HAVE YOU HEARD?

August 10, 2018
161 MAIN ST., COLD SPRING, N.Y.
highlandscurrent.org

FREE Serving Philipstown and Beacon

The HIGHLANDS

CURRENT

August 10, 2018
161 MAIN ST., COLD SPRING, N.Y.  |  highlandscurrent.org

FREE Serving Philipstown and Beacon

(Continued on Page 6)

Beacon Schools Taking Steps to Diversify Staff

54 percent of students minorities; 87 percent of teachers white

By Jeff Simms

Several years ago, Frank Bugg was on a crusade to align the staff and students of the Beacon City School District.

The Beacon resident was a fixture at school board meetings, repeatedly asking district officials to hire more minority teachers and staff to reflect the racial and cultural diversity of the student body.

The district in June announced several administrative hires, two of which advance that goal: Elisa Soto, a Hispanic woman who was most recently an assistant principal at Monroe-Woodbury High School in Orange County, is the new principal of Beacon High School; and Crystal Sessoms, a black woman who was an assistant principal at Ithaca High School, begins her first year as principal at J.V. Forrestal Elementary.

The hires are part of an effort implemented over the last two years to diversify by widening the district’s search for qualified candidates, said Superintendent Matt Landahl.

(Continued on Page 3)

Cell Tower Firm Offers to Settle Philipstown Lawsuit

But Town Board ‘not inclined’ to accept, says supervisor

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

Philipstown Supervisor Richard Shea on Aug. 2 confirmed that the town had received an offer from Homeland Towers and Verizon to settle a lawsuit the firms brought against the town for rejecting their plans to construct a cell tower near the intersection of Routes 9 and 301.

Residents who oppose the tower mentioned the settlement offer in a four-page letter presented to the board at its formal monthly meeting. They called the proposal “vaguely worded” and noted it “still includes building a cell tower” on a site proposed off Vineyard Road.

Shea verified the news of an offer but said the board had taken no action. He said a straw poll of the five members showed that “we weren’t inclined” to accept it.

Shea characterized the offer as “confused.” He said it appeared to conflate Philipstown with Nelsonville, which Homeland Towers and Verizon have also sued for rejecting a cell tower, on Rockledge Road. The offer to the Town Board reiterated the companies’ arguments for the tower, Shea said, and “seemed somewhat sloppily thrown.

(Continued on Page 8)

Freak Storm Batters Glynwood

Winds topple several hardwoods

By Michael Turton

An intense, isolated storm swept through Glynwood on Friday, Aug. 3, bringing down 22 trees and causing other property damage. The nonprofit, located about 6 miles east of Cold Spring on Route 301, includes a working farm of nearly 200 acres.

Sure enough, here it comes, from the west, Neal Tomann, Glynwood’s director of facilities, recalled thinking as he watched the disturbance develop on his computer screen — and out his office window. Radar depicted the incoming weather as greyish-yellow, he recalled, “except for a tiny, bright red dot.”

That dot was the most intense part of the storm and (Continued on Page 3)

Trees were snapped by the high winds.

Photo by M. Turton

CAREFUL, THERE — Although he has donated 62 pints over the past 33 years, David Liburme of Garrison seems the tiniest bit concerned during a blood drive on Aug. 3 at the North Highlands Firehouse. For more photos, see Page 11.

Photo by Ross Corsair

EARLY RISERS — Erin Detrick, a baker based in Cold Spring, loads loaves onto a rack for overnight proofing before being baked the next day. For her story, see Page 12.

Photo by Kevin Goggin

Frank Bugg

File photo by Michael Turton

(Continued on Page 9)
Five Questions: Pauline Minners

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

Pauline Minners retired in May after 13 years as Nelsonville village clerk.

What does the village clerk do? It’s a diverse job. The clerk is the village clerk, the justice court clerk, the treasurer, the Zoning Board of Appeals secretary, the Planning Board secretary and the building inspector’s secretary. I love Nelsonville. The people are really nice and very friendly. And all the mayors and trustees have been very nice. I haven’t had one I wanted to kick out the door. I liked being the registrar. You get to look at all the old records and see the names of families that have been here forever, like the Hustises, the Van Tassels and the Nelsons. People would come in to do their genealogy searches. We have books that go way back. One, I call the big book of deaths. When anybody dies in the village, not in the hospital, we have to issue the death certificate. When someone is born at home, we have to issue the birth certificate. We don’t do marriage licenses. For those, you still go to Philipstown Town Hall.

What didn’t you like? The night meetings. It used to be two or three nights a month but it got worse last year because of the cell tower issue — Zoning Board of Appeals, Planning Board, Village Board workshops. For years I had somebody helping me. Then she was only coming once a month, and things started piling up. You need someone to help part-time.

Have you always lived in Philipstown? I was living in White Plains and my parents lived in Nelsonville. I moved here when Ashley was born, 23 years ago. She’s my grand-niece, actually, but I’ve had custody of her since she was born, so she’s my daughter. She goes back to school, to Salem State University, in Massachusetts, in September.

What have you been doing since you retired? Playing taxi cab driver for Ashley. She’s taking a summer course at Dutchess Community College in Poughkeepsie. I hang out in the library while she’s in class. I like to read. Also, I want to start some trips with my sister; she lives next door to me.

What’s best about retirement — and any downsides? Not having anything to worry about. Downside? I haven’t found one yet.

Pauline Minners on the porch of the Nelsonville village office

Pauline Minners retired in May after 13 years as Nelsonville village clerk.

What does the village clerk do? It’s a diverse job. The clerk is the village clerk, the justice court clerk, the treasurer, the Zoning Board of Appeals secretary, the Planning Board secretary and the building inspector’s secretary. I love Nelsonville. The people are really nice and very friendly. And all the mayors and trustees have been very nice. I haven’t had one I wanted to kick out the door. I liked being the registrar. You get to look at all the old records and see the names of families that have been here forever, like the Hustises, the Van Tassels and the Nelsons. People would come in to do their genealogy searches. We have books that go way back. One, I call the big book of deaths. When anybody dies in the village, not in the hospital, we have to issue the death certificate. When someone is born at home, we have to issue the birth certificate. We don’t do marriage licenses. For those, you still go to Philipstown Town Hall.

What didn’t you like? The night meetings. It used to be two or three nights a month but it got worse last year because of the cell tower issue — Zoning Board of Appeals, Planning Board, Village Board workshops. For years I had somebody helping me. Then she was only coming once a month, and things started piling up. You need someone to help part-time.

Have you always lived in Philipstown? I was living in White Plains and my parents lived in Nelsonville. I moved here when Ashley was born, 23 years ago. She’s my grand-niece, actually, but I’ve had custody of her since she was born, so she’s my daughter. She goes back to school, to Salem State University, in Massachusetts, in September.

What have you been doing since you retired? Playing taxi cab driver for Ashley. She’s taking a summer course at Dutchess Community College in Poughkeepsie. I hang out in the library while she’s in class. I like to read. Also, I want to start some trips with my sister; she lives next door to me.

What’s best about retirement — and any downsides? Not having anything to worry about. Downside? I haven’t found one yet.

Pauline Minners on the porch of the Nelsonville village office

Support The Current
Donate today at highlandscurrent.org/support

The Highlands Current, Inc., has tax-exempt status as a federal 501(c)(3) enterprise, and all donations are tax-deductible to the extent provided by law.

Hudson River Expeditions

Kayak, canoe, and stand-up paddleboard rentals, tours and instruction.

www.HudsonRiverExpeditions.com
845.809.5935
14 Market Street, Cold Spring, NY 10516

ON THE SPOT

By Michael Turton

Have you had a brush with fame?

