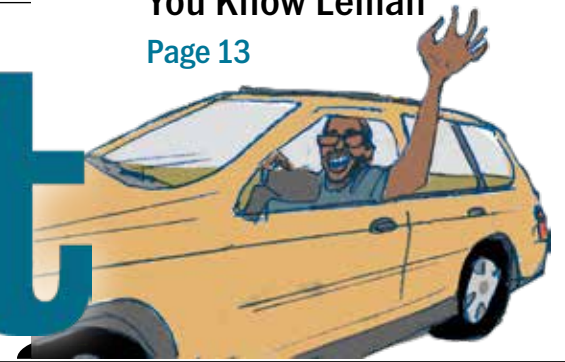


# The HIGHLANDS Current



SEPTEMBER 18, 2020

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## Bruce Campbell, Former Village Trustee, Dies at 67

*Lifelong Cold Spring  
resident loved boating, golf*

By Chip Rowe

**B**ruce Campbell, who served five terms on the Cold Spring Village Board between 2002 and 2015, died unexpectedly on Monday (Sept. 14) at his home, two days after his 67th birthday.

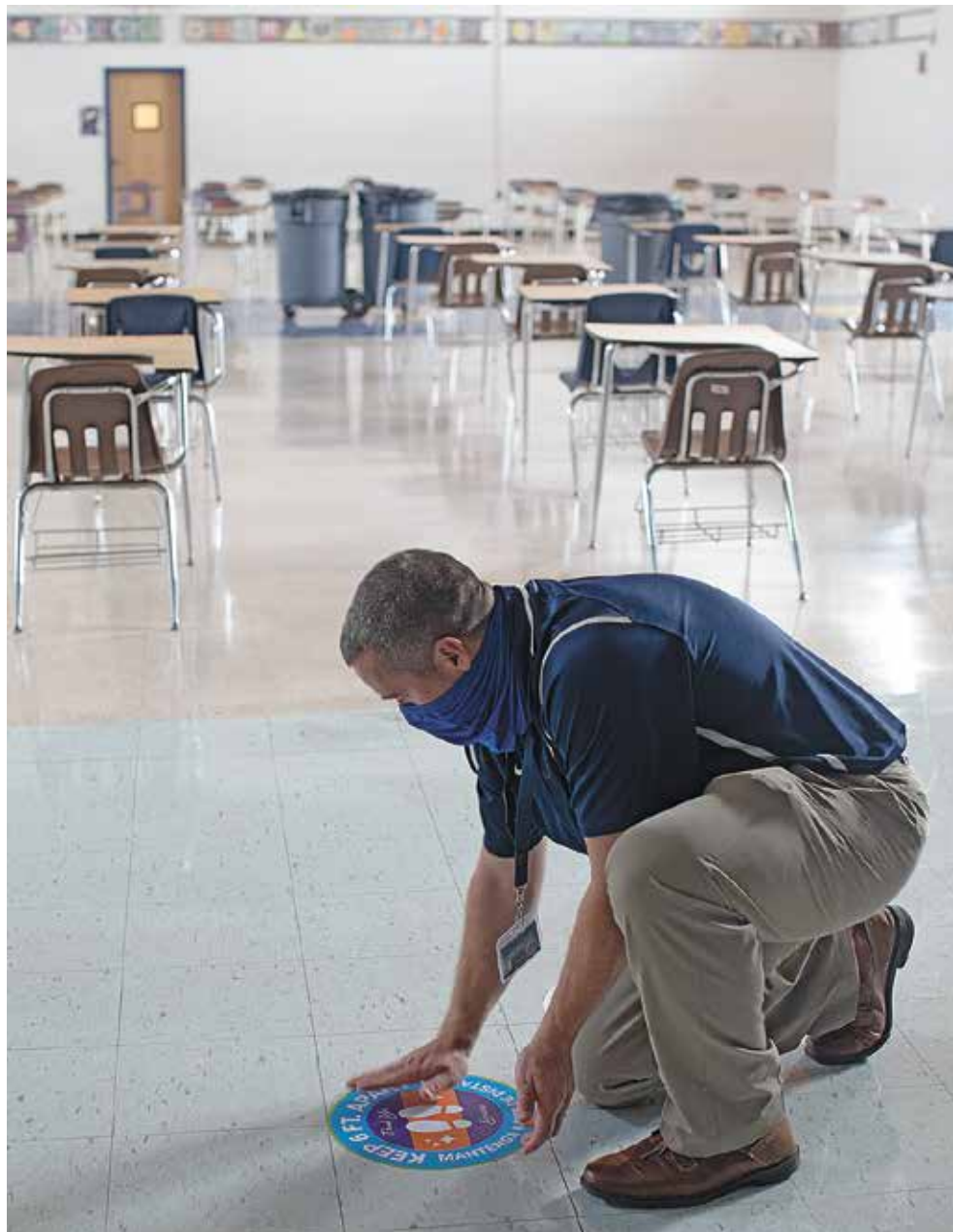
Campbell was a lifelong resident of Cold Spring and a 1972 graduate of Haldane High School. He worked for 36 years at the United States Military Academy at West Point, where he specialized in electronic communications involving maintenance of on-base radio frequencies and television signals as well as support of tactical training exercises.

