After Storm, Governor Declares State of Emergency

**Sends 50 National Guard soldiers to Putnam**

By Chip Rowe

Gov. Andrew Cuomo on Wednesday (Aug. 5) declared a state of emergency in 12 southeastern counties, including Putnam and Dutchess, in the wake of damage caused by Tropical Storm Isaias.

Under the order, state agencies can provide support to local governments without standing agreements in place, the governor said in a statement. Putnam County Executive MaryEllen Odell also declared a state of emergency.

(Continued on Page 17)

Trees toppled by Tropical Storm Isaias caused widespread power outages in the Highlands on Tuesday (Aug. 4), including this line taken down on Sargent Avenue in Beacon. Central Hudson, which received reports of 91 broken poles and more than 1,600 downed lines, said it expected to have service restored by late Friday night to 90 percent of the 119,000 customers who lost power.

Photo by Jeff Simms

Beacon 4 Black Lives Calls Out Council, Mayor

**Members demand change, policing alternatives**

By Jeff Simms

Members of the grassroots Beacon 4 Black Lives and its supporters called into the City Council meeting Monday (Aug. 3), demanding transparency from lawmakers and policy changes at the Police Department.

“The reformative actions that the city has taken have not been in response to the pain of the Black citizens in Beacon, but rather have been in sole response to the resignation [retirement] of Chief [Kevin] Junjulas” on July 7, said Justice McCray, the first caller to the video-conferenced meeting and an organizer of Beacon 4 Black Lives and recent Black Lives Matter marches in the city.

During his call, McCray hit the highlights from a list of demands the organization posted on social media earlier in the day. The group’s proposals include investing in (Continued on Page 16)

Why the Jump in Dutchess Cases?

**County executive cites testing of inmates**

By Leonard Sparks

Dutchess County is attributing an uptick in the number of daily new COVID-19 cases to expanded testing of inmates at the Fishkill and Green Haven state prisons.

Active cases of COVID-19 reached 232 as of Thursday (Aug. 6) after dipping as low as 189 about a month earlier. Dutchess has averaged about 16 newly confirmed infections a day since July 29 after averaging eight per day during the previous two weeks.

Inmates at state prisons such as Fishkill Correctional Facility in Beacon, Green Haven Correctional Facility in Storrmville and Downstate Correctional Facility in Fishkill who are confirmed to have COVID-19 are counted among Dutchess cases.

(Continued on Page 6)
FIVE QUESTIONS: ALEX FINKELSTEIN

By Michael Turton

Alex Finkelstein owns Big Mouth Coffee Roasters at 387 Main St. in Beacon.

Can you explain the roasting process?

We use a solid drum roaster — a rotating steel drum that resembles a clothes dryer but costs about the same as a mid-level sedan. It's preheated to between 350 and 450 degrees. Green coffee beans are dropped into the drum from the hopper. Software monitors the time and temperature. The analytics translate into subtleties that you will taste in the coffee. Flame and air-flow levels also affect taste. A roast takes 10 to 18 minutes. You don't roast expensive, high-quality beans too dark. Light roasts have brighter acidity, are sweeter and have more nuanced flavor. Roasting cheaper beans super dark can mask their shortcomings, but some of the more exciting stuff gets cooked away and you're left with the more bitter compounds.

How significant is the source of the beans?

Indonesia, specifically Sumatra, as well as Brazil, Kenya and Ethiopia produce distinctive coffees. You used to be able to say one country or region was better than another, but in the world of specialty coffees, it's at the micro level of a farm or mill now. Rare coffees are being grown in Panama, Burundi and Nicaragua. With specialty coffees, smaller beans tend to be denser. They're grown at a higher altitude under harsher conditions, stunting their growth, which produces more concentrated flavor.

Tanzanian peaberry is highly sought after because it's more flavorful.

Is it possible to make good decaffeinated coffee?

Some roasters specialize in decaf. The standard is the Mountain Water Process, which extracts nearly all the compounds from the bean, separates the caffeine, then injects everything back in. In the past, roasters used methyl, ethyl, alcohol and other hard-to-pronounce things in the process, and the coffee tasted bad. It's funny to say this, but we're getting some exciting decaf now.

What are some trends in the business?

Specialty coffee is growing quickly. In Columbia, they're experimenting with fermenting the coffee fruit — “the cherries” — from a few hours to a few days. There's a lot of research in the microbiology of fermentation. They're also drying the coffees differently. They're mixing all these factors together to create coffees that are weird and wildly different.

Any tips for making coffee at home?

The grinder is often overlooked. Be sure you have an even grind; don't use a blade grinder. The water is important, especially temperature and taste. Filtering is a good idea. I don't do it here because we have good tap water in Beacon, but if I go camping or to the Catskills, I always bring bottled water for coffee.
Bridge Authority Head Left with $92K

State investigator criticizes former board

The former head of the New York Bridge Authority, which oversees five Hudson Valley bridges, left his job last year to run a company, according to an analysis by the New York State Association of Counties.

Putnam Sheriff Says He was expected to consider a resolution on whether it could get some of the money back.

Massed at least $18 million to $46 million this year, according to an analysis by the New York State Association of Counties.

Want Buyouts

Offered in attempt to make-up for COVID shutdown losses

More than 170 Dutchess County employees have applied for buyouts under a program announced on June 30 by County Executive Marc Molinaro to reduce expenses in the 2021 budget.

The “separation incentive program” could save $10 million to $15 million, depending on reporting by the state inspector general.

No Dutchess Employees Want Body Cams

Planned to ask Legislature to budget funds

Although the Putnam County Legislature meeting scheduled for Tuesday (Aug. 4) by audioconference was postponed because of widespread power outages caused by Tropical Storm Isaías, Sheriff Robert Langley Jr. said the day before that he planned to ask lawmakers to budget funds to equip his deputies with body cameras.

Highlands Parks Receive Nearly $200K

State grants go to Bannerman, Fahnstock; Little Stony Point

New York State and the advocacy group Parks & Trails New York on July 29 announced nearly $200,000 in grants for Highlands nonprofits.

Dutchess Forms Police Reform Committees

Will prepare plan to submit to state

Dutchess County has created two committees to create a law enforcement reform plan in response to an order by Gov. Andrew Cuomo.

St. Christopher’s Names New Director

Leaves Bronx nonprofit after 27 years

The Franciscan Friars of the Atonement in Garrison announced on Thursday (July 30) the appointment of James Schiller as the executive director of St. Christopher’s Inn, its shelter for homeless and impoverished men recovering from addiction.

Highlands nonprofit after 27 years

Leaves Bronx nonprofit after 27 years

The Franciscan Friars of the Atonement in Garrison announced on Thursday (July 30) the appointment of James Schiller as the executive director of St. Christopher’s Inn, its shelter for homeless and impoverished men recovering from addiction.

Schiller, who lives in Putnam Valley, “has worked throughout his career to bring healing and hope to those with nowhere else to turn,” said Father Brian Terry, minister general of the Friars.

Schiller spent the past 27 years as the chief operating officer of Argus Community, a Bronx nonprofit that provides drug-treatment programs and case management services for teens and adults.

He has a doctorate in clinical psychology from Fielding Graduate University in Santa Barbara, California; a master’s degree in psychology from Hunter College in New York City; and a bachelor’s degree in psychology from St. Anselm College in Manchester, New Hampshire.
Voting sites

Dutchess County has five early voting sites spread throughout the county. Across the river, Rockland County has four. And Westchester has committed to opening at least 16 sites for November’s election. Here in Putnam, however, officials plan to open just one early voting site. It’s in Carmel, considerably closer to Connecticut than Cold Spring.

Boards of elections are supposed to ensure the voting process remains fair and open to all eligible voters. The boards in surrounding counties seem to understand that. The same cannot be said for the powers that be here in Putnam, where our population, at 98,320, puts us only a hair below the 100,000-threshold requiring multiple early voting sites.

