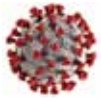


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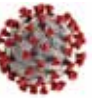


APRIL 3, 2020

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CORONAVIRUS UPDATE



Putnam Has First Deaths

By Chip Rowe

■ Putnam County has had its first COVID-related deaths, according to data released Wednesday (April 1) by the county, citing the Putnam Hospital Center in Carmel. It is not clear how many county residents have died. The county referred questions about the deaths to the hospital, which said that seven patients had died there of COVID-19, including two on March 31, but declined to provide further details beyond saying that not all seven fatalities were Putnam County residents.

The deaths were first reported on a Community Impact Dashboard that the county updates with the latest numbers related to the pandemic. As of April 1, a section was added with figures provided by the hospital. The chart says the seven deaths were “since March 6,” but the representative said that was when the hospital began collecting data, not the date of the first death. She declined to say when the first COVID-19 death had occurred.

Besides the deaths, the hospital noted on April 2 that it has 21 patients confirmed

(Continued on Page 6)



DRIVE-THRU TESTING — Nurses Jessica Martin and Sara Cerchia prepare to collect specimens from patients arriving at a mobile coronavirus testing site established at Dutchess Stadium. It is open by appointment only, with a doctor's order. Photo by Ross Corsair

Escape from New York

Rush for COVID-19 relief prompts bidding wars

By Leonard Sparks

A ranch house in Continental Village drew a tsunami of offers.

A \$6,000-a-month rental with views of Lake Valhalla was snapped up sight-unseen.

Local real estate brokers say they've been scrambling to find houses for purchase or long-term rental for people fleeing the densely packed environment

of New York City, which has about one-fifth of the nation's COVID-19 cases and a fourth of its deaths.

In other cases, city residents under contract to buy houses in the Highlands pressed brokers to complete the purchases so they could move in earlier than scheduled.

About three weeks ago, “we saw something that was unprecedented — all of us in the real estate business were talking about it,” said Bill Hussung, principal broker and owner of Robert A. McCaffrey Realty in Cold Spring, on March 23.

(Continued on Page 9)



A young man wearing a surgical mask walks down an avenue in Manhattan on March 17.

Photo by Marco Piumi/Getty Images

Open Space Institute Buys Breakneck Chalet

Nonprofit declines to discuss plans for property

By Brian PJ Cronin

The catering chalet just south of the Breakneck Ridge Tunnel on Route 9D in Philipstown has a new owner.

On March 18, the nonprofit Open Space Institute purchased the property from Incredible Caterers & Events for \$1.875

million, according to Putnam County records. The site was formerly the home of the Breakneck Lodge, which opened in 1935 and operated through the 1990s.

Located just steps from the Breakneck trailhead and the Metro-North train stop, with an unobstructed view of Storm King Mountain across the Hudson River, the building at 3250 Route 9D had been operated for the past 20 years as a banquet hall by Incredible, which

(Continued on Page 9)

Maloney: Trump Response to Pandemic ‘Frustrating’

Congressman working from home in Philipstown

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

As the COVID-19 threat spread across the Hudson Valley and the nation, Rep. Sean Patrick Maloney, the Democrat whose district includes the Highlands, traded his House office on Capitol Hill for his house office in Philipstown.

He returned briefly to Washington, D.C., to vote on key legislation but otherwise, with the House in recess, has been working from home, where his daughters, Daley, a 2019 Haldane graduate now at the John Jay College of Criminal Justice in New York City, and Essie, a Haldane junior, dig into their own assignments after schools closed. Maloney's husband, Randy Florke, is a real estate broker and also homebound.

(Continued on Page 7)

5Q FIVE QUESTIONS: CARL GAROFOLO JR.

By Michael Turton

Carl Garofolo Jr. is in his 26th year as the host of *Hudson Valley Sports-Talk*, which airs Sunday at 10 a.m. on WBNR-AM (1260) in Beacon and WLNA-AM (1420) in Peekskill.

How did you break into sports talk radio?

I always had the bug; I've followed sports since I was 4 or 5 years old. I didn't have the stature to be a professional athlete. I wanted to interview people. I did radio at Iona College and about 29 years ago got on the air with WKIP in Poughkeepsie, doing a live weather forecast every half-hour from midnight until 8 a.m. Later I did a Thursday night, live sports talk program on WHVW from a restaurant in Hyde Park. In 1994 I started *Hudson Valley Sports-Talk*. Tony Navarro and Carl Lindbergh do the show with me now.

Who were your early sports talk heroes?

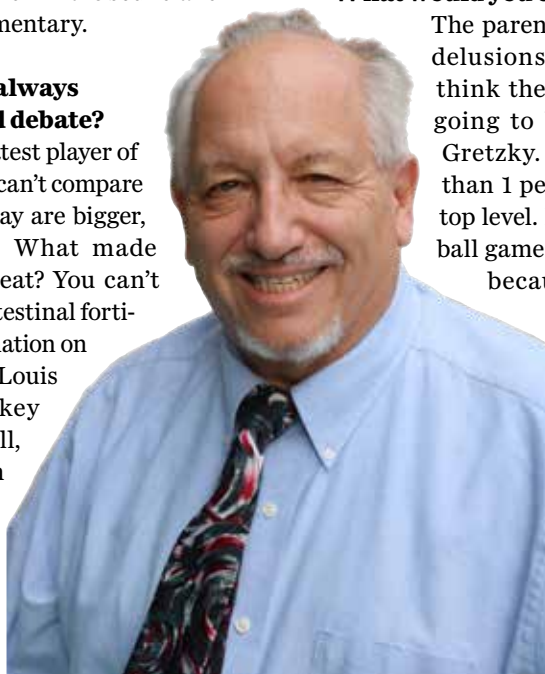
Art Rust Jr. was one of the first. And Marv Albert, of course, I used to call in to his show. I watched Bill Mazer on Channel 5. I also listened to Marty Glickman on the radio and Howard Cosell on *Wide World of Sports*.

Would you like to do play-by-play?

I've done some, but it's not my forte. I'm more of a color analyst. I can take a game and break it down: what this team does well, what that team does well; what this team will try to do; how that team will counter. As an 8- or 9-year-old I'd put four or five black-and-white TVs in the living room, each on a different game. My friends would come over. I'd kill the sound and do the color commentary.

What question always spawns a heated debate?

"Who's the greatest player of all time?" But you can't compare eras. Athletes today are bigger, stronger, faster. What made Joe DiMaggio great? You can't measure heart, intestinal fortitude and determination on a stopwatch. Joe Louis in boxing, Mickey Mantle in baseball, Paul Hornung in football — they'd be superstars today because they would find a way. People say Wilt Cham-



berlain wouldn't be great today because basketball is not a center's game anymore. He would figure it out. The cream of the crop figures it out. One of my complaints about sports museums is they've become watered down with marginal players. When you say Jim Brown, you think Football Hall of Fame. There's no discussion.

What would you change in sports?

The parents and coaches with delusions of grandeur who think their child or player is going to be the next Wayne Gretzky. The reality is less than 1 percent ever get to the top level. People watch a baseball game and say a guy stinks because he hits .250. If

they knew what it took to get there they'd never say that. You should always chase your dream. The problem is parents and coaches who get crazed.

ON THE SPOT

By Michael Turton

What will you look forward to most when things get back to normal?

“

Being able to enjoy going out in public.

”



~ Irene Karlen, Garrison

“

Finally paying teachers their worth; the pandemic's been a crash course in their value to parents.

”



~ Jeffrey MacIntyre, Nelsonville

“

The many celebrations with friends, and raising a glass to my cousin Richie, who lost his life to this virus.

”



~ Dorothy Carlton, Beacon

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Hotel and Spa Planned for Craig House Estate



A rendering shows the developer's vision for Craig House (below), with guest suites, event space and a restaurant.

Plans emerge for 'adaptive reuse' of historic property

By Jeff Simms

Two and a half years after buying the property, the owner of the historic 64-acre Tioronda Estate on the outskirts of Beacon is planning an "adaptive reuse" of the campus that, if approved, would transform the former Craig House psychiatric center into an upscale hotel.

The Craig House would be refurbished as a 15-room boutique hotel while an adjacent wing, along with new construction, would add 200 more rooms. Later phases of the project could include a 25,000-square-foot "Nordic spa" (incorporating an existing brick schoolhouse); 40 "treehouse" suites along a ridge on the west side of the property, facing the Hudson River; a conference center; a co-working facility; and a music studio.

The publicly accessible Fishkill Creek Greenway and Heritage Trail would also cut through the property.



The former Craig House, where Zelda Fitzgerald stayed for nine weeks in 1934

Photo by Sami Fego

The proposal has not been submitted to the Beacon Planning Board, which must approve any construction at the site, but project officials on Monday (March 30)

shared the plan with the Beacon City Council, which met by video conference.

"I look at this as almost being part of Main Street," especially when the greenway

is complete, said Bernard Kohn, who led the investment group that paid \$5.5 million for the property in 2017.

"This could become a real life of the city. It will bring a tremendous amount of jobs," said Kohn, who in 2018 also purchased 248 Tioronda, a commercial and residential project just across Fishkill Creek that is awaiting city approval. "It's going to be something very special."

The council members mostly seemed impressed by the plan. The council would need to rezone the property, which is limited to residential, for it to proceed.

"This is probably the best solution [for the parcel], as opposed to it being cut up into condominiums," said Council Member George Mansfield.

The 14,000-square-foot mansion on the property was built in 1859 for Gen. Joseph Howland and his wife, who later donated the estate for the care of the mentally ill. Part of the property was purchased by two doctors who in 1915 opened a psychiatric hospital specializing in addiction treatment, calling it Craig House.

Zelda Fitzgerald, Frances Seymour (the wife of Henry Fonda and mother of Peter and Jane Fonda) and Rosemary Kennedy (the elder sister of President John F. Kennedy) all spent time at the facility.

After purchasing the property, the investors considered residential development, but "we came to the conclusion that hospitality would be a really exciting use for the site," Alexander Blakely, the project architect, told the council. "We thought this was a great use of the natural terrain."

As planned, the development will preserve much of the site's rolling landscape while minimizing its carbon and building footprint, he said.

The two-story "modern wing" of the Craig House — an extension built in 1979 — would include a rooftop lounge, along with the additional hotel rooms, but will need two stories added, Blakely said.

Kohn and Blakely asked the council for feedback but did not indicate when they planned to submit a proposal to the Planning Board.

"If you're comparing this to housing, housing [creates] no jobs," observed Mayor Lee Kyriacou. "This is a net benefit."



The most unusual aspect of the plan are 40 treehouse guest suites.



A rendering of the interior of a treehouse guest suite, at left

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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.

LETTERS AND COMMENTS

Trail guides

I was disturbed by the mean-spirited responses of some letter-writers to Brian PJ Cronin's "outing" of a state-owned trail in Philipstown (*Letters and Comments*, March 27). Concern about outsiders bringing infection from the city is reasonable; rampant NIMBYism is not.

These are public lands. Is anyone trying to bar Philipstown residents from Central Park? We need to manage the Route 9D corridor, and hopefully the Fjord Trail and possibly a weekend shuttle from safe parking will do this. But the song doesn't go, "This land is my land, it isn't your land."

Twenty years ago, I moved from Brooklyn to Cold Spring because I fell in love with the trails. Wicoppee Pass is on my map, but I hadn't noticed it. Thank you, Brian! Do hordes of New York City residents really read *The Current*? Wow!

Fran Hodes, *Cold Spring*

People coming here to hike don't know anything about the closures or warnings to stay away ("Hike, or Stay Home?" March 27). They aren't in hiking groups or they don't look up the towns before coming. I'm proud of Beacon residents for staying in and

hoping no more visitors increase the risk.

Samantha Jones, *via Facebook*

I'm surprised that the 2018 survey done by the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference found that most hikers at Breakneck are from the "immediate" area, especially on weekends. Are the hikers rescued on Breakneck mostly locals? I would never hike Anthony's Nose, the Torne, Mount Beacon, Pelton Pond or Breakneck on a busy weekend. The number of cars at those trailheads can't be mostly locals.

Breakneck has been a problem for years. Too many hikers, too many trains stopping, too many injuries, too much damage to the trails, and too many cars. Its lot should be closed simply because it is a difficult hike. Mount Beacon should be closed because of the stairs — you can't remain 6 feet apart. There are many hikes in the area that are less traveled. But even during this pandemic, those hikes have only slightly more traffic.

Michelle McCoy, *via Facebook*

I was disappointed at the tone of many of the letters concerning the trail suggestion by Brian PJ Cronin.

My husband, Terry Weber, is the person who built the benches shown in the photo

that accompanied Brian's column. For the past 15 years, we have been trail maintainers, which includes clearing deadfalls, clearing culverts, picking up trash and weedwhacking. In those 15 years most of the trail damage was caused by motorcycles, not hikers.

This area is part of Fahnestock State Park. Due to increased use, the master plan for Fahnestock includes new trails. We are delighted to see more use being made of these trails. As I started my walk last week, there were seven cars parked at the trailhead mentioned in the article. I passed three or four small groups of hikers or dog walkers, all respectfully keeping their distance. I hope additional folks find our trails to be as charming as we do, so they can avoid the overcrowded trails in Beacon.

Terry and I continue to monitor the trails and to make improvements. We hope our neighbors from near and far enjoy the outdoors — it is not exclusively for those of us who live on East Mountain.

