

# The HIGHLANDS Current



The Power of Protest  
See Page 11

NOVEMBER 18, 2016

161 MAIN ST., COLD SPRING, N.Y. | [highlandscurrent.com](http://highlandscurrent.com)



Indian Brook Falls

Photo by Marty Kavell

## Pride in the Highlands

*Gay residents, having found a home, are finding each other*

By Alison Rooney

When Dominic Viola, a retired investment banker, and his husband moved to Garrison from Manhattan, they loved the area but could not find a place where gay people socialized. So they decided to organize their own.

All they needed was a place. Viola thought The Silver Spoon on Main Street in Cold Spring might work because the staff there was “always so nice, friendly and cordial.” He spoke to owner Hussein (Jimmy) Abdelhady, who readily agreed to host monthly Saturday night gatherings.

In putting event posters up for that first event, Viola says he found “some Main Street places completely receptive, others not.” Seventy-five people joined a group he created online at Meetup.com, a popular organizing site, and 35 showed up at the restaurant. “Jim was nice enough to provide music and hors d’oeuvres,” Viola recalls.

A year later, his Meetup group has more than 230 members and people have turned up at the monthly event from as far away as Danbury and Chappaqua, Viola says, as well as from Newburgh and Poughkeepsie. Many gay residents of Philipstown, including people who have lived here for decades, have expressed surprise at the size of the community.

(Continued on Page 6)



Dominic Viola hiking at Bear Mountain with his dog, Dexter

Photo provided

## Neighbors Ask State to Close Indian Brook Falls

*Social media brings visitors and traffic to bucolic site*

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

Sightseers have long delighted in Indian Brook Falls, where a Philipstown stream plunges from a cliff to a rocky pool before joining the Hudson River. Part of Hudson Highlands State Park, the site borders private property and the Constitution Marsh Audubon Center and Sanctuary along Indian Brook Road, a curving narrow dirt lane that intersects with Route 9D a mile south of Cold Spring.

In August 1834, Washington Irving led an evening jaunt there after a dinner party at the Cold Spring home of his friend Gouverneur Kemble. As one guest later recalled, Irving provided “elegant and playful” commentary as they “wandered among the rocks of that beautiful and secluded dell.”

Today, promoted not by a 19th-century literary light but 21st-century social media, the waterfall has become so popular that some neighbors want to seal it off.

It's easy to find visitors near the falls. Mariah Nichols and Nick Mercado drove Nov. 13 from Poughkeepsie to hike Breakneck, but observing “like a mile and a half” of cars along Route 9D, abandoned that plan. “We like to hike quietly,” Nichols said. An internet search brought them to Indian Brook Falls. Megan Oliveri and Grace Razuno came from Long Island that same day but bypassed their usual destination (Bear Mountain) for the waterfall. They, too, learned about it through social media.

Ten days earlier, at a Philipstown Town Board meeting, Indian Brook Road residents complained that the swarm of visitors, especially in summer, had caused numerous problems, including trespassing, and that visitors often arrived with gaggles of children or in large groups, dragging picnic coolers and swimming toys. (Swimming is not allowed at the waterfall.)

Frank Riback, who lives near the falls, proposed that authorities deny entry, “fencing off the trail, fencing off access to the falls.” Riback acknowledged the site's allure but predicted “it's just a matter of time before there's going to be a tragedy caused by the parking, the congestion, the cars.”

(Continued on Page 14)

## Putnam Legislature Discusses Public Comment

*Says committee meetings are best time for feedback*

By Holly Crocco

Members of the Putnam County Legislature discussed Nov. 14 whether to allow public comment throughout its formal monthly meetings or only at the end, which is the current practice.

While some argued at the meeting of the Rules Committee that allowing comment only at the end was more efficient, others said the public should be allowed to speak on an item before a vote is taken, not after.

“I appreciate people's overture,” said Ginny Nacerino (R-Patterson), who chairs the legislature. “However, I don't think they understand the fundamental difference between a town board and a legis-

lature.”

She said a town board deals with local laws that the town has control over, but the county legislature is bound by state and federal mandates and so seeks input from department heads, outside agencies and other stakeholders.

For this reason, public comment is encouraged at the committee level, where those involved can answer questions and react to feedback (Continued on Page 8)



## Roots and Shoots

# Seeds, Glorious Seeds

By Pamela Doan

Every fall I resist harvesting the globe thistle seeds. They're tempting: big spiky balls left over from the summer's blooms. The goldfinches and dark-eyed juncos love them, though, so I do resist for the pleasure of seeing a bird perched on the tall stalk in winter enjoying a snack. I like to imagine the seeds of this native plant dispersing in the wind, too. It's a campaign I'll never know the results of but continue nonetheless.

Here are a few reasons to save seeds. It's not too late, either. There are probably flowers in the yard now that could be harvested.

**Preserve biodiversity.** Organizations such as the Hudson Valley Seed Library and other seed banks across the world want to make sure that certain species don't go extinct. As climate change makes habitats unsustainable for plants, this effort has become especially important. A global seed vault managed by CropTrust (croptrust.org) on an island between Norway and the North Pole has nearly a million varieties and is built to hold 4.5 million. This ensures ongoing cultivation will be possible.

**Knowledge.** Here in your backyard, the goal could be a fun project without the stakes of human survival. But if everything goes badly, wouldn't it be a good skill to have?

**Thrift.** Transplants can cost anywhere from \$2 to \$20 depending on the plant. Although I shop end-of-season sales, I paid \$15 for a wild indigo when I could have gotten an entire packet of seeds for far less. But did I mention the color of those flowers? Impulse control does not come easy to gardeners fantasizing about next summer's blooms.

**Seeds are cool.** I love starting plants from seed even though a lot of my vegetables are transplants because that's the amount of

time I have. Seeing shoots coming up from the soil makes it seem like everything is possible. Some seeds are tiny specks. I get a childish feeling of wonder to see it develop into a plant — a dramatic process that takes place unseen while it's buried in the earth and then it emerges toward the sun's light and warmth.

Propagate a variety you like. I try to keep a garden log but it's morphed into a shoe-box lid full of the plastic stakes that come with plants and seed packets. When I cannot remember what I planted as new growth is starting in the spring, I dig through the box and try to put a name to a leaf. If you have a particular tomato or pepper you enjoyed this summer, save its seeds.

### How to save seeds

The most important fact to understand is that some plants are self-pollinated and others are cross-pollinated. *Solanaceae* family vegetables, also known as nightshade plants, include tomatoes, eggplants and peppers. Their flowers have male and female parts and

don't need insects for pollination. These

types of plants are the easiest from which to save seeds. A caveat is that they can also be cross-pollinated and varieties can become less similar to the parent. Keep the rows separated and far apart.

Cross-pollinated plants like squash, corn, cucumbers and melons aren't good candidates for seed saving. These plants are pollinated by insects. I know from experience they don't turn out like the original. This summer a squash vine volunteered itself from compost in a newly planted flowerbed. Out of curiosity, I let it go. The produce was a squash-



A frankensquashmelon from the garden convinced me that cross-pollination works.

Photos by P. Doan




Inside the mutant vegetable

melon hybrid with no flavor.

Here's the next twist. If you're going to save seeds, choose open-pollinated varieties, not hybrids. It's impossible to predict what characteristics the seeds will have from both plant parents. Purity matters in this case. The Minnesota Cooperative Extension lists Brandywine and San Marzano tomatoes as good possibilities for open pollinated plants.

Depending on what seeds you're saving, the process may differ slightly but the basics are to dry the seeds thoroughly. They need to be stored at cool temperatures, around freezing. The CropTrust seed vault is kept around minus 18 degrees Celsius but your seeds will be fine in the refrigerator, a shed or garage. Moisture triggers the seed to grow, so the seeds need to stay dry, too. A few resources I've read recommend using powdered milk to act as a desiccant.

Don't get too caught up in worrying about what to save and how to do it. Like anything that happens in the garden, experience is the best teacher.



## 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. **845.446.7465**

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# At Play in Beacon

*What to expect in next city plan for parks, recreation*

By Jeff Simms

On Nov. 17, Beacon officials hosted the second of two public workshops to gather feedback on the city's review of its comprehensive plan. Typically updated every 10 years, the plan serves as a blueprint for Beacon's development and growth. In a series of articles, *The Current* is examining various aspects of the plan.

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For decades, Beacon's government did not offer its own recreation programs. Instead, it funded private baseball, softball and football leagues and provided support for the Martin Luther King Cultural Center and Beacon Community Center, which operated as independent nonprofits and provided "boots-on-the-ground" community and youth programming.

While both of those centers closed about a decade ago, the city's growing population led to the creation of a Beacon Recreation Department a few years later. In late 2013, Mark Price, who had worked part-time for the city since 2008, was named recreation director and "we've been off to the races since then," he said. Besides community and youth activities, he manages six parks that cover 11 percent of the city.

The 2007 comprehensive plan included recommendations to develop greenways along the Hudson and Fishkill Creek, and to provide linkages to trails at Mount Beacon and into the Hudson Highlands. It also called for the development of an open-space plan to prioritize what should be protected.

Several of those initiatives are likely to be included in the revised plan. The city recently received a \$5,000 grant from the Hudson River Valley Greenway agency to study the creation of a 1.5-mile hiking/walking connector trail that would run from the Metro-North station to the Newburgh-Beacon Bridge. The trail would provide a link to the Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail — a separate initiative of various regional nonprofit organizations — that is envisioned to connect Cold Spring and Beacon.

Another regional project could be in the works following the Metropolitan Transit

Authority's recent "request for expressions of interest" for the redevelopment of the Beacon-to-Hopewell Junction rail line. If a rail trail were to run from Beacon to Hopewell, it could conceivably connect with the Dutchess Rail Trail and, just over 13 miles later, the Walkway Over the Hudson.

Other accomplishments since the Recreation Department was created include the reopening of the Beacon Pool (after its first two seasons, the pool closed for several more due to budget constraints) and the establishment of an afterschool program in partnership with the Beacon City School District.

The department, which is supported by fees paid by real-estate developers, also continues to make park improvements. A new playground and pavilion are being installed at South Avenue Park while basketball and tennis courts were resurfaced at South Avenue and restroom facilities at Memorial and Green Street parks have been renovated.

Residents are taking notice.

"I haven't seen anyone playing tennis at South Avenue in seven years," Price said. "Now there are people out there every day."

The recreation department has also maintained its connection to the volunteer community, providing support for organizations such as the Wee Play Project and the Beacon Glades disc golf club. The Wee Play Project, which advocates for and helps maintain city playgrounds, holds its annual Ree Play sale each spring to raise money for parks projects.

Lori Merhige, a member of the Wee Play board, said that as Beacon continues to grow, she would like to see more support for volunteer groups who have "carried a good amount of the load." Along with financial support, she hopes city planners will "think bigger on behalf of what the new residents of Beacon will need," in recreational contributions — either financial or through open space — required of developers.

