

The HIGHLANDS Current

AUGUST 21, 2020

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RARE APPEARANCE — The lotus flower is an important symbol in every major religion and is particularly prevalent in Hindu and Buddhist imagery. Once a year, it blooms from dank and dark mud in shallow water for two to three days and then is gone, an example of the brevity of life. This flower bloomed on Aug. 16 in Philipstown in the Route 9 garden of Chakra Oeur and Sokhara Kim, owners of Nice & Neat Dry Cleaning and a Cambodian food cart that is open most Sundays during the summer.

Photo by Ross Corsair

New Interim Police Chief in Beacon

Policy changes also to be implemented

By Jeff Simms

The Beacon City Council on Monday (Aug. 17) named a new interim police chief while adopting sweeping law-enforcement policy changes.

The council voted unanimously to appoint Lt. Sands Frost, a 37-year veteran of the Police Department, as acting chief, replacing William Cornett, who resigned on Monday, six weeks after being named the department's temporary head. Cornett, who retired from the Beacon force in 2002, was appointed on July 6, the day before the

retirement of Kevin Junjulas, a Cold Spring resident who had been chief since 2018.

Cornett's appointment was met with immediate pushback. The vice president of the Beacon Patrolmen's Benevolent Association, the union that represents city officers, dismissed Cornett as a friend of Mayor Lee Kyriacou and said he lacked certification for the job.

On Monday, Kyriacou said that he asked Cornett to step in when "the council faced the option of not having an internal candidate" for the interim job. Shortly thereafter, Frost expressed interest in the position, Kyriacou said, which was "a bit of a surprise to everyone."

Frost's appointment is good for 90 days,

which Kyriacou said "we hope will be sufficient" to bridge the gap until the city names a permanent chief.

The council also on Monday adopted a lengthy resolution announcing its plan for the "evaluation and rethinking of community public safety services."

The resolution includes nearly a dozen policy changes, some of which are similar to the list of "demands" issued by the Beacon 4 Black Lives group two weeks ago. Although "there may be some extra steps" required to meet Gov. Andrew Cuomo's order for municipalities to submit police



Lt. Sands Frost

(Continued on Page 7)

Gyms Get OK to Open

State relents amid class-action lawsuit

By Leonard Sparks

Keith Laug, who owns Zoned Fitness in Beacon, was watching when Gov. Andrew Cuomo announced Monday (Aug. 17) that gyms and other fitness centers could reopen after being ordered closed for the past five months to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

For Laug, the announcement was both long-overdue and just in time.

"We were on the edge for a while," he said. "There was a couple of times I contemplated just shutting it down."

Under Cuomo's order, gyms and fitness businesses like pilates and yoga studios can reopen by appointment only beginning Monday (Aug. 24), with capacity limited to 33 percent, masks required, mandatory inspections by the local health department and minimum requirements for air filtration and ventilation.

The announcement came just over a month after the state reversed plans to let gyms reopen in July, a decision that prompted a class-action lawsuit.

Laura Abby, who co-owns The Studio @ Beacon with her wife, Samantha Abby, said reopening "feels daunting" — in part

(Continued on Page 9)



Anthony DiPippo speaks in New York City in 2018 in support of a bill that would establish the nation's first commission to investigate prosecutorial misconduct.

Photo by Mark J. Sullivan/ZUMA Wire

DiPippo Gets \$12 Million in Putnam Settlement

Acquitted in third murder trial after 20 years in jail

By Chip Rowe

Anthony DiPippo, who was twice convicted of raping and murdering a 12-year-old Carmel girl before being acquitted in a third trial in 2016, will receive \$12 million in the settlement of a federal civil-rights lawsuit he filed against Putnam County.

The settlement will cost the county \$200,000, with the remainder covered by insurance. The Legislature voted 8-1 on Aug. 11 to approve the agreement, with Nancy Montgomery (D-Philipstown) cast-

ing the lone "no" vote.

District Attorney Robert Tandy condemned the Legislature's decision, calling it "incomprehensible and indefensible." In a response, County Executive MaryEllen Odell, who supported the settlement, dismissed Tandy's reaction as "an emotional response in a case where two prior district attorneys obtained convictions but he was unable to do so." (See Page 22.)

DiPippo and Andrew Krivak were convicted of second-degree murder in separate trials in 1997 for their alleged participation in the 1994 rape and murder of Josette Wright, 12. Her remains were discovered in Patterson in November 1995, more than a

(Continued on Page 21)

5Q FIVE QUESTIONS: JAMES THOMASHOWER

By Brian PJ Cronin

James Thomashower, who lives in Garrison, is executive director of the American Guild of Organists.

What is the American Guild of Organists?

It's the world's leading association serving amateur and professional organists. About 95 percent of our members play in churches and synagogues, but we also have recitalists who play in places like Carnegie Hall — well, not actually Carnegie Hall, because it doesn't have an organ. I wish it did!

Your OrganFest this year was called "Beauty in the Midst of Chaos." I'm assuming that's a reference to COVID?

Yes. We have a national convention in even-numbered years, and it's the largest convention for organists in the world. It was scheduled for Atlanta, but we had to cancel. Many people were already signed up, and everyone was looking forward to seeing each other, so we had a virtual convention, although we didn't call it a convention because no one was convening. We had



world premieres of commissioned music recorded in settings all over the country.

Has COVID been particularly difficult for organists?

Absolutely. Our membership has struggled because congregations have not been allowed to gather and fill the pews the way they normally would. Some churches have opened but you have to sit 6 feet apart,

which doesn't make for the optimal worship experience. That said, quite a few churches have been recording services for Facebook or YouTube. So, the organist comes into the church with the pastor, who conducts a service, the organist plays, and the whole thing unspools on a Sunday morning.

Are there any notable organs in our area?

The West Point Chapel has a spectacular instrument, and I commend it to everyone's attention. There's a new organ at St. Philip's Church in Garrison, but the inaugural concerts were postponed because of COVID.

Do you play the organ yourself?

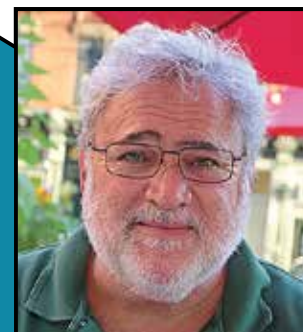
No, I come from an association management background. My first job in the industry was with an organization for accountants. Then I moved to another accounting organization, although I don't have an accounting background, either. I'm an English major from Columbia University. But I'm a native New Yorker and at my last job, in Virginia, I felt out of my element. So I looked for a job in the Northeast, and my wife pointed out an ad for the opening at the American Guild of Organists in a paper and said, "James, this is your job."

ON THE SPOT

By Michael Turton

Who is the most influential person in history?

“ Leonardo da Vinci. He was one of the most creative inventors of all time; his inventions are still with us today. ”



~ Larry Cohen, Beacon (Dad)

“ President Franklin D. Roosevelt, because he saved the world from being taken over by the Axis powers. ”



~ Melissa Cohen, Beacon (Daughter)

“ Eve, because without her there would have been no da Vinci or Roosevelt. ”



~ Thomy Majoneza, Cold Spring



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NEWS BRIEFS

Worker Killed in Glenham Accident

Crushed while installing water lines

An Ossining man was killed in a construction accident on Wednesday (Aug. 19) in the hamlet of Glenham.

Marcos Daniel Espinoza-Guallpa, 38, was crushed by a front-end loader around 7:10 a.m., said Lt. Paul Schettino of the Town of Fishkill Police. The victim was part of an ELQ Industries crew installing underground municipal water lines on Old Town Road, he said.

Paramedics worked to save Espinoza-Guallpa for 40 minutes but were unable to revive him, Schettino said.

Beacon May Delay First Day of School

Haldane will start with half days

The Beacon City School District may delay the start of instruction from Sept. 8 to Sept. 14.

Under the plan, which must be approved by the school board, Sept. 10 and 11 would be designated for student orientation, with in-person and remote instruction beginning on the new date. The change will allow the district to hold two days of training on Sept. 8 and 9 for teachers, said Superintendent Matt Landahl.

At Haldane, the school board approved changes to the calendar that will allow for teacher training on Sept. 1 and 2 before school begins with half days on Sept. 3 and 4. Garrison will begin school on Sept. 2, as previously scheduled.

Beacon Hebrew Alliance to Celebrate 100 Years

Looking for artifacts, documents and volunteers

In anticipation of its 100th anniversary in May 2021, Beacon Hebrew Alliance is looking for documents, photographs and objects that relate to its history, such as religious artifacts, programs from services or photos from BHA events.

The Centennial Committee asks that anyone with something to share take a digital photo of the object or scan photos and documents and email Diane Lapis at dlapis@beaconhistorical.org. The committee can assist with scanning.

The committee also is looking for volunteers for fundraising, marketing, design, editing (text, audio and video), photography, interviewing, research, event planning and sponsorships. Email ellen@beaconhebrewalliance.org.

Maloney Accepting Service Academy Applications

Nomination required; deadline is Oct. 30

The office of Rep. Sean Patrick Maloney, whose district includes the Highlands, is accepting applications from students

interested in attending one of the nation's service academies. The deadline is Oct. 30.

A congressional nomination is required for students interested in attending West Point, the Naval Academy in Annapolis, the Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs or the Merchant Marine Academy in King's Point, New York. The Coast Guard Academy in New London, Connecticut, does not require a congressional nomination.

Students who are residents of the 18th Congressional District, and who will be between the ages of 17 and 23 on July 1, 2021, can download an application at sean-maloney.house.gov or call 845-561-1259 for more information.

Spirit of Beacon Day Goes Virtual

Will host drive-thru and online celebration

The Spirit of Beacon Committee on Aug. 18 has announced that the traditional in-person parade and festival will not be held this year because of COVID-19 health and safety guidelines.

Instead, the event will take place with virtual and safely distanced events on Sunday, Sept. 27, including a neighborhood drive-thru of vehicles decorated by organizations, schools, community groups, veterans and first responders. Spectators along the routes will be encouraged to decorate their lawns, yards and windows.

A virtual concert will be livestreamed on Facebook and at the Spirit of Beacon website, with video messages, musical performances, art and photographs. Submissions are being accepted through Sept. 7. See spiritofbeacon.org.

Sheriff Warns of Auto Thefts

Advises residents to lock parked vehicles

Putnam and Westchester counties have been experiencing a spike in auto thefts, according to Putnam County Sheriff Robert Langley Jr.

Many thefts occur because owners leave their vehicles unlocked with key fobs in the vehicle parked at home, work and car dealerships, he said. He advised residents to always lock your vehicle and to remove or hide valuables, and warned against leaving house keys in a vehicle or attached to key fobs.

He said that most thefts and break-ins have occurred between 3 and 5 a.m.

Comp Plan Committee Seeks Feedback

Survey of residents on economic development

The Philipstown Comprehensive Plan Update Committee is asking that residents complete a survey online regarding housing, infrastructure, recreation and economic development in the town.

The survey, which is the second the committee has conducted of residents, will remain available through Sept. 30. See philipstown2020.org to respond.

What Members are Saying...



From climate change to coronavirus, Black Lives Matter to “Living on the Edge,” *The Highlands Current* consistently goes further than we expect, covering local stories with a level of attention that the whole world deserves. It’s a small-town newspaper for the 21st Century. No wonder Roger Ailes was so afraid of it.

Jaanika Peerna and David Rothenberg, Cold Spring
FRIEND Members



THANK YOU TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

As a nonprofit that provides quality journalism free to our community, *The Highlands Current* depends on our members for support. Today we add these names to our annual membership ranks. We are grateful for their recognition of the important role journalism plays in our community and 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. The full list of our members is on our website at

highlandscurrent.org/members

To become a member with your tax-deductible donation and help us continue to improve and expand our coverage of the Hudson Highlands, especially in this difficult time, visit

highlandscurrent.org/join

or write to *The Highlands Current* at 142 Main St., Cold Spring, NY 10516.

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Tell us what you think

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

LETTERS AND COMMENTS

Bring a map

The number of lost hikers I encounter on Mount Beacon when biking on the old Jeep trails is wild ("Out There: Maps as Preventive Medicine," Aug. 7). They usually have no idea where they are and are happy to see someone. Earlier this year, I found a group near Melzingah that was looking for the main parking lot, where they had started. They were out of water, wearing sandals and still hiking south without a map.

Tom Cerchiara, *Beacon*

Census time

Is a census worth the time, effort and money for taxpayers ("Count, or Undercount? Aug. 14)? All of the major companies in the U.S. have marketing people who continually use statistical methods to obtain the same information, and much more. These methods are more accurate and cost much less.

Note: I completed the census online the first week it was available.

Larry Fitzpatrick, *Fishkill*

Human rights

The fact that the Putnam County Legislature did not pass a resolution to create a Human Rights Commission is an outrage ("Putnam Says 'No' to Human Rights Commission," Aug. 14). One legislator basically said we don't have problems like racism and homophobia here.

Only a few weeks ago there was graffiti in Cold Spring that read "Death to Gays." Black students in the area have been coming forward with stories of racism in their

schools. Putnam is not magically protected from discrimination, and it's astonishing to me that people in positions of power would not do everything possible to protect people in their own communities. I applaud Legislator Nancy Montgomery [who represents Philipstown] for her continued efforts.

There is a Human Rights Commission at a state level with investigative powers. A county-level commission would be more immediate and be able to enact policy change more swiftly. It would allow the community to raise awareness and act accordingly. The state commission should continue to exist and our community should take responsibility for rooting out local discriminatory practices.

Natalie Arneson, *via Facebook*

Power lines

In a letter in the Aug. 7 issue, Assemblyman Jonathan Jacobson [whose district includes Beacon] said he had introduced legislation to have the Public Service Commission study the feasibility and costs of burying power lines throughout the state, to avoid the sort of outages we encountered with Tropical Storm Isaias.

I have had lengthy discussions on Facebook about this issue. Participants have been straightforward and rational. Some who have worked in utilities raised serious and credible objections to burying power lines here. I believe they know what they are talking about and are not simply opposing what seems like a good idea because of industry affiliation.

I have forwarded some of the materials they provided to Jacobson. I am afraid the

Correction

In the Aug. 14 issue, we stated in a caption that Frederick Douglass had spoken in Newburgh on Aug. 11, 1870, to push for the passage of the 15th Amendment, which extended voting rights to African-Americans. In fact, Douglass was on a lecture tour to celebrate the amendment, which had been ratified earlier that year. The amendment granted the right to vote only to African-American men; women would not be allowed to vote until the ratification of the Nineteenth Amendment a century ago, on Aug. 18, 1920.

idea of burying power lines is not going to get very far here because of feasibility issues, not political ones.

