

The HIGHLANDS Current

NOVEMBER 4, 2016

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Daylight Savings Time
ends Sunday, Nov. 6.
Set clocks back one hour.



People of Earth – Specifically, Beacon: Gerry (Luka Jones), Ozzie (Wyatt Cenac) and a talking deer (don't ask) confront a sinister alien conspiracy in a new science-fiction comedy on TBS set in Beacon (but filmed in Toronto). See story on Page 9.

At the Heart of Beacon

*When Main Street thrives,
so goes the city*

By Jeff Simms

In September, more than 100 Beacon residents attended the first of two public meetings (the second will be held Thursday, Nov. 17, at the Memorial Building at 413 Main St.) to provide feedback on the city's review of its comprehensive plan. Typically updated every 10 years, it serves as a blueprint for Beacon's development and growth. In a series of articles, *The Current* is examining aspects of the plan.

Perhaps the greatest indicator of Beacon's turnaround over the last decade has been the steady growth of businesses along Main Street.

Today, Main is busy virtually year-round, with more than 200 shops and restaurants along the 1.5-mile corridor. That's a huge jump from five or six years ago, when the city grew busy on weekends but often slowed to a crawl on off-season weekdays.

"We're open seven days a week and we make money every day," said John Gilvey, a co-owner of Hudson Beach Glass, a

mainstay on Main Street after 15 years. "This place is always busy."

The revitalization of Main Street dates back to the early 1990s, when city officials began reining in zoning and building code enforcement, gradually opening the door for Dia:Beacon, high-dollar living spaces and busy eateries.

Peter Forman, a Dutchess County Court judge who was city attorney from 1990 to 1999, points to the 1989 election of Mayor Clara Lou Gould as a turning point. From there, Forman said, two words describe the evolution: zoning and tourism.

"There was a change in perspective," Forman said. "People began to realize that Beacon needs vision. I thought they hit that one on the head."

While the 1970s and 1980s in Beacon were characterized by increased crime and a depressed economy, by the early 1990s city officials implemented a number of important initiatives, including a city-wide restoration of sidewalks, increased investment in infrastructure, creation of the historic district and landmark overlay zone and other major zoning shifts.

With few retailers to fill the storefronts on Main Street, many building owners had converted their properties into apartments — often without permits — as a last-ditch

means of recouping costs. The crowded buildings often weren't adequately protected against fire and other emergencies and storefronts used as residential space did little to promote economic development.

By the mid-1990s, the city started aggressively fining building owners for violations. At the same (Continued on Page 19)

Gun Law Opponents Bring Case to Philipstown Town Board

*Say measure is unenforceable,
unconstitutional*

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

Firearms owners overflowed the Philipstown Town Hall meeting room Nov. 2 to urge the Town Board to reject a proposed law requiring that handguns be secured when not in use, describing it as unnecessary, unconstitutional, unenforceable and unwanted.

The audience, which included Putnam County District Attorney Bob Tendy, raised numerous objections to the proposal, which the board has sent to the town

Conservative Party Sues Republican Candidate

*Asserts county attorney
should not be local judge*

By Chip Rowe

The Conservative Party of Putnam County has sued a Philipstown town justice candidate and the county ethics board, claiming her job as an attorney with the county conflicts with serving as a local judge, and that the board's approval of her campaign was "illegal" and "improper."

The Putnam County Board of Ethics ruled June 1 that it saw no conflict of interest for Faye Thorpe, who is chief counsel of the Putnam County Department of Social Services, to take the bench as a Philipstown town justice should she win the election Nov. 8 against Camille Linson, an attorney in private practice. Thorpe is running on the Republican and Independence party lines.

In an email, Thorpe said she viewed the lawsuit as frivolous. "I am confident that the court will rule in my favor as this case is totally without merit," she wrote in response to questions from *The Current*. "Clearly, this frivolous lawsuit is an attempt to use the courts for political purposes and create an ethical cloud over my candidacy. I know that the voters of the Town of Philipstown are above such mud- (Continued on Page 7)

attorney for review.

Advocates for the measure addressed the board a month ago.

On Nov. 2 opponents — many wearing stickers that read "Guns Save Lives" — argued that the proposal would violate state and federal law; that responsible gun owners already practice gun safety; that guns need to remain unlocked and accessible for protection against everything from criminals to snakes and terrorists, and that hikers and other "predators" are more threatening to the community than guns.

"The biggest issue is constitutionality," said Tendy, because, he claimed, the U.S. Supreme Court (Continued on Page 6)

Roots and Shoots

Tales From a Community Garden

Three gardeners, three plots. What they did and what they learned.

By Pamela Doan

Mylinh Nguyen Glover

I gardened growing up with my family in Virginia; we had a lot of land in the Appalachians. When I moved to Brooklyn, I did a community garden for five years. That opened up my experience to gardening in an urban setting. Sharing experiences with gardeners there made me a better gardener. I moved here about a year ago and when I read about the community garden at Libby Healy's, I thought it was really cool. I was sad to leave the community garden I was part of.

Ann Herrington

This was my first time in a community garden. I had my own small garden before, a small plot in front of my home in Virginia. It was magical. I didn't know much or do much and I had a lot of good stuff. I picked out what I wanted and had someone else plant it, and then I just watered and weeded. This summer was more than my partner Rick and I had done before and we tried a few new things.

Miriam Wagner

We moved here in 1961 and had this land, five acres. I've been gardening on it since 1962. I tried all the vegetables and



Miriam Wagner has grown dahlias in a corner of the community garden for 7 years. They're still blooming now.

started adding flowers. It's been a continual struggle and trial and error to get things to flower and fruit. I've been gardening at the community garden since the beginning, seven years ago. I love being part of a group of people who are all learning as we go. We're each responsible for our little plot, but it's nice to know we're sharing the land and sunshine together.

What did you plant?

Glover: Corn, sweet potatoes, squash (overabundance), tomatoes, butternut squash,



The cosmos loved the sunshine and are still attracting bees in November. Photos by P. Doan

zucchini, lettuce, beets (didn't make it). For the fall I have kale, pole beans, edamame, broccoli and Brussels sprouts. I did multiple plantings. I love a variety of different things.

Herrington: Lettuce, sugar snap peas, broccoli, tomatoes, peppers, basil.

Wagner: Arugula, lettuces, kale, baby potatoes, snapdragons, basil, fennel, dill, cilantro, nasturtiums, cosmos, Swiss chard.

Did you try anything new this year?

Glover: I've grown corn before in Brooklyn and it was easy in a raised bed because you know your soil. I wasn't sure what was possible here and if anyone prepared the soil. I know corn is very picky so I bought a bag of soil for the corn to make sure it had the right nutrients. We had an overabundance and it was wonderful.

Herrington: I learned not to use lettuce [seed] tape because I don't know what I'm looking for and so wasn't sure what was a weed. I needed one thing to look for and would plant individual lettuces, instead.

Wagner: My favorite thing was baby potatoes. I bought seed potatoes and dug them up when the foliage died down. We didn't get a lot, about 10 pounds, maybe four meals worth, but it was fabulous and delicious. The flowering, fragrant sugar snap peas I started early and they were delightful. I've been saving seeds — nasturtiums, cosmos and the peas — for next year.

How did you handle organic gardening?

Glover: It's what I've always done and it wasn't different or challenging. I took my own leaf compost from my yard and used it as mulch.

Wagner: Weed control was by hand. We did well in the spring but lost our grip on it later in the summer. I enrich the soil by adding coarse sand for texture. I get construction sand from Home Depot and sprinkle it in the row when I plant. I add compost from my pile at home and also used horse manure from Libby's stable.

Any advice or lessons learned?

Glover: The weeding was challenging. If you're going to join a garden, use beds, be extremely proactive at weeding or use some sort of method to control weeds. It was worse than I expected.

Herrington: We didn't plan well. It was sort of ad hoc and we planted what we were given. We would space differently. The squash and cucumbers needed more room. Many of us overestimate our capacity for gardening. I'd say don't go too big or make it too challenging.

Wagner: Just grow what interests you. Once you get the gardening bug you keep exploring it. You fail a lot, but thank heavens we don't have to survive on our efforts. In these very stressful times, we need all the horticultural therapy we can get.

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Protecting Your Vote

Elections officials dismiss claims of “rigged” outcome

By Brian PJ Cronin

A historic and contentious election season is entering its final stretch, and the Dutchess and Putnam boards of elections have been running at full speed for weeks.

Working 14-hour days, including on weekends, election commissioners and their staff have been busy mailing absentee ballots and confirming registrations.

And it's not a matter of one or two people staying late at the office. As in all New York counties, Dutchess and Putnam each have a Republican and Democratic elections commissioner, as well as an equal number of staff members from both parties. This means that if one party shows up on a Saturday, the other party has to be there as well, as there is no step in the elections process — registration of new voters, administering absentee ballots, counting the votes — that is not simultaneously overseen by both a Republican and a Democrat.

A word to the wise: should

you encounter a Board of Elections employee who has been operating on little sleep for the past month to ensure the sanctity of the electoral process: Don't tell him or her, as Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump has declared, the election is “rigged.”

“What does that even mean?” asks Marco Caviglia, the Democratic elections commissioner for Dutchess County. (The Republican commissioner, Erik Haight, did not respond to an interview request.) According to Caviglia, the system is too complicated, with too many checks and balances overseen by both parties, for

widespread manipulation.

“It's like the rigging on a ship,” he said. “You have umpteen ropes everywhere so that the sails will work. So when you talk about the rigging, which one of all of these ropes are you talking about? If you talk about the media rigging it, or politicians setting up the rules that favor a certain candidate, that's outside of our balloting.”

His colleagues at the Putnam County Board of Elections agree.

