

# The HIGHLANDS Current

As Large  
As Life  
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MAY 29, 2020

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**REMEMBERING FROM AFAR** — Philipstown residents lined Main Street in Cold Spring and Nelsonville on Memorial Day (May 25) to wave from a distance because of social-distancing regulations as a long convoy passed by on its way around Putnam County to honor those who lost their lives at war. A similar convoy took place in Dutchess.

Photo by Ross Corsair

## Dutchess County Executive: ‘Feds Need to Step In’

*As Mid-Hudson slowly opens, Molinaro calls for aid*

By Leonard Sparks

On Tuesday (May 26), Dutchess County Executive Marc Molinaro participated in a *Current* Conversation by video conference. Below are excerpts from the 45-minute discussion, edited for brevity and clarity. See [highlandscurrent.org/cc-molinaro](https://highlandscurrent.org/cc-molinaro) for a video of the full exchange.

**Q: The Mid-Hudson region was cleared on Tuesday (May 26) to begin the first of four phases of reopening. Could you give an overview of what that means?**

A: It's both a reopening and the start of a process. Will we see massive changes? Perhaps not. But a lot of people are going back to work — manufacturing, construction, agriculture and the wholesale trade, and retail can engage in delivery, curb-

(Continued on Page 20)

## Magazzino Seeks to Expand

*Also, distribution center proposed for Route 9*

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

The Philipstown Planning Board, meeting via Zoom on May 21, reviewed a proposal from Magazzino Italian Art, the museum on Route 9 near Route 301, to add a building to its 9.4-acre site.

The new structure would house a larger library than the one in use and include space for small public events, exhibits and students' pursuits, as well as a cafeteria and a separate parking area, its representatives told the board.

According to Glenn Watson of Badey and Watson Surveying & Engineering and architect Miguel Quismondo, the building would occupy a "minimal footprint." It would be partly underground on one side

(Continued on Page 18)

## Village Residents on Lockdown

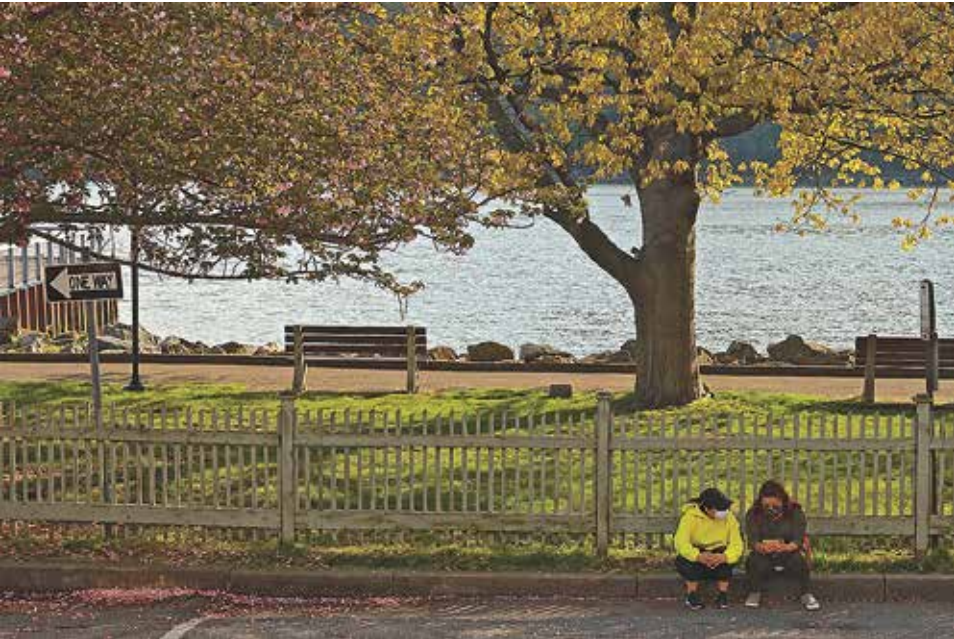
*But many visitors to Cold Spring don't seem to be*

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



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

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 deci-

sion by Mayor Dave Merandy earlier this month to close Mayor's Park, Dockside Park and Riverfront Park on Saturdays and Sundays from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Merandy said

(Continued on Page 7)

# 5Q 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.



Clint Watts  
Photo by Jon Roemer

## 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.

# ON THE SPOT

By Michael Turton

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 never let fear get in the way.”



~ Tyler Mell, Cold Spring

“My dad told me to just take life as it comes at you.”



~ Kate Lahey, Garrison



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A rendering of the proposed renovation and expansion of the former paper-clip factory on Dennings Point

## 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 near-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 bird-blind. 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."

### NEWS BRIEF

## State Police Write 723 Tickets Over Holiday Weekend

*Make 34 arrests in Lower Hudson Valley for DWI*

The New York State Police said it issued 8,907 tickets over Memorial Day weekend, including 723 in the Lower Hudson Valley.

