The HIGHLANDS Lippent JULY 31, 2020



The Devils at the Marsh Page 19

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Waiting Game

Parents and educators anticipate verdict on school re-opening

By Jeff Simms

he deadline for Beacon, Haldane, Garrison and other public school districts to submit their plans to the state for re-opening in the fall is today (July 31), with Gov. Andrew Cuomo next week expected to announce how it will all be done.

Each district was required to submit detailed plans for in-school, remote or "hybrid" instruction. In Beacon, Superintendent Matt Landahl said the district is planning for a hybrid reopening, with both socially distanced in-class and virtual options available.

Haldane submitted its plans on Thursday (July 30) and posted them at haldaneschool. org. Garrison said it had been given an extension to submit its plan by Aug. 7.

In Beacon, the buy-in from parents and teachers seems mixed but hopeful.

The plan has changed some in the last week, said Landahl, who has hosted five online Q&A sessions with parents and teachers over 10 days.

As envisioned, students whose parents or (Continued on Page 23) Celebrating 10 Years!



SHOW OF SUPPORT - Lisa Walden, an agent with Daniel Aubry Realty, reacts as Black Lives Matter protestors marched past on Main Street in Beacon on Saturday (July 25) on their way to a rally at Riverfront Park. For more photos, see Page 8. Photo by Alejandro Lopez

Putnam Sheriff Orders Deputies to Stay Out of NYC

Says new law on restraining suspects puts them at risk

By Chip Rowe

he Putnam County sheriff on July 20 prohibited his officers from entering New York City while on duty under most circumstances in response to a new law there that bans police from kneeling on a suspect's chest or back.

The law, which was signed by Mayor Bill de Blasio on July 15 in a ceremony held outdoors over a Black Lives Matter mural, makes it a misdemeanor for an officer. while making an arrest, to "restrain an individual in a manner that restricts the flow of air or blood by compressing the windpipe or the carotid arteries on each side of the neck" -a chokehold - or by "sitting, kneeling or standing on the chest

or back in a manner that compresses the diaphragm." The legislation



it went nowhere until Sheriff Langley after the May 25 kill-

ing of George Floyd in Minneapolis by an officer who kneeled on his neck. Officers convicted of "unlawful restraint" in New York City would face up to a year in jail and/ or a \$2,500 fine. (Chokeholds have been illegal statewide since June 12, when Gov. Andrew Cuomo enacted a law that banned police officers from using them.)

In his order, Sheriff Robert Langley Jr. argued the law puts his deputies at risk of prosecution by banning what he called a "safe momentary restraint technique" - placing a (Continued on Page 24)

Cuomo, Senate Replace Bridge Authority Board

Five current members removed before terms end By Chip Rowe

he state Senate on July 23 approved the appointment of a new, sevenmember board for the New York Bridge Authority, the independent agency that oversees five Mid-Hudson Vallev bridges.

The new commissioners include Louie Lanza, a Garrison resident who owns six Peekskill restaurants, and Joan McDonald, a Mahopac resident who is the director of operations for the Westchester County executive. Board members are volunteers who

serve five-year terms.

The New York Bridge Authority operates entirely on tolls collected at the Bear Mountain, Newburgh-Beacon and two other bridges. It also oversees the Walkway Over the Hudson. Gov. Andrew Cuomo earlier this year met resistance from

Hudson Valley elected officials when he proposed a merger of the Bridge Authority with the state-run Thruway Authority, which operates the Mario Cuomo Bridge, formerly the Tappan Zee.

During state budget negotiations, Cuomo was given the power to nominate seven new commissioners for the board, which had two vacancies. At the time, four of the five members had one or two years left on their terms but those were immediately expired under the agreement with legislators. The Bridge and Thruway agencies will also work together to share services.

"We all expected the governor would take this action," said Dutchess County Executive Marc Molinaro in a statement. "The real test for these individuals and the governor is whether or not they'll guarantee bridge authority revenue and expenses remain for Hudson Vallev bridges. Fleecing hardworking commuters to support

(Continued on Page 25)



FIVE QUESTIONS: TRACEY WALSH

By Michael Turton

racey Walsh, a Carmel resident and former executive with the American Cancer Society, was named Putnam County's tourism director last year.

Could you have picked a worse time to become a tourism director?

It's not what I expected! Tourism is supposed to be about bringing people in from out of the county as an economic driver. Between September and March, we put together a strong plan for the spring. We had a mix of radio, print and digital promotion, plus outreach in New York City and Fairfield County, Connecticut. We were poised; we partnered with Metro-North to be in their getaway package. But with the pandemic we had to pivot. Now it's about "rediscovering" Putnam County, the beauty in your own backyard. It's like trying to thread the needle - supporting local businesses and Main Street economies - but with safety always paramount.

How has the pandemic affected your budget?

New York State hasn't given us an answer on matching funds. I have been cautious. Bills will be paid. The money was there in the first quarter but we were told not to count on it in the third and fourth quarter. The governor didn't give a percentage; it's his first pandemic, too. We're being frugal, focusing more on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and community organizations. For example, we'll support the Cold Spring Chamber's map. It has legs that will go beyond where we are now. We just need to be kind to one another, patient with one another. But until we get an answer from the state, I won't know what the budget will be.

Would you support having some of the sales tax generated here returned to the village to support tourism?

That's really not the way it works. I'm supposed to promote tourism, create partnerships. Sales tax does come back to municipalities through services, guaranteeing the tax levy, paying election costs, etc. Westchester Tourism gets a lot of funding from hotel room taxes, but we don't have that kind of revenue. Putnam's largest revenue is from big-box stores and car dealerships on the east side of the county. We just had the county's first hotel open in Brewster, a Comfort Inn, on March 13. It was open for three or four hours pre-COVID. I hear what folks here are saying, but we do support all the municipalities the best we can. A hotel here would be a great addition.

Have you considered hosting a conference to explore how to improve tourism's role as an economic engine?

We know tourism saved the average household in New York state \$738 in property taxes in 2018. The Putnam savings was \$230, which is an impetus to ask, "How do



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Tracey Walsh spoke last fall to the Cold Spring Village Board.

we grow that?" We also know second homes, food and beverage and recreation are our top-grossing tourism activities. In January, Putnam Tourism, the Putnam Economic Development Commission and the Putnam Industrial Development Agency hosted Grow, a day devoted to our small farms and agritourism. Empire State Development and Cornell Cooperative Extension were also involved. We brought farmers together to talk about what they can do - and some might be ready to take the next step into agritourism. We expected 30 people and had more than 100. These kinds of gatherings are good, although I'm not sure when we're going to be in conference-mode again.

If you could implement one tourism project to benefit the county, what would it be?

There's one I think would make a huge difference but one you might not think of. A bike trail connecting east and west would be magnificent. One of the best conversations I had when I started as director was at the Hudson Highlands Land Trust, talking about creating an east-west corridor. I learned to drive on Route 301 – but the poor bikers! The bike path in eastern Putnam is great, but an east-to-west bike corridor for safety, for beauty, for sustainability and for uniting the county would be magic. I do not have an east-west bias!





Clearwater Board Removes Executive Director

Greg Williams hired in 2018

By Chip Rowe

he board of the nonprofit Hudson River Sloop Clearwater voted on July 20 to remove its executive director - the fourth person to hold the position in the past six years.

Greg Williams, who lives in Cold Spring, was hired by the Beacon-based nonprofit in 2018. A native of Croton, he returned to the Hudson Valley from Seattle to take the job, which had been filled by two interim directors following the departure in 2016 of Peter Gross, who served 18 months before resigning.

The environmental organization was



Bender

Change Coming to Village Board

Miller. Voloto will not seek re-election

By Chip Rowe

he Cold Spring Village Board will have two new members as of Jan. 1, as incumbents Steve Voloto and Lynn Miller did not file petitions with the Putnam County Board of Elections by the July 30 deadline to appear on the November ballot.

They will be succeeded by Kathleen Foley and Heidi Bender, who will run unopposed for the two open seats, barring any writein campaigns. The term is for two years.

In addition, Camille Linson will run unopposed for a second term as Philipstown Town Justice.

Foley is a consultant who specializes in historic preservation and land-use planning. She is also a member of the village's Historic District Review Board. Bender is the co-owner, with her husband, Michael, of Split Rocks Books on Main Street.

Voloto and Miller were each elected in 2016 and re-elected in 2018 without opposition. Miller said she decided not to run for a third term because "I'm facing a lot of uncertainty. My husband and I will be selling our business Veggie Go-Go [in Wappingers Falls], and serving as a trustee requires complete dedication and commitment." Voloto did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

The other members of the Village Board are Mayor Dave Merandy, Fran Murphy and Marie Early.

founded in 1969 by folk singer Pete Seeger. It has struggled financially in recent years and was hard-hit by the COVID-19 pandemic, which forced the cancellation of its primary fundraiser, a two-day summer music festival.

In a statement, the Clearwater board said: "This action follows the ongoing inability of the executive director and senior staff to work constructively with one another due to an irreparable breakdown of vital professional relationships.

"While not wishing to publicly disclose details of personnel matters, the board wants to assure the Clearwater community that we took this action only after listening to input from a wide range of Clearwater members and employees, and following extensive discussion and consideration.

"Though we realize not everyone will agree with the vote, the final decision reflects the board's ongoing effort to uphold the standards of Clearwater, including its ethical obligations to its staff."

When asked in an interview if his dismissal had been a surprise, Williams paused and said, "Let's say yes," but declined to elaborate.

"We have a board election in September," he said. "It would be great if members would turn out to vote in large numbers and know as much as they can about the candidates who are running and how they intend to move the organization forward.

"Clearwater remains a unique and important institution in the Hudson Valley," he added. "I am incredibly proud to have served as executive director for two years." The organization

said Steve Stanne, its Greg Williams president, and Joan

Gaylord, an executive committee member and chair of its communications committee, will serve as interim co-executive directors. In the statement, it said the final report of its strategic planning committee will help guide a search for Williams' successor.

Brian PJ Cronin contributed reporting.

Quick Fixes Beacon committee proposes low-cost

The Main Street Access Committee, a volunteer group in Beacon created by Mayor Lee Kyriacou to address parking, traffic, transit and pedestrian challenges, submitted a list to the City Council this week of low-cost "quick fixes" ahead of a comprehensive report. Some of the recommendations, such as those for new stop signs, must be forwarded to the city's Traffic Safety Committee before they can be considered.

upgrades

- Repaint faded and missing crosswalk lines at all intersections in light of higher pedestrian traffic during the pandemic;
- Place stop signs at all intersections within two blocks of Main Street and where side streets feed into Main Street to slow traffic;
- Install double-sided signs at the Main Street and Tioronda Avenue crosswalk near the Howland Center, as well as at Main and East Main streets, and Main and Willow streets;
- Repaint parking spaces in the Van Nydeck Avenue lot and in the municipal lot across from the Dutchess DMV;
- Create informational signage for all municipal parking lots;
- Stripe angled parking spaces on Henry and DeWindt streets where it is possible to accommodate two driving lanes, with diagonal parking on one side and parallel parking on the other;
- Stripe parking spaces on the first two blocks of side streets that feed into Main Street, if they are wide enough;
- Move the center line on Fishkill Avenue where it approaches Main Street to create parking spaces on the east side of the street:
- Install electronic signs near the "Welcome to Beacon" signs on Routes 52 and 9D reminding people to drive carefully because the city is bicycle- and pedestrian-friendly.

CURRENT CONVERSATIONS School reopenings: Q&A with Haldane and Beacon



REGISTER TO ATTEND: highlandscurrent.org/current-conversations





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Tell us what you think

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

LETTERS AND COMMENTS

Beacon police

The Beacon Police Department is ridiculously overfunded and overstaffed ("Officers Push Back on Interim Choice," July 17). Its budget accounts for about 25 percent of the city's spending, compared to Wappinger, where it is less than 10 percent.

I was eating on Main Street last week, and over the span of an hour, I saw seven police cars, and each of the officers driving (in solo vehicles) was talking and laughing on his cell phone. But the police union thinks Beacon is dangerously understaffed? What a joke.

Beacon needs to cut its police force in half or start demanding that officers walk the streets they claim to patrol. If it needs more of a budget, it could start by ticketing the speeders on Route 9D or all the Jeeps driving up Pocket Road - but, oh yeah, the Beacon Jeep Club is made up of friends and family.

Stefan Freihoff, Beacon

Connections

It was interesting to come across the entry in "Looking Back in Beacon" (June 26) about Sarah Ann Smith, 76, a resident of Mountain Lane, who received a mother's pension after 12 years of filing claims based on the death of the youngest of her three

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sons to serve in the Civil War.

Sarah Ann was my great-great-greatgrandmother - she's buried in Fairview Cemetery in Beacon with her husband, Gilbert Smith. Alfred was the son killed in the Civil War; he's buried in Louisiana. Matthew Gilmore, Washington, D.C.

See your doctor

For months, we all stayed home to keep Putnam County safe and healthy during the coronavirus pandemic. Our efforts worked; we helped contain the spread of the virus.

Now that the infection rate is low, it's a good time to schedule a visit with your doctor for wellness checks and any other care you may have skipped.

State Sen. Sue Serino [whose district includes the Highlands] gave us a brave reminder of how important preventative care is when she announced that a recent mammogram found that she had earlystage breast cancer ("Sen. Serino Fighting Breast Cancer," July 17).

I was so glad to hear that Sen. Serino's cancer was found early and is considered noninvasive. I am also proud of the senator for being so forthright about her diagnosis. Who knows how many lives her openness might help save?

I followed her example and scheduled my mammogram right away, and I urge all of you to schedule routine physicals, colonoscopies, prostate exams and other important wellness checks.

While we continue to take care of our community by wearing masks, social distancing and washing hands, don't forget to also take care of yourself.

MaryEllen Odell, Carmel Odell is the Putnam County executive.

School start

It is nonsensical to consider reopening school buildings before reopening music venues and theaters ("School Reopening Plans Due July 31," July 24). If it's too dangerous for adults to spend a few hours in those places, it's too dangerous for students and teachers to return to classrooms for sevenand-a-half hours a day, five days a week.

Let's discuss reopening school buildings after we see how it goes with the adults spending extended time inside in close quarters, some masked, some not, with limited ventilation.

Nothing makes sense anymore. Reopening school buildings in the middle of a pandemic makes the least sense.

Mai Jacobs, Beacon

Hate graffiti

When a representative of the Village Board was confronted about the anti-gay graffiti spray-painted on Fair Street near Mayor's Park, she became defensive and combative and suggested we should be silent about it lest we give the vandals the attention they want -

(Continued on Page 6)

Corrections

In "Something You Don't Know About Me," about Alex Dubroff, in the July 24 issue, a response was edited in a way that omitted context. Asked how she became involved with the Topfield Equestrian Center, where she is the executive director, Dubroff said she initially volunteered because "she was an emotional wreck." But in her full response, Dubroff noted she was feeling that way at the time because of her work with the families of victims of gun violence.

