Village Residents on Lockdown

But many visitors to Cold Spring don’t seem to be

By Michael Turton

Cold Spring residents “packed” a meeting of the Village Board on May 21 as the mayor and trustees discussed measures to be taken in anticipation of the Mid-Hudson Region entering Phase 1 on Tuesday (May 26) of the state’s gradual reopening.

The meeting, held by video conference, drew an audience of at least 30 people. Village meetings seldom attract more than a handful.

Residents of apartments and houses on and near Main Street said they hesitate to go outside on weekends due to crowding and visitors who don’t wear masks or practice social distancing. They also complained that their stoops are being used as dining areas.

At the meeting, the board unanimously approved a resolution formalizing the decision by Mayor Dave Merandy earlier this month to close Mayor’s Park, Dockside Park and Riverfront Park in Cold Spring will remain closed on Saturdays and Sundays from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. under an order approved by the Village Board.

Photo by Ross Corsair

(Continued on Page 7)
**FIVE QUESTIONS: CLINT WATTS**

**By Chip Rowe**

Clint Watts, of Philipstown, a former executive officer at the Combating Terrorism Center at West Point and one-time FBI agent, is the author of *Messing with the Enemy: Surviving in a Social Media World of Hackers, Terrorists, Russians and Fake News.*

**What have you learned conversing with terrorists on social media?**

The biggest thing is that 80 percent of all people are the same [with common interests such as sports and food]. They are depicted on TV and in the movies as diabolical fanatics, but most conversations I’ve had were routine. What separates the terrorist and counterterrorist is a decision. It’s not the decision to kill or not to kill, but why to do it.

**Do you expect the Russians to again spread disinformation before the November election?**

It’s already underway. But this time around our own politicians are creating so many conspiracies, the Russians don’t have to make them up. They’re just riding the wave.

You wrote on Twitter that “Putin has absolutely won.” How so?

His goals were to push the U.S. into conflict with itself, weaken the U.S. and NATO alliance, weaken our bonds with the European Union, and advance his interests in Syria and Africa without opposition. He’s done all that. He now allegedly has President Trump calling him for intelligence updates. From Putin’s perspective, this is the greatest moment in the history of modern Russia. His actions against the U.S. are still causing chaos, and the guy in charge is asking him for advice. Putin probably doesn’t even understand how this could be possible.

**How are disinformation campaigns playing out during the pandemic?**

There’s an information war between Russia, Iran and China to reshape the history of COVID-19, and the U.S. is right in there with some politicians claiming it is a bioweapon from a Wuhan lab. America sucks at information warfare because of our leadership but also as a democracy we don’t have a central idea. Our opponents can pick a narrative and if you disagree, you get hung out a window.

**What will happen once we have a vaccine?**

Whichever country gets it first will be able to reopen and maneuver and hold it for export. It will be a huge leap. This is what will cause the breakup of the world, the competition. One will use it against the others.

Clint Watts

*Photo by Jon Roemer*

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**ON THE SPOT**

**What’s a great piece of advice you’ve received?**

“My mom said to never accept anyone else’s opinion of me; to form your own opinion of yourself.”

— Ellen Mauro, Cold Spring

“My musical theater teacher told me to just take life as it comes at you.”

— Kate Lahey, Garrison

*Selling organic produce every Saturday at the Cold Spring Farmers Market.*

Now accepting online preorders for safe and easy market shopping.

Order online and pickup at market.

fourwindsfarmny.com

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Call for curbside pick up or USPS shipping

119 Main Street Cold Spring, NY

845.265.3992
Welcome Center Planned for Dennings Point

Beacon Institute will renovate former factory

By Brian PJ Cronin

During their many walks at Dennings Point, Beatrice Donofrio told her children about the joys of the outdoors. Now, thanks to a generous gift from her family, a new generation of children will learn about nature at a gateway to the 64-acre peninsula on the Beacon shoreline.

Clarkson University’s Beacon Institute for Rivers and Estuaries recently announced plans to renovate and expand a former paper-clip factory into what will be called the Beatrice G. Donofrio Environmental Education Complex. The project will begin in the spring of 2021 and should take no more than 15 months, it said.

Michael Walsh, the president of the Beacon Institute, said the former factory remains in surprisingly good shape. “The majority of the building is salvageable,” he said. “The concrete floor meets 100-year flood standards, and the structural seal is sound.”

A few hundred feet from the site, the Beacon Institute manages a Water Ecology Center where it hosts lectures, classes and fundraisers. Walsh said the institute needs more space, “and that space needs to be adaptable. It needs to work one weekend for adults who come to learn about data science and then the next week function as a laboratory for fifth-graders to collect ecological specimens and put them under the microscope.”

In addition, the state parks department and the New York Power Authority plan to install a photovoltaic array atop a new parking structure to provide power for the Donofrio complex and the Water Ecology Center.

The building will serve as a welcome center for Dennings Point, Walsh said, with exhibits on the ecological and industrial history of the Hudson River and Dennings Point.

The point itself is relatively wild except for a trail that runs alongside its western shore with several spurs that lead to the river. But the ruins of a small industrial building and countless bricks stamped DPBW (for Dennings Point Brick Works) can be found in abundance by the cove, which makes for a fascinating nexus between the Hudson Valley’s natural abundance and manufacturing.

It also has an important place in U.S. history: George Washington made nearly daily visits to the point when stationed in Newburgh, and Alexander Hamilton began drafts of the Federalist Papers while staying at the point in 1781.

Walsh said he hopes the center will “give folks a reason to come to the point, and expose them to all that it has to offer, in terms of the ecology and the wilderness and its biodiversity. It’s a great opportunity for the community to experience what it feels like to be in a relatively underdeveloped piece of nature that exists in not too many places anymore.”

If all goes according to plan, he said, the center will help make Dennings Point what it was for the Donofrio children: A place to forge lifelong connections with the outdoors. Walsh said he knows how important those connections are. “I grew up in Philadelphia,” he said. “I didn’t get to learn how to put a worm on a fish hook until I was 20 years old.”
COVID-19 sacrifices

I must respectfully disagree with Barry Goggin, whose letter appeared in the May 22 issue. He asserts that if we did nothing to slow the spread of COVID-19, 80 percent of the population would survive. But with 331 million people living in the U.S., that could mean a death rate of 66 million people. So far, it’s about 100,000. Even President Trump, who considers 100,000 deaths a great success, believes that 1 million deaths would be too much.

The problem with Mr. Goggin’s argument is that the choice is not an individual one — “I am willing to die for my grandchildren’s future.” Every senior who willingly puts himself or herself at risk also puts at risk everyone with whom he or she comes into contact. And because the virus spreads from people who are not symptomatic, the only way to keep such folks from giving the virus to others is through widespread testing, contact tracing and isolation of those who test positive. Until that occurs (or until there is a well-tested vaccine), without social distancing, mask wearing and lockdowns (if we keep taking the steps necessary to stop the disease from repeat surges, the economy will not come back), there is no binary choice between fighting the disease and protecting the economic livelihood of our fellow citizens. If we don’t keep taking the steps necessary to stop the disease from repeat surges, the economy will not come back.

Michael Meeropol, Cold Spring

Climate change

It’s hard to imagine that we’ve lost 100,000 Americans to COVID-19. This pandemic is all consuming, and with good reason, but it’s not the only emergency. Climate change didn’t suddenly take a pause, and there are already signs indicating that we will have the two crises overlapping. Just last week 10,000 people were evacuated in Michigan due to flooding and we haven’t even hit hurricane and fire season yet.

There are a few lessons we can take away from the pandemic: Acting early saves lives and the need for strong government leadership. Tens of thousands of Americans have lost their lives as a consequence of the administration’s failure to act sooner.

I won’t lie, during these past two months I have come to close to giving up on trying to solve the climate crisis. But, Philipstown, you give me hope. We have shown ourselves capable of caring for others, for stepping up and making masks, collecting food, raising money for people and businesses. Philipstown is a community that cares for each other.

As the recently released Philipstown Greenhouse Gas Inventory Report points out, we have a lot of power to make change at the local level (”Carbon-neutral Philipstown?”, May 22). We can eat less meat, we can waste less food and compost, we can grow a garden or buy from a farmers’ market, we can change how we heat our homes, we can buy less stuff and when we do buy things try to shop locally. So Philipstown, are you up for the next challenge of our lifetimes? Let’s aim to be carbon-neutral and save more lives.

Kristal Ford, Garrison Ford is a member of the Philipstown Climate Smart Task Force.

Towne Crier

I have also been a patron of the Towne Crier for more than 20 years. I have come to love the musicians and artistic presentations at this 47-year-old venue. Its owner (and my friend), Phil Ciganer, received scores of invitations to bring the Towne Crier from Pawling to towns up and down the Hudson Valley, yet because of his friendship with Pete Seeger he chose Beacon.

