

# The HIGHLANDS Current



Her Kind of Town  
Page 9

AUGUST 3, 2018

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



**OLD-FASHIONED POSTS** — Sarah Gurland of Cold Spring posted a message about messages on posts after spotting these affirming messages on utility poles on Pine and Parsonage streets. “I love these signs,” she wrote on Facebook. “Whoever is posting them around town — thank you!”

*Photos provided*

## Scenic Hudson Buys 1,178 Acres at Lake Valhalla

*Pays \$12 million to preserve habitat in Philipstown*

By Michael Turton

Scenic Hudson has purchased 1,178 acres around Lake Valhalla for \$12 million to preserve it from development, the nonprofit announced on July 21.

The acquisition straddles the towns of Philipstown and Fishkill, encompasses most of Scofield Ridge and includes forest, rocky slopes, wetlands and streams. It also includes the lake, which was created by a developer in the 1920s by damming a nearby brook.

In a statement, Scenic Hudson President Ned Sullivan said the property has been one of the organization's conservation priorities for years. Adjacent to the Hudson Highlands State Park Preserve, it is part of one of the largest intact forests

in southeastern New York.

The purchase was made through a Scenic Hudson affiliate, Slopeline LLC, and funded in part by the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation, the Lila Acheson and DeWitt Wallace Hudson Valley Land Preservation Endowment, Fred Rich of Garrison and other donors.

“A significant portion of the Lake Valhalla property surrounds the Cold Spring reservoir system, so its conservation is very positive for the village water supply,” noted Michelle Smith, executive director of the Hudson Highlands Land Trust.

“Another portion drains into the Clove Creek aquifer, making it important to water supplies for Philipstown and Fishkill.”

The property also was the priority in an open-space preservation plan prepared by Philipstown in 2007, said Max Garfinkle, the town's natural resource officer, who grew up near the lake. He said the area has “high ecological value” because of its diverse plants and wildlife.

The purchase included a home and estate known as Valkyria built by the developer, Ludwig Novoting, after he bought the property *(Continued on Page 14)*



**TRIBUTE TO DANNY** — Rick Nestler and Guy Davis perform on July 29 at the Towne Crier Cafe in Beacon at a tribute to Dan Einbender, the songwriter and storyteller who died in May. A former resident of Garrison's Landing, Einbender played with Pete Seeger and worked for Clearwater for 30 years.

*Photo by Ross Corsair*

## Beacon to Consider Municipal IDs

*Would provide alternative to driver's license*

By Brian PJ Cronin

It's easy for anyone who has one to overlook how often a driver's license is used as identification: picking up children from school, visiting family members at the hospital, buying cold medicine at the drugstore, applying for a library card.

A valid ID can be especially valuable for undocumented immigrants, which is why it's being pushed by Nobody Leaves Mid-Hudson, an immigrants' rights group based in Poughkeepsie. The city council there last month unanimously passed a measure creating IDs for residents, making it only the second municipality in the state to do so after New York.

Beacon may be next. The City Council plans at its Monday, Aug. 13, workshop to discuss creating a municipal ID. *(To Page 8)*



Jonathan Bix of Nobody Leaves Mid-Hudson

*Photo provided*



Fishing at Lake Valhalla

*Photo by Karen Thompson*





## Five Questions: JONATHAN KRUK

By Michael Turton

Jonathan Kruk is the author, most recently, of *Legends and Lore of the Hudson Highlands*. Split Rock Books in Cold Spring will host a reading today (Aug. 3.) at 7 p.m.

### These stories have been around for a long time. Why publish them now?

I became inspired by the hordes of hikers who gather around here and wondered if they knew about the stories that surround them, beyond what they find in the hiking guides. Some have already been told in great, historical detail, but I thought I could bring a storyteller's perspective.

### How much of the book is factual?

I grappled with that all through the writing process. I try to acknowledge when I describe something as being plausible, while retelling a story based on the facts. I do always carry my poetic license. I find the best stories are the ones that rise out of the facts. It's probably about 50-50 fact to conjecture.

### How difficult was the research?

It proved daunting. For example, I fell down a rabbit hole looking for the origins



Jonathan Kruk

Photo by M. Turton

of "the money hole" that was located off Dennytown Road more than 200 years ago. I learned there was a counterfeiting ring at the bottom, then discovered there was a hermit living there. Over the decades, people have supposedly found printing equipment, slices of silver. That

story led me to the quarry at Bull Hill and then above that to a bull bellowing into the night that may have jumped off Breakneck Ridge. That, in turn, led me to discover that Breakneck also had a Native American name that hinted at something disastrous happening there.

### Which of the stories is least known?

Probably the tale of Ashael Bell, who became a hermit when the Cold Spring lass he had fallen in love jilted him for a city slicker from New York. He was determined to make a fortune to prove she had made the wrong choice. He slowly bought up desolate rocky farmland and collected the rents, grew a Rip Van Winkle beard and supposedly stashed his treasure away in these hills. People claim he hid out near Garrison and up near Fishkill. He met with a very untimely and mysterious death.

### Is there a message between the lines of the stories?

On one hand, the Hudson Highlands nurture; on the other, they stir things up. They nurtured revolution and may do it again, although not bloody change. They stir you up inside, inspiring the likes of everyone from George Washington to Pete Seeger. They do so with the comfort they provide. While staying at Denning's Point, Alexander Hamilton famously wrote that a little national debt, if not excessive, would prove a kind of blessing for the new nation. That was revolutionary. The Highlands inspired Seeger to build the sloop Clearwater. They inspired many artists, including Thomas Cole and the Hudson River School of painters. Every hill and every hollow holds a story like a treasure.

### Support Groups

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

## ON THE SPOT

By Michael Turton

*Do you have a special tree?*



"The black walnut in the backyard of my childhood home in Kansas City. My sisters and I logged many hours and a few injuries on its 8-foot high swing."  
~ Jennifer Zwarich, Cold Spring



"A red bud maple on the Beacon riverfront that I planted in honor of my son, Michael, who passed away."  
~ Patty Urbanak, Beacon



"I planted a crab apple in my yard in Roe Park [near Peekskill] in the early 1960s. Later I moved it to another spot for 14 years, then here to Philipstown."  
~ Lew Kingsley, Philipstown

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# Philipstown, State Fight Illegal Dumping

*Demolition debris, cast-off couches and trash litter roads and woods*

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

New York State officials last month stepped-up their efforts against illegal dumping, a fight also waged by Philipstown against polluters who discard debris, furniture and trash alongside roads or in forests.

Gov. Andrew Cuomo announced on July 18 that an ongoing investigation called Operation TrashNet, stretching from Long Island to the mid-Hudson Valley, has so far resulted in more than 170 tickets; the identification of more than 40 trucking companies suspected of illegal dumping; the impoundment of 26 trucks; and the discovery of 81 dump sites.

Much of the waste comes from New York City construction sites, according to the DEC.

According to state officials, most construction and demolition debris consists of concrete, asphalt, rock, brick and dirt and poses no environmental threat, but debris with asbestos, chemically treated lumber, petroleum products, roofing shingles or soil from polluted sites can harm water sources, adversely affect communities, and require expensive cleanup when discarded illegally instead of at facilities intended to take it. Often, the state said, tainted debris “is blatantly

dumped in rural landscapes or farms, or illegally marketed as clean fill.”

Philipstown authorities encountered an apparent phony-fill operation a year ago.

Supervisor Richard Shea reported at a Town Board meeting last August that a carting company and excavator had duped “vulnerable individuals” by supplying what was supposedly clean fill to even out lawns or make other improvements.

*Often, the state said, tainted debris “is blatantly dumped in rural landscapes or farms, or illegally marketed as clean fill.”*

Instead, he said, the fill was “absolute trash,” apparently waste from demolished buildings. Shea said at the time that the DEC had gotten involved and that the alleged culprits would be prosecuted. “If you dump in this town, we’re going to come down on you hard and heavy,” he said.

In an update Wednesday (Aug. 1), Shea said that the town had issued violation notices and demanded remediation. He said the town’s Code Enforcement Department is handling the matter and that Greg Wunner, who heads the department, has reported that the contractors had agreed to comply with the remediation order. Shea added that the DEC had not yet provided the results of tests on the suspicious fill material. Wunner did not respond to email or phone inquiries.

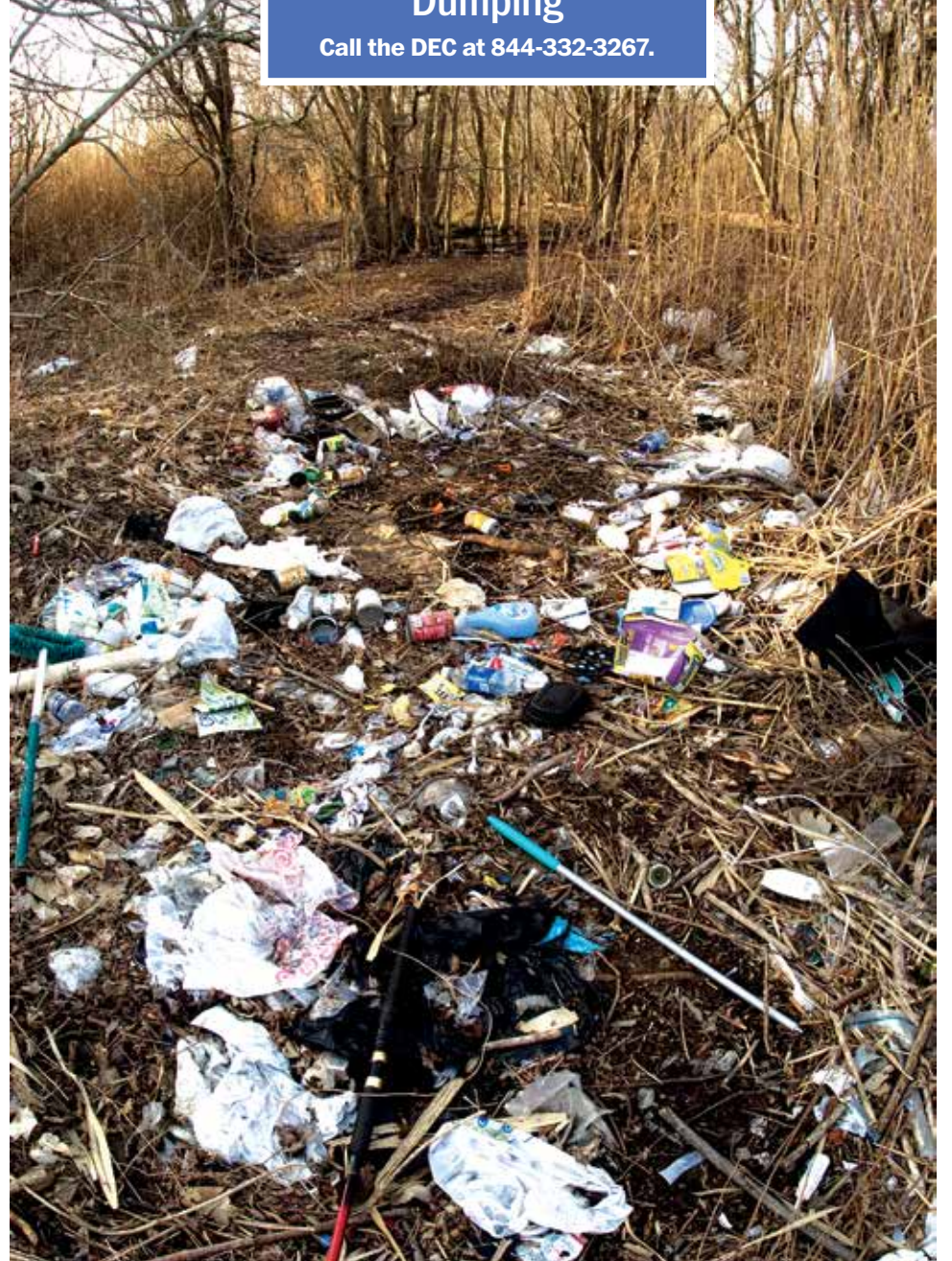
Philipstown isn’t the only Putnam County town affected by dumping, DEC records show.

