

# The HIGHLANDS Current



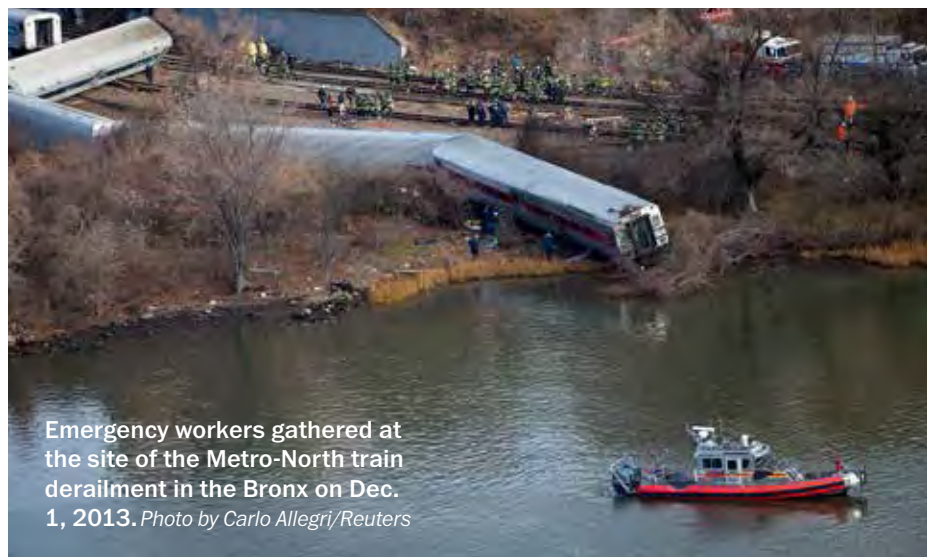
Oh, Romeo  
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NOVEMBER 30, 2018

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

## Waiting for Metro-North

*Five years after deadly derailment, safety system incomplete*



Emergency workers gathered at the site of the Metro-North train derailment in the Bronx on Dec. 1, 2013. Photo by Carlo Allegri/Reuters

By Michael Turton

Five years ago this weekend, on Dec. 1, 2013, a southbound Metro-North train derailed at Spuyten Duyvil in the Bronx, killing four passengers, including Jim Lovell of Cold Spring and Donna Smith of Newburgh.

Lovell, 58, an NBC audio technician, was on the early morning Sunday train to help set up the Rockefeller Center Christmas tree. Smith, 54, was on her way to sing in a performance of Handel's *Messiah* at Lincoln Center.

Dozens of other passengers were injured, some critically. The crash, which occurred at 7:19 a.m. after the engineer

fell asleep and hit the 30-mph curve going 82 mph, led to calls for the Metropolitan Transportation Authority to speed up installation of a system called Positive Train Control (PTC) that would have applied the brakes automatically.

The Railroad Safety Act, passed by Congress in 2008 in response to a train collision in California that killed 25 people, required most rail lines in the U.S. to install PTC by 2015, a deadline later extended to the end of this year.

Lovell's widow, Nancy Montgomery, a member of the Philipstown Town Board who in January will become a Putnam County legislator, was among those who

*(Continued on page 6)*

## Beacon Greenway To Open New Segments

*Continuous trail planned through city*

By Jeff Simms

Beacon officials will hold a ribbon-cutting at 1 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 2, to open three segments of the Fishkill Creek Greenway and Heritage Trail, starting behind the 1 East Main development.

The new segments continue along Churchill Street and Creek Drive and will mark about the halfway point of completion of the city-sponsored green-



Thomas Wright  
along the trail

Photo by J. Simms

way project, which since 2005 has quietly worked its way from the Metro-North station toward Beacon's east side. When complete, it will run for 4.7 miles, much of it along Fishkill Creek.

"The concept from the beginning was a continuous trail, basically from the train station to the town of Fishkill," said Thomas Wright, who has chaired Bea-

*(Continued on page 24)*



## A GROWING CHALLENGE

*Farms and Food in the Hudson Valley*

### Part 3: Are Farms in Our Future?

By Chip Rowe

When the end of our industrial civilization comes, as it has for the Hudson Valley residents of Union Grove, New York, in James Howard Kunstler's dystopian novel, *World Made by Hand*, everyone will be a farmer. With no oil, you'll need to work your patch of land with horses and plows, but, on the bright side, the Hudson River will again be teeming with fish. (Kunstler has called the world he created "an enlightened 19th century.")

Despite the two recently released dystopian reports on climate change, we're nowhere near that scenario — are we? Regardless, it's always comforting to have friends who are farmers.

In this, the third and final part of our series on the uncertain future of farming in the Hudson Valley, we will examine the progress we've made in preserving and growing our farms in recent decades and examine a few of the driving forces of agricultural health: the federal farm bill, up-and-coming crops such as grains, and strategies to help more farmers earn a living wage.

Many people in the Hudson Valley and beyond have given much useful thought to farming, including what, how and where our food is produced. Some argue that our problem is reflected by the fact that Congress passes a farm bill every five years; better, they say, we have a 50-year farm bill. That would force us to look farther down the dirt road at our prospects as

food production becomes more challenging for the many reasons outlined in the first two parts of our series.

"The problem of feeding the world should be addressed, first of all, by calculating the waste — from farmland and topsoil to thrown-away food — in the world's food systems," the farmer and essayist Wendell Berry recently told *The New York Times*. "The people, fairly numerous and highly credentialed, who argue that only industrial agriculture as we now have it can feed the world are arguing in fact that we can feed the world only by an agriculture that destroys both farmland and farmers. There is a point, obviously, beyond which this kind of agriculture will not be able to feed much of anybody."

In 2004, the American Farmland Trust organized a report on Hudson Valley agriculture. "Some people worry that farming may disappear from the region during our lifetimes," it read. "We stand at a crossroads. Will we protect our farms and strengthen our agricultural industry?" When we asked Todd Erling, executive director of the Hudson Valley AgriBusiness Development Corp., this week to take a look at the report, he said it got him thinking. "We need Crossroads 2.0," he said.

We welcome comments on this or the previous two parts of our series, which can be found at [highlandscurrent.org](http://highlandscurrent.org). Did we miss anything? Let us know at [editor@highlandscurrent.org](mailto:editor@highlandscurrent.org).

*(Continued on Page 10)*



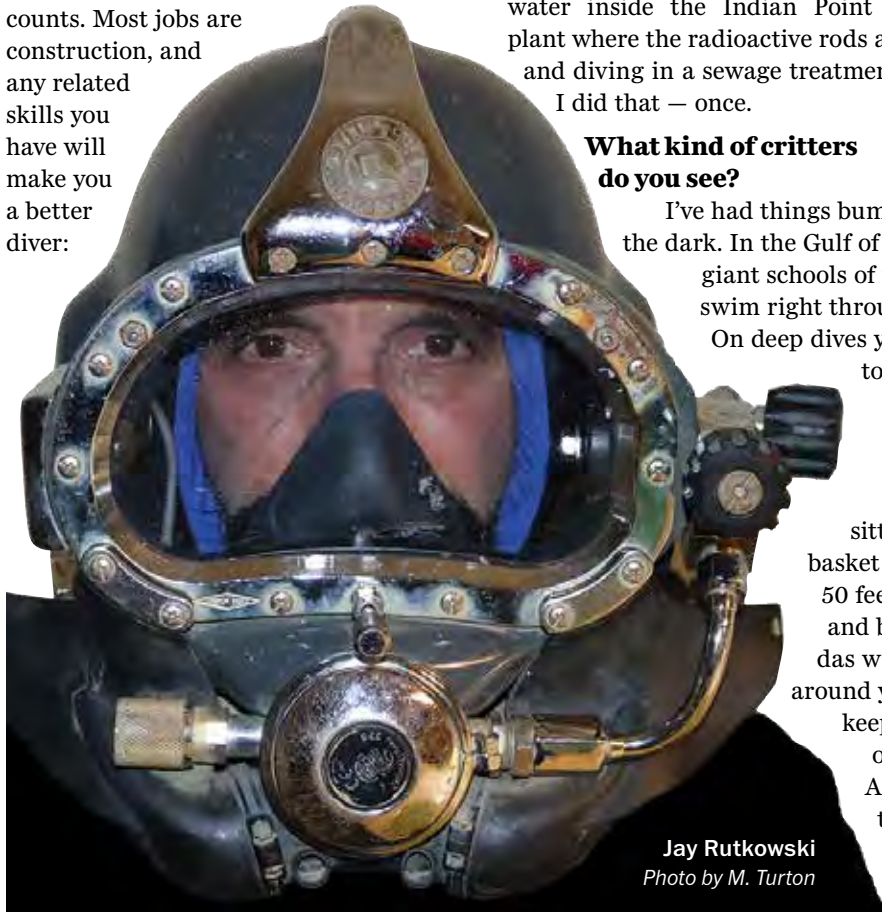
# 5 Five Questions: JAY RUTKOWSKI

By Michael Turton

Jay Rutkowski of Cold Spring has been a commercial diver for 30 years.

## What does a commercial diver do?

Diving is the transportation that gets you to a project, but it's what you know once you're down there that counts. Most jobs are construction, and any related skills you have will make you a better diver:



Jay Rutkowski  
Photo by M. Turton

welding, cutting metal, rigging, putting pipes together, carpentry, plumbing and common sense. In the New York City area, most work is rehabilitating piers. It's hard, dirty work. There are two assignments I won't take: diving in the crystal-clear water inside the Indian Point nuclear plant where the radioactive rods are kept, and diving in a sewage treatment plant. I did that — once.

## What kind of critters do you see?

I've had things bump me in the dark. In the Gulf of Mexico, giant schools of fish will swim right through you. On deep dives you have to decompress when coming up by sitting in a basket at 30 to 50 feet down, and barracudas will swim around you. You keep an eye on them! As a joke, the cook would throw

meat scraps over the side of the barge. The fish go crazy. It keeps the diver on his toes.

## Have you found yourself in dangerous situations?

I pinched my dive hose on a job in Lake Ontario; I had no air. I was only at 15 feet, but that's deep enough. In the Hudson River we were exposing a damaged power cable buried in the river bed. Using a high-pressure hose, we dug a 15-foot-deep trench. It caved in on me, but I was able to get out. Getting caught in the Hudson current and tides is bad. If it gets up to 2 knots, you're not going to be able to get up to the surface.

## What work did you do in the Gulf of Mexico?

We removed oil platforms blown over by Hurricane Katrina and "killed" the leaking wells by pumping them full of concrete. It was a saturation dive, meaning my dive partner and I lived inside a small chamber on the deck of the barge for 30 days that was kept at the same pressure as an 180-foot dive. That allowed us to do 12-hour shifts. Otherwise you might only be able to work for 45 minutes before coming up to decompress. You dive in a small pressurized bell. I'd work five-and-a-half hours with my partner waiting inside the bell, keeping an eye on my lines, then we'd switch. You wait, wait and wait. When you go back up [to the surface], they reattach the bell to the living chamber. It's like the lunar module hooking up to the space station. Too much oxygen is toxic at deep depths. We breathe a mixture with less oxygen that includes helium. So, for 30 days you talk like Donald Duck! And nothing tastes right. Even flushing the toilet is a process.

## Do you dive in the dark and in bad weather?

We work day or night, 24 hours a day. Usually it's pitch-black down below. We have lights, but if the water is like chocolate milk you just make it work. I like to say I'm an expert with my hands in the dark! You never know what the weather is when you're on a dive. Recently, I was working on a Hudson River pier in the city. My tender came on the radio and said, "Jay! We're bringing you up! We're bringing you up!" I asked what was wrong. He said it was raining and the barge crew was packing it in. That was pretty funny.

# ON THE SPOT

By Michael Turton

## How are you coping with the shorter days?

“

It's tiring. A lot of people are miserable. I get as much sunlight as possible and do a lot of walking.



Marc Meliti, Cold Spring

“

It doesn't bother me. It gives you an opportunity to rest.



Ruta Lew, Beacon

“

I'm trying to embrace it as part of staying in rhythm with the natural world; winter is a quiet time of year.



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## Foam Plastic Ban Goes to Putnam Legislature

*Regulation would apply only to chain restaurants*

By Holly Crocco

The Putnam County Legislature is expected to vote at its monthly meeting on Dec. 4 on a measure that would prevent chain restaurants from using disposable containers made of polystyrene foam. But it is unclear if the ban has enough support to pass.

The proposed law, which would regulate items such as plastic bowls, plates, cups, cartons and trays designed for one-time use — would only apply to restaurants with 15 or more locations nationally.

Albany County passed a similar law in 2013 and New York City as of Jan. 1 will ban polystyrene foodware and foam packaging peanuts, although small businesses and nonprofits may apply for exemptions.

The Putnam proposal has been championed for years by Barbara Scuccimarra (R-Philipstown), who chairs the Legislature's health committee and would like to see the measure become law before she leaves office this month after losing in the Nov. 6 election. The committee voted 2-1 on Nov. 14 to send the measure to the full Legislature.

"We have talked ad nauseum about polystyrene and the effect it has on our environment," Scuccimarra said during a discussion at the Nov. 14 committee meeting. "It doesn't break down, but breaks up and stays in the environment for hundreds of years. These are just carcinogens that are not healthy."

She said the ban would move the county a step closer to significantly reducing single-use plastics.

"That's our goal," said Scuccimarra. "Unfortunately, I'm not going to be here to push a plastic-bag ban. I hope someone will take charge of that."

Ginny Nacerino (R-Patterson) suggested that enough lead time be given to allow corporations to use any stock on hand. "If this would put an undue burden on them, that's not what we want to do," she said.

Paul Jonke (R-Southeast) said he's not comfortable moving forward without hearing feedback from local franchise owners. "Does Dunkin' Donuts have a paper alternative for a 16-ounce cup?" he asked. "I'd like to hear from these people. We owe it to them to find out if they can do it."

Amy Sayegh (R-Mahopac Falls) expressed reservations about a ban that might lead to other bans. "The next thing that's going to happen is we're going to ban the covering on the paper cups that they're using for the ice cream cups instead of the polystyrene," she said. "Then we're going to say, 'OK, you can't use plastic bags.' I mean, we're just taking over the whole packaging materials" enterprise.

"We're taking it over for a reason," Scuccimarra replied. "Because it's polluting Putnam County, it's polluting our environment, and these are things we're now realizing are a detriment. This is the way you should go. And some people might need a little push to go into that direction. But calling all these organizations to come in here and talk — this will never get passed."

She pointed out that Putnam's government stopped using polystyrene two years ago, and that the county's interim health commissioner, Dr. Michael Nesheiwat, said his agency could handle enforcement.