Dinky Romilly, *Cold Spring*

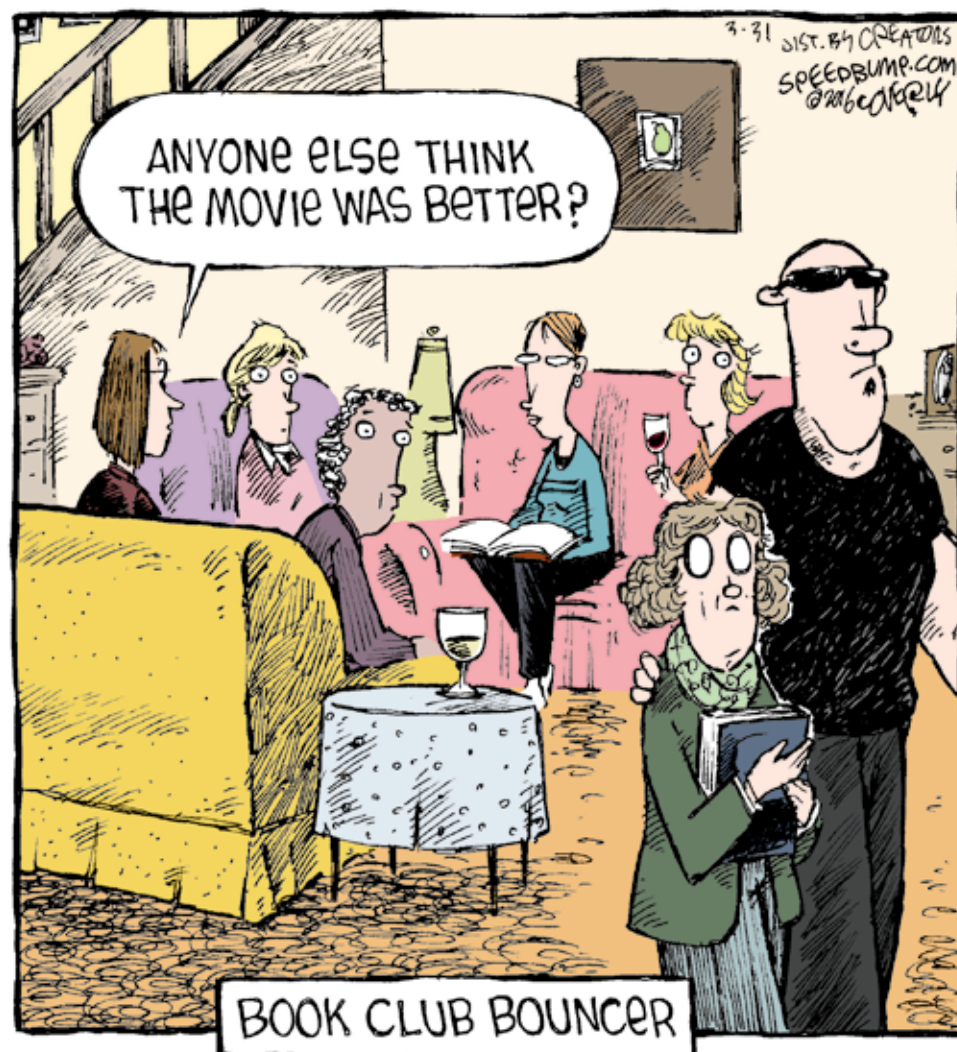
What a bunch of nousey, controlling people. I'm not going to stop hiking, and there is not much anyone can do about that. If you're at risk, stay home, and I'll stay away from you. Let people enjoy the outdoors while they are being forced not to work.

Tolon Lijoi, *via Facebook*

The parks maybe should belong to the locals, but they don't. I guess locals here never visit New York City. That's someone's local.

Ann Hofstedt, *via Facebook*

(Continued on Page 5)



Correction & Update

In a photo by Ross Corsair that appeared in the March 27 issue, a staff member at a drive-thru coronavirus testing station at Dutchess Stadium was identified as a nurse. In fact, she is a member of the lab registration staff who checks to make sure drivers have a doctor's order and an appointment before they are sent ahead to the nurses for testing. (The registration staff wear pink smocks and the nurses wear blue.) One reader expressed concern that the staff member shown was not wearing her mask correctly; photographs were only taken when the station was closed.

We neglected, in our letter to readers in the March 27 issue, to credit Russ Cusick for his beautiful photograph of the Hudson River.

LETTERS AND COMMENTS

(Continued from Page 4)

Other countries have stay orders specifying that outdoor activity be within 2 kilometers of your home. I think that makes sense.
Kacie Grossman, *via Facebook*

We have found the situation with parking at the trailheads in Philipstown to be a risk to public health. The governor has issued executive orders to mandate social distancing. In an effort to support those executive orders, the Town of Philipstown has issued a state of emergency. Along with this, I have called for a ban on parking at trailheads in Philipstown to prevent gathering of large groups.

This plan has been approved by the state Department of Health. Anyone who was out and about on March 20 and 21 saw hundreds of people gathering at trailheads as if nothing were happening. This was in complete disregard for all of our safety.

The local law does not intend to prevent people from entering the forest. It does seek to prevent people from gathering in large groups. All people need to start taking it seriously or the consequence will be the overwhelming of our health care system. This will only end with all of us taking the action of being a hero and staying home.

Richard Shea, *Philipstown*
Shea is the Philipstown supervisor.

Short-term rentals

It shocks me that this is a concern of the Village Board (“Cold Spring Wants Short-Term Rentals Shut Down,” March 27). I drove by St. Mary’s Church in Cold Spring yesterday and there were at least 100 people congregating at the Farmers’ Market. That deserves the “Really?” of the week.

Michael Post, *via Facebook*

Really? Is this what we have become? It’s fine to have visitors come at other times and spend their money. We are all New Yorkers: north, south, east, middle and west!

Maryjane MacNair, *via Facebook*

The members of the Village Board should go to the Airbnb site and submit a complaint. That is their responsibility — it has always been — not to have townsfolk policing our neighbors. If there are short-term renters, that’s one thing, but family and friends and second homeowners aren’t welcome?

Things are tense, but the general existing hostility to short-term renting doesn’t become more relevant now. The Village Board has had the option to go to Airbnb to locate those who aren’t following the code.

Irene Pieza, *via Facebook*

I’m guessing government officials need to be more clear: When they ask you to stay home, they mean *your* home, not someone else’s.

Eileen Anderson, *via Facebook*

Gift-card support

When our beloved businesses on the Main Streets of Beacon and Cold Spring are open again, I hope residents will show their support with an outpouring of shopping in all stores — not just restaurants but

Counting the Highlands

At right are response rates to the 2020 U.S. census as of April 1, along with historical data. If a household doesn’t respond online, the agency sends a paper questionnaire. If there is still no response, a census taker will be dispatched over the summer to knock on the door, although those operations are now uncertain due to the coronavirus.

	2020	2010	2000	1990
Cold Spring	45.7	69.1	71	72
Philipstown	42.5	66.2	67	64
Putnam County	42.5	66.8	67	56
National	41.3	66.5	67	65
Beacon	40.1	67.2	65	61
18th District	39.6	66.0	-	-
Dutchess County	38.5	65.7	68	64
Nelsonville	38.3	65.8	54	66
New York State	36.1	64.6	67	62
New York City	31.2	64.0	55	53
Newburgh	23.6	50.2	45	44

gift shops and bookstores, as well.

I suggest that, in addition to items for our own use, we buy gift cards (if possible, in large amounts) for birthdays and the holiday season. I’m sure shopkeepers would appreciate the cash infusion now, to be redeemed by friends and family later.

Jacqueline Foertsch, *Cold Spring*

Nursing-home visits

The state Long Term Care Ombudsman Program is an advocacy program available to anyone residing in a nursing home, adult-care facility or family-type home. It advocates for residents to address their quality-of-life and quality-of-care issues, along with their rights. In Putnam, Rockland and Westchester counties, the program is sponsored by the Long Term Care Community Coalition.

At this time, when visitation to facilities has been restricted, we would like families and residents to know that the program must abide by state and federal health guidelines that do not allow for in-person visits. However, we can receive calls and emails with any concerns or questions about care. Call 855-582-6769 or email judy@ltccc.org.

As you can imagine, residents are in much need of an advocacy program during this unprecedented time. We will be scheduling our next training session when social distancing protocols are lifted and will be looking for volunteers to become ombudsmen and help us advocate on behalf of our long-term care residents.

Judy Farrell, *Philipstown*

Farrell is the regional program coordinator of the Long Term Care Community Coalition.

Real estate

I read with great disappointment the plea by a Beacon real estate agent to “help” New York City residents who wish to escape a lockdown by coming to the Hudson Valley (*Letters and Comments*, March 27). What part of “stay home and save lives” is not connecting? What of the thousands of people who have already died and who may potentially die and the only sure potential weapon we have is to self-isolate? We are not asking them or us to self-isolate or shut down our business for months or years. It’s for 30 or 60 days.

I know it’s a long time. I’ve just been

furloughed from my job for at least 60 days, so I know it’s not easy. And I’m caring for my grandson whose college had to shut down. But take heart, this won’t last forever. Think how much better everyone will be, and hopefully what we will learn from this.

I grew up and worked in New York City and love it as much as anyone. But as an older person with medical issues, I am extremely grateful to our governor for his strong positions and for all he’s doing for our great state to try to keep us as safe as possible. I believe all of us need to do our part, particularly for those at most risk.

Stacey Gibson, *Garrison*

Still Stuck

Last week we reported on the Timmer family of Garrison, who are stranded in Puerto Natales, Chile, because of the coronavirus pandemic (“Stuck in Patagonia,” March 27). We asked Nell Timmer on Wednesday (April 1) for an update.

“The most recent numbers suggest that there are 63 cases of COVID-19 in the Magallanes region, with the majority (53) in Punta Arenas, which is going on full lockdown today. Punta Arenas is the city we would have to fly out of to reach Santiago to fly out of the country.

“In Puerto Natales, there are armed guards on the street to enforce a curfew from 10 p.m. to 5 a.m. We are seeing more people walking around wearing masks. From its website, it appears LATAM [the Chilean national airline] is running flights to the U.S., at least to Miami, but they end up getting canceled at the last minute because I don’t think anyone is on them.

“So, it appears we are here for a while. We are mostly staying in the house, working on schoolwork and trying to get out for the occasional hike or walk, much like we would be doing at home.”



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What If I Feel Sick?

You're feeling ill, with a cough, fever, difficulty breathing or shortness of breath. What should you do?

"It's important to emphasize that the risk of serious illness from COVID-19 remains low," the Putnam Hospital Center advises patients on its website. "Most infected people will experience mild upper respiratory symptoms. Some people, including the elderly and those with underlying medical conditions such as chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), diabetes and heart disease, are at greater risk and may require more intensive care and/or hospitalization."

If you feel ill, the hospital says the first step is to contact your doctor. Many offer "virtual" visits by teleconference. If you visit your doctor's office or an urgent care, call first to let them know of your symptoms. Only go to the emergency department or call 911 if you are in urgent distress, and let the dispatcher know that you may have been exposed to COVID-19.

If your doctor believes you have COVID-19, he or she can order a test, which allows you to make an appointment by phone at a drive-thru facility. At the facility, a sample will be collected and sent for testing.

For general questions about COVID-19, Putnam Hospital Center operates a hotline staffed by nurses daily from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. at 888-667-9262. A representative for the hospital said that most callers (1) ask about symptoms and what to do if exposed to someone who has COVID-19; (2) believe they have symptoms, in which case they are referred to their doctor; or (3) ask how they can donate equipment such as masks, anti-bacterial soap and, in one case, a pediatric ventilator.

The hospital has a list of commonly asked questions and responses posted at bitly.com/covidvirus-faq. The state Department of Health also has a hotline at 888-364-3065 that is open around the clock to answer general questions or for information about testing sites.



Coronavirus Update

(from Page 1)

to have COVID and another seven awaiting test results. In a statement issued with the dashboard that first revealed the deaths, Putnam County Executive MaryEllen Odell said it would provide "complete local data about the epidemic," adding, "now that Putnam Hospital is sharing its information with the county, we will also be able to include hospital admissions and more. We want the public to have as complete a picture as possible of the local impact of the coronavirus epidemic."

■ Dutchess County reported seven deaths in the past week related to COVID-19, raising its total to nine. A 61-year-old man died on Sunday (March 29) at Vassar Brothers Medical Center in Poughkeepsie "after being admitted for an unrelated condition and swabbed for COVID-19, which was confirmed positive," the health department said. A second man, 52, died Tuesday (March 31) at Vassar Brothers after being admitted with shortness of breath, and on Wednesday (April 1), a 68-year-old woman with underlying health issues died at her home. On April 2, the county confirmed four fatalities including a 28 year-old male.

■ Dashboards released by Dutchess and Putnam showed that, as of April 2, Beacon had 44 confirmed cases and Philipstown had 19. The Dutchess dashboard also has data on testing, hospitalizations, deaths and recoveries, and call volume. See dutchessny.gov/coronavirus and putnam-countyny.com/covid19.

■ State health officials said that, as of Thursday (April 2), 216 people have tested positive for the coronavirus in Putnam County, 667 in Dutchess, 11,567 in Westchester, 3,751 in Rockland, 240 in Ulster and 1,993 in Orange. Statewide, there were 92,381 positives, including 51,809 in New York City.

■ On April 2, Rep. Sean Patrick Maloney, who district includes the Highlands, announced that Dutchess County will receive \$856,000 in emergency funds through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. In addition, Newburgh will receive \$514,000.

■ Philipstown Supervisor Richard Shea said on April 2 that the state parks department has opposed two executive orders he sent to the state Department of Health for approval to restrict parking near state-owned trailheads. He said the health department is required to respond to him within 24 hours and, when he had not received an answer to his March 27 request, "we made inquiries. That is when we were told that NYS Parks had written to them advising them that they were not in favor of the actions that the Town of Philipstown was trying to take to limit parking," Shea



BUG KILLER — Many distilleries are making hand sanitizer from their supplies of whiskey and gin, which the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says should be at least 60 percent alcohol (120 proof). Karl Johnson, the co-owner of Dennings Point Distillery in Beacon, made 30 gallons and offered free fills at the door. He also donated a gallon to the Beacon Police Department. Johnson felt compelled to remind most people who stopped to fill up: "Don't drink it."

Photo by Ross Corsair

wrote in an email. "We are not saying to close the parks. We are asking to temporarily limit parking. I'm not holding out a lot of hope at this point."

