Putnam County, State Candidates Meet Voters at Forum

Debate over taxes, infrastructure and public comment

By Liz Schevchuk Armstrong

A standing-room-only crowd filled the Kent firehouse on Oct. 18 to question Putnam County and state Assembly District 95 candidates during a three-hour League of Women Voters forum. The general election is Tuesday, Nov. 6.

County Executive

Republican MaryEllen Odell, the incumbent Putnam County executive, and her challenger, Democrat Maureen Fleming, clashed over the county’s retention of sales tax income as well as over restriction of public comments at legislative meetings. But they agreed on the need to expand water and sewer lines, a subject of potential interest in Nelsonville, whose Village Board has begun discussing installing a sewer to replace private disposal pits and septic systems. (see Page 6.)

Odell became county executive in 2011 in a special election to complete the term of Vincent Leibell, who went to prison instead of Carmel after being caught in tax evasion shortly after winning the election. Odell was re-elected in 2014. At the forum, she urged voters to keep her in office “for the next, last four years.” By law, county executives are limited to two, regular four-year terms. “We do things big, we do them bold’ and are “good in solving problems,” she asserted.

Fleming, Kent’s supervisor since 2014, said its board consists of four Republicans plus herself, but that “we get things done,” correctly and cooperatively, “because it’s not about the Democrats or the (Continued on Page 8)

Leesa Has a New Kidney

A ‘big ask’ pays off

By Michael Turton

When The Current chronicled Leesa Thompson’s search for a kidney last summer, the 61-year-old speech pathologist conceded her plea for an altruistic donor was “a big ask.” But the “ask” paid off. On Oct. 10, Thompson, who lives in Cortlandt Manor and has been an active member of the Beacon Sloop Club for more than 35 years, received a new kidney at New York Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center in Manhattan.

Thompson set up a website and Facebook page to find a donor, a search also supported by renewal.org, an organization that assists people suffering from kidney disease. But it was a mass email sent by her significant other, Jeff Fruthandler, that brought results.

When Ed Holowinko read Fruthandler’s plea at his home in Norwalk, Connecticut, he thought, I can do that for her. He had never met Thompson.

As it worked out, Thompson could not receive Holowinko’s kidney because their blood types did not match. Instead, he agreed to what is known as a “paired exchange” in which two recipients, both with willing but incompatible donors, “swap” donated kidneys.

That was another stroke of good fortune, as only about 500 of these exchanges can be arranged each year.

On Oct. 9, a kidney donated by a woman

Dutchess Schools to Ask Voters for $37 Million

Capital project would be first in 50 years

By Jeff Simms

The Dutchess County Board of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES), which offers vocational services and runs an alternative high school and special education programs for its 13 member districts, including Beacon, will ask voters on Dec. 11 to approve a $36.8 million proposal to renovate and relocate its facilities.

The funds would be used to upgrade the BOCES Career and Technical Institute (CTI) in Poughkeepsie for high school students and the adjacent Salt Point Center for elementary and middle school students receiving special education services. They also would fund moving the Alternative High School, which is now in a Poughkeepsie industrial park, to the CTI site.

The agency said the plan is its first capital undertaking since the 1960s. Dutchess voters defeated a similar $29.7 million proposal in 2009.

The BOCES system was created in New York in 1948 to offer career and technical training, as well as specialized educational environments, and the Dutchess BOCES was organized in 1957. Its budget is about $46 million annually, with districts paying tuition. BOCES also provides training for teachers and staff, as well as an Adult Learning Institute.

“It would be prohibitively expensive for districts to offer these programs on their own, especially upstate, where there are so many small school districts,” explained Matt Landahl, superintendent of the Beacon City School District. “BOCES is a way of joining forces to offer high-quality programming.”

Putnam and Westchester County share a BOCES agency that serves the Haldane and Garrison school districts. There are 37 of the agencies statewide.

The cost of the Dutchess proposal, if approved, would be spread among the 13 districts. Beacon, which accounts for about 7

(Continued on Page 23)
Daniel Kibblesmith is the author of the new Marvel Comics series *Black Panther vs. Deadpool*. He’ll be signing copies of the first issue at The Underground Beacon at 462 Main St., on Saturday, Oct. 27, from 2 to 4 p.m.

**Aren’t Black Panther and Deadpool both good guys?**

Getting into fights with other superheroes is the kind of thing that Deadpool gets up to. It happens every few months. With Black Panther, Deadpool started this off when … I don’t want to spoil it, but he created an incident in which he desperately needs a piece of vibranium (Black Panther’s power source) about the size of, let’s say, a bullet. That, of course, makes Black Panther suspicious. Deadpool, to his credit, warns him, “Look, I’ve been in a million of these superhero versus superhero crossovers. You could save us both a lot of trouble if you give me what I want.” Black Panther does not, and superhero action abounds.

**Is there anything you are told the characters can’t do or say?**

The characters are so iconic, any comic-book writer will have a good feel for their personalities. When you imagine them in a room together, you know exactly how the conversation is going to play out. Black Panther is the straight man, the pinnacle of human achievement, the richest man in the world. Deadpool comes in and he’s like Bugs Bunny with guns. I work closely with an editor to keep everybody behaving in character.

**Which other two Marvel characters would you pit against each other?**

There’s a famous storyline from the 1970s where Luke Cage goes to Liberia to collect money from Dr. Doom. The characters have evolved so much, I think it’s time for a rematch: Dr. Doom, with all the resources and genius and magic in the world, against Luke Cage, an unbreakable man who represents the essence of simplicity.

That’s the story in which Luke Cage says, “Where’s my money, honey?” That’s the one. This time we’ll have Dr. Doom say that line.

**Five Questions: Daniel Kibblesmith**

*By Brian PJ Cronin*

October 26, 2018
The Highlands Current
highlandscurrent.org

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**ON THE SPOT**

*By Michael Turton*

What is your favorite Halloween costume?

I want to be Tinker Bell and carry a bedazzled rope so I can fly.

-Kate Horan, Beacon

I was The Dude from *The Big Lebowski*. I wore a bathrobe, slippers and held a White Russian. It was perfect, and so convenient.

-Clayton Smith, Cold Spring

I wondered if I’d ever be a bride, so I dressed as the Corpse Bride [from the 2005 film]. My mom spent more than an hour on my makeup.

-Cat Leist, Cold Spring

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3-Time Winner: Best of Hudson Valley Magazine
Winner will assume post held by late Frank Skartados

By Jeff Simms

Jonathan Jacobson, a member of the Newburgh City Council, and Scott Manley, a member of the Town of Newburgh, will face off on Tuesday, Nov. 6, to represent District 104, which includes Beacon and Newburgh, in the state Assembly. Usually the winner is sworn in on Jan. 1.

The Current asked Jacobson, the Democratic candidate, and Manley, the Republican, to discuss their reasons for running and priorities for the district. Their emailed responses have been edited for brevity.

**What best qualifies you for the Assembly?**

**Jacobson:** After the untimely and tragic death of Frank Skartados, it is more important than ever to have someone in the Assembly who can be effective on Day One. I have served as an assistant counsel to the speaker of the Assembly and was assigned to the Labor Committee, where I researched and wrote legislation. I also served as an assistant state attorney general in charge of the ConsumerFrauds Bureau at its Poughkeepsie office and was a workers' compensation judge. Besides being on the Newburgh City Council, I have a law practice focused on workers' comp and Social Security disability cases.

**Manley:** For most of my life I have been in civil service, from police officer to deputy supervisor of the Town of Newburgh. While a police officer, I was president of my union for 12 years. I traveled to Albany monthly and got involved with legislative issues from protecting the rights of workers to protecting the public. Once he realized I have experience, my opponent changed his logo from “Experience Counts” to “The Right Experience Counts.” He says he can walk into the job. But we don’t need business as usual; we need a person who can work with all parties and get things done. I remember what John F. Kennedy said and always work that way: “Let us not seek the Republican answer or the Democratic answer, but the right answer. Let us not seek to fix the blame for the past. Let us accept our own responsibility for the future.”

**What are priority issues, both statewide and for the district?**

**Jacobson:** The reliance on funding schools through property taxes is unfair to students because the quality of education is based on the wealth of the district. It is unfair to the taxpayer since it has nothing to do with one’s ability to pay. Funding should come through the statewide income tax and statewide sales tax, including sales tax from the internet.

We need to codify Roe v. Wade and pass the Women’s Reproductive Health Act. We must enact strong air and water standards in anticipation of the lowering of federal standards, and we should mandate that no health insurance company can discriminate against those with pre-existing conditions. The Excelsior Program (to pay tuition at SUNY) is a good first step, but it does not cover many students. A two- or four-year degree is not necessary for some careers, but specialized training is.

Manley: No. 1 is taxes, No. 2 is taxes and No. 3 is taxes and quality of life. We need to work on an alternate way to finance our schools, but an income tax that my opponent wants is not the answer. We go from burdening the homeowner to burdening the working people. How about a combination, including a small sales tax, so everybody is paying a portion, which includes all residents and people from out of state and country spending money in New York?

Estimates show between $8 billion and $15 billion would come into New York through an internet sales tax. Use a portion of that to ease the burden of the homeowner before it gets earmarked into the general fund. For three years the Town of Newburgh has adopted a resolution to go to Albany for an alternate school tax. This year I sponsored the newest one that added the internet sales tax to it.

(Continued on Page 16)
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COLUMNS

Senior center
Seniors have been manipulated, elected officials have been bullied, harassed and vilified, and residents ignored by County Executive MaryEllen Odell and county Legislator Barbara Scuccimarra as the two pushed the Butterfield development through for their friend and campaign contributor, developer Paul Guillaro (“Senior Center ‘Soft Opening’,” Oct. 12). The senior center has been the leverage the developer relied on to push his project forward; Odell and Scuccimarra have been more than happy to deliver.

Who doesn’t like seniors? What kind of person would deny them a new space? Through that lens, the senior center became the entire Butterfield project. If you had concerns about its mass and scale, you were vilified as anti-senior. If you questioned the proposed traffic patterns, you were anti-senior. If you questioned whether there would be enough parking, you were anti-senior.

Although still incomplete, the senior center’s “soft opening” on Oct. 26 will provide the incumbents with a photo-op they fight for re-election. Come hell or high water, the senior center will be open in some way, shape or form before Election Day. Odell and Scuccimarra will surround themselves with the usual suspects, take center stage with jumbo scissors and cut the ribbon which will, kind of, sort of, open the center. There will be great fanfare and the duo will trumpet the opening as evidence of why they should be re-elected.

Sadly, the mismanagement of taxpayers’ money and resources, and the lack of respect given to local officials and residents with regard to the Butterfield project, would demand the opposite. When you see the press release with the grand photo on the front pages of our local papers, think about how your hard-earned tax dollars have been and will be spent for many years to come. Think about how the promise of a “state-of-the-art” center in a new building morphed into a renovation.

Think of what was done to improve the lives of our seniors over the past seven years during Odell’s and Scuccimarra’s tenures and ask yourself if all the money that was dumped into a midcentury building should have provided our seniors with more than four hours of use per day and lunches cooked on the other side of the county, trucked over and reheated.

If you want honest representation by honest residents with integrity and proven track records, vote for Maureen Fleming for county executive and Nancy Montgomery for Philipstown legislator. Both Maureen and Nancy have the best interests of our seniors and our taxpayers at heart and will work tirelessly to improve the lives of residents in Philipstown, Putnam Valley and all of Putnam County. Join me in voting for real change on Nov. 6.

