Haldane Coach Arrested
Charged with defrauding worker’s compensation
By Chip Rowe

Tyrone Searight, the Haldane High School girls’ basketball coach for the past 11 seasons, was arrested on Tuesday (Oct. 29) on charges he defrauded the state of more than $11,000 in worker’s compensation.

Searight, 49, of Peekskill, was arraigned in Ramapo on two counts of felony work-
er’s compensation fraud and one count of felony grand larceny. He is scheduled to return to court on Nov. 26.

Prosecutors allege that Searight, while employed as an MTA bus driver, reported a work-related knee injury in November 2016. He collected worker’s comp until May 2017. However, investigators found

(Continued on Page 3)

Former School Board Member Running for Dutchess Clerk
Fishkill resident hopes to unseat longtime incumbent
By Arvind Dilawar

When Kenya Gadsden and her family moved to Fishkill in 2007, her eldest daughter enrolled at Beacon High School, where she would have five principals in the next four years. Concerned, Gadsden began attending school board meetings.

“I thought [five principals in four years] wasn’t consistent enough,” she recalled, laughing.

In 2014, Gadsden was elected to a three-year term on Beacon school board, and in 2017 she was re-elected to a one-year term. She

(Continued on Page 26)

Small Pieces,
BIG PROBLEMS

It is not surprising to learn that the Hudson River is filling with plastics. But scientists are discovering that the plastic we can’t see — tiny particles, or microplastics, created when larger pieces break down or are inserted into cosmetics as exfoliants — are easily absorbed into fish and humans. What is the effect? Scientists aren’t sure yet, but no one thinks it’s good.

By Brian PJ Cronin

You can find the pieces in the deepest trenches of the ocean, nearly 7 miles down. You can find them in the most desolate parts of the Arctic, in the rain over the mountains, in the fish, in the water. And, yes, you can find them in your poop, because you inhale and consume tens of thousands of pieces each year, which is probably a gross underestimate because scientists haven’t yet inventoried all the animals and food that can absorb them.

Microplastics are defined by scientists as objects that are 5 millimeters or smaller. They are created when larger pieces of plastic, such as water bottles, are broken down by sunlight or the rocking of waves. Others are included as exfoliants in cosmetics such as facial scrubs and whitening toothpastes — they’re often visible beads.

The fragments are so prevalent that trying to quantify them can be problematic. Finding something that doesn’t have traces of plastic for purposes of scientific comparisons is becoming increasingly difficult because they invade even single-cell organisms, erasing barriers between the natural and constructed environments at the molecular level.

Scientists have found them nearly everywhere, including, recently, in New York Harbor and the Hudson River. “Microplastics are in the guts of every animal we’ve studied,” said Joaquim Goes, a marine biologist at Columbia’s Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory, after the annual Riverkeeper cleanup of the shoreline in May.

What scientists don’t know, with certainty, is what microplastics mean for wildlife and human health. But nothing so far has been encouraging.

(Continued on Page 8)
Robert Lanier grew up in Beacon and returned in 2013 after serving 21 years in the U.S. Coast Guard. A year later, he joined the Elks and now serves as its exalted ruler, or chief elected officer.

Are there misconceptions about the Elks?
A lot of people think we’re clandestine, like a skull-and-bones secret society. We’re not the dark house on the hill that you only see when lightning strikes! We’re a great, civic organization whose main interest is to raise money to give back to the community. Since receiving our charter in 1924, we’ve distributed $5.3 million. Our titles are old and kind of Gothic, but they’re just positions with duties to perform. The exalted ruler is the leader and the leading knight is the backup, like a vice president.

Until the early 1970s the Elks accepted only white men as members. Is the club fully integrated?
We have black, Hispanic and female members. Beacon had the first female trustee and exalted ruler in the Mid-Hudson District. I wasn’t the district’s first black exalted ruler, but I am the first at the Beacon lodge. Is that groundbreaking?
Not so much anymore; most organizations are integrated. It was a concern when I first heard about the Elks and something I discussed with them before joining. You do have to believe in God. I have a kind of tug-of-war on that. Some of my friends are atheist or agnostic and I know they’re great people. I wonder how much of a fight it would be to change it. It’s one tradition they’ve kept for a long time.

Which groups do you work with?
We work with veterans, making sure they’re welcomed when they return home, and identifying where they can get help for PTSD and other issues. We also provide college scholarships and sponsor athletic teams and events. Recently we signed a charter with Troop 41G, the women’s side of Scouts, and provide the lodge at no cost for the boys’ and girls’ branches. Residents can give us old flags to be properly retired by the Scouts. We’ve also supported the Cold Spring Junior Fire Academy, Beacon Youth Police Academy, Beacon Volunteer Ambulance Corps, Beacon High School drama club, Spirit of Beacon Day, Beacon Historical Society, Dutchess County EMS Council and many others.

Can non-members attend your events?
All our events — dances, music, cookouts, first-responders’ dinners and charity events — are open to the public. Guests can also be invited to have a cocktail in our grill room, which is a good way to introduce non-members. And the public can rent our facilities.

How do you hope to leave your mark?
I want to build more awareness of what the Elks are and what we do to attract new members and new ideas, new ways of doing things. A lot of new members are retirees who have time to dedicate to things, but I’d like to see more in their 20s, 30s and 40s.
Early Vote Going Smoothly

Thousands cast ballots in first week

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

New York offered early voting this year for the first time, and its citizens responded: During the past week, thousands of Dutchess and Putnam voters cast ballots ahead of the Tuesday general election, according to county officials.

By 3 p.m. on Thursday (Oct. 31), a total of 4,885 Dutchess County voters had cast ballots, including 1,578 at Fishkill Town Hall, the nearest polling station for Beacon voters, said Beth Soto, a commissioner with the county Board of Elections. Dutchess has 183,774 registered voters.

In Putnam, as of mid-afternoon Thursday, 922 voters had cast ballots at the county’s only early-voting site, at the Board of Elections office in Carmel, said Catherine Croft, an election commissioner. The early voters included 36 from Philipstown, she added. Putnam has 64,373 registered voters.

A state law enacted this year allows nine days of early voting, which end this weekend. The Fishkill site will be open on Saturday (Nov. 2), from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday (Nov. 3), from noon to 5 p.m. The Carmel location for Putnam voters is open from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. both days.

Early votes will be counted after the polls close at 9 p.m. on Nov. 5. In Dutchess, early voting “has been running as smooth as silk,” Soto said on Wednesday.

Croft said that most early voters in Putnam had come from the eastern side of the county. “It’s a bit of a trek” from areas such as Philipstown, she said. Locating early polling stations in other parts of the county next year is a possibility, although “money is an issue,” she said. Nonetheless, she thinks “it could be done economically” and has asked county officials to consider it.

Coach Arrested (from Page 1)

that while Searight claimed he couldn’t work, he was coaching at Haldane and did not appear to be injured.

Searight did not immediately respond to an email but told The Journal News that the charges were the result of botched paperwork. “I’m trying to take care of it as we speak,” he said. Haldane Superintendent Philip Benante said the district was aware of the arrest but had no comment.

In a letter dated Oct. 31, Athletic Director Chris Salum said: “Our priority is to ensure that our student athletes have a positive experience... This includes mitigating any potential for disruption or distraction to the team. We anticipate having more information to share early next week.”

Superintendent to Leave Garrison

Hired in 2014 to lead school district

Laura Mitchell, who was hired as superintendent of the Garrison school district in 2014, announced on Wednesday (Oct. 30) that she will leave on Dec. 31 “after much deliberation between myself and the Board of Education.”

In an email to parents, Mitchell said she and the board had reached an “amicable mutual agreement” for her departure. She did not immediately respond to an email seeking comment.

James Hoch, the president of the school board, said in an email that the district “is grateful for Laura’s devotion, hard work, dedication and contribution to the children of Garrison. She has been instrumental in advancing the educational mission of the district, instituting professional development opportunities for our teachers and seeing through our recent building referendum.”
Why no Republicans?
Editor’s note: In a letter in the Oct. 25 issue, Margaret Vonco-Haines, a vice chair of the Putnam County Democratic Committee, questioned why no Republican candidates attended forums organized by the League of Women Voters of Putnam County. We asked Anthony Scannapieco Jr., chairman of the Putnam County Republican Committee and one of the county’s two election commissioners, to respond.

The history goes back many years wherein the League of Women Voters of Putnam County would hold these forums, which are not debates. Many times when the Republican candidates were speaking, people whom I assume were Democrats (and some I knew were Democrats) would attack the candidates.

Through the years this forum became more and more disorderly. Last year the audience was particularly abusive to the county executive and the county clerk. This year many of the candidates expressed not wanting to attend a forum where the mediator could not control the outbursts of the audience.

I told all Republican candidates that I would not tell them what to do, but I would support whatever decision they made. Contrary to accusations made by the chair of the Putnam County Democratic Committee on Facebook, neither the county executive nor myself told any candidate or town committee chair to boycott the forums.

I was extremely disappointed that the vice president of the League of Women Voters of Putnam County attacked county judge Joe Spofford for not attending a forum in Putnam Valley when he previously notified the league that he had a prior engagement.

Anthony Scannapieco Jr., Carmel
Town clerk
Editor’s note: In a letter in the Oct. 18 issue, Scannapieco wrote that the Democrats should not have put up a candidate against Philipstwon Town Clerk Tina Merando because she has cancer.

It is wonderful to live in a town like Philipstown where people show caring toward each other during difficult times, and while I do not know our town clerk personally, I hope she recovers soon and completely. If I did know her, I would send over a casserole, or visit with her, or give her a ride to the doctor.

But I do not owe her my vote, and I do not owe her an elected administrative position helping to run the government of my town.

As long as Philipstown town clerk is an important elected position, rather than a civil-service job, it is our responsibility to find the candidates most qualified for that role. Our personal affections and attachments must be irrelevant when it comes to choosing the most effective individual to take on an elected role.

Linda Tafopulsky, Garrison

So anyone who wants to run for a public office should only do so if it’s the nice thing to do? Should all other presidential candidates step down for Bernie Sanders since he is having heart issues?

