

# The HIGHLANDS Current



Beacon's Bricks  
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DECEMBER 14, 2018

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



**CALM BEFORE THE STORM** — Santa and Johanna Colbert both decided the lighting of the Bicycle Tree at Polhill Park in Beacon on Dec. 9 was a good time for a quick nap. She's shown with her mom, Katie, and her brother, Patrick. Next week we'll share photos submitted by readers of children who didn't find their visit with the red suit so cozy. Photo by Heidi Harrison

## PCB Dredging Areas in Hudson Still Polluted

*New questions on  
effectiveness of river cleanup*

By Brian PJ Cronin

After removing 2.65 million cubic yards of contaminated sediment from the Upper Hudson River, General Electric insists its work is over. But an analysis of samples collected after the cleanup may bring the company back to the river.

Since 2009, GE has been forced to spend billions of dollars to remove the polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) its factories discharged into the river from 1947 to 1977.

At the end of 2015, GE told the federal Environmental Protection Agency its work was complete, and a preliminary report issued by the EPA in the summer of 2017 determined that no further dredging would be necessary or effective. But the agency declined to legally declare the cleanup to be complete.

Now, an analysis of samples collected by the state's Department of Environmen-

*(Continued on Page 20)*

## Putnam Accepts \$5,000 Gift to Buy Electronics Detection Dog

*K9 officer will save hours of search time, says sheriff*

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

Putnam County's Legislature last week unanimously voted to accept a \$5,000 donation to the Sheriff's Department to purchase a dog that detects electronic devices, including cell phones or computer memory cards that contain child pornography.

The Dec. 4 decision allows Putnam to join an elite group.

Sheriff Robert Langley told the Legislature's Audit-Administration Committee on Oct. 29 that relatively few law enforcement agencies own such a K9 (the dogs more commonly detect drugs or bombs,

or do tracking). Westchester County has an electronics dog but it mostly is used by the FBI in New York City, Langley said.

Connecticut trained the first electronics-savvy dogs in 2012. Now, dozens with names such as Bear and Brody but also URL, Cache, Browser and Queue work around the country.

Putnam legislators termed the four-legged detectives "incredible," "amazing," and beneficial county-wide.

"A dog can go into a home where there's suspected child pornography" and in "an utter disaster of a room sniff out" a small electronic device, said Amy Sayegh (R-Mahopac).

"It's a great thing," added Joseph Cas-

*(Continued on Page 19)*



**HALLELUJAH!** — Michael McKee, a member of the St. Philip's choir, sings during a performance of selections from Part 1 of Handel's *The Messiah* at the Garrison church's morning service on Dec. 9. (He is shown with Beth Cody, at right.) The service ended with the oratorio's triumphant finale.

Photo by Ross Corsair

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# 5Q FIVE QUESTIONS: JEFF DOMANSKI

By Brian PJ Cronin

Jeff Domanski, who lives in Beacon, is the program director of Hudson Valley Energy, a nonprofit that is helping administer a Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) program. He will host an information session at 1:30 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 15, at the Desmond-Fish Library in Garrison, or see [renewablehighlands.com](http://renewablehighlands.com).

Jeff Domanski

Photo provided

**Beacon, Cold Spring, Philipstown, Fishkill, Poughkeepsie and Marbletown will band together in 2019 to buy electricity on behalf of residents and small businesses.**

**What is the benefit?**

The electricity can be cheaper than with a utility and it's also from renewable sources, so we're getting cleaner energy. It has a significant public benefit. You're not just helping yourself, you're bringing your neighbors with you. There's a lot of folks who, just because we're all so busy, haven't thought about this. And typically you pay a premium for clean energy.

**Where will the energy come from?**

Under the most recent version of the state dictate on CCAs, it has to come from within the state or from a bordering state. That's where the REC [Renewable Energy Credit] purchases come from, which form the bulk of the CCA's purchase power. It's essentially a buying club. You get a bunch of people together and you get a better price.

**How is this different from an energy supply company [ESCO] often pitched by people at farmers' markets or on the street?**

With an ESCO, a customer

usually signs an individual agreement, and there is a blend of options. Some ESCOs just sell cheaper energy, and many sell RECs for green energy. There are typically penalties if you want out early. One reason the state is supporting CCAs is consumer protection. There have been a number of ESCO customers who have been subjected to ballooning rates, sometimes paying as much as three times the utility average. With a CCA, where the agreement is with municipalities, it's 99 percent likely to be a fixed rate for the duration, which will probably be two to five years.

**Everyone in the six villages and cities will be added to the program automatically but can leave if they want. Why would someone opt out?**

There can be fluctuations in price, but only when the contract renews because the suppliers lock in the price based on how many people are participating.

**Does the price go down if more municipalities join?**

There's more buying leverage, but you're aiming for a sweet spot. Once you have more than about 100,000 residential and business accounts, the price doesn't get much better and it can lead to some trepidation from suppliers, who may not be willing to take a price risk with a bigger marketplace.

## ON THE SPOT

By Michael Turton

**If money were no object, what pastime would you pursue?**

“

My dream would be to study meditation, then teach it to kids.

”



~ Michele Lent, Philipstown

“

I'd pack up and travel everywhere — Asia, Australia — the world.

”



~ Wendy Gartland, Beacon

“

I'd do something horticultural; I'd work with plants.

”



~ Zach Merante, Cold Spring

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The four pinball machines inside the Retro Arcade Museum in Beacon, which closed in 2010  
Photo by Fred Bobrow

## Beacon Council Reconsiders Pinball Ban

*Also weighs whether to create municipal IDs*

By Jeff Simms

The Beacon City Council will hold a public hearing on Monday, Dec. 17, to consider repealing a longstanding ban on pinball machines.

The ban dates to the 1940s, when Beacon, like many other municipalities, followed the lead of New York City in banning the machines, which were considered at the time a game of chance and a gateway to gambling and other nefarious behaviors.

A Retro Arcade Museum opened in 2008

at the corner of Main and Schenck in Beacon but closed two years later after the building inspector said it violated the law.

Fred Bobrow, who owned the museum, said he sold his 160 machines, about 40 or 50 of which were in the Main Street space and the rest in multiple storage units, to another collector shortly before he and his wife moved out of state in 2010.

Eight years later, in a phone interview, he still sounded a little mystified about being shut down. "It wasn't like it was a Chuck E. Cheese," he said. "I had four pinball machines of the 40 or 50 machines, and they were from 1963, 1968, 1971 and

(Continued on Page 20)

## Dutchess Adopts Plastic Bag Ban

*Also, budget approved and sent to county executive*

By Jeff Simms

The Dutchess County Legislature on Dec. 6 voted to ban disposable plastic shopping bags but did not add a surcharge for using plastic or restrict the use of paper shopping bags, both elements of the original proposal.

The law passed by a vote of 23 to 1, with Legislator Frits Zernike, who represents Beacon, the only opponent. Stripping down the bill, he said, allows the county to "lurch toward some progress" but misses an opportunity to "start to shift our entire attitude away from disposability toward a more sustainable outlook."

The original proposal would have added a 10-cent per bag surcharge to disposable paper or plastic bags, with the revenue going to retailers. Much like a measure approved in Ulster County earlier this year, the fees would have been waived for seniors or customers paying through federal food assistance programs.

The amended law will go into effect on Jan. 1, 2020.

### 2019 budget

Legislators also approved a \$503 million budget for 2019 by a 19 to 5 vote. Both Zernike and Legislator Nick Page, who also represents Beacon, voted against the budget.

The budget reduces the property tax levy for the fifth consecutive year and lowers the tax rate for a fourth year to \$3.45 from \$3.54 per \$1,000 of assessed value.

It includes an amendment introduced by Page to spend \$9,400 to study the feasibility of a weekend ferry service between Dutchess and Orange counties but did not include a proposed request to fund a full-time Climate Smart Coordinator. The Beacon City Council is considering adding a similar position to its municipal staff.

The budget was sent to County Executive Marc Molinaro for his review and signature. Besides the ferry service proposal, other amendments will provide \$85,000 for a Domestic Abuse Response Team; \$20,000 to expand marketing for the county help line and stabilization center; \$112,000 for an assistant district attorney; \$105,000 for a Child Protective Services case manager; \$97,500 for an Adult Protective Services case manager; and \$5,000 to conduct e-cigarette enforcement checks to ensure vendors are not selling to minors.

If Molinaro vetoes any of the amendments, the Legislature can respond at its Dec. 17 meeting, which is also when it would approve the tax levy.

## The Highlands Current

### Dear Beacon Resident,

In 2015 we decided that our website and paper, which had been covering Cold Spring, should expand to Beacon, because there seemed such a strong connection between the artistic and civic life of the two communities. We even changed our name, from Philipstown.info to The Highlands Current, to reflect the change.

As a nonprofit, we rely on readers for 75 percent of the costs to publish our paper and website, which we distribute free of charge. (The rest comes from advertising revenue.) But most of our donors are still from Cold Spring and Garrison. If you enjoy the paper and our coverage of Beacon, please consider donating what you can. **Even \$10 is significant, especially if you have never given before,** because it signals your support and counts as a vote that we should continue. **See [highlandscurrent.org/support](http://highlandscurrent.org/support), text CURRENT to 44-321 or write us at 161 Main St., Cold Spring, NY 10516.**

Whether you donate or not, we are always open to feedback from Beacon readers. Email Chip Rowe, the managing editor, at [editor@highlandscurrent.org](mailto:editor@highlandscurrent.org) with thoughts you have about our coverage of the city, or any other ideas. What stories are we missing?

### The Current Staff

Our Beacon reporters work out of Beahive on Main Street



Look for our blue boxes outside Key Food, Beacon Natural Market and the Beacon Bread Factory





# The HIGHLANDS Current

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## LETTERS AND COMMENTS

### Bottini fraud

Regarding Bottini Fuel pleading guilty to transferring credits and refunds to the accounts of its owners and their friends ("Bottini Fuel Convicted of Fraud," Dec. 7): The accounting employees at the entities that overpaid Bottini didn't know they had overpaid? I would fire them. The Beacon City School District overpaid six times. I had a small business and knew if I had credits. I double-checked all my paid invoices from month to month and payment to payment.

Betty Ann Tommasini, *via Facebook*

*Editor's note: Ann Marie Quartironi, the deputy superintendent who oversees finances, said she was informed on Nov. 27 that the district would receive a check for \$10,375 from Bottini for five overpayments between Dec. 29 and Dec. 31, 2008, totaling \$5,240, plus a \$5,135 balance that was transferred in 2011 to an internal Bottini account. She said the district switched from oil to natural gas between 2009 and 2011, which could have resulted in the overlooked credits, but since the transactions occurred 10 years ago, the district has no records — the state only requires districts to keep them for six.*

No jail time for these crooks? Amazing. Anyone else would have been locked up.

