

# The HIGHLANDS Current



The King of Nelsonville  
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AUGUST 2, 2019

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## An Electric Response

*Beacon council hears testimony on Danskammer*

By Jeff Simms

Well over 100 people packed into Beacon City Hall on Monday (July 29) for a City Council workshop that at times resembled a court proceeding, with litigants taking turns for nearly 90 minutes arguing for and against the proposed expansion of the Danskammer power plant in Newburgh.

Once the testimony was complete, however, council members left little doubt that they plan to adopt a resolution on Aug. 5 opposing the company's \$450 million proposal to rebuild its nearly 70-year-old facility.

If the council passes the resolution, Beacon will become the third municipality in the Highlands — following Cold Spring and Philipstown — to speak out against the project.

Danskammer operates a seldom-used, gas-powered plant that its owners admit is long outdated. Located in the Town of Newburgh, it is 8 miles from Beacon but only a few thousand feet from the Hudson River. It is in the “pre-application” phase of Article 10 of the Public Service Law, the state's five-step procedure for reviewing power-plant building proposals. It involves public outreach and submitting detailed information to the seven-member Board on Electric Generation Siting and the Environment, which is part of the Department of Public Service.



MAGIC SMILES — Illusionist Scott Jameson kept his audience spellbound during a performance at the Desmond-Fish Library in Garrison on July 24. Photo by Ross Corsair

A formal application will follow, and if deemed complete, board officials will schedule a public hearing.

Although the hearing would be the highest-profile opportunity for the public to weigh in, the state board accepts comments throughout the Article 10 process. On Wednesday (July 31), a representative said more than 3,600 comments have been received so far.

On Monday, with more than 50 union workers spilling from the audience into the City Hall lobby, Danskammer offi-

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## How They Voted on Weed, Guns, Trump Taxes

*After passage by state legislators, governor signs variety of laws*

By Chip Rowe

Gov. Andrew Cuomo has been busy signing legislation passed by the state Senate and Assembly before both went on summer hiatus in late June.

Below are summaries of 19 newly enacted laws, along with the votes cast by Republican Sue Serino (whose Senate district

includes the Highlands), Democrat Sandy Galef (whose Assembly district includes Philipstown) and Democrat Jonathan Jacobson (whose Assembly district includes Beacon). We emailed Serino's office asking for comments on her votes in the minority but did not immediately receive a response.

### ■ Trump's tax returns

On July 8, Cuomo signed a bill allowing the release of state tax returns of “certain federal, state and local elected officials, federal executive staff, federal officers

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## Odell Signs Putnam Secrecy Law



*Legislators claim it does not promote secrecy*

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

Putnam County Executive MaryEllen Odell on Tuesday (July 30) signed a law that allows legislators, county employees, consultants and contractors to write “confidential” on any document to prevent its disclosure.

Odell's endorsement of the law, which the county Legislature approved on July 2 by a 7-1 vote, followed a July 24 public hearing that featured vigorous commentary both from opponents of the law and residents who backed it.

The law's advocates argue that it codifies existing obligations to identify confidential material and does not conflict with state and federal laws, including provisions of the state Freedom of Infor-

mation Law (FOIL). Critics contend that because those state and federal laws already prevent unwarranted disclosure of sensitive information such as details of undercover police investigations or medical records, the law is unnecessary and likely to be nullified if challenged in court.

Crafted as an amendment to the employee ethics chapter of the county code, the law will take effect after it is filed with the New York Secretary of State.

Along with signing the law on Tuesday, Odell sent the Legislature a memo that endorsed confidentiality in legislative discussions and criticized District 1 Legislator Nancy Montgomery, who voted against the law on July 2. Montgomery, the sole Democrat on the Legislature, represents Philipstown and part of Putnam Valley.

In her memo, Odell said that “making government more accessible to the public is vital to improving the quality of democracy. However, that does not mean that the gate to all government records should be flung open for the public to simply peruse at leisure.”

She postulated that decision makers must “be able to trust in the confidentiality of their meetings and communications if there is to be a free flow of conversation.” Therefore, “to protect our lawmakers' ability to discuss certain sensitive issues,” the

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## FIVE QUESTIONS: LAUREN DRUMMOND



Lauren Drummond

Photo provided

By Brian PJ Cronin

**L**auren Drummond is the founder of the annual Putnam County Wine & Food Fest, which will be held for the first time in Cold Spring, at Mayor's Park, on Aug. 10 and 11.

### Why did you bring the festival to Cold Spring?

A lot of the wineries wanted it moved there because there are more attractions and it's much busier. Most of the people who come to the festival stay for an hour and want to go somewhere else. In Patterson, to be honest — and I live here in Patterson — there's nothing else to do! I wanted to have it in Cold Spring years ago, but at the time I was told you had to be a resident to put on a festival.

### Was there food from the beginning?

It always had wine and food, but originally I tried to make it more international and to get French wineries involved. For the first two years after I started in 2010, I

called it the Putnam County International Wine & Food Fest.

### So now it's mostly local vendors?

It's mostly Hudson Valley vendors and wineries, but it's all New York state. I've tried to get some wineries in Connecticut to attend but they don't have licenses to serve in New York. And I've had Long Island wineries, but it's far for them.

### You're a native of Jamaica.

#### Does Jamaica have good wines?

The island has Pimento wine and others, of course! Personally, I like red wines, mostly Cabernets. But no favorites.

### Are there any vendors at the festival you're particularly excited about?

That's hard, because if I mention one person, everyone else might get upset! But Glynwood is going to be there on Sunday for a cooking demonstration. It's doing a hell of a job educating people about organic food.

## ON THE SPOT

By Michael Turton

What comedian, past or present, would you want to entertain at your party?

“

Alan King. He was like an early Jerry Seinfeld.

”



~Lenn Werner, Beacon

“

Robin Williams. I liked his brilliant irreverence. He didn't hold back.

”



~Krista Osborn, Cold Spring

“

Michael Blackson. He's smart, inappropriate, sarcastic — and rich.

”



~Liam Green-Arnone, Beacon

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**LOST AND FOUND** — Victor Mollino and Ziaire Mickell, who will be juniors this year at Haldane High School, came upon a purse with a wallet inside on Tuesday (July 30) at the Cold Spring waterfront. Ziaire's mother, Jennifer Young, took to Facebook to find the owner based on the IDs inside; it turned out to be a high school teacher who lives in Fishkill. "When she picked it up, she was warm and grateful and talked to the boys about their college plans," said Young. Victor is the son of Christina Dziadzio and James Thompson and Ziaire, who is president of his class, is the son of Young and Cathy Polera.

*Photo provided*

## Garrison Gas Station Wants Canopy

*Also asks Philipstown for OK to sell used cars*

By Chip Rowe

**T**he Philipstown Planning Board will hold a public hearing on Aug. 15 to hear feedback on a plan to add a canopy over the gas pumps at the Gulf station on Route 9D in Garrison.

Arafat Ibrahim, who bought the property in 2013, said he also would like to sell a handful of used cars on the 1-acre site — something that has been done informally and which earned the station at least one citation.

Neighbors have expressed concern about the proposals. In a letter to the Planning Board, 47 neighbors calling themselves the Garrison Hamlet Association cited inaccuracies in Ibrahim's application and asked the board to conduct a careful review, "given that the property is adjacent to an historic public school, church and wetlands, and is within direct view of at least 15 homes and two parks."

The group expressed concern about potential contamination of the groundwater during construction, pollution of the wetlands, a canopy being an eyesore



The owner of the Garrison Gulf would like to add a canopy over its pumps. Photo by C. Rowe

and the ongoing car sales, with test drives taking place on Nelson Lane.

"We are constantly struggling against the perception that this neighborhood is a commercial zone, where anything goes," the residents wrote. "It is not. The Hamlet Mixed-Use zone should not be interpreted as a commercial hub or catch-all."

Attorney Bart Lansky, who represents Ibrahim, told the Planning Board on July 18 that the canopy design had been modified in response to the concerns. He said that, like the Appalachian Market station on Route 9, the Gulf canopy would be shingled and have no signs and that a stone veneer will be added to the front of the building.

"Canopies have become a basic requirement" for gas stations, Lansky said. "People will no longer stop for gas if it's raining or snowing." He said the lighting would be directed straight down and its spread limited by an overhang.

In addition, he said, Ibrahim is willing to use plantings instead of a chain-link fence to obscure cars parked to the north of the pumps. Lansky said on July 18 he would submit a revised application.

Ron Gainer, the town engineer, said the state Department of Environmental Conservation has not had any concerns about the station since it ended monitoring in 2009 of an earlier spill, and that the county planning department gave its OK.

Lansky said his client plans to have no more than five cars for sale at any time. Steve Gaba, the town attorney, said the board must determine if used car sales are "usual and customary" for filling stations, although the Gulf is also a repair shop, and the town allows limited car sales at those locations.

The public hearing is scheduled to take place during the Planning Board's Aug. 15 meeting, which begins at 7:30 p.m. at the Old VFW Hall, 34 Kemble Ave., in Cold Spring.

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## PUBLISHER

Highlands Current Inc.  
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Cold Spring NY 10516-2818  
291 Main St., Beacon NY 12508

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**Institute for  
Nonprofit News**

THE HIGHLANDS CURRENT  
(USPS #22270) / ISSN 2475-3785

August 2, 2019  
Volume 8, Issue 31 (2475-3785)

is published weekly by Highlands  
Current Inc., 161 Main St., Cold Spring,  
NY 10516-2818. Periodicals Postage Paid  
at Cold Spring, NY. POSTMASTER:  
Send address changes to The Highlands  
Current, 161 Main St., Cold Spring, NY  
10516-2818.

Mail delivery \$30 per year.  
highlandscurrent.org/delivery  
delivery@highlandscurrent.org

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## LETTERS AND COMMENTS

### Living on the Edge

Great article ("Living on the Edge, Part 2," July 26). I would love to know how much these new jobs coming in will pay. Are the positions low-wage, low-skilled jobs or will they have openings for people with higher degrees offering real salaries and benefits?

Beacon Mayor Randy Casale's point about people historically struggling to pay rent is incredibly obtuse and explains why "affordable" housing in Beacon is non-existent, no matter what officials or developers say. There is no reason why there should be rental properties in this area that exceed \$2,000 per month, especially if citizens are relying on minimum-wage jobs. Frankly, \$2,000 is still too much. I moved here years ago when you could find many apartments under \$1,000, including utilities. The area was not bad. It had art, culture and restaurants. Not all of the places made it, but we see businesses close all the time now.

It boils down to sustainability and it seems that the elected officials are more interested in catering to tourists than full-time residents and business owners. I would love to support the local eateries and shops as I once did, but with the price of living increasing and wages staying stagnant, it doesn't make sense to spend money on a \$20 burger.

Danielle Blackwood, Beacon

*The editor responds: Industrial Arts Brewing Co. addressed its hiring plans in the story last week, and we reached out to Cafe Spice and Docuware for comment this week. From Payal Malhotra at Cafe Spice: "I would love to be able to give positions and salaries right now. However, to be honest, we don't know what they will be until we*

### 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.

*get closer to the time." And from Thomas Schneck at Docuware: "The information technology industry typically pays above-average salaries due to the high demand for IT knowledge and expertise."*

It is good to see that the economic-development work to bring in jobs that has been happening behind the scenes for the past few years may finally yield results.

But Beacon still has a way to go — New York state is tough in terms of affordability for businesses, and in Beacon, the right space is an issue. The three companies profiled in the article are committed to Beacon, with a fourth in development at Camp Beacon. In total, they could possibly bring in more than 400 well-paying jobs. In a city our size, that is impactful.

The next steps include making sure that Beacon schoolkids are getting the education they need to fill these jobs in the future.

One correction: Beacon's population remains flat despite the housing units being

built. I agree that there will be some growth when everything is completed, but there will not be 2,000 more residents by 2022 on top of the current population, which in 2017 was much lower than its recent peak in 2010. According to our city planner, about half of the 1,000 units projected in 2017 are completed and close to being filled (with 21 percent offered at below-market rates). In addition, there are no new large-scale residential projects in front of the Planning Board, and only 21 units that haven't been approved.

Kelly Ellenwood, Beacon

*Ellenwood is a candidate for the Ward 4 seat on the Beacon City Council. The (up to) 2,000-person population projection came from the water-supply report prepared for the city last year by LBG Hydrogeologic & Engineering Services.*

God almighty, the propaganda in this article is annoying ("Living on the Edge, Part 1," July 19). Leave it to the leftists at the United Way to avoid facts, because that integrity would violate the narrative.

Putnam County is among the top 20 highest-taxed counties in the U.S., and the tax bases of Cold Spring, Nelsonville and Philipstown are stretched for various reasons. As for Dutchess County, its problems are caused by unfunded state mandates. Because the clowns in Albany never met a dollar they did not know how to spend, they have forced local governments to cover unfunded mandates.

Population changes are either creating a bigger demand for government services or the progressive destruction of the tax base (e.g., population losses) are forcing the remaining residents to pay higher taxes. New York state lost more than 27,000 residents last year.

What residents need to accept is the fact the greed and incompetence of Albany is destroying the state's tax bases and private-sector economy. As a result, New York is slowly self-destructing. Until the voters stop the greed and incompetence, it will continue to self-destruct and all the leftist preening in the world will not stop it.

Joseph Pedro III, via Facebook

Part 1 of *Living on the Edge* seems comprehensive, but I see no mention of the effect of taxation on the cost of living, and the ability to afford it, for a majority of residents in Putnam and Dutchess counties.

Today a household income of \$100,000 (adjusted to \$80,000 taxable) is taxed

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## LETTERS AND COMMENTS

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roughly at \$11,000 to \$15,000 each year in federal income taxes and \$4,400 to \$5,900 in state income taxes. Income taxes are marginally lower but property taxes are significantly higher for those owning a residence. The figures don't include Social Security and Medicare.

The tax rates are, of course, lower for those with lower incomes, but once a household's income is too low to afford the local costs of living, as indicated in the article, it becomes irrelevant as people will either be moving or accumulating more difficult-to-pay debt. (An insignificant few will win the lottery, inherit money or become professional politicians.)

All that tax money could be used to help cover the expenses of those who work and try to live here.

