

The HIGHLANDS Current

JUNE 26, 2020



Flower Power **PAGE 18**

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GRADUATION DAY — Alexandra McKeon was among the Beacon High School graduates who received their diplomas earlier this month after walking across an empty stage; the class gathered again on Wednesday (June 24) at the Hyde Park Drive-in Theatre to watch a “virtual” ceremony. For a list of Beacon grads, see Page 14. Haldane High School will host commencement for its 65 graduates on Saturday in two shifts to allow for social distancing.

Photo by Ross Corsair

Maloney Again Asks West Point to Remove Lee’s Name

Barracks, gate, road named for Confederate general

By Chip Rowe

Rep. Sean Patrick Maloney, whose U.S. House district includes the Highlands, was among the co-signers of a June 18 letter asking the Army to remove any symbols and rename any buildings at the United States Military Academy at West Point that honor Confederate officers, namely Gen. Robert E. Lee.

“Honoring Americans who engaged in armed rebellion against the United States in support of racism and slavery does not reflect the values of the institution or our Army,” Maloney said in a statement.

The letter was addressed to Mark Esper, the secretary of defense, and Ryan McCarthy, the secretary of the Army, both of whom have expressed support for renaming nine U.S. military bases that honor Confederate generals.

Maloney, a Democrat, in 2017 asked the Army to rename a cadet barracks that has been named for Lee since 1962. The request came soon after violent protests in

(Continued on Page 6)

Molinaro: ‘Authoritarian Style’ Unnecessary

State order targets liquor licenses

By Leonard Sparks

Dutchess County Executive Marc Molinaro said he “does not embrace the authoritarian style of getting people to pay attention” in response to an executive order from Gov. Andrew Cuomo threatening to suspend the liquor licenses of businesses that violate rules meant to prevent a resurgence of COVID-19 infections.

The order, signed by the governor on June 18, makes bars, restaurants, convenience stores and retailers responsible for customers who consume alcohol, not only inside their establishments but within 100 feet of the door. In addition to having their licenses suspended or revoked if customers are found violating social-distancing

protocols, the businesses could be fined up to \$10,000 per violation.

Days before issuing the executive order, Cuomo said the state had received 25,000 complaints online or through a toll-free phone number about businesses not following reopening guidelines, which include rules on maintaining 6 feet of space between customers and face coverings for them and employees.

The governor specifically named the Hamptons and Manhattan as “the leading areas in the state with violations.”

The state has forwarded an average of 17 complaints a week to Dutchess County about violations, but Molinaro described most as “misunderstandings” about the guidance on face coverings.

Ron Hicks, the assistant county executive, reviews each complaint with the sheriff’s office and the county’s emergency

response department, sending them to the appropriate municipality. Dutchess has “always gotten compliance by communicating,” Molinaro said on Monday (June 22).

“We have not seen in Dutchess County any notable or outright effort to ignore the guidance,” he said. “Yes, there are always areas of concern, but overall Dutchess County residents have embraced the guidance and we’re seeing that in results.”

In a letter about Cuomo’s order posted on the State Liquor Authority’s website, its chair, Vincent Bradley, said the agency has received an “inordinate number of complaints and police referrals from across the state regarding large gatherings, social distancing violations and patrons not wearing face coverings.”

A “disproportionate number” of the complaints were about “customers buying

(Continued on Page 8)

Beacon Police Face Scrutiny

Concerned residents ‘pack’ virtual forum

By Jeff Simms

More than 150 people joined an online forum on public safety in Beacon last weekend, with many of them calling for budget cuts and other dramatic changes at the Police Department.

Prompted by a June 8 meeting held by videoconference between the City Council and members of the department — two of whom, including the chief, announced their retirements days later — the forum was one of several developments during a week when protests over police brutality and race continued nationwide.

(Continued on Page 7)

5Q

FIVE QUESTIONS: SETH COLEGROVE

By Michael Turton

Seth Colegrove, who lives in Newburgh, is the creator of EmpireExplorer.com, which profiles more than 600 historic destinations in New York state, including 18 in the Highlands, such as the Nelsonville Union Free School, The Grove and The Birches.

What motivated you to launch the site in 2017?

My background is in media, film and music, and I have a passion for history. I've always enjoyed exploring historical places, especially abandoned sites. I'm interested in the stories that might have taken place there, although just the fact that a place is abandoned is attractive to many people, along with things like its legends, folklore, architecture.

What do you hope happens with the site?

I've made it interactive, so people can create profiles and contribute their own sites to explore. I don't know the interesting places of western and central New York, so I'm hoping people will add them. I'd also like to include historic hotels, bed-and-breakfasts and other businesses that would be of interest to explorers, and more video.

How did you organize your finds?

The site has categories such as Abandoned, Ruins and Haunted, plus Lost Places, Revolutionary War, Historic Houses and True Crime.

True Crime? That seems dark for a day trip.

I'm still conflicted about how much crime to include. Some recent crimes are too horrific, but there are stories you can resurrect from the past. For example, in 1776, Peter Mesier opened a store in Wappingers Falls and charged such exorbitant prices that the locals broke in, demanded tea and spent three days beating Mesier, his wife and servants, destroying his property and raiding his supplies. Today, the house is part of a park.



What's your favorite category?

Revolutionary War. People like the Haunted category, but I try to stir them to recognize, "Hey, this is also where Washington saved the Republic!" One site that combines both categories is the Isaac Garrison House in Fort Montgomery, which he built around 1751. During the Revolution, Garrison was a second lieutenant in the Orange County regiment. During the Battle of Fort Montgomery, he and his 12-year-old son were taken prisoner by the British but were exchanged after the fort's capture by the colonists. Later owners of the house claimed a number of supernatural occurrences. It became a B&B at one point, and a couple ended their stay after they said they saw a figure in their room in the middle of the night.

ON THE SPOT

By Michael Turton

What summer tradition will you continue despite COVID-19?

We're not going to not go camping! We'll find one off the beaten path.



~ Cindy Hetzel, Beacon

I'm an avid cyclist. My club is closed, but I'll continue to ride; Nyack's a favorite destination.



~ Christy Guzzetta, Cold Spring

I'll make my annual trip to Tennessee's Great Smoky Mountains National Park.



~ Savanna Lugo, Beacon

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GIVE A LITTLE, TAKE A LITTLE — Established in 2017, the Philipstown Community Herb Garden at St. Mary's Episcopal Church in Cold Spring will soon have tomatoes, peppers and zucchini ready for harvest. Volunteers can sign up to contribute a week of weeding, trimming and watering via facebook.com/communityherbgarden. Photo provided

Garrison Principal Will Leave for New Job; Board Names Interim

School has three teacher openings in middle grades

Alex Levine, the principal at the Garrison School, will leave on July 31 to become principal at a middle school in Rockland County.



Alex Levine

"I am very sorry for the timing of this announcement as it leaves me unable to speak with our students directly" because of the COVID-19 shutdown, Levine wrote in a note to parents.

On Thursday (June 25), the Garrison school board named Louis Cuglietto, a consultant and former magnet school principal, as interim principal for the 2020-21 school year.

Levine was hired in 2018 by Laura Mitchell, the superintendent who departed this

past December and is now with the Millbrook school district. In April, the Garrison school board named Carl Albano, from the Tuckahoe district in Westchester County, as the district's new superintendent. He will begin July 1.

In addition, Christopher Caliendo, a Garrison School graduate who has taught middle school social studies there since 2014, is leaving for a position at Rye Middle School. The district has begun a search for his replacement, along with a science teacher to succeed Kevin Keegan, who retired, and a Spanish teacher.

The Garrison board is also accepting applications for a seat on the seven-member panel that became vacant earlier this month with the resignation of Jill Lake, who cited work and family obligations. The board will appoint a successor to serve until the annual meeting on May 18, 2021. The deadline for submissions is July 8. See gufs.org.

Early Primary Results

Biden wins Democratic line

As expected, Joe Biden on Tuesday (June 23) won the Democratic primary for president in New York state. His name appeared on the ballot with 10 other candidates, all of whom earlier had ended their campaigns.

Because absentee ballots could be postmarked as late as Election Day, the complete count is not expected until next week.

In the 18th Congressional District, which includes Putnam and part of Dutchess, Biden had 73 percent of the vote as of Thursday, without absentee ballots counted, and Bernie Sanders had 18 percent. Statewide, Biden had 67 percent. Dutchess said it had received 15,203 absentee ballots as of Wednesday from Democrat voters, and

Putnam said it had received 4,011.

There were two Republican primaries in Putnam for seats on the county Legislature. Toni Addonizio, who represents Kent, was leading challenger Paul Denbaum, a member of the Kent Town Board, 157-107, with 160 absentee ballots received as of Wednesday, and Legislator Amy Sayegh of Mahopac was leading former Legislator Dini LoBue, 149-83, with 148 absentees.

In Dutchess, Jessica Segal had 7 votes and Peter Forman 2 in the Green Party primary for county judge, with 50 absentees received as of Wednesday, while Forman had 312 votes and Segal 145 in the Independence Party primary, with 793 absentees.

In the 18th Congressional, voters were asked to select six delegates to the Democratic National Convention from 31 candidates. Five Biden delegates, including Kent Supervisor Maureen Fleming and Randy Florke of Philipstown, led in early voting, along with a Sanders delegate.

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LETTERS AND COMMENTS

Clarifications

In two captions in the June 19 issue, we stated that President Donald Trump spoke to the 1,113 graduates of the Class of 2020 at West Point on June 13. In fact, six cadets did not attend the ceremony, including several who had “professional sports commitments,” according to the academy. All 1,113 members of the class were commissioned remotely on May 23.

In our Summer Camp Update in the June 19 issue, we stated that the Summer Art Institute at the Garrison Art Center for high school students had been canceled. In fact, while the in-person camp will not be held, the art center will host a virtual institute that begins July 20. See garrisonartcenter.org. The Philipstown Recreation Department also announced it would hold virtual camps for children up to grade 6, beginning June 29. See philipstownrecreation.com.

Our list of Philipstown high school graduates in the June 19 issue neglected to include Donovan Green, who graduated from the New York Military Academy, and Annemiek Morrison, who graduated from the Convent of the Sacred Heart School in New York City.

No shows

The banner hanging in the center of Carmel and the rainbow lights on the historic courthouse this past week are the first public recognition of Pride Month that the Putnam County government has ever given us. I thank the county for accommodating our request, but it's 2020, and it's not enough — this is symbolism and we need substance.

The county legislators approved the symbols but didn't show up for a joint Black Live Matters/Pride Month rally and march on June 22. [See photos on next page.] I invited all of the legislators and County Executive MaryEllen Odell, and received no responses except from Odell, who I was told could not make it, and from Legislator Nancy Montgomery of Philipstown, who said she was disappointed she could not attend because she was traveling but sent someone to read a statement on her behalf.

Legislator Paul Jonke of Southeast went out of his way to present me with two Pride flags but made no effort to be at the event. The county has made virtually no statement about racial justice in the wake of the George Floyd murder and its leaders no effort to attend the many events being organized. It's worrisome, and I hope they will start responding to the increasingly vocal concerns of their constituents.

Eileen McDermott, *Brewster*
McDermott is an organizer of Putnam Pride.

Crosstalk

After listening to the June 2 meeting of the Putnam County Legislature by audio-conference, I was appalled at the behavior of every silent representative in attendance who allowed the berating of Legislator Nancy Montgomery (“Shea to Sullivan:

Apologize,” June 12). She is owed an apology by all.

Legislator Neal Sullivan urged them to avoid discussing “things that don't matter.” As a longtime resident of Putnam, and as a taxpayer, I have some questions: (1) When does asking questions about how our taxpayer funds are distributed not matter? (2) Was everyone allowed to be so unruly because Montgomery is the panel's sole Democrat? (3) Most importantly, what other questions have not been allowed?

Montgomery pointed out that Finance Commissioner Bill Carlin has warned of possible county furloughs and layoffs in the wake of the economic turmoil caused by the COVID-19 crisis. When better to ask the question about how our taxpayer funds are being distributed? Fiscal responsibility is the responsibility of every legislator.

Is “shut up” a solution? I think not. We still live in a democracy.

Joann Sherman, *Cold Spring*

Breakneck trail

Want to avoid congestion (“New Trail at Breakneck,” June 19)? Implement paid parking. You will see a big decline in visitors, and the proceeds could help rescuers buy equipment.

Dawn Baisley, *via Facebook*

Thanks to rescuers

On June 12, I had a serious accident while hiking in Fahnestock State Park that required immediate medical care. A passing hiker called 911, and the response was stunningly rapid: Philipstown EMS, the park police, the park superintendent, two ATVs, an ambulance and the fire department responded. I ended up recovering at NewYork-Presbyterian Hudson Valley Hospital, but the outcome could have been much different.

The amount of equipment involved was impressive, but more impressive was the efficiency, professionalism, competence and compassion of everyone involved. Every aspect of the care provided to me was extraordinary, from medical care on site, to evacuation to Hubbard Lodge, to transport to the hospital and to treatment in the emergency room. I should also mention the help provided by and concern expressed by passing hikers who stayed with me and got me to a place where the EMS could treat me.

The experience, while one that I hope I don't have to go through again, gave me faith that, even in these difficult times, Philipstown public services are an extraordinary asset for which we should all be thankful.

