

The HIGHLANDS Current

MAY 1, 2020

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Dutchess, Putnam: Keep Us Out of It

*Counties want state to
allow faster re-opening*

By Leonard Sparks and Holly Crocco

Dutchess County will not be automatically grouped with hard-hit Rockland and Westchester counties as Gov. Andrew Cuomo implements a regional approach to reopening businesses, County Executive Marc Molinaro said on Thursday (April 30) as Putnam County officials called for the same consideration.

Cuomo announced on Sunday (April 26) a plan for a phased-in re-opening of businesses closed because of the COVID-19 pandemic. It could begin as early as May 15, when his current stay-at-home order expires.

Re-opening would be done using the state's 10 Regional Economic Development Councils as a guide. Each region would need to demonstrate a 14-day decrease in COVID-19 hospitalizations and take other steps.

(Continued on Page 22)



FOLLOW THE LEADER – George Washington was gifted with a knit mask last week in Beacon. The statue was erected in 1999 by the Melzingah chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution to mark the bicentennial of the death of the nation's first president. During the Revolutionary War, Washington visited the nearby Madam Brett Homestead. *Photo by Ross Corsair*

Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival Cancels 2020 Season

*Hopes to offer online
workshops, readings*

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

The Bard once wrote that “all the world's a stage” — except not for the Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival this summer.

On Thursday (April 30), the festival announced it had canceled its 2020 season because of the COVID-19 threat, joining the darkened theaters of Broadway and shuttered music and cultural venues around the globe. The annual Shakespeare festival in Central Park in New York City was canceled on April 17, and summer

(Continued on Page 20)



HVSF purchased a new tent in 2018. It will not go up this year.

HVSF

Beacon: The Region's Greenest Community?

*City leaders strive for
environmental excellence*

By Jeff Simms

Earlier this year, shortly before Beacon received its bronze certification from the state's Climate Smart Communities program, Mayor Lee Kyriacou remarked during a City Council meeting that he hoped Beacon would soon become “the greenest community in the Hudson Valley.”

Roughly two months later, even amid a pandemic, the city is making strides.

Last month Beacon became the first municipality in the state outside of New York City to adopt “one-step ahead” energy-efficient construction standards. At the same time, a volunteer committee is discussing how to improve recycling and composting.

The NYStretch Energy Code, which was adopted by the City Council on April 20, was developed by the state Energy

Research and Development Authority after Gov. Andrew Cuomo in 2015 set 15-year targets for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, increased renewable energy production and less construction-based energy consumption.

The NYStretch code will change incrementally, so that its standards — which this year include metrics such as improved insulation and window performance, whole building electrical consumption monitoring, and renewable and electric vehicle readiness — stay one “cycle” ahead of the state's standard energy conservation construction code. The authority says that in 2020 the stretch code should provide participating municipalities with energy savings of around 11 percent.

It will apply to new construction and renovations.

“While some of Beacon's new projects already use more energy-efficient construc-

(Continued on Page 21)

5Q FIVE QUESTIONS: CHRIS BISHOP

By Chip Rowe

The Rev. Chris Bishop, of Garrison, is the founder of Stand with Iraqi Christians (standwithiraqichristians.org).

How did the organization come about?

Before we moved to Garrison [where his wife, Amanda Eiman, is the rector at St. Philip's Episcopal Church], I led St. Martin's in Radnor, Pennsylvania. In 2014, a parish member who had been doing construction in northern Iraq came home for Christmas. I asked him how it was going. He said, "My life is great, but do you know what's going on with the Christians over there?" To be honest, I wasn't aware there were Christians in Iraq. But at the time there were 120,000 in camps in Kurdistan, fleeing Da'esh [ISIS]. A bell went off: I needed to go there.

Was it dangerous?

I went in September 2015, at the height of the war, to the Christian quarter of Erbil, the capital of Kurdistan, which was protected by Kurdish fighters. We took \$15,000 to buy food, tablet computers for teachers at a refugee center, and to provide other aid. Someone suggested that I visit the Mar Mattai Monastery, but I wasn't told it was 20 kilometers from Mosul, which was the front line. As we got closer, there were more and more [Christian] checkpoints, and at the last one, a guard points and says, "Come with me." My driver was freaking out. They put me in a trailer with a commander, who says, "Who are you and what are you doing here?" I say, "I'm an Anglican priest from the U.S., going to visit the monastery." I think I'm going to jail. He says, "What's an Anglican?" He let me go, and when I asked the driver what it was all about, he told me: "It's the beard. They thought you were an undercover Muslim." I grew a beard because I thought it would help me fit in.

What are the challenges facing Christians in Iraq?

It's never been easy for them, although Saddam Hussein did protect the religious

minorities. He had a Christian as his foreign minister, and a Christian bodyguard. When the U.S. invaded in 2003, everything fell apart, and when the Caliphate attacked in 2014, things really went south. Christians were told to leave their homes, immediately. Most have since left Iraq, either for the U.S., Australia and Europe, or camps in Jordan and elsewhere. Some want to rebuild now that Da'esh has been defeated. You have to wonder: When 120,000 Christian refugees were fleeing these gangsters, where was the rest of the Christian church? These people have been in Iraq since the time of Jesus. They speak Aramaic, the language that Jesus spoke.

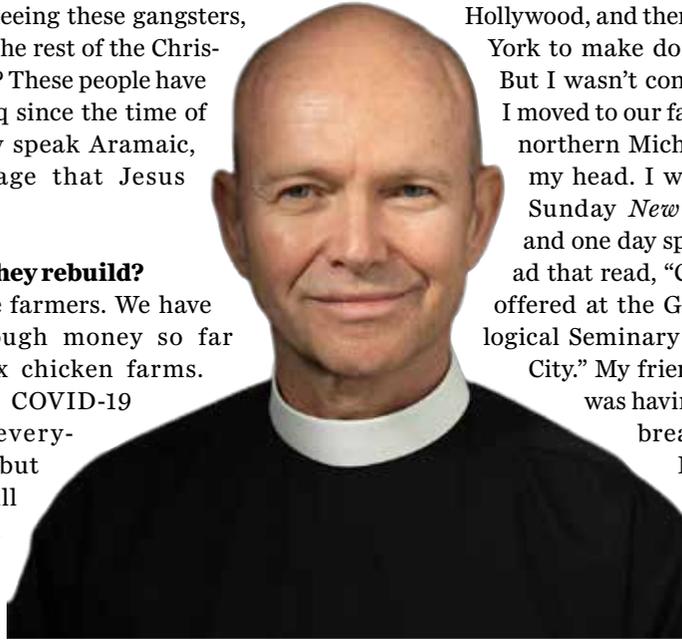
How will they rebuild?

Many are farmers. We have raised enough money so far to fund six chicken farms. Of course, COVID-19 screwed everything up, but they are still functioning. If you start a chicken farm, you

feed the farmer, the truck drivers, fodder producers, the restaurant and grocery workers. It's cascading goodness. Next, we want to start a sheep farm; for \$6,000 you can start a sheep farm! Then a cattle farm.

What drew you to the ministry?

My dad was an Episcopal priest, but when I was a teenager, I told him, "I don't believe any of this stuff." I went to the Columbia University film school and Hollywood, and then back to New York to make documentaries. But I wasn't content. In 1999 I moved to our family cabin in northern Michigan to clear my head. I would buy the Sunday *New York Times* and one day spotted a small ad that read, "Courses being offered at the General Theological Seminary in New York City." My friends thought I was having a psychotic breakdown, but I went and couldn't have been happier.



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ON THE SPOT

By Michael Turton

What has been your most memorable shelter-in-place meal?

“ Five of us rotate cooking and selecting a movie – from Hitchcock and rib-eyes to meatballs and Harry Potter! ”

~ Joe Curto, Cold Spring

“ My girlfriend made black-bean burgers with spicy aioli mayo, multi-salad, roasted sweet potatoes and steamed, fresh-picked garlic mustard greens. ”

~ Chris Toland, Beacon

“ We've eaten well (lamb) and really bad (Beefaroni for breakfast). I won't go in big stores, so the selection is limited at the local gas station. ”

~ Gillian Thorpe, Cold Spring

Challengers Set for November

Democratic presidential primary canceled

By Chip Rowe

After pushing the Democratic presidential primary back by two months to June 23 because of the COVID-19 shutdown, the state Board of Elections last week canceled it altogether.

In Putnam County, there will not be a vote in Philipstown. The only primaries will be held for registered Republicans to decide who will be on the ballot in November as the candidate for the county legislator who represents Kent (Toni Addonizio is being challenged by Paul Denbaum, a member of the Kent Town Board) and Mahopac (Amy Sayegh will face former legislator Dini LoBue). Independence Party members will also decide in Putnam Valley on a candidate for town justice.

In Dutchess County, including Beacon, Peter Forman and Jessica Segal will compete for the Green and Independence Party lines for county judge, while Eric Carter and Peter Bradley will face off to be the region's candidate for the Serve America Movement (SAM) state committee.

Other races that will appear on the November ballot:

- Assemblyman Jonathan Jacobson, a Democrat whose district includes Beacon, will be challenged by Andrew Gauzza IV, a Republican who last year lost his second bid for a seat on the Beacon City Council.
- Assemblywoman Sandy Galef, a Democrat whose district includes Philipstown, will be challenged by Republican Lawrence Chiulli, whom she defeated in 2018 with 65 percent of the vote.
- State Sen. Sue Serino, a Republican whose district includes the Highlands, will again face Democrat Karen Smythe, whom Serino defeated in 2018 by 688 votes of more than 118,000 cast.
- U.S. Rep. Sean Patrick Maloney, a Democrat in his fourth term, will face Chele Farley, a Republican who in 2018 challenged Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand, and Scott Smith, who is running on the Serve America Movement line. As of March 31, Maloney had \$893,000 in his campaign fund and Farley had \$258,000. Smith reported \$246 on Dec. 31.

On Saturday (April 25), Gov. Andrew Cuomo issued an order to have absentee ballot applications mailed to every registered voter in the state, although he said in-person polling would still take place. Early voting is scheduled for June 13 to 21.



Dutchess School May Close After 86 Years

Parents, teachers, alums race to create rescue plan

By Leonard Sparks

Parents, teachers and alumni are racing to prevent the closure of the private Poughkeepsie Day School, which for 86 years has provided a progressive education to children from the Hudson Valley, including many from Philipstown and Beacon.

In March, more than 100 parents, teachers and students attended an emotional meeting at PDS, during which the school's board members said that years of declining enrollment and deficits had been exacerbated by the COVID-19 shutdown.

A group called PDS Lives has since formed to attempt to keep the school open, but officials say enrollment has fallen by 40 percent over the last six years, to just over half the school's capacity of 320 students, and the budget deficit for 2019-20 is \$1.4 million.

Nearly 300 children and teenagers were enrolled five years ago, but this year there are only 172. Despite nearly \$1 million in annual spending cuts, net revenues over the past four years fell by \$2.2 million.

The March meeting was a prelude to the board's announcement on April 18 that there was no "viable plan to operate next year" and that the school would close on June 30. The board said it has asked donors for the OK to use restricted funds and collected money owed to the school to get through 2019-20.

Stanfordville resident Christine Gerstle, whose daughter enrolled in PDS' high school last fall, said she was "very shocked and very saddened" at the announcements. Now, she is part of the effort to save the school.

"The response from alumni, from parents of alumni, from grandparents, from the broader community has just been tremendous," she said. "We're feeling like, OK, we're going to open these doors in September."

Founded in 1934 as a parent-owned cooperative with 35 students in kindergarten through eighth grade, the school features programs in arts, crafts, music and languages. By 1971, it had added a high school. Tuition ranges from \$19,000 to \$33,000 annually, depending on grade. More than half of the students receive financial aid.

Beacon school kids traveled to PDS on a bus provided by the school district under a state rule requiring such transportation if the independent school is within 20 miles.



The Poughkeepsie Day School, founded in 1934, has seen enrollment plummet in recent years.

Photo by L. Sparks

Andy Galler, a Garrison resident whose daughter is a PDS graduate and whose son is a 10th grader there, said a group of parents who named themselves the "Philipstown Poughkeepsie Day School Bus Group" used to shuttle local kids to and from PDS in a van.

Later, around 2015, PDS contracted to pick up students in Philipstown and in the Rhinebeck/Red Hook area, charging parents about \$1,500 per student, per year, he said.

"It was a huge help and should have been used to gain more students from Putnam County," Galler said.

Galler first became attracted to the school as an undergraduate at Bard, where he babysat for professors' children attending PDS. He likes the school's emphasis on hands-on learning and the nurturing of children's specific interests. Sending his own children to PDS was "a dream come true," he said.

Brian Arnoff, who lives in Beacon and owns Kitchen Sink Food & Drink and Meyers Olde Dutch, graduated from the school in 2005. "My experience was great," he said. "I'm lucky to say that I went there."

While some parents, like Galler, are finding other schools for their children, Gerstle said she and other parents are committed right now to reopening in the fall.

Dorothy Luongo, a teacher at Poughkeepsie Day and the parent of a second grader at the school, is among the faithful.