She also proposed giving businesses fair warning by delaying the law from going into effect for six months. "We'll tell them, ... 'get ready for it, it's coming.' I'm sure some companies are already thinking about this."

## Without You, Stories Go Untold

From now through December,

## The HIGHLANDS Current

is seeking your help so we can continue bringing you the compelling news of our community and the important news of national issues as they play out in our area — from the opioid crisis and climate change to the challenges today facing the farms of the Hudson Valley.

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We hope our coverage inspires your support. You may: **DONATE ONLINE** at [highlandscurrent.org/support](http://highlandscurrent.org/support), or **SEND A CHECK** made out to Highlands Current Inc. to 161 Main St., Cold Spring, NY 10516.

**Questions?** Email [donate@highlandscurrent.org](mailto:donate@highlandscurrent.org)

Highlands Current Inc. is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Your contribution is tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.

**Thank you for helping us tell your stories!**



Photo by Ross Corsair

**HELLO HOLIDAYS** — Santa Claus and a friend welcomed the season during the annual lighting of the traditional Christmas tree on Nov. 24 at Polhill Park in Beacon. The Beacon Arts Bicycle Menorah will be lit Dec. 2 and the Bicycle Christmas Tree on Dec. 8.



# The HIGHLANDS Current

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\*New York Press Association, 2013-2017



**NNA\* Winner:  
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## LETTERS AND COMMENTS

### Garrison fire budget

In 2017 the five commissioners of the newly formed Garrison Fire District voted to increase the fire company budget by 27 percent, or about \$168,000, over the previous budget approved by the Philipstown Town Board.

The budget included a payment by the fire district to the fire company for \$25,000 for rent, even though the district pays all expenses of running fire operations. During 2017 that budget resulted in a surplus of roughly \$100,000. About half of that surplus was put into reserve and the other half was used to pay cash for a new chief's truck. (We have three; the three other nearby fire companies each have two.)

For the 2018 budget, the 2017 level was continued, including the \$25,000 for rent to the fire company, again resulting in a surplus projected to be about \$100,000. Roughly half of this surplus was put into reserve, which now totals \$95,000, and the other half was used to pay cash for an unequipped, 20-year-old, 106-foot ladder truck, long desired by the fire company.

For 2019, required apparatus lease payments will decline by about \$75,000. Therefore, the anticipated surplus for 2019 would be the \$100,000 experienced in each of the last two years plus the \$75,000 reduction in lease payments, for a total of \$175,000. Nevertheless, the commissioners voted 4 to 1 to approve the budget (I cast the dissenting vote), again including \$25,000 for rent, for a budget increase of 2 percent and continued additions to reserves. (To view the budget, see garrisonfd.org.)

This budget is a "top-down" budget, filling in the legally allowed budget with projects sufficient to maintain the budget at its current level. If allowed to continue,

this top-down approach will be an even greater issue in a few years when the fire-house mortgage is retired.

I have argued in vain against this budget. The only way to control the budget and get a "bottom-up" process underway, based on a line-by-line analysis of needs, is to replace the current commissioners with new commissioners. Please get involved!

Stan Freilich, *Garrison*

*Freilich is a fire district commissioner. Voters are not asked to approve the fire district budget, but the annual election for one of the five commissioners' seats will be held Tuesday, Dec. 11, from 5 to 9 p.m. The incumbent, Linda Lomonaco, is running unopposed for a five-year term.*

### Beacon development

I'm not against development. I'm against irresponsible development, the unchecked explosion of slipshod development. There's no cohesive planning or zoning appropriateness addressing height or density of these freakishly out-of-scale development projects destroying our landscapes. Developers are constantly requesting and receiving setback variances and special-use permits, sucking up our light and air, casting permanent shadows on our city.

How is it community groups and some council members are against these projects, yet they get the green light? The system is rigged.

### Tell us what you think

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

### Corrections & Updates

In a story in the Nov. 23 issue, we reported that the Nelsonville Village Board approved spending \$3,000 to replace the dirt floor in the office basement of village hall. In fact, the floor replacement will cost \$1,500 and the other \$1,500 will be used for other building maintenance and projects. Mayor Bill O'Neill was also quoted as saying that sewer litigation filed by six residents had been withdrawn, meaning "it's gone away, forever." He clarified his remarks after publication, saying the residents could still return to court, "but I think that's rather doubtful."

In the Nov. 16 issue, we reported that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency had concluded in its most recent five-year review that the groundwater at the site of the former Marathon Battery plant in Cold Spring was still polluted. *The Current* submitted questions to the EPA, but the agency did not reply until after deadline. In its responses, the agency clarified that while it is still monitoring the site, its owner is free to develop it for residential and/or industrial use. It also said a review of Foundry Marsh to identify ways to improve vegetation and reduce settlement and erosion will be completed next year.

We're witnessing encroachment over public right of way on city sidewalks. Under state building code (3202.3.2), the building at 249 Main St. appears in violation as portions of balconies are protruding over busy sidewalks. What happens when things fall off, or when ice/snow inevitably builds up and falls onto unsuspecting passersby? Who's responsible: the city for allowing it or the developer for building it?

Stop overdevelopment and big real-estate giveaways at the expense of our historic and environmental qualities. Overdevelopment is crowding our streets. It's displacing long-term residents who built this community. Nature and historic preservation are two elements that attract people and make them want to visit or put down roots. If we let rampant overdevelopment continue, our whole city is going to be homogenized and look like one big Westchester. It's clear politicians and municipal boards have been captured by big real estate.

Beacon will continue to be a "green city" but for all the wrong reasons — no longer as a Tree City USA community with historic viewsheds and grassroots activists, but for the love of the green dollar.

Theresa Kraft, *Beacon*





## LETTERS AND COMMENTS

## Cell towers

The two (unnecessary) cell towers being proposed for Philipstown and Nelsonville by Homeland Towers for AT&T and Verizon — and being rightfully resisted by our citizenry and town boards — need more local resistance (“Town Board Approves \$11.2 Million Budget for Philipstown in 2019,” Nov. 23).

These companies are not pushing for better cellular voice services. They are in an “arms race” land grab to become TV companies at the expense of the character and beauty of our natural surroundings.

There are already nine cell towers here and the new video services they want to earn more money on require towers closer together. Steel towers all over our community are not the answer — and will eventually become obsolete eyesores. Please let the Town Board know it has your support to keep Philipstown from becoming “Steel-town” and stand firm on rejecting those permits. Now is the time to be heard.

Steve Sterling, *Philipstown*

## Marathon site

How about a solar farm on the former Marathon Battery factory site in Cold Spring (“EPA: Marathon Groundwater Still Polluted,” Nov. 16). Car access for a residential development (or parking) would be ridiculous, given the limited road infrastructure. A bizarre idea to extend Lunn Terrace to provide access would only overburden Main Street.

Stephen Rose, *Cold Spring*

The Marathon property, located within easy walking distance of the Metro-North station, should be developed for mixed residential and commercial uses in accordance with the Village of Cold Spring’s 2012 Comprehensive Plan commitment to

smart growth principles.

Such a large property, centrally located and served by existing urban infrastructure, should not be treated as if it were a farm field in a remote, rural area. Linking Lunn Terrace to the Boulevard to improve street access to the Marathon site is one of at least two possible ways of creating access. (Another is to make Forge Gate Drive a public road.)

The overall traffic impact of linking Lunn Terrace to The Boulevard has never been professionally assessed. The Marathon site may be the single-most important opportunity for enhancing the tax base of the village, and we should not let it slip through our fingers because of speculation about traffic.

Michael Armstrong, *Cold Spring*

## Climate smart

I applaud Nelsonville for taking the pledge to become a Climate Smart Community, especially after U.N. climate scientists tell us we have 12 years to move off fossil fuels and avoid catastrophic climate disaster, and shortly before the federal government warned of large-scale climate disasters if the U.S. continues down the track it’s headed (“Nelsonville to Become Climate Smart Community,” Nov. 23).

While it is incredibly important to act locally, it is well past time that our federal lawmakers act. We need a green New Deal that will create millions of jobs, move our country off fossil fuels, and protect working people of all backgrounds. Ask U.S. Rep. Sean Patrick Maloney, whose district includes the Highlands, to support the Energy and Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act that has been proposed in Congress.

Krystal Ford, *Garrison*

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

## MAGICAL MELTDOWNS



Why is anyone surprised when a child loses his or her cool when meeting Santa Claus for the first time? Sure, the old man takes requests, but he also has a beard so thick you can’t see most of his face, he wears a blood-red suit and he lives at the mall. If you have a photo of a child, vintage or modern, who was none too happy to meet Santa, submit it to [editor@highlandscurrent.org](mailto:editor@highlandscurrent.org). Please include the child’s name, age and city, town or village. We’ll publish some of the best in our Dec. 23 issue and online.

HALDANE CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
NOTICE TO BIDDERS

## For the sale of Surplus/Obsolete Items | Surplus Vehicles

HALDANE CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT will accept sealed bids for surplus/obsolete items (surplus vehicles). Sealed bids will be received by the School Business Manager at 15 Craigsides Drive, Cold Spring, New York 10516 up to, but no later than, 11:00 a.m. local time on Friday, December 21, 2018. Bids will be opened and the name of each firm/individual responding will be publicly read. No verbal, telephone, or faxed bids will be accepted. Haldane Central School District will not be responsible for late bids. Haldane Central School District shall reserve the right to accept the bid that is the most responsive to its needs and the sole judgment for accepting or rejecting bids shall be the District’s, as determined in its best interest.

Questions regarding specifications should be directed to Jessie Des Marais, Bid Clerk @ 845-265-9254 ext. 111 or email [jdesmara@haldaneschool.org](mailto:jdesmara@haldaneschool.org).

Board of Education | Haldane Central School District  
Cold Spring, New York 10516  
By Anne M. Dinio, School Business Manager

## 7 LITTLE WORDS

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## Metro-North *(from Page 1)*

pushed for more emphasis on safety at the MTA. At a 2014 meeting of Metro-North officials in Manhattan, after listening to discussion of many topics, she took the microphone to say, "There seems to be a lot of focus on diversity and on-time trains and those are very important issues, but we seem to get very quiet when we talk about safety."

Looking back, Montgomery said she felt the attitude of Metro-North officials reflected a "lack of a safety culture, and decades of them not paying attention to it." She said she has moved past her anger and frustration with the agency. "I know they are working really hard to do it [PTC]," she said. The death of her husband, who was a father of four, has been far more difficult.

"I had no idea it would be this hard," she said. For the first four years after his death, "I had this community; they kept holding me up." But she said she didn't realize the long tail of grief. "Year five is worse than year one."

Neal Zuckerman, a Garrison resident who was appointed to the MTA board as the Putnam County representative seven months after the derailment, said the agency will meet the Dec. 31 deadline. But he noted that it is not required to have PTC operational on all lines by that date. Instead, the MTA must have the equipment installed, the radio frequencies acquired, employees trained and a single section of track working as a pilot.

That section is between Croton-Harmon and Tarrytown on the Hudson line and has



Nancy Montgomery with Jim Lovell

Photos provided

been operating since Nov. 21, said Nancy Gamerman, a Metro-North representative. The system will be expanded across Metro-North's 775 miles of track on a schedule that will be completed in late 2020, she said.

Zuckerman said he wishes the work could be done sooner. "It's not what I hoped for, not what riders demanded, not what the board wanted," he said, adding that the MTA is now "moving heaven and earth" to get PTC in place.

One challenge is that a PTC system must be designed for each rail line. Adding PTC to the Metro-North and Long Island Railroad lines involves 9,000 transponders along the tracks and more than 1,000 communications units on the trains. That task is made more complex, the MTA said, because it shares the

rails with CSX, New Jersey Transit, Amtrak and the New York & Atlantic Railway.

In an email, U.S. Rep. Sean Patrick Maloney, who lives in Philipstown and whose district includes the Highlands, said he felt Metro-North has taken safety more seriously since the 2013 derailment.

"Obviously, I would like to see 100 percent implementation [of PTC] by the end of the year," he said, adding that he thought the 2020 extension was fair given the progress the MTA has made. "This is the end of the line though. We're not going to hand out any more extensions. Clock's ticking."

Since the derailment, the MTA has paid more than \$60 million in settlements and legal fees, according to *The Journal News*, which obtained the records through a Free-



Lovell (with Whoopi Goldberg) at the 2005 Rockefeller Center Christmas tree lighting

dom of Information Law request. The agency this year paid one passenger \$450,000, and an assistant conductor who was injured settled in 2015 for at least \$835,000. Montgomery has settled with the MTA (she declined to say for how much), but many claims remain outstanding. As of February, *The Journal News* reported, the MTA had settled 195 of 290 claims, with 63 pending and 32 resolved without a settlement.

The train's engineer, William Rockefeller Jr., has sued the MTA for \$10 million, arguing the agency should have installed safety equipment that would have prevented the accident. His lawyer argued another train that nearly derailed in 2005 while going 60 mph around the Spuyten Duyvil curve should have prompted upgrades that could have slowed the train when his client fell asleep.

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# Town Board Revives Magazzino Rezoning

*Meanwhile, art space becomes nonprofit museum*

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

Philipstown's Town Board has revived plans to change the zoning code to allow galleries and museums in the office-commercial district, which includes Magazzino Italian Art, the inspiration for the initiative.

The board released a draft zoning revision on Nov. 7 and scheduled a public hearing for 7:15 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 6, before its monthly meeting at Town Hall.

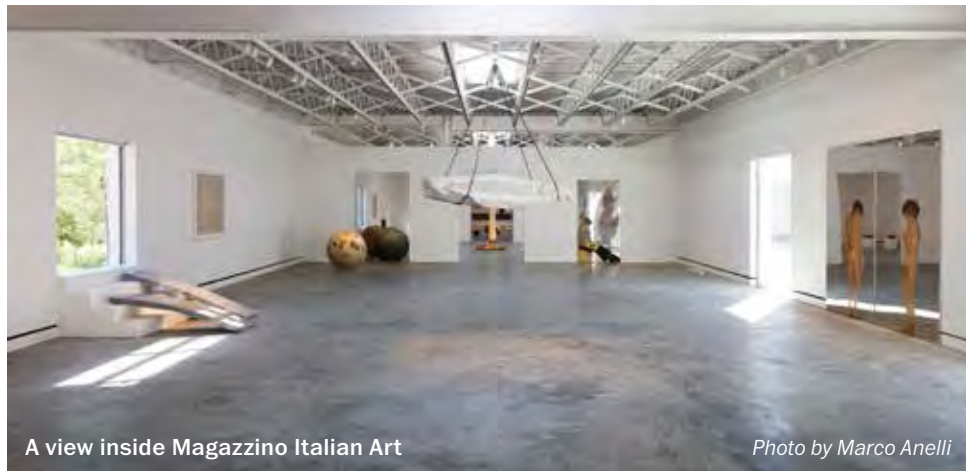
Although it does not mention Magazzino, the measure specifically affects the 20th-century Italian art showcase, owned by Giorgio Spanu and Nancy Olnick of Garrison and housed in a former factory on Route 9 near the intersection with Route 301.