■ Shea and other five town supervisors in Putnam wrote to state and federal officials on April 2 to complain that the county health department "is not being given the same considerations" as larger health departments in the area, noting that, per capita, Putnam has more positive tests than all but three other counties in the state. The supervisors reported that after exhausting its specimen collection tubes and swabs at a drive-thru testing event on March 21, the county health department has not been able to secure more supplies and suspended testing.

■ The Putnam County health commissioner issued an order directing anyone who tests positive for COVID-19 to go into isolation or face a fine of up to \$2,000 per violation per day. Parents and guardians are responsible for ensuring their children comply with the order or face the same fines, he said.

■ The Community Foundations of the Hudson Valley on March 31 announced a new charitable fund, Putnam Covid Response (putnamcovidresponse.org), to raise money to provide "immediate critical resources to nonprofit agencies meeting the basic needs of residents." Last week, the group created a similar fund, Dutchess Responds (communityfoundationshv.org/DutchessResponds), as well as one for Ulster County.

■ The federal government on March 30 announced that automatic distribution of economic-impact payments will begin in the next three weeks to everyone who filed

a tax return in 2018 or 2019. Filers with adjusted gross income up to \$75,000 for individuals and up to \$150,000 for married couples filing joint returns will receive the full payment of \$1,200 per adult. For filers with higher incomes, the amount is reduced by \$5 for each \$100 above the threshold. Single filers with income of more than \$99,000 and joint filers who earned more than \$198,000 and have no children will not receive payments. Parents will also receive \$500 for each dependent child. See irs.gov/coronavirus.

■ Because of social distancing restrictions, funeral homes across the state have restricted the number of mourners at services. In obituaries, many families are noting that a memorial will be held at an unspecified later date. At Libby Funeral Home in Beacon, only spouses and children of the deceased are allowed to attend, with others watching through a live video feed. "Trying to serve families virtually is not what we set out to accomplish," said Matthew Fiorillo, who owns Libby and said he has handled arrangements for several COVID-19 victims. (Nearly 2,500 people in New York state have died.) In Cold Spring, at the Clinton Funeral Home, families are opting for "simple services — no viewing," said Anthony Calabrese, its manager and funeral director. "Everybody understands what's going on." Cemeteries also are limiting graveside services to 10 people and requiring that mourners stand at least 6 feet apart, and the Archdiocese of New York on March 24 banned funeral Masses.

■ Tracy Prout Bunye a, psychologist with a practice in Garrison, is the principal investigator at Yeshiva University in New

(Continued on Page 8)



The town supervisors in Putnam reported that after exhausting its specimen collection tubes and swabs at a drive-thru testing event on March 21, the county health department has not been able to secure more supplies and suspended testing.

County and Police Reach Contract Agreement

Deputies will receive annual raise of 2.5 percent

By Holly Crocco

After three years of negotiations, the Putnam County Legislature will this month vote on a new five-year contract with the union that represents its sheriff's deputies.

The three legislators who serve on the Personnel Committee voted unanimously on March 30 to send the proposed agreement to the full Legislature, which is scheduled to meet on Tuesday, April 7.

The contract, which would be effective from Jan. 1, 2017 (when the previous contract expired), through Dec. 31, 2022, includes an annual base salary increase of 2.5 percent.

"This has been a very long and arduous process, and there certainly have been some bumps in the road along the way, with many proposals and counterproposals exchanged," said Legislator Ginny Nacerino (R-Patterson), who chairs the committee.

"I believe this is a very fair contract with improved operational efficiencies in place and equitable benefits."

During the committee meeting, which was held via audio webcast because of social-distancing regulations, Nacerino explained that County Executive MaryEllen Odell, Sheriff Robert Langley Jr., County Attorney

Jennifer Bumgarner and union President Daniel Hunsberger executed an agreement on March 13 that outlined specific changes to the previous contract.

"Our Putnam County Sheriff's Department is taking a big sigh of relief right now because they can take care of their families, and I'm happy to be part of taking care of them so that they can take care of us," said Legislator Nancy Montgomery (D-Philpstown), who is on the committee.

Legislator Paul Jonke (R-Brewster), the third committee member, said the proposal also has no "hidden increases," such as combining clothing allowances with salaries; changes shift scheduling in a way that should reduce overtime spending; and firms up a drug and alcohol testing policy.

It would cost the county an additional \$865,090 this year and \$886,717 next year.

"Tonight's passage is significant and comes at a crucial time, especially with the COVID-19 outbreak looming and the enormous effect it has had on our health, safety and welfare,"

Nacerino said. The members of the Police Benevolent Association (PBA) are "at the front line," she said.

Jonke said he supported the agreement but expressed frustration at the lengthy negotiations.

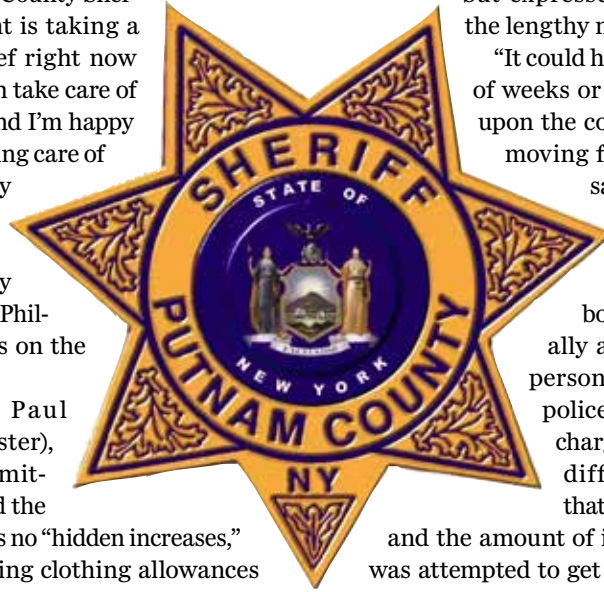
"It could have been a matter of weeks or months to agree upon the contract that we're moving forward with," he said.

"The leadership of the PBA harassed this body; I was personally attacked — I was personally followed by police officers," Jonke charged. "I find it very difficult to believe that it took three years

and the amount of intimidation that was attempted to get to this point. I'm a little disgusted, but this is a win for the county."

He later clarified that his comments were not directed at the "rank-and-file" members of the union but at its leaders and their tactics, "which were below what we expect when it comes to law enforcement."

"I have great respect for our sheriff's deputies," said Jonke. "They do hard work; they do difficult work — it's work I would



never want to do. God bless them."

Hunsberger did not immediately respond to an email seeking comment.

Legislator Neal Sullivan (R-Mahopac) also spoke of "missteps by certain people and not of the Legislature or the administration" in trying to reach an agreement.

"If, at the beginning of the process, people were levelheaded and would have been willing to work with us and the administration, we could have got here a long time ago," he said. "But instead, people chose a very different and bumpy road that caused a lot of unnecessary friction."

Nacerino replied that, while there has been a lot of "strife," the county and the union should focus on the future.

"We're all in a better place," she said. "With the coronavirus outbreak we understand a little better and a little clearer what the big picture is versus pettiness or remarks that were not called for."

Other legislators also voiced support for ratifying the contract.

Legislator Joseph Castellano (R-Southeast) said that any time there are union negotiations, there must be give-and-take by both sides. "I'm glad everybody came to a reasonable conclusion," he said.

"It's good to see a good and fair contract in front of us that we're able to vote on," added Legislator Amy Sayegh (R-Mahopac Falls). "I know that since I've been on the Legislature [in 2018], that is something I have never seen."

Maloney (from Page 1)

The Current spoke with Maloney by phone on Wednesday (April 1).

President Trump has avoided calling a nationwide quarantine. He also has been reluctant to use the Defense Production Act to compel industries to manufacture ventilators and other equipment. What, if anything, can Congress do?

If you're asking whether the 435 members of the House and 100 members of the Senate can become the president of the U.S. because Donald Trump isn't using the tools he's been given, the answer is, "No, we can't." He isn't using the authority he already has. The Defense Production Act is the most glaring example. The question is, why? The delay is inexcusable and the consequences are horrific, when you listen to governors having to compete with one another, bidding up the price of ventilators and personal protective equipment, for no reason. There should be a centralized, coordinated, forceful presidential command and control structure. It's frustrating. What's missing is leadership.

So what about Congress?

Congress needs to fund this effort and we have done so — more than \$2 trillion of critically needed relief measures, with billions of research and technical funding for testing and vaccine production and all the things necessary to combat the virus. That funding and those measures



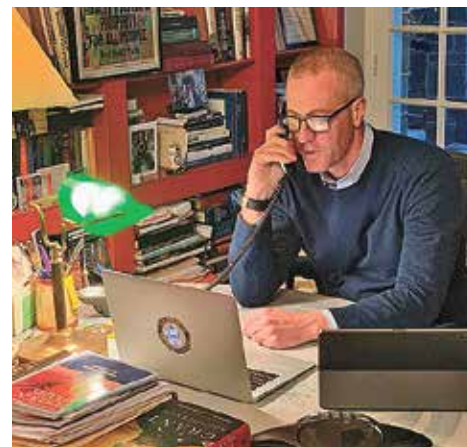
A photo posted last week on Maloney's Instagram account: "Returning to Washington to pass the relief bill. Social distancing not a problem."

need to be implemented by the president. Help is on the way, with a scope and level greater than anything in American history. Yet there are more things Congress needs to do, particularly in economic recovery.

When the threat ends, will Congress investigate the White House's response to the pandemic?

Absolutely. There should be a bipartisan, independent commission that looks at all aspects of the pandemic and our response, to learn, and to demand accountability, so we are never in this position again.

If one of the committees you sit on holds hearings, what question would you most want to ask a White House



Rep. Sean Patrick Maloney conducts a telephone town hall on March 19 from his home in Philpstown.

Photos provided

official?

Several areas cry out for answers. First: How have we failed so spectacularly to have a national testing system in time to do some good? What changes do we need to make to fix that? And why did we not work with the Chinese and South Koreans to share data? We had weeks and weeks of lead time, to get organized, that we squandered. I want to know why that responsibility wasn't better handled.

Health officials have been attacked online for their statements about COVID-19. Do you think the Russians could be behind some of it, creating fake social media accounts to disseminate disinformation?

We are absolutely concerned about

malign foreign influence on social media. We've seen it as an issue for the last four years, at least. I haven't seen any evidence that they are trying to spread COVID disinformation or to divide us, but it wouldn't surprise me. It would be completely in line with the Russian playbook.

Where are you these days?

I'm in Cold Spring. My kids haven't left our property, except to go for a walk, for the last two weeks, since school got out. We are playing by the rules, the Centers for Disease Control guidelines [on staying home and practicing social distancing outdoors]. We're taking this very seriously. We're doing fine. I have to give my kids credit. They're still doing their homework. They have a positive attitude. They've been helping out around the house. We've been getting a lot of projects done. And I've been able to focus as I need to.

What else would you say to the public?

It's not going to be over in a couple of weeks. All of us, doing a little, will ultimately mean more than a few people doing a lot. The only silver lining is that we do have to support one another and work together because we are all affected. We have an opportunity to rediscover the power in our common humanity and common vulnerability and recommit ourselves to building a better community where we are more supportive of one another and more committed to the things that really matter in this life. Hopefully, that small bit of good can come out of this whole terrible thing.



Coronavirus Update

(from Page 6)

York City in a study of the psychological impact of the coronavirus pandemic. The researchers are looking for volunteers to complete an anonymous online survey that takes 20 to 30 minutes. Given the likelihood of future pandemics, Prout said the study “will help us identify those who are at greater risk, inform public health policy and design interventions that are cost-effective and provide relief.” The Yeshiva researchers are collaborating with a psychologist at the University of Pisa, where the project began during the first week of the Italian government’s lockdown. See bit.ly/covid-study.

■ Gov. Andrew Cuomo on March 27 ordered all schools to remain closed until at least April 15. He also ordered districts to continue remote learning through spring break. The Haldane and Beacon districts had scheduled their recesses for April 6 to 13, and Garrison for April 6 to 10. “I know that many of our families were looking forward to a break from school next week, but we have a civic and social responsibility to follow the governor’s order,” wrote Haldane Superintendent Philip Benante in a note to parents.

■ Cuomo on March 27 ordered all “non-essential” construction to shut down. Essential projects include roads, bridges, transit facilities, utilities, hospitals or health care facilities, affordable housing and homeless shelters.

■ The deadline to upgrade driver’s licenses to Real ID, which will be required as identification to board domestic flights, was extended from Oct. 1, 2020, to Oct. 1, 2021.

■ Two officers at the Dutchess County Jail tested positive for COVID-19, a jail administrator told the *Poughkeepsie Journal*. In addition, 31 officers were in quarantine as of Sunday (March 29). No inmates have been tested, he said.

■ Veggie Go-Go, which is owned by Lynn and Greg Miller of Cold Spring, is raising funds to provide meals to health care workers and provide revenue for shuttered or semi-shuttered restaurants. Every \$500 donated will trigger an order for 25 individually packaged meals, valued at \$20 each, being sent to a participating restaurant. The meals will be delivered to a local team of health care workers in hospitals, medical centers and testing sites. See gofundme.com/f/feed-the-front.

■ Elections scheduled for April 28, including village elections and the presidential primary, were moved to June 23, the same day as congressional and legislative primaries.



The USNS Comfort, a Navy hospital ship, arrived on March 30 in New York harbor.

Photo by David Rocco

■ Central Hudson has said it will not suspend service for customers who are unable to pay their bills. Contact the utility through cenhud.com or by calling 845-452-2700. Central Hudson also donated \$25,000 to Dutchess Responds and \$20,000 to the Hudson Valley Food Bank.

■ The Garrison School PTA launched a campaign to raise money to provide food for residents who are impacted by economic concerns. Donate at paypal.me/gufspta. The school nurse will coordinate safe distribution of food and gift cards.

■ Beacon Mayor Lee Kyriacou said that while city parks remain open, “outdoor gatherings are extremely restricted” and that the city would enforce the rule. Residents who see a problem should call the police because complaining on social media is “ineffective at correcting behavior,” he said.

