The Adventures of Cider Man

Cold Spring Ciderworks part of growing trend

By Michael Turton

Geography played a big part in Bill Sussman’s switch from wine to hard apple cider — not just as a beverage, but for what he hopes will be a thriving business.

“I wanted to make really good wine,” the Cold Spring resident says, recalling how in his 20s he made wine in his parents’ basement on Long Island. The problem, he realized, is that New York’s climate is not ideal for fine wines. “Riesling can be good, but overall the wine will never be great.”

On the other hand, Sussman, who studied agricultural economics at Cornell University, believes alcoholic cider produced in New York has tremendous potential.

In 2017, he produced 40 gallons at the Slyboro cidery in Granville with apples from Fishkill Farms. But the 163-mile drive north proved impractical and last year Sussman moved his Cold Spring Ciderworks label to Orchard Hill Cider Mill in New Hampton, 37 miles west of Philipstown.

Using 13 apple varieties from three sources, Sussman upped production in 2018 to 300 gallons, enough to fill 2,400 16-ounce bottles. Most will be sold at Orchard Hill’s tap room. “It’s the easiest way to get started,” Sussman says. He and Orchard Hill will also share a booth in August at the Putnam County Food & Wine Fest at Mayor’s Park in Cold Spring.

Cold Spring Ciderworks is dry — which Sussman prefers — and 6.7 percent alcohol. Sussman says he is learning as he goes. At a cider production course at Cornell last fall, he learned how to make cider from apples using a process similar to beer.

Bill Sussman with the raw ingredients and final bottling of his Cold Spring Cider

(Continued on Page 22)
Florence Northcutt, who has volunteered at the Howland Cultural Center in Beacon for 33 years and is a longtime member of its board, will be honored on Wednesday, May 15, as part of a gala to celebrate its 40th anniversary.

What have been the main accomplishments at the center?
Two things. We’ve taken good care of the building [which was built in 1872], although there is more to do. It’s a gem; you could never grow tired of this building. We’ve also expanded the city’s cultural and artistic life. There are other places that show art or host music, but the Howland Center has everything. That’s why people call it “the jewel of Beacon.”

How does the Beacon cultural scene compare to 1986?
On a scale from 1 to 10? It’s at least a 25. When we started, Main Street was in bad shape; the buildings across the street were boarded up. After the library moved out of the center, the group that saved the building began exhibiting art and hosting a few concerts. It was on its way. Main Street has undergone such a metamorphosis since Ron and Ronnie Sauer restored the first buildings. I’d love to see more live theater here. I like dramas, although many people prefer musicals.

You had a career in education. Did that help with your work?
I was a speech therapist, but no matter what you do in education you have to be well-prepared, structured and creative. They say teaching is a combination of art and science, and the same is true of running the Howland Center. It’s important to be involved in the creation of programs here, to see what the community needs.

Is there a program you’re especially proud of?
One dear to my heart is the marionette show we put on each Christmas. It’s a husband-and-wife team who studied with Jim Henson [the creator of the Muppets]. It’s wonderful to see a roomful of children totally immersed.

What’s the biggest challenge for the center?
We live a hand-to-mouth existence, which is why we don’t have a full-time executive director. We’re not subsidized by the city. We depend on grants, membership, donations, program revenues. I’d like to see the center become much more financially secure. But, we have a good board. We get things done.
Building Support for New Freeze
Beacon council members weigh another moratorium

By Jeff Simms

Beacon’s building boom is still going strong, with developments containing more than 80 new apartments scheduled for review at next week’s Planning Board meeting, including a request to add a partial fourth floor and an additional unit to a project at what was formerly a pizzeria at 208 Main St.

As that and other proposals move forward, however, members of the City Council could soon consider a moratorium on new building permits while they complete a review of the city’s zoning codes. That review has so far lasted 18 months; it began shortly after the council in September 2017 imposed a six-month moratorium on most residential and commercial development.

Jodi McCredo, who represents Ward 3, said during the council’s May 6 meeting that she hopes her colleagues will discuss another freeze. “There are a lot of things that we still need to work on,” she said, including the linkage and historic districts and parking. McCredo elaborated on Wednesday, saying development continues to move too quickly in Beacon.

While the council has revised zoning on Main Street and along Fishkill Creek and other environmentally sensitive areas, “we’re constantly racing against the clock,” she said, “and that’s not fair. If we pass a law and it’s no good, the next council can change the law, but once a building goes up, it’s up.”

Council Member Lee Kyriacou made similar comments several weeks ago, saying he is open to another moratorium while the council reconsiders regulations in the riverfront-to-Main Street linkage zone and how to protect scenic viewsheds.

The 2017 building freeze came after concerns were raised about the city’s long-term water supply. But after a consultant’s report concluded in March 2018 that the city had sufficient water to sustain its projected population through 2035, the council did not renew the ban when it expired later that month.

Under state law, a building freeze can only be enacted to address a specific situation, such as lack of water, where the public good is “substantially” being affected. Mayor Randy Casale said he doesn’t believe that’s the case now.

“You can’t have a moratorium every time you don’t like the way things are going,” he said. “I don’t see a compelling reason to have one.”

But McCredo argues that a freeze would allow the city to study the aggregate effects she believes are slipping through the cracks of the State Environmental Quality Review (SEQR) that each development must pass.

While SEQR laws require Beacon officials — in most cases, the Planning Board — to consider the impact each development will have on schools, parking and roads, the process looks at proposals individually, rather than collectively, McCredo said.

Reached this week by email, the four other council members — Amber Grant, George Mansfield, Terry Nelson and John Rembert — each said they would consider another moratorium.

On May 14, the Planning Board — in addition to reviewing the request for changes to the approved plans for 208 Main St. — will continue its study of a proposed microbrewery and event space at 511 Fishkill Ave. It also will hold public hearings on developments proposed for 248 Tioronda, 23-28 Creek Drive, and a 9-unit complex at 53 Eliza St.

The review of a proposal to build six 4-story condos on the half-acre “Welcome to Beacon” site across from the Metro-North station, known as Ferry Landing, was postponed until next month.

Philipstown Discusses Community Garden
Also extends vape shop ban, protests Percherons

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

The Philipstown Town Board — in three meetings in seven days — took up issues ranging from better Recreation Department lighting, fields (for crops or sports), vape shops, a county Percheron purchase, and Upland Drive — a narrow, muddy mountain lane that appears better suited for horses than horse-powered vehicles.

On May 1, Garrison resident Tim Donovan briefed the board on the concept of a community garden on a 10.8-acre parcel at the intersection of Route 9D and Route 403, near the Desmond-Fish Library.

The town government acquired the land as a gift in 2017 from the Scenic Hudson Land Trust and the Open Space Institute. The commission supported the idea, he said, “and that’s not fair. If we pass a law and it’s no good, the next council can change the law, but once a building goes up, it’s up.”

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The review of a proposal to build six 4-story condos on the half-acre “Welcome to Beacon” site across from the Metro-North station, known as Ferry Landing, was postponed until next month.

(Continued on Page 21)
Beacon market

It seems to me that Mayor Randy Casale wanted the market moved (“Beacon Farmers’ Market Must Move Again,” May 3). His comment about Common Ground staff’s need for “due diligence” in getting the lease signed only points to his eagerness to do so. He certainly could have arranged for Common Ground to re-lease the space. The market near the Towne Crier Cafe is a big draw for local businesses as well as its vendors. I fear that moving it will clearly confuse people and decrease its attendance. I also wonder about the comment by Phil Ciganer of the Towne Crier about not being able to find parking. I visit the market often and always find a spot without difficulty, regardless of the time of day. I do understand the issues for musicians with unloading equipment for a Sunday concert. Perhaps a portion of the parking lot can be allocated for that.

Larry Lebow, Cold Spring

Editor’s note: The City Council reversed course on Monday (May 6), voting to keep the market at Veterans Place for another year. See story on Page 1.

It seems to be a lot of crying from the owner of the Towne Crier, who, when he first moved in, had his City Council move Frankie’s hot-dog wagon away from a corner he was at for more than 25 years, saying it interfered with his business. It did not. When he was not allowed to sell hard liquor because it was too close to the mosque, he got his City Council to help convince the state Liquor Authority to approve him.

I wonder how long it will be before the developer down by the DMV building gets their City Council to not allow the market there, as it will interfere with the developer’s plan of taking over the whole parking lot so they can construct more buildings with no parking.

The mayor says the farmers’ market knew the lease had to be done but waited too long and used that lame excuse to deny them the license. I guess he’s used to the developers’ high-priced lawyers showing up with paperwork all in order and ready to go.

What were these market people thinking? The nerve of them.

Dennis Moroney, Beacon

Editor’s note: When the Towne Crier moved to Main Street in 2013, Ciganer said: “There is no opposition from [the mosque]. Even before I made a decision to move here, I met with the imam to let him know what my thinking was.”

More Seeger stories

Our favorite memories of Pete Seeger are of him playing music with anyone who showed up at the Beacon Sloop Club meetings with an instrument or the desire to sing (“Remembering Pete Seeger,” May 3). The sing-a-longs showed us the power of song in action.

Meeting Pete and sharing songs and meals with him, his wife Toshi and others at the Sloop Club profoundly affected our family and our devotion to environmentalism, social justice and the power of community. We feel so fortunate to have met him.

Jill and Taggart Lake, Garrison

For those of us living in the Hudson Valley, we have been so extraordinarily privileged for Pete to have been our neighbor and friend. He was truly a giant of the 20th century, giving inspiration to every movement for peace, justice and a cleaner, survivable future.

Pete and Toshi were neighbors to me and my late husband, Art Kamell, and we considered them our best friends. Pete taught us that music, kindness and friendship will change the world step-by-step. He continues to be with us every minute of our lives, whether we are walking the walk during vigils and demonstrations, talking the talk cleaning up his beloved Hudson, or singing his songs.

Connie Hogarth, Beacon

When I heard a news report that Pete had died, it was like hearing the Big Dipper won’t be coming over the mountains any more.

Living in the Hudson Valley, it seemed like we were always catching sight of Pete—at potlucks, jams or rallies, or just slinging his banjo case through Grand Central. He’d use his beloved voice and music and presence to help wherever he could: to unite communities, move people to action or simply share joy.

The year I swam the Hudson River from Newburgh to Beacon, the first thing to greet my blurry eyes as I rose from the water was old Pete himself, picking up litter at the river’s edge.

We were privileged to hear him at the Towne Crier, where he was warming the stage with a Weavers tribute band. I was frustrated trying to take a picture because there was so much light pouring from the stage. But the next morning, magically, one photo included an image of a bodhisattva, a painting of an old saint, with his symbol of deliverance.

Irene O’Garden, Garrison

I was part of the team that reopened the Paramount Theater in Peekskill in 2013. We hosted one of Pete’s last concerts, a fundraiser for the public-radio station WAMC.