Voters — Democrats, Republicans, independents and others — on the western side of Putnam County deserve an early voting site. We should not have to go to Carmel, which for many of us is a drive of more than 30 minutes each way, to exercise our right to vote. It is unfair to favor some voters and penalize others based on where they live. And during this pandemic, it is unwise to funnel early voters from around the county into one place — a place, it must be pointed out, that has the highest number of COVID-19 infections in Putnam.

Those against opening a second early voting site will likely cite the cost, arguing it’s too expensive. Please. The notion that Putnam, alone among our neighboring counties, is too poor to staff a second polling place is absurd.

A county whose ruling government thinks nothing of spending taxpayer money on a pair of horses that will cost us $15,000 a year to maintain at Tilly Foster Farm can certainly find a way to provide a second early voting site for a major national and local election during a pandemic.

Contact the Putnam Board of Elections, your county legislator and County Executive MaryEllen Odell. Tell them to pony up and prioritize voters over horses. Western Putnam deserves equal access to early voting.

Ned Rauch, Garrison
Rauch is vice chair of the Putnam Democratic Committee.

Local activist

Cassie Traina, thank you for having the courage and dedication to take action on these important issues in such a direct way (“Cold Spring Activist Speaks Out,” July 31). This is exactly what we need.

Katie Halpin, via Facebook

Does Cassie Traina live in Cold Spring? How long has she lived here? Or does she live in Nanuet? Is she from the Bronx? Just asking as someone whose family has been here for generations and whose hometown really is Cold Spring. With all due respect, she does not represent my views or the views of many other natives of Cold Spring with regard to our Police Department or our village, and we are not racist nor do we suffer from “white privilege.” Many of us are blue-collar workers, Back the Blue and supporters of President Trump. Perhaps The Current would like to do another story interviewing someone whose hometown is Cold Spring since birth and has a different view?

Cindy Trimble, Cold Spring

We have a lot of clearheaded young people due to their brainwashing by Marxist professors and socialist teachers. Their parents underwent the same indoctrination. From climate change to white privilege to the hatred of our police and armed forces, their spiel is repeated over and over again. They can easily divest themselves of these horrors by living in less-offensive places, preferably on foreign soil. My Cuban friends can recommend their old neighborhoods in Havana.

Rena Corey, Cold Spring

Letter of thanks

Before this terrible virus hit, I enjoyed my summers with family and friends, participating in various activities in this area and at the beach in South Carolina. The Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival was always a favorite, as well as the Philipstown Depot Theater, Yankee games, meeting friends for dinner — you get the idea.

This summer these activities were not available, but there are a couple things that I have enjoyed and which give me something to look forward to.

The first is the monthly column in The Current, “Looking Back in Philipstown.” The gleanings from the past are fascinating and, since I’ve lived here for nearly 40 years, I remember some of the more recent events. The most interesting part is that so many of the names are the ancestors of people we know and see in Phillipstown, including Robinson, Clark, Phillips and so many others.

The second is the “song of the day” posted on Facebook by Russ Cusick. For anyone not aware of this special treat, Russ is an artist and musician who lives in Phillipstown and who sings a song to entertain us and to help us get through these trying times. His voice is wonderful, and he chooses great songs and always ends with a short pep talk.

I’d like to also thank Nancy Montgomery for representing us on the Putnam County (Continued on Page 5)
Counting the Highlands

Response rates to the 2020 U.S. census, as of Aug. 5, along with historical data, are at right. The Census Bureau is emailing households that have not responded and also sending census-takers to knock on doors between 9 a.m. and 9 p.m. The bureau announced on Aug. 3 that it will end the count on Sept. 30, a month earlier than planned, raising concerns that harder-to-reach groups will not be counted.

Buried lines

In light of the recent widespread outages from Tropical Storm Isaias, I am introducing legislation in the Assembly to have the Public Service Commission study the feasibility and costs of burying power lines throughout the state.

How many times do we have to live through this nightmare with wind and rainstorms in the summer and fall and blizzards in the winter? It took the Great Blizzard of 1888 for New York City to bury its power and telephone poles. The cost to bury power lines pales to the inconvenience and costs to individuals and businesses every time there is a major storm. Central Hudson reported that 115,000 customers lost power due to the storm. That included 24 percent of its customers in Beacon and 57 percent in the City of Newburgh.

The definition of insanity is doing the same thing over and over and expecting a different result. This recurring problem will not go away by itself. We must explore new options.

Jonathan Jacobson, Albany
Jacobson’s district includes Beacon.

NOTICE

PHILIPSTOWN PLANNING BOARD

Public Hearing – August 20, 2020

The Planning Board of the Town of Philipstown, New York will hold a public hearing on Thursday, August 20, 2020 starting at 7:30 p.m. via ZOOM to consider the following application:

Slopeline, LLC (c/o The Scenic Hudson Land Trust), 3-lot subdivision – The applicant is seeking Subdivision approval of a 3-lot subdivision of parcels totaling 765.7 acres surrounding the Lake Valhalla residential community. The lots to be created involve the following:

Parcel “A” – 520.5 acre unimproved (vacant) tract adjacent to the Dutchess County boundary, which will be protected by a conservation easement and eventually be conveyed to New York State

Parcel “B” – 193.4 acre tract, which is improved with small recreational structures, and is to be conveyed to an HOA that will be comprised of the existing Lake Valhalla property owners. The land will be transferred with a requirement that it not be further subdivided, and be subject to a conservation easement

Parcel “C” – 51.8 acre tract, which is improved with residential structures and out buildings. If and when it is conveyed by Slopeline, LLC it will be sold as a private lot and subject to a conservation easement.

At said hearing all persons will have the right to be heard. Copies of the application, plat map, and other related materials may be seen in the Office of the Planning Board at the Building Department office in the Dahlia House, 2 Cedar Street, Cold Spring (behind Town Hall).

If you would like to attend the ZOOM meeting, please email kmacintyre@philipstown.com to request login information before 7:00 pm on August 20th, 2020.

Dated at Philipstown, New York, this 16th day of August, 2020.

Neal Zuckerman, Chair

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Dutchess Cases (from Page 1)

Dutchess County Executive Marc Molinaro said the jump in daily confirmed cases can be attributed largely to “more aggressive” testing of inmates at Fishkill and Green Haven. “There may be days where you see a bit of a jump,” he said during his weekly Facebook town hall on July 29. Fishkill and Green Haven this week allowed visitors into the prison for the first time since the March shutdown, but the state would not say if that played a role in its increased testing beyond that it was “targeted.” It said inmates are tested if they show symptoms, and that those who test positive are isolated.

There have been 64 new confirmed infections among prisoners at Fishkill and Green Haven since July 19, the county said on Monday. The Fishkill facility has had more infections than any other state prison in New York, with 103 as of Wednesday. Five inmates have died, also the most of any facility.

Green Haven has the second-highest number of COVID-19 cases among prisons, with 74 as of Wednesday. Three of high point for cases in New York, the state was testing, according to the county.

On July 13, the state reported 38 cases, a significant jump. About two-thirds of that figure represented false positives at a nursing home and inmate infections, Molinaro said.

Officials in Ulster County, where the state has four prisons, also attributed a recent spike in infections to expanded inmate testing. The county is home to the Eastern and Ulster correctional facilities in Napanoch, and the Shawangunk and Wallkill correctional facilities in Wallkill.

New cases in Ulster averaged 28 a day between July 27 and July 29, according to state data, after averaging about five each day over the previous two weeks.

Pat Ryan, Ulster County’s executive, told The Daily Freeman in Kingston on July 29 that state prison officials “decided to proactively test a subset of all of the inmates,” which he felt would “make everyone a lot safer, including in the community.”

As of Monday, state prison officials reported that they had confirmed infections in 1,311 employees and 604 inmates statewide. Seventeen prisoners and five staff members have died.

Elected officials and inmate advocates have, for months, been urging the state prisons to ramp up testing.

