

# The HIGHLANDS Current

AUGUST 4, 2017

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Day Trip: Lake Taghkanic  
Page 9



Melanie Leonard, a Beacon hatmaker, works with straw, felt and suede. Photo by M. Turton

## Melanie the Milliner

*Beacon hatmaker uses classic techniques — and adds a little flair*

Melanie Leonard is the owner of WYNONO, a custom hatmaking shop she runs from her Beacon home. (The name is a Native American word meaning “first born” or “one of a kind.”) She spoke with Michael Turton about her craft. Her responses have been edited for brevity.

### How did you get into making hats?

Four years ago a woman came into a bar where I worked in Brooklyn. She always

wore amazing hats that she made herself. I became her apprentice. I also trained with Anya Caliendo, is well known for her technique and flamboyant designs.

### What kinds of hats do you make?

I do hats for men and women, a lot of straws and also felt and suede.

### What are you most proud of?

I make everything by hand using classic millinery techniques. I don't use machines. I do everything; produce everything, on my own. I've just kept making hats, almost like a mad woman. I've kept practicing and gotten a million times better.

(Continued on Page 12)

## Many Moving Parts in Beacon Council Election

*Incumbent knocked off ballot; Democrat to run as Republican*

By Jeff Simms

The Beacon Republican Committee has issued its endorsements for the upcoming City Council elections, while objections knocked three Democratic candidates off the ballot — although they can appeal or gather enough signatures to be included as independents.

All six seats on the council are contested every two years; current members Peggy Ross (Ward 1) and Pam Wetherbee (Ward

3) are not running for re-election.

The Republican-endorsed candidates are Wayne Theiss (Ward 1), a volunteer firefighter who owns an HVAC business; Andrew Gauzza III (Ward 3), a Manhattan College student; Chris Bopp (Ward 4), an accountant, real estate agent and former City Council member; and Amando Downer, a business consultant who is running for an at-large seat.

In Ward 2, the Republican-endorsed candidate is Democratic incumbent Omar Harper, who was endorsed by the GOP in 2015, as well. With the exception of Harper and Bopp, the Republican candidates are running for office for the first time.

Meanwhile, (Continued on Page 3)

### After Indian Point: An occasional series

## People Power

*What role should residents play in decommissioning nuclear plants?*

By Brian PJ Cronin

On Sunday, June 16, 1991—Father's Day—lightning struck both the Yankee Rowe nuclear plant in Massachusetts and the Vermont Yankee nuclear plant, about 20 miles to the northeast.



Deb Katz

Photo provided

It crippled the control room at Yankee Rowe and sent its own sort of shockwave through the surrounding communities: Could the plant pose a greater risk than anyone had thought?

“It was a very serious situation, and it woke people up about the reactor in Rowe,” said Deb Katz, who lived four-and-a-half miles from the plant, and who responded by helping to launch the Citizens Awareness Network (CAN). The grassroots organization advocates the replacement of nuclear plants with renewable energy and empowerment of communities affected by nuclear waste.

In June, Katz spoke at a forum in the Desmond-Fish Library in Garrison. Organized by the *Journal News*, Clearwater and the National Resources Defense Council, it focused on the challenges facing the region after the scheduled 2022 closing of the Indian Point Energy Center near Peekskill. Since CAN's founding, four nuclear plants in New England have been decommissioned.

CAN, along with the Union of Concerned Scientists, was instrumental in demonstrating that the Yankee Rowe plant was unsafe and mismanaged, which led to its closure in 1992. The group thought its work was done, Katz said. “We had shut down our local nuclear power plant and we were all going to get to go back to working in our gardens,” she said. “We didn't consider ourselves activists, we were just concerned citizens.” (Continued on Page 6)



STRIPED EARTH — A shot taken of a horse farm in the Dutchess County countryside north of Millbrook

Photo by Ross Corsair



# 5 Five Questions: Millie Solomon

By Chip Rowe

Solomon is president of The Hastings Center, a nonpartisan bioethics think tank founded in 1969 and based in Garrison. The Beacon resident also teaches at the Center for Bioethics at Harvard Medical School.

## What is your take on the situation with Charlie Gard, the infant in London whose parents fought to keep him alive?

It exemplifies three recurrent themes in bioethics. First and foremost, health systems and providers need to speak up when treatment becomes torturous. Charlie's care providers felt that was the case; his nurses, in particular, were very distressed that what they were doing to Charlie was wrong. His parents disagreed, and there is probably no way to know for sure who was right. But his providers should be praised for resisting what they thought was harmful and ineffective treatment.

The second is to what extent we should embrace unproven treatments. Yes, there's an essential role for compassionate use of promising medicines not yet approved. But Charlie's parents were pursuing a super long shot. In general, I don't think we should design health systems on

anything other than scientific evidence, and we shouldn't torment grieving families with unfounded hope, even if they can pay for it.

Third, even if someone can pay for something, the true cost is usually far more than the intervention itself. A colleague made an analogy in the Gard case to someone offering to pay for a fire engine to come to their home repeatedly for no good reason. Paying the costs of each visit would in no way cover the costs of maintaining the fire department, and repeated use of that common resource for no good reason would be a loss for everyone.

## The widow of a New York City police officer who was murdered nearly three years ago just had a baby with his sperm. A good idea?

That's called "posthumous reproduction." It's not as unusual as you might think. I find her desire very moving and something that should be allowed. It's not always a spouse, but sometimes grandparents who request it. The question should always be, what's best for the future child?

## Should people be able to sell their organs?

That would only incentivize poor people



Millie Solomon

File photo by Mary Ann Ebner

to put themselves in harm's way. It should always be altruistic, but there are ways to enhance the system. For example, I am not opposed to modest financial incentives, such as paying funeral costs. Another reform could be to institute "presumed consent," which means that instead of opting in to donate your organs, as is done now in the U.S., the default would be that organs are available for donation unless

you had opted out.

## Should parents be allowed to manipulate the genes of their future children?

The technology to do that is nearly here, so the question is, how do we use it wisely? The Hastings Center has a project called Human Flourishing in the Age of Gene Editing in which we are looking at exactly this question. With new genome editing tools such as CRISPR/Cas9, we could eradicate diseases, not just in one person, but in all their descendants. Once this is safe, it will be breathtakingly exciting.

Yet these same tools create the potential for creating so-called "enhancements." We need to be sure that any benefits are available to everyone, not just the wealthy. We should also be careful that gene editing does not negatively affect the parent-child relationship. Would gene editing lead us to see our offspring as products we get to design?

## So, what do you do for fun?


I hike and swim. I began at Hastings in June 2012 and every week of that summer I discovered something new and wonderful in the Hudson Valley. I love living here.

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## Moving Parts in Beacon Council Election *(from Page 1)*

the Democratic nominating petitions of Harper and fellow incumbent Ali Muhammad, along with newcomer Darrell Williams, were thrown out after a review by the Dutchess County Board of Election's two commissioners (one Democrat, one Republican).

Muhammad, who represents Ward 4 but was running for an at-large seat, was about a dozen signatures short of the 220 required. He appealed the decision to the Dutchess County Supreme Court, which scheduled a hearing for 10 a.m. on Friday, Aug. 4, before Judge Maria Rosa.

The Board of Elections did not respond to questions about what disqualified the signatures. Objections were filed by Charles Kelly, a former longtime council member and former head of the Beacon Democratic Committee, and Lee Kyriacou, a Democrat who is running to keep his at-large seat on the council.

Kelly and Kyriacou also objected to Harper's Democratic petition, forcing the Ward 2 incumbent — who defeated Kelly in the 2015 election — off the ballot as a Democrat. Harper filed 58 valid signa-

tures, five short of the 63 required. (One sheet of signatures was tossed because the witness does not live in Beacon.) Harper's petition to run on the Republican line in Ward 2, which required 14 signatures, was also challenged by Kelly but ruled valid.

Had his Democratic petition not been scrapped, Harper would have been challenged by John Rembert in a primary. Instead, he will face Rembert as a Republican in the Nov. 7 general election.

Williams, the third of four candidates running on the "Stand with Ali" slate, was ruled ineligible because he is not a registered Democrat and also had only 25 valid signatures of the 63 required. The objection to Williams' petition was filed by Mary Gault, the corresponding secretary of the Beacon Democratic Committee.

Muhammad and Williams have both said they intend to collect signatures to appear as independents on the November ballot. Independent candidates have until Aug. 22 to file nominating petitions with at least 42 or 48 signatures, depending on the ward.

The nominating petition of the fourth member of the Stand with Ali slate, Ward

1 candidate Paul Yeaple, running on the Green Party line, was accepted. Based on the number of registered Green Party members in the ward, he needed just two valid signatures.

The Beacon Democratic Committee has endorsed newcomers for the four ward seats and incumbents Kyriacou and George Mansfield for the two at-large posts. Its candidates are Terry Nelson (Ward 1), founder and director of the Beacon Independent Film Festival; Rembert (Ward 2), a minister at Star of Bethlehem Baptist Church; Jodi McCredo (Ward 3), a small-business owner who helped found Advocates for Beacon Schools; and Amber Grant (Ward 4), a volunteer with Planned Parenthood of the Mid-Hudson Valley and a board member of the Beacon Dog Park.

Kelly Ellenwood, the president of BeaconArts who announced in June that she would seek an at-large council seat on the Working Families line, did not file a nominating petition.

In Dutchess County legislative races, Gault challenged petitions filed by Ved Shrivah, a Democrat from Fishkill who is running for the District 16 seat, but was

## Seeking Council

### Ward 1

Terry Nelson (D)  
Wayne Theiss (R)  
Paul Yeaple (Green)

### Ward 2

Omar Harper (R)  
John Rembert (D)

### Ward 3

Andrew Gauzza III (R)  
Jodi McCredo (D)

### Ward 4

Chris Bopp (R)  
Amber Grant (D)

### At-Large (Two Seats)

Amando Downer (R)  
Lee Kyriacou (D)  
George Mansfield (D)

overruled. As a result, the Democratic Committee's candidate, Frits Zernike, will face a primary on Sept. 12. Three challenges by the Democrats to petitions filed by Independence Party incumbents John Forman (District 16) and Jerry Landisi (District 18) were also overruled.

## Sheriff Likely Won't Have Primary

### *Republican challenger's petition thrown out*

By Chip Rowe

Putnam County Sheriff Don Smith, seeking his fifth term, will likely not face a primary challenge after the nominating petitions filed by his Republican challenger were thrown out July 26 by the county Board of Elections.

After reviewing petitions filed by Andrew DeStefano, the two county election commissioners (one Democrat and one Republican) ruled that 729 of the 1,302 signers were invalid for various reasons, leaving DeStefano far short of the 1,000 needed to appear on the primary ballot on Sept. 12.

