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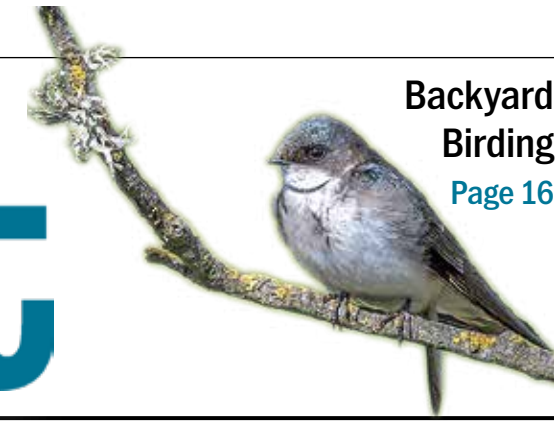

Backyard Birding
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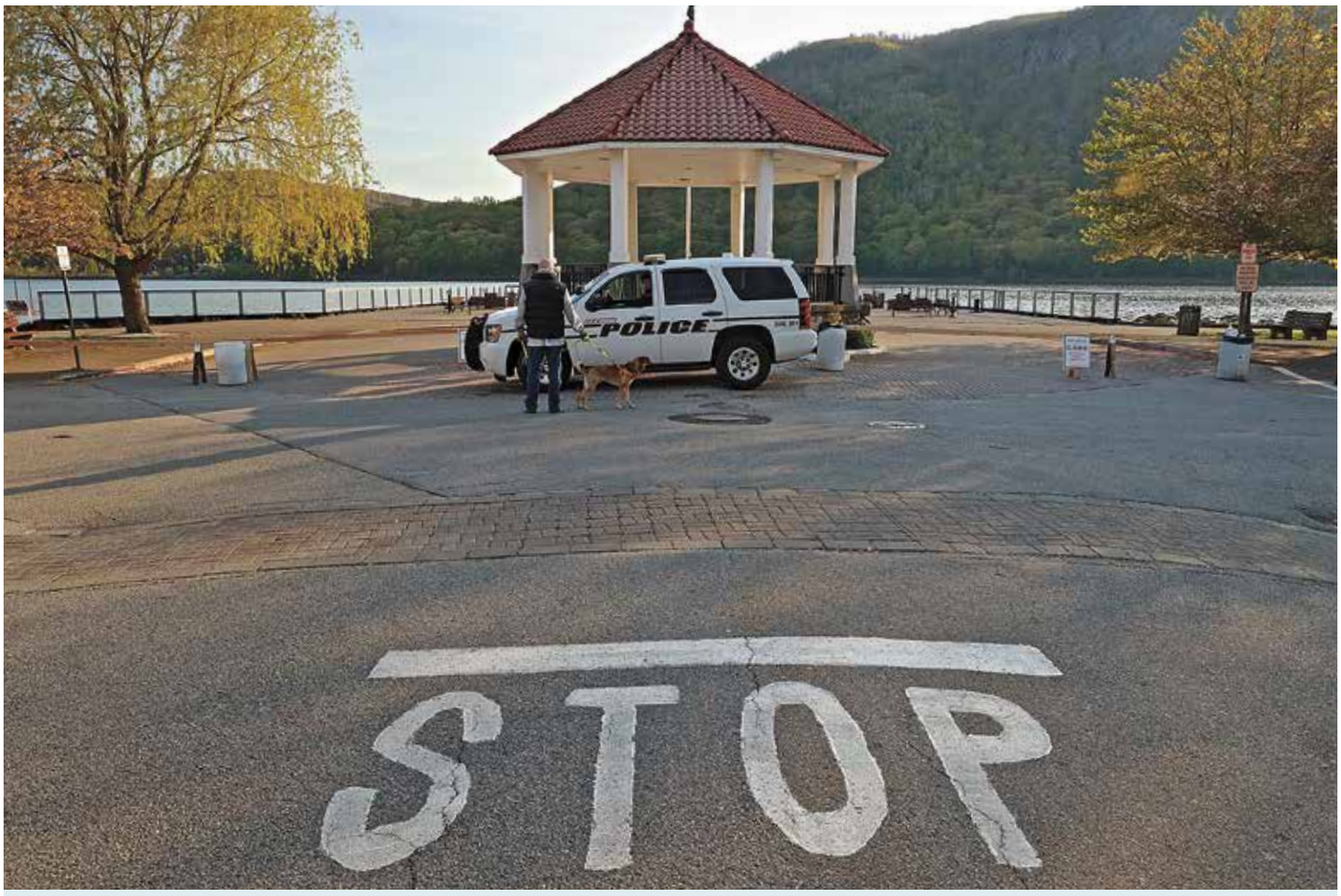

CLOSED FOR BUSINESS — Cold Spring blocked off its dock, waterfront area and Dockside Park for most of Sunday (May 10) to discourage crowds and said it will do so again on Saturdays and Sundays at least through Memorial Day. See Page 9. *Photo by Ross Corsair*

Putnam Asked to Release Inmates

County refuses, saying they are too dangerous

By Leonard Sparks

Public defenders in Putnam County have asked a state judge to release eight inmates they say face life-threatening consequences because of the threat of COVID-19.

David Squirrell, the chief attorney for the Putnam County Legal Aid Society, on May 5 petitioned the court on behalf of seven inmates at the county jail who the group says have illnesses that include chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, asthma and diabetes. Another inmate does not have an underlying condition but Legal Aid says he is at risk for infection.

The jail, which has 128 beds, had 29 inmates as of Monday (May 11). It represents a "close and confined environment" that prevents social distancing and requires inmates to interact with guards and new detainees who might have been infected outside the facility, the petition said.

Legal Aid says it is "wishful thinking"

(Continued on Page 20)

Beacon Farmers' Market Set — For One Year

Also: Planners begin review of four-story project

By Jeff Simms

The Beacon City Council on May 4 approved a contract to allow the Beacon Farmers' Market to operate along Veterans Place, between Main and Henry streets, but, as in previous years, the agreement with the market is only good for a year.

Phil Ciganer, the owner of the Towne Crier Cafe, which is adjacent to the market location, has repeatedly protested that its vendors block entrances that musicians need to bring equipment into the venue. The Sunday market moved from the waterfront to Veterans Place in 2017.

The council last month allowed the market to open for the spring; the May 4

(Continued on Page 20)

After 34 Years, Antique Shop and Gallery to Close

Downtown and Ellen Hayden Gallery victims of crisis

By Alison Rooney

After 34 years on Main Street in Cold Spring, Gary Arceri and Ellen Hayden plan to close their shops — Downtown Antiques, Art & Antiques and the Ellen Hayden Gallery — at the end of May.

Arceri and Hayden said their sprawling collectibles stores and art gallery on lower Main Street were victims of the COVID-19 shutdown and an inopportune rent increase.

Downtown Antiques began its life across the street and up the hill, near where Joseph's Fine Jewelry is located. Arceri and Hayden, who are both painters, met in art school at SUNY New Paltz. After getting married, and while Arceri was still in graduate school, they looked for a way to supplement their incomes.

"We had impulsively collected — I shopped at antiques shops as a teenager — plus we had things our parents had passed along," Arceri recalled. "We realized we had a knack for finding things, either on the side of the road or globally. In a way, we've been preservationists of things some people see as junk but others recognize have intrinsic value. We see it as guarding the thread of history."

For the first few years of their marriage, the couple rented a building in Walden that had a storefront and a second floor they turned into a studio. Then they met Tommy Valentine, who owned a building in Cold Spring and convinced them to move.

In the 1980s, "there were probably three times as many antique shops [on Main Street] as there are now," Arceri said. "It had been a depressed river town, but we came in at the end of a boom. We made a go of it in that space, but few people walked up the hill."

(Continued on Page 21)

Four Philipstown Residents Donate $230K

Private gifts benefit those hurt by shutdown

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

While the Philipstown Town Board's discussion of the COVID-19 crisis has frequently been somber — infections and deaths, canceled events, economic malaise — when it convened on May 7 via Zoom, there was a brighter note.

Supervisor Richard Shea reported that, in addition to an initial gift from an anonymous resident of $100,000 to provide food and other necessities to Highlands residents in need, three other donors have since given $10,000, $50,000 and $70,000.

The town government has used the funds to purchase grocery store and pharmacy gift cards from local businesses, as

(Continued on Page 8)

5Q FIVE QUESTIONS: TOM VIRGADAMO

By Jeff Simms

Tom Virgadamo, who grew up in Cold Spring and lives in Beacon, teaches math at Haldane Middle School. He and his family have raised more than $24,000 for businesses in the Highlands in response to the COVID-19 shutdown.

How did the fundraiser get started?

My wife and I are teachers, and since we've been home with our kids, we realized that we're not going out and supporting local businesses like we normally would. We thought it would be a good idea to do some authentic work with the kids at home, which we don't often get a chance to do.

How much did you raise?

For the first round I did something like an old-school Super Bowl betting box. You paid $30 to get a box on the grid and if your name got pulled — my kids drew one number horizontally and another vertically — you picked a business that got $500. We sold 100 boxes and then Mary Beth McDowell of Beacon donated another $250 on top of that, so we gave away $3,250.

For the second round, if you bought an Easter egg, your name went in that egg. We sold $7,050 of eggs and, if we pulled your name, you could donate $500 to one business or $250 each to two. People were also donating live on Instagram, and I put that toward a golden egg, which went for $2,400. The Peparo family in Cold Spring won it and they split the money between The Main Course and the Riverview Restaurant in Cold Spring.

The Virgadamos

The third round was for Mother's Day. We had people buy flowers and we put each name in a vase, or you could also put in the name of a business. If we pulled a business, it won $500. If we pulled your name, you could split it between two businesses. We also had a $1,500 flower, which went to Mr. V's in Beacon, and we had another flower that a colleague won and split among three businesses. That went for over $2,000. The third time around we gave away $13,993 — some to first responders, and well over $10,000 to small businesses.

How many people contributed?

At least 500. People I didn't even know were sending me money online. I challenged a friend in Connecticut, Tom Molinaski, and he raised $16,000 for his local businesses, and my buddy Bill Lester got $11,000 in Central Jersey. Together, we pulled in more than $50,000. Another friend upstate is working on a fundraiser. We need to keep spreading it around.

How did your kids respond?

They really appreciated the intention of what we were doing, so it became a valuable lesson for them. We wanted to do a good deed and it turned into something special.

How has it gone teaching your Haldane students online?

It's been challenging. But I'm fortunate to work for a great school district with colleagues and administrators who are passionate about what they do. We're trying every day to get 100 percent participation, but we understand it's tough. We're working all day, every day. You're checking emails and giving feedback at night and again first thing in the morning. It's not an ideal situation, but we're trying to make the best of it.

ON THE SPOT

By Michael Turton

When's the last time you were in a treehouse?

"I was 8. We lashed together a three-tier treehouse near Fort Drum. The trees are all bulldozed now."

~ Chris Fisher, Beacon

"I was 10. My superhero uncle built a treehouse high in an enormous oak behind his Westchester home. I'd swing on the tire and rope for hours."

~ Dina Pace Shackleford, Cold Spring

"I was in a treehouse this morning near Hopewell Junction! I use it for photographing raptors."

~ Chris Crocco, Beacon

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NEWS BRIEFS

Laura Mitchell Named Superintendent at Millbrook

Ex-Garrison leader had interim role

Laura Mitchell, who left her position as superintendent at the Garrison School on Dec. 31 in a parting of ways with the school board, was hired last week by the Millbrook Central School District as its new superintendent.

She had been the district's interim superintendent since Jan. 1 while it searched for a successor to Philip D'Angelo, who retired.

In a statement, the district said that Mitchell, during her four-month tenure, "has led our district through some of the greatest challenges any district has faced in recorded history. Her leadership, positive attitude and experience has made it clear that our permanent superintendent has been here all along."

Mitchell, who was hired as the Garrison superintendent in 2014, said in an email to parents last fall that she and the board had reached an "amicable mutual agreement" for her departure. In a statement dated Nov. 1, the board wrote that "after many months of deliberation" the district and Mitchell had "agreed to move in a new direction."

The Garrison board on April 22 named Carl Albano, who was most recently superintendent of the Tuckahoe school district in Westchester County, as Mitchell's successor. He will begin July 1.

Solomon Resigns as Newburgh Police Chief

Former Beacon chief out after two years

Doug Solomon, who served as Beacon's police chief from 2012 to 2017 before taking the same position in Newburgh, resigned on April 30.

Solomon had been suspended by the city on April 1 and Lt. Kevin Lahar was named officer-in-charge. The city declined to provide any reason for the suspension except to say it was related "directly to his performance as chief."

Dutchess Details Jail Costs

County has spent about a quarter of budget

The Dutchess County comptroller this month released a financial accounting of the county jail project as of Dec. 31.

According to the report, the county has spent $57.6 million on its proposed Justice & Transition Center — including design plans, land purchases and temporary housing installed in 2015 for prisoner overflow (now being used by the county as homeless and medical emergency shelters) — and $47 million of the $192 million budgeted for construction.

The Legislature downsized the project from 569 to 328 beds last year, partly in anticipation of a bail-reform law that went into effect in January that keeps many low-level offenders from being incarcerated before their court dates. On April 28, the state approved the revised plans, and construction is expected to begin in December and be completed by April 2024.

"As this capital project is the largest ever undertaken by the Dutchess County government, it is rightly a project of great concern to the taxpayers, particularly during these uncertain times," said Comptroller Robin Lois in a statement. "It is important to keep everyone informed as to the spending, vendor contracts and construction timeline." A copy of the report can be downloaded at bit.ly/dutchess-jail-2020.

Community Foundations Names CEO

Promotes Sally Cross to top position

Sally Cross

The Community Foundations of the Hudson Valley didn't have to look far for its next president and CEO, naming its vice president of philanthropy, Sally Cross, to the position after a national search. She will begin on June 1.

Cross has the vice president of philanthropy for the past six years at the 50-year old foundation, which manages and dispenses grants in Dutchess, Putnam and Ulster counties. Cross was previously executive director of the SUNY New Paltz Foundation. She succeeds March Gallagher, who left in 2019 to run for Ulster County comptroller.

Who's on the Ballot

School and library positions unopposed

Nominations were due this past Monday (May 11) for candidates for local school boards and the Howland Public Library board, and no challengers came forth. Both votes are scheduled for June 9 and will take place by absentee ballot because of social-distancing restrictions.

Seven local school board members will run unopposed to retain their seats: In Beacon, it's Anthony White, Kristan Flynn and Craig Wolf; in Garrison, Courtney McCarthy, Matthew Speiser and Jocelyn Apicello; and at Haldane, Peggy Clements.

The Beacon board on May 6 voted to remove a resolution from the ballot to purchase school buses.

There are five seats open on the Howland Public Library board, and five candidates. Karen Twohig, Thomas Rigney and Darlene Resling are incumbents and Sean Twohig and Jessica Conway will appear on the ballot to fill two vacant seats.

Industrial Arts Take Gold

Recognized for best American IPA

The New York State Brewers Association announced the winners on May 7 of its fourth annual craft beer competition. Thirty-six awards were presented across 13 categories.

Power Tools, by Industrial Arts Brewing of Garnerville and Beacon, was named the state's best American IPA. It can be ordered at industrialartsbrewing.com for curbside pickup in Beacon from Thursday to Sunday.

The HIGHLANDS Current

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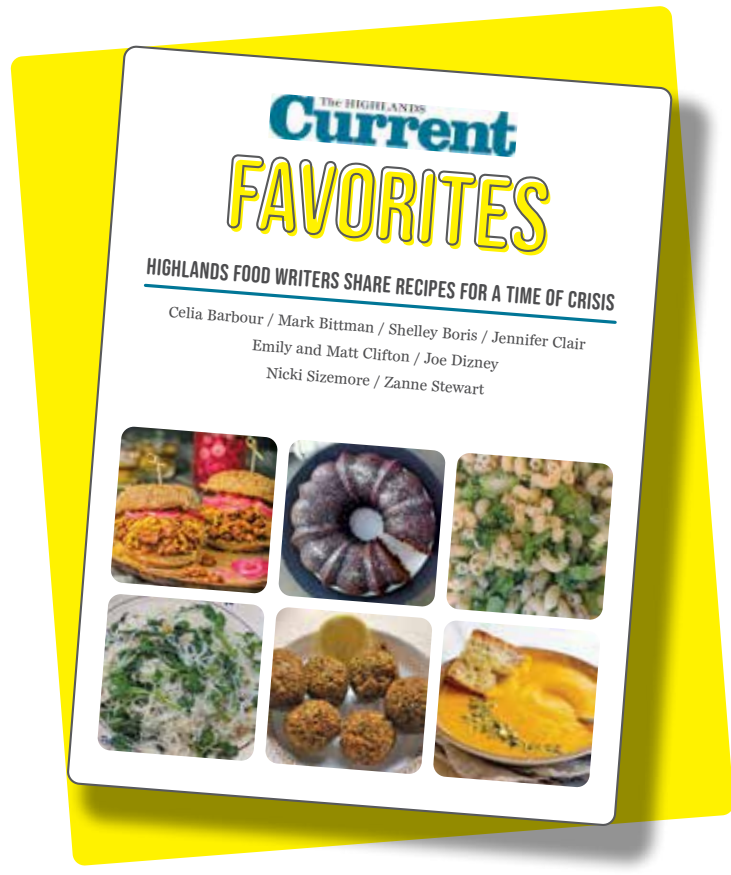
Nine celebrated chefs and cookbook authors who are your friends and neighbors here in Philipstown and Beacon have shared with The Current *some of their most comforting recipes so that we can share them with you as a digital cookbook.*



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Thank you to you and our cookbook authors for all support. *The Current* will be here for you through this crisis and back into calmer times.