The crossword grid in the July 24 issue was incorrect; the correct grid is posted at highlandscurrent. org. If you still managed to complete it, let us know!

@ioro confect 7.20

Cold Spring Activist Speaks Out

Haldane grad stresses need for 'lateral information'

In June, Cassie Traina, a 2017 Haldane High School graduate who is a student at Sarah Lawrence College, founded a grassroots organization called Cold Spring Community Action (cscommunityaction.wixsite.com/mysite). She spoke with Michael Turton about it; her responses have been edited for brevity.

Why did you start the group?

It was formed in response to recent activism in town and to Scott Morris being hired as a Cold Spring police officer. When Morris was with the New York Police Department, he was involved with the 2012 killing of Ramarley Graham, a black teenager. [Morris was the supervisor at the scene.] It was clear to me that Cold Spring needed a place where people can get information, discuss it and come together as a community.

Was forming the group a reaction to the national situation?

I'm inspired by it. In some ways Cold Spring is a tiny model of what's happening in America. I'm interested in lateral information — information coming from members of the community, not from a trickle-down from the government or other institutions or organizations. It's everybody sharing information they have, on-theground, firsthand accounts of what's happening.

Do you have a background in community activism?

In high school, my sister founded Women Empowered. I was a director. It was important to us to give voice to girls and young women in town, a place to connect and discuss issues. And I've always been interested in town politics.

What issues do you feel Cold Spring needs to address?

A lot of issues have become politicized that are ethical and moral issues that should be ingrained in our everyday conversations, such as women's rights, LGBTQ rights and now, on a major scale, black rights. With so many black teenagers being murdered by the police, it is absolutely necessary that we have these conversations. Racism is the No. 1 issue. Cold Spring has a lot of white, straight people who think their experience is the norm. Anything that goes against that norm, we need to address.

How is race an issue in predominantly white Cold Spring?

It's a huge issue because we are predominantly white. I recently spoke with a local young black woman who wrote on social media about the racism she has experienced here. She faced a backlash — people denying her experiences. In high school I saw a lot of people actively denying things, even Haldane staff. I've seen people deny local history, the enormity of the KKK presence in our town that no doubt we still feel the effects of today. Some people in this town see the Confederate flag as a symbol of heritage. We're not exempt from those conversations.

In your view, what were the recent Trump demonstrations in Cold Spring about?

Mr. [Edgar] Polhemus had every right to show his support for Mr. Trump [with a banner positioned on Route 9D]. And members of my generation had every right to go there and say, "I don't believe that [Trump] stands for our town, for the people in it." When you protest the president it's political, but it's also about the things he represents, which, in a lot of ways, is antiblackness, anti-LBGTQ, anti-women.

How can racism be confronted?

Community action. That's why I started this. The information about Scott Morris was always there. Two newspapers in town could have done that research. Many people in town could have done that research. We weren't curious enough. Community action was effective. Within a day of sending emails, within a day of calling, Mayor [Dave] Merandy announced that Scott Morris was resigning. At the June 9 village board meeting, the mayor was uncom-



Cassie Traina

fortable. He had no respect for the email campaign. He said many things against it, that it was mob mentality. But I don't see it as mob mentality. We saw an issue and we took action.

The Village Board said it did its research, was aware of the incident and felt Morris was a good hire. How would you respond to that?

It's more of an issue that the board knew everything than if it had not known. The fact that it knew and still thought it was an appropriate hire proves there is systematic racism in our institutions. We didn't think that police brutality would get back to our town. We thought we were in this bubble.

What did you mean by a comment in *The Current* that citizens and elected officials need to feel connected?

After the June 9 board meeting, I tried to contact Mayor Merandy at least five times. I tried to contact Officer-in-Charge Larry Burke and the Putnam County Sheriff's Department. I have not received a response from anyone. They don't want to talk to me, obviously. That's where Cold Spring Community Action comes in - it's a platPhoto provided

form where anyone can bring information to the table and discuss it, whether or not our elected officials want that conversation. The information about Scott Morris came from other citizens. The information about the [Trump] protest was from a video by someone who lives here. That's how we're getting this information.



NOTICE

THE PHILIPSTOWN ZONING BOARD

will hold their regular Monthly Meeting on August 10th, 2020 at 7:30 p.m. virtually via Zoom.

If you would like to attend, please visit the following link:

us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_jbsnxTLqSVCNpZXDrE7R-w

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

OR email KMACINTYRE@PHILIPSTOWN.COM to request login information before 7:00 p.m. on August 10th, 2020.

NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a public hearing will be held by the Zoning Board of Appeals of the Town of Philipstown on Monday, August 10th, 2020 at 7:30 P.M. Via Zoom. If you would like to attend, **please email KMACINTYRE@PHILIPSTOWN.COM to request login information before 7 pm on August 10th, 2020.**

Ryan Maxwell, 48 Old Albany Post Rd, Garrison TM#83.13-1-17

(The applicant proposes a second story addition within the side yard setback proposing a 28"-0" setback where 30" is required. Also proposing a 59" front yard setback, where 60" is required.)

(The applicant proposes a Carport/Pavilion within the rear yard setback proposing a 24"-6" setback where 50" is required.)

At said hearing all persons will have the right to be heard. Copies of the application, plat map, and other related materials may be seen in the Office of the Building Department, 2 Cedar Street, Cold Spring, New York.

Dated July 13th, 2020 | Robert Dee, Chairman of the Town of Philipstown Zoning Board of Appeals

LETTERS AND COMMENTS

(Continued from Page 4)

the antithesis of the appropriate response to an act of hate like this ("Notes from the Cold Spring Village Board," July 17).

Eileen McDermott, Brewster

I never suggested that anyone should be silent about the graffiti on Fair Street, only that it's very likely it was done with the sole purpose of triggering a disproportionate and emotional response.

Whoever painted the stupid message got exactly what they wanted. I only suggested that the justifiably outraged reaction be channeled into constructive action rather than frittering away its power and energy on online sniping.

Mayor Dave Merandy addressed the issue of the hate speech painted on Fair Street at Village Board meetings on July 14 and 21, describing all the particulars as to how it was addressed, documented, investigated and removed. He expressed the collective disgust the majority of Cold Spring residents feel when our lovely home is defaced by hateful speech. People kept demanding an official statement, being unaware that statements by the mayor made during board meetings are official statements documented for historical record in the meeting minutes.

Some wanted more to be done but did not specify exactly what. Others demanded that official letters condemning the hate speech represented by this incident be sent to every resident in the village. I counter that such efforts would amount to a largely ineffective use of Cold Spring's limited financial resources.

If encouraging our residents to constructively participate in Village Board meetings via Zoom (or in person when we move back to that) rather than criticizing village governance on Facebook is defensive or combative, then yes, I'm defending the structure of representative democracy and how it works on the local level.

Our system of government is designed to be flexible yet subject to state and federal legal standards. If you want it changed, it's up to citizens to do the work to make that happen. Informing oneself about how government is structured and operates, and attending Village Board meetings is an appropriate first step.

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Counting the

Highlands Response rates to the 2020 U.S. census, as of July 29, along with historical data, is at right. If a household doesn't respond online at 2020census. gov, the agency sends a paper questionnaire. If there is still no response, a census taker is dispatched. The census, which is conducted every 10 years, is used to determine the federal funding received by each state, as well as its representation in Congress.

Most people will agree that sniping

from the sidelines amounts to little more

than impotent noise with little construc-

tive effect. Rather than enlisting allies and

collaborating in the struggle to promote

social equity for marginalized groups, such

disproportional and misdirected outrage

Miller is a member of the Village Board.

How do businesses in Cold Spring help

"keep taxes low" [as a commentator at high-

landscurrent.org claimed] when those busi-

nesses pay zero taxes, tariffs, fees or other

remuneration to the village? The sales tax they

collect goes to New York State and a small

percentage trickles down to the village. The

store's landlords pay property tax whether

In fact, businesses add to the tax burden

because their customers fill the garbage

cans that the Highway Department must

empty. The parking for residents is virtu-

ally nonexistent due to the throngs of visi-

tors, and the public restrooms have to be

cleaned and restocked at a much faster rate.

Cold Spring, but the village would not go

broke without them.

Black and blue

July 24).

Our businesses add to the special feel of

I was at the July 19 demonstration in

Beacon on the Back the Blue side of Route

9D from about 9 a.m. till 10 a.m. ("Report-

er's Notebook: Are We That Far Apart?"

There apparently was some extremely ugly

behavior that I was oblivious to or occurred

after I left, but Jeff Simms' column didn't tell

the whole story. I witnessed police encourag-

ing leaders of both sides to speak with each

other, which happened. I saw demonstra-

tors cross the street to hug friends or family

members on the other side. On the Back

the Blue side, I had discussions with others

about understanding some of the concerns

Does one side believe it will change the

other side's beliefs? Everyone is preaching

to his or her own choir. This is pretty much

Joe Steinfeld, Beacon

raised by Black Lives Matter.

Tom Ciero, Cold Spring

they rent to a retailer or an individual.

Lynn Miller, Cold Spring

only undermines such efforts.

Tax burden

			1990
68.6	69.1	71	72
66.0	66.8	67	56
65.8	66.2	67	64
64.5	66.5	67	65
63.1	66.0	-	-
62.7	67.2	65	61
61.7	65.8	54	66
61.6	65.7	68	64
58.3	64.6	67	62
54.2	64.0	55	53
40.0	50.2	45	44
	66.0 65.8 64.5 63.1 62.7 61.7 61.6 58.3 54.2	66.0 66.8 65.8 66.2 64.5 66.5 63.1 66.0 62.7 67.2 61.7 65.8 61.6 65.7 58.3 64.6 54.2 64.0 40.0 50.2	66.0 66.8 67 65.8 66.2 67 64.5 66.5 67 63.1 66.0 - 62.7 67.2 65 61.7 65.8 54 61.6 65.7 68 58.3 64.6 67 54.2 64.0 55

Source: 2020census.gov

the same for our major party elections. Each side has made up its mind, and the only thing that changes is how many people actually come out to vote in a particular county or state.

Charles Symon, Beacon

Note the U.S. flags on one side and the lack of them on the other. Also present were antifa flags and an anarchist flag. Makes you think!

Peter Nocerino, Beacon

Most humans want to stop violence and oppression, and can still respect police. Unfortunately, there is no leadership willing to step out of the sheep and lead.

Janet Moon, via Facebook

I thought the "pro-police" rally was to thank officers for their service, not to counter Black Lives Matter? The language used is the problem.

Mary Ray Lane, via Facebook

All of those on the side supporting law enforcement were from Beacon. Those on the Black Lives Matter side were not. They came from other towns to counter-protest against a peaceful rally. Beacon is not divided at all. I've lived here 52 years. Beacon was much more racially divided in the 1960s through the 1980s. Simms' column does not depict the current atmosphere in Beacon.

Tom DiCastro Jr., Beacon

Members of the organized Black Lives Matter movement come into communities to push its agenda but try to appear to be community members. They lie, use false names online and hope to dismantle communities for their Marxist agenda. First on the list: Abolish the police.

Judy McLaughlin, via Facebook

That is nonsense. Overwhelmingly the protestors are from Beacon, with maybe a few from Philipstown. The small sad group of bigots is a minority in both Beacon and in the U.S. at large. Both sides aren't the same and we don't have to pretend like they are for some illusion of civility.

If you spend your Sunday carrying defaced flags with fascist emblems because you've been thrown into hysterics that black people want basic civil rights and perhaps police shouldn't conduct extrajudicial executions with no repercussions, I'm not particularly interested in having common ground with you.

Ryan Biracree, via Facebook

Pro-police rallies are very few and far between, yet at each event anti-police warriors are sure to have a contingent of haters show up. Pro-police folks do not show up to the hundreds of anti-police rallies out of fear of being assaulted. So, allow another group to express their sentiment every once in a while.

Andrew DeStefano, via Facebook

The photo on the front page of the July 24 issue is a stark visual metaphor for what's going on right now, both demographically and symbolically.

Stephen Fleming, via Facebook

We can't wear our hair how we want, can't live where we want, can't work where we want, can't walk to the store, can't get married, can't play outside, can't stand outside, can't stand on our porches, can't go visit a friend, can't peacefully protest, can't protest when hurt or angry, because our actions and pain are always being appropriated.

Every time we try to make people aware of the effects of their B.S., there's a "counter argument." We don't want to have to march for the same damn thing 20 times a year. If you can't get with the program that we aren't supposed to be slaves anymore, find a corner, shut up and leave us alone.

Koacoe Nychelle, via Facebook

Black Lives Matter is not "anti-police." Its anti-brutality. There's a difference.

Nadine Feldman, via Facebook

Anyone who thinks Black Lives Matter is about abolishing the police is off-base. I'm not for abolishing anything, but I do believe improvements can be made in lawenforcement practices.

Kyle Gollins, via Facebook

Don't kid yourself. We are that divided. Eileen Anderson, *via Facebook*

People can believe that black lives matter without subscribing to ending capitalism or the stated goals of the official Black Lives Matter organization. The movement itself has become something much bigger, broader and more benevolent than the original organization. Until people of color receive the same health care treatment, representation in government, social services, and ability to own a home or job advancement as white people, you better believe black lives matter.

Erin Giunta, via Facebook

There is so much common ground between the groups, but people want to fight instead of listen. People want to feel like they are in control during these uncertain times. If you are angry, well, join the world! Knowledge is power. Hate has no home here.

Zenta Janks, via Facebook



Peter Lazar makes a purchase from Brenda Murnane, owner of Beacon Bath and Bubble.

Stop That Maskless Man!

Highlands shop owners say nearly everyone complies

By Leonard Sparks

usan Early emerged from the rear of her C&E Paint Supply store on Main Street in Cold Spring one day last week to find a maskless man browsing.

She reminded him of a New York mandate that masks must be worn and offered him one from a supply she keeps on hand. His response, said Early: "It's not the law yet."

Early had her own response: "We're not having this conversation. You have to put one on or leave." He put one on, she said.

In New York State, under an executive order issued by Gov. Andrew Cuomo on April 15, anyone over age 2 is required to wear a mask or face covering in public and where social distancing - at least six feet of separation - cannot be maintained. Violators can be fined up to \$1,000.

Employers are also required to provide masks to workers, who must have their faces covered when interacting with the public. Under an order issued by Cuomo on April 28, business owners can refuse entry or service to anyone not wearing a face covering.

The only people exempted from the requirement are people with "a medical or other health condition that prevents such usage," according to the state Department of Health.