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

While I do not object in principle to a county-funded senior center in Cold Spring, and I do not begrudge seniors in our community having a fine place to congregate and have meals and activities together, I do object to rent being paid for unused space. I also object to the use of the space by only one group.

With respect to the second point, it seems that the seniors using this space (it appears well fewer than 100 people) will have exclusive use five days a week and only about five hours per day. We taxpayers will be paying for vacant space, most of the time, to be used by no one. How dumb is that?

Meanwhile, many parents and school administrators are crying out for a decent space for teens, a cause well-documented in this publication and elsewhere. The senior space has facilities that would be appropriate to either age group. In addition, I can think of several other county or local government initiatives that could use the space in the off hours, such as making it a handicap-accessible voting site.

I’m a senior, too, have never had any children or other relatives in any school in Putnam County, and I have no involvement in any of the current election campaigns. So I don’t have any dog in this hunt. But I am a county taxpayer who is in favor of the productive, and not wasteful, use of my taxes.

Carolyn Bachan, Cold Spring

Marc Molinaro

While reading your story about Marc Molinaro, the Republican candidate for governor (“Gov. Candidate Raised in Beacon,” Oct. 19), the word irony jumped right off the page. He says he grew up poor in a single-parent household, that food stamps helped put bread on the table, that he waited in line for social services with his demoralized mother, and that, in 1992, as a high school junior, he spent a week in Washington, D.C., in a program founded by John F. Kennedy for students interested in history and government.

These were all benefits provided to him by Democratic liberals. What does Molinaro tell us why he is running as a Republican and not as a Democrat.

I was born between the time of the Great Depression and our entry into World War II. It was a time when many Americans grew up poor. It was a time when President Franklin D. Roosevelt and the Democratic Party created a social safety net for all Americans. It was a time when members of Molinaro’s Republican Party vehemently fought against Social Security. I wonder what Molinaro learned in 1992 that will work at least as hard when it comes to spending my tax dollars. Living in Kent, I have witnessed the fiscal conservatism that Maureen demonstrates daily while managing our town. Her decisions are thoughtful and clearly articulated, and she has never forgotten that she works for us, and therefore, encourages our voices to be heard.

Unfortunately, Putnam County has become a place where spending goes unchallenged, voices are silenced and partisan politics are not just present but encouraged. It is ironic that Molinaro would want to expose how the current administration’s spending has reached new heights and remains both cloaked in secrecy and (continued on next page)
unchecked. When faced with these revelations, our county executive has all but dug in her heels and shut down the questions.

A vote for Maureen is not going to create a “sanctuary city.” She never supported that as supervisor. Maureen is keenly aware that these are state and federal issues. She is not opposed for Maureen is not going to impact our Second Amendment rights. A vote for Maureen is not an endorsement of a personal, or for that matter, an outside party’s agenda. Her only agenda is to do what is best for the people of Putnam County. Unfortunately, our county executive has divided us with these issues for far too long, and used them to distract us from her own failed management.

If you are still undecided, do your own research: attend candidates’ forums or watch them online, read up on democracy, understand the limits of power that the county executive position holds and know that on the county level, politics do not have to be partisan. No one knows this better than Maureen.

Catherine O’Connor, Kent

I have known Maureen Fleming since I moved up to Putnam nearly 20 years ago. I am impressed with her character. She is intelligent, a mother, an attorney, and a skilled supervisor of Kent. Throughout her three terms she has reduced debt service by 38 percent and added $1.4 million to the general fund.

On the other hand, during MaryEllen Odell’s terms of office, there have been lots of questions raised, including about Tilly Foster Farm, the Butterfield project and the use of the Putnam Golf Course. No clear answers have been provided. Instead, we get lots of talk about other things.

Odell has trumpeted that we “only” have a 2 percent increase in taxes, which is the state-mandated tax cap. The problem is that she’s using $4 million of the general fund to pay for her budget. To make matters worse, this is the seventh tax increase in a row. She blames it on spending mandates, but spending choices to meet mandates are fully within the executive’s control.

The other major item that doesn’t make sense is the financial picture at Putnam County Golf Course. While Odell says it’s on solid financial ground, expenses in October exceeded income by $223,055. See for yourself on Page 187 of the budget.

Join me in changing the leadership in Putnam County.

Challen Armstrong, Brewster

Putnam County Legislature

I plan to vote for Barbara Sueccimirar for Putnam County legislator to represent Philipstown.

When democracy comes to its very local expression, we expect for it to work the best. Barbara has exhibited determination and skill to transform community aspirations into accomplishments. The Philipstown senior center and the Cold Spring post office are examples. In addition, she is a shining example of civility in politics, something that is a rare attribute of politicians of both sides of the aisle.

J. Carlos Salcedo, Philipstown

State Senate

As a longtime resident of the Hudson Valley, I will vote for Karen Smythe for state Senate and hope others will do the same.

Karen knows what’s right, and she will fight for us. She understands we need middle-class jobs that pay a decent wage, and she will fight to bring good jobs and economic growth that will benefit Hudson Valley families. She appreciates that our magnificent river is one of our region’s most precious resources, and she will fight to protect the valley’s natural heritage.

Karen recognizes that women’s rights are human rights, and she will fight to protect reproductive health and the right to earn equal pay for equal work. She believes that every child in our state deserves a high-quality education, and she will fight to ensure that all our schools are fully funded. She knows that families are overburdened by high taxes, and she will fight for middle-class tax relief.

Karen comprehends that people need high-quality, affordable health care in order for our region to thrive, and she will fight for universal health care for all New Yorkers. She knows our children deserve to be safe, and she will fight for common-sense gun laws.

Karen Smythe will stand up for Hudson Valley families.

Peter Ullian, Beacon

On Oct. 18, the League of Women Voters of Putnam County arranged for a candidates’ forum in Kent. An overflow crowd gathered to hear candidates for local and state offices address questions from the audience. The ensuing dialogue was both informative and cordial, a welcome but unfortunately rare occurrence in this election cycle.

The League’s rules require that each candidate’s opponent must be present for any candidate to be granted the right to address the forum. It was therefore doubly consequential that Sue Serino, our state senator, chose to be absent. This choice not only deprived the audience of the ability to address Serino, and to compare her responses to those of her opponent, Karen Smythe, it also precluded Smythe from addressing the gathering.

There are precious few opportunities to hear directly from candidates in a debate format, a situation that belies the importance of those offices in our everyday lives. Even though she could not address the voters from the podium on Oct. 18, Karen Smythe showed us that she would be the better choice. Her willingness to engage the public during the campaign speaks well of her availability once in office.

Dan Nobel, Cold Spring

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

TOWN OF PHILIPSTOWN HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

Sealed proposals will be received by the undersigned Town Clerk of the Town of Philipstown at her office in the Town Hall, 238 Main Street, Cold Spring, New York 10516 until 2:00 pm on October 31, 2018 when the same will be publicly opened and read aloud for the sale to the Town of Philipstown of:

• BITUMINOUS CONCRETE – FURNISHED, DELIVERED & LAID IN PLACE
• BITUMINOUS CONCRETE – FOB
• CALCIUM CHLORIDE – DELIVERED
• LIQUID MELTING AGENT – SOIL STABILIZER - DELIVERED
• #2 FUEL OIL – DELIVERED
• BANK RUN, FILL, TAILINGS – DELIVERED & FOB
• INSTALLATION OF GUIDE RAIL AND FURNISHING OF GUIDE RAIL MATERIAL
• WASHED CRUSHED STONE – DELIVERED & FOB
• MANUFACTURED CRUSHED ITEM 4 –DELIVERED & FOB
• SCREENED ITEM 4 – DELIVERED & FOB
• STONE FILLINGS – DELIVERED & FOB
• SAND FOR SNOW AND ICE CONTROL FOB & DELIVERED
• CRUMB MIX WITH RAP
• STONE SCREENINGS- DELIVERED & FOB
• SMOOTH BORE CORRUGATED POLYETHYLENE SOLID PIPE-DELIVERED

Meeting the specifications of the Town of Philipstown Highway Department. Copies of the specifications may be obtained from the office of said Town Clerk at the above address. The right is reserved to reject any and all bids. All purchase contracts awarded pursuant to this notice shall be subject to the provisions of Section 103-A, 103-B and 103-D of the General Municipal Law.

DATED: October 17, 2018

TINA MERANDO
TOWN CLERK
TOWN OF PHILIPSTOWN

TOWN OF PHILIPSTOWN ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a public hearing will be held by the Zoning Board of Appeals of the Town of Philipstown on Monday November 5, 2018 at 7:30 PM at the Philipstown Town Hall, 238 Main Street, Cold Spring, New York to hear the following appeal:

Betty Haddad, 19 Lake Celeste Drive, Garrison, NY TM# 72.17-1.14. The applicant is seeking approval for a renovation/addition to an existing 1,021 square foot single family residence. The project consists of a 1 story addition approximately 8’ x 10.5’ (heated) requiring a front yard variance where 60’ is required and 53’11” is proposed. The proposed covered porch (unheated) requires a rear yard variance where 60’ is required and 36.45’ is proposed and also requires a rear yard variance where 50’ is required and 39.94’ is proposed. A proposed open wood deck and steps require a rear yard variance where 50’ is required and 39.39’ is proposed (currently 44’). The project will also increase impervious surface coverage from 22.24% to 25.07% where 10% or less is required. The property is approximately 0.463 acres and is located in the RG-Zoning District.

At said hearing all persons will have the right to be heard. Copies of the application, plat map, and other related materials may be seen in the Office of the Building Department, 2 Cedar Street (behind the Town Hall), Cold Spring, New York.

Dated 10/19/18

TOWN OF PHILIPSTOWN ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

The Town of Philipstown Zoning Board of Appeals has changed the date of their regular monthly meeting to November 5, 2018. The meeting will be held at 7:30 PM. at the Philipstown Town Hall, 238 Main Street, Cold Spring, New York. All submissions are due by October 25th at 4 pm.

HALDANE CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Notice is hereby given that the fiscal affairs of Haldane Central School District for the period beginning on July 1, 2017, and ending on June 30, 2018, have been examined by The Bonadio Group, independent public accountants, and that the report prepared in conjunction with the external audit by the independent public accountant has been filed in my office where it is available as a public record for inspection by all interested persons. Pursuant to §35 of the General Municipal Law, the governing board of Haldane Central School District may, in its discretion, prepare a written response to the report of the external audit and file any such response in my office as a public record for inspection by all interested persons.

Julia Famularo, District Clerk | Haldane Central School District
Nelsonville Continues to Look at Sewers
Mayor updates Cold Spring board on proposal

By Michael Turton

The Village of Nelsonville is getting serious about adding sewers that would serve most of its 700 residents.

Addressing the Cold Spring Village Board at its Oct. 23 meeting, Nelsonville Mayor Bill O’Neill was careful to point out that his village is in “the early stages” of exploring the possibility but left little doubt that he supports the project. He said Nelsonville’s economic development needs “are impeded by the lack of a sewer system,” and that the reliance on septic systems decreases property values.

O’Neill was in Cold Spring because, if the project moves forward, Nelsonville sewers would connect with the existing Cold Spring system.

The mayor said a study in 1969 estimated the cost of installing sewers in Nelsonville would be about $800,000, or about $5.6 million in today’s dollars. O’Neill said that a review of that plan by an engineering firm put the present-day cost at about $7 million. Such a system would serve the core of Nelsonville; homes on the outer edges of the village would continue to use septic systems.