Town clerk candidates most qualified for that role. Our important elected position, rather than a civil-service job, is our responsibility to find the candidates most qualified for that role. Our personal affections and attachments must be irrelevant when it comes to choosing the most effective individual to take on an elected role.

Andrew Moss, via Facebook

Beacon mayor

This year, my family celebrated 25 years since our move to Beacon from Long Island. In 1994, our little city was struggling with the effects of the infamous urban renewal policy, which was well-intentioned but left crime and poverty in its wake. Empty overgrown lots. Sack blocks of empty storefronts. Crummy roads. That’s when the Paul Newman movie Nobody’s Fool was filmed here. If you want to know what Beacon looked like before, watch the movie. (It’s really good.)

Since our move, we witnessed many false starts before Beacon turned it around. I am going to give the lion’s share of credit for that turnaround to Mayor Randy Casale. Finally, people are moving here. Finally, you can shop on Main Street. Finally, we are the tourist destination we were meant to be. Finally, children are safe. And I must add, the roads and sidewalks are better too, and our water and utilities are upgraded.

National politics are ugly, but Mayor Casale doesn’t deal in partisan bitterness. If an idea is good for the people, if a program is beneficial, he implements it. Under his leadership, we have reduced our carbon footprint, installed a solar farm and partnered with Hudson Valley Community Power so that Beacon can lead the way in renewable clean sustainable energy and community solar. He also got us a free bus loop!

A lot of people like Randy because they see him on the street, watering the potted plants every morning; or because he returns every phone call; or because he is a full-time mayor although he draws a part-time salary. Other like him because Beacon’s fiscal condition is sound and our taxes are under the state tax cap. I like him because I like what Beacon has become since Randy’s been mayor.

If you are one of my new neighbors, Mayor Randy Casale is the reason you like Beacon, and I hope you will vote for him and keep this great momentum going!

Mary Kate Pendergast, Beacon

I first ran for Beacon City Council in 2015, with the intention of unseating Lee Kyrilou, because I didn’t like where the city seemed to be headed in terms of development. Two years later I ran again, but this time I got to know Lee. I was amazed at how well he knew this city and so many of its residents. I learned from watching...
him engage and answer questions openly and honestly. I saw how hard he worked to speak with as many of his constituents as possible, and how much he enjoyed it. I have now served with Lee on the council for nearly two years, and I am continually grateful for the ideas and wealth of knowledge that he brings to our discussions. It’s easy to look in from the outside and think about all of the things that we wish the council members were doing, but Lee understands how to actually get those things done. Lee’s guidance in zoning and attention to detail has been a tremendous help as we have worked to slow down development and preserve the essence of our community. He is thoughtful, thorough and he really listens. He encourages each and every council member to use his or her own voice, and helps us fight for the things that are important to us and our constituents.

Having Lee Kyriacou as our mayor will ensure that seemingly minor details don’t slip through the cracks, and that every member of our community will be represented. Please join me in voting for Lee Kyriacou for mayor of Beacon.

Jodi McCredo, Beacon
McCredo represents Ward 3 on the City Council.

We are writing in support of keeping Randy Casale as Beacon’s mayor.

The average age of Beacon is over 40 years old; the city has a lot of people with gray hair, like ours. Mayor Randy has done a great job. He has kept taxes down, which matters to all of us. He is concerned about the reality of Beacon. He cares about the city and the people who live here. He is a strong leader who is respected by everyone in Beacon.

In an article in the Oct. 11 issue of the Beacon News, Mayor Randy was quote as saying, “We are sitting in the middle of the road, and it’s not a normal road.” This is true of Beacon. We are a small city with big problems. We need a mayor who is not afraid to tackle these problems head-on.

In a story in the Oct. 25 issue of the Beacon News, Mayor Randy was quote as saying, “We are a city that is growing, but we are not in a rush to grow.” This is important to me as a resident of Beacon. We do not want our city to become too large and too crowded.

In our Oct. 25 story on Beacon’s planning board, we identified a co-founder as Sarah Hawke. In fact, she is Rachel Hawke.

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(Continued from Page 5)

It is with great pleasure that I endorse Lee Kyriacou for mayor. I have known Lee for the last four years and have served with him on the City Council for the last two years. I believe Lee to be a team player and a leader with many great qualities. We have had many conversations on controlling the development of properties and tightening the zoning laws. He brings a wealth of expertise along with a strong commitment to the council and I believe he would be a great mayor.

Lee is for working with the community for a better quality of life. Lee is in favor of affordability to make Beacon a more livable place for all. Lee has great values and he will listen to people's concerns and address issues in a timely matter. Lee has strong family values, as well, and I believe he will look for ways to keep our children actively engaged in the community.

It is for these reasons and more I believe that Lee can take Beacon to the next level. Join me in voting for Lee Kyriacou to become the next mayor of this great city.

John Rembert, Beacon
Rembert represents Ward 2 on the City Council.

A recent campaign mailer produced by the Beacon Democratic Committee in favor of their mayoral candidate responds to policy about development in our city. If you look at the voting record and policy influence of our mayor and the Democrats' candidate regarding development, you will find little, if any, difference.

That is also true of the voting record of long-serving Democrats on the City Council or on the Beacon Democratic Committee. The single material difference that I draw from those ads is Randy Casale doesn't distance himself from his decisions. If he can help craft a better solution he will, without dodging responsibility or shifting blame for unpopular results the way those mailers have.

Randy seeks partnerships wherever he can and he is never beholden to county, state or federal authorities or politicians he thinks have a view that might not be in the interest of our city and its citizens. He works across all lines of diversity, including political. On these matters, his opponents can't compare.

This election is clearly in the hands of registered Democrats who have a choice between the incumbent and their party's candidate. To them I say: if you put your party as the priority in choosing a candidate, you have not followed the principles that have made Beacon a diverse, dynamic and peaceful community for hundreds of years. To those who are relatively new to this community, please understand that these are principles that have stood well beyond the term of any elected official who has ever served or any party that has held a majority. Please join me in re-electing Beacon's best and most loyal advocate, Randy Casale, a man who does not follow the direction of so-called higher authority or let political aspirations dictate his actions.

Dan McElhuff, Beacon

For more endorsement letters for candidates in Beacon, as well as Cold Spring and Philipstown, see highlandscurrent.org.

Behavioral hub

The opening of the Philipstown Behavioral Health Hub fills me with hope (“Mental-Health Hub Opens in Cold Spring,” Oct. 18). While no community rallies better than Philipstown around someone who is battling a disease, it has been difficult to shift perception toward understanding and embracing the fact that mental illness and addiction are indeed diseases.

This has meant too many of our residents have suffered alone, battling potentially deadly symptoms without adequate treatment options while also burdened by the weight of judgment and shame. Too many have died. No more! With The Hub as a central launching point, the time has come for our community to make sure no one has to fight this fight alone any longer.

The Hub will support open and ongoing conversations about mental health and addiction to reverse stigma and end shame. It will assist residents in maximizing treatment options and join in the mission to expand treatment. It will stay the course with support through long-term management.

The Hub is being built on a strong foundation of passion and pain and the commitment of many individuals, community groups and local government. Please support The Hub at philipstownhub.org. If you or a loved one need help, contact danielle@philipstownhub.org. You matter.

Melanie Matero, Garrison
Matero, a Hub board member, is a 25-year Philipstown resident and business owner who lost a son to addiction.

Putnam Valley crossing

This $28.9 million project to build a bridge over the Taconic State Parkway feels unnecessary (“Pudding Street Project Underway,” Oct. 25). You don’t cross four lanes at Pudding Street; you cross two, have a safe spot to wait and then cross the other two. Maybe some days you have to wait a minute or two, but you have a clear sight line in both directions.

Peekskill Hollow Road exit is far more dangerous. Put the money there.

Rachel Raimondi, via Facebook

Visit highlandscurrent.org for news updates and latest information.
Who’s on the Ballot?

Polls will be open on Tuesday, Nov. 5, from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. To find your polling place in Dutchess, visit dutchesselections.com, and in Putnam, visit putnamboe.com.

Why So Many Parties?

To qualify as a political party in New York State, an organization’s candidate for governor must get at least 50,000 votes in the preceding election. After the 2018 election, eight parties were recognized: Democratic, Republican, Conservative, Working Families, Green, Libertarian, Independence and Serve America Movement. Parties that have not made the cut-off in the recent past include America First, Communist, Constitution, Freedom Restoration, Liberal, New York Labor, New York Right to Life, Reform (formerly Stop Common Core), School Choice, Socialist, Women’s Equality and Workers World.

Who created all these parties? Democrats and Republicans, mostly. Having a candidate’s name appear on multiple lines of the ballot is called “fusion voting,” and politicians believe it gets them more votes. (You may not think much of Democrats, but who can be against the candidate of a party devoted to working families?) Some have called for a law that would require politicians to pick one party, to reduce confusion at the ballot box.