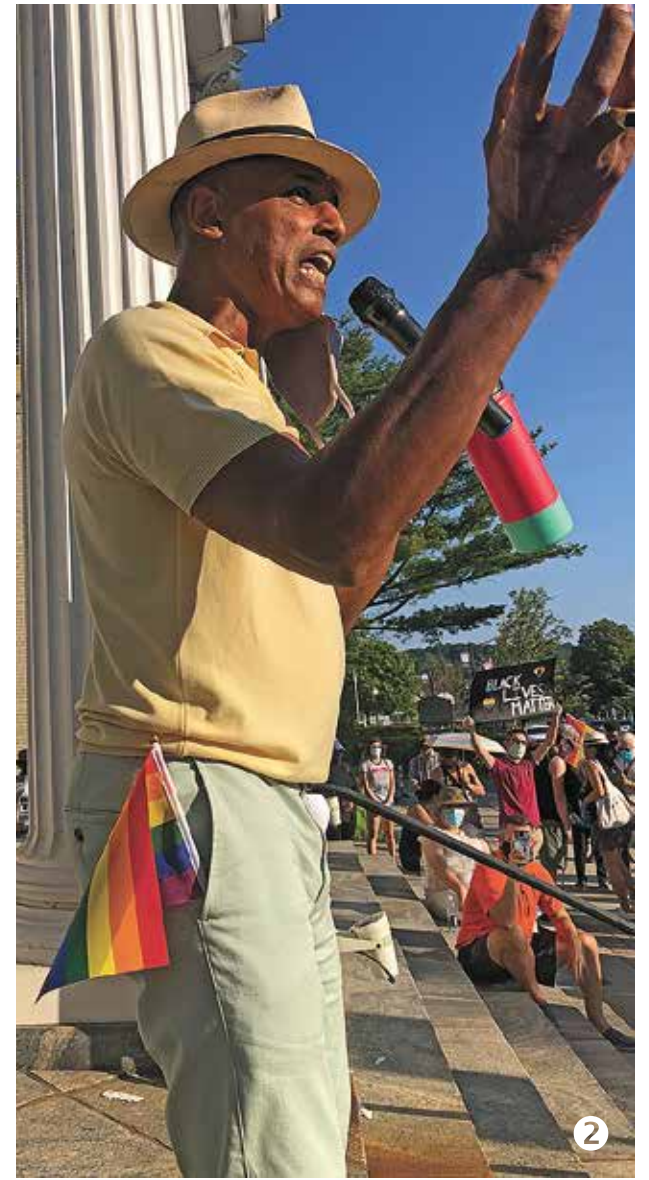
Ned Whitney, *Garrison*

Building bridges

My husband and I met Col. Brad Wambeke one day after he had somehow singlehandedly carted a pile of materials up the trail (“Building a Bridge,” June 19). We were impressed! The bridge on the School Mountain Road Trail in Philipstown is beautiful and a huge improvement over the scary little plank that crossed the water before he and his daughter Emilie did their magic.

Leah Wollman, *Cold Spring*





Two Causes, One Voice

Protestors held a joint Black Live Matters/ Pride rally and march in Carmel on Monday (June 22).

(1) State Sen. Pete Harckham, a Democrat whose district includes eastern Putnam County, spoke at a rally at Spain Cornerstone Park.

(2) Wilfredo Morel of Peekskill Pride spoke during a rally on the steps of the historic courthouse.

(3) Emily Sullivan, a high school student from Brewster, also spoke from the steps. Sullivan earlier this month launched a petition to call for the dismissal of a

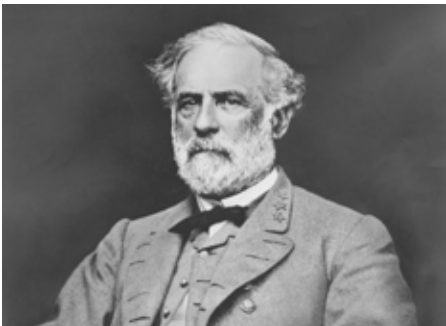
Brewster school board member, Krista Berardi, who had posted on Facebook that Black Lives Matter protestors who blocked I-84 should be "hosed." Berardi resigned on June 11.

(4) The Rev. Martha Vink of the Drew United Methodist Church in Carmel held a Pride banner on the steps, which she shared with Black Lives Matter protestors.

(5) At sunset, the courthouse was lit with a rainbow of changing colors, a symbol of gay pride, which continued each night through the week.

Photos by Laurie Dopman





Robert E. Lee in 1865 Library of Congress

Maloney (from Page 1)

Charlottesville, Virginia, sparked by the removal there of a statue of the general. The Southern Poverty Law Center has documented hundreds of public symbols of the Confederacy around the country, although it identifies only three in New York State: Lee Barracks, a statue of Gen. Stonewall Jackson in the Bronx and Stonewall Jackson Drive in Brooklyn. In addition to the barracks, West Point has a Lee Gate, Lee Road and portraits of Lee, who was the superintendent of West Point from 1851 to 1855, in its superintendents' quarters and the cadet mess hall. The Robert E. Lee Memorial Award is given each year to the graduating cadet with the highest grades in the core math curriculum. In 1975 Congress passed a resolution restoring Lee's citizenship. He had made the request on June 13, 1865, but his required oath of allegiance to the U.S. was filed away and not discovered in the National Archives until nearly a century later.

Beacon Legalizes Short-Term Rentals

Also: School district outlines diversity plan

By Jeff Simms

Two years after the Beacon City Council was unable to agree on how to regulate short-term rentals such as those booked through Airbnb, it earlier this month amended the zoning code to allow them in single- and multi-family homes. As of Oct. 1, homeowners and tenants in any zoning district will be permitted to rent or sublet homes or apartments for up to 100 days per year and 30 days at a time. The rental spaces must be owner-occupied, which means that they must be the owner or renter's primary residence, not an investment property. An inspection and \$150 permit will be required. For renters who are subletting space, the landlord must sign the permit application. If an entire home or apartment is to be rented, a contact must be available to respond in person within two hours if issues arise. Rental spaces must be inspected and permits renewed for \$50 every two years. Anyone offering short-term rentals before Oct. 1, although technically illegal, will have until Nov. 15 to apply for a permit. In 2018, a motion to legalize the rentals failed because the council feared state

building codes would require homeowners to implement costly fire safety measures. However, the law passed by the City Council earlier this month permits short-term rentals as an "accessory use," allowing homeowners to bypass the most onerous parts of the building code. While the measure passed unanimously, Council Member Dan Aymar-Blair said he believed the legislation should limit rentals to fewer than 30 consecutive days. Too many strangers coming and going will disrupt neighborhoods, he said.

Zoning codes

The council on June 15 adopted new city-wide zoning tables following a two-year review. The tables, which had not been updated in more than 40 years, outline uses and guidelines for each of the city's zoning districts. John Clarke, the city's planning consultant, rewrote the tables to consolidate similar uses while reducing the number of special permits that are required and streamlining the standards by which the council or Planning Board must judge them. The project also saw the creation of a new "transitional" district that flanks Main Street, and the tables allow more commercial development in the waterfront and the river-to-Main linkage zones.

School diversity

The Beacon school board on June 17 adopted a statement supporting the Black Lives Matter movement. In the statement, the board reiterated its "collective commitment to equity in our schools while also recognizing that we still have much to learn and change in order to fully address racism in our own institutions. We recognize that our schools have not always succeeded at this and apologize to those we have failed to serve." The board adopted the statement 8-1, with President Anthony White voting against it. He explained that while he recognizes the district has work to do, he

“If we want to have a community and a country where all people really matter — and at this point in time where black lives matter — we have to build the conditions for empathy to be accepted and understood.” ~ ERIK WRIGHT

- felt “the statement does not acknowledge the work that the district has already engaged in to address inequities.” The board continued the discussion at its June 22 meeting, during which Superintendent Matt Landahl laid out a number of “restorative practices” that the district plans to undertake, including:
- Working with the Mediation Center of Dutchess County to create either socially distanced or virtual “talking circles” for students and possibly parents to discuss race and other issues;
 - Adding students to the Equity Leadership Teams at district schools;
 - Issuing an equity report card by July 31 with statistics on the demographics of students, administration and staff; and
 - Adjusting curriculum to make it “more affirming” and “more reflective of diversity” and social-justice issues.

Erik Wright, the assistant superintendent of curriculum and student support, told the board that, over the summer, the district should “look at U.S. history and begin to focus on those areas that haven’t been tapped into much and bring out the contributions of people” during critical times such as the Reconstruction era. “If we want to have a community and a country where all people really matter — and at this point in time where black lives matter — we have to build the conditions for empathy to be accepted and understood,” he said.

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The HIGHLANDS
Current

Real Estate

Market Report (May)

	Beacon		Philipstown	
	2019	2020	2019	2020
New Listings	23	5	26	13
Closed Sales	5	4	11	7
Days on Market	32	168	91	154
Median Price	\$310,500	\$361,450	\$540,000	\$619,000
% List Received	97.8	94.0	95.6	90.9
Inventory	44	17	87	58

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

Police Release Video, Audio of Killing

Officers say former Beacon man pointed gun

By Chip Rowe

The New Jersey Attorney General's Office continues to investigate the death of a former Beacon man, Bradley G. Pullman, 48, who was shot dead by police officers on April 26 in Wayne. On June 9, the state posted video of the killing

taken from police vehicles.

The attorney general said in a statement that at about 4:30 p.m., an officer from the Mountain Lakes Police Department attempted to pull over a Lexus sedan after he saw it perform an illegal U-turn over the median of a divided highway.

Police said the car did not stop and a pursuit ensued involving two other police departments. It ended about 17 minutes later at the interchange of Routes 46 and 23 and

Interstate 80 when Pullman stopped his vehicle and began to get out. Officers said he was aiming a pistol at a police vehicle, and four officers fired in response.

In its statement, the Office of the Attorney General said that officers found a loaded .380-caliber pistol near the driver's seat after removing Pullman from the car. He was pronounced dead at the scene by emergency medical responders.

Police initially identified Pullman as a resident of Beacon because he had a Beacon address on his driver's license but said on June 15 that he was living in Queens at the

time of his death.

Under state law, when the investigation is complete, the case will be presented to a grand jury to decide whether criminal charges should be filed. However, the convening of grand juries has been temporarily suspended in New Jersey because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Attorney General's office said.

The New Jersey Attorney General's Office is also investigating the shooting of a Poughkeepsie man, Maurice Gordon, 28, by a state trooper on May 23. Gordon was killed on the Garden State Parkway in the township of Bass River.

Police Forum *(from Page 1)*

Of the more than 30 people who spoke during the June 20 forum, many asked the council to cut as much as 50 percent from the Police Department budget, which exceeds \$5 million annually and accounts for about 25 percent of the spending from the city's general fund.

Dozens of callers also asked the city to outfit officers with fewer weapons while increasing de-escalation and anti-bias training.

Some shared personal experiences with officers that upset them. Zoe Fonseca, a Beacon resident who teaches elementary school in Newburgh, tearfully recalled standing by her snowbound car two years ago when a Beacon police officer pulled over and said he was about to have her car towed.

Fonseca said she told the officer she had not seen any signs indicating that she couldn't park on the street during the snowstorm. The officer, she said, retorted: "Do you need signs to tell you not to murder people?"

Later, at school, she said she "had to collect myself before I could teach my students because of an interaction I'd had with someone who should be serving the community."

Another caller, Sarah Capua, said that three years earlier she had answered her door to find six officers with guns drawn. There had been a report of a shot fired, but "clearly, they were at the wrong address," she said.

Capua said she asked the officers to holster their weapons before she allowed them into her home but said there were soon five more officers on her lawn with automatic rifles.

She described what she said was a haphazard search of her home, during which two officers drew their weapons again, with "excitement on their faces."

The episode ended without incident but Capua said Saturday that she was troubled by the "many, many ways that could have gone incredibly badly."

Other callers at the forum voiced their support for the police.

Patty Turcy-Rose said that the criticism seemed like an organized attack, with callers parroting talking points such as budget cuts and fewer weapons.

"How are the police supposed to protect the community against the so-called bad guys who do have guns?" she asked. "Right now all I'm hearing is extremism."

Bryanne Figlia, the wife of Lt. Tom Figlia,



A bench placed outside Beacon City Hall memorializes a Walden police officer who was a stepson of the former Beacon mayor.

Photo by J. Simms

the Beacon department's training coordinator, called in to voice her support for Beacon 4 Black Lives and other protestors.

"I understand the deep sense of mistrust," she said. "The Beacon Police Department, because of what I happen to know of it, has incredible potential to change. Folks are correct when they say that we need a different paradigm. I don't want the residents of Beacon to believe they are fighting a force that is against them."

Another resident, Renee Stanko, offered her perspective on calls to "defund the police."

"When we say 'defund the police,' we want to see a different type of police on the ground," she said. "I want to see someone who knows their community. I want to see someone who doesn't always have a gun on their hip. It changes a lot when the police can look you in the eye and say, 'Hi, how's your day?'"

Charles Demetropolis observed that "we tend to focus always on the negative but we never focus on the positive things police are doing in our community. I don't think we should be demonizing the police."

But Robert Kimmel, the next caller, said he felt outreach programs such as Coffee with a Cop have done little to quell feelings of marginalization in Beacon.

"The police have done a good job of

demonizing themselves," he said. "There are some of us who are rejected and despised, and Coffee with a Cop does not help."

Next steps

On Wednesday (June 24), City Council Member Terry Nelson, who represents Ward 1, said in an interview that the council hadn't decided what its next steps would be.

"We want to get a better knowledge of what the department's procedures are," he said. "If there are consistent stories [of misconduct], we'll talk to the department about it."

However, he added, "this is us doing our due diligence. It is not a coordinated attack against the police."

Nelson said he hoped his colleagues would consider creating an ad hoc "truth and reconciliation" committee to discuss racial issues. The format was notably used as a platform for victims of human rights violations after the fall of apartheid in South Africa. Nelson said he hoped a local forum could allow residents to more openly "acknowledge your past instead of burying it."

"People need to sit down and talk to each other and acknowledge that we have a problem," he said. "We're not talking about it."