A hundred and 10 years ago there was no tax on incomes and little taxation of property. Most tax revenue came from licenses, fees and tariffs on overseas imports as they were passed on to consumers. Prices (and wages) were much lower. Coins contained mostly precious and semi-precious metals: silver and gold, nickel and copper, and were worth more. There was little paper money.

After World War I, manufacturers noticed their potential customer base could not afford to pay cash for their products (incomes were too low relative to the high prices of new and professionally marketed products),

and they started to offer installment plans. That system evolved into consumer debt, and the interest on that debt has effectively become yet one more tax.

Frank Haggerty, *Cold Spring*

### Secrecy hearing

On July 24 I attended the afternoon public comment session (an evening session was also scheduled) at the county office building for the newly passed confidentiality law.

I was surprised and disappointed that County Executive MaryEllen Odell was not present. We were told that our comments were being recorded for her to listen to later. While a recording will provide a necessary account of the meeting, listening to recordings (with all the distractions involved in such an exercise) is not the same as attending in person to witness constituents voicing their opinions on a law that Ms. Odell alone could pass or veto based in part on those comments. I believe the county executive owes more attention and respect to the process as well as to the citizens of Putnam County.

Although I could not remain for the entire session, in addition to myself I heard a number of attendees voice reasons why such a law is redundant and unnecessary. They included Mahopac resident Marsha Waldman, who said that she opposed the

(Continued on Page 5)



### Editor's Notebook

## Why I Flipped on Secrecy

By Chip Rowe

Many people were concerned when the Putnam Legislature passed a law on July 2 that allows county lawmakers, employees, contractors and consultants to mark any document "confidential," keeping it safe from the prying eyes of voters and (God forbid) journalists, and threatening a one-way ticket to the ethics board and possible prosecution for anyone who intentionally shares material deemed secret.



It also makes any interactions with the Law Department, or the legislative counsel, automatically confidential, which is convenient. If you want to keep something secret, send a copy to the lawyers!

I was concerned about the law — at first. But I have grown to love it and am thankful to County Executive MaryEllen Odell for making it official despite the warnings from a number of legal minds that it might not be prudent.

I hate to think I caused the county executive or any legislator undue stress when I shared the proposed law with the state's Open Government Committee and the New York News Publishers Association, of which *The Current* is a member, and they shared it with a few lawyers who specialize in free speech. Some chuckled after reading it, which is rude. But everyone agreed the law was pointless, and unenforceable, since county lawmakers can't make anything confidential — only state and federal law can do that. The NYNPA wrote Odell to let her know.

In fact, the county agreed! In a statement, eight of the nine legislators reassured residents not to worry. This statement was read at a public hearing hosted by Odell (who wasn't there) by the legislative counsel, a.k.a. "the 10th legislator," who has written a number of resolutions at taxpayers' expense destined for a circular file in Albany. In the statement, the lawmakers

complained about the news media stirring up trouble and insisted the regulation was not meant to hide anything from voters but to remind county employees that they work behind one-way glass.

But, look, that's all in the past. My kids are at camp and, in the quiet, I realized how foolish I've been. When I rejected the law because of how it looked, I failed to recognize its inner beauty: From this day forward, anything a legislator or county official doesn't want the press or the public to see will be marked "confidential." It's like Monty Hall telling you which door has the prize.

I have marked my calendar, and on the first business day of each month, beginning Sept. 3, *The Current* will file a FOIL request with each county agency (including the new tourism department!) to receive every document marked confidential in the previous month. These should not be too hard to locate, since they will have "confidential" written on them.

I am sorry to create work for anyone, but under state law, the county attorney will be compelled to review each allegedly confidential item — including those produced by the Law Department or the legislative counsel, no freebies! — to determine if they fall under one of eight exemptions to the state Freedom of Information Law that dictate when governments can withhold information.

What's more, the FOIL doesn't allow the county to say a set of documents or emails is exempt. It must review the contents of each document and, if anything can be released, even a paragraph, redact the secret material and release the rest.

Before this new county law, a reporter would often fly blind, guessing which Putnam documents might have the information he or she was after. Now the secrets will be marked with blinking neon signs. We plan to share what we find in a feature called Confidential Corner that will launch later this year.

Thank you, Putnam County Legislature! I'm glad we could work together on this.

## 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.

**Please note: The deadline for submission of proposals has been extended until Monday, September 9, 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.



## LETTERS AND COMMENTS

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law because it would prevent people who see wrongdoing in the government from speaking out for fear of reprisals, and a woman who went through several points of the law and showed how it could prevent important unclassified information from reaching the public.

On the other side of the issue, the county's legislative counsel — claiming the media had not reported the pending law accurately — went through every law that covers all situations of confidentiality and assured everyone that the new law would not affect existing laws. He said that the reason for the new law was to provide guidance to employees and others so they would know which documents should be designated as confidential. His presentation served to prove the point to me that the law was indeed superfluous and misguided.

I wonder why Putnam County does not simply provide the appropriate staff training and create clear policies and procedures to guide appointees, staff and outside consultants and counsel on the matter of confidentiality. Adding this law gives the impression of providing cover to and protection for those who run the county.

We voters must have open and transparent government to ensure that we can make informed decisions at the voting booth and hold our elected officials accountable between elections. A government that operates in the shadows does not serve the people.

I am grateful that County Legislator Nancy Montgomery and Philipstown Supervisor Richard Shea have stood up for Putnam County citizens by opposing this questionable legislation. We need more elected officials like them.

Jeanne Nelson, *Mahopac*

### Pantry rules

I love the concept of Beacon's Tiny Food Pantries, which are located outside the Recreation Center and in the Howland Public Library. If you need something to eat, take something. If you want to help out a neighbor, leave something.

Recently I brought home a few things from the Rec Center pantry, not because I was in need, but because I was disgusted — a bag of expired flour with worms in it, a box of store-brand onion soup mix along with



The Tiny Food Pantry outside the Beacon Recreation Center

File photo by Brian PJ Cronin

yellowed packets of generic seasoning mix and a rusty can of jalapenos from circa 2014. Also, a giant bottle of hot wing sauce that went off in 2013, just like the can of poppy seed filling I found after the holidays.

In the past I would at least recycle the cans after dumping the contents, but I still have nightmares about the 12 cans of coconut cream I brought home last fall that had petrified into yellow-tinged rocks. That's a scent that stays with you longer than Chanel No. 5.

I put up a sign about a year ago that reads, "Please, no expired food, thank you." Boy, was that effective! It destroyed the notion that this food was being left because people didn't realize what they were doing. I've spent a lot of time over a lot of years volunteering at soup kitchens and food pantries —

people who do this know what they're doing. And it's time it stopped.

One day, out of too many days like it, as volunteers at a pantry in New Jersey were complaining as they weeded expired food out of the donations, an oafish, conscripted husband carrying in a crate decided he was putting an end to the matter by bellowing, "Beggars can't be choosers!" Think about the savage mentality and perspective of someone who can say a thing like that about leaving rotten food for his fellow humans, especially when he has been blessed with the ability to give, rather than burdened with the need to receive.

Like all of our societal cruelties and idiocies, this contempt for people in need is borne out of fear. Poverty in any incarnation is terri-

## Correction

An image of a work of art by Matt Kinney that appeared in the July 26 issue ("Now Showing: Member Exhibits") was from Kinney's solo show at Atlas Studios in Newburgh in 2018, not from the current show there of work by Dia staff members that continues through Aug. 18.

fyng — that's something we all share. How we handle that as individuals is another matter. If it makes you feel better about yourself to show your contempt for people who haven't caught the break you have, you have a problem. No need to make it someone else's. Keep it to yourself, along with the unwanted remains of that gift basket from 2015.

So many seem to view those in need as some alien species to whom they can't relate. It helps to remember that some people live in residential hotels or rooming houses and only have access to a microwave or maybe a clandestine hot plate. Many are elderly or disabled and just can't handle anything beyond a microwave, toaster oven or a single aluminum pan on a stove top.

Please, don't forget those on the street. Cans of beans and bags of rice won't help any of them, or even every family. Countless people work two and three jobs just to keep a roof over their heads and don't have the time, energy or presence of mind to cook anything involved. If you can afford it, toss an extra item in your cart, virtual or otherwise. Yes, organic or reduced salt, sugar or fat items are great. But a can of stew, soup, hash, chili or pasta is a comforting, filling, hearty meal that's easy to prepare. Fresh and shelf-stable fruit and vegetables are a great idea, as well as granola bars.

Giving things that show you have some understanding of what your neighbors are dealing with shows respect, expresses camaraderie, and acknowledges that there, but for the grace of God, or whatever your belief system allows, go I. We're all seeing where divisiveness leads. Perhaps it's time to try something new.

Susan Jelcich, *Beacon*

(Continued on Page 7)

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### Haldane Central School District, Cold Spring, NY 10516 Effective on September 3, 2019:

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- **CAFETERIA WORKER**, part-time, 4 hours per day (10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.); 10-month position in accordance with the school calendar, \$14.78/hr.
- **CAFETERIA WORKER**, per diem substitute, \$14.78/hr.

If interested in any of the above positions, please either call or stop in to the District Office to request an application: Haldane Central School District, 15 Craigsides Drive, Cold Spring, NY 10516 at 845-265-9254, ext 111. You may also download and mail a non-teaching application from the Haldane web site, [www.haldaneschool.org](http://www.haldaneschool.org) (click the District tab, then District Resources tab, and Employment.) Please mail the completed application no later than August 5, 2019. A fingerprinting/criminal background check clearance is required.

## NOTICE

### PHILIPSTOWN PLANNING BOARD | Public Hearing – August 15, 2019

The Philipstown Planning Board of the Town of Philipstown, New York will hold a public hearing on Thursday, August 15, 2019 starting at 7:30 p.m. at the Old VFW Hall, 34 Kemble Ave. in Cold Spring, New York to consider the following application:

1122 Route 9D Realty LLC, 1122 Route 9D, Garrison – The applicant is seeking Amended Site Plan approval for the construction of a 24' x 32' canopy over the existing fuel pump island. The applicant is also seeking approval for the accessory use of limited used car sales as an adjunct to the gasoline sales and auto repair activities already being conducted on site. The property is approximately 0.9 acres and is situated in a "HM" (Hamlet Mixed-Use) Zoning District in the Town of Philipstown. TM# 60.18-1-46.

At said hearing all persons will have the right to be heard. Copies of the application, plat map, and other related materials may be seen in the Office of the Planning Board at the Philipstown Town Hall.

Dated at Philipstown, New York, this 26<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2019.

Anthony Merante, Chairman



## LETTERS AND COMMENTS

(Continued from Page 6)

**Creating meadows**

Over the past few days as the verges in the village have been mown, the dreaded drone of the mowers and leaf blowers has been constant, and with it their indiscriminate spewing of carbon emissions and stinking air pollution.

In the U.K., many small towns and cities are “rewilding,” or allowing grass verges to grow during the summer, or planting native wild flowers to create mini-meadows [see right]. This has the triple benefit of reducing mowing costs and the associated pollution, sequestering carbon and allowing biodiversity to flourish.

I wonder if you know of any such efforts in Philipstown?

Zoe Tcholak-Antitch, *Cold Spring*

**Tourism bureau**

Buckle up, taxpayers — we’re going to dump more money into the Putnam County Golf Course and Tilly Foster Farm follies, neglecting Putnam’s actual tourism base on the west side of the county (“Putnam Will Consider Tourism Agency,” July 26).

The composition of the committee searching for a director of the county’s new tourism department says everything about how the position will operate: Legislator Ginny Nacerino, Putnam County Finance Commissioner Bill Carlin Jr., Deputy Commissioner of Highways and Facilities John Tully (Tilly Foster Farm is managed by Highways and Facilities), and Putnam County Golf Course General Manager Mike McCall.

Kathleen Foley, *Cold Spring*

In a statement dated July 28, County Executive MaryEllen Odell said the county was “close to choosing a new results-driven director of tourism who will showcase Putnam as a destination and promote the economic growth of the county.” She said the panel would send its recommendations to her, and she would forward her choice to the Legislature for approval. “Putnam’s natural beauty sells itself,” she said, “but the new tourism director will work with stakeholders throughout the county and be better able to entice visitors.” She added that the transition from the nonprofit Putnam County Visitors’ Bureau to a county agency would be “swift and seamless” and highlighted Tilly Foster Farm and Magazzino Italian Art in Philipstown.



“Rewilding” projects along busy roads in Hull and Rotherham, U.K.

Pictorial Meadows UK



**SOLIDARITY CAGE** — More than 30 people took part in an hour-long demonstration on Saturday (July 27) near the war monument at the intersection of Main and Chestnut streets in Cold Spring. Organizers Jill Golden and Cathy Lim of Cold Spring said the event was intended to increase awareness of conditions in which asylum seekers are reportedly being kept at the Mexican border. Golden said the group didn’t take a stand on open or closed borders but demanded the federal government treat those in custody humanely.

Photo by Michael Turton

**Michael McKee, PhD**

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## NEWS BRIEFS

## Vehicle Crashes into Cold Spring Reservoir

*Driver charged with driving under influence*

Putnam County sheriff's deputies arrested a Pleasant Valley woman on July 18 after she apparently drove her vehicle into the Village of Cold Spring reservoir on Fishkill Road in Philipstown.

Two deputies who were called to the scene at about 5:30 p.m. said they found a vehicle semi-submerged in the reservoir and its occupants, who included two children, ages 6 and 9, outside of the vehicle.

Police say the driver, Ellexis Hoerl, 23, who was baby-sitting the children, was allegedly impaired by drugs when she crashed the vehicle through a guardrail and bounced off a retaining wall into the reservoir. The children, who are siblings, were taken to the hospital and released, without injury, to their parents.

Police say Hoerl was found to have concentrated cannabis and Adderall and placed under arrest. She was charged with two counts of felony DWI under Leandra's Law (which makes driving under the influence an automatic felony when anyone age 15 or younger is in the vehicle), one count of driving while impaired by drugs, two counts of criminal possession of a controlled substance and two counts of endangering the welfare of a child.



The spot where the vehicle went into Cold Spring's reservoir

Photo by Michael Turton

## Beacon Man Sentenced for Child Porn

*Receives 5 to 15 years in state prison*

Alfred Tchornicki Jr., a Beacon resident and former state corrections officer who pleaded guilty in June to five felony counts of possessing child pornography, was sentenced on July 26 by a Dutchess County judge to 5 to 15 years in state prison.