Janice McMasters, *via Facebook*

### Doubts about timing

Good community theater, like tolerance, is great cultural medicine. I respect the volunteers and like and encourage the commitment and to generous financial contributors of the Philipstown Depot Theatre. It's perfectly fine to use John Patrick Shanley's *Doubt* and other art to illuminate challenging issues — for this we have an issue-rich culture ("A Stage Filled with Doubt," Dec. 7).

I also understand the play's stated premise of "certainty" versus "doubt" in its story of a Catholic school principal who suspects the parish priest of having an improper relationship with a student. But a Dickensian voice from my long-sainted father repeats in my mind: There is a time and place. Perhaps we can hold the show until Dec. 22 and 23 when my extended family is coming up.



## Pay Raises in Albany

By Chip Rowe

There are 213 men and women who serve in the state Senate and Assembly in Albany. The senators, such as Sue Serino, whose district includes the Highlands, and the members of the Assembly, such as Sandy Galef and Jonathan Jacobson, whose districts include Philipstown and Beacon, respectively, each earn \$79,500 annually. Those who live outside the Albany area also receive travel stipends, which have ranged for Galef from \$8,500 to \$13,000 annually since 2013. Serino has not claimed reimbursements and Jacobson only took office last month.

Unless a special session is called and the raises are voted down by Dec. 31, they will happen automatically, based on recommendations by a Compensation Committee created to determine how much state officials should earn. Specifically, legislators will make \$110,000 annually next year, \$120,000 in 2020 and \$130,000 in 2021. That will make them the highest paid state legislators in the nation, although if you calculate what \$79,500 in 1999 would be worth today accounting for inflation, it's about ... \$120,000.

There are caveats. Most legislators will no longer receive stipends of \$9,000 to \$41,500 annually if they hold a leadership post or chair a committee. Also, starting in 2020, outside income will be limited to 15 percent of the public salary.

Serino issued a statement about the raises, and we asked Galef and Jacobson

for their thoughts. Jacobson did not respond by our deadline.

### Sandy Galef

"It has been 20 years since there was any raise for state elected officials or state commissioners. Judges received raises a number of years ago. The plan presented by the commission recognizes the cost of living over these 20 years and the fact that these are basically full-time positions. I am generally supportive of the proposal but have not yet seen the final report."

### Sue Serino

"For years I have refused to accept taxpayer-funded travel reimbursements, and I have vehemently opposed a pay raise for Albany lawmakers. With residents across the state still struggling to make ends meet, and with legislative proposals looming in Albany that could drastically increase taxes, now is absolutely not the right time to give raises to politicians. What's worse, this process completely circumvented the voices of New Yorkers by bypassing the Legislature and the very people elected to represent them."

"I believe this proposal put forth by the pay commission creates a situation that will absolutely encourage lawmakers to become career politicians. For me, this job has always been about the people, not about the paycheck, and I will continue to put the needs of those I represent above all else. I urge the new leadership in Albany to find a way to bring this proposal to a vote before the Legislature so that New Yorkers get a real say in the process."

We'll need a bigger building.

It's not helpful to schedule and market a show that dramatically satirizes the members or tenets of any faith community during a holiday central to that faith. It's just not something I would do. However, if this is now acceptable scheduling for a small community theater, we may need a Dickens to sort this all out. God bless us, everyone.

Tim Donovan, *Garrison*

### Graffiti arrests

If the suspects in the Nazi graffiti case

haven't read *The Diary of a Young Girl*, by Anne Frank, it should be a mandatory part of any punishment ("Two Arrests in Nelsonville Graffiti Case," Dec. 7). And a written analysis, too.

Karen Phillips, *via Facebook*

Why weren't the two people arrested charged with a hate crime? Isn't that a charge that incorporates what they did?

Patricia Byron, *via Facebook*

*Editor's note: Robert Tendy, the Putnam County district attorney, said on Tuesday (Dec. 11) that because there is an ongoing investigation, "decisions regarding any [further] charges will be made at the appropriate time.... There are factual issues which at this time cannot be divulged."*

### Beacon development

In response to Theresa Kraft's letter about development in Beacon (Nov. 30), the current housing on the Main Street and toward the train station is horrific. It's so disappointing.

Cari Bailey, *via Facebook*

I wonder what the second generation of the colonial settlers said about the brick buildings erected during the industrial revolution.

Colin Cheyne, *via Facebook*

Every new building that has gone up in the last year in Beacon is a travesty.

Cynthia Fraley, *via Facebook*





Garrison resident Ray O'Rourke took this shot from the top of Bear Mountain and offered this Highlands haiku: The valley awakes / Draws white blanket to shoulder / Sleeps a bit longer.

# Updates to Past Stories

## Foam Cup Ban Back to Committee

At the Dec. 4 meeting of the Putnam County Legislature, a proposal to ban the use of foam plastic cups and cartons by chain restaurants was sent back to its Health Committee ("Foam Plastic Ban Goes to Putnam Legislature," Nov. 30).

Barbara Scuccimarra, who represents Philipstown on the County Legislature, requested the move. "Unfortunately we have some unanswered questions that some of the legislators are concerned with," she said. Scuccimarra, who chairs the Health Committee, will leave office on Dec. 31 after being defeated in the November election.

## Garrison School Will Ask Voters for Geothermal

The Garrison School Board heard about three scenarios at its Nov. 28 meeting for a capital project proposal that includes a high-efficiency heating and air-conditioning system as its largest expenditure ("Pivot Point," Oct. 5).

The board plans to present the proposal to voters in May. The scenarios were: (1) a hot-water heating system plus air conditioning (A/C) in the elementary school as part of a \$7 million proposal; (2) the hot-water system plus A/C in elementary and middle school classrooms at \$7.6 million; or (3) a geother-



Magazzino Italian Art Photo by Marco Anelli

mal heating system and A/C in the elementary school and A/C in middle school classrooms, at \$8.8 million. The school expects to receive about 10 percent of the cost from the state, with the rest borrowed and about \$900,000 taken from savings.

The consultants who prepared the numbers calculated the average annual increase in taxes on a \$500,000 house would be \$28 under the first proposal; \$52 under the second; and \$113 under the third. The board's Facilities Committee recommended presenting voters with Scenario 2 and the option of selecting Scenario 3.

## Town Board Pulls Back, Again, on Magazzino Zoning

The Philipstown Town Board, which planned on Dec. 6 to vote on revising the commercial-industrial zoning to include museums and art galleries, delayed action to get more details about a change at Magazzino, the Italian art space that inspired the plan ("Town Board Revives Magazzino

Zoning," Nov. 30).  
In September, the privately owned gallery and library on Route 9 handed over its operations to a newly formed nonprofit and began calling itself a "museum" and posting regular hours. Previously, it had described itself as an "art warehouse" and was open by appointment only.  
Supervisor Richard Shea said the board delayed the vote because "we're going to need some clarity on" Magazzino's status and the tax implications. "They might not be paying property taxes so we probably wouldn't be doing this" rezoning, he said.  
Magazzino's precise nature "has not been clear, really, ever," said Town Board Member Nancy Montgomery. "Let's get some clarification."

### HELP WANTED

The Village of Cold Spring is seeking a **FULL TIME LABORER** for the Highway Department. Responsibilities include garbage and recycling, snow removal, lawn mowing and maintenance, street maintenance, etc. CDL preferred but not required.

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# HELP WANTED

## Philipstown Recreation Department

Are you looking to become part of a fun and exciting team? The Philipstown Recreation Department is hiring for the following two positions. To apply, please send your resume to Amber Stickle, PO Box 155, Cold Spring, NY 10516 or email to [amber@philipstownrecreation.com](mailto:amber@philipstownrecreation.com). For more information, please call 845-424-4618

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- PART-TIME TEEN PROGRAM SPECIALIST -** Work involves developing and implementing teen program offerings for the community. Hours to include nights and weekends. We are looking for an enthusiastic and flexible person to help build these program. Candidates must have a high school diploma or the equivalent. Experience with teens is a plus!



# Balloon Test a Bust for Cell Tower

*After seeing proposed height, Philipstown says no deal*

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

A balloon test punctured hopes of settling the Philipstown cell tower lawsuit, and a trial looms, Supervisor Richard Shea announced Thursday (Dec. 6), at the Town Board's formal monthly meeting.

Homeland Towers and its partner Verizon, who planned to build the cell tower on a hillside off Vineyard Road, near Route 9, sued Philipstown in federal court in February after the town denied their application.

The two sides negotiated a settlement and, this fall, appeared to reach a compromise: The town would allow a 190-foot tower (10 feet higher than first proposed) on the same private property but in a different location, closer to Route 9. Further, Homeland Towers would construct a second tower on rented space at the town highway garage instead of on a ridge in Nelsonville overlooking the Cold Spring Cemetery — conceivably ending a separate Homeland lawsuit against Nelsonville, which refused to allow a tower on the ridge.

A balloon test of the proposed Vineyard Road site in late November to demonstrate the tower's height killed the potential deal, Shea said Thursday. It convinced the Town Board that the relocated Philipstown tower "was not the way to go," he said. "It's grotesque. The need for this just has not been

proven" and town officials want that need established "before we go having this 190-foot tower as our welcome mat to Philipstown.

"It feels like these things are going to be obsolete in the very near future," Shea added. (Some newer technologies do not rely on large towers.) "In my mind, the tower companies are scrambling to make money at our expense."

Homeland Towers blamed the town for thwarting a settlement.

In a letter written the day after the board met, Robert Gaudio, Homeland's attorney, protested to Judge Vincent Briccetti, one of the federal jurists overseeing the case, that "after dragging out settlement discussions for over eight months and demanding another balloon test, other evidence, and alternative" proposals, town officials, "without explanation, declined to settle the matter, completely contrary to" their earlier stance.

The out-of-court proceedings have also involved about a dozen residents who live near the proposed Route 9 tower. In June, the group petitioned the court to be allowed to intervene in the case. Gaudio objected, asserting they sought to raise "issues which will unnecessarily delay and complicate the litigation."

The town's attorney, Terry Rice, drafted a letter to the judge to support the residents, but, by his own admission, never



In a photo provided by a resident, a red test balloon shows the approximate height of the proposed cell tower (190 feet) looking north on Route 9 opposite the entrance to Magazzino.

sent it — prompting the residents to complain that he, too, was rebuffing them and overlooking Shea's instructions to include them in the case.

Rice, who was assigned to the suit by Philipstown's insurers, told Judge Briccetti on Dec. 6 that he had held off involving the residents while settlement talks continued. "Now that those negotiations have failed to produce a resolution," he endorsed the residents' intervention and said it could help resolve the conflict.