O’Neill said a detailed engineering analysis is needed, including confirmation that the Cold Spring sewer system has the capacity to handle Nelsonville’s waste. Two engineering firms are being interviewed.

The timing may be right for funding, according to O’Neill, who pointed to a recent $18 million sewer project in Hyde Park that was largely paid for by state and federal grants. He added that if improvements are needed in the Cold Spring system, the municipalities could consider a joint application for funding.

“I’m a realist,” O’Neill said, acknowledging the potential for backlash from Nelsonville residents who prefer their septic systems. But, he said, the village needs to explore the possibilities. He added that the Nelsonville Village Board is supportive of the project and hinted at the possibility of a public referendum.

In other business...

Lauren Drummond, who is organizing a wine and food festival proposed for Mayor’s Park on Aug. 10 and 11, told trustees the event could draw more than 1,000 people. Drummond said local restaurants would be invited to participate at discounted rates if they offer cooking demonstrations. The trustees and Ruthanne Cullinan Barr, chair of the Recreation Commission, agreed to pencil in the dates, subject to Drummond completing a newly revised application for park rentals.

One issue to be resolved is the role of local police and security companies.

At the same time, the board declined a request by John Sherer, the organizer of Oktoberfest held at Mayor’s Park, to reduce the fee charged for the services of the Cold Spring police. The village provided two officers at a rate of $38 per hour and a total cost of $1,140.

Deputy Mayor Marie Early was authorized to sign an agreement with Whee-labator, the Peekskill facility that processes Cold Spring’s trash. The three-year contract will see costs rise from $84.50 per ton to $89.50 by 2020. Last month, the village shipped 46.3 tons to the firm, which incinerates it to produce electricity.

The village will soon place ads to find a new superintendent of water and waste water to succeed Greg Phillips, who plans to retire next summer.

Winter parking rules will take effect Thursday, Nov. 15, and continue through April 15. On-street regulations for the dead-end portion of Marion Avenue south of Benedict Road will be suspended to facilitate snow removal.
Electrical Fire Damages Art at Dia

Visitors evacuated on Oct. 20

An electrical fire at Dia:Beacon on Saturday (Oct. 20) damaged artwork by Mary Corse in an exhibit on the first floor, the museum said.

Employees and visitors were evacuated after the fire was discovered just before 6 p.m. and were able to return to the building after about a half-hour. The museum said in a statement the fire appeared to have been caused by an electrical element attached to the artwork that overheated.

Garrison Man Arrested on Weapon Charges

Charged with three felony counts

A Garrison man was arrested on Oct. 12 by Putnam County sheriff’s deputies and charged with possession of an illegal weapon and narcotics.

After receiving a tip, deputies obtained a warrant to search the residence and vehicle of Brian C. Reiniger, 48, of 1627 Route 9. Narcotics officers said they recovered an unlicensed .357 Sig pistol, three magazines, other ammo and a quantity of what appeared to be cocaine.

Reiniger was charged with three felony counts of criminal possession of a weapon, a misdemeanor count of possession of a controlled substance, and a misdemeanor count of unsafe storage of a firearm.

He was arraigned in the Town of Putnam Valley Justice Court and remanded to the Putnam County jail without bail.

New Paving, Light on Route 9

The Putnam County Highway Department has repaired a dip in Fishkill Road at the intersection with Route 9 and installed a traffic signal that directs drivers exiting the Gulf service station.

According to Barbara Scuccimarra, who represents Philipstown in the county Legislature, the highway crew filled and paved the dip, realigned the sensor for the traffic signal and upgraded the light from three to four sides. She said the state Department of Transportation (DOT) had declined to make the fixes.

“I want to thank [Commissioner] Fred Pena and his crew,” Scuccimarra said. “This wasn’t the county’s responsibility, yet he didn’t hesitate to step in, and now we have DOT’s attention on other upgrades this intersection needs.”

Cold Spring Police Receive Computers

Using funds from its asset forfeiture fund, the Putnam County district attorney’s office has purchased two laptop computers that were installed in Cold Spring Police Department squad cars.

“These computers brought us from the 18th to the 21st century,” Officer-in-Charge Larry Burke said in a statement. “They enable us to access information very quickly. It could be a routine traffic stop, an accident scene, a need to run a quick background check on a license or vehicle or driver.”

Putnam County District Attorney Robert Tendy said asset-forfeiture funds typically come from vehicles seized after a person is convicted of multiple DWIs, or from proceeds seized during arrests for narcotic sales.

Dutchess Gives, Receives Grants

The federal Department of Justice has awarded $1 million to the Dutchess County Health Department to combat opioid abuse, according to Rep. Sean Patrick Maloney, whose district in Congress includes the Highlands.

The funds will be used to improve the sharing of information between local and state agencies on substance-abuse issues, his office said.

Dutchess County, meanwhile, awarded more than $2 million in funding to 14 projects through its Municipal Innovation Grant program, including four that benefit Beacon.

The state agreed to spend $75,000 to improve human resources management practices in Beacon and three other nearby cities; $75,000 to add a detective to the county Child Advocacy Center; $257,000 for crisis intervention training for officers in municipalities that include Beacon; and $825,000 for the Dutchess County Drug Task Force.

New York Gave More Than It Got

Comptroller says state sent $24 billion to feds

New York state sent $24 billion more in tax payments to the federal government than it received in federal spending in fiscal year 2017, getting back 90 cents for every dollar, according to a report by state Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli.

New York was one of 11 states that sent more to Washington than it received, he said, and only New Jersey, Massachusetts and Connecticut fared worse.

“The state relies on the federal government for a third of its annual budget, but the imbalance of tax dollars remains,” DiNapoli said. Federal spending in 2017 in New York totaled $225.7 billion, including for Social Security, Medicare, grants, procurements and wages and salaries, he said, while the state and its residents sent nearly $250 billion to Washington in taxes.

BUS TRAINING — The Beacon Fire Department on Oct. 16 hosted a training session for firefighters from Beacon, Glenham, Chelsea and Dutchess Junction on handling accidents involving school buses. Using a surplus bus donated by the Leonard Bus Co., the 36 firefighters practiced stabilization, scene safety and hand and power equipment extrication techniques.

Photos provided
Putnam Candidates (from Page 1)

Republicans.” She pledged to bring the same spirit to county government.

(The candidates have battled through press releases over the pending senior center in Cold Spring and over their records on taxes and debt. See Page 9.)

Sales tax

Unlike most counties in New York state, Putnam does not return a portion of sales tax to the municipalities where it is collected, a sore point in Philipstown, whose local governments must deal with the costs of burgeoning tourism. Sales tax revenue accounts for $60.5 million, or about 38 percent, of Odell’s proposed $159.8 million 2019 budget, compared to $43.4 million (27 percent) collected through property taxes, $26.9 million (17 percent) from income generated by county departments; and $29 million (18 percent) in state and federal reimbursements.

Sharing sales tax revenue “is not even possible for discussion,” Odell argued. “We’d have to quadruple property tax bills. We could never waive sales tax.”

Fleming said the county should consider sharing it. “If we cut some of the fat out of the budget, if we spend more wisely,” perhaps Putnam can “give back to the towns and share some sales tax revenue,” she said.

Public comment

The county Legislature restricts public remarks to the end of its meetings — after legislators have voted on policy measures. It also discourages or bans questions and forbids comments not involving items on the agenda. When asked, Odell said she supported the limits.

“A majority of the work is done in committee meetings,” she explained. “That’s where the community and stakeholders have an opportunity to share ideas. To have a back-and-forth at a meeting — we’ve never seen it be successful. All you’re doing is creating a discussion that doesn’t have anything to do with the work that night.”

Odell singled out a forum attendee, Richard Othmer, a former county legislator who is now the Kent highway superintendent, recalling a 2013 meeting when the Legislature was expected to approve her plan to place signs with advertising on the hike-bike path in eastern Putnam. Othmer, who chaired the Legislature, allowed public comment before the vote.

“It became an incredible blow-up,” Odell said. “And not a lot gets done” under those conditions. (At the 2013 meeting, after residents denounced the proposal and legislators expressed misgivings about Odell’s approach, the Legislature voted 8-1 to postpone action and the proposal later died.)

Fleming said as county executive she “would encourage the Legislature to open all meetings to public comment” and not limit them to topics on the agenda. Kent’s Town Board permits comments at meetings “so we can hear what residents have to say, what their concerns are, [things] important for us to hear. We’ve never had a problem,” she said.

Reached on Tuesday (Oct. 23), Othmer said that “I’d rather stay quiet” in the latest go-round.

Infrastructure

Fleming criticized Odell for what she said were questionable priorities. Putnam County “kept some highway department employees working on other projects while our roads could have been repaired,” she said. She said she would provide a well-crafted infrastructure plan. “Many of our roads are failing,” she said, and the county needs more sewer and water lines.

Odell replied that Putnam has an infrastructure plan. Like Fleming, she supported the expansion of water and sewer services, which, she said, are “extremely critical” and can encourage development along busy roads such as Route 6 in Mahopac. “You look at storage units, dry cleaners, nail salons” on Route 6, Odell said. “You don’t see anything that brings any value to the community or to the tax base. Sewers in that corridor would be helpful.”

Philipstown Legislator

Nancy Montgomery, a Democrat who serves on the Philipstown Town Board, hopes to unseat incumbent Republican Barbara Scuccimarra in representing District 1 on the county Legislature. The district covers Philipstown and part of Putnam Valley. Scuccimarra was elected to her first three-year term in 2012.

In response to a question from an audience member, the candidates both said they do not think water supplies in the county are overregulated. Putnam is in the watershed that supplies New York City and some local communities; the county also
As the race for Putnam County executive enters its final 12 days, the county’s handling of the senior center at the Butterfield complex in Cold Spring has prompted claims and counterclaims between MaryEllen Odell, the two-term Republican incumbent, and her Democratic challenger, Kent Supervisor Maureen Fleming, over who is more fiscally responsible.

The county is leasing 6,000 square feet inside the Lahey Pavilion for the Philipstown Friendship Center for 15 years for about $4.5 million, including rent, taxes, common-area charges and renovation.

“It is incredible to see how far the building’s transformation into the senior center has come,” said Odell, who recently toured the unfinished space and is scheduled to appear today (Oct. 26) at a ribbon-cutting. “The seniors on the western side of the county are finally getting what they have asked for and deserve.”

Fleming visited the Butterfield site on Oct. 12 for a news conference to denounce the center as a “boondoggle.” According to Fleming, as of Sept. 1, Putnam County had paid more than $200,000 in rent for the unoccupied space.

“We certainly want to provide the services and facilities our seniors need and deserve,” she said. “Unfortunately, this senior center has been dumping taxpayer dollars into the pockets of a leading Odell campaign donor,” developer Paul Guillaro for his commitment to local seniors, saying he wanted to walk away at many points when the project stalled but remained committed. “He’s been a real trouper, a great partner and man of great patience,” she said.

Fleming further charged that the lease price does not include any of the build-out or the furnishings of the center.

“Odell and the county Legislature have bonded — that is, borrowed — $800,000, and taken another $300,000 from the capital project reserve account to pay the general contractor and purchase kitchen equipment, furniture and fixtures,” she said. “This brings the out-of-pocket taxpayer cost for the build-out to over $1.5 million. Between the lease and the build-out, taxpayers of Putnam will pay more than $4 million for a 6,000-square-foot rental — a rental — and have no asset at the end of the lease. This is mismanagement of public funds.”

Odell, however, said the amount of money being spent on the project pales in comparison to sums spent elsewhere.