Additionally, Mark Price sees the state-



South Avenue Park before (top), and now Photos by J. Simms

owned University Settlement property on Route 9D as another unique asset, calling the 100-acre former residential camp site, currently home to the Beacon Pool and the disc golf course, underutilized.

"It's a woodland park in the middle of the city," he said. "How many places have those?"



## NHFD Organizing Meals for Family of Injured Firefighter

*Joey Hyatt Jr. in intensive care after car crash*

Members of the North Highlands Fire Engine Co. No. 1 have organized a meal train for the family of Assistant Chief Joe Hyatt, whose son, Joey Hyatt, Jr., a member of the fire company, was badly injured in a car crash Nov. 9 and is in intensive care at Vassar Brothers Medical Center in Poughkeepsie.

Along with meals, the group is also collecting donations to help pay medical expenses and has so far raised \$5,000. See [mealtrain.com/trains/74ow42](http://mealtrain.com/trains/74ow42) for information.



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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### The Popular Vote

Our nation's system of voting for the president is seriously flawed. Hillary Clinton won the popular vote. Once again the Electoral College "trumps" the popular vote — the will of the people. The Electoral College unequivocally represents states' rights versus individual rights. Is that what our country is about? Let's tell freedom that there is a death in the family.

Andy Galler, *Garrison*

On Nov. 8, the people spoke. With the election of Donald Trump, things have been shaken up at the national level — no thanks to the voters of New York State.

Meanwhile, in the Hudson Valley, the status quo received a ringing endorsement.

Voters in the 41st Senate district and the 19th Congressional District gave their approval of our political system in which the federal and state governments' prima-

ry job is to funnel money to billionaires, corporations and special interests.

Incumbent Republican Sue Serino handily defeated challenger Terry Gipson, ensuring Republican/renege Democrat control of the state Senate, where campaign finance reform dies in every legislative session.

Republican John Faso, a former corporate lobbyist, with the help of \$6.7 million in outside money from political action committees and billionaires, defeated reformer Zephyr Teachout for Congress. Think these billionaires have our best interests at heart?

If you would ask a voter, "Who makes up for the loss of revenue every time a tax break or favor is given to billionaires, corporations and special interests?" he or she would know the obvious answer.

But while complaining about high property and other taxes, and crying about a falling standard of living, we elect can-

didates who say "I'll keep your taxes low, but please remember that my first duty is to campaign contributors who pay me for favored treatment." Another of the great mysteries of life? Or a case of fooling some of the people some of the time?

Charles Davenport, *Wappingers Falls*

I hear the sound of trumpety  
And all I do detest  
I mean to counter lies with truth  
(I meant to take a rest)

I weep the rank misogyny  
And all I do detest  
I mean to push against it hard  
(I meant to take a rest)

I see the spread of bigotry  
And all I do detest  
I mean to labor for amends  
(I meant to take a rest)

I feel the harm of climate change  
And all I do detest  
I mean to change the course of it  
(I meant to take a rest)

I smell the stench of gushing hate  
And all I do detest  
I mean to stanch the hate with love  
(I meant to take a rest)

I mourn the loss of common ground  
And all I do detest  
I mean to speak in spite of fear  
(I meant to take a rest)

No one knows how far you'll go  
And all I do detest  
I mean to fight you tooth and nail  
And then I'll take a rest.

Mitchell Jay, *Cold Spring*



### The Beacon Charter

Success has many fathers; failure, it is said, is an orphan. Thank God Beacon's development is a success story. Therefore I think it noteworthy to mention the bipartisan

(Continued on next page)

## Taking it to the Street

By Anita Peltonon

### What's your take on the election?



"Trump's winning is not surprising. He capitalized on America's ignorance. It's disappointing and embarrassing."  
~ Shane Wilbe (and newborn son) Beacon



"It's been a mix of feelings. A lot of sadness. But now I'm feeling hopeful that we'll keep fighting for what we believe in, galvanize against prejudice, and respect each other."  
~ Ami Mehta, Beacon



"I feel like it was stolen by a political pirate who force-fed the populace fear. I voted for Trump only because I am a business owner."  
~ John Raheb, Montvale, N.J.



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR (from previous page)

Charter Review Committee and the adoption of its proposed City Charter as one of those collective fathers ("At the Heart of Beacon," Nov. 4).

The adoption of the current City Charter that established the four-ward versus a citywide district for electing a majority of city council made it much more possible for new progressive candidates to get elected. The Charter also provided for a professional administrator, who could easily see the economic potential of facilitating the move of a world-class museum like Dia to Beacon.

It is easy to forget that the previous City Council, before the Charter's adoption, took pride in buying lottery tickets from their personal funds promising the proceeds to the city as a way out of the city financial crisis. This council could have easily rejected Dia on the basis of the loss of property taxes due to its nonprofit status and consequently a financial drain to the community.

It was progressive councilmen like Lee Kyriacou, Steve Gold and Chris White who led the charge for zoning changes that prohibited storefront apartments on Main Street and the carving up of single-family homes into multiple apartments. They also led the battle to close the city sludge incinerator.

Hopefully others will come forward with the names of the many other fathers to Beacon's success so the current community activists and political leadership realize that it takes a whole village to raise a child like Beacon.

Charlie Kelly, *Beacon*

*Kelly is a former co-chair of the Charter Review Committee.*

## Anchorage on the Hudson

Beware of lobbyists in their attempt to influence the U.S. Coast Guard to approve of the public rule-making proposal (an oily business!) to create anchorage berths for 43 commercial vessels on the Hudson River. Each will swing in an 1,800-foot radius, interfering with boaters, kayakers, fishermen, tour boats, picnickers and hikers and destroy the view and swimming too. We are not a harbor!

I spent four seagoing years in the Navy during the Korean War, sailing the Pacific, which gives me pause to wonder what'll happen to the waterfront that Pete and Toshi Seeger fought for with the Clearwater. Look into any river with motorized boats; you'll see oil. That will be the scenario with diesel from ships polluting our Hudson.

Warning to fishermen: "Do not eat more than one fish a week!" You'll see that sign at points along the Hudson. The river is still polluted, thanks to General Electric, which called a halt to cleaning up its PCBs. Ships in the past have been cited for dumping bilges here. Now, through a leak in the dyke in our bureaucratic system, industry wishes to destroy our stream, with its fantastic views that President Eisenhower said were even more beautiful than those of the Rhine River Valley.

Our dreams in the valley are hopeful, with the tourist trade increasing from Yorktown to West Point to the Walkway in Poughkeepsie through to Kingston. If we aren't careful, big business will turn the Hudson into a swamp.

Nicholas Conti, *Beacon*

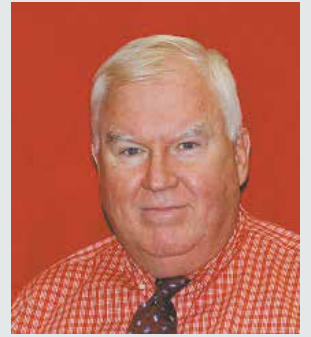
## Obituary

## Putnam Undersheriff Dies Suddenly

*Worked in law enforcement more than 40 years*

Peter Convery, 65, an undersheriff with the Putnam County Sheriff's Department, died Nov. 15 at his home in Mahopac after apparently suffering a heart attack.

Convery joined the Putnam County force in 2002 following a career with the Westchester County Department of Corrections, where he retired as a captain. His law enforcement career spanned 40 years.



"We are all absolutely heartbroken," said Sheriff Donald Smith. "Peter was a loving and devoted family man, who adored his wife, Luanne, and their children, Caitlin, Courtney, Kerry, Tara and Connor, and their children's families. And he was a very good friend to me."

Convery was a longtime member of the Mahopac Volunteer Fire Department and an active Rotarian. He was a parishioner of Saint John the Evangelist Roman Catholic Church in Mahopac.

Born in Tarrytown on Jan. 31, 1951, Convery was the son of John J. and Rose Ann (Carolan) Convery. In addition to his wife and children, he is survived by grandchildren Colin, Isabelle, Peterson Jr. and Jackson and a sister, Maureen Beale.

Visitation will be held Saturday, Nov. 19, and Sunday, Nov. 20, from 2 to 4 and 7 to 9 p.m. both days at the Joseph J. Smith Funeral Home in Mahopac. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated Monday, Nov. 21, at 10 a.m. at St. John The Evangelist Church, 225 East Lake Blvd., Mahopac, with interment to follow at St. Lawrence Cemetery in Brewster.

## Thank You.

I would like to give my sincere thanks to the voters of Philipstown for entrusting me with the position of Town Justice. I am grateful for the privilege to serve and look forward to working hard on behalf of our town.

Thank you to the numerous individuals who contributed time and talent to my campaign, in ways large and small. I have been honored by your support and friendship.

Many thanks, as well, to the individuals across party lines who took an interest in the Town Justice race, chatted with the candidates at your doors and on train platforms, and shared your questions and ideas. I have learned from you all.

Last but not least, many thanks to Faye Thorpe and Luke Hilpert for a race well run. I am glad to call you my colleagues.

Camille S. Linson, Esq.



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## Pride in the Highlands *(from Page 1)*

Most of the Saturday night gatherings have been about 70 percent male, Viola says, with those in attendance ranging from their 30s to 70s, although some 20-somethings attend. There are more women who have joined the Meetup site than come to the gatherings, Viola noted, which makes him wonder if women are more cautious. "I wish they would come because this is a comfortable, encouraging group," he says. "It's a nice mix of people. In the gay venues in the city nobody talks to each other; here there are no barriers."

The group meets on the final Saturday of each month, although it will get together Dec. 8 because of the holidays. Viola says the group has organized events such as a visit to Boscobel followed by brunch and in the spring hopes to visit a winery and a comedy club. In addition, smaller gatherings such as barbecues have helped build friendships, he says.

One regular, Jimmy Zuehl, who has lived with his partner in Cold Spring for 10 years, says they have been happy with how the village has embraced them. Zuehl, who works in the travel industry, has formed a spin-off Meetup group called LGBT Travelers of New York, which has about 125 members. Its first big trip is a weeklong cruise to Cuba planned to begin March 5 in Miami. Zuehl says that although he's encouraged by the size of the Hudson Valley's LGBTQ population (an acronym for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transsexual, Queer), "we're still a minority." While there are many gay couples in Philipstown, he said, "it's easy not to want to go out and associate with people, but it's important to meet neighbors because we really should be strong for each other."