In May, a tipster alerted the agency that a landscape business appeared to be discarding scrap in a state-protected wetland in Carmel. An officer investigated and the owner faced proceedings in the Town of Carmel Justice Court, the DEC said.

Philipstown also deals with the illegal dumping of household goods and trash. Carl Frisenda, superintendent of the highway department, said that typically someone cleans out a house and hires a contractor to dispose of furniture and other items, which the trucker dumps along a dirt road. In a case last year, the town called in the Putnam County Sheriff’s Department and the perpetrators were fined in Philipstown Justice Court, he said.

## How to Report Illegal Dumping

Call the DEC at 844-332-3267.



Household trash dumped in protected wetlands on Long Island

Photo by Martin Heitner

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## Climate resolution

Everywhere in the modern world we accept and embrace physics and scientific knowledge as the foundation for our remarkable progress in engineering, medicine and technology. Yet when it comes to global warming, the pervasive disdain for scientific facts endures in the U.S.

I was surprised to read that the scientific statements, which I suspect formed a sound basis of the argument for action, in the original draft of the Garrison School climate resolution were removed because the school board felt it could not research their veracity ("Garrison School Board Passes Climate-Change Resolution," July 20).

Two of the nation's top scientific agencies, NASA and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), provide an abundance of scientific facts on climate that support the global consensus on man-made global warming and its role in exacerbating extreme weather around the world.

Does the Garrison School Board research the veracity of scientific facts taught to district pupils, such as those con-

## LETTERS AND COMMENTS

### Letters and Comments

*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.org 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.

cerning gravity? Climate change is very well explained by physics and science. It is also only a political issue in the U.S. Other nations accept the science and are taking action to protect their communities.

The politics of climate change should be around the solutions to it — what policies we use, and how quickly they are enacted — not about the scientific fundamentals.

I applaud the Garrison district for leading the East Coast with this resolution and working at the grassroots to protect its community. Will Haldane follow its lead?

Zoe Antitch, *Cold Spring*

*Antitch is a senior adviser for Mission 2020, a campaign to curb emissions.*

## Campaign news

As you reported, I decided not to run for the District 1 seat in the Putnam County Legislature ("Ballots Nearly Set for November," July 27). The way things worked out, it didn't make sense to do so.

I am a freelance technical writer and was given a project that will take me well into the fall to complete. There is no way I could afford to engage in a political race that I most likely would have lost, due to the fact that Nancy Montgomery threw her hat in the ring.

When I was approached last year by political people from three parties (Republi-

can, Democrat and Conservative) asking me to consider running, I said I was reluctant to do so without a commitment from at least one of them. The only way I could have run as a Republican would be to defeat incumbent Barbara Scuccimarra in a primary, and she has plenty of money and support from county people. Having read my letters to the editor regarding the horrors of the Republican-controlled county government, it's not hard to understand why I would not have that support.

My concern from Day One was not to let Scuccimarra have a free ride. Nancy Montgomery is very familiar with the issues facing Cold Spring and Philipstown and I'm sure she can get up to speed quickly on the rest of District 1. She's an excellent candidate, and I wish her luck.

Cold Spring and Putnam Valley have been badly treated thanks to the utter incompetence of the Dynamic Duo who now represent us (Scuccimarra and William Gouldman). The stakeholders of District 1 deserve a lot better.

Patty Villanova, *Putnam Valley*

## Algae blooms

The Lake Valhalla Civic Association shares the concerns of Councilor Nancy Montgomery of the Philipstown Town Board about the future of our lake and the watershed ("Slime on the Agenda," July 27).

For many years, our homeowners have contracted with the nation's leading biologist-led lake management company to conduct bimonthly assessments of our lake's water quality, including chemical composition, invasive plant growth and algae populations.

In recent years there has been an uptick in the lake's phosphorus content — although still within acceptable levels — that the biologists tell us is often the result of fertilizer use uphill from the lake. We've cautioned our homeowners about fertilizer use (organic is no better!) but welcome the idea that regulatory approaches should be considered. Thanks to our neighbor Nancy for raising this important issue.

Paul Kaye, *Philipstown*

## Grannies at the border

Old hippies never die. They just protest away — against anything! ("Grannies Head to Border," July 27)

Geraldine Fuller, *via Facebook*

Go, grannies, go. You're on the right side of history. Sadly, some old fogies out there will mock your behavior. But without hippies, we might still be fighting the Vietnam War.

Deb Ashton, *via Facebook*

## Change of Address

*The Highlands Current* website has moved from highlandscurrent.com to **highlandscurrent.org** to better reflect our mission as a nonprofit enterprise serving the Philipstown and Beacon communities. (Highlandscurrent.com will forward you to the new address, and emails also will be forwarded.) Thank you for your continuing support of local, independent journalism.





**LETTERS AND COMMENTS** (from previous page)Wesley Mann, right, with Michael J. Fox in *Back to the Future II* (1989)**Wily Wes**

My favorite Wes role was his appearance in 1989 in *Back to the Future II* ("5Q: Wesley Mann," July 20). Sorry, Shakespeare. I still think Wes was right — Marty did steal Biff's wallet!

Michael Bowman, *Nelsonville*

**Philipstown corridors**

After reading your article, I felt compelled to read the *Putnam County Commercial Corridors Planning and Feasibility Study* and its recommendations for Cold Spring, Nelsonville and Philipstown ("New Life for Philipstown Business?"

July 27).

I was appalled with this work. AKRF has been the principal planning consultant to Philipstown for some time, and Cold Spring has used the firm for environmental and planning application issues. So it ought to have greater familiarity with the facts on the ground in these municipalities. As to Hudson Valley Pattern for Progress, I don't think it has looked at Cold Spring in many years. In my view, it focuses on Orange County, except for regional topics.

The report appears to be greatly dependent on internet sources rather than the

granular visual inspection that good planners do. What AKRF did is often referred to as a "windshield survey," and that's not complimentary. Its on-site interviews and meetings were conducted in June, July and August 2017 and were therefore more likely to address a tourism market than a year-round visitor-plus-resident market which local merchants must address.

Some examples of the study's deficiencies: The Nelsonville part of the commercial corridor ends at Peekskill Road but ignores the south side of Route 301 near Fishkill Road, which is a more logical development node and currently a "soft," or underdeveloped, site.

Similarly, Route 9D north and south of Route 301, which has much more traffic than 301 ever will, is ignored as a corridor but deserves examination in terms of zoning and parking. (I'm aware of the proposal to house a nonprofit on Morris Avenue, which was rejected. That's why a community conversation is needed.)

Also, what are the pedestrian volumes along or crossing the Fishkill Road and Route 9 intersection that would require sidewalks, crosswalks and timed traffic lights? I would say nearly nonexistent. Maybe the planners didn't speak to the state Department of Transportation.

Given the in-depth literature search that was apparently done, does anyone think the consultants could have looked at the comprehensive plans for Cold Spring

and Philipstown? Both the village and the town engaged in extensive exploration of many of the issues that are merely mentioned by this study and have a rich body of profoundly substantive reports.

How insulting to the dozens of committed residents who participated in the comp plans process. Also, were the consultants aware of Cold Spring's Code Update Committee? Doesn't look like it.

It wouldn't hurt to ask the county how much it paid for this unprofessional product.

Carolyn Bachan, *Cold Spring*

*Editor's note: Bachan has worked in planning and development for 30 years. The study was funded with two grants: \$50,000 from Empire State Development and \$150,000 from the New York Metropolitan Transportation Council.*

Why do we have to grow? Has anyone asked the residents what they want? Do we need more visitors clogging up and destroying the area? What do residents get out of all this development? Have our taxes been reduced by bringing in all this business?

Our parks and town are overrun by a large percentage of people who could not care less about anything but themselves. The developing of more infrastructure to bring more people will only lead to a larger burden on the local government to sustain it.

How about we fix what (to page 6)

**Corrections and Updates**

In the July 27 issue, we reported that, in the race for the District 1 seat in the Putnam County Legislature, incumbent Barbara Scuccimarra had \$5,733 on hand as of July 12. In fact, Scuccimarra reported \$11,560 in campaign funds after raising \$12,075 and spending \$514 since June. We also reported that her challenger, Nancy Montgomery, had not filed a disclosure report. In fact, her campaign fund, Elect Montgomery, reported to the state Board of Elections that it had \$4,744 on hand as of July 12, after raising \$4,933 and spending \$189.

Paul Denbaum, the Kent Town Board member who hopes to challenge incumbent MaryEllen Odell with a Republican primary for the county executive seat, filed an appeal with the Putnam County Supreme Court on July 26 after the county Board of Elections invalidated his nominating petitions for not having enough valid signatures (he needed 1,000). His appeal was denied on Aug. 2.

In the July 27 issue ("Never Too Early"), we reported that to register to vote, a New York State resident cannot be on parole after a felony conviction. As of May, each month the corrections commissioner submits an updated list to the governor of every resident on parole. Parolees who are eligible receive a conditional pardon that allows them to vote. Residents on probation are already eligible to vote.

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LETTERS AND COMMENTS (from previous page)

we have first before embarking upon grand schemes? Take a ride to Long Island or New Jersey to see what all these smart ideas have accomplished. People, is this what we want? Make your voice heard!

Tony Bardes, *Cold Spring*

Goose problems

Would a public pool and sundeck — with families splashing around enjoying views of the river and mountains — keep the geese away? (“Goose Problem Continues at Mayor’s Park in Cold Spring,” July 20).

