

The HIGHLANDS Current



Last Chance for Summer Pasta
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AUGUST 28, 2020

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The view from the 11th fairway at the future site of the Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival

Photo courtesy of The Garrison

Shakespeare Festival Moving to New Home

Philanthropist donates 52 acres in Garrison

By Chip Rowe

The Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival, which since 1987 has held hundreds of summer performances at Boscobel in Garrison, will move in 2022 to a 52-acre parcel donated by Chris Davis, who owns The Garrison country club.

Davis offered in October to donate the land, along with The Garrison's restau-

rant and catering business, while the HVSF board was discussing a new, long-term lease with Boscobel. Davis McCallum, who has been HVSF's artistic director since 2014, called the gift "a transformational opportunity" for the festival that could change it into a regional cultural anchor as well as a community center.

The 2020 season, which would have been the festival's 34th, was canceled on April 30 because of concerns about the spread of COVID-19. The festival will return to Boscobel for a "farewell" season in 2021

before moving to what is now the back nine of The Garrison, which will become a nine-hole course, McCallum said.

The festival will replace its iconic view at Boscobel, which was used as a backdrop for its performances, with a view of the Hudson that is presently the 11th fairway.

"I might suggest it's even more spectacular than Boscobel," McCallum said cautiously on Tuesday (Aug. 25), noting that "it has Storm King and Breakneck framing the gateway to the upper Hudson

(Continued on Page 24)

Philipstown Man Charged with Murder in Home Fire

Suspect's father died in blaze

By Chip Rowe

A Philipstown man has been charged with second-degree murder following the death of his father last fall in a mobile-home fire on Route 9.

Putnam County Sheriff Robert Langley said on Tuesday (Aug. 25) that Louis Weber, 20, had been arrested in connection with the death on Nov. 4 of Louis J.



Louis Weber

Weber, 72, in a fire at the Post Road Mobile Home Park south of Route 301.

The charge carries a maximum sentence of life in prison. Weber is being held without bail at the Putnam County Jail in Carmel.

The elder Weber's body was found in the remains of his home at 3 Fourth St. after the trailer was destroyed by the blaze. The North Highlands Fire Co. responded to the alarm at 3:30 a.m. and was assisted by sheriff's deputies and the Cold Spring and Garrison fire departments.

The Putnam County Fire Investigation Team immediately began investigating the fire's origin, and the Sheriff's Department said an autopsy would be conducted.

(Continued on Page 21)

Mixed Feelings

As other Dutchess districts go all-virtual, Beacon forges ahead

By Jeff Simms

With just over two weeks before it begins the 2020-21 school year, the Beacon City School District is the largest in Dutchess County still moving forward with plans for a mix of in-person and virtual instruction, as well as an all-virtual option for parents and

guardians who aren't comfortable sending their children back into school buildings.

Although the county and region have relatively low COVID-19 infection rates after months of lockdown that began during spring classes, eight of the 13 school districts in Dutchess have decided to at least start the year with students and teachers entrenched at home.

The Poughkeepsie district on Aug. 19 announced it would go all-virtual, saying that nearly 60 percent of parents and guardians surveyed preferred that model. Wappingers, the largest district in the county with 10,700 students, will reopen virtually for September, with plans to tran-

(Continued on Page 21)

Election Officials Prepare for Deluge of Votes by Mail

Hire additional workers, stock up on letter openers

By Leonard Sparks

The Dutchess County Board of Elections' phones were "ringing off the hook" even before Gov. Andrew Cuomo signed legislation that will essentially allow every voter to use a mail-in absentee ballot for the Nov. 3 general election.

How to apply? Where to apply?

"People are very concerned about the virus," said Erik Haight, the board's Republican commissioner. (Each county board has one full-time commissioner from each of the two major parties.)

State lawmakers responded to that anxiety by passing election reforms, enacted by Cuomo on Aug. 20, that will allow voters to receive an absentee ballot if they fear

(Continued on Page 6)

5Q FIVE QUESTIONS: TED MANN

By Brian PJ Cronin

Ted Mann is a reporter for *The Wall Street Journal* and co-author, with his colleague Thomas Gryta, of *Lights Out: Pride, Delusion and the Fall of General Electric*. They will discuss the book at 4 p.m. on Sunday (Aug. 30) during an online event organized by Garrison's Desmond-Fish Public Library.

Your book includes an account of the Environmental Protection Agency's fight to get GE to clean up the PCBs it dumped into the Hudson River. Why do you think the company relented?

For all his flaws, [former CEO] Jeff Immelt didn't want to have the same relationship to the federal government and environmentalists that [his predecessor] Jack Welch had. It was a long, grinding fight for the EPA, too. The agency has always needed — especially on a giant Superfund project like this — to show companies there can be a remedy and a resolution. Otherwise everything would be locked up in the courts forever. And Immelt had this idea, which became the Ecoimagination campaign, of marketing GE as different from what it had been in the past and different from other heavily polluting companies. So it's both genuine and a need



Ted Mann

Photo by Tom Williams

for some better PR.

How important was myth-making to General Electric?

It's inextricable from the history of the company. It's always cultivated this image of a larger-than-life company. And that starts at the beginning, with Thomas Edison being associated with its birth. In fact, he was not nearly the leader of the company that it sometimes presented him to be.

At what point did you realize there was a larger narrative?

After Tom had taken over the beat, there

started to be a bunch of major developments. Every time we talked, we would tell each other that there was a bigger story because GE was a company that had been so proud of its ability to manage through anything and suddenly the wheels were falling off.

What surprised you the most while working on the book?

People at GE did care about this company, especially the people you've never heard of. They were all deeply invested in this notion that they ran the best business of its type anywhere in the world. And they were hurt by how badly it was mismanaged and how awful the collapse was.

What does the future hold for GE?

There's always going to be something called General Electric. They still have some of the best jet-engine technology in the world, they're still a major player in the power market, and they're still an iconic brand, even if that brand is on machines they're not actually making any more, like appliances and lighting. But they're never going to be in a position where they're this exemplar of a company. The whole sell was that nothing could bring a company this big and this strong and this smart down. And they did it to themselves.

ON THE SPOT

By Michael Turton

What do you like most about September?

“The cooler weather and, usually, the routine of going back to school.”



~ Lisa Mechaley, Nelsonville

“There's still good sailing!”



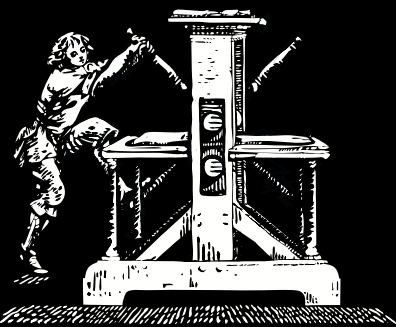
~ Gordon Duggan, Cold Spring

“Apple-picking with my family and the approach of fall.”



~ Elaine Thomas, Beacon

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Officials Fault Utilities for Isaias Response

Governor calls for heavier fines for failures

By Leonard Sparks

The electric, cable and internet services of Central Hudson and Optimum customers were not the only things disconnected when Tropical Storm Isaias ravaged the Highlands on Aug. 4, according to an initial state Department of Public Service investigation of their performance.

In separate “notice of apparent violations” letters dated Aug. 19, the department said its review so far has found that Central Hudson and Altice USA, the company that owns Optimum, violated state law and Public Service Commission orders by failing to have enough personnel and equipment to restore service to customers after sustained 40-mph winds and 70-mph gusts inflicted heavy damage on utility poles and power lines and conductors in the Highlands.

Nearly 117,000 Central Hudson customers, including about 44,000 in Dutchess and 36,000 in Putnam, lost power.

Altice is also accused of not having enough workers to restore cable TV and internet service to 400,000 customers and of waiting six days after the storm to begin a “coordinated outreach” to local officials.

On Monday (Aug. 24), Gov. Andrew Cuomo said he intends to propose legislation increasing fines on utility and telecommunications companies, which start at \$100,000 per violation and rise to \$500,000, while streamlining the process for revoking a company’s operating license for repeated failures.

“We know these storms are going to happen; we don’t pay for utilities to func-



Many power lines were disrupted on Aug. 4 by falling trees, including this one taken down on Sargent Avenue in Beacon.

Photo by Jeff Simms

tion on a nice day,” said Cuomo, who earlier this month ordered the Department of Public Service to investigate the preparations and response to the storm by utilities and telecom firms. “The essence of what we pay for is be ready for a storm — give me information when my power goes out and get it back on quickly.”

Dutchess County Executive Marc Molinaro said that two weeks after the storm the county was still notifying Altice of outages

“they seemed to know nothing about.” He called the company’s performance after Isaias “the worst I’ve seen in my 25 years of service.”

On the day of the storm, Central Hudson requested 200 line-workers from the North Atlantic Mutual Assistance Group, a consortium of 21 utilities in 21 states, four Canadian provinces and Washington, D.C. After the group sent only 16, Central Hudson should have pursued “any means possible,

including additional contractor personnel” to get more workers, the state said.

Central Hudson’s website was also down for more than eight hours between Aug. 4 and 5, leaving customers unable to report outages or get information on restoration estimates, according to the state.

While Putnam County Executive Mary-ellen Odell praised the response by state, county and local officials, she said Central

(Continued on Page 19)

NEWS BRIEFS

American to Suspend Service at Stewart

Airline will stop Philadelphia flights for October

American Airlines announced this past week that it would suspend service between New York Stewart International and Philadelphia — the only flight it offers from the New Windsor airport — beginning Oct. 7 until at least Nov. 3.

The airline cited low demand and the financial strain of the COVID-19 shutdown. It also suspended service in 14 other markets.

The other airlines that operate from Stewart are Allegiant (with flights to Florida, Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, and Savannah, Georgia); Delta (to Detroit) and JetBlue (to Orlando and Fort Lauderdale). Norwegian Air ended its flights from Stewart to Ireland last year.

American Airlines said it would “continue to re-assess plans for these

and other markets as an extension of the [federal] Payroll Support Program remains under deliberation. The schedule for October will be released Aug. 29, and American anticipates releasing its updated November schedule by late September.”

Beacon Man Arrested for Allegedly Stealing FedEx Truck

Pulled over while driving north on I-684

New York State Police troopers arrested a Beacon man on Friday (Aug. 21) on suspicion of stealing a FedEx truck in Long Island.

Police say Jose A. Rios, 52, was charged with felony criminal possession of stolen property.

The State Police said that at about noon, troopers were sent to Interstate 684 to look for a FedEx truck that had been reported stolen. A FedEx truck traveling northbound

in the area of Mile Marker 18 was pulled over and Rios was taken into custody with assistance by officers from the Westchester County Police Department.

Rios was arraigned before the Town of Bedford Court and remanded to the Westchester County Jail without bail. He is scheduled to return to court on Sept. 16.

Haldane District Revises Opening Plans

Adds another week of half days to start school

The Haldane school district in Cold Spring announced on Friday (Aug. 21) that it would begin its first full week of school with half days.

The district had previously said it would begin school with half days on Sept. 3 and 4 to allow for teacher training earlier in the week. The following week (Sept. 8 to 11) will now also be half days to allow more time for

training, Superintendent Philip Benante said.

Only students in kindergarten and first and sixth grades will come to campus on Sept. 3 and 4, according to a schedule posted by the district. Half of the ninth grade will come to campus on Sept. 3 and the other half on Sept. 4. All other students will be remote.

During the following week, students in kindergarten through the third grade and seventh grade will come to school on Sept. 8 and 9, and from second to fifth grade and eighth grade on Sept. 10 and 11. Sophomores will come in two groups on Sept. 8 and 9 and juniors and seniors in two groups on Sept. 10 and 11.

Beginning Monday, Sept. 14, all students in kindergarten through eighth grade will attend school on-campus, while high school students will begin a two-day rotation, except for families who opt for all-remote instruction, which will be led by their Haldane teachers. Families who select all-remote will be asked to stick with that choice through at least Nov. 13, the district said.

The HIGHLANDS Current

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Cold Spring, NY 10516-2819
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THE HIGHLANDS CURRENT
(USPS #22270) / ISSN 2475-3785
August 28, 2020
Volume 9, Issue 35

is published weekly by Highlands Current Inc., 142 Main St., Cold Spring, NY 10516-2819. Periodicals Postage Paid at Cold Spring, NY, and at additional offices. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to *The Highlands Current*, 142 Main St., Cold Spring, NY 10516-2819. Mail delivery \$30 per year. highlandscurrent.org/delivery delivery@highlandscurrent.org

Distribution audited by the Circulation Verification Council

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LETTERS AND COMMENTS

Stewart airport

While the air travel disruptions due to COVID-19 are to blame for American Airlines suspending service at New York Stewart International [see Page 3], the airport was already charting an unsustainable path for the long term. Why would anyone spend the extra time and extra money to take a two- or three-leg journey out of Stewart when it's only an hour drive to LaGuardia or Newark?

Instead of relying so heavily on the spoke-and-wheel scheduling for air travel, which prioritizes frequent service and rock-bottom prices, while increasing delays, unnecessary flights and overly crowded airports, Stewart could become a model for what a truly useful regional airport should be: competitive, nonstop shuttle flights to key cities (e.g., Los Angeles, D.C., Chicago, London, Toronto) — the types of places where people actually want to end up, as opposed to dumping passengers at other hubs for endless connections.

I'm not suggesting 15 flights a day to Dubai and Tokyo, but a staggered schedule of fewer flights to more useful destinations is better for our economy and the environment. The Port Authority, which runs the airport, should demand that any new tenants respond to the needs of people of the

Hudson Valley, and only then can Stewart become a great airport. If that's not possible, shut it down and build a solar farm.

Sean Conway, *Cold Spring*

Mail issues

Before President Trump was elected, our post office went to half days, got rid of our wonderful post office person and now, finally, is staffed with people who show up from other places, or sometimes don't ("What's Up with the Mail?" Aug. 21). We routinely get mail advertising after the weekend of the sale and get a bill a day before it is due or after.

As far as Amazon, the U.S. Postal Service made a strategic management decision to replace letter sorters with the ability to handle boxes, so there is that issue. A sorting system just built and paid for, 20 minutes from my house, now sends my mail 45 miles from me, across the Hudson River, in a more urban setting, and then transports it to Albany, so my mail is touched at least two to four times more in its travels, and that is just on my end.

The post office's problems are due to mismanagement and the people hired. If UPS, FedEx and others do this job better, so could a better-run post office. Its problems would go away if Elon Musk [of Tesla] took it over.

As for voting, we need voting in-person. If you are disabled, request an absentee ballot; if you are away, request an absentee ballot. The Democratic National Committee doesn't want another screw-up, allowing another competitor to win. So now the push for more money for the post office. The governor says absentee ballots can be post-marked by Election Day. When a precinct finds its candidate is underwater, what do you suppose will happen?

John Vreeland, *via Facebook*

According to some of my neighbors, expressing concern over the USPS is "political" and should not be discussed in an online community forum. I suppose none of them are in the unfortunate or desperate situation of waiting for delayed medication or a much-needed benefit check.

Heather Candon, *via Facebook*

Utah has universal mail-in voting, and 80 percent of Utah citizens vote. Less than 60 percent of voters vote in New York state. Would it be so bad to increase voting?

Tara Vamos, *via Facebook*

Teacher concerns

I believe all teachers wish to return to normal ("Teachers: Schools Not Ready," Aug. 21). We all want to go back into our classrooms and continue teaching. Yet, the plans that have been put into place do not require any testing of students or staff before the start of the school year. The plans also do not require intermittent testing once school has started.