Active Registered Voters, by Party

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Party</th>
<th>Putnam '16</th>
<th>Putnam '19</th>
<th>% change</th>
<th>Dutchess '16</th>
<th>Dutchess '19</th>
<th>% change</th>
<th>Source: New York State Board of Elections</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Democratic</td>
<td>17,758</td>
<td>19,221</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>58,020</td>
<td>66,174</td>
<td>14%</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Republican</td>
<td>21,193</td>
<td>22,096</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>50,841</td>
<td>52,600</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Independent (no party)</td>
<td>15,419</td>
<td>16,211</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>47,061</td>
<td>48,456</td>
<td>3%</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Independence</td>
<td>3,586</td>
<td>3,734</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>10,171</td>
<td>10,359</td>
<td>2%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Conservative</td>
<td>1,334</td>
<td>1,779</td>
<td>-8%</td>
<td>3,637</td>
<td>3,613</td>
<td>-1%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Working Families</td>
<td>208</td>
<td>199</td>
<td>-3%</td>
<td>765</td>
<td>750</td>
<td>-2%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Green</td>
<td>137</td>
<td>154</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>473</td>
<td>488</td>
<td>3%</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>60,291</td>
<td>63,507</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>171,145</td>
<td>182,782</td>
<td>7%</td>
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If you live in Philipstown

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Party</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Charles E. Hustis, III</td>
<td>(OCS)</td>
<td>Democratic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>David E. Merandy</td>
<td>(PPBTB)</td>
<td>Independence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Judith A. Farrell</td>
<td>(D, TP)</td>
<td>Working Families</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robert Flaherty</td>
<td>(D, C)</td>
<td>Republican</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carl Frisenda</td>
<td>(D, TP)</td>
<td>Green</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tina M. Merando</td>
<td>(R, C, I)</td>
<td>Conservative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phillipstown Highway</td>
<td>Superintendent</td>
<td>Independence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stephen G. Tomann</td>
<td>(R, C, I)</td>
<td>People’s Party Back to Basics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Camille S. Linson</td>
<td>(D, L, SAM)</td>
<td>People’s Party Back to Basics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joseph J. Spofford Jr.</td>
<td>(R, C, I)</td>
<td>People’s Party Back to Basics</td>
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</table>

If you live in Beacon

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Party</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Randy J. Casale</td>
<td>(R, I)</td>
<td>Working Families</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lee Kriyaciu</td>
<td>(D, WF, G)</td>
<td>Republican</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Terry Hockler</td>
<td>(write-in)</td>
<td>Libertarian</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Andrew E. Gauzza IV</td>
<td>(R, C, I)</td>
<td>Independence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jodi McCredo</td>
<td>(D, WF)</td>
<td>Team Philipstown</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Theoni S. Salotto</td>
<td>(R, C, I)</td>
<td>Dutchess County Legislature, District 16 (Ward 1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frits Zernike</td>
<td>(D, WF)</td>
<td>Dutchess County Legislature, District 16 (Wards 2, 3, 4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nick Page</td>
<td>(D, WF, G)</td>
<td>Dutchess County Legislature, District 15 (Ward 3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michael B. Justice</td>
<td>(R, C)</td>
<td>Dutchess County Executive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sandra Moneymaker</td>
<td>(I)*</td>
<td>People’s Party Back to Basics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kenya Gadsden</td>
<td>(D, WF)</td>
<td>People’s Party Back to Basics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bradford Kendall</td>
<td>(R, C, I)</td>
<td>People’s Party Back to Basics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adrian H. “Butch” Anderson</td>
<td>(R, C, I)</td>
<td>People’s Party Back to Basics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Richard Berube</td>
<td>(D, WF)</td>
<td>Dutchess County District Attorney</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>William V. Grady</td>
<td>(R, C, I)</td>
<td>Dutchess County Sheriff</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Voter Deadlines

Saturday, Nov. 2
Early voting at the Putnam County Board of Elections, 25 Old Route 6, Carmel, will take place from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Early voting for Dutchess County at Fishkill Town Hall, 807 Route 52, will take place from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Sunday, Nov. 3
Early voting at the Putnam County Board of Elections will take place from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Early voting for Dutchess at Fishkill Town Hall will take place from noon to 5 p.m.

Monday, Nov. 4
Last day to apply in person at Board of Elections for an absentee ballot and last day to postmark a mailed absentee ballot.

Learn More

For interviews with candidates from Cold Spring, Philipstown and Beacon, see: highlandscurrent.org/election

Party Key

G = Conservative
D = Democratic
G = Green
I = Independence
L = Libertarian
R = Republican
OCS = One Cold Spring
PPBTB = People’s Party Back to Basics
SAM = Serve America Movement
TP = Team Philipstown
WF = Working Families

* suspended campaign
Small Pieces, BIG PROBLEMS

(Continued from Page 1)

“The climate-change issue is hard because you don’t really see carbon pollution,” says Judith Enck, who during her eight years as the region’s administrator for the Environmental Protection Agency oversaw General Electric’s attempt to remove polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) from the Hudson. “But plastic, you see everywhere. You see it on the street, in the water, up in the trees. People see the problem. And they see that it’s getting worse.”

“We need systemic change,” says Enck. Without it, “in the next eight years, for every 3 pounds of fish in the ocean, there will be 1 pound of plastic. And scientists predict that if we don’t change things, by 2050, for every 1 pound of fish in the ocean, there’ll be 1 pound of plastic. We could turn our oceans into landfills.”

Bits and pieces
Two years ago, Ian Krout spent the summer before his senior year at Marist College in Poughkeepsie hopping from creek to creek in the Hudson Valley carrying a fine mesh net, trawling for plastic. He was working with the state Department of Environmental Conservation, his position funded by a grant, to assess the plastic from microplastics. There wasn’t much to go on.

“No one had looked at the extent of the problem,” says Krout, who is now pursuing a doctorate in toxicology at the University of Rochester. “We didn’t know what to expect.”

Krout found microplastics in every single waterway and tributary he tested. As you might expect, waterways near urban areas had more than those near rural and agricultural areas. The Fallkill Creek in Poughkeepsie showed the highest levels, and Fishkill Creek showed the least, although Krout’s sampling locations were upriver of Beacon.

Even “protected” areas are not immune. While many microplastics come from single-use plastic items such as Styrofoam, straws and bags, others originate from an unexpected source: You.

“If you wear a fleece jacket and you’re walking outside and the wind picks up, little fibers are flying off your jacket and going into the environment, so light that they can float for miles,” explains Asher Pacht, director of environmental programs at Clarkson University’s Beacon Institute for Rivers and Estuaries.

The microfibers in synthetic clothing are also coming out in the wash and making their way into the watershed, Krout notes. “Any article of clothing that is made up of a polysynthetic fiber, regardless of the proportion, at some point will shed through the washing-and-drying process.”

For the past three years, the Estuary Lab at the Hudson River Park Trust has been measuring microplastics at two locations off Manhattan island. Scientists were using tap water as part of their procedures, not expecting or realizing that it, too, is polluted with microfibers. Once they did, the group stopped counting microfibers in samples, says Carrie Roble, director of environmental education and stewardship for the trust.

Last year, the Estuary Lab found an average of about 578,000 microplastics per square kilometer in the water near Hudson River Park. That’s three times greater than the amount found in 2016 and five times greater than 2017.

The amount of rainfall seems to correlate with the measurements, Roble says, “so while we’re not sure how plastics move around our system, we know there are many, and that there are more when it rains. There’s probably a connection to our sewage system, or an impact from sources upriver or even downriver, since we’re in a tidal estuary. But those kind of hydrological dynamics are exactly some of the elements that we need to learn more about.”

Scientists have many other questions, notes Jeremy Cherson, the legislative advocate manager at Riverkeeper, the environmental group based in Ossining, such as: “How much plastic is entering the system? Can we find out the major sources for microplastics entering the Hudson? Is there a way to do source tracking? Are wastewater treatment plants a major source, and is there technology that can capture microplastics at that source?”

At Cornell University, doctoral candidate Lisa Watkins is studying how microplastics move through rivers and streams, but the topic is so new, and the data set so small, that her thesis now isn’t just about microplastics. “It’s about how, as scientists, we can ask our questions in a better way to get better data,” she says. Most of what we know so far is because of what Watkins refers to as “snapshots”: particular pieces of data culled at specific times. But what happens when you zoom out? How do dams in rivers and streams affect the amount of microplastics in the river? Does the time of day or year make a difference?

“Studying microplastics in a river instead of an ocean is more challenging, because rivers are flowing and flooding,” Watkins says. “They pick up things from the floodplain; they don’t have this nice ebb and flow of a tidal cycle.”

Down at Hudson River Park, Roble is wondering about what’s going on at the bottom of the river. The trawling that’s used to measure and identify microplastics only covers the surface, and not all plastics float. How much plastic is on the riverbed, and what effect is it having on the creatures that live there? What effect is it having on filter-feeders such as mussels, mollusks, and the millions of

(Continued on Page 9)
Where do the oceans’ microplastics come from?

- Synthetic textiles: 35%
- City dust: 24%
- Marine coatings: 3.7%
- Car tires: 28%
- Plastic pellets: 0.3%
- Road markings: 7%
- Personal care products: 2%

**The known unknowns**

Enck is worried about vaping, not so much because of the nicotine, the detrimental health effects of which are well-known. She’s concerned with the plastic in vaping devices.

“ ‘You’re heating a chemical liquid formation to high temperatures, then sucking it through a plastic device, and it’s irritating your lungs,’ says Enck, who led the EPA in 2017 and now teaches at Bennington College in Vermont. 

‘ ‘Shouldn’t they have figured that out before it was approved to go on the market?’ ”

For Enck, vape pens are another in a long list of plastic items sold to consumers without enough study of the effects on human health.

“The challenge is that there are so many types of plastics and we’re all exposed differently,” she explains. “Polystyrene, or Styrofoam, is an easy one, because styrene is a probable human carcinogen. You should not be eating food off it or drinking hot tea out of the cups because we know it leaches out of those containers. BPA [bisphenol A, commonly found in plastic water bottles] is another one that has been well-studied. But there are thousands of plastics additives in food packaging.”

At the Beacon Institute, Pacht points out it could take years to conduct definitive studies that show the impact of plastic on our bodies and health. But the initial evidence from plankton to fish to sharks and up on the food chain suggests plastics are endocrine disruptors and “mess with hormones,” he says. Microplastics also may cause damage just moving through our bodies.

In addition, scientists have discovered that, in the water, carcinogens such as PCBs, flame retardants and other toxic chemicals adhere to microplastics. “They act like a vector,” says Chesner at Riverkeeper, because these toxic-laden bits are absorbed by diatoms, single-cell organisms that filter water in the ocean and the lower Hudson. In turn, the diatoms are eaten by fish, and the fish by humans. “That’s another health risk that is not quantified,” he says.

