

The HIGHLANDS Current

What's
Up with
Camp?
Page 24



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The Faces of Protest

Xavier Mayo, Ciarda Hall and Stefon Seward led a protest on Monday (June 1) in Beacon against brutality and racism following the death in Minneapolis last month of George Floyd while in police custody. All three attended Beacon High School but had not met before the rally.

See Story
on Page 6 ▶



Photos by Meredith Heuer

Wide Views of Thin Blue Line

*Residents question decal
on police vehicles*

By Michael Turton

A village resident has raised concern that a decal on Cold Spring Police Department vehicles could be misconstrued to have racist overtones.

In an email read by Mayor Dave Merandy during the board's Tuesday (June 2) meeting by video conference, Patrick Biesemans expressed concern that the image sends the wrong message, especially to minorities.

The decal depicts a U.S. flag in black-and-white with one of its 13 stripes colored blue. It has been used to show support for law enforcement but also has generated controversy.

During a violent, Unite the Right march in Charlottesville, Virginia, in 2017, the flag was raised by white supremacists alongside the Confederate flag.

The flag has been used more widely in association with Blue Lives Matter, a campaign created by some police officers as a response to Black Lives Matter. A group called Blue Lives Matter NYC sells hoodies and T-shirts with the image.

(Continued on Page 10)

Need a Haircut?

*Barbers, salons among
businesses to reopen in
Phase 2*

By Leonard Sparks

Deb MacLeod has waited more than two months to celebrate two decades.

On March 28, she planned to mark the 20th year of Deb's Hair Design, the salon she owns on Main Street in Nelsonville. The anniversary was postponed when Gov. Andrew Cuomo ordered nonessen-

tial businesses to close, effective March 22, to slow the spread of COVID-19.

"I didn't make it," said MacLeod, who served her last customers on March 21.

Her march toward 20 years could resume on Tuesday (June 9). On June 4, Gov. Andrew Cuomo said the Mid-Hudson Region, which includes Putnam and Dutchess counties, is on track to move to Phase 2 of the state's four-stage reopening plan. That will mean barbers and salons can reopen, as long as they maintain social-distancing and everyone wears masks.

Car dealers, real-estate offices and professional firms such as architects will also be allowed to reopen, and Cuomo on

(Continued on Page 9)



Deb MacLeod in her Nelsonville salon

Photo by L. Sparks

Judge Questions Putnam Health Commissioner's Jail Job

*Also expresses concern
about inmate medical care*

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

Citing a possible conflict of interest, a state judge last month questioned whether it was appropriate for the Putnam County health commissioner, Dr. Michael Nesheiwat, to also be employed by a private firm as medical director of the county jail.

In addition, the judge, Victor Grossman, who serves on the state Supreme Court and is based in Carmel, expressed reservations about the quality of the health care provided to some inmates, based on documents provided by the county.

The judge's comments were included in a May 20 decision in which he turned down a request by the Legal Aid Society of Putnam County to release seven prisoners whom it said had pre-existing conditions that put them at higher risk of COVID-19, along with an eighth prisoner who feared contracting the virus. Grossman said the jail was doing

(Continued on Page 3)

5Q FIVE QUESTIONS: MARIKA BLOSSFELDT

By Alison Rooney

Marika Blossfeldt, of Beacon, is a health coach, yoga teacher and chef.

You have a new book, *Cooking with Marika: Clean Cuisine from an Estonian Farm*. How is it different from *Essential Nourishment*?

The first book was a very basic education in nutrition. I wanted to go deeper into certain topics, including healthy weight loss, gut health and how to prevent inflammation. I also talk about breath and awareness, present a few Kundalini exercises and recommend a few nice things you can do to pamper yourself. And, of course, there are recipes, including some using wild plants, suggestions for weekend breakfasts, smoothies and baked items using alternative flours.

Quarantining seems to prompt constant snacking. How can someone avoid that pattern?

Awareness and paying attention to the body is the key. A craving for sugar often comes from being dehydrated, so have a glass of water and see how you feel — maybe you won't need that sweet thing anymore. As adults, we lose our sense of thirst. In the afternoon, we have a sense that our body wants something — we think coffee or cake, but it's water. People are attached to foods that make them feel good, and these are often related to something they had as a child. That's a process to slowly wean yourself off sugary foods, retrain your taste buds, and get that sweet flavor from foods such as carrots, beets, sweet potatoes and pumpkin.

You self-published *Cooking with Marika*. Was that easier than working with a publisher?

No! The difficulties were unexpected. My designer was in [Marika's native] Estonia, and doing the edits, without being able to sit next to each other, got it behind schedule. But the real difficulties began once we got the files to the printer in China. They printed my first book and were so attentive.

But this time, they told me it was too wide. When the proof arrived, they had trimmed it out in Estonia and even with shipping it wound up being less expensive.

How are you holding up during the pandemic?

I usually spend from mid-May through October at a small farm and art-and-wellness retreat center I own and run in Estonia. I was supposed to fly on May 20 to Tallinn [the Estonian capital], but I couldn't because there were no connecting flights from Stockholm. Now, because Swedish corona cases are up again, Estonia might close its door. I'll get there, but I'm not sure when. Because the farm only hosts groups, many from Germany, and our program includes trips around Estonia, we've had to cancel, and they've had to cancel, the July trips. I'm hoping August can happen.



Marika Blossfeldt

Photo by Hele-Mai Alamaa

All of us need to stay as healthy. Any tips for boosting the immune system?

Stay away from white sugar. Go with natural sugars like honey, maple syrup and brown rice syrup. My own philosophy is to eat foods that don't need labels. Avoid foods that need preservatives. The function of preservatives is to kill bacteria, but the chemicals don't differentiate between harmful and helpful bacteria. It's important that we take care of our friendly bacteria. Bad bacteria are dormant until the balance is off. And leafy greens. There are so many choices: collards, spinach, leeks, parsley, basil. The leaf is the lung of the plant. My go-to method is to sauté garlic in olive oil, rip the leaf into pieces after washing, swish them around, then drain in a strainer. When most of the water has drained, dump them on top of the garlic in the pan to create a steaming action. So delicious.

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ON THE SPOT

By Michael Turton

What's the biggest fish you've ever caught?

A 12-pound striped bass in Wappinger Creek



~ Eddie Lopez, Beacon

Some 20- to 25-inch bluefish off Lamphiers Cove near Branford, Connecticut



~ Gavin Wassung, Beacon

A 17.25-inch widemouth bass when I was 12 or 13, fishing with my mom



~ Diane Frisenda, Beacon

Putnam OKs Funds for Deputy Executive

Montgomery says now not the time for new hires

By Holly Crocco

During a contentious meeting held June 2 via audio-conference, the Putnam County Legislature approved a budget transfer that will allow the county executive to hire a deputy.

After a 25-minute debate, legislators voted 8-1 to move \$20,500 to the personnel line in the county executive's budget. This will allow Putnam County Executive MaryEllen Odell to appoint Thomas Feighery, a project manager in the Highway Department, as a part-time deputy county executive for the

remainder of the year.

The position has been vacant since October 2017, when Bruce Walker left for a federal job. Odell has said keeping the position vacant saved the county \$485,000.

Feighery will keep his position at the Highway Department and next year will earn a combined salary of \$116,200.

"The reinstatement of this position is necessary given the health care crisis and the economic crisis, which is a grave reality," said Legislator Ginny Nacerino (R-Patterson). "No one could have predicted a worldwide pandemic would cripple our federal, state and local economy, our budgets, our health and welfare."

She called Feighery a "uniquely qualified individual" who will "readily be able to interface with the Economic Development Council and local businesses during this unprecedented time."



Feighery

Legislator Nancy Montgomery (D-Philipstown), who cast the lone "no" vote, called the action "a rubber stamp on a patronage hire," and said the lawmakers should be looking for ways to prevent layoffs and furloughs that may be necessary due to the economic crisis.

"Instead of having workers as our first priority, we are falling over ourselves to expand executive staff," she said. "Now is the time for hiring freezes and austerity measures at every level until we can stabilize county finances. We need to take care of our rank-and-file employees, retaining as many as we can before we expand any county management and executive positions."

Before being cut off by what sounded like a male legislator telling Montgomery to "shut up," and while being accused of "grandstanding," the lawmaker called the appointment of a county employee to a second job "par for the course" in the county.

"We have multiple executive staff collecting multiple salaries for multiple positions, but the Legislature has looked the other

way from this for years," she said.

Nacerino reminded her colleagues that it is not under the purview of the Legislature to approve who the county executive selects as her deputy; the lawmakers were only approving the fund transfer that will allow her to fill the position. This is the case for all elected officials who hire people to serve under them, she said.

"We do not have the undersheriff's resume, we do not have the captain's resume, we do not have the chief of staff's resume," said Nacerino.

Legislator Joseph Castellano (R-Brewster), said the county saves money in employee benefits and pension expenditures by having employees in dual roles.

"We have an individual here who can job-share, wear two different hats, and do a great job," he said. "So there's a great savings in this opportunity that we have for this year. Next year the county executive could fill the position herself and not even come to the Legislature for approval."

Jail Job (from Page 1)

enough to protect the prisoners.

In an email to *The Current* on Tuesday (June 2), Nesheiwat said Grossman's comments about his dual roles amounted to "conjecture" and that his job at the jail posed no legal or ethical issues.

Under a contract with the county, PrimeCare Medical, based in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, provides medical care to inmates at the jail in Carmel. When awarded the contract in 2019, the firm named Nesheiwat as its jail medical director, a position he had held by appointment from the county Legislature.

The Legislature confirmed PrimeCare's choice of Nesheiwat in January 2019 and reconfirmed it on Jan. 7 of this year. Legislator Nancy Montgomery, who represents Philipstown, did not vote after questioning whether Nesheiwat's dual employment might violate county law.

In his ruling, Judge Grossman cited the Putnam County code, which states that an official shall not take any action that "may result in a personal financial benefit," including for his or her outside employer, clients, business or family. The county char-

ter also stipulates that the health commissioner "shall serve on a full-time basis."

In an email, Nesheiwat said he is a PrimeCare employee but that it presents "no conflict with my duties" as health commissioner.

According to the 186-page proposal PrimeCare submitted in 2018 when pursuing the county contract, the jail medical director works four hours a week; its nurses handle daily and ongoing care.

After serving as acting health commissioner, Nesheiwat was tapped by County Executive MaryEllen Odell to become health commissioner. He was confirmed for a two-year term by the Legislature in March 2019.

Nesheiwat said his appointment as health commissioner "was fully vetted" by the county Personnel Department, reviewed by the county attorney and the Legislature's lawyer, and approved by the state Health Department.

However, while the appointment was still pending, in November 2018, the state informed the county that Nesheiwat needed to complete his master of public health degree, or demonstrate continued efforts to do so, for the state to agree to a further term for him in 2021.

The state's public health commissioner, Dr. Howard Zucker, also told the county that

state law requires that "every county health commissioner must devote his entire time to the duties of this office."

In an email on Wednesday (June 3), Thomas Weber, the chief executive officer of PrimeCare Medical, said Nesheiwat is employed by one of its subcontractors, Professional Care Medical Practice P.C. He said the medical director at the jail works "as many hours as is required to see every patient on their line" and "call coverage is provided around the clock."

He said he was not aware of the provisions of Putnam County law until asked about the judge's comments, but had since reviewed the statute.

"I do not know if Dr. Nesheiwat is a full-time managerial employee of the county [Health] Department," he said. "The title would certainly imply such a position. Upon learning of the potential issue, we are in the process of reaching out to jail administration. I do know that when the contract was entered into, effective Jan. 1, 2019, the county was pleased with Dr. Nesheiwat and the potential for him to provide care at the jail."



Nesheiwat

Inmate care

Along with questioning Nesheiwat's jail job, Judge Grossman expressed concern about the quality of PrimeCare's services.

He noted that treatment records on one inmate included entries by a doctor who practices in Niagara County and another whose office is in Elmira, and that records on a second inmate mentioned a doctor in Camp Hill, Pennsylvania, "who does not appear to be licensed to practice medicine in New York."

"It is unclear whether any of these physicians actually examined the patients they treated," the judge wrote. "Simply put, the court has concerns about physicians who treat patients without examining them, or who are not licensed to do so, and these are factors to be weighed in the overall quality of care provided to the inmates."

In response, Nesheiwat wrote in an email on Thursday (June 4), "I stand by the medical care provided to all of those under our care," but said he could not discuss specific inmates because of patient privacy laws.

Weber said that the Pennsylvania-based doctor is a psychiatrist licensed in New York state. "Due to the severe shortage of psychiatrists, it is not uncommon to utilize tele-psychiatry," he said.

NEWS BRIEFS

Hustis Case Delayed a Sixth Time

Rescheduled for July 1

The prosecution of Charles E. "Chuck" Hustis III, who was arrested by the FBI in Cold Spring on Dec. 16 and accused of soliciting a minor for sex, has been delayed a sixth time, until July 1.

According to documents filed in federal court on June 3, Benjamin Gold, who represents the former Cold Spring village trustee and mayoral candidate, is talking with federal prosecutors about "possible disposition of this case without trial."

The judge released Hustis, 36, in Decem-

ber on \$150,000 bond but placed him under home detention with a monitoring device.

Fire Remains Under Investigation

Philipstown man died in November

A mobile home fire that killed a Philipstown man seven months ago remains under investigation, according to the Putnam County Sheriff's Department.

Louis J. Weber Jr., 72, died in the early-morning fire on Nov. 4 in the Post Road Mobile Home Park off Route 9, just south of Route 301. An investigation of the blaze by the Putnam County Fire Investigation Team

is ongoing, said Capt. Lisa Ortolano, a representative for the Sheriff's Department, who said she could not provide any further details.

Weber was a veteran of the Marine Corps and a retired financial advisor.

Beacon Police Arrest Alleged Vandal

Charged with tagging vacant building

Beacon police on Monday (June 1) arrested a Buchanan man on suspicion of "tagging" with graffiti a vacant building at 550 South Ave.

Police said they responded to the area, near Madam Brett Park, at about 8 a.m. to

investigate a report of a suspicious vehicle. When they arrived, the officers were informed a male subject was trespassing in the fenced property, which is owned by Scenic Beacon Development.

Police arrested Daniel L. Vines-Mevic, 25, who police said was in possession of spray-paint cans. He was charged with felony criminal mischief, misdemeanor counts related to making graffiti, misdemeanor trespass and possession of marijuana, a violation. He was released but issued an appearance ticket to return to Beacon City Court.



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Tell us what you think

The *Current* welcomes letters to the editor on its coverage and local issues. Submissions are selected by the editor to provide a variety of opinions and voices, and all are subject to editing for accuracy, clarity and length. We ask that writers remain civil and avoid personal attacks. Letters may be emailed to editor@highlandscurrent.org or mailed to Editor, The Highlands Current, 142 Main St., Cold Spring, NY 10516. The writer's full name, village or city, and email or phone number must be included, but only the name and village or city will be published.