"We've been seeing enrollment declines, so it's not surprising to know that the school

is experiencing some financial trouble," said Luongo, who teaches fourth and fifth grade. "What was surprising is that some definitive decisions were being made without seeking support from the larger community or enlisting the skills of the larger community."

Some PDS Lives members are expected to assume board seats during a membership meeting this month. Reopening will mean finding the money to cover a "balloon" bond payment due at the end of the year.

In addition to fundraising and pursuing grants, Gerstle, Luongo and other supporters would like to see a sliding-scale tuition model to make the school affordable for a greater number of families. "We can't sustain a tuition model that one might see in New York City," Gerstle said.

They also believe that the school's pool of alumni is under-utilized as a reservoir of financial support. Chris Gahn, who graduated from Poughkeepsie Day in 2004 and is an information-technology professional at Vassar College, said alums "didn't really hear much about the plight of the school."

Gahn said the pandemic may spur a flight upriver from New York City that will bring more schoolchildren to the area.

"There's a pot of gold at the end of the rainbow," he said. "We're going to see an acceleration in the renaissance that's happening in Poughkeepsie, for example, and that has been happening in Beacon for quite a while."

Beacon Man Killed by Police in New Jersey

Officers say he led them on pursuit

The New Jersey Attorney General's Office is investigating the death of a Beacon man, Bradley G. Pullman, 48, who was shot by police officers on Sunday (April 26) in Wayne.

The attorney general said in a statement

that at about 4:38 p.m. an officer from the Mountain Lakes Police Department attempted to pull over a Lexus sedan after he observed it perform an illegal U-turn.

Police said the car did not stop and a pursuit ensued, involving two other police departments. It ended in Wayne at the interchange of Routes 46 and 23 and Interstate 80 when multiple officers fired at Pullman, fatally wounding him. He was pronounced

dead at the scene. Police said a .380-caliber pistol was recovered from his vehicle.

The investigation is being conducted by the Integrity Bureau within the Office of Public Integrity and Accountability and the New Jersey State Police Major Crime Bureau. A state law enacted in 2019 requires the attorney general's office to investigate any killing by a law enforcement officer.

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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

Hiking restrictions

Roadside parking on Route 9D is a problem ("State Closes Highlands Park Trails," April 24). However, solving that problem in the name of COVID-19, and more importantly, closing trails and roping off parking areas around town, is an overreach.

There is no evidence that restrictions are warranted in Philipstown, or that limiting access to outdoor recreation slows virus transmission. However, we do know limiting access to fresh air, physical activity and general freedom of movement has deleterious consequences on well-being.

The daily change in new COVID-19 cases in Philipstown is flat, as are countywide hospitalizations. Although testing has been limited, if we were experiencing the exponential increases seen in other communities, these metrics would reflect that, as we would expect a proportional increase in severe cases. This suggests local policies have been sufficient to flatten the curve and does not support more aggressive action.

There is also no evidence that utilization of hiking trails increases virus transmission. Exposure is defined as being within 6 feet for at least 15 minutes. Even on a narrow trail it is not difficult to avoid exposure. Furthermore, there is evidence that virus droplets and aerosols disperse and become

less concentrated in open air, and are less stable when exposed to the elements.

These are worrying times, and our picture of this virus changes daily. However, that does not mean we should let hysteria take over. While the closing of trails and parking areas might seem relatively innocuous, we are setting a dangerous precedent by allowing restrictions to be placed on our daily lives which do not have clearly demonstrated benefits which outweigh their costs.

Kathleen Taylor, *Nelsonville*

I salute the local politicians and individuals who made this trails-closing possible, and I believe we will all be safer and healthier because of it.

As an environmental educator and board member of Putnam Highlands Audubon Society and the Little Stony Point Association, I've been concerned about the out-of-control situation at Breakneck Ridge for years, and it seems like poor behavior and sheer numbers during this pandemic have been the straws that finally broke the camel's back.

State Parks and other agencies are immediately going to need a strategic management plan to deal with the influx of hikers who come here and can't go to their favorite spots. Where do we suggest they go? Fahnestock? Bear Mountain? The Catskills? Who is

going to be out there on Route 9D, and online, managing this? And how do we keep crowding from happening at other locations?

Also, let's learn from this so that, when the pandemic is over, the absurd and dangerous situation at Breakneck Ridge is finally handled so that all parking along 9D is prohibited, except for small lots off the road. One or two thousand people hiking at one location seems to me the definition of insanity, or at the very least, a bureaucratic mess of titanic proportions.

Pete Salmansohn, *Garrison*

It's unfortunate that people from the city ruined it for locals. Hiking was a great form of exercise. It wasn't hard to maintain the social distancing in the early spring, but further into the season we noticed many people with New Jersey plates and groups of cars with seven or more. We knew it was only a matter of time until the trails closed, especially after Sunday (April 19), when it was like an amusement-park parking lot.

Alec Pinto, *Fishkill*

Now the hikers park in nearby residential neighborhoods and clog the streets, gather in big crowds and ignore No Hiking signs to head up informal paths.

Steve Smith, *Cold Spring*

What we need to do is create legal parking spaces with barriers so that folks cannot create their own spaces at every trailhead in the state. Connect the state and local municipalities so they have consistent regulations and fines: \$250 per car for illegal parking near a trailhead would make a dent. The current \$75 fine is a joke to folks from Manhattan; they pay that much to park for the day there.

Enforcement is key. This problem is going to get much worse as temperatures rise. The people who will be most negatively affected and will experience most deaths: small communities that border the parks. (Everyone stops for gas, to use the bathroom, to grab-and-go, for an illegal yard sale, for a farm store.) We are not prepared and we don't have the facilities.

People who come up and rub elbows in the time of plague don't give a fig about your health or safety. They demonstrate this the moment they get in the car and drive to your trailhead. They are in clear defiance of state, local, somewhat federal and World Health Organization directives not to travel. Any negotiating and complaint beyond that is futile. Your granny's life is not as valuable as their day. That's the message. Fight back. Do it now because they will fight like hell to stop you when it gets warm.

Lea Boyer, *via Facebook*

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LETTERS AND COMMENTS

(Continued from Page 4)

Main Street is busy enough with people looking for air. Now a person cannot even hike alone on a weekday morning. It seems reckless to close the trails on Monday to Thursday when they are barely used.

Eric Szyszka, *via Facebook*

People don't seem to realize that risking their own health means risking the health of others. Some people who would prefer to stay home must leave their homes, whether for work, supplies or an emergency. They might have no way of avoiding the foolish people who believe they are only risking their own safety. It's like drunken driving; it's not only dangerous to you, but to society.

Katelyn Jo Fina, *via Facebook*

I hike many Philipstown trails every week. Regrettably, the only trails where about 90 percent of hikers didn't practice physical distancing were those off Route 9D. Other local trails have been, by and large, used by hikers who step off the trail or turn their backs.

Shelley Gilbert, *via Facebook*

COVID-19 at prisons

My brother is an inmate at the Fishkill Correctional Facility ("Beacon Prison Virus Cases Highest in State," April 24). I am so worried. They need to do something soon. This is all so scary. I feel so bad for the inmates who are just waiting their turn to get ill and possibly die. I also feel bad for the staff.

Tia Billyard, *Portville*

My fiancé is serving time at Fishkill because of a parole violation and is scheduled to be released on Aug. 11. The prisoners have no access to hand sanitizer or masks and have a limited supply of hand soap. They are only allowed to shower three times a week. The virus is spreading like wildfire. At this point it would be in the best interests of everybody to start releasing inmates who do not pose a threat. Although I know Gov. Andrew Cuomo has said he is looking into it, he has dragged his feet. He is putting everybody in danger!

Tonya Humiston

Rolling Hills

Obviously, the Rolling Hills developers

Counting the Highlands

Response rates to the 2020 U.S. census, as of April 28, along with historical data, are at right. 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	61.0	69.1	71	72
Putnam County	57.2	66.8	67	56
Philipstown	56.8	66.2	67	64
National	54.3	66.5	67	65
Beacon	53.5	66.0	-	-
18th District	53.3	67.2	65	61
Nelsonville	53.2	65.8	54	66
Dutchess County	52.1	65.7	68	64
New York State	48.5	64.6	67	62
New York City	43.5	64.0	55	53
Newburgh	32.0	50.2	45	44

Source: 2020census.gov

thought they had an "in," which the public never wanted and voted Supervisor Bob LaColla out ("Fishkill Ends Review of Zoning Request," April 24). Route 9D is already overcrowded, and the water departments of towns and sanitary waste tenuous. What really happened is the developer tried to shotgun it and got timed out.

David Mills

I agree with Fishkill Supervisor Ozzy Albra: We need to stay within the zoning law. Route 9D already cannot accommodate the traffic at certain times of the day. It's about time to keep the self-serving developers, who don't live here, from further congesting our area. Thank you, Mr. Albra and the Fishkill board, for protecting our town.

Helen McCormick, *Wappingers Falls*

Why don't we just zone it for horse-and-buggy transportation? Or require phone booths every couple of miles on Route 9D?

People averse to progress stay stagnant. This project would bring construction jobs, tax revenue and opportunities for the community. Why are we so entrenched to keep our area "a nice little town like it used to be"? This is a period of historic contraction in our country. Wake up and embrace progress. The notion that traffic will be the problem is a cop-out.

Hugh Lawrence, *Fishkill*

the gap-filled safety net, untended for decades, that has placed us all at risk. Is there any reason to hope?

While our leaders dot the i's and cross the t's on relief legislation, the response in our communities has been immediate. From sewing face masks; to donations of food, time and money; to volunteer doctors and nurses; to neighbors looking in on neighbors; to arts organizations like ours sharing their talents to buoy the spirit, the kindness has been unstinting, targeted and sustained. Together, we are building new bridges across old divides.

Even in the midst of a ravaging storm, we can see ahead a quiet, clear morning.

Kathleen Hoekstra, *Putnam Valley*
Hoekstra is vice president of the Tompkins Corner Cultural Center.

Putnam prep

Thank you, Philipstown Supervisor Richard Shea, for pointing out the obvious lack of concern about COVID-19 by Putnam County officials. As a county employee, I was flabbergasted when we were told that if our building were contaminated, we need not worry. We would be supplied with heated tents so that we could work outside.

In the Department of Social Services, we wanted protocols set up for the receptionists to ask three basic questions of visitors about how they felt. The commissioner decided that it would be best for a case-worker to ask them. Meanwhile, any appli-

(Continued on Page 6)

Many of us who have lived here our whole lives are not averse to change, but we are averse to allowing damage to be done to what we cherish. Progress is fine — it just needs to be done sensibly, without overcrowding the schools, fire districts, traffic and environment.

Vicky Pampalone, *Fishkill*

Something new

While the suffering and sacrifice we are witnessing can only be described in superlatives, life will return to normal, for many of us, in time. But COVID-19 will be the final straw for many people who were already living on the edge, teetering above

This Tuesday, May 5, is a new global day of giving and unity.

#GivingTuesdayNow

Created as an emergency response to the unprecedented need caused by Covid-19, the day is set aside to prompt an increase in grassroots generosity, citizen engagement, business and philanthropy activities and support for communities and nonprofits around the world.

DONATE

Be a part of

#GivingTuesdayNow

by supporting your nonprofit organizations
in the Hudson Highlands.

For a list, see:

highlandscurrent.org/nonprofit-guide

The Highlands Current

is participating as a member of the Institute for Nonprofit News.

Donations can be made through

NewsForGood.org,

a website created to support essential news reporting.

For more information on #GivingTuesdayNow,
see GivingTuesday.org and NewsForGood.org.

NOTICE

NOTICE OF COMPLETION OF TENTATIVE ASSESSMENT ROLL PURSUANT TO SECTION 506 AND 526 OF THE REAL PROPERTY TAX LAW

Notice is hereby given that the Assessor for the Town of Philipstown, County of Putnam, has completed the tentative assessment roll for the current year. A copy will be available May 1, 2020 at the Office of the Town Clerk, Town Hall, 238 Main Street, Cold Spring, NY, where it may be examined by any person interested until May 26, 2020. On that day, the Board of Assessment Review will sit at the Town Hall, Cold Spring, NY between the hours of 4-8PM to hear and examine all complaints in relation to such assessments.

The Real Property Tax Law requires that grievances be in writing. Forms for written submission are available in the Assessor's Office, Town Hall, Cold Spring, NY.

Dated this 24th day of April 2020
Brian J. Kenney, Assessor

Current Hires Community Manager

The Highlands Current has named a community and events manager to oversee social media and engage with members and readers.



Teresa Lagerman, who lives in Cold Spring with her family, is the co-founder of Condensed, a branding and design firm, and has been working with startups and nonprofit organizations for more than a decade.

Before moving to the village, she owned a co-working space in Brooklyn and created an annual fair, called Cut & Crafted, for local makers. A native of Madrid, she holds a bachelor's degree in advertising and international relations from Universidad Nebrija.

Lagerman is also a board member of the Cold Spring Chamber of Commerce. She can be reached at community@highlandscurrent.org.

The Current, which serves residents of Cold Spring, Philipstown, Garrison, Nelsonville and Beacon, was able to fund the position, as well as that of a senior editor, with donations from readers through its membership program.

