



PHOTOcentric Winners  
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# The HIGHLANDS Current

DECEMBER 15, 2017

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SOUTHERN CHARM — Members of the cast of *Steel Magnolias* react during a performance at the Philipstown Depot Theatre in Garrison. The show continues through Sunday, Dec. 17.

Photo by Ross Corsair

## Beacon Police Chief to Leave

*Expected to take same position in Newburgh*

By Jeff Simms

Beacon Police Chief Doug Solomon is poised to become the new chief of the Newburgh police department, succeeding Dan Cameron, who retired in March after two years as acting chief.

Solomon, who came to Beacon in 2012 after a 24-year career in law enforcement in Monticello in Sullivan County (including 10 years as chief), said on Dec. 12 that his appointment has not been finalized, although “it certainly looks that way.” Newburgh’s city manager, Michael Ciaravino, has recommended Solomon for the job.

“What I like about Chief Solomon is that he was there for a significant part of the renaissance, or the rebirth, in the City of Beacon,” Ciaravino told the Newburgh City Council on Dec. 11. He said Solomon spoke “in the very first conversation about how the building department and police department can work together in a way that establishes the linkage between code enforcement and crime fighting.”

The Newburgh Civil Service (Continued on Page 6)



Beacon Police Chief Doug Solomon  
File photo

## From Russia, with Love

*The inside, inside, inside story on nesting dolls*

By Michael Turton

The bright pink barn that houses the Nesting Dolls shop on Route 9D just south of Wappingers Falls is impossible to miss. But the real eye catchers are inside.

Halina Danchenko opened Nesting Dolls in Hughsonville nearly 20 years ago, soon after she retired from teaching Russian at Arlington High School in Poughkeepsie.

Her shop replaced the basket-and-wicker business her husband Frank had operated in the same location for 30 years.

While teaching, Danchenko ran a student-exchange program that took her to Russia for a month each year. “We’d always pick up nesting dolls,” she says.

Although she was born in Germany, Danchenko’s parents were from Moscow and Ukraine.

Known in Russia as *matryoshka*, the dolls get their name from the word for *mother*. “Basically it means the woman who keeps her family safe and harbors them,” Danchenko says. (Continued on Page 13)



Santa Claus nesting dolls

Photo by M. Turton



Cold Spring's uppermost reservoir dam

File photo by L.S. Armstrong

## \$4.2 Million? Dam!

*Repairs at Cold Spring's upper reservoir will be costly*

By Michael Turton

Repairs to the upper reservoir dam off Foundry Pond Road will cost the Village of Cold Spring between \$3.8 and \$4.2 million, according to an en-

gineering report presented to the Board of Trustees on Dec. 6.

The report, prepared by Tectonic Engineering and Surveying, outlined two approaches to repairing the aging dam.

One scenario, with a single spillway, would cost about \$3.8 million but result in water levels in the reservoir being lowered by 1.2 feet, a significant reduction in capacity.

The second option, which Tectonic recommended, would use a combination of

service and auxiliary spillways at an estimated cost of \$4.2 million. The auxiliary spillway would only come into play during extreme storms.

The trustees took no action pending discussions with Cold Spring’s consulting engineer, Bart Clark, and Superintendent of Water and Wastewater Greg Phillips.

At the board’s Dec. 12 meeting, Mayor Dave Merandy said that residents who own property (Continued on Page 2)

# 5 Five Questions: JACKIE GRANT

By Alison Rooney

Jackie Grant, who lives in Garrison, retired on Nov. 30 after 13 years as executive director of the Hudson Highlands Nature Museum in Cornwall.

## During your tenure, the museum changed its name from the Museum of Hudson Highlands. Why was that?

The museum was about connecting people with nature, but it was more amorphous. Our focus became "to develop responsible caretakers of the natural world." We delved into the research and discovered that one thing which adult conservators had in common was a lot of unstructured play in nature as children.

## How did the digital era change your job?

People will suggest, "You should have a virtual walk in the woods." That's quickly met with a "no." We want to get the kids into the woods. We have two sites. One is filled with outdoor areas to explore. The other has animals. There are all sorts of wonderful documentaries, but nothing replaces seeing an actual creature.

## What can you tell us about the animals?

They are at the Wildlife Education Center because they can't be let out into the wild. Our animal-care people really connect with them. For instance, they trained Edgar Allan Crow to take a dollar in his beak and put it into a cup. He loves it, because it gives him an activity.

## What is Grasshopper Grove?

It's a half-acre play area in the woods. We took all the fun places on our property and brought them to one spot. Instead of slides and swings, we have hills. It helps adults see how much kids love play that's not based on a lot of equipment.

## Was it difficult to promote the museum to Philipstown residents?

We had 35,000 visitors overall last year, but the river is a great barrier. Still, the drive from Garrison is only 25 minutes.



Jackie Grant

Photo by Jessica Oliveri

## \$4.2 Million? Dam!

(from Page 1)

near the reservoirs are being contacted regarding easements required to access the dam with heavy equipment and cranes.

Permits also will be required from the Army Corps of Engineers, the Town of Philipstown and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation.

### In other business ...

- Merandy expressed condolences to the family of Deborah Phillips, who died on Dec. 10 at age 76. Deborah was married to former Cold Spring Mayor Anthony Phillips for 57 years, and her son Greg is the superintendent of water and wastewater. (For an obituary, see highlandscurrent.com.)
- Officer-in-Charge Larry Burke reported that the Cold Spring Police Department received 72 calls for service in November, and officers issued 44 parking tickets and 14 moving violations. Burke said he has received a quote of \$5,015 to purchase and install security cameras at the CSPD offices. He said a grant covering half of the cost has been approved through State Sen. Sue Serino's office.
- Trustees appointed Lara Eldin and Sue Meyer to the Planning Board.
- Merandy reported that due to the continued impasse over the amount that the Village of Nelsonville pays for fire protection provided by the Cold Spring Fire Company, a public meeting will be held early in January to discuss the issue.

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Cold Spring's upper dam

Photo provided



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# Philipstown Board Renews Push for Safe-Storage Gun Law

*Putnam County firearm group again objects*

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

When Philipstown's Town Board last week resumed its push for a law requiring gun owners to lock up their firearms, gun-rights activists quickly fired back.

The board first tackled the issue last year. Supervisor Richard Shea announced the renewed efforts on Dec. 7 during the board's formal monthly meeting.

According to the draft law, the Town Board "finds that firearms stored in the home should be kept locked or securely stored to prevent theft and/or access by children and others who should not" handle them.

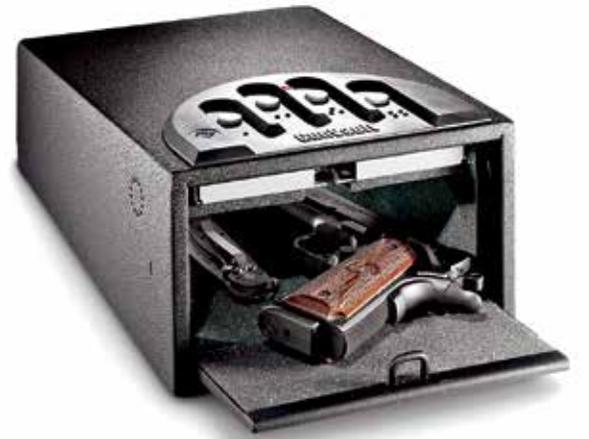
In the fall of 2016, at the request of gun-control advocates, the board considered safe-storage legislation but shelved it after gun-rights advocates objected and instead proposed gun-safety programs for schools and Scout troops.

Upon learning of the board's renewed interest, the Putnam County Firearm Owners Association encouraged members in an email to turn out for the Dec. 7 meeting at Town Hall and "pack it in our favor."

The group expressed fears that if the Philipstown ordinance passes, the idea will "spread throughout the county like a cancer," according to the email. The Firearm Owners Association belongs to the New York State Rifle and Pistol Association, an affiliate of the National Rifle Association.

Most members of the audience remained silent and left en masse after the board introduced the draft ordinance but two residents stayed to criticize the proposed measure during the public-comment period.

Craig Watters of Garrison, who ran for a seat on the Town Board in 2015, and who opposes a safe-storage law as "an encroachment on freedoms," said it "seems like activist legislation" being "railroaded" through.



A gun lock, above, and a gun safe, at right

Another Garrison resident, Eric Vogel, argued that "the only people it's going to affect are responsible gun owners."

Councilor John Van Tassel disagreed. "As a gun owner, I don't see how it's going to affect anybody" who acts sensibly, he said. "I'm not going to live with the fact that if something does happen and I had an opportunity to stop it, I did nothing. I don't care if you sit on your couch and look like Rambo with a 50-caliber gun. But when you leave your house, lock up

your 50-caliber."

The draft law stipulates that "no owner or custodian of a firearm shall leave" it "out of his or her immediate possession or control in a residence without" having given it to a responsible custodian, stored it in a locked container, or disabled it with a safety lock. Penalties for violating the law, a potential misdemeanor, could vary but might include a fine of up to \$1,000, a year's imprisonment in the county jail, or both.

Shea observed that another school shooting had occurred earlier that day and that gun safety "is an issue that keeps coming up, over and over again. I own guns. I keep them locked, as a practice. It's the responsible way to own a gun. I imagine most firearms owners in this room are already doing this sort of thing."

Van Tassel explained that with a gun, "if you're not in possession of it, you can't be in control of it. It's not going to help you and it's not going to help anybody else. It's only going to hurt someone."

He called for a workshop to resolve a few questions, such as the definition of "direct possession."

Councilor Nancy Montgomery said that despite the offer by gun owners last fall to work on gun-safety programs, nothing had happened and she now wants the Town Board to move forward on legislation. She said she hopes those on all sides

## Gun Storage in Beacon

The Beacon City Council, by a 6-1 vote, approved a law in December 2016 that requires residents to keep loaded firearms in a "safe-storage depository" (gun safe) or to be equipped with a "gun-locking device" when children and teenagers 16 years or younger live in or are visiting a home.

Although council members conceded at the time that the law would be difficult to enforce, it calls for fines of up to \$250 or jail time of up to 15 days for a first offense. An early draft of the law included a provision that would have allowed handgun bullets to be sold only to gun owners with a firearms license.

## Handgun License Deadline

Holders of state pistol permits issued before Jan. 15, 2013, must recertify with the New York State Police by Jan. 31 for a five-year renewal. Failing to recertify can lead to suspension or revocation of the license. See [troopers.ny.gov/firearms](http://troopers.ny.gov/firearms).

of the issue can help craft "a good ordinance."

Shea said board review of the issue would resume after the holidays and entail consultations with the village attorney; refinement of the law's text; and public meetings, including a hearing at which "we will hear every person who wants to speak."

