Parents and educators anticipate verdict on school re-opening

By Jeff Simms

The 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)

Putnam Sheriff Orders Deputies to Stay Out of NYC

Says new law on restraining suspects puts them at risk

By Chip Rowe

The 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 that bars 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 was first introduced by Rory Lancman, a council member from Queens, in 2014, but it went nowhere until after the May 25 killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis by an officer who kneed 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

The state Senate on July 23 approved the appointment of a new, seven-member board for the New York Bridge Authority, the independent agency that oversees five Mid-Hudson Valley 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 Valley bridges. Fleecing hardworking commuters to support (Continued on Page 25)
FIVE QUESTIONS: TRACEY WALSH

By Michael Turton

Tracey 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 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 agrotourism. 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 agrotourism. 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!

By Michael Turton

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Clearwater Board Removes Executive Director

**Greg Williams hired in 2018**

By Chip Rowe

The 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 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 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.

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**Change Coming to Village Board**

**Miller, Voloto will not seek re-election**

By Chip Rowe

The 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 write-in 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.

Michael Turton contributed reporting.

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**Quick Fixes**

**Beacon committee proposes low-cost upgrades**

The Main Street Access Committee, a volunteer group in Beacon created by Mayor Lee Kyriacou to address parking, traffic 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.

- 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 Neyswey 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 feasible 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.
**LETTERS AND COMMENTS**

**Beacon police**

The Beacon Police Department is ludicrously 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 Freiloff, Beacon

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 seven-and-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!
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-the-ground, 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 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 anti-blackness, anti-LGBTQ, 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 uncomfortable. 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 platform 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.
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 planted 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 works on the local level. The answer to his or her own choir. This is pretty much 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

The anthems of our times, in my opinion, should be the US Civil War anthems. It’s up to citizens to do the work to make legal standards. If you want it changed, be flexible yet subject to state and federal oversight. It’s not about the public comment period anymore. It’s about the citizens who are in control during these uncertain times. People want to be in charge of their own choir. This is pretty much the antithesis of the appropriate response to an act of hate like this (“Notes from the Cold Spring Village Board,” July 17).

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Eileen McDermott, Brewster

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 snapping from the sidelines amounts to little more than impotent noise with little constructive effect. Rather than enlisting allies and collaborating in the struggle to promote social equity for marginalized groups, such disproportional and misdirected outrage only undermines such efforts.

Lynn Miller, Cold Spring

Miller is a member of the Village Board.

Tax burden

How do businesses in Cold Spring help “keep taxes low” as a commentator at highlandscurrent.org claimed when those businesses 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 they rent to a retailer or an individual.

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 virtually nonexistent due to the throngs of visitors, and the public restrooms have to be cleaned and restocked at a much faster rate.

Our businesses add to the special feel of Cold Spring, but the village would not go broke without them.

Tom Ciero, Cold Spring

Black and blue

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. (“Reporter’s Notebook: Are We That Far Apart?” July 24).

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 encouraging leaders of both sides to speak with each other, which happened. I saw demonstrators 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 raised by Black Lives Matter.

Joe Steinfeld, Beacon

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 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 Back the Blue 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 barefoot, can’t get married, can’t pay 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 prove 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.

Koaco 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 law-enforcement 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. We want to feel like the police in these uncertain times. If you are angry, well, join the world! Knowledge is power. Hate has no home here.

Zenta Janks, via Facebook

WANTED

Assistant Gardener

GARRISON/COLD SPRING AREA

• 3-4 days per week – available immediately
• To assist a very experienced, knowledgeable gardener on a private estate (tasks include weeding, pruning, watering etc.)
• Salary based on experience
• References required

Email resume and references to lisannpetrini@gmail.com
Stop That Maskless Man!

Highlands shop owners say nearly everyone complies

By Leonard Sparks

Susan 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 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.
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 Schevetchuk Armstrong

Opponents of a proposed mall-and-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 has promised to protect a vast Fishkill Supply Depot, which sheltered and equipped the Continental Army during the Revolutionary War role. Its members also preservation and has conducted research into 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.

**Putnam County Legislator Paul Jonke**

Seekes $1.5 million after being passed over for job

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 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 Beeken, in Dutchess County. He was to be paid $300,500 annually. (Putnam legislators, who are term-limited, 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.

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 is also chair of the Dutchess County Veteran Task Force, which he founded in 2018, and an executive board member of the Hudson Valley Veterans Alliance.

**Soldier Found Guilty in Crash**

Rollover last year killed near West Point cadet

A U.S. 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. Morgan, 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 private-sector 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 15, 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)
Putnam Sees Glimmer of Fiscal Hope

Golf a bright spot in otherwise dim forecast

By Liz Schevetchuk Armstrong

A 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 $626,000, compared to the $908,000 the county had expected to spend in the first six months of 2020.