**What can be done?**

There are strategies to keep microplastics out of the Hudson and elsewhere. At Hudson River Park, Roble suggests people curtail water usage during rainstorms, noting that overflowing sewers send microplastics and other contaminants into the river. Synthetic clothing can be avoided. A company in Vermont markets a reusable ball — made of plastic — that can be tossed into a washing machine to collect microfibers so they can be thrown away. That’s better than sending them to the depths of the Hudson, but they never disappear.

“In the process of creating plastics, you heat the molecules and they form a bond that is unbreakable by natural forces,” explains Pacht. “Plastic can break into smaller pieces, but those pieces don’t truly go away.”

“The thing I tell my students that makes them cry is that we can’t recycle our way out of this crisis,” says Enck. She points out that only about 10 percent of the billions of tons of plastic produced so far has been recycled. And with the recycling industry in a tailspin following China’s decision to no longer accept material from the U.S., the amount that’s recycled is falling quickly while the amount produced continues to rise.

This past January at Bennington, Enck launched a program called Beyond Plastics, which hopes to connect the dots between the plastics crisis and climate change, showing that it involves more than finding out how to best dispose of a plastic bag but ending production of the bags altogether. And if companies won’t stop making them, she says, it falls to local, county and state governments to push back.

The burdens of a river city

“ ‘When you’re walking through any of our alleys, you’re going to see a lot of plastic, especially Styrofoam,’ says David Bissember, who serves on the city council in Troy, which, like the Highlands, is located on the Hudson. ‘These kinds of things cause significant environmental harm and burden our government.’ ”

Troy has 8 miles of shoreline and two major creeks that flow through the city and empty into the river. “A lot of this plastic ends up going into our water system, as well as our landfills,” Bissember said.

In September, the Troy council unanimously passed a resolution introduced by Bissember called the Plastic-Free Hudson River Act. The bill was based on a framework created by Beyond Plastics, with the goal of restricting the use of plastic bags, plastic straws and Styrofoam. It goes into effect in March, at the same time as a state ban on single-use plastic bags.

After being introduced, the Troy bill was tweaked after feedback from the community. Bissember said this has made the law more popular and effective. For instance, he said, small businesses can apply for a yearlong waiver to give them time to adapt. A 5-cent fee on paper bags, which municipalities will be allowed to impose under the state law, will be waived for customers paying with food stamps. And after discussions with disability rights organizations, the law will not include an outright ban on plastic straws. (Disabled individuals can have trouble sterilizing reusable straws, and non-plastic straws can increase the risk of injury or choking.)

Signs will inform customers that plastic straws are available for those who need them.

“ ‘Working together with the community’ on this was great,” says Bissember, “because we were able to avoid some of the missteps’ encountered by other municipalities. He says he hopes other towns and cities can build upon what Troy has done; he’s already heard from officials in Northampton, Massachusetts.

Thanks to the law, he says, Troy will be able to reduce its dumping fees and transportation costs “with a green solution that can serve as a model.”

And the model isn’t just for river cities. No matter where you live, your plastic at some point, even if it takes years, will end up in a creek or river. And from there, there’s only one place it can go.

“ ‘Even in inland communities,’ said Watkins at Cornell, “you’re never disconnected from the ocean.”

**WOULD YOU LIKE SOME SALT?**

In a study published in 2015, researchers who analyzed 15 brands of table salt bought at supermarkets across China found microscopic particles of polyethylene terephthalate (common in water bottles), polyethylene, cellophane and other plastics (left). The highest levels were found in salt from the ocean, with 250 particles per pound. (Environmental Science and Technology)

Another study of 17 salt brands from eight countries published in 2017 found that all but one contained microplastics, with 25.6 percent being fibers, 63.8 percent fragments and 10.6 percent films. (Scientific Reports)

A 2019 review of 26 studies calculated that Americans consume between 39,000 to 52,000 plastic particles annually and inhale another 25,000 to 69,000. People who drink most of their water from plastic bottles ingest another 90,000 particles. (Environmental Science and Technology)
Cold Spring was packed on Saturday (Oct. 26), with the Hops on the Hudson beer fest at Mayor’s Park (above), the annual Halloween parade on Main Street and Seastreak dropping off hundreds of visitors (next page, center).

For more photos, see highlandscurrent.org.

Photos by Michael Turton and Ross Corsair
OPEN CALL!

Marinella Senatore and The School of Narrative Dance arrive in Cold Spring, New York

We are looking for non-professional dancers to participate in a public performance down Main Street in Cold Spring, N.Y.

Free and voluntary.
To participate contact performance@magazzino.art

Organized by Magazzino Italian Art Foundation

November 16, 2019
Let There Be Light
Haldane Drama’s tech whiz happy behind the scenes

By Alison Rooney

Quinn McDonald was having a nerve-wracking moment in a nerve-wracking evening. One piece of the set was stuck on another piece of a set in the middle of a show and she had to wait for a loud moment to start a drill to disengage it.

Not that she was upset. McDonald, a senior at Haldane High School in Cold Spring who is the lighting designer and technical whiz for the drama program, loves such challenges. She just doesn’t want the audience to ever see the glitches.

McDonald, who has been behind the scenes for Haldane Drama since the seventh grade, is presently designing the lighting for its production of *The Laramie Project* on Dec. 6 and 7. Her first show working the lights was *Pride and Prejudice* in 2016, and she says her greatest challenge was *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* in 2017, which was effectively set on a grid with extensive lighting and video cues. (McDonald also served as stage manager.)

“When we start a show, I like to research what other people have done with it,” she says. “It’s hard to craft design until you see the set, its colors and the colors of the costumes; sometimes you have to change your original concept. You have to think about what those colors’ connotations are. You have to consider what you and the director want the audience to feel and figure out how to translate that into your design. It’s a puzzle between you, the scenic designer and the director.”

Every performance is fraught with potential disasters. “Missing cues is a big one,” she says. “We’re up in the booth trying to find out where we are, how we can stay or get back on track, and, at the same time, figuring out how we can make it look seamless.”

Props also go missing, microphones stop working, and... (Continued on Page 16)

Books for Prisoners

Writer’s talk will raise funds for new service

By Alison Rooney

There are several programs around the country that provide donated books to prisoners — Books Through Bars, Pages to Prisoners — but none quite like what Mark Trecka and Laurie Dick are working on in Beacon.

That’s because Trecka, who works at Binnacle Books, and Dick, the founder of Beacon Prison Rides (which helps inmates’ family members get from the Metro-North station to the Fishkill or Downstate correctional facilities and back), envision a system that creates a literary connection between residents and prisoners who also live in and near Beacon.

Traces the rise of social movements from the 1950s onward alongside the introduction of the 33 and 45 rpm formats, from folk to punk. Each of the book’s 750 entries includes the label’s logo, its history and other information. Many musical styles are represented.

Trecka, who is one of about 30 volunteers for Beacon Prison Rides, says the encyclopedia represents “a cool intersection of social concerns, politics and the arts. Our program is concerned with some of the same things Josh is concerned with. He’s a stalwart of left activist radical politics.”

Binnacle Books is located at 321 Main St., and Quinn’s is at 330 Main St. Donations will be accepted at the door. Industrial Arts Brewing is also donating beer, with proceeds going to the project.
COMMUNITY

SAT 2
Free Meal for Veterans
BEACON
2 – 9 p.m. VFW Hall
413 Main St. | 845-229-0106
State Sen. Sue Serino and the Mental Health America of Dutchess County Vet2Vet Program will offer a free dinner for veterans and one guest, along with a program about resources for vets.

SAT 2
Art Is Where the Heart Is!
PEEKSKILL
2 – 4 p.m. Field Library | 4 Nelson Ave. | 914-737-1212 | victoria@bYLES.com
Alexandra Awad, a jewelry designer and painter who lives in Beacon, will exhibit selections of her artwork. Through Nov. 26.

Lattimore Studio Student Exhibit
BEACON
2:30 – 4:30 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
477 Main St. | 845-831-4988
howlandculturalcenter.org
Students of Andrew Lattimore, a contemporary realist artist with a studio in Cornwall, will exhibit their work. The gallery will be closed on SUN 3 and SAT 9.

Reflections
BEACON
4 – 7 p.m. Catalyst Gallery | 137 Main St.
catalystgallery.com
Works by Glen Datres, Taylor Black, and Stefan Datres. Through Nov. 11.

Sights and Sounds of Beacon
BEACON
10:30 a.m. Howland Public Library
313 Main St. | 845-851-1134
beaconlibrary.org
Using story prompts from the National Endowment for the Arts' Big Read, students ages 12 and older will create multimedia projects to share the story of Beacon. Registration required. Free with registration.

KIDS & FAMILY

SAT 2
Wheels on the Bus
BEACON
11 a.m. & 12:30 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
477 Main St. | 845-831-4988
wheelbus.bpt.me
The Hudson Valley Theatre Initiative will present this musical for younger children and their families. Cost: $10

TALKS & TOURS

SAT 2
Buried Treasures
COLD SPRING
1:30 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library
472 Route 403 | 845-424-3020
desmondfishlibrary.org
Learn how to naturalize bulbs in your lawn and pot up paperwhites in this four-hour workshop. Take home bulbs to plant. Cost: $60 ($40 members)

Civil Resistance 101
GARRISON
2:30 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library
472 Route 403 | 845-424-3020
stonecrop.org
This discussion, led by Hudson Highlands Extinction Rebellion, will focus on various types of civil disobedience and provide an overview of the Extinction Rebellion social justice movement, which advocates nonviolent techniques to address the climate emergency, ecosystem collapse and mass extinction.

SAT 9
Civil Resistance 101
GARRISON
2:30 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library
472 Route 403 | 845-424-3020
stonecrop.org
This discussion, led by Hudson Highlands Extinction Rebellion, will focus on various types of civil disobedience and provide an overview of the Extinction Rebellion social justice movement, which advocates nonviolent techniques to address the climate emergency, ecosystem collapse and mass extinction.