“I met Robert F. Kennedy in 1964. I shook his hand. I was just a kid.”
– John Gilvey, Beacon

“I was in an Atlantic City casino near the stage. Frank Sinatra reached down and asked, ‘Can I borrow a cigarette?’ ”
– Deb MacLeod, Constitution Island

“I met Philippe Petit, the Twin Towers cable walker, when he walked a high wire in Grand Central Station.”
– Walter Cinquanta, Cold Spring

The Highlands Current
August 10, 2018
**Freak Storm Batters Glynwood (from Page 1)**

“went right over us,” striking at 3:30 p.m. “It was raining hard, but then it just really took off,” Tomann said. At one point the rain sounded “like someone blasting the building with a fire hose.”

The storm lasted 15 minutes, battering the property with wind, rain and lightning strikes. Glynwood lost oaks, maples and hickories.

“I’ve been here a long time and have never seen anything like that,” said Tomann. While thunderstorms are common, this one “was on top of us very quickly.”

Two towering red oaks fell close to the main house but did no damage to the building. The roof of a chicken coop flew off, and a small wood shed was destroyed.

But the biggest disappointment, Tomann said, was losing a nearly 100-foot-long, portable greenhouse that had just been skinned earlier in the week.

“No one could get anywhere for a while, there were so many trees down,” Tomann said. Those stranded included some CSA customers who had to wait for the staff to clear the roads.

Tomann said he spoke to a neighbor just east of Glynwood who knew nothing of the storm. “It appears it just hit us,” he said. “We have to clean this up, and in a hurry.” Glynwood will host its annual gala the second week in September.

Crews are harvesting as much hardwood from the downed trees as possible. “That would make the best of a bad situation,” he said, adding that it was fortunate that no animals or people were injured, especially considering how busy the farm was at the time.

---

**HELP WANTED: BOOKKEEPER**

The Highlands Current, a nonprofit media company based in Cold Spring, New York, is seeking a part-time bookkeeper who is familiar with Quickbooks and accrual accounting. The position involves creating advertising invoices, inputting contractor invoices, and recording deposits, as well as monthly reconciling. It requires about 10 to 15 hours per month.

Send resume and hourly rate to editor@highlandscurrent.org.

---

**HELP WANTED: LAYOUT EDITOR**

The Highlands Current, a nonprofit weekly newspaper based in Cold Spring, New York, about 50 miles north of New York City, is seeking a part-time layout editor.

The paper, a 10”x13” tabloid, is published each Friday on Adobe InDesign, so familiarity with Adobe products is essential. Experience in newspaper or magazine layout preferred. Experience in designing advertisements and other print materials also a plus.

The layout editor works closely with the advertising director and managing editor on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. There is potential for some remote work. Position is salaried with vacation.

Send resume and portfolio with samples of your page design to editor@highlandscurrent.org.

The trip on Metro-North from Grand Central Station in New York is about 70 minutes, and our offices are within walking distance of the Cold Spring station.

---

**REAL ESTATE CLOSING ATTORNEY**

30 Years of Experience
Residential and Commercial Properties
We Represent Buyers and Sellers

CHIERA LAW GROUP
914-722-6700
www.ChieraLawGroup.com
Free Consultation

Phil’s List
Free online local classifieds devoted to jobs, housing, tag sales, services, and more.

highlandscurrent.org  •  click on “Free Ads”
Beacon IDs

The proposal to create identification cards for Beacon residents is another feel-good law that will end up proving nothing because Gov. Andrew Cuomo is installing facial recognition software on everything so the state will be able to “recover” back taxes, child support and keep track of everything that we are doing (“Beacon to Consider Municipal IDs,” Aug. 3).

In the meantime, we are supposed to look the other way for non-citizens who technically do not have the rights of naturalized citizens. The argument that we are a nation of immigrants is getting old. Do it the right way and then you can expect the rights of citizenship, along with its responsibilities.

As for the idea these IDs would prevent “employment discrimination”: You are asking us to help people break the law, while we have to follow the letter of the laws. Isn’t that a double standard?

I am not racist—I just have a hard time seeing people without the same rights. I am not racist and U.S. citizens but without reason to fear the rule of law.

Joe Zukowski, Beacon

Municipal IDs are a bad idea. I already have a state driver’s license, a U.S. passport and a birth certificate. How many more IDs do we need?

My biggest beef is that you will have to pay another fee. A passport is more than $100. If you should misplace your driver’s license, that’s $17.50. Plus, soon we will need an Enhanced Driver’s License to fly within the 50 states. For those who don’t have the required documents, a non-driver ID should suffice.

Susan MacDonald, Beacon

Nobody Leaves Mid-Hudson, which is pushing municipal IDs, is a typical radical, leftist non-government organization posing as a benevolent community organization when its true mandate is the aiding and abetting of illegal aliens. It supports a municipal ID you can qualify for with less than the minimum foreign passport. Let me guess, it also opposes anything that would prove a person’s citizenship, such as federally issued voter ID cards.

Lee Filson, Philipstown

Why is Beacon following Poughkeepsie’s lead to dumb down identification? Why even have an ID if you can use any piece of paper to prove who you are?

Charles Symon, Beacon

Scenic Hudson purchase

Scenic Hudson says it knows what’s best for homeowners near Lake Valhalla (“Scenic Hudson Buys 1,176 Acres at Lake Valhalla,” Aug. 3). Be prepared to lose your rights to use the lake that you have enjoyed for years. Get ready for a long list of rules. But don’t worry: it’s for your own good.

This purchase by Scenic Hudson is a “land-banking” investment. Later, it will have no problem selling off prime parcels at a substantial profit. The organization has a history of this. In Cold Spring, it got land from Archie Campbell that he thought and was told would never be developed. Then, in 2015, Scenic Hudson subdivided it and sold a portion. For years, the property was a protected area and off the tax rolls. Then, after it appreciated in value, it was time to subdivide.

The village lost years of revenue in tax-ex. Beware of wolves in sheep’s clothing that are doing “what’s best” for the little people. Scenic Hudson does some really good things. But there is a dark side, as well. Follow the money.

Tony Bardes, Cold Spring

Church sign

It’s a shame that some people think it is OK to deface our church sign board by changing its message to read “God is Dead” (“Unneighborly,” Aug. 3). If you don’t like the message, move on. We will be watching from now on. By the way, God is not dead. He’s very much alive at Church on the Hill. Come visit. We’d love to have you.

Donna Anderson, Cold Spring

Letters and Comments

Letters and Comments

The Current welcomes letters to the editor on its coverage and local issues. Submissions are selected by the editor to provide a variety of opinions and voices, and all are subject to editing for accuracy, clarity and length. We ask that writers remain civil and avoid personal attacks. Letters may be emailed to editor@highlandscurrent.org or mailed to Editor, The Highlands Current, 161 Main St., Cold Spring, NY 10516. The writer’s full name, village or city, and email or phone number must be included, but only the name and village or city will be published.

Greg Harnett, Garrison

“Prankster or vandal”? Once someone gets arrested, it will become clear which it was.

Michael Bowman, Nelsonville

So sad. I love to read these signs as I make my way in and out of town.

Laurie Yodice, Philipstown

The Church on the Hill loves to cram its political views down everyone’s throat. What’s the big deal if someone rearranged the letters on a sign? It’s been happening at hardware stores and theaters for decades.

Nick Poholchuk, Cold Spring

This is downright hateful to do this to private property and I’m sure highly offensive to the parishioners of Church on the Hill, or anyone of faith.

Tom Campanile, Cold Spring

Absentee ballots

Voting by absentee ballot is a great option for those who are unable to get to their polling sites on Election Day. Whether you are away at college, living with a disability or traveling on Election Day, voting absentee is a good choice to make sure your vote is counted.

