

The HIGHLANDS Current



Leading With His Nose | Page 9

JULY 5, 2019

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NEW BEACON ALUMS — Panagiotis Vakirtzis (left), one of the 214 seniors who graduated from Beacon High School on Saturday (June 29), celebrates with his mother, Fran, who is a math teacher at the school, during commencement at Dutchess Stadium. At right, Curtis LaForce receives congratulations. For more photos, see Page 7. *Photos by Liam Goodman*

Beacon Geese Get Reprieve — For Now

*Also, city's next building
moratorium taking shape*

By Jeff Simms

The Canada geese who reside at Beacon's riverfront will remain free to enjoy Seeger Park for at

least another year — as long as they're not hit by a plane.

Representatives from the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Air National Guard asked the City Council last month for permission to capture and kill the flock of about 60 geese who live year-round at the park because the birds are close enough — within 7 miles — to New York Stewart International Airport that they could cross the flight paths of Air Force planes.

The council opted to leave the geese alone for the time being, Mayor Randy Casale said this week, because the USDA can only take action during a three-week, early summer period when the birds shed

(Continued on Page 6)



The geese at Seeger Park enjoying their reprieve

Photo by J. Simms

Putnam Passes Secrecy Law

*Philipstown legislator is
sole opposition*

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

The Putnam County Legislature voted 7-1 on Tuesday (July 2) to adopt a law that allows legislators, county officials and even consultants to classify documents as “confidential” to prevent their disclosure.

Legislator Nancy Montgomery (D-Philipstown) cast the sole “no” vote on the measure, which amends a section of the county ethics code and makes anyone who intentionally breaches confidentiality subject to an ethics inquiry and possible prosecution. Montgomery argued the proposal should have been discussed further before a vote.

The law now goes to County Executive MaryEllen Odell, who must conduct a public hearing before signing or vetoing it.

Before the vote, Montgomery proposed that the resolution be sent back to the Rules Committee. “Where did it come from?” she said. “Who initiated it? It was a surprise” when it appeared on the agenda for the June 20 committee meeting.

“I’m surprised you’re surprised,” responded Legislator Neal Sullivan (R-Carmel), who chairs the committee. “We all knew about it. There had been problems

for years with people disclosing information that should not be disclosed.” He noted that the topic had been on the Rules Committee agenda in April but was postponed. (In the minutes from that meeting, the item is titled “Discussion / Confidentiality of Attorney-Client Communications.”)

Montgomery replied that talking about “confidentiality” and unveiling a specific law are separate actions and noted citizens’ concerns about the latter.

If Odell signs the measure, allowing it to take effect, it will authorize “any county officer or employee, outside legal counsel or consultants” to make a document confidential. In addition, communications by, to, or from the county Law Department, the Legislature’s attorney, or outside legal counsel or consultants “shall be presumed to be confidential material even if not explicitly designated ‘confidential.’” (The Legislature could vote to release documents, but only if every member present agreed. Unanimous votes are not usually required for legislative approvals.)

In addition, documents marked “confidential” could only be shared with local, state and federal agencies with the approval of the county attorney.

While records deemed secret can be obtained through the state Freedom of Information Law, the resolution states that anything marked “confidential” is “typi-

(Continued on Page 8)



FIVE QUESTIONS: BENJAMIN DREYER

By Alison Rooney

Benjamin Dreyer, the copy chief at Random House and author of *Dreyer's English: An Utterly Correct Guide to Clarity and Style*, will discuss Shakespeare's linguistic acrobatics at 6:15 p.m. on Friday, July 12, at Bosobel before the Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival performance of *Much Ado About Nothing*. The talk is free and open to the public.

Would a copy editor change much of Shakespeare's text?

Shakespeare is Shakespeare, and if I found myself in the position of copy editing him I'd approach his work with an appropriate level of reverence and respect. He wrote in the English of his era — hell, he *defined* the English of his era — so I certainly wouldn't, from here, attempt to regularize his writing according to modern taste. But even the work of the greatest writers can benefit from copy editing. I'd like to think Shakespeare would have enjoyed a bit of back-and-forth in the margins.

Why do some Americans find British spelling so compelling? Is it pretentious?

Most Americans know better than to

attempt *neighbour*, *realise* and other prominent Brit spellings, but, oh my, how some Yanks love their *whilst* and *theatre*. It's about seeing English English as fancier and superior. Get over it already, we won that war. I do write about the fixation of some Americans on *grey* [versus the American *gray*]. I have a theory that it dates to reading, in childhood, books of fairy tales with "olde tyme" spellings. It's lovely when words imprint themselves on you with virtually emotional force. But for me, my senses of national pride and copy-editorial conformity take precedence.

What is so odious about the exclamation mark, if used sparingly?

I have nothing against exclamation marks, so long as they know their place. Exclamation marks in texts and on Twitter? Sure. Exclamation marks in dialogue in novels? Sure, yes, sparingly. They're better than setting dialogue in

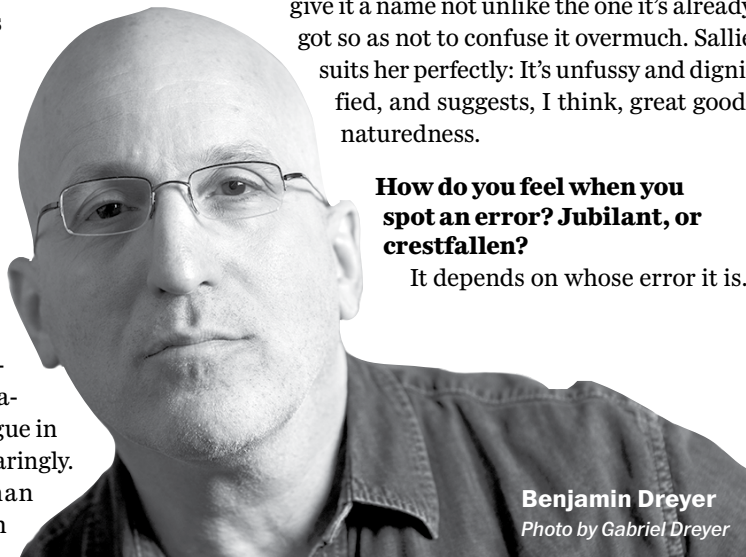
all caps or, worse, boldface. Exclamation marks in standard-issue prose, to celebrate your enthusiasm over your own dazzlingly good ideas? I think not.

Your dog is named Sallie. Why not Sally?

When my fellow and I adopted Sallie, her name was Callie, which we found out only later, per her paperwork, was short for — for Pete's sake — Calliope. She didn't seem much like a Callie, and we wanted the pleasure of naming our own dog. I'd been told that if you want to rename an animal you should give it a name not unlike the one it's already got so as not to confuse it overmuch. Sallie suits her perfectly: It's unfussy and dignified, and suggests, I think, great good-naturedness.

How do you feel when you spot an error? Jubilant, or crestfallen?

It depends on whose error it is.



Benjamin Dreyer
Photo by Gabriel Dreyer

ON THE SPOT

By Michael Turton

How would you fare without social media for a week?

“It would hurt, business-wise. Personally, I wouldn't care, but it might drive my wife crazy!”



~ Greg Colon, Beacon

“I'd have to adjust; I check in on people. I don't post a lot. I'd be OK.”



~ Shana Cataldo, Cold Spring

“I'd be bored but I'd find something to do — go on hikes, take photos.”



~ Alex Turk, Nelsonville

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NEWS BRIEFS

Sniffing Out Invasive Species

Conference receives grant for dog team

The state's Environmental Protection Fund on June 14 announced \$2.8 million in grants for 42 projects aiming to reduce the effects of invasive plant and animal species.

Most of the grant money will be used for statewide projects such as boat inspections to intercept invasive species on hulls, but the New York New Jersey Trail Conference received \$100,000 for an early detection and rapid response detection dog team in the lower Hudson Valley; the Research Foundation of CUNY got \$100,000 to map invasive trees, insects and pathogens in the lower Hudson and New York City; and Orange County Parks and Recreation was awarded \$20,000 to combat invasive plants at Algonquin Park in Newburgh.

Foundation Awards Scholarships

Eleven Beacon students among recipients

The Community Foundations of the Hudson Valley awarded 170 scholarships worth a total of \$360,000 to 145 students in Dutchess, Putnam and Ulster counties. The foundation said a record 1,500 students applied.

The recipients included 11 students from Beacon High School: Toluwalase Akinwunmi, Victoria Banks, Jordana Caputo, Noah Cory, Aaron Davis, Joseph DeCandia, Jessica Hockler, DaVonja LaMar, Ethan Mensch, Grace Sanker and Sierra Shields.

CFHV also announced it has appointed Nevill Smythe as interim president and CEO while it searches for a successor to March Gallagher, who resigned to become the Democratic candidate for Ulster County comptroller.



▲ OMINOUS OUTLOOK — A storm rolls into Beacon on June 26.

Photo by Cathy Lilburne



▲ HEART AND SOUL — As part of their Discover, Create and Innovate class, Cortney Gillis and Milo Shuk of Haldane Middle School collected more than 150 pairs of shoes for Soles4Souls, which will distribute them to people in need.