The HIGHLANDS Current

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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

Grand reopening

If business owners lack confidence with reopening, is it any wonder that their customers manifest the same sentiment? The business owners cited in the article ("State: Hudson Valley Not Ready," May 8) all expressed this lack of confidence. Perhaps there should be another article to balance this one expressing the contrary "can-do American spirit" for models that combine safety with reopening.

Ann Fanizzi, *Carmel*

If conglomerate shopping centers (Walmart, Target, Home Depot), gas stations and other businesses deemed essential, such as liquor stores and convenience stores, can safely operate with thousands of customers entering their stores each day, there is no reason the small-business owner should not be allowed to operate under the same guidelines.

If someone has an issue with the businesses opening, stay home. But every individual has the right to choose what's best for him or her.

Charles Symon, *Beacon*

I thank Dwight Arthur for his rational, unemotional and non-political comment on easing the virus restrictions (*Letters and Comments*, May 8). Certainly, a gradual easing with controls on masks, distancing, occupancy density and other measures will move us along on the path toward normalcy or a new normalcy. The train from New York City to Cold Spring needs to have some method of controlling numbers. It's not an unsolvable problem. Continued curbs on our freedom of movement would be more acceptable if our leadership could explain the rationale behind the decision-making and the status of various medical statistics.

George Baum, *Kent Lakes*

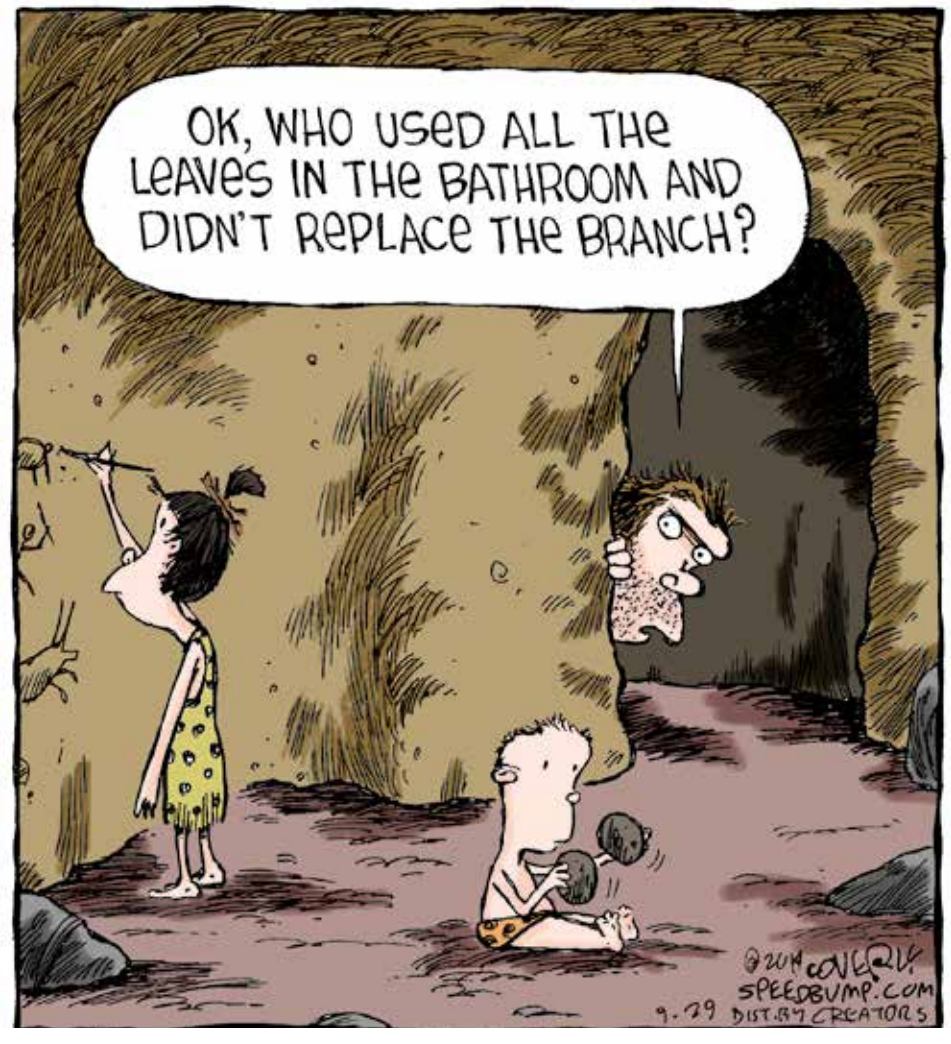
If everyone wears masks, and keeps their distance from others, they should allow businesses to open, excluding large venues such as movie theaters, sports stadiums and churches.

Biff Hardwick, *Cortlandt Manor*

Middle names

In the May 8 issue, the question for *On the Spot* was "What's your middle name — and are you fond of it?" In May 1931, my father was about to graduate from Rutgers University. He was sent a card to fill out for his diploma. He did not have a middle name, so he submitted "Samuel Reigrod." Rutgers sent the form back asking for his middle name. This happened several times until my father capitulated. His father's name was Morris, so back went the card with Samuel Morrison Reigrod, which he used until the day he died.

Rena Corey, *Cold Spring*



Policing the village

Hiring is easy if one has funds ("Enough Police in Cold Spring?," May 8). Rehiring when not needed is much less easy — and usually expensive. Why not consider hiring vetted high school students and provide them some basic training in crowd management? Call them into service on weekends, holidays or otherwise as needed. It's a much friendlier solution and provides incentive to youth. The public would probably accept and be impressed with such an approach.

William Harris, *Cold Spring*

COVID-19 at prison

My son is due to be released from Fishkill Correctional on June 4 ("Beacon Prison Virus Cases Highest in State," April 24). He thinks he had COVID-19, but it's impossible to see a doctor or nurse, or even get aspirin. I have an attorney trying to get him out early. He is 44, has a master's degree, has a home and family, plus a job to go to.

I called the sentence-review office in Albany and left messages every day. Good luck. Gov. Andrew Cuomo does nothing for guys who have done more than most imprisoned, which might just be a clue that they were not criminals in the first place. Twenty-five years gone, but my son shines on and has made me so proud. Good luck to all.

Linda Bailey, *San Marcos, California*

Artists at home

That was a terrific article by Alison Rooney on the artists commissioned by Magazzino Italian Art in Philipstown and how they are stretching their creative impulses into forms and images that reflect the need for connection and self-expression ("Artists in a Box," May 8). As an artist, I have been thinking and preparing for "something," knowing that I need to put ideas to paper during this confinement. The article gave me some clarity and inspired me to start!

Maryann Syrek, *Garrison*

Loud bikes

In response to Steven Sohn's letter about loud motorcycles (*Letters and Comments*, May 8): I am a new motorcyclist, as of last year. I took the Motorcycle Safety Foundation course and one thing that got repeated was "a loud bike is a safe bike."

If you think about how dangerous motorcycle riding is, every factor that can improve safety is a good thing. You want

(Continued on Page 5)

LETTERS AND COMMENTS

Counting the Highlands

Response rates to the 2020 U.S. census, as of May 13, along with historical data, 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	64.9	69.1	71	72
Putnam County	62.6	66.8	67	56
Philipstown	61.6	66.2	67	64
National	59.0	66.5	67	65
18th District	58.7	66.0	-	-
Nelsonville	58.5	67.2	65	61
Beacon	58.1	65.8	54	66
Dutchess County	57.4	65.7	68	64
New York State	53.5	64.6	67	62
New York City	48.2	64.0	55	53
Newburgh	35.4	50.2	45	44

Source: 2020census.gov

(Continued from Page 4)

your presence known and audible since chances are at least one of the vehicles doesn't have you in their sight.

Since this is encouraged for safety, it is quickly abused by riders who enjoy the super-loud sounds of a motorcycle and amplify them or just buy louder bikes. I find them nonsensical and offensive, but what to do? I suppose the state Department of Motor Vehicles could impose a decibel-volume limit, but how would that be measured? Maybe there could be rollout of basic decibel test equipment during vehicle inspections.

Jim Smith, *Beacon*

It's devastating how the Harley-Davidsons destroy the peace of the village (and wake up my child from his peaceful naps). It's against the law and they must be stopped. The perception that a "loud bike is a safe bike" is absurd and is easily debunked. Many police officers are bikers and aren't inclined to enforce the noise laws. Police officers who would enforce the laws don't have the sound meters to measure the decibel output.

I'd like to start a group, raise the issue with the police and see if we can raise funds to purchase them a sound meter.

Ryan Trow, *Cold Spring*

New York State has a decibel limit for motorcycles: It's 82 decibels for any motorcycle traveling at any speed, measured at a distance of 50 feet from the center of the lane in which the motorcycle is traveling. Police officers typically just look for original equipment manufacturer exhausts that are required to meet this requirement, but will occasionally test sound levels with a meter. I have never heard of the Motorcycle Safety Foundation officially advocating noise.

Obert Wood, *Garrison*

How about enforcing cars using their signals when they pull away from curbs, pull into curbs or change direction on the road? That's a safety issue which is more important.

Chris Ungaro, *via Facebook*

I am an avid motorcyclist and Cold Spring resident for more than 20 years. While I agree with the sentiment concerning inconsiderate individuals who find the need to "blip" or rev their pipes in the middle of town, I am concerned when we start singling out motorcycles. I have experienced nearly as many large trucks with loud exhausts being disorderly as well.

While I am not a diehard "loud pipes save lives" person, I have found it has been beneficial in waking up those drivers who feel it is OK to use their cellphones while driving. Distracted driving kills.

Instead of immediately jumping to the top rung, perhaps we could advocate a lower-cost and possibly welcoming solution, such as having prominent and well-placed signs. There are a number of motorcyclists who do respect our community and provide revenue to it.

All I ask is that we don't become a "nanny state" town and resort to punishment to address issues and concerns. Perhaps these individuals may come to realize we appreciate their support and hope they appreciate our town.

George Brady, *Cold Spring*

Should I be comforted knowing that some bikers believe their loud pipes are beneficial in "waking up those drivers who feel it is OK to use their cellphones while driving?" The idea seems to be that if you ride a motorcycle you are somehow allowed your own set of laws and warped perception of the "public good."

I am a hearing-impaired, three-decade resident of the lower village, and many times, while walking my dog, I have jumped out of my skin when a motorcycle starts to accelerate over the bridge or turns on Lunn Terrace onto Main Street. On weekends, I cannot sit in my backyard for more than 15 minutes without being distracted by cyclists "scooping the loop" or turning at the foot of Main Street. And that is without wearing hearing aids.

It's not a nanny state when tax-paying residents are requesting relief. It is abating the noise pollution that makes this sometimes an unpleasant place to live. A sound meter and enforcement traps where this is an incessant blight on the nature of our village could well ameliorate the disruption.

Rian Keating, *Cold Spring*

NOTICE

NOTICE OF ANNUAL PUBLIC HEARING ON THE BUDGET, AND ANNUAL MEETING, ELECTION AND VOTE OF THE BEACON CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT AND THE HOWLAND PUBLIC LIBRARY

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Board of Education of the Beacon City School District, Dutchess County, New York, will hold a public hearing on the budget by remote means, Beacon, New York, on Monday, June 1, 2020 at 7:00 P.M, for the purpose of presenting the budget document for the 2020-2021 School Year.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that a copy of the statement of the amount of money which will be required for School District purposes during the 2020-2021 school year (the Budget), as prepared by the Board of Education, may be obtained by any resident of the District during the fourteen (14) days immediately preceding the Annual Meeting, Election and Vote, commencing May 26, 2020 by emailing the District Clerk during regular school hours, 8:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M., or on the District's website.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the Annual Meeting, Election and Vote, will be held on Tuesday June 9, 2020, by absentee ballot only for the purpose of voting:

A. To elect three (3) members to the Board of Education for three year terms (commencing July 1, 2020 and expiring June 30, 2023).

B. To vote upon the appropriation of the necessary funds to meet the estimated expenditures for School District purposes for the 2020-2021 School Year (the School District Budget).

C. To vote upon the appropriation of the necessary funds to meet the estimated expenditures for the Howland Public Library for the 2020-2021 School Year (the Library Budget).

D. To elect five (5)members to the Board of Trustees of the Howland Public Library as follows:

1) two members for five year terms (commencing July 1, 2020 and expiring Jun 30, 2020);

2) one member to fill a vacancy for an unexpired term that ends on June 30, 2023;

3) one member to fill a vacancy for an unexpired term that ends on June 30, 2022;

and

4) one member to fill a vacancy for an unexpired term that ends on June 30, 2021.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that, pursuant to Executive Order 202.26 issued by Governor Cuomo on May 1, 2020, petitions for nominating candidates for the office of member of the Board of Education, and for the office of trustee of the Board of Directors of the Howland Public Library, must be filed with the District Clerk via mail or email by no later than 5:00 P.M. on Monday, May 11, 2020. Such petitions shall state the name and residence address of the candidate. Petition forms may be obtained on the District's website or via email from the District Clerk.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that all qualified voters of the Beacon City School District shall be eligible to vote by absentee ballot. A qualified voter is defined as: (a) a U.S. citizen; (b) at least 18 years old; (c) a resident of the district for at least thirty days prior to June 9th; and (d) not otherwise ineligible to vote under Section 5-106 of the Election Law.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that qualified military voters may request a military absentee ballot application from the District Clerk during regular business hours via mail or email, or download it from the school district website, and may indicate their preference to receive a military absentee ballot application via mail, facsimile or electronic mail. Absentee ballots for military voters shall be administered in accordance with the provisions of Section 2018-d of the Education Law and Part 122 of the Commissioner's Regulations. Absentee ballots must be received at the Office of the District Clerk by no later than 5:00 P.M., prevailing time, on the day of the election. A list of all persons to whom absentee ballots and military absentee ballots shall have been issued will be maintained in the said Office of the District Clerk.

Dated: May 6, 2020
By the Order of the Board of Education of the Beacon City School District

_____

Kelly Pologe, School District Clerk

COPING WITH STRESS

BY MICHAEL MCKEE, PHD

Happiness? I'm so glad you asked.

Martin Seligman is a psychologist who has spent his career identifying the benefits of a positive psychology. We might also call this happiness or well-being. It differs from positive thinking, which has changing thoughts as the focus. Seligman has spent his career developing and researching the elements of positive psychology.

Here are some important components from Dr Seligman's work, with special attention to the concept of resilience in the face of serious challenges:

- **Self-awareness is the capacity to pay attention to your thoughts, feelings and behaviors. Being mindful of the present moment (the only one that really exists) is the core skill here.**
- **Mental agility is the ability to think creatively and flexibly, to see things from multiple perspectives**
- **Strength of character is the ability to engage with life's challenges in ways that are aligned with one's values**
- **Connection means that you are building strong, trusting relationships**
- **Optimism is the ability to take purposeful action in areas that you can control with the expectation of success**
- **Self-regulation is the ability to make changes in thoughts, feelings and behavior in the service of an important goal**

We can contribute significantly to what we call happiness.

- **Have a set of beliefs that drive the decisions you make**
- **Contribute to the greater good based on those beliefs**
- **Pursue your goals with optimism**
- **Respond flexibly to adversity**
- **Derive a sense of satisfaction and accomplishment from the results of your striving**

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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Coronavirus Update

■ State health officials said that, as of Thursday (May 14), 1,115 people have tested positive for the coronavirus in Putnam County, 3,474 in Dutchess, 31,792 in Westchester, 12,596 in Rockland, 1,495 in Ulster and 9,771 in Orange. Statewide, there were 343,051 positives, including 188,545 in New York City.

■ Statewide, 22,170 people had died as of May 14, including 56 residents of Putnam County and 117 from Dutchess.

■ Data released by Dutchess and Putnam showed that, as of May 14, Beacon had 126 confirmed cases and Philipstown had 112.

■ This week, Gov. Andrew Cuomo announced that the Finger Lakes, Mohawk Valley, North Country, Central New York and Southern Tier regions can allow non-essential construction, manufacturing, agriculture, forestry and fishing industries to reopen starting May 15, but the Mid-Hudson region, which includes Dutchess and Putnam counties, still has two of seven metrics to meet (see Page 7).

■ Mutual Aid Beacon is selling washable cotton masks at mutual-aid-beacon-mask-project.myshopify.com. For each mask purchased for $10, two masks will be made and distributed to front-line workers, including farm and domestic workers.