There is a two-step process to vote by absentee ballot in New York State. First, fill out an application to get a ballot; it can be downloaded at elections.ny.gov/absentee.html. Once you receive the ballot in the mail, fill it out and mail it to the Putnam or Dutchess county board of elections.

The deadline for mail requests for the primary election is Sept. 6 (or Sept. 12 if brought to your county board of elections office), and for the general election, it’s Oct. 30 or Nov. 5.

It is important for all citizens to participate in every election. In 2016, only 57 percent of eligible voters in New York State voted. Please make sure your voice is heard by voting this fall.

Sandy Galef, Albany

Galef represents Philipstown in the state Assembly.
Cold Spring Declines to Support Vape Shop Ban

Trustees say they see no reason to prohibit sales

By Michael Turton

The Cold Spring Village Board last month declined to support a proposal being considered by the Putnam County Legislature to ban vape shops.

“I see no reason for a moratorium” when vaping products are readily available at other shops in the village, said Trustee Fran Murphy during the board’s July 24 meeting.

Cold Spring Trustee Lynn Miller said she had researched a number of vape shops and found “you can’t even walk in if you aren’t over 18.” While vaping, like smoking cigarettes, “is not good for you,” she said, she knows three young adults who quit smoking “by gradually tapering down using a vaporizer.”

Miller said she has seen no evidence linking vaping to drug use. “Maybe we don’t like the way they [vape shops] look,” she said, but asked if would be right to ban other businesses, such as tattoo shops, linking vaping to drug use. “Maybe we down using a vaporizer.”

4, have so far helped keep the troublesome birds away.

“In other business ...”

Roberto Muller, the coordinator for the town’s Climate Smart Communities initiative, asked the board on July 24 to provide a list of potential locations that could serve as recharging stations for electric and hybrid vehicles. The stations, which include a minimum of two outlets, cost $350 each, but the state would pay 80 percent, he said.

Residents of Church Street and Furnace Street each agreed to change the dates of block parties they had planned to hold on Labor Day after trustees raised traffic concerns.

Trustees declined a request on July 24 from a Garden Street resident to change the local law to restrict demolition and construction at 126 Main St., the former site of Carolyn’s Flower Shoppe. Village code restricts excessive noise between 7 a.m. and 10 p.m. “If you’re working in construction as [Trustee] Steve [Voloto] and I have when it’s 100 degrees out, you have to get started before 7 o’clock,” said Mayor Dave Merandy. Murphy said there is no heavy construction in the village as late as 10 p.m. Former Trustee Bruce Campbell has been hired as a park maintenance worker for the Recreation Department. Campbell had been chairing the Recreation Commission but resigned to take the position. He will work 24 hours a week through Oct. 26.

The board awarded Sal Pidalas and Sons Excavating of Cold Spring the contract to pave Market Street after it submitted a low bid of $14,110. The annual picnic for senior citizens and the appreciation dinner for village employees and volunteers will be combined as a barbecue scheduled for Sept. 15 at Mayor’s Park.
Beacon Schools Taking Steps to Diversify Staff

"We’ve talked as a district about the potential for a student to go through our system and never have a teacher of color, and that’s unacceptable," said Landahl, who will begin his second school year in Beacon next month.

In 2015 and early 2016, when Bugg was a regular at Beacon school board meetings, the district did not release a breakdown of the races of its teachers and staff. But those statistics have been posted online since 2016-17, and those for last year show that while 54 percent of the district’s students are Hispanic, black, Asian or multiracial, 87 percent of the teachers and administrators are white.

“We have shifted our conversation internally to ‘We have to be student-centered,’” says Cecilia Dansereau-Rumley, the assistant superintendent for instructional services. “We have to think about who they are and what they need — at all levels, whether it’s teacher’s aides, instructors or assistants.”

Antony Tseng was one of three new-comers — along with Meredith Heuer and Michael Burkoske — who spoke out about diversity before being elected to the school board in 2016. Today, Tseng chairs the board’s newly formed diversity committee, which, after a year of discussion, was charged with studying ways to increase instructional staff diversity.

“Putting staff demographics on the district website and drafting a uniform hiring plan have been good steps,” said Tseng, who would like to eventually see the diversity of the staff better reflect that of the student body.

“I’m optimistic, but we should always remain open to new ideas, both short-term and long-term,” he said, including possibly hosting a teacher’s job fair.

Dansereau-Rumley points to a few factors when discussing changes in district hiring practices.

A decade ago, job openings were only advertised in local newspapers and through the Dutchess County Board of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES). After a districtwide hiring policy was drafted in 2010, school system officials began advertising on the Online Application System for Educators (OLAS), which reaches a larger audience.

Dansereau-Rumley says OLAS uses a filtering system that scans resumes for grade-point averages and other qualifiers to eliminate candidates before their applications reach district officials. So Beacon decided to go old school.

“Now we’re looking at every single application by hand, no matter what, for every opening,” Landahl says.

This year, the district had four openings for elementary teachers, the position that usually brings in the most applications. Two years ago, Dansereau-Rumley says, “we would have had maybe 100 applicants,” after running resumes through OLAS.

Instead, this year district officials reviewed 560 resumes. (The four hires are all women, and three are white and one is black.)

In addition to expanding its searches to reach more minority candidates, the district says it looks for instructors with a diverse “mindset.” That could mean a teacher who has experience working in schools with diverse student populations and with experience in “culturally responsive practices” that address race, gender, language and other factors.

“We do want the most highly qualified teachers,” Dansereau-Rumley says, noting that the district has worked to identify expertise and experience needed to support its students. “It’s important for all of our students that we’re building toward a global society.”

Landahl held a series of community meetings after he joined the district before the 2017-18 school year and says he heard from parents and residents that they did not feel they were involved enough in the hiring process. For the latest principal hires, parents were included on interview committees and given surveys to determine what they wanted to see in candidates.

For Bugg, unfortunately, the changes may be too little, too late. While he acknowledges the progress Landahl and others have made, he says he can’t commit any more energy to the cause.

More than anything, he says he’s grown dismayed by apathy among the minority parents he tried to galvanize. He recalled hearing from one parent whose son had trouble reading while filling out college applications.

“There is such a malaise in the minority community about this,” Bugg says. “If the parents of these kids are not interested…”

He trailed off. “I was so disgusted with the whole thing.”

Terry Nelson, a member of the Beacon City Council who is black, said he’s had trouble getting minority community members to attend its meetings.

“It’s difficult to hold people accountable without knowing what everyone’s situation is,” such as work schedules, he says. “But it breaks my heart. I wish there was a way for other portions of our community to be heard.”

Landahl and Dansereau-Rumley say they know there is more work to be done. But, says Dansereau-Rumley, “the clearer we get about what we value and begin to demonstrate that,” the more easily the district can present to “candidates something that they want to be a part of.”

Beacon School Diversity

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Students</th>
<th>Staff</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>46%</td>
<td>81%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic/Latino</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>African-American/Black</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multiracial</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian/Pacific Islander</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. Includes teachers, administrators and staff

Source: Beacon City School District

“Putting staff demographics on the whole thing.” Landahl says.

“We do want the most highly qualified teachers. It’s important for all of our students that we’re building toward a global society.”

Beacon School Diversity

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Students</th>
<th>Staff</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>46%</td>
<td>81%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic/Latino</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>African-American/Black</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multiracial</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian/Pacific Islander</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. Includes teachers, administrators and staff

Source: Beacon City School District
New Tick in NY

Native to eastern Asia

A new tick species has been spotted in New York, according to the state Department of Health and Agriculture & Markets. The longhorned tick (*Haemaphysalis longicornis*) has been found in several locations in Westchester County. Although it can transmit disease to humans, no cases have been documented in the U.S. The tick is common in Australia, New Zealand and eastern Asia.