Sean Conway, *Cold Spring*

Let my beagle in — he not only chases geese but also delights in their poop! Two birds with one stone.

Maria Szulc, *Cold Spring*

*The Current* does significant disservice to our local youth and community by the slant of its reporting. It summarily dismisses a project by the Butterfield Teens program, initiated at my suggestion, to rid Mayor’s Park of geese as valueless, without going to the trouble of interviewing the library, its directors or any of the teens involved. Instead, the reporter spent a minute or two checking the Humane Society’s website and, upon a narrow reading of the information available, determined that predator effigies won’t work.

The Humane Society includes effigies or cutouts in its list of methods that don’t work on geese but also says there is “one possible exception. Where geese

have learned to fear real coyotes or where trained goose-herding dogs are regularly working, fake canines may keep geese on their toes a little longer. These work best when they are moved frequently and are on swivels so that they appear more real when moved by the wind.”

If painted coyote effigies deter the geese, our local youth will be making a valuable contribution to the community in which they live, and engage their creativity in the process. Waste from Canada geese is a significant problem. Each goose produces up to 1.5 pounds of feces every day. The birds pose a threat to public health by fouling our parkland and ball fields with waste that carries parasites and bacteria that put children at risk with every ground ball and tackle. Seniors are also vulnerable, and before last fall’s Senior Picnic, Mayor Dave Merandy, Trustee Steve Voloto and I spent hours cleaning the grass and pavilion.

Maybe coyote effigies will be a low-tech solution to the goose problem, or maybe they won’t, but the potential benefits are worth exploring. It costs very little, especially compared to the thousands of dollars involved in purchasing specialized poop removal machines and strobe lights. Building and installing several coyote cutouts on swiveling bases is a fun project for the JBL Teens, exposes them to the practicalities of the scientific process through hypothesis and experimentation, and communicates to our youth that we value

their contributions to our community.

*The Current’s* keenness to poo-poo our youth’s initiative and effort before they’ve even begun is mystifying. A local newspaper serves us better by encouraging community service in our youth rather than discouraging it. We all owe them better.

Lynn Miller, *Cold Spring Village Board.*

Money for schools

Let me start off by acknowledging the great work that the Haldane School Foundation does for its school district. Its grants will undoubtedly improve the standard of education for many Haldane students for years to come (“Haldane Foundation Awards Grants,” July 27). However, while admiring the foundation’s generosity, we should keep in mind that most school districts are not nearly as fortunate.

While the Beacon school district was lucky enough to receive funding for music and language (“Beacon Receives \$400K for Music, Language,” July 20), these programs were lacking. The programs that Haldane funded don’t exist in Beacon. Despite having a far smaller student body, Haldane students benefit mainly because they live in an area that is wealthier than Beacon.

That isn’t the only difference between the districts. Haldane’s student body is predominantly white, and Beacon’s is more culturally diverse.

Are we doing our minority and socioeconomically disadvantaged students wrong? Why should those fortunate to live within



**UNNEIGHBORLY** — A prankster or vandal, depending on your view, rearranged the message on the signboard at the Church on the Hill in Nelsonville in early July. It had read, “Never Forget, We Are One Nation Under God. God Bless America!” The Rev. Tim Greco, who is the pastor of the church, said he was disappointed by the vandalism and found it “very mean-spirited. Many wonderful people attend our church.”

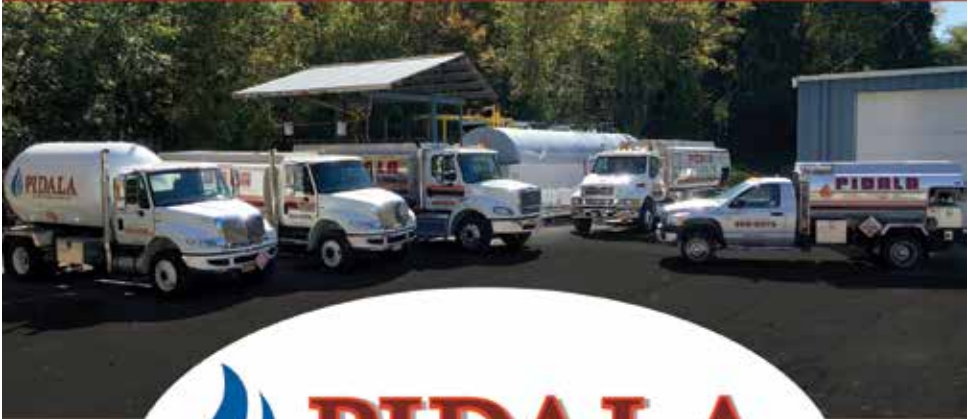
*Photo provided*


the bounds of an amazing school district like Haldane receive a better education than those who don’t?

Although the Haldane grants are generous, they are the epitome of the inequality that exists between the village and its neighbors. Aren’t these grants, awarded to a wealthy school district from a wealthy neighborhood, another example of the rich getting richer, while the poor get sore?

Marisa Mourgues, *Beacon*

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**VOLUNTEER OF YEAR** — On July 29, the New York State Elks Association named Clara Lou Gould, a member of Beacon Lodge No. 1493, as its female Veteran Volunteer of the Year. Gould was recognized for her work at the Castle Point VA Hospital and assisting local veterans. A native of Cold Spring, Gould was the mayor of Beacon for 18 years. She is shown with Stuart Rishe, president of the New York State Elks.

**7 LITTLE WORDS**

1. HITCHHIKER, 2. BUYBACK, 3. OPRAH, 4. SADDEN  
5. CAUTIONED, 6. HODOPHOBIC, 7. DISCERNED



# Civil Service Tests City Officials

*Exams create hiring challenges in Beacon, and elsewhere*

By Jeff Simms

Compliance with New York's civil service law, which regulates who can be hired for municipal jobs, is forcing the Beacon City Council to rearrange some of the city's departmental leaders next week.

The council is expected at its Aug. 6 meeting to name Michael Manzi, a former supervisor in the city's Parks Department, as acting superintendent of streets. He will succeed Reuben Simmons, who has filled the post for the last 18 months on an interim basis and will become a supervisor under Manzi.

Simmons took the job in early 2017 after longtime streets chief Anthony "Zep" Thomaselli retired, but the situation is complex because Simmons had not taken the required civil service exam before taking the job.

Civil service exams are required of certain government employees as well as municipal firefighters and police officers and school district and public library employees. An exam, for instance, for an entry-level police officer in New York asks questions designed to measure the applicant's memory for facts, preparation of incident reports, reading and interpreting written material and applying rules and regulations.

When a municipal vacancy exists, the Dutchess County Department of Human Resources creates a job description and administers an exam to generate a list of candidates for city officials to interview.

The exams differ depending on the position. Police officers and firefighters, for example, must meet a baseline level of physical fitness, while a financial officer would be required to demonstrate a different skillset, explained Steven Rector, the county's human resources commissioner.

Civil service exams began in New York more than a century ago to ensure that elected officials didn't fill jobs with cronies. Instead, the state constitution requires that civil service appointments and promotions be made according to "merit and fitness."

Rector concedes that the system "seems very awkward and cumbersome from the outside, but we have to ensure that tax dollars are being spent appropriately."

When Thomaselli retired from the Highway Department in January 2017, there were no candidates who had taken the required civil service exam. More than a dozen applicants were interviewed before Simmons, an employee in the department, was appointed.

In the time since, Mayor Randy Casale says, Simmons has performed admirably. But when Dutchess County organized a



Beacon Mayor Randy Casale

File photo

test for the post, Simmons was deemed ineligible because he hadn't held a supervisory position.

Rector said that's due in part to the system's preference for promoting from within. Candidates already working on an established path that leads to management are given preference in some cases, he said.

Casale, however, said he's increasingly frustrated with the civil service system. "You could do good on the test, but if you don't have the personality to manage people, this job will eat you up," said Casale, who was the streets superintendent for 22 years, from 1980 to 2002. "The test doesn't allow us to know if a person has that ability."

He also argued that the superintendent's exam is based on an outdated job description. Years ago, Casale explained, Beacon residents elected a commissioner of public works to whom appointed commissioners who oversaw trash collection, wastewater and sewers, and streets, among other departments, reported.

Over time, the jobs changed. The city trash incinerator closed, for example, and that department's responsibilities went to the superintendent of streets. Today, nearly all of Beacon's public works except for water and sewer are handled by the Highway Department.

Some police and fire officials have grown frustrated with the system, too.

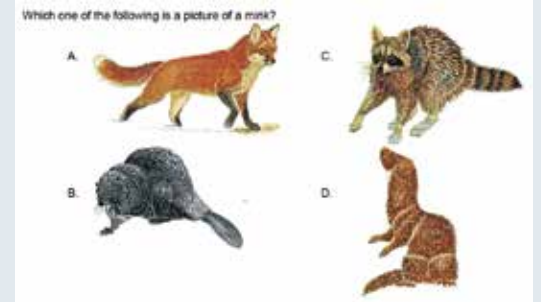
The exam for firefighters is offered by the county about every four years, which Beacon Fire Chief Gary Van Voorhis says isn't nearly often enough.

"Our society is on the go," he said. "These guys are young and if they miss the test [and have to wait four years], they'll go to another city [outside of Dutchess]. They're not going to wait around."

Some cities in other counties, such as Newburgh, administer their own civil service exams, and job requirements can differ from one agency to the next. In Dutchess County, police officers must complete a minimum number of college credits to qualify for a job, while New-

## Practice Questions

Many questions in exams for entry-level positions are designed to make sure an applicant has the basic knowledge required. At right is a practice question for the exam given to aspiring environmental conservation officer trainees that asks them to identify the mink.



And here's one for an entry-level police officer:

Officer Burton is about to begin her patrol shift when she discovers that her police vehicle has a large dent in the left rear bumper. She knows that the vehicle did not have this dent yesterday, when she last drove it. Officer Burton should most properly:

- A. request that she be assigned a different vehicle.
- B. begin her shift and be alert to any operating problems.
- C. find out what other officers have used the vehicle since her last shift.
- D. inform her supervisor about the dented bumper.

Source: *A Guide to the Written Test for the Entry-Level Police Officer Series*, New York Department of Civil Service (2016). The answers are both D.

burgh has no similar requirement.

"Even if you were a cop for years [in Newburgh], you can't transfer here," Casale said. "There's no continuity."

Tory Gallante, the chief of the Arlington Fire District in central Dutchess, says prospective firefighters wish for a "lucky Saturday" when they take the exam, because the fire department must choose from the top three scores when filling a position.

"We'll canvass from the list, but the challenge is that you're somewhat limited in your pool," he said, noting that exam

subjects such as reading comprehension have been known to trip up candidates.