Given that, I am perplexed at the manufactured drama around the Farmers’ Market demanding to be placed on Veterans Place, despite occupying Memorial Hall during the winter and inclement weather (“Beacon Farmers’ Market Set — For One Year,” May 15). The market was on the waterfront successfully for 16 years. The Towne Crier is a tremendous asset to
Counting the Highlands

Response rates to the 2020 U.S. census, as of May 27, along with historical data, at right. If a household doesn’t respond online at 2020Census.gov, the agency sends a paper questionnaire. If there is still no response, a census taker will be dispatched to knock on the door, although those operations are now uncertain due to the COVID-19 shutdown.

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(Source: 2020Census.gov)

(Continued from Page 4)

Beacon’s arts calendar and tax base: it’s a world-class venue that employs many residents. Why is it portrayed as the villain? Phil has been a long-time supporter of farmers’ markets, including this one, as well as many nonprofit organizations. It comes down to the market location’s many negative impacts on his business, despite repeated assurances by a rotating cast of coordinators.

The Towne Crier and the Farmers’ Market are two institutions that enrich our local community. They are not mutually exclusive; cities of all sizes across the country are able to have both coexist peacefully. Why are some Beacon residents using their support of the Farmers’ Market to take such an acrimonious stand against the Towne Crier?

It’s discouraging to hear certain residents painting Phil as “the bad guy,” and he has told me he’s seriously reconsidering how he and the Towne Crier will fit into the city’s future. It would be a tragedy for Beacon, and the Hudson Valley, to lose one of its historic cultural attractions.

Don Raskopf, Beacon

Loud bikes

I’ve read with interest the ongoing discussion about loud motorcycles (Letters and Comments, May 8, 15, 22) because we live on Route 9D and this time of year is particularly bad. California discovered how to control this problem by fining riders who have modified their bikes (and cars) specifically to make them noisier. It’s easy to spot, you don’t have to measure the decibels, and eventually it makes it too expensive to pretend you’re a big boy.

Rich Franco, Philipstown

Name that bird

I enjoyed “50 Years of Constitution Marsh” (May 22). Barry Rosen’s photos are extraordinary. Would it be possible to provide the identification of the denizens of the marsh that are in the pictures?

Martina Leonard, Garrison

With the assistance of Scott Silver, director of the Constitution Marsh Audubon Center and Sanctuary, we have added identifications to our online gallery. They include a beaver, great blue heron, carp, least sandpiper, great egret, mallard ducks, Canada geese, double-crested cormorant, green heron, osprey and belted kingfisher.

Deputy executive

The request by Putnam County Executive MaryEllen Odell to hire a deputy county executive is called empire-building ("Odell Seeks to Fill Deputy Role," May 22). Then they’ll need a new assistant for the deputy, and so it goes.

Chris Bopp, via Facebook

Main Street

Should village residents be left to fend for themselves and fear their own streets because of an overabundance of visitors? ("Enough Police in Cold Spring?," May 8) Retail is just one component of “business” on Main Street. Another component is the wide spectrum of people who live and rent domiciles on side streets and in apartments above retail establishments. These residents have a right to use their village amenities in a safe and responsible manner. They also have the right to be reasonably protected by local government from a recognized public health risk.

Inviting hordes of tourists from surrounding areas creates a de facto lockdown for village residents, who are rightfully concerned about their own health or the health of their families. The blanket dismissal of global health advice by some gives me less confidence in an orderly reopening of Main Street, not more. It is the rampant dismissal of public health risks by a small subset of the population that puts all residents of the village at risk. Visitors who are wantonly strolling the streets, without masks, are striking fear in the hearts and minds of well-meaning village residents, and threatening village life as we know it.

Ethan Timm, Nelsonville

Main Street businesses contributezich to my quality of life; the hordes of tourists and businesses catering to them made our lives miserable and that’s before coronavirus hit. The stores sell dusty crap, the restaurants serve overpriced and mediocre food, and the village is run by people who let Main Street do whatever they want to.

Maria Szufl, Cold Spring

Thanks to volunteers

For most of us, this was an unusually slow Memorial Day weekend. But for those working behind the scenes to enable Putnam County to reopen on May 26, it was non-stop work.

I want to thank Putnam County Personnel Director Paul Eldridge and his staff, including Angela Aquilato, for their enormous efforts over the holiday weekend getting an army of contact tracers trained and in place so that Putnam County could reopen for business.

I also want to thank the folks who signed up to be contact tracers for taking six hours out of their holiday weekend to complete the online training course.

Because of all of your hard work, Putnam County can restart its economy while putting safety first.

Paul and his staff worked day and night, adapting quickly to shifting guidance from the state — first we were told we needed 30 contact tracers in order to reopen, then the number suddenly jumped to 84. No matter, they didn’t hesitate.

They reached out to employees from nearly every county department with the urgent message that the training course had to be completed over the weekend. They got the same message out to the summer PILOT program interns who, pre-COVID-19, had been planning to work in various county departments. They made calls to community volunteers, as well as skilled health care volunteers from the Medical Reserve Corps., I would also like to thank the Town of Carmel for their volunteers.

By Tuesday morning, 97 contact tracers were trained and ready to help stop the spread of coronavirus.

It is this kind of can-do spirit that gives me faith in the future of Putnam County. I know that, together, we will help our communities rebound.

MaryEllen Odell, Carmel

Odell is the Putnam County executive.

Correction

In a photo caption in the May 22 issue, we stated that the Clearwater launched for the season on Monday (May 18). In fact, it was on Sunday (May 17). We also stated that the sloop sailed from Kingston to Rhinebeck, which would have been quite a feat. In fact, it sailed to Rhinecliff and back.

We should have noted in our story about the 50th anniversary of Constitution Marsh Audubon Center (May 22) that the parking and trails are closed as part of the response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

NOTICE

CLEAN-UP FOR NELSONVILLE RESIDENTS

Will Be Held On: FRIDAY, JUNE 5, 2020

ACCEPTABLE ITEMS:

1. Couches
2. Mattresses
3. Box Springs
4. Stuffed chairs
5. Sleepers
6. Recliners
7. Toys
8. Small Appliances
9. “Empty” Water base Plant Cars
10. (One) large appliance per household (with no Freon)
11. Wooden Furniture (i.e., tables, chairs, desks, etc.)
12. Yard Waste (i.e., leaves, trees, limbs and branches, lawn clippings, etc.)
13. No TV’s

UNACCEPTABLE ITEMS:

1. Tires
2. Oil, fuel and chemical tanks (propane, butane, etc.)
3. Motor Vehicle parts or their components (i.e., fenders, doors, hoods, body sections, interiors, engine blocks, radiators, transmissions, drive shafts, axles, muffler systems, filter, gas tanks, etc.)
4. Hazardous materials such as, but not limited to drain oils, antifreeze coolants, pesticides, chemicals, lead paints, asbestos materials (i.e. insulation, shingles, piping, etc.)
5. Explosives (i.e. ammunition, etc.)
6. Lead batteries and household batteries (except small batteries used in a normal household)
7. Metal drums (i.e. 55 gallon drums, etc.)
8. Building Materials
9. Yard Waste (i.e., leaves, trees, limbs and branches, grass clippings, etc.)
10. Lawn Mowers
11. No Appliances with CFC (Freon) i.e., air conditioners, dehumidifiers
12. Computers and computer monitors
13. No TV’s

ALL MATERIAL MUST BE READY FOR PICK UP NO LATER THAN 6AM

Board of Trustees
How They Voted

**Governor signs another round of bills passed by state legislators**

By Chip Rowe

During the 2019-20 session of the state Assembly and Senate, which is scheduled to adjourn on Tuesday (June 2), Gov. Andrew Cuomo has signed 844 bills, while another five await his signature, including one related to workers at the Indian Point nuclear power plant. He has vetoed 389.

Below are summaries of select laws enacted since Dec. 9 and the votes cast by Republican Sue Serino (whose Senate district includes the Highlands), Democrat Sandy Galef (whose Assembly district includes Philipstown) and Democrat Jonathan Jacobson (whose Assembly district includes Beacon).

**Indian Point wages**

This bill was delivered to Cuomo on Dec. 30 but he has not acted on it. It would require that employees of Indian Point and its contractors be paid the “prevailing wages” until the plant is closed and that the state Department of Labor oversee the hiring of any new workers.

Passed Senate 57-5

Serino

Passed Assembly 101-35

Galef, Jacobson

**Indian Point Paint Program**

This law, enacted by Cuomo on Feb. 3, requires all single-occupancy bathrooms in state-owned buildings to be designated as gender-neutral. Those in state-leased buildings will be converted “when practicable.”