LETTERS AND COMMENTS

Washington in Beacon

I was excited to read about the new facility being created at the former paper-clip factory on Dennings Point ("Welcome Center Planned for Dennings Point," May 29). I actually worked at the factory for a few weeks in the summer when I was in high school. But the idea that George Washington made near-daily visits to the point while stationed in Newburgh, and that Alexander Hamilton began drafts of the Federalist Papers while staying at the point in 1781, is not supported by any primary-source evidence.

Hamilton did stay close by, at Depeyster Point (between Fishkill Creek and the Hudson River), especially at the Depeyster House. But the idea that Washington visited Dennings Point has never been proven.

I have convinced the Beacon historian, the Dutchess County historian, the Alexander Hamilton Society and fifth-generation Hamilton descendent Doug Hamilton of the shaky nature of these claims and also compiled a list of all primary source documents in my book, *The Most Important House in the American Revolution That Nobody Knew About*.

We do know from a primary-source document that Washington visited Beacon, which was then known as Fishkill Landing. The new French delegate to the colo-

nies wrote in his journal in 1781 that he met Washington at Fishkill Landing and the two of them went over the river to West Point for a meeting. This journal was only recently translated to English and posted online.

Chris Cring, *Poughkeepsie*

Duck rescue

A photo that appeared in the May 29 issue of The Current that showed two Putnam County Sheriff's Department officers with some ducklings they had rescued on May 23 from a storm drain was also posted on our Instagram feed. It received more than 85 likes but didn't sit well with some visitors.

Cute ducks, but this feels incredibly tone-deaf for a news organization that I support and have donated money to. We are dealing with a national crisis of cop accountability. Is now the time to be acting like public relations for the police?

Dhurv Mehrotra, *Beacon*

Tone-deaf was my exact thought. Come on, *Highlands Current*, you're better than this. How about posting a photo of the beautiful Black Lives Matter rally in Poughkeepsie? There is no neutral.

James Case Leal, *Beacon*

Beacon freeze

The buildings are empty! Why build more to let them sit vacant? ("Beacon Building Freeze Lifted," May 29). Not to mention that people need to be making \$80,000 or more annually to afford the rent. No one in the area can afford a one-bedroom, one-bathroom apartment for \$1,800, with nothing included.

Marissa Abate, *via Facebook*

Travel the bridge to Newburgh, then swing back to return to Beacon. See those disgusting high-rise box condos/artist apartments? They are what is wrong with Beacon now. Soon there won't be a tree left; all you will see are these buildings all the way down to the river.

Laurie Gallio, *via Facebook*

The money grab continues. Greed destroys everything that makes something good in the first place.

Jay Nicholas, *via Facebook*

A lot of communities use the same aquifers, and all of those communities are experiencing expansion. Saying a water supply that depends upon aquifers that serve multiple communities will be sufficient through at least 2035 is whistling in the dark.

Ralph Pettorossi, *Fishkill*

No shame

In your interview with Marc Molinaro ("Dutchess County Executive: 'Feds Need to Step In,'" May 29), he discouraged residents from shaming or embarrassing anyone who isn't wearing a mask or engaged in social distancing.

If people can't bring themselves to suffer the indignity of having to wear a piece of fabric on their face for 15 minutes at Walmart to protect vulnerable people from an agonizing death alone drowning in their own blood, that refusal to make minimum possible effort for your fellow Americans is a shameful act deserving of being shamed.

Ryan Biracree, *via Facebook*

Marc always has to throw a bone to Dutchess yahoos while telling people to do the right thing.

Lynn Miller, *via Facebook*

Village lockdown

Have Metro-North not stop in Cold Spring and limit parking in the village to every other spot ("Village Residents on Lockdown," May 29). I'm on the other side of the river without the train, and it's nuts on the weekends, with all the New York City people getting out of their cage to flood the area. I'm sure it's the same up Route 9D into

(Continued on Page 5)



LETTERS AND COMMENTS

(Continued from Page 4)

Cold Spring and Beacon.

Glenn Mulhare, *via Facebook*

I am agitated when day-trippers get sloppy about restrictions, and I am insulted that hiking trails and riverside parks are closed because “people are people.” When I’m out and about, many people brazenly ignore the recommendations about wearing masks and social distancing.

Irene Pieza, *via Facebook*

Lady L

I loved Lithgow Osborne’s memoir of his days as Lady L (“Something You Don’t Know About Me,” May 29). My husband and I had our first date at The Pyramid.

It was an ACT-UP fundraiser on Dec. 28, 1989. The only performance we recall was someone singing Janis Joplin’s “Piece of My Heart,” and when she hit the chorus, she’d reach into her bra and fling pieces of liver at the audience. Whenever we hear that song today, we think about ducking. The Pyramid was an institution and Lithgow should feel proud to have been a part of it.

Darryl Morrison, *Houston, Texas*

So proud of my beautiful and handsome brother. He was always prepared to put on a show and give it his best! And he was gorgeous. I was there, in 1986, when a cab driver hit on him after he managed to get his 6’7” frame, with a beehive wig on top, into the taxi.

Lucretia Wells, *Doyletown, Pennsylvania*

Counting the Highlands

Response rates to the 2020 U.S. census, as of June 3, 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. Although “nonresponse follow-up” operations were delayed by the pandemic, the bureau’s Pawling and Peekskill offices were scheduled to reopen this past week.

	2020	2010	2000	1990
Cold Spring	66.8	69.1	71	72
Putnam County	64.3	66.8	67	56
Philipstown	63.7	66.2	67	64
Nelsonville	61.0	66.5	67	65
National	60.6	66.0	-	-
18th District	60.6	67.2	65	61
Beacon	59.8	65.8	54	66
Dutchess County	59.3	65.7	68	64
New York State	55.8	64.6	67	62
New York City	51.2	64.0	55	53
Newburgh	37.4	50.2	45	44

Source: 2020census.gov

Editor’s Notebook

Asking the Asker

By Chip Rowe

We figured out, after the fact, that the May 22 issue contained the 100th version of “On the Spot,” in which reporter Michael Turton asks the same question of three Highlands residents. (See Page 2.) I thought it would be a good time to ask Mike to ask himself a few questions.



Q: Is it easy to approach people?

A: I inherited the “talk-to-strangers gene” from my parents, but I still have to overcome a bit of nervousness when I approach someone I don’t know. I quickly learned that if you say, “Excuse me, I’m not a crazy man,” it doesn’t usually go well.

Q: How do most people react?

A: Most people are pleased to be asked. We all like it when someone pays attention to us and asks our opinions. Nine times out of 10, it’s a good experience for both of us.

Q: Have you had any embarrassing moments?

A: I was speaking to a couple in a coffee shop. They liked my question and debated who should answer it. When I said a photo was part of the deal, the man said, “Oh, no. We can’t do that.” Awkward pause. He said, “We’re not supposed to be here.” I figured they were skipping work or having an affair, or both.

Q: How do you come up with questions?

A: This might sound stupid, but I think. Virtually every question is something I’ve thought about at some point. I often think of questions around 3 a.m. or when I’m driving somewhere.

Q: Is there anything frustrating about doing “On the Spot”?

A: I never get to respond to my own questions, and I usually have a damn good answer.

Q: What surprises you?

A: Occasionally a question I consider very

basic generates a great reaction. When I asked, “What’s your hot dog brand, how’s it cooked and what’s on it?” it sparked heated discussions, even arguments.

Q: Is there a type of question people respond to best?

A: People have the most fun when they get to fantasize a bit. What actor would play you in a movie? If you could time travel, what era would you choose? What band would you love to appear onstage with?

Q: Do people ever suggest questions?

A: I had never used anyone else’s question until the May 29 issue. Zach Merante suggested I ask about the best advice people have received. A friend keeps urging me to spice up the questions, but my editor is pretty prudish.

Q: Have your questions ever annoyed anyone?

A: One week I asked four women (it included a mother and daughter) what trait more commonly associated with women might men benefit from adopting more often. The next week I asked four men (including a father and son) the same question, reversed. Some readers were quite offended, but the people I asked liked the question. They all put a great deal of thought into their responses. It prompted some good, serious discussions. I still think it’s a great question.

Michael McKee, PhD

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Q: Are some settings better than others to approach people?

A: My colleagues falsely accuse me of asking all my questions in a pub. I do use a couple of pubs, but coffee shops are better. The most fertile ground is outside a grocery store or shop as people are leaving. And shop workers like being asked; it gives them a break and they get to brag to their customers when *The Current* comes out.

Q: Are duplicate answers a problem?

A: Almost never. When I asked people to rank fall as a season, the first two talked about beautiful fall colors, crisp air. I was worried the third person would say that, too, but she said she hated fall. I practically hollered: “Thank you! Thank you! I love your negativity!” We had a good laugh.

Q: What are three of your personal favorite questions?

A: What three people, past or present, would you have lunch and drinks with? What was your most memorable early job? Do you believe in ghosts?

Q: Has anyone ever said a question was stupid?

A: That’s kind of a stupid question.


Q: What is next week’s question?

A: I have no idea.

Mike Gets to ANSWER

What was the best thing about where you grew up?

“ Jack Tasker’s Oldcastle Variety Store: combination variety store, restaurant, pool hall, post office and hangout for guys age 11 to 80. Or maybe pond hockey. ”



~ Michael Turton, Cold Spring

HELP WANTED

SEASONAL LABORER

The Village of Cold Spring has an opening for a Seasonal Laborer with the Highway Department. Responsibilities include lawn mowing, maintenance, street cleaning, etc. The position is for 40 hours per week through November 21, 2020.

For more information please contact the Village of Cold Spring at (845) 265-3611 or send a Letter of Interest by June 15th to: Village of Cold Spring, Seasonal Laborer Position, 85 Main Street, Cold Spring, NY 10516.



Protesters listen to speakers at a rally on Monday in Beacon.



A protestor in Beacon weeps at a rally held at Polhill Park



Several hundred people attended the protest in Beacon.

Residents Rally Against Brutality

Hundreds in Highlands protest death of George Floyd

By Jeff Simms

Ciarda Hall, Stefon Seward and Xavier Mayo had not met before Monday (June 1), but all three said they felt an urgent need to make a statement following the May 25 killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis.

Floyd's death while in police custody has sparked protests across the country against police brutality and racism, including demonstrations at the White House and in New York City, Poughkeepsie, Carmel, Cold Spring and Beacon.

Hall, a 23-year-old model who graduated from Beacon High School in 2015, said she felt she had to respond in the city where she grew up. Since Floyd's death, "I've been crying every single day," she said. "Nothing else matters right now."

She said she shared details anonymously on social media about a peaceful demonstration in an "I heard this was happening" way, calling for protestors to meet at the Chase Bank parking lot at 2:45 p.m. on Monday to march west on Main Street to Polhill Park.

Masks and social distancing were encouraged, as were signs. "We have to come together to make a change," she wrote, adding that she hoped the numbers would rival participation in the annual Spirit of Beacon Day.

"When I showed up and saw how many

people were there, I'd never seen anything like that in Beacon before," she said. "It was so powerful. Both my parents came and they were like, 'Holy shit.'"

While Hall started the ball rolling, she concedes she wasn't prepared to lead a rally. "I had no idea what I was doing," she said.

When she arrived, Seward, 20, who graduated from Beacon High School in 2017, was already hyping up the crowd. "This kid was running things," she said. "I immediately started crying."

The pair, each carrying signs that read "Black Lives Matter," led hundreds of marchers down Main, which had been closed to traffic by Beacon police. Seward led chants of "I can't breathe" — which Floyd told officers before he fell unconscious — and "Say his name." A growing chorus chanted in response.

Seward said he, too, cried when he saw a video of Floyd being detained, with an officer's knee on his neck, and was inspired to "be loud in this moment." A day later, his voice hoarse, Seward recalled his mother, who is white, warning him on his 18th birthday that he should be wary of police officers, that he was a target.

"That's why I stood up and started screaming," he said.

When the rally arrived at the park, Hall and Seward took the "stage" at the Beacon Visitors Center, where hundreds of marchers — nearly all wearing masks — continued a call-and-response.

There, Mayo, 19, who attended Beacon High School as a freshman before transferring and graduating from The Hill School, a prep school about 35 miles outside of Philadelphia, joined the two strangers on stage.

"I heard [Seward] and I thought, 'Why not give my energy to something above myself? Why not give my voice to something that really matters?'" he said.

Mayo, who is 6-foot-7, is a freshman studying pre-law and playing basketball at the New Jersey Institute of Technology. "I'm what people fear sometimes," he said. "To feel that love and support" at the rally "was a really big deal."

Seward is a sophomore at SUNY Orange. He's studying to become a lawyer, as well, and had planned to join the U.S. Army after college. The recent events, however, have caused him to reconsider military service, he said.

Hall has traveled around the world and last year appeared in Rihanna's Savage x Fenty fashion show in New York City. She is also an aspiring actor.

On Tuesday, the day after the protest, the three exchanged numbers.

For more photos, see highlandscurrent.org.

Photos by Ross Corsair



Putnam County Sheriff Robert Langley Jr. at a rally on Wednesday (June 3) at the historic Putnam County Courthouse in Carmel.



Protestors in Beacon on Monday



A protestor walks near the Row of Honor in Carmel during a protest there on Wednesday.



A Beacon protestor

Photo by J. Simms



Protestors gathered at noon on Wednesday at the historic Putnam County Courthouse in Carmel.

Photos by Ross Corsair

Police Response

Chief Kevin Junjulas

BEACON POLICE DEPARTMENT

Like all reasonable people, we are outraged by the actions of the officers in the killing of George Floyd and strongly condemn them. We also support the First Amendment and the right to peacefully protest and, as is our duty, stand against those who make that impossible by resorting to violence, destruction and riot.

In our continued efforts to be transparent and accountable we were one of the first departments in our area to implement body-worn cameras by all of our patrol officers in 2018.... All of our officers undergo yearly training on our use-of-force procedures as well as current case law. This includes de-escalation strategies, prevention of positional asphyxia and the duty to intervene in cases of excessive force. All of our patrol officers and detectives are trained by the Dutchess County Department of Mental Hygiene and People Inc. in crisis-intervention training and officers are receiving procedural justice training at the Dutchess County Police Academy.

Sheriff Robert Langley Jr.

PUTNAM COUNTY

The tragic police-custody death of George Floyd on May 25 in Minneapolis is not a reflection on all law-enforcement officers.

I, along with the law-enforcement community, here in Putnam County at the Sheriff's Department and beyond, acknowledge that the conduct of the officers involved is not acceptable, nor will it be tolerated. Throughout the country, law-enforcement professionals are taught proper investigative and arrest techniques and it is clear that this training was not utilized on that day by those involved.

