

The HIGHLANDS Current



Snakebitten! [Page 15](#)

JULY 10, 2020

Celebrating 10 Years!

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SHIP TRIP — The USS Slater, the last of 550 World War II destroyer escorts still afloat, left Albany at 7 a.m. on Sunday (July 5) for a 20-hour journey to Staten Island for repairs, escorted by two tugs. It passed the Highlands later in the day. The Slater should be back in downtown Albany and again open to the public by Aug. 5. *Photo by Ross Corsair*

Paycheck Program Brings \$34 Million+ to Highlands

Federal loans can be forgiven if jobs retained

By Chip Rowe

A federal program created in response to job losses because of the COVID-19 shutdown brought at least \$34 million to the Highlands and saved 3,500 part- and full-time positions, according to data released by the Small Business Administration.

The Paycheck Protection Program was established to provide small businesses and nonprofits with low-interest loans to pay employees who might otherwise lose their jobs. If the borrower doesn't lay off employees or reduce salaries, the loan can be forgiven.

President Donald Trump this week signed an extension of the program through Aug. 8. (See sba.gov.)

Although the U.S. Treasury, which oversees the SBA, initially said it would not identify those who received the loans, it changed course and on July 6 released two lists.

The first, of those who received less than \$150,000, does not identify the recipients. Instead, it includes only the town or city, amount of the loan and how many jobs the employer said the loan would save. (Highlands Current Inc., which publishes this newspaper, received \$42,350 to retain five jobs.)

The second list, of firms that received \$150,000 or more, gives the name of each recipient, a range for the amount of the loan and the number of jobs the employer said would be saved.

The data was collected by the SBA from the banks that issued the loans.

The agency noted that recipients must

(Continued on Page 16)

State: Policy Didn't Cause Nursing Home Deaths

Serino charges report 'fits their narrative'

By Leonard Sparks

The COVID-19 infections that killed thousands of nursing home residents, including dozens in Dutchess and Putnam counties, were introduced by staff, not infected people released from hospitals into the facilities under a state order, according to the Department of Health.

Gov. Andrew Cuomo and state officials have been defending for more than two months a March 25 order requiring nursing homes to admit "medically stable" patients released from hospitals after being treated for COVID-19. More than 6,300 COVID-positive patients were sent from hospitals to nursing homes through May 8, according to the Department of Health, which released

a 33-page report on Monday.

Nursing-home deaths peaked on April 8, six days before the height of the transfers of recovering COVID-19 patients, according to the report. The Mid-Hudson Valley, New York City and Long Island had the highest nursing-home death rates and together accounted for 80 percent of the infections among workers.

"Sometimes what happens is that a narrative gets perpetuated when it's not based on facts," said Howard Zucker, the state health commissioner, during a briefing.

The first nursing-home worker in New York with COVID-19 was identified on March 5, and the first confirmed case among nursing-home residents was March 11, the state said. At one point, more than a third of the state's 613 licensed nursing homes had residents with the virus.

(Continued on Page 6)

5Q FIVE QUESTIONS: STEVE ETTA

By Michael Turton

Steve Etta has been a member of the volunteer Cold Spring Fire Co. for 50 years.

Are there many members of the 50-year club?

There's a big list at the firehouse. I'm the fifth 50-year member in my family: my cousin, Joe Etta [now age 102], who was chief when I joined, plus three of my uncles. Tommy Valentine, who joined the same year I did, in 1970, is also still active. Between my family, the Valentines and the Landolfis, there's a lot of years of firefighting.

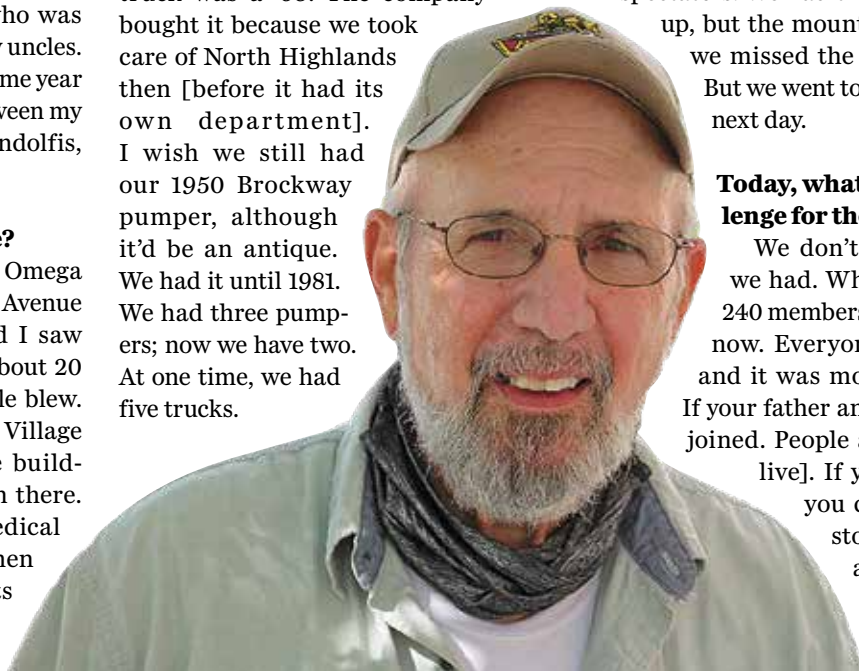
What fires are most memorable?

About a week after I joined, the Omega Chemical Co. at the end of Kemble Avenue burned down. Jerry Daniels and I saw the flames and told the cop and about 20 minutes later the firehouse whistle blew. The firehouse was in what is now Village Hall. We couldn't get inside the building because there was chlorine in there. Also, the Butterfield Hospital medical arts building burned in 1983, when I was chief. More than 50 patients had to be evacuated. The building had a weird design, but it was the

middle of the night and hard to find somebody who knew the layout. More than 20 emergency agencies were there.

How has the equipment changed over the years?

It's three times bigger, and better. It's all diesel with automatic transmissions and easier to use. When I joined, the newest truck was a '68. The company bought it because we took care of North Highlands then [before it had its own department]. I wish we still had our 1950 Brockway pumper, although it'd be an antique. We had it until 1981. We had three pumpers; now we have two. At one time, we had five trucks.



Did you rescue many hikers 50 years ago?

If we went up there, it was to fight fires. Once, around 1972, Beacon hosted the Hudson Valley Volunteer Fireman's Association parade — the biggest of the year. The night before was the unofficial Dark Town Parade, which was anything goes and a lot of fun. Instead of water, we'd throw sawdust on spectators. We had the Brockway polished up, but the mountain caught fire and we missed the Dark Town Parade. But we went to the main parade the next day.

Today, what's the biggest challenge for the company?

We don't get the volunteers we had. When I joined, we had 240 members; there are about 100 now. Everyone worked in town, and it was more family-oriented. If your father and uncles joined, you joined. People also stayed here [to live]. If you went to college, you came back. That all stopped 15 or 20 years ago. People don't have the time, and most people go where the work is.

ON THE SPOT

By Michael Turton

What exotic destination would you love to explore?

Japan's Arashiyama Bamboo Forest. I must see it before I die.



~ Will Lacovara, Beacon

The Antarctic: The waters, the stars, the history and the desolation speak to me.



~ Caroline Hawking, Cold Spring

Kiribati or Christmas Island in the South Pacific: unspoiled fisheries, remote, untouched by "civilized" society.



~ William Gipe, Cold Spring

HOWLAND CULTURAL CENTER



HAPPY TO BE BACK!

Sat. July 11 + Sun. July 12 – 1 to 5 pm
HOWLAND MEMBERS ART SHOW
And sale, too. 34 Artists' works on view
(Face masks required)

Sat. July 11 – 8 pm
LIVESTREAM: JULIA BRUSKIN/AARON WUNSCH
Cello and piano duo perform
By Howland Chamber Music Circle
www.howlandmusic.org

Sat. July 13 – 8 pm
LIVESTREAM: ANNALYSE & RYAN
Live from the Howland! Americana duo entertains
"a soulful, rootsy journey"
Facebook Live

Sat. July 25 – 8 pm
LIVESTREAM: THE ATTACCA QUARTET
String quartet with a classical program
By Howland Chamber Music Circle
www.howlandmusic.org

AND MORE

Howland Members Art Show continues
Saturdays + Sundays through Aug. 30 – 1 to 5 pm
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A rendering of the proposed Dutchess jail facility

Beacon Legislator: Jail Plan Could Be Disaster

As inmate numbers plummet, new facility could be half empty

By Leonard Sparks

Faced with a shrinking population of inmates that has been accelerated by a newly enacted bail-reform law, Dutchess County last year redrew its plans for a proposed \$147 million jail, removing more than 40 percent of the beds.

Smaller may not be small enough.

The redesign dropped the number of beds from 569 to 328. But in June, the current 292-bed jail had only 131 inmates on average, compared to 324 in June 2019, according to the state Department of Criminal Justice Services.

While the COVID-19-related shutdown of the court system has likely also affected the census, if June's numbers remained consistent, a 328-cell jail would be more than half empty.

(Continued on Page 18)

Beacon Names Acting Police Chief

Also: Mayor vows to put disciplinary records online

By Brian PJ Cronin

William Cornett, a lifelong Beacon resident and former city police officer, is reporting for duty again.

The Beacon City Council on Monday (July 6) approved the appointment of Cornett, who retired from the Beacon Police Department in 2002 as a lieutenant, as acting chief for up to 90 days, which would be Oct. 4. Cornett succeeds Chief Kevin Junjulas who, along with Capt. Gary Fredericks, retired the same day.

Mayor Lee Kyriacou said that choosing a temporary chief from outside the department ranks who is not interested in the permanent position will allow the city to undergo an open and deliberate search process.

"We're not advantaging anyone in this process, and we're not predisposing anyone," he said.

At the meeting, which was held by video conference because of social-distancing restrictions related to COVID-19, Cornett said he was looking forward to serving as chief, "but I'm also looking forward to returning to retirement."

Cornett, who has a bachelor's degree in philosophy and theology from Fordham University, was an instructor in de-escalation techniques during his time with the Police Department and occasionally served as acting chief. "He's done the job before,"

Kyriacou noted.

During Cornett's years with the department, he was "always by the book, always calm, and provided that level of civility and respect that we all should be demanding," the mayor said.

After it selects a search firm, the city will assemble a committee to help with the selection process that includes members of the council and the public. The process will take "as long as is needed," Kyriacou said.

"We prefer to get it done in 90 days, but if it takes longer, we'll figure out how to do it," he said.

