SECRET PUTNAM
Proposal would lock down ‘confidential’ material
By Chip Rowe

The Putnam County Legislature on Tuesday, July 2, will consider a proposed law that would allow any county employee or consultant to stamp “confidential” on a document to keep it secret. It also would permit prosecution of any employee who revealed the contents of a “confidential” document.

The resolution was approved by the Legislature’s Rules Committee on June 20 and sent to the full Legislature.

“The purpose of all of this is to tighten up the rules around our confidential information so that it cannot (and) should not be disclosed to anybody outside what this [resolution] says,” explained Legislator Neal Sullivan (R-Mahopac), chairman of the county’s three-member Rules Committee.

“We get a lot of correspondence from departments that is stamped ‘confidential’ and want to be clear about ramifications of ever disclosing confidential information to parties that are not purview to that information,” he said.

It is not clear how a county agency or employee determines which documents should be marked “confidential” and turned into official secrets. County Attorney Jennifer Bumgarner said there are no county guidelines as to what should be marked confidential. Noting that the Law Department had not drafted the resolution, she directed questions to Putnam Legislative Counsel Robert Firiolo, who did not immediately respond to an email or phone message.

Philipstown Delays Cell-Tower Settlement

Board considering smaller structure as compromise
By Michael Turton

The Philipstown Town Board on Wednesday (June 26) postponed a vote on a settlement of a federal lawsuit over its denial of permits to build a 180-foot cellphone tower on Vineyard Road, off Route 9.

As part of the agreement, which was drafted by Verizon and Homeland, the firms would submit a permit application within 60 days to build a “monopine” tower at 50 Vineyard Road that mimics a tree, and the town would issue the permit within 15 days if the structure complies with town laws.

Verizon and Homeland would stipulate they would never ask to make the tower any taller. They also would provide up to $20,000 to reimburse nearby property owners to replace landscaping after construction and $21,261 to the town for expenses related to the earlier permit application.

According to the agreement, Homeland Towers also would provide space on the tower for three emergency services antennas.

Verizon and Homeland Towers sued in February 2018 after the Zoning Board of Appeals and the Conservation Board both denied their applications for permits. The plaintiffs claimed the decision violated federal law.

Attorney Andrew Campanelli, who represents a number of residents who live near the proposed tower site, objected on permit Homeland Towers and Verizon to construct a 120-foot tower at the site.

The decision to delay the vote until at least July 3 came after a 90-minute discussion at Town Hall with more than 30 residents in attendance.

Under the proposal, which was drafted by Verizon and Homeland, the firms would submit a permit application within 60 days to build a “monopine” tower at 50 Vineyard Road that mimics a tree, and the town would issue the permit within 15 days if the structure complies with town laws.

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FIVE QUESTIONS: MICHELLE MCGUIRE

MICHELE MCGUIRE is the owner of Michelle's Roadside Kitchen, a food truck that opened on June 22 in the parking lot of the Countryside Motel on Route 9. She and her husband John, a plumber, live up the road, in Fishkill, although their driveway is in Philipstown.

**What led you to the food-truck business?**
I've worked with food for more than 30 years, and on the business side I worked in banking for 10 years. A friend and I had a restaurant in Westchester County. I also cooked at Marist College and for the Putnam County seniors. Owning a food truck has been a dream of mine. I like to make people happy, see them smile. I want them to enjoy eating my food.

**How did you end up with this truck?**
It's a 1988 Grumman-Olson Kurbmaster that had been a bread truck in Norwalk, Connecticut. It has more than 200,000 miles on it but the motor is brand-new. My husband and son bought it bare-bones in 2017 and gave it to me for my birthday. “Here’s your food truck!” John sold his midlife-crisis Harley to help pay the costs of outfitting it. We put about $70,000 into it.

**What’s inside?**
There's a full-size refrigerator, full-size freezer, a double sink, full-size oven, a griddle, two burners, a steam unit, a 50-pound deep fryer and a milkshake machine.

**What was the menu for Day One?**
Sabrett hot dogs have been the biggest seller, and onion rings; I've gone through six bags and my son said we wouldn't sell any! We also have sausage and peppers, chorizo tacos, fried green beans with Parmesan cheese and chicken nuggets. I plan to get into more vegetarian foods, salads, veggie tacos and a “burger laying on the grass” – a hamburger using lettuce as the bun. I also want to work in breakfast; there aren’t that many places around Cold Spring to get breakfast on the run.

**What challenges should would-be food truck owners be aware of?**
The preparation it took to get it here. It’s time consuming, preparing the truck and getting ready to sell food. I had to go to school at the Putnam County Health Department. There are permits required from the county and Philipstown. There are Health Department inspections. And you have to get into a routine. I was cooking sausage and peppers at 3 a.m. Everything is cooked in my truck. We’re totally ready.

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**ARE YOU LIVING ON THE EDGE?**
A new federal survey found that 4 in 10 Americans, even those who are employed, wouldn’t have the money to cover an unexpected $400 expense.

**Are you one of those people living paycheck to paycheck?**
We are looking for Highlands residents who are willing to share the details of their financial challenges for an upcoming series called “Living on the Edge.”

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**NOTICE OF FILING FINAL ASSESSMENT ROLL WITH THE TOWN CLERK**
Notice is hereby given that the undersigned assessor has completed the Final Assessment Roll for the Town of Philipstown in the County of Putnam for the year 2019. A certified copy will be filed in the Office of the Town Clerk on the 1st day of July, 2019 where it will remain open to public inspection until July 31, 2019.

Dated this 26th day of June 2019
Brian Kenney, Assessor

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**ON THE SPOT**
Do you dread or relish hot weather?

I don’t like it. With my metabolism I can lose 10 pounds walking down the street.

~ Orlando Henry, Beacon

I love the feel of the sun on my skin, the beach, a glass of iced tea.

~ Katie Clarke, Cold Spring

I hate it. I work out so that it’s OK to sweat.

~ Chloe Durant, Beacon
Aymar-Blair Wins Democratic Line
Both Ward 4 candidates still on ballot

Dan Aymar-Blair will appear on the Democratic line for the Ward 4 seat in Beacon on the November ballot after receiving 66 percent of the vote in the party’s primary race on Tuesday (June 25). He defeated Kelly Ellenwood, 237-123.

Aymar-Blair will also appear on the fall ballot on the Working Families line, and Ellenwood will appear on the Independence Party line.

In the Green Party primary for Beacon mayor, Terry Hoekler received seven votes and a write-in candidate or candidates received 10. The write-in votes will be counted by the Dutchess County Board of Elections next week, along with absentee ballots.

There were no Green Party candidates in Beacon’s wards, but voters registered with the party could write in candidates to appear on the party’s line on the November ballot. In Ward 1 there were eight write-in votes, in Ward 2 there were three, and in Ward 4 there were two. There was one write-in vote cast in Ward 3 but the ballot was ruled ineligible.

In county Legislative District 18, which includes part of Beacon, there were 10 write-in votes for the Green Party line.

Beacon Schools Get $25K
Will be used for theater upgrades

The Beacon City School District will receive $25,000 in state funds to upgrade the audio and lighting in the Pete and Toshi Seeger Theater at the high school.

The money was secured by Jonathan Jacobson, whose district in the state Assembly includes Beacon, as part of targeted “bullet aid” to libraries, school districts and nonprofits doled out by individual legislators as part of the budget process. Critics deride the grants as “education pork.”

Philistown Conducting Climate Survey
Asks residents to share data to target emissions

Philistown’s Climate Smart Task Force would like residents to respond to an online survey to measure the town’s “carbon footprint.”