Photo provided



▲ RALLY — Protesters, including many Beacon residents, gathered outside the Newburgh office of U.S. Rep. Sean Patrick Maloney on Tuesday (July 2) to protest the conditions at camps at the border run by the U.S. Border Patrol.

Photo by Tina Bernstein

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cation may be reproduced in any form,
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LETTERS AND COMMENTS

Keeping secrets

Editor's note: This letter from Joseph Castellano (R-Mahopac), who chairs the Putnam County Legislature, arrived after our deadline ("Secret Putnam," June 28). It responds to an inquiry about how documents will be deemed "confidential" under a resolution then under consideration by the Legislature. The resolution passed on Tuesday (July 2). See Page 1.

Your inquiry was forwarded to me from Legislative Counsel Robert Firriolo. You inquired about the proposed local law to amend the Putnam County Code entitled "Ethics, Code of, and Financial Disclosure to Prohibit the Disclosure of Confidential Material," which was discussed at and moved to the full Legislature from the Rules, Enactments and Intergovernmental Relations Committee on June 20.

In particular, you have asked: "How does a county employee/legislator determine what should be marked 'confidential'? Are there guidelines or do they make a judgment based strictly on the FOIL [Freedom of Information Law] exceptions or other state law; or is it left to the discretion of each employee, attorney or consultant?"

The proposed local law only codifies the pre-existing obligations of Putnam County employees and officials to identify material that is required to be kept confidential by law, rule, policy, procedure, or by the exercise of sound judgment, and to treat such material appropriately.

If enacted, the law would not impose a new obligation to mark such information confidential. Instead, the proposed law regulates the handling of material that: 1) has been marked confidential by a county

Tell us what you think

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

employee who created or is sending the record (presumably either by using his or her sound judgment, or in following policy or procedure); 2) is a record exempt from disclosure under the FOIL; or 3) is of the kind explicitly presumed to be confidential under the proposed law.

Many Putnam County employees and officials routinely handle information falling within the definition of confidential material as defined in the proposed local law. The law would only address improper disclosure or dissemination of such information outside of county government or to an unauthorized person. The proposed local law does not impact the ability of any member of the press or public to obtain Putnam County government records through the FOIL.

To the extent the confidential status of a given type of record is not already addressed by law, or by the policy or procedure of a department or agency, the Putnam County Law Department is always available to advise county employees and officials if

they should have any questions about the classification, treatment or disclosure of records. Legislative counsel also provides such advice to the Legislature.

Joseph Castellano, *Carmel*

Thanks very much for the informative article about the Putnam County Star Chamber, a.k.a., the Legislature. The county bigwigs are already the worst when it comes to compliance with FOIL and it's like pulling teeth to get even public information from them. Now they will have the excuse they need to clamp down even further on the public's right to know.

Patty Villanova, *Putnam Valley*

This proposed law is a shocking attempt by the county Legislature to allow any county employee to potentially make secret virtually any document, any piece of correspondence and any piece of information he or she chooses. This is not what democracy looks like.

Joseph Montuori, *Mahopac*

The proposed legislation appears to violate both (1) the whistleblower protection laws of New York enacted to protect government employees who report violations of law by their employers, and (2) the New York False Claims Act (and the federal False Claims Act), which provide that it is lawful to disclose information, including confidential information, to a government investigative agency or to private counsel employed to investigate a fraud against the government by a contractor or other entity.

Under the New York False Claims Act (or the federal False Claims Act, if federal funds are involved), a government employee may disclose confidential information for the purpose of furthering efforts to stop fraud against the government.

Generally, attorney-client privileged information should not be disclosed unless it falls within the crime-fraud exception to the privilege, such as where the attorney is assisting the client in committing a crime or fraud.

But other information marked "confidential" or considered confidential by a governmental entity like Putnam County (such as inter-agency and other intra-government information, including information that might otherwise be protected by the deliberative process privilege) may be disclosed in the interest of fighting fraud.

Heidi Wendel, *Nelsonville*

Wendel is a lawyer in private practice who specializes in representing whistleblowers. She is the former chief of the civil frauds division of the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York.

God help the U.S. if such a rule were to be upheld. Whistleblowers could not whistle without violating the law. There are legitimate times to restrict circulation and the press knows this, but certainly not on the whim of every county bureaucrat, much less contractor, it being in the nature of such to stamp as confidential every document that passes their desks to avoid unknown problems.

(Continued on Page 5)



LETTERS AND COMMENTS

(Continued from Page 4)

Their attitude is understandable but wrong. It stands in contradiction of the law and tradition of the U.S. to encourage transparency in government. As U.S. Supreme Court Justice Potter Stewart wrote in regard to the publication of the Pentagon Papers, which President Nixon had attempted to restrict: "In the absence of the governmental checks and balances present in other areas of our national life, the only effective restraint upon executive policy and power in the areas of national defense and international affairs may lie in an enlightened citizenry — in an informed and critical public opinion which alone can here protect the values of democratic government."

Stewart was writing about Defense Department papers. But if they are not protected from intrusion by the public and press, why should the more mundane musings of bureaucrats and contractors be kept secret by the persons involved without any oversight? Rather, they should be careful of what they write. As President Woodrow Wilson urged regarding treaties, they should be "open covenants openly arrived at."

Vincent O'Reilly, *Mahopac*

Cold Spring sidewalks

In "Looking Back in Philipstown" (June 28), you reported that, in 1894, Cold Spring "instructed Officer McCaffrey to enforce the ordinance prohibiting the obstruction of sidewalks." Looks like the long-suffering

Cold Spring sidewalk is an issue at least 125 years in the making!

Chris Daly, *Cold Spring*

Supply and demand

It saddens me that Democrats in Beacon have gone full Not-in-My-Backyard and endorsed a candidate for Ward 4, Dan Aymar-Blair, who wants to prevent more housing and businesses from getting built ("Aymar-Blair Wins Democratic Line," June 28). The policies supported by Aymar-Blair will only cause prices to skyrocket and force out many locally run shops as rents skyrocket because of the city's NIMBY development policies.

I also find it funny for Aymar-Blair to complain about gentrification when he himself is a gentrifier and his policies would only exacerbate those problems. More people want to live in Beacon and if we want housing prices to stay affordable, we will need more housing units. The basic economics of supply and demand apply, regardless of Aymar-Blair's wishful thinking otherwise.

Brandon Smith, *Beacon*

Cell-tower settlement

It is appalling that we live in a place where the company and/or person with the most money wins — and this is so people don't have to drive a couple of miles with interrupted cellphone service? ("Philipstown Delays Cell-Tower Settlement," June 28). So Verizon can make more money? So the property owner leasing to them can get richer?

It's shameful. Can someone tell me a good reason this tower is necessary? And don't pretend it's the "emergency [services]" thing.

Carinda Swann, *Beacon*

So with a settlement, Verizon gets what they wanted all along. What about the health and welfare of residents?

Laurie Gallio, *via Facebook*

The cell-tower industry is no longer fighting for more density to give us better voice communications but to dominate video distribution so they can become TV companies, and that business requires more towers. They prefer to build unsightly 120-foot-plus towers rather than use the lower-profile Distributed Antennae Systems because it's cheaper and they can make more money faster, no matter how much our beautiful environment here begins to suffer.

They are driven by the land grab of cell-tower locations and will "own" us if they pull it off. No one will be able to prevent them from building more. Push our board members to fight for the beauty and legacy of our towns. They have put up a good fight so far by denying permits but bigger money seems to be prevailing. Many community members have stood up against this and put in their own money to fight the case. Thank you!

Steve Sterling, *Philipstown*

Reckless drivers

This is wonderful news ("Fines May



CAUGHT WITH THE CURRENT — Tom Cassell of Beacon enjoys an early summer day with his favorite newspaper. "This is happy-hour reading at our house," says his partner, Tara Roscoe.

Photo provided

Increase for Passing Stopped School Buses," June 28). How about increased patrols in school zones, especially where there are crossing guards who put themselves in danger because of speeding motorists who ignore stop signs and traffic lights?

Lillian Moser, *via Facebook*



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LEGAL NOTICE

Request for Proposal (RFP) for the Purchase and Redevelopment of City Owned Properties at 140 Montgomery Street, 146 Montgomery Street and 137 Smith Street, Newburgh, NY

Request for Proposal (RFP) for the Purchase and Redevelopment of 15 South Colden Street, Newburgh, NY

The City of Newburgh released two Requests for Proposals (RFPs) for the redevelopment of vacant property in the East End of the City. The goal of both projects is to encourage new construction projects that build upon and complement the recent growth in the City of Newburgh, while maximizing each site's development potential.

RFP #20.19 calls for the development of the parcel known as 15 South Colden Street. It is a 1 acre (+/-) parcel with Hudson River views, near the intersection of South William and South Colden Streets.

RFP #19.19 seeks development of three contiguous parcels: 140 & 146 Montgomery Street and 137 Smith Street. Together they contain .7 acre (+/-), and also enjoy Hudson River views. They are located near the intersection of South Street and Montgomery Street.