Passed Senate 59-1

Serino

Passed Assembly 139-5

Galef, Jacobson

**Paint collection**

This law, signed by Cuomo on Dec. 16, created a Postconsumer Paint Collection Program that requires manufacturers to create recycling-and-reuse programs to relieve municipalities of the burden. By one estimate, 3.1 million gallons of paint go unused each year in New York state; the bill’s supporters say it could save local governments $25 million annually now spent on recycling and disposal. The state Department of Environmental Conservation will help manufacturers and retailers form a nonprofit Paint Stewardship Program similar to what is already in place in Oregon and California.

Passed Senate 62-0

Serino

Passed Assembly 138-3

Galef, Jacobson

**Beer samples**

Cuomo on Feb. 3 signed a bill into law that removes the sales tax on a customer’s first purchase each day at a microbrewery of up to four samples not exceeding 4 ounces each, with each sample being a different beer.

Passed Senate 40-21

Serino

Passed Assembly 136-4

Galef, Jacobson

**Chemical traces**

On Feb. 7, Cuomo enacted a law that exempts trace amounts of otherwise banned contaminants in children’s products that may be created during manufacturing.

Passed by Senate, 57-5

Serino

Passed by Assembly, 140-1

Galef, Jacobson

**Virus leave**

Signed by Cuomo on March 18, this law allows employees to take sick leave or paid family leave when subject to a mandatory or precautionary isolation order due to exposure to COVID-19. For workers at businesses with up to 10 employees, the sick leave is unpaid; for employees at firms with 11 to 99 employees or small businesses with a net income of at least $1 million annually, it’s up to five paid days; and for employees at larger firms, it’s up to 14 paid days. Employees also qualify for paid family leave to care for a dependent child who is quarantined.

Passed by Senate 50-6

Serino did not vote

Passed by Assembly 132-3

Galef, Jacobson

**Striker benefits**

Passed by Senate, 42-16

Serino

Passed by Assembly 111-28

Galef, Jacobson

**Vulnerable species**

On April 17, Cuomo enacted a law that allows the Department of Environmental Conservation to designate a species as “vulnerable” if a decline in its population “will likely result in the species becoming endangered or threatened within the foreseeable future.” Under the previous law, the DEC had to show that the species would decline by at least 30 percent over the longer of 10 years or three generations.

Passed by Senate 46-15

Serino

Passed by Assembly 137-5

Galef, Jacobson

**Organ donors**

Passed by Senate 61-0

Serino

Passed by Assembly 137-1

Galef, Jacobson

**Lactation counseling**

On April 17, Cuomo enacted a law that restored a requirement that lactation counseling be ordered by a physician, physician assistant or nurse practitioner for the service to be covered by Medicaid.

Passed by Senate 61-0

Serino

Passed by Assembly 141-0

Galef, Jacobson

**Taxi seat belts**

On April 17, Cuomo signed a bill into law that allows police officers to ticket a parent or guardian if he or she is riding in a taxi or livery with a child or teen aged 8 to 15 who is not wearing a seat belt. The minor cannot be ticketed.

Passed by Senate 61-0

Serino

Passed by Assembly 137-3

Galef, Jacobson

**NOTICE**

**A MESSAGE FROM THE VILLAGE OF COLD SPRING**

Please be advised that Tax bills will be mailed to Village of Cold Spring taxpayers starting June 1, 2020. During the period from June 1st to June 30th taxes may be paid in full without penalties. All taxes that are unpaid as of July 1, 2020, will incur a five percent (5%) penalty for the first month and an additional 1% for each month or fraction thereof until paid.

Tax payments can be made as follows:

- Drop off payment in the mail slot at Village Hall or mail your payment to: Village of Cold Spring, 85 Main Street, Cold Spring NY 10516. Only Checks or Money Orders will be accepted. Receipts will be mailed.

- Village Hall will ONLY be open for In Person payments on Friday mornings between the hours of 9:00 AM – 12 Noon. Please adhere to the following when entering Village Hall:
  - Masks must be worn in Village Hall at all times
  - Social Distancing protocols must be observed
  - When paying with Cash only exact change will be accepted

Village Hall remains closed to the public for all other matters until further notice. If you have any questions, please call the Village Clerk, Jeff Vidakovich, at 845-265-3611 ext.1 or via email at vcsclerk@coldspringny.gov
Main Street benches in Cold Spring have become dining areas on weekends.

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It's going to be a complicated and difficult task. Everyone's hurting and getting more tense. I can feel it. People are on edge.

~ Mayor Dave Merandy
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COVID-19 by the Numbers

PUTNAM COUNTY
Number of confirmed cases: 1,236 (+61)
Active: Philipstown 116, Putnam Valley 170
Tests administered: 8,489 (+1,472)
Percent positive: 14.6 (-2.1)
Number of deaths: 59 (+1)

DUTCHESS COUNTY
Number of confirmed cases: 3,867 (+122)
Active: Beacon 101, Fishkill 86
Tests administered: 28,586 (+4,264)
Percent positive: 13.5 (-1.9)
Number of deaths: 139 (+7)

State health officials said that, as of Thursday (May 28), 1,236 people have tested positive for COVID-19 in Putnam County; 3,867 in Dutchess; 33,293 in Westchester; 15,076 in Rockland; 1,658 in Ulster and 10,325 in Orange. Statewide, there were 360,735 positives, including 201,051 in New York City, and 23,722 people had died.

Long Island joined the Mid-Hudson Region for Phase 1 of the state reopening plan, which allows for construction, manufacturing, agriculture, forestry and fishing industries to operate. Retail stores can also operate with delivery and curbside pickup. Only New York City remains short of the seven criteria required for Phase 1. The reopening does not include the Department of Motor Vehicles, which remains closed until at least June 6.

The Putnam County Business Council has put out a call for volunteer contact tracers for the Mid-Hudson Region’s anticipated eligibility for Phases 2, 3, and 4 of the state’s reopening plan. Volunteers must complete a six-hour online training course. They work remotely to reach out to the contacts of anyone diagnosed with COVID-19 to assess symptoms, ensure quarantine compliance and determine support needs. To volunteer, call Jan Miller at 845-808-1650 ext. 46103, or email jan.miller@putnamcountyny.gov. The state is also hiring contact tracers. See coronavirus.health.ny.gov/get-involved-how-you-can-help.

In Dutchess County, as of May 27, more than 500 people had volunteered to train as contact tracers, and more than 280 had completed the training. The county was required to have 250 contact tracers for the region to enter Phase 1.

Dutchess reported on May 27 that tests completed at four of its 13 licensed nursing homes of more than 280 residents identified nine residents with COVID-19 — all at The Grand at Pawling. Eight were asymptomatic and are being cared for in a separate, secure area of the facility. The ninth had already been isolated.

Dutchess County Public Transit, including the Beacon Free Loop, will return to its regular schedule on Saturday, June 6. Social distancing guidelines will be enforced; drivers will wear masks and gloves; and passengers will be required to wear face coverings to board.

Metro-North announced on May 27 that all customers are required to wear a mask or face covering on its property and to maintain social distance, “particularly while in Metro-North stations, on our platforms, and in Grand Central Terminal.” It also asked riders “to board trains at all available doors and to take seats that maximize social distancing” and recommended that customers travel, if possible, during non-peak hours, before 7 a.m.

Regional COVID-19 Metrics: Where Regions Currently Stand

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<td>✓</td>
<td>1.21</td>
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<td>55%</td>
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<td>56%</td>
<td>2,765 / 1,381</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>7/7</td>
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All the regions have satisfied the Metric #1 - Decline in Total Hospitalizations and Metric #2 - Decline in Deaths.

COVID-19 by the Numbers Source: New York State Department of Health, with weekly changes. Data current as of May 28. | Regional COVID-19 Metrics Source: Governor’s Office
SPECIAL ADVERTISING PACKAGES

All packages must be paid in advance.
We will design your ad!

GOLD (2 available per month)

- 4 x 1/2-page color ads
- 300x250 and 468x60 banner ad on highlandscurrent.org
- Four ads in weekly newsletter sent to 1,000+ subscribers
- Two ads in weekly newsletter sent to 500+ members
- One sponsored post on:
  - Facebook (7,000 followers)
  - Twitter (1,100 followers)
  - Instagram (1,600 followers)

$1,000 value = $795

BRONZE (4 available per month)

- 4 x 1/8-page color ads
- 300x250 or 468x60 banner ad on highlandscurrent.org
- Ad in weekly newsletter sent to 1,000+ subscribers

$500 value = $395

The Highlands Current
May 29, 2020
9

(Continued on Page 8)

a.m. and after 6 p.m., and only for essential travel. The agency said it sanitizes its stations every 12 hours and its trains every 24 hours.

