NEW PHILIPSTOWN CLERK — Tara Percacciolo, Philipstown’s newly elected town clerk, took the oath of office on New Year’s Day assisted by her father, Joseph Percacciolo III. Philipstown Town Board Member Judy Farrell and Highway Supervisor Carl Frisenda were also sworn in.

Nelsonville Has Draft Cell Tower Settlement

Village forum scheduled for Monday

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

Nelsonville greeted 2020 by considering a proposed settlement of the lawsuit filed by Homeland Towers and Verizon Wireless against the village after it rejected a 110-foot cell tower on a wooded hillside.

Drafted after months of negotiations, the settlement would allow a 95-foot-tall tower on private land on Rockledge Road, above the Cold Spring Cemetery.

The Village Board scheduled a public forum for Monday, Jan. 6, to discuss the proposal, which, if adopted, would end the legal fight.

(Continued on Page 5)
Would you rather live in the 2020s or the Roaring Twenties?

By Michael Turton

The Roaring Twenties.

No social media; it was so classy, with much more attention to detail.

I'd go with the Roaring Twenties. Things were simpler; more reality, less nonsense.

If it was Paris, I'd take the Roaring Twenties!

~ Lena Jamal, Beacon

~ Jay McVey, Cold Spring

~ Rachel Klein, Cold Spring

FIVE QUESTIONS:

Would you rather live in the 2020s or the Roaring Twenties?

By Michael Turton

Would you rather live in the 2020s or the Roaring Twenties?

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Would you rather live in the 2020s or the Roaring Twenties?
Welcome to our new members!

Thank you for your support, in our yearend appeal, and we look forward to serving you in the decade ahead!

Not yet a member? Anytime is a good time to join. Just go to: highlandscurrent.org/membership

Happy New Year!

Lambs Hill
Bridal Boutique

The Highlands Current
THE HIGHLANDS CURRENT

LETTERS AND COMMENTS

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 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.

Mapmaker

Having been across the table for most of my 15 years on the Philipstown Planning Board, I have been extremely impressed with surveyor Glenn Watson’s professional knowledge and, often, good humor (“5 Questions: Glenn Watson,” Dec. 27). Even though working for his clients, I felt he always had Philipstown’s best interests at heart.

When his experience was on display, he could and did teach newbies on the board good information not gained from outside professional seminars. In concert with the board’s advisers, the time spent on the Planning Board facing Glenn across the table was an impressive experience.

Anthony Merante, Philipstown

Impeachment vote

I am so proud to call Rep. Sean Patrick Maloney my congressman (“Maloney: Impeachment Necessary But Heartbreaking,” Dec. 20). Even though he was not in the final cut because there was no proof for impeachment? Bribery was not included on the other side of the aisle showed your courage.

Thank you, Rep. Maloney, for defending the Constitution and American democracy. As an attorney, for over 40 years I have practiced law and have been a legal advisor to law firms. I am so proud to call Rep. Sean Patrick Maloney my congressman (“Maloney: Impeachment Necessary But Heartbreaking,” Dec. 20). I want to express my appreciation to Rep. Maloney for being thoughtful and careful in his decision-making process regarding impeachment. He came to the right decision.

Margaret Yonco-Haines, via Facebook

Impeachment vote

No laws were broken [by President Trump], so how did Maloney come to his decision? He did what he was told by Nancy Pelosi!

Eric Munkelt, via Facebook

Beacon parking

We don’t need more stinkin’ parking lots in Beacon! (“More Parking,” Dec. 20). Beaconites benefit from increasing pedestrian, not petrol, connectivity. For starters, shift local, county, state and federal funds from spending mostly on asphalt and vehicle cutches to investments in a straight-shot, old-school, red-brick mall (not the shopping center stuff) laid out between the new train station (replacing the non-station in place) and Main Street for thousands of people daily to walk.

Gregg Zuman, Beacon

Puzzle problem?

I believe there is a typo in the “Find Any One’s Name” puzzle from 1894 (“Looking Back in Philipstown,” Dec. 20). The letter Z appears twice in the B (value=2) column. One of them should have been a W. When solving for W it returns a U (1+4+16), instead of (1+2+8+16). Thanks for the puzzle!

Richard Carlson

Little Stony Point water

Isn’t the Cold Spring Village Board against the Village of Nelsontown tying into its sewer, but it’s willing to consider thousands of hikers who don’t live here? (“State Park Wants Cold Spring’s Water,” Dec. 27). It is having a ton of housing, then they will tell everyone who didn’t want said housing that they must sacrifice.

Joe Hyatt, via Facebook

Mayor Randy

Randy Casale, thanks for your good service, deeply rooted community spirit, and for being a hometown local champion (“Beacon’s Mayor Reflects,” Dec. 27). Having been across the table for most of my 15 years on the Philipstown Planning Board, I have been extremely impressed with surveyor Glenn Watson’s professional knowledge and, often, good humor (“5 Questions: Glenn Watson,” Dec. 27). Even though working for his clients, I felt he always had Philipstown’s best interests at heart.