On July 20, the Beacon City Council approved a resolution asking the state to test every inmate and staff member at Fishkill, in addition to taking other measures to prevent the virus from spreading, and to release elderly and medically vulnerable inmates.

“Finally, they’re starting to do a reasonable amount of testing,” said Laurie Dick of Beacon Prison Action, a grassroots group that pushed for the resolution. “Given the density of these facilities, and the inability to keep people socially distanced, they should be testing everybody on a regular basis.”

Dick is also the founder of Beacon Prison Rides Project, an initiative in which volunteers give free rides to family members visiting inmates at area prisons. Visitation, which had been suspended during the pandemic, resumed this week, with mask and social-distancing requirements, and temperature checks of those coming to see inmates.

Dick said on Tuesday (Aug. 4) that Beacon Prison Rides had a trip scheduled to Shawangunk on Thursday, rides to Fishkill and Green Haven on Saturday and two trips to Green Haven early next week.

“We’re already starting to fill up,” she said. “These are family members who’ve been waiting, checking on a daily basis, because they’re so worried about their loved ones.”

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Saving the Village

R

on DeSilva, who died on July 30 (see Page 18), was the chairman of the Cold Spring Planning Board when, in 1975, the village created an architectural review board. This past week, Deputy Mayor Marie Early pulled from the files the typewritten minutes of the public hearing held on Jan. 30, 1975, and shared it with Ron’s widow, Barbara DeSilva, who passed it along to The Current. It is excerpted below.

“When we moved to Cold Spring in 1972, it was like a ghost town,” Barbara recalled. “Most of the shops were boarded up. It took a while to convince the residents that preserving the architecture was so important. They were distrustful of the ‘carpetbaggers.’”

VILLAGE OF COLD SPRING PLANNING BOARD

JANUARY 30, 1975 PUBLIC HEARING

RE: PROPOSED ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORIC DISTRICT REGULATION FOR THE VILLAGE OF COLD SPRING, NEW YORK

Planning Board members in attendance: Ronald DeSilva, Chairman Veronica Lahey Glen Watson David Relley

The Hearing was called to order at 8:05 p.m. by Chairman DeSilva.

Chairman DeSilva told those in attendance that the Architectural Review Board was first formed approximately five years ago at the time James Early was mayor. It was also brought to attention that the Board has been working on this proposal for the last two years and was a recipient of a grant to have Dr. James M. Fitch, professor of architectural history at Columbia University, do a report on the Village. Dr. Fitch visited our area several times and found it to be one of the best preserved towns on the Hudson River.

CHAIRMAN DESILVA: What this Board is attempting to do is to preserve Cold Spring as it is and was in the past. The Planning Board's function is not strictly to take care of new buildings. The Planning Board's function lies in its name; it is to plan any future changes in the Village, to make suggestions to the Board of Trustees.

When Dr. Fitch did his study he found Cold Spring in a generally remarkable state of preservation and enhanced by the scenery.

We have a major change in the Village on Main Street now that the bank has moved and this might pose a problem for the business district. There is also a pretty good chance we will have a zoning board; we can only recommend….

THOMAS A. COLLINS, ATTORNEY AT LAW, 126 Main St., Cold Spring, N.Y.: I am a property owner and also representing George Gianetta who resides in Cold Spring. I had a wood railing around my porch and kids ripped it off and I put up iron rails. Is this all right to do?

CHAIRMAN DESILVA: This is for the building inspector to deal with, not our board. This is not a law.

JOSEPH LANDOLFI, Fishkill Ave., Cold Spring, N.Y.: You said before you could put an addition onto the back of the house.

CHAIRMAN DESILVA: You can put an addition where it does not give to the public.

SYLVESTER MERANTE, Belvedere St., Cold Spring, N.Y.: What I think we are trying to find out here is that anyone living on the corner of two streets would have to preserve the exterior and architectural features of the village where it gives on to a village way. If you wish to erect an addition on the rear of your house you are free to do so following the normal procedures.

The proposed Architectural Review Board will consist of five members, all of whom must be village residents and three must be of the district.

The Board of Trustees of the Putnam County Historical Society has passed a resolution in favor of this proposal.

Several changes have come about as a result of the last public hearing.

One of the most important things is that if the proposed law was put on the books in some form or other it could result in the Village of Cold Spring being placed on the National Register of Historical Sites.

One of things we are keeping in mind, depending on response, is a tax abatement plan, if the proposal is adopted. This is so if an individual renovates his structure he does not get clobbered with high taxes all at once. Again, this is just one of the proposals.

At the last hearing it was brought up that the proposal be placed on a referendum. That, again, is not within the duties of this board; we can only recommend….

We will now open the floor to questions and comments.

THOMAS J. DALE, 142 Main St., Cold Spring, N.Y.: I agree with many others that this proposal should be submitted on a referendum. I suggest this board make a recommendation to the Board of Trustees.

There seems to be a little confusion as to use. Would this proposed law effect the use of the building?

CHAIRMAN DESILVA: This law does not in any way effect the interior use of the building.

THOMAS J. DALE: Perhaps I am interpreting Section B. – Public Policy – of the Proposed Architectural and Historic District Regulation of the Village of Cold Spring, New York incorrectly. “The Board of Trustees of the Village of Cold Spring hereby declares as a matter of public policy that the protection, enhancement, perpetuation, preservation and use of improvements…” Perhaps the word use should not be in the proposal.

CHAIRMAN DESILVA: This law does not in any way deal with the interior use of the building now or in the future.

THOMAS J. DALE: My next point is also on the section Public Policy. “...of historic, aesthetic and architectural value is a public necessity and is required in the interest of the health, prosperity, safety and welfare of the people.”

The words health and safety should be omitted.

[Dale made five additional technical suggestions for the wording of the proposal.]

CHAIRMAN DESILVA: I would like to thank Mr. Dale and mention that the suggestions are quite valuable and will be used accordingly.

J. ESPOSITO, Parsonage St., Cold Spring, N.Y.: I first would like to ask if this proposal was drafted by all of you?

CHAIRMAN DESILVA: It was drafted by the Planning Board and the Architectural Review Board.

J. ESPOSITO: Can the Architectural Review Board supersede the Board of Trustees?

CHAIRMAN DESILVA: The Board of Trustees cannot reverse the decision of the various boards.

MICHAEL KELLY, Main St., Cold Spring, N.Y.: We have to look to the future. If we don't do something now it will be too late. Things are starting to shape up for the village.

CHAIRMAN DESILVA: If there are no further questions or comments the meeting is adjourned.

(Signed) Gloria Van Tassel, Recording Secretary
The Beacon Planning Board will hold a public hearing on Tuesday (Aug. 11) to consider the environmental impacts of a proposal to merge the lots at 416 and 420 Main St. for construction of a set-back, four-story building.

One lot is vacant and the other is the site of Kitchen & Coffee (formerly Ella's Bellas), which would remain a tenant. If approved, the new building would have retail on the ground floor, office space on the second and third floors, and a single apartment on a recessed fourth floor. An artist's live/work space would be constructed behind the lots.

Project officials scrapped plans for a second apartment on the fourth floor and a single-family home in the rear after feedback from the Planning Board.

Tuesday's hearing will focus on whether the proposal could have an adverse effect on the environment or surrounding schools, roads and other infrastructure.

The developer will seek a waiver for 19 of 23 parking spaces that city zoning law requires for the site. In addition, any Main Street four-story proposals in or near the city's historic district (the entire site is within the district) must obtain a special-use permit from the City Council.

That's not all. Earlier this year, the council agreed that any four-story proposal on Main, in the historic district or not, must include one or more public benefits such as increased parking, affordable housing units, green building features or public spaces before it can receive the permit for a fourth floor.

During the Planning Board's meeting last month, members urged project officials to be creative as they redesigned the development, which originally was to include a 25-foot tower at the corner of Main Street and Schenck Avenue.

