

The HIGHLANDS Current



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NOVEMBER 15, 2019

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Beacon Revises ‘Nuisance’ Law

Officials statewide are changing approach

By Jeff Simms

Many municipalities, including Beacon, have laws that allow authorities to fine property owners if police are repeatedly called to an address in response to assaults, prostitution, drug dealing, disorderly conduct and other offenses.

To avoid these “nuisance” fines, some landlords have threatened to evict tenants, typically low-income, if they call the police, even in emergencies.

In September, Gov. Andrew Cuomo enacted a state law that gives tenants the “right to call 911” without repercussions from landlords. Sen. Sue Serino, whose district includes the Highlands; Sandy Galef, whose Assembly district includes Philipstown; and Jonathan Jacobson, whose Assembly district includes Beacon, each voted for the measure.

In response to concerns raised by the law, municipalities with nuisance regulations have been revising them — including, last month, Beacon.

Lt. Tom Figlia of the Beacon Police Department worked with city attorneys and building officials on the revision. The old law, he said, “created a scenario — not that this ever

(Continued on Page 16)



QUITE A TRIP — Performers from the Hudson Valley Theatre Initiative presented an original musical, *The Wheels on the Bus*, directed by Todd Hulet of Beacon, on Nov. 9 at the Howland Cultural Center in Beacon. Here, Tara Vamos of Cold Spring portrays Mrs. Big Scary Man and Andrea Fennell of New Windsor is 5-year-old Kaiya. A few of the younger children in the audience were so intrigued they joined the actors on stage. For more photos, see highlandscurrent.org. Photo by Ross Corsair

Booming Beacon

Updates on 11 projects in and near the city

By Jeff Simms

On Nov. 5, Beacon voters elected a new mayor, longtime City Council Member Lee Kyriacou, who campaigned heavily on the need to control development through zoning while focusing on quality-of-life issues, such as parks

and other public amenities.

A week later, on Nov. 12, the council began a discussion about the amenities it could consider requiring — including public parking, affordable housing and public open space — as “trade-offs” for developers who want to build four-story buildings (with a fourth-floor setback) on Main Street.

While the council considers its standards for proposals yet to come, it and the Planning Board must evaluate several projects that are pending now. In February we shared a progress report on housing and commercial projects underway in the city. For an update, see Page 7.



TRUNK SHOW — Sixteen trees purchased with more than \$3,000 in donations raised in an online campaign organized by Zoe Tcholak-Antich were planted this month around Cold Spring. A crew from the Highway Department handled the larger trees and volunteers planted the rest, including this American Hophornbeam (*Ostrya virginiana*) on Nov. 11 on Orchard Street near the Methodist Church. The village and other donors purchased four additional trees. Photo provided

Putnam Legislator Questions Contracts

Accuses colleagues of fast-tracking renewals

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

Legislator Nancy Montgomery last week clashed with fellow Putnam County lawmakers for pushing ahead on contracts for the legislative attorney and auditors without public discussion or committee scrutiny.

The lone Democrat on the nine-member Legislature, Montgomery, who represents Philipstown, cast the sole “no” votes on the renewals during a Nov. 6 meeting in Carmel.

No information on either contract appeared in the meeting’s 118-page packet of background materials, which typically provide details on agenda items.

“I just received this contract today,” Montgomery complained, referring to the agreement to retain Altieri & Firriolo, the firm of legislative counsel Robert Firriolo. “How come it did not go before a committee?”

Montgomery also criticized the lack of review of the second contract, with auditors O’Connor Davies LLP.

Legislature Chairman Joseph Castellano of Brewster said that Firriolo’s contract, which will pay his firm up to \$75,000 for 2020, is for a four-year period that began in

(Continued on Page 17)



FIVE QUESTIONS: VINCENT O'REILLY

By Michael Turton

Vincent O'Reilly has written several nonfiction books and historical novels about the Byzantine Empire. He will speak at the Desmond-Fish Public Library in Garrison at 2 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 17.

What piqued your interest in the Byzantine Empire?

For more than 1,000 years, as the Roman Empire declined and throughout the Middle Ages, it was probably the highest civilization west of China, yet it's been ignored. I never heard about it in high school, even though it included North Africa, Egypt, the Holy Land, Greece and the Balkans. I studied medieval history at the University of North Dakota in the late 1950s, but that only considered western Europe. I became fascinated with Flavius Belisarius, one of the greatest generals in history, and his wife Antonina, and Constantine VI, who was blinded by his own mother after she broke off his engagement. Such characters begged to be written about.

You use the pen name Paul Kastenellos. Why is that?

Who wants to read Byzantine history by a guy named O'Reilly?



Vincent O'Reilly

Photo by M. Turton

What sort of artwork did the Byzantines leave behind?

Their quintessential art was the mosaic. The best examples are in Ravenna, Italy, because the Turks never conquered that city. When the Turks came in, they'd destroy or whitewash the mosaics and frescos, as happened at Hagia Sophia, the great Chris-

tian church in Constantinople [Istanbul], although much has been restored. If there is one Byzantine site to see, that church would be it.

What did the Byzantines do for fun?

When the Byzantines became Christians, they stopped executing criminals in the amphitheaters. Chariot races were the big entertainment. There were four teams — the blues, greens, reds and whites. The crowd would shout, "Nike! Nike! Nike!" meaning "Victory." Fans began as supporters but became more important; they were paid fire brigades and sold "insurance" for protection against rival chariot fans, which were more like Chicago gangs.

What led to the empire's demise?

Trade. Constantinople was located where Asia meets Europe. The fur, slaves and natural materials went from the Black Sea area down into the Mediterranean, as well as through the Bosphorus to Persia and to China. After wars with the Arabs and the Turks, Byzantium let its military, especially its navy, deteriorate. They started making concessions to Genoa and the Venetians and no longer collected taxes, which had been their source of wealth. It was all about losing the taxes on trade.

ON THE SPOT

By Michael Turton

During a cold snap, what's your favorite hot food or drink?

“

A nice, steamy hot chocolate or a hot tea.

”



~Chuck Twoguns, Cold Spring

“

French fries, and today it's with ribs.

”



~Matthew Maurin, Beacon

“

A Greek rice pilaf with Greek lamb stew.

”



~Maria Kisikatos-Cestaru, Cold Spring

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NEWS BRIEFS

Metro-North Considers Parking Hikes

MTA board postpones vote after outcry

The board of the Metropolitan Transportation Authority postponed a vote until at least December on a proposal that would increase Metro-North parking rates, including those at the Beacon, Cold Spring and Garrison stations, and eliminate free Saturday parking.

The agency hopes to raise nearly \$1 million in annual revenue from the hikes. Neal Zuckerman, a Garrison resident who represents Putnam County on the MTA board, said that, upon learning of the proposal, he immediately fought to get the vote delayed.

"This is for all intents and purposes a fare increase," he said. "We have a \$1 billion budget deficit in 2022 before cost savings, and they're trying to raise \$1 million? It's a joke. We need to have a larger conversation about the fairness of fares; I'll keep fighting for what's fair for Putnam County and this is not fair."

In Cold Spring and Garrison, the daily rate would rise 50 cents, to \$4, and annual resident passes by \$36, to \$394, effective Jan. 1. In Beacon, the proposed increase would raise daily rates by 75 cents, to \$4.25, and annual resident passes by \$30, to \$328. Non-resident monthly rates would also rise,

to \$394 in Beacon and \$535 in Garrison.

The cost of having a second vehicle on a parking permit would increase by \$2 per month, to \$9, and 24-hour parking by \$2 per month, to \$24.

Parking fees were last increased in 2013. The MTA board had planned to vote on the proposal on Thursday (Nov. 14) but postponed the action after a *Journal News* reporter noted its inclusion in the agenda for a Tuesday meeting of the MTA's Metro-North committee. Members of the state Assembly, including Jonathan Jacobson, whose district includes Beacon, complained they had met with MTA officials on Nov. 1 but were not told about the proposed hike.

In a statement, Jacobson called the proposal "penny-wise and pound-foolish" because he said it could discourage people from using the trains. Parking fees on Saturday "will also hurt riverfront tourism and depress attendance at many of Beacon and Poughkeepsie's riverfront festivals," he said.

Knights Launch Coat Drive

Collecting items through Dec. 2

The Cold Spring council of the Knights of Columbus has launched its annual coat drive, which continues through Dec. 2.

Coats may be dropped at Haldane Middle School, Haldane High School or the Garri-

son School, or at Our Lady of Loretto or St. Joseph's Chapel. Over the years the Knights have collected more than 4,000 winter coats to distribute to those in need.

Enrollment Period Opens for Health Plan

Registration continues through Jan. 31

The state Health Plan Marketplace's open enrollment period began Nov. 1 and continues through Jan. 31, or through Dec. 15 for coverage that begins Jan. 1. The marketplace includes 4.8 million state residents.

Those who are currently enrolled can renew starting on Nov. 16. Most plans have no cost increase in 2020, according to the state. Enrollment in the Essential Plan, Medicaid and Child Health Plus is open all year. See nystateofhealth.gov or call 1-855-355-5777.