Tchornicki, 52, was arrested in September. He admitted to having five digital photos, including images of children as young as 2 or 3 years old. The state police began an investigation after receiving information about Tchornicki from its Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force.

## Beacon Senior Center Open Fridays

*County adds hours starting Aug. 2*

The Dutchess County Office for the Aging will open its Senior Friendship Center in Beacon on Fridays, beginning today (Aug. 2). The center, at 1 Forrestal Heights, is now open every weekday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The county has eight senior centers that provide older residents with companionship and activities, as well as meals. It also delivers meals to homebound seniors. For information, call 845-486-2555.

## New State Trooper from Garrison

*Among graduates from police academy*

The basic school of the New York Police Academy graduated 228 state troopers on July 24 in Albany, including Nicholas Molyneaux of Garrison.

The troopers underwent more than six months of intense academic, physical and tactical training. They reported for field duty on July 31 and will be evaluated over 10 weeks.

Molyneaux was assigned to Troop K, which is based in Poughkeepsie and whose officers patrol the Highlands.

## Dutchess Awards Grants

*City of Beacon among recipients*

Dutchess County has awarded \$1.48 million in funding for 11 projects through its annual Municipal Innovation Grant program, which promotes shared services and consolidation efforts.

The county awarded \$277,000 to provide crisis intervention training to police officers in Beacon and 13 other municipalities; \$335,000 to the Dutchess County Drug Task Force for undercover work; and \$37,500 to the Child Advocacy Center for a detective.

## Road Closings

*Expect delays in Cold Spring and Philipstown*

Two major roads are undergoing closings. In Philipstown, Old Albany Post Road will close on Wednesday, Aug. 7, until further notice from Philipsbrook Road to Travis Corners Road so that crews can replace a bridge deck. To access Route 9, residents to the north can use Philipsbrook to Frazier and residents to the south can use Travis Corners Road.

In Cold Spring, the state Department of Transportation is repaving Morris Avenue (Route 9D) from the traffic light at Main Street north to the Haldane tennis courts. The northbound lane was closed this week and the southbound lane will be closed next week.

## Hudson Anchorage Ban Passes House

*Maloney provision moves to Senate*

A bill passed by the U.S. House of Representatives on July 24 to fund the Coast Guard through 2021 includes a provision that would ban new oil-barge anchorages on the Hudson River.

It was introduced by Rep. Sean Patrick Maloney, a Philipstown resident whose district includes the Highlands and who chairs the Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Subcommittee of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. The bill moved on July 25 to the Senate for consideration.

In 2016, the Coast Guard proposed 10 new anchorage sites on the river between Yonkers and Kingston, including one near Beacon. An assessment completed in March 2018 did not include plans to add barges to the two that exist — one at Yonkers and one at Hyde Park — but it also did not rule out more sites being proposed.

## Office for the Aging Needs Vendors

*Annual senior event on Sept. 28*

The Dutchess County Office for the Aging is looking for vendors for the annual Senior Golden Gathering to be held on Sept. 28 in LaGrangeville.

More than 1,000 seniors usually attend the free event, which includes health screenings, entertainment, refreshments, door prizes and informational tables for organizations that primarily serve seniors. Vendor tables are provided at no charge on a first-come, first-served basis. For information, call 845-229-0106 or email goldengathering41@gmail.com before Aug. 30.

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# Are Food Trucks Unfair Competition?

*Cold Spring allows a test run at Mayor's Park*

By Michael Turton

The Cold Spring Village Board is considering to what extent food trucks should be allowed to operate on village-owned property.

The issue arose at the board's July 23 meeting after Michelle McGuire, owner of Michelle's Roadside Kitchen, set up her truck at Mayor's Park on the weekend of July 20 and 21 without the permit required by the village. When she realized the permit was needed (she has one from the Town of Philipstown), she approached the village and applied.

At the meeting, trustees granted her permission to return to Mayor's Park the following weekend, although a mechanical problem prevented that. McGuire said she will set up at Mayor's Park on another weekend in the near future when there is not an event going on.

At the outset of the discussion, Mayor Dave Merandy asked his fellow board members if they objected, in principle, to food trucks in the village. No one objected.

During the public comment period, Bill Ehrlich, who lives across from Mayor's Park, raised a number of concerns ranging from noise, smells, signage and traffic to litter and hours of operation.

Rebecca Ramirez, co-owner of The Cheese Shop on Main Street, said she supports food trucks, saying it brings entrepreneurship to the village and more diverse food.

Jeff Consaga, owner of The Foundry Cafe on lower Main Street, was adamant in an interview about his opposition. "We only have three or four good months to make our



Michelle McGuire inside her food truck, which she will set up at Mayor's Park as part of a "trial run"

Photo by M. Turton

nut," he said. "It's hard enough to make a living" without the competition.

Doug Price, who owns Doug's Pretty Good Pub, also opposes food trucks, saying "if they take just 25 customers on a Saturday, at \$30 per check, that's a lot of money to lose."

Cold Spring resident Greg McElhattan, who recently sold the Greg's Good Eats truck that he operated for three years, mainly on Route 9 in Philipstown, at Little League games and private parties, countered in an interview that "if restaurants fear a food truck, maybe it's time they took a look at their menu and prices."

McGuire usually sets up on Route 9 near Philipstown's northern boundary. She is also considering the Haldane ball field on

Route 9D.

She said she doesn't feel setting up at Mayor's Park is a threat to restaurants.

"I'm not trying to take anything away from village businesses," she said. "That's why I've stayed at the edge of the village," rather than closer to Main Street.

Merandy said allowing McGuire to operate at Mayor's Park will be "a trial run" that will enable the board to assess its impact. After McGuire has been at the park for a second weekend, he said, a meeting will be held for discussion and to hear public comment.

Trustees are also discussed the merits of permitting a food truck at Dockside Park when the Seastreak cruise line begins docking in the fall. Local restaurants often struggle to serve the hundreds of visitors who arrive at the same time.

In an email, Eliza Starbuck, the president of the Cold Spring Area Chamber of Commerce said that "we appreciate the village trustees' cautious, test-mode approach."

The village code, currently being updated, doesn't address food trucks but stipulates that "hawking and peddling" requires a license that costs up to \$25 a day, or \$100 per month. Merandy and other board members said the fees need to be reviewed. Philipstown and Nelsonville codes include similar requirements.

Dave Buckley, Beacon's building inspector, said the city allows food trucks but there has been no demand for them. Its code prohibits vendors and peddlers within 200 feet of school property and 1,000 feet of similar businesses. Buckley said interest may be building for food trucks in Beacon's riverfront parks, noting that there are no restaurants there.

## What's Your WOODSTOCK? Story

If you were at Woodstock in 1969, or lived or worked near there, *The Current* would like to include your story in our Aug. 16 edition to mark the 50th anniversary of the iconic festival. Send us 200 words describing your experience. **PHOTOS WELCOME!**

Or ... if you know someone who was there, ask them to submit a story!

Submit stories & photos no later than Aug. 13 to:  
**woodstock@highlandscurrent.org**

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## Winged Beauties

Stony Kill Farm in Wappingers Falls held its annual Butterfly Festival on Saturday (July 27).

*Photos by Ross Corsair*



# MAGAZZINO ITALIAN ART

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Luciano Fabro  
Jannis Kounellis  
Mario Merz  
Marisa Merz  
Giulio Paolini  
Pino Pascali  
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Michelangelo Pistoletto  
Gilberto Zorio

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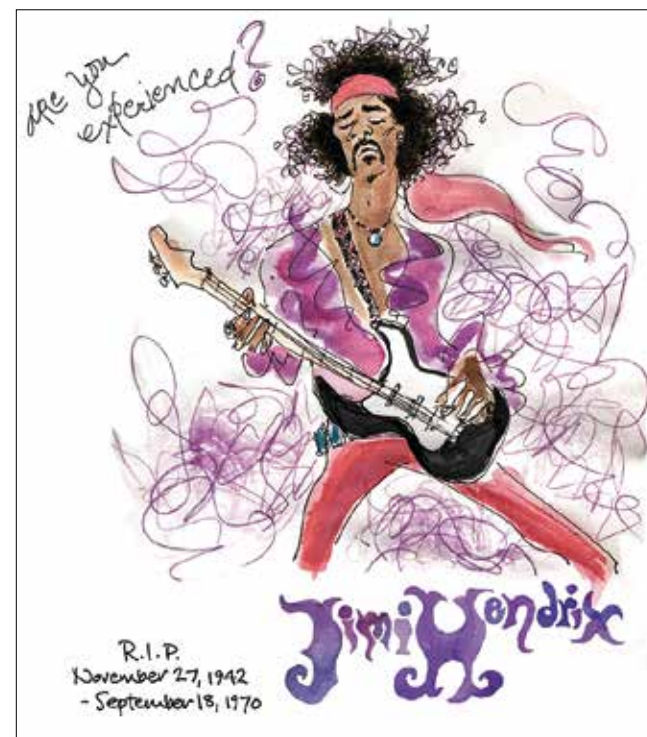
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# The Calendar



Selections from *By the Time I Got to Woodstock*

Illustrations by Sharon Watts

## Returning to Woodstock, Although She Wasn't There

*Beacon author remembers era when everything changed*

By Alison Rooney

A lot of teenagers dreamed of heading to Woodstock in 1969. Sharon Watts wasn't one of them. For starters, she got her driver's license just two days before the festival began on Aug. 15.

A self-described "good girl" from suburban Pennsylvania, she was more interested in pop culture and fashion than hippies and rocking out. Fifty years later, though, she's kicking herself for missing out, and making amends by immersing herself in the time and place.

A day trip in 2017 from her Beacon home to the Woodstock Museum at Bethel Woods stimulated her interest and led to a book she wrote and illustrated, *By The Time I Got to Woodstock: An Illustrated Memoir of a Reluctant Hippie Chick*. She'll be reading from it, sharing her artwork and talking trivia at the Howland Public Library on Tuesday, Aug. 13, at 6:30 p.m.

"The museum made me consider who I was in 1969," Watts explains. Over the cold winter months that followed, she started watching YouTube videos of the musicians. "It wound up being a full immersion," she says.

"It made me feel weird because I wasn't involved," she says. "I lived through it, but didn't participate. The place I grew up in was a little stuck behind, still in the Eisen-

hower era. It was on the cusp of changing, but dragging behind. For instance, girls couldn't wear pants at my school until 1979 — and this wasn't a Catholic school with uniforms. In our little world, we wanted to wear pants, some of the boys wanted to have long hair, but the community wasn't ready for it."

After graduating from high school, Watts moved to New York City to study at Parsons School of Design. "It was as much an escape from the suburbs as any real plan," she recalls. "I was interested in fashion, but I couldn't sew or drape." She became a fashion illustrator and until 2000 freelanced steadily for *The New York Times*, often illustrating Style Editor Carrie Donovan's weekly column.

Watts moved to Beacon shortly before 9/11, in part because she was in a relationship with a firehouse captain, Patrick J. Brown. "I was just looking for a quieter place," she says, "and I was working on assemblages, for which I needed a place that could be messy." Brown died rescuing victims during the 9/11 attacks. In her grief, Watts collected stories about him for a 2007 book, *Miss You, Pat: Collected Memories of NY's Bravest of the Brave*.

Soon after her visit to the Woodstock Museum, she received a drawing pen and notebook as a Christmas gift. "I started draw-

(Continued on Page 14)



Sharon Watts

Photo provided

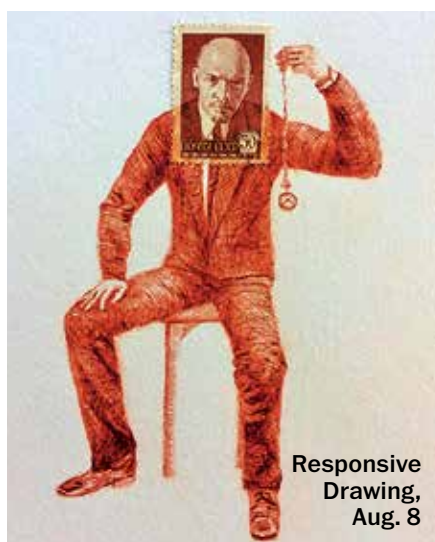


# THE WEEK AHEAD

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



Corn Festival, Aug. 11



Responsive Drawing, Aug. 8



Quilt Show, Aug. 3

## COMMUNITY

### SAT 3 Bird Festival

**BEAR MOUNTAIN**  
11 a.m. – 3 p.m. Trailside Zoo  
3006 Seven Lakes Drive  
845-786-2701 | [trailsidezoo.org](http://trailsidezoo.org)

Celebrate the birds of New York state with a visit to see a bald eagle, owls and hawks. At 1 p.m. Brian Robinson of Robinson Wildlife will present a raptor show. Parking is \$10 and entrance to the zoo is \$1 per person.

### SAT 3 Sun & Earth Festival

**WAPPINGERS FALLS**  
3 – 8 p.m. Common Ground Farm  
79 Farmstead Lane | 845-231-4424  
[commongroundfarm.org](http://commongroundfarm.org)

Celebrate sustainable agriculture and environmentalism with yoga, kids' activities, food trucks, cooking demonstrations, music and a dance party. *Free*

### SUN 4 Club/Draw Picnic

**BEACON**  
2 – 9 p.m. University Settlement Camp  
724 Wolcott Ave.  
[facebook.com/clubdrawbeacon](https://facebook.com/clubdrawbeacon)

This fifth annual fundraiser by the club for Beacon's Parks & Recreation Department will feature burgers and hot dogs from Barb's Butchery, comedy improv, chess, hoops, lawn games and, of course, drawing. Musicians scheduled to appear include Caldera, Common Tongue, Kidaudra, Stephen Clair, Matt Harle, Shana Falana, Dirt Bikes and Liz Kelly.

### THURS 8 Citizen Preparedness Training

**BEACON**  
6:30 p.m. Lewis Tompkins Hose Co.  
13 South Ave. | 845-838-5010  
[prepare.ny.gov](http://prepare.ny.gov)

This state program gives

participants the tools and resources to prepare for any type of disaster, respond accordingly and recover as quickly as possible. It will include active shooter training. Call to register, or email [cityofbeacon@cityofbeacon.org](mailto:cityofbeacon@cityofbeacon.org).