This makes us start the school year blind to any asymptomatic COVID-19 carriers in our midst. Many people went on summer holidays. Many even visited Southern states where the pandemic is raging. How do we know they have not brought the virus back with them?

Districts are depending on isolating people who are already showing symptoms. That is too late. Districts are also depending on parents and staff to self-monitor, taking their own temperatures each morning. Anyone who has worked in a school and seen all the students who are regularly sent to school sick with fevers knows this is not a dependable model.

Teachers are also told that they may even give indoor mask breaks, at their discretion, during the day. This ignores the science which tells us the virus can remain airborne in an enclosed area for hours.

If districts and the health departments cannot provide or require testing and more rigorous monitoring, I believe teachers, staff and students will be exposing themselves and their families to more COVID sickness and deaths.

Lily Essely, *via Facebook*



How They Voted

Governor signs another round of bills passed by state legislators

By Chip Rowe

Gov. Andrew Cuomo has signed 893 bills passed during the 2019-20 session of the state Assembly and Senate. Another 35 await his signature—including one involving the hiring and salaries of displaced workers at the Indian Point nuclear power plant. He has vetoed 170.

Below are summaries of select laws enacted since May 29 and the votes cast by Republican Sue Serino (whose Senate district includes the Highlands), Democrat Sandy Galef (whose Assembly district includes Philipstown) and Democrat Jonathan Jacobson (whose Assembly district includes Beacon).

Mandatory belts

On Aug. 11, Cuomo enacted a law requiring that, effective Nov. 1, all passengers in motor vehicles who are at least 16 years old must wear seat belts, even in the back seat. Under the previous law dating to 1984, passengers only had to wear belts in the front. In 1984, about 16 percent of residents wore belts; today the figure is nearly 90 percent. The state estimates that 30 percent of highway deaths in New York involve occupants who were unbelted.

Passed Senate 54-8

Serino ☒

Passed Assembly 105-39

Galef ☒ Jacobson ☒

Service animals

On Aug. 11, the governor signed legislation that prohibits landlords from discriminating against a person who relies on a service animal that “alleviates the effects of a disability,” even if there is a “no-pets” policy. The bill’s sponsors cited a 2009 case in which a state court overturned a ruling by the commissioner of human rights that a co-op had discriminated against two long-time shareholders with disabilities because they had a service dog.

Passed Senate 51-9

Serino ☒

Passed Assembly 95-42

Galef ☒ Jacobson ☒

COVID-19 death benefit

This law, signed by Cuomo on May 30, established an accidental-death benefit for local and state public employees, including teachers, police officers and firefighters, who were directed to report to work outside their homes after March 1, contracted COVID-19 within 45 days and died of COVID-related causes in 2020.

Passed Senate 61-0

Serino ☒

Passed Assembly 142-1

Galef ☒ Jacobson ☒



Serino, Jacobson and Galef

Illegal masks

This law, enacted by Cuomo on June 13, repealed a section of the criminal code that banned wearing masks in public.

The excised statute singled out anyone who was “masked or in any manner disguised by unusual or unnatural attire or facial alteration; loiters, remains or congregates in a public place with other persons so masked or disguised; or knowingly permits or aids persons so masked or disguised to congregate in a public place; except that such conduct is not unlawful when it occurs in connection with a masquerade party or like entertainment if, when such entertainment is held in a city which has promulgated regulations in connection with such affairs, permission is first obtained from the police or other appropriate authorities.”

The bill’s sponsors said the law needed to be removed to “avoid confusion” following Cuomo’s mandate that masks be worn to prevent the spread of COVID-19. They also noted the law had been used to harass people who police accused of “masquerading” as a different gender.

Passed Senate 35-27

Serino ☐

Passed Assembly 109-35

Galef ☒ Jacobson ☒

Opioid antidote

Cuomo on Aug. 24 signed legislation to expand a Good Samaritan law to provide legal protection to restaurants, bars, barber shops, beauty parlors, shopping malls, theaters, hotels, sporting and event centers, hotels, inns, motels and retail stores that keep on hand and administer opioid antidotes such as Narcan if someone overdoses. The law already included schools and public libraries.

Passed Senate 60-0

Serino ☒

Passed Assembly 138-0

Galef ☒ Jacobson ☒

Hard ice cream

On Aug. 3, Cuomo signed legislation allowing the manufacture and sale of ice cream and frozen desserts made with liquor. The measure limits the percentage of alcohol to 5 percent by volume and

requires the same labels and warnings that appear on wine, beer and cider. Ice cream infused with beer, wine and cider has been legal since 2018.

Passed Senate 61-0

Serino ☒

Passed Assembly 129-9

Galef ☒ Jacobson ☒

Price gouging

Enacted by the governor on June 6, this law expands state law to make it illegal to charge “unconscionably excessive prices” (as determined by a court) during “periods of abnormal disruptions of the market caused by strikes, power failures, severe shortages or other extraordinary adverse circumstances.” The existing law banned price gouging on consumer goods and services; this revision adds “essential medical supplies and services” and “any other essential goods and services used to promote the health and welfare of the public.”

The bill’s sponsors said they introduced it after reports that some vendors charged hospitals exorbitant prices during the early days of the COVID-19 shutdown for hand sanitizer, face masks, bandages and medical-grade apparel.

Passed Senate 61-1

Serino ☒

Passed Assembly 141-3

Galef ☒ Jacobson ☒

Emergency rent relief

On June 17, Cuomo signed a bill to create a program to help some tenants who lost income during the COVID-19 shutdown pay their rent, at a cost to the state of as much as \$100 million between April 1 and July 31.

The law provides rental assistance vouchers to landlords for low-income tenants who are paying more than 30 percent of their household income toward rent and lost income during the four-month period.

Passed Senate 61-0

Serino ☒

Passed Assembly 133-10

Galef ☒ Jacobson ☒

Essential service

On June 17, Cuomo signed a bill that adds the commissioner of addiction services to a

preparedness panel at the Office of Emergency Management “to ensure substance use disorder providers are part of any disaster management planning.”

The bill’s sponsors noted that some addiction and mental-health providers reported having trouble getting personal protection equipment during the early days of the pandemic because they weren’t considered to be essential health care workers.

Passed Senate 62-0

Serino ☒

Passed Assembly 143-0

Galef ☒ Jacobson ☒

Virtual meetings

On June 17, the governor enacted a law that allows the boards of corporations, nonprofits and religious organizations to hold virtual meetings. The existing law didn’t say whether remote meetings were allowed, so the bill’s sponsors said the statute should be clarified.

Passed Senate 62-0

Serino ☒

Passed Assembly 143-0

Galef ☒ Jacobson ☒

Child victims

On Aug. 3, Cuomo signed a law extending the “look-back” period for victims of child sex abuse to file claims under the Child Victims Act. The Child Victims Act, which went into effect last year, allows people to file even if the statute of limitations had expired. During the early days of the pandemic, Cuomo issued an order extending the deadline from Aug. 14 to Jan. 14; this law extends the window again, to Aug. 14 of next year. More than 3,000 people have filed claims.

Passed Senate 60-2

Serino ☒

Passed Assembly 134-10

Galef ☒ Jacobson ☒

Home ‘steering’

On Aug. 3, Cuomo enacted a law allowing New York to revoke or suspend the licenses of real-estate agents who violate the anti-discrimination clause of the state Human Rights Law. The bill’s sponsors cited an investigation in 2019 by *Newsday* that found that 40 percent of the agents on Long Island the newspaper targeted in an undercover investigation steered minority clients toward minority neighborhoods or required additional proof of income or financing before they would show them homes in areas with mostly white homeowners.

The Human Rights Law prohibits housing discrimination on the basis of “race, creed, national origin, sex, age, disability, marital status, military status, family status, sexual orientation or gender identity.”

Passed Senate 59-1

Serino ☒

Passed Assembly 141-0

Galef ☒ Jacobson ☒

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Dutchess election workers process absentee ballots received before the June 23 primary. Dutchess BOE

Mail-in Voting *(from Page 1)*

catching COVID-19 while voting in-person. Previously, a voter could only vote absentee if he or she would be out of the county on Election Day; was incarcerated for anything other than a felony charge; was ill or disabled or caring for someone who was ill or disabled; or was a resident or patient of a Veterans Affairs hospital.

Cuomo also enacted a law allowing voters to request absentee ballots immediately, rather than only within 30 days of the election, and legislation allowing absentee ballots postmarked on or before the day of the election to be counted if received by Nov. 10.

Elections boards will also be able to count ballots received without a postmark but time-stamped on Nov. 4, the day after the election.

“What I have been stressing to everybody is, don’t wait,” said Catherine Croft, the Democratic commissioner for Putnam County.

The same concession for COVID-19 fears was made before the June 23 primary, and elections officials say they are expecting a similar result: an unprecedented flood of mailed-in ballots that will need to be opened by hand and counted.

In anticipation, Dutchess County’s Board of Elections is more than doubling its full-time staff, adding 22 temporary workers to its 20-person office, said Haight. The county is expecting that 60 percent of voters may vote absentee, he said.

Dutchess typically handles between 1,000 and 2,000 absentee ballots, but received 20,000 for the primary, said Haight. The county needed more than a week to count them all.

Haight said he expects three times as many absentee ballots than usual for the general election. In addition to hiring more workers, the county is ordering letter openers and file cabinets with locks to secure ballots, he said. The board posted a YouTube video on Aug. 21 called “How to Complete and Mail Back an Absentee Ballot.”

Putnam County’s Board of Elections also will add part-time employees, said Croft. “If we need to add other people, we’ll do what we need to do,” she said.

On June 18, Croft told the county Legislature that, as of that day, the elections board had mailed out 5,689 absentee ballots for the June primary, compared to 1,000 applications received for the 2016 primary.

At the time, Croft agreed with Legislator Neal Sullivan (R-Carmel/Mahopac) when he said it sounded like the primary would be a good “test run” for the general election.

Croft said last week that if she had to “pick a number out of the air,” 30,000 absentee ballots could be used for November in a county that has about 68,000 registered voters.

The Boards of Election face other challenges. The U.S. Postal Service, in a letter dated July 30, warned New York and 45 other states that they should expect delays in mail delivery. “Certain deadlines for requesting and casting mail-in ballots may



How to Vote Absentee

1. An application to receive an absentee ballot may be downloaded at elections.dutchessny.gov or putnamboe.com, or requested by phone by calling the Dutchess board at 845-486-2473 or the Putnam board at 845-808-1300. If you have concerns about voting in person because of the coronavirus, indicate that you have a temporary illness, which now includes “being unable to appear due to risk of contracting or spreading a communicable disease like COVID-19.”
2. Applications can be returned by mail or dropped off at the Board of Elections offices in Poughkeepsie (for Dutchess) or Carmel (for Putnam). Putnam accepts emailed or faxed applications but Dutchess does not.
3. Applications must be received by Oct. 27. After that date, they can be filled out in-person, up to Nov. 2 (the day before the election), at the Board of Elections.
4. Absentee ballots will be mailed beginning Sept. 18. Completed ballots can be returned by mail or dropped off in-person.

In addition, both counties also will offer early, in-person voting from Oct. 24 to Nov. 1. Dutchess will have four sites, including at Fishkill Town Hall (807 Route 52) and Putnam will have one, at the Board of Elections (25 Old Route 6 in Carmel).

be incongruous with the Postal Service’s delivery standards,” it said, 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.”

In addition to requesting and returning ballots as early as possible, voters have the option of dropping their ballots at the election boards in Poughkeepsie or Carmel or using expedited services such as FedEx. “There are lots of different solutions bypassing the post office,” said Croft.

COVID-19 by the Numbers

■ PUTNAM COUNTY

Number of confirmed cases:

1,487 (+19)

New Cases in Philipstown: **1**

Tests administered:

35,489 (+2,439)

Percent positive:

4.2 (-0.2)

Number of deaths:

63 (+0)

■ DUTCHESS COUNTY

Number of confirmed cases:

4,815 (+94)

Active Cases in Beacon: **6**

Tests administered:

126,957 (+10,938)

Percent positive:

3.8 (-0.3)

Number of deaths:

153 (+0)

Source: New York State Department of Health, with weekly changes in parentheses, as of Aug. 27. New cases in Philipstown for week ending Aug. 20.

Q&A: Terry Nelson

Terry Nelson, who represents Ward 1 on the Beacon City Council, spoke with Beacon Editor Jeff Simms on Wednesday (Aug. 26) during a *Current Conversation* held by Zoom. Below are edited excerpts.



Terry Nelson

You're the head of a committee charged with overseeing the search for a new police chief. Are there any updates?

We've created surveys, which are still going out. You can find them at the city website, at City Hall and at the Howland Public Library. The results will inform how we conduct our search and what we're looking for. I would encourage people to tell their friends or neighbors to take part, especially in communities of color. Once we get the data, we can relay that to the search firm [Public Sector Search & Consulting], and then the search begins.

Once you have a handful of finalists, will the public be involved in interviews?

Yes. This is an important time, and we want to get this right. We need to figure out what we can do to make policing or public service better. Hopefully we can find a chief that is forward-thinking and has experience with diverse communities.

The council adopted a resolution containing significant policy changes for the Police Department. Can you give an overview?

We are reviewing how we can do better — because we can all do better — and how we can reach different communities. How can we stop people of color from being afraid of the police? How can we flip that around? I'm not saying we can do it in a day, but we need to figure out how we can take steps toward that happening.

We also have to examine what it's like for the officers. Mental health check-ins are important and should be more frequent. It's a high-stress job. There's also a lot of chatter about our position with the Police Department. We are not anti-police and we are not defunding

the police. We don't hate the police. We want to work with them. We want to help them be better. That's what this resolution is about.

What feedback have you gotten to the changes?

There were several members of the community who said they were grateful that we passed this resolution. Others, even in public comments at council meetings, accused us of "playing the race card," which I'm not even going to dignify. I've had people call me a Marxist and a Communist in the same letter. I don't know where the anger comes from. We are not trying to hurt the police. We want the Police Department to work with us and work well with the community. We can all do better in our jobs. I can do better at my job. We're trying to make the city function in a way that's a little more harmonious.

I've gotten some pretty angry stuff in emails, and I will admit to you, it's hard to take. It's hard to read things about yourself, or to look at social media and see someone suggest that we be shot in the head. I would suggest to the rational-thinking people out there who may not agree with me: Choose your words carefully. That is not the kind of behavior we need right now.

Could hiring the new chief help to unify people?

I would hope so. I think the hateful emails people are sending me are a symptom of a larger problem that's generational — when, for generations, we have not effectively talked about race in a serious manner because one side gets offended and walks away. I've had people ask me, "Why are they protesting? Why are they bringing this stuff up again?" But this stuff is my daily life. This stuff is me

getting in my car and getting on the highway and being conscious of the speed limit, or having my headlights on, or, am I doing everything right? What if I get stopped? What do I do? It's a conversation that is long overdue.

There are a lot of people who need to be brave enough to have the conversation where you're going to hear things that make you uncomfortable. You should be uncomfortable, because I wake up and get in my car and I'm uncomfortable. There are young kids out there who walk around the street and they're uncomfortable if they see a police officer. That's not right, and it's not normal.

I'm not going to see it in my lifetime, and that's disappointing because when I was a child, I thought that things would be a lot better. But it turns out that it's a lot worse, and it's a lot worse when people don't speak to each other or don't speak to each other respectfully. If you don't know something about another person's race, ask questions, and don't be afraid to be wrong. Being wrong is not a sin, you know?

Earlier this summer, the council held a forum on policing. Will there be more?

It was productive, and the engagement has to continue. For too long, there has been a community of underserved people of color here.

The council has also had preliminary conversations about municipal broadband.