Sun 3
Art in Nature
COLD SPRING
11 a.m. & 1 p.m. Supplies for Creative Living
165 Main St. | 845-809-5900
suppliesforcreativeliving.com
Lara and Andrea will lead this workshop in which children explore the natural world through stories, poems and creative play. Children ages 3-8 meet at 11 a.m. and ages 8-12 at 1 p.m. Registration required. Cost: $20

Sun 3
Art, Books and Chocolate
GARRISON
2 – 4 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library
472 Route 403 | 845-424-3020
desmondfishlibrary.org
Poets and writers Ann Cefola, Beth Gershl-Nicel and Ann Lautinger will discuss how translation has influenced their literary careers and process.

Sun 3
The Star-Spangled Anthem
COLD SPRING
2880 Route 9 | 845-735-3423
putnamhighlandsaudubon.org
A talk about the song and its origins. Cost: $10 (members free)

Sun 3
Civil Resistance 101
GARRISON
2:30 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library
472 Route 403 | 845-424-3020
stonecrop.org
This discussion, led by Hudson Highlands Extinction Rebellion, will focus on various types of civil disobedience and provide an overview of the Extinction Rebellion social justice movement, which advocates nonviolent techniques to address the climate emergency, ecosystem collapse and mass extinction.

TUES 5
Heaven's Ditch
COLD SPRING
2 p.m. Putnam History Museum
63 Chestnut St. | 845-265-3040
putnamhistorymuseum.org
Marc Ferris, the author of Star-Spangled Banner: The Unlikely Story of America’s National Anthem, will discuss the song and its origins. Cost: $10 (members free)

Sun 10
eBird Workshop
COLD SPRING
9 a.m. – Noon. Hubbard Lodge
2880 Route 9
putnamhighlandsaudubon.org
Birdwatchers of any experience level can learn how to participate in the statewide conservation program by entering data in eBird. Bring an electronic device such as a tablet or smartphone with the eBird app, along with binoculars.

COMMUNITY

THE WEEK AHEAD
Edited by Pamela Doan (calendar@highlandscurrent.org)
For a complete listing of events, see highlandscurrent.org/calendar.
An Encyclopedia of Political Record Labels

BEACON
6 – 9 p.m. Quinn’s
330 Main St.
facebook.com/beaconprisonrides

Josh MacPhee will discuss his book and share some of the music in this fundraiser for the newly launched Beacon Prison Book Project. See Page 11.

STAGE & SCREEN

SAT 3
Young Frankenstein
GARRISON
7:30 p.m. Phillipstown Depot Theatre
10 Garrison’s Landing | 845-424-3900
philipstowndepottheatre.org

This 2007 Broadway musical version of the 1974 Mel Brooks film is directed by Nancy Swann. Also SUN 3, THURS 7, FRI 8, SAT 9, SUN 10. Cost: $25 ($20 Thursdays, $22 seniors, students)

SAT 4
Full House (With One Up the Sleeve)
PUTNAM VALLEY
5 p.m. Tompkins Corners Cultural Center
729 Peekskill Hollow Road
845-528-7280 | tompkinscorners.org

Six one-act comedies — The Eryth 보면 Ballard (Pat O’Neill), Lady Wife (Anne Connolly), Bless Me Father (Pat Lennon), Speed Date (Carol Mark), Plattsburgh (Evelyn Mertens) and After the Ball (Robin Anne Joseph) — will explore everyday life. Cost: $15 ($10 seniors, students)

FRI 8
Dragonfly Story Hour
GARRISON
7 p.m. Garrison Art Center
291 Main St. | alittlebeaconblog.com

7 p.m. Tompkins Corners Cultural Center
291 Main St. | alittlebeaconblog.com

A selection curated by Ella Baum will be in the Putnam County Courthouse (below) and artist books. A selection curated by Ella Baum / Ilse Schreiber-Noll

Jebah Baum / Ilse Schreiber-Noll
GARRISON
8 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
477 Main St. | 845-765-3012
howlandmusic.org

Luri Lee (violin), Emily Kruspe (violin), Herzhilch Leung (viola) and Jonathan Li (cello) will perform Haydn’s String Quartet in Bb Major, Op. 76, No. 4 “Surprise,” Mendelssohn’s String Quartet No. 2 in A minor, Op. 21 and Beethoven’s String Quartet No. 13 in Bb Major, Op. 130.

FRI 8
Grateful Yours
BEACON
8:30 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com

This Grateful Dead tribute band plays set lists submitted by fans. Cost: $15 ($20 door)

SAT 9
Second Saturday
GARRISON
9 p.m. Philipstown Rec Center
7:30 p.m. Philipstown Rec Center
105 Grand St. | 845-534-2864
pageantofnewpaltz.org

This bimonthly series hosted by Haldane School Board
COLD SPRING
7:30 p.m. Haldane High School (Room 211)
15 Cragside Drive | 845-265-9254
haldaneschool.org

This panel discussion will feature the newly opened Phillipstown Hub in Cold Spring, which offers mental-health and addiction support services. A meet-and-greet is scheduled for 6 p.m. at The Hub, 5 Stone St. Cost: $50

SAT 9
Arts & Crafted
BEACON
6 – 8 p.m. Telephone Building
105 Grand St. | 845-534-2864
newburghchambermusic.org

Robert principal, tenor saxophone, and Michael Skattum.

SAT 9
Holiday Show
BEACON
6 – 8 p.m. Clutter Magazine | 163 Main St.
212-255-2505 | cluttermagazine.com

Focus and toys and figures by Klay and Michael Skattum.

MUSIC

SAT 9
15th Anniversary Show
BEACON
6 – 9 p.m. Clutter Magazine | 163 Main St.
212-255-2505 | cluttermagazine.com

Plus, toys and figures by Klay and Michael Skattum.

SAT 9
Munich Philharmonic String Quartet
NEWBURGH
2 p.m. St. George’s Church
105 Grand St. | 845-634-2864
newburghchambermusic.org

The ensemble will perform the last quartets of Haydn, Victor Ullmann and Mendelssohn as part of the “turning points” theme of the Newburgh Chamber Music season. Cost: $25 ($5 students)

SAT 9
Autumn Songs
COLD SPRING
7 p.m. Chapel Restoration
45 Market St. | 845-265-5537
russelllive.org

By fans. Cost: $15 ($20 door)

SAT 9
Dar Williams
COLD SPRING
7 p.m. Chapel Restoration
45 Market St. | 845-265-5537
russelllive.org

This Grateful Dead tribute band plays set lists submitted by fans. Cost: $15 ($20 door)

SAT 9
Who’s Who
PEEKSKILL
7:30 p.m. Paramount Hudson Valley
1008 Brown St. | 914-739-0039
paramounthudsonvalley.com

Rock violinist Daisy Jopling and her band will play her arrangements of hit songs by The Who to support her latest release of an album by the same title. Cost: $25 to $50

WED 6
School Board
GARRISON
7:30 p.m. Garrison School | 1100 Route 90
845-424-3689 | gufs.org

“forward-roots reggae meets spiritual jazz, soul and doom dub.” Cost: $10 donation

THURS 7
Philipstown Town Board
GARRISON
7:30 p.m. Philipstown Rec Center
107 Glencyle Drive | 845-265-5200
philipstown.com

SUN 10
New Zion Trio
BEACON
9 p.m. Quinn’s
330 Main St. | 845-202-7447
facebook.com/quinnseasthebeacon

Jamie Saft (electronics and keyboard), Brad Jones (bass) and Oscar Debe (drums) will play “forward-roots reggae meets spiritual jazz, soul and doom dub.” Cost: $10 donation

CIVIC

MON 4
City Council
BEACON
7 p.m. City Hall | 1 Municipal Plaza
845-838-5011 | cityofbeacon.org

TUES 5
Putnam County Legislature
CARMEL
7 p.m. Historic Courthouse
44 Gledene Ave. | 845-208-7800
putnampourney.org

TUES 5
Board of Trustees
COLD SPRING
7:30 p.m. Village Hall | 85 Main St.
845-265-3611 | coldspringny.gov

WED 6
School Board
GARRISON
7:30 p.m. Garrison School | 1100 Route 90
845-424-3689 | gufs.org

THURS 7
Philipstown Town Board
GARRISON
7:30 p.m. Philipstown Rec Center
107 Glencyle Drive | 845-265-5200
philipstown.com
Let There Be Light (from Page 13)

Quinn McDonald in the booth during a Haldane production

working, projections don’t cooperate, an actor isn’t where he or she needs to be, the timing is off. “The audience may not know, but you know and everyone else around the show knows — that’s stressful,” she says, “although I kind of enjoy the crises. We persevere. Sometimes even the people in the show don’t notice, and that’s a triumph.”

McDonald says she gravitated behind the scenes because of her father, Damian, who for years has volunteered with the theater program as a technical director. Martha Mechalakos, who runs Haldane Drama, recalls noticing Quinn long before she entered middle school.

“I have a distinct memory of her from as early as the first grade, following the technical director — her father — around the stage, watching, observing and absorbing,” she says. “Quinn’s work ethic and focus have always been particularly keen.”

The senior brings “perhaps the best gift that any technical person can offer: peace of mind,” says Mechalakos. “She’s a mature, driven, renaissance woman of the theater.”

It didn’t start out that way. Because she had multiple interests, including soccer, McDonald wasn’t immediately smitten with production work. “I always saw myself doing something with my hands, but it could have been anything,” she says.

Four years ago, when she was in the eighth grade, she began to concentrate on lighting design with a production of Sweeney Todd. “It was a complex design involving hundreds of cues,” recalls Mechalakos. McDonald says she loved “that you can have such an influence on the audience without them noticing it. Lighting subconsciously influences people. When it’s done well, people don’t notice.”

At times, McDonald was the only female on the tech crew, and she wishes that would change. “There are fewer women than I’d like, even in the professional world,” she says. “At Haldane, I look around and think of girls who might be interested. But it’s a male-dominated field and girls don’t necessarily want to be seen as a ‘nerd.’ ”

McDonald plans to study theatrical lighting in college and is looking at schools with conservatory programs. “I want something where you can be hands-on right from the start,” she says. “I’m moving toward more complex designs and I’m outgrowing our booth [at Haldane] with my designs, so now I’m using a laptop with software used on Broadway.”