Purple Heart Hall to Expand

State provides \$17 million

The National Purple Heart Hall of Honor in New Windsor will expand by nearly 4,300 square feet after receiving \$17 million in state funds.

The update to the hall, which opened in 2006, will include new exhibit space and multimedia presentations and emphasize

the stories of individual award recipients. The Purple Heart has been awarded to about 1.8 million U.S. service members who were wounded or killed by enemy action. The hall will be closed for construction beginning today (Nov. 15).

The Hall and the adjacent New Windsor Cantonment State Historic Site gallery will remain closed during the work, although the grounds will stay open. The buildings are expected to reopen by November 2020.

Heating Assistance Available

Low-income households can receive credits

Members of low-income households in the Highlands can apply for federal assistance to pay heating bills over the winter. Central Hudson also provides credits of at least \$350.

The grants are available through March 16, and emergency grants are available from Jan. 2 to March 16. Funds also are available to repair or replace heating equipment. For information, including income qualifications, call 800-342-3009 or visit mybenefits.ny.gov or centralhudson.com/heap. As an example, a family of four may qualify if it has an annual income of \$57,564 or less, or an individual if he or she earns \$29,933 or less.



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LETTERS AND COMMENTS

Thanks to voters

I would like to thank all the residents of Beacon for letting me live my lifelong dream of being mayor of the city I was born and raised in. I believe our city is a place that people want to call home and it is also a destination. We have invested in improving our old infrastructure, improved our quality of life by investing in greenway trails and recreation programs, and reduced our carbon footprint. We promoted public transportation by having a free bus. We did all this while lowering tax rates, increasing property values and having an excellent bond rating.

This was not done by me but by the many councils I had the pleasure of working with, all of the city employees, who I believe are second to none, the volunteers who serve on our boards, and you, the people.

As we move forward, I ask everyone to support Mayor-Elect Lee Kyriacou and his team as they work to continue to make Beacon the greatest city in New York.

Randy Casale, *Beacon*
Casale is the mayor of Beacon.

I'm grateful to the many people from every party who worked so hard to share my campaign's messages in the race for Putnam County judge. It was my pleasure to meet so many dedicated people who every day serve others through their work and in their lives. I was inspired by your generosity, respectfulness and willingness to genuinely listen and share, regardless of political party affiliation.

I believe that our campaign contributed to county-wide conversations about integrity and leadership, and in particular further increased awareness of the devastating impact of the opioid crisis. We must continue to act together, regardless of party politics,

not only to stop the opioid epidemic but to further unify our county-wide community.

I will keep working hard with everyone across Putnam to serve those who can use our help. As one of my treatment court graduates said to me last night, setbacks happen. We use them to learn and move forward. Thank you, Putnam.

Camille Linson, *Philipstown*
Linson was a candidate for Putnam County judge.

I would like to extend my congratulations to the three incumbents in Cold Spring on their re-election. I learned a great deal from this cycle and it will better prepare me for future runs. Thank you to all the people who voted and believed in me and my vision of Cold Spring. I truly believe that by working together for the common good, we can do wonderful things for this village.

Chuck Hustis, *Cold Spring*
Hustis was a candidate for Cold Spring mayor.

Tell us what you think

The Current welcomes letters to the editor on its coverage and local issues. Submissions are selected by the editor to provide a variety of opinions and voices, and all are subject to editing for accuracy, clarity and length. We ask that writers remain civil and avoid personal attacks. Letters may be emailed to editor@highlandscurrent.org or mailed to Editor, The Highlands Current, 142 Main St., Cold Spring, NY 10516. The writer's full name, village or city, and email or phone number must be included, but only the name and village or city will be published.

Mobile home fire

How incredibly insensitive to surviving family members who maybe were trying to avoid seeing such horrific images of a fire [online] where their beloved family member perished ("Philipstown Man Dies in Mobile Home Fire," Nov. 8). Way to further traumatize people who are already in a state of shock and mourning — so distasteful and disrespectful.

Christine Callahan, *Cold Spring*

What's your zone?

According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture Plant Hardiness Zone Map, I live in Zone 6b ("Roots and Shoots: What's Your Zone?," Nov. 1). However, I know that we have had winter temperatures in the minus-25- to minus-30-degree range, putting me in Zone 4b. I might take a chance on the winter hardiness of an inexpensive perennial plant but not on a shrub or tree that is meant to be a major part of the landscape.

Pat Kelley, *via Facebook*

Short-term rentals

That was a great letter in the Nov. 8 issue from Mahmoud Shahbodaghi regarding the Airbnb hysteria that seems to be overtaking Philipstown, Putnam Valley and nearby Hudson Valley towns. Since when does the local government have the right to tell us how we can use our homes and our property? We pay some of the highest taxes in the

(Continued on Page 5)



We've Moved

The Current has
relocated our office
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LETTERS AND COMMENTS

(Continued from Page 4)

U.S. for the “privilege” of living here and to add insult to injury we’re now told that we will have to pay another tax for doing something that has zero impact on our neighbors or anyone else.

The truth is that tourism is the best possible way for a town to make money. The tourists and visitors who pour into Cold Spring during the nice weather created a thriving Main Street economy and a nice commercial tax base to help the residential homeowners. These visitors do not put kids in our schools or make other demands for expensive services. They come here, spend lots of money and leave. What could be better than that?

Meanwhile, in Putnam Valley, we have no commercial rateables and our tax burden rests solely on 5,000 residential properties. The people who live here either commute to jobs in Westchester or New York City or have home-based businesses. For many people, especially seniors and retirees, Airbnb is a perfect way to supplement income to allow them to stay in their homes.

Another fallacy that is being promulgated by the anti-Airbnb faction is that somehow these short-term rentals are causing a crime wave. At one of our public hearings, I heard that renters are often guilty of partying, playing loud music and/or trashing the homes and neighborhoods. What

Correction

- In the Nov. 8 issue, we stated that Air Rhodes will succeed Amber Grant in representing Ward 2 on the Beacon City Council. In fact, Rhodes succeeds John Rembert, who did not seek re-election. Grant will leave her Ward 4 seat to become one of the council’s two at-large members.

nobody mentioned was that the laws we already have apply to temporary renters as well as full-time residents. If someone is doing something illegal, call the sheriff or the local police. What’s the problem?

Let’s be honest. This brouhaha is not about public safety or any of the other phony excuses being bandied about by the greedy politicians as they try to make inroads on our most precious civil rights. Rather, it is simply another money and power grab to be imposed on the already overtaxed citizenry of our towns.

Patty Villanova, *Putnam Valley*

The writer of the letter would be naive if

he weren’t an investor who hosts two Airbnbs. There may not be investors for short-term rentals in Philipstown, as he claims, but there are many short-term rentals in the Highlands, not all of them legal, and many of the hosts live far away. Short-term rentals are common in Beacon to the detriment of quiet neighborhoods whose residents wake up one morning with a hotel next door.

I am not against Airbnbs, but we need strict laws and fees to cover the costs of enforcing them. Who wants to bother the very busy Building Department or police or even ourselves with weekly exposure to groups of people living in single-family homes? The owner needs to live on the property and continue to live there while hosting, except for time-limit options (30 days in many cities), so that it is just supplemental income and not a full-time investment.

Our towns have many single-family homes, and they need to stay single-family homes, not “sleeps 7” or “sleeps 12” rentals where the owner lives in Brooklyn. That’s what is next door to me. While people cloud the issue by describing romantic pairs visiting for the weekend, my husband and I live with groups of people who stay in the house from Thursday to Monday. Many Airbnbers come for weddings and often celebrate at their home-away-from-home three nights straight. Would you like groups of 10 roll-

ing their suitcases from the train or coming in several cars, arriving “home” drunk at night, and blocking the sidewalk wherever they go? What about the families next door with small children?

Airbnbs are hotels and not the boarding houses some people would like to pretend they are. When I was growing up, the boarding houses were on Main Street, the guests stayed longer than three days, references were checked, and the owner lived in the house. How often is this true with many Airbnbs?

As far as calling short-term rentals an economic engine: prove it. Corporate Airbnb talks about this all the time: it was the centerpiece of its TV commercials attacking the regulations proposed in Jersey City. But I have never seen any real numbers that weigh the economic advantages to the owner against the costs to the people next door, the loss of affordable apartments and homes that could be rented by people who actually live in the town, and maybe even work there, and the impact on the environment of constantly rotating masses of people who show up weekend after weekend and weekdays, too.

Seventy percent of Jersey City’s voters voted for strictly enforced laws for short-term hotel housing. The Hudson Valley deserves no less.

Anna West, *Beacon*

NOTICE

Winter Parking Permits

The Village of Cold Spring is making available a limited number of annual winter parking permits, to Village residents only, for parking at the municipal parking lot on Fair Street.

Annual permits will be issued by lottery and will be valid for parking 24 hours a day, 7 days a week between 12/1/19 and 4/15/20.