■ Republican Gregg Pulver, the chair of the Dutchess County Legislature, canceled its April meeting, citing an order from the county executive to limit gatherings to 20 people. In a letter sent to Pulver in response, eight Democratic members (including Nick Page and Frits Zernike, whose districts each include part of Beacon) said he should instead arrange to hold the meeting by videoconference or phone. Pulver replied that changing the date of a meeting or its location would require a resolution by the Legislature, and that a meeting held by phone would need to be an “emergency meeting,” not a routine one.

■ The SallyeAnder shop in Beacon had begun manufacturing 1,000 soap bars per day in preparation for the busy spring season, said owner Sallie Austin Gonzales. After the shutdown, she began donating the soap — 2,500 bars so far — to Beacon and Newburgh schools for free distribution. Along with access to food and medication, she thought, what do people need now more than soap? “We have a lot of soap; it’s ready to go; it’s fresh,” she said. “This is where we live and work. This isn’t the time to profit; it’s time to help each other.”

■ Putnam County Executive MaryEllen Odell said on March 27 that the county-owned golf course in Mahopac will remain open, with social-distancing restrictions. In addition, all “nonessential touch points,” such as hole pins, water coolers, ball washers and bunker rakes, will be removed, carts will be limited to one rider, and only reservations will be accepted. The announcement came soon after Legislator Nancy Montgomery, who represents Philipstown, wrote Odell asking that the course be closed. “Our constituents need to get outside, get fresh air and move around, close to home,” she wrote. “The Putnam County Golf Course is not a trail, park or sanctuary intended for passive recreation.”

■ Former Garrison resident Louie Lanza, who owns a number of restaurants in Peekskill, donated \$100,000 through his family foundation to the newly created Million Gallons program, an initiative to use excess food and raise funds to cook a million gallons of soup to feed restaurant workers who have lost their jobs because of the shutdown. See milliongallons.com.

■ Under a state law enacted in December, unsolicited telemarketing calls by firms doing business in New York are illegal during a state of emergency, which the governor declared on March 7.

■ The Dutchess County Stabilization Center switched to “telepractice,” meaning its counselors will continue to operate 24/7 but only by telephone and videoconferencing. The center serves individuals experiencing crisis resulting from mental health or substance abuse issues. It can be reached at 845-486-2849. Or individuals can call or text 845-486-9700 to be connected with a mental-health professional who can provide counseling or referrals.

■ Cuomo announced a directive in which mortgage servicers will provide 90-day relief to borrowers impacted by the coronavirus. The directive includes waiving payments based on financial hardship, no negative reporting to credit bureaus, a grace period for loan modification, no late payment fees

COVID-19 by the Numbers

■ PUTNAM COUNTY

Number of confirmed cases:

236

Philipstown 19, Carmel 86, Kent 33, Putnam Valley 23

Percentage under age 60:

72

Number of patients at Putnam Hospital Center:

21

Number of deaths at Putnam Hospital Center:

7

■ DUTCHESS COUNTY

Number of confirmed cases:

592

Beacon 44, Wappingers Falls 15, Poughkeepsie 71, Fishkill 51

Tests administered:

2,911

Number hospitalized:

66

Number recovered:

37

Number of deaths:

9

Source: Health departments. Data current as of April 2

or online payment fees, and postponing or suspending foreclosures. If a mortgage is owned by Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac or the Federal Home Loan Banks, the homeowner may be eligible to delay in making payments. (If unsure, check at knowyouroptions.com/loanlookup.) Contact the company where you send your monthly payments. Two terms to keep mind: A forbearance means you are allowed to stop making payments but you will owe all the payments as a lump sum later. A mortgage modification is preferable; it means you can skip payments and they will be spread out over months or the length of the loan will be extended.

■ Questions? Dutchess County posts updates at dutchessny.gov/coronavirus and also has an informational hotline at 845-486-3555. Putnam County posts info at putnamcountyny.com/health. New York State has a coronavirus hotline at 888-364-3065, and a webpage at ny.gov/coronavirus. The state also created an email list to provide updates. The federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention posts updates at cdc.gov.

Jeff Simms, Leonard Sparks and Michael Turton contributed reporting.

“Putnam County Executive MaryEllen Odell said on March 27 that the county-owned golf course in Mahopac will remain open, with social-distancing restrictions. In addition, all “nonessential touch points,” such as hole pins, water coolers, ball washers and bunker rakes, will be removed, carts will be limited to one rider, and only reservations will be accepted.

Reform Law Spurs New Hires at Dutchess D.A.

Office says it's diverting cases to handle workload

By Leonard Sparks

The Dutchess County District Attorney's Office said it needs \$650,000 to spend on new hires and is triaging cases to meet the demands of a 3-month-old law requiring prosecutors to more quickly turn over evidence to defendants.

County legislators last month unanimously approved using contingency funds to hire three assistant district attorneys, an investigator, two assistants and a confidential secretary to comply with revised rules for discovery, the process during which prosecutors share evidence with suspects

and their attorneys.

The rules, which took effect Jan. 1 as part of a package of new laws that also eliminated bail for relatively minor crimes, gives district attorneys 15 days after an arraignment to turn over evidence. It also expanded the list of materials that must be automatically shared, including police body-camera footage and grand jury testimony.

Through February, Dutchess County prosecutors had sent 774 requests to law enforcement agencies for material covered by the law, said Chief Assistant District Attorney Matthew Weishaupt.

He said the district attorney received 60,985 files that needed to be examined, including body-camera footage and files that may require redactions.

Weishaupt pointed to an arrest in which five officers with body cameras each recorded five hours of footage. Reviewing the footage "amounts to about 60 hours' worth of work," he said.

"It's been a tremendous challenge and a tremendous burden — not just to us but to every district attorney's office and law enforcement agency in the state," Weishaupt said.

In Putnam County, District Attorney Robert Tendy has criticized the new rules, saying they place a similar burden on his prosecutors. Tendy said he used a grant obtained by state Sen. Pete Hareham, whose district includes eastern Putnam, to upgrade his office's computer system and "we are beginning the discussion with the Legislature regarding staffing and compen-

sation in our office, issues that absolutely must be addressed."

Under the law, prosecutors can ask a court for a 30-day extension. Before the reforms went into effect, prosecutors only had to share what they knew sometime before the trial began, and defense attorneys had to make a written request. The new law includes "automatic" discovery, which requires prosecutors to share what they have without prompting.

Weishaupt said Dutchess prosecutors have set up a process to identify cases that can be disposed of through "diversion" — such as adjournment in contemplation of dismissal, treatment or community service — so they can focus on the most serious offenses. The diverted cases tend to be for low-level misdemeanors like petit larceny and seventh-degree drug possession, he said.

(Continued on Page 22)



The Chalet on the Hudson was sold to the Open Space Institute for \$1.875 million.

Photo by Michael Turton

Chalet Sold *(from Page 1)*

called it The Chalet on the Hudson.

But the building often was closed, getting more use as an unauthorized parking for hikers and a speed trap for state troopers. The parking lot was barricaded off after the sale.

Eileen Larabee of the Open Space Institute said that the property had been on its wish list for some time. "We're active in the landscape," she said. "We're aware of properties that are near parks that we care about."

She declined to comment on the institute's plans for the parcel, including whether it would keep the building, saying only that the purchase "is consistent with our long-term commitment to conservation and access in the Hudson Highlands."

Incredible continues to own and operate the 1839 Restaurant and Bar across the river in Washingtonville, in Orange County. It also has managed other venues, such as the Bird & Bottle Inn in Garrison and the Bear Mountain Inn. The firm's owner, Frank DeBari Sr., could not immediately be reached for comment.

Escape from New York *(from Page 1)*

"It was a panic," he said. "All of us were nonstop showing houses last weekend and the weekend before — houses that hadn't seen a lot of activity had lines to get in."

Melissa Carlton, an associate broker with Houlihan Lawrence in Cold Spring, said she was bombarded the week of March 9 with calls from New York City residents and from their brokers interested in two furnished long-term rentals that the firm had listed.

Some of the callers said that with vacations and schools canceled, and working from home the rule rather than the exception, they wanted to get out of New York City. Some people were afraid the city would be closed off, Carlton said.

"They were looking at the Hudson Valley as well as the Hamptons and the surrounding areas to see if they could find homes to rent for a few months," she said.

One of Houlihan's two available properties was originally available until the end of

June while the owner worked in Ireland, she said. The property became unavailable when the owner returned earlier than expected after the pandemic spread to Europe.

The other, a fully furnished, three-bedroom, three-bath house renting for \$6,000 a month at Lake Valhalla, was snapped up by a New York City family. "They rented it without seeing it," Carlton said.

Hussung said that local brokers, who were already "unusually busy" in December, January and February, were showing properties and fielding offers up to 8 p.m. on Sunday (March 22), when Gov. Andrew Cuomo's order went into effect requiring non-essential employees — including real estate agents — to work from home. That meant no showings.

Continental Village, Garrison and Cornwall were among the most sought-after areas in the Hudson Valley, Hussung said. It was his firm that listed the split-level ranch in Continental Village that attracted seven offers in less than two weeks.

One potential buyer, who has yet to find a suitable property in the area, asked Hussung to help find a rental for the time

being. Hussung said he and his client got into bidding wars on two rentals and lost them. "I can't remember that happening," he said.

More than 51,000 people in New York City had tested positive for coronavirus and nearly 1,400 had died as of Thursday (April 2). The city has 56 percent of the state's cases and more than any of the other 49 states.

The crisis has fueled an exodus to other locations besides the Hudson Valley, with reports of New York City residents descending early on traditional summer vacation destinations such as the Hamptons and the New Jersey Shore, to the consternation of year-round locals.

Governors in several states, including Florida and Rhode Island, have ordered restrictions on travelers arriving from New York and the other states that are experiencing the greatest outbreaks.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on Saturday (March 28) issued an advisory urging people from New York, Connecticut and New Jersey to cease all "non-essential" travel for 14 days.

In Cold Spring, Mayor Dave Merandy called

for a halt on Airbnb rentals in the village to keep out New York City residents. In Beacon, some Airbnb hosts decided early in the outbreak not to rent their spaces because of public health concerns, said Graham Lawlor, who belongs to a group called Beacon Hosts.

His bookings were "nearly all" canceled and his rental is now closed, he said.

At the March 16 meeting of the Beacon City Council, Lawlor spoke on behalf of the Beacon Hosts group, although council members reminded him that operating an Airbnb in Beacon is illegal. Lawlor told the Council there has been debate among hosts whether to continue renting.

"In the trade-off between safety and paying bills, everyone is prioritizing safety at the moment," he said. "We're all looking forward to a time when we can get back to normal."

At its next meeting, on Monday (March 30), the Beacon council began reviewing its regulations on short-term rentals but took no action.

Jeff Simms contributed reporting.

AROUND TOWN



▲ **PROPER SPACING** — While visiting her son in Mahopac on March 27, Kay Corkrum of Garrison came across these neighbors having a chat, while Kyle Good spotted three vehicles (right) practicing social distancing on Indian Brook Road near Constitution Marsh in Garrison.

◀ **TAKE A GANDER** — Holly Mentzer of Main Street in Nelsonville decorated her “lawn geese” (hunting decoys) in tribute to health care personnel working on the front lines against COVID-19. Drivers are asked not to honk.



Photos provided



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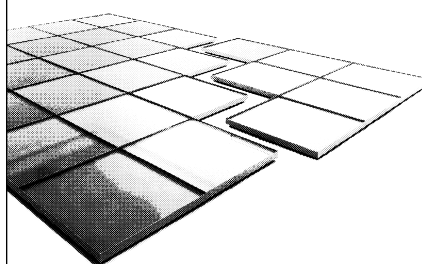
UNA VISIONE GLOBALE: ARTE POVERA'S WORLDS

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The Calendar

Newspaper Launches in Beacon

By kids, for kids, and growing rapidly

By Alison Rooney

It's not that Lucas Simms was bored. The opposite was true, actually.

"Everybody I've talked to this week loves it, being at home," he reports.