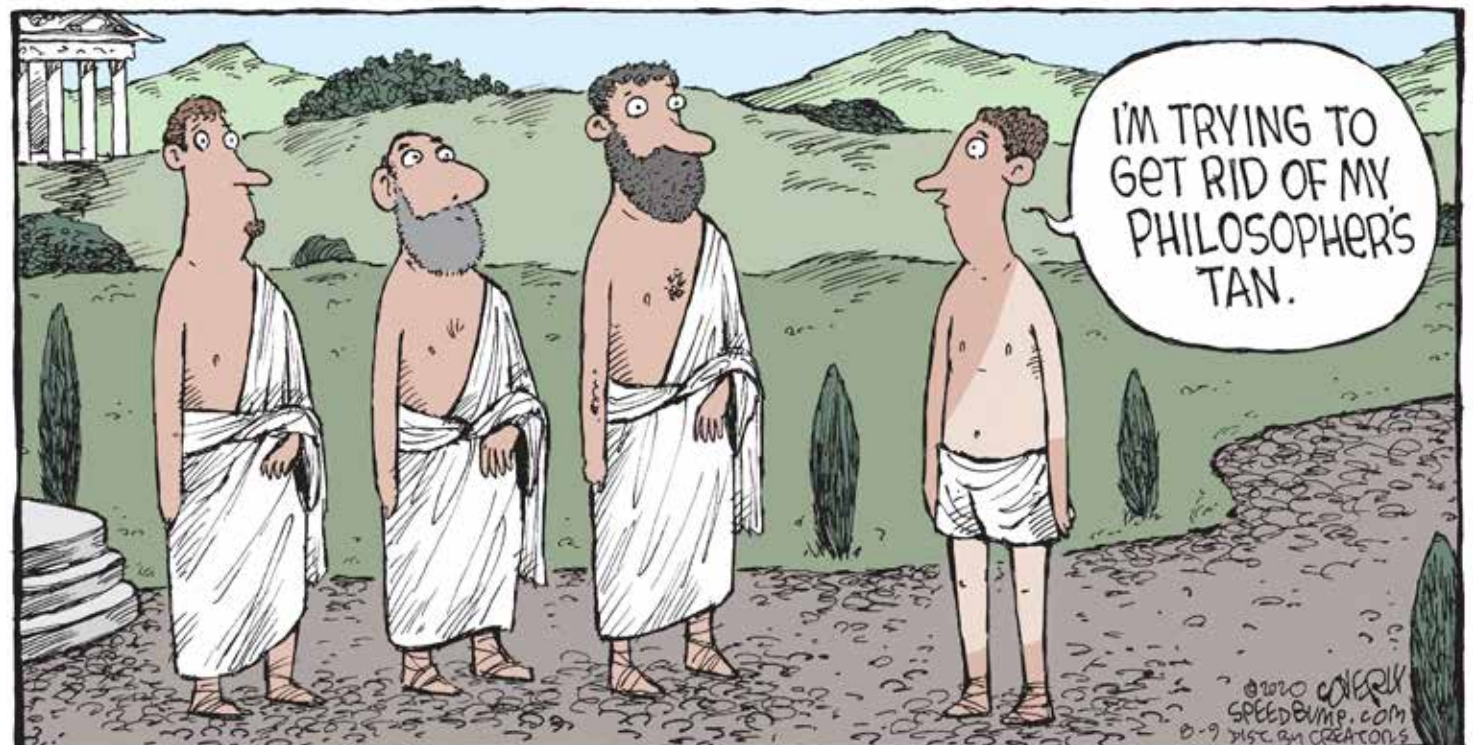
That said, I would love to see alternatives to losing power every time we have a serious storm, or to butchering the landscape, or to noisy, smelly generators. It would be great if we could all put our heads together in good faith and come up with solutions.

David Limburg, *Nelsonville*

What a waste of time. There is no one who has money for that type of project, especially since COVID-19 has destroyed the economy. Besides, how often do we lose power in the Hudson Valley? Buy a generator if you are worried about it.

John Ruseskas, *via Facebook*

(Continued on Page 5)



LETTERS AND COMMENTS

(Continued from Page 4)

This is not a new idea: It's been discussed for more than 30 years. If they had started 30 years ago, most of the transmission lines would already be underground. It is also safer.

Gene Luicci, *via Facebook*

Women can vote

A century ago, on Aug. 18, 1920, the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution was ratified, giving women the right to vote.

Two years ago, I visited Seneca Falls for a Women's Equality Conference. The trip made me think about our state's rich history as the epicenter for the women's rights movement. It also reminded me that many of our rights can easily be taken for granted. It is so important that we pay homage to those brave, bold women who paved the way for us and for the next generation of girls.

Suffragettes gathered in Seneca Falls in 1848. There, they wrote a Declaration of Sentiments that laid out the inequities in the law that seem so outrageous by today's standards, such as not allowing women to vote, earn money, own property and achieve a college education. I encourage everyone to read it. [See bit.ly/declaration-of-sentiments.] It was an inspiration for the suffrage movement that lasted into the late 1910s, when women mobilized to convince male members of Congress to pass the 19th Amendment.

Most of us are aware of the inequities that still persist for women and that our work is far from over. However, it is also important to remember how far we have come. We must all exercise our right to vote this November, and in every election, to say thank you to all those women before us who made voting possible. Remember the history: It took more than 70 years to get the right to vote for women.

Sandy Galef, *Albany*
Galef's district in the state Assembly includes Philipstown.

Village candidates

Thank you to all who signed my nominating petition to get my name on the ballot for Cold Spring village trustee in November.

Between the heatwave and the COVID anxiety many of us feel, it was a hard time for folks to open their doors. Still, neighbors on every single village block did — as well as in the Butterfield condos, Springbrook, Forge Gate and Chestnut Ridge. Among them were members of our civic associations and institutions — the fire company, Chamber of Commerce, public library, PTA, boat club, all our standing boards, the current village trustees and both Town Board members who live in the Village. I'm grateful.

Although I am running unopposed, I still have to earn your vote. You should know who I am, what I have to offer and why I'm running.

Village elections are independent. I chose Forge Ahead for a party name because it speaks to our industrial history as a foundry town and because it's what we have to do together, right now.

We must forge ahead in challenging financial times, making tough choices that will help us continue to deliver essential

Counting the Highlands

Response rates to the 2020 U.S. census, as of Aug. 19, along with historical data, are at right. The Census Bureau is contacting households that have not responded and also sending census-takers to knock on doors to meet a Sept. 30 deadline.

services with reduced state and federal aid.

We must forge ahead in the COVID pandemic to protect our health, maintain our sense of community and keep local businesses open.

We must forge ahead with climate preparedness initiatives that protect our riverfront and built environment.

We must forge ahead with difficult community conversations, in ways that people who hold differing views are heard, understood and work together toward solutions.

In the coming weeks, I will reach out electronically and personally, in socially distanced ways. It's not the ideal way for you to vet a candidate, but it's where we are this election season. We'll make it work. Meantime, feel free to contact me at forgeaheadwithfoley@gmail.com or text 347-721-2086.

Kathleen Foley, *Cold Spring*

Even though I'm running unopposed for village trustee, it's important to me that village residents understand why I'm running.

Our needs as a village are different because of COVID-19. When we look at the budget in 2021, I'd like to see where we can all best be served and how we can plan for the future. Would emergency medical technician services for the village be beneficial? What does our library need to help the transition? How can we support parents who are working and have no child care or

	2020	2010	2000	1990
Cold Spring	69.2	69.1	71	72
Putnam County	67.0	66.8	67	56
Philipstown	67.0	66.2	67	64
Nelsonville	65.2	66.5	67	65
18th District	64.3	66.0	-	-
National	64.0	67.2	65	61
Beacon	63.1	65.8	54	66
Dutchess County	62.8	65.7	68	64
New York State	59.8	64.6	67	62
New York City	56.2	64.0	55	53
Newburgh	41.7	50.2	45	44

Source: 2020census.gov

school? How can we support teachers who are reinventing the way they teach? I'd like to work with our residents to examine all of our evolving needs, even if the answers are difficult or the goals seem lofty.

Now is a time to be good to each other and to reinvent the way we function as a community so that we can all bear the isolation and the uncertainty. This includes examining racial injustice and intolerance in our village. Two incidents of hate graffiti in two years is too many. Now is the time to actively counteract a history of the KKK in this area. Let's examine our policies and our attitudes and see if we're the kind of village that really, truly welcomes all.

We all want the pandemic to end, and we have the power to keep our infection rates low. Let's look at what works in other places and see what could be applied here. How can we better maximize our use of public spaces for residents? Can we prioritize bike lanes? What environmental concerns do we need to address to ensure an enjoyable future of our beautiful village for all? We want to see one another so let's map the safest way to do that sustainably.

I'd also like to continue the conversation about the safest way for Main Street businesses to stay in business. I both live on Main Street and have a business here. Empty storefronts make a difficult year even harder, and we're all struggling. So, let's lift each other up. I realize that tourism can

come with drawbacks for full-time residents, but a vibrant Main Street can give a village its heart. We're here for you year-round, and every merchant wants to be a store that supports the character of our village. At the same time, we know Putnam County should be giving the village a percentage of the sales tax revenue that we generate and I know we all want to work toward that goal, however difficult it might be. In the meantime, it's worthwhile to keep our Main Street a place where residents can find connection.

If elected, I'm looking forward to working with Marie Early, Fran Murphy, Mayor Dave Merandy and Kathleen Foley, all of whom are extremely knowledgeable. The current board — Dave, Marie, Fran, Steve Voloto and Lynn Miller — have given a tremendous amount of time and energy keeping our town functioning and keeping us safe. I know the hours they've spent. And I understand that there's a lot of day-to-day items to deal with first and foremost in order to make these bigger initiatives possible. I'm ready to do the work.

Heidi Bender, *Cold Spring*

Remembering V-J Day

In 1941, three world powers threatened the safety and freedom of the world, necessitating the U.S. to enter the war against the Axis countries. Over the next four years, men and women volunteered or were drafted in the defense of the U.S. on the two-front war. Seventy-five years ago this month, on Aug. 14 1945, World War II ended with the surrender of Japan.

Today we celebrate the sacrifices made by the greatest generation, not just by the military veterans but by civilians who lost family members to the war. Civilians at home also made sacrifices via food and gasoline rationing, but overcame with Victory Gardens and prayer.

All veterans swear an oath to defend the U.S. from all enemies both foreign and domestic. That oath is irrevocable! We veterans are proud of our service to this great country as we praise the veterans who came before us.

Thank you again to the greatest generation. We will carry on your legacy.

Harold Delamater, *Beacon*
Delamater is the commander of Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 666.

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CURRENT CONVERSATIONS

Terry Nelson,
Beacon City Council

Join us for a discussion about Beacon's search for a new police chief, upcoming departmental reform and other issues on the City Council's agenda.

WEDNESDAY AUG. 26TH 7:00 – 7:30 P.M.
Register to attend the live Zoom event:
highlandscurrent.org/current-conversations





Teachers: Schools Not Ready

In statement, ask for more safeguards

This week, the presidents of 50 teacher and staff unions in the Mid-Hudson Valley posted an “open letter” (below) addressed to communities in Putnam, Westchester, Orange and Rockland counties.

Among the signers were Andrea McCue of the Haldane Faculty Association, Robin Waters of the Garrison Teachers Association, Michael Lillis of the Lakeland Federation of Teachers, Ryan Odell of the Putnam Valley Federation of Teachers and Catherine Armisto of the United Staff Association at Putnam-Northern Westchester BOCES.

We feel compelled to write to you in a shared voice, as there are universal elements to our concerns about re-entry into the schools this September. It is important to note that this is a discussion about re-entry, not reopening. The education of children is, and has always been, our top concern. One truth that cannot be ignored as a necessary precursor to any successful model of instruction is a safe learning space. Though we will open this September for instruction, the only question is the modality of that instruction.

All districts in New York were required to create a re-entry plan that addressed three options: full virtual, hybrid, and full in-person instruction.

The hybrid model is the most popular one for re-entry, but it poses significant risks. The hybrid model requirement gained traction in the state early on, but unfortunately, most of what we have recently learned about COVID-19 and children calls the safety of this model into question.

These risks are not a reflection of inadequate efforts by any one district or administrative team in protecting the children and staff in their schools. Rather, they are inherent inadequacies when a system designed around instructing students is tasked with creating learning environ-

ments that will protect children and teachers during a viral pandemic.

Additionally, there has been a failure in state and federal governments to ensure that adequate testing, personal protective equipment (PPE) and HVAC filtration systems are readily available.

The requirements for the district plans were provided by the governor’s office and the state education department in the middle of July and they were to be completed by July 31. The governor even added new testing and contact tracing requirements in the first week of August.

To create truly safe reentry plans districts would require more time, direction and resources. It is telling that neither the state nor federal governments have provided additional resources to help ensure a safe re-entry. Districts have been on their own.

Educators approach every task with a “can-do” attitude. Throughout the months of July and August, teams in each district leaned in and got the job done. The plans were made and it is truly impressive work. The problem, however, is that they are plans to meet government requirements for safety; they are not necessarily plans to make the schools as safe as they can be.

The limits of these plans could be seen close to home this summer when the Greenburgh-North Castle school experienced an outbreak of COVID-19, despite meeting or exceeding all Department of Health guidelines and having a very small student population.

As anyone with any experience planning school events can attest, even the best plans on paper never match what happens once actual students are brought in. Every plan assumes a well-behaved student body that will follow all directives and maintain masks and social distancing, even during hall passing. Plans assume we will be able to hire enough leave replacements, substitutes and monitors to supervise students in the next three weeks. This will not occur.

When schools reopen with the potential of being understaffed, it will make an already unsafe situation even worse.

In every survey conducted about reentry, the most important condition people have is that the schools be safe. The phrase “Maslow before Bloom” [i.e., that basic human needs must be addressed before learning can occur] is never more applicable than the current situation. It is irrational to expect students will be able to learn in any reasonable manner, when their teachers and classrooms are constantly conveying the need for vigilance in mask-wearing and social distancing.

The constant need for vigilance cannot help but be internalized as fear and anxiety. At best, schools will be more similar to a well-meaning prison than an actual rich learning environment where thoughts can be shared and joy can be expressed.

Before we can return to schools we must be sure that every reasonable precaution has been met in order for schools to be safe. The goal cannot be to just mitigate risk, but to create the safest possible learning environment. Many of these requirements go well beyond the capability of an individual school district and require action at the state or federal level. We may feel powerless to secure what is necessary; that, however, does not change the reality of its necessity.

To ensure that in-person instruction begins safely, every school district should be putting into place the following measures that create the highest health and safety standards for our students, teachers and staff:

- All building-wide HVAC systems must be upgraded to a minimum of MERV-13 filtration, and if existing systems cannot be upgraded, portable units with HEPA filtration must be available for all indoor spaces.
- There must be uniform standards for COVID testing that help monitor

asymptomatic spread. COVID testing must provide accurate and reliable results within 24 hours in order to monitor asymptomatic spread. The current wait time can be as high as 12 days, which is not adequate to help prevent the spread by asymptomatic individuals in our schools.

