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, thereafter, Frost expressed interest in the position, Kyriacou said, which was "a bit of a surprise to everyone."

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 certification for the job.

(Continued on Page 7)

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) casting the lone "no" vote.

District Attorney Robert Tendy condemned the Legislature’s decision, calling it "incomprehensible and indefensible."

In a response, County Executive MaryEllen Odell, who supported the settlement, dismissed Tendy’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 month after the state reversed plans to 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 5)
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.”

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

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

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

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Your source for organic, biodynamic & low-intervention wines, ciders & spirits since 2006

By Michael Turton

Who is the most influential person in history?

~ Larry Cohen, Beacon (Dad)
Leonardo da Vinci. He was one of the most creative inventors of all time; his inventions are still with us today.

~ Melissa Cohen, Beacon (Daughter)
President Franklin D. Roosevelt, because he saved the world from being taken over by the Axis powers.

~ Thomy Majoneza, Cold Spring
Eve, because without her there would have been no da Vinci or Roosevelt.
Worker Killed in Glenham Accident

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

Marcos Daniel Espinoza-Gualpa, 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-Gualpa 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 objects 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 seanmaloney.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 their vehicle and to remove or hide valuable items, 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.
**Letters and Comments**

### Bring a map

The number of lost hikers I encounter on Mount Beacon when hiking 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 Cerchiarla, Beacon

### Census time

Is a census worth the time, effort and money for taxpayers (“Count, or Under-count? 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

### 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 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

### 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.
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.

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Source: 2020census.gov

Remembering V-D 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 Delmater, Beacon
Delmater is the commander of Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 666.

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
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. These risks are not a reflection of inadequacy 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 environments 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 present. Many of these plans go 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 leave.
- 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.

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.

**In statement, ask for more safeguards**

The hybrid model requirement gained traction in the state early on, but unfortunately, 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.

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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-conference 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 (R-Mahopac) said although he believed staffing levels.

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.

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.

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.

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 Schecthak 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, 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 the future; 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 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-Phillipstown) 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, the vote means the resolution 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-Rose) 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 Albanro (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 that makes any difference” and the rule “just makes it more
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.

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 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.”

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 Butterfly complex but remains too small for sorting.

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 wearing 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.
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 $204,015 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 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.

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 recongning 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 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. The right to reopen 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 are without answers,” Serino wrote on Facebook on Tuesday (Aug. 18).

### 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.
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**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.

**MAKER SPACE** – Reconstruction has begun at the former Impellitiere 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. Impellitiere 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

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**AROUND TOWN**

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Photos by Michael Turton

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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.”

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 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 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.

SAT 29

Papers of the Archive
GARRISON
The Ice House
17 Mandalay Drive | jsgjworld
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@jsgjworld.com or text 518-339-6913.

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.

COMUNITY
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: $25.

SAT 29

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

Yoga at Boscobel
GARRISON
9:30 a.m. Boscobel | 1601 Route 9D | boscobel.org

SAT 22

The Highlands Current
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 29

FunMinster Dog Show
PATTERSON
1 – 3 p.m. Patterson Recreation Center
65 Front St. | 917-449-5359
putnamservicedogs.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: $25 ($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 | townecrrier.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 | beaconny.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/desmondfishlibrary
facebook.com/desmondfishlibrary
Cost: $10 ($8 children, seniors, military).

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 partner, Talitha, will demonstrate experiments that can be done in the kitchen.

TUES 25

Service Dogs, Dobermans and Dachshunds
GARRISON
10 a.m. Desmond-Fish Library
9 Fishkill Farm Road
845-897-4377 | fishkillfarms.com
Putnam Service Dogs. Register online. Free.

TUES 25

Lights Out
COLD SPRING
7 p.m. Split Rock Books
splitrockbooks.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.

SAT 29

History Book Club
COLD SPRING
4 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library
bit.ly/COLDSPRINGhistory

CIVIC
SAT 22

Haldane School Board
COLD SPRING
7 p.m. Via Zoom
845-265-9254 | haldaneschool.org
The school board will discuss the budget, policy and other topics. Register at highlandscurrent.org/calendar.