## Town Business

For more on the Town Board's Dec. 7 meeting, including gas tankers at Philipstown Square, raising Manitou Station Road and an appointment to the MTA Advisory Board, see [highlandscurrent.com](http://highlandscurrent.com).

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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Thyroid cancer study

The “new study” you cite in “What’s Causing Local Cancer Rates to Soar?” (Dec. 8) is from a notorious anti-nuclear pseudo-scientist, and your article does a disservice to the intelligence of your readers and the reputation of *The Current*. Please be more rigorous about your standards, and your fact-checking, so that you may continue to strengthen your voice in our community.

Donald Kleszy, Fort Montgomery

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission has weighed in on research done by the Radiation Public Health Project on multiple occasions. The organization has published numerous studies seeking to link U.S. nuclear power plant operations with increases in thyroid cancer cases in the vicinity of those facilities. The NRC has found little or no credibility when it comes to those studies. What’s more, numerous peer-reviewed scientific studies do not support the organization’s assertions.

Questions we have raised about the group’s studies have included the areas of methodology, assumptions and conclusions. In general, we have found that these studies have not followed good scientific principles and that frequently they have:

- not established control populations for study;
- not examined the impacts of other risk factors;
- used very small sample sizes to draw general conclusions;
- not performed environmental sampling and analysis;
- cherry-picked data or [items] selectively chosen to ignore data in certain geographic locations or during certain periods of time because they did not “fit”;
- not subjected their data to the independent peer review of the scientific community as a whole.

The evaluation of health effects from exposure to radiation is an ongoing activity of the NRC involving public, private and international institutions. The NRC routinely seeks out new scientific information that might reveal health and safety concerns. It reviews independent studies

of nuclear safety issues and embraces opportunities to inform the public about the results of such reviews. Again, the NRC finds there is little or no credibility in the studies published by the Radiation Public Health Project.

Neil Sheehan, Philadelphia

*Editor’s note: Sheehan is a public affairs officer for the NRC. We asked Joseph Mangano and Janette Sherman of the Radiation Public Health Project, the authors of the study, which appeared in the Journal of Environmental Protection, if they would like to respond to Sheehan’s letter. They said they did not.*

### Opioid series

I would be remiss in not commenting on, and not commending, your paper for, the four-part series, “Fighting Back: The Opioid Crisis” (Sept. 22 to Oct. 13).

Reports on this crisis are too often recycled news, superficial discussions and short soundbites. I like to think I know a lot about the opioid crisis, and I suppose I know more than many; however, I can say that these four lengthy reports were informative, educational, in-depth, well-written and riveting. Your writers provided interesting statistics; vital information about the difficulties of sobriety and treatment; viewpoints of many “players” in the business — from users, to providers, to parents, to doctors, to judges and attorneys, and to members of religious orders; and a message of hope and understanding.

The final installment, appropriately titled “The Way Out: ‘Where There is Life There is Hope’” (borrowing a quote from Susan Salamone of Drug Crisis in Our Backyard) accomplished something very important: it informed the public that this is not a crisis of despair and dissolution. It can be one of *hope* and *solution*. This message must be preached over and over again. It is never hopeless; it is never too late; it is never over.

I was moved by the photo on Page 1 on Oct. 13 of the three young men, patients at St. Christopher’s Inn, standing in front of the honor wall. I don’t know them, but I wish them all the success and blessings that a healthy, non-addicted life can bring. They looked so hopeful, healthy,

## Brower Retains Garrison Fire District Seat

David Brower, who won a one-year term last year to the Garrison Fire District Board of Commissioners, again defeated challenger Joe Regele on Dec. 12 to win a five-year term. Brower received 166 votes, or 55 percent, to Regele’s 135, or 45 percent. Two affidavit votes by residents new to the district have yet to be counted, said election official Anne Osborn.

The turnout at the polls, which were open for four hours, was 17 percent of registered district voters.

In last year’s election, the first for the district, Regele, a longtime critic of the fire company’s finances, fell seven votes shy of defeating Brower for the fifth and final seat on the panel.

Regele had been endorsed this year by Commissioner Stan Freilich, who cast the lone vote against the district’s 2018 budget. With Brower’s win, fire company members will continue to fill three of the five seats.

In North Highlands, Amy Locitzer ran unopposed to retain her fire district seat. She received all 14 votes.

full of promise, and — well, *young*.

With addicts and alcoholics, sometimes we are tempted to say “How does a person become such a mess?” It is an important question. But we also need to understand something else: “There but for the grace of God go I.” If we don’t understand this by now, we haven’t learned a thing.

Robert Tandy, Carmel

*Tandy is the Putnam County district attorney.*

### Bathroom break

The two public restrooms at the foot of Main Street in Cold Spring, next to the tracks, are no longer able to serve the increasing  
(Continued on next page)



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

number of visitors who use them, and they have been repeatedly vandalized. As you reported in the Dec. 8 issue, the village has closed them for the season. Those who argue that we should just make the closing permanent overlook the consequences, which will be unavoidable given the biology that we all share.

The restrooms are big without having much capacity — each serves one person at a time. They are often filthy, sometimes with no toilet paper, with dodgy plumbing and always dismal.

Vandals do their work out-of-sight, where the risk of discovery is low. So, to start, let's make vandalizing the restroom seem like a risky idea, likely to be discovered and punished. We can do that by getting rid of lockable doors on one-stall restrooms. Instead, put two or three privacy stalls in each room (one for men, one for women) equipped with a washbasin and effective electric hand dryer (spend a few extra bucks for something that works and will be a pleasure to use, not a provocation). Make the outside doors not lockable from inside. Consider putting cameras outside the restrooms, filming everyone, with a sign giving notice that Big Mother is Watching.

Enlist the eyes of the community (visitors and residents) by giving everyone a reason to care. Keep the restrooms clean, well-stocked with toilet paper, well-painted and cheerful. Encourage local artists, perhaps talented teens from Haldane, to decorate the interior.

Adding stalls and improving these amenities turns the solution into a capital project, not a maintenance program or a policeman's salary. That means that the village can seek grants and other funding not usually available to cover operating expenses. Adding stalls will boost badly needed capacity and, done right, will make the solution durable, making Cold Spring's public restrooms a source of pride, not embarrassment.

Michael Armstrong, *Cold Spring*

**Union church**

The trustees of the Mekeel's Corners Chapel were pleased to see photographs of the chapel and its steeple in *The Current* ("Steeple Chase," Dec. 1).

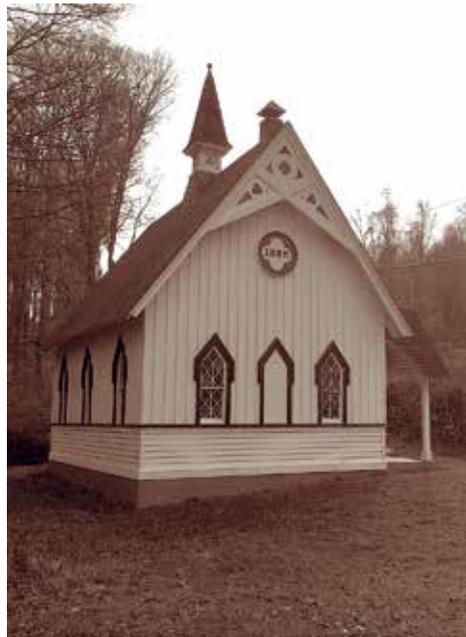
However, the chapel was identified as the "Union Church," which has never been its official name. It was originally (in 1867) the Philipstown Methodist Episcopal Union Chapel, whose congregation was centered on Mekeel's Corners, now the intersection of Routes 9 and 301.

The congregation had disbanded by the early 1950s, when the building was rescued with funds donated by Helen Fahnestock Hubbard, whose property adjoined the chapel. The present association has maintained the chapel since 1961, following Mrs. Hubbard's death.

The Mekeel's Corners Chapel has no electricity or plumbing, although it does have an old wood stove. In recent years it has been the site of an annual Independence Day celebration (to which all are invited) and occasional other services.

Robert Bickford, *Philipstown*

*Editor's note: A newspaper clipping from 1867 referred to the building as the "Union Church," which may have been colloquial. A later clipping, from 1950, noted the Methodist Episcopal Union Chapel had fallen into disarray and was being used "as a refuge for knights of the road" but would soon be restored.*



**The Philipstown Methodist Episcopal Union Chapel, built in 1867**

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**The First 19 17 12 10 Amendments**

By Chip Rowe

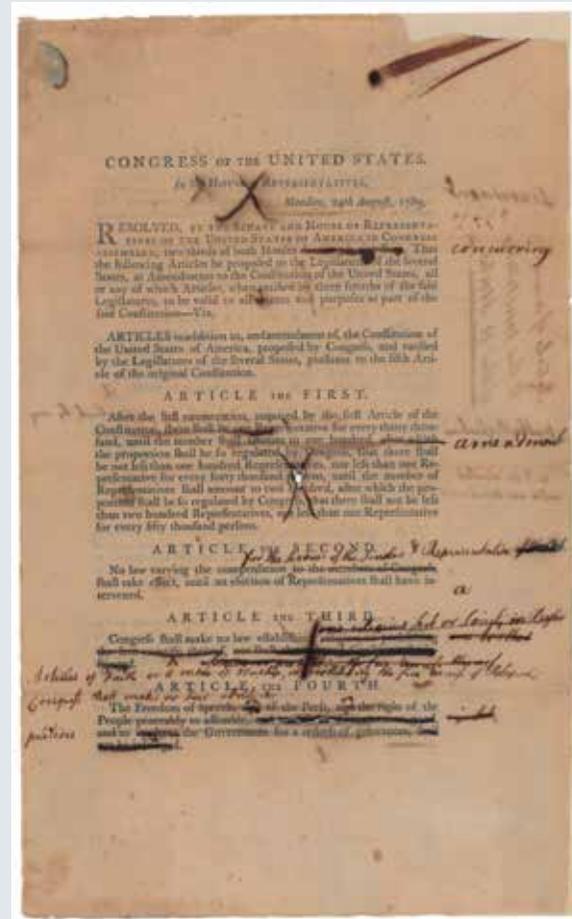
Today (Dec. 15) is Bill of Rights Day, marking the date in 1791 when the U.S. House and Senate approved the first 10 amendments to the Constitution.

James Madison, a representative from Virginia, proposed 19 amendments, which he wanted interwoven, rather than attached at the end. (He gave up on that.) The House approved 17, and after the Senate combined and altered them, 12 were sent to the states to consider.

Of the 12, two were not ratified by enough states. One was a proposal that Congress not be able to give itself pay raises but only approve those that began with the next session. (This was adopted in 1992 as the 27th Amendment, although Congress still awards itself "cost-of-living adjustments.") The second set down a formula to determine the number of members in the House. Had it been adopted in 1791, the House today would have 800 or 5,000 representatives, depending on how its language was interpreted. Federal law limits the number to 435.