- Supply lines must be prioritized to deliver all necessary PPE to schools in a timely fashion. All schools must have an adequate supply of PPE at all times, including enhanced PPE for students and employees who require it.
- Districts must be able to guarantee that there is sufficient staff to supervise students and provide instruction, even as individual staff members are absent for illness or quarantine, child-care, or personal leaves.
- There must be a 100 percent virtual option for teachers and students who are medically compromised.
- Plans should require a minimum 14-day shutdown once closed for COVID-19 issues.

Last year was the most challenging instructional year any teacher experienced. There is no teacher who looks forward to beginning the year using remote instruction. Everything about teaching virtually is more complicated. For educators, their classroom is their space. It is where they conjure children’s dreams and give them the tools to fulfill them. Computers are sterile imposters that rob the experience of the richness of our relationships with our students.

Educators and students need to not only feel safe, but must actually be safe in their working and learning environments. Districts need to strive to meet these expectations. There is too much at stake to fall short of the safest possible model.

Police Chief *(from Page 1)*

reform plans by April 1, Kyriacou said on Wednesday that he expects the governor's order and the council's resolution to largely cover the same ground.

The resolution calls for the new chief to begin his or her tenure "with a thorough review of police training, culminating in a data-driven set of recommendations for improving" the department's training and measuring its benefits.

It also directs the new chief to examine the city's policy on psychological supportive care for officers and calls for a multi-year schedule for implicit bias training for all city staff, including police.

While Beacon 4 Black Lives and activist organizations nationally have called for municipalities to "defund the police," the Beacon resolution uses slightly different language, noting that, as its changes are implemented, the council will consider the implications of the new policies "with the intention to redirect cost savings toward community investments."

The resolution, which passed unanimously, is "not intended to be anti-police," but to be "supportive of the whole community," said Council Member Air Rhodes, who drafted much of its language.

Several residents called into the video-conferenced meeting to express their support, although another, Theresa Kraft, called the resolution "overcomplicated rhetoric, and not worth the paper it's written on," before asking, "What happens when a situation escalates and there is no one with police training at the scene?"

In June, in addition to the executive order requiring 500 jurisdictions statewide to come up with plans for reforming their police departments, Cuomo signed into law the Say Their Name agenda, which allowed the public and media to receive the disciplinary records of officers; banned chokeholds; prohibited false, race-based 911 calls; and designated the state attorney general

Finding a Chief

Beacon officials on Monday asked community members to complete a survey at surveyMonkey.com/r/BeaconCommunity about their experiences with the Police Department and what they would like to see in the city's next chief.

On Wednesday (Aug. 26), Beacon City Council Member Terry Nelson, who chairs the committee that is overseeing the search for a new chief, will speak with Beacon Editor Jeff Simms in a *Current Conversation* scheduled for 7 p.m. by Zoom.

See highlandscurrent.org/current-conversations to register.



Nelson

as an independent prosecutor to investigate the deaths of unarmed civilians caused by law enforcement.

The governor's office on Monday issued its latest guidelines for police reforms, saying that local officials "must work together with the community and their police forces to develop and implement reforms for a safer, fairer policing standard."

The new state guidelines, which fill 139 pages, outline ways that communities can determine the role of their police departments, as well as appropriate staffing and budgeting. The guidelines also dig into community policing and strategies for addressing racial disparities, and for creating community-oriented leadership and a culture of accountability.

The directions conclude with a primer on recruiting and supporting "excellent personnel," along with strategies for developing a collaborative reform plan.

legislation modeled by the NYSAC would give county officials and sheriffs "shared authority" with the state to determine staffing levels.

Legislators approved the resolution with little discussion.

Questions about staffing at the county jail arose in May at a Protective Services Committee meeting, when Neal Sullivan (R-Mahopac) said although he believed staffing was at full capacity, the facility was only 50 percent occupied. (Putnam's 128-bed jail averaged 33 inmates a day in July, according to the state Division of Criminal Justice Services.) He asked Sheriff Robert Langley Jr. whether the state corrections commission could analyze staffing needs.

Langley replied that shifting personnel from dormant jail programs allows them to fill in elsewhere, saving money in overtime; he also said the jail is cutting costs overall. A month later, he reported that he had contacted the state commission, which was willing to conduct an evaluation but

Police Reform Task List

The Beacon City Council's resolution assigns a to-do list for city officials to carry out policy changes in the Police Department. Officials must also create a multi-year plan for implicit bias training for all municipal staff, including police.

Police chief

- Review police training and create a data-driven set of recommendations for improving training and measuring benefits;
- Examine the city's policy on psychological supportive care and testing for police officers and make recommendations for periodic counseling and testing.

Police chief and city administrator

- Create a report on the city's options for deploying alternative responders for nonviolent, noncriminal calls and activities that do not require police training;
- Create a report on the city's disciplinary policy for police misconduct and the process by which civilians and other officers may file complaints about specific incidents, and how such complaints are handled after they are received;
- Review use-of-force policies and report to the council on improvements needed;

- Create a report on the city's weapons arsenal and purchasing policy. The council may make recommendations, including limiting certain types of weapons and other equipment.

City Council

- Review policies regarding oversight of the police to ensure transparency; hold officers accountable to best conduct; allow for whistleblowers within the department; and include a process for the public to voice concerns;
- Review with the chief and city administrator the types of emergency and other calls handled by the Police Department to assess the skills and experience required to best respond;
- Strengthen municipal support for mental health services, child care, community assets, digital equity and food and housing;
- Consider the multi-year budget implications of all of the above with the intention to redirect cost savings toward community investments.

In response to the governor's order, Dutchess County formed a Police Reform & Modernization Collaborative, which has been charged with creating a unified and reformed countywide law enforcement plan. County Executive Marc Molinaro

last month created a Community Stakeholder Workgroup and a Municipal Leaders & Police Chiefs Workgroup to guide the process. In addition, Putnam County on Aug. 13 held the first meeting of its Police Policy Review Panel.

Putnam Urges County Control of Jail Staffing

Also, criticizes state demand that bars serve food

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

The Putnam County Legislature voted 9-0 earlier this month to urge the state to allow counties to oversee, and reduce, jail staffing. Currently, state law dominates.

"This is a home-rule issue," Legislator Joseph Castellano (R-Brewster) said during the Aug. 7 meeting of the Legislature, which was held by audio conference.

The resolution adopted by the Legislature reflected materials distributed by the New York State Association of Counties, including a letter that John Marren, its president, sent to Gov. Andrew Cuomo. In it, Marren noted that because of state legal reforms and other changes, New York's county jails have 11,566 fewer inmates than they did last year, a 44 percent decrease.

According to the Putnam resolution,

said it could not do so until 2021.

Statewide bail-law reforms, which took effect this year, have helped keep some jail cells empty, although Langley said at a forum in Garrison in February that the Putnam jail population was "in slow decline before the bail reform law" and that local crime had dropped by 25 percent in each of the preceding two years.

Drinks and food

In an Aug. 11 meeting, Nancy Montgomery (D-Philipstown) cast the only vote against a measure calling on the governor to overturn his order requiring that bars serve food with all drinks to operate under the state's COVID-19 restrictions.

Legislator William Gouldman (R-Putnam Valley), who formerly owned and managed restaurants in New York City, recused himself. The other seven legislators voted for it.

The resolution had failed earlier that day to clear the Legislature's three-person Economic Development Committee when

Gouldman abstained and Montgomery declined to second a motion by Legislator Amy Sayegh (R-Mahopac) to send it to the full Legislature for consideration. However, when the Legislature convened in a special session to approve a lawsuit settlement (See Page 1), a majority of legislators agreed to take up the resolution and passed it.

The executive order "is a perfect example of government overreach," Legislator Paul Jonke (R-Southeast) said at the Economic Development meeting, describing Cuomo as "a governor who's gotten nothing right in the last six months. The restaurant owners that I speak to are tired of the overreach. They are trying to run their businesses. They are trying to survive."

Jonke maintained that proprietors know how to keep customers safe.

Carl Albano (R-Carmel) said that unless COVID-19 cases resurge, restaurants and bars should be able to operate without limits. "When a person has a drink or eats a meal, they are going to take their mask off," he said. "I don't see how it makes any difference" and the rule "just makes it more

(Continued on Page 8)



Protestors, including Karen Smythe, the Democratic candidate for the state Senate seat that represents the Highlands (second from right), protested changes to USPS on Thursday (Aug. 20) on Route 9D in Cold Spring near the village post office. Photo by Michael Turton

What's Up with the Mail?

Slow delivery leads to concern about absentee votes

By Leonard Sparks

Linda Weaver, a Cold Spring resident, said she began noticing delays with her mail in mid-July. Weaver uses the U.S. Postal Service “informed-delivery” service, which allows residents to see their incoming mail. On some days, she said, informed delivery “says it’s coming but it doesn’t come.”

She initially attributed the delays to the pandemic-induced jump in orders from Amazon, which “has so overworked these guys” at the post office. “So, when it first started happening, I didn’t pay attention to it. But then it became a thing. And I thought, ‘I wonder if this has something to do with No. 45 [President Trump].’

“If my mail comes one day or the next day, I’m not going to get nuts over that,” said Weaver, who contracted COVID-19 in March and hopes to vote by mail in the Nov. 3 general election. “But considering that I want a ballot, and I want to vote in this election, I’m deeply concerned with what’s going on.”

Postmaster General Louis DeJoy, who started the job in June and is a donor and friend of President Trump, has been instituting operational changes at the USPS, which faces massive financial losses.

Because the changes are happening as Trump claims that mail-in voting will lead

to widespread fraud, and his campaign is suing states over expanded vote-by-mail rules for the November election, DeJoy is facing accusations that he is deliberately slowing the mail.

Some of the changes, spelled out in a memo obtained by *The Washington Post*, included not allowing carriers to work overtime, even if that meant “mail left behind or on the workroom floor or decks.” DeJoy has also been accused of removing mail-sorting machines and street mailboxes.

“Every piece, every day used to be our motto,” one local carrier who asked not to be identified told *The Current*. “Not anymore.”

In response to criticism, DeJoy on Tuesday (Aug. 18) said he is suspending his changes “to avoid even the appearance of any impact on election mail.” Post office hours will remain unchanged; no mail-processing facilities will be closed or equipment and collection boxes removed; and overtime will be approved as needed, he said.

Rep. Sean Patrick Maloney, whose district includes the Highlands, was one of 131 House Democrats who called for a bail-out of the USPS in the next pandemic relief legislation. The House version of the bill includes \$25 billion for the USPS and \$3.6 billion to help states with their elections.

“This pandemic has only highlighted the critical service the USPS provides our communities as more people buy groceries, medication and goods online, and look to conduct important activities — like voting — through the mail,” said Maloney.

President Trump opposes any bail-out, saying USPS should raise its rates instead. On Tuesday, the postal service announced

a temporary rate increase on commercial parcels through Dec. 27.

The USPS is expected to handle a record number of mail-in ballots for the November election. An analysis by *The New York Times* of each state’s rules concluded that as many as 80 million people could vote by mail, double the amount in the 2016 election.

To prevent gatherings that might contribute to the spread of COVID-19 during the June 23 primary in New York, Gov. Andrew Cuomo allowed anyone to vote by mail. As a result, the Dutchess and Putnam County Boards of Elections received thousands of mailed ballots; it took Dutchess more than a week to count them all.

On Thursday (Aug. 20), Cuomo signed three bills into law that will allow voters to request absentee ballots for the general election based on the risk of COVID-19; request them immediately (rather than 30 days before the vote); and allow boards of election to count absentee ballots postmarked up to Election Day and received by Nov. 10, and those received by Nov. 4 with a Board of Elections time stamp but no postmark.

State Sen. Sue Serino, a Republican whose district includes the Highlands, voted against all three bills, while Assembly Members Sandy Galef (whose district includes Philipstown) and Jonathan Jacobson (whose district includes Beacon), both Democrats, each voted for them.

The USPS had told 46 states, including New York, that it may not be able to deliver mail-in ballots by their statutory deadlines.

In a letter dated July 30 addressed to the state Board of Elections, the USPS warned that “certain deadlines for requesting

Cold Spring Mail Moves to Mohegan Lake

Cold Spring’s mail carriers have been reassigned from Garrison to the Mohegan Lake post office “in the interest of service and efficiency,” the U.S. Postal Service said this week.

As of Saturday (Aug. 15), carriers assigned to six routes covering the 10516 ZIP code begin will begin their day in Mohegan Lake, said George Flood, a representative for the postal service, which is overseen by the federal government but funded by postage sales.

“This behind-the-scenes move, which is relatively transparent to the public, is freeing-up much needed space in Garrison to enable us to better handle the increased package volume,” said Flood.

The number of packages handled in Garrison between Aug. 8 and Aug. 14 was 56 percent higher than during the same week in 2019, he said.

Cold Spring’s mail was sorted in Garrison after the post office closed in Foodtown Plaza in January 2014 and was replaced by a trailer. The post office is now in a new space at the Butterfield complex but remains too small for sorting.

and casting mail-in ballots may be incongruous with the postal service’s delivery standards,” creating a risk that “ballots requested near the deadline under state law will not be returned by mail in time to be counted under your laws.”

(Dutchess and Putnam will also offer early voting in late October, but Putnam plans to have only one polling place, at the Board of Elections in Carmel. Dutchess will have five locations, including Fishkill Town Hall.)

Greg Williams, a Cold Spring resident who said he is “enormously concerned” about slow mail affecting the election, lived in Seattle for 16 years. Washington is one of five states that have all-mail voting.

Ballots there are mailed to registered voters as part of a package that includes descriptions of the candidates and ballot measures, he said. Voters can return ballots by mail or use drop boxes. The system “makes voting a straightforward, painless and rewarding experience,” said Williams.

“You don’t have to do lots of your own research, although, of course that helps; there’s no waiting in line; there’s no having to schedule it around work,” he said. “Why we shouldn’t do that everywhere in the United States, I can’t imagine.”

Jail Staffing (from Page 7)

difficult for businesses.”

While Montgomery acknowledged that the executive order is frustrating, she noted that it’s temporary and designed “to protect the public from COVID-19.”

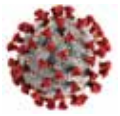
A longtime restaurant professional, she said bar patrons who only drink tend to move around, putting other customers at risk, while patrons who dine typically remain at their tables. She also said she recently had seen bars with patrons drinking “shoulder-to-shoulder. Nobody is wear-

ing a mask and nobody is eating.”

Montgomery challenged depictions of the issue as the economy versus public health. “It’s about public health and the economy,” she said. In general, she continued, “I do hope for more action to begin to respond to the COVID crisis. We have not responded or

asked pertinent questions” about Putnam’s policies, “so we are once again sending another resolution to the state. Why don’t we take care of our own?”

Holly Crocco contributed reporting.



Coronavirus Update

■ State health officials said that, as of Thursday (Aug. 20), 1,468 people had tested positive for COVID-19 in Putnam County; 4,721 in Dutchess; 36,586 in Westchester; 14,089 in Rockland; 2,113 in Ulster; and 11,292 in Orange. Statewide, there had been 427,403 positives, including 231,288 in New York City. Statewide, 25,275 people had died.