I hate to say that a good thing has come out of the pandemic, but it has illuminated the fact that there are families in Beacon who don't have sufficient, or any, internet access. If we're going to teach our children virtually, that puts a lot of people at a disadvantage, and that is the last thing we need. It's appalling to me that internet access is so poor. It should be treated as a public utility, like electric or gas, available to everyone, not just the people who can afford it.

Has the council had discussions with police officers about the reform plans?

Yes. How can a civilian talk about reform without asking a police officer? I don't want people to assume that they're the bad guys. It's about dialogue and discussion. You don't have to agree with each other, but we can ask, "OK, what is this experience like? What do you do when X, Y and Z happens?" Before the former chief left, we were asking those questions. We were asking about protocols. We wanted to find out how the department operates.

Were you surprised when the chief and captain retired in July?

When I heard, I was like, "Are you kidding me?" All I asked him [during a City Council meeting in June] was, "What time of day do you make stops on South Cedar?" Just kidding, but no — half-kidding. It took me by surprise. I wish the former chief and the captain well. Now we get to move forward into the 21st century.

Full-time Associate Program Director

Tri-County Long Term Care Ombudsman Program, is seeking the ideal candidate to be an Associate Program Director for our agency, working with residents in the long-term care setting, developing programmatic policies and volunteer management.

The primary quality for this position is leadership and fundamental respect for seniors residing in long term care facilities.

You will be the person to work directly with residents to help advocate for their rights and dignity, working together to resolve issues. Proficient with outreach to the community to promote the program, recruit volunteers and interact with families, residents and facility staff when needed.

This is an amazing opportunity to serve the senior community and be very proud of your work. Extensive training will be provided post-hire. Travel within three counties (Westchester, Putnam and Rockland) is required. The following skills are required: time management, written and verbal communication, experience with computers.

Please send cover letter and resume via email to: judy@ltccc.org

NOTICE

The Philipstown Zoning Board

will hold their regular Monthly Meeting on September 14th, 2020 at 7:30 p.m. virtually via Zoom.

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

Register in advance for this webinar:

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_9RhNnMAuQSmQl67l4wBcRw

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

OR email KMACINTYRE@PHILIPSTOWN.COM to request login information before 7 p.m. on September 14th, 2020.

NOTICE

TAX COLLECTION

I, Jessie DesMarais (tax collector), Collector of Taxes for the Haldane Central School District, have duly received the tax roll and warrant for the collection of taxes. Such taxes may be paid by mail to Haldane Central School District, P.O. Box 1305, Buffalo, New York 14240-1305 or on line at www.taxlookup.net. and follow the directions.

Taxes may be paid on or before September 30, 2020 without penalty. On all taxes received from October 1 through November 1, 2020 a 2% penalty will be added. No taxes will be received after November 1, 2020. Unpaid school taxes will be received with your Town and County taxes in January 2021 with an increased rate of interest.

Jessie DesMarais, School Tax Collector

Dated: August 24, 2020

Dirt-Road Fans Oppose East Mountain Paving

Residents warn of speeders and other dangers

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

From South Mountain Pass in southernmost Philipstown to East Mountain on its northern border, dirt-road fans on Wednesday (Aug. 26) urged the Town Board to scrap plans to pave an 1,111-foot stretch of East Mountain Road South.

They commented during a board workshop held in Garrison at the town Recreation Center, where attendees — about 30, including at least one paving supporter — and board members wore masks and filled socially-distanced chairs.

Supervisor Richard Shea said board members would likely vote on Thursday (Sept. 3) on whether to proceed with the project.

The town wants to pave a dirt stretch between the paved portion of East Mountain Road South and paved East Mountain Road North. The two roads, which both run eastward from Route 9, are a few miles apart and twist upward until they join at a Y-shaped intersection. The right prong, East Mountain Road South, continues into the Wicoppee section of East Fishkill in Dutchess County.

Critics warned that paving the short stretch would encourage speeding and detract from the road's natural beauty; they also said they fear for the remaining unpaved road to Wicoppee.

Shea, who once lived on East Mountain, expressed surprise at the furor. He said the



The Philipstown Town Board workshop on Aug. 26 allowed room for debate.

Photo by L.S. Armstrong

project was approved in 2014 but delayed twice due to contingencies. Now, he said, the town can move ahead.

"It's always been our intention to finish connecting paved section to paved section," which "makes a lot of sense," he explained. "I'm not talking about going down toward Wicoppee. I'm talking about 1,111 feet. That's it."

The supervisor agreed that paving the road to Wicoppee would probably increase traffic and cause other problems, "and that is a big concern."

Garrison resident Barbara DeSilva advised the board to be wary. "Our dirt roads have a certain importance," she said. "They're assets to the town. Once you pave them, they no longer have the same appeal or meaning. They're gone."

East Mountain Road resident Richard Butensky advised against paving the 1,111 feet. "The thing that's not debatable is that traffic is faster on paved roads," he said. "The more asphalt we have, the more traffic we'll have and the faster it will go. I don't think it's worth it."

Town Board Member John Van Tassel, who lives on East Mountain Road South, said that when residents complain about speeding, town officials typically discover that "95 percent of the tickets were given

out to people who live on the road. Then we get complaints" from them, too. "Nothing controls your speed," he added. "It's not anything that has to do with the road. It's the person driving the car."

Vera Keil, who lives on Trout Brook, off the road to Wicoppee, praised the board for the paving that has already occurred on the mountain. She discounted the notion that paving wrecks aesthetics. "The 12-foot stretch of asphalt is not going to take the bucolic beauty away," she said.

Shea described dirt roads as "a maintenance issue, an environmental issue, a cost issue. It's just become sort of prohibitive on all fronts."

He attributed the environmental expense to the fact the material used on dirt roads must be replaced yearly, cannot be obtained locally and must be mined and trucked some distance, consuming fuel and contributing to pollution. Also, he said, unlike paved roads, dirt roads do not qualify for state transportation aid. "It's indisputable that paving is more cost-effective, especially now."

Those in the audience promptly disputed that.

Betsy Calhoun, of Garrison, and DeSilva suggested that, if handled correctly, dirt roads are more economical than paved roads.

Alex Clifton, a South Mountain Pass resident, wondered "when we're going to start unpaving roads." A dirt-road activist, he opposed a paving and drainage project on South Mountain Pass five years ago. "I love, love, love dirt roads," he said. "I'm against all paving of dirt roads."

In other business...

■ With a 5-0 vote, the Philipstown Town Board on Aug. 13 approved a six-month development moratorium on three private roads: Upland Drive, a narrow, twisting mountain lane; Cliffside Court, a cul-de-sac extending from Upland; and Ridge Road, about one mile away. The board expressed concern that Putnam County has been selling land it owns in the area that could spur development that the roads may not be able to handle.

■ The board on Aug. 13 approved a lease with New Leaf Restoration, a nonprofit based at the Butterfield Library in Cold Spring that wants to create a community garden for town residents on a half-acre of the 10.8-acre, town-owned parcel on Route 9D and Route 403 that is regulated by a conservation easement with the Open Space Institute. Under the lease, New Leaf Restoration must present its plans to the Recreation Department for approval.

Public, Board Question Proposed Warehouse

Review of Route 9 project held over for another month

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

After inviting residents' questions and raising some of their own, Philipstown Planning Board members last week prolonged scrutiny of a proposed Route 9 warehouse to allow more time for the public to review traffic data and for the applicant to supply additional details.

At its Aug. 20 meeting, held via Zoom, the board voted unanimously to extend a public hearing on an application by CRS International to construct a 20,340-square foot warehouse with offices on a 2.5-acre lot on Route 9 about one-third mile south of Route 301. The site is zoned highway-commercial.

Founded 38 years ago, CRS is a Philipstown-based firm that imports and distributes fashion brands and provides the logistical and related services necessary

for overseas firms to reach U.S. markets. It plans to keep its current location but said it needs room to expand.

When the public hearing opened in July, neighbors said they worried that tractor-trailers entering and exiting the site would increase traffic hazards on a stretch already plagued by speeders. Those concerns surfaced again on Aug. 20, although data presented by John Canning of Kimley-Horn, a traffic consultant hired by CRS, showed there would be little impact.

CRS would employ about 30 people at the site, according to materials filed with the Planning Board.

In his written report, Canning stated that the warehouse would only increase traffic volume on Route 9 by about 1 percent during peak hours, or weekdays between 7 and 8 a.m. and 4 and 5 p.m.

He said he recorded 1,094 trips by cars and buses on Route 9 in the morning peak and 1,251 in the afternoon peak, which

he said would increase by 19 trips in the morning and 18 in the afternoon. Currently, there are 23 tractor-trailers on the highway in the morning peak and 27 in the evening peak; the warehouse would add one tractor-trailer in each period.

Canning also said the average speed of traffic passing the site was 44 miles per hour, or 6 mph lower than the speed limit.

Board members expressed their doubts about that assessment.

"It's pretty unrealistic to report that traffic is going below the speed limit at this spot," said Board Member Heidi Wendel. "That strains credulity" and contradicts both her experience and residents' testimony, she explained.

"There is no way people are driving less than the 50s [mph], or rarely," added Neal Zuckerman, who chairs the Planning Board.

Canning responded he was confident his numbers were accurate but promised further analysis.

Lawrence Smith, who lives near the site, described Route 9 as "one of the most dangerous roads I've ever driven on." He said that "adding more capacity to that road is a terrible idea."

Madeline Rae said the CRS project would mean that 53-foot trucks, "the largest tractor-trailers, are going to be in the heart of Philipstown." She predicted that "if we have one massive warehouse we're just going to have more and more" and observed that warehouses already exist around the I-84 and Route 9 interchange in Fishkill, where empty shopping mall space also invites occupants.

Rae urged the Planning Board to reject the CRS warehouse because "it will be devastating for Philipstown."

Eric Barreveld of CRS told the board that the firm does not intend "a dramatic expansion in traffic or business" and only anticipates two or three tractor-trailers a day using it. "We want to do this the correct way" and to "satisfy our needs as well as the needs of the public," he said.

The board scheduled further discussion for September.

State: No Parking or Trails Planned for Lake Valhalla

But some residents still have doubts about proposal

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

State park officials last week said they have no plans for trails, parking lots or amenities on land they hope to acquire from Scenic Hudson near Lake Valhalla.

But Lake Valhalla residents continued to express concern that adding the parcel to a state park will allow their isolated, bucolic community to be overrun like Breakneck Ridge, which is about 3.5 mountainous miles away.

Some also warned that the plan could lead to a line of demarcation or fence across Lake Valhalla, a picturesque stretch of blue water surrounded by woods.

The discussion occurred Aug. 20 when the Philipstown Planning Board, via Zoom, continued a public hearing on Scenic Hudson's proposal to divide about 765 acres of a 1,178-acre property it owns that borders Hudson Highlands State Park Preserve near the Putnam-Dutchess and Philipstown-Fishkill boundary.

Scenic Hudson intends to put 520.5 acres, known as Parcel A, under a conservation easement until the state can add it to the park system. A second portion, Parcel B, about 193.5 acres, which contains a picnic area, tennis courts and trails, would be



A view of Lake Valhalla

Photo by Karen Thompson

transferred to a Lake Valhalla homeowner association under a conservation easement. The last piece, Parcel C, about 52 acres, with one or two homes, would be sold but likewise protected by a conservation easement. Lake Valhalla is in Parcels B and C.

If the state obtains the 520-acre tract, "besides the change of name in ownership, there's not any other change we anticipate," Evan Thompson, manager of the Hudson Highlands State Park, told the board. "We have no intention of opening up trailheads

or parking lots."

He noted the parcel contains established trails, which the state might upgrade "so we could get a vehicle up there. But it has nothing to do with public access. It has nothing

(Continued on Page 19)



Hudson Hil's, which opened on Main Street 12 years ago, is for sale.

Photo by M. Turton

Hudson Hil's for Sale

Owners say they are testing real-estate market

By Michael Turton

The Hudson Hil's Cafe, one of Cold Spring's most popular restaurants, is for sale. Owners Bob and Hilary Hayes have also put their Garrison home on the market.

"We're testing the waters," Bob Hayes said this week. "There are a lot of people who want to be out of the city and up into this

area. This is not a fire sale by any means."

The couple, who opened Hudson Hil's 12 years ago, own the building at 129-131 Main St., which includes the cafe and market and two second-floor apartments. It is listed by Houlihan Lawrence Commercial for \$1.65 million.

In the meantime, it will be business as usual. "Nothing's changing," Hayes said. "We've lost enough restaurants in this town." If the building sells, he said it would only be to another restaurateur.

Hayes said the COVID-19 pandemic was like "a punch to the stomach," and that March and April were particularly bad. "Customers are coming back faster than the employees," Hayes said, adding he thinks it's a combination of concerns about COVID-19 and the security of unemployment benefits.

CURRENT CONVERSATIONS

A New Home for the Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival



WEDNESDAY SEPT. 2 | 7:00-7:30PM
Live Zoom event with Artistic Director Davis McCallum

REGISTER TO ATTEND:
highlandscurrent.org/current-conversations

AROUND TOWN



▲ **ON THE HUNT** — Edie Giunta, 9, and her sister, Oona, 6, were the first finishers of the Great City of Beacon Scavenger Hunt, a five-week quest that sent children (and parents) all over the city seeking clues related to businesses and cultural institutions. The hunt was organized by the Recreation Department as an alternative to Camp @ the Camp, which was shuttered because of COVID-19. The first 50 finishers will receive a proclamation signed by Mayor Lee Kyriacou and the Sleuth hat worn here by Edie.

Photo provided



◀ **OUTDOOR JAM** — The Danbury band Phoenix Tree performed a free concert at Little Stony Point on Saturday (Aug. 22) hosted by the Little Stony Point Citizens Association.

Photos by Ross Corsair



▲ **FAMILY HONOR** — Beacon officials recently installed an honorary street sign naming the stretch of Henry Street between Teller Avenue and South Chestnut after the Scalzo family, which owned homes there for nearly a century. One family member, Anthony Scalzo, was the only soldier from Beacon to die in the Korean War.

Photo by Jeff Simms



The Comprehensive Plan Update Committee needs your help. Thanks to everyone who took our original survey on the issues facing Philipstown. Now, we need your thoughts on housing, infrastructure, recreation, and economic development.

**TAKE OUR NEW
SHORT SURVEY AND
HELP BUILD A BETTER
PHILIPSTOWN.**

Your comments are needed and welcome.
www.philipstown2020.org

The Calendar



Yali Lewis with her daughter, Liora, outside Lewis & Pine

Photos provided



Jewelry designed by Yali Lewis



"Saturn" earrings designed by Lewis that, she says, "illustrate the kinetic, sculptural and modern qualities of my work."

Testing Her Mettle

New mom cautiously reopens Beacon shop

By Alison Rooney

Yali Lewis had it all figured out. She had a May due date for the birth of her daughter, and knowing she'd have less time to devote to Lewis & Pine, her store in Beacon, she built up the inventory of jewelry she designs and makes, as well as works by other artists.

Then came the pandemic, in March, which shut the store down (although online sales continued). Now, Lewis and her husband, Steve Jacobs, the proud parents of Liora, have reopened, determined to get the business going again.

"It was a challenging time to be pregnant," Lewis says, although she noted that with a newborn, she was not affected as much by the shutdown. "You don't run around like regular people do," she says.

Lewis has been working with metal since the seventh grade, when she was inspired while taking a metalsmithing class. "There's something magical about

being able to take immovable material like a hard metal, heat it and hammer it and transform it into something that can do all these different things," she says.

After studying art history and fine art as an undergraduate, Lewis, who grew up in Poughkeepsie, moved to New York City, where she earned an MFA in fine arts from Parsons School of Design.