(Continued from Page 5)

cants for services saw four people before the caseworker, me included. There were unproductive meetings by management every day. They wisely just started following the guidelines that other counties already had in place. Dutchess County Executive Marc Molinaro recently posted a thank-you message to the other county executives. The one omission? MaryEllen Odell.

Pauline Marston, *Dover Plains*

Indian Point

The loss of Indian Point will significantly increase the production of greenhouse gases ("Indian Point to Begin Shutdown," April 24). It's a shame to throw away a perfectly good operating nuclear plant with a 58-year record of safe operations. But that is par for the course in our throwaway society.

John Basile, *Stillwater*

Basile was the plant manager of Indian Point 2 from 1981 to 1988.

Where will the electricity that Indian Point 2 generated come from, and at what price? Who will pay for the lost wages and taxes that were generated by the displaced plant employees and the businesses they supported? What will happen to housing values?

Everything we do in life has a risk, starting from the time men left their caves to find food. Let's control it the best we can and keep improving.

Andrew Lasko, *Bardon, British Columbia*

LETTERS AND COMMENTS



From what I understand, nuclear energy generating technology has improved dramatically since Indian Point was built, but Indian Point is old-school. Plants of its generation are not "perfectly" safe, and they are certainly not "clean energy." In the short term, for a hot second, it doesn't produce the pollution that other power generating plants do, but the long-term pollution is there, and it's far more hazardous. Spent fuel rods have to be stored and cooled for 10 years, and then stored again for 10,000 years. If something goes wrong

in the 10-year cooling process, that is a potentially catastrophic situation.

When Indian Point was built, they did not factor in the two earthquake fault lines across the river, which is alarming. If something major goes wrong at these plants, it is catastrophic on a global level, which means there should be an absolute guarantee that there is almost no risk that anything can go wrong. They should be able to operate with zero risk, or they should be decommissioned and the technology perfected.

Johanna Altman, *via Facebook*

NEWS BRIEFS

Haldane High School Recognized

State names it one of top public schools

The State of New York on April 23 named Haldane High School in Cold Spring as one of 582 public schools in the state that achieved the highest level of achievement and progress during the 2018-19 school year. Putnam Valley High School also made the list. About 13 percent of the state's public schools were recognized.

Hudson Valley Seed Changes Name

Nonprofit is now Land to Learn

Hudson Valley Seed, which has been teaching local elementary school students about gardening since 2012, has changed its name to Land to Learn.

Air Rhodes, the nonprofit's director of development, said the original name was causing too much confusion because many people thought the organization sold seeds. "We buy



and plant a lot of seeds, including from the Hudson Valley Seed Co., but we don't sell any," Rhodes said. "We're looking forward to people knowing us as who we are: a regional, social-justice-rooted garden education organization."

The organization also unveiled a new logo by Emily Sylvester, a graphic designer in Beacon. For more information, see landtolearn.org.



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Editor's Notebook

Top Secrets

By Chip Rowe



This past week *The Highlands Current* was named one of three finalists for a national First Amendment Award for its coverage of a Putnam County secrecy law designed to make it more difficult for the public and press to access records.

The award, presented by the News Leaders Association, recognizes journalism that “protects or advances freedom of information principles and/or overcoming significant resistance to the application of the First Amendment.”

In a series of reports, Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong detailed an effort by the county executive and eight of the nine legislators to implement a system that, until it was later revised, allowed any county employee or contractor to mark a document “Confidential” to make it secret, with penalties assessed on anyone who shared the information. Only Nancy Montgomery, who represents Philipstown and is the only Democrat on the panel, protested that maybe the law was a bad idea.

In August I wrote an “Editor’s Notebook” thanking the Legislature for making my job easier with its new law, because each month I could request through the state Freedom of Information Law (FOIL) all documents marked “Confidential” to learn what the county thought should be kept secret. No more fishing expeditions! The awards announcement — and the rejection on April 23 of my most recent FOIL request for “confidential” records — made me think it was time to review the results.

I have not submitted any requests since the COVID-19 shutdown. But each month from August to January, I asked the Legislature, county executive and Law Department to provide any information marked “Confidential” and — using language from the proposed law — “kept, held, filed, produced or reproduced by, with or for the [agency], in any physical form whatsoever (including electronic media), including, but not limited to, reports, statements, examinations, memoranda, opinions, folders, files, books, manuals, pamphlets, forms, papers, designs, drawings, maps, photographs, letters, microfilms, computer tapes or discs, rules, regulations or code, whether a draft or final document.”

The results, so far, are at right. I have posted all the documents deemed safe for the public at highlandscurrent.org/secrets. Proceed at your own risk.

As background, the Freedom of Information Law — which anyone can use — provides nine vague exemptions that government officials can cite to keep documents secret. For easy reference, we have used fun icons for each of those cited by the county when denying records.

A few observations: (1) When a FOIL request is denied, there is no indication of the number of documents withheld, so it’s not clear how many are being marked “Confidential” each month; (2) Despite most not having law degrees, county employees and legislators appear highly skilled at only marking documents “Confidential” that will later be determined by the Law Department to be exempt from FOIL; and (3) It appears I wore out my welcome sometime in October.

AUGUST 2019

County Executive
“No responsive documents”

Legislature
Partially denied



Four documents were provided:

(1) A memo written by Sandra Fusco, commissioner of planning, to County Executive MaryEllen Odell and others regarding the “Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Program, 2020, 2021 and 2022”; (2) A table showing damage in 2019 to county-owned vehicles involved in crashes; (3) A preliminary application for a grant from the State and Municipal Facilities Capital Program by the Sheriff’s Department to receive funds for license plate readers; and (4) A sample lease for tenants at the Putnam County Veteran’s Residence, along with a welcome packet for renters.

Law Department
Denied



SEPTEMBER 2019

County Executive
“No responsive documents”

Legislature
Partially denied



One document was provided: A grant application from the Sheriff’s Department to buy license-plate readers (see above).

Law Department
Partially denied



One document was provided: A letter from County Attorney Jennifer Bumgarner to Stephen Tomann, a Cold Spring attorney who represented

the disbanded Putnam County Visitors Bureau, asking him to provide the newly appointed tourism director with invoices and canceled checks from the first two quarters of 2019 so she could apply for \$45,629 in matching funds from the state.

OCTOBER 2019

County Executive
“No responsive documents”

Legislature
“No responsive documents”

Law Department
Denied



NOVEMBER 2019

County Executive
Denied



Legislature
“No responsive documents”

Law Department
Denied



DECEMBER 2019

County Executive
“No responsive documents”

Legislature
Denied



Law Department
Denied



JANUARY 2019

County Executive
“No responsive documents”

Legislature
Denied



Law Department
Denied



KEY



Attorney-client privilege
— “Certain responsive

records are not subject to disclosure by state law, that is N.Y.S. Civil Practice Law and Rules § 4503, which makes records consisting of attorney-client communications privileged and not subject to disclosure. Accordingly, access to these records is denied under N.Y.S. Public Officers Law (“POL”) § 87(2) (a) which provides for denial of a FOIL request when records are specifically exempted from disclosure by state law.”



Inter-agency or intra-agency materials
— “Responsive

documents maintained by the county are exempt from disclosure, because they constitute inter-agency or intra-agency materials which are not: i. statistical or factual tabulations or data; ii. instructions to staff that affect the public; iii. final agency policies or determinations; or iv. external audits, including but not limited to audits performed by the comptroller and federal government (See N.Y.S. Public Officers Law § 87(2)(g)).”



Law-enforcement purposes
— “Responsive

records are exempt from disclosure pursuant to POL § 87(2)(e)(i) and (ii), which are compiled for law-enforcement purposes and which, if disclosed would interfere with law-enforcement investigations or judicial proceedings as well as deprive a person of a right to a fair trial or impartial adjudication.”

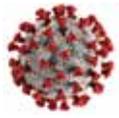


Pending litigation
— “Responsive records consisting of Putnam

County’s pending litigation cases, have been denied pursuant to POL Section 87(2) (b) and Section 89(2) (b), and NYS Civil Practice Law and Rules § 4503 as the disclosure of same would constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy and disclosure is exempted by state law.”



Privacy
— “Disclosure of such record would constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy. See Public Officer’s Law § 87(2)(b).”



Coronavirus Update

■ State health officials said that, as of Thursday (April 30), 970 people have tested positive for the coronavirus in Putnam County; 2,954 in Dutchess; 28,970 in Westchester; 11,708 in Rockland; 1,279 in Ulster; and 8,650 in Orange. Statewide, there were 304,372 positives, including 164,841 in New York City.

■ Statewide, 18,321 people had died as of April 30, including 45 residents of Putnam County and 69 from Dutchess.

■ Dashboards released by Dutchess and Putnam showed that, as of April 30, Beacon had 121 confirmed cases and Philipstown had 97.

■ Tom Virgadamo, a math teacher at Haldane Middle School who lives in Beacon, worked with his children to collect \$30 donations for local businesses. They have collected more than \$10,000 so far. Each \$30 gives the donor an entry in a drawing; the winners can then select one business to receive \$500 or two to receive \$250 each. The recipients so far in #Giveback2020 have included Beacon D'Lites, Stinson's Hub, the Beacon Performing Arts Center, The Blushery, Story Screen Beacon, Twins Barbershop, Utensil, The Yankee Clipper, Max's on Main and Blackbird Attic in Beacon, and the Philipstown Food Bank, Riverview Restaurant, Santos Strong, Nicole Brooke Salon and The Main Course in Philipstown. See [instagram.com/teddybeartommy17](https://www.instagram.com/teddybeartommy17). To donate, send \$30 per entry via PayPal to tvirg2001@yahoo.com.

■ Dutchess County Executive Marc Molinaro said on Wednesday (April 29) that the health department would work with the 13 nursing homes in Dutchess to test each resident for COVID-19 and that he has asked the state for 2,000 tests. The county will begin the program at Wingate at Beacon. Molinaro said the county is concerned in part because 96 of 330 residents at two nursing homes in Ulster County tested positive, with many of them having no symptoms.

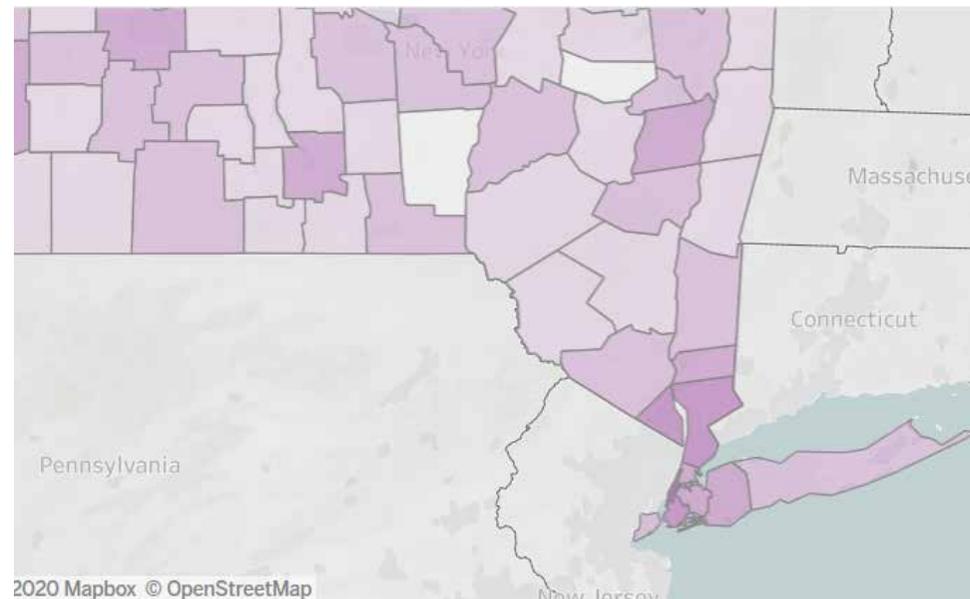
■ The Community Foundations of the Hudson Valley announced the second round of emergency grants from its Putnam COVID-19 Response Fund. The \$17,400 in grants benefited CAREERS Support Solutions, the Ecological Citizen's Project, the

Moving Around

Cellphone tracking data collected by a New York City-based firm called Cuebiqu measures the effect of the COVID-19 shutdown and stay-at-home order.

The chart shows the average percentage of people in Putnam, Dutchess and other Hudson Valley counties whose phones moved fewer than 330 feet per day during the week that ended April 27.

The peak day of isolation locally was Monday, March 23, when 55 percent of the residents of Dutchess and 60 percent in Putnam did not go far. The data since mid-March suggests that just under half of Highlands residents are staying home on any given day, compared to about 20 percent in January.



COUNTY	STATE RANK	% HOME	% WEEKLY CHANGE	MARCH 2	MARCH 30
New York	1	63.1	- 2.4	22.8	66.3
Westchester	2	53.3	- 4	18.8	58.1
Rockland	4	52.5	- 2.3	17.7	56.3
Putnam	12	49.0	- 4.3	19.4	53.9
Dutchess	14	48.4	0.2	19.3	50.9
Orange	20	47.2	- 2.2	19.3	50.9
Ulster	36	44.4	- 2.1	20.7	47.7

Glynwood Center for Regional Food and Farming, the Philipstown Behavioral Health Hub, Putnam Community Action Partnership and Second Chance Foods. Donate or request funds at putnamcovidresponse.org.