Applications, rules and regulations are available at the Village Hall, on the website at coldspringny.gov or by contacting the Village Clerk at vcsclerk@coldspringny.gov or 845-265-3611

**Note: Winter parking is still available at the Fair Street municipal lot to all residents, without permit, from 11/15/19 to 4/15/20, with expanded hours of between the hours of 9PM and 10AM.*

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Philipstown Seeks Speed Reductions

Wants state to slow cars near Manitou School

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

The Philipstown Town Board on Nov. 7 passed a resolution asking the state Department of Transportation to extend, for a quarter mile, the 30 mph speed limit on the state highway that passes by the private Manitou School.

Founded in 2014, the school is on Route 9D, just south of Cold Spring.

The board also voted to request that the state lower the 30 mph speed limit on Winston Lane between Route 9 and Sprout Brook Road in Continental Village.

In its first resolution, the board noted that studies may not reflect the increased traffic around Manitou School or the number of pedestrians who walk to it or other 9D sites such as nearby Boscobel.

According to Supervisor Richard Shea, "DOT is always the last one to get their head out of the sand and recognize" a problem, such as speeding and the need for a sidewalk between Cold Spring and Boscobel, which hosts the farmers' market in summer months.

Shea said residents have reported that "drivers are flying through" Winston Lane; he also noted that speeds seem to

have increased since the town Highway Department repaired the lane. "It's turned into a race course," he said.

The trolley

Members of a trolley committee created by the Cold Spring Area Chamber of Commerce briefed the board on its efforts to "get the trolley to be more functional and useful to the community and visitors," as Chamber President Eliza Starbuck put it. She outlined several goals, such as increasing ridership; connecting residents and visitors to cultural, scenic and historic sites and businesses; and including the trolley on websites and social media mass-transit lists.

Funded by the federal government with assistance from Putnam County, the trolley cannot be restricted to Cold Spring but must serve multiple jurisdictions, Starbuck said. Before its 2019 season ended on Nov. 10, its route took it around Cold Spring and to Beacon as well as to Philipstown destinations such as Manitoga, Boscobel, Garrison and state hiking trails.

"We see it as a valuable resource that our county funds," Starbuck said. "We want it to be useful for everybody, including residents."

After meeting with the Cold Spring and Nelsonville Village Boards and soliciting feedback from the public, Starbuck said, the Chamber has been updating an earlier trolley report. Suggestions have included

making the route a continuous loop, offering a \$5 day pass instead of charging for each ride and installing signs at trolley stops.

"It's sort of astounding it's taken the county this long to get an idea you need to put up a sign at a bus stop," Shea remarked.

Difficult lots

Councilor Mike Leonard mentioned that apparently some buyers have unwittingly purchased land where the terrain makes construction difficult or impossible.

As an example, he referred to a house proposed for a parcel in Garrison on which "the majority of the property is not buildable." The plans had to be revised after the Conservation Board raised questions about the project in September.

While the town government seeks to accommodate owners, "there are limits," Leonard said. The challenge is, "there isn't a lot of easily buildable property left" in Philipstown, he said, so prospective buyers need to consult the building and wetlands inspectors and "seriously think about reining in some of their wants," reducing the size of intended homes and garages, and studying local laws, which "are there for reasons — to protect the environment."

Visit highlandscurrent.org for news updates and latest information.

Cold Spring Creates Parking Lottery

Also, must hire traffic attorney

By Michael Turton

Nineteen Cold Spring residents will be allowed to park at the municipal lot on Fair Street over the winter after the Village Board at its Tuesday (Nov. 12) meeting approved a lottery system for doling out spaces.

Drivers who are selected to receive permits will pay a \$40 fee to park in the lot from Dec. 1 through April 15. Only one permit per address will be issued. The deadline for applications, available at coldspringny.gov or Village Hall, is Tuesday, Nov. 26, at 1 p.m.

In another vehicular development, Larry Burke, the officer-in-charge of the Cold Spring Police Department, told the board that as of Jan. 1, the village must hire an attorney to prosecute relatively minor traffic violations such as driving without a license or driving with a suspended license.

Putnam County prosecutors have handled such charges in the village's traffic court but a state law enacted in April requires municipalities to take over. Burke said that in 2018, there were 17 moving violations handled by the county.

Burke also reported that officers responded to 82 calls for service in October and issued 51 traffic and 116 parking tickets. No arrests were made.

Come join the fun!

Thursday, Nov. 28, 9:00 a.m.
at the Cold Spring waterfront gazebo

Questions?

Email Megan Cotter at mjcotter814@gmail.com

All proceeds from the run go to the Kristen & Fred Faust Spirit Award given each year to a graduating Haldane senior, in honor of the Fausts.

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Beacon Views

Planning Board approval: Pending

Number of units: 39 townhouses

Variances: This project is seeking conservation subdivision status, which is granted by the Planning Board, rather than the Zoning Board of Appeals. If the subdivision is approved, the board could decrease front-yard setback requirements to preserve the site's natural features.

What's next: Although the developer proposed 42 townhouses, the revised plan shows 39 on an 8.6-acre parcel on Conklin Street, near the Meadow Ridge developments and a recently approved 13-lot subdivision on Townsend Street. The property includes steep slopes and wetlands that won't be developed; a report on the quality of the wetlands is pending. Members of the Planning Board at their Nov. 13 meeting continued to express concern about access to the site, the traffic it could generate and the building design.



305 Main St.

Planning Board approval: Pending

Number of units: None

Variances: None requested

What's next: The City Council on Oct. 21 approved the special-use permit for this project — converting a slender one-story building into a wine-and-tapas bar with a rear patio. Now it goes back to the Planning Board, which will hold a public hearing on the proposal in December.



River Ridge

Planning Board approval: 2018

Number of units: 18 townhouses

Variances: The Zoning Board of Appeals allowed the developers to have 19 feet (rather than 70) between the buildings.

Notes: On Nov. 13, the Planning Board approved the name River Ridge Court for a new road that will lead to the development's parking lot.

Booming Beacon

By Jeff Simms



16 W. Main St.

Planning Board approval: Pending

Number of units: 62

Variances: None requested yet

What's next: The Planning Board began its review of this project on Nov. 13. The plans call for demolishing a warehouse and auto shop at 16 W. Main (at Bank Street) to make way for a four-story, L-shaped building with 62 one- and two-bedroom apartments.

2 Cross St.

Planning Board approval: Pending

Number of units: 9 affordable senior apartments, plus retail and 10,000 square feet of office space

Variances: Project officials and Planning Board members discussed at a Nov. 13 meeting whether to ask the City Council to rezone portions of the property or amend the plans to conform with zoning laws.

What's next: This project would combine buildings at 172 Main St. and 4 Cross St. and an undeveloped lot into a single structure with ground-level retail, second-floor apartments and office space on a third floor. Plans call for the portion of the building within the Central Main Street zoning district to have a fourth floor for office space, as well. The plans also include a public park at the corner of Main and Cross. The project should be on the City Council's agenda for its Nov. 25 workshop.

Rolling Hills

Planning Board approval: Pending

Number of units: 463 apartments, plus 24,000 square feet of retail

Variances: The Fishkill Planning Board is reviewing a request to rezone one of the parcels (bringing it into conformity with the other) to allow residential and retail building. It will make a recommendation to the Fishkill Town Board, but that could take a year or longer.

What's next: Proposed for two Fishkill parcels that total 57 acres inside the boundaries of the Beacon City School District, this project would draw water from Beacon and send students to its schools. The proposal is due back on the Fishkill Planning Board's agenda in December for continued discussion.

Ferry Landing at Beacon

Planning Board approval: August

Number of units: 6 townhouses

Variances: None

Notes: This project will be constructed on the half-acre "Welcome to Beacon" site across from the Metro-North station. The developer initially proposed that each townhouse be four stories but revised the plans to three, which the Planning Board approved.



West End Lofts

Planning Board approval: 2017

Number of units: 97

Variances: None

Notes: This project will include 72 affordable apartments, including 50 live/work spaces for artists. In June the Planning Board criticized the developer when exterior details on the buildings did not match the renderings it had approved. According to the project's website, rents at the artists' units will start at \$715 for a one-bedroom and \$855 for a two-bedroom. The middle-income units will start at \$1,099 for one bedroom and \$1,315 for two.



296 Main St.

Planning Board approval: Pending

Number of units: None

Variances: None requested

What's next: The City Council must issue a special-use permit for this proposal to convert a one-story garage behind this structure into a bar and arcade with an outdoor patio. The entrance to the bar would be from Main Street, through a courtyard. The council will hold a public hearing on the plan on Dec. 2. If the special permit is issued, the project will return to the Planning Board.

23-28 Creek Drive

Planning Board approval: Pending

Number of units: 8, plus 20,000 square feet of commercial

Variances: The Zoning Board of Appeals in September allowed the developer to have only 93 parking spaces (instead of the 113 required), build two 2,750-square foot apartments (instead of the 2,000 square feet maximum) and to build a four-story building (rather than the three stories permitted) at a height of 53 feet (instead of 40).

