

The HIGHLANDS Current



Soccer in the Snow
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NOVEMBER 16, 2018

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Highlands Could Lose Renegades

*Dutchess legislators
reject proposal to
repair stadium*

By Jeff Simms



The Dutchess County Legislature this week rejected a proposal to spend at least \$2.4 million to refurbish Dutchess Stadium, adding uncertainty to the future of the minor league baseball team that has played there for 25 seasons.

To further complicate matters, the land under the stadium is owned by the Beacon City School District, which leases it to the county. That lease expires on Dec. 31, and if the agreement is not extended, the district could inherit a stadium it may not want.

Earlier this month, County Executive Marc Molinaro asked the 25-member Legislature to approve \$2.4 million in bonds to add to a \$600,000 state grant to pay for a first phase of improvements to the stadium, which has been home since it opened in 1994 to the Hudson Valley Renegades, a Class A Short Season team currently affiliated with the Tampa Bay Rays.

(Continued on Page 6)

EPA: Marathon Groundwater Still Polluted

*Owner says redevelopment
'on the back burner'*

By Michael Turton

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, in its latest five-year report on the environmental health of the former Marathon Battery Co. site in Cold Spring, says the groundwater beneath the property remains polluted and will continue to be monitored. It also found that nearby Foundry Cove Marsh has not yet fully recovered from years of discharge into its waters.

Ken Kearney of Kearney Realty, who purchased the 12-acre Kemble Avenue parcel in 2003 with a plan to build a mix of residential and commercial buildings, said development remains “on the back burner” while his company focuses on other projects in the Hudson Valley.

The battery factory operated from 1952 to 1979, producing nickel-cadmium batteries for the U.S. Army and commercial sales under a succession of owners.

Over much of that time, the factory discharged effluent into the Hudson River at the village dock through the Cold Spring sewer system. When the system shut down or was overloaded, waste containing cadmium, nickel and

(Continued on Page 7)



A GROWING CHALLENGE

Farms and Food in the Hudson Valley

Part 2: Land & Soil

By Chip Rowe

Most people who don't grow food rarely think about dirt unless it's under your nails or covering your car. But we can't talk about the future of Hudson Valley farming, and food, without going deep.

Fortunately, the Hudson Valley is a great place to farm. The soil was prepped over thousands of years by melting ice, and there is still plenty of nearby water. In parts of Orange County, the dirt is so rich you can be prosecuted for carrying it away.

In this, the second of our three-part series, we take a closer look at the foundation of Hudson Valley farming and two major forces that threaten it: climate change and sprawl.

First, the dirt. “It used to be,” writes William Bryant Logan in *Dirt: The Ecstatic Skin of the Earth*, “that a good farmer could tell a lot about his soil by rolling a lump of it around in his mouth.” Logan finally found a farmer who still does that to measure acidity, although he had been advised by his doctor to discontinue because “soil contains bad bugs as well as good ones, and the physician didn't want to have to sort them out in the farmer's gut.”

The lesson, regardless, is that dirt is more complex than you might suspect.

Pamela Doan provides a quick lesson in its structure — scientists spend their careers trying to understand soil, while giving it names that sound like they came from a wine list — while Cheeta Haysom examines the “black gold” of Orange County (she wrote a book about it).

Although we touched on the topic last fall in our series on climate change, Doan takes a closer look at its specific burdens on agriculture and how farmers are pushing back by keeping carbon in the soil. Another strategy is to experiment with new crops; Deb Lucke spent time with farmers who are growing hops with success because of the demand created by small breweries.

Finally, Jeff Simms looks at the effect of sprawl on our valuable farmland and efforts to preserve it for agricultural use through zoning laws and easements. Between 1992 and 2012, according to the American Farmland Trust, almost 31 million acres of farmland — nearly equivalent to the size of New York State — was lost to development at the same time that, by 2050, demands on agriculture to provide food, fiber and energy are already expected to be 50 to 70 percent higher than today. What happens if we lose another New York's worth of farmland by then?

(Continued on Page 12)



NO PLACE FOR HATE — It was standing-room-only for a unity vigil held at St. Mary's Episcopal Church in Cold Spring on Saturday (Nov. 10) to denounce anti-Semitism. See Page 9. Photo by Ross Corsair

5 Five Questions: DAVID SCHUYLER

By Brian PJ Cronin

David Schuyler, a Newburgh native and professor at Franklin & Marshall College in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, is the author of *Embattled River: The Hudson and Modern American Environmentalism*.

What is it about the Hudson Valley that makes it such an energetic place for environmentalism?

Beginning with the Storm King fight in 1963 [when Con Ed proposed building a power plant on the river side of the mountain], when Scenic Hudson was organized, there has been a series of battles that have brought people together from different walks of life, age groups and interests. It carries over from one battle to the next. People in the Hudson Valley have a sense they live in a special place, and many people believe they have a responsibility to protect that special place.

While writing the book, did anything surprise you?

I was surprised to learn about Cementon [a nuclear power plant proposed in the 1970s to be constructed on the Hudson River near Catskill]. I had no clue that was an issue.

Is there a connection between the economic revitalization of Hudson River cities and the revitalization of

the river itself?

You have, in Newburgh and Poughkeepsie and, to a certain extent, in Beacon, a lot of land that was cleared during urban renewal that's still vacant decades later. If we can get the kind of development that's taken place in Yonkers since they "daylighted" the Sawmill [by bringing the river back above ground], you can attract development that would instead occur in the suburbs and contribute to sprawl. Using that land wisely and developing our cities effectively is essential.

What's the biggest issue facing the Hudson River?

Public education. Middle class and upper middle-class families, when looking to move to an area, want to know about the quality of the schools. So if we're going to revitalize cities along the river, we have to make public education work more effectively. That needs to happen everywhere.

Are you hopeful about the river?

Yes, because there are great organizations active in the Hudson Valley, with a lot of supporters. I'm thinking of Ned Sullivan and everyone at Scenic Hudson, Paul Galley at Riverkeeper. You have Clearwater, which seems to be getting its feet back on the

ground after some troubling [financial] times. And lots of smaller organizations, like land trusts. They all work hard to protect a place that people cherish. That's the key.



David Schuyler
Photo provided

ON THE SPOT

By Michael Turton

What does Thanksgiving mean to you?

“

I like it more than Christmas. I'm thankful it's not commercialized. It's the one time families seem to get together.

”



Jim Lovegrove, Garrison

“

It's my favorite holiday; it's everything. To celebrate love and gratitude every day is a beautiful way to live.

”



Natalie Geld, New York City
(formerly Cold Spring)

“

I rank it behind Halloween, but I like the family aspect. My grandma Connie is 93 and we do an Italian dinner at her place at noon.

”



Aaron Verdile, Beacon

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Where is Philipstown Headed?

Committee proposes update to comprehensive plan

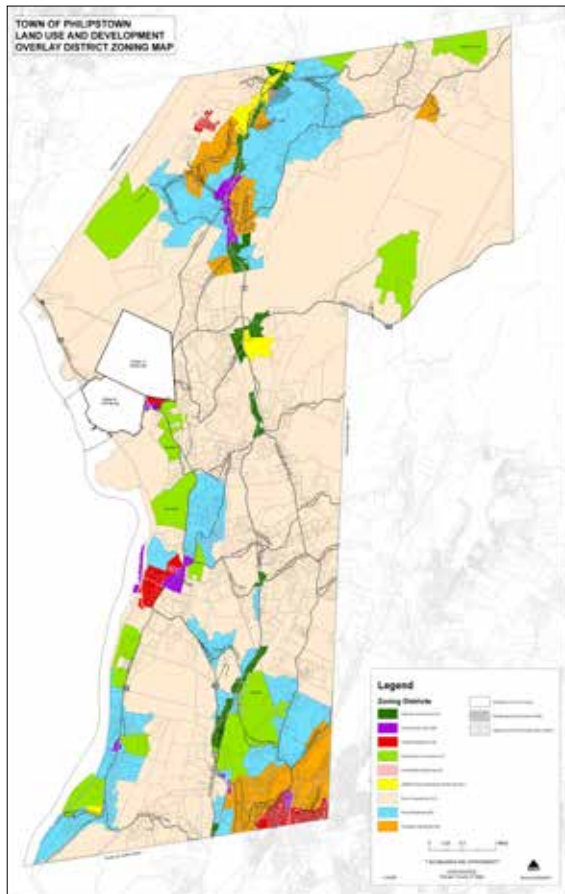
By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

Earlier this year, a group of Philipstown residents took on a challenging task: Revising the town's Comprehensive Plan, created 12 years earlier, to address such issues as global warming, cell towers, tax inequities and public health.

After ninth months of discussion, the Comprehensive Plan Update Committee has completed a 22-page draft and will host forums to hear feedback at 1 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 18, at the North Highlands Firehouse, and Thursday, Nov. 29 at 7 p.m. at the Continental Village Clubhouse. (Others are planned for the spring before the committee presents a final draft to the Town Board.)

Nat Prentice, the committee coordinator, says the comprehensive plan "is a resident-inspired vision statement of what we want our town to look and feel like. It tells the outside world what we want to be and stand

(Continued on page 5)



This 2011 zoning map shows districts created in Philipstown after the 2006 comp plan urged changes.

Philipstown Spending Likely to Rise 3 Percent

Town Board prepares final version of budget

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

The Philipstown Town Board last week began putting finishing touches on its 2019 budget, which includes \$11.2 million in spending, up 3 percent from the 2018 budget of \$10.9 million.

The board moved forward on Nov. 7 after a public hearing at which no residents voiced praise, protests or any comments at all. The board set a vote on the final budget for Tuesday (Nov. 20). If approved, the budget takes effect on Jan. 1.

At the public hearing, Supervisor Richard Shea said the budget would meet the state-imposed tax cap of about 2 percent after some tinkering and when state concessions are factored in that account for contingencies, growth and savings in prior years.

The 2019 budget anticipates tax revenue of \$7.9 million, an increase of about \$100,000 over last year. It also foresees non-tax revenue of \$2 million and the use of \$1.26 million in untapped fund balances — essentially, money left in its bank accounts.

The salaries for some key town officials will remain the same in 2019; Shea earns

\$27,000 annually and the other board members receive \$18,000. Carl Frisenda, highway superintendent, will earn \$90,000. However, Tina Merando, the town clerk and tax collector, will receive an increase, from \$64,250 to \$67,000, and Recreation Director Amber Stickle's salary will rise from \$65,600 to \$68,000.

Shea said he would like to increase the amount of money in the budget devoted to upkeep of the town's historic cemeteries by \$1,000, to \$18,500. Similarly, he said, he might increase a few other lines, including one for spending on town buildings, given the pending Town Hall renovation and the fact that even small structures, such as one serving the Garrison's Landing water district, need periodic attention. The town recently had to repair a complicated leak in a district line.

Although the Highway Department budget will remain relatively stable at \$3.7 million, the cost of snow removal will climb about 10 percent, to \$365,000.

The board continued to fine-tune the emergency services portions of the budget. The draft includes \$242,600 for the Garrison Volunteer Ambulance Corps, an increase of 21 percent, but Shea said he needs to meet with the corps' accountant before finalizing the number. For the Philipstown Volunteer Ambulance Corps, the draft includes an increase of 10 percent, to \$338,681.

The costs of fire protection, which is provided by four departments, would be about \$1.9 million, according to the draft, \$31,615 more than in 2018. However, lines for some subtotals were blank, suggesting more data could arrive before the Town Board votes on Nov. 20.

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LETTERS AND COMMENTS

Beacon protest

On Nov. 8, about 200 people gathered at the intersection of Route 9D and Main Street in Beacon to protest President Donald Trump's replacement of Attorney General Jeff Sessions with Matt Whitaker in a clear move to thwart the power of the Mueller investigation into Russian influence on the 2016 election.