Police statement

The day before the June 20 forum, the

Beacon Patrolmen's Benevolent Association, the labor union that represents officers, posted a letter addressed to the City Council on its Facebook page. It asked council members to "do your research" and "seek the truth" regarding allegations levied against officers.

The letter referenced a 2006 incident in which a Beacon police officer and another individual were shot. It said the story was being recalled incorrectly as an unprovoked police shooting.

"Many of the incidents as told by speakers of the movement are not accurate," the PBA wrote. "Misinformation could cause irreversible damage to this city."

Memorial bench

A bench placed outside of the entrance to City Hall nearly two years ago to memorialize a police officer has become a focus of discussion, as well.

It honors Dustin James, a Village of Walden police officer who was killed at age 31 in a motorcycle accident in 2017. James was the stepson of then-Mayor Randy Casale, and the bench was commissioned by the officer's friends and former colleagues.

Its design includes the "thin blue line" that has been used to show support for law enforcement but also has been placed on the U.S. flag as part of a Blue Lives Matter campaign seen as critical of Black Lives Matter.

Mayor Lee Kyriacou said Thursday that city officials have received feedback for and against the bench. "I don't think anyone objected to it at the time," Kyriacou said. "The only issue was the blue stripe on it," which he said "some people view negatively."

Kyriacou said that numerous memorials have been placed in and around City Hall over the years, each time as an "administrative decision" that did not involve the City Council.

Casale said this week that there was already another bench at City Hall and when he approved the placement of the memorial for James he believed it would provide additional seating.

Casale, who made a number of Facebook posts this week excoriating city officials, said he's heard that the bench could be moved to the Police Department entrance.

"I would be OK with moving it there as a reminder that all cops should be good cops," he said. "But if we're moving the bench just to hide it until somebody complains about it there, that's not happening."

No Gyms, Theaters Yet

Earlier this week, Gov. Andrew Cuomo said five regions — Central New York and the Finger Lakes, Mohawk Valley, North Country and Southern Tier — were on track to enter Phase 4 of the state's reopening plan today (June 26). Assuming each phase lasts 14 days, the Mid-Hudson Region target date for Phase 4 is July 7.

During Phase 4, arts and entertainment, film and TV production, higher education and professional sports without fans will be allowed, as well as social gatherings of up to 50 people and indoor religious services at

up to 33 percent of capacity.

But movie theaters, gyms and shopping malls will not be able to reopen, as some had anticipated. In a statement, State Sen. Sue Serino, a Republican whose district includes the Highlands, accused the state of "backtracking" and said the decision "defies logic."

State officials credit social distancing and face coverings, along with the three-month shutdown of nonessential businesses, with helping to dramatically reduce COVID-19 infections and deaths. The number of deaths peaked at 800 in early April. On Sunday (June 21), there were 10 deaths, the lowest since March 21. Putnam County has not had a death in more than two weeks, while Dutchess

is recording about three per week.

While cases are rising in more than 20 states, New York, New Jersey and Massachusetts are on pace to contain the coronavirus, according to COVID Act Now, a data analysis group.

On Wednesday, Cuomo said that anyone traveling to New York from a state that has a positive test rate higher than 10 per 100,000 residents over a seven-day rolling average, or a 10 percent or higher positivity rate over a seven-day rolling average — which would include Florida, Arizona and the Carolinas — must quarantine for 14 days. He made the announcement with the governors of New Jersey and Connecticut, who imposed the same restrictions.

COVID-19 by the Numbers

■ PUTNAM COUNTY

Number of confirmed cases:

1,311 (+16)

New Cases in Philipstown: 0

Tests administered:

15,912 (+1,937)

Percent positive:

8.2 (-1.1)

Number of deaths:

62 (+0)

■ DUTCHESS COUNTY

Number of confirmed cases:

4,176 (+88)

Active Cases in Beacon: 10

Tests administered:

55,557 (+6,400)

Percent positive:

7.5 (-0.8)

Number of deaths:

151 (+3)

Source: New York State Department of Health, with weekly changes in parentheses, as of June 25. New cases in Philipstown for week ending June 19.

Reopening *(from Page 1)*

alcoholic drinks and then hanging out and drinking alcoholic beverages outside of businesses," he said.

"Instead of operating real takeout and delivery service, licensees are using this privilege to operate the equivalent of an unlawful outdoor bar, with patrons lining up in clusters to be served and congregating outside to consume," Bradley said.

Anthony Ruggiero, Beacon's city administrator, said the city has received "one or two" complaints that were referred to the building department.

In Putnam, Shawn Rogan, the county's director of environmental services, said during a meeting of the Legislature's Health Committee on June 16 that his office, along with code enforcement officers and local police, have responded to "many complaints, not only in restaurants

but in many different businesses" about a lack of social distancing.

He said the county talks to the business owners, urging them to follow state rules, and follows up with additional inspections.

"We're hoping we don't ever have to go to the level of requiring an enforcement action," Rogan said. "We have that tool, but we get very good results with our education-based approach."

Regina Bei, who co-owns the Hudson House River Inn in Cold Spring, said bars and restaurants should be cautious about following the rules because "none of us want to go through this again. There's things we've loved that the governor's done and there's things we've hated. But we have to claim responsibility — we have to, or I am so sure we'll end up where we started."

Even before Cuomo's order, the State Liquor Authority had suspended the licenses of a few establishments that

opened before they were allowed, including the Hudson Brewing Co. in Hudson. In response to complaints, state investigators visited on May 22 and said they observed "27 people drinking on and in proximity to the brewery, some near the entrance and others tailgating."

A New Rochelle pizzeria, Metapan Pizzeria Ristorante, also had its liquor licenses suspended after local police visited on May 9 and found people drinking beer around a pool table.

Investigators from the State Liquor Authority will not only be responding to complaints but "conducting routine compliance checks," Bradley said. The state also has a task force responding to complaints about businesses violating social-distancing guidelines, he said.

"You may not know when your premises are under observation in connection with an investigation," Bradley said.

Travelers Begin Slow Return to Hotels

Fears seem to ease as infection rate falls

By Leonard Sparks

Despite being deemed "essential" under Gov. Andrew Cuomo's state-wide shutdown order of nonessential businesses that took effect on March 22, The Pig Hill Inn on Main Street in Cold Spring sat mostly empty for weeks.

The guests who checked out on March 15 were the last until May 8, according to owner Vera Keil. She said nearly 80 reservations for the spring and summer were canceled and her business was reduced to "a room here, two rooms there."

"I guess people were scared to come," she said.

Those fears seem to be easing as businesses slowly reopen on the heels of a dramatic reduction in COVID-19 infections,



Regina Bei, co-owner of the Hudson House River Inn in Cold Spring

Photo by L. Sparks

hospitalizations and deaths.

With the Mid-Hudson Region now in Phase 3 of the state's reopening plan, retailers can again allow customers inside their shops, barbers and stylists are at work on a backlog of disheveled hair, and restaurants are seating people indoors and out.

Hotels and bed-and-breakfasts are also reporting signs of life.

Last weekend, six of the nine rooms at the Pig Hill Inn were booked, the most at one time since mid-March. The Hudson House River Inn started booking first-floor rooms several weeks ago, and on Tuesday (June 23) opened its second-floor rooms and its restaurant for indoor dining.

Each of Hudson House's first-floor rooms, with balconies and terraces over-

looking the river, was booked last weekend, said co-owner Regina Bei. And with the restaurant finally open, "the phones are ringing off the hook," she said.

"I have a sense that by the time the Fourth of July hits, we'll be operating as normal," she said.

Members of the Hudson House staff, who have all returned after being laid-off, shuttled between rooms on Tuesday preparing for diners and guests. A hard-to-miss sign on the front door reminded visitors to wear masks. A plastic screen sat atop the front desk.

At the beginning of the pandemic, in mid-March, Hudson House received an influx of calls from people in New York City, which at the time was the epicenter of the outbreak in the U.S.

"We probably could have kept the inn fully booked with people wanting to get out of the city, but we just weren't comfortable, so we closed everything down," Bei said.

The Roundhouse in Beacon also decided to close due to safety concerns. On June 12, the hotel had its first guests since March, with eight of its 51 rooms booked, according to manager Katie Guerra. On a normal June weekend, the Roundhouse's

(Continued on Page 8)

Action Figures, Bicycles, Puzzles, Banjos

Shop owners reveal pandemic bestsellers



By Leonard Sparks

We asked retailers in the Highlands what non-essential items have been popular during the COVID-19 shutdown.

Tim Schopen

Peoples Bicycle, Beacon

With gyms closed and the outdoors one of the few places open, residents turned to bicycling, buying up most of the available stock at Peoples Bicycle in Beacon of bikes and accessories such as helmets, baby seats and car racks.

How bad has it been? Schopen says he's been getting phone calls from people who live out of state who are looking for bikes, and he's had to order inner tubes from eBay because they were out of stock at his two parts distributors.

"Everything comes from China and it's been shut down for so many months," Schopen explains. "You can't find them; there are no bikes left."

Some of the bicycles in his shop are rentals. Others have been brought in for repairs and tuneups.

"Eighty percent of the bikes in here haven't been used in 10 years; they've been sitting in somebody's garage," he said. "They want to go outside or can't find a new bike."

Fran Farnorotto

The Gift Hut, Cold Spring

Jewelry, socks, soaps, toys, model kits: Variety distinguishes The Gift Hut.

Farnorotto's customers have always craved The Gift Hut's inventory of puzzles

but never in the quantities she's seen in the past 10 weeks. She was surprised how quickly the demand came for 500- and 1,000-piece puzzles, mostly from adults.

"Over the years, we have cultivated the puzzle business and always had a large assortment, so I've had repeat customers for quite some time," she said. The shutdown "brought it to the next level."

Farnorotto buys her puzzles from three vendors. The most popular are *New Yorker* magazine covers made by the New York Puzzle Co.

Unfortunately, the demand was strong at a time when some manufacturers were unable to ship puzzles because their operations were considered non-essential.

"A lot of families are sitting down doing puzzles together," Farnorotto said. "People are finding it's a great way of communicating. It's also a stress reliever."

Shana Wilensky

AfterEden Gallery, Beacon

Limited-edition action figures made by Sideshow Collectibles, a firm in Thousand Oaks, California, based on comic book and Star Wars characters can cost from \$200 to more than \$1,000.

The figures have been "going like crazy" online, making them the store's bestseller during the shutdown, said Wilensky, who manages the store, which is owned by her family.

"People have always bought them, but since this shutdown, we are shipping them out every day," she said.

Hotels (from Page 8)

hotel would be sold out, she said. But even with empty rooms, "we were happy, quite honestly, to have guests," she said.

Following its reopening weekend, The Roundhouse had rooms booked for about a dozen nights between June 14 and June 18, and about eight to 10 rooms booked last weekend, Guerra said.

Wedding parties would typically have reserved the rooms months ago. Now nearly everyone is a leisure traveler, she said, and business is far less predictable.

"We are getting a lot of last-minute reservations, which makes it more difficult for us to manage everything from staffing to ordering supplies for our new in-room breakfast," Guerra said. "We're trying hard to adjust to this new reality."

Keil is doing the same. With two-thirds

of Pig Hill's rooms booked, last Saturday (June 20) was a "winning day," she said. She also has five rooms booked for the Fourth of July weekend. Beyond that, however, the calendar is empty.

With intercontinental travel limited, Pig Hill cannot depend this summer on visitors from Europe, Australia and other countries. It also will feel the absence of large annual events like the Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival, whose cancellation was a "big blow," she said.

"We have a lot of repeat guests who stay with us — they're sort of like friends by now because they come every year for Shakespeare," she said.

Pig Hill's current guests are mainly from Brooklyn and Manhattan, and the inn's rooms still sit empty on weekdays, Keil said. "I'm hoping that people will start traveling a little bit more," she said.



Tim Schopen at Peoples Bicycle in Beacon

Photo by L. Sparks

Leonora Burton

The Country Goose, Cold Spring

Burton said she had not sold much kitchenware from her Main Street shop for years.

The shutdown, however, spurred a rise in baking, especially bread-making. In response, Burton began bringing in more bakeware such as cake pans and knife sharpeners. Coffee has also been a big seller, as people brew at home: On a single Friday in late May, she sold 50 pounds.

Jake Bernz

Jake's Main Street Music, Beacon

The shutdown has failed to dampen sales of the store's ever-popular banjos, said co-owner Bernz.

Despite Jake's storefront being closed, Bernz said he has been filling orders from around the country.

"Some people want banjos to occupy themselves where you have to be sheltering at home," he said.

SAI@HOME

For High School Students

July 20-30

- *Comix: Developing a Character and a Comic*
Lise Prown
- *Sculpting with Clay*
Lisa Knaus
- *Crash Class: Drawing*
Carinda Swann
- *Lino-cut Printmaking*
Melissa Schlobohm



This summer Garrison Art Center is bringing our highly-regarded **Summer Art Institute for High School Students** to your home!

SAI@home will offer classes from four accomplished teaching artists.

Via Zoom: demonstrations, teacher feedback, critiques, & discussions. The program will culminate in an exhibition in our galleries 8/1 & 8/2.

Materials included. Flexible program - enroll in one, two, three classes or the complete program for well-rounded training and to save \$75!

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Garrison Art Center

Virus Takes a Divot at Putnam Golf Course

Income falls at county-owned facility, but so do expenses

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

COVID-19 and the statewide shutdown to slow its spread caused revenues to plummet at two recreational facilities owned by Putnam County, although expenses also fell.