Three of Madison's proposed amendments were removed altogether:

1. "That there be prefixed to the Constitution a declaration, that all power is originally vested in, and consequently derived from, the people. That Government is instituted and ought to be exercised for the benefit of the people; which consists in the enjoyment of life and liberty, with the right of acquiring and using property, and generally of pursuing and obtaining happiness and safety. That the people have an indubitable, unalienable, and indefeasible right to reform or change their Government, whenever it be found adverse or inadequate to the purposes of its institution."
14. "No state shall violate the equal rights of conscience, or the freedom of the press, or the trial by jury in criminal cases."
18. "The powers delegated by this Constitution are appropriated to the departments to which they are respectively distributed: so that the Legislative Department shall never exercise the powers vested in the Executive or Judicial, nor the Executive exercise the powers vested in the Legislative or Judicial, nor the Judicial exercise the powers vested in the Legislative or Executive Departments."



Handwritten revisions made during the 1789 debate by the U.S. Senate on amendments to the Constitution approved by the U.S. House

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Inside a unit at The Lofts at Beacon, where monthly rents range from \$2,150 to \$2,500. Its developer hopes to add 29 units to the 143 already approved. *The Lofts at Beacon*

## Edgewater Passes Environmental Muster

*Plus, updates on other projects around Beacon*

By Jeff Simms

The proposed Edgewater development in Beacon will not have a significant adverse effect on the city's school district, the Planning Board has decided.

Next up for the 307-unit project is the Zoning Board of Appeals, which must rule on three variances its developer has requested. The board will hold a public hearing on the requests — for the number of stories allowed per building, the number of units per building and the space between buildings — on Tuesday, Dec. 19.

The Planning Board recommended the ZBA allow more stories per building but deny the variances for the number of units per building and space between buildings.

Edgewater officials say the variances would minimize the construction footprint of the project, but that they will proceed whether granted or not.

"We're trying to create and be a leader in doing something different, and that's why we're asking for these," said Rodney Weber, who is developing the project and several others in Beacon.

After the ZBA rules on the variances, the City Council will decide whether to grant Weber's company, Scenic Beacon Developments, a special-use permit. If Edgewater clears that hurdle, the Planning Board would vote on final approval of the development.

The Dec. 12 Planning Board meeting was the conclusion of a seven-month-long environmental review that had become a standoff between Weber and the Beacon City School District. Edgewater consultants contended that when balancing increased property tax revenue with the number of new students the development would add to the schools, the project would be a net benefit for the district.

School officials countered that the developer had underestimated the cost of adding students to an already strained and underfunded district.

The district seemed to win the popular vote, as more than 600 people signed an online petition in its favor, but in the

opinion of the Planning Board, the development would not create a "significant" adverse effect on the schools.

"The school board's issue does not lie on the back of one project," Board Member Randall Williams reasoned. "We have to address the problem that already exists in the schools."

### In other business ...

- The Planning Board on Dec. 12 voted to continue a public hearing next month on the River Ridge townhouse development at "Parcel L" on Wolcott Avenue. After hearing mixed feedback from neighbors, attorney Jennifer Van Tuyl said the developer may revise elements of the design, including a proposed pocket park and pedestrian path.
- The board approved site plans for the four-story, mixed-use project at 226 Main St., at the corner of North Elm. (Now the site of Ed's Auto Repair, the property was purchased in May for \$429,000.) The project will include retail space on the ground floor and eight apartments. Some residents asked the board to delay its decision while the City Council considers zoning changes that could limit buildings on Main Street to three stories. The Planning Board, however, opted not to postpone because the plans for 226 Main were submitted before the council's zoning discussion began. "This is not being rushed through in any sense of the word," Planning Board Chairperson Jay Sheers said.
- The board completed its environmental review of an amendment to already-approved plans for The Lofts at Beacon at 39 Front St. The developer wants to remove commercial space and add 29 residential units to the 143 artist live/work spaces that have been approved, bringing the total to 172. Approximately 80 of the units have been built. The project will proceed to the ZBA in January, although the City Council will have to grant a new special-use permit. While the Lofts stand to lose commercial space, architect Aryeh Siegel said that the developer is "seriously considering" a commercial project on an adjacent lot to the south.

## Beacon Police Chief to Leave *(from Page 1)*

Commission must approve the transfer. Solomon is also the mayor of Monticello and would need to resign that post to take the job in Newburgh, which has a residency requirement.

Solomon, 51, said he plans to give at least a month's notice in Beacon and take a few weeks off, which would have him starting, at the earliest, in February.

Because Solomon retired from the Monticello force, he was required to defer the majority of his village pension while collecting a full-time salary in Beacon. In Newburgh, where he will earn between \$104,138 and \$116,076 according to a job listing for the post, the city has agreed to a waiver allowing him to collect his pension and salary at the same time. Cameron earned \$124,000; Solomon makes \$117,000.

City Administrator Anthony Ruggiero said that Capt. Kevin Junjulas, a 25-year veteran of the Beacon police and resident of Cold Spring, will lead the department as interim chief after Solomon departs. Mayor Randy Casale will ultimately recommend a candidate, whom the City Council must approve.

Newburgh is about twice the size of Beacon, with a population of just over 28,000, but its rate of violent crime (murder, rape, robbery and assault) is nearly 10 times higher than Beacon's. (Newburgh had 403 reported violent crimes in 2016, while Beacon had 44.) Violent crime has

fallen at least 25 percent in both cities since 2012, however, according to statistics collected by New York State.

Solomon said he will bring experience with drug- and gang-related issues from his time in Monticello to the Newburgh position. Cameron, who was promoted from lieutenant to acting chief after Mike Ferrara retired in January 2015, "got things going in the right direction," Solomon said.

"It's a big ship that turns slowly," he said.

In Beacon, Solomon inherited a department under investigation by the U.S. Department of Justice due to earlier allegations of police brutality. The federal oversight was lifted in 2016 after the department demonstrated "substantial compliance" with recommendations regarding the use of force, the type and quantity of ammunition carried by officers, the city's system for handling public complaints and officer training methods, among other issues.

"He did a good job while he was here and we wish him the best of luck," Casale said.

Reflecting on his time in Beacon, Solomon said he'll leave the department in good shape and in good hands with Junjulas.

"There were a lot of things internally that were changed here," he said. "We really built something here, to turn the police department into what it is now. I'm very proud of where things are."

## Beacon Bank Robbed



Beacon police are investigating the armed robbery at about 6:45 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 11, of the Hudson Valley Federal Credit Union branch on Main Street. The suspect handed a teller a note demanding cash but did not display a weapon.

The suspect is said to be Caucasian or Hispanic and 6 feet to 6-foot-2. He was wearing a black hat with a Chicago Bulls logo, a black winter coat and dark jeans and sneakers. Anyone with information should call the police at 845-831-4111.

A surveillance photo of the suspect in a Dec. 11 bank robbery in Beacon



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# First Presbyterian Welcomes New Minister

*Alabama native joins Cold Spring church*

By Alison Rooney

The First Presbyterian Church of Philipstown has found an exemplar of its descriptive name, the Church of the Open Door, in its new pastor, the Rev. Doris Chandler. She gave her first sermon on Dec. 3, coinciding with the beginning of the Advent season.

“What could be more fitting?” she asks.

She comes to the parish from her native Alabama “with the heart of a teacher,” she says, having spent 28 years teaching applied math and Advanced Placement courses in physics and chemistry for the Jefferson County School System in and around Birmingham.

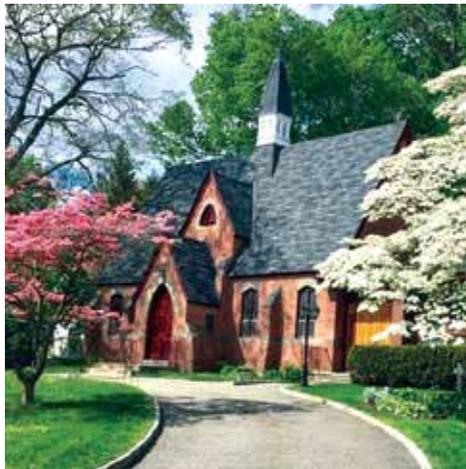
She succeeds the Rev. Leslie Mott, who left in March to pursue other interests after 13 years leading the church.

While teaching, Chandler decided to attend seminary and received her master of divinity from Columbia Theological Seminary in Decatur, Georgia, followed by her doctorate of ministry from Union Presbyterian Seminary in Richmond, Virginia. She was ordained in 1996 and served four congregations while also teaching but has since retired as an instructor.

When pastors are looking for a church, they frequently want to stay close to home. This was not the case with Chandler, who was willing to relocate.

“I’ve lived in the deep South for my whole life, but I have always been a progressive person,” she says. “I was a child in Birmingham during the 16th Street Baptist Church bombing, and it became indelible on my psyche as a child; I cried. So, when I interviewed here, I said ‘Don’t let the Southern accent stereotype me.’ I don’t think the geography of place limits a shared ministry.”

Working through Presbyterian Church (USA), members of the Cold Spring church in August reviewed an application Chandler had submitted to the national organization. (First Presbyterian also had



First Presbyterian Church of Philipstown

submitted information about the type of candidate it was looking for.) After the church reached out to her by email, Chandler sent audio files of some of her sermons. This was followed by a phone conversation and an interview over Skype, and another in person.

Chandler later recalled for her congregation that the initial interview had left her “gobsmacked. I never heard the [search] committee speak of ‘going to church’ or ‘being members of the church.’ Instead I heard, ‘We are the church and our hearts beat to go into our community and to reach out to the world to do justice, to love kindness, to walk humbly with God.’ I heard the cadence of the heartbeat of faith.”

Chandler says she views the ministry as

a “shared journey” with the congregation and that she hopes to address the danger of indifference, the practice of neighbor love (so that no one “stands outside the circle”) and inclusivity that embraces everyone whatever their gender, sexual orientation or socio-economic level.

“Listen and hold a space for others, and let love build a bridge,” she wrote in an email to the congregation. “There is a world around us of guns turned on children, economic disparities, homeless. Those who come to church each Sunday have a smile, but inside their heart is broken. There should be a place to crack your heart open wide and show neighbor love.”

After her first interview with the search committee, Chandler recalled that she had once been to Cold Spring. She and her spouse, Julie Kimbrough, a paralegal for the federal public defender’s office, were married in Dobbs Ferry in 2012 (they’ve been together for 22 years) and after the wedding took a day trip up the Hudson.

“I remember buying a little cap at an outfitter on Main Street,” Chandler says. The couple also ate at the Hudson House.

Kimbrough will remain in Birmingham for now because of the difficulty of finding an equivalent federal position in New York. Chandler’s son, James, a web designer and artist, also lives in Alabama, though she says she would love to see him move north.