“It's a lot of hype,” said Cathy Croft, the Democratic elections commissioner for Putnam County. Her Republican counterpart, Anthony Scannapieco, who has held the position for 28 years, said, “I

can't speak for anyplace but here, but Putnam County is fine.”

“When candidates start talking about rigging going on at polling places, it shows either a total ignorance or a total disregard for what we do,” said Caviglia.

The methods used to secure the validity of the vote go far beyond the major party oversight of each form and ballot that comes into the boards of elections in Poughkeepsie and Carmel. The parties work throughout the

year to ensure voting rolls are accurate, including scouring local obituaries.

“We send a letter out before we remove someone from the rolls,” said Caviglia. “So if you get a letter from us telling you you're dead, give us a call.”

All the commissioners interviewed stressed that even if a voter is not on the rolls, he or she can cast a “provisional ballot” to be examined after Election Day. The Putnam County board will have a judge at its Carmel office all day Nov. 8 so voters who claim they've been removed from the rolls in error can ask for a court order allowing them to vote.

“I always tell people that as long as you're telling the truth, you have nothing to lose by talking to the judge,” said Croft.

Once the polls close at 9 p.m., each voting machine prints the number of votes cast and for whom. Those results are read aloud to poll watchers who have been issued a certificate by their respective parties granting them the right to challenge votes.

“Most of the time they're bored to death,” said Caviglia. Although Trump has called for his supporters to show up at polling places wearing red shirts to observe, “if you don't have a certificate, you can't hang around,” Caviglia said. “Those people will have no right to be there and they'll be thrown out by the police.”

Once the votes are read aloud, the printed audits

(Continued on Page 14)



Cathy Croft (D) and Anthony Scannapieco (R), the Putnam County elections commissioners

File photo by Michael Turton

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Who will enforce gun storage?

I am writing in response to the letters and coverage lately regarding the mandatory storage law for firearms proposed to the Philipstown Town Board. I understand the passionate position that some in our country take on this issue, but this proposed ordinance is flawed in a multitude of ways.

Any citizen with a basic understanding of constitutional law realizes that attempting to restrict what goes on inside the walls of someone's home goes against the spirit of the Bill of Rights. Plus, it is unenforceable. Will the Town Board be tasked with enforcement? Will the sheriff's department? Will the town be appointing a firearm storage inspector?

The wording of the ordinance seems to be copy-and-pasted out of a national campaign to destroy gun rights. In fact, a cursory search of the internet finds that this cookie-cutter ordinance is being pushed in select communities throughout New

York and has been abandoned over and over. One community recently dropped it after it was pointed out that by restricting law-abiding gun owners access to their firearms, the town council was in effect accepting liability if a gun owner were harmed or injured by an intruder. Does the Philipstown Town Board want to assume that liability?

Every responsible gun owner understands the need to protect children by locking up their unattended firearms. This is already enforced by numerous state and federal laws, as well as the Putnam County permitting process — not to mention common sense.

I ask that the Town Board focus on the real needs of our community — of which there are many — and not become embroiled in lobbyist issues such as this, especially ones that may open our community and taxpayers to undue legal matters. Our taxpayer money is better spent elsewhere.

Michael Bowman, *Nelsonville*



Senior center costs

On Oct. 27, the Putnam County Legislature voted to adopt the 2017 budget. I am concerned about the costs to rehab the proposed senior center in Cold Spring. There is little mention of the center in the budget except for projected salaries and rent. The construction costs are unknown to the public and I suspect even to the legislators themselves. There are no clear floor plans and no elevations or schematics, which you need to estimate a project's costs. What we will actually be paying for construction, finishes, equipment, appliances and amenities is not at all clear.

This game of misinformation is not how this county should do business. The legislators' actions do not appear to reflect a commitment to our county. Instead, they give the very clear impression that their true loyalty might lie elsewhere.

I will not delude myself into believing that anything I or my fellow taxpayers say had any effect on their vote [on the budget], but I'll remind them that they might have to answer some pretty tough questions the next time they run for reelection.

I will close with the second line of the Putnam County mission statement: "These services will be provided at the least cost to the taxpayers consistent with the efficient delivery of quality services and delivered with a 'good-neighbor' attitude."

Lithgow Osborne, *Garrison*

Myth of voter fraud

How does a lie come to be widely taken as the truth? The answer is simple. Repeat it over and over, and when faced with facts that clearly contradict the lie, repeat it even louder.

Allegations of election-related fraud is one of those lies. In the aftermath of close elections, losing candidates are often quick to blame voter fraud for the results. Legislators often (Continued on next page)

Taking it to the Street

By Anita Peltonon

Do you plan to vote? Why or why not?



"I didn't plan to. Now I'm teetering. I have to decide who's the rebel. Americans are rebels. I'm the son of an immigrant from Croatia, so I don't want to throw away my vote. I pray for the people in power. My brother is a soldier. Most of the effect will be overseas."
~ Alexander Blanc,
Fort Montgomery



"I already voted absentee. This time it will actually make a difference because there are very different people running. There's very much at stake."
~ Emily Pohl,
Hamburg, Germany



"Of course, because I'm for Clinton. Donald Trump has to be stopped, but I would be for Clinton anyway, no matter what."
~ Richard McDonough,
Cold Spring

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Gun Law Opponents Bring Case to Town Board *(from Page 1)*

has upheld the right to keep a gun available in the home "at a moment's notice" for self-defense. He also noted that the New York State Assembly has passed a safe-storage measure, which is pending in the Senate, and predicted that Philipstown would invite lawsuits if it enacts its own version.

Town officials should "let the state fight it out in the [U.S.] Supreme Court" and not burden the public with expensive litigation, Tendy said. However, he commended the Town Board for encouraging public discussion. "That's the way it should be done."

Gregory Purdy, a Republican challenging Sandy Galef to represent the 95th

District in the Assembly, challenged the board to explain "how additional locks" on guns would not violate the Second Amendment. "It's important to answer that question," he said.

Speakers also questioned how the law would be enforced. "Who's going to come in my house and see if my stuff is bolted down?" Nelsonville resident Tom Allen asked. Moreover, he said, by "inviting all the hikers up here from the city, we're just turning our town into, like, open space for predators. That's more dangerous than worrying about your guns."

Barbara Lusk, a Philipstown resident, said guns in the home serve as a defense against terrorism. "ISIS is sending in well-

experienced terrorists" to the U.S., and "recommending attacking out-of-the-way places," she said.

Similarly, Garrison resident Evelyn Watters told the board that "a widespread armed citizenry is the best protection against crime and terrorism." She said the proposed law would be meaningless. "It just becomes ludicrous. It doesn't save lives. It's just one of a million examples of an out-of-control and bloated government." Before the meeting began, she circulated a petition, later presented to the Town Board, opposing the measure.

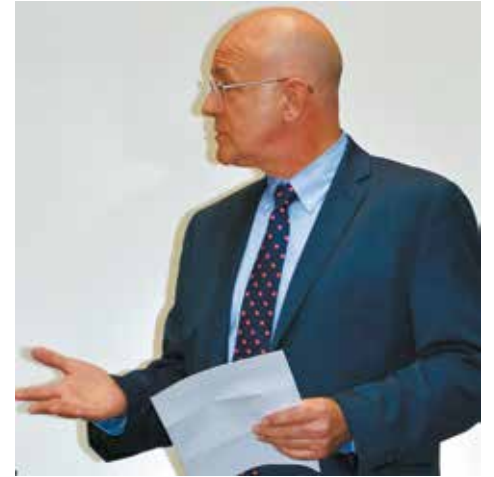
Edward Sion, a retired New York Police Department sergeant, informed the board that "police cannot get to everybody in six seconds." Although he lives in Patterson, he expressed dismay about the Philipstown proposal because "I see it as an issue that is going to grow."

Other retired officers echoed his remarks. One, from Mahopac, described the draft measure as "absolutely preposterous and tyrannical."

Several speakers objected not to the idea of safely storing guns but to being compelled to do so. "To mandate firearms storage by fiat is wrong on so many levels," said Airinhos Serradas, a former Cold Spring village trustee. "Don't attempt to take the moral high road."

Town Board members remained reticent, despite audience demands that they voice their opinions.

"We're here to listen," said Supervisor Richard Shea. "I'm not going to throw my



Putnam County District Attorney Bob Tendy delivers a succinct legal analysis on Nov. 2 of Philipstown's proposed gun safe-storage law. *Photo by L.S. Armstrong*

2-cents-worth in now." A gun owner, he said that "I have not made up my mind on this," although he also said that the board "would like to forward the idea of safe gun storage."

Board Member John Van Tassel said that after the October presentation by safe-storage advocates he went home and added another level of security to his already locked-up guns. "I support safe storage," he said, suggesting the debate might inspire other gun owners to "take it to the next level," too.

By the end of the evening, another idea emerged from the interaction of board and audience: That proponents and opponents of the draft law collaborate in creating programs to teach gun safety to children and adults in Philipstown.

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We hope to see you there!



Conservative Party Sues Republican Candidate *(from Page 1)*

slinging and will turn out on Election Day [Nov. 8] and vote for the person they feel is best qualified."

The suit was filed Sept. 26 against Thorpe in the Putnam County Supreme Court and amended Oct. 20 to name the ethics board as a co-defendant. After Thorpe asked a judge to dismiss the case, the Conservative Party responded Oct. 31, which is when *The Current* first learned of the action from a source unrelated to the lawsuit or the campaign. The party has about 2,000 members in Putnam County. The Conservative Party of Philipstown has about 165 members, said its chairman, Keith Anderson.

If the lawsuit is upheld after the election, and Thorpe wins the seat, she would presumably need to resign from one of the two positions. But Thorpe expressed confidence she will prevail.