Troopers increased patrols and conducted sobriety checkpoints from Friday (May 22) to 3 a.m. on Tuesday (May 26). They made 203 arrests statewide for suspected driving while intoxicated.

In the Lower Hudson Valley, officers arrested 34 people on suspicion of DWI and issued 620 tickets for speeding, 10 for distracted driving, 39 for child-restraint and seat-belt violations, and 23 for violating a law that requires drivers to move over when approaching a police vehicle with flashing lights.

Over last year's Memorial Day weekend, state police issued 13,693 tickets and arrested 225 people on suspicion of DWI.

## What Members are Saying...



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Jim Semmelman and Ray Disco, Garrison  
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The HIGHLANDS  
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# The HIGHLANDS Current

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Institute for  
Nonprofit News

THE HIGHLANDS CURRENT  
(USPS #22270) / ISSN 2475-3785

May 29, 2020  
Volume 9, Issue 22

is published weekly by Highlands Current Inc., 142 Main St., Cold Spring, NY 10516-2819. Periodicals Postage Paid at Cold Spring, NY, and at additional offices. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to *The Highlands Current*, 142 Main St., Cold Spring, NY 10516-2819. Mail delivery \$30 per year. highlandscurrent.org/delivery delivery@highlandscurrent.org

Distribution audited by the Circulation Verification Council

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## Tell us what you think

**T**he *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

### 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 him 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 whenever cases start to spike, we might very well be looking at deaths well past 100,000, threatening 1 million or more.

The argument that these deaths are

worth it because the economy is too important ignores the fact that if deaths start to spike, the economy will not come back. Instead, lots of people will vote with their feet and refuse to risk their lives and the lives of their loved ones in order to participate in economic activities. Even worse, absent strong controls on interactions such as were imposed in Washington state, California and New York, the health care system will be overwhelmed and lots of preventable deaths from other (non-COVID) causes will occur.

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.

Krystal Ford, *Garrison*

*Ford is a member of the Philipstown Climate Smart Task Force.*

The greenhouse-gas inventory report will provide the foundation needed to develop practical checklists that residents and businesses can use to plot personal progress toward carbon-neutral goals. There is a solid group of determined individuals in this town who not only wish to personally sacrifice to achieve the goals but are willing to help others do the same. That is a winning strategy.

Michael Leonard, *Philipstown*

*Leonard is a member of the Philipstown Town Board.*

### 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  
(Continued on Page 5)



LETTERS AND COMMENTS

## 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.

	2020	2010	2000	1990
Cold Spring	66.3	69.1	71	72
Putnam County	63.9	66.8	67	56
Philipstown	63.1	66.2	67	64
National	60.3	66.5	67	65
18th District	60.2	66.0	-	-
Nelsonville	60.1	67.2	65	61
Beacon	59.3	65.8	54	66
Dutchess County	58.8	65.7	68	64
New York State	55.1	64.6	67	62
New York City	50.3	64.0	55	53
Newburgh	36.8	50.2	45	44

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 longtime 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*

Since it's been empty for two-and-a-half years, it sounds like the county can do without the position.

William Mordhorst, *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 contribute zilch 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 Szulc, *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

## Corrections

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.

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.*

# 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 Paint Cans
10. One (1) large appliance per household (with no Freon)
11. Wooden Furniture (i.e. tables, chairs, desks, etc.)

### 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, pipewrap, 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 CFCC (Freon) i.e., air conditioners, dehumidifiers
12. Computers and computer monitors
13. No TV's

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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 169.

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 ☒



Serino, Jacobson and Galef

## Gender-neutral bathrooms

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

Under state law, a worker who loses his or her job must wait one week to claim unemployment benefits. (On March 12, Cuomo waived this requirement temporarily in response to job losses because of the COVID-19 shutdown.) However, if the worker is on strike, the state required a waiting period of 49 days, plus the week. On Feb. 6, Cuomo enacted a law that eliminated the 49-day wait but required striking workers to wait two weeks to claim benefits.

## Passed Senate, 42-16

Serino ☒

## Passed 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

Cuomo on April 17 signed a bill into law that made mostly technical changes to the organ donor system but included the removal of "close friend" from the list of people who can be authorized to speak for a donor.

## Passed by Senate 60-1

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 [vcscclerk@coldspringny.gov](mailto:vcscclerk@coldspringny.gov)



Main Street benches in Cold Spring have become dining areas on weekends.

Photo by Ross Corsair

## Cold Spring (from Page 1)

he made the move because of crowding and the failure by many people to take precautions to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

Trustees also voted unanimously to ban events in village parks until at least Aug. 31, effectively canceling or postponing Hops on the Hudson, which organizers said they hoped to move from June 27 to July or August, and the Putnam County Wine & Food Fest, which was scheduled for Aug. 8 and 9. Both were planned for Mayor's Park.