The protest was one of more than 900 scheduled to occur across the country. Ours included children, grandparents, commuters coming off the train, people with their dogs — everyone showed up with signs and spirit to stand up against what we see as a power grab.

Conversations included how scary it is to see the checks and balances in our democracy unravel. The mood was generally light, with lots of hooting and hollering whenever a driver honked in support. A few drivers shook their heads or gave a thumbs-down, and a dozen or so went out of their way to roll down their window to shout curse-riddled diatribes. A few were stunningly hateful.

That prompted a child standing next to me to ask: "Are we allowed to be here? Are we allowed to do this?"

Air Rhodes, *Beacon*

Marsh hero

Eric Lind is a true hero of the Hudson Valley ("25 Years at Constitution Marsh," Nov. 2). His legacy will be his extraordinary stewardship of this natural treasure, his mentorship and training of innumerable staff, interns and volunteers, and countless visitors, students and other children who better understand the fragility of the natural environment. Through Eric's efforts, they will be our future naturalists.

Andy Chmar, *Highlands, North Carolina*
Chmar is the former executive director of the Hudson Highlands Land Trust.

Signs of hate

In response to the Rev. Tim Greco's letter in the Nov. 9 issue, in which he compared the rearranging of the signboard outside the Church on the Hill to read "God is Dead" with the swastika and slur painted on the inside of a home under



Residents gathered in Beacon on Nov. 8 to protest President Trump's appointment of Matt Whitaker as acting attorney general.

Photo by Gary Ditlow

construction in Nelsonville: These two acts of vandalism were both disrespectful to a religious group. But that is where the similarity ends.

The graffiti targeted a single family, on the inside of their new house. It was an act of violation and violence. It implemented powerful and unmistakable symbols of anti-Semitism. Most important, it occurred days after a man brought an assault rifle into a Pittsburgh congregation on the Sabbath and massacred Jews inside.

Aaron Freimark, *Cold Spring*

Both cases do indeed involve hate and intolerance. But one is a flickering candle and the other a global inferno. Any vandalism is pathetic and I hope the Church on the Hill vandal is caught and punished, but even if the sign were rearranged every week, that crime would be dwarfed by the crime carried out against this family.

The swastika has a specific intention, a specific target, and carries a darker historical gravity than any other symbol on earth. It is the icon not just of white supremacy but of achieving that goal through genocide, through the extermination of other races, and that list began with Jews.

To the new homeowners: I am so sorry

this happened. This is not who we are.

Greg Miller, *Cold Spring*

One act of vandalism can be answered with humor ("Nietzsche is Dead." – God). The other cannot.

Alex Bronson, *New York City*

Republican ad

Thank you, Philipstown Supervisor Richard Shea, for expressing so well what many of us are thinking about the newspaper ad placed by the Putnam County Republican Committee that equated Democrats with Communists (Letters and Comments, Nov. 9). The ad is both inaccurate and, almost certainly, absurdly ineffective. This type of divisive speech is particularly inappropriate in a small town like Philipstown, where norms of civility and collaboration have generally prevailed — at least during the three decades I have lived here.

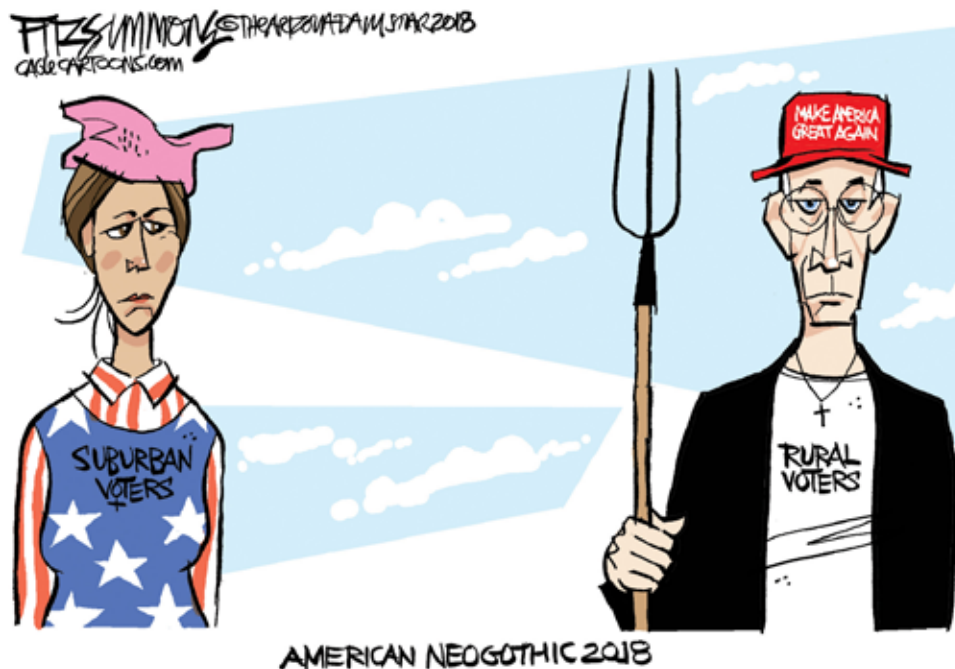
Linda Tafapolsky, *Garrison*

Shea is correct to say the ad denigrates the civility within our community. As the political scientist Cas Mudde has said: "Populism is a monist and moralist ideology which denies the existence of divisions of interests and opinions within 'the people' and rejects the legitimacy of political opponents." As a member of this small community, Shea's civility as a political figure is calming and a sign of good leadership.

Hass Murphy, *Philipstown*

Tell us what you think

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.



Comp Plan *(from Page 3)*

for.” He said the updated plan will be a guidebook for local officials, developers and residents “in an ongoing balancing act by which our vision is implemented.”

Adopted by the Town Board in March 2006, the comprehensive plan outlined policies for land use and related topics. Although not a law, it provides direction and sets goals. One 2006 goal, to revise zoning laws to better control development, became reality in 2011 when the Town Board updated the code.

The proposed update advocates more shared services among jurisdictions to cut costs and zeros in on school taxes. The draft notes that Philipstown contains all or part of four school districts. Across the four, taxes on properties with the same value “can vary by as much as 300 percent,” the draft states.

It proposes a townwide re-evaluation; formation of a citizen taskforce to review school tax problems; maximizing tax revenue by concentrating new commercial development in locations with existing infrastructure; and asks the town to balance tax-revenue benefits of development against the expense of extending services to new structures.

Placement of cell towers recently became a volatile local issue and the draft recommends that town officials create an advisory committee of “knowledgeable residents” to weigh in on such technological matters.

Concerns about climate change and sustainability underlie much of the draft update’s treatment of environmental issues.

For example, the draft cites road salt as



The proposed comp plan update repeats the 2006 call for protection of the Hudson River.
Photo by L.S. Armstrong

a threat to aquifers, wells, streams and the Hudson River and proposes decreased reliance on personal vehicles. To that end, it suggests daily public transportation to cut air pollution and provide mobility to residents, especially senior citizens; continued support for the Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail between Cold Spring and Beacon; and hiking-biking trails linking the libraries, schools, town Recreation Center, Garrison’s Landing, Cold Spring and other locations.

Making Philipstown less car-dependent would fulfill a Climate Smart demand for action to improve air quality and promote residents’ health and fitness. In 2017, the Town Board voted to make Philipstown a Climate Smart Community, an initiative to curb pollution and safeguard communities from natural disasters and other by-products of climate change.

The draft update also advises that the town create an advisory committee on trees; identify threats such as failures of dams and contamination of groundwater; reduce impervious surfaces; minimize the use of fossil fuels; and amend requirements on road construction to favor unpaved roads, including private roads.

It recommends an inventory of all agricultural ventures; recommends open space be preserved as fields, not lawns; and advocates establishment of a community garden.

Finally, the draft seeks zoning restrictions to prevent youth access to alcohol and vape and tobacco products; a ban on smoking on town-owned property; improved recreation and possible sharing of facilities with schools; continued support of anti-drug-addiction programs; reduction of solid waste; and promotion of composting.

The Goals

Along with updating the zoning code, the 2006 plan listed nine other goals:

- 1.** Conserve Philipstown’s rural, historic and river-community character
- 2.** Maintain and enhance socio-economic diversity
- 3.** Strengthen the townwide sense of community
- 4.** Expand recreational opportunities
- 5.** Control property taxes and ensure tax fairness
- 6.** Pursue an economic development strategy to maintain diversity and town authenticity/character
- 7.** Protect natural resources
- 8.** Improve road safety and aesthetics
- 9.** Locate development where existing infrastructure can support it

The updated draft adds three more:


- 10.** Ensure that residents can enjoy good health across their lifespans
- 11.** Promote continued use of agricultural land for farming
- 12.** Create strategies to ensure achievement of these goals

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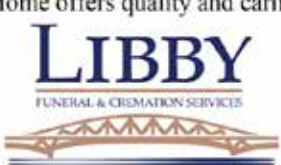
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A Renegades game at Dutchess Stadium

File photo by Michael Turton

Renegades *(from Page 1)*

Renegades owner Jeff Goldklang said this week that the 4,500-seat facility is in dire need of repair. The folding mechanisms in about a third of the seats are broken, he said, while damaged concrete under the seating “bowl” creates a hazard and cracked plastic on seats and bleachers snags clothes or skin. He argued it is the county’s “contractual responsibility” to provide a safe facility for spectators.

“We need to cross a bunch of bridges to throw a first pitch in June of next year,” he said.

Dutchess legislators were not persuaded, and on Tuesday (Nov. 13), only 13 members voted in favor of issuing the bonds, falling short of the two-thirds majority needed. Both Frits Zernike and Nick Page, whose districts include Beacon, voted against the proposal.

Zernike described the bond plan as “a rush job,” while the Democratic legislators said in a statement that Molinaro now plans to “give away” the county’s stadium, which they said is worth \$20 million.

“They came to us in the 11th hour, and I don’t want to rubber stamp this and put us \$6 million in the hole,” Zernike explained.

The \$6 million figure includes the cost of a second phase of repairs, which Zernike said would require another \$3.6 million — for a team that members of the Legislature contend hasn’t committed to stay in Dutchess.

In 2006, the Renegades signed a 10-year lease with the county. The team has since extended the lease twice, for a year at a time. Earlier this year, it agreed to extend the lease a third time, for the 2019 season, which begins June 14.

But Molinaro said on Wednesday (Nov. 14) that he’s reached an agreement for the Renegades to stay at Dutchess Stadium for at least five years, contingent on the county upgrading the facility. If the Legislature agreed to the full \$6 million in upgrades, he said, he expects to finalize a 20-year agreement in which the team takes on some of the costs.

In a letter dated Nov. 8, Goldklang told Bill O’Neill, the deputy county executive, that if the county issued bonds for the first

phase of repairs, the team would sign an agreement “contemplating” a 20-year lease. But if the second phase wasn’t approved in 2019 to bring the stadium “up to a professional minor league standard,” the team wanted an option to leave after five years.

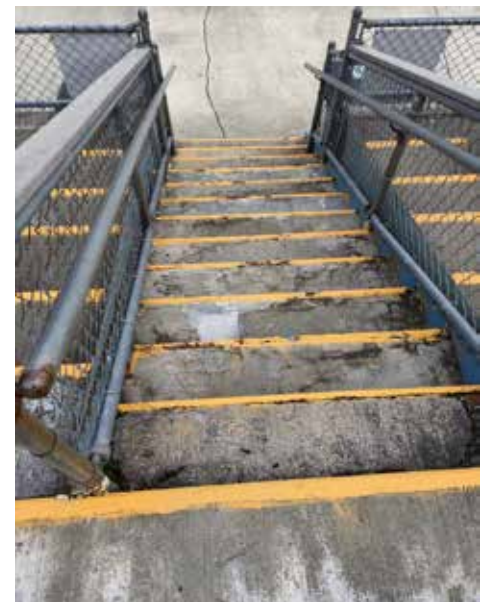
That appears to have been too risky for the Democrats.

