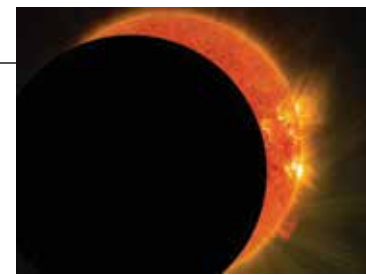


# The HIGHLANDS Current



The (Near) Totality  
Page 20

AUGUST 18, 2017

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



**TALL ORDER** — Late night on Aug. 7, a tug pulling an 8-million-pound Heat Recovery Steam Generator down the Hudson River, destined for a power plant in Sewaren, New Jersey, passed the Highlands. The generator, which is 126 feet high, passed beneath the Newburgh-Beacon Bridge with 9 feet to spare. The Bear Mountain Bridge was easier, with 29 feet of clearance. The generator is shown earlier in the day as it passed Esopus Meadows near Staatsburg.

Photo by Scott Snell

## Progress Report: Beacon Developments

*What's next for five major projects in city*

By Jeff Simms

As the Beacon City Council considers a temporary ban on residential construction, several notable developments are either underway or working their way through the Planning Board's review. These five represent 536 of the 971 units approved or under review by the city.

### Edgewater

**What's happened:** Proposed for 307 units, Edgewater would be the largest development ever constructed in Beacon. In May, the Planning Board opened public hearings on the environmental impact of the project and its site plans. Dozens of people have spoken at the hearings or emailed comments.

The feedback has been mixed, with many residents saying the project is too big and expressing fears it will snarl traffic and overcrowd the schools, while

others contend the project will generate much-needed tax revenue and bring new shoppers to Main Street.

The developer's consultants have calculated that the project will add fewer than 50 students to the public schools, but school board members have disputed that, saying that Edgewater's design and accessibility makes it ideal for young families, not just commuters.

**What's next:** Both public hearings will continue at the Planning Board's next

(Continued on Page 6)

## Medical Marijuana Takes Off

*But unclear if any Highlands doctors 'certify' patients*

By Chip Rowe

New York State continues to ease its restrictions on medical marijuana, hoping to add more patients to a registry of those who can consume the drug for a limited number of severe illnesses. The number of patients jumped nearly 75 percent after the state Department of Health approved its use three months ago for chronic pain.

To obtain medical marijuana in New York, a patient must be "certified" by a doctor, nurse practitioner or a physician's assistant working under a registered doctor. The patient then receives a photo ID card that allows him or her to obtain a 30-day supply at a dispensary. The closest dispensaries to the Highlands are in Kingston and Yonkers, although one will soon open in Wappingers Falls.

There are currently 26,561 certified patients in the state, including 176 in Putnam County and 551 in Dutchess, according to health officials.

(Continued on Page 14)



**Cultivator Chuck Schmitt examines a plant in November 2015 during the first harvest by Vireo Health of medical marijuana plants at its facility in Perth, New York, northwest of Schenectady.**

Photo by Marc Schultz/The Daily Gazette

## Airbnb Bookings Jump 75 Percent in Philipstown

*But home rental boom raises legal questions*

By Liz Schevtchuk  
Armstrong



As tourism has surged in Philipstown, so has one form of tourist accommodation: Airbnb, the booking site that lets homeowners turn their residences into bed-and-breakfasts — without the breakfast.

According to data provided by Airbnb, the number of annual bookings in Philipstown jumped nearly 75 percent from July 2016 to July 2017, to 6,800 from 3,900. That includes more than 4,000 bookings in the 10516 ZIP code, which includes Cold Spring, Nelsonville and part of Philipstown, an increase of 90 percent, and 2,800 bookings in Garrison, a 56 percent jump.

The number of Airbnb hosts also grew. From July 2016 to July 2017 there was a 37 percent increase in the number of active hosts in the 10516 ZIP code, and a 17 percent increase in Garrison. In the villages of Cold Spring and Nelsonville, about 35 percent of hosts rent more than 10 times per year; in Garrison it's about 50 percent.

Airbnb tells prospective hosts they can earn \$650 a week in Philipstown. Yet turning a property into an Airbnb can bring zoning and tax questions as well as income. In addition, homes that are turned into daily or weekly rentals do not always sit well with neighbors.

### Need a room?

A recent search showed about 25 listings in Cold Spring and Nelsonville, and another 25 or so in Garrison. Local hosts offer a wide variety of homes and rooms, from basic beds to expensive and expansive estates.

The Airbnb site does not provide addresses but does pinpoint the general location of the property on a map. Listings include:

- A room in a home off Main Street in Cold Spring for \$120 per night, a room at an animal shelter in North Highlands for \$53, and a room with kitchenette at Lake

(Continued on Page 12)



# 5 Five Questions: DICK TIMMONS

By Alison Rooney

**T**immons, 64, will retire on Aug. 31 after 14 years as director of facilities and transportation at the Garrison School.

## What was your first job?

I worked for 28 years at my father's sign business on Main Street in Peekskill. I built frames, painted the wood, dug post holes, sold signs. I later worked in construction in New York City. But I grew up in Cold Spring and wanted to be closer to home.

## What did you find at the school?

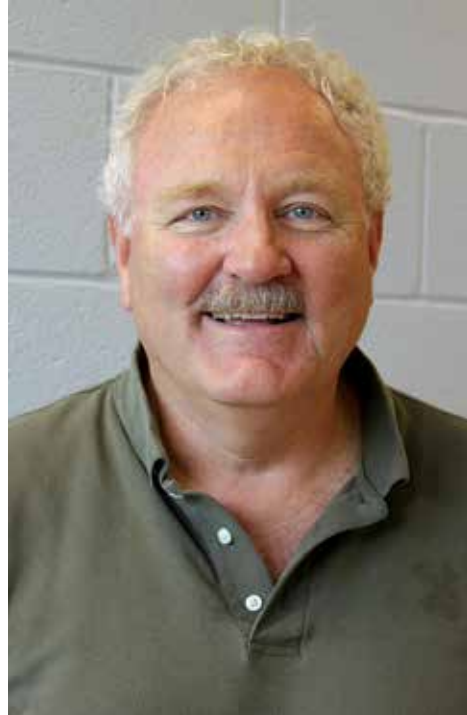
No one had been in the position for a year, after Murray Prescott retired. The addition had just been built, but not everything was finished. Everyone was a little overwhelmed. My experience in construction served me well in getting things organized. I worked 16-hour days that summer.

## What is the largest misconception about the job?

That it's only custodial. Depending on the season, a typical day could begin with slush, snow and ice removal, removing branches, fixing broken windows, unlocking doors, checking ventilation. I also listen. You get attuned to the building. After so many years, I can hear when the water isn't flowing correctly, for example.

## What tasks did you take care of during the school year?

Anything from a broken pencil sharpener to broken glass, issues with the security cameras, counting the seconds and measuring building clearance during fire



Dick Timmons

Photo by A. Rooney

drills (the building can be cleared in 54 to 57 seconds) to 500 other things. I also do site manager work, such as working with vendors, electricians, ordering the fuel oil and projects such as an automated system that allows me to adjust the temperature in each room through my computer, which helped us reduce fuel consumption by 25 percent.

## Why did you choose to retire?

I feel like I got the school to move from the 19th century to the 21st with its facilities. We're in a good place. I don't need to be here anymore. I have a 5-month-old grandson to play with, and there's always something to fix at The Nest [the Cold Spring childcare center run by Timmons' wife, Sandy]. We also have a place upstate, a farm that has been in my wife's family for 100 years. We've spent 25 years working on it and it just needs one more coat of paint.



## Sheriff Candidate Back on Ballot

Putnam judge rules petition valid

By Chip Rowe

**A** Putnam County judge overruled objections filed against the nominating petition of Andrew DeStefano, a Republican candidate for Putnam County sheriff, who will now challenge incumbent Don Smith in a Sept. 12 primary.

The winner will face Robert Langley Jr., the Democratic candidate, in the Nov. 7 general election.

Judge Paul Marx ruled on Aug. 16 that the Board of Elections had improperly tossed DeStefano's petition based on objections filed by Jim Borkowski, chairman of the Putnam County Democratic Committee.

DeStefano needed 1,000 valid signatures; he submitted 1,302. Borkowski objected to dozens of pages because the witnesses had not filled in their town or county. (Asked why the Democrats would not want Smith to face a primary opponent, Borkowski said his objection was about preserving the integrity of the election process.)

DeStefano argued that the lack of a town or county was a technicality and called the board's decision "an abuse of discretion." Judge Marx agreed that the lack of a town or county did not invalidate the pages. Although he upheld 194 of 195 objections to individual signers, the decision left DeStefano with 1,108 signatures, enough to get him on the ballot.

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# The \$10 Million Women

*Two Cold Spring planners land big grant for city of Hudson*

By Alison Rooney

Say you had \$10 million to make improvements to a small town. What would you choose, and why? How would you make it happen?

That is the challenge presented by the Downtown Revitalization Initiative (DRI), a state program in its second year. Municipalities are invited to submit proposals; from the more than 100 received this year, a committee chaired by Secretary of State Rossana Rosado chose 10 and presented each with \$10 million.

The City of Hudson was one of the 10, thanks in large measure to two Cold Spring planners it hired to craft the 48-page proposal. Juhee Lee-Hartford of River Architects led a team that did the design work, and Kathleen Foley wrote the grant. Both said that not being residents of Hudson but living in a similar river town helped them understand the challenges.

Launched in 2016, the state's Downtown Revitalization Initiative is a collaboration with 10 Regional Economic Development Councils to identify downtowns that could be jump-started with a relatively small investment.

Three years ago, Lee-Hartford and her husband and partner at River Architects, James Hartford, learned that Hudson officials had asked for bids for a study of how to adapt a mothballed 19th-century lumber warehouse.

The couple formed a team to respond, which included Foley's firm, Mirador, which specializes in preservation planning. Another firm got the job, but one of the evaluators, Sheena Salvino of the Hudson Development Corp. (HDC), contacted River Architects and Mirador when the DRI put out its call for downtown proposals. HDC and

the Economic Development Corp. of Columbia County funded the grant writing.

"We thought we'd be more-or-less just updating the [warehouse] grant application," Lee-Hartford explained, which prompted a laugh from Foley.

What ensued was a round-the-clock, months-long endeavor, which included site visits, council meetings and research. "It was exhausting but super fun," says Foley. "Working with Juhee, even if we're working frantically side-by-side, we have a mind meld and my theoretical matches with her visual."

One challenge was keeping their ideas with "municipal reality," which meant poring over the city code. They also held public meetings to get feedback from the community.

Of the \$10 million grant, the first \$300,000 will fund a planning process to decide how the balance will be used.

## \$10 Million for Cold Spring or Beacon?

How about Cold Spring or Beacon? Could either also get a DRI "downtown identification" grant? Among the requirements in a four-page list of criteria:

The downtown ...

- should be compact, with well-defined boundaries.
- must be a livable community for diverse populations, including in income and age.
- have recent or pending job growth in or near the area.

The municipality should ...

- be able to capitalize on private or public investment in properties, including affordable housing.
- have business improvement districts or partnerships with nonprofits.
- have investments in arts and cultural institutions.
- have the ability to implement policies that increase livability and quality of life through zoning and parking, energy efficiency and management structure.



Sheena Salvino of the Hudson Development Corp., Juhee Lee-Hartford of River Architects, Hudson Mayor Tiffany Martin-Hamilton and grantwriter Kathleen Foley on Aug. 1 after the governor announced the city would receive \$10 million to revitalize its waterfront


Photo provided

"One idea may go forward while another is quashed," Foley explains. "Each component represents promise, hurdles and potential solutions for jumping those hurdles."