## Notes from the Cold Spring Village Board

*Meetings of Dec. 4 and 11*

By Michael Turton

At the Dec. 11 meeting of the Cold Spring Village Board, Mayor Dave Merandy presented Nico Dellavalle, a cadet with the Putnam County Sheriff's Department, with a certificate of appreciation for his work as a parking enforcement officer last summer. "You did a great job," he said, noting the village had not received a single complaint about his work. Merandy also gave Dellavalle a letter of reference, adding he would be happy to welcome him back next summer.

A Market Street resident asked on Dec. 11 to be compensated for the loss of valuables caused by basement flooding last summer. The village has been advised by its insurance company that it is under no obligation to do so. The house is located within a flood zone.

The board's annual reorganization meeting on Dec. 4 included more than 30 routine reappointments to various village positions, boards and committees. The only item postponed for the new year was the 2019 fee schedule, which covers everything from building department fees and park rentals to fines, permits and docking charges.

For more, see [highlandscurrent.org](http://highlandscurrent.org).

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**Friday, Dec. 14, 8:30 p.m.**  
Tony Trischka's "Of A Winter's Night"

**Saturday, Dec. 15, 6 p.m.**  
Last Minute Soulmates - Free

**Saturday, Dec. 15, 8:30 p.m.**  
Chris O'Leary Band

**Sunday, Dec. 16, 11:30 a.m.**  
Edukated Fleas - Free

**Sunday, Dec. 16, 7 p.m.**  
Doctor Magkneetoe  
also Ceesar (Classic R&R Show)

**Thursday, Dec. 20, 6 p.m.**  
Youth Open Mic - Free

**Friday, Dec. 21, 7 p.m.**  
Lucky Luna - Free

**Friday, Dec. 21, 8:30 p.m.**  
Costellos Christmas Show  
w/ Open Book & other guests

**Saturday, Dec. 22, 8:30 p.m.**  
"A Very Slambovian Christmas"  
Slambovian Circus of Dreams

**Sunday, Dec. 23, 11:30 a.m.**  
Tony DePaolo - Free

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## NEWS BRIEFS

## Lions Club Discount Card

The Cold Spring Lions Club has issued its 2019 discount card to raise funds for scholarships and projects to benefit nonprofits such as the Philipstown Food Pantry and Guiding Eyes for the Blind.

The card, which costs \$20, provides 10 percent off at Angelina's Pizza, Cathryn's Tuscan Grill, the Cold Spring Depot, Garrison Restaurant & Pizzeria, Hudson Hil's, The Main Course, Round Up Texas BBQ and Perch. It also offers 25 percent off at Silver Spoon Cafe, a free dessert at Riverview, and a glass of house wine at Le Brasserie Bouchon.

In addition, it includes a 10 percent discount on purchases at Antipodean Books, Zara's Cleaners, DrugWorld, Romeo & Juliet, Bijou Galleries, The Country Goose, Cockburn Farm, and advertising in *The Current*.

Cards can be purchased at DrugWorld, Romeo & Juliet, the Country Goose and Zara's Cleaners, or online at [coldspringlions.org/card](http://coldspringlions.org/card). There are restrictions on some offers, and the cards expire Dec. 31, 2019. For more information, call 914-552-5547.

## Beacon Hosts

A group of residents has created Beacon Hosts to raise awareness of what they consider the benefits to the community and local businesses of short-term rentals through online services such as Airbnb. For information, email Graham Lawlor at [graham.lawlor@gmail.com](mailto:graham.lawlor@gmail.com).

## Nominate a Poet Laureate

Arts Mid-Hudson is accepting nominations through Jan. 2 for the 2019 Dutchess County Poet Laureate appointment. The first poet laureate, in 2016,



**LET THERE BE LIGHT** — The Village of Nelsonville held its Christmas tree and menorah lighting ceremony on Dec. 2 at Nelsonville Park led by Mayor Bill O'Neill (center left), the Rev. Doris Chandler, pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Philipstown, and Adele Stern, vice president of the Philipstown Reform Synagogue. After the ceremony, hot chocolate and cookies were served at Village Hall.

*Photo by Michael Bowman*

was Robert Kelly, followed by Bettina "Poet Gold" Wilkerson in 2017 and 2018. The arts group manages the process and makes a recommendation to the county executive, who makes the appointment. To submit a nomination, see [artsmidhudson.org/dc-poetlaureate](http://artsmidhudson.org/dc-poetlaureate).

## Dutchess Forms Climate Task Force

A task force that is pursuing certification for Dutchess County in the state's Climate Smart Communities program will hold its first quarterly meeting at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 20, at the Department of Planning and Development, 85 Civic Cen-

ter Plaza, in Poughkeepsie.

The committee has eight members appointed by County Executive Marc Molinaro and eight appointed by Gregg Pulver, chair of the county Legislature. They include Audrey Friedrichsen of Scenic Hudson and Melisa Everett of Sustainable Hudson Valley.

## 4-H Sponsors Giving Tree

Members of the Cold Spring 4-H Club, which is open to children and teenagers ages 8 to 18, have created a Giving Tree at C&E Hardware at 158 Main St. Philipstown residents are encouraged to visit the store to select a tag from the tree and buy a gift for a child whose family is a client of the nonprofit CoveCare Center, which serves Putnam County.

## Winter Seed Sale

The Putnam Highlands Audubon Society has launched its winter bird seed sale. Orders are due by Jan. 7 and pickup will be the morning of Jan. 12 at Hubbard Lodge, 2920 Route 9, in Cold Spring. To download a form or place an order online, see [putnamhighlandsaudubon.org](http://putnamhighlandsaudubon.org).

## Grants for Local Groups

The state Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) recently awarded \$902,888 in grants for 24 projects in communities along the Hudson River, including \$37,700 to Hudson River Sloop Clearwater to develop a River Climate Change Curriculum Project for Newburgh and Kingston and \$12,950 to the National Audubon Society to replace and upgrade educational equipment and teaching tools at its Constitution Marsh center in Garrison.

*(Continued on Page 8)*

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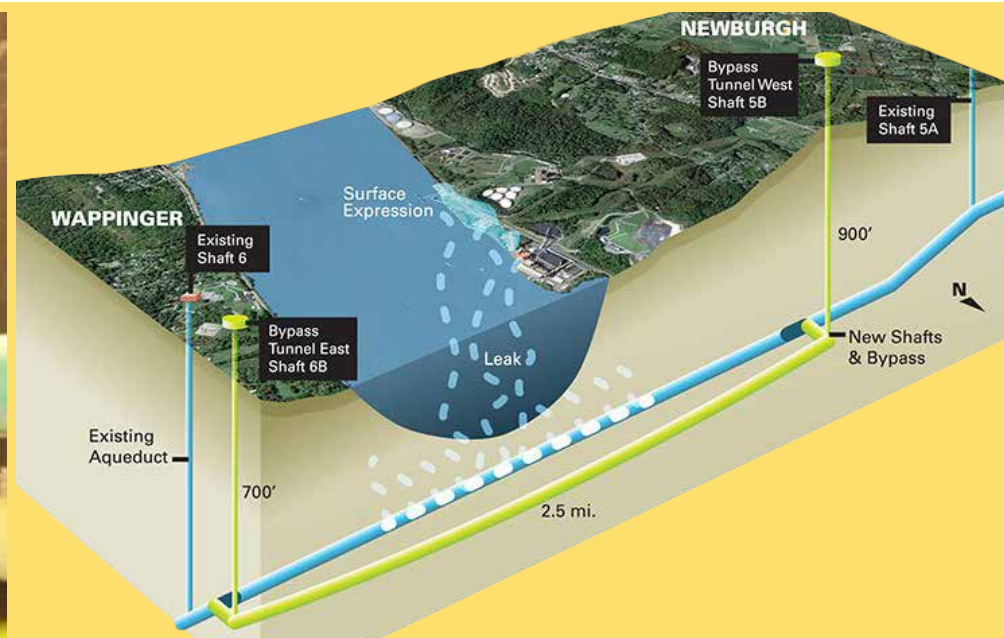
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## NEWS BRIEFS



**HALFWAY THERE** — The New York City Department of Environmental Protection says it has reached the halfway point of a 2.5-mile tunnel being drilled from Newburgh to Wappinger that will connect on both sides to the 85-mile Delaware Aqueduct, which links four Catskill reservoirs with the city. The project, projected to cost \$1 billion and continue through 2023, will allow the DEP to bypass portions of the Delaware tunnel that are leaking beneath the Hudson River so they can be repaired. The tunnel is being created by a boring machine that has been dubbed Nora, for Nora Barney, the first woman in the U.S. to earn an engineering degree. The bore is presently about a half mile west of the Hudson. *NYC Water*

(Continued from Page 7)

## Names in the News

CoveCare Center has named Eric Toth as its new chief executive officer, succeeding Diane Russo, who retired after 20 years with the nonprofit agency, which provides mental health and substance abuse treatment in Putnam County. Toth has been with Family Services of Westchester for the

past 18 years, most recently as vice president of program operations.... Putnam Service Dogs, a Brewster-based nonprofit that trains service dogs for people with physical disabilities other than blindness, named three board members: Vincent D'Ambrosio, business development officer for Hudson Valley Federal Credit Union; Justin Killian, branch manager of Trustco Bank in Mahopac, and Dave Bruen, who recently retired from his insurance company, Bruen,

Deldin and Didio. It seeks two more members; contact Nancy Teague at 917-449-5359 or nteague@putnamservicedogs.org.

## HHLT Adds Parking at Preserve

The Hudson Highlands Land Trust opened a parking area on Nov. 29 at its Granite Mountain Preserve in Putnam

Valley that can be accessed from Peekskill Hollow Road. It has 12 spaces and will soon include an information kiosk. Hudson River Valley Greenway provided funds for the parking area and trail improvements.

The land trust also plans to purchase an adjacent parcel that will expand the preserve from 358 to more than 500 acres. Hiking is not allowed while it upgrades and reroutes the trails, but guided tours can be arranged. Email [info@hhlt.org](mailto:info@hhlt.org).

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# The Calendar

## Beacon's Dance Company

*Highlands teens get taste of professional life*



The Dutchess Dance Company | Photo by Rem Dinio

By Alison Rooney

In 1994, Valerie Feit, then owner and artistic director of the Ballet Arts Studio in Beacon, felt the teenage dancers who attended classes there needed to know what was expected of professionals.

So she founded the Dutchess Ballet Company, which is now called the Dutchess Dance Company and under the direction of Alex Bloomstein, who purchased the studio from Feit in 2006. On Friday, Dec. 21, its 16 members and 40 other dancers will perform *Winter Tidings* at 5:30 p.m. at Rombout Middle School, 88 Matteawan Road. Admission is free. (See [balletartsstudio.com](http://balletartsstudio.com).)