“The senior centers that provide nutrition and other services in Mahopac and Putnam Valley were $8 million and $10 million,” she said. “We can’t afford to build $30 million structures anymore.”

While the American Legion in Cold Spring allowed the county to rent about 250 square feet for senior services, the Mahopac senior center has 18,766 square feet, Odell said.

According to Odell, citing Town of Kent figures, the amount raised from taxes in Kent has increased more than $208,000 from 2015, from $35,057,729 to $35,267,210, as the result of increases in the fire, sewer and park district tax rates.

“As government officials, we cannot pick and choose which line items we get to include in our budgets and which we don’t,” Odell said. “We have a responsibility to tell the people the truth.”

Fleming responded that Odell’s accusations reveal “a shocking ignorance of basic municipal budgeting. She either fails to understand the difference between town taxes, which are levied to all town property owners, and special-district taxes levied only on properties within smaller districts such as sewer or fire districts — or she is willfully confusing the two in an attempt to distract voters from her own significant county tax increases.”

Odell said that under her leadership, Putnam County has stayed below the tax cap every year, reduced its short- and long-term debt by $40 million, and has the lowest county share of property tax bills in the state.

Fleming said her record in Kent proves the people the truth.”

- MaryEllen Odell

Tax hikes

Fleming says that, during her two terms as Kent town supervisor, she has never raised taxes.

In response, Odell accuses Fleming of “willfully misleading the public, making false statements and promoting false advertising,” because her claim of zero tax increases “is a lie.”

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(Continued on Page 16)
contains many acres of parkland where lakes and ponds are controlled by the state. “We do have a lot of restrictions, but we drink the water as well,” Scuccimarra said. She cited the importance of protecting water from threats, including faulty septic systems and pesticides applied to lawns. “There’s a lot we can do,” she said. “We don’t regulate our water enough,” Montgomery said. Advising continued “There’s a lot we can do,” she said.

Emergency services
Montgomery said the county fails to coordinate with municipalities in emergencies. After 10 years of overtures to the county government as a Town Board member, she said, “I’ve found there’s absolutely no communication in regard to preparation for storms. You can’t manage a storm in the Hudson Highlands from an office in Carmel.” She promised that one of her priorities as county legislator would be better emergency management.

Scuccimarra replied that during the March storm, the county opened both an emergency operations center in Carmel and a shelter in Philipstown, though “it wasn’t the one my opponent wanted open.” The county hauled equipment to the Garrison Fire District firehouse instead of using the Philipstown Recreation Center, an established shelter for weather emergencies.

County services
Scuccimarra heralded the senior center being finished at the Butterfield redevelopment in Cold Spring. “I want to bring [other] county services over to this site,” too, and so far at least one county agency wants space there, she said.

Montgomery observed that the Town Board, not the county, set up a senior exercise program and other initiatives. She contended that county officials didn’t have to wait for the Butterfield development to bring more services to Philipstown. “We’ve waited too long,” she said. “We’ve had space available for years in town.”

State Assembly
Experience confronted youth when 78-year-old Sandy Galef, the veteran Democrat who represents the Highlands and other Hudson Valley communities in the state Assembly, faced off against Republican Lawrence Chiulli, a 21-year-old Westchester Community College student who graduated from Croton High School and lives in Cortlandt Manor.

Galef, initially elected to the Assembly in 1992, five years before Chiulli was born, said “the federal government has really done us in” through the Trump administration’s tax changes, which restrict the amount of local and state taxes that can be deducted on itemized federal tax returns to $10,000 annually.

Galef chairs the Assembly’s Real Property Tax Committee, which, she said, is working on responses to the federal action and also to reduce property taxes. Toward that end, “combining some school districts would be very helpful,” she said. Chiulli replied that “everybody should have lower taxes, but it has to be sustainable.” He expressed fears that residents are leaving the area because of economic strains.

Cell towers
Galef observed that federal, not state law, governs the placement of cell towers. She noted that no one wants a tower nearby, yet everyone, including businesses considering a Hudson Valley base, wants reliable wireless service. “We’re going to have to start saying ‘yes’ to some things,” she said. At the same time, she added, “there are places for cell towers and places not for towers.”

Admitting he was unfamiliar with cell tower issues, Chiulli pledged to bone up and to be approachable on any subject if elected. “I want to break the mystique of public office” and be available “at any time,” he said.

Bipartisanship
Galef said that she has to collaborate with Republicans as well as fellow Democrats on her Assembly committee and with county, village and town officials from both parties. “We all work together,” she said. “To say you’ll work with everybody is really nice,” Chiulli said. “What we need is to stay motivated on improving our community.” He said he wanted to “be a trailblazer in that.” He also said he is running for the Assembly because “there’s a lot of hatred right now in politics” and he hopes to “unite us as people,” including the young and old.

State Senate
Karen Smythe, a Democrat challenging state Sen. Sue Serino, whose district includes the Highlands, attended the forum as an audience member after Serino, a Republican, declined to participate. League of Women Voters rules do not allow “empty chair” debates if one candidate is absent.

In a letter to The Current, Phyllis Hoening, the vice president of the League of Women Voters of Putnam County, said the organization was “very sorry” that Serino had not attended any of its forums since she first ran for the office in 2014. Hoening said the league sent out its invitations six weeks in advance but that the senator told the league she had prior commitment. Smythe and Serino debated this fall in forums sponsored by the Dutchess County Regional Chamber of Commerce.
The Calendar

A Giant Peach of a Show
Youth players to present zany musical

By Alison Rooney

If there are subversive aunties and nursemaids, the children are saner than the adults, magical oversized food appears and there are lots of weird and scary bits, it must be a theatrical adaptation of a Roald Dahl book.

If there’s singing and dancing, it must be a musical adaptation of one.

James and the Giant Peach, presented by the Youth Players at the Philipstown Depot Theatre, will be performed over two weekends starting Nov. 2 on Fridays at 7 p.m.; Saturdays at 4:30 and 7 p.m.; and Sundays at 3 p.m. Tickets are $12 at brownpapertickets.com/event/3634493. It is directed by Christine Bokhour, with musical direction by Paul Heckert of music and lyrics by Benj Pasek and Justin Paul, the pair behind Dear Evan Hansen.

The Current visited the theater on Garrison’s Landing during a rehearsal and found many of the young hams had plenty to say about their characters.

Which one of you is the most interesting insect?

Jasmine Wallis: I am! I’m used as bait, and I have to sing an 11-page song.

Emsley Mahoney: I’m a good insect. I’m kind of motherly and protective of James.

Jake Powers: The grasshopper is one of the best insects. He is calm, so being the actor of him is a lot of acting for me.

Is this show funny or scary, or what?

Jasmine: It’s a good amount of scary. It’s emotional, too.

Jake: It’s intense.

Jasmine: The audience is going to be on the edge of their seats.

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What’s your favorite line in the show?

Elaine: “I’m a friend to money, pigeon-brain.”

Helen: “And bring me some nuts — I’m nibbly.”

The Cast(s)

The first group of actors, who will appear Nov. 2 to 4, is Amelia Alayon, Charlotte Bowen, Melanie Delabie, Frances Donahue, Kira Drury, Robert Freimark, Ellery Gordon, Grace Gordon, Gwen Gordon, Ethan Hall, Lachlan Koch, Sophie Koch, Rain Lee, Catherine Leiter and Delia Starr.

The second group, performing Nov. 9 to 11, is Lucky Bell, Phoebe Bokhour, Edwin Dubroff, Maggie Hall, Gigi Horton, Helen Hutchison, Makaiya Johnson, Zohra Kapoor, Sofia Kelly, Elaine June Llewellyn, Ember Mahoney, Jake Powers, Gemma Sabin, Lila Sawyer, Ivan Siciliano and Jasmine Wallis.

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Remembering Ben

By Deb Higgins

The mist blew up from the river enveloping everything in a shroud, broken only by a periodic light shower. And this was only right, for it was a sad day for the Lewis Tompkins Hose Company No. 1. They had lost one of their own. For 15 years Ben had turned out for every fire, protecting the city before it even was a city.

A Percheron 16 hands high, Ben was a 3-year-old when he joined Tompkins. While the other fire companies had to send someone running to the livery stable to fetch a horse, Ben was stabled at the hose house at Main and Cross; and when the bell rang and the traces dropped, he was prancing to go. In the early days, not all the Landing’s roads were paved. It mattered little to Ben; he hauled the hose wagon at top speed through mud, ruts, ice and deep snow.

And then there were the parades. Beacon was a parade town and Tompkins would travel from Peekskill to Glen Falls for firemen’s parades. The company could field a contingent of 150 marching firefighters and often took the prize for the largest company, although the mayor suspected that more members turned out for parades than ever showed up at fires.

They were led by the gleaming hand-drawn Gleason & Bailey parade carriage, donated by Mr. Lewis Tompkins himself; followed by Ben and Marty Grady in the hose wagon. Marty was the driver and therefore primary handler for Ben’s entire career. At the reviewing stand, a touch of the reins and Ben would rear up powerfully on his hind legs in salute. When people dropped by afterward, Ben had a habit of nipping Marty’s cap off in the presence of the ladies.

Eventually, the fire company acquired a new, shiny red Ahrens-Fox fire engine and Ben was retired. It wouldn’t do to send him to the Department of Public Works as he would surely tear off to a fire if he heard the bell; and the people wouldn’t hear of him being sold to a local Carter, so Ben was sent to spend his days at John Gantvoort’s farm in Glenham, although he continued to make occasional appearances at parades.

Ben belonged as much to the city as the fire company. Clearly, his passing could not go unmarked, so the firemen decided to make a noncommissioned officer of Ben. That’s as I heard it,” said Ed Strong.

“Most fire horses serve but five to eight years, and here was Ben still going strong after 15,” someone observed.

“Marty had a hand in that,” said Strong. “He’d say the fastest way isn’t the fastest if you wind up in a wreck.”

“Where is Marty?”

“He and some lads are down in Glenham helping prepare the spot.”

Father O’Reilly, the curate at St. John’s, stopped by, unofficially of course, and made some brief, suitable remarks that God made the beasts of the earth and saw that it was good. The consensus being that these were fine sentiments, the good father was prevailed upon to take a pint from the keg donated by the neighbors from the candy company next door. Visitors stopped by to pay their respects and the reminiscing continued ‘til well into the evening.

Early the next day, those that could, went over to Gantvoort’s farm, although not in the fire engine that replaced Ben as that would have seemed disrespectful. There they saw Ben, wrapped in blankets, father was prevailed upon to take a pint from the keg donated by the neighbors from the candy company next door. Visitors stopped by to pay their respects and the reminiscing continued ‘til well into the evening.

Early the next day, those that could, went over to Gantvoort’s farm, although not in the fire engine that replaced Ben as that would have seemed disrespectful. There they saw Ben, wrapped in blankets, carefully laid to rest on a hill above the pasture.

Gantvoort, who owned the National Oven Co. down on the Long Lick, expressed his intention to have a fence installed around the grave and a fitting stone erected. Satisfied that they had done right by Ben, they returned to the firehouse.
Hip-Hop + Bluegrass = Gangstagrass

Band with unique sound to perform at Chapel

By Alison Rooney

The band scheduled to perform Friday, Nov. 2, at the Chapel Restoration in Cold Spring is called Gangstagrass, which sounds odd until you hear what it plays.

Hip-hop. And bluegrass. At the same time.