"There may be someone further down on the list who just didn't score well," Gallante said, "and that could limit us in getting to a person who has prior experience [necessary for the job]. But if they didn't have that lucky Saturday, they may not be part of the county's designated hiring pool."

Gallante said he's not heard of any efforts to change the system. Casale lamented: "There's a lot of frustrated supervisors out there."

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## Beacon to Consider Municipal IDs *(from Page 1)*

“Poughkeepsie’s done the hard work already for Beacon, Kingston, Middletown, Newburgh and the other Hudson Valley cities moving toward a municipal ID,” said Jonathan Bix, the executive director and co-founder of Nobody Leaves Mid-Hudson. “There’s no need to reinvent the wheel.”

Amber Grant, a member of the Beacon City Council, says she supports the idea because the difficulty of obtaining government-issued identification creates an “access gap” for some residents.

In a statement released by Nobody Leaves Mid-Hudson, Beacon Mayor Randy Casale was quoted as expressing support for municipal IDs but in an interview said he wanted to make sure they weren’t already available. “You can get a non-driver’s ID at the DMV,” he said. “Are we duplicating something that’s being done already?”

However, unlike non-driver IDs offered by the Department of Motor Vehicles, municipal IDs do not require a Social Security number or birth certificate. Applicants must provide documentation but it can include visas, foreign passports or consular cards. The card is also an option for anyone who is homeless or has difficulty obtaining an original birth certificate, said Bix.

The IDs also do not indicate gender, which can benefit transgendered individuals. “If the only forms of ID someone has misgenders them, it can lead to housing discrimination, employment discrimination and difficulties accessing medical



A member of Nobody Leaves Mid-Hudson showed her support for an initiative to create Poughkeepsie identification cards.

*Photo provided*

care,” he said.

In New York City and Poughkeepsie, the cards have other uses. Businesses and cultural organizations can offer discounts, and cities could promote each other by extending offers to residents of other municipalities.

“I love the idea of having people from Poughkeepsie or Newburgh come to Beacon and get discounts at restaurants or Dia,” said Grant. “It would be a great way to tie all of our cities together.”

Sarah Salem, a member of the Poughkeepsie Common Council, likened it to the Mid-Hudson Library system, which allows a Beacon resident to use his or her card from the Howland Public Library to check out books in Cold Spring or Garrison.

While the cards can’t be used to register to vote — that requires a Social Security number — Salem said she hoped

## What You Need in Poughkeepsie

In order for a Poughkeepsie resident to obtain an identity card from the city, he or she must provide a passport, driver’s license, ID from a foreign country, a military ID or a current visa. If those documents are not available, the applicant can submit a green card, naturalization certificate, U.S. government ID or state veterans’ ID, along with a Social Security card, high school or college diploma, taxpayer ID number or voter registration card, among other documents.

To prove residency, an applicant must provide a utility bill; residential lease; property tax statement; mortgage receipt; bank account statement; school registration of a child of applicant; pay stub; jury summons or court order; federal or state income tax or refund statement; insurance bill; or written verification by a homeless shelter or clinic confirming at least 15 days of residency.

the Poughkeepsie card will be accepted by poll workers. She said the city is also working with banks to allow cardholders to open checking accounts.

In Beacon, Casale said he wants to hear more about the program on Aug. 13, especially whether it would require the city to hire additional staff or place a burden on the City Clerk’s office. He said Beacon could offer the cards only on certain days, or by appointment, so “we don’t get slammed.”

Poughkeepsie plans to hire a part-time staff member to implement the program but hopes to offset the costs with a \$10 initial fee (\$5 for seniors and children and teenagers younger than 16) and \$5 for renewals every four years. Waivers are available for those under financial hardship.

“This is one tiny and affordable step that a city can do to offer some sense of relief and a sense of belonging to their community,” Salem said.



Top, a mockup of a Poughkeepsie identification card created by Sarah Salem, a member of the Common Council. Above is an example of the ID card that can be requested by residents of New York City.

*Images provided*

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# The Calendar



Amy Bennett with some of her models

Photo by A. Rooney

Amy Bennett's studio with her model and paintings for *The Small Changes Every Day* series

Photo provided

## Painting the Town

*Cold Spring artist captures moments of her own making*

By Alison Rooney

Inside Amy Bennett's Cold Spring studio there is a town, its topography shaped by nature and those who settled in it. The greens and blues of its rivers and mountains have been partially supplanted, over time, by the evidence of human habitation: first, homes and businesses, then schools, garages, churches and small bodies of water.

Bennett's studio, though spacious, is able to hold these things because the town exists in miniature, in 1:87 scale, smaller than standard dollhouse furniture.

Bennett is a painter, often working in narrative — her works tell a story — and her three-dimensional models serve as

evolving still lifes for her paintings. She taught herself to make models by taking apart and reconstructing dollhouse furniture, then experimented with model railroad kits that included “people in identifiable professions, the size of a grain of rice,” she says.

“I take materials, cut them up, glue them, then repose them,” she explains. “I fill in the blanks and I think about who lives in them.”

By moving the objects in her models around, she is able to play with position, light and ideas before committing them to oil. She paints on smooth wood panels her father makes for her because she is able to depict more detail than on canvas.

The technique has its challenges. “Something always goes wrong,” Bennett says, such as a piece of furniture coming unglued or a swimming pool that imploded when the substance that simulates water overheated in the sun. “That's OK,

though,” she says. “I'm a painter, not a photographer, so it doesn't have to be literal.”

Bennett's interest in storytelling developed during her childhood in Maine, where she remembers making up stories about toys. She earned her bachelor's degree in fine arts at the University of Hartford, where she met her husband, Jonathan, a book designer. She later received a master's in fine art from the New York Academy of Art.

The couple lived in Brooklyn for 15 years but the rising cost of studio space brought them to Philipstown in 2013 with their son, then 1. (Their second son, now 21 months, was born here.) “Although we'd visited Cold Spring and loved it, I thought we'd be going backward,” Bennett says. “But it turns out there was no looking back for us. Life is easier, it's so beautiful, and there's no shortage of incredible people and inspiration here.”

A garage on their property became her studio. “This has always been the fan-

tasy, and the move made it possible,” she says. “I can spend an hour or two in here while my son is napping. There's all this even light, a northward exposure, and we had great advice from our neighbor, who's a lighting designer.”

The process of considering various towns for their new home inspired Bennett to create one of her own in a series of paintings, *The Small Changes Every Day*, completed in their first three years in Cold Spring. “My life and observations in Cold Spring are definitely in the work, but it's not as interesting for me if it gets too specific,” she says. “I like the anonymity that fiction gives.”

The series began with an eight-foot square of Styrofoam on which she created a rural landscape. That slowly transformed into farmland, and a town began to develop. She fabricated more than 500 buildings, some with textures to mimic weathering. She compares it to descending in a plane, where a passenger first sees green, then roads, cars and people — “gradually” (Continued on Page 14)



“Doghouse” by Amy Bennett

Photo by Howard Goodman



“Rubber Gloves,” by Amy Bennett

Photo by Jonathan Bennett



“Claims,” by Amy Bennett

Photo by Jonathan Bennett



FRIDAY, AUG. 3

**Community Shabbat Picnic**  
5 – 8 p.m. Long Dock Park, Beacon  
845-831-2012 | beaonhebrewalliance.org

**Nancy Steinson: *Drawings and Sculptures* (Opening)**  
6 – 8:30 p.m. Buster Levi Gallery  
121 Main St., Cold Spring  
845-809-5145 | busterlevigallery.com

**Compassionate Care of the Dying (Talk)**  
7 p.m. Garrison Institute  
14 Mary’s Way, Garrison  
845-424-4800 | garrisoninstitute.org

***Legends and Lore of the Hudson Highlands* (Reading)**  
7 p.m. Split Rock Books  
97 Main St., Cold Spring | splitrockbks.com

***Solanus: Blessed in America***  
7 p.m. Capuchin Ministries  
781 Route 9D, Garrison  
857-615-3893 | capuchin.org

**HVSF: *Richard II***  
6:15 p.m. Friday Night Prologue  
7:30 p.m. Performance  
10:30 p.m. Trivia Night  
Boscobel | 1601 Route 9D, Garrison  
845-809-5750 | hvshakespeare.org

**CTA with Danny Seraphine and Bill Champlin**  
8 p.m. Paramount Hudson Valley  
1008 Brown St., Peekskill  
914-739-0039 | paramounthudsonvalley.com

SATURDAY, AUG. 4

**Hummingbirds for Kids**  
10 a.m. Outdoor Discovery Center  
Muser Drive, Cornwall  
845-534-5506 | hhnrm.org

**Bear Mountain Pow Wow**  
11 a.m. – 8 p.m. Anthony Wayne Recreation Area  
Palisades Parkway, Bear Mountain  
redhawkcouncil.org

**Bird Festival**  
11 a.m. – 3 p.m. Trailside Zoo  
Seven Lakes Drive, Bear Mountain  
trailsidezoo.org

**Muddy Puddles Project Mess Fest**  
11 a.m. – 4 p.m. Kiwi Country Camp  
825 Union Valley Road, Mahopac  
muddypuddlesproject.org

**Greater Newburgh Symphony Orchestra Memorial Concert**  
2 p.m. Washington and Renwick, Newburgh  
gnso.com

**LongReach Arts: *Niches* (Opening)**  
3 – 5 p.m. Howland Cultural Center  
477 Main St., Beacon  
845-561-1259 | howlandculturalcenter.org

**Public Canoe Trip**  
5:30 p.m. Audubon Center  
127 Warren Landing. Garrison  
845-265-2601 x15 | constitutionmarsh.audubon.org

**Wrestling Under the Stars**  
7 p.m. Dutchess Stadium  
1500 Route 9D, Wappingers Falls  
845-838-0094 | hvrenegades.com

**Benny Havens Band**  
7:30 p.m. Trophy Point, West Point  
westpointband.com

**HVSF: *The Taming of the Shrew***  
7:30 p.m. Boscobel  
See details under Friday.

Calendar Highlights

Submit to calendar@highlandscurrent.com

For complete listings, see highlandscurrent.org

**Some Like It Hot (1959)**  
8 p.m. Docksides Park, Cold Spring  
coldspringfilm.org

**Howland Wolves (Music)**  
8 p.m. Howland Cultural Center  
See details above.

SUNDAY, AUG. 5

**Guided Landscape Hike: Quarry to Quarry**  
10 a.m. Maniotoga  
584 Route 9D, Garrison  
845-424-3812 | visitmaniotoga.org

**Bear Mountain Pow Wow**  
11 a.m. – 8 p.m. Anthony Wayne Recreation Area  
See details under Saturday.

**Club/Draw Picnic Fundraiser for The Ramps**  
Noon – 7 p.m. University Settlement  
Wolcott Avenue, Beacon  
facebook.com/clubdrawbeacon

