

Viewpoints

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters may be edited for legal considerations, reader interest and length. Please include a telephone number and address for verification purposes. **Deadline for letters is Friday at noon.** Letters must be submitted by e-mail to be considered for publication. Letters can be e-mailed to newsplace@aol.com, and the phrase "Letter to the Editor" should be included in the subject line of the e-mail.

Letters to the Editor do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the staff or management of the Southern Dutchess News Group.

Common Ground Farm serving the community

To the Editor:

Common Ground Farm Common Ground Farm (CGF) is a diversified non-profit vegetable farm located just north of Beacon with a mission to serve its community as a model for food justice and education for people of all ages and incomes. In 2017, CGF addressed food access in the mid-Hudson Valley by focusing efforts on food systems change. Overall the organization distributed over 10,000 lbs of produce through emergency food services, steeply discounted mobile markets in Beacon and Newburgh, and the Beacon City School District. Half of this produce went to food pantries and soup kitchens, providing an essential source of fresh produce for people in need in the mid-Hudson Valley.

In addition, CGF has focused on bringing fresh, local produce to institutions and neighborhoods not yet served by local farmers. In 2017, CGF distributed 1,000 pounds of fresh produce to the Beacon City School District cafeterias throughout the growing season. This year CGF was the only local farm selling directly to the schools without a distributor, and in the future CGF hopes to enlist additional farms and school districts to create a local produce procurement network in the region.

CGF also operates mobile markets in Beacon and Newburgh, which get fresh produce to low-income communities and seniors who may have trouble accessing and affording produce at the regular farmers' markets. The organization brought nearly 2,000 pounds of produce to the new Newburgh Fresh market at the Lake Street Apartments. This mobile market was created in 2017 in partnership with Affinity Healthcare, and will be back again in 2018. Another 3,100 pounds of produce was distributed through the Common Greens market, a partnership with CCEDC's Green Teen Beacon program which began in 2009. Common Greens pops up at two locations in Beacon every week during the summer, selling produce from CGF and the Green Teen gardens.

Greens 4 Greens is a food benefit incentive program, unique to the Beacon Farmers' Market, that began in 2016. Eligible state funded food benefits are matched dollar for dollar through Greens 4 Greens, making the farmer's market more accessible to a wider base of consumers. The program has been completely community funded through contributions made by local businesses as well as the annual 'Soup 4 Greens' and 'G4G Summer Potluck' events. 2018 will be the first year the program will run throughout the winter season, providing \$4 Greens 4 Greens checks to those that demonstrate need all year long. One frequent market shopper uses the Greens 4 Greens checks along with her Senior food benefits and delights in calling them her "magic bucks"! Customers that utilize the program often remark on how good they feel knowing their farmers' market encourages the use of their food benefits and that their weekly produce shopping benefits local farmers.

In 2017 CGF worked in partnership with Kids R Kids, South Avenue Elementary School, and the South Avenue PTA (with support from United Way Dutchess-Orange and the Poughkeepsie Journal) to distribute Thanksgiving Shares to 30 children who participate in the school Backpack program, an initiative to make sure that food insecure children have food to eat on the weekends. Farm Director Sarah Simon

recently described her work, "Some of the very best mornings on the farm are when we go out and pick a bed of fresh, perfect lettuce mix, and then we pack up half of it for a food pantry and half for a nice farm-to-table restaurant. Everyone, regardless of income, deserves access to fresh, nourishing food, and we know that the same beautiful lettuce that goes for top dollar at a nice restaurant is just as deeply valued by our food pantry partners."

Common Ground Farm relies on the generous support of people in our community to enable food access for all. To learn more about Common Ground Farm, and to make a donation, please visit <https://annual-appeal-13663.causevox.com/>.

Sember Weinman
Education Director
Common Ground Farm

Beacon Police Blotter

The following is from the City of Beacon Police Department:

January 12 - 8:45 a.m. - Traffic Stop -Hastings Dr. - Vernon Moreland, 32, of Newburgh, was charged with Aggravated Unlicensed Operation 2nd, Operation of Motor Vehicle by Unlicensed Driver, No/Expired Inspection Certificate and Equipment Violations.

January 12 - 10 a.m. -Traffic Stop - Wolcott Ave. - Arturo Aranda, 46, of Garrison, was charged with Aggravated Unlicensed Operation 3rd and No/Expired Inspection Certificate.

January 12 - 2 p.m. - Suspicious Person - North Elm St. - Evan Stark, 31, of Beacon, was charged with Open Container.

January 12 - 6 p.m. - Traffic Stop - Main St. - Rene Barnes, 41, of Stanfordville, was charged with Aggravated Unlicensed Operation 3rd.

January 13 -12:30 a.m. - Harassment - Spring Valley St. - Caller reports receiving threatening text messages. Both parties were spoken to and a report was taken.