Both RFPs are due to the Office of the Comptroller by no later than 4:00 pm August 2, 2019.

More information can be found on the City's Planning and Development Website under RFQs & Property RFPs: <https://www.cityofnewburgh-ny.gov/planning-development/pages/rfq-property-rfps> RFP's offered by the City of Newburgh are advertised through BidNet: <https://www.bidnetdirect.com/new-york/city-of-newburgh?AgencyID=2192&PageType=open>. Please contact the Office of Planning and Development with further questions 845-569-9400.

Beacon Geese (from Page 1)

their flying feathers, or molt.

The geese pose a significant hazard to the military aircraft flying in and out of Stewart, said Ken Cruiser, the USDA's eastern district supervisor for wildlife services, at the council's June 24 meeting. "We only fly about six times a week and we average a bird strike every month," added an Air Force officer based at Stewart.

The USDA proposed herding the Beacon geese into a pen and, from there, into crates. After the birds were killed, the meat would be distributed to homeless shelters. "It is a viable source of protein," Cruiser said.

Council Member Terry Nelson opposed the idea. "I've got a problem with it," he said. "It just doesn't feel right to me." Council Members Amber Grant and Jodi McCredo also said they were not convinced.

At Stewart, the USDA has tried non-lethal methods to control geese, such as habitat management and pyrotechnics, but studies show those only push the birds away temporarily, Cruiser said.

According to the state Department of Environmental Conservation, there are 230,000 Canada geese in New York, almost three times what the DEC believes would be optimal. Given those numbers, state officials have elected to use the capture-and-kill method near airports.

Casale was out of town and did not attend the June 24 meeting. But he said the abundance of geese creates hazards,

Geese Strike

The most infamous geese-plane collision took place in 2009, when a U.S. Airways flight struck a flock shortly after takeoff from LaGuardia Airport. With no engine power, pilots Chesley Sullenberger and Jeffrey Skiles navigated the "Miracle on the Hudson," ditching the plane in the river and saving its 155 passengers and crew members.

"plus they make a mess. If it was up to me, I would have been for it."

Building freeze

The City Council appears headed toward a second six-month building moratorium after fine-tuning its proposal on June 24. It enacted a six-month freeze in the fall of 2017.

The council must seek input from the city and Dutchess County planning boards and hold a public hearing before voting. It could also choose to discuss the idea further.

The first draft of the proposal named the city's Well No. 2, which was taken offline when it began producing "cloudy" water earlier this year, as the impetus for a four-month moratorium. But council members on June 24 pushed for a six-month freeze with the ongoing review of zoning laws in the linkage and historic districts as the catalyst.

"I would really like the priority to be to solve

those problems," McCredo said. The well "is an issue, but I don't think that's as dominant."

Nelson agreed, saying, "I would hate to see our [zoning] issues treated as a footnote. I think it is the most important issue that we're dealing with and should be addressed as such."

City Attorney Ed Phillips said he would re-draft the proposal but cautioned that a moratorium, if based on zoning, must be tailored to legislation either being enacted or considered by the council, not a broad review of development. The freeze could be based on both zoning and the faulty well, he said.

Danskammer

The City Council voted at its July 1 meeting to postpone a decision on a resolution opposing a proposal by Danskammer Energy to build a fast-starting, air-cooled facility to replace its nearly 70-year-old natural gas-powered plant in Newburgh.

The new plant would still use natural gas but its emissions would be cut significantly, Danskammer officials have told the council.

Dozens of construction workers, many of them wearing T-shirts representing local and regional labor unions, converged on the City Hall parking lot but none came inside for the meeting.

Grant said Monday that she was OK with tabling the resolution, "but I would like to see a decision made so we don't spend too much time churning our wheels on this."

On the same night, Danskammer representatives submitted a letter to the council on the merits of their plans, which the firm

said will fill in gaps in electric production after Indian Point closes, while Beacon resident Sergei Krasikov warned the council that the new plant would not be as "clean" as Danskammer suggests.

The Cold Spring Village Board and Philipstown Town Board last month both passed resolutions asking the state Public Service Commission to reject Danskammer's proposal for expansion.

Candidate arrested

Michael B. Justice, a Beacon resident who is running on the Republican and Conservative party lines to challenge incumbent Nick Page for the District 18 seat in the Dutchess County Legislature, was arrested on May 11 by a state trooper for allegedly driving under the influence.

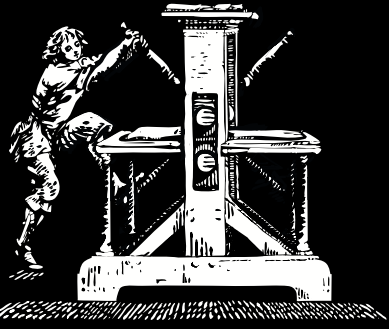
The state police said Justice was driving on Route 52 in Beacon when he was stopped for a traffic violation. Justice did not immediately respond to an email seeking comment.

School board elects officers

At its annual organizational meeting on July 1, the Beacon City Board of Education re-elected Anthony White and Meredith Heuer as its president and vice president, respectively. Board Member Antony Tseng nominated himself for the president's seat but his motion was not seconded.

White will be president for the third straight year; Heuer will be vice president for the second year in a row.

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Photos by Liam Goodman

Secrecy *(from Page 1)*

cally exempt from disclosure.”

After being sent a copy of the proposed law by *The Current* on June 21, Robert Freeman, then-executive director of the state’s Open Government Committee, which issues advisory rulings on the state FOIL and the Open Meetings Act, called it “ridiculous.”

More recently, Kristin O’Neill, the assistant director of the committee, said her office had “significant concerns with any local law that gives employees and officials the authority to determine whether a record is confidential. A record is only ‘confidential’ when a state or federal statute makes it so.”

“While an agency has the ability to withhold records or portions thereof under limited circumstances, that does not make the records ‘confidential,’” she noted. “The language of this proposal may lead to confusion about what should be public and what can be withheld and may also lead to improper denials of access” by the public records officer in response to FOIL requests.

The Putnam legislators who support the law say it is essential for preventing disclosure of such items as medical records, law enforcement information that could endanger an officer’s life or expose investigative tools (such as an undercover car), credit histories, Social Security numbers, staff email addresses that might be exploited commercially, pistol license applications and tax records.

The FOIL protects from disclosure sensitive law enforcement information, data whose release would “constitute an unwar-

ranted invasion of personal privacy,” trade secrets, anything that could interfere with judicial proceedings, details of union negotiations or imminent contract awards, and similar material.

“This is not about secrecy,” said Legislator Paul Jonke (R-Southeast) before the vote. “Information available via the Freedom of Information Law is and will always be available to the public. This is not changing.”

“There’s nothing secretive about this,” agreed Legislator Ginny Nacerino (R-Patterson). “This does not change anything.”

According to legislative Chairman Joseph Castellano (R-Brewster), the law “clarified exactly how to handle confidential material. Certainly, members of the public can FOIL anything they like.”

In response to an earlier question from *The Current* about how a county employee or legislator would determine what material should be marked confidential, Castellano had said they would rely on “law, rule, policy, procedure” or “the exercise of sound judgment.” (See Page 4.)

The resolution appears to conflict with years-old legal rulings that prohibit local entities in New York from passing laws that make entire swaths of documents secret by default, Freeman said. He cited an opinion he wrote 14 years ago after Monroe County officials requested guidance on which materials they could keep confidential. Freeman wrote, citing decisions by the state’s highest court, the Court of Appeals, that “a local enactment, such as a county code, local law, charter or ordinance



Legislator Nancy Montgomery cast the sole “no” vote against the law.

Photo by Ross Corsair

... 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.

Several county residents spoke against the proposed law at the July 2 meeting.

Julia Famularo of Philipstown expressed worries that the law “may have a chilling effect on whistleblowers.” Heidi Wendel, a Nelsonville resident who is the former chief of the civil frauds division of the U.S. Attor-

ney’s Office for the Southern District of New York, suggested in a letter to *The Current* that the law may, in fact, conflict with whistleblower protection laws. (See Page 4.)

Conner Brennan, of Cold Spring, said that with the law’s provisions, “you are inviting tyranny into Putnam County. This is not what democracy looks like.”

“What are you afraid of?” asked Kathleen Foley, another Cold Spring resident. She said the proposed law “is arbitrary, capricious and unlawful and, dollars to doughnuts, will not stand” if challenged. The law’s proponents seem unaware that the FOIL already exempts sensitive material from disclosure, she said, and have “shown ignorance of those laws in a most spectacular way.”

Rebecca Swan, a Carmel resident and Democratic candidate for the Legislature, termed the vote “shameful. If there’s no change,” as legislators maintain, “why amend your ethics code? There is no reason for this other than to hide waste, mismanagement and possible corruption.”

Reinvent Albany, a nonprofit that advocates “open, accountable New York government,” predicted on Twitter that the county would lose any court challenge to the law and noted that, under the FOIL, “attorney fees will be awarded to whomever sues. Putnam will waste Putnam taxpayer money and court time for what? This is foolishness by Putnam.”

Montgomery thanked those who either wrote the Legislature or came to Tuesday’s meeting to share their views. “It’s your comments that keep us practicing good public government,” she said.