■ State Sen. Sue Serino, whose district includes the Highlands, and who is a member of the Senate's Aging Committee, on April 23 wrote Cuomo and Health Commissioner Howard Zucker to call for an alternative to the March 25 guidance that, to open hospital beds elsewhere, nursing homes must accept patients with suspected or confirmed cases of COVID-19. She recommended instead that the state create a series of regional long-term care centers for COVID-19 patients at nursing homes.

■ On Monday (April 27), Cuomo announced New York would provide \$25 million for food banks and providers from a public health emergency fund, including the Regional Food Bank of Northeastern NY, which serves Dutchess and Putnam counties. Philanthropies that would like to help can email Fran Barrett, the state director of nonprofits, at COVIDPhilanthropies@exec.ny.gov.

■ Dutchess County announced it has implemented... (Continued on Page 9)

Creative Response

• The Garrison Art Center issued a call for entries in a virtual show called *Postcards from a Pandemic*. The card must measure 4 by 6 inches on paper or board, in any medium, as long as it can travel safely through the mail. Art and/or text on both sides are welcome. Put your name clearly on the front or back. You also can include a social media tag or website. Do not add your return address. Mail to Garrison Art Center, P.O. Box 4, Garrison, NY 10524. The postcards will be photographed and exhibited on Instagram to be claimed by visitors offering a minimum \$25 donation to the art center, with 20 percent of each donation going to Fred's Pantry in Peekskill. In addition, postcards and a photo or copy of the back 'Swill be hung in the art center's gallery windows. Postcards will not be returned by mail but, if not claimed by a donor, can be picked up once the works are uninstalled.

• The Desmond-Fish Public Library in Garrison has launched Sharing in Place, an oral history project to capture how people are living during the 2020 pandemic. "You can share mundane or funny experiences, as well as poignant stories describing challenges or sadness," the library said. "We want to collect it all so that once this time has passed, we can look back and listen and have a greater understanding of what it was like to live through the COVID-19 pandemic." The library is using an online audio recording program called Memria that allows contributors to use a phone or computer to record and upload photos to illustrate stories, which will be posted on the library's website. To participate, complete the form at bit.ly/sharing-in-place. Dutchess County also has launched an oral history project. See dutchessny.gov/COVIDhistory.

• An initiative called Beacon Rises is raising money to support local businesses by selling T-shirts with a design by Chelsea Merando. Ten dollars from each shirt purchase will go to a Beacon business of the buyer's choice. See beaconrises.etsy.com. Shirts will be delivered free within Beacon or can be shipped anywhere. The project, which began on April 24 and has a Facebook page, raised \$1,700 in the first 24 hours.

• The Putnam History Museum and Highland Studio launched Prints for Putnam, a fundraiser to benefit the Philipstown Food Pantry. The set of a dozen 8-by-10-inch prints are images taken from glass-plate negatives in the museum's collection. The \$40 price includes \$15 in printing costs. The sale continues through May 8. See printsforputnam.com. Orders will be available for pickup at the museum when non-essential businesses are allowed to re-open.



KEEPING THEIR DISTANCE — Shoppers wait to enter the Cold Spring Farmers' Market at St. Mary's Church on Saturday, April 25.

Photo by Ross Corsair

(Continued on Page 9)

(Continued from Page 8)

mented a mobile app, NYDocSubmit, developed by the state to allow recipients of public benefits such as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP), Temporary Assistance (TA) and Medicaid to scan and upload required documents. The app is available for free download via the Apple App Store and Google Play. See bit.ly/NYDocSubmit.

■ Reusable cloth face coverings are being made available to essential businesses and nonprofit organizations in Dutchess County. The coverings are provided by the federal Department of Health and Human Services, in partnership with the state, Dutchess County, Dutchess County Regional Chamber of Commerce, Dutchess Tourism Inc. and Hudson Cadillac-Buick-GMC. To register for pickup, see dcrcc.org/form/view/19770.

■ A survey of 215 nonprofits in the Hudson Valley conducted by the Center for Effective Philanthropy found that more than half “described their financial circumstances as so difficult they may have to make significant changes — from laying off staff to ceasing operations — within four months or less. This, they say, is coming against a backdrop of increased demand among some nonprofits for their services due to heightened need brought on by the pandemic.” At the same time, 60 percent of respondents said they had added services in response to COVID-19.

■ On April 21, Molinaro wrote Cuomo asking for his assistance in providing local health departments with access to the state’s Health Emergency Response Data System, where hospitals, nursing homes and other facilities regulated by the Department of Health report data such as fatalities, bed counts and the number of COVID-19 positive patients. Currently, local health departments must contact hospitals and nursing homes directly to find out what they are reporting to the state system. He said access might help better align the data reported by the state and counties through COVID-19 dashboards.

■ The state launched a texting program and confidential service to assist victims of domestic violence. Text 844-997-2121 or visit opdv.ny.gov to chat confidentially with



MASK MAKER — Sokhara Kim of Nice & Neat Dry Cleaners on Route 9 in Philipstown has made more than 420 masks that she distributes at no charge from the door of her shop, one per person, usually on Saturdays after 10 a.m. *Photo by Ross Corsair*

a professional at any time of the day or night.

■ A federal program will cover \$30 million in child care costs for essential workers, including health care providers, pharmaceutical staff, law enforcement officers, firefighters, food delivery workers and grocery store employees. To qualify, a worker must have an income less than 300 percent of the federal poverty level, or \$78,600 for a family of four. Essential workers can use the funding to pay for their existing care arrangement. An essential worker who needs child care can contact the local child care resource and referral agency to find openings. See bit.ly/child-care-help.

■ Beacon on April 24 released an FAQ about the crisis and the city’s response. “In the past week, the number of Beacon cases has been in the 90s and 100s — so pretty close to flat,” wrote Mayor Lee Kyriacou. “That’s a positive sign that we’ve been doing the right things. But it doesn’t change what

we must be doing right now. As COVID cases peak and our health workers — thank you — can handle the load and rest a little, we are starting to look to the next stage.”

■ Kyriacou said that the city reaches most residents with landline phones through its SWIFT-911 service. Those with mobile phones can sign up at cityofbeacon.org. He also noted that city parks remain open but all playgrounds and sports courts are closed, as well as the skate park. Applications for permits or licenses can be downloaded at cityofbeacon.org and mailed, emailed or placed in the City Hall drop box.

■ The hours of the Beacon recycling facility at the end of Dennings Avenue have been adjusted to Saturdays from 7:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

■ Questions? Dutchess County posts updates at dutchessny.gov/coronavirus

COVID-19 by the Numbers

■ PUTNAM COUNTY

Number of confirmed cases:

970

Philipstown 97, Carmel 351, Kent 200, Putnam Valley 137

Tests administered:

4,170

Percent positive:

23.3

Number of deaths:

45

■ DUTCHESS COUNTY

Number of confirmed cases:

2,954

Beacon 121, Fishkill 170, Wappingers Falls 43, Poughkeepsie 264

Tests administered:

14,642

Percent positive:

20.2

Number of deaths:

69

Source: Health departments.
Data current as of April 30

and has a hotline at 845-486-3555. Putnam County posts info at putnamcountyny.com/health. New York State has a 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.

ORGANIC HEIRLOOM VEGETABLE SEEDLING SALE

At the Cold Spring Farmer’s Market | May 23 8:30 AM to 12:30 PM

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Jay will further explain with a 2 minute video

AROUND TOWN



▲ **VAL/SAL** — Julia Sniffen, the principal of Haldane High School, at right, delivered the good news from a safe distance to Bridget Goldberg that she was named valedictorian of the Class of 2020. Sniffen also visited Anneke Chan, the salutatorian. At Beacon High School, Jason Callaway was named valedictorian and Eric Ostrow is salutatorian. *Photo provided*



▲ **UNINVITED GUEST** — This shot by *Current* reporter Liz Schevthuk Armstrong, taken in her backyard in Cold Spring, was among those selected by *The Washington Post* for its Squirrel Week 2020 Photography Contest. See more at bit.ly/squirrel-week.



◀ **THANKERCHIEF** —The Westchester-Putnam Council of Boy Scouts of America donated 8,640 Scout neckerchiefs to create masks and scrub caps for day care workers, first responders and supermarket and store employees. A crew from United for the Troops delivered them. Yorktown Troop 165 Scoutmaster Jann Mirchandani shows off one of the caps she sewed. *Photo provided*



▲ **NEARLY SUMMER** — Barry and Jean Llewellyn were among the first — if not the first — customers at Moo Moo's Creamery in Cold Spring when it re-opened for the season on April 23. *Photo by Lois Powers*



◀ **SAFE AT SEA** — Boatswain's Mate 3rd Class Jarek Panko, of Beacon, stands "phone-talker watch" on April 22 aboard the Navy aircraft carrier USS Harry S. Truman in the Atlantic Ocean. Keeping the carrier at sea allows the ship to maintain a high level of readiness during the pandemic, the Navy says. *Photo by Samuel Gruss/ U.S. Navy*

UNA VISIONE GLOBALE: ARTE POVERA'S WORLDS

Lecture Series:
Salt and Copper: Stratified Questions and Replies from an Interview with Jannis Kounellis

Chris Bennett

May 2, 3:00-5:00 p.m. EST on Instagram Live, IGTV and our website
 Live Q+A on Instagram Live on May 2, 2020 at 4:00 p.m. EST

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Leaves of Grass, Walt Whitman

Painting by Stephen Fox in Private Collection. Purchased at Garrison Art Center Riverside Art Auction.

The Staff and Board of Garrison Art Center are wishing you well. We hope that you are staying safe. During this challenging time, may art provide you with needed comfort and inspiration.

Garrison Art Center

The Calendar



"Grinning From Ear to Earrings"



Margaux Lange in her Beacon studio with some of her Barbies. Photo by Mar Noonan



"Finger Fringe Hoop Earrings"

The Artist Next Door

Margaux Lange

By Alison Rooney

Most children outgrow Barbies. Margaux Lange never has.

Lange, who moved with her husband to Beacon in 2010, has designed jewelry incorporating salvaged Barbie dolls since her days studying at the Maryland Institute College of Arts. It was there that Lange conceived what she calls her Plastic Body series, which continues to this day.

As a child growing up near Lake George, Lange played with Barbies but also constructed an elaborate universe for them of drawings and sculptures.

"I would fabricate tiny objects such as washing machines, developing my dexterity," she recalls. "My dad was an artist and my parents were encouraging of my creative inclinations and my alone time. I had an innate need to work small, and to focus in on soothing, quiet activities, like making beaded jewelry and rope bracelets."

As she grew older, Lange kept her obsession to herself. "I was a secret Barbie player until like, seventh grade," she says. She still has her collection, she says, although it is sometimes raided by her 8-year-old daughter, who seems indifferent to the occasional missing limb or damaged hands.

In high school, Lange took a metal-working class in which the teacher was well-versed in jewelry design — "soldering, casting, basic fabrication" — which led Lange to consider it as a profession. But Barbie did not relinquish her grip, and her professors in Maryland were supportive.

"I didn't get a lot of flak," she says. "They saw that it came from me and stayed with me." Others were not so forgiving, however, not only about Barbie as a model of the

"perfect" woman but the mutilation of the dolls for the sake of art.

"People do not feel indifferent to her as an icon," Lange says. "Once my work was online, the negatives started coming on strong. They became polarizing, sometimes shocking." Nevertheless, Barbie, "which I infused with my creative longings as a kid, stayed the key element in my exploration and work. It clicked in and felt right and the pieces tumbled out of me from there."

After graduating from college, Lange presented her work to galleries. She admits she was surprised when she was quickly signed by Julie Artisans' Gallery in New York and Façere in Seattle, which each represented her for about 10 years.

Later, she began selling on Etsy and other

avenues, which gave her a larger and younger audience. Today her designs are sold through her website at margauxlange.bigcartel.com and at a few boutiques around the country. The pieces are usually made with hand-fabricated sterling silver and pigmented resins, along with the Barbie elements.

Lange's daughter Hazel is tasked with "sourcing the dolls," Lange says. "She knows what I'm looking for, especially red lips, which are not nearly as common as pink lips, and Ken dolls." Before Hazel was born, Lange says she "had this naïve idea that I'd care for her, then go to work. I soon discovered she was infiltrating every moment and those assumptions about working at home were swept away."

Is it Barbie 4-ever for Lange? She admits that, "a few years back, I started to get a little tired of working with Barbie. I started having Barbie doubts. I put energy into more wearable production work, and did a pop-up show in Beacon. But it didn't sustain my interest in the same way."



"Plume Brooch in Teal" Photo by Cole Rodger



"Starburst Hand Neckpiece," "Yes Necklace," "Chest Neckpiece," and "Like Breathing Necklace"



"Mother" Photo by Cole Rodger

THE WEEK AHEAD

Edited by Pamela Doan (calendar@highlandscurrent.org)

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

COMMUNITY

SAT 2 Cold Spring Farmers' Market

GARRISON
8:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. Boscobel
1601 Route 9D | csfarmmarket.org
The market has moved to Boscobel for the season.