Corrections Officers Sentenced

Convicted of 2013 inmate assault

Two former guards at the maximum-security Downstate Correctional Facility in Fishkill were sentenced July 23 for their role in a 2013 attack on a prisoner and attempts to cover up the crime.

A federal judge in White Plains sentenced Kathy Scott to eight years and four months in prison and George Santiago Jr. to seven years and three months for their role in the beating of Kevin Moore, 54, who spent 17 days in the hospital.

The former officers were convicted, after a nine-day jury trial, of violating Moore's civil rights and falsifying documents to make it appear he had attacked the guards. Three other former guards were also charged and pleaded guilty. Santiago hit one of the officers on the back, the guards.

Metro-North Fares to Rise

Two 4 percent jumps expected

The Metropolitan Transportation Authority has proposed two 4 percent fare hikes, one in 2019 and the second in 2021. The agency blames budget deficits and declining ridership.

Metro-North, which includes the Hudson Line that runs through the Highlands, has said that without fare hikes it will have a $1.5 billion shortfall by 2021. The Hudson Line provides about 1.4 million rides each month, according to the MTA. From January through May, 93 percent of Hudson Line trains arrived within six minutes of schedule at Grand Central or Poughkeepsie, compared to 96 percent in the same period last year.

Fishkill Farms Receives $250K Grant

Will spend funds to market products

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has awarded a $250,000 grant to Fishkill Farms to improve its marketing of new products such as its Treasury Cider, which is made with the farm's apples.

The farm, located in Hopewell Junction, will create two marketing positions with the funds.

Tilly Foster Has Harvest

Produce for restaurant, seniors

The garden at Tilly Foster Farm in Brewster, which is owned by Putnam County, had its first harvest, with more than two dozen crops. The produce from the garden, which is a third of an acre, is used by Tilly's Table, a restaurant at the farm that pays fair-market price, and the Office for Senior Resources, which uses any excess for its meal programs. Among other crops, the garden produces pumpkins, melons, squash, beets, peppers, tomatoes and zucchinis. The garden will continue to operate through mid-November and the county may increase its size in 2019.

Legal Marijuana

Galef discusses proposal

On the most recent episode of her Speak with Sandy show, Sandy Galef, who represents Philipstown in the State Assembly, discussed the potential impacts of legalizing the recreational use of marijuana in New York. Her guest was Kevin Sabet, director of the Drug Policy Institute.

The show airs at 8:30 p.m. on Aug. 15 and 22 on cable channel 15 in Garrison and south Philipstown and channel 21 in Cold Spring and north Philipstown. It is also posted on Youtube (bit.ly/sandy-sabet).
Cell Tower Firm Offers to Settle Lawsuit  (from Page 1)

together. We're asking for some clarity.”

A conference between the two parties has been scheduled for Aug. 30 in the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York, where the suit was filed in February. It names the Town Board; the Zoning Board of Appeals; the Conservation Board; Greg Wunner, the code enforcement officer; and Max Garfinkle, the wetlands inspector. The ZBA and Conservation Board had each denied permits for the project.

The proposal generated intense opposition from those living near the site as well as from others skeptical of the need for another wireless tower in Philipstown, which has several.

In their letter, the residents pleaded for the town to include an attorney they have retained, Andrew Campanelli, in the defense of the lawsuit. (The town’s insurance company assigned Terry Rice, a lawyer based in Suffern, to the case.)

“We believe the town’s interests are entirely consistent with our group’s,” said a spokesperson for the residents, Roger Gorevic.

Gorevic told the board that Campanelli, who specializes in telecommunications law, had filed a court motion to be allowed access to documents, the group compiled extensive data to underpin its arguments.

Shea promised to urge Rice to collaborate with Campanelli. “It’s good to pool our resources” and the group definitely “could support the town’s position, which is everybody’s position,” he said.

In an update on Monday (Aug. 6), Shea said he spoke with Rice on Aug. 3 and that he, Rice and Campanelli planned to have a conference call before the end of the week.

Tobacco and vaping

In other business Aug. 2, the Town Board unanimously endorsed proposals being considered by Putnam County to raise the legal age to buy tobacco products to 21 from 18 and to ban “vape shops” that sell e-cigarettes, which turn liquid containing nicotine into inhalable vapor. Both initiatives have been championed by Barbara Scuccimarras, who represents Philipstown in the County Legislature and chairs its health committee.

In June the Town Board unanimously passed a six-month moratorium on vape shops to give it time to write a law banning them. However, the Cold Spring Village Board declined to endorse the county proposal. (See story, Page 5.)

The Town Board resolution declares that wireless companies affix to buildings or poles must be a priority.

Beacon Regulates ‘Small’ Cell Units

High-speed wireless antennas affix to buildings or poles

By Jeff Simms

ower-powered radio antennas that wireless companies affix to buildings or poles can fill gaps in broadband coverage and improve speed, but Beacon officials want to make sure they are not installed without oversight.

At its Aug. 6 meeting, the Beacon City Council adopted regulations to dictate where the units can be placed by requiring that permits be issued before they can be installed.

Most applications will go through the Planning Board, but for small cells in more visible locations, companies would need a special-use permit from the City Council. For instance, requests to install units on poles more than 50 feet high, within 20 feet of a home, or with equipment less than 15 feet from the ground would all go to the council, explained City Attorney Nick Ward-Willis during a council meeting on July 30.

Companies can install as many as three small cells on a utility pole unless the Planning Board deems that unsafe or unsightly.

Wireless companies regard the stations as critical infrastructure that will help power the expansion of high-speed, high-capacity 5G networks. The city has received applications from Verizon Wireless to install them on utility poles at 2 Red Flynn Dr. and 7 Cross St., which will go to the Planning Board.

The law also dictates that units can only be placed in the city’s historic district if a company proves that a significant gap in coverage exists. In addition, it requires wireless companies to use “stealth technology designs” everywhere in the city to blend the units with the landscape as much as possible.

Several residents voiced concerns during public hearings that the units will alter scenic views while emitting harmful radio frequencies in highly populated areas. There is no scientific evidence that cell towers increase the risk of cancer, according to the American Cancer Society, and federal law restricts municipalities from regulating the technology based on health concerns.
Happy to be Heard

Beacon couple releases third album

By Alison Rooney

Eleonor Kleiner and Elie Brangbour met in London while studying at what is now the London College of Creative Media. Kleiner, an American with English parents, had left a conservatory in New York where she was studying classical music. Kleiner, who is French, had given up a website development job to pursue a career in music.

After a circuitous journey that included living and working in a trailer and six months as singing gondoliers at a casino in Macao called The Venetian, the couple settled in Beacon in 2012 and perform as The Whispering Tree. They will celebrate the release of their latest album, Invisible Forces, with a show at the Howland Cultural Center on Saturday, Aug. 18.

The duo’s name came about “because we’ve both had almost mystical experiences where we’ve felt the natural world communicating with us,” explains Kleiner. “Something similar happens when a song touches you, like there’s some truth being communicated that is beyond words.”

After becoming romantically involved, the couple was surprised at the ease with which they also meshed musically. “It was like, OK, we can do this,” recalls Kleiner. Then, as now, the songs begin with her. “I see how far I can get,” she says. “I get a chorus or a chord progression and I know that something else needs to happen.”

After their studies ended, Brangbour wanted to experience New York City. Despite uncertainty about what they would do, the two came across the pond and put together a band by recruiting musicians on Craig’s List. “We weren’t even paying them!” says Brangbour.