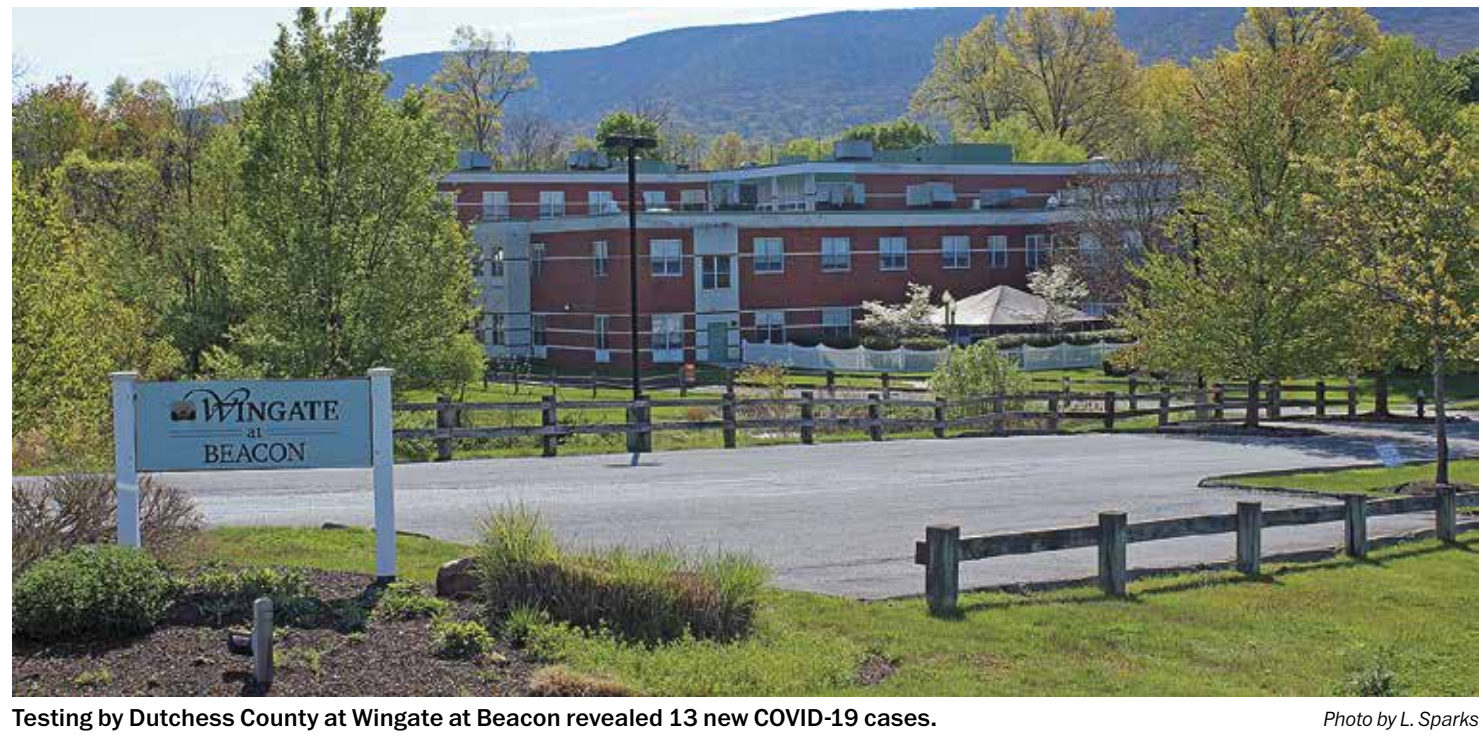
■ Drive-in movie theaters, landscaping and gardening can reopen statewide beginning May 15 but must maintain social distancing and protective measures. Low-risk outdoor recreational activities such as tennis also will be allowed.

■ Cuomo said on May 13 that tests of 2,750 members of the New York State Police found that 3.1 percent had COVID-19 antibodies. In addition, tests of more than 3,000 corrections officers found that 7.5 percent had the antibodies. That compares to 12.3 percent of the general statewide population.

■ The Desmond-Fish Public Library in

(Continued on Page 7)

THANK YOU! — Children's signs in the window of The Country Goose offered thanks to essential workers. *Photo by Ross Corsair*



Testing by Dutchess County at Wingate at Beacon revealed 13 new COVID-19 cases. *Photo by L. Sparks*

25 Percent of State COVID-19 Deaths at Nursing Homes

Dutchess County begins testing of all residents

By Leonard Sparks

John Sellingsloh visited his sister, Marian, each week at the Putnam Nursing and Rehabilitation Center near Holmes, a hamlet of Pawling, until the facility banned visitors in March. Then came a call notifying him that she had tested positive for COVID-19. Then came another, on April 16, saying she had died, at age 75.

"Until that point, I had heard stories of family members with people passing from this virus in hospitals, and their sorrow at not being able to be with them," said Sellingsloh, who lives in Hopewell Junction. "That was the kicker — not being able to see her again or say goodbye."

Marian Sellingsloh, who grew up in Beacon and Glenham and worked for the Red Cross in Japan and at a state facility for the disabled in Rockland County, was gifted in music and art, according to her obituary. Her brother said she had been at the nursing home for five years and was "very weak" and "very vulnerable." (He praised the facility's employees, saying even the housecleaning staff would ask, "How's your sister?")

The Putnam Nursing and Rehabilitation Center has lost 13 residents to COVID-19, according to the state. Another three residents have died at Putnam Ridge in Brewster.

According to the state Department of Health, about 25 percent of New York's fatalities — some 5,400 people confirmed or presumed to have COVID-19 — have occurred at nursing homes.

Dutchess County has been hit particularly hard, with 41 deaths at six of its facili-

(Continued on Page 21)

Coronavirus Update

(from Page 6)

Garrison has partnered with Split Rock Books in Cold Spring to offer a limited number of books for checkout. See splitrockbks.com. Books will be delivered or picked up from the bookstore and can be kept until restrictions are lifted.

■ New York is hiring contact tracers to track COVID-19 infections. For more information, or to apply, see bit.ly/contact-tracer-jobs.

■ The Putnam County Office of Senior Resources encourages seniors to contact its staff, which is working remotely, for information on virtual programs. "Social distancing does not have to mean isolation, especially for seniors," said Michael Cunningham, the agency's director. The office has been offering Coffee and Conversation, book clubs, brain fitness groups, Zoom social dancing, strength and balance exercise classes, caregiver support groups, TeleBingo and robotic pets. Visit putnamcountyny.com/OSR or call 845-808-1700.

■ Sandy Galef, whose Assembly district includes Philipstown, has invited constituents to share "smart, practical public health ideas to take into consideration as we discuss a reopening strategy" that will be shared with the governor's office. Call 914-941-1111 or email galefs@nyassembly.gov.

■ Cornell Cooperative Extension offices across the Hudson Valley are distributing free hand sanitizer and face coverings to local farms. See putnam.cce.cornell.edu or ccedutchess.org.

Many Cold Spring residents did their best on Sunday (May 10) to get some fresh air, walk their dogs, wear their masks and keep their distance. *Photo by Ross Corsair*

■ Two Dutchess County organizations on Wednesday (May 13) created programs to help small businesses. The Dutchess County Local Development Corp. established a program, in partnership with Community Capital New York, that will provide interest-free loans of up to $10,000 to independent businesses that have not been able to secure federal assistance. At the same time, the Dutchess County Industrial Development Agency created a sales-and-use tax relief program to help manufacturers expand capacity of personal protective equipment.

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

COVID-19 by the Numbers

■ PUTNAM COUNTY

Number of confirmed cases:

1,115 (+49)

Philipstown 112, Carmel 414, Kent 230, Putnam Valley 159

Tests administered:

6,023 (+890)

Percent positive:

18.5 (-2.3)

Number of deaths:

56 (+1)

■ DUTCHESS COUNTY

Number of confirmed cases:

3,474 (+241)

Beacon 126, Fishkill 138, Wappingers Falls 37, Poughkeepsie 278

Tests administered:

20,374 (+2,897)

Percent positive:

17.1 (-1.4)

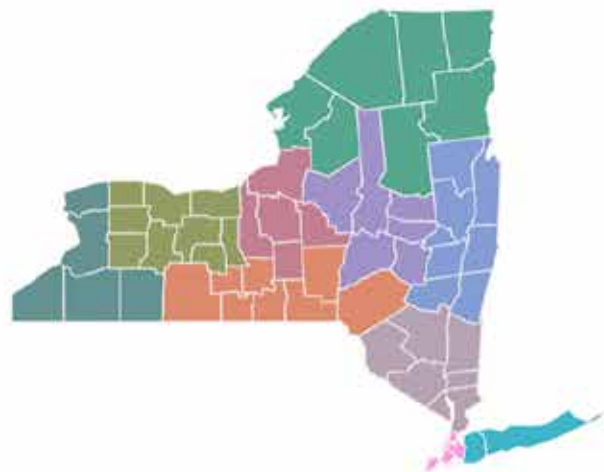
Number of deaths:

117 (+21)

Regional COVID-19 Metrics: Where Regions Currently Stand

Report as of May 13, 2020

Regions
- Capital Region
- Central New York
- Finger Lakes
- Long Island
- Mid-Hudson
- Mohawk Valley
- New York City
- North Country
- Southern Tier
- Western New York



Metrics Met

Capital Region	5/7
Central New York	7/7
Finger Lakes	7/7
Long Island	4/7
Mid-Hudson	5/7
Mohawk Valley	7/7
New York City	4/7
North Country	7/7
Southern Tier	7/7
Western New York	4/7

	14-Day Decline in net Hospitalizations OR Under 15 new Hospitalizations (3-day avg)	14-Day Decline in Hospital Deaths OR Fewer than 5 deaths (3-day avg)	New Hospitalizations (Under 2 per 100K residents - 3 day rolling avg)	Share of total beds available (threshold of 30%)	Share of ICU beds available (threshold of 30%)	30 per 1k residents tested monthly (7-day avg of new tests per day)	Contact tracers 30 per 100K residents or based on infection rate	Metrics Met
Capital Region	0 | 18 ✗	1 | 6 ✗	1.17 ✓	36% ✓	54% ✓	1,299 / 1,085 ✓	Expected ★	5/7 ✗
Central New York	0 | 6 ✓	1 | 3 ✓	0.99 ✓	43% ✓	53% ✓	1,052 / 775 ✓	Yes ✓	7/7 ✓
Finger Lakes	0 | 11 ✓	1 | 4 ✓	1.22 ✓	43% ✓	51% ✓	1,721 / 1,203 ✓	Yes ✓	7/7 ✓
Long Island	32 | 425 ✓	1 | 99 ✗	2.88 ✗	30% ✗	33% ✓	4,617 / 2,839 ✓	Expected ★	4/7 ✗
Mid-Hudson	30 | 132 ✓	4 | 69 ✗	2.38 ✗	33% ✓	50% ✓	4,044 / 2,322 ✓	Expected ★	5/7 ✗
Mohawk Valley	1 | 4 ✓	3 | 2 ✓	0.34 ✓	51% ✓	63% ✓	562 / 485 ✓	Yes ✓	7/7 ✓
New York City	31 | 820 ✓	30 | 502 ✓	2.54 ✗	27% ✗	22% ✗	13,824 / 8,399 ✓	Expected ★	4/7 ✗
North Country	20 | 3 ✓	8 | 1 ✓	0.24 ✓	52% ✓	64% ✓	497 / 419 ✓	Yes ✓	7/7 ✓
Southern Tier	0 | 5 ✓	1 | 2 ✓	0.32 ✓	45% ✓	47% ✓	1,004 / 633 ✓	Yes ✓	7/7 ✓
Western New York	0 | 28 ✗	1 | 9 ✗	2.17 ✗	43% ✓	54% ✓	1,539 / 1,381 ✓	Expected ★	4/7 ✗

COVID-19 by the Numbers Source: New York State Department of Health, with weekly changes. Data current as of May 7. | Regional COVID-19 Metrics Source: Governor's Office

Philipstown to County: Not So Fast

Town and Putnam continue clash on move to reopen

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

As Putnam County lawmakers push to reopen after a two-month lockdown due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Philipstown officials are pushing back, accusing county officials of proceeding without adequate testing, follow-up and planning.

"In the rush to reopen we are going to prolong the outbreak, cause more suffering and death and do more damage to the economy in the long run," Philipstown Supervisor Richard Shea said on Tuesday (May 12). He urged the county to only act after preparing a thorough plan that includes public testing and the tracing of contacts of those infected. "To date we have neither in Putnam," he said.

While five regions in the state have met the criteria to begin Phase 1 reopening, which allows construction and manufacturing with safeguards, the Mid-Hudson, which includes Putnam and Dutchess, has met only five of the seven benchmarks.

Tensions rose after the county on May 6 published an advertisement in official county newspapers such as the *Putnam County News & Recorder* promoting a return to business as usual. "We rise together!" it proclaimed. "Putnam county [is] ready to reopen."

The ad said it was a message from County Executive MaryEllen Odell and the Legislature. The same day, Odell wrote to state Sen. Peter Harckham, whose district includes eastern Putnam, arguing that "we should be allowed to safely reopen" to address "the immense economic toll this [shutdown] is taking."

The next day, when the Town Board met via teleconference, Shea objected to Odell's letter. "I wish the county executive had reached out to the townships" first, he said. "Don't speak on our behalf until you have our blessing."

Nancy Montgomery, who represents Philipstown on the Legislature and attended the Town Board meeting, said that although the county issued the "ready to open" ad in the name of the Legislature, she never approved it. She is the sole Democratic legislator; the others are Republicans, as is Odell. "This is democracy that has failed us," Montgomery said of the county approach. "We don't meet the criteria for opening. We are not ready."

Odell told Harckham May 6 that Putnam had "been able to handle the number of positive cases we have encountered" and that, "moving forward, I believe we will be able to ease constraints without seeing a surge in exposures and positive cases."

According to the latest data, as of Thursday (May 14), Putnam County had 1,115 confirmed COVID cases and 56 county residents had died. The county had tested 6,023 residents, of which 18.5 percent were positive.

Shea observed May 7 that only about 5 percent of Putnam's population of about 99,000 people had been tested. The crisis is "far from over here," he said.

The debate occurred as Gov. Andrew Cuomo appointed Odell and Dutchess County Executive Marc Molinaro to a regional reopening committee whose other members include the county executives of Ulster, Orange, and Sullivan, as well as those in Westchester and Rockland, which are closer to New York City. Odell and Molinaro have contended that Putnam and Dutchess should not be grouped with counties to the south.

As the discussion continued, Putnam County Sheriff Robert Langley Jr. concurred with Montgomery and others who claim Philipstown needs more intense policing to cope with tourism amid the pandemic.

Odell agreed in her May 6 letter that social distancing — keeping at least 6 feet between individuals outside the home — and using "all other preventive measures to flatten the curve was completely necessary for public health and safety." Nonetheless, she stated, it appears that now "we can make the move to safely ease social isolation, get people back to work" and restore the economy.

Shea, who owns a construction business, remarked that "about 90 percent of my crew is laid off" because of the shutdown. "I understand that businesses are suffering," he said May 7. Nonetheless, he continued, "a hasty return to our former activities is going to be a hasty return to a spike in cases and a lot more suffering. If you don't have your health, if you're dead, it doesn't matter how the economy is doing."

Controlling visitors

Shea noted that the county, through Montgomery, had given Philipstown protective masks, gloves and hand sanitizer, in "a good turn for us." He also praised state park officials for shutting down trails. On a recent weekend, he said 6,000 visitors had come to Philipstown. "It just makes for a lot of friction and a lot of unnecessary risks," he said.

The supervisor and Town Board Member Robert Flaherty said that the presence of officers from various law-enforcement agencies has increased along Route 9D. "They're not putting up with any nonsense," Shea said.

But concerns remain, especially about visitors who crowd sidewalks in Cold Spring while failing to wear masks or practice social distancing.

"If people are unwilling to do the very least to protect not only themselves but our residents, then they need to take their act somewhere else," Shea said Tuesday. "If you are jeopardizing your own health you are jeopardizing everyone's health. And that is unacceptable."

Langley, a Philipstown resident, empathized with residents who feel overwhelmed. They "have a right to ask that visitors to their village obey orders" from the state, he said on May. 8. "And they look to law enforcement to enforce those orders. Unfortunately, we don't have the resources needed to do so."

He explained Putnam County spreads over nearly 250 square miles and his department has six patrol cars, each with one deputy. They cover Nelsonville (where the department has a substation), back up the Cold Spring Police Department and assist forces in Kent, Brewster and Carmel, he said.

According to the sheriff, from 8 a.m. to midnight, one car each patrols Patterson, Southeast, Philipstown and Putnam Valley, while the fifth and sixth cars "float" between Patterson and Southeast and Philipstown and Putnam Valley, respectively. These four towns have a combined population of 51,365 and take up 162 square miles, Langley said.

"This breaks down to one officer for every 8,560 people," he said. "Not only would Cold Spring benefit from having more patrols in that area, so would all of Putnam County."

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Donation *(from Page 1)*

well as food or other necessities that have been delivered by Town Board members and other volunteers.