Each year, Bloomstein invites promising dancers to join the company, which operates separately from the studio. Each must be able to commit to a minimum of three ballet classes and one modern dance class per week, plus a Saturday ballet session that can last up to four hours. The dancers must be at least 12 years old because the bones in the feet usually aren't strong enough in children to support dancing on the toes (on *pointe*).

"What they learn about themselves: discipline, commitment — there's nothing like dancing," says Bloomstein. "Young dancers develop serious strength, artistic, intellectual and physical strength. That's the real goal here, to give them a sense of themselves."

The company has a hierarchy similar to those used by professional troupes, with apprentices, corps, demi-soloists, soloists and principals. "We bring in professional choreographers each year to set original choreography on them," Bloomstein says. "They do a ballet piece each year and also a barefoot, modern piece. Before Title IX [a federal law that in 1972 required equal opportunities for female athletes], dance was sports for girls. They're

(Continued on Page 11)

## Fantastic Winter

*Beacon show plays with Gaelic myth*

By Alison Rooney

In 2015 Kari Adelaide mounted a group show in Brooklyn called *Lesser Deities of Summer*. When Paola Oxo and Kirsten Deirup asked this year if she would curate a show at their Mother Gallery in Beacon, Adelaide's thoughts turned to ... winter.

*Wind-Scoured Scribes*, which runs through Feb. 2, was inspired by a Gaelic god named Cailleach Bheur, the hag of winter and patroness of wild deer who is found in myths from Ireland, Scotland and the Isle of Man.

Adelaide sent parts of the story to nine artists with an invitation to create a work or works for the show. Among the responses were pan-gendered winged beings from



A sculpture by Francesca DiMattio at the center of the *Wind-Scoured Scribes* exhibit at Mother Gallery in Beacon

Photo provided

## INSPIRATION

For her Mother Gallery show, Kari Adelaide asked nine artists to respond to this text:

### Cailleach Bheur

The scribe aimed to explore the imprint of wind, and named the early dark falling as storm formation. After arriving in body as a blue hag of winter, some trees remained with calm limbs even though their branches were scoured. Others bent fully to the ground without falling, but none bowed to the hag before touching the earth. The hag imagined the white-dreaming weight of ice before she hit the frozen ground with her staff. In the midst of the storm, we see the wind-scoured scribe standing in the night sky and imagine the early snow falling.

Hannah Barrett; Vishnu, the Hindu goddess who calmed the storm, from Jesse Bransford; and Pythia, an oracle, from Laurel Sparks. Many of the artists combined mystery and storytelling; some works are based on Gaelic mythic figures who controlled the seasons, while others

came up with other and/or new deities.

That pleased Adelaide, who noted that "a lot of my curating favors natural and fantastical elements. So much lore has been lost. Most Western literature and art tends to think of fairies and elves as diminutive, but if you look at the Gaelic

and Icelandic concepts of them, so much is different. They had so much power, not bound to time, but to seasons. There was so much listening to the land and the enchantment of the natural world."

The most rewarding part of being a cu-

(Continued on Page 10)





"Fool's Headdress,"  
by Afruz Amighi



"First Draft,"  
by Hannah Barrett

## Fantastic Winter *(Continued on Page 9)*

rator, Adelaide says, is when the artwork arrives and it's time to figure out how to display it. In some cases, such as this show, she wasn't sure what to expect. "Each piece has its own energy, history and process," she says. "The work together provokes interpretation. It's about how they all interact, and how they stand on their own."

There was excitement, Adelaide says, from some of the New York City-based artists at the size of Mother Gallery, compared to the diminutive spaces where their art usually hangs in Manhattan and Brooklyn. "Many of them could wind up in Beacon someday themselves," she predicts. In fact, she met Oxo at the wedding of a friend in Brooklyn who now lives in Beacon.

Mother Gallery, located at 8 W. Main St., No. 7, is open Thursday through Saturday from noon to 5 p.m., or by appointment. See [mothergallery.art](http://mothergallery.art) or call 845-236-6039.



"Pythia," by Laurel Sparks

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The Dutchess Dance Company | Photo by Rem Dinio

## Beacon Dance *(Continued on Page 9)*

like a group getting together for athletics, going for a common goal."

Some dancers join the company hoping to become professionals; currently six girls and a boy who were once members are being trained in New York City and elsewhere, he said.

"When I get a dancer with the desire, intelligence, talent and physical instrument needed, I say to parents that, after a certain point, their child cannot stay in Beacon; they must continue training in New York City," he says. "Several students have received scholarships, including one at the Joffrey Ballet and another at The School of American Ballet."

Those who aspire to other careers can create performance portfolios to include with their college applications, and many attend schools with strong dance programs.

Katie Langer, 17, a senior at Haldane, has been studying ballet at the studio for seven years, after taking classes elsewhere with Katie Bissinger, the associate artistic director at Ballet Arts.

"It's pretty and graceful," Langer says of ballet. "We rehearse so much that when we perform, we don't have to think about the steps. By that time, they're just in you. My friends don't realize how much practice it takes, how hard we work. It's not as easy as it looks."

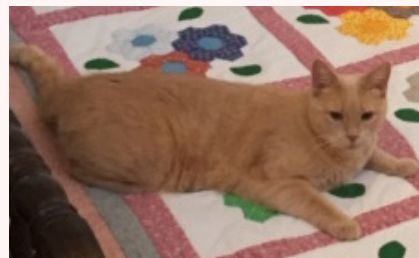
Hannah Smith, 14, a freshman at Beacon High School, has been taking ballet since she was 3. She says ballet "helps me not get stressed out about things outside of dance. Performing is the most fun part. It's a way of expressing yourself."

When Langer adds that both girls are "quiet people, and dance is a way to get out of quietness," Smith agrees: "There are girls at my school I didn't know existed, but then I met them here."



Hannah Smith and Katie Langer

Photo by A. Rooney



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It's never too early to start saving up for your down payment and closing costs. Cutting out unnecessary spending and setting up automatic deductions from your paychecks are two easy ways to give your savings a boost.

#### 4. Create a wish list.

What do you want in your future home? Jot down your must-haves concerning size, location and features. You can also include some deal breakers to help guide you in your search.

Are you looking to buy your first home soon? With the right help, the process will be less overwhelming. Reach out today for step-by-step guidance or a referral to a trusted lender in our area.



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# Hoppy Holidays!

*A visit to a new brewery north of Beacon*

By Michael Turton

A stone's throw from the hamlet of New Hamburg, north of Beacon, the popularity of a 15-month-old brewery is making its owners wish its production line was a little less micro.

"Keeping up to demand is the biggest challenge," said Chris Woolston, who owns the Obercreek Brewing Co. with Phil Shaw and Kyle Miller. "Our size makes it difficult to maintain sufficient inventory. It takes a lot of juggling."

Founded in September 2017, Obercreek is one of a growing number of small breweries. In the past five years the number in the U.S. has more than tripled, to about 3,800, while in New York it has reached 400, the most since 1876.

Obercreek's quantities may be limited, but the variety is not. Its on-site bar keeps 11 beers in rotation and has another six it offers occasionally.

"We pride ourselves on making a variety of styles well," Woolston said. "We do a lot of different hoppy beers, and farmhouse ales."

The grains and fruits used in brewing are sourced from the Hudson Valley whenever possible, and the hops come from Obercreek Farm, other parts of New York, Australia and New Zealand. "Using



a variety of hops yields the greatest variety of flavors," Woolston said.

On Dec. 8, the menu included French Press, a coffee stout; Emergence, a farm ale with black currants; Complex Math, a double India Pale Ale (IPA); Simple Math, an IPA; and Assent, a dark ale with black currants that is the brewery's first bottled beer.

Some Obercreek beers are specially aged. Assent is aged in Millbrook Vineyards barrels. Hillrock Whiskey barrels are used to add flavor to Midnight, an Imperial stout, and barrels from Kent Falls Brewing Co. enhance production of a Flemish-style sour.

For now, Woolston said production is limited to three, 31.5-gallon barrels per week which can be ordered by the pint or

taken home in growlers.

The three men met through a shared interest in home brewing. Each has his own reason for diving in. "I wanted to make and share great, Vermont-quality beer, close to home," said Shaw.

Miller was drawn to the brewing itself. "I enjoy the beermaking process, from the scientific techniques involved to the mystification of wild fermentation."

For Woolston it was about possibilities. The business "could go in so many directions," he says. "From local customers to the country or the world."

The brewery is a separate business from Obercreek Farm, which produces organic vegetables, flowers and herbs on 14 acres.



Clockwise, from left: Chris Woolston, Phil Shaw and Kyle Miller; some Obercreek beers are aged in whiskey or wine barrels; Assent is the brewery's first bottled beer.

Photos by M. Turton



That includes an acre where Dominick Vigliotti grows eight varieties of hops that he sells to the brewery and home brewers.

Vigliotti says he is a fan of the brewery not just because it buys his hops. "They changed my palate," he says. "I'd never had currant beer before. The quality opened my eyes to what beer should be."

Obercreek Brewing, located at 59 Marlorville Road in Wappingers Falls, is open from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. on Fridays and 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturdays.

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**DECEMBER 23 - THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**  
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• 10:30 a.m. Worship Service (Christmas Joy Offering will be received)

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**DECEMBER 30 - FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS**  
• No Adult Study  
• 10:30 a.m. Worship Service - Carols & Seasonal Hymns



# Beacon's Building Blocks

*Once dominant, the local brick industry has vanished*



Detail of brick work in Beacon

By Michael Turton

Mike Cullinan marvels at Beacon's beautiful old buildings and until a few weeks ago wondered where all the brick came from.

For the 75-year-old Cold Spring retiree, who began work as a mason at age 14, answering that question became a mission.

While tracing the origin of the millions of bricks that form Beacon's churches, fire houses, industrial buildings, homes and Main Street, he discovered that the city was once the epicenter of the nation's most prominent brick-making region.

At its peak around 1910, more than 120 brick factories dotted the banks of the Hudson River from Haverstraw in Rockland County to Mechanicville, about 20 miles north of Albany. They employed more than 10,000 people. (Andy van der Poel, a brick collector who lives in Kingston, has identified more than 370 Hudson Valley varieties. See [brickcollecting.com/andy.htm](http://brickcollecting.com/andy.htm).)

The first modern brickmakers appeared in the Hudson Valley near Albany in the 1650s and prospered because clay was so abundant along the river. Deposits that went 240 feet down were discovered and were mined just north of Newburgh. Transportation was also readily available to take the brick to New York City, first by boat, later by rail.