What's next: The City Council must approve the concept plan before the Planning Board can complete its review. The commercial space exceeds the minimum 25 percent required in the Fishkill Creek Development District. If approved, it would be the U.S. headquarters of Docuware, a German document management and digitization firm that reported \$52 million in revenue in 2018.



248 Tioronda Ave.

Planning Board approval: 2014 (initial), new approval pending

Number of units: 64 (reduced from 100 after a zoning-law change), plus 25,400-square feet of commercial

Variances: None requested

What's next: The City Council must OK the concept plan before the Planning Board can complete its site plan approval. The council has wrestled with whether to consider the buildings three- or four-story structures; parking garages that would be "tucked under" the buildings could give the appearance of four floors. The council has also been concerned with stair and elevator bulkheads proposed for the top of the buildings.

AROUND TOWN



▲ **TRAINING TO FIGHT** — Nicole Williams of Beacon is among the sailors based in Naples, Italy, being trained in small-arms tactics and techniques. *Photo by U.S. Navy*



◀ **RESCUE AT SEA** — On Nov. 5, crew members of the cargo ship Green Lake — including Kevin Camarda of Beacon — were awarded medals by the U.S. Merchant Marine for their efforts on Dec. 31 to rescue the crew of a 650-foot car carrier that caught fire in the northern Pacific. Working over 18 hours in 17- to 20-foot waves, the crew was able to pull seven of the 21 crew members from the water. Other vessels rescued nine others. The photo shows the burning Sincerity Ace with the Green Lake in the foreground. *Photo by U.S. Coast Guard*

▲ **VETERANS DAY** — Veterans gathered at the war memorial in Cold Spring on the 11th hour of the 11th day of November (which marked the end of World War I in 1918) to remember and honor those who have served in the U.S. Armed Forces. *Photo by Michael Turton*



**November 16, 2019,
12:30 - 3:30 p.m.
Cold Spring, New York**

**Marinella Senatore and
The School of Narrative
Dance Performance**

Curated by Ylinka Barotto

**Performance will begin at 12:30 p.m.
at the Veterans Monument on the lawn of
St. Mary-in-the-Highlands, near the corner
of Main Street and Route 9D, and proceed
down the street to the Bandstand and
the Hudson River Waterfront.**

**Organized by
Magazzino Italian Art Foundation**

**MAGAZZINO
ITALIAN ART**



The Calendar



Bernadette Gorman-White and Mike Burdge

Photo by A. Rooney

Movie Masters

Test your screen savvy at Beacon trivia nights

By Alison Rooney

Bernadette Gorman-White, who manages the Story Screen Beacon Theater and is the co-host of its monthly movie trivia nights, says she has learned from experience how to write a good question.

"If I get into the weird places, the niche categories, people don't know the answers and get frustrated," she explains. "I like to write a round where each category is themed, either in the answers, or how the questions are worded. I like getting into a rhythm where if and when people can pick up on the trend, they'll be able to return to questions they left blank. Good trivia is about 60 percent of the questions being fun and easy, 10 to 15 percent in which most everyone knows the answer but has to go back in their memory, and 25 to 30 percent that are deep dives, where you can pat yourself on the back with an 'I knew that.'"

Gorman-White co-hosts the trivia nights, which began in August and take place every second Tuesday, with the theater's founder and programmer, Mike Burdge. They research, write and read the questions as well as select accompanying (and often subliminal, clue-revealing) music.

Burdge had led trivia nights around town before Story Screen opened, and Gorman-White ran others with her husband at the 2 Way Brewing Co. She says some regulars followed them both to Story Screen.

Each contest has three rounds, with 10 questions in each, with each co-host writing five. For example, the first round on Tuesday (Nov. 12) was called "Chilly

Movies"; each answer had a connection to a cold environment.

As part of the second round, Burdge presented video footage he had assembled of opening credits that were enlarged enough to be partially obscured. Burdge suggested listening to the "music and tone" to identify them. (This was not easy.)

Each team of up to six people records their responses on printed answer sheets. Scores are tallied between rounds, and prizes awarded. A bonus round involves naming the actors, characters, director and/or film based on photographs.

The grand prize is nifty: you can bring up to 20 of your friends to a screening of a movie of your choice before the next Trivia Night.

Gorman-White, who majored in film studies at DePauw University in Indiana, says she tries to keep her research sources "fairly diverse" and notes that "Mike asks broader trivia. I try not to pigeonhole my trivia into a specific mind frame or era. We don't head into the classics as much as we could but we're trying to become more wide-ranging."

Of the regulars, she says: "There are certain teams that definitely know film, which keeps us on our toes. But we also get people who have never played. It can go from a vibe that only one team knows these questions to tables where they hardly get anything correct but have a great time."

The Story Screen Beacon Theater is located at 445 Main St. The next Movie Trivia Night is scheduled for 8 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 10. The entrance fee is \$20 for each team of up to six people, which includes a large bucket of popcorn. (Individuals and couples can play solo or join an existing team.) The concession will be open to purchase snacks, candy and beverages.

Do You Have What It Takes?

Story Screen film trivia

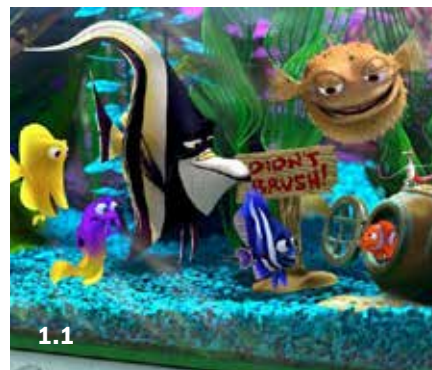
(Answers below)

"Wet Movies," Round 3, Category 1, August edition, by Mike Burdge

1. In the 2003 Pixar film, *Finding Nemo*, our titular character, Nemo, voiced by Alexander Gould, finds himself in a fish tank at a dentist's office, filled with colorful characters known as the Tank Gang, led by Gill, a Moorish idol fish. What actor plays the voice of Gill?
2. In the 1997 James Cameron film, *Titanic*, how does Jack Dawson get his tickets to board the titular doomed ship?
3. In Guillermo del Toro's 2017 film, *The Shape of Water*, Sally Hawkins' character, Elisa, falls in love with a mysterious amphibian man who has been captured by the government. What actor played this so-called Fish Man, who is also known for his physical performance work as Abe Sapien from the *Hellboy* movies, Saru from *Star Trek Discovery*, and his upcoming role as Count Orlok in David Lee Fisher's remake of *Nosferatu*?
4. In the *Star Wars* films, Tatooine is the desert planet, Hoth is the snow planet and Endor is the forest planet. In *Attack of the Clones*, what is the name of the ocean planet where Obi-Wan Kenobi discovers the cloning facility?
5. In this 1998 Barry Levinson joint, Dustin Hoffman, Sharon Stone and Samuel L. Jackson attempt to unravel the mystery of an alien life form that has appeared in the middle of the ocean.

"Five-Day Forecast," Round 2, Category 2, November edition, by Bernadette Gorman-White

1. In 2009's *Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs*, Bill Hader lends his voice to Flint Lockwood, an amateur scientist who works with a lab assistant named Steve. What type of animal is Steve?
2. When a catastrophic winter storm wreaks havoc in 2004's *The Day After Tomorrow*, which New York City landmark provides refuge for students Sam, Laura and JD?
3. In 1996's *Twister*, Helen Hunt plays Dr. Jo Harding, a meteorologist and storm chaser who has helped to develop a tornado-research device that releases hundreds of sensors into the eye of a storm in order to gather data. What name is given to these research devices?
4. *The Dueling Cavalier* is a fictional film that is intended to propel actors Don Lockwood and Lina Lamont into the world of talkies and movie stardom. What 1952 film follows the hijinks that ensue while trying to make *The Dueling Cavalier*?
5. Not to be confused with John Carpenter's *The Fog*, Stephen King's 1980 novella *The Mist* was adapted into a film in 2007. What other weather-based Stephen King story was adapted in 1999 for a three-part miniseries on ABC?



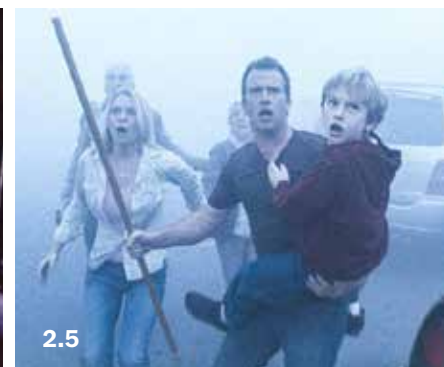
1.1



1.2



2.3



2.5

ANSWERS 1. Willem Dafoe, poker, Doug Jones, Kamino, Sphere
2. Monkey, New York Public Library, DOROTHY, Singin' in the Rain, Storm of the Century

THE WEEK AHEAD

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

COMMUNITY

SAT 16

Community Parade

COLD SPRING

12:30 p.m. | Main Street
magazzino.art

In a performance organized by Magazzino Italian Art, Marinella Senatore will lead a procession toward the waterfront with a finale at the bandstand.