“Saying no to this bond rejects the haphazard planning of county projects while leaving plenty of room for a solution that works for all parties,” argued Page.

Meanwhile, the school district’s 10-year lease with Dutchess County on the land beneath the stadium expires in six weeks.

School board President Anthony White said on Wednesday that district and county officials met in September to discuss a one-year extension to give the county time to negotiate with the Renegades. The board will discuss the proposal at its meeting on Monday, Nov. 19.

If the school district were to assume ownership of the stadium, it would take on “catastrophic risk,” Goldklang warned. After contracting for snow removal and other routine maintenance, he said, the costs “would far exceed the amount that they would receive from any tenant.”



Concrete steps at Dutchess Stadium are in poor condition.

Photo provided

Molinaro said he would like to see the Legislature reconsider stadium funding, “and we hope that residents will ask them to do so.” He argued that the stadium attracts hundreds of thousands of people to Dutchess annually and is one of the county’s longest-running family entertainment venues.

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A view in 1993 from Kemble Avenue of the former Marathon Battery plant EPA



Large water chestnut beds, an invasive species, fill the channel and open water at East Foundry Cove Marsh. NOAA



A shot of Foundry Cove taken Nov. 15 Photo by Dave Lant

A MARATHON CLEANUP

1952

The Army Corps of Engineers built a 46,000-square-foot battery factory on the northern, 7-acre portion of the 12-acre parcel. Around the same time, homes began to go up on what is now Constitution Drive.

1962

The Sonotone Corp., which had occupied the plant since it was built, making batteries for satellites under contract with the Army as well as for cordless shavers and flashlights, bought the factory from the government for \$935,000 [about \$8 million in today's dollars], with plans to add a 35,000-square-foot addition.

1965

The state determined that a sewage treatment plant being constructed for the Village of Cold Spring could not handle industrial waste, so Sonotone built its own wastewater plant and sent its discharge into East Foundry Cove.

1966

Sonotone bought the southern, 5-acre portion of the site, which had been planned for a subdivision called Crestview that never materialized. The company used the land for a parking lot, water tower and to bury contaminated sediment.

1969

Marathon bought the factory.

1970

The federal government sued Marathon to stop the discharge of toxic chemicals.

1971

Three fish caught by an Audubon official and Robert Boyle, a writer for *Sports Illustrated*, near the mouth of Foundry Cove contained 1,000 times more cadmium than expected.

1972

The Environmental Protection Agency ordered Marathon to dredge the cove. More than 90,000 cubic meters of contaminated sediment were buried in a clay-lined vault on the factory property. The effort was "not totally successful," the agency said, and Foundry

Cove for a time was known as the most cadmium-polluted site on the planet.

1979

After Marathon closed the plant and relocated, the 114,000-square-foot building was used to store 2.5 million books.

1981

Citing a 1980 law, the EPA designated the area as a Superfund site, which compelled its owners to clean it up or reimburse the government for the work.

1986

In a process that would take nine years, the EPA began dredging East Foundry Cove Marsh and moving the contaminated sediment off-site on rail cars along tracks built for the cleanup. Ultimately nearly 190,000 tons of treated soil was transported on 1,979 rail cars to landfills in Pennsylvania and Michigan as well as to Model City, New York, which in the late 1970s had become infamous for its own Superfund site: Love Canal.

1989

The EPA ordered Marathon, Gould Inc. and Merchandise Dynamics, which by then owned the property, to decontaminate the factory, the books, the grounds and nearby yards, which took six years.

1993

The 2.5 million books, now decontaminated, were recycled. Marathon, Gould Inc. and the U.S. Army agreed to pay \$91 million toward the cleanup, as well as \$13.5 million to the EPA for its previous work and future oversight. The clay-capped vault buried from the early 1970s was excavated. More than 145,000 prehistoric and Civil War artifacts were recovered from the grounds.

1994

After ice and snow build-up caused a 10,000-square-foot section of the factory roof to collapse, the EPA ordered the building demolished. Dredging began in the Hudson River near the Cold Spring dock.

1995

The East Foundry Cove Marsh was capped with clay, covered with soil and replanted with vegetation such as cattails, bull rushes, arrow arum and upland shrubs, with the goal of 85 percent coverage. But parts remain as mudflats or covered with invasive water chestnut.

1996

The site was removed from the Superfund priority list. The Scenic Hudson Land Trust purchased 85 acres along the Hudson, including the East Foundry marsh and cove, that had been part of the larger site, to be managed by Audubon.

1998

The EPA conducted its first five-year review.

2003

The 12-acre factory parcel was purchased from Gould by Kearney Realty.

2005

The EPA attempted to inject the groundwater with "an easily degradable carbohydrate solution" to promote microbial activity to consume the contaminants. Eighteen months later, tests showed it had not worked.

2007

In a survey of Cold Spring residents, 45 percent said the site should be turned into a parking lot, 17 percent suggested a recreation park, 14 percent wanted open space, 8 percent said housing and 3 percent asked for a community center.

2009

The EPA tested the basements of 10 homes on The Boulevard and Constitution Drive for vapors from the pollutants and recommended one home be monitored. (A mitigation system was installed instead.) The main source of groundwater contamination, the EPA said, was a solvent shed formerly located near the southwest corner of the factory.

2012

The EPA installed a vapor extraction system, which over the next two years removed 30 pounds of pollutants from the soil.

2018

The EPA continues to monitor the site by testing groundwater, taking sediment samples from East Foundry Cove and conducting annual inspections of the marsh to check the clay cap and monitor vegetation. Its next five-year report will be ready in 2023.

Sources: EPA, Village of Cold Spring

Marathon *(from Page 1)*

cobalt was discharged into Foundry Cove. According to the EPA, the cadmium made its way through the food chain and affected invertebrates, crab, fish, birds and muskrats. The factory also spread contaminated dust into the soil and onto neighbors' yards.

Research has shown that exposure to cadmium can impair kidney function, even at relatively low levels. Scientists say higher accumulation in humans can cause bone deformities, cardiovascular and immune-system deficiencies, central nervous system disorders and lung cancer.

The EPA prohibits digging wells anywhere on the

Marathon site or excavating below a depth of 15 feet near Kemble Avenue (where a cadmium nitrate tank leaked into the soil), and the latest report indicates those bans will continue. Local drinking water was never compromised because Cold Spring's water comes from reservoirs located north of the village.

Beacon Tries Again with Sign Law

Previous attempts deemed unconstitutional

By Jeff Simms

The Beacon City Council will hold a public hearing on Monday, Nov. 19, to hear feedback on a recrafted sign ordinance that became an issue earlier this year when city officials declared the existing law unconstitutional.

The law was called into question after the city repeatedly clashed with Jason Hughes, a business owner who hung politically topical banners on the side of a warehouse he owns that faces Route 52.

The city argued that his 8-by-34-foot vinyl banners, which addressed issues such as immigration, racism and municipal elections, could only be hung in conjunction with an upcoming event, such as an election.

But a 2015 U.S. Supreme Court ruling that municipal sign restrictions must be content-neutral led the city in June to drop charges against Hughes for refusing to take down what it said were illegal signs.

The draft of the new regulations would require permits for certain signs but not others. Real estate and construction signs, for example, would be allowed in residential zones without a permit, as would lawn signs (not exceeding 3 square feet) for elections, yard sales and other events as long as they were removed within seven days after the event took place.

Identification signs, (such as for an apartment complex), banners and temporary signs would require permits. A temporary sign — as determined by the building inspector — could only be hung for six months out of a year.

Permit fees would remain unchanged, ranging from \$10 to \$25.

In commercial and other non-residential zones, public notices, identification and real estate, and a handful of other types of signs would be allowed without permits. Lawn signs would also be allowed without a permit but would be subject to the seven-days-after-an-event rule, and could only be installed for six months at a time.

Awning signs, sandwich boards, banners and temporary signs would all require permits in non-residential zones.

Size restrictions — generally 6 feet in total area for signs that don't require permits — would apply in each zoning district. All signs in the city's Historic District would need approval from the Planning Board.

Neither Hughes nor his signs were mentioned in any of the council's discussions about the revised law, but the proposal would require him to obtain a permit to hang political signs from his warehouse and significantly reduce their size. The new limit for temporary signs in non-residential districts would be 32 square feet; Hughes' signs were more than eight times that.

Car Break-In Spree in Cold Spring

Also, village tree group receives \$49,000 grant

By Michael Turton

"It's time lock your doors!" Larry Burke, Cold Spring's officer-in-charge, warned as he concluded his monthly report at the Nov. 13 meeting of the Village Board.

Burke had just described an incident that occurred on Nov. 2 in which five hooded individuals rifled through several unlocked vehicles, first near Chestnut Ridge and then in the area of Paulding, Parsonage, Parrott and Bank streets.

Although the thieves took only a few personal items and coins, Burke said, "a break-in is a break-in." The perpetrators were caught on security cameras, he said, noting that similar break-ins occurred recently in Lake Peekskill and Continental Village.

The department responded to 68 calls for service in October, he told the board, and made one arrest for possession of marijuana. Officers also issued 97 parking tickets and 24 tickets for traffic violations.

In other business ...

The Tree Advisory Board received a grant

of \$49,162 from the Urban Forestry program of the state Department of Environmental Conservation for tree maintenance.

Trustees approved a request by Hussein "Jimmy" Abdelhady, owner of 124 Main St., which includes the Silver Spoon Restaurant and Cold Spring Bed and Breakfast, to purchase a raised concrete slab owned by the village between his building and the sidewalk, which he uses as a patio. Abdelhady has applied to convert the restaurant into seven additional bed-and-breakfast rooms.

The board is expected to soon ratify a new, three-year agreement with the Cold Spring Police Benevolent Association that includes a 2 percent increase in wages in each of an officer's first two years and a 3 percent increase in the third year. Action on the matter was delayed to give trustees time to review the proposal.

Mayor Dave Merandy and Greg Phillips, the superintendent of water and wastewater, met with property owners adjacent to the village reservoirs near Lake Surprise Road. The village needs easements from a number of private properties to bring in heavy equipment to repair the dams.

Ruthanne Cullinan Barr, chair of the Recreation Commission, reported that the commission would like to reduce its membership from seven to five members. She also said that holiday decorations have been purchased for the bandstand, which will be the site of the annual Turkey Trot on Nov. 22. Santa Claus will visit at 6:30 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 8.

The Cold Spring Building Department had a busy month in October, collecting more than \$6,000 in fees and issuing 11 permits.

Merandy praised Deb McLeod and Grace Kennedy, neither of whom lives in the village, for their efforts to rehabilitate two tree pits near the gas station at 182 Main.

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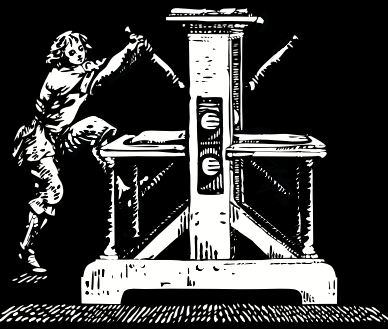
Saturday, Nov. 24, 8:30 p.m.
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COMING TOGETHER

A unity vigil filled the pews and then some at St. Mary's Episcopal Church in Cold Spring on Saturday (Nov. 10). Organized by the Philipstown Reform Synagogue in response to a shooting at a Pittsburgh synagogue that left 11 people dead, as well as anti-Semitic graffiti more recently spray-painted on a Nelsonville home, the event brought together leaders of Jewish, Christian and Buddhist congregations. Cold Spring Mayor Dave Merandy also spoke and Dar Williams (below, right) led the audience in singing "This Land Is My Land" and "America the Beautiful."

