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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ALL ABOARD FOR THE COLD SPRING SPECIAL

Cold Spring, NY, October 8, 2007—Put together by 26 local businesses and the Metro-North Commuter Railroad, this year's "Cold Spring Special" will be departing from Grand Central on Saturday, October 27. Check www.mta.info for scheduled times of departure.

The Cold Spring Special is designed to reduce the psychological distance between New York and here," said Marc Sabin, co-chair, Western Putnam Economic Development Council. "This inviting transportation package offers visitors an easy, festive way to enjoy all that we have to offer, including leaf-peeping, shopping on Main Street just steps from the station, hiking, fine dining, and a chance to see this year's Halloween parade, which will begin at the top of Main Street at St. Mary's Church of the Highlands at 5:30 pm.

Now in its fourth season, the Special offers a discounted \$35.00 adult ticket and \$10.00 child ticket for round-trip train fare to and from the Cold Spring station. "We're offering a substantial bargain to people who don't usually use the train for short get-aways, to show them how convenient it is," said Wanda Jones, Metro-North's manager of group travel. Ms. Jones said that the railroad believes that by promoting the train into Putnam, there will be "a healthy increase" in special-tour ridership on the Hudson Line.

With the Cold Spring Special, the Village is reaching out to serious shoppers and collectors who relish the art of antiquing and visiting shops filled with unusual gifts, one of a kind clothing, toys and merchandise. The Village is also a magnet for outdoor enthusiasts who want to get out of the city but either do not own a car or do not want to drive, Ms. Jones said.

On October 27, leaf peeping will be in full swing, and visitors on the Cold Spring Special are encouraged to enjoy not only the Village's breathtaking setting on the banks of the Hudson River but to hike its surrounding trails. The area is an outdoor enthusiast's dream, with stunning views from mountain trails beginning only a short walk from Main Street.

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As well as discounted fare, Cold Spring Special riders will receive a chance to enter an on-board raffle for a gift basket valued at more than \$1,600. The gift basket will be stocked by Cold Spring stores and businesses as follows:

Archipelago At Home - Candles and Crystal Soap; Art to Wear - Gift Certificate; Back in Ireland - Judy Green Pottery from Galway, Ireland; Bijou Galleries - Wood Stain and Cleaner; Bundelz - Children's Games; Cold Spring Antique Center - four Oriental Porcelain Carpet Balls; Cold Spring Train Works - Metro-North Train Book; Highland Baskets - Basket of Local Products; Hudson House Inn & Restaurant - Overnight Stay; River View - Room & Breakfast and Brunch for Two; Hudson Valley Outfitters - Kayak Tour of Constitution Marsh; Indigo Chic - Gift Certificate; Manitoga/The Russell Wright Design Center - House and Garden Tour; Marketing Works - iPhone; Momminia - Gift Certificate; Once Upon A Time Antiques - Bone China Teapot; Ozworks Gallery - Necklace; Payning By Caryn - Soap and Bath Gel; Pig Hill Inn - 10 percent off Room, Monday through Thursday; Pig Hill Shoppe - Piggy Bank; Putnam County Historical Society - Book of Hudson Highland Artists; Reigning Dogs and Cats - Gift Certificate; St. Claire - Gift Certificate; The Cold Spring Depot Restaurant - Lunch for Two; The Country Goose - Gift Certificate; The Country Touch - Gift Certificate; and The Kittleman House - House Gift Certificate good Monday through Thursday.

Cold Spring, which combines rural charm with urban sophistication, has been courting city audiences for other Cold Spring events as well. On September 29th, the Cold Spring Area Chamber of Commerce held its 30th Harvest Festival with "the biggest visiting vendor turnout ever," according to Mr. Sabin.

Created as a not-for-profit organization, the Western Putnam Economic Development Council (WPEDC) was established in 2006 to preserve and develop western Putnam County, NY. Bringing together businesses, not-for-profit organizations, parks, and residents, the WPEDC is leading the revitalization of the community for the 21st century. Its mission is to improve infrastructure, expand the economy and protect the community, support historical institutions, and bring visitors to the area.

The WPEDC meets in the offices of MKTworks, Inc. 292 Main Street in Nelsonville, NY, tel. 845-265-7000, and on the web at www.ExploreTheSecrets.org.

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