- New York Presbyterian Hudson Valley Hospital in Cortlandt Manor celebrated the discharge of its 250th COVID-19 patient.

- On May 22, Cuomo announced the launch of a $100 million loan fund for small businesses, nonprofits and landlords that did not receive federal assistance and who have 20 or fewer employees and less than $3 million in gross revenues. See esd.ny.gov/nyforwardloans.

- Campgrounds and RV parks were allowed to open statewide on May 25, and veterinarian practices were allowed to open statewide on May 26.

- Community Foundations of the Hudson Valley dispersed its third round of grants from the Putnam COVID-19 Response Fund. It distributed $26,000 to the Brewster Community Food Pantry, CoveCare Center, Mental Health Association in Putnam County, Patterson Presbyterian Food Pantry, Putnam Valley Community Food Pantry, SPACE on Ryder Farm and St. John’s the Evangelist Food Pantry.

- As of May 21, the Dutchess Responds Food Connection, established in March, had received 506 requests for food and made 707 deliveries, averaging 18 deliveries per day. Each delivery consists of three meals per day for three days. Residents in need of food resources can request free deliveries of meals by filling out a form at bit.ly/DC-food-assistance or by calling the Dutchess County Coronavirus Hotline at 845-486-3555 and selecting Option 5. In addition, the Dutchess County Office for the Aging has delivered 34,000 meals to seniors since March 16.

- The state said that, as of May 21, it would allow, with social distancing and masks, religious gatherings of no more than 10 people, along with drive-in and parking-lot services. After the New York Civil Liberties Union filed suit, calling the order unconstitutional because it applied only to religious organizations and Memorial Day observations, on May 22 Cuomo issued a new order allowing gatherings of up to 10 people “for any lawful purpose or reason” in any part of the state, including New York City, as long as social distancing is maintained.

- The state on May 20 said that libraries are permitted to operate if they are “government facilities” or if the local government determines that it operates the library or that the library district is a “political subdivision.” Butterfield in Cold Spring and Desmond-Fish in Garrison are “association” libraries and so cannot open yet, but the Howland Public Library in Beacon is a district library and could potentially open in a limited way. The New York Library Association has been lobbying for libraries to be allowed to reopen once a region reaches Phase 2.

- 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. To find a test site, visit coronavirus.health.ny.gov.

PHASE 2
- Professional Services
- Retail
- Administrative Support
- Real Estate / Rental & Leasing

PHASE 3
- Restaurants / Food Services

PHASE 4
- Arts / Entertainment / Recreation
- Education

Source: forward.ny.gov

Step by Step

There is a 14-day period between phases once the criteria for each is met, based on the incubation period of COVID-19.

PHASE 2
- Professional Services
- Retail
- Administrative Support
- Real Estate / Rental & Leasing

PHASE 3
- Restaurants / Food Services

PHASE 4
- Arts / Entertainment / Recreation
- Education

Source: forward.ny.gov

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Putnam Lic.# PC-58
Westchester Lic.# WC-011003167

Haldane Central School District
2020-2021 SCHOOL BUDGET VOTE

Absentee ballots were mailed to each registered voter and must be returned by Tuesday, June 9 at 5:00PM

Voters are encouraged to mail ballot using pre-paid return envelope by Thursday, June 4

Ballots may be delivered to the Haldane District Office between 12:00pm - 5:00pm on Monday, June 8 and Tuesday, June 9

Complete budget document available at www.haldaneschool.org or by calling 845-265-9254 x111

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. To find a test site, visit coronavirus.health.ny.gov.

(Continued on Page 8)
TEACHER PARADE — Haldane Middle School’s sixth-grade teachers organized a parade on May 5 to cruise through town to say hello to their students. The teachers, packed into a caravan of eight cars, waved and shouted, “We miss you!” Photo provided

GRATE JOB — Putnam County Sheriff’s Deputies Tom Neuner and Michael Curran on May 23 rescued a brood of ducklings in Brewster that had followed each other into a storm drain. The ducklings were taken to a shelter in Rye. PCSD
Something You Don’t Know About Me

Lithgow Osborne

By Alison Rooney

Thirty-some years ago, during the 1980s, Lithgow Osborne lived in the East Village in Manhattan, pre-gentrification, and socialized with a group of friends who called themselves the House of Twelve.

The friends held salons at which everyone would perform, recalls Osborne, a fine art and antiques appraiser who lives in Cold Spring and who was then an uptown interior decorator. “We were all having a good time. I hosted most of the time because I had a living room and enough chairs. It was all about the chairs.”

Osborne’s apartment happened to be near the Pyramid Club, a nightclub and cabaret that was a hangout for drag performers such as Lypsinka, Lady Bunny, RuPaul (whose first New York City show was at the Pyramid in 1982) and Lady L.

The “L” stood for elegant, and also for Lithgow.

As Osborne recalls, he was watching a show at the Pyramid when three friends — the performer: Brian Butterick (aka Hattie Hathaway, the club’s creative director, who later co-founded Wigstock); and Hapi Phace (a performance artist, emcee and prop maker) — encouraged him to give it a go. Initially reluctant, Osborne “pulled something together” with a friend. “It looked OK,” he says. “It was what it was, but Hapi liked our repartée and energy onstage. Hattie told me to come back, and to pick a name.” Lady L was born.

“I liked everything to be chic and sophisticated,” Osborne says. “My character was very much a lady. It always involved diamonds and pearls. Anthony Wong made some costumes for me, mostly navy blue satin trimmed in black satin, curvy and just all perfect. They were made with a little bit of padding on top, not that much — I never liked that look where men put on drag with enormously big breasts; it’s too clowny. I was not a young, boppy chick.”

Lady L performed at the Pyramid, as well as at the Roxy. “I was not considering it might be dangerous or difficult,” he recalls. “I was 6’7” in heels, wearing a tiara I had refashioned from a rhinestone one by adding things to it. I got stopped by a number of people. They were amazed. It was kind.”

He also performed periodically at benefits at the Gay and Lesbian Center for groups such as ACT UP (AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power) and God’s Love We Deliver. For the latter, he sang “Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas.”

Although he lived nearby, Osborne dressed at the club, except for the one time he decided to get ready at home and walk. “I was not considering it might be dangerous or difficult,” he recalls. “I was 6’7” in heels, wearing a tiara I had refashioned from a rhinestone one by adding things to it. I got stopped by a number of people. They were amazed. It was kind.”

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@highlandcurrent.org and we’ll get in touch.
THE WEEK AHEAD

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

COMMUNITY

SAT 30
HVSF Playwriting Workshop
COLD SPRING
1 p.m. Butterfield Library
hvshakespeare.org

Led by Christine Scarfuto, this free two-hour seminar focuses on writing a short play with the theme Mahicantuck, The River That Flows Both Ways. A selection of works submitted will be read by actors in a performance scheduled for July 18. An additional workshop will take place on SUN 31, hosted by the Newburgh Free Library. Register at hvshakespeare.org/production/community-bake-off.

SAT 30
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, Ms. Yrma will read children’s books aloud and share songs and games with children up to age 7. Also WED 3.

FRI 5
Virtual Friday Soiree
GARRISON
845-424-3020 | gufs.org
8 p.m. Garrison Arts

Each week the gallery interviews a local artist and spotlights his or her work. Eileen Sackman, the author of ‘Sought Adventure and Found Her Wings’, will discuss her new novel with Mary Anne Best, a teacher of Christian contemplative practice, will lead a webinar by Zoom. Register online.

TUES 2
An Hour of Contemplation for Our Time
GARRISON
4 p.m. Garrison Institute
845-424-4800 | garrisoninstitute.org

Mary Anne Best, a teacher of Christian contemplative practice, will lead a webinar by Zoom. Register online.

MON 1
Story Time
GARRISON
10 a.m. Garrison Free Library
845-424-4800 | garrisoninstitute.org


TUES 2
Handsewn Face Mask Workshop
GARRISON
5 p.m. Howland Public Library
845-831-1134 | beaconlibrary.org.

Children and teenagers in grades 5 and up are invited to join this virtual sewing workshop to make their own face mask. Email youth@beaconlibrary.org.

THURS 4
David Simas
GARRISON
4 p.m. Garrison Institute
garrisoninstitute.org

Simas, who served as the White House director of political affairs from 2011 to 2016 and is chief executive officer of The Obama Foundation, will be joined in conversation by the institute’s co-founder, Jonathan Rose. Register online.

THURS 4
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.

WED 3
Sing and Move for Toddlers
GARRISON
10 a.m. Desmond-Fish Library
845-424-3020 | gufs.org

Miss Gabi will lead this new weekly session. Register at bit.ly/singandmove.

VISUAL ARTS

Wed 3
Artist of the Week
BEACON
baugallery.org

Each week the gallery interviews a local artist and spotlights his or her work. Eileen Sackman is featured through TUES 2.

