

The HIGHLANDS Current



Painting with Plants
Page 11

MAY 11, 2018

161 MAIN ST., COLD SPRING, N.Y. | highlandscurrent.com



SWEET TEETH — The annual K104.7 Cupcake Festival took place on Main Street in Beacon on May 5. There were an estimated 20,000 cupcakes to choose from, but these girls were happy with ice cream. For more photos, see highlandscurrent.com.

Photo by Skip Pearlman

Rise in 'Vaping' Causes Alarm

Scentless e-cigarettes seen as health threat

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

From the hallways at Haldane to Philipstown Town Hall and the Putnam County Legislature, electronic cigarettes, or “vaping” devices, have raised alarms — and calls for action.

E-cigarettes turn liquid containing nicotine, fruity flavors or marijuana into an inhalable vapor. Heated by batteries, e-cigs take various shapes and can resemble pens, computer flash drives, lipstick and phones. They're so popular that *to juul* — the brand name of a popular e-cig — has become slang.

The devices are sold online and at smoke or “vape” shops. A shop opened and shut in Cold Spring this past winter, and two op-

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Part 2:

Rising Waters

“The sea is a cruel master, and she hath taught me prudence.”

~ from *Blackbeard, Buccaneer* (1922)

Everyone loves being near the water, as long as it's not over your head. The coasts are also the most densely developed areas of the U.S., and the most vulnerable to rapid climate change due to global warming.

That warming is caused by the increasing amount of carbon dioxide (CO₂) in the atmosphere, which traps heat and has been melting ice at the poles faster than scientists anticipated, adding to the volume of the oceans. The heat is also increasing the temperature of the water, causing it to expand.

Together these factors have pushed sea levels up about 8 inches since 1900. That doesn't sound like much, but it's 8 inches closer to overrunning the banks, and ocean water doesn't recede like

storm surge. More important, in the past 20 years, the sea has risen roughly twice as fast as it did in the previous 100.

“We're pretty much locked in at 2 to 3 feet of sea-level rise in this century,” says Radley Horton, a climate scientist at Columbia University who lives in Cold Spring. “That's the best-case scenario. The further we push the system, the bigger potential for surprises, such as 6 to 8 feet.”

The rise will have profound effects on New York City. The Highlands, which are also located on the ocean (the lower part of the Hudson is an arm of the Atlantic, with tides and seawater) will likely also see dramatic changes, including more frequent flooding from storm surge and the eventual submersion of the Beacon, Cold Spring and Garrison waterfronts and Metro-North tracks.

In this, the second part of our series on climate change in the Highlands, we will look at how the Metropolitan Transportation Authority plans to protect our access to New York City, whether the dirt roads of Philipstown will survive, how a Cold Spring architect is designing homes to withstand climate change, the extreme storms that may soon pass for normal, and how we will deliver the runoff from frequent and heavy downpours to the river without also sending our sewage.

(To Page 12)

Villanova Seeks Scuccimarra's Legislature Seat; Denbaum Joins Race Against Odell

Challengers could force Republican primaries

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

Criticizing Putnam County's current Republican leadership, GOP dissidents recently launched campaigns to oust County Executive Mary-

Ellen Odell, their party's flagbearer, and District 1 Legislator Barbara Scuccimarra, who represents Philipstown.

On Monday (May 7), Patty Villanova, a professional paralegal, Putnam Valley resident, and Cold Spring shopkeeper, announced her candidacy for Scuccimarra's seat.

Three weeks ago, Paul Denbaum, a lawyer and member of the Kent Town Board, declared his candidacy for county execu-

tive. He became the second Kent official in the race. Kent Supervisor Maureen Fleming, a Democrat, announced her campaign on March 9.

The primary election, if necessary, would take place Sept. 13.

Scuccimarra on Tuesday (May 8) gave mixed signals about her plans. She said mid-day that while close to a decision, “I'm not yet” sure whether to run again.

“Let me think about this and I'll get back to you.” But before the day ended, her Facebook page displayed a notice of a campaign-launch fundraising cocktail party on June 2. She did not respond to email and phone requests for clarification.

District 1 covers Philipstown and part of Putnam Valley. Like Scuccimarra and Odell, the other eight legislators are Republicans (along (Continued on Page 3

5 Five Questions: WENDY CREIGHTON

By Michael Turton

Wendy Creighton is editor of *The Fassifern Guardian* in Boonah, Queensland, Australia. Like *The Current*, it is a weekly newspaper with a circulation of about 3,500. I stopped in for a chat last month while visiting my son.

How would you describe Boonah politics?

This is a conservative community that has been a safe seat for the Liberal Party, both state and federal, for a long time. In Australia, the Liberal Party is actually conservative. The Labor Party is liberal. We're your Iowa. The biggest issue here is the tax rate.

What are the major environmental issues?

Our economic base is farm production, especially vegetables and beef cattle. But this is also an area of great biodiversity. We're still arguing over climate change and to some extent I can understand that; local knowledge has been passed down through five generations of farmers.

Fracking for gas was once an issue but we managed to fight that off. Flash floods are a concern. The most recent one killed five people.

How about sports?

Rugby League is most popular, as opposed to Union League or Australian Rules Football. Soccer is also big. Cricket used to be huge. There was a time when every district had a team, but not so much now.

You've been the paper's editor for 33 years. Is it difficult to report the news when you know everyone?

It's easier. You build trust. You build a network. The challenge is finding stories and not using "filler."



Wendy Creighton

Photo by M. Turton

I love your accent. Why is it so strong?

I don't have an accent. You do.

Notes from Beacon City Council

Short-term rentals, Fishkill water

By Jeff Simms

The Beacon City Council will discuss Airbnb and other short-term rentals at least once more before it con-

siders regulation.

Many residents have said they oppose the traffic and noise that rentals may bring, while others, including many homeowners who offer short-term rentals through online services, asked the council to regulate the industry in a way that won't shut them down.

More than 9,000 visitors stayed in Bea-

con at Airbnb rentals last year, according to the firm.

While the city can regulate short-term rentals through its zoning laws, it can't change New York State building codes, which require that rentals meet fire-safety standards and could force many of Beacon's hosts to make costly upgrades or stop renting.

"The one big catch, and the one that will make it unaffordable for people, is the way to make [a rental] conform to New York State building code," said councilmember George Mansfield at the April 30 meeting. "That little paragraph [in the proposed Beacon regulation, referencing the state code] is where the money is."

Mayor Randy Casale countered that complying with state law is one of the costs of doing business for any entrepreneur.

At a future workshop, the council will continue to discuss the issue, including the possible addition of a grace period if a law is adopted and how to address homeowners who rent out portions of multifamily dwellings.

In other business, the council at its May 7 meeting approved a two-year agreement with the Village of Fishkill to provide Bea-

con with up to 1.2 million gallons of water each day. The water would come at the same rate the village charges its residents, currently \$2.15 per 1,000 gallons.

The arrangement is similar to a longer contract between the municipalities that expired earlier in this decade and had been continued on a year-to-year basis. The new agreement is a placeholder while Fishkill and Beacon negotiate a long-term pact, City Administrator Anthony Ruggiero said.

The council also on May 7 approved an agreement with Central Hudson Gas and Electric that will grant the company an easement along the Route 52 edge of Memorial Park, where the utility plans to relocate poles. The easement won't affect the pavilion or playgrounds at the park, Ruggiero said. The utility also will replace two trees that need to be taken down, he said.

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Villanova Seeks Scuccimarra's Legislature Seat; Denbaum Joins Race Against Odell

(From Page 1)

with the county clerk and county district attorney.)

Villanova, in a news release and interview, blasted the county's



Paul Denbaum

Photo provided



Patty Villanova

File photo

Republican "establishment," which she said includes Scuccimarra, charging that it has shirked responsibility for economic development and infrastructure support.

"The Putnam County government is broken and has been for quite a while," she said, accusing the incumbent of holding "a no-show job where she collects a paycheck while pretending she's serving the needs of taxpayers. She's not doing her job. We're not getting anything" to assist with tourism, Main Street revitalization, or other needs, Villanova said.

"I will do whatever it takes to get us the services and financial support we are entitled to receive," she said. "The legislators forget that this is our money they are dealing with."

Scuccimarra declined comment. "I don't want to compete with Patty Villanova in the newspapers right now," she said in her mid-day conversation with *The Current*.

Villanova foresees opposition to her candidacy as a Republican and said she is exploring options for running as a Democrat, a Conservative, or an independent. She said that while she's a lifelong Republican, she has "trashed the Republicans more than anybody." She added that supporters of all affiliations, including Democrats and Conservatives, and some "pretty high up" in party hierarchies, urged her to run. Public service "is not about what letter you have after your name," she said.

In taking on Odell, Denbaum cited his efforts on the Kent Town Board to fight tax increases and craft budgets that avoid them. (Fleming, his fellow Kent Town Board member and county executive candidate, claimed the same thing in announcing her campaign.)

As another accomplishment, Denbaum mentioned promoting term limits, "ensuring that Kent will be a run by a citizen government, not by career politicians." He slammed Putnam County's administration for what he termed "pet projects" that

"divert important county resources from our roads and infrastructure at the expense of our tax bills." He added that "until we have a county executive who will think big and share a vision for our future, we will never realize our true potential."

Denbaum drew attention beyond Kent last year for sponsoring a resolution, approved 4-1, declaring the town would assist federal immigration officers and share the immigration status of anyone, if asked. Fleming cast the sole "no" vote.

At one point, Denbaum described the legislation as necessary because a "recent action of a neighboring municipality [Philipstown] encouraging the safe harbor of illegal aliens who have committed crimes puts the safety of the residents of Kent in jeopardy." A month earlier the Philipstown Town Board had adopted an "equal protection" measure calling for fair treatment of all residents, regardless of immigration status.

Odell's campaign could not be reached for reaction to Denbaum's statements.

The day Denbaum announced his candidacy, Odell toured the site of the senior center at the Butterfield site in Cold Spring for a photo opportunity with labor union representatives who endorsed her re-election bid.

County candidates affiliated with a party can begin collecting signatures on nominating petitions on June 5. Independent candidates can begin July 10. A Republican candidate for county executive needs to collect at least 1,103 signatures from registered Republican voters and a Republican candidate for the District 1 seat must collect 101, according to the county Board of Elections.



ALL CLEAR — Krista Birenkrant, senior grants manager for Riverkeeper, assisted at Little Stony Point on May 5 during the seventh annual Riverkeeper Sweep of the Hudson. For more photos, see highlandscurrent.com.

Photo by Ross Corsair

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6. PRUDENTIAL, 7. UNRAVELING

The HIGHLANDS Current

**NYFA* Winner: 33
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*New York Press Association, 2013 - 2017



**NNA* Winner:
9 Better
Newspaper
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*National Newspaper Association, 2016

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Haldane endorsements

I am writing in support of incumbent candidate Margaret Parr for trustee on the Haldane school board.

Margaret has been a member of our community for more than 25 years, has two children who attended Haldane from kindergarten through high school, and has come to know many of us through her roles as parent, volunteer, friend, PTA president and school board member.

School board service is a multilayered endeavor with a steep learning curve. Margaret's service over the past three years provides her with a valuable asset to our school community: experience. She understands what is required of and how to best serve as a board member. Margaret has the knowledge of how school budgets work, the integrity one must keep when dealing with confidential matters, a clear understanding of the district's strategic plan and what is required to keep it moving forward.

She has a particular interest in policy review, which is one of the board's most important responsibilities, and has been a true leader within that challenging process. Margaret played an integral role in the hiring of our new superintendent, Philip Benante, and is committed to ensuring a smooth transition into leadership for him. This is one of the many reasons Margaret is running for re-election, and in my mind, is a perfect example of her ongoing and unfaltering commitment to our district. Please join me in voting for Margaret Parr on May 15.