Earlier this month, religious leaders in Beacon hosted a unity event in response to anti-Semitic fliers posted outside two churches in the city. At right, Imam Abdullah Wajid of Masjid Ar-Rashid, the Islamic Teaching Center, greets Rabbi Brent Chaim Spodek of the Beacon Hebrew Alliance. At lower left are Spodek, Imam Hasan Mumin, Waheebah Wajid and Imam Wajid.

Beacon photos by Frank Ritter/Ritterphoto.com | Cold Spring photos by Ross Corsair





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NEWS BRIEFS

Pay Fines with Food

Howland accepting pantry donations

The Howland Public Library in Beacon has launched its annual “food for fines” program, which continues through Dec. 30.

Library patrons can erase or reduce fines on overdue books, CDs, DVDs and other items by donating non-perishable items such as peanut butter, canned tuna and bags of rice. The food will be donated to Fareground’s Tiny Food Pantries, St. Andrew’s Church and the Beacon Community Kitchen.

The library will also be accepting personal-care products such as toothpaste, soap, feminine hygiene products and shampoo. Food for Fines does not apply to fees for items that are lost, damaged or from other libraries.



Annual Coat Drive

Knights collecting winter apparel

The Knights of Columbus Loretto Council No. 536, based in Cold Spring, has

launched its annual coat drive, which continues through Nov. 26. Coats may be dropped in bins at the Haldane middle and high schools or the Garrison School. The group has over the years collected more than 4,000 coats to distribute in Putnam County.

Annual Toy Drive

Benefits children battling cancer

Love Holds Life Children’s Cancer Foundation is holding its fifth annual toy giveaway in honor of Carmen Viruet-Senato for children ages 2 to 14. Drop off new and unwrapped toys in Beacon at the Lewis Tompkins Hose Co., City Hall or the Elks Club by Friday, Dec. 7. The group will hold a cookies and cocoa event with Santa at the firehouse, 13 South Ave., from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 15.

Historical Society Honors

Ronnie Beth Sauers and Elks recognized

Nearly 250 friends and supporters of the Beacon Historical Society turned out to honor its Beacons of History winners on Nov. 8 at The Roundhouse.

The awards, given annually, honor those who have made substantial contributions to Beacon and helped preserve its history and sense of community.

The society recognized Ronnie Beth Sau-



Ronnie Beth Sauers and J.R. Rivera of the Beacon Elks with their Beacons of History Awards

Photo provided

ers for her work with her late husband, Ron. Together they helped to revitalize Main Street nearly 30 years ago by purchasing and restoring vacant commercial buildings in which they saw beauty and potential.

The society also honored Elks Lodge No. 1493, which was founded in 1924 and has supported the community through efforts such as acquiring Hammond

Field and Memorial Park; staging meals for Beacon draftees departing for World War II; honoring the city’s emergency responders; holding annual Flag Day observances; supporting a history program for students; and maintaining its Wolcott Avenue lodge, once the Rothery Homestead.

The dinner raised more than \$22,000 for the historical society.

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The Calendar

Winter Fresh

Farmers markets move indoors



Vivian Graziano (left) and her "helper for the day," Ed Doty of Shawangunk Growers
Photos by Erika DaSilva

By Alison Rooney

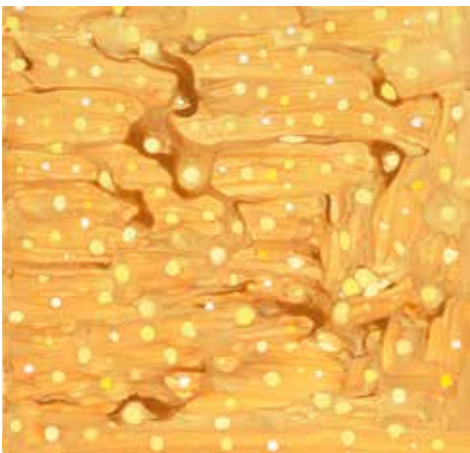
A fire in February 2002 that destroyed the Grand Union (now the site of Foodtown) left Philipstown residents without a supermarket and bereft of veggies and fruits. This stirred a group of community members to advocate for a farmers market, which opened that summer across the street at the site of Butterfield

Hospital and was an immediate success. Open May through early November, the market moved twice, leaving Butterfield for the courtyard of The Nest next door and then landing in the parking lot at Boscobel, further south on Route 9D. In 2009 it expanded to 12 months, taking up residence at the Philipstown Recreation Center and, more recently, inside the Parish Hall at St. (Continued on page 21)

The Regulars

These vendors are typically at the Cold Spring winter market each week:

Vegetables and Fruit: Breezy Hill Orchard & Cider Mill; Dan Madura Farms; Four Winds Farm; Liberty Orchards; Rogowski Farm
Jam, Honey, Syrup, Sauces: Coyote Kitchen; EB's Golden Harvest
Meats, Fish, Poultry, Dairy: Chaseholm Farm Creamery; Dashing Star Farm; Eggbest' Free Range Farm; Pura Vida Fisheries
Specialty Foods: La Talaye Catering
Bread: All You Knead; Signal Fire



Bruce



Richard Bruce and
Kathy Feighery
Photo by A. Rooney



Feighery

SHARED SPACE

Two artists who for years split the rent mount a joint exhibit

By Alison Rooney

Among the many New York-to-the-Highlands visual-artist transplants, Kathy Feighery and Richard Bruce are pioneers. The two artists, who have frequently shared studio space, moved to the area (one lives in Cold Spring, the other in Nelsonville) 18 and 20 years ago, respectively, making them, if not quite old guard, at least forerunners of the common Brooklyn-to-Beacon (and now, increasingly, Newburgh) artists' pipeline. This weekend through the end of the year, they'll be sharing an exhibit of new works at Create Community at 11 Peekskill Road in Nelsonville (enter on Pine Street). The show will open with a reception on Saturday, Nov. 17, from 6 to 9 p.m.,

(Continued on page 20)





The Dirt on Dirt

By Pamela Doan

To understand our soils, you have to imagine ice in every direction.

Fifteen thousand years ago, the Hudson Valley was covered by a sheet of solid ice filled with boulders and sediment. The land below it was scraped to the bedrock. As the glacier melted, the water carried the sediment away. When the water flowed faster, the boulders moved with it.

That movement created one of the most complex geological regions in the world, with deposits of shale, slate, schist and limestone.

“We have wide soil diversity,” explains Dave Llewellyn, director of farm stewardship at Glynwood, a nonprofit based in

Philipstown whose mission is to ensure the Hudson Valley is a place defined by food, and where farming thrives. “The rich range of soil types across 12 counties contributes to the diversity in crops and livestock, which is also an enormous agricultural benefit, one which many regions don’t have.”

New York state is also at the leading edge of managing soil health. “Historically, managing soil health was purely chemistry — basically, fertilizers,” he says, until Cornell University created an assessment to measure soil health that included biological and physical indicators.

The goal is to make soil more resilient. “Adding organic matter makes it able to store more water, hold together and drain

better,” Llewellyn says. “It also supports the microbiology in the soil, which supports our plants.”

Jeff Walker, a geologist who teaches at Vassar College and has written extensively on the soils of Dutchess County, explains that you can tell if soil is good for farming by the topography. Valley lowlands that were created by glacial streams have sandy, silty and loamy (mixed clay, silt and sand) soils. Crops grow well in these soils. Hills and slopes are covered by ablation till, the larger pieces that were left as the glacier melted. These soils are better for grazing and pastures.

The basic character of soil can’t be altered. You can add lime to make it less acidic, but it will always revert to its original composition. Adding organic matter like compost or using cover crops to add nutrients helps the soil retain nutrients and water and improve soil condition, but it doesn’t create soil.

Scientists study soil in layers called horizons. The top 2 inches or so is the “O” horizon, referring to organic matter. Here you find roots and decomposing leaves. The next 10 inches or so is the “A” hori-

zon with nutrients such as nitrate, phosphorus and potassium that plants take up through their roots.

The “B” horizon, which goes down to about 30 inches, has minerals such as iron that leach down and aren’t used by plants. The “C” horizon, the next 4 feet, is the original sediment or rock layer that created the soil. Below that is bedrock.

Scientists map land with soil surveys that relate to the best uses for an area. There are 12 soil orders. Each is named to describe the soil’s texture and the first part is always local. For example, Walker explains, Hoosic-Wayland-Copake soil was formed by glacial outwash. Hoosic soils are only found

in New York, Massachusetts, New Jersey and New Hampshire.

“Hoosic are gravelly, Wayland are poorly drained silt loam and Copake are well-drained silt loam,” he says. “Wayland formed in swampy areas and Hoosic and Copake are formed by moving water.”

Soils in the Hudson Valley were formed 12,000 years ago and it takes 500 years to create 1 inch of topsoil. Walker describes the process: “Whenever it rains, water per-

“
The rich range of soil types across 12 counties contributes to the diversity in crops and livestock, which is also an enormous agricultural benefit, one which many regions don’t have.”

Black Gold

Dirt so valuable it’s illegal to remove it

By Cheetah Haysom

It’s not a tourist attraction — yet — but just over the Hudson River, in Orange County, lies 26,000 acres of the most fertile soil in the U.S.

Known as black dirt, it’s so valuable for farming that it has long been illegal under New York State law to remove it from the region. The soil spills into New Jersey, where there is no law, and deep canyons filled with murky water mark spots where it has been trucked away for gardens.

So many visitors ask if they can buy chernozem (Russian for “black dirt” — it’s also found in the Ukraine and other places around the world) that Chip Lain, a sod and soybean farmer, bought a franchise to legally mix a rich soil from a recipe of composts. He sells it by the cubic yard as Big Yellow Bag Black Garden Soil.

Like all the dirt in the Hudson Valley, the black variety was created by a glacier. As it melted, “islands” formed in the vast, murky swamps. Vegetation would grow, die and sink under the water, which shut off the air and prevented rapid decomposition. Thousands of generations of water plants, weeds and sedges, shrubs and trees, all gradually decomposing, created layers of organic matter. Dry periods would encourage growth, followed by flooding. This soil developed at a rate of about a foot every 500 years.

Thousands of years of flooding by the Wallkill River, which winds like a tangled brown ribbon through the plain, contributed to the continuous accumulation of organic matter. The area was known as the Drowned Lands until European settlers in the 1770s started the arduous, 100-year process of draining the swamp and turning it



John Glebocki shows off the prized black dirt found on his farm in Goshen.

Photo by Damon Jacoby

into arable farmland.

Compared with the typical topsoil depth of 2 to 8 inches in most of the U.S., the muck in the Black Dirt region is 10 to 30 feet deep. Most of the soil is 30 percent organic matter, and some of it as much as 90 percent. Elsewhere a farmer would be satisfied with 5 percent.

There is a downside. When the dirt is dry, it becomes so powdery that the wind can whip it into swirling dust funnels that can be highly combustible (farmworkers are advised not to smoke in the fields). To prevent that, most

farmers grow cover crops in the spring and fall.

More helpful to farmers, the black dirt retains moisture. As children of the region love to demonstrate, if you jump on the damp soil in the spring it shudders like a bowl of gelatin. It holds nine times its mass in water, which is great when there is a drought. The muck is so moist that it’s difficult to build on, which has dissuaded development. (The state considers the region to be wetlands, which also makes it difficult to propose condos.) Farmers’ homes and barns are built on higher ground.

colates slowly into the soil and atom by atom it’s moving around.”

We’re losing soil much faster than it’s formed. A 2006 study by Cornell researchers found that erosion rates in the U.S. are 10 times faster than replenishment rates. In some places around the world, the rate is 30 to 40 times faster.

“Erosion is a slow and insidious process,” David Pimentel, a professor of ecology at Cornell, said at the time of the 2006 study. “Yet the problem is being ignored because, who gets excited by dirt? It is one of those problems that nickels and dimes you to death: One rainstorm can wash away 1 millimeter of dirt.” That doesn’t sound like a lot, but on a 2.5-acre farm, it amounts to 13 tons of topsoil.

