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 Givney, a co-owner of Hudson Beach Glass, a mainstay on Main Street after 35 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 citywide 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 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)
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 at Libby Healy’s, a year ago and when I read about the community garden at Libby Healy’s, I thought 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 at Libby Healy’s, I thought.

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 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, 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 30 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.

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.

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.

Pruning is an art

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

For an artful, natural finish, call the artful pruner.

Call Gregory, with over 10 years as a career gardener specializing in natural and restorative gardening.

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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 day off.

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 day off.

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.”

“Whenever there’s a fight, everyone is accusing each other,” Croft countered. “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 anywhere but here, but Putnam County is fine.”

“Once the rolls are 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)
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 will we 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 re-election.

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)
Letters to the Editor (from previous page)

cite voter fraud as justification for various restrictions to be imposed regarding casting one’s vote, leading to ID requirements, voter intimidation, voter discrimination and disruption of voter locations.

Study after study has shown there is virtually no voter fraud anywhere in this country. In a study that looked at elections from 2000 to 2014, with more that 1 billion votes cast, there were only 31 credible claims of voter fraud. This is the study done by Justin Levitt, a professor at the Loyola Law School, Los Angeles. He is an expert on the laws of democracy focusing on election administration.

There are plenty of shortcomings in the American voting system but most are the result of outdated machines, insufficient resources, shutting down of polling places, eliminating early voting or human error, not intentional fraud.

In our nation, where on a good day only 60 percent of eligible voters show up at the polls, there is little evidence of voter fraud. The truth is that those who have perpetrated the myth of fraud and “rigged elections” do not care about the integrity of our voting system. They are seeking to undermine the rights of legitimate voters thinking that it will help them win elections.

Joyce Blum, Garrison

Legal Notice

Notice of Preliminary Budget Hearing for the Town of Philipstown

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Town Board of the Town of Philipstown has completed the Preliminary Budget for the Continental Village Park District and the Continental Village Water District for the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2017 and the same was filed in the Office of the Town Clerk of the Town of Philipstown, where the same will be available for inspection by any interested persons during regular business hours. The Town Board will meet at the Town Hall, 238 Main Street, Cold Spring, New York on the 9th day of November 2016 at 7:30 p.m. and 7:35 p.m. respectively, for the purpose of hearing any one person in favor of or against the Preliminary Budget for the Continental Village Park District and the Continental Village Water District as compiled for or against any item therein contained.

BY ORDER OF THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF PHILIPSTOWN
Tina M. Merando, Town Clerk DATED November 2, 2016

Legal Notice

Notice of Hearing on Preliminary Budget for the Town of Philipstown for the Year 2017

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Preliminary Budget for the Town of Philipstown, Putnam County, New York for the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2017 has been completed and filed in the Office of the Town Clerk of said Town, where it is available for inspection by any interested persons during regular business hours.

FURTHER NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Town Board of the Town of Philipstown will hold a Public Hearing on the 9th day of November, 2016 at 7:40 p.m. Prevailing Time, and at such hearing all persons may be heard in favor of/or against any item or items therein contained.

AND FURTHER NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 108 of the Town Law that the following are the proposed salaries of the Town Officers of this Town:

- Supervisor $27,000.00
- Council Members (4 at 18,000.00) 72,000.00
- Town Justices (1 at 27,000.00) 27,000.00
- Town Justices (1 at 26,000.00) 26,000.00
- Town Clerk/Tax Collector 63,000.00
- Town Superintendent of Highways 89,000.00

BY ORDER OF THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF PHILIPSTOWN
Tina M. Merando, Town Clerk DATED: November 2, 2016

Village of Cold Spring Seeks Committee Member

The Village of Cold Spring Board of Trustees is seeking a resident to serve on the Code Update Committee. This five-member committee is tasked with identifying modifications to the Village of Cold Spring Code to bring the code into alignment with the Comprehensive Plan.

Please submit letters of interest accompanied by a brief resume to:

Village Clerk, 85 Main Street, Cold Spring, NY or via email to vcsclerk@bestweb.net

All submissions must be received by November 18, 2016.