She later taught art history and photography there, then landed a teaching job at a high school. All along she made jewelry. "My interest in art history informed the kind of designs I was able to make," she says. "Looking at contemporary art pieces like those of Richard Serra at Dia, and Sol Le Witt's line-making — looking for forms in other media opened up the horizons in design for me."

After raising \$7,000 from a Kickstarter campaign, she bought a folding table, jewelry and necklace busts, and a tent to show and sell her work at craft shows and to open Lewis & Pine inside Brooklyn Flea. (The "pine" is a nod to an eastern white pine that her father planted when she was born.)

When she had enough capital, she moved to the Bryant Park Holiday Market in

Manhattan. "The rent is a lot, and you have to build it out yourself — lighting, heating, flooring," she says. "Since it's open every day, with long hours, you have to hire help. It's a significant investment but there is a huge amount of foot traffic, so it gives you name recognition and lots of return customers."

It was that experience that gave Lewis and her husband — who works in digital communication and marketing — the courage to open a brick-and-mortar location in Beacon, where they had moved after being lured by nature, the arts and a sense of community. The store opened in December 2018.

Some of Lewis' designs follow modernist lines, while pieces made since the move to the Hudson Valley are inspired by the natural world. "Collecting material while on hikes has shifted my work toward the botanicals," she explains. "I make a mold of, say, a leaf or twig, and that mold is used to create the jewelry piece."

Lewis also produces apothecary products such as diffusing oils, and there are soaps, notebooks and ceramics made by others.

Although the first weekend's sales after the reopening were better than expected, the couple admits they had misgivings. The two storefronts to the east are empty, and foot traffic is half of what it was a year ago.

In the past month, however, the number of customers has increased, she says, and

"the mood feels more upbeat, with more strolling, looking in windows."

Lewis says she will not be surprised to see more Beacon shops close because of the shutdown. "I don't think everyone can sustain a much-longer period of low sales," she says. "We'll make it, but other businesses may have smaller margins."

The pandemic has changed her perspective, as well, Lewis says. There's a "feeling of reassessing priorities," she says. "So many of the things I cared about just aren't important anymore. My life has shifted with being a mother and the intensity of concern about health."

She said the business is important to her "particularly in connecting to the community. When I meet other business owners, or just people in town, and I say 'Lewis & Pine is my store,' it gives you an identity, a part in keeping the community alive, keeping Main Street vibrant. Every business that closes makes that world smaller. Keeping the lights on in all of our businesses means more to us than just as owners. This business has ways of meshing in our lives, beyond a paycheck."

Lewis & Pine, at 133 Main St. in Beacon, is open Friday from 1 to 6 p.m., Saturday from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Call 845-689-4257 or visit lewisandpine.com.

THE WEEK AHEAD

Edited by Pamela Doan (calendar@highlandscurrent.org)

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

COMMUNITY

SAT 29

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 pickup window. *Cost: \$18*

SAT 29

Yoga at Boscobel

GARRISON

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

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

SAT 29

New York International Air Show

MONTGOMERY

10:30 a.m. Orange County Airport
500 Dunn Road | 877-766-8158
airshowny.com

The annual show will be conducted as a "drive-in," with spectators parked in rows and sitting next to their vehicles. The U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds will headline. Tickets must be purchased online. Also SUN 30. *Cost: \$127 to \$219 per car*

SAT 29

Natural Dye Workshop

WAPPINGERS FALLS

11 a.m. Common Ground Farm
845-231-4424
commongroundfarm.org

Laura Sansone of NY Textile Lab will teach participants how to create dyes from plants grown at Common Ground Farm and in our bioregion during this two-hour Zoom workshop. *Cost: Starts at \$18*

SAT 29

FunMinster Dog Show

PATTERSON

1 - 3 p.m. Patterson Rec Center
65 Front St. | 917-449-5359
putnamservicedogs.org

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



Bannerman Gala, Sept. 5

SUN 30

Create Your Own Mandala

COLD SPRING

Noon - 1 p.m. Butterfield Library
845-265-3030 | bit.ly/3hsVQgD

This virtual workshop will focus on creating mandalas, or circles that in Hindu scriptures symbolize creativity and a deeper connection with self and the universe. You collect the rocks and the library will supply tools and paint. Register online.

No cover with dinner. Call for reservations.

SUN 30

Celtic Music

BEACON

7 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com

Mary Coogan, Joanie Madden and Bruce Foley will perform. No cover with dinner. Call for reservations.

SUN 30

Highway 61 Revisited

POUGHKEEPSIE

8 p.m. Bardavon
youtube.com/bardavonpresents

Bardavon will mark the 55th anniversary of the release of Bob Dylan's classic album with a broadcast featuring performances by artists such as Jack DeJohnette and Steve Earle and commentary by Executive Director Chris Silva and others. *Free*

BOB DYLAN HIGHWAY 61 REVISITED



TUES 1

Creative Strings Improvisers Orchestra

BEACON

5 p.m. Riverfront Park
2 Red Flynn Drive | beaconnny.myrec.com

The Beacon Recreation Department, Compass Arts Creativity Project and Gwen Laster of Creative Strings Improvisers Orchestra present this socially distanced show. Register online. *Free*

STAGE & SCREEN

SAT 29

Story Screen Drive-In

BEACON

8:30 p.m. University Settlement
724 Wolcott Ave. | 845-440-7706
storyscreendrivein.square.site

This pop-up drive-in theater will screen *Raiders of the Lost Ark* (1981) and *Shaun of the Dead* (2004) this weekend and *Labyrinth* (1986) and *Robocop* (1987) next weekend. See website for show times and health protocols. Snacks will be available for purchase. Also SUN 30, FRI 3, SAT 4, SUN 5. *Cost: \$10 (\$8 children, seniors, military)*

KIDS & FAMILY

MON 31

Story Time with Mrs. Merry

GARRISON

1:30 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library
instagram.com/desmondfishpubliclibrary
facebook.com/pg/desmondfishlibrary

Join Lucille Merry for a virtual story time.

MON 31

Craft Time with Mrs. Merry

GARRISON

4 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library
instagram.com/desmondfishpubliclibrary
facebook.com/pg/desmondfishlibrary

Join Lucille Merry to create. Supplies will be provided by the library.

TUES 1

Locked in Science

GARRISON

6 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library
instagram.com/desmondfishpubliclibrary
facebook.com/desmondfishlibrary

Join Ryan Biracree, the library's digital services coordinator, and his daughter, Tabitha, on Facebook and Instagram for a demonstration of science experiments that can be done in the kitchen.

WED 2

Teen Zoom Book Club

BEACON

3 p.m. Howland Library
beaconlibrary.org

The Howland's teen programs coordinator and a CUNY literature professor lead this club for high school students. Email community@beaconlibrary.org.

TALKS

SUN 30

Lights Out: The Fall of an American Icon

GARRISON

4 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library
845-424-3020 | bit.ly/DFPLLightsOut

Journalist Felix Salmon will interview *Wall Street Journal* reporters Thomas Gryta and Ted Mann by Zoom about their book, which chronicles the collapse of the once-mighty General Electric. See Page 2. Register online.



TUES 1

Balancing Perseverance with Patience

GARRISON

4 p.m. Garrison Institute
845-424-4800 | bit.ly/2EICJqy

Pilar Jennings and Allan Lokos will lead a Zoom webinar on coping with the physical, mental and emotional challenges of a pandemic and an awakening to the world's injustices. Register online.

WED 2

HVSF's Big Move

GARRISON

7 p.m. Zoom
highlandscurrent.org/
current-conversations

In an online conversation, *Current* Editor Chip Rowe will speak with Davis McCallum, artistic director of the Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival, about its planned move in 2022 to a new site in Garrison after more than 30 years of summer performances at Boscobel. Register online.

VISUAL ARTS

SAT 5

Ring Them Bells

BEACON

1 - 5 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
477 Main St. | 845-831-4988
howlandculturalcenter.org

Kelly Ellenwood rang a lot of doorbells and used many doorknockers while running for Beacon City Council in 2019. Her photos of some of the most unusual will be featured in an exhibit that runs through Sept. 27. A portion of the sales of photos and posters will benefit the Howland center.

CIVIC

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

TUES 1

Village Board

COLD SPRING

6:30 p.m. Via Zoom
845-265-3611 | coldspringny.gov

TUES 1

Haldane School Board

COLD SPRING

7 p.m. Haldane Auditorium
15 Craigside Drive | 845-265-9254
haldaneschool.org

TUES 1

Putnam County Legislature

CARMEL

7 p.m. Via Audio | putnamcountyny.com

WED 2

Garrison School Board

GARRISON

7 p.m. Via Zoom | gufs.org

THURS 3

Philipstown Town Board

GARRISON

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

Something You Don't Know About Me

Adam Osterfeld

Adam Osterfeld, who lives in Philipstown with his wife and their two sons, is a first-grade teacher at the Manitou School. He spoke with Alison Rooney.

Back in the 1980s, soon after MTV had started, my teachers at the Pratt School of Design in Brooklyn didn't get what music videos were all about. "How does this selling-the-song thing work?" they'd say. "It's not commercial."

Meanwhile, I had friends who kept trying to get me to work with them on music video projects. And I did. While still at Pratt, I worked on the video by The Waitresses [best known for "I Know What Boys Like"]. Looking at it now, it's corny as heck, but it's what we thought videos should be back then.

I was creating animations. People would ask what computer I was using and I'd say, "Light boxes and crayons!" I came up with a name for it: xerography, which sounds fancy. It was similar to rotoscoping, which is projecting film that you trace, frame-by-frame. I turned it into animation using photocopies.

After that I went to Nickelodeon — I had friends there — you got jobs then just by showing up! It was the 1980s and 1990s, and it was casual and all by word-of-mouth, like, "You wanna work this week?" I did a lot of work for Viacom; they owned everything: Nickelodeon, MTV, lots more. I was an original designer on [the children's shows] *Blue's Clues* and *Wonder Pets*, and I art-directed *Little Bill*.

On *Blue's Clues*, the producer would ride in the hallways on one of the little bikes we all used to have, with a bell and a basket, delivering the animations. The place was kooky. The adults would go home at 6 p.m. and the rest of us would stay and play. They did focus groups to figure out how kids were learning, and we made artwork based on that. At the time, I looked kind of like the guy who played Steve, the host. We went out together once on Halloween and a child came running up yelling "Steve!" — only she was pointing to me!

Next I was hired at a company called Broadcast Arts, where I worked on the title sequence for the Madonna movie, *Who's That Girl?* It was done on 11-by-17-inch animation cells with greased pencils and paint. The place was part of the wild animation scene that was developing. There were punks on ladders, hanging things, and a live chicken running around because someone was animating one. [Future heavy-metal singer and filmmaker] Rob Zombie was our bike messenger. It was a time when being an artist meant you would cross paths with famous people: Paul Simon, John Goodman, Dr. John. It was fascinating who you would meet if you stayed up late enough.

After Broadcast Arts, I bounced around doing freelance work, lots of commercials and package design, which is where I made



A collage created by Adam Osterfeld of his many moods



Adam Osterfeld (right) with Steve Burns, the original "Steve" on *Blue's Clues*, during the show's early days

Photos provided

my money. I did animation sequences for weird things like an MTV pilot called *Art School: Girls of Doom*, which was about strange girls who were club rats, as well as assignments like the credits for a Yves Montand performance at Lincoln Center.

I hung out at Todd's Copy Shop in Soho. It's where [painter Jean-Michel] Basquiat came to get his copies. Todd and I would stay there all night, cranking tunes, making Xeroxes. I started messing with the Xerox machine to get a different kind of look. It was a moment in time. I was a graphic designer, not someone who drew. I was a typography person who could give things a polish. I was also good at coordinating, putting the crew together, getting the artists in.

I ended up freelancing at most every studio. We'd all wait for jobs to be announced, or to turn up. There were only so many studios and about 500 animators. Pan was where I started — it was in a loft in Dumbo, which was a mess, pretty dangerous. We'd ride our mountain bikes over the

Brooklyn Bridge, and they'd lower the key to the street with a fishing rod.

After a while, animation work began being exported to Ireland and South Korea. The mom-and-pop studios didn't last.

For a while, I was a graphics designer



Adam Osterfeld, recently

at Oxygen Media, which was owned by Oprah Winfrey. I never met Oprah, but I saw the back of her head once. I worked there until my babies were born. Because of the Family Leave Act, I was able to take six months at home with my child, which was amazing. Everything shifted after that when the Towers fell. Oxygen let go a third of its people.

Once I had my own babies, art didn't have as much importance to me, and I made the career change. The economy hit the skids and I had to reinvent myself anyway. The days without schedules came to an end. At age 48, I went back to school to earn my master's degree and become an elementary teacher. Now I teach children to read, write and do math, and I love it.

In many ways, *Blue's Clues* led me to wanting to become a teacher. The process of learning to speak and read through the cognitive learning models I saw there made a big impression. It taught me how to ask questions instead of giving answers. Also, both of my parents were teachers.

It's funny that in my youth I was kind of an "edgy" person and now I'm more of a "community" person. In both roles, tapping into what children do has been easy for me — I get how they're thinking, why they're thinking it. My wife says I'm like a 2-year-old at times, but I say, "Not 2 — more like 5."

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Mouths to Feed

Cooking Between the Lines

By Celia Barbour

Some years back, a parent-friend texted me asking if I knew a yummy, easy vegetable recipe he could make for his vegetable-averse kids.



Sure, I wrote, and proceeded to describe the process for making broccoli with garlic and olive oil, one of the easiest recipes I know. By the time I was done describing the keys to its yumminess — peeling the stems, cooking the broccoli until meltingly soft, finishing the pasta in the broccoli pan with some reserved pasta water — my text filled the whole screen plus a scroll-down, and ran to nearly 250 words.

I paused before hitting SEND, worried that the prolixity of my reply would prevent my friend from even attempting the recipe. But despite multiple re-readings, I couldn't find anything to cut. Every trim risked making the resulting dish less appealing. And an un-appealing dish would have sabotaged the whole endeavor: His kids would shun the meal; he would feel duped and frustrated; precious food would go to waste.

I hit SEND.

He never cooked it.

If only he could have watched me make this dish just once, I thought, he would have realized how effortlessly it comes together.

The earliest known written recipes originated in Mesopotamia, 3,700 years ago. (I should say, "The earliest known *food* recipe"; older recipes have been found in China and elsewhere for beer. Figures.) The first cookbook was published nearly 2,000 years later, in Rome. Historian Jean-Louis Flandrin, editor of *Food: A Culinary History*, claims that "without writing, recipes cannot survive."

When I read Monsieur Flandrin's statement, I had to go back and reread it, then get out my reading glasses and read it again.

What did he mean? Of course recipes can survive without writing. How else does he think this knowledge persisted over the countless prose-free millennia that human beings have been alive and cooking? And not only did recipes persist, but they evolved and flourished into amazing, diverse cuisines. The wise, careful preparation of food has always been essential to survival, and passing it along from one generation to the next was surely among our forebears' most vital duties.

Even now, when cooking ability is no longer a life-or-death skill, I'm still convinced that being present in the kitchen of a competent and generous-hearted cook is the best way to learn how to make a dish — far better than any written recipe or, for that matter, YouTube video.

When I was in my mid-20s, I had the great good fortune to live down the hall from just such a person. Julie taught Italian cooking classes for a living, and I spent much of my downtime in her apartment. Several things that I make from memory today come from the hours I spent watching and listening to her.

I thought of her last week when my son Henry texted asking what to do with 12 tomatoes. I was in New Hampshire with Peter; he was at home with his brothers, tending our rampant garden between bouts at his internship.