The developers still have an opportunity to leave an “elegant legacy” of “great design,” said John Gunn, the board's chair.
The Art of the Walk

Manitoga opens exhibit of sound and reflection

By Alison Rooney

Each year since 2014, Manitoga, the former Garrison home, studio and woodland garden of designer Russel Wright, has selected artists for a residency program.

This year’s artists — Anne Lindberg and Pete Wyer — were chosen before the pandemic was a factor, but the timing has worked out, with the region reopening enough that the site can now host guided, properly spaced, tours.

The Artist Residency program is designed to “foster creative responses to Manitoga that invoke Russel Wright’s legacy of creative experimentation and celebration of place,” according to the site. Participants have included Michele Oka Doner, Melissa McGill, Stephen Talasnik and Kazumi Tanaka, as well as choreographer Ivy Baldwin and composers Ben Neill and Suzanne Thorpe.

Lindberg’s drawings, which are exhibited inside Wright’s former home, mirror the array of seasonal colors and other manifestations of the natural world. Her work is two parts, “alternating palettes from cool to warm as summer turns into autumn,” Manitoga says in its guide. “This dovetails with Wright’s constant adaptation of the furnishings and colors in his home to reflect the change of seasons and the natural world always visible from the home’s many floor-to-ceiling windows.”

Lindberg, who has a master of fine arts from the Cranbrook Academy of Art, lives and works in Ancramdale.

Wyer, a British composer and musician who has created scores for the London Symphony, Royal Philharmonic and Juilliard, adapted for Manitoga his installation The iForest at The Wild Center in the Adirondacks. In Garrison it centers on the site’s quarry pool, surrounded by forest, with boulders nearby. Its four movements are tied to walking, pausing and reflecting.

The iForest features 24 speakers, many fastened to tree trunks, that project the voices of a 72-member choir, primarily singing in the Mohawk language of Native Americans and in response to the traditional Mohawk ceremony of thanksgiving. In his composer’s notes, Wyer explains that the “words are continuously thanking different elements of nature.”

Wyer writes that he “went to some lengths to ensure that I wasn’t offending anyone by making a piece of music in response to the ceremony. I am intentionally not in any way Mohawk, because I’m very western.”

At the same time, he “felt that, while artists should always be extremely careful that they aren’t creating something that is an act of cultural misappropriation, cultures thrive when they inspire and influence one another.”

Other sections of the work incorporate details of a story derived from a Huron legend. Walking and listening to the exhibit transported me, for 90 minutes at least, into a less-fraught realm, and the experience was only enhanced by the backdrop of familiar Garrison sounds: insects, helicopters and waterfalls, plus a glimpse of children playing in the woods near the installation.

The tour follows the upper quarry path, up stone stairs, past a mountain laurel grove and moss “rooms,” crossing a waterfall over a wood-plank bridge before proceeding into the woodlands to experience The iForest. Visitors then proceed to Wright’s home, where they can see Lindberg’s work.

Panels of Anne Lindberg’s Cycles of Seeing installation above Manitoga’s dining room

Photo provided

Taking the Tour

Tours depart between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m., Friday through Monday, through the end of August, with tickets available at brownpapertickets.com/event/4609538. Tours will continue into the fall, although details are not yet available.

Manitoga also will host two iForest concerts, on Aug. 15 and Aug. 26 at 5 p.m., each open to 25 people for $25 each. Bench and rock seating will be available.

Separately, Manitoga’s woodland trails are open daily until dusk. Hikers are asked to wear masks while in the parking lot and to practice social distancing on the trails. The suggested donation is $5. If the gate is closed or the lot is full, visitors are asked to return at another time.

An artfully framed view encountered during Pete Wyers’ The iForest at Manitoga

Photo by Vivian Linares
THE WEEK AHEAD

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

COMMUNITY

SAT 8
Yoga at Boscobel
GARRISON
9:30 a.m. Boscobel
1601 Route 9D
845-265-3638 | boscobel.org
Boscobel and Ascend Studio collaborate on an in-person, weekend yoga program on the West Meadow overlooking the river. Classes will be held Fridays to Sundays through Sept. 13. Registration required. Cost: $25 per class.

TALKS

MON 10
Haldane Schools Reopening
COLD SPRING
7 p.m. Zoom
highlandscurrent.org/currentconversations
Environmental educator Matthew Snetana will discuss how citizen science projects work and how to get involved.

TUES 11
Beacon Schools Reopening
BEACON
7 p.m. Zoom
highlandscurrent.org/currentconversations
This fundraiser for the Stoney Kill Foundation will feature farm-fresh eggs and honey along with gear and accessories.

THURS 13
Pathways to Planetary Health
GARRISON
2 p.m. Garrison Institute
garrisoninstitute.org
Paul Hawken, the editor of Drawdown: The Most Comprehensive Plan Ever Proposed to Reverse Global Warming, will discuss his most recent project, Regeneration, an organization dedicated to ending the climate crisis in one generation.

THURS 13
Seize the King
COLD SPRING
7:30 p.m.
Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival
hvshakespeare.org
In this live online reading, part of the festival’s annual HVSP series, five actors will perform Will Power’s adaptation of Richard III in contemporary dialogue in iambic pentameter. Jesse Perez directs. (The play will be performed in 2021 at the Classical Theatre of Harlem.) Register online. Cost: $20 donation.

MUSIC

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
In its first in-person show in months, the center will show Pam Marchin’s Monkey Bars and Nelsonville artist Jill Shofflett’s Bridges, Battlegrounds, and Swimming Pools, through Sept. 13.

SECOND SATURDAY

SAT 8
Fizz
BEACON
Noon – 8 p.m.
Bau Gallery
506 Main St.
845-440-7584 | baugallery.org
The gallery will display new work by Carla Goldberg influenced by the pandemic. Through Sept. 6.

SAT 8
Members’ Show and Sale
BEACON
1 – 5 p.m.
Howland Cultural Center
477 Main St.
845-831-4988
howlandculturalcenter.org
Browse work in all media and support local artists. Through Aug. 30.

SAT 8
Toy Art
BEACON
6 – 9 p.m.
Clutter Gallery
163 Main St.
212-255-2505
shop.cluttermagazine.com/gallery
The fourth installment of Planet Rainbow Sparkles returns with 65 artists. In addition, Baccan and One-Eyed Girl showcase their art in solo shows.

CIVIC

MON 10
City Council
BEACON
7 p.m.
City Hall
845-838-5011 | cityofbeacon.org
This meeting will be broadcast live on Facebook.

TUES 11
Board of Trustees
COLD SPRING
7:30 p.m.
Village Hall
Rondout
845-339-9711 | townofcoldspringny.gov
This is the first time visitors will be allowed in the library during the pandemic. This is the first time visitors will be allowed in the library.
Back on the farm, there was an apple tree just out of reach of the hog pen. I used to throw the apples to the hogs.

Hattie Hess is the founder, entrepreneur, and big personality behind Miz Hattie's Southern BBQ stall in the Hudson Valley Food Hall in Beacon. She and her husband Erich serve up a menu based on the flavors she grew up with back home in North Carolina. Her family sharecropped and she is one of nine children.

I was the one in the kitchen with Mama—watching with big eyes.

Every harvest, her dad and the other farmers would hold a “pig picking,” that’s how she learned to set up coals.

I was one of the first African-Americans to integrate Aggie Cox Jr. High School. I can tell you the racism I encountered there was nothing like what I encountered at the culinary institute.

I saw that I was going to have to do it on my own.

Hey lady!

But the food’s important also!

You don’t put the fish in the basket. You put the basket in the oil and slide the fish in. Southern people are funny about their fish. They want it to be crisp.

I think you’re going to enjoy it. (Full disclosure: I did.)