DeStefano, a retired New York City police captain who lives in Patterson, on July 31 appealed the ruling with the Putnam County Court, and a hearing date has been set for Aug. 7 in Carmel before Judge Paul Marx. DeStefano's attorney, John Zarcone, said he had no comment.

DeStefano had challenged Smith in 2009 but dropped out after he was accused of submitting forged nominating petitions. He pleaded guilty to a misdemeanor as part of a plea bargain but in January a state court overturned the conviction, citing conflicts of interest by his attorney. DeStefano has said he confessed to forging signatures only to keep members of his campaign team from being prosecuted.

DeStefano's newly filed petitions were challenged by Jim Borkowski, a former Southeast town judge who ran for sheriff as a Republican in 2009 but is now chairman of the Putnam County Democratic Party. He filed 441 objections, most often claiming the signer was not a registered Republican or that a witness statement was incomplete, which can invalidate en-

tire pages of signatures.

"It's not nitpicking about signatures," Borkowski said.

Borkowski and DeStefano have a complicated history. In 2009, when both men campaigned against Smith for the Republican nomination, the state attorney general's Public Integrity Bureau investigated DeStefano for submitting forged nominating petitions. The district attorney at the time was Adam Levy, a political foe of Smith, and DeStefano said he was being singled out for Smith's benefit to keep the primary a two-way race.

*The Republican would have remained on the ballot had a Democrat not objected.*

Asked why the Democrats would challenge a candidate who would have made Smith run a primary campaign, Borkowski said his motivation was purely to maintain the integrity of the election process. "There are rules to follow," he said. "We collected 1,800 good signatures [for Robert Langley Jr., the Democratic candidate] and followed the rules. You'd think that for someone who was almost arrested in 2009 for forging signatures, he would have been more careful. It's not about gamesmanship as far as parties."

Borkowski said he is hopeful that Langley will defeat Smith in November. "The backlash against Trump will help turnout by Democrats," he predicted. "When I was a candidate for sheriff, I only lost to Smith [in the primary] by 230 votes. He's not impossible to beat."

If DeStefano is disqualified, Smith will have the Republican line on the general election ballot on Nov. 7, as well as the Conservative, Independence and Reform party

lines. Langley, a Garrison resident, will have the Democratic and Women's Equality lines. Independent candidates must file their nominating petitions by mid-August.

Patrick Perry, a former inspector general for the Putnam County Sheriff's Department who is Smith's campaign manager, also filed an objection to specific signers

on DeStefano's petition. Although it had been invalidated the day before, an obligatory review by the two election commissioners on July 27 that lasted nearly four hours left 1,020 signatures, more than the 1,000 needed. That would have allowed DeStefano to remain on the ballot had a Democrat not challenged.

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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Beacon rents

*In an open letter to Main Street landlords in Beacon (July 21), Charles Dunn wrote that he had noticed a number of businesses pull up stakes and leave the city because of rising rents. He cautioned landlords not to be "the cause of this economic bubble bursting in Beacon." Here are some responses posted at highlandscurrent.com and on our Facebook page.*

I made the decision four years ago that I couldn't do business in Beacon. I've lived here for 11 years but now my studio is in Haverstraw. I'd rather be closer to home, but the rents are prohibitive.

Anthony Rosa, *Beacon*

Right on, Charlie. Too many landlords are interested in making a killing, and not satisfied with just making a living.

Ralph Pettorossi, *Beacon*

The same thing happened to a close community where I lived in Ohio 30

years ago. Now the town is a sinkhole for wealthy designers and professionals. Many locals in my old community were lured into selling their properties by the first wave of artisans and their backers in the early 1990s. Today the same people are charging top dollar, which has completely altered the tenor of the town.

Mary Carol Presutti, *Beacon*

Not only are the rents driving out businesses, but residents also. I hope I'm here when all these phony prices come tumbling down. It's going to be a mad rush.

James W. Larkin, *Beacon*

As a business owner on Main Street, I can attest to the fact that rents are driving businesses to other communities or causing them to close. Main Street is going to be right back where it was 15 years ago if landlords keep this up.

Christine Lawrence, *Beacon*

The last I heard, we still live in a free-market society. There is no rent-control

law in Beacon, Cold Spring, Peekskill or any other river town that I know of.

It is the market that determines what the rents are — what people are willing to pay at any given time. It's also capitalism. Rent is part of the overhead of doing business. Of course you're going to pay higher rent to have a store in a good neighborhood. That's what it's all about. The first rule of real estate is location, location, location.

The landlords are in business, just like the shopkeepers. Regardless of whether their space is rented, they still have to pay for the maintenance, taxes, mortgage, heat and other expenses. Most landlords are not making a killing. They're breaking even if they're lucky.

If people think the landlords are the problem, they are wrong. The internet is what's killing most retailers these days, including the big-box stores. Have you heard of Amazon? Not only is Jeff Bezos gobbling up everything he can get his hands on, but the taxpayers are subsidizing Amazon shipping to the tune of \$1.46 per package that they ship, according to a Citigroup analysis.

You can't expect your landlord to subsidize your rent. If you can't afford the rent, maybe you shouldn't be in business.

Patty Villanova, *Putnam Valley*

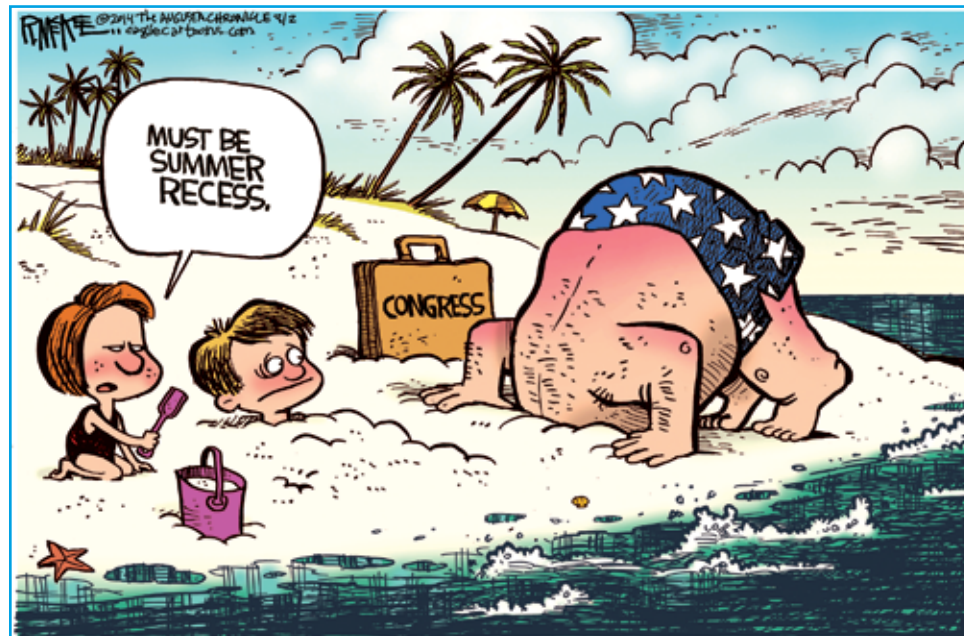
*Villanova is a shop owner on Main Street in Cold Spring.*

### Air alerts

Four times this summer, an electronic billboard on Route 9 has warned me of an "air quality alert" and asked me to limit the use of my car.

Gasoline and diesel engines may be the major source of air pollution in Dutchess County.

Another source: the garbage-burning incinerator ("waste-to-energy" facility) on the Hudson (Continued on next page)



## Taking it to the Street By Anita Peltonen

*What business or service would you like to see come to the Highlands?*



"A bagel store or an Indian restaurant."  
~ Diana Geller, Cold Spring



"A sporting-goods store like Hudson Valley Outfitters. I used to go there a lot."  
~ Oliver Barber, Garrison



"A sushi restaurant and an old-school movie-rental place."  
~ Shelly Scott, Garrison



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR (from previous page)

River in Poughkeepsie near IBM, which started operating in the late 1980s. In 2016 the facility processed 150,425 tons of Dutchess County solid waste, generating 37,507 MWhs of electricity and recovering 6,382 tons of ferrous metals for recycling. The process also created ash residue — 53,155 tons in 2016 — that is used as land-fill daily cover. Assuming the report on the county website mentioned everything, we're left with about 91,000 tons of stuff. Although it has pollution controls, fumes created by burning that garbage went somewhere else — into the air we breathe.

Emissions from solid-waste burning typically include carbon dioxide, water vapor, carbon monoxide, poisonous oxides of nitrogen, sulfur dioxin, hydrochloric acid, sulfuric acid, hydrogen cyanide, cadmium, lead, chromium and formaldehyde.

Similar deadly emissions also come from two petroleum-fired electric generating plants directly across the Hudson from Wappinger. Even more will come from the soon-to-be-operational Competitive Power Ventures methane-powered electric plant in Middletown, and in a few years from the Cricket Valley methane-powered plant in Dover Plains.

Enjoy your cheap gas and fossil-fuel generated electricity, folks; just don't breathe deeply.

Charles Davenport, *Wappingers Falls*

### Spraying near water

Given that the application by Putnam County of herbicides near Foundry Brook, which supplies Cold Spring and Nelsonville with drinking water, took place on May 23, it is difficult to get comfortable with the results of a test on samples taken on June 30, five weeks later, given: (1) contaminated water may have already entered our system, and (2) it's the low end of the range of the herbicide's half-life ("Village Water Supply Passes Test," July 28).

Michelle Smith, *Cold Spring*

On June 22 I filed a Freedom of Information Law request for Putnam County contracts related to herbicide application

### Letters to the Editor

We welcome letters to the editor, which can be emailed to editor@highlandscurrent.com or mailed to 161 Main St., Cold Spring, NY 10516. As with online comments, we ask that writers remain civil and avoid personal attacks. All letters are subject to editing for length, accuracy and clarity. The writer's full name, email and phone number must be included, although only the writer's name and village or city are published. We do not print anonymous letters or those written under pseudonyms.

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along county roads, including Fishkill Road, as well as application records. In response, I received a number of documents that raise serious questions regarding the safety of our drinking water in light of actions taken twice yearly by the county Highway Department. My concerns include:

- The application contracts are for the spraying of all county guardrails and signs, twice a year, with application records in this data set going back to 2012 — that is to say, this is not a new practice.
- A report from the company that was hired most recently to apply the herbicides identifies the use of a "non-selective glyphosate product" with injections "into the spray stream when appropriate" of trade chemicals DuPont Oust XP and Credit 41 Extra.
- Depending on exposures, glyphosate, Oust XP and Credit 41 Extra all carry risks to human, animal and environmental health.