The [actions of the] four Minneapolis officers involved in the death of George Floyd goes against our principles and brings discredit to an honorable profession which holds integrity to the highest standard. I can assure you that the vast majority of the law-enforcement officers in the U.S. are good police and do not behave in the manner that was displayed on that horrible day.

As police officers we strive to be members of the community we serve and build relationships with everyone with whom we come into contact. Sacrifices are made by the men and women who put their lives on the line every single day to be your shield. Our community-based relationships are vital for everyone as it makes all of us better and it enables law enforcement to serve the public we are sworn to serve and provide a safer environment for everyone.

COVID-19 by the Numbers

■ PUTNAM COUNTY

Number of confirmed cases:
1,268 (+32)
Philipstown **119**, Putnam Valley **176**

Tests administered:
10,351 (+1,862)

Percent positive:
12.3 (-2.3)

Number of deaths:
60 (+1)

■ DUTCHESS COUNTY

Number of confirmed cases:
3,962 (+95)
Beacon **91**, Fishkill **59**

Tests administered:
35,599 (+7,013)

Percent positive:
11.1 (-2.4)

Number of deaths:
142 (+3)



Coronavirus Update

■ State health officials said that, as of Thursday (June 4), 1,268 people have tested positive for COVID-19 in Putnam County; 3,962 in Dutchess; 33,767 in Westchester; 13,280 in Rockland; 1,704 in Ulster; and 10,471 in Orange. Statewide, there were 375,133 positives, including 205,406 in New York City. Statewide, 24,133 people had died.

■ Gov. Andrew Cuomo announced on June 4 that the state would expand the criteria that allows people to be tested to include anyone who attended a protest. See coronavirus.health.ny.gov.

■ The state announced that dentists could reopen as of Monday (June 1). The state also said that “outdoor, low-risk recreational activities and businesses providing such activities” are allowed under Phase 1.

■ Cuomo announced on June 3 that outdoor dining at restaurants will be permitted in Phase 2 of the state reopening plan. He said tables must be spaced 6 feet apart, all staff must wear face coverings, and customers must wear face coverings when not seated.

■ The governor said New York City is on track to meet the criteria to begin Phase 1 of reopening on Monday (June 8). It will be the last region in the state to reach that milestone.

■ The Dutchess County Agricultural Society on June 3 canceled the 175th annual Dutchess County Fair, which had been scheduled in

Rhinebeck for Aug. 25 to 30. “We explored all options,” said Andy Imperati, the fair’s president and CEO, in a statement. “We are heartbroken for the small businesses, family farms, competitors and exhibitors and communities who rely on the income and exposure the Dutchess County Fair brings them. We have one chance to do it right and if we cannot present the best of the best to our fair-goers, then we will not do it.”

■ On May 28, Cuomo signed an order to allow private businesses to deny entry to anyone who isn’t wearing a mask or face covering.

■ The Putnam County Office for Senior Resources will be offering free washable cotton face coverings to residents age 60 or older from noon to 2 p.m. on Monday (June 8) at the Philipstown Friendship Center at 1756 Route 9D (Lahey Pavilion), in the Butterfield complex in Cold Spring. Signs will direct cars and walk-ins. Seniors driving in are to remain in their cars and the face coverings will be handed to them on a tray.

■ The Putnam County Veterans Memorial Park in Kent opened on May 30; its hours are 10 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. Parking is limited to 50 cars and no groups are allowed except individual households and family units. Park staff will enforce restrictions such as social distancing and wearing of face masks, the county said. The beach will be open as of today (June 5) at 10:30 a.m.; it will be limited

Step by Step

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

PHASE TWO

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

PHASE THREE

- Restaurants / Food Services

PHASE FOUR

- Arts / Entertainment / Recreation
- Education

Source: forward.ny.gov

to 50 people at a time. The playground, exercise equipment and pavilion remain closed, and all group sports are prohibited.

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

Regional COVID-19 Metrics:
Where Regions Currently Stand

Report as of June 3, 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	✓	✓	0.37 ✓	32% ✓	42% ✓	2,765 / 1,085 ✓	Yes ✓	7/7 ✓
Central New York	✓	✓	0.43 ✓	37% ✓	43% ✓	2,596 / 775 ✓	Yes ✓	7/7 ✓
Finger Lakes	✓	✓	0.69 ✓	36% ✓	52% ✓	3,665 / 1,203 ✓	Yes ✓	7/7 ✓
Long Island	✓	✓	1.03 ✓	29% ✗	38% ✓	9,092 / 2,839 ✓	Yes ✓	6/7 ✗
Mid-Hudson	✓	✓	0.89 ✓	34% ✓	57% ✓	7,028 / 2,322 ✓	Yes ✓	7/7 ✓
Mohawk Valley	✓	✓	0.41 ✓	46% ✓	55% ✓	1,752 / 485 ✓	Yes ✓	7/7 ✓
New York City	✓	✓	1.19 ✓	28% ✗	32% ✓	25,659 / 8,399 ✓	Expected ★	5/7 ✗
North Country	✓	✓	0.08 ✓	48% ✓	70% ✓	1,286 / 419 ✓	Yes ✓	7/7 ✓
Southern Tier	✓	✓	0.21 ✓	46% ✓	44% ✓	1,889 / 633 ✓	Yes ✓	7/7 ✓
Western New York	✓	✓	0.77 ✓	39% ✓	58% ✓	3,732 / 1,381 ✓	Yes ✓	7/7 ✓

All the regions have satisfied the Metric #1 - Decline in Total Hospitalizations and Metric #2 - Decline in Deaths.

Covid-19 by the Numbers Source: New York State Department of Health, with weekly changes. Data current as of June 4. | Regional COVID-19 Metrics Source: Governor's Office

Citing Floyd Protests, Officials Call for Churches to Open

Say residents need place 'to help us heal' from trauma

By Chip Rowe

A group of local and county officials, including Mayor Lee Kyriacou of Beacon, Dutchess County Executive Marc Molinaro and Putnam County Executive MaryEllen Odell, this week urged New York State to allow religious organizations to reopen weeks ahead of schedule during the COVID-19 pandemic “to help us heal” from the trauma of violent protests that have followed the death in Minneapolis of George Floyd while in police custody.

The officials called on Monday (June 1) for churches, synagogues and mosques to be allowed to hold services at 25 percent

capacity. The Mid-Hudson Region, which includes Dutchess and Putnam counties, is in Phase 1 of a four-phase reopening plan; houses of worship are included in Phase 4 of the reopening plan, along with concert halls and stadiums.

On May 14, during an appearance in Syracuse, Gov. Andrew Cuomo said the ban on services “has nothing to do with religion. It’s the gathering.... The last thing you want is 100, 200, people in close proximity.”

A week later, the state said it would allow, with restrictions in place, religious gatherings of no more than 10 people, along with unlimited attendance at 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 organi-

zations 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 as long as social-distancing is maintained.

In their June 1 statement, the local and county officials argued that religious organizations should be allowed to hold services “to help address the pent-up anger, anguish and tensions” in response to Floyd’s death.

“We acknowledge the urgent need to address injustice wherever it resides in America, including right here in our own communities,” the statement said. “As Gov. Cuomo himself said, although we do not condone violence, theft and property destruction, we understand the anger and grief being expressed as a result of this senseless killing. It could not happen at a worse time as people

have been cooped up in their homes as we shelter in place to stem the transmission of a vicious and deadly virus.

“Our churches, synagogues, mosques and other houses of faith need to be available for neighbors, leaders and community to come together,” they wrote. “And the personal interaction that occurs in faith communities can prove invaluable.”

Opening churches “can be a powerful sign and send a strong message to the people of America that we are still one nation, indivisible, and that we seek liberty and justice for all. Open the doors to our houses of faith — if only with limited capacity — to help us heal. Stay safe. Be well. We are all in this together.”

Along with Kyriacou, Molinaro and Odell, the statement was signed by the county executives of Orange, Ulster and Rockland counties and the mayors of Kingston, Poughkeepsie, Newburgh and Port Jervis.

Phase 2 (from Page 1)

Wednesday (June 3) said restaurants will be able to offer outdoor service as long as the tables are 6 feet apart, all staff wear masks, and customers wear masks when not seated.

Phase 2 also will loosen restrictions for retailers, allowing them to have customers come inside to shop as long as capacity remains at less than 50 percent.

In Phase 1, which began in the Mid-Hudson on May 26, construction projects and manufacturing were allowed to restart; agricultural, fishing and hunting businesses opened; and retailers could have customers pick up orders.

Seven of the state’s 10 regions — Capital, Central New York, Finger Lakes, Mohawk Valley, North Country, Southern Tier and Western New York — have moved to Phase 2. The Mid-Hudson and Long Island remain in Phase 1, while New York City is expected to begin Phase 1 on Monday (June 8).

A cut, but no shave

“I’m ready to go back to work,” said Lucky Longo, who owns A Lucky Cut in Beacon and plans to open on July 1. “It’s felt like a year already.”

Under Phase 2, barbers and salons can only serve customers who make an appointment. Walk-ins are not permitted, unless they can be served immediately. The state is also requiring barbers and stylists to keep at least 6 feet space between chairs and eliminate waiting areas.

In addition to buying hand-sanitizer dispensers and placing stickers on the floor to remind customers about mask and social-distancing requirements, Longo removed one of her three chairs. In Nelsonville, Deb MacLeod has also repositioned her shop’s chairs.

At Barber and Brew in Cold Spring, the three barbers will work in rotation six days a week, said James Carroll, a co-owner. Appointment slots will expand to one hour from 35 minutes to avoid having a customer arrive while the person ahead of them is still in the chair.

Barbers will sanitize between each cut and have to take and report their temperature



Although she will be able to allow customers to browse inside The Country Goose in Cold Spring during Phase 2, Leonora Burton said she remains wary.

Photo by L. Sparks

before starting a shift, Carroll said. Both he and Longo said their services will be limited to the scalp, with no shaves or beard trims.

“If you have a mask on, it’s hard to trim your beard,” he said.

Home showings

During the shutdown, real-estate agents shifted from meeting potential buyers at properties to “virtual” showings. Under Phase 2, agents will be able to again show clients properties, although only those that are unoccupied or vacant.

Agents will have to stagger showings so potential buyers are not congregating inside or out. Everyone must wear masks, and gloves will have to be replaced or cleaned and disinfected between showings.

Before the shutdown, agents such as Bill Hussung, the owner of Robert A. McCaffrey Realty in Cold Spring, reported a huge demand in local properties from New York City residents seeking to move north because of COVID-19.

Demand remained “tremendous” even after showings moved online, he said.

Despite the allowances of Phase 2, the New York State Association of Realtors has issued preliminary guidelines that discourage in-person showings, Hussung said. Its final guidelines will be released today (June 5), he said.

“We have to take all the precautions, we have to be safe, we have to protect the community and we also have to help people,” Hussung said.

Small spaces

While professional offices will be allowed to reopen in Phase 2, their occupancy will be limited to 50 percent of capacity.

Social distancing is not possible for firms with small offices, such as River Architects in Cold Spring. Co-owners Juhee Lee-Hartford and James Hartford said they will continue to communicate remotely with staff, which includes four full-time architects. “We have pinch points up and down the stairs and in our kitchenette, which truly makes it close to unworkable,” said Hartford.

Phase 1

Strips of bright orange tape, spaced 6 feet apart, demarcate the floor of Archipelago,

(Continued on Page 10)

Phase 2 *(from Page 9)*

the Main Street shop Tim Chevtakin owns in Cold Spring.

A bottle of hand sanitizer sits on a stand by the front desk. Outside, on a chalkboard sign, Chevtakin has spelled out his rules: up to four customers at a time, masks required.

Getting ready to reopen Archipelago has required some work, he said. But so did being closed. His Instagram and Facebook pages had to be updated each day. He responded to customer inquiries with photos, and sometimes the dimensions, of items.

Reopening Resources

The Mid-Hudson Region could advance next week to the second of four stages in the state's reopening plan. Here are some resources for the process:

- New York State provides an overview of businesses that will be cleared for reopening during each phase. See forward.ny.gov/industries-reopening-phase.
- The state provides loans for businesses, nonprofits and small landlords. See esd.ny.gov/nyforwardloans-info.
- Empire State Development lists funding and grant programs at esd.ny.gov/sites/default/files/Additional%20Resources.pdf.
- Dutchess County has created a Business Notification Network at dutchessbnn.com.
- Community Capital New York offers emergency express loans for businesses in Dutchess, Putnam and five other counties. See communitycapitalny.org/emergency-express-loan.
- The Dutchess County Regional Chamber of Commerce has a resource page at dcrcc.org.
- The U.S. Department of Agriculture has a food assistance program for farmers impacted by COVID-19. See farmers.gov/cfap.
- Central Hudson has launched a program for its business customers with up to 20 employees that provides grants of up to \$10,000 to pay down loans from participating banks. See cenhud.com/backtobusiness.

"I would come in four to five hours a day to do that every single day while I was closed," he said. "It wasn't bad, but it's not the same as when you're open."

Last week, under Phase 1, Chevtakin and other local businesses reemerged to a new normal, with requirements for social distancing, face coverings and the monitoring of employees for COVID-19 symptoms.

"It's going to take a while for people to get used to, but that's the way it is," Chevtakin said.

On Route 9D, Unicorn Contracting had an exemption during the shutdown to complete the outside of a 28-unit building at the Residences at Butterfield in Cold Spring. Work restarted May 26 on the inside and is expected to be complete in October, said Paul Guillaro, Unicorn's president.

Masks and gloves are mandatory, no matter the distance between workers, he said. While contractors are required to check the temperatures of workers before they arrive at the site, Unicorn has a doctor who goes through the building at least once or twice each day to check on workers, including spot checks.

"We're being extra cautious to make sure that only people that are healthy are on the job," he said.

In Beacon, Baxter Built, a Poughkeepsie-based developer and construction company, resumed work on a 28-unit condo project at 245 Main St. Because of the shutdown, the project is more than two months behind schedule, said Anthony Petruzzelli, a project executive.

Carpenters, electricians, plumbers and other trades workers returning to the project will find new rules. "It's important that we follow these guidelines and keep everybody safe," Petruzzelli said.

Some wary

At The Country Goose in Cold Spring, Leonora Burton has a hard-to-miss poster in the window that she custom-ordered from Grey Printing. "Shop Local, Shop Safely," it reads.

Burton, whose brother-in-law in England died of complications of COVID-19, remained open during the shutdown because she sells food. But sales dropped dramatically, and she had to lay off her sole employee.

She said she will limit access to two customers at a time, and no one can touch anything.

"Until things get cleared up, I'm not anxious to get back to the old touchy-feely," she said.

Shana Wilensky and her family, who sell jewelry, antiques, home décor and collectable action figures from After Eden in Beacon, have ordered a stand to hold hand sanitizer but are too concerned about a second wave to allow customers inside, even for pickup and drop-off.