Nationwide, "you have to wear a mask" have become fighting words for some people. As the pandemic grinds on, videos

of unmasked scofflaws have proliferated, with cell phones recording confrontations that include attacks on store employees, fights between customers and the brandishing of firearms and knives.

Those kinds of incidents have been largely absent in the Highlands, where store owners report that customers almost always wear masks or, if asked, return to their cars to retrieve one. Like Early, many shop owners also have a supply.

Barbara Fisher, who owns Barb's Butchery in Beacon, said only two customers have entered her shop without their faces covered. One retrieved a mask from his car. The other "said something to my staff and stormed out," she said.

"I don't understand the fight about the mask," Fisher said. "It just seems like a simple, scientific, easy solution to this. It's baffling to me as to how it's turned into this nonsense"

Elsewhere in the U.S., the nonsense has included:

- A security guard at a Target in California, who had his arm broken as he and another guard scuffled with two men being escorted out because they were not wearing masks.
- A woman in Illinois who was charged with battery and disorderly conduct after a confrontation with another woman over mask-wearing at a Home Depot escalated into a fight.
- A man in Florida who was arrested on felony charges after being

accused of pulling a gun on another shopper during a dispute over masks inside a Walmart.

- A man in Massachusetts accused of pulling a gun on an unmasked shopper outside a Walgreens.
- A Michigan man who allegedly stabbed a customer at a convenience store after being refused service for not wearing a mask. He was shot and killed by a sheriff's deputy as he charged at her with the knife, police said.

Staff at Barb's Butchery have been told "don't pick a fight, don't haggle," said Fisher.

"Don't help them and don't service them," she said. "If they make a scene, call the police and call me next."

On July 14, the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention credited masks with preventing the spread of COVID-19 to customers seen by two infected hairstylists at a salon in Missouri. Both stylists were exhibiting symptoms of the virus but were wearing masks under a local law requiring them. No illness was found in 139 clients or secondary contacts, according to the CDC.

Over the last two months. New York has slowly allowed businesses to reopen, bringing people together in workplaces, stores, cultural sites and other places. The risks of reopening, and the continued importance of masks, are highlighted by health advisories that Dutchess and Putnam counties issued in July warning people that they may have been exposed to COVID-19 at local businesses.

Dutchess is tracing people who visited the Ashley HomeStore in Poughkeepsie from July 11 to 15 because an employee tested positive for COVID-19. Putnam issued three

COVID-19 by the Numbers

PUTNAM COUNTY

Number of confirmed cases: 1,418(+21)

New Cases in Philipstown: 2

Tests administered: 26,468 (+2,169)

Percent positive:

5.4(-0.3)

Number of deaths: **63**⁽⁺⁰⁾

DUTCHESS COUNTY Number of confirmed cases: 4,468 (+68)

Active Cases in Beacon: 9

Tests administered: 90,203 (+7,832)

Percent positive: **5**.0 (-0.3)

Number of deaths: **153** (+0)

Source: New York State Department of Health, with weekly changes in parentheses, as of July 30. New cases in Philipstown for week ending July 24.

advisories: for the Tops Friendly Markets and Salsa Fresca, both in Carmel; and Tom & Jerry's Bar & Grill in Brewster.

The state is also cracking down on bars and restaurants with liquor licenses that don't enforce mask wearing or social distancing. As of July 29, the state liquor authority had suspended the licenses of 57 establishments, 43 of them in New York City and on Long Island, with five receiving fines ranging from \$5,000 to \$35,000.

No businesses in Putnam or Dutchess counties have had a license suspended, but the Publick House in Pleasant Valley was charged in May with failing to comply with the state's shutdown guidelines.

Noah Katz, the owner of Foodtown in Cold Spring, said "everyone is cooperating" with the mask requirement at his grocery store. People who forget a mask are given one for free, he said. Foodtown also sells masks for \$1 each, with the proceeds donated to charity.

At Beacon Bath and Bubble on Main Street, in both display windows mannequins lounge in bathtubs filled with faux bubbles. Each one has a face covering.

"It's not that big of a deal to put on a mask," said owner Brenda Murnane.







Photos by Alejandro Lopez (3)





Black Lives Matter Protest

What's Next Hudson Valley organized a Black Lives Matter march on Saturday from Memorial Park to Riverfront Park in Beacon, with a stop at the Beacon Police Department. At the riverfront, speakers took turns at the podium.

Photos by Alejandro Lopez













A rendering of the north end of the proposed Continental Commons development, with the hotel at left, a visitors' center at center and the existing Safeway gas station at right.

Judge Rules for Opponents of Continental Commons

Developer hits back with stack of arguments

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

pponents of a proposed malland-hotel complex with a Revolutionary War theme for Route 9 in Fishkill won an interim battle in state court this month, but the developer hit back a week later.

On July 13, Justice Maria Rosa, a state judge based in Dutchess County, rejected a request from the developer and the Fishkill Planning Board to declare that the nonprofit Friends of the Fishkill Supply Depot (FOFSD) and neighbors lacked legal standing to challenge the project, known as Continental Commons.

In a related matter, another state judge dismissed a lawsuit filed in 2017 by the developer, Domenico Broccoli, against two Friends of Fishkill Supply Depot supporters, Martin Byster and Bill Sandy. Broccoli had accused the two men of planting human bones on the parcel to interfere with his "ability to use the property for development."

Located at Route 9 just south of Interstate 84, the Continental Commons property contains 10.5 acres of what was once the vast Fishkill Supply Depot, which sheltered and equipped the Continental Army and stretched to the edge of Philipstown.

Broccoli wants to construct an inn, shops, restaurants and visitor center "to create an interactive and immersive historical experience," according to a court filing on July 20 by Stephen Riccardulli, one of his attorneys.

Broccoli has promised to protect a cemetery on the parcel that the Friends believe contains the graves of patriots.

FOFSD and neighbors contend that the

Fishkill Planning Board erred in 2019 when it approved Broccoli's site plan after twice determining it would have no significant impact on the environment or historical resources.

In her five-page ruling issued on July 13, Rosa said the plaintiffs had standing to sue in part because of their fears that Continental Commons could contaminate the Fishkill aquifer, a primary groundwater source; harm their wells; damage a stream; and threaten wildlife and a valuable historical site.

Likewise, she ruled, the FOFSD has standing because it advocates historical preservation and has conducted research on the Supply Depot, held public events, and encouraged awareness of the site's Revolutionary War role. Its members also have participated in archaeological work there, she noted.

She disagreed with Broccoli's assertion that the court should dismiss the allegation that the Planning Board was biased in favor of Continental Commons, citing claims by the plaintiffs to the contrary, such as remarks by the Planning Board chair, who reportedly said in 2015 that she was not going to let "some hysterical society" that opposed the project "roll over the Planning Board."

The response filed for the developer by Riccardulli last week argued that the "hysterical society" remark had been taken out of context and that "the plain language of the statement goes to the chair's desire to ensure the Planning Board's process was run fairly and not unduly influenced by anyone, including members of the FOFSD.

"In the end," Riccardulli added, "it's clear that [FOFSD and neighbors] are just unhappy with the Planning Board's reasoned determination" to approve the plans.

NEWS BRIEFS

Putnam Legislator Sues Carmel

Seeks \$1.5 million after being passed over for job

Putnam County Legislator Paul Jonke, a Republican who represents Southeast, has sued Carmel for \$1.5 million after town board members changed their minds about rehiring him as t



about rehiring him as the full-time town assessor nearly a year ago.

The Journal News reported that the board decided on Aug. 21, 2019, in a session closed to the public, to offer the job to Jonke, who is the part-time assessor for Beekman, in Dutchess County. He was to be paid \$100,500 annually. (Putnam legislators, who are part-time, earn \$40,000 annually.)

Before an agreement with Jonke could be finalized, some residents heard about the proposed hire and protested, according to *The Journal News*. Jonke left the job in 2011 while facing a defamation lawsuit filed by the town's principal account clerk, who claimed Jonke falsely accused her of making unwanted sexual advances toward him. (The town settled the case for \$9,500.)

The Journal News also reported that Jonke asked the board for a higher salary, saying that the health insurance he received through his job as a Putnam legislator would save the town \$25,000 a year.

Dutchess Appoints Veterans Services Director

Ex-Marine will take over on Aug. 17

Dutchess County announced that a U.S. Marine vet who served in Iraq and Afghanistan will be the new director of its Division of Veterans Services, effective Aug. 17.

tive Roche

Adam Roche succeeds Marc Coviello, who is moving out of the area. Coviello had been director since May 2018.

Roche enlisted in the Marines in 2000 following his graduation from Our Lady of Lourdes High School in Poughkeepsie. He was deployed in 2003 to Iraq, where he served as the leader of a machine gun infantry squad. He also was deployed to Afghanistan, where he served as the sergeant of the guard for the American Embassy in Kabul. He was honorably discharged in 2004.

Roche began a career in the restaurant and tourism industry. In 2016, he began working at Mental Health America of Dutchess County, leading its support program for veterans suffering the effects of post-traumatic stress disorder and traumatic brain injuries. He also is chair of the Dutchess County Veteran Task Force, which he founded in 2018, and an executive board member of the Hudson Valley Veterans Alliance.



Rollover last year killed near West Point cadet

A n Army staff sergeant who was driving a tactical vehicle in June 2019 that overturned on its way to a training exercise, killing a West Point cadet, was found guilty by a military panel July 21 of negligent homicide, according to Army officials.

Ladonies Strong, 32, was sentenced to three years of confinement. Her rank was reduced to private and she was discharged for bad conduct, officials said.

The crash killed Christopher J. Morgan, 22, a member of the Class of 2020, and injured 19 other cadets. A framed photo of Morgan, who was from West Orange, New Jersey, was placed on a chair at the West Point commencement in June.

Strong, who was tried at Fort Stewart in Georgia, was acquitted of involuntary manslaughter, reckless operation of a vehicle and dereliction of duty.

Dutchess-Putnam Unemployment at 11.4 Percent

Jobless claims in Hudson Valley up 650 percent

The combined Putnam and Dutchess unemployment rate in June was 11.4 percent, compared to 3.6 percent in June 2019, the state Department of Labor said on July 21.

The unemployment rate was 11.5 percent in Dutchess and 11.2 percent in Putnam.

Statewide, the rate is 15.6 percent. New York has lost about 1.4 million privatesector jobs in the past year, the agency said.

In Dutchess, 18,300 people received unemployment benefits in June, totaling \$26.6 million in payments. So far this year, 23,500 people have received benefits of \$79.8 million.

In Putnam, 5,900 people received benefits worth \$9.3 million in June, and 7,800 received benefits totaling \$28.9 million for the year.

The number of claims in the Hudson Valley region during the week ending July 18 was nearly 650 percent higher than those made in the same week in 2019, the agency said, second only to the 754 percent increase for New York City. More than 7,000 people in the Hudson Valley made new claims during the week ending July 18, compared to 1,100 during the same week last year.

Dutchess Looking for Inclusion Officer

Will succeed Human Rights Commission chair

Dutchess County is seeking an Equal Employment Opportunity and Inclusion Officer position to increase the (Continued on Page 11)

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Putnam Sees Glimmer of Fiscal Hope

Golf a bright spot in otherwise dim forecast By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

golf boom and uptick in county sales tax revenues in June – after it tanked in April and May – provide glimmers of hope amid the economic devastation of COVID-19, Putnam legislators were told on Monday (July 27).

Mike McCall, who manages the Putnam County Golf Course and Tilly Foster Farm, said golf has been "carrying the load" in terms of revenue. The pandemic, he said, "has been very beneficial to the game of golf nationwide."

With gyms and other recreational centers

closed, golf offers an outdoor activity with ample social distancing, he noted. "There are more people playing and more playing more frequently," he said during a meeting of the Legislature's Audit Committee, convened via audio connection. "There are certainly people playing five times a week now."

After shutting briefly this spring, the Putnam County Golf Course, in Mahopac, reopened with safety protocols in place, such as limiting each golf cart to one person and mandatory mask-wearing inside the pro shop. McCall told legislators that the golf course

had revenues of nearly \$700,000 through June 30, which was about \$323,000 short of budget projections. However, expenses were only about \$628,000, compared to the \$908,000 the county had expected to spend

会会 Real Estate 合合合										
Market Report (June)										
	BEA	BEACON PHILIPSTOWN								
	2019	2020	2019	2020						
New Listings	13	18	30	30						
Closed Sales	9	6	11	4						
Days on Market	66	76	108	124						
Median Price	\$330,000	\$336,250	\$550,000	\$857,500						
% List Received	92.0	93.9	94.5	94.1						
Inventory	41	25	89	65						

rs an outdoor activity with cancing, he noted. "There are ying and more playing more aid during a meeting of the dif Committee convened via

\$40,000 more than its \$208,000 budget for the month, he said. The course expected to book about 6,500 rounds in July. "We've never done more than 5,400 rounds," McCall said.

Although revenue at the club restaurant has fallen off, overall, "we're holding our own," McCall said. In 2019, he recalled, golf didn't do as well but "this year it's kind of saving the day."

Legislator Bill Gouldman of Putnam Valley advised that as the county prepares its fiscal 2021 budget, it should not anticipate revenue based on the current demand.

Tilly Foster Farm, near Brewster, has suffered from the pandemic's repercussions, McCall reported. Its restaurant, Tilly's Table, reopened with partial service on an outdoor deck in mid-June and generated a small profit that month. Now operating on a limited basis indoors, the establishment "had a great weekend" from June 24 to 26 but has made about \$24,000 less than expected in the first half of the year, "not a huge number," he said.

To compensate staff, McCall said Tilly Foster and the golf course each received a federal Paycheck Protection Program loan, which can be forgiven and "was very helpful."

Sales tax

Finance Commissioner William Carlin said sales tax revenue continues to be a wild card, along with state aid, for the county. Putnam relies on sales tax to cover about 40 percent of its annual budget; state aid accounts for another 20 percent.

For the second quarter of 2020, the county received about \$13.7 million in sales tax,

Dutchess Update

County Executive Marc Molinaro this week said sales tax from March 1 to June 22 was down 17 percent over last year, and that year-to-date collections were down 11.5 percent. Sales tax accounts for 40 percent of county revenue.

That could translate into tax losses in 2020 of \$20 million to \$40 million, he said. In addition, hotel-room occupancy tax income for the second quarter was down 80 percent, or \$1 million; casino revenue was expected to fall \$1 million in 2020; and state aid could fall \$17 million to \$42 million this year, he said.

about \$3 million less than last year. Carlin said the New York State Association of Counties estimates Putnam could lose \$5.4 million to \$13.1 million in state aid this year.

A recent state report said the Mid-Hudson Region saw a 17.4 percent drop in sales tax revenue collectively in the second quarter, although it noted that "every region outside of New York City saw an improvement in June after steep drops in April and May."

According to county records, Putnam's sales tax income in June was \$5.1 million, about \$588,550 more than in June 2019.