Laura Hammond, *Cold Spring*
Hammond is president of the Haldane school board.

It's heartening to see so many candidates vying for the open seats on the Haldane school board. There was a time, not long ago, when you had to beg someone to run. It's a challenging position with no pay, no benefits, and seemingly few rewards. Kudos to those who have thrown their hats into the ring.

Having served on the Haldane school board for 10 years, including five as president, I know what it takes to run the

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters to the Editor

The Current welcomes letters to the editor on its coverage and local issues. Submissions are selected by the editor to provide a variety of opinions and voices, and all are subject to editing for accuracy, clarity and length. We ask that writers remain civil and avoid personal attacks. Letters may be emailed to editor@highlandscurrent.com or mailed to Editor, The Highlands Current, 161 Main St., Cold Spring, NY 10516. The writer's full name, village or city, and email or phone number must be included, but only the name and village or city will be published.

school smoothly and efficiently. I know the importance of community engagement, sincerity, honesty, and the ability to understand the need to balance taxpayers concerns with education. There is a need to compromise and the need for board members to research options and verse themselves on the issues at hand.

I would guess most voters, like myself, do not know all of the candidates and will rely on friends, brief bios, and perhaps the PTA's candidate forum to make a decision. That said, I would like to encourage everyone to vote for John Hedlund, a friend whom I respect greatly and whom I know will do a great job as trustee.

John has all the attributes needed to be a successful board member and to move Haldane in a positive direction. He's sincere, honest, intelligent, hardworking, approachable, even-tempered and a great listener. John understands the needs of the community as well as the educational needs of Haldane. There is no doubt that John will give 100 percent to the job and will be working for all residents.

Like many, I have concerns regarding the direction Haldane has gone over the past few years. I believe we need a strong board with members willing to work collaboratively on renewing community confidence.

Please join me on May 15 and vote for John Hedlund. He's the most qualified for the job and he will truly represent all residents.

Dave Merandy, *Cold Spring*
Merandy is the mayor of Cold Spring.

I have known Laura O'Connell for a number of years and worked with her when she was employed at Columbia University and then Sarah Lawrence. During

all of this time I found her to be both very intelligent and incisive. She has always been able to get at the essence of an issue and had the tenacity to follow up on things to their conclusion.

She would be an excellent member of the Haldane Board of Education. I feel she will help the board develop reasonable and innovative solutions to the problems facing the district. I recommend a vote for her.

Al Zgolinski, *Cold Spring*

**For more Haldane endorsements,
see highlandscurrent.com.**

Beacon endorsements

There are probably few people around Beacon who are not familiar with Ali Muhammad not only from his tenure on the City Council but his public service projects and initiatives: Unity in the Community conversations, Pop Warner Youth Football, Terrance Wright Memorial Basketball League, community cleanup projects in Beacon, Poughkeepsie and Newburgh, and frequent Beacon High School guest speaker.

If you know Ali at all, you know he is authentically interested and committed to the best outcome for any endeavor with which he is involved. He's a networker who actively seeks to gather information on issues so that he may be fully informed and aware of the concerns of others.

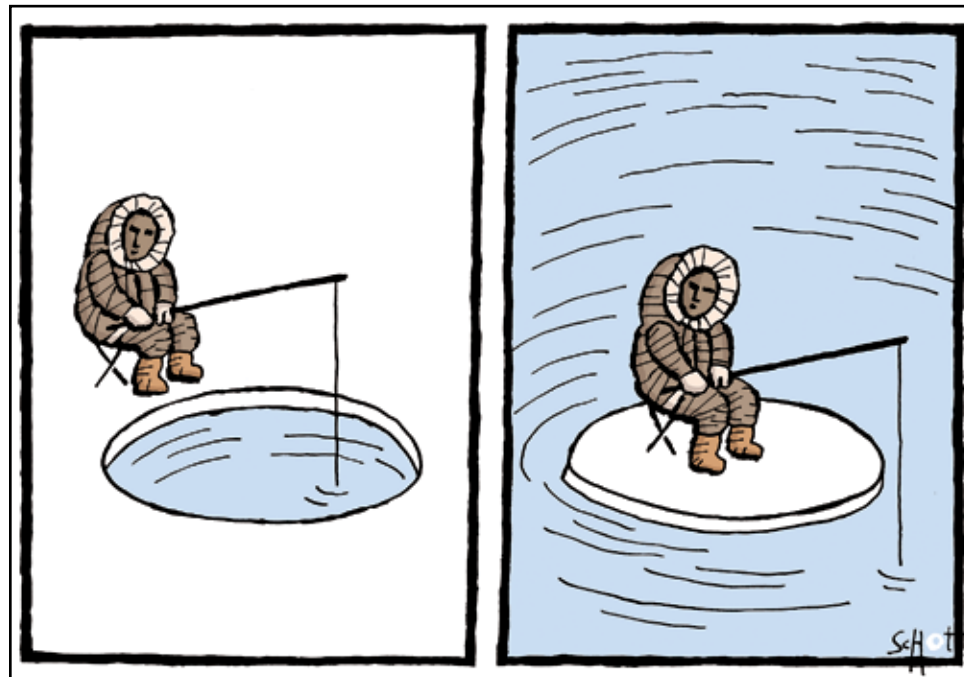
Ali is seeking a seat on the Beacon school board on May 15. He has experience with budget management and organizing and is connected with people of virtually every demographic group in Beacon that the school board impacts — youth, parents, empty-nesters, longtime residents and those who have more recently chosen to make Beacon home. He is an accessible, sincere listener who values input and collaboration in order to have a balanced perspective.

A lifelong resident, Ali brings with him a love of our community, as well as a genuine respect for its heritage and its future. I have known Ali for many years, and as a former board member, educator and Beacon resident, I feel Ali is an ideal candidate for this position.

Betsy Denis, *Beacon*

Please vote in the Beacon school board election on May 15. I am supporting Christine Galbo.

Christine has been a dedicated special education teacher for more than 20 years, a former president of South Avenue PTA, and a Girl Scout leader for 11 years. She is a good listener and an independent thinker. Christine has no agenda except the best edu- (Continued on next page)



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR (from previous page)

cation for all students of our district. She will also make sure money is well spent. Please give Christine your support.

Randy Casale, *Beacon*
Casale is the city's mayor.

Christine Galbo has been and will be a thoughtful and effective member of the Beacon school board. She is a special education teacher, a foster parent and provides learning opportunities for our youth. I trust she will be a listener to mul-

multiple viewpoints, and find ways of accommodating the better and more inclusive views.

Voters can vote for three candidates, and one of my votes will go to Christine.

Lee Kyriacou, *Beacon*
Kyriacou is a Beacon councilman.

As a parent with children in the Beacon school district, a former PTA president, a volunteer for Advocates for Beacon Schools and Wee Play Community Project,

and a former special education teacher, I have watched the district grow and flourish with the addition of new board members, a new superintendent and an increase in parent partnerships with the schools and the community.

I believe that Elissa Betterbid, James Case-Leal and Flora Stadler will keep this momentum going by focusing on the strengths of the teachers, utilizing resources to increase student achievement and increasing stakeholder participation.

Elissa Betterbid comes to us as a mother of three children at the three building levels, as an advocate for teachers, and is someone who sees Beacon as "on the rise."

James Case-Leal comes from a family of educators and is interested in hands-on learning. He wants to make the emotional and physical safety of students a priority.

Flora Stadler has a strong background in community service and has worked hard to create partnerships. In addition to her focus on increasing nutrition standards throughout the district, she has served on the South Avenue PTA and volunteered with Advocates for Beacon Schools and Wee Play.

Please vote for Betterbid, Case-Leal and Stadler on May 15.

Clarice Allee, *Wappingers Falls*
(Continued on Page 6)

Corrections & Updates

In the May 4 issue, we stated there were six candidates for two open seats on the Haldane school board ("Haldane Board Candidates: What I Will Do"). In fact, there are five. No one is missing.

In the May 4 issue, we quoted David Gelber saying that episodes of *Years of Living Dangerously* had been viewed more than 120 million times online in the last three months of 2017 ("How Hot? How Soon?: Runaway Train"). In fact, he was referring to short-form videos posted at yearsoflivingdangerously.com.

We overlooked a plant sale in our list in the May 4 issue. On Friday, May 18, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Saturday, May 19, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., the Dutchess County Master Gardener Volunteers and Cornell Cooperative Extension staff will hold a sale at the Dutchess County Farm & Home Center in Millbrook.

In the May 4 report on two meetings of the Cold Spring Village Board, we reported that the board had increased the base salary for village workers from \$15 to \$18. In fact, the increase has only been proposed and would only apply to village laborers who have commercial driver's licenses. We also reported that the sewer budget includes an increase of \$10 per quarter per unit, but this had not yet been adopted by the board. However, there were no public comments about the proposal at a hearing held April 24.

In our story about the *Hello, Dolly!* festival, we stated that it begins on Saturday, May 12, with the opening of an exhibit at the Putnam History Museum in Cold Spring. The preview that day is only for museum members. The exhibit opens to the public on Sunday, May 13.

PHILIPSTOWN PLANNING BOARD

Workshop – May 17, 2018

The Philipstown Planning Board will hold a Scoping Session on May 17, 2018 at the Old VFW Hall, 34 Kemble Ave., Cold Spring, New York at 7:30 p.m. for the following application:

Hudson Highlands Reserve, NYS Route 9 & Horton Road, Cold Spring, NY

Dated at Philipstown, New York, this 3rd day of May, 2018.
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- NO REDUCTION in Special Education Staff/Services
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- Preserves MS/HS DCI Courses
- School Peace Officer/Equipment to Enhance Security
- Maintains Athletic Trainer Position
- Continues Technology Support/Access
- Proposition #2 – Bus purchase: One 30-passenger bus. \$55,000 to be funded through borrowing (Bond Anticipation Note)
- Proposition #3 – Re-Establish Capital Reserve for 10-year term with a maximum amount of \$1M. Established in 2008, it is expiring and must be renewed in order to continue its use.

Vote May 15

Polls open 7 am to 9 pm

Haldane School Room 105, 15 Craigside Drive

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from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m.
in the GUFS Library.

ONWARD!

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR (from previous page)

Breakneck breakdown

This is one of the most depressing articles I've read in a long time ("What's Up with Breakneck?," May 4), and it completely fails to mention anything other than the most mundane and vacuous comments on a situation at Breakneck Ridge, which is completely out-of-control and which needs radical responses.

While I heartily commend the fine work of the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference in its attempts to put a tourniquet on this surging onslaught of people to one small locale, it and the state parks department, Metro-North, and the state Transportation Department do not seem to understand it is far past the time for coming up with mediocre solutions to huge problems.

There should be no parking whatsoever on Route 9D. The Mohonk Preserve and state agencies solved a similarly dangerous and primitive situation when they got hundreds of rock climbers' cars off Route 44-55 in New Paltz into discreet, paid parking lots.

Why we can't do that here is not even being talked about by the various agencies. Duh! And there's no mention in the article of the effect all these people have on wildlife, nor of their toilet habits, nor of Metro-North's making lots of money with the transport of hundreds of people on busy weekends to the trailhead and then letting all the other folks handle the

impossible overflow.

The Current report gives us pabulum and no insights or contrary opinions or comments on a situation long gone bad. It's more of the same, from the same agencies, with predictably timid, milquetoast ideas for remediation. There are simply too many people coming to Breakneck and the numbers need to be radically cut.

We have tens of thousands of acres of parkland and hiking trails in our area, and almost unlimited opportunities for people who want to get outside. It's time for tough love. Get these crowds and these cars out of here and spread them out to dozens and dozens of other trails in our area. And no parking on 9D!