The Paramount has three flights of dressing rooms with some relatively steep stairs. With that in mind, I had a dressing room designed for Pete at stage level. He said it was nice but asked, “Where is everyone else?” When I told him, he proceeded with banjo and guitar to march upstairs. He had the strength and will of people 40 years his junior.

Ray Wilson, Garrison

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.
**Letters and Comments**

**Breakneck boulder**

Your article is misleading because only one section of the Breakneck Ridge Trail (albeit, the most popular starting point) is closed (“Boulder Blocks Breakneck Trail,” May 3). There are many other routes and entrances to the trail.

Also, it would be great to have more information on exactly who closed the trail and on what basis. Did an engineer make the determination?

I hike this trail almost every day. A few weeks ago I noticed a large boulder had moved about 30 feet. It was surprising, but other than that there are no other changes. Although the boulder had been there for a couple of weeks, Route 9D was closed for a short time. The trail also was closed from the tunnel entrance to the Yellow Trail.

What surprises me is the lack of information regarding the closure and that all the news reports inaccurately describe the closure as if the entire trail is closed rather than one section.

— Dan O’Brien, Cold Spring

**Editor: The state parks department has provided no details or updates that we could find except a note on its website that reads: “The Breakneck Ridge trail is temporarily closed due to a recent rock fall.” When we called the park to get information, we were referred to Albany. When we called and emailed Albany, there was no response. The entrance to the main trail remained closed as of Thursday, May 9.**

**Cold Spring stoplight**

Admittedly, it has taken the 100th anniversary of the birth of Pete Seeger to snap me out of my winter doldrums and embrace the principles that I learned growing up—Fight the power!—although I am confused about what exactly the mayor of Cold Spring is saying about the need for another traffic light.

Some of the legal restrictions are logical responses to their offenses. For example, those convicted of a felony are banned from possessing a firearm or serving on a jury. Drug dealers are denied a passport. Those guilty of child abuse or neglect are disqualified from adopting a child or serving as a foster parent. Occupational licensure may be restricted when there is a direct relationship between the conviction and the license sought.

It’s hard to see what purpose is served by denying voting rights to people who are re-entering society under the supervision of the parole system. The ability to vote encourages such people to pay attention to how their community is represented in the halls of government. That is just the sort of civic commitment we should be asking of those who have served time in prison for a criminal offense.

— Rob Abbot, Croton

**WANTED**

**GEESCHACHING DOGS**

Do you have a dog that you would like to exercise leash free at Mayor’s Park in Cold Spring?

Philipstown residents can pick up a FREE permit and regulations at the Village Hall, 85 Main Street. Contact Village Clerk with any questions 845-265-3611.

— Gregory Bochow, Cold Spring

**Editor’s note: The bill, which has been introduced in every session since 2009, has been referred to committee in both the Assembly and Senate.**

**Voting rights**

New York state legislators are considering a bill (S1931) that would automatically restore voting rights for residents who have been released from prison on parole.

This change would be a sensible addition to the state’s efforts to reform the criminal justice system. Citizens who are rejoining society after release from prison should be encouraged to participate in the civic life of their communities.

— Rob Abbot, Croton

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New State Laws  
And how legislators voted

By Chip Rowe

These bills have been signed into law by Gov. Andrew Cuomo since March 25. The votes of state Sen. Sue Serino (a Republican whose district includes the Highlands), Sandy Galef (a Democrat whose Assembly district includes Philipstown) and Jonathan Jacobson (another Democrat whose Assembly district includes Beacon) are noted.

- In 2015, the state made it mandatory to include the results of annual state assessments — Common Core tests in math and English given to grades 3 through 8 and Regents exams given in high school — in teacher evaluations. The state teachers’ union protested and about 20 percent of students statewide in grades 3 to 8 opted out of taking the tests. (Last year at Haldane, it was about 20 percent; in Garrison, about 25 percent; and in Beacon, about 33 percent.) This new law allows districts and teachers to negotiate whether standardized tests should be part of teacher evaluations. The state teachers’ union (a Republican whose district includes the Highlands), Sandy Galef (a Democrat whose Assembly district includes Beacon) are noted.

- This law allows undocumented immigrants to obtain financial aid to attend state universities and community colleges and creates a commission to raise money for scholarships for the children of all immigrants. Undocumented students who apply for aid must have attended a New York high school for at least two years and have applied for citizenship. The law also eliminates the citizenship requirement to open a 529 tuition savings account. The bill was named for the late state Sen. Jose Peralta, who first introduced it in 2013.

Senate passed 40-20
Serino

Assembly passed 97-42
Galef

- In August, Cuomo signed a law that created the nation’s first commission on prosecutorial misconduct with authority over the state’s 62 district attorneys, including those in Putnam and Dutchess counties. Any member of the public can file a complaint alleging misconduct or questioning a prosecutor’s fitness for office. Under the law, the commission would include three members appointed by the chief justice of the state’s highest court; two by the governor; and six by legislative leaders. However, after the state district attorneys’ association sued, the governor agreed to put the commission on hold. This amended law, signed by the governor on March 27, moves jurisdiction for appeals to the Appellate Division instead of the high court; requires two of the chief justice’s three appointees to be retired judges; allows the governor and legislators to each appoint four members, half of whom must be defense attorneys; and prevents the commission from interfering in active investigations. The district attorneys’ association said it was not enough and that Cuomo should have vetoed the bill.

Senate voted 45-16
Serino

Assembly voted 99-48
Galef

- This law requires that all limited liability companies (LLCs) that make political contributions provide the names of their owners and the percentage of each owner’s interest to the Board of Elections.

Senate voted 55-6
Serino

Assembly voted 133-13
Galef

- In response to the “America-First Offshore Energy Strategy” issued by President Trump in 2017 that would open formerly restricted coastal areas to oil and natural gas exploration and drilling, this law bans offshore drilling in New York’s coastal waters or the issuing of state permits to expand drilling in federal waters. It also bans building infrastructure for exploration or drilling. “This bill says no way are you going to drill off the coast of Long Island and New York,” Cuomo said at the signing ceremony.

Senate voted 47-14
Serino

Assembly voted 121-22
Galef

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— Andrés Piñero Coen, social media consultant

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Cold Spring Holds Firm On Dockside Fees

Also, electricity program to begin June 1

By Michael Turton

Cold Spring’s newly adopted fee schedule to rent Dockside Park faced its first test at the May 7 meeting of the Village Board.

Trustees voted down a request from Brian Grahn of Hudson River Expeditions to reduce the $2,500 charge for a two-night campout during the Hudson River Paddle in early July, when as many as 40 kayakers and canoeists would stop during a five-day trip from Poughkeepsie to New York City.

Hudson River Expeditions, which is based in Cold Spring, handles logistics for the trip on behalf of the Hudson Valley RiverGreenway, a state agency that promotes and recreational use of resources along the river.

Last year, before management of Dockside passed from the state (which owns the 6-acre parcel) to the village, The Hudson River Paddle charged $2,500 for a two-night campout.

The village will solicit new bids for repairing the firehouse in the next round of bids for repairing the firehouse roof.

“A few are poor,” Mayor Dave Merandy said just before the vote, adding that the fee is part of the “cost of doing business.”

Earlier in the meeting the mayor pointed out that the village receives no financial assistance for maintaining Dockside and that any improvements made there would not be funded by user fees.

Grahn said he had no comment on the board’s decision. Participants in The Hudson River Paddle pay $1,000 each to participate in the event, which is billed as the Hudson River Paddle.

The board the event could not afford $2,500, so the village voted 3-0 to reduce the $2,500 charge for a two-night campout.

Also, electricity program to begin June 1

By Michael Turton

Hudson Valley Energy’s Community Choice Aggregation partnership, the village signed an agreement with Direct Energy to provide electricity to all residents and small businesses starting June 1. Volto said Direct Energy will supply the electricity from renewable sources for 6.3 cents per kilowatt-hour, slightly less than what Central Hudson charges. Residents are automatically enrolled and do not need to take any action. A letter explaining the program will be mailed to all residents.

The village will solicit new bids for repairing 130 feet of the stone wall along the north side of Main Street east of Morris Avenue.

The Village of Cold Spring took over management of Dockside Park last month. The 6-acre riverside site, part of the Hudson Highlands State Park Preserve, is open year-round for passive recreation and can now also be rented for private events.

The Dockside Park User Guide, approved by the board at its April 23 meeting, details permitted and prohibited activities as well as how to rent the site for weddings, graduations and other private events. It includes application forms and is available at coldspringgov and at Village Hall at 35 Main St. Some highlights from the policy appear below.

Private Events

Events must be approved in advance by the Village Board. The area would be roped off, with the park remaining open to the public. All public gatherings are permitted only with a state permit.

The guide includes details on parking, insurance requirements, security deposits, tents, caterers, vendors, music, portable toilets, trash removal, set up and breakdown.

Private Event Fees

Wedding Ceremony: $300 for the first hour, $200 each additional hour. Ceremony and Reception: $1,200 for 12 hours; $250 each additional hour. Ticketed events: $1,200 per 12-hour day. Other events: $250 per hour.

Police (if required): $38 per hour, per officer.

Other Fees

Commercial filming, photography: Permit required; fees vary depending on scope of project.

Boating

Carry-in kayaks, rowboats, canoes and similar craft are permitted but motorized boats cannot be launched. A permit is required for a trailer drop.

NOTICE OF ANNUAL PUBLIC HEARING ON THE BUDGET, ANNUAL MEETING, ELECTION AND VOTE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Board of Education of the Beacon City School District, Dutchess County, New York, will hold a public hearing on the budget at Beacon High School, 101 Matteawan Road, Beacon, New York, on Monday, May 13, 2019 at 7:00 PM, for the purpose of presenting the budget document for the 2019-2020 School Year.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that a copy of the statement of the amount of money which will be required for School District purposes during the 2019-2020 school year (the Budget), as prepared by the Board of Education, may be obtained by any resident of the District during (1) the immediately preceding the Annual Meeting, Election and Vote, commencing May 1, 2019, except Saturday, Sunday or holidays during regular school hours, 8:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M., at each of the District’s schoolhouses, at the Administrative Offices, on the District’s website.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the Annual Meeting, Election and Vote, will be held on Tuesday, May 21, 2019, between the hours of 7:00 A.M. and 9:00 P.M., prevailing time, when the polls will be open for the purpose of voting by voting machines:

A. To elect three (3) members to the Board of Education for three year terms (commencing July 1, 2019 and expiring June 30, 2022).

B. To vote upon the appropriation of the necessary funds to meet the estimated expenditures for School District purposes for the year 2019-2020 School Year (the Budget).