The conflict began in June when, according to Anderson, the Conservative Party of Putnam County wrote to County Executive MaryEllen Odell raising concerns about a conflict of interest if Thorpe were elected as Philipstown town justice. In a brief interview, William Spain Jr., a Mahopac attorney who represents the party and serves as its secretary, declined comment on the specifics but said the party has concerns about any attorney involved with prosecutions also serving as a local judge.

In arguing that Thorpe would have a conflict of interest, Anderson cited an



Faye Thorpe

File photo by Michael Turton

opinion from January 2015 by the state Advisory Committee on Judicial Ethics in which a deputy attorney from an unnamed county asked if he could also work part-time as a city judge. The five-member committee ruled it was not a conflict as long as the attorney was not required in his or her county position "to perform quasi-prosecutorial duties, such as handling juvenile delinquency and persons-in-need-of-supervision cases."

Thorpe says this opinion does not apply to her situation. "I am not a county attorney, I am a Department of Social Services

attorney and, as such, I have different duties and responsibilities," she wrote in an email. "The 'quasi-prosecutorial' duties that the advisory opinion refers to are juvenile delinquency and person in need of supervision (PINS) cases which are solely handled by the County Attorney's Office. As counsel for the Department of Social Services, I do not handle these cases."

On a separate track, the Conservative Party of Philipstown learned in July that a nominating petition had been filed with the Putnam County Board of Elections to place Thorpe's name on the Conservative Party line on the Nov. 8 ballot. Anderson filed an objection with the board, noting the party uses a vote of its membership,

known as a caucus, rather than a petition, to choose local candidates. According to state election law, a party may require a caucus in any town in a county with fewer than 750,000 residents. Putnam County has about 99,000 residents.

Thorpe said the petition was filed without her knowledge. A copy included in a court filing shows the names, addresses and signatures of 15 Cold Spring voters apparently approached on or near Main Street by Sarah Greene, a Carmel resident who signed the form and identified herself as an "enrolled voter of the Conservative Party." She is the wife of John Greene, president of the Putnam County Young Republican Club. Reached by phone, John Greene said his *(Continued on Page 8)*



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Directed by Christine Bokhour
Nov. 4, 7:30 p.m. • Nov. 5, 4 p.m. family matinee
Nov. 5, 7:30 p.m. • Nov. 6, 4 p.m. family matinee
www.philipstowndepottheatre.org/tickets

Dirty Bee
A special play reading of the musical
The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee
Rated R ~ Ages 18 and over
Nov, 11, 7:30 p.m.

Depot Docs presents: *Life, Animated*
Friday, Nov. 18, 7:30 p.m.
followed by Q & A and reception

From Academy Award winning director Roger Ross Williams, *Life, Animated* is the inspirational story of Owen Suskind, a young man who was unable to speak as a child until he and his family discovered a unique way to communicate by immersing themselves in the world of classic Disney animated films.

HVSF Touring Company:
The Tempest and The Sword and the Stone
Saturday, Nov. 19, 2 p.m.

.....
philipstowndepottheatre.org
Garrison Landing, Garrison, NY (Theatre is adjacent to train station.)

Conservative Party Sues Republican Candidate *(from Page 7)*

wife was unavailable but that he had no knowledge of the petition or lawsuit. "I'm busy keeping up with the Republicans," he said. Sarah Greene did not return a phone message left with her husband.

"I want to be very clear about this: I did not in any way seek the endorsement of the Conservative Party through the petition process," Thorpe wrote in an email. "The Conservative Party was made aware that I did not seek any signatures for the petition, did not authorize the petition being circulated or filed, nor was I aware of it."

According to court filings, Thorpe did pursue the Conservative Party line through the caucus process. In an email to Anderson dated June 13, she asked for "an opportunity to discuss with your party their potential endorsement of me as town judge." Anderson responded: "We have oodles of time for the Conservative endorsement because we use a caucus and do not need to run petitions. I intend on inviting you down to talk to everyone in the next few weeks." Thorpe replied, "Thank you, will do!"

After considering Anderson's objection to the petition, the two Putnam County election commissioners — Republican Anthony Scannapieco Jr. and Democrat Catherine Croft — split their vote, and it was dismissed. (Both commissioners must agree for an objection to be upheld; Croft agreed while Scannapieco disagreed, citing "case law." Croft asked to see the case law, according to the meeting minutes, but Scan-

napieco replied that it "was not part of the commissioners' petition review but would be provided if the matter went to court.")

After Anderson's objection was dismissed, the Conservative Party of Putnam County sued, naming Thorpe and the board, and citing the election law. Thorpe did not disavow the petition but argued the party was attempting to "chill" the right of free speech and association for herself and the people who signed it. She also objected to a party member serving as the party's attorney and argued that Anderson had no standing to sue.

On Aug. 9, Justice Paul Marx ruled for the Conservative Party and invalidated the petition but declined the party's demand that Thorpe pay sanctions and its legal fees. He prohibited the board from placing Thorpe's name on the Conservative line, and no candidate appears there on the ballot. (At the request of the county attorney, Marx also struck from the public record of his decision what the judge characterized as "personal attacks" against commissioner Scannapieco, who voted against the objection.)

A week later, Thorpe met with members of the Conservative Party of Philipstown to ask for the party endorsement, according to Anderson, but he said as chairman he decided not to call a caucus because he didn't feel the Philipstown party had a candidate who was "up to speed on judicial ethics," a reference to the view that Thorpe has a conflict of interest.

"I'm not trying to do evil to anyone," Anderson said Nov. 2 of the conflict with Thorpe. "I'm just trying to see that the right thing gets done."

On Sept. 26, six weeks after Justice Marx's decision, the Conservative Party of Putnam County again sued Thorpe in the Supreme Court, arguing the ethics board ruling that saw no conflict of interest was illegal. (Anderson said the local and county party leadership often "work in their own direction," and that he learned from Thorpe that the county party had sued her.)

In its June 1 ruling, ethics board chair Robert Bickford wrote that the board had weighed Thorpe's desire to be a Philipstown town justice against a provision of the county Code of Ethics that prohibits county officers or employees from taking or failing to take "any action which he or she knows or has reason to know may result in a personal financial benefit for any of the following persons: (1) the county officer or employee; (2) a member of his or her household, (3) his or her outside employer or business; (4) a relative; or (5) a customer or client." The board ruled that "neither your candidacy nor your service" would violate that specific provision.

Bickford added that "since on occasion your service as Philipstown judge, if you are elected, may relate to matters before the Putnam County Department of Social Services, it is the opinion of the Board of Ethics that you should recuse yourself from participation in such matters either

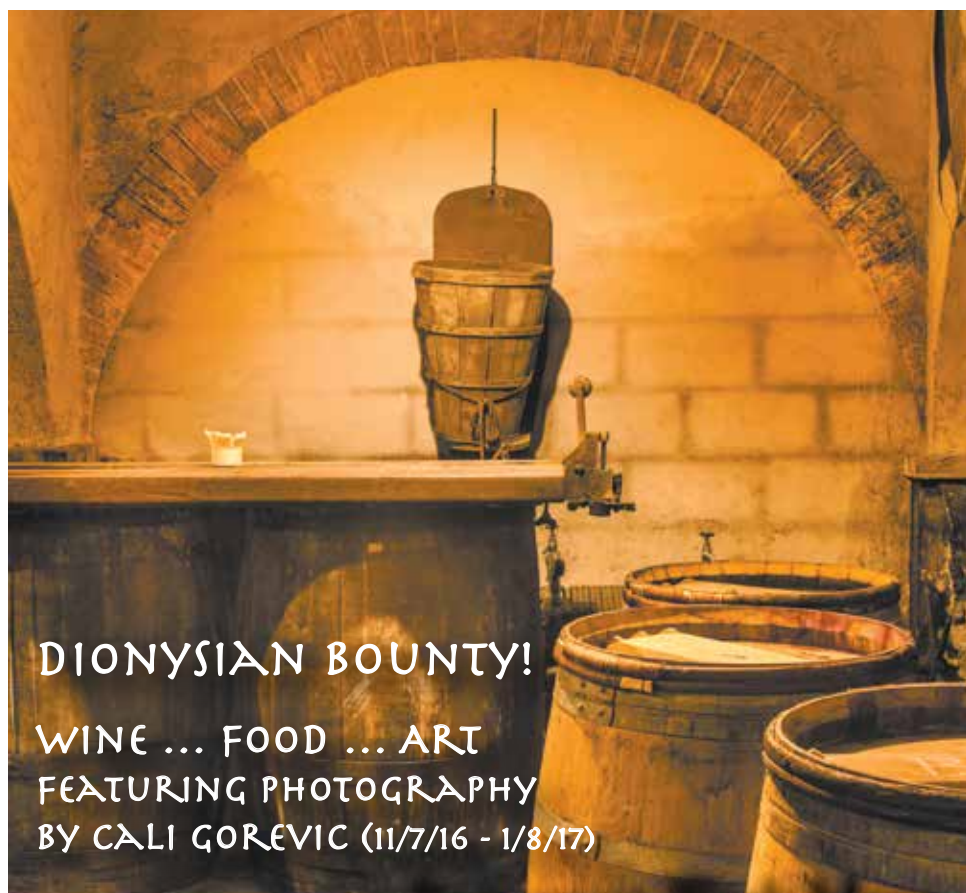
as a judge or as an employee of the department."

Nevertheless, the Conservative Party of Putnam County asserts there would be an "obvious" conflict should Thorpe win, presenting scenarios in its court filings in which she encounters the same defendants in both venues and is privy to private information that could prejudice her.

Asked about this, Thorpe wrote in an email: "In the event that a conflict arises, I would handle it the same as any other judge would. I would recuse myself from the matter. However, based on my review of cases that have appeared in both the Town of Philipstown and my office, this event happens rarely."