By the 1860s, Haverstraw had 41 brick factories, and Beacon was not far behind. By the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, there were at least 38 brickyards between Chelsea, 3 miles to the north of Beacon, and Dutchess Junction, to the south. Dennings Point Brick Works and the Brockway Brick Co. were two of the largest factories on the river.

Clay was discovered at Denning's Point in 1880. By the 1920s, the factory there was firing 400,000 bricks a day. It closed in 1939, moving north to the Brockway brick yard and new clay deposits.

Today, Dennings Point is part of Hudson Highlands State Park. The building that housed the factory power plant is now the Beacon Institute for Rivers and Estuaries. Ruins of the decaying factory and its kilns can still be seen.

The Brockway Brick Co. was located upriver from Dennings Point, directly west of present-day Dutchess Stadium. The only remnant of that once bustling factory is the rusted trestle bridge over the Metro-North tracks. Broadway bricks can still be found on the low, undeveloped lands west of the tracks.

The 130-foot-deep clay at Dutchess Junction made it ideal for brick production, and more than 25 brickyards operated there between the 1840s and 1930, supported by a robust community that included a train station, ferry, freight docks, repair shops, brass factory and homes.

The industry got a boost after the Great Fire of 1835 that destroyed 600 buildings over 50 acres in lower Manhattan, many of which were of frame construction. The fire fed a demand for fire-resistant building materials; brick was less costly and more readily available than marble or brownstone. A second great fire 10 years later led to a New York City law requiring that "party walls," common to adjoining buildings, be made of brick or stone.

Brickmaking thrived along the Hudson for parts of four different centuries but by the World War I the industry was in serious decline. Steel and concrete ate into profits, and only a handful of factories held on. By the mid-1940s, fewer than 12 remained in the Hudson Valley.

Cullinan says he continues to marvel at the number of brick buildings in Beacon and their construction. "The craftsmanship, the detailed brickwork, the time it took," he said. "You don't see that kind of brickwork anymore."

Today, none of the region's 120-plus brick factories remains in operation; the Hudson Valley's last brick was fired at East Kingston in 1979.

*Thanks to Mike Cullinan for sharing his research.*



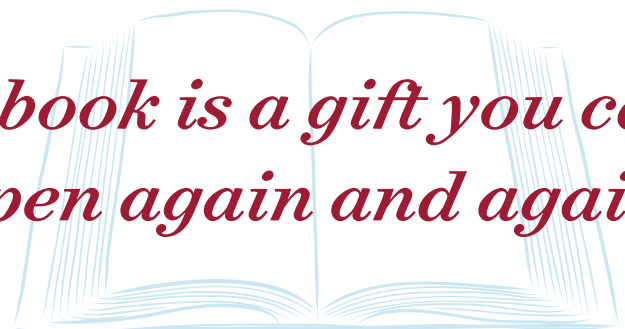
A few of Beacon's brick buildings



Mike Cullinan at the remains of a Dennings Point Brick Works kiln

Photos by M. Turton

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Thoughtfully designed home offers nine-foot ceilings, two-story foyer and butler's pantry. WEB# PO1510476 | Garrison | \$667,000



#### PEACE AND TRANQUILITY

Beautiful serene setting. Family room with fireplace, true master suite. Deck and hot tub. WEB# PO1475578 | Garrison | \$569,000

COLD SPRING BROKERAGE 845.265.5500

HOULIHANLAWRENCE.COM

# Owners: Beacon Theater Nearly Finished

*Expect to offer 'intimate movie-going experience' starting early next year*

By Jeff Simms

The movies will soon return to Main Street in Beacon, according to the developers who have been working for two years to reopen the historic theater, and they insist it will be worth the wait.

"This will be an intimate movie-going experience that you're going to remember when you leave," said Jason Schuler, one of the partners in the Beacon Theater project at 445 Main St. Schuler also owns and operates More Good at 383 Main St. along with Scott Brenner, who is a theater partner, as well.

Brendan McAlpine, the project developer, said he's confident the theater will open early next year.

"We're probably 30 to 45 days out," said McAlpine, whose development group restored The Roundhouse nearly 10 years ago. "We're being incredibly careful with every detail here. We could have slapped it together and opened a year ago; instead, it's about allowing the concept to evolve and then executing it."

McAlpine described the theater's feel as "boutiquey" — not too formal but posh enough to "bring back the grandeur of going to the movies."

The 80-seat and 25-seat theaters are nearly completed, he said. A third room that will host private screenings and events will likely open later in the year and serve as a home for Story Screen, a film club created in 2015 by Mike Burdge, the fourth and final partner in the venture.

Story Screen had mostly settled into a makeshift space at More Good in 2016 for its screenings when the four men began talking movies and Main Street. Why not create their ideal theater in Beacon?

"I love going to movie theaters," said Burdge. "I know a lot of people don't because there's a lot of things that go wrong, but when you're building one, you can control the rules. This is what it can be like."

The two screens will show first-run movies, complemented by independent and locally produced films, documentaries, foreign and vintage films. There's even talk of Saturday morning cartoons.

Constructed as an opera house in 1886, the building at 445 Main was replaced in 1934 with a 1,200 seat venue, according to the Beacon Historical Society. That theater closed in 1968 but was purchased and rehabilitated in the mid-1990s by the Everlasting Covenant Church. A theater company, 4th Wall Productions, bought the building in 2010 with plans to create an 800-seat performance space.

The city has had a number of movie houses: The Roosevelt at 288 Main St. had 1,000 seats but closed in the 1980s; Family Cinema was at Route 52 and Main; and an establishment called the Apollo Theater is believed to have operated in the city.



Mike Burdge and Brendan McAlpine in the 25-seat screening room



The theater still contains relics from earlier days, such as these restroom signs.



A faint sign for the original Wonderbar can still be seen on the building.

Photos by J. Simms

After 4th Wall fell behind on its mortgage payments, McAlpine's development company bought the Beacon Theater in 2015.

Over the last three years, he said, the partners "took the building down to bricks and put it back together again." That process led to pleasant surprises such as the lobby's original marble flooring, discovered beneath a layer of vinyl tiles, and some hiccups. ("Who knew a popcorn warming bin would cost \$4,500?" McAlpine said.)

Harry's Hot Sandwiches had been next

door but closed earlier this year, allowing the theater partners to lease that space for a lounge they'll call Wonderbar, named for the nightclub that occupied the building's second floor in the 1930s and 1940s.

"The project has grown organically," McAlpine said. "All I knew was I wanted to do a theater. We've progressed from possibly doing live theater, to a single auditorium with 250 seats, to three smaller theaters. We're going to try to appeal to as wide an audience as we can."





# THE Fight Scene

Haldane Drama presented two performances of *Romeo and Juliet* this past weekend (Dec. 8 and 9) that included a swordfight in Act III choreographed with assistance from Susana Montoya Quinchia of the Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival. Here, Romeo's best friend, Mercutio (played by Quinn Petkus, in red), battles with Tybalt (played by William Speziale), who had come looking for Romeo (Justin Roffman) but is goaded by Mercutio (1-2). Romeo attempts to step between the men to play peacemaker (3) but Tybalt stabs Mercutio (4), who dies in Romeo's arms (5). Enraged, Romeo kills Tybalt (6), who is Juliet's cousin, and he is banished.

Photos by Ross Corsair





## Small, Good Things

## A Condensed History of Flan

By Joe Dizney



We have the Romans, borrowing

kitchen skills from the Greeks, to thank for the alchemy of egg-and-milk-based wonders known as custard, or flan.

We have the French to thank for crème and crème caramel, the haute version of custard in which caramelized sugar is poured into an uncooked, sweetened, vanilla-flavored base.

Crème caramel is sometimes cooked stovetop but more often it's prepared in the oven. It additionally usually calls for a water bath — the partial submersion of the cooking pan in another pan partially filled with hot water. This is a culinary

fail-safe as the process can be a delicate operation: temperature fluctuations of just 5 to 10 degrees can lead to curdling. (The water bath slows heat transfer and makes it easier to control the process.)

The objective is to obtain smooth-but-set cream custard with a liquid caramel base. Once the custard is set and cooled, it is inverted onto a serving plate and the caramel sauce, now on top, spills down the sides, hence the alternate French name, crème caramel renversée. Flan is a French word used to describe the exact same dish. It was borrowed from Spain.

This recipe, adapted from the Barefoot Contessa, Ina Garten, uses sweetened condensed milk and evaporated milk, meaning you don't have to use sugar (the caramel sauce supplies plenty) or heavy cream (which she replaces with mascarpone).

For this version, maple syrup adds a Northeastern accent and the canned pumpkin puree is superior for this recipe as it contains less water and fiber. Do not substitute canned pumpkin pie filling, which is sweetened and spiced. Spiced pecans are an optional but worthy holiday garnish (see the recipe at [highlandscurrent.org/maple-flan](http://highlandscurrent.org/maple-flan)).

## Maple Pumpkin Flan



## FOR THE PUMPKIN FLAN:

14 ounces sweetened condensed milk  
12 ounces evaporated milk  
1 cup unsweetened pumpkin puree  
½ cup mascarpone  
5 large eggs, at room temperature  
1 ½ teaspoon vanilla extract  
¼ teaspoon maple extract (optional)  
1 ½ teaspoon ground cinnamon  
¼ teaspoon ground allspice  
Grated zest of one orange (organic, unsprayed)  
Five-Spiced Candied Pecans for garnish (optional)

## FOR THE MAPLE CARAMEL:

¾ cup sugar  
⅓ cup dark amber maple syrup  
⅓ cup water  
½ teaspoon salt (kosher or sea)

1. **For the caramel:** Add sugar, maple syrup and water to a small, heavy-duty saucepan. Swirl pan to combine the ingredients — do not stir. Cook over medium without stirring until a candy thermometer reads 230 degrees. (Be sure to cook to 230. If you overdo it, add a tablespoon or two of water to lower temperature and cook it back again to 230.) Immediately remove from heat, sprinkle in salt and pour into an 8-inch cake pan with sides at least 2 inches high. Don't use a springform pan. You want a sealed and, if possible, seamless inside edge. Dedicated steel flan pans are available and allow you to make the caramel sauce directly in the pan. Cool to room temperature (about 30 minutes).

2. **For the flan:** Preheat oven to 350. Using an electric mixer with a whip attachment (or by hand in a medium-sized bowl with a whisk), mix sweetened condensed milk, evaporated milk, canned pumpkin and mascarpone until smooth. Whisk in eggs, vanilla extract, cinnamon, allspice and orange zest.

3. Place cake pan with caramel in a large roasting pan. Carefully and slowly pour the custard over the back of a large spoon or spatula into the cake pan, over the caramel. Pouring it over a spoon or spatula will disperse the liquid so as not to disturb the caramel as it would if poured in a steady stream.