The first idea that came to mind was one of those recipe-less dishes I'd learned from Julie — one she had described as "tasting like summer." But remembering my fruit-less broccoli exchange, I hesitated: could a text message convey the essentials? Yes, I thought — to Henry it could. He's spent enough of his 19 years observing my kitchen habits and developing his own competence and ease; he would be able to interpret my shorthand. "Warm some olive oil," I began, finishing, 137 words later, with "when the pasta's coated and silky, add basil. Enjoy." And, with the help of his brothers, he did.



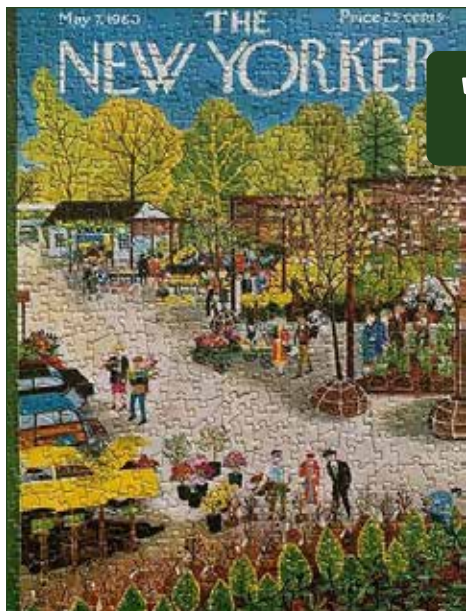
Summer Pasta with Fresh Tomatoes and Corn

You can skip blanching the tomatoes in Step 1 and simply cut them into pieces, skin and all, if you don't mind little bits of curled-up tomato skin in your final dish (I usually don't).

3 pounds fresh tomatoes
 ¼ cup olive oil
 3 to 4 cloves garlic, thinly sliced
 1 pound pasta, such as linguine
 3 ears of corn, kernels cut from cobs
 Salt and pepper
 3 tablespoons butter
 ¼ cup grated parmesan, plus more for serving
 1 cup basil leaves, torn

1. Fill a basin or bowl with ice-cold water. Bring a pot of water to boil. Working in batches, add the tomatoes a few at a time, and blanch for 30 seconds. Transfer tomatoes to cold water (keep the water to reuse for boiling the pasta). When the tomatoes are cool, slip away the loosened skins (you may have to pierce them gently with a knife to get them started). Chop into roughly 1-2 inch pieces. Set aside.
2. Heat olive oil in a large skillet over medium-low heat. Add the sliced garlic, and cook gently until translucent and starting to soften (you may need to turn off or adjust the heat to prevent browning).
3. Meanwhile, bring the pot of water back to a boil and cook pasta to al dente, about 2 minutes less than package directions. Drain, saving a cup of the cooking water.
4. Increase the heat beneath the skillet to medium, and add the corn to the garlic mixture, season with salt and pepper, and cook, stirring occasionally, 3 minutes. Add the reserved pasta water, the pasta, and bring to a bare simmer. Reduce heat and add the chopped tomatoes. Stir in the butter a tablespoon at a time, alternating with a tablespoon of parmesan, until the pasta is coated and silky. Taste and add salt and pepper as needed. Toss with basil leaves just before serving.

Photo by Henry Weed



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The Apocalypse, with Laughs

Cold Spring writer publishes second novel, 20 years later

By Alison Rooney

David Hollander, who earlier this year (just before COVID-19 caused widespread shutdowns) debuted his first musical, *The Count*, at the Philipstown Depot Theatre, is now priming for the release of his second novel, *Anthropica*, which will be published on Tuesday (Sept. 1).

Hollander, who lives in Cold Spring, describes *Anthropica* as “a big apocalypse comedy taking on climate change, artificial intelligence and the absurd politics of academia.” The protagonist is Laszlow, “who believes human beings are a stain on God’s otherwise perfect universe,” the author says. “One of the key players who joins his team is a scientist who

has determined that human beings exhaust the earth’s resources every 30 days.”

There are also robots “locked up in a hangar in South Korea,” the author notes.

The novel, overall, is “about Laszlow pursuing the people and ideas he needs in order to bring his ideas to fruition,” says Hollander, who has taught fiction writing in the MFA program at Sarah Lawrence College for two decades. “There are 50 characters. It’s structurally wild, with chapter-to-chapter spacing and harmonic convergence where all these elements come together.”

Beneath the “madcap structural conceits and layers of irony” is a “compassionate book about people who wish they could make everything seem like it doesn’t matter, because it matters to them,” says Hollander. “The nihilism is a smokescreen for the desire to take care of people and the world.”

He says that while he wrote the novel before the pandemic, it shares “the general feeling we all have right now of being perched on the lip of something awful, trying not to go over the edge.”

“I wouldn’t want to write directly about the pandemic,” he adds. “I have this feeling that it would immediately feel either self-indulgent or false, or maybe both. The earliest fiction about 9/11 seemed to me to be in bad taste. It had to live inside of us for a while before it could be processed in a way that didn’t seem superficial or take shortcuts.”

Hollander’s first novel was published 20 years ago; he’s written others since, “but nobody wanted them!” he says with a laugh. “This one, too, I thought would go unpublished. It’s experimental. Publishers would say, ‘I love it, but I’d never be able to get it through my people,’ but then one of those people, Katie Rainey, started her own company, Animal Riot Press, and said she wanted to publish it.”

His contributions to *The Count* — which was supposed to be performed at the Triad Theater in Manhattan after its Garrison debut but became a casualty of the quarantine — were the dramatic episodes that took the characters from song to song. It was his first attempt at playwriting, and Hollander says he found that, as a writer of short stories and novels, “writing the monologues was harder than writing dialogue.”

His first novel, *L.I.E.*, was “a coming-of-age story run through a postmodern filter,” Hollander says. “It was about a group of post-high school adolescents from the lower-middle-class suburbs of Long Island — kids without a lot of hope and a limited palette to choose from. The main character is becoming aware of the fact that he’s a character in a book. Should he tell others? Does it matter? Is there a difference between free will and the illusion of free will?”

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David Hollander

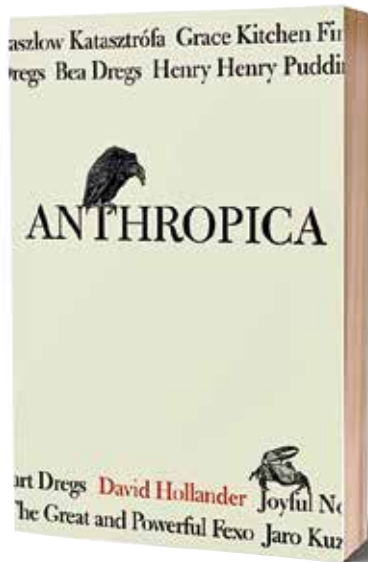
Photo by Chris Taggart/Sarah Lawrence College

Those are the sort of questions Hollander was aiming to explore, but he found “in the end the reactions from readers and reviewers were focused on the depiction of spiritual bankruptcy and suburban malaise. The heavier or more philosophical questions I was interested in were invisible to most readers, with a few exceptions here and there. What I learned was that once the book was out there, my intentions didn’t matter anymore.”

“What’s interesting,” he says, “is that nowadays, when students of mine come across and read *L.I.E.*, they seem to get exactly what I was doing. I’d like to think I was ahead of the curve. What’s more likely is that the undergraduates at Sarah Lawrence are just exceptionally good readers!”

At the moment, Hollander is working on a lengthy essay “about how I’m publishing my second novel 20 years almost to the day after my first, trying to look at how much failure I’ve suffered as a writer between those two points, and how it tempered my work, and how I had to surrender all hope of success before any success was actually possible.”

A virtual launch for Anthropica, with Hollander in conversation with writer Rick Moody, will take place at 7 p.m. on Sept. 11. Register at bit.ly/hollander-event. Signed copies are available from Split Rock Books in Cold Spring (splitrockbks.com).



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Roots and Shoots

Windows in the Canopy

By Pamela Doan

After 10 years of living in the Highlands and experiencing many storms, including Hurricane Sandy and Tropical Storm Irene, I expected Tropical Storm Isaias to be uncomfortable — lost electricity, internet, etc. — but not too damaging. I was so wrong.

While I watched from the windows, trees in my yard were cracked, broken and thrown over by the wind. Previous storms, even the microburst in 2018, didn't topple or damage as many trees in our landscape as Isaias. In a future column, I'll explore why that happened and how some trees are more vulnerable, but for now, I'm trying to turn the loss into an opportunity.

In the 9 acres we steward on East Mountain in Philipstown, at least a dozen trees were lost. Fortunately, none was close to animals, buildings or people. Trees we loved, including the white pine behind our house that I've estimated is about 250 years old, were damaged. No insurance policy or repair service can restore them.

Here's a breakdown for a single lost sugar maple that was about 20 inches in diameter, according to the National Tree Benefit Calculator (treebenefits.com):

- Intercepted 2,424 gallons of stormwater, keeping it from becoming runoff;
- Conserved 110 kilowatt-hours of electricity for cooling and heating;
- Improved air quality by absorbing pollutants, reducing particulates, releasing oxygen and avoiding pollutants from energy use; and
- Annually reduced and sequestered 612 pounds of carbon dioxide, a main contributor to climate change.

Multiply that by 12 and it's a staggering insight into the damage from a storm



One of the many trees downed during the recent tropical storm. When you add up the lost benefits of this tree and others, the damage is significant.

Photo by P. Doan

that isn't reported on or tracked in any database. More than 7,300 pounds of CO2 reductions and sequestration were lost in a few hours. For perspective, that's 3.6 tons of carbon emissions.

According to The Nature Conservancy, the average global citizen has a carbon footprint of four tons. The average American's carbon footprint is closer to 16 tons. While we lost the equivalent of an Italian's annual carbon footprint, we only lost the equivalent of an American's for four months. That's some crazy math!

Loss of canopy trees means openings for sunlight on the ground and in the understory, and here is the opportunity. Since much of the native understory, herbaceous and woody plants, has been browsed out-of-sight by deer and replaced by inva-

sive plants like Japanese barberry, I can improve the landscape with plantings that will thrive now. As long as I protect these plantings with grow tubes or fencing, I might have a chance at creating little pockets of regeneration.

Shadbush

(*Amelanchier Canadensis*)

This is a 15- to 20-foot-tall multi-stemmed tree with berries that birds love and spring blooms, and it's a host species for the striped hairstreak butterfly.

Hazelnut

(*Corylus Americana*)

The nuts are eaten by a wide variety of wildlife and birds. It is also a host for several moth species and its flowers are important to pollinators.

Witch-hazel

(*Hamamelis virginiana*)

When you find a tree blooming in the woods in winter, it's probably this one. Many species of birds eat its seeds and it is a host plant for the spring azure butterfly.

Eastern red cedar

(*Juniperus virginiana*)

This is actually a juniper, not a cedar, and it's important habitat for 50 species of birds, as well as small animals. It needs full sun and reaches more than 50 feet in height and can live for 500 years. Its root system stabilizes soil and it tolerates drought, heat, wind and other stressors well.

Since I'm trying to establish a herbaceous layer as well as understory trees, I am

going to split the difference and experiment with part-shade plants that will tolerate some shade as the trees and shrubs grow up around them. Here are perennial plants for sun to part-shade and shade:

Foam-flower

(*Tiarella cordifolia*)

I've cultivated this spring-blooming flower and the deer haven't been eating it (yet?). It spreads nicely and is easy to grow.

White snakeroot

(*Ageratina altissima*)

Pollinators will appreciate its white flowers while most animals will avoid it. It will also spread out and I'll allow it to seed itself.

Wild ginger

(*Asarum canadense*)

Forget the hostas, which are deer candy, and plant wild ginger instead. In the woods, it will hold its leaves throughout the season and deer will leave it alone.

Black cohosh

(*Actaea racemosa*)

This is familiar as a medicinal herb but, in the forest, its tall, white flower stalks have a striking appearance and it is a host plant for the Appalachian azure butterfly and is important for pollinators.

While these plantings will take many years to do the work that the lost trees performed for our benefit, I'm prioritizing increasing biodiversity in this plot of land over replacing hardwoods. Every situation is different.

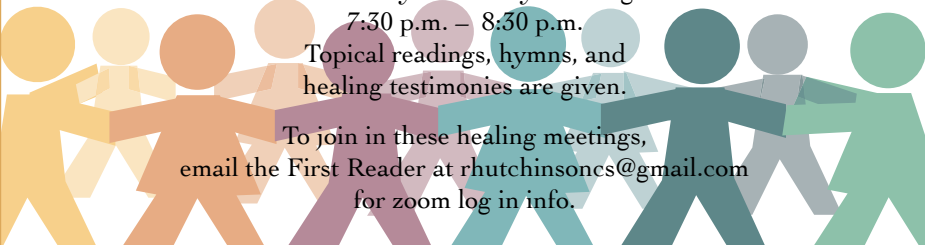
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Looking Back in Beacon

By Chip Rowe

Editor's note: Beacon was created in 1913 from Matteawan and Fishkill Landing.

150 Years Ago (August 1870)

The abolitionist and former slave Frederick Douglass, 52, spoke in Newburgh as part of a lecture tour to celebrate the ratification of the 15th Amendment, which banned laws that prevented any man from voting based on his "race, color or previous condition of servitude." (To read a contemporary account of his speech, see highlandscurrent.org/douglass.)

125 Years Ago (August 1895)

Peattie's Academy of Music at Fishkill Landing opened for the season with a production of *Old Rube Tanner*.

By one account, the Dutchess County district attorney and two detectives "worked nearly all day in a private room" to get information from William Hopkins, a guard at the Matteawan State Hospital for Insane Prisoners who was accused of accepting a bribe of diamonds, a gold watch and jewelry to aid in the escape of train robber Oliver Curtis Perry. Hopkins was said to have implicated Amelia Haswell, who posed as a missionary, in the plot. According to authorities, Hopkins was supposed to leave clothes and a pistol at the Brinckerhoff race track for Perry but got drunk in town instead. Haswell and Perry's father wrote letters to Hopkins demanding he return the jewels, which helped tie him to the plot.

Twenty-six girls employed in the card room at the Matteawan Manufacturing Co. went on strike after they discovered four of the workers were receiving 90 cents a day to make wool hats, while they were paid only 70 cents.

The 33-member uniform division of the Poughkeepsie chapter of the Knights of Pythias visited Fishkill Landing to

perform drills for about 1,500 spectators on the grounds of the Colonial Inn. The men arrived on the 4:30 p.m. train and took electric cars to the top of the hill. Afterward, they re-formed and marched through the main street of Matteawan.

100 Years Ago (August 1920)

A Buick carrying four women, a baby and a chauffeur overturned on a Sunday afternoon and went down a 20-foot embankment on the Albany Post Road near Beacon. Police said they could get no coherent story from the occupants — none of whom were injured, although the car was destroyed. The group hired another car and left without giving their names.

When members of the Barbers' Association of Beacon agreed to raise the price of a haircut from 35 to 50 cents, three of the city's shops kept the old price and the agreement collapsed.

George West, secretary of The Law and Order League, charged that gambling was being permitted in Beacon, an accusation that the police chief said was nonsense.

Alonzo Burton, a retired telegraph operator, while celebrating his birthday, claimed that, in 1859, while standing on the station platform at Fishkill Landing, he saw the box containing the body of John Brown [who had been hanged on Dec. 2 for attempting to incite a slave insurrection]; and that two years later, at the same place in the early part of March 1861, he saw Abraham Lincoln on his way to Washington, D.C., to be inaugurated as president.