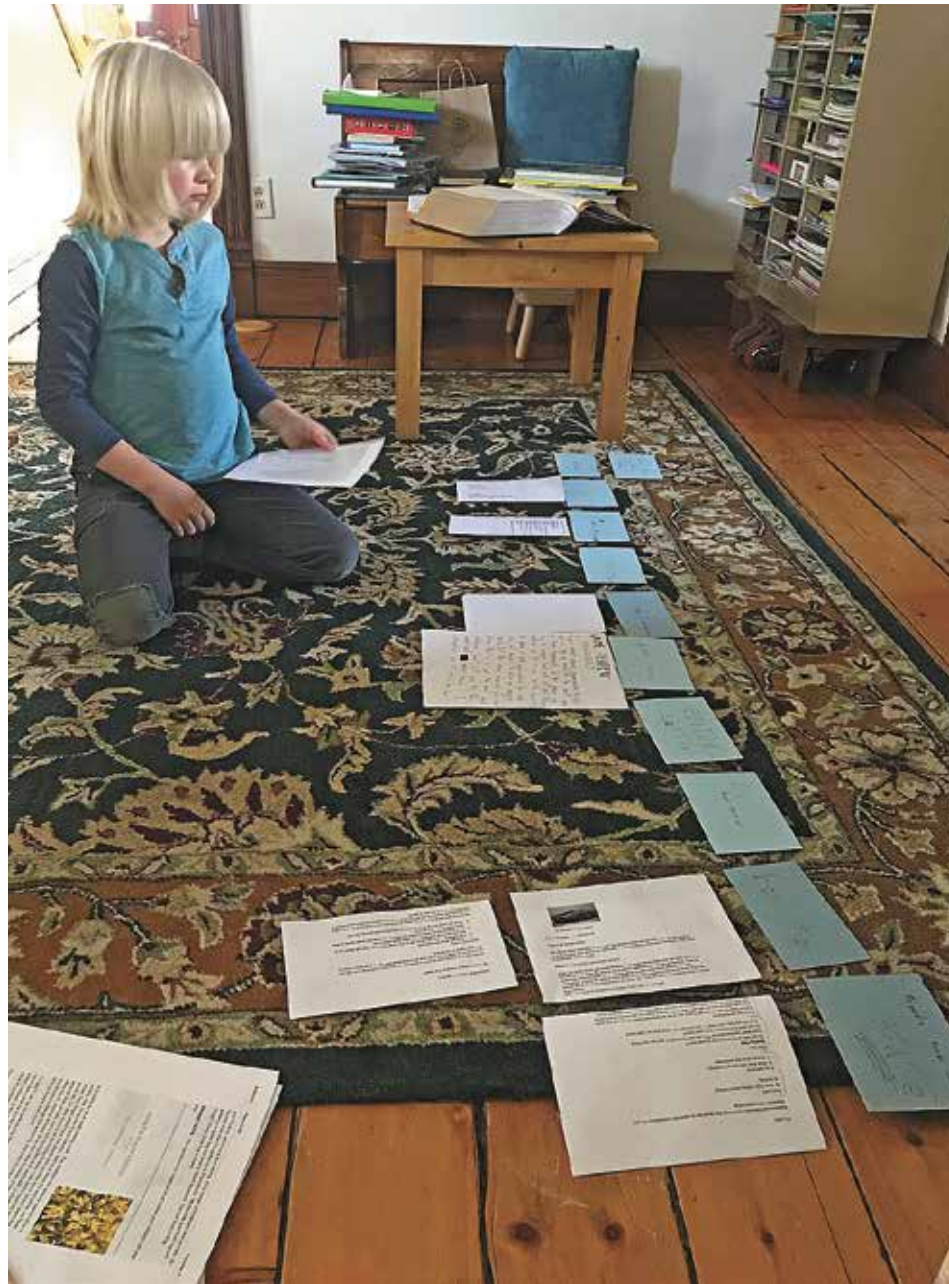
Still, being confined has been frustrating — particularly the lack of access to his friends at the Hudson Hills Academy in Beacon — for the 8-year-old.

But he has found diversions. There are "porch visits" with friends. And there's the weekly newspaper he launched.

The Beacon Kids Times, which is published on Thursdays and distributed free by email, is attracting correspondents and readers from all over the city. It more than delivers on its promise of "reviews, art, outdoors, more."

Although his favorite subject is math (and his favorite ice cream flavor, cookie dough), Lucas surely took inspiration for the *Times* from his dad, Jeff Simms, a reporter for *The Current*, although he says his mother, Heidi Kitlas, who works with the paper on fundraising, deserves "25 percent credit" for the idea. For some reason, the couple did not dissuade their son from creating competition for *The Current* in Beacon, especially for the younger demographic.

Inside the *Times* are contributions from reporters such as Fiona, who assesses "What's Happening? The Amazing Outdoors," and Daley, who provides tips on what to wear and what to do, based on the forecast. Reviewers, with opinions to spare, include Hazel, a comic book expert, who gives the thumbs-up to *Scooby Doo*, *Where*



Lucas Simms prepares the April 2 issue of *The Beacon Kids Times*.

Photo provided

Are You? #102, noting: "What I liked about the story is that it is funny and silly and there's a twist because you might think it is one person but it might be the other. I like all of it. I don't have a part that I don't like."

Silas, a video game expert, explains Mope. io: "The levels of that are Pterodactyl, which is a desert animal, Kraken and King Crab, which are water animals, T-Rex and Dragon, are grass animals, Yeti, which is an arctic animal and Phoenix, which is a lava animal."

The centerpiece drawing, by Macon, is titled, "One of My Favorite Things to Do Right Now is Build Legos with Dad."

In the March 26 issue, there was room for every submission. But for the second edition, Lucas found himself with a dilemma.

"There's a lot more people who know about it now," he says. "Once it came out, people told other people, and now there are people I don't even know, so we may have to leave out some things. I'll decide that when it happens."

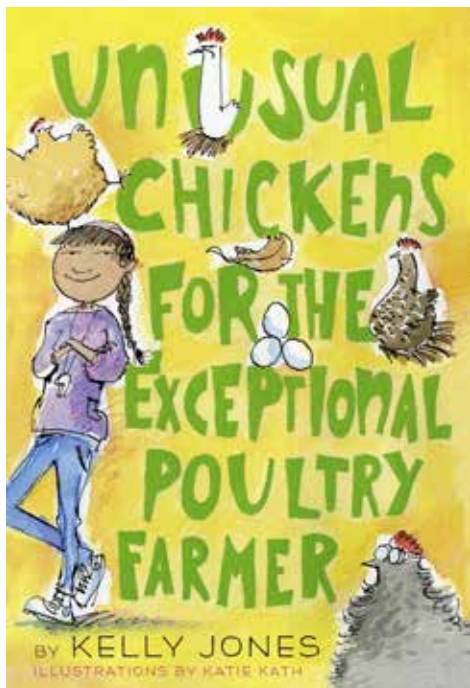
Then, he added: "When I first started this, my dad was thinking we were in competition. But now we're kind of winning." (To join *The Current*, visit highlandscurrent.org/membership.)

At the end of each issue of the *Times*, there is a riddle selected by Lucas. On March 26, it was: How do you get out of a room with no windows and no doors but the room has a mirror and a table?

The answer: You look in the mirror two times, you see what you saw, you take the saw and cut the table, two halves make a whole, you jump in the hole and cry for help, but your voice is hoarse, so you jump on the horse and ride away.

Be on the alert: The first kid to email a correct answer to the riddle each week gets a prize delivered to his or her porch.

To sign up for the *Beacon Kids Times*, or to contribute articles, email beaconkidstimes@gmail.com.



Learning Their Letters

Book club for kids will revert to 'snail mail'

By Alison Rooney

Turning lemons into lemonade, Split Rock Books, unable to host its usual slate of monthly book clubs at its Cold Spring store, is turning back the clocks.

Their latest endeavor, The Epistolary Project, will rely on what adults remember as "letters," aka "snail mail."

Members of the Middle Reader Book Club (ages 7 to 11) will read a book, then write a letter, and receive a letter.

To join the club, a child just has to



Illustration by Summer Pierre

purchase the April selection, *Unusual Chickens for the Exceptional Poultry Farmer*, at splitrockbks.com. In normal times (i.e., a month ago), the members of the club would have read the book and gathered one afternoon at the store to discuss it while snacking on juice boxes and cheddar bunnies.

In this curve-flattening era, the club instead will "dive into an epistolary novel and write each other good old-fashioned snail mail," said Heidi Bender, who co-owns Split Rock with her husband, Michael. "We wanted to make space for some off-screen time."

(Continued on Page 14)

THE WEEK AHEAD

Edited by Pamela Doan (calendar@highlandscurrent.org)

For a complete listing of events, see
highlandscurrent.org/calendar.

COMMUNITY

SAT 4

One Poem a Day Won't Kill You

GARRISON

Desmond-Fish Library | bit.ly/read-poem

Last month, the library and *The Current* teamed up to revive this annual event to recognize National Poetry Month in April. The idea was that community members would be recorded at the library reading their favorite poems. Unfortunately, few recordings took place before the library closed. However, we are able to collect and share poem recordings online. Visit the link above and use your phone, tablet or computer to record a favorite poem to share with the community — something we all may need during this challenging and humbling time, notes Ryan Biracree, the library's digital services coordinator. If you have questions or technical difficulties, email him at ryan@desmondfishlibrary.org.

TUES 7

Knitting Meet-Up

GARRISON

11 a.m. Desmond-Fish Library

Via Zoom. Email Lucille Merry at lucille@desmondfishlibrary.org for registration information. Continues weekly.

THURS 9

Paper Crafts Workshop

GARRISON

6 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library
facebook.com/pg/desmondfishlibrary

The workshop will take place each week via Facebook.

FOOD RESOURCES

SAT 4

Philipstown Food Pantry

COLD SPRING

9 – 10 a.m. First Presbyterian Church
10 Academy St. | 845-265-3220
presbychurchcoldspring.org

Also SAT 11.

SAT 4

Farmers' Market

COLD SPRING

9:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. St. Mary's Church
1 Chestnut St. | csfarmmarket.org

See the website for ordering information and protocols. The market is held outside and only a few customers are admitted at a time. Also SAT 11.

SAT 4

Food Pantry

BEACON

10 – 11 a.m. St. Andrew's Church
15 South Ave. | 845-831-1369
beacon-episcopal.org/food-pantry

Also SAT 11.

SAT 4

Food Pantry

BEACON

10:30 a.m. – Noon.
Beacon Recreation Center
23 W. Center St. | 845-202-7199

Provided by New Vision Church of Deliverance. Also SAT 11.

SUN 5

Farmers' Market

BEACON

10 a.m. – 2 p.m. VFW Hall
413 Main St. | bit.ly/beacon-fm

The market is closed but you can order online for pickup.

MON 6

Grab-and-Go

BEACON

10 – 10:30 a.m. Beacon High School
101 Matteawan Road
10:30 – 11 a.m. South Avenue Elementary
60 South Ave. | beaconk12.org

On Monday, you can pick up two breakfasts and two lunches, and on Wednesday you can grab three days' worth of food. If you need meal delivery, email landahl.m@beaconk12.org or text 845-372-2286. Also WED 8.

MON 6

Community Soup Kitchen

BEACON

11 a.m. – Noon. Tabernacle of Christ
483 Main St. | 845-728-8196

Every day except Sunday.

HEALTH & FITNESS

SAT 4

Lovingkindness in Difficult Times

GARRISON

4 p.m. Garrison Institute
garrisoninstitute.org

Sharon Salzberg, a student of Buddhism since 1971 and the author of *Real Happiness at Work*, will lead a live practice via Zoom. Registration required.



MON 6

Meditation Group

GARRISON

Noon. Garrison Institute
garrisoninstitute.org

Via Zoom. Online registration requested. Offered weekdays.

TUES 7

Transforming Pandemic Panic

GARRISON

4 p.m. Garrison Institute
facebook.com/garrisoninstitute

In this free webinar, Dan Siegel will speak to turning panic into "receptive presence and growth."

VISUAL ARTS

SAT 4

Arte Povera's Worlds

PHILIPSTOWN

3 p.m. Magazzino Italian Art
magazzino.art

In this livestreamed lecture and Q&A, Valérie Da Costa will address the concept of "the Mediterranean" in the work of Pino Pascali.

SAT 4

Social Saturday

GARRISON

4 p.m. Garrison Art Center
@garrisonartcenter on Instagram

Join a virtual open studio to stay connected with the arts community and artists. The Zoom meeting ID is 996 412 237.

SAT 11

Magazzino da Casa

COLD SPRING

3 p.m. Magazzino
instagram.com/magazzino

This weekly series will feature discussions with artists, Magazzino leadership and collaborators, as well as lectures by leading scholars.

KIDS & FAMILY

MON 6

Story Time

GARRISON

1:30 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library
instagram.com/desmondfishpubliclibrary
facebook.com/desmondfishlibrary

Lucille Merry and other members

of the staff will read children's books aloud. Also WED 8, FRI 10.

TUES 7

New Parents Support Group

GARRISON

11 a.m. – 1 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library

Via Zoom. Email beautifulmamas123@gmail.com for registration information. Continues weekly.

STAGE & SCREEN

MON 6

Live at Five

BEACON

5 p.m. Beacon Performing Arts Center
facebook.com/beaconperformingartscenter

Sing and dance for some fun relief. Offered weekdays.

CIVICS

SAT 4

Gov. Cuomo Live Briefing

10:45 a.m. Twitter @NYGovCuomo
Continues daily.

MON 6

City Council

BEACON

7 p.m. City Hall
cityofbeacon.org

Closed to the public but a video will be posted. See highlandscurrent.org/meeting-videos.

TUES 7

Putnam County Legislature

CARMEL

7 p.m. Historic Courthouse

Closed to the public but the audio of the meeting will be broadcast at putnamcountyny.com/legi/legislative-meetings.

TUES 7

Board of Trustees

COLD SPRING

7 p.m. Village Hall
coldspringny.gov

Closed to the public but a video will be posted. See highlandscurrent.org/meeting-videos.

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Living Inside Jonathan Kruk's Brain

Traditional ways to be memorialized for posterity are:

- A. Incredible Heroism
- B. Generous Charitable Contributions

Follow either of these paths and you may well end up a street, a library, or a hospital wing.

JONATHAN KRUK
MASTER STORYTELLER



A less traditional route is to live a life so colorful, so eccentric, so surprising that you end up a character in one of Jonathan Kruk's stories.



inside
J.K.'s
brain

This is how the miser Ashael Bell wormed his way out of obscurity. As Jonathan tells it, Bell owned a lot of real estate...

...but he chose to live in hillside caves around Garrison instead. He'd come down off the mountain with long hair, a thick beard, and rumpled clothes to collect rents. When he was found floating in the Hudson in 1897, his heirs claimed several hundred thousand dollars* were missing. Did he take it with him or is it still hidden in the Hudson Highlands? Coincidentally, Jonathan hikes there a lot.

← listening
to stories

Jonathan Kruk's book,
*Legends and Lore of
the Hudson Highlands*
can be ordered at
splitrockbks.com

By
Dele
Lucker

Another character that lives in Jonathan's imagination is the American Revolutionary soldier Robert Shurtleff. The beardless youth showed up at Fishkill Supply Depot to join the Fourth Mass Regiment. They headed south to fight the Loyalists in Westchester. Shurtleff took a lead ball to the thigh. The gallant patriot refused treatment and removed it himself with a needle and thread. Shurtleff later served under Lafayette at the Battle of Yorktown. After being discharged, he returned to Massachusetts, married, and gave birth to several children. Robert Shurtleff was also known as Deborah Sampson.

And who could forget the serving girl at Warren's Tavern?*

*now
the Bird and
The Bottle Inn

She was so busy gawking at George Washington, who had stopped in to dine, that she fell up the stairs. General Washington laughed himself silly. He probably needed a giggle at that point.