The results will help the committee estimate the amount of greenhouse gases, such as carbon dioxide, that contribute to global warming that Philistown households emit. Measuring emissions is part of the requirement for Philistown to be certified by the state as a Climate Smart Community, which gives it priority for grants.

The survey, which can be accessed at bit.ly/Ptownsurvey or through climatesmart-philistown.org, asks about household behaviors and purchases. Using the data, the town will set targets to reduce emissions, explained Roberto Muller, the coordinator for Climate Smart Philistown.

Each participant will be entered into a raffle to win prizes from local businesses, he said. The committee is partnering for the survey with the Ecological Citizen’s Project and the U.S. chapter of ICLEI (Local Governments for Sustainability).

Orchestra Looking for Members
Will perform holiday concert in November

The Putnam Symphony Orchestra is looking for musicians for its holiday concert to be held on Nov. 24 at Brewster High School. Weekly rehearsals will begin on Sept. 4 at the high school. Contact conductor Christine Smith at 845-228-4167 or putnamsymphony@verizon.net.
Electric cars

I was excited to read that Cold Spring is considering adding electric-vehicle (EV) charging stations but I hope that they do not make the same mistake that Dutchess County did (“Milk, Bread, Eggs... and a Charge?” June 14). Not all EV chargers are created equal. The chargers at the Beacon Department of Motor Vehicles on Main Street are called SAE J1772 chargers and charge a little faster than a dryer outlet. They are accepted by most cars but are slow. To charge a Tesla or any of the new, longer-range EVs coming to market would take four to eight hours at these stations.

There are newer standards known as DC Fast Chargers that cut that time down significantly and free up chargers for use by more people. The three main DC Fast Charging systems are Super Charger (which only works with Tesla), CHAdeMO (which mostly works with Japanese cars), and CCS (which mostly works with European and American cars). A Tesla at a Supercharger can charge in as quickly as 20 minutes, with other EVs charging at similar rates at CHAdeMO or CCS chargers.

If new chargers are planned the municipalities should make sure they understand the technologies. New chargers should be able to accommodate longer-range EVs and modern connection standards.

Tom Cerchiara, Beacon

Judge Reitz

I have met many justices during my career. Putnam County Judge James Reitz was particularly memorable, but it had nothing to do with my work (“Judge Reitz Dies at 72,” June 21). I was jury foreman in a case over which he presided. It was a money dispute amongst parties, but before the proceedings began he came to the jury room and spoke passionately about the importance of our service to the justice system. The case revealed emotionally sensitive evidence that he handled with intelligence, compassion and an even hand that diffused tension and embarrassment. It was obvious he loved his job. After the trial, he called to thank me for serving as foreman, and asked if I would reach out to the other jurors and thank them. Soon after, I received an email with their contact information. Judge Reitz brought great dignity to his courtroom, and his office. The impression he made on me was lasting, and I have thought of him often. He left our community too soon.

John Cronin, Cold Spring

Green light

Driver’s licenses for undocumented immigrants became a state law to improve public safety (“How They Voted on Vaccinations, Rent Control,” June 21). When California instituted a similar law a few years ago, the number of hit and runs dropped 30 percent in the first year. Connecticut has seen a similar result.

All New Yorkers deserve safer roads. I thank the state Senate and Assembly — specifically, David Carlucci and Pete Harckham in the Senate and Sandy Galef in the Assembly — for passing this important piece of legislation.

Mary Cronin, Croton

Beacon development

I am hoping that the developers of the West End Lofts plan to do landscaping, including trees, in front of the buildings, as shown in the renderings (“A ‘Do-Over’ at West End Lofts,” June 21). When asked at the open house about this, their answers were not clear. Trees would certainly help provide a little more privacy, both to the tenants and to the neighbors.

Monica Maher, Beacon

I am pleased that the Beacon Planning Board is holding the developer accountable for his representations in the renderings as approved. Window trim may seem like a small matter but details can make a dramatic difference in the appearance of a building. This will make these buildings — which make a much-needed contribution to affordability — more in keeping with the historic architecture on nearby Main Street.

Arthur Camins, Beacon

Thanks to the leadership of city planner John Clarke and Mayor Randy Casale, we now have balconies hanging over sidewalks. Say goodbye to the sun in that area, and when balconies get old they all have issues. When we asked for bike paths in the city planning we got some paintings on the street. The faster we grow without widening our streets the worse our quality of life will be there. While I don’t mind density, I would like to see it done a little more slowly so we can avoid these oversized buildings.

Joe Green, Beacon

Historical marker

It’s nice to see the house on Fishkill Road North in Philipstown that was purchased by Eugene and Frances Morse, and later owned by their daughter and son-in-law, has finally been honored with a plaque (“The Persistent Preservationist,” June 21). We lived in that house from 1965 until

(Continued on Page 5)
Cold Spring Joins Danskammer Opposition

Need for power, fracked gas, location criticized

By Michael Turton

T he Cold Spring Village Board on Tuesday (June 25) voted to oppose the proposed expansion of the Danskammer power plant on the Hudson River north of Newburgh.

By a 4-1 vote, trustees approved a resolution asking the state Public Service Commission to reject the Danskammer application.

On June 5, Philipstown’s Town Board passed a similar resolution opposing the project.

The plant, currently seldom used, would be fueled by natural gas obtained in Pennsylvania through fracking, a process long-condemned by environmentalists.

The Cold Spring resolution asserts that the project would increase emissions of methane, carbon dioxide and carbon monoxide into the air, accelerating global warming.

It also claims that while the expansion would create jobs, the increased use of renewable energy sources such as wind and solar would have greater employment benefits while slowing climate change.

“I’m against the project,” Mayor Dave Merandy said. “I need go no further than the use of fracked gas... I just can’t get past that.”

The mayor also questioned the need for the additional electrical power. “There has been representation that there is no need for this plant,” he said, adding that the plans to close of the Indian Point nuclear plant had to have accounted for regional power needs.

Trustee Steve Voloto questioned the wisdom of facility’s location, arguing that if a $400 million power plant is needed it should not be built where it might flood.

Fran Murphy, who cast the lone vote against the resolution, later wrote in an email that “while I wish we were in a better place regarding green energy, we’re not there yet. To fill the gap left by closing Indian Point, I’d rather see a current plant be updated, modernized and made more efficient than to attempt to build a new plant.”

Dana Spiegel, 12, of Cold Spring, cited a number of environmental and economic reasons for opposing the Danskammer project when he addressed the village board at its June 11 meeting. The trustees said his written submission helped shape the resolution.

Pay package gets OK

The board approved a $90,000 pay package for Matt Kroog, who will succeed the retiring Greg Phillips as superintendent of water and wastewater. He is working with Phillips to become familiar with both village systems.

“This guy was hard to get,” Voloto said. “We’re lucky to have him.” Kroog was the only applicant certified to operate both the water and wastewater systems.

For more see highlandscurrent.org.
TRAINING GROUND

The staff of The Current is sometimes asked to speak to students about what they do (besides drink coffee and argue about the Oxford comma). Last fall, Managing Editor Chip Rowe advised a group of fifth-graders (bottom left) in a PTA after-school program in which they planned, reported and published two issues of what they called The Garrison School Newspaper. Stories included a look inside the staff lounge and fashion advice, such as wearing a tuxedo to school to impress your teachers. (Photo by Laura Mitchell) In October, the staff welcomed students from the Hudson Hills Academy in Beacon (top left) to its office on Main Street in Cold Spring on production day and discussed hunting for typos, editing photos and layout. (Photo by Michele Gedney) Rowe and other staff members met with student journalists at Haldane High School (below) and shared their reporting in The Current with the community as part of an ongoing program funded by the Haldane School Foundation. (Photo by Sasha Levy)
Cell Tower (from Page 1)

Wednesday to the short notice given for the meeting. His clients, he said, “need a meaning ful opportunity to review what is now being proposed and a time to appear before the board and intelligently discuss it.”