Ava Bynum

Photo provided



Air Nonken

Photo provided

### A safe, relaxed place

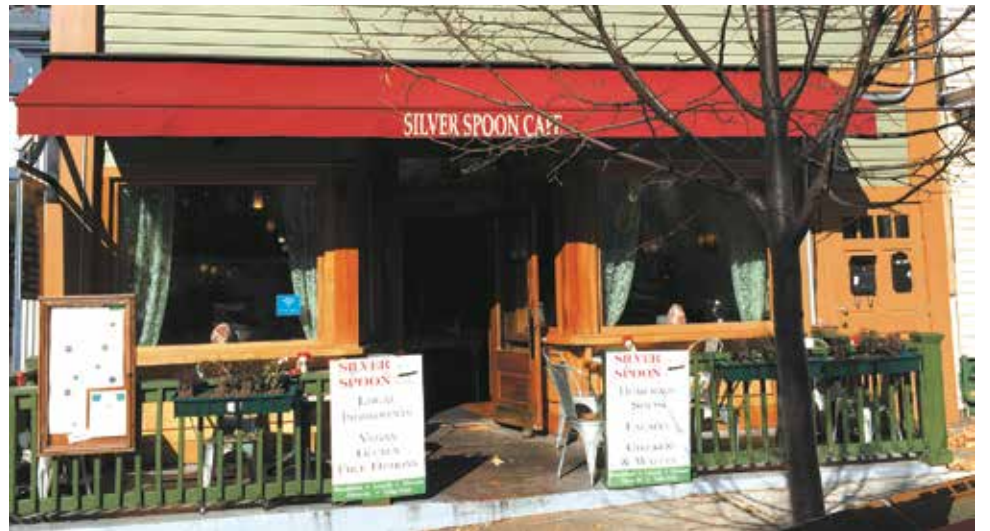
At the Chill Wine Bar on Main Street in Beacon, owners Patrick McKenna and Jim Svetz often host events for the gay community, including a party Nov. 18 to benefit Hudson Valley Care Services.

"We have been welcomed into the Beacon community for many years," says Svetz, who opened the wine bar with McKenna a decade ago. "Chill Wine Bar has always been a safe, relaxed, all-inclusive space. Hosting fundraisers, private parties and special events has always been a part of who we are as people and business owners in the community."

Dogwood Bar, on East Main, hosts a Mid-Hudson Queer Night on the third Tuesday of each month. Typically it is organized around an event such as a Halloween party or talent show, and the turnouts have been large, according to Dogwood owner George Mansfield. "It's a great meeting place," Mansfield says. "There isn't a pickup vibe, everybody mixes and everybody's welcome."

Ava Bynum, who, with Rae Leiner, organizes the Queer Nights, praised Mansfield's "incredible level of support," which she said has been critical. "The fact that we can use the room is a really big deal, one that not every community gets to have," she says. "It's a real mix of all kinds of people and was very intentionally created that way, in order to create a space that was welcoming. We get lots of people coming whom we've never met before. It's been really fun to tap into the growing queer community in Beacon."

Bynum, who is executive director of Hudson Valley Seed, says she participates in another group, Hudson Valley Queer Outdoors, which organizes monthly hikes



Cold Spring's Silver Spoon Café has been a welcoming home to Meetup mixers.

Photo by Michele Gedney



Beacon's Chill Wine Bar hosts LGBTQ mixers and parties from time to time.

Photo courtesy of Chill Wine Bar

and was founded by Air Nonken, her development manager. Bynum says both social clubs offer "opportunities to come together not only to affirm our many identities but also to take a stand for justice and support one another."

Nonken was inspired to start the hiking group, which meets on the first Saturday of each month, "to give the regional queer community a regular 'place' to gather that wasn't a bar, so that folks who were shy in mingling-type settings, were on a tight budget, weren't comfortable around drinking, etc., could have an alternative community-building; finding good buddies and enjoying good, unfiltered conversation."

Nonken continued in an email: "Being outside for so many people is a time to step away from society and commune with greater nature and our inner selves. The hiking club gives queer people the chance to do that in a context where they know they aren't being judged on their appearance, presentation or partners. The hikes also give us the chance to talk with other queer people about topics related to queer identities and lives — from relation-

### Where to Go Online

- BigGayHudsonValley.com — Events in Dutchess County, including Beacon.
- Garrison LGBT Social Group (meetup.com/Garrison-LGBT-Social-Group-Meetup)
- LGBT Travellers of New York (meetup.com/LGBT-Travel)
- Hudson Valley LGBTQ Community Center, Kingston (lgbtqcenter.org)

ships to clothing choices to discrimination — in a safe and supportive space. Of course we also talk about all kinds of other unrelated things, from sports to work to philosophy!"

Nonken was surprised by the initial response. Within two months, more than 300 people had joined the mailing list, "and I continue to receive messages from queer folks throughout the region sharing how much they'd wanted something like this to exist for years. I also hear each month from queer people in New York City who are considering moving to the area" and are happy to find a community to connect with.

THANK YOU  
for your support

I would like to thank everyone in Philipstown, and all over Putnam County for supporting my campaign.

I will continue to dedicate myself to public service on behalf of Philipstown and Putnam County.

Congratulations Camille Linson

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# Continental Village Gets a (Small) Tax Break

*But aqueduct shutdown may cause water-price spike*

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

Continental Village residents received some good news Nov. 9: Their percentage of Continental Village Park District costs should decrease in 2017 because the Town of Cortlandt will pick up a larger portion. In addition, the park district budget is expected to fall by 9 percent.

The Continental Village Park District includes parts of Philipstown and Putnam Valley in Putnam County and Cortlandt in Westchester County. Mike Phelan, who oversees the district, spoke at a short meeting preceding a Philipstown Town Board budget hearing.

Phelan said the district's 2017 budget

would be \$190,672. Of that total, Philipstown residents who live in the district will pay 69 percent; Cortlandt residents 24 percent (up from 22 percent) and Putnam Valley residents 7 percent. The Philipstown share went down because the equalization rate is designed to level out taxes when districts cross city and town borders such as this, while Cortlandt went up a couple of points, Phelan said.

Moreover, the 2017 park district budget fell \$18,000.

Phelan said the Philipstown decrease reflects complaints at a September Town Board meeting, when residents said they felt their taxes were relatively too high, especially the property taxes they pay to the Lakeland School District. The disparity is due largely to the various ways jurisdictions conduct assessments and attempt to equalize discrepancies. Like the park district, the Lakeland School District includes towns in both Putnam and Westchester.

"It's always nice to see a reduction," Councilor Robert Flaherty said after Phelan's comments.

Councilor Michael Leonard and Supervisor Richard Shea praised park district infrastructure efforts. Shea highlighted a bridge replacement, including plans to transform the previous bridge into a boat launch, as an example of "the height of efficiency and the whole community pulling together."

## Continental Village Water District

Ralph Bassignani, who manages the Continental Village Water District, said its budget will increase \$5,775 to \$265,790 but additional revenue should offset the increase. However, he said, due to pending improvements to the New York City aqueduct system, from which Continental Village draws its water, "next year is going to be a bear."



A view of the lake at Continental Village, from a guidebook on the Philipstown government website

Bassignani told the board that the aqueduct is scheduled to shut down for seven to 17 weeks next year, after being closed for only 10 days this year.

When the aqueduct is not available, Continental Village buys water from Cortlandt. "I'll be buying water at a huge increase," Bassignani said.

To help offset it, he said he would seek

financial assistance from the aqueduct system, because its repair work will cause Continental Village to pay more for water elsewhere. The Town Board offered to assist with any appeals.

Visit [highlandscurrent.com](http://highlandscurrent.com) for news updates and latest information.



A sign at the intersection of Old Albany Post Road and Sprout Brook Road attests to Continental Village's role in the Revolutionary War.

Photo by L.S. Armstrong

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## Putnam Legislature Discusses Public Comment *(from Page 1)*

before the topic goes before the full legislature, Nacerino said.

"If we have input at the full meetings pertaining to questions that perhaps we cannot answer at that particular time, it only retards the whole process because we'd have to table it back to a committee in order to do our fact-finding," she said.

Carl Albano (R-Carmel) expressed a similar view.

"We have many committee meetings to discuss these issues," he said. "That's really the time for the public to speak. That's the time when questions should be answered. It's a two-way conversation at that point."

He added that the same principle applies to legislators; their questions should be asked at the committee level. "I wouldn't support any changes, but I welcome public comment at any committee meeting," said Albano.

Joseph Castellano (R-Southeast) said he resented suggestions by critics that the legislature operates behind closed doors. "This legislature has been more transparent than ever before," he said. "What we've been doing, we've been doing it the right way." He said that by the time an issue goes before the full legislature, it's time to decide on the matter.

"This can't be any more transparent than it is," he said. "It's a great system we have."

Barbara Scuccimarra (R-Philipstown) said residents would benefit from attending committee meetings.

"A lot of the time when people have

comments at the full meeting, they are misinformed," she said. "They do not have all the facts, and if we were to open up a discussion there it would make the meetings chaotic. And the few times we have opened it up, they have been chaotic."

While most if not all legislators attend the various committee meetings, Dini LoBue (R-Mahopac Falls) said that was not always the case. Rather, a committee discussed a topic and passed it along to the full legislature at its monthly meeting. During committee meetings, legislators often ask questions of department heads and consultants, but "when we go to the full, the public wants to address us."

Albano said he thought it essential that legislators attend the meetings of committees other than those on which they serve.

"I feel it was a mistake when legislators didn't go to committee meetings," he said. "You can't go to a full meeting and then at that point make a decision based on what you hear." He added: "We're willing to spend all the time it takes to get it to the point where we make a final vote, but once we're there to make a final vote, we're ready to act."

Southeast Town Councilwoman Lynne Eckardt, a Democrat, said it is unfair to place the onus on residents to keep track of committee meetings, because they are not held on the same day each month, and starting times vary. Also, she said, residents may not know which committees handle which topics.

Fellow Southeast Town Councilwoman Elizabeth Hudak, a Republican, added: "You need to have more of the public be aware of these meetings."

Nacerino asked who should raise awareness.

"Do we ask ourselves: Is it our fault?" she said. "Or is it incumbent upon those who are interested enough to do what is

necessary to find and attend meetings?"

She also pointed out that residents can call or email legislators or the legislative office, or listen to meetings on the county website.

LoBue suggested making the website more user-friendly so residents can pull up the calendar and find agendas and background information.

## Another Tweak to Butterfield Lease

*Questions of whether senior center will be available for other uses*

By Holly Crocco

The Putnam County Legislature's Physical Services Committee approved an amendment to the Butterfield project lease to ensure the Office for Senior Resources will continue to offer transportation services for a senior center being constructed there if the lease is renewed or extended.

Legislator Carl Albano (R-Carmel) said the change had been requested by the Cold Spring Planning Board.

The county plans to lease 6,000 square feet of space in the Lahey Pavilion at the former Butterfield Hospital site in Cold Spring from Butterfield Realty for 15 years at a total cost of about \$4.5 million, including rent, taxes, common area charges and costs associated with renovating the location.

At the committee meeting, Garrison resident Lithgow Osborne, who challenged Barbara Scuccimarra (R-Philipstown) for

her seat in 2015, asked if the county will need to ask permission of the landlord to use the center for purposes other than a senior center, such as a community center.

Albano said the site has been established as a senior center, but the landlord is "receptive" to expanding usage.

"The Planning Board didn't want it used for anything else," Scuccimarra said. "They were concerned about the parking." But, she added, "we've already spoken to Paul Guillaro, and he is receptive" to expanded programming in the space.