In the Hudson Valley, where climate change has brought heavier downpours, soil loss is a real concern. In the heavy rains our region has recently experienced, inches of topsoil can be lost in a season which could take hundreds of years to replenish.

For farmers, one simple method to prevent erosion is keeping fields planted year-round and minimizing digging and other disturbances to the soil. This has the added benefit of keeping carbon from being released into the atmosphere, which contributes to global warming. (See Page 16.)



A GROWING CHALLENGE

Farms and Food in the Hudson Valley



Laura Parker

One of the strengths of agriculture in the Hudson Valley is the diversity of its soil. Reading through dirt reports prepared by the U.S. Department of Agriculture can feel like browsing a wine list.

Laura Parker, an artist based in San Francisco, had that same thought in 2006, when she filled wine glasses with dirt for an installation called *Taste of Place* and invited people to “sample” them. (Five years earlier, she had asked patrons at the public library to write down their memories of the land. That piece was called “How far are you from the farm? A mile or a generation?”).

Here we share a connoisseur’s guide to just a few of the soils of Putnam, Dutchess and Orange counties:

VARIETY	PUTNAM	DUTCHESS	ORANGE
Alden Extremely Stony			●
Bath-Nassau Channery Silt Loam			●
Catden Muck	●	●	●
Charlton Fine Sandy Loam	●	●	●
Charlton Loam	●	●	
Charlton-Chatfield Complex	●	●	
Chatfield-Hollis-Rock	●	●	
Copake Channery Silt Loam		●	
Dutchess Silt Loam		●	
Fredon Loam			●
Fredon Silt Loam	●	●	
Georgia Silt Loam		●	
Halsey Mucky Silt Loam		●	
Hinkley Loamy Sand	●		
Hollis-Chatfield-Rock		●	
Hoosic Gravelly Loam		●	
Ipswich Mucky Peat	●		
Knickerbocker Fine Sandy Loam	●	●	
Leicester Loam	●		
Livingston Silt Clay Loam		●	
Lordstown Channery Silt Loam			●
Massena Silt Loam		●	
Muskego Muck			●
Nassau Channery Silt Loam			●
Nassau-Rock		●	
Natchaug Muck	●	●	●
Oakville Loamy Fine Sand			●
Otisville Gravelly Sandy Loam			●
Pittstown Silt Loam		●	
Raynham Silt Loam	●	●	●
Rhinebeck Silt Loam			●
Ridgebury Complex	●		
Riverhead Sandy Loam			●
Scarboro Mucky Fine Sandy Loam			●
Suncook Sandy Loam			●
Sun Silt Loam		●	
Taconic-Macomber-Rock		●	



Rick Minkus is an onion farmer in New Hampton, Orange County. The high sulfur content of the black dirt makes them among the most pungent on the market.

Photo by Damon Jacoby



Battling Sprawl

Groups work to save an overlooked resource — farmland

By Jeff Simms

While sprawl has claimed millions of acres of farmland across the country, the tide may have turned — for now — in the Hudson Valley.

Rebecca E.C. Thornton, president of the Dutchess Land Conservancy, reports a “strong interest” in farmland preservation but also warns that the risk of losing land will never go away. Should real estate prices fall low enough in a downturn, there is always the chance that someone with the right funding will stockpile land for the next building boom.

“We’ve got Albany to the north and New York City to the south,” she said. “This is always going to be a high-pressure corridor for development.”

About 5,000 farms have been lost in New York state to real estate and other development since the early 1980s, but the number of acres devoted to agriculture in the Hudson Valley has stabilized, according to county data and federal numbers from 2012, the most recent figures available.

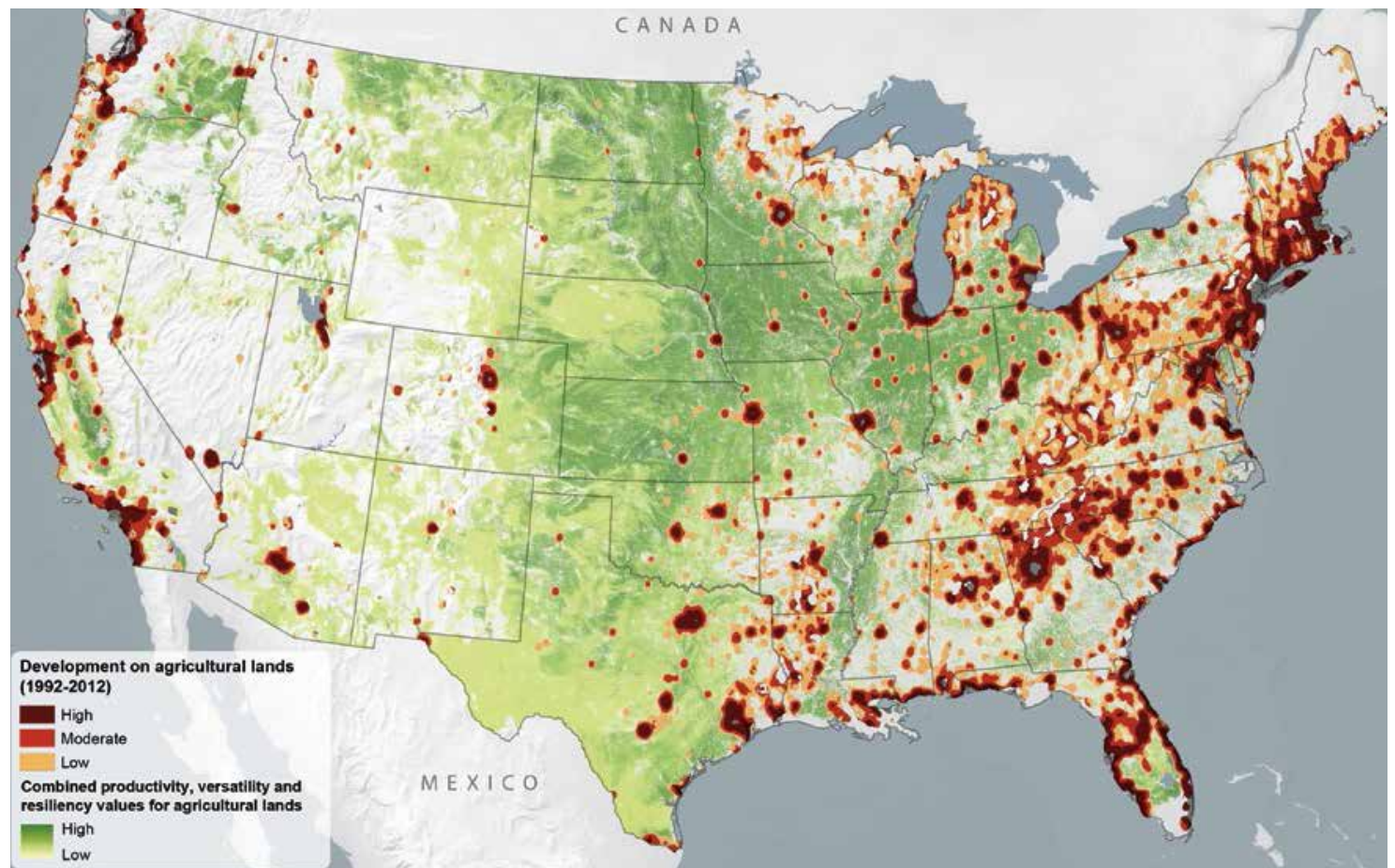
But that may be deceiving. Land prices aren’t great, either, noted Maire Ullrich, the Cooperative Extension agriculture program leader for Orange County, so a farmer may stop milk production but still make hay or rent the land to a neighbor. Although the land is still agricultural, it doesn’t represent its most profitable use. And many farmers are in debt, she said.

“If your loans are greater than what your acreage can be sold for, you’re under water,” said Ullrich. “You can’t just owe \$300,000 or \$500,000 and get another job. You’ll never pay that off.”

Dutchess County has nearly 200,000 acres of farmland, which is about 38 percent of its total area. Orange County has more than 88,000 and Putnam County has about 6,000. Both Orange and Putnam’s acreages were up modestly from 2007, when the previous farming census occurred.

“We have been too wasteful too long in this country — indeed, over most of the world. We had so much good land in the beginning we thought the supply was limitless and inexhaustible.”

— Hugh Hammond Bennett, “the father of soil conservation,” 1943



This map by the American Farmland Trust shows where farmland was lost to development from 1992 to 2012. The areas where the most land was lost are dark brown and red. The nation's most productive, resilient and versatile farmland is shown in dark green.

Those figures stand in contrast to national trends, which showed a 1 million-acre loss from 2016 to 2017. In a report issued in May, *Farms Under Threat*, the American Farmland Trust calculated that between 1992 and 2012, nearly 31 million acres of agricultural land (including nearby woodlands) was lost to development, about the equivalent of losing most of New York. It includes 11 million acres of the land best suited for intensive food and crop production. More than 60 percent of all development took place on farmland, it found.

“It is time for the U.S. to recognize the strategic value of our agricultural land and step up our efforts to protect it,” the report concluded, recommending the federal government dramatically increase funding for conservation easements.

Jennifer Fimbel, an educator with the Cornell Cooperative Extension of Dutchess County, said the Hudson Valley has already “gone through a lot” of the pains of losing farmland to shopping centers and housing developments. In recent years, she said, “there’s been a real push in town and county planning to say, ‘What’s going to affect farming first?’”

Fimbel is one of the co-authors of the *State of Agriculture in Dutchess County*, a report issued in early 2017 that showed the county’s agricultural districts have grown by 19 percent over the last eight years, with much of that growth occurring in the northeast quadrant of the county. Over



John Gill, a third-generation farmer in Ulster County, as a preservation measure in 2014 transferred ownership of his 1,200-acre farm to the NoVo Foundation, which is led by Peter and Jennifer Buffett, the son and daughter-in-law of investor and philanthropist Warren Buffett. It is now known as Hudson Valley Farm Hub. Photo by Noel Camardo

the past 15 years, Dutchess farms have increased sales by 58 percent, it found.

Adopted in 1971, the state’s agricultural district initiative authorized the creation of county programs to protect and promote farmland. In 1992, the state also created a Farmland Protection Program that, coupled with the ag districts, helps provide state and local partners for conservation organizations to protect farmland.

That’s often accomplished through the purchase of development rights from property owners, said Thornton. The landowner receives payment for a parcel in exchange for agreeing never to develop it, even if the land is sold. With the money, a farmer can stay on his or her land and use the funds for “dad to retire, a son to take over, to buy adjoining land or to improve infrastructure on the farm,” she said.

Through such agreements, the Dutchess Land Conservancy has protected more than

3,700 acres of farmland. Scenic Hudson, one of the largest land trusts in the region, has preserved 13,000 acres of agricultural land in the Hudson Valley, as well.

“Success breeds success,” said Thornton. “More farmers are coming to the table,” although “there’s never enough money” to meet all the demand.

