who has worked alongside him for years. May we come together today to honor the legacy of a man who worked tirelessly to always put our community first.”  
— State Sen. Sue Serino

Kirwin, a Republican from Newburgh, to represent the 100th District but two years later lost the seat to Kirwin by fewer than 20 votes.

After Kirwin died in March 2012, Skartados defeated Republican John Foran, then in his fifth term representing Beacon in the Dutchess Legislature, in a special election to regain the seat (now the 104th after redistricting). He easily won election to a full term that fall with 67 percent of the vote and was re-elected in 2014 with 60 percent of the vote and in 2016 with 81 percent. The 104th District also includes Lloyd and Marlboro.

During his time in the legislature, Skartados focused on environmental threats to the Hudson River Valley, including ship anchorages and the proposed Pilgrim Pipeline, said Gold. In his first term, the assemblyman secured $6 million to complete the Walkway Over the Hudson. After regaining his seat, he secured funds to build Hudson River connector trails in Lloyd, seed money for a mixed-use vehicular-trail bridge along Fishkill Creek in Beacon and two waterfront parks along the west bank of the river, Gold said.

While in the Assembly, Skartados also secured millions of dollars in state grants for cities and towns in the district to purchase essentials such as fire trucks, police cars, snow plows, educational technology, school buses and hospital equipment and for park improvements, workforce housing and other infrastructure, Gold said.

Skartados raised goats, sheep and chickens on his Milton farm. Among his survivors are a daughter, Alyssa Skartados; two brothers in the U.S., Russos Skartados and George Skartados (Tina); and a number of siblings in Greece.

A viewing will take place at the DiDiano Funeral Home, 1290 Route 9W, in Marlboro today (April 20) from 2 to 4 p.m. and 6 to 8 p.m., followed by a prayer service for family and close friends.

Desmond-Fish Library Associates Awards Dinner

Friday, May 4, 7:00 p.m.

Honoring:

Lesley Stahl  Hamilton Fish Award
William Burback and Peter Hofmann  Patricia Adams Award
Gary Goio and Susanna Reich  Alice Curtis Desmond Award

The Factoria at Charles Point, Peekskill
Please call 845-424-3020 for information

www.desmondfishlibrary.org/dinner
Sign vs. statute

The City of Beacon compelling Jason Hughes to remove the “Resist White Supremacy” banner from a warehouse has nothing to do with freedom of speech (“Sign Lands Beacon Man in Court,” April 13). It’s about a sign being out of compliance with the ordinance. Why doesn’t Hughes display a smaller sign at his business, Ella’s Bellas, that’s in compliance?

Ralph Pettorossi, Fishkill

How much racism is there in Beacon? Last I checked, the Klan disbanded in the 1950s. This is an excuse to attract attention to a problem that does not exist.

Tony Bardes, Cold Spring

I have repeatedly emailed the city about vacant houses on my block that violate various regulations. The city should be going after the banks that own those properties or the absentee landlords. The city tells me it’s complicated and they don’t have the resources or manpower.

When I see city officials wasting my tax dollars over a banner that doesn’t negatively impact the environment or my child’s ability to play safely in her own yard, it makes me irate.

Caroline Jensen, Beacon

Surely the city has better things to do than to harass residents.

Marlowe Stern, Beacon

As a mother of two, and the wife of an immigrant, I see nothing wrong with children seeing signs like this. It opens a dialogue and allows me to explain to my children that it is our right and duty to protect others. I felt comforted when I saw that sign, because someone was willing to stand up to hate and racism. I applaud Jason’s courage.

Kimberly Sevilla, Brooklyn

Oh well, no more Ella’s Bellas for me. That said, Hughes has every right to hang his sign. The First Amendment was put into place to protect speech everyone might not agree with. It’s easy to protect speech we all agree with.

Steve Sumski, Poughkeepsie

I will happily continue to patronize Ella’s Bellas. Thank you, Jason, for speaking up against hate and bigotry. How anyone could be offended by this sign is beyond me. Either you resist white supremacy, or you don’t.

Erin Giunta, Beacon

People still have Trump signs posted around Beacon. Since the election is long over, do they violate the law?

Marie Maztek, Beacon

What’s the big deal about declaring that white supremacy is wrong and urging people to consider it as an issue when they vote in November? The Hudson Valley is not free of oppressive practices toward people of color. We all should be talking about it.

Holly Bogdanfy-Krieh, Beacon

Remembering Jean

Thank you, Jean Marzollo, for leaving so much of you here with us (“Jean Marzollo, Children’s Book Author, Dies at 75,” April 13). Carinda Swann, Beacon

I have always thought our children were lucky to have Jean visit their schools. I’m thankful I knew this wonderful lady.

Donna Pidalala, Garrison

Jean Marzollo was a Hudson Valley treasure who brought education and wonder to millions of children and parents. I remember enjoying her work — especially the 1 SPY series — with my own children. She was a friend and neighbor — she danced at my wedding and baked cookies with my kids. She was a passionate voice for education and a stalwart booster of the Haldane school district. This is a tragic loss for the Cold Spring community. Jean’s intellect and decency sparkled in this life, and she will be missed.

Sean Patrick Maloney, Philipstown

Jean was an inspiration to me and my girls in so many ways, not least of which was her humility and kindness every single time I spoke to her.

Katie Bissinger, Cold Spring

My kindergarten classes always enjoy pouring over the 1 SPY books. Thanks, Jean, for making it fun to read.

Diane Lapis, Beacon

Rave review

What a movie! What an actor! Charlie Plummer of Cold Spring is in practically every scene of the film, Lean on Pete. I recommend Cold Springers see what I am talking about, and that teachers at Haldane High School take their classes to see the film. It’s an eye opener at a time when we hear so much about problems that children have while growing up.

Bill Whipp, Cold Spring

Crime and punishment

Finally, a judge willing to hold people responsible for their actions … and make restitution! Way to go, Judge Costello! (“Accused Cold Spring Vandal Appears in Court,” April 13). Patrick Lambert, Beacon

The purpose of bail is to ensure the defendant returns to court. This is a disgusting statement by Judge Costello: “I’m tempted to set bail and put you in jail for a while to give you a bit of a wake-up call.”

Michael Archer, Fishkill

The "bit of a wake-up call" should be restitution plus fine plus diversion program (counseling). I would hope equal lens and outcome would be provided by our court to a minority, non-resident defendant.

Paul Mooney, Cold Spring

Beacon rentals

Renting an apartment for $1,500 a month versus charging $150 per night for an Airbnb rental is not a fair comparison (“Letters: Short-term rentals,” April 13). When they occur, most Airbnb rentals happen on a weekend for usually one night and on occasion two nights. Suggesting an Airbnb host is earning $150 per night each month is inaccurate.

Rosemary Merhige, Beacon
The Highlands Current

By Chip Rowe

The Highlands Current won 11 editorial and two advertising awards in the annual Better Newspaper Contest sponsored by the New York Press Association. The awards were presented April 13 and 14 at the NYPA convention in Albany.

