

# The HIGHLANDS Current

SEPTEMBER 4, 2020

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One of a Kind  
Page 12



**MARCHES CONTINUE** — Members of Beacon 4 Black Lives on Sunday (Aug. 30) led a procession of about 200 people along Main Street from Polhill Park to Memorial Park for a rally. The group also put out a call to artists to paint 100 signs of solidarity to be displayed throughout the city during the second weekend of September. Email [jamescaseleal@gmail.com](mailto:jamescaseleal@gmail.com) to participate.

Photo by Alexandro Lopez

## MTA Weighs Metro-North Service Cuts

*Considers reducing  
frequency of trains*

By Leonard Sparks

If the federal government does not come through with a \$12.5 billion bailout for the Metropolitan Transportation Authority, its board says it may be forced to reduce the number of Metro-North trains, including possibly cutting all commuter service west of the river, the MTA chief executive officer said on Aug. 26.

Patrick Foye told the authority's commissioners during an emergency meeting that the "survival of the MTA lies in the balance" because of a precipitous drop in ridership and revenues due to the COVID-19 shutdown.

Metro-North's Hudson Line carries passengers between Grand Central Station and Poughkeepsie, with stops at Garrison, Cold Spring, Beacon and, until service was suspended, Manitou and Breakneck Ridge. In eastern Dutchess and Putnam counties,

(Continued on Page 18)

## Home Sales Surge in Philipstown

*Brokers see boom in  
higher-end properties*

By Leonard Sparks

The sale of a five-bedroom, 6,000-square-foot house on 4.6 acres in Garrison for \$2.75 million could be the most expensive residential transaction this year in Philipstown.

But maybe not for long.

The Moog Road property's purchase represents a surge in sales of "luxury" homes — those selling for \$1 million or more — in Philipstown over the summer.

Christine Colasurdo of Garrison Realty Group and Bill Hussung of Robert McCafrey Realty recalled just two Philipstown properties selling for more than \$1 million in all of 2019. This year there have been at

(Continued on Page 16)

## Views to Remember

*Beacon officials discuss  
how to protect the scenery*

By Jeff Simms

It's hard to walk or drive through Beacon without being impressed by its awe-inspiring views, from the Hudson River to Fishkill Ridge and Mount Beacon.

City officials have been discussing how to preserve that scenery.

"Our piece of the Hudson Valley is so special because it's surrounded by mountains, creeks and the mighty Hudson River," said City Council Member Amber Grant, who last year asked her colleagues to consider ways to protect what planners call scenic viewsheds. "It's important to recognize that these resources not only make Beacon unique but enhance our lives and well-being."

A viewshed is generally defined as what can be seen from a particular point, in many cases a road or walking path. They're



Nicole Wooten of Beacon's Conservation Advisory Committee and Emily Hague of Scenic Hudson discuss protection strategies at Long Dock Park, one of the places cited in the city's Natural Resources Inventory for its views of the Hudson River. Photo by J. Simms

not as easy to identify as town boundaries or property lines because "they evolve as the landscape evolves," explained Emily Hague, a senior project manager for the Scenic Hudson land trust.

Nevertheless, Beacon officials took a

stab at identifying important scenic viewsheds in 1991 as part of a plan required by the state for the management and protection of the waterfront district.

Their list included 13 spots. All but one (Continued on Page 17)



# 5Q FIVE QUESTIONS: KATIE BISSINGER

By Alison Rooney

**K**atie Bissinger of Cold Spring is the new owner and artistic director of Ballet Arts Studio in Beacon. Fall classes begin on Sept. 12.

## Did you dream of owning a dance studio?

I did, but up until now I was satisfied with letting artistic opportunities present themselves and grabbing them when I could. Taking over Ballet Arts was very much a mutual decision between [former owner] Alex [Bloomstein] and I. I had been teaching there for six years and been the associate artistic director for three and I've loved the place since the first time I set foot in it. It reminds me of the studio that I grew up dancing in.



## What changes do you have planned?

Ballet Arts has been around for nearly 60 years, so there are many traditions that I am keeping, particularly the requirement that all dancers must take ballet if they want to take modern, jazz or theater dance. During my performing career, I saw clearly how those with a solid background in ballet not only got the work but also were the most disciplined performers with the greatest longevity and least injury.

I would like to try to bring African dance back to Ballet Arts, where it flourished for many years, because African is equally foundational. I hope that reintroducing it will attract more students of color.

## You were a Rockette at Radio City Music Hall. What aspects of that discipline have you found helpful in your teaching?

Precision dance trains your mind to be critical in an entirely new way. My students will

tell you that I rarely miss anything when I watch and take notes. The repetition and work ethic of the Rockettes is like nothing else I've ever experienced. I also owe so much to my ballet teacher, Marya Kennett in Goshen. She inspired thousands of dancers to live up to their personal best and taught well into her 90s.

## How has COVID-19 changed dance instruction?

Safety is a priority because the goal is to be able to continue to dance in person as long as we can. We are taking temperatures and hand sanitizing on entry, all dancers and teachers are wearing masks, we are taking 15 minutes between every class to clean the barres, floors and audio equipment, every window and door is wide open with exhaust fans pulling as much air out as possible and dancers are spaced 8 — not 6 — feet apart at the barre and in the center. There is no more partnering or any physical contact at all and class sizes are limited.

Dancers are resilient and determined, so I have not been surprised to see that many of our dancers have already returned without complaint to the studio. Online is tricky because the views of the dancers are usually limited and there is no one around but you to demonstrate things. The most positive aspect of online classes is the social and emotional benefit they provided during the lockdown. Our youngest students signed on early to talk with their friends and our adult classes saw a huge boom in attendance, with dancers as far away as Maine. Online teaching has made our faculty focus on what can be accomplished in smaller spaces.

## Can anyone be a dancer?

Absolutely. I cannot tell you the amount of times I have had astonished parents come up to me and ask how I got their child to do that or the times a man or woman of a certain age has mustered the courage to tap dance and left the class with a huge smile. Dance is powerful, life-changing stuff. I consider myself blessed to be part of it.

# ON THE SPOT

By Michael Turton

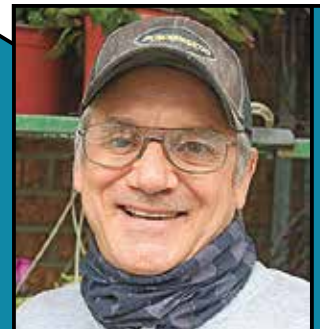
## What do you wonder about?

“What my kids' lives will be like when they are adults.”



~ Kim Montleon, Beacon

“If everyone will ever get along again and be more tolerant.”



~ Rickie Allen, Cold Spring

“What small miraculous thing I can notice today and be grateful for.”



~ Leslie Mott, Beacon



Depot Docs presents:

## Ernie and Joe: Crisis Cops

FRIDAY, SEPT. 25  
AT 7:00PM

Ernie & Joe follows two police officers with the San Antonio Texas Police Department who are diverting people away from jail and into mental health treatment, one 911 call at a time.

Join us on line at  
[www.cya.live/event/4008](http://www.cya.live/event/4008)

Followed by Q&A with director, Jenifer McShane, and editor Toby Shimin

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## NEWS BRIEFS

## Beacon and Fishkill Hire HR Director

*City and town approve shared-services agreement*

Beacon and Fishkill officials agreed over the summer to hire a human resources director who will work for both the city and town.

Gina Basile, who was most recently the manager of human resources for the New York State Bridge Authority, took the job on July 20. A Fishkill native, she attended John Jay High School and holds a bachelor's degree from the New York Institute of Technology.

Under the shared-services agreement, Basile will have offices at City Hall in Beacon and at Fishkill's Town Hall and work at each on alternating days.

## Beacon Historical Society Looks to Move

*More space at empty rectory at St. Joachim-St. John's*

The Beacon Historical Society hopes to move from its current location in the former rectory of St. Andrew's Church on South Avenue to the former rectory of St. Joachim & St. John's Church on Leonard

Street, which became vacant on Sept. 1.

The new building is significantly larger and would give the Historical Society more display space, said Gary Barrack, a member of the society, who spoke to the City Council about the proposal on Aug. 31. As people move to Beacon, the society has received more donations of historic material, he said, and there is greater interest in the city's history.

Because the proposed location is in Beacon's historic district, the council must grant a special-use permit before the society can make the move.

The Historical Society relocated to the 2,000-square-foot South Avenue location in 2016 after 20 years at the Howland Cultural Center, where it had 225 square feet. Founded in 1976, it made its first home at the Howland Public Library.

## Counties to Collect Hazardous Waste

*Registration required for drop-offs*

The Putnam County Department of Health will accept household hazardous waste for disposal on Saturday, Oct. 3, at Fahnestock State Park in Kent. Registration is required by emailing [putnamhealth@putnamcountyny.com](mailto:putnamhealth@putnamcountyny.com) or calling 845-808-1390, ext. 43150. For a list of accepted materials, visit [putnamcountyny.com/green-putnam](http://putnamcountyny.com/green-putnam).

Received settlement last year from Putnam County

Alexandru Hossu, who received \$750,000 in a November settlement from Putnam County after being acquitted in 2014 on two counts of rape, was found dead in Beekman last month.

## Hossu Found Dead

*Received settlement last year from Putnam County*

The body of Hossu, 43, a Romanian immigrant who had worked as a personal trainer for Adam Levy, then the Putnam County district attorney, was discovered on Aug. 19 when Dutchess County sheriff's deputies were called to a home to investigate a report of an unconscious man.

On Thursday (Sept. 3), the Sheriff's Department said it is investigating the death but awaiting the results of toxicology tests and an autopsy.

Following his exoneration, Hossu sued Putnam County, alleging that his arrest

was part of a vendetta by Don Smith, then the Putnam County sheriff, against Levy.

## Man Killed by Falling Tree on Taconic

*Victim was pioneer in Civil Rights movement*

A man killed by a falling tree on Aug. 27 on the Taconic State Parkway in East Fishkill was a pioneer of the Civil Rights movement and served two tours of duty with the U.S. Army in Vietnam.



Dinkins

New York State Police said they responded at about 4:20 p.m. to the scene, where a tree weakened by a storm hit a 2019 Toyota Rav4 that was traveling northbound.

Its front passenger, Willie J. Dinkins, 73, of Pleasant Valley, was pronounced dead at the scene.

According to an obituary posted online, Dinkins was a native of Sumter, South Carolina. He was frequently arrested as a teenager while participating in marches and recalled to his family that he was participating in a sit-in to integrate the S.H. Kress drugstore on Nov. 22, 1963, when word came of the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

## Question About Questions Stirs Debate

*Montgomery challenges 'don't ask' policy*

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

Putnam County legislators on Tuesday (Sept. 1) turned an otherwise routine end-of-summer session into a spirited clash over a question about questions.