C. To vote upon the following propositions: Shall the bond resolution adopted by the Board of Education of the City School Districts of the City of Beacon, Duchess County, New York, dated March 11, 2019, authorizing the purchase of school bonds at a maximum estimated cost of $450,000; authorizing the issuance of $450,000 bonds of said School District to pay the costs thereof; and that such sum or so much as may be necessary shall be raised by the levy of a tax upon the taxable real property of said School District and which shall be in addition to the school taxes levied in the current year shall be for the purpose of: School District purposes for the 2019-2020 School Year; paying the costs of the bonds as they come due; providing that, in anticipation of said tax, obligations of the School District shall be issued; determining the period of probable usefulness and maximum maturity thereof to be five years; pledging the faith and credit of said School District for the payment on said bond; the obligating the chief fiscal officer with respect to the issuance and sale of bond anticipation notes and such bonds, containing an esoppel clause and providing for the publishing of an escrow notice, he approved.

D. To vote on any other proposition not previously presented.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that for the purposes of voting, the School District has been divided into two (2) election districts and that an accurate description of the boundaries of these school election districts is on file and may be inspected at the Office of the District Clerk on weekdays when school is in session, during regular school hours, 8:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M., at the Administrative Offices, 10 Education Drive, Beacon, New York, as the date on which the Board of Registration of said School District will meet between the hours of 8:00 A.M. and 4:00 P.M., prevailing time, beginning fourteen (14) days prior to the Annual Meeting, Election and Vote. Said register shall be open for inspection by any qualified voter of the District between the hours of 8:00 A.M. and 4:00 P.M., prevailing time, during regular school hours, 8:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M., preceding the Annual Meeting, Election and Vote, Wednesday, May 15, 2019.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that petitions for nominating candidates for the office of member of the Board of Education of the Beacon City School District, shall be submitted to the Secretary of the Board of Education on or before the 20th day preceding the Annual Meeting, Election and Vote, Wednesday, May 15, 2019. Such petitions must be signed by at least one hundred (100) qualified voters of the District, shall state the name and residence address of each signer and the name and residence address of the candidate. Petition forms may be obtained at the Office of the District Clerk on weekdays when school is in session, during regular business hours, 8:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the Board of Education of the Beacon City School District, Duchess County, New York, has fixed Tuesday, May 7, 2019, at the Administrative Offices, 10 Education Drive, Beacon, New York, as the date on which the Board of Registration of said School District will meet between the hours of 1:00 P.M. and 5:00 P.M., prevailing time, for the purpose of preparing the register of the School District for each election held by the Board of Registration for the Annual Meeting, Election and Vote, held on Tuesday, May 21, 2019, at which time any person shall be entitled to have his/her name placed upon such register if known or proven to the satisfaction of the registrars to be hereinafter entitled to vote. Persons whose registration to vote with the County Board of Elections is current, pursuant to Article 3 of the Election Law, shall be qualified to vote without further registering with the School District’s Board of Registration, as well as all persons who shall have previously registered for any annual or special district meeting or election and who shall have voted at any annual or special district meeting or election held or conducted at any time during the 2015, 2016, 2017 or 2018 calendar years.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the register of voters so prepared shall be filed in the Office of the District Clerk and shall be open for inspection by any qualified voter of the District between the hours of 8:00 A.M. and 4:00 P.M., prevailing time, beginning fourteen (14) days before the Annual Meeting, Election and Vote. Said register will be open for inspection in each of the polling places during the Annual Meeting, Election and Vote.

NOTE IS FURTHER GIVEN that applications for absentee ballots for the Annual Meeting, Election and Vote may be obtained at the Office of the District Clerk or downloaded from the school district website. The completed applications must be received by the District Clerk at least seven (7) days prior to the election if the ballot is to be mailed or the day before the election, if the ballot will be picked up at the Office of the District Clerk. Absentee ballots must be received at the Office of the District Clerk no later than 5:00 P.M., prevailing time, on the day of the election. A list of all persons to whom absentee ballots shall have been issued will be available at the said Office of the District Clerk during regular office hours until the day of the Annual Meeting, Election and Vote. Any qualified voter may file a written challenge of the qualifications of a voter whose name appears on such list, stating the reasons for the challenge.

Dated: March 11, 2019

By the Order of the Board of Education of the Beacon City School District

Kelly Polage, School District Clerk
Metro-North Overtime Jumps
Report: Up $40 million since 2013

Overtime payments for Metro-North employees jumped to $125 million in 2018, more than $40 million more than five years ago, according to an analysis by the Empire Center, a think tank based in Albany. Payroll costs for the entire Metropolitan Transportation Authority rose $418 million in 2018, or $82 million more than the agency has said it hopes to raise each year with recent fare and toll hikes.

At Metro-North, which includes trains on the Poughkeepsie and Grand Central Station, 77 employees collected more than $100,000 in overtime each, and 125 employees collected enough overtime to more than double their salaries, according to the Empire Center. Metro-North's 7,208 employees earned an average of $95,778 last year, it said.

The three highest-paid hourly Metro-North employees were Eduardo Vargas, a machinist, at $296,367; Harry Dobson, a structures supervisor, at $301,626; and Walter Burger III, stations and facilities track supervisor, at $311,706; and Albert Santini, chief engineer, at $263,250; Rinaldi, agency president, at $297,253; and Catherine Santini, at $250,075.

The three highest-paid hourly Metro-North employees were Richard Bourt Jr., a track supervisor, at $311,706; Harry Dobson, a structures supervisor, at $301,626; and Eduardo Vargas, a machinist, at $296,367.

In the salaried management ranks, the highest-paid employees were Catherine Rinaldi, agency president, at $297,253; Albert Santini, chief engineer, at $263,250; and Walter Burger III, stations and facilities department director, at $250,075.

As a result of the Empire Center report, MTA Chairman Patrick Foye launched an investigation. “Some overtime is to be expected at any public transit agency, in order to keep up with critical repairs and maintenance, especially at a time of extraordinary work being done around the system,” he said in a statement. “But the accumulation of so many hours of overtime raises serious questions, including potential safety issues such as exhaustion.”

chamber holds annual awards dinner

The Cold Spring Area Chamber of Commerce held its annual awards dinner on April 25 at Dutchess Manor and the Cold Spring Cheese Shop and Hudson House River Inn won honors after voting by the public.

Nominees for the People’s Choice Awards are selected by the chamber board and put to a vote online.

The New Business of the Year Award was presented to the owners of the Cold Spring Cheese Shop. The other nominees were Chapeau, Dolly's Restaurant, Poor George and Split Rock Books.

The Silver Business of the Year Award, for firms that have been open for 25 years or more, went to Hudson House. The other nominees were Badey & Watson, the Cold Spring Depot Restaurant and Romeo & Juliet Salon.

The chamber also presented three other awards, including a new honor, the Collaboration of the Year Award, to recognize groups that work together to improve the local quality of life. It went to the Philipstown Community Congress and the Philipstown Communities That Care Coalition. The congress created a public forum for residents to discuss issues facing the community, which provided a platform for the CTC Coalition to pursue its work on addiction prevention and treatment.

The Sustainable Business Award went to Sean and Lindsey Barton of Cockburn Farm. This award is given to a business that demonstrates the principles of sustainability and renewable practices.

Mayor Dave Merandy presented the James G. Lovell Community Award to Kim Conner, the manager of the Philipstown Community Food Pantry, which publishes this newspaper.

The chamber presented its annual Philip Baumgarten Memorial Scholarship Award to Samuel Curto of Haldane High School. The $1,000 award is given to a high school senior from Philipstown with outstanding skill and an interest in entrepreneurship.

The Philipstown Management Association, which works to make Philipstown a more attractive place, was given the Philipstown Management Association’s Business of the Year Award.

Finally, Board Member Kate Liberman was recognized for her past service as president of the chamber.
Natural Forces

Manitoga artist uses bark, fire to open eyes

By Alison Rooney

Each year Manitoga, the home and garden in Garrison that belonged to designer Russel Wright, invites an artist to create works inspired by its space. This year Michele Oka Doner, a sculptor, became the program's sixth participant.

Her contribution, Close Your Physical Eye, consists of two installations, the first a series of six monoprints, each representing gods and goddesses of the natural world, created from bark gathered from the forest floor at the 75-acre site. (Unfortunately, there was plenty to choose from, as the hemlocks have been stricken with woolly adelgid.)

She made the prints on handmade paper, also derived from bark, from Wildwood Press. These “forest ancestors” were framed in linen and hung in the west gallery of the Wright house.

“Are they sentinels protecting Manitoga, our place of great spirit, or seers portending an uncertain future?” asks Allison Cross, Manitoga's director. She leans toward the former, citing Doner’s “great belief in humanity and its steady march toward enlightenment. Her figures are looming and dark, but I see them as hopeful, a rebirth, from the organic materials.”

The second installation is “Burning Star,” a darkened bronze sculpture made from an ancient oak trunk discovered in Manitoga's woodlands, then cast at the Tallix Foundry in Rock Tavern. It resides in the fireplace in the living room, which Wright always considered “the burning heart of the house,” Cross says. There are 16 points of candle light on the sculpture, which Doner says represent “the rituals of daily life. I made a ceremony of lighting fire in the hearth, serving a meal.” (She is working on a companion piece.)

Doner, who is in her 70s, grew up in Miami and attended the University of Michigan. The art department there was part of the School of Architecture, which she believes has influenced her work. After graduation, she remained in Ann Arbor, running a studio, then moved to Detroit and, in 1981, to New York. (She has a studio in SoHo.) She visited

Flowing Through the Ice House

Curator opens art space in former freezer

By Alison Rooney

In the 1920s, the blue buildings along Garrison’s Mandalay Drive formed an agro-industrial complex that housed the staff and laborers of an estate on the Hudson River. Among the six structures (which had the same ownership from the 1970s until two years ago) was an icehouse. Channels from a concrete pond ran into the house, where the water became ice.

Today the icehouse has been re-purposed as an art space also called The Ice House, operated by Philipstown newcomer Jayne Drost Johnson.

Through her firm JDJ, Johnson runs what she calls an “art program,” rather than a gallery. “I want to retain a sense of fluidity,” she explains. “For some, the word gallery means a stable of artists whom you represent and you do shows of. That could happen, but for now I want to be responsive to what artists need, whatever the artistic content is.”

The Ice House includes two structures: the former icehouse and, just across the lane, a cottage, which is usually where Johnson stays on weekends with her husband and their young daughter. (The family divides its time between Brooklyn and Garrison.) Since its December opening, The Ice House has hosted four exhibits in the two spaces. The larger space has high ceilings and a floor-to-ceiling window that provides natural light. A metal spiral staircase winds its way upward.

Johnson says she found the space by happenstance, soon after her daughter was
Manitoga before it opened to the public in 2004 because she had friends who were tenants in the Wright house.

During the 1980s and 1990s, Doner designed a number of large-scale public art installations, including “Radiant Site,” a mile-long tile wall at the Herald Square subway station in New York City, and “A Walk in the Beach,” a 2.5-mile concourse at the Miami International Airport made of dark terrazzo inlaid with bronze and mother-of-pearl.