**Story Time in the Garden (ages 0-8)**  
Noon. One Nature  
321 Main St., Beacon | onenaturellc.com/events

**Jonathan Kruk: *Fables to Squiggly Squirmlers***  
1 p.m. Chapel Restoration  
45 Market St., Cold Spring  
845-265-5537 | chapelrestoration.org

**La Guelagetza Festival**  
1 – 7 p.m. Waryas Park, Poughkeepsie  
facebook.com/pokguelagetza

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

**David Amram Quintet**  
7 p.m. Tompkins Corner Cultural Center  
729 Peekskill Hollow Road, Putnam Valley  
845-528-7280 | tompkinscorners.org

**HVSF: *The Heart of Robin Hood***  
7:30 p.m. Boscobel  
See details under Friday.

MONDAY, AUG. 6

**La Leche League Infant Meeting**  
10:30 a.m. Beacon  
Email alexandradevin@optimum.net.

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

**H.V. Renegades vs. Brooklyn**  
7 p.m. Dutchess Stadium  
See details under Sunday.

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**Beacon School Board**  
7 p.m. Beacon High School  
101 Matteawan Road, Beacon  
845-838-6900 | beaonk12.org

**HVSF: *The Taming of the Shrew***  
7:30 p.m. Boscobel  
See details under Friday.

TUESDAY, AUG. 7

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

**H.V. Renegades vs. Brooklyn**  
7 p.m. Dutchess Stadium  
See details under Sunday.

**Putnam County Legislature**  
7 p.m. Historic Courthouse  
44 Gleneida Ave., Carmel  
845-208-7800 | putnamcountyny.com

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

**HVSF: *Richard II***  
7:30 p.m. Boscobel  
See details under Friday.

WEDNESDAY, AUG. 8

**Native Plant Garden Walk**  
6 p.m. Stonecrop  
81 Stonecrop Lane, Cold Spring  
845-265-2000 | stonecrop.org

**Nelsonville Village Board**  
6:30 p.m. Village Hall  
258 Main St., Nelsonville  
845-265-2500 | villageofnelsonville.org

**Green Beacon Coalition**  
7 p.m. Beahive Beacon  
291 Main St., Beacon  
greenbeaconcoalition.org

**HVSF: *The Heart of Robin Hood***  
7:30 p.m. Boscobel  
See details under Friday.

**Thornton Wilder’s *The Matchmaker* (Reading)**  
7:30 p.m. Philipstown Depot Theatre  
10 Garrison’s Landing, Garrison  
philipstowndepottheatre.org

THURSDAY, AUG. 9

**Performers Rock! (Elementary School)**  
2 p.m. Howland Public Library  
313 Main St., Beacon  
845-831-1134 | beaconlibrary.org

**Burger and Beer Bash**  
6 – 10 p.m. Dutchess Stadium  
1500 Route 9D, Wappingers Falls  
hvmag.com/burgerbash

**HVSF: *The Taming of the Shrew***  
7:30 p.m. Boscobel | See details under Friday.

FRIDAY, AUG. 10

**Rockin’ Tales & Crafts (ages 4-6)**  
11 a.m. Howland Public Library  
See details under Thursday.

**Newburgh Jazz Series: Okira**  
6:30 p.m. 1 Washington St.  
ferrygodmother.com

**HVSF: *The Heart of Robin Hood***  
7:30 p.m. Boscobel | See details under Aug. 3.



# Songs to Fill the Space

*Enamored of Howland, Beacon newcomer creates musical troupe*

By Alison Rooney

Soon after he moved to Beacon in January, Todd Hulet, a theatrical jack-of-all-trades, walked into the Howland Cultural Center on Main Street.

Impressed by the space, he struck up a conversation with Florence Northcutt, a longtime board member. He said he'd be interested in doing a project at the center.

"She asked if I had a project I could just bring in," he recalls. "And I did. I had been developing a production of a folktale, *The Mitten*. It all happened very quickly and sort of accidentally."

After *The Mitten* was performed at the Howland in March, "Florence told me to pick a date for the next one. The problem was, I didn't have a project in mind, until I thought of two!"

Hulet formed what he called the Hudson Valley Theatre Initiative (HVTI) to produce more shows. Its first, a performance of the music from *Kiss Me, Kate* (Cole Porter's take on *The Taming of the Shrew*), played to a full house a few weeks ago.

Next up is *QueenE: The Musical*, on Aug. 11 and 12, for which Hulet wrote the book, music and lyrics. His seventh

musical, it tells the story of Queen Elizabeth I through pop music and will be directed by Liz Dahmen.

"I was looking for a show about a strong female leader," Hulet explains, when an acquaintance expressed frustration that every dramatic telling of Elizabeth's reign seemed to focus on her love life. "Why can't it be just about her?" she asked.

Hulet says he wrote the 90-minute *QueenE* "specifically to fit a community theater, with just two male parts and six to eight intended to be played by females." He believes the musical will play well at the Howland, which "has a chamber feel, almost immersive," because of the proximity of the audience and performers.

To encourage participation in HVTI from people with busy working lives, Hulet says he keeps rehearsals to a minimum. (For *Kiss Me, Kate*, they took place over one weekend.) "Having the opportunity to participate, despite having work commitments, is about community," he says. "Besides, if you can't make this one, you can always make the next one!"

Anyone is invited to perform in the chorus for the productions, he said, although the leading roles are typically cast after open auditions. While casting for *Kate*, Hulet recalls being pleasantly surprised by the local talent.

"We were concerned we might have to bring up friends from the city to play some of the roles," he says. "But there were more than enough incredible people here."

The cast included Jake and Kate Vander Linden of the Beacon Performing Arts Center and Anthony Scarrone, who directs the Beacon Players at Beacon High School. And along with 10 leads, 38 people signed up for the choir. "As per usual, not everyone turned up for rehearsals," Hulet says. "The final number was around 20."

The writer, who grew up in Southern California, has a degree in scenic design but has worked in many areas of production, including lighting and choreogra-



Todd Hulet

Photos by A. Rooney

phy. Before moving to Beacon, he developed theater programs as a teaching artist for students in the New York City school district. He now works on the community relations team at the Lego-land park being built in Goshen.

Hulet and his partner moved back to New York this year after trying California living for six months, he says. They chose Beacon, in part, after Hulet during a visit overheard a woman in Hudson Beach Glass say, "I love the arts. I don't make art myself, but I love being around it."

"For me, that was an indication there were all these people here who want their community to be full of creation," he says.

Tickets for *QueenE* are \$10 (\$7.50 for children) at hvti.org or \$15 (\$10) at the door. The next show will be a performance of the songs from Gilbert and Sullivan's *The Pirates of Penzance*, on Sept. 23.

## The Cast of *QueenE*

Kianna Batista (Queen Elizabeth I), Brooke Bennet, Debbie Broshi, Erin Buckley, Caitlyn Classey, Juliana Giannasca, Elizabeth Greenblatt, Maria Hahn-Silva, Molly Heily, Vicki Kramer Nathan, Harper Lee Andrews, Graeme McEneaney, Katarina Pabon, Linda Raftery, Sarah Rokitowski, Mackie Rondon, Lillian Salazar and Chris St. Germain



Director Liz Dahmen (foreground) works with Kianna Batista, who plays Queen Elizabeth I, during rehearsals at the Howland Center.



A rehearsal at the Howland Cultural Center for the musical *QueenE*

## McCaffrey Market Tips

### Affordable Ways to Update Your Home

Tired of your home looking off-trend and out of touch? Or investing in an older home and want to update it? You don't need deep pockets to do either. In fact, upgrading your home can be quite affordable with the right projects.

**Here are five ways to make a big impact without spending a lot:**

**Repaint.** Paint trends come and go, so if your walls are still the same color or have the same wallpaper from 1950, they're likely out of date. Consider giving the walls a new look with a more modern tone.

**Change light fixtures.** It's time to kick out-of-style light fixtures to the curb. Pendant lighting, Edison bulbs and simple recessed lighting are what's hot with today's designers and buyers.

**Update your hardware.** You'd be surprised at how easily doorknobs, drawer pulls, locks and handles can start to look aged. Take a good look at your existing hardware, and consider upgrading to newer models. And don't forget the hinges.

**Reface your appliances.** Have an old, yellowing appliance but don't want to replace what's not broken? Just use peel-and-stick stainless steel or marble contact paper, and reface those appliances instantly.

**Install a kickplate.** If you want to upgrade your curb appeal but can't afford a new door, consider installing a kickplate. It's an instant, affordable way to add visual appeal to any existing entryway.

These upgrades may seem minor, but when done properly, they can have a serious impact on your home's aesthetic.

If you're considering more extensive updates, let's get together to discuss ways to increase your home's marketability and long-term value.



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# The '90s Are Back

*New Cold Spring shop stocks 'modern vintage'*

By Alison Rooney

Cadah Goulet, a longtime seller on Etsy.com and at the Brooklyn Flea, was so taken with Cold Spring that, despite living 90 minutes away, she decided it was the perfect spot for her shop, Poor George.

The vintage clothing and accessories store, named for a painting Goulet saw in a book, opened in May at 165 Main St. Its owner says many people have discovered it while strolling past but also on Instagram, where it has nearly 1,200 followers.

A sampling of photos from that account provides a window into what Poor George is all about, from 1960s corduroy car coats to a Patti Smith T-shirt, black vinyl lace-up booties, brass jewelry, lots of denim, menswear, children's wear, wicker chairs and succulents. (Goulet admits to being "obsessed with cacti.")

She began selling vintage clothing because "I've always liked antiques and fashion, and I went 'thrifting' a lot. I would find exciting stuff, but rarely in my size, so I started collecting. My favorite part is the hunt. The more I sell, the more I can bring in."

Poor George has been well received, she says, both by tourists and locals. "Lots of guys, too — they're excited to be included," she says. The only early hiccup was the weather. Goulet expressed surprise at "how rainy it can be in May."

Before selling to the public, the shop owner worked as a merchandiser for Urban Outfitters and The Gap, as well as at retail boutiques.



Stationery items, vintage jeans, shoes and hats vie for space at Poor George. Below, Poor George's modern vintage collection includes menswear.



Cadah Goulet

Photos by A. Rooney

The work taught her a great deal about retailing, she says. "At Urban Outfitters, we were given a floor setup and a theme — one year it was decoupage and stenciling — and we got to work," she recalls. "We got to interpret the storyline and the display artists would add 'art layers.' Merchandising is a 'silent seller' and so much is about knowing how the consumer enters your store, where his or her focus goes to first."

Designing Poor George with that in mind, Goulet takes advantage of every wall, nook and cranny, grouping garments in "color stories" as well as style. The stock includes mostly "modern vintage," which she defines as anything at least 20 years old ("the '90s are in right now") and contemporary pieces, typically "easygoing soft-fabric basics, in solid colors."