MAGAZZINO
ITALIAN ART +

PRESENT

CINEMA IN PIAZZA

Outdoor Film Series

Up the Boot

Friday, July 12, 8pm-10pm

• *The Wonders (Le Meraviglie)*, 2014

Saturday, July 13, 8pm-10pm

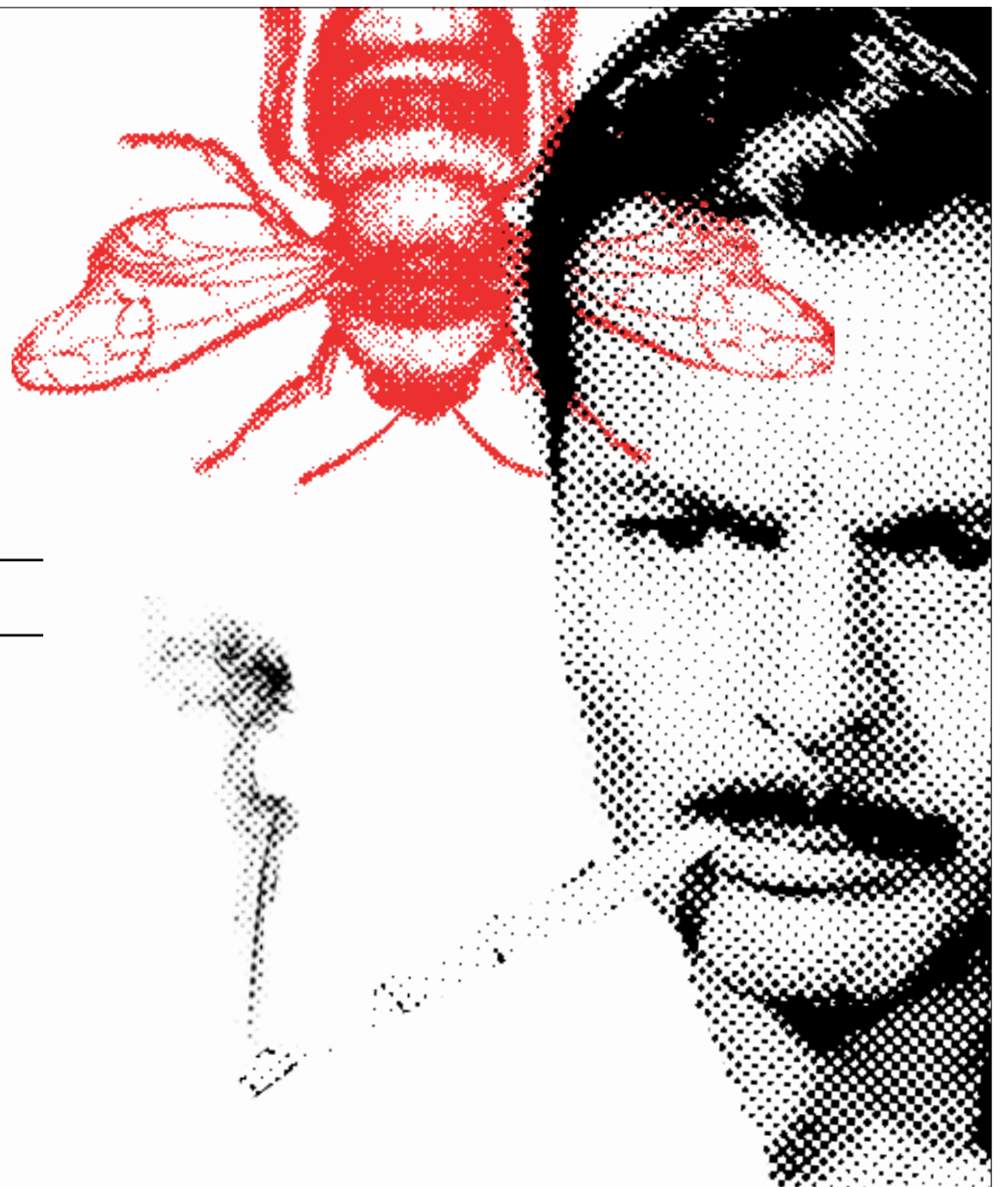
• *The Vice of Hope (Il vizio della speranza)*, 2018

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



Jason's Faves

We asked O'Connell to name three of his most memorable HVSF roles

(1) "My track in *Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged)* [in 2008] because it was my first 'big' role under the tent and introduced me to the audiences here in a way that felt special."



(2) "Around the World in 80 Days [in 2011] because, as with *Complete Works*, it was a show that clicked with audiences, and also because I met [my fiancée] Kate when she came to see a mutual friend in the play."



(3) "I will cheat and go with a tie since the roles and the plays are often seen as companions: the reluctant lovers Benedick in *Much Ado About Nothing* [in 2009] and Berowne in *Love's Labour's Lost* [in 2012]."



The Calendar

Leading With His Nose

HVSF favorite adapts and performs in classic tale of Cyrano

By Alison Rooney

Jason O'Connell, the popular comedian (and occasional tragedian) who has returned for a 10th summer at the Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival (HVSF), is adding a credit to his bio this summer: writer.

Working with Brenda Withers, he adapted a well-known play written in 1897 by Edmond Rostand that is based broadly on the life of Cyrano de Bergerac, the 17th century nobleman and soldier, poet and musician. Five actors, including O'Connell, play multiple parts in the show, which opened last weekend under the tent at Boscobel in Garrison and continues through Aug. 30.

Because his large nose induces shyness and insecurity in matters romantic, the title character lives vicariously by supplying the words to woo to a handsome but inarticulate friend. Complications ensue, naturally.

"When I started to write with Brenda I kept realizing that it is like an adolescent male fantasy: the tortured hero, the 'I can do the most amazing things, but never receive love because of *the nose*,' which is a stand-in for any rampant insecurity," says O'Connell. "Cyrano has a big ego, and he's a bit of a bully, though that's part and parcel of his great intellect and wit. He lashes out like a cornered animal. There's still adolescent anger in his heart. The 'That girl would never love me, but I have so much love for her.' You lock on these things. It's a potent place we all continue to live in."

Cyrano represents many firsts for the Long Island-raised actor. It's the first time he was commissioned to write a specific adaptation, and it's also his first collaboration with Withers.

The assignment came from Kathleen Culebro, the founding artistic director of Amphibian Stage in Fort Worth, Texas, whom O'Connell met while performing in the Berkshires. In September 2017, she told O'Connell she might have a directing slot open the following January. "It could be anything, but I have two thoughts," she said, including a three-actor version of *Cyrano*.

"I had lots of experience doing streamlined versions of plays, with actors playing multiple roles at a fast pace," O'Connell recalls, "but I thought it might need more. I suggested cutting the play down, but Kathleen said, 'Before you go down that route, I'm also interested in a brand new



Nance Williamson with Jason O'Connell in *Cyrano*

Photos by T. Charles Erickson/HVSF

script.' For a production in January!"

Culebro suggested he work with Withers. "So, I called Brenda," O'Connell says. "We talked through everything about the play. What do we respond to in it? What would we hate to lose? What don't we care about? We met a week later, and virtually everything we had done was in sync. It was like, 'This can disappear, these three guys can become one foil.'"

O'Connell directed the production in Texas for Amphibian, but did not perform; it also was produced at Gloucester Stage in Massachusetts but O'Connell was not able to see it because of acting commitments.



Jason O'Connell as Cyrano and George Merrick as Montfleury

O'Connell says the HVSF production is the first time he's performed in something he has written while being directed by someone else (Meredith McDonough).

The tricky navigation is *Cyrano*-esque, but O'Connell has a model in his fiancée, Kate Hamill, also an HVSF favorite and known for her adaptations of literary classics such as *Little Women* and *Pride & Prejudice*.

"Kate writes and acts," O'Connell says. "I've learned from her that you have to be aware that certain jobs overlap, but other times there has to be a distinction made. Even though you wrote it, and you have veto power, it's an art to know which lane you're in. As a writer, I take notes and share them later, not on the spot. There's also a prism of seeing as 'just an actor.' You gain more perspective with every hat you wear."

O'Connell thinks *Cyrano* is a perfect component of this year's HVSF repertory. "There's a fairy-tale aspect to it, much as there is in *Cymbeline* and *Into the Woods*," he says. "There's the notion of disguise and masks like *Much Ado*. Everyone is presenting a mask. There's a Shakespearean scope and quality to the story, and it's just right for a festival that embraces theatricality and community."

O'Connell decided in high school that he wanted to be an actor, and he received a scholarship to attend Hofstra University. "I was a straight-A student but a punk when it came to Shakespeare," he recalls. "It didn't connect. What I didn't know is that the Hofstra program was big into Shakespeare." After graduating from college, O'Connell spent several seasons at Texas Shakespeare and also worked with the Unrehearsed Shakespeare Company (its

(Continued on Page 12)

THE WEEK AHEAD

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

JULY FOURTH EVENTS

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 Butterfield Library from 2 to 3:30 p.m.) Drop-off entries for the pie-baking contest from 3 to 4 p.m.; winners will be announced at 5:30 p.m. 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; \$33/\$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 West Point Concert Band, the Benny Havens Band and the Hellcats, followed by fireworks over the Hudson. The concert and fireworks will also be broadcast on YouTube. The rain date is SUN 7. Register at site for updates.