McDonald says she never aspired to be on stage. “I don’t like the spotlight — unless I’m operating it!” she says, laughing. “Even going out for bows, I’m like: ‘Can we not?’ ”
A Center to Find Your Center

Couple opens space for consciousness, community

By Alison Rooney

Hilary Oak wants Cheerful Strength, the center she’s opened at Philipstown Square on Route 9, to become a place where people get to know each other. “Our mission is to provide opportunities for growth in consciousness and community through artistic, educational, social and spiritual interactions, in whatever forms they take,” she explains. “I wanted to create a space where lots of things could happen and not have it be your traditional yoga studio.”

Cheerful Strength opened its doors in September with a drum-and-dance party, and about 60 people showed up to check it out, Oak says. Newly renovated, the space, which formerly housed Living Yoga, has drum sets, meditation cushions and the sound equipment needed for events like open mics and other communal presentations. Its schedule includes dance workshops, drum circles and meditation sessions led by Oak and her husband and business partner, Tem Noon. (The couple moved to Philipstown four years ago from the Potsdam area, where Oak ran the St. Lawrence County Arts Council, to be closer to family.)

“I know some yoga teachers who will be offering classes, also alternative therapy people, people who do astrology and tarot readings, a music therapist,” she says. “We’re working out the details and seeing how it develops.”

Anyone can submit a proposal through an online form and, if the class is approved, proceeds are split 50/50 with Cheerful Strength, she says. The space is also available for private rentals, including parties or staff retreats.

In addition to classes, the couple intends to host vegan potlucks. “You don’t have to be vegan to come, but we’ll have recipe shares, cooking demos and information about a plant-based diet,” she says. She’s also planning “readers’ night” gatherings. “It’s different from a book club, where everyone reads the same book,” she explains. “This is about getting together and sharing what you’ve been reading, offering recommendations, and also sharing written work of your own.”

Oak has considered after-school activities for home-schooled children and “sing-outs” for sharing songs. The open mics will consist of 10-minute performances of any kind, comedy or written pieces, movement and music.

Oak says she is “interested in getting seniors involved, and people with different abilities, even people who use walkers and wheelchairs, are welcome to come to simple stretching. I see what happens in society is people get isolated. I want to create a space where elders and youngers can learn from each other. Music can be a real breakthrough for anyone with any challenge.”

Cheerful Strength has a pay-what-you-can policy, with suggested fees. “I don’t want anyone to feel that if they don’t have that amount, they can’t come,” Oak says. “If times are good and you can afford to pay a little extra, that helps us keep the studio going. If times are hard, we understand.”

Cheerful Strength is located at 3182 Route 9 in Philipstown. Call 845-723-1314 or visit cheerfulstrength.net.
You know your street address and ZIP code. You know your town, village or city. You know — maybe — your ward. But do you know your gardening zone? How about your microclimate? Knowing if a plant will survive winter temperatures is essential to gardening, and that’s what a zone tells you. The U.S. Department of Agriculture publishes maps of national hardness zones determined by data collected from weather stations. The most recent is based on data collected over 30 years, from 1976 to 2005. So, for example, if you are told a plant is “cold-hardy” to Zone 3, it means it can survive temperatures as low as minus 35 degrees.

To find your hardiness zone and its average annual low temperature, enter your zip code at planthardiness.ars.usda.gov. Beacon is in Zone 6a (minus 5 to zero degrees) and Philipstown is in Zone 6b (minus 10 to minus 5 degrees). Microclimates within the zones might shift those numbers slightly.

The USDA has a newer interactive map that is supposed to give much finer detail and account for microclimates, but over the course of several days and browsers, I never got it to work. The good news is that there’s an effort to show more accurate local data. I’ll keep trying.

Why does it matter? Because if you’re growing a plant at the edge of its zone, as the climate warms and our winters aren’t as cold and our summers are hotter, plants that once thrived won’t and new plants will. That may seem like it’s expanding the range of what plants can grow here but it’s also associated with fewer days of freezing temperatures. Trees that need a certain number of chill hours to produce fruit, such as apples, will be challenged in milder winters.

A fig tree, *Ficus carica*, is an excellent example of a plant that might thrive in the right microclimate. While the fig grows best in Zones 8, 9 and 10, it can grow in Zones 6 and 7 under the right conditions. Jennifer Lerner, the senior resource educator at the Cornell Cooperative Extension of Putnam County, helped me understand how microclimates function.

“The closer you are to the river,” she said, “the warmer it will be. Water has a buffering effect and the temperature doesn’t swing as fast.”

I know this to be true because of the temperature panel on the dashboard of my car. My Philipstown property is about 2 degrees cooler than the top of East Mountain Road and 5 to 7 degrees cooler than the riverfront in Cold Spring and Beacon. When it’s snowing at my house, it might be dry a mile away. My growing season is about two weeks shorter in spring and fall for vegetables than near the river, and the bud break is later. When I’m choosing what to plant in my yard, I take all this into consideration.

Elevation, wind and ground surface also create microclimates. In the Highlands, we have many, and your property could even contain multiples. South facing slopes are slightly warmer than north facing slopes, for example. That fig tree might be able to grow in a south-facing courtyard that is protected from wind.

All is lost, though, with just a single day when temperatures drop below that plant’s cold-hardiness zone. With temperatures becoming more unpredictable, it is possible that we can have a mild winter but a period when the temperature drops below average.

And what about hotter average temperatures since we’ve had record-breaking heat worldwide in the past five years? As warming temperatures impact plants with hotter summer days, there’s more research to be done on the upper limits of plants’ tolerance. Until it was taken down recently for updates, the American Horticultural Society displayed a heat-zone map on its website. If you saw a plant listed as “3-8, 6-1,” it indicated it would be cold-hardy in Zones 3 to 8 and heat-tolerant in Zones 6 to 1.

Pamela Doan, a garden coach with One Nature, has grown ferns in Seattle, corn on a Brooklyn rooftop and is now trying to cultivate shiitake mushrooms on logs. Email her at rootsandshoots@highlandscurrent.org.
Deeper in Prayer
Garrison Institute to host evening of Christian contemplation

By Joe Dizney

The Garrison Institute is often perceived as being focused on Buddhism. But among its earliest spiritual advisers was Thomas Keating, the Trappist monk, scholar and author who was the best-known advocate of the modern tradition of Christian contemplative prayer.

That tradition is embodied in what is known as “centering prayer,” and on Wednesday, Nov. 6, at 7 p.m. the institute will host a free event, open to the public, to conclude a five-day silent retreat.

“When the Institute was founded, the intention was to have a broad, multi-faith approach to contemplative practice,” explains Jane Kolleeny, the retreats and development director for the institute, which since 2003 has occupied a former Capuchin Franciscan monastery and seminary. “We have strived to offer a diversity of retreats, representing all the world’s religions,” including Christianity, Judaism and Islam as well as Buddhism and Hinduism.

She noted that Keating taught retreats at the institute, but as he grew older, asked that one of his students, David Frenette, lead a centering prayer retreat. About three years ago, the institute invited Mary Anne Best to lead the retreat, and this year she will be joined by Father Carl Arico and Gail Fitzpatrick-Hopler of an organization called Contemplative Outreach.

Centering prayer is derived from Thomas Merton’s description of “finding one’s deepest center, awakening the profound depths of our being.” It is viewed as an extension of ancient practices of silent prayer and contemplation that seek to enrich and deepen personal spirituality in the Christian tradition, but not as a replacement for traditional prayer, although some critics have framed it that way.

In practice, the prayer is simple. Practitioners sit comfortably and quietly with eyes closed, choosing a sacred word to symbolize the intention to remain open to and in “the silent presence of the Lord.” Upon becoming aware of any distracting thoughts, images, words or feelings, adherents are encouraged to gently return to their sacred word. It is suggested that the practice be entered into twice daily for 20 to 30 minutes.

Adherents argue the discipline is not so different from Buddhist mantra meditation or Sufi traditions. It also resides firmly in the Roman Catholic practice of reciting the rosary or even the more formal, participatory practice known as Lectio Divina. It was the 17th century Catholic theologian Blaise Pascal who noted, “All of humanity’s problems stem from man’s inability to sit quietly in a room alone.”

The institute’s Nov. 6 event will also include a video of Keating, a Q&A with retreat leaders and compline, a short service of evening prayer in the monastic tradition.

To register for “An Evening of Contemplative Prayer,” see garrisoninstitute.org. The Garrison Institute is located at 14 Mary’s Way, off Route 9D, adjacent to the Philipstown Recreation Center.
November 5, Re-Elect Mayor Dave Merandy & Trustee Marie Early
Delivering for Our Village

Start Reading Now
November book club selections

Helen Savoit Book Club
TUES 12, 1:30 P.M.
Educated: A Memoir, by Tara Westover
Howland Library, Beacon

Graphic Novel Book Club
THURS 15, 7 P.M.
Young Frances, by Hartley Lin
Split Rock Books, Cold Spring

History Book Club
THURS 21, 7 P.M.
Reveille in Washington: 1860-1865, by Margaret Leech
Split Rock Books, Cold Spring

Beacon Book Club
THURS 21, 7:15 P.M.
The Sympathizer, by Viet Thanh Nguyen
Location available to members meetup.com/Beacon-BookClub

Fiction Book Club
THURS 14, 7 P.M.
Wide Sargasso Sea, by Jean Rhys
Split Rock Books, Cold Spring

Katie Book Club
THURS 21, 4 P.M.
Liar & Spy, by Rebecca Stead
Split Rock Books, Cold Spring

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? Jenny and Josh Kaplan of Cold Spring shared this photo of their daughter, Neta, with Frank. If you have a photo of a baby and a dog, submit it for consideration to editor@highlandscurrent.org.

Veterans Day Ceremony
Friday, November 8th 10:00 AM

We welcome all veterans and Garrison community members to join us as we celebrate Veterans Day together. A ceremony will be held outside by the main parking lot.

All veterans are invited to a light breakfast after the ceremony sponsored by our PTA.

On behalf of the Garrison community, we thank you for your service.