The issue came up at the county Legislature's formal monthly meeting, held via audio connection, when Legislator Nancy Montgomery criticized her colleagues' habit of avoiding questions and discussion before voting on agenda items.

Montgomery, who represents Philipstown, is the only Democrat among eight Republicans.

The Legislature seeks to limit discussion and questions about draft laws, appointments and other measures to committee meetings, during which members approve items for consideration by the full Legislature at its formal monthly meetings. The Legislature has said in the past that the press and public also cannot ask questions during the public-comment period at the end of its monthly meetings.

The issue has been moot at meetings convened by audio connection because of COVID-19 restrictions; they have not included public-comment periods.

Montgomery questioned the no-questions policy while legislators prepared to vote on an appointment to the Home Improvement Board.

"How are the openings for these boards advertised?" the first-term legislator asked,

explaining that a constituent wanted to know how to learn about vacancies.

"I believe all these appointments come as a recommendation from the county executive," responded Legislator Ginny Nacerino of Patterson.

Legislator Neal Sullivan, of Mahopac-Carmel, said that Montgomery should have raised the question at a committee meeting.

Montgomery replied that she had "been chastised before for asking questions at a full [formal monthly] meeting." She said the policy appears to be that "we're not supposed to ask questions" but "are just supposed to vote."

"I don't think it's that at all," Sullivan replied, but, rather, "that we like to give you a very detailed and correct answer." He said legislators often don't have all the information and must get it from the relevant county department.

Nacerino concurred that "if the question were posed beforehand, we could have an answer readily. And now we can't," when a vote looms.

Montgomery said the policy means that if questions come to mind after a committee meeting, a legislator "is out of luck."

She continued to voice concern as the legislators prepared to vote on using \$295,000 in federal grant money for data management. "What data are we collecting?" she asked, pointing out that part of a page of the explanatory backup materials was blacked out. (A second document — a memo from Finance Commissioner William Carlin — indicated the money could fund "traffic counts.")

Legislator Carl Albano of Carmel, who

chairs the Physical Services Committee, which handled the item, replied "I don't have that answer" to Montgomery's query, but promised to find out. In any case, he said, it involves "federal money coming in. I'd imagine it would be appropriate for the purpose it's going to be used for." He, too, held that "the best time" to raise questions is at committee meetings.

Sullivan said he "wasn't chastising anybody" when he objected to having to field questions about agenda items shortly before votes. "That's why we have the committee meetings, to ask the questions, or during the day," he said. "We're trying to get business done here."

Montgomery shot back that "it is the time" and that "it's not the time to tell me how to do my job. This is where I'm asking, and I'm going to continue to [do so]. I don't have a rubber stamp."

Once more, Sullivan objected. "We

work to be prepared for these meetings" by asking questions in advance, getting answers and entering monthly meetings "fully prepared" and "ready to vote and do the people's business," he emphasized. "No one here is rubber-stamping anything."

Despite the flare-ups, Montgomery joined her colleagues in unanimously approving the agenda items that prompted the debate. The legislators also unanimously approved allocation of grant funds to fingerprint staff members in the Children's Advocacy Center in the county Department of Social Services.

As has occurred at other legislative sessions held by audio connection, background noise periodically distorted the sound quality, including when legislators were voting to adjourn. Nonetheless, one unidentified voice cut through the cacophony with an observation: "This is a circus!"



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# The HIGHLANDS Current

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## Tell us what you think

**T**he *Current* welcomes letters to the editor on its coverage and local issues. Submissions are selected by the editor to provide a variety of opinions and voices, and all are subject to editing for accuracy, clarity and length. We ask that writers remain civil and avoid personal attacks. Letters may be emailed to [editor@highlandscurrent.org](mailto:editor@highlandscurrent.org) or mailed to Editor, The Highlands Current, 142 Main St., Cold Spring, NY 10516. The writer's full name, village or city, and email or phone number must be included, but only the name and village or city will be published.

## LETTERS AND COMMENTS

### Looking ahead

It's fascinating but also bitterly ironic to hear the optimism expressed by Frederick Douglass on Aug. 11, 1870, during his speech in Newburgh about what the next 50 years would bring for African Americans — and a sharp corrective to realize that, 150 years later, much still remains to be done “in the way of obliterating the unnatural prejudice which characterized this nation” (“Looking Back in Beacon,” Aug. 28).

Will Vogel, *Garrison*

### Dirt roads

I am more than frustrated with the fact that the Philipstown Town Board was listening but not hearing the more than 25 people who asked on Aug. 26 that it not pave part of East Mountain Road South (“Dirt-Road Fans Oppose East Mountain Paving,” Aug. 28). Plus, more than 260 signatures were submitted against the paving. Why are these voices not part of the democratic process? Why is no one listening to the majority of taxpaying landowners who voted for this board to represent them? Who can we turn to for representation?

The workshop seemed to be for nothing.

No one took the minutes and no video was made. Who in power decides when to keep a record? I had a PowerPoint presentation that illustrated the beauty and history of East Mountain Road South. How can this be shown? A copy was given to all board members. Did they look at it? I am baffled, confused and disappointed.

Bonnie Stein, *Philipstown*

Wouldn't a paved road be easier to plow? I used to live in Wiccoppee and dreaded driving on the dirt roads in winter.

Christopher Bopp, *via Facebook*

I live year-round on a dirt road and, while people drive too fast everywhere and winter driving is inherently dangerous, I find the dirt roads feel much safer and I head for them even if my route is longer. In my experience, people drive slower on dirt roads and fewer people use them.

Shelley Boris, *via Facebook*

I also live on a dirt road. They paved part of it and it's now much more dangerous. Many more people now use it as a pass-through at much quicker speeds.

Krystyn Schaetzl, *via Facebook*

I walk dogs on dirt roads and paved roads and everyone drives fast on both types. The potholes, dust and washboard sections of these roads are unbearable and do damage to the vehicles that drive on them. I have seen Highway Department workers spend countless hours repairing dirt roads just to have a rain or snowstorm mess them up again. Paving would be more cost-effective.

Karen Jackson, *via Facebook*

### School opening

It makes no sense to open the Beacon school system (“Mixed Feelings,” Aug. 28).

Myra Burrows, *Beacon*

The schools need to open. The children are suffering socially, and the virtual learning is difficult for many students. We need to start somewhere. It can't stay as it is forever. If our children can go to dirty stores to shop, they can go to school to learn in a safe, clean, controlled environment.

Jody Johnson, *Beacon*

### Tots park

I'm not sure I understand why the Tots Park can't be reopened (“Notes from the Cold Spring Village Board,” Aug. 28). Parents can be with the children and wearing masks. If it gets too crowded, you leave.

Sheryl Kirschenbaum, *via Facebook*

School is open, but the park is not? It makes no sense.

Heather Hooks, *via Facebook*

So, we flattened the curve a while ago. That's why we had a shutdown. Are we waiting for the numbers to hit zero: no deaths, no hospitalizations, no infections? At what point do our government leaders determine that it's OK for everything to open again? What are the new criteria? It certainly isn't to flatten the curve. I'm wondering if it ever was.

Patricia Burruano, *via Facebook*

Once the rest of the country gets on board — gradually open using facts and numbers, tighten things up when illnesses start to rise and loosen restrictions when they are good — we could return to normal. Since that isn't the case and there isn't a moat around New York state, there is a threat of another spike. Give the scientists time to work on a vaccine.

Karen Finnegan, *via Facebook*



Visit [highlandscurrent.org](http://highlandscurrent.org) for news updates and latest information.

# Counting the Highlands

Self-response rates to the 2020 U.S. census, as of Sept. 1, along with historical data, are at right. The Census Bureau is contacting households that have not responded and also sending enumerators to knock on doors to meet a Sept. 30 deadline.

	2020	2010	2000	1990
Cold Spring	71.7	69.1	71	72
Philipstown	69.2	66.8	67	56
Putnam County	68.8	66.2	67	64
Nelsonville	66.7	66.5	67	65
18th District	66.1	66.0	-	-
National	65.1	67.2	65	61
Beacon	64.9	65.8	54	66
Dutchess County	64.6	65.7	68	64
New York State	61.4	64.6	67	62
New York City	58.1	64.0	55	53
Newburgh	43.2	50.2	45	44

Source: 2020census.gov

# Pulse of the District

Earlier this year, Sandy Galef, whose state Assembly district includes Philipstown and Kent in Putnam County and Peekskill, Cortlandt, Briarcliff Manor, Croton and Ossining in Westchester County, sent her constituents a survey. More than 800 people responded. The results are below.

1. With a recent outbreak of vaping-related illnesses, New York State is considering several policy options. Which of the following are you most in favor of?

- Ban all e-cigarette/Juul sales: 64%
- Ban sale of non-menthol flavored e-cigarette fluids: 20%
- No legislative action: 16%

2. Should New York legalize online/mobile sports betting?

- Yes 29%
- No 71%

3. In 2005 state voters passed a \$2.9 billion transportation bond to fix roads. Would you support another transportation bond to repair roads?

- Yes 78%
- No 18%

4. All vehicle passengers in the front and children in the back must wear seat belts. Do you support requiring all passengers to wear them?\*

- Yes 78%
- No 22%

\* Gov. Andrew Cuomo enacted a law on Aug. 11 that mandates this, effective Nov. 1.

5. Under daylight saving time, clocks are set forward by one hour in March and then returned to “standard time” in November. To avoid this change, New York State could adopt daylight saving time (the summer clock) year-round with federal approval or it could adopt standard time (the winter clock) year-round on its own. Which of the following would you support?

- Standard time: 25%
- Daylight saving time: 47%
- No change: 25%
- No response: 3%

6. Due to security concerns, should a school be allowed to opt out of serving

as a voting site?  
Yes 56%  
No 44%

7. Considering the potential for long-term harm from repeated blunt head trauma, should children 12 and younger be allowed to participate in tackle football? Flag football would be permitted.

- Yes 26%
- No 74%

8. Should villages, towns and cities be allowed to lower the speed limit from 30 mph to 25 mph?

- Yes 66%
- No 34%

9. Massachusetts established a system by which residents can become ordained by the state for a single day in order to perform a marriage. Would you support the creation of a single-day ordination in New York?