The contest, which attracted 2,783 entries from 156 small and midsized newspapers, was judged by members of the Michigan Press Association.

Fighting Back – The Opioid Crisis, a series of four articles published in September and October, won the first Thomas G. Butson Award for In-Depth Reporting in the division for papers with circulations of 5,000 or less.

“The staff turned out a series of stories and graphics that perfectly demonstrates what this award is all about,” wrote the judges. “It’s an exhaustive report that’s well written and laid out attractively.”

The articles, which are posted at highlandscurrent.com, also won second place in the Best Multi-Advertiser Page among weeklies with circulations of 8,000 or less.

Larry Burke Did Not Call You

(phone, was answered by a voicemail that said, “This is Detective Larry Burke of the Cold Spring Police Department. Please leave a message.”)

That helped explain why a profile of the officer-in-charge that appeared in The Current nearly a year ago rose to be — 

Larry Burke of the Cold Spring Police Department. Please 

I returned it, I qualified as a live victim.”

The former FTC manager, who asked not to be identified by name, said he found the call interesting in that “the scammers don’t seem to want money” since no one answered the call back.

“What they want to do is to confirm that the robocall targets are live people,” he said. “The Detective Burke character is what you’d call in the espionage world a ‘cut out.’ The call back was designed to confirm there was someone at the number who could be tapped for various scams. They must be running a comparison between their outgoing call list and their incoming calls. We got a second scam call almost immediately from a ‘veterans’ organization. Then yesterday I got one from another IRS scammer. That’s why I say the call to Burke was a qualification call; when I returned it, I qualified as a live victim.”

A number of police officers who have received calls that cite unpaid IRS bills and threaten arrest have recorded their responses and posted the videos online. In early March, a video made by an officer in Midland, Texas, went viral and has received more than 8 million views. The officer was told he owed $8,140; when he asked if he could mail a check, the scammer insisted the payment had to be made within 45 minutes with an (untraceable) electronic Apple Store gift card or the sheriff would soon be at the door. The officer responded: “When did the IRS start taking Apple cards? Is that a recent thing?”

It says anyone who receives a suspicious call should hang up and report it to the U.S. Treasury Inspector General (search for “scams” at irs.gov). It notes that the agency never demands immediate payment, never calls about taxes owed without first mailing a bill, never threatens to call the police or have anyone arrested, never requires payment over the phone with a debit card, gift card or wire transfer and never requests credit or debit card numbers over the phone.

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The IRS has compiled a long list of ways that scammers attempt to rip people off (search for “scams” at irs.gov). It notes that the agency never demands immediate payment, never calls about taxes owed without first mailing a bill, never threatens to call the police or have anyone arrested, never requires payment over the phone with a debit card, gift card or wire transfer and never requests credit or debit card numbers over the phone.

Larry Burke Did Not Call You (from Page 1)

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Honoring Joe Etta
World War II veteran turns 100

By Michael Turton

Certain birthdays are milestones — first, 16th and 50th among them. Then there's Joe Etta's birthday. The Cold Spring native will celebrate 100 years this weekend and on Tuesday (April 17) his hometown honored him at a special meeting of the Village Board.

With the lifelong resident's family and friends looking on, Mayor Dave Merandy proclaimed Sunday, April 22, to be Joseph C. Etta Day. To earn that honor, Etta has done more than simply live a long life.

Born on that date in 1918, Etta graduated from Haldane High School in 1938. While serving in the U.S. Army in World War II, he participated in three invasions: North Africa, Sicily and Normandy. He rose from private first class to sergeant during his service, which ended with his discharge in 1945.

In 1947, after returning to Cold Spring, Etta married Catherine Fitzgerald and together they raised five children. Today, he has eight grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

A carpenter by trade, Etta helped build the VFW Hall on Kemble Avenue, and served as Cold Spring's building inspector. He also was involved with the Boy Scouts, Little League and other organizations and has served as an honorary member of the Cold Spring Fire Company for the past 28 years.

A party will be held in Joe's honor on June 9 at Mayor's Park.

From the April 10 Village Board meeting ...

- Cold Spring Police Department Officer-in-Charge Larry Burke praised Officer Bill Bujarski for the March 17 arrest of a motorist wanted in connection with a hit-and-run in Yonkers. The driver faces a felony charge for two DWIs as well as charges of reckless driving, driving without a license and driving without a court-ordered alcohol detection device.
- Burke also commended Putnam County Sheriff's Investigator Paul Piazza for his investigation and arrest of a 17-year-old who has been charged with felony criminal mischief in connection with vandalism in Nelsonville and Cold Spring on the night of March 31.
- The CSPD issued 106 parking tickets and 20 moving violations in March.
- The Village Board is expected to approve the 2018-19 budget on Tuesday, April 24. It includes a tax levy of $1,638,043, an increase of 2.7 percent over last year.
- The Historic District Review Board will hold a public hearing at 7 p.m. on May 1 at Village Hall to hear comments on proposed amendments to Chapter 64 of the Village Code, which governs historic districts.
- Trustees approved an April 18 photo shoot on Main Street by the luggage and handbag company Vera Bradley. The fee was $1,500 plus the cost of having an extra police officer on duty.
- The board reappointed Camille Linsen as Acting Village Justice through Dec. 31.
- Merandy signed a memorandum of understanding with BQ Energy, the firm which plans to install a small hydroelectric generator at the Fishkill Road water treatment plant.
- Eric Wirth was appointed to the Zoning Board of Appeals, succeeding Alison Anthoine.
- The board approved a craft beer festival, Hops on the Hudson, that will take place at Mayor's Park on Saturday, June 16.
5 Candidates for 2 Seats on Haldane Board (from Page 1)

Keith Anderson
Anderson, 51, a retired NYPD sergeant, is a commercial real-estate broker with JPMorgan Chase. His two children attended Haldane; his daughter is a paralegal and his son is a junior at Georgia Tech.

John Hedlund
Hedlund, 48, is vice president of U.S. issuer marketing for Mastercard. He has two children at Haldane, in the third and fifth grades, and has been involved with the Haldane School Foundation since 2013.

Sandy McKelvey
McKelvey, 54, is an educator and consultant who has worked with the district for eight years to create programs in food, health and wellness, and garden education for K-8 students. She also is working with high school students to create a teen center. McKelvey has two children at Haldane, in the fifth and eighth grades.

Laura O’Connell
O’Connell, 47, is director of capital projects and construction for New York Shakespeare Festival/The Public Theater. She has a 2-year-old who will be attending Haldane in a few years. For the past two years she has been a member of the district’s Health and Safety and Buildings and Grounds committees.

Margaret Parr
Parr, 54, is the registrar of vital statistics for Bronxville. A former PTA president, she was elected to the board in 2015. She has two children who graduated from Haldane, in 2016 and 2017.
Edgewater Debate Chugs Along in Beacon

More public hearings, but no votes
By Jeff Simms

More than a year after the proposal first appeared on a Beacon Planning Board agenda, the debate over the 307-unit Edgewater development on the waterfront shows no sign of slowing down.