Pete Salmansohn, *Garrison*

Senior center redux

Putnam County's lease for the senior center planned at the Butterfield site in Cold Spring is a sweetheart deal for a campaign donor to County Executive MaryEllen Odell ("Putnam OKs Money for Senior Center," May 4).

Under bizarre lease terms that since April 2017 have had the county paying for an unfinished space it cannot occupy, we have already given the developer \$132,000 in rent and common-area maintenance fees. Taxpayers have also given him \$61,000 in "extra first-year rent." What this additional money is for has not been revealed. That's nearly \$200,000 to date in public money for rent alone.



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School Vote: Tuesday, May 15

Polls open 7 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Haldane

Middle school, Room 105

\$24 million budget

Vote for up to two board candidates: Keith Anderson, John Hedlund, Sandy McKelvey, Laura O'Connell, Margaret Parr

Garrison

School library

\$10.9 million budget

Vote for up to three board candidates: David Gelber, James Hoch, Raymond O'Rourke

Beacon

Beacon High School (city residents)
Glenham Elementary School (all others)

\$70.5 million budget

Vote for up to three board candidates: Elissa Betterbid, James Case-Leal, Joshua Galarza, Christine Galbo, Ali Muhammad, Flora Stadler

In addition to rent, the public has paid estimated taxes of \$30,000, and will continue to do so each year of the lease term. This makes no sense for a public facility. All told, Odell has committed taxpayers to a triple-net lease that will cost us \$2.85 million over a 15-year term. And that \$2.85 million doesn't include any build-out and furnishing of the space — we still need to create the senior center. Our \$2.85 million doesn't get us any closer to the facilities our seniors have been promised.

Butterfield's owner is Peekskill developer Paul Guillaro. His Unicorn Contracting has been a significant donor to Odell's campaigns. In addition to the rent he will be paid, the build-out of his space will be taxpayer-funded — the public will pay to increase his property's value.

No one would tolerate this kind of waste in the private sector. If this deal were being made in the business world, the negotiating parties for the tenant would lose

their jobs. The public deserves the same accountability for their hard-earned money. This is nothing but a sweetheart deal.

On Tuesday, May 1, the County Legislature approved another \$300,000 of public funds to cover a shortfall to pay selected contractor Key Construction Services, purchase kitchen equipment, furniture and fixtures and add in a 5 percent "contingency fee." This brings the public's out-of-pocket costs for the retrofitting of the Lahey Pavilion to more than \$1.5 million. Between the lease and the build-out, the public will pay more than \$4 million and have no asset at the end of the lease term.

No sensible business owner would take on this bloated project. Butterfield is a bad deal for thousands of taxpayers and a great deal for a single campaign donor. Putnam residents deserve better.

Maureen Fleming, *Kent*

Fleming, the Kent supervisor, is challenging Odell for county executive.

For more comments, visit highlandscurrent.com

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Beacon School Board Candidates: What I Will Do

Election is Tuesday for three open seats

By Jeff Simms

Beacon City School District voters will choose on Tuesday, May 15, from six candidates to fill three seats on the Board of Education being vacated by incumbents Kenya Gadsden, Georgia Patchen, and Bill Zopf. Voters will also decide on the district's proposed \$70.5 million budget for 2018-19.

Polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. City residents vote at Beacon High School while district residents who live in Fishkill and Wappinger vote at Glenham Elementary School.

The Current asked the candidates — Elissa Betterbid, James Case-Leal, Joshua Galarza, Christine Galbo, Ali Muhammad and Flora Stadler — to describe their qualifications and what they would hope to accomplish if elected. Their responses have been edited for length and clarity.

What distinguishes you from the other candidates?

Betterbid: I have a unique perspective, given my experience as a parent to three very different learners — one in the high school, one in the middle school and one in elementary school. I know the needs and challenges kids face from kindergarten up to high school because of my experiences not only with my kids but my relationships with other parents at all levels.

Case-Leal: I have two children in the district, am a college educator and have a progressive vision of education that serves the diversity of needs every student brings to the classroom. As a Latino from Texas, I am sensitive to the importance of expanding our cultural horizons to ensure that our schools are spaces of inclusion that celebrate difference. I do not presume to know everything, but if elected I will always listen to our community of teachers, parents, students and administrators to help deliver the absolute best education possible.

Galarza: I have deep roots and strong family ties. My family moved here from Puerto Rico in the late 1960s and have always been active members of the commu-



Ali Muhammad

nity. With that longevity comes hardened relationships and a familiarity with the changes in our culture.

Galbo: My 17 years as a Beacon resident and parent have allowed me to watch the city and its schools change and grow. As a special education teacher for 22 years, I bring a wealth of knowledge and experience in public education. I have been fortunate to meld these roles of parent, teacher and board member, which gives me a perspective that will serve the board well.

Muhammad: I grew through Beacon's elementary, middle and high school. My mother taught in the district and established a cultural club called Leaders by Choice. Now I mentor students here, as well as graduates and student-athletes who have left the district.

Stadler: I'll bring a combination of experience and fresh energy. I got involved as part of a grassroots group of parents who were educating themselves by attending Board of Education meetings, researching policy, and having conversations about issues our schools faced. Once my sons entered elementary school, I volunteered with the PTA and in separate building-level meetings, in addition to sitting in on meetings of the Wellness Committee as it drafted policies. The more I learned, the more I wanted to know, and the more I wanted to be a part of positive change in the district.



Joshua Galarza

What would be your priority as a board member?

Betterbid: I would like to nurture a vision for the Beacon schools as a district on the rise. We have made great strides in the last two years to overcome nearly 10 years of turnover and dysfunction. We are headed down a better path and I believe we have the people and the will to build on our successes to make Beacon a great school district.

Case-Leal: My priority is stability in leadership and well-managed growth toward innovative educational programming. The Board of Education from 2008



Christine Galbo

to 2016 was characterized by inconsistency and troubling dysfunction. Beacon has had nine superintendents in nine years! Our most recent board and superintendent have built a stable base, and I wish to maintain that stability, move forward and build Beacon into the high-performing school district it should be.

Galarza: My priority is unity throughout all schools and preparing the 52 percent of students who are minorities in our district for a bright future outside of our education system. That's not to take away from the growth of our system and its students, but we have heard countless stories

(Continued on next page)

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Beacon School Board Candidates: What I Will Do *(from Page 7)*

of talented and bright children, whether it be in the arts, classroom or athletics, who leave and pursue their education elsewhere. I believe in what our community has to offer, and I believe our children can grow here.

Galbo: There are many initiatives I would like to see implemented, ranging from an increase in vocational programs and technology education to a comprehensive approach to safety planning. However, before new ideas can be put into place, the district should develop a multi-year strategic plan that would provide a blueprint for how we would like our schools to look in three or five years.

Muhammad: My initial focus will be strengthening our community and youth development through civic engagement and volunteerism. If our young people are educated and actively engaged on important issues that they will face as they mature, they will have a better chance to seize the opportunities our growing neighborhoods have to offer.

Stadler: My priority is to make sure we build on the gains we've made in the last couple of years and continue to strengthen the district. The best way to accomplish this is to stay focused on the board's goals: a sound budget; staffing that reflects the diversity of our students and ensures an equitable education; maintaining students' physical and emotional safety; and fostering communication between stakeholders. I want to help



Flora Stadler, James Case-Leal and Elissa Betterbid are campaigning together.

Photo provided

move us from a district that's stabilizing after years of administrative upheaval to a model of success. We have the building blocks to do this: great teachers and staff, strong leadership in our new superintendent and engaged parents.

What skills would you bring to the board?

Betterbid: As a marketing professional, my greatest strengths are the ability to identify areas for improvement, develop objectives and communicate working strategies to achieve constructive, creative solutions. I have been both a student and parent in highly ranked districts before moving to the area, so I have seen firsthand what a blue-ribbon district looks like. I believe the Beacon district is poised for a period of amazing progress that will be the culmination of the city's transformation over the last 20 years.

Case-Leal: I have taught art and design to a diverse body of students at Columbia, CUNY and SUNY New Paltz, giving me great experience in understanding the many kinds of learning students can present. My creative work as a visual artist and producer informs not only my vision for the value of cultivating innovation, creativity and free thinking, but equips me with extensive experience managing budgets and bringing abstract ideas into reality. I come from a family of teachers and am married to a teacher, which gives me an understanding of the importance of supporting educators.

Galarza: I will bring the positive energy that defines our community to the policy decision-making table. I'm a mental health and wellness champion and have been active with this in our community since my graduation from Beacon High

School in 2008.

Galbo: My previous six years as a board member included serving as policy committee chair and a member of the district safety committee. Throughout my life, I have been active in the schools and community organizations. I have served in leadership positions such as president of the South Avenue PTA, vice president of the Lions Club, a proud Girl Scout leader and co-organizer of the Beacon Youth Police Academy. These skills, along with departmental and curriculum leadership in my teaching career, will be an asset to the board.

Muhammad: Throughout my tenured dedication to our public, I have served on varying governmental and nonprofit boards, as well as two terms on the Beacon City Council. My resiliency, energy and comprehensive understanding of Beacon's culture and history will be an asset to our forward-moving board.

Stadler: As a former journalist, I bring solid research and communication skills — both useful qualities in a board member. As a parent, I have insight into day-to-day life at our schools: how parents, teachers and students relate, what they need and where we can fill in gaps. As a PTA board member and part of the building-level team at South Avenue, I have collaborated with parents and staff to get buy-in and build community. I'll bring this experience and a willingness to listen and learn to the board.

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Rise in 'Vaping' Causes Alarm *(from Page 1)*

erate on Main Street in Beacon.

New York State law prohibits the sale of tobacco products, including e-cigarettes and liquid nicotine, to anyone under age 18, although many jurisdictions in the region, including New York City and Westchester, Rockland and Orange counties, have set the minimum age at 21.

Putnam County is considering such a move. In Dutchess County, a legislative committee voted 9-3 on April 5 not to advance a bill that would raise the age. One lawmaker, Joel Tyner (D-Clinton), argued the change would make it harder for young adults to use e-cigs in order to wean themselves off traditional cigarettes.

The Philipstown Town Board has also discussed the issue.

A 2015 report by the National Academy of Medicine concluded that raising the age to 21 could reduce smoking by 25 percent among 15- to 17-year-olds and by 15 percent among 18- to 20-year-olds. It cited studies that found that 90 percent of smokers began before age 19.

Vaping and schools

In January, Garrison School Principal John Griffiths sent parents a letter alerting them to vaping, "a new-found way to smoke cigarettes without the 'smoke' ... as addictive as the classic cigarette. Recently a couple of our students were overheard discussing it and possibly even having experiences of their own with it."

Griffiths said on Wednesday (May 9) that since January "there is very little to report." Because JUUL sticks look like flash drives, the school told parents and staff to watch out for flash drives, but these "are rarely used by middle-school-aged kids anymore," he said.

He said the school covers the dangers of vaping in its health and counseling curriculums and "thankfully we have never had a known incident of vaping on campus, nor have we heard reports about any of our students experimenting."

In an Oct. 27 letter to parents, four Haldane admin-

istrators — including Julia Sniffen, high school principal; Chris Salumn, dean of students; social worker Scott Many, and prevention educator Rachel Formale — discussed e-cigs.

"While many students feel that these are safer alternatives to tobacco cigarettes, recent studies are showing information to the contrary," they wrote, noting that nicotine delivered by vaping is still addictive and that "wanting to vape all day" won't help anyone's grades. They noted that e-cig vapor has little or no scent and dissipates quickly, making it difficult to detect.