Disciplinary records

In June, the state repealed a statute that kept confidential disciplinary records for police and corrections officers, firefighters and paramedics.

The city has since received numerous Freedom of Information Law requests for the police records (including from *The Current*). In response, Kyriacou said that he and Cornett had decided to put them online. "People won't need to FOIL us," the mayor said.

Cornett added: "I don't like secrets or surprises except for Christmas and my birthday. I don't like secrets and I ain't gonna keep them."



William Cornett



10 Years, 10 Puzzles! Enter to Win!

Ten years ago on July 4th, "Philipstown.info" appeared on a storefront on Main Street in Cold Spring. It was the beginning of a new community news source that is now the independent nonprofit newspaper you're reading today:

The HIGHLANDS
Current

To celebrate our 10th anniversary and to thank you, our readers, for your support, we're giving away 10 puzzles featuring some of our most iconic photos.

The Puzzle Sweepstakes starts on Friday, July 3, and ends on Sunday, July 12.

To enter, just go to:

highlandscurrent.org/sweepstakes

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NYFA* Winner: 45 Better
Newspaper Contest Awards

* New York Press Association, 2013-18



NNA* Winner:
31 Better
Newspaper
Contest Awards

* National Newspaper Association, 2016-18



NYNPA* Winner:
8 Awards for
Excellence

* New York News Publishers Association, 2017-18

Tell us what you think

The *Current* welcomes letters to the editor on its coverage and local issues. Letters may be emailed to editor@highlandscurrent.org or mailed to Editor, *The Highlands Current*, 142 Main St., Cold Spring, NY 10516. The writer's full name, village or city, and email or phone number must be included, but only the name and village or city will be published.

Lee at West Point

Those of us demanding that West Point remove the name of Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee from a barracks and other locations are not "reopening" any wounds, as a letter writer claimed last week (*Letters and Comments*, July 3). The Army should not honor traitors who committed treason in defense of slavery. The wounds, unfortunately, were opened because Lincoln was assassinated (by die-hard Confederates) and his successor Andrew Johnson was a disgusting racist.

Despite the efforts of Congress and the newly freed slaves, who experienced a few years of truly democratic government in the ex-Confederacy, white racism triumphed in the end and the nation was treated to more than 100 years of Jim Crow and second-class citizenship for African Americans. That wound has never healed.

Even with the passage of the Civil Rights and Voting Rights Acts in 1964 and 1965, it is still dangerous to be black in America, as evident by the recent publicized, unwarranted killings of blacks by vigilantes and

police — publicized only because of cell-phone videos. Before, it was easy for such killings to be officially justified with the magic words, "I feared for my life." That wound has never healed.

The people in the streets demanding real change are making the third effort to do what Lincoln urged us to do — bind up the nation's wounds. Unfortunately, that requires that all of us take a truly honest look at our nation's history and not succumb to simple-minded assertions — such as that Lee was an "honorable man" who should be honored at West Point.

Michael Meeropol, *Cold Spring*

Wise thoughts

Such an inspiring interview with Tink Lloyd and Joiah Longo of The Slambolian Circus of Dreams ("The Circus Stays in Town," July 3)! It contained some great wisdom and hope in a time when both are so welcome and needed. Thank you, Michael Turton.

Cindy Hall, *via highlandscurrent.org*

Bike-in

I pray the "drive-in theater" being constructed at University Settlement will accommodate walk-ins and bike-ins as well as motor-vehicle operators ("Drive-in Theater Planned for Beacon," July 3).

Gregg Zuman, *Beacon*

10 years in

It's hard to believe 10 years has passed since the founding of Philipstown Dot Info, later *The Current* ("Editor's Notebook: 10 Years Young," July 3). I will always be deeply grateful to Gordon Stewart for launching this much-needed alternative to Roger and Beth Ailes'

divisive political organization and attack machine masquerading as a newspaper.

Steve Laifer, *Cold Spring*

Flattening the curve

Our lives are all in danger. The reason New York's curve is steadily going down is because of the carefully thought-out and well-implemented plans established by the scientists and implemented by our government officials ("Molinaro: 'Authoritarian Style' Unnecessary," June 26). If we ignore the rules and laws, we enable. When we enable, we promote. In this case, disrespect for the guidelines can severely impact all of us.

Fern Sartori, *Beacon*

Current Names Beacon Editor

*Jeff Simms will report
from city full-time*

The *Highlands Current* has named Jeff Simms as its Beacon editor, a newly created position.



Jeff Simms

Simms has been covering the city since 2015 on a part-time, freelance basis but will become a full-time employee effective July 13. He studied journalism at Appalachian State University and reported for newspapers in North Carolina and Maryland before moving to New York.

He lives in Beacon with his wife, Heidi Kitlas, who is a fundraising consultant for the paper, and their son, Lucas, who publishes *The Beacon Kids Times*.

"We are grateful to the members of *The Current* for their generosity, because it allowed me to hire Jeff full-time, which we needed given all that is going on in Beacon," said Editor Chip Rowe. "He has been doing a fantastic job as a freelancer and now will be able to do even more."

The paper was founded 10 years ago this month as Philipstown Dot Info and changed its name in 2016 to *The Highlands Current* after expanding coverage to Beacon. The paper's environmental reporter, Brian PJ Cronin, is also based in Beacon.

Because of the success of its membership program, *The Current* has been able to make two additional hires this year. Leonard Sparks joined the paper in January as the full-time senior editor and Teresa Lagerman in April was named as the part-time community and events manager.

As a nonprofit that offers its website and paper free to the community, *The Current* is supported by donations and advertising. To see the benefits of becoming a member, see highlandscurrent.org/join.



Primary Update

One contest outstanding

Because absentee votes could be postmarked as late as June 23, the day of the primary election, a complete count took nearly two weeks in Dutchess County, where the Board of Elections received more than 17,000 ballots.

Joe Biden, as expected, easily won the Democratic primary for president in

Putnam, Dutchess and across the state. His name appeared with 10 other candidates, all of whom earlier had ended their campaigns.

In Dutchess, Jessica Segal defeated Peter Forman for the Green Party line for county judge, 37-14. Both also were battling for the Independence Party line but that contest was so close it has gone to court and the Board of Elections said on July 9 it could not yet release the count.

In two Republican primaries in Putnam County, incumbent Legislator Toni Addonizio, who represents Kent, defeated

Paul Denbaum, a member of the Kent Town Board, 273-151, or 64 percent of the vote, with absentees counted, and incumbent Amy Sayegh of Mahopac defeated former Legislator Dini LoBue, 234-140, or 63 percent.

In the 18th Congressional, voters were asked to select six delegates to the Democratic National Convention from 31 candidates. Six Biden delegates —Maureen Fleming, Randy Florke, Joan McDonald, Joseph Destefano, Joan Becker and Scott Reing — had substantial leads.

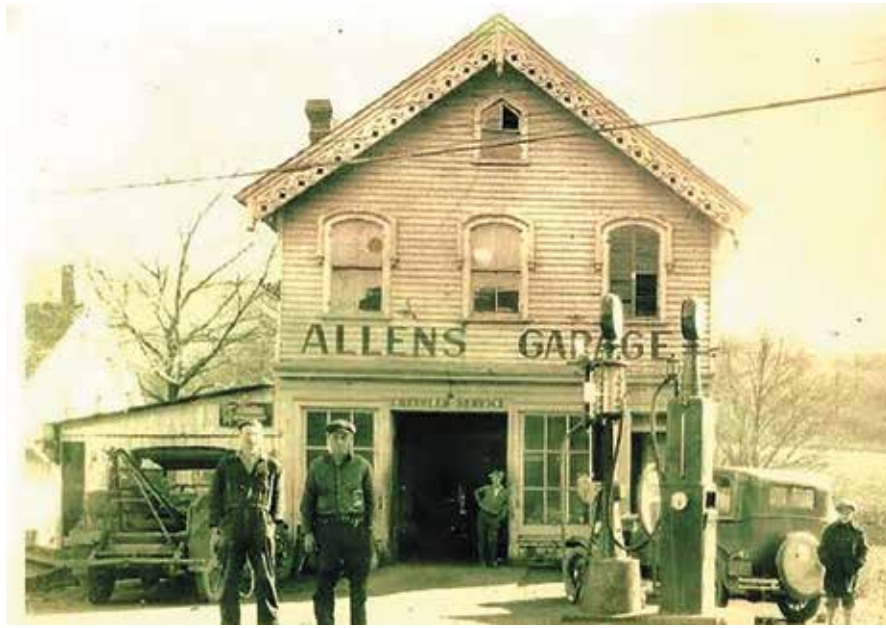
See highlandscurrent.org for updates.

In other news...

The Pomeroy Fund for NYS History awarded \$50,000 in grants of \$1,000 to \$5,000 to 18 history organizations to help cover operating costs during the COVID-19 shutdown, including the Beacon Historical Society.... Community Foundations of the Hudson Valley announced the appointment of Robert Cotter of Cold Spring to its board, along with Ashley Knox of Kingston. Cotter worked for IBM in Poughkeepsie for more than 30 years before his retirement in 2011.






■ Then & Now: Allen's Garage, Nelsonville, 1920s / Homestyle Bakery

Photo by Michael Turton



Beacon Recreation's The Great City of Beacon Scavenger Hunt Coming July 14th

5 weeks of clues, each week with a different challenge!
Here's how it works:

-  Each week, clues will be released in the Rec Dept. newsletter (sign up for our MailChimp) & on social media (Facebook and Instagram)
-  Solve weekly clues to find pieces of the master puzzle. You need your feet, your wits & the decoder tool to solve clues.
-  Some clues will require you to visit a specific location. Be it a park, a historic place, or maybe a business.
-  Some clues can be solved at home.
-  Put the pieces of the master puzzle together to reveal the **BIG** question. Prizes for all correct answers!

The decoder is available to print out or you can pick one up at the Rec Center & The Howland Library.



Stay safe. Have fun!



• www.cityofbeacon.org • 845.765.2440 •

NOTICE

THE PHILIPSTOWN PLANNING BOARD

will hold their regular Monthly Meeting on
Thursday July 16th, 2020 at 7:30 pm virtually via Zoom.