January 14 -7 p.m. - Larceny - Main St. - Caller reports items missing from store. A report was taken. The investigation is continuing.

January 15 - 5:45 p.m. - Traffic Stop - Wolcott Ave. - Daniel Adorno, 28, of Beacon, was charged with Aggravated Unlicensed Operation 3rd, Operation of Motor Vehicle by Unlicensed Driver and No/Expired Inspection Certificate.

January 15 - 6:15 p.m. - Traffic Stop -

Fishkill Ave. - Anisa Perry, 22, of Beacon, was charged with Unlawful Possession of Marijuana.

January 15 - 8 p.m. - Harassment - Caller into headquarters to report ongoing harassment through texts and social media. A report was taken and the investigation is continuing.

January 16 -12:10 a.m. - Traffic Stop - Main St. - Gregory Osterhoudt, 31, of Beacon, was charged with Driving While Intoxicated, Refusal of Prescreen Test, Passing a Red Traffic Signal and No Safety Belts.

January 16 - 12:05 p.m. -Criminal Mischief - Henry St. - Caller reports damage to house. A report was taken.

January 16 -1 p.m. - Order of Protection Violation - Lord Shameek-Paulin, 38, of Beacon, was charged with Criminal Possession of a Weapon 3rd, Criminal Contempt 2nd, Harassment 1st and Criminal Contempt 2.

January 18 -10:45 a.m. - Arson - Hastings Dr. - Caller reports someone set a Port-A-John on fire. A report was taken.

January 18 - 4 p.m. - Harassment - Caller into headquarters to report being harassed on social media. A report was taken.

January 18 - 5:20 p.m. - Order of Protection Violation - A report was taken and the investigation is continuing.

Total Calls/Blotter Entries	290
Auto Accidents	10
Domestics	2
Welfare Checks	2

Beacon Recreation

By Heidi Harrison

After School registration for Session 3 is now open. Session 3 begins Jan. 29. Registration Information for After School Programs at South Ave. Elementary, Sargent Elementary and J.V. Forrestal Elementary, can be found online or by calling 845-765-2470.

YMCA of Middletown Swimming Lessons at Beacon High School pool Winter Session: Feb. 3, Feb. 10, Feb. 24, March 3.

DXF Fitness: Wednesdays at 2:30 p.m.

at 23 West Center St. in Beacon.

Junior Baseball 2018 Season registration is now open, ages 4-18. Please visit www.beaconjuniorbaseball.siplay.com/site/.

Ongoing at 23 West Center St.: Tai-Chi, Aqua Zumba, Zumba Gold, DXF and Thursday Painters.

Call us at 845-765-8440 or 845-765-2470. You can visit us online at cityofbeacon.org or find us on Facebook and Instagram. You can also stop by in person at 23 W. Center St.

BEACON FREE PRESS

Published Weekly, Wappingers Falls Shopper, Inc.
84 East Main Street, Wappingers Falls, NY 12590

Albert Osten, President • Beatrice Osten, Secretary - Treasurer
SERVING THE COMMUNITIES OF:

Wappingers Falls, Hopewell Junction, Southern Poughkeepsie,
New Hamburg, Red Oaks Mill, Fishkill, Chelsea, Wicoppee,
New Hackensack and Stormville

Publisher - Albert Osten
Editor - Kristine Coulter

Assistant Editor - Ray Fashona
Art Director - Sharon Browne

General Manager - Curtis Schmidt

Advertising Representative - Jaimie Rodriguez
Advertising Assistant - Roxanne Hoffman

Advertising rates - furnished upon request
To advertise - 845-297-3723 - sdnadvertising@aol.com

Advertising deadline is Friday at noon
TELEPHONE: 297-3723 FAX: 297-6810

E-MAIL address for letters: newsplace@aol.com

(USPS 665900)

(USPS 665900)

THE BEACON FREE PRESS (ISSN 0192-9631) is published weekly by the Wappingers Falls Shopper, Inc., 84 East Main Street, Wappingers Falls, NY 12590. Second-Class postage paid at Wappingers Falls, 12590 and additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to THE BEACON FREE PRESS, 84 East Main Street, Wappingers Falls, NY 12590.

Beacon Players to present 'Sweet Sounds for a Shed'

Looking for a romantic evening as this Valentine's Day season approaches? The perfect night is out there, and you just found it. The Beacon Players are proud to announce their fundraising event Sweet Sounds for a Shed. In order to raise money for a shed to store set pieces, they will be holding a cabaret style night with the theme of love songs through the ages.

Join the Beacon Players on Feb. 9 for a

night of music, dancing, and decadent desserts. It's a great time to hire a babysitter and have a night all to yourselves. You'll get whisked away on a path back in time, told through each eras love songs.

Seating is limited to approximately 50 people. Tickets are \$10, to reserve email elleryjane138@gmail.com and you can pay at the door. Doors open at 6:30 p.m.