Goulet says she aims for affordability. Teenagers are welcome, along with those who may be more vintage than the vintage on hand. "If a piece is rare, it might have a higher price point, but most are under \$50," she says.

Poor George is open from noon to 6 p.m. Wednesday and Thursday, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Friday and Saturday and from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Sunday. See [facebook.com/poorgeorgevintage](https://facebook.com/poorgeorgevintage).

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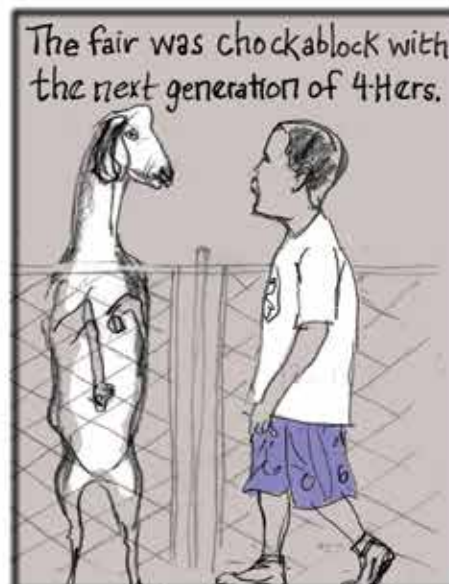
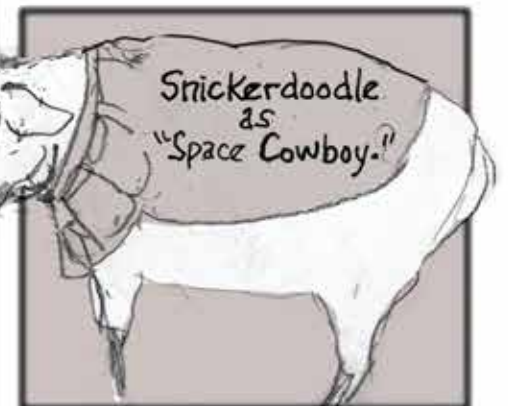
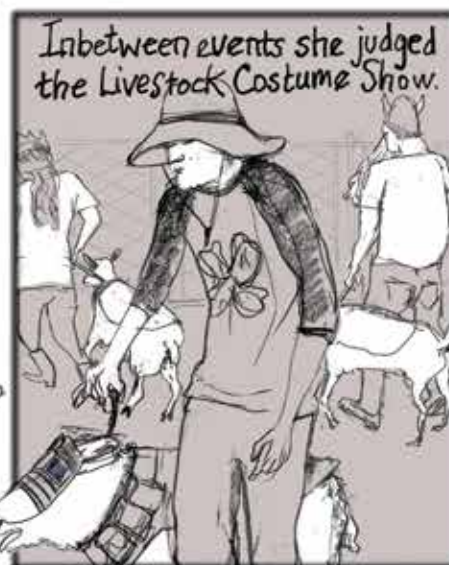
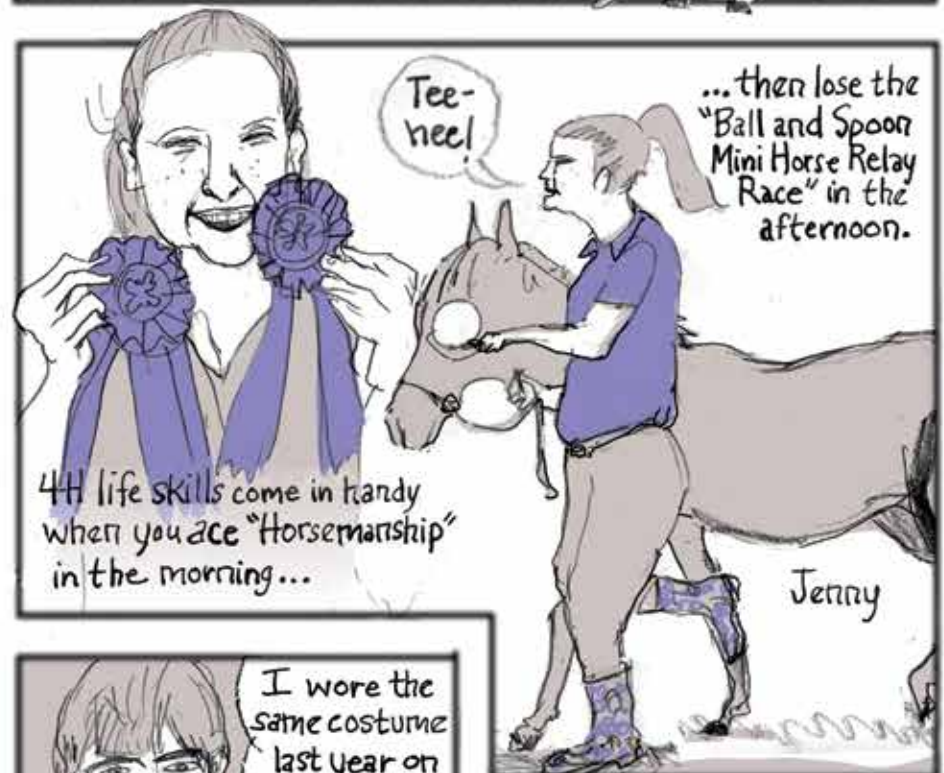
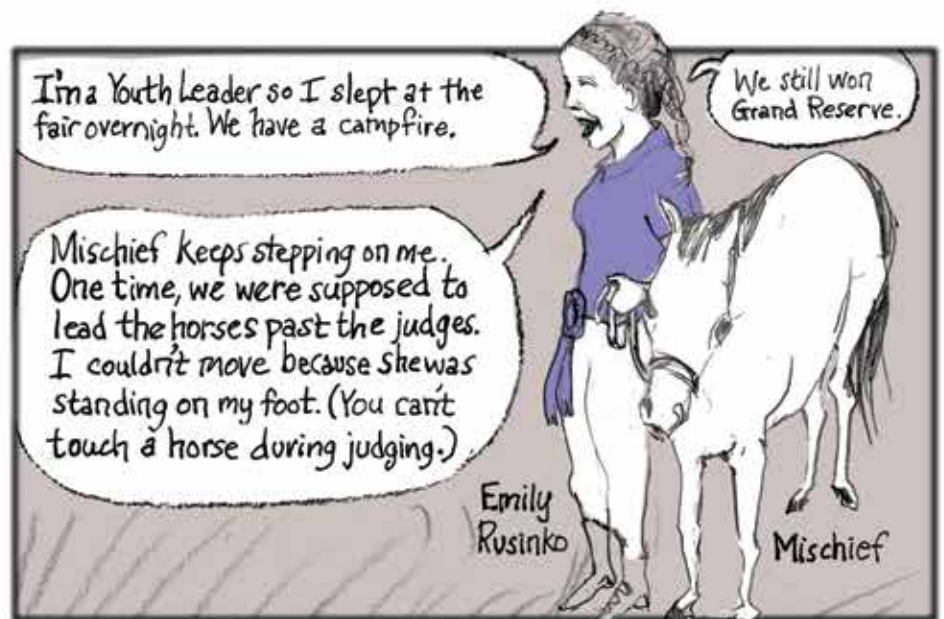
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# Scenic Hudson Buys 1,178 Acres at Lake Valhalla

(from Page 1)

in 1928. Steve Rosenberg, Scenic Hudson’s senior vice president, said the Poughkeepsie-based organization may sell the home and parcel to a private buyer.

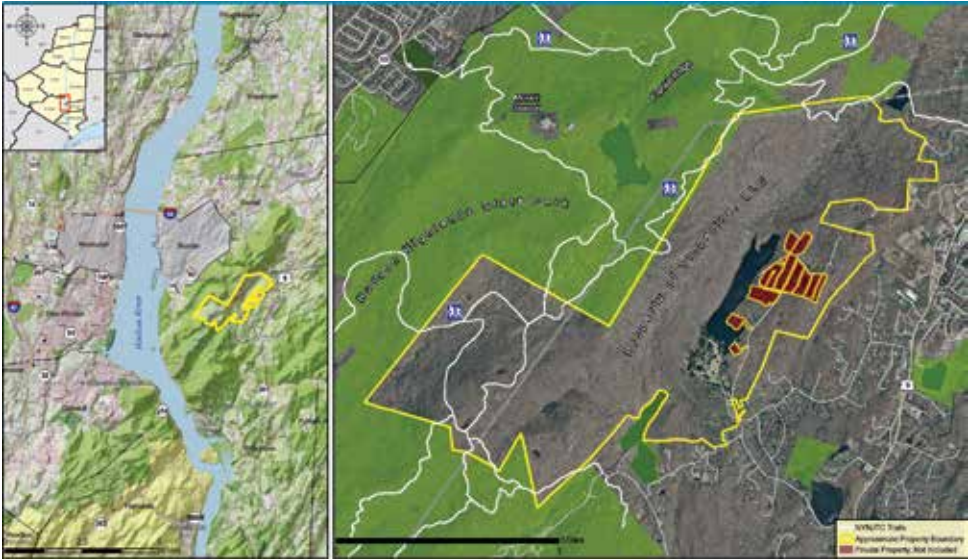
Rosenberg declined to comment on a 2017 lawsuit filed by the Lake Valhalla Civic Association against the previous owners of the property, Silver Point Capital and BMR Funding of Greenwich, Connecticut. Scenic Hudson was not named in the suit but abandoned an earlier attempt to buy the property after it was filed.

Paul Kaye, vice president of the LVCA, said at the time that the suit was intended to establish that the owners of 58 homes in a planned community known as Valhalla Highlands “enjoy an ownership interest in the lake and other lands surrounding the



A view of Lake Valhalla

File photo



A map shows the boundaries, in yellow, of the land purchased at Lake Valhalla. The small area in brown is private property, and the white lines are trails.

Scenic Hudson

community.” Novoting constructed the homes as summer residences that he sold during the Depression to New York City residents. Most today are occupied year-round.

When Scenic Hudson attempted to buy the Lake Valhalla property last year, some residents expressed fear that the lake and surrounding land would become a public park. “We are concerned about hordes of people taking over the lake and the associated liability,” said one. “We pay more for homes here to enjoy exclusive use of the lake.”

Kaye said that LVCA has asked to meet with Scenic Hudson to discuss the implications of the purchase. He declined to comment on the association’s lawsuit against the previous owners, saying only that “Lake Valhalla is our home and we want to ensure that our community’s unique character is preserved.”

Rosenberg downplayed any possible conflict. “We strongly believe our purchase is the best outcome for the community, preventing development as had been previously contemplated,” he said.



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## Painting the Town (from Page 9)

things become clearer as you approach them,” she says.