On her own has meant working two jobs: teaching special-needs students at John Jay High School and catering—doing festivals and cook-offs from Texas to NYC. This year, she retired from teaching.
NOTICE

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Town of Philipstown

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

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

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

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

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

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

OWNER RIGHTS RESERVED:

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

STATEMENT OF NON-COLLUSION:

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

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

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

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

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

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

Date: 07/29/2020

BY Tara Percacciolo, Town Clerk

NEW ISSUE — The stories — and poems and paintings — go on despite a pandemic, as Haldane High School published the 2020 edition of Insight, its annual literary magazine. The issue, which can be downloaded at bit.ly/haldane-lit, was edited by Mollie Altucher, Julie Geller, Bridget Goldberg and Cassie Laifer. The art editor was Anneke Chan, who contributed the cover image shown here, and other contributors included Sam Bates, Jill Cox, Anastasia Coope, Shea DeCaro, Curtis Huber, Aurora McKee, Zaire Mickell, Andrew Nachamkin, Zoe Silvermann, Athené Stebe-Glorious, Damian Vladimiroff, Lucas Vladimiroff and Seren Yiacoup. The staff worked under the guidance of English teacher Eric Richter, who retired at the end of the school year.
Sarah Gurland

By Alison Rooney

Like many artists, Sarah Gurland has a day job: Since 1995 she’s been a senior designer at The Gro Agency, working mostly with clients in the food industry — “ice cream, beef jerky, mashed potatoes,” she says.

“Though it is creative, there are rules to follow, things to be lined up, special attention paid to point sizes, branding, typography, etc., all placed in just the right way to tempt consumers,” she says. “I’m a worker bee, more of a behind-the-scenes kind of gal. I never wanted to be the creative director, but I’ve been there the longest, so I know everything!”

Her passion is painting, sketching and creating monoprints. “I like to step away from planning and organization,” she says. “I prefer to allow the materials to guide my process and rely more on chance and accident, whether it’s which way the water will flow or how the string will fall on the paper. The hardest part is knowing when to stop.

“It’s fun to get your hands dirty,” she adds. “If my head gets into it too much I can’t do anything, but take the brain out of it and let one thing lead to another — that’s usually when I’m at my most creative.”

She offers an example. “I have this large collection of old buttons. They belonged to my father’s Aunt Dora, who worked in the garment district. For a Members’ Show at the Garrison Art Center, I took a long strip of molding and chose some buttons and put them on this little shelf. Once you take them out of this bucket of random things, they have a personality. It seems like there should be a story behind each one.”

At times her day job impinges on her artistic side. “Because of working — that part of your brain gets tired,” she says. “I have ideas that percolate in my head, but part of your brain gets tired,” she says. “I’m a worker bee, more of a behind-the-scenes kind of gal. I never wanted to be the creative director, but I’ve been there the longest, so I know everything!”

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Sarah Gurland

Gurland, who grew up in Suffolk County, majored in English at Gettysburg College, in part because she took a drawing class but didn’t like the teacher and it soured her for a while. However, after a string of post-graduation administrative assistant jobs, she realized she needed to do something creative.

With dreams of becoming a book-cover designer, she earned an associate’s degree in graphics and advertising from Parsons School of Design. After a brief move to Philadelphia, Gurland returned to New York City and found a job designing packaging and catalogs for a toy company. When the firm went bankrupt, she landed at The Gro Agency.

Gurland and her husband, Thomas Huber, who is also an artist (and whose day job is as the head preparatory and facilities manager at Magazzino Italian Art, the Philipstown museum), met at a party in 1990 and were married five years later. By 1999, they were ready to make a change in their cramped city life. On day trips to the Hudson Valley, they “always kept winding up in Cold Spring,” she recalls. “We’d hike, eat at the Foundry Cafe — it just seemed like a good fit.”

They made the move a year later. Soon after, their son Curtis was born. (A 2020 Haldane grad, he is headed to American University.) Over the years, Gurland has tended her desire to make art through classes at the Garrison Art Center, particularly those taught by Jaanika Peerna.

The demands of Gurland’s day job, plus volunteering — she co-chaired the Haldane PTAs “Reflections” arts contest for a few years and paints sets for Haldane Drama — reach into her evenings, but “every once in a while I’ll go upstairs and do something,” she says. Recently, she contributed to the Art Center’s Pandemic Postcards exhibit.

A few years ago, Curtis connected the art cables. He bought his mother a blank book called A Sketch a Day and challenged her to fill it. She began on Jan. 1, 2017, and, for the next 365, posted that day’s sketch on social media.

“I’d go back to old things, cut them apart, use bits of magazines and paint over them,” she says. “I tried some new things, for instance using gouache, and doing drawings with ink, where I’d take a piece of string, dip it in ink, then let it fall to the paper. I didn’t have control over it, and that’s fun.” Three years later, she says she’s still inspired by the exercise.

Since March, Gurland has been working from home. She says she combats the feeling of dread brought on by the pandemic by taking walks around Foundry Cove. “By making sure I do it daily, it makes me deal with things,” she says. “Sometimes, it’s a matter of just having time and space to think more about project ideas.”
‘The Joy of Yes’
Amid pandemic, a new clothing store and cafe

By Alison Rooney

Jacqueline Azria grew up in Paris and spent years in Manhattan before moving with her husband last year to Brewster. And that’s how she found Cold Spring, where last month she opened a women’s clothing store called Paulette, which is named for her mother and includes a coffee and pastry shop that opens weekdays at 7 a.m.

“I fell in love with the town,” she said of the couple’s day trips to the village. “I’ve been in America for 35 years and love the idea of the classic American beauty. This town has so much of that — the beauty, the story, the history. The atmosphere reminds me of the movies I watched as a child. It still feels faithful to its own identity.”

Paulette, at 114 Main St. (the former home of the marketing firm Tightrope Interactive, which moved to Beacon), stocks apparel, accessories and home goods.

Its offerings, many displayed on sculptural, repurposed wood tables made by M. Francis Millwork (also for sale), include pieces from clothing lines like Saint James and Johnny Was, along with Bensimon shoes, plus breezy pillows, scarves and more by illustrator Izak Zenou for La Maison Izak.

There are classic French sailor shirts, ceramics from France, homewares from Archive NY, Moroccan shoes, lots of reasonably priced jewelry and Paulette’s own Second Life collection of objects transformed from antiques to something contemporary.

The cafe has coffees from Irving Farm and teas, bread and pastries from Bread Alone, and other goodies from Il Pastificio, with seating at the front.

“I like the idea of a non-linear, multi-dimensional place where you come for a coffee and then see a T-shirt,” Azria says. “Everywhere you look there is a mix of relaxing, stimulating fun; from pastries to tote bags, you’re surrounded by many things that can make you happy.”

Azria says she was “forever thinking about opening her own place” during her years as an editorial creative director.

“The idea of the classic American beauty is very strong in this town — that’s what I want,” she said of New England towns like Cold Spring and its architecturally significant buildings.

“If you had to define Cold Spring, I’d say it’s a late bloomer. ‘My dad thought I had the plug’ on Paulette at times because of the shutdown but says now ‘we all need a smile. We’ve all been scared for months. My dad was an absolute optimist; I am the same. I want to believe that there still is a joy of yes — shopping, being together a little bit: in bad times having a good time. The space was created to embody that idea. It’s bright and colorful and hopefully communicates the passion that I have.’

Paulette is open from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. on weekdays and 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday. See paulettecoldspring.com.

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

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NOTICE

The Philipstown Planning Board

will hold their regular Monthly Meeting on August 20th, 2020.

7:30p.m. virtually via Zoom.

If you would like to attend, please email KMACINTYRE@PHILIPSTOWN.COM to request login information before 7:00p.m. on August 20th, 2020.

The Highlands Current
Roots and Shoots

Planting for the Frogs

By Pamela Doan

There’s a rocky streambed behind my house that I’ve always appreciated but rarely interacted with. With a young child home all summer, that has changed, as the stream has become a refuge and a place for adventures. There’s a secret agency among the rocks and pools where my daughter and I are superheroes and practice flying. We have a net and a microscope that looks under water. We catch frogs and watch out for lobsters (crayfish) that will bite our toes. She scrambles up and down the rocks like a goat and I try not to break a hip.