Shea said sufficient notice was given under state law because the agreement became part of the public record on Friday (June 21), when it was posted on the town website. He said he also notified Paul Eldridge, who has acted as a spokesperson for residents, that same day.

Residents at the meeting raised concerns ranging from decreased property values and the ability of the access road to handle heavy equipment needed to construct the tower to its visibility, color and proposed landscaping and fencing.

When one resident, Cali Gorevic, commented that the tower isn’t necessary, Shea responded: “I hear what you are saying, but there is a much broader issue at play here: risk versus the rewards of settlement.” He cited the risks of the town losing its insurance coverage, paying substantial legal bills and the possibility that, even if the town prevailed, Homeland Towers and Verizon could return with other proposals.

Shea said that, in the board’s opinion, the settlement “is the best deal that the town can hope to achieve” and “a sure thing,” opposed to the uncertain outcome of litigation.

Adam Rodriguez, the town’s legal counsel on the issue, was asked if objectors to the tower could prevail in court. He replied that it was impossible to know. “There’s a possibility,” he said. “But I’ve had cases where I was confident and it came out completely differently than I anticipated.”

After the discussion, the board went into executive session, accompanied by Rodriguez, returning a few minutes later.

“We are very concerned with what we are hearing from you,” Shea said. “We agree it does need a little more time.” He said the board would postpone the vote, which was greeted by applause.

Shea said that Rodriguez and Campanelli would discuss how to incorporate concerns raised at the meeting into the proposed agreement.

“But this is not open-ended,” he cautioned. “It isn’t going to go on forever.”

Meanwhile, a lawsuit filed by Homeland and Verizon against Nelsonville in June 2018 after the village declined to issue a permit for a separate, 110-foot tower on a wooded ridge on Rockledge Road, above the Cold Spring Cemetery, continues. AT&T, which would use the tower, also sued Nelsonville.

During negotiations over the Vineyard tower, Philipstown suggested the Nelsonville tower could be constructed at the Philipstown Highway Department property on Fishkill Road.
The Best Pie in Cold Spring

Independence festival to provide bragging rights

By Michael Turton

Any way you slice it, pie-baking contests are serious business.

Even the organizers of Cold Spring’s second annual contest, which will be part of the Independence Day celebrations on Saturday, July 6, apparently underestimated the profound nature of these culinary competitions: Can anyone, as the contest rules require, actually make a pie from scratch?

As astronomer Carl Sagan wrote in his book, *Cosmos*: “If you wish to make an apple pie from scratch, you must first invent the universe.”

That’s a tough standard for amateur pie makers (or even the professional ones, who can’t enter). The contest organizers do not require entrants to grow and harvest the wheat, or the fruit.

But they do have to meet the deadline: Philipstown residents are invited to bring their best pie to the Cold Spring bandstand between 3 and 4 p.m. on July 6 for judging on taste, appearance and creativity by Zanne Stewart (a Garrison resident who was an editor at *Gourmet* for 36 years), Kevin Lahey from The Main Course and Lori Ely from Riverview restaurant.

Ribbons will be awarded for first, second and third place and a crown will be bestowed upon Cold Spring’s pie king or queen. There is no entry fee, but slices from every entry will be sold immediately after the awards, with proceeds supporting the celebration.

Why enter? Because it’s as easy as pie!

Pie Pride

• Cold Springer’s pride in their village is understandable; as legend has it, George Washington sipped water near the present-day Depot Restaurant and declared: “This spring is cold!” But that pride pales in comparison with that of the 186 residents of a New Mexico town who, in the 1920s, were so taken by Clyde Norman’s dried-apple pies they named the community Pie Town and began an annual pie festival that is held each September.

• Cold Spring has a small role in pie history: Don McLean’s 1971 hit, “American Pie,” was written, in part, while he lived in the village.

• The record for the largest pumpkin pie was set in New Bremen, Ohio, in 2010: It weighed 3,699 pounds and was 20 feet in diameter. The longest line of pie slices was assembled in Romania in 2018 and stretched 1.47 miles.

• The first recorded pie was in Egypt around 9,500 B.C. It was made of honey inside ground oats, wheat, rye or barley. The Greeks get credit for combining flour and water to create a crust.

• In April, the American Pie Council held its 25th annual National Pie Championships in Orlando. More than 200 judges tasted 728 pies in 129 categories in amateur, professional and commercial divisions. The winning recipes are at piecouncil.org.

The judges at last year’s inaugural pie competition

File photo by M. Turton

With her Denali’s Caribou Crunch Pie, Rhonda Hull of Little Rock, Arkansas, won the amateur best-in-show at the 2019 American Pie Council contest. APC

Up the Boot

Friday, July 12, 8pm-10pm
• The Wonders (Le Meraviglie), 2014

Saturday, July 13, 8pm-10pm
• The Vice of Hope (Il vizio della speranza), 2018

Sunday, July 14, 8pm-10pm
• Divorce Italian Style (Divorzio all’italiana), 1961

Tickets available on magazzino.eventbrite.com
All proceeds from ticket purchases will be donated to RxArt. www.rxart.net
Playing with Silly Putti

Painter finds whimsy in the cherub form

By Alison Rooney

Maria Pia Marrella is an artist who likes to toy with her viewers, placing objects into environments where they’re not typically found, sometimes appropriating the style of painters who worked centuries ago.

Her most recent paintings — presented as Il Mondo di Putti, or The World of Putti, the traditional cherubic figures common in paintings of the Renaissance — will open at the Buster Levi Gallery in Cold Spring on July 4 and continue through July 28. “In Italy, putti are peeing constantly!” Marrella says with a laugh.

It was a putto in a broken light fixture, sculpted of bronze, that inspired her. It caught her eye, while she was looking at flowers in a garden outside her Cortlandt Manor home. “I love the round forms,” she says.

Marrella began painting, unable to resist an urge to place putti in unusual locations while conjuring works by masters such as Tiepolo and Correggio. She gave the works titles such as Putto-Over-Hudson.

Growing up in Jersey City, Marrella always drew. Her influences ranged from her physician father’s medical journals, which for some reason included reproductions of mostly Impressionist paintings, along with her favorite magazine, Mad.

Marrella studied art and education at Marymount College at Fordham. “I had no interest in teaching, but my parents told me that if I was going to be an artist, I had to get a teaching credential.” (She later earned an MFA from Parsons and attended the New York Studio School.)

She eventually did become a teacher. But in the meantime, she supported herself as an artist by waiting tables and taking graphic design assignments in the age of paste-up and hand mechanicals. She also did freelance illustration.

After working at a firm as a graphic designer, Marrella was laid off. “I went to studying anthropology at Hunter College may have given Mia Klubnick the tools to analyze social groupings, but seven years in Brooklyn working for coffee roasters and managing a cafe gave her the chance to truly observe human interaction.

The Putnam Valley native (her father, Dennis, grew up in Cold Spring and her parents met at a New Year’s Eve costume party there), Klubnick grew up “baking with my mom, surrounded by baked goods, basically obsessed with baking.”

Joining her skills, she is now happily engaged as the manager and baker at the Cold Spring Coffee House, which debuted — to lines out the door — on Memorial Day weekend. It is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesdays through Sundays.

Inside, customers will find a menu of espressos, cortados, macchiatos, mocha and chai lattes, hot and iced, as well as "ice cold brews," which are "steeped for 24 hours in cold water and are quite concentrated," Klubnick explains.