- Yes 34%
- No 66%



## Live Stream Virtual Concert for Spirit of Beacon Day Submissions

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

Deadline September 7th

For more information go to:  
spiritofbeacon.org/submissions

# NOTICE

## New York State Department of Environmental Conservation NOTICE OF COMPLETE APPLICATION

Date: 08/24/2020

Applicant: Cloudbank Lake LLC  
144 Main St, Cold Spring, NY 10516

Facility: Cloudbank Pond  
165 Cloudbank Rd, Philipstown, NY 10524

Application ID: 3-3726-00330/00001

Permits(s) Applied for: 1 - Article 15 Title 5 Excavation & Fill in Navigable Waters  
1 - Section 401 - Clean Water Act Water Quality Certification  
1 - Article 15 Title 5 Stream Disturbance

Project is located: in PHILIPSTOWN in PUTNAM COUNTY

Project Description:  
Cloudbank Lake, LLC is proposing to conduct hydraulic dredging of approximately 7,000 cubic yards of accumulated sediment and organic material within Cloudbank Lake (a 2.25-acre unnamed pond; DEC Water Index ID No. H-68-P198c, Class B) to restore previous pond depth and for the protection Colt Estate Dam. Dredged materials are to be dewatered in dewatering bags onsite, and dried materials are proposed to be spread on approximately 0.6 acres in an onsite field greater than 100 feet from the pond.

Availability of Application Documents:  
Filed application documents, and Department draft permits where applicable, are available for inspection during normal business hours at the address of the contact person. To ensure timely service at the time of inspection, it is recommended that an appointment be made with the contact person.

State Environmental Quality Review (SEQR) Determination  
Project is an Unlisted Action and will not have a significant impact on the environment. A Negative Declaration is on file. A coordinated review was not performed.

SEQR Lead Agency  
None Designated

State Historic Preservation Act (SHPA) Determination  
Cultural resource lists and maps have been checked. The proposed activity is not in an area of identified archaeological sensitivity and no known registered, eligible or inventoried archaeological sites or historic structures were identified or documented for the project location. No further review in accordance with SHPA is required.

Coastal Management  
This project is located in a Coastal Management area and is subject to the Waterfront Revitalization and Coastal Resources Act.

DEC Commissioner Policy 29, Environmental Justice and Permitting (CP-29)  
It has been determined that the proposed action is not subject to CP-29.

Availability For Public Comment  
Comments on this project must be submitted in writing to the Contact Person no later than 09/10/2020 or 15 days after the publication date of this notice, whichever is later.

Contact Person  
KATHERINE T COFFIN  
NYSDEC  
21 S Putt Corners Rd  
New Paltz, NY 12561



# How They Voted: COVID-19

By Chip Rowe

Last week *The Current* shared the votes by Republican Sue Serino (whose state Senate district includes the Highlands), Democrat Sandy Galef (whose Assembly district includes Philipstown) and Democrat Jonathan Jacobson (whose Assembly district includes Beacon) on 12 bills that had been enacted by Gov. Andrew Cuomo.

The new laws included two measures related to COVID-19: one that provides a death benefit to public employees who contract the virus and another that criminalizes price-gouging on essential medical supplies and services.

Here are other COVID-related bills recently signed into law:

■ Requires state-regulated mortgage lenders and servicers to provide a six-month forbearance for those who suffer financial hardship because of COVID-19.

**Senate passed 62-0**  
Serino ☒

**Assembly passed 111-33**  
Galef ☒ Jacobson ☒

■ Prohibits courts from issuing eviction notices for unpaid rent between March 7 and six months after the expiration of the governor's state of emergency.

**Senate passed 39-23**  
Serino ☒

**Assembly passed 94-50**  
Galef ☒ Jacobson ☒

■ Prevents utility companies from terminating services for those who are unable to work or have had their wages reduced during the state of emergency.

**Senate passed 58-4**  
Serino ☒

**Assembly passed 111-32**  
Galef ☒ Jacobson ☒

■ Suspends during the state of emergency the reduction of unemployment benefits issued as punishment for past false statements to the Department of Labor.

**Senate passed 48-14**  
Serino ☒

**Assembly passed 97-46**  
Galef ☒ Jacobson ☒

■ Expands whistleblower protections to health care workers who expose improper practices concerning patient care and workplace safety.

**Senate passed 61-1**  
Serino ☒

**Assembly passed 125-19**  
Galef ☒ Jacobson ☒

■ Requires residential health care facilities such as nursing homes to prepare by Sept. 17 a pandemic emergency plan to be

# How They Voted: Indian Point

These three bills, each sponsored by Galef, have been passed by the Senate and House but not yet delivered to the governor.

■ This law would classify spent fuel waiting to be disposed from a nuclear power plant as "real property," allowing it to be taxed in the same way storage units are taxed. "Because the spent fuel rods will stay in our community after the plant is shut down [in 2021], this bill creates a source of revenue for as long as the spent fuel rods from Indian Point remain at the facility," Galef wrote in a newsletter sent to constituents. "This will create much-needed tax revenues for the Village of Buchanan, Hendrick Hudson School District and the Town of Cortlandt during the transition."

**Senate passed 45-17**  
Serino ☒  
**Assembly passed 114-30**  
Galef ☒ Jacobson ☒

■ This law would maintain the positions of Indian Point employees for as long as feasible, at prevailing wages, Galef wrote. "The decommissioning company that

takes over the property from Entergy is then required to maintain the current workforce to the extent practical, and new hires will be selected from a list of qualified employees of the power plant."

**Senate passed 61-1**  
Serino ☒  
**Assembly passed 112-32**  
Galef ☒ Jacobson ☒

■ This law would extend the "payment in lieu of taxes" paid by Indian Point, which is scheduled to expire in April 2021, when the third and final reactor is shut down. "Indian Point pays a lump sum tax in order to operate as a generating power plant," Galef wrote. "This bill ensures that payment continues once it is a 'formerly generating' power plant."

**Senate passed 59-3**  
Serino ☒  
**Assembly passed 144-0**  
Galef ☒ Jacobson ☒

reviewed and updated annually.

**Senate passed 61-1**  
Serino ☒  
**Assembly passed 133-11**  
Galef ☒ Jacobson ☒

■ Requires the Department of Health, by

June 2021, to complete a study on the health impacts of COVID-19 on minority communities.

**Senate passed 59-3**  
Serino ☒  
**Assembly passed 143-0**  
Galef ☒ Jacobson ☒

## 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](http://www.infotaxonline.com)

## collaborative concepts

### The Farm Show 2020

New Location

@ Tilly Foster Farm

100 NY-312, Brewster, New York 10509

**September 5 - October 31, 2020**

10am-4pm and during restaurant hours

**Due to COVID-19, there will be no receptions**

**SOCIAL DISTANCING and MASKS REQUIRED**

**Bring water, sun protection, and walking shoes.**

**Tilly's Table** offers meals and drinks.  
Go to [tillystablerestaurant.com](http://tillystablerestaurant.com) for schedule  
Reservations required.

Jerry J. Adams/ Lara Saget • Anna Adler/ Rudy Vavra • John Allen Inez Andrucyk • Marc Bernier • Gianni Biaggi • Cindy Booth/Steve Brooks Jo-Ann Brody • Robert Brush • Kris Campbell • Morgan Donohue Chris Froehlich • Barbara Galazzo/Carol Flaitz • Salvador Guzman Lenny Harrington • Eric Jacobson • Natalya Khorover • Bernard Klevickas • Kevin Laverty • David Link • Jim Lloyd • Ellie Murphy • Michael Natiello • Justin Perlman • Hildreth Potts • Herman Roggeman • Fred Schlitzer • Peter Schlemowitz • Laurie Sheridan • Linda Schmidt • Tom Shaw Betty Stafford • Hideki Takahashi • Jim Thomson • Chuck von Schmidt • Eva Whorley • Max Yawney

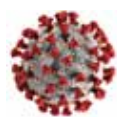
Most artwork is for sale.

For info. and directions, use our CRC.  
Or Tilly Foster Farm on map applications  
100 Route 312, Brewster, NY 10509 .

Donate Now: Go to [www.collabconcepts.com](http://www.collabconcepts.com)

From NYC: Metro North, Harlem Line to Southeast Station  
[www.mta.info/mnr](http://www.mta.info/mnr) Call Obe's taxi svc. prior to departure 845-278-7200





## Coronavirus Update

■ State health officials said that, as of Thursday (Sept. 3), 1,518 (+8 from the day before) people have tested positive for COVID-19 in Putnam County; 4,892 (+14) in Dutchess; 37,106 (+49) in Westchester; 14,334 (+29) in Rockland; 2,190 (+12) in Ulster; and 11,478 (+18) in Orange. Statewide, there were 437,107 (+889) positives, including 235,110 (+304) in New York City. Statewide, 25,343 (+7) people had died.

■ The number of COVID-19 patients in intensive care in New York state dropped to 109 on Aug. 31, the lowest since March 15; the number of intubations dropped to 50 on Aug. 22, the lowest since mid-March; and the number of hospitalizations dropped to 418 on Aug. 30, the lowest since March 16.

■ In Dutchess County, there were 1,400 tests conducted on Sept. 2, with 14 positives, and in Putnam, there were 400 tests, with eight positives. The percentage of positive results in the Mid-Hudson Region was 1.2 percent.

■ Statewide, there were 88,981 tests conducted on Sept. 2 and 889 positives. The infection rate of 0.99 percent was the 27th straight day below 1 percent. Dutchess has conducted 138,428 tests and had 3.5 percent positives, while Putnam had conducted 38,118 tests and had 4.0 percent positives.

■ New York, New Jersey and Connecticut announced that anyone traveling from a state that has a positive test rate higher than 10 per 100,000 residents over a 7-day rolling average or a 10 percent or higher positivity rate over a 7-day rolling average must quarantine for 14 days. As of Sept. 3, the states were Alabama, Alaska, Arkansas, California, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, North Carolina, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Virginia

and Wisconsin, as well as Guam, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands.

■ On Tuesday (Sept. 1), New York said local farms can operate "agritourism" activities at up to 33 percent capacity. Apple, pumpkin and other produce-picking is permitted, though individuals picking apples may not eat fruit in the orchard. Wagon rides and haunted hayrides, corn mazes and haunted houses are permitted with face masks and social distancing. Live music and petting zoos are not permitted.

■ Dutchess County created the Dutchess Frontline Award to honors residents who have assisted their communities during the pandemic. Nominations can be made at [dutchessny.gov/dutchessfrontline](http://dutchessny.gov/dutchessfrontline). Honorees will receive a certificate from County Executive Marc Molinaro.

■ Dutchess has allocated nearly \$200,000 for a COVID-19 Childcare Relief Scholarship to benefit families who need childcare for their school-aged children. The scholarship, which will allow parents to work, look for work or attend college, is intended to fill the gap between the number of days students will be in school and learning virtually. Scholarships will be awarded beginning Oct. 1 through the end of the academic year by a random selection process and will cover 75 percent of the childcare costs for each child. Families with children who have special needs will be prioritized. See [bit.ly/dutchess-child-care-relief](http://bit.ly/dutchess-child-care-relief).

■ Gov. Andrew Cuomo extended the moratorium on COVID-related commercial evictions and foreclosures until Sept. 20.