Thank you, Rep. Maloney, for defending the Constitution and American democracy. As an attorney, for over 40 years I have practiced law and have been a legal advisor to law firms. I am so proud to call Rep. Sean Patrick Maloney my congressman (“Maloney: Impeachment Necessary But Heartbreaking,” Dec. 20). I want to express my appreciation to Rep. Maloney for being thoughtful and careful in his decision-making process regarding impeachment. He came to the right decision.

Margaret Yonco-Haines, via Facebook

Maloney clearly didn’t take the decision lightly. When faced with a president who thinks he’s a king and who acts with impunity, he did the only thing he could. Good for Maloney for being so eloquent about why impeachment is the only recourse the House has against this maniac.

Ivy Meeropol, via Facebook

They built things up to attract and support a lot of people coming in but they didn’t consider water? Or did they just set up the situation so the village is pressured to say “Yes”? Is this government planning? Beacon is in a similar situation. They built up a ton of housing, then they will tell everyone who didn’t want said housing that they must sacrifice.

Chris Ungaro, via Facebook

FBI Arrest

This letter is not being written to decide whether Chuck Hustis is guilty or innocent of the deeds that he has allegedly committed (“Former Cold Spring Trustee Arrested by FBI,” Dec. 20). That is the job of the court of law.

I am simply wondering if any of the people who wrote letters that rallied against The Current’s reporting of those deeds are parents of a teenager. I would suspect not.

Richard Cogliandro, Garrison
Cell Tower (from Page 1)

Homeland Towers and Verizon sued Nelsonville 18 months ago after its Zoning Board of Appeals denied a permit for the proposed tower. AT&T sued the village separately. The companies argued that the village had violated federal telecommunications law by denying the permit for the tower.

The Zoning Board of Appeals maintained that the companies failed to demonstrate a significant need for the tower. It also concluded the structure would violate zoning law by detracting from the area’s scenic and historic attributes.

Under the draft settlement, the tower will be 15 feet shorter than first envisioned and the companies cannot later increase its height.

Camouflaged to resemble a fir tree, the tower, like the surrounding security fence and screening vegetation, would be compatible with the natural landscape, according to the draft settlement, which directs the companies to pay the village $35,758 for expenses incurred during the tower review.

In addition, if federal Judge Vincent Briccetti approves the settlement, Homeland and Verizon would have 60 days to submit a building application, which must include a calculation of the “worst-case maximum permissible” exposure to humans from tower radio frequency emissions. The village then would have 15 days to issue a building permit.

Noting that Homeland Towers intends to buy the parcel on which the tower will stand, the draft proposal states that if no sale occurs, “the village shall have no obligation to issue a building permit.”

The draft also provides that:

- The village and local emergency services can place three antennas on the tower at no charge.
- Tower lighting will project downward to reduce intrusiveness.
- Tower noise pollution will be minimized.
- Exercising “reasonable approval,” the village can help design the layout of the tower driveway.

- The tower companies will create a $30,000 fund to help neighbors landscape their properties, but those neighbors tapping into it must agree to not bring future claims against the tower.

The draft Nelsonville settlement resembles the one approved by Philipstown’s Town Board last summer to end a separate lawsuit filed by Homeland Towers and Verizon in February 2018 against the town after it declined to allow a cell tower on Vineyard Road.

Concerns about the handling of the litigation contributed to the ousting of the incumbent mayor and a trustee in village elections last March.

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Johnson (from Page 1)

“It had a similar effect,” Johnson says. “We said, ‘What is this?’ But little information was forthcoming.

“You’d ask the locals and they’d say, ‘Oh that’s the old Cornish Estate.’ OK, we’d say, ‘What can you tell me about it?’ They’d say, ‘It’s the old Cornish Estate.’”

Still, he sensed that there must be rich histories beneath the ruins. He was right.

Bannerman’s Castle, a former military surplus warehouse, was built on an island about 1,000 feet off-shore between Beacon and Cold Spring in 1901. Almost 50 years after the death of Frank Bannerman, the island’s owner, New York State purchased the island and castle. Two years later, in 1969, fire nearly destroyed the site.

The Cornish Estate was assembled in the early 20th century by diamond merchant Sigmund Stern, who purchased eight to 10 small farms in the hills of Putnam County overlooking the Hudson. The Cornish family acquired the estate in 1917 as a summer home. A fire also destroyed much of the mansion and accompanying buildings in 1958 – about 10 years before the state acquired the lands.

“Over the years it was one of my favorite places to hike when I wanted to get away from people,” Johnson says about the Cornish lands, which connect with a network of hiking trails, including the Breakneck Ridge loop. “I would never bump into anybody then. It was a good place to come up and air out your brain.”

In time, Johnson began teaching art and photography at Irvington High School, where, early in his 33-year career, he taught a photography student named Rob Yasinsac who was interested in historic ruins.

“Eventually I sent him [to Cornish],” Johnson says. “He was looking for places to photograph and I was kind of a Rolodex of locations.”

Slowly, the mysteries that Johnson had “discovered” in his teens would begin to be explained.

In 1993, he and Beacon resident Neil Caplan founded the Bannerman Castle Trust.

“This is a site that’s unique in all of the U.S.,” Caplan says. “You don’t have anything else like it, and we’ve managed to open it up to the public as well.”