Gangstagrass, which leaves in January to tour the U.K., includes two MCs who drop beats that interact with a dobro, banjo and guitar. The group was formed in 2006 by a Brooklyn producer who goes by the stage name Rench. He describes his youth as “breakdancing on cardboard to RUN-DMC during recess, then going home and listening to my parents’ favorite country artists, Johnny Cash and Willie Nelson, on the stereo.”

Later, after Rench began producing hip-hop artists, he combined their tracks with samples from bluegrass, blues and electronic beats. “There are a lot more people out there with Jay-Z and Johnny Cash on their iPod playlists than you think,” he says.


Gangstagrass’ next album, Rappalachia, released in 2012, features rappers such as Kool Keith, Dead Prez, R-SON the Voice of Reason and Dolio the Sleuth. And its third, American Music, in 2015, reached No. 5 on the Billboard bluegrass charts.

The band’s current tour features a lot of new material, Rench says. He hopes on the next album to have tracks each recorded live at a different venue. “It’s bittersweet when we play to an audience with such a connection,” he says. “It makes me wish we could have shared that with everyone.”

Gangstagrass will appear as part of the Chapel Restoration’s ongoing Roadhouse series, with food by Pappi’s Mediterranean and beer by Industrial Arts available for sale. The Chapel is located at 45 Market St., in Cold Spring. Tickets are $25 at bit.ly/gg-tix. Paid parking is usually available in the adjacent Metro-North lot.

Philipstown Democrats Annual Fall Fundraiser will RELOCATE to the Old VFW Hall due to RAIN FORECAST on Sunday, Oct 28th

Please join us from 3-5 pm at 34 Kemble Avenue, Cold Spring

There’s still time to RSVP online at philipstowndemocrats.org or call 845-262-2630.
14 October 26, 2018
The Highlands Current

TOWN OF KENT SUPERVISOR

As a resident and taxpayer,

My deep frustration with my town’s mismanagement and unchecked spending led me to run for Town Supervisor in 2013. As a Democrat, I faced tough odds in a largely Republican town, but my experience and common sense approach earned 62% of the vote, and the support of neighbors of all political parties.

Now in my third term, I have held Town taxes at 0% for 5 years straight and reduced our debt service by one-third. For years before I took office, the general fund was drawn down to simply balance the budget, and that’s not sustainable. I have used the general fund for capital projects like rebuilding our aging highway fleet, replacing recreation department vehicles, and making needed upgrades in our parks.

As a collaborative leader, I welcome all residents to participate in their government. I have brought our unions to the table and successfully negotiated contracts with them. I declared Kent open for business, creating an environment in which sensible, low-impact commercial and industrial projects, now in the approvals process, will offset the tax burden of our residents.

MOTHER AND WIFE

I’ve been married for 31 years.

My Husband Jim voluntarily enlisted in the Army during the Vietnam War. He recently retired from a career in investigations, specializing in financial fraud. We chose Putnam as the best place to raise our family, for its scenic beauty, safe communities and strong schools.

We sent our three children to Carmel public schools, and I too moved into education so I could be more available to my family. I earned teaching certifications in biology and elementary education and taught in Catholic and public schools.

EXPERIENCED ATTORNEY

My career in public service

Was inspired early on from my experiences working with families struggling with poverty in a clinical program at Antioch Law School, now UDC. I also interned and was then hired by the National Labor Relations Board, which provided greater insight into the power of serving my community. Before earning my law degree, I graduated NYU with a bachelor’s degree in biology and a minor in philosophy.

My time as an attorney in the 80s & 90s was spent in the New York City Departments of Health and Sanitation, investigating employee fraud and corruption. Then, for the Department of Correction, I headed the inmate disciplinary system at Rikers Island and other city jails when they were at their highest population and their most violent.

While working in these complex governmental systems, I gained extensive management and policy development experience, and I became expert at identifying and administratively prosecuting malfeasance.

COMMUNITY LEADER

As with all families,

Our children’s needs and relationships helped us build strong ties in our community. Our family has set down deep roots in Putnam, and we have dedicated ourselves to public service of one sort or another. My son has been a volunteer firefighter in the Carmel Fire Department. I’m an active member of the Lake Carmel Fire Department Ladies Auxiliary and I am a Eucharistic minister. I also have been a Homeowners’ Association board member and the founding chairperson of the Town of Kent Stormwater Management Committee. I know how volunteering and participation make our communities stronger. I want our county to run professionally and effectively, so our tax money works harder FOR ALL OF PUTNAM.

Vote Tuesday, November 6th www.FlemingforPutnam.com
Paid for by Fleming for Putnam
Scary Good

By Joe Dizney

The most recognizable of autumn squashes, the pumpkin is a defining feature of the harvest season: you have your giant pumpkins, your pumpkin toss, pumpkin carvings and, of course, your pumpkin pie. You also have your questionably-flavored candy-coffee drinks.

All overshadow the fact that pumpkin is relatively nutritious and flexible enough to be enjoyed in savory comfort foods such as the creamy Pumpkin Risotto offered at right.

Rather than the traditional and overly fussy version, which requires rendered fat, a sautéed soffritto (usually just onions or shallots), toasted rice kernels followed by a quick reduction of white wine and constant addition of slow-simmering broth and endless and vigorous stirring, I opted for a version brought back from Milan by food writer J.M. Hirsch.

The soffritto is omitted at the insistence on a quality vegetable stock. The rice is sautéed in butter long enough to break down the starches in each kernel, at which point nearly all of the stock is added — at once — brought to a boil, reduced to a simmer and stirred, vigorously and regularly, but only enough to promote fully cooked rice that doesn’t stick to itself or the pot.

The pumpkin is added in a pureed form and finished with a mantecatura — the vigorous inclusion of butter and Parmesan off-heat — resulting in risotto that is truly all’onda. That is, it’s neither too loose nor too thick, an earmark of perfect risotto.

Caveat emptor: A recipe as simple as this begs for the freshest, purest ingredients to a boil over high heat and immediately lower to a medium-low simmer to reduce to ½ cup, about 30 minutes. When reduced remove from heat, whisk in honey and black pepper. Reserve at room temperature.

1. For the balsamic drizzle: In a small saucepan, bring vinegar to a boil over high heat and immediately lower to a medium-low simmer to reduce to ¼ cup, about 30 minutes. When reduced remove from heat, whisk in honey and black pepper. Reserve at room temperature.

2. For the risotto: In a small covered saucepan, bring broth to a simmer, reduce heat to lowest setting to keep warm. In a large saucepan on medium high heat, melt two tablespoons of the butter, when completely melted add rice and cook, stirring constantly until the grains are translucent at the edges, about 2 minutes.

3. Add 2½ cups of the broth and bring to a boil. Reduce heat immediately to medium and cook, stirring frequently and briskly for about 8 minutes. The pot will still be soupy. Reduce the heat to maintain a simmer.

4. Add the pumpkin puree and another ¼ cup of the broth, stirring as before for three to five minutes to incorporate. The risotto should ultimately be creamy and slightly wet and the rice tender but not mushy. Add more broth as needed in ¼ cup increments to retain the consistency.

5. When done, remove from heat, stir in the butter in pieces and ¼ cup of Parmesan to incorporate. Adjust the salt and place in low bowls. Garnish each with a sprinkling of the pumpkin seeds, some bacon and a generous drizzle of the balsamic sauce and a driblet or two of the roasted pumpkin seed oil if you have it. Serve with an extra grating of Parmesan.

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Visit highlandscurrent.org for news updates and latest information.

Small, Good Things

MCCAFFREY MARKET TIPS

Does the term "amortization" leave you perplexed? Are you unsure how preapproval differs from prequalification? If so, you’re not alone. Here are some mortgage basics to help you become more familiar with the process.

What’s the difference between prequalification and preapproval?

Getting prequalified is often the first step when searching for a home. You supply basic financial information, such as your income, assets and debts, and the lender then provides a preliminary estimate of the amount for which you may qualify.

Preapproval involves an in-depth look at your finances and usually requires an application fee, but this process brings you closer to determining your potential interest rate and monthly payment. Being preapproved also puts you in a better position in a competitive market because it shows you have your finances in order.

What is amortization?

Amortization is the process of paying off a home loan’s principal and interest over time within a consistent, planned repayment schedule. In the beginning, a large portion of each payment goes toward interest, but as the loan matures, larger amounts go toward paying down the principal.

What types of loans are there?

Fixed and adjustable rate mortgages operate as their respective names imply. The former has a rate that stays the same for the life of the loan. The latter’s rate may start low, but it can increase after a predetermined period or depending on market conditions.

Government-insured mortgages include FHA and VA loans. These are usually easier to qualify for and typically require lower down payments than other types of loans.

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Advertisement
New Kidney (from Page 1)

in California which was compatible with Thompson was shipped overnight to Weill Cornell. At the same time, one of Holowinko's kidneys was removed and shipped to Boston, where it was transplanted into a male patient who matched with him. Thompson and Holowinko may never know the identity of the California donor or the Boston recipient.

Thompson learned in February that her kidney function had deteriorated so badly that she had two choices: dialysis or a transplant. Things moved quickly after she and Holowinko were listed on the paired exchange in August. She received the call on Sept. 10 from Weill Cornell that a matched donor had come forward and that her surgery would take place in October.

“I was ecstatic that I wouldn’t need dialysis,” Thompson recalled. “Ed saved my life.” Asked how she could thank him, she admits Siegerbaum. “But it’s hard to argue against helping someone else live.”

Thompson’s surgery was performed by Dr. Anthony Watkins, a transplant specialist who estimates he has done more than 500 kidney transplants. He said that while some cases can present difficulties, Thompson’s three-hour operation was straightforward. “Her kidney function is good; her prognosis is good,” he said.

Watkins said that Holowinko should also do well. For healthy donors, “studies show there is no decrease in survival, and no increased risk of kidney failure,” Watkins said.

The number of kidney donors in the U.S. has remained steady in recent years, but Watkins said the number of paired exchanges has been increasing. While a hopeful sign, he said, “they are still a small percentage in the grand scheme of things.”

Alvin Roth and Lloyd Shapley won a Nobel Prize for economics in 2012 for work that included the creation of the kidney exchange. They noted that while dialysis costs about $70,000 per year, a kidney transplant costs about $260,000, making it cost effective in fewer than four years.

Thompson said her goal now “is to have the best quality of life possible.” She quips she may write a book and call it Kidney Transplants for Dummies. Discharged from the hospital on Oct. 24, she has more challenges ahead: She will need surgery for a postoperative hernia, and she remains weak. Her medical bills are paid but she is not working (she cannot return to travel, “I have a new family,” she said.) “I’m very happy, very grateful.”

Holowinko said that he didn’t hesitate to donate because, at age 64, he has a healthy lifestyle and follows a vegan diet. An avid cyclist, he has resumed workouts on a stationary bicycle. “I feel like nothing happened,” he said. “What’s the big deal?” The postoperative recovery took about five days, he said.

His decision to donate a kidney wasn’t as easy for his wife. “It was very scary to me,” admits Emily Holowinko. “But it’s hard to argue against helping someone else live.”

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Assembly Seat (from Page 3)

While campaigning, what have you heard from Beacon residents?

JACOBSON: Not surprisingly, they are concerned about Washington and how the Trump Administration and U.S. Supreme Court will affect basic rights, from reproductive rights to health care and the environment. They are also concerned with how Washington will affect civil rights, given the demagoguery on race and LGBTQ rights. These are all issues that we can address on a local level.

Executive Candidates (from Page 9)

services without increasing taxes. I have never raised town taxes.”