Further, the pending lawsuit claims Thorpe "knowingly" violated election law with the petition filed in her name, that Bickford should have recused himself because he was appointed to the board of the Metropolitan Transportation Authority by Odell, ostensibly Thorpe's boss, and that members of the ethics board had "private conversations" with Thorpe before issuing its opinion.

Thorpe disputed this, writing: "The only conversation I had when I sought an opinion [from the Board of Ethics] was with the director of the Department of Personnel, and only for the purpose of determining the process I needed to go through in order to seek the opinion. This was in no way a violation of election law or any law."



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BY CALI GOREVIC (11/7/16 - 1/8/17)

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Fri., 11/4 8:30 p.m.
Larry Carlton
guest Strato G
featuring Tony DePaolo

Sat., 11/5 8:30 p.m.
Shilelagh Law

Sun., 11/6 7:30 p.m.
The Cleverly Brothers
guest The Toland Brothers

Thurs., 11/10 7:30 p.m.
Molsky's Mountain Drifters

Fri., 11/11 8:30 p.m.
Jason Gisser Band
guest Pluck & Rail

Sat., 11/12 8:30 p.m.
Tony Trischka
Out to Lunch

Sun., 11/13 7:30 p.m.
Carpenter & King
tribute to Karen Carpenter & Carole King

Thurs., 11/17 7:30 p.m.
Mimi Goese/Ben Neill
"Fathom: Hudson River Data as Music"

Fri., 11/18 8:30 p.m.
Sloan Wainwright

Sat., 11/19 8:30 p.m.
Garland Jeffreys Band
guest Steve Addabbo

Sun., 11/20 7:30 p.m.
Breakneck Ridge Revue

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The Calendar

Star-Crossed Beacon

New extraterrestrial comedy on TBS lands close to home

By Brian PJ Cronin

There's dickery afoot in Beacon.

That's the premise and tag line of a new TBS science-fiction comedy, *People of Earth*, which premiered Oct. 31 and airs at 9 p.m. on Mondays. (The first two episodes are online at tbs.com.) It stars Wyatt Cenac of *The Daily Show* as Ozzie Graham, a journalist who travels from New York City to a place that claims to have the most reported cases of alien abductions on the East Coast: Beacon, New York.

At one point, a conspiracy buff warns Graham that the city is a victim of "alien dickery," by which he means extraterrestrials are toying with its residents.

As far as *The Current* could ascertain, Beacon doesn't have any reported cases of alien abductions. But David Jenkins, the show's creator, says he couldn't resist.

"The name 'Beacon' is alien bait," he said. "I can't believe this is the first alien show set in Beacon, actually."

The city's name isn't the only reason Jenkins chose to set the show in Beacon. "It's close enough to New York City to get some city folk, but it also has a diverse community of locals," he said. "It's not a small, hick town. It's a little city full of people who work in many different professions and take themselves seriously."

Don't expect to see actors or aliens hanging out at the Yankee Clipper Diner. The ensemble cast, not to mention the occasional need for a levitating car or talking deer, pushed the budget out of range for on-site production. So like many other television series, the crew took advantage of Canada's generous tax breaks and filmed in Ontario, with Toronto neighborhoods standing in for Beacon.

"I live in Queens, so I would have loved to have shot this in New York State," said Jenkins. "I was very vocal about trying to get the show made here. But we have a reasonably small budget for the kind of show we're trying to make."

Jenkins said the Beacon in the show isn't supposed to be Beacon anyway, but a perfect combination of Hudson Valley towns such as Beacon, Athens, Tivoli and Woodstock. "It's a mish-mosh of things that define the Hudson Valley for me: Pine trees, small churches, busy town centers, farmers and former Brooklynites."

So the Perfect Bean coffee shop isn't a stand-in for Bank Square. Hawthorne Road, the rural road that leads into town where much of the alien dickery takes place, isn't another Route 9D. And the *Beacon Gazette*, the newspaper that employs the protagonist, isn't supposed to be *The Current*, which means this paper isn't a pawn in a 200-year-old sinister plot by aliens to take over Earth, so don't send us any more letters about it.

Eagle-eyed viewers will catch a few sly references to the real Beacon, such as a hand-drawn map of the city showing the sites of alien abductions or a Beacon Rebels baseball shirt with a raccoon on it, a nod to the Hudson Valley Renegades and their mascot. "You're the first person to have noticed that," Jenkins said.

In the show, Cenac's character falls in with a support group called StarCrossed for those who have had alien encounters or, as the members prefer to call them, "experiences." Although skeptical of their claims, eerie similarities in their stories lead the reporter to wonder if there might be truth to their claims, especially after he learns that he may have more in common with the group than he



Top, Ozzie Graham sees a vision of himself as a child on the outskirts of "Beacon"; above, members of the ensemble cast. "The name Beacon is alien bait," said series creator David Jenkins. "I can't believe this is the first alien show set in Beacon, actually."

Photos provided

thought. It's that unlikely camaraderie among the group members that served as the inspiration for the show.

"I read an article about real-life alien abduction support groups, and it just fascinated me," said Jenkins. "All of the people seemed relatively reasonable and sane, except they swore they'd been taken by aliens. That just seemed like such an interesting, unusual setting for an ensemble comedy. I was also moved by the thought that

these people really need each other. They've all experienced something that no one will possibly believe. Who can they turn to but each other?"

While writing the series, Jenkins looked to *Close Encounters of the Third Kind* and *The X-Files* for inspiration, particularly in the way they kept their extraterrestrial premises grounded by focusing on the human elements.

"They keep a lot of the fantastical stuff off-screen, undoubtedly for budgetary constraints," he said. "But when you don't have the money to build some fantastical CG [computer-generated] aliens or thousands of spaceships, the story becomes about how people are processing these things. To me, Richard Dreyfus making a mountain out of mashed potatoes [in *Close Encounters*] is way more interesting than a squadron of generic spaceships blowing up."

People of Earth's first season will run for 10 episodes. Jenkins says he hopes the show will be renewed because he knows how he'd like it to end. "It would be great to have five seasons to tell this story," he said. "My student loans would certainly love that."



The aliens: Don the White, Kurt the Reptilian and Jeff the Grey

Election Preview: Tuesday, Nov. 8, 2016

PRESIDENT



Clinton



Trump



Johnson



Stein

UNITED STATES SENATOR



Long



Merced



Schumer



Wilson

Why So Many Parties?

To qualify as a political party in New York State, an organization's candidate for governor must get at least 50,000 votes in the preceding election. After the 2014 election, eight parties were recognized: Conservative, Democratic, Green, Independence, Reform (formerly Stop Common Core), Republican, Working Families and Women's Equality. The Libertarian Party's candidate received 16,769 votes, far short of the requirement. Other parties that did not make the New York ballot include America First, Communist, Constitution, Freedom Restoration, Liberal, New York Labor, New York Right to Life, School Choice, Socialist and Workers World.

Who created all these parties? Democrats and Republicans, mostly. The Women's Equality Party, for example, was organized by Gov. Andrew Cuomo, who

received 53,802 votes on its line in 2014, qualifying it for the 2016 election. (Cuomo also received 1.8 million votes on the Democratic line.) He was also the candidate for the Working Families Party and the Independence Party, which many people confuse with being an independent, or having no party affiliation. Cuomo's Republican opponent, Rob Astorino, was the candidate for the Conservative and Reform parties.

Placing a candidate's name on multiple lines of the ballot is called "fusion voting," and politicians believe it gets them more votes. (You may not think much of Democrats, but who can be against the candidate of a party devoted to women's equality or working families?) Some have called for a law that would require politicians to pick one party, to reduce confusion at the ballot box.

The Procrastinator's Voting FAQ

Where do I vote?

To find your polling place and learn more about the candidates you will see on the ballot, visit the nonpartisan League of Women Voters Education Fund site, vote411.org, where you can enter your address for personalized information. If you have problems voting on Election Day, call 1-866-687-8683.

I have to work. Can I still vote?

New York State law allows a voter up to two hours with pay to leave work and vote.

Where do I register to vote?

The deadline for new voter registrations has passed. If you are already registered, you do not need to re-register unless you change your name, move out of the county and return, or want to change your party enrollment.

Is it too late to get an absentee ballot?

No, but you will have to apply in person at the county Board of Elections by the end of the workday Nov. 7. The ballot must be delivered to the Board of Elections by 9 p.m. Nov. 8 or postmarked by Nov. 7 and received no later than Nov. 15.

The Putnam County Board of Elections is located at 25 Old Route 6 in Carmel. Call 845-808-1300. The Dutchess County Board of Elections is located at 47 Cannon St. in Poughkeepsie. Call 845-486-2473.

Both offices have extended hours on Saturday, Nov. 5, from 9 a.m. to noon. The polls are open Nov. 8 from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. Visit highlandscurrent.com after the polls close for local results.

REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS 18TH DISTRICT



Maloney



Oliva

STATE SUPREME COURT



Jamieson



Malone



Walsh

Active Party Enrollment

	Putnam	Dutchess
Democrat	17,758	58,020
Republican	21,193	50,841
Independent (No Party)	15,419	47,061
Independence	3,586	10,171
Conservative	1,934	3,637
Worker's	208	765
Green	137	473
Reform	11	35
Women's Equality	5	28
Other	40	114

Source: New York State Board of Elections. As of April 1.

President (4-year term)

Hillary Clinton / Tim Kaine (D)
Donald J. Trump / Michael R. Pence (R)
Jill Stein / Ajamu Baraka (Green)
Gary Johnson / Bill Weld (Libertarian)

U.S. Senator (6-year term)

Each state has two senators.

Charles E. Schumer (D)
Wendy Long (R)
Robin Laverne Wilson (Green)
Alex Merced (Libertarian)

18th Congressional District (2-year term)

Each House member represents about 700,000 people.