Her latest series involves models of homes where “the painting itself is the room,” she says. “It is not hard to imagine they are different only in zoom — what we can see or what is revealed depends on our perspective and proximity.”

The models are not included in exhibits, unlike the paintings that she creates from them. “I’d feel more constrained if I felt I had to show the model,” Bennett explains. “The model bridges the gap between my imagination and making something I can see.”

A selection of Bennett’s new work will be shown in Vermont beginning in March at the Brattleboro Museum, and the series will be exhibited in her first solo show in New



“Making Arrangements,” by Amy Bennett

Photo by Howard Goodman

York City that opens in June at the Miles McEnery Gallery in Chelsea. She has had several solo shows at the Heller Gallery in Los Angeles and her work has been part of group shows in Tokyo and Stockholm as well as New York.

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## Kid Friendly

## Nice to Meet You ... Says Our New Columnist

By Katie Hellmuth Martin

**H**i, my name is Katie and I'm a mama of three kids (ages 1 to 8), wife to one man, a forever dog mom of one dog who was with me for 17 years, and a cat mom of two cats.

*The Current* asked me to write a kid/parenting column, and at first blush, I didn't know if I'd have enough ideas. Now that I've said yes, the ideas are all around me, spoken to me by my kids as they mold the new way I see things.

By way of introduction, I'm a business owner, creator, writer, designer and tinkerer. I publish *A Little Beacon Blog*, and I own Tin Shingle, a training center for businesses, artists and makers. I also own Katie James, Inc., which produces couture branding.

The latter business is super personal for me (James is my middle name). It started out as my designer label for sewn accessories I made and sold at markets. While my sewn-things-making life is dusty at the moment, I use Katie James to write off impulse purchases of fabric at Beetle and Friend in Beacon, as if I were still producing product. (Shhhh!) I now buy cheerful fabric to cover old furniture in my home that is doused in yogurt and spilled apple juice.

This is the second column I've written for a newspaper. The first was a love ad-

vice column I did in college called "Dear Trudy." My hope is that "Kid Friendly" will be a love-inspired column about kids and the realities of having them.

To get things rolling, I thought I'd ask parents to share their responses to two questions. I'll go first.

**When was the first moment you felt like a mom?**

That would be after days and nights of my first baby crying and eating a lot — at all hours. I couldn't even make a 10 a.m. brunch at Homespun, which is within walking distance of my house, with my friend who also had a new baby. That

made me feel like a failure.

Also, when people around me were telling me what to do, or at least strongly recommending something I did not agree with, I pushed back for the first time in my life and said "no" with assurance and without remorse. If they persisted, my answer was: "OK, you be in charge of the baby, and I'll go to the store."

**What has surprised you the most about being a parent?**

First: childcare. I work for myself, primarily so that I can be with my children. However, being with my children while working is nearly impossible. I grew up

with my mom "staying at home." She quit her job in advertising to raise kids, and sold Discovery Toys and clothing lines in our living room on the side. When I realized I needed childcare, it was a guilt-ridden and emotional choice, since I was "the boss" and no one above me was forcing me to come into work on a snow day.

Second: forgiveness. Growing up, there were things that frustrated me. Like when my mom would shuffle through her credit cards to find the right one at checkout. Now, I do that. Even worse — I do the Balance Transfer Dance on my phone if I need to quickly move money into the right account to check out. Or being hijacked in the car. "Don't you want a smoothie at Beacon Natural while I get groceries?" or "Don't you want a lollipop at Rhinebeck Bank after I make the car payment?" Yeah, I do all of those things now, which has broadened my understanding of my parents, and yielded greater love for them.

But enough about me. We're going to be talking about kid-friendly approaches to life here! Off the top of my head, we can tackle entertainment, interior design, food, fitness, events, working-parent life, childcare. All the things we need to do in order to make kid-friendly work.

Email Katie at [kidfriendly@highlandscurrent.org](mailto:kidfriendly@highlandscurrent.org).



The three kids

Photo by K. Martin

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## COMMUNITY BRIEFS



The Cold Spring Musical Society

Photo courtesy Gerry Dale

## Bandstand Anniversary

*Dale family to dedicate plaque*

Members of the Dale family will dedicate a plaque at the Cold Spring Bandstand at 10 a.m. on Saturday, Aug. 4, to commemorate the 90th anniversary of its construction.

In 1926, Francis Dale organized and conducted a community band, the Cold Spring Musical Society, and began a fundraising drive to build a performance venue. In 1928, he built the bandstand, a landmark that appears on the village seal, with the assistance of family and friends. The grandchildren of Francis and his wife, Imogen, donated the plaque.

## Hello Again, Dolly

*Festival continues with two events*

The community festival celebrating the 50th anniversary of the filming of *Hello, Dolly!* in Philipstown and at West Point continues on Aug. 8 and 11.

On Wednesday, actors from the Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival will present a reading of Thornton Wilder's comedy, *The Matchmaker*, which inspired the musical, at 7:30 p.m. at the Philipstown Depot Theatre. Tickets are \$20 at hvshakespeare.org/production/hvsf2-the-matchmaker.

On Saturday at 7:30 p.m., the West Point Band will perform a free concert, *Hello Dolly! at 50*, at Trophy Point, where some scenes were filmed.

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

## GCEF Awards Grants

*For projects for Garrison students*

The Garrison Children's Education Fund, which supports the Garrison School, has awarded nine grants worth \$21,760.

The money will pay for more than 1,500 library books for the middle school, a New York Historical Immigration Experience field trip for the eighth grade, a Challenger Mission to Mars simulation for the sixth grade, an eagle program at Constitution Marsh for the fourth grade, a percussion ensemble for grades 4 to 8, a MAD Science afterschool program for grades 1 to 5, an expansion of the Makerspace for grades 3 to 8, recess equipment for grades K and 1, and a classroom libraries project for the middle school.

In addition, GCEF funded a playground at the school that is scheduled to be installed this month adjacent to the outdoor pavilion. See [gcef.net](http://gcef.net).

## New Director at Hudson Valley Seed

*Hans Hageman succeeds Ava Bynum*

Hudson Valley Seed has named Hans Hageman as its executive director.



Hans Hageman

Photo provided



**NEW BOAT** — The Putnam County Sheriff's Department has a new patrol boat for Lake Mahopac, a 21-foot Boston Whaler with radar and an infrared camera. The boat was purchased for the county by the state parks department. Photo provided

He succeeds founder Ava Bynum, who left for another job.

Hageman grew up in Exodus House, a residential drug treatment center in East Harlem run by his parents. A graduate of Princeton University and Columbia Law School, he has worked with Cheryl Rogowski, the first farmer to win a MacArthur Genius Award, to plan a farming school for women, and most recently was interim executive director of Children of Conservation, an African wildlife sanctuary program.

Hudson Valley Seed works with school districts, including Beacon, Garrison and Newburgh, to teach students gardening skills. See [hudsonvalleyseed.org](http://hudsonvalleyseed.org).

## Military Burial

*Historian to discuss historic practices*

In a talk at 2 p.m. on Sunday, Aug. 12, at the Fort Montgomery Historic Site, historian Robert Selig will discuss how soldiers' remains were handled after battles during the Revolutionary War. About 40 American and 19 British soldiers were killed at Fort Montgomery in 1777, and Selig will talk about what happened to their bodies.

## Auxiliary Seeking Members

*American Legion looking for support*

The George A. Casey American Legion Auxiliary in Cold Spring is recruiting members to support veterans, youth and military families. Any female relative or descendant of a veteran is invited to a complimentary breakfast at 10 a.m. on Saturday, Aug. 11, at the Silver Spoon Restaurant. See [alaforveterans.org](http://alaforveterans.org).

## Solo Exhibits

*Art center reception on Aug. 11*

The Garrison Art Center will host a reception from 5 to 7 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 11, for an exhibition of paintings by Melinda Stickney-Gibson called *Some Stories*. It includes abstract paintings and painted "tapestries." The center is also opening a show by Victoria Thorson, *Basswood Bodies*, with wood and ceramic sculptures that show both recognizable and abstract forms of the human body. Both exhibits will be on view until Sept. 9.

## Service Awards

*Network seeking nominees*

The Putnam Community Service Network is looking for nominees for its annual awards, which recognize people or organizations that have made an impact. The categories are distinguished service, volunteer service, professional career recognition, excellence in communications, outstanding service, community service networking and public service (including by young people). The deadline is Aug. 17. See [putnam.cce.cornell.edu/events](http://putnam.cce.cornell.edu/events).

## Beacon

### Filmmaker to Perform

*Known for documentary on fracking*

Movies That Matter Beacon will host a performance by documentary director Josh Fox called *The Truth Has Changed* at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Aug. 14, at the First Presbyterian Church in Beacon. Known for his Oscar-nominated documentary about fracking, *Gasland*, Fox will explore how people know what's true and what he sees as a turn toward an authoritarian government.

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## COMMUNITY BRIEFS

## Cornbread Bake-Off

*Festival scheduled for Aug. 12*

The Beacon Sloop Club's annual Corn Festival is scheduled for noon to 5 p.m. on Sunday, Aug. 12, at Seeger Riverfront Park in Beacon. In addition to entertainment, crafts, games and food, the festival this year will include a cornbread-baking competition. All entries must be made from scratch. See [beaconsloopclub.org](http://beaconsloopclub.org).



The Beacon Sloop Club will hold its annual corn festival on Sunday, Aug. 12, at Seeger Park. *Photo provided*

photographs and paintings about memories at the Howland Public Library in Beacon with a reception from 5 to 7 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 11. It will remain on view through Sept. 2.

## Who Has Best Burger?

*Restaurants to compete*

Two dozen restaurants, including the Beacon Falls Cafe and Mill House Brewing Co., will compete for the "best burger" title at the Burger and Beer Bash on Thursday, Aug. 9, at Dutchess County Stadium. Tickets to the bash, which runs from 6 to 10 p.m., are \$50 in advance or \$55 at the door.

## Baseball Camp

*Renegades to host for special-needs players*

On Saturday, Aug. 19, the Hudson Valley Renegades will host a free baseball camp for young players with special needs. It runs from 9:45 a.m. to 1 p.m. Register at [daveclarkfoundation.wufoo.com](http://daveclarkfoundation.wufoo.com).

Participants will receive tickets to the Aug. 19 Renegades game.

## Memories at Library

*Painter group to have show*

The Thursday Painters, a group of senior artists who meet at the Beacon Recreation Center, will open an exhibit of



This painting by Arabella Champaq is part of an exhibit by Thursday Painters that opens on Saturday, Aug. 11, at the Howland Public Library in Beacon.

*Image provided*

**Baby and Dog**

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? Samantha and Matthew Pelella of Beacon shared this photo of their nephew, Jacob, paying a visit to their dog, Winston. If you have a photo of a baby and a dog, submit it for consideration to [editor@highlandscurrent.com](mailto:editor@highlandscurrent.com).