Before the vote, Merandy read from state guidelines, which state that "events that attract hundreds of people from outside a region [and] pose a significant public health danger should be postponed or canceled until threat of COVID-19 has subsided."

Merandy said on Wednesday (May 27) that the board will move forward with suggestions to make pedestrian traffic one-way on Main Street; post signs to encourage people to wear masks and keep their distance; and prohibit signs and merchandise on the sidewalks to maximize walking space.

During the meeting, residents and board members also suggested:

- Closing all or part of Main Street, allowing businesses to use the sidewalks and the street and making social distancing easier.
- Asking Metro-North to make masks on its trains mandatory. (The railroad on May 27 announced that all passengers must wear face coverings.)
- Placing 6-foot markers along Main Street sidewalks.
- Eliminating parking on Main Street from the traffic light to Lunn Terrace.
- Making Main Street one-way and one-lane from the traffic light to Fair Street,

and Fair Street one-way to Route 9D.

- Using the Haldane school parking lots and shuttling people to Main Street.
- Discouraging visitors from sitting and eating on stoops.
- Removing or roping off Main Street benches to prevent them from being used as dining areas.
- Closing one lane of parking on Main Street.
- Encouraging shops to open only from Monday through Thursday.

"It's going to be a complicated and difficult task," Merandy said of the gradual reopening. "Everyone's hurting and getting more tense. I can feel it. People are on edge."

Asking a community to slow or shut down for months "has put incredible stress on business owners, those who have lost their jobs and those who can't work from home," he said. "Thank you all for cooperating."

The mayor thanked members of the highway and police departments and other essential workers, all of whom he said are doing a great job. "Not all the stories are getting out there," he said.

Trustee Fran Murphy encouraged retailers to read the state regulations in preparation for Phase 2, when retail will be allowed to reopen with restrictions. (Under Phase 1, retailers are allowed to have curbside or in-store pickup.) "There are guidelines for all types of businesses," she said.

Business owners are required to post the guidelines and must have a plan in place to keep the premises safe for employees and customers. Murphy urged owners to take those steps now to be ready.

The board will meet again at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday (June 2) by video conference to continue the discussion and hear suggestions.

“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

# 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 June 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

# 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:

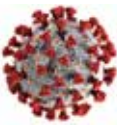
28,586 (+4,264)

Percent positive:

13.5 (-1.9)

Number of deaths:

139 (+7)



# Coronavirus Update

■ 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; 13,076 in Rockland; 1,658 in Ulster and 10,325 in Orange. Statewide, there were 366,733 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](mailto:jan.miller@putnamcountyny.gov). The state is also hiring contact tracers. See [coronavirus.health.ny.gov/get-involved-how-you-can-help](https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/get-involved-how-you-can-help).



THINGS ARE LOOKING UP — A roadside smile on Route 9D in Garrison at Beverly Warren Road  
Photo by Ross Corsair

■ 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

(Continued on Page 9)

Regional COVID-19 Metrics:  
Where Regions Currently Stand

Report as of May 27, 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

	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	✓	✓	0.46 ✓	32% ✓	44% ✓	1,925 / 1,085 ✓	Yes ✓	7/7 ✓
Central New York	✓	✓	0.82 ✓	38% ✓	50% ✓	2,007 / 775 ✓	Yes ✓	7/7 ✓
Finger Lakes	✓	✓	1.03 ✓	37% ✓	49% ✓	2,341 / 1,203 ✓	Yes ✓	7/7 ✓
Long Island	✓	✓	1.12 ✓	30% ✓	39% ✓	6,908 / 2,839 ✓	Yes ✓	7/7 ✓
Mid-Hudson	✓	✓	1.21 ✓	32% ✓	55% ✓	5,385 / 2,322 ✓	Yes ✓	7/7 ✓
Mohawk Valley	✓	✓	1.17 ✓	48% ✓	62% ✓	1,387 / 485 ✓	Yes ✓	7/7 ✓
New York City	✓	✓	1.36 ✓	26% ✗	29% ✗	20,819 / 8,399 ✓	Expected ★	4/7 ✗
North Country	✓	✓	0.00 ✓	48% ✓	57% ✓	833 / 419 ✓	Yes ✓	7/7 ✓
Southern Tier	✓	✓	0.26 ✓	46% ✓	44% ✓	1,572 / 633 ✓	Yes ✓	7/7 ✓
Western New York	✓	✓	1.09 ✓	37% ✓	56% ✓	2,785 / 1,381 ✓	Yes ✓	7/7 ✓

(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](https://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 deliver-

ies 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](https://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

## 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](https://forward.ny.gov)

for libraries to be allowed to reopen once a region reaches Phase 2.