The coffee comes from Stacks, an Albany roaster with five regional cafes; Cold Spring Coffee House is their first wholesale client. Its product is used for the house coffees, drip and espresso, and there are also guest roast-
Jupiter, Antiope and Putto

Marella (from Page 9)

a place called Studio in the School, where they taught artists how to become teachers in exchange for working in underserved schools,” she recalls. “It was around then that I began repurposing famous paintings, appropriating them, putting them in modern, cubist spaces, thinking about the composition. My work is actually on a grid — that’s how I break it up — which probably comes from being a graphic designer.”

She did a number of series of paintings, including Abstractions (1996-2013) and Asian Constructs (2009-11). She and her family moved to Cortlandt Manor from the city after she watched the second tower fall on 9/11. “I realized it was time to leave; there was ash in my cubicle, and smoke would follow me home,” she recalls.

The last time Marrella exhibited at Buster Levi, two years ago, she was in a darker place. The show was called Distopia and “put Disney characters in disturbing scenarios,” she says. “It was a more palatable way to show violence, with a cartoon.” She was also teaching at schools in the Bronx, where many of her students were undocumented immigrants. “They were terrified and sometimes their art reflected that.”

Today she says she is more upbeat, personally, and focused on vibrant colors and humorous narratives, some on surfaces she hasn’t attempted before such as old glass palettes that are “thick, encrusted with paint, very tactile.” She’s still teaching in the Bronx and feeling optimistic because her school recently received funding that will turn it into a school for the arts.

Klugnick says croissants are the most difficult to learn. “When you begin, you usually wind up with little loaves of bread, rather than the beautiful layers,” she says. “It’s a three-day process. Now we have a dough sheeter, which has changed everything.”

Roffman says croissants are the most difficult to learn. “When you begin, you usually wind up with little loaves of bread, rather than the beautiful layers,” she says. “It’s a three-day process. Now we have a dough sheeter, which has changed everything.”

Klugnick says during the week she sees mostly locals. Roffman adds that “there are a lot of new Brooklyn families in Cold Spring, and they’ve responded well. We’ve also hired a lot of young people, and we’ve trained them in coffee-making — including latte art — and baking.”

Klugnick says croissants are the most difficult to learn. “When you begin, you usually wind up with little loaves of bread, rather than the beautiful layers,” she says. “It’s a three-day process. Now we have a dough sheeter, which has changed everything.”

Roffman interjects: “Now I know why you hugged it when it arrived!”

Shakespeare’s boldest play, right in your backyard.

CYMBELINE Directed by Davis McCallum
hvshakespeare.org

In Residence at Boscobel House and Gardens, Garrison, NY

Flavors rotate frequently in baked goods such as savory and sweet scones and muffins.

Photo by A. Rooney
Erik Maldonado, co-owner of Mad Science of the Mid-Hudson, based in Goshen, discussed the technology of rockets in a program on Monday (June 24) at the Butterfield Library in Cold Spring before launching a few high into the Philipstown sky. Each rocket contained a parachute to bring it back to earth safely. One was recovered a mile away and another landed on the roof of a nearby house of one of the children in attendance.

Photos by Ross Corsair
**THE WEEK AHEAD**

Edited by Pamela Doan (calendar@highlandscurrent.org)

For a complete listing of events, see highlandscurrent.org/calendar.

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**JULY FOURTH EVENTS**

**SAT 29**

**Independence Day Festival**

**BEACON**

5 – 10 p.m. Memorial Park
cityofbeacon.org

Enjoy food, live music and fun events followed by fireworks sponsored by Beacon Natural Market, Key Food and The Roundhouse.

**WED 3**

**Independence Day Celebration**

**NEWBURGH**

6 – 10 p.m. Cronomer/Algonquin Park
townofnewburgh.org

Food, fun, fire company demonstrations, and fireworks at dusk.

**THURS 4**

**Fourth of July Service**

**COLD SPRING**

10 a.m. Mekeels Corner Chapel
Route 301 at Route 9
845-265-3902

**Cannon Firing**

**PORT MONTGOMERY**

Noon, Historic Site | 690 Route 9W
845-446-2134 | parks.ny.gov

The fort’s 6-pound cannon Ana will be fired at noon, followed by a guided tour of the battlefield. Camp activities, musket firing and military drills will take place throughout the day.

**THURS 4**

**Fireworks Spectacular**

**POUGHKEEPSIE**

7 – 10 p.m.
Walkway Over the Hudson
61 Parker Ave. | walkway.org

Watch the city’s fireworks show over the Hudson River from the 212-foot-high pedestrian bridge. Rain date FRI 5. Tickets available online. Cost: $12.50 ($10 children, veterans, seniors, members, children under 10 free)

**SAT 6**

**Independence Day Celebration**

**COLD SPRING**

4 – 10 p.m. Main Street
coldspringny.gov

Line up for the parade at 4 p.m. on High Street for a 4:30 p.m. start. Prizes will be awarded for best-dressed pet and decorated bike (a decorating “funshop” will be held at the Buttermilk Library from 2 to 3:30 p.m.). Drop-off entries for the pie-baking contest from 2 to 4 p.m.; winners will be announced at 5:30 p.m. (See Page 8.) Live music begins at 5:30 with Big Joe Fitz and the Lo Fi’s, followed by headliner The Big Takeover at 7:30 p.m. Children’s activities will be available at Dockside Park and the fireworks sponsored by the Old VFW Hall begin at 9:15 p.m. The rain date is SUN 7. Magazzino Italian Art and M&T Bank provided additional financial support.

**SAT 6**

**Greater Newburgh Symphony Orchestra**

**GARRISON**

6 p.m. Boscobel | 1601 Route 9D
845-265-3638 | boscobel.org

The program will include works by Beethoven, Mozart, Stravinsky, Tchaikovsky and Verdi. Following the performance, attendees can watch the West Point fireworks. The rain date is SUN 7. Cost: $42 ($23 children; $63/$15 members; children under 5 free)

**SAT 6**

**Independence Day Celebration**

**WEST POINT**

7:30 p.m. Trophy Point
westpointband.com

Bring a picnic and blanket and enjoy traditional field music and pop hits from the Concert Band, the Benny Havens Band and the Hellcats, followed by a fireworks display over the Hudson. The concert and fireworks will also be broadcast on YouTube. The rain date is SUN 7.

**MON 1**

**Blood Drive**

**BEACON**

2 – 8 p.m. St. John’s Church
35 Willow St. | nybloodcenter.org

Sponsored by Knights of Columbus Trinity Council No. 445. Walk-ins welcome.

**MON 1**

**Animal Response Team Info Session**

**POUGHKEEPSIE**

6 p.m. Department of Emergency Response
352 Creek Road | 845-486-2493
dutchessny.gov/mrc

Learn how to join the Medical Reserve Corps, a team of volunteers that works with the county’s departments of Emergency Response and Health to take care of pets and livestock in crisis situations. Registration required. Free

**SAT 29**

**Hops on the Hudson**

**COLD SPRING**

Noon – 6 p.m. Mayor’s Park
105 Fair St. | hopsonth Hudson.com

Enjoy liquid delights from 45 breweries, as well as performers, games, and food trucks. No one under age 21 admitted. Cost: $18 to $84

**TALKS & TOURS**

**SAT 29**

**Hudson Valley Press Fair**

**NEWBURGH**

7 p.m. Atlas Studios
11 Spring St. | 845-391-8855
facebook.com/atlasnewburgh

Editors and publishers from small presses in the Hudson Valley will discuss their projects and introduce their writers and poets for readings as part of the ongoing Spring Street Reading series. Free
SAT 6
Hudson Highlands Poetry Series
GARRISON
1:30 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library
472 Route 403 | 845-424-3020
desmondfishlibrary.org
Gillian Cummings, author of The Owl was a Baker’s Daughter, and Daniel Wolf, whose most recent collection is The Names of Birds, will read from their works, followed by an open mic.