The administrators also pointed out that students caught on school grounds with e-cigs face suspension.

In December, the administrators recirculated the letter. "Vaping continues to be an issue at Haldane," they noted. "We ask that you please have a conversation with your children about this."

Haldane did not immediately respond to an inquiry about the prevalence of vaping on campus. Similarly, the Beacon City School District did not reply to questions.

Putnam County

Putnam County has addressed vaping since at least 2014, when the Legislature encouraged the state to regulate e-cigs.

On Tuesday (May 8), two anti-smoking advocates urged legislators to raise the minimum age for buying tobacco products to 21.

"There are way too many new products out there, hooking our kids and leading them to stay addicted," Kevin O'Flaherty, regional advocacy director of the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids, told members of the Legislature's Health and Environmental Committee. "We're seeing the cigarette numbers stay low, but the e-cigarette numbers go up."

Julie Hart, director of New York government relations for the American Cancer Society's Action Network, described the e-cig industry as "very sneaky and very manipulative" in attracting students, "undermining all the



While the number of high school students in New York who smoke tobacco cigarettes has plummeted, the percentage who vape has doubled.

progress we've made" against smoking.

The committee, which is chaired by Legislator Barbara Scuccimarra, who represents Philipstown, also has looked at regulating vape shops through zoning laws, though Scuccimarra said towns or villages must take the lead because they, not the county, control zoning. In November, the Westchester town of New Castle banned vape shops from operating within 2,000 feet of a school or 500 feet of a park or playground.

Philipstown

During her monthly report to the Philipstown Town Board on May 3, Scuccimarra called vaping "a real problem in our schools" and said "it's a just a tragedy what's going on."

She suggested the town look at zoning restrictions, and Councilor Nancy Montgomery said the town attorney is reviewing that approach.

Supervisor Richard Shea noted that the "marketing of these things to children is just ridiculous. And the federal government is idly letting it happen. What'll they have next? Grape-flavored whiskey?"

Who's Vaping?

The percentage of high school students in New York who smoke traditional cigarettes fell by 84 percent between 2000 and 2016, to about 4 percent.

Between 2014 and 2016, the percentage of high school students in New York who said in a survey they smoked e-cigarettes nearly doubled, from 11 to 21 percent. Among middle-school students, it doubled to 6 percent.

In 2014, 22 percent of high-school students surveyed in New York said they had tried an e-cigarette. By 2016 that had risen 44 percent. Among middle-school students, the percentage doubled to 14 percent.

What's It Called?

E-cigarettes, e-cigs, e-smokes, cigalikes, vapes, personal vaporizers (PVs), advanced personal vaporizers (APVs), mods, pod mods, pod vape devices, vape mods, box mods, wop machines, pens, vape pens, electronic nicotine delivery systems (ENDS)

How's It Taste?

A 2014 study identified more than 7,700 flavors available for e-cigarettes, including gummy bear, cotton candy, chocolate, grape, and cookies 'n cream. Traditional cigarettes that have flavors other than menthol or tobacco have been banned in the U.S. since 2009.

Sources: NYS Department of Health, Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids

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Around Town



REMEMBERING JEAN — The Philipstown Little League, which plans to donate \$500 to the Jean Marzollo Children's Room at Butterfield Library, held a bake sale at Foodtown on May 6. The next Little League bake sale will be June 3.

Photo provided



OFFICE SPACE — Visitors to the West Point Foundry in Cold Spring on May 5 are shown the inside of the 1865 Office Building by historian Mark Forlow (left). His 90-minute tour of the preserve will be offered again on June 16 at 10 a.m.

Photo by Guy Peifer



WHAT CAN I SAY? — Jamishay Cammann provides a preview during Beacon Open Studios on April 28 of *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, which will be performed through May 13 at the Beacon Performing Arts Center.

Photo by Ross Corsair



BIG HIT — There's no better pick-me-up before or after a Little League game than a mini-cake with frosting, as these players demonstrated at the K104.7 Cupcake Festival in Beacon on May 5.

Photo by Skip Pearlman

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The Calendar

The Colors of Manitoga

Painter uses inks made from plants

By Alison Rooney

Following a sound installation, a musical composition, a dance performance, illuminated paintings, and floating reed structures, Manitoga this year welcomes an artist who makes ink from plants at the site to paint images of the plants, merging subject and medium.

Kazumi Tanaka is at Manitoga as part

of its Artist Residency Program, now in its fifth year. It's designed to elicit creative responses to the Garrison home, studio and landscape of the late industrial designer Russel Wright.

Born in Japan and based in Beacon, Tanaka has created a working laboratory in the west gallery with furniture by cabinetmaker Jon Reichert. "This house is calming and soothing yet full of creative energy," she says.

The room overlooks the quarry pond, from which Tanaka distills water to pour



Bottles of ink created from plant specimens gathered at Manitoga. Photo by Vivian Linares



Kazumi Tanaka in Japan

Photo provided

over plant specimens placed in tumblers and beakers. A large map documents her collection points on the 75-acre campus. From this process emerges a range of colors, each a mutation of the environs.

Tanaka's first two paintings, completed in April, were of mountain laurel and skunk cabbage. She says the subjects of future works will be determined by the

species which emerge as the seasons progress.

Tanaka says her first walks through Manitoga reminded her of temples in Kyoto that she visits on trips to her native Osaka. She came to New York City in 1987, at age 25, after graduating from the Osaka University of Art, where she studied graphic (Continued on Page 22)



Anna Malinoski Stephens plays Marian the Librarian

Photo provided

River City Con

The Music Man comes to town

By Alison Rooney

In a note on the direction of *The Music Man*, its composer said that "the humor of this piece depends upon its technical faithfulness to the real small-town Iowans of 1912 who certainly did not think they were funny at all."

Meredith Willson knew of what he wrote, having grown up in Mason City, Iowa.

The Music Man is an homage to his youth, and the ambiance of Garrison's Landing and the Philipstown Depot Theatre, where a production will run from May 18 to June 10, is an apt setting.

Linda Speziale, who is directing, says that while it's a fun show, "it's not insipid and lightweight. For an 'old-timey' musical, the music is challenging, with a sophisticated, difficult, barbershop quartet." Its classic songs include "76 Trombones," "Goodnight, My Someone" and "Gary, Indiana."

Speziale, who most recently directed *Jesus Christ Superstar* and *H.M.S. Pinafore* at the Depot, said she wanted to put on a spring show that "makes people

"The humor of this piece depends upon its technical faithfulness to the real small-town Iowans of 1912 who certainly did not think they were funny at all."

happy, and what makes me happy about *The Music Man* is there's such a strong sense of community in it."

The story centers on a fast-talking traveling salesman, Harold Hill, who cons the people of River City, Iowa, into buying instruments and uniforms for a boys' band that he vows to organize. He typically skips town with the cash, but intervention comes in the form of Marian the librarian — a catchy refrain for a song.

The musical is a staple of theater companies because it allows for a large, multigenerational cast — in this case, there are 30 actors, including five children and two teenagers.

The leads are John Hartzell and Anna Malinoski Stephens, both new to the Depot. "It was like I put my wishes in a jar, and out they came," says Speziale.

Hartzell is an aerialist who has appeared with Blue Man Group (and performed in a production of *The Music Man* at age 7); Stephens, who moved to Cold Spring two years ago, is a (Continued on Page 17)

The 100 (Make that 30) Year Storm

Will today's worst case become tomorrow's norm?

By Brian PJ Cronin

Five thousand miles separate the Highlands from the Sahara Desert, but the Saharan winds will play a significant role in how many hurricanes we see in the near future.

Welcome to the world of climate science, where the observation by John Muir, the 19th-naturalist who spent time in Garrison, rings true about how anything you pick up is hitched to everything else in the universe.

To understand how storms in the Highlands will be affected by climate change, I spoke to Tim Hall, a senior research scientist at the NASA Goddard Institute for Space Studies who studies tropical cyclones and climate variability (and lives in Garrison); Radley Horton, a research professor at Columbia University's Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory who specializes in the impacts of climate change (and who lives in Cold Spring); and Mike Favetta, a former meteorologist for News 12 Westchester who founded WeatherPrep, a firm devoted to climate-change adaptation.

All three noted the challenges of seeing verifiable trends within the noise of constant climate readings and separating various predictions into, as Hall says, "the hierarchy of what we know for sure, and what we're mostly certain about."

What's for sure is that it's going to get very wet.

Horton says that when considering storms over the Highlands, you have to look down. "You have to start with the conversation about sea-level rise," he says. "Even if we get lucky and only have a 2-foot increase, that still causes a three-fold increase in the frequency of flooding."

A 2-foot increase may seem small when considering the 9-foot surges that Sandy produced, but Horton points out that any increase will stay with us, even at low tide and fair weather. And it will make high tide storms more dangerous. With 3 feet of sea level rise, storms that now bring 3 feet of surge will bring a 6-foot surge, and so on. "You're getting floods with the effects of Sandy three, five, 10 times as often," he says. "That's a huge risk. What was a 100-year-storm now happens every 30 years."

It's also getting hotter. One projection is that by 2050 the earth will be, on average, 8.5 degrees warmer. That may not seem like much in May, when the temperature in the Highlands can swing 30 to 40 degrees in 12 hours, but just like a relatively small amount of sea level rise, it can have



The lower part of Main Street in Cold Spring was flooded in 2012 during Superstorm Sandy.

Photo by L.S. Armstrong

a big impact.

"The temperature in the human body is 98.6 degrees," Favetta says. "If you go up 2.5 degrees, you have a 101-degree fever. The earth works the same way. When there's more heat in the atmosphere, there's the opportunity for more water vapor to be absorbed into the air. When there's more heat in the air, you have more severe storms because the atmosphere can grow a little higher, and create storms that are taller and stronger."

More severe rain causes more flooding, Horton notes. "In the Northeast, we're already seeing that the heaviest rain events are happening about 70 percent more often than they were 50 or 60 years ago. There's a lot of reason to think that all of that increased moisture in the atmosphere is going to fall out in more and more local events that are going to be devastating, as opposed to the sorts of gentle summer drizzles that we all wish we could get more of."

Ironically, higher thunderstorms could spell trouble for solar panels. "In the Hudson Valley, when late-afternoon thunderstorms form at the end of a hot, humid day, those storms will rapidly grow tall enough and large enough to create record-breaking hailstones," says Favetta. "And those large hailstones have no mercy when they smash into solar panels."

Winter won't offer much relief. Although warmer temperatures will result in fewer days below freezing, on the days when the temperature does dip below 32 degrees the water vapor in the air should lead to

more severe snow, even if the storms occur less frequently.

That trend — fewer but stronger storms — applies to hurricanes in the Atlantic as well, but for different reasons. As climate change fuels the continued desertification of North Africa, the Sahara Desert is expected to grow (it's already the size of the U.S.), which will cause more dry, dusty desert air to be blown out to the Atlantic from westward winds.

"The dust tends to reflect incoming radiation, so it acts as a cooling agent to the sea surface below," explains Hall. "You can get these episodes where this dry, dusty air destroys cyclones or makes them less likely to form. But once they do form, the fact that you have a warmer sea surface and more moisture in the air allows the storm the possibility of reaching greater intensity."

So does that mean that, with fewer Atlantic hurricanes, the possibility of the Highlands being hit with another Irene will go down? Yes, Hall says, but the problem is that when the Highlands gets hit, there's a greater chance the storm will be an absolute monster. And as with sea-level rise and temperature, it only takes a small increase in power to have a massive effect.

Hall, who as part of his research develops models for the insurance industry to estimate the likelihood of buildings being blown apart by storms, notes that the

(continued on next page)

Extreme Scenes

Last year, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) released a report that predicted what high tide would look like at the turn of the century if nothing is done to combat global warming.