CIVIC

MON 1
Gov. Cuomo Briefing
10:45 a.m. twitter.com/nygovcuomo

Gov. Andrew Cuomo holds his daily briefing. See highlandscurrent.org/meeting-videos.

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

BEACON
Budget Hearing
BEACON
7 p.m. Beacon Schools
845-838-6900 | beaconk12.org

MON 2
Putnam County Legislature
CARMEL
7 p.m. Historic Courthouse
845-208-7800 | putnamcountryny.com

TUES 2
School Board
COLD SPRING
7 p.m. Haldane School
845-265-9254 | haldaneschool.org

THURS 4
Open Mic
BEACON
7 p.m. Towne Crier
845-265-2080 | splitrockbks.com

Walker May will host via Zoom with 12 performers. To perform or listen, email walker@townecrier.com by 3 p.m. Continues weekly.

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Soup Man
Local startup to launch food line
By Michael Turton

Ed Currelley says he has always loved cooking from scratch. Now, the Cold Spring resident is creating a company from Step 1, too. His firm, Hudson Valley Frozen Fresh, will feature his favorite culinary pursuit: soups and sauces.

Currelley said his fledgling company will be operational by mid-June, with production based at a commercial incubator kitchen in Poughkeepsie. “I’ll be using fresh, seasonal produce and ingredients from Hudson Valley farms and purveyors as much as possible,” he said. “This is solid, nutritious food, all natural, with no additives or preservatives.”

“I’m a big proponent of reinvention, following your dreams and exploring things you’re curious about,” said Currelley, who last fall sold a bike-rental shop he ran for three years in Cold Spring and Beacon. “I know what it takes; I’ll be ready.”

Initially, he will produce 10 soups, including carrot ginger, golden split pea with red pepper, roasted tomato-basil and spinach mushroom puree. With the exception of his chicken vegetable soup and Bolognese sauce, Currelley said, his products will be vegan. He plans to add five more soups or sauces to the lineup.

The soups will be frozen and sold in one-quart boiling bags, inside a tube. “That format makes it easy for shipping and grocery shelving,” Currelley said.

In the early 1980s, Currelley attended the New York Restaurant School in Manhattan, studying under chef Peter Kump. In addition, he underwent three months of intense sauce-making training at the Rock Center Cafe. “I loved that place because I learned so much; it was a teaching kitchen,” Currelley recalled. “We served a minimum of 1,500 customers a night, and double that in summer.”

He later co-owned Clendenin’s, a family restaurant at 5th Avenue and 125th Street in Manhattan, and founded the Independent Chef Co., which sold sauces to restaurants. “My biggest sellers were a chicken jus and a demi-glace,” products he said took eight months to develop, he said. “They were the top two.”

Why soups? “I love good, hearty, whole-some meals and have always just loved soups,” Currelley said. “I like to experiment and I have some meals and have always just loved soups,” he said. “I’d eventually like a plant with about 10 employees, young people who are interested in developing the skills needed to work in the culinary industry.”

When asked what he loves to cook for himself, apart from soup, he said “a nice roasted lemon chicken” tops the list. “I add fruit variations such as pineapple, peaches or strawberries. It turns into a delicious sauce when mixed with the natural juices of the bird.”

Magazzino Adopts Social-Distancing Tech
Also launches scholarship for high school students

Magazzino Italian Art has implemented technology to allow visitors to remain socially distant while visiting the Philipstown museum once it is allowed to reopen.

In addition to distributing EGOpro Active Tags that will alert visitors if they come too close to each other by vibrating and flashing, the museum will institute online-only reservations, add sanitation stations and provide masks and temperature checks. It also will suspend its shuttle service and coat check.

The museum, along with the Cold Spring Chamber of Commerce, also announced a new scholarship and paid internship available to high school juniors and seniors with “a strong interest in visual art or museum management.” Applications for the $1,000 award are due by Monday (June 1). See coldspringychamber.com.

Currelley has been using about 25 local residents as tasters for several weeks. “Their response has been tremendous, and I take their feedback seriously,” he said.

Currelley plans to market his soups throughout the Hudson Valley, initially focusing on supermarkets from Philipstown to Kingston. He also would like to experiment at farmers’ markets. “I’d like to grow, but I’d never want my food mass-produced to where quality is jeopardized,” he said. “I’d eventually like a plant with about 10 employees, young people who are interested in developing the skills needed to work in the culinary industry.”

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Five years ago, Joe Radocci began to focus on a singular subject: pencil-drawn, paint-washed portraits of “elders” he admired in the gay community. The Beacon artist chose subjects who had “embraced me and fostered my growth and self-acceptance as a gay artist,” he says. “These were the people I knew best; they were my elders and we were becoming elders. The oversized portraits represent our hard-won freedom to be present, to be as out and visible and large as we want to be. This is about celebration: We see you there — you’re big!”

In 2018, many of the portraits were exhibited in Becoming Elders: Portraits of LGBTQ Elders at the Hudson Valley LGBTQ Community Center in Kingston. Last year, two Elders portraits were chosen for a public art project in Beacon that displayed the work of local artists at bus shelters. For a show at the Norton Putter Gallery in Syracuse to mark the 50th anniversary of Stonewall, the curator asked Radocci to include some of his subjects’ personal histories; the artist ended up interviewing everyone.

Before he began Elders, Radocci worked mostly with oil paint. When he moved into a larger studio, he “hung giant sheets of paper on the wall to do some free work, and found I was creating portraits done in the style in which I underpaint my oil paintings. Usually I cover the drawings with oil and paint on top of them, but this freed me up.”

A native of Buffalo, Radocci first showed some of the portraits at a gallery there in 2015. People asked, “Why these people?” Initially he had decided to paint his friends, but “thinking more about that, I found the people I began with and wanted to honor were older.”

After earning his MFA at SUNY Buffalo, Radocci moved to Brooklyn in the late...
Little by little, facets of their personality begin to emerge that no amount of conversation could ever unveil.
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I stumbled onto an end-of-season bag of Meyer lemons on my weekly shopping excursion and was reminded of chef Jody Williams’ simple but sublime Meyer lemon risotto.

Meyer lemons are more perfectly globe-shaped than regular citrus lemons, and more orange, with a smoother texture. The edible rind is thinner and more fragrant, making them harder to ship and store, and a bit exotic.

They are also juicier and less acidic than supermarket lemons, with a taste that’s a cross between citrus lemons and mandarin oranges. A tangy but mild sweetness makes them useful for sauces, salads, roasts and desserts.

But Meyer lemon risotto? That might seem a bit precious for these hardscrabble days. Yet sometimes being happy, satisfied and comfortable with, grateful for what we have, and flexible and adaptable, are beneficial skills in both life and the kitchen.

Risotto gets a bad rap as a finicky proposition. In fact, it is amazingly adaptable, extracting maximum flavor from minimal ingredients with the least effort in the shortest time possible.

Traditional risotto rice — arborio (the most common), carnaroli, vialone and nano — are “soft,” absorbent short-grain varieties notable for a high starch content that gives a dish its creaminess. The culinary revolution of the late 20th century made these varieties widely available, but it also made a wide variety of substitutes available — sushi rice or varieties used in paella (bomba, senia) are culinary kin, and while not “authentic” will make an acceptable, even enjoyable, dish.

Particularly if labeled “pearled” or “semi-pearled, the hulled wheat grain known as farro is the basis of a heartier, nutty variation on risotto known as farroto. Williams’ recipe doesn’t even call for the traditional stock, merely warm water, which serves to accentuate the lemon farther to the front (although stock can add extra flavor and complexity and is of course, the chef’s prerogative). The wine is also discretionary.

Meyer lemons are not absolutely necessary and can be simulated with a 50/50 mix of the zest and juice of standard lemons cut with orange (or tangerine) juice and zest in equal proportions. Chef David Lebovitz posted a version using grapefruit and lime, adding a bit of the flesh for more texture.

To finish, Williams’ recipe substitutes mascarpone, an Italian cream cheese (coagulated by the addition of lemon juice) for the more traditional grated cheese, a brilliant touch that further pushes the citrus note and adds creaminess. In a pinch you could substitute a similar measure of crème fraîche, full-fat sour cream, heavy cream, ricotta or mild goat cheese or in a real pinch, whole milk. (Or you could just use the traditional Parmigiano.)

This risotto stands on its own but the citrus brightness can be augmented with a handful of fresh herbs or the addition of spring vegetables like asparagus or peas in the last few minutes of cooking. A more substantial topping with sautéed, roasted, broiled or grilled vegetables or seafood (particularly shrimp or scallops) makes for heartier main course. Farther downstream, combine leftover risotto with an egg or two and breadcrumbs, patted into small discs and pan-fried as risotto cakes.