VISUAL ART
FRI 5
Il Mondo di Putti
COLD SPRING
6 – 8 p.m. Buster Levi Gallery
121 Main St. | 845-204-3844
busterlevigallery.com
This solo show, by Maria Pia Marrella, includes playful paintings focused on the traditional cherubic figures of the Renaissance. See Page 9. Through July 29.

SAT 6
Group Show
BEACON
4 – 7 p.m. Catalyst Gallery
137 Main St. | 845-204-3844
catalystgallery.com
See new works by Jamie Taylor, Rachel Williams and Sunwha Gil. Through July 29.

KIDS & FAMILY
SAT 29
Colonial Children’s Games
FORT MONTGOMERY
11 a.m. – 4 p.m. Historic Site
FORT MONTGOMERY
Games
Colonial Children’s Games
SAT 29
International Mud Day
CORNWALL
11 a.m. – 3 p.m.
Outdoor Discovery Center
100 Muser Drive
845-534-5506 x204 | hhnm.org
Bring a change of clothes and prepare to get dirty. Cost: $5 (members free)

SUN 20
Storytime with Allison Patakí
COLD SPRING
10:15 a.m. Split Rock Books
97 Main St. | 845-265-2080
splitrockkids.com

SUN 7
Preposterous!
BEACON
3 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
477 Main St. | 845-831-4988
happenstancetheater.bpt.me
Happenstance Theater will present a family-friendly clown circus. Cost: $10 ($5 door, $5 children)

FRI 5
The Wizard of Oz
BEACON
Bannerman Island
Boats leave Beacon dock at 7 & 8 p.m.
bannermancastle.org
This classic 1939 film was based on the L. Frank Baum story of a girl from Kansas and her dog, Toto, who end up in Oz via a tornado and follow a yellow brick road. Cost: $840

SAT 29
Raising Arizona
COLD SPRING
8:45 p.m. Dockside Park
coldspringfilm.org
The Cold Spring Film Society’s ninth annual free summer movies series begins with this 1997 comedy by the Coen brothers starring Nicholas Cage and Holly Hunter as a couple who will do anything to be a family. The screening begins at dusk and popcorn will be available. Bring blankets, chairs and bug spray. Free

SAT 29
Benny Havens Band
WEST POINT
7:30 p.m. Trophy Point
westpointband.com
The band, led by Staff Sgt. Jeremy Gaynor, a former contestant on The Voice, will perform everything from rock to hip-hop and R&B. Free

SUN 30
Music Appreciation Sunday
COLD SPRING
10:30 a.m. First Presbyterian Church
1601 Route 9D | 845-265-9575
firstpresbyterianchurchcoldspring.org
The service will include performances by jazz, classical and contemporary musicians led by music director Tom McCoy. Free
HALDANE GRADS

Congratulations

Commencement, June 22

Photos by Amy Kubik
TOP OF THE CLASS

Madelyn Correllus (right) and Marisa Mourgues (left), who have been friends since the second grade, are the valedictorian and salutatorian, respectively, of Beacon High School’s 2019 graduating class.

Correllus will be attending Susquehanna University in Selinsgrove, Pennsylvania, in the fall, where she will double major in music (flute) and another area of study yet to be decided. She was a member of the math club, yearbook club, jazz band, concert band and a community band.

Mourgues will be attending Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore in the fall to study biology or biochemistry. She played saxophone in the concert band and for a community band, ran cross-country and competed on the winter and spring track teams, and was a member of the math club. She also works part-time at the Cold Spring Farmers’ Market and competes on the Howland Public Library’s high school Battle of the Books team.

2019 GRADUATES

Beacon High School

Toluwalase Akinwunmi
Quiser Alaji
Nicole Alonso
Brannon Alvarado
Anisa Azizate
Victoria Ambroso
Adriana Aponte
Juan Arce
Victoria Banks
Dara Barrack
Christopher Barry
Benjamin Behar
Georgy Bekh
Damarit Bellamy
Brandon Belmar
Benjamin Drukenmiller
Matthew Dowd
Alejandro Espinosa
John Carlos Espin Saa
Eliza Ericson
Andrew Dittenhoefer
Skyla-Rose Crawford
Thomas Coulter
Yania Fair
Gabriella Ferrone
Dane Fiorito
Simeon Flash
Joshua Fleming
Crystal Fuller
Anthony Jay Fusco
Bernard Gadsden II
Naimeh Gailey
Demetrus Galloway
Emmanuel Garner
Kayleigh Garrett
Isley Gebman
Allen George III
Anthony Gianna
Austen Glover
Ernest Godsiay-Simpson
Jorge Gonzalez
Raheem Graham
Zackario Grey
Thomas Guadagnino
Jeffrey Gutierrez Monroy
Alix Nicole Haase-Arrigo
Kamryn Haran
Dirani Haynes
Jack Healey
Giselle Herrera
Jennifer Herrera
Nolan Hillhouse
Jaylen Hills
Jessica Hocker
Ethan Hull
Tyler Hulse
Kai Jacteri
Kyperl Jeudy
Shaina Johns
Khaya Johnson
Isaac Julien
Patrick Kearney
Karter Kearns
Meghan Kemp
Ian Kidd
Monifa Knox
Curtis LaForce
Julia Lahey
Dalasha LaMar
Devin Lambe
Jayen Lare
Oliver Lenaburg
Nicholas Lepere
Katelynne Levers
Shanel Littlejohn
Jiel Long
Adam Lutley
James Lyons Jr.
Abigail Lyons
Jenna MaFFei
Allison Mahadevan
Joseph Maldonado Jr.
Joseph Maldonado
Andrea Malouf
Ayala Manzoello
Anna Katherine Manente
Michael Manzoello
Alexa Marin
Shebly Martins
Melody Matias
Ermita Mavraj
Jenna Mazzacone
Daniel McGrath
Jana Medley
Meagan Meuwisse
William Mekeel
John Mensch
John Mesnick IV
Noah Montross
Marisa Mourgues
Lia Muscat
Kaitlyn Neves
Lucas Andrew O’Blaney
Daisy Okoye
Ayanna Ortiz
Trevor Palm
Jadeyah Palm
Kent Patino
Adrianna Paulin
Nadiya Paulin
Danielle Pavone
Naomi Peralta
Ariana Pineda
Alyssa Polletta
Cris Ramirez Castaneda
Isaak Ramon
Zaria Reid
Alyasia Jenne Resto
Raul Resto
Nicola Reynolds
William Rivera Jr.
Joshua Rivera
Summer Roberts
Molly Robinson
Fayth Rodriguez
Savana Rogers
Cassandra Ruffy
Josiah Russell
Kendra Russell
Daniella Sakowicz
Lucas Salcedo
Dakota Salter
Grace Sanker
Jaileine Santos
Andrew Schneider
Jacob Scofield
Ladae Sellers Thomas
Paul Sendelbach
Sierra Shields
Taron Smith Jr.
Rebecca Soto
Adam Sokiv
Kevin Stagir
Catherine Shih
George Stojakovic
Jeremiah Sweat
Faylene Szantyr
John Taylor Jr.
Ray Teelucksingh
Christopher Thomas
Jessenia Tobar
Vianca Tobar
Chloe Tomlin
Chelsea Tonic
Emmanuel Torres III
Raquel Tranberg
Kayla Turnquest
Jared Travers-Dorta
Alexander Ullian
Panagiotis Vakirtzis
Alexandria Vasquez
Jordan Velazquez
Devin Viola
Brianna Virtuoso
Jillian Warner
Andrea Wilches Perez
Evan Williams
Jada Williams
Terrell Witherspoon
Nolan Wolfe
Cris Ramsey
Claire Wood
Raymond Zayas
Henry Zukowski IV