It isn't pretty. If the level of carbon dioxide, which traps heat in the atmosphere, continues to rise unabated, and parts of the Antarctic ice sheet collapse sooner than expected, the agency predicted sea level could jump 10 to 12 feet on the East Coast by 2100. That would put the charging bull on Wall Street under water.

Using the NOAA numbers, the nonprofit Climate Central created a "layer" for Google Earth to visualize what such an extreme rise would look like, a scenario it notes is "considered unlikely but increasingly plausible." We used the layer to create a flyover of the Highlands, which can be viewed at highlandscurrent.com.



A vision of Cold Spring in 2100 under "extreme" sea level rise. For images of Beacon and Garrison, see highlandscurrent.com.

Climate Central/Google Earth

(from previous page) vast majority of damage by hurricanes over the past century can be attributed to only a handful of storms. “That’s because the damage — and now I’m talking about wind speed as opposed to storm surge — is proportional to at least the square of the wind speed. A hurricane that has twice the wind speed will do at least four times the damage.”

As Hall has discovered, the insurance industry is taking global-warming research seriously and setting rates accordingly. Horton, who helped develop climate-change models for New York City, says banks are doing the same; when 100-year floods become 30-year floods, they think twice about approving 30-year mortgages in coastal areas. Favetta says he has warned off friends who ask his advice about buying homes along the Hudson River or the Jersey Shore.

The former weatherman says the U.S. is behind the rest of the world in getting ready. He spends half the year in the U.S. and the other half in Italy, where he says companies are busy preparing their cities, economies, and agriculture for the world to come.

“You tell Italians that their balsamic vinegar is going to be more acidic in 10 years because of climate change and they freak out,” he says. “They’re trying to nip this in the bud.”



Manitou Station Road in Garrison has been raised 4.5 feet to prevent damage from flooding.

Photo by Michael Turton



Radley Horton at the Cold Spring waterfront

Photo by Meredith Heuer

Stormwater Blues

Climate change will bring heavy rain, but where will it go?

By Michael Turton

Much of the conversation surrounding the effect of climate change on water focuses on flooding caused by sea-level rise and extreme storms. But another, less talked about, aspect of the problem is how to get all that water back to the river.

Stormwater, or rain that is not absorbed,

flows into streams that lead to the Hudson. If the number and severity of storms increase as climate change models suggest, stormwater runoff is bound to increase as well, adding to the risk of flooding and a phenomenon known as “combined sewer overflow” in which the heavy rains overwhelm treatment plants. To avoid having sewage back up into homes when that happens, it’s released into the river.

Bryan Quinn, a Beacon-based environmental designer, says we should be thinking more about stormwater, including using less impermeable concrete and asphalt. We also should be thinking small, he says.

“The DEC [Department of Environmental Conservation] has really upped their



game in the past couple of decades regarding stormwater management for new developments,” he says. “But for smaller projects they haven’t gone far enough.”

Quinn advocates rain gardens and planting depressions or bio-swales which slowly release water over time. The vegetation they contain not only helps to reduce flooding, it filters pollutants. Retention ponds and rain barrels have similar effects.

He’s not a fan of manicured lawns. “If we can replace lawns with meadow, it can do a lot to increase infiltration and reduce water flows.” In more rural areas lawns can be replaced by forest.

Jennifer Zwarich, who heads Cold Spring’s Tree Advisory Board, also sees forests as part of the solution. “The trees in our community forest are on the front line of our region’s struggle with stormwater management,” she says. “Tree canopies and root systems significantly slow down runoff by capturing water and absorbing

or releasing it back into the atmosphere.”

Safe Harbors Green in Newburgh was designed by Quinn and incorporates his conservation concepts. Plant materials and swales help the small park absorb all the rainfall it receives. “Not a single drop leaves this park,” Quinn says. His design also accounts for climate change by including an extra, deeper swale that will slowly release water in the event of an extended downpour.

Quinn says there must be more collaboration between municipalities so that they together can manage an entire watershed, rather than only the parts within their borders. “Political boundaries don’t make any sense from a water perspective,” he says. Philipstown’s Clove Creek for example, flows south along Route 301 in Putnam County before heading north along Route 9 into Dutchess County and the Town of Fishkill, then west through Beacon before emptying into Fishkill Creek.



Getting to the City

Metro-North has a plan, but will it be enough?

By Chip Rowe

Climate change presents a particular challenge to Metro-North, and especially to the Hudson line that connects the Highlands and New York City: before the century turns, much of its 73.5 miles of track could be under water.

Metro-North, which is run by the Metropolitan Transportation Authority, has a plan to combat the effects of global warming on its system, which serves two-thirds of the state's residents. But as with most ambitious, epoch-defining projects, it lacks the tens of billions of dollars necessary to shore up the Hudson line and other low-lying tracks, including New York's subway.

The MTA has been a relatively early adapter. A decade ago, the agency established a commission on sustainability. The 22-member panel was led by Jonathan Rose, an urban planner who is co-founder of the Garrison Institute, and included the presidents of Scenic Hudson and Riverkeeper. Radley Horton, a climatologist at Columbia University who lives in Cold Spring, also contributed.

"We asked the decision-makers at the MTA for the scenarios that kept them up at night," Horton recalls.

The commission released its report in 2009, suggesting many upgrades. What it couldn't account for was the \$75 billion to \$100 billion it anticipated the agency would need over the following decade, outside of suggesting Congress pass a moon-shot \$1 trillion spending bill and that mass transit receive 25 percent of the revenue from a carbon-pricing market that doesn't exist.

Three years later, Superstorm Sandy devastated the region. If the disaster had a silver lining, it was that it "focused everyone on climate change," says Projjal Dutta, who joined the MTA in 2007 as its first director of sustainability. Sandy also acted like a demolition crew, taking out the MTA's most vulnerable infrastructure and creating an opportunity to rebuild and fortify before the next 100-year storm that everyone agreed would arrive far sooner than 100 years.

The agency is spending half of its \$10.5 billion in Sandy recovery funds not on repairs but resiliency projects. That includes \$350 million to raise the signaling and communication lines on the Hudson line and add flood protection to critical substations. The line is breached when the tide rises about 6.5 feet above sea level, which is the same predicament facing FDR Drive in Manhattan, the Long Beach



In many spots along the Hudson line, it would not take much to flood the tracks.

Photo by Michael Turton

branch of the Long Island Railroad, LaGuardia airport and the A and C lines of the New York City subway. Sandy, whose surge reached 9 feet in places, closed service to the Highlands for four days.

The Hudson line tracks are another issue. In the long term, they will likely need to be raised or moved. Neither option seems feasible.

"Much of the line is bordered by a steep topography," notes Horton. "You can't go part way up a cliff. At the top of the cliff, you face legal challenges trying to secure a right of way along 74 miles of what is mostly private land."

Dutta says while the MTA has looked to 2100 in its planning it isn't focused on the tracks because that far out scientists can't say with precision how far the water will rise. "The priority is the next 30 to 40 years," he says.

As part of the 2009 report, Horton and five colleagues concluded the MTA was "largely unprepared" for global warming, particularly flooding and the effects of intense summer heat on its air-conditioning systems, switch gears and steel rails.

Asked in 2018 if he felt the agency was still "largely unprepared," Dutta pauses, then reframes the question. "Are we *better* prepared? Yes, definitely," he says. "Are we fully prepared? No."

Will Climate Change Kill Dirt Roads?

With more frequent storms, Philipstown may not have a choice

By Michael Turton

The future of Philipstown's dirt roads, which account for half of its 60-mile network, has been an ongoing debate. Should they be preserved or paved?

Global warming, which is expected to increase the frequency of storms and heavy downpours, may only intensify the discussion.

Dirt roads have unmistakable beauty but also an inherent flaw: they wash out, making driving hazardous and requiring regular repairs. The eroded material also pollutes streams that flow near the roads.

Carl Frisenda, who has worked on roads across Putnam County for nearly 40 years and in 2015 was elected as Philipstown highway superintendent, says he is

"Old Albany Post Road has seen it all, and it's still here."

already seeing the effect of rapid climate change on the roads.

"Years ago, you wouldn't have had all these major washouts," he said. During the sequence of Nor'easters that hit the region in March, "we were always going back out to make repairs," often at the same locations, he says. "That's a lot of material, labor, fuel and wear and tear on machines."

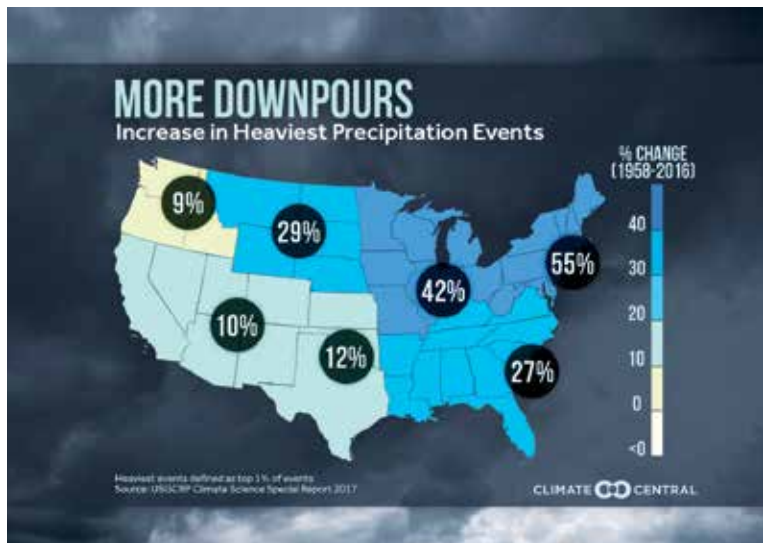
An erosion-prone portion of South Mountain Pass was paved just before Frisenda took over, and he thinks it was necessary. "Before it was paved they were always there grading the hill," he said. "Now we do nothing."

He estimates dirt-road maintenance to be at least twice as costly as asphalt. His department, which has a \$3.7 million budget, spent about \$620,000 in 2017 on general road repairs.

The cost of maintaining rural roads is expected to rise everywhere because of more frequent storms, most urgently in the Great Plains, where the Environmental Protection Agency says the cost of repairs could rise by \$1.1 billion by 2050. Globally, it's a daunting issue for nations such as Africa and India, where only about half the roads are paved and many of the dirt ones are already in bad shape.

Frisenda is not overly optimistic about winning the battle in Philipstown. "I don't think it's going to get any better," he says. He was hoping to buy time by added a binding agent called bentonite to the standard gravel, known as Item 4, but was disappointed with the results. He's had more success with recycled Item 4 that includes millings from crushed asphalt.

Not surprisingly, Terry Zaleski, president of the Old Road Society of Philipstown, has a different outlook. Asked if climate change could spell the end for local dirt roads, he responded with a quick "No," citing their stamina over centuries of bad weather. "Old Albany Post Road has seen it all, and it's still here," he says.



A Philipstown Highway Department grader smooths out Old Albany Post Road.

Photo by M. Turton

Built to Spill

'Passive' houses and parks that flood

By Brian PJ Cronin

The economic downturn of 2008 killed Scenic Hudson's plans for an eco-friendly convention center at Long Dock Park in Beacon. It might have been a blessing in disguise.

The massive storm surges that accompanied Hurricane Irene in 2011 and Superstorm Sandy in 2012 left the park under a foot of water, and while the convention center would have been designed to withstand severe floods, maybe it's better that the plans were scrapped.

"Even our building over there, which is flood resistant, with no electrics low to the ground, still took in a foot of water," says Nava Tabak, who oversees climate and science issues for the nonprofit, pointing to the historic red barn. Fortunately, the building has been designed for quick recovery. The walls on its first floor can be easily removed to dry the interior.