■ The president of Marist College in Poughkeepsie said on Aug. 21 the school had suspended 15 students for not following health guidelines at an off-campus party. "If this trend continues, we'll have no choice but to completely close the campus and require students to finish the semester online," he wrote. Cuomo on Aug. 30 dispatched a team with 71 contact tracers and eight investigators to the SUNY Oneonta campus to contain a COVID-19

cluster. The action came as Chancellor Jim Malatras announced a two-week suspension of in-person instruction.

■ At SUNY New Paltz, a dozen students were in quarantine after two off-campus pick-up basketball games where one player later tested positive. As of Sept. 3, New Paltz had six active cases; Vassar (Town of Poughkeepsie) had 12; and Marist (Town of Poughkeepsie) had none.

■ In response to reports of students at large gatherings, the governor on Aug. 27 issued guidance for infection rates on college campuses and actions schools must take if the infection rate rises above certain levels. If a college has 100 cases or if the number of cases equals 5 percent or more of the student population, the school must go to remote learning for at least two weeks, during which athletic activities and other extra-curricular activities must be suspended and dining halls must move to take-out only. The college also must go to 100 percent distance learning if clusters strain the school's ability to isolate and contact-trace, based on the assessment of the local or state health department, he said.

■ Putnam County issued a health alert on Aug. 25 that anyone who worked at or attended the 10 a.m. mass at St. James Church in Carmel on Aug. 23 or worked at or visited the Shop-Rite supermarket on Route 52 in Carmel from 1 to 3 p.m. on Aug. 23 may have been exposed to COVID-19. For testing information, visit [putnamcountyny.com/health/coronavirus](http://putnamcountyny.com/health/coronavirus).

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

■ Questions? Dutchess County posts updates at [dutchessny.gov/coronavirus](http://dutchessny.gov/coronavirus) and has a hotline at 845-486-3555. Putnam County posts info at [putnamcountyny.com](http://putnamcountyny.com).

## COVID-19 by the Numbers

### ■ PUTNAM COUNTY

Number of confirmed cases:

**1,518** (+31)

New Cases in Philipstown: **1**

Tests administered:

**38,118** (+2,629)

Percent positive:

**4.0** (-0.2)

Number of deaths:

**63** (+0)

### ■ DUTCHESS COUNTY

Number of confirmed cases:

**4,892** (+77)

Active Cases in Beacon: **6**

Tests administered:

**138,428** (+11,471)

Percent positive:

**3.5** (-0.3)

Number of deaths:

**153** (+0)

*Source: New York State Department of Health, with weekly changes in parentheses, as of Sept. 3. New cases in Philipstown for week ending Aug. 20 (the most recent reported).*

[com/health](http://com/health). New York State has a hotline at 888-364-3065 and a webpage at [ny.gov/coronavirus](http://ny.gov/coronavirus). The state also created an email list to provide updates. The federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention posts updates at [cdc.gov](http://cdc.gov). To find a test site, visit [coronavirus.health.ny.gov](http://coronavirus.health.ny.gov).

## 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](mailto:judy@ltccc.org)

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AROUND TOWN



▲ **OUTDOOR ED** — The Manitou School held its first day of classes on Tuesday (Sept. 1) in a tent and other spots on its Philipstown campus. Here, Alexandra Abetti meets with some of her first- and second-graders.

Photo by Caroline Kaye



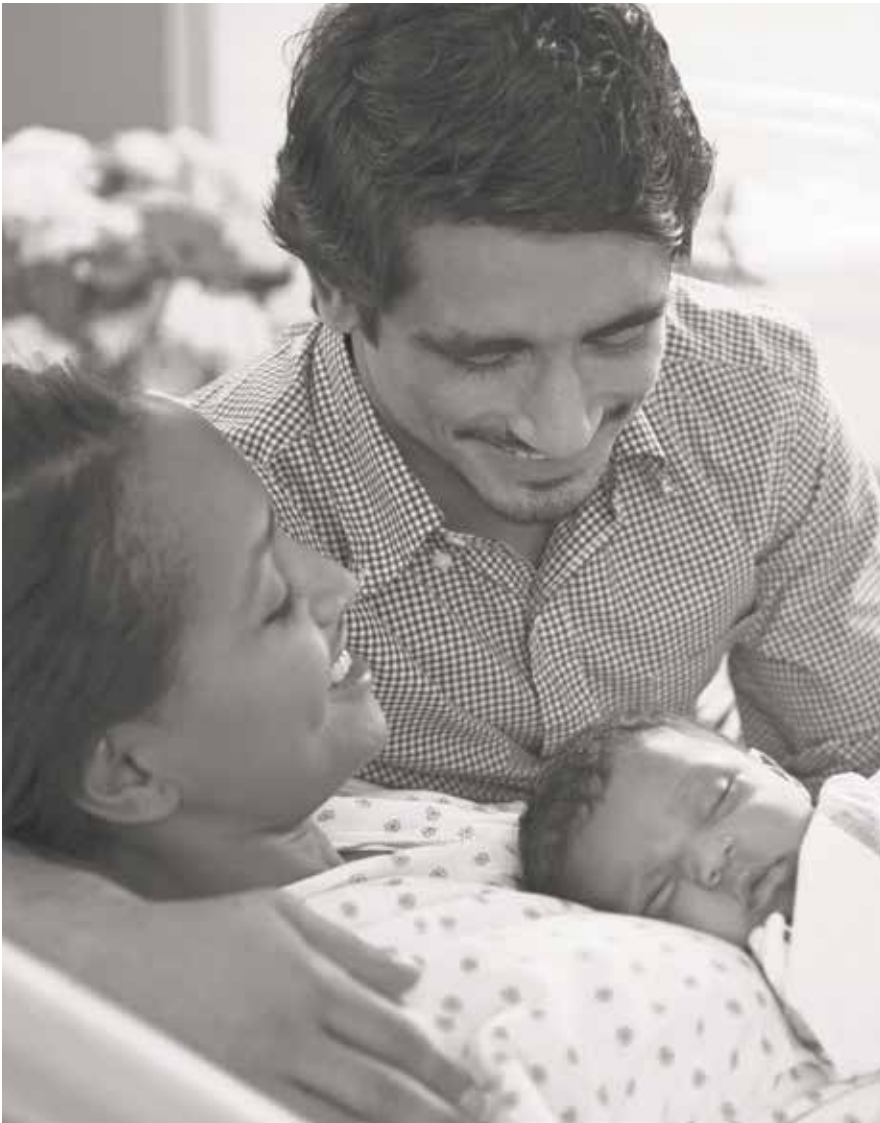
▲ **LIONS SHARE** — Members of the Cold Spring Lions Club donated \$3,000 to the Philipstown Food Pantry last month to purchase a refrigerator/freezer.

Photo provided



◀ **BACK TO REALITY** — After months of weekly editorial meetings held by Zoom, *The Current* staff gathered on Monday (Aug. 31) at Mayor's Park in Cold Spring.

Photo by Michele Gedney



**Your first family moment, uninterrupted.**  
*The expertise of Columbia doctors and a new maternity center designed for the whole family.*

At NewYork-Presbyterian Hudson Valley Hospital, we believe moms and their babies should feel right at home. Our all-new maternity center, opening this fall, will feature new amenities that reimagine the birthing experience for families. Enjoy the tranquility of your own private room in a certified Baby-Friendly® hospital, where your newly expanded family can enjoy those first sweet moments in comfort together.

**Coming Soon: NEW Maternity Center**

To learn more, visit [nyp.org/hvmaternity](https://nyp.org/hvmaternity) or call 914-752-4969

**NewYork-Presbyterian**  
**Hudson Valley Hospital**

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# The Calendar

## Sculpture Show Leaves Saunders Farm

*After 14 years, moves from Garrison to Brewster*

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

After 14 autumns at Saunders Farm in Garrison, the Collaborative Concepts outdoor sculpture show will move this year to Tilly Foster Farm, a county-owned historic site near Brewster, where it opens on Saturday (Sept. 5).

Based in Putnam Valley, Collaborative Concepts, a nonprofit dedicated to presenting professional art to the community, said that the county tourism agency invited the group to relocate to Tilly Foster, which covers 200 acres.

Dell Jones, a Collaborative Concepts representative, said on Wednesday (Sept. 2) that, among other attractions, Tilly Foster offers ample space for visitors to roam safely, a concern in a year of pandemic.

"It has to do with social distancing," she said. "That was the most important thing."

Along with the spacious setting, Jones said that "Putnam County thought it was a perfect match. We look forward to a good show with good attendance."

The county has been trying to draw visitors to the farm, which includes hiking trails; scenic vistas; a community garden; animals, including pigs, alpacas, miniature horses and chickens; and the farm-to-table Tilly's Table restaurant, which is open each week from Thursday to Sunday.

In relocating, Collaborative Concepts said in a statement that it "hopes to retain its traditional patrons while attracting new visitors from Putnam, Dutchess, Westchester and Connecticut." (Tilly Foster is near the Connecticut border.)

"If you have been longing to see art in person rather than virtually, this is your chance," the organization said.

The annual installation had taken place at Saunders Farm on Old Albany Post Road in Garrison since its debut in 2006. Collaborative Concepts thanked Sandy and Shelley Saunders "for their years of hospitality and generosity" in hosting the two-month show on their property.

This year the show is built around two themes — the pandemic and nature — and features the work of 40 artists, including "Shelter in Place," a sculpture made from trees by Anna Adler and Rudy Vavra; larger-than-life hanging fiber flowers by Kris Campbell; Chuck Von Schmidt's "Penguins"; Natalya Khorover's plastic "Speaking of Birds"; "Winter Bird" by Justin Perlman; and "Sheep," made of wire and steel wool by Hildreth Potts.

The abstract art includes painted



"Queen Bee," by Cindy Booth and Steve Brooks



"Distorted Views," by Marc Bernier

geometric sculptures by Max Yawney and Peter Schlemowitz and "a spiritual sculpture" called "Four Directions" by Chris Froehlich. In addition, Swiss artist Gianni Biaggi created a sculpture called "Eulogy to the Earthworm."

Collaborative Concepts says it allows artists "to create whatever they want," whether grand, silly or experimental, and also "gives them permission to fail."

*Tilly Foster Farm is located at 100 Route 312 in Brewster. The Tilly Foster Farm Project 2020 is open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday to Wednesday and from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Thursday to Sunday, through Oct. 31. Admission is free, and most works are for sale, with prices ranging from \$400 to \$50,000. Visitors are asked to wear masks and practice social distancing. No pets are allowed. See collaborativeconcepts.org or call 845-528-1797.*



"Eulogy to the Earthworm," by Gianni Biaggi



Kris Campbell with his moving sculpture, "iamORANGE."