The Rev. Doris Chandler Photo by A. Rooney

He has shown you, O mortal,  
what is good.

And what does the Lord require of you?  
To act justly and to love mercy  
and to walk humbly with your God.

~ the Rev. Doris Chandler’s  
favorite scripture

Chandler was able to bring her two cocker spaniels, and says she is excited about exploring with them. “The community can always count on us to be a grand caretaker for the environment and for cultivating the resources of the Hudson Valley,” she says. “It’s a beautiful place.”

## Another Alabamian to Philipstown

The Rev. Doris Chandler is not the only resident of Alabama who has moved to the Highlands in recent months to minister. In November, Suzanne Smith became executive director of the Walter Hoving Home in Garrison. She succeeds Beth Greco, who in 2016 became president and CEO of the ministry, which also has faith-based rehabilitation homes in Las Vegas, New Jersey and California.

Smith, a native of Louisiana, had been with Alabama Teen Challenge since 1997. According to the Hoving website, she began abusing drugs at age 11 and by her count attempted seven times to get help before a judge allowed her to seek assistance from Teen Challenge. She met her husband through the program and they have two sons, Sawyer and Sam, who are attending the Garrison School.



Suzanne Smith

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### The Season's First Snowfall

The first snowfall of the season arrived in the Highlands on Saturday, Dec. 9. AccuWeather has predicted a total of 30 to 35 inches of snow for this winter in the Hudson Valley; the historical average is 28 inches. Below, snow decorates the bandstand at the Cold Spring riverfront; at right, a horse hitched up on Main Street

*Photos by Michael Turton*



The view on Main Street near Bank Square Coffeehouse in Beacon

*Photo by Jeff Simms*



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Giuseppe Penone  
Michelangelo Pistoletto  
Remo Salvadori  
Gilberto Zorio

# MAGAZZINO

# ITALIAN ART

# The Calendar



Nature, First Place: Timothy Macy, *Bakersfield Cows*

## 50 Great Photos

Winning shots from Garrison Art Center's biennial show

By Alison Rooney

Francis Naumann, a curator, scholar and dealer who specializes in Dada and Surrealist artists, had his work cut out for him as juror of the biennial *PHOTOcentric* show at the Garrison Art Center, which continues through Jan. 7.

The art center received 117 entries from across the country, with 721 images, from which he chose 50 for the exhibit. Awards were given in three categories: nature, people and "open," along with a director's choice selected by the art center's Katie Schmidt Feder. Naumann awarded Best in Show to Thomas Whitworth, whose winning photo can be seen at [highlandscurrent.com](http://highlandscurrent.com).

All the works on display at *PHOTOcentric*, which was established in 2009 by Cali Gorevic and Lucille Tortora, are for sale, along with a color exhibition catalog.

The Garrison Art Center is located at 23 Garrison's Landing, and the gallery is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily except Monday. See [garrisonartcenter.org](http://garrisonartcenter.org).



Nature, Third Place: Christopher Mauro, *Otter Cove - Maine*



Open, First Place: Karen Johnson, *I Dream of the Pale Horse*



Director's Choice: Janet Holmes, *Buddy (Catskill Animal Sanctuary)*



People, Third Place: Liza Hennessey Botkin, *Twin Landscapes*



At left, People, First Place: Giulio Sista, *Speakeasy*; above, People, Second Place: Paul Murray, *Training for Life*

## FRIDAY, DEC. 15

**Into the Woods**

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

**Steel Magnolias**

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

## SATURDAY, DEC. 16

**Christmas Bird Count**

8 a.m. Paddlesport parking lot | Annsville Circle,  
Peekskill | putnamhighlandsaudubon.org

**Beacon Zoning Forum**

9:30 a.m. Beahive Beacon | 291 Main St., Beacon  
845-765-1890 | beahivebzzz.com

**Beary Merry Holiday**

10:30 a.m. Trailside Zoo  
3006 Seven Lakes Drive, Bear Mountain  
845-786-2701 | trailsidezoo.org

**Holiday Craft Fair**

11 a.m. - 4 p.m. Mid-Hudson Civic Center  
14 Civic Center Plaza, Poughkeepsie  
845-454-5800 | midhudsonciviccenter.org

**Santa Visit**

Noon - 4 p.m. Fishkill Farms  
9 Fishkill Farm Road, Hopewell Junction  
845-897-4377 | fishkillfarms.com

**Live Action Potter: Joel Brown Demos  
Coil Building**

Noon - 5 p.m. RiverWinds Gallery | 172 Main St.,  
Beacon | 845-838-2880 | riverwindsgallery.com

**The Nutcracker**

12:30 & 4:30 p.m. Westchester County Center  
198 Central Ave., White Plains  
westchesterballet.wordpress.com

**Fine Arts and Crafts Fair**

1 - 5 p.m. Open | 3 - 5 p.m. Reception  
Howland Cultural Center | 477 Main St., Beacon  
845-831-4988 | howlandculturalcenter.org

**Into the Woods**

1 & 7 p.m. Paramount Hudson Valley  
See details under Friday.

**Snapology Lego Holiday Workshop (ages 5-11)**

1:30 - 3 p.m. Howland Public Library  
313 Main St., Beacon  
845-831-1134 | beaconlibrary.org

**Hudson Valley Philharmonic: Handel's Messiah**

2 p.m. Bardavon | 35 Market St., Poughkeepsie  
845-473-2072 | bardavon.org

**Nutcracker for Kids**

2:30 & 5 p.m. Yorktown Stage  
1974 Commerce St., Yorktown Heights  
914-962-0606 | yorktownstage.org

**Greater Newburgh Symphony Orchestra:****The First Noel**

4 p.m. Mount Saint Mary College (Aquinas Hall)  
332 Powell Ave., Newburgh  
845-913-7157 | newburghsymphony.org

**Hanukkah Meal and Celebration**

4 p.m. St. Mary's Parish Hall | 1 Chestnut St.,  
Cold Spring | philipstownreformsynagogue.org

**Blue Christmas Service**

5 p.m. First Presbyterian, Beacon | 50 Liberty St.,  
Beacon | 845-831-5322 | beaconpresbychurch.com

**Bicycle Menorah Lighting**

5:30 p.m. 427 Main St., Beacon  
Celebrating Business Owners

**A Christmas Carol**

7 p.m. St. Mary's Church  
1 Chestnut St., Cold Spring  
brownpapertickets.com/event/3192001

## Calendar Highlights

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

**Joe McPhee and Billy Stein**

7 p.m. Hudson Valley Vinyl | 267 Main St., Beacon  
845-765-1411 | hudsonvalleyvinyl.com

**Yo, Ho, Ho, A Pirate's Christmas**

7 p.m. Philipstown Recreation Center  
107 Glenclyffe, Garrison  
845-424-4618 | philipstownrecreation.com

**Melissa Etheridge: Merry Christmas, Baby**

8 p.m. Bardavon  
35 Market St., Poughkeepsie  
845-473-2072 | bardavon.org

**Chaotica: Immersive Sound and Animation**

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

**Meredith Monk (Concert and Talk)**

8 p.m. Garrison Institute  
14 Mary's Way, Garrison  
845-424-4800 | garrisoninstitute.org

**Steel Magnolias**

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

## SUNDAY, DEC. 17

**St. Mary's Episcopal - Philipstown Reform  
Synagogue Joint Service**

10:30 a.m. St. Mary's Church  
1 Chestnut St., Cold Spring

**Live Action Potter: Joel Brown Demos Coil Building**

Noon - 5 p.m. RiverWinds Gallery  
See details under Saturday.

**Fine Arts and Crafts Fair**

1 - 5 p.m. Howland Cultural Center  
See details under Saturday.

**Menorah Lighting**

1 p.m. Foot of Main St., Cold Spring

**The Nutcracker**

2 p.m. Westchester County Center  
See details under Saturday.

**Yo, Ho, Ho, A Pirate's Christmas**

2 p.m. Philipstown Recreation Center  
See details under Saturday.

**Nutcracker for Kids**

2:30 p.m. Yorktown Stage | Details under Saturday.

**Steel Magnolias**

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

**Holiday Concert**

3:30 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library | 472 Route 403,  
Garrison | 845-424-3020 | desmondfishlibrary.org

**Holiday Candlelight Tours**

4 - 7 p.m. Tours | 5 p.m. Storytelling  
Mount Gulian, 145 Sterling St., Beacon  
845-831-8172 | mountgulian.org

**Living Nativity**

4 p.m. Saunders Farm  
Old Albany Post Road, Garrison

**Deck the Halls at Cafe Sizzle**

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

**Bicycle Menorah Lighting**

5:30 p.m. 427 Main St., Beacon | Celebrating Clergy

**Sinbad (Comedy)**

7 p.m. Paramount Hudson Valley  
See details under Friday.

## MONDAY, DEC. 18

**Beacon vs. John Jay (Girls' Basketball)**

4:30 p.m. Beacon High School  
101 Matteawan Road, Beacon  
845-838-6900 | beaonk12.org

**Bicycle Menorah Lighting**

5:30 p.m. 427 Main St., Beacon | Celebrating Activists

**Beacon City Council**

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

**Board of Trustees**

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

## TUESDAY, DEC. 19

**Holiday Candlelight Tours**

1 - 5 p.m. Mount Gulian | Details under Sunday.

**Bicycle Menorah Lighting**

5:30 p.m. 427 Main St., Beacon  
Celebrating Artists and Musicians

**Family Movie: The Polar Express (2004)**

6 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library  
See details under Sunday.

**Haldane vs. Schechter (Boys' Basketball)**

7 p.m. Haldane High School | 15 Craigside Drive,  
Cold Spring | 845-265-9254 | haldaneschool.org

**Haldane School Board**

7 p.m. Haldane (Library) | 15 Craigside Dr.,  
Cold Spring | 845-265-9254 | haldaneschool.org

**Board of Trustees**

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

## WEDNESDAY, DEC. 20

**It's a Wonderful Life (1946)**

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

**Beacon vs. Roosevelt (Boys' Basketball)**

4:45 p.m. Beacon High School  
See details under Monday.

## THURSDAY, DEC. 21

**Winter Solstice****Fine Arts and Crafts Fair**

1 - 5 p.m. Howland Cultural Center  
See details under Saturday.

## FRIDAY, DEC. 22

**Fine Arts and Crafts Fair**

1 - 5 p.m. Howland Cultural Center  
See details under Saturday.