Climate change has made it nearly impossible to build anything on the banks of the Hudson without a plan for midcentury, when rising sea levels are expected to transform what we currently think of as catastrophic flooding into what high tide looks like twice a day.

For Scenic Hudson, it presents an opportunity to demonstrate what a 21st-century waterfront park might look like.

Long Dock Park is built on fill — it was added to the shoreline to make it easier for ferries and merchant ships to access the city's factories, serving, in effect, as a "long dock." As the boom years faded, the land became a wasteland of auto salvage and refuse that many older residents recall as an unauthorized playground. Tabak says years of soil remediation were



Joe Kiernan and Nava Tabak at Long Dock Park in Beacon

Photo by B. Cronin

required before Scenic Hudson could even think about a park.

Its first section opened in 2011, with construction on its final section expected to be completed within months, depending on how fast the grass grows. "We want the lawns and everything to be well-established before we expose them to foot traffic," says Joe Kiernan, the park's project manager.

The park is designed to withstand flooding caused by storm surge (sea-level rise is a different challenge; models of extreme sea-level rise show the park mostly submerged by 2100). Instead of a concession stand, the park has space for food trucks, which can drive away before the water rolls in. The kayak shed withstood both Irene and Sandy because the surge flowed through its grate-like walls. "The floods came in with debris and mess, but the shed was fine," says Kiernan.

Long Dock's landscaping has also been designed to mitigate flooding. High berms direct water to wetlands and swales that dot the property.

"Once the water's here, you don't want it just flowing through and scouring and eroding everything," explains Tabak. "You want to keep it, let it percolate, and let it flow out as slowly as possible."

The land was seeded with vegetation

that can withstand flooding, such as switchgrass, goldenrod and wild rye. When the tall grasses die back in the winter, they decompose and help nourish the soil, which in turn makes it more absorbent.

Kiernan and Tabak note that one of the surest signs that the park has developed into a healthy ecosystem is the abundance of wildlife that can be found hiding in the tall grass, sometimes steps from passing joggers: deer, fox, herons and egrets flock to the vernal pools and temporary marshes that appear after heavy rains.

As river communities consider how to protect their shorelines from the effects of rising temperatures, Kiernan argues that accepting, directing and absorbing floodwaters is a better choice than seawalls and other barriers. "When you do that, the wave energy is just going to travel and impact somewhere else," he said.

Home of the future

Downriver, in Cold Spring, Laura Bergman has come to the same conclusion.

"I'm tending the shoreline because no one else will," she says as she prunes vegetation near her waterfront home. "Some people from Albany" — presumably from the state Department of Environmental Conservation — "told me they wanted to do something that involved removing the trees. I told them my property was off limits."

Bergman bought her house at the entrance to Dockside Park in 2012 and planned an extensive renovation. Then Sandy came, flooding the park and house and destroying a quonset hut on the property. Soon after, she met James Hartford, who with his wife, Juhee Lee-Hartford, has an architecture firm in Cold Spring.

He told her she should consider a "passive" house. "When I explained passive



housing to her, she said 'Why would I want to do it any other way,' says Hartford.

Passive housing refers to designing a house to have as small a carbon footprint as possible by minimizing mechanical inputs for heating and cooling.

Hartford says the design is vital to combating climate change. "Buildings consume almost 50 percent of our total energy in this country," he says. "People are focused on the fuel efficiency of cars, but whether you're driving a Prius or a Hummer, once you get home and turn them off, they're the same vehicle. You don't leave your vehicle running overnight, but we leave our houses running all the time."

By living in a home that stays cool and ventilated in the summer and warm in the winter thanks to airtight design and superior insulation, he says, residents will be able to shelter for days during emergencies in which the power is out and HVAC devices are offline.

To prepare for flooding, Hartford installed a foot of rigid insulation over the existing concrete slab, then added another 4 inches of concrete, raising the lower floor by 16 inches. "If Sandy comes back, she'll be lapping at the doorsill but won't get in," he says.

As in the Red Barn at Long Dock, all of Bergman's outlets and electrical equipment are positioned high. Vapor barriers block moisture and, unlike Sheetrock, the cement board siding is resistant to mold. There's also no furnace for the water to destroy: the home is powered by an 8-kilowatt photovoltaic array of solar panels. Bergman's monthly power bill is a \$25 service charge.

Even after all that, should the water rise too high, Bergman has a Plan B.

"I have my kayak," she says, pointing under the porch. "I can just float away."



Laura Bergman and James Hartford outside her home overlooking Dockside Park in Cold Spring

Photo by B. Cronin

What's Ahead

Part 1: Runaway Train (May 4; see highlandscurrent.com)

Part 3: Farming and Food

Shorter, warmer winters and longer, hotter summers will change the nature of farming in the Hudson Valley. Can farmers do anything to prepare?

Part 4: Wildlife and Nature

Rising temperatures and waters will have a dramatic effect on the wetlands, wildlife and trees along the Hudson — and human health, as pollen and tick levels climb and poison ivy and algae blooms expand. What changes can we expect?

Part 5: What Now?

A state initiative called Climate Smart Communities has pushed towns and cities to make changes; Kingston, a river community of 25,000, was an early adapter. But what are the political challenges, and who, in the end, will pay?



FRIDAY, MAY 11

The Chronicles of Garrison
7 p.m. Garrison School
1100 Route 9D, Garrison | gufs.org

Amphibian Amble
7 p.m. Outdoor Discovery Center
100 Muser Dr., Cornwall
845-534-5506 x204 | hhnrm.org

25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee
7:30 p.m. Beacon Performing Arts Center
327B Main St., Beacon
beaconperformingartscenter.com

Guys and Dolls

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

SATURDAY, MAY 12

Eastern New York Soccer Festival
9 a.m. – 4 p.m. Delano–Hitch Park, Newburgh
516-766-0849 | enysoccer.com

Bring the Kids (ages 5+)
9:30 – 11:30 a.m. Boscobel
1601 Route 9D, Garrison
845-265-3638 | boscobel.org

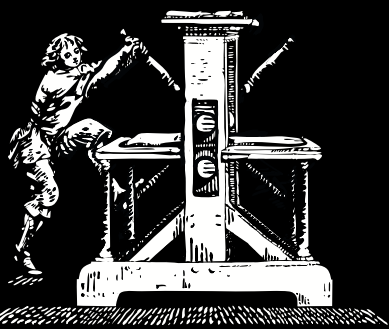
Master Gardener Guided Hike
10 a.m. Clearpool Model Forest
33 Clearpool Road, Carmel
putnam.cce.cornell.edu

Philipstown Garden Club Plant Sale
10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Garrison Fire Department
1616 Route 9, Garrison
pgc1914.com

Girl Scout Troop 1565 Cookie Booth

11 a.m. – 1 p.m. Foodtown
49 Chestnut St., Cold Spring

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Calendar Highlights

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For complete listings, see highlandscurrent.com

Laurie Berkner

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

Common Ground Farm Plant Sale

Noon – 3 p.m. Tito Santana
142 Main St., Beacon | commongroundfarm.org

Community Day

Noon – 4 p.m. Hudson Highlands Nature Museum
100 Muser Dr., Cornwall
845-534-5506 x204 | hhnrm.org

Rootstock

Noon – 6 p.m. Red Barn
Long Dock Park, Beacon
rootstockfest.org

Mid–Hudson Etsy Pop–Up Market

1 – 8 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
477 Main St., Beacon
howlandculturalcenter.org

Music with John DeRosalia

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

Riverside Art Auction

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

The Chronicles of Garrison

7 p.m. Garrison School | See details under Friday.

Middle School Night

7 – 10 p.m. Philipstown Recreation Center
107 Glenclyffe Drive, Garrison
845-424-4618 | philipstownrecreation.com

A Simple Heart (Music)

7:30 p.m. Tompkins Corners Cultural Center
729 Peekskill Hollow Road, Putnam Valley
845-528-7280 | tompkinscorners.org

Echoes of Sinatra – A Tribute

8 p.m. Paramount Hudson Valley
See details above.

Guys and Dolls

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

Tito Puente Jr. Latin Jazz Ensemble

8 p.m. Ritz Theater
111 Broadway, Newburgh
brownpapertickets.com/event/3339037

25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee

7:30 p.m. Beacon Performing Arts Center
See details under Friday.

BEACON SECOND SATURDAY

Steve Rossi: Differential Ratio

4 p.m. Artist's Talk
6 – 9 p.m. Gallery open
Matteawan Gallery | 454 Main St., Beacon
845-440-7901 | matteawan.com

Beacon and Beyond

5 – 7 p.m. Howland Public Library
313 Main St., Beacon
845-831-1134 | beaconlibrary.org

Botanical Drawing with Erica Hauser

5 – 7 p.m. One Nature
321 Main St., Beacon | onenaturellc.com

Debbie Gioello: Butterfly/Wing

5 – 8 p.m. RiverWinds Gallery
172 Main St., Beacon
845-838-2880 | riverwindsgallery.com

Kyle Kirwan

6 – 9 p.m. Clutter Gallery
163 Main St., Beacon
shop.cluttermagazine.com

Last Minute Soulmates (Music)

6 p.m. Bank Square
129 Main St., Beacon
banksquarecoffeeshouse.com

Pamela Zaremba: Apparitions

Josef Zutelgte: The Spirit of Trickery
6 – 9 p.m. bau Gallery
506 Main St., Beacon
845-440-7584 | baugallery.com

Cecilia Whittaker–Doe and Don Doe: To You, The View To Me: C

6 – 9 p.m. Hudson Beach Glass
162 Main St., Beacon
845-440-0068 | hudsonbeachglass.com

Lady Killers (Reading)

7 p.m. Binnacle Books
321 Main St., Beacon
845-838-6191 | binnaclebooks.com

SUNDAY, MAY 13

Tots' Park Clean–Up
10 a.m. – 1 p.m. 4 High St., Cold Spring
facebook.com/coldspringtotspark

Guided Hike

11 a.m. Constitution Marsh Audubon Center
127 Warren Landing, Garrison
845-265-2601 | Reservation required.

Hello Again, Dolly! Exhibit Opening

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

Free Tours for Mothers

1 & 2:15 p.m. Mount Gulian
145 Sterling St., Beacon
845-831-8172 | mountgulian.org

Guys and Dolls

2 p.m. County Players Theater
See details under Friday.

The Stunt Dog Experience

2 & 6 p.m. Paramount Hudson Valley
See details under Saturday.

Hudson Valley Winds Mother's Day Concert

3 p.m. St. George's Church
105 Grand St., Newburgh
845-534-2864 | newburghchambermusic.org

Trouble Sisters Mother's Day Concert

6 p.m. Dogwood
47 E. Main Street, Beacon | dogwoodbar.com

25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee

7:30 p.m. Beacon Performing Arts Center
See details under Friday.

MONDAY, MAY 14

Beacon City Council Workshop

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

TUESDAY, MAY 15

Beacon Budget Vote and Board Election

7 a.m. – 9 p.m. Beacon High School (city residents)
Glenham Elementary (others)
845-838-6900 | beaconcityk12.org

Garrison Budget Vote and Board Election

7 a.m. – 9 p.m. Garrison School
See details under Friday.

Haldane Budget Vote and Board Election

7 a.m. – 9 p.m. Haldane Middle School (Room 105)
15 Craigside Dr., Cold Spring
845-265-9254 | haldaneschool.org

Backyard Family Farm Skills

3:45 p.m. Glynwood Farm
362 Glynwood Road, Cold Spring
845-265-3338 | glynwood.org

Public Hearing: Mental Health Services

6 p.m. Putnam Social Services
110 Old Route 6, Carmel | 845-808-1500 x45201

Spring Concert Featuring Hello, Dolly!