Osborne expressed frustration with what he sees as a lack of clarity in discussions of the lease.

"We've gotten so many versions," he said. "I don't need a conceptual idea. I need real schematics."

Albano said that before detailed plans are made, the county wants to make sure the lease is finalized.

"Right now we have a conceptive plan and a very good idea of where it's going," said Albano. "And then we're going to fine-tune it."

## How to Get in Touch

### When do legislature committees meet?

The legislature has eight committees that each meet once a month at the County Office Building, 40 Gleneida Ave., Carmel. The dates and times vary. See [putnamcountyny.com/legi/legislative-calendar](http://putnamcountyny.com/legi/legislative-calendar).

The full legislature meets on the first Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. at the Historic Courthouse, 44 Gleneida Ave., Carmel.

### How do I know what will be discussed?

Agendas and documents are typically posted online a few days before a scheduled meeting, and can be found at [putnamcountyny.com/legi/agendas-backup](http://putnamcountyny.com/legi/agendas-backup).

### What if I can't make it to a meeting?

An audio recording of each meeting is posted online within a day or two, with written minutes added a few weeks later. The full legislature meetings are videotaped and posted on the legislature's site. In addition, residents can submit written comments to [putcoleg@putnamcountyny.gov](mailto:putcoleg@putnamcountyny.gov).

### Who is my legislator?

Barbara Scuccimarra represents District 1, which covers Philipstown, Cold Spring, Garrison, Continental Village, Nelsonville and North Highlands and part of Putnam Valley. She can be reached at the email address above or through the legislative office at 845-808-1020.

## PHILIPSTOWN DEPOT THEATRE

Depot Docs presents:

### ***Life, Animated***

**Friday, Nov. 18, 7:30 p.m.**

followed by Q & A and reception ~ **Tickets \$20**

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 Fall Classics Tour:

### ***The Tempest and The Sword and the Stone*** **Saturday, Nov. 19, 2 p.m.**

Two classic tales of triumph combine magic, shipwrecks, wizards, and foam swords in this fun, family-friendly afternoon of interactive theater and storytelling. Great for kids and adults alike!

**Tickets \$15**

Youth Players present:

### ***A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court*** **Dec. 9-18**

**Tickets:** [www.brownpapertickets.com](http://www.brownpapertickets.com) • [philipstowndepottheatre.org](http://philipstowndepottheatre.org)  
Garrison Landing, Garrison, NY  
(Theatre is adjacent to train station.)

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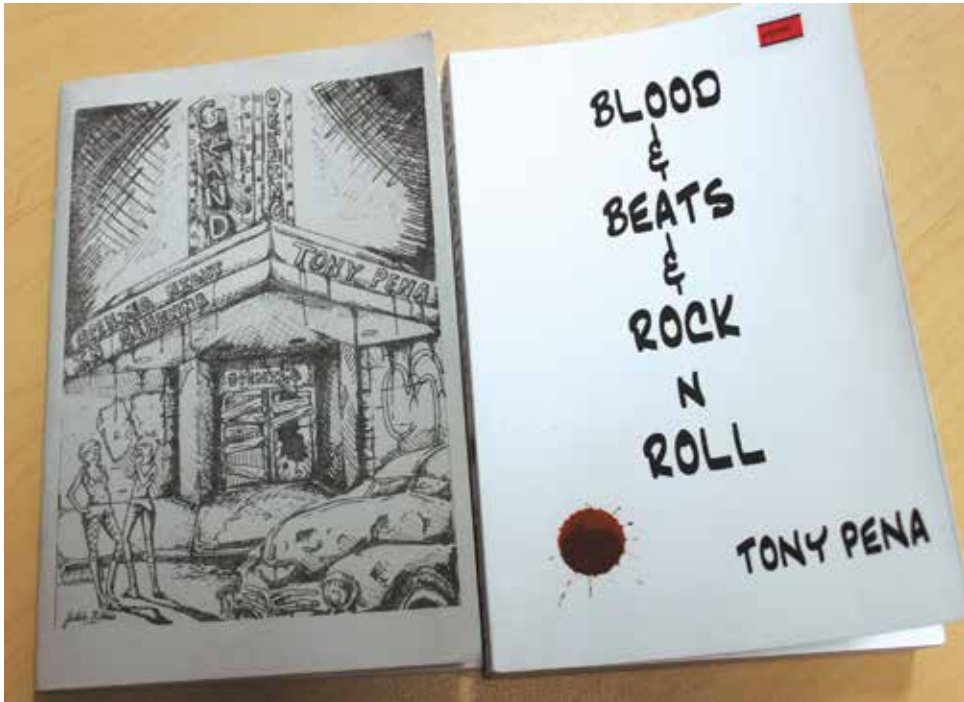


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845-424-3020 [desmondfishlibrary.org](http://desmondfishlibrary.org)



# The Calendar



Tony Pena's chapbook, left, *Opening Night at Gehenna*, and his 2016 collection, *Blood & Beats & Rock N Roll*  
Photo by A. Rooney

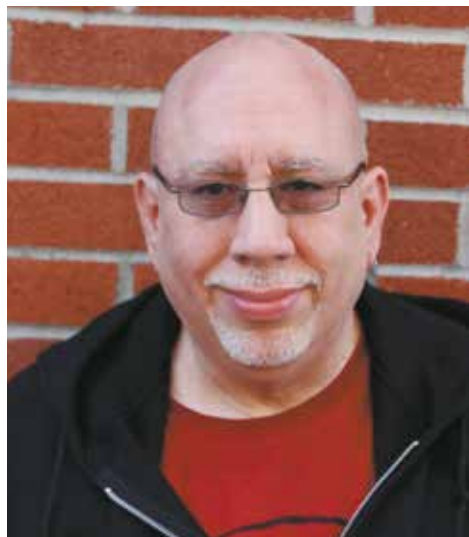
## Beacon Names New Poet Laureate

*Tony Pena inspired by heart beneath grit*

By Alison Rooney

As a teenager, Tony Pena fancied himself a rock 'n roll poet in the vein of Patti Smith, Lou Reed and Jim Carroll. He took the train from his home in White Plains to hang out in the city, wearing a "long black coat with my notebook in one pocket and a bottle of Mr. Boston Blackberry Brandy sticking out from the other, hanging out at McSorleys, The White Horse Tavern and A Kettle of Fish," he recalls with a laugh.

But he couldn't sing so well, so he focused on words. Now, many years later, he has been named the third Poet Laureate of Beacon, succeeding Thomas O'Connell. Pena, whose two-year term



Beacon's 2017/18 Poet Laureate, Tony Pena  
Photo by A. Rooney

begins Jan. 1, was introduced Nov. 15 at the Howland Public Library by Beacon Mayor Randy Casale.

In his early years writing poetry, Pena often read at The Poetry Project at St. Mark's Church in the East Village and submitted his work (by mail, in those days, with a self-addressed envelope folded inside for the inevitable returns) to poetry magazines like *Slipstream* and *Poetry Space* that paid in contributor copies. But, as usually happens, "responsibilities kicked in and I couldn't play out the dream," he recalls. "The urgency was gone and I had a drawer full of manuscripts and torn strips of paper with phrases on them."

After a second marriage and a move to Beacon in the early 2000s, Pena found his voice again, writing fiction, lyrics and



Tony Pena reading his work

Photos by Christine Jacques, Christopher Wheeling and Dayl Wise

poetry. In 2010 he performed his work for the first time in years at an open mic organized by Calling All Poets.

"It went well and gave me the ability to work on my old rock 'n roll aspirations, fleshing out words with performance," he says. "My strength is still in writing, but it has value added through performances because it's all about the passion and getting people to dig it."

He also read his work at venues in Woodstock and Kingston and five years ago published a chap book with 18 poems, *Opening Night in Gehenna*. A more recent volume, *Blood & Beats & Rock & Roll* is available on Amazon.com. He also has made a number of videos in which he perform his poetry; see [youtube.com/tonypenapoetry](http://youtube.com/tonypenapoetry).

Pena says he has an affinity for the gritty. "I'm captivated by the heart that beats underneath the grit," he says. "I feel comfortable writing prose poems from the underdog perspective, trying to inhabit it." He hopes that readers of his work find that "once it gets going, you go into this place; it's very dark in there, you really don't know how it's going to come across."

The poet says living in Beacon provides plenty of inspiration. "Beacon has always been a hardscrabble town," he says. "It's the common man and woman here who inspire me." He hopes to inspire others to appreciate poetry. "Many people don't 'get' poetry," he says. "I want to foster a love of poetry from young people to seniors and don't want them to be

## Patter

By Tony Pena

A billion bubbles  
bounce and scatter  
on the window pane  
like a quick paradiddle  
on a snare with pieces  
of your heart beating  
along in unbridled time  
to a jazz wild with longing  
for a poet drunk on the Eden  
of your eyes to wrap you in dry  
garments and cradle the scared  
puppy in you during the storm.

intimidated. I want them to see that it's another way of understanding the world we live in. I want to put poetry where you don't normally see it."

By day Pena is a numbers guy, working as a government accountant. He says his dual interests may reflect his parents: his father was a Spanish-language professor, and his mother, who worked in warehouses, wrote out multiplication tables every day.

The Beacon Poet Laureate's responsibilities are to present poetry readings at schools, the Howland library and civic celebrations, as well as serve on the committee to appoint a successor. Pena says he also would like to present workshops and readings in less traditional settings, such as the Beacon Farmers' Market.

## Crank

By Tony Pena

I'll keep an ironclad poem  
in my denim jacket pocket  
A string of words by my heart  
to ward off silver bullets  
while wrestling rusted gears  
to open the drawbridge  
to a mind too often closed  
by fears of delusional design

© Tony Pena  
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## FRIDAY, NOV. 18

**Gift Shop Holiday Sale**

10 a.m. – 7 p.m. Boscobel, | 1601 Route 9D, Cold Spring | 845-265-3638 | boscobel.org

**Holiday Pottery Show & Sale (Opening)**

5 – 8 p.m. Garrison Art Center  
23 Garrison's Landing, Garrison  
845-424-3960 | garrisonartcenter.org

**International Games Night**

6:30 – 9:30 p.m. Butterfield Library  
10 Morris Ave., Cold Spring  
845-265-3040 | butterfieldlibrary.org

**International Film Night: *Everybody's Famous!* (Belgium)**

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

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# Calendar Highlights

For upcoming events visit [highlandscurrent.com](http://highlandscurrent.com).  
Send event listings to [calendar@highlandscurrent.com](mailto:calendar@highlandscurrent.com)

**Lounge Dance Night**

7 – 9 p.m. Beacon Elks Lodge  
900 Wolcott Ave., Beacon | beaonelks1493.com

**Sebastian Maniscalco (Comedy)**

7 p.m. Mid-Hudson Civic Center  
14 Civic Center Plaza, Poughkeepsie  
845-454-5800 | midhudsonciviccenter.org

**The Beacon Players: Grease**

7 p.m. Beacon High School | 101 Matteawan Road, Beacon | 845-838-6900 x3420 | beaconplayers.com

**Depot Docs: Life, Animated**

7:30 p.m. Philipstown Depot Theatre  
10 Garrison's Landing, Garrison  
845-424-3900 | philipstowndepottheatre.org

**The Last Five Years**

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

## SATURDAY, NOV. 19

**Harvest Sale**

9 a.m. – Noon. St. Philip's (Parish House)  
1101 Route 9D, Garrison | stphilipshighlands.org

**Ski Swap and Fundraiser**

9 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Fahnestock Winter Park  
1570 Route 301, Carmel  
716-913-1641 | paul.kuznia@parks.ny.gov

**Conscious Entrepreneurship: Profit + Purpose (Opens)**

9:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. Beahive  
291 Main St., Beacon | antidotecollective.org

**Harvest Sale**

10 a.m. – Noon. First Presbyterian Church  
10 Academy St., Cold Spring | 845-265-3220

**Holiday Pottery Show & Sale**

10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Garrison Art Center  
See details under Friday.