In the first four months of the year, the Putnam County Golf Course in Mahopac collected about \$300,000 in revenue, or 16 percent less than anticipated. Tilly's Table, a restaurant at Tilly Foster Farm in Brewster, and the Barn, an event venue there, brought in \$159,000, about 27 percent less than projected, according to a report compiled by Mike McCall, the general manager of both facilities.

At the same time, expenses for the period were 12 percent below budget at the golf course and 27 percent lower at the restaurant and event venue.

"The saving grace in Putnam's case has been that golf, for the most part, has been able to operate in some fashion and the weather this year has been very favor-

able," McCall wrote in the report, which was shared with county legislators during a June 22 committee meeting.

New York State ordered golf courses to close on April 9 but then reversed course about 10 days later. The Putnam course reopened on a limited basis, with no access to the clubhouse or pro shop, and no food service or entertainment. Should the state again allow banquets, "we should have a very busy fall," McCall wrote.

Tilly's Table and the Barn closed in March. Tilly's Table reopened with outdoor dining on June 9 and planned to resume limited indoor service on Tuesday (June 23).

During the committee meeting, Legislator Nancy Montgomery, who represents Philipstown, questioned spending on events at the golf course and at Tilly Foster, which covers nearly 200 acres and includes livestock, farming operations and hiking paths, and hosts culinary and other high school classes.

"How much have we invested in Tilly Foster since we acquired it and in the golf course since we acquired it?" she asked. "I haven't been shown we have made any profits in the years past with these events. I have concerns about what we're investing in."

At a time when Putnam faces daunt-

ing budget challenges, Montgomery said she wants "to make sure we're prioritizing where we need to. It should not be at Tilly Foster and should not be at the golf course." She advocated efforts "to provide essential services to the people."

Legislator Bill Gouldman of Putnam Valley likewise asked for details about the costs.

Noting that fields at Tilly Foster contain weeds, Legislator Paul Jonke of Southeast wondered if the farm has enough staff. Fred Pena, commissioner of the county Highways & Facilities Department, promised to check.

In 2014, the county assumed control of Tilly Foster when its overseer left amid questions about the farm's management. Several years earlier, aided by funds from watershed protection sources, the county had purchased the property to save it from development.

Legislator Carl Albano of Carmel said that the county's goal with the farm and golf course wasn't "necessarily to make a profit. Open space is something that a lot of people have asked for and that's how we inherited these."

"I wonder what the alternative is?" asked Legislator Neal Sullivan, who represents parts of Carmel and Mahopac.

By the Numbers: Voter Registration

On June 18, the Putnam County Board of Elections submitted its 2019 annual report to the Legislature.



The voter rolls last year had **64,913** names, including 22,285 registered Republicans (34 percent), 19,884 Democrats (31 percent), 16,307 independents (25 percent), 3,703 Independence Party members (6 percent) and 1,782 Conservative Party members (3 percent).

There were **10,249** registrations filed — 67 percent of which came through the Department of Motor Vehicles, 23 percent from people who came to the board's office in Carmel or mailed in a form, and the remainder from voter drives and other sources.

The board canceled **5,432** registrations; in 17 percent of cases, the form was incomplete and in 9 percent, the voter had died. Election officials also canceled 11 registrations because the voter had been convicted of a felony; one in which the voter was declared mentally incompetent; 37 because the voter was already registered; eight because the registrant was not a U.S. citizen; and 39 because the registrant was not yet 18 years old.

Of the registrations canceled, **2,375** belonged to "inactive" voters who moved without informing the board. Once made inactive, if a person does not vote in the county in two consecutive federal elections, he or she is removed.

There were **1,058** absentee ballots distributed before the November election, and 728 were returned. Of those, 29 were rejected. About half of those were mailed too late; four were not signed; two were sent back in unofficial envelopes; one had no postmark; and one came from a voter reported deceased.

laws to facilitate the expansion of hospitals, wider testing, remote government meetings and judicial procedures, a waiver of requirements on school aid and other actions.

"Given the very real possibility of additional COVID waves, New York must be ready to make nimble responses," she wrote.

Montgomery attempted in May to have the nine-member Legislature make the same points in a resolution. Sullivan instead proposed on June 18 that other legislators write the governor, as well.

“The saving grace in Putnam's case has been that golf, for the most part, has been able to operate in some fashion and the weather this year has been very favorable. ~ MIKE MCCALL

Primary Serves as 'Test Run' for November Election in Putnam

Voters keen on mail-in ballots

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

The June 23 primary in Putnam County could be viewed as a test run for the November general election, election officials said last week.

Putnam's election commissioners, Republican Anthony Scannapieco and Democrat Catherine Croft, who direct the county Board of Elections (BOE), briefed the county Legislature on June 18.

Croft said that, as of that day, the board had mailed out 5,689 absentee ballots. She said she expected there would be thousands of absentee requests before the November vote, as well. By comparison, there were 1,058 applications for absentee ballots before the 2016 presidential primary.

"I guess [the primary] is a good test run, right?" said Legislator Neal Sullivan.

"Yes!" Croft replied.

Along with the Democratic presidential primary, Tuesday's voting included Republican primary races for county legislators in Kent and Mahopac. (See Page 3.) There were only 11 polling stations in the county, rather than the usual 22, because the owners of "many of the polling sites would not let us use them" because of the shutdown, Croft said.

Early voting also was available at the Board of Elections in Carmel. Legislator Nancy Montgomery, who represents Philipstown, said she chose that method, which "was very smooth."

Croft said that Board of Elections staff, working from home, managed to keep up with the demands of the primary, although Scannapieco said "the governor hits us with new changes three days before we have to do it. We've been going crazy here."

BOE health protocols call for poll workers to sanitize the electronic pens used by voters to sign in after each use; provide disposable ballot-marking pens; and give face coverings to any voters who arrive without them, although Croft noted, "we can't stop somebody from voting if they're not wearing a mask." She thanked the volunteer Mask Makers Guild, which donated 200 masks to the BOE.

Changes designed to slow the spread of COVID-19 have cost the Board of Elections about \$91,000 so far, but Croft said the expenses should be covered by a \$131,000 federal grant.

A letter to the governor

At the same meeting, Montgomery shared a letter she wrote to Gov. Andrew Cuomo on June 17 urging him to extend a March executive order that suspended or modified



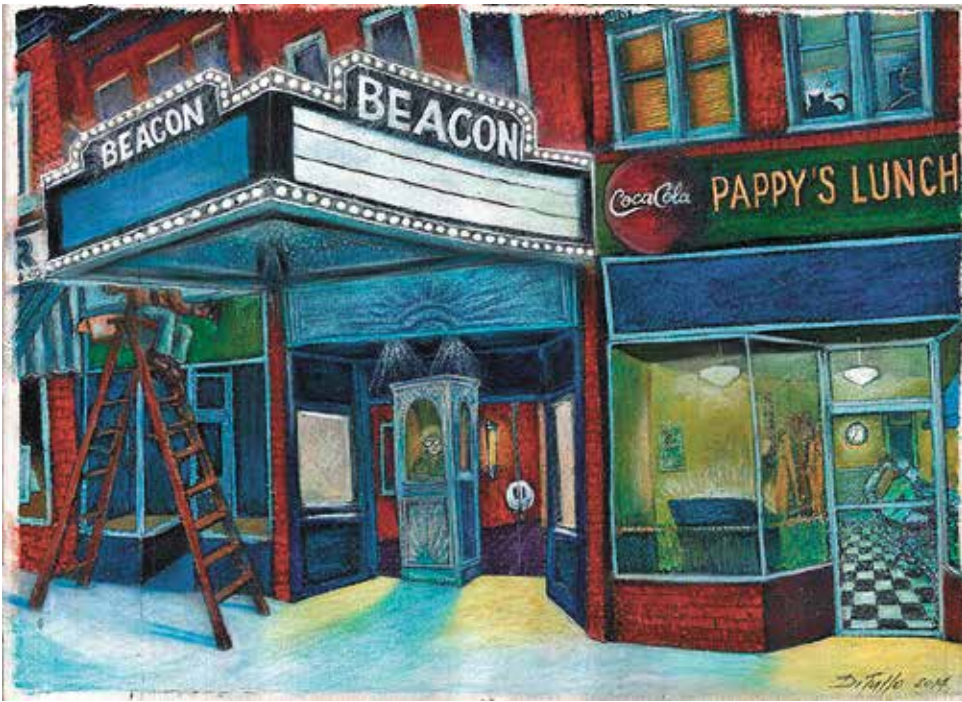
Selling organic produce every Saturday at the Cold Spring Farmers Market.

Now accepting online preorders for safe and easy market shopping.

Order online and pickup at market.

fourwindsfarmny.com

The Calendar



"Beacon Theatre" (with self-portrait)

The Artist Next Door

Sam DiTullo

By Alison Rooney

When Sam DiTullo was a child, he realized that "being able to draw was one of the few things I had that made me different."

The Beacon native recalls being picked on by a bully during lunch or recess, "and I would end up doing a drawing in the dirt with a stick of a cartoon character and he'd start to leave me alone when he realized I could do something he couldn't. Later he'd come over and ask me to draw something just for him."

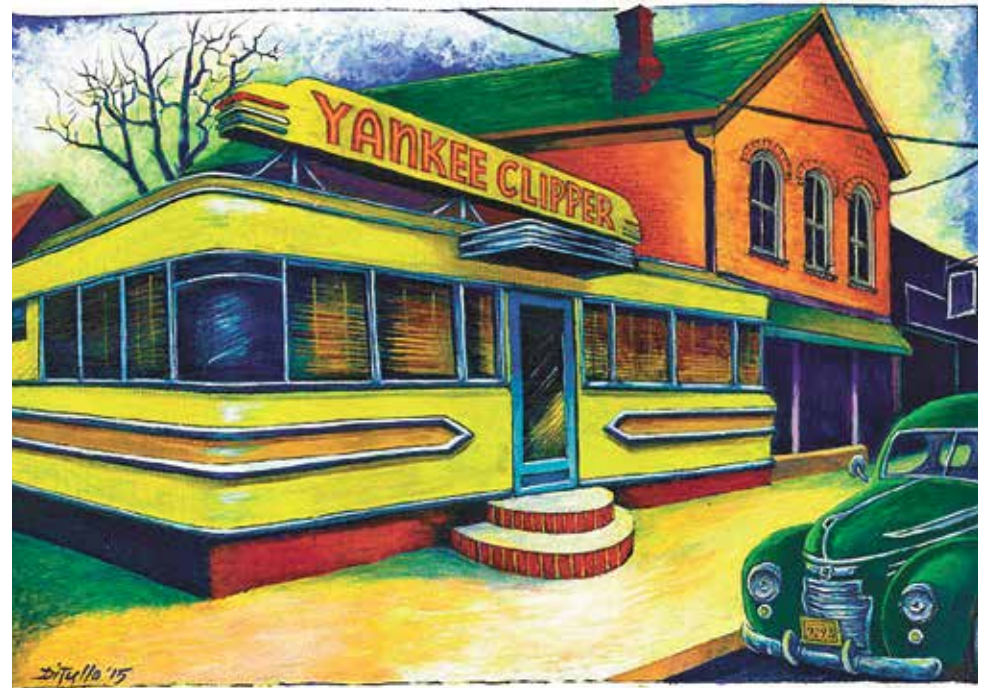
Six decades later, DiTullo is still drawing. Although he now lives in New Paltz, he has returned to his Beacon roots through his art over the past decade, painting the city of his youth and making prints and postcards

he sells through etsy.com/shop/samditullo, often to fellow Beacon ex-pats.

His paintings depict places long gone, either because they were destroyed or altered, such as the Yankee Clipper, Zeyak's Market, the Victorian building at Matteawan State Hospital, the Mount Beacon Hotel and the Beacon and Roosevelt theaters, along with streetscapes that evoke another time and place.

DiTullo is self-taught. "There were no other artists or role models" when he was in school, he says. "They'd show drawings in art class and I'd get inspired, but there were limited books on art in the library and, of course, no internet, so I never got any kind of a formal education in art."

In addition, "people were pretty close-minded and I was a bit of an outcast," he recalls. "As I got older I realized, like many artists and writers, the early part of life is what forms you. At the time the Vietnam War was going on, and when the topic came up,



"The Yankee Clipper"

I would state my opinion and get hostility."

DiTullo remembers being "the first person at Beacon High with long hair. I got thrown out of school in 1966 and that was the reason. I had letters written from some of my teachers saying I disrupted the classroom. It was a very conservative time in Beacon."

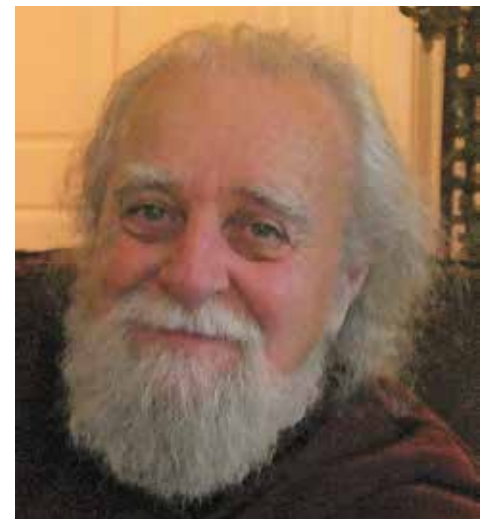
After dropping out, DiTullo worked at a factory. A few months later, he received a letter from the state Department of Education, asking why he wasn't attending school. "Two weeks later, the school called, telling me I could come back and didn't have to cut my hair, but couldn't wear high boots," he says. "They had to assert themselves in some way. I graduated a year later than I could have, but it was a character-building moment."

In the years that followed, DiTullo began writing about Beacon, and drawing to illustrate his writing, focusing on buildings and streetscapes that were iconic to his childhood, such as the library, the theaters, the walk from the high school to the diner. "I used to stay up late, walking the streets when no one was around, with my sketchbook and camera," he says.