"Take waterfront development. As with many Hudson River towns, it's a natural lure to offer amenities enticing people and the businesses which serve them. In Hudson's case this is thwarted by a barrier: impassible train tracks separate that area from the rest of the city."

To counter that, Lee-Hartford and Foley proposed a multi-use bridge that will separate bus and bicycle traffic, along with switchback stairs and a pedestrian bridge. They also suggested an expanded riverfront park, environmental center, boat club, skate park and accommodations for over-nighting kayakers in what is now a disused fishing village.

"Hudson is an attractive, creative, buzzing town" says Lee-Hartford. "Folks now see that Hudson is ready."




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## PHILIPSTOWN BUSINESSES TO RAFFLE OFF BASKETS TO HELP ST. MARY'S CHURCH

In an effort to raise money for St. Mary's Church, over 30 businesses in Philipstown have donated gift cards, merchandise and services which have been assembled into four gift baskets – each worth over \$600.

One basket will be raffled off every two weeks – the first on September 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Tickets, at \$2 each, may be purchased at the following Main Street businesses:

C & E Paint  
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The Country Touch  
The Country Goose

If you'd like to make a tax deductible monetary donation, checks made payable to St. Mary's Church may be dropped off at one of the above Main Street businesses.



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## PUBLISHER

Highlands Current Inc.  
161 Main St.  
Cold Spring NY 10516-2818  
291 Main St., Beacon NY 12508

## FOUNDER

Gordon Stewart (1939 - 2014)

## MANAGING EDITOR

Chip Rowe  
editor@highlandscurrent.com

## ARTS/FEATURE EDITOR

Alison Rooney  
arts@highlandscurrent.com

## SENIOR CORRESPONDENT

Michael Turton

## REPORTERS

Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong  
Brian PJ Cronin  
Joe Dizney  
Pamela Doan  
Mary Ann Ebner  
Anita Peltonen  
Jeff Simms

## LAYOUT EDITOR

Kate Vikstrom

## ADVERTISING DIRECTOR

Michele Gedney  
For information on advertising:  
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**Institute for  
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The Highlands Current is a 501c3 nonprofit funded by grants, advertising and the generous support of our readers. Thank you.

THE HIGHLANDS CURRENT,  
Vol. 6, Issue 34 (ISSN 2475-3785)  
is published weekly by  
Highlands Current Inc.,  
161 Main St., Cold Spring, NY 10516-  
2818. Nonprofit postage paid at  
Newburgh, NY.

POSTMASTER: Send address  
changes to The Highlands Current,  
161 Main St., Cold Spring, NY 10516-  
2818. Mail delivery \$20 per year.  
highlandscurrent.com/delivery  
delivery@highlandscurrent.com

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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Collecting names

In your report of Aug. 11 ("Council Member Back on Ballot"), reporter Jeff Simms incorrectly stated that Beacon City Council candidate Omar Harper will not appear on the Democratic line of the Sept. 12 primary ballot because one sheet of signatures on his nominating petition was thrown out, leaving him short of the 63 names he needed.

In fact, there were a seven sheets of signatures on Ali T. Muhammad's consolidated nominating petition, in which he collected signatures for both himself and Harper, that were invalid because Muhammad failed to include Harper's name on the cover sheet. There were also 10 sheets of signatures for Darrell Williams, a candidate for Ward 4 City Council, that were invalidated for the same reason.

Harper and Williams supported Mu-

hammad by running with him, but Muhammad is not supporting them by failing to file their petitions properly.

Mary Gault, *Beacon*

As a new volunteer with the Beacon Democratic Committee, I was dismayed to learn that a Dutchess County judge overruled the Board of Elections commissioners who had ruled Muhammad's petition invalid.

Simms' report is flawed in claiming that "each objection was reviewed by two county election commissioners (one Democrat, one Republican)." In fact, both commissioners testified that the Board of Elections failed to review the first page of objections due to a clerical error. Yet even without that first page both commissioners found Muhammad to have come up short. Unfortunately, due to errors, omis-



## 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.

sions and judicial discretion, the judge did not uphold their findings.

That missing page noted 51 objections. Had the judge allowed review of these objections, Muhammad's petition would have fallen well short of the 220 signatures, or 5 percent of registered Democrats in Beacon, required to appear on the ballot.

While Simms' article only spoke to the question of printed names versus signatures, he chose to omit objections to names not registered to vote, names of voters registered to other parties and voters not living in Beacon.

The judge also refused to consider sworn affidavits from voters, one of whom swore he had not placed his printed name on the petition, another swearing that while he did sign a petition, it was not Muhammad who witnessed it. Muhammad attested that he witnessed the signing of all signatures, despite these claims to the contrary by voters.

Christian Campbell, *Beacon*

## Taking it to the Street

By Anita Peltonen

*Where are you going to see the total solar eclipse?*



"Columbia, South Carolina. I want our children to be awestruck by something they didn't know they wanted to see."  
~ John McGrath, Cold Spring



"Westminster, South Carolina. We own land there. Friends are coming to camp. We'll have 200 tents, live music and some friends are getting married."  
~Elizabeth Hare, Cold Spring,  
with son Jasper



"Jackson Hole, Wyoming. I'm a once-in-a-lifetime-experience junkie."  
~Phil Adams, Scotia



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR (from previous page)

The editor responds: Gault, who is the corresponding secretary of the Beacon Democratic Committee, asserts that Harper's and Williams' petitions were invalid because only Muhammad's name appears on the cover sheet of their consolidated petitions. In fact, while Gault made that objection, the BOE did not rule on it. Instead, in the case of Williams, it found that he was not a registered Democrat and invalidated the petition on that alone. It is impossible to say how the commissioners might have ruled on the cover sheet. The names are printed on each page of the petitions.

In the case of Harper's Democratic petition for Ward 2, the minutes from the board's review of an objection by former council member Charles Kelly state the commissioners agreed that unspecified "fatal defects" raised by Kelly made the petition invalid. In addition, it noted that one sheet was invalid because the witness lives in Wappinger, not Beacon. We should have noted the petition had already been ruled invalid before the page was tossed and have requested the ruling from the BOE to clarify.

Campbell claims we "chose to omit" facts from our reporting. In fact, Muhammad submitted 298 signatures and many were eliminated for the reasons Campbell states. After a review, the Republican commissioner found that Muhammad had 207 valid signatures and the Democratic commissioner stopped counting after he had invalidated 90. The judge ruled Muhammad needed to show at least 13 of the rulings were incorrect. She overturned the rulings on 15 disputed signatures, 13 of which involved printed versus cursive names.

### Long-term storage

Your article, "People Power" (Aug. 4), addressed what will be done with the stored spent fuel once Indian Point is decommissioned starting in 2022. Discussing the long-term storage of its used nuclear fuel typically reveals two mutually exclusive beliefs about radiation. One belief is that any amount of radiation is dangerous. The other is that radiation is natural. Too much is deadly, but the right amount is beneficial and not harmful.

Whether you start with one belief or

the other, the two sides of the debate, not surprisingly, always arrive at different answers. From the "beneficial" viewpoint, start by asking, "What does science and engineering prove is the worst that can happen?" Reactors, including at Indian Point, can have a core meltdown and release radioactive material. This was known from the beginning. The design and procedures were meant to prevent this tragedy, but experience with all technologies taught us to never say never. It was judged that a meltdown would be rare, so the overall risk, spread over years, was in line with or less than other risks society accepts. It happened at Fukushima because the site was not tsunami resistant.

A meltdown or fuel damage is caused by the heat from the radioactive atom-splitting parts. Radioactive means decrease with time and eventually reach zero. Years after shutdown the fuel heat is very low, and continues to get lower. This fact does not seem to be acknowledged by

those of the "any amount is dangerous" camp. When in dry casks, the used fuel, still in solid form and cooled by the chimney effect, would take many days to overheat. There is more than sufficient time for action to restore air flow. If blasted apart by terrorists, the fuel pellets would lay on the ground being air-cooled.

There would be some radiation, but comparing this, years after shutdown, to a meltdown is not based on science. It is politically useful for some. Used fuel in dry casks is safe in storage and shipment.

Howard Shaffer,  
Enfield, New Hampshire

Shaffer is a nuclear engineer and a longtime member of the American Nuclear Society.

### Beacon Hoops

As a coach in the Beacon Hoops summer basketball program for over a decade, it was an honor to lend a hand to such civic-minded people as Wayne Griffin and Leaman Anderson ("Beacon Hoops: Two Decades Strong,"

Aug. 11). These men and their wives started something great for the city of Beacon. Although I hope someone continues the tradition, the program, just like the Griffins and the Andersons, is irreplaceable.

Jerry Jackson Sr., Beacon

My two sons came up through the divisions of Beacon Hoops. My family would bring our folding chairs and sit through many games before and after we watched them play. What a great way to bond with new friends! I lived in Beacon from 1960 to 1970 and went to school with a lot of guys who ended up being involved with the league. Children need rules and structure. They will not admit that, but deep down they crave it.

Thank you to all who participated in Beacon Hoops for their tireless efforts, plus Wayne and Leaman and their wives, who also put in many hours of work.

Thomas Nastasi Sr., Cold Spring

### The bridge

It's not the Cuomo bridge! ("First Span of Mario Cuomo Bridge [the New Tappan Zee] to Open Aug. 25," Aug. 11). New Yorkers didn't approve the naming of this.

Christopher Vathke, Cold Spring

Please stop calling it the Cuomo Bridge.  
Brian Broche, Peekskill

It's the Tappan Zee Bridge. That's not going to change.

Brett Beigert, Cold Spring

How about calling it the Mario Cuomo Tappan Zee Bridge?

Rose Senenko, Nanuet

*Editor's note: Drivers can call it whatever they prefer but the state Legislature approved the name for the new two-span bridge in June. The official name of the old 3-mile bridge, which was built in 1955, is the Gov. Malcolm Wilson Tappan Zee Bridge, after the former Republican governor from Yonkers. Tappan Zee refers to the Tappan tribe of the Delaware/Lenni Lenape and the Dutch word zee, which means sea. The state Department of Transportation will reuse most of the Tappan Zee's deck panels, but some are going to upstate counties for \$1 each. Chemung County, for example, bought eight to replace two rural bridges.*

## Photo OF THE WEEK



Camouflaged in Fahnestock, by Deborah Radich  
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## Progress Report: Beacon Developments *(from Page 1)*

meeting, scheduled for Sept. 12, although board members indicated in August that the environmental component of the hearings is winding down.

### West End Lofts

**What's happened:** The city sold the 3.14-acre parcel next to City Hall to developer Ken Kearney last year on the condition that he would build affordable housing at the site. The 98-unit project will include 50 affordable artists' lofts and 22 middle-income units. After those 72 units are completed, a third, market-rate building will be constructed. The Planning Board's public hearing on the development began in June.

**What's next:** Kearney was not able to get funding last year from the state Middle Income Housing Program as he did for similar projects in Poughkeepsie and Peekskill. But the developer said he plans to reapply in October and should have a decision by December. The public hearing on the project will continue at the Planning Board's Sept. 12 meeting.

### 344 Main Street

**What's happened:** The 24-unit building, which will have retail space on its first floor, was approved in 2016 and has gone up quickly this summer. It drew attention earlier this year when part of a newly constructed wall extended well into the sidewalk. Crews later removed the section, bringing the wall in line with the neighboring Beacon Natural Market.

**What's next:** The city and the developer are at odds over where the project's 24 parking spaces will be located. Sean O'Donnell, who owns 344 Main, also purchased the Citizens Bank building at 364 Main earlier this year — a purchase the city contends he made to create parking for 344.