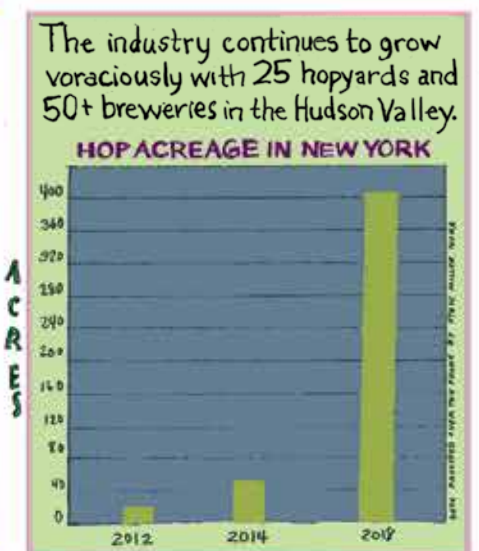
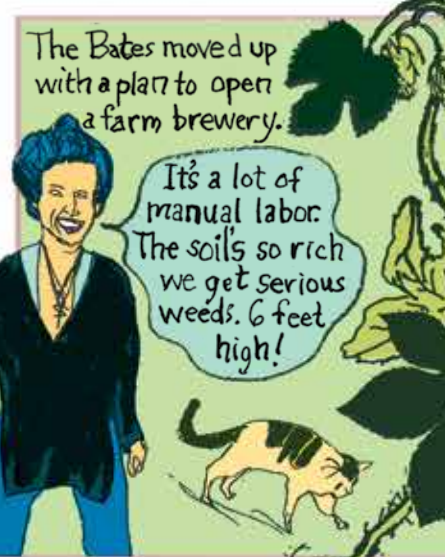
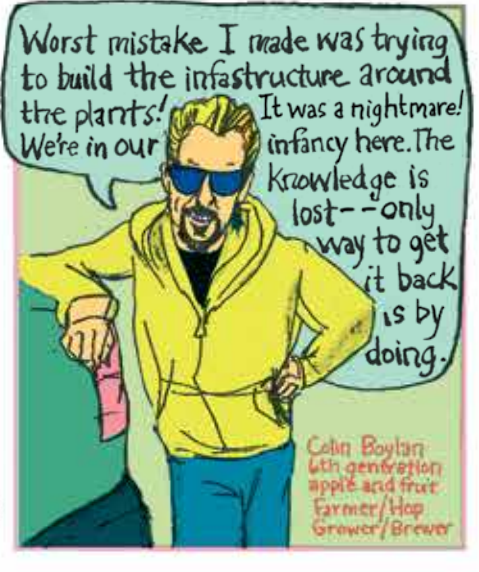
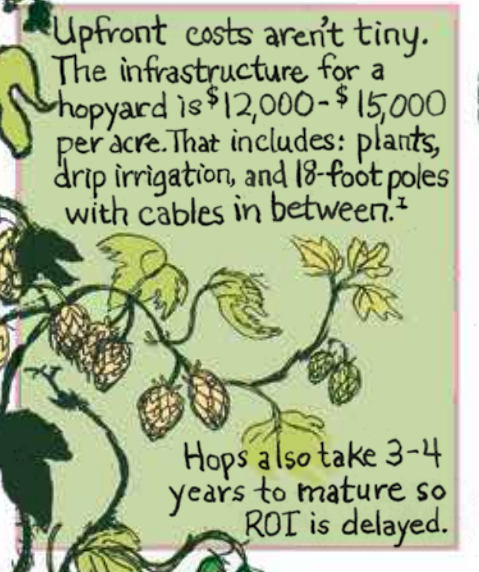
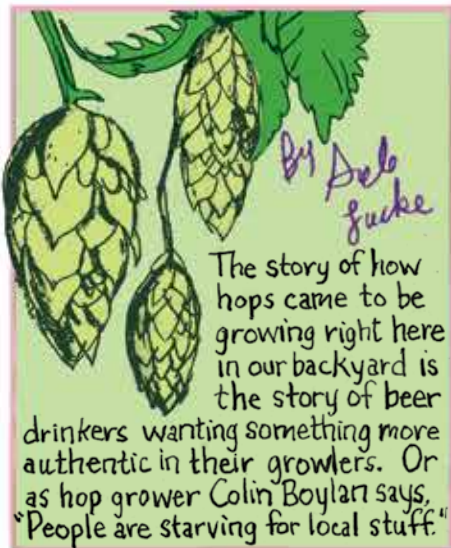
Orange County appears to be more at risk than Dutchess because of the network of transportation corridors (Interstates 84 and 87 and Route 17) that bisect the county.

“One of the most pressing threats to farmland here is conversion to industrial uses,” says Matt Decker, director of conservation and stewardship for the Orange County Land Trust. “There’s a very high demand for industrial warehouse space” for companies like Amazon and medical suppliers.

“Those highways tend to be in flat areas and river valleys,” Decker said, which also happens to be “some of the best farmland.”

UP-AND-COMING HUDSON VALLEY CROPS

HOPS: A SYMBIOTIC RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN BREWER, FARMER, AND LEGISLATOR.



Could Soil Save Us?

Farmers adapt to climate change, and push back

By Pamela Doan

As it turns out, dirt and trees may save us.

According to a new study, agriculture and reforestation have the potential to offset and reduce greenhouse gas emissions that contribute to climate change at rates that could be the equivalent of taking every car off the road.

Storing more carbon in the soil is the key. The good news is that it can also help farmers become more profitable by increasing yields and reducing the risk of damage and losses related to global warming.

In the Hudson Valley, average temperatures have increased 2 degrees in the past 30 years and winters are warmer by 5 degrees. It's part of a crisis of warming oceans and melting glaciers that has subjected the world to more frequent and intense storms, heavy downpours, and erratic and unseasonal temperatures.

This season was a good example of the predicament facing local growers: Hot, dry conditions early in the season, followed by some of the rainiest months from July to September. Quick, irrigate! Quick, drain your fields!

For young farmers such as Sarah Ficken, 29, and her husband, Chris, 31, climate change was one reason they founded New Moon Farms in upstate Munnsville in 2012, where they have a herd of 68 Jersey cows and run a Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) program with 15 to 20 shares.

The couple said they bought land in Madison County because areas farther south will be too hot in 50 years. Their barns take advantage of prevailing winds to cool the inside and their hilltop location helps with drainage after severe storms.



Hannah Ficken, 2, helping to water animals with her father, Chris.

Photo by Sarah Ficken

And, equally important, they tend to their soil and livestock in a way that reduces the carbon released into the atmosphere.

It's called "sequestering carbon," and it's made headlines. Basically, it's the process where plants take in the gas and draw it through their roots into the soil, where it's held in place by organic matter. When soil is plowed or disturbed by digging, the carbon is released as gas. Farmers who don't till the soil during planting and harvest leave the soil, and carbon intact. The Fickens place composted manure on top of the soil to trap more carbon.

After a barn fire, which Sarah described as the "worst best thing that could have happened," they rebuilt to make better use of a most important resource: cow poop.

Their cows live in compost-bedded pack barns. There are no stalls. Instead of having to continually clean out manure, the floor is

covered with 1 to 2 feet of bedding. It needs to be aerated and added to daily but otherwise stays in place until a biannual clean out.

"It mimics pasture, keeps them clean, and we can store all of our manure to use when we need it," Sarah explained.

For example, they use the manure on their own fields after a hay crop is harvested.

As the couple have improved their soil over the past five years, they've seen increased yields. "We prevent erosion, can get crops off the fields when we need to, and we've noticed significantly less runoff from major storms," Sarah said. They use cover crops to keep their fields planted year-round and to add nutrients.

A number of projects underway in the Hudson Valley demonstrate the potential of soil as a carbon sink. Regen Network, a global contracting platform, proposes using blockchain technology to store data

from farms that are using regenerative agriculture to improve carbon retention and soil health. Glynwood is participating on the steering committee and may participate with Regen's proposed incentive program to use cryptocurrency for investors to fund farms that meet certain protocols. Hudson Carbon is a research and education project based at Stone House Farms in Hudson that measures the impact of cover crops on soil carbon, among other things.

The state Legislature is taking note, too. Didi Barrett, who represents parts of Dutchess and Columbia in the state Assembly, spearheaded the Carbon Farm Pilot Project for the Soil and Water Conversation Districts in both counties to undertake a two-year study of the impact of new approaches to soil.

Climate resilience for Hudson Valley farmers means different things for each farm. Sarah Ficken would like to further minimize their carbon footprint with solar or geothermal energy. But first, they need to solve their water dilemma. Their well ran dry early in the season and they need to be able to store water on the property. They have a lot of thirsty cows

“
Farming and reforestation could reduce greenhouse gases at rates equivalent to taking every car off the road.”



Part 1 | Nov. 2
Farmers
Young & Old

Part 2 | Nov. 16
Land & Soil

Part 3 | Nov. 30
Are Farms in
Our Future?

Farmers in the Hudson Valley, and those who work the fields, are getting older, without heirs. Who will follow? A generation of young farmers may fill the gap, including young women, people of color and veterans. See highlandscurrent.org.

Why is the Hudson Valley such a great place to farm? In large part, it's the superior dirt, but the forces of climate change and urban sprawl threaten both the landscape and the industry. Scientists and planners are pushing back.

In 2004, an American Farmland Trust report concluded that major changes were needed to save agriculture in the Hudson Valley. Fifteen years later, how are we doing? The federal government spends billions on farming subsidies, but does it help the Hudson Valley? The answer to what ails farmers here is likely not green markets, which are popular but may be overdone. Many farmers are instead turning to new (or old) crops, such as hops and grains.

A GROWING CHALLENGE

THE WEEK AHEAD

Edited by Pamela Doan (calendar@highlandscurrent.org)
For a complete listing of events, see highlandscurrent.org/calendar.

COMMUNITY

SAT 17

Harvest Sale

GARRISON

9 a.m. – Noon. St. Philip's Church
1101 Route 9D | 845-424-3571

The Friends of St. Philip's present their annual fundraiser, with white elephant items, baked goods, cheese, pecans and a 50-50 raffle.

SUN 18

Putnam History Museum Thanksgiving Dinner

COLD SPRING

5 p.m. St. Mary's Church
1 Chestnut St. | 845-265-4010
putnamhistorymuseum.com

The 60th annual event begins with a candlelight service followed by cocktails and dinner at 6 p.m. at The Garrison, 2015 Route 9, where Bryan Dunlap will receive the Elizabeth Todd Healy Volunteer Service Award. *Cost: \$100*

SAT 24

Holiday Boutique

GARRISON

10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library
472 Route 403 | 845-424-3020
desmondfishlibrary.org

Browse crafts from 75 artists and artisans, along with used books and baked goods. Open Thursday to Sunday during library hours through Dec. 9.

SAT 24

Alumni Games

BEACON

10 a.m. Girls' soccer (Sargent)
Noon. Boys' soccer (Sargent)
Noon. Basketball (High School)
beaconk12.org

SAT 24

Alumni Basketball Game

COLD SPRING

5 p.m. Haldane High School
15 Craigsides Drive | haldaneschool.org

Alumni will play the 2018-19 basketball team. *Cost: \$5 adults/\$2 children*

MUSIC

SAT 17

Blood, Sweat & Tears

BEACON

4 p.m. St. Andrew's Church
15 South Ave. | 845-765-3012
howlandmusic.org

In a pop-up concert presented by the Howland Chamber Music Circle, soprano Rachel Hall, cellist Daniel Blair Frankhuizen and pianist Joseph Bush perform Bach, Faure, Massenet, Glass, and Rodgers and Hammerstein. *Free*



Desmond-Fish Boutique

SAT 17

Windborne Singers

PUTNAM VALLEY

7:30 p.m.
Tompkins Corners Cultural Center
729 Peekskill Hollow Road
845-528-7280 | tomkinscorners.org

Traditional folk acapella. *Cost: \$18 (\$20 at door), \$15 students and seniors*

SAT 17

Christine Lavin

PEEKSKILL

8 p.m. Peekskill Central Market
900 Main St. | 914-287-0300
bit.ly/christine-lavin

The singer-songwriter returns to her hometown. *Cost: \$35*

SAT 17

Clear Light Ensemble

BEACON

8 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
477 Main St. | 845-831-4988
howlandculturalcenter.org

John Dubberstein (sitar), Scott Beall (guitar), Steve Franchino (flute), Lindsey Horner (bass) and Tem Noon (percussion) will perform improvised raga-jazz world fusion. *Cost: \$10 (\$15 at door)*

SAT 17

Hudson Valley Philharmonic: The Silk Road

POUGHKEEPSIE

8 p.m. Bardavon | 35 Market St.
845-473-2072 | bardavon.org

The philharmonic will perform works by Tallis, Azmeh, Stravinsky and Bartok. *Cost: \$20 to \$57*