Sean Patrick Maloney (D)
Resident of Philipstown
Education: B.A. from Virginia (1988); J.D. from Virginia (1992)
Experience: Former senior adviser to President Bill Clinton
Current position: Elected to Congress in 2012.
Campaign site: seanmaloney.com
Money raised (2016): \$1.5 million

Phil Oliva (R)

Resident of Somers
Education: B.A. from Siena, MBA from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
Experience: Adviser to Westchester County Executive Rob Astorino
Current position: President of Gipper Communications
Campaign site: philoliva.com
Money raised (2016): \$204,197

New York Supreme Court, 9th Judicial District (14-year term)

Linda S. Jamieson (D) – Supreme Court justice since 2003

Money raised (2016): \$197,866
Janet C. Malone (D) – Westchester County Supreme Court since 2011

Money raised (2016): \$83,669
Thomas E. Walsh II (D) – Rockland County Supreme Court since 2009

Money raised (2016): \$153,410

The ninth is one of 13 districts in New York State, which has 324 Supreme Court justices. It includes Dutchess, Orange, Putnam, Rockland and Westchester counties. There are three open seats so the candidates are running unopposed.

Sources: Federal Election Commission, New York State Board of Elections, campaign websites

STATE SENATOR 41ST DISTRICT



Gipson



Serino

MEMBER OF ASSEMBLY 95TH DISTRICT



Galef



Purdy

MEMBER OF ASSEMBLY 104TH DISTRICT



Banuchi

Skartados

95th Assembly (including Philipstown) (2-year term)

Sandy Galef (D)
Resident of Ossining
Education: B.S. in education from Purdue; M.Ed. from Virginia
Experience: Former schoolteacher
Current position: First elected to Assembly in 1992.
Campaign site: sandygalefforassembly.com
Money raised (2016): \$42,578

Gregory Purdy (R)

Resident of Kent
Education: B.S. in computer science, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
Experience: Former longtime software engineer at IBM
Current position: Left IBM; running for office
Campaign site: purdy.online
Money raised (2016): \$1,275

104th Assembly (including Beacon) (2-year term)

Frank Skartados (D)

Resident of Milton
Education: B.A. in political science from SUNY New Paltz; master's in international studies from State University of California at Sacramento
Experience: Former teacher at New York Military Academy; founder of Academy Street Business Association in Poughkeepsie
Current position: Elected to seat in 2012; re-elected 2014
Campaign site: frankforassembly.com
Money raised (2016): \$16,231

William Banuchi Sr. (Conservative)

Resident of Newburgh
Education: Berean College Assemblies of God, SUNY New Paltz, University of Maryland
Experience: U.S. Air Force veteran; design engineer; founded Highland Falls Assembly of God
Current position: Marriage and family counselor; executive director of New York chapter of the Faith & Freedom Coalition

Campaign site: banuchi4ny.com
Money raised (2016): \$21,147

41st Senate (2-year term)

Sue Serino (R)
Resident of Hyde Park
Education: Dutchess Community College
Experience: Real-estate broker; Hyde Park Town Board; Dutchess County legislator
Current position: Elected to Senate in 2014 after defeating Gipson

Campaign site: sueserino.com
Money raised (2016): \$680,106

Terry Gipson (D)

Resident of Rhinebeck
Education: BFA from Texas Tech; MFA from Penn State
Experience: Former designer for MTV Networks; Rhinebeck Village trustee; State Senate 2013-14
Current position: Gipson Design Group
Campaign site: terrygipsonny.com
Money raised (2016): \$258,669

PUTNAM COUNTY

The nine-member Putnam County Legislature will have two new faces after the election. In District 6 (Southeast), Paul Jonke (R) faces Jen Cassidy (D) to succeed Roger Gross, who did not seek re-election. In the 9th District (Carmel), Kevin Wright will be succeeded by Neal Sullivan (R), who is running unopposed. And in the 5th District (Carmel), Carl Albano is running for re-election unopposed.

For more on the Putnam County judge's race between James Reitz (R) and Gina Capone (D), see highlandscurrent.com.

PHILIPSTOWN

For more on the Philipstown Town Justice race between Camille Linson (D) and Faye Thorpe (R), see highlandscurrent.com. Linson has raised \$3,063 and Thorpe \$7,305.

Down the Road

March 2017

Village of Cold Spring

Mayor David Merandy (2-year term)
Trustee Marie Early (2-year term)
Trustee Frances Murphy (2-year term)
Justice Thomas Costello (4-year term)

November 2017

Putnam County

Legislator William J. Gouldman (3-year term)
Legislator Toni E. Addonizio (3-year term)
Legislator Dini LoBue (3-year term)
Sheriff Donald Smith (4-year term)

Philipstown Town Board

Michael Leonard (4-year term)
John Van Tassel (4-year term)

Philipstown Supervisor

Richard Shea (2-year term)

Village of Nelsonville

Mayor Thomas Corless (2-year term)
Trustee Danielle Pack McCarthy (2-year term)

November 2018

Putnam County

County Executive MaryEllen Odell (3-year term)
County Clerk Michael Bartolotti (4-year term)
Legislator Barbara Scuccimarra (3-year term)
Legislator Ginny Nacerino (3-year term)
Legislator Joseph Castellano (3-year term)

Village of Cold Spring

Trustee Lynn Miller (2-year term)
Trustee Steve Voloto (2-year term)

Village of Nelsonville

Trustee Thomas Robertson (2-year term)



FRIDAY, NOV. 4

Hudson Valley Restaurant Week

Through Nov. 13 | valleytable.com/hvrw

Free Admission for Veterans

Boscobel, Garrison | Daily through Nov. 30

Pasta and Meatballs Dinner5 – 7:30 p.m. North Highlands Firehouse
504 Fishkill Road, Cold Spring
Call 845-265-9595 for takeout.**Getting This Show on the Road (Opening)**6 – 9 p.m. Gallery 66 NY | 66 Main St., Cold Spring
845-809-5838 | gallery66ny.com**New Work by Lael Morgan (Opening)**6 – 8 p.m. Buster Levi Gallery | 121 Main St., Cold Spring
845-809-5145 | busterlevigallery.com**Fiery Women, Fierce Justice (Concert)**7:30 p.m. Beahive | 291 Main St., Beacon
845-765-1890 | beahivebzzz.com**The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee**7:30 p.m. Philipstown Depot Theatre
10 Garrison's Landing, Garrison
845-424-3900 | philipstowndepottheatre.org**Dzieci Makbet**8 p.m. Howland Cultural Center | 477 Main St., Beacon
845-765-3012 | howlandculturalcenter.org**Southside Johnny and the Asbury Jukes**

8 p.m. Paramount Hudson Valley | 1008 Brown St., Peekskill | 914-739-0039

The Last Five Years

8 p.m. County Players | 2681 W. Main St., Wappingers Falls | 845-298-1491 | countyplayers.org

SATURDAY, NOV. 5

Fifth Annual Mike Archer Memorial 5K Run/Walk9 a.m. Memorial Park, Beacon
Search "Mike Archer" at eventbrite.com

Calendar Highlights

For upcoming events visit highlandscurrent.com.
Send event listings to calendar@highlandscurrent.com**All About Bulbs Workshop**

9 a.m. Stonecrop Gardens | 81 Stonecrop Lane, Cold Spring | 845-265-2000 | stonecrop.org

Prescription Medication Take Back9 a.m. – 2 p.m. Putnam Hospital Center (Cancer Pavilion) | 670 Stoneleigh Ave., Carmel
845-808-1390 ext. 43164 | putnamcountyny.com**Land Management Workshop for Woodland Birds**9:30 a.m. Hubbard Lodge, Cold Spring
845-265-2601 | ny.audubon.org/forestworkshop**Be Part of the Art Silk Scarf Session**10 a.m. Beacon Talents
160 Main St., Beacon | beacontalents.com**Glass Bead Making Workshop**10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Hudson Beach Glass
162 Main St., Beacon
845-440-0068 | hudsonbeachglass.com**For Goodness Snakes!**10 a.m. Wildlife Education Center
25 Boulevard, Cornwall
845-534-5506 ext. 204 | hhnrm.org**Family Volunteer Landscape Day with Bonfire**10 a.m. – 3 p.m. Manitoga | 584 Route 9D, Garrison
845-424-3812 | visitmanitoga.org**Butterfield Library**10:30 a.m. College Planning 101
4 p.m. Poetry Salon | 10 Morris Ave., Cold Spring
845-265-3040 | butterfieldlibrary.org**Creative Field Journaling Workshop**

10:30 a.m. Storm King Art Center | 1 Museum Road, New Windsor | 845-534-3115 | stormking.org

Exploring, Embracing and Enjoying Our Bodies And Minds As We Age (Talk)11 a.m. Howland Cultural Center
477 Main St., Beacon
845-219-5790 | inmyothershouse@gmail.com**Imagination Movers for Kids**11 a.m. & 3 p.m. Paramount Hudson Valley
See details under Friday.**Army Sports at West Point**Noon. Football vs. Air Force | 7 p.m. Men's Soccer vs. Bucknell | 7:05 p.m. Hockey vs. Air Force
845-938-2526 | goarmysports.com**Coulter Young Exhibit (Reception)**

1 – 4 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library | 472 Route 403, Garrison | 845-424-3020 | desmondfishlibrary.org

Beacon Historical Society 40th Anniversary Celebration1 – 5 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
477 Main St., Beacon
845-765-3012 | beaconhistorical.org**Improv Acting for Middle and High Schoolers**

1:30 p.m. Howland Public Library | 313 Main St., Beacon | 845-831-1134 | beaonlibrary.org

Harvest Cocktail Party5 p.m. St. Philip's Church (Parish House)
1101 Route 9D, Garrison
845-424-3571 | stphilipshighlands.org**Shannon Calandrillo (soprano) & Mikko Taylor (keyboard)**7 p.m. Chapel Restoration
45 Market St., Cold Spring
845-265-5537 | chapelrestoration.org**Middle-School Night**7 – 10 p.m. Philipstown Community Center
107 Glenclyffe Drive, Garrison
philipstownrecreation.com**Extraordinary Measures by Eve Ensler with Q&A**7:30 p.m. Garrison Institute
14 Mary's Way, Garrison
845-424-4800 | garrisoninstitute.org/eveensler**The Legend of Sleepy Hollow with Jonathan Kruk**7:30 p.m. Tompkins Corners
729 Peekskill Hollow Road, Putnam Valley
845-528-7280 | tompkinscorners.org**The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee**

7:30 p.m. Depot Theatre | Details under Friday

Artie Lange (Comedy)8 p.m. Paramount Hudson Valley
See details under Friday.**The Last Five Years**

8 p.m. County Players | See details under Friday.