■ On Aug. 19, the number of COVID-19 patients in intensive care in New York state dropped to 120, the lowest since March 16, and the number of hospitalizations dropped to 518, the lowest since March 18.

■ In Dutchess County, there were 1,406 tests conducted on Aug. 19, with 11 positives, and in Putnam, there were 354 tests, with two positives. Statewide, there were 80,984 tests conducted on Aug. 19 and 601 positives, or 0.74 percent. It was the 13th straight day in which the statewide infection rate was below 1 percent.

■ New York announced on Aug. 14 the launch of a \$500,000 pilot program to detect the presence of COVID-19 in wastewater, designed to establish an early indicator system to forecast virus spread in communities. Newburgh is among the communities where samples will be collected.

■ The state extended the open enrollment period in its Health Plan Marketplace until Sept. 15.

■ On Aug. 17, the Economic Development Administration at the U.S. Department of Commerce awarded a \$400,000

CARES Act Recovery Assistance grant to the Hudson Valley Regional Council, based in Newburgh, to update economic development plans and help programs that assist communities in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic. Established in 1977, the council serves Dutchess, Putnam, Orange, Rockland, Sullivan, Ulster and Westchester counties.

■ The Federal Transit Administration on Wednesday (Aug. 19) announced it would send \$204,195 to Putnam County for its transit services as part of \$25 billion provided for transit agencies as part of the CARES Act, in addition to \$2.8 million in other federal relief funds it said the county received this month.

■ Bowling alleys were allowed by the state to reopen at 50 percent capacity as of Monday (Aug. 17) with safety protocols in place, including mandatory face coverings and social distancing. In addition, every other lane must be closed; patrons need to stay with the party at their assigned lane; thorough cleaning and disinfection of shared or rented equipment between each use are required; and food service must follow state-issued guidance.

■ Gov. Andrew Cuomo said on Aug. 14 that museums, aquariums and other “low-risk” cultural institutions in New York City may reopen at 25 percent capacity starting Monday (Aug. 24). The institutions must have timed ticketing with staggered entry, strict enforcement of face coverings, social distancing, controlled traffic flow to avoid crowding, and enhanced cleaning and disinfection protocols, he said.

■ New York, New Jersey and Connecticut announced that anyone traveling from

a state that has a positive test rate higher than 10 per 100,000 residents over a 7-day rolling average or a 10 percent or higher positivity rate over a 7-day rolling average must quarantine for 14 days. As of Aug. 20, the states were Alabama, Alaska, Arkansas, Arizona, California, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, North Carolina, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Virginia and Wisconsin, as well as Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands.

■ The state issued a reminder that unsolicited telemarketing calls are prohibited in New York state during a state of emergency, which the governor declared on March 7. Consumers who receive an unsolicited telemarketing sales call are encouraged to report details at donotcall.gov or by calling 888-382-1222.

■ The state has established a COVID-19 Emotional Support Hotline at 844-863-9314 for mental health counseling and resources. Health care workers can text NYFRONTLINE to 741-741 to access 24/7 emotional support services. For more information, see omh.ny.gov.

■ Questions? Dutchess County posts updates at dutchessny.gov/coronavirus and has a hotline at 845-486-3555. Putnam County posts info at putnamcountyny.com/health. New York State has a hotline at 888-364-3065 and a webpage at ny.gov/coronavirus. The state also created an email list to provide updates. The federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention posts updates at cdc.gov. To find a test site, visit coronavirus.health.ny.gov.

COVID-19 by the Numbers

■ PUTNAM COUNTY

Number of confirmed cases:

1,468 (+13)

New Cases in Philipstown: 0

Tests administered:

33,050 (+2,601)

Percent positive:

4.4 (-0.4)

Number of deaths:

63 (+0)

■ DUTCHESS COUNTY

Number of confirmed cases:

4,721 (+81)

Active Cases in Beacon: 7

Tests administered:

116,019 (+9,550)

Percent positive:

4.1 (-0.3)

Number of deaths:

153 (+0)

Source: New York State Department of Health, with weekly changes in parentheses, as of Aug. 20. New cases in Philipstown for week ending Aug. 13.

Gyms Reopen *(from Page 1)*

because fitness businesses have to invest in safety and health measures, such as air-filtration systems, after months of generating little revenue. In addition, she said, clients may be afraid to return.

The state has “done a really good job of scaring people into thinking that gyms are where you’re going to go to get COVID,” said Laura Abby.

In addition to capacity limits and masks, the state guidelines mandate that customers be screened for COVID-19 symptoms and maintain 6 feet of social distancing, and that equipment be cleaned between uses. It forbids the use of shared water fountains and communal showers.

While gyms can allow customers inside on Aug. 24, Cuomo’s order gives local elected officials the power to keep them closed until Sept. 2 so health departments have time for the required inspections. The resumption of indoor classes could be postponed beyond that date.

Laug said he plans to start with one-on-one training sessions and transition to small groups of five people or fewer. Before the pandemic, he would hold group classes with at least 10 customers, he said.

The Studio @ Beacon specializes in spinning and boxing classes, said Laura Abby. One of the changes, she said: The business will not allow customers to use its loaner boxing gloves.

“I don’t think we’ll be able to do that for a while,” she said.

The Abbys and Laug have been contacting clients who they know are eager to return.

“We took a big hit — in the business and personally — and it’s going to take a lot of work to get back,” Laug said. “But with it opening next week, I feel confident.”

Cuomo’s announcement ended an ordeal that began on March 16, when he ordered gyms closed as COVID-19 cases accelerated around the state. Six days later, the shutdown was expanded to cover all businesses deemed “nonessential,” including retail shops, cultural sites and museums.

Those businesses began reopening in May under a four-phase regional plan crafted by the state. Its plan initially included fitness businesses in Phase 4, which began in Dutchess, Putnam and five other Mid-Hudson Region counties on July 7.

Two weeks before Phase 4 was scheduled to begin, the Abbys were preparing to reopen — figuring out how to use their space safely, sourcing cleaning supplies and recon-

figuring The Studio @ Beacon’s schedule to make room for cleaning between classes.

Then, on June 25, Cuomo announced that gyms would remain closed, giving no precise date for when they could open.

“That pulled the rug from out under us,” said Laura Abby.

A class-action lawsuit on behalf of frustrated gym owners was filed on July 9 in Jefferson County against Cuomo and Attorney General Letitia James. James Mermigis, the attorney for the plaintiffs, alleged that the shutdown deprived gym owners “of their liberty and property interests without due process” and sought \$500 million in compensation and the right to reopen.

The case was set to begin with oral arguments on Thursday (Aug. 20). In light of Cuomo’s announcement, Mermigis withdrew a motion for a preliminary injunction against the governor’s closure order.

In addition to the lawsuit, state Sen. Sue Serino, whose district includes the Highlands, and Marc Molinaro, the Dutchess County executive, publicly lobbied for fitness centers to be allowed to reopen.

“This is an important step forward, but there are still thousands of businesses across the state — including movie theaters, wedding venues, caterers and more — that



Keith Laug plans to reopen Zoned Fitness in Beacon on Monday (Aug. 24) for the first time in more than five months.

are without answers,” Serino wrote on Facebook on Tuesday (Aug. 18).

AROUND TOWN



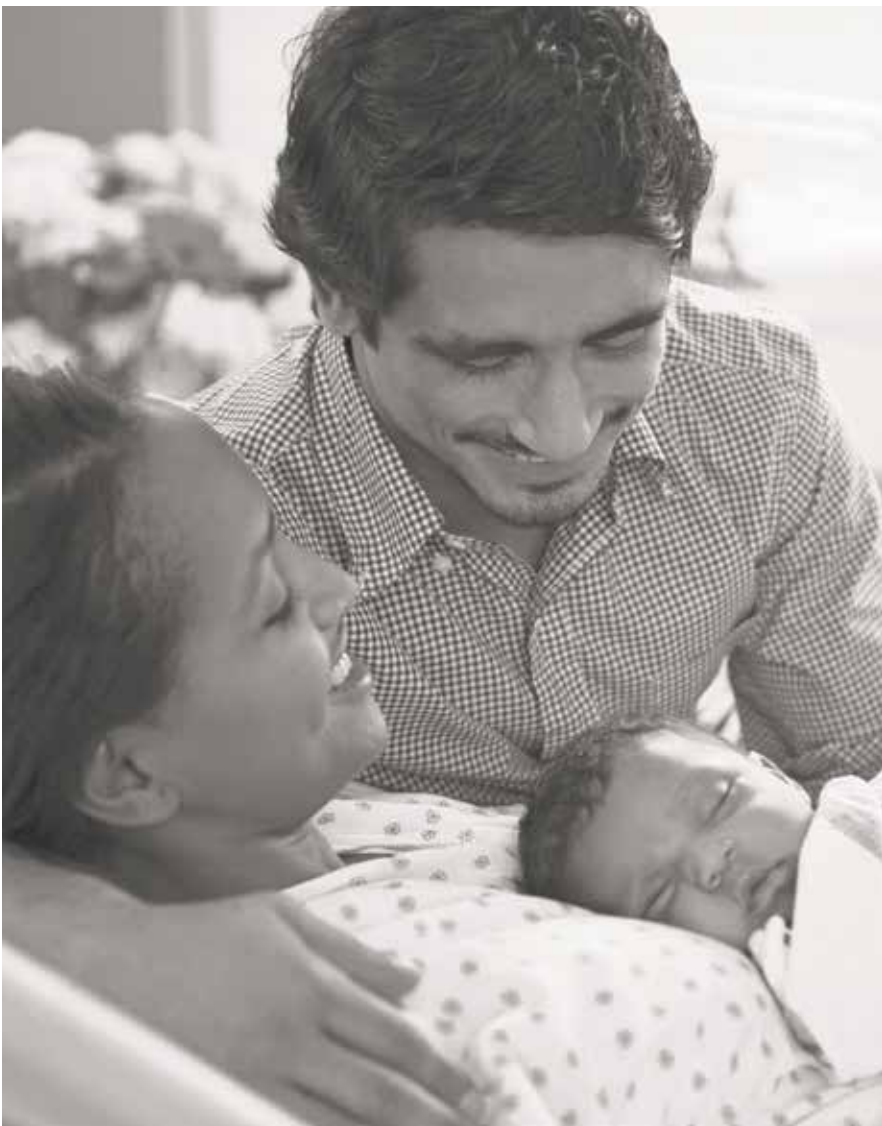
◀ **MAKER SPACE** — Reconstruction has begun at the former Impellittere Motors building on Fair Street in Cold Spring. The quarter-acre property was purchased last year by Nina Chanel, an artist in New York City who plans to convert the structure into a live-work studio and gallery. The Cold Spring Planning Board has scheduled a public hearing on her proposal for Sept. 10. Impellittere Motors operated on the site for about 50 years beginning in the 1950s.

▼ **COOKING SPACE** — The Planning Board is also reviewing an amended site plan for The Cold Spring Hotel at 124 Main St., formerly The Silver Spoon Restaurant. Hussein Abdelhady wants to add kitchen and dining facilities on the ground floor. A public hearing is scheduled for Sept. 10.

Photos by Michael Turton



◀ **GREEN SPACE** — Work is nearing completion on Pataki Park at the Butterfield redevelopment project in Cold Spring. The one-acre open space is named for former New York Gov. George Pataki, who lives in Garrison.



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The Calendar

The Artist Next Door

Laura Kaufman

By Alison Rooney

When the COVID-19 shutdown began, Laura Kaufman moved her studio into her Cold Spring living room, which she shares with her husband, an artist who teaches digital media at Marist, their young son and a dog.

“It got crazy — comical, really,” she recalls, with the dog sleeping under her sculptures-in-progress.

Kaufman was preparing for *Tension Bridge*, a solo exhibition of her work that opens on Aug. 30 at the Al Held Foundation in Boiceville and on Aug. 29 and 30 will be included in the Upstate Art Weekend. The event includes 23 arts organizations between Garrison and Hudson, including Magazzino Italian Art in Philipstown; Manitoga and The Ice House in Garrison; Mother Gallery, Dia:Beacon and Parts & Labor in Beacon; and the Storm King Art Center. (See upstateartweekend.org.)

The exhibit features Kaufman’s most recent sculptural work, which melds traditional basket weaving with steel. These types of novel combinations are familiar to Kaufman, whose interests include linguistics, science, materials and the communion of teacher and student in passing things down and around.

“We are in this bridging-year between our pasts and our future — we all feel the turmoil, the sorrow,” she says of the pandemic. “Weaving is a lot about controlling tension, and as we all went about our days trying to adapt to this blanket of sorrow, these steel forms are the bridge.”

Her exhibit in Boiceville was organized following a visit in January to her Cold Spring studio by Alyson Baker and Candice Madey, the founders of the River Valley Arts Collective.

“I had been taking some time away from the studio to learn how to basket weave,” Kaufman recalls. “I did a lot of big projects in 2019, and wanted to refill my studio creativity. So, I spent the fall learning from different weavers. Alyson and Candice have started this new project, curating at different locations within the ecosystem of the Hudson Valley, with artists who are working with fiber, clay and wood, expanding the artist and artisan bridge.”

Before the visit, Kaufman set up some of her work “made from large, chunky bits of felt. I also set up the baskets, though I hadn’t really learned to express myself with them. I thought of them as armature, an engineering that holds up the sculpture, propping things up.”



Sculptures by Laura Kaufman on display at the Al Held Foundation are made from steel, willow sticks and weaving fibers including wool, cotton, paper twine and ramie. On the wall are embroidered glyphs by Kaufman made from Japanese watercolors, rayon and rabbit-skin glue on stretched linen.

Photos by Jake Smisloff



“Hedge,” a 2017 sculpture by Kaufman, was created with cotton and steel. Photos provided

Baker and Madey asked if she was interested in developing work using the baskets.

“That’s the way curators work — they’re studying the previous work, hearing how an artist talks about their work in the studio and devising something for the artist to step into, without knowing what it might be,” Kaufman says.

“With the weaving, I was steeped in learning techniques in which there are specific ways to do things, whereas in sculpture the training is to devise your own way,” she says. “By treating the baskets as forms, instead of like ‘a basket,’ it made for a small shift. It dawned on me that the baskets could become the engineering, the



Laura Kaufman

armature, I could make piles and stacks, much like Greek temples with their plinths and pedestals.

“It became this unnatural cleaving where craft became different from sculpture. I wanted to create a path forward where the two approaches to making objects could be dependent on each other. I realized I could use another form of weaving to further engineer the steel and have it become that a traditional craft object was doing the heaving lifting — that there would be these weaving buttresses, like tension bridges.”

She says the project taps into her interest in language. “In this case, I teased together the forms with the language of weaving, so the act of bending of the stakes, of starting with a flat, sunburst shape — when you prick them up it’s called the *upsett*, two t’s — I found it to be incredibly evocative. I was also thinking of time’s suspension, especially April and May, when the idea of when or how was completely suspended and we were all living in the present.”

In learning these skills, Kaufman has been enjoying a more communal way of learning.