Town Board Member Judy Farrell said nearly 90 people have stepped up to help, picking up prescriptions or shopping for those sidelined by stay-home orders. (See philipstown.com to volunteer.)

The outreach has extended to Beacon, Putnam Valley, Carmel and Newburgh, Shea said. On Tuesday (May 12), he told *The Current* that he hoped to make a delivery in Peekskill this week, as well.

In Newburgh, Shea said, he has been collaborating with a local program that provides meals. "These people are working seven days a week to make sure no one goes hungry," he said. In Putnam Valley, where the food bank closed, he delivered $10,000 worth of ShopRite grocery cards, eliciting gratitude to Philipstown from Supervisor Sam Oliverio.

"It's a tough time" and residents are anxious, Shea said. "They already don't have a job, don't have money. If you don't have money for food, there's nothing more stressful."

He said that as of Tuesday the town had distributed more than $130,000 in grocery store vouchers and meals.

"We're so fortunate we have that sort of generosity in this town, for people to step up and give really large donations," Shea said. "This is a wealthy county. There are other towns where it could be happening. But here people step up and do it. It's amazing."

Where To Donate

- **Putnam COVID Response**
  putnamcovidresponse.org
- **Community Cares Putnam**
  communitycares.org
- **Dutchess Responds**
  dutchessresponds.org
- **Mutual Aid Beacon**
  beaconmutualaid.com

Weekends Off

Cold Spring extends closure of waterfront parks

By Michael Turton

Cold Spring Mayor Dave Merandy announced Tuesday (May 12) that because of concerns about a lack of social distancing, Dockside Park, the village dock and nearby areas will be closed from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays through at least the next few weeks.

"Two weeks ago, it was very busy and crowd control was a challenge" along the riverfront, Merandy said at the Village Board meeting. "We had police officers down there, but as soon as they left people just did whatever they wanted," including putting hammocks in trees, picnicking and playing soccer at Dockside.

"We're following a game plan set down by the governor," Merandy said. "The level of activity [at the riverfront] was contrary to that."

The mayor said the closure hours will give residents an opportunity to use the parks on weekends. They remain open during the week.

Merandy said he understands people's desire to use the parks on weekends. "I sympathize," he said. "We're all in this and feeling the same pressure." But with warmer weather approaching, "a lot of people will be coming to town."

The mayor praised the Rincon Argentina cafe for its efforts at managing visitors. "They did a good job; they had ropes up and were controlling people, keeping them apart," he said.

He was less complimentary about the situation at Moo Moo's Creamery on West Street, where he said that over the May 2 weekend customers were clustering and "not abiding by the [state] orders."

Dockside Park will be closed to visitors from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday at least through Memorial Day weekend. *Photo by M. Turton*

Larry Burke, the officer-in-charge of the Cold Spring Police Department, said that on that weekend officers enforced distancing outside Moo Moo's, but when they left the riverfront area customers largely ignored the rules.

"It's up to businesses to enforce social distancing and [wearing] masks," Merandy said.

Trustee Steve Voloto asked the mayor if the village has the authority to close a business that doesn't enforce the state rules.

"Yes, we can definitely do that," Merandy said. "And there are heavy fines."

Alexi Katsetos, the owner of Moo Moo's, viewed the situation very differently, saying on Thursday (May 14) that he "went above and beyond the guidelines to keep customers safe" and that his ice-cream shop is complying with social-distancing regulations.

Katsetos said while there might have been "some growing pains" on May 2 and 3, the first weekend his store was open, "to say there was no social distancing is far-fetched." He said he marked the sidewalk to delineate the required 6-foot separation between customers in line and said the vast majority have respected the limits. "I'm just trying to make a living," he said.

Reopening

Merandy said he's received a number of inquiries about how the village will reopen once the Mid-Hudson region is allowed to "un-pause" under a plan outlined by the governor. That began a lengthy discussion about the role the Village Board and businesses will play.

"When crowds come, and they're already here, what can we do as elected officials that might make sense?" Merandy asked. "When a business reopens at 25 percent capacity [under the proposed rules], who enforces that?"

"If the question is enforcement, we should take our cue from what the governor says," said Deputy Mayor Marie Early.

(On Tuesday, Gov. Andrew Cuomo said that county health departments will be in charge of determining if businesses that reopen are complying with social-distancing rules. Counties will also be in charge of penalizing businesses.)

Crowded sidewalks were identified as a major issue.

Trustee Fran Murphy suggested one-way pedestrian traffic could be considered along Main Street sidewalks. "People could walk up one sidewalk one way and down the other," she said.

Merandy said the board should think in terms of the worst-case scenario. "The streets are full now — with no stores open!" he said. "There will still be social distancing; every store is going to have to do something."

Trustee Lynn Miller suggested signage encouraging people to wear masks. Shop owners, she said, could consider a "no mask, no service" policy.

Voloto asked if the board's goal is to protect people from getting sick or to make sure businesses can be open. "You can't really do both safely; the village is too small, the shops too tiny" and the sidewalks too narrow, he said.

Merandy responded by asking if there can be a happy medium. "We have to look at people's welfare," he said. "But we also have people with a vested interest in their businesses."

Miller said the board shouldn't "let perfect be the enemy of the good; we're not going to have perfect compliance," adding that if people are reminded to wear masks and if shop owners limit the number of customers allowed inside, "at least we'll be moving in the right direction."

A common theme of the discussion was that New York State needs to assist its municipalities.

Merandy asked the trustees to think about what makes the most sense for Cold Spring. "Maybe it's signage; maybe it's talking to the Chamber of Commerce about having all businesses ready," he said. He suggested the village might benefit from observing the experiences of communities upstate that reopen sooner.

But basically, he said, "We're between a rock and a hard place."

ZBA Dismisses Complaint About Garrison House

Rules that challengers missed appeal deadline

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

The Philipstown Zoning Board of Appeals on Monday (May 11) dismissed a complaint brought by Garrison residents against their neighbors' house transformation, ruling 4-0 that the appeal was filed too late.

The dispute stemmed from architect Timothy Rasic's efforts to convert a small, circa-1960 ranch-style home at 529 Route 9D into a taller — and, critics contended, inappropriately larger — structure.

On Oct. 10, the Rasics' neighbors, José Roméu and Sidney Babcock, filed a complaint over the decision by building inspector Greg Wunner to grant a permit for the project. They claimed that the demolition of the structure required not only the building permit but a special-use permit from the ZBA because the house far exceeded the size allowed by the town code.

The Rasics, through their lawyer, Frank Smith III, maintained that the neighbors waited too long to object.

After a discussion in November, the ZBA opened a public hearing in January. During the review, Roméu said that on July 12 he saw construction underway on the property, and he and Babcock became alarmed. He said they they were rebuffed during repeated attempts to see the plans and to obtain information about bringing a complaint. They hired an attorney, Luke Hilpert, and said they saw the plans and received a complaint form on Aug. 12.

Xavier Roméu, another attorney who represents the pair, told the ZBA on Monday that the men had not been given the documents they needed to challenge the permit. "I don't think it's reasonable for residents to be actively denied access," he said.

By law, a complaint about the issuance of a building permit must be filed within 60 days of when a concerned individual notices construction underway. That would mean the complaint had to be filed by Sept. 10.

"Sixty days — that's it," said Smith, the Rasic's attorney, on Monday.

Hilpert said that because of a mix-up at his law office, the complaint did not arrive at the Building Department office until Oct. 10, when he delivered it after discovering the delay. "It was supposed to have been mailed out," Hilpert said. "I don't have an explanation."

Nonetheless, both Hilpert and Xavier Roméu said because their clients could not get details about the project until Aug. 12 — or 59 days before Oct. 10 — the complaint should be considered timely.

The ZBA disagreed.

Robert Dee, who chairs the ZBA, said he based his vote "on facts. This appeal was untimely" and therefore a non-starter, and "we can't hear" any further arguments on it. "It's not within our jurisdiction," he said.

While the ZBA found fault in the filing delay, some members also expressed misgivings about the project and the Building Department's approach.

ZBA Member Vincent Cestone termed the house plans "deficient" and described some aspects of the project as questionable. In addition, "what I heard" about the Building Department's alleged interactions with Roméu and Babcock "was very upsetting," he said. "I was shocked. We are there to serve the people of Philipstown, and I believe they deserve respect."

Member Paula Clair said the project involves adding a second floor, representing a 100 percent increase in space, to a house that existed before the zoning law and thus did not comply with its regulations.

Consequently, she told the Rasics, "the information you got regarding the permit was fallacious" because "the procedure is to ask for a special-use permit" in such cases. "We don't — I don't feel, anyway — that the permit was issued correctly."

AROUND TOWN

▲ **CAUGHT WITH THE CURRENT —** At The Beacon Daily, co-owner Chris Crocco has been adding a free side to each takeout order — a copy of *The Current.* "Customers are surprised when they get home," he said. "They call to thank me; they need to connect with other people and *The Current* is a great way to do that."

Photo by Michael Turton

◀ **A FINAL DUSTING** — Highlands residents awoke on Saturday (May 9) to a surprising site: snow. It tied May 9, 1977, as the latest date that snowfall was recorded at Central Park in New York City, according to the National Weather Service, which has kept records since 1869. *Photo by Ross Corsair*

INSTALLING MAGAZZINO

Film available on May 13, 2020

Live Q+A with Magazzino Italian Art's Collection Manager and Chief Registrar Gabriella Perez and Head Preparator and Facilities Manager Thomas Huber on Instagram Live on May 16, 2020 at 3:00 p.m. EST

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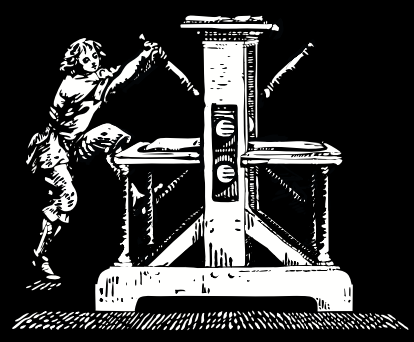
HIGHLAND STUDIO



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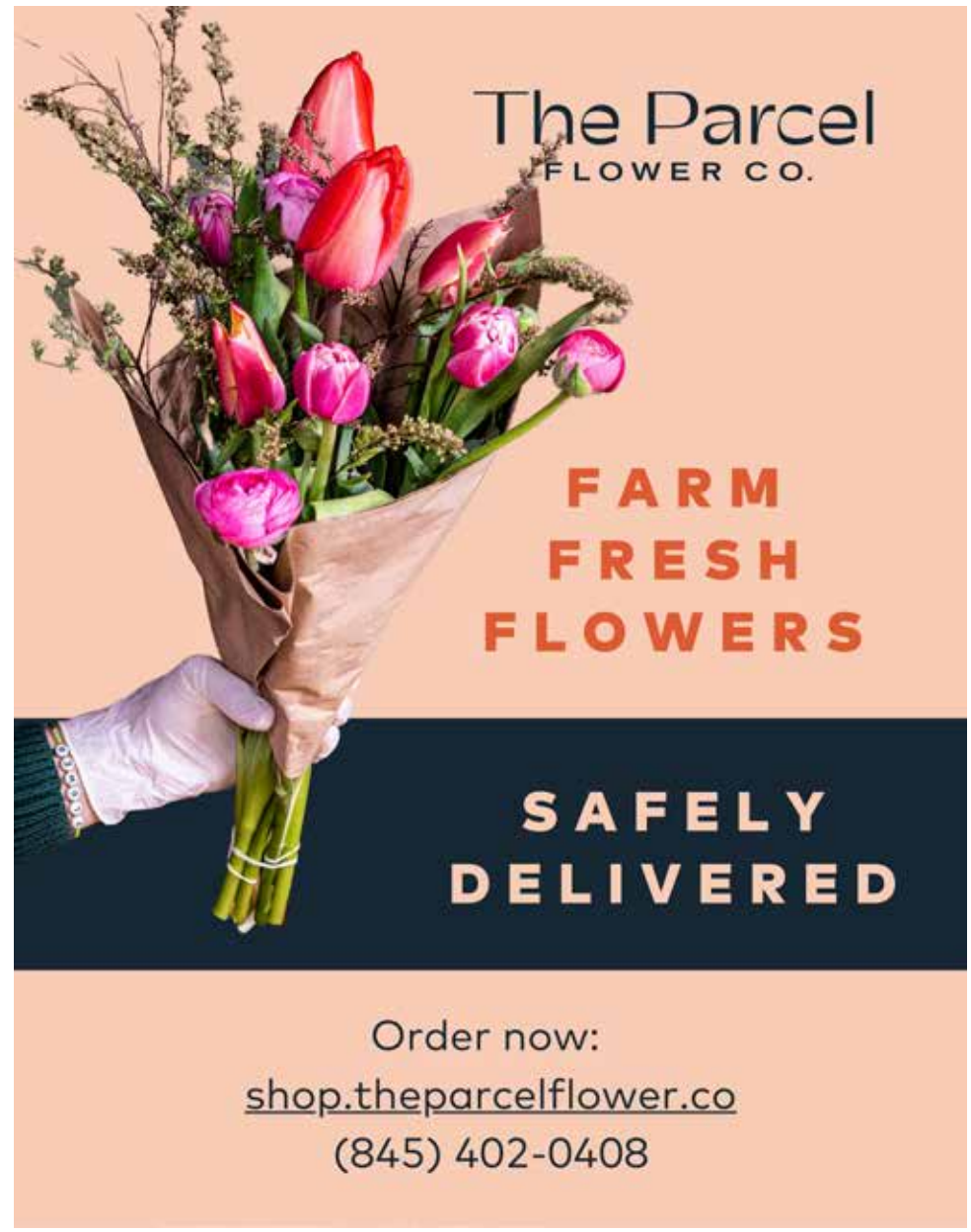


The Calendar

Detail from "Glenn," etched metal

"Rick," a handprinted paper collage on canvas

"Thalissa," etched metal on panel with sugar lift/aquatint

Beth Weintraub

The Artist Next Door

Beth Weintraub

By Alison Rooney

You never know: your neighbor might just have an etching studio inside their home.

When she moved to Beacon nearly 10 years ago, Beth Weintraub took advantage of her new walkout basement to get a printing press inside. The space is also now home to an exposure machine, sheets of metal, handmade paper and other tools of her trade: oil-based etchings on paper, wall-mounted columns of abstracted collages and etched metals.

In fact, she says, "somehow I've turned my entire house into my studio. I'm also sewing masks and have sewn eight quilts since January. My dining room is fabric, another room is covered with cut up bits of paper. A low coffee table is all I have left to eat on. Art is squeezed in. I keep making more and more. It's about that mix of figuring out what your process is, then making it become a beautiful object."

"What I'm known most for is etched metal plates, but my color work is my most treasured," she says. "I've been wanting to do more personal work, and right now, after studying the work of collage artist Rex Ray, I've been trying to learn his process. I wanted to get away from the acid-etched metal and back to a simpler and non-toxic process.

"It's been evolving now for two years, doing collage, and I've managed to bring it back to my own style of imagery, making little pill shapes, color pills, with repetition. Now they're getting very elaborate." She handprints 30- and 36-inch paper squares, about 50 sheets each, and creating "sort of monoprints, which I try to assemble in a way that give them more depth."

Weintraub, who says she is most relaxed "when I get to be fully manic," says sheltering-in-place has been relatively easy "because solitude is part of what I do, although I have worked at the Beacon Pantry and at Cold Spring Cheese Shop, where I get to meet people."

She became a printmaker by happenstance while attending Sarah Lawrence College. "I was signing up for a painting class, but it was full, and by the time I worked it out, the only remaining class was printmaking," she recalls. "It was a yearlong class which included a month learning paper-making. The first time I printed an aquatint correctly, a light went on: here was a way of working within a set of limitations. It occurred to me, all the ways you could create within the limitations and transpose and invert.

"Also, I loved the smell of the ink, the feel of the paper," she says. "It's a very active discipline — you feel the weight of the printing press and you end up sometimes with surprises. To figure out how to make what you're imagining is a challenge I couldn't resist. As artists, we recreate the same thing over and over again, improving it with an additional layer of thoughts."

After graduating, Weintraub moved to Manhattan. A few years later, she drove to San Francisco with a friend and stayed for 20 years. In 2011, in the wake of the economic downtown, she returned to New York, settling in Beacon. "I wanted somewhere where the cost of living would never prevent me from being an artist," she says. "I've taken full advantage of not having to hustle so hard." At the time, she recalls, the city was "half-boarded up yet felt very entrepreneurial."

She still works with California set decorators, prop masters and magazines (her resume includes a category called Art Appearances with listings such as *New Girl* pilot and an issue of *Home Lighting and Accessories*), and she's still writing, in what she describes as the "cli-fi" genre: climate mystery, science fiction and escapism. "My fantasy is to one day write the same story over and over again, each time from a different perspective," she says.