**Army vs. Morgan State (Football)**

Noon. Michie Stadium, West Point  
845-938-2526 | goarmysports.com

**The Drunken Pumpkin**

Noon – 6 p.m. Fishkill Farms  
Fishkill Farm Road, Hopewell Junction  
[eventbrite.com/e/the-drunken-pumpkin](http://eventbrite.com/e/the-drunken-pumpkin)

**Holiday Soap-Making Workshop**

1 – 4 p.m. Outdoor Discovery Center  
100 Muser Drive, Cornwall  
845-534-5506, ext. 204 | hhnaturemuseum.org

**The Tempest & The Sword in the Stone**

2 p.m. Philipstown Depot Theatre  
See details under Friday.

**Jazz Vespers**

5:30 p.m. First Presbyterian Church  
10 Academy St., Cold Spring | 845-265-3220

**Tribute to Tom Pacheco**

6 – 10 p.m. Howland Cultural Center  
477 Main St., Beacon  
845-831-4988 | howlandculturalcenter.org

**Silent Film Series: *Siegfried* (1924)**

7 p.m. Butterfield Library | See details under Friday.

**The Beacon Players: Grease**

7 p.m. Beacon High School | Details under Friday.

**Darlene Love**

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

**The Last Five Years**

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

## SUNDAY, NOV. 20

**Holiday Pottery Show & Sale**

10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Garrison Art Center  
See details under Friday.

**Hudson Valley Wine & Chocolate Festival**

11 a.m. – 4 p.m. Ramada Conference Center  
542 Route 9, Fishkill  
845-278-7272 | partnerswithparc.info

**Intro to Beekeeping with William Ofca**

1 – 4 p.m. Stony Kill Farm  
79 Farmstead Lane, Wappingers Falls  
845-831-1617 | stonykill.org

**Seasonal Self-Care for Families (Talk)**

1 p.m. Butterfield Library | See details under Friday.

**The Beacon Players: Grease**

2 p.m. Beacon High School | Details under Friday.

**Concert for Haiti**

3 p.m. Howland Cultural Center  
See details under Saturday.

**The Colonial Nutcracker**

3 p.m. Eisenhower Hall Theatre | 655 Ruger Road, West Point | 845-938-4159 | ikehall.com

**Breakneck Ridge Revue**

7:30 p.m. Towne Crier Café  
379 Main St., Beacon  
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com

## MONDAY, NOV. 21

**Holiday Pottery Show & Sale**

10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Garrison Art Center  
See details under Friday.

**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 | beaconcitky12.org

**Garrison Fire District Meeting**

7 p.m. Garrison Firehouse | 1616 Route 9, Garrison  
845-424-4406 | garrisonfd.org

**Nelsonville Board of Trustees**

7:30 p.m. Village Hall | 258 Main St., Nelsonville  
845-265-2500 | villageofnelsonville.org

## TUESDAY, NOV. 22

**Holiday Pottery Show & Sale**

10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Garrison Art Center  
See details under Friday.

**Beacon Historical Society**

7 p.m. Howland Cultural Center  
477 Main St., Beacon  
845-831-0514 | beaconhistorical.org

**Board of Trustees**

7:30 p.m. Village Hall | 85 Main St., Cold Spring  
845-265-3611 | coldspringny.gov

## WEDNESDAY, NOV. 23

**Holiday Pottery Show & Sale**

10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Garrison Art Center  
See details under Friday.

**Haldane Senior Class Bake Sale**

10 a.m. Foodtown  
49 Chestnut Street, Cold Spring

## THURSDAY, NOV. 24

**Thanksgiving Day**

## FRIDAY, NOV. 25

**Holiday Pottery Show & Sale**

10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Garrison Art Center  
See details under Nov. 18.

**Not My Life (Documentary)**

7 p.m. First Presbyterian Church  
50 Liberty St., Beacon  
[moviesthatmatterbeacon.org](http://moviesthatmatterbeacon.org)

**Jim Brickman: *Comfort and Joy***

Paramount Hudson Valley  
See details under Nov. 19.

## Holiday Pottery show & sale

**Black Friday at the  
Holiday Pottery Show**  
Friday, November 25, 10–5pm  
Skip the malls, shop local and  
support your local art center and  
artists!

Garrison Art Center  
[garrisonartcenter.org](http://garrisonartcenter.org)



**Closed Thanksgiving Day**



# The Power of Protest

*Beacon resident creates nonprofit to promote the right of assembly*

By Brian PJ Cronin

During the day, Dan Aymar-Blair of Beacon works as a senior executive at the New York City Department of Education. But for the two hours and 20 minutes a day he's sitting on a Metro-North train, he's thinking about crowds.

Over the last two years Aymar-Blair has been using his commute to and from the city to research the First Amendment, specifically the freedom of assembly. He studied what civil rights groups have done over the past decade to protect the right and, during those precious moments where the train was close enough to a wi-fi signal, exchanged emails with experts on free speech.

Last month, Aymar-Blair and co-founder Patrick McEvoy unveiled the nonprofit Article 20 Network, and at 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 4, the group will host its first event, "A Toast to Human Rights" at Dogwood, 47 E. Main St. Aymar-Blair said he will talk about the history and importance of the freedom of assembly and describe the programming he has in mind. The name

references Article 20 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights adopted by the United Nations in 1948, which states that "everyone has the right to freedom of peaceful assembly" and that "no one may be compelled to belong to an association."

When Aymar-Blair sat down to speak with *The Current* about the Article 20 Network a week after the U.S. presidential election, he noted it was also the five-year anniversary of two events he said marked "the end of my street activism":

Members of the Occupy Wall Street movement being evicted from Zuccotti Park in New York City, and the birth of his first child.

A lifelong activist, Aymar-Blair said that at the time he had become disillusioned with public protests, which he called "parades without floats."

"The police know you're going to be there, they set up barricades, there's a predetermined route, you turn right here, left here, and at the end it just peters out and



An anti-Trump protest in New York City on Nov. 12

Photo by Mathias Wasik/Flickr

everyone goes home," he said.

But the sustained encampments that fueled the Arab Spring movement and Occupy Wall Street showed ways that peaceful protests could be effective, he said. Protests by members of Black Lives Matter in response to killings of unarmed black men by law enforcement also encouraged Aymar-Blair. "We hadn't seen an upswell of protests all across the country like that in quite some time," he said. "Most important, it was making a difference. And the question of effectiveness was something that had been bothering me for a long time."

Aymar-Blair initially thought he would create an app that could be used to orga-

nize protests. But making it secure would require a lengthy development cycle that made him restless. He decided to learn more about the freedom of assembly during his commute, which led him to conclude that while many groups touch on the right, there wasn't an organization dedicated to protecting and strengthening it.

He began a correspondence with Alycee Lane, an Oakland-based author of *Nonviolence Now!: Living the 1963 Birmingham Campaign's Promise of Peace*, which examines the commitment cards to nonviolence that anti-segregation protesters carried (Continued on Page 12)

## TOWNECRIER CAFE

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Mon. - Fri. 4 p.m., Closed Tuesday

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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**

Fri., 11/25 8:30 p.m.  
**Loudon Wainwright III**

Sat., 11/26 8:30 p.m.  
**Chris O'Leary Band**

Sun., 11/27 7:30 p.m.  
**Rootstock**  
benefit concert for  
the next generation of farmers  
**Floodwood, Daisycutter,**  
**Steamboats**

Thurs., 12/1 7:00 p.m.  
**Dance Jam**

Fri., 12/2 8:30 p.m.  
**Michelle Shocked**  
**Rev. Vince Anderson**

Sat., 12/3 11 a.m.  
**Breakfast with Santa**

Sat., 12/3 8:30 p.m.  
**Patty Larkin**  
guest The Levins

Sun., 12/4 7:30 p.m.  
**The Prezence**  
**Led Zeppelin Tribute**

Wed., 12/7 7:30 p.m.  
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## The Power of Protest *(from Page 11)*

in Birmingham. Aymar-Blair asked Lane if he knew of a contemporary version, and Lane responded by creating one. It became the first project of the Article 20 Network and is provided as a free download at a20n.org.

The pledge has since been retrieved more than 500 times, said Aymar-Blair, who is now working on a 10-day lesson plan for high school history classes that adheres to Common Core standards. He



An anti-Trump sign at a protest in New York City on Nov. 12

Photo by Mathias Wasik/Flickr

also is assembling resources for ministers and faith groups, a manual for police officers who must manage crowds while protecting expression, and checklists that towns and municipalities can use to safely and effectively protect freedom of assembly.

The first tweet by president-elect Donald Trump after the election suggested Aymar-Blair and his volunteers may have their work cut out for them.

"Just had a very open and successful presidential election," Trump wrote. "Now professional protesters, incited by the media, are protesting. Very unfair!"

The tweet was "chilling," said Aymar-Blair. "It verified what we suspected his real attitude is toward the First Amendment and freedom of assembly. We've seen him, over the last eight months, inciting violence and encouraging violence against protesters. At one point he referred to the



Dan Aymar-Blair, left, and Alycee Lane

act of protest as 'disgusting.'

Fairness "isn't really the question," Aymar-Blair said. "It's their right to protest. They could be protesting anything."

And the protests are expected to continue. A women's march is planned for Jan. 21 in Washington, D.C., and a monthslong encampment at Standing Rock, North Dakota, to protest an oil pipeline continues

to draw attention. Aymar-Blair said that the level of mobilization taking place is unlike anything he's ever seen, and it's bringing new allies into the fold.

"Before the election our group was seven people, and now we're up to 14," he said. "People who I had been trying to get involved before the election who said they didn't have time are writing me and saying 'OK, I'm in.'"

## Off Road at Buster Levi Gallery



Composition 4, acrylic on panel, 2016

The Buster Levi Gallery in Cold Spring is displaying new work by Lael Morgan that continues her exploration of the Roadspace, a series based on the experience of driving in a car. The exhibit, called *Off Road*, continues through Nov. 27. The gallery, at 121 Main St., is open Friday through Sunday from noon to 6 p.m.