Carlin noted that "retail is only down by 10 percent" and internet sales tax "has been going very well. That has been a silver lining."

On July 7, after departmental cost-shaving, the county Legislature juggled the 2020 budget to cover the anticipated sales tax shortfall for the rest of the year. County officials are prepared to make further "deep cuts" if necessary, but "we aren't anywhere near that" yet, Carlin said.

(Continued from Page 10)

diversity of its workforce and those of 73 municipal workforces the county oversees.

The hire will succeed Jody Miller, who chairs the county's Human Rights Commission and will focus on that position, said County Executive Marc Molinaro.

"Our goal is to foster an open and diverse work environment, at all levels of public employment, where inclusion and equity are valued," said Molinaro. "We are looking for an individual who shares those values and will seek to remove barriers that impede civil service employment for underrepresented populations."

For a complete job description, see the county's Human Resources page at dutchessny.gov. Candidates can submit a letter of interest and resume by Aug. 7 to the Dutchess County Department of Human Resources, 22 Market St., Poughkeepsie, NY 12601 or by email to dcpersonnel@dutchessny.gov.

Beacon Adopts Natural Resources Inventory

Now at work on Open Space Inventory

The Beacon City Council on July 6 adopted a 56-page catalog of cultural and environmental resources prepared by the volunteer Conservation Advisory Commission over the last two-plus years.

The commission presented a nearly complete version of its Natural Resources Inventory to the council in January, then worked with Eleanor Peck, the city's climate smart coordinator, to fine tune some of its recommendations.

The report, which is posted at cityofbeacon.org includes dozens of maps and charts that create a snapshot of Beacon's resources, as well as "implications for decision-making" and steps that city officials could take to preserve them.

The commission's next step is to compile an Open Space Inventory, which could increase Beacon's eligibility for grants through the state's Climate Smart Communities program.



SAYING FAREWELL – A graveside service this week at Cold Spring Cemetery for Melissa Castro-Santos, who died of cancer on July 18, included an honor guard from the state Department of Corrections and Community Supervision. Castro-Santos, 49, was a former corrections officer. Friends and family lined the roads with their vehicles from Clinton Funeral Home to the cemetery, just as they had done in April after her husband, Darrin, 50, a hospital driver, died of complications of COVID-19. Castro-Santos is survived by her three children, who are students at Haldane High School.

Easels al Fresco

The Hudson **Highland Plein** Air Painters, a group organized by Friedrike Merck and the Garrison Art Center, visited **Boscobel in** Garrison on Saturday (July 25).

> Photos by Ross Corsair









TWO EXHIBITIONS August 8 – September 13, 2020



Jill Shoffiett

Swimming Pools Ink and Watercolor Paintings

Bridges, Battlegrounds, and

Saturday, August 15, 2020, 8pm I Am Not Legend, 2020 Andrea Mastrovito This year summer film program meets

Saturday, August 1, 2020, 8pm Romanistan, 2019

Luca Vitone

MAGAZZINO + artecinema +

CINEMA IN PIAZZA

new social distancing guidelines with a drive-in theater.

Tickets available on magazzino.eventbrite.com No tickets available at the door.



REFLECTIONS **ON HOMEMADE:** ARTIST CONVERSATIONS **ALESSANDRO TEOLDI** ANDREA MASTROVITO **BEATRICE SCACCIA DANILO CORREALE DAVIDE BALLIANO** FRANCESCO SIMETI LUISA RABBIA MARIA D. RAPICAVOLI

Moderated by Vittorio Calabrese, Director of Magazzino Italian Art, and Chiara Mannarino, Assistant Curator of Homemade

Tuesday, August 4, 2020, 12:00 p.m. Wednesday, August 5, 2020, 12:00 p.m.

Watch live on www.magazzino.art/ magazzinodacasa/homemade

MAGAZZINO DA CASA

Pam Marchin Monkey Bars

> Sculptures, Monotypes, and Transfer Drawings



To support the health and well-being of our visitors and staff, we will not be hosting an opening reception. We will be following Covid-19 protocols during our regular hours of operation throughout the show. Please visit our website for special announcements regarding this exhibition.

The Riverside Galleries at Garrison Art Center 23 Garrison's Landing, Garrison, NY 10524 Open Tuesday thru Sunday, 10am–5pm garrisonartcenter.org 845-424-3960



The Calendar







Pam Marchin

A Delicate Balance

First exhibit in months to open at Garrison Art Center **By Alison Rooney**

The title of an installation that opens on Saturday (Aug. 8) by Pam Marchin at the Garrison Art Center – Monkey Bars – summons the wild energy of childhood, but also the risk of falling, a fear that becomes more pronounced with age.

Marchin's installation, inspired in part by a decade she spent as a nurse treating a largely geriatric clientele, is about that tenuous balance between the joys and frailties of life. Although conceived before the pandemic, it serves as a commentary on the global crisis.

It is the first in-person show at the art center since March. Masks and social distancing will be required of visitors.

The centerpiece of *Monkey Bars* is a table that displays clay and mixed-media sculptures. Monotypes and transfer drawings make up the rest of the show.

"My work has always dealt with pathos: a fragility, a vulnerability," says Marchin,

who lives in Nyack. "I think of life as a balancing act. The sculpture installation is like a bizarre landscape of a barren playground - there are monkey bars, a seesaw, a hospital bed - with animals in it.

"It kind of just poured out of me. I started making all these little sculptures, in organic shapes. I looked at a lot of anatomy books. Some have peg legs, some need to be held up by sticks, or propped up in different ways."

Although Marchin studied fine arts in college, her father ran an advertising company and she wound up working with him. Eventually she became a graphic artist, then an art director, freelancing for over 25 years.

When the assignments began drying up (Continued on Page 16)





Sculptures by Pam Marchin

Thank You to Our Members

s a nonprofit providing quality journalism free to our community, *The Highlands Current* depends on its readers for support. We are grateful to the following readers who have joined *The Current* as members and to the foundations that likewise support the important role journalism plays in our democratic society. Our membership program introduced at the end of last year is now the primary means of support for our newspaper and website. To become a member with your tax-deductible donation and help us continue to improve our coverage of the Hudson Highlands, visit highlandscurrent.org/join, or write to *The Current* at 142 Main St., Cold Spring, NY 10516. (**Boldfaced** names below are members who joined since the March 13 printing of our member list.)

Ron and Barbara DeSilva

Friends

\$24 - \$119

Anonymous (52) (16) John and Susan Allen Tammy and Michel Amsalem Steven Anderson **Zoe Antitch Dwight Arthur** Ascend Center Naomi Baat-Canaan Celia Baczkowski Sarah and Doug Banker Celia Barbour and Peter Weed **Kathleen Barnes** Gary Barrack Joanna Batstone John and Tam Benjamin Sharona Berken **Evelyn Berkley Deborah Bigelow** Katie Bissinger Royd Bjornney and Joy Plaisted Robert Blair Christopher H. Bopp Janice Bortree Sarah Boyd Luis Braga Braine-Depkin Family Chris and Babette Brown Will and Emily Brown Alan Brownstein Virginia Buechele Greg and Jan Buhler Team Burke-Smith Richard Butensky and Judy Cohen Butterfield Library Martha Callaway Joe and Anne Carbone Abbie Carev M. Cervone Caitlin and Walter Chadwick Alexander Wilcox Cheek Stacy Christensen **Chuck and Michelle Clifton** Susan Coleman **Gabrielle Conway** Pamela Cook and Erik Brown Kay and Frank Corkrum James and Patricia Cronin Luke Davoren Micah J. Davoren Thomas Davoren James DeRose

Angela Devine and Daniel Rayner Ellen Dinerman **Ben Drew Imogene Drummond** Sara Dulaney Darrell and CC Dwyer Marie Early Ruth and David D. Eisenhower Dorothy Estabrooke Cory Ethridge **Rachel Evans** Julia Famularo Ann Fanizzi Judy Farrell Wilma Feliciano Steve Feyl and Sarah Burns Feyl Del and Claudia Fidanque Larry Fitzpatrick Annette and Robert Flaherty **Janine Flory** Krystal Ford Peter and Anne Forman Sandy Galef Paul Gallay and Tracey Jordan Bruce Geller Margy Leahey Gerber Dottie Gilman Cara and Bob Ginder Peter and Corinne Giunta Barry and Chris Goggin Jinny and Robert Goff **Bennett Goldberg** Priscilla Goldfarb Gunther Carl and Zinnia Gutowski Habitat Revival Betsy Haddad Josh and Jackie Hadden Gail Greet Hannah David Harrington Libby Healy **Bryan Hickey Elizabeth Hires** Connie Hogarth The Holmbo Family Jan Hopkins Kelly House Nancy Hull Mary letaka **Rose Inman and Steven** Garfinkle Lillian Jagendorf and Dan Shannon Peggy and Todd Janus Victoria and Robert Jauernig Flora Jones Josephine Johnston

Ann and Robert Kacur Anne Kane Delmar and Irene Karlen Michael C. Keenan **Roger and Deborah Keppel** Ethan Kerr and Stephanie Diamond Lisa and Vincent King John Kinnaird John Kyle Kiphart Susan Kornacki and Charles Gordanier Noel Kropf Jessica Ladlee Lange/Balogh Family **Diane and Peter Lapis** Larry Lebow Elaine Leinung Barbara and Guy Lester Cynthia Ligenza, MD Catherine Lim Viv Linares **Clay Liversidge** Grace Lo **Donald MacDonald** Paul and Roberta MacLean Monica Maher Kelly Maloney and Richard Schunk **Glenn Marcus** James Marr Karen Maschke Linda and John Matthews Karen Mayer **Davis McCallum** David McCarthy and Danielle Pack McCarthy Jen McCreery The Means Family Friedrike Merck Melissa Mevers Jeff Mikkelson Patrick Miskell The Moody Family Darryl Morrison Trisha Mulligan **Deirdre Mullane** Joanne Murphy Suzanne Murray Frederick Nagel and Colin Wright Anthony Napoli and Judith Tantleff-Napoli Tim Nolan and Dana Poplees Frederick Norgaard Florence Northcutt Dennis O'Brien Jr. Holly O'Grady and Steven Fechter

E. O'Hare

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Partners \$120 - \$599

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Joan and Henry Turner

Gavin Vallance

The Upham-Smith Family

Ivy Meeropol and Thomas

Ellen Varnev Kenneth Vittor and Judith Aisen **Christina Volz-Bongar** Bao Vuong and Stephen Rush **Gwynne Watkins** Wesley Weissberg and David Goldberg Heidi Wendel and Joseph Hirsch Allan Wernick Roberta West Holbrook Wick Dar Williams Suzanne Willis David and Alexa Willson Laura Jean Wilson and Mark Menting Anne and Thomas Winner Chris Winward Craig W. Wolf **Margaret Yonco-Haines** Dale and Rafael Zaklad Neal and Heather Zuckerman

Patrons \$600 or more

Anonymous (4) Allen Alter and Racine Berkow Elizabeth P. Anderson and Joseph C. Mahon Ralph and Robin Arditi Robert C. Bickford Christine Bockelmann and Floyd Norris Gwendolyn Bounds Susan Brune and Chip Loewenson Christopher Buck and Hara Schwartz Dorothy Burke Kim Conner and Nick Groombridge Natalie Diggins and Oren Michels Joe Diznev David Duffy and Marcelline Thomson Stacey Farley and Peter Davoren Elizabeth and Irvine Flinn Jacqueline Foertsch **Christine Foertsch and Michael** McKee Kyle Good Heather and Derrick Hopkins The Kagan Law Group, P.C. David Kimelman and Kevin Burke Mel and Anat Laytner Clara and Bevis Longstreth Michael Meeropol Judy Mogul and Dan Kramer Nancy Olnick and Giorgio Spanu Kathy and Joe Plummer Ru and Sheila Rauch Robin and John Scheuer Jim Semmelman and Ray Disco Victoria Shannon Gerald Singer Morgan and Jenn Stebbins Zanne Stewart Terry and Bonnie Turner Mike Williams

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Help The Current engage and inform The Highlands

AS PART OF OUR MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM, we had planned community forums that are now not possible during the pandemic, so our Current Conversations have been introduced on Zoom to provide all readers the opportunity to hear from and question community newsmakers. We have also extended early digital delivery of the paper as a benefit to all members, and, in place of a reception before the forums, we are offering Partners and Patrons our digital cookbook of special recipes from our outstanding local chefs. Questions? Email membership@highlandscurrent.org.

MEMBER BENEFITS	Friend \$24 to \$119	Partner \$120 to \$599	Patron \$600+
The Highlands Current tote bag			
<i>CurrentPlus</i> : A weekly newsletter featuring insights, calendar highlights and other exclusives	•	•	•
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BONUS: Make a recurring contribution of \$10 or more a month and receive free mail delivery of the paper for the year in addition to Partner benefits.



- Just go to highlandscurrent.org/join
 OR
- Send a check to The Highlands Current at: 142 Main St., Cold Spring, NY 10516

A Delicate Balance (from Page 13)

and she felt a desire to do something more meaningful, she went back to school at age 51 to become a nurse. She did that for 10 years before retiring 18 months ago.

"I've finally been able to devote all my time to art," Marchin says. "In a way, all these careers were a way to support my art, but now I go into the studio. It can be difficult; the creative process is not easy. Constantly coming up with ideas takes a lot out of you, and sometimes it's easier to go into a job."

Drawn to animals through many visits as a child to the Bronx Zoo with her grandfather, Marchin has long made them a focal point of her art. "My work has always dealt with biomorphic forms and the limitations they have," she says. "It has always dealt with psychological entrapment: You are who you are; there is no escaping it."

She says that because her sculptures are abstract, there is no common reaction. "I like ambiguity," she says. "The feeling [the art elicits] is more important to me than the 'What is it?' Mood, and the way the characters interact on the table, the dynamics between them, is more important."

Monkey Bars will run through Sept. 13. The Garrison Art Center, at 23 Garrison's Landing, is open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily except Monday. See garrisonartcenter.org.



ALSO ON DISPLAY – A series of ink and watercolor paintings by Jill Shoffiett, *Bridges, Battlegrounds and Swimming Pools*, will also be showing at the Garrison Art Center beginning Saturday (Aug. 8). The curators describe the Nelsonville artist's imaginary landscapes as presenting "the aftermath of some natural disaster where things have been tenuously put back together in an act of survival."