Reopening is "exciting," Wilensky said, but for now, customers have to pick up items outside.

"I would love to reopen soon; I miss my customers," she said. "But also, it's nerve-racking; it feels like a big responsibility to make sure that we have a safe environment for people."

Cold Spring *(from Page 1)*

Last year, the police department in Germantown, Maryland, removed a donated thin-blue-line flag after a public outcry. In December, flags appeared outside two police stations in New York City, prompting similar protests. And on May 31, in Hamilton County, Ohio, the sheriff's department flew the flag following days of unrest in Cincinnati, prompting a rebuke from the county commissioner, who said, "I know I am not alone in my view that flying the flag was provocative and inappropriate, especially in the context of this weekend's events."

At the Cold Spring Village Board meeting, Trustee Steve Voloto noted that "it is the exact flag of the white nationalist group that came out in response to Black Lives Matter" at the Charlottesville rally. He acknowledged that police departments fly the flag "to show support for the men and women who put their lives on the line every day to protect us. That's why our guys have them on their cars."

But, he said, "Did they not know the history? Did they have it before and the [white supremacists] used it as their symbol? It doesn't belong on our cars with what's going on in the world. If the stupid bumper sticker pisses people off, take it off the cars. Why are we even talking about it? Pick a sticker that has more positive meaning."

Trustee Lynn Miller said that because the flag's meaning is open to interpretation, she would favor removing it from the police vehicles.

"It's kind of bad form to take our American flag and represent it differently," she said. "That actually is against the flag code. Don't put symbols on police cars that are going to be divisive. Put a shield that says 'To protect and serve,' or something that celebrates the dedication of our cops to our community. Put an American flag."

"I don't see how it helps anything, especially with the events of this past week," she added, referring to the death last month in Minneapolis of a black man, George Floyd, while in police custody, and the protests and clashes that have occurred around the country since.

"We have great cops," Miller said. "But we should remove all barriers that might prevent anyone from approaching them for help."

Trustee Fran Murphy disagreed. "I am in favor of leaving them; it shows support for our police," she said. "People can read anything into anything; there are different definitions and meanings. No one put them there out of anything racist."

Larry Burke, the officer-in-charge of the Cold Spring Police Department, said he added the decals to the vehicles about a year ago and acknowledged that some people misunderstand their intent.

"It doesn't mean the blue line of silence: it means we are respecting all officers killed in the line of duty," he said. Opposition to the decals "is a knee-jerk reaction" because of the protests, he said.

Burke said that while the thin blue line may have been "hijacked" by extremist groups, he would push back on having the



The thin-blue-line flag is seen by some as a tribute and others as a rebuke.

decals removed but would abide by whatever the Village Board decided. "I'm not looking to offend anyone by putting them on our police cars," he said.

Many of the spectators at the Zoom meeting said via chat that they were offended by the decals, Murphy said, a reaction she also said she felt was heightened by the current unrest.

Merandy said the board needs "a bit more time" to consider the issue and to research the meaning behind the symbol. "This is all new to me; I want to do the right thing here," he said.

"We support our police," Merandy said, adding that if the decals are removed it would not mean that the CSPD officers are not appreciated.

The mayor, who rarely comments on national issues, said he finds the situation across the nation disturbing. "I don't want to fan the flames that are burning our whole nation," he said. "It's a sad situation. It's incredibly disturbing and I can't believe how low we are going, or where the bottom is. Some people say there is no bottom and maybe that's true. We are not headed in the right direction. Hopefully we can find a leader that can turn this around."

"This is just a terrible situation. From my point of view, being mayor of our little town, what I saw on those films was — I think 'repugnant' sums it up pretty much."

Reopening the village

If the metrics remain on track, the Mid-Hudson Region could begin Phase 2 of the state's reopening plan on Tuesday (June 9). Merandy and trustees outlined what residents can expect when the next phase begins:

- Riverfront Park, Dockside Park and Mayor's Park will reopen on weekends but with possible restrictions. The Tot Park will remain closed.
- The board passed a resolution prohibiting sandwich board signs or merchandise on Main Street sidewalks.
- Main Street sidewalks will feature one-way pedestrian traffic arrows.
- Signs on Main will reinforce mask and social distancing requirements.
- The state's reopening guidelines must be posted in each shop.
- Some Main Street benches will be removed, especially in areas with narrow sidewalks. The dead tree in front of Hudson Hills will be removed and replaced by brick.

(Continued on Page 17)

The Calendar

The Artist Next Door

Marieken Cochius

By Alison Rooney

Growing up in the Netherlands, Marieken Cochius says she always wanted to leave the country.

"It is beautiful but overdeveloped," says the painter, sculptor and printmaker from Beacon. "It has picturesque cities, and the rest is flat, fertile, all forestry and agriculture. I always wanted to see a bear, or a wolf."

A bit frustrated by her university studies, which began with photography and shifted into film, Cochius moved to New York City in 1987, a place not known for bears or wolves. "It was mainly for art," she says.

Nature continued to tug at Cochius — "I always missed it, even though I never had it" — but city life suited her, too. "Color started coming," she says. "I started doing art photography again, then I made assemblages, putting things together."

"I'm somebody who thinks with her hands," she says. "I'm not a planner; my brain doesn't work that way. Ever since I was young, I came home with things in my pockets: feathers, moss, clovers. I've always been looking and gathering. In Brooklyn, I made things from stuff I found in little electronics stores on Canal Street."

After 9/11, Cochius found herself depressed. She was unable to create art for a year, she says. Needing a change, Cochius learned how to drive and began exploring the U.S. "I would sublet my place [in New York City] for three months and go to deserts, wild places."

Her first trip, she says, was to El Paso, Texas. "I booked a flight, bought a tent and went camping in the desert for two months. I was terrified. I encountered things like brown recluse spiders and scorpions, but I fell in love with the land, the dirt, rock formations, the cactus spines, the fossils. I started making art again."

Over the years, she visited Colorado, Montana and Nova Scotia, often accompanied by one of her rescued German Shepherds. Finally, in 2012, she and her husband, an outdoorsman-turned-accountant (they met while skiing) decided to drive east, with the notion that a place they had never visited — the east bank of the Hudson Valley — might be the place for them.

The work that Cochius has done since is indicative of her quest to "always do new things. At one point, I made a deal with myself: I get to do everything I want. It often feels like I'm working on a giant puzzle where it's not always evident how things connect. Yet, at some point I began to see a consistent visual language."

Nature moves her, particularly disparate yet connected strands such as root systems,

the movement of microscopic organisms, how the wind moves water. "The first intentions are to make them — whether it's pine needles, driftwood or beautiful paper — submit to the whole. There has to be a reason for it to be a part of the thing I am making."

In her latest series, *Motherboard*, she mixed organic materials with metallic paper. "I've always been very interested in geology, biology, physics, neuroscience," she says. "I love the way knowledge is stored. The series is an attempt to show the human influence in nature. It includes the metallic paper referencing computer chips, and additional components such as those little things that come down from maple trees. My whole house is filled with leaves."

"I have these conversations with the work: What does 'it' want? Whatever I try it's not going to be happy until I try. It's a separate entity from me. After it's done, sometimes I cover it for a while and let it stew in its own juices and become its own self."

In a busy stretch curtailed by the pandemic, Cochius had work scheduled to appear in four shows; all have been postponed until at least September. Another, larger project is also on hold: "Gathering," a site-specific driftwood-on-metal sculpture commissioned by Wappingers Falls for its community boathouse that was funded by the Hudson River Foundation. "I was inspired by the herons, beavers' dams, the gathering of sticks," she says.

Cochius says that sheltering in place has influenced her creatively. "The last piece I finished caught me by surprise. It's more celestial, more soothing, more healing. I don't know where it's going to go. I'm rigorous — every day I work in my studio. I paint, collage, work on frames, eat, read and apply for everything I can find, but also friends are sick, and I'm shopping for them and trying to help where I can. Sometimes, I think we all feel lonely; there's a physical missing."

"Still, there's a resilience for most people. Artists are used to rejection, to finding different solutions, to acknowledge that, 'This is what I'm supposed to do and I'm going to find a way to do it.'"



"Element #4"



"Element #7"



"Element #2"



Marieken Cochius

Photo by Patrick Oehler



"Gathering"



"Portal"

THE WEEK AHEAD

Edited by Pamela Doan (calendar@highlandscurrent.org)

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

COMMUNITY

SAT 6

5K Run & Walk With the Dogs

BEACON

Animal Rescue Foundation
bit.ly/arf-run-2020

Register by WED 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: \$3

SUN 7

Farmers' Market

BEACON

10 a.m. – Noon. Veterans Place
beaconfarmersmarket.org

Order online for pickup. Walk-up shoppers will be accommodated as space allows.

TUES 9

Invasive Species Training

MILLBROOK

9:30 a.m. CCE Dutchess County

In the first of four weekly sessions, learn how to identify and report sightings of the spotted lanternfly, jumping worms and beech leaf disease. To register, call 845-677-8223, ext. 134, or email jdt225@cornell.edu.

TUES 9

New Leaf Garden

COLD SPRING

7 p.m. Butterfield Library
butterfieldlibrary.org

Hear the latest plans for a community garden on town-owned property at the corner of Routes 9D and 403 in Garrison.

FRI 12

Virtual Friday Soiree

GARRISON

5:30 p.m. Antipodean Books

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

STAGE & SCREEN

SAT 6

Spooky Stories on the Hudson

PUTNAM VALLEY

7:30 p.m.

Tompkins Corners Cultural Center
facebook.com/tompkinscorners

How did a giant make the Hudson flow both ways? What spirits make you tip your hat to them in the Highlands? How did a horror happening to an early settler of Putnam Valley turn into a blessing? Storyteller Jonathan Kruk will perform live around a bonfire to share history-based tales with haunting twists.



Climbing the Walls, June 6

WED 10

The Dubliners

PUTNAM VALLEY

7 p.m. Tompkins Corners Cultural Center
facebook.com/tompkinscorners

Peter Gerety and Patricia McGuire, under the direction of Alice Jankell, will present a selection of James Joyce's classic novel.



SUN 14

Open Mic: Poetry and Spoken Word

PUTNAM VALLEY

3 – 5 p.m.

Tompkins Corners Cultural Center
facebook.com/tompkinscorners

Anne Graue, author of *Fig Tree in Winter*, will share her poetry via Zoom, followed by an open mic for up to 18 readers.

TALKS

WED 10

Attachment and Awareness in Times of Stress

GARRISON

5 p.m. Garrison Institute
garrisoninstitute.org

Dr. Dan Siegel, a professor of psychiatry at UCLA, and Mark Greenberg, a retired professor of prevention research at Penn State, will discuss emotional regulation and how parents and educators can support children in times of stress and isolation. Online registration required.



Siegel

THURS 11

DIY Ginger Ale

BEACON

1 p.m. Howland Public Library
845-831-1134 | beaconlibrary.org

Velya Jancz-Urban, a former Brazilian dairy farmer, and her daughter, Ehris, a “green witch,” will present this Zoom workshop to help participants “gingerly adjust to the new normal” by making their own ginger ale and vanilla and almond extract. Email adults@beaconlibrary.org.

FRI 12

Open Space Has Gone Viral

GARRISON

11 a.m. Hudson Highlands Land Trust

The land trust will host this webinar on open space with speakers from the state parks department, New York-New Jersey Trail Conference and Scenic Hudson. Register at bit.ly/3cw805d.

VISUAL ARTS

SAT 6

Climbing the Walls

PEEKSKILL

Hudson Valley Museum of Contemporary Art
hudsonvalleymoca.org

Through Sept. 6, MOCA and Studio Theater in Exile are offering a free virtual exhibit of artwork, poetry and performances. It opens today, and new content will be posted each week.

WED 10

Artist of the Week

BEACON

baugallery.org

Each week the gallery interviews a local artist and spotlights his or her work. Melissa Schlobohm is featured through TUES 9.

SAT 13

Member Exhibit and Sale

GARRISON

Garrison Art Center
garrisonartcenter.org

The annual show and sale, conducted online, will continue through June 21.

MUSIC

THURS 11

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

KIDS & FAMILY

MON 8

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 10.

TUES 9

New Parents' Support Group

GARRISON

11 a.m. – 1 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library
desmondfishlibrary.org

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

TUES 9

YOU Picasso Kids

COLD SPRING

10:30 a.m. Butterfield Library

All you will need is paper and a Sharpie, crayons or markers for this nine-session Zoom workshop led by Kinga Lesniak. In the first meeting, participants will visit Greece. Register at bit.ly/3cuhoGn.



WED 10

Sing and Move for Toddlers

GARRISON

10 a.m. Desmond-Fish Library

Miss Gabi leads this weekly session. Register at bit.ly/singandmove.

THURS 11

Drag Queen Story Time

GARRISON

6 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library
desmondfishlibrary.org

Angel Elektra will reading on Zoom for children ages 12 and younger and their caretakers in celebration of Pride Month. Online registration required.

THURS 11

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 12

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.

CIVIC

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

SAT 6

Gov. Cuomo Briefing

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

MON 8

City Council

BEACON

7 p.m. City Hall
cityofbeacon.org

Among other business, Police Chief Kevin Junjulas will discuss best practices and training for his officers.

TUES 9

School District Votes

Ballots mailed to each registered voter in the Garrison, Haldane and Beacon districts to weigh in on the budget and open trustee seats must be received by 5 p.m.

TUES 9

Board of Trustees

COLD SPRING

7:30 p.m. Village Hall
coldspringny.gov

WED 10

Village Board

NELSONVILLE

7 p.m. Village Hall
nelsonvilleny.gov

Among the issues on the agenda at this workshop: parking on Secor/Spring, trees and termites, landscape debris pickup, active sidewalks, paving and roof estimates, invasive species and 5G technology.

WED 10

School Board

GARRISON

7 p.m. Garrison School | gufs.org

Something You Don't Know About Me

Colm O'Shea

Colm O'Shea, who lives in Beacon, teaches writing at New York University. He spoke with Alison Rooney.

I had just finished a Ph.D. in Ireland and decided I didn't want to be an academic, so I went to Oxford University to study screenwriting. I tend to do things backward. After I earned my master of fine arts, New York City seemed like it would be a back-end way of breaking into film. My timing was not great — it was early 2008, just before the world collapsed, and I had no contacts and no job prospects.

One day I was sitting in Union Square Park when this hippie girl approached me with a huge flower — a psychedelic vision — and she handed it to me, saying, “Here, you look like you need this,” and walked away. I thought, “OK, I’ll give it to my girlfriend.” Soon after, a guy came up and gave me a flyer for a free movie screening, which I went to.