SAT 16

Zombie Outbreak

BEACON

2 p.m. Dogwood
47 E. Main St. | bit.ly/beacon-zombie

Have your makeup done free at Dogwood in preparation for a 4 p.m. parade down Main Street to Tito Santana, where prizes will be awarded. This will be followed by a screening of *Night of the Living Dead* at the Beacon Theater and costume parties with live music at Quinn's, Dogwood and the Beacon Hotel. Register online for discounts at participating retailers.

SUN 17

Community Blood Drive

BEACON

2 – 6:30 p.m. Beacon Hebrew Alliance
331 Verplanck Ave. | 800-688-0900
donate.nybc.org

Walk-ins welcome, or make an appointment online. Valid photo ID required.

SAT 23

Harvest Sale

GARRISON

9 a.m. – Noon. St. Philip's Church
1101 Route 9D | 845-424-3571
stphilipshighlands.org

Browse white elephant treasures, baked goods, cheeses, pecans and costume jewelry in this annual fundraiser. Donated goods accepted Nov. 18 to 22.



Woodstock, Nov. 22

SAT 23

Turkey Bowl Flag Football

BEACON

10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Memorial Park
clubs.bluesombrero.com/beaconbears

This second annual event, organized by the Beacon Bears, will feature 45-minute games for children ages 5-8, 9-12, 13-15, and older teens and adults. Register online. *Cost: \$20 (\$10 ages 15 and younger)*

SAT 23

Etsy Holiday Market

BEACON

10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
477 Main St. | 845-831-4988
howlandculturalcenter.org

Shop for crafts, art and jewelry created by members of Mid Hudson Etsy Makers.

SUN 24

Putnam History Museum Thanksgiving

COLD SPRING

5 p.m. St. Mary's Episcopal Church
1 Chestnut St. | 845-265-4010
putnamhistorymuseum.com

The museum's 61st annual Thanksgiving celebration begins with a free candlelight service at St. Mary's, followed by dinner at 6 p.m. at The Garrison, 2015 Route 9. Cathy and David Lilburne of Garrison will be honored with the Elizabeth Todd Healy Volunteer Service Award. *Cost: \$90 (\$75 members)*

STAGE & SCREEN

SAT 16

Rock of Ages

BEACON

7:30 p.m. Beacon High School
101 Matteawan Road
845-838-6900 x3001
beaconplayers.com

The high school's Beacon Players will present this rock 'n' roll fairy tale set on the Sunset Strip in the 1980s as two aspiring talents battle to keep the music alive. Also SUN 17. *Cost: \$12 (\$5 seniors, students)*

THURS 21

A-Y/dancers Benefit

BEACON

6 p.m. Hudson Valley Brewery
7 Main St. | bit.ly/ay-dancers

After a performance of *Sour* from the company's first season, a DJ will lead a dance party for everybody to get their groove on. *Cost: \$40 (\$20 party only)*

THURS 21

Round Went the Wheel

PEEKSKILL

7 p.m. Paramount Hudson Valley
1008 Brown St. | 914-739-0039
paramounthudsonvalley.com

The Dramatists Guild Footlight Series will present a reading of Frank Ceruzzi's play about a tipping point when everything has failed humanity and children become the latest regime. *Free*

FRI 22

Woodstock

GARRISON

7:30 p.m. Philipstown Depot Theatre
10 Garrison's Landing | 845-424-3900
philipstowndepottheatre.org

In August 1969, half a million people converged on a dairy farm in Bethel over three days for a rock concert. This 2019 PBS documentary, which will be screened as part of the Depot Docs series, examines the political and social upheaval of the time, as well as the event. *Cost: \$25*

FRI 22

Inventing Tomorrow

BEACON

7:30 p.m. First Presbyterian Church
50 Liberty St.
moviesthatmatterbeacon.org

This 2018 documentary, which will be shown as part of the Movies That Matter series, follows teenage innovators who are finding solutions to environmental threats. Andy Revkin, founding director of the Earth Institute's Initiative on Communication and Sustainability, will lead a discussion. *Free*

FRI 22

JB Smoove

PEEKSKILL

8 p.m. Paramount Hudson Valley
1008 Brown St. | 914-739-0039
paramounthudsonvalley.com

The actor, writer and comedian will perform his stand-up act. His recent book, *The Book of Leon: Philosophy of a Fool*, is based on his role in *Curb Your Enthusiasm*. *Cost: \$49.50 to \$69.50*



SAT 23

Battling Butler

COLD SPRING

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

Buster Keaton directed and starred in this 1926 comedy that will be screened with live musical accompaniment by Cary Brown as part of the library's Silent Film Series. *Free*

SUN 24

Bake-Off Playwriting Performance

GARRISON

2 & 7 p.m. Philipstown Depot Theatre
10 Garrison's Landing | 845-265-9575
hvshakespeare.org

Earlier this year, the staff of the Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival led workshops and invited submissions on the theme of Hudson Valley harvest. Actors will read the short plays of seven writers — Lila Nawrocki, Eileen Burns, Steve Chizmadia, Ellen O'Neill, Julie Smith, Stephanie Buckley and Jennifer Pereschino. *Free*

KIDS & FAMILY

THURS 21

Seasons of Giving

GARRISON

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

Winnie the Pooh and friends get ready for Thanksgiving in the Hundred Acre Wood in this animated film. *Free*

SAT 23

Middle School Night

GARRISON

7 – 10 p.m. Philipstown Rec Center
107 Glenclyffe Drive | 845-424-4618
philipstownrecreation.com

Students in grades 6 to 8 can take the escape-room challenge, use the gym and tournament room, and participate in game shows. Registration required. *Cost: \$5*



VISUAL ARTS

SAT 16
Dog, Cat and Horse Days of Autumn
BEACON
4 – 7 p.m. The Lofts at Beacon
18 Front St. | 845-202-7211
theloftsatbeacon.com

Photographer Jim Dratfield of Petography, the author of 12 books, including *A Dog for All Seasons*, *Day of the Dachshund* and *Pug Nation*, recently moved to Beacon. Through Dec. 31.

SAT 23
Jessica Bell Brown on Sam Gilliam
BEACON
2 p.m. Dia:Beacon | 3 Beekman St.
845-440-0100 | diaart.org

As part of the Dia:Talks series, the writer, curator and art historian will discuss the work of Gilliam, whose work is on display. *Cost: \$15 (\$12 students, seniors; free for members and Beacon residents)*

SAT 23
Little Boxes Art
BEACON
6 p.m. Red Barn
Long Dock Park | beaconsloopclub.org

This reception will include a silent auction of submitted artworks done on 3-by-3-inch canvases to raise money for the sloop Woody Guthrie. *Cost: \$20*

MUSIC

SAT 16
Almost Queen
PEEKSKILL
8 p.m. Paramount Hudson Valley
1008 Brown St. | 914-739-0039
paramounthudsonvalley.com

The tribute band returns after a sold-out show last year. *Cost: \$35 to \$60*

SAT 16
Jason Kao Hwang
BEACON
8 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
477 Main St. | 845-831-4988
howlandculturalcenter.org

Hwang (composer/violin/viola) will perform with Andrew Drury (drums), Hill Greene (string bass), Chris Forbes (piano) and Kalun Leung (trombone). *Cost: \$15 (\$20 door)*

SAT 16
The Subdudes
BEACON
8:30 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com

The New Orleans band, led by Tommy Malone, will bring songs from their home. *Cost: \$50 (\$55 door)*

SUN 17
Jasper String Quartet
BEACON
4 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
477 Main St. | 845-831-4988
howlandmusic.org

Hosted by the Howland Chamber Music Circle, the quartet will present a program of music by Mozart, Debussy, Beethoven, Kuhlau and Tian. It will be joined by flutist Mimi Stillman. *Cost: \$30 (\$10 students)*



Hudson Valley Ukulele Invitational, Nov. 17

SUN 17
Rare Treasures of the High Baroque
COLD SPRING
4 p.m. Chapel Restoration
45 Market St. | 845-265-5537
chapelrestoration.org

In this final performance of the 2019 Sunday Music Series, Jörg-Michael Schwarz and Karen Marie Marmer (baroque violins), Donsok Shin (harpsichord) and Arnie Tanimoto (viola da gamba) will perform works by Reincken, Couperin, Buxtehude, Forqueray and Rebel. *Free*

SUN 17
Joe McPhee 80th Birthday Celebration
BEACON
8 p.m. Quinn's
330 Main St. | 845-202-7447
facebook.com/quinnbeacon

Quinn's will celebrate the man known as the Colossus of Poughkeepsie who has recorded with many jazz greats. Joining him will be Joe Giardullo on soprano sax, Jamie

Saft on keyboards, Michael Bisio on bass, James Keepnews on guitar, and Jay Rosen and Dave Berger on drums.