The City Council on Monday (April 16) held two public hearings, one focused on Edgewater and the other indirectly related. Both will be critical in determining how the project proceeds.

**Gross versus buildable**

As part of its nearly citywide zoning review, the council in December adopted changes to the Fishkill Creek development zone, including a provision to use “buildable,” rather than gross, acreage to calculate the density allowed on parcels for development. The clause removed steep slopes, floodways and other environmentally sensitive land from the equation.

In the creekside zone, the council did not exclude (or grandfather in) projects presently under Planning Board review. The same provision is on the table for most of the city's residential districts and, if passed, Edgewater attorneys have estimated it would force them to remove 71 units from their plan.

Peg O’Leary, the director of the nonprofit Hudson Valley Housing, told the council on Monday that changing gross to buildable in the code would have a “direct and crippling” impact on affordable housing in the region. The city requires 10 percent of developments of 10 units or more to be set aside for affordable housing, so Edgewater, if built as planned, would add about 31 apartments to Beacon's below-market-rate stock.

O’Leary called the zoning proposal “arbitrary and capricious,” and argued that the Planning Board’s environmental review process already protects sensitive landscapes. Edgewater received environmental approval from the Planning Board in December after a protracted debate over its potential impact on the Beacon City School District.

A Beacon resident, Arthur Camins, countered that raising the affordable requirements by 10 to 20 percent would be a more effective plan to diversify housing. “However, I don’t think the intent of the zoning law is that if half of your property is unbuildable that you get to build twice the density on the remaining portion,” he said.

**Special-use permit**

The second, and longer, hearing was to discuss a request from the Edgewater developers for a special-use permit, which is required by the code because the development would include multi-family housing.

Among other criteria, the council must decide whether Edgewater would be “more objectionable” than another use for the site that would not require the special-use permit, such as townhouses.

Melissa Buerkett, a resident, argued that the City Council members should deny the permit and fulfill their campaign promises of controlling development. “Edgewater is the epitome of too much at a crucial time in Beacon’s history where we have the opportunity to shape it into a truly livable community for everybody,” she said. “How on earth is this keeping with a healthy vision for Beacon?”

But Rodney Weber, the project’s developer, asserted that Edgewater is “what is right for Beacon economically and for the people.” Weber said that because many young people are unable to afford rent in the city, Edgewater's studio and one-bedroom apartments would give them “that edge to get forward, to start something new.”

Christian Campbell agreed, saying that people are “falling in love” with Beacon “but right now they don’t have an entryway,” while Dan Aymar-Blair cautioned that “in a couple of years, when you’re on the other side of the river, you’re going to look at Beacon and say, ‘What did Beacon do to itself? It used to be so beautiful there.’ ”

A vote had been scheduled on the density calculation for that night, but City Attorney Nick Ward-Willis recommended that the council discuss the proposal further. If the council grants the special-use permit, the developer would return to the Planning Board for site plan approval.
The Highlands Current

April 20, 2018

The Calendar

Creative Space

Beacon artists to open studios next weekend

By Alison Rooney

Samantha Palmeri, the director of Beacon Open Studios, has some advice for newcomers among the more than 60 artists participating in this year’s event, which takes place Friday, April 27, through Sunday, April 29. “New artists have a lot of questions for us, because they don’t know what to anticipate,” she says. “Some think they will be hanging out, but you have to work. You’ll be having conversations about your art, all day long. This comes naturally to some, but not for all. It’s a very social event, and a lot of sales can be made.”

Open Studios, which this year celebrates its 10th anniversary, is a project of BeaconArts. The works on display include sculpture, drawings and paintings, but there are also writers and musicians, dancers and other performers. There will be demonstrations of encaustic painting (with beeswax) and printmaking, a writing workshop, live music and children’s performances.

Maps with four suggested walking routes are available at beaconopenstudios.org and at various locations around the city. A schedule for the weekend is also online. The Oak Vino Wine Bar at 389 Main St. is serving as headquarters, and an opening night party will be held there on Friday, April 27, from 6 to 9 p.m.

Palmeri has led the all-volunteer event for the past two years after becoming involved as an artist after she moved to the city four years ago and rented a studio at the old Beacon High School.

The event’s founder, Theresa Gooby, was inspired by similar events elsewhere. She and Ed Benavente, Robert Brush, Erica Hauser, Thomas Huber, Jackie Skrzynski, Greg Slick, Susan Walsh and Jayoung Yoon are exhibiting their works in an alumni show curated by Palmeri at Big Mouth Coffee Roasters, adjacent to Oak Vino, through May 13.

Palmeri said organizers this year focused on encouraging artists to register. “We’ve tried to step up that part of it,” she says. “Although there has been an influx of artists moving up to Beacon from the city in the past few years, the number of Open Studio participants has remained fairly stable” at 50 to 70.
FRIDAY, APRIL 20

Reel Life Film Club: Maidentrip
6 p.m. Butterfield Library
10 Morris Ave., Cold Spring
845-265-3040 | butterfieldlibrary.org

Contemporary Art Video Series: Alan Vega/ Suicide
7 p.m. Butler Levi Gallery
121 Main St., Cold Spring
845-609-5145 | bustlerlevigallery.com

Seed: The Untold Story (Documentary)
7 p.m. First Presbyterian Church
50 Liberty St., Beacon
moviethatmatterbeacon.org

The Sacred Run, the lotus and the feather (Documentary)
7 p.m. Tompkins Corner Cultural Center
729 Peekskill Hollow Road, Putnam Valley
845-528-7280 | tompkinscorners.org

Irish Spring Concert
8 p.m. Paramount Hudson Valley
100 Brown St., Peekskill
914-739-0039 | paramounthudsonvalley.com

SATURDAY, APRIL 21

Free Admission to National Parks
nps.gov/planyourvisit/fee-free-parks.htm

Boater Safety Class
8 a.m. – 4 p.m. Garrison Fire Company
1616 Route 9, Garrison
914-809-5149 | srieardi@yahoo.com

Art & Practice of Vegetable Gardening (Part 1)
8:45 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. Stonecrop Gardens
81 Stonecrop Lane, Cold Spring
845-265-3338 | glynwood.org

Earth Day Celebration
10:30 a.m. – 3 p.m. Trailside Zoo
3006 Seven Lakes Dr., Bear Mountain
trailsidezoo.org

Earth Day Celebration
11 a.m. – 1 p.m. Stony Kill Farm
79 Farmstead Lane, Wappingers Falls
stonykill.org

Record Store Day
11 a.m. – 5 p.m. Sound Shock
333 Fishkill Ave., Beacon | recordstoreday.com

Repair Cafe
 Noon – 4 p.m. Beacon Recreation Center
23 W. Center St., Beacon
Email beaconrepaircafe@gmail.com.