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Patricia Hickman/ David Bacharach Ursula Schneider Eleni Smolen Grey Zeien

August 7th - 31st, 2020



Two Virtual Showcases @ WWW.BUSTERLEVIGALLERY.COM Barbara Smith Gioia Maria Pia Marrella Nancy Steinson Tim D'Acquisto Grace Kennedy Lucille Tortora Ada Pilar Cruz Martee Levi Bill Kooistra John Allen



121 MAIN ST. COLD SPRING, NY 10516 @BUSTERLEVIGALLERY #BUSTERLEVIGALLERY

SUN 9 Terrain SAUGERTIES

3 p.m. Emerge Gallery

emergegalleryny.com

Beacon artist Mary Ann Glass and

Current photographer Ross Corsair

landscapes, seascapes and cityscapes. In lieu of a public reception, a virtual

tour and artists' discussion will be

broadcast live on YouTube.

Old and New Songs,

5 p.m. Seeger Riverfront Park

Borrowed and Blue Songs

2 Red Flynn Dr. | beaconny.myrec.com

Jenn Clapp will perform in this

weekly series for families organized

by Compass Arts and the Beacon

Recreation Department. Register

streamed or posted as videos. See

845-838-5011 | cityofbeacon.org

845-265-9254 | haldaneschool.org

845-208-7800 | putnamcountyny.com

highlandscurrent.org/meeting-videos.

Most meetings are being

City Council

School Board

Putnam County

Board of Trustees

845-265-3611 | coldspringny.gov

Putnam County Police

10 a.m. Bureau of Emergency Services

112 Old Route 6 | putnamcountyny.gov

The organizational meeting

for this new entity. Check website

for information whether meeting

will be held in person or by audio

Policy Review Panel

7:30 p.m. Village Hall

Legislature

7 p.m. Carmel

COLD SPRING

COLD SPRING

7 p.m. Haldane

7 p.m. City Hall

MUSIC

TUES 4

BEACON

online.

CIVIC

MON 3

BEACON

TUES 4

TUES 4

CARMEL

TUES 4

THURS 6

CARMEI

will exhibit their art inspired by

Nature: Pushing It PUTNAM VALLEY Tompkins Corners Cultural Center 729 Peekskill Hollow Road

tompkinscorners.org Curated by photographer Will Cook, this online exhibit will present visions of nature by 20 photographers. Through Sept. 4.

TUES 4 Reflections on Homemade COLD SPRING

Noon. Magazzino Italian Art magazzino.art

VISUAL ARTS

MON 3

This two-part event will include conversations with the artists who contributed works to Magazzino's current exhibit, Homemade. Also WED 5.

FRI 7

Reflect/Revise

COLD SPRING Buster Levi Gallery 121 Main St. busterlevigallery.com The gallery opens a new exhibit, viewable online, through its windows and by appointment on Saturdays, with work by 15 artists. Through Aug. 31.

FRI 7

Dia Beacon Reopens BEACON

11 a.m. - 6 p.m. Dia Beacon 3 Beekman St. 845-231-0811 | diaart.org

SAT 8

Pam Marchin and Jill

In its first in-person show in

SAT 8

Fizz

BEACON

845-440-7584 | baugallery.org

by Carla Goldberg influenced by the pandemic. Through Sept. 6.



conference.

PHILIPSTOWN

7:30 p.m. Philipstown Community Center 107 Glenclyffe Drive 845-265-5200 | philipstown.com

THE WEEK AHEAD

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

COMMUNITY

SAT 1 **Pop-Up Farm Shop** WAPPINGERS FALLS

10 a.m. - 1 p.m. Stony Kill Farm 79 Farmstead Lane | stonykill.org

Find fresh eggs and wildflower honey produced on the farm, T-shirts, tote bags, houseplants, books and handmade crafts. Proceeds support the Stony Kill Foundation.

SAT 1

Rabies & Distemper Clinic BEACON

9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Memorial Park 198 Robert Cahill Drive 845-831-5161 | arfbeacon.org

The Animal Rescue Foundation will host this vaccination clinic for pets. Vaccines are \$15 each.

SAT 1

Yoga at Boscobel GARRISON

9:30 a.m. Boscobel 1601 Route 9D 845-265-3638 | boscobel.org

Boscobel and Ascend Studio will collaborate on an in-person, weekend yoga program on the West Meadow overlooking the river. Classes will be held Fridays to Sundays through Sept. 13. Registration required. Cost: \$25 per class

THURS 5

Virtual Networking Event CARMEL

7 p.m. Via Zoom

putnamcountybusinesscouncil.com Members of the Putnam County Business Council, the Putnam Valley Business Network and the chambers of commerce from Brewster, Mahopac/Carmel, Kent and Cold Spring will connect at this monthly networking event. Registration required.

TALKS

TUES 4 **Healing Collective** Trauma in a **Fractured World** GARRISON

1:30 p.m. Garrison Institute garrisoninstitute.org

Thomas Hubl and Angel Acosta will discuss how to use contemplative practices to support social justice. Register online.

TUES 4

Ask an Electric Vehicle Driver PHILIPSTOWN

7:30 p.m. Climate Smart Philipstown climatesmartphilipstown.org Owners of a Chevy Bolt, a



FRI 7

SAT 1

BEACON

TUES 4

GARRISON

THURS 6

BEACON

9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

GARRISON

Zoom Movie Night In

845-424-3020 | desmondfishlibrary.org

The library will screens A Street

Cat Name Bob, a 2016 film based

performer and recovering addict.

KIDS & FAMILY

Ree-Play Sale

University Settlement Camp

724 Wolcott Ave. | weeplayproject.org

secondhand children's clothing, toys,

baby and toddler equipment, books,

clothes and sports equipment. Masks

Shop the 16th annual sale of

music, movies, games, maternity

and social distancing required.

Community Project. Also SUN 2.

Proceeds benefit the Wee Play

Sing and Move

Zoom for Toddlers

bit.ly/SingandMoveZoom

parents. Register online.

Imagine Your Song

3 p.m. Howland Public Library

The City Winds Trio will

in this interactive performance

with music from popular fairytales.

845-831-1134 | beaconlibrary.org

10 a.m. | Desmond-Fish Library

Join Miss Gabi for a virtual

gathering for toddlers and their

on a bestselling memoir in which a

stray cat influences the life of a street

7 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library

Hyundai Kona, a Nissan Leaf, a Tesla and other electric cars will share their experience online. The discussion will include charging, ecological impacts and incentives.

WED 5

The Secret Behind Melody and Harmony BEACON

1 p.m. Howland Public Library 845-831-1134 | beaconlibrary.org Using an animated orchestra,

Tanisha Mitchell will discuss the ways that popular music has borrowed from classical.

THURS 6 **Pathways to Planetary** Health

GARRISON

2 p.m. Garrison Institute garrisoninstitute.org Sam Myers, author of *Planetary*

Health: Protecting Nature to Protect Ourselves, will discuss his work. Register online.

STAGE & SCREEN

SAT 1 **Story Screen Drive-In** BEACON

8:30 p.m. Story Screen Drive-In 724 Wolcott Ave. | 845-440-7706 storyscreendrivein.square.site

This pop-up drive-in theater will screen The Goonies (1985) and The Big Lebowski (1998) this weekend and Star Trek II: The Wrath of Khan (1982) and Galaxy Quest (1999) next weekend. See website for show times and health protocols. Snacks will be available for purchase. Also SUN 2, FRI 7, SAT 8, SUN 9. Cost: \$10 (\$8 children, seniors, military)

demonstrate rhythm and movement

Reservations can be made online beginning MON 3.

months, the center will show Pam Marchin's Monkey Bars and Nelsonville artist Jill Shoffiett's Bridges. Battlegrounds. and Swimming Pools. Through Sept. 13. See Page 13.

Noon - 8 p.m. Bau Gallery | 506 Main St.



Shoffiett GARRISON 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Garrison Art Center



The gallery will display new work



NOTICE

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Town of Philipstown

Separate sealed bids for the **Avery Road Culvert Repair Project** will be received by the Town of Philipstown at the office of the **Town Clerk, PO Box 155, Old VFW Hall, 34 Kemble Avenue, Cold Spring NY 10516** until **11:00 A.M.** local prevailing time on **Wednesday, August 19, 2020** and then at said office publicly opened and read aloud.

A prebid meeting will be held at **10:00 A.M** local prevailing time on **Tuesday**, **August 11, 2020** at the project site.

The Information for Bidders, Form of Bid, Form of Contract, Plans, Specifications, and Forms of Bid Bond, Performance and Payment Bond, and other contract documents may be examined at the following location:

Office of the Town Clerk, PO Box 155, Old VFW Hall, 34 Kemble Avenue, Cold Spring NY 10516

Copies may be obtained at the office of the **Town Clerk** located at **Old VFW Hall**, **34 Kemble Avenue** upon payment of **\$25.00** for each set. Any unsuccessful bidder or non-bidder shall be entitled to a refund of this payment in accordance with Section 102 of the General Municipal Law upon the return of such sets in good condition as determined by the Town.

Each bid shall be accompanied by acceptable form of Bid Guarantee in an amount equal to at least five (5) percent of the amount of the Bid payable to the Owner as a guarantee that if the Bid is accepted, the Bidder will execute the Contract and file acceptable Performance and Payment Bonds within ten (10) days after the award of the Contract.

OWNER RIGHTS RESERVED:

The **Town of Philipstown** hereinafter called the OWNER, reserves the right to reject any or all Bids and to waive any informality or technicality in any Bid in the interest of the Owner.

STATEMENT OF NON-COLLUSION:

Bidders on the Contracts are required to execute a non-collusion bidding certificate pursuant to Section 103d of the General Municipal Law of the State of New York.

The Town of Philipstown hereby notifies all Bidders that it will affirmatively insure that in regard to any Contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, minority business enterprises will be afforded full opportunity to submit bids in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, or national origin in consideration for an award.

Attention of bidders is particularly called to the requirements as to equal employment opportunity and all other Federal, New York State and local requirements.

Attention of bidders is called to the requirement that all employees engaging in work on the project under the subject contracts must be paid prevailing wages as recited in the proposed contract documents. Bidders are required to comply with minimum wage rates and legally required workplace conditions, and must comply with the provisions of Section 291-299 of the Executive Law of the State of New York.

As required by New York State Finance Law § 139-l, Bidders are required to submit the following statement subscribed by the Bidder and affirmed by the Bidder as true under the penalty of perjury: "By submission of this Bid, the Bidder and each person signing on behalf of the Bidder certifies, and in the case of a joint bid each party thereto certifies as to its own organization, under penalty of perjury, that the Bidder has and has implemented a written policy addressing sexual harassment prevention in the workplace and provides annual sexual harassment prevention training to all of its employees. Such policy meets the minimum requirements of section two hundred one-g of the Labor Law." If a Bidder cannot make the foregoing certification, such Bidder shall so state and shall furnish with the Bid a signed affidavit setting forth in detail the reasons therefor.

No Bidder may withdraw his bid within 45 days after the actual date of the opening thereof.

Date: 07/29/2020

BY Tara Percacciolo, Town Clerk



Carla Goldberg, a few years before she became a Baskin-Robbins employee, with her grandparents, Paul and Freda Resnick, who raised her. Photos provided

Something You Don't Know About Me Carla Goldberg

Carla Goldberg, who lives in Beacon, is an artist. An exhibit of her work will open at Bau Gallery at 506 Main St. on Saturday (Aug. 8). She spoke with Alison Rooney.

he day I turned 16, I started my first real job, as an ice-cream scooper at Baskin-Robbins in Palm Springs, California.

About a month in, I started to beg the cake decorator, Missy, to teach me how to make a rose. "Teach me how to make a rose!" Finally, she showed me behind the boss' back.

Why behind her back? The boss was grumpy and cost-conscious, constantly measuring the ice cream with a ruler in the tubs and making us weigh the scoops to make sure we didn't "over-scoop." Everything was measured: the hot fudge, the frosting. We lived in terror of wastage. And if we were caught standing around, she would assign us to scrub the floor with a tiny brush or rearrange the stock room. She'd even send you home, and no one wanted that. So, we made sure to look busy. The boss had a military background, so everything had to be shipshape and orderly.

The cake decorator let me practice making roses in the walk-in freezer. Until my roses were good enough to use, she would dump my attempts back into the bowl so nothing was missing.

Next, I begged her to teach me to decorate a cake.

The decorator convinced the owner to let me try. They had a drawer of toppers. I saw these cute little duckies and made a frozen



Carla Goldberg, recently

duck pond on an ice-cream cake with icicles dripping down the sides. The palate was soft and wintery. I loved it.

The owner was not impressed. We were in Palm Springs, in the desert, and there were no frozen ponds. "Preposterous!" she said. "Who is going to buy this in the desert? The desert! Think! Know your customer! What a waste of product." To prove her point, she put it in the dessert case.

The next two days I had off, but I heard it received many compliments. When I came back to work, it was gone. I figured the owner dumped it. Missy began teaching me all the standard Baskin-Robbins desserts. A month later, her husband, who was a Marine, got transferred and she was gone. I became the cake decorator!

For a decade, even while in college, I worked in a number of bakeries in Southern California as a cake decorator to help pay for school. To this day, I don't like to eat cake and I can't stand the smell of commercial buttercream frosting, which always smells like day-old buttercream on an apron. Yuck!

To this day, I don't like to eat cake and I can't stand the smell of commercial buttercream frosting.



A water chestnut rosette

Photos by B. Cronin

A Prickly Problem

Out There

Water chestnuts, an invasive species, clog local waterways By Brian PJ Cronin

he channels of Constitution Marsh were eerily quiet one afternoon this week as the heat index inched toward 100 degrees. No bird

calls or frog peeps, just the gentle swish of the canoe as Scott Silver and I paddled through corridors lined with cattails. The bald eagles, ospreys, great blue herons and kingfishers watched us silently from the shade of distant trees.

"We're the only ones dumb enough to be out here," said Silver, director of the Audubon Center and Sanctuary, which oversees the marsh.

As we steered around a corner into one of the slower-moving channels, the water was clogged with throngs of intricate green rosettes. They were beautiful, and it was that beauty that inspired a gardener at Harvard in the mid-1870s to pick some from the universitv's botanical garden (where, at the time, they



NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a public hearing will be held by the Zoning Board of Appeals of the Town of Philipstown on Monday, August 10th, 2020 at 7:30 P.M. Via Zoom. If you would like to attend, please email KMACINTYRE@PHILIPSTOWN.COM to request login information before 7 pm on August 10th, 2020.

Dennis Clark & Denise J. Grillo, 28 Lane Gate Road, Cold Spring TM# 38-3-57

(Applicant is seeking a permit for replacement deck and 85 sq ft addition to second floor kitchen and bath. Applicant proposes a 27'-9" side yard setback where a 3-'0" setback is required. The applicant also proposes a 27'-3" rear yard setback where a 50'-0" setback is required)

At said hearing all persons will have the right to be heard. Copies of the application, plat map, and other related materials may be seen in the Office of the Building Department, 2 Cedar Street, Cold Spring, New York.