If you're in search of immortality, an exotic hairdo can help. Nathaniel Parker Willis was the leading magazine writer of his day. He built a home called Idlewild in Cornwall and promoted a Hudson Highlands lifestyle. But it was his man buns over each ear that ensured him a place in the Kruk pantheon.

Learning Letters *(from Page 11)*

Unusual Chickens for the Exceptional Poultry Farmer, written by Kelly Jones and illustrated by Katie Kath, is a tale told in letters from a 12-year-old to her grandmother, after the girl moves from a city to a farm. The story turns when the girl discovers one of the chickens can move objects with its brain.

Once a club member finishes the book, it's time to write a letter using a stationery kit available online from Grace Lo at Supplies for Creative Living in Cold Spring (suppliesforcreativeliving.com).

"This is not a school assignment, so the kids have freedom with their letters," Bender says. "They can write a response to the book, but they can also just write about their lives right now. What makes them happy? Are they worried or scared? Do they miss their friends? They can also simply have fun with their letters and include drawings, stickers, anything they like. For kids who want to write about the book and need a little help, Grace will be posting activity sheets and prompts."

Letter-writers are asked to sign them with their names and ages.

"It's a big change for all of us, and Grace and I both feel that a creative outlet can help," Bender says.



Illustration by Summer Pierre

Virtual Storefront

A year ago, for National Poetry Month, Split Rock Books and the Haldane Arts Alliance displayed student poetry in the bookstore's window. This year, under special circumstances, and with help from school librarian Carolyn Llewellyn, they've created a virtual storefront to share work by Haldane's second-graders. See splitrockbks.com.

Book club members will mail their letters to Split Rock, the bookstore will send each off to another member and the sender will receive a letter in return. The project will continue through April, or "longer if we're having too much fun to stop," she says.

Bender said that anyone who knows a child who would like to participate but whose family may not be able to afford the books should email her at info@splitrockbks.com.

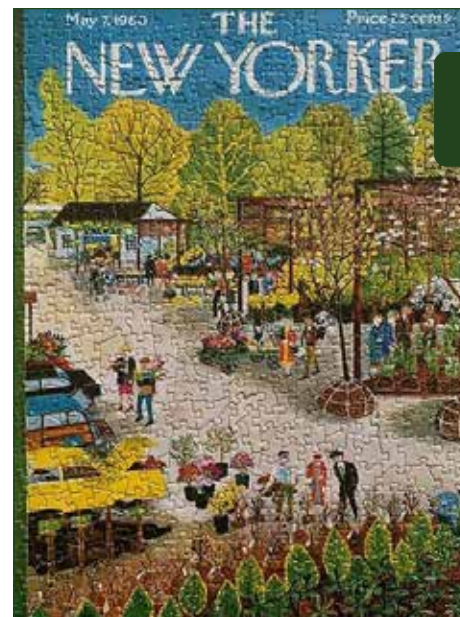
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Arden Blumenthal taking notes at the vernal pool on Mount Taurus.

Photo by B. Cronin

Spring Awakenings

Standing guard to protect vernal pools

By Brian PJ Cronin

You hear them before you see them, a high-pitched chorus of cheeps. Then the mist parts as the trail descends and you see their source: A trailside vernal pool on Bull Hill, or Mount Taurus.

For many Highlands residents, it's a familiar sound that is instantly recognizable as those of spring peepers, the tiny frogs that take to pools and swamps to call for mates. But for those who don't live in watery areas such as the Highlands, the sound can be confusing.

That's where Arden Blumenthal comes in. For two weeks in March, Blumenthal served as a vernal pool steward for the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference, spending her days positioned at a spot on the Washburn Trail.

The Chirper Chorus

Blumenthal is optimistic that the vernal pool steward program will return next spring, and she hopes to expand it to include citizen scientists. As she envisions it, volunteers will visit the pools a few times throughout the season to record data such as the air temperature, if it's rained in the past 24 hours and the frog call density on a scale of 0 to 3. (Zero is no calls, one means a few individual calls so that the listener can count the number of frogs, two means the calls are overlapping but the listener can still count the frogs, and three means a chorus.)

The data would allow the Trail Conference to map the pools, noting when the wood frogs are peaking and when the spring peepers start, as well as to create a record of the dates of the breeding seasons. As the Highlands continue to heat up, that kind of record would be useful in determining whether climate change is affecting amphibian breeding seasons.

"Hikers have come over and asked, 'Are those sirens?'" she said with a laugh.

Vernal pools are isolated and temporary wetlands that appear in the spring when water that was frozen in the ground starts to melt. If the water hits bedrock or hard clay, it will travel to the surface, forming a pool that lasts until the end of summer.

Because there are no fish in these ponds, amphibians can breed and lay eggs without being gobbled up. That is why amphibians seek them out, sometimes traveling up to a quarter of a mile once they emerge from hibernation. The season begins with the low quack of wood frogs, followed by the high-pitched cheeps of peepers, and then, finally, the silent salamanders. "They're this natural, temporal stratification of when everybody gets busy," Blumenthal says.

The pool that Blumenthal was stationed near is far from the only one in the Highlands, or even on Bull Hill. During some springs, even puddles near the fire tower on Mount Beacon will fill with tadpoles. But this particular pool's spot next to a popular hiking trail makes it an ideal location to educate the passing public.

As important as the pools are, they're threatened. Blumenthal's role was to speak to hikers about the importance of the pools and their fragility. Unleashed dogs are a particular threat. As a dog owner herself, Blumenthal says she understands the appeal of letting a pup run free in the mountains, which unfortunately includes splashing around the vernal pools. She says that in the hundreds of interactions she had with hikers, those who had their dogs unleashed were happy to leash them after hearing about how dogs could impact the pools. "People respond well because I'm not that intimidating," she says. "I'm pretty chipper."

Blumenthal moved to Beacon to join the Trail Conference only six weeks ago, after she defended her master's thesis at Purdue University on human/wildlife interactions as it relates to seabirds. Like the pools, Blumenthal's position as a vernal pool steward was temporary. She began the job the day the trails were reopened after a large fire on Breakneck Ridge, and it ended when the Trail Conference began telling hikers to stay home in response to overcrowding on popular trails while social distancing is in effect.

Having fewer hikers will benefit the pools, Blumenthal notes. But the restrictions also limit the number of people who will learn about them. "The vast majority of visitors have no idea what spring peepers or vernal pools are," she says. "How can you protect something if you don't know it exists?"

Gergely Pediatrics

It has been a busy few weeks here at Gergely Pediatrics trying to keep our doors open and everyone safe.

As of Wednesday March 25, we will be open for telehealth appointments. Please call us if you have a sick child or have any questions. We are here.

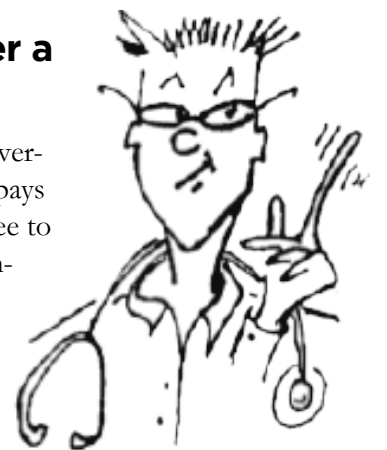
All physicals for children 3 years and older will be postponed and rescheduled for after April 20. If you have a physical in the next few weeks we will be calling to reschedule. If your child is younger than 3 years we will conduct a telehealth visit. Given the difficult circumstances, we will continue to offer the most comprehensive medical care possible for your children via telehealth. Also during this COVID 19 pandemic, office hours will remain as close to normal as possible, Monday through Friday. However we will be closed on Saturdays but still available by phone. If you should get the answering service and feel that you cannot wait until we open up again, please leave a message with the service. We will continue to keep you informed as events change, please continue to check our website for updates too.

What is a Virtual Visit?

Instead of traveling to Gergely Pediatrics, you can video conference with a provider using your mobile phone, computer or tablet device (equipped with a camera) via Zoom or Facetime. You and your provider will be able to see and talk with each other in real time – so you can ask questions and have a conversation the same way you would in your provider's office. Your provider will review your condition, guide you in moving forward after a procedure or have a prescription sent to your pharmacy, or to a lab draw station as needed.

Will my insurance cover a Virtual Visit?

Most insurance carriers are now covering this service, and are waiving copays associated with COVID19. Feel free to call your insurance company's member service number on the back of your insurance card to get exact benefit information for your own plan, as some company plans may vary.



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gergelypediatrics.com



Bio-degradable refill bags sold by Spice Revolution

A selection from Spice Revolution's inventory, clockwise from left: aleppo, green and garlic, Japanese 7 spice and garlic pepper.
Photos provided

Spicy!

New Cold Spring shop will be filled with flavors

By Alison Rooney

As American palates expanded with restaurants (remember those?) serving cuisine that originated around the globe, so did the appreciation of the spices that flavor them.

While the suburban home of the last century might have included “exotics” such as paprika, today’s home is as likely to have several varieties, including perhaps a couple made in Spain (sweet or hot) or several of Hungary’s eight flavor profiles.

Nine years ago, Lindsay Jean Fastiggi

decided it was time to tap into that market and founded Spice Revolution, which specializes in small-batch, locally sourced spices and blends, along with baked goods. For years, she has sold her products at farmers markets and online and she planned this spring to open a storefront at 161 Main St. in Cold Spring (the former *Current* office).

The coronavirus delayed those plans, although customers can shop at spice-revolution.com and arrange for curbside pickup or delivery. In the meantime, Fastiggi has filled her windows with product. “We’re using the time to get the store to be exactly what we want, so when it’s time to open it’ll be perfect,” she says.

The Shrub Oak native had many jobs in the food industry (she’s a pastry chef by trade), but it wasn’t until she was giving guided tours at a high-end, artisanal chocolate store in New York City that the lightbulb went on.

“I noticed a lot of people having conversations about spices,” she recalls. “They would say they were to find and not good quality.” She began with 30 spices and opened a small shop in Dobbs Ferry shop but it faltered, especially after Hurricane Sandy.

She had more success with farmers markets. “We were able to meet producers and providers and also see the needs of each more clearly,” she says, adding that she could “answer the 1,000 questions” that customers have about spices.

She and her husband decided on Cold Spring for a retail operation after spending time in the outdoors here with their 3-year-old daughter — “She’s already a foodie.” They liked “the vibe and the feel; we’ve been selling our cookies at the Cold Spring Cheese Shop, we did the Cold Spring Farmers’ Market once and everyone told us ‘You should be here’ — it seems like the right place for us.”

Spice Revolution stocks hundreds of spices, including many of their own blends,



Lindsay Jean Fastiggi, of Spice Revolution

Photo by A. Rooney

Seven Spices

We asked Lindsay Jean Fastiggi to name what she considered the five essential spices, and to recommend two of her own seasonings.

1. Salt (the most important flavor enhancer around)
2. Pepper (the most popular spice in the world)
3. Garlic powder
4. Cinnamon
5. Ginger

1. Shallot Pepper (dried French shallots, salt and pepper)

2. Garlic Pepper (garlic, onions, herbs, salt and pepper)

Coming Soon

Another local retailer with her eye on Main Street is hoping social distancing restrictions are lifted by the summer. Jacqueline Azria plans to open Paulette’s, a women’s clothing store and cafe at 114 Main St. in a space occupied by the marketing firm Tightrope Interactive, which is relocating to Beacon.

Azria, a Brewster resident who works as a fashion and creative consultant in Manhattan, said she will have access to the storefront on May 1 to begin renovations and would like to open in late May or early June. “I am hoping I can still stick with that plan, depending on upcoming developments,” she said.

in which “the flavors may be familiar but not in that combination,” Fastiggi says. They carry more than 40 types of sea salt, plus Himalayan, and 18 curries.

“If we love it, we add it,” she says. “We source it in small, manageable batches — you’re probably not going to use a pound of paprika — for everyday cooks. You don’t need a vat of tandoori for the two times a year that you make it.

“Spices in this country are radiated; you need to look for non-irradiated, which all of our spices are,” she adds. “Radiation kills the bacteria in its journey through 1,000 hands. The big bulk stores get a pound of cardamom and you don’t know where it’s been.”

Nearly all of Spice Revolution stock is sold at the same price. Only items whose

market prices fluctuate, such as vanilla beans and saffron, are priced separately. Spices that lose their essence when ground, such as cumin, are only sold whole.

Spice Revolution’s home-baked goods include a sweet-and-savory egg tart made with local eggs, cheese, greens and edible flowers. There is also a variety without cheese for those who can’t have dairy, Fastiggi says. And the spices are used in many of the baked goods. “We want to prove to our customers that sugar and flour is not a flavor!,” she says.

Once retail is allowed, Spice Revolution will be open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. from Thursday through Monday.

Shakespeare Fest Forced to Make Adjustments

*Cancels one play, reduces
ticket prices*

By Alison Rooney

Faced with diminished ticket sales and uncertainty about whether it will be able to host audiences in June because of the coronavirus pandemic, the Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival has canceled the production this year of a work it commissioned, *The Venetian Twins*, and will present *Richard III* and *Love's Labor's Lost* consecutively, instead of in rotation, to provide more flexibility in hiring and rehearsing.

In addition, the festival is selling tickets at up to 44 percent off at hvshake-speare.org — from \$25 to \$60 each, with further discounts for children, students and seniors — that can be used for any performance. The discounts are designed to raise the funds needed to move forward while also giving ticket buyers flexibility, said Artistic Director Davis McCallum.

"So many theaters have had to cancel part or all of their seasons, which has had a huge impact on the artists and the staff members," he said in a videotaped statement. "It's just so hard to know what next week or next month or the middle of the summer is going to look like, or to predict when it will again be safe to gather artists to go into rehearsal or to gather an audience to enjoy a show under the tent."

McCallum noted that last year, the festival sold 3,000 tickets during the last week of March, compared to 118 this year.