Philipstown Supervisor Richard Shea proposed the rezoning measure last March and the board further discussed it in June, before pulling back to tinker with its draft. The existing code does not include galleries and museums among acceptable facilities in the office-commercial zone.

The new law would change that. Moreover, it states that both museums and art galleries can be "open to the public or for private use and enjoyment."

Town Board members expressed the belief the revision would allow Magazzino to operate more flexibly. "Currently, they're under a restriction where you have to have an appointment to go visit. It's just silly," Shea said on Nov. 7.

However, unbeknownst to the board, in September Magazzino dropped its reservation system in favor of set hours, hand-



A view inside Magazzino Italian Art

Photo by Marco Anelli

ed operations to a newly created nonprofit, the Magazzino Italian Art Foundation, and recast itself as a museum. (Under state law, an entity cannot call itself a museum unless it is also a nonprofit.)

In emails this week, Spanu and Olnick said their for-profit company, Olspan LLC, still owns the building and land and pays property taxes but leases the building to the foundation, which they fund and established "to run Magazzino as a museum space and to handle related art and cultural philanthropic activities." The foundation has applied with the IRS for tax-exempt status, they said. If the IRS grants it, "the foundation will be exempt from federal income tax," they stated. "However, because the foundation does not generate any income, there will be none to pay."

According to the 2018 Philipstown tax roll, the 6-acre property has a market value of about \$2 million. It pays about \$35,000 in annual property taxes that are split among the Haldane school district, Philipstown and Putnam County.

When Magazzino opened in June 2017 to house the Spanu-Olnick collection, its

representatives insisted on calling it an "art space," not a museum. After the Town Board began considering the zoning change last March, Spanu and Olnick wrote in a letter to *The Current* that they had "never implied that Magazzino is a museum, nor that we would like to obtain museum status."

At the time, they referred to Magazzino as "a private initiative that seeks ways to give back to the community, both culturally and financially. Thus, we have elected to pay all the taxes required by federal, state and local laws, rather than have the option to avoid these taxes by becoming a nonprofit museum."

This week, the couple said they established a museum after all because "we

(Continued on page 21)

## How to Visit Magazzino

Magazzino Italian Art specializes in works of the contemporary Arte Povera ("poor art") movement. Located at 2700 Route 9 in Philipstown, it is open from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily, except for Tuesday and Wednesday. Admission is free. It also offers a free shuttle bus from the Cold Spring train station.

On Saturday, Dec. 1, at 3:30 p.m., Magazzino will present a conversation with Philip Larratt-Smith, author of a new monograph on the artist Jannis Kounellis, and Francesco Guzzetti, Magazzino's newly appointed scholar-in-residence, on Kounellis' work and influence. Art historian Bruno Corà will also speak from Italy. RSVP to [rsvp@magazzino.art](mailto:rsvp@magazzino.art).



Nicholas Tamagna Photo by Dario Acosta

On Friday, Dec. 14, at 7 p.m., Magazzino will host an hour-long concert of classic and avant-garde Italian songs curated by Garrison native Nicholas Tamagna. Tickets are \$15 at [magazzino.art](http://magazzino.art).

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# Beacon Firefighters: 'It Has Never Been This Bad'

*Hoping for funds for four officers, will get one*

By Jeff Simms

Just days before the Beacon City Council is scheduled to vote on the city's 2019 budget, firefighters in Beacon say that fire protection is in a "more dangerous position than ever."

The council is expected during its Monday, Dec. 3, meeting to adopt a \$28.6 million plan for 2019 that includes a tax-rate decrease on commercial and residential properties, although property owners' individual assessments will determine whether their bills go up or down.

The budget also includes \$96,240 to pay for an additional full-time ("career") firefighter, keeping the city's roster at 13. Active and retired firefighters have spent the last two months asking the council for more.

The dearth of volunteers in firefighting and other fields has been well-documented. The number of volunteer firefighters in the U.S. reached a 30-year low in 2011, according to the National Volunteer Fire Council. There has been some growth since, but it hasn't been enough to meet the increasing demand, which has tripled due in large part to an increase in emergency medical calls.

Longer commutes plus training requirements almost four times as time-consuming as they were a generation ago are of-

ten pointed to as reasons for the decline. Those things are happening everywhere, but firefighters say the situation in Beacon has become almost unmanageable.

"You are on the edge of having a catastrophe in Beacon because you can't get firefighters into the buildings fast enough to save lives," Tom DiCastro Sr., a former city fire chief, said during the Nov. 19 council meeting. "You'd better start acting on it."

Another retired firefighter, Jeff Simko, emphasized, "It has never been this bad. It has never been this fraught with danger for the fire department, the firefighters and, most importantly, for the people of the city of Beacon."

In addition to career staff, DiCastro said, 30 to 40 volunteers would typically show up at a fire in Beacon in the 1970s and 1980s. Today, the department has 25 volunteers, eight of whom are certified for interior firefighting, but on average fewer than one of them (0.7 percent) responds to calls.

Nearby fire companies often assist each other on calls or man stations while crews are out. "Our neighbor departments have the same issue — they don't have anyone," DiCastro said.

Unfortunately, says Anthony Ruggiero, the city administrator, Beacon's options are

limited. The 2019 budget proposal funds the fire department at \$1.7 million, a \$177,000 decrease over two years ago, but much of that difference was in equipment costs.

While the department has pushed for at least three new career firefighters — one for each of Beacon's three stations — in addition to the one already in the budget, the city can't make that jump in one year, Ruggiero said.

"We have to provide the best service we can afford," he said, noting that paying for three more firefighters would "certainly go through" the state's tax cap, which limits year-to-year increases to about 2 percent. "You also need a plan of action," Ruggiero said. "Where are you going to put everybody?"

(The city for years has considered consolidating its fire stations, two of which are more than 100 years old. The most recent scenario would construct a new central station at the dog park space at Memorial Park.)

Two other ideas have been to make volunteer firefighting more attractive and to consider a regional approach.

Council Member Jodi McCredo said she hopes the city will look into incentives such as health insurance or other benefits to persuade more residents to volunteer. "It's so difficult, especially in a place like Beacon, where so many people have long commutes," she said. "Bringing more jobs into the city

would help with that."

Managing a regional system seems equally complex. Seven years ago, the research agency Hudson Valley Pattern for Progress studied shared services in Dutchess County and concluded that "police, fire and ambulance services are all in need of close scrutiny but are among the hardest discussions. The mere suggestion of sharing these services, especially fire, was often met with 'I won't touch that.'"

Municipalities should "study whether the staffing levels, location of the facilities, response times, departmental structures and dispatch function are designed to maximize efficiency," Pattern for Progress wrote.

Council Member Lee Kyriacou pushed again during the Nov. 19 meeting for a regional approach. "To solve the problem by increasing the number of career firefighters in Beacon may help us, but it isn't an effective solution," he said. "We have way too many firehouses, way too much equipment and nowhere near enough paid, qualified interior firefighter staff. But it can't just be Beacon with paid staff and everyone else calls in mutual aid."

The rising costs of recycling and workers' compensation and health insurance for city employees have made it tougher to find money in the budget, said Mayor Randy Casale.

"It's not that we haven't thought about [the fire department]," he said. "I know how critical it is right now. But when you're putting a budget together, it's a total picture. There are some people who can't afford the number that we put in the budget now with their next tax bill. We have to think about everybody."

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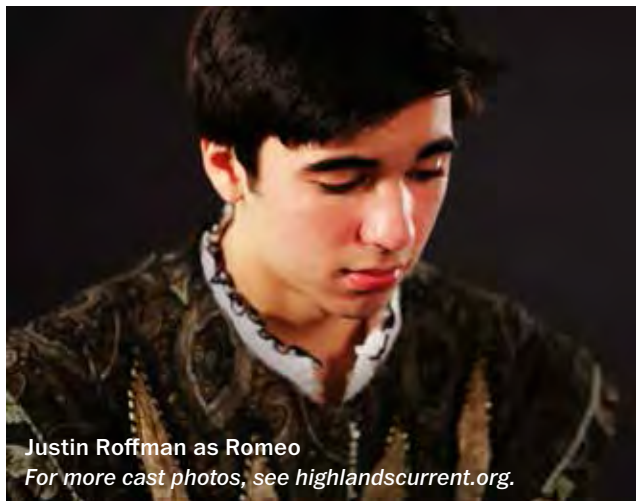
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# The Calendar



Justin Roffman as Romeo  
For more cast photos, see [highlandscurrent.org](http://highlandscurrent.org).

## Teenagers IN LOVE

*Haldane actors to perform  
'Romeo and Juliet'*



Sasha Levy as Juliet  
Photos by Jim Mechalakos

By Alison Rooney

Usually when Martha Mechalakos begins rehearsals for Haldane High School's fall play, she requires 10 hours per week from the students, gradually increasing the commitment as the December production nears.

But this year, the director began, off the bat, requiring 20 hours per week. Blame it on a guy named Shakespeare, because, for the first time, Haldane Drama is tackling the Bard. The students will perform *Romeo and Juliet* at 7 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 7, and Saturday, Dec. 8.

Mechalakos says people such as Eric Richter, who

teaches English at the high school, have been after her for years to stage Shakespeare, but she resisted. "I didn't feel qualified," she says, "especially with a major Shakespeare company nearby."

Then she realized she could use the company, the Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival, as a resource. She contacted Sean McNall, its associate artistic director and director of education, who agreed to advise her. Susana Montoya Quinchia, a member of the HVSF's most recent conservatory company, also provided the students with instruction in stage combat, and the festival loaned them costumes.

Mechalakos thought the student actors would be able

to identify with *Romeo and Juliet*. "It's a story about teenagers, complete with intensity, first love and violence," she says. "The story itself is familiar, the language has less 'gnarliness' [than other Shakespeare plays] and it has lots of great characters."

To begin rehearsals, Mechalakos led a two-session bootcamp guided by a syllabus prepared by McNall. "It was incredibly helpful because it gave the kids a pattern and an approach to use centered on the 'muscularity' of the language," she says. "Your main goal is clarity. If you watch great Shakespearian actors speak the text at length, yes,

(Continued on Page 16)

## Dancers in a Row

*Beacon Players present 'A Chorus Line'*



Raising their hats  
Photo by Tony Cenicola

By Alison Rooney

There'll be more than one singular sensation onstage in Beacon on Friday, Dec. 7 — there will be 21, if you count everyone in the cast of *A Chorus Line*, the high school's fall musical.

They will join to form a cohesive group — of individuals. That's at the crux of

the groundbreaking musical, which asks each member of a chorus line to step forward and tell her or his story.

Anthony Scarrone, who directs the Beacon Players, says the young actors have become "very much like a family. When *A Chorus Line* begins, they are all 'one,' then the director breaks them down, and then they become one again at the end. That's

what it's been like for all of us bringing the show to life."

The bare-stage production, which won 12 Tony Awards and the Pulitzer Prize for Drama the year after its 1975 Broadway debut, was developed through workshop sessions with theater dancers, whose personal histories evolved into characters.

Scarrone says the Beacon High School

production has been calmer than most that he has directed.

"I think it's because I'm not dealing with major set pieces," he says. "But also, the kids truly feel engaged, because it's like a replica of an audition, and that's something they can relate to."

He says the major challenges have been

(Continued on Page 17)



# Growing Cash

What can be done to make farms profitable?

By Cheetah Haysom

Without stable, steady and profitable markets, the risks associated with farming, especially in the face of climate change, could make the Hudson Valley’s 900,000 acres of farmland the riskiest casino in the state.

According to one estimate, after taxes farmers take home about six cents on every dollar spent on the food they grow. With such low margins, profitable markets are crucial for the survival of farming.

Some analysts say there is plenty of room for growth. New Venture Advisors, a food business consulting firm based in Chicago, calculates the Hudson Valley could produce and sell \$1 billion more in food than it does now.

Farmers markets

Farmers markets, for more than a decade the staple outlet to sell produce in our region, have seen a drop in customers and sales.

No one is sure why, but the market may just be tapped out. Over the past two decades, the number of markets in the state has grown from 235 to more than 700 at the same time that fewer customers are using them. Sales are down throughout the region, says Diane Eggert, executive director of the Farmers Market Federation of New York.

The federation, along with its counterparts in Vermont, Massachusetts and Maryland, recently received a federal grant to study the causes for the decline. A team from Cornell University is helping conduct the research.

Liz Higgins, a specialist in business management at the Hudson Valley Lab of the Cornell Cooperative Extension in Highland, noted that farmers markets have suffered because of changes in the larger food industry.

Among those changes is the growth of ready-made meal kits, prepared foods at supermarkets and Amazon’s offer of free two-hour delivery through Whole Foods. In an effort to attract customers, some farmers markets in the Hudson Valley have started opening year-round, changed the day of the week they are open, or added more products.

**The state of CSAs**

Liz Corio, vice president of development and administration at Glynwood, a nonprofit based in Cold Spring that promotes food and farming in the Hudson Valley, says there is a growing focus on how to widen the appeal of Community Supported Agriculture (CSA), in which consumers buy directly from farm-



ers by paying up front for a season’s worth of food.

This widely used program helps farmers, especially cash-squeezed farmers (and, particularly, beginning farmers), pay the high costs of starting a growing season. But finding CSA customers is getting harder and the market might also be saturated. Some farms doing CSA this summer reported being undersubscribed.

Megan Larmer, director of regional food programs at Glynwood, says the CSA model, which originated in Japan and was introduced to the U.S. in Wisconsin in the 1970s, needs to adapt, and customers need to be made aware of the range of CSAs available, including meat, dairy, vegetables, flowers and half shares for smaller households.

One innovation similar to the CSA model is Field Goods, a distribution company based in Athens, New York, that delivers food collected from at least 60 small farms (ev-

(Continued on Page 14)

## PROGRESS REPORT

In 2004, an American Farmland Trust report concluded that major changes were needed to save agriculture in the Hudson Valley. Fifteen years later, how are we doing? We asked David Haight, the trust’s New York state director, and Todd Erling, executive director of the Hudson Valley AgriBusiness Development Corp. (HVADC), to assess some of the report’s recommendations.