### SAT 10 Putnam County Wine & Food Fest

**COLD SPRING**  
11 a.m. – 6 p.m. Mayor's Park  
61 Fair St. | 800-557-4185 x3  
[putnamcountywinefest.com](http://putnamcountywinefest.com)

The two-day festival, in its ninth year and its first in Cold Spring, will include wine tastings, a beer garden, cider, spirits and vineyards from the Hudson Valley and around New York. There will also be food, music, arts and crafts vendors, and cooking demos. See Page 2. *The Current* will have a booth, so say hello. Also SUN 11. Rain or shine. Use code PTFP2019 to have 45 percent of ticket cost donated to the Philipstown Food Pantry. *Cost: \$20 (\$30 gate; \$10 designated driver)*

### SAT 10 Great Hudson River Fish Count

**COLD SPRING**  
2 – 3:30 p.m. Little Stony Point  
[dec.ny.gov/lands/97891.html](http://dec.ny.gov/lands/97891.html)  
The state Department of

Environmental Conservation will hold its eighth annual inventory of aquatic life up and down the Hudson River. Volunteers are welcome. See website for other locations.

### SAT 10 Farm Dinner

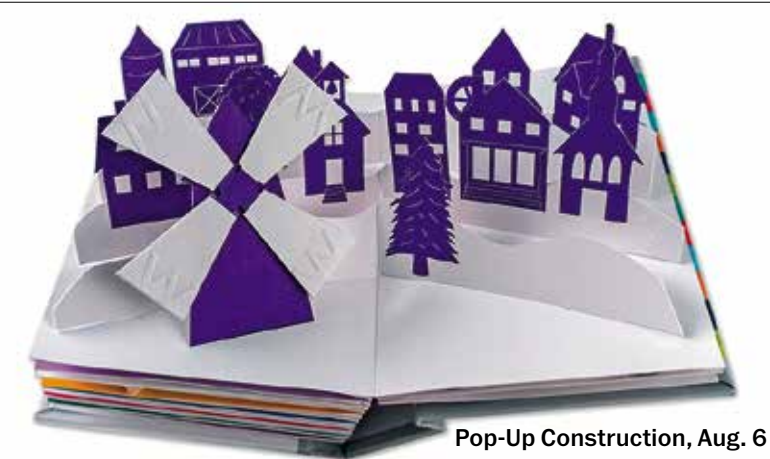
**COLD SPRING**  
6:30 p.m. Glynwood | 362 Glynwood Road  
845-265-3338 | [glynwood.org](http://glynwood.org)

The team from Juanita's Kitchen in Nelsonville will take over the monthly dinner series at the peak of the season. Share a meal and meet the farmers. *Cost: Pay what you can*

### SUN 11 Corn Festival

**BEACON**  
Noon – 5 p.m. Riverfront Park  
2 Red Flynn Drive | 845-463-4660  
[beaconsloopclub.org](http://beaconsloopclub.org)

At this annual harvest event hosted by the Beacon Sloop Club, enjoy your fill of corn, live music, craft and food vendors and, until 4 p.m., a school bus converted into a mobile gym for children ages 18 months to 9 years. The sloop Woody Guthrie will also provide free public sails. New this year: a contest for corn muffins made from scratch. Drop off entries at the Contest Tent before 2 p.m. The festival takes place rain or shine. *Free*



Pop-Up Construction, Aug. 6

## VISUAL ART

### FRI 2 Tim D'Acquisto and Grace Kennedy

**COLD SPRING**  
6 – 8:30 p.m. Buster Levi Gallery  
121 Main St. 845-809-5145  
[busterlevigallery.com](http://busterlevigallery.com)

This new show of paintings continues through Sept. 1.

### SAT 3 Timeless Art: The American Quilt

**BEACON**  
2:30 – 6 p.m. Howland Cultural Center  
477 Main St. | 845-831-4988  
[howlandculturalcenter.org](http://howlandculturalcenter.org)

Curators Carole Peterson and Carol Weber and 13 other artists from the First Dutchess and the Northern Star quilters' guilds will present antique, traditional and contemporary works. There will be demonstrations on Saturdays and Sundays throughout the show, which continues through Aug. 25.

### MON 5 Felting Workshop

**GARRISON**  
10 a.m. Garrison Art Center  
23 Garrison's Landing | 845-424-3960  
[garrisonartcenter.org](http://garrisonartcenter.org)

Learn the basics of 2D and 3D needle felting, a skill with endless applications: jewelry, figures, applique, embellishments, decor and patching. A variety of fabrics and wool will be provided by instructor Erin von Holdt-Gilbert. Registration required. *Cost: \$70*

### TUES 6 Pop-Up Construction Workshop

**GARRISON**  
10 a.m. Garrison Art Center  
23 Garrison's Landing | 845-424-3960  
[garrisonartcenter.org](http://garrisonartcenter.org)

Learn how to pleat, fold, cut

and create three-dimensional structural paper pieces with Courtney McCarthy, a paper engineer and graphic designer who has published nine pop-up books, including *Gaudi Pop-Ups*, *Hokusai Pop-Ups* and *ABC Pop-Up*. Registration required. *Cost: \$60*

### WED 7 The Art of Photographing Your Art

**GARRISON**  
10 a.m. Garrison Art Center  
23 Garrison's Landing | 845-424-3960  
[garrisonartcenter.org](http://garrisonartcenter.org)

Rick Holbrook will explain how to photograph artwork, including lighting, setting up a shot and editing the images. Registration required. *Cost: \$50*

### THURS 8 Responsive Drawing/ Collage

**GARRISON**  
10 a.m. Garrison Art Center  
23 Garrison's Landing | 845-424-3960  
[garrisonartcenter.org](http://garrisonartcenter.org)

Andrea Moreau will lead this workshop in which participants create collages that combine drawn and found elements taken from old encyclopedias, postcards, patterned paper, children's stickers and other detritus. Registration required. *Cost: \$60*

### FRI 9 Techniques in Shibori

**GARRISON**  
9:30 a.m. Garrison Art Center  
23 Garrison's Landing | 845-424-3960  
[garrisonartcenter.org](http://garrisonartcenter.org)

Shibori is cloth that is given three-dimensional shape and then dyed. This workshop by Katrin Reifeiss will examine folding, binding and stitching techniques. Registration required. *Cost: \$60*

### SAT 10 Juried Exhibition

**PEEKSKILL**  
4 – 6 p.m. Hudson Valley MOCA  
1701 Main St. | 914-799-0100  
[hudsonvalleymoca.org](http://hudsonvalleymoca.org)

This reception will open the first juried exhibition at the museum, with works from 22 artists, many of whom will be present. *Cost: \$10 (\$5 seniors, students, veterans, children; members free)*

### SAT 10 Zac Skinner and Susan Walsh

**GARRISON**  
5 – 7 p.m. Garrison Art Center  
23 Garrison's Landing | 845-424-3960  
[garrisonartcenter.org](http://garrisonartcenter.org)

Skinner's paintings and sculptures in *Anthropocene*



*Drifter* depict a nomad’s life after ecosystem destruction. Walsh’s exhibit, *Vibrant Traces*, features works on paper marking time with changes in nature.

KIDS & FAMILY

SAT 3  
Shellabration  
CORNWALL

10 a.m. Wildlife Education Center  
25 Boulevard | 845-534-7781  
hnm.org  
Learn about and meet aquatic and terrestrial turtles. *Cost: \$8 (\$6 children, \$5/\$3 members)*



SAT 3  
Star Wars Party  
BEACON

Noon – 2 p.m. Howland Public Library  
313 Main St. | 845-831-1134  
beaconlibrary.org  
With music from the films as background, test your knowledge of Star Wars trivia, work on a jigsaw puzzle of R2-D2, C-3PO and BB-8 and play Star Wars-themed *Mad Libs*. *Free*

MON 5  
Jedi Academy  
GARRISON

2 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library  
472 Route 403 | 845-424-3020  
desmondfishlibrary.org  
Children ages 4 and older are invited to learn from a Wise Master how to use the force, mind tricks and light-saber techniques. *Free*

FRI 9  
Introduction to Babysitting

BEACON  
1 p.m. Howland Public Library  
313 Main St. | 845-831-1134 x103  
beaconlibrary.org  
The four-hour course, led by Amanda Tucker for students ages 10 and older, will include instruction on safety and first aid, feeding and diaper changing, as well as job skills such as interviewing. Registration required by phone, or email youth@beaconlibrary.org. *Free*

SECOND SATURDAY

SAT 10  
Thursday Painters

BEACON  
5 – 7 p.m. Howland Public Library  
313 Main St. | 845-831-1134  
beaconlibrary.org  
Seniors instructed by Jan Dolan will share their artwork depicting their favorite dishes, including the recipes.

SAT 10  
Swarm  
BEACON

6 – 9 p.m. bau Gallery | 506 Main St.  
845-440-7584 | baugallery.org  
Ceramics artist Faith Adams will exhibit hand-thrown plates and tea sets adorned with screen-printed endangered and threatened insects. Cali Gorevic will show her work in *Arborealis* in the Beacon Room and Gallery 2 will have works by a variety of Beacon Artist Union members.

SAT 10  
Lost & Found  
BEACON

6 – 9 p.m. Hudson Beach Glass  
162 Main St. | 845-440-0068  
hudsonbeachglass.com  
Deborah Davidovits and Andrea Moreau start with found materials (stamps and book pages) and “through acts of removal, expansion,



replication of style and invention of context,” according to the artists, “transform these cultural artifacts into works that seek to make visible that which is hidden or implied.”

SAT 10  
Mark Darnobid and Keely Sheehan  
BEACON

6 – 9 p.m. Catalyst Gallery  
137 Main St. | 845-204-3844  
catalystgallery.com  
This is the closing reception for the exhibit, which ends Aug. 12.

TALKS & TOURS

SAT 3  
History of Glynwood Walk  
COLD SPRING

11 a.m. Glynwood Center  
362 Glynwood Road | 845-265-3338  
glynwood.org  
Walk the property and tour the historic houses while discovering the rich history of the families who lived at Glynwood. *Cost: Pay what you can*

WED 7  
Butterfield History Walking Tour  
COLD SPRING

6:30 p.m. Butterfield Library  
10 Morris Ave. | 845-265-3040  
butterfieldlibrary.org  
Learn about the history of the Butterfield’s estate, Cragside, that once stood at the present location of the Haldane campus. *Free*

SAT 10  
Quarry to Quarry  
GARRISON

10 a.m. Manitoga | 584 Route 9D  
845-424-3812 | visitmanitoga.org  
Take a guided, 1.5-mile moderate hike from the Quarry Pool at Dragon Rock to the wilderness of Lost Pond Quarry. Email tours@visitmanitoga.org to register. *Cost: \$5*

SAT 10  
The Space Race: 1957-1975  
PUTNAM VALLEY

10 a.m. Putnam Valley Library  
30 Oscawana Lake Road | 845-528-3242  
putnamvalleylibrary.org  
The Putnam Valley Historical Society will present a lecture

by local historian and space enthusiast Kevin Woyce about the dramatic events that led to the first moon walk. *Cost: \$5 donation*

SUN 11  
Canning and Preserving  
COLD SPRING

1 – 4 p.m. Glynwood Center  
362 Glynwood Road | 845-265-3338  
glynwood.org  
Michaela Hayes, a farmer and the founder of Crock & Jar, a food preservation company, will lead a hands-on process of using a hot-water bath to can sweet preserves and savory tomatoes. *Cost: Pay what you can*

SUN 11  
Get Lit Beacon  
BEACON

5 p.m. Oak Vino Wine Bar  
389 Main St. | getlitbeacon.com  
This month’s guest in the group’s reading series will be poet Catherine Arra, whose latest collection is *Writing in the Ether*.

MUSIC

SAT 3  
Doansburg Chamber Ensemble  
COLD SPRING

7 p.m. St. Mary’s Church  
1 Chestnut St. | 845-228-4167  
doansburg.org  
The ensemble — Christine Smith on flute, John Frisch on oboe, Susan LaFever on French horn, David Miller on bassoon and Alexander Negruta on clarinet — will perform *Quintet Op. 56 No. 1* by Danzi, *Pavanne* by Gould, *Trois Pieces Breves* by Ibert and *Roaring Fork Quintet* by Ewazen, along with works by Grainger, Joplin and Sousa. *Cost: \$10 (\$9 students, seniors)*

THURS 8  
Hudson Valley Jazz Fest  
SUGAR LOAF

6:30 p.m. Sugar Loaf Crossing  
1405 Kings Highway  
hudsonvalleyjazzfest.org  
The Hudson Valley Jazz Ensemble will open the four-day festival, now in its 10th year, which takes place at venues in Warwick, Ellenville, Monroe and other locales, including Newburgh (the Robert Kopec Project at the Wherehouse at 9 p.m. on SAT 10) and

Beacon (Shannon Early, Tom Deptris and Lou Pappas at Chill Wine Bar at 8:30 p.m. on SAT 10). See the website for details. Also FRI 9, SAT 10, SUN 11.

SAT 10  
Joe Louis Walker  
BEACON

8:30 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.  
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com  
Walker, who is member of the Blues Foundation Hall of Fame and whose 2015 album, *Everybody Wants a Piece*, was nominated for a Grammy, has recorded with B.B. King, James Cotton, Bonnie Raitt, Taj Mahal, Branford Marsalis and Ike Turner. *Cost: \$25 (\$30 door)*

SUN 11  
Bernstein Bard Quartet  
BEACON

6:30 p.m. Inn and Spa at Beacon  
151 Main St. | 845-205-2900  
innspabeacon.com  
Take a free lesson at 6:30 p.m. and get ready to dance at 7 p.m. as part of the Dancing Under the Stars series. *Cost: \$20*

SUN 11  
Back to the Garden 1969  
BEACON

7 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.  
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com  
Hear the hits of the Woodstock era performed by seasoned musicians — one of whom attended the festival. *Cost: \$30 (\$35 door)*

STAGE & SCREEN

SAT 3  
Ruth: A Musical Witness to Love  
GARRISON

2 & 7 p.m. Capuchin Ministries  
781 Route 9D | 845-424-3609  
This musical about the Book of Ruth, performed by the teens attending the Catholic Literature and Arts Summer Program, is the third staged by Friar Erik Lenhart. *Cost: \$15*

SAT 3  
Into the Woods  
GARRISON

7:30 p.m. Boscobel | 1601 Route 9D  
845-265-9575 | hvshakespeare.org  
The Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival presents its first musical, the Broadway hit and Tony Award winner that weaves together fractured fairy-tale favorites. *Cost: \$10 to \$100*

TUES 6  
Julius Caesar  
GARRISON

2 p.m. Boscobel | 1601 Route 9D  
845-265-9575 | hvshakespeare.org  
A war hero is celebrated by the Roman people but mistrusted by some of his closest friends in this family performance by the Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival’s touring company. The tickets have all been distributed, but the festival notes it has never had to turn anyone away and suggests calling the box office for availability. *Cost: Free*

(Continued on Page 14)





## Woodstock Trivia

Sharon Watts' book includes a selection of tidbits about the festival, such as:

**G**ranola was first introduced to the average American as part of Wavy Gravy's announcement: "What we have in mind is breakfast in bed for 400,000!" It was served in paper cups.