The first stage: painted asphaltum on fresh metal, ready for acid

Photos provided

THE WEEK AHEAD

Edited by Pamela Doan (calendar@highlandscurrent.org)

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

COMMUNITY

SAT 16
Drive-thru Food Drive
COLD SPRING
9 a.m. – Noon.
Municipal Parking Lot, Fair Street
uwwp.org/fooddrive

Drop off juice, rice, mac and cheese, pasta, spaghetti sauce, cereal, peanut butter, jelly, canned beef stew, canned tuna or chicken, diapers, wipes, toiletries, personal hygiene products, paper products, cleaning products, canned fruit, crackers and other items to benefit the Philipstown Food Pantry.

SAT 16
Boscobel Grounds
10 a.m. – Noon | boscobel.org

Boscobel is offering a limited number of tickets to access its 68 acres. Online reservations, face masks and social distancing are required. Also SUN 17, MON 18, FRI 22, SAT 23, SUN 24. *Cost: $12 (seniors $10, children and teens 5-18, $6; members and children under 5, free).*

SAT 16
Living Room Trivia
COLD SPRING
7 p.m. Butterfield Library
butterfieldlibrary.org

Register online to join this monthly session to test your smarts.

SUN 17
5K Run & Walk With the Dogs
BEACON
Animal Rescue Foundation
bit.ly/arf-run-2020

Register by June 10 to run or walk a 5K and log the activity for ARF's annual fundraiser. Submit times online with a photo of your watch, GPS or other fitness tracker. *Cost: $30*

TUES 19
Socrates Cafe
BEACON
4 p.m. Howland Public Library
beaconlibrary.org

Email adults@beaconlibrary.org for details on how to join the discussion.

TUES 19
Adult Scavenger Hunt
COLD SPRING
7 p.m. Butterfield Library
butterfieldlibrary.org

Register online to find an object in your home in a set amount of time and you could win a $50 gift certificate to The Country Goose.

THURS 21
Putnam Business Meet-up
5 p.m. Zoom

Join the Putnam Business Council, the Cold Spring Chamber of Commerce and members of other groups on Zoom to network. Register at bit.ly/putnam-business.

FRI 22
Virtual Friday Soiree
GARRISON
5:30 p.m. Antipodean Books

Email lilburne@highlands.com for Zoom details. Continues weekly.

KIDS & FAMILY

MON 18
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 20, FRI 22.

TUES 19
New Parents' Support Group
GARRISON
11 a.m. – 1 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library
Desmondfishlibrary.org

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

TUES 19
Kitchen Sink Science
GARRISON
6 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library
instagram.com/desmondfishpubliclibrary
facebook.com/desmondfishlibrary

Digital Services Coordinator Ryan Biracree conducts science experiments. Continues weekly.

WED 20
The Language of Flowers
BEACON
1 p.m. Howland Public Library
beaconlibrary.org

Diane Edgecomb will tell tales of flowers through the ages accompanied by Margot Chamberlain on the Celtic harp. Email adults@beaconlibrary.org to register.

THURS 21
Paper Crafts Workshop
GARRISON
6 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library
facebook.com/desmondfishlibrary

The workshop takes place each week via YouTube, Facebook and Instagram.

FRI 22
Garden Lab
COLD SPRING
4 p.m. Butterfield Library
facebook.com/jblkid

Garden stories and crafts and activities focused on plants.

VISUAL ARTS

SAT 16
Installing Magazzino
PHILIPSTOWN
3 p.m. Magazzino Italian Art
845-666-7202 | magazzino.art

The museum's collection manager and chief registrar, Gabriella Perez, and its head preparator and facilities manager, Thomas Huber, will discuss a short film by Domenico Palma, *Installing Magazzino*, that takes viewers behind the scenes of the installation of its first exhibit, *Margherita Stein: Rebel With A Cause*. The film can be viewed on the museum website or Instagram.

SAT 16
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.

WED 20
Artist of the Week
BEACON
baugallery.org

Each week the gallery interviews a local artist and spotlights his or her work.

THURS 21
Artist Talk with Deb Lucke
COLD SPRING
11 a.m. Butterfield Library
butterfieldlibrary.org

The illustrator, graphic novelist and *Current* investigative cartoonist will discuss her career. Register online.

MUSIC

MON 18
Quarantine Stream
BEACON
6 p.m. facebook.com/songsmithlive

Three nights per week, Mark Westin hosts live performances streamed online by local musicians such as Jay Nicholas, Decora, Judith Tulloch and Steve Franchino, Mimi Sun Longo, Annalyse & Ryan and Jen Clapp. Also WED 20, FRI 22.

THURS 21
Open Mic
BEACON
7 p.m. Towne Crier

Walker May will host via Zoom with 12 performers. To perform or listen, email walker@townecrier.com. Continues weekly.

TALKS

WED 20
The Direct Path to Peace and Happiness
GARRISON
3 p.m. Garrison Institute
garrisoninstitute.org

Spiritual teacher Rupert Spira will discuss how non-dual experiential traditions help on the path to happiness. Online registration required.

WED 20
Reading with Writers
COLD SPRING
7 p.m. Split Rock Books
845-265-2080 | splitrockbks.com

Join an online discussion about Stephen King's memoir on the craft of writing.

WED 20
Virtual Tour of Cold Spring
COLD SPRING
7 p.m. Butterfield Library
butterfieldlibrary.org

Library Director Gillian Thorpe will lead a tour and discuss the history of the village. Register online.

THURS 21
Creative Completion
COLD SPRING
1 p.m. artnology.us

Robin Hutchinson will lead a six-week course to guide participants on the steps to see a creative project through from beginning to end. *Cost: $10 per session or $55*

THURS 21
Amphibians and Vernal Pools
COLD SPRING
1 p.m. Hudson Highlands Land Trust
hhlt.org

Learn about migrating amphibians and how they use seasonal wetlands in winter and spring. Register at amphibianswebinar.eventbrite.com.

THURS 21
The Future of Northeastern Forests
MILLBROOK
7 p.m. Cary Institute

Charlie Canha, a forest ecologist at the Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies, will discuss his book, *Forests Adrift: Currents Shaping the Future of Northeastern Trees*, with Joshua Ginsberg, president of the institute. Register at eventbrite.com/o/cary-institute-of-ecosystem-studies-1.

THURS 21
Resiliency Meditation
BEACON
8:30 p.m. bit.ly/resiliency-meditation

Register to join Amy Soucy via Zoom for a weekly 30-minute meditation about turning fear into resilience.

FRI 22
The Last Voyage of the Lusitania
BREWSTER
2 p.m. Brewster Public Library

Watch the 1994 documentary, which is available through the free Hoopla service, before joining this Zoom discussion group about the sinking in 1915 of the British ocean liner by a German U-boat. Register by emailing director@southeastmuseum.org.

CIVIC

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

MON 18
Gov. Cuomo Daily Briefing
10:45 a.m. Weekdays
twitter.com/nygovcuomo

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

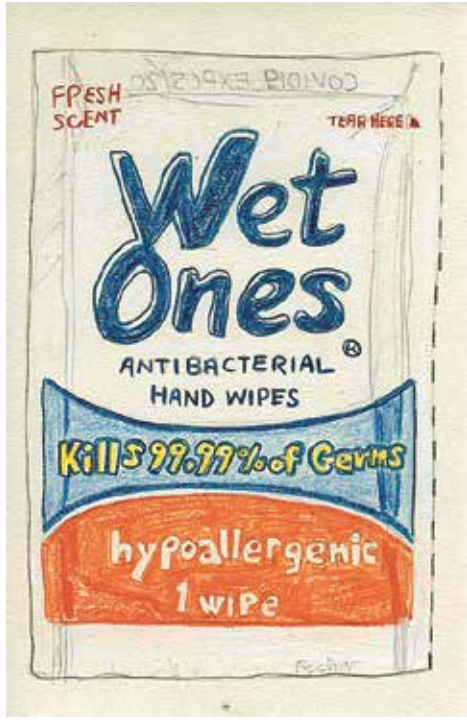
MON 18
Village Board
NELSONVILLE
7:30 p.m. Village Hall
845-265-2500 | nelsonvilleny.gov

TUES 19
School Board
COLD SPRING
7 p.m. Haldane School
845-265-9254 | haldaneschool.org

WED 20
School Board
BEACON
7 p.m. Beacon Schools
845-838-6900 | beaconk12.org

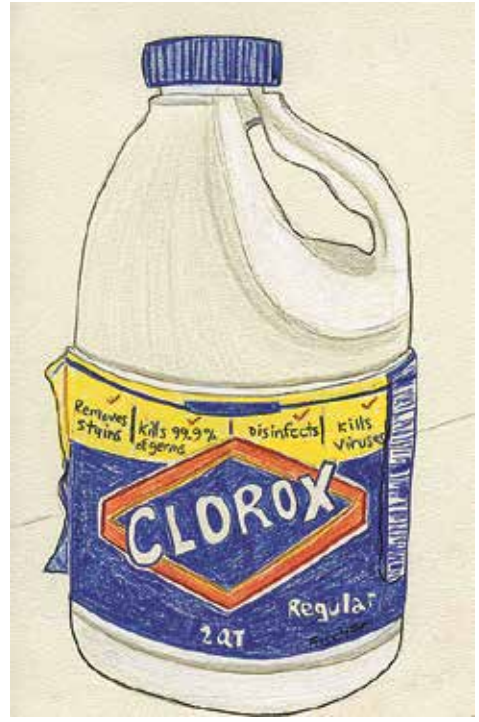
The board will vote on the 2020-21 budget.

Creative Responses



Clean Lines

Donna Marie Fischer, of Beacon, started out during the shutdown doing a drawing a day in colored pencil but "it turned into a pictorial journal of my life and events. I keep the drawings small in order to do this. They are kept simple to avoid getting caught up in the major details. I just have fun with them." Here, four selections of products on everyone's minds.



Wild Masks

Ron English, a pop artist in Beacon, has designed a series of masks to raise money for first responders. "Like everyone in the world, my family has been affected by this pandemic," he wrote on Facebook. "I came down with symptoms in early March, and while I didn't require drastic measures, I have had to reevaluate my activities and expectations to adjust for damaged lung capacity. That means no more spray paint for now, and it's possible that I may never paint another public mural. While that's sad and disappointing to me personally, it doesn't compare with the staggering loss of life and livelihood that humanity is experiencing right now.

"During the early days of quarantine, my wife started a mask-making campaign for first responders, family and friends, using a stash of cotton fabric that she, like many sewers, had around the house. After her stash ran out, she started cutting up some of my custom-designed PopLife Popaganda cotton shirts, and made and mailed out over 300 cotton COVID-19 masks to nursing homes, our local post office, grocery clerks and anyone who asked. She has no more fabric left. That's why I'm proud to team up with Threadless to scale up our mask campaign, with dozens of designs and a purchase price that goes directly to MedShare, a charity that sources proper equipment to first responders. Face masks are here to stay. This is the new normal. If we have to hide our faces, we might as well display our intentions." To order, see threadless.com/shop/@ronenglish.

Untitled, by Richard Bruce

"Raccoon," by Jackie Skrzynski

Online Art Show

Beacon of Love, a coalition of city residents led by Theresa Gooby, Margot Kingon, James Case-Leal and Julie Shiroishi, will host an online art show and fundraiser for Fareground, a nonprofit that provides food to those in need.

Previews of works by 30 artists will be available starting May 26 at beacon-of-love.myshopify.com, priced at $100, $150 or $250. The sale will run from May 30 to June 2 and proceeds will be split at least 50/50 with the artists.

The show, curated by Gooby, Kingon and Case-Leal, will include works by them, as well as Richard Bruce, Lesly Deschler Canossi, Marieken Cochius, Deb Davidovits, Meredith Heuer, Kirsten Kucer, George Mansfield, Samantha Palmieri, Jackie Skrzynski, Jean-Marc Superville-Sovak, Kazumi Tanaka and Susan Walsh, among others.

Since Dutchess County closed schools in mid-March to slow the spread of COVID-19, Fareground has been working with the Beacon City School District and nonprofits such as Common Ground Farm, the Food Bank of the Hudson Valley, Green Teen and Land to Learn to provide food services.

Each week, Fareground provides bags of groceries to about 800 families at school pickup sites and public housing developments, as well as homebound residents in partnership with Beacon Mutual Aid. Fareground also stocks three "tiny food pantries."

"Bluebird," by Deb Davidovits

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Something You Don't Know About Me

Megan Shea

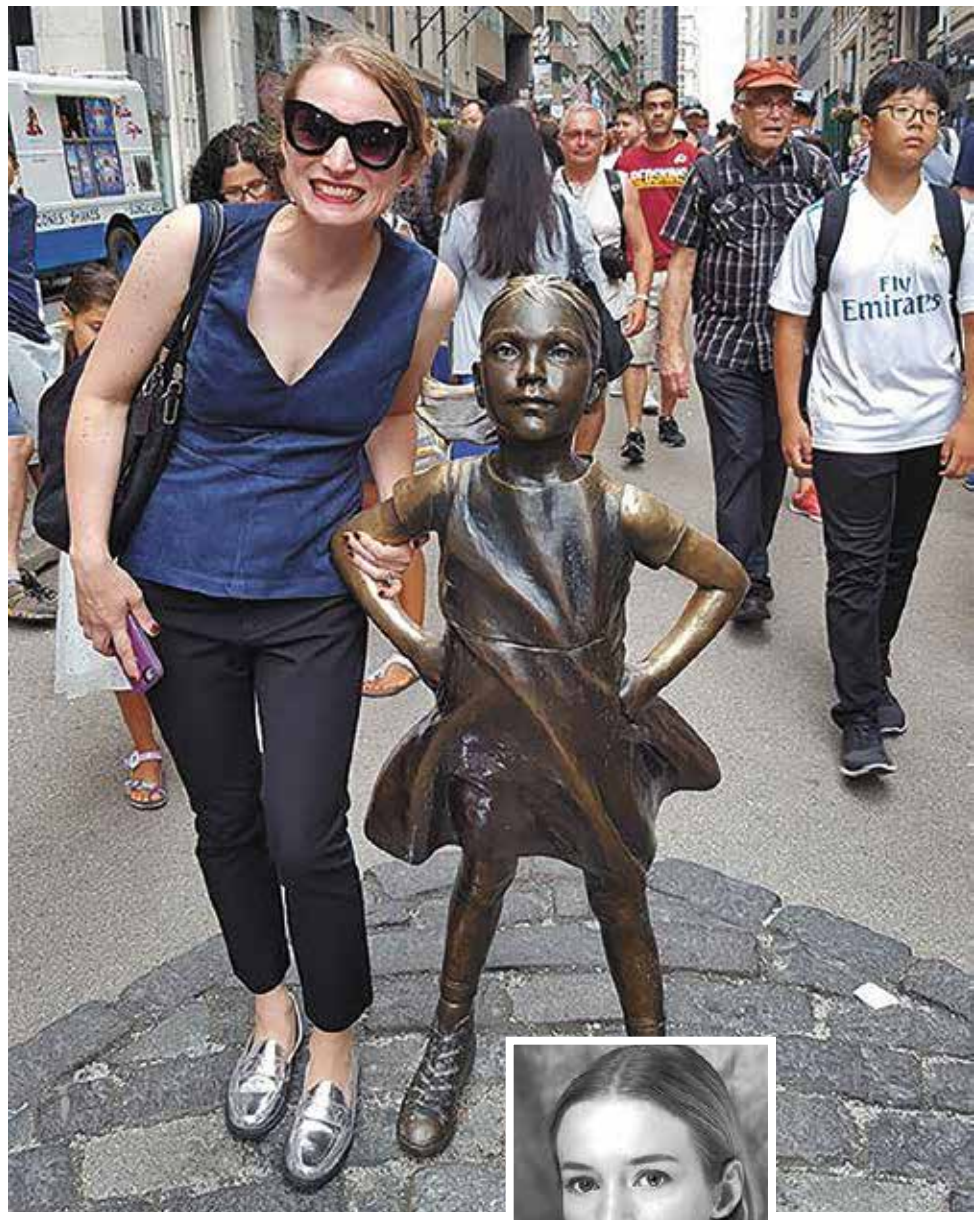
By Alison Rooney

For those old enough to remember, the first association upon hearing the name Sen. Howard Baker Jr. is likely the simple, precise question he asked in June 1973 about President Richard Nixon while Baker was vice chairman of the Watergate Committee: "What did the president know, and when did he know it?"

At the time, Baker was a close Republican ally of Nixon, and he asked the question in defense of the president. "I believed that [the investigation] was a political ploy of the Democrats, that it would come to nothing," Baker explained years later. "But a few weeks into that [the hearings], it began to dawn on me that there was more to it than I thought, and more to it than I liked."

Baker, who died in 2014, was from a Tennessee political dynasty; his father, stepmother and father-in-law each served in the U.S. House. He served in the Senate for 19 years, from 1966 to 1985, challenged Ronald Reagan for the Republican presidential nomination in 1980 and was later his chief of staff. He eventually returned to Tennessee to his original career, as a lawyer.

What does any of that have to do with Megan Shea of Cold Spring, a left-leaning feminist scholar, experimental theater-maker and playwright who teaches at New York University? Here's her story:



^ Megan Shea with the "Fearless Girl" statue during a march in New York City

< Megan Shea, about the time she was living in Knoxville

My husband, Mike, and I met at Trinity College [in Hartford, Connecticut], and he decided to go to the University of Tennessee for grad school, so I followed him down there. It was the fall of 1999. While pursuing his degree, Mike found a job at the Oak Ridge National Laboratory. Someone he was working with had a neighbor who was an attorney in Howard Baker's law office. During my college summers, I had worked as a legal secretary. Mention was made that "a girlfriend" with the necessary experience had just moved down.