ASSIGNMENT	GRADE	
Create a private or quasi-public entity such as a Community Development Corporation with an annual operating budget of \$250,000 to \$500,000.	A	The report led to the creation in 2007 of the HVADC, which promotes agricultural entrepreneurship in the Hudson Valley, has an operating budget of about \$625,000 and assists 45 to 65 agribusinesses each year.
Create an agribusiness retention, expansion and attraction plan.	A	Food and agriculture had not always been part of regional planning, but since the report, HVADC has worked with the Hudson Valley Regional Council (which covers seven counties, including Dutchess and Putnam) to incorporate agricultural data, statistics and issues into its Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy. That, in turn, led to the inclusion of food and agriculture in the state’s regional development plans and food being identified as a priority in the Mid-Hudson region. “That a huge change from where we were in 2004,” says Haight.
Enhance transition programming for new farmers, including mentoring, specialized skills training, estate planning and farm management.	B+	Haight noted that the American Farmland Trust and 14 other groups partnered to create the Hudson Valley Farmlink Network, which plays matchmaker between farmers and landowners. “We’ve helped 140 farmers find land in the Hudson Valley over the past four years,” he said. “Some are getting into farming for the first time, but others are established farm families looking to expand.” In October, American Farmland Trust partnered with New York to launch a similar statewide program called Farmland for a New Generation New York. “There’s still more to do but there’s been a lot of attention and movement with this in the last 14 years,” Haight said.
Increase funding from government and private sources to \$20 million per year and protect 100,000 acres of farmland within 10 years.	B	There is much more public funding available now than in 2004 to purchase permanent conservation easements to prevent development on farmland, Haight notes; this year the state has set aside \$68 million, the highest level ever. (Private groups continue their work; Scenic Hudson has facilitated easements on 13,000 acres since 1992.) In 2016 the state spent \$20 million on easements on 5,600 acres in the Hudson Valley. However, there has been far less done on the local level, Haight said, with the exception of “shining stars” such as Ulster County, Warwick in Orange County and Red Hook in Dutchess. A 2007 law allows municipal governments in Westchester and Putnam to create, with voter approval, land preservation accounts funded by a real-estate transfer tax that could pay for easements. But “the economy tanked and it never took off,” he said.
Create a critical-farms fund and a more effective agricultural “angel” network to provide investment capital.	B	“The report didn’t anticipate the emergence of socially conscious farmland investors (local food is cool now) and entities such as Dirt Capital and Northwest Farm Access,” said Haight. “And some private entities have emerged that offer financing for leasing with the option to buy.” But there is still far more that could be done, he said. Erling noted that the state does have an agriculture loan fund and this year named HVADC as a lender.
Create a marketing campaign to bridge information gaps between farmers and the general community.	B-	Erling pointed to initiatives such as Hudson Valley Bounty, an online directory to help consumers find local food; FeedHV, which helps farms, caterers and restaurants donate surplus food to food pantries; and Taste NY stores, which are stocked with New York food products and originated in Lagrangeville.
Establish farm viability grants that promote innovation and entrepreneurship.	C+	While there is a statewide program called the New York Farm Viability Institute, “we could do better with something specific to the Hudson Valley,” Haight said.
Enhance workforce conditions with measures that include H2A visa reform and better housing options.	D	“This one has been a significant challenge,” said Haight. “There still isn’t a good legal way to have a stable workforce when so many come from outside the country. And the H2A visa program still needs reform, as we said in 2004. It’s not a long-term solution. Housing is still a problem for workers 14 years later but also for farmers, particularly the farther you go south in the Hudson Valley. If you’re an early-stage farmer and you find land but can’t afford to live near it, that’s a problem.”



# Funding Options

*The 2014 Farm Bill was great for the Hudson Valley. How about 2019?*

By Brian PJ Cronin

When Sean Patrick Maloney was elected to the House of Representatives in 2012 to represent New York's 18th District, which includes the Highlands, one of his immediate goals was to be appointed to the Committee on Agriculture, which he was.

"It's critically important to the district," he said, especially its work on the Farm Bill, an omnibus piece of legislature written every five years to outline the nation's agricultural, food and nutrition policies. "We have a couple of thousand family farms in my part of the Hudson Valley. It's more than \$100 million to our local economy. It's critical to our way of life, to our way of interacting with the land; it's essential to the preservation of open spaces, and to the terrific balance we have in the Hudson Valley between a strong economy and a wonderful quality of life."

Maloney considers the Farm Bill that passed in 2014 the best ever for the Hudson Valley. That value, and how the bill has changed, became clearer on Sept. 30, when it expired without a new bill in place. Its expiration left a lot of its programs unfunded, including many that were introduced in 2014 to help the Hudson Valley and other regions driven by smaller, family-run farms, with a strong farming culture and an interest in sustainable agriculture.

The bill also provides for various subsidies to farmers to help stabilize their income when crop prices or yields fall. They average about \$4,700 annually to farmers in Putnam County, \$6,100 in Dutchess and \$11,000 in Orange. (The state average is \$8,000.) Nationwide, the federal government spends about \$20 billion on subsidies, and about 40 percent of farmers receive them. The largest payouts go to producers

of corn, soybeans, wheat, cotton and rice.

One key program funded by the 2014 bill was designed to bring in new farmers to succeed those who are "aging out" (see Part 1). The Beginning Farmers and Ranchers Development Program trains new farmers and helps them buy and develop their own acreage.

"Many of its initiatives are designed for low resource or historically underserved farmers: military veterans, farmers of color and indigenous farmers," explained Jessica Manly, a representative for the National Young Farmers Coalition, an organization based in Hudson. With federal funding, the coalition created a Farmland Affordability Calculator to help farmers figure out how much capital they need. The same federal program provided Glynwood in Cold Spring with \$400,000 to train farmers.

"This was an area of real bipartisanship," said Maloney about the program. "And it should be again."

Glynwood also received funding from the 2014 Farm Bill that it has used to instruct livestock farmers on how to grow grasses more resilient to climate change. An additional \$249,000 in federal funding allowed Glynwood to create the Hudson Valley CSA Coalition to promote Community Supported Agriculture. Liz Corio, vice president of development and administration at Glynwood, said that so far the coalition seems to be working, as farmers taking part are reporting increases in membership.

"We hope that ultimately, like our work with cider, that it will be a self-sustaining and self-organized effort that really adds value for these farmers," she said.

The CSA Coalition is working on connecting with potential customers who historically have not had access to CSAs, either in terms of location or affordability. Corio said that means continuing to make shares more affordable for low-income families through



discounts or the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), commonly known as food stamps.

That puts the program at odds with the proposed 2019 Farm Bill under consideration in the House of Representatives. The SNAP Program, which makes up the majority of the Farm Bill funding, is once again a target of partisan bickering. A small group of House Republicans is pushing for stricter work requirements for recipients of SNAP benefits. The Senate version of the bill, which has enough bipartisan support to pass, has no new requirements. This roadblock has proved frustrating to many in Congress, including Maloney.

"The last Farm Bill saved \$100 billion, and most of that is because of SNAP," he argued. "Those nutrition programs have been saving

us money. It is one of the most efficient programs in the federal government, it helps people, and it has a magnifying effect on economic activity in general, particularly when food-insecure families can buy produce locally from farms like the ones we have here in the Hudson Valley."

With the Farm Bill delayed, some are wondering if it's time to think in broader terms with a "50-year" farm bill, rather than 5-year

legislation, to shift the focus from short-term industrial agriculture toward longer-term considerations such as soil health, reducing toxins, sequestering carbon and boosting rural farm communities.

At Glynwood, Corio said there would be definite benefits to that approach. "When you're talking about natural systems and the big fixes to wicked problems that affect our food system, you can't talk about them in five-year sections," she said.

Maloney said he wouldn't rule out longer-term plans being part of future farm bills, and many of his contributions to the 2014 Farm Bill, including increased support for conservation easements, looked beyond 2019. But he suggested that a more prudent course of action would be to authorize longer-term projects as their own bills, so they aren't at risk of losing funding every five years depending on the direction of the political winds.

That approach would allow the Farm Bill to continue to be revised in five-year increments to address changes in agricultural markets. "For example, dairy farmers were not well served in the 2014 Farm Bill, and we need to make changes to the margin pricing program that supports them," said



## GREEN TAPE

By Cheetah Haysom

Many people are unaware of the number of rules and regulations required of farmers, including those in the Hudson Valley. According to one study, among the most regulated are apple farmers, who must comply with an estimated 12,000 restrictions and rules that govern orchards, up from about 9,500 a decade ago. Tree fruit farmers were recently issued rules on the proper angling of ladders.

Regulations by the federal Environmental Protection Agency are among the most extensive, covering livestock, crop production (including greenhouses), forestry, provision of drinking water, facilities, fuel, equipment, chemicals, air emission and waste. Inspections for compliance are regular, often at peak harvest season.

New York State has many of the same regulations, just more stringent. Its laws regulating farm labor — their work conditions, pay, living facilities and health — are among the strictest in the country.

Farmers say they understand that food safety is vital to their livelihood. But the time and expense involved with compliance with so many rules can be prohibitive. "The number of regulations goes up, but the cost of complying never goes down," says Maire Ullrich, the agriculture program leader at the Cornell Cooperative Extension office in Orange County. It would help the agricultural community tremendously, she says, if the system could be simplified.

Maloney. "They want us to pay attention in intervals if something's not working."

With Democrats about to retake the House, the 2019 Farm Bill has been moving closer to completion in the current "lame duck" session, although SNAP benefits remain a sticking point. Even if Congress can't iron out the particulars over the next few weeks, it could re-authorize the 2014 bill for another year. That's not without precedent: The 2014 bill began as the 2013 Farm Bill. Considering how well the 2014 bill worked out for the Hudson Valley, Maloney admitted a delay might not be the worst thing in the world.

"But it's not a substitute for doing our jobs," he said. "And it's not a substitute for having a good bill when that process is finally complete."



Green beans at Vera's in Philipstown



Carrots at the Cold Spring Farmers' Market

Photos by Christine Ashburn

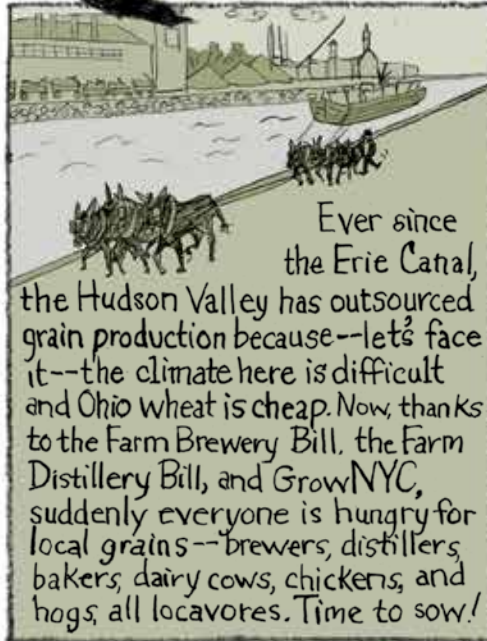


# REPORTS FROM THE WHEAT FIELD, THE RYE FIELD, THE

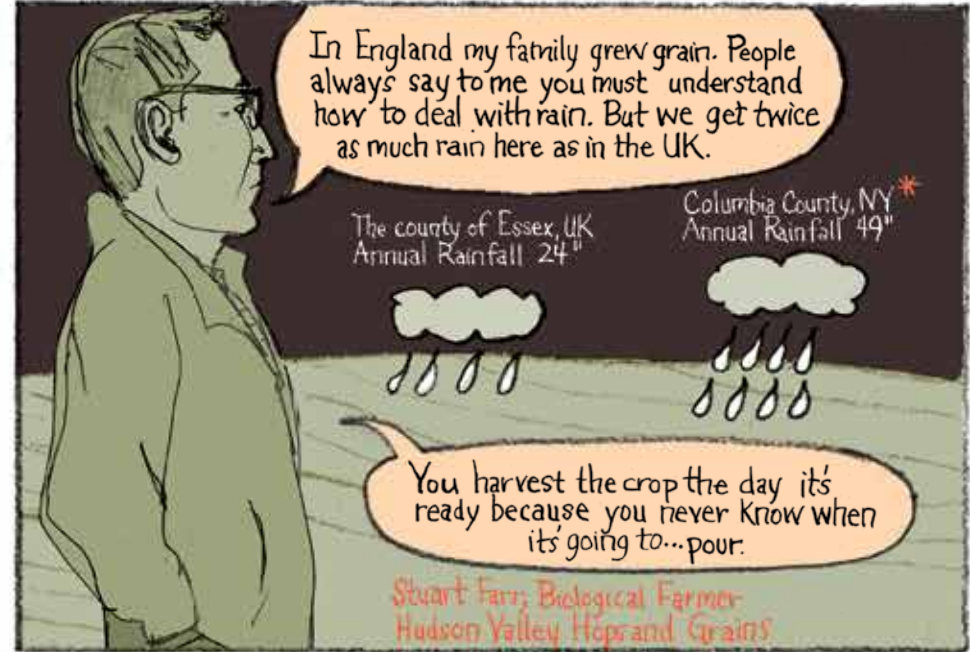
As part of our series on preserving farms, I set out to talk to farmers and other members of the grain food chain about their recent attempts to grow grains in New York.

By *Arlo Gucke*

Am I in the right field?



Ever since the Erie Canal, the Hudson Valley has outsourced grain production because--let's face it--the climate here is difficult and Ohio wheat is cheap. Now, thanks to the Farm Brewery Bill, the Farm Distillery Bill, and GrowNYC, suddenly everyone is hungry for local grains--brewers, distillers, bakers, dairy cows, chickens, and hogs, all locavores. Time to sow!



In England my family grew grain. People always say to me you must understand how to deal with rain. But we get twice as much rain here as in the UK.

The county of Essex, UK  
Annual Rainfall 24"

Columbia County, NY  
Annual Rainfall 49"

You harvest the crop the day it's ready because you never know when it's going to...pour.