The couple released their first recording on an independent label. “It was hard to get people to listen to it, so we said ‘yes’ to a lot of weird gigs,” Brangbour recalls, such as in Macao. Kleiner interjects: “It was often bills of seven artists. You’d maybe get a half-hour.”

When they returned from Macao, the rest of the band had moved on. “That’s when we decided to strip it down, re-arrange earlier songs and work as a duo,” says Kleiner. “We found our music was best received in the folk-music world.”

They recorded Go Call the Captain in 2010. “We had this idea in our minds that we would release this album and everything would fall into place for us,” Kleiner says. “ Needless to say, it didn’t happen that way.” Their move to Beacon in 2012 came after a footloose period during which they lived and worked out of a vintage Airstream. “It was falling apart from the beginning,” says Kleiner. “Elie was allergic to the trailer.”

“The trailer was going to be my office, but I couldn’t stay in there,” Brangbour says. “We realized quickly that it’s not much fun living in a trailer,” says Kleiner. “But we had nowhere to go. The city burned me out. We started looking at places on the train lines. We had never heard of Beacon. I wanted trees, scenic beauty.”

“I liked the coffee shops,” says Brangbour. After they struggled to get attention for their third release, The Escape, they became discouraged.

“It felt like we weren’t going anywhere,” says Kleiner. “Wasn’t it more like a period of wondering?” asks Brangbour. “I can’t say what pulled us out of it,” says Kleiner, “but we had a discussion and asked each other, ‘Are we ever going to do anything else?’”

“We decided we would give it a final push,” Brangbour says. “I realized that even if our career never progresses beyond where it is now, I would still want to do this. It is fulfilling, despite not always being economically viable.”

Beacon has proven to be an antidote. The Whispering Tree plays regionally but also in Europe and recently returned from a series of folk club performances and house concerts in France, Austria, Germany and Switzerland.

Tickets for the Aug. 18 show are $10 in advance at thewhisperingtree.brownpapertickets.com or $15 at the door. Invisible Forces will be released online today (Aug. 10) at store.cdbaby.com/artist/thewhisperingtree.
FRIDAY, AUG. 10
Hudson Valley Jazz Festival
hudsonvalleyjazzfest.org

Okira Jazz
6:30 p.m. Newburgh Waterfront
ferrygodmother.com/jazz.html

HVSF: The Heart of Robin Hood
6:15 p.m. Friday Night Prologue
7:30 p.m. Performance
Boscobel, 1601 Route 9D, Garrison
845-265-3638 | boscobel.org

SATURDAY, AUG. 11
Hudson Valley Jazz Festival
hudsonvalleyjazzfest.org

Bring the Kids (ages 5+)
9:30 – 11:30 a.m. Boscobel
1601 Route 9D, Garrison
845-265-3638 | boscobel.org

American Legion Auxiliary Breakfast
10 a.m. Silver Spoon
124 Main St., Cold Spring | alafveterans.org

Beacons of History (grades 2-3)
11 a.m. Beacon Historical Society | 17 South Ave., Beacon | 845-831-0514 | beaconhistorical.org

Signature Farm Tour
11 a.m. Glynn Farm Wood | 362 Glynn Road, Cold Spring | 845-265-3338 | glynnwood.org

Great Hudson River Estuary Fish Count
2 p.m. Long Dock Park, Beacon
scenichudson.org/events

Guided Landscape Hike: Quarry to Quarry
2 p.m. Minotaga | 584 Route 9D, Garrison
845-424-3812 | visitminotaga.org

#QueenE (Musical)
3 & 8 p.m. Howland Cultural Center | 477 Main St., Beacon | 845-831-9488 | howlandculturalcenter.org

John Metaxas: Life of a Journalist & Obligations of a Citizen (Talk)
3 p.m. Beacon Hebrew Alliance
331 Verplanck Ave., Beacon
845-831-2012 | beaconhebrewalliance.org

Broadway on Bannerman Island
4 & 5 p.m. Boat leaves Beacon dock.
Call 855-256-4007.

The Drifters
5 p.m. Bowdoin Park
85 Sheafe Road, Wappingers Falls

Melinda Stickney-Gibson: Some Stories
5 – 7 p.m. Garrison Art Center
23 Garrison’s Landing, Garrison
845-424-3960 | garrisonartcenter.org

One Nature Garden Party
5 – 7 p.m. 321 Main St., Beacon
onenaturelive.com/events

H.V. Renegades vs. Brooklyn
6:05 p.m. Dutchess Stadium
1500 Route 9D, Wappingers Falls
845-838-0094 | hrenegades.com

Pop, Rock, DooWop Series
6:30 p.m. Newburgh Waterfront
See details under Friday.

HVSF: Richard II
7:30 p.m. Boscobel | See details under Friday.

West Point Concert Band: Hello, Dolly! at 50
7:30 p.m. Trophy Point, West Point
westpointband.com

BEACON SECOND SATURDAY

Thursday Painters: Memories
5 – 7 p.m. Howland Public Library | 313 Main St., Beacon | 845-831-1134 | beaconnlibrary.org

Canacor: From the Corners of My Mind
5 – 8 p.m. RiverWinds Gallery | 172 Main St., Beacon
845-838-2880 | riverwindsgallery.com

Carin Jean White (Opening)
6 – 9 p.m. Catalyst Gallery | 137 Main St., Beacon
845-204-3844 | catalystgallery.com

Chris Sanders: Stop Right Up
6 – 9 p.m. Hudson Beach Glass | 162 Main St., Beacon
845-440-0068 | hudsonbeachglass.com

Constrict0Vism / Colus
6 – 9 p.m. Clutter Gallery | 163 Main St., Beacon
212-255-2505 | cluttermagazine.com

Eileen Sackman / Dan Sabau
6 – 9 p.m. Bua Gallery | 506 Main St., Beacon
845-440-7584 | baugallery.com

Windows on Main Street
6 – 9 p.m. Oak Vino | 389 Main St., Beacon
windowsonmainstreet.com

SUNDAY, AUG. 12
Hudson Valley Jazz Festival
hudsonvalleyjazzfest.org

Day of the Bird
8 a.m. – 4 p.m. Storm King Art Center
1 Museum Road, New Windsor
845-534-3115 | stormking.org

Nature App Walk
10 a.m. Audubon Center
127 Warren Landing Road, Garrison
845-265-2601 | constitutionmarsh.audubon.org

HVSF: The Sea-Maid’s Music
7:30 p.m. Boscobel | See details under Friday.

WEDNESDAY, AUG. 15

Performers Rock! (Elementary School)
2 p.m. Howland Public Library
See details under Saturday.

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

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

H.V. Renegades vs. Staten Island
7 p.m. Dutchess Stadium | Details under Saturday.

HVSF: Richard II
7:30 p.m. Boscobel | See details under Friday.

FRIDAY, AUG. 17

Dutchess Cruisers Car Show
5 – 8 p.m. Elks Lodge
900 Wolcott Ave., Beacon
845-242-0951 | dutchesscruisers.com

Annual Book & Media Sale (Members’ Preview)
6 – 8:30 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library
472 Route 403, Garrison
845-424-3000 | desmondfishlibrary.org

Rick Alman Quartet (Jazz)
6:30 p.m. Newburgh Waterfront
See details under Aug. 10.

H.V. Renegades vs. Brooklyn
7 p.m. Dutchess Stadium | Details under Saturday.

Open Mic
7:30 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
See details under Saturday.

HVSF: The Heart of Robin Hood
7:30 p.m. Boscobel | See details under Aug. 10.
Call to Arms

A blood drive held at the North Highlands Firehouse on Aug. 3 brought in 75 people to donate. Thirteen were deferred for various reasons, such as high-blood pressure, piercings or tattoos, low hemoglobin, recent vaccinations or travel to restricted locations, but the remaining 62 provided blood that will benefit 168 patients.