He resumed the habit about 10 years ago, using his earlier drawings and photos as touchpoints for the new ones. He also uses his recollections.

Of the Beacon ferry, which operated until the Newburgh-Beacon Bridge was completed in 1963, DiTullo recalls: "My dad always liked to fish. Every Saturday, we went to the dump, which was on that peninsula where they have the Strawberry Festival. Columns of smoke rose in the air. There was an old diner where the Sloop Club was. The ferry was impressive to a kid, watching it get close, with its clanking sounds, scattering birds. It was big enough to hold more than a dozen cars and trucks."

The Holland House stood on Main Street at the current location of the DMV. "It amazed me: the railings, the iron fence work around it," DiTullo says. "A big hotel in a little town, and a place a kid like me

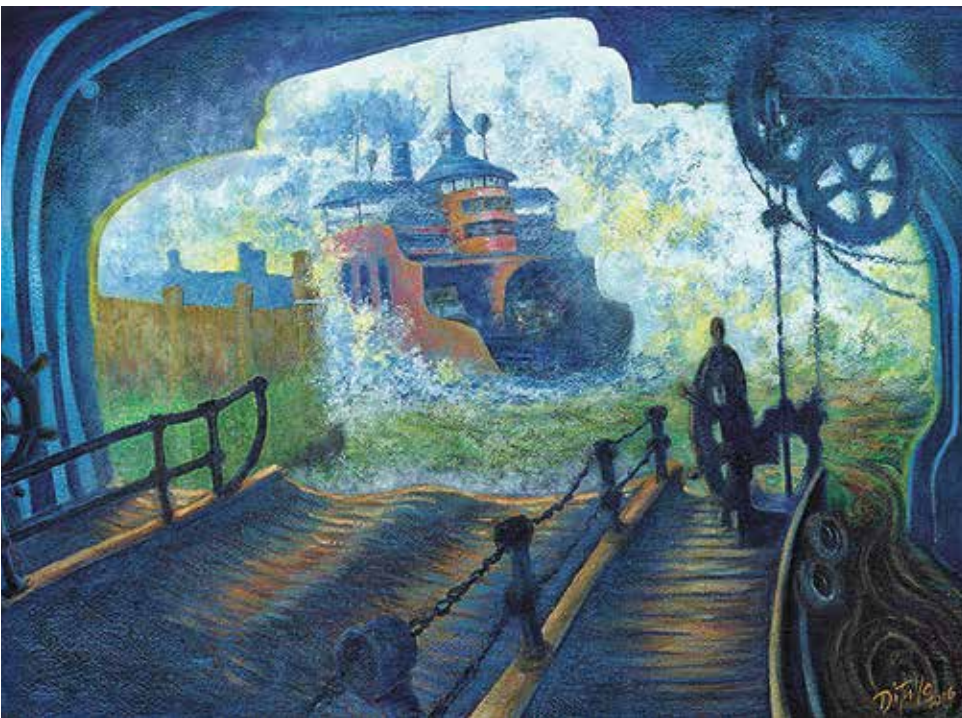


Sam DiTullo

would never stay in. It had a carriage house because it was built at a time when people came in wagons. There were these beautiful carved horse heads by the doors."

DiTullo worked at one of the places he's painted, The Beacon Theatre. He's put himself into his painting of the façade — or part of himself. "I worked there when I was 16, in 1966, and one of the things that I had to do was to put the letters on the marquee every Thursday, when the program changed," he says. "So the legs hanging off the ladder — that would be me."

DiTullo says he has never made much money from his art, which is OK. "My philosophy has always been to never take a job for money if it was going to interfere with my ability to be creative," he says. "I always took fairly mediocre jobs, like construction crews, creating ads for newspapers, designing restaurant menus, signage. It allowed me to have the creative freedom to do whatever I wanted. All the people in the art world hate when I say things like this, but once you depend on someone buying your work, you start to make what sells. I don't want the fact that I have to make money to govern what it is I do. I go by my heart, my soul, but it's not an easy way to survive."



"Beacon Ferry"

THE WEEK AHEAD

Edited by Pamela Doan (calendar@highlandscurrent.org)

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

COMMUNITY

SUN 28

Pride Caravan Protest

NEWBURGH

facebook.com/NewburghLGBTQCenter

The Newburgh LGBTQ Center will lead a caravan to support the rights of black and brown queer people. Join anywhere from Beacon to Hudson or Kingston. Register online.

TUES 30

New Leaf Community Garden Info Session

PHILIPSTOWN

7 p.m. Butterfield Library
butterfieldlibrary.org

Register online to learn about this project on Route 9D and how to get involved.

SAT 4

Drive-In Fireworks

WAPPINGERS FALLS

9:30 p.m. Dutchess Stadium
1500 NY-9D

facebook.com/dutchesscogov

The gates will open at 7:30 p.m. and the first 500 cars admitted. No concessions or bathrooms will be open. No alcohol will be allowed. *Free*

VISUAL ARTS

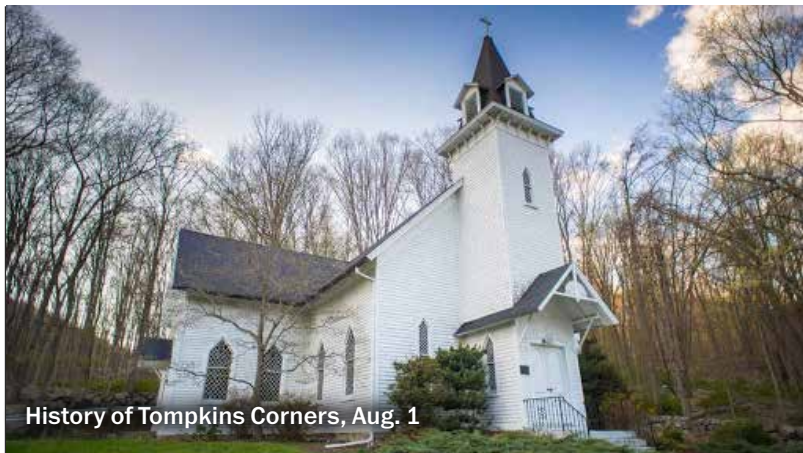
FRI 3

Pause/Refresh II

COLD SPRING

Buster Levi Gallery
busterlevigallery.com

The gallery will update its two exhibits: *Pause*, with works displayed in the windows, and *Refresh*, an online showcase. *Pause/Refresh I* continues through SUN 28.



History of Tompkins Corners, Aug. 1

MUSIC

SUN 28

Sisters in Song

BEACON

6:30 p.m. Towne Crier
facebook.com/TowneCrierCafe

Lydia Adams Davis, Judy Kass, Elly Wininger and Marji Zintz will perform.

THURS 2

Open Mic

BEACON

7 p.m. Towne Crier
townecrier.com

To participate or watch, email walker@townecrier.com before 3 p.m.

THURS 2

Inon Barnatan

KATONAH

7 p.m. Caramoor
caramoor.org

The pianist will perform via livestream from the Music Room of the Rosen House at Caramoor to kick off its summer concert series. *Cost: \$10*

KIDS & FAMILY

MON 29

Zooming Babies and Books

GARRISON

10 a.m. Desmond-Fish Library
bit.ly/BabiesAndBooks

Register online for this literacy program led by librarian Lucille Merry for babies and toddlers up to 24 months. Continues weekly.

MON 29

YOU Picasso Kids

COLD SPRING

10:30 a.m. Butterfield Library
bit.ly/3cuhoGn

All you will need is paper and a Sharpie, crayons or markers for this Zoom workshop led by Kinga Lesniak. Register online. Also TUES 30.

TUES 30

Teen Book Club

BEACON

3 p.m. Howland Public Library
beaconlibrary.org

The club will discuss the young-adult adaption of *Just Mercy*, by Bryan Stevenson. Email

community@beaconlibrary.org to register.

THURS 2

Sciencetellers!

BEACON

4 p.m. Howland Public Library
bit.ly/howland-dragons

In *Dragons: Return of the Ice Sorceress*, children must use science to finish a quest to save the kingdom.

TALKS

TUES 30

Clean Heating & Cooling

PHILIPSTOWN

11 a.m. Climate Smart Philipstown
bit.ly/philipstown-heating

In this Zoom webinar, learn how to reduce heating and cooling costs while minimizing the impact on the environment. Register online.

TUES 30

The Lowell Mill Girls

BEACON

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

Rick Feingold will discuss via Zoom a strike by textile workers in 1834, one of the first in the country. Register by emailing adults@beaconlibrary.org.



WED 1

Steps to Real Peace

GARRISON

3 p.m. Garrison Institute
garrisoninstitute.org

Dawa Tarchin Phillips, a mediation teacher and former monk, will discuss via Zoom five practices "to heal the mind and transform the heart." Register online.

WED 1

History of Tompkins Corners

PUTNAM VALLEY

7 p.m. Tompkins Corners Cultural Center
tompkinscorners.org

Dan Ricci, the Putnam Valley town historian, will share the history of the 130-year-old former church that is now the cultural center, and how the area was founded and grew. Join the Zoom meeting at tinyurl.com/danricci.

STAGE & SCREEN

SAT 27

Funny Hair Writing Series

BEACON

7 p.m. Zoom
donnaminkowitz.com/funny-hair-writing-series

Sign up to read a literary work of any kind for up to five minutes in this virtual literary open mic hosted by Donna Minkowitz.

SAT 27

Remotely Depot

GARRISON

7 p.m. Philipstown Depot Theatre
philipstowndepottheatre.org

The Depot Theatre promises entertainers, storytelling and a "surprise celebrity guest" at this benefit that will honor state Assemblywoman Sandy Galef. *Cost: \$50*

CIVIC

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

WED 1

School Board

COLD SPRING

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

The board will hold its annual reorganization meeting.

THURS 2

Town Board

PHILIPSTOWN

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

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Something You Don't Know About Me

John Lane

John Lane is an attorney who lives in Cold Spring. He and his wife, Charlotte Palmer-Lane, moved to Cold Spring in 1999. He spoke with Alison Rooney.

When I was in law school, I did a summer internship in London. In England, lawyers are solicitors or barristers. The solicitor usually does everything but appear in court. It's more relaxed now, but until the late 1990s the barrister's job was to present the opening and closing arguments, argue the case and question and cross-examine witnesses. During my internship, we followed a barrister around.

Later, as a young lawyer in New York City, I met my future wife, Charlotte, who is British and was visiting the U.S. She was living in London, so we went back and forth on visits and I spent a summer holiday there.

At a certain point, we both felt game for a change. Charlotte had just landed a job at the BBC as a costume designer and I didn't want to make her leave that. So, in 1987, I moved to London, where I worked at a solicitors' firm. Solicitors find clients, initiate the investigation, develop the case and brief the barrister when it's time to file the complaint. Based on my experience as an intern and in New York City, where I had rarely gone to court, let alone spoke there, I was much more interested in becoming a barrister.

I was discouraged in this pursuit by the Law Society [the professional association for solicitors], as well as the Inns of Court [the association for barristers], but I was determined.

To receive permission to take the England and Wales bar exam, I had to join one of the four Inns of Court. I chose Middle Temple, which had a library floor devoted to American law. During the Blitz in World War II, a wall of the structure was blown out and the American and Canadian Bar Association provided the funds to repair it. Four signers of the U.S. Constitution were trained at Middle Temple because families who could afford it sent their sons to London to study.

As part of your qualification, you had to dine "in hall" for four terms. The Middle Temple dining hall resembled Hogwarts. The philosophy was that, before there was a written bar, students learned by following around a senior barrister.

I finally qualified for the exam and took the bar in November 1989. After passing, you had to do two, 6-month stints in pupillage [an apprenticeship under a barrister]. During the first term you weren't paid



John Lane's wig and wig box

except for a small grant. During the second, you could start taking briefs and earning some money. Once fully qualified, you made applications to join various chambers. I was a curiosity, but some took me seriously and one took me on.

I'm not quite sure how I survived the process. It was abusive, which I say with kind of a laugh. There were fun, interesting things about it, too. I had experiences that most American lawyers would never have. For instance, I had to pledge allegiance to the Queen before every meal. In court, I wore a wig, a tradition that dates to Jacobean times [in the early 17th century], when they were fashionable. The wig distinguishes the advocates in the courtroom. There are particular types for barristers, and longer ones for judges.

I bought my wig from my senior barrister; he was upgrading to horsehair. The junior wig was mostly plastic and this was preferred because you could throw it in the washer. A wig case was required, along with robes, waistcoats and shirts in funny colors with removable collars. Most of mine were bought at Ede & Ravenscroft [a London tailor founded in 1689]. You'd suit up in the "robing room," like an athlete getting ready for a game.

The British court system was very different. For instance, in the U.S., there are set time limits for oral arguments and rebuttals. But in the U.K. Supreme Court — which used to be a wing of the House of Lords — appeals could go on for three or four or more days. There was much more spoken argument, and less paperwork. One thing I found unfortunate in U.S. practice was the lack of civility and camaraderie between opponents. In London, there was an ingrained

camaraderie between advocates at the bar.

All in all, it was a mixed bag. At the end of the day, for me, it was like starting over again, which became frustrating. Also, it was financially difficult, and there were cultural barriers, not just for interloper Yanks but for minorities. With my flat accent, there were prejudices. You had to give as good as you got. It's a lot easier now for trans-jurisdictional lawyers to practice there.