IT'S NEVER TOO LATE TO TAKE AN ACTION THAT YOUR FUTURE SELF WILL THANK YOU FOR

WELLSPRING RECOVERY
Professional, experienced guide toward life free from addictions
Together we —
- Find pathways for recovery
- Explore resources for support
- Practice life management skills
- Plan rewarding leisure activities
- Connect with family and friends
- Make the most of all we are

Visit our website for details and appointments wellspringrecovery.com
Initial evaluation at no charge

Sara Dulaney
MA, CASAC, CARC
Certified Addictions Recovery Coach

EMAIL: coaching@wellspringrecovery.com
CALL: 914-443-4723

November book club selections

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Guy Cervone of Garrison, a senior at O’Neill High School, became an Eagle Scout on Sept. 10. His service project was building this bench in the Garrison School Forest with a view of the Hudson River. He is the son of Thomas and Moira Cervone.

Nelsonville Mayor Michael Bowman met on Oct. 11 with Philipstown Cub Scout Pack 137 for a project centered on citizenship and local government. Bowman shared the village’s history and reported on Facebook that the Scouts asked “many intelligent — and imaginative — questions.”

Members of Troop 41 of Glenham served as pallbearers at Fishkill Rural Cemetery on Oct. 14 at the funeral for Robert Travis, 92, a 1944 Beacon High School graduate who served in the U.S. Navy and volunteered for 60 years with the Boy Scouts. “His family was quite impressed,” said Libby Funeral Home director Joe Schuka.

“\n\nIn the race for Putnam County Judge, everything depends on your vote.
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Judicial independence depends on your vote.
And in Drug Treatment Court, LIVES depend on your vote.”

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For Putnam County Judge
Dutchess Manor for Sale
Catering hall on market for $2.99M

Dutchess Manor, the catering hall built as a home in 1889 and owned since the 1940s by the Coris family, is on the market for the first time in 70 years. The complex, located on a 7-acre parcel on Route 9D between Cold Spring and Beacon, is being offered for $2.99 million by Gate House Realty of Beacon. Its central building was constructed by Frank Timoney, an Irish immigrant who grew wealthy operating three brickyards at Dennings Point. George Coris, a furrier from New York City, bought the property at a tax sale in 1944, according to the Beacon Historical Society, and operated it as a hotel, restaurant and bar from 1948 until the early 1970s.

Infants Must Face Rear
New law goes into effect today

A state law that goes into effect Nov. 1 requires children under the age of 2 to be restrained in rear-facing car seats in the back seat. The law came out of a bill introduced in 2017 in the state Assembly by Sandy Galef, whose district includes Philipstown. She noted a study that found children ages 12 to 23 months are five times more likely to suffer injuries in a crash if they are in a forward-facing seat. The law allows exceptions if the weight or height of the child exceeds the recommended size and weight limits of a rear-facing seat.

Man Dies After Hit by Train
Struck by work train near Breakneck

A man was struck by a Metro-North work train and fatally injured on Saturday (Oct. 26) near the Breakneck stop. The train was headed north when it hit the man at about 4 p.m. The man, identified as Gaurar Parkash, 32, of New York City, was airlifted to Westchester Medical Center, according to Meredith Daniels, a representative for Metro-North. The train had no passengers, she said. Daniels said on Oct. 29 that while still under investigation, “all indications are the incident was non-criminal in nature and not an accident.”

If you or someone you know are in crisis or need to talk, call the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 800-273-8255.

Aqueduct Repairs Underway
Work continues through Nov. 30

Repairs to the aqueduct that carries water from the Catskills to New York City, passing through Philipstown, began Oct. 14 and will continue through Nov. 30, according to a schedule released by the town. The shutdown schedule includes repairs, biofilm removal and/or grouting at 11 sites, including near Foundry Brook (Douglas Lane), Indian Brook (Moog Road and Avery Road), Garrison (Philipse Brook Road), and Continental Village and Sprout Brook (Old Albany Post Road, Sprout Brook Road and Ridge Road).

Current Article Wins Award
Association honors coverage of hate

A Highlands Current article published in May about a former Garrison resident who runs a white supremacist website was named the best investigative report of the year among smaller publications by LION Publishers, a national organization of local independent online news sources. The honor was presented Oct. 25. The annual competition, the first conducted by LION, included awards in 15 categories. The report, “The Extremist Next Door,” written by Managing Editor Chip Rowe, was one of four finalists in the category.
## We the Undersigned Express Our Support for Our Good Neighbors

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<tr>
<th>CAMILLE LINSON</th>
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<td>County Court Judge</td>
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| Andre Adams | Richard Cegiando | Carl Frisenda |
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| Lisa Aicott | Susan Coleman | McCarthy |
| John Allen | Ellen Raphael | Kendra Parker |
| Susan Allen | Collins | Tara Percacciolo |
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| Thomas Ambrose | Kim Conner | John Piemonte |
| Elizabeth P. Anderson | Sean Conway | Joy Plaisted |
| Melissa Angier | Simon Coope | Bob Plante |
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| Jason K. Angell | Robert Cutter | John Christian |
| Nick Angell | Tim D'Acquisto | Plummer |
| Susan Anspach | Chris Daly | Ann Provan |
| Michael Armstrong | Laura Danilov | David Provan |
| Douglas Banker | Roman Danilov | Thomas Placek |
| Sarah Banker | Kate Dayton | Melissa Placek |
| Diane Bauer | Dorothy Dee | John Rabias |
| Jean Baxter | Robert Dee | Marnijt Raju |
| Sarah Bayne | Pierre de Gaillande | Roger Rabitz |
| Francesco | Joe Disney | Ashley Rauch |
| Beghe Green | Maya Dollarhide | Liz Bishop Rauch |
| John Benjamin | Bruce Donohue | Mike Rauch |
| Roy Bjornoy | Alexandre Dubreuil | Ned P Rauch |
| Joyce Blum | Debra Eecock | Ru Rauch |
| Rianne Boeck | Terance Eecock | Sheila Rauch |
| Steve Boeck | Adrian Ellis | Bert Rechtschaffer |
| Christine Bohour | Elizabeth M Ellis | Shollah |
| Raymond Bohour | Susan English | Rechtschaffer |
| Jim Bopp | Eric Erickson | Robert Rhodes |
| Shelley Boris | Karen Eril | Sonya Rhodes |
| Ann Borthwick | Holly Evans | Dianne Richey |
| Diane Betnick | Lynda Ann Ewen | Kathy Richter |
| Susan E Brune | Julia Fumalaro | Peter Richter |
| Estephane | Judy Farrell | Michael Robinson |
| Estephane | Judith | Jose Rodriguez |
| Bernard F Beye | Nick Farrell | Lillian Rosengarten |
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| Bill Barback | Bob Flaherty | Laura Rubinstein |
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| Charles K. Burleigh | William Flaherty | Dar Williams |
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| Fred Clarke | Richard P. Franco | Heather Zuckerlman |
| Chuck Clifton | Stan Freilich | Neal Zuckerlman |
| Michelle Clifton | Aaron Freimark | |

## Vote November 5th for the Good Neighbors on Row A or H

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Polls are open Tuesday 6AM - 9PM</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cold Spring Methodist Church - 216 Main Street, Cold Spring</td>
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<td>North Highlands Fire House - 504 Fishkill Road, Philipstown</td>
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<tr>
<td>Garrison Volunteer Fire Department - 1616 Rt. 9, Garrison</td>
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<td>Continental Village Clubhouse - 48 Highland Dr., Garrison</td>
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<th>OR Vote Early</th>
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<tr>
<td>Putnam County Board of Elections</td>
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<td>25 Old Rt. 6, Carmel</td>
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<td>Go to TeamPhilipstown.com for more info</td>
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248 Tioronda Back on Track

Project approved in 2014, but long-delayed

By Jeff Simms

Following a public hearing on Oct. 21, the long-delayed 248 Tioronda development is inching toward approval, again.

The Beacon City Council is expected to vote on Monday, Nov. 4, on a special-use permit for the project. If approved, it would return to the Planning Board for the final step, approval of the site and subdivision plans.

The development was approved in 2014 as a 100-unit residential complex slated for a 9-acre stretch of land between Tioronda Avenue and Fishkill Creek, but was beset by numerous delays and a change in ownership.

It is now owned by Bernard Kohn, who also led the investors that purchased the Craig House property and the 344 Main St. apartment building.

Still unbuilt, it was “downzoned” two years ago when the council revised zoning regulations for the Fishkill Creek area.

That change compelled the developer to include at least 25 percent commercial use and cut the density by a third because the parcel has environmentally sensitive features such as wetlands. The project went back to the Planning Board for review in January 2018 as two buildings with 64 apartments and a separate office building with 25,400 square feet of commercial space. It will also include part of the Fishkill Creek Greenway & Heritage Trail.

As a condition of the new zoning, the City Council must grant a special-use permit.

Public feedback during the Oct. 21 hearing was lukewarm, with most of the comments centered around whether the development will include three- or four-story buildings. Project drawings show two stories with a third, smaller, gray-colored story and gray “boxes” on top. Parking garages will be built in a lower level under the apartments.

The rendering “says that it’s a three-story building, but to me it looks like a four-story building,” said resident Arthur Camins, who urged the council to show “the people in Beacon that we actually pay attention to our own laws. That is an area that’s zoned for three stories.”

In addition, he asked, “Do we actually need another 64 units in Beacon, absent taking a broader look at the impact of development on infrastructure and the city’s ‘woefully inadequate’ affordable housing stock?”

Jessica Eriksson said she and her husband bought their home across the street from the project site 10 years ago with the expectation that it would be developed. But “we were told it was zoned for three levels,” she said, and “there has to be some amount of confidence in that zoning.”

Looking at the drawings, she said, it “seems to be trying to get away with something.”

Project officials appeared before the City Council at its Oct. 28 meeting and explained that the gray boxes on top of the buildings are “stair bulkheads” that will allow access to the roof. Some members of the council questioned their necessity while project architect Alexander Blakely defended them as “attractive architectural features.”