■ Questions? Dutchess County posts updates at [dutchessny.gov/coronavirus](https://dutchessny.gov/coronavirus) and has a hotline at 845-486-3555. Putnam County posts info at [putnamcountyny.com/health](https://putnamcountyny.com/health). New York State has a hotline at 888-364-3065 and a webpage at [ny.gov/coronavirus](https://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](https://cdc.gov). To find a test site, visit [coronavirus.health.ny.gov](https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov).

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- Two ads in weekly newsletter sent to 500+ members
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  - Twitter (1,100 followers)
  - Instagram (1,600 followers)

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## 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](https://www.haldaneschool.org)  
or by calling 845-265-9254 x111

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Westchester Lic # WC -A1100-H 87

## AROUND TOWN



▲ **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*

## DESIGNING MAGAZZINO

Film available on May 29, 2020

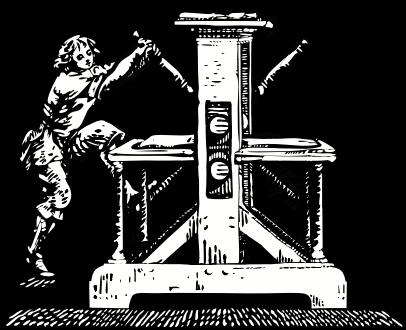
Live Q+A with designers Beatriz Cifuentes and Yoshiki Waterhouse of Waterhouse Cifuentes Design and Karolina Chojnowska, Communication and Publications Manager at Magazzino Italian Art on Instagram Live on May 30, 2020 at 3:00 p.m. EST

[@magazzino](https://magazzino.art/magazzinodacasa)



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DA CASA

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# The Calendar

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 repartee 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. “It was mostly lip-syncing,” Osborne says. “I did standards, from Ella Fitzgerald to Gladys Knight.”

Asked to contribute to a Christmas show at the Pyramid, Osborne created Lip Sync Theatre. He wrote a script, which was recorded, “and in the middle of the recording I dropped in songs. Nobody had to learn any lines. It seemed ridiculous, but it was hilarious because most of the people didn’t know what they were doing. It was a big hit.”



Lady L, at full sail, in a gown by Anthony Wong

Photos provided

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.”

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.”

Osborne’s drag career slowed over time, by choice. “It was fun but amateur theatrically,” he says. “It came easy because I had been involved in theater as a kid, at the Auburn Children’s Theater [in the Finger Lakes] — we’d go around on a wagon,

performing shows. It was the same kind of ‘Let’s put on a show’ energy.”

Performing “took up time and energy to do it right, and it got to the point where I had to ask myself, ‘What am I doing? Which direction am I going in?’ I decided it was exhausting, and I made a different life.”

To retire from the stage, Osborne grew a mustache. “That signaled the end,” he says. “Some people could pull off the facial-hair-and-drag combination, but Lady L was an early 20th-century English gentlewoman living in Manhattan. No mustache for her.”

*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](mailto:arts@highlandscurrent.org) and we’ll get in touch.*



Lithgow Osborne

# 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, GPS or other fitness tracker. *Cost: \$30*

FRI 5

### Virtual Friday Soiree

GARRISON

5:30 p.m. Antipodean Books

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

## KIDS & FAMILY

SUN 31

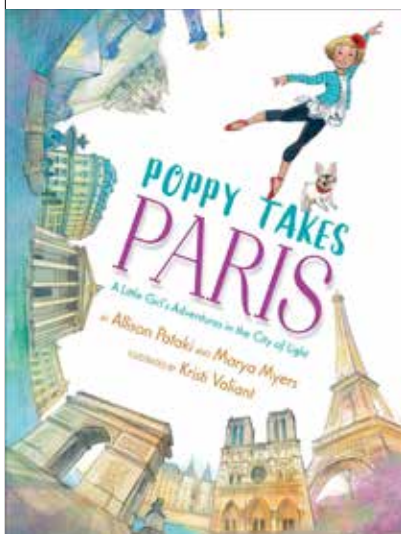
### Poppy Takes Paris

COLD SPRING

10:15 a.m. Split Rock Books  
845-265-2080 | splitrockbks.com

Marya Myers and Allison Pataki will read their children's book about

a young girl exploring Paris. See  
bit.ly/poppy-paris.



MON 1

### Story Time

GARRISON

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

Lucille Merry and other members of the staff read children's books aloud. Also WED 3.

TUES 2

### 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.

WED 3

### Sing and Move for Toddlers

GARRISON

10 a.m. Desmond-Fish Library  
Miss Gabi will lead this

new weekly session. Register  
at bit.ly/singandmove.

THURS 4

### Handsewn Face Mask Workshop

BEACON

5 p.m. Howland Public Library  
845-831-1134 | beaonlibrary.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@beaonlibrary.org.