At the Aug. 14 City Council workshop, attorney Patrick Moore and Beacon Mayor Randy Casale sparred when Moore said that O'Donnell intends to develop the



344 Main St.

Photos by J. Simms

bank building so he can make payments on his \$1 million mortgage on the parcel. Parking for 344 Main, Moore said, should come from the city's inventory of spaces.

### 475 Main Street

**What's happened:** The owners of this building have asked the city for a special-use permit to construct seven apartments, along with retail space, within a two-story addition to the existing three-story structure. However, the



The view from the Edgewater project site

board of the neighboring Howland Cultural Center argues the addition would dwarf its historic building and cast shadows that obstruct its natural light. At the Aug. 8 Planning Board meeting, consultants for the developer presented "shadow studies" in an effort to alleviate those concerns.

**What's next:** Taylor Palmer, an attorney for the developer, said the owners are now considering alternatives for the project, including a combination of commercial and retail space without the residential units.

### 248 Tioronda

**What's happened:** The 100-unit development received special permit approval three years ago but has yet to break ground, with project attorneys requesting numerous delays as they negotiated for an easement on the Metro-North-owned railroad tracks that run through the property and along Fishkill Creek.

In 2016, the City Council approved a resolution giving the developer 18 months to resolve the conflict with the MTA as well as one with the city over an easement for a 2,000-foot section of the Fishkill Creek Greenway & Heritage Trail — which is planned to run from the Beacon train station to Fishkill Creek and on to the town of Fishkill. The council gave the developers a Jan. 13 deadline to have a building permit in place.

**What's next:** The City Council has received a draft of the greenway easement and will review it at a workshop next month. On Aug. 14, Jennifer Van Tuyl, an attorney for the project, told the council that the property will soon be sold to developer Bernard Kohn. Casale speculated that the current owner, Peter DeRosa, requested the delays from the city to buy time while trying to market the property. Van Tuyl said that was not the case.

Dutchess County Supreme Court records show that Kohn sued DeRosa in December for allegedly backing out of an agreement to sell Kohn the 9-acre property (which is two parcels) for \$2 million.



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845-424-3020 ♦ [desmondfishlibrary.org](http://desmondfishlibrary.org)  
472 Route 403 ♦ Garrison, NY 10524  
- at the corner of Route 9D and 403 -

## To our Philipstown Neighbors: Save the Cold Spring Cemetery Stop the Tower!

Homeland Tower, a Danbury-based company, has applied to build a 10-to-15 story cellphone tower directly overlooking the historic and beautiful Cold Spring Cemetery.

This tower would be a desecration of this community landmark.

The application was denied by the Nelsonville Building Department. The applicant is appealing this decision to the Village Zoning Board of Appeals, meeting on August 29th at 8:00 pm.

We urge all citizens of Philipstown to attend this meeting to have their voices heard.

Since space is limited at the Village offices (the planned venue for this meeting), we ask you to email your intention to attend so that we can determine whether an alternate location for the meeting may be necessary.

Please help us stop this insensitive and disruptive tower project.

Frances O'Neill, Chair  
Committee to Save the Cold Spring Cemetery  
Email: [savcoldspringcemetery@gmail.com](mailto:savcoldspringcemetery@gmail.com)



# Counties Push Prescription Discount Cards

*Available free, but don't work with insurance*

By Chip Rowe

Putnam County residents have saved nearly \$1.3 million since the county joined a prescription discount program in 2012 and mailed a wallet card to every household in the county, a representative of the company that manages it told the County Legislature's Health Committee at its Aug. 9 meeting.

Caitlin Carey of ProAct, based in Syracuse, said that 50 counties in the state now offer its discount card to residents.

"I would like to see more people take advantage of this," said Barbara Scucimarra (R-Philipstown), who chairs the Health Committee.

Dutchess County, meanwhile, partners with the National Association of Counties to offer its residents a discount card. And New York State has teamed up with yet another company, United Networks of America, to provide its own card.

The discount cards, available online, are designed for people who don't have insurance, or who have high co-pays. The com-



Then-County Legislator Sam Oliverio Jr., is shown in 2012 with the ProAct prescription discount card that was sent to county residents. Photo by Holly Crocco

panies that administer them — and there are dozens — negotiate discounts with pharmacies or chains, then earn a fee from the pharmacy each time the card used.

That's why the cards are distributed at no charge. The more people that use them, the more fees are collected.

Pharmacies participate in the programs, explained Dr. Richard Sagall at NeedyMeds.com, a nonprofit he co-founded, for a number of reasons. They profit even at the negotiated price, and they might make a sale to someone who would otherwise walk out. It also gets customers into the store and, if another, nearby pharmacy honors the card, keeps them competitive.

The companies who create the cards (ProAct is a subsidiary of Kinney Drugs, a chain based in Gouverneur) market them to municipalities as a way to assist residents with high drug costs.

*The discount cards, available online, are designed for people who don't have insurance, or who have high co-pays.*

Even if someone has insurance, card marketers encourage them to ask pharmacists to run prescriptions through on the discount card to see if they cost less than the co-pay. The card also is useful, they say, if a drug is not covered by insurance because the consumer gets the negotiated rate.

ProAct and other card companies have also signed up vision and dental services, hearing aid providers, gyms and other health providers to offer discounts.

Residents of Putnam County may obtain a ProAct discount card at proactrx-savings.com or by calling 877-776-2285. In the Highlands, Drug World of Cold Spring participates.

In Dutchess County, residents can obtain a card at narorx.org, or by calling 877-321-2651. In Beacon, Rite Aid at 320 Main St. and Vogel Pharmacy at 234 Main St. participate.

The New York State discount card, available at newyorkrxcard.com, is accepted at Rite Aid in Beacon and Walmart in Fishkill.

Drugstores often offer their own cards. Rite Aid, for instance, has a loyalty program that provides 15 percent off many drugs.

*Holly Crocco contributed reporting.*

## Lower-Cost Prescription Resources

Needy Meds  
888-602-2978 | needymeds.org

Partnership for Prescription Assistance  
888-477-2669 | pparx.org

Community Action Partnership (Dutchess County)  
845-452-5104 | dutchesscap.org



**SENIOR CENTER UNDERWAY** — Work has begun on the exterior of the new senior center at the Butterfield redevelopment site in Cold Spring. Putnam County has started its search for a general contractor and hopes to finalize an agreement with the Building and Construction Trades Council of Westchester and Putnam Counties, which is affiliated with the AFL-CIO.

Photo by Michael Turton

## WRITER/EDITOR WANTED

Dynamic writer/editor needed to create informative and engaging District newsletters and press releases for the Garrison Union Free School District. Experience preferred.

Please send resume to Laura Mitchell, Superintendent of Schools at P.O. Box 193, Garrison, NY 10524 or by email to mail@gufs.org by September 1, 2017.

## POSITION AVAILABLE

The Town of Philipstown has a vacancy on the Recreation Commission. Any persons interested should submit their resume to:

Richard Shea, Supervisor  
Town of Philipstown  
238 Main Street, P.O. BOX 155, Cold Spring, New York 10516

## 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.

## POSITIONS AVAILABLE

The Town of Philipstown is seeking volunteers to serve on the Comprehensive Plan Update Committee.  
Visit [www.philipstown.com](http://www.philipstown.com) to review plan.

Any persons interested should submit their resume to:

Richard Shea, Supervisor  
Town of Philipstown  
238 Main Street  
P.O. BOX 155  
Cold Spring, New York 10516



# Philipstown Concerned About Route 9W Hotel

*Also: illegal dumping, Manitou Station Road, herbicide spraying*

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

Convening on Aug. 10 for its formal monthly meeting, the Philipstown Town Board looked toward a major building project across the Hudson River and into illegal dumping and roads in its own backyard.

## Route 9W hotel

The board discussed a request that Philipstown agree to make the Town of Highlands the lead agency to review a proposed four-story hotel and restaurant complex on Route 9W in Fort Montgomery, on the west side of the Hudson. Philipstown was one of several government jurisdictions, on both sides of the river, contacted as part of the environmental quality review process.

After debate, the board approved the request 4 to 1, with Councilor Nancy Montgomery voting nay. Usually, such requests from sister communities quickly receive unanimous consent.

The Town Board questioned the hotel's impact, including its water usage and the assertion on its environmental assessment form that it is not in a designated

river corridor under the state Wild, Scenic and Recreational Rivers Program. The project, proposed by West Point Realty of New Hempstead, would cover 2.6 acres of the 7.25-acre site and include parking, utility infrastructure and a stormwater management system.

"It's a big project which will have a lot of impact on our viewshed," said Supervisor Richard Shea. "However, there's not a whole lot we can do about their being lead agency."

Michelle Smith, executive director of the Hudson Highlands Land Trust, said her organization and Scenic Hudson will analyze the project. She noted a second, five-story hotel is planned along Route 9W.

Montgomery described potential light pollution as a big concern to Philipstown. "I can't see voting to authorize" a lead agency, given the lack of details in the environmental assessment form, she said, suggesting the board make "more of an impression" by refusing to go along.

Councilor John Van Tassel, who also found flaws in the environmental assessment form, said Highlands officials would "be more willing to cooperate" and address concerns if Philipstown signed off on the lead-agency request.

## Illegal dumping

The board signaled a zero-tolerance policy toward illegal dumping.

Shea explained that "an industrial-sized

operation" by a carting company and excavator targeted "sort of vulnerable individuals, saying, 'Look, we can extend your yard with clean fill.' " Instead, he said, they dumped thousands of yards of material resembling debris from demolished buildings, "absolute trash," that must now be removed from "pretty difficult spots to get it out of. I feel sorry for the people who were duped."

*"If you dump in this town, we're going to come down on you hard and heavy."*  
~ Richard Shea

The state Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) has gotten involved and the dumpers will be prosecuted and should be forced to remove the mess, Shea said. "If you dump in this town, we're going to come down on you hard and heavy," he said.

Councilor Michael Leonard observed that "it creates a serious environmental hazard, groundwater potential problems," and difficulties for neighbors, especially on steep slopes. He urged residents to immediately report suspicious dumping or fill activities.

## Manitou Station Road

Board members voiced frustrations about the DEC's pace in issuing a permit for repairs to flood-prone Manitou Station Road. The town cannot proceed without

it. The board had hoped to begin work before the fall.

Separately, Putnam County has submitted a grant request to the state for \$250,000 to restore the aquatic habitat on Manitou Station Road. Montgomery extended her thanks to the county for pursuing the grant. "It'd be great to partner with them," she said.

Shea complained, though, that county officials have done little about Manitou Station Road except "talk, talk, talk."

## Herbicide spraying

Leonard reported on a meeting he attended on Aug. 9 at which county legislators discussed spraying by the county of herbicides near Foundry Brook, the source of drinking water for Cold Spring and Nelsonville.

"I got a little bit upset," he confessed. "I expected to go over there and hear they were going to stop it."

Instead, he said, the county Highway Department described the spraying as a "best practice" in weed control.

"Spraying was occurring atop the actual waterway," Leonard said. "They don't need to spray. We have to stand up and say 'we're not allowing it.'"

## Comprehensive plan

In other business, the board voted 5-0 to form a committee to update the 11-year-old Philipstown comprehensive plan.

By appointment at  
magazzino.art  
2700 Route 9  
Cold Spring, NY 10516  
@magazzino

Giovanni Anselmo  
Marco Bagnoli  
Domenico Bianchi  
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Pier Paolo Calzolari

Luciano Fabro  
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Mario Merz  
Marisa Merz  
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# The Calendar

## Week of Revolution: Back to the Beginning



From left: Nance Williamson, Amelia Pedlow, John Tufts and Chris Thorn in HVSF's *The General From America*

Photo by T. Charles Erickson

### Groups team up to share engaging local history

By Alison Rooney

I'll be all Benedict Arnold, all the time, during the Week of Revolution in Philipstown beginning Sunday, Aug. 27.