I had no idea that I was interviewing at Howard Baker's firm — in fact, at the time, I probably didn't know who he was. The fact that my college was called Trinity was probably appealing; the office was very Christian. Everyone at the office went to church, talked about church. They didn't realize Trinity is nondenominational, or that my parents were atheists. I had my own spiritual journey, but I was not a churchgoer. That first year I didn't talk about church much. Also, my parents hated Reagan, so it was interesting being in the South and getting that perspective, although sometimes it was like going back in time, in many frustrating ways.

I worked at the Knoxville branch of Baker, Worthington, Crossley & Stansberry, which had been founded in 1888. Howard Baker worked at a smaller branch in Huntsville. I was in a floater position, and I worked mostly for Robert Worthington because his secretary had a lot of vacation time accumulated. The thing is, Worthington was a Democrat. He advocated working with banks to open up credit and loan possibilities to African Americans, particularly to secure housing. Worthington also was friends with Harold Ford Jr., a Democratic congressman from Tennessee who Worthington felt would be the first black president.

When Howard Baker was in the Knoxville office, there were a lot more calls. Those were the days when he was the chief of staff. The people in the office were focused more on Reagan than on anything that had taken place during Watergate.

I found it all fascinating. I had minored in legal studies and had considered double-majoring in political science, but I only enjoyed the legal courses.

Although Mike was in Tennessee for four years, I was only there for one, because the rest of Tennessee didn't go well for me. But the work was interesting. I also was responsible for a paralegal; she was very Southern, very proper and very good at her job, plus she had lots of humor. That goes a long way in a workplace. The people who worked at the law firm had all this decorum; they were smart and sarcastic. They did come to know I was a "Dem" — actually there were a few of us. There was some good-spirited teasing.

I came back in the summers, then lived in Tennessee for a year before finishing my doctorate and getting married. I went back to the law firm. I remember showing them my wedding photos — Mike and I were married by my uncle at a barn in Massachusetts — and they asked: "Where's the church?"

It doesn't surprise me that Howard Baker crossed party lines against Nixon, considering my experience seeing that he had a good friend who was a Democrat. I think there was a sort of sense of the greater good of the U.S. at that time. The presidential office and the office of senator were positions where decorum had to be upheld. I think Baker would be, I don't know — shocked — to see how low decorum has gone. There was such an emphasis at his firm on how things looked, where things were placed. All of that mattered.

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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Out There

Backyard Birding

By Brian PJ Cronin

Pete Salmansohn started with fish, as an angler. Connie Mayer-Bakall started with wolves, as an educator. But after decades of enjoying the outdoors, each was drawn to birds.

"There's something comforting and soothing about realizing that while our whole world has gone crazy and surreal, the birds are still doing what they've done for millions of years," says Mayer-Bakall, president of the Putnam Highlands Audubon Society, after checking the feeders in her yard. (Current sightings: Four rose-breasted grosbeak males and a couple of females, blue-winged warblers, an indigo bunting, and a northern oriole.)

Adds Salmansohn, a longtime board member: "It's shocking how something that weighs less than a 50-cent piece can travel thousands of miles."

I also frequently enjoy the outdoors, but the only birds I can identify are the ones that have baseball teams named after them. With the mountains and other outdoor destinations off-limits, the excursions I usually go on are to my back porch, where I gaze up at the Callery Peach tree in my yard as it's visited by a variety of I-Don't-Know-Whats.

I called Salmansohn and Mayer-Bakall, as well as Margaret DiBenedetto and John Thompson at the Catskill Center, for help.

I'm not the only one. Mayer-Bakall says her phone has been ringing a lot lately with requests for help identifying birds spotted in yards. Salmansohn said that in the past two months, Audubon memberships and binocular sales have gone up, and some popular birding books are sold out at Amazon.

Pete Salmansohn explains the characteristics of the northern cardinal during a birding seminar in Garrison last year. *File photo by Ross Corsair*

A tree swallow *Photo by Becky Matsubara*

Mayer-Bakall attributes this to the fact that, for those sheltering-at-home, time has slowed and become dreamlike. Routines have shifted and decelerated. We're all looking out the window more. And we have questions.

"I always suggest beginning birders start with the birds you know," she says. Walk outside or sit by the window and look and listen. Smartphone apps such as one by the Audubon Society or Merlin Bird ID can be used if a guidebook isn't handy.

There are advantages to birding from home, said Thompson, whose small backyard and porch are filled with nesting brown thrashers, robins and house finches: A birder in a state park won't see the birds' routines, such as feeding, defending their territory or what shrub they're nesting in.

Birding in parks lends itself well to social distancing, and Foundry Cove, Denning's Point and Madam Brett Park are all great places to do it. (The trails at the Constitution Marsh Audubon Center, another local haven, are closed.) Because the Highlands has so much protected land, it attracts many birds, which means many also end up in backyards.

It's the same in the Catskills, Thompson said, which has many larger forests that aren't found in most of the eastern part of North America and attract species not seen elsewhere. One example is the Bicknell's Thrush, which can be found near the summits of Slide and Hunter Mountains because of their higher elevations.

The chance to spot one is usually one of the big draws of The Catskill Center's annual Taking Flight festival in May. But just like the Putnam Highlands Audubon Society's annual Birdathon scheduled for this past weekend, the festival was postponed to 2021 because of the COVID-19 shutdown. DiBenedetto would like to again use this year's theme — Flock Together — and hopes it will be more applicable.

Molly Adams, the founder of the Feminist Bird Club, was going to be the guest speaker, DiBenedetto said, with the goal of getting birders to think about diversity, accessibility and inclusivity. In other words, how do you entice people to try birding who aren't retired, older white people? "It's about opening it up," she said. "This is an excellent activity if you don't feel comfortable in crowds."

I thought about the sense of connection birders have with nature the other day as I went for a run at dusk through Madam Brett Park, when the trails are usually empty. An iridescent blue bird shot across the trail and landed in a tree. Being a new birder who had just installed Merlin Bird ID on my phone, I stopped and made a few pokes and swipes. I was staring at a tree swallow, which had traveled hundreds if not thousands of miles from the south for breeding season. The app said that this time of year, they are common here. I had never noticed.

Reporter's Notebook

COVID Got You Down?

By Michael Turton

I find humor in most things — but not anxiety. And locally, it's probably at its peak since the coronavirus shutdown began.

I barely chuckled when it was pointed out that *stressed* spelled backward is *desserts*.

Overeating may be an understandable, though unhealthy, coping mechanism. But what I'm seeing around the Highlands goes beyond indulging in an extra scoop of ice cream or a second helping of pasta.

A few things from recent days:

- A first after more than 20 years in business: A deli owner ordered someone out of his shop because the customer was belligerent.
- A woman was verbally assaulted by a fellow customer who wrongfully accused her of moving a shopping cart.
- A man swerved recklessly to go around a car exiting a busy parking lot, honked and drove away at high speed, tires screeching.
- A frustrated clerk yelled at a customer to wait, even though he was the only person in line with three registers open.
- A liquor store owner reported that while wine sales are up, hard liquor purchases are "*way* up."

Tracy Prout Bunye, a psychologist based in Garrison, is a principal investigator in a study of the psychological impact of the pandemic. She says her jaw dropped when preliminary data showed rates of post-traumatic stress disorder and depression nearly 10 times the norm. And therapists, she said, are experiencing an influx of patients seeking support because of increased stress.

Ubiquitous media coverage, including in *The Current,* makes anxiety-inducing details of the pandemic nearly impossible to avoid. It's a bit like trying to ignore the NFL during football season.

I conducted an experiment. How soon after turning on my radio would I hear the word *coronavirus*? It was the second word uttered. The next day, it was the first word. End of experiment.

The news media is devoting a lot of chatter to when things will reopen. That speculation alone increases anxiety. People yearn to know when "normal" will be in sight. But conflicting narratives from public health experts and the "let's just give this a try" camp only increase the angst.

Michael McKee, a psychologist who is also based in Garrison, warns people against news overload. "There are many open questions, but immersing yourself in news all day will not answer them," he says. He advises: "Limit news consumption to once a day."

McKee also recommends focusing on staying connected with the important people in your life, including friends and extended family.

Bunye says there's no "right way" to cope with social isolation, but she offered a few guidelines:

- Focus on what you can control.
- Create a routine.
- Exercise regularly, including low-impact walking and stretching or visiting natural areas.
- Maintain social connections, safely and virtually.
- Eat well.
- Make a point of asking how those you live with are doing.
- If you live alone, check in regularly with friends, family, neighbors.
- Share a meal with a friend via Zoom.
- Talk to trusted friends about what you are thinking and feeling.
- Even if feeling badly, jot down things you're grateful for each day.

It's OK to feel moody or irritable, briefly. But Bunye emphasizes you should seek help if irritability, significant mood changes, feelings of hopelessness and sleep disturbances become intense and last multiple days or more.

Last fall I interviewed Cari Swanson, a horse trainer with a lot of horse sense. In her book on how to ride a horse, a skill which requires the learner to relax, Swanson ends each page with a single word: Breathe.

Sound advice, whether riding a horse, or coping with a pandemic

Looking Back in Philipstown

By Chip Rowe

150 Years Ago (May 1870)

The Village Board decided to widen Main Street by taking off the bank between Academy Street and the new Methodist Church. As part of the project, the private fences on the south side of the street were moved back to their lawful lines.

The Free Masons contracted with George McCabe on West Street to use his attic for its meetings once he constructed a French roof with dormer windows.

Michael Flood lost his arm and James Vreeland had his foot crushed in accidents at the foundry.

The *Cold Spring Recorder* reported that a meeting held at Town Hall "was not as harmonious as could have been desired and the prevailing opinion was that the public funds had not been judiciously expended."

Two men fought near the railroad crossing, one armed with a club and the other with a rock. After the rock prevailed, "a little man with a large talk then came along and got knocked into the gutter," the *Recorder* reported.

At least six village homeowners added stoops and roofs over their front doors.

A private road called Boulevard was completed.

A northbound freight train stopped at Cold Spring because rotting floor planks in a car carrying 17 horses began to give out and the conductor did not hear the commotion until he slowed for the station.

The congregation of St. Mary's Church blessed its new bell and dedicated the statue at the top of the steeple.

W.H. Wells, formerly of Cold Spring, opened a bank in Fond du Lac, Wisconsin, with his brother, who lived there.

In a story with the headline "Colorphobia," the *Recorder* noted that the first black soldier to take and pass the entrance exam at West Point had been refused a room at the Roe's Hotel [which was owned by the government and located on Trophy Point] to await the start of classes in July and had to find a place in Highland Falls. "We think that the black cadet wants to be let alone — that the whole race having African blood in America should be let alone," the paper wrote. "Meanwhile, the world moves on as before and will roll through space, shaking off the prejudices of its tenants, until all men are measured by the scale of intellectual and moral worth." [The cadet was James Webster Smith, a former slave from Columbia, South Carolina. Another account says he was refused a meal by the hotel, not a room. Regardless, following several years of abuse, Smith was dismissed after allegedly failing a philosophy class, and returned home to become a college professor. In 1997, the academy posthumously honored him with a commission. The first black soldier to graduate from West Point was Henry Ossian Flipper, in 1877.]

125 Years Ago (May 1895)

The Rev. Elbert Floyd-Jones became the rector at St. Mary's Episcopal Church. The congregation also voted to remove the fence around the property.

Willard Jaycox moved his grocery store in Nelsonville to the building opposite Champlin's blacksmith shop [289 Main St.].

Tailor John Isberg said he had received an assortment of lawn tennis skirts.

The Philipstown Board of Excise granted licenses to three hotels and 12 saloons. The fee was $40 for hotels, $30 for saloons and $30 for druggists.

James McIlravy repaired the watering trough on the Garrison road near the Indian Brook bridge.

John Monroe of Nelsonville was taken to the Poughkeepsie asylum after being ruled insane by two local doctors but was judged likely to recover.

Rosanna Batchelor, the wife of Charles Batchelor, a partner of Thomas A. Edison, visited the home of Mr. and Mrs. John Woolcock. [Batchelor was a mechanic and draftsman who assisted Edison on projects such as the phonograph and telephone.]

Capt. George Tubbs, of Bristol, Rhode Island, visited the home of W.J. Tubbs. It was the first time in 25 years the brothers had seen each other.

Herbert Austin, a foundry worker who a week earlier had taken a sick tramp to the county poorhouse and fell ill himself the next day, died at age 37.

(Continued on Page 18)

Then & Now

Pear Tree Hill School (1830-1881), Nelsonville — *Josephine Doherty*

Private residence — *EmpireExplorer.com*

Shakespeare Fest Announces 'Bake-off'

Playwriting event returns, but online

The Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival, which on April 30 canceled its 2020 season, announced that it would continue with its annual community playwriting event. The theme is "Mahicantuck, the River that Flows Both Ways."

Community members are invited to attend free online workshops scheduled for the weekends of May 23 and May 30 in partnership with libraries and nonprofits in Garrison, Peekskill, Cold Spring and Newburgh. Scripts for a 10-minute play will be due June 21, and between five and seven will be performed by actors online on July 18.

Christine Scarfuto, the acting director of the MFA playwriting program at Hunter College, will lead the workshops. To register, see hvshakespeare.org/production/community-bake-off.

75 Years Ago: Roosevelt Goes Home

On April 15, 1945, three days after the death of President Franklin D. Roosevelt, his funeral train passed through Garrison on its way to Hyde Park. A writer for The New Yorker had chosen the spot to record impressions of the journey.

Sunday morning, at dawn, we were at the railroad station in the small town of Garrison, which lies across the Hudson from West Point. Only a railroad-crossing watchman and two fishermen were there when we arrived, but a moment later a man drove up and asked one of the fishermen, who double as ferrymen to the Point, to take him across.

"The president's coming," the fisherman said. 'You'll want to wait for that." ...

In the next half-hour or so, two or three dozen automobiles, of all makes and sizes, from Model A Fords on up, drove up, and the people who got out of them were all makes and sizes, too... Soon there were 70 or 80 people on the platform... The funeral train finally curved into sight, trailing a plume of white smoke, and the crowd grew silent. As the locomotive pounded past the platform, some of the men removed their hats, the rest just stared ...

The special for Hyde Park was made up mostly of the new gray Pullmans and the flag-covered coffin was in a beautiful lounge car at the end, with its military guard of honor. It disappeared up the track, and Garrison's moment was over.

Looking Back *(from Page 17)*

The siblings of John Iselin of Garrison, a family of bankers, petitioned the Putnam County district attorney to appoint someone to oversee his finances, on account of his alleged overindulgence in liquor and drugs. A jury was drawn to hear the case, which Iselin contested with the assistance of a former U.S. district attorney.

The Garrison Athletic Association organized a program with bicycle, foot and rowing races for Decoration Day [aka Memorial Day].

Dr. Robert Buchanan passed through Cold Spring aboard a train from Sing Sing to Albany, where he was sentenced to death for poisoning his wife, who ran a brothel in New York City. He was handcuffed to Detective James Jackson, who occupied the seat beside him. [During the trial, one of the first that centered on forensic evidence, prosecutors killed a cat in the courtroom with morphine to demonstrate its effects. Buchanan was executed on July 2.]

Dan O'Connell, formerly of Cold Spring, was said by the *Newburgh Telegraph* to have died from excessive consumption of seltzer, which he drank because he owned a Kingston saloon and wanted to save his stomach from too much alcohol.

After Cold Spring residents voted 55-35 to impose a tax to finance a waterworks, the village created a six-member Board of Water Commissioners.

James Ryan, who worked for butcher Fred Evans, attempted to release his pet fox, named Dick, on Bull Hill, but a few days later Dick found his way back.

Walter Coffin was arrested in Boston on charges that he deposited three forged checks there, worth $4,502, drawn on the National Bank of Cold Spring-on-Hudson.

A 50-pound shell fired by cadets at West Point during training glanced off Crow Nest and headed for Cold Spring, where it struck the bluff facing T.B. Truesdell's pickle factory and fell into the river.

Frank Watson, inspector of the dynamite gun at the West Point Foundry, left for San Francisco, where he will oversee installation.

A group of West Point cadets who came to Cold Spring to fill up on "jig water" shot out five street lamp globes on Market Street on their return to the ferry.

100 Years Ago (May 1920)

The Sunday schools of the Hudson River Baptist Association held their 61st annual convention at the Cold Spring church and Town Hall.

James Lavery, formerly overseas secretary for the Knights of Columbus, spoke to the Loretto Council about accompanying theatrical agent and producer Elisabeth Marbury on four wartime tours of France, Belgium, Holland and England. He described various battlefields and the cemeteries where thousands of Americans reposed in the "democracy of the eternal sleep."