(Continued on Page 13)

THE WEEK AHEAD

Edited by Pamela Doan (calendar@highlandscurrent.org)

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

VISUAL ARTS

SAT 29

Papers of the Archive

GARRISON

The Ice House

17 Mandalay Drive | jdj.world

Noel Anderson will exhibit handmade paper objects that explore the depiction of Black masculinity through the distortion of photographs. See Page 13. To schedule a visit, email jayne@jdj.world or text 518-339-6913.

COMMUNITY

SAT 22

Yoga on the Farm

HOPEWELL JUNCTION

9 a.m. Fishkill Farms

9 Fishkill Farm Road

845-897-4377 | fishkillfarms.com

Register online for this weekly class led by Red Tail Power Yoga. Check in at the CSA window.

Cost: \$18

SAT 22

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. Through Sept. 13. Registration required. Cost: \$25

SAT 22

Save the Children March & Rally

BEACON

10 a.m. Memorial Park

198 Robert Cahill Drive | bit.ly/3309F5b

Highlands residents are invited to participate in this national event to raise awareness about the trafficking of children by wearing red and making signs.

SAT 22

Flower Arranging

COLD SPRING

4:30 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library

crowdcast.io/e/flower-arranging-with

Marcella Broe, owner of The Parcel Flower Co., will lead this virtual seminar. Email Broe at info@theparcelflower.co. to arrange pickup of flowers.

FRI 28

Annual Benefit

YORKTOWN HEIGHTS

7 p.m. Support Connection

support.onlinegalas.com

The nonprofit, which provides free support services to those affected by breast and ovarian cancer, will hold the hour-long event virtually and

presents its annual Spirit Awards. There will also be an online auction and a performance by the Golden Apple Chorus.

SAT 29

Natural Dye Workshop

WAPPINGERS FALLS

11 a.m. Common Ground Farm

845-231-4424 | commongroundfarm.org

During this Zoom workshop, Laura Sansone of NY Textile Lab will explain how to create dyes from plants. Participants can pick up kits on Wednesday, Thursday or Friday. Cost: Starts at \$18



SAT 29

FunMinster Dog Show

PATTERSON

1 - 3 p.m. Patterson Recreation Center

65 Front St. | 917-449-5359

putnam servicedogs.org

Local canines will compete for titles in Wiggle Butt, Most Talented, Shaggiest and other categories at this second annual event organized by Putnam Service Dogs. Register online or from noon to 1 p.m. the day of the event. Registration is \$20 per dog. Cost: \$15 (\$5 ages 12 and younger)

MUSIC

SAT 22

Music at the Park

PHILIPSTOWN

6 - 8:30 p.m. Little Stony Point Park

3011 Route 9D |

facebook.com/littlestonypoint

Join the Little Stony Point Citizens Association on the Pete and Toshi meadow by the Volunteer Center for a socially distanced performance by Phoenix Tree and guests. Free

SAT 22

Judith Tulloch Band

BEACON

7 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.

845-855-1300 | townecrier.com

The Crier is again hosting live shows; the band, which has opened for Levon Helm, Pete Seeger and Patti Smith, will perform rock, jazz and world music. Phone reservations required. Free

TUES 25

Creative Strings Improvisers Orchestra

BEACON

5 p.m. Riverfront Park

2 Red Flynn Drive | beaconnny.myrec.com

The Beacon Recreation Department, Compass Arts Creativity Project and Gwen Laster will present this socially distanced show. Register online. Free

KIDS & FAMILY

MON 24

Zooming Babies & Books

GARRISON

10 a.m. Desmond-Fish Library

bit.ly/BabiesAndBooks

Lucille Merry leads this program for babies and toddlers up to 24 months. Register online.

MON 24

Story Time with Mrs. Merry

GARRISON

1:30 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library

instagram.com/desmondfishpubliclibrary

facebook.com/desmondfishlibrary

TUES 25

Locked in Science

GARRISON

6 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library

instagram.com/desmondfishpubliclibrary

facebook.com/desmondfishlibrary

Ryan Biracree, the library's digital services coordinator, and his daughter, Tabitha, will demonstrate experiments that can be done in the kitchen.

WED 26

Sing and Move Zoom

GARRISON

10 a.m. Desmond-Fish Library

bit.ly/SingandMoveZoom

Miss Gabi will lead a sing-a-long of favorite songs.

STAGE & SCREEN

SAT 22

Story Screen Drive-In

BEACON

8:30 p.m. University Settlement

724 Wolcott Ave. | 845-440-7706

storyscreendrivein.square.site

The pop-up theater will screen *The Iron Giant* (1999) and *Back to the Future* (1985) this weekend and *Raiders of the Lost Ark* (1981) and *Shaun of the Dead* (2004) next weekend. See website for show times and health protocols. Snacks will be available for purchase. Also SUN 23, FRI 28, SAT 29, SUN 30. Cost: \$10 (\$8 children, seniors, military)



Back to the Future, Aug. 22

THURS 27

Untitled Agatha Project

COLD SPRING

7:30 p.m.

Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival
hvshakespeare.org

The HVSF commissioned this play about a famed detective trying to solve the deaths of a widow and the man she had planned to marry in a seemingly peaceful village. Written by Heidi Armbruster and directed by Lavina Jadhvani, it will be presented virtually as part of the festival's HSVF2 series. Cost: \$20 donation

THURS 27

The Muppet Movie

BEACON

8:15 p.m. Green Street Park

25 Green St. | beaconnny.myrec.com

The Beacon Recreation Department and Story Screen continue their outdoor movie series with this 1979 family classic. Bring your own chairs, blankets and snacks. Online registration required. Free

TALKS

WED 26

Current Conversations

BEACON

7 p.m. via Zoom

Join *The Current's* Beacon editor, Jeff Simms, as he speaks with City Council Member Terry Nelson about police reforms and other topics. Register at highlandscurrent.org/current-conversations.

WED 26

Reading with Writers

COLD SPRING

7 p.m. Split Rock Books

splitrockbks.com

Emily Dykeman of the Hudson Valley Performing Arts Laboratory will lead a Zoom discussion of *Writing Down the Bones: Freeing the Writer Within*, by Natalie Goldberg. To sign up, purchase the book at Split Rock's website and make a note in the order comments.

THURS 27

Pathways to Planetary Health

GARRISON

2 p.m. Garrison Institute

garrisoninstitute.org

Gideon Rose, the editor of *Foreign Affairs* magazine, and Jonathan F.P. Rose, co-founder of the Garrison Institute, will discuss the potential for collective action to reverse environmental degradation and combat other ills. Register online.

THURS 27

History Book Club

COLD SPRING

7 p.m. Split Rock Books

splitrockbks.com

The club will hold a Zoom discussion of *Names on the Land: A Historical Account of Place-Naming in the United States*, by George Stewart. To sign up, purchase the book at Split Rock's website and make a note in the order comments.

SUN 30

Lights Out

GARRISON

4 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library

bit.ly/DFPLLightsOut

Wall Street Journal reporters Ted Mann and Thomas Gryta will discuss their book, *Lights Out: Pride, Delusion, and the Fall of General Electric*, via Zoom.

CIVIC

Many meetings are being streamed or posted as videos. See highlandscurrent.org/meeting-videos.

SAT 22

Haldane School Board

COLD SPRING

9 a.m. Via Zoom

845-265-9254 | haldaneschool.org

MON 24

City Council

BEACON

7 p.m. Via Zoom

845-838-5011 | cityofbeacon.org

TUES 25

Village Board

COLD SPRING

6:30 p.m. Via Zoom

845-265-3611 | coldspringny.gov

WED 26

Garrison School Board

GARRISON

7 p.m. Via Zoom

845-424-3689 | gufs.org

WED 26

Haldane Parent Town Hall

COLD SPRING

7 p.m. Via Zoom

845-265-9254 | haldaneschool.org



◀ Another Upstate Exhibit

The Ice House in Garrison is among the galleries taking part in the Upstate Art Weekend on Aug. 29 and 30. It will exhibit *Papers of the Archive*, a collection by Noel Anderson, who examines Black male identity by distorting media images reproduced on textiles or as prints.

Anderson, a native of Louisville, is a professor in printmaking at New York University. To view the exhibit, email jayne@dj.world or text 518-339-6913.

Kaufman *(from Page 11)*

"In my grad student years [at Rhode Island School of Design; her undergraduate degree is from Vassar], you're alone, in your studio, inventing a language that no one else has invented. In opposition, learning weaving is about, generally, women coming together and talking about techniques used by people for thousands of years. It's a communal endeavor, and I have found joy in that. I'm completely dedicated to the traditions of it, yet my training compels me to invent."

Sharing takes another shape in

Kaufman's work as a museum educator. She worked for years at the Aldrich Museum, running its school programs. She designs programming for Grace Farm, in New Canaan, and she's an artist and guide (currently on furlough) at Dia.

"The Dia education department operates differently," Kaufman explains. "We're not docents. We're hired as artists who come fully able to create experiences. Each guide — there are dozens — has a different approach. I love doing giant public tours, with 50 to 60 people, on a Sunday afternoon, leading them through engagement games, coming

back to points in history, reading their body language. Did they feel heard and seen?"

Kaufman has two other projects ahead: a sculpture show at the White Rock Center for Sculpture Arts in Holmes and a group show at Bellport's Marquis Project gallery. She also has shown her art at the Dorsky Museum at SUNY New Paltz, the now-shuttered Matteawan Gallery in Beacon and the Field Projects Gallery in New York City, among other places.

Once those exhibits conclude, "the demands of my time are going to be domestic," says Kaufman, who moved to Cold

Spring in 2011. "I have a fourth-grader, and we don't know yet about school, teaching. I see this as a year of diving deeper into what I'm always doing. The whole set-up of my life is different and I don't know what will happen. We're all going to have to find resources."

For more information about Tension Bridge, which continues through Oct. 18 and is open by appointment, email info@rvacollective.org. There will be an opening from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Aug. 30, with reservations required.

Spirit of Beacon Day

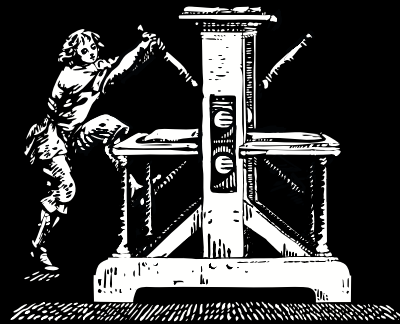
Live Stream Virtual Concert for Spirit of Beacon Day Submissions

Submit your short video messages, photos, musical performances or art on the theme of "Community Spirit" to be included in the Live Stream Virtual Concert on Spirit of Beacon Day.

Deadline September 7th

For more information go to:
spiritofbeacon.org/submissions

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The RiverWinds Gallery in Beacon will close on Aug. 31.

A Bittersweet Farewell

Gallery closes in Beacon after 17 years

By Alison Rooney

On Aug. 31, RiverWinds Gallery, part of the first wave of art galleries and artisan shops to open during Beacon's resurgence in the early part of the century, will close its doors after 17 years on Main Street.

An economic casualty of the pandemic, RiverWinds weathered the three-month March-to-May closing but found reopening in June to be on shaky ground. With so much uncertainty, the four co-owners — Virginia Donovan, Mary Ann Glass, Karl LaLonde and Kathy LaLonde — decided that enough was enough.

"We never quite recovered from 2008 — the big recession — but we kept going along until the pandemic," Glass said. "We were closed like everyone else, but still had bills to pay. We were sort of just waiting to see how it would all turn out. When we opened again in June, it was clear that the economy wasn't vibrant and we weren't going to make enough money to pay the rent. We suspect that there may be another lockdown coming up; no one knows."

"We're sad but there's also a sense of relief," she said. "I've been doing this for 17 years and it's time."

It's been more than 20 years since Glass, who then lived in New York City, put in a request for a leave of absence with Chase Bank, where she was a vice president in employee communications.

"Everyone else was getting a leave of absence approved for pregnancy," she recalled, remembering her comments at the time: "That's not happening here, but I want to take the summer off to do an intensive at the Rocky Mountain School of Photography, in Missoula, Montana. How about me?"

To her surprise, her request was granted. Soon after spending three months in

Missoula, she began selling her work at crafts fairs, she says. After moving to Cold Spring in 1999, she quit her job and moved to Beacon, where she rented space at a gallery called Allagash to sell her work.

"I didn't lose money, made some sales, then did the same thing again, this time with friends, with the same result," she recalled. "The rental gallery was a good way for me to get it known that I was in town, especially back then, when there was no social media. It felt like there were opportunities in Beacon."

Glass and four friends — Paola Bari, Virginia Donovan, Linda Hubbard and Kelly Shultis — decided to open a gallery together. "In 2001 and 2002, the east end of Beacon was where the action was — people wouldn't even drive down to the west end — but we felt that the west end was coming into its own," Glass recalled.

Three businesses had opened: Highland Studios, Kate Rogovin Jewelry and Cup and Saucer, she said. "We looked at a store where Mary Madden had bought the building and Ron Sauer had renovated it; we were their first tenant. Hudson Beach Glass opened, and that was huge. They became our [west end] anchor. We opened in July 2003, just a few months before they did, the same year as Dia:Beacon."

"There were five of us, and we all put some money in," she said. "Luckily, we didn't have 20 people at meetings, each with their own opinion! Most of us had quit our corporate jobs: three of us were from IBM, and me from Chase. We had the time and energy and some knowledge of how to run something. Because we had been in the crafts business, we knew good artists and craftspeople."

RiverWinds worked with artists on consignment and at one point had the work of 50 artists on display. "Our product diversity kept us in business: fiber wear, jewelry, glassware, cards, along with paintings," Glass said. "So many people came in to buy gifts. You probably don't buy a painting for



Three of the four RiverWinds Gallery owners: Virginia Donovan, Karl LaLonde and Mary Ann Glass

Photos provided

someone for holidays, because you don't know what they like."

Beacon was still in flux, Glass recalled. "It took a while for people to realize there were good things happening down this end. Galleries alone were not quite enough — it was when the restaurants started coming in and were scattered about; that was a big help."

Then, as now, RiverWinds attracted many tourists. "Dia generated a huge amount of publicity," she said. "For a while we were getting a lot of people from Europe, but that died down. But we always have had a lot of people visiting for the day or weekend from Connecticut, New Jersey, Westchester, Long Island. Even this past weekend, we had a fair number of people from the city coming up."

Over time, the partners added and subtracted numbers. Two left, Galina Krasskova came in for a while, then retired, as did Linda Hubbard, who moved to Connecticut. Finally, there were four: Glass, Donovan and the LaLondes, who joined four years ago.

"It helped to have a lot of partners," Glass said. "To do it on your own: the sales, the financing, the social media, it's a lot. We divvied up the tasks based on people's strengths. I can hang things on the walls but don't get me near bookkeeping."

The support of the community also helped the business, particularly from

Beacon Arts, Glass said. "They've come up with such great promotions, such as Second Saturday. They're responsible for a lot of what has happened that's good."