SAT 2 Plant a Pollinator Paradise

CARMEL
9:30 - 11 a.m.
Cornell Cooperative Extension
putnam.cce.cornell.edu
Learn how your landscape can be part of helping endangered pollinators such as butterflies and how to create a pollinator garden and other useful habitats. Also SAT 9.

SAT 2 Craft Beer Tasting Experience

NEW YORK
Noon - 9 p.m. thinknydrinkny.com
Register to receive 64-ounce samples mailed to you from up to four craft breweries for tasting during 90-minute sessions via Zoom with the brewers online. Session 3 at 5 p.m. will feature Industrial Arts Brewing of Beacon. *Cost: \$65 (single) to \$240 (all access)*



MON 4 Plant Sale

BREWSTER
Space on Ryder Farm
406 Starr Ridge Road
spaceonryderfarm.org/2020plantsale
The nonprofit residency and

organic farm will take advance orders online for vegetables, herbs and flowers. Pickups begin May 16.

TUES 5 Climate Action Workshop

GARRISON
7:30 p.m.
Join the Ecological Citizen's Project for "The Optimist's Guide to Climate Crisis: How to Do More Than Hope." Email jocelyn.apicello@ecologicalcitizens.org for Zoom details.

FRI 8 Virtual Friday Soiree

GARRISON
5:30 p.m. Antipodean Books
Email lilburne@highlands.com for Zoom details. Continues weekly.

SAT 9 Spring Birdathon

PHILIPSTOWN
Your backyard | bit.ly/phas-birdathon
Sign up to count species in a safe and convenient location for this annual fundraiser for the Putnam Highlands Audubon Society. Also SUN 10.

VISUAL ARTS

SAT 2 Social Saturday

GARRISON
4 p.m. Garrison Art Center
instagram.com/garrisonartcenter
Join a virtual open studio to stay connected with the arts community and artists. The Zoom ID is 996 412 237.

SAT 2 Salt and Copper

COLD SPRING
3 p.m. Magazzino Italian Art
845-666-7202 | magazzino.art
Chris Bennett, a professor of art

history and contemporary art at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, will explore the work of Arte Povera artist Jannis Kounellis (right) based on an interview conducted in New York City in 2013.



TALKS

MON 4 Climate Resilience and Response: Learning from this Great Pause

GARRISON
3 p.m. Garrison Institute
garrisoninstitute.org
Jessica Morey will explore the significance of the present situation and hopes for a climate change response. Registration required.

MON 4 Electrification is the Key to Being Carbon Free

BEDFORD
7:30 p.m. Bedford 2020
bedford2020.org/plugin
Learn how to take advantage of the renewable resources coming online through electric heating and cooling options and electric vehicles.

TUES 5 Plan, Prepare and Train for Great Hikes

7:30 p.m.
New York-New Jersey Trail Conference
Learn how to find trails for your ability and how to prepare and respond to challenges that come up while hiking. Register at nynjtc.org.

KIDS & FAMILY

SUN 3 Finger Fables for Families

BEACON
11 a.m. Howland Public Library
facebook.com/beaconlibrary
Guided remotely by master storyteller Jonathan Kruk, children will learn how to turn their hands into fabulous characters.

MON 4 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 29, FRI 1.

TUES 5 New Parents' Support Group

GARRISON
11 a.m. - 1 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library
Desmondfishlibrary.org
Via Zoom. Email beautifulma-mas123@gmail.com for registration information. Continues weekly.

TUES 5 Kitchen Sink Science

GARRISON
6 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library
instagram.com/desmondfishpubliclibrary
facebook.com/desmondfishlibrary
Digital Services Coordinator Ryan Biracree will conduct fun science experiments. Continues weekly.

WED 6 Youth Philosophers Cafe

BEACON
4 p.m. Howland Public Library
845-831-1134 | beaconlibrary.org
Register online for this virtual discussion.

FRI 8 Parents' Support Group

COLD SPRING
11 a.m. - 1 p.m. Butterfield Library
845-265-3040
butterfieldlibrary.org/calendar
Email whiteside.ks@gmail.com for Zoom details.

HEALTH & FITNESS

MON 4 Beginner Tap for Adults

BEACON
6:15 - 7:15 p.m. Ballet Arts Studio
845-831-1870 | BalletArtsStudio.com
Check website for other online adult and youth dance classes offered on Zoom.

CIVIC

Meetings are closed to the public but streamed or posted as videos. See highlandscurrent.org/meeting-videos.

SAT 2 Gov. Cuomo Daily Briefing

10:45 a.m. Weekdays
twitter.com/nygovcuomo

TUES 5 Putnam County Legislature

CARMEL
7 p.m. Historic Courthouse
845-208-7800 | putnamcountyny.com

TUES 5 Board of Trustees

COLD SPRING
7:30 p.m. Village Hall
845-265-3611 | coldspringny.gov

TUES 5 School Board

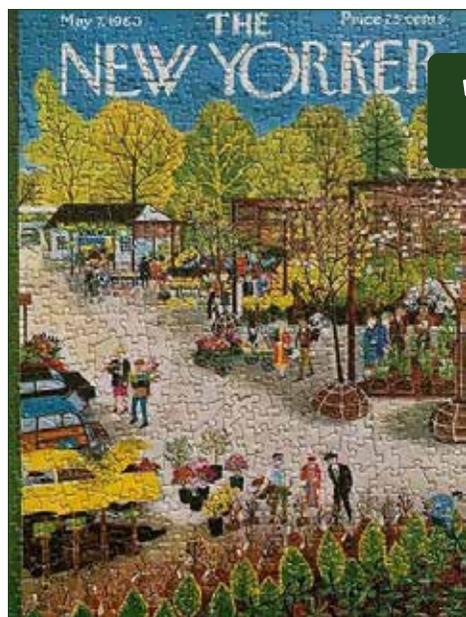
COLD SPRING
7:30 p.m. Haldane
haldaneschool.org

WED 6 School Board

GARRISON
7:30 p.m. Garrison School
gufs.org
The board will discuss the 2020-21 budget and vote on a contract with Carl Albano, its choice for superintendent.

THURS 7 Town Board

PHILIPSTOWN
7:30 p.m.
845-265-5200 | philipstown.com



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Something You Don't Know About Me

Bernard Bunye

By Alison Rooney

Bernard Bunye of Cold Spring is a manager for film, television and theater actors.

You've been a talent manager for 13 years. But I imagine you did something else before that.

I worked as a waiter at high-end restaurants in New York City.

How did you get into that?

I read that chef Thomas Keller was opening a restaurant, Per Se, and needed staff. I had zero fine-dining experience, but I sent my resume. I thought they'd get all the Culinary Institute and Cornell Hospitality applicants, but I got the call. I was in Cleveland, where I grew up, so I booked a flight to New York with a same-day return. I met with management. They didn't know any of the restaurants I had worked in. They asked me if I had done tableside service, which I hadn't. But because I had nothing to lose, I was loose. They asked me philosophical questions, but nothing about my training.



Bernard Bunye

Photo provided

It was clear they were looking for the right personality. My desire to be good at hospitality was something they felt.

Was the training intimidating?

We'd go for eight hours a day learning about caviar, cheeses. At Per Se, there were three menus. They'd tell us not to memorize, that usually you could intuit

certain elements of the dish. Some servers responded to this method, but others missed the comfort of memorizing. For them, working like that was exhausting. Eventually I found less intense places to work.

Were you a foodie as a kid?

It wasn't until I was in college that I started thinking about food. I was attracted to the hospitality industry; I'm a people person. I walked into a place, intending to get soup for my girlfriend. The manager and I got to talking, and she asked me if I was looking for a job. Being in an office wasn't for me, and it was great to get that handful of cash at the end of the night. I learned that the most critical element of being a good waiter is attention to detail. People get annoyed when you don't get it right, because it's an indication that you don't care. As a customer, I am forgiving of a lot of things that can go wrong in the service, but when I feel the person doesn't care, I'm put out. For me there's a joy in making people happy with food. It's a cheap thrill.

What led you to move on?

I was working at Restaurant Saul in Brooklyn. But I was always interested in the entertainment business, too. I saw this name, Tom Gilroy, on the reservation list and I wondered if he was the filmmaker. At the end of his meal I told him I loved Come

Forward. He was struck that I had seen it. The next week he came back, and asked me if I'd come work with him. Six months later, he said his manager had lost her assistant. I didn't know what a manager was. During the interview, she's asking me about Tom. I'm in the middle of a story when she says, "You can stop talking. I work on gut, and I know it when I see it." I thought I had to take the job because that was so brave of her.

What gives you satisfaction in this new field?

I love interacting with actors. Actors are people who want to give you a gift. I've found a way to do the thing they are not good at — make decisions to grow their career. Few people understand actors' wants and needs in a fundamental way. I never want actors to feel inauthentic — I'm not going to force it. I'll read the piece; I'll ask them if they can imagine themselves doing it. I want good things to happen to them. Plus, I'm still always asking people what they would like to drink.

Is there something about you most people in the community aren't aware of? It can be job-related, a hidden talent — basically anything, serious or funny. If you'd like to share your story, email arts@highlandscurrent.org and we'll get in touch.

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Each Friday morning, members of *The Highlands Current* who are at the Partner and Patron level receive an early digital copy of the paper, before it is distributed in print.

During this period of coronavirus uncertainty, when the paper will have limited print circulation because of the closure of many businesses that are distribution points, **we will be sharing the digital version of the paper each week with everyone on our email list.**

The news will also be accessible, as usual, on the website, but this early digital version will put the “actual” paper in your hands while we shelter in place.

We want our community to feel safe and well informed. We are in this together and here for you.

To receive the digital issue each week, sign up at highlandscurrent.org/digital

A Friendship Endures, Despite Pandemic

Stay-at-home challenges — and perks

By Michael Turton

Theresa Timmons and James Wynn, seventh graders at the Garrison School, are friends through thick and thin. If the pandemic is the thick, their siblings might be the thin.

Until the effort to slow the spread of COVID-19 closed schools in mid-March, the two spent a lot of time together. Now, their get-togethers are only virtual.

“We Facetime a lot,” Theresa said. “And we call each other pretty much twice a day.” Instagram, Snapchat and texting also help. “But it’s not the same,” she admitted.

“He’s there to talk to when I need him,” Theresa said. “He’s funny, and he has a good heart.”

“Theresa has always helped me,” James said. “She likes talking to me and helps me with both school and social problems.”

Both recall that, at school, they tormented each other. “We’d make each other laugh,” James said. “It’s harder now; we can’t see each other.”

While aggravating each other isn’t the same, their lives aren’t free of irritants.

“My sister really bugs me,” Theresa said. “I get really annoyed.”

James, who has a younger brother and sister, can relate.

“They got on my nerves the first day!” he said. “We all get frustrated sharing the computers; it’s a huge fight to get our work done.” The squabbling is “a big hassle” for his parents, he said.

But both also see advantages to their isolation.

Theresa said she enjoys spending more



James Wynn and Theresa Timmons

Photos provided

time with her family. “And it’s easier to get schoolwork done,” she said. “There are fewer distractions.”

Both work on school assignments up to two-and-half hours each day and have periodic one-on-one video conferences with teachers. They agreed that the lack of direct access to their educators has been a challenge.

Theresa relishes her new schedule. She used to be up by 6:30 a.m., going to bed by 11 p.m. on school nights. She now stays up as late as 3 a.m., she conceded, often sleeping in until noon. “I like being able to stay up late!” she said with a laugh.

TV and video games take up a good portion of her time, although she has expanded her horizons. “I never liked reading, but now I’ve gotten into it,” she said. “And I like to draw and do more of that with my little sister now.” She also enjoys doing her mom’s hair because she lets her experiment with “different cool styles.”

When he’s not on the computer, James is a devotee of the TV programs *Fallen Angel*,

The Office and *Designated Survivor*.

He also follows current events. “I keep up with the news,” he said, listing *The New York Times*, *Washington Post* and MSNBC as his favorite news media.

“Yeah, James is a real news junkie,” Theresa said, commenting that she watches the news at least every other day. “I love News 12 Westchester,” she said.

They discuss COVID-19 with their families but both say it doesn’t come up often with their friends. “It was big at first, but not now,” James said. “It’s not a hot topic with most middle-schoolers.”

Theresa said she worried a lot about the coronavirus at first. “I couldn’t sleep,” she said. “But I’ve started to feel better, and I believe they’ll find a vaccine.”

She doesn’t think the crisis will end by summer. “I hope we can go back to school in September.”

James isn’t keen about giving up the freedom he has at home. “I like it here with my own schedule,” he said.

Then & Now: Cold Spring Village Hall



Putnam History Museum



Photo by Michael Turton



An early Turton

Reporter's Notebook

Coloring Wars

By Michael Turton

Those of you quarantined with family, partners or a four-legged friend might assume those of us who live alone are fortunate to have no one arguing with us, or annoying us. Peace and quiet rule.



Wrong! Sometimes, the loudest disagreements involve no one else.