Stuart Farm, Biological Farmer  
Hudson Valley Hop and Grains

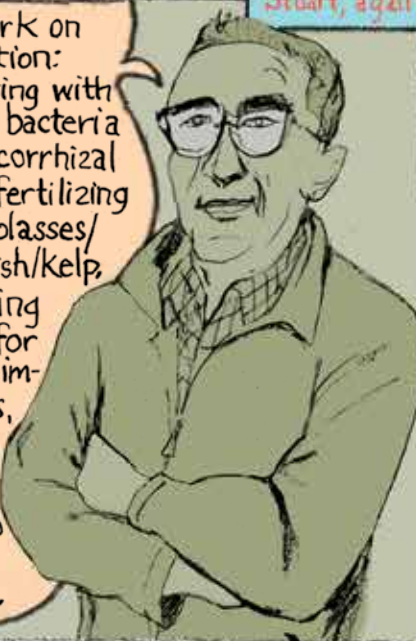
A wet environment can mean a great yield, but increases the risk of Fusarium, the fungus that causes the aptly named Vomitoxin.

Regulations mandate less than 1 part per million for human consumption and 5-10 ppm for livestock feed--pigs are the least partial to Vomitoxin.

Meeting these standards is hard, even harder for organic farmers who do not use fungicides.

We work on prevention: inoculating with specific bacteria and mycorrhizal fungi, fertilizing with molasses/liquid fish/kelp, analyzing plants for mineral imbalances, and using cover crops to rebuild the soil.

Stuart, again

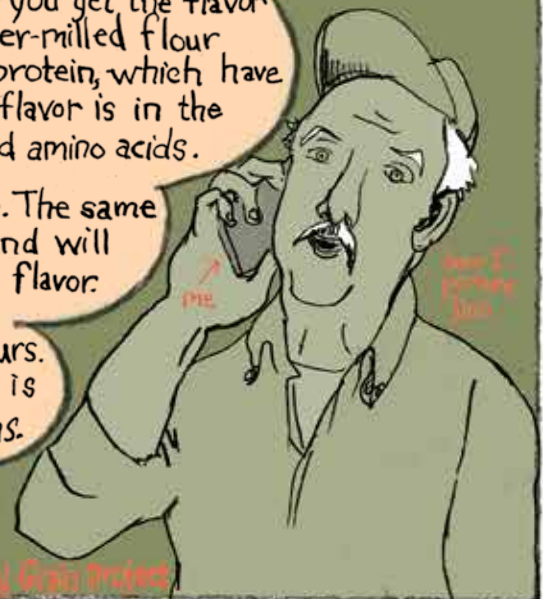


With stone-milled flour you get the flavor of the grain. With roller-milled flour you get the carbs and protein, which have very little taste. The flavor is in the wheat germ, bran, and amino acids.

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Don Lewis  
Farmer/Baker/Miller  
Wild Horse Farm, Community Grain Project



Don continues--

Eataly USA is my largest customer. On their behalf, I contract with 14 different growers--50+ acres locally and 500 statewide.

NY GRAINS SALES, MEASURED IN \$



Originally, I was interested in grain as a cover crop. With vegetables, I rotate fields every 2-3 years. If the cover crop is plowed under I get no income.



Ron Migliorelli  
3rd generation Farmer  
Migliorelli Farms

I started with wheat--was unsuccessful--too much Vomitoxin. I tried rye--sold that to a distillery.

I started growing barley on a patch of Hoosic gravel soil, very well-drained. This year, I got the seed into the soil 2 weeks early and was able to harvest in July. Then, it rained for weeks and other farmers lost their crops.

Maybe 3-4 years out of 6, I get it right.

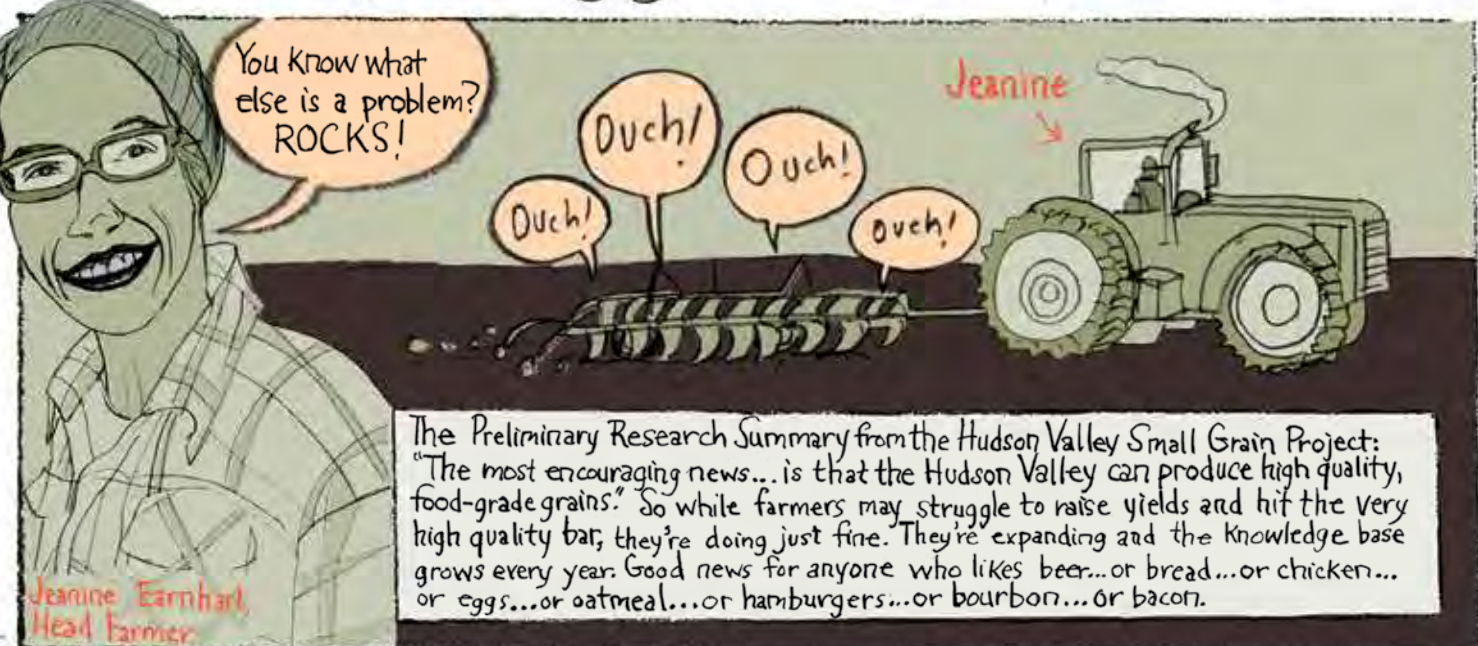
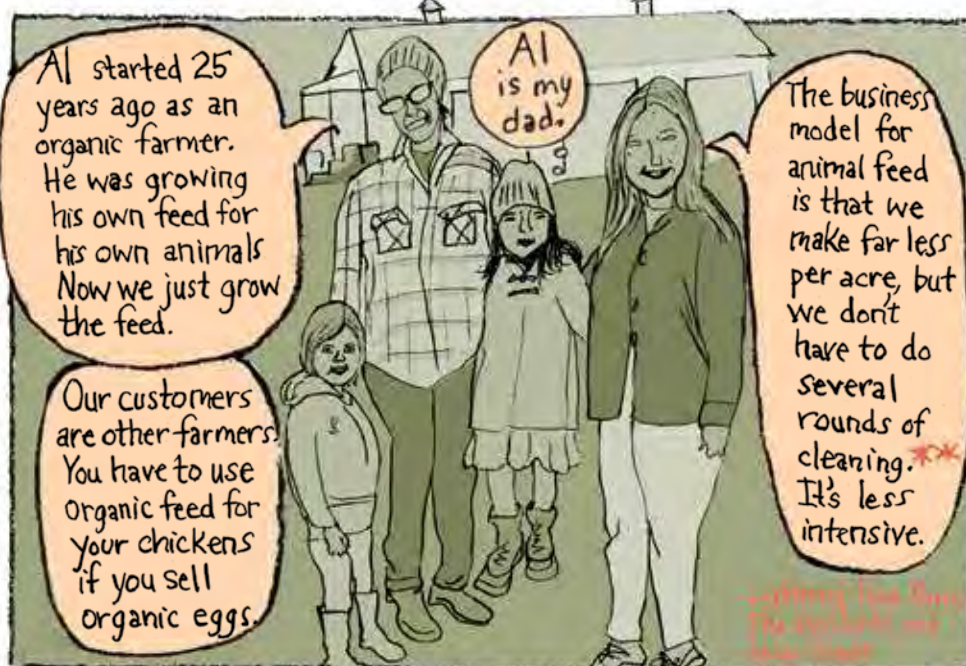
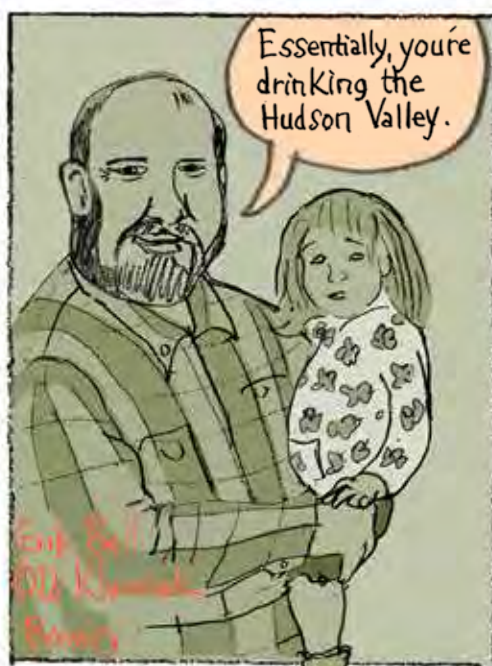
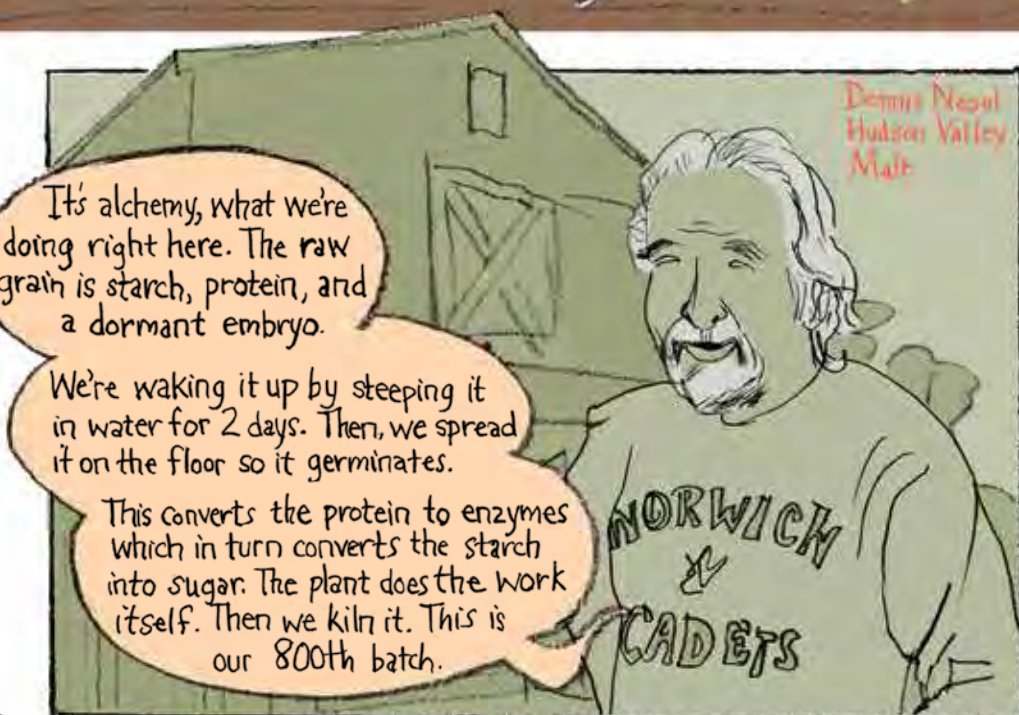


I modified this silo for barley so the air can circulate. It has to be stored at 11-12% moisture... too wet, it molds... too dry it doesn't stay alive.



# FROM THE FIELD

## THE BARLEY FIELD, AND THE OAT FIELD



One assumes nature designed livestock to be able to digest a weed or two.

© deblucke 2018



# A GROWING CHALLENGE

Farms and Food in the Hudson Valley



Donna Williams of Field Goods  
Photo by Roy Gumpel

## Growing Cash *(from Page 10)*

everything from produce to jams, cheese and farm-made foods) in eastern New York, northern New Jersey and western Connecticut.

Positioned on the Hudson River, Field Goods was started in 2011 by Donna Williams, an agricultural consultant who wanted to find a way to expand farming in Greene County. Her colorful vans now deliver bags of food to more than 700 public and private pick-up sites, including in Beacon.

### Agritourism

The price of stands at New York's greenmarkets, as well as the costs of trucking, including pre-dawn labor and bridge tolls, has pushed many farmers to look for alternatives.

As the popularity of local food and farm-to-fork has grown, so has the appeal of "agritourism," or visiting a farm for fun. Many farms, helped by the Hudson Valley Agribusiness Development Corp., have boosted profits by creating farm stands, pick-your-own and on-site dining.

### Local wholesale

A few years ago, GrowNYC, the nonprofit that runs the greenmarkets program in New York, realized there was a need for a major wholesale market for locally grown produce

to supply urban restaurants and fresh food outlets. It set up shop at Hunts Point, in the Bronx, one of the largest food distribution centers in the world. The market has traditionally been the wholesale point for produce for everywhere else — that is, the 49 other states and 55 foreign countries.

GrowNYC now runs a large wholesale section for local food where restaurants and other businesses can buy produce supplied by farmers throughout the region. It's become a major new market for the farming world and prompted the state to invest \$20 million to build a 120,000-square-foot market next year.

### Feeding institutions

The American Farmland Trust created a program to entice institutions across New York state, including schools, colleges, senior centers and hospitals, to purchase food from local farms. It's potentially a huge market. By one estimate, publicly-funded institutions spend nearly \$1 billion on food to feed more than 6 million people through public institutions, including 1.6 million schoolchildren.

Most of the food destined for these institutions grown in the Hudson Valley is distributed at Hunts Points. This year, for the first time, the state will allow public schools that purchase at least 30 percent of their lunch ingredients from New York farms to receive a reimbursement of 25 cents per meal.

## THE CORN IN YOUR GAS

By Brian PJ Cronin

There's corn in your gas tank. And if the federal government gets its wish, there's going to be more of it.

Ethanol, a grain-based alcohol made from corn, was first widely used as fuel 110 years ago, with the 1908 Ford Model T that could run on either gasoline or ethanol.