Being a gardener, I’m also studying the vegetation. The banks are dominated by a mix of cultivated escapees and invasive plants, including Japanese barberry, ferns, garlic mustard, vinca, forsythia and spicebush with sugar maples of all sizes taking up most of the sun. All the invasive plants signal to me that what should be growing here has been displaced and disturbed.

I’ve been familiar with plants that appreciate a good puddle for a long time but haven’t had many opportunities to work with them. Now a plan is forming. I have two sites in mind for projects I wouldn’t call restoration but more like repopulation. Without the native streambed plants that should be growing along these banks, the ecosystem lacks habitat and plants that would support insects which the frogs, salamanders and birds need. Except for the maples and spicebush (Lindera benzoin), none of the vegetation has anything to offer. Riparian plantings are also crucial for cleaning water, preventing erosion and helping prevent flooding. Strong-rooted plants stabilize stream banks.

Here’s my first round of ideas for native plants for stream banks and rain gardens:

**Full sun**

- **Joe Pye weed (Eutrochium maculatum)** This tall, strong-stemmed perennial grows up to 7 feet and forms a mass. It needs space. Pollinators love it and it will be covered in bees and butterflies during its bloom time in July and August.

- **Swamp milkweed (Asclepias incarnata)** This plant is also known as the “pink one.” Common milkweed is taller and has light pink flowers. Butterfly weed is a native milkweed that has orange flowers. All three are necessary for the monarch butterfly’s survival and swamp milkweed, as the name indicates, prefers soil that doesn’t dry out. It will thrive in muddy clay soil and deer won’t eat it. Add in beautiful butterflies and you can’t lose with this one.

- **Pussy willow (Salix discolor)** This small tree/woody plant is a powerhouse when it comes to birds that eat caterpillars. In his book, *Bringing Nature Home: How You Can Sustain Wildlife with Native Plants*, Douglas Tallamy ranks the Salix species as one of the top three woody plants that support butterflies and moths. Nearly 500 types of insects use Salix for food and habitat. These caterpillars are in turn important food sources for birds. Like a shrub, the pussy willow has multiple stems, but it can grow up to 20 feet tall, so give it space when planting.

- **Swamp rose (Rosa palustris)** This favorite of native bees will slowly spread by tipping a branch to the soil and rooting. It is thorny but, as with most roses, I expect the deer would snack on it and it would have to be protected in my woods.

**Shady areas**

- **Skunk cabbage (Symplocarpus foetidus)** This plant can be the first sign of spring. It has a remarkable ability to heat the soil and melt snow so it can emerge. It has a strong smell when disturbed and it attracts early-season pollinators with an interesting, deep-purple “flower.” It has deep roots and will grow in spots where most plants can’t. It isn’t widely available commercially, but it’s worth trying to populate from seed.

- **Turtlehead (Chelone spp.)** This is a late-summer/fall bloomer that supports pollinators. It appreciates wet conditions and will naturalize along the stream banks. I have it in another area of my yard, and the deer and groundhog love it, so I’m not sure I could protect it in a scattered planting here.

- **Marsh marigold (Caltha palustris)** This plant’s yellow flowers will brighten the landscape in early spring. Pollinators love it and ducks eat its seeds. I’ve read that deer and rabbits will leave it alone due to toxicity. While it can be grown from seed, it’s best to start with plug plants or small transplants. It spreads by rhizomes.

Lots of foliage here but not very useful for the ecosystem

Photo by P. Doan

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American Society of Clinical Oncology
Black Lives (from Page 1)
“police alternatives” such as emergency responders for nonviolent calls, social and educational institutions and a municipal broadband network.
“i’m here to demand that the Black and brown voices of this community are heard, and that their needs are met,” said mccray, who challenged mayor lee kyriacou to dispense with hiring a new chief altogether. (the council on july 7 appointed a former officer as interim chief to serve no more than 90 days.)
“what are you afraid of if we don’t do it?” he asked. “what’s going to happen?”

During the meeting’s two opportuni-
ties for public comment, 17 other callers followed mccray, reiterating his points or offering support.
“It seems clear that the mayor, if not the entire council, has lost the trust of the city,” said paloma wake. “the only way to build trust is through transparency and clear communication. your city has been trying to get you to act for months now.”
Numerous callers said that mccray should have been named to the committee charged with overseeing the hiring of a new chief. Instead, the 13-person committee, named two weeks ago, includes stefoneward, another of the organizers of beacon 4 black lives. mccray was “disqualified by the mayor” as a potential member because kyriacou did not agree with comments mccray made during an earlier council meeting, alleged ciarda hall, another beacon 4 black lives organizer.
“How can we trust the integrity of a committee if you’re only choosing people who agree with your shady politics based solely on reinforcing white supremacy and maintaining the status quo?” hall charged. council member terry nelson, who is head of the hiring oversight committee, said wednesday that the city asked ward to join because mccray’s previous comments “led me to believe that he didn’t actually believe in the search” for a chief.
While some callers on monday champi-
ioned massive cuts to the beacon police department, others chastised the council for what they characterized as the slow pace of change.
Linda codega advocated that the city “abolish the police and defund it entirely” while delegating power from the mayor and council to police oversight committees — “a secession of power, which is necessary when radical change is at hand.”
“They cannot wait any longer; they’ve had it,” added barry nelson. “something needs to take place sooner rather than later to give the community some way to trust (that) these people understand.”

The council is scheduled next week to discuss the initiatives that it will address over the coming months, including the beacon 4 black lives proposals.

Q&A: Justice mccray
By jeff simms
justice mccray is an organizer of beacon 4 black lives.
the group has come up with a list of demands for the city council. what’s next?
beacon 4 black lives came about thinking that there were other groups here that would do the implementing and changing of the laws, but we realized that we were the ones listening to peoples’ voices and now they are looking to us. so, we educated ourselves about how we could change things. now we hope the city council will listen to what we’re saying, because we’ve been listening to the community.
you’ve held rallies in beacon since the beginning of june. have you been surprised by the support?
at first it was a shock. normally a protest in beacon is a few people with signs in polhill park getting honked at. this has been an eye-opening experience, but it’s also completely understandable. we’re not telling people how they should feel. we’re educating people and sharing stories about how the black community is hurting here.
where do you want beacon 4 black lives to be in a year?
this organization shouldn’t even have to exist. i’m so happy to fight for the community, but the ones for caring for black lives that are hurting shouldn’t be on young black lives that are also hurting and feeling unrepresented.
what have people in beacon shared with you about their experiences with the police?
one black person who was working for the city told us how he was arrested while doing his work for the city and the police treated him like garbage, just because they thought he looked suspicious. that’s not ok. we’re also seeing issues, not just with the police, but with education and other facets of the community, too.
the state is requiring every police department to create reform plans. will this process address any of those issues?
it is a reform and reimaging plan, and i hope that beacon is not just planning to reform, because that’s just pouring more money into a system that doesn’t work. we want to reimagine what community safety could look like investigating in structures such as social services and mental health services, and to reinvest money into the community, including for municipal broadband. there are a lot of people who don’t have a reliable inter-
net connection, and that’s desperately needed with the school year approaching and students and parents not knowing if they’re going to have fair access to education.
what would you like to see in the city’s next chief?
i question the need for a chief of police. but if we have to have one, i would like to see the hiring process be creative and include full community input and full transparency. i would like to have some one who works from a place of empathy and compassion rather than valuing the rules, even if the rules are hurting people.