In addition, we will be holding two public hearings:

CRS International Self-Storage Warehouse/Office,
2761 Route 9, Cold Spring NY

&

Slope Line, LLC C/O The Scenic Hudson Trust,
1 Civic Center Plaza, Suite 200 Poughkeepsie, NY

We encourage those who wish to comment at these public hearings to attend and **please visit the following link:**

Register in advance for this webinar:

us02web.zoom.us/join/wn_zbeq8KfuTNeiz1mch9-XQQ

WEBINAR ID: 881 7487 2086

PASSCODE: 2caA=M

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

OR email KMACINTYRE@PHILIPSTOWN.COM or NZUCKERMAN@PHILIPSTOWN.COM to request login information before 7 pm on July 16th, 2020.

If you are unable to join, please send any written comments on the above two public hearings to the above email addresses.

Nursing Homes *(from Page 1)*

On March 13, the state mandated that nursing homes check workers’ temperatures when they arrived for their shifts and that everyone at the facilities wear masks. It also ordered homes to cancel group activities and banned visitors.

An early challenge was that many infected nursing-home residents and staff showed no symptoms, which can take two to 14 days to appear. While testing all 1,260 residents at 13 licensed facilities in May and June, Dutchess County discovered 29 infected residents who had not been diagnosed, including 13 at Wingate at Beacon.

Among staff, the “early, and ultimately erroneous, understanding of viral spread allowed many nursing home COVID-positive employees to continue working” because they showed no symptoms, the reported noted. Scientists later understood that a person could spread the virus even if asymptomatic.

Statewide, about 37,500 nursing-home workers were infected between March and early June, the agency said, representing about a fourth of the state’s infections. The state did not provide a breakdown by facility of infections among staff.

Under the March 25 order, the state told nursing homes that, to free up beds in hospitals, they “must comply with the expedited receipt of residents returning from hospitals” as long as a doctor deemed the patients stable. The state also said that no patient could be denied admission or re-admission “solely based on a confirmed or suspected diagnosis of COVID-19.”

A review of admissions data by the state showed that 6,326 COVID-19 patients were discharged from hospitals to 310 nursing homes between March 25 and May 8.

Of those 310 homes, 252 “already had a suspected or confirmed COVID-positive resident, COVID-related confirmed or presumed fatality, or worker infected prior to admission of a single COVID-positive patient — meaning the admission of a COVID patient did not introduce COVID



Nineteen patients have died of complications of COVID-19 at Wingate at Beacon.

File photo by L. Sparks

into the nursing home,” the report said.

Further, most patients moving from hospitals to nursing homes had been treated for the virus and “were likely not infectious,” the agency said. “Admissions into nursing homes are patients who went to the hospital from a nursing home, were treated and returned back to their nursing home.”

State Sen. Sue Serino, a Republican whose district includes the Highlands and who is the ranking member on the Senate’s Aging Committee, said in a statement she was not persuaded by the report. She said it “fits their narrative” and that nursing homes “were an afterthought to the state from Day One.”

“Implying that dedicated staff is to blame is a new low,” said Serino. “The state knew these facilities were particularly vulnerable, yet they took no meaningful steps to protect them.”

In May, Cuomo ordered nursing homes to test their employees for COVID at least twice a week. At the same time, Serino called on the state to deploy the National Guard to administer tests and clean the facilities.

How Many Deaths?

In New York, 6,457 nursing-home residents have died through July 7, representing about 20 percent of the state’s COVID-related facilities, putting New York at 46th among states in per-capita nursing-home deaths, according to an analysis of data by *The New York Times*. Nationally, nursing-home residents account for about 55,000 deaths, or 42 percent of the total.

FACILITIES	DEATHS
DUTCHESS	
Wingate at Beacon	19
Ferncliff Nursing Home	16 (+1)*
Pines at Poughkeepsie	6
Grand Rehab and Nursing at Pawling	4 (+8)*
Northern Dutchess Residential Health Facility	1
PUTNAM	
Putnam Nursing and Rehab Center	14
Putnam Ridge	4

*Source: New York Department of Health. Ferncliff had one death and Grand Rehab had eight presumed but not confirmed to be related to the virus.

“ Sometimes what happens is that a narrative gets perpetuated when it’s not based on facts.

~ Howard Zucker, state health commissioner

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NOTICE

Due to an overwhelming amount of requests, the Village of Nelsonville will offer its residents, a garden and yard debris pick up.....

LAWN AND YARD DEBRIS ONLY – IN PAPER BAGS OR UNSEALED CANS OR BARRELS – NO PLASTIC BAGS

Pick up will be made on Tuesday July 21st and again on Wednesday August 5th.

PLEASE HAVE ALL DEBRIS READY FOR PICK UP BY 7:00AM

*** NO BAGS OTHER THAN PAPER WILL BE TAKEN ***



FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED — Although most municipalities canceled fireworks shows on July 4 because of social distancing restrictions due to COVID-19, Dutchess County organized “drive-in” shows at three locations, including Dutchess Stadium in Fishkill. The first 500 cars were allowed in. For a short video of the fireworks, see highlandscurrent.org. *Photo by Ross Corsair*

Coronavirus Update

■ State health officials said that, as of Thursday (July 9), 1,348 people have tested positive for COVID-19 in Putnam County; 4,255 in Dutchess; 35,183 in Westchester; 13,683 in Rockland; 1,851 in Ulster; and 10,810 in Orange. Statewide, there were 399,513 positives, including 218,052 in New York City. Statewide, 24,959 people had died as of July 9.

■ Gov. Andrew Cuomo on July 8 said that the state will decide during the first week of August whether schools will reopen in the fall. Districts, including Beacon, Haldane and Garrison, must submit a reopening

plan by July 31.

■ The state canceled the New York State Fair and all county fairs. (The Dutchess and Putnam fairs had already been canceled.)

■ As of July 10, malls can open in regions that have entered Phase 4 of the state’s reopening schedule if they have installed enhanced heating, ventilation and air conditioning filtration systems and follow ventilation protocols.

■ Faced with sales tax revenue losses that could approach \$50 million this year because of the shutdown, Dutchess County Executive Marc Molinaro offered a retirement incentive package to the county’s 1,800 employees: Those who retire by the end of the year will be eligible to have more of their health insurance costs covered by the county

and a \$10,000 payout. Employees who decide to leave without retiring could receive a \$20,000 payout. The buyouts could translate into \$7 million to \$12 million in savings for the county in 2021, he said.

■ The Field Hall Foundation, based in Cortlandt Manor, distributed \$50,000 in COVID-10 emergency funds; recipients included Dutchess Responds, Putnam Community Cares and the Putnam COVID-19 Response Fund.

■ The Mid-Hudson Region began Phase 4 on July 7, which allowed low-risk indoor and outdoor arts and entertainment businesses, such as museums and historical sites, to operate, as well as media and film productions, at reduced capacity and with social-distancing guidelines. Also, outdoor

social gatherings can have as many as 50 people and religious services can take place at 50 percent of capacity.

■ The Dutchess County Office for the Aging said it would organize drive-through senior picnics, including at Memorial Field in Beacon on Thursday, July 30. The agency is mailing invitations to residents who are age 60 or older. Email ofa@dutchessny.gov for information.

■ The state announced on July 2 that the federal government provided \$4.3 million in funds to emergency management agencies for COVID-19 planning, including \$65,000 to Dutchess County and \$21,800 to Putnam County.

■ Dutchess County on July 2 closed its mobile coronavirus testing facility at Dutchess Stadium in Fishkill. The county said that Nuvance Health, which operated the site, will continue to offer tests at its hospitals and medical centers. The firm had collected more than 47,600 specimens at four drive-through sites since March. To find a test site, see coronavirus.health.ny.gov/find-test-site-near-you.

■ Dutchess reported on July 2 that its Coro-

(Continued on Page 17)

COVID-19 by the Numbers

■ **PUTNAM COUNTY**

Number of confirmed cases:
1,348 (+16)

New Cases in Philipstown: **1**

Tests administered:
19,601 (+1,867)

Percent positive:
6.9 (-0.6)

Number of deaths:
63 (+0)

■ **DUTCHESS COUNTY**

Number of confirmed cases:
4,255 (+30)

Active Cases in Beacon: **14**

Tests administered:
68,162 (+6,637)

Percent positive:
6.2 (-0.7)

Number of deaths:
152 (+1)

Source: New York State Department of Health, with weekly changes in parentheses, as of July 9. New cases in Philipstown for week ending July 3.

How to wear a face mask properly



AROUND TOWN



▲ **NEW SHOPS** — Steven Ventura stands in front of Dirty Bacchus, his wine store at 380 Main St. in Beacon, while Tara Sweet-Flagler and her daughter, Madison, have smoothies on hand at Sweet Harvest at 82 Main St. in Cold Spring.

Photos by Brian PJ Cronin and Michael Turton

◀ **COOL READ** — Teresa Lagerman (right), *The Current's* community engagement manager, handed out fresh lemonade and fresh issues of the paper on the Fourth of July outside our offices in Cold Spring.

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Looking Through
the Window

JULY 1st - 31st, 2020

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reopens with exhibitions

Arte Povera (ongoing)

Homemade
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The Calendar



"Red Riding Hood"



"Red Riding Hood"

By Alison Rooney

Pamela Zaremba recalls sitting in the Beacon Artists Union gallery on Main Street during a showing of her photographs and having people wander in and presume she was the gallery owner, not the artist.

"They discussed what they thought the photos meant," she says.

She says she was happy to hear their reactions to, and interpretations of, her intentionally ambiguous photographs.

"I've always had a different lens on what I see as beauty," explains Zaremba, who has been a member of the BAU collective for five years. "I find it in abandoned buildings — I start thinking of people coming and going in and out of them, and the special light they have." Or it might be "a cloudy aqua bottle from the past that takes on human qualities when held in a certain way."

Her fine arts series have included meditations on disembodied vanity, apparitions, enchantment, home-wreckers and resurrection. Her goal, she has written, "is to distill the human and sympathetic qualities from these places so that others may see life the way that I see it."

She was the youngest child in her family, and her father pushed her to study business.

The Artist Next Door

Pamela Zaremba



But she spent her junior year abroad at the London Polytechnic [now the University of Westminster] studying art, which cemented her affinity.

After graduating, Zaremba, who was raised and lives in Connecticut, found a job in the creative end of advertising. She moved to Dallas for six years, where she did mostly commercial work, including a shoot in Mongolia for Polartec

fleece outerwear, before coming to New York. She married at age 31 and had two daughters (now 12 and 18), which made commercial work difficult. Instead, she focused on her fine art photography.

One of her current projects is *Portrait Stories*, in which she works with a young subject on a series of photographs to tell a story that he or she creates based on fairy tales.