SUNDAY, NOV. 6

Daylight Saving Time Ends

Set clocks back one hour at 2 a.m.

Glass Bead-Making Workshop10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Hudson Beach Glass
See details under Saturday.**Desmond-Fish Annual Fall Luncheon: "The Road to the White House"**Noon. The Garrison
2015 Route 9, Garrison
845-424-3020 | desmondfishlibrary.org**Canopus Beach Welcome Center Open House**Noon - 3 p.m. Canopus Beach Area
Route 301, just west of Taconic
212-290-8200 x306 | facebook.com/fofhh**Styling Nature with Photographer Don Freeman (Talk and Signing)**2 p.m. Winter Hill
20 Nazareth Way, Garrison
RSVP to Imoss@gardenconservancy.org**Jeremy Denk (Pianist)**Howland Cultural Center
477 Main St., Beacon
845-765-3012 | howlandmusic.org**The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee**

4 p.m. Depot Theatre | See details under Friday.

MONDAY, NOV. 7

Sign Language for Kids (First Session)4 p.m. Howland Public Library
See details under Saturday.**Beacon City Council**7 p.m. City Hall Courtroom
1 Municipal Plaza, Beacon
845-838-5011 | cityofbeacon.org**Beacon School Board**7 p.m. Beacon High School
101 Matteawan Road, Beacon
845-838-6900 | beaoncityk12.org

TUESDAY, NOV. 8

Election Day

Polls open 6 a.m. – 9 p.m. | vote411.org

Boscobel Open for Artists9:30 a.m. – 4 p.m. Boscobel | 1601 Route 9D, Garrison | 845-265-3638 | boscobel.org
No public admission.**Board of Trustees Meeting**7:30 p.m. Village Hall | 85 Main St., Cold Spring
845-265-3611 | coldspringny.gov

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 9

Tioronda Garden Club

7 p.m. Howland Cultural Center | Details under Friday

THURSDAY, NOV. 10

riverBREW 5.06 p.m. Newburgh Brewing Co.
88 S. Colden St., Newburgh
Search "Riverbrew" at eventbrite.com
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291 Main St., Beacon | beaonfilmsociety.org**Thank You for Your Service (Documentary)**7:30 p.m. Paramount Hudson Valley
1008 Brown St., Peekskill
gathr.us/screening/17868
Hosted by Topfield Equestrian Center

FRIDAY, NOV. 11

Veterans' Day**Colin Hay**8 p.m. Paramount Hudson Valley
See details under Nov. 4.**Calling All Poets**8 p.m. Center for Creative Education
464 Main St., Beacon
914-474-7758 | callingallpoets.net**The Last Five Years**8 p.m. County Players
See details under Nov. 4.EXPERIENCE FINE DINING
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Protecting Your Vote *(from Page 3)*

and the memory chip from each machine is removed, placed in a sealed pouch and delivered by courier to the boards of elections.

Once delivered, the seals are checked for tampering and the officials note how long it takes for each delivery.

One year in Putnam County, the police were sent when a delivery didn't arrive quickly enough. It turns out the courier, who was 86, had passed out in front of the Kent firehouse. "Fortunately the firefighters found him, and he was fine," Scannapieco said.

When the pouches are opened, the mem-

"I always tell people, we're not here to disenfranchise people. We're here to enfranchise people."

ory chips are inserted into a computer to be tallied. The chips are then removed and inserted into a second computer in a different room and counted again, and then

posted online. It's the first time, at any point in the process, that results are placed on a device with an internet connection, making the system unhackable since it's been backed up by printed reports and stored on an offline computer before then.

All the commissioners interviewed agreed that online balloting is not something that should happen anytime soon.

"There would be no paper trail," said Croft. Caviglia, who used to work for IBM, agreed that it's not worth the risk of convenience. "Anything you can possibly imagine doing, a hacker will have figured out how to do long before you even thought of it."

The staff at the boards of elections will be working through the weekend and next week, including organizing rides to the polls or, as Scannapieco did one year, driving cross-county on Election Day to deliver a provisional ballot to a double-amputee veteran who couldn't leave her home.

"I always tell people, we're not here to disenfranchise people," he said. "We're here to enfranchise people."



Marco Caviglia

Photo provided

The Harvest Cocktail Party at St. Philip's Church

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Elizabeth Todd Healy Volunteer Service Award will be presented to the 2015/2016 provisional class of the Philipstown Garden Club and its mentors, including Kathleen Fearn, Sara Yano, Carol McPeck, Lefty Zagoreos, Erin McNally, JoAnn Brown, Elise LaRocco, and Steve Hutcheson.

The Garrison Country Club
2015 Route 9, Garrison
Cocktails at 6:00pm; Dinner at 6:45pm

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Local businesses and merchants: please contact the museum to become a sponsor of this community event.

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Day Trip

The Age of Washington

Commander made vital decisions at Newburgh home

By Mary Ann Ebner

The nation's first president took the oath of office in 1789 on Wall Street in New York City, but further north along the Hudson, an earlier chapter of his life and influence on the American republic endures.

As commander in chief of the Continental Army during the Revolutionary War, Gen. George Washington established his headquarters and residence from April 1782 through August 1783 at the Newburgh family home of Jonathan and Tryntje Hasbrouck. The first publicly preserved historic site in the nation (1850), Washington's Headquarters State Historic Site, which includes a stone house, museum and Tower of Victory, sits on a spacious corner lot in the city's East End Historic District overlooking a spectacular stretch of the Hudson River.

A guided tour of the Dutch fieldstone farmhouse unveils the depth of heritage that the National Landmark preserves in the collection of Washington's papers and effects as well as furnishings that reflect life during the period. The exhibit *Unpacked & Rediscovered: Selections from Washington's Headquarters' Collection*, which opened in 2012, displays more than 1,300 artifacts.

Historic Site Manager Elyse Goldberg described the collection as eclectic, with open storage and digital tools enabling the small museum to exhibit its vast collection.

"In order to increase the number of objects we could show, we have minimal interpretation and labels," Goldberg said. "We have a supplemental catalog that describes everything on display and shows multiple views of each object. It's a searchable database."

Museum visitors explore the collection on touchpads and search the database at a kiosk. Guided tours will appeal to amateur historians as well as schoolchildren as they are led through rooms where

Trip Tips

- Lot and street parking are available.
- Hasbrouck House accessible for people with limited mobility; the museum partially accessible.
- No photographs allowed inside.



Historic Site Manager Elyse Goldberg

Washington not only lived but made exacting decisions, including the rejection of a monarchy and the prevention of a government controlled by the military.

Washington generated a high volume of correspondence from the Hasbrouck House, and his Circular Letter of June 8, 1783, written at the end of the war, carries his powerful message of hope for his new nation.

For the past 18 years, Lynette Scherer has helped preserve Newburgh's historical treasure on countless guided tours, and once visitors sign on with her to revisit the world of Washington, she delivers in detail.

"It took Washington's men three weeks to reproduce 13 copies of his 4,000-word letter of June 8, 1783," Scherer said as she led guests around the desks used by Washington's Aide-de-Camp staff. "The letters would be delivered to the 13 state governors."

In addition to its military history, Washington's Headquarters preserves the period's furnishings, culinary traditions and architecture. The Hasbrouck House boasts high ceilings, designed to accommodate the 6-foot-4-inch Jonathan Hasbrouck. Outbuildings and guard stations added by Washington no longer stand, but a Tower of Victory built with native limestone was constructed near the headquarters in the late 19th century for the centennial of the war's end. It is currently being restored.

Washington's Headquarters has scheduled a number of events over the holidays. At 11:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 26, a lecture and tour — "Through Different Lenses" — will use stereoscopic views to transport visitors back to Washington's



Hasbrouck House

Photos by M.A. Ebner

day. Admission is \$5 per person.

On Sunday, Dec. 11, the public is invited to "Warm Up at the Washingtons" from noon to 4 p.m. The Salmagundi Consort will perform period music. There also will be warm cider and cookies by the fire. Admission is free as part of Newburgh's Candlelight Tour of Houses.

From 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. from Dec. 28 to 31, the site will host a "Cure for Cabin Fever" with a different take-away craft each day.

Beyond military pieces, the museum displays an eclectic assortment of domestics, dolls, commemorative items of the Revolutionary period, as well as souvenirs collected from world travels. The perma-

nent exhibit electronic catalog showcases the extensive collection of letters, illustrations, artifacts, and rare items such as the orders written by Washington for the Badge of Military Merit, the forerunner of the Purple Heart.