The course, which charges $30 to $65 for a tee time, by July 26 had made about $40,000 more than its $298,000 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 26 to 28 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 $14.7 million in sales tax, 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 $588,500 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.

Putnam relies on sales tax to cover about 40 percent of its annual budget; state aid accounts for another 20 percent.

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 fail $1 million in 2020; and state aid could fail $17 million to $42 million this year, he said.

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 cityof-beacon.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.

Real Estate

Market Report (June)

<table>
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<tr>
<th>BEACON</th>
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<td><strong>Closed Sales</strong></td>
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<td>18</td>
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Sources: Hudson Gateway Association of Realtors (hgraco.com); excludes condos. Philipstwon includes Cold Spring, Garrison and Niverville.

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.

Photo by Ross Corsair

(Continued from Page 10)
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

CINEMA IN PIAZZA

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

Saturday, August 15, 2020, 8pm
I Am Not Legend, 2020
Andrea Mastrovito

This year summer film program meets new social distancing guidelines with a drive-in theater.

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

TWO EXHIBITIONS

August 8 – September 13, 2020

Jill Shoffiett
Bridges, Battlegrounds, and Swimming Pools
Ink and Watercolor Paintings

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 Calendar

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)
Thank You to Our Members!

As 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.

(www.highlandscurrent.org)

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Cathy Carnevale
Thomas B. Carrigan
Andy Chmar
Peggy Clements and Chris Duffy
Lauren Cohen and Manuel Molina
G. Collins
Rachel Comey and Sean Carmody
Jack and Ilene Cohen
Justin and Jess Conway
Mary M. Costantin
Ralph Cottiers
Jack and Ellen Cunihon
The Country Goose
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Jeffrey Cronin
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Dairy Family
Caroline Danford
Howard and Randi Davis
Deb’s Hair Design
Gary Dempsey and Ann Marie Carley
Karen and Joe DiSalvo
Sheila and Daniel Donnelly
Pat and Marion Dugan
(Continued on Page 15)
Become a member today!

Help The Highlands engage and inform The Highlands

AS PART OF OUR MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM, we have 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 makers. 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

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<th>Friend</th>
<th>Partner</th>
<th>Patron</th>
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<td>$24 to $119</td>
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The Highlands Current tote bag

CurrentPlus: A weekly newsletter featuring insights, calendar highlights and other exclusives

Priority early digital delivery of Friday’s print paper

Digital cookbook featuring special recipes by local chefs

Annual Patrons’ discussion with The Current editor and members of the Board of Directors

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.

It's Easy!

- 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 Shofflett, 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.”
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 | storykill.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 2
Rabies & Distemper Clinic
BEACON
9 a.m. – 1 p.m. Memorial Park
108 Robert Cahill Drive
845-831-5161 | arfbeacon.org
The Animal Rescue Foundation will host this vaccination clinic for pets. Vaccines are $15 each.

SAT 3
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: $35 per class.

SAT 4
Virtual Networking Event
CARMEL
7 p.m. Via Zoom
putnamcountyonlinebusinesscouncil.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 1
Healing Collective Trauma in a Fractured World
GARRISON
1:30 p.m. Garrison Institute
845-424-3020 | garrisoninstitute.org
Thomas Hnil and Angel Acosta will discuss how to use contemplative practices to support social justice. Register online.

TUES 2
Ask an Electric Vehicle Driver
PHILIPSTOWN
7:30 p.m. Climate Smart Philipstown
climatesmartphilipstown.org
Owners of a Chevy Bolt, a

TUES 3
Zoom Movie Night In
GARRISON
7 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library
845-424-3020 | desmondfishlibrary.org
The library will screen A Street Cat Name Bob, a 2016 film based on a bestselling memoir in which a stray cat influences the life of a street performer and recovering addict.

WED 5
The Secret Behind Melody and Harmony
BEACON
1 p.m. Howland Public Library
845-831-1134 | beaconlibrary.org
Using an arranged 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
845-660-4774 | 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
GARRISON
8:30 p.m. Story Screen Drive-In
724 Wolcott Ave. | 845-440-7706
storyscreen@inveen.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 9, SUN 9. Cost: $10 (8 & under, seniors, military)

THURS 6
Imagine Your Song
BEACON
3 p.m. Howland Public Library
845-831-1134 | beaconlibrary.org
The City Winds Trio will demonstrate rhythm and movement in this interactive performance with music from popular fairytales.

VISUAL ARTS

MON 3
Nature: Pushing It
PUTNAM VALLEY
Tomkins Corners Cultural Center
729 Peakskill Hollow Road | tomkinstwonners.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
Buster Levi Gallery
121 Main St.
bustleriegallery.com
The gallery opens a new exhibit, viewable online, through its windows and by appointment on Saturdays, with work by 10 artists. Through Aug. 31.