The Putnam History Museum, Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival, Boscobel, West Point Museum, Constitution Island Association and Hudson Highlands Land Trust will present eight days of performances, a hike, a military reenactment, trivia contests, food samplings, a boat tour, a treasure hunt, a singalong and panels and talks.

The idea came from an HVSF2 reading in 2015 of *The General from America*, the Richard Nelson play being performed by HVSF under its Boscobel tent. Putnam History Museum Chair Preston Pittman and immediate past Chair Jennifer Mercurio attended and brainstormed with HVSF Managing Director Kate Liberman about how the organizations could team up when the play came to Boscobel in 2017.

On Aug. 27 at Boscobel hosts a **military reenactment** from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. with camps from the Revolutionary period, the War of 1812 and the Civil War. It will include formations, artillery and drills, and Gen. George Washington inspecting his troops. Tickets are \$11 for visitors 15 and older, \$5 for children and teens ages 6 to 14, and free for those ages 5 and younger. A family package is available for \$30.

Also that Sunday (and continuing daily on Wednesday, Aug. 31), from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., the museum hosts its exhibit, **Treason! Benedict Arnold in the Hudson Highlands**. Members and children ages 12 and younger are admitted free; otherwise, admission is \$5 for adults and \$2 for seniors, members of the military and students.

Later in the day, at 6:15 p.m., Alison Pataki, a Garrison native, will discuss and answer questions at Boscobel on her bestselling historical novel, *The Traitor's Wife*, about Benedict Arnold's wife, Peggy Shippen. The character also appears in *The General from America*, which



Military re-enactors at Boscobel

Photo provided

follows the talk at 7:30 p.m. The play also will be performed on Aug. 30, Sept. 1 and Sept. 3.

"Local history buffs will think about the history of this area differently after seeing it," says Liberman. "It's spectacular to see the actors on stage in that venue, wearing Charlotte Palmer-Lane's costumes, wigs and boots, and then look up to see West Point in the distance."

On Monday, Aug. 28, HVSF will host a **Community Night** under its tent designed to appeal to *Hamilton* fans. An open-mic sing-a-long to the popular musical's songs, dubbed **Hamiltunes**, begins with a 5 p.m. signup. Boscobel, whose builders, the Dyckman family, were Loyalists, will be open for free tours. Registration is required.

Before the Friday, Sept. 1, performance of *The General from America*, at 6:15 p.m.

**Richard Nelson** will speak about his play. A

ticket is not required to attend the free talk, but registration is recommended at [hvshakespeare.org](http://hvshakespeare.org). After the show, there will be a **free trivia night** for visitors ages 21 and older that will focus on revolution in history, pop culture and literature. A version of the trivia challenge for teenagers will take place at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Aug. 30. Registration is required for either event.

On Saturday, Sept. 2, the Putnam History Museum will present a program called **A Bite of History** looking at Revolutionary era food. It takes place from 2 to 5 p.m. and includes samples and trivia. Registration is recommended.

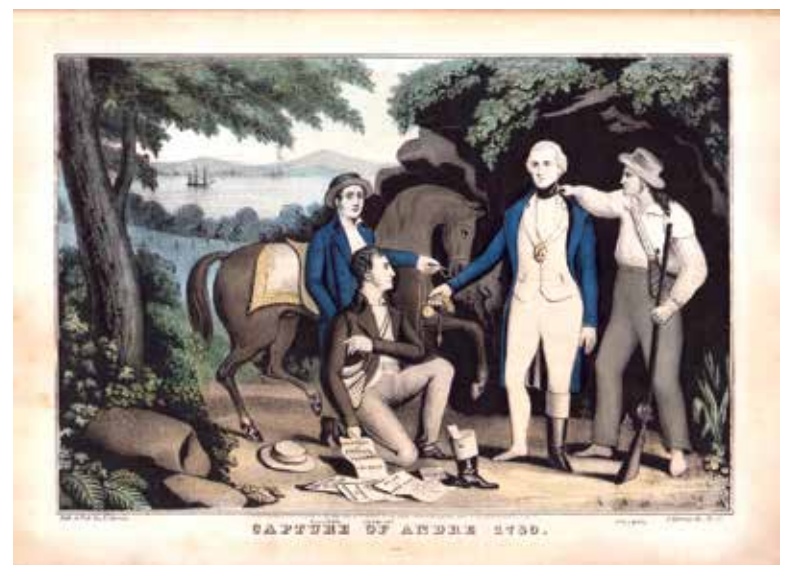
Also that day, across the river at the West Point Museum, **West Point scholars** at 1 p.m. will discuss the Revolutionary War and Arnold's role in it. The event will be followed, at 3 p.m., by a **boat tour of Constitution Island** that will depart and return to the West Point dock. Registration through HVSF is essential. The association will offer an additional guided boat tour of the island at 3 p.m. from West Point's south dock on Sunday, Sept. 3.

The galleries at the West Point Museum have **hidden treasures** for children to use their decoding skills in finding (pick up a postcard at the gift shop). Visitors also can scope out a replica of the Great Chain, a model of the ship Vulture, and weaponry. Admission is free. The **West Point Museum** is located near the Visitors' Center prior to the Thayer Gate. It is open daily from 10:30 a.m. to 4:15 p.m.

On Thursday, Aug. 31, from 1 to 4 p.m., Boscobel educator Lisa Di Marzo will lead children and a few HVSF performers in **Revolutionary War demonstrations**, activities and games, including role-playing. Registration is suggested.

On Sunday, Sept. 3, at 10 a.m., storyteller Jonathan Kruk will lead a 90-minute, **family friendly hike** that follows the footsteps of Washington's men as they chased Arnold. It is sponsored by the Hudson Highlands Land Trust. Children ages 4-7 (no strollers) can search for clues along Arnold's Flight Trail in Garrison and assist Washington in tracking the elusive turncoat. Meet in the Philipstown Recreation Center parking lot. Registration required.

More details, and links to register, are at [hvshakespeare.org/your-visit/audience-enrichment/week-of-revolution.html](http://hvshakespeare.org/your-visit/audience-enrichment/week-of-revolution.html).



A Currier and Ives depiction of the capture of Maj. John André with the plans for West Point in his boot



FRIDAY, AUG. 18

**Friends of the Library Book Sale (Members' Preview)**  
6 – 8:30 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library  
472 Route 403, Garrison  
845-424-3020 | desmondfishlibrary.org

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

**Summer Shorts (One-Act Readings)**  
7:30 p.m. Tompkins Corners Cultural Center  
729 Peekskill Hollow Road, Putnam Valley  
845-528-7280 | tompkinscorners.org

SATURDAY, AUG. 19

**47th Riverside Crafts Fair**  
10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Garrison Art Center  
23 Garrison's Landing, Garrison  
845-424-3960 | garrisonartcenter.org

**Daniel Nimham Pow Wow**  
10 a.m. – 6 p.m. Veterans' Memorial Park  
201 Gipsy Trail Road, Carmel  
845-225-8154 | tourputnam.org

**Friends of the Library Book Sale**  
10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library  
See details under Friday.

**Back-to-School Block Party**  
Noon – 4 p.m. South Avenue Park  
Route 9D and South, Beacon  
facebook.com/iambeacon

**Learn to Love Your Sewing Machine**  
2 p.m. Beetle & Fred  
171 Main St., Beacon  
845-440-8867 | beetleandfred.com

**West Point: *The First 200 Years* (Film)**  
3 p.m. Putnam History Museum  
63 Chestnut St., Cold Spring  
845-265-4010 | putnamhistorymuseum.org

**Manitoga Sunset Tour**  
5 p.m. 584 Route 9D, Garrison  
845-424-3812 | visitmanitoga.org

**Whiskey Women on Bannerman Island**  
3:15 and 4:15 p.m. Boat leaves Beacon dock  
845-265-9575 | bannermancastle.org

**H.V. Renegades vs. Aberdeen**  
7:05 p.m. Dutchess Stadium  
1500 Route 9D, Wappingers Falls  
845-838-0094 | hvrenegades.com

**Alicia Svigals and Lauren Brody (Music)**  
7:30 p.m. Tompkins Corner Cultural Center  
See details under Friday.

**Benny Havens Band: *Red, White, and Country***  
7:30 p.m. Trophy Point, West Point  
845-938-4159 | westpointband.com

Calendar Highlights

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

**HVSF: *Pride and Prejudice***  
7:30 p.m. Boscobel  
See details under Friday.

**Poet Jason Takayuki Ueda**  
7:30 p.m. Catalyst Gallery  
137 Main St., Beacon  
845-204-3844 | catalystgallery.com

**Blakmajiikforist (Music)**  
8 p.m. Howland Cultural Center  
477 Main St., Beacon  
howlandculturalcenter.org

**Free Movie: *The Italian Job* (1969)**  
8 p.m. Dockside Park, Cold Spring  
coldspringfilm.org

**Bert Rechtschaffer Jazz Trio**  
8:30 p.m. Chill Wine Bar  
173 Main St., Beacon  
845-765-0885 | facebook.com/chillwinebar

SUNDAY, AUG. 20

**47th Riverside Crafts Fair**  
10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Garrison's Landing  
See details under Saturday.

**Daniel Nimham Pow Wow**  
10 a.m. – 6 p.m. Carmel  
See details under Saturday.

**Jazz in the Valley**  
11 a.m. – 8 p.m. Waryas Park  
Main Street, Poughkeepsie  
jazzinthevalleyny.org

**Dirty Sock Funtime Band**  
1 & 4 p.m. Paramount Hudson Valley  
1008 Brown St., Peekskill  
914-739-0039 | paramounthudsonvalley.com

**Friends of the Library Book Sale**  
1 – 5 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library  
See details under Friday.

**Philipstown Community Congress**  
2 – 4 p.m. Garrison Fish & Game Club  
183 S. Highland Road, Garrison  
ecologicalcitizens.org

**Center for Creative Education**  
4:30 p.m. Open house | 6 p.m. Improv  
464 Main St., Beacon  
845-625-4929 | cce4me.org

**Wildflowers and Wine**  
6 p.m. Outdoor Discovery Center  
100 Muser Dr., Cornwall  
845-534-5506 | hhnrm.org

**H.V. Renegades vs. Aberdeen**  
7:05 p.m. Dutchess Stadium  
See details under Saturday.

**HVSF: *The General from America***  
7:30 p.m. Boscobel | See details under Friday.

**Shellmounds (Short Film and Talkback)**  
7:30 p.m. Catalyst Gallery  
See details under Saturday.

MONDAY, AUG. 21

**Putnam County Sheriff's Employee Association Golf Outing**  
7:45 a.m. McCann Golf Course  
Wilbur Boulevard, Poughkeepsie  
845-500-8716 | pcsea.org

**H.V. Renegades vs. Aberdeen**  
5:05 p.m. Dutchess Stadium  
See details under Saturday.

**Beacon City Council**  
7 p.m. City Hall (Courtroom)  
1 Municipal Plaza, Beacon  
845-838-5011 | cityofbeacon.org

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

TUESDAY, AUG. 22

**Dutchess County Fair**  
10 a.m. – 10 p.m. Fairgrounds  
6550 Spring Brook Ave., Rhinebeck  
dutchessfair.com

**Morning at the Museum (ages 2-5)**  
10 a.m. Putnam History Museum  
See details under Saturday.

**Friends of the Library Book Sale**  
2 – 8 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library  
See details under Friday.