Last year, 12,000 people visited Bannerman’s for tours, concerts, plays and other programs, up to 15,000 are expected in 2020. Caplan adds: “It’s given people an opportunity to see an incredible piece of architectural history.”

In 2006, Yasinsac would co-author a photography book called “Bannerman’s Castle, a Former Military Surplus Warehouse.” In 2007, Yasinsac would be joined by Robert Johnson of Beacon in forming Hudson Valley Ruins, a book which caught the attention of descendants of Edward Cornish and Sigmund Stern, who volunteered never-before-seen photographs and new historical information.

A couple of years after that, Johnson says, smiling, “Breakneck [Ridge] hits. All of the sudden, I can’t come up here to find peace and solitude on a Saturday anymore.”

These days, he’s still active with both sites. He’s recently helped design a series of interpretive signs that, through a New York State grant, will be installed at Cornish in the spring.

Johnson is also active with the Catskill Mountain Railroad, now a tourist railway based in Kingston, and River of Words, a program of the Beacon Institute for Rivers and Estuaries, Clarkson University and the Hudson Highlands Land Trust that brings ecological education to public school students in the region.

If that’s not enough, he continues to play drums with live musical acts, as well.

But Bannerman’s and Cornish, it seems, stand out, perhaps for their proximity, or maybe for the mystery initially surrounding both.

“I don’t think there’s anything as fascinating as these two sites,” Johnson says. “To me, this is sculpture. I think we need to start seriously looking at stuff like this not as ruins but as art, and to come up with ways to protect it.”

As 2020 begins, with more than 50 years under his belt traipsing through the hills and ruins of the Highlands, it would make sense that Johnson slows down a bit.

But, as he says his foster sister describes him, “I have two speeds: overtide and dead.”

“Being in this kind of environment feels like therapy, like the surrounding security fence and screening vegetation, would be compatible with the natural landscape, according to the draft settlement, which directs the companies to pay the village $35,758 for expenses incurred during the tower review.”

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NOTICE

TOWN OF PHILIPSTOWN TAX COLLECTION LEGAL NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT, Tina M. Merando, the undersigned Collector of Taxes of the Town of Philipstown, County of Putnam and State of New York, have duly received the tax roll and warrant for the collection of taxes within the Town of Philipstown for the year 2020 and that I will receive the same at the 34 Kemble Avenue, Cold Spring, New York from January 1, 2020 through July 31, 2020 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday thru Friday. In January ONLY the Tax Collector will be at the Town Hall, 34 Kemble Avenue, Cold Spring, at 7:30 a.m. Taxes will be collected without penalty if paid on or before January 31, 2020. On all taxes paid after January 31, 2020 an additional 1% penalty will be assessed for each month or fraction thereof thereafter until such taxes are paid or until the return of unpaid taxes to the County Treasurer pursuant to law. Partial tax payment (50% of total tax) will ONLY be accepted during the month of January 2020. The second partial payment will be assessed a 1% penalty charge each month until July 31, 2020 when all unpaid second partial payments will be turned over to the County Treasurer. Full payment of taxes will be accepted without penalty during the month of January 2020. After the month of January, a 1% interest penalty will be assessed each month until May 1, 2019 when all “fully unpaid” taxes will be turned over to the County Treasurer for collection.

DATED: December 20, 2019

Tina M. Merando
Tax Collector, Town of Philipstown

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Jeff Simms’s Picks

These are not necessarily the “biggest” or most-read stories I wrote in 2019, but I decided instead to pick a handful that were important to me for one reason or another. In no particular order, these were articles I enjoyed writing.

■ Reporter’s Notebook: When Finishing Isn’t Enough
I’ve written only two columns in the four-plus years I’ve been with The Current, both of which were departures from my normal areas of coverage but were personally important. This one covered a weekend biking trip I take each summer, and how 2019’s journey made me feel terrible about myself. It was an endeavor I’d planned for almost two years, but one that left me sad and unfulfilled in the end. Writing about it helped me process some of those feelings while motivating me to continue getting back out there.

■ New Member for Centenarian Club
This profile of a full-of-life Highlands man celebrating his 100th birthday was fun in every way. I also don’t consider myself a very good feature (versus “news”) writer, so it’s a good challenge to take these stories on sometimes.

■ For Some, Vaccination Law Stings
After a state law invalidated thousands of vaccination exemptions across New York, this article profiled some of the families affected locally. But the real work on this took place before I began writing, as I had to earn the trust of the parents who were generous enough to allow me to interview them. I tried to tell their stories honestly, allowing the reader to reach his or her own conclusion on the issue.

■ Minister Finds New Home in Beacon
Sometimes you get lucky and interviews cease being interviews and just become conversations. The Rev. Daniel Blackburn came across to me as a humble, pleasant guy who seemed excited to be in Beacon. Perhaps most rewarding, however, was another local clergy member emailing me after reading the article to ask for the new Star of Bethlehem minister’s contact information. The emailer wanted to welcome the new minister to the city — reminding me that behind the complex communities we cover are lots of good, caring people.