Make it your own. You don’t need any pressure right about now.

Meyer lemons are more perfectly globe-shaped than regular citrus lemons, and more orange, with a smoother texture.

INGREDIENTS

Adapted from Jody Williams; serves 4

1. Warm water or stock in a saucepan. Warm olive oil/butter in another saucepan (or deep-sided skillet) over medium high-heat; add shallot and cook for 2 minutes. Add rice and cook, stirring until translucent for another 2 minutes. Add wine, a pinch of salt and cook until wine has nearly evaporated (another 2 minutes).

2. Reduce heat to medium, and add 1 cup of warm water or stock and cook, stirring until water has nearly evaporated. Continue adding water or stock in ½ cup increments, stirring until each is nearly absorbed, repeating until most of the liquid is gone and rice is creamy and cooked through. Add the lemon juice and zest and stir to incorporate for about a minute.

3. Remove from heat and add mascarpone and herbs. Correct seasoning and serve in bowls.
Invasion in Nelsonville

Board discusses how to fight non-native plants

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

At its May 18 meeting, held via Zoom, the Nelsonville Village Board unanimously approved a plan to eradicate invasive species such as garlic mustard, barberry and knotweed from the Nelsonville Woods & Nature Preserve.

Submitted by resident Heidi Wendel, the plan outlines a three-year effort by volunteers to replace invasive plants with native varieties. It recommends proceeding gradually to avoid creating bald spots, and to avoid herbicides.

Under the plan, invasives would be replaced by plants such as milkweed, ferns and sedges, as well as birch and other trees. It anticipates that local gardening clubs and retailers would donate seeds and seedlings, and that other plants could be purchased for modest amounts.

According to Trustee Dove Pedlosky, the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference has offered free expertise and training for a day of eradication efforts by Scout troops, residents and other volunteers.

On a related note, the board agreed to explore a lawn and garden debris/cuttings pickup similar to the village's fall leaf pickup and Christmas tree pickup. Trustee Lisa Mechaley said that some residents dump lawn and garden trimmings into the Nelsonville Woods, which spreads invasive species.

“Two years and years I was guilty of it, along with everybody else,” admitted Mayor Mike Bowman.

2020-21 budget

Nelsonville will begin its fiscal year on Monday (June 1) with a budget of $400,458 — an increase of 23 percent in spending over 2019-20.

Legal expenses are expected to drop by about a third, to $20,500, because of the settlement of a lawsuit over the placement of a cell tower, but engineering expenses could rise to $25,000 from $8,000 and street maintenance and upgrades from $15,728 to $40,050.

Village Clerk Mindy Jessek said in April the increase reflects the need for ongoing engineering expertise on such matters as the pending cell tower installation and exploration of sewer system options or similar public works projects.

Revenue sources in the budget include $284,393 in property taxes (the same as last year) and $49,315 taken from savings, compared to $1,635 last year. The village also expects to receive $30,000 in aid from the state’s Consolidated Local Street & Highway Improvement Program.

After revising successive drafts over several weeks, the Village Board approved the budget on April 29.

Beacon Building Freeze Lifted

Officials confident city has enough water

By Jeff Simans

Beacon’s moratorium on residential and commercial construction, enacted in January and extended in January, expired this week and city officials did not recommend extending it further.

The City Council authorized the moratorium, which lasted nine months and was Beacon’s second in a two-year span, after a drinking-water well (Well No. 2) with a capacity of a million gallons per day was deactivated last year when it began producing “cloudy” water following the installation of a new pump.

The new pump at Well No. 2 is expected to be online in two to three months, the Village Board approved the budget on April 29.

Magazzino (from Page 1)

and would not intrude into nearby wetlands, they said. Landscaping would screen the structure from the road.

Neal Zuckerman, who chairs the board, noted that the project had been introduced earlier this year as a lot-line adjustment after Magazzino purchased a strip of land from the neighboring property but now involves the construction of a building. “We owe it to the public” to provide “clarity” on what’s going on, he said.

Stephen Gaba, the board’s lawyer, said it “should treat this as everything going back to square one,” and require submission of an updated site plan.

The board said it would continue the discussion at its June meeting after Magazzino submits detailed plans. According to Ron Gainer, the town’s consulting engineer, the Philipstown Conservation Board must also review the project.

Route 9 warehouse

The Planning Board also weighed a proposal by CRS International to construct a warehouse and distribution center on a 2.5-acre parcel at 2761 Route 9. The 20,000-square-foot warehouse would be accessed primarily by tractor-trailers making deliveries and transporting apparel and other items to stores, as well as employee vehicles, project representatives said.

Watson, along with Jamie Copeland of Hudson Design, said the plan calls for routing trucks around the building. “They come; they unload, and they leave” within a “half-day to a day,” Copeland said. Watson said the property could accommodate up to five trucks.

Planning Board members expressed concern about how the trucks would maneuver, including exiting and entering Route 9. “You are going to have to take a real good look” at the effects and could request an independent traffic study, Gaba told the board.
Coping with COVID

Mental-health providers brace for effects of isolation

By Holly Crocco

Mental-health providers in Putnam County fear the effects of the COVID-19 virus on residents will be felt long after the pandemic subsides.

The county’s crisis hotline saw about a 30 percent increase in calls in March and April over the same period last year, according to Michael Piazza, the county’s mental health commissioner. He spoke recently to the Legislature’s Health Committee.

On the general 211 number, there were 1,851 calls between March 1 and May 4, including 1,400 related to the virus, he said. Most regarded food insecurity. “That’s the major issue that came up,” he said.

He said that while emergency-room visits for psychiatric crises, psychiatric admissions, fatal overdoses and suicides were lower than last year, he remains concerned about people’s mental health in the long run.

“In many parts of the country they are seeing increases in overdoses and they are seeing increases in suicide that we’re not seeing here,” he said. “We’re concerned we might be in a lag, so what we’re trying to do is be prepared for that.”

Piazza noted that people are also experiencing financial stress.

“People feel a lot of shame when they’re not working, when they’re not able to support themselves, or their family,” he said. “That leads to depression, that leads to thoughts of suicide. That’s what we’re really concerned about.”

In addition, he said, not being able to hold funeral services because of social-distancing restrictions undoubtedly takes a toll. “The problem with having a family member who has died of this illness is that you can’t be in the hospital with them, you can’t be with them when they’re dying, you can’t do a wake and a funeral and a burial and all those kinds of rituals that lead us to a closure and help us to grieve and help us to mourn.

“If you can’t grieve and you can’t mourn, and you turn right around and try to make do and shop and just do the things you need to do, we’re concerned about when the other shoe might drop.”

Health care workers also can suffer. “Emergency room staff are seeing death after death, and it’s not that they aren’t used to seeing that, but when they are the ones that have to have people say goodbye to their family members on a cellphone — and they don’t have the chance to go away for a couple of days just to get themselves back together, it’s a tremendous stress,” he said.

Piazza said the decline in reports of child abuse and domestic abuse has service providers concerned that victims have been silenced by social isolation.

“Are people home and not able to report that?” he asked. “Kids are not going to school and maybe not sharing with a teacher what’s going on. We can’t presume that things are bad, we are just concerned” that there are fewer reports.

According to the commissioner, outpatient service providers are seeing as many people as they did before the pandemic hit, but now they are seeing them via telephone or video conference. However, inpatient programs such as St. Christopher’s Inn in Garrison and Arms Acres in Carmel were hit hard by illness among staff and had to reduce activities as a result, said Piazza.

Another concern among Department of Social Services personnel is how state budget cuts will filter down to local agencies. “It’s a very grave concern among directors of community services across the state,” said Piazza.

So far, Putnam County has been able to process all applications for temporary assistance.

“In the midst of all this turmoil we went into a pilot project with a number of other counties,” he said. “People who want to apply for public assistance can upload documents from their phone directly to our computers, so they can be approved without them leaving their house.”

State Sen. Pete Harckham, whose district includes eastern Putnam, recently criticized a $3 trillion appropriations bill passed in the House that would, if approved in the Senate, send $22 billion in unrestricted funds to New York State and $100 billion to hospitals and health care providers nationwide, but provide only $3 billion for mental health support.

“I applaud our representatives in Congress for moving swiftly to shore up state and local governments, health care infrastructure, education and social service programs with this new relief package,” he said. However, the bill “fails to help the millions of Americans struggling right now with substance-use disorder and mental-health issues who are already falling between the cracks because of severe underfunding of treatment and care providers.”

Harckham said behavioral health providers have been pleading for $38.5 billion.

“The dire circumstances created by the COVID-19 pandemic — closed facilities, reduced access to supervised care and medication, social isolation — have resulted in ‘deaths of despair’ increasing across the country,” he said. “Dribbles of support will not help our friends and neighbors, and many will suffer and perish because of this relative neglect.”