FRI 7
Dia Beacon Reopens
BEACON
11 a.m. – 6 p.m. Dia Beacon
3 Breekman St.
845-231-0811 | diaart.org
Reservations can be made online beginning MON 8.

SAT 8
Pam Marchin and Jill Shofflett
GARRISON
10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Garrison Art Center
23 Garrison’s Landing
845-424-3960 | garrisonartcenter.org
The gallery will display new work borrowed from classical.

KIDS & FAMILY

SAT 1
Ree-Play Sale
BEACON
9 a.m. – 1 p.m. University Settlement Camp
724 Wolcott Ave. | weepayplayproject.org
Shop the 15th annual sale of secondhand children’s clothing, toys, baby and toddler equipment, books, music, movies, games, maternity clothes and sports equipment. Masks and social distancing required. Proceeds benefit the Wee Play Community Project. Also SUN 2.

TUES 7
Fizz
BEACON
Noon – 8 p.m. Bau Gallery | 506 Main St.
845-440-7584 | baugallery.org
The gallery will display new work by Compass Arts and the Beacon Recreation Department. Register online.

TUES 4
Old and New Songs, Borrowed and Blue Songs
BEACON
5 p.m. Seeger Riverfront Park
2 Red Fryer Dr. | beaconny.mytec.com
Jenn Clapp will perform in this weekly series for families organized by Compass Arts and the Beacon Recreation Department. Register online.

CIVIC

MON 3
City Council
BEACON
7 p.m. City Hall
845-838-5011 | cityofbeacon.org

TUES 4
School Board
COLD SPRING
7 p.m. Haldane
845-265-9254 | haldaneschool.org

TUES 4
Putnam County Legislature
7 p.m. Carmel
845-208-7800 | putnamcountyny.com

TUES 4
Board of Trustees
COLD SPRING
7:30 p.m. Village Hall
845-265-3611 | coldspringsny.gov

THURS 6
Putnam County Police Policy Review Panel
CARMEL
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 conference.

TUES 6
Town Board
PHILIPSTOWN
7:30 p.m. Philipstown Community Center
107 Glenville Rd.
845-855-5200 | philipstown.com

SUN 9
Terrain
SAUGERTIES
3 p.m. Emerge Gallery
emergegalleryny.com
Beacon artist Mary Ann Glass and current photographer Ross Corsair will exhibit their art inspired by landscapes, seascapes and cityscapes. In lieu of a public reception, a virtual tour and artists’ discussion will be broadcast live on Youtube.
**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 ensure 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 Percaccio, Town Clerk**

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**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.

**Something You Don’t Know About Me**

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

The 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.

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.

~ Carla Goldberg

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**Carla Goldberg, recently**

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

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**Carla Goldberg, a few years before she became a Baskin-Robbins employee, with her grandparents, Paul and Freda Resnick, who raised her.** Photos provided
were eerily quiet the mid-1870s to pick some from the universi-
beauty that inspired a gardener at Harvard in
was clogged with throngs of intricate green
out here,” said Silver, director of the Audu-
shade of distant trees.
kingfishers watched us silently from the
of the canoe as Scott Silver and I paddled
calls or frog peeps, just the gentle swish
100 degrees. No bird
week as the heat
invasive species, clog
local waterways
By Brian PJ Cronin
The 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 university’s botanical garden (where, at the time, they 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.

Researchers are trying to identify a safe biological control that can be used to beat back the chestnuts, Silver said. In the meantime, 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 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.”

You’re Invited: Ask an Electric Vehicle (EV) Driver Online Forum
Is there a car purchase in your future? Some of your neighbors own EV cars that never need gas... do they like them? What’s different about driving an EV? Bring your questions, we’ll answer them from the perspective of a local driver, not a salesperson. The panel will include owners of a Chevy Bolt, Hyundai Kona, Nissan Leaf, Tesla Model 3, Plug-in Hybrid Kia Niro and more. We will also be prepared to answer questions about charging, ecological impacts and available incentives.

August 4 | 7:30-8:45 p.m. EST
Online via Zoom
Limited spaces - Please reserve your free spot by registering:
www.eventbrite.com/e/webinar-ask-an-ev-driver-by-climate-smart-philipstown-zoom-registration-114196328292

This is a joint project from the Town of Philipstown’s Climate Smart Program and Sustainable Putnam, both of which are dedicated to shrinking our greenhouse gas emissions and increasing our resiliency in the face of the Climate Emergency.
ClimateSmartPhilipstown.org | SustainablePutnam.org
Volunteers are welcome!
Mouths to Feed

Feeling Up-Beet

By Celia Barbour

I 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 pickled beets?" My childhood encounters with canned, pickled beets had placed this root squarely in the vegetables-I-abhor camp, an aversion I didn't manage to overcome until I tasted roasted beets at a Manhattan bistro in my late 20s. So how did I allow vinegar, sugar and spices to sneak back into my beet repertoire?