THURS 4

### 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 5

### Spanish Story Time

GARRISON

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

Ms. Yrma will read children's books aloud and share songs and games with children up to age 7. Continues weekly.

## TALKS

SUN 31

### Unflappable

GARRISON

4 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library  
845-424-3020 | gufs.org

Suzie Gilbert, the author of *Flyaway: How a Wild Bird Rehabber Sought Adventure and Found Her Wings*, will discuss her new novel with actor Nance Williamson. To register, see bit.ly/unflappable-reading.

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.

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.

## 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.

## MUSIC

THURS 4

### 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 by 3 p.m. Continues weekly.

## CIVIC

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

MON 1

### Gov. Cuomo Briefing

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

MON 1

### City Council

BEACON

7 p.m. City Hall  
845-838-5011 | cityofbeacon.org

MON 1

### Budget Hearing

BEACON

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

TUES 2

### Putnam County Legislature

CARMEL

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

TUES 2

### School Board

COLD SPRING

7 p.m. Haldane School  
845-265-9254 | haldaneschool.org

TUES 2

### Board of Trustees

COLD SPRING

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

THURS 4

### Town Board

PHILIPSTOWN

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



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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.

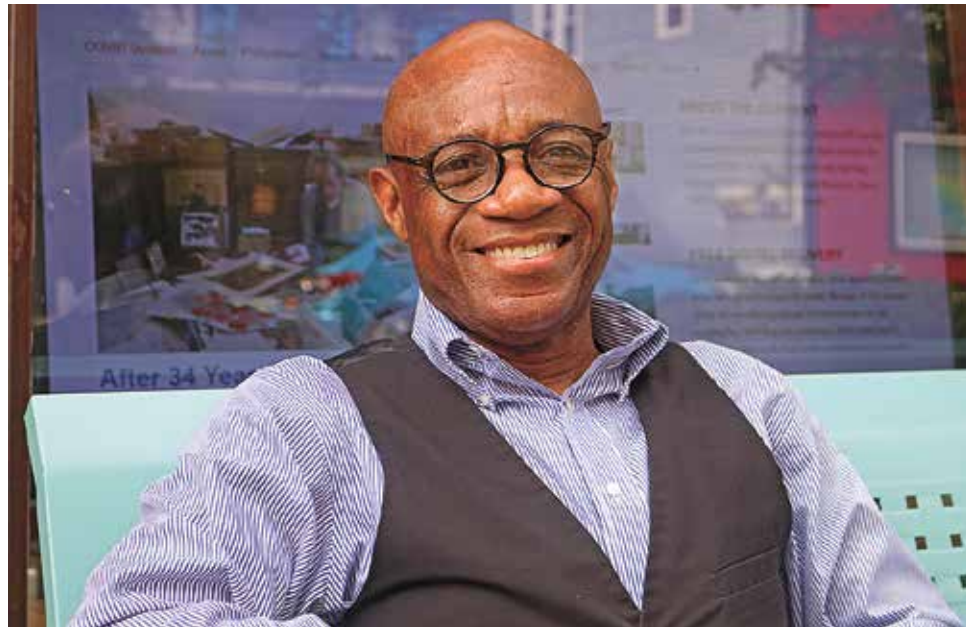
Currelley said his fledgling company will be operational by mid-June, with production based at a commercial incubator kitchen in Poughkeepsie.

"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



Ed Currelley

Photo by M. Turton

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 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 hours or more to produce.

Born and raised in Harlem, Currelley credits his mother for his interest in cooking and his love of culinary experimentation. "My mom had seven kids and money was scarce," he said. "But she made the most of it; she could take \$5 and feed the whole family."

Why soups? "I love good, hearty, wholesome meals and have always just loved soups," Currelley said. "I like to experiment and I have a knack for coming up with good recipes."

The chicken vegetable soup that will be offered by Hudson Valley Frozen Fresh is his mother's recipe, "but all the rest are my own, all tried and true," he said.



A soup label

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."

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 coldspringchamber.com.

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Joseph Radoccia

File photo by Ross Corsair

Last year two *Elder* portraits were mounted in a Beacon bus stop shelter.

### The Artist Next Door

# Joe Radoccia

By Alison Rooney

Five years ago, Joe Radoccia 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 Radoccia to include some of his subjects’ personal histories; the artist ended up interviewing everyone.