If you or someone you know is in crisis or needs to talk, call the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 800-273-8255.

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COPING WITH STRESS

BY MICHAEL MCKEE, PHD

Thoughts on how to really listen to someone.

Most times, people have a lot to say relative to how much of it we can take in. Listening actively is important. Psychologist Carl Rogers incorporated what he called “active listening” into his psychotherapy method. You can employ some of his strategies in everyday conversation.

Give your full attention. Sit still, look at the person you’re listening to. Convey through your body language that what they’re saying is important. Maintaining focus allows you to gather more information by observing body language, choice of words and emotional tone.

Encourage the person by responding with gentle verbalisations (not grunts!), signal you are listening.

Paraphrase what you’re hearing, so you communicate your understanding to your conversation partner (and yourself). Restate aloud in your own words what you hear the other person saying, rather than just stating it back to them verbatim.

In some important conversations, you might make your next comment contingent on having made this restatement to the satisfaction of the other person.

Be curious and ask useful questions, but don’t dig intrusively for information. If you listen without judgment or argument you will put them at ease, allowing for a more relaxed presentation of ideas.

Be prepared to be changed by the process of listening — you may give up your view on a topic, come to see things as others do and grow from the experience. And remember that listening is just as contagious as argument — if you listen, others will too.

Michael McKee is a licensed psychologist with offices in Garrison who specializes in Cognitive Behavioral Psychotherapy (CBT). He can be reached at 914-584-0532 or info@mckeetherapy.com. For more information, visit mckeetherapy.com.

Molinaro (from Page 1)

side or in-store pickup. About $2.5 billion worth of development projects that have been on the sidelines for two months can begin again. The worst-case scenario is that Phase 2 doesn’t begin for two weeks, because the governor has said the phases may come in fewer than 14-day increments.

Q: People may have this vision that the doors will be flung wide-open in Phase 1 and we’ll go back to where we were pre-March. But there are restrictions. How do you expect to enforce the rules?

A: The fear that we’re moving too fast and the anger that we’re not moving fast enough are both valid. Our goal is to try to mediate this in a way that’s as fast and as safe as possible.

Any business that is reopening is supposed to come up with a basic safety plan. While it’s not going to be filed with a health department or the attorney general, it is a document that businesses will be held to if and when they may be inspected. Making that self-affirmation is important as a sort of self-policing.

That said, the orders do have the force of law. If there are other ways to show the validity of that, but under state law, executives like me, the governor, a mayor, a town supervisor, in a declared state of emergency are provided certain powers to restrict certain activities. And of course the state authorities, regulatory agencies and the emergency general have the capacity to enforce them, as do health departments and building inspectors and others.

However, these are not rules that are easily enforced and, when enforced, are not easily accepted. I would encourage self-adherence. Your consideration of public health is not a political statement. There are real people who have gotten sick and some who have lost their lives, and it is an act of selflessness to do our best to not transmit a disease. At the same time, I would discourage residents from some of the more aggressive actions that people have taken to shame, embarrass or even physically confront someone who isn’t wearing a mask or isn’t engaged in social distancing.

Q: Will we be able to switch gears if the numbers turn for the worst?

A: The governor uses this term about valves — the valves open, the valves close — the valves open, the valves close — the numbers turn for the worst?

We review the benchmarks, and then we ask questions. It’s a bit of a farce, but it is valuable to have open, candid and sometimes heated conversations. The ongoing saga about whether the region would meet certain benchmarks at a certain period of time was adversarial, but ultimately the state moved us forward with Phase 1.

As another example, there are plenty of restaurants that want to know when they open if they will be able to be 50 percent capacity inside, or less or more. There’s still no clarity. There’s a larger government in southern Dutchess, Splashdown, which needs to spend $500,000 to be ready to open. That could happen under Phase 4 but no one has said amusement parks are going to be permitted. Our position is if Splashdown knows now it will be able to open in Phase 4, spending that half a million dollars won’t be a loss. You can’t tell them a week before Phase 4 begins that they can open, because they’ll never open.

Q: What more would you like to see from the federal government?

A: The federal government has to step in. This is not a request for a bailout. For generations during natural disasters and emergencies, although with some political bickering and debate, it has come through. It is supposed to step in when demand exceeds capacity at the local or state level.

Local government is where emergency response begins. Oftentimes we think that the president — any president — is supposed to come in, declare something and be helpful. It is almost always the reverse. The 1,900 health departments run by county governments were the tip of the spear for this response. The federal government made too many political decisions and didn’t understand how broad and deep the impact of this particular crisis was or would be. It didn’t realize how weak and shallow our access to PPE [personal protective equipment] and testing and to distributing those things across county and state lines truly was. We better have learned from that. I take the governor’s approach, that our job is to respond, and when it’s over, we’ll consider the politics. But in the midst of responding to an emergency, which we are still in, I need the federal and state government to work with us and you need me to be able to work with them.

Q: Do you think it’s likely that Congress and the president will agree on aid for counties?

A: I think they will. It will likely include a lot of other things, as bills out of Washington often do, but that’s the way it gets done. At the end of the day, what the federal government — and in particular, this president — does not want is that we begin an economic recovery only to have massive government layoffs.

The federal government has never stepped away during a time of crisis. Somehow it summons the political courage and the common sense to develop and deliver aid. In Dutchess County, we are looking at as much as a $75 million loss in tax revenue and the expense of responding. The House has adopted a bill that includes direct aid to states and counties. If adopted as is [by the Senate and signed by the president], Dutchess wouldn’t have to downsize. It would make us pretty much whole, with some pain, and sustain us for the next 24 months, which is what we need in order to rebound. A $75 million hole in our budget is almost twice the budget gap when I came into office in 2012, and that required a hundred jobs downsized.

I know the human toll of this disease. I never expected to experience it personally but I did and so it’s hard for me to accept people who argue this was some sort of hoax. [Molinaro’s father, Anthony, died on April 10 of complications of COVID-19.] There are people sick and there are people dying. But it’s equally hard for me to accept those who think we should remain in this state of frozenness.

To receive an invitation to the next Current Conversation, join our email list at highlandscurrent.org/digital.
Ron Edwards (1945–2020)

Ronald Edwards, 75, a longtime Beacon resident and corrections officer who served in the Vietnam War and tried out for the New York Jets, died May 19.

He was born in Nyack on April 13, 1945, the son of Curtis and Adele (Eure) Edwards. After being drafted, he served in the U.S. Army for two years in Korea.

Ron worked at the Fishkill Correctional Facility in Beacon as a corrections officer, firearms and chemical agents instructor, and defensive tactics instructor. He also served as a union leader. He was an all-county athlete in Rockland in football, basketball and track, a state champion in the high jump and the first high school basketball player in Rockland to score 1,000 points. He tried out for the New York Jets in 1969, a team led by Joe Namath and John Dockery, but was injured.

Ron was inducted into Rockland County’s Sports Hall of Fame and Track and Field Hall of Fame in 1995 and the Nyack High School Athletic Hall of Fame in 2015. In 1984 he won gold medals for the high jump at the International Police Olympics in Phoenix. He also won gold medals for the high jump in 1986 at the International Police Olympics in Columbus, Ohio.

Besides coaching youth sports, Ron’s hobbies included drag racing with his friends Raymond (Juice) Stewart and Joe Franco. Ronald won many motorcycle drag races around the country in the Super-Comp class. He was known to his drag-racing friends as “Voo Doo” because of the name of one of his bikes, Voo Doo One.

He also enjoyed traveling around the country with his brother, Kenny Carter, to watch his son RJ play college football.

Ron is survived by his children, Karla Rendeau, Ronald Edwards and R.J. Trimble-Edwards; his siblings, Marlene (Theresa) Harvey, Curtis Edwards, Larry Edwards, Gary Carter and Kenneth Carter; and a cousin, James Hamlet.

A private service was held at Libby Funeral Home in Beacon, followed by interment at Veterans National Cemetery on Long Island. Memorial donations may be made to the St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital (stjude.org) or to the American Heart Association (heart.org).

Fanny Fredericks (1926–2020)

Fanny Fredericks, 93, a lifelong resident of Beacon, died May 20 at Wingate at Beacon.

Fanny was born in Beacon on June 6, 1926, to Carmine and Josephine (Melfi) DiGiovanni. She was employed at Beacon Looms.

Her husbands, Edward “Babe” Papo and Carmine and Josephine (Melfi) DiGiovanni.

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James Hayes (1943–2020)

James Matthew Hayes, 77, of Beacon, died at home from an aggressive cancer while under the care of his wife, Marsha.