4. Carefully add boiling water to the roasting pan to reach halfway up the outside of the cake or flan pan. Bake on middle rack of oven until just barely set (about 70 to 75 minutes). When done it will be slightly jiggly in the center and set around the edges. Remove pan from the water bath and let cool completely on a wire rack. Chill 3 to 4 hours or overnight.

5. Flan can be made up to 3 days in advance and refrigerated. Before serving, run a sharp knife around the outside of the pan to release it. Lay a serving platter upside down over top of the pan; using both hands, quickly flip pan and platter over together. Holding both, shake to release flan. If it doesn't release easily, break the airlock on one side of the pan near an edge with a finger or thin knife. You should feel — and hear — the flan release. Don't rush it. Slice into wedges. Garnish with whole or chopped Five-Spiced Candied Pecans. Happy holidays.

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## 7 LITTLE WORDS

1. BLOCKCHAIN | 2. RIBS | 3. DESCEND | 4. FURNISHING  
5. BRUNCHES | 6. PETRIFY | 7. MULTIPLIES

ANSWERS TO THE PUZZLE ON PAGE 21



# 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 15

### Cookies & Cocoa with Santa

BEACON

10 a.m. – 1 p.m. Tompkins Hose Co.  
13 South Ave. | [lewistompkinshose.com](http://lewistompkinshose.com)

SUN 16

### Breakfast with Santa

COLD SPRING

8 – 11 a.m. Cold Spring Firehouse  
154 Main St. | 845-265-3611

Meet Santa and enjoy a buffet breakfast, with proceeds benefiting the Cold Spring Fire Co. Ages 12 and older. *Cost: \$8 (seniors \$6, children, \$5, children ages 3 and younger free)*

SUN 16

### Holiday House Tours

BEACON

3 – 6 p.m. Mount Gulian  
145 Sterling St. | 845-831-8172  
[mountgulian.org](http://mountgulian.org)

Each room will be decorated in a period style, with 18th-century harpsichord music performed by The Ministers of Apollo. *Cost: \$10 (\$8 senior, \$6 child, members free)*

SUN 16

### Holiday Caroling

COLD SPRING

1 – 3 p.m. The Gift Hut | 86 Main St.

Kat and Stephen Selman perform holiday classics.



Kat Selman



Christmas Cookies

TUES 18

### Holiday Cookie Decorating

GARRISON

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

Children are invited to decorate (and eat) cookies. Registration requested. *Free*

THURS 20

### Carols and Wine

BEACON

6:30 p.m. Oak Vino  
389 Main St. | [oakvino.com](http://oakvino.com)

Sing-a-long with the neighborhood at this annual gathering.

SAT 22

### Beary Merry Holiday Party

BEAR MOUNTAIN

10:30 a.m. Trailside Zoo  
3006 Seven Lakes Drive  
[trailsidezoo.org](http://trailsidezoo.org)

Meet at the bear den to make treats for the bears and watch them explore their decorated enclosure. *Cost: \$1 per person*

SAT 22

### Cold Spring Aglow

COLD SPRING

5 – 7 p.m. Main Street

The sidewalks of Cold Spring will be lined with 1,300 candle-lit paper lanterns.

SUN 23

### North Highlands Santa Run

PHILIPSTOWN

Noon – 3 p.m.

Santa's sleigh makes stops to visit with children along two routes. See [highlandscurrent.org/santa](http://highlandscurrent.org/santa) for times and stops.

## HOLIDAY PERFORMANCES

SAT 15

### Hudson Valley Philharmonic

POUGHKEEPSIE

2 p.m. Bardavon | 35 Market St.  
845-473-2072 | [bardavon.org](http://bardavon.org)

The philharmonic will perform selections from Handel's *Messiah*. *Cost: \$20 to \$50*

SAT 15

### Greater Newburgh Symphony Orchestra

NEWBURGH

4 p.m. Mount Saint Mary College  
Aquinas Hall | 845-913-7157  
[newburghsymphony.org](http://newburghsymphony.org)

The orchestra will perform "Ave Maria" and other seasonal classics. *Cost: \$25 to \$50*

SAT 15

### Jazz Nativity Service

COLD SPRING

5:30 p.m. First Presbyterian Church  
10 Academy St. | 845-265-3220  
[presbychurchcoldspring.org](http://presbychurchcoldspring.org)

A reception follows the performance, which features Marty Elkins and Tom McCoy, the church's music director. *Free*

SAT 15

### Holiday Sing

BEACON

6 p.m. Beacon Sloop Club  
2 Red Flynn Drive | 845-463-4660  
[beaconsloopclub.org](http://beaconsloopclub.org)

Bring a dessert or finger-food item to share, and donations of nonperishable food items for the St. Andrew's/St. Luke's Food Pantry are encouraged. *Free*



Carols and Wine

SAT 15

### Jessica Lynn

PEEKSKILL

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

The singer will perform holiday classics with a country twist. Bring a new, unwrapped toy for Toys for Tots. *Cost: \$25 and \$30*



SUN 16

### Storm King School Singers

GARRISON

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

Gabriela Mikova Johnson leads her students in a performance of holiday classics. *Free*

FRI 21

### Winter Tidings

BEACON

5:30 p.m. Rombout Middle School  
84 Matteawan Road  
[balletartsstudio.com](http://balletartsstudio.com)

The Dutchess Dance Company, featuring students from the Ballet Arts Studio, will perform jazz, modern, tap and ballet. See Page 9. *Free*

SAT 22

### A Christmas Carol

COLD SPRING

6:30 p.m. Hudson House | 2 Main St.  
845-265-9355 | [hudsonhouseinn.com](http://hudsonhouseinn.com)

A dinner-theater production with Theatre on the Road and Victorian carolers. *Cost: \$75*

SAT 22

### Brasiles Ensemble

COLD SPRING

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

The vocal chamber group will perform selections from their debut CD, *A Christmas Feast*, and other holiday songs. John Drew accompanies on organ. *Cost: \$20 donation*

## HOLIDAY SHOPPING

SAT 15

### 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 SUN 23.

SAT 15

### Fifth Annual Reservoir Maker's Mart

BEACON

10 a.m. – 8 p.m. 1154 Route 9D

Browse art, gifts, jewelry, wreaths, home decor, knitwear, baby and apothecary items from 20 designers. There will be a yoga session at 10:15 a.m. (\$10 donation), a reel of holiday movies for the kids from 11:15 a.m. to 6 p.m. and a Meet the Makers cocktail mixer with Drink More Good from 5 to 8 p.m.

SAT 15

### Holiday Fair and Market

HOPEWELL JUNCTION

11 a.m. – 4 p.m. Fishkill Farms  
9 Fishkill Farm Road | 845-897-4377  
[fishkillfarms.com](http://fishkillfarms.com)

See Santa on a tractor, make ornaments and browse an artisan market. *Free*



Brasiles Ensemble



# [ THE WEEK AHEAD ]

## COMMUNITY

**SAT 15**  
**Community Choice Aggregation Info**  
**GARRISON**  
1:30 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library  
472 Route 403 | renewablehighlands.com

**SAT 22**  
**Retro Recipe Exchange**  
**BEACON**  
1 p.m. Howland Public Library  
313 Main St. | 845-831-1134  
beaconlibrary.org  
Bring 20 copies of your favorite recipe to share. *Free*

**MUSIC**  
**SUN 16**  
**Cafe Sizzle with Goldee Greene & Friends**  
**BEACON**  
5 p.m. Howland Cultural Center  
477 Main St. | 845-765-3012  
howlandculturalcenter.org  
Enjoy music, singalongs and mulled cider with host Lev Levin, pianist Tom McCoy and vocalist Russ Cusick. *Cost: \$15 (\$12 seniors/students; \$10 children ages 7-12; under 7 free)*

**SUN 16**  
**Andy Stack**  
**COLD SPRING**  
6 p.m. Butterfield Library  
10 Morris Ave. | 845-265-3040  
butterfieldlibrary.org  
A performance by the soulful singer and guitarist from Buffalo Stack. Registration requested. *Free*



**SUN 16**  
**Sixth Anniversary Party**  
**BEACON**  
7 p.m. Dogwood | 47 E. Main Street  
dogwoodbar.com  
The bar celebrates with music by Stephen Clair and the Pushbacks with Dimitri Archip, Jonathan Frith, Jack Grace, Jill Hartmann, Pig Iron and Jordan Shapiro. *Free*

**FRI 21**  
**Open Mic**  
**BEACON**  
8 p.m. Howland Cultural Center  
477 Main St. | 845-831-4988  
howlandculturalcenter.org  
Sign up begins at 7:30 p.m. for this monthly event, which is hosted every third Friday by Thom Joyce. *Cost: \$3 to \$5 donation*

**FRI 21**  
**The Costellos**  
**BEACON**  
8:30 p.m. Towne Crier Cafe | 379 Main St.  
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com  
The Costellos perform rock, pop, surf and country in their holiday show with guests Open Book. *Cost: \$15 (\$20 door)*

**SAT 22**  
**The Slambovian Circus Of Dreams**  
**BEACON**  
8:30 p.m. Towne Crier Cafe | 379 Main St.  
845-401-4062 | townecrier.com  
Formed in Sleepy Hollow nearly 20 years ago, the band will perform its annual Christmas show. *Cost: \$30 (\$35 door)*



**VISUAL ARTS**  
**SAT 15**  
**Keith Gunderson**  
**BEACON**  
4 - 6 p.m. Inn and Spa  
151 Main St. | innspabeacon.com  
An exhibit of Gunderson's paintings, which will remain on display through May, opens with a reception.

**SUN 16**  
**Open Studios**  
**NELSONVILLE**  
3 - 7 p.m. Create Community  
11 Peekskill Road  
facebook.com/createcommunity  
Work by Christine Marcucci Ashburn, Elizabeth Arnold, Orly Cogan, Susan English, Jorge Ruiz and Cassandra Sautler will be on view.

**WED 19**  
**Sketchbook Studio**  
**BEACON**  
3:30 - 5 p.m. Howland Public Library  
313 Main St. | 845-831-1134  
beaconlibrary.org  
Middle and high school students are invited to work independently on sketchbooks, art journals and other drawing projects.

**FRI 21**  
**Art & Zine Club**  
**BEACON**  
3:30 - 5 p.m. Howland Public Library  
313 Main St. | 845-831-1134  
beaconlibrary.org  
Meet up with other creative teens to draw and make self-published art books and magazines.