**H**og Farm, started by Wavy Gravy and his wife, was a hippie commune whose members were flown in from New Mexico to manage and feed the crowd. They also ran the freak-out tents, talking people down from bad acid trips.

**O**fficial Woodstock merchandise did not exist. No one made money on souvenirs, and T-shirts with the logo were only worn by the crew. Festival programs, discovered later in boxes, went mostly undistributed.

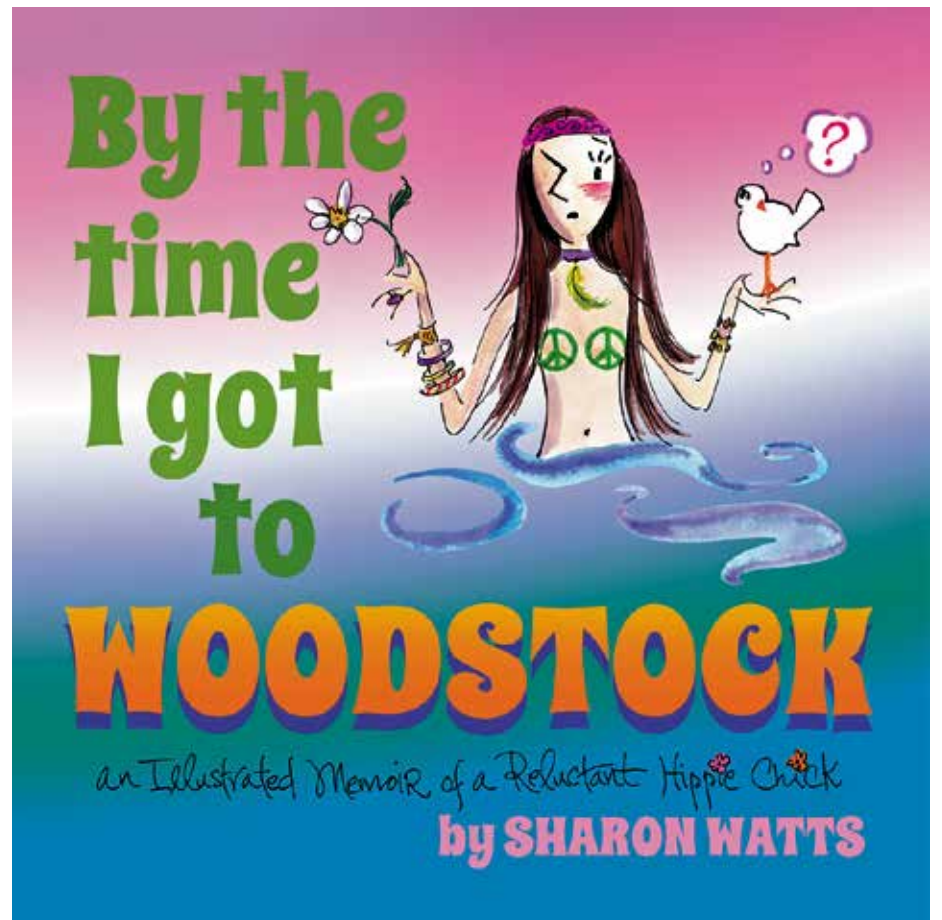
## Woodstock (from Page 11)

ing again in January 2018," Watts says. She began with figures without much detail and added clothing, accessories and "other little details to amuse myself, then word play."

She watched video clips from the period such as *Mod Squad* (which ran from 1968 to 1973) — "it allowed me to go back into a time machine of my teens, corroborating it all on YouTube" — and began developing portraits of the musicians, including Jimi Hendrix and Janis Joplin.

"My work before 9/11 was kind of whimsical, but that didn't feel right afterward, and now I'm moving on again from that," she explains. "I loved exploring the archival resources, and tying the music in to an era. It's relevant to what's going on today, with the social turmoil and politics. It's eye-opening for those people not alive then and a good touch-point for people to see what was going on in that era. It was the first time that war was televised, which made such a major impact."

*Did you make it to Woodstock? Reporter Michael Turton is collecting recollections and photos for a story in our Aug. 16 issue to mark the festival's 50th anniversary. Email him at woodstock@highlandscurrent.org.*



Watts will read from her book at the Howland Public Library on Aug. 13.



## Auditions for Young Frankenstein

August 12, 13 6:30–9:30

For details see:

[www.philipstowndepottheatre.org/auditions](http://www.philipstowndepottheatre.org/auditions)

## Stones Throw Theatre: Songs for a New Season

August 17 at 7:30pm

## Roscoe and Etta (Maia Sharp and Anna Shultze)

August 21 at 7:30pm

Tickets at

[www.philipstowndepottheatre.org](http://www.philipstowndepottheatre.org)

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**Friday, Aug. 2, 8:30 p.m.**  
MaMuse

**Saturday, Aug. 3, 6 p.m.**  
The Costellos - Free

**Saturday, Aug. 3, 8:30 p.m.**  
The Prezence  
Led Zeppelin Tribute

**Sunday, Aug. 4, 11:30 a.m.**  
East Coast Jazz - Free

**Sunday, Aug. 4, 7 p.m.**  
Flash Company:  
Music of Ireland

**Thursday, Aug. 8, 7 p.m.**  
Film Night: "The Wrecking Crew" - Free

**Friday, Aug. 9, 7 p.m.**  
Eric Sommer - Free

**Friday, Aug. 9, 7:30 p.m.**  
The Vanaver Caravan  
SummerDance on Tour

**Saturday, Aug. 10, 6 p.m.**  
Judith Tulloch - Free

**Saturday, Aug. 10, 8:30 p.m.**  
Joe Louis Walker Band

**Sunday, Aug. 11, 11:30 a.m.**  
Dan Stevens - Free

**Sunday, Aug. 11, 7 p.m.**  
Back to the Garden 1969

**379 Main St., Beacon**  
[townecrier.com](http://townecrier.com) • 845.855.1300

## [ THE WEEK AHEAD ]

(Continued from Page 13)

### TUES 6

#### HVSF2: Hook's Tale

GARRISON

7:30 p.m. Philipstown Depot Theatre  
10 Garrison's Landing | 845-265-9575  
[hvshakespeare.org](http://hvshakespeare.org)

This reading by Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival company members and other actors of a script by John Pielmeier will reveal the life of Captain Hook, the villain from *Peter Pan*. Cost: \$20

### THURS 8

#### The Wrecking Crew

BEACON

7 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.  
845-855-1300 | [townecrier.com](http://townecrier.com)

The 2008 documentary brings the studio musicians who played behind some of the great pop songs to the front of the stage. As the backing band for the Beach Boys, Frank Sinatra, Cher, Elvis and many other top artists, they influenced the songs that became a cultural force. Free

### SAT 10

#### Brave Tailor Maid

BEACON

3 & 8 p.m. Howland Cultural Center  
477 Main St. | 845-831-4988 | [hvti.org](http://hvti.org)

The Hudson Valley Theatre Initiative will present this musical adaptation of the Brothers Grimm fairy tale, "The Brave Little Tailor," in which the heroine conquers giants, befriends a unicorn and adjusts to change. Also SUN 11. Cost: \$18 (\$25 door)

### SAT 10

#### Rosemary's Baby

COLD SPRING

8 p.m. Dockside Park | [coldspringfilm.org](http://coldspringfilm.org)

In director Roman Polanski's 1968 film, which will be screened by the Cold Spring Film Society as part of its summer movie

series, Mia Farrow and John Cassavetes move into a building with an ominous reputation, and Farrow's character becomes pregnant. Is she paranoid or is the devil in the details? Bring bug spray and blankets. Free



### SUN 11

#### HVSF2: Storyhorse Documentary Theater

GARRISON

7:30 p.m. Philipstown Depot Theatre  
10 Garrison's Landing | 845-265-9575  
[hvshakespeare.org](http://hvshakespeare.org)

The project, led by Mary Stuart Masterson and Jeremy Davidson, tells stories inspired by transcribed conversations with members of local communities, historical documents and other sources on the social, political, environmental and medical issues we face. Cost: \$20

### CIVIC

### MON 5

#### City Council

BEACON

7 p.m. City Hall | 1 Municipal Plaza  
845-838-5011 | [cityofbeacon.org](http://cityofbeacon.org)

### TUES 6

#### Putnam County Legislature

CARMEL

7 p.m. Historic Courthouse | 44 Gleneida Ave.  
845-208-7800 | [putnamcountyny.com](http://putnamcountyny.com)

### TUES 6

#### Board of Trustees

COLD SPRING

7:30 p.m. Village Hall | 85 Main St.  
845-265-3611 | [coldspringny.gov](http://coldspringny.gov)



PLEASE RECYCLE THIS PAPER



# Nerds with Knives (and Booze)

## Beacon bloggers serve up saucy cookbook

By Brian PJ Cronin

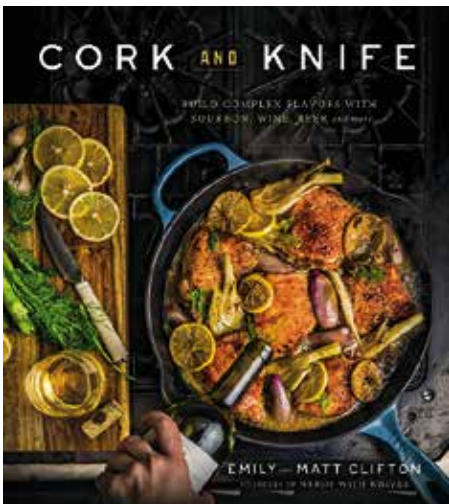
“I’d apologize for the chaos,” says Matt Clifton, who blogs with his wife, Emily, as Nerds with Knives, as a dog scurries between our feet, chickens strut around snaking tomato vines, and cats stare longingly outside from the porch window. “But that would imply that it’s temporary.”

As publication day approaches for a cookbook that grew out of their blog, a whirlwind is not unexpected. But it’s also not the only thing the couple have going on. Emily works as a film editor and spent the past two years cutting a documentary about gay women in southern music titled *Invisible*. (“We just got back from a surprise lesbian cruise in Alaska to screen the film,” she says.) Matt works as an information technology consultant and maintains an expansive garden in the full summer heat.

Yet they somehow found time to assemble *Cork and Knife: Build Complex*



Matt and Emily Clifton



The Cliftons' cookbook will be released on Aug. 6.

Photos provided

*Flavors with Bourbon, Wine, Beer and More*. It will be released Tuesday, Aug. 6, and they’ll do a cooking demo and a signing at Utensil Cookware in Beacon on Saturday, Aug. 10, from 6 to 9 p.m. “We’ll have some treats,” says Emily.

The blog started as a family project. The couple’s only major cooking endeavor was making Thanksgiving dinner, and each year, they couldn’t remember the details of what they had done the year before. That inspired the blog. As a test post, Matt, who is English, wrote an impassioned ode to his tea kettle. Emily followed up with a post about the importance of salt. “Both of our moms read it,” Emily recalls.

Slowly the audience grew beyond their immediate families after their recipe for chicken with lime and cilantro went viral on the discussion site Reddit. The couple watched in amazement as dozens of people over the course of a weekend posted their own photos of the finished dish and wrote about how much they enjoyed it.

The thread caught the attention of J. Kenji Lopez-Alt, an editor at the food blog Serious Eats and author of *The Food Lab*. Lopez-Alt, whose work explores the scientific reasoning behind home cooking with a bit of humor, was drawn to the couple’s similar style. The Cliftons began blogging for Serious Eats, which put their work in front of an even larger audience.

“That was great training for us in terms of writing for people who really like to cook,” says Emily. “You can have your own voice, but it has to be informative. You can’t go off on a huge tangent. They want the recipe.”

The Cliftons’ expertise in explaining why certain recipes work so well isn’t limited to their own. When I noted that many disparate recipes I’ve returned to over the years — from tomato sauce to sesame chicken to pie crusts — that contain vodka, they were instantly able to tell me why.

“Vodka cooks off so quickly that it pulls up all the molecules of flavor and aroma,” explains Matt. “It makes everything pop.”

“That’s why it works in your tomato sauce,” says Emily.

“Because it burns off so quickly in a batter, it makes air bubbles, which makes something crispy,” adds Matt.

“It makes things puff, like your sesame chicken,” says Emily. “And it hinders the formation of gluten, which is why it works in your pie crust. It kind of is this magic element.”

Nearly all the recipes in their cookbook contain alcohol, but never enough that you’d have to worry about your dinner guests being able to drive home — although Emily suggests caution with the gin-and-tonic cake. “It’s boozy,” she admits. “You can get a little silly off that one.”

So it’s not a cake for children?

“I don’t know,” she says. “It depends on how you feel about children.”



From the Book

## Porterhouse Steak with Red Wine-Blue Cheese Butter

By Emily and Matt Clifton

Making a compound butter is a quick and easy way to add a bright kick of flavor to a dish. This red wine-blue cheese version is as beautiful as it is delicious, with flecks of magenta shallots and blue-veined cheese. And it’s a great example of why red wine and cheese go so well together: when the astringency of the wine meets the fullness of the fatty cheese, all your taste buds are taken care of at the same time. We love to melt it over steaks, but it’s equally good on baked potatoes and grilled or steamed vegetables.