Over the past decade, Cross says, Doner has become interested in fire. “The fire can take many forms: the firing of clay, working with her hands, fire as part of the process of casting her works,” Cross says. “Russel Wright was also inspired by fire; he lit his candelabra every night, seasonally.

“She talks about work as an evolution, exploration, continuum,” says Cross of the artist, who is also in the midst of a five-year residency at the New York Botanical Garden. “Russel Wright felt the same about process and evolving, about design, ritual. He made a life here that was ritualistic. There are so many connections: grounding in plant life and nature, the idea of regeneration and connection.

“She has a belief that we are in a cycle of which this is just one chapter, and that’s the way it was before our time, how it is now, and that this cycle will continue. Her work delves deep.”

The installation will be on view in tours that begin today (May 10), as well as during programs and events. It runs through Nov 11, the close of the season. An opening reception for members is scheduled for June 8.

Manitoga is located at 584 Route 9D. See visitmanitoga.org or call 845-422-2380. To purchase tour tickets, see brownpapertickets.com/profile/7669.

Ice House (from Page 9)

Born, and after 15 years of working in the New York art world, “I had one of those middle-of-the-night ideas, got up, looked online and saw pictures of this place,” she recalls. “I went to take a look and realized I couldn’t have dreamed it up. Having an art experience that feels this intimate would not be possible in New York City.”

Visitors have come every weekend so far, she says, “although getting people over the mental hurdle of getting on a train can be challenging, but I think it will be a lot less so now that spring is here.” She says that while making an appointment may be off-putting for some (she hopes to eventually have set hours), she encourages everyone to call and come by.

The Ice House’s current exhibit, Future Homemakers of America, by Mark Barrow and Sarah Parke, includes paintings on hand-woven fabric, drawings, a window installation and wallpaper. It runs through June 16. The title, Johnson says, is a reference to artists fusing their work and home lives.

Also showing, in the cottage, is an untitled piece by Robert Barber, from his FreeWay Series (1973-74).

Previous exhibits have included a group show by three artists working with found objects, a solo show by Peeks, a solo show by Peeks, and there is a parking area on the north side of the building. To visit, call or text 518-339-6913 or email jayne@jdjworld.com.

The Ice House is located at 17 Mandalay Drive, off Route 9D, about a miles north of the Bear Mountain Bridge. The exhibition space is the tall building next to the pond, and there is a parking area on the north side of the building. To visit, call or text 518-339-6913 or email jayne@jdjworld.com.

Natural Forces (from Page 9)

The Ice House's current exhibit, Future Homemakers of America, by Mark Barrow and Sarah Parke, includes paintings on hand-woven fabric, drawings, a window installation and wallpaper. It runs through June 16. The title, Johnson says, is a reference to artists fusing their work and home lives.
iGuitar Stays in Tune

Lessons from local inventor and musician

By Michael Turton

Patrick Cummings first showed off his iGuitar at a 2005 trade show. His invention transforms an electric guitar into an orchestra thanks to three technological components: a USB port linking the guitar to a computer; a magnetic pickup called a piezo that mimics the sound of an acoustic guitar; and a synthesizer access that can replicate the sound of any musical instrument, from an organ to a violin.

"It’s like comparing the 64 Crayola box to a No. 2 pencil," he says from his shop on Main Street in Nelsonville. "You can create a symphony."

When the iGuitar is connected to an iPad with the right software, a player can also record his own music, adding additional tracks such as bass and drums.

Cummings patented his technology but, unfortunately, since The Current first profiled him in 2012, copycat versions from Singapore and China have appeared on the market. It was a difficult learning experience.

"All a U.S. patent guarantees you is the ability to spend $600 an hour on a patent attorney to defend it," Cummings says. "If you can't do that, the patent is meaningless."

There was domestic competition, as well, but Cummings says he was prepared for that. "I’m still standing because I was crazy enough to go the distance" in litigating two U.S. guitar companies that he believed had violated his patents.

"Greed sets in, and big business is run by greed," Cummings said. "Big business looks at a little guy with a good idea, a guy sitting in a shop in Nelsonville, and they think he doesn't have the resources to fight them."

Cummings said he rolled the dice, guessing the companies wouldn't have patent attorneys on retainer. He was right.

"When they realized that even filing a response in court would cost them hundreds of thousands of dollars," they backed off, Cummings said. It helped that he knew he had an airtight case.

Once word spread through the industry that Cummings had stood his ground, infringements by U.S. manufacturers were no longer a problem, he says.

The USB-guitar didn't turn out to be the "home run" he had hoped for. Financial issues led him to downsize from a 17-employee operation in LaGrange to his one-man Nelsonville shop.

But there are no sour grapes. "This has been the most joyous time of my career," he said. "It's turned out to be a very positive thing." He now has licensing agreements with several companies that use his technology, including Massachusetts-based Fishman, which "builds electronics for almost every guitar on earth," including Fender and Martin.

Cummings sells conversion kits that start at $800 for musicians who can’t afford a custom-built instrument, and he also sells authorized Asian-made versions for $1,500. That’s possible because Chinese manufacturers realized "small business is the engine of growth in the U.S." and will fill small orders rather than relying on big contracts. "Instead of having to drive out to JFK to clear a big order through customs, small orders come right to my shop by UPS and I sell them on my website," he says.

He says the iGuitar allows guitarists to do the higher-paying work, including for movies and documentaries, that digital keyboard players monopolized for years. He saw this for himself in 2017 when he was hired to do background music and sound effects for Free to Rock, a documentary that examines how rock music helped end the Cold War.

“I don’t do projects like that every day, but it’s fun when it happens” Cummings says. “When the credits rolled it was pretty cool to see Patrick Cummings up there with the likes of Elton John, The Nitty Gritty Dirt Band, Elvis and The Beatles.”
**THE WEEK AHEAD**

Edited by Pamela Doan (calendar@highlandscurrent.org)

For a complete listing of events, see highlandscurrent.org/calendar.

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**SUN 12**

**Peekskill Garden Club**

**PEEKSKILL**

9 a.m. – 3 p.m. Riverfront Green Pavilion 914-208-0203

Annuals, perennials, roses, herbs, vegetables and hanging baskets will be available.

**SUN 12**

**Mother's Day Bird Walk**

**GARRISON**

9 a.m. Constitution Marsh 127 Warren Landing Road 845-265-2601 constitutionmarsh.audubon.org

Join a guided hike to look for nesting birds. Bring water and sun protection and dress for hiking.

**RSVP to cmacs@audubon.org. Free**

**SUN 12**

**Trivia with Austin Rogers**

7 p.m. Dogwood 47 E. Main St. 845-202-7500 facebook.com/beaconsoupkitchen

Jeopardy! champion Austin Rogers will host a night of trivia to benefit the Beacon Community Kitchen. The team limit is six members. Cost: $10 per person

**WEB 13**

**40th Anniversary Gala**

**BEACON**

5:30 – 8:30 p.m. The Roundhouse 845-831-4988

The Howland Cultural Center will celebrate its anniversary by honoring longtime volunteer Florence Northcutt (see Page 2) and the Howland Public Library, which once occupied the building. Cost: $75

**SAT 18**

**Household Hazardous Waste Collection**

**KENT**

9 a.m. Noon. Fanesthok Park, Carupus Beach Parking Lot Route 301 | 845-808-1390 x43125 putnamcountyny.com/green-putnam

Putnam County residents can drop cleaners, insecticides, herbicides and other chemicals. No commercial. See the website for a list of accepted items. Registration required.

**SAT 18**

**Pasture Walk**

**COLD SPRING**

11 a.m. 125 Stonecrop Lane | 845-265-9200

Tour Stonecrop's fields and pastures with the farm’s vegetable and livestock managers. Learn about the animals being raised, how a farmer assesses pasture for each breed, and where they’ll be grazing, and why. Learn what vegetables are being grown, and how the crew is adapting to climate change. Free

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**SUN 12**

**Verplanck Garden Club**

**FISHKILL**

9 a.m. – Noon, Town Hall | 807 Route 52 facebook.com/verplanckgardenclub

The nonprofit will offer Perennial plants from the gardens and herb seedlings and starts.

**SUN 12**

**Master Gardener Plant Sale**

**BREWSTER**

8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. CCE Putnam 1 Geneve Road | 845-278-6738 putnam.cce.cornell.edu

You’ll find organic heirloom and hybrid vegetables suited for Putnam gardens, annuals, herbs, perennial garden packs to attract pollinators, and native plants and shrubs. Get advice from Cornell’s master gardeners and bring a sample of soil for a free pH test.

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**SUN 12**

**Record and CD Fest**

**BEACON**

9 a.m. – 5 p.m. VFW Hall 413 Main St.

Browse analog music, as well as paraphernalia, memorabilia and stereo equipment offered by 25 vendors from four states.

**TUES 14**

**Chamber Breakfast**

**COLD SPRING**

9 a.m. Foundry Cafe 55 Main St. | 845-265-9200

At the Cold Spring Area Chamber of Commerce’s monthly meeting, speakers from local cultural institutions and organizations will share information about their upcoming summer programs. Cost: $5 (members free)

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**WEB 13**

**Run and Walk with the Dogs**

**BEACON**

10 a.m. Memorial Park facebook.com/afarinimalrescue

This fourth annual 5K run and walk is a fundraiser for the Animal Rescue Foundation. Cost: $25

**SUN 19**

**Diamonds for Deputies**

**COLD SPRING**

9 a.m. – 2 p.m. Jaymark Jewellers 3612 Route 9 | 845-265-9246 facebook.com/jaymarkjewellers

Meet members of the Putnam County Sheriff’s Office and explore law enforcement vehicles, including drones. Nicola’s Italian Restaurant will provide refreshments and Eloise Pearoall will perform. Proceeds from jewelry raffles will support the sheriff’s cadets program.

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**SUN 12**

**Tour Glynwood’s fields and grounds.**

**FORT MONTGOMERY**

11 a.m. – 4 p.m. Fort Montgomery 650 Route SW | 845-446-2134 parks.ny.gov/historic-sites

See hand-drill fire-making, flintknapping and a hide-tanning demonstration by Barry Keegan, an expert in historic Native American skills.

**SUN 19**

**Some Days**

**GARRISON**

1:30 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library 472 Route 403 | 845-424-3020 desmondfishlibrary.org

Karen Kaufman Orloff,
author of the I Wanna Iguana series and Miles of Smiles, will read her latest children’s book, Some Days, which explores the emotions a child may feel.

**SAT 18**

**Jr. Paleontologist**

**BEACON**

10 a.m. Water Ecology Center
19 Dennings Ave. | 845-838-1600
wire.org

Learn about the three-time periods of the dinosaurs using fossils and replicas. Suitable for children ages 6 and older.