**Coloring Books for Adults**  
6 p.m. Howland Public Library  
313 Main St., Beacon  
845-831-1134 | beaonlibrary.org

**Beacon Historical Society**  
7 p.m. Howland Cultural Center | 477 Main St., Beacon  
845-831-0514 | beaonhistorical.org

**Showing Up for Racial Justice**  
7:30 p.m. Beacon Hebrew Alliance  
331 Verplanck Ave., Beacon | beaconsurj@gmail.com

WEDNESDAY, AUG. 23

**Farmer Workshop: Soil Health Field Day**  
9 a.m. Glynwood Farm  
362 Glynwood Road, Cold Spring  
845-265-3338 | glynwood.org

**Dutchess County Fair**  
10 a.m. – 10 p.m. Fairgrounds  
See details under Tuesday.

**Gospel Music Series**  
6:30 p.m. Newburgh | 1 Washington St., Newburgh

**Town Board Workshop: Climate Smart Community**  
7:30 p.m. Philipstown Town Hall  
238 Main St., Cold Spring  
845-265-5200 | philipstown.com

**Summer Movie Series: *The Intern***  
8 p.m. Beacon Visitors' Center  
South and Main, Beacon  
beaonchamberofcommerce.com

THURSDAY, AUG. 24

**Dutchess County Fair**  
10 a.m. – 10 p.m. Fairgrounds  
See details under Tuesday.

**Easy, Fun Raw Foods**  
1 p.m. Howland Public Library  
See details under Tuesday.

**Jazz Series**  
6:30 p.m. 1 Washington St., Newburgh

**Beastie Boys Bootcamp Show**  
8:30 p.m. Dogwood  
47 E. Main St., Beacon  
845-202-7500 | beaonmusicfactory.com

FRIDAY, AUG. 25

**Dutchess County Fair**  
10 a.m. – 10 p.m. Fairgrounds  
See details under Tuesday.

**March for Brain Injury 5K and Fun Walk**  
8 a.m. Walkway Over the Hudson, Poughkeepsie  
hudsonvalleymarchon.bianys.org

**HVSF: *Pride and Prejudice***  
7:30 p.m. Boscobel | See details under Aug. 18.

**Hamlet CU3ED**  
7:30 p.m. Catalyst Gallery  
See details under Saturday.

HUDSON VALLEY SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL

I am no Judas...

Performing at Boscobel House and Gardens  
1601 Route NY-9D, Garrison

Benedict Arnold  
RETURNS TO GARRISON

**THE GENERAL FROM AMERICA**

BY RICHARD NELSON  
DIRECTED BY PENNY METROPULOS  
IN ASSOCIATION WITH  
BOSCobel HOUSE AND GARDENS

**AUGUST 4 - SEPTEMBER 3**  
TICKETS [hvshakespeare.org](http://hvshakespeare.org)



## Roots and Shoots

## The Monarchs Arrive!

*What happens when you are pollinator-friendly*

By Pamela Doan

When I moved to my spot in the woods, there wasn't a lot of landscaping. The few things that had been done seemed designed only to survive the deer. It was overgrown to the point of blocking walkways. The only spots of color were a wild patch of day lilies that harbored snakes and some lovely peonies I'm grateful to have.

What these plants had in common was there aren't any insects, birds, or other wildlife that could use them for habitat or food. The exception is Japanese barberry, which does have birds that will eat its berries, but that isn't a good thing since that helps it spread.

Seven years later, I've spent backbreaking hours reclaiming the patches of ground; in some cases, this involved hiring a backhoe.

This summer I hit a new peak of pollinator- and bird-friendly habitats. I'm even seeing monarch butterflies for the first time, attracted to the butterfly weed (*Asclepias tuberosa*) a.k.a. "the orange one" (the other native milkweed is purple).

One flowerbed is in bloom with stately and long-flowering Rudbeckia and Penstemon varieties and yarrow. A strip of mountain mint, spearmint and oregano is marked with stalks of tiny white flowers. Another area has hyssop, Monarda, milkweed, *Veronica spicata* (speedwells), asters, cosmos and sedums in bloom. The globe thistle, Joe-pye weed, phlox, Echinacea, Coreopsis, hostas, meadowsweet and rose of Sharon blossom from another part of the yard.

In short, everywhere I look, the landscape is alive.

I've observed seven kinds of bees and wasps visiting the flowers, hummingbirds stop by regularly, and I'm constantly trying to capture photos of the many butterflies and moths. The goldfinches love the Joe-pye weed and globe thistle. Catbirds are living in a thicket of *Viburnum trilobum*, a native woody plant with red berries that are disappearing fast.

My toddler's idea of a flower is one with a bee or butterfly crawling over it and we have a lot of fun telling stories about them, where they live and why they like the flower.

Seeing the life and vitality of these efforts deepens the joy I feel in what I've created. It also benefits the vegetable garden. My tomatoes, squash, cucumbers, peppers and berries need pollinators and by creating a bountiful place to hang out, I'm guaranteeing a harvest. When it comes to crops, it's "no bees, no food."

Pollinators are responsible for 35 percent of global food production, according to a 2016 report by a group affiliated with the U.N. But nearly 10 percent of bees, butterflies, moths and bats (also pollinators, as well as effective mosquito munchers) are nearing extinction, and monarch butterfly populations have declined so far they have been considered for endangered species status.

The threats to pollinators' survival are numerous and many of the factors are within our control. Adding pollinator-friendly native plants to the landscape is one step (see nativeplantcenter.org). Eliminating the use of pesticides and herbicides is another. Supporting organic crop growers shifts your food dollars away from commercial farms that have eliminated areas for wildflowers and spray their crops with chemicals that poison bees.

Climate change is causing earlier bloom times, chang-



A black swallowtail and a great spangled fritillary agreed to be photographed for this column, but no monarchs.

Photos by P. Doan

ing habitats and creating threats to the trees and plants as pests and pathogens spread. For example, apples and other fruit and flowering trees in New York are blooming an average of eight to 10 days earlier than they did decades ago. This causes shifts in the ecosystem with uncertain consequences.

# 48<sup>th</sup> Riverside Crafts Fair

AUGUST 19 & 20 10 to 5 Garrison's Landing Rain or Shine

**60+ POP UP SHOPS**

Handmade goods, gourmet foods, fine arts, & gifts

GARRISON'S LANDING  
across from Philipstown Depot Theatre  
& Garrison MTA Hudson Line Stop

FREE PARKING  
Admission \$8  
Supports Arts Education

Kids Free, well-behaved dogs welcome

FOOD VENDORS  
Mediterranean specialties  
made-to-order burgers  
fresh lemonade

LIVE MUSIC 1-3 both days  
POTTERY DEMONSTRATIONS



Gail Markiewicz



Jeorjia Shea



Powchik Rustic Woodcraft

845.424.3960  
garrisonartcenter.org

Garrison Art Center



## Airbnb Bookings Jump 75 Percent in Philipstown *(from Page 1)*

Valhalla for \$95;

- Rooms in Garrison for \$80 per night off Old Albany Post Road, \$125 off Travis Corners Road and \$140 across from Boscobel;
- Apartments in Cold Spring for \$140 to \$165 per night;
- A tent in a backyard just outside Cold Spring for \$75 per night, or a 1984 Airstream in the woods off Half Moon Ridge for \$180;
- Houses in Cold Spring, Garrison, North Highlands and Lake Valhalla for \$234 to \$400 nightly;
- A “rustic farmhouse” near Jaycox Road area for \$973 per night;
- A Garrison home with a swimming pool for \$550; another with a gym and sauna for \$763.
- A Garrison home designed by I.M. Pei for \$1,000 per night, a “country estate” in Cold Spring for \$1,500, and a four-bedroom home on 38 acres near Travis Corners Road for \$1,650 a night.

Richard Shea, the Philipstown town supervisor, and his wife, Karen, own a home at 57 Morris Ave., in Cold Spring, that operates as an Airbnb. They did not respond to a request for comment.

Steve Voloto, a Cold Spring Village trustee, and his wife own a home at 9 Constitution Drive in Cold Spring. It includes an attached annex with house number 9.5 that is identical to house number 9.5

pictured at Airbnb. Voloto also did not respond to inquiries.

Philipstown has three bed-and-breakfasts — the Pig Hill Inn and Hudson House Inn, both on Main Street in Cold Spring, and the Bird & Bottle Inn off Route 9 in Garrison — and Putnam County has motels, but no hotels. In her State of the County address in March, Putnam County Executive MaryEllen Odell endorsed Airbnb, saying that “until we get a hotel, we need Airbnb so that Putnam County can go from a day-cation to a stay-cation destination.”

Philipstown’s most recent comprehensive plan, completed in 2006, called for more accommodations to attract tourists, but said they should be “built to a scale and esthetic appropriate to the town, such as bed-and-breakfasts and small inns.”

Similarly, Cold Spring’s comprehensive plan, from 2012, encouraged “an increase in the number of overnight accommodations” by permitting bed-and-breakfasts throughout the village.” It likewise proposed the creation of a management and marketing program much like what Airbnb provides.

Guests make and pay for bookings through the Airbnb website; the service, founded in 2008, takes 3 percent of the price as its fee. After arrangements are finalized, guests receive the home’s address. Unlike bed-and-breakfasts, Airbnb establishments typically do not provide meals.



A selection of homes available for rent on Airbnb, clockwise from top left: Chestnut Street; a home owned by Philipstown Supervisor Richard Shea; Church Street; behind Foodtown; Nelsonville; an apartment apparently offered by Cold Spring Trustee Steve Voloto; an Airstream in Philipstown; the Bluehaus on Market Street; Whitehill Place; and a Cold Spring estate for \$1,500 a night

### Code facts: Cold Spring

Cold Spring’s code considers a bed-and-breakfast to be a “tourist home,” defined as “a dwelling in which overnight accommodations, consisting of not more than three rooms for such purpose, are provided or offered for transient guests for compensation.” It does not mention breakfast.

Before opening a tourist home in a residential district, the code states that property owners must pay \$500 and apply for a special-use permit (valid for one year but renewable); provide plans for review by the Zoning Board of Appeals and the Planning Board; undergo a public hearing, and supply one parking place for each guest room. It also restricts tourist homes in residential districts to parcels located along state highways, which in Cold Spring means Route 9D and Route 301.

The restrictions on tourist homes in the business district are less stringent.

Despite the proliferation of Airbnb rentals, Cold Spring Village Clerk Jeff Vidakovich said the village has received no applications for tourist homes since late 2015, aside from one later withdrawn.

In 2016, the Cold Spring Code Update Committee proposed that the village redefine “tourist home” as “overnight accommodation,” require that the owner live on the premises; ban renting out any more than three rooms; forbid separate cooking facilities; allow them on streets other than state roads; and require fire inspections.

“Although the current village code does not mention Airbnb, properties that are marketed on Airbnb are equivalent to tourist homes,” said Trustee Marie Early. “These properties should conform to the current code.” If they fail to do so, she said, it raises the question: What does the village do about it?

“The village is not actively doing anything or attempting to find out where they are, not doing anything to confront the owners,” she said. But when a complaint is received, Greg Wunner, the building inspector for Cold Spring and Philipstown, investigates, she said. Wunner did not respond to requests for comment.

Airbnb last year added a feature that allows neighbors of Airbnb rentals to complain directly *(Continued on next page)*

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## Airbnb Bookings Jump 75 Percent in Philipstown *(from previous page)*

to the company (airbnb.com/neighbors). Categories include noise, parking/trash, general concerns and personal safety.