**Rick Austin: Hudson Valley Winter Showcase  
(Opening)**

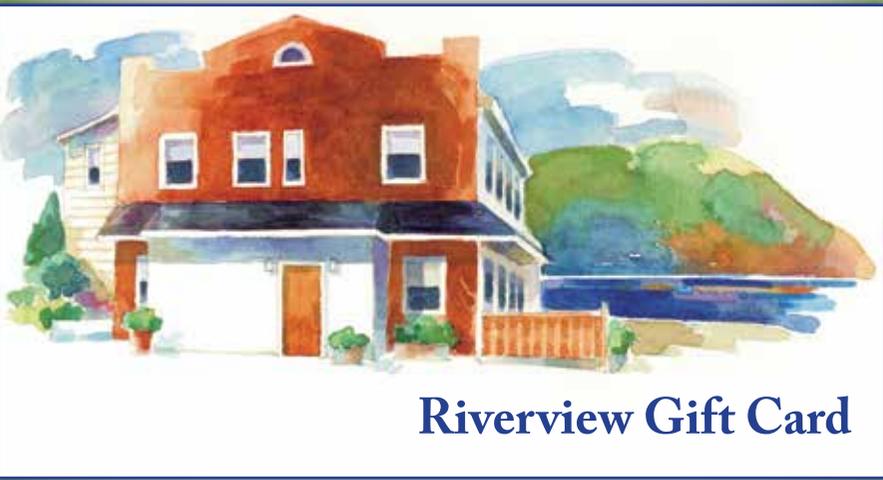
6 - 8 p.m. SallyeAnder | 1 E. Main St, Beacon  
315-343-0793 | sallyeander.com

**A Christmas Carol**

7 p.m. Hudson House River Inn  
2 Main St., Cold Spring  
845-265-9355 | hudsonhouseinn.com

**Free Show: Open Book**

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# Over the Hump

## Workshops designed to push projects along

By Alison Rooney

Sometimes it's simply about saying no — no to checking email, no to catching up with friends, no to going to an event you don't care about.

It's also about figuring out the times which work best for you to focus. Procrastination happens, and treating that as a solvable problem is the aim of Creative Completion, a free workshop held twice each month at the Butterfield Library in Cold Spring.

Led by Robin Hutchinson, whose background includes gallery and technology management and graphics, the workshops recently generated a collaboration, the result of which may be a patented medical diagnostic tool.

Hutchinson's goal is to teach participants to think creatively to solve problems. She advises participants to be as specific as they can about whatever they are pursuing. "Give it details or it's not as likely to happen," she says.

Each workshop begins with participants elaborating on what they've accomplished. For newcomers, Hutchinson writes five questions on an index card to reflect on, such as what steps they will take, completion dates and how they will reward themselves. The goal is to see projects through, or at least get a good start.

### Finding space

At a recent workshop, Pat Angerame reported she had been working on "eking out a new space at home where I could be more consistent with my writing." She wound up working more than she had previously, everywhere except in the new space.

"Creating that empty space opened up some odd plug, and I was writing elsewhere, scribbling things on the backs of receipts on kitchen counters, anywhere," she said with a laugh.

What drew Julie Corbett, an occupational therapist, was the wish "to get my ideas off my desk. I believe science is a creative process."

She noted there was not a standardized way to determine if a patient is a candidate for hand therapy. In one session, Corbett described what she had in mind, which was a wooden box with slots on the lid in a serpentine pattern for clients to slip coins into. She envisioned this as a way to have a standardized assessment based on factors such as time and accuracy.

"I needed a structure for how to get something to market," she says. The first step was to interview consumers to see if there was a perceived need. The next step was to create a prototype.

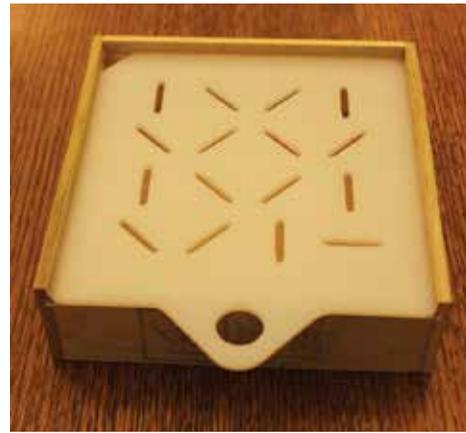
### Thinking about the box

Sabrina Ortquist had come to the workshop by accident, expecting to find a session presented by the Small Business

Administration, which was taking place elsewhere. But she decided to stay and learn more.

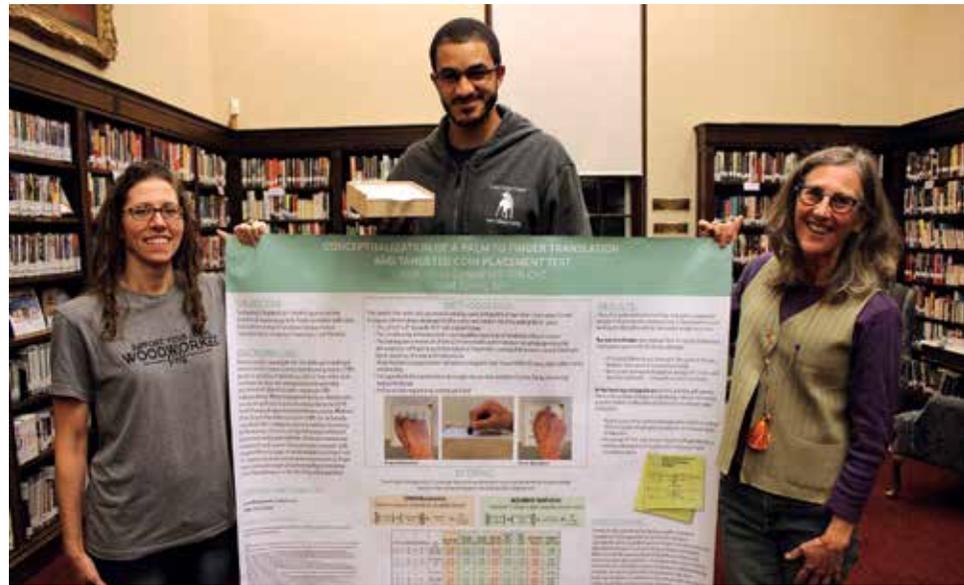
Ortquist's husband, Bryan, is a woodworker, and she handles the business end of things for their new business, Old Mountain Woodworking, in Middletown.

Hearing Corbett wrestling with where to get a prototype made, Ortquist said, "Let me talk to Bryan." Her husband agreed and disappeared into his shop. "I had the wood, and I have very precise tools, and I'm a (Continued on Page 14)



Julie Corbett's targeted coin toss prototype, built by Bryan Ortquist

Photo by A. Rooney



From left, Sabrina Ortquist, Bryan Ortquist and Julie Corbett, displaying the project description Corbett brought with her to the hand therapists' conference. Photo by A. Rooney

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## Mouths to Feed

## What a Blast

By Celia Barbour

That same gut-punch despair a 1970s mother felt upon discovering a copy of *Playboy* under her teenage son's mattress I now feel when I come across a box of "flavor-blasted" Pepperidge Farm Goldfish in one of my children's bedrooms.

Who is this child? I think. And when did he become a stranger? Because I certainly didn't raise my offspring to eat ... garbage. As I stand there, buzzing with denial and perplexity (When did he manage to sneak that thing into the house? Where did he even buy it?), I critically size up the graphic design of the box: its bright, overhyped enthusiasm so clearly fake; those once-innocent little goldfish now surging wildly across the label, too jacked up on flavor to even realize that they're being exploited.

I guess flavor will do that to you. I should know. Much as I like to blame my husband for introducing garbage into our kids' diets, I am not entirely innocent. Peter, bless him, readily accepts responsibility for making junk food seem fun. For a while, when the kids were younger, he'd go on processed-food shopping binges anytime I had to be out of town for more than a day. "Mommy's going away! Guess

what that means?" Powdered mini-donuts and nacho chips.

I didn't harangue him for it; I've written here in the past that I believe a strict obsession with healthy food can quickly morph into its own kind of disease. But I must have gently raised my eyebrows. Then, a couple of years ago, he snapped out of his junky delirium, all on his own.

"What am I doing?" he said to me one evening as I unpacked from a voyage. "I don't even like the way this stuff tastes. It's creepy." He used the word *fake*; he used the word *pernicious*. My eyebrows relaxed.

Indeed.

But, as I said, I am not blameless. Flavor has always been a driving principle of my cooking, and I am not above ratcheting up the butter-and-salt content to ensure maximum deliciousness. Or, for that matter, the soy-maple-ginger-garlic content — a combination so easy on the taste buds it deserves to be called "pernicious."

Which brings me to an altogether different species of fish: the majestic salmon, prince among the finned, which has been blasted over the years not by chemically-manipulated flavor molecules, poor dear, but by industrial development and the resulting destruction of its various and vulnerable habitats. Nonetheless, salmon remains the second-most popular fish consumed in the U.S., after tuna. (Goldfish aren't ranked.) Week after week, there



Salmon, the good way

Photos by Henry Weed

it is at the market, looking more or less rosy, more or less firm-fleshed, more or less like supper. My youngest adores salmon, so these days I buy it often.

Last year, I had the good/bad fortune to stumble across an especially excellent salmon recipe. The original is on Food52, a cooking website, where it has received nearly 2,000 likes. I tried it and everyone raved. As in: "This is the best fish you've ever made." So I tweaked it (the original seemed slightly off) and remade it, and again: raves. For a while, I tried interspersing this version of salmon with

others I liked, but who was I kidding? Every time I came home from the farmers' market with a filet of salmon, one child or another would say, "Oo! Are you going to make it the good way?"

As my 1970s forebears knew, a good recipe quickly becomes a prison, it's very deliciousness setting a standard one feels compelled to meet, if not surpass, forevermore. It makes cooking a bit less adventuresome, a bit more rote. Unless, that is, you get a little crazy with the flavors, doubling this ingredient, concentrating that, fine-tuning the balance, cranking up the volume notch by notch until ... well, OK: No. You don't ever actually blast it, because that would just be immoral.

## Soy-Ginger-Maple Salmon

1 pound salmon filet	¼ cup dry vermouth or wine (red or white)
4-inch piece of ginger, roughly chopped (about ¼ cup chopped)	¼ cup mirin
2 garlic cloves, roughly chopped	1 tablespoon lime juice
¼ cup soy sauce	1 to 2 scallions, sliced, for garnish
2 tablespoons maple syrup	Rice, for serving

1. Heat the oven to 275 degrees. Cut the salmon into 1½ -inch wide slices. Place skin-side down in a roasting pan and set aside.
2. In a blender, combine the ginger, garlic, soy sauce and maple syrup and blend until smooth. Add the vermouth and mirin and blend to combine. Transfer to a small saucepan and bring to a boil; cook briskly, stirring occasionally, for about 10 minutes until reduced to the consistency of molasses. Stir in the lime juice.
3. Spoon about half the sauce over the salmon and transfer to the oven. Cook 20 to 25 minutes until the fish flakes gently when prodded. Sprinkle scallion over the top and serve with rice and the remaining sauce on the side.



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## From Russia, with Love *(from Page 1)*

They are also sometimes called stacking dolls.