**TALKS & TOURS**

**SAT 11**

**Poetry Reading**

**GARRISON**

1 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library
472 Route 403 | 845-424-3020
desmondfishlibrary.org

Sally Blumis-Dunn, T.R. Hummer and Sean Singer will read and discuss their work. **Free**

**THURS 16**

**A Conversation with Sheriff Langley**

**GARRISON**

6:30 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library
472 Route 403 | 845-424-3020
desmondfishlibrary.org

Bring your questions, concerns and issues to discuss with Putnam County Sheriff Robert Langley Jr.

**SAT 18**

**Three Short Comedies**

**COLD SPRING**

7 p.m. Butterfield Library
10 Morris Ave. | 845-265-3040
butterfieldlibrary.org

As part of its ongoing Silent Film Series, the library will screen “The Scarecrow” (1921) with Buster Keaton, “Putting Pants on Philip” (1927) with Laurel & Hardy, and “The Rink” (1926) with Charlie Chaplin. Pianist Cary Brown will provide accompaniment.

**SECOND SATURDAY**

**SAT 11**

**Members’ Show**

**BEACON**

6 – 9 p.m. Ivy Gallery
506 Main St. | 845-440-7584
baugallery.com

The exhibit will include works by collective members Carla Goldberg, Russell Ritell, Joan Phares, Pamela Zarabella, Melissa Schobohm, Eileen Sackman, Jebah Baum, Elizabeth Arnold, Ilse Schreiber-Noll, Andrew Rust Barger, Samantha Beste and Faith Adams. Ninit Makul will mount a solo show, Ghosts in the Machine, in the Beacon Gallery. Both will continue through June 3.

**SAT 11**

**Tools, Totems, Traps**

**BEACON**

6 – 9 p.m. Mother Gallery
6-9 p.m. | 845-440-7584
baugallery.com

The abstract images of nature and the environment by Mitchell Visokoi are made with wax, charcoal, transfers, hand-printed paper and oil stick. Through June 2.

**SAT 11**

**Waxing Eloquent**

**BEACON**

6 – 9 p.m. RiverWinds Gallery
172 Main St. | 845-638-2880
riverwindsgallery.com

The images of nature and the environment by Mitchell Visokoi are made with wax, charcoal, transfers, hand-printed paper and oil stick. Through June 2.

**SAT 11**

**Belva Monnezza**

**BEACON**

6 – 9 p.m. Hudson Beach Glass
162 Main St. | 845-913-7157
hudsonbeachglass.com

Meghan Spiro’s photographs use compost crafted into vivid compositions. Through June 2.

**FRI 17**

**Forage & Feast**

**POUGOOGCREPE**

5:30 p.m. Poughkeepsie Farm Project
51 Vassar Farm Lane | farmproject.org

Join entomologist and herbalist Hayden Stebbins for a walk through the fields and gardens to learn about the edible, medicinal or poisonous properties of common plants. Cost: $35 ($30 members)

**SAT 18**

**Baby Shark’s Treasure Hunt**

**BEACON**

1 p.m. & 3:30 p.m. Howland Cultural Center | 477 Main St. | 845-831-4014 | howlandcc.org

This 45-minute musical for children will be presented by members of the Hudson Valley Theatre Initiative. Cost: $10 ($5 door, children free with adult)

**SAT 18**

**All Star Comedy Night**

**BEACON**

7 p.m. Elk’s Lodge
900 Wolets Ave. | 845-831-9476
Adam Isso, Peter Sasso and Rob Falcone will perform stand-up. Cost: $25 ($30 door, $20 members)

**FRI 17**

**Open Studios Kick-off**

**BEACON**

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

Stop by the bar for the kickoff party for the annual Beacon Open Studios. Art spaces, venues and studies will be open to visitors from noon to 6 p.m. on SAT 18 and SUN 19. See the website for a list and suggested tours. **Free**

**SAT 18**

**Arte Povera on the Edge**

**COLD SPRING**

3 p.m. Magazine Italian Art
2700 Route 9 | 845-666-7202
magazzinoart.com

Francesco Guzzetti, the museum’s scholar-in-residence, will explore the notion of a border as a cultural and visual issue and essential concept in defining Arte Povera. **Free**

**SAT 18**

**Time After Time**

**BEACON**

6 – 8 p.m. Catalyst Gallery
137 Main St. | 845-204-3844
catalystgallery.com

Scott Lerman will share his latest paintings. Continues through May 26.

**MUSIC**

**SAT 11**

**West Point Band Concerto**

**WEST POINT**

2 p.m. Eisenhower Hall Theatre
655 Rueter Road | 845-938-4159
ikehall.com

The concert band will perform toe-tapping marches and American favorites. **Free**

**SAT 11**

**Singing the Stories of the West**

**PUTNAM VALLEY**

7:30 p.m. Tompkins Corners Cultural Center
792 Pekisko Hollow Road | 845-526-7280
tompkincorners.org

Ernie Sites will sing about his cowboy life. He will be joined by poet Mark Munzert. Cost: $20 ($15 seniors/students)

**SAT 11**

**Redemption**

**NEWBURGH**

7:30 p.m. Mount Saint Mary College
Aquinas Hall | 845-913-7157
newburghsymphony.org

The Greater Newburgh Symphony Orchestra will perform monumental works by Shostakovich and Wagner. Cost: $25 to $50

(Continued on Page 14)
The dance party also will feature an ensemble to the city in a benefit for Safe Harbors of the Hudson. Cost: $20 donation ($15 students and seniors).

Don McLean

NEWBURGH

SAT 11

Tito Puente Jr.

PEEKS KILL

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

1008 Brown St. | 914-739-0039
paramounthudsonvalley.com

Puente will bring his Latin jazz ensemble to the city in a benefit for Safe Harbors of the Hudson. The dance party also will feature Aquila y Plata and the Dojo Dance Company. Cost: $35 to $100.

Uncommon Ground

NEWBURGH

3 p.m. St. George’s Church
105 Grand St. | 845-534-2864
newburghchambermusic.org

The Newburgh Chamber Music — with violinist Rachel Handman, bassist Phil Helm, guitarist Mike Kobettisch and Wayne Fugate on the mandolin — draws from many genres and styles, from classical to bluegrass. Cost: $25 ($5 students)

SAT 18

Eszter Balint

BEACON

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

Howland Hills Trio

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

The singer-songwriter will be accompanied by Tom McCoy on piano, Goldee Greene and Russ Cusick will perform a program that includes works by Mozart, Puccini, St. Saens, Duke Ellington, Rodgers & Hammerstein and the Gershwins. Cost: $25 ($5 students and seniors)

SAT 18

Abbarama

PEEKS KILL

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

1008 Brown St. | 914-739-0039
paramounthudsonvalley.com

The tribute band gives the hit songs of Abba its own spin. Cost: $21 to $37

SAT 18

Refridgerator Information Meeting

GARRISON

11 a.m. Desmondfishlibrary.org
472 Route 403 | 845-424-3689
6:30 p.m. Haldane Lobby
15 Craigside Drive | 845-265-9254
haldaneschool.org

School officials will lead a tour of areas that would be upgraded or expanded, as well as a meeting of the Haldane School Board on May 21. To reserve a spot, call Jessie DesMarais at 845-265-9254, x111.

SAT 18

A Little Night Music Revue

PUTNAM VALLEY

7:30 p.m. Tompkins Corners Cultural Center
729 Peckskill Hollow Road
845-526-7280 | tompkinscorners.org

142 Main Street, Cold Spring, NY 10516
845-265-3611 | coldspringny.gov

Residents are invited to give input on school district priorities.

TUES 15

Capital Referendum Project Tour

COLD SPRING

6:30 p.m. Haldane Lobby
15 Cousins Drive | 845-265-9254
haldaneschool.org

School officials will lead a tour of areas that would be upgraded or improved if voters approve a referendum on May 21. To reserve a spot, call Jessie DesMarais at 845-265-9254, x111.

WED 15

Capital Referendum

COLD SPRING

6:30 p.m. Haldane Lobby
15 Cousins Drive | 845-265-9254
haldaneschool.org

School officials will lead a tour of areas that would be upgraded or improved if voters approve a referendum on May 21. To reserve a spot, call Jessie DesMarais at 845-265-9254, x111.

Horszowski Trio

BEACON

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

Jesse Mills, Kaman Ramakrishnan, and Rieko Aizawa will perform Piano Trio by Tailferre, Piano Trio by Ravel and Piano Quartet in C minor by Gabriel Fauré joined by violist Masumi Per Rostad. Cost: $30 ($20 students)

SUN 19

Uncommon Ground

NEWBURGH

3 p.m. St. George’s Church
105 Grand St. | 845-534-2864
newburghchambermusic.org

The Newburgh Chamber Music — with violinist Rachel Handman, bassist Phil Helm, guitarist Mike Kobettisch and Wayne Fugate on the mandolin — draws from many genres and styles, from classical to bluegrass. Cost: $25 ($5 students)

SAT 11

Sankofa African Drum and Dance Ensemble

BEACON

8 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
477 Main St. | 845-831-4988
kiloconcert.bpt.me

The drummers and dancers return to the Howland for another evening of traditional African folk and African-inspired contemporary music. Cost: $30 ($15 door)

SAT 11

Don McLean

PEEKS KILL

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

The singer-songwriter known for hits such as “American Pie” will perform his classics and new material.

Cost: $50 to $77.50

SAT 11

Tito Puente Jr.

NEWBURGH

8 p.m. Ritz Theater | 107 Broadway | brownpapertickets.com/event/3913865

Puente will bring his Latin jazz ensemble to the city in a benefit for Safe Harbors of the Hudson. The dance party also will feature Aquila y Plata and the Dojo Dance Company. Cost: $35 to $100.

CIVIC

SUN 12

Uncommon Ground

NEWBURGH

3 p.m. St. George’s Church
105 Grand St. | 845-534-2864
newburghchambermusic.org

The Newburgh Chamber Music — with violinist Rachel Handman, bassist Phil Helm, guitarist Mike Kobettisch and Wayne Fugate on the mandolin — draws from many genres and styles, from classical to bluegrass. Cost: $25 ($5 students)

SAT 18

Abbarama

PEEKS KILL

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

The tribute band gives the hit songs of Abba its own spin. Cost: $21 to $37

SAT 18

A Little Night Music Revue

PUTNAM VA LLEY

7:30 p.m. Tompkins Corners Cultural Center
729 Peckskill Hollow Road
845-526-7280 | tompkinscorners.org

142 Main Street, Cold Spring, NY 10516
845-265-3611 | coldspringny.gov

Residents are invited to give input on school district priorities.

MON 13

City Council

BEACON

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

MON 13

School Board

BEACON

7 p.m. Beacon High School
101 Matteawan Road | 845-838-6900
beaconk12.org

The wedding also showcased traditional African folk and African-inspired contemporary music.