### Nelsonville

Nelsonville's village code allows "the letting of rooms" to up to two guests at a time, as long as the owner lives in the house. It prohibits cooking facilities in guest rooms, although an owner can offer breakfast or other "board" and allow guest access to the home's kitchen.

At least three Nelsonville homeowners provide Airbnb rentals for several guests at a time. One, with two bedrooms, can accommodate five guests, for \$220 a night; a second accommodates six guests, in three bedrooms, for \$350 a night; and the third, with four bedrooms, accommodates up to eight guests, for \$550 a night.

### Philipstown

Philipstown's zoning code, last updated in 2011, allows bed-and-breakfasts nearly everywhere, with Planning Board approval. It defines a bed-and-breakfast as "a dwelling in which overnight accommodations not exceeding five bedrooms and breakfast are provided for transient guests for compensation."

However, the town code also provides for "lodging facilities," which it defines as hotels, motels, inns, or any "other establishment providing sleeping accommodations for transient guests, with or without a dining room or restaurant, excluding bed-and-breakfast establishments." It al-

lows lodging facilities only in districts designated as Hamlet Mixed-Use (such as Garrison's Landing) and Highway Commercial (Route 9 corridor), as well as Institutional Conservation (historical or open spaces) and Hamlet Residential (such as Continental Village) with special-use permits.

A review of Planning Board records from mid-2011 through July 2017 found no mention of applications for lodging facility approvals or permits.

*"How do you have a hotel tax when you don't even have a hotel?"*

Early said that in addition to posing legal questions, opening a tourist home without approval deprives a municipality of income from permits and, unless the host collects sales tax from guests, deprives the state and Putnam County of revenue. That means, she said, that civic projects sales tax could fund must rely on other sources, like property taxes.

### Local officials

Andrew Kalloch, a lawyer with Airbnb, said the company advises its hosts "of the need to comply with local laws." Moreover, he said, "Airbnb supports nuanced regulations and is eager to work with communities across New York state to craft com-

mon-sense policies that foster responsible home-sharing."

Kalloch said Airbnb supports legislation in Albany to "allow Airbnb to collect sales and lodging taxes on behalf of our Empire State community," as it does in Vermont, Connecticut and Pennsylvania.

Airbnb's site provides a host's reference guide to local laws, organized by state and county. It collects a 4 percent hotel, or room, tax for hosts in Dutchess County but not Putnam, which does not have one. Asked about this by the *Journal News* in 2015, Odell said, "How do you have a hotel tax when you don't even have a hotel?" She earlier vetoed a bill to ask the state to allow Putnam to impose a room tax because she said it would discourage hotels from building in the county.

## What About Beacon?

In a forthcoming article, *The Current* will look at the growth and legality of Airbnb rentals in Beacon, where listings jumped 62 percent and the number of hosts increased by 40 percent from July 2016 to July 2017.

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

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## Medical Marijuana Takes Off (from Page 1)

For critics, the 16-month-old program is not expanding fast enough, and the drug is too expensive. One obstacle is that doctors and nurse practitioners who can certify patients can choose to remain anonymous. More than 1,155 doctors and nurse practitioners, including four in Putnam and 22 in Dutchess, have taken a four-hour online course to certify patients, but the public list shows no practitioners in Beacon or Putnam County.

### What it treats

The New York law, which went into effect in January 2016, allows residents with certain serious conditions to obtain marijuana in pill or liquid form that be applied to the tongue or inhaled through a vaporizer. The state health department has proposed allowing ointments, lozenges and chewable tablets, which could happen as early as Sept. 23, following a 30-day public comment period.

Kate Hintz, a state coordinator for the advocacy group Compassionate Care NY, says this may have come about because of the addition of chronic pain patients to the program. "They are used to having a variety of medications to choose from," says Hintz, who lives in North Salem. "It's discouraging that it's not more accessible and inexpensive, because it could reduce the use of opiates."

The only method of consumption specifically excluded under the state law is smoking. Patients also may not grow their own.

The state Health Department earlier



In a photo taken in November 2015, cultivator Emily Errico examines the first harvest of medical marijuana plants grown by Vireo Health in Perth, New York.

Photo by Marc Schultz/The Daily Gazette

this month authorized five companies to grow, process and dispense the drug, bringing the total to 10, and expanded the number of dispensaries allowed from 20 to 40. The new firms include Citiva Medical, which says it will open a dispensary in Wappingers Falls, and Valley Agriceuticals, which has plans for a dispensary in Dutchess County. State law also allows

home delivery, although no companies serve the Highlands.

In addition to chronic pain, the state allows the use of medical marijuana to relieve the symptoms of amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), cancer, epilepsy, HIV/AIDS, Huntington's disease, inflammatory bowel disease, Parkinson's disease, multiple sclerosis, neuropathies and certain spinal cord injuries.

*"The medicine is grossly, excessively expensive. I heard from patients who say they could only afford the first 30 pills."*

The state health commissioner, Dr. Howard Zucker, has so far declined to approve its use for Alzheimer's disease, muscular dystrophy, dystonia or rheumatoid arthritis. He also has not approved its use for post-traumatic stress disorder, although a bill to add it has passed the Assembly with support from veterans' groups.

The chief obstacle for most New York patients, said Hintz, is that the drug is too expensive. "The Health Department likes to talk up the number of registered patients, but how many are actually making purchases, and how many are getting refills?" she said. "I'm being optimistic thinking it's 50 percent. The medicine is grossly, excessively expensive. I heard from patients who say they could only afford the first 30 pills."

She cited a patient in the Highlands who has epilepsy and is certified to receive medical marijuana. The dose recommended by her doctor cost her \$1,000 a month at the dispensary in Kingston (insurers do not cover the drug). When the woman's doctor suggested raising the dose a bit, the cost jumped to \$2,000 per month, Hintz said. "It's breaks my heart. Who can afford \$1,000 a month?"

Nevertheless, Hintz says she is cautiously optimistic. "New York has vested a

## The Fine Print

- Medical marijuana cannot be consumed in public.
- The law expires in 2021 unless renewed by the Legislature. The governor can end the program at any time if he judges it to be a risk to public safety or health.
- Each of the 10 marijuana producers pays a tax of 7 percent on gross receipts. About a quarter of the tax collected goes to the county where the marijuana is produced, a quarter to the county where it is dispensed, 5 percent to the state Office of Alcohol and Substance Abuse Services and 5 percent to the Department of Criminal Justice Services.

lot into its program at this point, and we are moving in right direction," she said. "But we need to get the medication more affordable, quickly. I know hundreds of patients wanting to buy the products. Can we meet in the middle somewhere?"

### Finding a doctor

Once approved by the state to recommend marijuana to patients, practitioners may "opt out" of being identified in a directory posted at [health.ny.gov/regulations/medical\\_marijuana](http://health.ny.gov/regulations/medical_marijuana). They also can remove their names from a list accessible by other registered practitioners. Only the Department of Health has the complete roster.

Although no practitioners in the Highlands are on the public list, two doctors in Carmel, Dr. George Gorich, who is affiliated with the Putnam Hospital Center, and Dr. Eric Teitel of the Hudson Valley Center for Digestive Health, say online they can certify patients.

In Wappingers Falls, Dr. Gladys Cardenas and two nurse practitioners at Start-New Medical are on the public list, as are three doctors in Newburgh — Dr. Glen Kay of Omni Medical Care, who offers online consults (New York is one of five states that allows this); Dr. Paul Saladino of Cross Valley Health & Medicine; and Dr. Riaz Chaudhry, a pulmonologist.

In denying a Freedom of Information Law request from *The Current* for a list of practitioners who can certify patients in Putnam and southern Dutchess but are not on the public list, the Department of Health said revealing those names might put lives in danger. It argued that marijuana users who incorrectly believe doctors keep weed in their offices could show up with weapons, citing news reports of armed robberies in California in 2009, 2010 and 2013.

Practitioners who remain anonymous may be exercising due caution for another reason. Marijuana is illegal under federal law. While the Justice Department has taken a hands-off approach, Attorney General Jeff Sessions has asked congressional leaders to overturn a rule that prohibits the agency from prosecuting doctors and patients in the 29 states that allow medical marijuana.

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# Banning Designer Drugs Not So Easy

*Dealers stay one step ahead with shifting recipes*

By Holly Crocco

Putnam County is making another push to ban the sale and possession of synthetic illicit drugs. But like the compounds themselves, it's not as simple as it might seem.

During the County Legislature's Health Committee meeting on Aug. 9, Shannon Brady, a senior deputy county attorney, noted that Westchester County in May banned the sale of synthetic drugs by amending its consumer protection code.

Synthetic drugs, also known as designer drugs, are already illegal in Putnam. But a ban would specifically define the drugs covered by the law. The Westchester statute names particular drugs, such as K2 and Spice, and includes generic descriptions of products marketed as tobacco, potpourri, herbs, incense or aromatics that contain specific chemicals.

Use of these products has been associated with severe agitation and anxiety, seizures, intense hallucinations and psychotic episodes, among other symptoms, according to the American Association of Poison Control Centers, whose members have taken more than 1,200 calls so far this year about synthetic marijuana.

Under the Westchester law, anyone caught selling or possessing synthetic drugs that have the same effect as pot, cocaine, heroin or other illegal drugs faces civil penalties of up to \$2,000. A second violation would be a misdemeanor.

However, putting a law on the books in Putnam County isn't so simple. "We don't have our laws set up the same as Westchester," said Brady. "There are a number of areas we would need to hear from in order to get our law focused."

She suggested bringing together law enforcement, health officials and the Office of Consumer Affairs. Mike Piazza, commissioner of social services and mental health, asked that he be involved, as well.



Spice and K2 have become generic names for synthetic marijuana. U.S. government photo

When the topic was discussed at a Health Committee meeting last year, Joseph DeMarzo, Piazza's deputy, explained that it would be difficult for the county to come up with an ordinance to ban synthetic drugs because manufacturers change the chemical makeups frequently to sidestep bans.

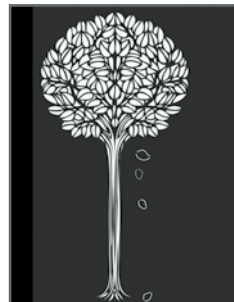
It also could create liability, he said. For example, if a retailer was cited for selling a product but its chemical compound did not exactly match what was banned, the owner could take action against the county.

"There are so many compounds — you'd have to ban incense," he said.

While there are state and federal efforts to control designer drugs, the problem — at least in Putnam — is figuring out who would enforce a ban, especially when most of the drugs are sold online.

"The governor made a big to-do about banning synthetic drugs," said Barbara Scuccimarra (R-Philipstown). "Does he expect the health departments across the state to do it?"

Scuccimarra said it fell on county lawmakers to address the problem. "We have a problem with drugs in this county, and any way we can help with education and enforcement is necessary," she said.



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## COMMUNITY BRIEFS



**SOLIDARTY** — Philipstown residents held a silent candlelight vigil on the St. Mary's lawn Aug. 13 in solidarity with counterprotestors in Charlottesville, Virginia. Photo by Ross Corsair

## Fun for Kids at Museum

*Putnam History to host story time*

The Putnam History Museum in Cold Spring will host a free Morning at the Museum on Tuesday, Aug. 22, at 10 a.m. Children ages 2 to 5 can enjoy a story, crafts and a snack.

The museum is also continuing its series of free Saturday afternoon films. At 3 p.m. on Aug. 19, it will screen *West Point: The First 200 Years* and on Aug. 26, *The Hudson River School: Artistic Pioneers*.