Dental (2016)
Noon. Desmond-Fish Library
472 Route 403, Garrison
philpstownreformsynagogue.org

Beer Fest
4 – 8 p.m. Tilly’s Table | 100 Route 312, Brewster
tillytablerestaurant.com

Steve Rossi: Differential Ratio (Opening)
6 – 8 p.m. Matteawan Gallery
436 Main St., Beacon
845-440-7901 | matteawan.com

Billy Squier and GE Smith
8 p.m. Paramount Hudson Valley
See details under Friday.

SUNDAY, APRIL 22

Earth Day
Appraisers’ Road Show
9 a.m. – 5 p.m. Locust Grove Estate
2683 South Road, Poughkeepsie
gobroadshow.com

Landscape Workday
9 a.m. – 2 p.m. Maritago
584 Route 90, Garrison
845-424-3812 | visitmaritago.org

Hudson Valley Comic Con
10 a.m. – 6 p.m. Gold’s Gym
See details under Saturday.

Plant a Tree/ Take a Tree
11 a.m. – 1 p.m. Boscoebel
1601 Route 90, Garrison
845-265-3638 | boscoebel.org

DIY Native Wildflower Seed Bombs
Noon – 5 p.m. One Nature Garden Center
321 Main St., Beacon | oneattnatureccf.com/events

Introduction to ILC Equipment
1 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library
See details under Saturday.

Mount Gulian Opens for Season
1 – 5 p.m. 145 Sterling St., Beacon
845-831-8172 | mountgulian.org

Brain & Alcohol Addiction: Disease or Natural Brain Habit (Talk)
2 p.m. Howland Public Library
313 Main St., Beacon
845-831-1134 | beaconstionlibrary.org

Bird ID Workshop
2 p.m. Butterfield Library | 10 Morris Ave., Cold Spring
putnamhighlandsaudubon.org

Buster Levi Gallery
7 p.m. 362 Glynwood Road, Cold Spring
845-265-2000 | stonecrop.org

MONDAY, APRIL 23

Brandon del Pozo: Opioid Abuse and What We Can Do About It
6 p.m. Garrison School
1100 Route 9D, Garrison | gufs.org

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

TUESDAY, APRIL 24

Senior Luncheon
1 p.m. Church on the Hill
245 Main St., Nelsonville
845-265-2022

Backyard Family Farm Skills
3:45 p.m. Glynwood Farm
See details under Saturday.

An Evening of Poetry
6:30 p.m. Howland Public Library
See details under Sunday.

COLD SPRING VILLAGE BOARD
7 p.m. Public hearing on sewage rates
7:30 p.m. Regular meeting | 85 Main St., Cold Spring
845-265-3611 | coldspringny.gov

BEACON SCHOOL BOARD
7 p.m. Beacon High School | See details above.

GARRISON SCHOOL BOARD
7 p.m. Garrison School | 1100 Route 9D, Garrison
845-424-3689 | gufs.org

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

THE GODFATHER (1972)
7 p.m. Paramount Hudson Valley
See details under Friday.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 25

Cold Spring Chamber Awards Dinner
6 p.m. Dutchess Manor
263 Route 9D, Beacon | explorecoldspringny.com

College Information Night
6:30 p.m. Beacon High School
See details under Tuesday.

Highland Photographers’ Salon
7 p.m. Garrison Art Center | Details under Saturday.

COMMUNITIES THAT CARE COALITION
7 p.m. North Highlands Firehouse
504 Fishkill Road, Cold Spring | philpstownctc.org

THURSDAY, APRIL 26

Robot Sandbox
3:30 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library
See details under Saturday.

Styling for Hope (Fundraiser)
6 p.m. Southern Dutchess Country Club
1209 North Ave., Beacon | hudsonvalleyhouseofhope.org

Coloring Books for Adults
6 p.m. Howland Public Library
See details under Sunday.

Small Business Workshop:
How Governments Buy
6:30 p.m. Butterfield Library | Details under Friday.

10th Annual College Fair
8:30 – 8:30 p.m. Beacon High School
101 Matteawan Road, Beacon
845-838-6900 | beaconk12.org

Patty Smyth and Scandal
8 p.m. Paramount Hudson Valley
See details under Friday.

FRIDAY, APRIL 27

Ree Play Sale
9 a.m. – 1 p.m. University Settlement Camp
724 Wolcott Ave., Beacon | weeplayproject.org

Arbor Day Activities
4 p.m. Howland Public Library
See details under Sunday.

Open Studios Kickoff Party
6 – 9 p.m. Oak Vino | 389 Main St., Beacon
beaconopenstudios.org

International Film Night: Maudie (Canada)
7 p.m. Howland Public Library
See details under Sunday.

Dew Days Café
7:30 p.m. Philipstown Depot Theatre
101 Matteawan Road, Beacon
845-838-9555 | philipstowndepottheatre.org

Almost Queen
8 p.m. Paramount Hudson Valley
See details under April 20.
Poems for Your Pocket

April is National Poetry Month, which includes Poem In Your Pocket Day on Thursday, April 26. The idea is simple: carry a poem to share at school, at a bookstore, at the library, in a park, at work and/or on social media using the hashtag #pocketpoem.

We asked Roger Aplon, the author, most recently, of Mustering What's Left – Selected & New Poems 1976-2017, to share selections from his Beacon-based poetry journal, Waymark – Voices of the Valley. You can clip a favorite below, or even take a few. (No rules!) Or visit poets.org for many more.

Sad
By Anne Gorrick
GO CRY SOMEWHERE ELSE! Build a shrine to the past, and go there all the time. A new study by a team of psychologists has revealed being happy all the time is not always a great thing, and could lead to an early death. Do blind people feel pain? YES. Do Sad People Have A Better Memory For People's Faces? This just in... Everything is Fine. What do sad people have in common? 200,000 years of human evolution. In addition to consuming entertainment for pleasure (hedonistic motivations) individuals may also consume entertainment to experience meaningfulness, that sweet moon language. What is every other sad person in this world dying to hear? Why do sad people love the sunset? For the same reason stupid people get angry when they're asked to be less stupid. He warned about living in the past and making a religion out of nostalgia. Why do sad people write bad poems? Because when we were in 6th grade, it didn't really matter if we were happy or not. Everything I wrote in the 6th grade was awful! In Genesis, God was saddened when the parties and her mother, she could never leave... the flush in my cheeks when I said I could. Scotch smells like that marriage, rusted, run down.

What the Body Loves
By Judy Reeves
Love,
Give me nighttime. Bring me a moon rising over the roofs of houses. Let me see it as a lovely surprise out my kitchen window.

And Love,
A warm bed, pillows, fluffy duvet, clean sheets, cool in summer, flannel-warm in winter, and let me stay into the morning, awake with first light, then back to sleep for one more dream.