SUN 17
Hudson Valley Ukulele Invitational
BEACON
8:30 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com

The Edukated Fleas will host this third annual gathering of enthusiasts of all experience levels. Bring your uke and play along. *Free*

SAT 23
Remember Jones
POUGHKEEPSIE
7 p.m. Revel 32 | 32 Cannon St.
845-345-1722 | revel32.com

The latest music venue to open in Poughkeepsie will debut at the former Masonic Temple with a “dress to impress” party and two sets from Jones and his 12-piece orchestra, including a performance of the Amy Winehouse album, *Back to Black*. *Cost: \$20 (\$25 door)*



Joe McPhee, Nov. 17

SAT 23
Chris Forbes
BEACON
8 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
477 Main St. | 845-831-4988
howlandculturalcenter.org

The jazz pianist returns to the Howland for a solo recital. *Cost: \$15 (\$20 door)*



SUN 24
Putnam Symphony Orchestra
BREWSTER
3 p.m. Brewster High School
50 Foggintown Road | 914-924-8925
putnamsymphonyorchestra.org

Led by Christine Smith, the orchestra will perform holiday classics, and Santa is scheduled to appear. *Cost: \$12 (\$30 families, \$8 students, seniors)*

SUN 24
4x4 Music Off Road
BEACON
5:30 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
477 Main St. | 845-831-4988
ezraguitar.bpt.me

In this performance hosted by the center and Ezra Guitar, Maoz Ezra, Anna Mnich and Jordan Dodson will perform with percussionist Joshua Breslauer. *Cost: \$25 (\$15 students)*

SUN 24
Breakneck Ridge Revue
BEACON
7 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com

Andy Revkin, David Ross, Patrick Stanfield Jones, Todd Giudice and Mark Murphy will be joined by the Trouble Sisters. *Cost: \$15 (\$20 door)*

TALKS & TOURS

SUN 17
Byzantium in Bits and Pieces
GARRISON
2 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library
472 Route 403 | 845-424-3020
desmondfishlibrary.org

Vincent O'Reilly will discuss the later Roman Empire of the East. Byzantine cake and wine will be served. See Page 2. *Free*

WED 20
Breast and Prostate Cancer Education
BEACON
2 p.m. Howland Public Library
313 Main St. | 845-831-1134
beaconlibrary.org

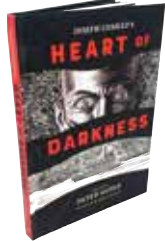
Miriam Chavez-Blandon will discuss the risks, screening and discussions to have with your doctor.

SAT 23
Civil Resistance 101
GARRISON
2:30 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library
472 Route 403 | 845-424-3020
desmondfishlibrary.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 23
Heart of Darkness
COLD SPRING
7 p.m. Split Rock Books | 97 Main St.
845-265-2080 | splitrockbks.com

Peter Kuper will discuss his latest book, an interpretation of the Joseph Conrad classic, with fellow graphic novelist Summer Pierre.



CIVIC
MON 18
City Council
BEACON
7 p.m. City Hall | 1 Municipal Plaza
845-838-5011 | cityofbeacon.org

The meeting will include a public hearing on the capital plan.

MON 18
Village Board
NELSONVILLE
7:30 p.m. Village Hall | 258 Main St.
845-265-2500 | nelsonvilleny.gov

TUES 19
School Board
COLD SPRING
7 p.m. Haldane High School (Room 211)
15 Craigsides Drive | 845-265-9254
haldaneschool.org

WED 20
School Board
GARRISON
7 p.m. Garrison School | 1100 Route 9D
845-424-3689 | gufs.org

Get Moving

Couple opens studio for 'not-so-urgent' care

By Alison Rooney

When Sean Gibbons needed someone to swing a stick at, he turned to his wife, Jenn.

Sean is a disciple of a Filipino martial arts called Perkiti Tirsia Kali, which he began studying eight years ago. The couple were living in Queens at the time and he began nagging his wife to attend classes with him.

The sticks are a fundamental part of PTK. The couple now live in Beacon and it is among the forms taught at their studio of "not-so-urgent care," Functional Alternative, on East Main Street near the Roundhouse. It offers classes, consultations and treatments that each incorporates elements of traditional Chinese medicine.

PTK is based on mobility, counter-attacking and triangular movement, explains Jenn Gibbons. "The coolest thing is its cognitive benefits," she says. "It's fun and practical, with stepping patterns, where shapes are followed. The brain has to do this and also deal with being given a pattern of numbers and swinging a stick in that pattern. Your arms are doing two different things at once. It's an art that's not only exercise but a way of learning to

defend yourself while challenging your brain in a way to benefit neuroplasticity."

The rattan sticks and trainer blades can be used by geriatric patients who have brain degeneration or people with movement disorders such as cerebral palsy, she says. "The confidence you develop through mastering it stops you from going to a default fear experience if you're ever attacked," she says.

Functional Alternative — its name reflects the studio's mix of functional and alternative medicine — also offers Tai Chi, fencing and martial cardio. The emphasis is on services "key to improving and maintaining health," Jenn Gibbons says. There is nutritional guidance incorporating botanical formulations; health education and coaching; acupuncture and acupressure; massage; and a sauna.

"As practitioners of medicine and the arts, we follow a framework of the four fundamentals: sleep, movement, stress management and nutrition," she says. Movement exercises are "a way to get people out of their heads, into their bodies, stretching the body and opening up the joints, allowing flow. Joints are intersections. If they're not as open as they can be, it's hard to get things through them. Imagine rooting legs into the earth like the strength of a tree."

After growing up in a military family, then entering the service, Gibbons was introduced to traditional Chinese medicine when she broke her back at age 20. "I had a major surgery and was given calcium supplements and told to do resistance exercises," she recalls. "I moved to New York City, and there



Sean Gibbons doing PTK Photo provided

was a gym near my office with a teacher who offered Tai Chi. It was so intriguing."

She met Sean 20 years ago while she was earning a master's degree at the Pacific College of Oriental Medicine in New York City; he taught Tuina acupressure, Tai Chi Chuan and Qigong. She later studied pediatrics and trained as a clinician and a functional health coach. The couple, who have two children (ages 8 and 11) moved to Beacon five years ago but still run a wellness center in the financial district.

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Kid Friendly

Dinner.

By Katie Hellmuth Martin

Somewhere in her *Magnolia* cookbook, Joanna Gaines says her favorite part of the day is dinner — not eating it, but making it. That says a lot, coming from a mother of four (and she had a fifth after the cookbook was published).

I muted my knee-jerk cringe of a response. Whose favorite time of the day is making dinner? When you have kids around? Especially if your house is small and you don't live on a farm for the little people to run around on?

The late afternoon into the evening is an intense time after the children return from school or activities. Each kid wants to see and talk to you. A mother of four once told me that when her teenagers were younger, she needed therapy to figure out how to answer them all at the same time when they got off the bus.

I can understand how preparing dinner might be a soul-centering activity for a single person: If my kids are plugged into devices or the TV, I plug into a *Marketplace* podcast and make dinner and enjoy it, as long as it's a meal I can make from memory. But even



then, I may jump onto Instagram to connect with friends and get distracted and burn the precooked Bob Evans mashed potatoes.

Dinner. What does it stand for? Commercials, movies and TV shows condition us to think it's normal to gather around a table and eat relatively calmly. But does this happen? Do parents expect it to happen? If it doesn't happen, do parents think they are failures?

A motherly figure close to our family asked me: "How did *your* mother do dinner? Did you sit around the table or did you eat in front of the TV?" This person was an eat-dinner-together-around-the-table type. What kind of judgment trap was I walking into?

Growing up, I ate with my family at a circular table as a party of five, but I do remember being interrupted by my basketball practice at 5:30 p.m. and my brother's tantrums about the texture of the fat on the pork chop, or my mom's disappointment that my dad was not ready to eat until 9 p.m. because he needed time to unwind from work.

In my adult life, my hubby eats in front of the TV, and now, with kids, we sometimes eat together or I prepare food for them and they eat while wiggling, or I eat with them while standing at the counter because I don't have a chair at the table, which is located in the kitchen. Rarely, in fact, do we eat at the table. It seats four, but before our fifth came, we didn't sit there because it is butted up against the wall of our kitchen.

Sometimes dinner just gets in the way. It can take me four hours to make the easiest of meals — box macaroni with bacon and broccoli — because I'm also cleaning



A traditional dinner with children

Photo by K. Martin

the kitchen, emptying the dishwasher, prepping the stove, carrying a baby in a carrier or navigating a toddler at my legs. Then, dinner is ready, followed by distraction, herding the kids like bunnies, eating (maybe), and cleaning the plates, pots, pans and counter.

By then it's 9:30 p.m. Another "late" bedtime. What's the point? My husband is a commuter. Dinner is usually all me, or sometimes a joint venture with a neighbor. Sometimes Sal's Pizza if it's a deadline night to write this column or finish client work or blog tasks.

The nights I don't make dinner are lovely. My toddler invites me to the couch to watch TV ("Mommy, sit!") or play with his cars in the toy room. Or my older son begs me to

watch him play *Madden* on the Xbox.

The toy room, by the way, is our dining room. Our family eats at the four-person card table (an heirloom from my Nana that I re-painted to ruin the vintage woodwork design so it would match our kitchen), which means that we rarely sit together there.