SUN 18

Sound/Peace

BEACON

3:30 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
477 Main St. | 845-831-4988
howlandculturalcenter.org

Gina Samardge conducts pianist and accordionist Andy Rinehart, bass clarinetist and percussionist J Why and guitarist Craig Chin with members of the Beacon Rising Women's Choir. The concert will follow the setting sun. *Cost: \$10*

MON 19

Lindsay Mendez

BEACON

7:30 p.m. Beacon High School
101 Matteawan Road | 845-350-2722
beaconperformingartscenter.com

The Broadway singer won a Tony earlier this year for best performance by an actress in a featured role (in a revival of *Carousel*) and also has appeared in *Wicked* and *Godspell*. *Cost: \$25 (\$15 students)*

FRI 23

Wizards of Winter

PEEKSKILL

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

Former members of the Trans-Siberian Orchestra, Rainbow, Alice Cooper and the Ted Nugent Band will perform a symphonic holiday rock opera called *Tales Beneath a Northern Star*, in which they search for the true meaning of Christmas. *Cost: \$40 to \$65*

SUN 25

Broadway in Beacon

BEACON

4 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
477 Main St. | 845-831-4988
howlandculturalcenter.org

The Hudson Valley Theatre Initiative presents a program of holiday favorites. *Cost: \$10 (\$15 door)*

SUN 25

Breakneck Ridge Revue

BEACON

7 p.m. Towne Crier Cafe
379 Main St.
845-855-1300
townecrier.com

In a performance dedicated to the late Dan Einbender, the folk jam

band returns with Andrew Revkin, David A. Ross, Patrick Stanfield Jones, Todd Giudice, Mark Murphy and the Trouble Sisters, along with guests Jeremy Schonfeld, Daniel Garcia and NPR commentator Andrei Codrescu. *Cost: \$15*

VISUAL ARTS

SAT 17

Holiday Pottery Show & Sale

GARRISON

10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Garrison Art Center
23 Garrison's Landing | 845-424-3960

This annual sale features pottery both whimsical and sophisticated from more than 30 artists from the region, along with jewelry, handmade soaps and paper goods. Through Nov. 25

SAT 17

Little Boxes

BEACON

6 – 9 p.m. River Center Red Barn
Long Dock Park | 845-527-8671
littleboxes2018.brownpapertickets.com

Works created on 3-by-3-inch canvases will be auctioned, with 50 percent of proceeds benefiting the Beacon Sloop Club. Cash awards for people's choice, most creative, most spectacular and funniest. *Cost: \$15*

SAT 17

Richard Bruce and Kathy Feighery: Recent Work

NELSONVILLE

6 – 9 p.m. Create Community
11 Peekskill Road | 845-416-1427

The painters will exhibit complementary work from years of working in shared studios. Both are inspired by and interpret nature. See Page 11.



SUN 18

Dark Star Orchestra

PEEKSKILL

7 p.m. Paramount Hudson Valley
1008 Brown St. | 914-739-0039
paramounthudsonvalley.com

The band has been performing Grateful Dead covers for more than 20 years. *Cost: \$30 to \$35*



Lindsay Mendez

THE WEEK AHEAD



Boscobel Tours

TALKS & TOURS

SUN 18
Bryan Dunlap: The Boys from Canaan

GARRISON
2 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library
472 Route 403 | 845-424-3020
desmondfishlibrary.org
Dunlap will discuss his book on brothers Henry and Thomas Warner, who lived in the Highlands in the early 19th century. Henry, a lawyer, was the father of novelists Susan and Anna, who planned to develop tourism and agriculture at their Constitution Island home. Thomas was an Episcopal priest and well-regarded member of the West Point faculty.

FRI 23
Twilight Tours

GARRISON
3:30 – 7 p.m. Boscobel
1601 Route 9D | 845-265-3638
boscobel.org
The mansion will be candlelit and decorated for a 19th-century Christmas, with music by the Greater Newburgh Symphony Quintet and guitarist Dan Stevens. Also SAT 24, SUN 25. *Cost: \$26 (\$16 children, ages 5 and younger free)*

SUN 25
Romance Authors Reading
GARRISON
2 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library
472 Route 403 | 845-424-3020
desmondfishlibrary.org
Garrison residents Linda Behrens (*Tomorrow Moments*) and Krystal Ford (*Love, Across the Divide*) will read from their novels.

KIDS & FAMILY

SAT 17
Singing Books
BEACON
2 p.m. Howland Public Library
313 Main St. | 845-831-1134
beaconlibrary.org
An interactive concert by Lydia Adams Davis and Steve Kirkman draws on popular children's stories. *Free*

SAT 17
Middle School Night
GARRISON
7 p.m. Philipstown Recreation Center
107 Glenclyffe Drive | 845-424-4618
philipstownrecreation.com
Philipstown residents in grades 6 to 8 are invited for three hours of soccer, basketball, volleyball,

ping pong, pool, air hockey and foosball, as well as a knockout contest, game-show challenges and laser tag. *Cost: \$5*

SUN 18
I Am Not a Fox
COLD SPRING
10:15 a.m. | Split Rock Books
97 Main St. | 845-265-2080
splitrockbks.com
Karina Wolf will read from her new picture book. *Free*

TUES 20
Poet Laureate Induction
BEACON
6:30 p.m. Howland Public Library
313 Main St. | 845-831-1134
beaconlibrary.org
The city's 2019-20 poet laureate will be introduced before a reading. *Free*

FRI 23
Meet the Animals
CORNWALL
1 & 2:30 p.m. Wildlife Education Center
25 Boulevard | 845-534-7781 | hhnw.org
What do they eat for Thanksgiving dinner? Also SAT 24, SUN 25. *Cost: \$5 (free for members)*

SUN 25
Wild Turkey Trek
CORNWALL
10 a.m. Outdoor Discovery Center
100 Muser Drive | 845-534-5506
hhnw.org
A guided hike along the McKeon Loop Trail will cover the natural history and adaptations of the wild turkey. *Cost: \$3 to \$10*

STAGE & SCREEN

SAT 17
Annie Kids
BEACON
2 & 6:30 p.m. Beacon High School
101 Matteawan Road | 845-350-2722
beaconperformingartscenter.com
An orphaned child escapes

her evil caretaker and finds a home with a billionaire. *Cost: \$10 (\$5 students)*

SAT 17
Our Town
WAPPINGERS FALLS
8 p.m. County Players Theater
2681 Main St. | 845-298-1491
countyplayers.org
The players present Thornton Wilder's 1938 drama that explores community bonds. *Cost: \$20 (\$15 for seniors and children age 12 and younger)*

SAT 17
They Will Say I Killed Them
COLD SPRING
4 p.m. Magazzino
2700 Route 9 | 845-666-7202
magazzino.art
Danilo Correale uses the untold stories of lost screenplays to investigate genres and themes after the fall of Fascism in Italy. The screening will be followed by a panel discussion at 5 p.m. and a second showing at 6:15 p.m. *Free*

SAT 17
The Winning of Barbara Worth
COLD SPRING
7 p.m. Butterfield Library
10 Morris Ave. | 845-265-3040
butterfieldlibrary.org
The library's Silent Film Series presents this 1926 western about water rights that starred Ronald Colman, Vilma Banky and Gary Cooper. *Free*

SUN 18
A Bread Factory, Parts 1 & 2
BEACON
1:30 p.m. Beahive
291 Main St. | 845-765-1890
beahivebzzz.com
The Beacon Film Society will screen these two films about the Time & Space Limited Building in Hudson and change in a small town. Part 1 screens at 1:30 p.m. and Part 2 at 3:45 p.m., followed by a discussion with director Patrick Wang. *Cost: \$10 (\$15 for both)*



Patrick Wang

HEALTH & FITNESS

SAT 17
Castle to River Run
GARRISON
7:30 a.m. Philipstown Recreation Center
107 Glenclyffe Drive | 845-424-4618
bit.ly/castle-to-river
Runner check-in opens at 7:30 a.m. The 50K begins at 8 a.m., the

half-marathon at 9 a.m., the 5K at 9:30 a.m. and the kids' mile at 11:30am. *Cost: \$65 (50K), \$45 (half-marathon), \$25 (5K) and free (kids)*

THURS 22
9th Annual Turkey Trot
COLD SPRING
9 a.m. 2 Main St. | bit.ly/cs-turkey-trot
This 5K run or walk, held to benefit the Kristen and Fred Faust Spirit Award, given each year to a Haldane senior, weaves through the village. Cold Spring Fitness will lead a warm-up from 8 to 8:50 a.m. on the dock. *Cost: \$15 with T-shirt (\$20 day, no shirt)*



CIVIC
SUN 18
Philipstown Comprehensive Plan
COLD SPRING
1 p.m. North Highlands Firehouse
504 Fishkill Road | 845-265-5200
philipstown2020.org
Residents are invited to discuss proposed revisions to the plan, which was adopted in 2006. A draft is online. Residents can also submit comments by email to philipstown2020@gmail.com. Additional meetings are planned for spring. See Page 3.

MON 19
City Council
BEACON
7 p.m. City Hall
1 Municipal Plaza | 845-838-5011
cityofbeacon.org

MON 19
School Board
BEACON
7 p.m. High School
101 Matteawan Road | 845-838-6900
beaconk12.org

MON 19
School Board
COLD SPRING
7 p.m. Haldane Music Room
15 Craigsides Drive | 845-265-9254
haldaneschool.org

MON 19
Village Board
NELSONVILLE
7:30 p.m. Village Hall
258 Main St. | 845-265-2500
nelsonvilleny.gov



Wild Turkey Trek

Roots and Shoots

Seeing the Tree in the Forest

By Pamela Doan

As I research and study issues about gardening and climate change, I'm constantly assessing my own practices and landscape, i.e., freaking out/judging myself/shame-spiraling/vowing to do better.



While I have a lot of boxes I can check, I've always been overwhelmed when it comes to the 75 percent of my landscape that is forested. For one thing, it doesn't require my attention in the way that landscaping and vegetables do. I don't water, weed or prune anything. We keep a trail clear, but otherwise it's on its own.

It's a sadly typical forest that isn't thriving, though. There's not much between the tops of the mature trees and the ground level. Deer browsing has wiped out the next generations of younger trees, seedlings and native plants. What the deer won't eat thrives and that's how Japanese barberry (*Berberis thunbergii*), a thorny, mean, fast-spreading bush can dominate the forest floor. As an added offense, barberry leafs out in the spring before any of the native plants and blocks the sunlight from other species, keeping any plants that escaped the deer from growing.

While most of the forest is sugar maples, the largest tree is an Eastern white pine (*Pinus strobus*). In its natural habitat, it's a far different tree than the pines planted in yards as hedges or privacy barriers. Although white pine forests used to cover this area, now trees are most often planted in rows and closely spaced. They will never achieve the soaring glory and shape of this white pine, allowed to reach its potential. Because white pine is the tallest tree that grows in New York, landscaping with one is a big choice for most yards.

White pines can live up to 450 years and measuring it can reveal its age. I recommend finding a helper if you want to try this. My solo experience involved duct tape, walking on top of an unstable, slippery rock wall and some bruises. After two tries, I settled on 52 inches as the diameter. Yes, that's more than 13 feet around and 4 feet in diameter.

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources published a growth factor rate for trees and listed the white pine with a factor of 5. Here's the formula, using my tree as an example:

Measure circumference = 164 inches
Divide circumference by 3.14 = 52 inches (This is the diameter.)

Multiply diameter by growth factor = 52 x 5 = 260 years

Maybe. This is not a perfect method and I am not a perfect measurer. I can confidently say that it is an old tree, however.

Taking things further, I tried two websites — iTreetools.org and treebenefits.com/calculator (easier) — to learn more about all the contributions this tree is making. In a year, it reduces greenhouse gases by 323 pounds and intercepts more than 2,600 gallons of storm runoff as its roots hold water in the soil.