In a memo to the council, City Attorney Nick Ward-Willis indicated that the buildings are three stories when viewed from Tioronda Avenue and four stories when viewed from Fishkill Creek. The new zoning code allows three-story buildings with a maximum height of 40 feet in the district, he wrote, which is measured “from the average grade level of the side of the building facing the primary street view.”

The below-ground parking “may appear to create a fourth story when viewed from the east,” the memo said, but the “parking garage level is not visible from the primary street [Tioronda] and therefore is not included in the building height calculations.”

As for the bulkheads, the developer agreed at the meeting on Monday to try to minimize their size and to camouflage them with plantings.

“Right now it looks like a big, gray bunker,” remarked City Administrator Anthony Ruggiero.

The Village Salt Room

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Tara Flagler
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**INVENTORY MANAGER** — Boscobel seeks a part-time Inventory Manager who connects to Hudson Valley makers and maximizes operational efficiency. He/she will select, purchase, display, price and tag the merchandise, verify inventory accuracy in our software and perform physical inventory. To apply, send a cover letter and resume to dgocha@boscobel.org. Boscobel is committed to diversifying its audience and workforce. Veterans and candidates of any gender, ethnicity, race, religion, and culture are encouraged to apply.

**NOTICES**

**DONOR ALERT** — Save the Date / Save a Life. Philipstown Community Blood Drive for Cold Spring, Garrison, Manitou, North Highlands and Continental Village, Thursday, Nov. 7, 2 to 8 p.m. at Loretto Parish Hall, 24 Fair St., Cold Spring. Walk-ins welcome. Bring photo ID. Eat well and drink fluids before you donate.

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Gadsden (from Page 1)
did not run again in 2018 but instead focused on another position, Dutchess County clerk.

An active member of the Fishkill Democratic Committee, where she is vice chair, Gadsden was asked by the Dutchess County Democratic Committee to challenge Bradford Kendall, a former Republican county legislator who was elected clerk in 2006 and is in his third term. A resident of Dover Plains, he defeated his Democratic opponent in 2015 with 60 percent of the vote.

Gadsden and her family — she and her husband, Bernard, have three children (the youngest is a senior at Beacon High School) — lived in the Bronx until their move to Dutchess County. She had a sister living in Fishkill and said she and Bernard were attracted to the area’s natural beauty, accessibility and cultural diversity. “It was a choice that my husband and I made for the benefit of the entire family,” she said.

During her time on the school board, Gadsden said that the appointment of Superintendent Matt Landahl in 2017 was her most significant contribution.

“That was a challenge, but all of the board members at the time reached a common ground,” she said. “I’m still in contact with the school district, so I know that Dr. Landahl continues to do a phenomenal job.”

Gadsden has spent the last 26 years working at a nonprofit that supports adults with intellectual disabilities. As a residential program coordinator, she manages 85 employees across multiple facilities — experience that she believes make her well-suited for the work of county clerk.

“I fit the criteria,” she said. “I’m a good fit to see what Dutchess County needs in the clerk’s office and to put those things into effect.”

The county clerk records property and other records, serves as clerk of the supreme and county courts, processes passport applications, and — perhaps most contentious — manages the county’s five Department of Motor Vehicles offices and their 60 employees. It’s there that Gadsden said she would like to leave her mark.

“The biggest issue that I’ve encountered and heard from people is the wait time at the DMV,” said Gadsden. “Unfortunately we are not where other counties are; others have appointment systems and we don’t.”

Gadsden said, if elected, she also would like to implement best practices from other counties, such as ensuring continuity of services between locations, dispatching mobile units and experimenting with technologies such as video conferencing for town hall meetings.

Should she come up short on Nov. 5, despite the county’s growing Democratic majority (see Page 7), Gadsden said she plans to remain politically active. “I aspire to go further,” she said. “But I’m going to move as the opportunities present themselves.”

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7-Day Forecast for the Highlands

Saturday 53/34
Mostly sunny

Sunday 51/29
Mostly sunny

Monday 53/36
Partly sunny

Tuesday 58/44
Partly sunny, chance of a little rain

Wednesday 57/36
Partly sunny and cooler

Thursday 48/36
Mostly cloudy

Friday 46/30
Mostly cloudy

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

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SUN & MOON
Sunrise Sat., 11/2 7:28 AM
Sunset Sat. night, 11/2 5:50 PM
Moonrise Sat., 11/2 1:06 PM
Moonset Sat., 11/2 10:32 PM

Pollen Source: National Allergy Bureau

Grass Weeds Trees Molds

Moderate
High
Absent
Low

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5 1 4 8 9 6

3 5 2 4 7 9

8 4 2 1 7 8

5 3 6 9 2 1

SudoCurrent

Answers will be published next week.
See highlandscurrent.org/puzzle for interactive versions.
Beacon Boys Fall on Late Goal

By Skip Pearlman

The Beacon High School boys’ soccer team, seeded No. 7 in the Section 1, Class A state tournament, played second-seeded Pearl River (16-1-1) tough on Oct. 26 but saw their season come to an abrupt end when the Tigers scored with 1:48 remaining for a 1-0 victory.

The Bulldogs, who finished 10-4-3, had reached the quarterfinal game by defeating No. 10 Nanuet, 2-0, on Oct. 24 at home. Regan LaDue and Chase Green scored, and Tommy Franks delivered both assists.

Beacon captured its fourth consecutive league title, closing at 7-0-1 in league play, and is 30-1-1 in league play over the last four seasons.

“We battled adversity all season, losing several key players for long stretches due to injuries,” said Coach Craig Seaman. “We also lost our top three goal-scorers for the postseason.”

But he noted that the Bulldogs’ defense “was brilliant all season, giving up only 14 goals in 17 games — led by Carter Pedersen, Shane Green, Carter Hull and keeper AJ Lucas. We have 17 players returning next year, so the future looks bright.”

Hamilton edges Haldane

In the Section 1, Class C tournament, despite being outplayed by No. 1 seed Alexander Hamilton in the first half on Oct. 30, the No. 4 Haldane boys found themselves trailing by just a goal.

After Haldane’s Frank Bentkowski was tackled by the Hamilton goalie in the box, the Blue Devils had a chance to even the score but the penalty kick banged off the left post. Other than that, the opportunities were few and far between, and the team fought to keep the Raiders away from its net for most of the game.

Hamilton (13-4) notched a second goal to earn a 2-0 victory and a date with No. 3 Leffell School (formerly Solomon Schechter) for Saturday’s sectional final. (There are four Class C schools in Section 1.) Haldane finished its season 2-13-1.

Haldane’s defense was under near-constant pressure, and senior keeper Ben McPherson faced incoming fire throughout the game, finishing with 15 saves.

“We hung in as long as we could, but the better team won,” said Coach Craig Canavan. “I thought we defended well and fought hard.”

Despite the loss, he said McPherson had a great game. By contrast, he noted that a year ago, when Haldane faced Hamilton in the same semifinal match-up, the Blue Devils were behind 3-0 after 15 minutes and lost 6-0.

Ceremony scheduled for Dec. 6

Beacon High School has named the latest inductees to its Athletic Hall of Fame, who will be honored before the boys’ home basketball game scheduled for Dec. 6.

The 2019 inductees will be James Hall (track, Class of 2010), Paige Rutksoske (swimming, Class of 2013), tennis coach Dave Ryley and six members of the Class of 2014: Patrick Schetter, Tony Romanelli and Nick DiNapoli (baseball), Taurus Phillips (football), Taliah Hughes (basketball) and Andrew Grelias (wrestling).

The Hall of Fame was established in 1998 and later named for former Athletic Director Eric Romanino. Athletes, teams and coaches are selected by a nine-member committee; students must have graduated at least five years earlier.
Dear Reader...
Without you, there would be no stories about our community and all that matters to it. There would be no features on the people who make a difference in our government, schools and arts. There would be no stunning photos. And there would be no special reports like the ones on the opioid crisis and climate change and extremism as they are experienced in our midst.

With your support, however, The Current produces a full and free paper each week that covers your many interests and concerns.

Today we are introducing a Membership Program in our continuing effort to better serve you – our readers and supporters.

Your gift this year through the Membership Program will help sustain our nonprofit enterprise as we plan coverage that is broader, deeper and longer term. This program will also help The Current engage more directly with you in print, online and in person through conversations with our staff and opportunities to know the news sooner and with greater perspective.

Your gift entitles you to become a member, and the benefits you will receive — described on the facing page — will help you engage more actively with us and us with you. Details for making your membership donation are on the back page and on the enclosed card.

It is our good fortune this year to be participating once again in the NewsMatch program funded by major foundations in support of nonprofit news. Donations made between Nov. 1 and Dec. 31 will be matched up to $1,000, to a total of $20,000. In addition, a generous donor has once again agreed to a similar match. This means that $20,000 given during the next two months will be tripled to $60,000!

By becoming a Current member today, you help us be ever more vigilant and ambitious in serving you. We look forward to welcoming you as a member!

With gratitude,

Christine Bockelmann
Chair of the Board

Joseph T. Plummer
Development Committee Chair
Why membership matters

Membership aims to establish an enduring connection between The Highlands Current and the community of supporters who embrace its mission. As members, you will have unique opportunities to be heard by the staff and the community, to learn what’s new and important in thoughtful and expedited ways and to share your passion for news that is broad, deep and tailored to your concerns on local issues and on national issues as they play out in our community.

Our Kickoff
To introduce our Membership Program, we are planning two community forums next year with Highlands Current staff and local leaders on issues of the moment, and we will be inviting all on our email list at the time of the event.

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Your donation will entitle you to become a member of The Highlands Current at a level below, with the benefits shown.

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<td>The Highlands Current tote bag</td>
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<td>Priority early digital delivery of Friday’s print paper</td>
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<td>Annual patrons’ lunch with The Current editor and members of the Board of Directors</td>
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Members who make a recurring gift of $10 or more per month will receive free mail delivery of the paper for the year in addition to the PARTNER benefits. Benefits will begin in January 2020.

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