Q&A: Mike Confield
By jeff simms
officer mike confield is vice president of the beacon patrolmen’s benevolent association, the union that repre-
sents the city’s law-enforcement officers.
has it been challenging for officers to be assigned to protests or other events they may perceive as anti-police? we don’t have an issue blocking off the streets and allowing people to protest for any reason. if we did, we wouldn’t be doing our jobs. part of wearing a badge is to allow people to express their first amendment rights. a lot of the marchers, regardless of their cause, thank us for being there.
how is morale in the beacon police department?
it’s fairly low, not necessarily because of what’s happening in beacon, but the perception of police across the country. there are a lot of young guys in the department, and during their first few years they’ve experienced a lot of negativity toward the profession. that’s tough for someone who’s 21 or 22 years old.
do you believe the black lives matter movement is anti-police? no. i believe it started as a movement for equality and against police brutality, which we’re all against. i do believe there is a small group, around the country and locally, that uses the black lives matter movement to push an anti-police agenda, and that takes away from the actual message.

is there a need for police reform in beacon?
there’s always room for improvement and if there’s something that makes us more effective, we’re all for it. but we want to be part of the conversation. we don’t want to see change for the sake of change just to appease a crowd. in beacon, we’re an accredited agency, which is not easy. i don’t personally see the problems that are being discussed [as existing] in our department, but if there’s something like bias training or understanding how to deal with an emotionally disturbed person that can help us do our jobs better, we’re all ears.

the pba and mayor’s office issued a statement two weeks ago seemingly declaring a truce. are you guys good? there was a lot of misinformation. we felt alone, like no one was standing up for us. the mayor and i agreed that even if we don’t agree on everything, we’ll keep the lines of communication open.
what would you like to see in the city’s next chief?
a qualified, experienced leader who looks out for the community and employees. we encourage public input, but there are guidelines on who the city can hire. we don’t want people to think we’re picking who we want, because that’s not the case.

is black lives matter an anti-police movement?
beacon 4 black lives is not a chapter of black lives matter, but we do work to uphold the values and principles of the movement. black lives matter is anti-police, because the system of police is rooted in oppression and systemic racism. it is the direct evolution of slave-catching. one of black lives matter’s missions is defunding the police and creat-
ing a system that isn’t based on oppression and discrimination. police who are killing people of color and not being held accountable is not ok. it is not a police officer’s job to be an executioner.

are there misconceptions about beacon 4 black lives?
the biggest one has to do with the phrase “defund the police.” only 3 percent of the work police do in beacon involves stopping violent crimes [based on 2019 police blotter entries], yet 25 percent of the city’s budget goes to them. defunding the police means investing in alternatives such as trained emergency responders for nonviolent or non-criminal calls. this would include, but is not limited to, on-call social workers and investing in mental health services.

is your take on calls to “defund the police?” there are different versions of it — one where people want to find money that could be allocated to other places and then there are calls to completely defund the police, like you don’t need them. i’m never going to say that we don’t need more resources to do our jobs. and taking away all the money from the department would be outrageous. that would destroy what we’ve accomplished here.
Central Hudson workers repair a line in Cold Spring early on Thursday morning.

Storm (from Page 1)

In addition, Casumo directed the New York National Guard to mobilize 50 soldiers with vehicles to Putnam County for cleanup missions and ice and water distribution.

At its peak, the governor said, the storm caused 920,000 power outages, with more than 703,000 remaining as of late Wednesday afternoon. He directed the Department of Public Service to launch an investigation into the responses by Central Hudson and Verizon, among other utilities. Central Hudson reported that 115,000 of its customers lost power, including 44,000 in Dutchess and 36,000 in Putnam. As of 7 a.m. Thursday, about 38,000 customers remained without electrical service, including 16,800 in Dutchess County and 2,000 in Putnam County. Central Hudson said it expected that 90 percent of its customers would have power restored by 11:30 p.m. today (Aug. 7).

The utility said that since the start of the storm it had received reports of 91 broken utility poles and more than 1,600 wires down. It posts updated information at cenhud.com/outages and stormcentral.cenhud.com.

Central Hudson said it had 600 electric line and tree personnel on the job, as well as 100 mutual aid workers who were expected to arrive on Thursday.

RiverWinds Gallery in Beacon to Close

Co-owner: ‘The pandemic has done us in’

The owners of RiverWinds Gallery, which has operated for 17 years on Main Street in Beacon, announced this week that it will close on Aug. 31.

“The pandemic has done us in,” said Mary Ann Glass, one of its co-owners, in a statement. The gallery opened at 172 Main St. in July 2003. A going-out-of-business sale began on Aug. 1 and runs daily from noon to 4 p.m.

“It’s been a painful decision to close,” says Karl LaLonde, another co-owner. “We will miss our artists, our customers, both local people and folks from out of town. And we will miss being part of Beacon’s vibrant artistic community.”

Glass noted that the gallery, which she said is “the longest-running gallery in Beacon,” opened shortly after Dia:Beacon.

“At that time, the west end of Main Street was a bit grim,” she said. “We had a feeling that it was on the edge of change. Our goal when we opened was to provide a place for Hudson Valley artists to sell work to customers who would appreciate such unique and beautiful items.”

State Sends Dutchess, Putnam Funds for COVID Tracers

Also distributes money to expand flu vaccinations

New York State announced on July 30 that it will distribute more than $30 million to counties to hire COVID-19 contact tracers and expand flu shot. Dutchess will receive $917,000 and Putnam, $360,000.

Most of the funds will be sent to local health departments to hire staff to track COVID-19 infections, but $2 million will pay to expand flu vaccinations in an effort to keep people out of hospitals in the fall, when beds may be needed if there is a COVID-19 surge, as some researchers anticipate. More than 22,000 people in New York state were hospitalized during the 2019-20 influenza season, the state said.

To receive the funds, counties will be required to use the NY Communicable Disease Management System (CommCare) for tracing, the state said. The size of the grants is based on each county’s population and its number of COVID-19 infections.

Haldane Football Plans Golf Outing

Fifth annual fundraiser for team

The Haldane High school football team will host its fifth annual golf outing on Friday (Aug. 21) at the Beekman Country Club to raise money for the program.

Teams of four will play to a shotgun start and best-ball format. The cost is $135 per person and runs daily from noon to 4 p.m.

“Anxiety is a common symptom of COVID-19, and it will continue to be present in our patients as they return to their regular routines,” said Dr. Joseph Chillemi, the director of the Center. “Haldane’s annual golf outing is the perfect opportunity to raise money for our patients, while also providing a much-needed outlet for our community during these challenging times.”

DCC Cuts Tuition for High School Students

Online courses begin Aug. 24

Dutchess Community College, which is part of the State University of New York system, announced on July 31 that it will allow high school juniors and seniors and homeschooled students who are at least 16 years old to take classes this fall for a third of its standard tuition rate.

Students must be residents of Dutchess or Putnam counties, and the classes will take place remotely. The discount means credits from DCC will cost $60.67 each. Credits can be used at DCC if a student later attends after graduation or transfers to another school.

The school will hold information sessions at connect.sunydutchess.edu/portal/spotlight at 7 p.m. on Wednesday (Aug. 12) and 6 p.m. on Aug. 18. Classes begin Aug. 24.

DCC, which is based in Poughkeepsie, is moving its Wappingers extension campus to the second floor of the former Macy’s store on Route 9 in Fishkill, near Interstate 84 and adjacent to Home Depot. Classes were scheduled to begin at the new location in the fall but construction was suspended in March because of the pandemic.
Ron DeSilva (1937-2020)

Ronald A. DeSilva, 83, of Garrison, an art historian and authority on American furniture and decorative arts, died July 30.

Ron was born on June 1, 1937, in Providence, Rhode Island, the son of Anthony and Virginia DeSilva. “He spent most of his youth at the Rhode Island School of Design Museum studying all the objects, and I am sure they were imprinted in his brain,” said his wife, Barbara. After graduating from Rhode Island College, Ron was awarded a Fulbright Fellowship and received a Winterthur Fellowship in Early American Culture at the Henry Francis du Pont Winterthur Museum in Delaware.