The film was this bizarre French thing about two pregnant women who are in a car crash, and one has a miscarriage and hunts down the pregnant one. [The film, *Inside*, is described online as a “horror thriller.”] There was a focus-group leader at the screening; I’ll call him “Jim.” He noted my flower and gave me his card and asked me to



Colm O'Shea holding his newborn son, Tadhg, in April

Photo provided

contact him. I thought, “I can show films to people,” but the job was actually recruiting audiences for the independent film division of Nielsen [the market-research company].

Although he worked for Nielsen, Jim's office was this rundown, shaggy place that seemed more like a front for a criminal enterprise. Jim was a charismatic mystery man, a chatty aesthete. He had two lieutenants, a middle-aged couple — the husband was in waste management, the wife wore tight leather pants, and they both made sexual innuendos all the time.

Jim ran the screenings and the couple

managed the office. They recruited people like me, immigrants with no connections. There was a father and son — the dad was like the Dustin Hoffman character of Ratso Rizzo in *Midnight Cowboy*, if you remember it. It was a poignant spectacle.

Our job was to hand out flyers on the street to get people to come to the screenings. They often had strange demographic specifications. For one screening I was asked to procure an audience that was 1 percent Native American. Or they'd say, “We want 20 African Americans.” What are you supposed to do, approach someone and say, “Hi, you look historically oppressed. Would you like to see a free movie?”

All of the documents looked corporate, but the operation was run by misfits; I was a misfit among misfits. Even dangling free popcorn didn't always help. People I approached only cared about the genre — the favorite was action-adventure — and who was in it. I still had romantic notions from my MFA work about “crafting” something, but this training on the streets of New York washed those away.

My recruiting numbers were low, so they sent me to learn from their top recruiter, who was from the Dominican Republic. He shared his secrets with me. He said, “Customers are like women; you have to seduce them.” I don't think I learned that much from him. The handing-out-flyers method doesn't work. As soon as people see you, they're trying to get away. They should have given me a desk.

Sometimes there were filmmakers at the screenings but they weren't introduced to

the audience. They would sit quietly in the back, watching as groups of random strangers ripped their work apart. One particularly vicious session was for a documentary called *Where in the World is Osama bin Laden?* The director was Morgan Spurlock, who had made *Super Size Me* [in which he ate every meal at McDonald's for a month]. That was popular, but the audience hated this one. Jim was fielding the questions, and the audience was abusing the film, not knowing the filmmaker was in the theater. I saw this happen many times. It was a real slap in the face for some pretty egotistical people.

Harvey Weinstein showed up once. A friend saw him barking into the phone and thought he was a crazy homeless guy. The film being shown was not a great movie — it was a botched edit of a Mickey Rourke vehicle — and Harvey was nervous. He was controlling almost every detail of the screening. For some reason, I had taken off my ID lanyard. Why, I don't know, but Weinstein spotted me and ran after me, acting as if he might attack me, because he was convinced I was a journalist gathering muck on the production. Luckily my boss intercepted and explained the situation and calmed him down, although he did scream, “Tell him to put his [expletive] lanyard on!” Which I did.

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



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**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**



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Mouths to Feed

A Dal to Remember

By Celia Barbour

My husband, Peter, doesn't cook often, but when he does, there's a good chance it will be lentil soup. Of the past 10 dinners he's made, I'd estimate that lentil soup comprised at least five of them. Whenever he makes it, I am always newly surprised at how good it is. It's as if some tenacious idea that I don't like lentil soup lays claim to my mind, and no matter how many bowlfuls of evidence to the contrary I consume, this underlying belief returns the moment the dishes are washed and put away.

The upside is that every time he makes it, I experience it as a happy discovery, like: Wow! Who knew lentil soup could be so good?

Not that I resist all lentils. I very much love to make red lentil dal, an aromatic Indian stew. The name "red lentil dal" is actually a kind of tautology, because the word *dal* also means "lentil" in Hindi. Dal additionally refers to any kind of legume (mung bean, chickpea, dried pea) as well as the various different stews and pastes made from them. A more accurate name for this dish, then, is "masoor dal."

Translations aside, I am clear on what I mean when I say "dal" because who doesn't know the object of their longings? My dal-crush was ignited a dozen years ago when I came across a recipe that pleased me enormously. It was both simpler and tastier than others I'd made. My favorite detail was the toasted mustard seeds sprinkled

on top that produced tiny pops of happy mischief on the tongue. I made it several times before the recipe disappeared.

Where did it go? I wish I knew. I've searched for that recipe numerous times since. I've interrogated my memory — Are you sure it was online? Are you sure it featured red lentils and not, say, chickpeas? — but every alternate approach has proved just as fruitless. I'm stuck pining after a culinary ghost.

The reason I'd gone looking for that dal recipe in the first place was because I had been visiting my dear friend (and culinary idol) Frances. She said, "I like to have a pot of dal in the fridge in case the kids want a snack." Both her children and mine were under 10 at that time, but only one of our sets of offspring snacked on dal. I was determined to correct that imbalance.

I recently tried yet again to dig up that recipe because my son Henry (who has grown up in the years since, as kids will do) came home in March announcing that he's vegetarian. Well, there you go: You send a kid to college hoping he will not merely learn but be changed by what he learns, and then you are stuck making supper for the human being who results from that endeavor.

The dal I now make is probably every bit as delicious as that earlier version. But I remain haunted by the memory of my lost dal, convinced that it was somehow more luscious, more aromatic, more... perfect. Memory has a strange way of prejudicing us against tasting what's right in front of us.

Not likewise burdened by lentils of yore, my family thinks this version is the bomb, just as they love Peter's lentil soup, openly and without resistance. I always make enough to have leftovers in the fridge, so that at snack time, when the kids automatically reach into the pantry for their go-to favorites, I can remind them an alternative is available. We all so quickly grow set in our ways. All the better, then, to be nudged toward surprise.

“Dal means 'lentil' in Hindi. It additionally refers to any kind of legume (mung bean, chickpea, dried pea) as well as the various different stews and pastes made from them.



Masoor (Red Lentil) Dal

At first glance, the ingredient list looks long, but once you've collected your spices, it comes together quite easily. When preparing the aromatics, have everything ready by the stove before you heat your oil because the spices can burn quickly.

FOR THE STEW:

3 cups red lentils (masoor dal)
1 large red or yellow onion, half roughly chopped, the other half minced and reserved
1½ cups tomato puree
½ teaspoon cayenne pepper
1 teaspoon ground cumin
1 teaspoon ground coriander
½ teaspoon ground turmeric
1 tablespoon salt

FOR THE AROMATICS:

2 tablespoons coconut oil or neutral vegetable oil
2 teaspoons cumin seeds
1 teaspoon black or yellow mustard seeds
1 teaspoon grated fresh ginger, optional
1 14-ounce can coconut milk

FOR SERVING:

Fresh cilantro, optional
Rice

1. Prepare the stew: Combine all 8 ingredients in a large pot (setting aside the half onion you minced). Add 7 cups of water, bring to a boil and simmer over low heat until the lentils start to break down, about 25 minutes.
2. Prepare the aromatics: Combine the cumin and mustard seeds in a small dish. In a separate bowl, mix together the minced onion and ginger. Place both dishes by the stove. In a medium skillet, heat the coconut oil over medium-high heat. When hot, add the seeds (watch out for spattering!) and cook briefly, tossing, just until they start to pop, about 12 seconds. Immediately add the onion mixture and sauté until golden. Mix contents of the skillet into the lentils along with the coconut milk, and heat just until hot.
3. Serve over rice, with fresh cilantro on top.

Photo by Henry Weed



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Gergely Pediatrics

COVID19 PANDEMIC

It has been a busy few months here at Gergely Pediatrics trying to keep our doors open and everyone safe. Our patient and staff safety remains our number one priority.

Since Wednesday, March 25th, we have been seeing all sick children via telehealth video appointments only and will be continuing to use telehealth for all sick visits until we feel it is safe to resume in office visits. We are now seeing well children ONLY in our office. Please call today to schedule your annual physical. We are following the guidelines of the American Academy of Pediatrics to continue seeing all healthy, well children in our office.

We are taking the following precautions:

- Pre visit COVID symptom and history screening for all visits
- Modified Provider Schedules with reduced patient volume
- Remote Check-in: we will have a streamlined check-in process. Forms and co-pays can be processed remotely.
- Where possible, patients will skip the front desk and proceed directly to the exam room.
- Upon arrival, everyone who is 2 years and older (who will tolerate) will have to wear masks.
- In addition to prescreening for COVID-19 symptoms before arrival, screening will be done upon arrival, including but not limited to temperature screening.
- Social Distancing: We have changed appointment time slots in order to space out scheduled appointments
- Disinfection and Cleaning: Our locations are repeatedly and thoroughly sanitized after every patient is seen throughout each day. Exam rooms are cleaned with EPA approved wipes between patient visits.
- Staff and Patient Protection: Our care teams follow CDC guidelines, have the proper personal protective equipment (PPE) and wear it at all times. We have also established screening and testing protocols for our care teams.

We remain dedicated to serving our patients and community. From all of us at Gergely Pediatrics we thank you for your support and patience during this time.

We will be remaining closed on Saturdays but still available by phone. If you should get the answering service and feel that you cannot wait until we open up again, please leave a message with the service. We will continue to keep you informed as events change. Please continue to check our website for update: gergelypediatrics.com

What is a Virtual Visit?

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

Will my insurance cover a Virtual Visit?

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

COVID -19 Hotline at NY Presbyterian Hospital:

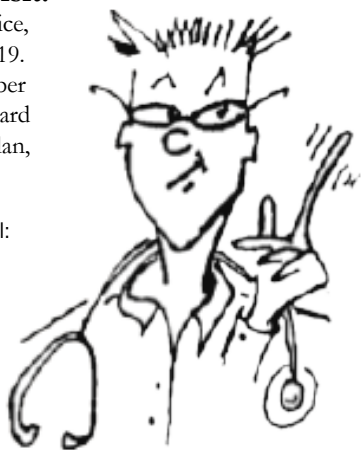
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The wood chips piled around this maple tree will impact its root growth.



A mature shrub in my yard has solid root flare.

Photos by P. Doan

Roots and Shoots

Think Like a Tree

By Pamela Doan

Recently I transplanted four river birch and three elderberry shrubs that I tucked into the raised bed of my garden as seedlings years ago.

They are 3 to 10 feet tall now and I did everything wrong in reference to timing. Even though I was careful about digging out the roots, I still had to cut the primary root of each out of the hardware cloth of the bed. I tried to make up for the not-so-perfect conditions with good planting, water and managing the rest of the root ball carefully.

Trees in nature have visible thick roots showing at the base of the trunk. This is called "root flare." The root flare should be showing just above the soil when you plant a tree. Deeper than this and the roots could circle and girdle the trunk, cutting off water and nutrients to the tree.

The next time you're walking in a forest, notice how the roots of trees meet the soil. Then compare that with how the roots of trees look in your yard or in other places where people have deposited them.

Root flare should also be visible and open, protected from the mulch we tend to pile around our trees. There's even a term for it, "volcano mulch," in which the trunk sticks up from the mound of mulch. Often you'll notice trees that stick straight up from the soil as if they'd been jammed down into it. Below the soil there's probably a girdling root.

Here's the thing about root flare: Once you know about it, you won't look at trees the same way again. I'd guess that more than 50 percent of the trees I see planted by people have problems that impact whether the tree will thrive.

Here are some tips on how to plant a tree:

Roots

Whether it's a seedling or a more mature tree, examine the root structure before planting. Remove any burlap or other wrapping. Rinse the soil from the root ball to find the primary root and expose the root structure. Cut away any circling roots.

The hole

After digging seven planting holes in clay soil filled with rocks, I know what I'm about to tell you to do is hard. Excavate an area twice as wide as the roots but only slightly deeper than it needs to sit at the correct height above the soil.

When you hold up the tree, you'll notice that the column directly under the trunk is higher than the space where the roots spread out. This area needs to be supported well. Pile soil underneath it for solid placement.

Filling the hole

Replace the soil around the roots. It isn't necessary to add compost or amendments. In fact, research has shown that successful plantings use only native soil.

Separate any rocks. As they shift in the ground, the tree will move, too. You want a base of soil that it can spread out in.

Pack the soil gently but firmly over and around the roots. You don't want a lot of air pockets that will cause the tree to shift.

After planting

Water the tree in well. In the first season, make sure to water regularly, maybe even daily. The root system won't be developed to get to the water it needs.

Spread wood chip mulch in a 2-foot diameter around the tree up to the trunk but not piled around it to suppress weeds that will compete with it and retain moisture. Weed regularly.

It's not too late

Now that your eyes have been opened to best practices for tree planting, you might find trees that aren't thriving in your landscape. It's possible and even the best thing to dig them up and try to correct the roots if they are small enough to manage.



Nico Lagerman hangs a poster distributed by the Cold Spring Chamber of Commerce in the window of *The Current* office on Main Street. Photo by Michael Turton

Cold Spring (from Page 10)

- The municipal parking lot on Fair Street will reopen.
- New York State Parks will reopen, although the beach at Little Stony Point will remain closed.
- The Justice Court will reopen with restrictions.
- Village boards and committees will resume meeting via video-conference with small meetings possible in the courtroom.
- Village Hall will reopen July 1, with meetings with the clerk by appointment only until then.

Big events

Laura Drummond, the organizer of the Putnam County Wine and Food Festival scheduled for August, and John Scherer, who had planned to hold a Hops-on-the-Hudson event in July, each emailed the village, asking the board to reconsider its May 26 decision to not allow any large events until at least September.

The board did not reverse either decision, although Trustee Marie Early supported reconsidering Scherer's event, which she described as well-organized and reasonable.

Scherer attended Tuesday's meeting to plead his case. He and Merandy engaged in an animated exchange, with Scherer continuing to press the mayor for flexibility.

Clearly agitated, Merandy responded, "We are the representatives of this village and safety is paramount. Did you not hear anything I said — the part about 500 people coming to our village?"

Scherer countered that his event would be a controlled environment and concluded sarcastically, saying, "I appreciate your time, thanks for being so considerate, and you have a good night. Bye-bye, Dave!" He returned later and apologized for his abrupt exit, but hinted he will look for a new venue.

Main Street

Rock Street resident Ryan Trow said he has spoken with at least 20 business owners who support his idea of closing all or parts of Main Street on Fridays and Saturdays to help stores, and later restaurants, to limit customers to 50 percent of capacity. "It would make a substantial difference in

their ability to remain viable for the foreseeable future," he said.

Trow said the limited-capacity rule could be in place until there's a vaccine, and that many business owners say they cannot be viable with that restriction. He warned of empty storefronts that would take years to be reoccupied.

"If we can be innovative we can compete with the villages and towns that surround us that are already thinking about these types of plans," Trow said.

He said he had sent a concept map to Merandy that calls for closing Main Street to vehicles. A less-aggressive approach could include sections of the traveled portion of the street and some sections of parking.