COMMUNITY

SAT 6

Chef's Farm Fresh Award Dinner

BEACON

3 p.m. Bannerman Island
Boats leave Beacon dock at 3 & 4 p.m.
bannermancastle.org

Join the Hudson Valley Chefs' Consortium as members prepare a five-course farm-to-table meal. The fundraiser will honor Mark and Sue Adams of Adams Greenhouses and Fairacre Farms. *Cost: \$135 (\$125 members)*

MON 8

Hudson Valley Women in Business

BEACON

6 p.m. Oak Vino | 389 Main St.
hudsonvalleywomeninbusiness.com

Marva Allen, the founder of Wordzee.com, will lead a discussion about building a small business.

TUES 9

Sewing 101

GARRISON

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

This is the first of a series of workshops with Lucille Merry and Polly Townsend. This week, they will instruct participants on how to make a lined tote. Bring a sewing machine, or contact the library. *Cost: \$5*

TUES 9

1980s Playshop

COLD SPRING

6:30 p.m. Butterfield Library
10 Morris Ave. | 845-265-3040
butterfieldlibrary.org

Relive the 1980s through trivia, games, food and music. *Free*

THURS 11

Community Forum: Library Site Planning

GARRISON

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

The library is working with Pirie Associates Architects to install solar panels and develop a master plan that includes sustainability. Share your thoughts.

FRI 12

Hudson Valley Hot Air Balloon Festival

RHINEBECK

6550 Springbook Ave.
dcrroc.org/balloonfestschedule

Take to the sky in a hot air balloon, helicopter or tethered balloon during this annual weekend



Hudson Valley Hot Air Balloon Festival, July 12

festival that includes music, entertainment, carnival games and food and drink. Also SAT 13, SUN 14. *Cost: \$10 (weekend \$25)*

SAT 13

Invasives Strike Force

PEEKSKILL

9:30 a.m. Granite Mountain Preserve
497 Peekskill Hollow Road
201-512-9348 | bit.ly/invasives-strike

Join the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference as it removes plants along the trails. No experience necessary. Bring leather work gloves, plenty of water and a lunch to eat on the trails. Tools provided. Meeting place and details provided at registration.



SAT 13

Postcard, Book and Ephemera Show and Sale

BEACON

11 a.m. – 4 p.m. Memorial Hall
413 Main St. | 845-831-0514
beaconhistorical.org

Browse through thousands of postcards that depict scenes from Beacon, Philipstown and beyond. *Cost: \$3*

SAT 13

Toy Pizza Con 2019

COLD SPRING

11 a.m. – 5 p.m. St. Mary's Hall
1 Chestnut St. | linktr.ee/toypizza

Browse vintage action figures, Japanese imports, toys and comics. Pizza provided while it lasts. *Free*

SAT 13

Food and Farm Day

COLD SPRING

Noon - 4 p.m. Glynwood
362 Glynwood Road | 845-265-3338
glynwood.org

Enjoy local food, take a tour of the farm, meet the animals, and learn about Hudson Valley farming. Tall County will provide live music. Registration required. *Free*

SAT 13

Putnam History Museum Lawn Party

COLD SPRING

5 – 7 p.m. Carr-White Home
20 Luzmira Lane | 845-265-4010
putnamhistorymuseum.org

This “summer fete for suffragettes” will celebrate the centennial of the 19th Amendment, which gave women the right to vote. Enjoy canapes and cocktails; summer whites suggested. *Cost: \$90*

SUN 14

Civil War Monument Unveiling

CARMEL

11 a.m. Veteran Memorial Park
201 Gypsy Trail Road

The memorial will honor the nearly 1,600 Putnam County residents who served from 1861 to 1865. A color guard and re-enactors will be part of the ceremony.

TALKS & TOURS

SAT 6

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.

WED 10

Walking History Tour

COLD SPRING

7 p.m. Butterfield Library
10 Morris Ave. | 845-265-3040
butterfieldlibrary.org

Learn about the site where the Butterfield estate, Cragside, once stood. On SAT 13, at 10 a.m., a tour that ends at the waterfront will cover the history of the village. *Free*

SAT 13

Viewspots to the Hudson

GARRISON

10 a.m. Manitoga | 584 Route 9D
845-424-3812 | visitmanitoga.org

Take a 90-minute, 1.5-mile, moderate hike through Manitoga's woodland trails, featuring four *osio* (“beautiful view” in native Algonquin) created by Russel Wright to frame the river. *Cost: \$5*

SAT 13

The Great Depression in Putnam County

PUTNAM VALLEY

10 a.m. Putnam Valley Library
30 Oscawana Lake Road
845-528-3242 | putnamvalleylibrary.org

Sarah Johnson, the former director of the Putnam History Museum, will speak on how residents fared in 1930 and the programs that relieved their hardships. *Cost: \$5*

HEALTH & FITNESS

SAT 13

Infant CPR Class

GARRISON

11 a.m. Desmond-Fish Library
472 Route 403 | 845-424-3020
desmondfishlibrary.org

This 90-minute class will cover the basics. Email beautifulmamas123@gmail.com to register. *Cost: \$10*

SUN 14

Introduction to Herbs

BEACON

6 p.m. Wyld Womyn | 378C Main St.
845-440-8300 | wyldwomynbeacon.com

Learn about the differences between flower essences, tinctures, decoctions and infusions and understand how to make tea and prepare herbs at home. *Cost: \$20 to \$35*

VISUAL ART

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.

SAT 13
Art, Family and Heritage
PEEKSKILL
5 p.m. Hudson Valley MOCA
1701 Main St. | 914-788-0100
hudsonvalleymoca.org

Entang Wiharso will join Christine Wiharso and MOCA co-founder Livia Straus in a conversation exploring multiculturalism in family life and its effect on artistic practice. *Cost: Free with admission (\$5 to \$10)*

SECOND SATURDAY

SAT 13
Expressive Outcomes
BEACON
5 – 7 p.m. Howland Public Library
313 Main St. | 845-831-1134
beaconlibrary.org

The library will host a reception for an exhibit of artwork by participants in this Anderson Center for Autism program.

SAT 13
Buff Monster / Jay222 / Mus Musculous
BEACON
6 – 9 p.m. Clutter Gallery
163 Main St. | 212-255-2505
shop.cluttermagazine.com/gallery

SAT 13
BeaconArts Member Show
BEACON
6 – 9 p.m. Hudson Beach Glass
162 Main St. | 845-440-0068
hudsonbeachglass.com

Curated by Karlyn Benson and Theresa Gooby, the exhibit will include works by 69 artists in diverse mediums.

SAT 13
Plant Spirit Medicine / Aeromantic
BEACON
6 – 9 p.m. bau Gallery | 506 Main St.
845-440-7584 | baugallery.org

Elizabeth Arnold’s mixed media will explore our similarities with the world of plants, while Samantha Beste’s collages use maps and atlas pages to depict climate change.

KIDS & FAMILY

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 (\$15 door, \$5 children)*



Free Community Day, July 13

MON 8
Robotics Camp
GARRISON
10 a.m. Desmond-Fish Library
472 Route 403 | 845-424-3020
desmondfishlibrary.org

This is the first session of a daily camp by Imagination = Innovations that will instruct students ages 6 to 10 in brick-coding software with Lego Robotics and OzoBots and engineering with LittleBits circuits. Registration required. *Cost: \$150 or pay-what-you-wish*

THURS 11
Our Big Universe
BEACON
2 p.m. Howland Public Library
313 Main St. | 845-831-1134
beaconlibrary.org

Come meet amazing animals and find out what makes each one special. *Free*

THURS 11
Aliens: Escape from Earth
GARRISON
4 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library
472 Route 403 | 845-424-3020
desmondfishlibrary.org

This ScienceTellers interactive show uses experiments to illustrate what happens when a group of children help aliens who fell to Earth return home. *Free*

THURS 11
Youth Open Mic
BEACON
7 p.m. Towne Crier Cafe | 379 Main St.
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com

Children and teenagers ages 18 and younger are invited to perform. Hosted by Miss Vickie. *Free*

SAT 13
Free Community Day
CORNWALL
Noon – 4 p.m. Hudson Highlands Nature Museum | 25 Boulevard
845-534-7781 | hhnrm.org

Hike, meet the animals, and listen to storytellers.