Gasoline won that battle, but today almost all the gas you buy at the pump, including anywhere in the Highlands, is still 10 percent ethanol, a blend known as E10. That's because of amendments made in the 1990s to the Clean Air Act that required gasoline to be mixed with something (aka "oxygenated") to make it burn cleaner. After the first oxygenate, a chemical compound known as MTBE, started showing up in drinking water, the industry switched to ethanol.

Corn is a major field crop in New York State, with more than 1 million acres planted annually. About 20 percent of the 100 million bushels produced in the state are converted to ethanol at a plant near Albany, according to Sunoco, which runs it.

From an environmental perspective, there's a lot about ethanol that makes sense. It produces fewer emissions than gasoline, and it's made from a renewable resource that removes carbon from the air as it grows. In a nod to help struggling farmers, President Donald Trump has said he will push the Environmental Protection Agency to allow gas blended with 15 percent ethanol (E15) to become the standard.

That announcement made both oil companies and environmental groups nervous. Corn may be renewable but its dominance in U.S. agriculture has been disastrous for the long-term health of topsoil and waterways. Corn is typically grown as an "industrial monocrop," which causes excess phosphorus and nitrogen runoff, leading to the increase of toxic algae blooms and the ever-growing "dead zones" in the Gulf of Mexico and Lake Erie.



In a paper published in 2015, a researcher from the University of California at Merced, Elliott Campbell, concluded that most areas of the country can feed between 80 percent and 100 percent of their populations with food grown or raised within 50 miles. However, the most heavily populated areas of the West and East Coasts, including New York, can feed less than 20 percent of their populations that way. One question facing policy makers is whether local food systems could scale beyond farmers markets and replace conventional food systems if the latter failed due to climate change. Based on Campbell's analysis, which took into account diets, food waste, crop yields and population distribution, as much as 90 percent of America could be fed by local sources. Unfortunately, the Highlands is located in the other 10 percent.



**Out There**

# Sharing Breakneck

*Letting go of what you love***By Brian PJ Cronin**

There is nothing like that first time you climb Breakneck Ridge: The way the undertaking looks impossible when you stand at the bottom and crane your neck; the first vertical patch where you get the sensation that you shouldn't be doing this; the moment you realize it's easier to keep going than to turn back; and the rush of empowerment when you reach the top, with the Hudson churning around Bannerman's Castle beneath you, West Point shimmering to the south and a long silver train gliding north.

If it's a weekend, that train is bringing company. Breakneck has always been a popular hike, thanks to having its own Metro-North stop and its reputation for danger. But the number of visitors has surged to more than 100,000 annually, which has prompted the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference to hire trail stewards on weekends for a multitude of tasks that include asking many of those 100,000 hikers what they're doing here all of a sudden.

According to the Trail Conference, the main reason people say they visit Breakneck is because they heard about it through "word-of-mouth," which, of course, means they found it online. No one learns about Breakneck anymore around a roaring campfire or from a grizzled backwoods sage at a local watering hole. They see it on Instagram. And now here they are.

That's good if you're the Trail Conference and one of your goals is to get people outside and onto the trails. But it's bad if you're the Trail Conference and one of your

other goals is to protect those trails, which are being hammered by erosion, litter, graffiti and accidents. This seemed like an impossible balancing act until I spoke with Hank Osborn, a Garrison native who is the senior program coordinator for the Trail Conference.

"I love the idea of lots of people going outdoors and exploring nature," he says. "If we can create a situation that allows them to do that safely, without damaging the natural resources, that's a win-win."

With that in mind, the Trail Conference, working with New York State, the outdoors equipment retailer REI and other stakeholders, reached out to the Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics in Colorado. The center this year designated Breakneck as a "hot spot," which led to me standing at the trailhead a few weeks ago on a blustery Saturday afternoon with Jessie Johnson and Matt Schneider.

Johnson and Schneider live on the road, traveling the country for the Leave No Trace Center to teach hikers to minimize their impact. There are 18 hot spots, including Breakneck, and next year there will be 20, including the High Peaks region of the Adirondacks.

Based on what they saw in the Highlands, Johnson and Schneider say the Leave No Trace Center will make recommendations about how to handle the crowds at Breakneck. Like Osborn, both Johnson and Schneider are optimistic, largely due to the success of the trail stewards program.

"Unlike some of the other places we visit," says Schneider, "you're ahead of the curve."

Sometimes, taking action to save the environment isn't about marches or chaining yourself (or a friend) to a bulldozer. It's about standing outside in freezing weather for hours on a Saturday to hand out maps while explaining that flip-flops and intoxication will not make for a safe hike.

Everyone I spoke to guessed that Leave No Trace would recommend expanding the trail stewards program to include points along the trail and aboard the Metro-North car that opens at the Breakneck platform. Johnson and Schneider suggested Breakneck might qualify as a "gold standard" site



Jessie Johnson and Matt Schneider at Breakneck Ridge  
Photo by B. Cronin

that becomes an example of how not to love a place to death.

"Loved to death" is a phrase that kept coming up when I visited Blue Hole in the Catskills, itself once a Leave No Trace hot spot. Love is what I keep coming back to when thinking about the Trail Conference, Leave No Trace, the Hudson Highlands Land Trust and everyone else who is putting in the work to save Breakneck — as well as the locals who have been taking care of it for decades, starting long before there was anyone watching.

But I have to say, I love the swarms. Not every visitor has been respectful, and summer weekends can feel like an invasion. A lot of us have abandoned Breakneck, leaving it to the tourists, which can be heartbreaking. But no one falls in love with the outdoors without experiencing it, and no one will fight for something they do not love. Breakneck's accessibility by train makes it one of the few wild places that city dwellers can reach without a car, which can lead to a lifelong relationship with the land, the views and the Hudson that turns day trippers into activists.

*When he's not writing for The Current or teaching journalism at Marist College, Brian PJ Cronin can usually be found outside doing something questionable. You can reach him at [bcronin@highlandscurrent.org](mailto:bcronin@highlandscurrent.org).*

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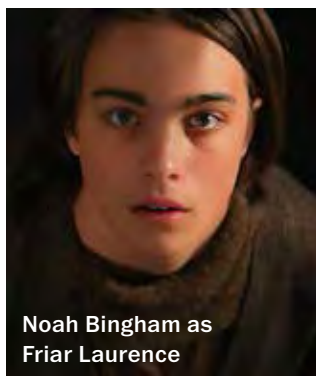
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Noah Bingham as  
Friar Laurence



Quinn Petkus as  
Mercutio

Photos by Jim Mechalakos

## Romeo & Juliet (Continued from Page 9)

you may miss some of it, but you'll get the gist of what they're saying. Sean suggested different techniques, including creating sort of a mosh pit, where the person talking is jostled as they speak. It was eye-opening for me."

Noah Bingham, who plays Friar Laurence, said the language has been a challenge because of the antiquated vocabulary and references. "I have some longer monologues, and at first that was daunting but it has come much easier than I thought it would have," he says.

To help the actors, Mechalakos sometimes contemporizes the language for rehearsals. "I'll paraphrase a thought into something modern," she explains. "Sometimes they struggle with all the little one-word Elizabethan epithets, for example. We talk about what it means and what it might be equivalent to, and I ask them to think about internally substituting that modern word so that they get the tone right."

*Tickets, available at the door, are \$12 for adults and \$5 for students. Seniors are admitted free.*

# Why Shakespeare?

By Sean McNall

If I were to ask, "What comes into your mind when I say Shakespeare?" there's a strong possibility, you'd say, "O Romeo, Romeo, wherefore art thou Romeo?" — words spoken by a young woman, smitten at first glance with a mortal enemy, rationalizing her newly discovered affection.

Shakespeare's plays are filled with these situations, moments that express "the human condition," something immutable from generation to generation, continent to continent, despite all the differences in knowledge, culture and emphasis.

This is the reason why his plays continue to be produced everywhere, not just in English, but also in translation. Romeo and Juliet fall in love and marry in Bulgarian, Romeo kills Tybalt in Mandarin and Prince Escalus banishes Romeo from Verona in Klingon, Esperanto and Elfish. Shakespeare's characters are angry, happy, sad, jealous, envious, untrustworthy, deceptive, generous, forgiving ... experiencing nearly every emotion you can think of, and every human situation.

Also, the burning social questions in today's dysfunctional society — the status of women, class inequality, racism, intolerance, crime, war, disease — are the same issues which feature in his plays. Shylock is hated still, Caliban remains enslaved, Hotspur rages on and Cordelia hangs yet from the rafters.

Of course, one of the most popular arguments against Shakespeare's relevance is the language in which the plays are written. It can be rough going if you're reading *Romeo and Juliet* for the first time and trying to make sense of it. But there is a way around this: Watch the play! Shakespeare wrote *Romeo and Juliet* to be performed, not to be read in wretched isolation. By seeing a group of actors embodying the characters, it's possible to get a good sense of the story without looking up every unfamiliar word and becoming discouraged.

The more plays that are enjoyed in this way — and enjoyment is paramount — the clearer a picture emerges of the universal and relevant situations which Shakespeare wrote about.

*McNall is the associate artistic director and director of education for the Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival.*



Sean McNall

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## Chorus Line *(Continued from Page 9)*

the choreography ("We have runners from the track team doing jetées!") and, to some extent, the maturity of the material. "It's set in 1975 and the mores were different," he says.

Two students volunteered to oversee the choreography but, just as production began, Scarrone received an email from David Bethards, whose son, Devin, plays the character Bobby Mills. Bethards was moving from Florida to the Highlands and asked if he could help in any way. He mentioned, almost as an aside, that he had played half the male characters, including Bobby, in a national tour. The two students were thrilled, Scarrone said, to assist someone who knows the original Michael Bennett choreography.

David Bethards says it's been a wonderful challenge to teach the complicated material to the students, most of whom had never had a dance lesson.

"The kids have been open-minded and I believe unaware of how difficult an undertaking this production is for non-dancers," he says. "I give them the same notes that I would give to professionals. While there are moments when it is clear that a step or combination is too difficult, in considering their age and background, they are doing an admirable job."

Devin Bethard said he had never watched his father work as a choreographer. "It's something I wish I had the



Kaijay Brown at the head of the line

Photo by Tony Cenicola

chance to do sooner," he says. "It's been incredible learning about the show from my father, seeing how passionate he is about it." David Bethard says Bobby Mills was his favorite role, which Devin says has made the Beacon production "an even better experience. Hearing that I do the part justice from someone who loves the

show so much feels beyond encouraging."

A *Chorus Line* will be performed at the Seeger Theater at Beacon High School on Friday, Dec. 7, and Saturday, Dec. 8, at 7:30 p.m. and on Sunday, Dec. 9, at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$12 for adults or \$5 for students and seniors at [beaconplayers.com/box-office/tickets](http://beaconplayers.com/box-office/tickets) or, if available, at the door.



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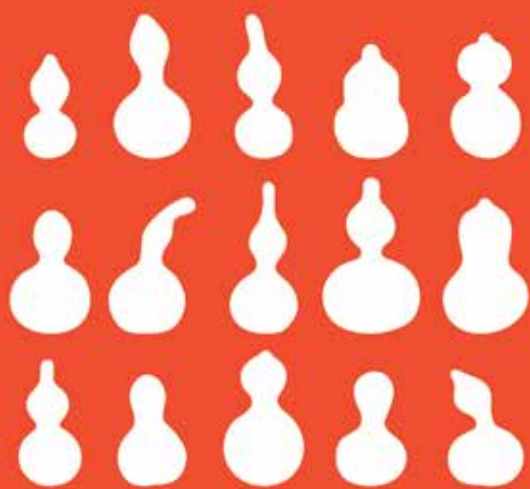


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# Black and Light

*Cold Spring painter frames action with darkness*

By Alison Rooney

Growing up, painter Russ Ritell was a fan of page-turners such as *Tales from the Arabian Nights* and sci-fi fantasies, which gave him, he says, “vivid pictures in my head.”

The Cold Spring resident was also a fan of illustrators such as N. C. Wyeth and Dean Cornwell, which led to an appreciation for their antecedents: artists of the Italian Baroque and pre-Renaissance periods, Spanish painters and the Dutch masters of light.

Most of all, he became fascinated by Caravaggio’s chiaroscuro shading and tenebrism, a style in which darkness is used as a spotlight.

Ritell says he enjoys contemporizing Caravaggio’s dramatic scenes. “He was a criminal on the run,” he explains. “A lot of his paintings were about violence, and religious violence. He depicted some gory stuff. When I was looking at his paintings, the ‘divine creative’ said to me: that looks like a tattoo scene.”

Ritell’s work will be part of a group show that he curated called *Natural Selection* at the bau Gallery in Beacon that opens on Second Saturday, Dec. 8, from 6 to 9 p.m. and continues through Jan. 6.



A self-described “slow-working” artist, Ritell completes three or four paintings a year in oil and layers. Taking his time means grappling with his perfectionism.

“I struggle with it,” he admits. “It can be disheartening at times. But all artists suffer; you just don’t always hear about their issues.” Ritell says he often seeks out artists whose work he admires and questions them about their process, including what brushes they use. “There are so many different approaches to a similar result,” he says.

Ritell works full-time in New York City as an animator, mostly on commercial projects. When he returns home, he says his energy is usually lagging until he sits down in his studio. “I’m up most nights until midnight, painting,” he says. “It’s easy to become resistant to the creative drive, but you have to make doing the right thing easy for yourself to fight it.”

After sketching an idea, Ritell will or-



ganize a photo shoot with models. “Sometimes it takes many attempts to get what I want,” he says. He manipulates these reference images with Photoshop, then draws on a canvas. “It’s detailed drawing, with shading,” he explains. “I go over it with one color, and then underpaint other colors.”

He typically works on two or three paintings at a time. “One could still be conceptual, another will be in the drawing stage and another the painting,” he says. “Sometimes they catch up with one another.”

Ritell, who grew up in Westchester County, says there are no other artists in his immediate family. “I don’t know where it came from, but my parents fostered it, for which I’m very thankful,” he says. “I didn’t plan a

career in it, but my high school art teacher told me: ‘You’re not going to study psychology, you’re going to get a portfolio together and go to the School of Visual Arts.’ And I did!” He also cites Cold Spring artist Carla Goldberg as someone who fosters his art.

Like many relatively new residents, Ritell came to know Cold Spring through hiking. “I’m inspired by this place every day: the leaves, the fog on the water,” he says. “It’s a great art town, too, and a great adventure town. Art, adventure, family [Ritell has two young daughters] and access to the city: it’s perfect.”

*bau Gallery, at 506 Main St., is open from noon to 6 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays.*



Seventh Annual  
**Tree Lighting**  
at

**WINTER HILL**

Friday, December 7, 2018  
5:30 - 7 p.m.