Congratulations 2019 GRADUATES

The Beacon High School ceremony will be held at 9 a.m. on Saturday, June 29, at Dutchess Stadium on Route 9D in Wappinger Falls.
This feature is designed as a counterweight to all the bad news in the world that weighs people down. We could share a photo of a baby, or a photo of a dog, but we are giving you both. How many newspapers can say that? This is Rosie, the daughter of Simon and Annabel Botteril and the granddaughter of Nat and Anita Prentice of Garrison, who has just offered to share a toy with Cherry Pie. If you have a photo of a baby and a dog, submit it for consideration to editor@highlandscurrent.org.
Kurt Fox, who for the past 40 years has operated Fox Studios in Philipstown, is putting the finishing touches on the shoulder mount of a 13-point, white-tailed buck as he recalls how he got into taxidermy.

He was 11. An avid fisherman and hunter, he began mounting his trophies, mostly birds, after taking a mail-order course. “I had a knack for it and people started bringing me stuff,” he says.

The hobby grew into a business when, in 1979, he opened his studio on Route 9 near Philipstown Square. Today, his showroom resembles a natural-history museum, with specimens that range from a mountain lion and coyote to a black bear, zebra and red fox.

A trophy deer, usually a shoulder mount, is the most frequent request by hunters. “After that it’s birds — ducks, geese, pheasants and grouse,” he says. Fish mounts are less common than in the past.

Over the decades, taxidermy, which is regulated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to prevent the mounting of illegal kills, has become more sophisticated, he says. Advances in airbrushing have improved detailed coloring, especially for fish. The quality of the frames used to replicate a specimen’s shape have also improved, as have the realism of glass eyes.

Fox charges $625 for a deer shoulder mount and $3,300 for the full body. The price is $650 per foot for a mount of a black bear. A full-size, strutting wild turkey is $895. Fish cost $21.50 per inch.

Fox also rents out specimens to crime shows such as Blue Bloods and Law and Order: SVU. “The hunter is always the bad guy!” he says. Museums use the mounts for displays and fashion photographers call when they need “an outdoorsy set with a mountain lion or bear.”

Shifting Wildlife

Kurt Fox, himself a long-time hunter, says he’s seen a decline in the sport in the Northeast in his 40 years in business. “The kids are not involved with the outdoors,” he says. “I’m sorry to see it.”

He also has observed changes in local wildlife populations. “Thirty years ago, there were no coyotes or wild turkeys here,” he says. “The turkeys filtered in first; the coyotes needed food” and followed. The influx of turkeys also led to a dramatic increase in bobcats and black bears, according to Fox.

“I don’t care what anybody says; the deer herd is way down,” Fox says, blaming the coyotes and bears. “A bear can eat a fawn a day.”

Kurt Fox is shown with a recently mounted 13-point white-tailed deer; below, a coyote and mountain lion.

Photos by M. Turton

Putnam History Museum Celebrates the Centennial of the Nineteenth Amendment

Summer Fete for Suffragettes: Putnam History Museum Celebrates the Centennial of the Nineteenth Amendment

Please join us on Saturday July 13
5:00 - 7:00pm
Hosted by Evelyn Carr-White and Sharr White
20 Luzmira Lane
Cold Spring, NY 10516

Location: The home of Evelyn Carr-White and Sharr White is located at 20 Luzmira Lane in Cold Spring.

Attire: Traditional Summer Whites (suggested)

Tickets: $75 early bird through July 6
$90 after July 6 and at the door
Purchase online at putnamhistorymuseum.org, or mail a check to the museum.

Call (845) 265-4010 for more information. This event is rain or shine.

Putnam History Museum is located at 63 Chestnut Street in Cold Spring.

www.putnamhistorymuseum.org
Secret Putnam (from Page 1)

The resolution cites nine exemptions to public disclosure listed in the state’s Freedom of Information Law (FOIL), but each is open to interpretation, such as withholding material that would “constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy.”

After being sent a copy of the proposed Putnam law by The Current on June 17, Robert Freeman, then-executive director of the state’s Open Government Committee, which issues advisory rulings on FOIL and the Open Meetings Act, called it “ridiculous.” (After 40 years with the committee, Freeman was fired on Monday, June 24, after being accused of sexually harassing a Journal News reporter.)

The resolution would amend the county ethics code so that “any record designated ‘confidential’ by any Putnam County officer or employee, or by outside legal counsel or consultant to any agency or the Legislature of Putnam County, who is the creator or sender of such record” would automatically be deemed a secret unless the county attorney later releases it, a judge orders it released on appeal or the nine-member Legislature voted for it to be released — but only if the vote were unanimous.

Under the law, documents marked “confidential” could only be shared with local, state and federal agencies with the approval of the county attorney. The law also would automatically make confidential any record created by or any communication to and from the county Law Department, the Legislature’s counsel or outside counsel.

The resolution appears to conflict with years-old rulings by the state’s highest court, the Court of Appeals, that prohibit local entities from passing laws that make entire swaths of documents secret by default, Freeman said. Only state and federal statutes can do that.

He cited an opinion he wrote 14 years ago after Monroe County officials requested guidance on which materials they could keep confidential. Freeman wrote then, citing multiple Court of Appeals decisions that “a local enactment, such as a county code, local law, charter or ordinance … cannot confer, require or promise confidentiality” and so, if passed, would be “all but meaningless.”

The Freedom of Information Law, which journalists and residents rely on to understand decisions by public officials and how taxpayer money is spent, presumes every government document is public unless a legislature or agency can provide what the Court of Appeals has called “particularized and specific justification” to keep it secret using the exceptions outlined in the FOIL.

Freeman noted that the FOIL “generally indicates that an agency may deny access to records or portions of records; it doesn’t indicate that an agency must withhold.”

Putnam Legislative Counsel Robert Firriolo asserted on June 26 during the Rules Committee meeting that the law would have no effect on FOIL “because it does not alter the obligations of the county to comply with FOIL and it does not alter the decision-making process.”

The county attorney will still process requests, he said, and “there will still be court appeals if the person who requests [the information] is not happy with the decision of the county. There is nothing in here that affects the public’s ability to receive records that it’s entitled to. It’s strictly putting county employees and officials on notice that they have an obligation to safeguard public material.”

While records deemed to be secret could be obtained through the FOIL, the wording of the proposed law states that anything marked “confidential” is “typically exempt from disclosure.”

Firriolo said any county employee who intentionally violated the law would be referred to the Ethics Board, which could refer the matter to the district attorney.

Legislator Ginny Nacerino (R-Patterson) said the change was needed.

“We should have respect for the privileged information we receive and not violate that by distributing that information to outside sources when it is for our eyes-only or for our-ears-only,” she said.

Legislator Nancy Montgomery (D-Mount Kisco) agreed.

“I don’t see the debate here,” he said. “We have a responsibility to protect the information we’re given.”

Holly Crocco contributed reporting.

Why We Have FOIL

The state Freedom of Information Law, which became effective in 1978, includes this declaration of legislative intent:

“The people’s right to know the process of governmental decision-making and to review the documents and statistics leading to determinations is basic to our society. Access to such information should not be thwarted by shrouding it with the cloak of secrecy or confidentiality. The legislature therefore declares that government is the public’s business and that the public, individually and collectively and represented by a free press, should have access to the records of government in accordance with the provisions of this article.”