Although insisting that she is "not a civics person," Glass mentioned limited parking and rising rents as impediments to the arts and small businesses in Beacon.

"If the rents get too high, that becomes a problem because the storefronts are small," she said. "The stores are going to have to work on their online sales; most of the new ones are. Beacon has changed a lot in 17 years, but what was true is still true: The more galleries you have in a place, the more business there is for everyone."

Now, along with the melancholy of closing RiverWinds, Glass and her partners are basking in the affection they are receiving from the community. "It's been gratifying that since we announced our closing, we're getting all these wonderful messages of support, rather than an 'Oh, OK.'"

"We want to continue to sell our artwork somewhere or another, whether it's a brick-and-mortar building somewhere less expensive, or online or a combination," Glass said. "We need to reinvent ourselves."

RiverWinds Gallery, at 172 Main St, is open from noon to 4 p.m. daily through Aug. 31. Call 845-838-2880 or visit riverwindsgallery.com.

Small, Good Things

Relaxing into the Season

By Joe Dizney

It would be disingenuous to deny that the last five months have put a different spin on traditional ideas about “summertime.”



When we’ve been doing our damndest to maintain an even keel while living on high existential alert, concepts such as “family vacation,” “picnics” and “summer camp” don’t generate the emotional warm-and-fuzzies.

Que sais-je? I even mistook Camus’ *The Plague* for a beach book. (Anyone for *La Plage*?) It seemed like a good idea at the time.

With “back-to-school” and “the fall season” and a “presidential election” looming in unstable and uncertain forms, the “lazy, hazy, crazy days of summer” seem less lazy, moderately hazy and infinitely crazier.

If only we could cultivate that casual, pre-Labor Day spirit. Let’s take a cue from those masters of insouciance and dishabille and other words that describe the supernatural nonchalance they’re so good at, and by that I mean the French.

This recipe was inspired by American-in-Paris food writer David Lebovitz’s wrap-up of seasonal fruit recipes, including a *moelleux aux fruits d’été* (“small soft cake of summer fruits”) that he adapted from French food writer François-Régis Gaudry.

Lebovitz’s take is elegant — plums and

pluots (plum-apricot hybrid) arranged centrifugally in a springform pan on a batter redolent of sugar, eggs and almonds — whereas Gaudry’s *recette* for *moelleux à l’abricot* (apricots) as prepared (or performed)—in a 4-minute video on his Instagram page at bit.ly/gaudry-recipe is the embodiment of informality and sensual pleasure that only the French can muster.

If you’ve got your *mise en place* together, 4 minutes is not much of a stretch as far as prep time: the batter is mixed in a large bowl by hand and the prepared fruit — about 2 pounds! — folded in. The resulting batter is poured and roughly leveled into a parchment-lined pan and baked for about 45 minutes. The loose container makes for a comfortably relaxed presentation, serving and cleanup.

Lebovitz’s version increases the flour a bit, decreases the number of eggs and makes for a more traditional cake. In this translation of Gaudry’s formula, I maintained his eggier batter and the blend of almost equal measures of flour, almond flour and sugar is a bit looser. Depending on the type and ripeness of the fruit (which cooks down to an unctuous confit-like consistency), you may have to adjust the sugar and/or increase the baking time to firm up the cake.

Lebovitz’s addition of vanilla — and an experiment with a splash of almond extract that I had on hand — magnified the *frangipane* notes of the almond flour.

Truth be told, although we’re calling this a cake of summer fruits nearly anything available could be used, berries and cherries included. These are minor variations to play around with the *next* time you make it. Top the warm cake with a dollop of cream, Greek yogurt or vanilla ice cream and I’m reasonably sure there will be a next time.



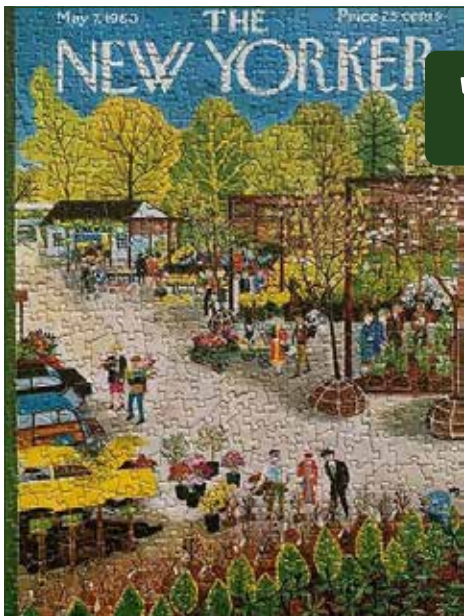
A Casual Cake of Summer Fruit

François-Régis Gaudry, Natalia Crozon, Raquel Caréna and David Lebovitz

Serves about 8

- 2 pounds pitted apricots, nectarines, peaches, plums or pluots, cut into bite-size chunks
- 1¼ cup raw sugar
- 1 cup all-purpose flour
- 1 cup almond flour (aka almond meal)
- 1½ teaspoon baking powder (Rumford, aluminum-free, preferred)
- ¼ teaspoon salt
- 5 ounces softened butter
- 3 whole eggs
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract (or a combination of vanilla and almond extracts)
- Parchment paper and butter and coarse sugar (like turbinado) to coat paper for the 10-inch casserole or deep baking pan

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Cut a sheet of parchment paper large enough to completely line a 9-or-10-inch casserole or baking pan.
2. Mix the flour, almond flour, salt, sugar and baking soda in a large bowl. In another smaller bowl, whisk together the eggs and vanilla and/or almond extract. Add the softened butter and egg mixture to the dry ingredients and mix with a large spoon or spatula to incorporate. Add the fruit and incorporate into the batter.
3. On a flat surface, butter the sheet parchment paper and push it down into the pan or casserole. (There should be a couple of inches overhang all-around.) Sprinkle a tablespoon or so of coarse sugar over the paper and shake it around to distribute. Pour in the cake batter into the pan/casserole and roughly even the top with your spoon or spatula.
4. Sprinkle an additional tablespoon of turbinado sugar over the top. Bake 45 minutes on the center rack. Check the firmness of the center and bake for an additional 10 to 20 minutes as necessary. Remove from oven and cool on a wire rack. This is great served warm with a dollop of cream, yogurt or vanilla ice cream.



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Industrial Arts' Beacon facility

Photos by Michael Turton



The brewery's beers have an industrial theme.

Photo by Tim Huey/61BrewThru.com

Brewery Marks First Year in Beacon

Industrial Arts plans to make city its headquarters

By Michael Turton

Jeff O'Neil's first batch of homemade beer in college was also probably his first step toward becoming founder of the Industrial Arts Brewing Co.

"It was way better than it should have been," he recalls. "And I assumed this business was easier than it is."

The 46-year-old Cold Spring resident's initiation into beer as a business came as a restaurant and brewery worker in the 1990s in the western U.S.

On Wednesday (Aug. 18), he marked the fourth anniversary of his transition from brewery worker to brewery founder.

On that date in 2016 he opened his brewery and tap room in Garnerville, a hamlet in Rockland County. Wednesday was also the first anniversary of the launch of the tap room at Industrial Arts' second facility, on Beacon's east side.

O'Neil had hoped to set up shop in Beacon initially but a deal fell through in 2015. Determined to find a facility of up to 20,000 square feet, but one that didn't require "a painful commute" from Cold Spring, O'Neil says he used a sophisticated

technique to select Garnerville.

"I drew a 20-mile radius around Cold Spring, and Garnerville was 19.3 miles!" he says.

The Garnerville site is part of an expansive, once-thriving 19th-century industrial complex, much of which has been repurposed. Industrial Arts occupies a former textile mill that produced uniforms during the Civil War.

It has proven to be a good location. "It's been great," he says. "There was very little local beer in Rockland five years ago; we've turned a lot of people on to tasty beer."

So, why a second brewery in Beacon?

"We've outgrown Garnerville; it's running at capacity," O'Neil says. He realized a couple of years ago the company was operating ahead of its plan and had to either cap production or grow.

He opted for growth. "We've had a good run," in Garnerville, he says. "We distribute in every state from Pennsylvania to Maine; it's happened organically and quickly."

Garnerville will continue, but Beacon will become the brewery's headquarters, a move that is more about production than a shorter commute for O'Neil. Garnerville produces 24,000 brewer's barrels (which are 31 gallons each) annually. Beacon will be able to produce up to 100,000 barrels a year.

Wrench, a New England-style India Pale Ale, is Industrial Arts' flagship brew. Several of its other beers draw their names from the industrial theme, including Tools of the Trade, Power Tools, Metric and Pocket Wrench.

The Industrial Arts brand itself reflects the character of the Garnerville site. In addition to the brewery, the former industrial area has more than 100 tenants, including numerous artists, from potters to cabinetmakers. To O'Neil, the name also hints at the many trades required to establish a brewery. When he first thought of Industrial Arts, he called his wife for her reaction. "She said, 'Don't tell anybody else until it's trademarked!'"

O'Neil says he is especially proud of the company's Landscape line of four seasonal lagers made with New York state ingredients, with profits donated mainly to environmental and agricultural organizations.

"We embrace the special responsibility that comes with the 21st century," he says. "We are working hard on how to respond to the current climate and to be a more philanthropic business."

The next phase of growth will see the brewery "embrace all sorts of community initiatives," O'Neil says.

He wants the Beacon facility to become an integral part of that city's life as the company evolves to be more hospitality-oriented. "We hope to be a community hub, a gathering place and an event center," he says. "It will be great for weddings, high school reunions and the like."

That could happen in a year or so but O'Neil also wonders if it will take society longer to get back to normal in the wake of COVID-19.

While the pandemic caused uncertainty, the brewery was well-positioned to endure, in part because it is able to can its beer and doesn't rely solely on tap beer that goes to bars and pubs.

"We had two or three weeks where we slowed down when things were uncertain; we sold through our finished goods,"



Jeff O'Neil at the Beacon facility

O'Neil says. But orders kept coming in steadily and in the midst of the coronavirus, Industrial Arts launched distribution throughout New England.

"People did not stop drinking, and we made some pivots," he says. New York State relaxed some of its alcohol laws, including allowing breweries to make home deliveries while people sheltered in place.

Retail sales in grocery stores have remained strong through the pandemic. "No one is going to stop going to the grocery store," O'Neil says. "Having a recognizable brand in that setting has kept us afloat."

The biggest challenge has been the on-premise part of the beer industry. "Bars, restaurants and tap rooms are in big trouble," O'Neil says. He fears for businesses reliant on walk-in customers that are not set up to do take-away business.

Industrial Arts has not yet reopened its tap rooms in Garnerville or Beacon but offers pickup at both sites.

While beer continues to sell well nationwide, it faces a new challenge from within the beverage industry itself: hard seltzer. "It's the only thing outpacing IPAs," O'Neil says. "Hard seltzer is the biggest, most disruptive phenomenon; small brewers are starting to make local seltzers now."

As in Garnerville, Industrial Arts' Beacon facility is slated to be outfitted with state-of-the-art brewing equipment manufactured in Germany. If all goes as planned, it will pour its first beer in spring 2021.

"We're on track to be in the top 100 breweries in the country over the next few years," O'Neil says.

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Something You Don't Know About Me

Vibeke Saugestad

By Alison Rooney

Vibeke Saugestad, of Beacon, is a Norwegian-born translator and musician.

How did you learn ventriloquism?

I fell into it. A few years ago, I was watching a lot of Christopher Guest movies, and there's one, less widely known, *For Your Consideration*, in which ventriloquist Nina Conti plays a weatherperson with a monkey puppet. I loved the fact that her monkey was his own little being. When the coronavirus hit, like everyone else I was stuck at home, trying to study a pamphlet on learning to drive, because I never have. But it was so boring, I decided instead to try ventriloquism.

How did you begin?

I found a book online, *Ventriloquism Made Easy*. And then I learned that Nina Conti would be streaming from her home for charity. I bought a ticket, thinking she'd be doing a show. It turned out that some people were chosen to be on a Zoom call — I was one of them — so I was on Zoom with Nina, her monkey puppet and about 20 other people. It turned out to be an inspiring experience.

Is there any secret to throwing your voice?

Practice is important. Not moving your lips while talking isn't that hard, but making the reactions seem natural while you're talking to someone else — who is actually yourself — is hard. I videotape myself. It's also about illusion, little things you do to draw people's eyes from what they shouldn't see. The voice isn't the most important part. You have to be funny or have something that will make people want to watch. It's about psychology and mannerisms.

Why did you choose a penguin as your partner?

I began by looking at puppets online,



Saugestad with Punguin

Photos provided

but they weren't inspiring. So, I made one instead. I have always loved penguins — they're quirky and fun and sweet, so it felt like a nice animal to choose. I watched videos on puppet-making. I wanted to use things I already had in the house and recycle stuff. I love crafts, making things. We were having some food deliveries and I used some of the packaging to create the body and built him from the ground up.

As he came alive, it was sort of 'There you are' — he became easier to bond with, which makes the act of ventriloquism much easier. I do feel he is my little buddy, and that's the key to it. I have no ambition other than doing something fun for myself. I feel what's important is to create the bond between yourself and this being. Before he came into physical being, I was thinking he would have a Norwegian accent, but once he got on my hand, his voice was not an accent. Instead, he was soft-spoken.

Do you play a character, as well?

I am me. A funny thing was, early in this

process, my husband came home and heard me practicing, and shouted, "Where are you guys?"

You named your puppet Punguin.

What's his back story?

I love puns as well as penguins, and when a friend heard this, he suggested Punguin. What I have learned is that he's from Norway; his family emigrated to the U.S.; his aunt retired to the Bergen Zoo; and he's proud of his cousin, who had a part in *Happy Feet*. Also, Punguin loves licorice and pancakes — he uses the flipper to eat them. Also, he is musical. He made his debut with a song by The Velvet Underground and when it was played on YouTube, a request came in for another Velvet Underground song!

How did Punguin make his debut?

I started by making a little video, a pre-movie "please turn off your cellphones" kind of thing. Friends thought it was fun, so I made a couple more and now Punguin has hit Instagram.



Punguin is in awe of a Beacon rainbow.

You sing with the three-part harmony group The Wynottes. Could there be a fourth part?

My fellow Wynottes, Daria Grace and Sara Milonovich, and I are working on a Christmas album, but Punguin will be sitting this one out.

Is Punguin ready to go out and about in Beacon?

He is one of a kind and has a white belly, so he can't be out and about too much. The other day I was holding him outside my house and a boy walked by and wanted to play with him but he had chocolatey fingers. I had to say, "So sorry, dude."

Is it true that some people don't like talking puppets?

Yes. The thing with ventriloquist puppets is they have a history of being the person's alter ego. Nina Conti's puppet, Monkey, says all the things she doesn't want to say. That's their dynamic. But Punguin is cheerful, into spreading love, making cheer-up videos. Although he's all about happiness, there's a mischievous side to him, too. But the darkness hasn't shown itself yet. That's part of why he came about now. I needed a place to escape, and those places, unfortunately, are getting harder to find. Punguin has been a bright spot.