20 Nazareth Way  
(Just east of Route 9D on Snake Hill Road)

Christmas Carols led by  
The Walter Hoving Home Choir  
Food and Drinks aplenty!



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# THE WEEK AHEAD

Edited by Pamela Doan (calendar@highlandscurrent.org)  
For a complete listing of events, see [highlandscurrent.org/calendar](http://highlandscurrent.org/calendar).

## HOLIDAY EVENTS

SAT 1

### A West Point Holiday

WEST POINT

1:30 p.m. Eisenhower Hall  
Pitcher Road | 845-938-4159  
[westpointband.com](http://westpointband.com)

The West Point Band will perform holiday classics and Santa will join the show. Reservations required. *Free*

SUN 2

### Handel's Messiah

WEST POINT

3:30 p.m. Cadet Chapel  
[westpoint.edu](http://westpoint.edu) | 845-938-3412

The 60th annual performance of the holiday classic will be performed by members of local choirs accompanied by the largest all-pipe church organ in the world. *Free*

SUN 2

### BHA + BeaconArts Bicycle Menorah Lighting

BEACON

5:30 p.m. Polhill Park  
Main St. and Route 9D | [beaconarts.org](http://beaconarts.org)

During each night of Hanukkah, a wheel on the menorah will be illuminated to honor a part of the Beacon community. On SUN 2, educators will be recognized, followed by activists (MON 3), first responders (TUES 4), children (WED 5), government (THUR 6), volunteers (FRI 7), clergy (SAT 8) and artists and musicians (SUN 9). Daily at 5:30 p.m. except 4:30 p.m. on FRI 7 and SAT 8.

SUN 2

### Tree and Menorah Lighting

NELSONVILLE

7 p.m. Village Green

Join neighbors for a holiday celebration.

MON 3

### Menorah Lighting

COLD SPRING

5 p.m. Main Street  
End of Main St. | [putnamchabad.org](http://putnamchabad.org)  
Enjoy latkes and cider after the lighting.

WED 5

### Holiday Card-Making Workshop

BEACON

1 p.m. Howland Public Library  
313 Main St. | 845-831-1134  
[beaconlibrary.org](http://beaconlibrary.org)

Create two cards to take home; materials supplied. *Free*

WED 5

### Holiday Craft Party

COLD SPRING

5 p.m. Butterfield Library  
10 Morris Ave. | 845-265-3040  
[butterfieldlibrary.org](http://butterfieldlibrary.org)

All ages are invited to make a craft celebrating the season. *Free*

FRI 7

### Seventh Annual Tree Lighting

GARRISON

5:30 – 7 p.m. Winter Hill | 20 Nazareth Way

Enjoy warm drinks, refreshments and a holiday sing-along at this annual community celebration.

SAT 8

### City of Beacon + BeaconArts Tree Lighting

BEACON

4:30 p.m. Polhill Park  
Main Street & Route 9D | [beaconarts.org](http://beaconarts.org)

Following the seventh night of lighting the bicycle menorah at 4:30 p.m., Gina Samardge and Compass Arts will lead community caroling at 4:45 p.m. Santa Claus is expected at 5 p.m. for the tree lighting and to spend about an hour greeting children.

SAT 8

### Tree Lighting

COLD SPRING

6 p.m. Gazebo

Join the community at the foot of Main Street for music, refreshments and a visit from Santa.

SUN 9

### Community Hanukkah Party

BEACON

11 a.m. – 1 p.m.  
Beacon Hebrew Alliance  
331 Verplanck Ave. | 845-831-2012  
[beaconhebrewalliance.org](http://beaconhebrewalliance.org)

Enjoy singing, food and games, including candy dreidyl-making, followed by a dance party. Bring a non-perishable item to donate to the food pantry. *Free*

## HOLIDAY SHOPPING

SAT 1

### Holiday Boutique

GARRISON

10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library  
472 Route 403 | 845-424-3020  
[desmondfishlibrary.org](http://desmondfishlibrary.org)

Browse crafts from 75 artists and artisans, along with used books and baked goods. Open Thursday to Sunday during library hours through FRI 9.

SAT 1

### Christmas Craft Fair

COLD SPRING

10 a.m. – 4 p.m.  
St. Mary's Episcopal Church  
1 Chestnut St. | 845-228-4167  
[stmaryscoldspring.org](http://stmaryscoldspring.org)

Find gifts for anyone on your list at this annual church fundraiser. An estate sale will also be held in the rectory.

SAT 1

### Mid-Hudson Etsy Makers Holiday Pop-Up Market

BEACON

11 a.m. – 5 p.m.  
Howland Cultural Center  
477 Main St. | 845-831-4988  
[howlandculturalcenter.org](http://howlandculturalcenter.org)

SAT 8

### Work:Shop Winter Market

BEACON

10 a.m. – 6 p.m. Wickham Studio  
578 Main St. | 917-797-9247  
[workshopwintermarket.com](http://workshopwintermarket.com)

Twenty artisans will be selling handmade items including ceramics, knitwear, accessories, food, jewelry and home goods. Also SUN 9.



Army vs. Navy, Dec. 8

SAT 8

### Holiday Fine Arts and Crafts Small Gifts Show

BEACON

2:30 – 4:30 p.m.  
Howland Cultural Center  
477 Main St. | 845-831-4988  
[howlandculturalcenter.org](http://howlandculturalcenter.org)

A reception opens this annual show, which includes handmade gifts, art, food and jewelry. Daily through Dec. 23.

## COMMUNITY

SAT 8

### Army-Navy Football Party

COLD SPRING

2:30 p.m. Whistling Willies  
184 Main St. | 845-265-2012  
[whistlingwillies.com](http://whistlingwillies.com)

Proceeds will benefit the VFW and American Legion posts. Admission includes one beer and a buffet. Raffles and prizes. *Cost: \$10*

## MUSIC

SAT 1

### Meredith Monk: Art as Spiritual Practice

GARRISON

8 p.m. Garrison Institute  
14 Mary's Way | 845-424-4800  
[garrisoninstitute.org](http://garrisoninstitute.org)

A talk focuses on spiritual transformation in performance. *Cost: \$25*

SAT 1

### Chris Botti

PEEKSKILL

8 p.m. Paramount Hudson Valley  
1008 Brown St. | 914-739-0039  
[paramounthudsonvalley.com](http://paramounthudsonvalley.com)

The Grammy Award-winning trumpeter and composer will perform original jazz and cover classics in his own style. *Cost: \$62 to \$110*

SAT 1

### Wayne Horvitz Trio

NEWBURGH

8 p.m. Atlas Studios  
11 Spring St. | 845-391-8855  
[atlasnewburgh.com](http://atlasnewburgh.com)

Horvitz, with Eric Eagle on

drums and Geoff Harper on bass, will play songs from the group's forthcoming album, *Snowghost Sessions*. *Cost: \$15 (\$20 door)*

SUN 2

### Fedora

COLD SPRING

4 p.m. Chapel Restoration  
45 Market St. | 845-265-5537  
[chapelrestoration.org](http://chapelrestoration.org)

Alan Kay (clarinet), Jesse Mills (violin), Gregg August (bass) and Alon Yavnai (piano) will perform dance music and holiday classics. *Free (donations welcome)*

SUN 2

### Michael McDonald

PEEKSKILL

7 p.m. Paramount Hudson Valley  
1008 Brown St. | 914-739-0039  
[paramounthudsonvalley.com](http://paramounthudsonvalley.com)

The Grammy Award-winner performs selections from his new holiday release, *Season of Peace*, as well as his chart hits. *Cost: \$60 to \$110*

THURS 6

### The Wynotte Sisters

BEACON

7 p.m. Dogwood  
47 E. Main St. | [dogwoodbar.com](http://dogwoodbar.com)

In this benefit for Planned Parenthood, Daria Grace, Sara Milonovich and Vibeke Saugestad will perform their own holiday hits with guest Greg Anderson. *Free (donations welcome)*

FRI 7

### Westchester All-Stars Christmas for Veterans

PEEKSKILL

7:30 p.m. Paramount Hudson Valley  
1008 Brown St. | 914-739-0039  
[paramounthudsonvalley.com](http://paramounthudsonvalley.com)

John Sebastian of Lovin' Spoonful and other musicians play rock, soul and the blues to benefit veterans' charities. *Cost: \$35 to \$100*



Cadet Chapel, West Point



SAT 8  
**Tim Haufe with Strings**  
**Featuring Whiskey Girls**  
BEACON  
7 p.m. Howland Cultural Center  
477 Main St. | 845-765-3012  
howlandculturalcenter.org  
“Neo-folk-pop-jazz  
chamber music.” *Cost: \$10*

SAT 8  
**Nate Wood’s fOUR**  
BEACON  
8 p.m. Quinn’s  
330 Main St. | 845-202-7447  
facebook.com/quinnabeacon  
A solo performance features Wood  
on drums, keyboards, bass and  
vocals. *Free (donations welcome)*

SUN 9  
**Merry Christmas**  
**Darling**  
PEEKSKILL  
3 p.m. Paramount Hudson Valley  
1008 Brown St. | 914-739-0039  
paramounthudsonvalley.com  
Singer Michelle Berting  
Brett leads a theatrical show  
featuring The Carpenters’ music  
and story. *Cost: \$29 to \$49*



SUN 9  
**A Musical Holiday**  
**Evening with Sloan**  
**Wainwright and Friends**  
BEACON  
7 p.m. Towne Crier Cafe | 379 Main St.  
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com  
Brooks Williams joins singer-  
songwriter Sloan and the Sloan  
Flakes for a celebration of the  
season. *Cost: \$30 to \$35*

VISUAL ARTS

FRI 7  
**Surface/Substance**  
COLD SPRING  
6 – 8:30 p.m. Buster Levi Gallery  
121 Main St. | 845-809-5145  
busterlevigallery.com  
A group show of works by gallery  
artists opens with a reception  
and continues through Dec. 30.

SAT 8  
**Cedric van Eenoo**  
GARRISON  
5 – 7 p.m. Garrison Art Center  
23 Garrison’s Landing | 845-809-5750  
garrisonartcenter.org  
A reception opens a solo exhibit  
of van Eenoo’s monochromatic  
canvases that speak to the essence  
of painting. Also on view is  
*smallWORKS 2 1/2*, with works  
by 70 artists. Through Jan. 6

[ THE WEEK AHEAD ]

SAT 8  
**Small Works Show**  
BEACON  
6 – 9 p.m. Catalyst Gallery  
137 Main St. | 845-204-3844  
catalystgallery.com  
A reception kicks off the  
sixth annual show with 130  
pieces from 60 artists including  
painting, drawing, sculpture,  
photography, prints and mixed  
media. Through Jan. 6

SAT 8  
**Gift Wrapped**  
BEACON  
6 – 9 p.m. Clutter Gallery  
163 Main St. | 212-255-2505  
shop.cluttermagazine.com/gallery  
This show has a mix of 2D,  
3D, wall-hanging and standing  
pieces, all priced at \$200  
or less. Through Jan. 4

SUN 9  
**Frederick Johnson and**  
**Daniel Kelly Quartet**  
NELSONVILLE  
4:30 – 6 p.m. Create Community  
11 Peekskill Road | 845-202-3494  
createcommunityspace.com  
Johnson will paint with accompani-  
ment from the quartet. *Free*

TALKS & TOURS

SAT 1  
**Jannis Kounellis**  
COLD SPRING  
3:30 p.m. Magazzino | 2700 Route 9  
845-666-7202 | magazzino.art  
This event celebrates the late  
artist’s career with the launch of  
a monograph by curator Philip  
Larratt-Smith, who will converse  
with scholar Francesco Guzzetti  
and historian Bruno Corá. *Free*

SAT 1  
**Twilight Tours**  
GARRISON  
3:30 – 7 p.m. Boscobel  
1601 Route 9D | 845-265-3638  
boscobel.org  
The mansion will be candlelit  
and decorated for a 19th-century  
Christmas, with music by the  
Greater Newburgh Symphony  
Quintet and guitarist Dan  
Stevens. Also SUN 2, SAT 8,  
SUN 9. *Cost: \$26 (\$16 children,*  
*ages 5 and younger free)*

THUR 6  
**A New York History of**  
**Five Wild Animals**  
FORT MONTGOMERY  
7 p.m. Fort Montgomery Historic Site  
690 Route 9W | 845-446-2134  
Carl Heitmuller of the Hudson  
Highlands Nature Museum  
will explain how the sturgeon,  
beaver, box turtle, wolf and bald  
eagle have survived 400 years of  
human settlement. Reservations  
required. *Cost: \$5 (\$3 members)*



FRI 7  
**Pearl Harbor**  
BEACON  
Noon. Howland Public Library  
313 Main St. | 845-831-1134  
beaconlibrary.org  
Matt Soltis will discuss the 1941  
attack and its aftermath. *Free*

SAT 8  
**Hell’s Angels: A B-17**  
**Bomber in WWII**  
PUTNAM VALLEY  
10 a.m. Putnam Valley Free Library  
30 Oscawana Lake Road | 845-528-1024  
Jon Fiorella will discuss the bomb-  
ing runs of World War II. *Cost: \$5*

KIDS & FAMILY

SUN 2  
**Storytime with**  
**Jerry Pinkney**  
COLD SPRING  
10:15 a.m. Split Rock Books  
97 Main St. | 845-265-2080  
splitrockbks.com  
Pinkney will read Margaret Wise  
Brown’s newly released *A Home in*  
*the Barn*, which he illustrated.