What Can Be Withheld

The state Freedom of Information Law allows governments to exempt certain materials from disclosure, including those protected by state or federal statute; that would “constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy”; impair contract awards or collective bargaining negotiations; reveal trade secrets; interfere with law enforcement investigations or judicial proceedings; or endanger anyone’s life or safety.

The provision often cited by Putnam County when denying FOIL requests by The Current is that the records are “inter-agency or intra-agency matters,” which the FOIL allows to be withheld unless they are statistical or factual data, final agency policy or determinations; external audits; or would jeopardize the security of information technology assets, among other reasons.

After the Legislature on April 2 passed a contentious resolution calling on New York State to repeal the Reproductive Health Act that opponents said contained inaccuracies and incorrectly cited scientific research, The Current submitted a FOIL request for any emails exchanged by legislators that contained the words “infanticide,” “RHA” or “abortion” to see if more could be learned about how the resolution was drafted.

The county initially denied the request, saying that the emails constituted secret “intra-agency materials,” but on June 21 released two redacted emails that it determined on appeal did not contain “opinion or discussion.”

The Current also requested through the FOIL an 11-page memo written by the county’s legislative counsel, Robert Firriolo, to legislators in response to a public critique of the resolution by Legislator Nancy Montgomery, who represents Philipstown. That was denied initially and on appeal because the county claimed it would violate attorney-client privilege.

The next step would be for the newspaper to make its arguments for disclosure in court.
Catching Up with the Putnam County Legislature

By Holly Crocco

County Plans to Hand Off WIC

Putnam County may discontinue its administration of the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) program and shift services to Open Door Family Medical Centers, which operates a community health center in Brewster.

The federal program pays for food, healthcare referrals and nutrition education for low-income pregnant women and new mothers, and for children up to age 5 who are found to be at nutritional risk.

Putnam County has been operating the WIC program for about 15 years, although it is not mandated by the state. It is funded through a matching federal grant of about $437,000 annually. In 2018, the county paid an additional $120,000.

Four fulltime and six part-time county employees could lose their jobs if the move is made, Personnel Commissioner Paul Eldridge told Putnam legislators on June 19, but Health Commissioner Dr. Michael Nesheiwat said handing administration of WIC to Open Door is the best decision.

“Open Door offers a lot more than we can offer in regard to services,” he said.

A five-year contract to receive the matching grant expires in 2020, but administrative and other costs will remain the same, or increase, she said.

Legislator Nancy Montgomery (D-Philipstown) said that while she is impressed with the services provided by Open Door, she is concerned that clients from the western side of the county will not be able to travel to its Brewster location.

Nacerino, however, said that of 915 Putnam clients in WIC, five are from Cold Spring and 23 from Putnam Valley.

“When we try to make decisions, we have to make it for the greater good,” said Nacerino. “Decisions always have an adverse effect on some potential population or group.”

Montgomery criticized her fellow lawmakers for citing fiscal responsibility in moving the WIC program, while previously approving funding improvements made at Tilly Foster Farm.

“We’re advocating for creating wedding venues and golf courses and country-western concerts and putting tons of money into great amenities for the county, and we’re not taking care of our basic needs,” she said.

“Taking care of people in need sometimes requires spending some money, and that’s what I want to do as a government official.” — Legislator Nancy Montgomery

Nacerino countered that such a comparison is not on an even keel. “You can’t just throw everything in the kitchen sink,” she said, noting that the needs of the county are too broad to compare spending in one area versus another.

“No person — woman, child or infant — is going to lack the necessary services,” she said. “This is why I feel this is a win-win situation, because we are not remiss; we haven’t discontinued anything. Everybody will be provided with the same exact services that they have, just under a different venue.”

Legislator Amy Sayegh (R-Mahopac Falls) said the lawmakers do not take the proposal to move the WIC program and potentially displace employees lightly.

“There is not one legislator in this room who is happy about anyone losing their job,” she said. “That is the worst thing.”

Rebecca Wittenberg, director of Putnam’s WIC program, asked the legislators to consider maintaining the program at least through the remainder of the grant cycle, and give the employees a little more time with the county.

“We’ve met with Open Door, they are a very good organization,” she said. “But they don’t give the benefits; they don’t give what the county gives. We know that. That’s why I’ve taken a much lower salary for many years, and I’ve been offered other jobs. But two things: I love public health, and the county — in the long run — takes care of you.”

No action was taken at the June 19 meeting, and discussion on the matter is expected to continue.

Fines May Increase for Passing Stopped School Buses

County legislators are considering a hefty fine for motorists who pass stopped school buses on Putnam roads.

“We’ve had a lot of unsafe situations where residents are driving past stopped school buses that have lights flashing,” said Legislator Paul Jonke (R-Southeast) during the county’s June 19 Protective Services Committee meeting.

In Brewster, bus driver Elke Reimann was credited with saving the lives of three students on Route 22 in October when a driver ignored the bus’ stop sign and passed on its right side where students exit the bus. Reimann was able to stop the children before they stepped into the path of the car, which left the scene.

Legislation before the state Senate and Assembly would allow school districts to attach a camera to the swinging stop sign on the side of the bus; the camera would activate if a driver illegally passed and would capture the vehicle’s license plate.

A provision in state law allows municipalities to add their own fee to this violation, said Dina Marie DiBlasi, a senior deputy county attorney. For example, Nassau County on Long Island imposes a $55 public safety fee for passing a stopped school bus that is separate from the standard fine.

Jonke suggested Putnam make its fine $100. Legislator Neal Sullivan (R-Mahopac), who is a member of the Putnam County Traffic Safety Board, suggested the fee be even higher.

“This has been an ongoing issue at the Traffic Safety Board — people passing school buses,” he said.

Putnam County Undersheriff Michael Corrigan cautioned lawmakers against having a “false sense of security” about video surveillance, explaining that investigators can never always identify a driver.

Legislative Counsel Robert Firriolo noted the state proposal treats a ticket for passing a stopped school bus the same as it does a speeding violation issued via video surveillance, meaning the ticket goes to the person to whom the car is registered.

Following the discussion, the three committee members approved a resolution to create the $100 fine and sent it to the full Legislature for consideration.

“Pruning is an art

If you are looking for a "natural finish" and do not want to see your ornamentals cut back severely to dead wood, choose Artful Pruning. Artful Pruning allows your ornamentals to keep looking good.

Artful Pruning gracefully brings your ornamentals back to a more natural, restorative finish. For an artful, natural finish, call Gregory, the artful pruner, with over 10 years as a career gardener specializing in natural and restorative gardening.

845.446.7465
What’s My Line?

By Valerie LaRobardier

There are nearly 200 lineage societies that cater to genealogists, including those for descendants of the Mayflower passengers, the signers of the Declaration, early state residents, veterans of various wars, even witches and pirates. With the approach of the country’s 250th birthday in 2026, I expect more people will start searching for patriot roots.

You can find a list of lineage societies at lineagesocietyofamerica.com. The requirements to join each are similar and involve proving your descent from an ancestor who qualifies.

One of the oldest and best-known lineage societies is the Daughters of the American Revolution, which has chapters in Putnam and Dutchess counties. Its volunteers assist with applications and maintain a database of ancestors who have already been established as patriots. Visit the genealogy research section of dar.org to see who you might find in your own family. If someone else has joined using your patriot, you only need to prove your lineage from yourself back to a common ancestor.