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# Catching Up With ... John Griffiths

*The Garrison principal, in his second year, talks innovation*

By Alison Rooney

“It’s really busy here — there’s so much energy — and so much potential energy,” says John Griffiths, a few months into his second year as principal at Garrison Union Free School, which has 208 students from kindergarten through eighth grade. He says he was drawn to the school from his tenured position in the Somers district by the opportunity to innovate.

Asked to describe some of the changes underway, Griffiths began with Project Lead the Way, a science, technology, engineering and mathematics system used in the third to fifth grades that focuses on collaborative problem-solving strategies applied to real-world design challenges. Students use an iPad application to construct a test model before building a model as part of the standard science curriculum, he said. Teachers Amy Kuchera and Robin Waters participated in a summer training session and have been “chomping at the bit” to get going with it, he said.

To teach literacy, administrators and teachers looked at a variety of pedagogies and chose the Teachers College Reading and Writing Project in part “because it takes into account that if there are 20 kids, there could be 20 levels.” Most of the instructional time is spent on individual assignments. “Rather than having a reading textbook, it’s a strategy of giving them their own reading material, and having the teacher confer with each of them,” Griffiths explained.

Garrison began a new rotation this year of “specials” — art, physical education and music. It had included library, but that has been dropped for a program called



John Griffiths in his office at the Garrison School

Photo by A. Rooney

Literacy and Speech.

“As much as I value having a vibrant library as a centerpiece of the school community, a lot of library content was being delivered by classroom teachers,” Griffiths said of the change. “If it’s happening well in the classroom, it becomes redundant. We asked ourselves, ‘Is there another aspect of literacy to put a spotlight on?’ and came up with listening and speaking.

“I’m very concerned that so many kids are staring at phones constantly,” he said. “Last year I saw a real lack of skills in how our students could confidently present their ideas to their peers. Watching debates, I found an inability to listen for the flaws in their opponents’ arguments.”

Griffiths recruited a middle-school teacher, Ian Berger, who is interested in drama, debate and design, to create an

“active literacy” program with instruction in speaking and listening as well as in multimedia: how to use design, color, texture, still images, graphics, moving images, spoken word and music to create impactful messages. “We’re still fleshing it out,” said Griffiths. “It’s not a packaged curriculum.”

As a result of the rotation change, the Library Media Specialist position had its hours reduced significantly, something Griffiths called “a tough decision.” The teacher in that position wound up departing for another job.

In terms of technology on hand, Griffiths said every middle school student this year was assigned a Google Chromebook, and laptops were added to each classroom in the elementary grades. Last year all fifth- through eighth-graders were given a school-use Google email account, with access to all Google apps; that has been extended this year to third- and fourth-graders.

In addition, teachers are able to use Google Classroom and Google Drive, which allows students to complete and submit homework online for grading. “It’s not just tech for tech’s sake, but it’s changing teaching and learning,”

Griffiths said.

The school has also been devoting more time to the social and emotional components of the day, working to “give the students tools to serve them well, along with good coping skills,” he said. These tools include moments dedicated to “breathing, meditation, silencing oneself,” Griffiths said.

“The past two mornings, sixth-graders have spent the first few moments being quiet,” he said. “They’ve been asked to notice two new things while walking between buildings and also to think about somebody who really should have a good day, adult or student. Our school counselor reports no giggling, no noise. It’s been amazing seeing that some very simple, deliberate directives are helping them move through the school day.”

The campus, meanwhile, is undergoing capital improvements. Each kindergarten through fifth-grade classroom has new furniture, while a team of students, teachers and community members are re-designing what used to be the speech and special education room into a nontraditional learning space.

A small school garden, managed by Hudson Valley Seed, has been moved to a brighter, 40-by-50-foot plot with three raised beds. Students grow vegetables, most of which are donated to a Beacon food pantry and the rest used for educational activities.



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## Neighbors Ask State to Close Indian Brook Falls *(from Page 1)*

Another resident, Jerry Albanese, told the board that often “there are so many people in the road, so many cars, you simply cannot” drive down Indian Brook. “No emergency vehicle would ever get through,” Albanese said.

Philipstown has installed additional no-parking signs, but neighbors say drivers ignore them despite enforcement efforts by the Putnam County Sheriff's Department. A resident told the board that, according to the Sheriff's Department, deputies issued 111 tickets and had 106 cars towed between May and October. She said traffic is so dense on summer weekends that residents often cannot leave, or return home, because vehicles line the road and sometimes stop in the middle, engines running, waiting for a parking spot.

Some drivers get aggressive when challenged, residents reported. Leslie Pileggi told *The Current* that drivers often park alongside her home, located close to the road, blocking her egress. When she approached one, she recalled, he responded with an obscenity, asking who gave her the right to tell him where to park.

Pileggi likewise mentioned teenage boys and young men leaping from the cliff into the water. Indian Brook Falls is “becoming a big party place,” she said. “They’re drinking openly. They’re smoking pot openly. Someone is going to end up dead.” She recommending limiting, but not banning, access.

Samara Mormar, another neighbor, expressed fears of harm not only to people but the land. “It’s sort of a delicate ecosystem that gets out of whack on weekends” when crowds descend, Mormar said. “My experience has been that many visitors don’t have respect for that delicacy.”

A parking area on Indian Brook Road provides eight spaces for Audubon Center visitors. But swimmers often grab them, neighbors reported.

In an August email to state park officials, Eric Lind, the director of the Audubon Center, said that “the swimming issue at Indian Brook waterfall continues to be a stressful and difficult problem,” generating complaints “from people who want to visit the marsh but have no place to park, as our lot is full all day with vehicles from illegal swimmers.” Swimming parties also leave trash, which Audubon staff collect, he added.

Lind told neighbors he had contacted Linda Cooper, director of the Taconic Region for the New York parks department, to recommend tougher parking enforcement, more signage and “a trail closure until a permanent solution is found.”

To support their case, residents presented Town Board members with Lind’s emails and other documents. Town Supervisor Richard Shea urged more state and county action. “What we can do as a town, we’ve pretty much done,” he said. “I do think that with more ticketing and towing, eventually word will get around” on social media, blamed for spawning the increase in visitors.

Shea likewise said the town could help subsidize more policing, “but it’s tough to rationalize, because we have so little discretionary funding. And it’s a problem that does need to be addressed by New York State.”

Councilor Nancy Montgomery said the issues extend from Indian Brook Falls to Breakneck on Route 9D and beyond. “We have our parks, our land, overrun with graffiti and garbage,” she said. (Graffiti mars the understructure of the Route 9D bridge near the waterfall.) The town can’t handle



**Mariah Nichols and Nick Mercado of Poughkeepsie found Breakneck too crowded on Nov. 13, so they decided to visit Indian Brook Falls, guided by social media. Photos by L.S. Armstrong**

such problems at Indian Brook Falls, she said. “But are we going to be able to close it down? I don’t think so.”

Cooper said at the Nov. 3 meeting she didn’t foresee an easy solution. “We don’t want to stop access and prevent people from enjoying the out-of-doors,” she said. “But we do want to teach them an environmental ethic.”

She told residents and Town Board that “what you’ve been able to enjoy to yourselves, just the people that live here, because of social media is now being discovered and enjoyed by a much broader audience.”

“Everybody wants to strike that balance,” Shea said. “You don’t want to drive people away,” but Indian Brook Falls “is a really fragile area” and too many excursions “can overwhelm and ruin it.”

## What Brings Visitors to the Falls

*Lately, some sites add words of caution*

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

Search the internet for “Indian Brook Falls” and you’ll find a number of blogs, magazine articles and recreation sites that recommend a visit to the waterfall. In June 2015, *New York* magazine quoted a musician calling Indian Brook Falls “one of the best undiscovered waterfalls. You park underneath a big suspension bridge, hike for 10 minutes, and then it’s like an oasis. You can swim around behind the waterfall to sit on the rocks back there.”

Several readers objected, noting that swimming at the falls is illegal. One also wrote: “Your advice was irresponsible. There is no parking here and many of us were ticketed and also towed! Thanks tons!”

The site See/Swim review of Indian Spring Falls [sic] advised visitors to park in the Audubon Center spots. An update said the site was only a “see” location.

The mother who blogs at Cuddles and Chaos shared photos of children exploring the brook and swimming beneath the falls. “The water was crystal clear and running slowly when we went,” she wrote. “Next time, we’ll pack a lunch to eat on the rocks while we’re there.” A postscript noted: “You’re not supposed to swim there. I didn’t realize until we were leaving, but there is a No Swimming sign posted on one of the trees.”

In its review, Hike the Hudson Valley cautions: “Constitution Marsh has made the very reasonable request for folks to please not illegally swim at Indian Brook Falls while taking up a parking spot at Constitution Marsh. The falls are unaffiliated with Constitution Marsh, and the visitors’ center lets visitors park here to visit the falls out of the goodness of their hearts — a goodness that you will be testing if you leave your car parked here all day while enjoying an illegal frolic.”

Finally, the Outbound Collective calls the waterfall “a great spot for the whole family to take in its beauty” and notes the swimming ban, although a reader dismissed it as being posted only for liability reasons. “When we were leaving,” the reader wrote, “an entire coach bus showed up with children on a field trip who were going to the falls. It was one of the nicest, purest waterfalls I’ve ever been to and I plan on going back in a few days.”



**The New York State park system forbids swimming and climbing rocks at Indian Brook Falls, but the sign prohibiting rock-climbing no longer bears the red diagonal slash indicating a ban.**

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# Fjord Trail Route May Change

*Dockside being reconsidered for Cold Spring section*

By Michael Turton

The Cold Spring portion of the proposed Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail linking Cold Spring and Beacon may be altered as a result of concerns raised before and during a public meeting Nov. 14.

The trail's master plan calls for the Cold Spring end of the nine-mile route to travel from the Metro-North train platform to Main Street, then north along Fair Street to Route 9D and to Little Stony Point.

At the Nov. 14 meeting at Dutchess Manor, which was attended by about 75 people, a number of Fair Street residents repeated their opposition to the route, citing what they say is a significant increase in pedestrian traffic on the street and sidewalk even before construction has begun.

A woman who lives on Fair Street but did not identify herself said that hazardous conditions would only increase once bicyclists begin using the trail. "Bikes can't ride on the sidewalk and the street is too narrow" to support a bicycle lane, she argued.

She added that Fair Street residents already find it difficult to pull out of their driveways and that children can't play on the sidewalks due to the large number of hikers heading to and from Breakneck Ridge, especially on weekends.

Scenic Hudson's Amy Kacala, a senior planner working on the project, facilitated the meeting. She said the issues raised about Fair Street justify reconsideration of a route previously rejected that would go from the train platform to Dockside Park, then along the riverfront to Little Stony Point.

"This route would essentially bypass downtown Cold Spring," Kacala said in an email. She said Fair Street had been proposed to ensure that the trail would benefit Main Street businesses. But now, three years later, it appears some residents feel the number of visitors has reached a critical mass and that a bypass via Dockside would ease congestion.