County debt

Fleming has taken issue with Odell’s claim that she has reduced the county debt from $17.2 million to zero. Manley: Beacon is a great city that has come a long way. I remember when my mother was a reporter at the Evening News on Main Street in the late 1970s and early 1980s — the way it was and the way it is now. But even with prosperity, there are repercussions. Many residents who have owned real estate over the years are doing well on their investments, but the locals who have rented are slowly getting priced out. We need to find the fine line between keeping our longtime residents while bringing new people into Beacon. I very much look forward to working for and representing everyone in Albany.

Chip Rowe contributed reporting.
When Harassment Goes Online
Documentary examines its effect on three women

By Alison Rooney

In 2011, Cynthia Lowen wrote and co-produced a documentary called Bully, which followed five children who were viciously tormented by their peers. It was nominated for an Emmy. Her follow-up, which she directed, is also about bullies. In Netizens, which will be screened at Beahive in Beacon at 7 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 28, she follows three women who are harassed online, and documents the devastating consequences. The film will be followed by a Q&A with Lowen.

Lowen says she spent a year filming women who had endured online threats of violence, stalking, nonconsensual pornograpy and attacks on their reputations. With 180 hours of footage, she decided in the editing room to tell the stories of three women: Anita Sarkeesian, a feminist media critic, blogger and speaker; Carrie Goldberg, a Brooklyn attorney who investigated cy

A Twitter message received by Anita Sarkeesian, who hosts a web series called Feminist Frequency Photo provided

and humiliate. Finally, they use technology to shoo their victims offline.

In one telling scene, after hearing Reine speak of what happened to her, a young man says to her: “I’m a gun, and yes, it’s hurtful, but doesn’t it depend on how much weight you give it?” Reine can offer only a slightly apologetic response.

Lowen says the cavalier attitude toward cyber assault is less prevalent among young people because “they don’t have the ‘internet isn’t real’ issue. They get it.”

On Wednesday, Dec. 5, at 7 p.m., the society will screen Sacred, a film by Academy Award-winner Thomas Lennon that was shot by more than 40 filmmaking teams around the world to immerse viewers in the daily practice of faith. A Q&A with executive producer Bill Baker will follow.

Coming Up

On Sunday, Nov. 18, the Beacon Film Society will present A Bread Factory, which examines Time & Space Limited in Hudson, New York, and its co-directors, Linda Mussmann and Claudia Bruce. It will be shown in two parts, at 1:30 and 3:45 p.m., to be followed at 5:45 p.m. by a Q&A with its writer, director and producer Patrick Wang and Mussmann. Admission is $10 for one film, or $15 for both.

On Sunday, Nov. 25, a Q&A with executive producer Bill Baker will follow.

Cynthia Lowen

Photo by Joseph Michael Lopez


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percent of the students in Dutchess County, would be responsible for $2.6 million, 53 percent of which would be eligible for reimbursement by the state.

The cost absorbed by the school system would be roughly the same as if the district added a second school bus proposition (last year’s increased the school’s tax levy by $75,000) to its annual budget proposal, said Beacon’s deputy superintendent, Ann Marie Quartironi. The added cost would come out of the district’s overall tax levy, not as an addition to it, she said.

A Beacon homeowner whose property is valued at $275,000 (the county average) would likely see a $6 to $8 increase in annual property taxes, Richard Hooley, superintendent of the Dutchess BOCES, told the Beacon school board on Monday (Oct. 22). Elsewhere in the county, taxes could increase up to $14 annually for the average homeowner, he said.

Hooley said he expects the upgrades to pay for themselves over the next 20 years by reducing rent, maintenance, transportation and utility costs.

The proposal would create a 60,000-square-foot annex onto the CTI site that would include the Alternative High School as well as a newly constructed conference center for staff training and community use. The proposal differs from the 2009 plan because it’s an addition to the CTI rather than a standalone building, said Russ Davidson, a project architect.

The Alternative High School has been located for the past 20 years in a leased warehouse in a Poughkeepsie industrial park about 4 miles from the CTI. The site has been plagued in recent years with flooding and maintenance and safety issues, Hooley said.

“None of those people in the [nearby] warehouses are fingerprinted,” he noted. “It’s just not the place you would want kids to be if you had any control over it.”

The expanded facility would allow the technical programs and the Alternative High School to share a secure entrance while reducing student travel time and encouraging interaction between disciplines, Hooley said.

“The next big thing in career and tech is for students who have expertise in a particular field to work with students in different backgrounds to solve problems,” he said. “It’s project-based learning at its best.”

Additionally, capacity would be increased at the Salt Point Center to meet a growing demand for instruction for Dutchess students with disabilities, and classroom and lab space at the CTI would be renovated.

The Beacon district has 59 students who attend the CTI, plus five who are students at the Alternative High School and seven who attend Salt Point Center. The number of Beacon students using the CTI has increased over the last five years while enrollment at the Salt Point Center and Alternative High School has dropped by about half. That could be due to more specialized classes being offered at the students’ home schools, Hooley said.

Polls will be open from noon to 8 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 11, with the closest site for Beacon area residents at the school district office at 10 Education Drive. The vote will be on paper ballots placed into secure boxes built by CTI students. If approved, construction would begin in 2020 and take about two years.

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Haldane School Foundation presents

THE GET DOWN

FUNK SOUL HIP HOP

WE’RE GOING OLD SCHOOL FOR OUR SCHOOL

WEAR WHAT YOU DARE AND DANCE IF YOU FEEL IT.

DJ | SILENT AUCTION | 115/PERSON BEFORE 10/15 | 110 AFTER |
Admission includes small plates, beer, wine & soda | Additional cash bar available

Get your tickets at haldaneschoolfoundation.org

County Legislator
Barbara Scuccionara

Integrity * Experience * Results

Vote on November 6th
Polls open 6am - 9pm
## THE WEEK AHEAD

Edited by Pamela Doan ([calendar@highlandscurrent.org](mailto:calendar@highlandscurrent.org))

For a complete listing of events, see [highlandscurrent.org/calendar](http://highlandscurrent.org/calendar)

### COMMUNITY

**SUN 28**

14th Annual Haunted House
GARRISON
7 – 10 p.m.
Philipsburg Recreation Center
107 Glenside Dr. | 845-424-4618
philipstownrecreation.com

The Foot in Mouth Players again present their annual scarefest. Also Sun 28. Cost: $5 (seniors and children under 12, $4)

**THURS 1**

One Beacon: Light in the Darkness of Racism and Anti-Semitism
BEACON
6 – 9 p.m. Salem Tabernacle
7 Delavan Ave.
beaconhebrewalliance.org

In response to the recent posting of anti-Semitic fliers, the Beacon Hebrew Alliance and First Presbyterian Church are co-hosting this gathering of “all people of faith and good conscience — even for an evening of breaking bread and singing together.”

**SAT 27**

Halloween ComicFest
BEACON
11 a.m. – 10 p.m.
The Underground Beacon
462 Main St. | 845-831-4888
howlandculturalcenter.org

This fundraiser for the Haldane School Foundation will feature a costume contest (Anne Frank,超人, and Spider-Man), trick or treating, face painting from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.; Daniel Kibblesmith signing Black Panther vs. Deadpool from 2 to 4 p.m. (see Page 2); an adult costume contest at 6:30 p.m. and a screening of the animated Constantine: City of Demons at 8 p.m. Free

**SUN 28**

Ham Radio Oktoberfest
FISHKILL
8 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Employee’s Recreation Center
83 Red Schoolhouse Lane
845-849-3666 | wr2abb.org

The Mount Beacon Amateur Radio Club hosts this event, which includes licensing classes, food and beverages and, of course, ham radios. Cost: $5 (non-ham spouses and children free)

**MON 29**

Restaurant Week
HUDSON VALLEY
valleystorytable.com/hvy

Enjoy three-course lunches for $22.95 and dinners for $32.95 at seven Highlnds restaurants (Cafe Amarcord, The Pandorica and The Roundhouse in Beacon; Cafe Amarcord, the Hudson House River Inn and Riverview in Cold Spring and the Valley in Garrison) and hundreds of others in the region. Through Nov. 11.

**TUES 30**

Storm Spotter Training
POUGHKEEPSIE
7 p.m. Department of Emergency Response | 392 Creek Road
westcheстер.gov/shy/skywarn

Instruction from the National Weather Service. Registration required. Free

### THEATRE

**SAT 27**

Halloween at 6:30 p.m. and a screening Page 2); an adult costume contest Deadpool

**SAT 27**

Celtic Halloween Party
PUTNAM VALLEY
2 p.m. Tompkins Corners Cultural Center
729 Peekskill Hollow Road
845-528-7280 | tompkinscorners.org

Join a variety of musicians, including a new folk ensemble, Panache, for jigs, reels and party favorites. Costumes are welcome. Cost: $15 donation

**THURS 1**

Heather Pierson Acoustic Trio
BEACON
8 p.m. Towne Crier Cafe
379 Main St. | 845-855-1300
townecrier.com

The New Hampshire band includes Davy Stut西安l and Shawn Nadeau playing original New Orleans jazz, folk and blues-style songs. Cost: $15

**FRI 2**

Roadhouse Reunion: Gangstagrass
COLD SPRING
9:30 p.m. Chapel Restoration
45 Market St. | 845-265-5357
bit.ly/gg-tx

Hip-hop and bluegrass merge, with two MCs accompanied by banjo, dobro and guitar. See story on Page 13. Cost: $25

**SAT 27**

Honey Drop Sessions
BEACON
3 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
105 Grant St. | 845-561-5355
howlandculturalcenter.org

In Hemispheres: South America, the ensemble will perform works by Heitor Villa-Lobos (Brazil), Dengue Vega (Colombia-America), Astor Piazzolla (Argentina) and Alberto Ginastera (Argentina). Cost: $25 (students $5)

**SAT 2**

Holiday Plate Workshop
BEACON
1:30 – 3:30 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
477 Main St. | 845-831-4988
howlandculturalcenter.org

This group show, curated by Mary Mugele Seallow, includes work by Garin Baker, Clayton Buchanan, Susan Hope Fogel, Cynthia Harris-Pagano, Andrew Lattimore, John Philip Osborne, Joseph Sundwall, George Van Hook, Lois Woodley, Horacio Zhang and Lila Zukauskas.

### SPOKEN WORD

**SAT 27**

Frankenstein in the Age of Gene Editing
GARRISON
4 p.m. Hastings Center
21 Malcolm Gordon Road
845-424-4040 | thehastingscenter.org

On the 200th anniversary of the publication of Mary Shelley’s novel, Victor LaValle, Charlotte Gordon and Josephine Johnston will explore the classic tale from the perspectives of bioethics, literary criticism and science fiction. RSVP to events@hastingscenter.org.

### ARTS

**SAT 27**

Painting and Sculpture in the Hudson River Valley
GARRISON
9:30 a.m. Boscobel
1803 Route 9G | 845-265-3638
boscobel.org

This group show, curated by Mary Mugele Seallow, includes work by Garin Baker, Clayton Buchanan, Susan Hope Fogel, Cynthia Harris-Pagano, Andrew Lattimore, John Philip Osborne, Joseph Sundwall, George Van Hook, Lois Woodley, Horacio Zhang and Lila Zukauskas.