Before he began *Elders*, Radoccia 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, Radoccia 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, Radoccia moved to Brooklyn in the late

(Continued on Page 15)



"Joe"



"Michele"



"James"



"Patricia"

(Continued from Page 14)

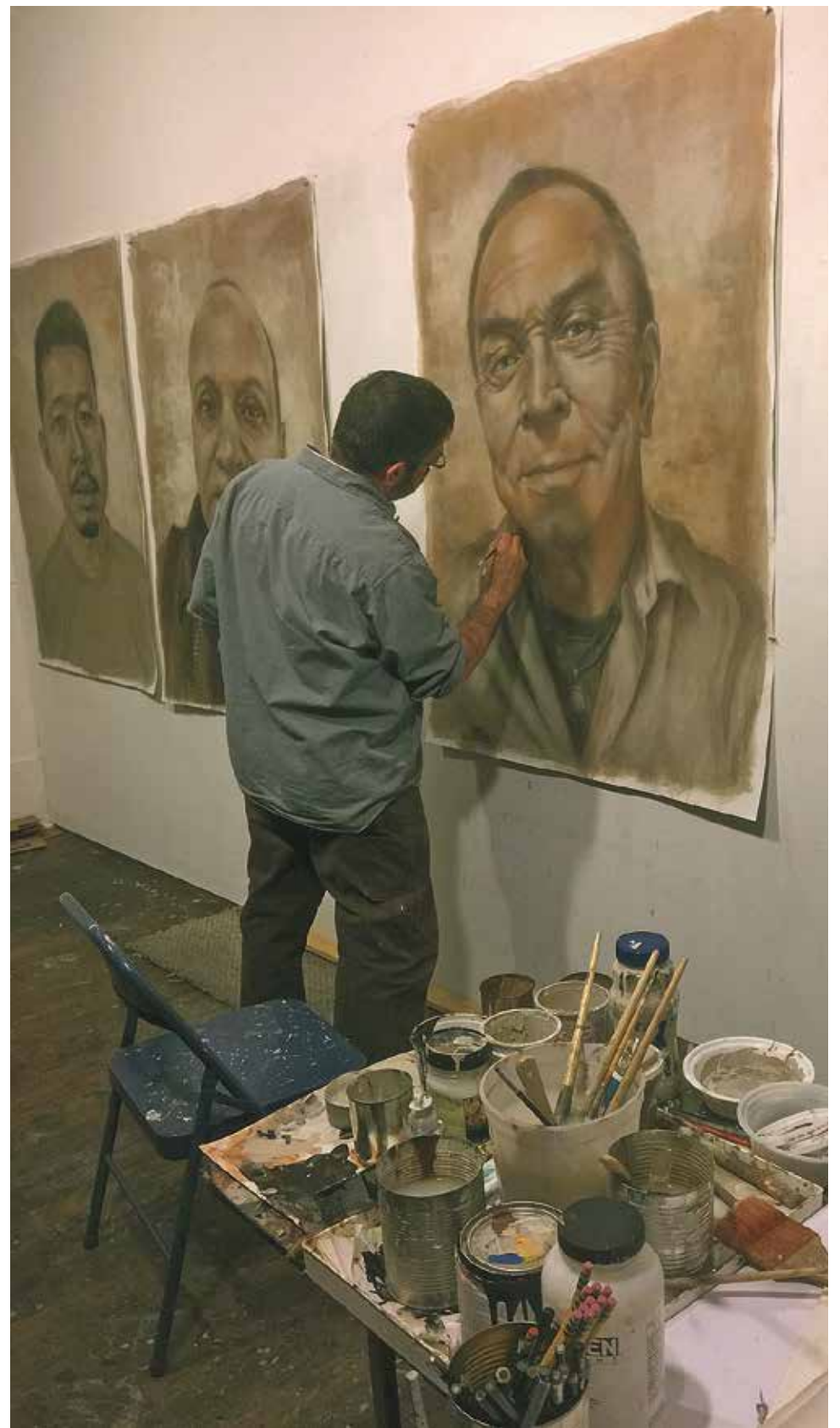
1980s to pursue a career as a painter. The AIDS epidemic shifted his work to sculptural expressions of "the raising levels of fear and prejudice I was witnessing." But, feeling he was "perpetuating the negative tropes that existed surrounding AIDS," he returned to painting to explore themes of "identity, love, fear and sexual expression." He began exhibiting with Manhattan's Leslie-Lohman Museum of Gay and Lesbian Art.

In 2011, seeking serenity, Radoccia moved to Beacon after spotting it from a train window. "I would take the train to Buffalo and always thought 'When I leave the city, I will live in one of these small places along the Hudson.'"

Each *Elders* drawing began with a photo session. He pulled the oral histories from his casual conversations with his subjects, and also from questionnaires. Many "had never collected their thoughts on the topic of their sexual history, because no one had ever asked," he says.

Radoccia creates his artwork from those photos. "There is a profound intimacy in the act of painting a person's portrait," he says. "You spend hours silently looking at their face, translating what you see into various types of marks, and you watch as these marks become their likeness. Little by little, facets of their personality begin to emerge that no amount of conversation could ever unveil."

“Little by little, facets of their personality begin to emerge that no amount of conversation could ever unveil.”