I've been coloring in the evening lately, in one of those adult coloring books. Not *that* kind of adult, but one with drawings that go beyond cartoons and fairy tales.

Coloring is one of few kid activities we can still do as grown-ups. If I climb a tree or put on rubber boots and splash in puddles, I get strange looks, or someone calls 911.

My coloring book has intricate designs, each made up of straight or curvy lines. Coloring has proven quite relaxing, even soothing. Even Gov. Andrew Cuomo pointed out this week that, during a pandemic, "coloring can be a great way to relieve stress." And it was. Until recently.

At first, the right side of my brain drew me to the curvy-line pages, and for a while that was fine.

But before long, the left side of my brain started pushing me toward the straight-line drawings, claiming the curves make it nauseous.

My right side resisted, saying that straight lines make it tense and irritable. It also taunted my left side by coloring outside the lines and using unconventional color combinations.

I was conflicted. I enjoyed the curvy-line drawings, although some of the straight-line drawings are also appealing. I could alternate, doing curvy lines one night and straight lines the next.

As with the current political climate, my right-left animosity escalated. It was defeating the purpose of coloring. There was no hint of compromise. Both sides were entrenched and becoming more aggressive.

I've considered color therapy, but my left side pointed out, quite adroitly, that color wasn't the issue — it was about straight versus curvy. My right side noted that the issue was "narrow, straight-line thinking that strives to destroy open-minded, creative expression."

In my darkest moment, I thought of coloring each page entirely white, a strategy that would no doubt leave both sides of my brain dysfunctional.

The solution I came up with was a new coloring book, with landscapes that have curvy subjects such as streams, trees, clouds and flowers, and an equal number of straight-line objects such as houses, barns, utility poles and FedEx boxes on porches. A bipartisan, landscape coloring-book initiative that shipped yesterday.



This feature is designed as a counterweight to all the bad news in the world that weighs people down. We could share a photo of a baby, or a photo of a dog, but we are giving you both. How many newspapers can say that? Lesly Kilgour of Beacon shared this photo of her great-niece, Harper, with Daly. If you have a photo of a baby and a dog, submit it for consideration to editor@highlandscurrent.org.

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Order Up!

Some restaurants that closed cautiously reopen

By Brian PJ Cronin

When the COVID-19 crisis first hit, the Yankee Clipper Diner in Beacon, like many restaurants, switched to takeout and delivery.

But as the first days of the crisis passed by, its owners had second thoughts. The staff were nervous about staying open. Customers would share the news that mutual friends were getting sick. And customers would wait in the dining room for their food, where there isn't a lot of room for social distancing, which only made the staff more concerned.

"It's hard," said Katina Pertesis, one of the Yankee Clipper owners. "These are our customers, people we've known for 16 years, and we want to chit-chat."

After a week, the diner decided to close.

Kamel Jamal, who owns Angelina's in Cold Spring, and Tito Santana's, Ziatun and the Beacon Bread Company in Beacon, had a similar experience.

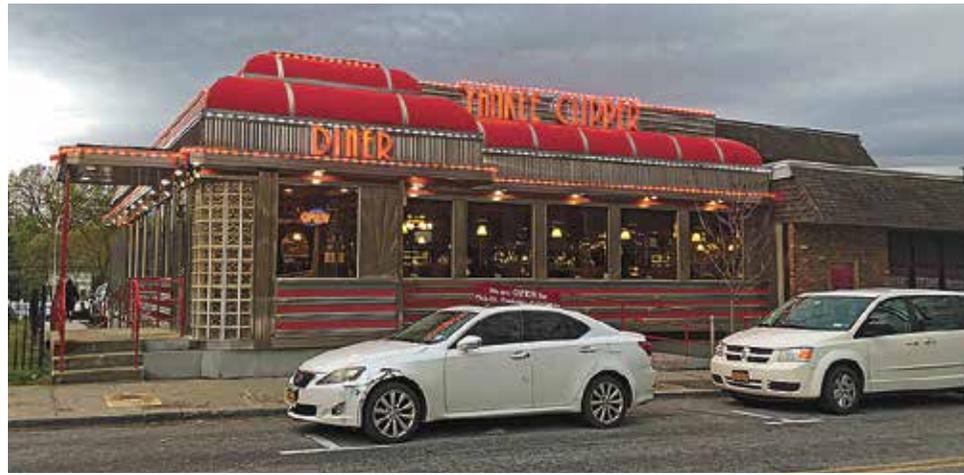
"We had a lot of uncertainties that weren't answered through our government and the people we're putting our trust in," he said. "Without compromising our safety, we elected to close shop until things became a little bit clearer."

But a month later, many restaurants that closed within the first week of the crisis are now reopening. The Yankee Clipper reopened for takeout and delivery on Wednesday (April 29) from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. "If we think we need more hours, we'll extend it," Pertesis said.

Jamal has reopened Tito Santana's and Ziatun seven days a week, and Angelina's will be open five days a week, he said. Jamal also said he plans to open Beacon Bread Company today (May 1), although he's not sure if there will be a market for takeout breakfast.

"That's the last piece of the puzzle to establish the new normal," he said. "We'll give it a shot and see if we can survive."

In Cold Spring, Hudson Hil's Cafe, which



The Yankee Clipper in Beacon reopened for takeout on April 29.

Photo by B. Cronin

also closed for safety concerns after trying to offer takeout, reopened on Thursday (April 30). Hilary Hayes, who owns the business with her husband, Bob, said that they plan to be open Thursday through Sunday and expand service if there's demand.

"We are going to institute some more ideas once we get open," she said. "There might be a fried-chicken night, maybe some dinner things, and some fun to-go boxes."

While none of the restaurant owners believes the crisis will be over anytime soon, each said that the closure has provided time to get a clearer picture of the scope of the crisis and figure out how to safely do business. That means masks and gloves for employees, coming up with systems to keep employees as far away from one another as possible, increased cleanings and disinfectants, and figuring out how to minimize physical interaction with customers.

"Being closed for a month also gave the public the opportunity to learn how to deal with the day-to-day transactions and how to interact with one another on a different level than we're used to today," said Jamal.

Like it or not, said Jamal, as the weather gets warmer, tourists will start coming to the Highlands, crisis or no crisis. If restaurants can't figure out how to do safe takeout with locals, the problem will only get worse when tourists arrive, even if they are keeping their distance.

"We're going to get crowds up from the city," Jamal predicted. "There's no stopping them; they're jumping on the train. And it's

not because they're bad people and they don't care about what's going on. It's because they're human. It's our obligation as business owners to prepare ourselves for this. It's either we close our doors and not open at all, or we open our doors and lead by example."

Opening now, said Jamal, will also allow him to start paying his vendors again, who can then pay their staff. "There's so much that our business can contribute to the economy to keep it moving forward in a safe manner," he said. "It's a slower pace, but it's a pace. We're not opening our doors now to make a profit. Small mom and pop shops are the backbone of this country and we're the ones that are going to save this country by restarting the economy. That's our obligation."

Hayes agreed that, as far as coming back online, it was now or never. "We have to get the restaurant reopened to a certain extent for it to be an ongoing proposition," she said. "If we wait six months to do this, it won't happen. And people are asking us. We want to be there for the community, but in a safe manner."

Although Hudson Hil's Cafe may not be the beehive of social activity that it usually is, Hayes said she looks forward to getting some life back in the place, "even if it's from a distance," she said.

Pertesis, too, said she is ready to get back to work.

"In the beginning we thought 'OK, we're going to relax,'" she said. "After seven days, you're like, 'OK, I'm well rested now. I'd like to get back to my normal life.'"



COPING WITH STRESS

BY MICHAEL MCKEE, PHD

We face a situation in which our daily routines are brought to a halt. But in this apparently static condition, we're required to make extraordinary changes in the way we work, love, play. And if most agree to close their shutters, you can predict that there will be those who will ignore and even actively oppose restrictions. Acceptance of the opposing forces inherent in our situation can help reduce our distress.

Dialectics is a philosophy that seeks truth through balancing opposites. Psychologist Marsha Linehan has written extensively about dialectics in modern life. Her DBT (Dialectical Behavior Therapy) Skills are taught in many schools. Here are some of her thoughts:

"Two things that seem like opposites can both be true." Living life near others is risky and life near others is necessary.

"Everything and every person is connected in some way." We are living through a time when this fundamental truth has never been more evident. We live our lives alone within ourselves but in a world where the most casual decision can have profound consequences for others.

"Change is the only constant." During this time, we seem to be holding still, and we are undergoing tremendous change.

Linehan advises "radical acceptance" when you can't keep painful events from coming your way. Remember that everything has a cause. Accept reality all the way, with every part of you, and without the tantrums and the bitterness. You don't have to approve of the situation, but rejecting reality doesn't change it — that can only happen when you accept reality. Be mindful of the present moment and prepare to act.

More on acceptance next week.

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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WHO'S OPEN

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COLD SPRING

Angelina's
Brasserie Le Bouchon
Carlo's Pizza
Cold Spring Coffee Pantry
Cold Spring Depot
Cold Spring Farmers' Market
Cold Spring Pizza
Country Goose
Doug's Pretty Good Pub
Dunkin' Donuts
Flowercup Wine
Garden Cafe
Hudson Hil's
Main Course (May 4)

Meraki
Moo Moo's Creamery
New Ming Moon
Rincon Argentina
Riverview
Yannitelli Fine Wine & Spirits

NELSONVILLE

Homestyle Creamery
Juanita's

GARRISON

Garrison Pizza Cafe
Garrison Restaurant & Pizzeria

PHILIPSTOWN

B&L Deli
Marbled Meats
Nicola's
Roundup Texas BBQ
Route 9 Pizza
Vera's Marketplace

BEACON

All You Knead
Artisan Wine Shop
Baja 328
Bank Square
Coffeehouse
Barb's Butchery (May 9)
Barking Frog

Beacon Creamery
Beacon Daily
Beacon Falls Cafe
Beacon Farmers' Market
Beacon Natural Market
BJ's
Brothers' Trattoria
Chocolate Studio
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Marshmallow
Max's on Main
Melzingah Tap House
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Ron's Ice Cream
Rosie's Pizzeria
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Sal's Pizza & Pasta
Stinson's Hub
Sukhothai
Tito Santana Taqueria
Towne Crier
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Vegetalien
Yankee Clipper
Ziatun

Small, Good Things

Isolation is the Mother of Invention

By Joe Dizney



In 2017 Jonathan Harrington, a linguistics researcher, thought to follow a cohort of scientists sent to Antarctica for four months to see how extreme isolation might affect their speech patterns. The changes were surprisingly rapid — not large, but measurable.

I'm not suggesting that we'll be speaking in tongues soon, but it may be there are correlations in our situation to other endeavors, including strategic recipe development under duress. As we approach the six-week mark, this experience is casting long shadows.

Excess and flamboyance aren't common markers of isolation. Instead, we slow

down, scale back and become more efficient, although ideally not at the expense of our sanity, humanity or good humor. Cooking assumes a different urgency and meaning when we're shopping less and with diminished prospects. Fortunately, despite initial hoarding and shopping excess, we have been spared any real shortages, and most of us are getting by and increasingly comfortable with the most common pantry staples and whatever produce is available.

Rather than running out for that must-have ingredient for a "perfect" recipe, we cultivate comfort with a once-weekly expedition and a little creativity to get appealing and tasty food on the table. A new culinary accent and grammar is developing.

As the time of my weekly restock rolls around, there is invariably a good double-handful of raw material in the hamper approaching the end of its edible life span — a handful of cherry tomatoes, some green beans or mushrooms, a bell pepper, half a bulb of fennel. You could look at it as the bottom of the barrel, or as an opportunity for reinterpretation.

Consider the Provençal tian: Named specifically for the shallow earthenware vessel of its manufacture, it is a baked-vegetable gratin. Common features are onions, garlic, tomatoes, olive oil, herbs, and sometimes cheese or breadcrumbs.

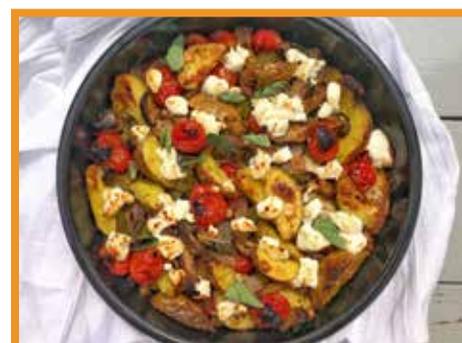
To those basics, add potatoes or squash or other seasonal vegetables — green beans, fennel, celery, what have you.

It's an accommodating dish with nearly universal appeal. Compare Spanish pisto or samfaina, Greek briam, Italian ciambotta or caponata, Moroccan zaalouk, Turkish saksuka and turlu and even Hungarian lecco. Some are saucier, some spicier, but all are humble and comforting.

Since it's less a recipe and more of a strategy, the only essentials are onions and garlic, a robust olive oil and assertive herb blend. Add to that blend about three cups of fresh vegetables chopped to bite-sized pieces. Tomatoes are always appreciated — a handful of cherry or grape tomatoes, sliced plum tomatoes or chopped and seeded garden tomatoes.