Dated July 13th, 2020 | Robert Dee, Chairman of the Town of Philipstown Zoning Board of Appeals



Scott Silver pulls a water chestnut vine from the waters of Constitution Marsh.

were the only such plants in the U.S.) and toss them into Cambridge waterways. This caused some local cries of alarm,

although botanist George Davenport dismissed any concerns. "That so fine a plant as this, with its handsome leafy rosettes, can ever become a 'nuisance,' I can scarcely believe," he wrote.

One hundred and 50 years later, any Hudson River swimmer who has stepped on one of these spiky pods might be inclined to disagree.

The water chestnut (Trapa natans) should not be confused with the water chestnut (Eleocharis dulcis) that is a mainstay of Chinese food. Trapa natans hails from Europe, where insects that feed on the plant keep it in check. Because those bugs don't exist in U.S., it wasn't long before the plants spread to waterways all along the Northeast. The prickly pods even stuck to birds, who carried them to freshwater sites, such as the Finger Lakes.

Between July and mid-August, anywhere the current slows, the plants bloom and choke waterways. Silver said kayakers have told him they avoid Constitution Marsh after July 4 because the channels become so clogged. It's easy to see why: As we pass through the patch, Silver and I begin to resemble gondoliers.

The beguiling rosettes conceal a surprising amount of biomass; it took Silver several minutes to wrestle one plant out of the water with both hands. When the plants die in August, killed by a salt front that moves up the river, they sink, forming a giant clump of vegetation that smothers everything that's living. Unless they are swept to shore, the plant's spiky seed pods also sink to the marsh bed, where they can survive for as long as 12 years, patiently waiting for their chance to bloom again.

That affects not only native plants but the small fish that would feed on them, and the larger fish that feed on the smaller fish, and the birds watching us from the trees that feed on the larger fish.

"People think that because we're the Audubon Center, we only care about birds," Silver said. "But if we want to boost bird populations, we need to care about fish."

This year's crop of water chestnuts isn't as thick as last year's, which Silver thinks may be because we had a cooler spring. The bad news is that the problem will only become worse as the climate heats up in years to come.

NOTICE

you're not solving the problem," he said. "That's why I don't bother spending a week trying to pull all this stuff up by hand." Silver paused mid-paddle, looking across the marsh. "Although I might end up doing that."

Researchers are trying to identify a safe

biological control that can be used to beat

back the chestnuts, Silver said. In the mean-

time, the only thing that can be done is to

scoop up the plants before their seed pods

form. That is a daunting prospect if done by

hand, but a modified flatboat could do the job

quicker. Unfortunately, it would cost \$70,000,

an expense that Silver suggested could be

shared by the overseers of other waterways,

such as Foundry Cove and Wappingers Creek.

"It's hard to get things funded when

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By Celia Barbour

feel as if I'm going backward whenever I make this soup. I think, "Hang on, C – didn't you spend five decades running *away* from pick-



In my defense, I offer this: I had no choice. There comes a point every summer when a body craves foods that are not merely cool, but vibrantly, scalp-achingly chilly. Tart lemonade instead of chocolate milk. Sweet-spicy-aromatic Vietnamese salads in place of American coleslaw. Middle Eastern concoctions laced with bitter and sour notes in place of cold, mayonnaise-y pasta. And this dazzlingly tangy beet soup. At the onset of summer's first heatwave, it suddenly feels like the best possible way to consume beets.

As it happens, beets and vinegar are natural companions. That's because beets contain a flavor molecule called geosmin, which gives



them their earthy aroma. (Here's a curious fact: geosmin is also found in certain bottomfeeding freshwater fish and accounts for the creatures' "muddy" flavor). It isn't generated by the dirt beets grow in but rather is manufactured by the plant itself — evidently some kind of vegetal when-in-Rome behavior. Vinegar neutralizes this compound, allowing beets' sweet, rich and almost orangey fruitiness to shine through. For this soup, coriander, cloves and bay leaf add floral, spicy and eucalyptus notes to the mix, and chili flakes give it a fiery kick.

Another reason I love this soup is the ease with which it comes together. You throw everything (save the final dollop) in a pot and cook it all up together. Then you throw everything from the pot into the blender, whirr it well and throw everything from the blender into the fridge. By mealtime, you have the perfect thrown-around soup to brighten the sweltering hours when you're too dazed to cook a meal.

This soup shares a trait with many of my favorite dishes. It's a quality known in the business and marketing worlds as "stickiness," which has nothing to do with the way your T-shirt feels against your back after you walk through a parking lot, but rather a product's ability to lodge itself in memory, and stay there.

So sticky is this recipe that for the past several years, it has been the first - and only - thing that comes to mind when I encounter fresh beets in high summer.

For me, this soup also represents another





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kind of look backward. It's a dish I used to serve at the start of summer dinner parties. I love offering a simple, pureed soup at the beginning of a celebratory meal. I used to serve it in little tea cups or glasses, passed around on trays like some kind of fancy cocktail. Those parties are now a hazy memory, but, armed with a glass of this cold soup, I am ready to boldly go forward into August.



Icy-Spicy Beet Soup

This recipe was inspired by David Tanis's *Cold Pink Borscht in a Glass*, which in turn was inspired by the borscht from the legendary Barney Greengrass Deli on the Upper West Side of Manhattan. I use ice in Step 2, in place of additional boiling liquid to make the blending and cooling go more quickly. If you don't use ice, add 4 more cups of water to the pot.

2 pounds red beets

6 cups water (or enough to cover beets and vegs in pot)

- 1 tablespoon red wine vinegar
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 1 tablespoon sugar
- 3 garlic cloves, roughly chopped
- 1 medium fresh red onion, roughly chopped
- 1/4 teaspoon ground cloves
- 1 teaspoon ground coriander, or 1¼ teaspoon whole coriander seeds
- 1⁄2 teaspoon chili flakes, or to taste
- Salt and pepper
- 1 tray ice cubes (3 to 4 cups' worth)

FOR DOLLOP

1 cup whole-milk yogurt

Dill or fresh dill seeds, optional

Trim and peel the beets, and cut into rough quarters. Place cut beets in large saucepan. Add enough water to cover, along with all the remaining ingredients, except for the ice. Bring to a boil, reduce to a simmer, and cook until the beets are tender but not falling apart, about 15 to 20 minutes.

Transfer soup in batches to a blender, taking care not to fill pitcher more than 1/3 full or the hot soup will splash out the top. Puree on highest setting until very smooth. Pass through a sieve into a bowl, then stir in ice cubes until melted. Taste and correct the seasoning, adding more vinegar, salt, and/or sugar to give it a nice kick. Refrigerate until ready to serve.

Just before serving, whisk the yogurt into the soup, or serve it dolloped on top.

Photo by Henry Weed

A Poet in the Pandemic

A new collection tackles life, death and grief

Feffrey McDaniel recently sat down 6 feet away from Alison Rooney in his Cold Spring backyard to talk about his sixth collection of poems, *Holiday in the Islands of Grief,* which was released earlier this year by the University of Pittsburgh Press. In March, one of his poems was published in *The New Yorker*.

McDaniel, who has lived in the village since 2006, grew up in center city Philadelphia and attended Sarah Lawrence College. Since 2001 he's been on the faculty there, teaching creative writing. He attended his first poetry reading in 1993 on a lark and six months later was competing at the National Poetry Slam.

This collection feels like it has a narrative structure. Was that intentional?

It's ordered chronologically. The first section has poems written before 2017. The second section has poems written in 2017 and into 2018, after a string of deaths: my mentor, my father, a childhood friend. I was on two deathbeds, gave two eulogies; it was intense. The first half of that section was written in the thick of it, then it starts to release.

The third section has poems written in 2018 - that year it felt like November was six months long - and into 2019. It's about Cold Spring, about things that happened here. Page 65 is the day after Halloween. Page 68: I'm painting this shed, here in my yard. The poems are different from anything I've written. They're informed by grief, and they're connected to mundane rituals: talking walks, observing the Hudson Valley. One relates to a wooden bench in the funeral home up the street. A few take place on the train. In some of my other books, the poems were rooted in the soil of the imagination; in this book they're rooted in the soil of experience.



Jeffrey McDaniel, photographed near a shed which makes an appearance in a few of his recent poems. Photo by Quyen Nyugen

How does a collection become a collection?

When this book was going to print, in October, another of my childhood friends died, and I was asked to eulogize him. It was almost like he wanted to be included in the book. I wrote a piece for him, kind of a prayer. So this collection wasn't complete until that poem went in.

When you come up with a great combination of words but find it doesn't work in the poem you're writing, do you stash it somewhere? Most definitely.

Is there a specific Philadelphia style of poetry?

I don't think there's a "Philly style," but many poets I know come from there and were born in 1967 or 1968, like me — so that's interesting. Philadelphia maybe has a pugnaciousness and a chip on the shoulder and a provincialism, but I'm not sure it's in the work.

Do you worry about being a middle-aged white-guy poet? Are you relevant? Well, let's wait and see.



Jeffrey McDaniels' most recent collection of poems, with cover art by Jasmin Siddiqui

You have a teenage daughter who is old enough not only to read your work but to learn about her father from it. Do you ever hold back?

There are a number of prose projects I'm working on that include parenting and basketball [a shared passion]. I think about how she's being depicted because it's complicated for a parent to write about their child because the child doesn't have a say in it. I've not held back, but now there's a difference between who I am and a character I might write in a book. Whenever you write, at some point you do think about how is something going to play — not just to my daughter, but to the world. As you become older and maybe even whiter, with time, as society changes, the way you relate to certain subjects might change, as well.

Does grief offer any surprises to a poet?

It feels private and like being submerged in something. I don't know that you can prepare for it.

You're teaching online. Has that been difficult?

It's not ideal. But writing translates

Jonathan

By Jeffrey McDaniel

We are underwater off the coast of Belize. The water is lit up even though it's dark as if there are illuminated seashells scattered on the ocean floor. We're not wearing oxygen tanks, yet staying underwater for long stretches. We are looking for the body of the boy we lost. Each year he grows a little older. Last December I opened his knapsack and stuck in a plastic box of carrots. Even though we're underwater, we hear a song playing over a policeman's radio. He comes to the shoreline to park and eat midnight sandwiches, his headlights fanning out across the harbor. And I hold you close, apple of my closed eye, red dance of my opened fist.

to online experience better than other subjects. Some students kept going without missing a beat, others had a harder time. If we have to do it in the fall, we'll read shorter books, and we'll keep workshopping. If you're discussing a single piece of writing, such as a poem, that works fine.

Is a pandemic handy in any way for poets?

It's been a terrible time to have a book published. Mine shot out into a void. I was going to do readings in eight cities, including Chicago, New York City, Los Angeles and here, at the Chapel Restoration, where I love reading. What we're in has been not so devastating that people can't write; it actually is a good time to write. 9/11 was bad for poets, but 2020 is already good, maybe because writing is one of the things you can do alone. The poets need to rise to the occasion.



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This photo, taken about 1850, shows Caesar, who had been enslaved from birth by the Nicolls family near Albany. He was allowed to "retire" at age 80 and in this photo was thought to be well over 100. It is said Caesar was the last slave in New York because there are suspicions the family never told him the state had banned slavery in 1827. New-York Historical Society

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This room at the Boscobel mansion is named for Sarah "Sil" Wilkinson, a slave who continued working for the Dyckman family after she was freed. Photo by Deborah DeGraffenreid

Boscobel Research Seeks to Free Blacks from Obscurity

History of Dyckman family includes slavery

By Leonard Sparks

tates Dyckman freed Sarah "Sil" Wilkinson and his other slaves in 1806, two years before the completion of Boscobel, a retreat his family was building on a 250-acre farm overlooking the Hudson River in Montrose.

Now, Boscobel the organization is trying to free Sil and the Dyckman family's other slaves once more, this time from obscurity. A project is underway to mine some

2,000 family documents from the 18th and 19th centuries to glean more information about Sil. She was one of four black residents of the house - which was saved from demolition in 1955 and relocated to Garrison – listed as enslaved in the 1800 census and free in 1810, said Jennifer Carlquist, Boscobel's executive director and curator. The findings will be incorporated into the programming at the house.

The historic site has not been "as inclusive as we'd like to be with the story of the estate's early black inhabitants," Carlquist said. "We're translating this, we hope, to make sure that slavery and manumission is never a side topic.

"When we reopen [to the public], Boscobel needs to be a new Boscobel, and this is one of those truths that we have to acknowledge," she said

In addition to Sil, the 1810 census names three other black residents at Boscobel: a man named George and two teenage girls. The organization has concluded that Sil and George were the woman and man identified as slaves in the 1800 census, and that they continued working for the family after being freed.

While Boscobel for years referred to George as Sil's husband, there is no evidence they were married, Carlquist said. No further information has been found about the teen girls, she said.

Sil, who has a room named for her inside the Boscobel mansion, is referred to affectionately in letters between States and his wife,

Elizabeth. In one letter, States writes, "Love to Sil." Elizabeth wrote in a letter to States, "Sil sends her love."

When States bought fabric for his wife in England, he also bought some for Sil. When his son, Peter Dyckman, died in 1824, his will directed that Sil be provided a "comfortable and decent support" for the rest of her life. She is believed to have died in the 1830s, Carlquist said.

Those "affectionate missives" between States and Elizabeth can be "a little bit terrifying" for historians, Carlquist said.

"We don't want to imply, in any way, that Northern slavery was any way less brutal than Southern slavery or that these quasifamilial relationships or these affectionate notices in any way minimize the tragedy of slavery or the violence of it," she said.

In February, Boscobel received a grant from the nonprofit Humanities New York. Part of the funding has enabled Collections Manager Casey Kalnan to look for references to Sil in the family's documents. Boscobel is also seeking funding to scan the documents so they can be shared digitally.

Carlquist said the museum is working with the Dyckman Farmhouse Museum in upper Manhattan, where the family owned 250 acres between the Harlem and Hudson rivers and where staff are documenting the lives of the farm's enslaved and free blacks. Boscobel has also joined the Mid-Hudson Antislavery History Project, a consortium of researchers, educators and members of the public.

and in high ... plandi - Ja Im to this.

In this letter to his wife, States Dyckman writes "love to Sil" in reference to one of the family's slaves, Sarah "Sil" Wilkinson, whom he freed in 1806. Roscohel

Slavery in the **Hudson Valley**

Boscobel is not the only historical organization to re-examine slavery in the region. Last year, Historic Hudson Valley, based in Westchester County, produced a documentary, People Not Property: Stories of Slavery in the Colonial North (peoplenotproperty. hudsonvalley.org), noting that many wealthy individuals in New York owned slaves before the Revolution, including the owners of Van Cortlandt Manor in Croton and Philipsburg Manor near Tarrytown.