7 p.m. Garrison School
See details under Friday.

Dutchess Genealogical Society

7:30 p.m. LDS Church
204 Spackenkill Road, Poughkeepsie | dcgs-gen.org

WEDNESDAY, MAY 16

Butterfield Library Pub Trivia
6 p.m. Barber and Brew
69 Main St., Cold Spring | butterfieldlibrary.org

THURSDAY, MAY 17

Social Justice / Financial Decisions (Talk)
6 p.m. St. Mary's Church
1 Chestnut St., Cold Spring
ecologicalcitizens.org/convenings

FRIDAY, MAY 18

Manitoga Opens for Season
11 a.m. – 4 p.m. 584 Route 9D, Garrison
845-424-3812 | visitmanitoga.org

The Matchmaker (1958)

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

Classical Principles for Modern Design (Talk)

6:30 p.m. Boscobel | See details under Saturday.

Guys and Dolls

8 p.m. County Players Theater
See details under May 11.



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River City Con (from Page 11)

voiceover artist and the mother of twins. Her first professional show was a production of ... wait for it ... *Hello, Dolly!* "I must have watched the movie 1,000 times," she says. "Getting to perform at the spot 'Put On Your Sunday Clothes' was filmed is a dream."

Although *The Music Man* is set in the early 20th century, it will be contemporized with a mobile, impressionistic set by Alejandro Lopez rather than the cardboard storefronts that are often used, says Speziale.

The Music Man will be performed on Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$25 for adults, \$20 for seniors and \$18 for students at brownpapertickets.com/event/3392626. The Sunday, May 20, show will be followed at 5 p.m. by a benefit for the theater.



Above, John Hartzell plays Harold Hill. Below, a rehearsal

Photos provided



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www.themonroetheater.com

Finding Your Feet (PG13)
FRI & SAT 1:30 5:00 8:30
SUN 12:30 4:00 7:30
MON & TUE 7:30
WED 12:30 4:00 7:30, THU 7:30

**Avengers:
Infinity War (PG13)**
FRI & SAT 1:00 4:30 8:00
SUN 12:00 3:30 7:00, MON & TUE 7:00
WED 12:00 3:30 7:00, THU 7:00

Life of the Party (PG13)
FRI & SAT 1:15 4:45 8:15
SUN 12:15 3:45 7:15, MON & TUE 7:15
WED 12:15 3:45 7:15, THU 7:15

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Robert Hill Band

Saturday, May 12, 6 p.m.
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Saturday, May 12, 8:30 p.m.
John Sebastian
Joe Louis Walker

Sunday, May 13, 11:30 a.m.
Mother's Day Brunch featuring
Judith Tulloch

Sunday, May 13, 7 p.m.
The Naturals ~ Free

Thursday, May 17, 7 p.m.
David Ross &
Patrick Stanfield Jones ~ Free

Friday, May 18, 7 p.m.
Tenbrooks Molly ~ Free

Friday, May 18, 8:30 p.m.
Lee Roy Parnell

Saturday, May 19, 8:30 p.m.
The Slambolian Circus of Dreams

Sunday, May 20, 11:30 a.m.
The Edukated Fleas ~ Free

Sunday, May 20, noon
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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Sunset Readings

Series kicks off May 20

The Sunset Reading Series kicks off its new season with Joshua Ferris and Eliza Kennedy at 4 p.m. on Sunday, May 20, at the Chapel Restoration in Cold Spring. Kennedy will read from her new novel, *Do This for Me*, and Ferris from his

latest collection of short stories, *The Dinner Party*. The event is free but donations are welcome. See sunsetreadings.org.

Lessons from Ogden

Design lecture set for May 18

Thomas Jayne will speak on Friday, May 18, at Boscobel in Garrison about his book, *Classical Principles for Modern Design*, in which he discusses lessons learned from Edith Wharton and Ogden Codman.

Using examples from his own work, Jayne will explore how Codman's *The Decoration of Houses*, published in 1897, is still a go-to guide for room design. Tickets for the 6:30 p.m. event are \$15 for members, students and practicing designers and \$25 otherwise. See boscobel.org.

Money and Values

Workshop at St. Mary's on May 17

The Ecological Citizen's Project is hosting a conversation about social justice, values and financial decisions at 6 p.m. on Thursday, May 17, in the parish hall of St. Mary's Episcopal Church in Cold Spring. It will be facilitated by Joanne Leffeld. The suggested donation is \$10 and space is limited to 30 participants. RSVP at ecologicalcitizens.org/convenings.



SPRING CLEANUP — About 30 volunteers from St. Mary's Episcopal Church, the Philipstown Reform Synagogue and the Philipstown Garden Club, including Linda Magnusson Rosario, Kathy Fearn Richter and Sarah Yano, worked for two hours on May 5 to rake and prune the landscape at St. Mary's in Cold Spring. Photo by Cathy Duke



CHESS MINDS — At the Haldane Chess Tournament on April 28, Leonardo Mancinelli of Garrison took first place and his brother, Massi, took fifth place in the Novice 1 division. Photo provided

Depot Theatre Picnic

Benefit takes place May 20

The Philipstown Depot Theatre will host a picnic benefit on Sunday, May

20, at Riverfront Park on Garrison's Landing. It begins at 5 p.m., following the 2 p.m. performance at the theater of *The Music Man*. The benefit tickets start at \$125; see brownpapertickets.com/event/3405715.

"I DON'T KNOW ABOUT YOU, BUT I'D LIKE TO MAKE TODAY WORTH REMEMBERING."
—Harold Hill, *The Music Man*

May 20th

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COMMUNITY BRIEFS



The Calidore Quartet will perform at the Howland Cultural Center in Beacon on Sunday, May 20.

Photo provided

Beacon

Be a Weather Spotter

Training in Hyde Park on May 16

The National Weather Service will offer training on Wednesday, May 16, in Hyde Park for Dutchess County residents who would like to be weather trackers. The volunteer trackers report severe weather to improve forecasting and warning systems. The two-hour session will be held at 7 p.m. at the Department of Emergency Response. See weather.gov/aly/skywarn or call 845-486-2080.

Store to Host Exhibit

Eliza Brown photos on display

Wyld Womyn, a new store at 378C Main St. in Beacon, will have its grand opening on Saturday, May 12, from noon to 8 p.m., featuring an exhibit of photography by Eliza Brown. There will also be music by Pat Lamana, Lydia Adams Davis, and Stephanie Carlin from 2 to 6 p.m. and flower-crown making from 1 to 3 p.m.

International Artists in Town

Residency underway at Red Barn

See artists at work during the annual two-week International Artists Residency at the Red Barn River Center at Long Dock Park. The event begins Monday, May 14. There will be an exhibit, artist talks, and workshops throughout and a reception from 3 to 7 p.m. on Saturday, May 19. Basha Maryanska is the curator and the program is sponsored by Scenic Hudson and BeaconArts.

Last Chance for Chamber

Music series concludes May 20

The Calidore Quartet will perform at 4 p.m. on Sunday, May 20, at the Howland Cultural Center in Beacon in the final public concert of the Howland Chamber Music Circle season. The pro-

gram includes Haydn's *String Quartet in D Major, Op. 64*, Brahms' *String Quartet in C Minor, Op. 51, No. 1* and Beethoven's *String Quartet in F Major, Op. 59, No. 1*. Tickets are \$30 for adults and \$10 for students at howlandmusic.org, or call 845-765-3012.

Plant ID Class

Learn what's OK to eat in wild

Learn how to identify edible wild plants during a class and walk led by Sarah Elisabeth at the Sargent-Downing Gardens & Nursery at University Settlement Camp in Beacon on Saturday, May 12. It begins at 10 a.m., and the suggested donation is \$10. Email sdgbeacon@gmail.com.

Kid-Friendly Concert

Mother's Day show in Newburgh

Hudson Valley Winds will perform a Mother's Day concert on Sunday, May 13, at 3 p.m. at St. George's Church, 105 Grand St., in Newburgh that includes Prokofiev's *Peter and the Wolf*, Saint-Saens' *Carnival of the Animals* and Ravel's *Mother Goose Suite*, narrated by Nanette Koch.

The show is sponsored by Newburgh Chamber Music. Tickets are \$25 for adults and \$15 for students, and the proceeds will benefit musicians in Puerto Rico.

Elks Scholarships

Deadline is May 20

The Beacon Elks Lodge No. 1493 is accepting applications from high school seniors for its Rush Greenough Scholarship for community service and Doc Roberts Scholarships for engineering, mechanical and architecture studies. Applications are available in the Beacon High School guidance office or after 2 p.m. at the lodge at 900 Wolcott Ave. The deadline is May 20. For information, call 845-831-5769.

Visit highlandscurrent.com for news updates and latest information.



This feature is designed as a counterweight 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? Erin Wik of Garrison submitted this shot of her son, Everett, walking his pup, Blu. If you have a photo of a baby and a dog, submit it for consideration to editor@highlandscurrent.com.



Sandy McKelvey for School Board



- ✓ **For greater transparency:** School leadership must communicate more actively and openly and encourage community input
- ✓ **For higher excellence:** Teachers should be given more resources and training – embrace the local resources and expertise of the community instead of wasting \$\$\$ on faraway programs
- ✓ **For the kids:** Giving students the tools they need to thrive and succeed academically, socially and emotionally

Sandy is passionate about Haldane

- Volunteering for 9+ years in the classrooms
- Member of the Wellness and Strategic Planning committees
- Current chair of the PTA Garden Committee
- Initiated Haldane's "Chef in the Classroom" program
- Launched the "Teen Lounge" project for high schoolers
- Brought local meat, milk, and vegetables into the school cafeteria

Vote for Sandy for our Kids

Polls Open May 15 at Haldane 7 AM – 9 PM

Starting at the Top

Hat-making workshop begins May 19

By Alison Rooney

Straw hat, or fedora? This will be the choice presented to participants at the first of four weekly sessions in Beacon to create a hat of their own.

The course, which begins Saturday, May 19, will be led by Mackie Ronson, who “minored in millinery” (technically, accessories design) at the Fashion Institute of Technology. The classes take place on consecutive Saturdays at the Howland Cultural Center, 477 Main St.

In the first session, participants will be asked to choose their path — straw hat or a fedora — and will learn a few stitching techniques. “Head-blocking,” or making a mold from your head, comes later.

Students will be able to choose from accessories such as feathers and flowers or bring their own. They’ll also learn how to size fedoras, and Ronson will share the history of the industry and discuss the influence women have had in the design, production and wearing of hats.

After graduating from FIT, Ronson worked for a bridal business, designing veils and hats, before joining the Steve Madden footwear company. She spent a decade there in production, sourcing,

design and branding.

Since leaving Steve Madden, she has freelanced and specializes in launching European and Latin footwear brands in North America. She travels often to Spain, Italy, Bangladesh and Mexico to scout factories and materials but says she is ready to perch in Beacon and would love to open a “hands-on footwear — particularly sandals — and hat-making shop, using eco-friendly materials and dyes, stitching rather than gluing, where possible.”

Ronson has become a historian of Beacon millinery. While Danbury claims to have produced more hats, Ronson believes that may be because its manufacturers kept better records. Certainly Beacon was the center of the industry in New York, especially in the 1920s. Ronson estimates that, at its peak, the city’s factories were producing 10,000 hats a day.

“It was all bench work, the beginning of assembly-line industry, with set stations, clocking in and an emphasis on productivity,” she says.

The last Beacon hat factory closed in 2005. Ronson says her goal is to bring some of the hat and shoemaking industry back to Beacon, but without the extensive use of chemicals that ended up in Fishkill Creek.