■ Living on the Edge / With Housing, What is ‘Affordable’? / New Law Allows Rent Limits / Study: Hudson Valley “Out of Alignment”
Can I cram four semi-related picks into one here? So much has been said over the past few years about development in Beacon, but there’s more to that conversation than buildings alone. The first part of this pick, my contributions to our Living on the Edge series, studied the complexity of job creation and sustainability, topics I’d wanted to write about for a long time. I’m also including locally and state-focused pieces on affordable housing, another critical piece of the puzzle. Finally, I was impressed with the Out of Alignment study issued by Pattern for Progress in October, which collected a wealth of data on many of these intersecting issues, almost creating a handbook for “What’s next?” when thinking about the economic health of our region and the well-being of its residents.
My “beat” is usually described as “arts/people”, but, “community,” a force in many of my stories this year, is also an important part of the mix.

Assembly Required

Writing about the arts in Beacon and Philipstown often means writing about visual artists. Beacon, especially, continues to be a magnet for painters, ceramicists, printmakers, photographers, multi-media practitioners, sculptors and others. Many cite “a thriving arts community” as the reason for moving to the area. Some are just starting out, many are mid-career, and then there is Joan Phares, who, though she doesn’t actually live in Beacon, is a member of the BAU collective there, and likes being part of that community.

Phares is another type of artist: someone born in a more restrictive time, discouraged from attempting a career as an artist, and then, eventually earned a master’s, then taught art for decades in a public school.

What liberated Phares to finally become an assemblage artist, she’s always noticing things. “Every time I dug a hole in the ground, some object would pop up that someone had buried. I pulled out an inner tube from a tractor, a pair of coveralls, abandoned logs and barn wood, faded from the sun, and it spoke to me.”

Phares is flourishing now because she has the time to. “It’s mainly about finding a quiet space in your brain,” she says. “When I retired I took my watch off for six months. Then I realized how much time I was wasting. It’s wonderful to have a creative energy. I’m enjoying this age! I get to do what I want to do!”

Social Activist Reflects on Decades of Advocacy

Perhaps when Phares reaches Connie Hogarth’s age, she’ll really get cracking! Hogarth, the Beacon social activist, was 92 when I spoke with her at length last summer. In describing her life’s work, it’s almost easier to list what she hasn’t been involved in, because the causes and issues she is associated with include “working to ban the nuclear bomb, stop the Vietnam War, end racism, abolish the death penalty, impeach a president (Nixon), end apartheid in South Africa, close Indian Point, create a Palestinian state, defend the Bill of Rights and slow global warming as a founding member — 15 years ago — of the Climate Crisis Coalition.”

Phew! And was she cynical or overtly exhausted or anything but cheerful and dynamic during our interview? Not at all. My hands-down winner for “most inspiring interviewee” (the runners-up are the impassioned Haldane High School student actors who spoke so eloquently and clearly about why their production of The Laramie Project was important to them and essential viewing for the community), these words of Hogarth’s can be extended to everyone, regardless of political leanings:

“People often ask me, ‘How could you be involved, not knowing if you would ever see it happen?’ You should know that you probably won’t succeed right away. You have to take a long-range view even if you don’t live to see it.”

Let’s see what Hogarth has up her sleeve for 2020!

Nourished by a Friend

A too-early death, particularly of someone with children at home, ripples through our close-knit communities. Fortunately, sometimes friends and family honor the person they lost, and a greater community discovers the essence and talents of a person they may have never met. Case in point: Nourish, a beautifully designed and photographed cookbook produced by the Philipstown friends of Stanzi Allen Pouthier, a young Garrison woman who passed away from ovarian cancer in 2013, leaving two small sons. Pouthier’s delicious recipes are the heart of the book, which is both a labor of love and a polished compendium of ideas for Hudson Valley foodies.

(Continued on Page 9)
**THE WEEK AHEAD**

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

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**COMMUNITY**

**SAT 4**

**Audubon Christmas Bird Count**

**PUTNAM COUNTY**

All Day

Various locations | 845-270-2979

Part of an international effort, the Putnam County count takes place for its 60th year. Any level of experience and interest is welcome. Contact organizer Charlie Roberto at chasrob26@gmail.com to participate. Donations are welcome.

---

**WED 8**

**Community Narcan Training**

**COLD SPRING**

7 – 8:30 p.m. Philipsburg Behavioral Health Hub

5 Stone St. | philipsburghub.org

Learn how to save a person from overdose by giving a safe medication.

---

**KIDS & FAMILY**

**FRI 10**

**Putnam County Talent Night**

**PATTERSON**

6 p.m. Patterson Library

1167 Route 311 | 845-878-6121

butterfieldlibrary.org

All Putnam County youth ages 8 and up are invited to participate. Younger children will perform first. Registration is required. Call or visit pattersonlibrary.org to register.

---

**SAT 11**

**Middle School Night with Lazer Tag**

**GARRISON**

7 – 10 p.m. Philipstown Recreation

107 Glenciﬂe Drive | 845-424-4618
philipstownrecreation.com

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**SAT 11**

**Marketing Seminar for Artists**

**BEACON**

10 a.m. – Noon. Catalyst Gallery

137 Main St. | 845-204-3844

thresagobioy.com/the-blank-project.html

Free. Co-curators Harald Plochberger and Tony Moore have created this exhibit of the late artist’s work in creation and site plans are at bit.ly/34M13sI.