In 1970, he joined Sotheby Parke-Bernet, where he was assistant vice president and director of the American furniture and decorative arts department, as well as director of the art nouveau department.

In the mid-1970s he operated an antiques business in New York City, and in 1977 returned to the auction world when he was appointed director of the American furniture and decorative arts department at Christie’s New York and vice president of Christie’s Appraisals. In 1980 he opened offices in Garrison, where he offered services as a fine-arts appraiser, consultant and lecturer.

Ron conducted fundraising appraisal clinics and auctions for museums, historical societies and charitable organizations, earning a reputation for his keen eye, expertise and generous sharing of his knowledge. As a consultant to Johns Hopkins University, he researched and completed the furnishing plan for Homewood, the restored home of Charles Carroll Jr., son of Charles Carroll, the signer of the Declaration of Independence.

Ron lectured on a variety of topics throughout the U.S. and at art museums and universities. In 1994 he conducted two symposia entitled “Is It Phyfe?” as part of an exhibition of the same title at Boscobel in Garrison. The object of each seminar was learning to distinguish the difference between the furniture of Duncan Phyfe and other New York cabinetmakers.

Ron served as a member of the board of The Chapel Restoration, the Howland Cultural Center and Riverkeeper. He also served as chairman of the Cold Spring Planning Board, where he worked to create the architectural historic district law. (See Page 7)

Besides his wife, he is survived by his son, Matthew DeSilva (Rosemary) and grand-daughter, Lucia, as well as his siblings, Deborah Brady and Stanley DeSilva.

Memorial donations may be made to The Chapel Restoration (chapelrestoration.org), Riverkeeper (riverkeeper.org) and the Winterthur Museum (winterthur.org).

Joseph Powell (1954-2020)

Joseph Powell, 65, formerly of Beacon, died July 22 in Catersville, Georgia.

Born Oct. 13, 1954, Joseph was the son of Nathaniel and Leeanna Powell. He grew up in Glenham with 12 siblings and attended Glenham and Beacon schools, where he was a standout basketball, football and baseball player.

Joseph was part of a Beacon varsity basketball team that went 21-1 during the 1972-73 season. He was known as a “gentle giant,” his family said, and loved fishing, sports and music.

He is survived by his daughter, Tattiana Powell, and granddaughters, Trania Kirby and Narelle Washington, as well as his siblings: Delores Brown, Regina Powell, Michael Powell, Kevin Powell, Timothy Powell and David Powell, all of Florida; Curtis Powell and Cynthia Powell of Georgia; John Powell and Patricia Brock of New York; and two aunts, Lily Kate Richardson and Lily Ruth Carr of New Jersey.

A memorial service will be held at the Beacon river basketball court at 2 p.m. on Aug. 15.

Other Recent Deaths

Beacon

George Bradley Jr., 78
Adela Dubiel, 91
Rafaela Ducasse, 77
Reinaldo Martinez, 63

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

CrossCurrent

ACROSS
1. Autumn mo.
4. “— Breckinridge”
8. Drag along
12. That girl
13. Quite some time
14. Shrek is one
15. Remiss
16. Flattery
18. Eye-related
20. Marry
21. Hen pen
24. Famous
28. Flowering vine
32. Clinton veep
33. Standard
34. Billow
36. Watch chain
37. Sister of Osiris
39. Grump
41. Eighth Greek letter
43. Rip
44. Historic period
46. Healthy
50. Dairy item
51. Aye opponent
52. Heap
54. Evergreen type
56. Hen pen
57. Web address
58. Conk out
59. Choir member
60. Vail gear
61. On in years

DOWN
1. Norway’s capital
2. Fellow
3. Libretto
4. Team animals?
5. Evergreen type
6. Caviar, really
7. From the start
8. Frank
9. — Khan
10. Web address
11. Albanian money
17. Coffee break hour
19. Lemieux milieu
22. Piece of work
23. 1992 presidential candidate
25. Bean curd
26. Cupid’s alias
27. Society newbies
28. Skewer
29. Launder
30. One of HOMES
31. Chills and fever
32. Clinton veep
33. Standard
34. Billow
36. Watch chain
37. Sister of Osiris
39. Grump
41. Eighth Greek letter
43. Rip
44. Historic period
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61. On in years

19. Lemieux milieu scholar
22. Piece of work audiophile’s setup
23. 1992 presidential candidate expert
25. Bean curd weaponry
26. Cupid’s alias weaponry
27. Society newbies weaponry
28. Skewer weaponry
29. Launder weaponry
30. One of HOMES weaponry
31. Chills and fever weaponry
32. Clinton veep weaponry
33. Standard weaponry
34. Billow weaponry
36. Watch chain weaponry
37. Sister of Osiris weaponry
39. Grump weaponry
41. Eighth Greek letter weaponry
43. Rip weaponry
44. Historic period weaponry
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SudoCurrent

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

Country Goose
115 Main St.
Cold Spring, NY 10516
845-265-2122

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Maps as Preventive Medicine

Trail stewards wrangle crowds and COVID

By Brian PJ Cronin

It was 9 a.m. on a clear, blue Saturday morning, with both sides of Route 9D already lined with cars, when a group of hikers approached a folding table at the Breakneck Ridge trailhead. Behind the table, Michael Murphy readied an array of maps, Silvia Petluri thumbed a clicker to count the visitors (70 since 8:30 a.m.) and Rich Zayas smiled widely, or he appeared to, beneath his mask.

“My name is Rich Zayas,” he said, “and I’m a trail steward.”

He didn’t say much more until the group approached. By the time the stewards left at the end of the day, 915 hikers had passed.

“It was a slow day. A typical deep summer Saturday at Breakneck, which by volume is the most popular hiking trail east of the Mississippi, might bring closer to 1,200 hikers. In the past, according to surveys, about a third of the hikers came from New York City, but Metro-North is not making its usual stops at Breakneck Ridge because of the pandemic. Many hikers have been asking the stewards to direct them to less popular trails to avoid the crowds at Breakneck and a few other hotspots, such as Bear Mountain.

“I’m of the mindset that this land is for everybody, so we all have to take part in preserving it,” she said.

She was interrupted by barking. A small white dog rounded the corner, dragging its owner. “What happened?” asked Petluri, since the stewards recommend not doubling back down the steep face of Breakneck.

“That hero, but no one ever thinks that they’ll be the ones who need help. That tactic worked on a group of younger hikers as they begrudgingly took maps and headed up the trail. Out of earshot of the stewards, one grumbled that he didn’t think they would need maps.

“No one thinks they need a map until they get lost,” said one of his friends.

Sometimes the stewards station themselves at trail intersections, which Petluri said she enjoyed. A New Jersey native with an interest in education and the environment, she hiked Breakneck last year for its usual stops at Breakneck Ridge because of the pandemic. Many hikers have been asking the stewards to direct them to less popular trails to avoid the crowds at Breakneck that make it difficult to social distance. About 90 percent of the hikers wear masks, the stewards said, although most don’t put them on until they get to the busy trailhead.

Experienced hikers who have already scaled Breakneck still show up. The stewards know them as the people who already have maps. But with outdoor recreation being one of the safer leisure activities during the COVID-19 shutdown, more inexperienced hikers are showing up ill-prepared. One couple on this Saturday said they planned to hike from Breakneck to the Mount Beacon fire tower and back.

“OK, great,” said Zayas. “Just so you know, that’s an all-day hike, and you’re going to want to have at least three liters of water per person because there’s not a lot of shade once you get up on the ridge.”

They opted for a different route. Sometimes the stewards station themselves at trail intersections, which Petluri said she enjoyed. A New Jersey native with an interest in education and the environment, she hiked Breakneck last year for its usual stops at Breakneck Ridge because of the pandemic. Many hikers have been asking the stewards to direct them to less popular trails to avoid the crowds at Breakneck that make it difficult to social distance. About 90 percent of the hikers wear masks, the stewards said, although most don’t put them on until they get to the busy trailhead.

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