The turnout was better than expected, said organizer Dottie Gilman; the New York Blood Center, which runs the drives, had set a goal of 57 people. The donors included 11 counselors and staff members from the Lake Surprise camp.

The next local drive will take place Aug. 31 at the Beacon Elks. See nybloodcenter.org. The next Philipstown drive is Nov. 8 at Our Lady of Loretto in Cold Spring.

*Photos by Ross Corsair*
People Are Fired Up About Her Bread

Cold Spring baker develops a following

By Alison Rooney

You’ve heard of Community-Supported Agriculture, or CSAs, where residents purchase a “share” of the crops from a nearby farm, which they pick up each week.

But have you heard of CSBs? That’s Community-Supported Bread, and Erin Detrick, a baker in Cold Spring, has experimented with the format since moving to the village this past January.

Her bread business has grown — or risen — exponentially since she began selling shares of her wood-fired, hand-made, fermented-by-flour loaves. She plans to restart her subscription service in September after a summer break but in the meantime bakes about 110 loaves a week at Sparrowbush Bakery in Hudson that have sold out during the past two Saturdays at her booth at the Cold Spring Farmers’ Market at Boscobel.

Her staples include East Mountain levain, which Detrick describes as a “classic sourdough table loaf,” sesame levain, corn-grits sourdough, and a roster of rotating loaves, among them a spelt and currents, a flax with sunflower seeds and dense rye loaves. Most loaves are $7. Her goal is “a good chew, inside and out, coaxing out the character of the grains.”

Detrick, who grew up in Louisville, said her bread moment came during a ninth-grade science fair project about the effects of different ingredients such as salt, milk and water on the outcome of a loaf. After college, she moved to New York City, where she’d relax on weekends by baking bread.

While working at a non-profit, she pestered Peter Endriss, the baker for Runner & Stone in Brooklyn, to let her become an intern. “He had changed careers, too, and understood,” she recalls. “I worked full shifts on weekends, for no pay, while working in my other job, fulltime, during the week. I felt so happy walking into that kitchen.”

She left her job to work full-time at the bakery of chef Daniel Boulud’s restaurant group. “I worked harder there than I ever had, failed constantly, and slowly started to learn how to move in a kitchen, how to touch dough, how to shape it, mix it, cut it, bake it,” she says. “I knew I’d found my thing.”

Detrick went on to work for She Wolf Bakery as sous chef for three years before moving out of the city. She and her husband, an attorney, were introduced to Cold Spring because her sister worked at Stonecrop Gardens.

After the move north, Detrick sold bread to neighbors, calling her operation Signal Fire Bread, which she chose “to evoke a sense of place. I was reading about the area and found that Mount Beacon had signal fires to communicate with George Washington about troop advancements. I also liked the idea of a light, a beacon. And all bread is fired, so the name unites bread and the region, and I use it to keep me honest in my work, sourcing my grain carefully, and being a form of positive change.”

Detrick began her CSB after meeting Liz Rauch, (Continued on next page)
Marbled Meat to Expand

Having outgrown their space adjacent to Vera’s Marketplace & Garden Center on Route 9 in Philipstown, Chris and Lisa Pascarella of Marbled Meats were reluctantly considering where to move the business.

As the couple recounts on the butcher shop’s website, they approached their landlords, the Giordano family (Vera, Joanne and Dominic), who own Vera’s, “to see if there was something we could do: a building addition, an annex, maybe?”

“As has been the case since Day 1, the Giordano family immediately began thinking of creative solutions to our dilemma,” they wrote.

“Dominic stood in the center of Vera’s and said, ‘You’re not going anywhere. We will make this work.’”

As a result, Marbled Meats will expand in the next few months into Vera’s space, which will be reconfigured. The Cold Spring Coffee Pantry will remain where it is, although on Aug. 15 it plans to expand, as well, opening its second outpost, at Peekskill Brewery. The first is at Cold Spring Apothecary on Main Street.
Teen Center Still Looking for Home

Haldane could be interim solution

By Michael Turton

Sandy McKelvey and Joe Plummer head a group of residents who hope to create a teen center in Philipstown, a proposal that had wide support in a vote conducted last year by the Philipstown Community Congress. We spoke with McKelvey soon after she gave an update on the project to the Cold Spring Village Board. Her remarks have been condensed.

Why does Philipstown need a teen center?

There are outlets for middle school students but not many activities for older teens. We surveyed high school students and they want a place of their own, unstructured, where they can socialize or work on school projects. It’d be an alternative to hanging out on the street, at a pizza shop or in the woods. Teens don’t have a safe place to socialize. The need came out of the opioid crisis.

Is this an adult idea aimed at teens?

The community at large supports a center, but we needed to be sure teens agreed. Ninety percent of the students said it was needed. Many said teens are getting into trouble because there’s nothing to do and no safe, fun places to hang out.

What is the biggest challenge?

Finding a space. The American Legion Hall would be a great location, within walking distance of the high school, and it would be available after the senior center that shares the space moves to the Butterfield site. The Legion members understandably want to reclaim their hall. It wasn’t about having a teen center as much as they didn’t want to host another organization.

Are there other spaces?

The Cold Spring Methodist Church and St. Mary’s Episcopal Church said they would love to offer space but only for certain hours and days. We want a center that teens can take ownership of, design themselves. We haven’t found a place that could offer a daily, dedicated space.

How about the Philipstown Recreation Center?

If the center is not within walking distance of Haldane, teens won’t go. They won’t go at a set time, for specific activities. They need a spot where they can hang out for 15 minutes or two hours. Haldane High Principal Julia Sniffen has suggested the alternative high school on the second floor of the Mable Merritt Building as an interim space because it isn’t used after school.

Have you looked at other teen center models?

Joe Plummer established a teen center in Greenwich, Connecticut, 25 years ago and it’s still going strong. They have no trouble finding volunteers. It has all sorts of evening events: battle of the bands, open mic nights and art shows.

How much space do you need?

Probably at least 1,000 square feet, and additional outdoor space would be nice. We think for Friday or Saturday evening films or open mics we’d have about 50 kids.

When would teens likely use the center?

In our survey, 63 percent said they would go from 3 to 5 p.m. on weekdays; 52 percent said Friday evenings. Teens are fickle. They won’t go somewhere immediately and say it’s a cool place to hang out. They need a consistent space that’s always there so they can test the waters, see if their friends are there.

How would it be funded?

We need to figure that out, whether it comes from the county, town or villages. We’ve looked at being nonprofit but then it can’t be supported by local government. We’ve also considered an online fundraising campaign. We hope people will donate furniture, supplies and construction skills.

Are teens involved in the planning?

A couple want to be part of the organizing, but it’s slow going. They are still enthusiastic but without a space it’s hard for them to get others on board.

Has thought been given to a name?

The idea of a “teen center” sounds really lame to kids and they would never go there; it sounds like something adults are pushing on them. Someone came up with “The Blue Lounge.” Blue is Haldane’s color and teens like the idea of a lounge.

How would the center operate?

Teens and adults would organize it and be present during operating hours. Events would be student-driven with some supervision. Teens said it won’t be difficult to find help because students do community service for credits and the honor society. There’s talk of having a paid, adult staff member there at all times. Many community members have said they would volunteer.
Mouths to Feed

Dressing for the Heat

By Celia Barbour

Throughout most of the year, a cook faces one primary dilemma per meal: What to make. But the recent heat waves brought with them an undertow of destabilizing culinary questions. In addition to what, I also found myself wondering when, where and how. And as for why, the very thought made me dizzy. Suddenly, serving cold cereal for breakfast at 4 a.m., before the sun rose, and frozen peas straight from the bag for dinner on the porch after midnight seemed like sensible options. And the basement became a perfectly nice setting for lunch.