Share Your News  
With Our Readers

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



**GIFT FOR GUIDES** — Teri Waivada (center), vice president of the Cold Spring Lions Club, presents \$1,000 raised by the organization to Guiding Eyes for the Blind, which provides dogs to people with vision loss.

*Photo provided*

## Zoology



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# Bits of Beacon History

By Robert Murphy

## Classic card

The best-known postcard of Beacon is probably “Bank Square, Five Corners, Fishkill-on-Hudson, N.Y.” (at right), an 1880 scene that was a favorite of the photographer Walker Evans, who owned thousands of postcards and preferred those with classic Main Street scenes. It accompanied an article he wrote for the May 1948 issue of *Fortune* in which he described it as the “epitome of Yankee utilitarianism in subject, in execution and in mood.”

In 2009, the postcard was part of an exhibit of Evans’ collection at the Metropolitan Museum of Art. It didn’t credit the photographer, but the image was taken by Harry Van Tine of Beacon for his father’s postcard business at the Van Tine stationery store. Van Tine later became head of the Washington photographers’ press corps.

## Ice bridge

It was a winter so relentlessly cold that men now old remember their uncles and fathers calling it the first and only time they ever walked across the Hudson. The year was 1934, and one February morning the thermometer bottomed out at minus 34 degrees, a record still intact. For the first time since 1920, the river froze solid, and on Feb. 15 and 16, more than 500 people walked to Newburgh and back.

## Plastic snow

Jacques “Jack” Brunel, a Canadian-born skiing enthusiast, dreamed of skiing on Mount Beacon in August. In the summer of 1956, his dream came true when skiers in bathing suits and shorts schussed down man-made slopes covered with artificial snow.

A ski jumper and instructor by talent and trade, Brunel moved to Beacon after serving in World War II. He built a small



The view of Bank Square around 1880

BHS



In this 1956 photo from the *Daily News*, Elizabeth Crowley of Long Island begins her day of summer skiing on plastic at Mount Beacon.

ski jump near the Mount Beacon Incline’s base station. His “snow” was ground plastic placed over surplus nylon parachutes placed on cotton batting. (Brunel later patented this as an “artificial skiing mat.”) Gordon Ticehurst, a friend of Brunel, recalled that Brunel obtained poker-chip seconds from a factory in Cold Spring, along with plastic shuttlecocks used in badminton, for his plastic mixture. The batting came from Atlas Fibers in Beacon. The colorful mix of reds, pinks and whites proved a passable substitute for snow, and skiing in 90-degree weather had come to Beacon.

## Overlooked treasures

St. Andrew’s Church has an overlooked treasure: 19 Tiffany stained-glass windows created in 1900. The most beautiful, to me, is the Rider Memorial Window, called the “Resurrection Angel.” It was donated to the church by John Rider as a memorial to his wife, Cornelia.

The window depicts an angel looking toward heaven with clusters of lilies in the foreground, both symbolic of the Resur-



“The Resurrection Angel” at St. Andrew’s Church

BHS

rection. The Sea of Galilee is behind the angel in iridescent blue glass.

There are two other memorial windows at the church, “The Good Shepherd” and “Saint Andrew,” along with 16 with geometric designs.

## Electric flying suits

When Frank Gaylord of Barre, Vermont, sculpted in clay his 19 soldiers for the Korean War Memorial in Washington, D.C., he clothed the American infantrymen in wind-blown ponchos to recall the cold, wet, miserable conditions the men experienced while fighting.

What a coincidence, then, that the stainless steel, 7-foot-tall sculptures were cast at the Tallix Foundry in Beacon — the same city where the real-life counterparts to the ponchos were manufactured during the war.

They were made by the Bobrich Manufacturing Corp. at 1 East Main St., which had been incorporated around 1943 as a subsidiary of the Debway Hat Co. Bobrich jumped into production for World War II with the manufacture of electrically heated flying suits for the Army Air Force.

By 1945, Bobrich employed 700 workers (mostly women) who sewed the clothing or assembled the electronics for the flying suits that would keep U.S. bomber crews warm in subzero flying temperatures. Management’s solution to the wartime

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# Bits of Beacon History *(from previous page)*

manpower shortage was to establish an in-house nursery for children ages 2 to 6, staffed with a nurse. A playground was installed next to the factory.

After the war, the company switched production to electric blankets for the civilian market until 1952, when the Korean War began. In July of that year, sewing-machine operators at Bobrich scurried to fill orders for 400,000 ponchos.

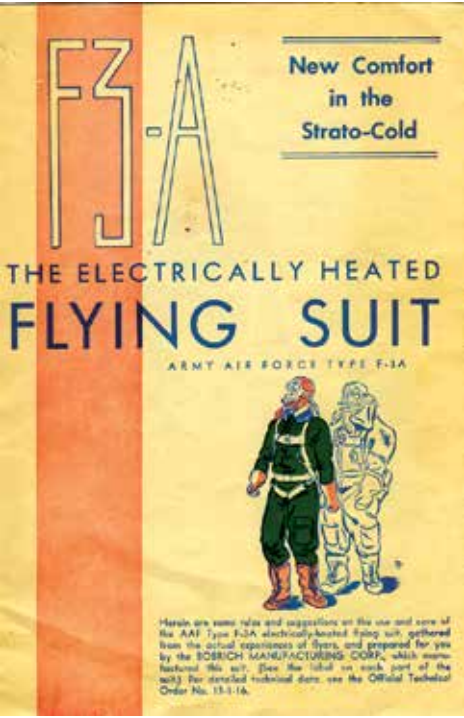
Made of nylon with a hood, the gear was cut full-bodied, allowing the soldier to keep his weapon dry. The ponchos also could be used as a sheet, blanket or per-



Anna Tomanic sews a poncho at the Bobrich factory in 1952. BHS

sonal tent. When Frank Gaylord outfitted his U.S. soldiers in ponchos, he created a lasting bond between Beacon and the Korean War Memorial.

*Robert Murphy has been president of the Beacon Historical Society since 1998. These items were excerpted from his blog at beaconhistorical.org.*



A manual for an F3-A Flying Suit made in Beacon in 1945 BHS

## Obituary

### Clair Cohen (1929-2018)

Clair S. Cohen, 88, a longtime Cold Spring resident, died July 25, 2018, in Norwalk, Connecticut. She moved to Connecticut nine years ago to be closer to her daughter, Janice Ferrucci (Leonard), who resides in New Canaan.

She was born Dec. 31, 1929, in Cincinnati, the only child of Waller and Naomi (Youmans) Simpson. From the age of 8 to 14 she lived with her parents in New Zealand.

On May 24, 1952, Clair married Robert Riley. He died in 1963. On July 1, 1984, Clair married William Cohen, who survives her.

Clair lived in Cold Spring for most of her adult life. After managing the Bird & Bottle Inn & Restaurant in Garrison for many years, she earned a master's degree in nutrition at New York University and became a registered dietitian.

She spent the remainder of her career as a professor, director and chair of the Food Service Administration Division at Westchester Community College until her retirement in 1991.

Clair was a superb gourmet cook and adored animals, especially dogs. She also was a longtime member of the



Philipstown Garden Club.  
Besides her husband, daughter and son-in-law, Clair is survived by her daughter, Jill Riley (Stephen Fotis) of Washington, D.C., and three grandchildren, Lauren Ferrucci, Matthew Ferrucci and Riley Fotis.  
A memorial service will be held at 5 p.m. on Thursday, Aug. 16, at the Chapel Restoration, 45 Market St., in Cold Spring. Memorial donations may be made to the Westport Humane Society (cthumane.org).

## Current CLASSIFIEDS

### HELP WANTED

**SURVEYOR'S ASSISTANT** — Full-time fieldwork, experience a plus, but willing to train the right individual. Year-round outdoor work, often physically challenging. Benefits after 90 days, 401K after 1 year. Clean NYS driver license a must. Email cover letter and resume to BLinda@Badey-Watson.com.

**MUSIC PR / MANAGEMENT** — Agency seeks part-time admin. assistant. Prior experience preferred for entry-level position. Attention to detail, strong organizational skills, excellent communication skills required. Info: jensen-artists.com/adminassist.

**GO-GO POPS / VEGGIE GO-GO** — Cold Spring's premier frozen treat shop is looking to hire a few part-time employees to work in our Main St. shop and help with catering services. If you enjoy customer service, organic and vegetarian foods, please apply ASAP by emailing lynn@go-gopops.com.

### FOR SALE

**ERGONOMIC DESK RISER** — Allows you to raise and lower your computer monitor so you can work standing. Like new. Uncaged

Ergonomics, Model CDMW-W. \$75. Stop by 161 Main St. in Cold Spring or email tech@highlandscurrent.org.

### SERVICES

**CUSTOM PARTIES** — Custom parties and workshops for ages 2 and up. Designed just for you! Call 845-424-3960 or email info@garrisonartcenter.org.

### REAL ESTATE

**BUSINESS OR RESIDENCE** — Brand new renovation in heart of Cold Spring. Living room, dining room, 1 large bedroom upstairs, 1 bath, full-size basement. Washer/dryer. Garden, cafe area. New floors, kitchen, lighting, plumbing. Zoned for business. \$1,575/mo. + utilities. Email btfor2@gmail.com.

**COLD SPRING 1-BEDROOM** — Most everything included: heat, hot water, parking, garbage, seasonal pool, even basic cable. Short drive to West Point, Westchester. \$1,650/mo. Call Anita 845-244-2111 BHHS Hudson Valley Owner/Agent

To place an ad, see [highlandscurrent.org/classified](http://highlandscurrent.org/classified).

## 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

- 1 roadside ride seeker (10)
- 2 stock repurchase (7)
- 3 face of her OWN network (5)
- 4 take joy away from (6)
- 5 given a caveat (9)
- 6 afraid of traveling (10)
- 7 distinguished (9)

### SOLUTIONS

_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____

HI	UTI	ACK	IKER	RAH
YB	HODO	NED	ON	DIS
ED	OBIC	DDEN	OP	BU
SA	CER	TCHH	PH	CA

See answers: Page 6



## MEET THE ADDAMS FAMILY

Directed by Katie Bissinger, a group of Highlands actors in middle and high school present-

ed *The Addams Family: A New Musical Comedy*, at the Philipstown Depot Theatre in Garrison in five sold-out shows from July 26 to 29. Inspired by the musical that ran on Broadway in 2010 and 2011 (originally with Nathan Lane

as Gomez and Bebe Neuwirth as Morticia), which was based on characters created by cartoonist Charles Addams, the show follows daughter Wednesday as she falls for a sweet, "normal" guy.

*Photos by Ross Corsair*