A staple of Russian handicraft, the dolls are believed to have originated in Japan. The industry began in the 1890s with an imported set of nested Samurai dolls, Danchenko says. The people of the city of Sergiyev Posad liked what they saw and began producing their own. “The Rooster Girl, a rather primitive style, was the first,” she says. She sells that 19th-century design and dozens of other styles.



Halina Danchenko

The city of Sergiyev Posad is still a hub of Russian dollmaking; techniques have changed little, with the figures made on a lathe from linden wood. They’re factory-made but hand-painted, Danchenko says.

At the same time, customer preferences have changed toward dolls that are unique, or different, Danchenko says. She carries traditional designs but also custom dolls, which increasingly include ethnic figures. “People may want a dark-faced doll or a Greek, Georgian or Hispanic doll,” she says. “It’s about their heritage.” Her most unusual request? Someone who wanted a ferret nesting doll.

Still, the public’s habits remain unpredictable. “Every year when you think you know what people want, they’ll switch!” Danchenko says. In 2016 matte-finish snowmen and Santa Clauses were popular. “This year everybody wants shellac,” she says.

She wouldn’t hazard a guess as to how many dolls line the shelves of her shop. A 10-year old boy attempted a count, but “he didn’t get very far!”

Dolls come in myriad designs and sizes, from a three-piece set for \$5.98 to a finely painted 30-doll set that sells for \$2,000. Many are in the \$10 to \$30 range. The artwork depicts everything from cosmonauts and astronauts, to presidents and czars, sports figures and Marvel Comics characters. Children are especially fond of cartoon character dolls, Danchenko says.

The largest set made for retail sale has 60 dolls. The outer one is about 3 feet tall,



It’s hard to miss the Nesting Dolls shop in Hughsonville.

Photos by M. Turton

she says.

Danchenko believes she knows at least part of what lies at the heart of the appeal. “Children love them because they’re tactile,” she says. “They like taking them apart, and then putting them back together. It’s like a little surprise. But it’s adults too. They love playing with them just as much.”

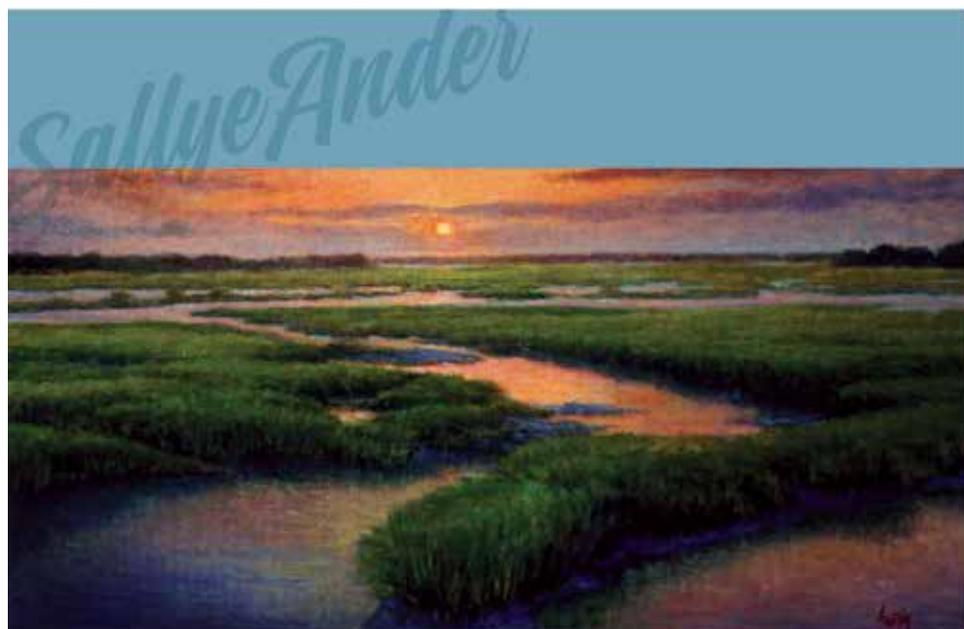
She says that, while she hasn’t been to Russia in 10 years, and misses it, she is able to converse with a surprising number of Russian-speaking customers who drop by, including members of the local Russian-American community. “They can’t believe there’s a Russian doll shop

out here in the boondocks!” she says.

Nesting Dolls is open daily from noon to 6 p.m., except for Christmas Day, through Jan. 1. It reopens in March or April.



Matryoshka dolls are hand-painted.



“Promising New Day” Oil on Canvas 24 x 12 Inches

## The Art of Rick Austin

SallyeAnder is excited to host Rick Austin’s first art show in the Hudson Valley. Rick, the older brother of our founder Gary, is a professional artist. Landscapes and seascapes are his preferred subject matter. He uses a unique centuries-old oil glazing technique—mixing oil paint with non-toxic lavender spike oil—allowing him to achieve atmospheric effects that we see in nature.

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**Over the Hump** *(from Page 11)*

bit of a perfectionist," he says. Eventually, he made 50 of the boxes in about 30 hours.

Corbett brought the prototype to a conference sponsored by the American Society of Hand Therapists in California and hopes to apply for a grant to develop it. Eventually she envisions it being a diagnostic aid to assist people with buttoning, using keys, putting coins in a meter and in movements such as swiping

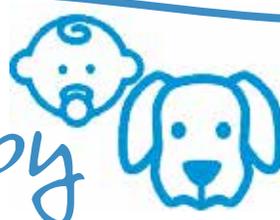
a phone.

The creative workshops, she says, help her "reframe things. Creativity includes rumination. These sessions demystify things and allow us to understand that stumbling blocks are part of the process."

The next Creative Completion workshop is at the Butterfield Library on Thursday, Dec. 21, followed by sessions on Jan. 4 and Jan. 18. For information, email Hutchinson at robin@artnology.us.



Creative Completion workshop attendees (left to right): Carol Filmanski; Pat Angerame; facilitator Robin Hutchinson; Sabrina Ortquist; Julie Corbett and Butterfield Library's Luann Morse. Bryan Ortquist stands at the back.

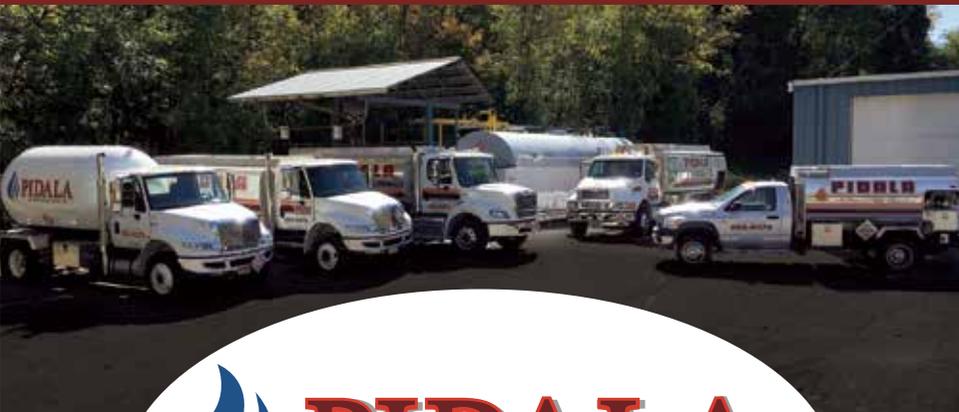


## Baby and Dog

**T**his feature is designed as a counter-weight to all the bad news in the world that weighs people down. We could share a photo of a baby, or a photo of a dog, but we are giving you both. How many newspapers can say that? Susan Hurd of Cold Spring shared this shot of her new grandson, Jonah, with his puppy and bodyguard, Henry. If you have a photo of a baby and a dog, submit it for consideration to editor@highlandscurrent.com.



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# Grocery Gallery

*Sixth-grade artists fill Foodtown windows*

By Alison Rooney

**F**oodtown has a new identity as an art gallery, with the first of four exhibits by Haldane sixth-graders enlivening the backs of the display cases that dominate the front windows.

Angela Branco, in her first year as Haldane's elementary and middle school art teacher, assembled 13 paintings and collages by her first-quarter students on a broad range of topics, from the supermarket itself to cows, dragons, Tic Tac containers, pre-adolescent questioning and "hodge-podge." Each work was done on a 12-by-18-inch sheet, and some were joined to make larger pieces. Most artists provided a statement about their work, and these are displayed, as well. Some students collaborated.

Branco says the only parameters were that the works must be flat and couldn't resemble advertising. New artwork will be hung at the store when Branco has her next group of sixth-graders, which is every 10 weeks.

According to Rachel Emig, a Haldane parent and Arts Booster club member who coordinated the installation, "it took some time to come up with a user-friendly design for that space, as the shelves [against the windows] are not able to be moved." The group went with a hook-and-clip system that makes it easy to change the panels.



Artwork by Haldane sixth-graders fills the front windows at Foodtown.

Photo by Linda Speziale

Besides donating its window space, Foodtown has been supportive of the project in other ways. For example, Paul Satkowski, the manager of the Cold Spring store, visited the school to be interviewed by the students.

"They were asked to treat this as a commission they were designing for a client," Branco explains. She sees the gallery as "a great way to get the artists into the real

world, and also to see there's an audience for their art.

"Most of these kids are ready to make work independently," she adds. "I'm trying to foster an 'It's your idea, run with it' approach from kindergarten on."

For Emig, the project is a "great example of how we can reclaim underutilized space to connect our students and our community."

# Sports as Art

*Rombout eighth-graders paint mural near gym*

By Tom Hotaling

**T**he entryway to the Rombout Middle School gym in Beacon got a colorful upgrade last month when eighth-grade students over five days painted a mural under the direction of Joseph Pimentel, an artist who lives in Newburgh.

The project was a collaboration between Pimentel, Principal Brian Soltish and science teachers Jeanette Lynch and Christina DeVall, who advise the student council, which wanted to fund a school beautification project.

The concept was to connect all the sports played at the school. The design uses silhouettes of athletes based on patterns and shapes that are connected by the bulldog mascot at its center. Pimentel created and drew the outlines and the students painted.

"When the students contribute, they leave a legacy before they move on," said Pimentel, who has collaborated with students on 20 other murals. "They can then look back and say 'I made that mark, I made that line, I painted that shape.'"

Soltish said the view of the mural through the glass walls and doors of the gym, "especially at night, is just spectacular."

One-third of the project was funded by the student council through proceeds from two dances. The remainder of the money came from a regional program that supports arts programming in Dutchess County schools.



Eighth-grade students at Rombout assemble in front of the mural.

Photo by Joseph Pimentel



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## COMMUNITY BRIEFS



Putnam County Executive MaryEllen Odell, center, meets with county interns in 2016. Applications for the 2018 program are due Jan. 31.