## Photo OF THE WEEK



Bear Mountain Bridge, by Larry Fitzpatrick

High-resolution submissions welcome. Email photos@highlandscurrent.com.

- Following resident complaints, an inspection of Fishkill Road was carried out by the state Department of Environmental Conservation on July 12; the DEC inspector's report documents that the inspection was incomplete, and notes that the contractor, Allen Chase Enterprises, "was not present so not all requirements were checked."

I forwarded the documents to the Cold Spring Village Board of Trustees and requested that the village Water Department, under the supervision of the board and in consultation with the Philipstown Town Board, investigate further. The public should understand, at a minimum, the following:

- Why is herbicide spraying of guardrails necessary? What is the hazard of

vegetation around guardrails?

- Are there buffer zones that protect drinking water sources? I have been told that the DEC requires a 75-foot buffer for herbicide spraying — is that accurate?
- Existing codes related to the protection of the village water supply mandate buffer zones for a number of wastes and hazards. Do we need to address herbicides more specifically?

I hope others will join in the call to stop county spraying of herbicides along roadways, and particularly along the route of our drinking water supply.

Kathleen Foley, *Cold Spring*

*Editor's note: The documents Foley obtained have been posted with her letter at highlandscurrent.com.*

## HELP WANTED

**The Philipstown Recreation Department is hiring for September!**  
Please send all resumes to Amber Stickle  
at [amber@philipstownrecreation.com](mailto:amber@philipstownrecreation.com).  
For more information, please call 845-424-4618.

#### Teaching Assistant

The Learning Center at Philipstown Recreation is a play-based nurturing preschool setting. We are currently looking for an enthusiastic and flexible person to be part of a collaborative team working to create a positive learning environment. Hours are M-F, 8:30-2:30. Some experience working with young children is required.

#### Before Care & After Care Assistants

The Before Care & After Care program is a recreational setting that will provide additional care for those students who parents might need a longer day. We are looking for enthusiastic and flexible people to help build this new program. Some experience working with children is required. Candidates do not need to be available for both the morning and afternoon programs.



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The course

River Pool photo

## Hudson River Swim Set for Aug. 12

### Event raises funds for Beacon River Pool

By Jeff Simms

More than 150 swimmers are expected for the 14th annual Great Newburgh to Beacon Hudson River Swim, which takes place on Saturday, Aug. 12.

Dive-in is scheduled for 11:30 a.m. from Riverfront Marina in Newburgh, although the time could change if weather becomes a factor.

The date and time of the mile-plus swim are selected months in advance based on the projected tidal cycles of the river, explained Antony Tseng, president of the board of the River Pool at Beacon, which organizes the event. Any changes

in timing will be posted at riverpool.org. The rain date is Aug. 13.

Around 50 volunteer kayakers will escort the swimmers across the Hudson, and the Dutchess and Orange County sheriffs' marine units will be on the water, as well. Mobile life support services and Beacon Volunteer Ambulance Corps will be on call on both shores.

The swim, which takes the fastest swimmers 20 to 30 minutes, is a fundraiser for the River Pool, a Pete Seeger-inspired project that is now in its 11th year but still without a long-term home.

The River Pool board inquired several years ago about moving its 20-foot fiberglass pool to deeper water near Long Dock Park, but Scenic Hudson, which owns and manages the park, declined. The pool's request came up again last fall, when Scenic Hudson asked the Beacon Planning Board for



Kayaks monitored swimmers as they made their way across the river in the 2014 swim.

River Pool photo

approval to expand and upgrade Long Dock.

Several Planning Board members argued that Long Dock would be an appropriate location for the pool, while Scenic Hudson officials said they had considered the request but could not take on the liability.

Tseng said on July 31 that the pool has had more than 200 swimmers so far in the 2017 season, which began on July 1. More than 1,000 people use the free pool each year, according to board members.

The pool sits in 4- to 5-foot-deep water at Pete and Toshi Seeger Riverfront Park. But the search for deeper water, where a larger, more functional pool could be used, may require a move away from Beacon, the hometown of Seeger, a lifelong environmental advocate who championed access to the Hudson.

"We'd like to either open another pool or replace the pool we have now," Tseng said, "but it depends on how deep we can go and then the access to that location. It's not just about popping a pool into deeper waters — it's how people will get there."

A depth of about 15 feet would be more suitable, he said.



The Beacon River Pool

Photo courtesy of WDS

## People Power *(from Page 1)*

But when the decommissioning process began, Katz realized that the troubles were just beginning for the town of Rowe. For starters, CAN learned that the plant's nuclear waste would be shipped to poor, rural Barnwell, South Carolina.

As much as the group wanted the nuclear waste gone, Katz says its members didn't want to see it dumped on another town, much less one that hadn't benefited from the power the plant generated.

She said CAN next learned that during the decommissioning process, waste was being dumped in the local river, which ran adjacent to schools and farmland. In response, it sued Yankee Atomic, the

company that owned the plant, and the federal Nuclear Regulatory Commission for violating federal environmental laws.

It won, with one judge going as far as to compare the NRC to the Circumlocution Office, a satirical invention of Charles Dickens that he used to show government at its most myopic and inefficient.

The victory was short-lived, however, as the NRC responded by changing its rules and, in the process, giving itself, the federal Environmental Protection Agency, state governments and local communities less oversight over the decommissioning process, Katz said. That's the situation CAN finds itself in while navigating de-

commissions in Maine and Vermont, and which the Hudson Valley may soon find itself in with Indian Point, she said.

"This is a fight that the Vermont attorney general is now dealing with, because they're being blocked left and right from getting answers to the reasonable questions they have about how cleanup will take place, what are the finances involved, all the issues of accountability," she said. "The same is true for local communities, and it's true for the NRC."

CAN has been able to convince the State of Vermont to set up a citizens' advisory panel with representatives from the legislature, communities, the nuclear

company, power plant workers, Native American leaders and others. She recommends New York do the same. While the panel does not have the power to make or change laws, it can call witnesses and provide information to the public as the decommissioning takes place.

In the end, the most dangerous waste at Yankee Rowe was not shipped to South Carolina, but low-level waste did go south. "This is the painful reality in dealing with nuclear waste," Katz said. "There are only bad solutions and worse ones."

Eventually Katz believes that a "national sacrifice zone" will have to be built to store the nation's nuclear waste. A similar

*(Continued on next page)*

## More River Swims

### Saturday, Aug. 19

Rose Pitonof Swim (17 miles)  
East River to Coney Island  
urbanswim.org

### Monday, Sept. 11

Liberty to Freedom Swim (2.2 miles)  
Statue of Liberty to South Cove  
urbanswim.org

### Saturday, Sept. 16

Triple Dip (1, 2 or 3 miles)  
Coney Island | cibbows.org

### Sunday, Sept. 17

Sputyen Duyvil 10K  
Yonkers to Manhattan  
nyopenwater.org

### Saturday, Sept. 23

Breezy Point 5K  
Coney Island | cibbows.org

### Saturday, Nov. 11

Veterans' Day Swim (1, 2 or 3 miles)  
Coney Island | cibbows.org



# Tourism Spending Tops \$3.5 Billion in Hudson Valley

Grows 3 percent to hit record high, report says

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

Tourism spending in the Hudson Valley hit a record \$3.5 billion last year, an increase of 3 percent over 2015, according to a new report.

Statewide, tourism spending reached \$64.8 billion, said the report, prepared by the analytics firm Tourism Economics. Of that amount, 65 percent was spent in New York City, and 5 percent in the Hudson Valley.

The report did not gauge the costs of tourism to the state or counties and communities.

In the Hudson Valley region, Westchester County receives more than half the revenue attributed to tourists, at \$1.8 billion, followed by Dutchess (\$568 million, or 16 percent), Orange and Rockland (13 percent each) and Columbia (4 percent). Putnam received about 2 percent of the total, or \$62.5 million.

The report considers traveler spending on lodging, recreation and entertainment, food and beverages, retail and service station charges, transport and second homes.

Westchester far surpassed the other five counties in most categories. However, in second-home spending, it was

Total Tourism Impact, 2016	Traveler Spend '000	Labor Income, '000	Employment	Local Taxes '000	State Taxes '000
Columbia	\$140,552	\$66,852	2,267	\$8,830	\$7,842
Dutchess	\$568,301	\$307,154	10,484	\$40,932	\$31,709
Orange	\$474,732	\$267,497	9,348	\$32,165	\$26,488
Putnam	\$62,558	\$30,460	1,436	\$4,490	\$3,490
Rockland	\$466,545	\$255,197	8,673	\$30,417	\$26,031
Westchester	\$1,823,746	\$1,046,718	24,140	\$120,054	\$101,756
TOTAL	\$3,536,433	\$1,973,877	56,348	\$236,890	\$197,316

followed closely by Columbia County and Dutchess County (\$33 million, or 6 percent of Dutchess tourism spending). Putnam County's second-home spending was about \$12 million, representing about 20

percent of Putnam tourism spending, versus 3 percent in the region.

Tourism supported 56,348 jobs and provided \$1.9 billion in labor income (or about \$35,000 on average per worker), the re-

port said. The data revealed that Columbia County, where visitor activity accounted for 7.6 percent of all labor income, was the most dependent on tourism. Visitor activity accounted for 5.4 percent of labor income in Dutchess and 2.3 percent in Putnam.

Visitors to Dutchess County paid \$40.9 million in local taxes and \$31.7 million in state taxes and saved each household there \$678, while in Putnam tourism produced \$4.5 million in local taxes, \$3.5 million in state taxes, and saved each household \$228. Per household regionally, the savings was \$589 and statewide, \$1,133.

Across the state, tourism supported more than 780,000 jobs, making it the fourth-largest employer.



Splashdown Beach in Fishkill is a popular spot on hot August days. Dutchess Tourism photo

**Download Report**  
The Hudson Valley report by Tourism Economics is available at [highlandscurrent.com](http://highlandscurrent.com).

## People Power *(from previous page)*



An aerial photo of the Yankee Rowe taken in 2012, five years after the plant was decommissioned *(Yankee Atomic Electric Company)*

project has been in the works for years at Yucca Mountain in Nevada, but that plan has drawn criticism because the waste would be stored above the water table and rests on land of cultural importance to Native Americans, among other problems.

"The site has to be based on the stability of the area, not on the vulnerability of the community," Katz said. "Both sound science and sound ethics will have to be used to find a deep geological burial for the waste, and communities are going to have to be willing and involved in the process."

With more nuclear plants due to be decommissioned over the next 10 years, Katz said that figuring out how to safely decommission plants will become even more important.