Cost: $30 to $55

CIVIC

SUN 19

Horszowski Trio

BEACON

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

Jesse Mills, Kaman Ramakrishnan, and Rieko Aizawa will perform Piano Trio by Tailferre, Piano Trio by Ravel and Piano Quartet in C minor by Gabriel Fauré joined by violist Masumi Per Rostad. Cost: $30 ($20 students)

THE WEEK AHEAD

(Continued from Page 13)
Sister Mary Luke (Anna Stephens), the Rev. Mother Mary Regina (Liz Keifer) and Sister Mary Robert Anne (Julie Heckert) finish a big number.

**A Higher Level of Nonsense**

*Singing nuns take over the Depot Theatre*

By Alison Rooney

The prop list for *Nunsense*, which opens at the Philipstown Depot Theatre in Garrison on May 17 for a four-weekend run, gives a broad hint that this is not *Doubt, Agnes of God*, or *The Sound of Music*.

There is a chef’s toque, a tricycle, a boa, a puppet, a Carmen Miranda hat, a parasol, an intravenous line, and a whole lot of wimples. Broad humor is the order of the day with this hugely popular musical, which has logged more than 500 productions worldwide and been translated into 21 languages. Little Sisters of Hoboken who are among the survivors after most of the order succumbs to botulism from vichysoise prepared by Sister Julia, Child of God (Linda Speziale). The sisters decide to put on a variety show to raise the funds needed to bury the last four of their colleagues, whose bodies are frozen.

Despite the fact, jovial, Parrish said with an authority born of personal experience: “It depends if you wear a hoodie under your wimple, you can’t hear anything.” Asked about what made the show attractive to her, a supporting nun, Kalista Sale Parrish, said: “During this time when it’s hard to be funny, this femme-centered piece means we are free to be funny, without making fun of someone else.” Asked what she has learned, Danilov said: “If you wear a hoodie under your wimple, you can’t hear anything.”

The ensemble, which besides Parrish includes Anne Kane, Lourdes Laifer, Linda Kaferry and Anna Stephens, is described as “jovial.” Asked to verify that it is, in fact, jovial, Parrish said with an authority born of personal experience: “It depends if we head to Dolly’s after rehearsal.”

*Nunsense* will be performed at the Depot Theatre on Garrison’s Landing on Friday, Saturday and Sunday from May 17 to June 9. For tickets, which are $25 ($20 for seniors and students), see brownpapertickets.com/event/4208593.

The lighting design is by Ethan Jones; the stage manager is Kalista Sale Parrish; the assistant stage manager is Freya Wood-Gallagher; and the lighting technician is Hudson Heckert.

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**Photos by Linda Speziale**

Julie Heckert as Sister Mary Robert Anne
Kalista Sale Parrish as Sister Mary Sebastian
Lourdes Laifer as Sister Mary Brendan
FLINGIN’ IN THE RAIN

The fishermen and women were nearly as wet as the fish on Sunday (May 5) during Nelsonville Fish and Fur’s 30th annual Kids’ Fishing Day at the Cold Spring reservoir. Josh Phillips, 8, won the derby by catching a 17-inch rainbow trout, and John Valenti III, 4 (right), was second with a 14-incher.

Photos by Ross Corsair

Main Street, Cold Spring, looking east

Optometrists Dr. Brian Peralta | Dr. Gary Weiner | Dr. Brian Powell | Dr. Weixun Wang

969 MAIN ST. FISHKILL (845) 896-6700 sdec2020.com

2019 Betty Budney Community Service Award

Sponsored by Philipstown Democrats

The 2019 Betty Budney Community Service Award in the amount of $500 will be presented to a graduating high school senior in recognition of his or her volunteer service. The graduate will be recognized for realizing the need and the value of volunteering and for the free will gift of personal time, skill and effort for the benefit of others. The recipient will be a resident of Philipstown. Any high school graduate from the class of 2019 is eligible.

Application must be emailed by 6pm, Friday, May 17th, 2019.

Application is available on our website at https://www.philipstown democrats.org

Questions? Email budneyaward@gmail.com.

Then & Now

Main Street, Cold Spring, looking east

Blinking should be comfortable.

Relief from the discomfort of seasonal eye allergies is only a phone call away.

Call us today to schedule your appointment.

(845) 896-6700

Pruning is an art

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

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

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

845.446.7465

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Photos by Ross Corsair
I’ve noticed a pattern in the columns in which I write about myself: I go outside, fail, and we all have a good laugh. Failure is a lot more fun to write about than success, and I tend to break out in hives when I do anything that can be even remotely qualified as bragging. However, the saying “No failures, only lessons,” is one that ultrarunners take to heart, because any endurance sport is going to involve (to put it mildly) lots of lessons.

I learned many lessons that rainy November day. For starters, the only thing that prepares you to run 50 miles is running 50 miles. I also learned that getting removed at the 45-mile checkpoint of a 50-mile race because you’re running too slowly really sucks.

I put the 12-hour goal on hold and vowed to run 50 miles under 13 hours, the time I failed to achieve at the JFK. I spent the winter training harder than I ever had, including adding core-building exercises such as crunches and pushups to build my endurance. I hate exercise that isn’t running, because it isn’t fun and you’re not outside. But you know what I hate more? Getting timed out at Mile 45 of a 50-mile race. So I did the damn pushups.

I ran my first 50-mile race in November 2017. It was the storied JFK 50 in Maryland, the oldest ultramarathon in the country, founded by President John F. Kennedy in 1963. It has a time limit of 13 hours, but I wasquartered by a medic riding a mountain bike. “So far, everyone’s looked fine,” he said. The volunteer replied, while jerking his thumb in my direction, “Anyone hitting Mile 30 at this point is going to be at least reasonably fit and adequately trained.” Reader, I almost cried. Being described as “reasonably fit and adequately trained” is the nicest thing anyone has ever said about me.

There was a sickening, familiar feeling during the last 5 miles of the wheels coming off, of no longer being able to keep pace, of realizing that your GPS watch is off and you aren’t quite sure how long you have to go, and then realizing where you are and that you are going to have to run the last three-quarters of a mile faster than you ran the previous 49.25 miles if you are going to make it in under 12 hours. I finished in 11:59:01.

Now for some cold water on this inspiring story. I finished 144th of 400 runners. Add in the runner who finished at 11:59:50, and that makes 146 of us who ran the course in under 12 hours. That is not a rarified accomplishment. I did not qualify for the Olympics. I can merely say that I am pretty OK at running. My reward is that I am allowed to apply for a race that’s twice as long with almost four times the elevation, held in the humid death grip of high summer in Vermont and occurring simultaneously with a 100-mile horse race (watch where you step). At the same time, it felt like the Olympics as I charged up the final hill while a large red digital timer clicked toward 12:00:00 and 100 people, most of them with shiny medals around their necks and cold beers in their hands, screamed and clapped and yelled encouragement. After I crossed the finish line, I grabbed a hot dog and screamed my head off for the next 30 minutes.

I crossed the finish line, I grabbed a hot dog and screamed my head off for the next 30 minutes. I doubled over and sobbed. The truly fun part of finishing is seeing everyone you trained with and everyone you trained against and realizing that you almost made it.

A few months later, I ran the Rock the Ridge 50-miler in the Shawangunk Mountains. It rained all day — cold rain. Fortunately, it had also rained during the JFK 50 and I learned to suck it up. I finished in 12 hours and 35 minutes and spent the next few days blissfully floating. And I started training even harder.

The past 12 months have included some moments of total grace and complete happiness while running through the Highlands. They’ve also included races in which I’ve finished last (the 2018 Breakneck Marathon); second to last (the 2019 Breakneck Marathon); and collapsed from illness (the Orcas Island 50K). They’ve also included races in which I’ve also rained during the JFK 50 and I learned that getting removed at the 45-mile checkpoint of a 50-mile race because you’re running too slowly really sucks.

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Bits of Beacon History

By Robert Murphy

**Making Good in Hollywood**

Harrold Weinberger, a Beacon native whose official titles at Metro-Goldwyn Mayer Studios were assistant director and production manager, filled in as a bit player at MGM whenever he was needed. For instance, he can be seen at right as a prison guard (wearing a fake mustache) standing between Clark Cable and Joan Crawford in the 1940 film, *Strange Cargo*.

Weinberger attended the Fishkill Landing grammar school (later South Avenue School) and Beacon High School. He grew up on Beckman Street, raised by his mother, Betty Glick, and his stepfather, merchant Max Glick. Harrold made headlines in a local-boy-makes-good story in the March 21, 1940, issue of the *Beacon News* as the assistant director of the newly released *Northwest Passage* with Spencer Tracy. One of his duties on the film, which was shot in Idaho, was to round up and look after more than 400 Native American extras. After leaving MGM, Weinberger became an assistant director in television, working on such popular programs as *Sky King*, *Strange Cargo*, and *That Girl*.

His early experiences read as exciting as any Hollywood script. At age 16, after an argument with his stepfather, he left home and joined the Canadian Navy. After it was discovered he was underage, he was discharged. Still underage, he joined the Canadian Army and was gassed in battle in France during World War I.

During World War II, at the height of his film career, he joined the Marines as a combat photographer and was wounded by shrapnel at the Battle of Iwo Jima. He also served in the Korean War before retiring from the Marines as a major. He died in 1997 at age 97.

**The Old Beacon Theatre**

The Beacon Theatre on Main Street is again showing movies, although on a smaller scale than its predecessor, which operated at the location from 1934 to 1968. Back then it was more than just a place to show movies. It was also a venue for vaudeville acts, especially in the 1930s and 1940s, as well as headquarters for a radio program, a theater guild, a dining and dance hall on the second floor called the Wonder Bar, and stage acts.

Even its mainstay — first-run movies — was often flavored with added attractions such as Bank Night on Wednesdays (first prize: $125) or Dish Night, when free flatware was passed out to patrons.

Perhaps the most noteworthy stage performance at the old Beacon was when WABC’s popular *Vox Pop* radio program was broadcast live coast-to-coast from its stage on March 24, 1948. *Vox Pop* (an abbreviation of “voice of the people”) was a mixture of fun interviews, quiz questions and human interest stories of ordinary folks recorded on location from places (on this night, Beacon) across the country.

The stars were Parks Johnson and Warren Hull, who interviewed Beacon resident Jane Brett, Beacon High Principal William Pearse and, for a touch of local color, mountain-eer George “Kim” Barrett. Each member of the packed audience paid $2.50 (about $27 today) to get in.

The zaniest stage show to appear at the Beacon may have been Zelda the Mystic, who was there during the week of Feb. 10, 1936.

As a warmup, and to show off her supernatural powers, Zelda drove an automobile up and down Main Street while blindfolded. She topped that at 1 p.m. by hypnotizing a young woman to sleep in the display window of Schoonmaker’s department store. At showtime, the woman was carried to the lobby of the theater and awakened onstage. Zelda divined the answers to personal questions from the audience, such as “Will my son have to go to war if we have one?” Zelda responded: “We will soon be dragged into a conflict worse than the last one. Your son will go but will be fortunate enough to return to you.”

**The Three Red Houses**

Bayview Avenue has a short run of houses that lie atop a hill above the road leading to the train station. The street is aptly named, for its views looking west toward the Hudson River are the equal of any in Beacon.