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 cold, mayonnaise-y pasta. And for me, this soup also represents another 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.

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 bottom-feeding 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 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
¼ teaspoon ground cloves
1 teaspoon ground coriander, or ¼ teaspoon whole coriander seeds
½ 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

Jeffrey 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; my yard. The poems are different from anything I’ve written. They’re informed by my yard. The poems are different from anything I’ve written. They’re informed by

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.

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 workshop-ing. If you’re discussing a single piece of writing, such as a poem, that works fine.

Do grief offer any surprises to a poet?

It feels private and like being submerged in something. I don’t know that you can 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
Boscobel Research Seeks to Free Blacks from Obscurity

History of Dyckman family includes slavery

By Leonard Sparks

S
states 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 quasi-familial 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.

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 Philips 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.
Exit Interview

Michael Rutkoske

By Jeff Simms

In 2016, Michael Rutkoske was one of three newcomers elected to the nine-member 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)
Beacon Appoints Police Chief Search Committee

Also: Officers will carry business cards

By Jeff Simms

Jerry 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 beacon 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 America; and Stefon Seward, a 2017 Beacon High School graduate and co-founder of America.

The Beacon police union met twice over the past weekend to iron out their differences.

Mayor Bill de Blasio (center) and others painted a Black Lives Matter mural before he signed a police accountability bill into law on July 31, 2020.

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,” Corten 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.

Their 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 Corten, a retired Beacon police lieutenant, as the interim chief. It also objected to what was seen 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 police-community 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.

“While 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 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 Narance, 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,” Narance 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 Finkel 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 year 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 researched the potential liability and its best interests. The board postponed a vote while Boyle researches the potential liability and its best interests.

The other new commissioners are:

- Alex Berardi, the president of Trailways.com, who lives in Ulster County;
- Maria Bruni, Middleton’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 turn-over 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, where she earned a music scholarship to attend 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 five sons: Richard Cerny of Roswell, Georgia; John Cerny of Eagle, Colorado; Christopher Cerny of Atlanta; Andrew Cerny of Macom, Georgia; and Mark Cerny of Fort Myers, Florida.

She is also survived by her daughters-in-law, 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 the Putnam/Northern Westchester BOCES cosmetology program.

She also is survived by her grandparents, Joe and Lillian Fanelli of Yorktown Heights; Jorge and Ducsonia 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).

Pruning is an art

If you are looking for a “natural finish” and do not want to see your ornamentals cut back severely to dead wood, choose artful pruning. Artful Pruning allows your ornamentals to keep looking good. Artful Pruning gracefully brings your ornamentals back to a more appropriate smaller size.

For an artful, natural finish, call Gregory, the artful pruner, with over 10 years as a career gardener specializing in natural and restorative gardening. 845.446.7465

For more obituaries, see highlandscurrent.org/obit.
Puzzles

**CrossCurrent**

**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
42. Alias abbr.
43. Secret or Sure
48. Crib
49. Elderly
50. Press
51. Pismire
52. May honorees
53. Kindly bloke

**DOWN**
1. Antiquated
2. “The Raven” writer
3. Sprite
4. Group of priests
5. Helper
6. Drench
7. Hostel
8. On both sides of
9. Leaves-dropper?
10. Proper subject, maybe
11. Heche or Hathaway
16. Born
20. Weeding implement
21. Privation
22. Reed instrument
23. Drying agent
24. Cisterns
25. Ankara resident
26. Fish eggs
28. — and void
29. Terrier variety
31. Former
34. Menagerie
35. Drilling apparatus
36. Diner staffer
37. Also
38. Ali —
39. Related
40. Verse
41. Probability
43. Secret or Sure
44. Id counterpart
45. Exist
46. Negative prefix
47. Explosive stick

**SUDOCurrent**

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3 8 6 2 4 9 1 7 5
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Answers for July 24 Puzzles

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U F O S I T S E S P Y
M A R T I N E T M O U E
P A R A B O L A B O N N
T I N T H A N K S
A P S I S D U E L
B L O C K P A R A M U S
C O Y M E T E R V I P
P A R A T U S L E G O
I T E M S L A N T
U N D O E R P E A
S O O T P A R A N O I A
E D G E A N E R O I D S
D E E D N A P S L O P
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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 LittleWords**

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)

**SOLUTIONS**

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© 2020 Blue Ox Family Games, Inc., Dist. by Andrews McMeel
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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 pitched in the loss for the Bulldogs. At the plate, Varricchio went 2-for-3 and Jake Dynamic 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.”

Bulldogs Take First Loss of Season

Tough competition ahead in top division

By Skip Pearlman

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Haldane Athletic Director Will Leave for Carmel

Chris Salumn with district for five years

Chris 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.

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