In the exploratory phase of this column, I learned from my hubby that the reason he's always wanted to break the wall between our dining room and the kitchen isn't because all men want to break down walls in their houses, but that he gets claustrophobic in the dining room. We have a large table in there that seats six, but he won't sit at it. It became a slime-making shop table.

So what do we do with dinner? We only live about 80 years. If you live to 100, there's a chance that the last decades of your life will be complicated by dementia or other things. So enjoy this kid life; this altered state of reality until ... I'm not sure when. This is the new normal.

Dinner is what you want it to be, and can include dancing, or cereal with no cleanup, or a meal you are proud of.

Meanwhile, after reflecting upon this column while making dinner, this will be my last Kid Friendly column for a bit. Introspection can be emotionally draining. As another mom-friend said to me as we enter November — which is the month of no school and early dismissals for teacher conferences, professional days and Thanksgiving break: "We are all hanging on for dear life!"

Peace. Hug your children. Even if they are being stinkers. We are all stinkers.

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Local Bestsellers

Rankings are combined hardcover and paperback sales reported for October by Binnacle Books, 321 Main St., in Beacon, and Split Rock Books, 97 Main St., in Cold Spring.



	Position	last month	TITLE	AUTHOR
ADULT	1	-	<i>Fresh Flavors for the Slow Cooker</i>	Nicki Sizemore
	2	-	<i>Year of the Monkey</i>	Patti Smith
	3	3	<i>On Earth We're Briefly Gorgeous</i>	Ocean Vuong
	4	2	<i>The Overstory</i>	Richard Powers
	5	1	<i>The Testaments</i>	Margaret Atwood
CHILDREN	5	5	<i>The Water Dancer</i>	Ta-Nehisi Coates
	1	-	<i>River</i>	Elisha Cooper
	2	1	<i>Guts</i>	Raina Telgemeier
	3	3	<i>Dog Man: For Whom the Ball Rolls</i>	Dav Pilkey
	4	2	<i>Boy-Crazy Stacey</i>	Ann Martin
	5	5	<i>Stargazing</i>	Jen Wang





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? Heidi and Michael Bender, the owners of Split Rock Books in Cold Spring, shared this shot of their 2-week-old daughter, Astrid, with Elvis and Aretha, who are owned by Charmaine Choi and Patrick Bieseman. If you have a photo of a baby and a dog, submit it for consideration to editor@highlandscurrent.org.

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Obituaries

James Farnorotto (1952 - 2019)

Jim Farnorotto, 66, co-owner of The Gift Hut on Main Street in Cold Spring, died Nov. 13. Among his survivors is his wife, Fran.

Friends may call on Monday, Nov. 18, from 4 to 7 p.m. at Clinton Funeral Home in Cold Spring; a funeral service is scheduled for Nov. 19 at 11 a.m. at St. Mary's Episcopal Church.

Roger Goodhill (1960 - 2019)

Roger Goodhill, 59, of Beacon, died of cancer on Nov. 9. The director of design for SLCE Architects of New York City, he is survived by his wife, Rachel Hutami, and his children, Sarah and Max. A memorial service is planned for January.

John Krawiec (1943 - 2019)

John Krawiec, 76, a lifelong resident of Beacon, died Nov. 5. He was the owner of Hi-Land Gas in Beacon and also worked for the City of Beacon as assistant director in its Urban Renewal Office and served on the Beacon school board.

Other Recent Deaths

Dorothy Conley, 99, Beacon
Beatrice DeMilio, 92, Beacon
Fran Gibbs, 93, Peekskill
Linda Stewart, 61, Beacon

For obituaries, see highlandscurrent.org/obits.

Nuisance Law *(from Page 1)*

occurred — where ostensibly someone who needed police help could get themselves on the wrong side of the ordinance.”

Many nuisance laws, including Beacon's, relied on a points system that tracked how often police, fire or other municipal services were called to an address. If those calls piled up, a property could be declared a nuisance, which could lead to fines for property owners or, in extreme cases, the building being closed.

To avoid those consequences, “there were stories of tenants being told, ‘You need to stop calling the cops’ or your lease is at risk,” said Erin Beth Harrist, an attorney with the New York Civil Liberties Union, which campaigned for the state law.

In two reports, the NYCLU and its parent, the American Civil Liberties Union, found evidence that domestic-violence victims and people with disabilities were among those often put at risk by a fear of calling for help. The situation was particularly bad in minority neighborhoods, the NYCLU said, citing data in Rochester and Troy that found nuisance points were assigned more often to buildings in neighborhoods with higher percentages of black and Hispanic residents.

In 2017, a New York state court struck down the nuisance law in Groton, in Tompkins County, ruling it had “a chilling effect upon tenants’ exercise of their First Amendment right to petition the government” when calls for municipal services



Lt. Tom Figlia said the Beacon Police Department had not been enforcing the city's old nuisance law because of concerns about its effect on victims.

File photo by J. Simms

identified their addresses as nuisances.

In one case cited by the court, a tenant called police from another location to report that she was afraid to return to her apartment because an intoxicated person had pushed her and had a stick that she feared

he would use as a weapon. The police safely transported the caller to a relative's home but the city assessed four nuisance points against the property because of the call.

Figlia said that type of scenario is why police had not enforced Beacon's nuisance regulations. The recrafted law, adopted by the City Council on Oct. 21, discarded the point system. Instead, when there is evidence of a nuisance — defined by the city as illegal drugs (including marijuana), firearms or alcoholic beverages being bought or sold; gambling; or prostitution or “obscene performances” — a panel that includes the police chief, the fire chief, the city's building inspector, the city administrator and a member of the Human Relations Commission will reach out to the property owner to create a plan to correct it.

If that doesn't solve the problem, the issue will go to the City Council, which could direct the city attorney to take the property owner to court.

The Beacon law was amended in part to protect victims of domestic violence, Figlia said. “We were concerned because the perpetrator and the victim almost always reside in the same premises,” he said. Under the new regulations, “if the victim is an occupant of the premises and is calling for help, we're not going to assess any penalty for that.

“At no point should anyone feel like ‘I can't call the police and get the help I need because I'm going to be penalized or my landlord is going to be penalized,’” he said.

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With my appreciation always to family and friends,

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Contracts *(from Page 1)*

2018, although the Legislature can endorse it yearly. Doing so “gives us the ability to come out of the contract if we want to,” he said.

According to heavily redacted, itemized invoices obtained by *The Current* through a Freedom of Information Law request, Firriolo bills the county a flat fee of \$5,833 per month, or \$70,000 annually. He recorded an average of 58 hours per month from January through June, or the equivalent of about \$100 per hour. (In Dutchess County, the part-time legislative counsel earns \$60,000.)

Montgomery recommended annual requests for proposals for professional services, arguing that “it would be good government to look at these contracts and discuss them every year. How can we proceed to be fiscally responsible if we are not looking at this? I want to be sure this body is doing its due diligence.”

“We are looking at it every year,” Castellano replied. “We have a contract in front of us. We renew it every year. This is what we do.” He said Montgomery could try to postpone action, although “I don’t see the point.”

Montgomery further warned that the contract language “goes against the spirit of municipal law and procurement policy.” When other legislators interrupted her, she objected that they sought to deny her a chance “to tell you what I see is wrong with the contract. I have a right to explain that.”

She said she was not criticizing Firriolo, who “has been very helpful” on legisla-



Nancy Montgomery *File photo*

tive matters. But she also recalled that she and he “have a long history” involving her efforts “to keep guns out of my Town Hall and trying to keep guns locked up.”

(Before her election last year, Montgomery was a member of the Philipstown Town Board. In his private law practice, Firriolo has represented the Shooters Committee on Political Education, a gun-rights group, and the National Rifle Association. Gun activists protested in 2011 when Philipstown sought to prevent civilians from bringing guns onto town property and in 2018 when the Town Board established requirements for the storage of firearms.)

As Montgomery tried to continue, other legislators urged a vote on the contract,

cutting her off.

After the vote, Montgomery sent *The Current* the critique she said she had been prevented from delivering at the meeting.

Under the state’s General Municipal Law code, Montgomery wrote, legislators “are mandated to ‘assure the prudent and economical use of public moneys in the best interests of the taxpayers’” as well as to “‘guard against favoritism, improvidence, extravagance, fraud and corruption.’”

In the minutes of the Legislature’s discussions when it initially hired Firriolo, Montgomery stated she could find nothing on “things like conflicts of interest. I believe it would be a conflict of interest if the law firm has ever represented any of the members of the Legislature in a legal matter, donated to any members of the Legislature, or donated to any political committees within the county, or done so through a spouse.”

(State campaign finance reports show that Robert Firriolo of Carmel donated \$120 this year to the re-election campaign of Carl Albano, the legislator whose district includes the hamlet of Carmel. Searches did not show any contributions by his firm. Firriolo could not immediately be reached for comment on the contribution or his contract with the Legislature.)