"Shift," by Linda Schmidt

Photos provided



# THE WEEK AHEAD

Edited by Pamela Doan (calendar@highlandscurrent.org)

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

## COMMUNITY

SAT 5

### 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 CSA pickup window. *Cost: \$18*

SAT 5

### Yoga at Boscobel

GARRISON

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

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

SAT 5

### Farm Fresh Dinner & Parisian Gala

BANNERMAN ISLAND

Noon – 7:30 p.m.  
Bannerman Castle Trust  
bannermancastle.org

Enjoy a five-course dinner, music from Tony Depaolo and the Choi Fairbanks Chamber Ensemble, a tour of Bannerman Island's gardens and an art sale during this annual fundraiser. A ferry will carry attendees from Beacon to the island between noon and 5:30 p.m. Visit the website for more info and to buy tickets. *Cost: \$135*

TUES 8

### Outdoor Dance Class

PHILIPSTOWN

5:30 p.m. Fred Astaire Dance Studio  
3182 Route 9 | 845-424-6353

The studio will host Back into the Swing of Things every Tuesday and Thursday in September. Social distancing will be practiced. Register by phone.



WED 9

### Senior Hour

BEACON

9:30 – 10:30 a.m.  
Howland Public Library | 313 Main St.  
845-831-1134 | beaconlibrary.org

The Howland has set aside this hour on Wednesday and Thursday each week for seniors and other residents who are at higher risk from COVID-19 to visit the library.

THURS 10

### High Holidays Registration

COLD SPRING

Philipstown Reform Synagogue  
philipstownreformsynagogue.org

Register by today for the synagogue's virtual High Holidays services, which begin with the first Rosh Hashanah service on Sept. 18. Email your name and phone number to prshhighholidays2020@gmail.com.

THURS 10

### Memoir Workshop

COLD SPRING

10:30 a.m. Butterfield Library  
bit.ly/3biwcZG

Kathryn Curto will lead this four-week Zoom workshop series on writing micro-memoirs, using this year's dramatic changes as a subject. Registration required.

FRI 11

### 9/11 Candlelight Vigil

CARMEL

8 p.m. Cornerstone Park  
putnamcountyny.com/  
911candlelightvigil

Only participants in the celebration will be allowed to attend Putnam County's annual 9/11 ceremony in-person, but it will be livestreamed online. The county will be adding one name to the memorial: Robert McMahon, who died in 2013 and was a longtime NYC firefighter and later commissioner of the county Bureau of Emergency Services. It will also dedicate a tree that grew from a seedling from the World Trade Center Survivor Tree.

## TALKS

TUES 8

### The Suffrage Movement

COLD SPRING

7 p.m.

In this virtual event, Sally Roesch Wagner, editor of *The Women's Suffrage Movement*, and Andrea Stewart-Cousins, the state Senate majority leader, will discuss the amendment that 100 years ago gave women the right to vote. A portion of book sales will benefit the campaign of Democratic state Senate candidate Karen Smythe. RSVP by calling 312-909-0468 or

emailing sarah@weir-and-co.com.

*Cost: \$25 contribution*

WED 9

### Reading with Writers

COLD SPRING

7 p.m. Split Rock Books  
splitrockbks.com

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

THURS 10

### Fiction Book Club

COLD SPRING

7 p.m. Split Rock Books  
splitrockbks.com

Members will discuss via Zoom two books by Yoko Tawada: *The Bridegroom was a Dog* and *The Emissary*. Anyone buying either book will get an invite.

THURS 10

### Pathways to Planetary Health

GARRISON

2 p.m. Garrison Institute  
845-424-4800 | bit.ly/3jvRVA8

In this webinar, Victor Masayesva, a Hopi author, photographer and filmmaker, will speak with Jonathan F.P. Rose, the co-founder of the Garrison Institute, about climate, COVID-19, ceremonies and stewardship. Register online.



## KIDS & FAMILY

MON 7

### Story Time with Mrs. Merry

GARRISON

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

Join Librarian Lucille Merry for a virtual story time.



Allegory and Apparatus, Sept. 12



TUES 8

### Locked in Science

GARRISON

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

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

WED 9

### Sing and Move

GARRISON

10 a.m. Desmond-Fish Library  
bit.ly/SingandMoveZoom

Join Miss Gabi for songs and play.

WED 9

### Let's Get Quizzical

GARRISON

8 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library  
bit.ly/3bgxXXn

Teams of up to three adults can test their trivia knowledge during this Zoom event hosted by Ryan Biracree. Register online.

## STAGE & SCREEN

SAT 5

### 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 *Labyrinth* (1986) and *Robocop* (1987) this weekend and *Jumanji* (1995) and *Ghostbusters* (1984) next weekend. See website for show times and health protocols. Snacks will be available for purchase. Also SUN 6, THURS 10, FRI 11, SAT 12, SUN 13. *Cost: \$10 (\$8 children, seniors, military)*

FRI 11

### Friday Night In Movie

GARRISON

7 – 9 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library  
bit.ly/32Jvy3v

The library will screen, via Zoom, *Where Do We Go from Here?*, a 2015 Scottish comedy directed by John McPhail that centers on James, a young man who takes on the role of a janitor of a nursing home when his grandfather is forced into care. Registration required.

SAT 12

### The Artichoke

BEACON

8 p.m. Howland Cultural Center  
artichokeshow.com

Storytellers who have appeared on *The Moth Radio Hour*, *This American Life*, *Risk!* and other programs will bring their tales to Beacon in this livestreamed event hosted by Drew Prochaska. Some material may be unsuitable for children. *Cost: \$18*



**SECOND SATURDAY****SAT 12**  
**finally Golden****BEACON**Noon – 6 p.m. Mother Gallery  
1154 North Ave.  
845-236-6039 | mothergallery.art

The gallery will host this opening for an exhibit of works by Brian Belott and Bridget Caramagna. Through Oct. 25. Following reception, by appointment.

**SAT 12**  
**Weightless****BEACON**Noon – 6 p.m. BAU Gallery  
506 Main St.  
845-440-7584 | baugallery.org

Daniel Berlin will showcase paintings, monotypes and sculpture that intend to embody an energetic connection which relieves the density of thinking. Through Oct. 4.

**SAT 12**  
**Allegory and Apparatus****BEACON**Noon – 6 p.m. BAU Gallery  
506 Main St.  
845-440-7584 | baugallery.org

Lukas Milanak will exhibit his playful sculptures and art-making machines created from found objects made of wood and steel, and from hand-blown glass. Through Oct. 4.

**VISUAL ARTS****SAT 5**  
**Papers of the Archive****GARRISON**Ice House  
17 Mandalay Drive | jdj.world

Noel Anderson exhibits handmade paper objects that explore the depiction of black masculinity through the distortion of photos of Martin Luther King Jr., prisoners standing against a wall and other scenes. Email jayne@jdj.world or text 518-339-6913 to schedule a visit.

**SAT 5**  
**Bridges, Battlegrounds & Swimming Pools****GARRISON**10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Garrison Art Center  
23 Garrison's Landing  
845-424-3960 | garrisonartcenter.org

Jill Shoffiett's watercolor and ink paintings depict landscapes and interiors that explore the psyche through themes of survival, decay, identity, tragedy and triumph. Through Sept. 13.

**SAT 5**  
**Monkey Bars****GARRISON**10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Garrison Art Center  
23 Garrison's Landing  
845-424-3960 | garrisonartcenter.org

Pam Marchin's sculptures, monotypes and transfer drawings represent her commentary on human frailty and the balancing act that is life. Through Sept. 13.



We, Too, Believe, Sept. 5

**SAT 5****Fizz****BEACON**Noon – 6 p.m. Bau Gallery  
506 Main St.  
845-440-7584 | baugallery.org

Carla Goldberg exhibits works influenced by the pandemic. Also SUN 6.

**SAT 5****Nocturnal****BEACON**Noon – 6 p.m. Bau Gallery  
506 Main St.  
845-440-7584 | baugallery.org

Ceramics artist Faith Adams shares a collection of 60 wheel-thrown porcelain wall plates and bowls, as well as a collection of mixed-media paintings. Also SUN 6.

**SAT 5****Open Studios Group Show****BEACON**Noon – 6 p.m. Hudson Beach Glass  
162 Main St. | 845-440-0068  
beaconopenstudios.org

View Beacon Open Studios' annual exhibit daily from noon to 6 p.m. or Sunday from noon to 5 p.m. Through Oct. 4.

**SAT 5****We, Too, Believe****BEACON**1 – 5 p.m. Howland Cultural Center  
477 Main St. | 845-831-4988  
howlandculturalcenter.org

The Howland celebrates Hispanic National History Month with an exhibit of works by 14 Latinx artists from the Hudson Valley. Through Sept. 27.

**SAT 5****Ring Them Bells****BEACON**1 – 5 p.m. Howland Cultural Center  
477 Main St. | 845-831-4988  
howlandculturalcenter.org

Beacon's unique and varied doorbells and doorknockers take center stage in this exhibit, which comprises 45 photos that Kelly Ellenwood took with her cell phone while campaigning door-to-door for City Council in 2019. Through Sept. 27.

**SAT 5****Reflect/Revise****COLD SPRING**Noon – 5 p.m. Buster Levi Gallery  
121 Main St. | busterlevigallery.com

New works will be on display in the gallery and online.



Ring Them Bells, Sept. 5

**MUSIC****SAT 5****Mississippi Travelers****PUTNAM VALLEY**4 p.m. Tompkins Corners Cultural Center  
729 Peekskill Hollow Road  
845-528-7280 | tompkinscorners.orgIn its first live show since March, the center presents an evening of blues-tinged fiddle tunes. Bring a lawn chair. Social distancing and masks required. *Cost: \$10***TUES 8****Creative Strings Improvisers Orchestra****BEACON**5 p.m. Riverfront Park  
2 Red Flynn Drive | beaconnny.myrec.comThe Beacon Recreation Department, Compass Arts Creativity Project and Gwen Laster of Creative Strings Improvisers Orchestra present this socially distanced show. Register online. *Free***CIVIC**Most meetings are being streamed or posted as videos. See [highlandscurrent.org/meeting-videos](http://highlandscurrent.org/meeting-videos).**MON 7****City Council****BEACON**7 p.m. Via Webcast  
845-838-5000 | cityofbeacon.org**TUES 8****Village Board****COLD SPRING**6:30 p.m. Via Webcast  
845-265-3611 | coldspringny.gov**WED 9****Village Board****NELSONVILLE**7 p.m. Via Webcast  
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Mississippi Travelers, Sept. 5