**KIDS & FAMILY**  
**TUES 18**  
**The Polar Express (2004)**  
**GARRISON**  
5 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library  
472 Route 403 | 845-424-3020  
desmondfishlibrary.org  
Enjoy pizza, cookies and hot chocolate and a screening of this classic holiday film, which tells the story of a boy who boards a train on Christmas Eve headed to the North Pole and Santa's home. Registration requested. *Free*

**THURS 20**  
**Youth Open Mic**  
**BEACON**  
6 p.m. Towne Crier Cafe  
379 Main St. | 845-401-4062  
townecrier.com  
Miss Vickie will host for singers ages 18 and younger. There is a two-song limit, and registration is required. *Free*

**STAGE & SCREEN**  
**SAT 15**  
**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. Also SUN 16. *Cost: \$25 (\$20 students, seniors)*

**MON 17**  
**Allelujah!**  
**NEWBURGH**  
1:15 & 7 p.m. Downing Film Center  
19 Front St. | 845-561-3686  
downingfilmcenter.com  
This new play by Alan Bennett was filmed live at London's Bridge Theatre during a limited run. It



Allelujah! at Downing



Keith Gunderson

focuses on the characters and choir at The Beth, a cradle-to-grave hospital serving a town on the edge of the Pennines. *Cost: \$12 (\$10 members)*

**CIVIC**  
**MON 17**  
**City Council**  
**BEACON**  
7 p.m. City Hall  
1 Municipal Plaza | 845-838-5011  
cityofbeacon.org  
The council will hold public hearings on proposals to create municipal ID cards and lift a ban on pinball machines. See Page 3.

**MON 17**  
**Garrison Fire District**  
**GARRISON**  
7 p.m. Garrison Firehouse  
1616 Route 9 | 845-424-4406  
garrisonfd.org

**MON 17**  
**Village Board**  
**NELSONVILLE**  
7:30 p.m. Village Hall  
258 Main St. | villageofnelsonville.org



Orly Cogan

**TUES 18**  
**School Board**  
**COLD SPRING**  
Haldane School (Music Room)  
15 Craigsides Drive | 845-265-9254  
haldaneschool.org

**THURS 20**  
**Climate Smart Communities**  
**PHILIPSTOWN**  
7:30 p.m. Town Hall | 238 Main St.  
climatesmartphilipstown.org



## K9 Officer *(from Page 1)*

tellano (R-Southeast). "There will be taxpayer savings in the fact that man-hours will be saved by having this canine."

Toni Addonizio (R-Kent) said "we need to be pioneers," open to innovative ways of combating crime.

But the Legislature hadn't always sounded so enthusiastic.

After Joseph and Monika Stilwell of Patterson wrote the check on Sept. 11 (the anniversary of the 2001 terrorist attacks) to purchase the dog, nearly three months passed before the Legislature accepted the contribution and amended the Sheriff's Department budget to include it — a seemingly pro forma step.

(The Stilwells last year donated about \$120,000 for the Sheriff's Office to purchase two drug dogs, Lex and Kato, as well as two Ford Explorers to transport them.)

While expressing willingness to add a seventh member to the county's canine corps, legislators wanted more information and said they had concerns about long-term costs. "Does the expense justify the need?" Ginny Nacerino (R-Patterson) asked at the Oct. 29 committee meeting.

Langley and Sgt. William Meyer explained that the dog could be used for various purposes, such as probation department home visits or to find cellphones smuggled into the jail. But they emphasized the dog's role in fighting child porn because of its ability to sniff out flash drives and other storage devices hidden in walls, in boxes piled in garages or anywhere else. MicroSD drives the size of a fingernail can hold up to 512 gigabytes of data.

"You pay officers for hours and hours of time" to conduct a blind search that a dog can complete in 15 minutes, Langley said. "We are handling more and more crimes against children done over the internet," including highly sensitive cases in collaboration with the federal Department of Homeland Security. He observed that frequently a child's online interaction can lead to a physical encounter with a pedophile.

"We need to ensure we have the most up-to-date methods of taking pedophiles off the streets and keeping them off," he said. "These children are being victimized not once, not twice, but thousands upon thousands of



K9 officer Hannah, whose training continues, is shown outside the Putnam County Sheriff's Department with her handler, Investigator John Hyla.

*Photo provided*

times when pedophiles put this stuff out, uploading it onto the internet. If we just put one person away, that dog has paid for itself."

The Legislature put approval of the dog on the agenda for its next formal meeting, on Nov. 7. However, at that meeting, legislators postponed a vote and instead asked to confer with Langley privately about the dog and the department's partnership with Homeland Security.

That private talk occurred on Nov. 19 at the Protective Services Committee. Subsequently, the committee endorsed the dog acquisition, clearing the way for the Dec. 4 vote.



## Dogs with Drive

In 2012, the Connecticut State Police approached Jack Hubball, a chemist in the force's forensic lab, to see if computer drives had a distinct smell that a dog could identify.

Hubball looked to the circuit board, found in every type of storage device, and discovered all contain a compound called triphenylphosphine oxide (TPPO) that keeps them from getting too hot. Similarly, every CD, DVD and floppy disk has a compound called hydroxycyclohexyl phenyl ketone (HPK).

Connecticut troopers began training two Labradors, Selma and Thoreau, who had been rejected as seeing eye dogs, to recognize TPPO and HPK.

"This program has absolutely turned up evidence that would have been missed or overlooked," the detective who handles Selma told TechRepublic.com. "If a device is hidden in a drawer, under a table, in a vent, in a wall, the dog picks up on it."

In 2016 the state police introduced Selma and Thoreau to the public and began training more dogs. Its first five graduates went to local departments in Alaska, Missouri and Virginia, the Massachusetts State Police and the FBI.

## Putnam's K9 Officers *Will work for food*

**Char** – accelerants – Sgt. Scott Lombardo

**Flash** – tracking – Deputy Randel Hill

**Sentinel** – bombs – Sgt. Timothy Keith

**Satch** – bombs – Deputy Christopher Tompkins

**Kato** – drugs – Deputy Christopher Irwin

**Lex** – drugs – Deputy Vincent Dalo

**Hannah** – electronics – Investigator John Hyla

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## Dredging *(from Page 1)*

tal Conservation shows that the areas GE dredged have concentrations of PCBs above what is considered by federal guidelines to be acceptable. The lower Hudson, which includes the Highlands, was not dredged and continues to have the same amount of PCBs as before the cleanup, suggesting that the dredging of the upper river had a negligent effect on the lower Hudson, including the waters passing by the Highlands.

The culprit appears to be so-called “hot spots” of polluted sediment that were not in the original dredging zone, some of which are fewer than 100 feet from the dredged areas. For years, environmental groups have argued that the initial analysis that the EPA used to determine where and how much to dredge did not accurately measure the extent of the contamination. State agencies such as the DEC and federal agencies such as the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service also warned that the hot spots should be addressed.

“The only reasonable conclusion is that the dredged areas have been contaminated by PCB-laden sediment from non-dredged areas located nearby,” said Remy Hennes of S.S. Papadopoulos & Associates, who conducted the study.

Hayley Carlock, the director of environmental advocacy for Scenic Hudson, which has closely monitored the cleanup, said the testing should be showing nearly undetect-

able levels of PCBs in the dredged areas.

“The fact that they’re now very elevated, not quite as much as they were before, but still much higher than most PCB Superfund sites throughout the U.S., is alarming,” she said. “It demonstrates that those highly contaminated hotspots of PCBs just feet away from the areas that were dredged that were not touched is what led to recontamination, which shouldn’t be a surprise once we discovered the greater extent of the contamination in the upper river.”

“You could go down the road of ‘I told you so,’ ” said Erin Doran, a senior attorney at Riverkeeper. “But what everyone is more interested in is the EPA stepping up and making GE take some action. It’s clear that more work needs to be done.”

Getting GE back on the river is the first step, but Doran said there’s still the matter of the lower Hudson.

“The rest of the river isn’t responding to the cleanup,” she said. “We’re asking for a full investigation as to whether and how GE needs to remediate the 150 miles south of the Troy Dam.”

For now, all eyes are on the EPA, which is tardy in issuing the final version of its latest five-year review of the project. Since releasing a preliminary version last summer — the one that stated no more dredging would be done — the agency has been working more closely with state officials. Gov. Andrew Cuomo has made it clear that if the EPA issues a “certificate of completion” to GE without additional



Dredging the Hudson River to remove PCBs

File photo by Ned Sullivan/Scenic Hudson

work being done, the state will sue.

Carlock said that would be unfortunate because “litigation is time intensive and expensive. But if we have to go there again, all options are on the table — whatever will get the Hudson cleaned up to the greatest extent as quickly as possible.”

The EPA says its goal is “a comprehensive understanding of the data” and to “develop joint findings and conclusions” with the state. “It is important to the public and com-

munities throughout the Hudson Valley that EPA and NYSDEC collaborate as agencies and give this the attention it deserves,” said a representative of the EPA’s Region 2 office.

Doran said the EPA’s increased willingness to work with the state is a cause for cautious optimism, although there’s still a lot that will need to happen in order to compel GE to continue the cleanup. “We certainly hope that happens, and we’re more hopeful now,” she said.

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## Pinball Ban *(from Page 3)*

1975. I took out or bypassed all the coin slots. We had people visit from all over the world, including colleges that had interactive gaming classes.”

Later that same year, after the museum had closed, the council amended the law to allow the city to issue permits for “amusement devices” built before 1980 and the first generation of arcade games built before 1990. Noise limits and other regulations would still apply to what the city calls “amusement centers.”

Several weeks ago, Seth Porges, a Beacon resident and journalist, asked the council to repeal all legislation regulating the machines. He likened the popularity of vintage arcade games to the return of vinyl records and other presumed-dead formats that have regained popularity in recent years.

“There’s something beautiful about this tangible, physics-driven machine,” Porges said this week.

### Municipal IDs

The council also will hold a public hearing on Monday about whether to create a municipal identification system similar to one adopted in Poughkeepsie earlier this year that allows residents to provide foreign passports, visas and green cards to obtain an ID that can be used to gain access to city services.

A Social Security number would not be required. Similar measures were passed this year in New York City and Middletown.

According to the draft legislation, it would assist thousands of residents — including im-



The interior of the Retro Arcade Museum, which operated in Beacon from 2008 to 2010

Photo by Fred Bobrow

migrants, the homeless, seniors and transgendered people — who cannot open bank accounts, access health care services or gain entry to public and government buildings.

The draft further claims an ID system would improve public safety because “residents who cannot produce proof of identity are often reluctant to report crimes.” In addition to municipal benefits, it suggests businesses and cultural organizations could offer discounts to people who show their Beacon cards or have identification from other municipalities.

The cost of the IDs would be \$10 for residents ages 18 to 62, or \$5 otherwise. As in Middletown, the city would retain records of the cards it issued, but applicants’ personal information would not be disclosed to immigration enforcement or other agencies unless required by law.



# Dutchess Voters Approve School Funding

*BOCES facility will get \$37 million upgrade*

By Jeff Simms

Dutchess County voters on Dec. 11 overwhelmingly approved a proposal by the Dutchess County

Board of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES) to spend \$37 million to renovate and relocate its facilities.