WED 5  
**Bakeology 101**  
BEACON  
3:30 – 5 p.m. Howland Public Library  
313 Main St. | 845-831-1134  
beaconlibrary.org  
Dana Devine O’Malley will lead a  
two-session class on baking for young  
people. Registration required. *Free*

SAT 8  
**Kids’ Make-and-Take**  
**Holiday Craft**  
BEACON  
1 – 3 p.m. Beacon Historical Society  
17 South Ave. | 845-831-0514  
beaconhistorical.org  
Children ages 4 to 10 are invited  
to make a craft and watch the  
decoration of the historical society’s  
dollhouse for the holidays. *Free*

SUN 9  
**Grinch Party**  
COLD SPRING  
1 – 3 p.m. Butterfield Library  
10 Morris Ave. | 845-265-3040  
butterfieldlibrary.org  
This annual holiday party includes  
crafts, games and a visit from the  
Grinch. Registration required. *Free*

SUN 9  
**No Strings Marionettes**  
BEACON  
1 & 4 p.m. Howland Cultural Center  
477 Main St. | 845-831-4988  
howlandculturalcenter.org  
At 1 p.m., the puppet troupe will  
present *A Dragon’s Tale* and, at 4  
p.m., *The Snow Maiden*. Presented  
with the Howland Public Library.  
*Cost: \$10 adults, children free*

STAGE & SCREEN

SAT 1  
**Hansel & Gretel**  
GARRISON  
3 & 7:30 p.m. Philipstown Depot Theatre  
10 Garrison’s Landing | 845-424-3900  
philipstowndepottheatre.org  
The ongoing Dialogues  
with Drama series presents  
a classic suitable for all  
ages adapted by Carin Jean  
White. *Cost: \$20 donation*

WED 5  
**Sacred**  
BEACON  
6:30 p.m. Beahive | 291 Main St.  
beaconfilmsociety.org  
A screening of this 2016  
documentary, shot by more than  
40 teams around the world to  
explore practices of faith and  
spirituality, will be followed by a  
Q&A with its executive producer,  
Bill Baker. Presented by the  
Beacon Film Society. *Cost: \$10*



FRI 7  
**Romeo and Juliet**  
COLD SPRING  
7 p.m. Haldane High School  
15 Craigside Drive | 845-265-9254  
haldaneschool.org  
Haldane Drama presents  
Shakespeare’s classic tale of  
love and love lost. Also SAT  
8. See Page 9. *Cost: \$12 (\$5*  
*students, seniors free)*

FRI 7  
**A Chorus Line**  
BEACON  
7:30 p.m. Beacon High School  
101 Matteawan Road | 845-838-6900  
beaconplayers.com  
The Beacon Players perform the  
1975 Broadway hit. Also SAT 8, SUN  
9. Parental guidance suggested. See  
Page 9. *Cost: \$12 (\$5 students, seniors)*

SAT 8  
**The Colonial Nutcracker**  
PEEKSKILL  
2 p.m. Paramount Hudson Valley  
1008 Brown St. | 914-739-0039  
paramounthudsonvalley.com  
Set in Yorktown, this version  
of Tchaikovsky’s ballet includes  
narration. *Cost: \$28.50*

SAT 8  
**Doubt: A Parable**  
GARRISON  
3 & 8 p.m. Philipstown Depot Theatre  
10 Garrison’s Landing | 845-424-3900  
brownpapertickets.com/event/3626372  
In this play by John Patrick Shanley,  
set in a Catholic school in the Bronx  
in 1964, a nun suspects a priest of  
having an inappropriate relationship  
with a male student. With Julia  
Boyes, Dawn Brown-Berenson, Robin  
Gorn and Duane Rutter. Also SUN  
9. *Cost: \$25 (\$20 students, seniors)*

SAT 8  
**The Nutcracker**  
POUGHKEEPSIE  
2 & 7:30 p.m. Bardavon | 35 Market St.  
845-473-2072 | bardavon.org  
The New Paltz Ballet Theatre and  
dancers from the New York City  
Ballet present the classic holiday  
story of a magical journey. Also  
SUN 9. *Cost: \$27 to \$32*

CIVIC

MON 3  
**City Council**  
BEACON  
7 p.m. City Hall | 1 Municipal Plaza  
845-838-5011 | cityofbeacon.org

TUES 4  
**School Board**  
COLD SPRING  
7 p.m. Haldane Music Room  
15 Craigside Drive | 845-265-9254  
haldaneschool.org

TUES 4  
**Putnam County**  
**Legislature**  
CARMEL  
7 p.m. Historic Courthouse  
44 Gleneida Ave. | 845-208-7800  
putnamcountyny.com

TUES 4  
**Board of Trustees**  
COLD SPRING  
7:30 p.m. Village Hall | 85 Main St.  
845-265-3611 | coldspringny.gov

THURS 6  
**Town Board**  
PHILIPSTOWN  
7:30 p.m. Town Hall  
238 Main St. | 845-265-5200  
philipstown.com



## NEWS BRIEFS

## Defend the Holiday

Putnam County Executive Maryellen Odell and United for the Troops have launched their annual campaign to provide comfort packages to members of the Armed Forces serving overseas during the holidays.

With each \$15 donation, a care package with items such as cookies and snacks, DVDs and CDs, and T-shirts will be sent to a soldier. To donate, visit [putnamcountyny.com/carepackage](http://putnamcountyny.com/carepackage) by Dec. 20. Payment should be sent to Terry Oliver, Putnam County, 40 Gleneida Ave., Carmel, NY 10512. Call 845-808-1001 with questions.

## Putnam Accepting Internship Applications

Putnam County has begun accepting applications for paid and unpaid internships in summer 2019 in areas such as finance, criminal justice, engineering, communications, information technology, law, health and psychology.

Putnam residents who are graduate, college or high school students in their junior or senior year may apply to the program, which is called Putnam Invests in Leaders of Tomorrow. A grade-point average of 3.0 or higher is recommended for college students. See [putnamcountyny.com/internap](http://putnamcountyny.com/internap). The deadline is Jan. 31.



**FOLIAGE WINNER** — Kristen Buttitta of Hyde Park won the sixth annual Fall Foliage Photo Contest sponsored by Central Hudson with this shot at the Vanderbilt Mansion. More than 300 photos were entered, from which 20 finalists were selected for public voting on Facebook.

*Photo provided*

## Tax Aides Needed

The AARP Foundation and the Hudson Valley CA\$H Coalition are looking for volunteers to help provide free tax-preparation services in early 2019 for low- and moderate-income residents and seniors in Dutchess and Putnam counties. For in-

formation contact Linda Eddy at [leddy@dutchesscap.org](mailto:leddy@dutchesscap.org) or 845-475-7500.

Last year volunteers helped file 8,212 returns that resulted in more than \$6.6 million in refunds and credits. Volunteers should have computer knowledge and experience filing personal taxes but will receive training. See [hv-cash.org](http://hv-cash.org).

## Magazzino *(from Page 7)*

have been wonderfully surprised by the public response" to Magazzino and because they want to make it "more accessible to the public, so we would not be forced to turn away those who came to visit but did not make a reservation."

Along with exhibiting art, Magazzino hosts talks, movies and concerts, and the couple expressed hope the change would enable it to "foster the ongoing growth of our community programs as well as the research we support that contributes to the greater art world."

On Nov. 7, Shea and Town Board Member Nancy Montgomery praised Spanu and Olnick for their public-spiritedness. "I've said it numerous times: I couldn't have imagined a better outcome for that [former industrial] space," said Shea. "We have this incredible resource bringing people from all over the world," who often patronize local businesses. Moreover, he said, "they're paying full taxes; there's no break there."

"They just never set out to be a not-for-profit," Montgomery remarked. "They pay taxes and offer this great space to the community."

In a follow-up on Wednesday, Montgomery said she was unaware that Magazzino had become a nonprofit or a museum. But she said "Magazzino continues to pay full property tax. They have not filed for any exemptions."

*Messiah*  
SELECTIONS FROM PART I

**THE CHOIR OF  
ST. PHILIP'S CHURCH**  
DURWARD ENTREKIN, DIRECTOR


SUNDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2018  
AS PART OF THE 10:30 SERVICE


**ST. PHILIP'S CHURCH IN THE HIGHLANDS**  
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HELP WANTED

FIRE DISTRICT SECRETARY (PART-TIME)  
—The Garrison Fire District is looking for a part-time secretary to attend and record meetings of the board of fire commissioners, maintain accurate and complete records of commissioner board meetings, and perform other duties assigned by the board of fire commissioners. Interested applicants should email [garrisonfdsecretary@gmail.com](mailto:garrisonfdsecretary@gmail.com).

Ads start at \$4.95 per week. See [highlandscurrent.org/classified](http://highlandscurrent.org/classified).

7 LITTLE WORDS

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

CLUES

SOLUTIONS

1 raised, as a delicate topic (8)

2 one who finances a project (10)

3 baseball “fly rule” location (7)

4 most regretful (8)

5 disorder promoter (9)

6 New Jersey Devils’ home city (6)

7 notable first for baby (4)

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SEE ANSWERS: PAGE 5

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## Greenway *(from Page 1)*

con's greenway committee since 2016. "But more than just the length and continuity of it, it was the location. It was critical for us to have it as close as possible to the creek because it's a major component of the landscape and history of Beacon.

"It's also a component that a lot of people didn't have much access to. We felt like it was important to get people as close as possible to the creek itself, hence the name."

The paths opening this weekend are marked by a stone dust surface about 8 feet wide. They cross sidewalks and parking lots but just as quickly return creek-side to the rushing waters that sustained the city a century ago.

The trail project was born out of Beacon Deserves Better, a grassroots citizen group that opposed a transit-oriented development proposal in the early 2000s near the train station. Since then, the greenway has become part of the city's long-term planning — so much so that the City Council in 2014 amended the zoning code to require developments along the creek to allow greenway access. In some cases, city inspectors have waited for the trail to be accessible before issuing certificates of occupancy for creekside developments.

"I believe the greenway trail has a little bit for everyone ultimately, with the balance of the environment and wildlife," said Rodney Weber, who owns the Churchill Street and Creek Drive apartment complexes. "This is a great opportunity for Beacon to further its sophistication as a forward-thinking, responsible community."

A third Weber project, at the city's adjacent former Department of Public Works site, will also include greenway access.

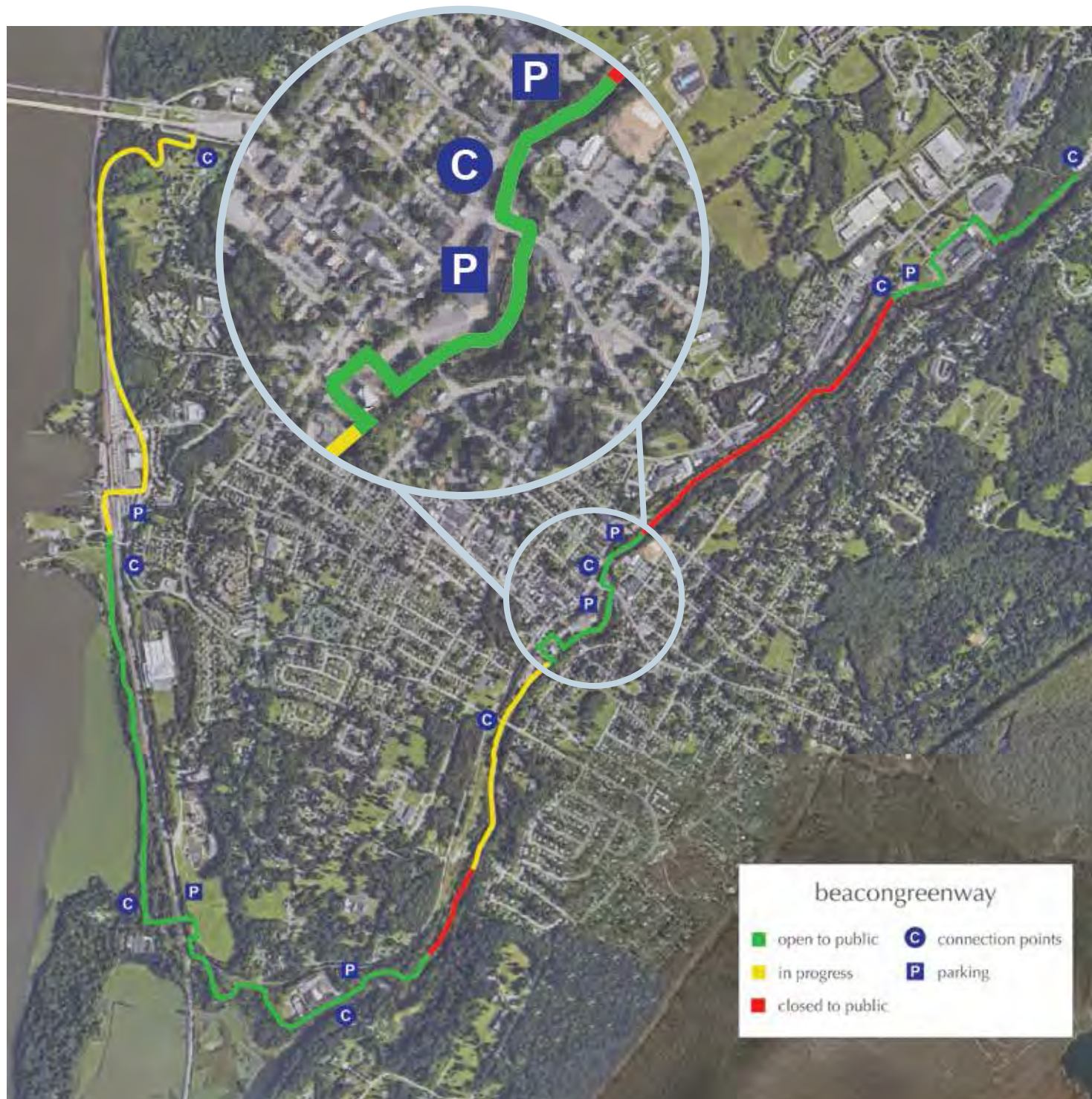
For Wright, who moved to Beacon in 2005 with his wife, Meredith Heuer, the greenway initiative was a natural fit after landing here.

"It's easy to get involved in Beacon," Wright said. "[Former greenway committee chair] Jim Korn proved as much with his earlier advocacy for a trail at what became Roundhouse Park. This is clearly a community where you can show up and have a say."

In time, the Fishkill Creek Greenway and Heritage Trail will become part of a network of hiking and walking trails in and around Beacon. Scenic Hudson is heading the effort to create the 7-mile Fjord Trail linking Cold Spring and Beacon, while just north of that trailhead, Beacon officials are planning another path toward the Fishkill line on the city's west side.

The Metropolitan Transportation Authority-owned rail bed along Fishkill Creek has been discussed as being included as part of the statewide Empire State Trail, as well.

The increased walkability and access



to the natural world seems to suit Beacon residents, who in a 2016 planning session for the update to the city's comprehensive plan named greenways and linkages to other trails as their second-highest municipal goal, behind discouraging development that destroys natural features.

The Beacon greenway currently ends at the Rocky Glen gorge, high above the creek. The path there continues along narrow and steep terrain that's much more like a primitive trail deep in the forest than the municipal walkways opening this weekend.

"Those other paths are a little more urban," Wright said. "But the consistent theme is the proximity to the creek. As long as we have that, we have something that's really valuable and, I think, a huge asset to the city."



Beacon's Fishkill Creek Greenway and Heritage Trail will open three new creekside segments (shown in map inset above) this weekend, including this walkway. *Photo by J. Simms*