Lane at his Middle Temple call in 1989, and today

Photos provided



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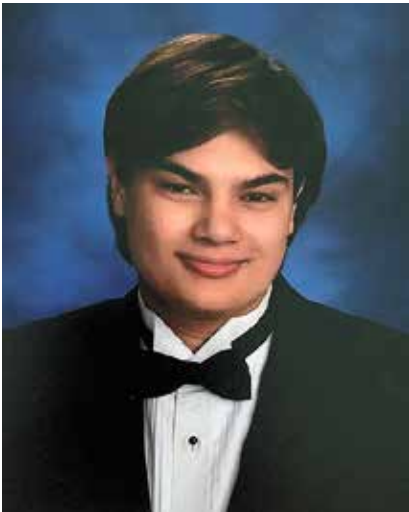


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Photos by Ross Corsair

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Matthew Repetto, Garrison

Did we miss anyone?

Email editor@highlandscurrent.org

Small, Good Things

A Very Particular Pesto

By Joe Dizney

A friend took delivery of one of the most beautiful hauls of fresh fennel I've ever seen — *way* more than she could mentally or physically process. As a known and notorious lover of the vegetable, I was the grateful beneficiary.

My go-to method for dealing with such a gift is to fire up the oven and roast, but this payload was more than that could handle. These specimens sported luxurious clouds of feathery fronds that absolutely had to be good for something other than window dressing.

I thought of pesto, another accommodating go-to formula that can showcase almost any tender, herbal greens. A search began. Sure enough, *The Cuisine of the Sun*, Mirielle Johnson's 1976 compendium of informal seasonal cooking from Nice and Provence, held a recipe new to me and at once familiar and exotic: saussoun.

Saussoun is an almond, anchovy and fennel spread or paste meant to grace croutons/crostini as an hors d'oeuvre, or alternatively as a sauce for pâtes aux oeufs (i.e., egg noodles). Johnson's recipe calls for the addition of mint or basil, but it used only the fennel bulbs, leaving the fragrant fronds as garnish.

I was amazed at how little there was to be uncovered from Google, but further sleuthing uncovered a recipe for something called lou saussoun that deleted the fennel. A more encouraging find suggested equal parts fennel bulb and fronds, which meshed much better. Plus, the ingredient list in this rendering was reminiscent of Sicilian pasta preparations melding fennel, sardines (not unlike anchovies), pignolis and currants, and also suggests or veritably demands the inclusion of garlic.

The version here is a composite saussoun further modified with parsley for color (and to soften the garlic), as well as a splash of

lemon juice to add brightness. This saussoun benefits from relaxing in the refrigerator overnight, and like basil pesto will keep for a bit. Also like basil pesto, it's an admirable utility player. Some suggested uses:

- **As an hors d'oeuvre or appetizer:** Johnson suggests spreading saussoun on crostini with additional shaved fennel and chopped mint, and a drizzle of olive oil. Consider an additional garnish of shaved hard cheese or, as shown in the photo as a nod to the Sicilian recipe, a garnish of garlic-and-vinegar macerated currants.
- **For fresh crostini:** Slice a fresh baguette in ¼-inch thick diagonal slices, brush with olive oil and a sprinkling of salt and pepper and bake for 5 to 7 minutes per side at 375 degrees.
- **For the currants:** Soak ¼-cup dried currants (you can substitute raisins, regular or golden, but currants are just better) in 2 to 3 tablespoons of white wine vinegar with a smashed clove of garlic for an hour or so. Remove the garlic and drain the currants/raisins before using.
- **As a dip or dressing:** Serve saussoun as a dip for raw vegetable — radishes are particularly sympathique — or for lightly cooked and chilled green beans or favas. Make a cold salad of cooked, chilled cannellini beans with shave fresh fennel and red onions; dress it with saussoun thinned with a bit more olive oil and/or lemon juice.
- **For pasta:** Use it as you would a basil pesto as a sauce for the pasta. Reserve some water from the pasta pot before draining and add a splash to the saussoun as you toss it all together. Finish with another splash of olive oil, more fennel fronds or grated cheese or toasted bread crumbs in the Sicilian style. You might even add some of the macerated currants from above, or drained and roughly chopped canned sardines.
- **With meat or seafood:** Saussoun also makes a sterling seasonal accompaniment to grilled or roasted lamb, chicken, pork or fish, particularly in combination with more fennel — maybe roasted or braised — and tomatoes.



Saussoun (Provençal Fennel, Almond & Anchovy Pesto)

Makes about 4 cups

INGREDIENTS

1 cup blanched*, lightly toasted almonds
3 to 4 cloves garlic
12 anchovy fillets
1 medium-to-large fennel bulb, cleaned, hard core removed, chopped roughly
1 cup fennel fronds, tough stems removed
¼ cup mint (or basil) leaves
¼ cup flat leaf parsley
1 teaspoon fennel seeds, toasted and ground
Juice of one lemon
¼ cup (plus) olive oil
Salt and pepper to taste

Put all ingredients except the oil into a food processor and process to a coarse paste; add oil and process until incorporated. (Add more oil at your discretion to achieve your desired consistency.) Season to taste with salt and pepper. Refrigerate covered for a couple of hours to let the flavors develop. Bring to room temperature before serving.

* To blanch whole raw almonds: bring a saucepan of water to a boil and add then whole almonds. Boil for a scan minute and drain immediately, cooling them under cool running water. Drain and allow to dry slightly before peeling the brown skins (which should slide off handily). Toast briefly in a hot skillet or oven until barely colored. Cool before proceeding with the recipe.

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Pandemic Pivot

Entrepreneur pushes ahead with beauty line, despite uncertainty

By Alison Rooney

Lisa Rasic is a graduate of the Stern School of Business at New York University. But nowhere in her classes does she recall lessons about launching a business, having it gain some momentum and then watching the market collapse because of a virus.

The Garrison resident is learning those lessons now as the co-founder of Ivy & Elder, a beauty products line. Rasic has experience: She was a founding member of the stylist Sally Hershberger's hair care products firm and a senior-level marketer for L'Oreal's designer fragrances division. Her partner, Gayle Slonim, is also a beauty industry veteran.

After months of crunching numbers, formulating products and fine-tuning a marketing strategy, the pair launched the company in the economically upbeat days of ... last October. Five months later, about the time they planned to pitch their line to select retailers, the world began to shut down. The women had to decide if they would make a leap of faith. They chose to jump.

Rasic and Slonim met 12 years ago when Rasic needed someone to cover for her while she went on maternity leave. It didn't end up being Slonim — she was pregnant, too. Today, they each have two children, ages 10 and 12.

After taking a break to raise their young families, they each felt ready about three years ago to re-enter the industry. Slonim was living in Manhattan and Rasic in Garrison, where she and her family had moved in 2011.

"I worried about 'How am I going to re-create a career up here when my background is in beauty?'" Rasic says. "I knew I had to find a partner who was OK with it being headquartered" in Garrison.

It helped that both women wanted to produce similar products. "We knew we wanted it to be 'clean' and we had a long no-no list of ingredients," Rasic explains. "Our starting point is not of negativity but of whimsy, of fun, and the desire to get in touch with our 'inner wild,' which in our case translates into



Lisa Rasic and Gayle Slonim

Photo by Caroline Kaye



Rasic and Slonim at their Pennsylvania manufacturer during the initial production run of Willow Talk

Photo provided

being inspired to trust your inner self.

"We found that so many beauty products were presented in a serious and scary way, and many were filled with toxins. We wanted our brand to have color, to instill going out there with confidence — with beautiful hair, of course."

To get started, the partners created a "brief" that asked: "What is the concept for our product? What do we want it to do? What don't we want to be in it?"

They took the list to a "green" chemist based in California, along with their desire for the products to meet the standards of the Environmental Working Group. "The EWG nod of approval is the highest standard you can get in clean beauty," Rasic says.

The line began with a leave-in hair mask called Willow Talk. "A lot of women, particularly now, have or want longer hair," she says. "We formulated it to help keep your hair healthy and allow you to grow it out without split ends."



Ivy & Elder's Wear the Wind wave spray and Willow Talk, a leave-in hair mask

Photos provided

The second product is a "wave spray" called Wear the Wind, designed to eliminate the frizz of naturally wavy hair. Both items are made in Pennsylvania and shipped from Garrison.

Garrison has, in fact, been an inspiration. "When we decided to do this, we had no line, no name and we'd meet twice weekly, walking on trails, looking at the trees," Rasic recalls. "I had picked up a book, *The Hidden Life of Trees*, which was fascinating."

They learned about ancient Druid lunar astrology, and based their brand name on their "tree horoscopes": Ivy (Gayle's) and Elder (Lisa's). They recruited help in Garrison: Kelly Preusser created the tree-sign illustrations and Maya Gelber and Megan Brief were hair models.

At L'Oreal, Rasic helped launch the Viktor&Rolf fragrance line. "For years it was the No. 1 fragrance at Saks, then at Nordstrom and Bloomingdale's," she says. "Viktor&Rolf was all about transforming the negative into the positive. Fragrance was always about the story. Fragrances are not just the scent, but

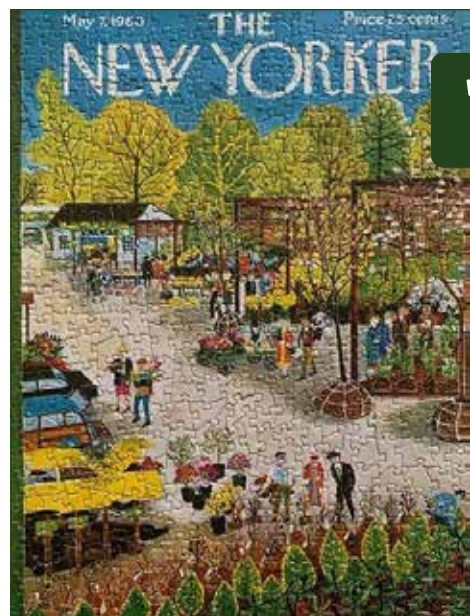
the emotions. That is an experience I draw on."

The Ivy & Elder line was launched among friends and family. In April, the firm started advertising on Facebook and Instagram, and had planned to connect with potential retail partners at the Indie Beauty Expo, which was canceled because of the pandemic. Instead, they're focusing on selling directly through ivyandelder.com.

"We've shipped to every state except Arkansas and Alaska," Rasic says. "We continue to test, to find our customer. We will start reaching out to some retailers again. They've been holding cash, which we understand, and in the meantime, we're taking time to create an even more compelling story. We are briefing our chemist on our third project, and working on ways to fund our business so that we can grow bigger more quickly."

"Like most self-funded, small companies now, the issue is cash," she adds. "We could have gone after financial backers, but we wanted to maintain control. Our plan was to launch small, one product at a time, but now we're at the point where we need capital to grow. We have inventory and we've invested our personal savings in this. It's nerve-wracking."

However, they are glad to be working together. "Neither of us wanted to launch a company on our own," says Rasic. "The product and company will be better in the end with at least a couple of minds working on it."



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Marcella Broe at work on a parcel



A Parcel Flower Co. vase bouquet

Flower Power

Garrison florist grows stock all over town

By Alison Rooney

How many professionals go from advertising to a dahlia farm?

That's the trajectory that Marcella Broe followed. With her husband, Sam, she owns and operates The Parcel Flower Co. in Philipstown, which grows flowers on parcels of land around the community that are sold through a Community Supported Agriculture

(CSA) program and at the Cold Spring Farmers' Market. The couple also recently opened a storefront at The Pantry on Route 9.

After moving to Garrison a few years ago, Marcella and Sam began evaluating their daily commutes to Manhattan, where Marcella was an advertising project manager and Sam was a software engineer.

"I wanted a more creative, step-away-from-the-desk career," Marcella recalls. "I had been doing floral design as a hobby and worked in a floral shop in Beacon and freelanced for event and wedding work. I decided to make a big change."

Leaving her Manhattan job, Marcella found work at Bear Creek Farm in Stanfordville, "which opened my eyes to the farming world and the opportunity to bring local, sustainable flowers to the community," she says. She and her husband also attended a course for beginning farmers offered by Grow NYC.

Marcella found more work at another flower farm, in Ghent, in Columbia County. At that point, they decided they were ready.

"Our initial thought was we'd have to buy land," Sam says. "We soon became overwhelmed by the investment that would entail." A friend offered to let them use a small plot on his property. "We worked on that field for a season and that's where an idea of finding parcels of someone else's land formed for us," he says.

During their first season, in 2018, all the products they grew were used for weddings and other special events. Last year, they added a CSA that provides members with a weekly bouquet from June through October. They also set up shop every other week at the Cold Spring Farmers' Market at Boscobel; this year they hope to begin attending weekly as of July 4.

"The market allows us to have more connection with the community," Marcella says. "It's nice that we're all forced to slow down for a moment."

This season they are farming three sustainable parcels, two in Garrison and one elsewhere in Philipstown, which total about half an acre. "People equate farming with hundreds of acres," says Sam. "We pack everything in very efficiently."

Marcella adds: "With cut flowers, you can plant them a little more closely than in a landscape garden — you're harvesting them more quickly."

One parcel is devoted to dahlias. "The more you cut and tend to them, the more



Marcella and Sam Broe

Photos provided



Ordering and pick-up can be done through the window at the couple's Route 9 shop.

they grow," she says. Another is home to rudbeckia, calendulas, snapdragons, heirloom carnations, asters and phlox, among other varieties.

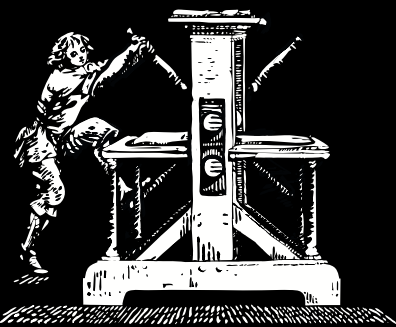
"A lot of people don't understand the sourcing that occurs in the floral industry," Sam says. "About 80 percent of U.S. flowers come from overseas, and most of those farms are using a lot of chemicals. Post-harvest, there is a huge amount of packaging — sometimes each flower is wrapped in plastic — and low wages. By the time you're getting a flower that was

cut in South America, it's two weeks old.