Notice of Public Hearing

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a public hearing will be held by the Zoning Board of Appeals of the Town of Philipstown on

Monday November 14, 2016, 7:30 p.m.

Town of Philipstown Town Hall, 238 Main Street, Cold Spring, New York

to hear the following appeal:

Kenneth Callender, 10 Ferris Drive, Garrison, New York TM# 90.12-1-11

The Applicant is seeking “legalization” of an existing 12 x 16 foot covered porch and an enclosed three-season room. Both are at the rear of an existing building. The site plan proposes a 5 foot average side yard set back whereas in the SR zone 30 foot side yard set back is required under Philipstown Code 175-11.

At said hearing all persons will have the right to be heard. Copies of the application, plat map, and other related materials may be seen in the Office of the Building Department at the Philipstown Town Hall.

Dated 10/28/16
Robert Dee, Chairman, Town of Philipstown Zoning Board of Appeals

Notice of Public Hearing

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Monday November 14, 2016, 7:30 p.m.

Town of Philipstown Town Hall, 238 Main Street, Cold Spring, NY

to hear the following appeal:

Kristin E. Sorenson, 1000 Old Albany Post Road, Garrison. (TM# 50.-2-48)

The Applicant is seeking a Lot Line change which involves deeding a 42.76 x 333.23 foot strip of land from one lot to another. The donor lot is a flag lot. The lot line change will result in the “donor” lot lacking the 35 feet of road frontage required by Town Code 175-22(A). Additionally, the “donor” lot is a legal existing undersized lot, and the proposed lot line change will increase its nonconformity. Accordingly, the property owner will need variances for road frontage and to increase the nonconformity of an existing undersized lot.

At said hearing all persons will have the right to be heard. Copies of the application, plat map, and other related materials may be seen in the Office of the Building Department at the Philipstown Town Hall.

Dated 10/28/16 - Robert Dee, Chairman, Town of Philipstown Zoning Board of Appeals

Notice of Public Hearing

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Monday November 14, 2016, 7:30 p.m.

Town of Philipstown Town Hall, 238 Main Street, Cold Spring, New York

to hear the following appeal:

Wayne Scott Craft, 100 Manitou Station Road, Garrison, New York. (TM# 89.7-1-22)

The Applicant seeks to construct a 24 x 24 foot garage. The site plan proposes a side yard setback of 20.03 feet whereas in the RR zone a 30 foot side yard setback is required under Philipstown Code 175-11B.

At said hearing all persons will have the right to be heard. Copies of the application, plat map, and other related materials may be seen in the Office of the Building Department at the Philipstown Town Hall.

Dated 10/28/16
Robert Dee, Chairman, Town of Philipstown Zoning Board of Appeals

The Highlands Current
Support the Current
Donate today at highlandscurrent.com/support

Highlands Current, Inc., has tax-exempt status as a federal 501(c)(3) enterprise, and all donations are tax-deductible to the extent provided by law.
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.”

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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.

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

Thank You to Everyone at Chestnut Ridge for Greeting Our Littlest Trick-or-Treaters!

And Many Thanks to:

The Putnam History Museum
Kamel and Friends at Angelina’s
The Manitou School
Patricia Byron, Rhoda Needleman, & Barbara Perkins at Chestnut Ridge
Vinny Travis and Dan Dunning • Ms. Cendali and her art classes
Kim Conner • Susan Early • Ivy Meeropol • Kathleen Foley
Josie Hedlund and her Girl Scout troop
Nancy Montgomery • Julisa Rincon-Tomizawa • Cecily Fluke-Hall
Kathy Feighery and Tess Hereford
Lourdes Laifer • Lourdes Laifer • Maya Dollarhide • Toby Shimin
• Steve Heffner • David Eng-Wong • Diane Hird • Raquel Vidal
• Christine Bokhour • Molly Straus • Rachel Ornstein • Bob Nowak
The Nest • Tara, Stephen and Michael Robinson

Happy Autumn from Dar Williams & The Spookytown Gang!

Join Friends of Fahnestock & Hudson Highlands State Parks, the Open Space Institute, and the Office of Parks Recreation and Historic Preservation at the newly renovated Canopus Beach Welcome Center for a family friendly celebration of the completed renovations and improved amenities.