---

**SAT 11**

**Donald Alter**

**BEACON**

5 – 8 p.m. Hudson Beach Glass

162 Main St. | 845-440-0068

hudsonbeachglass.com

Co-curators Harald Plochberger and Tony Moore have created this exhibit of the late artist’s work in memoriam, including more than 50 paintings, drawings and prints created in his final years.

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**FRI 10**

**Molsky’s Mountain Drifters**

**GARRISON**

8:30 p.m. Towne Crier

379 Main St. | 845-855-1300

townecrier.com

Bruce Molsky (fiddle), Stash Wyslock (guitar) and Allison de Groot (clawhammer banjo) will play roots music. Cost: $20 ($25 door)

---

**SUN 12**

**The Shape-Shifters**

**PEEKS PEEK**

3 p.m. Hudson Valley MOCA

1701 Main St. | 914-789-9100

hudsonvalleymoca.org

Artist and art historian Marcy B. Freedman begins a three-part series, Art History with a Twist, that will explore how art confronts human behavior. Cost: $20 ($10 members)

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**STAGE & SCREEN**

**SAT 4**

**Life is Amazing**

**BEACON**

8 p.m. Howland Cultural Center

477 Main St. | 845-831-4988

brownpapertickets.com/event/4476264

Abby Feldman’s one-woman stand-up show includes original songs about her trials and failures. Cost: $15 ($20 door)

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**SAT 11**

**Met in HD: Wozzeck**

**POUGHKEEPSIE**

12 p.m. Bardavon

845-473-2072 | bardavon.org

Watch the Metropolitan Opera House’s live broadcast of Berg’s 20th century opera with baritone Peter Mattei in the title role. Cost: $26 (members $26, children $12)

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**GARRISON**

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townecrier.com

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**Rooney’s Picks** (from Page 7)

- **A Growing Business**
  At the other end of the life cycle, there are babies being born, toddlers melting down, and teenagers getting annoyed over everything. Dr. Peter Gergely has seen it all in his nearly 30 years as a Phillipstown pediatrician. For once, the good doctor had to sit down and answer the questions, which revealed much about his background, including his time in the Army, talents as a painter, and his description of what the “true art of medicine” means: “It’s patients getting a call back. If you make that call, that follow-up, that reassurance, the parents will trust you forever. ’We’ll get that call, that follow-up, that reassurance, patients getting a call back. If you make the ‘true art of medicine’ means: ‘It’s as a painter, and his description of what**

- **When Grandma is Mom and Dad**
  Tragedies and traumas cut through communities, and reverberate beyond the individual affected. The children at the heart of the Relatives as Parents program (RAPP) receive the benefits of coping with the hurdles. Most of all, it’s a sharing, openly and without any judgment, for a population that often feels isolated and overwhelmed.

**A Celebration and Farewell**
Painter, sculptor and jewelry designer Marnie Hillsley also passed away from cancer young, in 2015, leaving a teenage son and good friends in many different sectors of the community. As her widower, Simon Draper, lovingly described: “They knew her as a great doctor, someone who loved singing in the St. Philip’s choir, as a person who helped set up a community garden, as someone they’d see, always smiling, as Aidan’s mom, or just as a good friend.” Just before selling their Cold Spring home, on the heels of their son’s departure for grad school, Draper mounted an exhibit of Hillsley’s life and work, with photos and artwork, at Nelsonville’s perfectly named space, Create Community.

**Year in Review**

**Brian PJ Cronin’s Picks**

- **Out There: Racing Circles Around Racism**
  More races should honor and illuminate the land they’re run on, no matter the distance, like the Catskill’s Escarpment Trail Run, which simply covers the 18.5 miles of its namesake trail, or the new “5k-ish” Run The Redline in Poughkeepsie, a course that traces the outlines of the “redlines” set by real estate evaluators in the 1930s that led to increased racial segregation and influenced what Poughkeepsie neighborhoods prospered and which declined.

(Continued on Page 13)

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**Howland Cultural Center**

**2 Way Brewing Company**

**2019 Year in Review**

**Private Events**

**Birthday**

**Holiday Shower**

**Rehearsal**

**Corporate**

**Bachelor**

**Bachelorette Graduation**

**Beacon, NY 845-202-7334**

**Information@2waybrewingcompany.com**
In an April afterschool class at the Manitou School in Philipstown, Nancy Bayer instructed Sadie MacInness, Suri Stuart and Amalie Bagaria on how to prepare grain bowls.

Trombonist Alaina Alster performed during a March concert in Beacon by Collective Brass, a chamber group formed in 2016 by members of the West Point Band.

Adam Barta, a dad and volunteer starter, eyeballed the cars in March for a heat in the annual Pinewood Derby held by Philipstown Cub Scout Pack 137.

The Fat Boi Brass Band, featuring vocalist Linda Garzia, celebrated Mardi Gras at Denning's Point Distillery in Beacon.

Francesca Ricapito was lifted into the air as part of a performance parade in Cold Spring organized in November by Magazzino.

In an April afterschool class at the Manitou School in Philipstown, Nancy Bayer instructed Sadie MacInness, Suri Stuart and Amalie Bagaria on how to prepare grain bowls.
A scientist discussed the technology behind rockets at the Butterfield Library in June before launching a few into the Cold Spring sky.