And Love,
Remember the sweet dream with that little fawn that let me hold her in my arms, cuddle-like. More of those dreams, please, ones I can remember in the morning, and smile as I recall.

Smile,
As I drink that first cup of good coffee. And wouldn’t it be nice, Love, to have him here again to make that first cup, and the second.

Please, Love,
Feed me sweet peaches, and those small clementines and dark chocolate. Hand me that apple. Take me out into the sunshine.

Let's put the top down. Let's put the music on. Let's go for a ride. Let's drive to the beach. Let's walk out into the water. Let's dive beneath and surface and look out to the horizon.

Love,
Take me there.

I Smell a Scotch
By Thomas Boyd
The odor sends me into a swamp of frustrations. My first wife drank Scotch. A marriage that slipped into disrepair, then a wheel came off, then it sat on blocks for two years until it rusted away. After 40 years, the smell has faded. But a whiff still summons those weekends making plans for elaborate boring social events...the time for us to go live someplace else, what about the parties and her mother, she could never leave... the flush in my cheeks when I said I could. Scotch smells like that marriage, rusted, run down.

The Death of Manolete
By Tony Moffeit
surrounded by a crowd
the solitude of his crossing
to resurrect an easter of roses
miles blows his horn with a blaze
for the matador
accepting the gift of his body
manolete's last words
i can't go on, i must go on
the revelation of love's stigmata
a flame dancing on eggshells
manolete's dying
let me grieve he said
or was it let me go
gut cry of a call
for the stones in the shadows
for the orchids of the earth
left in his throat
and so he goes
his breath now song
the archetypes of his leaving
as ancient as the sound of bells
the old women weeping
the kids removing their shirts
to pretend they are capes
for the passing of the bull

When the Lights Come On in the City
By Kyle Laws
in the studio across the hall turns Motown
even though we’re 1,400 miles from Detroit, 1,400 miles from a city that flows to Lake Erie, that opened it arms to migration away from lynchings, cotton picking, and a South that could not change, a way of life my kin never lived, immigrants out of Ireland in tenements not far from the statue that greeted them as they entered New York. But there was something in Motown rhythms that reached back to the Celtic englished by English, something in the call and response from fields where the trick that drew blood also became the needle in sweatshops across the river from Jersey City.
Beacon Open Studios Schedule

**FRIDAY, APRIL 27**

**Kickoff Party and Exhibition**

6 – 9 p.m. Oak Vino Wine Bar
389 Main St.

**SATURDAY, APRIL 28**

**Artist Studios Open**
Noon to 6 p.m.
beaconopenstudios.org

**Encasutic (Painting with Beeswax)**

Demonstration
12:30 p.m. 420 Liberty St.

**Live Jazz**

1 – 4 p.m. Oak Vino Wine Bar

**Musical Previews**

1:45 & 3 p.m. Beacon Performing Arts Center
327B Main St.

Sneak peeks of Little Mermaid Jr. and 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee

**Improvisation Workshop with Ruth Danon**

2 p.m. 1 East Main St., No. 204

**SUNDAY, APRIL 29**

**Artist Studios Open**
Noon to 6 p.m.
beaconopenstudios.org

**Open Rehearsal for Spelling Bee**

Noon – 2:30 p.m. Beacon Performing Arts Center
*Contains adult humor

**Improvisation Workshop with Ruth Danon**

2 p.m. 1 East Main St., No. 204

**Printmaking Demonstration with Beth Weintraub**

3:30 – 5 p.m. 34 Talbot Ave.

**Funky Spunky Literature Night and After Party**

6:30 – 9:30 p.m. Quinn’s, 330 Main St.

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**Annual Plant Sale and Garden Market**

**SAT., MAY 12, 2018**

10 AM - 5 PM

**Organic Vegetables & Herbs**

**Member Plants**

**Annuals & Perennials**

**Garrison Fire Company**

1616 Route 9
Garrison

**Sneak peeks of**

**Little Mermaid Jr.**

and **25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee**

**Improvisation Workshop with Ruth Danon**

2 p.m. 1 East Main St., No. 204

**Printmaking Demonstration with Beth Weintraub**

3:30 – 5 p.m. 34 Talbot Ave.

**Funky Spunky Literature Night and After Party**

6:30 – 9:30 p.m. Quinn’s, 330 Main St.
Writers in the City

First literary night for Open Studios

By Alison Rooney

After the artists in Beacon have closed their doors on the second and final day of Open Studios on Sunday, April 29 (see Page 9), the party will be extended at least two hours with a Funky, Spunky Literature Night at Quinn’s.

“There’s been no writing event at Beacon Open Studios before,” notes Donna Minkowitz, a newcomer to Beacon who is organizing the event, which begins at 6:30 p.m. “The more literary events we have, the better. We would love for everyone to participate, not just ‘writers.’ We want literature showcased as something heartfelt.”

The evening will begin with readings from novelist Julie Chibbaro, poet Ruth Danon and the theatrical duo of Jason Craig and Jessica Jellife of Banana Bag & Bodice. Minkowitz promises that each will offer their “most vulnerable, tender, ferocious, fiercest work” and “sexy, edgy and heartfelt literary writing.”

Also on the agenda, she says, will be a collaborative Memoir Write-a-Thon with audience members, with prizes awarded for the best sentences and scenes.

Minkowitz has written two memoirs and is passionate about the form. “I’ve met a lot of people who want to write about their lives, but think, why would anyone care?” she says. “But it’s not self-important. Telling the truth about your life is difficult and embarrassing, but it can bring people together.”

Her most recent memoir, Growing Up Golem: How I Survived My Mother, Brooklyn and Some Really Bad Dates, is written as if Minkowitz's mother had created her as a golem (in Jewish lore, an inanimate figure created magically, often to serve its creator). It details her reclamation of herself as an adult, with liberal doses of humor.

Minkowitz began her writing career in 1987 at The Village Voice, where for eight years she wrote about lesbian and gay topics, political movements, sex, violence and relationships.

“It was known as a writer’s paper, and there was great freedom given, in terms of style and expression,” she recalls. “Even if writing about politics, there was no contradiction in also making it beautiful.”

During that time, Minkowitz wrote her first memoir, Ferocious Romance: What My Encounters with the Right Taught Me About Sex, God and Fury, which detailed the time she spent embedded, disguised as a male teenager, in organizations such as Promise Keepers and an anti-gay evangelical group. She has since written for many publications, including Slate, Salon, The Nation and The Advocate, and teaches writing from her home.

A severe case of repetitive stress syndrome forced her to dictate rather than type, which curtailed her journalism for a while. But it also tunnelled her focus to other forms. She is working on a novel about marriage and also writes about food and restaurants for Gay City News.