Serves 2 to 4

For the red-wine butter:

2 sticks (16 tablespoons) unsalted butter, room temperature, divided  
2 medium shallots, minced (about ¼ cup)  
1 small garlic clove, minced or grated  
1 tablespoon red-wine vinegar  
½ cup plus 1 tablespoon red wine, divided  
2 tablespoons fresh-chopped chives  
¼ cup blue cheese crumbles, very cold  
Kosher salt and freshly cracked black pepper  
1 Porterhouse steak (or any steak you like), at least 1 inch thick, brought to room temperature  
1 tablespoon neutral oil, like grapeseed

Method:

To make the red-wine butter, set a small, heavy saucepan over medium heat and melt 1 tablespoon butter. Add the shallots and garlic and sauté until soft, 5 minutes. Don’t let the shallots brown; lower the heat if they begin to darken. Add the vinegar and ½ cup of the wine and simmer until there is just about a tablespoon of liquid left, about 10 minutes. Transfer the shallot-wine mixture into a small bowl and place in the refrigerator until cold, about 10 minutes.

Add the softened butter to the bowl of a stand mixer, then add the shallot-wine mixture and the last tablespoon of uncooked red wine. Mix on low until the butter is fully combined with the liquid (this can also be done by hand, with a little patience). Then, use a rubber spatula to gently fold in the chives and blue cheese. Try to keep some of the cheese in chunks. Season with salt and pepper, to taste.

Place a sheet of plastic wrap on a work surface. Spoon the butter lengthwise at one end of the plastic wrap and roll into a log about 1½ inches in diameter. Twist the ends of the plastic wrap on both sides to close and tighten the cylinder. Refrigerate it for at least 2 hours before cutting. The butter can be refrigerated for 1 week, or frozen up to 3 months.

To cook the steak, dry it well and season both sides generously with salt and pepper. Heat a large heavy skillet on medium-high heat. When the pan is hot, add the oil and lay in the steak. Cook it on one side, without disturbing, until it releases easily from the pan when you lift it, about 3 minutes. Then turn the steak every 2 minutes, until brown on both sides and cooked to your desired temperature (125 degrees for medium rare). Place the steak on a cutting board, top with a few rounds of butter and cover loosely with foil. Allow steak to rest for 10 minutes before slicing and serving.

Note: Porterhouse — comprising strip steak, filet mignon and the conjoining T-bone — is a decadent treat, but you can really use any kind of steak you like. Hanger, Flat Iron and flap steaks are also great choices.



## Roots and Shoots

Native Plants  
from Past to  
Present

By Pamela Doan

To people who don't know a lot about plants, I seem to know a lot about plants. I have big holes in my self-sought education, however, and identifying plants is one such area. I just want someone to tell me. That's my preferred method. But there's not always someone around who knows.

My phone apps fail me. Mugwort is not cannabis, iPhone. I take cuttings and use reference guides. I've taken an online course that was challenging because it was online and I went to college initially before the internet was a thing. I've read *Botany for Gardeners* yet still must ponder opposite, basal and alternate-leaf patterns.

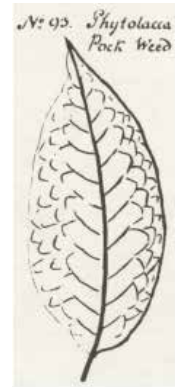
I was inspired by a visit to Boscobel to try drawing. When I stopped by to talk with Executive Director Jennifer Carlquist about their revisions of the rose garden, she mentioned they had used the plant lists of Jane Colden as reference. Colden



(1722-1766), known as America's first female botanist, carefully illustrated a catalogue of plants on her family's 3,000-acre estate near Newburgh during an exciting time in botany. By the time of her death, she had completed 340 ink outlines.

The Dyckman mansion at Boscobel would have had many of the same plants Colden catalogued at its original location in Montrose. With the help of a team of researchers and consultants, Boscobel was able to work on a new landscape plan for the difficult-to-maintain and historically inaccurate rose garden. "The plans merge history, design, culture and climate," Carlquist said. "The roses needed constant spraying and upkeep."

Colden's manuscript and historical documents about landscapes at other significant homes from the late 18th and early 19th century gave the team a working list of plants. While the current reinvention is temporary while fundraising and other renovations happen at Boscobel, the plantings are pollinator-friendly and more resilient to the extreme weather brought on by climate change.



In 1755, while Colden was sketching the plants on her family's estate, she corresponded with John Bartram, a Philadelphia gardener who had created the most varied collection of North American plants of the time; Carolus Linnaeus, a Swedish botanist who created the



common Linnaean system for plant taxonomy; and Johan Frederik Gronovius, a Dutch naturalist who published *Flora Virginica* in 1743.

She exchanged seeds and cuttings for identification in the beginnings of the field of study.

It was an exciting time for plant lovers. When Linnaeus published *Species Plantarum* in 1753, it included more than 700 North American species and 70 that were new to science. Some were contributed by Colden.

In the *Botanic Manuscript of Jane Colden 1724-1766*, published by the Garden Club of Orange and Dutchess Counties, I found many of the native plants that I and many other gardeners are trying to bring back to the landscape. Some of my favorites — turtlehead (*Chelone glabra*), cardinal flower (*Lobelia cardinalis*), coneflower (*Rudbeckia triloba*), butterflyweed (*Asclepias tuberosa*) and vervain (*Verbena hastata*) — are carefully drawn and described.

Colden's observations reveal both her status and connection to the plants. Her notes on snakeroot (*Aristolochia serpentaria*) read, "This Seneca Snake Root is much used by some physicians in America, principally in Long Island, in the Pleurisy, especially when it

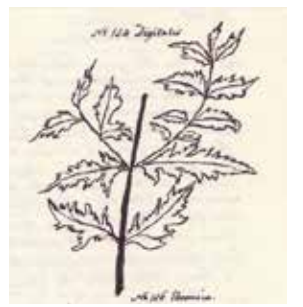
inclines to *Peripneumony*, they give it either in powder or decoction. The usual dose of the powder is 30 grains."

Snakeroot extract is still sold as an herbal remedy

but the plant is considered to be endangered and possibly extinct in our area. It's out of fashion for landscaping, lost to development and out-competed by invasive species. But as a host plant for the pipevine swallowtail butterfly, it's worth planting and conserving in your yard.

Boscobel's interim planting includes yarrow (*Achillea*), vervain (*Verbena hastata*), eveline speedwell (*Veronica spicata*), and summersweet (*Clethra alnifolia*), among others. All are easy to cultivate and maintain, will bloom during their busiest summer season, and will ease the transition for visitors who will miss the rose garden. "We want to highlight what our ancestors knew about the connection between sustainability and history," Carlquist explained.

When people were concerned about colonial tensions and raising their own food, tending roses wouldn't have been a high priority. Again, it seems like so much has changed, but not much and listening to messages from history makes sense.



Drawings by Jane Colden



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# Nelsonville Gobblesmacked by Pet

*Turkey a favorite with neighbors, passersby*

By Michael Turton

**H**amlet, Nelsonville's celebrity turkey, seems headed for a much better fate than the character for whom he is named.

Slated to be the centerpiece of a Thanksgiving meal, the 2-year-old red bourbon is instead the pride and joy of a Nelsonville couple, Suzy Kee and Dave Mattson.

The gobbler can be seen, almost daily, happily strolling along the shoulder of Main Street on the upper east side of the village.

In true Shakespearean fashion, tragedy preceded the heritage-breed's carefree life.

A few years ago, Kee and Mattson purchased two red bourbons — a tom, or male, they named Tom, and a hen they called Henrietta. The pair produced two poults, Hamlet and an unnamed hen. Unfortunately, Hamlet's parents and sister were lost to coyotes.

Kee says that, after seeing Hamlet, neighbors and passersby began stopping in to ask about him and the couple granted him a pardon from ending up as dinner. "We just couldn't do it," Kee said.

"He's been roaming for about a year now,"

she said. "We've spoken to our neighbors and they think he's cool," although he occasionally leaves a deposit on their porches.

She has asked neighbors not to feed Hamlet to ensure he sees their home as his sole source of food and water. His diet includes fruit such as grapes and cherries, vegetables and poultry feed. He also has a taste for black soldier fly larvae and other bugs that he grubs in the yard.

This turkey is not lacking in personality.

Kee describes Hamlet as a peeping tom. "If he goes up onto your porch and the screen door is closed, he'll stand there, peering in at you and your pets," she said. "He's a people turkey, he likes following people; he's a social satellite" who mimics people when they laugh.

Hamlet has his moods. Kee explained that when the skin on his featherless head turns red, it signals anger. When it's blue, he's annoyed. When it's white, he's outraged.

Mattson said Hamlet sometimes resents being locked in his enclosure at night and clearly displays anger when he is released in the morning. "If you penned him up all day, he'd be miserable," he said.

Like many pets, Hamlet knows his own name and comes when called.



Hamlet the turkey takes a gander.

Dropping in on the neighbors is part of Hamlet's daily routine. He also often follows pedestrians who happen by on Main Street. On his own, he will wander several hundred yards, including down to the ice cream shop and bakery.

Each night, he sleeps in the same spot inside his enclosure next to the backyard chicken coop. The enclosure, Mattson said, prevents any nocturnal wanderings.

Mattson, who is retired, spends most of his days at home with Hamlet. "He follows me around all day," he said, whether he's working in the garden or sitting on the front porch.

Mattson and Kee are not overly concerned about traffic hazards. "We have two Turkey Crossing signs," Kee noted, adding that people stop up to five times a day to have a closer look at their pet. Often, she said, cars will slow, with the occupants shouting a greeting as the turkey waddles down the road. "We just wish people wouldn't drive 40 miles an hour."

Mattson said Hamlet never darts onto the road. "He's a slow walker." He laughed recalling a resident who expressed concern about a photo posted on Facebook of Hamlet standing in the middle of the road.

"What they failed to see," Mattson said, "was he had just helped an elderly woman across the road and was on his way home."

Hamlet is fortunate to have ended up as a pet. Kee said red bourbons are consid-



A turkey crossing sign installed near Hamlet's home

Photos by M. Turton

ered "the epicurean epitome" of flavorful turkey. "Dressed, he would go for about \$12 a pound," she said. Red bourbon toms can weigh up to 33 pounds, and hens 18 pounds.

Hamlet's fame may soon be even greater. Kee and Mattson have entered him in the poultry competition (red bourbon division) at the 174th annual Dutchess County Fair, which begins Aug. 20 in Rhinebeck.



Dave Mattson and Suzy Kee

Photo provided



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## Gun Control

**Gov. Andrew Cuomo often boasts about New York “enacting the strongest gun laws in the nation.” Here are five laws he signed in July.**

### Moving gun

This law, enacted on July 16, requires gun owners who transport a pistol or revolver to shooting ranges or competitions to unload the weapon and store it in a locked container — excluding the glove box — during transport, with ammo carried separately. (There is one exception: New York City law bars anyone from bringing a handgun into the city without authorization from the police.) The state argues that the law makes moot a lawsuit by the New York State Rifle & Pistol Association over a New York City law that bans its residents from transporting handguns to homes, shooting ranges or competitions outside city limits. In January, the U.S. Supreme Court agreed to hear an appeal after a lower court ruled it did not violate the Second Amendment.

**Passed Senate 36-23**

Serino ☒

**Passed Assembly 99-49**

Galef ☑ Jacobson ☑

### Bump-stock ban

Cuomo on July 29 signed a law that bans the sale or possession of bump stocks, which accelerate the rate at which semi-automatic weapons can be fired. (State law had banned attaching a bump stock to a weapon, but not owning or selling one.) On March 26, a federal rule went into effect classifying firearms with bump stocks as illegal machine guns. Before that, bump stocks had been considered gun “accessories” not subject to regulation. The Justice Department says only one company was still making bump stocks by late 2018 but that an estimated 280,000 to 520,000 were sold in the U.S. from 2010 to 2017.

**Passed Senate 49-14**

Serino ☑

**Passed Assembly 134-11**

Galef ☑ Jacobson ☑

### Background checks

When a gun dealer conducts a check of a potential customer through the National Instant Criminal Background Check System, he or she is told the sale is approved, denied or “delayed,” which requires the buyer to wait

three days while the FBI begins an investigation. Cuomo on July 29 signed a law that extends that waiting period in New York state to 30 days.

**Passed Senate 40-23**

Serino ☒

**Passed Assembly 85-52**

Galef ☑ Jacobson ☑

### 3D guns

Cuomo signed legislation on July 30 criminalizing the manufacture, sale, transport and possession of firearms that are undetectable by a metal detector, such as those made with 3D printers.

**Passed Senate 53-5**

Serino ☑

**Passed Assembly 122-22**

Galef ☑ Jacobson ☑



The printed parts of a single-shot Liberator handgun

Flickr

### Armed teachers

Cuomo on July 30 enacted legislation that bans schools from authorizing anyone but a school resource officer, law enforcement officer or security guard to carry a firearm on the grounds of any school, including colleges and universities, or on a school bus. The bill was introduced in response to suggestions after the killings at Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida, in 2018 that teachers be allowed to carry concealed weapons. “The answer to the gun violence epidemic plaguing this country has never been and never will be more guns,” Cuomo said in a statement.

**Passed Senate 41-22**

Serino ☒

**Passed Assembly 104-40**

Galef ☑ Jacobson ☑



Former Vice President Al Gore (left) joined Gov. Andrew Cuomo on July 18 for the signing of a comprehensive climate-change law.

Governor's Office

## How They Voted *(from Page 1)*

confirmed by the U.S. Senate, or the return of companies they have control over” to the U.S. House Ways & Means Committee, the U.S. Senate Finance Committee or the Joint Committee on Taxation.

President Donald Trump, a New York resident who has declined to release his returns, which members of the U.S. House say they need to see for investigative purposes, is the unnamed target of the legislation.

“Tax secrecy is paramount — the exception being for bonafide investigative and law-enforcement purposes,” Cuomo said in a statement. “This bill gives Congress the ability to fulfill its Constitutional responsibilities, strengthen our democratic system and ensure that no one is above the law.”

On July 23, the president sued in federal court to nullify the law. The Treasury Department has refused requests by Congress to release his federal returns, saying lawmakers don’t need to see them for any “legitimate legislative purpose.”

**Passed Senate 40-21**

Serino ☒

**Passed Assembly 91-51**

Galef ☑ Jacobson ☑

### ■ Marijuana fines

This law, which takes effect on Aug. 28, reduces the penalty for possession of less than two ounces of marijuana from a misdemeanor to a violation punishable by a fine. It also creates a process for some people who have been convicted of marijuana misdemeanors to have their arrests expunged.