The board said it would discuss Trow's proposal at its Tuesday (June 9) meeting.

Merandy said he has thought about closing Main but that Trow's plan presents a number of concerns, such as pushing traffic to sides streets and the need to route Metro-North traffic through Forge Gate Condominiums, which is private property. He also pointed to weekend business deliveries and the impact the closure would have on residents of Main Street.

"But I'm willing to listen," he said. "I'm interested in seeing how it will work."

Village resident Tara Vamos said she has also submitted plans for the board's consideration, including making Main Street one way and eliminating at least one lane of parking.

In other business...

■ Recycling placed in plastic bags will no longer be picked up by the Highway Department. Recycling must be placed in bins, garbage cans or paper bags. The village also plans this summer to phase out plastic bags for yard and lawn debris.

■ Tax bills, which were mailed this past week, may be paid without penalty through June 30 by dropping payments in the mail slot at Village Hall or by mailing them to Village of Cold Spring, 85 Main St., Cold Spring NY 10516. Only checks or money orders are accepted. Taxes unpaid as of July 1 will incur a 5 percent penalty for the first month and an additional 1 percent for each month or fraction thereof until paid. Village Hall remains closed for all other matters.

Beacon School District Adds Vote Boxes

Ballots must be received by 5 p.m. on June 9

By Jeff Simms

Because of an envelope shortage that delayed the mailing of absentee ballots, the Beacon City School District will install secure drop boxes at three locations for residents to cast their votes by the June 9 deadline.

Voters are being asked to consider a proposed \$76 million budget, return three board members to office for new terms, and weigh a proposed \$1.24 million budget and five trustee seats for the Howland Public Library district.

As part of restrictions designed to slow the spread of COVID-19, the state required school and library districts to conduct their budget votes and trustee elections by absentee ballot. However, the Beacon district was one of about 50 in the state where delivery of the ballots was delayed because the firm in charge of the mailings ran short of envelopes.

Absentee ballots were mailed to about 15,000 registered district voters on Tuesday (June 2), Superintendent Matt Landahl said, and should be in mailboxes by the end of the week. Completed ballots must be received by the district by 5 p.m. on June 9, creating a tight window for those dropped in the mail.

The district set up the drop boxes at Beacon High School, Glenham Elementary School and at the district's administrative offices at 10 Education Drive. They will be available from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. today (June 5) and Monday (June 8), and from 6 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Tuesday. The Education Drive box also will be open from noon to 4 p.m. on Saturday (June 6).

Haldane and Garrison votes

For the Haldane district, absentee ballots that would not arrive in time by mail can be dropped at the district office on June 8 or June 9 from noon to 5 p.m. Garrison ballots will be accepted by mail only.

The HIGHLANDS Current SPECIAL ADVERTISING PACKAGES

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 - Twitter (1,100 followers)
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West Point Graduation Will Include President, But Not Families

Trump will be in Highlands next week to speak to cadets

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

If all goes as intended, on Saturday (June 13), West Point will hold its annual commencement with President Donald Trump and the cadets in attendance but no families or friends of the graduates.

The U.S. Military Academy, whose students become officers, has been fine-tuning its ceremony to include social-distancing restrictions that are in place on campus and in New York state because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Parents, siblings and other relatives and guests will not be allowed to attend the ceremony, although West Point promised to provide “a quality livestream” for them “and the entire nation.” The 2020 class, with 1,123 members, is the academy’s 222nd.

The seniors took their oaths remotely on May 23 to be commissioned as second lieutenants but were ordered to return to campus by May 30 so that any who tested positive could be quarantined for 14 days before the ceremony. Lt. Col. Emanuel Ortiz, an Army spokesman based at the Pentagon, said 1.5 percent of the class, or about 17 cadets, tested positive.

“This was anticipated,” he said. “None were symptomatic, and no cadet has contracted it through person-to-person contact while under the Army’s care. Those who test positive are isolated and receive appropriate care and attention.”

Army officials faced criticism for scheduling a gathering of more than 1,100 people during the pandemic so the president could speak to the class, but said that seniors must return to West Point anyway for final medical checks, equipment and training before they receive their assignments. Lt. Gen. Darryl Williams, the superintendent, has said the school would create a “safety bubble” for the students.

Francis DeMaro, a representative for West Point, said on Wednesday (June 3) that the academy is placing restrictions on the ceremony “in accordance with public health officials’ recommendations and considerations for the health and welfare of cadets and families.” It will take place at the parade field instead of Michie Stadium to allow for spacing.

Like other parts of New York state, “West Point has started a phased reopening of services” and “all personnel are still practicing social distancing and wearing masks and people are reminded to frequently wash their hands,” he said.

The academy suspended on-site classes and sent cadets home at spring break. Commencement, which usually takes place in late May, was postponed.

DeMaro said the U.S. president has a standing invitation to deliver the commencement address but typically rotates among the nation’s four military academies. “This was West Point’s year” for a presidential visit, he said. President



Cadets take their oath (above) and toss their hats at the 2019 West Point commencement. The 2020 ceremony will be held at the parade ground instead of Michie Stadium.

Photos by Brandon O'Connor/U.S. Army

Barack Obama spoke to cadets in 2014.

The Army has said the ceremony will be conducted much like commencement at the Air Force Academy on April 18, when Vice President Mike Pence addressed graduates who sat 8 feet apart from each other. The day before that ceremony, Trump announced he would speak at West Point, which by some

reports was a surprise to the academy.

The president spoke at the Air Force Academy last year and the Naval Academy in 2018. The Naval Academy this year held a virtual commencement.

Asked if West Point expects opposition to the president’s visit, DeMaro said that “typically there are small demonstrations

every year for graduation. We anticipate this year being no different.”

However, demonstrations can only occur outside the academy, where local governments have jurisdiction, he added. The cadets themselves “are members of the military and prohibited from protesting in any manner,” DeMaro said.



A Beacon High School graduate poses on Monday (June 1) on an empty platform after being congratulated by the high school principal and district superintendent, at right. A videographer, at left, filmed each student to create a "virtual graduation" video.

Photos by Ross Corsair

The Class of COVID-19

High schools get creative planning graduation

By Jeff Simms

High school seniors this week began a graduation season like no other. Beacon High School held a celebratory walk on its new athletic field on Monday (June 1) during which graduates, in shifts, walked across an empty stage, posed for photos and made speeches. Caps and gowns had been delivered a week earlier.

On June 24 — a Wednesday — the district will hold a "virtual graduation" video premiere at the Hyde Park Drive-In Theatre. Because of social distancing guidelines, each of the district's 213 gradu-

ating seniors will be allowed one six-person vehicle. Passengers will have to remain in their vehicles except to use restrooms and caps may not be tossed in the air.

The event will be a marked departure from the district's traditional ceremony, which is typically held on a Saturday morning at Dutchess Stadium.

"We're trying to make this as special as possible," said Beacon Superintendent Matt Landahl. "It's been difficult, but we did our best under the circumstances. It was a team effort."

Seniors' names, along with the colleges they plan to attend if continuing their

education, are being scrolled on the district's electronic sign at the intersection of Matteawan Road and Verplanck Avenue. Scholarship winners will be posted on the district website by June 15.

In Cold Spring, Haldane Principal Julia Sniffen said she will make a final decision by June 13 as to how the district will graduate its 65 seniors.

One scenario would see graduates receive their diplomas, ring the Haldane bell and take photos, individually, by appointment. Speeches would be recorded and shown at an in-car, socially-distanced graduation party.

Alternately, Sniffen said she believes Haldane has enough room to hold an in-person but socially-distanced procession on June 20 — the school's originally scheduled graduation date — that would be livestreamed, as well.

The state's latest guidance, released Thursday afternoon, strongly encourages virtual events, but provides new details on permissible "drive-in" and "drive-through" graduations.

For a drive-in, students and their imme-

diates family members would be allowed to attend a ceremony at a drive-in or a school or stadium parking lot, but they would have to stay inside their cars.

A drive-through graduation would be similar to what Beacon High School held this week. Students and their immediate families would arrive by appointment to walk across a stage and have a photo taken with strict social distancing restrictions in place. One person could hand students their diplomas while wearing a mask and gloves, or using hand sanitizer.

For smaller districts, the state said school officials may also visit graduates at their homes, while remaining outside and at least 6 feet away, to congratulate and take students' photos.

O'Neill High School in Highland Falls, which this year has 20 graduates from Garrison, will broadcast a virtual graduation ceremony on June 24, with speeches from the school's valedictorian and salutatorian (Isaac Walker, of Garrison), along with photos and videos of the graduates in their caps and gowns.



Tzipporah Skaggs poses for a photo after receiving her diploma on Monday at Beacon High School.



Miles McCabe poses on Monday on a platform set up for a "virtual" graduation.

Academic Honor Rolls

Students recognized for third-quarter achievements

BEACON HIGH SCHOOL

Ninth Grade

Principal's Honor Roll

Lina Ahmed, Daniel Barry, Isabella Boswick, Margot Burke, Sofia Castelhan, Crystal Chen, Esther Clair, Sophia Clau-son, Laney Ebeling, Gabriela Foret, Jenna Griesing, Labibah Hassan, Ysabel Heath, Farah Jaafar, Zakiyah Johnson, Emma Labodin, Janelle Lagunda, Gabriella Leiva, Audrey Lewis, Jordyn Long, Eleanor Lopez, Lillian Magurno, Alexis Mastrantuono, Elijah McKible, Jonah Mensch, Brianna Moleano, Sofia Mourgues, Lindsay Otero, Addy Pagones, Rowan Parsaca, Lila Quinn, Jonathan Ramirez, Isabelle Ray, Ruby Rodgers, Shepard Rodgers, Amelia Sanker, Demetra Sela, Leian Simon, Isabella Travis

High Honor Roll

Tianna Adams, Mateo Alvarado, Andre Alzate, Adrian Beato, Derek Bilyeu, Isabella Bottiglieri, Delaney Brennen, Kaylee Broas, Scott Bunker, Kevin Candia Candia, Ariadna Carmona, Grace Cohn, Christopher Crawford Jr., Parijat Das, Madison DeLeo, Brianna DeMilio, Danielle DiRubbio, Beatrice Dowd, Journey Fleming, Elizardo Garriga II, Darien Gillins, Dylan Howard, George Humphreys, Liam Istvan, Alexander Khalil, Campbell Kitzrow, Gavin LaDue, Sharon Li, Tylynn Lindsay, Miranda Lyons, Brandon Maupin, Nuriya May, Taylor Meeuwisse, Gia Moreno, Erin Nicholson, Shema Ntaganzwa, Aydin Ozkurt, John Philipbar III, Henry Quinn, Thomas Rapp, Penelope Rigney, Liam Rumnit, Adam Sendelbach, Joseph Vollaro, Jeffrey Wolfe III, Bing Zhu

Honor Roll

Anaya Camacho, Alexander Clay, Hope Cleveringa, Jason Derasmo, Jhanelle Duncan, William Fahlman, A'Janae Foreman, Lowell Freedman, Adrian Gallego, Leutrim Gecaj, Aedan Hetling, Justin Jackson, Juliette Lasser, Sabrina Lin, Jeremiah Long, Moa Lopez, Gabriella Manzoeillo, Abigale Martin, Jaelyn O'Connor, Aaron Pegues Jr., Natalie Quintero, Natalee Reynolds, Michael Serino, Juliana Sulsona, Jacob Tumidaj, Liam Vedesi

Tenth Grade

Principal's Honor Roll

Gretta Anderson, Joseph Baffuto III, Madeline Bobnick, Jeremy Brinas, Sulayman Ceasay, Jack Cleary, Allyson Correllus, Lindsay Darcy, Lucia Diebboll, Yahli Felixbrodt, Cassandra Garrett, Chase Green, Inessa Joseph, Dillon Kelly, Kayla Lare, Cherlin Liao, Andrew Lucas, Ayanda Nxumalo, Kathryn Park, Nora Phelan, Alondra Ramirez Paredes, Jose Resendiz, Anthony Riccoboni, Kenneth Rosa, Emma Sandison, Alexia Segarra, Lauren Shanahan, Kalyn Sheffield, Carissa Smutny, Samantha Sovik, Aiden Tripaldi, Caleb Ullian, John Urban-Quezada, Alexander Wyant

High Honor Roll

Brock Barna, Lotus Blumenthal, Owen Browne, Bella Carassone, Amare Coakley,

Olivia Corneyea, Claire Derrenbacher, Alexandria Faiella, Daniel Gilleo, Ashley Gonzalez, Samuel Harle, Tyler Haydt, Hunter Ingold, Flynn Johnson, Synasia Johnson, Veronica Klein, Sydney Kurtz, Evan LaBelle, Maura Lane, Aileen Li, Benjamin Lieblein, Edward Manente, Simrat Mann, Kailey Mesorana, Marissa Mora, Amatullah Muhammad, Ava Muscat, Daniel Nelson, Rosa Nunez, Yahya Ouildane, Leanna Rinaldi, Kessler Salam Chocoj, Thomas Santoro, Mia Scarchilli, Hannah Smith, Olivia Spiak, Jake Titka, Jennifer Velasquez, Lucas Vermeulen, Cleveland Wright, Jaylen Ynoa

Honor Roll

Sanaii Adams, Jayden Arroyo, Ahmir Bell, Devin Buggs, Makkaila Caputo, Joseph Cardona Jr., Christian Carvalho, Alexander Ferris, Cleo Fiedler, Sarah Gibbs, Jada Hambric, Tyler Hanson, Dylan Horton-Ungar, Evan Johnson, Bradley Jolly, Briana Jones, Michael Juzefyk, Evan Kumar, Rebecca Levy, Erlona Mavraj, Christina Merola, Salvatore Migliore V, Michael Millan, Camille Pahucki, Michael Pirrone, Arielle Prince, Destiny Prothro, Kyler Ring, Daniel Rivera, Lulu Romer, Braden Schetter, Keira Seaman, Stella Serpico, Olive Smith Quiana, Nicholas Thivierge, Brandon Thomas, Tacerion Vereen-White, Iyana Wigfall, Haleigh Zukowski

Eleventh Grade

Principal's Honor Roll

Tamar Adams-Pinnock, Vincent Bouderau, Wesley Brooks, Hannah Burch, Rhan Dabashi, Rebecca DeLeo, Gabriela Diaz, Lejdina Gecaj, Mark Guzman Lizarazo, Sofia Hockler, Natalie Khalil, Thandiwe Knox, Regan Ladue, Michael Lepere, Michael Levy, Ryan Liao, Abigail Magurno, Sophie Mercado, Anna Miller, Alexandra Moroch, Natalie Negron, Beyonce Otero, John Padoleski, Jessica Pavone, Eliza Principe Garcia, James Sarnes, D'Anna Williams