"That causes a stigma because people perceive flowers as lasting only a few days, and they can't understand the cost for what is such fleeting enjoyment," he says. "Ours are different."

The Parcel Flower Co., at 3091 Route 9, is open from noon to 5 p.m. on Thursday and Friday, and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday. Call 845-402-0408 or visit theparcelflower.co. Delivery is available within 10 miles of Cold Spring.

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Clearwater Returns to River

Sail to New York City meant to provide 'hope and inspiration'

By Brian PJ Cronin

After three years as an engineer on the Clearwater, Amy Nelson was named one of the captains of the iconic sloop in November.

Then the pandemic hit, half the sloop's crew was furloughed and public sails and educational trips for schoolchildren typically organized by the Beacon-based nonprofit fell overboard.

"We all scrambled, asking ourselves what to do," Nelson said. "We were starving to give the community some sort of hope and inspiration."

On Monday (June 22), the sloop embarked on a two-week trip from Albany to New York City, which is unlike any other the Clearwater has taken in its 51-year history. Billed as "Our River Connects Us," the trip aims to bring the river to people around the world with daily livestreams on Instagram and Facebook that include family craft activities.

The ship's progress can be tracked in real time at clearwater.org/orcu. It was scheduled to arrive in Beacon on Thursday (June 25) before making a 90-minute sunset sail to Cold Spring today at 6:30 p.m. It plans to reach New York City on Thursday (July 2).

During an overnight stop on Wednesday at Waryas Park in Poughkeepsie, Nelson gestured to a tangle of power strips and charging cords connected to a nest of smartphones on the deck that are used for the livestream.

"We're on a sailboat, we're moving, the mics aren't loud enough, the audio is choppy because we're live," she said. "We're having to become tech whizzes at the same time as sailing the boat and taking care of her, which is a full-time job in itself."

Despite some technical difficulties, Nelson said the sail is allowing Clearwater to reach a new audience. She said the crew has heard from former crew members who haven't



The Clearwater took a short trip on May 17 from Kingston to Rhinecliff and back with half of its usual 18-person crew.

Photo by Ross Corsair

sailed on the boat in 40 years but now can do so virtually, as well as people who are fans of Clearwater founder Pete Seeger.

"We're trying to get people in the Hudson Valley excited," Nick Rogers, the sloop's other captain, said earlier on Wednesday as the sloop passed Esopus Island. "There are reasons to be hopeful, and there are reasons to keep going," despite the challenges of the pandemic.

While Nelson oversees the sailing, Rogers handles other necessities, such as organizing donations made to the crew, including sunscreen, fruit and Gatorade. "One person wants to deliver us pizzas," he said.

Nelson said the crew has been humbled by the support of residents of river communities who don't usually see the Clearwater on the river, which is so narrow between Albany and Kingston the sailing there is difficult for a 100-foot sloop.

"You can only sail 45 degrees off the wind, so by the time you catch the wind at a 45-degree angle and catch enough speed to tack [turn into the wind], you're out of river," she explained. So far, the wind has been steady and the weather has been pleasant, so the crew had only needed the motor for about five minutes, she said.

While docked, crew members go ashore to videotape interviews with people whose lives have been shaped by the river for a series called *Voices of the Valley*. Subjects have included Basil Seggos, the head of the state Department of Environmental



Amy Nelson aboard the Clearwater

Photo provided

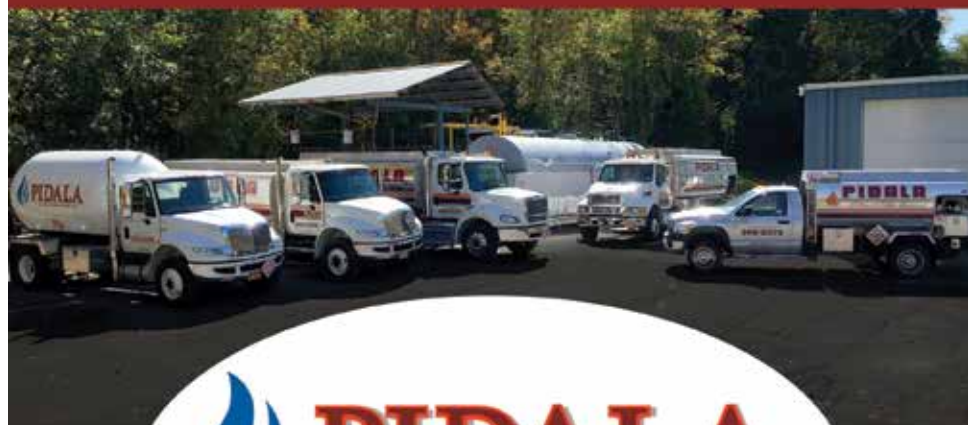
Conservation, Shabazz Jackson of Greenway Environmental Services, and Pete Malinowski of the Billion Oyster Project.

The pandemic has been tough for the organization, which depends on its educational sails and the 10,000 passengers it typically carries annually for revenue. The annual Great Hudson River Revival festival this year became an online concert. There is hope that, before the Clearwater is hauled out of the water at Kingston to be stored for the winter, the crew might get in a few public sails.

"We understand that environmental education on a tall ship doesn't seem like the most important thing now," Rogers said. "There are important things happening in terms of [addressing] systemic racism, and the coronavirus, and those should be more at the forefront. But if we can be a symbol of hope in the background, that would feel good to us."

"This may sound trivial, but someone who was kayaking by us the other day said that it was good to see us out on the river," he said. "That meant a little bit more this year."

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Looking Back in Beacon

By Chip Rowe

Editor's note: Beacon was created in 1913 from Matteawan and Fishkill Landing.

150 Years Ago (June 1870)

A notice in the *Baltimore Sun* read: "If this should meet the eye of Henry Currie, supposed to be in Baltimore, and lately from Matteawan, Dutchess County, N.Y., in search of his mother and sister, and he will call at No. 357 East Fayette St., he will hear of something to his advantage."

John Schmidt, a German bricklayer described as "deaf and dumb," was killed by a southbound train as he watched the horse cars carry brick from Driggs' yard near the Dutchess and Columbia Railroad junction. In addition, William Townsend, a brakeman for the railroad, was killed when his head hit an abutment.

The *Brooklyn Daily Eagle* reported that some residents of Fishkill Landing wanted to change its name to Ontiora [probably Onteora, said to mean "hills of the sky"].

125 Years Ago (June 1895)

The first car traveled the 6-mile electric railway stretching from Fishkill Landing to Fishkill. The fare was 5 cents to the Matteawan border and 5 cents from there to the village. While excavating for the tracks, workers found a number of planks laid 44 years earlier for the old plank road. They also



Looking toward Newburgh in the 1880s, with Fishkill Landing (Beacon) in the foreground

Beacon Historical Society

recovered copper cents and an iron bullet that was probably from the Revolution.

The Fishkill Landing correspondent for the *Poughkeepsie Eagle-News* asked: "Is there no law to enforce the closing of the three saloons of this village on Sunday?"

A tramp known only as The New York Pug was killed in Newburgh after being stabbed five times in the neck by another tramp known as The Harlem Spider.

Timothy Welch, 50, hanged himself with a bedsheet at the Matteawan Insane Asylum. His only known relative was a brother in the Willard Insane Asylum.

Frank Sutton was acquitted in Brooklyn of burglary but sent to Matteawan to face charges that he broke into the post office and shot a police officer. A Brooklyn newspaper noted that "throughout the trial, a beautiful young woman, fashionably attired, sat in the front row of the space reserved for spectators. She never once took her eyes off the prisoner, and when the jury returned the verdict of acquittal, she hurried to him, and wrung his hand, laughing and crying in

return... It is whispered that she is the wife of a wealthy lumber merchant of Cleveland, whom she left for Sutton."

The state superintendent of public instruction held a hearing in Albany for Herbert Pinckney of Fishkill Landing and W.S. Allen of Matteawan, who were appealing a decision to revoke their certificates for "conduct unbecoming teachers." According to the testimony, Pinckney and Allen had written letters to local newspapers in defense of a "lady teacher" who had been dismissed for whispering during a lecture at a teachers' convention.

Sarah Ann Smith, 76, a resident of Mountain Lane in Matteawan, received a mother's pension after 12 years of filing claims based on the death of the youngest of her three sons to serve in the Civil War. She was awarded a back payment of \$3,465 plus \$12 a month.

After Harry Montross of Matteawan failed to show up for his wedding to Bessie McCormack, 18, of Newburgh, her mother took it in stride, saying: "He's not the man for Bessie."

A railroad car carrying members of the Wyoming Wild West Show derailed at Fishkill Landing.

Beniah Horton, 27, a merchant from Fishkill Landing, was arrested in Brooklyn on charges he refused to leave the home of his ex-fiancée. A magistrate advised him to find a new girlfriend.

Henry McCloskey of Fishkill Landing, who claimed to be a cousin of the late Cardinal John McCloskey [the first American to hold that position], drowned in the Hudson while bathing.

100 Years Ago (June 1920)

Joseph Seman, who claimed to be a Belgian count left penniless by the war except for a 1,200-acre estate ravaged by the Germans, found himself in the Dutchess County Jail on charges of stealing clothing, watches, fountain pens and handkerchiefs from rooms at the Hotel Bennett in Beacon. Seman told police he needed money because a woman he married three months earlier in Sacramento, California, had disappeared with everything he owned.

Edgar Fraleigh returned from Pontiac, Michigan, where he purchased a GMC chassis to begin a bus line to Poughkeepsie.

Following a visit to Colorado, Arizona and New Mexico, Edward Corwin of Beacon lectured at public schools in New Jersey about the Pueblo Indians.

Police arrested Princess Rosie Mitchell, a member of a "gypsy royal family" in a traveling carnival, on fraud charges. Although only 13, the princess had become "engaged" during an elaborate ceremony in Pough-

keepsie to another member of the carnival, John Evans. When the troupe arrived in Beacon, Evans accused Rosie of stealing \$2,000 from him. Her father, Henry Mitchell, then had Evans arrested on a charge that Evans had stolen \$1,000 from him. A week later, both men withdrew their charges; Mitchell allegedly told Beacon officers he didn't need the written law to get justice.

Barbra Wildbrett and Hugo Strangmueler eloped to Kingston and were married a few moments before her father arrived from Beacon.

After securing his hydro-aeroplane license, John B.R. Verplanck organized a squadron of three Curtiss boats that he called the Verplanck Flyers. The pilots took people for short trips around Newburgh Bay but declined to do stunts.



John B.R. Verplanck

A former Beacon man, 25, and two 16-year-old girls drowned when their canoe capsized in Orange Lake near Newburgh. The sole survivor said the boat flipped when one of girls wanted to switch seats.

On a Sunday morning, guest speakers from the Anti-Saloon League took over the pulpits at four churches to urge support for the 18th Amendment, which banned the sale of liquor.

After Joseph Muranski was charged with stealing \$1,400 and jailed for seven days on a complaint by Joseph Vidoc, Muranski sued Vidoc for \$5,000 for false arrest. Muranski said he had accused Vidoc of being unfaithful to his wife. Once released for lack of evidence, Muranski signed a complaint to have Vidoc jailed, noting he was not a U.S. citizen and claiming he said he would leave the country before paying any judgment.

75 Years Ago (June 1945)

The parents of a toddler who suffered a broken leg when he was hit while riding his tricycle on South Street sued the driver for \$5,000, but a jury dismissed the case.

The Dutchess County Health Association

(Continued on Page 21)

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Riders of mini-bikes, such as this 1970 Rupp Roadster, caused Beacon officials to lower the speed limit in city parks.

Wikipedia

(Continued from Page 20)

reported that, over three days, 1,429 Beacon and Fishkill residents had been X-rayed to check for tuberculosis.

Tech. Sgt. Alexander Grudzina, a veteran of five major campaigns, was reported killed in action in Okinawa. Pvt. George Perrault Sr. also was killed in the Pacific.

Pvt. 1st Class Stephen Kirtio, Corp. Jay Newcomb Jr., Staff Sgt. Philbert Comeau and Pvt. 1st Class John Piga were liberated from German prison camps, as was Lt. Francis Di Domizio, a bomber pilot who had been captured on May 29, 1944.

The Poughkeepsie High School baseball team defeated Beacon, 14-11, in a three-hour game that included 29 hits and 15 errors.

An inmate at the Rochester State Hospital who had killed a fellow patient with a snow shovel was found to be "dangerously insane" and transferred to the Matteawan State Hospital.

Although the Beacon Democrats nominated Reginald Conkling as their candidate for mayor, he refused the designation and called for Beacon to adopt a form of government led by a city manager.

Playing in the rain on a muddy field at Memorial Park, the Poughkeepsie Police Department softball team defeated the Beacon police, 12-5.

50 Years Ago (June 1970)

Dogs owned or bred by Cauldbrae Kennels in Beacon won Best Puppy, Best Adult and Best in Show at the first Bearded Collie match held in the U.S.

Despite strong opposition at a public hearing, the City Council banned the possession of alcohol on city streets and in public parks. One man noted the law prohibited beer at softball games, while another complained: "We may as well live in Russia. Isn't drinking better than drugs and stuff?" The council also lowered the speed limit in parks to 15 mph from 30 mph because of an onslaught of mini-bikes.

Figures released by the Census Bureau showed that while the population of Dutchess County had jumped by 24 percent since 1960, Beacon's dropped by 7 percent, to 12,900. Concerned the city would lose state and federal aid, Mayor Robert Cahill demanded a recount, saying the census

takers had not picked up 17 completed forms and that at least 25 people were missed on a street where most residents spoke Spanish.