"Ten years ago everyone thought there was going to be a nuclear renaissance," she said. "But they were wrong. And now we're going to have to deal with the effects of that."

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# Building Ban on Track in Beacon

Engineers will search for more water

By Jeff Simms

Engineers hired by Beacon officials will soon begin looking for new sources of water after concerns that the rate of construction in the city will deplete its current capacity.

Meanwhile, the City Council is expected to vote in September on a six-month moratorium on residential development while the issue is addressed.

Thomas Cusack, the senior vice president of Leggette, Brashears & Graham, an environmental engineering firm, told the City Council at its July 31 meeting that his firm could start immediately on a search for more water sources.

Last year, LBG and the city contracted with Turnbull Drilling to search bedrock sites at the Liberty Street water filtration plant. While Cusack called the sites “on paper, hydro-geologically favorable,” the exploration was unsuccessful, leading him on July 31 to recommended testing up to six sand and gravel aquifers at Beacon’s well site, outside of city limits.

There are a number of sand and gravel well fields in the area that produce more than 3 million gallons of water a day, Cusack said, and the Beacon well site has the potential to produce a “substantial” supply. If it doesn’t, he said, a third but much more complex alternative would be to drill on undeveloped or open space along

the Fishkill Creek corridor and elsewhere in Beacon.

In addition to drilling for more water, the city is planning to evaluate its three reservoirs to better gauge the capacity of its current supply.

The most talked-about figure over the last few weeks has been 17,800 — the population ceiling that Beacon’s 2007 comprehensive plan suggests current water supplies can support. A revision to the comprehensive plan adopted this spring doesn’t mention any population limit. (According to the U.S. Census Bureau, Beacon’s population in July 2016 was estimated to be 14,271.)

On July 31, Water and Wastewater Superintendent Ed Balicki said the 2007 calculation was likely based on now-outdated water usage statistics and did not anticipate Beacon’s quick bounce-back from the recession that began around the same time.

A new evaluation would include taking sonar measurements of the reservoirs. The 2007 calculations are based on the reservoirs’ acreage.

“This will look at our raw water supply and will give us a good idea of what buildout will be required for our system,” Balicki said.

At the same meeting, the council discussed the possible moratorium on residential construction, which, if passed, is slated to be backdated to July 3. The council could vote to extend the ban if the city has not made sufficient progress finding more water, said City Attorney Ed Phillips.

On July 31, the council appeared to lean

## Beacon Water Usage

The system capacity is 4 million gallons per day. In 2016, Beacon residents and business owners used 356 million gallons, the Town of Fishkill used 96 million and the state Department of Corrections (Downstate Correctional and Fishkill Correctional) used 218 million. Another 309 million were “unaccounted for,” which the water department attributed to system leaks, use in municipal buildings and operations, system flushing, fire department use, meter error and theft of service.

**2016** average 2.679 million per day; highest 3.37 million

**2015** average 2.523 million per day; highest 3.1 million

**2014** average 2.398 million per day; highest 2.93 million

**2013** average 2.223 million per day; highest 2.823 million

toward exempting single-family construction but seemed undecided about including commercial building. It is expected to review a third draft of the moratorium at its Aug. 14 workshop. A public hearing would follow.

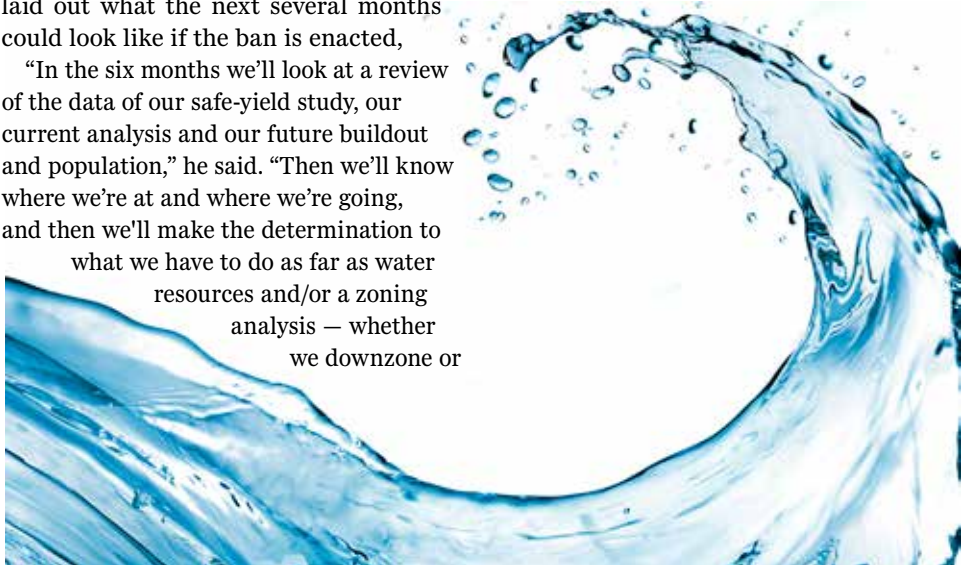
City Administrator Anthony Ruggiero laid out what the next several months could look like if the ban is enacted,

“In the six months we’ll look at a review of the data of our safe-yield study, our current analysis and our future buildout and population,” he said. “Then we’ll know where we’re at and where we’re going, and then we’ll make the determination to

what we have to do as far as water resources and/or a zoning analysis — whether we downzone or

do some other type of rezoning.”

Council members and Mayor Randy Casale encouraged Beacon residents to attend upcoming meetings or to email comments on the proposed development moratorium. See [cityofbeacon.org/Government/citycouncil.htm](http://cityofbeacon.org/Government/citycouncil.htm).



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# The Calendar

## Wine on Main

*Shopowners strive to bring creativity to selection*

By Alison Rooney

Eliza Starbuck and Eric Wirth, both Brooklyn transplants to Cold Spring, were each ready to start new careers. She had been in fashion design, and he worked for years in publishing. They mulled over ideas.

"We thought of things that weren't

here: hats, shoes," Starbuck said. They considered what they missed about their former homes, and realized it was places that brought the community together: grocery stores, video stores and wine shops.

From that grew Flowercup Wine, which opened three months ago on Main Street. The name came from a drawing Starbuck made of a "flower rooted to the earth," which doubled as a "beautiful goblet of nectar," she says. Wirth took one look at it and said, "Flowercup."



A chalk mural drawn by Starbuck's daughter covers one wall.

### Day Trip

## Lake Taghkanic State Park

*Beautiful hikes, comfort food, bourbon and some zip*

By Michael Turton

The first day of August dawned a beautiful summer day, so I ventured north to explore Lake Taghkanic State Park,

less than 60 miles from the Highlands.

The drive up the Taconic State Parkway was quite relaxing, especially compared to the white-knuckle south-bound commute. During my hour-long jaunt, there were seldom any cars ahead of me and just as few in my mirror.



Zip lining near Lake Taghkanic State Park



Eric Wirth and Eliza Starbuck

Photos by A. Rooney

Before they jumped in, they spent six months studying the area's demographics. After all, there are already established wine shops in the Highlands, such as Yannitelli's in Cold Spring, Artisan in Beacon and Viscount on Route 9 in Fishkill — but by their calculations, there is room for all.

Plus, they both love wine.

"The more you know, the more you find out what you don't know and want to learn," Wirth explains.

Starbuck grew up in Cincinnati in a household that was passionate about wines, she says. She moved to New York City at age 18, studied at Parsons and spent 14 years in the fashion industry. She moved to Cold Spring after her

daughter was born in 2010 but found herself wanting to spend less time commuting on the train and more time exploring her new home.

"I loved the community, walking down Main Street, and realized I wanted to participate in the dream of living local in a walkable community," she says.

Meanwhile, Wirth, after 30 years of working in the publishing industry in Manhattan, moved to Cold Spring in 2009. After several years of commuting, he says, "I no longer wanted to do office work."

Once they decided on a business, Starbuck and Wirth spent six months going to "portfolio" wine tastings in the city, where they could sample from any of thousands of (Continued on Page 14)



The beach at Lake Taghkanic State Park

Photos by M. Turton

At 1,569 acres, Lake Taghkanic State Park is expansive and varied enough to make it the focus of a day trip. A clean, sandy beach fronts the 1.5-mile-long lake. It's well-maintained and has a lifeguard on duty. It also has a modern snack bar (burgers \$4, hot dogs \$3, veggie burgers \$6) and changing rooms.

Within sight of the beach, visitors can rent rowboats, kayaks, paddleboats and

canoes. For those who bring their own, there is a boat launch available. When I pulled into the beach area at about 2 p.m. — albeit on a weekday — the parking lot was at most 10 percent full.

The park has numerous picnic areas with shade under mature trees. Some spots overlook the lake and a nearby playground was pretty elaborate.

The 4-mile (Continued on Page 11)



## FRIDAY, AUG. 4

**Group Show (Opening)**

6 - 8 p.m. Buster Levi Gallery  
121 Main St., Cold Spring  
845-809-5145 | busterlevigallery.com

**Irv Suss: In Two Worlds (Opening)**

6 - 9 p.m. Gallery 66 NY  
66 Main St., Cold Spring  
845-809-5838 | gallery66ny.com

**American Idol Finalist Alison Peratikos**

7 p.m. Elks Lodge  
900 Wolcott Ave., Beacon  
beaconelks1493.com

**HVSF Community Bakeoff with Short Plays**

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

**HVSF: The General from America (Preview)**

7:30 p.m. Boscobel  
1601 Route 9D, Garrison  
845-265-9575 | hvshakespeare.org

## SATURDAY, AUG. 5

**Starlab**

9 & 10 & 11 a.m. Boscobel  
1601 Route 9D, Garrison  
845-265-3638 | boscobel.org

**The Big Latch-On**

9:30 a.m. Waddle n Swaddle  
484 Main St., Beacon  
845-831-5952 | biglatchon.org

**For Goodness Bake**

10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Catalyst Gallery  
137 Main St., Beacon  
forgoodnessbake.org

## Calendar Highlights

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

**5th Annual Mess Fest**

11 a.m. - 4 p.m. Kiwi Country Day Camp  
825 Union Valley Road, Mahopac  
muddypuddlesproject.org

**Paint & Plant**

11 a.m. - 3 p.m. Garrison Art Center  
23 Garrison's Landing, Garrison  
845-424-3960 | garrisonartcenter.org

**Hudson Valley Exposition**

1 - 5 p.m. Riverfront Park, Peekskill  
hvexposition.com

**Mitch Kahn: Songs of the '70s**

1 p.m. Howland Library  
313 Main St., Beacon  
845-831-1134 | beaconlibrary.org

**Howland Cultural Center**

3 - 6 p.m. ArtEast Show (Opening)  
8 p.m. Cabaret Night  
477 Main St., Beacon | howlandculturalcenter.org

**Arnold and André: The Birth of the Romantic (Talk)**

5 p.m. Putnam History Museum  
63 Chestnut St., Cold Spring  
845-265-4010 | putnamhistorymuseum.org

**H.V. Renegades vs. Vermont**

7:05 p.m. Dutchess Stadium  
1500 Route 9D, Wappingers Falls  
845-838-0094 | hvrenegades.com

**Artist-led Constellation Sunset Cruise**

7:15 p.m. Beacon Institute Dock  
melissamcgillconstellation.com

**HVSF Community Bakeoff with Short Plays**

7:30 p.m. Philipstown Depot Theatre  
See details under Friday.