The four-session Make-A-Hat workshop is \$50, or \$25 for students. Call 212-423-5870 to reserve a spot.



Mackie Ronson

Photo by Russ Cusick



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Small, Good Things:

Fast Food

By Joe Dizney

Although in the modern world it's available year-round, we celebrate asparagus as a harbinger of spring. And like the cherry blossoms, its time is fleeting.

The Germans say asparagus picked in the morning should be devoured by lunch, and the Romans had a maxim, "Quicker than you can cook asparagus." In the 17th

century, Louis XIV of France anointed it the "king of vegetables."

The French are also credited with identifying a readily available substitute: leeks, or "poor man's asparagus." But you have to boil leeks about 10 minutes to match the sweetness of asparagus blanched for barely one.

A combination of the two seems natural and offers the symbolic advantage of celebrating the beginning of spring and the passing of winter, when leeks provide comfort. Both also share classic flavor affinities and pairings — assertive, acidic

Rich Man, Poor Man

Asparagus and Leeks with Anchovy-Lemon Dressing and Soft-Cooked Egg
Serves 4 to 6

- Olive oil

1 bunch asparagus

4 to 5 leeks (½ to 1 inch diameter)

3 tablespoons fresh-squeezed lemon juice
- 6 oil-packed anchovy filets

1 tablespoon chopped tarragon or parsley

1 to 2 room temperature eggs
- For the dressing: Mash the anchovies and lemon juice together in a small bowl. Whisk in 3 to 4 tablespoons of olive oil. Add chopped tarragon or parsley and a couple of grinds of white or black pepper. Stir to incorporate and set aside.
 - For the vegetables: Snap the tough ends from the asparagus. Set aside. Trim the root end of the leeks, leaving enough to hold them together while cooking. Cut off the tough tops, leaving about 2 to 3 inches of the lighter green part attached. (There is a lot of flavor in the tops. Boiling will tenderize the part you leave on, but save the rest to flavor soups or stews or stock.) Insert a knife about 1 inch below the tops and cut through leaving most of the white part whole. Fan the trimmed leeks; rinse thoroughly under cold, running water. If the leeks are especially dirty, you may make another cut to further open them. Set aside.
 - Bring a large pot of water to a steady, medium boil and salt well. Prepare an ice bath for the vegetables in a large bowl. Boil leeks for 8 to 10 minutes until tender and transfer to ice bath to cool. With the pot still boiling, add asparagus and cook for just a minute. Transfer asparagus to the ice bath (refreshing ice if necessary) and when vegetables are cool, drain first to a strainer and then on paper towels to remove excess moisture.
 - Transfer the vegetables to a rimmed serving dish, add dressing and toss lightly to coat. Cover dish with plastic wrap and refrigerate for at least two hours or overnight.
 - For the soft-cooked egg: Bring a pan of water (enough to generously cover the eggs) to boil. Adjust heat so the water is steadily but not wildly boiling and gently lower eggs into pan. (Use room-temperature eggs — no cheating!) Boil for exactly six minutes. Prepare an ice water bath to cover eggs and when they are done immerse them immediately into the bath and cool. Peel and set aside.
 - To serve, toss the vegetables to redistribute the dressing and tear or crumble the soft cooked eggs over all.



Asparagus and Leeks with Anchovy-Lemon Dressing and Soft-Cooked Egg
Photo by J. Dizney

dressings, olive oil and eggs.

The dressing in this recipe is a simple but emphatic emulsion of lemon juice, mashed, oil-packed anchovies and olive oil. No seasonings are necessary beyond the anchovies, although a quick grind of pepper and a pinch of minced tarragon or parsley offer another vernal accent.

Rather than traditional hard-cooked chopped egg, an easy soft-cooked and hand-torn yard egg provides a creaminess that is another gastronomic celebration. Truth be told, both the dressing and the soft-cooked egg are easily adapted to a variety of other raw, steamed, roasted or grilled vegetables.

Serve this dish alone or as a side to roast fish — or better still, a spring chicken — atop a bed of greens as a main course salad. It's a timesaver, too, as it can be prepared up to a day ahead. Just be quick about it.

7 LITTLE WORDS

Find the 7 words to match the 7 clues. The numbers in parentheses represent the number of letters in each solution. Each letter combination can be used only once, but all letter combinations will be necessary to complete the puzzle.

CLUES	SOLUTIONS
1 ran through a colander (6)	_____
2 dominant (5)	_____
3 nutty sweet (7)	_____
4 went on tour (6)	_____
5 Billy of Smashing Pumpkins (6)	_____
6 big name in insurance (10)	_____
7 disentangling (10)	_____

SI	GAN	PR	ED	INE
HA	NT	ING	PRU	AV
DE	UNR	GED	AL	ALP
GIG	EL	EV	IAL	COR

See answers: Page 3



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The Colors of Manitoga (from Page 11)

design. She attended the New York Studio School and received a fellowship at the Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture.

Tanaka mounted solo shows in the 1990s in New York, Boston, Connecticut and Germany. In 2003, Tanaka and her husband moved to Beacon and she's exhibited regionally since.

There is no formal process for the artist residencies at Manitoga. In this instance, a board member and a past resident both suggested Tanaka to Executive Director Allison Cross.

The residency is "organic and can begin with a thought, an idea or a spark,"



A log indicating where plant specimens were collected on the 75-acre campus

Photo by Vivian Linares

"If we go to the paint store we are 'given' a color. I wondered, can I be closer to what I draw? I draw mountain laurel out of mountain laurel. An artist's perception of color is different. We get to play with that."

Cross says. "It's about variety, unexpectedness — an unprecedented exploration of Russel Wright's legacy. We offer the artist an opportunity to explore something new."

Tanaka says the most interesting part of the process for her was not knowing where it would lead. "Something happens, thoughts come through; I've never done this before," she says. "My first experience with Manitoga was walking around in the middle of winter. I was surprised to see the color of the winter mountain laurel. I clipped a piece off, went home, then saw what colors I could create with it. I tried cooking it in a small pot, then thought, why not work with the quarry pond water?"

She adds: "If we go to the paint store we are 'given' a color. I wondered, can I be closer to what I draw? I draw mountain laurel out of mountain laurel. An artist's perception of color is different. We get to play with that."

Russel Wright would have agreed. He made many studies of color. His early American Modern and Iroquois lines featured colors from nature, and the



Above, *Mountain Laurel*, a watercolor by Kazumi Tanaka; at left, bloodroot ink

Images provided



glazes were patented.

Tanaka's lab will be a part of this season's public tours, which begin May 18

at the site, which is at 584 Route 9D. See visitmanitoga.org. In addition to her residency, Tanaka has a solo show, *No Home Go Home / Go Home*, at the Matteawan Gallery in Beacon that opens May 26. That exhibit includes 12 paintings created with tea leaves, each representing a childhood memory from Osaka.

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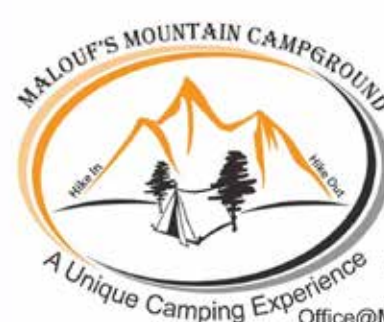


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Sports

Beacon Lacrosse: Tough Season, But Having Fun



The 2018 Beacon lacrosse team, with coaches Brian Lange at left and Diane Tanzi at right

Photo by S. Pearlman

Bulldogs are young but coach saw great improvement

By Skip Pearlman

This spring has been another season of progress, and growth, for the Beacon High School girls' lacrosse program.

The Bulldogs picked up their second win of the season on Monday (May 7) with a 12-10 win over Keio Academy in Purchase. Tessa Nilsen led Beacon with six goals, Katelyn Rosa added three, and Grace Affeldt, Olivia Lynch and Victoria Albra each scored once. Keeper Skyler Kurtz had eight saves for the Bulldogs.



STILL NO. 1 — The 1954 Philipstown Little League champions finished 15-2. Front row: Joey Frisenda, John (Bo Bo) Trocheck, Dan Dillon, Howie Howell, Dennis Raleigh, Billy Kent. Second row: George Giametta, Charlie Etta, Tom Dillon, Gordie Allen, Frank Russo, Dave Reilly, Dave LaPorta. Third row: Coach Howard Howell (white shirt), Manager Joseph (Patsy) Landolfi

Photo courtesy Dan Dillon

Beacon's other win, a 15-5 victory over Yonkers, came early in the season.

The remainder of the spring has not been easy, with 11 losses, including a tough 8-7 loss at Ardsley on Tuesday.

The Bulldogs — in just their eighth season as a team — graduated eight seniors from last year's squad and have no junior varsity. But Coach Brian Lange, in his fifth year, said he has been pleased with their effort, especially since most of the 30-member squad are freshman and sophomores.

"This group was resilient," he said. "They practiced hard, made adjustments and focused on getting better. We could see the progress from game to game. We did much better against teams the second time we saw them."

The Bulldogs' three captains are senior Brianna DerBoghossian and sophomores Affeldt and Lila Young.

"Brianna is a natural leader, a go-getter," Lange said. "She gets the girls hyped up, she communicates. She's a fantastic leader. And Grace and Lila are the same way — they lead by example, and they spend a lot of time understanding the game and their jobs. They're always focused on what to do to make the team better."

Nilsen, a sophomore who is the team's leading scorer, "has been huge for us," said Lange. And Beyoncé Otero, a freshman, "is an absolute workhorse. Her stick work has improved tremendously."

He says many other players also showed steady improvement, including sophomores Rosa, Albra and Lynch and freshmen Gabby Del Castillo, Ashley Casserly and Gianna Thompson.

Despite the losses, Lange was encouraged by the squad's consistently positive outlook.

"The thing I've been most impressed with is

their attitude," he said. "It's tough when you play teams with programs that have been around for years, and that have JV programs. They still had fun, and were still focused."

To keep the players motivated, Lange and his assistant coach, Diane Tanzi, set goals such as achieving certain numbers of quality shots and defensive stops. "It's not easy to have to fight every minute of every game and get very few wins," he said. "But they are getting great game sense and continuing to gain experience."

The Bulldogs will not earn a spot in the playoffs but have summer clinics and camps ahead. And all but two of the players will return in 2019.

"That's the beauty of having such a young team," Lange said. "We'll be playing together for a few years, and I see good things happening."

Varsity Scoreboard

Softball
Tuckahoe 10, Haldane 0 [rain]
Putnam Valley 14, Haldane 7
Beacon 16, Poughkeepsie 4
Harrison 16, Beacon 0
Lourdes 13, Beacon 3
Beacon 25, Peekskill 1

Baseball
Rye Neck 7, Haldane 2
Haldane 4, Millbrook 2
Haldane 10, Peekskill 4
Haldane 13, Schechter 2
Putnam Valley 2, Haldane 1
Beacon 3, Somers 0
Lourdes 8, Beacon 2
Lakeland 6, Beacon 0
Beacon 10, Lourdes 9

Boys' Lacrosse
Edgemont 9, Haldane 8 (OT)
O'Neill 14, Haldane 8
Haldane 7, Keio Academy 6
North Salem 11, Haldane 7

Girls' Lacrosse
Henry Hudson 15, Beacon 2
Albertus Magnus 19, Beacon 5
Beacon 12, Keio Academy 10
Ardsley 8, Beacon 7

Boys' Golf
Beacon 234, Lourdes 242

Boys' Tennis
Beacon 5, Walter Panas 2
Beacon 7, Brewster 0
Beacon 4, Carmel 3
Henry Hudson 6, Beacon 1

Track & Field
See highlandscurrent.com.