Oddly enough, with all the great surrounding scenery the waterfront has to offer, a noted artist’s creative attention once was drawn to Bayview Avenue and the three houses peering over its crest.

The artist was Adolf Dehn, one of the leading lithographers of his day who, in the 1930s, turned his talents to painting watercolors of the American landscape. He had come to Beacon from his home in Cornell to paint scenes of the Hudson, the railroad and the Highlands when the houses on Bayview caught his eye.

The resulting work, “The Three Red Houses,” along with other of his landscapes, appeared in the Aug. 11, 1941, issue of *Life*. Dehn recalled that he had been working on a picture he called “Tracks Along the Hudson,” but it was so cold he went down to the ferry and rode back and forth to get warm. From Newburgh he saw the three houses. “I got terribly excited and had to do something quick,” he recalled. “I stood in the mud and sketched, then finished the job at home.”

The three red houses — Nos. 15, 17 and 19 Bayview Avenue — are no longer red but clearly visible as you walk along the road to Dia:Beacon. Look up and see what Adolf Dehn once saw and was enthralled by.

(Continued on Page 19)
Lincoln Passes Through

On Feb. 19, 1861, Walt Whitman, standing amid the crowds at the 30th Street Station of the Hudson River Railroad in New York City, described the appearance of president-elect Abraham Lincoln as he alighted from his inaugural train:

“From the top of the omnibus I had a capital view of Mr. Lincoln: his looks and gait; his perfect composure and coolness; his unusual and uncoth height; his dress of complete black; stovepipe hat pushed back on his head; dark brown complexion;seamed and wrinkled yet canny-looking long neck; and his hands held behind, as he stood observing the people.”

About two hours earlier, and 60 miles north of 30th Street, the crowds at the Fishkill Landing (now Beacon) depot would have witnessed a similar scene when Lincoln’s train stopped there. The occasion was the Albany-to-New York leg of a 12-day, whistle-stop journey from Illinois to his inauguration in Washington, D.C.

From Albany, the train made stops that day at Hudson, Rhinebeck, Poughkeepsie, Fishkill Landing and Peekskill. The Lincoln Special arrived at Fishkill Landing at about 1:30 p.m. The locomotive was decorated with red, white and blue and lithograph portraits of Lincoln on each side of the cab. Lincoln emerged from the train and addressed the crowd.

“I appear before you not to make a speech,” he said, according to the New York Tribune. “I have no sufficient time, if I had the strength, to repeat speeches at every station where the people kindly gather to welcome me as we go along. If I had the strength, and should take the time, I should not get to Washington until after the inauguration, which you must be aware would not fit exactly. [Laughter.] That such an untoward event might not transpire, I know you will readily forgo any further remarks; and I close by bidding you ‘port Royal.’

As can be imagined, Lincoln’s appearance here, for many residents, was recounted into their old age. When John Schouten, who grew up in Matteawan (now Beacon), died in 1938 at the age of 86, his obituary notice in the Beacon News noted that, as a 9-year-old, he had shaken Lincoln’s hand that day. (How he got close enough to the train to do so much must have been a story in itself.)

Four years later, on April 25, 1865, the Lincoln Special returned to the Fishkill Landing depot, this time carrying Lincoln’s body. Carl Sandburg, who wrote a biography of Lincoln, noted that the village had decorated the depot with a sign made up of evergreen boughs the read “In God We Trust.” Residents “crowded both sides of the tracks” and delegations came from Newburgh, New Paltz and other towns.

Another connection to Lincoln...

Thomas “Boston” Corbett, the man who, defying orders, shot and killed John Wilkes Booth, Lincoln’s assassin, once lived and worked in Matteawan. As a member of the federal troops searching for the fugitive, he shot Booth through the wall of a burning tobacco barn where the actor was making his last stand in Port Royal, Virginia.

Corbett said he fired when Booth pointed his pistol at the troops. But according to one account, a government detective shouted at Corbett: “What on earth did you shoot him for?” Corbett said “God Almighty” told him to do it.

Shortly after Booth’s death, the Fishkill Standard printed a short, cryptic item that said Corbett was a former Matteawan resident who had worked for the Seamless Clothing Co., attended the Protestant Methodist Church “and was known as an ardent and zealous Christian, if not a fanatic” who was “always singing.”

A letter written to the editor by a resident named Joseph Coldwell in 1902 tells more:

“He was short in stature, he was of light complexion, but he did part his hair in the middle,” Coldwell wrote. “He had the letters T.C. tattooed on his arm, and when asked to explain, said he was converted in Boston [in 1858], and like Saint Paul after his conversion, changed his name.”

“He was a wool hatter by trade and worked for John Fakoner, who conducted the business of the Seamless Manufacturing Co. on the west side of the Fountain Street Bridge [now 1 East Main St.], where I learned my trade, and which now is the Carroll Hat Works.”

“He was overzealous religiously. He taught a Bible class, of which I was a scholar, in the Union Sunday School. He shot Booth without orders, and was praying when he pulled the trigger.”

Robert Murphy was president of the Beacon Historical Society for 20 years, from 1998 to 2018. These items were excerpted from his blog at beaconhistorical.org.
Haldane School Board Candidates: What I Will Do

On May 21, voters in the Haldane, Garrison and Beacon school districts will go to the polls to consider the 2019-20 budgets and candidates for seats on the respective boards of education. Only Haldane will have a contested election, with three candidates for two seats. (In Garrison, there are two candidates for two seats, and in Beacon, three incumbents are not being challenged.) We asked the three Haldane candidates by email to answer four questions.

Why are you running?

Jen Daly: I believe I am a positive and effective contributor to our governance team. I have been a board member for two terms, serving as president or vice president for four of those six years. I have helped to deliver smart budgets and fair union contracts, advocated in Albany for more education funding and less unfunded mandates, and collaborated with our leadership team to support a strategic plan that keeps our district moving forward. We have done much good work and there is much more to do.

Sean McNall: I am running because it is important for all of us to give where we can from our skills and experience. I have strong educational and managerial experience to offer. I have a son at Haldane Elementary and I want to help make his educational experience — and that of all Haldane students — the best it can be. As trustee, I will prioritize effective community engagement, strategic planning and student achievement. We have seen great improvements in communication under Superintendent Philip Benante and the current board, but we can do more to engage with and learn from the public. Our five-year strategic plan expires in 2020. We have an opportunity to reimagine our long-range vision and build a framework that inspires curricular and administrative innovation.

Laura O’Connell: My son will be attending Haldane in the years to come. My husband and I are excited that he will be part of a school system that not only nurtures students’ education but their social and emotional welfare. I am prepared to commit to the mission of a school that not only focuses on skills that are concentrated on a core curriculum but provides preparation and educational insight that addresses ever-changing challenges. The mission of a board member is to advocate for the school and to guide the community toward responsible decisions.

What qualifications and experience would you bring to the board?

Daly: As an arts educator, I have written and implemented curriculum, advocated for the arts as meaningful and integral aspects of a child’s education, and celebrated multiple learning styles and teaching techniques. As a small-business owner, I have managed budgets, led brand development and marketing strategies, worked with a board of directors, and managed a staff of 30 employees. As a mind-body professional, I work with adults to help them to find their best selves through movement and meditation. My diverse professional life allows me to understand the public school teacher’s perspective, the business side of education, and the value of mental-health education.

McNall: As director of education for the Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival, I live and breathe public education. When I’m not working with students in a classroom as a visiting teacher, I am developing and supporting curriculum that makes Shakespeare exciting and accessible for primary classroom teachers. I design and execute a robust K-12 arts curriculum, train and manage a 20-person teaching artist staff, and am responsible for the fiscal health of HVSF’s arts education and professional training programs. When elected to the board, I will put my extensive experience to work for Haldane and its families.

O’Connell: As director of capital projects for The Public Theater in New York City, I am responsible for assessing the organization’s long-term needs while balancing the risks and financial implications for all expansions and additions and upgrades to the organization’s physical space. I pride myself on the ability to implement, delegate and coordinate with a view to achieve a common goal. A candidate for the board is not only a parent, but someone who is an advocate for the district in the community.

What issues need to be addressed in the budget?

Daly: Our costs continue to rise and our revenue is not increasing at the same rate. State funding stays flat at best and sometimes decreases. The tax cap ties a district’s hands with both unpredictable tax levy increases and challenging measures to override it. The district needs to continue to find efficiencies whenever possible and to constantly look for new revenue sources. We need to work with local and state legislators to make common-sense changes to how education is funded and prioritized.

McNall: I understand the importance of building strong, efficient, balanced budgets that fund strategic priorities without burdening the taxpayer. I know we need to have the flexibility to shift resources as student needs shift. In New York, the tax cap limits how much the levy can grow. We can either see that as a limitation for program expansion, or we can see it as a challenge to think creatively and allocate funds responsibly and carefully. Board trustees have to take honest looks at existing programs, measure their effectiveness with the administration, and make hard choices about change. The key to the budget process is clear communication with the public, early and often.

What would you hope to accomplish on the board?

Daly: I would like to continue to bring a balanced and transparent approach to the board’s work. We have begun a policy manual audit that will be an essential step toward open and effective communication with the public and staff. We have a new superintendent who is transitioning into the district beautifully, and the board needs to continue to support and guide that leadership shift. We have proposed a bond referendum that makes some important steps toward updating and repairing our aging facilities, but there will be more to discuss and develop. Perhaps most importantly, we need to continue to collaborate and engage the Haldane family to make sure our children are receiving the best education possible.

McNall: Meaningful engagement provides community members with a voice. It provides a safe and convenient way to share ideas of others. It provides boards and superintendents with a sense of direction and a sense of accomplishment. It translates into district-wide policy and ensures that schools operate in a manner that reflects local values. And with that comes the increased public trust and confidence needed to build a budget to support the highest levels of academic and social achievement.

O’Connell: My goal is to provide guidance and be a committed steward to the mission of the district and to public education. My motivation is not solely about my interests as a parent or the resources that I can provide; it is about all the students and what we can provide for them.
At a workshop on Wednesday (May 8), the board unanimously accepted a proposal from Lime Energy Services Co. to improve lighting at the Recreation Center in Garrison. The upgrade will cost $10,910 but could feasibly reduce costs by $700 per month through energy efficiencies, Shea said.

Councilor Mike Leonard reported on May 2 that a drive he took on Upland Drive was an eye-opener. The road is private, but some residents have sought the town’s help to improve it. Leonard said he was accompanied on his visit by Max Garfinkle, the town wetlands inspector and natural resources officer, and Carl Frisenda, the highway superintendent. “Some of the road — I don’t even want to call it that — is extremely dangerous,” Leonard said. “It should be closed — that’s how bad it is.” Shea said the board has invited residents to propose a plan but so far has not received anything.