The version you see here has quartered baby Yukon potatoes and sliced mushrooms, but again, use what you have. Shredded or chopped cooked pork, poultry or other meat or even seafood can turn this into a main course, but it's a satisfying vegetarian main course or side dish as is.

The cheese is as optional as it is flexible. Toss some breadcrumbs with a little olive oil and sprinkle them as you would the cheese. A sprinkling of chopped fresh herbs is a perfect final touch. Let the ingredients speak for you — it's all about the inflection.



Revisionist Tian

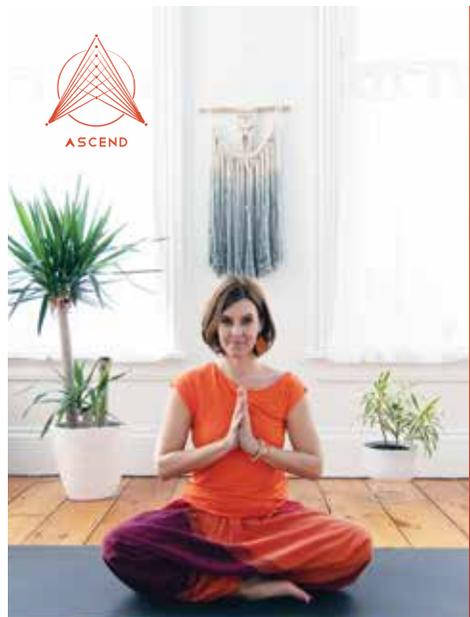
Serves two, plus some

- 1 medium yellow onion or 3 large shallots, quartered lengthwise and cut into 14 one-inch slices
- 3 to 4 large cloves of garlic, grated fine
- About 3 cups of vegetables, ideally three or four different varieties, cut into equal bite-size pieces (baby Yukon Gold potatoes, cherry or grape tomatoes, green beans, zucchini, mushrooms or whatever you have on hand)
- Olive oil, salt, freshly cracked black pepper, dried herb or herb mixture (herbes de Provence, fine herbes, Italian blend, za'atar)
- 2 ounces cheese (chevre, feta, manchego, haloumi, parmesan, pecorino Romano, mozzarella, ricotta or queso fresco)
- Fresh herbs for garnish (thyme, oregano, basil, mint), roughly chopped

1. Heat oven to 450 degrees. In roasting pan or shallow casserole large enough to hold about 4 cups, toss the onions, garlic, other vegetables and dried herbs with a couple of generous glugs of robust olive oil; salt and pepper to taste. Roast for about 40 minutes in preheated oven. Remove and dot with the cheese, then return to the oven and roast for another 5 to 10 minutes. Switch the oven to broil and cook for two to three minutes to just barely brown the top vegetables and cheese. Remove from oven and garnish with a sprinkle of fresh herbs if using and another drizzle of olive oil. Serve warm.

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 Professor of Biology at Vassar College
 WEDNESDAY MAY 6TH 7:00 PM - 7:30 PM
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Family Trails

Prepping for Rev250

By Valerie LaRobardier



Last month, at the Dutchess County quarterly historians' meeting, we discussed planning for the 250th anniversary, in 2026, of the beginning of the Revolutionary War.

Putnam County will join in this effort, with Sallie Sypher and Jennifer Cassidy of the Historian's Office as representatives. We decided to form committees based on the colonial precinct boundaries in 1775. For simplicity, smaller precinct committees will combine to meet as regions.

We foresee a large bi-county celebration in 2026, and a bi-county, multi-day historical conference in 2027. Local celebrations will begin in 2024 and continue through 2033; we will investigate the impact of the Revolution on Dutchess and Putnam County life in the years following 1783, as well as examining the events and significance of the war years.

Almost immediately after our March meeting, New York State went on "pause," making the timing of the meeting quite fortuitous. Although we haven't accomplished much yet, we at least decided on our marching orders.

In the next issue of *The Dutchess*, the Dutchess County Genealogical Society will begin a multi-year series exploring patriot ancestor research. When the Daughters of the American Revolution accepts a patriot line, the applicant usually has only researched the line of the patriot's child from whom he or she descends. So what happens if you see your ancestor in a DAR record but not the child from whom *you* descend? In that case you must document not only your line up to the child, but the link between the child and the patriot.

The DAR's Patriot Ancestor database has records of its "approved" patriots, sometimes noting those requiring additional research.



Reenactors portray patriots during a 1777 battle at Fort Montgomery on the Hudson in which the Continental Army was overrun.

File photo by Ross Corsair

With few exceptions, the data is taken from verified membership applications or supplemental applications. Visit dar.org, scroll to the blue banner and click "Research." That brings you to the Genealogy Research System, which has a variety of tools. Click "Ancestor" to see if your patriot has already been researched. Depending on what you find, you may wish to purchase record copies.

Military service is not the only qualifier for someone of the era to be a "patriot." Did your ancestor supply food or clothing? New York had a Committee for Detecting and Defeating Conspiracies that was active from 1776 to 1781. Its minutes were published and can be quite handy both for establishing Loyalist ancestry or to find names of those who helped transport prisoners, testify against Loyalists or report their activities, such as burying supplies for the British.

Proving patriot service is not the only hurdle to become a member of the DAR or the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR). You must also document every link between yourself and the ancestor, except those that somebody else has already taken care of to

the satisfaction of the organizations.

You will also want to search the descendant database to see whether one of your ancestors may be included. You may get lucky — perhaps the great-grandchild of a patriot has already been approved and that individual happens to be your ancestor, as well. That would mean you need only prove the links between yourself and the great-grandchild.

In recognition of the difficulty of finding birth and death records so far back, deed and will records are accepted providing that they establish a clear link. The DAR also accepts analysis of data, but for one link only, not the entire line.

As a companion to the patriot ancestry series in *The Dutchess* and in continuing partnership with local historical societies, the Dutchess County Genealogical Society will hold Zoom classes on Revolutionary War ancestor research beginning in May. The Enoch Crosby chapter of the DAR, which serves Putnam and eastern Dutchess, had planned a workshop for April 18 which had to be canceled. To help make up for that, the first Zoom class will have members of

the Enoch Crosby chapter as presenters. Check dcgs-gen.org for updates.

LaRobardier is a professional genealogist and president of the Dutchess County Genealogical Society. Hit a brick wall? Email genealogy@highlandscurrent.org.

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Shakespeare *(from Page 1)*

performances at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival were abandoned on March 27.

Davis McCallum, the HVSF artistic director, described the decision as “heartbreaking” and “a real loss for the festival and our community.”

For its 34th season, the festival planned to perform Shakespeare’s *Richard III* and *Love’s Labor’s Lost*, as well as an adaptation it commissioned of a 1747 play, *The Venetian Twins*, under its tent on the lawn at the Boscobel estate in Garrison.

After the state and Putnam County in March issued orders banning large gatherings of people, such as an audience at a play, the nonprofit HVSF dropped *The Venetian Twins* from the schedule, offered heavily discounted tickets good for any show to raise money to start rehearsals, and said it would present *Richard III* and *Love’s Labor’s Lost* consecutively, rather than in rotation, to provide more flexibility.

“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,” McCallum said on April 3. “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.”

He noted at the time that the festival sold 3,000 tickets during the last week of March



REMEMBERING REX — Rex the bulldog, shown here with Kurt Rhoads during HVSF’s 2014 production of *The Two Gentlemen of Verona*, has died at age 9. “The 2014 season was my first at HVSF and I will never forget the joy of Rex and Kurt and the audience in *Two Gents*,” Davis McCallum, the festival’s artistic director, said of Rex, whose humans were the O’Reilly family of Garrison. “Rex had a beautiful spirit, and a passion for Kurt’s calves, but who doesn’t? HVSF was so grateful for the opportunity to share in his story.”

Photo by William Marsh/HVSF

2019, compared to 118 this year.

McCallum said that HVSF considered salvaging the 2020 season by presenting

performances in which the actors and audience used social distancing but discarded the idea. The actors need to be together to

rehearse, he said, and the risk of one person in the company getting the virus and, while asymptomatic, giving it to others could allow it to spread through the cast and even an audience of people who have come from near and far.

“We worked on it every possible way to try to salvage some kind of in-person programming,” he said. “But we had to do the thing that will safeguard the well-being of our artists, our audiences and our community.”

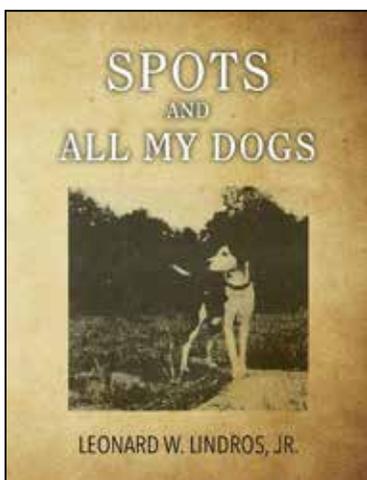
Because of the cancellation, dozens of actors and theater personnel will be out of work this summer; HVSF intends to compensate them for at least part of their lost earnings, McCallum said. The summer camps scheduled for late July also have been canceled.

He also said that the festival would honor flex tickets purchased for the 2020 season for performances in June 2021, and that other ticket holders will hear from HVSF about options.

“We look forward to coming back stronger and more vibrant than ever next year,” McCallum said.

Meanwhile, he said, HVSF is exploring ways to interact with the public remotely, such as playwriting workshops and a competition; teleconferenced readings by actors of select short plays; converting the festival costume shop into a mask-making operation; and getting its teaching artists into virtual classrooms.

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Catching Up with the Beacon City Council

By Jeff Simms

Short-term Rentals

The Beacon City Council plans to hold a public hearing by video conference on May 18 to hear feedback on a proposal to legalize short-term rentals, such as those made through Airbnb.

In 2018, the council was unable to agree on how Beacon should regulate the rentals, effectively making them illegal.

A new proposed law would require owners or tenants seeking to rent their spaces to apply for a permit, which the city would issue if the rental space met applicable building and safety codes, including those for fire prevention and emergency access. Permits would have to be renewed every two years.

The law also would require that rental units be owner-occupied, which means the homes or accessory apartments must be the owner or tenant's primary place of residence, not a property purchased or rented exclusively for rentals. The law would limit rentals of entire homes or apartments to 100 nights per year. Rental spaces also could not be rented out for more than 30 consecutive days.

Zoning Tables

The council will also hold a public hearing on May 18 on its revised zoning tables for the Central Main Street district and a new "transitional" district.

The tables, which have not been updated in more than 40 years, outline allowable uses and related guidelines for each of the city's zones. Residents will be invited to comment on the proposed changes for the Main Street district and adjacent, transitional areas.

Main Street Heights

The City Council is close to voting on a law that would revise standards for approving four-story buildings on Main Street. The proposed law would require the Planning Board to issue a special-use permit before new or renovated buildings could have a fourth floor, except when a structure is in or adjacent to or directly across from another building in Beacon's historic district, in which case the City Council would decide on the permit. In some cases, a setback could also be required for a fourth floor.

All permits for fourth floors would require that the development has no "substantial" negative effects on sunlight, parking, traffic or scenic views deemed "important" by the city. Developers seeking permits would also be required to provide a public benefit such as added affordable housing, parking, green building features or the construction or maintenance of a public plaza or open space.

Beacon *(from Page 1)*

tion, adopting NYStretch will improve our environment and save residents money over time," Kyriacou said. "We like environmental goals to be measured, and the stretch codes are something you can actually measure."

Kyriacou this year put together a task force, headed by Council Members Amber Grant and Air Rhodes, focused on recycling, composting and renewable energy. The group, which also includes the city's volunteer Conservation Advisory Committee, as well as other residents, began work on those projects after seeing the results of a community survey distributed in February and March.

Beacon is "uniquely positioned" to hit the ground running on those projects "because there are so many people who are already invested" in them, Grant said.

The group plans to create goals for each initiative and create action plans before reporting to the City Council.

A symbolic kickoff was planned for Earth Day on April 22, but COVID-19 changed that.

"We're sensitive to the fact that these people are volunteers, too, so it's understandable if this takes a little bit longer"

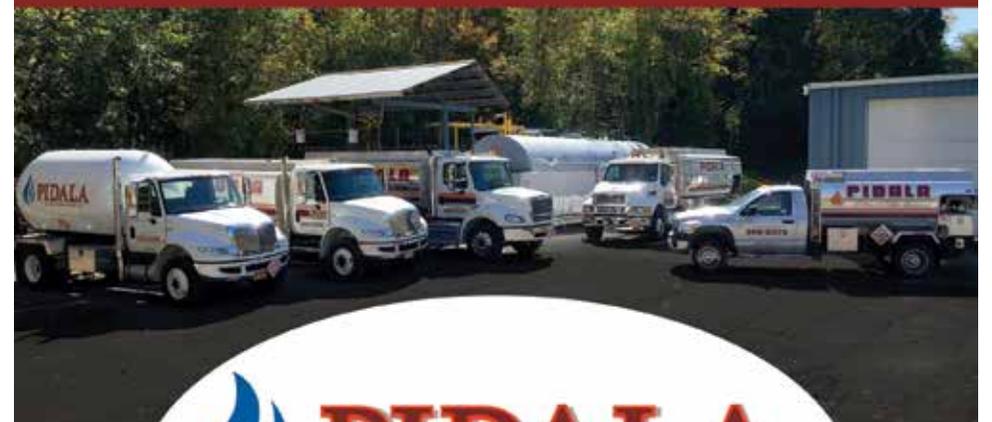
than planned because of social distancing guidelines, Grant said. The hope is to return to the council by midyear before applying for grants, many of which have July deadlines.