Montgomery proposed that legislators inquire whether its counsel “has any such relationships or has made such contributions and if so, to disclose” them in writing, and that legislators who have done business with him or received political donations recuse

themselves from decisions involving his firm. “If not,” she asserted, “the avoidance of ‘favoritism, improvidence, extravagance, fraud and corruption’ will not be accomplished.”

The contract with the Legislature requires its counsel to agree he “has no interest and will not acquire any interest, direct or indirect, that would conflict in any manner” with his duties. However, Montgomery argued the stipulations could go further.

“If not, the avoidance of ‘favoritism, improvidence, extravagance, fraud and corruption’ will not be accomplished.”

~Nancy Montgomery

Her critique also faulted a demand that the counsel’s work “be performed ... in the best interests of the county,” as opposed to the best interests of the Legislature.

“While this may seem unimportant,” she explained, “the Legislature is a separate branch of government — despite the observation that there seems to be very little separation — whose interests may be different from [those of] the county, which may be defined to be the executive branch” or the county executive’s administration.

“This is sloppy drafting and needs to be cleaned up,” Montgomery wrote.

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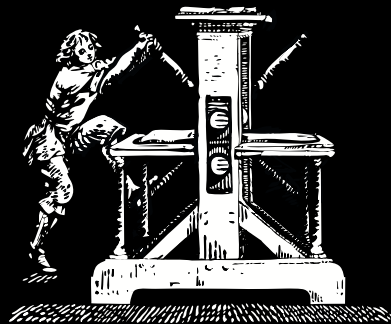
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The HIGHLANDS

Current

7-Day Forecast for the Highlands

Saturday

35/18

Plenty of sunshine, but colder

POP: 0%

N 8-16 mph

RealFeel 29/11

Sunday

40/29

Cold with intervals of clouds and sunshine

POP: 10%

NE 6-12 mph

RealFeel 36/19

Monday

40/31

A shower in spots in the morning; cloudy, cold

POP: 40%

NNW 4-8 mph

RealFeel 39/26

Tuesday

46/35

Mostly cloudy

POP: 25%

WNW 3-6 mph

RealFeel 51/26

Wednesday

50/30

Cloudy with a chance of rain

POP: 35%

NNW 6-12 mph

RealFeel 47/26

Thursday

49/36

Mostly sunny

POP: 5%

NNW 8-16 mph

RealFeel 45/30

Friday

46/33

Variable cloudiness

POP: 25%

WSW 7-14 mph

RealFeel 42/22

Weather History

A devastating tornado cut an 18.5-mile-long path through Huntsville, Ala., on Nov. 15, 1989. Twenty-one people died, and 463 were injured. Over 500 buildings were damaged at a cost of \$100 million.

SUN & MOON

Sunrise Sat., 11/16

6:45 AM

Sunset Sat. night, 11/16

4:36 PM

Moonrise Sat., 11/16

8:04 PM

Moonset Sat., 11/16

10:38 AM

Last

New

First

Full

Nov 19

Nov 26

Dec 4

Dec 11

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

CROSSCURRENT

By
King Features

ACROSS

- Poehler's pal
- Alias letters
- Envelope part
- Frosty
- Wire measure
- The Amazing —
- Killer whale
- Everything
- Basin accessory
- Intended
- Burg
- Sedona automaker
- Electronic dance music
- George who played 007 once
- Sandbank
- Lotion additive
- Massachusetts cape
- Knitting stitch
- Pays attention
- Balearic island
- Went to a restaurant
- Cow's comment
- Responsibility
- Formal decree
- On the rocks
- Jazz style
- Damn Yankees* vamp
- Pickle herb
- "See ya"
- And others (Abbr.)
- Benefit
- Shrill bark
- Wonderment

1	2	3		4	5	6		7	8	9	10	
11			12		13			14				
15					16			17				
18				19		20		21				
			22		23		24			25	26	27
28	29	30				31		32				
33					34		35		36			
37				38		39		40				
41					42		43					
			44			45		46		47	48	49
50	51	52			53		54		55			
56					57			58				
59					60				61			

DOWN

- Gifftag preposition
- Ireland
- Village People hit
- "I — Camera"
- Scottish garment
- Apportion
- Dowager's pet, maybe
- Legislation
- High card
- Apiece
- Pony rider of song
- Can metal
- Horror director Craven
- Kimmel's network
- 60 minutes
- Drug dealer's foe
- Earthenware pot
- Dalai —
- Came down
- Region
- Kippur
- Water barrier
- Helios' realm
- Coffee, slangily
- Pudgy
- Nutritious bean
- Greek vowel
- Talon
- Story
- Egos' counterparts
- Spy novel org.
- Wapiti
- Energy

SUDOCURRENT

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

Answers for Nov. 8 Puzzles

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

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

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

SPORTS

Follow us at twitter.com/hcurrentsports

Haldane Cross-Country Teams Win Section



The Haldane boys' team won its 12th straight Section 1 title.

Both squads head to state championships

By Skip Pearlman

The Haldane boys' and girls' cross-country teams each won a Section 1, Class D title on Nov. 9 at Wappingers Falls.

Both teams will compete in the state championships at Plattsburgh on Saturday, Nov. 16.

The boys won the sectional title for the 12th consecutive year, with four runners in the top 10. The other Class D schools in the section are Keio Academy and Hamilton.



Haldane's Shannon Ferri, with Coach Tom Locascio, won her fourth consecutive Section 1 title.

Photos provided

Junior Walter Hoess was first to finish the 5K course in 19:05, followed by junior Everett Campanile (2) at 19:08, senior Quinn Petkus (4) at 19:34 and sophomore Luke Parrella (8) at 20:02.

Conrad White (13), John Kisslinger (16), Oliver Petkus (17), Noah Bingham (18) and Heath Conrey (21) also ran for the Blue Devils.

Coach Tom Locascio said he felt some pressure from other Class D teams for the first time in a few years. "In recent memory, this is by far the most nervous I've been," Locascio said. "Hamilton and Keio were both strong teams this season, and they both challenged us. But the kids ran their best race — they made it look not even close."

After a three-year absence, Haldane fielded a girls' team this year and won the title. Junior Shannon Ferri won her fourth consecutive individual title in 21:20.5.

Eighth-grader Eloise Pearsol was second in 22:33, while ninth-grader Helen Nicholls (5) finished in 26:59, junior Allison Nicholls (8) in 28:47, sophomore Eden Feinstein (11) in 31:33 and sophomore Hannah Benson (12) in 34:14.9.

"The girls got better with every race," Locascio said. "They're all be back next year."

Beacon runners

In the Section 1, Class B championship, junior Zachary Cader finished fifth in the 5,000-meter run in 17:23.7, while sophomore Evan Labelle led eight other Bulldog runners, finishing 57th in the field of 165 in 19:12.3. The boys finished 10th of the section's 18 Class B teams.



Darrin Santos scored Haldane's only touchdown.

Photo by S. Pearlman

Haldane Football Falls in Title Game

Tuckahoe wins Class D sectional

By Skip Pearlman

Haldane High School's football team kept its Class D championship game against No. 1 Tuckahoe in hand for a while on Nov. 8 at Mahopac High School, busting off a big play in the first quarter — a 39-yard touchdown scamper by Darrin Santos — that tied the game at 6-6.

But from there, it was all Tuckahoe (8-1), as the Tigers outscored the Blue Devils 22-0, avenging last year's loss to Haldane in the same game.

Tuckahoe quarterback Justin Lee, the game's MVP, was ejected in the fourth quarter after two unsportsmanlike penalties and will have to sit out the team's regional matchup against Waterville. He threw for two TDs and ran for another.

Haldane's Christian Pezzullo was named the game's Most Outstanding Line-man after recording two sacks. "He was a monster on defense," said Coach Ryan McConville. "He did a great job setting the edge, and on our pass rush."

The Blue Devils trailed 12-6 in the second quarter and were looking to even the score when junior quarterback Dan Santos threw an interception that was returned by Tuckahoe's Draz Prorokovic 70 yards for a score.

Darrin Santos finished with 113 yards and a touchdown on 23 carries. Dan Santos ran for 77 yards but passed for just 18.

"Dan and Darrin are two of our biggest workhorses, and they competed all game," McConville said. "They did all they could."

"We had a great week of practice, and we knew what we had to do coming in," he added. "We had to limit turnovers, and penalties. We weren't successful in those areas. We got behind early, and we couldn't establish a running game. The kids played hard on defense, I was proud of the effort."

McConville noted the team, which finished the season 3-6, had no seniors this year and so he expects to return the entire roster in 2020. "The staff and I are excited about what the guys learned this season, and the growth," he said.

Hoping to Advance

The Haldane **girls' soccer** team (11-5-3) will play in the Class C state semifinals at Cortland High School near Syracuse on Saturday, Nov. 16, at 10 a.m. against Unatego (18-0-2). The winner will advance to the championship on Nov. 17 against Stillwater or Marion.

The Haldane **volleyball** team (19-2) will take on The Mount Academy (18-1) of Esopus today (Nov. 15) at 6 p.m. in the Class D regional final at O'Neill High School in Highlands Falls. The winner will advance to the final four.

See highlandscurrent.org for updates.