E.F. Cummings of Beacon submitted a slogan for a contest sponsored by *The Evening World* in New York City for slogans for Warren Harding, the Republican candidate for president. Cummings offered: "Vote for Harding; he's no fool; we're tired of 'one-man' rule."

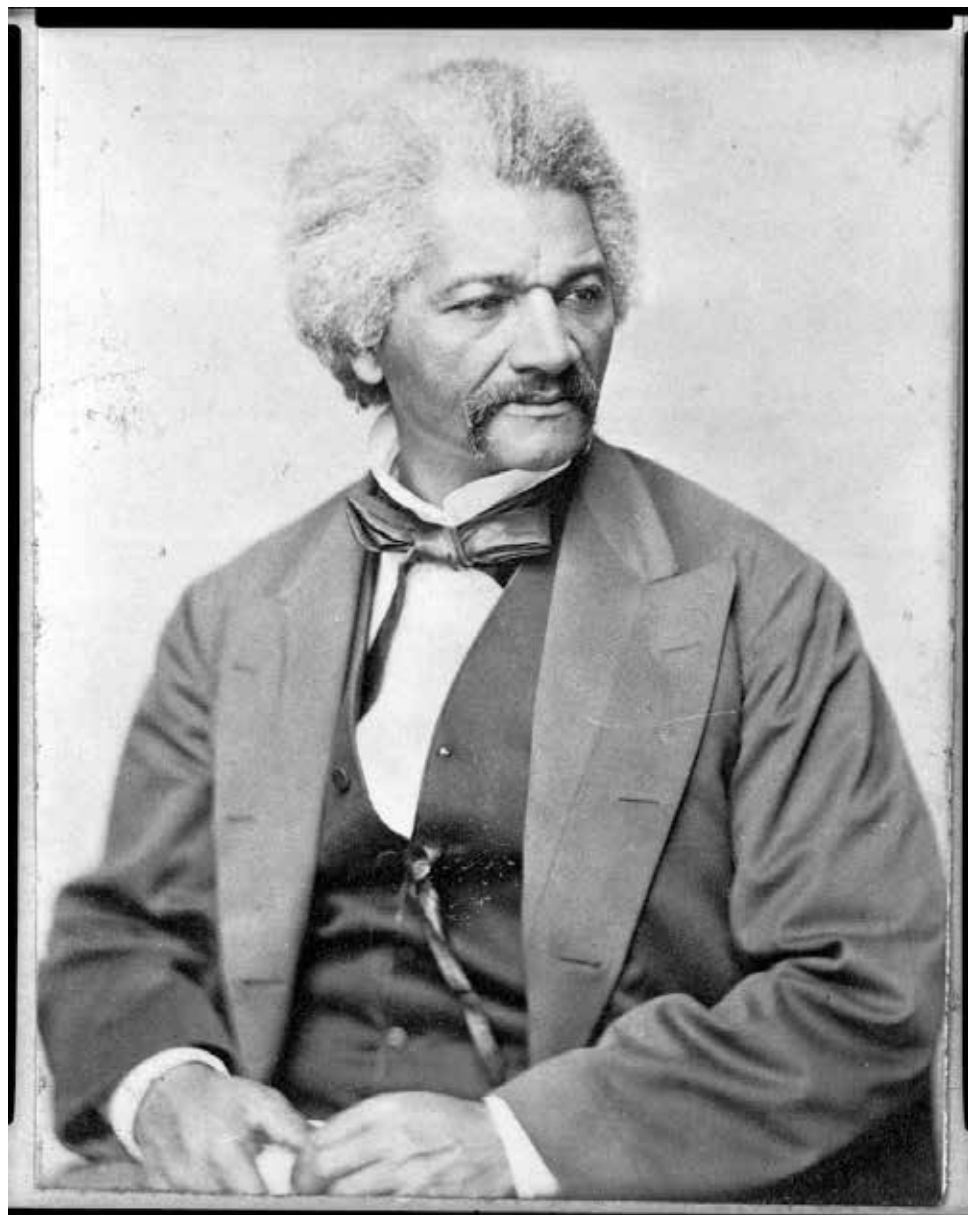
A detective for the New York Central Railroad thwarted the robbery of a freight train south of Beacon by a gang that was throwing off bales of silk before being frightened away. The railroad sent a detective with every freight shipment of silk or whiskey.

A Beacon man driving in Poughkeepsie said he sounded his horn three times as he turned from Market onto Cannon but two pedestrians paid no heed and were knocked down. He said he put the men in his car and drove to the police station. The men were not hurt and the driver was not detained.

The 10-year-old son of contractor Allen Norman narrowly escaped death when he crawled atop the coal in a train car that was taken to the siding of the Matteawan Manufacturing Co. and dumped. His father and 20 other workmen frantically shoveled the coal for 10 minutes until they found the boy, who was rushed to Highland Hospital.

The upper dock at Denning's Point, which ran to a float in the Hudson, collapsed under the weight of the children in swimming regalia. No one was injured.

About 200 tons of powder and shells exploded at the Bannerman Island Arsenal, blowing the northwest corner of the island



Frederick Douglass in 1870, the same year he visited Newburgh

Photo by George Francis Schreiber

into the Hudson. The castle tower was blown into the river and a 25-foot section of a stone wall was sent onto the railroad tracks on the mainland. Window panes were broken in Beacon and grocery cans fell from the shelves at Sandford's grocery.

A judge ruled that Jennie Moss was entitled to half of the profits from the Moss Candy Co. on Main Street owned by her husband, Joseph Moss. She said he had agreed when they married in 1919 to share and bequeath her half of his rents, profits and earnings but had not done so.

William O'Rourke, 25, of Beacon, was arrested on charges of manslaughter based on the account of an 18-year-old New Hamburg woman who died at Highland Hospital following what a newspaper account termed "an alleged criminal operation." The paper reported O'Rourke had implicated Nellie Sanyes, a midwife in New York City. The district attorney said O'Rourke insisted he begged the woman to marry him; police said they found two letters from O'Rourke to Sanyes making an appointment and confirming the price would be \$50.

75 Years Ago (August 1945)

A 21-year-old soldier from Cold Spring was charged with assaulting a summer boarder at Camp Beacon. According to the sheriff, the soldier got out of a car to ask directions to New York City. As the man provided them, the soldier punched him

in the jaw.

The Fallkill National Bank of Poughkeepsie said that among the \$22,000 in dormant accounts that would go to the state if not claimed was \$50 deposited 20 years earlier by Harry Ainsworth, the owner of Longdock Coal Co. of Beacon, who had died some time ago. It wasn't clear why he did his banking in Poughkeepsie.

A write-in candidate in the Democratic primary for mayor nearly pulled an upset. Horace Graham received 142 votes while challenger Reginald Conkling received 125 write-ins with 22 ballots cast with no vote in the contest.

Beacon's mayor appointed a committee to study whether the city needed zoning laws.

Wade Kepner, the grand exalted ruler of the Elks, said he planned to make an official visit to the Beacon lodge.

Twelve years after her husband, Arthur Robson, left for work in Beacon and never returned, Jane Robson filed for an "Enoch Arden" divorce. [The statute allowed a spouse to remarry if their spouse has disappeared; if the spouse reappeared, they could be divorced. Its name came from an 1864 poem by Alfred, Lord Tennyson.]

A 21-year-old Beacon man who was among the 50 strikers at the Lewittes and Sons Furniture plant in Grovesville pleaded guilty to assaulting a worker who didn't walk out with them.

(Continued on Page 18)



In 1920 a retired telegraph operator claimed he had seen the body of John Brown (shown here) at the Fishkill Landing station in 1859 following the abolitionist's execution.

Looking Back *(from Page 17)*

Beacon prepared on Aug. 11 for news of Japan's surrender to end World War II, with plans for a parade to Tompkins Memorial field and the signal 5-5-5 sounded on the fire whistles and bells ringing. [Japan surrendered on Aug. 14. The 5-5-5 signal is used to honor fallen firefighters.]

Judge Thomas Hassett died at age 60. A 1902 graduate of Fishkill High School (which became Beacon High School), he was one of the original Board of Education members after the city was founded in 1913. In 1923 he was elected city judge and twice reelected.

50 Years Ago (August 1970)

The Beacon Astros defeated the Wappingers Ions, 5-3, in a Hudson Valley American Legion Rookie Baseball League game.

A Beacon man was arrested and charged with possession of stolen property after \$40,000 of antique clocks, lamps, bullhorns and a statue were found in his home. He allegedly stole the goods from homes and shops in three counties.

Beacon officials announced a program to clean up about 200 junk cars in the city.

The City Council voted to spend \$419 on a bus transportation study and \$927 to purchase a 1966 station wagon to use in its rodent control program.

A 22-year-old Beacon man pleaded not guilty to charges of possession of stolen property. He had been arrested by patrol officers who spotted a safe belonging to the



The former Beacon City Hall, which was for sale 25 years ago

File photo by Michael Turton

Roosa Furniture Co. in the open trunk of a passing car. When they gave chase, two men jumped from the moving vehicle and ran.

Burglars took \$250 from the Paramount Vending Co. on Eliza Street, which repairs and distributes vending machines.

A 30-year-old Beacon mother of five was indicted for manslaughter in the shooting death of her husband in their home on Chandler Street. The accused had been free since her May arrest but was sent to the Dutchess County Jail on \$2,000 bail.

The city's total assessed valuation rose by 3 percent. The losses of assessments from a bankrupt railroad and urban renewal demolitions were offset by construction in developments at Mount Beacon Park and Jessen Park.

A 19-year-old Beacon man was arrested at 4 a.m. on a Sunday morning inside the Fishkill National Bank at 200 Main St. The suspect apparently had a key to the front door. A woman called the police after seeing someone inside.

25 Years Ago (August 1995)

The City Council canceled the planned sale of Beacon City Hall to a physicians' group that wanted to move in immediately, saying it wanted to wait until the \$4 million city municipal building was completed. The city earlier tried to sell the structure at auction but received no bids.

A 22-year-old Beacon man found guilty of selling crack cocaine was sentenced to 10 years in prison three days after he allegedly tried to

escape from the Dutchess County Jail. "You were found with a hacksaw blade working on a fence," the judge said. "This hardly bodes well for any attempt to rehabilitate you."

The Martin Luther King Center received a facelift from 28 volunteers from IBM East Fishkill and 10 from the center. The volunteers painted, planted shrubs, refinished bookcases, built picnic tables and did yardwork. Established in 1969, the MLK Center had 80 children and teenagers, ages 6 to 17, enrolled in its programs.

Nobody's Fool, a movie starring Paul Newman, Melanie Griffith and Jessica Tandy that was filmed during the winter of 1993-94 in Poughkeepsie and Beacon, was released on VHS.

Students and staff in the Beacon school district raised \$1,000 to help families whose children were killed in the April bombing of the federal building in Oklahoma City. The Beacon Federation of Teachers also donated \$1,000.

Metro-North said it planned to add 500 parking spots at the Beacon station by the end of 1996 — bringing the total to 1,100 — but also to start charging for them.

After hearing complaints, the City Council proposed that Beacon pay for half the cost of sidewalks added when it paved streets. Ronnie Edwards and his wife, Cindy Trimble, said they were surprised to receive a \$3,100 bill for a 127-foot sidewalk. "It looked beautiful and improved our neighborhood, but the big problem was notification," Edwards said.

NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a public hearing will be held by the Zoning Board of Appeals of the Town of Philipstown on Monday, September 14th, 2020 at 7:30 P.M. Via Zoom. If you would like to attend, **please email KMACINTYRE@PHILIPSTOWN.COM to request login information before 7 pm on September 14th, 2020.**

Chris Flagg & Heidi Snyder, 699 Old Albany Post Road, Garrison TM# 61.-3-6

(The applicant is seeking a variance to allow proposed addition to a non-conforming structure (Due to pre-existing front yard setback) on a non-conforming undersized lot (4.879 acres in lieu of 10 acres)

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

Dated August 10th, 2020 Robert Dee, Chairman of the Town of Philipstown Zoning Board of Appeals

NOTICE

The Philipstown Conservation Board

will hold their regular Monthly Meeting on September 8th, 2020 virtually via Zoom.

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

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_OR5ERFx1RfCySvmoUqh3_w

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

OR email KMACINTYRE@PHILIPSTOWN.COM to request login information before 7 pm on September 8th, 2020.

NOTICE

TAX COLLECTION

The Warrant for the Collection of Taxes for the City School District of the City of Beacon, New York,

for the School Fiscal Year **2020 - 2021** has been delivered to me.

Check or money order must be for the full amount of the tax bill payable to the Beacon City School District.

Please Note: We strongly recommend that tax payments be mailed to our lockbox account at M&T Bank.

In person payments (check or money order only) will be received in the District office,

10 Education Drive, Beacon NY between the hours of 10am – 12pm
Monday - Friday

from September 8, 2020 to October 7, 2020.

Payments may be Mailed to:
Beacon City School District
School Tax Collection
P.O. Box 1330,
Buffalo, New York 14240-1330

COLLECTION PERIOD: September 08, 2020 - October 07, 2020 *Penalty Free*

October 08, 2020 - November 06, 2020 **must include the 2% Penalty**

Payments will be accepted with a Post Office Post Mark no later than NOVEMBER 06, 2020.

SIGNED: Florence Zopf, BCSD School Tax Collector

Tax Bills/Receipts are available online at: **www.infotaxonline.com**

Should Gas Stations Have Generators?

Putnam legislators divided over proposal for mandate

By Holly Crocco

Does Putnam County need a law that requires filling stations to have backup generators so residents can still get gas during power outages such as the one recently caused by Tropical Storm Isaias?

Or is that too much government?

The nine-member county Legislature was divided on the issue on Aug. 20 during a meeting of its Rules Committee.

Legislator Nancy Montgomery (D-Philipstown) called the proposal “an overreach for small businesses who — yes, they are gas stations and they’re essential — but they’ve suffered too during COVID. People are not traveling as much, people aren’t buying as much, and now we’re going to mandate this?”

The topic came up when County Executive MaryEllen Odell said she would be asking the Legislature to support a generator law. She said that during the outage, the few stations that had generators attracted lines of customers that grew so long they disrupted traffic and caused panic.

“If we have the power to enforce this, I would be in favor of it,” said Legislator Carl Albano (R-Carmel), suggesting that new stations be required to have generators but that existing businesses be given a grace period.

Legislator Joseph Castellano (R-Southeast) said he had no objection to requir-

ing new stations to have generators, but expressed concern over forcing the upgrade at existing businesses “when they might feel they don’t need it or can’t afford it.”

Legislator Ginny Nacerino (R-Patterson) said gas stations provide an essential service and that while she agreed that existing businesses should be given a grace period, eventually all stations should be required to make the investment. She also expressed doubt that many new stations would be opening in the county. “We’re pretty well-saturated,” she said.

Legislator Neal Sullivan (R-Mahopac) said the county could be flexible, working with the Consumer Affairs Department to determine if a station should be exempted because of cost, space, noise or other issues.

Legislator Bill Gouldman (R-Putnam Valley) suggested it would be hypocritical for the county to require gas stations to have backup generators when there are county facilities that do not have them. He noted that during a previous outage, people who needed to charge their phones “had to go down to Westchester County” because Putnam “didn’t have generators in their buildings.”

Legislator Paul Jonke (R-Brewster) also voiced opposition.

“I don’t think we should be getting involved in private businesses,” he said. “If these small-business owners saw an advantage to having a generator in a time of a crisis, they would have installed them. If it weren’t cost prohibitive, they would have already installed them. I don’t think we

should be dictating to them how they should spend their money to provide a service.”

Financial review

Putnam County received another favorable report from its external auditor, PKF O’Connor Davies, this time for 2019.