STAGE & SCREEN

THURS 11
Standing in the Shadows of Motown
BEACON
7 p.m. Towne Crier Cafe | 379 Main St.
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com

The Funk Brothers were a group of Detroit-based session musicians who performed on most Motown recordings from 1959 to 1972. Their role is described in Paul Justman’s 2002 documentary, which will be screened as part of an ongoing film series. *Free*



FRI 12
Moonlight and Magnolias
WAPPINGERS FALLS
8 p.m. County Players | 2681 W. Main St.
845-298-1491 | countyplayers.org

In this farce by Ron Hutchinson, the year is 1939 and David O. Selznick is making *Gone with the Wind*. With a cast but no script, he locks himself, director Victor Fleming and script doctor Ben Hecht in a room with peanuts, bananas and a typewriter to re-enact the saga of Scarlett and Rhett. Also SAT 13. *Cost: \$20 (\$15 seniors, children)*

FRI 12
Cinema in Piazza
PHILIPSTOWN
8 p.m. Magazzino Italian Art
2700 Route 9 | 845-666-7202
magazzino.art

This outdoor film festival was organized in collaboration with the Cold Spring Film Society. The Friday film is *The Wonders (Le Meraviglie)*, a semi-sweet, semi-autobiographical

story about growing up in the 1990s on a ramshackle farm as the daughter of back-to-the-earth political activists. On SAT 13, *The Vice of Hope (Il vizio della speranza)*, a drama about the crime-ridden community of Castel Volturno, near Naples, and a young woman’s crisis of conscience, will be screened. On SUN 14, in the satirical *Divorce Italian Style (Divorzio all’italiana)*, a bored and near-impooverished man longs to marry his gorgeous teenage cousin but must kill his wife first. *Cost: \$7 (\$5 student; \$18/\$12 weekend pass)*

SAT 13
Julius Caesar
BEACON
Bannerman Island
Boats leave dock at 4 & 5 p.m.
bannermancastle.org

The Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival will bring Shakespeare’s tale of betrayal to life as the friends of a charismatic war hero plot against him. *Cost: \$65*

SAT 13
The Artichoke
BEACON
8 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
477 Main St. | 845-831-4988
artichoke.bpt.me

Hosted by Drew Prochaska, this series features performers from *The Moth* and other popular series. The first three installments sold out. *Cost: \$17.50 (\$20 door)*

SAT 13
The Big Sleep
COLD SPRING
8:30 p.m. Dockside Park
coldspringfilm.org

Humphrey Bogart and Lauren Bacall star in this 1946 Philip Marlowe mystery that will be screened as part of the Cold Spring Film Society’s summer series. Bring blankets, chairs and bug spray. *Free*

MUSIC

SAT 6
Neil Alexander & NAIL
BEACON
8 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
477 Main St. | 845-765-3012
alexandernail.bpt.me

The funky world-jazz fusion band — pianist and composer Alexander, drummer Nadav Snir-Zelniker, bassist Brian Mooney and saxophonist Steven Frieder — is on tour to celebrate its 20th anniversary. *Cost: \$15 (\$20 door)*

FRI 12
The Dark Horses
BEACON
8:30 p.m. Towne Crier Cafe | 379 Main St.
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com

This Orange County band will pay tribute to George Harrison. *Cost: \$20 (\$25 door)*

FRI 12
Earnhardt
BEACON
9 p.m. Dogwood | 47 E. Main St.
845-202-7500 | dogwoodbeacon.com

The alt-rock Brooklyn band will play selections from its self-titled debut. *Free*

SAT 13
Beacon Jazz Lab
BEACON
5 p.m. St. Andrew’s Church
15 South Ave. | beacon-episcopal.org

Enjoy a mix of blues, bossas, ballads and swing music. Dancers welcome. *Free*

SAT 13
Doansburg Chamber Ensemble
COLD SPRING
7 p.m. St. Mary’s Church
1 Chestnut St. | 845-228-4167

The ensemble will open its season with performances by its string trio (violinist David Steinberg, violist Sean Brekke and cellist Kate Dillingham) with flutist Christine Smith. *Cost: \$10 (\$9 students, seniors)*



SUN 14
Koehler & Kelly
COLD SPRING
1 p.m. Butterfield Library
10 Morris Ave. | 845-265-3040
butterfieldlibrary.org

The duo will combine traditional fiddling with jazz piano. *Free*



SUN 14
Seeds of Man
BEACON
7 p.m. Towne Crier Cafe | 379 Main St.
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com

This tribute to the music of Woody Guthrie will benefit the Huntington’s Disease Society of America. *Cost: \$15 (\$20 door)*

CIVIC

MON 8
City Council
BEACON
7 p.m. City Hall | 1 Municipal Plaza
845-838-5011 | cityofbeacon.org

TUES 9
Board of Trustees
COLD SPRING
7:30 p.m. Village Hall | 85 Main St.
845-265-3611 | coldspringny.gov

WED 10
School Board
GARRISON
7 p.m. Garrison School | 1100 Route 9D
845-424-3689 | gufs.org

THURS 11
Philipstown Town Board
COLD SPRING
7:30 p.m. Town Hall | 238 Main St.
845-265-5200 | philipstown.com





Where can Waldo be?

Photo by A. Rooney

Where's Waldo?

Cold Spring retailers hide elusive character

By Alison Rooney

Waldo, the lost-in-a-crowd bespectacled wanderer, is going to be up and down and all around Cold Spring's Main Street, at both Philipstown libraries and at the Cold Spring Farmers' Market at Boscobel through the end of July. If your children or teenagers

(up to age 17) are top-notch detectives, there may be some loot in store.

More than 20 local businesses are hiding a Waldo cutout in their establishments as part of a promotion sponsored by the American Booksellers Association and Candlewick Press to encourage people to shop local.

Children can pick up a game passport at Split Rock Books, 97 Main St., then locate Waldo at each retailer to receive a stamp or signature. (*The Current* will participate in a slightly different way; search for Waldo hidden in each issue, including this one.) A party and prize drawing will be held at the bookstore on July 31.

Jason O'Connell (from Page 9)

productions were based on the original performances, where the actors never saw the whole script, only their own part). He also has played roles in Chekhov and Shaw and some contemporary dramas, including — like every other New York actor — an episode of *Law and Order*. (He played a jury foreman and his line was “Guilty.”)

O'Connell's 10 seasons with HVSF have made him a recognizable face in Philipstown. Although he's being stopped on the street more often now in New York City because of shows such as *Sense and Sensibility* and *Happy Birthday Wanda June*, “for a long time, I was recognized in Cold Spring more than anywhere else. It continues to be lovely and special to have that connection with a community.”



Britney Simpson as Roxane and Jason O'Connell as Cyrano Photo by T. Charles Erickson/HVSF

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The Best of Beacon

Photographers' group mounts annual show

By Alison Rooney

For its fifth annual member show — after four at the Howland Public Library — the Beacon Photography Group headed west to the larger confines, and two levels, of the Howland Cultural Center.

This year's exhibit, which continues through July 28, includes the work of 20 photographers. A few photos are shared here with each artist's response to the question: "What prompted you to take this shot?"

The group was created on Facebook six years ago by Tom Conroy and Michael Bogdanffy-Kriegh. "We kept it loose: a connection to Beacon and an interest in photography were the criteria" to join, Conroy recalls of the group, which has grown to more than 400 members.

Four years ago, Michelle Rivas of the Howland library contacted Conroy and Bogdanffy-Kriegh to ask about mounting a show. Each exhibit has a theme: food and drink, music, conflict resolution and autumn in the Hudson Valley.

This year the group went without a theme, and "the response was amazing," says Conroy, who serves on the cultural center's board. "We thought we'd use this as an opportunity for our members to show what they can do." They also increased the submission limit from 5 to 10 photos, with each participant having at least one photo selected.

About two-thirds of the submissions were Beacon-specific. "There is so much beauty here, so much to love," says Conroy, who teaches sociology at Lehman College and moved to Beacon with his wife in 2006.

Though the group is largely nonprofessional, there are a few exceptions, including Ross Corsair, whose work has won many awards for *The Current*. "We don't meet in person regularly, though we're hoping to do more of that," Conroy says. "We'd like to see more teenagers and kids get involved."

The Howland Cultural Center is located at 477 Main St. Gallery hours are 1 to 5 p.m. on Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Monday. To join the group, see facebook.com/groups/beaconphotogroup.

Coming Up

The Beacon Photography Group has issued a call for submissions for its next show, *Vintage Visions*, which will be presented at the Howland Public Library in October. The theme will be vintage objects shown in present day. See facebook.com/groups/beaconphotogroup for guidelines. The deadline is Aug. 31.



Photo by Kevin Bertholf: "This shot was taken in 2010 when I was freshly moved to Beacon and falling in love with its character and texture."



Photo by Cindy Gould: "The colors, textures, light and shadow caught my eye. The flowers are made of wood."



Photo by Jan Dolan with silhouettes painted on glass: "I took this because of the contrast between nature and the tire. Yet it is still beautiful."



Photo by Thomas Orlando: "I've learned to always have my equipment with me when I drive past Canopus Lake on my way to work each morning."



Photo by Ross Corsair: "This shot spoke to me about the duality of most relationships. Although it is two couples, it could be the same couple in different moments."



Photo by Markie Baylash: "I have no idea why I take any photo, but thinking about why I took this one: passion."



Photo by Larry Fitzpatrick: "I was walking around Beacon looking for a unique view of the city and placed my camera on the unused track to take a shot of One East Main."



Photo by Dan Calabrese: "The mallard was being very patient with me as I waded into the water. I was lucky to catch him mid-quack."