# 'Mona Lisa on Wheels'

*Unique vehicles are collector's masterpieces*

By Michael Turton

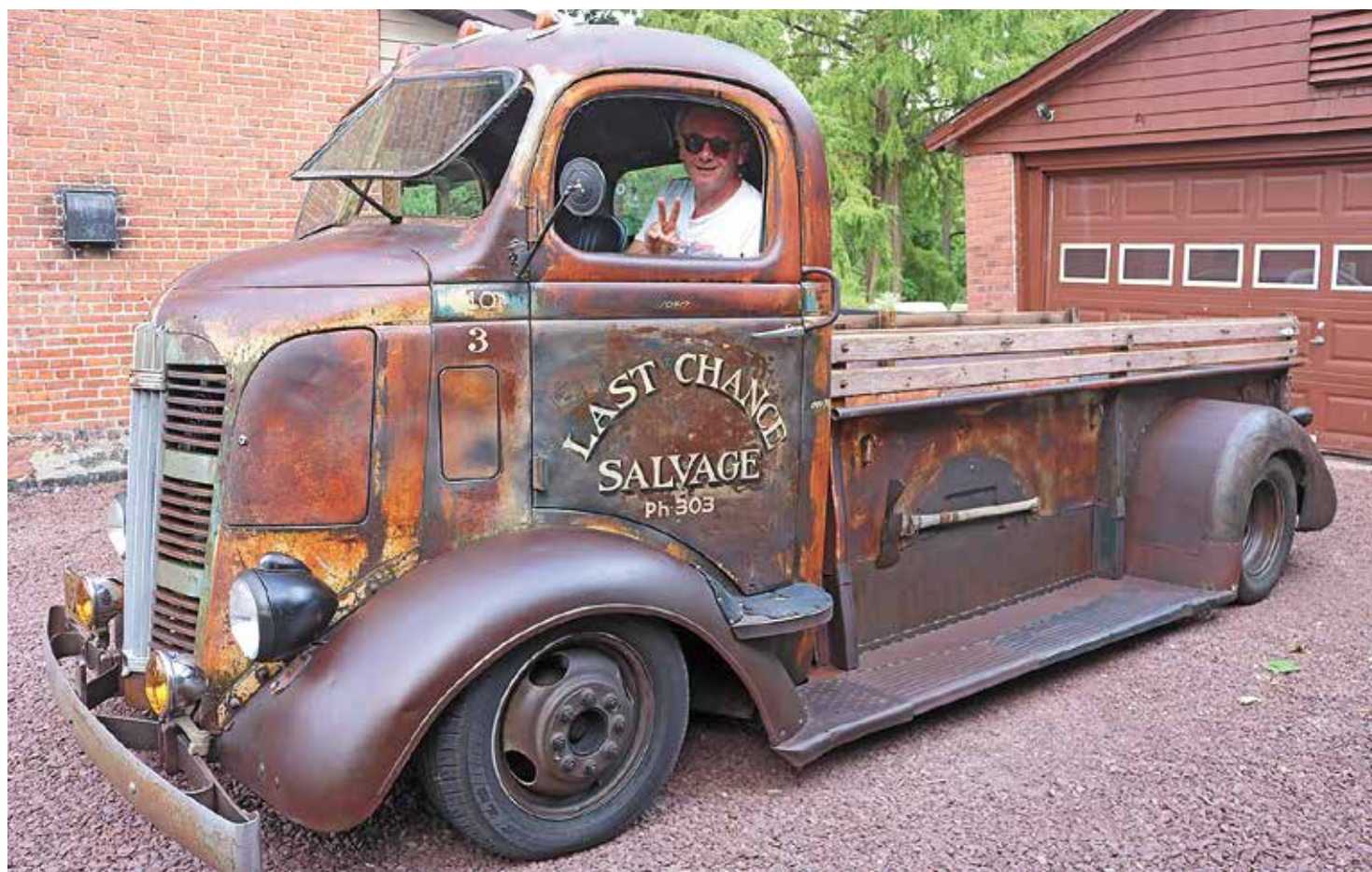
When pedestrians in the Highlands see the Last Chance Salvage truck rumble past, they invariably do a double take — or a triple take. The 1937 GMC has a kind of grotesque beauty that guarantees stares.

"It's a bad-ass truck," said owner Adam Pataki, 46, who lives in Newburgh. "You're not going to see another one like it. General Motors' historian thought this truck no longer existed."

Pataki said he found the cab in Montana about 12 years ago and rebuilt it. It was originally a four-wheel cab-over-engine (where the vehicle has a "flat face" and the cab sits over the front axle) and had an attached trailer.

"I wish I could build 10 of them, but the cabs are extremely difficult to find," he said.

For Pataki, his classic vehicles are about more than mere ownership and car shows. He feels compelled to drive them. "I have to ride something every freaking day, either a bike or a car," he said. "It makes me happy, keeps my mind clear."



This 1937 GMC, with Adam Pataki behind the wheel, is a familiar site in the Highlands.

Photo by M. Turton

The Last Chance Salvage name was invented to reflect the truck's rough and tumble appearance, which includes intentionally cracked side windows.

While it weighs a hefty 6,200 pounds, its 500-horsepower, 454-cubic-inch, V8 engine

ensures the truck can burn rubber.

"You know how many kids want to race me?" Pataki said with a laugh. "I look at them, step on it and go. I love speed and I'll compete with any new car." The downside: "It sucks gas like a helicopter," getting

about 5 miles per gallon.

Pataki says his frequent trips on Route 9D in the truck "are like breathing the air for me. I just love it."

The former New York City tradesman and  
(Continued on Page 13)



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Pataki with his 1935 Harley police bike

Photo by M. Turton

(Continued from Page 12)

contractor owns other vehicles that are not just old but unique. A friend dubbed him “Mona Lisa on wheels” because he restores vehicles that are original, unique and beautiful.

His passion for vintage vehicles began after his family moved to Brooklyn from Poland when he was 7. “I had a little 50cc motorcycle,” he recalled. “When I was 17, I bought my first vintage bike — a 1916 Indian Power Plus — for \$13,000.”

That was a lot of money for a teenager, “but it was in running condition and had the original paint. I was excited!”

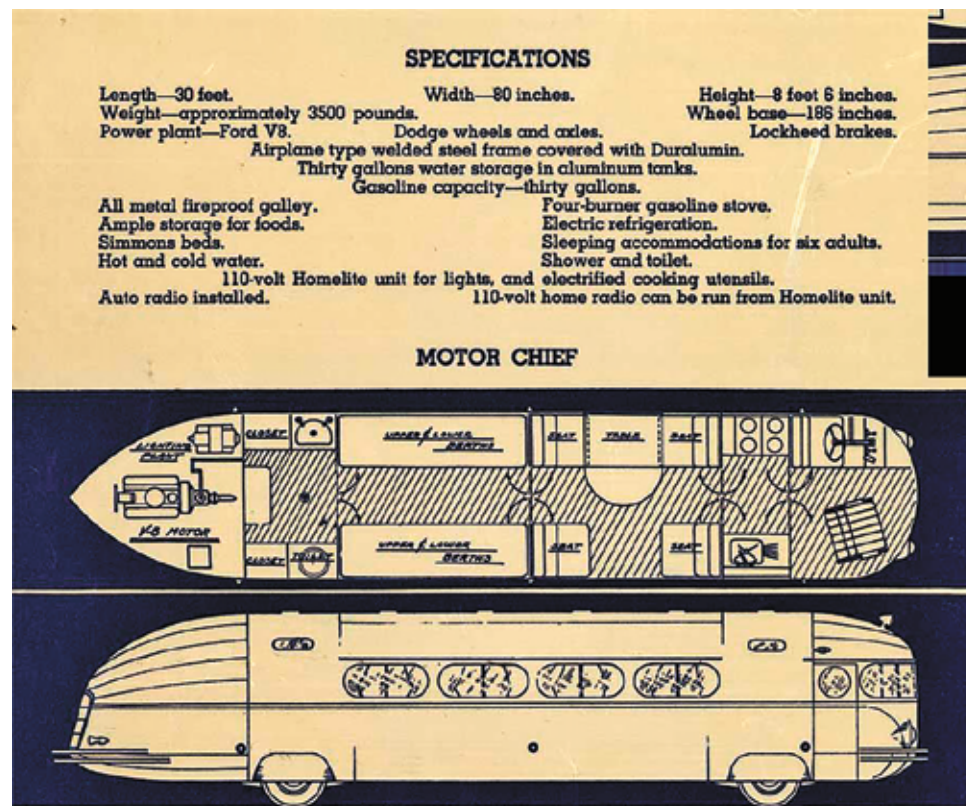
Pataki’s collection, which includes four or

five cars from the 1930s, several classic motorcycles and a vintage boat, changes often. Vehicles come and go through purchases, swaps, trades and the occasional sell-off.

His cars usually predate World War II and have included Packards, Cadillacs and Bentleys. One of his favorites, he said, was a 1929 Ford five-window coupe. He particularly loves art-deco cars, which he said led to his one regret.

“I owned a 1939 Lincoln Zephyr that was 20 feet long,” he said, but he sold it to a collector in Texas. “I wish I could have that car back. They’re so hard to find.”

His motorcycles have ranged from a 1912 Harley Davidson to choppers from the



A schematic for the 1935 Bowlus Motor Chief streamliner

1950s and racing Triumphs from the 1960s.

One bike won’t suffer the Zephyr’s fate. It’s not for sale. “It’s a 1935 Harley police bike, very rare,” Pataki said. “I don’t think there’s another in existence in this good condition. It has all the original paint.”

An unusual feature of the bike is its one-way radio. “The dispatcher could radio the

cop where to go, but he couldn’t respond,” he said.

The bike bears the markings of the Great Bend Police Department, but Pataki has been unable to determine in which of several towns by that name it resided.

Pataki says his current project may be his favorite. “I love the uniqueness of streamliners,” he said, describing the original, 1930s “aircraft-on-wheels” mobile homes that predated the Airstream.

He and Richie Morec, 80, who helped Pataki rebuild his 1937 GMC, are restoring a 1935 Motor Chief streamliner in Flagstaff, Arizona. “Richie is a great fabricator,” Pataki said, “and we have the same eye for uniqueness.”

The prototype RV was built by Hawley Bowlus, the designer, engineer and manufacturer behind the Spirit of St. Louis, the plane used by Charles Lindbergh for the first solo transatlantic flight.

Pataki gets visibly animated when he describes the 30-foot-long streamliner. “It’s the only one Bowlus built,” he said. “It traveled from California to New York and back in 1947. I’m dying to go there to work on it.”

The Smithsonian Institution has expressed interest in putting it on display when the restoration is complete, he said.

One other project rivals the streamliner for the passion it stirs in Pataki. He would like to challenge car collectors Jay Leno and Jerry Seinfeld to a showdown.

Pataki said he invited the comedians to a “bout” pitting his best seven or eight vehicles against theirs. “We’ll mix it up, like a boxing match,” he said. “I’d love to kick their ass. Let’s put it on television and let people decide who has the best collection.” (Seinfeld and Leno have yet to respond.)

While their cars are beautiful, Pataki believes he has the advantage because they collect production-line vehicles that are not unique. “Seinfeld has Porsches from the 1950s. I could show you 50 of those. What color would you like?”