“The County of Putnam has once again received a certificate of achievement for excellence in financial reporting,” said Nicholas DeSantis, a partner with the firm, during the Legislature’s Aug. 24 Audit Committee meeting. “This is a continuing major accomplishment for the county. Not many municipalities in New York have achieved this level of award and transparency in their reporting.”

According to partner Alan Kassay, the county had a fund balance of \$50.6 million at the end of 2019. Revenue from licenses and permits were down, as was state and federal aid, but sales tax revenue was up about \$3.2 million, or 7.6 percent, from 2018. However, DeSantis noted, because of the COVID-19 shutdown, sales tax revenue in Putnam is down about 6.1 percent through the end of July, compared to last year.

“If that trend continues you will wind up with a shortfall of about \$4 million,” he said. “But, fortunately for you, you are well-positioned to absorb that without any draconian measures in 2020.”

DeSantis also said the county has done well at managing its longterm liabilities. As of Jan. 1, Putnam had \$57.9 million in outstanding bonds. Throughout the year it added another \$3.3 million, but retired \$8.4 million, leaving \$52.7 million in debt.

“The county’s overall financial health is very, very strong — probably one of the better that we’ve seen in the lower Hudson Valley among our clients,” he said. “It’s due to good budgeting, good oversight and good management of the financial affairs of the county.”

Lake Valhalla *(from Page 9)*

to do with trails or bringing people from Breakneck. That has never been our plan.”

Thompson said the state has already been maintaining the trails on the site.

Linda Cooper, the regional state park director, concurred. “Our interests are open space and natural-resource protection,” she said. “This is a special property that we’re pleased to be able to protect in perpetuity.”

Nat Prentice, who heads the town’s comprehensive plan update committee, said the Scenic Hudson plan aligns with the town’s vision.

Nancy Montgomery, a Lake Valhalla resident and former Town Board member who represents Philipstown on the Putnam County Legislature, also endorsed the plan, saying that “Lake Valhalla is a natural and cultural resource that has been under the threat of development” for more than 20 years and a high priority for preservation.

However, resident Dirk Geithner said that “all I can think about is what is going on at Breakneck,” which, he said, “is destroyed” by crowds. State ownership of Parcel A “could open this up” and leave Lake Valhalla, “a private community, possibly overrun with the mass public.”

Another resident, James Calimano, said that with different owners for Parcels B and C, he can foresee “a fence through the lake” itself. Scenic Hudson’s subdivision, he said, “has the greatest impact not only on the people who live up here on Lake Valhalla but on the people of Philipstown, suffering for what goes on, on Route 9D [at Breakneck]. We don’t need another 9D on this side” of the ridge “and we don’t want a fence through the lake.”

Pam Richardson, a Scenic Hudson representative, responded that under the subdivision, “there’s absolutely no fence proposed in the middle of the lake.” She said the goal is protecting “the incredible scenic and conservation values of this land” and that Scenic Hudson considers the state the best entity for ensuring that occurs.

The Planning Board closed the public hearing but will continue to review Scenic Hudson’s proposal.

“If these small-business owners saw an advantage to having a generator in a time of a crisis, they would have installed them... I don’t think we should be dictating to them how they should spend their money to provide a service.

~ Legislator Paul Jonke

Central Hudson *(from Page 3)*

Hudson and New York State Electric and Gas Corp., which serves eastern Putnam, took “far too long” to restore power. In addition to Central Hudson’s outages, 90 percent of NYSEG’s 39,000 customers in Putnam lost power, she said on Aug. 12.

“The utilities were not prepared and that is just not acceptable,” Odell said. “Not having access to a reliable power source is more than an inconvenience. For many, it is a matter of life-and-death.”

When the Philipstown Town Board met Aug. 13, Supervisor Richard Shea and Councilor John Van Tassel mentioned Central Hudson’s seemingly lagging response, though Shea noted that a fire at a power-generating station during the storm prob-

ably compounded the difficulties.

“Generally, they’re better than this,” Shea said, adding that “it isn’t acceptable to have your power out for a week from one storm. This is not winter.”

John Maserjian, a spokesman for Central Hudson, called the storm a “force of nature” that was the “fourth most-damaging” in the region’s history and hit hardest in southern Dutchess and Orange counties.

More than 700 workers were in the field, with service restored to 50 percent of impacted customers in the first day; to 75 percent by the second day; 98 percent by the third day, and everyone by the fourth day, he said.

An Altice official did not respond to a request for comment.

As part of the state’s approval of

Altice’s purchase of Cablevision in 2016, the company was required to upgrade its systems, including backup customer support and power, to better respond to storms and outages, and to open its Wi-Fi network to all customers “without charge” during federal or state emergencies, according to the Department of Public Service.

The DPS said that on Aug. 11, seven days after the storm, it asked Altice to provide the number of field personnel working on restoring service, but the company waited 10 hours to respond and then did not provide specifics.

The confusion extended to its customer service, according to the state. In the wake of Isaias, as customers sought information from Optimum.net and by phone, some were “waiting on hold for hours, sometimes only to be disconnected and have to begin

the process over again,” according to DPS.

The state demanded that Central Hudson “immediately” begin doubling its personnel capacity by signing retainer contracts with private companies and out-of-state utilities, ensure its command, call and data centers can handle an outage affecting 90 percent or more of its customers and refine its coordination plans with municipalities in its service area.

Altice is also being told to take corrective measures, which include creating plans for getting additional personnel and equipment during and after storms, coordinating with local officials and communicating “timely and accurate outage information.”

Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong contributed reporting.

Notes from the Cold Spring Village Board

Told refrigerants pose major environmental threat

By Michael Turton

■ In a report to the Cold Spring Village Board at its Tuesday (Aug. 25) meeting, Roberto Muller, who is Philipstown's climate-smart coordinator, noted that the hydrofluorocarbons (HFC) used in most refrigerators, freezers, dehumidifiers and air conditioners trap more heat in the atmosphere than carbon dioxide. The Recycling Center on Lane Gate Road, which is open Saturday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., accepts large appliances, he noted, and a private contractor removes the HFC. Transport of appliances to the center also can be arranged. See climatesmartphilipstown.org. Muller also reported that Cold Spring has raised \$2,400 and Philipstown \$7,550 for refrigerant management through Hudson Valley Community Power, which pays municipalities \$50 for each household that opts into the solar-energy program.

■ A resident asked the board to consider re-opening Tots Park, which has been closed since March because of COVID-19 restrictions, but Mayor Dave Merandy said he would not be comfortable with the idea unless there is a plan for the continual

disinfecting of equipment. Trustee Lynn Miller suggested removing the plastic toys. When Deputy Mayor Marie Early asked why the park shouldn't open if parents are willing to let their children play there, Merandy responded: "Because we're the government and [should] protect our citizens. We're still in a pandemic."

■ The public restrooms near the pedestrian tunnel will be open on weekends from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. as part of an agreement between the village and Cold Spring Chamber of Commerce approved on Tuesday. Volunteers from the Chamber information booth will disinfect the restrooms during their open hours and crews from the Highway Department will clean the facilities every Saturday and Sunday.

■ The board voted unanimously to cancel the Halloween parade sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce. Early and Miller also reported that a number of homeowners on Parrott and Parsonage streets had told them they did not plan to decorate for the holiday this year. The neighborhood typically attracts hundreds of children. Early suggested that police officers still be assigned to patrol there that evening.

■ Merandy said he and Larry Burke, the officer-in-charge at the Cold Spring Police

Department, have begun reviewing a document that could serve as the basis for a review of village police operations, which is part of a statewide reform plan ordered by Gov. Andrew Cuomo. Merandy said the village does not have its own policing policies but operates under state guidelines. The mayor previously stated that public input will be sought once a draft policy is produced.

■ Elected officials from Cold Spring, Philipstown and Nelsonville met with state Assemblywoman Sandy Galef and state park officials last week to discuss parking, safety and crowding at Breakneck Ridge and Indian Brook Falls. Local officials have expressed concern about the number of Breakneck hikers who have needed rescue by firefighters, and Merandy described the parking near Indian Brook Falls as "a zoo." The 250 officers of the state park police, which could be utilized for patrols, are in the process of being absorbed this year into the state police.

■ The board on Aug. 18 approved the sale of two adjacent, village-owned lots totaling 0.98 acres at the corner of Moffat and Healy roads to Josh Meyer for \$21,500. Part of the property is located in the Village of Nelsonville. Mayor Dave Merandy said the parcel had been acquired for potential use by the water department. The village also will sell a 368-square-foot parcel in front of 212 Main St. to the homeowners for \$1,473.

■ The board on Aug. 18 rescinded a resolution passed earlier this year intended to reduce pedestrian congestion during the pandemic by banning merchandise and signs on Main Street sidewalks. Village code permits merchandise and signs on sidewalks, but only up to 3 feet from the facade.

■ Organizers of Community Bike Day asked for permission to hold the fall event. Although the board has canceled all large-scale events through the end of the year, the event does not include a mass start. The board asked organizers to provide detailed plans.

“ Mayor Dave Merandy said he would not be comfortable with re-opening Tots Park unless there is a plan for the continual disinfecting of equipment.

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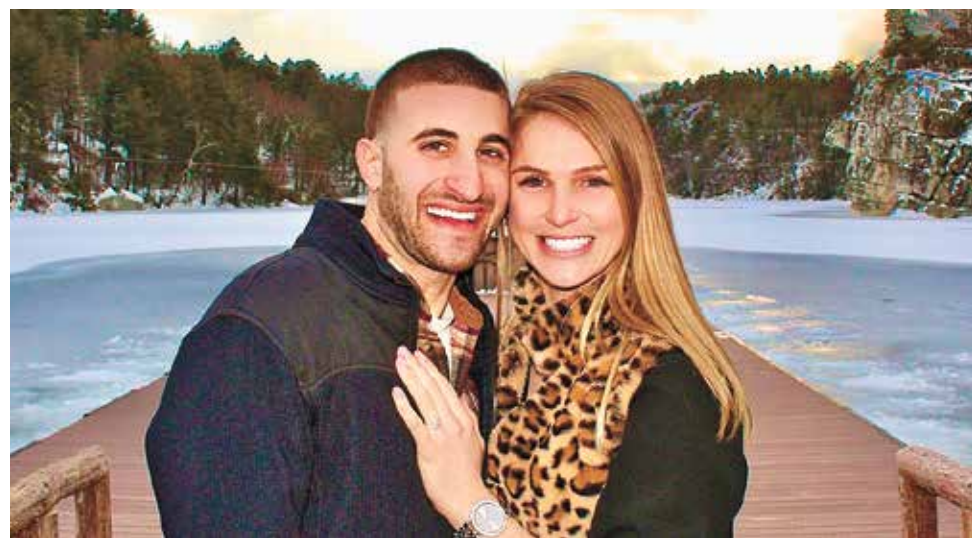
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Engagement

Flaherty-DiFrancesco

Annnette and Robert Flaherty of Cold Spring are pleased to announce the engagement of their daughter, Kelsey Elaine, to Raymond Joseph DiFrancesco III of Putnam Valley. The couple are both 2012 graduates of Haldane High School.

Flaherty is the granddaughter of the late Angelo and Elaine (Helen) Percacciolo and of Mary and William Flaherty of Cold Spring.

DiFrancesco is the son of Ann Marie DiFrancesco of Mahopac and Raymond and Dyane DiFrancesco of Putnam Valley. He is the grandson of Barbara DiFrancesco of Yonkers and the late Raymond Joseph DiFrancesco Sr., and of the late Joseph and

Ann Tassone.

Flaherty is a 2016 graduate of Saint Michaels College in Burlington, Vermont, where she earned a bachelor's degree in elementary education and environmental studies. She is pursuing a master's degree in special education and literacy at Mount Saint Mary College in Newburgh and is a third-grade teacher at West Nyack Elementary School.

DiFrancesco formerly owned and operated Ray's All American Landscaping and was a partner in Whistling Willie's in Cold Spring. He is employed at N. Dains and Sons in Peekskill. An October 2021 wedding is planned.

Schools *(from Page 1)*

sition to a hybrid model in October.

At the Haldane district in Cold Spring, about 18 percent of parents chose the all-virtual option, and at Garrison, it was 21.5 percent. Garrison, which has only elementary and middle schools, will begin on Wednesday (Sept. 2) with the remainder of students in class daily, and Haldane on Thursday (Sept. 3) with elementary and middle school students in class daily and high school students attending on a rotating basis.

In Beacon, Superintendent Matt Landahl said he's been asked at least a dozen times in the last 10 days about rumors that the district had pivoted to all-virtual.

"You're constantly hearing what other communities are doing and trying to measure it," Landahl said. "There are always questions from folks, but I'm not feeling pressure from anyone to change course."

About 65 percent of the district's parents and guardians indicated in surveys that they're planning to opt for the hybrid model that would have children in district buildings two days a week, Landahl told the school board on Monday (Aug. 24). School officials were reaching out this week to parents and guardians who have not responded.

Marisa Brink, who has a first-grader and a 10th-grader in the Beacon district, says she's planning to home-school her younger daughter while her older daughter will attend class virtually.

"It was a very difficult decision, but in the end, I just didn't see it being safe," Brink said. "All the things that they have to do — it's going to be particularly difficult with the younger kids to get compliance."

What happens, for example, if a first grader needs help adjusting their mask, she asked. "There's a lot of exposure that feels problematic," Brink said.

Brink said she and her 10th-grader arrived at the decision to go virtual together. "She didn't see how it could happen safely," Brink said. While her daughter's friends are split on how they'll attend school, "none of them think that the schools will be open" for the entire year, Brink said.

"My daughter felt like, 'It would be cool to go back if it was normal, but if it's not normal, do I want to go back?'" Brink said.

Beacon resident Cordelia Spence, who has home-schooled four of her five children for the entirety of their educations, said she's seen "a huge influx of interest" in the practice during the pandemic.

"Parents are worried that their children are going to be exposed or get sick," Spence said. "Then, if the children can't play or eat lunch with each other, they're worried that it could be damaging socially, too."

Another Beacon parent, who did not want to be identified because she works for the district, said her children want to go back to school. "I am letting them start hybrid, but I cannot lie, I am worried," she said. "I am concerned for my health and that of my children and the friends I work with."

On Monday, Landahl gave the school board a detailed look at what a school day could look like next month.

At Beacon High School and Rombout Middle School, in-person students will be split into blue and gold groups. While one group attends class in-person two days each week, the other group will attend four online classes at home. On Wednesdays, everyone will be instructed virtually.

At the district's four elementary schools, in-person students will alternate two days per week, with some "specials" (art, music, gym) included. The elementary school day will be an hour shorter than usual, and Wednesdays will be half days of online instruction for everyone.

Given the benefits of in-person instruc-

Beacon School Board Notes

- The Beacon school board is accepting applications to fill the vacancy created when Michael Rutkoske resigned in July. Applications are available at the district office or beaconk12.org. The appointment will run until May, when the new board member will have to run for election.
- The board on Aug. 11 agreed to extend by a year its roughly \$29,000-a-year lease with Dutchess County for 21 acres of land the district owns beneath Dutchess Stadium, home of the Hudson Valley Renegades minor league baseball team. The board is expected in the coming year to discuss selling the property, which it has leased to the county for more than two decades.
- After a lengthy discussion, the board voted 7-1 on Aug. 24 to authorize Meredith Heuer and Elissa Betterbid, its president and vice president, and Superintendent Matt Landahl to develop a strategy

for resuming in-person meetings in the fall. The meetings will likely be held at Seeger Theater at Beacon High School, with a limited number of spectators. James Case-Leal voted against the measure, saying that a restricted in-person meeting could limit public participation. Other members argued that with schools reopening in person, the board should be doing the same while allowing public comment to continue through online channels.