The possession of a small amount of weed (23 grams or less) for personal use has been a violation since 1977 unless an officer determined that the marijuana was “in public view” or “burning.” Lawmakers argue the bill will correct a racial injustice, noting that in 2015 in New York City, nearly 90 percent of those arrested and charged with misdemeanors were black or Latino while federal data indicates young white men are far more likely to possess and use weed.

The law means that anyone caught with a small amount of marijuana will not be arrested but instead face a fine of \$50 or, if the person is smoking in a public place in public view or the blunt is lit, a fine of up to \$200.

**Passed Senate 39-23**

Serino ☒

**Passed Assembly 94-44**

Galef ☑ Jacobson ☑

### ■ Climate bill

Former Vice President Al Gore joined Cuomo on July 18 as the governor signed the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act, which includes the ambitious goal of 70 percent of the state’s electricity coming from renewables by 2030 and an 85 percent reduction in greenhouse-gas emissions by 2050.

Among other provisions, the law establishes a 22-person climate-action council to make recommendations and gives state agencies authority to adopt greenhouse-gas regulations. It also requires the Department of Environmental Conservation to consider climate change when it issues rulings.

“Signing this law is a historic and a vital step, but we must execute also, especially when the goals we set may outlast the tenure of some of the people setting the goals,” Cuomo said at the signing. “That is not to say that I don’t intend to be governor in 2050. I do. But some of the other state officials may not be around. So government’s challenge is to also implement the plan... And that is the art form: to develop a sustainable, achievable environmental agenda that does not disrupt our economy.”

**Passed Senate 41-21**

Serino ☒

**Passed Assembly 111-35**

Galef ☑ Jacobson ☑

### ■ Farm worker rights

Cuomo on July 17 signed a law that gives farmworkers overtime pay, one day off per week and benefits such as disability, worker’s compensation, paid family leave and unemployment insurance.

The law, which takes effect on Jan. 1, also provides farm laborers with collective bargaining rights; provides for a 60-hour work week; requires that sanitary codes apply to all worker housing; removes a payroll threshold for requiring employers to obtain workers’ comp coverage; and requires that workplace injuries be reported to employers.

“The signing of this bill sets right 80 years of wrongs done by a racist, Jim Crow-era law that denied farmworkers basic rights,” said Donna Lieberman, executive director of the New York Civil Liberties Union.

**Passed Senate 40-22**

Serino ☒

**Passed Assembly 94-54**

Galef ☑ Jacobson ☑

### ■ Hair rights

On July 12, Cuomo signed a law making



Two examples of bump stocks

ATF

(Continued on Page 19)



## How They Voted *(from Page 18)*

it illegal to discriminate based on “traits historically associated with race, including but not limited to hair texture and protective hairstyles.”

The bill’s sponsor in the Senate, Jamaal Bailey (D-Bronx), noted that the New York City Commission on Human Rights in February released guidelines on “race discrimination on the basis of hair” that outlined the rights of people to maintain their “natural hair, treated or untreated hairstyles such as loos, cornrows, twists, braids, Bantu knots, fades, Afros, and/or the right to keep hair in an uncut or untrimmed state.”

Bailey cited national incidents reported in the media such as a high school wrestler in New Jersey who was forced to cut his hair or forfeit a match; a 6-year-old boy in Florida turned away from a private Christian academy because his hair reached below his ears; and a New Orleans girl sent home from a Catholic school for wearing braids.

### Passed Senate 46-16

Serino ☒

### Assembly passed 130-10

Galef ☒ Jacobson ☒

### ■ Raising tobacco age

On July 16, Cuomo signed a bill raising the minimum age to buy cigarettes and e-cigarettes from 18 to 21. It takes effect on Nov. 13.

### Passed Senate 52-9

Serino ☒

### Passed Assembly 120-26

Galef ☒ Jacobson ☒

### ■ Salary history

On July 10, Cuomo enacted a law making it illegal for employers to ask job applicants for their salary histories. The law, designed to prevent “wage discrimination,” goes into effect on Jan. 6.

### Passed Senate 43-19

Serino ☒

### Passed Assembly 126-20

Galef ☒ Jacobson ☒

### ■ Cat declawing

On July 22, New York became the first state to ban the declawing of cats. Known as onychectomy, the procedure involves removing most or all of the last bone of each of the toes of the front feet, severing tendons, nerves and ligaments. Supporters noted that claws are vital to cats for climbing, maintaining balance and to defend themselves.

### Passed Senate 50-12

Serino ☒

### Passed Assembly 113-31

Galef ☒ Jacobson ☒

### ■ Pets in cars

On July 31, Cuomo enacted a law that allows firefighters and other emergency medical responders to remove pets found in unattended vehicles if they believe the animals are in danger due to extreme heat or cold. Police officers are already authorized to remove animals in those situations.

### Passed Senate 62-0

Serino ☒

### Passed Assembly 148-0

Galef ☒ Jacobson ☒

### ■ Bullying in public schools

On July 25, Cuomo signed legislation that extends state human rights laws to cover public schools, allowing the Division of Human Rights to investigate bullying, harassment or other forms of discrimination. The bill was introduced in response to a 2012 court decision that said that “educational institutions” included in the state Human Rights Law did not include public schools.

### Passed Senate 61-0

Serino ☒

### Passed Assembly 142-0

Galef ☒ Jacobson ☒

### ■ Data protection

Cuomo on July 25 signed a law billed by supporters as an update to existing “breach notification” regulations. It expands the definition of digital data that businesses should protect to include biometrics and email addresses/user names with passwords and security questions; updates the notification requirements to include anyone living in New York state, not just those who “conduct business” here; and requires businesses to have “reasonable data security.” The law takes effect on March 21, 2020.

### Passed Senate 41-21

Serino ☒

### Passed Assembly 147-1

Galef ☒ Jacobson ☒

### ■ ‘Revenge porn’

This bill, signed into law by Cuomo on July 23, targets “revenge porn” in which a person posts a nude or explicit image of a former partner to embarrass or harass them when it was taken “with a reasonable expectation that it would remain private.”

Under the law, posting such photos is a misdemeanor punishable by up to a year in jail. Victims also can sue for civil damages and ask a court to compel websites to remove the images.

### Passed Senate 62-0

Serino ☒

### Passed Assembly 138-0

Galef ☒ Jacobson ☒

### ■ Child-care for candidates

Cuomo on July 30 signed legislation to allow local and state candidates or those involved in “the duties of public office or party position” to use campaign funds for child-care expenses. The governor said the law was intended to allow “more parents to run for office.” It takes effect on Sept. 28.

### Passed Senate 60-1

Serino ☒

### Passed Assembly 127-21

Galef ☒ Jacobson ☒

### ■ Victim protection

On Aug. 1, Cuomo signed legislation allowing victims of sexual offenses, stalking and human trafficking to participate in a program in which the Department of State provides a substitute mailing address to keep their location hidden. The bill will take effect on Oct. 30. Before the change, the program was available only to victims of domestic abuse.

### Passed Senate 59-0

Serino ☒

### Passed Assembly 146-0

Galef ☒ Jacobson ☒

## BABY and DOG



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? Emmett Christensen, with Wiley, is the son of Jennifer Cotennec Christensen of Kansas City (formerly of Cold Spring) and her husband, Garrett. If you have a photo of a baby and a dog, submit it for consideration to [editor@highlandscurrent.org](mailto:editor@highlandscurrent.org).

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## Danskammer *(from Page 1)*

cials asked the council to wait until the proposal had been reviewed by the state before taking a position.

“Let us finish our work,” said Bill Reid, Danskammer’s CEO. “The state has assigned us a 1,000-page term paper. Let us get our grade before you decide it’s a bad idea.”



Danskammer CEO Bill Reid addresses the Beacon City Council. Photo by J. Simms

The new plant, Reid said, would use fracked gas to run more regularly and more efficiently once Indian Point closes in 2021. It would be fast-starting and air-cooled, rather than water-cooled. Its construction would be privately funded, he said.

However, the plant would fall short of New York’s Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA), which calls for net zero carbon emissions from the generation of electricity by 2040. Gov. Andrew Cuomo signed the act into law on July 18 (see Page 18).

At the Monday meeting, Todd Diorio, the president of the Hudson Valley Building and Construction Trades Council, said the goals of the CLCPA “are not reachable” and argued that an expanded Danskammer plant would fill in gaps that renewable energy sources may not meet.

“If we are to move to renewable power, we want to do it in the best way possible,” said Reid, the Danskammer CEO. “If we want to support a grid that is very violent in its movement, we have to have technology that can turn on in minutes and can ramp up very, very quickly. All of the plants that we have in the region now cannot do that.”

Representatives from Scenic Hudson and Food and Water Watch asked the council to oppose the plant, which they argued would increase pollution, create public health hazards and contribute to climate change.

While Danskammer says its new plant will

## Siting Board

The state Board on Electric Generation Siting and the Environment, or the Siting Board, has seven members: the chair of the Department of Public Service; the commissioner of the Department of Environmental Conservation; the commissioner of the Department of Health; the chair of the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority; the commissioner of New York State Empire State Development; and two public members who reside within the municipality in which the facility would be built. Those ad-hoc members, appointed earlier this year by the leaders of the state Assembly, are Michael Gaydos, assistant secretary of the Orange County Industrial Development Agency, and Ronald Hughes.

be an economic boon and an environmental improvement, Hayley Carlock of Scenic Hudson countered that its dependence on gas, a non-renewable fossil fuel, would lock the region into relying on a plant that she said would be outdated before it’s even built.

“The Hudson Valley should be a model

for sustainable and clean energy, not for continuing to use fossil fuels,” she told the council.

Additionally, methane, the primary component of natural gas, traps much more heat in the earth’s atmosphere than carbon dioxide, said Andrew Pezzullo, an organizer at Food and Water Watch. Fracked gas, he said, “has a more accelerative effect on climate change than coal or oil. The science is fundamentally clear at this point.”

Those arguments seemed to resonate with the Beacon council, which needed only a few minutes to set its course for Monday.

“We have an obligation to use our voices to make a statement,” said Council Member Amber Grant. “I do not want to see the Hudson Valley become the center for natural gas and fossil fuels. I’m distinctly opposed to this.”

With the other members in agreement (Ward 2 representative John Rembert was not at the meeting), the council is primed to approve a resolution urging Cuomo to reject the Danskammer proposal and, instead, focus state resources on providing “living wage jobs for the construction and operation of clean-power generation, brownfield cleanup, or other appropriate economic development projects” in the region.

The draft also indicates that the council will “fully and objectively” consider any new information discovered during the state’s review.

## Secret Putnam *(from Page 1)*

new law recognizes “that the attorney-client privilege is an invaluable tool.”

Odell asserted that the “negative impact of a violation of the attorney-client privilege” became apparent “in the public hearing on this local law itself, when a legislator [Montgomery] disregarded the attorney-client privilege without consultation among the Legislature and disclosed attorney-client privileged information.” Thus, Odell wrote, “it is abundantly clear” that the law is “vital to protect and preserve the deliberative process.”

Odell added that, just as legislators can censure a fellow legislator, the county ethics board must be empowered “to recommend appropriate penalties” when violations occur.

### Confidential response

At the public hearing on July 24, Montgomery said that on July 5 she had sent Odell and the county Highway Department a message about a business group’s inquiry on road signs. Eleven days later, she said, she received a response, labeled “confidential” in red ink, apparently drafted with a lawyer’s assistance.

As Montgomery began to read from the memo, some members of the audience booed and shouted to drown her out.

“Why is this marked ‘confidential?’” Montgomery asked. “Just because it’s from an attorney doesn’t mean it should be stamped ‘confidential.’”

Montgomery called the secrecy law overreaching and urged it be revised. As written, she said, “the intent of this law is to stop leaks and effectively place a gag order

on county officials and employees.”

On Thursday (Aug. 1), Montgomery linked the “confidential” road signs response to a series of ongoing “retaliatory tactics” by county officials “to limit my ability to assist and respond” to residents and said the incident “shows how this law will hurt the public.”

The response “was marked ‘confidential’ without clear reason and prevented me from delivering public information vital to general business operations,” she said. “The law will directly impact my capacity to serve” and impair all legislators’ abilities to assist constituents. She added that Odell “signed a flawed law. This is not good government and the citizens of Putnam County deserve better.”

The law states that communications by, to, or from the county Law Department, the Legislature’s attorney or a county “outside legal counsel or consultant shall be presumed

## Opting Out

Under state law, licensed gun owners who are active or retired police officers, have valid orders of protection, are witnesses or jurors in criminal proceedings or believe the release of the information would otherwise put them at risk or subject them to harassment can request that their license information be kept confidential. To file a request in Putnam County, see [bit.ly/putnam-exemption](http://bit.ly/putnam-exemption), and in Dutchess, see [bit.ly/dutchess-exemption](http://bit.ly/dutchess-exemption). Spouses, domestic partners and household members of licensed gun owners or applicants can also make the request.

to be confidential even if not explicitly labeled ‘confidential.’” While acknowledging that legislative records involving attorney-client privilege, “deliberative process privilege,” or work by lawyers might sometimes be disclosed, the law says that all nine legislators must agree to their release.

It further decrees that no one in county government can “disclose, distribute, transmit, forward, publicize, deliver, disseminate or describe” something deemed confidential — whether papers or a report, statement, memo, folder, pamphlet, book, draft, drawing, map, photo, letter, electronic-media message, disk, tape, regulation, code, opinion or similar item.

In her note to the Legislature, Odell recommended that it remove a paragraph from the law that allows any county employee, official, outside legal counsel or consultant to slap “confidential” on something he or she creates or transmits. Such material is already protected by state law, she said. Nonetheless, she signed the law with that provision intact.

### Public hearing

The county notice announcing the July 24 public hearing stated it would “be held before the county executive,” but Odell did not attend. Instead, members of her staff recorded the meeting and County Attorney Jennifer Bumgarner introduced each session. Article 20 of the state’s Municipal Home Rule law says that after a county legislature passes a law, a public hearing must occur “before the chief executive officer.”

Asked on July 24 if the hearing was legitimate despite Odell’s absence, Bumgarner responded: “Her office is fully represented, which satisfies the terms of the law.”