Enjoy the beautiful setting with games, music and delicious autumnal fare

Sunday, November 6

Noon – 3:00 p.m.

Canopus Beach Area/Fahnestock Winter Park
(Route 301, just west of the Taconic)

There is no charge for this event, but pre-registration is greatly appreciated. Questions: contact Emily Offen • offen@osiny.org • (212) 290-8200 x306

For more information and registration, visit: www.facebook.com/fofhvh/

We hope to see you there!
Conservative Party Sues Republican Candidate
(from Page 1)

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 any attorney involved with prosecutions also serving as the party’s secretary, de-...
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, 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 to Anderson’s 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 placed Thorpe’s name on the Conservative line, and no candidate appears 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.)

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.

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

“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 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.”
Election Preview: Tuesday, Nov. 8, 2016

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, Democrat, 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.

Active Party Enrollment

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

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

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.
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 (1998); 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: Advisor 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.

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
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: purdyonline.com
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

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.

Sources: Federal Election Commission, New York State Board of Elections, campaign websites
FRIDAY, NOV. 4

Hudson Valley Restaurant Week
Through Nov. 13 | valleytable.com/hrw

Free Admission for Veterans
Boscobel, Garrison | Daily through Nov. 30

Pasta and Meatballs Dinner
5 – 7:30 p.m. North Highlands Firehouse
504 Fiskirk Rd., Cold Spring
Call 845-265-9595 for takeout.

Getting This Show on the Road (Opening)
6 – 9 p.m. Gallery 66 | 66 Main St., Cold Spring
845-609-5838 | gallery66ny.com

New Work by Laiel Morgan (Opening)
6 – 8 p.m. Bunter Levi Gallery | 121 Main St., Cold Spring
845-809-5145 | busterlevigallery.com

Fiery Women, Fierce Justice (Concert)
Spring | 845-809-5838 | gallery66ny.com
6 – 8 p.m. Buster Levi Gallery | 121 Main St., Cold Spring
845-809-5145 | busterlevigallery.com

SATURDAY, NOV. 5

Fifth Annual Mike Archer Memorial 5K Run/Walk
9 a.m. Memorial Park, Beacon
Search “Mike Archer” at eventbrite.com

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/fishh

Styling Nature with Photographer Don Freeman
(Talk and Signing)
2 p.m. Winter Hill
20 Nazareth Way, Garrison
RSVP to lmoos@gardenscervan.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.

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 | callingallofpoets.net

The Last Five Years
8 p.m. County Players | See details under Nov. 4.

TUESDAY, NOV. 8

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

Boscobel Open for Artists
9:30 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 5.0
6 p.m. Newburgh Brewing Co.
88 S. Colden St., Newburgh
Search “riverbrew” at eventbrite.com
Benefits Michael J. Fox Foundation

7:30 p.m. Beahive Beacon
845-765-3012 | countyplayers.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

EXPERIENCE FINE DINING AT VALLEY RESTAURANT

Open year round, Valley has been recognized as a premier dining venue in the Hudson Valley since its opening in 2004. Its seasonal American cuisine, which showcases local farmers in the region is a tribute to our efforts to include many locally grown, raised and prepared foods.

CALL OR EMAIL TODAY TO MAKE RESERVATIONS
845.424.3604 x39 | jamesb@thegarrison.com

Experience Fine Dining At Valley Restaurant

See details under Nov. 4.

RiverBREW 5.0
6 p.m. Newburgh Brewing Co.
88 S. Colden St., Newburgh
Search “RiverBrew” at eventbrite.com
Benefits Michael J. Fox Foundation

7:30 p.m. Beahive Beacon
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914-474-7758 | callingallofpoets.net

The Last Five Years
8 p.m. County Players | See details under Nov. 4.

SUNDAY, NOV. 6

Daylight Saving Time Ends
Set clocks back one hour at 2 a.m.

Glass Bead-Making Workshop
10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Hudson Beach Glass
See details under Sunday.