Washington's Headquarters is located at 84 Liberty St. (at the corner of Washington and Liberty) in Newburgh. The suggested admission is \$4 for adults and \$3 for students and seniors ages 62 and older. Children ages 12 and younger are admitted free. Its winter hours, which begin Nov. 4, are 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Friday and Saturday. Group tours can be arranged Tuesday through Saturday. Call 845-562-1195.



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The Tower of Victory, originally constructed with a roof, is undergoing restoration.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS



Photograph by Cali Gorevic

Cathryn's to Host Photo Exhibit

Shots by Cali Gorevic on the process of making wine

Cathryn's Tuscan Grill in Cold Spring will host an exhibit of color photography by Cali Gorevic beginning Monday, Nov. 7, and continuing through Jan. 8. The show was organized by M. Studio Gallery.

Inspired by the glories of a Dionysian age, Gorevic shot images in the cellars of vineyards around the world, capturing the grapes, the process and the wine. Cathryn's is located at 91 Main St. The show's whimsical title quotes George Carlin: *What Wine Goes with Captain Crunch?*

Paramount to Screen Military Doc

Sponsored by Topfield Equestrian Center

The Paramount Hudson Valley in Peekskill will show the documentary *Thank You for Your Service*, which chronicles the wounds of war, on Thursday, Nov. 10 at 7:30 p.m. The screening is sponsored by the Topfield Equestrian Center of Cold Spring, which serves veterans in six counties as part of a federal "warrior transition program" us-

ing horses for therapy.

A wine-and-cheese reception will follow the film. Tickets may be purchased at gathr.us/screening/17868.

Photographer to Discuss *Styling Nature*

Don Freeman will share techniques for shooting floral arrangements

Don Freeman will talk about and sign his new book, *Styling Nature: A Masterful Approach to Floral Arrangements* at 2 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 6, at Winter Hill in Garrison. The photographer will discuss creative technique, composition, lighting and how to develop visual sensibility using "the camera's eye."

Freeman's work appears regularly in *The World of Interiors*, *Elle Décor* and *Architectural Digest*. He also is the author of *Artists' Handmade Houses*, which was adapted into the 2014 film *Art House*.

The program, which is sponsored by the Philipstown Garden Club, is free but space is limited. To register, email Lori Moss at lmoss@gardenconservancy.org.

A shot by Don Freeman from *Styling Nature*

St. Philip's Plans Cocktail Fundraiser

Signed Don Nice print to be auctioned

St. Philip's Church in Garrison will host a Harvest Cocktail Party from 5 to 7 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 5, with wine and appetizers, including oysters. A signed print by Don Nice will also be auctioned.

The suggested donation per person is \$50, and the St. Philip's Youth Group will provide child care for \$10 per child or \$25 for three or more children from the same family. (The child care proceeds will benefit the food pantry and community outreach.) Reservations are required for child care; please call 845-424-3571. St. Philip's is located at 1101 Route 9D.

Veterans' Day Ceremony at Fishkill Depot

Will honor Revolutionary War patriots

A Veterans' Day ceremony will be held at the Fishkill Supply Depot Veterans' Memorial on the Continental Commons property off Route 9 in Fishkill at 3 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 11. It will pay tribute to the nation's first patriots who died at the Fishkill Supply Depot, which was the major logistical center for the Revolutionary War in the north.

Invasive Plants Be Gone

Program scheduled for Winter Hill

In a one-hour program on Saturday, Nov. 12, participants can learn how to control a dozen of the most aggressive invasive plants in the yard. Garlic mustard, wineberry and mugwort are some of the

species that will be addressed by Cornell Cooperative Extension Master Gardeners in this free event hosted by the Hudson Highlands Land Trust at Winter Hill, 20 Nazareth Way in Garrison.

Invasive plants can spread fast and dominate the landscape, crowding out other desirable plants. But by understanding a plant's life cycle and how it spreads and reproduces, it's possible to control them without using herbicides. Alternative methods include biological and structural strategies. Part of the program will be answering questions from attendees. Call 845-424-3358 or visit hhlt.org to register.

Nominate Best Putnam Businesses

Chamber looking for winners in 18 categories

The Putnam County Chamber of Commerce is accepting nominations for its seventh annual Best in Business Trailblazer Awards to be presented in March. The winners in 18 categories, including Most Innovative Company, Best New Company and Most Socially Responsible or Environmentally Friendly Company, are chosen through nominations. Visit putnamchamberny.org to see a list of all categories and to nominate businesses.

Plastic You Could Be Recycling

But probably aren't

America Recycles Day is Nov. 15 and the Putnam County Health Department encourages residents to keep plastic bags and films out of landfills. While most people know that hard plastics can be recycled through curbside pickups, plastic bags and wrapping need to be taken to drop-off locations such as Foodtown in Cold Spring.

Newspaper delivery bags, dry cleaning bags, packaging material, food storage bags and plastic wrap that covers products like paper towels, beverages, and toilet paper can all be recycled. For a complete list of drop-off centers and materials, visit putnamcountyny.com/health/recycling.



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Shiitake mushrooms on a red oak log inoculated about two years earlier Photo by Ken Mudge/Cornell Small Farms Program

DIY Shiitake Mushroom Log

Log and spores supplied

Delicious, healthy and easy to grow? Cornell Cooperative Extension educator Jennifer Stengle will lead a workshop on Saturday, Nov. 12 on the shiitake mushroom life cycle and how to grow them on a log in your yard. All participants will create a shiitake log.

The cost is \$30 per person or team of two or three people using one set of materials. It runs from 1 to 3 p.m. at the Putnam Valley Grange Hall, 128 Mill St. in Putnam Valley. Register at putnamvalleygrange.org/backyardfarming.

Pianist at Chapel Restoration

Final concert of Sunday Music season

The final concert of the Chapel Restoration's Sunday Music season will take place at 4 p.m. Nov. 13 with Steven Beck performing Bach's *Goldberg Variations*. The show is free but donations are welcome. The Chapel is located at 45 Market St. in Cold Spring, with free parking at the Metro-North station lot.

Beck has performed as a soloist and chamber musician at Alice Tully Hall in New York City, the Kennedy Center and the Library of Congress, among other venues.

History of the Hudson Valley, Part 2

Author publishes second volume of series

Vernon Benjamin has spent decades writing and researching the history of the Hudson Valley. In 2014 he published *The History of the Hudson River Valley from Wilderness to the Civil War*. On Sunday, Nov. 13, at 2 p.m., he'll read from his second volume, which covers

Hudson Valley history from the Civil War to modern times.

Benjamin, an adjunct lecturer at Marist College, covers many local stories in this new book, including the involvement of the Fish and Osborn families with the 19th-century railroad and 20th-century reservoirs. The reading is free and copies of the book will be for sale.

Boscobel Salutes Veterans

Free admission for veterans in November

The house and grounds of historic Boscobel are open to veterans for free admission through Nov. 30, and up to five family members may accompany a veteran for half price. Bring a military id or a photo of yourself wearing your uniform to show at the front desk.

Learn about Bannerman Island and its Castle

Talk set for Putnam Valley library

On Saturday, Nov. 12, Bannerman Castle Trust co-founder Thom Johnson will speak about the history of the structure, which sits on an island in the Hudson River between Beacon and Cold Spring. Johnson, who co-wrote a book about the castle for Arcadia Press, is a lifelong Hudson Valley resident who has spent decades researching the history of

the island and castle.

The talk will be held at the Putnam Valley Free Library, 30 Oscawana Lake Road, at 10 a.m. and is sponsored by the Putnam Valley Historical Society. Call 845-528-1024. The society's next talk, on Dec. 10, will be "Material Culture of New Netherland: The Second Lost Colony."

Beacon

Pianist Genius at Howland

Jeremy Denk, a MacArthur Foundation Genius Grant Fellowship winner and American Academy of Arts and Sciences member, will perform a piano concert at the Howland Cultural Center on Sunday, Nov. 6 at 4 p.m. Denk will play *Sonata in A Minor, K. 310* by Mozart, *Phrygian Gates* by John Adams, *Sonata in D Minor, Op.31 No.2* by Beethoven and Schubert's *Fantasy in C Major, D 760 (Wanderer)*.

The performance is part of the Howland Chamber Music Circle's annual Piano Festival, which continues through February. There is a waiting list for Denk's concert but some tickets remain for Julia Hsu and Peter Serking on Dec. 4. Call 845-765-3012 or email info@howlandmusic.org for details.

Japanese Cloth Dyeing

Learn how to do it Nov. 12

Katrin Reifeiss, an artist who designs and creates accessories, clothing, blan-



Learn the shibori technique to create your own dyed cloth. Photo provided

kets and pillows, will lead a three-hour Itajime Shibori workshop on Saturday, Nov. 12 at the Beacon Art Studio at 22 Kent St. Shibori is an ancient resist-dye technique that creates patterns by folding and clamping.

The cost is \$55 and all supplies are provided except the cloth. Participants are asked to bring a maximum of 2 yards of white or light colored, natural fiber cloth like cotton, silk or linen. To register, visit katrinreifeiss.com.

Visit highlandscurrent.com for news updates and latest information.

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- Was born and raised in the Hudson Valley.
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- Actively volunteered on the Cold Spring Chamber of Commerce Board.
- Jointly led the effort to design, install and finance the Haldane Elementary playground at no cost to taxpayers.
- Has served low-income pro bono clients as part of her law practice.
- Was educated at Harvard and Oxford University.
- Has broad experience in legal subject areas tried before the Town Justice Court.
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What Happened to The Hop?

Popular bar closes suddenly; building for sale

By Brian PJ Cronin

It was the social media equivalent of an earthquake on the east end of Beacon's Main Street. On Monday, Oct. 25, The Hop added a post to its Facebook page: "The Hop is now closed indefinitely. Thank you all for making it a success. Cheers!"

Hours later the Facebook page vanished, a similar message went up on its website, and a hand-drawn sign appeared on the door that read: "So sorry, we're closed until further notice."