Photo provided

## Putnam Accepting Intern Applications

Deadline for PILOT program is Jan. 31

Putnam County students can apply for paid and unpaid summer internships in county government through the Putnam Invests in Leaders of Tomorrow (PILOT) Program, now in its fifth year, until Jan. 31.

Applicants must be undergraduate or graduate college students or high school students who are at least 16 years old and in their junior or senior years. College students should have at least a 3.0 grade-point average.

The 2018 program will run from May through August, depending on student availability. Interns typically work 28 hours per week. See [putnamcountyny.com/internapply](http://putnamcountyny.com/internapply).

## Kids in the Garden

Course open for grades 3-5

The Cornell Cooperative Extension will offer a two-year Junior Master Gardener program, with the first of eight sessions beginning in January in Brewster. Only 12 spots are available for Putnam County students in grades 3 to 5, so early registration is encouraged.

The fee is \$40 for 4H members or \$70 otherwise for the first session, on plant growth and development, which meets Monday evenings for nine weeks starting Jan. 22. See [putnam.cce.cornell.edu/events](http://putnam.cce.cornell.edu/events).

## Jazz in the Pulpit

Annual concert set for Dec. 16

The First Presbyterian Church of Philipstown will present its annual Jazz Nativity concert at 5:30 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 16. Tom McCoy, the church's music director, will play piano and direct Marty Eakins on vocals, Rob Scheps on sax and flute, Cameron Brown on bass and Mike Larocco on drums.

The concert is free but donations are

welcome. The performance will be followed by a wine and cheese reception. The church is located at 10 Academy St. in Cold Spring.

## Holiday Bird Counts

Citizen scientists needed

The Putnam Highlands Audubon Society has two upcoming events at which birdwatchers can help with the oldest citizen science project in North America. Join the Northern Westchester Count in Peekskill on Saturday, Dec. 16, or the Putnam County Count on Saturday, Dec. 30, or both.

Volunteers can participate when and for as long as they choose; the tally will begin at 5 p.m. and data submitted to Audubon will help create a snapshot of bird populations across the continent. See [putnam-highlandsaudubon.org](http://putnam-highlandsaudubon.org) or email Charlie Roberto at [chasrob@optonline.net](mailto:chasrob@optonline.net).

## Fellowship in Cold Spring

St. Mary's and synagogue to dedicate sign

St. Mary's Episcopal Church in Cold Spring is formalizing its 10-year relationship with the Philipstown Reform Synagogue by unveiling a new sign that brings the congregations together.

On Saturday, Dec. 16, at 4 p.m., a ceremony celebrating the partnership will be followed by a Hanukkah meal in the Parish Hall, and on Sunday, Dec. 17, at 10:30 a.m., Father Shane Scott-Hamblen and Rabbi Helaine Ettinger-Bloom will lead a joint service. "The message here is one of diversity and that we are all entitled to a place of worship," said Scott-Hamblen.

## Holidays on the Farm

Santa Claus to visit Dec. 16

Fishkill Farms will host Santa Claus at its annual Holiday Fair and Market from noon to 4 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 16. There will be a wreath-making workshop and ornament crafts for children. Artisans also will be offering tastings of cheese, bread, wine, hard cider, preserves

and maple syrup. Some activities require tickets. See [fishkillfarms.com](http://fishkillfarms.com).

## Dickens and Dinner

Hudson House Inn to host performance

A dinner-theater version of *A Christmas Carol* will be presented at the Hudson House Inn in Cold Spring at 7 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 22, with Victorian carolers. The performance is \$65 with a cash bar. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Call 845-265-9355 for reservations.

## Defend the Holidays

Send care packages to troops

Donate \$15 to send a care package to a member of the U.S. Armed Forces serving overseas as part of the Operation: Defend the Holidays program sponsored by the Putnam County government and sheriff's office. See [putnamcountyny.com/carepackage](http://putnamcountyny.com/carepackage) to order; then send payment to the County Executive, c/o Terry Oliver, 40 Gleneida Ave., Carmel, NY 10512. Call 845-808-1001 with questions. The deadline is Dec. 21.



Putnam County is organizing a drive to send care packages to troops serving overseas during the holidays.

## Beacon

### Human Rights Commission Openings

Dutchess County has three open seats

Dutchess County has three open seats for three-year terms on its Human Rights *(Continued on next page)*



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SAT 1:40 2:20 5:40 6:20 9:40 10:00  
SUN 12:20 1:00 4:00 4:40 8:00 8:20  
MON 3:40 4:00 7:00 7:20  
TUE 6:45 7:00, WED 1:00 4:40 8:20  
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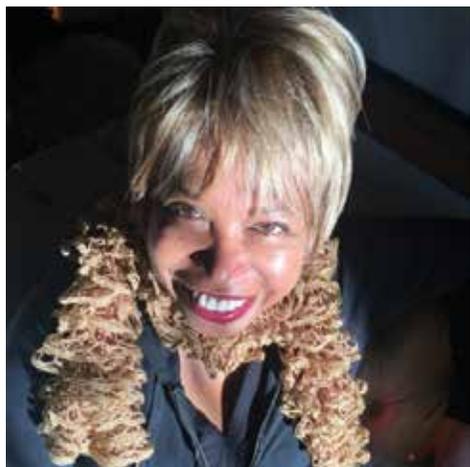
COMMUNITY BRIEFS (from previous page)

Commission. Applications are due by Dec. 29. See dutchessny.gov/humanrights.

### Razzle-Dazzle Holiday Revel

*Cabaret-style show at Howland Center*

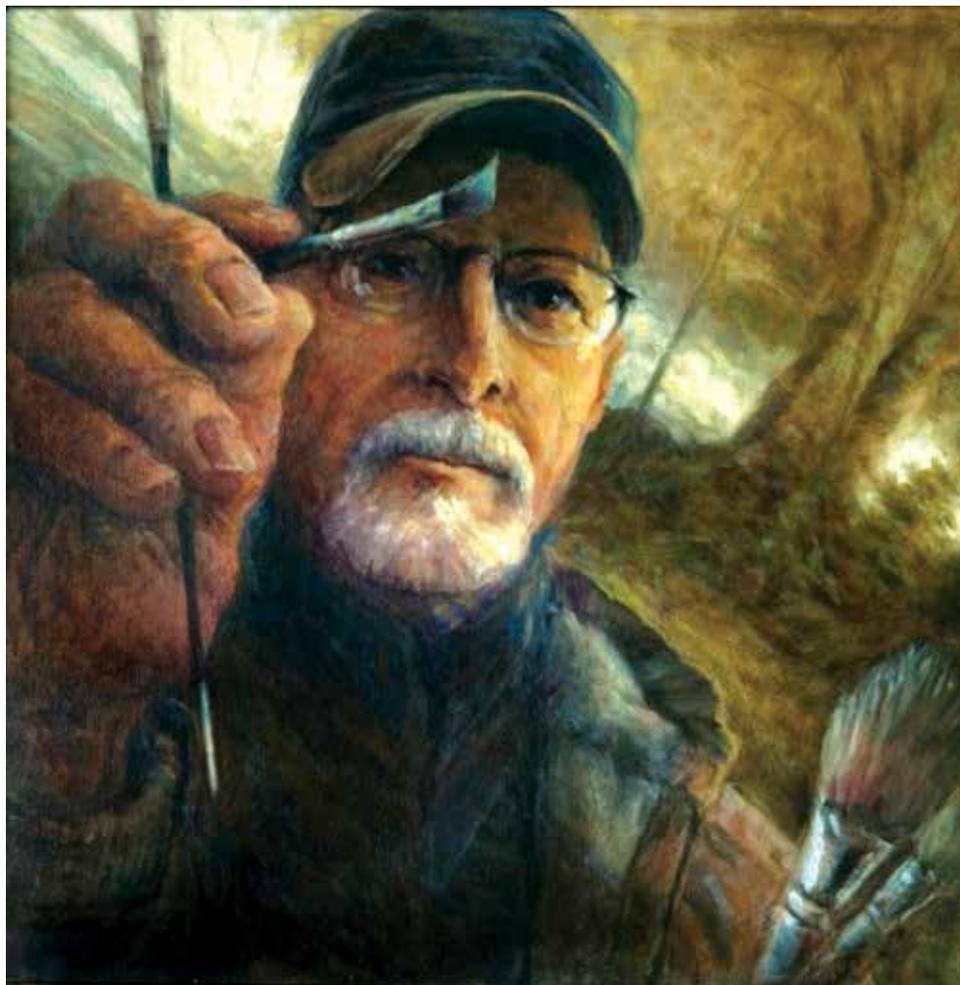
The Howland Cultural Center in Beacon will light up with holiday cheer for a cabaret-style show, *Deck the Halls at Café Sizzle*, on Sunday, Dec. 17, starting at 5 p.m. The performers, who will be led by maestro Tom McCoy, include Goldee Greene, Kids Korner, the Howland Wolves, Lydia Adams Davis and Russ Cusick. Admission is \$20 and refreshments will be served. Call 845-831-4988 to reserve tickets.



Goldee Greene is among the musicians who will perform at the Howland Cultural Center in a cabaret-style show on Dec. 17.

*Photo provided*

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



A self-portrait by Rick Austin, whose work will be on display at SallyeAnder in Beacon starting Dec. 22

*Image provided*

### Art Opening at SallyeAnder

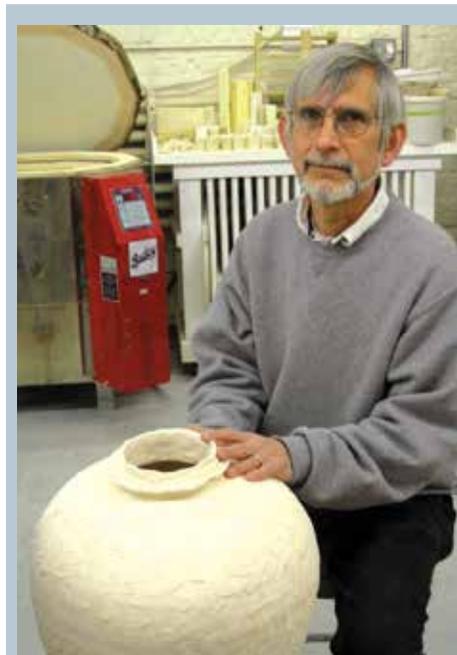
*Shop will host Dec. 22 reception*

SallyeAnder Skincare at 1 E. Main St. in Beacon will host a reception from 6 to

8 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 22, for an exhibit of landscapes and seascapes by Rick Austin called *Hudson Valley Winter Showcase*. Austin, known for his oil-glazing technique that recreates atmospheric effects, is making his Hudson Valley debut. His work will remain on display until Jan. 31.

### Share Your News With Our Readers

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



SPIN ART – Potter Joel Brown will demonstrate coil building and answer questions On Dec. 16 and 17 between noon and 5 p.m. at RiverWinds Gallery in Beacon.