Preschoolers descended on the senior complex at Chestnut Ridge in Cold Spring on Halloween afternoon for the annual Spookytown festivities.

Juanita Rincon of Juanita’s Kitchen in Nelsonville and her family visited Glynwood in August to prepare a sold-out farm dinner.

The Desmond-Fish Public Library organized a volunteer-staffed “repair cafe” in June at the Cold Spring Farmers’ Market.

A visitor zoomed in during the annual ice cream social hosted in July by Boscobel in Garrison.
Liz Schevtchuk
Armstrong’s Picks

2019
Year
IN REVIEW

10
Most-Viewed
Stories at
highlandscurrent.org

1.
The Extremist Next Door
(May 17)

2.
Huge Fishkill Development
Looms Over Beacon
(Sept. 20)

3.
Garrison Man Dies in Crash
(Sept. 20)

4.
Former Cold Spring Trustee
 Arrested by FBI (Dec. 20)

5.
Cold Spring Resident Says
He Foiled Robbery (April 12)

6.
Philipstown Man Dies in
 Mobile Home Fire (Nov. 8)

7.
Beacon’s Lost Bridge
(Feb. 8)

8.
2019 Beacon Grad Sues
School District (Dec. 27)

9.
Judge Reitz Dies at 57
(June 21)

10.
Booming Beacon (Nov. 15)

For links, see highlandscurrent.org

Top Philipstown-related political
news in 2019 ranged from the
micro-local (in the
quirky aftermath of a
Nelsonville election) to
the national (a resident’s
role in President Donald Trump’s impeachment)
and from one end of Putnam County
to the other (in clashes over myriad matters),
while cell tower lawsuits, white supremacy
in the Highlands’ backyard, and other issues
stirred additional controversy.

- Putnam County
Conflict between the Republican-led
county government and Philipstown, where
Democrats dominate, began soon after
the arrival in Carmel of District 1 Legisla-
tor Nancy Montgomery as the sole Demo-
crat on the nine-member Putnam County
Legislature. Montgomery disagreed repeated-
ly with her fellow legislators over such
actions as passage of an inflammatory anti-
abortion resolution (“Anti-Abortion Draft
Ignites Debate at Putnam Legislature” and
“Putnam Approves Anti-Abortion Resolu-
tion”) to the renewed appointment of such
officials as the legislative attorney without
review or discussion (“Putnam Legislator
Questions Contracts”) to county finances,
and, as the year wound down, attacks by
Republican legislators and County Execu-
tive MaryEllen Odell, also a Republican, of
budget transfers in the Sheriff’s Depart-
ment under Sheriff Robert Langley, who,
like Montgomery, is a Democrat and Philip-
stown resident (“Putnam Legislators Deny
Request from Sheriff to Shift Funds”).

- Elections
Nelsonville got the honors for quirky
political developments, with three mayors
holding office in three months: In a non-
partisan election, voters chose Village
Board challengers and ousted incumbent
Bill O’Neill in mid-March, only to see the
new mayor, Chris Caccamise, resign within
weeks, compelling the Village Board to fill
the vacancy by picking Trustee Michael
Bowman as mayor (“Challengers Sweep in
the vacancy by picking Trustee Michael
Bowman as mayor”).

“Putnam Approves Anti-Abortion Resolution,” April 5

“Odell Looking for New Bodyguard ... Sort
Of,” March 1

Secrecy Law”; “Putnam Legislators Deny
Request From Sheriff to Shift Funds”).

- Cell towers
The long-running battle over construc-
tion of cell towers continued with negotia-
tions by both Philipstown and Nelsonville
with Homeland Towers LLC and its part-
ner, Verizon. The companies sued both
municipalities in 2018 over their rejection
of cell towers on Vineyard Road and Rock-
ledge Road, respectively. Despite opposition
from immediate neighbors of the tower site,
the Philipstown Town Board reluctantly
approved a settlement in August, allow-
ing construction of a tower on Vineyard
Road. At the end of December, Nelsonville
residents got a look at a draft settlement
of the lawsuit against their village and
village officials scheduled a public forum
for Monday (Jan. 6) on the matter (“Philip-
stown Approves Cell Tower Settlement”).

- Maloney
After initially expressing willingness to
remove Trump if necessary but preferring
to defeat him at the polls, Rep. Sean Patrick
Maloney in December voted for impeach-
(Continued on Page 13)
Liz’s Picks (from Page 12)

■ Extremism

The existence of extremism close to home became apparent with the identification of a Garrison-raised man as a leading figure in the national white supremacist movement (“The Extremist Next Door”) and the charging of a young Philipstown man in an incident involving the painting of an anti-Semitic slur and swastika on a Jewish resident’s Nelsonville property (“Philipstown Resident Charged with Hate Crimes”).

Brian’s Picks (from Page 9)

■ Bracing For Impact

In last three years, so many environmental regulations have been rolled back, that, before you get a chance to examine the long-term impacts, three more regulations have been dismantled. I thought it would be interesting to wait until one such change was announced and then forgotten about — in this case, the rolling back of a regulation that would have led to improved brake controls on the so-called “bomb trains” carrying explosive fracked oil along the west side of the Hudson River — and then examine the rule change more closely to see if anything had been missed. Sure enough, combing through the report that was released to justify the rule change revealed that the estimate of the death toll that such a change would bring was severely underestimated.