## In the Moment

*Meditation class set for Aug. 29*

Ann Herrington and Rick Steinberg will lead a beginner's mindfulness meditation class at the Desmond-Fish Library in Garrison on Tuesday, Aug. 29, at 7 p.m. The free class introduces the practice of being present in the moment, a natural human process that improves with daily attention. See [desmondfishlibrary.org](http://desmondfishlibrary.org).

## Second Community Congress

*Scheduled for Aug. 20 at Fish and Game*

Philipstown residents are invited to gather on Sunday, Aug. 20, from 2 to 4 p.m. for the second meeting of a process that will result in an action plan to preserve and promote a strong community. The nonpartisan gathering will take place at the Garrison Fish and Game Club, 183 S. Highland Road. Email [philipstowncommunitycongress@gmail.com](mailto:philipstowncommunitycongress@gmail.com) to speak; each presenter can take three minutes to present an issue or idea for action.

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

## Call for Artists

*Cash awards for Putnam artists*

The Putnam Arts Council will award three cash prizes during a juried exhibit that opens in Mahopac on Oct. 15. The juror is fine art photographer Jill Einfeld, known for her knowledge of alternative photographic processes. Artwork must be delivered by Sept. 26. See [putnamartscouncil.org](http://putnamartscouncil.org) for guidelines.

## Passport Day

*Putnam Valley Library to host*

Passport agents will be at the Putnam Valley Library on Saturday, Aug. 26, from noon to 4 p.m. to review applications and answer questions. Applications for new passports and renewals will be accepted. For more information about fees and to download forms, visit [travel.state.gov](http://travel.state.gov). The library's public computers also can be used to find and print forms.

## Museum Director Receives Honor

*Will travel to Rome to finish book*

Steven Miller, executive director of Boscobel, will travel to the American



Steven Miller, executive director of Boscobel, will travel to Rome in November to complete a book. Photo provided

Academy in Rome in November as a visiting scholar to complete work on a book about his specialization of deaccessioning, or removing, museum collections. This practice is sometimes controversial, and Miller's book will address the professional guidelines and ethics involved.

## Beacon

### Eat Out for Fareground

*Restaurant to donate proceeds*


The Chipotle Mexican Grill in Fishkill, which opened in July, will donate 50 percent of its proceeds from purchases on Sunday, Aug. 27, between 4 and 8 p.m. to the nonprofit Fareground Community Kitchen in Beacon.

### Dutchess Fair Opens Aug. 22

*Second-largest in state*

The Dutchess County Fair, the second-largest in the state, will open Aug. 22 and continue through Aug. 27 at the Dutchess County Fairgrounds in Rhinebeck. The fair includes free entertainment such as a petting zoo, racing pigs and dogs that leap into a pool.

Bandstand performances include the Marshall Tucker Band, 3 Doors Down and the (Continued on next page)



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COMMUNITY BRIEFS



FINDING THE BEAT — Baba Kazi Oliver (center) and his band played at the opening on Second Saturday, Aug. 12, of an exhibit of new work by Jeffrey Terreson at the artist's gallery, Terreson Beacon.

Photo by Anita Peltonen



CADET LEADER — Simone Askew, 20, of Fairfax, Virginia, has been appointed first captain for the 2017-18 academic year of the 4,400 cadets at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, the highest position in the cadet chain of command. She is the first black woman to hold the position.

West Point photo



The Marshall Tucker Band, known for its hits *Can't You See* and *Heard it in a Love Song*, will perform at the Dutchess County Fair on Aug. 24.

Photo provided

(from previous page) Old Crow Medicine Show. There are also farm animals and horticultural displays, along with thrill rides. Parking is free. Tickets are available at Foodtown in Cold Spring for \$12; gate admission is \$15. See dutchessfair.com.



Moments after a recent storm, with light rain still falling, a double rainbow appeared stretching from Cold Spring's Methodist church tower.

Photo by Anita Peltonen



PHYSICAL WORLD — David Link of Putnam Valley with one of the larger works from his solo exhibit at bau Gallery in Beacon, which continues through Sept. 3

Photo by Anita Peltonen

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# Looking Back in Philipstown

By Clayton Smith

## 100 Years Ago (August 1917)

Putnam County released its draft list of 946 men for the war, with the first 240 names ordered to report to Carmel in groups of 60 for examination. The county's quota for the first army of 687,000 was 97, although the county Board of Supervisors argued the calculations were incorrect and the number should actually be 67. (Before the end of the month, it was raised to 102.)

On July 30, Elizabeth Parker, an 11-year-old student, drowned in the Hudson opposite the coal dock at Garrison. "By those in the know, it is stated that the river-bed slopes out for a distance of about 20 feet, then breaks off abruptly to a depth of almost 50 feet."

The Cold Spring Board of Trustees noted it had been instructed to "obtain the numbers of automobiles exceeding the speed limit in the village" to report to the state so it could revoke licenses. The board also gave notice that all dogs found without a muzzle "will be shot by the police officer."

Dr. Clark informed the Board of Trustees that there were six cases of measles and two cases of whooping cough in the village.

Because of the heat during the first week of August, village businesses closed on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday.

Jesse Starr and William Conklin were brought before Justice Logan, accused of attacking John Carey while he was milking and leaving him with six long cuts on his head. Officer Reilley placed the accused in Town Hall.

Four men were gathering hay at the Nellie Hustis place when a bolt of lightning struck a locust tree. One man had his shoes knocked off and two were severely burned.

A young woman stopped in town on her way to San Francisco by bicycle. Helen Louise Murphey, 20, is hoping to win \$5,000.

A party of picnickers at the foot of Indian Brook Falls were startled when a boulder crashed among them. It had been pushed off the parapet of a private road overlooking the falls.

## 75 Years Ago (August 1942)

Leland Ryder, chairman of the Putnam County War Savings staff, announced that the U.S. Treasury reported bond sales of \$58,670 in Putnam.

The Putnam County War Council requested that radio operators help with the creation of two-way mobile, portable, fixed short-wave radio communication for civilian protection.

## 50 Years Ago (August 1967)

Pvt. Keith W. Livermore, 19, of Garrison, was killed in Vietnam on Thursday, Aug. 17, according to a telegram received by his parents from the Defense Department.



Soldiers march on Fifth Avenue in New York City during the spring of 1919.

## 25 Years Ago (August 1992)

Mayor Roger Chirico and the Board of Trustees approved the design for the restoration of the Cold Spring dock. The mayor also accepted a \$24,000 check from Metro-North as part of its first payment toward the project.

Butterfield Hospital opened its new emergency room. The facility is twice the size of the old E.R., with four bays, an isolation room, and a waiting and registration area, each with what staff members describe as "modern, uplifting décor."

## 10 Years Ago (August 2007)

A fugitive from California was apprehended in the woods near Putnam Valley

on Aug. 10. He was wanted in connection with a brutal home invasion.

Gov. Elliot Spitzer signed the Hudson Valley Community Preservation Act into law on Aug. 15, allowing villages in Putnam County to ask voters to approve the creation of accounts to fund land protection efforts.

On Aug. 18, county sheriff's deputies discovered a corpse in a wooded area of Garrison. The body is believed to be that of a Manhattan man who was reported missing about two weeks earlier.

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## Remembering the Eclipse of '63

By Michael Turton

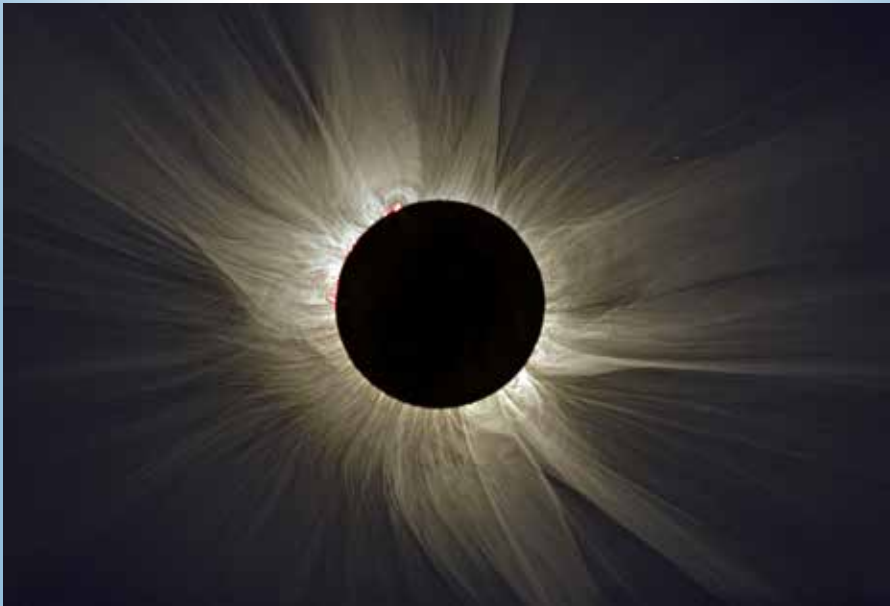
On July 20, 1963, a total solar eclipse cast its shadow diagonally across Alaska, five Canadian territories and provinces and the heart of Maine before exiting North America over southern Nova Scotia.

I experienced the eclipse as a 13-year-old, standing in the backyard of our family home in Oldcastle, Ontario, just south of Detroit. Although I was standing 640 miles southwest of the totality, it remains one of the most memorable events of my life.

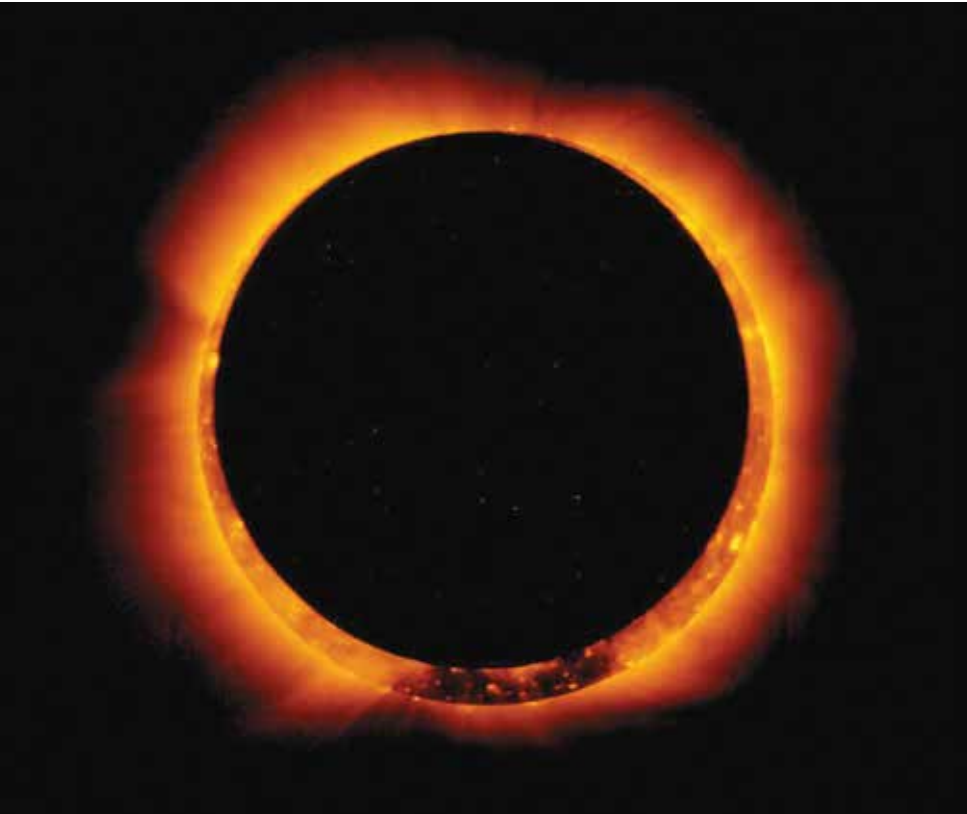
My dad had borrowed a welder's mask for safe viewing (which is not recommended, as most are not dark enough to protect your eyes). The bright midafternoon light weakened dramatically as the eclipse progressed. It was as though someone had slowly lowered a dimmer switch on the sun.