Anything to avoid the sun.

As the summer wore on, I reassured myself that we’d eaten enough kale in February to cover any nutritional deficits we might accrue by subsisting on Popsicles until the weather returned to its senses.

But no matter how loopy or listless any heat wave makes me feel, there comes a moment when I am overtaken by the urge to gather everyone at the table for a meal. And for that, what I want is a perfect salad.

You might reasonably assume that a perfect salad depends on perfect components: wedges of flagrantly ripe local tomatoes, for example; a handful of blanched green beans; soft, buttery lettuce; fresh herbs; perhaps a scattering of paper-thin carrot coins or small wedges of cucumber. (The latter should be de-seeded both so they are less bitter and to avoid making the salad watery. Cut a cucumber in half lengthwise and drag a teaspoon along the channel holding the seeds.)

My current salad obsession also includes pieces of seared tenderloin, a craving that was ignited by a beef-tip salad I ate at The Red Rooster, one of a handful of restaurants at the Woodstock Inn in Vermont. (Though I suspect the air conditioning might have contributed to my enjoyment of that meal.)

I like to think that I have the wherewithal to sear a piece of beef and blanch the aforementioned beans first thing in the morning, so that I won’t need to turn on the stove once that godforsaken sun comes up.

But the truth is, it doesn’t matter. Because the key to salad bliss is the dressing. A bad dressing will disgrace the most righteous components and a good one will turn scraps of iceberg into a magnificent meal.

The other day, I was talking with a group of fellow cooks when one described a personal victory. He had created a salad dressing so good, he said, that his children (all 55 of them; he heads the kitchen at a summer camp) lapped it up like kittens at a bowl of cream, after they’d devoured the voluminous bowl of greens he’d tossed it with. The cook, Sam Arfer, has been cooking at the same camp every summer since 1991, so he speaks from vast experience.

In 1864, author and gastronome Andrew Valentine Kirwan wrote, in *Host and Guest: A Book About Dinners, Dinner-giving, Wines and Desserts*, that the making of salad dressing requires a “patient and discreet man.” Sam qualifies.

I asked what was in his dressing. “Feta, sour cream, garlic, dill and mayonnaise,” he said. “Plus a little milk, to thin it.” Oh yum, I thought. Creamy, fresh, slightly sour, a little salty; the very idea was a cool breeze to my sweltering brain. I vowed on the spot that I would make it right away ... just as soon as the heat broke.

Sam-Inspired Dressing

3 to 4 ounces feta cheese
2 tablespoons sour cream
2 tablespoons mayonnaise
1 clove garlic, crushed or to taste
1 handful dill

Sea salt and pepper
Juice and zest of ½ lemon
Milk to thin, if needed

Combine all ingredients in a blender. Whisk until smooth. Taste, and adjust seasonings.

Four Winds Farm’s Organic Heirloom Tomatoes at the Cold Spring Farmers’ Market

Saturdays, 8:30 to 1:30

Come see the tastiest, biggest, nicest collection of heirloom tomatoes in the Hudson Valley!

Over 40 varieties.

We also deliver Heirloom Tomatoes to Foodtown and Vera’s on Tuesday mornings.
Call for Artists

Small Works submissions due Sept. 14

The Garrison Art Center is accepting submissions through Sept. 14 for smallWORKKS, which opens Dec. 8. The biennial show will be called 2 ½ because artists are asked to bridge the gap between 2D and 3D. It will be juried by Christina Kee, an artist, writer and curator working with the William Louis-Dreyfus Foundation. For guidelines, see garrisonartcenter.org.

Day of the Bird

Storm King plans for Aug. 12

The Storm King Art Center in New Windsor plans on Sunday, Aug. 12, to present a public program called Day of the Bird from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. It is centered around “Birds Watching,” a piece by Jenny Kendler that is part of the Indicators: Artists on Climate Change exhibit.

The programs will include bird watching, falconry, a drawing session, a reading by J. Drew Lanham and conversations about art and advocacy for conservation. The events are free with admission but require registration. See stormking.org.

Book Sale Opens Aug. 17

Desmond-Fish annual fundraiser

The Desmond-Fish Library in Garrison will open its annual book, DVD and CD sale from 6 to 8:30 p.m. on Friday, Aug. 17, with a preview for members of the Friends of the Desmond-Fish (shoppers can join at the door). The sale will open to the public on Aug. 18 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and continue daily through Aug. 27. See bit.ly/dfl-book-sale. The library is located at the intersection of Routes 9D and 403.

Traditional Folk

Band to play Tompkins Corners

The Limited Liability String Band, which specializes in traditional Irish, Scottish, British and Appalachian folk, will perform at the Tompkins Corners Cultural Center in Putnam Valley at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 18. Tickets are $18 at tomkspcsorners.org or $20 at the door.

4 Hands, 2 Pianos

Duet will perform at Chapel

Pianists Yalin Chi and Steven Beck will perform at the Chapel Restoration in Cold Spring. Their program will include Mozart’s Sonata in B-flat major; Jeux d’enfants, a suite of 12 miniatures by Georges Bizet; Sonata for Piano Four-hands, by Paul Hindemith; and Gazebo Dances by John Corigliano. The concert is free but donations are welcome. The chapel is adjacent to the train station.

POTTERY CLASSES

Learn Handbuilding Techniques: Slab, Coil and Pinch

Wednesdays 10am to Noon
Sept 5 - Oct 24

8 sessions for $275.
Includes Clay, Tools & Firing Fees (Glazes are extra.)

To Register, Email: info@whiteoakpottery.com or Call (814) 143 6230

Featured Properties

49 Lamplight St., Beacon

$350,000

Gate House Realty
Boutique Hudson Valley Real Estate Agency
492 Main Street, Beacon, NY 12508 | 845.831.9550 | www.gatehouserealty.com

280 Baxtorted Rd., Fishkill

$419,000

"The Day of the Bird at Storm King on Aug. 12 will center on Jenny Kendler’s “Birds Watching.”"
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

Breastfeeding Support
Meeting set for Aug. 18
The La Leche League will hold a support meeting from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 18, for mothers nursing children ages 1 and older. Email alexandradevin@optimum.net to RSVP and receive the address.

Defeating the British
Event will focus on battle tactics
Mount Gulian in Beacon will host a Revolutionary War Day from 1 to 5 p.m. on Sunday, Aug. 12, focused on "how we beat the British." It will include re-enactors demonstrating battle tactics, tours of the historic house, presentations and a visit from an American Historical Theater actor playing Baron von Steuben, a general in the Continental Army who was stationed at Mount Gulian at the end of the war.

On Aug. 12, an actor at Mount Gulian in Beacon will portray General Baron Von Steuben, shown here, who lived in the house at the end of the Revolutionary War.

ELK OF YEAR — On July 29, the Beacon Elks named Douglas Miller Jr. (left) as its 2017-18 Elk of the Year for his volunteer contributions to the city’s 9/11 memorial. Doug excavated the area and set in place the 3,000-pound steel beam from the World Trade Center. He is shown with Adam Martin, past exalted ruler.
Photo provided

NOW SHOWING — RiverWinds Gallery in Beacon will open From the Corners of My Mind, an exhibit of works by Canace, with a reception from 5 to 8 p.m. on Second Saturday (Aug. 11).