Desmond-Fish Annual Fall Luncheon: “The Road to the White House”
Noon, The Garrison
2015 Route 5, Garrison
845-424-3020 | desmondfishlibrary.org
LUXE OPTIQUE
Beacon
Oliver Peoples
DITA
LaFont
alain mikli
ic! Berlin
Thome Browne
Rayban
Oakley
183 Main St.
Beacon, NY
845.838.2020

Free Eye Exam
$50.00 off designer
frames
with the purchase of one or
more pairs of glasses

Each tile is individually
hand-painted and “fired” to
1800 degrees.

The Gift Hut
Open Friday - Sunday,
10 a.m. - 6 p.m.
86 Main Street,
Cold Spring, NY 10516
GiftHut06@aim.com
Phone 845.297.3786

Handmade in America

FATHOM:
HUDSON RIVER DATA AS MUSIC

Thursday, November 17
7 pm
Towne Crier Café
379 Main Street • Beacon

New Music USA Award-Winning Debut Performance on NOV. 17th

Ben Neill, the mad scientist of
dance floor jazz (CMJ) and
dream pop vocalist
Mimi Goese
use data from Hurricane
Sandy to expose and express
the power and soul of the
Hudson River.

FREE event!
Food & drink available
for purchase
bire.org/events
845.838.1600 ext. 15

FAYE THORPE
for
Philipstown Town Justice

EXPERIENCE
Experienced litigator and trial attorney with
in-depth knowledge of the court system

DEDICATION
Advocate for the protection of children, adults,
senior citizens and victims of domestic
violence

INTEGRITY
Committed to reviewing each case individually and
making fair and reasonable decisions

www.FayeThorpe.com
PLEASE VOTE ON NOV. 8th
THE RIGHT EXPERIENCE. THE RIGHT CHOICE.
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 memory 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 Tower of Victory, originally constructed with a roof, is undergoing restoration.

Historic Site Manager Elyse Goldberg

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.

“Our collection is not just a collection of objects; it’s a collection of stories,” Goldberg said. “Each piece tells a story about the Revolutionary War and the people who lived through it.”

Washington not only lived but made exercising decisions, including the rejection of a monarchy and the protection 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 one visitor 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 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 Jan. 1, 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 domestic, dolls, commemorative items of the Revolutionary period, as well as souvenirs collected from world travels. The permanent 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.
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” using 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 Phillipstrop Garden Club, is free but space is limited. To register, email Lori Moss at lmoss@gardenconservancy.org.

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 845-424-3571 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.
History of the Hudson Valley, Part 2

Vernon Benjamin has spent decades writing and researching the history of the Hudson Valley. In 2014 he published The History of the Hudson 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 many 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 Serkin 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-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.

Camille Linson for Philipstown Town Justice

Experience. Integrity. Commitment.

Commitment.

Be informed before you vote!
Did you know that Camille Linson:

• Was born and raised in the Hudson Valley.
• Has been an attorney in Philipstown for nearly two decades.
• 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.
• Is diligent, empathetic & eager to serve Philipstown.

Please VOTE for Camille Linson for Philipstown Town Justice

Please VOTE in the General Election
Tuesday, November 8th

Camille Linson
for Philipstown Town Justice

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

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.

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

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Learn how to do it Nov. 12

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Camille Linson
for Philipstown Town Justice

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

Japanese Cloth Dyeing
Learn how to do it Nov. 12

Katrin Reifeiss, an artist who designs and creates accessories, clothing, blankets 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.

Camille Linson for Philipstown Town Justice

Experience. Integrity. Commitment.

Commitment.

Be informed before you vote!
Did you know that Camille Linson:

• Was born and raised in the Hudson Valley.
• Has been an attorney in Philipstown for nearly two decades.
• 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.
• Is diligent, empathetic & eager to serve Philipstown.

Please VOTE for Camille Linson for Philipstown Town Justice

Please VOTE in the General Election
Tuesday, November 8th

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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.”

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.
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 Rokitowski, 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 she’s had to move to a spot on North Avenue (Route 52) — and the waterfront.“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,” Rokitowski 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 density 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 BJ 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.”
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

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 (9-7-2) 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 9, 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.

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