High Honor Roll

Jason Aguilar Montano, Aidan Alvarado, Na'ila Baldwin, Zachary Cader, Jesse Campanelli, Ella Casserly, Eva Chapin, Sara Chin, Gavin Coughlin, Rayham Dabashi, Gabriela Del Castillo, Samantha DeLuise, Dylan Derasmo, Carter Detoro, Kaitleen Dixon, Kaylah Dixon, Joshua Espinosa, Tatyanna Fernandez, Adrianna Fish, Marilyn Gamey, Dania Gillins, Sofia Gonzalez, Jaeda Green, Samaya Harris, Angelica Hibbert, Gannon Hockler, Aidan Kidd, Bernadette Kish, Charles Krachy IV, Makayla Lesniak, Yahya Lorick, Malaika Malik, Matthew Manzoeillo, Elizabeth Martin, Kaylen Merchan, Reily Mowen, Jeremiah Murcia Booth, Michael Musachio, Isabella Ortiz, Marianna Pastorello, Tahji Patterson, Justin Piciacchio, Mya Pierce, Ryan Rabenda, Jorge Ramos Hernandez, Anastazia Sakowicz, Stephen Schneider, Sebastian Scott-Hamblen, Jason Simon, Jessica Spadafino, Gianna Thompson, Brielle Travis, Katelin VanBuren

Honor Roll

Mia Amoroso, Javier Antonio Perez, Christian Aquino, Warren Banks, Brooke Bennett, Caitlin Berdiales, Liam Byrne, Ashley Casserly, Anna Cenicola, Jaheem Colquhoun-Laird, Bryan Conklin Jr., Shane Creighton, Maycol Cuautle Toral, Avery Douglas, Savannah Douglas, Aaliyah Fretwell-Cross, Aiyana George, Nyah Gibbs, Daanyaal Haris, Ila Harvey, Jackson Jackson, Nicole Juzefyk, Jimmy Kuka, Yusef Lokman, Geoffrey Lyons Jr., Christopher Mack, Joren Madigan, Emily Maggio, Dennis Mann, Jade Matias, Makayla Meacham, Amanda Moroch, Andrew Moroch, Kelly Murphy, Zachary Neyen, Neyleane Ortiz Santiago, Nevaeh Panko, James Patino, Anthony Pizarro Jr., Ryan Plimley, David Reilly IV, Kimberly Romine, Isabel Santos, Anna Slackman, Ryan Smith, Murielle Tchoumi Wandji, Amaya Thompson, Jeremiah Vital, Jacob Welsh

Twelfth Grade

Principal's Honor Roll

Almaas Ali, Kiara Aviles, Zachary Blum, Michael Brown, Gianna Claudio, Erika DeHaas, Adrianna Dugger, Marianne Fultz, Dior Gillins, Shane Green, Patrick Lewis, Isabella Nocerino, Eric Ostrow, Analuz Rivera, Philip Rossignol III, Cassandra Smutny, Shekeia Sterling, Gabriella Traviglia, Selena Virtuoso, Christina Wurtz, Jordan Zinserling, Justin Zinserling

High Honor Roll

Grace Affeldt, Hanna Alfieri, Riley Antalek, Robert Atwell, Ian Bautista, Ziara Beato, Allison Bierce, Skylah Browne, Jason Callaway, Diana Campos, Jian Carter, Analiese Compagnone, Finnian Costello, Lionel Cumberbatch III, John Darcy, Aiden Davis, Autumn DiGiovanni, Besim Dika, Omar Dolmus, Kimberly Drew, Kahlia Durso, Angel Feliz, Peter Fernandez, Angelina Finateri, Carolina Foster, Gulien Gentle, Sierra Giamportone, Aine Gunn, Alix Haase-Arrigo, Angelique Hall, Kayla Heady, Kiara Hernandez, Kaleb Istvan, Jillian Jimenez, Sheridan Kolozy, Kyrstin Lawrence, Sean Lise, Ty Long, Olivia Lynch, Miles McCabe, Samantha McDowell, Nyeema McGawn, Alexandra McKeon, Catherine Mitchell, Amanda Montaldo, Liam Murphy, Jah'el Padilla-Colon, David Paschal, Benjamin Price, Kenneth Rapp, Julissa Reyes, Brianna Richardson, Mia Ricottilli, Alexis Rosa, Olivia Salcedo, Lauren Simon, Katherine Stojakovic, Harley Taran, Alexis Thompson, Sabrina Tutasi, Elizabeth Urbanak, Rachel VanBuren, Nayelie Vasquez, Alyssa Vollaro, Mackenzie Wakley, Roswell Wendel, Dylan Whalen, Lila Young

Honor Roll

Omar Abdo, Victoria Albra, Mia Beaty, Nikita Borshchov, Alden Brandt-Cannon, Maury Bravo Jr., Yazmine Cabrera, Ryan Chin, Jaliyah Dolman, Marcela Espinoza Rojas, Samantha Fellenz, Julianna Firpi, Francesca Groza, Salma Gutierrez, Elizabeth Herrera, Jonathan Hibbert, Carter Hull, Kenneth Jones-Saunders, Josephine

Kurtz, Jolene Lagunda, Cierra Lassiter, Irijah Leiner, Jacob Lombardo, Trista Maloney, Tessa Nilsen, Giovanni Piccoli, Christian Pillcurima, Rhema Reynolds, Richard Rinaldi, Katelyn Rosa, Sharaina Rutherford, Sarah Seymour, Alyana Soto, Ravyn Way, Samantha Yanqui, Nathina Yarborough

BOCES CTI

High Honor Roll

Aiyana George, Kayla Heady, Yahya Lorick, Romeo Nunez, Katelin VanBuren

Honor Roll

Ryan Chin, Maycol Cuautle Toral, Javier Piguave Espin, Ariyana Garcia, Evan Janks, Nicole Juzefyk, Dennis Mann, Makayla Meacham, Giovanni Piccoli, Liam Sheehan, Ravyn Way

ROMBOUT MIDDLE SCHOOL

Sixth Grade

Principal's Honor Roll

Alianna Alijaj, Patrick Apmann, Mira Bagriyanik, Owen Bergin, Logan Blum, Alexander Browning, Parker Capawana, Henry Clair, Christian Clay, Erin Cleary, Peter Cohen, Diego Dickinson Case Leal, Tye Elias, Teo Fairbanks, Marisah George, Zenia Haris, Dylan Hetrick, Ruby Hotchkiss, Milo Isabell, Everly Jordan, Alina Joseph, Gabrielle Khalil, Aidan Kinsley, Kiran Kumar, Savana Kush, Aron Li, Cheranaye Louis, Brayden Manning, Clyde Marshall, Alma Mart, Kristofer Martinez Quintana, Anselm McKee, Oscar McKible, Jayden Mihalchik, Mira Miller, Jaiere Newton, Aiden Nieves, Nolan O'Malley, Matilda Perks, Liliana Rybak, Mikaela Sanchez, Thomas Senior, Juan Tutasi Machado, Easton Weise, Mandy Zhang.

High Honor Roll

Nadeen Ahmed, Farhana Antora, Ashland Assael, Grace Beston, Ella Brill, Leylani Candia Candia, Mirianjelis Chavez, Lola Ciccone, Alistair Cunningham, Emmanuel Dickinson Case Leal, Samiria Ferrer, Isabella Galbo, Ayden Gilleo, Gabriel Godbee, Kayla Hammond, Natalie Hayden, Christina Hernandez, Daisy Herrera, Grace Hockler, Chance Hunter, Shay Kane, Griffin Kitzrow, Carlos Lampon III, Ryan Landisi, Frankie Lin, Anthony Lopez, Jahsaia Monelle, Aiden Montleon, Eli Netboy, Annabelle Notarthomas, Adrien Okoye, Stori Owen, Jonathan Richards, Anthony Scarchilli Jr., Zachary Schetter, Kira Sheehan, Katrina Skorewicz, Desirae Smith, Noah Spiak, Aiden Spiecker, Kyan Spirig, Emma Sweet, Jonathan Trentacosta, Matthew Tumidaj, George Walker, Mya Wright, Alexander Young.

Honor Roll

Jamisabel Aguayo, Camryn Aquino, Jahcier Ballard, Ethan Bernabel, Allyia Best, Jayden Bostick, James Bouchard III, Piper Bruno, Serenity Bunn, Gavin Campbell, Jazmine Gonzalez Aguilar, Javier Gutierrez Jr., Eliana Herrera, Tyler Horton,

(Continued on Page 21)

(Continued from Page 20)

Vincent Joao Jr., Cameron Just, Taylor Kelliher, Anajah Lamb, Julia McGuire-Soellner, Julius Miles, Payten Muse, Silena Negrón, Maliah O'Connor, Michael Ramos, Yosef Sanchez Redondo, Amaya Vazquez, Marcos Velasco

Seventh Grade

Principal's Honor Roll

Beckett Anderson, Anabelle Arginsky, Jeiden Brereton, Isabel Bunker, Lila Burke, Shyla Camacho, Elizabeth Carbone, Christine Chen, Evelina Diebboll, Tayler Finley, AvaMaria Gianna, Derrick Heaton, Sarahlynn Jaafar, Jeannae' Jean-Francois, Avneet Kaur, Charlie Klein, Lily Larson-Wolbrink, Ela Lyons, Josephine Mallon, Paige McCredo, Allen McKay, Jada Medley, Emma Merola, Addison Miller, Ronan Moran, Lance Morgan Jr., Amelia Padilla, Josue Pintado, Breanna Rudolph, Anastasia Santise, Kayleigh Sheehan, Jacob Signorelli, Sarah Spodek, Serena Stampleman, Mika-Gisselle Tates, Amya Thompson, Sophia Tonyes, Sortia Tripaldi, Francis Zezza

High Honor Roll

Riley Adnams, Nicholas Albra, Kendall Alston, Matthew Apostolou Jr., Isabella Baffuto, Kekoa Baysa, Taryn Beardsley, Sally Betterbid, Daniel Bridges, Ahmaria Bunn, Jaidyn Caccamo, Avery Davis, Danica del Puerto-Vitti, Sofia Diaz, Amadea Ferris, Amir Figueroa, Lucas Foret, Tori Foster, Willa Freedman, Messiah Gardner, Andrea Guzman Colon, Bailey Hernandez, Hunter Humeston, Rory LaDue, Reilly Landisi, Rowan Lane, Lani Lopez, Ryann Meyer, Madison Mianti, Rory Mowen, Megan Nicholson, Alexander Quinci, Daveya Rodriguez, Bethany Rudolph, Katherine Ruffy, Gabriel Salcedo, Kayli Shand, Kyla Smith, Natalia Sulsona, Brody Timm, Holly Whittemore, Charles Zellinger

Honor Roll

Christopher Amon Ortega, Angelina Bottiglieri, Ayanna Dennis, Orlando Diaz, Chiara Fedorchak, Carly Fitzsimmons, Graham Goodman, Noelle Haase, Autumn Hoppe, Lee Humphreys, Mercer Jordan, Vincent Komer, Alex Labodin, Darryl Montgomery Jr., Zoe Moreno, Sariah Paulin, Lindsay Pedersen, Brianna Perez-Sample, Mackenzie Phillips, Anjani Powell, Albion Qelaj, Shilo Reynolds, Christine Robinson, Mehr Sagri, Jenna Serino, Chloe Sheffield, Emma Soltish, Michael VanBuren, Rayan Wandji Nzwessa, Sevana West, Jazziah Whitted

Eighth Grade

Principal's Honor Roll

Isabella Amundson, Emma Campagiorni, Douglas Capawana, Ella Cason, Rubio Castagna-Torres, Olivia Del Castillo, Marina Elias, Jayden Featherstone, Nora Folkes, Sara Gonzalez, Tiana Gonzalez, Jacqueline Griesing, Harsh Gupta, Serena Jabar, Georgia Kane, Devyn Kelly, Gabrielle Kuka, Olivia Lapaz, Myasia Lewis, Evan Lombardo, Bryce Manning, Nico McKible, Isabella Migliore, Karimah Muhammad, Elisa Pahucki, Emilia Pastorello, Vanessa Piciacchio, Nahari Powell, Henry Reinke, Kiarra Rodriguez, Elizabeth Ruffy, Matthew Sandison, Kasey Senior, Allison

Thomas, Rachel Thorne, Peter Vermeulen, Emily Wei, Wallace Wei, August Wright

High Honor Roll

Imroz Ali, Jack Antalek, Alyssa Barna, Chloe Bennett, Anthony Borromeo, Sophia Campagiorni, Vanessa Campanelli, Sean Cleary, Nicole Coliman, Eleanor Cunningham, Grace Delgado, Chelsea DerBoghossian, Ariana Gallego, Christopher Gonzalez, Jessica Gonzalez, Sienna Gorey, Isabella Haydt, Cadence Heeter, Keira Istvan, Emma Joyce, Meara Kumar, Shy'anne Kush, Tianah Lindsay, Jonathan Lobato Colon, Leonides Lopez IV, Owen Lynch, Amerie Madigan, Alexandria McCollum, Stephen McDowell, Gia Morgan, Twyla Nelson, Thomas Nocerino, Julia Pedersen, Ricardo Ramirez Paredes, Nina Rivers, Keira Robinson, Anisa Shtanaj, Samsa Superville, Sophia Uribe, Michael Varian, Christian Walker, Xiomarys Williams, Jon-Paul Wood

Honor Roll

Myah Aguilar Montano, Abir Ahmed, Wiles Assael, Jackson Atwell, Ariana Bedell, Briana Bilyeu, Zaida Burgos, Isabella Claudio, Ayla Cruz, Damani Deloatch, Michael Fontaine Jr., Sean Heath, Una Hoppe, Zuhir Kasem, Samantha Lopez, Seth Maloney, Hannah Marin, Anthony Marzovilla, Christopher Milewski, Lillie O'Leary, Amarii Pearson, Jaden Polanco Feliciano, Alexander Quintana, Marilyn Rinaldi, Sinai Sanchez, Owen Skorewicz, JonAy Taylor, Brandon Warren, Isabella White, Genesis Young, Ryan Zingone Redfield

GARRISON MIDDLE SCHOOL

Academic Excellence

Alyssa Harris, Gabriel Lunin-Pack, Kim Alvarracin, Jacob Higbee, Tozai Kawabata, Jude Morrison, Morgan Murphy, Eleanor Walker, Ada Caccamise, Leo Grocott, Jazmine Kirkwood, Seth Lunin-Pack, Giovannina Manfredi, Olivia Moran, Anna-Catherine Nelson, Sophia Pitaleff, Sofia Rasic, Tyler Schacht, Henry Schimming, Louisa Schimming, Jessica Tudor, Merrick Williams

High Honor Roll

Hunter Erickson, Lola Rosenberg, Victoria Bartholomew, Bryce Kenny, Marika McCarthy

Honor Roll

Jon Bastys, Jack Hartman, Michael Murray, Molly Kelly, James Wynn, Nathan Armstrong, Samuel Armstrong, Aiden Kenny, Chase Kenny, George Stubbs, Jasmine Wallis

Haldane Schools

The middle and high schools did not create honor rolls for the third quarter.