Main Street, Beacon, looking east, in the 1950s and today
Photos: Top, Beacon Historical Society; below, Michael Turton

Then & Now

Share Your News With Our Readers
To submit your upcoming events and announcements for consideration in our Community Briefs section (in print and online) submit a text-only press release (250 words or less) along with a separately attached high-resolution photograph to calendar@highlandscurrent.org.

C&E. Paint Supply, Inc.
Tools • Hardware • Plumbing & Electrical Supplies
Benjamin Moore
Monday - Thursday 8 - 5:30
Friday & Saturday 8 - 5
Tel. 845.265.3126
158 Main Street • Cold Spring, NY 10516

Zoology
MATTEAWAN GALLERY
436 Main Street, Beacon, NY
matteawan.com
Obituaries

Gwen Stevens
(1946-2018)

Gwen graduated from Reading High School in 1964 and from Swarthmore College in 1950 with a history degree. She then enrolled at the Yale School of Music, completing a bachelor's degree in 1952 and a master's degree in 1955, after teaching music for two years at the Emma Willard School in Troy.

After earning her master's degree, she spent a year in France studying piano with Nadia Boulanger in Paris and Fontainebleau. Upon her return, Gwen became an assistant professor of music at Vassar College, starting in 1956.

On June 18, 1966, in Pleasant Valley, Gwen married William Stevens, an IBM engineer. Gwen left Vassar to raise a family and teach piano privately. Over the years, she had many excellent students. The most prominent of these is Keith Lockhart, conductor of the Boston Pops Orchestra.

In 1985 it came to Gwen's attention that young professional musicians lacked opportunities to perform in intimate venues. This caused her to organize Patrons for Young Artists to sponsor house concerts.

A few years later, in 1993, after discovering the Howland Cultural Center in Beacon and its fine acoustics, she and Bill organized the Howland Chamber Music Circle. She served as music director and her husband as concert manager for 23 years before their retirement in 2016.

Gwen is survived by her children, Emily Stevens of Atlanta and Guy Stevens of Washington, D.C., as well as her grandson, Oliver Stevens, also of Washington, D.C. She also is survived by a sister, Mary McLaughlin of Huntington Bay.

Nunzio Ricottilli
(1928-2018)

Nunzio Ricottilli, 89, a longtime resident of Beacon who was known to friends and family as “Joe,” died Aug. 2, 2018, at his home.

Born Aug. 25, 1928, in Cliffside Park, New Jersey, Nunzio was the son of Panfilo and Emily Ricottilli. On Aug. 13, 1958, he married Suzanne Keenan at St. John’s Church in Beacon.

Nunzio served in the U.S. Army during the Korean War and later retired from the Carpenter’s Union Local 323. He was a lifetime member of St. Rocco’s and a member of the Mase Hook & Ladder Co. for more than 50 years.

He had many interests, including going to the race track and making an annual trip to the Boxing Hall of Fame. He also loved spending time with family and friends.

Nunzio is survived by his children, Gregory Ricottilli (Marilyn), Anthony Ricottilli, Suzette Ricottilli, Joseph Ricottilli (Wendy), Tara Ricottilli (Nick), and Thomas Ricottilli; 15 grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren. He also is survived by a sister, Theresa (Dolly) Slinsky.

The family soon moved to Reading, where her father was chairman of the history department at Albright College. Gwen started piano lessons when she was 6.

Cold Spring, NY 10516
75 Main Street
845.424.6422
johnastrab@coldspringnypt.com
coldspringnypt.com

NANCY STEINSON

Licensed Psychotherapist

Individuals • Couples • Adolescents • Children
Psychotherapy and Diverse Mediation
Addiction Counseling

Lynne Ward, LCSW

75 Main Street  lynneward99@gmail.com
Cold Spring, NY 10516  (917) 597-6905

S E R V I C E  D I R E C T O R Y
By Michael Turton

Haldane Central School District it cannot continue to operate its Hal interior school, opened in September of America and located in the Garrison Union Free School District. Nine Hal of America and located in the Garrison after the current school year be


ingen classes at an administrative building

dane High School students attend morn

To place an ad, see highlandscurrent.org/classified.
So, You Want to Be a Zookeeper?

Garrison resident curates ‘living collection’ in Queens

By Alison Rooney

Scott Silver likes to joke that he met his wife in the monkey house.

He’s only half kidding. He got to know Linde Ostro while they both were employed at the Bronx Zoo, and they later worked together in Belize studying howler monkeys and jaguars.

Today, the couple lives in Garrison; Silver is director of the Queens Zoo, and Ostro is vice president of development for Riverkeeper. Besides his work as a zoologist, Silver is also a board member of the Putnam Highlands Audubon Society and often presents talks on wildlife or leads bird walks.

The 18-acre Queens Zoo this year celebrates its 50th anniversary. It is managed by the Wildlife Conservation Society in partnership with New York City, along with the Bronx Zoo, Central Park Zoo, Prospect Park Zoo and New York Aquarium.

Raised in Yonkers, Silver took a career test in high school that pegged him as a zoologist. And that’s what he became, after majoring in zoology and anthropology at SUNY Oswego. He interned at the Bronx Zoo and was hired as an assistant elephant trainer, followed by five years in the mammal department while pursuing advanced degrees at Fordham.

“I was committed to working in the field,” he says. “I wanted to wake up every morning and have my office be a jungle.”

Silver left the Bronx Zoo for Queens in 1998 to become an animal curator, managing not art or artifacts, he says, but “a living collection.” In 2008 he was named the zoo’s director.

In that position, he says, “you’re responsible for making sure that every species is properly cared for and will continue to be in good condition in perpetuity. It’s not all about acquiring animals; it’s how to keep them in the way that’s best for them.”

He sees his job as saving animals in the wild by facilitating human encounters with those in the zoo. “It’s not about animals as a curiosity but about connecting people to wildlife, which makes them appreciate the value of this connection on this planet,” he says. “My job is to convey and foster those feelings. You may be able to see an animal on your computer, but you don’t smell it, or get the nuances of how it moves. People become invested when they experience it in person.”

Most animals are brought to the zoo through exchanges or purchases arranged through the Association of Zoos and Aquariums while considering a collective Species Survival Plan.

“When there’s an offer to breed, there’s a plan in place,” Silver explains. The association keeps records of the ancestry of each animal and how well it has reproduced. “This allows us to maintain high levels of genetic diversity, so we don’t wind up with too-close relations.”

Silver notes that while Queens is a relatively small zoo, it works within a larger framework of the Wildlife Conservation Society. It has the largest children’s zoo in the city and species not found elsewhere in the five boroughs, including Andean bear, mountain lion, coyote, Roosevelt elk, mule-footed hog, Texas Longhorn cattle and Canada lynx.

When the zoo was built in 1968 on the grounds of the 1964 World’s Fair, it included only North American mammals and birds. After the city struggled to manage the facility, it was closed, then reopened in 1992 in partnership with WCS. The society renovated and added South American animals such as the Andean bear.

“We’re connecting with a lot of people from around Queens,” says Silver. “The population is so diverse here, and people from parts of South America enjoy talking to their kids about having these bears where they originally came from.”

Bison at the Queens Zoo

How to Get There

The Queens Zoo is located at 53-51 111th St. in Corona and easily reached on the No. 7 subway from Grand Central Station. It is open daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. (5:30 p.m. on weekends). Tickets are $9.95 for adults, $6.95 for children and $7.95 for seniors and can be purchased in advance at queenszoo.com.

A Burrowing owl and owlet at the Queens Zoo

Scott Silver, director of the Queens Zoo, feeds pronghorn antelope.

Scott Silver, in Ecuador, feeds a pair of puff-legged hummers.

“I was committed to working in the field. I wanted to wake up every morning and have my office be a jungle.”