*Photo provided*



A STAR IS BORN – Dan Baginski of the No Strings Marionette Co. presents a young singer to the audience on Dec. 10 during a show at the Howland Cultural Center in Beacon.

*Photo by Ross Corsair*



GOING BY FAST – The Bicycle Menorah in Beacon will be lit on Dec. 15 at 4:45 and then at 5:30 p.m. each night following through Dec. 19. *Photo provided*

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# Langley Speaks to Putnam Legislature

*Incoming sheriff promises review of spending, treatment programs*

By Holly Crocco

Members of the Putnam County Legislature welcomed Sheriff-Elect Robert Langley, a Democrat from Garrison, to the county seat in Carmel during their Dec. 11 Personnel Committee meeting.

Langley, a Carmel native and Mahopac High School graduate, defeated four-term Sheriff Donald Smith by 324 votes in the Nov. 7 election. He will be sworn in during a ceremony at 5 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 29, at the Historic Courthouse in Carmel.

"Many of us have not personally met you, so it's a pleasure to meet you," said Legislature Chairwoman Ginny Nacerino (R-Patterson).

Langley updated the lawmakers on his priorities for 2018, which include possibly making budget cuts.

"The Sheriff's Department could save the community their dollars," he said. "I don't like throwing money away any more than anyone else."

In addition, Langley said he's looking to achieve state and national accreditation for the Putnam County Correctional Facility and the sheriff's Civil Division. He called this recognition a prestigious achievement, and said it includes meeting requirements related to rules and procedures, audits and conditions at the jail.

As part of the process, Langley said he would like a financial audit of the Civil Division, in addition to a procedural audit.

"There's a lot of money that goes into the Civil Division that has to be accounted for, and we want to make sure everything is aboveboard," he said. Langley said he is interviewing candidates to lead the Civil Division and the Bureau of Criminal Investigations.

Langley also thanked the Legislature and the county executive for initiating a lawsuit against pharmaceutical companies that make and distribute opioid pain killers. The war on addiction, he said, is a battle he intends to wage.

"Right now, there's no program in place in the jail," said the future sheriff. "I've already discussed with the person who will be taking over the jail to immediately implement some program to address inmates that come into the system as addicts, to have a treatment program so that they're not thrown back out onto the street, only to repeat offend and wind up back in jail. That's costing all of us money."

With the start of his term two weeks away, Langley said he hopes to have the support of county lawmakers.

"I'm looking toward working together with each and every member of the

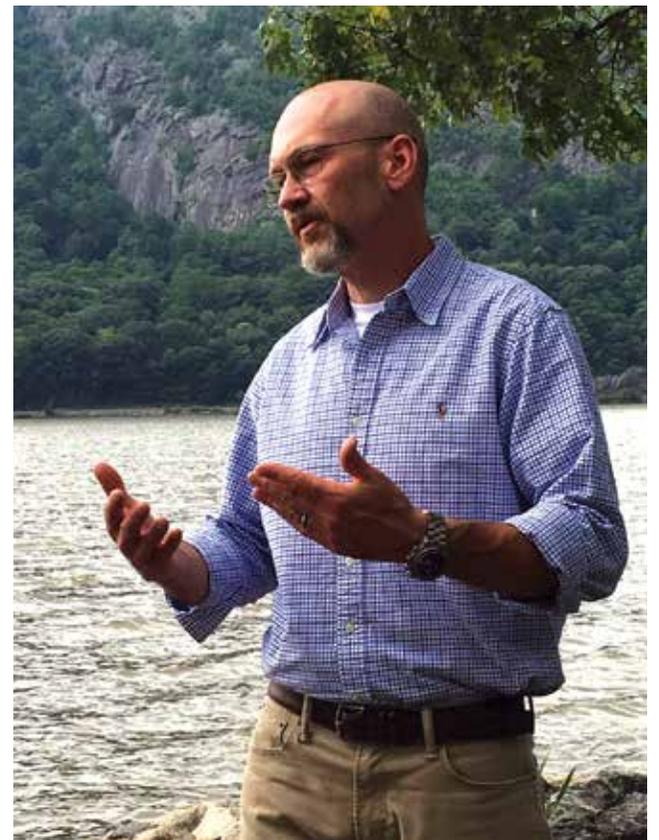
Legislature and the county executive to achieve these goals," he said.

Legislator William Gouldman (R-Putnam Valley) told Langley: "I wish you good luck. I'm sure you'll do a great job."

Nacerino said that as 2018 progresses, lawmakers will address the changes and concerns proposed by the incoming sheriff.

"We have the same values as you do and I'm glad that you spoke to them," she said. "We're looking forward to working in concert with you to save the taxpayers in any

*"The Sheriff's Department could save the community their dollars. I don't like throwing money away any more than anyone else."*



Robert Langley Jr., the newly elected Putnam County sheriff, during a campaign appearance in Cold Spring

File photo

way that we can, without compromising safety or efficiencies within our county."

A former deputy sheriff, Langley served in the Putnam County Sheriff's Department from 1984 to 2007 as a criminal investigator in forensics and identification, as well as in the K-9 unit. He also served in the Mahopac, Garrison and Continental Village volunteer fire departments.

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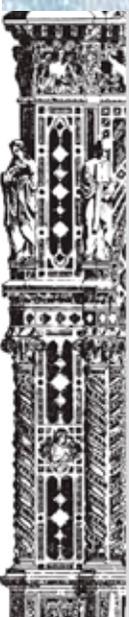
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## Sports

### Boys' Basketball Preview

By Leigh Alan Klein

#### Beacon

On Dec. 12, the Beacon boys' basketball team lost at Ardsley, 73-65, dropping its record to 0-2. The Bulldogs battled foul trouble but came back from a double-digit deficit late in the game.

Last season Beacon finished 8-14 after its first seven wins were forfeited due to an ineligible player. This year the team is adjusting to the departure of key contributors Alex Benson, Andre Davis, Dionte Komisar and Branden Evans.

Beacon's starting guards are juniors Aaron Davis and Manny Garner, who scored 19 in the Bulldogs' opening loss at Putnam Valley on Dec. 6. He was saddled with foul trouble against Ardsley, limiting his contribution to five points.

Davis had 23 points against Ardsley, including 11 in the fourth quarter as Beacon clawed back into the game.



Demetrius Galloway (23) drives around a defender during Beacon's game at Putnam Valley on Dec. 6. For more photos, see [highlandscurrent.com](http://highlandscurrent.com).

Photo by Richard Kuperberg Sr.

Senior Jemond Galloway controlled the paint against Ardsley and will be counted on to continue to do so. A standout last season, Galloway scored 20 and will be a focal point in opponents' scouting reports. Nursing a one-point lead at the half, the Panthers went into a zone that limited Galloway's touches.

The challenge Beacon faces is whether the team will play fast, limiting Galloway's impact, or settle into a half-court set to get the ball inside for post-up opportunities. There are few players in Section 1 with his size.

Down 51-39 after the third quarter, Beacon was forced to extend the defense and look for three-point shots, which took Galloway out of the flow.

Senior DaSean Turner is another important player for Beacon. He struggled against Ardsley but scored four points in the fourth.

Coach Scott Timpano says the teams to beat in the league this season will be Hendrick Hudson and Poughkeepsie. "We want all of our players to leave the program as better people than when they entered," he says. "If a push to the sectional final happens along the way, we will gladly embrace it."

The Bulldogs play Woodlands tonight (Dec. 15) at 6:15 p.m. in the Terrence Wright Memorial Basketball Tournament at Beacon High School. The consolation and finals are at 10 a.m. and noon on Dec. 16.



Manny Garner (11) of Beacon looks for an open teammate while a defender appears to yell at the ball during the Bulldogs' loss at Putnam Valley.

Photo by Richard Kuperberg Sr.

#### Haldane

Two years removed from consecutive appearances in the state Class C finals, and following a 7-14 season in which the Blue Devils lost to Hamilton in OT in the sectional quarterfinals, Coach Joe Virgadamo is hoping for "tough, scrappy and disciplined defense" from his 2017-18 squad.

The Blue Devils (2-1) opened the season with a 50-46 loss at Dobbs Ferry on Dec. 7; easily handled Keio Academy of New York at home on Dec. 11, 62-38; returned to Dobbs Ferry on Dec. 13 to defeat Children's Village, 69-42, and next host Solomon Schechter at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 19.

Virgadamo, a Haldane graduate who is in his 12th season as head coach, lost center Blaine Fitzgerald to graduation but returns a solid core with senior Nick Dipalo, sophomore Matt Champlin and sophomore Alex Kubik.

His goal, as it is every year, is to get the team to the Westchester County Center for the sectional finals, although in 2018, at least, the tournament will be held at Pace University. Last season was the first time in nine years the Blue Devils did not make the trip. "We need to get back," Virgadamo said. "Anything can happen there."

Although he notes the school has a strong junior varsity program, he says it's important that young players learn man-to-man defense. "The focus should be on fundamentals," he says. "Most players aren't where they need to be. Athletes can work on their skills by themselves. There are so many resources for them now on the internet, there are no excuses."



Matt Champlin scores in Haldane's win over Keio Academy on Dec. 11. For more photos, see [highlandscurrent.com](http://highlandscurrent.com).

Photo by Ross Corsair

### Varsity Scoreboard

#### Boys' Basketball

Putnam Valley 62, Beacon 51  
Manny Garner (19), Aaron Davis (10)  
Ardsley 73, Beacon 65  
Aaron Davis (23),  
Jemond Galloway (20)  
Dobbs Ferry 50, Haldane 46  
Haldane 62, Keio 38  
Haldane 69, Children's Village 42

#### Girls' Basketball

John Jay 58, Beacon 26  
Enita Rodriguez (9)  
Irvington 53, Haldane 20  
**Boys' Swimming**  
Harrison 48, Beacon 46  
**Girls' Bowling**  
Beacon 7, Ketcham 0  
Selena Virtuoso (266; 687)

#### Boys' Bowling

Ketcham 5, Beacon 2  
Matt Maffei (244; 679)

#### Indoor Track

Section 1 Kick-off, Dec. 9  
Beacon Top Finishers  
Girls' Triple Jump  
1. Jummie Akinwunmi (34-9.75)

Boys' 1,600-meter Finals  
1. Ryan Cory (4:42.34)

Boys' 55-meter Hurdles  
3. Ethan Burgos (8.12)

Boys' 4x200 Relay  
1. Beacon (3:38.85)

Section 1 Kick-off, Dec. 10  
Haldane Top Finishers

Boys' Long Jump  
3. Jeonghyeon Park (19-8.5)

Boys' Shot Put  
3. Trevor Earle (35-0.5)

Girls' 1,000-meter Run  
8. Maura Kane-Seitz (3:24.89)

Girls' Long Jump  
8. Brittany Gona (14-1)