Joe Radoccia at work in his Beacon studio

Photo by Phillip Nerestan



"Richard and Armilio"



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## Small, Good Things

## Pucker Up!

By Joe Dizney

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 stock, 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 avail-

able — 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 citrusy 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 Lemon Risotto

Adapted from Jody Williams; serves 4

## INGREDIENTS

3 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil, butter or a combination

1 large shallot (or one small onion) minced

1½ cup rice for risotto (½ cup dry white wine)

4 to 5 cups water

4 tablespoons Meyer lemon juice, plus 1 tablespoon grated zest

¼ to ½ cup mascarpone

¼ cup fresh basil, mint or tarragon, chopped fine and/or grated Parmigiano-Reggiano for serving

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.

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

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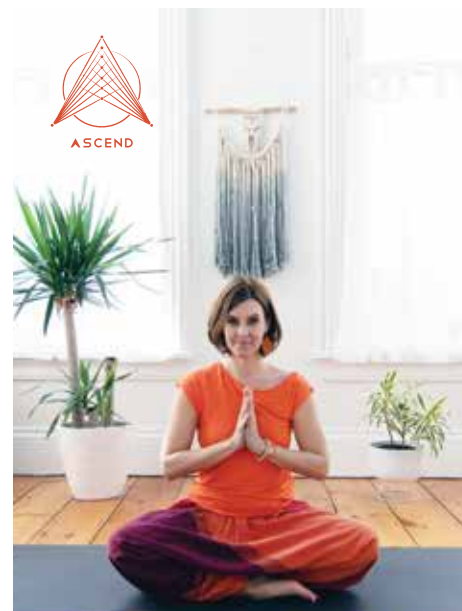
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# Invasion in Nelsonville

*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.

"For 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 \$40,950.

Village Clerk Mindy Jesek said in April the increase reflects the need for ongoing



The Nelsonville Woods have long been a favorite dumping ground for lawn and garden clippings.

Photo by L.S. Armstrong

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 Simms

Beacon's moratorium on residential and commercial construction, enacted in September 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.

A land-use moratorium is typically used like a "pause" button to allow a municipality time to address unforeseen circumstances, and the loss of the well raised concerns about Beacon's long-term water supply, city officials said. With the exception of single-family homes and other low-impact projects, the moratorium froze nearly all approvals for development.

With the freeze lifted, the Planning Board can now vote on whether to allow high-profile developments such as those at 248 Tioronda Ave. and the city's former Department of Public Works site on Creek Drive to proceed.

Both of Beacon's recent moratoriums have been water-related; the city's previous freeze expired in March 2018 after a hydrol-

ogy consultant projected that Beacon's water supply would be sufficient through at least 2035.

While numerous repairs have been attempted on Well No. 2, the city has also worked to manage development through its continued review of zoning laws during the most recent freeze, Mayor Lee Kyriacou said during the council's May 26 meeting, held by video conference.

During the discussion, Council Member Dan Aymar-Blair asked why, if the well is still not in operation, city officials felt OK letting the moratorium expire. City Administrator Anthony Ruggiero said the consultant believes Beacon has more than enough water capacity even if Well No. 2 cannot be repaired.

In addition to its two wells, which can provide up to 1.65 million gallons per day, Beacon draws water from three reservoirs that can provide a combined 1.5 million

gallons per day. The city also has an agreement to buy up to 1.2 million gallons per day from Fishkill.

With those sources, "we have over 170,000 surplus gallons a day," Ruggiero said.

Consultants in 2017 also discovered a third well that, once deepened and approved by the state, could yield around 576,000 gallons per day. The council is expected on Monday (June 1) to approve hiring a firm to prep the well.

"Everyone is more than comfortable that we can get the work done in time," as the moratorium expires, Ruggiero said. "There's plenty of water."

The council is also expected on Monday to approve spending \$190,000 to install a new pump at Well No. 2. If all goes as planned, it could be back online in two to three months, Ruggiero said Thursday.



A rendering of the 20,000-square-foot CRS fashion warehouse proposed for Route 9

Hudson Design

## 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

**M**ental-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



Mental-health providers are concerned about the stress created by the shutdown.

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.*

“People feel a lot of shame when they're not working, when they're not able to support themselves, or their family.” ~ Michael Piazza

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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 verbalizations (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 914-584-9352 or [info@mckeetherapy.com](mailto:info@mckeetherapy.com). For more information, visit [mckeetherapy.com](http://mckeetherapy.com).

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## 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 complete 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. I know there are some people who question 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 attorney general all 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 really 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 — but no politician has a good analogy for any of this. Every day, our health department and state and county leaders meet to look at the data. If the numbers start to trend in the wrong direction, perhaps Phase 1 becomes 10, 14 or 20 days instead of seven or 10 days or 14 days. Or Phase 2 is frozen for a period of time. Maybe some businesses that become approved — I hate the term *essential* because in my estimation, every job and business is essential — maybe you scale back a little. The hope is that none of that is necessary.