■ Out There: No Limits (Except All Of Them)

Last year I ran two 50-mile races, two trail marathons, and qualified for the Vermont 100 Mile race this summer. But the year started with me collapsing on a mountain in the Pacific Northwest while trying to run 31 miles after getting over the flu. I don’t recommend that. But I don’t think I would have had the success that I had throughout the year if I hadn’t crashed and burned so badly attempting the Orcas Island 50K. It was a wake-up call that I couldn’t coast on past successes if I wanted to accomplish bigger goals.

■ Small Pieces, Big Problems

A great question you can ask at the end of an interview is: “Whom else do you think I should talk to?” (If I interview you in the future and ask this at the end, try and act surprised.) I started the research for this deep dive into microplastics and the Hudson River with just one contact. That source suggested others, which led to more sources, all laying out a bread crumb as activists, researchers and politicians throughout the Northeast examine this issue. Many of those I would never have found on my own.

Of all the pieces I wrote this year, this is the one that made me rethink my own life and my daily concert: If you got a reusable filtering water bottle from me for Christmas this year, this is why.

■ Still Electric / Outside Voice

The Golden Age of any city is, of course, whenever you arrived. It’s always about a year or two after that when things change. “Man, you should have been here when it was cool.” I try to avoid this trap in my own thinking, but nevertheless, it was fun to pay homage to that Beacon of 2008 to 2012 energy when two things happened that made me reflect on what the city was like when I moved here. The first was the closing of the Open Space Gallery on Main Street, which was the creative force behind such projects as the Electric Projected murals on 1 East Main — a building that back then was an abandoned factory and now is the home to million-dollar condos, high-end boutiques and a great coffee shop. The second was the return of Stephen Clair’s “In The Pines” concert series at the University Settlement Camp. Nowadays, the site hosts a thriving summer camp, a packed swimming pool, frisbee golf and weddings seemingly every weekend. But back then, the camp had a distinctly “Friday the 13th” vibe. You know it’s a good show when your fellow concertgoers are asking you, “Are we allowed to be here?” or “Are we about to die?”

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FOR SALE

ITEMS FOR SALE — The Current moved to new offices and has some items available for sale. (1) Philips VIC WK1016A5B large-screen television stand with assorted screws, $20. (2) Danby 3.2 Cu. Ft. Compact Refrigerator – Black, $100. (3) Walker Edison Glass Solo Computer Desk with keyboard tray, 50”, 19.75” by 32”; 29” high. Email tech@highlandscurrent.org with interest.

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By King Features

ACROSS
1. Big fish story?
5. Chart
8. Chow —
12. Reverberate
13. Commotion
14. Loosen
15. Sense
16. Result of canonization
18. Liberty
20. Supermarket section
21. Fellow
22. Former M&Ms color
23. O. Henry's specialty
26. Realm
30. Distant
31. Compete
32. Rape
33. Hollywood hope
36. 140-character message
38. Conger, e.g.
39. Prohibit
40. Islamic decree
43. Ennui
47. Haphazardly
49. Church section
50. Active one
51. Gist
52. Family
53. Raced
54. Noshed
55. Maintained

DOWN
1. Comic Foxworthy
6. Computer brand
12. Former 21-Across
13. Conditions
14. Snitch
15. Mixer
16. D Beverly
17. Flatbread of India
18. C crazy
19. Rotation duration
20. Supermarket section
21. Fellow
22. Fellow
23. O. Henry's specialty
24. Oregon's capital
25. Man—mouse link
26. Basinger or Cattrall
27. Cork out
28. Raw rock
29. Bumped into
30. Encyc. component
31. Finder's fee
32. Rage
33. Hollywood hope
34. Finder's fee
35. Campus VIP
36. Pitch
37. Mechanic's tool
38. Conger, e.g.
39. Prohibit
40. Islamic decree
41. Bowl of rice
42. Genealogy display
43. Match in the ring
44. “Over hill, over — ...”
45. Ellipse
46. Fix
47. Haphazardly
48. CSI evidence

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Answers for Dec. 27 Puzzles

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ALOE MENTUBE
RILE ORTHODOX
BATTER SUNSET
LOEB GALL
ORIENTALLISP
DIN STRIP DOE
DOVE ORNAMENT
ENDEIRE
LAICALMENTAL
GANIZE ACME
AILSMON COMA
FLEE BOTENOS

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**Beacon High School Basketball**

**Beacon Boys Pick Up Victory in Holiday Tourney**

By Skip Pearlman

The Beacon High School boys’ basketball team secured its second win of the season on Dec. 26, topping Marlboro Central, 69-63, in the Bulldogs’ first game of the 31st annual Dutchess County Basketball Coaches Association Duane Davis Holiday Memorial Tournament.

Senior forward Quazir Hayes dropped 18 points on the Dukes (5-3) and Shane Green added 13 in the tournament win, which took place at Roy C. Ketcham High School in Wappingers Falls. Sophomore Jason Komisar came up with a strong effort as well, delivering eight points and nine rebounds.