SUMMER COLORS — “Catskill Landing 1847,” an interpretation by Rick Gedney of Philipstown of a sketch by Thomas Cole (below), was among the works auctioned by the Thomas Cole National Historic Site at its summer gala on June 22 in Catskill. *Images provided*



Wedding Announcement

Flaherty-McNamara



Rachel Mary Flaherty and Joseph Travers McNamara were married on Oct. 20, 2018, at Our Lady of Loretto in Cold Spring.

The ceremony was performed by the Rev. Thomas Kiely and Father Anselm Smedile of Saint Anselm College in Manchester, New Hampshire, where the couple met and from which both graduated. A reception was held at the Thayer Hotel at West Point.

The bride is the daughter of Annette and Robert Flaherty of Cold Spring and the groom is the son of Cynthia and Dennis McNamara of Burlington, Massachusetts. The couple traveled to Ireland for their honeymoon and reside in Abington, Massachusetts. Rachel is a client services manager at Allscripts, a digital health company in Boston, and Joseph is the shift lead manager for corporate security and staff EMT at Fidelity Investments in Boston.

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Roots and Shoots

Creating a Flower Forest Garden

By Pamela Doan

Being a self-trained gardener who has studied and attended many conferences and seminars but not pursued a degree in any relevant field, I haven't followed a direct path in my own landscaping or adopted a formal style.

Helping nature has always been my driving purpose and I've learned through observation what works and who likes it — be it bird, butterfly, insect or wildlife. Writing *Roots and Shoots* has secretly been a selfish pursuit to have an excuse to solve my landscape issues by interviewing researchers and experts who probably wouldn't have time to speak with me if I weren't a journalist.

This year as my landscape burst into bloom, heavily fortified by all the rain and years of building up the soil with organic matter, I've finally found a term for my gardening style: *flower forest*. My perennial beds of native plants have grown into banks of blooms 6- to 8-feet high that expand into more space every year.



I'm so into watching how a tiny seed becomes a tiny plant and, then, three years later, a wall of foliage and flowers. When I feel terrible about the state of the world, walking through my yard and seeing the life that's appeared and is being supported by these plants lifts me up.

The glorious winterberry bush (*Ilex verticillata*) is in flower and there were so many bees around it that it seems to be shimmering. The minute flowers aren't flashy but they have an outsize impact. This winterberry bush is also the largest I've seen. Usually they are kept pruned but the previous owners of my land put this one in just the right spot and it has reached its full size. It's 12- to 14-feet tall and just as wide, and the branches arch to the ground, making a tunnel and hiding space that children love.

That's one of the guidelines of flower forest gardening: let plants and shrubs and trees be themselves. I have the acreage and, honestly, no time for pruning or removal unless it's part of my ongoing battle with Japanese stiltgrass, Japanese barberry and mugwort.

Another guideline for my personal mission is to employ native plants that have aggressive spreading instincts. Again, we have lots of acreage and I live in the woods so maybe they'll have a chance to repopulate these areas that are being swallowed by the aforementioned invasives. I let them go to seed and distribute themselves any way they can.

A flower forest is also a dynamic approach. I let the plant communities shift and spread without much choreography. Every season

is different and interactive with its own look and feeling. In some years one species dominates and then it gets pushed back and something else takes up more space. Or I add a plant to change the aesthetic. This year it's Blue Paradise (*Phlox paniculata*) and blue cardinal flower (*Lobelia siphilitica*).

Recommended plants

■ Joe Pye Weed (*Eutrochium purpureum*): This easy-to-grow plant is a collection of 5- to 7-foot stalks with purple flowers on top. I think of it as a columnar vase shape with shorter stalks on the outside and the tallest on the inside. Watching bees crawl over the 12-inch flowerheads is fun. With the footprint of the plant about 2 feet by 3 feet, it hasn't spread too far in my yard; it's planted at the edge of a patio and makes a wall behind the lounge chairs.

■ Bee Balm (*Monarda didyma*) and Bergamot (*Monarda fistulosa*): A single bee balm plant now covers an area that's 5 feet by 5 feet in my flowerbed and I had to cut it back so that other plants wouldn't be engulfed. Simply cut the stalks — they each grow to 4 feet tall or so — that are intruding down. These plants are lovely and fragrant and hummingbirds will visit.

■ Butterflyweed (*Asclepias tuberosa*): This milkweed is necessary for the endangered monarch butterflies to lay their



Butterflyweed, anise hyssop and bee balm make a wall of foliage and flowers that pollinators love.

Photo by P. Doan

eggs and feed on. Thank goodness it's seriously lovely. The orange flowers pop and it spreads nicely; every garden should have it. A single plant can become 10 in a few years.

■ Ox Eye Sunflower (*Heliopsis helianthoides*): This striking plant grows to 6 feet tall and 4 feet wide and will be covered in cheerful yellow flowers. Shrubs require more care, so why not use a plant that can take up as much space as a shrub instead? Mix this with yellow coneflower (*Rudbeckia laciniata*) and any goldenrod (*Solidago*) for a hedge of foliage and yellow flowers of different shapes and sizes.

Pamela Doan, a garden coach with One Nature, has grown ferns in Seattle, corn on a Brooklyn rooftop and is now trying to cultivate shitake mushrooms on logs. Email her at rootsandshoots@highlandscurrent.org.

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Friday, July 12, 7 p.m.
Garrin Benfield - Free

Friday, July 12, 8:30 p.m.
The Dark Horses
Tribute to George Harrison

Saturday, July 13, 6 p.m.
Boom Kat - Free

Saturday, July 13, 8:30 p.m.
Peter Karp Band
Johnny "Stickerboy" Owens

Sunday, July 14, 11:30 a.m.
Dead End Beverly - Free

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Then & Now



The gymnasium at St. Mary's Seminary in Garrison, where young men trained for the priesthood in the Capuchin Franciscan Order, is shown in the early 1960s and today, with participants from the men's pickup games held on Monday nights at what is now the Philipstown Recreation Center doing their best to recreate the scene. *Postcard courtesy John Froats; photo by Chip Rowe*



Current Classifieds

FOR SALE

ADOBE INDESIGN CS5.5 FOR MAC — *The Current* has upgraded to Creative Cloud and has this previous retail version available for \$300. The license will be transferred to new owner through Adobe. May not work with High Sierra. Email Managing Editor Chip Rowe at tech@highlandscurrent.org.

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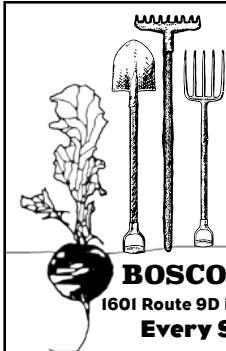
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The HIGHLANDS Current

7-Day Forecast for the Highlands

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Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
87/66	83/59	84/61	87/63	86/69	85/71	83/66
POP: 65%	POP: 5%	POP: 10%	POP: 20%	POP: 25%	POP: 30%	POP: 30%
SW 4-8 mph	NNE 4-8 mph	WNW 4-8 mph	WSW 4-8 mph	VAR 2-4 mph	SSE 3-6 mph	S 6-12 mph
RealFeel 96/66	RealFeel 88/60	RealFeel 90/61	RealFeel 93/66	RealFeel 92/70	RealFeel 92/71	RealFeel 94/66

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.

Pollen	
High	
Moderate	
Low	
Absent	
Grass	N.A.
Weeds	N.A.
Trees	N.A.
Molds	N.A.