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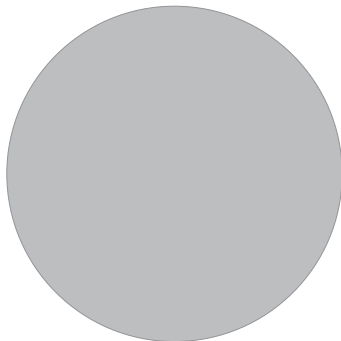
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Photos by Aaron Freimark

## Something You Don't Know About Me

# Aaron Freimark

By Michael Turton

When the COVID-19 shutdown began in March, Aaron Freimark of Cold Spring took up a hobby: He began photographing the night sky through a telescope.

### Did you have a telescope as a kid?

I did. I looked through it and said, "Oh my God, you can see the craters of the moon fantastically!" Then I pointed it at Jupiter and said, "Oh my God, you can see the craters of the moon fantastically!" I was looking at dust on the lens. I never got it to work.

### When did you get serious about shooting the night sky?

About nine years ago my wife got me a telescope for my birthday after getting recommendations from a couple of guys in town who work for NASA. I was able to see the rings of Saturn, and it blew my mind. I wanted to do photography and got a new scope in March.

### What are some of the challenges?

It's a tough, technical hobby. There's a big difference between photographing the planets and shooting a nebula. People think you need a powerful zoom, but mine is only 350mm. The key is to hold the telescope and camera still. You can't do that by hand, so I have fancy equipment.

### Is light pollution a problem?

It is. I shoot from in front of my house and there's a streetlight there. A full moon



Aaron Freimark in his Cold Spring yard with his telescope

Photo provided

is the worst. I use filters to block out the light pollution. It helps but not totally. I figure out the light pollution afterward and subtract it from the photo.

### How do you compensate for the movement of the stars?

As the earth rotates, the stars move across the sky. The trick is keeping the camera aligned with what you are shooting to counteract the earth's movement. You have to keep everything lined up perfectly, right down to the pixel. My motorized system does that. The main telescope, a smaller guiding scope, the camera and a mount, focuser and electronic filter wheel are all linked to my computer. The camera blocks the telescope's eye piece. I see what the camera sees on my computer screen.

### When you shoot a nebula, do you simply snap a photo?

No. Every individual photo looks kind of crappy by itself. If you take lots of pictures and put them together, they add up in a pleasing, more detailed way. I might take 70 shots. It can take a whole day to process them, put them together, add color. Then it's like, "That's so much better than I thought it would be!"

### Do you photograph the planets?

No. With this scope they look like dots. I'm being patient. I'm trying to make what I have work well first, then move to something with a lot more magnification. That would work for the planets.

### Did you shoot the comet NEOWISE?

I shot multiple photos to eliminate the motion and produce one photo. It was wild that you could see the comet, almost with the naked eye. I could take a 10-second photo with my iPhone and see a little

smudge. With my telescope I could see the whole tail. It was cool.

### Have you shot the International Space Station?

I'm interested in that. You have to get the timing exactly right. You shoot it in silhouette just as it crosses the moon, which takes maybe two seconds. You see satellites all the time. About 20 percent of my photos have a big line across them from satellites. We went camping recently and sat out to see the Perseids meteor shower. We saw more satellites than meteors.

### Have you seen any UFOs?

Not yet! It could happen. There are crazy people out there who scan the skies and take all these photos to compare against older photos, looking for something that wasn't there before. Actually, you can find asteroids that way, and you get to name them. Guys who name these things in space must have a strange sense of humor. There's a pelican nebula, an elephant-trunk nebula and a running-chicken nebula.

### Besides the photos, what do you like about this hobby?

With COVID and the mess that's going on in the world and in the U.S., oddly enough it grounds me to realize there's all this other stuff going on in the night sky. It looks black, but if you take a 10-second exposure, you see many more stars. Then you take a two-minute exposure and see even more. Then you shoot a galaxy. We can see galaxies 24 million light years away. We're pretty tiny. Hey, Cold Spring politics is pretty important, but there's a bit more out there. It's mind-blowing to me that I can get these images from my front yard.

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Garrison Sales: 21 Aras Ridge (July 15), \$2.5 million



446 Route 403 (July 15), \$1.2 million



19 Lawes Lane (July 28), \$2.125 million



20 South Mountain Pass Spur (July 29), \$1.85 million



37 Moog Road (July 16), \$2.75 million

## Sales Surge (from Page 1)

least 14, with buyers seeking primary residences instead of getaway second homes.

Homes priced between \$750,000 and \$1 million have also been in demand, as have those between \$400,000 and \$600,000, Hussung said. A home that was listed at \$500,000 is in contract for \$620,000, he said. It drew nine offers the first week and every offer was above asking price, he said.

Fueling the rise in activity — after months during which real-estate agents could not show homes in person because of COVID-19 restrictions — is the well-documented, pandemic-fueled exodus of residents of New York City (particularly Brooklyn) to the Mid-Hudson counties, Long Island and New Jersey.

Signed contracts for condo sales in Manhattan were 38 percent lower in August from a year ago and 26 percent lower for co-ops, according to a report from Miller Samuel Real Estate Appraisers & Consultants.

An hour north of Manhattan, the median sales price for homes in Philipstown in July was \$790,000 versus \$500,000 in July 2019, according to data compiled by the Hudson Gateway Association of Realtors.

“There are bidding wars galore, and there’s cash coming that you didn’t expect to see,” said Colasurdo. “People are coming, they have it and they’re buying.”

“It’s been an amazing turnaround for us in this industry,” she said. “We needed this

so badly — all of us.”

Eighteen sales closed in Philipstown in July, up from four in June and seven in May, according to HGAR. They included a home on Route 403 in Garrison that sold for \$1.2 million and three homes that each sold for more than \$900,000.

So far in August, at least two properties have sold for more than \$1 million — another on Moog Road that went for \$1.35 million and a Philipstown home on Rockwald Road that sold for \$1.2 million.

In addition to the \$1 million-plus homes, a list of closed sales shows that another 12 properties in Philipstown and Garrison have sold for between \$700,000 to \$995,000.

“For the first time in a decade, the luxury market up here is active,” said Hussung. “And it’s getting busier.”

While buyers are “looking for the tranquility of what we’ve got here,” they also want homes with enough space for home offices, said Colasurdo.

“Folks have always come here as a weekender place, but now they’re realizing that so many of the offices will not be opening again in the city and they’re used to working remotely,” she said.

Some higher-priced properties are selling for less than the original asking prices, but they usually have been for sale for a long time, Hussung said. He said a property that sold this year for \$2 million had been on the market for five years.

## Million-Dollar Sales

There are 30 homes and condos on the market in the Highlands priced from \$1 million to \$7.5 million, according to Realtor.com. These properties recently sold:

ADDRESS	LOCATION	SALES PRICE
61 Oak Hollow	Garrison	\$1,032,500
120 Rockwald Road	Philipstown	\$1,199,000
446 Route 403	Garrison	\$1,200,000
58 Moog Road	Garrison	\$1,350,000
498 E. Mountain Road North	Philipstown	\$1,452,000
12 Fox Hollow Lane	Garrison	\$1,600,000
20 South Mountain Pass Spur	Garrison	\$1,850,000
19 Lawes Lane	Garrison	\$2,125,000
21 Aras Ridge	Garrison	\$2,500,000
37 Moog Road	Garrison	\$2,750,000



## Viewsheds *(from Page 1)*

includes the Hudson River and some no longer exist because of development or tree cover that's grown over the past three decades, said John Clarke, a planning consultant, during a City Council meeting last month.

This past summer, a Natural Resources Inventory drafted by the city's Conservation Advisory Committee and adopted by the council offered additions to the list, naming the river, Fishkill Ridge and Fishkill Creek as Beacon's primary viewsheds.

The Natural Resources Inventory cites Long Dock Park, Seeger Riverfront Park and Dennings Point as places that provide publicly accessible Hudson River views, while the expanding Fishkill Creek Greenway and Heritage Trail and Madam Brett Park offer Fishkill Creek views. Mount Beacon and its many interconnected trails showcase the entire city and region.

The Natural Resources Inventory stopped short of recommending policy changes, but municipalities typically follow one of two tracks when it comes to protection, City Attorney Drew Gamils told the council last month.

The council could revise the comprehensive plan, which includes the views from the 1991 list, by removing ones that no longer exist and adding others, she said, or it could create a scenic overlay district as an addition to Beacon's zoning code.

The city code already includes provisions for situations where wireless communications structures could impact viewsheds,



A view of Mount Beacon from Wolcott Avenue

Photo by J. Simms

while the Fishkill Creek, Main Street and waterfront districts protect designated viewsheds. But an overlay district could go a step further by protecting lesser-known pockets of the city that provide views.

"Building these things into your code is a way that a municipality can assure that development projects will achieve a town's scenic objectives," said Michelle Smith, the executive director of the Hudson Highlands Land Trust.

Grant said this week that she believes the city could benefit from a scenic overlay district because it would provide "concentrated information on 'this is what it means

to protect a viewshed.'

"A huge part of this," she said, "will come down to us making sure that we're giving good directions" to builders as far as what the city expects when it comes to viewshed protection. That could mean a number of things, such as creating pedestrian access or retaining sufficient open space between structures, Grant said.

It's important that developers, as well as planning boards, understand a municipality's expectations, added Smith. "You can have the laws on your books, but they fall apart if they're not implemented," she said.

As noted in the state's report on Scenic

## The View from Philipstown

Naming viewsheds in the comprehensive plan was an effective first step, said Nat Prentice, the head of the citizen committee now working to update the Philipstown plan.

"Our revised plan does not need a lot of help in this area," he said, because of the level of detail written into the existing plan. "So far, we're figuring out that most of the things that would be on that list are already there."

After the Town Board adopted Philipstown's comprehensive plan in 2006, the zoning code was rewritten "almost from scratch," Prentice said. "At that point, a lot of the things called for in the comp plan got implemented in the law."

Areas of Statewide Significance, as well as in the city's Natural Resources Inventory, the wealth of publicly accessible scenic viewpoints is a major element driving Beacon's tourist economy and also a vital part of its character.

"It's what makes Beacon a special place," said Nicole Wooten, the chair of the Conservation Advisory Committee. "One thing among many."

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## Metro-North *(from Page 1)*

the Harlem line makes stops at Brewster, Southeast, Patterson, Pawling, Harlem Valley-Wingdale and Dover Plains.

Ridership through June on the Metro-North lines east of the river was 59 percent lower than budgeted, the MTA said. Ridership on both the Hudson and Harlem lines from January through June was down 58 percent from 2019.

The MTA estimates it could save \$160 million by reducing the frequency of Metro-North and Long Island Railroad trains to, at most, one per hour.

In addition to cuts to Metro-North service, which would result in the loss of 850 jobs, the MTA said it could eliminate the two Metro-North lines west of the Hudson, which cater to commuters in Orange and Rockland counties.