Gathering the necessary documents for an application — starting with your own birth certificate, and those of your parents and grandparents — can be hard work, and sometimes people hire professional genealogists to assist. The further back you go, the scarcer the records will become, in most cases.

Military service is not the only qualifier to join. Did an ancestor lend aid by supplying food or clothing? In New York we had the Committee for Detecting and Defeating Conspiracies, active from 1776 to 1781. The minutes are published and can be quite handy, both for establishing Loyalist ancestry and for finding names of those who helped by transporting prisoners, testifying or reporting Loyalist activities, such as burying supplies for the enemy troops.

Don’t limit your search to Putnam and Dutchess. Regardless of where your ancestor served, you can join any chapter — the Enoch Crosby chapter is based in Carmel (enochcrosbydarweebly.com) and the Melzingah chapter in Beacon (melzingahnsdar.org). And don’t overlook female ancestors; although more scarce, there are ways of researching and documenting service by women.

A famous case of that near and dear to Putnam County residents is Sybil Ludington, who made the famous ride to wake the men when the English were burning Danbury.

There is not all about history and genealogy — its members volunteer at a local soup kitchen and “adopt” a low-income family during the winter holidays. They take turns participating in naturalization ceremonies. They support education with scholarships, essay contests and the Cadet Medal for ROTC students. These are all ways members not only learn more about their ancestors, but honor them.

LaRobardier is a professional genealogist and president of the Dutchess County Genealogical Society. Questions? Email genealogy@highlandscurrent.org
Looking Back in Philipstown

By Chip Rowe

150 Years Ago (June 1869)

Mrs. Hermance, whose restaurant was at the corner of Main and Church streets, opened a bakery inside. The Cold Spring Recorder encouraged “those who wish to encourage deserving females in their struggle for an honest livelihood” to patronize the shop “in preference to men who are able to work, and for whom a thousand avenues to business are open from which women are barred by the customs of society.”

An 1869 advertisement for Mrs. Hermance's new bakery.

The state Legislature passed a law making public intoxication a crime, and arrests were soon made in Cold Spring, including of a stranger named Patrick Flanagan, who roamed the streets for more than an hour with an accordion he was too drunk to play.

Isaac Davenport sued William Bloomer and Samuel, withdrew the case after no fewer than five arrests for trespassing after he was caught fishing with an accordion he was too drunk to play.

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Looking Back (from Page 21)
a member of the Community Development
ment Society of New York City, purchased
for $35,000 as a place for the care of the
wounded members of the 77th Division.

Six students graduated from Haldane
High School during its 25th annual

75 Years Ago (June 1944)
Kathleen Farrell received a telegram notify-
ing her that her brother, Sgt. William Russell
Farrell, 24, of Cold Spring, had been killed in
action on May 16 at the Anzio Beachhead on
the western coast of Italy. He was the third
Phillipstwon man to lose his life in the war.
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Etta, of Parsonage
Street, received a telegram notifying them
that their son, Staff Sgt. Anthony Etta, had
been missing in action in Italy since May
12. Another of their sons, Sgt. Joseph Etta,
was also probably in Italy.

Dr. L.M. Stevenson, president of the
Haldane Board of Education, announced
he would not run for another term, after 11
years on the board. He was the last of the
original trustees elected in 1933 when the
central school district was formed.
50 Years Ago (June 1969)
John Zuvic and Allison Gent won the Phi-
lipstown Jaycees Safe Driving Auto Road-
o, which involved a written exam and an
obstacle course. Zuvic went on to place third
at the state championships.
The Philipstown Town Board created a
five-member Youth Recreation Commission.
The inaugural Proud to be an American
Day was held at the Cold Spring waterfront.
Mary Ann Cox Daniels, 21, and her father,
Harry Cox, 47, both of Cold Spring, were
recovering after he donated a kidney to his
daughter.
A couple complained in a letter to the
editor that the Help-a-Cat League, located
at the corner of Routes 9 and 301, would not
return lost cats to their owners unless they
agreed to have the pets neutered.
More than 1,200 people attended a
performance of the three-ring King Broth-
ers Circus on Fair Street. The event was a
fundraiser for the Jaycees.

25 Years Ago (June 1994)
The federal Environmental Protec-
tion Agency ruled that the buildings at
the Marathon Battery Co. site on Kemble
Avenue must be demolished and the soil
beneath them remediated.

Traffic on Route 9 at Garrison’s Garage
was detoured for the filming of scenes from
the film Smoke, starring William Hurt, Har-
vey Keitel and Forrest Whitaker and
directed by Wayne Wang (Joy Luck Club).
7-Day Forecast for the Highlands

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>High/Low</th>
<th>POP</th>
<th>Conditions</th>
<th>WInd</th>
<th>RealFeel</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>87/64</td>
<td>55%</td>
<td>Mostly sunny, warm and humid; a p.m. t-storm</td>
<td>WSW 6-12 mph</td>
<td>97/66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>83/58</td>
<td>55%</td>
<td>Partly sunny, with a shower or thunderstorm</td>
<td>NW 7-14 mph</td>
<td>88/77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>83/64</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>Partly sunny</td>
<td>WNW 4-8 mph</td>
<td>89/64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>86/62</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>Intervals of clouds and sunshine</td>
<td>W 4-8 mph</td>
<td>93/66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>87/64</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>Clouds and sun with a shower or thunderstorm</td>
<td>SSW 3-6 mph</td>
<td>94/65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>87/66</td>
<td>55%</td>
<td>Mostly sunny</td>
<td>SSW 4-8 mph</td>
<td>91/68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>87/68</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>Mostly sunny</td>
<td>NW 7-14 mph</td>
<td>88/57</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**POP**: Probability of Precipitation; The patented AccuWeather.com RealFeel Temperature® is an exclusive index of the effects of temperature, wind, humidity, sunshine intensity, cloudiness, precipitation, pressure and elevation on the human body. Shown are the highest and lowest values for each day.

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**CrossCurrent**

**Across**
1. Fruity spread
4. Scrabble piece
8. Tarzan’s clique
12. “The — Daba Honeymoon”
13. Valhalla VIP
14. Existed
15. Troop group
17. Release
18. Is frugal
19. Ostrich’s cousin
21. Cauldron
22. Let up
26. Photo book
29. Evergreen type
30. Pond carp
31. Sudden shock
32. Blue
33. Desirous look
34. Fuss
35. Arctic diver
36. Move laterally
37. New
39. A billion years
40. Bearded beast
41. Heavy hammer
45. Overly proper one
48. Dweller
50. Mexican entree
51. “Zounds!”
52. Varnish ingredient
53. “So be it”
54. Sources for sauces
55. Ordinal suffix

**Down**
1. Supermarket lineup
2. Help on the sly
3. Creche trio
4. Long, narrow drum
5. That is (Lat.)
6. Jersey of basketball
7. Went in
8. Terrible
9. For one
10. Preceding
11. Diocese
16. Suggestions
20. Kitten’s comment
23. — out (supplemented)
24. Yuletide refrain
25. Grow weary
26. Open slightly
27. Source of riches
28. United nations
29. Talk on and on
32. Surgical stitching
33. Queued (up)
35. Curry or Coulter
38. Incite
39. English composition
42. Take out of context?
43. Summertime pest
44. Leave a lasting impression
45. Bake sale org.
46. Aries
47. Lemieux milieu
49. Swelled head

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**SudoCurrent**

Answers will be published next week. See highlandscurrent.org/puzzle for interactive versions.
Last month, first-graders at Haldane Elementary interviewed business owners and conducted a detailed study of Main Street in Cold Spring and Nelsonville to create a neighborhood map (shown here). The students made videos at select businesses that can be accessed on a smart phone with a QR code app.