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Olivia Moran, Anna-Catherine Nelson, Sophia Pitaleff, Sofia Rasic, Tyler Schacht, Henry Schimming, Louisa Schimming, Jessica Tudor, Ava Vasta, Merrick Williams

High Honor Roll

Jon Bastys, Tyler Dehm, Lola Rosenberg, Leo Grocott, Bryce Kenny, Chase Kenny

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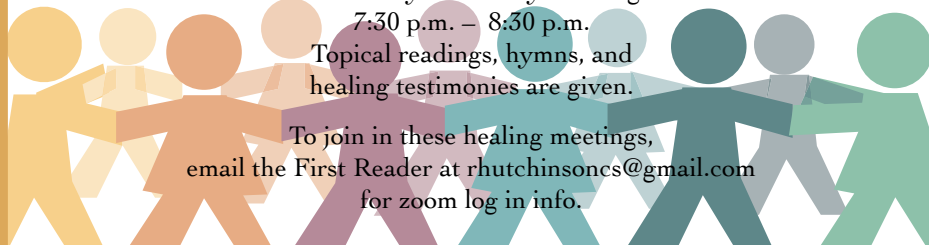
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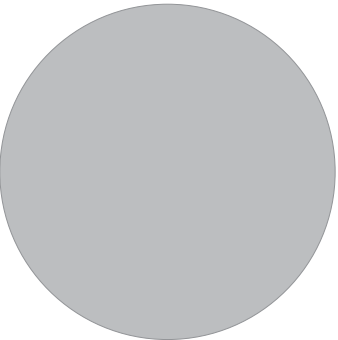
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In 1870, a Cold Spring child died of a laudanum overdose.



Truesdell's pickle factory, which processed millions of cucumbers in 1895, was located in the former Union Church, seen in this image at center right. Putnam History Museum

Looking Back in Philipstown

By Chip Rowe

150 Years Ago (August 1870)

More was learned about the man accused of shooting and killing Elijah Jones, 40, the coachman of H.H. Munsell, last month. The suspect had allegedly robbed a messenger of the National Bank of Fishkill and was fleeing down Stone Street when Jones tried to stop him. The name of the accused, who lived in Newburgh, was John P. Trumpboar. According to sources there, he worked as a painter but had a drinking problem and quit his job on July 1. An innkeeper recalled that, the day before the robbery, Trumpboar said he was going to Catskill to get some money from an uncle who had raised him.

More than 150 people attended Jones' funeral at the Reformed Church, which was organized by the bank's officers. The bank also paid for an obelisk at Fishkill Rural Cemetery for Jones, a native of Warsaw, Poland, which reads that it was erected "as a tribute of respect for one who lost his life arresting a desperado who had robbed their messenger." *The Cold Spring Recorder* said that Jones was Jewish but had converted to Christianity.

When John Bailey and his father and other stonecutters blew a fuse in a cliff at Storm King to mine granite, several pieces of about 10 pounds each were propelled like cannonballs, and one hit Bailey in the left leg just above the knee. He was taken across the river to his home, where three doctors amputated the leg, but he died that night.

Two village baseball teams, the Water Dogs and the No Names, squared off on the Morris Avenue field on a Saturday afternoon. The Water Dogs prevailed, 27-18.

After James Nimmo of Chestnut Street was awakened by his dog to find an intruder inside his home (who quickly fled out a window), *The Recorder* called for the village to have at least three policemen on duty every night, with one patrolling from Market Street to the depot, one from the depot to Kemble Avenue, and one from Kemble to Main and Chestnut and the gate of Mr. Parrott.

Because districts 3, 10 and 13 all needed new schoolhouses, at a cost of \$25,000, it was proposed at a special meeting that the districts be merged into one building that could be built for \$12,000 and run by a principal and "seven female assistants."

The Recorder alleged that a gang of

drunks "hastened if not caused" the death of Johanna Butterfass, 5, who had appeared to be recovering from an unnamed illness but died the morning after the ruffians roamed the streets using profane language and throwing stones that hit the Butterfass home, which frightened her.

Addison Merrick, who oversaw O.M. Baxter's garden, posted a sign that read: "All persons will be charged 25 cents for looking at the Big Beet and the Big Cabbage. If the door keeper is absent, the money must be deposited in the cigar box at the foot of his post. No dead heads admitted." The editor of *The Recorder*, who pointedly noted he had not paid the fee, said the beet was about 30 inches long and 4 inches in diameter but offered no specifics on the cabbage.

Edith Henyan, 3, of Nelsonville, died after being bitten on the arm by a dog that was found to have rabies.

A child of Patrick Connor of Market Street died from an overdose of laudanum that had been administered by the parents. [Laudanum, a tincture of opium, was commonly used as a painkiller — including for infants who were teething — as a sleep aid and as a cough suppressant.]

125 Years Ago (August 1895)

A number of villagers signed a petition to save Maria Barberi, a prisoner at Sing Sing, from death in the electric chair. [Barberi — her name was actually Maria Barbella — had been convicted of killing her lover in New York City with a straight razor. Her sentence was overturned and, at a second trial in 1896, a jury found her not guilty after the defense argued she had gone temporarily insane after being raped.]

The signpost at the fork of the Cold Spring and Nelsonville roads near the Plumbush farm was painted bright red.

After 27 years on the school board, Stephen Mekeel announced he would not run again. Friends changed his mind and he defeated James Dykman, 16-13.

A stalk of corn that measured 13 feet and 6 inches and was cut at the Plumbush farm was on display at Champlin's blacksmith shop in Nelsonville. Allen Jaycox then reported he had cut a stalk from his field that measured 13 feet and 9 inches. At the same time, S.B. Mekeel's store had a Bartlett pear that weighed nearly a pound.



A newspaper illustration of Maria Barberi from the 1890s.

Julia Fish won the cake with the ring in it that was raffled at the picnic held by St. Joseph's Church in Garrison.

The household furniture of the Rev. John Scott, the newly hired pastor at the Baptist Church, arrived from central New Jersey.

Mrs. E. Winbile, of Haywood Landing, Florida, visited her brother, William Jaycox of Nelsonville. They had not seen each other in 42 years.

The Garrison Athletic Club football team began practice.

Fred D. Miller, a long-distance pedestrian, who passed through Cold Spring in January on what he said was a return trip from New Orleans, passed through Garrison on what he said was a walk to Denver. He was accompanied by his dog, Guess.

Over a two-week period, Truesdell's pickle factory on Market Street received 2.5 million cucumbers grown by local farmers.

A swindler played the "envelope game" on servants employed by residents of the Garrison road, in one case stealing \$5.

A drove of 180 cattle consigned to C. & H. Smith of Griffin's Corners passed through Garrison.

An assailant known as "Jack the Hugger" seized a young lady from behind and kissed



Representatives of the Kickapoo Medicine Co. sold their wares in Garrison in 1895

her against her will as she walked home from the Garrison post office at dusk. When she screamed, he man fled across the field toward the railroad tracks.

A thief broke the Fish memorial window to gain entry into St. Philip's Church in Garrison, where he robbed the poor box and stole the communion wine.

A "morphine fiend" attempted to swindle narcotics from pharmacist James Boyd. He brought in a list of drugs he said were for James Ruddiman. He said he would take the morphine and cocaine with him and return for the others in a few hours. While the man waited, Boyd sent his clerk to check with Ruddiman, who said the stranger was a fraud.

The Hudson River Telephone Co. completed its circuit between Cold Spring and Fishkill.

Dr. H.A. Fletcher and his son, owners of the Kickapoo Medicine Co., arrived at the Garrison Hotel for a week's stay during which each evening they introduced their products. The final night was expected to end with a balloon ascension. [Kickapoo Indian Medicine shows were popular in the 1890s; the products included a cough cure, liver pills, salve, hair tonic and tapeworm killer.]

(Continued on Page 20)

Looking Back *(from Page 19)*

100 Years Ago (August 1920)

The sale of the empty West Point Foundry, which closed in 1911, was completed to the Astoria Silk Works of Long Island, which planned to construct a mill employing 700 people. Its most recent owner had been the A.B. & J.M. Cornell Iron Works. Parts for the first locomotive used in New York state, the De Witt Clinton, on display at Grand Central Terminal, had been cast there.

The latest accounting of the estate of Julia Butterfield [who died in 1913] was delayed in surrogate court because papers had not been served to Daniel Butterfield Jr., who was a patient at the Bloomingdale Insane Asylum in New York City.

75 Years Ago (August 1945)

A U.S. Army chaplain who was with Pvt. Thomas Lutze when the Cold Spring resident was mortally wounded during fighting in France in December visited with his mother to share details of her son's last moments.

Residents lined Main Street eight to 10 deep from Fair Street to Town Hall for about two hours of impromptu parades on the evening of Aug. 14 to celebrate V-J Day after the Japanese surrendered to end World War II. The air was filled with church bells, fire sirens, whistles, horns and noisemakers. The Haldane Central School band led the parade, which began at 8 p.m., followed by Red Cross units, veterans, the Village Board, the Town Board, clergy,



Times Square on Aug. 15, 1945, the day after the news arrived that Japan had surrendered.

National Archives

schoolchildren and firetrucks. From the lawn of St. Mary's Episcopal Church, Maj. Dale Chalmers told the crowd: "Our work is not done. We have a dislocated world to feed and help reconstruct."

The Cold Spring Lions Club held its inaugural block dance on Main Street between Fair and Garden with music by a six-piece New Jersey band. The master of ceremonies was Joseph Bloom, an executive with WABC. Entertainers from three local dude ranches performed, and organizers arranged a jitterbug contest.

Pvt. Joseph Coffey, 26, of Garrison, a 1935 graduate of Peekskill High School, told his parents in a letter he had been moving around so much that the last mail he received was an April issue of the *Peekskill Home News*, which he read repeatedly cover to cover. He said that he learned from the paper that a Peekskill friend, Pfc. Frank Snyder, had been killed in

action on Iwo Jima. When he found himself on the island, Coffey located the grave and took a photo that he said he planned to send to Snyder's parents.

Terance King, 61, the custodian of the Garrison school and a member of the Garrison Volunteer Fire Department, was assisting at the scene of a burning tractor-trailer on Route 9 when he was struck by a car, which broke his leg.

Joseph Mirasola, the owner of the second-run Hudson Theatre, purchased 100 new seats but said he had no one to install them. The films shown at the venue were first screened in Peekskill and Beacon.

The Philipstown Salvage Committee held its monthly collection of wastepaper and tin cans.

A thrift shop run by local Girl Scouts moved to 161 Main St. It was open Wednesday afternoons and Saturday mornings.

50 Years Ago (August 1970)

Robert McCaffrey reported that he shot a hole-in-one — with witnesses — on July 28 at the Highlands Country Club in Garrison.

Dominic Benecasa won \$100 on a lottery ticket purchased at Sam Sunday's barber shop.

Stanley White, an architect who served 15 years on the Haldane school board, died at age 69. He designed the remodeling of Beacon High School and Butterfield Hospital and additions to the Garrison and Haldane school buildings.

The Rev. Leonard Rust, pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Philipstown, left for a six-week trip that took him to Rome, Jerusalem, India, China, Hong Kong, the Philippines and Japan.

The West Point Band played a concert at the bandstand to honor the Cold Spring Musical Society and its retired conduc-

tor, Capt. Francis Dale. The society grew out of a concert given in 1925 by Dale on violin and James DuBois on bass fiddle. The group raised \$2,700 to construct a bandstand at the foot of Main Street.

The Philipstown Town Board curtailed the operations of the town dump on Lane Gate Road following complaints from neighbors that refuse was being burned illegally there. The Cold Spring Fire Co. had been called to the dump 24 times in the previous six months. Supervisor Joseph Percacciolo said that the town had to burn some refuse because it lacked the funds to bury everything.

The Philipstown Area Jaycees played a softball game at the Haldane Field against members of the Cold Spring Fire Co. in which members of both teams rode donkeys.

The Citizens Committee for the Protection of the Environment hosted a Survival Seminar and Song Fest at the Garrison Inn to mark the 25th anniversary of the dropping of the atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

Vandals trashed the principal's office at Haldane overnight and damaged two school buses.

Jack DeViscovi, a Haldane grad and racing driver, opened Mini-Bike Sales & Service on Route 9, a half mile north of Perks Plaza.

25 Years Ago (August 1995)

The Nelsonville board required peddlers to obtain a permit; banned "unreasonable loud, disturbing and unnecessary noise"; mandated the trimming of plants that blocked views at intersections; and limited the parking of trailers to 24 hours. A proposed law that would ban smoking in village-owned buildings was set aside.

Burglars went through a back door at Guinan's Garrison Country Store late on a Friday night and stole \$700 worth of cigarettes, two cameras and \$45.

Johnson Wagner, 15, of Garrison, won the 1995 Westchester Golf Association Jr. Championship. [Wagner turned pro in 2002 and now plays on the PGA Tour.]

The Philipstown Zoning Board met to review plans submitted by Matt Williams, a co-creator of *Home Improvement* and *Roseanne* and a former writer for *The Cosby Show*, who hoped to build a literary, educational and fine arts institution on a 68-acre farm on Route 9D that he envisioned as a retreat for artists and writers.

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Putnam Sued Over Arrest

Poughkeepsie man says he was Tasered, beaten

By Leonard Sparks

A Poughkeepsie man on Aug. 13 sued Putnam County and its Sheriff's Department in federal court, alleging that a deputy or deputies assaulted him during an arrest last year that was "motivated by racial prejudice."

Louis Rosado's lawsuit names Deputies Shane Rossiter and William Rossiter, saying he was beaten and Tasered during a traffic stop on May 9, 2019, on the Taconic State Parkway. Rosado alleges excessive use of force and false arrest.

The Sheriff's Department said that only Shane Rossiter was involved in the arrest. (The deputies are brothers.) Shane Rossiter signed each of the four tickets issued to Rosado that were included in court filings — one for misdemeanor drug possession, returnable to the Town of Kent court; and three for violations of state vehicle and traffic law, returnable to Putnam Valley court.

Rosado's attorney, J.P. Delaney of the New York City firm O'Dwyer and Bernstein, did not immediately respond to an email seeking more details about the allegations. Putnam County said it does not comment on pending lawsuits.

In court documents, Rosado says he was driving home from his job as a steamfitter around 11:30 p.m. when he was pulled over in a northbound lane by an unmarked police vehicle. It is not clear why he was stopped but court documents imply the officer or officers believed Rosado was a suspect in a crime.

According to Rosado's account, he did not resist arrest but was "intentionally, willfully, wantonly, maliciously and recklessly battered," suffering injuries to his left arm, wrist and shoulder, and to his back and neck.

His lawsuit accuses the county and Sheriff's Department of failing to properly screen, train and supervise the officer or officers and failing to discipline them for unspecified "prior instances of wrongful, improper, reckless and criminal acts and conduct."

Rosado did not say how much he sought in damages but Delaney earlier filed notices with Kent and Putnam Valley that Rosado intended to sue each for \$10 million. Rosado, in the affidavit, said he was still "not 100 percent sure" where the officers were from and initially thought they were from Kent and Putnam Valley.