Please join the Cold Spring Area Chamber of Commerce
On April 25, 2018 at 6PM at Dutchess Manor

To celebrate our distinguished 2018 Chamber Award Winners:

James G. Lovell Community Award for service to the entire Cold Spring Area Community:
Jennifer Zwarich

The Sustainable Business of the Year Award:
Scanga Woodworking

The Non-Profit of the Year Award:
The Garrison Institute

“People’s Choice” Award Nominees (winners to be announced at the event):
The People’s Choice for 2018 Business of the Year:
Magazzino Italian Art
Cold Spring Village Taxi
Silver Spoon
B & L Deli

The People’s Choice for 2018 Silver Business Award (25+ Years):
C & E Paint Supply
Romeo and Juliet Salon
Pig Hill Inn
Grey’s Printing

RSVP: https://csacc2018annualawards.eventbrite.com

VOTE for the People’s Choice Awards: https://goo.gl/forms/eBvhzcT6305qfCe2

Recommended Reading

We asked Donna Minkowitz to share three of her favorite memoirs.

The Periodic Table, by Primo Levi
Levi was an Italian writer and chemist who survived Auschwitz as a young man.

Soul Serenade, by Rashod Ollison
A gay black man, Ollison writes beautifully about his childhood in Arkansas and the violence he endured through the consolations of soul music.

The Architect of Desire, by Suzannah Lessard
Lessard recounts the “beauty and danger” that persist in the family of her grandfather, the architect Stanford White.

Minkowitz and her wife moved to Beacon in January and she’s already conducted a memoir-writing workshop at the Howland library. Having lived nearly her entire life in New York City, Minkowitz isn’t a driver and so was happy to find Beacon a walkable place.

“It was at the top of the list of places we wanted to move to,” she says. “I had come for the weekend a few times and had a real sense of it as an arts community. The people are so nice, and I’m pleased at how many are so into writing.”
Bargains Galore Help Kids Explore

Beacon playmakers to hold annual sale

By Alison Rooney

What do pounds and pounds of clothing add up to? At the annual Wee Play ReSale, which takes place Friday, April 27, through Sunday, April 29, at University Settlement in Beacon, the sum of the donated bundles of too-small shorts and my-kid-won’t-wear-it jackets will be an expansive playground at Memorial Park.

The sale is the major fundraiser for Wee Play, a volunteer organization which, with partners such as the Beacon Recreation Department, the City of Beacon and the Howland Public Library, created a playground at Memorial Park designed for children ages 5 and younger. It also has improved two other playgrounds, at Green Street and Seeger Riverfront parks.

The group is now raising money to expand the Memorial Park playground with more natural elements, climbing options and nature play areas (and less plastic) based on designs by landscape architect Bryan Quinn. Phase 1 of the Wee Woods began in October with the construction of a grove of eastern cottonwood trees. All that remained before Phase 2 begins is the installation of a plaque to recognize everyone who donated funds to buy trees.

Phase 2 will include the construction of rope bridges, balance beams, and nature play structures within the woods, in addition to stroller parking.

Wee Play was founded 13 years ago after a grassroots organizing effort by Julian Schwarz, who tacked flyers to telephone poles and recruited other parents of young children. In 2005, the Beacon Recreation Commission voted to fund the Wee Play tot lot.

Raquel Moller Verdesi, who became involved with Wee Play a year after its founding and is now board president and chair of the ReSale, said the first fundraiser was held in a member’s garage and raised less than $1,000. The sale last year brought in more than $13,000.

“It started as a one-day sale and we kept on adding days and hours,” she recalls. This year’s sale will be open from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. each of its three days.

After months of collecting donations, which include sporting equipment, strollers, bicycles, furniture and maternity clothes, along with children’s clothing, toys, games and books, volunteers spend hours sorting and pricing. (No more donations are being accepted for the 2018 sale.) Parents are encouraged to bring their children; a bake sale will be available for tired-from-shopping tummies, large and small.

Following the sale, some unsold items are directed to other nonprofits. For example, children’s books are delivered to the Friends of the Butterfield Library in Cold Spring for its book sale, which begins May 19.

Volunteers are still needed for the sale days, Verdesi says, for set up, posting parking signs, packing up leftover merchandise and other tasks.

There are also many volunteer opportunities throughout the year, she says, such as watering the gardens at University Settlement twice a week in season or lending a hand at classes and play groups at the library and Beacon Rec.

“It’s a wonderful way, especially if you’re new to Beacon and have young children, to connect with others,” Verdesi says. See weeplayproject.org.

Kids using Imagination Playground blocks during a Wee Play session

Limited Editions Realty, Inc.
10 Marion Ave., Suite 2, Cold Spring, New York 10516

COLD SPRING $580,000

Looking for privacy and relaxation in a mountain atmosphere, this could be the place! If you are an artist, writer or nature lover, this could be the place. Open plan living room, dining area, eat-in kitchen, sliding glass doors to the 1200 SF wraparound deck offers nature at your fingertips. This "Deck House" style home with cathedral and wood ceilings, brick fireplace and hardwood floors offers the comfort you need. Two (2) bedrooms and bath and additional room for office or special guest room is the taking. Access to the lake/beach and tennis court is all part of the package. Hiking trails at your doorstep into Fahnestock Park is the outdoors man’s delight. For a 2nd home or full time residence, it can’t be beat.

Cold Spring $465,000

A 2-unit multi-family village home is located in a much desired and convenient location. Each unit has 2 bedrooms and bath, living room and eat-in kitchen. The home is kept in good condition and close to all the amenities of village life. Off-street parking is offered for all tenants and the home is close to the commuter rail. A good investment for the long term visionary. MLS 4710563

Questions? Call Pat: 845.222.5820
LimitedEditionsRealty.com
Gardening for the Planet

By Pamela Doan

Earth Day is Sunday, April 22, and the network that evolved out of the environmental movement in 1970 has made plastic pollution its 2018 campaign.

Plastic is everywhere and for the same reasons it is widely used — durability and flexibility — it doesn’t go away when its usefulness is complete. It is not biodegradable and its production is an unsustainable process using oil and natural gas by-products, as well as chemicals that carry health risks.

A 2017 study estimated that 5.5 billion tons of plastic waste is languishing in global landfills and the environment. Less than 10 percent of plastic is recycled. The Earth Day Network website at earthday.org has a “plastic footprint calculator” that I didn’t find accurate personally, but it’s thought-provoking and I imagined how it might be applied to gardening practices.

Gardening can involve a lot of plastic. One quandary is how to manage the containers that accumulate when you buy plants. I return them to a garden center I frequent and it accepts most but that requires storage and remembering to put them in the car. I also reuse containers for plant sales and in my garden. A better practice is to start more plants from seeds and avoid bringing home plastic plant sales and in my garden. A better practice is to start more plants from seeds and avoid bringing home plastic plant pots, a gardening goal that is always on my list.

Packaging is another plastic-waste generator. Picture the compost and mulch aisle in a garden center — it’s one thick plastic bag after another. Making your own compost or getting bulk delivery is one way to opt out.

Watering cans, tools, plant markers, plant tags, landscape fabric, tools, gardening tubs and containers — plastic defines the products we use to make our gardens and landscapes beautiful and healthy. Just consider what you’re buying and how it will run its course this spring.