"We talk about the story as we're shooting it," Zaremba explains. "We usually know the beginning and end, but we let the middle unfold. Some girls, for instance, would rather be the wolf than Red Riding Hood. The stories always wind up showing a transformation."

"Before I had children, I wanted to make things perfect," she says. "Now the projects come more easily. I love building stories around the imagination of children. It's the world I live in — the subconscious."

“I’ve always had a different lens on what I see as beauty. I find it in abandoned buildings — I start thinking of people coming and going in and out of them, and the special light they have.”



"Beauty and the Beast"



"Beauty and the Beast"

THE WEEK AHEAD

Edited by Pamela Doan (calendar@highlandscurrent.org)

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

COMMUNITY

MON 13

NY Forward Loan Fund Program Info

CARMEL

3 p.m. Putnam County Business Council
845-228-8595

putnamcountybusinesscouncil.com

Get details about this economic recovery loan program for small businesses, nonprofits and small landlords. Register online.

TUES 14

Elijah Hughes Signing

BEACON

5 – 7 p.m.

Beacon Hotel Restaurant & Lounge
424 Main St. | 845-440-3491
beaconhotelhudsonvalley.com

Elijah Hughes, a former Beacon High School basketball player who is entering the NBA draft after attending Syracuse University, will sign autographs. The first 50 guests will receive a poster and photos will be available for \$5.

TUES 14

Citywide Scavenger Hunt

BEACON

facebook.com/beaconrec

Watch for clues on social media and pick up a decoder at the library, Recreation Center or City Hall. Solve the master puzzle and win a prize. The first 50 correct answers win a bonus. Continues through TUES 21.

TUES 14

Virtual Breakfast Event

COLD SPRING

9 a.m. Cold Spring Chamber of Commerce

Find out more about the *Insider's Guide to Cold Spring, Nelsonville and Garrison*. Register online.

VISUAL ARTS

SAT 11

Visitor Tours

GARRISON

11 a.m. – 2 p.m. Manitoga
584 Route 9D | 845-424-3812
visitmanitoga.org

Russel Wright's house, grounds and studio will open for tours. Reservations and face coverings are required. *Cost: \$50 for two people*

SAT 11

Homemade

COLD SPRING

11 a.m. – 5 p.m. Magazzino Italian Art
2700 Route 9 | 845-666-7202
magazzino.art

Magazzino reopens with *Homemade*, an exhibition of more than 30 works created by eight New York-based Italian artists during the pandemic. Online reservations



Storm King Opening, July 15

required. Visit website for safety protocols.

WED 15

Storm King Opening

NEW WINDSOR

10 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Storm King Art Center | 1 Museum Road
845-534-3115 | stormking.org

See new works by Kiki Smith and Martha Tuttle as well as the collection of large sculptures and land works spread across 500 acres. Online reservations required.

MUSIC

SAT 11

Judith Tulloch Band

BEACON

7 p.m. Towne Crier

facebook.com/townecriercafe

The band's sound has been described as "world-pop-fusion with a jazzy edge."

SAT 11

Julia Bruskin & Aaron Wunsch

BEACON

7:30 p.m. | Howland Chamber Music Circle
bit.ly/3ebqBEj

Julia Bruskin and Aaron Wunsch will perform works by Beethoven, Boulanger and Debussy during this live YouTube event.

SUN 12

Decoda

KATONAH

3 p.m. Caramoor
914-232-1252 | caramoor.org

The wind players will perform a family friendly concert. *Cost: \$10*

SUN 12

Robert Tellefsen

BEACON

7 p.m. Towne Crier

facebook.com/townecriercafe

The Brooklyn native grew up playing in Greenwich Village cafes with Bob Dylan and Richie Havens.

MON 13

Annalyse & Ryan

BEACON

8 p.m. | Howland Cultural Center

facebook.com/howlandcenterbeacon

The Beacon-based husband-and-wife duo Annalyse McCoy and Ryan Dunn will showcase their Americana music during this streaming Facebook performance.



THURS 16

Drum Circle

BEACON

6 p.m. Long Dock Park
23 Long Dock Road
facebook.com/beacondrumcircle

Bring your percussion instruments and drums to play at a safe distance.

FRI 17

Simply Diamond

MAHOPAC

6:30 p.m. Putnam County Golf Course
187 Hill St.
putnamcountygolfcourse.com

This Neil Diamond tribute band will play the performer's hits. Food trucks will be available. *Cost: \$22*

SAT 18

Lucky Luna

BEACON

7 p.m. Towne Crier
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com
facebook.com/TowneCrierCafe

Jim Cardinal, Laurie Clark and Tony Acquisto will play original songs.

SECOND SATURDAY

SAT 11

The Donate \$10 Fundraiser and Arts Opener

BEACON

Noon – 6 p.m. BAU Gallery
506 Main St. | 845-440-7584
baugallery.com

In its first exhibit since the shutdown began, BAU will offer its walls to any artist who donates \$10 to Community Action Partnership. Through Aug. 2.

SAT 11

Remnants

BEACON

Noon – 9 p.m. RiverWinds
172 Main St. | 845-838-2880
riverwindsgallery.com

View selected works by Alaina Enslin.

SAT 11

Members Art Show and Sale

BEACON

1 – 5 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
477 Main St. | 845-831-4988
howlandculturalcenter.org

Works by more than 30 artists in all media will be on view through Aug. 30. Also SUN 12, SAT 18, SUN 19.

SAT 11

Silent Killer

BEACON

6 – 9 p.m. Clutter Gallery
163 Main St. | 212-255-2505
shop.cluttermagazine.com/gallery

Mr. Kum Kum's first U.S. solo show will feature handpainted icons and insects. Through July 31. Only 10 people will be allowed in the gallery at a time, and masks are required.

TALKS

TUES 14

Cultivating Awareness and Resilience in Education

GARRISON

4 p.m. Garrison Institute
garrisoninstitute.org

Christa Turksma and Tish Jennings, the co-developers of the CARE program for educators, will speak with Mark Greenberg about helping students flourish. Online registration required.

TUES 14

Raising Chickens in Your Backyard

BREWSTER

6 p.m. Cornell Cooperative Extension
845-278-6738
putnam.cce.cornell.edu/events

Learn everything you need to know to keep a small flock for your family. Register online. *Free*

TUES 14

New Leaf Community Garden Info Session

COLD SPRING

7 p.m. Butterfield Library
butterfieldlibrary.org

Register online to learn more about the new Philipstown community garden.

WED 15

Sound Bath

BEACON

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

Lisa Knowles of beBhakti Yoga Center will lead an hour-long Zoom session using sounds from crystal and Tibetan singing bowls for meditation. Email adults@beaconlibrary.org to register.

THURS 16

Pathways to Planetary Health Forum

GARRISON

2 p.m. Garrison Institute
garrisoninstitute.org

Actor Edward Norton, who is the UN Goodwill Ambassador for Biodiversity, joins Jonathan F. P. Rose, co-founder of the Garrison Institute, for a discussion about sustainable ecosystems. Register online.

THURS 16

Fiction Book Club

COLD SPRING

7 p.m. Split Rock
845-265-2080 | splitrockbks.com

Discuss *Homegoing* by Yaa Gyasi at this Zoom event.

KIDS & FAMILY

SUN 12

Greek Myths & Legends

BEACON

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

Watch an online performance by Traveling Lantern Theatre of classic stories anytime until SUN 19. See website for details.

MON 13

Intro to Babysitting

COLD SPRING

10 a.m. Butterfield Library
845-265-3040 | butterfieldlibrary.org

Amanda Lisk will lead this webinar for ages 10 and older on how to care for children. Register online. Also TUES 14, WED 15.

WED 15

Sing and Move Zoom for Toddlers

GARRISON

10 a.m. | Desmond-Fish Library
bit.ly/SingandMoveZoom

Join Miss Gabi online for a virtual gathering for toddlers and their parents. Register online.

STAGE & SCREEN

MON 13

Literary Soirée

COLD SPRING

7 p.m. Butterfield Library
845-265-3040 | butterfieldlibrary.org

Actors Kurt Rhoads and Nance Williamson will read excerpts from classic literature. Register online.

FRI 17

The Loving Story

GARRISON

7 p.m. Philipstown Depot Theatre
cya.live/event/2506

Depot Docs returns online with this account of the love story and legacy of Richard Loving

(Continued on Page 10)

THE WEEK AHEAD

(Continued from Page 10)

and Mildred Jeter. In 1967, the landmark U.S. Supreme Court case *Loving v. Virginia* legalized interracial marriage. *Cost: \$10*

CIVIC

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

MON 13

City Council

BEACON

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

TUES 14

Board of Trustees

COLD SPRING

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

WED 15

Dutchess County COVID-19 Update

POUGHKEEPSIE

Noon.
facebook.com/DutchessCoGov

County Executive Marc Molinaro will provide the latest information on the shutdown in this livestream.

Reporter's Notebook

The Art of Arts

10
YEAR
ANNIVERSARY

By Alison Rooney

Talk about a daunting task.



For *The Current's* 10th anniversary, I was asked to list a few of the memorable events that I have covered as arts editor over the past 10 years. I began flipping through back issues to jog my memory, but it was taking forever because there are hundreds of them and I stopped to read everything.

So, instead, a few thoughts off the top of my head, in no particular order:

- The opening of Magazzino Italian Art in Philipstown in 2017. The changing of the guard at the Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival in 2014, from founder Terry O'Brien to Davis McCallum. The Made in Philipstown celebration in 2015 at Garrison's Landing. This list could go on for a while.

- The beyond-the-page/stage role that Thornton Wilder's *Our Town* has played in Philipstown: The Haldane High School production coming on the heels of the death of Philipstown resi-

dent Jim Lovell in the December 2013 Metro-North derailment — members of the audience sobbed, but it filled a deep community need to grieve together. Not long afterward, HVSF made it the first of its community productions. Seeing the mix of professional actors, local actors and lots of people up there with no experience, under the tent, was moving in a different way.

- Some favorite interview subjects: artist Brian Nice (three times); children's book author Jean Marzollo; any group of young kids backstage in a Philipstown Depot Show; members of the clergy: Rabbi Brent Spodek of the Beacon Hebrew Alliance and the Rev. Frank Geer of St. Philip's Episcopal Church in Garrison, both of whom were expansive and honest; and Kristen Spooner, with whom I spent quite a few hours in the classroom and wrote stories at the beginning, middle and end of her first year teaching fifth grade at Haldane.