"I want to say a special thank you to those hardy souls who bought those tickets," he said, adding that the meager sales "got me thinking, we can't continue to sell tickets based on a calendar which at this point we know is highly subject to change and may or may not end up being real. But if we let the uncertainty undermine confidence in our ability to produce a season, then we're sunk, because we need that infusion of revenue to pay our artists when they go into rehearsal."

Reporter's Notebook

Time to Lean on Old Friends

By Michael Turton

Last week, as anxiety increased exponentially, along with the spread of the virus whose name shall not be spoken, I came home to find my porch occupied by an old friend I hadn't laid eyes on in nearly 50 years.

It was a book, the latest in my small collection that are important to me, some from long ago. I forgot I had ordered it and its arrival made me smile.

That evening, it also made me laugh. My boss, Joyce Simmons, gave me *The I Hate to Cook Book* for my 22nd birthday. I was the first male travel counselor hired by the Ontario Ministry of Tourism — working in an all-female office, with women mostly in their late 20s. They had a field day with me. I had just moved to Toronto from Oldcastle, a place that makes Garrison look like a metropolis.

Shortly after I was hired, my co-workers conspired to call me while I manned the tourism information line, which was part of my training. A sweet voice asked me about a nudist camp close to my hometown. I was doubly mortified. She was asking me about nudity! And I had never heard of the camp! It was fictitious. They got me.

In truth, "the girls" treated me well, more like a younger brother than the inexperienced country boy I was. I was touched by Joyce's gift, meant to help me through the culinary challenges of bachelorhood. Seeing that book again brought a flood of memories of colleagues who became friends — Ruth, Vickie, Carol, Aetna and Dale, among others.

My current book collection began several years ago, motivated by the vivid memory of Grade 3 and riding my bike to the bookmobile, where I chose *Through the Green Gate*. It was the first time I had chosen a book on my own.

Several decades later, I was almost as excited to find it again online, used, and ready to be shipped.



Books can bring back memories

Photo by M. Turton

When it arrived, the book's pleasant rural setting was only vaguely familiar. It was the artwork I remembered clearly — beautiful watercolors, featuring adults and kids all dressed way too well. It was a great start to my fledgling collection.

Allow me to introduce a few other old friends.

Scrubs on Skates chronicles a high school hockey player. I wasn't in high school yet when I first read it, but hockey was my passion. The author, Scott Young, was a sports reporter for the *The Globe & Mail* in Toronto who also did color commentary on *Hockey Night in Canada*, credentials that kept my eyes glued to every page. Somehow, my fondness for the book increased when his son Neil went on to become a music legend.

During the summer before Grade 9, I was surprised to receive a long list of required reading for English class. My eyes skimmed over Shakespeare and Steinbeck and fell upon a book titled, *The Eagle of the Ninth*. I actually shouted, "Yes! A baseball story!" What a letdown to learn it was about the disappearance of the Imperial Roman army's ninth legion around 120 AD. However, the book's portrayal of one of history's great mysteries seized my imagination.

There's only one textbook in my little library: *Latin for Canadian Schools*, and it does not hold pleasant memories. I reacquired it as a backhanded tribute to Father McGinn, whose teaching method included

a heavy hunk of oak named Handy Andy. Each time a student made a mistake, he wrote his name on the blackboard. At the end of class, everyone whose name appeared on the board lined up, bent over and endured a painful, Barry Bonds-style hit on the ass.

For each hit, we drew a sketch of Handy Andy in our textbook — the way military pilots might record their kills. At year's end I had earned 17 Handy Andys, and I was far from the worst. I still twitch when I leaf through that book.

Who Has Seen the Wind, by W.O. Mitchell, is much more pleasant to revisit. I usually give an author a page to get my attention, but this book, introduced simply as "the story of a boy and the wind," had me at the first sentence: "Here was the least common denominator of nature, the skeleton requirements simply, of land and sky — Saskatchewan prairie." I've never been to the Saskatchewan prairie. But I feel like I have.

One treasure remains elusive. It was written in the 1930s or 1940s. I've searched for *The Pitcher*, which is about baseball, not the Roman army, numerous times. I read it as a young teenager, quite proud of myself because it was the thickest book I had ever conquered. The hunt continues.

We can all use some relaxation these days. Why not reacquire yourself with some old friends you once found between two covers?



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Cape Cod Leather (Cold Spring)
capecodleather.com

Colorant (Beacon)
thisiscolorant.com

Kaigh (Beacon)
kaightshop.com

La Mère Clothing + Goods (Beacon)
lamereclothingandgoods.com

Last Outpost Store (Beacon)
lastoutpoststore.com

Loopy Mango (Beacon)
loopymango.com

Lorraine Tyne Bridal (Beacon)
lorrainetyne.com

Mountain Tops Outfitters (Beacon)
mountaintopsoutfitters.com

New Form Perspective (Beacon)
nfpstudio.com

Poor George Vintage (Cold Spring)
shoppoorgeorge.com

Reservoir (Beacon)
reservoir.us

Swing (Cold Spring)
swingshopping.com

ARTS & CRAFTS

Beetle and Fred (Beacon)
beetleandfred.com

Clutter (Beacon)
cluttermagazine.com

Morphicism (Beacon)
morphicism.com

Supplies for Creative Living (Cold Spring)
suppliesforcreativeliving.com

BEER & WINE

Artisan Wine (Beacon)
artisanwineshop.com

Dennings Point Distillery (Beacon)
denningspointdistillery.com

More Good (Beacon)
drinkmoregood.com

BOUTIQUES

Batt Florist and Sweets (Beacon)
battsfloristandsweets.com

Beacon Candle Company
beaconcandlecompany.com

Beacon D'Lite
beacondlites.com

Bird's Creations (Cold Spring)
bcsoapncandle.com

The Blue Olive (Cold Spring)
theblueoliveshop.com

Burkelman (Cold Spring)
shopburkelman.com

Cold Spring Apothecary
coldspringapothecary.com

Cold Spring General Store
coldspringgeneralstore.com

D. Thomas Miniatures (Cold Spring)
bit.ly/MinisNow

The Gift Hut (Cold Spring)
thegifhut.com

Hudson Beach Glass (Beacon)
hudsonbeachglass.com

Hudson Valley Brewery (Beacon)
hudsonvalleybrewery.com

Knot Too Shabby (Beacon)
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Niche Modern Lighting (Beacon)
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Other Worldly Waxes (Beacon)
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Zakka Joy (Beacon)
zakkajoy.com

BOOKS

Antipodean (Garrison)
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Riverside (Nelsonville)
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Split Rock (Cold Spring)
splitrockbks.com

JEWELERS

Jaymark (Philipstown)
jaymarkjewelers.com

King + Curated (Beacon)
thecuratedny.com

Lewis & Pine (Beacon)
lewisandpine.com

MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

EzraGuitar (Beacon)
ezraguitar.com

iGuitar Workshop (Nelsonville)
iguitarworkshop.com

Jake's Main Street Music (Beacon)
jakesmainstreetmusic.com

Lord of the Strings (Beacon)
johnvergaramusic.com

Vintage Guitars of Cold Spring
vintageguitarsofcoldspring.com

PET CARE

Feed R Us (Beacon)
feedsrus.net



STRESSED OUT?

BY MICHAEL MCKEE, PHD

THE RESPONSE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC, INCLUDING SOCIAL ISOLATION, HAS CAUSED A GREAT DEAL OF MENTAL STRESS. THE WORD ON EVERYONE'S LIPS IS UNPRECEDENTED, BUT WE ARE AN EXTRAORDINARY SPECIES. WE WILL FIGURE THIS OUT, AND ADAPT. HERE ARE SOME TIPS FOR MANAGING THE STRESS:

- ◆ Start to do those things you've been telling yourself you should do long before COVID-19 showed up: Get more and better sleep; eat healthy food and not too much of it (ease up on the desserts); get up and move around for at least 30 minutes a day. You're now spending more time with your family and you've gotten rid of your commute. There's more time to clean out the garage and decide which of those hundreds of books you really want to read. You always feel worse after reading the news, right? Restrict your news consumption to once or twice each day.
- ◆ Stay active and maintain a focus on the local, present moment. Set tasks for yourself that are specific, achievable, realistic and within your control. Do one thing at a time: when you're doing the dishes, do the dishes; when you eat and drink, remember to taste; while walking, don't brood, be walking.
- ◆ From time to time, fully imagine yourself on the other side — the moment that you return to a beloved person, place or room full of joyful people. Imagine that moment, and how good it will feel when this is all over.
- ◆ Remember that you can still laugh. Laughing helps us "unplug" from worries. It helps us reset, no matter what it is you're laughing about.

Michael McKee is a licensed psychologist with offices in Garrison who specializes in Cognitive Behavioral Psychotherapy (CBT). He can be reached at 914-584-9352 or info@mckeetherapy.com. For more information, visit mckeetherapy.com.

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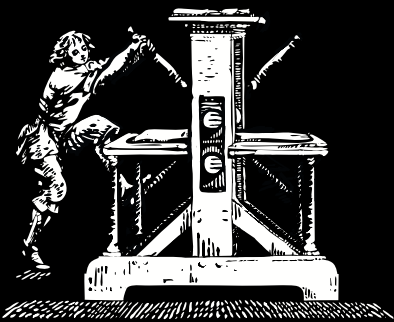
VENDORS NEEDED — The Putnam County Wine & Food Fest is seeking vendors, volunteers and sponsors for its 10th anniversary event, which will be held Aug. 8 and 9 at Mayor's Park in Cold Spring. For more information, call 845-842-0575 or visit putnamcountywinefest.com.

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A black bear at Mohonk Preserve in Ulster County

Photo by John Hayes

The Bear Facts

Biologist shares info on common species

By Alison Rooney

For Emily Carrollo, a state wildlife biologist, every week is bearish.

The focus of her work for the state Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) is solving issues of bear-human conflict in seven counties of the Hudson Valley. Extending on both sides of the river, her area has varying landscapes and population densities and includes the stretch from Garrison to Beacon.

She spoke last month at the Desmond-Fish Public Library about her job, which involves capturing and immobilizing black bears that are creating nuisances but also public outreach, such as her presentation, which was sponsored by the Putnam Highlands Audubon Society.

After introducing herself, Carrollo asked members of the audience to share any stories they had about black bears. Accounts included spotting a bear and her two cubs at a corner of Church Street in Cold Spring and an incident on Lane Gate Road where someone thought they'd heard a mouse, opened the front door and encountered a bear that scampered up the mountain.

Fleeing is typical behavior, Carrollo said, who stressed that these bears are rarely aggressive, with the exception of swatting with their arms when they feel threatened.

"They are big pussycats — I've had bears three times my size take off running at the sight of me," she said. "Most of the time I have conservation officers come out because of people, not bears. Attacks only occur when the bear is scared."

If you surprise a bear, "stand your ground; don't run, don't maintain the gaze," she said. "If the bear is not approaching you, talk to it — be loud and be heard, encourage it to move along, clap your hands." However, she added, it's unlikely

you will ever find yourself in that situation with a black bear.

Carrollo said there are between 6,000 and 8,000 bears in the state, with as many as 60 percent in the Adirondacks and 35 percent in the Catskill region. Bears cross the Hudson River on bridges or by swimming. There are few across the middle of the state because it is mostly agricultural land.

The DEC assesses conflict with black bears at four levels. The most serious is when the animals create a threat to property such as livestock or have broken into a home. Those bears may be trapped. A "possible hazard" is a repeat offender. "Minimal interference" is a bear that infiltrates garbage, a deck or birdbath. The lowest level is a sighting.

The number of bear complaints rises each year, Carrollo said, and most are lodged in the summer. In the fall, black bears adjust their behavior to avoid hunters (1,505 bears were "harvested" in the state in 2019 to control the population, including 24 in Dutchess and three in Putnam). In New York, black bears have no other predators, although cubs are sometimes killed by coyotes.

Each bear complaint is entered into a database and "most of the time we'll find that the same street has multiple callers," says Carrollo. She noted "it's illegal to feed black bears in New York, by accident or intentionally. If there's a problem, you can't continue

to do things like feed cats on your back steps."

Bears will be emerging from their winter semi-slumber soon, although Carrollo said black bears are not true hibernators. "They slow down; there's not much eating but they could grab a snack if it's a warm day. This spring we're expecting bears out a bit earlier because it's been warmer and there's already some blooming foliage for them to consume."

Black bear dens usually "look like a giant bird's nest" on the ground, "because as long as the cubs are covered, they're fine," she said. "They also create rock dens or move into rock cavities — anything warm and cozy. Occasionally they den up in trees, especially in areas prone to flooding."

Black bears usually den from mid-November through mid-April, especially when there's a harsh fall. "This past fall, though, there were lots of beechnuts and acorns for them to consume. Their omnivorous diet typically consists of berries, seeds, nuts, insects, ants, carrion, wild greens and live prey, most often a fawn."

Black bears give birth in January in the den. They can have from two to six cubs who weigh, at birth, between seven and 11 ounces. They're blind and deaf when born and usually stay with their mother for about 18 months. The father does not help raise the cubs. A bear lives 20 to 25 years. Adult females have a range of 10 to 20 square miles and males 100 square miles.



Wildlife biologist Emily Carrollo

Photo by A. Rooney

Roots and Shoots

Gardening in a Crisis

By Pamela Doan

A friend emailed this week to ask how my garden was coming along, assuming my shelter-in-place lifestyle would lead to great things.

I laughed. Then I cried a little.

Everyone's circumstances during this unprecedented suspension of normal life are so different. Some people are bored, looking for ways to fill their days; others are struggling to balance children, work and other demands and complications.

Here are a few ways to get fresh air and the stress relief of making things grow, from the very small to the more time-consuming.

If you have 15 minutes and want to grow food ...

Microgreens are the answer. Available as seed mixes, microgreens are the seedlings of vegetables like cabbage, kale, radish and other leafy greens. They grow fast, can be harvested repeatedly once the first true leaves appear, and are pretty foolproof. In just a week or two, you can be eating fresh greens that are full of nutrients in salads, sandwiches and other dishes.