Everything within sight was bathed in a beautiful, dusky-golden hue, a quality of light I've never seen since. It became still. No bird sounds. No one spoke. I felt a mix of emotions. Anticipation. Excitement. Disbelief. Fascination. Fear. Joy. Awe.

While the Highlands is 770 miles from the path of the totality on Aug. 21, I'm hoping for a repeat.

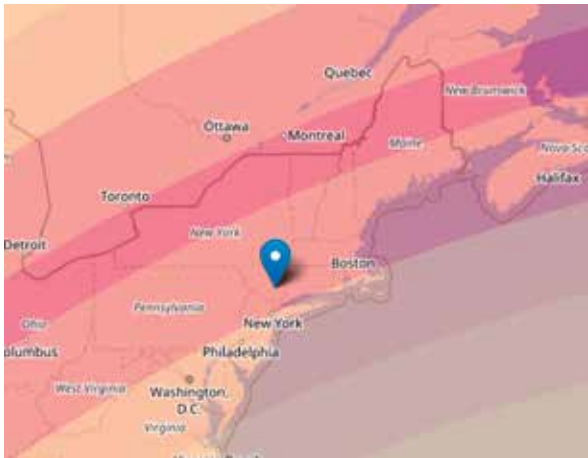


A white-light image of the solar corona during totality NASA



An eclipse captured in January 2011 from space by the Hinode satellite NASA

The dark pink ribbon in the map at right represents the totality predicted for an eclipse that will take place in April 2024. The light pink stripe, which includes the Highlands, will reach 93 percent.



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## Forecast for Monday: Sunny with 69 Percent Darkness

*Partial eclipse will arrive in Highlands at 1:23 p.m.*

By Michael Turton

The solar eclipse on Monday, Aug. 21, will be viewed by an estimated half-billion people, but the celestial spectacle will have a distinctly American flavor as it passes from coast to coast. The 70-mile-wide path of totality — the area that will experience a total eclipse and mid-day darkness — will take place exclusively along a line from Oregon to South Carolina.

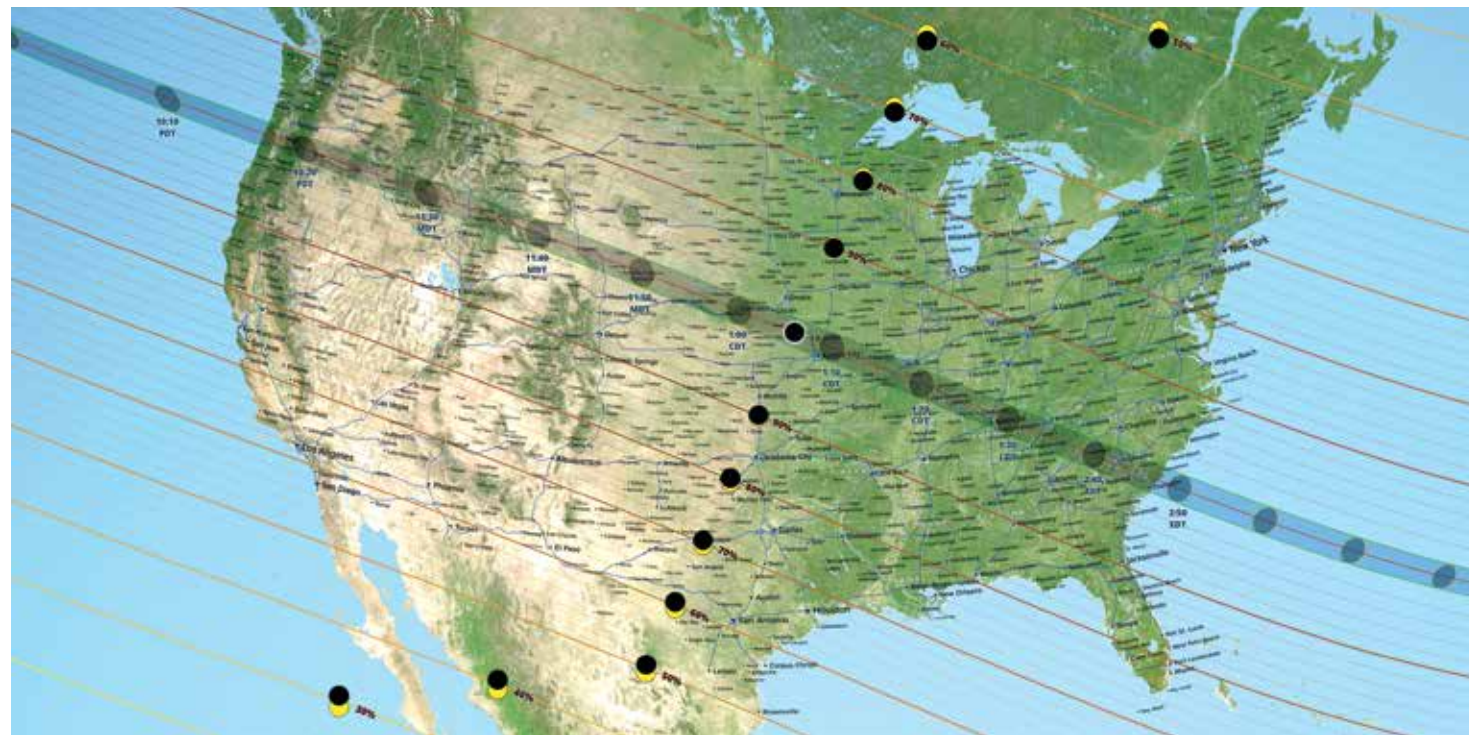
This eclipse is of particular interest to scientists. It's also a tourism bonanza. As many as 7.4 million Americans are expected to travel to experience it.

Oregon began promoting itself as an eclipse destination in 2014 and Amtrak quickly filled its \$135 roundtrip Eclipse Express from Chicago to Carbondale, Illinois. Hotels in Charleston, South Carolina, which lies in the path of the totality, sold out months ago.

John McGrath, his wife Maureen and their teenagers, Mae and Graeme, are among the Highlands residents headed south to experience the total eclipse. They will watch it unfold from a park in Columbia, South Carolina.

John is enthusiastic about the trip, said Maureen (see Page 4). Her teenagers, by contrast, "are more like, 'Why are we doing this?'" she said.

Why all the fuss? A solar eclipse is pretty basic. The moon's orbit will bring



In a map showing the path of the Aug. 21 eclipse, the gray ribbon marks the totality.

NASA

it between the sun and Earth. According to NASA, the moon will totally block the sun for as long as 2 minutes, 40 seconds, depending on where you are along the Oregon to South Carolina "path of totality," where the eclipse is full. That's no mean feat given that the moon is about 400 times smaller than the sun.

Part of the fascination is due to its infrequency. A total solar eclipse crosses the U.S. about as often as the Chicago Cubs win the World Series. There hasn't been a coast-to-coast solar eclipse in the

U.S. since 1918. A 1979 total solar eclipse affected only the northwest part of the country.

For scientists an eclipse means hard work. While a total solar eclipse is visible somewhere on Earth about every 18 months, many are difficult to study because they occur in remote areas or during bad weather.

What is being called "The Great American Eclipse" will take place over a lot of easily accessible land, enabling the Citizen Continental-America Telescope

Eclipse Project to position 68 telescopes along its path.

Much of the scientific attention will be focused on the inner corona, part of the aura of plasma that surrounds the sun. The corona, which can only be observed during a total solar eclipse, is where solar winds and "space weather" powerful enough to knock out power grids originate.

**IN ECLIPSE TODAY**  
Kansas in Path of Event Rarely  
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Next Total Eclipse Here Will  
Be in 2017.

*The Topeka State Journal, June 8, 1918*

[nationaleclipse.com](http://nationaleclipse.com)

### A Viewer's Guide to The (Near) Totality

#### When is the solar eclipse?

It will begin in the Highlands at **1:23 p.m.** on Monday, Aug. 21, and peak at **2:44 p.m.** when the moon blocks 69 percent of the sun, according to data from the U.S. Naval Observatory. It will continue for 2 hours and 36 minutes and end here at **3:59 p.m.** It is the first total eclipse since 1918 to traverse the entire country.

#### What if I miss it?

The next total solar eclipse to pass over the Highlands will take place on Monday, April 8, 2024, when at 3:25 p.m. the moon will block 93 percent of the sun. You will only need to drive 220 miles to Syracuse to see 100 percent coverage, rather than 600 miles to South Carolina.

#### How can I look at it?

You should not look at the solar eclipse without serious eye protection.

Drug World of Cold Spring has a supply of eclipse glasses certified by the International Organization for Standardization to block all but 1/100,000th of the sun's light. The welder's mask in the basement won't keep you safe, either. Even though there will only be 69 percent coverage in the Highlands, you should never remove the glasses while looking at the eclipse.

#### Where can I watch?

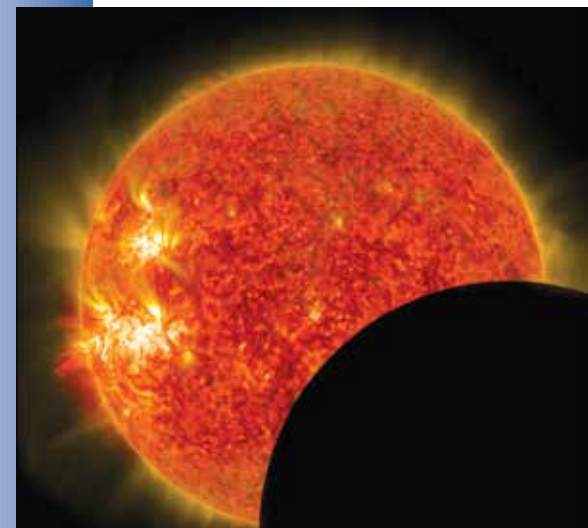
At 1:30 p.m., the **Butterfield Library** in Cold Spring will host an eclipse-viewing party for students, including science experiments and snacks. Register at [butterfieldlibrary.org](http://butterfieldlibrary.org) or call 845-265-3040.

The **Desmond-Fish Library** in Garrison will have a live stream from NASA Television, with images captured by 11 spacecraft and 50 high-altitude balloons. The library also has 20 pairs of eclipse-viewing glasses to share.

A viewing at **Putnam Valley Town Park** will provide eclipse glasses. On Saturday, Aug. 19, at 2 p.m., at the Putnam Valley Library, a science teacher will present a family program on solar and lunar eclipses.

During the eclipse, members of the Mid-Hudson Astronomical Association and the Physics and Astronomy Department of **SUNY-New Paltz** will have telescopes at the Coykendall Science Building at 1 Hawk Drive with solar filters and solar glasses to safely view the eclipse. If you bring a shoebox, you can learn how to make a pin-hole camera to project the image of the eclipse.

**Hudson Valley Hikers** will ascend Mount Beacon at 12:15 p.m. sharp from the parking lot at 788 Wolcott Ave. See [meetup.com/hvhikers/events/242475448](http://meetup.com/hvhikers/events/242475448). It will be a fast climb not suitable for beginners.



The moon crossed in front of the sun on Jan. 30, 2014, during an eclipse captured in space by an orbiting observatory.

More Eclipse news on Page 19