**Free Movie: Psycho (1960)**

8 p.m. Docksideside Park, Cold Spring  
coldspringfilm.org

## SUNDAY, AUG. 6

**The Art of Healing (Folk Art)**

10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Catalyst Gallery  
137 Main St., Beacon  
845-204-3844 | catalystgallery.com

**Summer Art Institute Exhibit (Reception)**

3:30 - 5 p.m. Garrison Art Center  
23 Garrison's Landing, Garrison  
845-424-3960 | garrisonartcenter.org

**H.V. Renegades vs. Vermont**

5:05 p.m. Dutchess Stadium  
See details under Saturday.

**the bigBANG**

8 p.m. Quinn's | 330 Main St., Beacon  
845-831-8065 | quinnbeacon.com

## MONDAY, AUG. 7

**The Art of Healing (Folk Art)**

10 a.m. - 3 p.m. Catalyst Gallery  
See details under Sunday.

**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 | beaconcitk12.org

**H.V. Renegades vs. Vermont**

7:05 p.m. Dutchess Stadium  
See details under Saturday.

## TUESDAY, AUG. 8

**Trip to NY Botanical Garden Chihuly Exhibit**

9 a.m. Bus leaves from Yankee Clipper Diner, Beacon  
[brownpapertickets.com/event/3050770](http://brownpapertickets.com/event/3050770)

**Public Canoe Trip**

10 a.m. Iona Marsh  
845-534-5506 x204 | hhn.org  
Registration required.

**Tightrope: Balancing a Life Between Mario Cuomo and My Brother (Reading)**

7 p.m. Putnam Valley Free Library  
30 Oscawana Lake Road, Putnam Valley  
845-528-3242 | putnamvalleylibrary.org

## WEDNESDAY, AUG. 9

**Howland Library**

1 p.m. Address Long-Term Care (Talk)  
4 p.m. Build a Better Podcast (ages 11+)  
See details under Saturday.

**Summer Movie Series: The Princess Bride (1987)**

8 p.m. Beacon Visitors' Center  
South and Main, Beacon  
beaconchamberofcommerce.com

## THURSDAY, AUG. 10

**The Jester Jim Show (grades K-6)**

2 p.m. Howland Public Library  
See details under Saturday.

**Family of Veterans Meeting**

6 p.m. Cornerstone Park  
1 Fair St., Carmel  
845-278-8387 | mhaputnam.org

**Jazz Series: Neal Alexander & NAIL**

6:30 p.m. Newburgh Waterfront  
ferrygodmother.com

**Chess and Backgammon Club**

8 p.m. Chill Wine Bar  
173 Main St., Beacon | 845-235-6833

## FRIDAY, AUG. 11

**Rigamajig Creative Building (ages 5-9)**

3:30 p.m. Howland Library  
See details under Saturday.

**H.V. Renegades vs. Brooklyn**

7:05 p.m. Dutchess Stadium  
See details under Saturday.

**HVSF2: The Odyssey, by Kate Hamill**

7:30 p.m. Philipstown Depot Theatre  
See details under Aug. 4.

**HVSF: Twelfth Night**

7:30 p.m. Boscobel | See details under Aug. 4.

## Support Groups

For a full list of area support groups, visit:  
[highlandscurrent.com/sg](http://highlandscurrent.com/sg)

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Fri., 8/4 8:30 p.m.  
Bill Kirchen

Sat., 8/5 8:30 p.m.  
Shemekia Copeland  
Soul Purpose

Sun., 8/6 11:30 a.m.  
East Coast Jazz - Free

Sun., 8/6 7:30 p.m.  
Heather Pierson Trio

Thurs., 8/10 7:30 p.m.  
Upstate Rubdown  
Breakneck Boys

Fri., 8/11 7:00 p.m.  
Carla Springer - Free

Fri., 8/11 8:30 p.m.  
Chris Smither

Sat., 8/12 6:00 p.m.  
David and Jake Bernz  
& Friends - Free

Sat., 8/12 8:30 p.m.  
Trout Fishing  
in America

Sun., 8/13 11:30 a.m.  
Dan Stevens - Free

Sun., 8/13 7:30 p.m.  
Leo Kottke

Thurs., 8/17 7:00 p.m.  
Vickie Raabin; also  
Lydia Adams Davis - Free

Thurs., 8/17 7:30 p.m.  
Molly Tuttle



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## Day Trip: Lake Taghkanic State Park *(from Page 9)*

Lakeview Trail circles the 168-acre lake, a relatively easy walk that includes plenty of flora and fauna and views. At a relaxed pace it can be completed in two-and-a-half hours. A gentle, looping, grass-covered fitness trail can be traversed in about 30 minutes.

The Winter Trail, at less than a half mile, is rugged. It is used mainly by snowmobilers and has the steepest and highest climb at 170 feet. The Campground Loop heads into the wooded, undeveloped portion of the park.

The park also accommodates long-term stays with one- to four-bedroom cabins and full-service cottages. Summer rentals are by the week and spring and fall by the day. The park also has more

than 60 campsites. For more info, see [parks.ny.gov/parks/38](http://parks.ny.gov/parks/38).

### A classic diner

If you want to roam, southern Columbia County offers a number of nooks and crannies. Leave early, heading north on the Taconic with coffee or tea in hand, but hold off on breakfast until you reach Route 82 and the West Taghkanic Diner. It's a classic, with the mandatory extensive menu, rotating red counter stools, tight booths and an atmosphere that will transport you back decades. It's about 10 minutes from the park.

### Zip it

Want some excitement after breakfast? Take Route 23 east from the diner

for about 15 miles. After passing through the village of Hillsdale you'll reach Catamount Aerial Adventure Park. The winter ski hill morphs into zip line central in the summer with 12 self-guided, wooded courses at five skill levels. Depending on the degree of difficulty, the runs are solo or supervised. Children as young as age 7 can join in. There are more than 50 lines, including two parallel 2,000-foot runs.

### Whiskey trail

The Hillrock Estate Distillery is 10 minutes from the park, near the village of Ancram. The setting is truly beautiful with an 1806 Georgian farmhouse that overlooks barley fields and the distant Berkshires. The distillery boasts the

"world's first solera-aged bourbon," created with a process that periodically replaces small amounts of aged whiskey in the barrels with new whiskey. Tasting tours are \$20, refunded with the purchase of a bottle. Walk-ins are welcome, but tours should be booked in advance. See [hillrockdistillery.com](http://hillrockdistillery.com).

## Side trips

Rolling hills, beautiful farms, parks, quaint villages and unique eateries abound on the back roads within an easy drive of Taghkanic State Park. Here are 10 suggestions:

- Bash Bish Falls State Park (Mount Washington, Massachusetts)
- Rodgers Book Barn (Hillsdale)
- Swiss Hutte Inn and Restaurant (Hillsdale)
- Taconic State Park (Copake Falls)
- Copake Iron Works Historic Site (Copake Falls)
- High Falls Conservation Area (Philmont)
- Vanderbilt House Hotel & Restaurant (Philmont)
- The Farmer's Wife (Ancramdale)
- The Pond Restaurant (Ancramdale)
- Miller's Tavern (West Taghkanic)



The West Taghkanic Diner



A tasting at the Hill Rock Distillery

*Photos by M. Turton*

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FRI 3:30 6:15 9:00  
SAT 2:30 5:15 8:00  
SUN 1:30 4:15 7:00, MON 4:15  
TUE-THU 4:15 7:00

**The Dark Tower** (PG13)  
FRI 3:15 6:00 8:45  
SAT 2:15 5:00 7:45  
SUN 1:15 4:00 6:45, MON 4:00  
TUE-THU 4:00 6:45

**The Emoji Movie** (PG)  
FRI 3:00 5:45 8:30  
SAT 2:00 4:45 7:30  
SUN 1:00 3:45 6:30, MON 3:45  
TUE-THU 3:45 6:30



## Melanie the Milliner *(from Page 1)*

### Do you know where the expression “mad hatter” comes from?

Fumes from chemicals used as a stiffener for felt or suede in hat factories were dangerous. Workers went mad. I don't use them much, and when I do, it's always outside.

### Do you like wearing hats yourself?

I do, although I can't seem to find the perfect one.

### What is the most difficult aspect of hat making?

It depends on the hat. But blocking, when you shape the hat, is critical. It's difficult, labor-intensive and has to be fine-tuned. I also get nervous when hand sewing a brim. If you mess up the brim, it's a wash.

### How long does it take to make a fedora?

You have to block it overnight to get the form. After that I can do it in about five to six hours.

### Are some materials harder to work with?

It varies, even within types of straw. Parasial is delicate, extremely expensive and harder to work with. And some straws fray very easily.

### What's the most unusual hat you've made?

I got some amazing choral-colored rabbit felt and made a cone-shaped crown with handmade pom-poms on the side. I didn't know who the hell would wear it. I just made it! I needed a break from the usual.



"I'm a sucker for color, really strong shapes and higher crowns."

*Photo by M. Turton*



WYNONO hats are featured at Flying Solo in Soho.

*Photo provided*

### Do you think hats are gaining or losing popularity?

They are coming back. Maybe it's the desire to dress a little nicer. Often when people find “their hat,” they won't leave their house without it.

### What is the current trend?

Wide brims for women. For men it's getting back to finding a beautiful fedora or Panama style.

### Are women more interested in hats than men?

Men may be more interested. They have fewer accessories and a hat gives them a little flair.

### What era would you like to live in, just for the hats?

That's hard! Probably the 1960s and the pillbox era.

### Do you have a favorite song that involves a hat?

The Temptations' *Papa Was a Rolling Stone* and the line “Wherever he laid his hat was his home.”

### Do you think about Beacon having been a leading hat-making city?

I wish the factories were still here. It's cool that there's



Hat blocks

*Photo by M. Turton*



WYNONO is based in Leonard's home in Beacon.