- Something that intimidated me when

I first started in this job in 2010 was interviewing conceptual visual artists. Now, they're pretty much my favorite, because there's that moment when they see that you, the interviewer, have grasped what they're trying to convey, which is sometimes obscure. It's the "I get it!/She gets it!" moment.

- Six months after the launch of Philipstown Dot Info on July 4, 2010, founder Gordon Stewart asked each member of the staff to write their impressions. I wrote, in part: "When I was shown the nascent website for the first time, a day or two before it was revealed to the public, my reaction was immediate: finally, a reflection of the place I live in and the people who choose to make it home.... What constantly amazes me, but not really, is how such a small little patch of geography can yield so many interesting things to cover. Running out of ideas is emphatically not an occupational hazard as the Arts/Leisure/People editor." That was nine-and-a-half years ago, and it's still not!

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Something You Don't Know About Me

Sara Dulaney

Sara Dulaney, of Cold Spring, is an addiction recovery coach. She spoke with Alison Rooney.

When I was living in New York City, I would sometimes spend a weekend afternoon doing what I called “going with the green.” I’d walk through town and at every intersection proceed in the direction of the green light.

I had some remarkable adventures (and, even with a paucity of green lights in Cold Spring, I’m still having them). In retrospect, my life and careers look like a random collection of events, but they are connected by hidden knots, most of which I didn’t tie. You have to say, “Yes,” or you have to say, “No,” to get to the next intersection.

I was married at age 19. My parents met while both were journalists at *The Washington Post*, and I thought that’s what I’d be doing. There was a plan: my husband would finish law school, and I would work until I got pregnant, then we would move to the suburbs. Luckily, that didn’t happen.

I landed a secretarial job at the new Washington bureau of ABC News — that’s how it worked then. It was 1963, six weeks before President John F. Kennedy was assassinated. Another summer I got a job as a “floater” at Condé Nast in New York

City, working with an editor who was writing a book. She was not splashy — she wore a hat in the office, gloves on, elegant. She would dictate, and I would type.

After graduating from Barnard, I started a job at Cowles Education at Madison and 52nd. They produced the *Volume Library* encyclopedia and always hired six or seven graduates from the Seven Sisters [women’s colleges in the Northeast] to edit awful articles that theoretical professionals sent in. I thought, “If these people got paid to write this, I can do it, too.” At the time, my boss said he wasn’t able to get me a raise but I could take Fridays off and he’d say I was at the library.

At the time, my husband and I were living in a rent-controlled apartment around the corner from the New-York Historical Society. I started going there. I turned some of my research into an article, and a magazine published it and paid me \$50.

After we adopted a baby, I was jonesing to get back to my typewriter. I had done brochures for *Parents* that I wanted to expand into books. Eventually, I wrote 30.

Then the trail started winding: I got divorced. I remember thinking, “What does a writer do to earn money?” You go into public relations. I had clients like Columbia University and the New York Public Library. I landed a job at New York University. I wound up with great housing, excellent benefits and a master’s degree in therapeutic recreation and leisure counseling, all free. I walked to work through a garden. Eventually, I was able to retire, but I wasn’t ready.

I moved to Cold Spring in 1994. I kept



Sara Dulaney, recently Photo by Maggie Benmour

writing. My last books were in the category of “useful” topics, such as *How to Succeed at Online Learning* — things that you’d just Google now. Meanwhile, a friend was working at the Turning Point in Beacon [a substance abuse rehabilitation center affiliated with St. Francis Hospital]. I started doing recreational programs with alcoholics and addicts. I was encouraged to get a credential as an alcohol-and-substance-abuse counselor.

When I think about that boss who told me to take Fridays off, I think what an influence he had on the rest of my non-linear life.

My son had a friend during high school, a bright and interesting boy, Ravi. He came to my door one day with a notebook, looking a bit down. “You write books,” he said. “Can you tell me how to plan my life?” I tried to reassure him that it was all an amazing adventure, but I could have just said, “Go with the green.”



Sara Dulaney in 1975 Photo by Ian Gilbert

“In retrospect, my life and careers look like a random collection of events, but they are connected by hidden knots, most of which I didn’t tie. You have to say, “Yes,” or you have to say, “No,” to get to the next intersection.

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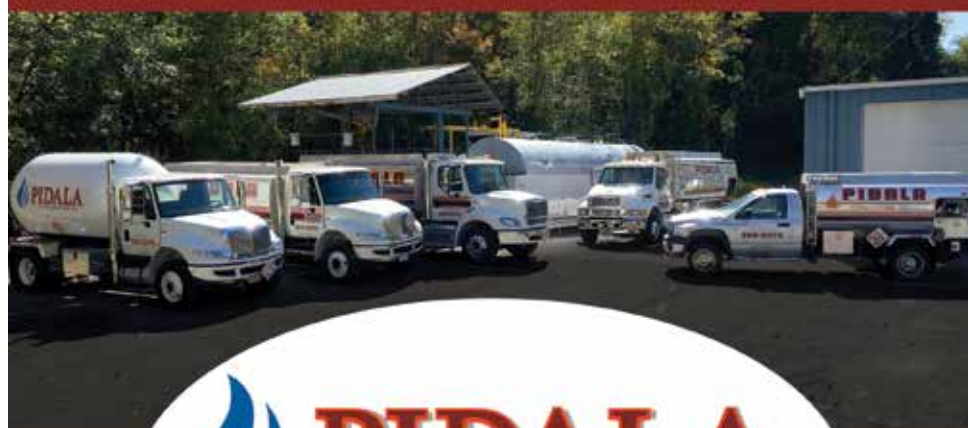
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The Artist Next Door

Rob Penner

By Alison Rooney

After moving to Beacon in 2008, Rob Penner was finding it tough going as a commercial photographer. The problem, he says, is that he didn't specialize in taking images of food or weddings.

As a teenager, Penner had worked for a graphic arts company, and his father was a graphic artist. In the late 1980s, Penner also had taken classes at the Pratt Institute on graphics, networking and printing. He called up that early training and, in 2009, equipped with a 24-inch-wide color printer, began offering services for artists.

A decade later, Beacon Fine Art Printing specializes in digital archival printing, edition printing, framing, mounting, custom art reproduction, scanning and retouching for artists, collectors and galleries. Penner began his business at home, but when the printing jobs demanded larger equipment, found a space on Maple Street. He can now make prints up to 5-feet wide.

As for the technology, "there's always something new," he says. "Right now, it's printing on metal. It's an expensive proposition to get into, not only the cost of the equipment, but the learning curve to use it. Mistakes cost a lot of money and there are always mistakes, and you have to eat that when it happens."

Penner attended the School of Visual Arts in New York City to study photography but left early. For the next 10 years, he worked as a photographer in the city. When the stock market crashed in 1987, he began taking classes at Pratt.

"It was helpful having experience on both sides of the coin, seeing things visually, then being able to turn them into a graphic production platform — taking someone's idea and turning it into a physical thing," he recalls. He found work at advertising agencies, where he was "able to sit on the fence between the artists and the art directors."

When he moved to Beacon, Penner intended to return to professional photography, an idea he now views as naïve.

"I came back in a completely new world," he says. "I didn't realize the extent of the competition. It was too much hustling for too little money. I misjudged, because with digital, anyone can be a photographer."

After meeting many artists, Penner opened a gallery of his own, which he called 1400 Square. It lasted a year. "It was a luxury," he says. That's when he moved into printing. He still takes photos for his own enjoyment, and his work was most recently included in an exhibit at the Woodstock Artists Association and Museum.

Unexpectedly, Penner says, the pandemic has not affected his business. "I was just as panicky as everyone else, but the work has continued to come in," he says. "I put work outside the door, and everyone pays online. The fear I had was no one would have any money, but they have more time on their hands to make art."

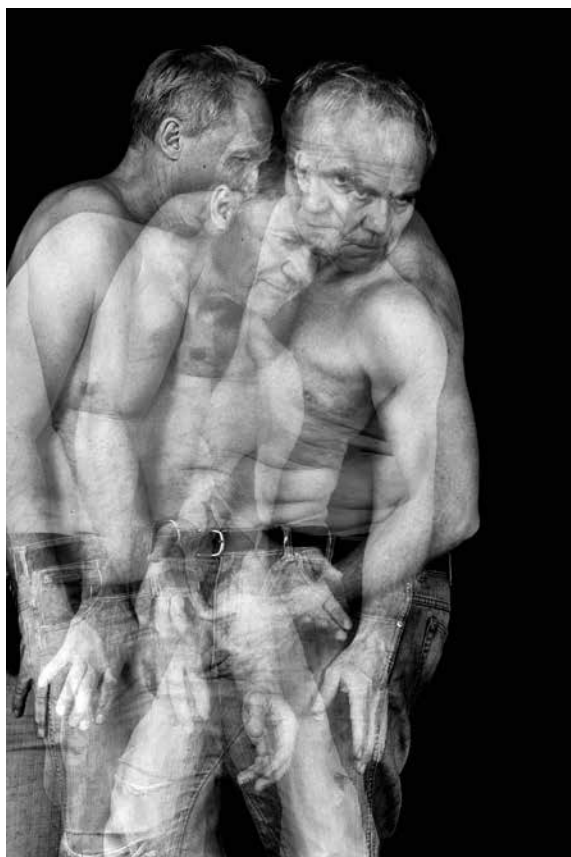
Beacon Fine Art Printing is open by appointment. Call 914-522-4736 or see beaconfineartprinting.com.



Rob Penner with photographer Melissa Robin Photo provided



"Glove-Umbrella"



"Martin"



"Two Women"



Some of the equipment at Beacon Fine Art Printing

Photo by Rob Penner

Lumbering Along

Sawmill and wood shop opens in Philipstown

By Michael Turton

John Barber, a native of Putnam Valley, earlier this year opened First Cut, a sawmill and woodworking shop, at 3441 Route 9 in Philipstown.

Is First Cut about your love of wood, or strictly business?

There's a love of wood, for sure. I've been working with wood since I was a child. I was always building things in the garage — boxes, furniture, you name it.

How long have you been in the wood business?

Nearly 20 years, although I didn't start First Cut until 2003. I bought this building two years ago and got it up and running about six months ago.

How many growth rings do you have?

I have 37!

What's your bread and butter?

I make about 1,000 moldings, from casing, crown and base molding to flooring, paneling and siding — any lineal strip of wood that's more than a rough board.



John Barber with his newly installed sawmill.

Photo by M. Turton

Which hardwood is most valuable?

Domestically, it's walnut. In the import market, the sky's the limit with rarities such as ebony or rosewood, and even certain reclaimed items. I have some ipe — Brazilian walnut that's hard as nails — which I believe came from the Coney Island boardwalk.