Ted Vallo of Beacon, golfing for Dutchess Community College, finished second in the National Junior College Athletic Association tournament in Miami.

People Against Pollution congratulated the City Council for its decision to stop using DDT to kill mosquitoes.

Superintendent Donald Sipe resigned unexpectedly, saying that any school leader could only be effective for about five years and he had been at Beacon for six. He was hired by the district in 1962 as the high school principal.

The city received a \$10,800 state grant for its rat-control program.

Benjamin Cohen, chair of the local Conservative Party, was robbed at gunpoint of \$1,500 at his salvage company on Long Dock. "I'm not blaming this robbery on the police," he said. "I'm blaming it on the police chief [Samuel Wood], who refused to issue me a pistol permit."

The body of a Beacon High School freshman was found in Fishkill Creek a week after his parents reported him missing when he did not return home from school. Police said he may have fallen from a cliff into the water.

25 Years Ago (June 1995)

Dutchess County began designing a \$1.3 million transportation center to be built on land owned by the Beacon school district adjacent to Dutchess County Stadium. The center will allow commuters to make connections with the Dutchess loop bus.

Danny Soto threw a one-hitter, including 13 strikeouts, for Beacon High (17-4) in a 3-0 state tournament victory over Pearl River.

The *Poughkeepsie Journal* called for city officials to save the long-empty Beacon Theatre, whose owner, Guido Copolino, said he wanted to convert it into apartments and offices.

A 17-year-old Beacon High School student drowned in Sylvan Lake during a graduation party, despite the efforts of a lifeguard who saw him go under, pulled him from the water and performed CPR.

Twenty-one teenagers from Bechyne and Sedlec-Price in the Czech Republic arrived for a two-week visit sponsored by the City of Beacon.

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.

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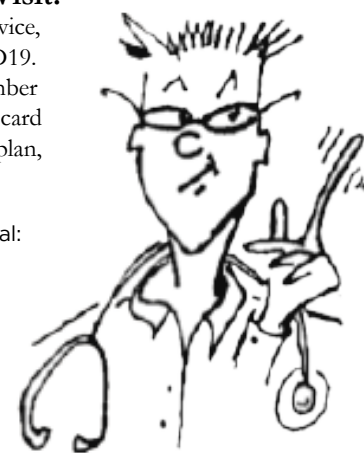
646-697-4000

Center for Disease Control:

CDC.GOV

World Health Organization:

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OBITUARIES

Angelo Cervone (1940-2020)

Angelo A. Cervone, 80, an immigrant from Italy who operated Cervone's Auto Body in Beacon for decades, died June 12 in his home after a short illness.



Angelo was born March 3, 1940, in San Giorgio, Italy. His family immigrated to New York in 1954 and moved to Beacon in 1955.

After working at Ketcham Motors in Fishkill, learning his trade from Roy Ketcham, Angelo opened Angelo's Auto Body in a one-car garage building. By age 29, Angelo had constructed the building that is now Cervone's Auto Body.

Angelo also acquired real estate and expanded into many corporations. His family said he loved Italian dancing and traveling, especially to his hometown. He also enjoyed cruising, snowmobiling and traveling in his RV. He was a life member of St. Rocco's.

His wife, Paula, died before him. He is survived by his children, Toni Ann Juchnewicz (Eddie), Angelo Cervone (Stephanie) and Tamira Browne (John); his grandchildren, Ashley, Angelo and Kyle Perrucci, and Kayhla Bird (Colby); and his siblings, Antonetta Forzano (Angelo), Vincent Cervone (Jane), Maria Altieri (Stephen), Carmela Lail (Gary) and Gerardo Cervone.

A Mass of Christian Burial was held June 18 at St. John the Evangelist, followed by entombment at Fishkill Rural Cemetery.

Rita LeMon (1931-2020)

Rita LeMon, 88, a former Cold Spring resident who served 22 years as the Town of Philipstown deputy clerk, died June 4 at Baptist Home in Rhinebeck, with her children by her side.



Rita was born July 27, 1931, the daughter of Leo and Ruth Kosiej. She met and married her husband, William LeMon, in Cold Spring. They were married for 47 years, until his death in 1999.

Besides her work as deputy town clerk, Rita was also an active member of the Conservative Party in Philipstown and Putnam County. She was happiest when her family was together, whether around the kitchen table or dressed up at the Plumbush Inn. Her family said she loved to vacation at the beach, bird-watching, Broadway shows, dining out and playing bridge with her girlfriends.

Rita is survived by her children, Janyce Geider (Eric) and Steven LeMon (Susan); her grandchildren, Eric Geider, Katherine Geider, Bridget LeMon (fiancé Jonathan Warneke), William LeMon (Silvia) and Collin LeMon; and her great-grandchildren, Nicholas LeMon and Benjamin LeMon. A son, William LeMon (Linda), died before her.

The family will have a private service. Memorial donations may be made to the Miles of Hope Breast Cancer Foundation (miles of hope.org).

Kay Levine (1933-2020)

Catherine "Kay" Levine, 86, a Cold Spring resident who co-founded the River-view Restaurant and was a longtime employee at Butterfield Hospital, died June 18 at Wingate at Beacon.



Kay was born Aug. 28, 1933, in New Hamburg, the daughter of Frank and Annunziata (Pettorosi) Keays. She graduated in 1951 from Wappingers High School. A marriage in 1952 to John (Jack) Dyson ended in divorce.

In the late 1950s, Kay worked at Texaco Research Center, in Beacon, where she met John Levine. They were married in Beacon on Oct. 30, 1960. (John died on May 11 at age 82.) Shortly after, the couple opened the River-view Restaurant on Fair Street in Cold Spring, which they sold in 1963. They remained Cold Spring residents for the rest of their lives.

In 1968, Kay began working at Butterfield Hospital, in Cold Spring, first as ward clerk, then medical records technician and, eventually, director of medical records. She remained at the hospital until it closed in 1993, leaving only briefly to take a position at Putnam Hospital Center in Carmel. She served on the committee for the annual Butterfield Hospital Fair for many years.

After retiring, Kay volunteered for both the Putnam History Museum and the Cold Spring Chamber of Commerce, working in the visitors' kiosk on Main Street.

In 1969, Kay became somewhat of a celeb-

rity in Cold Spring when she appeared on *Jeopardy*, where she remained the defending champion for a full week. During the 1960s and 70s, she also dedicated much of her time to the Girl Scouts of America, serving as a troop leader. Kay also served as the Westchester-Putnam Council district chair and organized a jamboree at Haldane Central School which drew Girl Scouts from around the state.


Like her late husband, Kay was a die-hard football fan, and the Giants were her team. She also got immense joy watching her grandsons play for the Philipstown Pop Warner Seahawks and the Haldane Blue Devils. Anyone who knew her well will remember Kay's passionate — albeit sometimes overzealous — support of her teams.

She is survived by her children, Pamela Dyson Faulds (Tim) of Fishkill; Lori Moss (Hugh) of Cold Spring; Patricia Levine, of Beacon; and John Levine of Fishkill; her grandchildren, Rebecca Sela (Dave); Emily Ivansheck (Zach), Colin Faulds, and Victoria, John, James and William Moss; and her great-grandchildren, Owen Ivansheck and Harper Ivansheck. She also is survived by a sister-in-law, Carole Rapalje of Beacon.

Memorial donations may be made to St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital (stjude.org). A memorial service is being planned to celebrate the lives of Kay and John, who were married 60 years ago in October.

For more obituaries, see highlandscurrent.org.

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Puzzles

CROSS CURRENT

ACROSS

1. — Na Na

4. Swindle

7. Summery desserts

8. Fusses

10. Sixth president

11. Many

13. Proof of a crime

16. Sprite

17. Unclear

18. Still, in verse

19. Say it isn't so

20. Rhyming tributes

21. Groups of musicians

23. Slanted edge

25. Volcanic outflow

26. One of the Three Bears

27. Sailor's assent

28. Unwilling

30. Fine, to NASA

33. Texas city

36. Bill-payment period

37. Alan of *Little Miss Sunshine*

38. Mystery writer's award

39. Don of radio

40. Sun. speech

41. Rand McNally item

DOWN

1. Muffler

2. Rope fiber

3. Took for granted

4. Made pigeon sounds

5. "Strange to say ..."

6. — me tangere

7. *American* —

8. Hot rum drink

9. Withdraw

10. Expert

12. Man of — (Superman comparison)

14. Catches some rays

15. — and outs

19. *CSI* evidence

20. Eggs

21. Louisiana marsh

22. Unwilling

23. Dog owner's ordeal

24. Son of Joseph

25. Fond du —, Wis.

26. Harness horse

28. Thrust

29. *Argo* award

30. Invite to the penthouse

31. Elevator name

32. Family

34. Cushions

35. *Joy of Cooking* writer Rombauer

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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 Spurlock of "Super Size Me" (6)

2 sounds on a basketball court (7)

3 roused from sleep (8)

4 city on the Yangtze (8)

5 what Cubs and Mets play (9)

6 drops out (5)

7 sushi type (6)

SOLUTIONS

MOR	HAI	AW	SQ	EN
KS	AM	RI	BA	ITS
LLG	QU	SHA	AK	UEA
ED	NIGI	GAN	ES	NG

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SUDO CURRENT

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

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Answers for June 19 Puzzles

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

1. BRAZILIAN, 2. PRONTO, 3. FINISHES, 4. MONTREALER, 5. AMPLIFY, 6. BROADENING, 7. LITMUS

SPORTS



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Play Ball (Again)!

Beacon travel teams could begin season July 6

By Skip Pearlman

If things continue to go well with the state's reopening, there could be some happy young baseball players hitting the field for games after Independence Day. The Greater Hudson Valley Baseball League, which has more than 700 teams, including three from Beacon, is planning to begin its summer season on July 6.

Some questions remain because of the COVID-19 shutdown, such as which health protocols players, coaches and umpires must follow; the number of fans, if any, who can attend games; and whether towns and schools will allow the use of their facilities.

Since the Mid-Hudson Region began Phase 3 of the state's reopening plan on Tuesday (June 23), teams have been able to practice in small, socially distanced groups, said David Zaslaw, the GHVBL's founder and president. The league has spring, summer and fall seasons; the spring season was canceled due to the shutdown.

"The kids need to get out," Zaslaw said. "They've been cooped up."

The league's Connecticut-based teams began playing on June 24. Gov. Andrew Cuomo has said teams in New York must wait, but "with kids getting ready, we can hit the ground running on July 6," Zaslaw said.

Bob Atwell, the baseball coach at Beacon High School, coaches a team of players ages 13 and younger. There are also Beacon teams for players 11 and younger and 12 and younger.

"We just had our first socially distanced practice," Atwell said of his 13U team. "You just keep them separate and they don't use the same bats. And coaches will meet to



Aiden Heaton delivers a pitch last July for the Beacon 10U travel team during a win over the Northern Dutchess Rebels.



Nolan Varricchio connects at the plate last July for the Beacon 10U travel team.

File photos by S. Pearlman

decide more protocols if necessary.

"The teams and coaches are ready, but I'm not sure our national situation is ready for it," he added. "The response from our parents has been concern, although there is also excitement for the kids to get started. Baseball is a much lower-risk than some other sports, and is one of the best options."

Another challenge for the league, Zaslaw said, is that town and school fields are not expected to be available until the Mid-Hudson Region enters Phase 4, although that could happen as early as July 7.

"Some towns are ready for practices and games," he said. "But some in lower Westchester aren't quite ready. Still, I'm confident we'll get fields."

Zaslaw said Dutchess County Executive Marc Molinaro and his office have been pushing to get players back on the field.

"He has probably been our biggest advocate," Zaslaw said.

League officials were pleasantly surprised when 440 teams registered for the summer. "I thought some might hesitate," Zaslaw said.

The league typically has a 45-game schedule; despite the late start, teams should still each play 42 games by extending the season into August.

"We don't want the kids to get cheated out of anything," he said. "It's a challenge for everybody — not just the league, but the kids as well. They lost their spring season, so they're champing at the bit."

A number of protocols will be put into place during games. Players and coaches not on the field will wear face coverings and maintain social distances, and players, coaches and umpires will not touch each other.

If spectators are allowed, each player will

be allowed two fans who will be required to practice social distancing, as well.

"Some say our rules are stringent, but safety is No. 1," Zaslaw said. "We are maintaining the integrity of the game inside the lines. But we will continue to take our lead from the government."

"At this point, everyone is happy to be on the field," he said. "If they have to wear a mask, I think they'll happily do that."

He said that coaches and umpires will enforce the protocols, and that he hopes spectators will use common sense.

"The coaches can keep the kids under control," Zaslaw said. "Kids are fast learners, and they will get acclimated to the new rules quickly."

"Hopefully, this is not forever," he added. "We want to get back to baseball — the way it was meant to be played — soon. But for now, and in the fall, we have rules in place and we'll adhere to those."



The Beacon Bears during a 2018 game

Photo by Clark Thompson

Football in the Fall

The Beacon Bears youth tackle football program will allow players from Philipstown to join its teams for the fall season, according to David Way, the Bears president.

The teams, which are part of the AYF Taconic League, include boys and girls who will be 7 to 13 during the 2020-21 school year. There are no weight limits.

Practices typically begin in August, but because of the COVID-19 shutdown, the Bears are awaiting guidance from the state. In the meantime, the registration fee has been reduced to \$25, which will be refunded if the season is canceled. See clubs.bluesombrero.com/beaconbears.

The Philipstown Hawks, a youth tackle team, played its last season in 2017 before switching to non-contact flag football for 2018 and then disbanding.