*Photo by M. Turton*

resurgence in hat-making, a craftsman movement. There's a woman in Hudson and another near Pawling also making hats.

### Do you have artifacts from Beacon's hat-making days?

No, and my landlord was in charge of cleaning out the old hat factory. He threw out hundreds of hat blocks that are so hard to come by now.

### Do you prefer creating your own designs?

I always want to go classic but end up a little funkier. I'm a sucker for color, strong shapes and higher crowns.

### How do you sell your hats?

Initially it was custom-order, but the business has been growing since I moved here. I also sell at Flying Solo, a designer's collective in Soho, and I have a website at wynono.com.

### Is it coincidence or karma that Melanie and millinery sound alike?

When I was thinking of a name for my business we joked that it should be Mel's something. I'm happy I didn't go that route.

### Is there a big lesson you've learned so far?

There's a huge difference between what you want to make and what people will wear.

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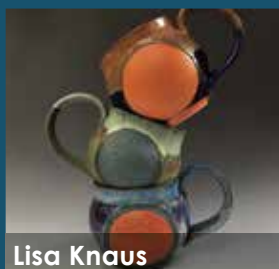
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# Yarn-Storming

*Church provides warmth via Prayer Shawl Group*

Photos and text by Anita Peltonen

I have always wondered why so many cars are parked at the Cold Spring United Methodist Church at midday on Thursdays. So one afternoon I stepped inside.

The busy scene in the cavernous community room included women unspooling yarn, unfurling blankets, and comparing progress on the shawls and coverlets. Between 20 and 30 volunteers (not all Methodists) typically show up, in part, some admit, for the company. But their united goal is to make throws and blankets for soldiers,

veterans, patients, newborns and refugees.

A clear plastic bin filled with shawls and “prayer-patches” sat at the far end of the room awaiting a blessing by Pastor Jessica Anschutz before going out the door. The patches — crocheted rectangles about the size of a cellphone — are designed to be held for comfort, or while praying.

Beverley Lyons Hotaling, who leads the creative sessions, said the group has distributed blankets as far as Kuwait (to U.S. soldiers) and as close as the Veterans Affairs hospital at Castle Point, north of Beacon. She showed off a newly donated set of cabinets that were already overflowing.

For more information, email [bevhtaling@optonline.net](mailto:bevhtaling@optonline.net). Another group, called Coffee, Kids and Chaos, meets at the church on Tuesdays.



Beverley Hotaling and Judy Chiarella display newly created blankets.



Recently completed crocheted blankets



Knitters compare yarns.



Grandkids park in a play area while grandma knits.



Blankets wait to be distributed to patients, soldiers and the elderly.



Some blankets are crocheted.

## By the Numbers

Number of shawls and blankets distributed in 2016 to those who are sick or “going through a hard time”: 64; to nursing homes: 93; to ministries for children: 32; to military families: 1,007 prayer patches, eight shawls and 34 dish cloths; to cancer infusion centers: 350 prayer shawls; to veterans’ hospitals: 35 fleece blankets.



## Wine on Main (from Page 9)

bottles.

“We tried well over 3,000 wines to get to the 150 we have on the shelf,” Wirth says. “There are wines all over the world you can’t get — some don’t leave the tasting room — but we’ve been able to get most of what we wanted.” For local wines, such as those from the Finger Lakes, they’ll drive themselves to buy cases. (In fact, Flowercup will be closed from Aug. 7 to 10 while they make a trip north.)

“We want Flowercup to be well-rounded, and also to have our slant, our creative interpretation, so that the

selection and the shop has a personality,” Wirth says. Starbuck says the two are also “working hard to find the best values, so often this leads us to less established regions where perhaps there’s less marketing muscle.”

*“We tried well over 3,000 wines to get to the 150 we have on the shelf.”*

They also look to places not traditionally known for their wines. “There’s been an explosion of development in new regions, where there’s a real passion for



Flowercup Wine's entrance.

Photo by A. Rooney



Five Great Summer Wines

Photo by Michele Gedney

### Recommendations from Flowercup

- Sun White – Greece  
Pretty white with slightly creamy texture | \$23.50
- Costières de Nîmes (“Cuvée Gladiateur”) – France  
Well-balanced rosé with peach and floral touches | \$15.80
- Vino de España (“Varetio”) – Spain  
Tangy, spicy, savory red. Serve lightly chilled. | \$23.80
- Douro Moscatel Galego Branco (“Uivo”) – Portugal  
Dry, refreshing white is a garden of floral and citrus aromatics | \$18.20
- Garda Rosé Metodo Classico – Italy  
A dry sparkling rosé is great alternative to Champagne | \$32.40

it: for example, Slovenia, Croatia — they’re thinking in new ways about wine,” he says. “There are multiple blogs on eclectic, rare finds. You get little pieces from here and there and patch them together to tell the story. Our bottles tell stories.”

Each wine in the attractive shop has its story written on a tag that goes beyond the typical three-adjective sentence unleashed

by many wine retailers. “Most people don’t know a lot about wine, but they know they like it,” Wirth says. “We’ve worked hard to describe the flavor, the style, how it was made.”

Starbuck adds that “for the strict traditionalists, we look for the best examples” of wines such as Sancerres, Sauvignon blancs and pinot noirs.

The shop itself was designed and constructed by Starbuck and Wirth; the countertops came from a tree salvaged by Starbuck. Her daughter, now 7, created the sprawling, flower-themed chalk mural that fills one wall.

While most bottles are priced at \$20 to \$30, Starbuck says they work hard to find “fantastic bottles between \$10 and \$15 so people can dip their toe in. There’s a lot of bad quality wine at that end, which turns people off. If you buy a \$10 bottle from us, it’s the best you can get for that price.”

Flowercup, located at 82 Main St., hosts tastings each Friday from 5 to 8 p.m. Call 845-859-9123 or visit flowercup-wine.com. The shop is open from 11 a.m. to 8:15 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday; 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday; and noon to 8:15 p.m. Monday.

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**Cook On:**  
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## Flavors and Flair

By Mary Ann Ebner

Some people, seemingly without effort, throw parties at which the food, company and spirits are all good.

For two years, friends from Chile who live in the Hudson Valley repeatedly shared their flair.

It started at the baby shower, where Andrea and Rodrigo served their guests



Empanadas, from the Spanish verb *empanar*: to cover in bread or pastry



Photos by M.A. Ebner



Pisco Sour

a cocktail made with cola and *pisco*, a colorless brandy with an alcohol content that can rise above 40 percent. One tall slender *piscicola* tasted just right and, had I not been driving home later, two may have tasted better.

When Andrea and Rodrigo celebrated their son's first birthday, we toasted again with pisco. Inspired to mix South American drinks, my husband and I asked Rodrigo where he found pisco (Payless Wine & Liquor in Newburgh) and we began experimenting with pisco sours with freshly squeezed citrus juice.

Last month, before the couple returned to Chile with their toddler son and another baby on the way, Rodrigo made the splashy cocktail while Andrea taught a group of friends how to create traditional empanadas.

"In Chile," she said, "you always can find empanadas. It's very typical and we eat a lot of them, out for lunch, at the beach, at home. I'm no excellent cook but I do know a good empanada."

Her variation, which she credits to her mother Maria, stands up boldly to the savory sort sold at Rincon Argentino in Cold Spring and the flavorful Mexi-California-inspired empanadas stuffed with every-

thing from chipotle chicken to kale and sweet potato at Tito Santana Taqueria in Beacon. (I haven't had a chance to sample at Juanita's Kitchen in Nelsonville.)

For an empanada like her mother's, Andrea cooks a spicy filling of beef, onion, garlic and cumin, prepared a day ahead to let the mixture rest.

"This part, the filling, is the most important part," Andrea says. "You don't want too much onion or we say, 'This is no good.' You taste and taste and taste the filling as you're cooking and stirring,

adding the cumin and some salt, until you find a good flavor."

These empanadas, *empanadas de pino*, include spicy beef filling as well as raisins, black olives and hard-boiled egg. The fillers are wrapped with dough made from scratch or purchased in prepared form. For the group assembly, Andrea provided ready-made "discos" packaged by Goya.

To change up your party repertoire, prep the empanada ingredients and invite everyone to join in the assembly while sampling pisco sours. The beauty of this south-of-the-world tasting brings guests together all in good spirits.

### Empanadas

Makes 1 dozen

#### Dough

1½ cups flour	¾ cup butter
1 teaspoon baking powder	1 egg yolk
1 teaspoon salt	8 tablespoons cold water or milk

Combine flour, salt and baking powder in mixing bowl. Cut in the butter, mixing evenly. Mix in egg yolk. Gradually add liquid. Refrigerate 15 minutes. Separate dough into 12 balls. Roll into 5-inch circles.

#### Filling

2 tablespoons canola oil  
½ yellow onion, diced  
1 clove garlic, minced  
1 lb. ground or finely chopped beef  
½ cup white wine  
1 teaspoon ground cumin  
salt and pepper to taste

#### Stuffing

2 hardboiled eggs, sliced into 6 lengths  
1 cup raisins  
2 dozen black olives  
1 egg, whisked (set aside)

1. Over medium heat, cook onion, garlic and cumin in oil until softened. Add meat and wine. Cook until browned, seasoning with cumin, salt and pepper to taste.
2. Place dough rounds on floured surface. Add 1 tablespoon of filling to center. Top with egg slices, raisins and olives. Moisten dough perimeter with water. Fold pastry in half and crimp edges. Turn ends into middle.
3. Brush sealed empanadas with egg wash. Bake at 350 degrees for 30 minutes until golden.

### Pisco Sour

3 measures pisco  
1 measure freshly squeezed lemon juice  
1 measure simple syrup (1:1 water and sugar. In small saucepan, bring to boil. Stir, dissolve sugar, simmer and remove from heat. Cool.)

1 egg white  
bitters  
ice

Shake pisco, lemon juice, simple syrup and egg white with ice for 20 seconds. Strain into glass and add a swirl of bitters on top of the foam. Serve immediately.



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## COMMUNITY BRIEFS

## Life Drawing Classes

*Begin Aug. 13 at Create Community*

Starting on Sunday, Aug. 13, Create Community in Nelsonville will offer drop-in art sessions with a live model. The biweekly sessions continue through November. Bring your own supplies; tables and chairs are available. No instruction is included. Email [info@createcommunity.com](mailto:info@createcommunity.com).

## Peekskill Festival

*Exposition opens Aug. 5*

The Hudson Valley Exposition will take place Saturday, Aug. 5, from 1 to 10 p.m. at the Riverfront Green Park, with music, arts, food, beer and wine. A Kids' Zone will have art, live animals and a game truck. The music begins at 4 p.m. and the evening ends with fireworks.