Kacala has contacted Metro-North, a partner in the Fjord Trail project, because a change in route to include Dockside would involve using railroad property and



The proposed route of the Fjord Trail

its right of way. "We will be looking at this more closely, including, potentially, some preliminary engineering," she said.

(How Cold Spring residents living west of the tracks will feel about the trail being rerouted through their neighborhood remains to be seen.)

Numerous other concerns were aired:

- Like Poughkeepsie's Walkway Over the Hudson, the trail may attract many more users than predicted
- Inadequate parking and parking on the shoulder of Route 9D create safety



The Cold Spring portion of the Fjord Trail may be rerouted through Dockside Park rather than Fair Street.

Photo by M. Turton

hazards

- The traffic speed through the Breakneck area needs to be reduced
- Excessive littering: "It's a carry-out park but no one carries trash out"
- Serious erosion of trails, particularly at Breakneck
- Potential impact on wildlife
- Negative impact on municipalities whose budgets are already strained to meet demands created by visitors
- Fear that the trail will make a bad situation even worse

After hearing the litany of complaints, Kacala noted that a "no build" decision is an option. The section of trail from the Breakneck whistle stop to the trailhead, known as the Breakneck Connector, will move forward, but the rest of the proposed route remains open to discussion, she said. However, she asked, "Will doing nothing help?" The problems, she said, already exist, and the trail planning process is designed to address them.

John Teagle, a member of the Little Stony Point Citizens Association, suggested the trail may make the situation better by spreading usage out over the entire corridor, rather than focused at Breakneck. If more people take the train from Beacon or hike from there, and with planned improvements to parking, Teagle said that some of the burden Cold Spring faces may be reduced. "It may end up that a lot of what people are complaining about will improve, and there will be economic benefit," he said.

Steve Smith, chief of the Cold Spring Fire Company, complimented planners for listening to his ideas and redesigning

the area near the Breakneck tunnel after he pointed out the problems that first responders have experienced when parking large emergency vehicles there. "They helped us out big time," he said. "They're working with everybody."

Chris Robbins of AKRF, Inc., the consulting firm drafting the Environmental Impact Statement for the project, stressed the review will cover a range of impacts from environmental and economic to projected visitor use and its effect on the community. A seven-day field assessment will include a detailed analysis of the trail route, he said.

Linda Cooper, a regional director with the New York State parks department, said officials at Hudson Highlands State Park have plans to divert some visitors to Fahnestock. She noted other state parks have also been dealing with an increase in attendance.

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## COMMUNITY BRIEFS

## Author to Read from Memoir

*Growing up in a one-room farmhouse*

Catherine Marengi will read from her new memoir, *Glad Farm*, at the Desmond-Fish Library in Garrison at 3:30 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 20. The book, which will be available for sale, chronicles Marengi's childhood growing up in a one-room farmhouse in Milford as the fourth of five children.

After achieving success as a journalist, she was able to provide her family with better living conditions. Her other publications include poetry and two books of nonfiction. Marengi is donating half the proceeds from her book sales to Habitat for Humanity.



*Glad Farm* author Catherine Marengi

## Haldane Senior Class to Host Bake Sale

*Will help fund service trip to New Orleans*

Haldane's Class of 2017 will hold a bake sale on Wednesday, Nov. 23 starting at 10 a.m. outside Foodtown to raise money to fund a service trip to New Orleans to work with Habitat for Humanity. The students will have homemade pies, cakes and breads.

## Meet the Animals

*Nature museum will be open over holiday weekend*

The Wildlife Education Center at the Hudson Highlands Nature Museum in Cornwall will be open Friday, Saturday and Sunday following Thanksgiving from noon to 4 p.m. each day. Children are invited to stop by to meet the animals and for craft projects.

Museum educators will share information about the center's animals, including what they had to eat for Thanksgiving, at 1 and 2:30 p.m. each day. Admission is \$3; children ages 3 and younger are free. For more information, visit [hnnaturemuseum.org](http://hnnaturemuseum.org).

## Artisan Market in Nelsonville

*New shared space will host sale Nov. 26*

On Saturday, Nov. 26, a new shared work and play space in Nelsonville, Create Community, will host a market featuring more than 20 artisans selling handcrafted items. It will be open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and include retailers such as Kristi S. Wright Papercrafts, Love Grandma Jean baked goods, M & N Jewelry Design along with bath and body products, apparel and home and garden items. For more details, see [facebook.com/createcommunity](https://facebook.com/createcommunity).

## Haldane High School to Celebrate Honor

*Community invited to Blue Ribbon ceremony*

Community members are invited to join Haldane High School students and faculty at plaque dedication and flag-raising at 8:30 a.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 29, to celebrate the selection by the U.S. Department of Education of Haldane High as a Blue Ribbon School.

Superintendent Diana Bowers, middle school principal Julie Sniffen, former Haldane High School principal Brian Alm and Haldane Faculty Association President Andrea McCue attended a ceremony



Sniffen, Bowers, McCue and Alm at the D.C. ceremony

*Haldane photo*

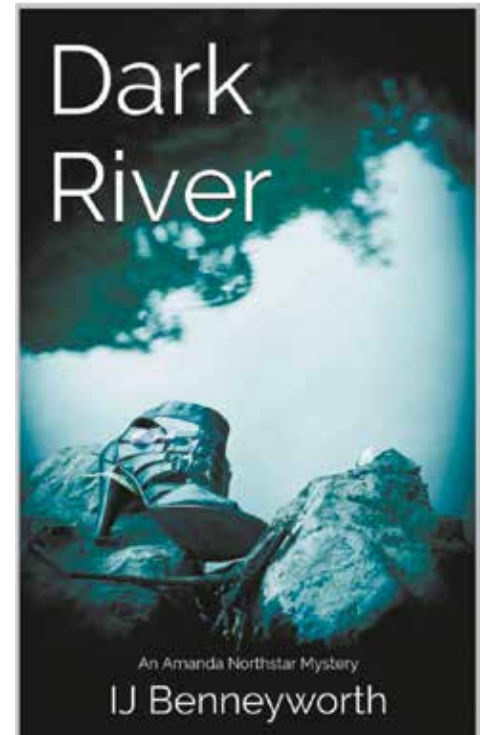
in Washington, D.C., earlier this month to accept the award. Haldane was one of 54 public high schools in the nation honored this year with Blue Ribbon status.

## A Murder Mystery in the Highlands

*Cold Spring inspires British writer*

British writer, IJ Benneyworth, has published a novel, *Dark River*, set in a fictional Hudson River town based in part on his visits to Cold Spring. "I spent many hours walking around, taking photos, soaking up the atmosphere of the town and the walking trail near the Foundry, and of course enjoying a burger and truffle fries at the Depot," he said. "The town and county of Independence might be fictional and inspired by many different places, but I hope I've captured some of the character of the Hudson area."

The book focuses on a single mother who, as the town's sheriff, uncovers the truth behind the apparent suicide of a lawyer. *Dark River* can be downloaded at [Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com) for the Kindle.



A new murder mystery novel is set in a fictional town on the Hudson River.

## Assistance Available for Energy Bills

*Feds and Central Hudson offer help*

The federal government will offer grants of \$350 to \$490 through Putnam and Dutchess county social services offices for fixed- and low-income customers who need assistance with winter heating bills.

Eligibility is based on family income and size and if a vulnerable individual is in the household. For example, a family of four earning up to \$4,423 per month (or \$53,071 per year) may qualify. The program also offers assistance with heating equipment repair or replacement.

To learn more, visit [mybenefits.ny.gov](http://mybenefits.ny.gov) or call 845-486-3249 in Dutchess County or 845-808-1500 in Putnam and ask about the Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP). There is also information at [centralhudson.com/heap](http://centralhudson.com/heap).

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## COMMUNITY BRIEFS



Shown are some of the handmade crafts and gifts that will be on sale at the Desmond-Fish Library's annual holiday market. *Photo provided*

## Library to Hold 24th Annual Holiday Sale

*Desmond-Fish event begins Nov. 26*

The Desmond-Fish Library in Garrison will open its 24th annual holiday market at 10 a.m. on Saturday, Nov. 26. It continues Thursday to Sunday through Dec. 11 during library hours. The sale includes balsam wreaths, pottery, soaps, hand knits, gourmet treats and jewelry. See [desmondfishlibrary.org/boutique](http://desmondfishlibrary.org/boutique).

## Beacon

### Visual Conversation

*Howland show on view until Dec. 3*

The Howland Public Library is showcasing the work of two Beacon artists who happen to also be friends, Anna Bergin and Dana Devine O'Malley, through Dec. 3. The exhibit, *Intro to Mind Pong*, includes paintings by Bergin and mixed media by O'Malley.



A work by Anna Bergin on view at the Howland Public Library in Beacon *Image provided*

## Breakneck Ridge Revue Returns to Crier

*Music rooted in American folk*

On Sunday, Nov. 20, the Breakneck Ridge Revue returns to the Towne Crier Café in Beacon for a sequel to its inaugural show over the summer. Led by Andrew Revkin, a songwriter and instrumentalist, and David Ross, a singer and guitarist, the revue includes a mix of traditional, classic and original songs rooted in American folk. Guests include poet T.R. Hummer, musician Chris Brown, balladeer Susan Reid Bozsó and Susan English. Tickets are \$15 at [townecrier.com](http://townecrier.com). The show begins at 7:30 p.m.

## Benefit for Haiti

*Funds to assist residents who lost homes to Matthew*

The Beacon Sloop Club will host a benefit concert for Haiti at 3 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 20 at the Howland Cul-



A solo show of work by Beth Haber based on Herman Melville's *Moby Dick*, *Open Attachments*, is on view at the Theo Ganz Studio in Beacon through Dec. 4.



The Philipstown Reform Synagogue honored local veterans Nov. 11 at its Shabbat services and dinner. Rabbi Helaine Ettinger offered prayers and thanks. Among the 30 people who attended the meal and discussion were Philip Shatzle, Ed Englebride, John Gilson and Roger Keppel. *Photo provided*



The Breakneck Ridge Revue is shown during its performance this past summer at the Towne Crier in Beacon. *Photo by Russ Cusick*

tural Center in Beacon. Organizers from the Haitian People's Support Project will speak about their work bringing food and supplies to the former residents of Jeremie, which was destroyed in October by Hurricane Matthew.

Open Book, Gaia Wolf and One Sky with Mighty Xee and EC Lorick will per-

form, and there will also be a bake sale. The suggested donation is \$20. Call 845-399-5359 for information.



A photo taken in Nubia, Egypt, by Sandra Belitza-Vazquez for her exotic door series, part of the ongoing holiday show at RiverWinds Gallery in Beacon *Image provided*

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# Long Dock Expansion Moves Closer to Vote

*River pool appears unlikely to be part of plan*

By Jeff Simms

Scenic Hudson hopes to gain approval next month for its plans to expand Long Dock Park in Beacon, but the land trust still faces criticism for its decision not to host the Beacon River Pool.