Bob Foran, the MTA's chief financial officer, identified a menu of "first-line" responses to closing the deficit, which will be \$3.2 billion in 2020, such as reducing overtime and consulting contracts; spending nearly \$1 billion set aside for capital expenses; increasing fares; and layoffs.

The MTA is projecting deficits of \$5.8 billion for 2021 and \$3.5 billion in 2022.

But Neal Zuckerman, a Garrison resident who represents Putnam County on the MTA board, said commuters already pay enough for fares and parking.

"The survival of the MTA can't be on the backs of riders, because we can't pay anymore,"



A northbound Hudson Line train approaches Beacon.

Photo by Jeff Simms

he said in an interview on Thursday (Sept. 3).

While Foye said a federal bailout is "our only option," Zuckerman at the Aug. 26 meeting urged the MTA and his fellow commissioners to begin "thinking about other levers we have available."

While the federal government is "clearly the most viable path, it's not the only path, and we cannot rely on it," he said. "Maybe they'll come through, but maybe they won't, and we have to have an answer."

Zuckerman on Thursday said one alternative for the MTA could be to borrow against future revenues or to create "moral-obligation bonds" in which business leaders pledged to back the MTA.

"You have a lot of options for those entities to get together and put their money where their mouth is about how much they

love New York," he said.

On Aug. 31, Gov. Andrew Cuomo and union officials wrote to the state's representatives in Congress asking them to champion \$59 billion in funding to cover budget shortfalls, including \$12 billion for the MTA, which also operates the New York City subways.

The request followed months of lobbying by state and local officials nationwide for federal assistance to help make up for the loss of sales taxes and other revenue, as well as the expense of responding to the pandemic.

In May, the Democrat-led U.S. House of Representatives passed a \$3 trillion bill that would include billions in funds for states and local governments, but the legislation has been rejected by the Republican-led Senate and the two sides do not appear close to a deal.

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Puzzles

CROSS CURRENT

**ACROSS**

1. Place for pampering

4. Bedouins

9. Gasoline stat

12. Samovar

13. Actress Zellweger

14. A billion years

15. Update

17. Bookkeeper (Abbr.)

18. Young fellow

19. Shun

21. Feast alternative

24. — land (spaced-out site)

25. Eggs

26. Attempt

28. Paul or Lloyd of baseball lore

31. Gear teeth

33. Collection

35. Go off the board

36. Central

38. Turf

40. Londoner's last letter

41. Reverberate

43. Hourglasses, e.g.

45. Common condiment (Var.)

47. Historic period

48. Boxing legend

49. Spellbind

54. Namely (Abbr.)

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11

12 13 14

15 16 17

18 19 20

21 22 23 24

25 26 27 28 29 30

31 32 33 34 35

36 37 38 39 40

41 42 43 44

45 46 47

48 49 50 51 52 53

54 55 56

57 58 59

55. Cook with radiant heat

56. Cacophony

57. Chowd down

58. Impudent

59. Choose

**DOWN**

1. Total

2. In favor of

3. Moreover

4. Extreme

5. Furnishes

6. Blackbird

7. Gem facet

8. Playground fixture

9. Replace personnel with robots

10. Pontiff

11. Chew like chipmunks

16. Inventor Whitney

20. Dressed

21. Central points

22. Shakespeare's river

23. Make attractive

27. Indeed

29. Always

30. Cincinnati team

32. Moments, for short

34. Re clan emblems

37. Compass points

39. In a catastrophic way

42. *The Phantom of the —*

44. Scratch

45. Vena —

46. Settled down

50. Old French coin

51. Altar affirmative

52. Energy

53. Med. specialty

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 rap on the door (5)

2 more than needed (7)

3 arduous (8)

4 1986 Paul Simon album (9)

5 wild African dog (6)

6 channel (7)

7 more flush with cash (9)

**SOLUTIONS**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

KNO	JAC	GRU	SU	ING
US	NDU	IER	KAL	AL
CO	WE	CEL	EL	RPL
GRA	TH	CK	IT	AND

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SUDO CURRENT

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

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Answers for August 28 Puzzles

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

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

1. THRIVES, 2. LOGGING, 3. BRAINIACS, 4. LEVEL, 5. SOLVES, 6. BUDDY, 7. IMPACTFUL



## Out There

# The Long Run Home

By Brian PJ Cronin

When I spoke to Tara Simmons, she had just finished leading a free 6 a.m. workout at Beacon's Long Dock Park. The day before, she had run 20 miles.



In other words, she's been taking it easy.

"I peaked a few weeks ago with my 50-mile run," the Beacon resident and mother of three explains. Simmons is tapering now, winding down before 2 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 3. That's when she'll run nonstop from The Egg in Albany to the Beacon riverfront, with the crosswalk that connects the Beacon Metro-North parking lot to the ferry dock acting as the finish line.

Her goal is to raise awareness of the need to protect human rights and also support the Grace Smith House, a domestic violence agency in Poughkeepsie.

Total distance: 100 miles.

You might assume Simmons loves running. You would be wrong.

"Running's *hard*," she says with a laugh. "But I feel like it's my calling. Throughout my life it's always brought me this sense of peace that I don't realize I need until I'm out for a run. It calls to me and when I'm in it, it feels so right."

Simmons' run next month will be her first ultramarathon, but she's no stranger to the sport. While Simmons was growing up in Beacon, her mom would trick her and her siblings into completing errands by challenging them to see who could win a race to the store. Simmons ran cross-country in middle school and this spring was training for what she hoped would be her fastest marathon — her sixth — in Nashville.

But then, two disasters. The pandemic led to races being canceled across the country, including in Nashville. She says the other was personal and led her to the Grace Smith House.

"I needed help," said Simmons. "Domestic violence is part of my story. Grace Smith House was there for me, and they helped me to get to where I am now."

She was looking for ideas on how to honor the agency, when a friend asked if



Tara Simmons

Photo provided

she had considered running cross-country — not like she did in school, but across the country. Simmons wasn't sure she liked the idea of running 26 miles, let alone 2,600.

"But when I looked into why people run those crazy long distances, they do it for a cause," she explains. "I realized that my whole life I've been training to do this."

If all goes according to plan, in 2024, Simmons will run from Death Valley in California to Beacon. But she needs to work her way up to that. This year she will run from Albany to Beacon and next year from Niagara Falls to Beacon, and in 2022 from Florida to Beacon.

Simmons picked The Egg as a starting point after seeing it while accompanying her son, a high school wrestler, to Albany for a state tournament.

"It's about what the egg symbolizes, the beginning, the start of something," she says. She planned to finish the run atop Mount Beacon but realized that, after running 99 miles, she likely wouldn't want to climb 1,600 feet.

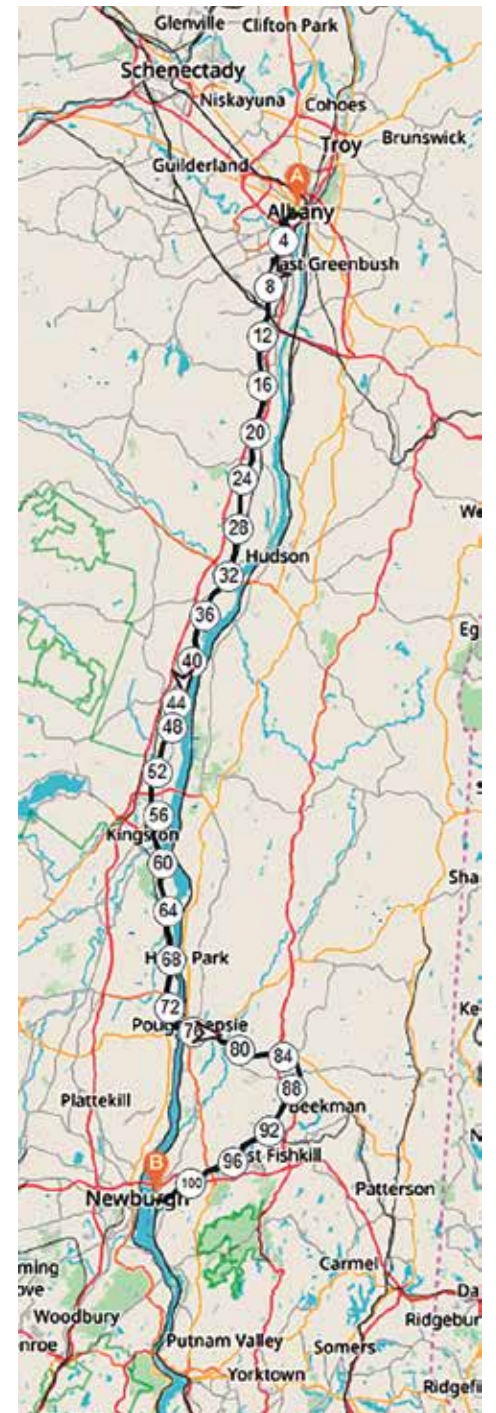
Ending at the waterfront instead has

another advantage: Supporters can cross the finish line with her.

Far from being on a solitary journey, Simmons will have support during the run from friends and family. She says members of the fitness club Beacon Endurance, who include quite a few 100-mile veterans, supplied valuable advice, such as the need to include a 50-mile run in her training.

It was during that run that she worked on her nutritional strategy, figuring out what to eat and drink in order to safely fuel 100 miles of running. (It's mostly liquids and salt licks; Simmons doesn't know exactly how often she'll have access to restrooms.)

Her route will take her south on Route 9W, then across the Walkway Over the Hudson in Poughkeepsie to the Dutchess Rail Trail, then from Route 82 to Route 52 to Main Street in Beacon. A car with family members will shadow her with supplies. Beacon Endurance members, and some of her colleagues from the middle school in Westchester County where she teaches math, will also take turns running with her. A website at [flipit4life.com](http://flipit4life.com) will show where



The approximate route that Simmons will run on Oct. 3 and 4, with mile markers

people can cheer as she passes. "It doesn't seem like much, but it means everything to hear a cowbell up those streets, or someone call your name," Simmons says.

Once she reaches Main Street in Beacon, she and her fellow runners will carry signs displaying the 30 articles of the United Nations' Universal Declaration of Human Rights and hand out brochures before reaching the finish line at the river in the afternoon or evening of Oct. 4, after about 24 to 30 hours of running.

Simmons doesn't plan to time herself. "I don't want to take away from the joy of it," she says. "It's more about being present in the moment, enjoying each step and being grateful that I'm able to do this."

"My confidence lies in that voice inside," she adds. "For me, it's God, for others it may be the universe. But I wake up every day and say, 'How can I be helpful, how can I help somebody? Show me.'"

“Running's hard. But I feel like it's my calling. Throughout my life it's always brought me this sense of peace that I don't realize I need until I'm out for a run. It calls to me and when I'm in it, it feels so right.

~ Tara Simmons