For Earth Day, I asked gardeners in Philipstown and Beacon for stories about becoming more sustainable:

“I’m composting, regular and vermicomposting.”
-Zshawn Sullivan

“Composting and planting companion plants for good bugs.”
-Lara Demberg Voloto (Certain flowers mixed into a vegetable garden attract insects like lady beetles and parasitic wasps that feed on pests. -P.D.)

“No pesticides. I’m embracing dandelions, which are good for spring detox, and using plants that attract butterflies and birds.”
-Sally Smith

“My rain-catchin barrel saves me a lot of walking to get to the hose. I can wash my hands, water plants and conserve water.”

-Anna West

“I compost food scraps and garden clippings. I only use organic amendments and re-use or recycle plant pots. I support local, family-owned garden centers and don’t purchase any plant that has been treated with neonicotinoids [an insecticide that kills pollinators].”
-Philomena Kiernan

“I save seeds from last year’s plants and from organic vegetables purchased locally, and start seeds in yogurt cups.”
-Virginia Piazza

“Like others here in Beacon, I maintain a strictly organic garden and use vermicomposting. Those worms have a voracious appetite and eat just about everything. I feed them the Thursday newsprint sales flyers, facial tissues, yarn snippets, my dryer lint and hairbrush gleanings, as well as all food scraps except Allium family and citrus, which might give them a tummy ache. I get worm castings, which make my veggies jump out of the ground, and worm tea, which I dilute for my houseplants.”
-Arabella Champaq

Have a sustainable gardening tip? Email me at rootsandshoots@highlandscurrent.com.

A last thought: One thing that is getting more attention and validation from research is soil health and no-till practices. Not only is soil a carbon sink (meaning it prevents carbon dioxide from being released into the atmosphere, where it contributes to climate change), it can be a tool for reducing emissions. Minimize digging, maximize organic amendments and lower your carbon footprint this season. Happy Earth Day!

The annual flower “cosmos” will attract many species of beneficial insects.

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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.

Artful Pruning gracefully brings your ornamentals back to a more appropriate smaller size.

For an artful, natural finish, call Gregory, the artful pruner, with over 10 years as a career gardener specializing in natural and restorative gardening. 845.446.7465

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7 LITTLE WORDS

1. SUSAN, 2. RECUSED, 3. PETERS, 4. ARTIFACT
5. WALKERS, 6. REPOSES, 7. OFFRAMPS

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Deport Docs presents:

One October

April 27, 7:30 p.m.
Live score performed by six musicians with conductor/composer Paul Brill
Tickets $20, includes reception

Meredith Willson’s The Music Man
directed by Linda Speziale
May 18 - June 10

See philipstowndepottheatre.org for tickets.

Garrison Landing, Garrison, NY (Theatre is adjacent to train station.)
Delete Paper
Lions to hold shredder day
The Cold Spring Lions Club will hold its annual shredder day from 9 a.m. to noon on Saturday, April 21, at The Nest on Chestnut Street in Cold Spring. Remove paper clips and staples from documents. The shredding is free, although donations are welcome.

Foundry Update
Path to close for a few weeks
Scenic Hudson plans to close the Marsh Path at the West Point Foundry Preserve in late April for a few weeks to add viewing areas and an overlook. The main trails will not be affected.

Moonshine Blues
Couple to play in Putnam Valley
Paula Bradley and Bill Dillof, a husband-and-wife duo known as Moonshine Holler, will perform at the Tompkins Corners Cultural Center in Putnam Valley at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, April 28. The concert will include American roots music and George Wilson will join in. Tickets are $18 in advance or $20 at the door. See tompkincorners.org.

Tea for Mom
Church to host on April 28
The Cold Spring United Methodist Church will host a Mother’s Day Tea at 2 p.m. on Saturday, April 28, with sandwiches, scones, sweets and fruits. To reserve seats, call 845-265-3365 or email csumw@aol.com. Tickets are $10.

Spring Fundraiser
Haldane foundation to host dinner
The Haldane School Foundation will hold its spring fundraiser, Taste of the Valley, at Glynwood Farm on Saturday, April 28, starting at 6:30 p.m. The foundation provides grants for projects by faculty, students and members of the community. Tickets are $75 at haldaneschoolfoundation.org.

College Info
Seminar will share basics
During a seminar to be held at the Butterfield Library in Cold Spring at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, April 30, Gayle Chaky, the founder of the Savvy Scholar, will cover the basics of selecting a college, getting accepted and paying for it. Register at butterfieldlibrary.org.

Get Fit
Challenge starts April 28
Scenic Hudson and a number of regional medical centers have joined forces to organize a six-week fitness challenge that begins Saturday, April 28. Participants who log 30-minute workouts at locations such as Foundry Dock Park in Cold Spring and Long Dock Park in Beacon will be entered into raffles to win sweatshirts and gift cards. See wegetfit.org.

Beacon
Rally at Capitol
Marchers to call for action on climate change
Thousands of protestors are expected to rally at the Capitol building in Albany on Monday, April 23, to demand that the governor mitigate climate change by banning fracking, committing to 100 percent renewable energy and taxing corporate polluters. The Green Beacon Coalition is organizing a car pool; email saralpe@buffalo.edu. For general info, see cuomowalkthetalk.org.

More College Info
Beacon High to host panel
Beacon High School will have two opportunities for teens and parents to receive assistance with college planning. On Wednesday, April 25, at 6:30 p.m., a panel of admissions counselors from SUNY Binghamton, SUNY Oneonta, Utica College, Manhattan College and Mount Saint Mary College will offer advice on the admissions process. On Thursday, April 26, at 6:30 p.m., a college fair will be held in the gym.

Art by Steve Rossi
Matteawan opens new show
The Matteawan Gallery in Beacon will open Differential Ratios, an exhibit of collages, drawings and sculptures by Steve Rossi, with a reception from 6 to 8 p.m. on Saturday, April 21. The show will be on view through May 20. See matteawan.com.

Bring the Kids
KidVenture set for April 28-29
On Saturday, April 28, and Sunday, April 29, IBM and the Chamber Foundation will host Hudson Valley KidVenture in Poughkeepsie. The festival will include live performances, trackless trains, exhibits and activities.
train rides, hands-on activities, animals and music on Market Street and at the Mid-Hudson Civic Center and Changepoint Theatre. Tickets for adults and children ages 3 and older are $8 in advance and $10 at the door, or pay $12 for a two-day pass. See hvkidventure.org.

Fix It, Don’t Nix It

Repair cafes in Beacon, Garrison

Repair Cafes will be held in Beacon and Garrison over the next two weekends at which volunteers restore and repair broken items such as bikes, small appliances, china, knits and fabrics to keep them from ending up in a landfill. The Beacon event will be held at the Recreation Center from noon to 4 p.m. on Saturday, April 21, and the Garrison event at the Desmond-Fish Library on Saturday, April 28, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Harlem Quartet to Perform

Two shows at Howland Center

The Harlem Quartet will perform twice at the Howland Cultural Center in Beacon on Sunday, April 29. At noon, its string players will present a set for children as part of the Classics for Kids series organized by the Howland Chamber Music Circle. Tickets are $10 for adults; children are free.