**SUN 28**

Marbling Workshop
BEACON
10 a.m. RiverWinds Gallery
172 Main St. | 845-838-2880
riverwindsgallery.com

Carol Mainardi will explain how to use inks and water to make patterns on paper, shells and rocks. Supplies included. Registration required. Cost: $50

**SAT 27**

Hudson Valley Artist Mentors (Opening)
BEACON
1:30 – 3:30 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
477 Main St. | 845-831-4888
howlandculturalcenter.org

This group show, curated by Mary Mugele Seallow, includes work by Garin Baker, Clayton Buchanan, Susan Hope Fogel, Cynthia Harris-Pagano, Andrew Lattimore, John Philip Osborne, Joseph Sundwall, George Van Hook, Lois Woodley, Horacio Zhang and Lila Zukauskas.

### MUSICAL PERFORMANCE

**THURS 1**

One Beacon: Light in the Darkness of Racism and Anti-Semitism
BEACON
6 – 9 p.m. Salem Tabernacle
7 Delavan Ave.
beaconhebrewalliance.org

In response to the recent posting of anti-Semitic fliers, the Beacon Hebrew Alliance and First Presbyterian Church are co-hosting this gathering of “all people of faith and good conscience — even for an evening of breaking bread and singing together.”

**SAT 3**

The Get Down
COLD SPRING
7 – 10 p.m. Bannerman Castle
3250 Route 9G | haldaneschoolfoundation.org

This fundraiser for the Haldane School Foundation will feature dancing and hip and funky music and a silent auction of items and services. Cost: $10

**SAT 25**

Celtic Halloween Party
PUTNAM VALLEY
2 p.m. Tompkins Corners Cultural Center
729 Peekskill Hollow Road
845-528-7280 | tompkinscorners.org

Join a variety of musicians, including a new folk ensemble, Panache, for jigs, reels and party favorites. Costumes are welcome. Cost: $10 donation

**SAT 29**

Honey Drop Sessions
BEACON
8 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
477 Main St. | 845-831-4888
honeydropsessions.com

brownpapertickets.com

A night of sweetness and song with Lara Herscovitch, Amy Soucy and Lindsey Wilson. Cost: $10 ($5 at door)

**FRI 2**

Reza Badii<br>10 a.m. RiverWinds Gallery
172 Main St. | 845-838-2880
riverwindsgallery.com

A night of sweetness and song with Lara Herscovitch, Amy Soucy and Lindsey Wilson. Cost: $10 ($5 at door)

**SAT 4**

Catalyst Quartet
NEWBURGH
3 p.m. St. George’s Church
105 Grant St. | 845-561-5355
howlandculturalcenter.org

In Hemispheres: South America, the ensemble will perform works by Heitor Villa-Lobos (Brazil), Dengue Vega (Colombia-America), Astor Piazzolla (Argentina) and Alberto Ginastera (Argentina). Cost: $25 (students $5)

### VISUAL ARTS

**SAT 27**

Painting and Sculpture in the Hudson River Valley
GARRISON
9:30 a.m. Boscobel
1803 Route 9G | 845-265-3638
boscobel.org

Curators from the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Smithsonian Institution and others will discuss the history of creating art in the Hudson Valley. Cost: Pay what you wish

**SAT 27**

Tribute to Gladys Knight and The Temptations
PEEKSKILL
7 p.m. Paramount Hudson Valley
1008 Brown St. | 914-739-0039
paramounthudsonvalley.com

Get down with the Motown tribute band, Shadows of the 1960s, featuring Tanesha Gary as Knight. Cost: $37 to $71.50

**SUN 28**

Marbling Workshop
BEACON
10 a.m. RiverWinds Gallery
172 Main St. | 845-838-2880
riverwindsgallery.com

Carol Mainardi will explain how to use inks and water to make patterns on paper, shells and rocks. Supplies included. Registration required. Cost: $50

### TALKS & TOURS

**SAT 27**

Frankenstein in the Age of Gene Editing
GARRISON
4 p.m. Hastings Center
21 Malcolm Gordon Road
845-424-4040 | thehastingscenter.org

The 200th anniversary of the publication of Mary Shelley’s novel, Victor LaValle, Charlotte Gordon and Josephine Johnston will explore the classic tale from the perspectives of bioethics, literary criticism and science fiction. RSVP to events@hastingscenter.org.

### TUES 30

Everything I Never Told You
BEACON
2 p.m. Howland Public Library
313 Main St. | 845-831-1134
beaconlibrary.org

James Colter, an English professor at Mount Saint Mary College, will lead a discussion of Celeste Ng’s Everything I Never Told You as part of the Big Read program organized by the National Endowment for the Arts. Free
**Halloween**

**SAT 27**

**Boo at the Zoo**

**BEAR MOUNTAIN**

10 a.m. – 3 p.m. Trailside Zoo
3006 Seven Lakes Drive
845-766-2701 | trailsidezoo.org

Make treats for the bears at 10:30 a.m. and watch them enjoy them at 11 a.m. The zoo will also have crafts and activities. Cost: $1 donation (ages 2 and younger free)

**SAT 25**

**25th Annual Halloween Costume Parade**

**COLD SPRING**

5:30 p.m. St. Mary’s Lawn
facebook.com/coldspringhallowpandre

Children, adults and pets are invited to come in costume and parade down Main Street to the riverfront bandstand. Rain date: SUN 28

**SAT 27**

**Above All Things**

**GARRISON**

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

The library will screen this newly released thriller, filmed in part at Lake Valhalla, about a man who retreats to his family cottage after the death of his wife only to have her come back to haunt him. A Q&A with writer and director Monica Brady will follow. Rated PG-13. Free

**SAT 27**

**Halloween Party**

**BEACON**

6 p.m. Beacon Volunteer Ambulance Corps | 1 Aquella Dr. | 845-831-4540
facebook.com/BeaconVAC

Children should bring sleeping bags, pillows and blankets to watch The Nightmare Before Christmas. There will also be a parade, costume contest and pumpkin decorating. Free

**SUN 28**

**Netizens**

**BEACON**

7 p.m. Beahive
291 Main St. | beaconfilmsociety.org

This documentary, directed by Kimberly Reed, explores the impact of the U.S. Supreme Court's 2010 decision, Citizens United v. FEC, which allowed untraceable contributions and spending designed to influence elections. Free

**FRI 2**

**James and the Giant Peach**

**GARRISON**

7 p.m. Philipstown Depot Theatre
10 Garrison’s Landing
845-424-3900 | brownpapertickets.com/event/3634193

The Youth Players present Roald Dahl’s tale of a boy who travels across the ocean on a piece of fruit. Also: SAT 3, SUN 4. Cost: $12

**SAT 27**

**Robert Klein**

**PEEKSKILL**

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

Kirsten Maxwell, a singer and songwriter based on Long Island, will open. Cost: $30 to $35

**SAT 3**

**Beauty and Tragedy**

**NEWBURGH**

6 p.m. Atlas Studios
11 Spring St. | 845-391-8855
newburgtheautyandtragedy.com

A new documentary by photographer Dmitri Kasterine of Garrison about the residents of downtown Newburgh. “After listening to stories of imprisonment, teenage parenthood, drug addiction, unemployment, poverty, violence and corruption, I began to record encounters with citizens in the street,” Kasterine says. “The film offers no conclusions, no tales of redemption or magic solutions to unemployment, and Newburgh’s future is left hanging. No one in authority, either the police or the government, is given a speaking part in this film. This was deliberate, I wanted to hear and see only the people I was drawn to.” Free

**MON 29**

**City Council**

**BEACON**

7 p.m. City Hall
1 Municipal Plaza | cityofbeacon.org

**THURS 1**

**Philipstown Board**

**COLD SPRING**

7:30 p.m. Town Hall
238 Main St. | philipstown.com

**SAT 3**

**Introduction to Babysitting**

**COLD SPRING**

10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Butterfield Library
845-831-3800 | stonykill.org

A program of music and movement with Gerry Dignan for infants to second-graders and their caregivers. Cost: $15 ($5 for children)

**SUN 28**

**Pumpkin Glow**

**GARRISON**

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

Bring a carved pumpkin and watch them all light up the night outside the library. Music with Stacey Labriola, plus apples, cider doughnuts and cider. Costumes encouraged. Free

**SAT 30**

**Music Together**

**PUTNAM VALLEY**

10:30 a.m.
Tompkins Corners Cultural Center
729 Peekskill Hollow Road
845-528-7280 | tompkinscorners.org

A program of music and movement with Gerry Dignan designed to influence elections. Free

**SAT 27**

**Hocus Pocus Parade**

**BEACON**

 Noon. Visitor Center
South Avenue and Main
facebook.com/A-Very-Beacon-Halloween

After the parade, which continues to Verplanck Street, businesses will offer trick-or-treating. No rain date.

**FRI 2**

**20 Ways to Reduce Toxins and Waste at Home**

**GARRISON**

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

The presenters present Thornton Wilder’s 1938 drama that explores community bonds. Also SAT 3 (with American Sign Language), Cost: $20 ($15 for seniors and children age 12 and younger)

**SAT 3**

**Beauty and Tragedy**

**NEWBURGH**

6 p.m. Atlas Studios
11 Spring St. | 845-391-8855
newburgtheautyandtragedy.com

A new documentary by photographer Dmitri Kasterine of Garrison about the residents of downtown Newburgh. “After listening to stories of imprisonment, teenage parenthood, drug addiction, unemployment, poverty, violence and corruption, I began to record encounters with citizens in the street,” Kasterine says. “The film offers no conclusions, no tales of redemption or magic solutions to unemployment, and Newburgh’s future is left hanging. No one in authority, either the police or the government, is given a speaking part in this film. This was deliberate, I wanted to hear and see only the people I was drawn to.” Free

**THURS 1**

**Native Voices**

**GARRISON**

6:30 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library
472 Route 403 | 845-424-3020
desmondfishlibrary.org

The reading group will be discussing Joseph Bruchac’s Code Talker: A Novel about the Navajo Marines of World War Two. Free
**PHILIPSTOWN WINTER PROGRAMMING**