James was born May 8, 1943, in Chicago to Thomas and Rosemary (Kingsbury) Hayes. His early career was with IBM World Trade Group in New York and Europe. Later he was an independent business consultant. Throughout his 42 years as a Beacon resident, he was dedicated to researching and proposing solutions that would enhance the quality of life for residents of the city.

A graveside service will be scheduled at St. Joachim Cemetery. Memorial donations may be made to St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital (stjude.org) or to the American Heart Association (heart.org).

Michelle Herrings (1968–2020)

Michelle Marie Herrings, 52, a lifelong Beacon resident, died May 14, on her birthday.

Michelle was born in 1968 in Cold Spring to Herbie Lee and Dianne Pavelock. After graduating from Beacon High School in 1987, she earned a degree in nursing and worked at various health care facilities. Most recently she was director of nursing assistants at the Martine Center for Nursing Rehabilitation and Nursing in White Plains. On July 14, 2020, in Beacon, she married Johnnie Herrings Jr.

Along with her husband and parents, Michelle is survived by her daughters, Carmela Buins and Caprice Herring; her grandchildren, Jeremiah Tucker, Jourdun Tucker and Avah Elise Herring; and a sister, Tracy Lee.

John Joy (1950–2020)

John Francis Joy, 69, a Beacon resident since 1984 and formerly of White Plains and Peekskill, died at his home on May 9.

John was born in Peekskill on Oct. 13, 1950, the son of John and Mary (Centorrino)

(Continued on Page 22)
Robert Knoblock (1953-2020)
Robert S. Knoblock, 67, a longtime resident of Beacon, died May 12 at Vassar Brothers Medical Center in Poughkeepsie.
He was born March 8, 1953, in Yonkers, the son of Robert and Mary (Kosar) Knoblock. He had worked many jobs over the years, including delivering the Times Herald-Record. His family said he loved interacting with his customers.
Robert was survived by his siblings, Steven Knoblock and Patricia Kothe; his niece and nephews, Jennifer Pichele, Luke Massello and Andrew Kothe; and a dear friend, Ellen Manfredo. Funeral services will be private.

Dr. Reza Nejad (1931-2020)
Dr. Mohammad-Reza Ariaey-Nejad, 88, died Monday after 29 days due to complications from pulmonary fibrosis.
Dr. Nejad was born Dec. 7, 1931, in Tehran, where he was a community physician, colonel in the Iranian Army and director of National Laboratories at Leila Pahlavi Hospital. After moving to U.S. with his family in the early 1980s, he earned a doctorate in biochemistry from Vanderbilt University.
Dr. Nejad opened a practice in Beacon, which he ran until his retirement in 2012. He relocated to Florida with his wife, Rouhi.

Besides his wife of 63 years, he is survived by his children, Natalie Patrizio (Mark), Shahin Ariaey-Nejad and Vida Odescalchi (Dominic); and his grandchildren, Justin Rastegar, Chase Rastegar, Alex Odescalchi and Victoria Odescalchi.

Lynne Padilla (1943-2020)
Marjorie Lynne Padilla, 77, of Cold Spring, died May 11 at NewYork-Presbyterian Hudson Valley Hospital in Cortlandt Manor.
Lynne was born April 22, 1943, in Ossining. She attended Vassar College and earned a doctorate in biochemistry from Vanderbilt University.

She traveled to China, Europe, Argentina and Turkey, as well as Guatemala for her grandson Alex’s adoption, and to Arizona for her granddaughter Nicole’s recent graduation from college.

Lynne was a caregiver for all those who came into her life, her family said. After introducing herself to the Franciscan Friars of the Atonement at Graymoor in Garrison, she became an active volunteer and assisted the friars with many of their Benefactor Appreciation Day fundraisers.

She is survived by her daughter, Electra Bokanoski; her former husband, Nicholas Tryforos; and her siblings, Lee Brundage (Sue), Robert Brundage, and Laura Tirrell (William). She is also survived by her stepsons, Benjamin Padilla (Kathie), Mark Padilla (Molly), Santiago Padilla and Lana Narosky; her grandchildren, Nicole Bokanoski, Alex Padilla, Santiago Padilla and Juan Padilla; and her companion, Tunc Ozelli of Cold Spring. Her daughter Laura Schiele died in 2017.

Memorial donations may be made to the Franciscan Friars of Atonement (atonementfriars.org).

Other recent deaths
Beacon
Margaret Chikeles, 86
George Hallock, 53
Audrey Lucy, 95
Patricia Wolfe-Mastro, 79

Information provided by local funeral homes. For more obituaries, see highlandscurrent.org/obits.
The Highlands Current

May 29, 2020

Puzzles

**CrossCurrent**

ACROSS
1. Dallas cager, briefly
4. Frat party supply
8. Prejudice
12. Expert
13. Sicilian spouter
14. St. Louis landmark
15. Flogged
17. Tardy
18. Vigorous
19. Puncturing tool
21. Fa neighbor
22. Pulverized
26. Pitch
29. Irritate
30. Foreman opponent
31. Check
32. Calendar pgs.
33. Pageant winner’s address
34. Scepter topper
35. Fido’s foot
36. Insertion mark
37. Ran
39. Scull tool
40. Mentalist Geller
41. Eaves dropper?
45. Deserve
48. Played in water
50. Numbers course
51. Twistable treat
52. Singer DiFranco
53. Little Women woman
54. Agrees silently
55. Banned bug killer

DOWN
1. Numbers course
2. Liniment target
3. Couturier Wang
4. Give
5. — alcohol
7. He loved Aida
8. Poolroom supply
9. A Gershwin brother
10. Performance
11. The girl
16. Insurance fraud factor
20. Tussaud’s medium
23. Barber’s concern
24. Otherwise
25. Mi. or km
26. Walked hard (on)
27. Juno’s counterpart
28. Barbecue entree
29. Promise
30. Foreman opponent
32. Midwestern capital
33. Breaker of Ruth’s record
35. Apiece
36. Chocolate sources
38. Intuitive feeling
39. Lubricated
42. African nation
43. Give temporarily
44. Fix manuscripts
45. Recede
46. Heady quaff
47. Deteriorate
49. Paid athlete

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

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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
1. Streep character Miranda (8)
2. Cranium, in slang (6)
3. Biggest city in Texas (7)
4. Acting icon Morgan (7)
5. Legendary planter Johnny (9)
6. Craving (for) (8)
7. Pharmacy chain (9)

SOLUTIONS

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**SudoCurrent**

Answers for May 22 Puzzles

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SPORTS

The Seniors: Beacon Golf

By Skip Pearlman

This spring was supposed to be a turning point for the Beacon High School girls’ golf team.

The Bulldogs had been taking small steps the past few seasons, according to their coach, but this was the year the team was ready for a big leap — until the COVID-19 shutdown caused regional athletic officials last month to cancel spring sports.

The seniors on the girls’ team are Analiese Compagnone (its No. 1 golfer), JoAnna Galbo (No. 2), Diana Campos and Elizabeth Herrera. (The boys’ team has no seniors.)

Coach Rob Balch said Compagnone and Galbo, after four years on the varsity, were each on track to reach the sectionals in the state tournament.

“For Analiese and JoAnna, the word we use most is ‘growth,’” said Balch of his co-captains (along with junior Brielle Travis). “Golf is the hardest sport to learn. Analiese was probably the best player in the section not to make sectionals last year.”

He said Campos, in her third year on the varsity, and Herrera, in her second, also were ready to excel because of their work ethic. “A lot of our matches depend on those middle girls” playing at No. 3 and No. 4, he said. “Both are very solid.”

Balch is planning a move to California, so this is his final season as coach. “I get what they’re going through, because it was also my last time with the team,” he said. “It’s unsettling, because this was the best group we’ve ever had. They were going to rewrite a large part of the Beacon record books. We all worked hard toward that for the last two years.

“Being a senior means a collection of celebrations,” he added. “You always have that memory of high school, but now it becomes a what-if and unfinished business. They did everything they needed to do, only to have the season taken away.”

Compagnone said the loss of sports, in addition to all spring events, and school itself, is upsetting.

“I have so much fun playing golf and always look forward to the season,” said the senior, who plans to play on the club golf team at the University of Florida. “Senior year is always something I have looked forward to because of prom, graduation, and everything else that comes along with it.”

Galbo said not seeing how they would have done at sectionals is a huge disappointment. “Losing that dream is hard to deal with, but golf is a lifetime sport and I’m very lucky to be able to play beyond high school,” she said.

Analiese Compagnone, the team’s No. 1 golfer, was ready for a standout season.

JoAnna Galbo is the Bulldogs’ No. 2 golfer.

Diana Campos is in her third year on varsity.

Lost Season

This is the sixth in a series of articles in which The Current profiles senior athletes at Haldane and Beacon high schools who are missing their spring seasons.