On May 2, Nancy Montgomery, who represents Philipstown on the county Legislature and is a former Town Board member, and Shea questioned a county move to bring two Percheron draft horses to Tilly Foster Farm, a county-owned property in eastern Putnam. Montgomery said the county lacks a master plan for the farm. The supervisor has a “vendetta” against him and that the town is trying to push them out, which “isn’t fair.” The Philipstown zoning case began in July 2013, when Kevin Donohue, then the town’s building inspector and code enforcement officer, visited the 9-acre property after receiving complaints. He determined that the Venturas were processing demolition debris and dirt, crushing stone into gravel, and stockpiling the debris and gravel in violation of a 1983 site plan and the zoning code. Shea added at a workshop session on Wednesday (May 8) that the town awaits a judge’s response to its application for the injunction.

Standing outside his business on Thursday (May 9), Ricky Ventura claimed that the supervisor has a “vendetta” against him and that the town is trying to push him out, which “isn’t fair.” The Philipstown zoning case began in July 2013, when Kevin Donohue, then the town’s building inspector and code enforcement officer, visited the 9-acre property after receiving complaints. He determined that the Venturas were processing demolition debris and dirt, crushing stone into gravel, and stockpiling the debris and gravel in violation of a 1983 site plan and the zoning code. Donohue ordered the men to cease operations.

Injunction (from Page 1)

Although the supervisor had “completely ignored” the stop-work order and nearly six years of town warnings and judicial decisions. “We have won every court case. This is illegal [debris] processing,” Shea said, terming the situation “just ridiculous. He [Ricky] shows no sign of stopping. He’s completely flouting the law at this point. So now we have to go to heavy-handed action, getting a temporary restraining order, an injunction, which means we send the police there.” Shea added at a workshop session on Wednesday (May 8) that the town awaits a judge’s response to its application for the injunction.

The Beacon Farmers’ Market will stay in its current location for at least another year. Photo provided

Farmers’ Market (from Page 1)

petitioned the City Council this year and in 2018 to move the market, saying it disrupted his customers by blocking parking spaces and creating too much noise.

Last year the two sides reached a compromise, with market organizers pledging to turn down the volume on live performers while respecting the Crier’s need for parking. But this year, market staff, following some management turnover, was late in approaching the City Council to arrange its lease for the 2019 season. That, combined with Ciganer’s testimony, seemed to lead the council during last week’s workshop to side with moving the market to the DMV lot.

This week, however, numerous residents asked the council to reconsider before voting to confirm the move.

“I love the atmosphere of [the market], the feeling of Beacon coming together as a community in a public place,” said Jessica Jelliffe. “It’s almost like breaking bread together every week. It’s a wonderful feeling.” Ultimately the council voted 5-1 to adopt an agreement that is nearly identical to the one approved for the 2018 season. Mayor Randy Casale voted “no” and Council Member Lee Kyriacou was not at the meeting. Neither was Ciganer, who said on Wednesday that he thought the market’s move to the DMV lot was a done deal.

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Injunction (from Page 21)

by the end of that month and restore the land to its condition the operations began. Over the years, the Venturas have argued that their operations are legal because the 1983 site plan allows for a “contractor’s yard.”

The town brought charges in Philipstown Justice Court on five identical counts, one each for five dates between Oct. 7 and Nov. 4, 2013, when inspections indicated the Venturas were continuing operations despite Donohue’s cease-and-desist order. In 2014, then-Judge Court Judge Alan Steiner rejected the Venturas’ motion to dismiss the case.

During a trial in 2015, the Venturas’ lawyer, Anthony Luisi, maintained that the dispute was about “more than just an alleged violation of the zoning code” because it involved the Venturas “constitutionally protected rights to continue to use their property the way they have for over 30 years.”

Robert Cinque, the town’s special prosecutor, asserted that the site plan “does not provide for rock-crushing or other activities” and that the zoning code doesn’t permit them, either. Steiner found the Venturas guilty and fined them $1,750.

The Venturas next turned to the appellate court system, only to lose again. A three-judge appellate panel in Albany ruled on March 21 of this year that the owners had failed to prove that rock crushing and the other activities were allowed by their site plan or the zoning laws in effect in 1983. By comparison, the appellate court stated, Philipstown authorities “established beyond a reasonable doubt that the non-conforming use was illegal in 1983 and thereafter.”

The appellate judges did drop one of the five counts, reasoning that violations recorded by Philipstown on Oct. 15 and Oct. 21 in 2013 were too close together to constitute separate violations; they therefore reduced the fine by $350. (The Venturas asked the court for a stay on the fine and conviction and for permission to appeal again but on April 18 both requests were denied.)

The Venturas may also soon face foreclosure proceedings because they have not paid town, county or school taxes on the property since 2015, according to the Putnam County finance department, and owe more than $160,000. The 2018 tax rolls say the property, containing residential and commercial buildings, has a market value of $1.38 million.

At Wednesday’s workshop, Councilor John Van Tassel observed that “there was still dirt flying around” the Ventura site on Monday (May 6).

“I’m sure there will be dirt flying around until we show up with the police and the injunction,” Shea replied. “But it is coming to an end. There’s no doubt about it.”

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Cider (from Page 1)

year he was surprised how nascent and diverse the industry is. “It is still defining itself,” he says. “People are trying all kinds of things.” He has experimented with combining grapes and apples to produce a wine-cider mix.

Cider is anything but new to New York. It was the preferred drink in colonial times, when water was often suspect. Sussman says his Cold Spring Ciderworks logo was inspired by William Henry Harrison, who ran for president in 1840 as the “log cabin and hard cider” candidate. If Harrison enjoyed a cider a day, it apparently wasn’t enough as he died 31 days into his term.

Sussman recently attended CiderCon, the annual conference of the U.S. Association of Cider Makers, where he says he received some practical advice. “They said, ‘Don’t quit your day job!’ ”

Working with Orchard Hill is a good strategy because you’re using someone else’s equipment and buying the apples rather than growing them, he says. “Ultimately though, it would be a lot of fun to put it all together.”
CROSSCURRENT

By King Features

ACROSS
1. Last few notes
8. Fall into a beanbag chair
12. Last write-up
13. Valentine misspelling
14. Actress Turner
15. Missing
16. Past
17. Spore cases
18. Pour wine
20. Time of discontent?
22. Calf’s mama
23. Fresh
24. 1/4 bushel
27. Not steadily
32. Vast expanse
33. Play with robots
34. Anonymous Richard
35. Discontinue
38. Nervous
39. Type of humor
40. Candle material
42. Chemical relative
45. Discount store
49. Ms. Moore
50. Blunder
52. Green land
53. Mideast nation
54. Cartoonist Browne
55. Kvetches
56. Queue

57. Chances, for short
58. Jog

59. Redeem
62. Akron, Ohio
63. A construction worker's helper
64. A. Michael

10. Previously
11. Duo
19. "Forget it!"
21. Hostel
24. Next-to-last letter
25. Still, in verse
26. Role for Julie, Eartha, Lee, Michelle, Halle or Anne
28. Rapa — (Easter Island)
29. Museum pieces
30. Visibility hindrance
31. "30 Rock" star
36. White weasel
37. Catcher’s place?
38. Range
41. Symbol for gold
42. "American --"
43. Big rig
44. Start over
46. Storyteller
47. Therefore
48. Criterion
51. Tear

DOWN
1. Frigid
2. Reed instrument
3. Record
4. Have at
5. Platypus
6. Used a shovel
7. Acknowledge
8. Shaved a board
9. Debate closer

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Blue Devils Continue Standout Season

By Skip Pearlman

The Haldane High School lacrosse team is set to wrap up a solid season this week with two games remaining before the playoffs open on May 15.

Haldane (12-2) has never advanced beyond the Section 1 quarterfinals but this year’s team is hoping to change that. As of May 6, the team was ranked 13th in the state among Class D teams by the New York State Sportswriters Association.

“Our goal has been the same all season long — we want to play for a championship,” said Coach Ed Crowe. “We know the pedigree of the [Section 1, Class D] schools we’re up against [Bronxville, ranked No. 1 in the state; No. 4 Briarcliff; No. 6 Pleasantville; and No. 12 Westlake], but we feel we can play at a level where we can compete.

“We’re peaking at the right time,” he added. “We’ve been able to keep it together. We picked up a big win against O’Neill last week, and it showed us that even though we didn’t play our best, we can still come up with a win.”

The Blue Devils have been playing well, easily defeating Pawling on Tuesday (May 7), 16-4, at home. Jagger Beachak led Haldane with four goals and an assist, Darrin Santos had three goals and an assist, Mame Diba scored twice and had three assists, Will Lopez and William Hockler.

Westervis and Sam Giachinta each had two goals and two assists, and Riley Johanson, Henry Weed and Jesse Sherman each scored. John Hinkel made 10 saves in goal.

“We got up early and we stayed up,” Crowe said. “We had nice balance, a lot of guys scored, and our defense did a nice job shutting down Pawling. We’re getting a great collective effort.”

The week before, Westervis scored the game-winner in the 10-9 victory over O’Neill. “It was one of the highlight wins of our season,” Crowe said. “They beat us convincingly the last three years in a row, so it was a pride thing for our team. They are a cross-river rival, so we take great pride against them; it was right up there with the Putnam Valley win [10-9, on April 15]. Those have been our two most memorable wins of the season — so far.”

The Blue Devils were scheduled to close their season with two games against North Salem (2-11), at home on May 9 (after The Current’s deadline) and away on Monday, May 13. Playoff matchups for Section 1 have not been determined but Haldane is currently ranked as the third seed among Class D schools in the section.

Bulldogs Foursome Wins Beacon Invitational

Golfers defeat opponents from other schools

By Skip Pearlman

Beacon High School foursome won the Beacon Invitational Golf Tournament on Monday (May 6) held at the Southern Dutchess Country Club.

Joshua Espinosa, Jack Phillipbar, Gavin Coughlin and Josiah Russell defeated teams from Pawling, Putnam Valley, North Salem and Hendrick Hudson.

“They performed admirably,” said Coach Ed Malle. “Some had their best performances of the season.”

Phillipbar led with a 47 on nine holes, while Coughlin played his best round of the spring with a 49. Russell had a 50 and Espinosa shot a 54.

“That was a season-best for Coughlin, and an impressive round for him,” Malle said. “Jack is an eighth-grader — it was his first tournament for us. It was nice to see them come together.”

Beacon lost considerable talent to graduation last year. “We’re in rebuilding mode,” Malle said. “But the kids have all been impressive, and they’re giving as much as they can.”

Russell and Jacob Scofield are the team’s seniors; Coughlin, Shane Creighton and Espinosa are sophomores; and the Bulldogs have a pair of seventh-graders in Leon Lopez and William Hoeker.

As a team, Beacon (1-9) picked up its only win of the season in its opener over Pawling. “That was a nice way to start,” Malle said.

Beacon will close its regular season with home matches on May 14 and May 16 at Southern Dutchess.