MON 24

City Council
BEACON
7 p.m. Via Zoom
845-838-5011 | cityofbeacon.org
The council will discuss the budget, policy and other topics. Register at highlandscurrent.org/calendar.

TUES 26

Reading with Writers
COLD SPRING
7 p.m. Split Rock Books
splitrockbooks.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.

FRIDAY

Annual Benefit
YORKTOWN HEIGHTS
7 p.m. Support Connection
support.onnegalas.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.
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.
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 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 lease 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 craft 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 pay 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 30 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 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 riverwindsriverwinds.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 damnedest 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-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” looming in unstable and uncertain forms, the “lazy, hazy, crazy days of summer” seem less likely – this year – to have been those masters of insouciance and dishabille that I mean the French. By and other words that describe the supernaturally nonchalance they’re so good at, and by lazy, moderately hazy and infinitely crazier.

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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 supernaturally nonchalance they’re so good at, and by lazy, moderately hazy and infinitely crazier.

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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 teaspoons 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 overhanging in a springform pan on a wire rack. This is great served warm with a dollop of cream, yogurt or vanilla ice cream.

Pruning is an art
If you are looking for a “natural finish” and do not want to see your ornamentals cut back severely to dead wood, choose artful pruning. Artful Pruning allows your ornamentals to keep looking good.

Artful Pruning gracefully brings your ornamentals back to a more appropriate smaller size.

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

*Industrial Arts plans to make city its headquarters*

**By Michael Turton**

J eff 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 was.”

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 make city its headquarters.

The next phase of growth will see the move that is more about production than either cap production or grow.

He opted for growth. “We’ve had a good run,” 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.

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,” O’Neil says.

The biggest challenge has been the company’s Landscape line of four seasonal lagers made with New York state ingredients, with profits donated mainly to environmental and agricultural organizations.

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**Industrial Arts plans to make city its headquarters**

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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,” Garnerville, he says. “We distribute in every state from Pennsylvania to Maine; it’s happened organically and quickly.”

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

How did you learn ventriloquism?

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.

How did you begin?

I began by looking at puppets 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. So I 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.

Why did you choose a penguin as your partner?

I watched videos on puppet-making. I wanted to choose a kind of thing. Friends thought it was fun, so I made a couple more and now Punguin has hit Instagram. 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. 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.

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

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.

Something You Don’t Know About Me

By Alison Rooney

Vibeka 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.

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Garrison Middle School Honor Roll

Students recognized for fourth-quarter grades

Academic Excellence


High Honor Roll

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

Honor Roll

Hunter Erickson, Jayden Treloar, George Stubb

Looking for a healing perspective in your life?

You are invited to join

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Weekly Bible Lesson is read and hymns are sung.

Weekly Bible Lesson is read and hymns are sung.

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

Is Punguin ready to go out and about in Beacon?

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

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Is it true that some people don't like talking puppets?
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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 The Recorder said that Jones was Jewish but had converted to Christianity.

When John Bailey and his father and another 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 attended him.

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 Barcella — 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 Recorder called for the village to have at least one female assistant.

125 Years Ago (August 1895)

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The signpost at the fork of the Cold Spring and Nelsonville roads near the Plum Bush 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 Plum Bush 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.

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. Wmble, 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.

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.

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

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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.

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

Mrs. E. Wmble, 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 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 Kickapo Indian 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. [Kickapo Indian Medicine shows were popular in the 1890s; the products included a cough cure, liver pills, salve, hair tonic and tapeworm killer.]
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 mark the end of World War II. The air was filled with noisemakers. The Haldane Central School planned to construct a mill employing 700 people.

Day after the Japanese surrendered to France in December visited with his mother on the evening of Aug. 14 to celebrate V-J Day after the news arrived that Japan had surrendered.

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

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 Beneceasa 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 remodel-ling 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 conductor, 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 Peraceckio 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 DelViscovi, 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.

20 Years Ago (August 2000)
Robert McCaffrey reported that he shot a hole-in-one — with witnesses — on July 28 at the Highlands Country Club in Garrison.

Dominic Beneceasa 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 remodel-ling of Beacon High School and Butterfield Hospital and additions to the Garrison and Haldane school buildings.