Use any size shallow tray or container that's handy and is at least 2 inches deep. The roots aren't deep. Use whatever soil you have available. A sterile potting soil means less chance of weeds or disease, but garden soil is fine. Scatter the seeds and water. Place in a sunny window; it's too early to plant outside. Keep the soil moist.

After a week or two, when the first true leaves appear (depending on the mix), microgreens can be cut and eaten as needed. If you don't cut them to the soil level, many varieties will regrow and can be harvested again. Or just add new seeds to the areas that are harvested to have a continuous source of fresh greens.

If you've got free time for a couple of days ...

Involve any willing residents in your home in plotting out a vegetable garden in raised beds or in the ground. Building raised beds is more time-consuming, but it's easier in the long term and will require less maintenance. Detailed instructions can be found on many websites and my husband created a step-by-step guide for a friend that I'll share if you email me.

As of this writing, there are local sources for seeds and plants, including Sabellico, Vera's, Adam's Fairacre Farms and One Nature Garden Center, as well as online ordering. It's best to call ahead to discuss protocols and inventory before venturing out.

Square-foot gardening is fun way to engage children and could count as a math exercise. Make a grid of a garden bed with 12-inch sections. Decide what you want



Stay home and involve even the youngest members of the household in the garden.

Photo by P. Doan

to plant. Then follow the formula for how many plants per section.

Since you're working in 12-inch by 12-inch squares, the mature size of the plant dictates how many can be planted per square. If the space between plants is 12 inches, one plant per square foot; 6 inches, four per square foot; 4 inches, nine per square foot; or 2 inches, 16 per square foot. (For more details, see highlandscurrent.org/box-garden.)

If you have three to 40 hours (or more) ...

Take a class. The Cornell Cooperative Extension and Penn State Extension offer dozens of free classes online. Learn about pruning, healthy soil, mulching, vegetable growing and many more practical skills.

The New York Botanical Garden has moved many of its classes online, ranging from orchids to rooftop vegetable gardens and basic botany and horticulture classes. The classes aren't free; fees depend on the length of the course.

The Ecological Landscape Alliance is a nonprofit membership organization based in the Northeast that charges \$25 to \$100 annually, depending on your affiliation. It has many webinars, workshops and recorded classes on all aspects of sustainable landscaping available. See ecolandscaping.org.

Seed swap and local gardener resources

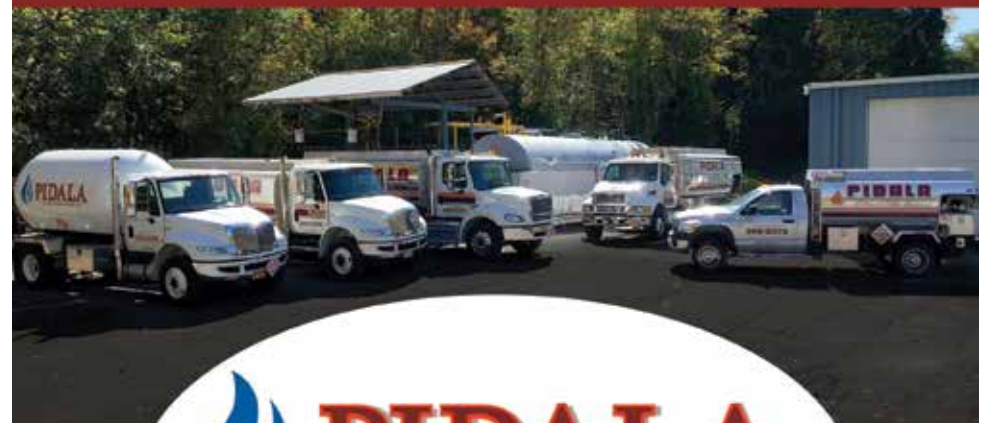
Panic-buying of seeds has made headlines this week and many online resources are reserving them for commercial growers or delaying orders. While I haven't delved deep into this anxiety-inducing trigger point, as a community we can help each other by sharing seeds and transplants responsibly. The Philipstown Garden Club, Master Gardener Volunteers from Cornell Cooperative Extension and other local

gardening groups on Facebook can help you find resources and seeds.

Pamela Doan, a garden coach with One Nature, has grown ferns in Seattle, corn

on a Brooklyn rooftop and is now trying to cultivate shitake mushrooms on logs. Email her at rootsandshoots@highlandscurrent.org.

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Reform Law *(from Page 9)*

Through February, the Dutchess District Attorney's office was diverting 29 percent of cases, he said. Last year "it was much lower — maybe 10 percent," he said.

"Simply put, we cannot, under the new discovery law, keep every case that's charged within the system because we would never be able to comply with discovery, even with the new positions," Weishaupt said.

Critics say because the old rules, derided as the "blindfold law," allowed prosecutors to release information at the last minute,

defense attorneys had little time to respond. Prosecutors also could withhold what they knew during plea-deal negotiations or before a defendant testified before a grand jury.

The law includes a list of 21 types of material that must be shared, including co-defendant statements, grand jury testimony, witness names, lab results, electronic recordings such as 911 calls, "materials favorable to the defense," deals cut with prosecution witnesses and evidence collected from cell-phones and computers. Prosecutors can ask a court to shield information they feel should be withheld, such as the names of witnesses

who may be endangered.

The law also requires the defense to share the evidence it gathers with prosecutors.

Alex Rosen, the criminal division bureau chief for the Dutchess County Public Defender Office, said that, before the law, his office would typically get key discovery material from prosecutors "if we're lucky, 10 days before trial."

Defense attorneys are now automatically receiving body- and dash-camera footage, surveillance video, grand jury testimony and other material.


"Now I get to look at that and say to








myself, 'You know what, my client needs to see this. How are we going to address this issue [in our defense]? Oh, look. Here's some contradictory information,'" Rosen said.

"Having the opportunity to do that — instead of within a week's period [before trial] — and have months to look through that stuff, that's critical," he said.

Judges can impose a range of sanctions if prosecutors fail to comply with the deadlines, including declaring a mistrial or dismissing some or all charges.

The HIGHLANDS Current 7-Day Forecast for the Highlands

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Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
57/41	62/41	65/43	64/44	60/42	59/37	55/38
						
Mostly cloudy	Cloudy	Pleasant with clouds and sunshine	Mostly cloudy	Low clouds and cooler with rain possible	Rather cloudy with a couple of showers possible	Mostly sunny with a shower possible
POP: 20%	POP: 25%	POP: 10%	POP: 25%	POP: 35%	POP: 30%	POP: 30%
N 6-12 mph	NW 4-8 mph	NW 4-8 mph	WNW 4-8 mph	ESE 6-12 mph	W 7-14 mph	W 8-16 mph
RealFeel 57/38	RealFeel 62/39	RealFeel 69/47	RealFeel 64/42	RealFeel 61/41	RealFeel 57/32	RealFeel 51/38

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.

Snowfall

Past week	0.0"
Month to date	0.0"
Normal month to date	0.1"
Season to date	15.5"
Normal season to date	31.8"
Last season to date	28.4"
Record for 4/3	Trace (1985)

SUN & MOON

Sunrise Sat., 4/4	6:33 AM
Sunset Sat. night, 4/4	7:25 PM
Moonrise Sat., 4/4	3:15 PM
Moonset Sat., 4/4	4:53 AM

Full	Last	New	First
			
Apr 7	Apr 14	Apr 22	Apr 30

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Puzzles

CROSS CURRENT

ACROSS

1. Uncategorized (Abbr.)

5. Web address

8. Portent

12. Maleficence

13. Menagerie

14. Scruff

15. Reading material

17. Matures

18. World-weariness

19. Salty solutions

21. Fix, in a way

24. Raw rock

25. Knighted woman

28. Nuisance

30. Kennedy or Koppel

33. Carte lead-in

34. Newton or Stern

35. Anger

36. Gasoline stat

37. Dilbert's workplace

38. Check bar codes

39. Born

41. Fourth dimension

43. Marketplaces of old

46. Got up

50. Story

51. Belgian surrealist Rene

54. Ear-related

55. Individual

16. List-ending abbr.

57. — moss

58. Workout venue

59. Sources for sauces

DOWN

1. Viral Internet phenom

2. Terrible guy?

3. Autograph

4. Contract section

5. Submachine gun

6. Reagan or Howard

7. Leopold's co-defendant

8. Broadcasting

9. Attractive

10. Duel tool

11. Loch — Monster

16. Speed along

20. Campus mil. org.

22. Church section

23. Leavening agent

25. Water barrier

26. Jungfrau, for one

27. Mississippi bloom

29. Munro pseudonym

31. Historic period

32. Hideaway

34. Concept

38. Episodic TV show

40. Put up

42. Scratch

43. On

44. Fence opening

45. Urban pall

47. Maestro Klemperer

48. Go no farther

49. Congers, e.g.

52. Whatever number

53. Jewel

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7 LITTLE WORDS

Find the 7 words to match the 7 clues. The numbers in parentheses represent the number of letters in each solution. Each letter combination can be used only once, but all letter combinations will be necessary to complete the puzzle.

CLUES

1 like the Rockies (11)

2 box office purchases (7)

3 they hunt down leaks (8)

4 Adriana Lima and Kate Upton (6)

5 strappy footwear (7)

6 put firmly in the soil (7)

7 35mm and digital (7)

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SUDO CURRENT

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

Puzzle Page Sponsored by



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Answers for March 27 Puzzles

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

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

1. CRISP, 2. JOINT, 3. PARDONED, 4. THEORIES, 5. OPULENCE, 6. CINEPLEXES, 7. BISHOP

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

SPORTS



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The Seniors: Baseball

By Skip Pearlman

Tick, tick, tick ...
That's the sound of the clock running out on the spring sports season at Haldane and Beacon high schools.

State and Section 1 officials were scheduled to re-assess the shutdown on Monday (March 30), but by then had already decided to pause competition for at least another two weeks. Gov. Andrew Cuomo has ordered all schools closed and extracurricular activities stopped until at least April 15.

While sports and just about everything else have taken a back seat during the COVID-19 pandemic, seniors at both schools had high hopes for the 2020 season.

Senior baseball players we spoke with this week were split — some believe the season is lost, while others say they would be happy to play a single game, or even to get to see their teammates.

"I have to hold on to hope that the season will survive, because I desperately want it to," said Ty Long, a pitcher and first baseman for Beacon High School. "But realistically, the chances of it going on are getting slimmer each day."

Sean Lise, a Beacon catcher, envisions part of the season being saved. "We may only get to play a few games in May," he said.

Shane Green, a pitcher and infielder, said he was trying to remain measured. "I'm not getting my hopes too high," he said. "Everybody is just trying to stay positive. I would even be happy with a reduced schedule. I just want to play my senior year of baseball." Outfielder Finnian Costello echoed



Haldane's Kole Bolte

that sentiment, saying that he'd like to see "a few games at least, just to get into the baseball vibe."

By contrast, outfielder Omar Dolmus said he is resigned to the fact that his high school career has ended. "I feel like it's over, with everything going on, and with the small amount of time we have left," he said. The Bulldogs' All-League pitcher and third baseman Besim Dika also said he didn't think the season could be saved.

At Haldane, outfielder Kole Bolte, a fourth-year varsity player, is the team's only senior. "A few days ago I was hopeful, but at this point, we're not going back to school until at least mid-April," he said. "Even if we were to have sports, there are many other schools that may decide to cancel, leaving

us with no one to play against."

Nearly all the players said what they miss most is not the game itself as much as their teammates and friends.

"The hardest part is to be productive," Dika said. "I am working, and a lesson learned is that everything happens for a reason, and not everything goes as planned in life."

That lesson has resonated with Bolte, as well. "You have to appreciate everything you have, because you never know when you won't have it. Going to the field and playing baseball or going out to eat or to the movies with your friends, you never thought twice about it."

If the teams don't get to play baseball this spring, each senior will be left wondering what might have happened during his final

Lost Season

This is the first in a series of articles in which *The Current* will profile senior athletes at Haldane and Beacon high schools who are likely to miss their spring seasons.

high school season.

Asked for a "dream-season" scenario, Costello offered: "In the sectional title game, each player comes up big. Sean 'Chico' Lise is behind the dish, and Besim Dika is throwing fireballs. Perfect day. Maybe one or two clouds in the sky, with a slight breeze. Winning and dog-piling 'Box,' our assistant coach."

For Bolte, the dream season would not be about seeing how far the team could advance in the tournament "but how much we could improve. I was looking forward to seeing how I improved from last year."

"I wanted to be able to have younger players look up to me like I looked up to the older players when I was their age," he said. "There were two people in particular, Justin Maldonado and Anthony Sinchi, who always encouraged me and helped to make me a better player. I hoped to be able to do that for someone."

Dika's said he imagines ending a title game in dramatic fashion. "Going up to the plate and hitting a walk-off to win the sectional championship," he said.

"We'd be an above-average team who struggled early in the season," Green predicted of the Bulldogs. "We'd battle through adversity, find our identity and start to win more games. Toward the end of the season, we'd be on a win streak heading into sectionals. We would be the No. 10 seed, upset higher-seeded teams along the way, end up in the championship, and bring the trophy back to Beacon."

For now, at least, the players wonder what the rest of their spring will look like.

"It stinks, but there's nothing we, as kids, can do," Green said. "I'd miss the baseball season, prom and graduation the most. This is what you look forward to for all of high school. If they get canceled, it will hurt."

Costello said that if the season is canceled, "while it would be sad, it would be the right choice. It would be great if we could resume our normal lives, but it could be far too risky to be in close contact with others."

Haldane Coach Simon Dudar said he feels for his players. "We'll stay hopeful until we get that final word," he said, adding that "in the grand scheme of things, it's not the most important thing."

Beacon Coach Bob Atwell noted his players' frustration and disappointment, but said "they're still holding onto hope. We all are, because we have to."



Beacon's Shane Green



Beacon's Besim Dika

File photos by S. Pearlman