Do you create your lumber from logs?

It's a mix. We buy from sawmills and wholesalers. We set up a sawmill a week ago and are already sawing customers' logs and selling slabs and custom beams. We'll also make hardwood decking for equipment trailers.

Where is your lumber sourced?

A lot is from the Northeast: pine and hemlock from New York and poplar from the East Coast and Canada. I buy a lot of imported wood from Africa. Mahogany is beautiful, abundant and priced well.

Do you buy local logs?

Not typically. People bring us logs for free. They're heavy and expensive to transport, so sometimes it's easier for tree services to drop them here than move them around, store them or turn them into firewood.

What's your favorite wood to work with?

Poplar, because it makes me money! It's long, abundant, easy to mill and cheap. It's also good for painting; most people paint molding these days.

Are nails much of a problem when sawing?

It's a costly day when you hit nails or staples or rocks. Bullets are common but aren't usually a big deal because they are soft lead or copper. We also have found musket balls.

Are the artist stretcher bars you make a sideline?

It's more than that; it helps pay my bills! We do 200 stretcher bar shipments a week to print shops across the U.S. and to artists and photographers.

Ever feel sad when sawing 150-year-old logs?

I think about that, but the Northeast species are abundant. We're not cutting down endangered species or clear cutting. They no longer burn forests to make ash or giant

heart pine trees — some of the biggest, most wonderful timber we had — to make tar used on wooden ships. Most logs you see here were trees that had to come down because they endangered a house or were storm-damaged. It's better than using them for firewood or letting them rot in the woods. I sometimes question the exotic woods that come in, though. We hope they're Forest Stewardship Council certified. You pay a little more for FSC lumber, but it's responsibly harvested.

What's the oldest wood you've milled?

I have some reclaimed chestnut that's about 300 years old. And someone came in with Asian padouk wood; it's dark red, absolutely beautiful. It came from a Thai temple many hundreds of years old. We milled it into flooring for a house in New York. We also get heart pine beams up to a couple of hundred years old from old factories, and barn beams, too, but it's hard to put a date on them.

Are any of your waste products reusable?

We sell about 50 bags of wood shavings each week, mainly to farms as bedding. There's a demand for it, especially in the muddier seasons.

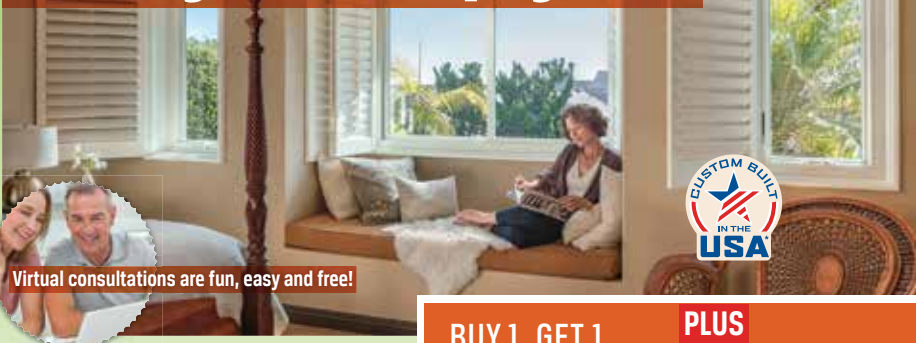
Have plastic and particle board killed the appreciation of quality wood?

Wood is more appreciated now. People have done a 180. We sell a lot of rough-sawn wood with circle saw curves on it — the polar opposite of vinyl siding. People love that rustic look. Wood is usually milled smooth but the knots, color variations and grain are more prized.

Do you have a favorite tree?

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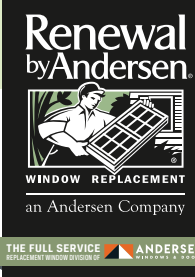
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Snake Bitten!

A painful encounter

By Michael Turton

Snakebitten is slang for someone who is unlucky. For Neal Zuckerman, the word sprang to life while he was hiking off Fort Defiance Hill Road in Philipstown.

"It felt like a razor blade had just sliced my finger open," said the Garrison resident, who was bitten by either a timber rattlesnake or a copperhead, both found in the Hudson Valley, on the morning of May 25.

Zuckerman, who is a senior partner and managing director in the New York office of the Boston Consulting Group and the Putnam County representative on the Metropolitan Transportation Authority board, was shoring up a stone cairn built as a memorial to his father-in-law, who died 15 years ago. As he reached down to rearrange the rocks, a snake bit him on the middle finger of his right hand. Thankfully, he said, "I'm a lefty."

It would be his only good luck of the day.

"It happened so fast I didn't see the snake," Zuckerman recalled. But two fang marks removed any doubt as to what had happened. And it quickly became obvious the snake was poisonous, he said. "Within an hour, it was the most intense pain I've ever had."

The swelling began almost immediately, eventually traveling up Zuckerman's arm past his elbow. "It was traumatic," he said. "You're alone in the woods, on a mountain, and you're starting to sweat."

A West Point graduate, Zuckerman said his navigation skills and knowledge of the terrain helped him keep his wits. He called his wife, Heather, staggered out of the woods, and met her at the nearest road. Within 25 minutes, he was at the emergency room at NewYork-Presbyterian/Hudson Valley Hospital in Cortlandt Manor. Because of COVID-19, Heather Zuckerman was not allowed in.

Zuckerman was immediately given painkillers but said he had to beg the doctors to inject antivenom. He said he was asked what seemed like "hundreds of times" what had bitten him.

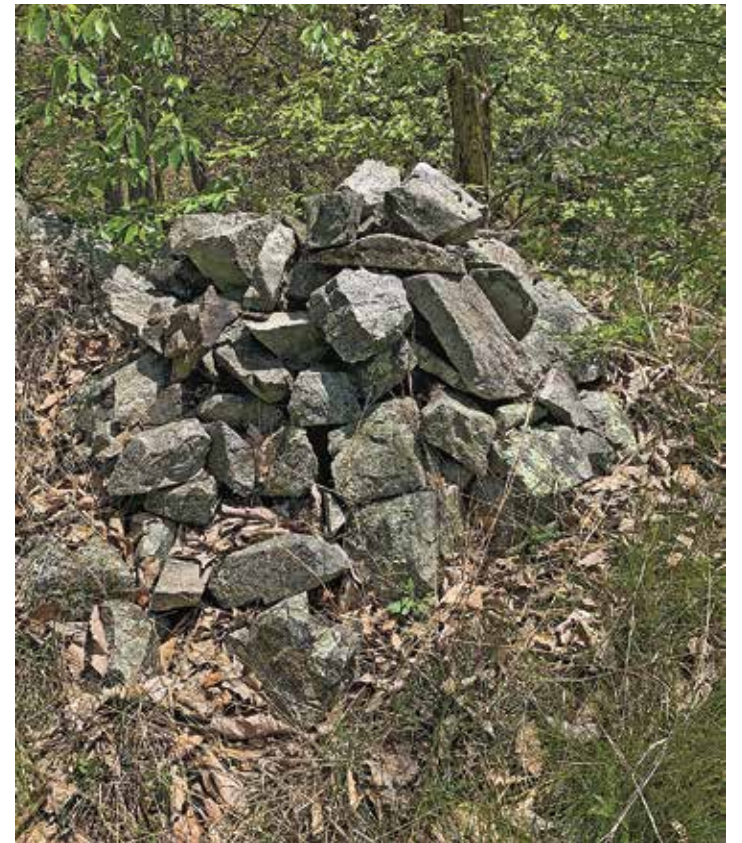
"Look at the fang marks," he replied. "It was a snake!"

After three hours, he was transferred to Westchester Medical Center by ambulance.

"My wife and I became instant snake experts," Zuckerman said. They spoke by phone to a snake expert in Montana. His wife called Jacobi Medical Center in the Bronx, which has a Snakebite Center that treats about 10 patients a year with help from herpetologists at the Bronx Zoo, which resulted in a conversation between doctors there and staff at Westchester Medical.



Zuckerman's finger (left) is still swollen nearly six weeks later. More explicit photos of the wound are online.



The cairn where Zuckerman was bitten.

Photos provided



Neal Zuckerman, on the mend



Choose your poison: A timber rattlesnake or a copperhead.

erman said his blood tests suggested that had happened.

The antivenom did not bring immediate relief. Zuckerman said he was in pain for about 24 hours after the bite. "It's unclear if that was because it took so long [to get the antivenom] or because it takes that long to work through the system," he said.

Six weeks after the bite, Zuckerman's finger looks much better but is still swollen. He continues to receive treatment from hand specialists at NYU Langone Hospital in Brooklyn.

He said the scariest moment wasn't being bitten, or staggering through the woods. "It was being alone in that hospital,

surrounded by COVID-19, and not having them do anything," he said.

Like many trauma victims, he sometimes relives the incident. "It does come up occasionally," he said. "It definitely comes up." He adds: "I never worried about snakes" but now has thoughts of Harrison Ford in the snake-filled tomb in *Raiders of the Lost Ark*.

"Maybe I have a fear of snakes now," he said. "Or maybe just a very healthy appreciation for avoiding them."

Zuckerman has advice for those who spend time outdoors. "Don't pick up rocks in confined spaces and be aware of your surroundings," he said. If bitten, "get yourself to Jacobi Medical Center."

“Maybe I have a fear of snakes now. Or maybe just a very healthy appreciation for avoiding them.

~ Neal Zuckerman

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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

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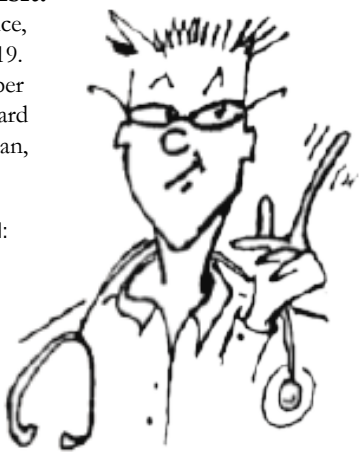
Instead of traveling to Gergely Pediatrics, you can video conference with a provider using your mobile phone, computer or tablet device (equipped with a camera). You and your provider will be able to see and talk with each other in real time – so you can ask questions and have a conversation the same 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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Paycheck Program

(from Page 1)
still be found eligible for loan forgiveness. “Because a borrower is listed in the data as having a PPP loan does not mean that SBA has determined that the borrower complied with program rules or is eligible to receive a PPP loan and loan forgiveness,” it said. Nationwide, the SBA has issued 4.88 million loans worth \$521 billion. In New York state, 324,000 loans had been issued as of June 30, totaling \$38 billion. Nationally, the average loan was \$106,772.