The latter was built by eight Africans enslaved by a Dutch merchant, Frederick Philipse (1626-1702), whose plantation covered about a quarter of modern-day Westchester. His son, Adolphus, who inherited 16 slaves (including two Native Americans), purchased what became known as the Philipse Patent, which stretched from Annsville to Fishkill along the Hudson River, as well as to the Connecticut line, and in 1812 became Putnam County. Philipstown, named from the patent, was settled around 1715.

According to Columbia University, when a Philipse descendant donated three boxes of family papers to the university in 1930, she removed many documents relating to the family's ownership of slaves, which are now lost.

When Did **New York End** Slavery?

The New York Legislature passed a law in 1799 declaring that any child born to an enslaved mother after July 4 of that year would be considered free. It voted in 1817 to end slavery altogether as of July 4, 1827, when about 4,600 people were freed.



States Dyckman



Michael Rutkoske

Exit Interview Michael Rutkoske

Photo by J. Simms

By Jeff Simms

I n 2016, Michael Rutkoske was one of three newcomers elected to the ninemember Beacon school board during a time of upheaval in the district. Over the next four years, newcomers filled five of the six other seats.

You announced your resignation from the board last month, a year into your second term. How did you arrive at that decision?

I have more responsibility at work, even with it being remote, and I'm also doing a lot at my church [Christ Church United Methodist]. My wife, Melissa, and I have been working on a project that you may hear about soon. Plus, the district is doing well. With all of those factors, it felt like time to say goodbye.

Four and five years ago, Beacon school board meetings were must-see TV. Not that you need to reminded, but there were shouting matches, parents with picket signs, sessions that went past midnight and the infamous meeting with 400 spectators but no quorum. What happened to change that atmosphere?

When we [Rutkoske, Antony Tseng and Meredith Heuer] were elected in 2016, we wanted stability. The district had nine superintendents in however many years [10], and we needed it to become an anchor position. We spent a lot of time listening to the public. Over time, participation at meetings has tailed off. You always want to have public involvement, but back then there were so many people who didn't feel they were being heard, and, I believe, had no confidence in the district.

How do you feel the district is doing now?

There's a lot of momentum. Dr. [Matt] Landahl has a great plan to bring the *(Continued on Page 25)*

Schools (from Page 1)

guardians chose an in-school return would be split into two groups, with one group attending classes on Mondays and Tuesdays, and the other group on Thursdays and Fridays.

The Monday/Tuesday group would have virtual classes on Thursdays and Fridays, and the Thursday/Friday group would do the same on Mondays and Tuesdays. Wednesdays would be virtual days for everyone.

Keeping the groups on a Monday/Tuesday and Thursday/Friday routine would match the schedule expected to be adopted by the Dutchess County Board of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES), where some Beacon High School students take vocational and alternative courses.

An all-remote option will be available, as well. Landahl said the district will follow state guidelines for the remote choice, which must be made available for students with underlying health issues, those with family members with health issues or those who feel uncomfortable returning in person.

Cuomo will announce over the next week, on a region-by-region basis, if school districts can proceed with their plans.

The governor earlier this month said that schools could reopen if their region has reached the fourth and final phase of the state's reopening plan — all nine regions have met that mark — and if its daily COVID-19 infection rate remains at 5 percent or lower using a 14-day average. Schools will be forced to close if the regional infection rate rises above 9 percent, using a seven-day average, after Aug. 1.

Given the Mid-Hudson Region's low infection rate — just above 1 percent as of this week — the expectation is that its schools will be given the green light. But even if that happens, "there are still a lot of things that can change between now and September" regarding the specifics of the plan, Landahl said.

About 40 percent of Beacon parents and guardians who responded to a district survey last week indicated they are leaning toward the all-virtual option, he said.

While parents are overwhelmingly supportive of the district's effort to construct a reopening plan, many are still hesitant to send their children, especially younger ones, back to a school building this fall, said Erin Giunta, the president of the Sargent Elementary Parent-Teacher Organization.

However, staying at home could be a struggle, too.

"There are all these things that parents have to juggle," said Giunta, "and that's the challenge. They don't want their kids to go back to school but they also need to work."

Landahl said he's heard similar concerns from the district's 250 teachers, who are being asked to create instructional models that they could quickly convert to all-online if the governor orders another shutdown.

"Some are really concerned about the instructional side," he said. "Some are really concerned about the health and safety side. Some are concerned about both."

John Burns, the president of the Beacon Teachers' Association, said that teachers want to get back into the classroom. "It's

Changes at Garrison

School makes three hires, loses principal

Garrison Superintendent Carl Albano said this week that Louis Cuglietto, who was named interim principal on June 25, will resign as of today (July 31) "due to personal, private family concerns."

The district had expected Cuglietto to serve as interim for the 2020-21 school year and to begin a search for a new principal in the spring. Instead, Albano recommended that the board begin the process immediately. The board on Wednesday (July 29) hired a consulting firm to assist with the search, which Albano said would probably take about two months. In the meantime, the superintendent will serve as the temporary principal.

The board also on July 29 hired three middle-school teachers: Naomi Cook, a science teacher who is coming from Horace Greeley High School in Chappaqua; Melissa Gartner, a Spanish teacher at the Pace School in New York City; and Stephanie Valvano, a social studies teacher at the Carmel Academy in Greenwich, Connecticut.

what we do," he said, but "everybody also wants to be assured that they're safe — but can you really guarantee that?"

While educators' unions nationally have said they will support teachers in communities with high COVID rates if they decide to strike, Burns said that after working this summer with Landahl and other Beacon officials as part of a reopening committee, he believes "the district is doing everything in its power to make sure that everybody who goes back into the buildings is safe."

As teaching schedules are finalized over the next month, Landahl said the district will be working to accommodate teachers who are unable or uncomfortable with returning to a classroom.

At Beacon High School, Principal Elisa Soto this week described a bleak summer with little person-to-person interaction inside the building.

"It's eerie, seeing bulletin boards that were once filled" with students' art and photos, she said. "So, I am looking forward to them coming back."

Soto said she has heard from some teachers who are excited to return. She's stayed in touch with students over the summer, as well.

"It's never 'Are we coming back?" in emails with students, Soto said. "It's always 'When am I going to come back?' That makes me hopeful."

Concerns at Haldane

On Wednesday, U.S. Rep Sean Patrick Maloney, whose district includes the Highlands, hosted a virtual forum with five teachers from the Hudson Valley, including Andrea McCue, a special-education teacher at Haldane High School. Maloney called on the Senate to approve a coronavirus relief package that passed the House in May and would distribute \$90 billion to public schools, including \$5 billion to those in New York state.

McCue said that while Haldane, as a smaller district, might find it easier to maintain social distancing on campus, the age of the elementary and middle school building was a concern. "We have rooms where there are no windows, or rooms where windows are difficult to open," she said. "I have significant concerns about air circulation and air flow, which is something that has to be addressed for faculty and students. We need better conditions for them to learn in.

"All of our teachers want to be back in the classroom but not until we have a fully developed and implemented safety and protocol plan," she added. "We can't implement any sort of safety plan fully until we know we're going to have the money to afford that. We need time, and we don't have a lot of that, and we need money to get the resources to open our schools safely.

"We know our kids coming back to us with deficits as far as academics, because we had to jump right into it [virtual learning in the spring] and everyone was building the thing while we were applying it," McCue said. "We know that our kids are going to be coming back to us with more significant deficits academically than we generally see with the summer regression. But we have no way of knowing what psychological impact this pandemic has had.

"My fear is that if we do not get this money from the federal government, we won't be able to fully implement a plan that deals with not only the physical safety of our faculty and students but our emotional wellbeing."

In a *Current Conversation* scheduled for 7 p.m. on Wednesday (Aug. 5) via Zoom, Editor Chip Rowe will speak with Haldane Superintendent Philip Benante about the district's plans for reopening. See highlandscurrent. org/current-conversations.

Beacon Appoints Police Chief Search Committee

Also: Officers will carry business cards By Jeff Simms

erry Nelson, a member of the Beacon City Council, will lead a 13-member committee charged with overseeing the search to find the city's next police chief, Mayor Lee Kyriacou announced this week.

Nelson and the committee members will work with Public Sector Search & Consulting, a California firm that specializes in finding candidates for police leadership positions. The City Council agreed earlier this month to pay the firm \$24,000 to assist in its search for a successor for Kevin Junjulas, a Cold Spring resident who retired as chief three weeks ago.

The members of the community appointed to the committee are Deborah Felder, a New York City Department of Education guidance counselor who is involved in the local NAACP chapter; Marty Mayeski, a deacon at St. Joachim & St. John the Evangelist and the Lewis Tompkins Hose Co. chaplain; John Perez, the pastor at Faith Temple Church of God in Christ; John Rembert, an Army veteran, minister and former City Council member; Molly Rhodes, director of Teach for America; and Stefon Seward, a 2017 Beacon High School graduate and co-founder of Beacon 4 Black Lives.

The Beacon officials on the committee are Gina Basile, the city's human resources director; William Cornett, the interim police chief; Michael Deane, chair of the Human Relations Commission; Sands Frost, a police lieutenant; City Council Member Air Rhodes and City Administrator Anthony Ruggiero.

Public Sector has created an anonymous survey that will be distributed online and in print, in English and Spanish, to members of the community and the Police Department about what qualities they would like to see in a new chief.

The recruitment firm will also interview municipal staff and community members to ask similar questions and help create a "position profile" to use when soliciting applicants, according to Gary Peterson, the company's president and CEO, who met with the City Council by videoconference on Monday (July 27).

Peterson said the position would be advertised to associations of police chiefs and other law-enforcement leaders as well as "places likely to provide a diverse pool of candidates," such as professional groups of black, Hispanic and female officers.

Peterson said he hopes to have six to eight candidates available for interviews by the beginning of November. That pool would be reduced to three or four for a second round of interviews, including with the mayor.

Nelson also hopes to organize a public "meet the candidates" event for finalists, either in person or virtually, depending on public health guidelines at the time.

"We want to get this right," he said.

Community members will be able to ask questions of the candidates without revealing their names or addresses, he said, because "it's important to reach people who are afraid to come forward about their experience with policing now."

Business cards

Cornett, who was appointed by the City Council on July 6 to act as interim chief for up to 90 days, said on July 20 that he would require officers to carry business cards that included their names and badge numbers.

In a statement, the city said that under the order, officers will identify themselves upon the initiation of certain activities, including "non-custodial" questioning or searches. If the interaction does not lead to an arrest or summons, the officers will offer their business cards.

"The cities of Poughkeepsie and Newburgh recently passed laws requiring their officers to identify themselves with business cards," Cornett said in the statement. "This is the right thing to do, and we don't need a law to tell us that."

Kyriacou said he approved the order. "Our officers work tirelessly every day to protect Beacon and people should know who they are," he said. "If a resident has a concern, they should know who is involved and how to proceed."

The department on July 15 also began to post its daily police blotter at cityofbeacon.org.

Mayor, police union meet

Beacon officials and representatives of the Beacon police union met twice over the past weekend to iron out their differences. Kyriacou and Ruggiero met with Officer Michael Confield and other members of the Beacon Patrolmen's Benevolent Association union on Friday (July 24) and Sunday (July 26) for what was described as "lengthy open and productive conversations."

In a statement issued on July 27, they announced their plan to "to communicate regularly and productively on issues affecting police, the city and the community."

Earlier this month, the union was critical of the mayor when he named Cornett, a retired Beacon police lieutenant, as the interim chief. It also objected to what it saw as the City Council's lack of response to calls to "defund the police."

The mayor, in response, said he was "deeply disappointed by the approach of the police union, which has resorted to intimidation and escalation in a highly charged environment — where the community-building approach should be outreach and dialogue." The tone of the joint statement issued on

July 27 was more conciliatory.

"Our conversations were very productive," Confield said. "We appreciate the mayor's and administrator's willingness to hear our concerns, and look forward to ensuring that everyone is heard in the ongoing process of improving policecommunity relations."

Kyriacou added: "I truly appreciate and applaud the PBA for reaching out and working together to close the communication gap. All of us agreed that we should have reached out sooner, and that going forward, the communication will be frequent and open.

"Each time I greet an officer, my first words are, 'Thank you,' and more recently, 'I appreciate the difficult situation you are in.' That support continues unabated."

Putnam Sheriff (from Page 1)

knee on the chest or back of a suspect.

He wrote that restraining a combative person "often requires some type of pressure to the chest or back of the subject for at least a brief period of time" and that the New York City law does not take into account the officer's intent or whether the suspect is injured while being restrained.

In a comment on Facebook, Langley wrote that deputies are "often in NYC executing warrants" in partnership with federal agencies and that they "often have arrest warrants from our agency that are executed in NYC by our investigators.

"If we have a suspect in a case who lives in NYC, they need to be interviewed and that often requires us to speak with them where they live. Law-enforcement activities often require agencies to travel well outside their area to make arrests or follow up on leads. Additionally, we have to serve orders of protection from time to time on domestic-violence cases."

Langley said that, under his order, deputies will be allowed to enter New York City to pick up suspects already in the custody of another police agency. But requests for other exemptions must be made through the chain of command, he said.

His order was similar to those made earlier by the Westchester County Police and the police commissioner in Yonkers.

The Westchester order, issued on July



Mayor Bill de Blasio (center) and others painted a Black Lives Matter mural before he signed a police accountability bill into law on July 15.

16, cited "the likelihood that the restraint of a non-compliant individual during the course of making a lawful arrest often requires kneeling on the torso of the subject for at least a brief period of time" and said the order was intended to protect officers "from criminal prosecution for actions consistent with their training and department policy."

Yonkers Police Commissioner John Mueller said on July 17 that "we will not subject our officers to the threat of a year in jail every time they have to deal with a violent or mentally ill subject resisting arrest... The New York City law was obviously not written by anyone who has ever had to put handcuffs on a violent individual resisting arrest."

He ordered Yonkers officers engaged in pursuits to "halt at the New York City line in the future, absent extreme circumstances."