Current Classifieds

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NOTICES

MISSING CATS — Two tabby cats went missing on May 24 on Route 9D in Garrison. Please call 914-563-9073 or 917-327-1376 if you have seen them.

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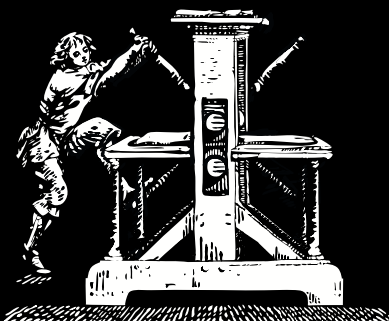
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OBITUARIES

Vincent Golden (1947-2020)

Vincent J. Golden, 72, of Putnam Valley, and formerly of Cold Spring, died on May 11 at the Veterans Affairs Castle Point Hospital in Wappingers Falls.

Vincent was born Sept. 15, 1947, in Peekskill, to Philip and Gladys (Lewis) Golden. After graduating from Hendrick Hudson High School in 1966, he was drafted in 1969 into the U.S. Army and served in Vietnam. In 1970, he was awarded a Silver Star, and he also received the Bronze Star and two Purple Hearts. He was a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the Vietnam Veterans of America.

After returning to his hometown of Verplanck following his military service, he worked in the family business, Golden's Tree Service, and later resided in Cold Spring.

Besides his wife, Mary Jane Patterson, he is survived by his daughters, Patti Downey (Dan) of New City, and Debbi Golden of Wappingers Falls; his grandchildren; Danny, Sally, Michael, Zoe, Zachary and Mikila; and a sister-in-law, Judy Golden of Verplanck.

David Idema (1942-2020)

David Idema, 77, a lifelong Beacon resident, died June 2 at The Grand Rehabilitation-Nursing at River Valley in Poughkeepsie.

He was born Oct. 12, 1942, in Beacon, the son of Peter Jr. and Mary (Kacur) Idema. He was a graduate of Beacon High School.

Known to his friends and family as "Tree," David was a skilled mason for more than 40 years. He built his own home in Beacon, which he shared with his then-wife, Donna (Voght) Idema, and his three youngest daughters. He also owned Idema Masonry and worked for the Bricklayers Local Union 5 in Poughkeepsie until his retirement.

David is survived by his daughters, Shontae Swain (Troy), Shannon Idema, Alison Idema and Jamie Idema, as well as his

grandchildren: Mason, Dilynn, Carson-Rae, Kenley, Chloe, Briel, Devin, Toby and Tori. He also is survived by his siblings, Peter Idema III and Diane Galucci. A son, David "DJ" Idema, died before him.

Vida Mitchell (1941-2020)

Violet "Vida" B. Mitchell, 79, a lifelong Beacon resident, died on May 31 at NewYork Presbyterian-Hudson Valley Hospital in Cortlandt.

She was born in Beacon on May 1, 1941, the daughter of Walter and Estelle (Morgan) Mitchell. In her younger years she owned two nightclubs, the Which-A-Way Inn and Glen's Closet, and was a bartender at Club Central in Peekskill. She also worked at Marine Midland Bank in Fishkill.

Vida is survived by a grandson, Curtis Mitchell Jr., a niece, LaConia LaMar (Theodis) and a nephew, Walter Allen. A graveside service will be held June 8 at Fishkill Rural Cemetery.

Irina Siegel (1968-2020)

Irina Mozyleva Siegel, 51, of Beacon, died May 27 with her family and friends at her side. An accomplished singer, she was diagnosed in 2014 with a rare form of cancer; over years of treatment, she joked that she was partly bionic, according to her husband, Aryeh Siegel.

Irina was born on May 31, 1968, in Miory, in the Vitebsk region of Belarus (then part of the Soviet Union), the daughter of Nikolai and Lia Mozyleff. At age 6 she was plucked from grade school by Soviet talent scouts and placed in a boarding school where students worked at their instruments and voices for hours every day.

She remained in this rigorous system through college, then transferred to the

Moscow Conservatory of Music. From there, she sent a cassette to the Julliard School in New York City and was invited to enroll on a full scholarship. Seeking a more intimate style of training, she transferred to the Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia, having also received a full scholarship there.

After graduation she joined the Merola Opera Program, which traveled the country performing fully-staged operas. She moved to New York City and, in 1997, married Aryeh Siegel, an architect. She gave birth to their daughter, Leah, on New Year's Eve 1999, a few days after the couple moved to Beacon.

In Beacon, Irina continued to pursue her career. She was committed to Russian church music and produced a number of independent projects, including as choir conductor of the Russian Orthodox Church in New York City and a chief soloist. Each year at Easter, her husband said, she would hush the crowd of worshipers when she began a hymn that became anticipated. Irina was also a music teacher in local schools and gave private lessons in piano and voice.

In 2016, after losing her ability to sing due to surgery, Irina redirected her creativity to clothing design, opening ClothFactor, a retail sewing studio that she ran next door to her home at The Lofts at Beacon. She grew the business for a couple of years, which her family said made her even happier than singing and satisfied her deep creative urge. "Irina never liked to see herself in a 'battle'; she viewed her rare cancer more as a sly opponent to outwit," her husband said.

Besides her husband and daughter, she is survived by her father in Belarus; a sister, Tamara, also in Belarus; and her in-laws, Burt and Karen Siegel.

Memorial donations may be directed to the Solaris Voices Scholarship Fund for Musical Education, 42 Mason Circle, Beacon NY 12508. Write "Irina Mozyleva

Siegel" in the check memo.

Charles Zumbro (1943-2020)

Charles Byrn Zumbro, 76, of Beacon, died at his home on May 28, with his wife, Imelda, at his side.

He was born June 9, 1943, in Murfreesboro, Tennessee, and studied chemistry, biology and math at Middle Tennessee State University. He was a Peace Corps volunteer in India and taught high school science before returning to the Peace Corps as a recruiter in the Southeast Region. He joined the humanitarian agency CARE International in 1970 and was assigned to its headquarters in New York and later to Atlanta, India, the Philippines, Tunisia, Bangladesh and Manila.

After leaving CARE, he was director of networking and communications for World Vision USA and director of information technology for the International Rescue Committee.

During his time overseas, Charles once met and worked with Mother Teresa. He was a religious person who loved animals, ham radio, science-fiction movies and books, Filipino and Indian food, coffee and travel, his family said.

Besides his wife, the former Imelda Catembung, he is survived by his daughters, Zarina Smith and Rekha Zumbro; his grandchildren, Yvette Venturi, Angelina Smith and Anika Zumbro; and his siblings, Betty Lou Zumbro and Pat Zumbro. The family held a prayer service at the Libby Funeral Home in Beacon.

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



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Puzzles

CROSS CURRENT

ACROSS

1. Small plateaus

6. Bamboo eaters

12. Big commotion

13. Old Roman tax

14. Strengthen by heating and cooling

15. Move a painting, maybe

16. Medicinal amount

17. Computer brand

19. Chaps

20. Nickelodeon's explorer

22. Marley or Dylan

24. Underwear with underwire

27. Madams' mates

29. Moth variety

32. "The House That Ruth Built"

35. Advantage

36. Out of play

37. List-ending abbr.

38. Consume

40. Williams or Warhol

42. — -de-sac

44. On pension: Abbr.

46. Killer whale

50. *I, Robot* author

52. Passionate states

54. Cookbook entry

55. Lab monkey

12

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56. Merchant

57. Apportioned

10. Top-rated

11. Autograph

12. Possessed

18. Parents' traveling accessory

21. Sugar suffix

23. Antiquated

24. "See ya"

25. "Awesome!"

26. Sweet fortified wine

28. Norm

30. Eccentric

31. HBO alternative

33. Mauna —

34. Toss in

39. Figure of speech

41. Mountain air?

42. Shopper's aid

43. Addict

45. Always

47. *Golden Girls* role

48. Gunk

49. Donkey

53. Pi follower

DOWN

1. Stereo forerunner

2. Billions of years

3. Haste

4. Miss. neighbor

5. Not freelance

6. Skin opening

7. Bitter

8. To the — degree

9. Scotch-based liqueur

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7 LITTLE WORDS

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

CLUES

1 completely trustworthy (10)

2 "Simpsons" principal (7)

3 most brusque (8)

4 lean (6)

5 looking like a child (8)

6 tartan skirts (5)

7 bent low (7)

SOLUTIONS

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SUDO CURRENT

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

Puzzle Page Sponsored by



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Answers for May 29 Puzzles

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

1. PRIESTLY, 2. NOGGIN, 3. HOUSTON, 4. FREEMAN, 5. APPLESEED, 6. JONESING, 7. WALGREENS

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

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

By Jeff Simms

Highlands Camps Shuttered

Cuomo gives go-ahead, but restrictions are challenge

Despite Gov. Andrew Cuomo's announcement this week that summer day camps may open starting June 29, Beacon's popular Camp @ the Camp has been canceled for 2020 because of the restrictions required to slow the COVID-19 pandemic.

Mark Price, the director of the city's Recreation Department, described a "hand-wringing, staying-up-late-at-night" process as recreation and city staff wrestled with trying to keep the "magic" of summer camp intact while keeping hundreds of employees and participants safe.

Cuomo said on Tuesday (June 2) that day camps would be allowed to open as COVID-19 infections and deaths continue to decline. Recreational facilities, including camps, fall under Phase 4 of the state's reopening plan. No decision has been made on sleepaway camps, Cuomo said. The state also did not immediately provide guidelines for day camps.

Beacon announced the Camp @ the Camp cancellation the same day, and said it would refund any payments.

Other camps in the area have also announced the cancellation of their 2020 sessions, including the Philipstown Recreation Department (except for its two theater camps, which will be held online), Hudson Valley Shakespeare, Army Sports, the Storm King Art Center and Surprise Lake Camp in Philipstown.

Other camps are offering alternative programs. The 4th Wall Theatre Camp in Wappingers Falls, Ballet Arts Studio in Beacon and the Manitou School in Philipstown said they would offer virtual sessions, and the Garrison Art Center is



Campers at Camp @ The Camp in 2018 pieced together a puzzle that depicted the Hudson River.

Photo by Ilana Friedman

planning Summer Arts in a Box, weekly packages that will each contain directions and materials for five projects.

All Sport's Camp Fit in Fishkill and Common Ground Farm in Wappingers Falls said they are awaiting further guidance from the Dutchess County health department before deciding what to do, while Kid's Place in Fishkill said it would begin its summer camp on June 15 but limit groups to 10 children and one instructor.

In Beacon, city officials also said the Beacon Pool will not open this summer,

and that South Avenue Park Days, tennis clinics and basketball leagues and multi-sport workshops were also canceled. The city's parks, playgrounds, and basketball and tennis courts will be open.

Camp @ the Camp launched in 2017, along with the Park Days program, and quickly became one of the city's most popular institutions. The camp ran five weeklong sessions each of the last three summers at University Settlement, the 100-acre former residential camp site on Route 9D.

Price said city officials two weeks ago

received an eight-page document with COVID-related camp guidelines from Dutchess County. However, "at no point did anyone say they were going to let us open," he said.

The city could submit an application to the Dutchess health department to operate its summer programs but the guidelines were so strict that Price said he began to think, "I don't know how we're going to do this."

According to the guidelines, camps in Dutchess County would have had to modify or eliminate any activities that could not be done while practicing social distancing. Dining would have to be staggered; the "buddy" system would have to be modified to eliminate touch. Camp staff and participants could have been required to wear masks, and facilities would have to be cleaned at least once a day.

The city considered trying to operate within those guidelines, "but what if we did that, only to have kids get sick and staff get sick and then have to cancel it anyway?" Price said. "Do we want to be known as that camp? It came down to, let's take our lumps for being safe and not our lumps for getting people sick."

City Administrator Anthony Ruggiero said during the City Council's June 1 meeting that the Recreation Department is working on a number of alternate summer activities, including "sprinkler water play days" in city parks, setting up biking and scooting paths in some parks, creating additional picnic areas, creating self-led park scavenger hunts, and possibly organizing supervised field trips that would follow social-distancing guidelines.

"The one department that has been the most impacted [by COVID-19] has been the Recreation Department, because of its interaction with the community," Ruggiero said Thursday.

SPORTS

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Celebrating Spring, Pondering Fall

High schools honor seniors and plan for August

By Skip Pearlman

As the school year comes to a close very different from how it began, Beacon and Haldane high schools are taking time to honor their senior athletes — and consider what the fall sports season might look like. Practices for football, soccer and other fall sports are scheduled to begin in late August.

At Haldane, members of the Blue Devils Booster Club on Thursday (June 4) decorated the athletic field with signs, posters and balloons to honor senior athletes. Each team was assigned a 15-minute window during which a photographer took shots

of the senior players and their family members. Only the football team had no seniors this year.

The students also were presented with their varsity letters, posters and other gifts. The athletic department earlier created a montage with photos of each athlete and his or her favorite moment, plans and "the best thing about being a Blue Devil."

"Since I've been here, it's been a program filled with hard workers who have been dedicated to their teammates, their coaches and to themselves," Athletic Director Chris Salumn said in the video's introduction.

Beacon High School declared June to be Athlete Appreciation Month, with days dedicated to the various 2019-20 teams. For those athletes who will continue to play in college, the school organized signing cere-

monies on the athletic field on June 1, and Athletic Director John Giametta said he will turn on the field lights for 20 minutes on June 22 to honor the seniors.

The school has hung banners, had coaches greet athletes in the parking lot, and arranged for photo shoots, Giametta said. The district purchased varsity jackets for each senior athlete with his or her name embroidered.

The school will announce senior award and scholarship recipients on June 22, he said, and coaches will visit each winner's home to present them.

"I can't say enough about our coaches for stepping up and wanting to recognize these athletes," Giametta said. "Part of our job as coaches and educators is to recognize accomplishments, and to have so many seniors accomplish so much and not have a ceremony wasn't right."

Coaches at both schools also have been contemplating how they will organize and

prepare their fall teams remotely. During the spring pause, Beacon athletes got help from the Athletes Warehouse in Pleasantville, which donated workout plans.

Giametta said 144 athletes participated in the training. "That's such a great number," Giametta said. "I've heard great things about the individual plans that were donated."

Under state rules, fall teams are allowed to practice for the first time on Aug. 24.

"Our coaches are chomping at the bit," Giametta said. "We're hoping that the restrictions will ease this month; you need a lot of off-season work to have a successful season. We want to get back out on the field, as long as it's safe."

Giametta said he could see games being played without spectators, if necessary. "It's not ideal, but if you want to play, and the only way we can do it is without fans, we'll do it, and make it as positive as we can," he said.