Paycheck Loans in the Highlands

	Cold Spring / Philipstown	Garrison	Beacon
Less than \$150K	143	62	320
Total	\$4.75m	\$2.32m	\$8.74m
Range	\$1,900 to \$133,100	\$1,400 to \$144,915	\$500 to \$141,600
Average	\$33,201	\$37,463	\$27,312
Jobs retained	508	218	1,206
More than \$150K	18	16	27
Total*	\$4.6m	\$5.2m	\$17.5m
Jobs retained	453	312	879
Total loans	161	77	347
Total value	\$9.35m	\$7.5m	\$26.3m
Total jobs retained	961	530	2,085

* Because only ranges are given, this is the minimum amount | Source: Small Business Administration

■ **Beacon** (12508)

\$1 MILLION TO \$2 MILLION

Catholic Schools Region of Dutchess | **123 jobs**
Catholic Schools Region of Northern Westchester/Putnam | **106 jobs**
HVEA Engineers | **77 jobs**

\$350,000 TO \$1 MILLION

Dean's Pool and Landscaping | **20 jobs**
Healy Chrysler Dodge Jeep | **36 jobs**
Healey Hyundai | **61 jobs**
Hudson Highlands Properties (Hudson View Park) | **28 jobs**
The Roundhouse | **47 jobs**
Tiga LLC (Jewelry) | **30 jobs**

\$150,000 TO \$350,000

ADP Diner (Yankee Clipper) | **not reported**
AEA Consulting | **10 jobs**
Alameda Meat Corp. (Key Food) | **35 jobs**
Beacon Dental | **19 jobs**
Capmac LLC (Kitchen Sink) | **21 jobs**
Clearwater | **72 jobs**
Drink More Good | **5 jobs**
Fishkill Auto Body | **not reported**
Healy Brothers Ford | **23 jobs**
Hedgewood Assisted Living | **45 jobs**
Hudson Todd LLC (Real estate) | **12 jobs**
Hudson Valley Brewery | **20 jobs**
Mountainview Home Care | **26 jobs**
Niche Design | **17 jobs**
O'Blaney Rinker Associates (Lighting) | **13 jobs**
Shevibe Inc. | **11 jobs**
Starn Studio | **6 jobs**
Whitney May Parker Consulting (Beacon Digital) | **16 jobs**

■ **Cold Spring/Philipstown** (10516)

\$1 MILLION TO \$2 MILLION

Scanga Woodworking | **64 jobs**
T. Webber Plumbing & Heating | **82 jobs**

\$350,000 TO \$1 MILLION

CRS International (Importers) | **38 jobs**

\$150,000 TO \$350,000

AKRGS Corp. (Happy Wine & Liquor) | **5 jobs**
Badey & Watson Surveyors | **24 jobs**
Cold Spring Depot Restaurant | **22 jobs**
Downey Oil | **17 jobs**
Drug World | **21 jobs**
Expanded Supply Products | **12 jobs**
Garrison Tree | **16 jobs**
Glynwood Center | **32 jobs**
Hospicom (Medical Marketing) | **15 jobs**
Hudson Valley Shakespeare | **37 jobs**
Manitou School | **22 jobs**
Mid-Hudson Concrete Products | **11 jobs**
Pidala Electric | **14 jobs**
Stonecrop Gardens | **13 jobs**
Unicorn Contracting (Butterfield) | **8 jobs**

■ **Garrison** (10524)

\$2 MILLION TO \$5 MILLION

Wood Pro 2 Installers | **4 jobs**

\$350,000 TO \$1 MILLION

Franciscan Friars of the Atonement | **not reported**
Garrison Properties (The Garrison/Highlands) | **33 jobs**
St. Christopher's Inn | **not reported**

\$150,000 TO \$350,000

Boscobel | **33 jobs**
Calle 8 BDWY 106 (NYC restaurant) | **51 jobs**
Dolly's | **5 jobs**
Franciscan Sisters of the Atonement | **23 jobs**
Fresh Company | **14 jobs**
Garden Conservancy | **20 jobs**
Garrison Institute | **25 jobs**
Garrison Woods | **11 jobs**
Highland Markets (Hudson Hil's) | **17 jobs**
St. Basil's Academy | **36 jobs**
Thomas Jerome Inc. (Contractor) | **11 jobs**
Walter Hoving Home | **29 jobs**

Facing Loss of Revenue, Putnam Makes Cuts

Also will refinance bond to cover projected losses

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

Scrambling to address the economic havoc caused by the COVID-19 crisis, Putnam County legislators this week approved budget cuts for the remainder of 2020 to cover a projected \$2.3 million sales tax revenue shortfall.

They also agreed to refinance a 2012 bond to save about \$77,000 annually over the next six years.

The Legislature acted on Tuesday (July 7) at its monthly meeting, following discussion then and at a June 29 session of the Audit and Administration Committee. Both meetings occurred via audio link.

Amid the gloom, two silver linings emerged: More Medicaid funding from the federal government and a potential sales tax balm.

At the Audit meeting, Finance Commissioner Bill Carlin said county officials opted to cut spending now to “hopefully avoid

more difficult decisions later.” He said that as of late June, sales tax income was \$1.7 million less than anticipated by the 2020 budget. Sales taxes account for 40 percent of the budget.

Carlin said that some of the anticipated losses could be made up by the collection of sales tax on internet sales, although that won’t be known before August.

Legislator Nancy Montgomery, who represents Philipstown and is the only Democrat on the nine-member panel, expressed concerns at the Audit meeting about budget reductions in the Department of Social Services, Health Department and Sheriff’s Department, which she said were “essential services. I’d never want to see cuts in staffing.”

At the July 7 meeting, Legislator Neal Sullivan of Carmel-Mahopac expressed concern about overtime expenses in the Sheriff’s Department for dispatchers and emergency communications. He asked for data on the number of calls being handled so legislators could “make sure it warrants all this money spent.”

Legislator Ginny Nacerino of Patterson

noted that the agency had two job vacancies, with deputies covering for the time being.

Montgomery also said the Legislature should see call-volume numbers but added that all departments should provide over-time-related records. She said the Sheriff’s Department receives frequent calls related to COVID-19 and demonstrations and because “everybody is on edge.”

The Legislature then voted 9-0 to approve Sheriff’s Department transfers of \$12,142 to fund the overtime.

Medicaid funding

On June 29, speaking to the Audit Committee, Carlin credited Sen. Chuck Schumer with wresting more Medicaid funding from the federal government as part of COVID-19 relief legislation passed on March 11. As a result, Putnam will be required to spend \$1.2 million less this year than it would have, Carlin said. State-wide, the savings for counties is expected to approach \$1.8 billion, according to the state Health Department.

On Tuesday, county legislators voted to

use the \$1.2 million in savings to help make up for the sales tax deficit.

State support

Carlin also warned the Audit Committee that “we could see cuts of anywhere from 20 percent to 50 percent,” or \$4.4 million to \$11.1 million, in state aid because of COVID.

After Sullivan suggested that state leaders “can’t seem to get their fiscal house in order,” Montgomery suggested that legislators “could look at this on every level. We can say that if we in Putnam managed our finances better, towns would be getting more from the county. If New York State managed finances better, counties would be getting more. To lay blame on any one particular government doesn’t serve anybody.”

Nonprofits

In a memo to legislators, Carlin cautioned that libraries and nonprofits such as the Putnam History Museum in Cold Spring, Cornell Cooperative Extension and Putnam Humane Society should not expect much county funding in 2021. The county might be able, “at most,” to offer funding at the 2020 level, “but this may not be possible, given our fiscal circumstances,” he wrote.

Philipstown Farm Added to Agricultural District

Montgomery, critical of process, votes no

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

The Putnam County Legislature voted 8-1 on Tuesday (July 7) to add 11.5 acres of Horsemen’s Trail Farm in Philipstown to the Putnam County Agricultural District.

The county established the district in 2003 as a way to tap into a state program designed to preserve farmland. According to the county, adding farms helps protect them “from the enactment and administration of unreasonably restrictive local regulations unless it can be shown that public health or safety is threatened.”

Legislator Nancy Montgomery, a Democrat who represents Philipstown, cast the lone dissenting vote. She raised no objections to the farm being added to the district but said she felt the public hearing process had been flawed.

Horsemen’s Trail Farm lies near Route 9 in the North Highlands. It was established by David Vickery and his late wife, Mary

Ellen Finger, and its animals include chickens that provide eggs to Foodtown. Part of the farm was already in the district.

On July 1, via audio connection, the Legislature conducted a public hearing on recommendations by the county Agriculture and Farmland Protection Board to add the Horsemen’s Trail Farm acreage and the 1.3-acre Pro Brothers Farm in Southeast to the district. Valley View Farm in Putnam Valley also applied for the designation but the board recommended it not be added.

At the hearing, the only members of the public to comment were Putnam Valley Supervisor Sam Oliverio, who opposed the Valley View application; a Valley View representative, who tried to rebut Oliverio; and a neighbor of the Pro Brothers Farm

who objected to its inclusion.

Montgomery attempted to speak, but Toni Addonizio, who represents Kent and chairs the Legislature, prohibited it.

In response, Montgomery questioned when legislators “are going to have a public meeting where the public can be engaged and involved,” instead of continuing “months of closing the public and closing legislators out” under the audio-link format favored by the Legislature since the COVID-19 shutdown began.

“This is not good government,” Montgomery asserted.

Other local governments, including Cold Spring, Philipstown and Beacon, use interactive video conferencing that allows communication with viewers.

“The public were really not given an opportunity to speak at the hearing. We failed [them]. We owe it to the public to hold another hearing and hold off [a vote] until everyone is heard.

~Nancy Montgomery

On Tuesday, at the Legislature’s monthly meeting, Montgomery continued her criticism. “The public were really not given an opportunity to speak at the hearing,” she said. “We failed [them]. We owe it to the public to hold another hearing and hold off [a vote] until everyone is heard.”

Addonizio replied that residents could register for the hearing, as explained on the legislative website. “That was very clear,” she said.

Montgomery said she would vote “no” on Agricultural District matters, despite the Horsemen’s Trail Farm application, “because of the way the hearing was managed and held. I support farming. I support all types of agriculture. My vote is because of the process and because I don’t think we did the public any service.”