Notes from the Cold Spring Village Board

By Michael Turton

- Mayor Dave Merandy said on Tuesday (July 28) that the Cold Spring Village Board would seek public input as part of an upcoming review of Police Department operations once there is "something solid to look at." The review is planned in response to an executive order by Gov. Andrew Cuomo. A meeting of local police departments and Putnam County officials scheduled for July 27 to discuss how the review might be conducted was postponed until Aug. 6. After noting that the Town of Kent will conduct its own review rather than participate in a collective study, Merandy said Cold Spring would probably do the same.
- Officer Greg Naranca, a 15-year veteran of the Cold Spring Police Department, announced his resignation, effective Sept. 1. "With the current state of affairs in both my personal and professional life, I find it is time to retire from law enforcement," Naranca wrote to the board.
- Putnam County Sheriff Robert Langley Jr. commended the Police Department for its assistance in a larceny investigation on July 19 following an incident on Route 9. In a letter to Officer-in-Charge Larry Burke, Langley praised Officer Ken Baker for his "diligent observations" that resulted in the identification of suspects also being sought by Peekskill police.
- The Village Board reviewed a proposal from Kieran Boyle, risk manager with the Spain Agency, to renew Cold Spring's property and liability insurance for a vear at a cost of about \$94,000. The proposed coverage, which includes everything from damage to village-owned buildings, vehicles and fire hydrants, to public official and law enforcement liability, will be provided by the New York Municipal Insurance Reciprocal, a nonprofit that handles insurance for more than 900 municipalities. The board postponed a vote while Boyle researches the potential liability to the village of a plan to reopen the public restrooms near the pedestrian tunnel using volunteer monitors.
- Earlier this year, the board discussed measures such as one-way traffic and closing sections of parking lanes to allow restaurants to use parts of Main Street for seating. But on Tuesday, Merandy said any changes to parking and traffic flow are unlikely. "I don't see how it would work having the train station and just one way to get there and to the river," he said. Trustee Fran Murphy said no restaurants have asked the village about expanding outdoor seating.



The Bear Mountain Bridge

Bridge Authority (from Page 1)

another bloated or broke state agency or authority would be offensive at best."

Sen. Sue Serino, a Republican whose district includes the Highlands, warned stakeholders "to remain vigilant in monitoring the measure to ensure that it does not result in a de facto takeover.

"What is the reason for cutting short the terms of these dedicated public officials if not to replace them with people more apt to agree with your position?" she asked.

At a meeting of the Senate Finance Committee held by video conference on July 23 to question the seven nominees before their names were sent to the floor, Sen. James Skoufis, a Democrat whose Mid-Hudson Valley district stretches along the west side of the river, questioned each candidate about how he or she would respond if the governor pressured commissioners to allow a merger.

"I would not go for a merger or anything like that based on what I've been told and what I've read about it," said Lanza, who was nominated to the board as one of its two Westchester County representatives. "I would definitely be for the Bridge Authority and its best interests."

Skoufis asked Lanza if he would be "insulated and resistant to any political pressure. The governor's office calls up and says, 'I want you to vote this way' — what can you do to assure us you'll be impervious to that kind of political pressure?"

"Based on my reputation, I always do what's best for the community, and the residents and the businesses," Lanza replied. "I consider that part of my integrity and I'll stay that way. I wouldn't have to be worried about being pressured by the governor."

Sen. Patty Richey, a Republican whose district is northeast of Syracuse, also asked Lanza about his independence. He replied: "Being a resident of Garrison and having Peekskill businesses, the Bear Mountain Bridge has been a big part of my life for the last 15 years. I feel strongly about the importance of the bridges and that they stay pristine and stay affordable and they continue to do what they are doing. I can separate church and state, for sure."

Skoufis next asked McDonald, who was nominated as the Putnam County representative, if she would commit to be among "the vocal opposition" to any proposed merger.

"I can't say one or another; what I can say is I will look at all sides of the issue," she replied. She said discussion of a merger "is more than anything a dialogue with the Legislature, not the purview of the Bridge Authority."

The other new commissioners are:

Michael O'Brien, a Dutchess County resident who worked at IBM for 35 years, including most recently in mergPhoto by Larry Fitzpatrick

ers and acquisitions, and served 15 years on the Fishkill Planning Board;

- Ilan Gibert, a former Yorktown supervisor;
- Alex Berardi, the president of Trailways.com, who lives in Ulster County;
- Maria Bruni, Middletown's director of community development; and
- Colin Jarvis, the executive director of Newburgh Ministry.

The Finance Committee advanced all the nominees for consideration by the full Senate, although Skoufis supported Lanza and Berardi only "without recommendation," and Richey did the same for McDonald.

The board members whose terms were expired are Richard Gerentine (first appointed in 2006), Roderick Dressel (1997), Diane Jablonski (2016) and Henry Stanton (2016). Roger Higgins, whose term would have expired this year, was nominated and approved as the Dutchess County representative on the Stewart Airport Commission.

The Bridge Authority voted in December to raise tolls at its bridges over the next four years to finance repairs of the Bear Mountain and Rip Van Winkle bridges, replace the Newburgh-Beacon north span deck and painting and paving projects, as well as a transition to all-electronic tolling.

Exit Interview (from Page 23)

district to excellence. We've laid out a pathway of three-year views, that is, here's our budget this year, but where do we want to be in three years? What's the curriculum we want and how are we going to get there? He's a leader with a strategic view, and the board is continuing to build upon that.

One of the big accomplishments was getting Chromebooks for every student. When it was presented to us it was going to happen over four years, and I asked, "What's it going to take to do this in two?" We got to 1:1 [computer for every student] last fall and it allowed us to address distance-learning this spring.

When we came in, there was clearly a path

we had to take. Now there's a new plateau. Listen to things going on in the country and in Beacon that are important to parents and put plans in place to address them.

Not everyone was happy with the turnover from old to new. Was it difficult to remain objective in the face of criticism?

Not at all. We had goals — to hire a new superintendent, to change our legal representation, to address a backlog of contracts that had expired. We tried to lay the foundation for the district to follow the city as it grew.

What stands out from your term?

The capital project was exciting. That's what I do for my job, so pulling that together, communicating with the public and then

seeing it come to fruition was rewarding. The new learning spaces are fantastic, and seeing the community come together last fall for a game under the [newly installed] lights was one of the most moving experiences I had while on the board.

Your colleagues ribbed you during your last meeting for being a stickler for details. Does every board need someone like that?

It's my nature. I work in nuclear power and we're deep into details. Understanding how things work and the scope of things like contracts is how you make sure you get what you want for the money you're spending. It's always good to have somebody keeping an eye on that.

Barbara Cerny (1934-2020)

Barbara Cerny, 86, a longtime resident of Garrison, died July 13. She was born July 9, 1934, the daughter of Richard and Freda

(Hilton) Hamilton, and



moved as a child between Garrison and Daytona Beach, Florida. Barbara attended Haldane High School in Cold Spring before receiving a music scholarship to attend the University of Miami, where she earned a bachelor's degree in music and education.

She also pursued a graduate degree in education studies from New York University while teaching first grade in Scarsdale. In 1958, she married Frank Cerny, who died before her.

Barbara was a talented piano player, organizing celebrated Christmas pageants throughout the 1960s and 1970s and serving as musical director for the Delray Beach Playhouse in the mid-1970s, her family said. She also was a real-estate agent in Florida and Georgia.

OBITUARIES

Barbara is survived by her five sons: Richard Cerny of Roswell, Georgia; John Cerny of Eagle, Colorado; Christopher Cerny of Atlanta; Andrew Cerny of Macon, Georgia; and Mark Cerny of Fort Myers, Florida.

She is also survived by her daughters-inlaw, Mary Cerny, Laura Cerny, Lynn Cerny and Catherine Cerny; a son-in-law, John Wilson; her sisters-in-law, Pauline Constantino of Cold Spring and Barbara Hamilton of Fort Myers; 12 grandchildren; and a great-granddaughter.

Private burial will take place in Cold Spring Cemetery. A memorial service is planned for July 9, 2021, in Cold Spring.

Cate Kanlong (2001-2020)

Catherine "Cate" Kanlong, 18, died suddenly on July 26 at her home in Cold Spring. Cate was born at

Hudson Valley Hospital on Aug. 21, 2001, and

grew up in the village. She graduated from Haldane High School in 2019, as well as

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the Putnam/Northern Westchester BOCES cosmetology program.

Soon after her graduation, she obtained her cosmetology license and began her career with Vaza Salon in Ossining, where she was promoted to senior associate and floor stylist. She loved the creativity and energy of her craft, her family said.

She is survived by her mother, Christina Fanelli (Mick Daly) of Cold Spring and her father, Henry Kanlong (Gina Domenico) of Fishkill; and her siblings, Joe Kanlong of Cold Spring and Sam Kanlong of Rhinebeck.

She also is survived by her grandparents, Joe and Lillian Fanelli of Yorktown Heights; Jorge and Durcinia Kanlong of Salinas, Ecuador: and Attracta Wynne and Pauric Sweeney, both of Ireland.

Friends may call today (July 31) from 5 to 8

p.m. at Clinton Funeral Home, 21 Parrott St., in Cold Spring. A private funeral Mass will be held for the family on Saturday, followed by interment at Cold Spring Cemetery.

Memorial donations may be made to Hudson River Sloop Clearwater (clearwater.org), where Cate spent many summer festivals in the Education Tent, or to Beauty Changes Lives (beautychangeslives.org).

Other Recent Deaths

Beacon Adeline Cascio, 88

Tom Chibbarro, 88

Adela Dubiel, 91

Rafaela Ducasse, 77 Reinaldo Martinez, 63 Ellen Rogers

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



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SOLUTIONS

Puzzles

CROSSCURRENT

1. Antiquated

4. Group of priests

8. On both sides of

9. Leaves-dropper?

10. Proper subject,

Hathaway

maybe

11. Heche or

3. Sprite

6. Drench

7 Hostel

ACROSS

- 1. Oil cartel 5. Largest continent
- 9. Crime scene
- evidence
- 12. Lounge around
- 13. Charged bits
- 14. A billion years
- 15. Perry Mason's
- client 17. Entertainment
- 18. Smell bad
- 19. Geneva's river
- 21. Skiers' 7-Down
- 24. String instrument
- 25. Do as you're told
- 26. Old cars for new ones
- 30. "Help!"
- 31. Repeat verbatim
- 32. Arctic bird
- 33. Confiscations
- 35. Sans siblings
- 36. Diner staffer
- 37. Name
- 38. BLT meat
- 40. Swimming venue 5. Helper
- 42. Alias abbr.
- 43. Secret or Sure
- 48. Crib
- 49. Elderly
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- 20. Weeding implement 2. "The Raven" writer 21. Privation 22. Reed instrument 23. Drying agent 24. Cisterns
- 38. Ali
 - 39. Related 40. Verse
 - 41. Probability

45. Exist

- 44. Id counterpart
- 26. Ankara resident 46. Negative prefix
 - 47. Explosive stick
- 28. and void 29. Terrier variety
- 31. Former

27. Fish eggs

- 34. Menagerie
- 35. Drilling apparatus
- Answers for July 24 Puzzles UFOS 1 TS Е S P 5 8 4 3 6 2 9 1 7 MA R M O UE Т INE Т 7 9 8 4 1 5 2 3 6 BONN PARABOLA THANKS Т I N 6 2 9 3 8 1 7 5 4 DU Е L S S 3 8 6 2 9 5 4 7 1 BL 00 Α R A|M|U|SP 4 2 5 6 3 7 9 1 8 ΙY M E T IE. l R Ρ PARA τlu Ε G 0 S 1 5 9 3 8 7 6 2 4 Т ΕM Т А Т Ν 2 9 6 5 1 7 4 3 8 PEA UNDOE R SOOT Ρ RIANO A А 8 7 9 3 6 4 5 2 1 EDG Е Ν Е R D А \cap S 5 9 3 8 4 2 6 1 DEE D NA Ρ 0 Ρ S 1. SLEEVES, 2. WAGYU, 3. NOTIFIES, 4. PLANK, 5. NEEDLESS, 6. LONDONERS, 7. CURATIVE

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

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 lacking discipline (6)
- 2 an investment's return (7)
- 3 containing more cashews, say (7)
 - 4 bitterly held hatreds (7)
 - 5 cardigan or turtleneck (7)
 - 6 origami action (7)
 - **7** singers' musical offerings (6)

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 $\ensuremath{\textcircled{\text{C}}}$ 2020 Blue Ox Family Games, Inc., Dist. by Andrews McMeel

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SPORTS



Beacon's Gavin Triono takes a swing for the Bulldogs 10U team.

Bulldogs Take First Loss of Season

Tough competition ahead in top division

By Skip Pearlman

he Beacon travel baseball team of 11-year-olds suffered its first loss of the summer season on Wednesday (July 29) at home, dropping a 12-4 decision to Kings Baseball of Suffern.

"We like to play good competition because it makes us get better," said Coach Anthony White. "We've been playing in the A Division for the last three years, and the kids rise to the level of the competition. When they do that, they become better."

Zack Schetter, Eli Netboy and Parker White each went two innings on the mound for the Bulldogs in the loss.

Alex Young had a monster game for Beacon, going 3-for-3 with a home run and three RBI. James Brouchard had an RBI, Ryan Landisi went 2-for-3 with a double and White and Schetter each had a hit.

"It wasn't our best game, but it was a learning experience for the kids, and it will motivate them for the next time out," White said. "Young did a nice job at the plate; that was a great night for him. Tye Elias also got on base twice for us."

The Bulldogs, who play in the Greater Hudson Valley Baseball League, are scheduled to host East Fishkill on Wednesday (Aug. 5) and Yorktown on Thursday at Memorial Park before traveling to Cortlandt on Saturday for a doubleheader.

The Beacon 10U travel baseball team has been earning its stripes in the Greater Hudson Valley Baseball League this summer as well, facing tough A Division competition.

The Bulldogs were shut out, 9-0, by East Fishkill on Friday (July 24) at Memorial Park. The team, at 0-6-1 this summer, is still looking for its first win, but Coach Jed Varricchio says the players are improving, with fewer errors.

"We're taking our lumps" in the top division, Varricchio said. "But I like the way our guys have been responding. We've averaged seven hits in each of our last three games. We needed to give them a taste of some better competition."

Nolan Varricchio and Aiden Heaton

Haldane Athletic Director Will

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Chris Salumn with district for five years

Leave for Carmel

hris Salumn, the Haldane director of athletics and physical education and the dean of students, will leave the district on Aug. 31 to become athletic director of the Carmel school district.

Salumn had been the athletic director at Haldane for five years, during which he oversaw "our very successful athletics program and has been a positive influence on our school community," Superintendent Philip Benante said on Wednesday (July 29) in a statement.

Benante said he would recommend that the school board appoint an interim director of athletics until a search can be organized in the fall. "Given the preparations that the school district is engaged in for the start of the year, as well as the potential for further delays to interscholastic athletics, this seems like the most appropriate course of action," Benante said. Because of the pandemic, the fall sports season has been postponed until at least Sept. 21.



Parker White fouls off a pitch in recent action. White and the Bulldogs 11U squad took their first loss of the season Wednesday night.

pitched in the loss for the Bulldogs. At the plate, Varricchio went 2-for-3 and Jake Deluise and Hudson Fontaine each had a hit.

In addition, "Justin Buchman had a nice game for us in left field," the coach said.

Varricchio said that, after being inside for four months, everyone is having so much fun

the losses don't even seem to matter.

"Win, lose or tie, it's all fun," he said. "We're out here playing baseball. A lot of people are not able to do that. So, we're counting our blessings. The Greater Hudson Valley Baseball League and the umpires have been phenomenal."