- The board on Aug. 24 held a public hearing on proposed revisions to the student codes of conduct and dress that would require facial coverings; restrict screen-catching or recording virtual classes without the teacher's permission; include more detailed language on prohibited hate speech to include images of nooses or the Confederate flag; and include a provision allowing district officials to check people's temperatures at building entrances.

tion, "we have felt that it's important to try to provide it, and to try to provide it as close to the beginning of the year as possible," Landahl told the school board.

For those parents and guardians who choose all-virtual, "we've put a lot of work into creating a model that feels like access is equitable for all students," he said. "Now we just have to fine-tune it and implement it."

However, "we're not just doing it [the hybrid reopening] because we've put a lot

of work into it," he added in an interview on Wednesday (Aug. 26), citing county and regional infection rates, which for the past three weeks have hovered around 1 percent.

As of Thursday, Dutchess County was monitoring 264 active COVID-19 cases, including six in Beacon.

"That's a pretty significant part of all this," Landahl said. The region's declining infection numbers have "put us in a good position to open."



A fire on Nov. 4 destroyed the home of Louis J. Weber, 72, whose body was found inside.

File photo by Michael Turton

Murder Charge *(from Page 1)*

In June, the Sheriff's Department said the investigation was continuing.

Louis J. Weber was a U.S. Marine Corps veteran and a financial advisor for Ameriprise Financial before his retirement, according to an obituary posted by Clinton Funeral Home. Besides his son, he was survived by a daughter, Courtney Bozsik (Frank Jr.) of

Wappingers Falls and three grandchildren.

In March 2019, the younger Weber, who graduated from Haldane High School in 2018, faced charges of felony burglary, felony criminal mischief and misdemeanor criminal trespass stemming from an Oct. 31, 2018, incident in which a swastika and anti-Semitic slur were painted inside a house being built by a Jewish resident of Nelsonville.

Sports

State Delays High School Football, Volleyball

Soccer, tennis, cross-country can begin Sept. 21

By Chip Rowe

Gov. Andrew Cuomo said on Monday (Aug. 24) that high school athletic teams can begin practice and competition as of Sept. 21 but that sports with more physical contact, including football and volleyball, cannot compete "until a later date or Dec. 31."

On Wednesday (Aug. 26), the New York State Council of School Superintendents asked Cuomo to abandon the plan and postpone sports until 2021. "Authorizing school athletics could jeopardize success-

ful resumption of in-person learning," it said, suggesting that fall and winter sports could be consolidated after Jan. 1.

Under the state plan, the soccer, cross-country and girls' tennis teams at Haldane and Beacon and the girls' swimming team at Beacon will be able to compete. The football and volleyball teams at Haldane and Beacon can practice with little or no contact but will not be able to compete.

In addition, teams that are allowed to compete will not be able to travel outside their region or adjacent regions or counties until at least Oct. 19.

Under state health guidelines last updated on Aug. 15, masks must be worn in common areas at games and when social distancing cannot be maintained. Each player is limited to two spectators. Coaches, trainers and other non-players must wear masks; athletes can wear masks unless they find it intolerable while playing.

The New York State Public High School Athletic Association proposed in July that the fall sports season be delayed until Sept. 21, with state approval. The association also canceled the regional and state tournament for fall sports.

OBITUARIES

Catherine Cherry (1944-2020)

Catherine Colleen Cherry, 76, a longtime Beacon resident, died on Aug. 19 at Vassar Brothers Medical Center in Poughkeepsie.



She was born in Madison, Wisconsin, on April 25, 1944, the daughter of Russell and Thelma (Best) Cherry. After graduating from Beacon High School, she worked in the maintenance department at IBM in East Fishkill for 30 years until her retirement in 1995. Colleen was a communicant of the First Presbyterian Church of Beacon.

She is survived by her siblings, Christine Cherry and Craig Cherry, as well as three nieces. A graveside service was held Aug. 24 at Fishkill Rural Cemetery.

Rocky Garbellano (1928-2020)

Rocco Louis Garbellano Jr., 92, a resident of Beacon for more than 70 years, died Aug. 15 at his home.

Known to friends and family as "Rocky," he was born in Ossining on April 1, 1928, the son of Rocco and Margaret Garbellano. He served in the U.S. Army from 1951 to 1953. Rocky owned several businesses over the years, including Rocky's Deli, the Lady Gray Dress Shoppe and Rocky Fence Co. An avid outdoorsman, he enjoyed fishing and hunting.

On May 15, 1949, in Verplanck, he married Grace Letteri, who survives at home. They were married for 71 years.

He also is survived by his children, Rocco Garbellano (Debbie) of Poughkeepsie and Tina Pomarico (Michael) of Wappingers Falls, seven grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. Entombment took place at Poughkeepsie Rural Cemetery.

Gabe Levinson (1954-2020)

Gabriel Levinson, 66, of North Venice, Florida, and formerly of Garrison, died in Minneapolis on Aug. 5 of pancreatic cancer.

Born in Tel Aviv on July 5, 1954, he was the son of Mischa and Ester (Muntner) Levinson. As a teen, he moved to Long Island to live with his sister and her husband and children. After graduating from Jamaica High School, he served for three years in the Israeli army. He then returned to the U.S., earning a bachelor's degree in architecture from the New York Institute of Technology.

Gabe married Margaret Howell in 1987. In 1988, they founded Architecture Plus, an architectural and design practice in Garrison. In 1997 Gabe and other partners formed Trade Net, an internet technology company.

Gabe and Margaret retired in 2012 to North Venice. Gabe's family said he will be remembered for his zest for life, his deep intelligence and his strong convictions, which he enjoyed sharing with his many friends.

Besides his wife, Gabe is survived by his daughters, Clea Ostendorf (Michael) and Olivia Levinson; his grandson, Theodore Ostendorf; his sister, Daniela Handelman; his niece, Michele Handelman; and his

nephew, Ron Handelman.

Memorial donations may be made to the Garrison Art Center, P.O. Box 4, Garrison, NY 10524 (garrisonartcenter.org).

Arlene Russell (1957-2020)

Arlene Frances Russell, 63, a lifelong Beacon resident, died Aug. 18 at Vassar Brothers Medical Center in Poughkeepsie.



Known to friends and family as "Pinkey," Arlene was born in Beacon on March 8, 1957, the daughter of James and Frances (West) McNair. After graduating from Beacon High School, she attended Sullivan County Community College, where she earned an associate's degree in food service and hotel management.

Although she loved to bake and cook, she worked in manufacturing at IBM in East Fishkill, in the clean-room environment, for more than 18 years.

Pinkey is survived by her siblings, Paula McNair, Barbara McNair, Lorraine Williams and John McNair, as well as her stepdaughters, Jennifer Lopez and Ronda Williams.

A funeral service was held on Aug. 22 at Libby Funeral Home in Beacon, with a private interment following.

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

Current Classifieds

HELP WANTED

NANNY — Seeking experienced, long-term female nanny for four wonderful children, in a nanny share arrangement in Garrison. Hours M-F 8 to 5. Children are 5 mos, 10 mos, 3 yrs, 7 yrs. Three days a week taking care of the two infants; two days a week taking care of one infant and the two older children (when not in daycare/school). Must have experience with infants. Competitive pay and option to live-in, with private bed/bath and access to home gym. Weekends off. Start by September. Email anthony_pirraglia@yahoo.com.

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Puzzles

CROSS CURRENT

ACROSS

1. Early bird?

4. Said “not guilty”

8. Molt

12. By way of

13. Emanation

14. Rent

15. Work unit

16. Whirl

17. Long-billed wader

18. Sprinter’s device

21. Many millennia

22. Parcel of land

23. Allude (to)

26. Driver’s license datum

27. Foundation

30. Out of control

31. *Oklahoma!* baddie

32. Stead

33. Vat

34. Haw partner

35. Tureen accessory

36. Prohibit

37. Emeril’s shout

38. Extremely exciting

45. Plankton component

46. Love god

47. Dove’s remark

48. Works with

49. New Haven school

50. Choose

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11

12 13 14

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30 31 32

33 34 35

36 37

38 39 40 41 42 43 44

45 46 47

48 49 50

51 52 53

51. Not so much

52. Resorts

53. *The Matrix* role

54. *Clash Royale* character

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100. *Clash Royale* character

7 LITTLE WORDS

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

CLUES

1 prospers (7)

2 keeping a detailed record (7)

3 geniuses, informally (9)

4 horizontally aligned (5)

5 works out (6)

6 Jed Clampett actor Ebsen (5)

7 packing a punch (9)

SOLUTIONS

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SUDO CURRENT

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

Puzzle Page Sponsored by



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Answers for August 21 Puzzles

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

1. LOWER, 2. REGULARS, 3. TULANE, 4. VITALS, 5. SLASHED, 6. RETRIEVERS, 7. BLUNDERING



Cast members walk across the Boscobel lawn toward the tent during a 2018 performance of *Robin Hood*. Photo by T. Charles Erickson/HVSF

HVSF (from Page 1)

Valley. For those of us who aren't golfers, I don't think people are aware of what an amazing view there is from that fairway."

Added Kate Liberman, HVSF's managing director: "The actors will still come across the ridge and you'll still hear the crickets and feel the breeze and there may still be a skunk that walks across the stage," alluding to a particularly memorable moment in the tent at Boscobel.

According to the plans that the HVSF will present to the Philipstown Planning Board, likely in October, The Garrison property would be divided into four parcels: 52 acres for HVSF; 95 acres for the golf course; 28 acres for Davis' private residence; and 27 acres along Route 9 that may eventually also be gifted to HVSF, McCallum said.

The 52 acres given to the nonprofit HVSF would presumably be removed from the Philipstown tax rolls. There was no value given for the gift, but the acreage would be taken from two parcels that total about 142 acres and have been given a full-market value of about \$8.5 million by the town assessor.

As part of the gift, the Shakespeare Festival will create a separate, for-profit entity to oversee The Garrison catering business and Valley Restaurant, with profits returning to the festival, McCallum said. Davis will continue to own and operate the golf course.

The festival plans to begin a capital campaign soon to raise money to build a new tent for the space that will be designed to remain up year-round. (Under its lease with Boscobel, the tent must be taken down each fall.) The current tent holds about 530 audience members and HVSF expects its new tent will be about the same size, if not smaller.

The move also will allow HVSF to consolidate the five rented spaces it uses to store costumes and equipment, which include Winter Hill in Garrison and a Putnam Valley barn.

The festival said it will commission artists to "animate" the new site, including Marti Lyons, Ryan Quinn, Kholoud Sawaf, Madeline Sayet, and Melissa McGill and composer Heather Christian, both from Beacon.

Davis has owned the 200-acre parcel, located at the intersection of Route 9 and Snake Hill Road, for more than 20 years, McCallum said. Davis is a director of the Hudson Highlands Land Trust, which he



HVSF will hold one more season of performances, during 2021, at Boscobel.

Photo by Phil Bulla/HVSF

chaired for more than 15 years, and the chair of the newly formed Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail. He also is a vice chair of the American Museum of Natural History, a former director of Scenic Hudson and a generous financial supporter of the Shakespeare Festival, McCallum said.

HVSF hired Nelson Byrd Woltz Landscape Architects to develop a master plan and Jeanne Gang + Studio Gang and Fisher Dachs Associates Theater Consultants to design the performance space.

McCallum noted that the pandemic has put open-air performance spaces in demand, and that he has fielded calls every week since March from artistic directors of theater and opera companies and music festivals.

"I know what they're going to ask about" even before the conversations begin, McCallum said. "They want to know about the tent. Where did you get it? How much does it cost? How quickly can they make one?"

HVSF expects next month to announce the plays for its 2021 season. "We are hopeful we will be able to gather outside with an audience," Liberman said.

McCallum noted that when the 2020 season was canceled in April, "we weren't making guarantees to roll over the shows [which included *Richard III* and *Love's Labor's Lost*, as well as a commissioned adaptation of a 1747 play, *The Venetian Twins*]. We canceled three gorgeous plays and each one hurt in its own particular way.

"But I'm glad we didn't [roll them over]

because part of the fun of planning a season is trying to find plays that speak to the moment, and so much has changed in the past five months," he said.

Liberman said that although the pandemic has been "horrific," the festival was fortunate to be able to cancel its season before it began, while many other theaters were in the midst of rehearsals and performances. HVSF also received a federal Payroll Protection Program loan to pay its artists during the lost summer — "it was not significant, but it was at least something," she said. "The shutdown shifted the whole company into a planning mode."

The HVSF is viewing the gift as a mandate to become even more environmentally conscious than it is already, McCallum said.

"Chris Davis has, I think, for several decades been looking for a community-minded, sustainable, adaptable reuse for the space," McCallum said. "I think he saw in the Shakespeare Festival a local organization that could be the next steward of the land."

"The gift is truly historic because things like this just don't happen in nonprofit theater anymore," he added. "It's miraculous that there are these 200 contiguous, immaculately preserved acres 50 miles from New York City, and add to that Chris' vision to choose an arts organization as the next steward of this natural resource. We have an opportunity to model what a green performing arts center can look like," while noting that "a tent is about the most environmentally friendly space you could come up with."

McCallum envisions the new tent in 2022 including natural convection cooling ("the hot air can up the masts") and that the festival will consider "ways to generate power on-site, how we organize concessions, what sort of bathrooms we design" based on environmentally friendly concepts.

In addition, HVSF is looking at ways to open the site to the community. "There are amazing event spaces at The Garrison that are used for weddings on weekends but are pretty much empty Sunday night through Wednesday night that could be used for meetings or galas," McCallum said.

The restaurant kitchen will allow the festival to prepare concessions on-site and to offer indoor dining before shows, said Liberman. The food sold at Boscobel is prepared by local vendors but brought from elsewhere, she said.

What About Boscobel?

Jennifer Carlquist, who in April was named executive director and curator of Boscobel, said in a statement released by the Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival that the historic site was "thrilled for our colleagues and excited for the opportunities that this opens up for all of us."

In an email on Wednesday (Aug. 26), she elaborated: "Like all nonprofits, Boscobel depends upon donations to stay vibrant and strong. HVSF was a large part of Boscobel's earned revenue, but we were working around each other's schedules, so their move gives Boscobel the opportunity to develop and program our own site and earn revenue more freely."

"Boscobel believes strongly in collaborating with and expanding our audience through partnerships with other organizations, such as the Cold Spring Farmers' Market," she added. "That said, people seek out Boscobel for what we do best — fostering personal experiences with the beauty and history of our iconic landscape, house and collections. The overwhelming demand and feedback that we've received from visitors this year indicates that will continue to grow."

Davis McCallum at HVSF had nothing but praise for the festival's longtime hosts. "I want to say how truly grateful we are to Boscobel," he said. "When you think about 75 performances a summer — that's hundreds of performances on that site — and all of the stories that have been told and memories that have been made there. We're looking forward to being back in 2021 to celebrate that."

Finally, the new site will give HVSF its own space for rehearsals and programming.

"We will probably still start rehearsals in the city," where many of the actors live, Liberman said, "but we have always rented space for summer rehearsals."

The festival each year sends teaching artists to about 60 schools in the Mid-Hudson Region but will be able to bring students to its campus for matinees and workshops, Liberman said. It also will be able to host fall and winter readings held at spots such as the Philipstown Depot Theatre and summer camps held at Haldane Middle School.

"And our season won't be capped at Labor Day" when the Boscobel tent comes down, she said. "We can continue into the fall when the foliage is spectacular and summer nights are not as hot."