Legislator Ginny Nacerino of Patterson cautioned Montgomery that “voting ‘no’ would be a detriment to the farm in your town.”

“It is a detriment to the entire public to not allow them an opportunity to speak at a public hearing,” Montgomery responded.

Nacerino said members of the Legislature never speak at its public hearings. “That’s not how we conduct our business,” she said.

Coronavirus *(from Page 7)*

navirus Hotline (845-486-3555) fielded nearly 8,000 calls, in 10 languages, over the previous 116 days. The call center, which is staffed by county employees and Medical Reserve Corps volunteers, operates weekdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and receives about 35 calls a day. The Medical Reserve Corps last month registered its 1,000th member. The volunteers have logged 5,000 hours so far this year, compared to 4,200 in all of 2019.

■ Dutchess created an alternate care site at Dutchess Community College to help if local hospitals exceed capacity. With 176 rooms and 457 beds on four floors, Conklin Hall was prepared to receive hospital overflow with 50 professionals from multiple disciplines. Over the past 15 weeks, the county also has distributed 332,975 surgical masks, 110,935 fabric face masks, 107,237 N-95 and K-N95 masks, 42,103 gowns and 34,657 face shields.

■ On July 1, Cuomo said the state would

delay the opening of indoor dining in New York City due to an uptick in cases.

■ The state said it would create an enforcement department to supplement local enforcement of COVID-19 guidance and restrictions.

■ New York, New Jersey and Connecticut announced that anyone traveling from a state that has a positive test rate higher than 10 per 100,000 residents over a 7-day rolling average, or a 10 percent or higher

positivity rate over a 7-day rolling average, must quarantine for 14 days. As of July 7, the states were Alabama, Arkansas, Arizona, California, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Nevada, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas and Utah. See coronavirus.health.ny.gov. According to the state, those found violating the travel quarantine order face fines of \$2,000 to \$10,000 and the loss of COVID-19 sick-pay benefits.

Jail Plan *(from Page 3)*

Democratic county legislators — including Nick Page and Frits Zernike, who each represent parts of Beacon — are now trying to overturn a 2016 vote that authorized the county to borrow up to \$192 million to build the jail and headquarters for the sheriff, the latter of which is already completed.

The resolution, which the Legislature was scheduled to consider on Thursday (July 9), cites the falling inmate population as well as the squeeze put on county revenue by the COVID-19 shutdown. Dutchess is anticipating a loss of as much as \$50 million in sales taxes in 2020.

At the time of the 2016 vote, the jail was overcrowded and inmates were being housed in temporary housing pods that, according to the report released in May by the county Comptroller's Office, cost the county \$7.3 million. Other inmates were being sent to jails in other counties at a cost of \$6 million to \$8 million annually.

In addition, a February 2018 report from the state Commission of Correction put Dutchess among the five “worst offenders” when it came to health and safety risks for inmates and staff. Past evaluations faulted the county for not providing adequate medical care, required youth educational services and even bras to female inmates. In 2011, an inmate committed suicide by hanging; another did so in 2014.

Before the bail-reform law — which

How Much Has Been Spent?

Through the end of 2019, Dutchess County had spent \$57 million on the jail project, according to the comptroller. The expenditures included \$33.5 million for the sheriff's headquarters, which was completed in February 2019 for \$2.9 million less than budgeted.

About \$13.5 million has been spent on the jail for design, consulting fees and other costs. Once the county solicits bids, construction is scheduled to begin in December and be completed by April 2024.

prohibits jailing suspects accused of most misdemeanors and some nonviolent felonies — Dutchess County Executive Marc Molinaro said the county had reduced its inmate population by 40 percent over eight years through diversion programs.

In January, when the law took effect, the pods were able to be closed. (In March, the county began using them as emergency shelter during its pandemic response.)

But Molinaro said the county cannot “continue to warehouse souls in an inhuman,

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unsafe facility built at a time when they didn't care and they threw away the key.”

He and Legislature Chairman Gregg Pulver, both Republicans, say that the new jail will be safer, allow for more programming for inmates and save an estimated \$4 million annually by eliminating the need through its design for 100 of the current 235 corrections-officer positions.

Pulver said the facility will be “state-of-the-art” and have a “much more rehabilitative setting,” with classrooms and space for substance-abuse treatment. “With this building project, we can do a lot more for humanity than we could without it,” he said.

But Page, who represents most of Beacon and parts of Fishkill, disputed that idea,

saying that a jail as “a place of significant rehabilitation has not been borne out in this country, ever,” and that “the chances of a financial debacle are huge.”

“Why can't you, at least, as a first thought, rehab one of those [jail] wings and in the meantime do everything you can, within reason, to keep the [inmate] population low?” Page said.

Because of widespread protests against racial injustice, the country is at a moment of “convergence,” said Zernike, who represents Fishkill and part of Beacon and also supports rescinding the 2016 vote. “Incarcerating more people is exactly the wrong thing to do.”

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Puzzles

CROSS CURRENT

ACROSS

1. Actor Carrey

4. Weapon of mouse destruction

8. Zits

12. Man-mouse link

13. Midwestern state

14. Addition sign

15. The national pastime

17. Node

18. — pro quo

19. British patrolman

20. First lady before Michelle

22. Old MacDonald's place

24. Twistable cookie

25. Fort Dix, for one

29. Sea (Fr.)

30. Gray matter

31. Snapshot

32. You might run on one to get home

34. "The lady — protest too much."

35. Drench

36. Cow catcher

37. Underground chamber

40. Close

41. Villainous look

42. Information storehouse

46. Con

47. Versifier's tributes

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11

12 13 14

15 16 17

18 19

20 21 22 23

24 25 26 27 28

29 30 31

32 33 34

35 36

37 38 39 40

41 42 43 44 45

46 47 48

49 50 51

48. Baltimore newspaper

49. "Act now!"

50. Prolonged sleep

51. "Of course"

DOWN

1. Task

2. 401(k) alternative

3. Costume party guests (Var.)

4. Leg bone

5. Street

6. Piercing tool

7. Crony

8. Poise

9. Organization

10. Unfeeling

11. Catch sight of

16. Continental coin

19. — Mawr College

20. Bausch's partner

21. Vicinity

22. Candid

23. Grenoble girlfriend

25. La Scala showstopper

26. Renunciation of a faith

27. Perches

28. Reverberate

30. Rorschach sample

33. — de corps

34. Smear

36. Tibet's capital

37. Dressed

38. Nevada city

39. Bigfoot's cousin

40. Goblet feature

42. Medic

43. Big bother

44. Seek damages

45. Em halves

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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 lines on a baseball (9)

2 Canadian tennis pro Bianca (9)

3 not by accident (11)

4 turbulent (11)

5 handle a broom (5)

6 join in (11)

7 filming, as a movie (8)

SOLUTIONS

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SUDO CURRENT

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

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Answers for July 3 Puzzles

			D				I					
			E	D			O	N				
			C	L	A	D	A	R	F	S		
			P	H	I	L	I	P	S	T	O	W
			C	H	A		R	H				O
			C	H	I	P		E	E			D
			T	A	L	E		C	N			E
			T	O	R			T	O			S
			N	E	M	O		O	M			I
			C	A	E	N		R	E			G
			U	N	I			A	N			N
								A	N			
								G	O	R	E	
								D	E		D	
								E			S	

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

1. ENGLISHMEN, 2. FIELDS, 3. PROBLEMATIC, 4. FLAMING, 5. LAKERS, 6. INSPECT, 7. FELLOWS

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

Out There

Return to Mount Beacon

By Brian PJ Cronin

I've never been happier to be in a thunderstorm than the one I was in last week running down Mount Beacon.



It's not like the storm surprised me: From the south summit I could see the gray clouds lined up like infantry, marching down the Hudson River to deliver, as an old friend of mine from Alabama used to call it, "a gully washer." And it's not like I minded getting wet: I was already soaked from a cooling dip in a swimming hole mid-run.

It was the ferocity of the storm that pleased me most, with the wind whipping at frightening speeds, the rain limiting visibility, the trees bending sideways and the cannon shots of thunder bouncing from peak to peak. It pleased me because it felt as if the mountain were asking me a question: You missed me during those months of lockdown — but do you still miss me after all of this?

I was happy to realize that I did.

I hadn't been on Mount Beacon since last winter. Even before the trails were closed because of fears of overcrowding that could spread COVID-19, the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference in late March began asking hikers and runners to stay away.

I stuck to the flatlands, but it wasn't easy. We all have places that we have missed over the past few months. But it's especially difficult when that place looms over you. When the Trail Conference announced that its trail stewards would return in late June, I calculated that, ethically and legally, July would be a good time to make my return.

I passed the barren months reading *The Living Mountain*, a slim and luminous volume by Nan Shepherd about the Cairngorm Mountains of Northeast Scotland. Shepherd's Highlands are much like our own, in that they were near her house and she could walk into them at a moment's notice. However, in height, character and temperament, they reminded me more of New Hampshire's White Mountains: Rocky, exposed and inviting to particularly nasty and deadly spats of weather.

And still Shepherd loved them, returning throughout the years, always amazed. There's no plot to her book; it's best described as "Nan goes for a walk and looks around; decades pass." She wanted to know everything there was to know about the



The clouds lifting over the city



In for a "gully washer" on Mount Beacon

mountains and was happy to fall short. "This process has taken many years, and is not yet complete," she wrote. "Knowing another is endless."

But she also wrote: "I believe that I now understand in some small measure why the Buddhist goes on pilgrimage to a mountain. The journey is itself part of the technique by which the god is sought."

As I returned to the city's beloved namesake in the rain, I thought about how my experience on the mountain has changed during my 13 years of going up and down it — based on weather, time of year, who I was with, and the person I was. It changes your perception of time when you mark the months by red newts, mountain laurel, blueberries, leaves falling, the first ice at the summit and the water level in the reservoir (currently surprisingly high compared to the severe drought several years ago that revealed the fuzzy backseat of a station wagon that someone later pulled to the shore).

I was happy to see on my recent return that a resourceful soul or group had found the "desire line" I spent all summer last year pounding into the tall grass between the end of the Hiddenbrooke Trail and Mountain Road and transformed it into an actual trail. On the other hand — and maybe it's because I have been running only on flat ground for months — I'm upset with whoever decided to make the first two switchbacks on the mountain even steeper, because I don't remember my legs hurting *that* much.

For the first time since COVID, I returned home encrusted with dirt. It took two days for my clothes to dry. A newt bit my toe. And next week I'll return.

Photos by B. Cronin