The organization's proposal calls for adding lawns, café tables and chairs, a boardwalk and infrastructure for up to two food trucks on four acres that would complement the existing park, which opened in 2011. Eighteen parking spaces also would be added, bringing the total to 79.

Meg Rasmussen, a park planner with Scenic Hudson, said Nov. 16 that construction could begin in the spring if the Beacon Planning Board approves the proposal in December.

However, Scenic Hudson's Nov. 9 appearance before the board — a public hearing continued from the month before — was dominated by discussion of its reluctance to provide a home for the 17-foot fiberglass river pool, which has been located at Seeger Riverside Park, 25 feet north of Long Dock, since 2007. The existing pool is nearing the end of its design life and sits in only three feet of water. More than 1,000 people use the pool each year, according to board members.



The Beacon River Pool, shown at its current site

Photo provided

The river pool board inquired several years ago about moving the pool to deeper water near Long Dock Park, but Scenic Hudson declined, citing liability concerns.

At the Nov. 9 meeting, Rasmussen was peppered with questions about the pool. Board Chair Jay Sheers seemed puzzled, questioning how the organization could operate a kayak pavilion — one of the most popular features at Long Dock — but decline

to work with the pool.

"To me," Sheers said, "many, many more people know how to swim than to operate a kayak safely. It's mind-boggling to me that that's less of a liability than a staffed swimming pool."

Rasmussen noted that Scenic Hudson doesn't fear liability from swimming-related injuries, "but we would be liable under a suit where someone claimed there shouldn't

have been a river pool installed at all."

Sheers wasn't appeased. "You've had three neighbors on this project," he said. "The yacht club you got rid of; you have the river pool that you're driving out, and you've marginalized the sloop club, from my point of view."

Rasmussen said Scenic Hudson has been mischaracterized as not wanting the river pool at Long Dock, but "from an organizational standpoint, we're not comfortable with the liability that we would indeed have."

Sheers shot back: "The oversight is making sure their insurance is up-to-date once a year. What else is there?"

Citing the inability to staff or manage a river pool, Rasmussen said the debate has detracted from the decades of work the land trust has put into Long Dock. "Scenic Hudson has provided this park in a place that was an oil storage facility," she said. "It can be a little disheartening that there's a perception that Scenic Hudson isn't doing its part for river access."

Rasmussen seemed to indicate on Nov. 16 that further discussions with the river pool are not likely, saying the organization gave its proposal "our greatest consideration." River pool supporters have said they may have to relocate elsewhere on the river, outside of Beacon, if a suitable location can't be found.

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## Give Thanks!

Many people call Thanksgiving **Turkey Day**. The traditional Thanksgiving bird is full of surprises.

For example, Benjamin Franklin once recommended that the turkey be America's national bird instead of the eagle.

Read on, complete the activities and learn some facts that will amaze your family on Thanksgiving Day!

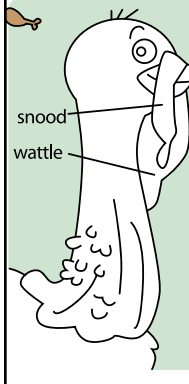
## Turkey Code

A = 17	I = 11	P = 10
C = 6	K = 9	R = 7
D = 3	L = 1	S = 2
E = 19	M = 18	T = 5
G = 8	N = 14	U = 13
H = 15	O = 4	W = 16

Only 18 17 1 19 turkeys make the gobble-gobble sound.

Female turkeys make 6 1 13 6 9 2 and small, 6 15 11 7 10-like noises.

Male turkeys are called gobblers, or 5 4 18 2. Female turkeys are called 15 19 14 2.



snood

wattle

**Color me after reading!**




The head of a turkey has very few feathers. But, it does have a **snood** and a **wattle**!

The snood is a fleshy body part that hangs over the turkey's beak. The wattle is the fleshy area on the turkey's throat.

When a turkey becomes frightened, agitated, excited or ill, the snood and wattle can change from their usual pale pink or bluish gray color to red, white, or blue.

Turkeys can run at speeds up to 25 miles per hour and can fly as fast as 55 miles per hour!

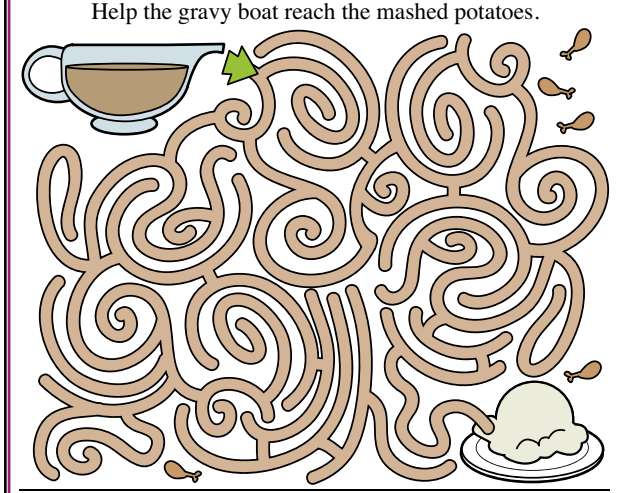
Have three players race to unscramble these Thanksgiving dinner words. The winner gets the first slice of pie.

	NROC	VARYG	FIGFUNST	KINPPUM	KYETRU	TOTOPA	SAPE
	NROC	VARYG	FIGFUNST	KINPPUM	KYETRU	TOTOPA	SAPE
	NROC	VARYG	FIGFUNST	KINPPUM	KYETRU	TOTOPA	SAPE

Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Follow simple written directions.

## Kid Scoop Puzzler

Help the gravy boat reach the mashed potatoes.



Standards Link: Visual Discrimination.

## Double Double Word Search

SURPRISES  
SWALLOWED  
STOMACH  
TURKEY  
WATTLE  
FLESHY  
WINNER  
SNOOD  
THANK  
AMAZE  
GRIND  
EAGLE  
HOUR  
RACE  
BEAK

Find the words in the puzzle. Then look for each word in this week's Kid Scoop stories and activities.


B	S	E	S	I	R	P	R	U	S
E	H	S	E	R	G	R	I	N	D
F	T	C	Z	E	U	T	O	H	R
L	K	A	A	N	L	O	K	E	E
E	A	N	M	M	D	T	H	L	N
S	E	C	A	R	O	S	T	G	N
H	B	G	I	H	V	T	I	A	I
Y	E	K	R	U	T	N	S	E	W
G	D	E	W	O	L	L	A	W	S

Standards Link: Letter sequencing. Recognized identical words. Skim and scan reading. Recall spelling patterns.


## Kid Scoop Together: HOW TO DRAW A TURKEY

Draw a turkey in seven easy steps. Practice drawing this turkey several times. Then on Thanksgiving, teach your family and friends how to draw it, too!


1



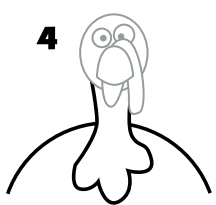
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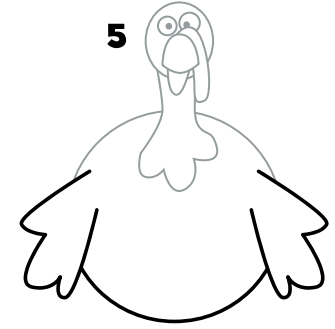
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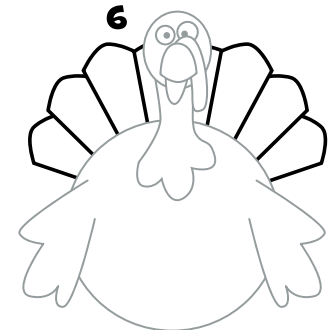
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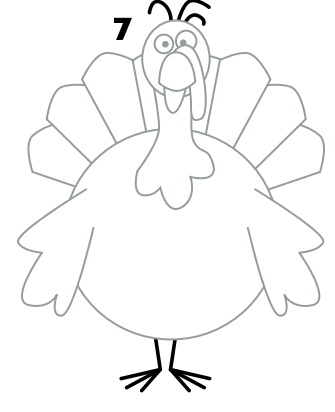
5



6



7



## Extra! Extra! Thankful

Look through the newspaper and circle five or more things you are thankful for. Choose one and write a sentence telling why you are thankful for it.

Standards Link: Research: Use the newspaper to locate information.

## Write On! Thanksgiving Holiday Spirit

What is the holiday spirit? How do you and members of your family show holiday spirit?

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# Sports



Sam Giachinta (44) carries the ball against Roscoe behind a block by VJ Fina (62).

Photo by Michael Haines



Quarterback Brandon Twoguns races for a 70-yard touchdown in the first quarter of Haldane's 14-6 win. Photo by Kim Giachinta

## Haldane Football Advances to Final Four

*One win away from playing for Class D state championship*

After winning the Section 1, Class D championship game Nov. 5, the Haldane football team advanced

Nov. 12 to the final four of the state tournament with a 14-6 victory in Kingston over Section 9 champ Roscoe/Downsville/Livingston Manor.

The last time the program won two state tournament games was 2007. The team that won tournament games before that was the 2000 squad, when Coach

Ryan McConville was a sophomore line-backer for the Blue Devils.

Haldane next plays at 4 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 18, against the Section 2 champion, Cambridge (11-0), which defeated Ticonderoga, 55-28. The game will be at Dietz Stadium in Kingston. Cambridge is an offensive powerhouse that has won each of its games this season by at least 27 points and scored at least 50 points in 8 of its 11 contests.

In the victory over Roscoe, quarterback Brandon Twoguns started the scoring with a 70-yard touchdown run. Roscoe scored in the second quarter and Sam Giachinta clinched the win in the fourth quarter with a 12-yard run. He finished with 144 yards on 21 attempts.



A blue devil puts the fear in the opponent Nov. 12. Photo by Kim Giachinta

Haldane 26, Tuckahoe 6  
Haldane 14, Roscoe 6  
Haldane vs. Cambridge (Nov. 18)  
Haldane/Cambridge vs. Sidney/Maple Grove (Nov. 25, Carrier Dome)

## Haldane Cross-Country Ends Season at State Finals

*Boys and girls both finish eighth in state in Class D*

The boys' and girls' cross-country teams at Haldane both finished eighth in the 5,000-meter final at the Class D state championships held Nov. 12 at Chenango Valley. Maple Grove in Beamus Point, located in the northwest part of the state near Lake Erie, won the Class D state championship, while Greenwich Central, east of Saratoga Springs, won the girls' state championship.

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### Boys

13. Adam Silhavy 16:51.90  
45. Nick Farrell 17:46.60  
84. Matthew Mikalsen 19:09.10  
85. Ellis Osterfeld 19:11.90  
86. Jonas Petkus 19:18.20  
108. Andrew Silhavy 20:01.20  
111. Kyle Kisslinger 20:52.90

### Girls

43. Shannon Ferri 20:46.70  
60. Taylor Farrell 21:55.20  
70. Heather Winne 22:37.00  
98. Meghan Ferri 24:46.90  
102. Ruby McEwen 24:57.70



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