**at Philipstown Recreation Center**

Registration opens October 29th for Residents & November 5th for Non-Residents

Book is available at www.philipstownrecreation.com/booklets

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

R = Resident / NR = Non-Resident

**EARLY EDUCATION**

**Indoor Tot Park**
- T, TH 9-11am & M-F 12-1:30pm
- $1 per session

**Pre-Ballet (ages 3-5)**
- Starts January 8 & 10
- $85 R / $100 NR

**The Learning Center Preschool (ages 3-5)**
- Call for more information

**YOUTH/TEEN PROGRAMS**

**After Care & Before Care Programs**
- Call for more information!

**Arts & Crafts Around the World (Grades K-6)**
- Starts January 7
- $55 R / $70 NR

**Animal Sketches (Grades K-6)**
- Starts January 2
- $75 R / $90 NR

**Board? Games! (Grades K-6)**
- Starts January 3
- $75 R / $90 NR

**Holiday Crafts (Grades K-6)**
- Starts November 5
- $40 R / $55 NR

**Holiday Treats ABCs (Grades K-6)**
- Starts November 6
- $50 R / $65 NR

**Holiday Tree (Grades K-6)**
- Starts November 7
- $40 R / $55 NR

**Mini Munchies (Grades K-6)**
- Starts January 8
- $55 R / $70 NR

**Musical Revue (Grades K-6)**
- Starts November 9
- $30 R / $45 NR

**Spa Kids (Grades K-6)**
- Starts November 8
- $40 R / $55 NR

**Youth Theatre Production**
- Mary Poppins
- Starts January 4
- $225 R / $240 NR

**SPORTS AND MOVEMENT**

**Beginning Ballet (Grades K-1)**
- Starts January 8 & 10
- $85 R / $100 NR

**Basketball & Drills (Grades 2-3)**
- Starts January 4
- $1 per night

**Box Lacrosse (Grades 1-12)**
- Starts November 13
- $38 R / $53 NR

**Co-Ed Basketball (Grades 1-6)**
- Starts January 5
- $75 R / $90 NR

**Contemporary Dance Workshop (Grades 4)**
- Starts January 10
- $85 R / $100 NR

**Indoor Boys Lacrosse (Grades 1-6)**
- Starts January 8
- $50 R / $65 NR

**Indoor Girls Lacrosse (Grades K & up)**
- Starts January 13
- $50 R / $65 NR

**Knock Around Floor Hockey (Grades 6)**
- Starts November 7
- $335 R / $50 NR

**Lacrosse Skills and Drills (Grades 3 & up)**
- Starts January 9
- $1 per night

**Sports Sampler (Grades 6)**
- Starts January 2
- $65 R / $80 NR

**Winter Boys Lacrosse Team (Grades 5-8)**
- Starts November 30
- $190 R / $205 NR

**TEEN**

**Teen Night (Grades 6-8)**
- November 17 & January 12
- Residents only!
- $5

**TEEN MOVIE NIGHTS (Grades 6-8)**
- Elf
- December 8
- Pre-Registration is required

**FAMILY**

**Day Out at the Movies! (Grades K-3)**
- The Grinch
- Regal Cinemas, Fishkill
- $3 per person
- November 21

**CERAMICS**

**Adults**
- Starts November 27
- $135 R / $150 NR
- Starts January 8
- $360 R / $365 NR

**Afterschool (Grades K-3)**
- Starts November 27 or 28
- $90 R / $105 NR
- Starts January 8 or 9
- $240 R / $255 NR

**Afterschool (Grades 4-6)**
- Starts November 29
- $90 R / $105 NR
- Starts January 10
- $240 R / $255 NR

**MUDBUNNIES (Grades 3-5)**
- Starts November 29
- $90 R / $105 NR
- Starts January 10
- $240 R / $255 NR

**Senior Bus Trip to Fishkill**
- Starts November 9
- $55 R / $70 NR
- Session II: Starts January 10
- $85 R / $100 NR

**Intermediate Intermediate**

**Session I:** Starts November 5
- $35 R / $50 NR
- Session II: Starts January 7
- $65 R / $80 NR

**Power Hour for Women**
- Session I: Starts November 5 & 28
- Session II: Starts January 7 & 9

**Yamuna Body Rolling**
- Session I: Starts November 26
- $35 R / $50 NR
- Session II: Starts January 7
- $45 R / $60 NR

**Yoga with Kathy Barnes**
- Session I: Starts November 26
- $35 R / $50 NR
- Session II: Starts January 7
- $65 R / $100 NR

**Yoga with Kathie Scanlon**
- Session I: Starts November 20
- $45 R / $60 NR
- Session II: Starts January 8
- $85 R / $100 NR

**Zumba**
- Session I: Starts November 8
- $55 R / $70 NR
- Session II: Starts January 10
- $85 R / $100 NR

**SPORTS (18+)**

**Co-Ed Volleyball**
- Thursdays, 7:30-9:30
- Sundays 6:00-8:00
- $3 R / $5 NR

**Men’s Basketball (18+)**
- Residents Only
- Mondays, 7:30-9:30pm
- $30 for 10 night punch card
The Beacon High School girls’ soccer team, seeded No. 8 in the Section 1, Class A playoffs, got off to a good start in its first-round playoff game on Oct. 21 against No. 9 Horace Greeley from Chappaqua. But a defensive mistake cost the Bulldogs an early goal and set the tone for what turned out to be a 2-0 loss and an end to the season.

“It was disappointing,” said Coach Hugo Alzate. “We came out playing with confidence, moving the ball well, and we hit the crossbar in the first minute. But then they came down and we had an unforced error, we fouled, and they got a penalty kick in the first five minutes. That changed the game.

“I’m still very proud of the girls,” he said. “They worked through it, kept on fighting. We had other opportunities, we just couldn’t finish. It was somewhat satisfying in that we saw that we can play with them.”

Meagan Meeuwisse made seven saves in goal for the Bulldogs, who finished the season 9-5-2.

Alzate said his team had a plan to slow down the Quakers’ top scorer, Allie Forrester, and executed it well. “Analiese Comstock down the Quakers’ top scorer, Allie Forrester, and executed it well. “Our back four have been brilliant all year,” he said. “Carter Pederson, John Mesnick, Aaron Davis and Carter Hull and our keeper, AJ Lucas, who is a freshman, gave up very few goals, and they don’t get much credit. Our front four are dangerous, and our middle is kind of by committee, some young guys.”

Against Keio, Dillon Kelly, Noah Montrose and Lambe all scored in the final 25 minutes for the Bulldogs. Lambe, a senior, had the score against Somers to finish the season with 26 goals and 71 career.

Somers Defeats Beacon Boys
The Beacon boys’ season came to an end Wednesday (Oct. 24) in the Section 1, Class A semifinals when the seventh-seeded Bulldogs fell, 3-1, at No. 6 Somers.

The score was tied, 0-0, at half before Somers scored on a header off a free kick. It scored twice more to take a 3-0 lead. The Tuskers (16-5) advance to Saturday’s championship game at Lakeland High School, while Beacon finished its season at 15-6.

The Bulldogs won their first two games of the tournament, defeating No. 10 Nyack, 3-0, on Oct. 19 on a Devin Lambe goal, and taking care of business on Oct. 22 against a disciplined No. 15 Keio Academy team, 3-0. The Unicorns (10-9) controlled the ball well, so the Bulldogs knew that when they had possession, they needed to make the most of it.

Coach Craig Seaman said that Keio’s focus on possession made it susceptible to counterattacks. “We knew we’d concede a number of possessions in the middle,” Seaman said. “But in the attacking the final third I thought we were better.”

Seaman complimented his defense, as well. “Our back four have been brilliant all year,” he said. “Carter Pederson, John Mesnick, Aaron Davis and Carter Hull and our keeper, AJ Lucas, who is a freshman, gave up very few goals, and they don’t get much credit. Our front four are dangerous, and our middle is kind of by committee, some young guys.”

Against Keio, Dillon Kelly, Noah Montrose and Lambe all scored in the final 25 minutes for the Bulldogs. Lambe, a senior, had the score against Somers to finish the season with 26 goals and 71 career goals.

Haldane Boys End Tough Season
The Haldane High School boys’ team ran into a strong Alexander Hamilton squad Wednesday (Oct. 24) on the road in the Section 1, Class C semifinal, losing, 6-1. Jesse Sherman scored for the fourth-seeded Blue Devils, who finished 2-15.

Hamilton, the No. 1 seed, scored three minutes into the game and put it away soon after, finding the net three times in a five-minute span.

“They were the better team, undoubtedly,” said Coach Craig Canavan. “We didn’t start with the energy and enthusiasm we had hoped for. Luke Hammond and Jesse, both juniors, played well.”

Despite the team’s record, Canavan said the Blue Devils had improved over the season. “It was disappointing to lose this way,” he said. “The kids were enthusiastic, and the feeling has been, in the next game, we’ll be better. But now that there is no next game, I do feel bad for the seniors. Our record is not indicative of this group.”

Haldane Girls Beat Hamilton
The Haldane girls’ team (6-8-1), seeded No. 2 in Section 1, Class C, defeated visiting No. 3 Hamilton, 4-1, in its first-round game on Thursday (Oct. 25). The Blue Devils advanced to the championship game on Sunday, Oct. 28, against No. 1 Solomon Schechter at Arlington High School at 1:30 p.m.

Against Hamilton, Sophia Scanga scored twice for Haldane, and Jade Villella and Julia Rotando each had a goal.
Baseball’s Continued Demise

Will the game ever recover?
By Michael Turton

With half-hearted apologies to fans of the 2018 New York Yankees, this is the best time of year to watch baseball: stress-filled, winner-take-all wild-card games; exhilaratingly short division series where every pitch, and every hit, counts; nail-biting league championships; and baseball’s ultimate annual showdown — The World Series, which began Tuesday (Oct. 23).

Unfortunately, even the excitement of October baseball can’t disguise the downward spiral of the game that was once un-disputed as “America’s pastime.”

Midway through the 2016 season, I commented in The Current on some of the symptoms of big-league baseball’s decades-long skid:

• Grossly inflated salaries;
• The designated hitter and the ever-increasing obsession with the home run;
• The death of “small ball” and managerial strategy;
• Inter-league play and the loss of the National versus American League mystique;
• Embarrassing corporate stadium names such as Petco Park;
• Uniform pant legs that drag to the ground like ill-fitting pajamas;
• Players who wear necklaces on the field;
• Time-consuming video reviews and, last but not least;
• The contrived and all-too-orchestrated ninth-inning celebrations at home plate, when a win in a half-empty stadium lifts a team not into the World Series but out of last place.

It turns out that there are even more manifestations of baseball’s malaise. They are more subtle than the ugly, roofed stadiums with their living-room-carpet artificial turf but just as troubling:

• Players who point to the heavens after a home run — but not after a strike-out. If the baseball gods are to be revered, shouldn’t a whiff also be celebrated as part of their master plan?
• The “idiot’s rectangle” that defines the strike zone for TV viewers. Like official reviews, it removes the time-honored tradition of hating the ump.
• Being told after a relief pitcher comes in that his pitch count stands at two. At least wait until it hits three.
• Baseball is a statistician’s feast, and rightfully so. But does the exit velocity of a home run matter? If it does, perhaps a 120-mph round-tripper should put an extra run on the board compared to a mere 100-mph blast. Better yet, measure hang time. A home run that takes a full minute to come down from orbit could count as a grand slam, regardless of how many men are on base. A line-drive homer with no arc would chalk up only half a run.
• Teams now have so many different uniforms they are no longer ... uniform. A poorly veiled ploy to sell more merchandise.
• Military camouflage jerseys, admittedly a sensitive topic. When men and women don camouflage in wartime, they risk their lives for their country. Baseball players ... play baseball. Camouflage as part of a baseball uniform demeans military service.
• Goggles now seem to be mandatory during post-game champagne celebrations. Players who shake off being hit by a 100-mph fastball apparently worry about being beamed by an errant cork. Or are the bubbles the problem?
• What ever happened to announcers with personality and good baseball stories? Is “See ya!” the best we can do?
• The MLB.TV channel uses a miniature baseball diamond to illustrate aspects of the game. Brilliant, and much more authentic than the garish, brass-glass digital sets used on most sports programs. But the commentators on the mini-diamond wear three-piece suits, dress shoes and a glove that has never fielded a ball. Suits are perfect — for undertakers and accountants. Put these guys in a Major League Baseball golf shirt and khakis, wearing a glove that has actually been used. They probably all own one.
• Baseball played when the temperature dips below 60 degrees, spring or fall, is no fun for players, umpires or fans. It takes away from the game. It should be illegal. But shortening the season would mean lost revenue. So let them suffer.
• The atmosphere at many major league parks — the excessive, non-stop advertising; the constant, glaringly bad music that is only silenced a split second before the pitch; the larger-than-life, mind-numbing videos — is no longer a distraction. The game itself has become the distraction. Progress is not always progress.

Despite it all, October baseball is still great, one of the best things in all of sport, including curling. And I know the Detroit Tigers will be better next year. In the meantime, go Red Sox!
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