Nearly 85 percent of the 4,444 county residents who voted endorsed the mea-

sure (3,746 to 698), awarding the agency its first major capital undertaking in more than 50 years. The funding package will upgrade the BOCES Career and Technical Institute (CTI) in Poughkeepsie for high school students and the adjacent Salt Point Center for elementary and middle school students receiving special education services. It will also move the Alter-

native High School from a Poughkeepsie industrial park to the CTI site.

While Dutchess homeowners will see a modest increase in their annual property taxes, BOCES officials touted the measure as one that would be largely "cost-neutral" because of expected savings on rent, maintenance, transportation and utilities.

## 7 LITTLE WORDS

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

### CLUES

- 1 Bitcoin's crypto-backbone (10) \_\_\_\_\_
- 2 parts of the heart's cage (4) \_\_\_\_\_
- 3 go downstairs, perhaps (7) \_\_\_\_\_
- 4 filling an empty room (10) \_\_\_\_\_
- 5 laid-back weekend meals (8) \_\_\_\_\_
- 6 transfix in fear (7) \_\_\_\_\_
- 7 greatly increases in number (10) \_\_\_\_\_

### SOLUTIONS

BLOC	BRUN	DESC	IN	FUR
BS	PET	IES	CH	LTI
ES	MU	HI	END	RI
NIS	PL	KCHA	RIFY	NG

SEE ANSWERS: PAGE 16

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### Obituary

#### Dr. Harold Kaplan (1928-2018)



Dr. Harold Leo Kaplan, 90, a family physician in Beacon for more than 40 years, died Dec. 8, 2018, at his home in Boynton Beach, Florida.

Born in January 1928 in Newburgh, he was the eldest of three brothers. He graduated from Cornell University in 1948, earned a master's in psychology from Syracuse University in 1950 and received his medical degree in 1954 from the State University of New York College of Medicine.

Soon after graduation, Dr. Kaplan deployed to Japan with the U.S. Air Force, where he was attached to the 374th Tactical Hospital in 1955 and the 6407th USAF Hospital. He was captain in charge of the hospital's outpatient department at Tachikawa Air Force Base near Tokyo, which was the chief American logistical and equipment center for the Far East.

Following his military service, Dr. Ka-

plan became the third partner in a general practice in Beacon in 1957. Over the course of his 41 years in practice, he only reluctantly raised office-visit fees from \$3 and house-call fees from \$4. At its peak, the practice delivered more than 300 babies every year, in addition to setting broken bones, suturing lacerations and caring for a legion of loyal patients.

After Vassar Brothers Hospital purchased the 16 N. Elm St. practice in 1991, Dr. Kaplan stayed for seven years before his retirement in 1998. For a time, Dr. Kaplan served as the chief of staff of the now defunct Highland Hospital in Beacon.

Dr. Kaplan also was an avid stamp collector and reader of mystery novels and historical fiction. He eagerly read both *Smithsonian* and *Military History* cover to cover. He spent a term as president of the Beacon Hebrew Alliance, where his family worshipped.

In 2000, Dr. Kaplan and his wife of 59 years, the former Ruth Greenwald, relocated to Boynton Beach to be closer to their grandchildren. Besides his wife, he is survived by his children: Edward Kaplan (Zerlina) of Boca Raton, Florida, Deborah Clancy (Scott) of Seattle, and David Kaplan (Hannah) of East Haven, Connecticut.

He was a *zayde* to eight grandchildren and a great-grandson. He also is survived by a brother and a sister-in-law.

Memorial donations may be made to the Beacon Hebrew Alliance, 331 Verplanck Ave., Beacon, NY 12508 (beaconhebrewalliance.org) or Temple Beth Kodesh, 501 NE 26th Ave., Boynton Beach, FL 33435 (templebethkodesh.org). Funeral services and shiva will be private.

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# Haldane Girls Top Beacon for First Win

*Both teams struggle early in season*

By Skip Pearlman

The Haldane High School girls' basketball team picked up its first win last week, defeating Beacon, 41-34, on Dec. 8 in the consolation game of a tournament hosted by Walter Panas High School in Cortlandt Manor.

The Blue Devils opened the tournament with a 59-31 loss to Panas, while Beacon fell in the first round to Mahopac, 66-34, with sophomore Dior Gillins scoring 18.

This week, Haldane lost, 49-40, to Blind Brook on Monday ("It was a game we should have won," said Coach Tyrone Searight) and to Edgemont, 45-25, on Wednesday, to fall to 1-4.

Haldane trailed Edgemont by three



Haldane's Julia Rotando defends an inbound pass against Blind Brook on Dec. 10.  
Photo by Scott Warren

points, 19-16, at halftime, but the Blue Devils couldn't find the basket in the third and were outscored, 19-0.

"That's the story of the game," said Searight. "Our intensity was not there."

Olivia McDermott had 12 points for the Blue Devils, while Bela Monteleone had 13 in the loss to Blind Brook and 10 in the victory over Beacon.

Haldane is scheduled to play today (Dec. 14) in a tournament at Croton-Harmon High School against Dobbs Ferry, and again on Saturday against the winner of the other

Varsity Scoreboard

**Girls' Bowling**  
Beacon 7, Carmel 0  
Beacon 7, Poughkeepsie 0

**Boys' Bowling**  
Carmel 7, Beacon 0  
Beacon 5, Poughkeepsie 2

**Boys' Swimming**  
Beacon 49, Port Chester 42  
Beacon 100, Keio Academy 68

**Winter Track**  
Beacon @ Section 1 Kickoff  
Boys' 600 meters  
2. Kaleb Istvan (1:27.25)  
Boys' Triple Jump  
2. Mark Guzman (41-01.75)  
4. Nolan Hillhouse (40-03.25)  
Boys' Shotput  
1. Joshua Rivera (41-09.5)  
Girls' shotput  
4. Marissa Mora (26-06)

match-up between Croton and Carmel.

Beacon, which lost to Somers on Tuesday to fall to 0-5, is scheduled to host Byram Hills on Saturday at 11 a.m. and Harrison on Monday, Dec. 17.

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## Boys' Basketball Preview

By Skip Pearlman

### Beacon Bulldogs

The Beacon High School team is off to a good start, with the Bulldogs — who returned just two starters from last year's 14-8 team — winning three of their first five games.

Seniors Aaron Davis and Manny Garner are the only returning starters from the 2017-18 squad, which reached the Section 1, Class B playoffs but lost in the first round.

Davis, junior Dayi'on Thompson and senior Willie Rivera are the captains. "They'll push everyone to be better," said Coach Scott Timpano, who is in his sixth season. "We are a guard-oriented team, so we go as our guards go."

Trey Dino, Shane Green, Ebow Simpson and Demetrius Galloway (who is injured) all return, joined by Ian Bautista, Lionel Cumberbatch and Adrian Davis.

The coach said he is confident the Bulldogs can again reach the playoffs.

"Our goal is always to get to the [Westchester] County Center," where the Section 1 tournament games are traditionally played, Timpano said. "We've been playing excellent on the defensive end, and if we continue to do that it can be an interesting season. We have three of the best guards in the section."

Most recently, Beacon defeated Marlboro, 64-48, on Wednesday (Dec. 12) in the consolation game of their own Terrence Wright Memorial Tournament. Thompson led the Bulldogs with 22 points, while Davis added 15 and Garner had 14.



Matt Champlin

The squad had lost a close, sloppy game on Tuesday, falling to Scarsdale, 40-36, in the first round of the tournament. Thompson led the Bulldogs with 15, Davis added 11 and Torres had six.

"It was tough for them to be in the consolation game of their own tournament," said Timpano. "They hate to lose. But we dug in and played great defense, limited second-chance points and closed well" against Marlboro. "We got excellent minutes from Shane Green and Ian Bautista also gave us good minutes."

Against Scarsdale, the Bulldogs couldn't get their offense in gear, coming up with just seven points in the fourth quarter, and 15 in the second half.

"We live and breathe with dribble penetration and getting to the line, and we didn't execute," Timpano said. "Scarsdale is a long team, and we had trouble finishing over them. We struggled to get anything going. Thirty-six points might be our lowest output ever. But our defense was excellent."

Last week, the Bulldogs began the season with a victory over Port Chester, 71-55, on Dec. 7, and a loss to Suffern, 75-72, on Dec. 9.

The Bulldogs are scheduled to visit Harrison on Monday, Dec. 17, and John Jay East Fishkill on Dec. 18.

### Haldane Blue Devils

Last year's team finished the regular season at 14-6 but ended the year on a disappointing note by falling in the Section 1, Class C championship to Alexander Hamilton. Haldane last won the section in 2016 on its way to the state title game.

This year's squad is hoping to return the Section 1 trophy to Cold Spring. "Our guys know what it takes to get there," said Coach Joe Virgadamo, in his 13th season. "If we do what we should do, we'll have an excellent shot."

Virgadamo this season is starting nearly from scratch. Junior Matt Champlin is the only returning starter, and the only other returning player is junior Alex Kubik.



Dan Santos

"We're inexperienced, but we're off to a great start," said Virgadamo. "They are eager to learn and sharing the ball. They trust each other. We're expecting a lot from Alex and Matt, but we have a lot of guys who can score, and we'll be an extremely well-balanced team."

The newcomers are seniors Kyle Sussmeier, Devon Siegel and Peter Rodriguez; juniors Mame Diba, Jagger Beachak and Collin Eng-Wong; and sophomores Dan Santos, Darrin Santos and Doug Donaghy.

The Blue Devils opened the season by easily defeating Webutuck, 60-33, and Pawling, 63-29. They lost to Pleasantville, 54-49, on Dec. 4, but rebounded to defeat Martin Luther King Jr. High School from Hastings, 72-43, and Children's Village, from Dobb's Ferry, 77-42. They traveled to Solomon Schechter on Thursday.

"It was a productive win," Virgadamo said. "We ran some good sets, played clean basketball, and our ball movement was phenomenal. Everyone on our roster scored, because we were disciplined, and in the right spots."

Against King, Champlin led the Blue Devils with 21 points, and Sussmeier added 14. Against Children's Village, Champlin scored 19, Diba had 11 and Kubik added 10. In the loss at Pleasantville, Champlin scored 19 and Kubik added 18.

Although the Blue Devils are 4-1, they have played only one competitive game, the loss to Pleasantville, which used aggressive defense. The Blue Devils' victories have been by an average margin of 31 points. Virgadamo said he expected the matchups against Schechter and Rye Neck (at home on Dec. 18) will be more challenging and "should give us a better indicator on where we stand."

Photos by S. Pearlman



Ian Bautista



Dayi'on Thompson



Manny Garner