“We got off to a great start,” said Beacon coach Scott Timpano. “Marlboro fought back, and it was tight in the fourth, but we never let them take the lead. We played back, and it was tight in the fourth, but Coach Scott Timpano. “Marlboro fought eight points and nine rebounds. came up with a strong effort as well, delivering eight points and nine rebounds.

“Jason Komisar gave us eight points and nine rebounds; he had a really good game,” Timpano added. “He was a monster all-around.”

Beacon (2-8) took on Arlington in game two on Saturday (Dec. 28) but came up on the short end of a 69-54 decision. Green and Tre Smith each had 12 points for the Bulldogs, and Hayes added 11.

Beacon closed out the tournament on Monday (Dec. 30) with a 72-59 loss to John Jay of East Fishkill. Hayes led the Bulldogs with 18 and Smith added 11 points.

“We actually played a great game,” Timpano said. “We were up one at halftime, and in was close in the fourth. But we had a series of bad possessions, and Jay hit 3 three-pointers and took the lead. That put us out of it.

“Quazir had a good game for us,” the coach continued. “He can score in a lot of different ways for us. And Tre is always aggressive; he played his butt off.”

Beacon was set to visit Roosevelt today (Jan. 3) at 4:30 p.m., and then host Peekskill on Monday (Jan. 6) at 6:15 p.m. and travel to Poughkeepsie for a 4:15 p.m. game on Tuesday (Jan. 7).

**Haldane — Beacon Clash**

**Haldane Girls Grab Pair of Gift-Wrapped Holiday Wins**

By Skip Pearlman

The Haldane Blue Devils girls’ basketball team received a belated gift last week by way of a pair of stress-free victories in the Varsity Girls’ Basketball Holiday Classic, played at Highland and Spackenkill High Schools.

Haldane (4-3) opened the tournament on Dec. 27 with a 56-36 win over Spackenkill at Highland High School, and on Saturday (Dec. 28) beat Beacon, 36-25, at Spackenkill High.

In Haldane’s win over Beacon, Shianne Twoguns led the Blue Devils with 10 points and four rebounds, Olivia Monteleone came up with nine points and grabbed nine boards, while Bela Monteleone had seven points, six rebounds and four assists.

“We played really well defensively and offensively,” Haldane Coach Jessica Perrone said. “We were meshing on the fast-break. Liv and Abigail Platt did a great job shutting their tall players down by boxing out. Bela was slightly injured, but she played hard and had a good game, and Shianne did a great job for us.”

Dior Gillins led the Bulldogs (5-5) with seven points.

Olivia Monteleone had a strong all-around game — 18 points, nine rebounds, three assists and three steals — to lead Haldane past Spackenkill. Marisa Scanga had 11 points and four rebounds, Bela Monteleone notched 11 points, and Molly Siegel grabbed five rebounds to go with four points.

“I’ve seen improvement in each game,” Perrone said. “We’re passing well, getting better ball movement, and we’re reading the defense and finding the open look.

“Scanga was great moving around and getting open shots,” Perrone added. “Olivia did a lot for us aside from scoring, and Molly was consistent on defense and played aggressive. Every player has improved. Overall, I think a winning record is a confidence-booster for the girls, and I’m excited to see what good things may come in 2020.”

Haldane was set to host Valhalla on Saturday (Jan. 4) at 11 a.m., and visit Rye Neck on Wednesday (Jan. 8) at 4:30 p.m. Beacon travels to face Peekskill on Monday (Jan. 6) at 6 p.m. and hosts Poughkeepsie a day later at 6:15 p.m.

Perrone, who had been coaching both the junior varsity and varsity squads, said the school has added a junior varsity coach. Will Charkowski, a 2009 Haldane grad. “He knows basketball, and it’s been a really smooth transition. It’s such a big help to have him,” she said.

Beacon Coach Christina Dahl said her team was searching for points at the tournament.

“We struggled scoring in both games,” she said. “Enita Rodriguez led us with 17 points in the first game (New Paltz), but we fell short, couldn’t finish our shots. Against Haldane, we missed 13 foul shots. Devyn Kelly and Dior Gillins played hard — rebounding, pushing the ball and creating opportunities. We got some good minutes from our bench, as well.”

Kelly was named All-Tournament for Beacon while Olivia Monteleone earned the honor for Haldane.

**Can You Make the Same Shot Over and Over?**

*Knights of Columbus to hold free-throw contest*

The Knights of Columbus Loretto Council No. 536 will host its annual free-throw contest next Friday (Jan. 10) at 6:30 p.m. at the Capuchin Youth and Family Ministries gym, 781 Route 9D, in Garrison. Registration will begin at 6:30 p.m. (The snow date is Monday, Jan. 13.)

Boys and girls ages 9 to 14 are invited to participate in their respective age division. Age eligibility is determined by the age of the contestant as of Jan. 1, 2020. There is no cost. Proof of age, such as a birth certificate, is required, along with written parental consent on the entry form.

The winners of the local competition will advance to the district finals, and from there to the regional and state competitions. For more information, call Dan Dillon at 845-265-3802 or Bob Flaherty at 845-265-3191.