The suggested donation for adults is \$10, while children and teenagers age 17 and younger are admitted free. The exposition is within walking distance of the Peekskill train station. See [hvexposition.com](http://hvexposition.com).

## Butterfly Weekend

*Get up close and personal*

Get up close to butterflies and learn about the important role they play, along with moths and caterpillars, in pol-



The Outdoor Discovery Center in Cornwall will host a Butterfly Weekend on Saturday, Aug. 12, and Sunday, Aug. 13.

*Photo by Pam Golben*

ination at the Outdoor Discovery Center in Cornwall on Saturday, Aug. 12, and Sunday, Aug. 13. Between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. each day educators will present talks, guide butterfly walks in the fields and host a butterfly tent. Admission is \$4 to \$8 depending on membership status and age. See [hnm.org](http://hnm.org) or call 845-534-5506.

## Seen Asian Longhorns?

*DEC asks residents to report*

Each August, the invasive Asian longhorned beetle emerges from trees.

The state Department of Environmental Conservation is asking residents with swimming pools to check their filters for the insect and email photos or mail the insect to the agency for identification.

The wood-boring beetle attacks hardwoods, including maples, birches and willows, and has killed hundreds of thousands of trees in New York City, on Long Island and in neighboring states. See [dec.ny.gov/animals/7255.html](http://dec.ny.gov/animals/7255.html).



An Asian longhorned beetle

*Photo by Donald Duerr/Bugwood.org*

## Group Show of Women Abstract Artists

*Opens at Garrison Art Center Aug. 12*

The Garrison Art Center will host a reception from 5 to 7 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 12, for its exhibit *The Other Side of Things: Women in Abstraction*. Curated by Petra Nimitz, the show includes paintings, drawings and sculpture by six artists: Diane Dwyer, Meg Lipke, Fran O'Neill, Christina Tenaglia, Julie Torres and Sabine Tress. See [garrisonartcenter.org](http://garrisonartcenter.org).



Diane Dwyer's *A Handful of Earth* is part of a group exhibit that opens on Aug. 5 at the Garrison Art Center.

*Image provided*

## Beacon

## Cabaret!

*New monthly series at Howland*

A monthly performance series debuts on Aug. 5 at the Howland Cultural Center in Beacon and will continue on the first Saturday of each month. The debut, which begins at 8 p.m., is *Cabaret* with Hayden Wayne and Terence Chiesa. The program features pop, rock and classical music, as well as neon and words. Wayne is a composer-librettist and Chiesa is known as "the man of a thousand faces." Tickets are \$10. Call 845-831-4988.

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8/5 PSYCHO 8/19 THE ITALIAN JOB 9/2 DOUBLE FEATURE: SONG OF THE SEA & MOBY DICK

MORE INFO: [COLDSPRINGFILM.ORG](http://COLDSPRINGFILM.ORG)



TWO-DAY DISPLAY — The Garrison Art Center will host an exhibit by high school students (whose works-in-progress are shown above) who attended the center's Summer Art Institute. The show runs from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 5, and Sunday, Aug. 6, with a reception on Aug. 6 at 3:30 p.m.

*Photo provided*



## COMMUNITY BRIEFS



**RIVER CAMP** — The last of three week-long Building Bridges Building Boats camps wrapped up on July 28. A total of 13 middle- and high-school students participated. “The camaraderie and teamwork we developed in the boats enabled this group [from the final week] to venture farther” along the Hudson, said Director Matt Kane.

*Photo by Theodore Bates*

## Art and Workshops at Howland

*Group show opens Aug. 5*

The Howland Cultural Center in Beacon will open ArtEast Exhibition, a group show, on Saturday, Aug. 5. It features 24 multimedia artworks, and three contributors will conduct workshops during the month.

On Sunday, Aug. 6, at 2 p.m., Emil Figueroa will demonstrate his oil painting process. On Thursday, Aug. 10, at 7 p.m., Lori Adams, a fine art and professional photographer, will lead a workshop on basic photographic technical skills and show how to manage light. There is a \$10 fee and registration is recommended at [lori@loriadamsphoto.com](mailto:lori@loriadamsphoto.com).

On Sunday, Aug. 20, at 2 p.m., Doreen



**Purple Rose**, by Bea Gustafson, is part of an exhibit at the Howland Cultural Center that opens on Aug. 5.

*Image provided*

O'Connor will demonstrate her process of landscape painting. Working from a photograph, she will go through every stage from the initial sketch. See [facebook.com/howlandcenterbeacon](https://facebook.com/howlandcenterbeacon).



**A FINAL RUN** — Firefighter Kevin Egan, one of Beacon's 12 paid firefighters, took his last shift on Saturday, July 29, before retiring. Egan, who joined the department in 1997, will be succeeded by newly hired firefighter Robert Simmonds Jr.

*Photo provided*



Ken Miller, a volunteer and member of the Beacon Sloop Club, partakes at the 2014 corn festival. The 2017 festival is Aug. 13.

*Photo provided*

## Sloop Club Corn

*Annual festival is Aug. 13*

The Beacon Sloop Club's annual Corn Festival will take place rain-or-shine on Sunday, Aug. 13, from noon to 5 p.m., at Pete and Toshi Seeger Riverfront Park. Fresh corn on the cob, homemade chili and watermelon will be for sale. There will also be live music, environmental displays and a children's stage and activities. Admission is free.

## Club Draw Picnic

*Bring sketchbook and blanket*

Club Draw will host its third annual Picnic at University Settlement Camp in Beacon on Sunday, Aug. 6, from 2 to 8 p.m. Bring a sketchbook and a picnic blanket. There will be silly games, food by Barb's Butchery, Tas Kafe, Moregood and HVB, and plenty of opportunities to draw and create things. John Froats will present a film workshop and Donna Mikkelsen will host an ambi-art workshop.

There will also be music by Pontoon, KYO, MSL, Stephen Clair and the Pushbacks, Sonic Hudson, Surface George, Harrison Manning, M Roosevelt, the Can't Keep Quiet Choir and the Rock and Roll High Fives.

## Thursday Painters

*Exhibit opens Aug. 12*

The Beacon Thursday Painters will open an exhibit from 5 to 7 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 12, at the Howland Library, 313 Main St. It continues through August.

The painters are a group of seniors, some experienced and some new to painting, who meet at the Beacon Recreation Center every Thursday. While the class has existed for over 20 years, it didn't always have a permanent home. Mark Price, director of the Beacon Recreation Depart-

ment, relaunched the program in 2014 with Jan Dolan as the teacher. As part of this exhibit, the group will be unveiling two new collaborative pieces.

## Join us for First Friday!

August 4th, 5 to 8pm



Robert A. McCaffrey Realty is excited to host photographer Brandon Pidala's work in our office for the month of August. The opening reception will be Friday evening, August 4th, beginning at 5pm. The Cold Spring native's work focuses on landscape and nature photography. Stop in and support the local arts scene!

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## Obituary

### Sandra Nice (1937-2017)

Sandra Nice, 79, of Garrison, died on July 21, 2017, at her home, surrounded by her family.

Born Dec. 24, 1937, she was the daughter of Richard E. and Adelaide (Adamson) Smith. She grew up in White Bear Lake, Minnesota, outside Minneapolis, where she learned to water ski at the Bald Eagle Water Ski Club and graduated in 1956 from White Bear Lake Area High School.

Sandra studied fashion design at Stephens College in Columbia, Missouri, and received a scholarship to study fashion with Christian Dior in Paris. While there, she lived at the Alliance Française while also working as a model.

It was in a French class at the Alliance Française that she met Don Nice, a native of Woodlake, California, who was studying art in Europe. He later recalled that her sense of humor and down-to-earth approach drew him in.

The couple was married Aug. 11, 1959 in White Bear Lake, where Sandra began a career designing dresses. The family moved to New York in 1964, where she studied fashion.

From her early days in Paris, Sandra was forever passionate about all

things French, studying the language and culture, and spending extended time in the country.

After moving with Don and their two children to Garrison in 1969, Sandra taught at both the Garrison and Haldane elementary schools for decades. She was a tireless volunteer for many institutions, including serving on the board of the Desmond-Fish Library in Garrison for 12 years. In 2008, she received the library's Patricia Adams Award for Community Service.

Her love of trees and nature led her to establish playgrounds and plant trees throughout Garrison. A longtime advocate of early learning, she cofounded the Garrison Children's Education Fund in 1998 and served on its board for 10 years.

After retiring as a public school teacher in 1997, she ran a day care, Nice Care, from her Garrison home.

An avid reader and world traveler, Sandra devoted her life to teaching, the care of her family and the Garrison community. She was known by all as a deeply passionate pursuer of what she thought was right and



important, giving generously of herself and her spirit to others.

Besides her husband, she is survived by her children, Brian Nice and Leslie Nice-Heanue, both of Garrison; four grandchildren, Samantha Heanue, Maccara Heanue, Devin Heanue and Sarah Margaret Nice; and her brother, Richard E. Smith Jr. (Debra). Her sister, Barbara Morancey, died before her.

A memorial service and celebration of her life will be held at St. Philip's Episcopal Church in Garrison at 11 a.m. on Sept. 9. Memorial contributions may be made to the Desmond-Fish Library.

## More Obituaries Online

See [highlandscurrent.com](http://highlandscurrent.com)

### Cold Spring/Philipstown

Sister Edmund McGourty, 99, July 26  
Helen Hosmer, 88, July 17  
Father Mark O'Connor, 87, July 14  
Dr. Ronald Sabella, 80, July 5  
Diana Lapiano, 74, July 2

### Beacon

William Kirkup, 73, July 29  
Rhonda Schiller, 58, July 29  
Bridget Lynch, 56, July 28  
Peter Papula III, 65, July 28  
Michael Barrett, 53  
Pauletta Mayen, 81, July 24  
Eric Castellano, 28, July 23  
Darlene Cleary, 57, July 21  
George Ryan, 73, July 21  
Tim Fetzner, 48, July 20  
Anthony DiMattia, 77, July 19  
Tom Gallagher Sr., 82, July 19

## Share Your News With Our Readers

To submit your upcoming events and announcements for consideration in our Community Briefs section (in print and online) submit a text-only press release (250 words or less) along with a separately attached high-resolution photograph to [calendar@highlandscurrent.com](mailto:calendar@highlandscurrent.com).

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# Philipstown Fall Programing

Registration opens August 7 for Residents & August 14 for Non-Residents

Download our fall course guide at [philipstownrecreation.com](http://philipstownrecreation.com).