During the hearing, the Legislature’s legal counselor, Robert Firriolo, read a statement from the eight Republican legislators, who defended the law. In it, they maintained that the law “does not create any new type of confidential record which may be withheld from the public” and “does not allow any county employee to stamp ‘confidential’ on a record and turn it into a ‘secret.’ In fact,” the statement said, “the word *secret* doesn’t even appear anywhere in the law.”

According to the statement, making a document “confidential” merely advises an employee to deal with it carefully.

The statement also noted that “numerous state and federal laws” require confidentiality and provided examples of information it said is kept confidential in Putnam County such as “employees’ dates of birth; names, addresses, telephone numbers, and email addresses of the public and county employees” and “numerous types of private, personal information of members of the public who interact with the county in a wide variety of ways, such as people applying for a trade or business license.” However, it was not clear if all of the items listed can be withheld in every circumstance under state or federal law.

Further, the legislators declared that if a question arises “about whether a record should be produced or withheld in response to a FOIL request, the county code will still favor disclosure to the public.”

### Public feedback

At the hearing, residents from across the county criticized the law.

Tim Miller, a Philipstown resident and longtime planning consultant to munici-

*(Continued on Page 22)*



# Putnam Hands Off WIC Program

*Legislature holds special meeting for vote*

By Holly Crocco



The Putnam County Legislature discontinued and defunded a federal program for poor women and their children, opting for a nonprofit community agency to run it instead, during a special meeting called on July 24. The vote was 7-2, with Nancy Montgomery (D-Philipstown) and William Gouldman (R-Putnam Valley) voting “no.”

Putnam has been administering the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children, known as WIC, for 15 years. It is partially funded through a matching state grant of about \$437,000. In 2018, the county fronted an additional \$120,000 to cover program costs.

A five-year grant contract with the state is set to expire in 2020, but the Legislature voted to end the program Sept. 30 of this year.

The WIC program will be taken over by Open Door Family Medical Centers, which operates a community health center in Brewster.

Montgomery said she opposed ending the contract early, and also was not happy that the Legislature called a special meeting for the vote, saying it “will leave the public with the impression that we have rushed or otherwise short-circuited public process in our decision-making.”

Legislature Chair Joseph Castellano (R-Brewster) said the meeting was necessary because two legislators will not be able to attend the regular monthly meeting scheduled for Aug. 6.

“It is such an important issue that all nine legislators should be here, and I’m thankful that all nine did show up,” he said.

Montgomery, however, accused her

colleagues of calling the special meeting two weeks before the regular meeting because the state has already promised funding to Open Door, and there’s a timeline for them to receive it.

“I don’t believe that we’re holding this special meeting because two legislators can’t make it,” she said. “I believe we have an obligation to the state and to the clients — the WIC clients — and to get messages out to them in a timely manner, and I think that’s unfortunate.”

Montgomery also pointed out that one of the four full-time county employees losing a job is a one year away from fulfilling a 20-year tenure to retire with a full pension.

“We’re cheating an employee out of her retirement, which is unnecessary,” she said. “It’s a crummy way to treat our employees. Why can’t we fill out our contract? We have a year left. It would be a cleaner transition.”

Toni Addonizio (R-Kent) said she took offense to the implication that legislators “don’t care” about county employees.

“The loss of jobs is very important to me,” she said, noting that the Personnel Depart-

ment is working to find jobs for displaced employees.

Ginny Nacerino (R-Patterson) added that county employees are very valued.

“The people I talk to are very thankful to have civil service jobs, benefits and live and work in Putnam County — which is a rarity,” she said. “This is a bedroom community and most people have to commute out.”

Nacerino added that Open Door can better serve WIC clients. “We are doing the right thing for the right reasons,” she said.

Amy Sayegh (R-Mahopac Falls) noted that the county’s client base for the WIC program has declined, and state funding is not covering all expenses.

“This will be going further and further down the hole, and we’re not serving the populations that we’re trying to serve,” she said.

Neal Sullivan (R-Mahopac) said the implication that the county rushed the decision was bogus. “I don’t think we’ve discussed an issue more since I’ve been a legislator,” he said.

# Auditor: Putnam on Strong Footing

*Legislature hears reassuring report about finances*

By Holly Crocco

A “glowing” audit of the county’s fiscal standing by the PFK O’Connor Davies firm was presented to the county Legislature at its July 24 Audit Committee meeting.

Partner Nick DeSantis explained that the county earned a certificate of achievement in financial reporting from the national Government Finance Officers Association.

“I’d like everyone to know that in the State of New York, excluding the City of New York, there are 57 counties; there are only nine counties that received this award, and Putnam is one of them,” he said. “So this is a big kudos to the county of Putnam, as well as the financial staff for putting together the information.”

DeSantis added that the certificate helps in any borrowing the county may wish to do “because the rating agencies look favorably upon any municipality that can compile the information that you compiled and present it for evaluation.”

He complimented the county on its borrowing practices, pointing out that it

does not rely on tax anticipation notes or revenue anticipation notes. “It’s important to note that you do not have any short-term liabilities [debt],” he said.

Outstanding bonds total \$57.9 million, with principal and interest estimated at \$6.9 million.

According to another partner, Allan Kassay, the county’s unassigned fund balance is \$21.9 million, which is about 16 percent of its 2019 budget. Since 2015, the fund balance has increased from \$12.5 million.

“So it’s almost a \$10 million increase over the past four years,” he said.

DeSantis added that the county’s financial managers did well, considering the recession that took place in 2008.

“As a result of you building up your fund balance to a level that enabled you to avoid short-term borrowing, you’re actually saving the taxpayers money because you’re not paying interest on short-term borrowing, so the short-term management of county resources has been handled very well,” DeSantis explained.

Transferring excess funds into a capital project fund instead of borrowing, thereby saving interest and issuance costs, added to the county’s strong fund balance and lack of short-term debt, he said.

Putnam has an Aa2 rating from Moody’s Investors Service, which is defined by “obligations judged to be of high quality and subject to very low credit risk,” said DeSantis.

When it comes to sales tax, revenue was up \$4.5 million from the previous year, representing an increase of 7.6 percent, according to Kassay.

Legislator Neal Sullivan (R-Mahopac) commended the county’s finance team, led by Commissioner Bill Carlin Jr., as well as County Executive MaryEllen Odell.

**“I’d like everyone to know that in the State of New York, excluding the City of New York, there are 57 counties; there are only nine counties that received this award, and Putnam is one of them.”**

~ Auditor Nick DeSantis

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## Secret Putnam *(from Page 20)*

palties, said that when he became Philipstown's planner in 1990, he was "stunned" by "various shenanigans" that occurred, including private discussions among town officials, influential residents and developers pursuing "their own personal interests."

As Philipstown's planner for 19 years, "I did my best to be transparent" and "never once considered labeling anything 'confidential,' even if I knew that the public may disagree with me and criticize me or even ridicule me at public hearings or in local papers," he said.

Miller objected that Putnam's law allows consultants, along with officials and employees, "to willy-nilly declare any or all" material "confidential, and, therefore, hide it from public view. Not only is this inconsistent with New York State law and likely to be challenged, it is a sad statement about the morality, transparency and openness of our own county government."

Linda Kagan, an attorney and a board member of the Cold Spring Area Chamber of Commerce, argued that "transparency is the hallmark of good governance. And, in a democracy, it is essential."

Attempting "to expand the ability to remove documents created for county government and its citizens by making them 'confidential' without a proper basis or detailed decision-making process is simply wrong, if not unconstitutional," she said, while "capriciously drafting and rushing any law into effect is at best careless

and at its worst dangerous."

Scott Reing of Carmel, who chairs the Democratic Party in Putnam but who said he spoke as an individual, similarly warned that the law "is arbitrary and capricious" and potentially unconstitutional. "A local law cannot supersede state or federal law," he said.

The Carmel-Kent Chamber of Commerce, too, opposed the law, saying its members "do not see this as having viability" and believe it would foist an "undue" financial burden on taxpayers as the county defends a law "that should not have been made in the first place."

The Putnam County League of Women Voters; Common Cause New York, which promotes government accountability; and the New York News Publishers Association (of which *The Current* is a member) also submitted statements opposing the law.

### Gun owners

On its website, the Putnam County Firearm Owners' Association urged its members to support the law and arrive at the hearing early, because "the liberals plan to pack the house." The group said that the law helps ensure "that our pistol-permit applications and gun-related documents can be protected from being published by anti-freedom newspapers and other anti-2A [Second Amendment] organizations."

At the hearing, several attendees cited the law's importance to gun owners. "Although I'm a believer in government openness and the public right to know what's going on,

I'm also very concerned about privacy," said Steve Clorifilla, a former police officer. "I don't want my private information available to possible terrorist groups, criminals or other crazies." (Gun licenses are public records under state law but license holders can keep their information confidential in certain circumstances. See Page 20.)

"I don't share the paranoia of residents of Cold Spring and Philipstown," said a Kent

gun owner. "I trust county government."

Marilyn Miller of Brewster said those who oppose the law err in considering state laws sufficient to protect privacy — "just look to the other side of the county," where in 2018 Philipstown adopted a law on firearm storage. She referred to the "uproar" as baffling. "We are a constitutional republic, not a democracy," she said. "A democracy is mob rule."

## Current Classifieds

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**GARRISON** — 593 Route 9D. Furniture, household items, collectibles, priced to go! Saturday, Aug. 17, and Sunday, Aug. 18, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

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The HIGHLANDS

Current

7-Day Forecast for the Highlands

Saturday

84/64

POP: 40%

SW 4-8 mph

RealFeel 94/66

Sunday

86/60

POP: 25%

NNW 4-8 mph

RealFeel 93/60

Monday

84/63

POP: 5%

NNE 4-8 mph

RealFeel 90/64

Tuesday

83/65

POP: 25%

S 4-8 mph

RealFeel 89/65

Wednesday

89/66

POP: 25%

SSW 6-12 mph

RealFeel 93/70

Thursday

85/64

POP: 25%

SW 2-4 mph

RealFeel 90/60

Friday

83/66

POP: 10%

SSW 4-8 mph

RealFeel 84/64

Pollen

High

Moderate

Low

Absent

Absent

Absent

N.A.

Grass

Weeds

Trees

Molds

Source: National Allergy Bureau

SUN & MOON

Sunrise Sat., 8/3

5:52 AM

Sunset Sat. night, 8/3

8:11 PM

Moonrise Sat., 8/3

8:44 AM

Moonset Sat., 8/3

10:13 PM

First

Full

Last

New

Aug 7

Aug 15

Aug 23

Aug 30

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.

CROSSCURRENT

By King Features

ACROSS

1. Healthful retreats

5. Meadow

8. "So be it"

12. Hay storage area

13. Plant bristle

14. Trademarked symbol

15. Emanation

16. Corral

17. Stench

18. Third-place medal

20. Honolulu's island

22. Waste time

26. Unexpected victory

29. Started

30. Nay opposer

31. Recording

32. Crazy

33. Pack away

34. Rd.

35. One of the Brady Bunch

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	11
12					13				14			
15					16				17			
18					19			20	21			
			22				23				24	25
26	27	28				29				30		
31					32				33			
34				35				36				
37			38					39				
		40					41			42	43	44
45	46				47	48			49			
50					51				52			
53					54				55			

53. Connect the \_\_\_\_\_

54. Exist

55. *SportsCenter* airer

DOWN

1. Thick slice

2. Serve tea

3. Frizzy hairdo

4. Strap hanger

5. Boutonniere site

6. Ram's mate

7. Peeved

8. 20-Across greeting

9. Vary, as a tone

10. Freudian concept

11. "Neither snow — ..."

19. Pimple

21. Toss in

23. Grassy plain

24. French city

25. Some conifers

26. Hexagonal state

27. Macadamize

28. Make absolutely plain

32. "Material Girl" singer

33. Computer security threat

35. Garfield's owner

36. Antiquated

38. Lecherous looks

39. Sill

42. Muhammad and Laila

43. Freeway access

44. TV chef Paula

45. Peculiar

46. Scary cry

48. Rowing tool

SUDOCURRENT

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

Answers for July 26 Puzzles

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

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

Answers will be published next week.  
See [highlandscurrent.org/puzzle](http://highlandscurrent.org/puzzle) for interactive versions.

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Aiden Heaton



Nolan Varricchio

# Beacon 10U Baseball Closes Summer with Win

By Skip Pearlman

The Beacon Bulldogs travel baseball team for players ages 10 and younger closed out its summer season last week, picking up a 12-3 win over the Northern Dutchess Rebels on Sunday (July 21) after dropping a 9-3 decision to the Marlboro Marlins the previous Friday evening in Milton.

The Bulldogs compete in the Greater Hudson Valley Baseball League, which includes players from ages 8 to 23. There are 37 teams in its league.

In Sunday's win over the Rebels, Connor Varricchio started for the Bulldogs and went three innings on the mound to pick

up the victory. Julian Rivers pitched the last three frames.

"Both of them did a great job for us," said Manager Jed Varricchio. "They made pitches and kept their composure on a hot day. Both grinded it out and did well staying loose. They didn't let anything bother them."

Nolan Varricchio went 3-for-4 with one RBI, Jayden Concepción was 3-for-4 with two RBI, Hudson Fontaine and Jayden Lassiter each drove in two runs, and Aiden Heaton went 2-for-3 with one RBI.

"Aiden had two stolen bases and a real

nice game," Varricchio said. "Hudson also ran the bases well, and so did Justin Buchman. I was happy with our defense. We limited our errors, and our offense woke up and hit the ball."

The Bulldogs (4-5) came up on the short end against Milton, with Heaton taking the loss on the mound.

Varricchio went 3-for-4 with two RBI, and Parker White drove in a run. "We played good defense, but the Marlins hit the ball," Varricchio said. "And they threw a lefty [pitcher] at us, which we sometimes

struggle with."

Nonetheless, the coach said he was happy with the team's progress.

"We are a team of 9-year-olds in a 10-year-old division, and we still won a bunch of games" against talented teams, he said.

The Bulldogs and a few other teams in the league opted not to compete in the league playoffs. The Beacon Maulers, a squad of 12-year-olds who finished 5-6, were upset in the first round of their league tournament by Ossining.

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**"We limited our errors, and our offense woke up and hit the ball."**

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Julian Rivers



Parker White

Photos by S. Pearlman