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15 Years Ago (August 2010)
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10 Years Ago (August 2015)
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Dominic Beneceasa 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 remodel-ling of Beacon High School and Butterfield Hospital and additions to the Garrison and Haldane school buildings.

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5 Years Ago (August 2020)
Robert McCaffrey reported that he shot a hole-in-one — with witnesses — on July 28 at the Highlands Country Club in Garrison.

Dominic Beneceasa 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 remodel-ling of Beacon High School and Butterfield Hospital and additions to the Garrison and Haldane school buildings.

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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 wrongdoing, 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 Thoubboron 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 while seated 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 recently in 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 witness against Wright. In 2014, DiPippo was acquitted after a retrial.

G o m b e r t is serving a 30-year sentence in Connecticut after being convicted of sexual assault of an 8-year-old girl in 2000. He is also a suspect in the 1995 disappearance of a 17-year-old girl in 2000. He is also a suspect in the 1995 disappearance of a 17-year-old girl in 2000.

Gombert has denied involvement in Wright’s death.

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Gombert has denied involvement in Wright’s death.

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 defendant who was impeached 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.” Odell was a candidate for sheriff with the campaign to discredit District Attorney Adam Levy, a political rival. The Legislature settled a lawsuit filed by Levy against Smith. The county paid $250,000 and insurers covered the rest.

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. The Legislature settled a lawsuit filed by Levy against Smith. The county paid $250,000 and insurers covered the rest.

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.”

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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,” 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.

“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 himself or the Legislature for doing ours.”
Puzzles

**CrossCurrent**

**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  
28. 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  
46. 16-Across’ pursuer  
48. 16-Across’ pooch  
51. Legislation  
53. Praiseful rendition  
54. Clean Air Act org.  
55. Consumed  
56. “Excavating for —”

**DOW**
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.

**Solutions**

**CLUES**

**SOLUTIONS**

1. Homer’s cry (5)  
2. Commotion (8)  
3. Couturier Bill (6)  
4. They’re usually covered in white (7)  
5. Auto (10)  
6. Cartoons canary (5)  
7. Point of view (6)  
8. Effervescence (6)  
9. Squirrel’s home (5)  
10. Mediocre (5)  
11. America’s uncle (6)  
12. — out a living (6)  
13. America’s uncle (5)  
14. They’re usually covered in white (5)  
15. Auto (5)  
16. Cartoon canary (5)  
18. Suitable (5)  
19. Point of view (5)  
20. Effervescence (5)  
22. Squirrel’s home (5)  
23. Mediocre (5)  
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39. Swelled head (5)  
41. Marvel Comics group (5)  
45. Clutch (5)  
46. 16-Across’ pursuer (5)  
48. 16-Across’ pooch (5)  
51. Legislation (5)  
53. Praiseful rendition (5)  
54. Clean Air Act org. (5)  
55. Consumed (5)  
56. “Excavating for —” (5)

**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**

**SOLUTIONS**

1. Homer’s cry (5)  
2. Commotion (8)  
3. Couturier Bill (6)  
4. They’re usually covered in white (7)  
5. Auto (10)  
6. Cartoons canary (5)  
7. Point of view (6)  
8. Effervescence (6)  
9. Squirrel’s home (5)  
10. Mediocre (5)  
11. America’s uncle (6)  
12. — out a living (6)  
13. America’s uncle (5)  
14. They’re usually covered in white (5)  
15. Auto (5)  
16. Cartoon canary (5)  
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53. Praiseful rendition (5)  
54. Clean Air Act org. (5)  
55. Consumed (5)  
56. “Excavating for —” (5)

**SudoCurrent**

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

  6  1
  9

    8
```

Answers for August 14 Puzzles

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HEMABELVAST
IRAMISINTO
MAKINAWETAS
KREGULSTERS
PHENOMYON
AIRSOYTAMPA
IDESXETMARC
RELICPADCON
TOYDEFAEME
TODDLERCUR
OLIOMACARONI
BLOWEGADOAK
YARNNAPEMYE
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Answers will be published next week. See highlandscurrent.org/puzzle for interactive sudoku.
**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 Dehui 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.