Settlement *(from Page 1)*

year after she disappeared. Robert Thouboron was the Putnam County sheriff at the time of the crime; he was defeated in the 2001 election by Donald Smith, who served until being ousted in 2017 by Robert Langley Jr.

DiPippo spent 20 years in prison before his release. Krivak, who is serving a sentence of 25 years to life, remains incarcerated at the Putnam County Jail, although a state judge based in Westchester County last year threw out his conviction. (Putnam-based state judges had recused themselves.) The state appealed, and oral arguments are scheduled to begin Sept. 8 on whether Krivak deserves a new trial.

Should Krivak receive a new trial and prevail on the same evidence presented by DiPippo, the county would likely face another federal lawsuit. A key difference between the two prosecutions is that Krivak implicated himself in a statement that the defense contends was a false confession coerced by Putnam County Sheriff investigators.

The primary witness for the state is Denise Rose, a former friend of both men who testified that, while sitting in Krivak's van, she watched Krivak and DiPippo rape and suffocate Wright before carrying her body into the woods. The defense contended Rose was a compulsive liar who used information fed to her by the sheriff's investigators because they threatened her with prosecution. She insisted as recently as December, in a deposition in the DiPippo lawsuit, that she had seen both men commit the crime, although a defense attorney was able to draw out significant inconsistencies in her account.

DiPippo's conviction was overturned in 2001 when an appellate court determined that his lawyer failed to disclose that he had previously represented Howard Gombert Jr., a sex offender who was later put forth as a more likely suspect in Wright's death.

Gombert is serving a 30-year sentence in Connecticut after being convicted of sexually assaulting an 8-year-old girl in 2000. He is also a suspect in the 1995 disappearance of 17-year-old



Gombert

Robin Murphy from a Carmel shopping center on Route 52, where Gombert worked at a coin-operated laundry. Gombert has denied involvement in Wright's death or Murphy's disappearance.

DiPippo was re-tried in 2012 and again found guilty, but that conviction was overturned in 2016 when the state Court of

Appeals ruled 4-1 that DiPippo's lawyer should have been allowed to present testimony from a former Carmel resident who was imprisoned with Gombert in Connecticut who said Gombert had implicated himself.

During the second retrial, DiPippo's attorneys also questioned the tactics of Putnam sheriff investigator Patrick Castaldo, now retired, and other deputies when they took statements from alleged witnesses to the crime.

During DiPippo's third trial, in 2016, which lasted for three weeks, the jury deliberated for a day before finding him not guilty.

Following his exoneration, DiPippo sued in federal court, alleging that his constitutional rights had been violated by the county and Sheriff's Department.

In a statement, Odell called the settlement "one of the most difficult decisions I've had to make as a county executive, particularly given the circumstances of the crime and in light of the economic collapse we're facing due to COVID-19. I am, however, supporting this settlement to protect the taxpayers by capping the amount we would be required to pay at \$200,000."

According to Odell, if the case went to trial, DiPippo could have been awarded up to \$30 million by a federal jury in White Plains. The case would have also cost the county millions more in legal fees. She said the settlement would "protect county taxpayers."

Putnam lawmakers expressed similar sentiments before the Aug. 11 vote.

Paul Jonke (R-Southeast) pointed to the "potential catastrophic loss" if the case went to trial. "The insurance companies are not in the business of handing out money, yet they are recommending this settlement," he said.

Neal Sullivan (R-Mahopac) said the decision to settle "is simply a mechanism to eliminate the possibility of a devastating jury verdict later on. Trying a federal case in the current environment of anti-law enforcement sentiment may prove to be difficult and risky."

Without giving details, he referred to "many factual allegations which could prove to be problematic" in a federal trial, "not the least" of which included apparent "contradictory and troubling testimony" from Sheriff's Department investigators, including that they did not adhere to a legal requirement known as the Brady Rule in

(Continued on Page 22)



Josette Wright

Recent Putnam Settlements

As part of these settlements, the county admitted no wrongdoing.

APRIL 2020

Amount: \$65,000

The Legislature settled a lawsuit filed by a woman who claimed she was turned down for a corrections officer position at the Putnam County Jail because she earlier alleged she had been sexually assaulted by a co-worker at a state job.

DECEMBER 2019

Amount: \$750,000

The Legislature settled a lawsuit filed nearly five years earlier by a Brewster man who said he was targeted by former Sheriff Don Smith as part of a campaign to discredit District Attorney Adam Levy, a political rival. Alexandru Hossu was acquitted after being arrested in 2013 following an allegation by the daughter of a former girlfriend that he had raped her. The county paid \$250,000 and insurers covered the rest.



Levy and Smith

OCTOBER 2019

Amount: \$130,000

The Legislature settled a lawsuit by three Connecticut residents who alleged false arrest. They said sheriff's deputies in an unmarked car pulled them over in Carmel in 2018 because an officer said they had a taillight out. The plaintiffs said the officers arrested them after removing a bag from the vehicle and identifying the 13 round white pills inside as Ecstasy. In fact, they said, they were plastic plugs from a construction job. The charges were later dropped.

JUNE 2017

Amount: \$125,000

The Legislature settled a defamation suit filed by Levy against Smith. The sheriff paid an additional \$25,000.

DECEMBER 2014

Amount: \$35,000

The Legislature settled a lawsuit filed by Kenneth DeFreitas, who accused sheriff's deputies of beating him while he was in custody on robbery charges. The investigators — Patrick Castaldo, who retired that year, and Gerald Schramek, who left in 2015 — said DeFreitas had tried to seize one of their guns.

“According to Odell, if the case went to trial, DiPippo could have been awarded up to \$30 million by a federal jury in White Plains. The case would have also cost the county millions more in legal fees. She said the settlement would ‘protect county taxpayers.’”

Settlement *(from Page 21)*

which prosecutors must turn over evidence that could be helpful to the defense.

(In a statement on Aug. 19, Sheriff Langley, who took office in 2018, said “there is no such policy” under his command and that his staff was reviewing its procedures to ensure they conform to state and federal law and police best practices “to minimize

the risk of liability.”)

Toni Addonizio (R-Kent), who chairs the Legislature, said that a large financial loss in court could cause the county to lose its Moody’s bond rating, “which would result in the loss of hundreds of thousands of dollars” in higher interest charges on money it borrows.

Montgomery, who voted “no,” countered that, “as a matter of principle, we don’t pay

a rapist to maintain our bond rating — that’s just gross. We’re not in a position to be borrowing anyway, and I’ve heard that scenario over and over again, and it sickens me.” She also said that Krivak “admitted to this and our district attorney has advised us strongly” to reject the settlement.

Holly Crocco and Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong contributed reporting.

An Unusual Rebuke

In a statement issued on Aug. 14, Putnam County District Attorney Robert Tendy criticized the Legislature, county executive and county attorney for not consulting with him before agreeing to settle a lawsuit filed by Anthony DiPippo, which Tendy said “had no factual or legal basis and would ultimately fail.”

He said that during DiPippo’s three trials, “there had never been a single finding by any court of a civil rights abuse or any police wrongdoing.” He claimed the county never did anything to investigate and rebut DiPippo’s claims that his rights had been violated.

“In my opinion, based on the public comments made by the legislators as they cast their votes, the county was concerned with one thing only: money.”

Tendy continued that “the negligence

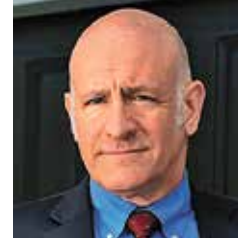
on the part of everyone responsible for this decision is astonishing — and the decision is reprehensible.”

The D.A.’s statement prompted an unusual rebuke from County Executive MaryEllen Odell, who said on Monday (Aug. 17) that she and the members of the Legislature who voted to approve the settlement were “deeply disappointed” in his reaction. (Odell, the eight members of the Legislature who voted for the settlement and Tendy are all Republicans.)

Odell said Tendy was “taking a business decision as a personal affront to him and feels as though it is a comment on his shortcomings and inability to convict Mr. DiPippo. This couldn’t be farther from the truth.”

She also accused the D.A. of not being “even remotely familiar” with the facts of DiPippo’s federal lawsuit. “He could not even begin to describe the conflicting and troublesome evidence that had been

discovered thus far in this case which had been litigated for over two years by the county’s insurance defense counsel and its insurance coverage counsel,” Tendy she wrote. “Mr. Tendy should concern himself with the business of the district attorney’s office and leave the federal litigation to those with greater expertise and knowledge of evidentiary standards.”



Tendy

“The fact that Mr. Tendy believes that, with no knowledge of the facts of this case, he knows better than four attorneys and a mediator how the litigation should have been handled is both arrogant and egotistical,” she wrote. “Mr. Tendy’s job is to put criminals behind bars. Where Mr. Tendy failed to do his job effectively, he cannot then blame myself or the Legislature for doing ours.”

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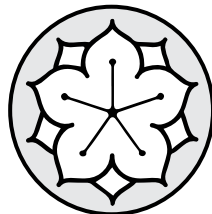
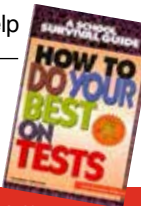
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Puzzles

CROSS CURRENT

ACROSS

1. Homer's cry

4. Commotion

7. Couturier Bill

12. — out a living

13. America's uncle

14. They're usually covered in white

15. Auto

16. Cartoon canary

18. Suitable

19. Point of view

20. Effervescence

22. Squirrel's home

23. Mediocre

27. Samovar

29. Sister of Venus

31. Kin of "Abracadabra!"

34. Crucifixes

35. Sufficient

37. *Brady Bunch* girl

38. Cash-drawer compartment

39. Swelled head

41. Marvel Comics group

45. Clutch

47. Anger

48. 16-Across' pursuer

52. Legislation

53. Praiseful rendition

54. Clean Air Act org.

55. Consumed

56. "Excavating for —"

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11

12 13 14

15 16 17

18 19

20 21 22 23 24 25 26

27 28 29 30

31 32 33 34

35 36 37

38 39 40 41 42 43 44

45 46 47

48 49 50 51 52

53 54 55

56 57 58

57. Bashful

58. Neither partner

DOWN

1. Starbucks selection

2. Giraffe's cousin

3. Avis competitor

4. The Thin Man pooch

5. Suddenly occur to

6. Last letter

7. Information unit

8. Myrna of Hollywood

9. Matterhorn, e.g.

10. Tackle moguls

11. Away from NNW

17. Reindeer kin

21. Boer fighters

23. Cheer-ful part of NYC?

24. Zodiac feline

25. Moreover

26. Owns

28. Tatter

30. Detergent brand

31. Dog's doc

32. Individual

33. Tiny particle

36. Towel word

37. Andrew Lloyd

Webber title role

40. Microsoft bigwig

42. Where to see "The Last Supper"

43. Poets' Muse

44. More recent

45. Hackman or Wilder

46. Beseech

48. Masseur's workplace

49. Sweet potato

50. Mainlander's memento

51. U-Haul rental

7 LITTLE WORDS

Find the 7 words to match the 7 clues. The numbers in parentheses represent the number of letters in each solution. Each letter combination can be used only once, but all letter combinations will be necessary to complete the puzzle.

CLUES

1 sullen look (5)

2 frequent attendees (8)

3 New Orleans school (6)

4 medical chart information (6)

5 cut drastically, as a price (7)

6 golden canines, perhaps (10)

7 making a mistake (10)

SOLUTIONS

LO	ED	TUL	RE	VIT
ARS	VE	ING	RET	UND
RIE	BL	SLA	ANE	GUL
ALS	ER	WER	RS	SH

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SUDO CURRENT

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

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Answers for August 14 Puzzles

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

1. SILENCING, 2. EERILY, 3. RIVETING, 4. STUCCO, 5. UNRESOLVED, 6. EVERYWHERE, 7. SOMEWHAT

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



Aiden Heaton, shown here in an earlier game, hit a two-run double to give Beacon's 10U baseball team its first victory of the summer, in the team's final game.

File photo by S. Pearlman

Beacon 10U Ends Season with Victory

Comes back from 9-0 deficit

By Skip Pearlman

The Beacon travel baseball team for players ages 10 and younger had been searching for a win all season long, and with one game left, it wasn't looking good.

The Bulldogs were behind, 9-0, going into the fifth inning against the Poughkeepsie Lightning on Aug. 13 at Memorial Park but pulled off an unlikely feat, scoring 10 runs in the last two innings of their season to walk off with a 10-9 victory.

The Bulldogs, who play in the Greater Hudson Valley Baseball League, rallied for five runs in the bottom of the fifth, then added five more in the bottom of the sixth, capped by Aiden Heaton's two-run double that plated the winning runs.

"We took a lot of lumps playing in the

A division this season, but we finally got our first win," said Coach Jed Varricchio. "It was great. The kids were as happy as if they'd won the World Series."

Caellum Tripaldi went 3-for-4 at the plate and drove in four runs for Beacon, while Hudson Fontaine was 3-for-3 with three RBI and Jake Deluise went 2-for-3 with one RBI.

"Heaton had been struggling a little at the plate, but today he and Fontaine came up big," Varricchio said. "Nolan [Varricchio] had a nice game at short, and Jesse Apostolou played well in left field. Overall, our defense has gotten better all season."

On the mound, Beacon got three innings from Tripaldi, who struck out three, and three innings from Connor Varricchio, who fanned four.

"We always struggle against Poughkeepsie, so this was big for the guys," the coach said. "Now we'll keep working hard and take it into the fall."

Beacon 11U Falls in Playoffs

End summer season with 5-6 record

By Skip Pearlman

The No. 8 seed Beacon baseball travel team for players ages 11 and younger hit the road Tuesday (Aug. 28) to take on No. 1 Tuckahoe in the first round of the Greater Hudson Valley Baseball League playoffs but dropped a 4-2 decision to the Tigers.

The Bulldogs closed their summer with a 5-6 record in league play.

Alex Young started on the mound for Beacon and went four-and-a-third innings, allowing two earned runs. James Brouchard pitched in relief and allowed one run.

"Young did a great job for us; he kept the hitters off balance," said Coach Anthony White. "The key was in the second inning. They got a home run, then loaded the bases. But he got out of it, and that's what kept us in the game. Brouchard also pitched well."

The Bulldogs picked up both of their runs in the fourth inning, the first on an RBI single by Brouchard and the second on a bases-loaded walk by Elijah Epps.

"I thought the team played a gritty game," White said. "We played good defense behind good pitching. It was a great team effort by our team; we only had two strikeouts the whole game."

"Overall I'm very happy," he said. "We move to 12U in the fall, and they're ready."

White added that his squad was thrilled to be playing baseball this summer.

"We played 16 games, including in a tournament, after the quarantine," he noted. "The guys made some good progress with the new normal. We were able to work with the masks and the distancing. We knew that's what we had to do to play, so everyone did it."

The Bulldogs are next scheduled to take part in the Labor Day weekend tournament in Poughkeepsie.

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