Source: National Allergy Bureau

SUN & MOON

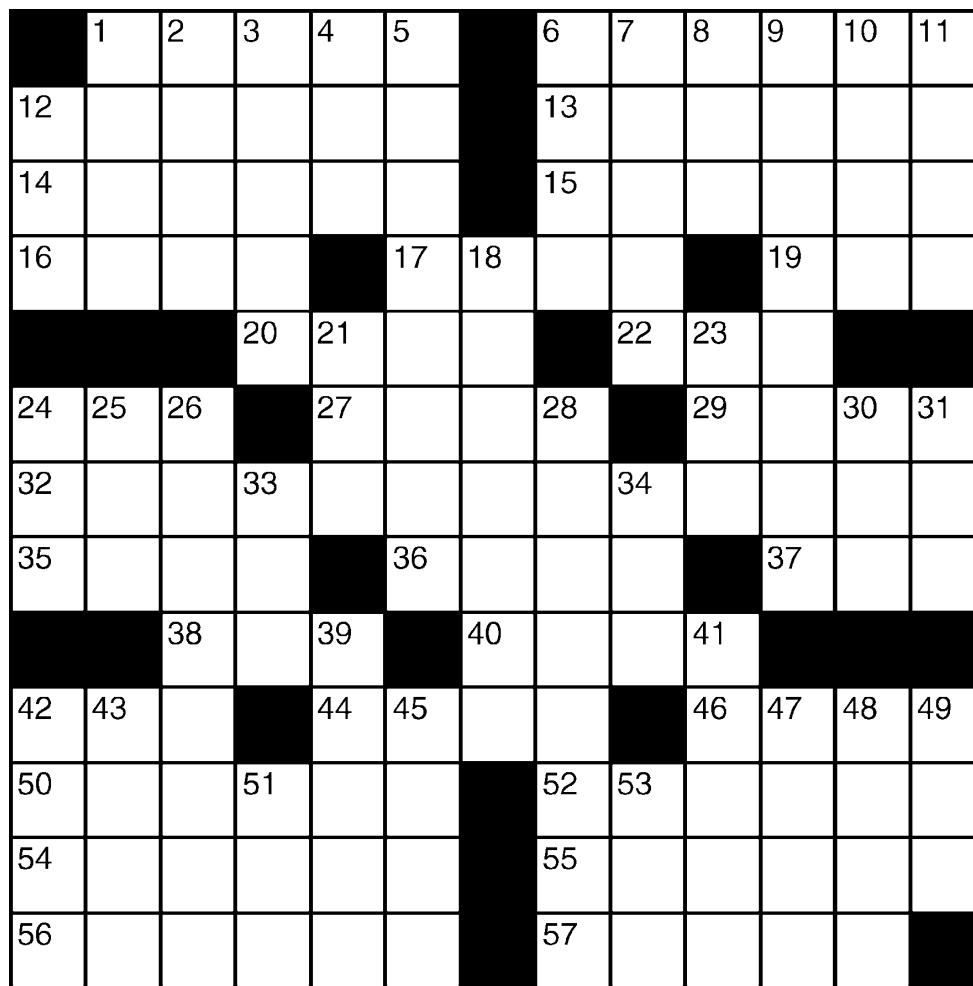
Sunrise Sat., 7/6	5:29 AM
Sunset Sat. night, 7/6	8:32 PM
Moonrise Sat., 7/6	9:49 AM
Moonset Sat., 7/6	11:42 PM

First	Full	Last	New
Jul 9	Jul 16	Jul 24	Jul 31

CROSSCURRENT

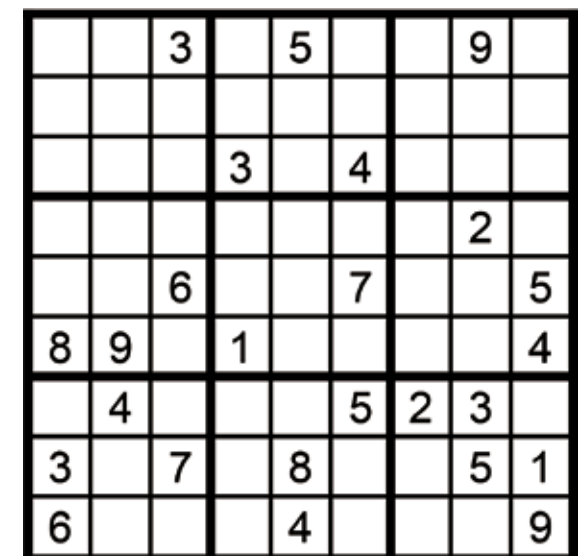
By
King Features**ACROSS**

1. Advertised heavily
6. Bilateral
12. South Dakota's capital
13. Colored ring
14. On the briny
15. Funhouse item
16. Use a sponge
17. Author Wister
19. D.C. fig.
20. Long skirt
22. Obtain
24. Suitable
27. Cacophonies
29. — parmigiana
32. 5-ball desktop toy
35. Exchange premium
36. Former veep
37. Vast expanse
38. San Francisco's — Hill
40. One of the Three Bears
42. Sort
44. The same, in a bibliography
46. Approaching
50. Elegantly groomed
52. "Shoo!"
54. Mammoth occasion?
55. Room to maneuver
56. Nun
57. Brilliance

**DOWN**

1. Stereo setup
2. Shriek bark
3. Opening comment
4. Historic period
5. Rehab goings-on
6. Domesticate
7. Squeeze
8. "— the ramparts ..."
9. Carpeting fabrics
10. Medicinal plant
11. 9-Down makeup
12. Manhandle
18. Endearing
21. Big bother
23. Mendes or Longoria
24. Literary collection
25. Cribbage scorekeeper
26. Longtime Hostess product
28. Mix up
30. Hearty brew
31. Michele of *Glee*
33. As well
34. Sleep phenom
39. Spree
41. Broadway backer
42. Cow-headed goddess
43. Places
45. Antelope's playmate
47. *The Music Man* setting
48. Buzzing pest
49. Attention getter
51. Roscoe
53. Common Mkt., once

SUDOCURRENT

**Answers for June 28 Puzzles**

J	A	M		T	I	L	E		A	P	E	S
A	B	A		O	D	I	N		W	E	R	E
R	E	G	I	M	E	N	T		F	R	E	E
S	T	I	N	T	S		E	M	U			
			P	O	T		R	E	L	E	N	T
A	L	B	U	M		Y	E	W		K	O	I
J	O	L	T		S	A	D		L	E	E	R
A	D	O		A	U	K		S	I	D	L	E
R	E	C	E	N	T		E	O	N			
			G	N	U		S	L	E	D	G	E
P	R	I	G		R	E	S	I	D	E	N	T
T	A	C	O		E	G	A	D		L	A	C
A	M	E	N		S	O	Y	S		E	T	H

3	6	7	4	5	2	1	9	8
1	4	9	8	7	6	2	5	3
5	8	2	1	3	9	4	6	7
8	9	5	3	2	7	6	1	4
6	2	3	5	1	4	7	8	9
4	7	1	9	6	8	3	2	5
7	1	4	2	8	5	9	3	6
9	3	8	6	4	1	5	7	2
2	5	6	7	9	3	8	4	1

Answers will be published next week.
See highlandscurrent.org/puzzle for interactive versions.



Julian Rivers



Hawken Brickman

10U Squad (Finally) Opens Summer Season

Beacon notches wins over Mahopac, Bedford Pound Ridge

By Skip Pearlman

The Beacon Little League team for 10-year-olds (although its players are all 9) finally got to open its Greater Hudson Valley Baseball League summer season on June 26 after two rainouts against Poughkeepsie and Brewster. The squad defeated Mahopac, 7-2, and then edged

Bedford Pound Ridge, 5-4, on Monday (July 1).

The Bulldogs' counterparts in the 11U division, the Maulers, have already played seven games and are 3-4, with victories over Rockland, New Milford and East Fishkill.

Aiden Heaton of the 10U Bulldogs went five strong innings on the mound against Mahopac, and Julian Rivers closed it out, throwing the last inning.



Beacon's 10U baseball squad

Photos by S. Pearlman

"I love the way both of our pitchers threw the ball today," said Coach Jed Varricchio. "Aiden throws strikes, and Jayden pounds the zone and forces kids to put the ball in play. With the defense we played, I was happy with the team."

At the plate, William Flynn went 2-for-3 and drove in two runs, and Jayden Conception picked up a key RBI.

Varricchio said his goal for the team is to have fun and learn the fundamentals. "We want the kids to keep moving forward and

make progress with their games."

The other Bulldogs players are Jesse Apostolou, Connor Varricchio, Hudson Fonitan, Caellum Capalley, Hawken Brickman and Gavin Taiaon. The team plays home games at Memorial Park in Beacon.

The Bulldogs will host the New York Silverbacks from Somers on July 11 and the Maulers will host the Silverbacks on July 13. There are more than 400 teams in the Hudson Valley summer league, with divisions for players from ages 8 to 23.



BIG FINISH

The Beacon Little League championship game for players ages 11 and 12 ended in dramatic fashion on Ronnie Anzovino's walkoff home run in the bottom of the sixth inning as the Bulldogs defeated the Phillies, 5-4. In the front row are Coach Jed Varricchio, Morgan Varricchio, Ronan Moran, Brady Juhn, Mason Brown, Frankie Monteiro and Luca Jerger. In the back row are Coach Bobby Atwell, Jackson Atwell, Anthony Borrromeo, Nick Albra, Chris Carton, Anzovino, Mikey Fontaine and Coach Mike Fontaine. *Photos provided*

AROUND THE HORN

- Allie and Hannah Monteleone and Sam and Chelsea Lisikatos of Philipstown are again competing this summer for the Irish and Greek national softball teams, respectively, at the European Championships and the Olympic qualifiers in the Czech Republic. After the initial round of group play, Ireland was 4-1 and Greece was 3-1.
- Shianne Twoguns, a junior pitcher for Haldane's softball team, on June 23 was named fourth team All-State among Class C schools by the New York State Sportswriters Association.
- After tryouts at Mamaroneck High School, Matt Champlin, a rising senior on the Haldane boys' basketball team, was selected for the Hudson Valley team that will compete in the Basketball Coaches Association of New York's Summer Hoops Festival in Johnson City from Aug. 2 to 4. The 12-man squad also includes Antonio Taylor from Peekskill, Jourdan Belcher from Alexander Hamilton, three players from Mount Vernon, three from White Plains and one each from Suffern, New Rochelle and Spring Valley.
- Mark Robohm of Cold Spring will ride



Allie Monteleone joined the softball team this spring during her senior year at Pace.

his bike 192 miles over two days in early August as part of the annual Pan-Mass Challenge to raise money for the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute in Boston. To contribute, see profile.pmc.org/MR0296.