J.D. Sullivan, chief of the newly formed Compulsory Attendance Division of the state Department of Education. wrote to the Haldane school board to note that 13 children had been "illegally absent" during March for "out-of-town trips, work at home and the like." He added, "Your board should put a definite stop to this sort of practice in Cold Spring" and suggested that the "arrest and prosecution of a delinquent parent now and then will have a wholesome effect on the community."

Two Red Cross nurses were dispatched from New York City to assist Dr. Clark as he was overwhelmed in February and early March with 154 cases of influenza and pneumonia. The *Recorder* thanked owners of local estates for providing horses and lodging.

William Church Osborn of Garrison, a Democrat, announced his candidacy for a seat in the U.S. Senate. Franklin D. Roosevelt, another Democrat, had not yet decided whether to run. [Roosevelt instead became the vice presidential candidate on a ticket with James Cox, who was defeated by Warren Harding.]

A 13-year-old passenger in the delivery car of the Top Notch Bakery of Peekskill was killed when it was struck by a milk train at the Garrison crossing.

The empty West Point Foundry, which closed in 1911, was sold to the Astoria Silk Works of Long Island to construct a mill.

75 Years Ago (May 1945)

The Rev. Elbert Floyd-Jones marked his 50th year as rector of St. Mary's Episcopal Church.

Bertram Bell of Paulding Avenue was appointed to the Cold Spring Village Board to succeed Lewis McCabe Sr., who resigned, saying he planned to spend his winters in Daytona Beach.

Patsy Anne Thompson, 11, of Los Angeles, whose mother, the former Adele Spilber, grew up in Cold Spring, had a role in a Hollywood film called *Tomorrow, the World!* about an American family whose 11-year-old German cousin, a member of the Hitler Youth, comes to live with them.

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Etta of Parsonage Street received word that their son, Staff Sgt. Anthony Etta, had been liberated by the Russians from Stalag 3-A, where he was a German prisoner of war for nearly a year.

Sgt. Charles Macher, who arrived in Nelsonville for a 60-day furlough after being rescued from a German prisoner-of-war camp, saw his infant daughter for the first time.

D. Mallory Stephens, whose district in the state Assembly included Putnam County, held a dinner at the Sea Food House on Albany Post Road for the Haldane and Carmel high school football teams after they tied in the Putnam County Football Championship game.

50 Years Ago (May 1970)

Garrison school district residents rejected a proposed 14 percent increase in the budget, to $595,000, by a vote of 277-191. They also voted down a 7 percent increase in spending for the hot-lunch program.

Haldane school district residents rejected

(Continued on Page 19)

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(Continued from Page 18)

a proposed 15 percent increase in the budget, to $1.47 million, by a vote of 380-283. The proposal included a 12 percent increase in teacher salaries.

William Green, a social-studies teacher at Garrison Middle School, was featured in an article in *National Wildlife* about his innovative lessons on conservation.

The Most Rev. Joseph Pernicone, vicar of Dutchess and Putnam counties, confirmed 155 children and two adults at Our Lady of Loretto.

Cold Spring United Methodist held a supper to honor Helen Jimenez, who had been its organist for 50 years.

Commander Anthony Benecasa of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 2362 expressed support for President Nixon's policy of sending troops from Vietnam into neighboring Cambodia, saying "anything we do in Cambodia that results in saving American lives should have the full backing of the American people."

The Fathers of Mercy donated four acres of land to the Cold Spring Lions for a planned Philipstown Memorial Park and Pool.

25 Years Ago (May 1995)

Gergely Pediatrics moved to a renovated 1938 stone-and-clapboard house on Route 403 near Route 9. Dr. Peter Gergely had been in practice in Cold Spring since 1990 and before that was the head of pediatrics at West Point.

Haldane said students would be picked up by their buses 15 to 20 minutes earlier because the district had launched a breakfast program mandated by the federal government.

The Gergely Pediatrics office on Route 403 opened in 1995.

The Village Board banned vending along the 200-foot stretch of West Street on the waterfront except for special events. Many people in the audience came to support a couple who had been selling hot dogs from a truck parked next to the bandstand.

The Garrison school budget passed, 270-234, and Cathy Lilburne and John Cronin were elected as trustees. Voters also approved a resolution to decrease the trustee term from five years to three.

Andrew Bertone, the mayor of Rutherford, New Jersey, complained that he had received a $25 parking ticket on Fair Street while visiting Cold Spring to shop. He vowed never to return.

The Friends of the Desmond-Fish Library purchased a Micron computer and color printer for the children's room. The computer came with several programs on CDs, including an encyclopedia.

Bruce Raymond of Fair Street was credited with saving a woman from drowning. He was driving a truck for C.K. Industries on the Sprain Brook Parkway when the car ahead of him flipped over the guardrail and into a reservoir, landing upside down. He stopped, dove into the water, opened the passenger door, unlocked the seat belt and pulled the unconscious driver from the vehicle.

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The Putnam County jail *File photo*

Inmates *(from Page 1)*

to believe the county can prevent inmates from being infected.

The county, in its response, said Legal Aid was asking for the release of "alleged and admitted rapists, repeat felony offenders, one who has previously been convicted of homicide, and individuals accused and convicted of violating probation, bail-jumping and violating court-issued orders of protection," while the jail was doing enough to keep them safe from COVID-19.

There have been no confirmed cases of inmates testing positive at either the Putnam or Dutchess County jails, according to county authorities. One corrections officer at the Putnam jail tested positive and returned to work after completing a14-day quarantine, and four staff members at the Dutchess' jail are on leave after testing positive.

Legal Aid is asking that three inmates awaiting sentencing, one awaiting transfer to a state prison (which are not accepting county prisoners during the pandemic) and another who has pleaded guilty to felony incest and rape be temporarily released to stay with family until the court system resumes normal operations. All legal proceedings but those deemed "essential" are on hold due to COVID-19 restrictions. Two of the other inmates have release dates set in June and July, and another is being held on bail for a misdemeanor charge.

Oral arguments are scheduled for Monday (May 18) before Victor Grossman, a Supreme Court judge based in Carmel.

"There is no doubt that the Putnam County Sheriff's Department is doing its best, but the only way to alleviate the unconstitutional danger faced by the petitioners is to release them," the Legal Aid Society wrote.

Legal Aid alleges that the inmates' detention constitutes "cruel and unusual punishments" banned by the state constitution and Eighth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution and violates the inmates' due process rights under the Fourteenth Amendment.

About 90 percent of the 22,000 New York residents who had died from COVID-19 as of Wednesday (May 13) had one or more underlying conditions, with hypertension and diabetes the top two medical problems and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) the seventh-most-prevalent, according to the state Department of Health.

One of Legal Aid's plaintiffs, a 54-year-old man who is being held on $7,500 bail or $15,000 bond on a misdemeanor criminal contempt charge, uses an inhaler for COPD, which has contributed to nearly 2,000 of the state's COVID-19 deaths.

The county, in a response to the petition filed on Tuesday (May 12) by Larry Glasser, an assistant district attorney, opposes the inmate's release, saying that his COPD is "well-controlled by medication." Although he is being held on the misdemeanor charge, the man faces three counts of contempt from three other cases, Glasser said.

Another plaintiff, a 44-year-old prisoner who signed an agreement binding him to plead guilty to felony rape and incest charges, has high blood pressure. The county said his condition, too, is being treated with medication.

The county also opposed the release of a 36-year-old inmate awaiting sentencing after pleading guilty to selling drugs and jumping bail. The prisoner was given an inhaler for his asthma and "has had no complaints since," according to the county.

The county has consented to the release of one inmate, a 23-year-old man with Type 1 diabetes who has been serving consecutive sentences of 179 days each for probation violations related to a misdemeanor. His sentence ends June 12.

Glasser, in the county's filing, said that Putnam has taken "unprecedented measures" to protect inmates and staff.

Employees must wash their hands and have their temperature taken when entering the jail and inmates are given surgical masks and have their temperatures taken daily, he said. In addition, according to the filing, new detainees are screened and separated from the general population for 14 days after arriving, and cells, staff workstations and common areas undergo disinfecting and cleaning.

Other measures include the designation of a quarantine area, the suspension of programming and a ban on congregate eating in the kitchen or dining area, the filing said. Inmates are allowed to eat in their cells. Those policies and procedures have proven to be "highly effective," it said.

Jails and prisons have drawn the attention of elected officials and advocates during the pandemic because they are considered particularly vulnerable to outbreaks due to the close proximity in which inmates live.

At Fishkill Correctional Facility in Beacon, 89 inmates had tested positive for COVID-19 as of Monday, and five had died, the most of any state prison in both categories. Statewide, 443 prisoners have tested positive for COVID-19, and 16 have died.

The New York City Legal Aid Society filed a similar petition in April, with mixed results. A state judge ordered the release of 18 Rikers Island inmates with heart disease, respiratory problems, diabetes and other conditions but declined to release 14 others because he found nothing "to suggest that they are in more danger than the average inmate."

Beacon Market *(from Page 1)*

vote extends the agreement through late November, except for Spirit of Beacon Day and the Beacon Car Show. The market changed its hours to 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. (they had been 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.) in an attempt to avoid conflicts with Ciganer.

For his part, Ciganer agreed to give the market notice a week or more in advance, if possible, when bands are scheduled to perform at the venue on Sundays. "I'm willing to give it a chance to see if it works," he said this week.

But several council members said that it appears the market has made most of the concessions.

"I would hate to get into a situation where the Farmers' Market is consistently told 'We need the loading space, we need the loading space, we need the loading space,' " said Council Member Amber Grant during the meeting, which was held by videoconference.

Council Member Air Rhodes suggested that the Towne Crier could instead use the city-owned parking lot behind the venue for some load-ins.

While the agreement includes a provision that market officials may submit a request to renew the contract with the city by Dec. 31 each year, Council Member Dan Aymar-Blair said it should be given the security of a long-term deal.

"Doing the annual contracts creates a lot of uncertainty for the Farmers' Market, and they provide a vital service for our city," he said. "They're a cornerstone. We wouldn't do this to the volunteer ambulance corps every year."

Four stories

The Beacon Planning Board began its review this week of the latest proposal to construct a four-story building on Main Street, although it's the City Council that will decide whether the project moves forward as it's currently envisioned.

The developer proposes to merge the lots at 416 and 420 Main St., including a vacant parcel that was formerly occupied by a food truck, to build a structure with retail at the street level (the Kitchen & Coffee cafe would remain), office or commercial space on the second and third floors, and two apartments on a recessed fourth floor.

The design of the building includes a 48-foot-high corner tower, a nod to the historic Beacon Hotel, which features a similar tower next door at 424 Main.

A single-family home and an artist's live/work space would be constructed behind the building, according to its plans.

Project officials told the Planning Board on Tuesday (May 12) that they can only provide four of the required 26 parking spaces and will seek a waiver.

While that decision will be made by the Planning Board, the City Council on May 4 adopted amendments to Beacon's zoning code that require all Main Street four-story proposals in or around the city's historic district to seek a special-use permit from the council.

In addition, any four-story proposal on Main must include one or more public benefits, such as increased parking, affordable housing units, green building features or public spaces, before it can receive the permit to build a fourth floor.

The 416/420 Main proposal will require a second special-use permit from the council for its corner tower design.

The appearance during the Planning Board's meeting, held by videoconference, was the first for the project, although feedback had preceded it.

"I have never seen as many comment letters on a project when it's not even the public-comment period yet," said Board Member Jill Reynolds, who noted that about 80 percent of the feedback so far has been in opposition to the project.

The members of the Planning Board offered mixed opinions. While there was praise for a Main Street proposal that includes significant office and commercial space, some board members took issue with elements of the design and nearly all expressed reservations about the request to waive 85 percent of the required parking.

Real Estate

Market Report (April)

	Beacon		Philipstown	
	2019	2020	2019	2020
New Listings	14	6	26	11
Closed Sales	5	5	2	6
Days on Market	148	94	117	214
Median Price	$290,000	$330,050	$413,000	$383,750
% List Received	91.6	96.3	95.5	89.7
Inventory	30	22	84	54

Source: Hudson Gateway Association of Realtors (hgar.com). Excludes condos. Philipstown includes Cold Spring, Garrison and Nelsonville.

Antiques Shop *(from Page 1)*

Eventually, they made their way west, to 40 Main St., which had been an auction house. There were three or four renters working in booths in a "cavernous space" with no walls, Arceri said.

"We rented the whole building and kept a large portion for ourselves, including the art gallery, which we designed," he said. "We filled the space with 10 vendors. We brought it back to life."

Gregarious by nature, Arceri said he has formed many lasting relationships with passersby who stopped to browse.

"We've made it a social place, open to any kind of conversation and different opinions," he said. "We think that's cool and healthy. It's enhanced our scope, our horizons. I was talking to somebody who loves dictators! It never ends, the variety of characters. We've had so many people visit, from around the world — we've received so many postcards. People pour off the trains and want to talk. It's amazing how learning to say 'Thank you' in someone's language can change things, on a little or big scale."

Not one to shy away from politics, Arceri said he has always been open about his leanings, which he admits doesn't always go over well.

"We've always shared our political opinions," he said. "We had a little theater set up with stickers, buttons, not very friendly to the present administration. People would walk out, argue with us. But this country is an experiment and we are obligated to stand up and criticize. I might be crazy and foolish, but we stand up for social justice, against racial inequity, and use the podium as artists to take that risk, because we are patriotic."

There have been plenty of celebrity sightings. "Scarlett Johansson was here with her brother. Kevin Kline. Cab Calloway's son. The guy who posed for [*Mad Magazine* mascot] Alfred E. Neuman! I'm talking to him and he says, 'My uncle created Alfred E. Neuman.' I'm looking at the guy — I don't want to say anything, but he had a round face, that hairline, those ears, and then he showed me his dropped tooth and told me his uncle used him as a prototype.

"We met the guy who designed a ventriloquist's dummy that we coincidentally had in the store," Arceri said. "We had a Vietnam veteran who brought up a copy of *Life* to the counter — he was on the cover. Once you have things that are a link, a thread to the past, you will have people come in who are connected to them."

Gary Arceri packs artwork at Downtown Antiques on Thursday (May 14) *Photos by Michael Turton*

The popularity of eBay hurt the retail business. "There are two schools of thought on it," Arceri said. "You're educating everyone [about values] and now we can't get any deals at garage sales. But every winter, we went on eBay to sell — we've sold more than 10,000 items. We needed eBay to pay our mortgage. I just mailed 100 pounds of comic books to California."

Over 34 years, the couple have seen Main Street shops come and go, which Arceri attributes in many cases to "people who hadn't done their homework. They only saw a bustling tourist town. Many were doomed by rents that are not friendly to what they want to do. How do you get through the winter? What about utilities? Some people have money in the family, some are duking it out without making a profit, but we couldn't sustain a vanity shop."

Ellen Hayden and Gary Arceri

After the shops and gallery close, the couple said they will focus on their artwork, musical pursuits and, when they can, spending time with their son and grandchild, who live in Chicago. They plan to supplement their income with eBay sales (their seller name is downtown1).

"We weren't planning to leave," Arceri said. "We wanted to try to ride out the pandemic. But there was a rent increase. I didn't think there was any way to sign a lease now because we have no future for three, maybe even six months. Ellen has been saying to me for several years we should get out. She does most of the paperwork. We've been afraid to move out — we're pack rats."

Downtown is open by appointment (call 845-265-4866) for the next two weeks, but there is no browsing. Arceri said he expects a lot of "I know you have this thing — I've been looking at it for year trying to decide if I should buy it."

Nursing Homes *(from Page 6)*

ties confirmed or presumed to be related to the virus. That includes 14 confirmed deaths at Wingate at Beacon and 11 at Ferncliff in Rhinecliff. There also have been 12 deaths confirmed or presumed to be coronavirus-related at Grand Rehabilitation and Nursing in Pawling.

In response, the county this week began testing every resident at its 13 licensed homes for COVID-19. At the same time, the state is requiring that nursing-home employees be tested twice a week for the virus while reversing a much-criticized directive that the facilities accept COVID-19 patients from hospitals.

Dutchess began its testing at Wingate and said on Tuesday that 13 of the 104 residents were found to have COVID-19. In addition, six of 157 residents at the Pines at Poughkeepsie tested positive. In many cases, the residents did not have symptoms; each confirmed positive was isolated. Armed with 3,600 test kits provided by the state, County Executive Marc Molinaro said the health department hoped to test residents at the remaining 11 facilities over the next few weeks.

"There are real challenges, there is a lot of confusion and everyone's trying their best," he said.

According to a directive issued by Gov. Andrew Cuomo on Sunday (May 10), nursing homes must report any positive tests among their staff by the next day. Facilities that violate the directive could have their operating licenses suspended or revoked and face a fine of $2,000 per violation per day. Any staff members who refuse to be tested will not be allowed to work.

But Molinaro said that using a standard diagnostic test for staff will be problematic because people infected with COVID-19 can still transmit the virus even when they have no symptoms. Dutchess health officials typically must wait two days to receive results, he said.

The county needs rapid testing, with results within an hour, he said, and has "called on the state to make that available."

Cuomo also announced this week that he was rescinding a March 25 directive that prohibited nursing homes from discriminating against COVID-19 patients who had been discharged from hospitals, and requiring that facilities accept those patients as long as doctors determined they were "medically stable."