Call 845-424-4618 or 845-424-4662 to register

R = Resident / NR = Non-Resident



## EARLY EDUCATION

### Hoopsters (Ages 4-K)

Starts October 28  
\$70 R / \$85 NR

### Little Kickers (age 3)

Starts September 9  
\$70 R / \$85 NR

### Little Shots (age 3)

Starts October 28  
\$70 R / \$85 NR

### Pre-Ballet (ages 3-5)

Starts September 12 & 14  
\$85 R / \$100 NR

### Strikers (Ages 4-K)

Starts September 9  
\$70 R / \$85 NR

## YOUTH/TEEN PROGRAMS

### Lego Club (Grades K-4)

Starts September 11  
\$96 R / \$111 NR

### Hero Academy (Grades K-6)

Starts September 11  
\$55 R / \$70 NR

### Snackitizers (Grades K-6)

Starts September 5  
\$65 R / \$80 NR

### Art Adventurers (Grades K-6)

Starts September 7  
\$55 R / \$70 NR

### Art Adventurers (Grades K-6)

Starts September 7  
\$55 R / \$70 NR

### Introduction to Youth Theatre

"Yo Ho Ho A Pirate's Christmas"  
Starts September 8  
\$130 R / \$145 NR

### Middle School Teen Night

September 23  
7:00-10:00pm

## SPORTS AND MOVEMENT

### Beginning Ballet (Grades K-1)

Starts September 12 & 14  
\$85 R / \$100 NR

### Beginning Ballet (Grades 2-3)

Starts September 14  
\$85 R / \$100 NR

### Basketball Workout Clinic (Grades 5-8)

Starts September 12  
\$75 R / \$90 NR

### Co-Ed Soccer (Grades 1-2)

Starts September 9  
\$55 R / \$70 NR

### Co-Ed Soccer (Grades 3-6)

Starts September 9  
\$55 R / \$70 NR

### Box Lacrosse (Grades 1-12)

Starts November 14  
\$38 R / \$53 NR

### Knockaround Soccer (Grades K-6)

Starts September 6  
\$55 R / \$70 NR

### HAWKS Football & Cheer

Starts August 14

## CERAMICS

### Adults

Starts September 12  
Starts September 14  
\$360 R / \$365 NR

### Afterschool (Grades K-3)

Starts September 12  
Starts September 13  
\$240 R / \$255 NR

### Afterschool (Grades 4-6)

Starts September 14  
\$240 R / \$255 NR

### Teens (Grades 7 and up)

Starts September 12  
\$240 R / \$255 NR

### Mudbunnies (ages 3-5)

Start September 13  
\$180 R / \$195 NR

## THEATRE

### Willy Wonka, Jr. (Grades 3-7)

Starts September 13  
\$365 R / \$380 NR

### Create a Superhero Play (Grades 3-7)

Starts September 11  
\$260 R / \$275 NR

## SENIORS

### Chair Yoga

Continental Village Clubhouse  
Starts September 6  
Philipstown Community Center  
Starts September 8

### Core Strength & Balance

Chestnut Ridge  
Starts September 6

### Fit for Life

Continental Village Clubhouse  
Starts September 11

### Zumba Gold

Chestnut Ridge  
Starts September 5  
Continental Village  
Starts September 7

### Paint Your World

September 12 or 14  
October 10 or 12  
November 14 or 16

### Draw Your World Drawing Class

Starts September 5

### Bus to Walmart & Shoprite

Dates: Sept 6, 20, Oct 4, 18, 31

### Knit & Crochet

Starts September 5

### Trips

Hotel Fauchere: Sept. 19  
Oktoberfest: Oct. 18

## ADULTS - EDUCATION

### Intro to Chinese Medicine

Starts October 11

## ADULTS - EXERCISE

### Ballet for Adults

Starts September 12 & 14  
\$130 R / \$145 NR

### Basic Pilates

Starts September 8  
\$85 R / \$100 NR

### Cize Live

Starts September 11  
\$85 R / \$100 NR

### Intermediate Pilates

Starts September 11  
\$85 R / \$100 NR

### Power Hour for Women

Starts September 6 & 11

### Yoga with Kathy Barnes

Starts September 11  
\$75 R / \$90 NR

### Yoga with Kathie Scanlon

Starts September 5  
\$75 R / \$90 NR

### Yamuna Body Rolling

Starts September 11  
\$85 R / \$100 NR

### Zumba

Starts September 7  
\$85 R / \$100 NR

## SPORTS (18+)

### Men's Basketball

Mondays 7:30-9:30  
\$3 R / \$5 NR

### Volleyball

Thursdays, 7:30-9:30  
Sundays 6-8  
\$3 R / \$5 NR

### Castle to River Run 10K / 5K / Kids 1 mile

October 1

### The Learning Center Preschool

9:00-11:45 or 9:00-2:00 | Space is available for 2017-18 school year





## Catching Up with ... the Cold Spring Lions

*New members  
sought with a 'want  
to help' attitude*

By Alison Rooney

Members of the Cold Spring Lions Club, chartered in 1939, are not prone to boasting; they prefer to get out and get the job done.

Some of its 35 members can frequently be found quietly helping out at highway and riverside clean-ups; assisting at the Philipstown Food Pantry; fundraising for scholarships and disaster relief and assisting the visually impaired, which is the parent organization's traditional mission.

Its largest fundraiser, the annual pig roast, will be held on Sept. 16 at the Taconic Outdoor Education Center, off Route 301 east of Cold Spring. It also hosts a Fourth of July beer tent, an annual Shredder Day in April, and sells wallet cards for \$10 that provide discounts at a number of local businesses. (They can always be found at the Desmond-Fish Library.)

On Aug. 12, the club will host a potluck for the 40 clubs from the region, which includes Westchester County, to celebrate the centennial anniversary of the international Lions, formed in Chicago in 1917.

New members are always welcome, but club officials say its twice-monthly meetings are check-your-politics-at-the-door. One meeting each month is for business and the other for business and dinner (often at Cathryn's Tuscan Grill).

Ted Rathjen, president of the Cold Spring club, says the club is filled with "wonderful people" and that members are always on the lookout for recruits. "New people have a lot of enthusiasm and can give a different perspective to what we do," he says. "We're getting more retirees — people from their 50s through 70s, which is great — but I would love to at-



Selling beer at Community Day in 2016

tract younger people, too. Millennials to seniors would broaden our spectrum."

Both Rathjen and his predecessor, David Lilburne, co-owner of Antipodean Books, Maps & Prints in Garrison, emphasize that every cent the club collects for charity is distributed, because it has no overhead.

"We're a club that makes money to give it away," Lilburne says. "Once we get past raising money, we're hands-on." The club determines which local projects to support but also sends money to the parent organization for national and international charities.

Lilburne says when he became a Lion around 1982 only a few people were involved. "What's good about this organization is that you can take the lead on something that's important to you," he says. "The Lions can be whatever you want it to be." One of his favorite projects, he says, is the twice-yearly Route 301 clean-ups.

Another Lion, Curt Landtroop, notes that hunger is an important issue for the group, which last year donated \$4,000 to the Philipstown Food Pantry.



The late Betty Budney was an active, and popular, Lion.

The Lions' traditional focus on assisting the visually impaired came out of a call in 1923 by Helen Keller for "knights of the blind." The Cold Spring group partners with Guiding Eyes for the Blind, a guide dog school in Yorktown Heights. It also recently raised \$10,000 for VISIONS Center on Blindness in Rockland County, a residential and vocational training service for the blind.

In addition, when students need eye tests and glasses and have difficulties affording them, the nurses at Garrison and Haldane schools contact the Lions for funding.

"There's no project we won't consider," says Lilburne. "We've done everything from fixing up houses with ramps, to helping someone who was teaching the visually impaired in Nepal after the earthquake there."

Frank Milkovich, a former Haldane principal and the longest-serving Cold Spring Lion at 48 years, notes that the Lions' scholarship program began in 1960 and so far has given out a total of \$7,000 to high school seniors who live in Philipstown. Milkovich said he is especially proud of the club's fundraising efforts in tandem with the Lions of Slidell, Louisiana. "At the time of Hurricane Katrina,

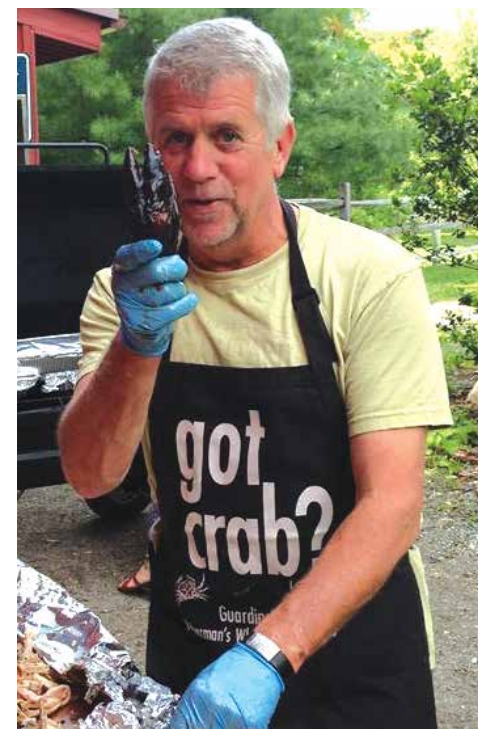
in 2005, we started a project with the Slidell Lions, spent a year at it and raised \$100,000 with a lot of effort."

Milkovich, as membership chair, has created a recruiting pamphlet. "You have to bring in a 'want to help' attitude," he says. "That's the main thing."

Rathjen says that the group has been thinking harder about how to attract members.

"Volunteerism is down, yet the community is what you put into it," he says. "For a community to work, there has to be a taking care of each other — you should get goosebumps from helping people in need. That's been lost and it needs to be found."

To learn more about the Lions, email Rathjen at [tedrath56@aol.com](mailto:tedrath56@aol.com), or call 914-475-6806.



Ted Rathjen at the 2015 Lions pig roast

### Beacon Lions

The Beacon Lions, founded in March 2016, has 23 members and meets on the third Saturday of each month at 1:30 p.m. at the Howland Library.

In its 15 months of existence, the club has partnered with various community groups, including Comite Mi Gente and the Dutchess County Office of the Aging, and has supported participation in the Hugh O'Brien Youth World Leadership Conference and the City of Beacon Police Academy. It plans a food drive for the city's pantries and in September will host a fundraising luncheon at the Outback Steakhouse in Wappingers Falls.

For information, call Helen Reynolds at 845-401-4725 or visit [facebook.com/beaconlionsclub](http://facebook.com/beaconlionsclub).



A Guiding Eyes for the Blind dog in training