At 4 p.m., the quartet will perform the Quartet Op. 33 No. 2 in E-flat Major (nicknamed “The Joke” by Haydn) and Take the A-train, arranged by Billy Strayhorn. Pianist Michael Brown will join the group for Robert Schumann’s Piano Quintet in E-flat Major Op. 44 and will also play a piece by Mendelssohn. See howlandmusic.org for tickets.

Dutchess Art Awards

Nomination deadline is May 20

Arts Mid-Hudson and the Dutchess County executive have opened nominations for the annual Dutchess Arts Awards. The deadline is May 20. There are 10 categories honoring individuals, organizations and businesses for contributions to cultural life in the county. See artsmidhudson.org.

Art for Tuition

Randolph School raising funds

The Randolph School in Wappingers Falls, will raise funds for its tuition-assistance program with an art auction on Saturday, April 28. The event starts at 5:30 p.m. at the Howland Cultural Center in Beacon and includes works by more than 30 artists. For a catalog and tickets, see expansionart.org.
Nelsonville Adopts Budget, Settles on Fire Protection

Also considers regulating short-term rentals
By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

With five members for the first time in 120 years, the Nelsonville Village Board on Monday (April 16) unanimously approved a $320,400 budget for fiscal 2018-19 and ended a dispute with Cold Spring over fire protection charges.

Before taking up other business, Nelsonville swore in newly elected Trustees Michael Bowman and Dave Moroney. They joined Thomas Robertson, an incumbent who won a new, one-year term without opposition, Mayor Bill O’Neill and Trustee Alan Potts on the rostrum. The village had a five-man board initially, but dropped two trustee posts in 1898 for reasons now obscured.

Fire protection
Nelsonville contracts with Cold Spring for fire protection, but in 2016 the villages began sparring over Nelsonville’s portion of firefighter pensions and workers’ compensation costs.

The disagreement ended amicably on Monday when the Nelsonville Village Board unanimously approved a $41,068.52 fire-protection contract for June 1 through March 31, 2019. As outlined by an agreement between Cold Spring and the Cold Spring Fire Company, Cold Spring will pay 52 percent of the total firefighting costs, Philipstown will pay 29.5 percent and Nelsonville will pay 18.5 percent. The amount owed will be calculated after each fiscal year.

Spending
Nelsonville’s 2018-19 budget is $10,910 higher than the last fiscal year, anticipated for three nitty-gritty municipal needs: $23,400 for street maintenance; $9,400 for snow removal; and $46,800 for street lighting.

Rentals
The board concurred with Robertson’s proposal to consider instituting regulations on short-term rentals such as those booked through sites like Airbnb.com. “It’s a concern to the people that don’t do it,” said Robertson, citing residents’ complaints.

O’Neill said the village needs to ensure safe lodging for visitors. Looking into the matter “does not reflect xenophobia,” he said. “We’re hoping not to overregulate.”

Nelsonville’s village code allows the “letting of rooms” to up to two guests at once if the owner lives in the house. It prohibits cooking facilities in rooms, allowing cooking only if the owner lives in the house. It also prohibits cell phone towers in Nelsonville.

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Batter Up!

The Philipstown Little League opened its season on a chilly but sunny Saturday (April 14) with five games, including the return of softball.

The league has 15 teams, with players in kindergarten through seventh grade, in three divisions. Each team plays at least 12 games. Girls in grades 2 to 6 can play softball or baseball.

"Opening day is a beautiful day to celebrate community," said Paul Tomizawa, the league president. "We have lots of volunteers chip- ping in, making sure the season goes well."

Registration for softball is still open; see philipstownlittleleague.com. For more photos, see highlandscurrent.com.

Photos by Skip Pearlman

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7 LITTLE WORDS

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

CLUES  SOLUTIONS
1 Scottish singer Boyle (5)
2 dismissed for potential bias (7)
3 tires (out) (6)
4 object of an ancient people (8)
5 senior stabilizers (7)
6 lies in rest (7)
7 highway exits (8)

SUS WA PET REC AR
ED RE MPS LKE OFF
RS ES FA ERS US
TI RA AN POS CT

See answers: Page 15
Beacon Baseball Primed for Solid Season

Led by All-American pitcher Lenny Torres Jr.

By Skip Pearlman

A
fter winning the league championship with a 13-9 record last season before losing in the second round of the District 1, Class A playoffs, the Beacon High School varsity baseball team is looking to take a step forward this spring.

It will rely heavily on its five returning starters, who include All-American and All-State pitcher Lenny Torres Jr., who has caught the eye of Major League Baseball scouts. The senior righthander and co-captain is joined by senior shortstop and co-captain Justin Conklin, junior catcher Andrew Schneider, junior outfielder Nick Lepere and junior infielder Joe DeCandia.

“All of them had a good year last year,” said Coach Bob Atwell. “They’ll take a bigger role this year, and can help us defend our league championship.”

A number of other solid players are returning from the 2017 squad, he said, such as junior outfielder Mike Manzoeillo, who is batting cleanup, and sophomore pitcher and utility player Bismar Dika.

The coach said he has confidence in his hurlers, but they must endure being compared to one of the best high school pitchers in the country in Torres. “He’s been clocked at 98 mph, and is consistently between 93 and 95 with his fastball,” Atwell said. “In 29 years I’ve seen some great players, but this is only the second kid that I’ve seen like this. And he’s got the best arm I’ve ever coached.”

Beyond Torres, Atwell is looking for consistency on the mound. “Guys need to step up, our offense needs to extend our lineup a bit, and the guys batting for positions at the bottom of the lineup need to compete,” he said.

Besides DeCandia, who won three games on the mound last season, Atwell will rely on southpaws Lepere and Matt Manzoeillo, and righties Dika, Jayen Lare and Lucas Salcedo.

“I’m looking for them to pound the zone and throw strikes,” Atwell said. “Our defense is solid, so we’re looking for them to hit locations and throw off-speed stuff for strikes.”

Beacon opened the season hosting its annual Spring Bash tournament at Dutchess Stadium, losing in the championship game to Cornwall, 15-5, after defeating Pelham Memorial by the same score in the opener. Torres struck out five and allowed just one hit in three innings in the victory, and DeCandia earned the win. Dika drove in three runs and Schneider drove in two.

The Bulldogs improved to 2-2 this week, with DeCandia throwing a complete-game, three-hitter against Walter Panas, while striking out 10. Torres and Lepere each had an RBI in that win.

Beacon was scheduled to host Nyack on Saturday (April 21) at 6:30 p.m. and take on Mahopac at Dutchess Stadium on Monday (April 23) at 4:30 p.m.