Understanding just this one tree and its history and environmental benefits motivates me to do more to help my parcel of forest be more than a heavily browsed, invaded landscape.

For a spring project (after I've measured all my trees!), I'll look for native plant and tree seedlings from the county soil and water conservation district plant sale. While planting 8 acres isn't feasible, doing small sections each year and protecting seedlings until they're tall enough to withstand hungry deer could be. Using native perennial seeds is another low-cost way to repopulate what's been lost.

If you see someone around town measuring a tree's circumference, it's probably me. Spreadsheets might be involved, too.



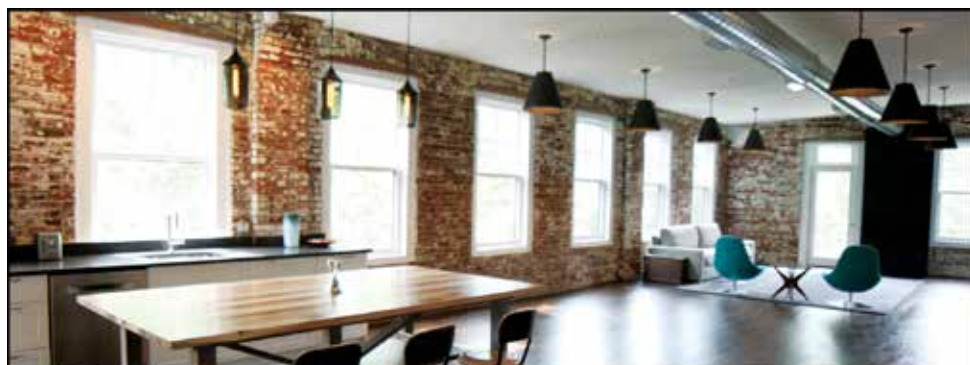
The top of the writer's white pine, which is about 260 years old

Photo by P. Doan

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Shared Spaces *(from Page 11)*

and continue Sunday from noon to 5 p.m. The hours will be sporadic after that; call 845-416-1427 for an appointment.

Bruce and Feighery see their work as complementary. Both say they have been influenced by the beauty and experience of living in the Hudson Valley.

Bruce says his paintings in the show came largely from patterns he spotted in his garden. "I've done waterscapes and landscapes that had a beginning and end," he explains. "This time I wanted to work with the paint in an immediate way. They're still outdoors, just more abstracted. The paintings play off each other and create a dialogue."

His technique, he says, is to use acrylic paint as if it were watercolor. This "wet-on-wet" process "brings in an element of chance. As the water evaporates and pulls from the pigment, the painting transforms repeatedly."

Through her painting, Feighery says she hopes to create "a space for contemplation. Hopefully it allows a stopping and a quiet and a stillness — a moment in our chaotic world." She says while painting she enjoys considering "how paint, light, and color convey a sense of an object. They can describe it but not necessarily recreate it."

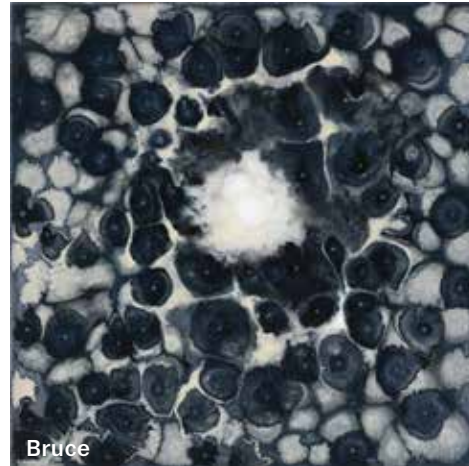
Bruce says he discovered the Highlands when he attended a workshop taught by Josephine Monter, who had a home at Manitou. The area reminded him of the West Virginia landscapes of his childhood. "We wound up driving around Cold Spring, and I was ready for a change," he says.



Bruce

Feighery, meanwhile, spent her childhood bouncing between Ireland and Putnam County. Soon after she settled in Cold Spring, someone mentioned a group show at Collaborative Concepts in Nelsonville. There she met one of the founders, Peter Clark, who "was leading a wave, gathering a collection of artists together," she says. "He was very much a mentor, supportive and invested."

She and Bruce met through mutual friends and both had studios at Collaborative Concepts after it moved to Beacon in 2001. "There were two studios in the back and the deal kind of was you would watch the gallery in exchange for the use of the studio," Feighery recalls. They later shared space at other locales, including Beacon's Bulldog Studios and at a repurposed former dairy in Peekskill



Bruce



Feighery



Feighery

(great light but freezing). Today, Bruce has a studio in Newburgh and Feighery works out of her home in Nelsonville.

Both artists have persisted despite the inconsistent art market. "You plug away," Bruce says. "I'm at the best place I've been with my work."

Adds Feighery: "You try to keep an even keel, but I have a 10-year-old, so I can't do as much as I did. But painting is always there. I file away everything interesting I see. It's your inventory; you're always building from it."

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Winter Fresh *(from Page 11)*

Mary's Episcopal Church in Cold Spring.

This year's winter market opened Nov. 10 and will continue each Saturday at St. Mary's from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. to April. It loses money but Susan Branagan, chair of the Cold Spring Farmers' Market board, says that it's important to provide continuity for shoppers and to support farmers. "Things are still growing, and still being harvested," she notes.

(In Beacon, the farmers market will be outdoors on Sunday, Nov. 18, next to the U.S. post office, then move on Dec. 2 inside the VFW Hall at the corner of Main Street and Teller Avenue, through April 28. The hours are 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.)

Cheryl Rogowski, whose Rogowski Farm is located in the black-dirt region of Warwick, began selling year-round at the Cold Spring market four years ago. She grew up on her family's farm and is now on her own cultivating about 10 acres. For winter growing she uses a heated greenhouse and mini-tunnels. She says she appreciates the loyalty of her Philipstown customers and attributes the drop-off from the summer market to the change in venue and that "some folks don't realize the market is year-round."

Originally sponsored by the village, three years ago the CSFM became a non-profit with a volunteer board and two part-time managers who earn salaries. It is supported by donations and fees the vendors pay to participate.

Tessa Dean, one of those managers (the other is Erika DaSilva), has been with the market for two years. She says sales are usually strong through Thanksgiving but taper off during the colder months, when "people don't want to get out of bed. When the snow hits, our core vendors power through. Nobody is saying we should close it down; there's just an acknowledgment that it's rough at times."

"Behind the scenes, there's the cost of insurance, accountants, rent," she explains. "We focus on what is available and provide, for example, recipes in our weekly email, linking to what will be at the market and little things one might not know, like which potatoes hold their color. Most important, there's still that personal connection to the vendor who grew the food."

Setup in the winter is less work, she says. "There are no tents, fewer signs." Plus, it's "pretty toasty inside of St. Mary's hall. Compare that to sweating or freezing outside! The challenges for the vendors are the travel and growing. But we have a nice camaraderie among the vendors and managers. What's not to love about farming and food?"

As one of the first vendors to join the winter market, Madura Farm is a CSFM anchor. The farm sells at six markets in the summer and four in the winter, rotating among them, says Vivian Graziano, a manager at Madura and a familiar face to Cold Spring market-goers.

Madura, which is being farmed by the fourth generation of the family, at one time was 726 acres but has been divided, she says. "There are four brothers and all have their hand in farming, using different processes." In preparation for winter farming, Dan Madura starts crops such



Farmers often use "high tunnels" to grow crops in the winter.

Photo by Cheryl Rogowski

as spinach, kale, arugula, chiso, beets and mesclun mix in a traditional greenhouse, before moving to high-dome tunnels. Mushrooms are grown year-round.

She says Dan is always looking at new crops — right now it's ginger and turmeric. "It's about seeing something someone

else is not doing," she says.

Graziano says she enjoys the friendly confines of the Cold Spring winter market. "We help each other out — lending scales, picking up pieces that have dropped," she says. Elsewhere, she says, "some markets are cut-throat" in part because of the in-

creasing competition. "They're popping up everywhere; there are several in Newburgh, plus there's Pleasantville and Peekskill, Chappaqua, places that aren't that far away," she says. In addition, "grocery stores are trying to pick up what they're calling 'local' produce, but frequently isn't."



Photo by Deborah DeGraffenreid

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Cross-Country

Ferri First Haldane Girl to Medal since '05

For boys, Silhavy finishes 10th in Class D finals

Shannon Ferri became the first Haldane female cross-country runner since 2005 to win a medal at the Class D state finals when she finished 20th of 105 female runners. The sophomore ran the 5K course on Nov. 10 at Kings Park on Long Island in 20:52.40.

The last individual female medal winner for the Blue Devils was Jessica Neville. The top 20 finishers in each race receive medals.

Adam Silhavy, a Haldane senior, also medaled. He finished 10th of 118 runners in the state in the Class D boys' finals in 17:29,

beating his 13th-place finish last year.

"This was the first time in school history that the cross-country team has had a boy and girl both win individual state medals," said Coach Tom Locascio.

The Haldane boys qualified for the state meet by winning their 12th consecutive Section 1, Class D title. They finished ninth of 12 teams.

Other Haldane boys who competed were senior Matt Mikalsen (82nd at 19:55.1), sophomore Everett Campanile (83rd at 19:56.3), junior Quinn Petkus (84th at 20:10.3), sophomore Walter Hoess (89th at 20:29.9), senior Kyle Kisslinger (94th at 20:44.7) and sophomore Benjamin McEwen (108th at 21:59.8).

Besides Ferri, three other Haldane girls qualified to run as individuals in Class D: sophomore Elizabeth Nelson finished 85th in 26:40, senior Meghan Ferri was



Adam Silhavy, Coach Tom Locascio and Shannon Ferri

Photo provided

87th in 27:17 and sophomore Autumn Harman was 99th in 29:27.1.

Beacon Boys Finish 12th at Sectional

Cader leads Bulldogs in 5K at 18:31

The Beacon boys' cross-country team finished 12th of 17 teams at the Section 1, Class B championships held Nov. 3 at Bowdoin Park in Wappingers Falls.

Sophomore Zachary Cader led the Bulldogs, finishing 12th of 144 runners on the 5K course in 18:31.5. Ryan Cory, a senior, finished 47th in 19:37.8 and Evan LaBelle was 63rd in 20:02.7. Six other Beacon runners also competed: Matthew Dowd, Stephen Schneider, Panagiotis Vakirtzis, Salvatore Migliore, Kaleb Istvan and Robert Atwell.

The sole female runner to qualify for the Bulldogs was freshman Lauren Shanahan, who finished 65th of 93 runners in 25:50.

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The Beacon boys' cross-country team at the Section 1 championships

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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 held in a nurturing way (7)	_____
2 like a cat burglar (8)	_____
3 with kindness (6)	_____
4 Prince Harry & Lindsay Lohan (7)	_____
5 coup (6)	_____
6 subject to the conditions of (5)	_____
7 more pointed, in a way (7)	_____

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SEE ANSWERS: PAGE 6

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SPORTS

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Haldane Girls Can't Stop Stillwater

By Skip Pearlman

The Haldane High School girls' soccer team, in freezing weather and snow, fell to Stillwater, 4-0, in the state Class C semifinals on Nov. 10 at Cortland High School near Binghamton.

Haldane finished 9-10-1 after winning the Section 1 and regional championships to reach the Final Four. Stillwater won the state championship the next day, shutting out Little Falls, 5-0, to finish 22-0-1. In seven tournament games, only one team scored a goal against Stillwater, and over the season it outscored opponents 129-16.

Keeper Abigail Platt was busy in the net against a relentless Warriors attack, finishing with 21 saves. Haldane finished ranked as the fourth-best Class C team in the state by the New York Sportswriters Association.

Photos by Damian McDonald and Scott Warren