The biggest concern is a massive spike, which could require the nation, the state, to freeze again, which would be devastating. A spike is possible, but is it likely? It’s not. We’ve learned enough about the disease, and we know enough about our capacity to slow transmission, that we can make smart choices.



Dutchess County Executive Marc Molinaro

Photo provided

**Q: The state established regional control rooms; the Mid-Hudson includes yourself and Putnam County Executive MaryEllen Odell. What is its role?**

A: The word *control* is a bit of a misnomer. It’s more of a monitoring room. The seven county leaders meet at 3 p.m. every day with state officials to talk through whatever announcements came that day. Sometimes we don’t know — and I think even the folks from the state don’t always know — what’s being announced until it’s announced. If I were to be critical, that’s one of the things I’d be critical about.

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 business 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](http://highlandscurrent.org/digital).

## OBITUARIES

**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 Riendeau, Ronald Edwards and RJ 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).

**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 Vincent "Jim" Fredericks, each died before her.

Known to many as Aunt Fanny, she loved

socializing. She also loved children, her family said, and her face always lit up in their company.

Fanny is survived by her children, Carol Tittle (Lew) of Newburgh and David Papo (Karen) of Beacon; a stepdaughter, Sandra Pietrogallo (Jim); her grandchildren Tricia Culp (Ron) of Newburgh, Robert Slinsky of Florida and Dave Papo Jr. of Beacon; and her great-grandchildren Jessica and Mathew Culp, and Kailey, Tyler and Alexia Slinsky.

A private graveside service was held 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).

**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 Odyssey Ministries, c/o Hopewell Reformed Church, 143 Beek-

man Road, Hopewell Junction, NY 12533.

**Michelle Herring (1968-2020)**

Michelle Marie Herring, 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, 2010, in Beacon, she married Johnnie Herring Jr.

Along with her husband and parents, Michelle is survived by her daughters, Carmela Buggs and Caprice Herring; her grandchildren, Jeremiah Tucker, Jourdan 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)

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## OBITUARIES

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See [highlandscurrent.org/classifieds](http://highlandscurrent.org/classifieds).

Joy. On Aug. 10, 1980, he married Theresa O'Neill. John worked in the advertising industry for 45 years until his retirement in 2018 as director of advertising for Lord and Taylor in Manhattan.

He enjoyed vacationing at the beach and watching sports, especially soccer (he was an avid fan of Manchester United) and hockey (he attended many Rangers games at Madison Square Garden), his family said. He also enjoyed horse racing, boxing, listening to music and going to concerts. He was a member of St. Mary, Mother of the Church, in Fishkill.

Besides his wife and mother, who lives in Cold Spring, he is survived by his children, John Joy (Angela) of Poughkeepsie; Christopher Joy (Kathleen) of Fishkill; and Kimberly Wing (Zachary) of Beacon; his grandchildren, Christopher Joy Jr. and Clara Wing; and his siblings, Jane Gordineer (Dave Piques) and Robert Joy (Kelly Pagan).

A drive-by memorial was held May 13. Memorial donations may be made to Hudson Valley Hospice Foundation (hvhospice.org) or Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center (to benefit MSK Westchester), P.O. Box 5028, Hagerstown, MD 21741 (mskcc.org).

### 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 is survived by his siblings, Steven Knoblock and Patricia Kothe; his niece and nephews, Jennifer Pichaeli, Luke Massi-

nello 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 April 29 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 Odeschalchi (Dominic); and his grandchildren, Justin Rastegar, Chase Rastegar, Alex Odeschalchi and Victoria Odeschalchi.

### 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, the daughter of Harold and Marjorie (Naess) Brundage. She grew up in Edgemont. In 1962 she married Nicholas Tryforos, and the couple raised two daughters in Scarsdale.

In 1984, she married Benjamin Padilla. The couple lived briefly in Toledo, Ohio,

before returning to the New York area in 1985. She worked closely with Benjamin in his engineering business and at the Berlin Steel Co. in Berlin, Connecticut, where she was the international marketing and operations manager until her retirement in 2006.

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 (atone-mentfriars.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](http://highlandscurrent.org/obits).

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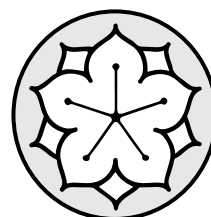
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Analiese Compagnone, the team's No. 1 golfer, was ready for a standout season.



JoAnna Galbo is the Bulldogs' No. 2 golfer.



Diana Campos is in her third year on varsity.

## 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.

## 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.



The 2019 team: Liz Urbanek, Analiese Compagnone, Allison Bierce, Brielle Travis, Jessica Hockler, Diana Campos, Elizabeth Herrera, Cassandra Ruffy, JoAnna Galbo and Addy Pagones

File photos by S. Pearlman