State Sen. Sue Serino, who is a member on the Senate's Aging Committee, and whose district includes the Highlands, said on Wednesday that the state should create a staffing pool for nursing homes — many of whom already share staff — and send test kits directly to the facilities. She also called on the state to deploy the National Guard to help with administering tests and cleaning nursing homes.

"Once again, the state has failed to adequately address the real need during this time," Serino said in a statement. "Increased testing will undoubtedly place even more strain on the staff on the ground in these facilities, and the state does not have a backup plan to assist."

OBITUARIES

Geo Astudillo (1994-2020)

Jose Geovanny Ramon Astudillo, 25, a longtime resident of Beacon, died May 10.

Known to his friends and family as "Geo," he was born Dec. 19, 1994, in Girón, Ecuador, the son of Jose Ramon and Gloria Astudillo of Beacon. Geo attended Beacon schools and graduated from Beacon High School in 2013, where he played varsity soccer for four years. He studied at Dutchess Community College and Stony Brook University, where he earned a bachelor's degree. During college, he worked as a lifeguard and for J&S Painting.

Geo enjoyed photography and filmmaking, and created videos that he published on YouTube. His favorite phrase was "positive vibes."

Besides his parents, he is survived by his sisters, Elvia Ramon, Maribel Ramon, Kelly Ramon and Stephanie Ramon; and his nephews, Austin Guarquila and Jake Morocho.

Funeral services will be private. A Mass will be held at St. John the Evangelist Church at a later date. Memorial donations may be made to the Beacon Boys' Soccer Team. Make checks payable to the Beacon City School District and write "Boys' Soccer" in the memo. They can be mailed to Beacon High School, Athletic Department, 101 Matteawan Road, Beacon, NY 12508. Donations also may be made to any photography or film charity.

John Levine (1938-2020)

John Robert Levine, 82, died May 11 at Wingate at Beacon.

He was born April 24, 1938, in Beacon, the son of John and Margaret (Moshier) Levine. He was a 1956 graduate of Haldane High School, where he excelled in football and track. In the late 1960s, John was one of the founders of the Haldane Alumni Football Association, which honors a senior athlete annually with the George Ellis Memorial Scholarship.

In the 1950s, John helped manage his parents' store, Marge's Delicatessen, in Cold Spring. He later worked at Texaco Research Center in Beacon, where he met Catherine (Kay) Keays. They were married in Beacon on Oct. 30, 1960. Shortly thereafter, John and Kay opened the Riverview Restaurant on Fair Street in Cold Spring.

During the 1960s, John worked for Clinton Funeral Home and later began his own limousine service, Custom Livery. In 1968, John had the honor of serving as Barbra Streisand's chauffeur during the filming of *Hello Dolly* in Philipstown.

In the 1970s, John began his career as a car salesman, working first for McCormack Lincoln-Mercury (later Jennings Lincoln-Mercury) in Poughkeepsie and then Terry Buick, also in Poughkeepsie, where he became sales manager.

Also during the 1970s, John worked for Pat and Nick Deluccia at Dockside Restaurant, at the majestic Cold Spring riverfront. Local patrons spent many a night belting out Billy Joel's "Piano Man," with particular emphasis on the line, "Now, John at the bar is a friend of mine; he gets me my drinks for free."

After winning the first of three battles with cancer, in 1981 John opened a coffee-and-newspaper stand at the Cold Spring Metro-North station, then known as Conrail.

In the 1990s, John was well-known as the bartender at Killeen's on Main Street in Cold Spring, and later co-owned and managed Downtown, also a Main Street tavern. John's final professional position was with Healey Brothers, in Beacon, where he worked for the service department.

Football was his passion, and the Giants were his team, through the tough years as well as the triumphant ones. Beginning in the 1980s, he traveled to Canton, Ohio, nearly every year for the Hall of Fame induction ceremonies. The group that went to Canton varied from year-to-year; John was the constant, as he organized the excursion. On at least one occasion, he creatively maneuvered his way "behind the scenes" by impersonating a reporter.

John was also an amateur photographer and an avid chef, and traveled to New Orleans to attend the New Orleans School of Cooking. John and Kay, during their 59 years together, traveled extensively around the country, visiting nearly every state in the U.S. In their early years, they took their grandchildren Rebecca, Emily and Colin on some of these adventures.

Besides his wife, John is survived by his children, Lori Moss (Hugh) of Cold Spring, Patricia Levine of Beacon and John Levine of Fishkill; his stepdaughter, Pamela Faulds (Tim) of Fishkill; his grandchildren, Rebecca Sela (Dave), Emily Ivansheck (Zach), Colin Faulds, Victoria Moss, John Moss, James Moss and William Moss; and his great-grandchildren, Owen Ivansheck and Harper Ivansheck. He also is survived by his sister, Carole Rapalje of Beacon.

Memorial donations may be made to the Haldane Football Association, c/o Krissy Irwin, 740 Route 301, Cold Spring, NY 10516; or the Haldane Alumni Football Association, c/o Michael Rapalje, 7 Cherry St., Cold Spring, NY 10516.

Theodore Novak (1941-2020)

Brother Theodore W. Novak, SA, 78, a Franciscan Friar of the Atonement who served as chaplain for the Garrison Volunteer Fire Co., died on April 22. He was a resident of St. Paul Friary at Graymoor.

Brother Novak was born June 28, 1941, in Middletown, Connecticut, the son of Albin and Sophie (Szpakowski) Novak. He entered the fraternity after graduating from Woodrow Wilson High School in Middletown in 1959 and received the habit in 1960. He made his first vows in 1962 and professed final vows in 1967. He earned a bachelor's degree in human development and elder care from Empire State College in Purchase in 1992.

Brother Novak served the Friars in various administrative roles in High Point, North Carolina; at St. Christopher's Inn in Garrison (1970-74); in Richmond, British Columbia; the development office at Graymoor; and working with elder friars. He worked at the Institute of Human Applied Dynamics–St. Jude's in Bedford Hills for many years as a mental health assistant for mentally-disabled adults. He also was chaplain for the Mohegan Lake Volunteer Fire Department.

He took joy in showing people his latest folk art creations in his studio at Graymoor and was involved in the Valley Artists Association, the Garrison Art Center and the Greenwich Art Center in Connecticut.

He is survived by a brother, Peter Novak of Wilmington, North Carolina; a niece, Lori Ann Miller; and his grandnieces, Erika Bowen, Cheryl Winakor and Rachael Winakor.

For more obituaries, see highlandscurrent.org/obits.

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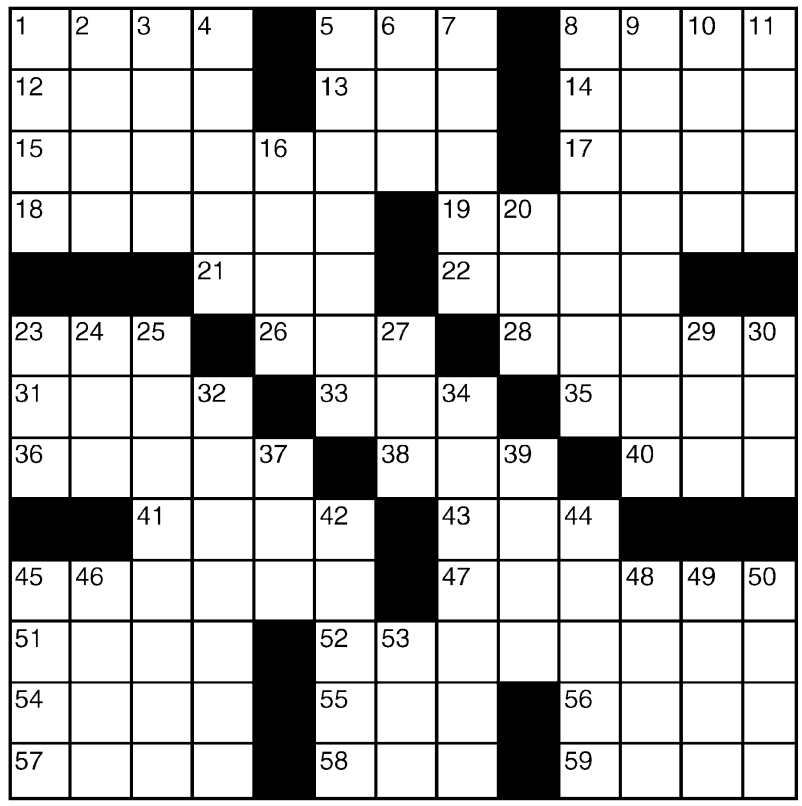
Puzzles

CrossCurrent



ACROSS

1. Work units
5. Urban carrier
8. Wanders
12. Hoodlum
13. Bobby of hockey
14. Leave out
15. Atmosphere
17. With skill
18. Godlike
19. Indefinite interval
21. To and —
22. Regimen
23. Sheepish comment
26. Mess up
28. Manicurist's concerns
31. Mater preceder
33. Insult (Sl.)
35. Nike slogan, "Just —"
36. Unpaid bills
38. 1960s Pontiac
40. Homer's neighbor
41. Faraway fleet?
43. Actress Thurman
45. Help
47. Least adorned
51. Physicist Niels
52. Food of the gods
54. Tourney situations
55. Wire measure
56. Soda fountain treat
57. Right on the map?
58. Snoop
59. Arctic diving birds

DOWN

1. "Zounds!"
2. Jim of sports radio
3. Asian desert
4. Express disdain nasally
5. Massachusetts city
6. Joan of —
7. The staff of life
8. Proceed
9. Drive
10. Pickling herb
11. Eyelid woe
16. Ireland
20. Victory
23. Evil
24. Brewery product
25. Surprise attacks
27. Tractor-trailer
29. Falsehood
30. Norm: Abbr.
32. Originally
34. Unshaven, in a way
37. "Mayday!"
39. Mr. Sharif
42. Postage buy
44. Scent
45. Singer Lane
46. Protein-rich bean
48. Birthright barterer
49. Symbol of smoothness
50. Body pics
53. Russian space station

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7 LittleWords

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	SOLUTIONS
1 luscious quality (8)	_____
2 Mediterranean volcano (4)	_____
3 drool (8)	_____
4 once and once again (5)	_____
5 like carbs (7)	_____
6 common word in bank name (5)	_____
7 speedy watercraft (10)	_____

RIC	AR	SAL	SS	ATE
NA	UST	TS	CHY	RB
TR	TO	CE	IV	ET
TWI	OA	HNE	MO	ST

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SudoCurrent

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

Answers for May 1 Puzzles

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

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

1. COMPETES, 2. SHOEHORN, 3. THRONGS, 4. LATECOMERS, 5. FISHY, 6. BARGAINS, 7. CHART

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

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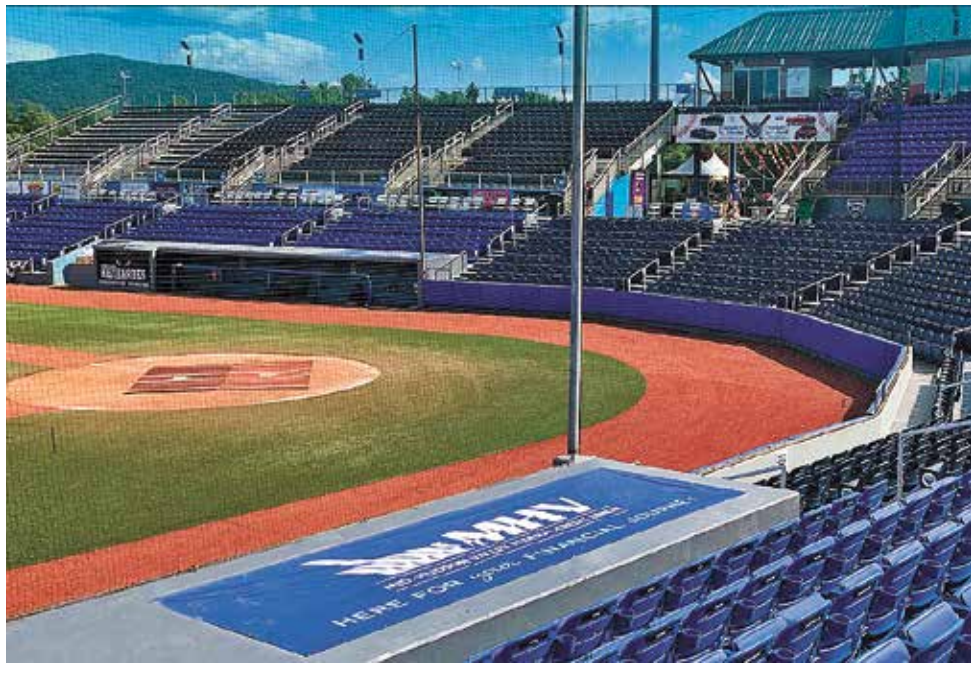

If allowed to play all or part of its season this year, the Hudson Valley Renegades said it would close seats and rows at Dutchess Stadium to ensure social distancing.

The team posted this message on social media on March 25, encouraging people to stay home.

Renegades Prepare for Uncertain Summer

First pitch for Dutchess team scheduled for June 18

By Skip Pearlman

Although it appears unlikely the Hudson Valley Renegades will begin their 2020 baseball season next month as scheduled, the minor league team has prepared a detailed plan on how baseball might safely be played at Dutchess Stadium.

The Renegades, an affiliate of the Tampa Bay Rays, would begin their season on the road on June 18 and end it over Labor Day weekend with a three-game home stand. The team, which has played in Wappinger Falls for 26 seasons, is part of the Class A, short-season league, the fifth of six levels in the minors.

The Renegades' COVID-19 plan presumes that Dutchess County will be in Phase 4 of a state's reopening plan by next month (the county has not yet entered Phase 1), and that Major League Baseball will manage to salvage some its season, which had been scheduled to open March 26. (MLB and its Players Association are negotiating an abbreviated, 82-game season with a regional schedule that would begin in July, played before limited or no fans.)

The Renegades' readiness plan outlines possible changes such as cashless payments for food, tickets and merchandise; fewer tickets sold to allow for rows and seats to remain empty; employees who interact with fans wearing masks and gloves; temperature checks for every employee when they enter the ballpark; one-way walkways; doors propped open on restrooms to encourage "touchless entry" and every other sink and urinal disabled; and increased sanitation throughout the ballpark and clubhouse.

In addition, the Kid's Zone/Playland would not operate; players would not give autographs or throw baseballs into the stands; first pitches would be thrown to a family member rather than a player; and "commonly spit" items such as seeds, gum and peanuts would be restricted.

To encourage fans, the Renegades launched a #GadesGivingBack campaign, selling gift cards for $25, $50 or $100 at bit.ly/renegade-gift-cards that can be used for tickets, food or merchandise. The team is adding 20 percent in value to each card (e.g., $25 becomes $30) and donating another 20 percent of each card's value to the Dutchess Responds fund to help those in need.

Steve Gliner, the team's president and general manager, said he feels it is important for baseball to return to the Hudson Valley as soon as feasible.

"Fans in the Hudson Valley look at the Renegades as something that's 'normal' — whatever that 'new normal' is," he said. "That's why we put this plan together. We look at the Renegades as being part of the fabric of the Hudson Valley, and we want to have a safe way to open once we get the OK to do so."

The Mid-Hudson region, which includes Dutchess and Putnam counties, has met five of the state's seven criteria to begin Phase 1 of a reopening plan, which would allow for construction and manufacturing to reopen with safeguards in place. Arts, entertainment and recreation businesses and schools cannot reopen until Phase 4, following restaurants and food services, and would require social-distancing protocols and other measures to be in place.

Asked about the Renegades at a Facebook Live town hall on Wednesday (May 13), Dutchess County Executive Marc Molinaro said he didn't expect the season to begin in June. "In the context of phases, July seems more likely, with limited capacity possible," he said. "But they also play teams from Brooklyn and other areas, and we may not want that kind of travel."

Along with the Brooklyn Cyclones, an affiliate of the Mets, the Renegades compete against teams from West Virginia, Connecticut, Pennsylvania and Vermont.

Gliner said the Renegades understand that several pieces need to fall into place for baseball to be played at Dutchess Stadium in 2020. But he said having a mitigation plan in place if that happens was an important part of the process.

"I'm a planner," he said. "If we are not told 'no,' we want to be ready to play. A lot has to do with the MLB plan, because elements of that plan will be put into the minor-league system.

"We've received a lot of good responses to our plan, from season-ticket holders on," he added. "Our group is looking to be in front of the curve, and we've been working since Day One on how to open our buildings safely. We want people to understand that this situation is something we take very seriously. If they see that we at Dutchess Stadium are being safe; that's how we want people to feel — that it's safe, clean and with proper protocols in place."

It's highly unlikely the Renegades would play games without fans. Unlike the major leagues, which has broadcast contracts and other sources of revenue, the minors rely heavily on ticket and concession sales. "We're not looking at that [option] at this time," Gliner said. "A major component is to have fans in the building."

If the Renegades are allowed to play, the club says there will be no autographs or other contact with fans.

HV Renegades (3)