The Hop, shown in a photo taken from its website

No further notice has come. The bar closed so suddenly that the tables inside, visible through the large storefront windows, are still set with napkins and cutlery for dinner. On Tuesday, Oct. 26, the building at 554 Main St., which is owned by the founders of the bar, went on the market for \$3.6 million. "Priced to sell and completely turn-key!" boasts the listing. "Bring your business or be The Hop!"

Two weeks later, the mystery remains:

What happened to The Hop?

The Current reached out numerous times to The Hop's owners and a number of former employees, all of whom declined to comment, although a former manager said a benefit is being planned for the 30 people who are out of work.

Since it opened six years ago at 458 Main St., before moving in 2014 to its most recent location a few blocks away, The Hop never lacked for customers or buzz. It was an anomaly for Beacon at the time: A bar that only sold craft beers, a craft beer store and a restaurant all in one. The Hop acted as a guide to the dizzying arrays of inventive small-batch brews being introduced across the country. It's rotating selection on tap, a knowledgeable staff and the ability to buy one bottle at a time instead of committing to a six-pack, allowed The Hop to introduce countless locals to their new beers.

The food was good, too. Chef Matt Hutchins took a continental spin on hearty farmhouse cooking, using local products such as cheese from Sprout Creek, polenta from Wild Hive and meat from Barb's Butchery and providing evidence of the existence of a Hudson Valley Cuisine.

For this, The Hop was feted in the press, visited by Martha Stewart and almost always packed, even after it moved to a space four times larger, added an outdoor pavilion to double its seating capacity in warm weather and removed the takeaway coolers to create more space in the dining room.

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At the Heart of Beacon

(from Page 1)

time, Beacon officials phased in revised housing laws that gave the owners time to pocket a return on their investments while slowly encouraging commercial growth on Main.

Ron and Ronnie Beth Sauers also began developing apartments on the east end of Main by the early 1990s. A significant upgrade from the units that had occupied the buildings, Ron Sauers' influence — along with the city's efforts to improve sidewalks and streetlights — helped create an antique district on the east end while providing a template for restoring the west end.

"Ron was a carpenter, but he was really an artist," Forman said of Sauers, who died in 2011. "He had a vision and he was a hard-working guy. All of the stars aligned for us."

Still, for the businesses that did move to Main, growth was slow.

Gilvey said that when he and his three co-owners were drawing up business plans for Hudson Beach Glass, they expected only 1 percent of their sales to come from the community, with the remainder from tourists.

Today he says locals accounts for 25 to 35 percent of sales.

"Now we have strong local support," Gilvey said, citing a customer base that includes "new people and people who have lived here all their lives. People like to give gifts that are made where they live."

Recent closures, however, indicate that new issues — rising rent prices, for instance — could be looming on Main.

Karen Rokitoski, the owner of Get Frosted Cupcakery said the building she'd occupied at 323 Main was sold last December. Her lease expires next month and the increase in rent will be more than the business could absorb.

"I can't raise my prices to cover the in-



Main Street, Beacon, looking east

Photo by J. Simms

crease in rent [along] with the prices of other materials going up. The business has been steadily picking up, but by this time next year I'd be in the red," if she stayed, she said.

"Any business that's going out of business right now — I think it's because of rent increases; it's not because they're not doing good," Rokitoski added.

The city's 2007 comprehensive plan recommended additional measures to encourage continued growth on Main, including the development of a Main Street Corridor Plan to "address the urban design of the corridor, identification of activity centers, future parking improvements, public transportation improvements and outdoor public spaces."

At the time, only five new buildings had been built on Main in 25 years. In the decade since, one — the Beacon Inn and Spa at 151 Main — has been erected with two others approved but not yet built.

The 2007 plan also recommended increasing the allowable development den-

sity in both the central portion of Main — between Digger Phelps Court and Teller Avenue (Route 52) — and the waterfront. Acknowledging that the stretch between Digger Phelps and Teller "is considered by many residents to be economically and aesthetically weak," it called for the creation of a Main Street Transition Area Improvement Tax Zone where property tax breaks would boost development.

While the Corridor Plan and Transition Area Improvement Tax Zone were never created, Noah Levine of BFJ Planning, the firm hired to facilitate the comprehensive plan update, says drafts of the revised plan still include a focus on the middle of Main

in "an effort to knit the entire corridor together so you get that sense of enclosure."

Levine said that the Metropolitan Transit Authority's recent "request for expressions of interest" for the redevelopment of the Beacon-to-Hopewell Junction rail line could impact Main as well. If a light rail, for instance, is established along that line, something similar could one day work on Main, allowing riders to stop at various "nodes of activity."

The Corridor Plan and other Main Street development "are still good ideas," Levine said. While the updated comprehensive plan will be broader in its goals, the City Council could adopt area-specific strategies.

Overall, Levine said, resident feedback has been positive about the evolution of Main. "It's working well," he said. "It's just a matter of connecting both sides."

Longtime residents may derive a particular sense of satisfaction from the metamorphosis — from boarded-up storefronts to crowded Second Saturdays — of the city some felt years ago wasn't worth the investment.

"If you keep your Main Street strong, that's the key to keeping your neighborhoods strong," said Forman, the former city attorney. "We're the gold standard now. Because so many talented people have been attracted to our city, there's now another generation that's taking it to the next level. It's wonderful."

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Sports

High School Scoreboard

Cross Country

Section 1 Northern Counties
Championship
(Putnam and Dutchess teams)
Wappingers Falls (5000m)

Beacon Boys

22 Jayen Lare 18:11.90
34 Jean Pena 18:53.40
37 Bud Rutkoske 18:59.60
66 Richard Kish 19:53.70
97 Alexander Ullian 20:57.20
110 Ethan Burgos 21:21.40
113 Ian Kidd 21:22.20
116 Matthew Dowd 21:27.30
149 Khalil Kamara 22:54.60
157 Nolan Hillhouse 23:10.90
193 Jordan Haran 26:20.20
194 Kai Jacketti 26:20.20
204 Nicholas Papanastasiou 33:40.70
Team finish: 8 of 11

Beacon Girls

66 Katherine Stojakovic 26:14.00
86 Jenna Maffei 29:07.40

Haldane Boys

8 Nick Farrell 17:35.70
15 Adam Silhavy 17:53.30
65 Matthew Mikalsen 19:51.40
68 Ellis Osterfeld 19:55.20
94 Andrew Silhavy 20:47.40
125 Brett Schwartz 21:42.20
169 Quinn Petkus 23:51.60
176 Benjamin McEwen 24:15.40
202 Reid Sandlund 31:26.80
205 Noah Bingham 36:29.30
Team finish: 7 of 10

Haldane Girls

23 Shannon Ferri 22:09.80
34 Taylor Farrell 22:49.70
35 Olivia McDermott 22:51.90
43 Heather Winne 23:27.70
62 Meghan Ferri 25:55.20
Team finish: 7 of 10

Next up:

Section 1 Championships, Nov. 5
Bowdoin Park, Wappingers Falls

Football

Haldane vs. Tuckahoe
The Blue Devils (1-6) play Tuckahoe (1-6) Nov. 4 in Mahopac for the Section 1, Class D championship. Tuckahoe's only win was a 36-15 victory at Haldane on Sept. 10.

Boys' Soccer

North Salem 1, Haldane 0
After upsetting Solomon Schechter to reach the Section 1, Class C final, the Blue Devils lost a heartbreaker Oct. 29 when North Salem scored with 11 seconds to play in the second overtime. Haldane (8-7-2) shut out North Salem twice during the regular season but the Tigers outshot the Blue Devils in this one, 29-5.

Girls' Soccer

Haldane 1, North Salem 0
Haldane 3, Solomon Schechter 0
Haldane 6, Sullivan West 1
The Blue Devils won their sixth straight Section 1, Class C championship with a win over Solomon Schechter Oct. 30. Behind three goals from Hannah Monteleone, two from Allison Chiera and a goal and two assists by Missy Lisikatos, they cruised past Section 9 champion Sullivan West on Nov. 1 and next play Section 11 winner and defending state champion Port Jefferson in the regional finals Nov. 5.

Volleyball

Haldane 3, Hamilton 0
Pawling 3, Haldane 0
The fourth-seeded Blue Devils won in the Section 1, Class C quarterfinals Oct. 31 but lost in the next round to the undefeated (15-0) top seed.
Yorktown 3, Beacon 0
The Bulldogs, seeded No. 12, lost their first-round Class A match to No. 5 Yorktown.



Freshman defender Jade Villella races between two Solomon Schechter players during Haldane's 3-0 victory on Oct. 29 at Yorktown High School.



The Haldane girls' soccer team won the Section 1, Class C championship for the sixth year in a row.

Photos by Scott Warren

Philipstown Soccer Club (Week 7)

Boys

U13 Arsenal 2, Red Hook 0
U11 Strikers 10, Kingston 3
Kingston 7, U9 Force 1

Newburgh 2, U8 Storm 1

Girls

Cortlandt 4, U13 Raptors 1
Algonquin 4, U12 Phoenix 0

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This illustrated talk and book signing features stunning images from *Styling Nature: A Masterful Approach to Floral Arrangements*, in which Freeman's photographs appear. Freeman will discuss creative technique, composition, lighting and how to develop one's own visual sensibility using "the camera's eye."

Don Freeman is an accomplished fashion, still life, and interior photographer. His work appears regularly in *The World of Interiors*, *Elle Décor*, and *Architectural Digest*. His other books include *Artists' Handmade Houses* (Abrams, 2011), from which his 2014 film *Art House* evolved.



This program is free of charge and open to the public. Space is limited. To register, please contact Lori Moss: lmoss@gardenconservancy.org