Since the city received its bronze certification in March, the Conservation Advisory Committee has also been readying itself for work on an Open Space Index — the next step after the city's Natural Resource Inventory, which was completed this year but must be adopted by the City Council. The open space plan will identify undeveloped land that, if city leaders agree, would become a priority for preservation.

It would also propel the city toward the silver level of climate smart certification and the increased funding opportunities that come with it. Only three communities in the state — Tompkins, Ulster and Suffolk counties — have reached silver certification since the state program launched in 2009.

Along with Beacon, Dutchess and Orange counties have been certified bronze. Putnam County (enrolled in 2019), Philipstown (2017) and Nelsonville (2018) are also participating in the program.

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Reopening *(from Page 1)*

Dutchess and Putnam officials have expressed concern that they would have to wait longer to open because they are part of the Mid-Hudson Regional Economic Development Council, along with Orange, Rockland, Sullivan, Ulster and Westchester counties.

In the Hudson Valley, per capita, Rockland has the most confirmed COVID-19 cases, at 35.8 per 1,000 residents, followed by Westchester (29.5), Orange (22.5), Dutchess (9.7), Putnam (9.5) and Ulster (7).

However, those figures closely follow the amount of testing: Westchester has tested 94 residents per 1,000, followed by Rockland (92.3), Orange (69.7), Dutchess (48.4), Ulster (43.4) and Putnam (39.5).

Molinaro said Dutchess has been working collectively with Orange and Ulster counties since the beginning of the pandemic and had lobbied to be grouped with them as the state uses data to make decisions, including about when and where restrictions should be eased.

He pointed to Cuomo's announcement on Wednesday that Dutchess, Putnam, Sullivan and Ulster would be among 35 counties where hospitals would be allowed to resume elective procedures. Orange, Rockland and Westchester counties still have the restriction.

While the economic development councils represent "the basic framework" that the governor is using for reopening, "every day since announcing, he has made clear to us, privately and publicly, that Rockland and Westchester south is different than everything else north," Molinaro said.

"If we're making decisions based on data, and we ought to be, the data is significantly different [in Rockland and Westchester]

and that has a lot to do with proximity to New York City and the dense nature of the population," he said. "They're going to have stricter restrictions longer."

It's that reality that has state Sen. Sue Serino and Putnam County Executive MaryEllen Odell also pushing to keep Putnam out of the group of "downstate" counties that must continue with stricter restrictions.

Serino, whose district includes the Highlands, said during a Tuesday (April 28) meeting of the Putnam County Business Council, held via Zoom, that "Putnam and Dutchess are in with the lower percentage as far as COVID [cases], so if you let science lead the way, like they should, we should not be lumped in with the other districts."

Both she and Odell have been lobbying for a speedy reopening of businesses in Putnam County.

"We've got to get people back to work," said Odell. "It's not only about the business owner, it's about the employees."

Cuomo said that construction and manufacturing businesses would be the first allowed to open. Next would be businesses considered "more essential" with low risks of spreading infection within the workplace or to customers, followed by those deemed "less essential" or those that present a higher risk of spreading infection.

Each business that reopens must have a plan to protect its employees and consumers, and follow federal guidelines for protecting public health, the governor said. Also, regions must not open attractions or businesses that would draw a large number of visitors from outside the local area.

Odell said she'd like to initially focus on construction workers, including home improvement contractors and various other trades workers. "We have to push, push,

push Albany to allow those individuals to get back to work," she said.

Serino noted that roofers, surveyors and road maintenance crews can work outside, where it is easier to maintain social distancing. "Now's the time they should be paving the road," she said.

In the second phase, Odell said she'd like to see Main Street businesses be allowed to reopen. "There's no reason they can't open as long as they are following the proper guidance, like our grocery stores are following and our liquor stores are following," she said.

While in-seat dining at restaurants will likely be part of a third phase, Odell said these establishments will probably only be able to operate at about 20 percent to 50 percent capacity. "We're probably going to have to come up with some more innovative and creative ways to assist them with their takeout services and home delivery to keep them up and running," she said.

Odell said that due to the prolonged shutdown, the county is expecting a \$7 million to \$10 million short-fall in sales tax revenue. "That's a big hit," she said. Dutchess County is also expecting a reduction of

sales tax revenue, of between 10 percent and 25 percent, or \$19 million to \$40 million, Molinaro said.

While officials in Westchester County have discussed allowing residents to defer property tax payments, or reducing the interest charged on late payments, Odell said Putnam is not in a position to do that, citing contractual obligations to employees and vendors. "We cannot at this point in time have that conversation," she said.

Serino said businesses should start planning their safety models so that, once the governor gives them the green light, they are ready to re-open.

State Assemblyman Kevin Byrne, whose district includes eastern Putnam, and who was also at the Tuesday meeting, said that when people again start venturing out, everyone will need to maintain best practices for public health.

"We're not talking about going back to what we were living in October or November," he said. "There are tons of folks who have underlying health issues that are still at risk. We can do this responsibly and safely. We're not New York City; we don't have the same limitations that New York City does."

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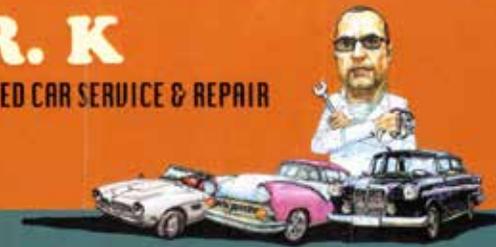


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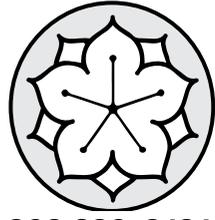
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Puzzles

CROSS CURRENT

ACROSS

- 1. Easter treat
- 4. Wager
- 7. Retain
- 11. Metric measure
- 13. Rowboat need
- 14. Sleeping
- 15. Flow like molasses
- 16. Chum, nowadays
- 17. Actor Brad
- 18. Grassland
- 20. Opening course, often
- 22. Erstwhile garment
- 24. Hitchcock classic
- 28. Spotted insect
- 32. Radiant
- 33. Champing at the bit
- 34. Bathroom fixture
- 36. Yorkshire river
- 37. Narc's measures
- 39. Croquet equipment
- 41. Catch
- 43. Second person
- 44. Related to 5-Down
- 46. Use a Brillo pad
- 50. Ballerina's frill
- 53. Cauldron
- 55. Japanese zither
- 56. Press
- 57. Flightless bird

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

- 58. Calendar quota
- 59. Trudge
- 60. Kenny G's instrument
- 61. That girl
- 8. Sapporo sash
- 9. Allow
- 10. Banned insecticide
- 12. Carousel
- 19. Light touch
- 21. Portion of N.A.
- 23. Eviscerate
- 25. Hint
- 26. Emcee
- 27. Hasn't paid yet
- 28. Michigan, for one
- 29. Not "fer"
- 30. Nincompoop
- 31. Wrigley product
- 35. Reddish-brown horse
- 38. Perched
- 40. — Angeles
- 42. They're calling Danny Boy
- 45. Prolonged sleep
- 47. Fawns' mothers
- 48. Hexagonal state
- 49. Induce ennui
- 50. Gratuity
- 51. Web address
- 52. Excessively
- 54. Monkey suit

DOWN

- 1. Ids' counterparts
- 2. Get bigger
- 3. Middle East strip
- 4. Go up and down
- 5. Listeners
- 6. Army unit
- 7. Carefree

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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 getting smaller (9) _____
- 2 ships in Davy Jones' Locker (6) _____
- 3 restaurant (6) _____
- 4 wandering off topic (8) _____
- 5 student's tome (8) _____
- 6 malleable (7) _____
- 7 turns on one foot (6) _____

SOLUTIONS

SHR	TE	KS	ING	ERY
EC	OK	OTS	XT	TIC
BO	AS	AY	EAT	WR
STR	PIV	INK	PL	ING

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SUDO CURRENT

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

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Answers for April 24 Puzzles

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

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

1. PRESCRIBED, 2. SWIMSUITS, 3. MEETINGS, 4. COVERS, 5. SEATTLE, 6. PORCELAIN, 7. STRINGS



The Seniors: Beacon Softball

By Skip Pearlman

Much like every other high school team in the Hudson Valley and the state, the Beacon High softball squad had hopes and expectations for the spring until the pandemic left it all in limbo.

On Monday (April 27), the New York State Public High School Athletic Association canceled the state tournament for spring sports. Gov. Andrew Cuomo had ordered schools closed at least through May 15, and officials for Section 1, which includes 79 schools in Dutchess, Putnam, Rockland and Westchester counties, say sports cannot restart until school is back in session. Officials in Sections 8 and 11 have already canceled their spring seasons.

Last year, Beacon won its first tournament game in the Class B, Section 1 tournament before falling to Pearl River and finishing 6-14.

This spring, Michael Carofano, who had been with the program as an assistant for four seasons, took over as head coach from Brian Antalek. Carofano said the Bulldogs, including seniors **Cierra Lassiter**, **Trista Maloney**, **Hanna Alfieri**, **Mia Ricottilli** and **Kyrstin Lawrence**, were excited about the next step.

"These girls bought into a new system and a new mindset," Carofano said. "They're a vocal group. We have a young team, with nine underclassmen, and they kept things loose and fun."

Time is clearly running out, but Carofano and his players are trying to stay hopeful for having any kind of season together.

"I'm in contact with the girls every day, and they're staying positive, working out with online training," he said. "Even if there's no state championships, maybe that gives us time to do a local tournament."

"I can only imagine how the seniors are feeling," the coach said. "Mostly I think they miss their friends and their teammates. Some of these relationships you have will last the rest of your life. I think the hardest part is not being able to be teenagers and have fun before they go their separate ways."

Alfieri, an All-League catcher and center-fielder, said she was "still extremely hopeful" about the season. "Better late than never," she said.

Each of the seniors said they dread the thought that their last practice was the last time they'll play together. "We all stood on the field for the last time together, not knowing it might have been actually the last time," Alfieri said. "Most of us have waited through middle school and high school for our senior season, and we may never get the chance to



Cierra Lassiter



Hanna Alfieri

end high school how any of us thought."

Maloney, a fourth-year infielder and outfielder, said she missed spending time on and off the field with her teammates. "My hope was to make strong bonds with the girls," she said. "To have the best, last high school sports season I could."

"Part of me is hopeful, but that's just the part of me not wanting to let it go yet," she added. "We can't even meet up and have our own practices. You really don't realize the worth of things until they are gone. I learned that you shouldn't take things for granted — even things like toilet paper!"

Lawrence, a second-year infielder, said that while she knows "we aren't going to get the season we're used to, or that we want" she still hopes they will be able to step on the field together as a team one last time.

"After all these years of playing with these amazing girls, to not get to finish it out would be devastating," she said. "But through this tough time I've found many things to be more appreciative of. The biggest thing to me is my mom. She's an emergency room



Mia Ricottilli



Trista Maloney and Kyrstin Lawrence

nurse at one of the major centers for the testing and treating of COVID-19, and it's tough for her. I've learned that there is no way to thank her and all the other front-line workers for how much they're doing."

Ricottilli, a third-year second baseman, expects that the experience will change how she views the world. "This showed how easily something can be taken away, or how fast things can spiral out of control," she said. "I think everyone's going to live life greater, and be more appreciative."

She doesn't believe it's too late to play. "I refuse to say the words that it's canceled until I hear it for certain," she said. "I don't think it's too late at all" although she admits feeling heartbreak over "your favorite thing to do getting taken from you."

"The hardest part of this situation is just being a senior in general when this is supposed to be the best part of the school year."

Lassiter, a second-year first baseman, says the experience "has changed me for the better because I can now appreciate the years of experience I got to spend with my players. But I feel like my season is lost."

Each player was asked for her vision of the "perfect" season.

"It would be my team and I hanging out,

Lost Season

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

and going out, a lot, together," Maloney said. "Winning and celebrating — a lot. And crying my eyes out on Senior Night, and winning that game."

"Happiness, dedication and fun," Lassiter said.

"I saw Beacon softball going farther this year than most, beating teams we never beat, making it to sectionals, working hard to the end of sectionals, then putting something on that banner," added Ricottilli.

"I envision the long bus rides, the brutal and cold early morning practices," Alfieri said. "Staying after practice to make sure everything got put away properly. The same it is every year, just with the knowledge this was going to be it. This year, I'd finally have the Senior Night that I've seen so many other athletes experience. This could have been the year we made it far in sectionals, put another number on the softball banner. I would walk off the field knowing it was my last time."

"In a perfect world, we would have gone big [in the state tournament] and worked our butts off to get there," Lawrence said. "Our team this year was full of dedicated girls who share an immense love for the game. We've all been playing together for so long and have gotten so close."