Following his retirement in 2008, Campbell joined the Cold Spring Highway Department, where he was employed at the time of his death. He also was the commodore of the West Point Yacht Club, a member of the Cold Spring Boat Club and a golfer.

Campbell served two terms on the Village Board from 2002 to 2006 and another three from 2009 to 2015. He also was chair of the Recreation Commission for five years until 2018 and served a three-year term on the Haldane school board after being elected in 2006 to fill a vacancy.

"I knew Bruce — aka BC, aka Bookie Bunk Bunk — almost my entire life," said Cold Spring Mayor Dave Merandy. "We shared some of the most hysterical moments as altar boys and students at Our Lady of Loretto. We shared hair exploration together as teens, with Bruce sporting a most impressive Afro while I had a ponytail."

"Many years later we served on the  
(Continued on Page 8)



**SAFE DISTANCE** — Brian Soltish, the principal of Rombout Middle School in Beacon, applies a decal to the floor on Sept. 9 that reminds students about social distancing. He and other administrators and staff were preparing the school for the return of students the following week. For more photos, see Page 9.

Photo by Meredith Heuer

## Dutchess Sales Tax Down \$11 Million

*Putnam falls \$2.7 million  
through August*

By Chip Rowe

**D**utchess County through August has lost \$11 million in sales tax, or 8.5 percent of its revenue in the same period last year, because of the COVID-19 shutdown, according to the most recent calculations by the New York State Association of Counties.

In the same period, Putnam has seen a decrease of \$2.7 million, or 6.4 percent.

Of the state's 57 counties outside New

York City, Dutchess ranked 12th in lost revenue and Putnam was 23rd. Nine counties had increases of 0.4 to 2 percent, and Westchester saw a 14 percent jump but raised its sales-tax rate a year ago from 3 percent to 4 percent.

Because most businesses in the state can operate at some capacity, Dutchess County Comptroller Robin Lois said in a statement that she was "hopeful that, short of a second shut down, the worst of the sales tax hits are behind us."

Sales taxes account for 41 percent of Dutchess County's revenue, she said.

(Continued on Page 3)

## Does Beacon Need Its Own Wi-Fi?

*Council member, activists  
call for municipal  
broadband*

By Jeff Simms

**W**ith school beginning in Beacon this week, and thousands of students taking some or all of their classes online, some officials, educators and activists fear that the city's "digital divide" between those with access to the internet and those without could become even more pronounced.

Statewide, 27 percent of students and 9 percent of teachers don't have adequate internet access, according to a report issued in July by the nonprofit Common Sense Media. Neither the Beacon school district nor the city government could provide figures on how many households in the city lack internet access, but the suspicion is that most who do are African American, Latino or elderly residents who live on limited incomes, said City Council Member Dan Aymar-Blair.

In Dutchess County, according to a study by the United Way, about 37 percent of residents live below the poverty line or on "survival" budgets that include only \$75 monthly per family for technology.

"Every aspect of human life is centered around the internet," Aymar-Blair said. "If we have 10 to 15 percent of our neighbors without internet, we have to help solve that problem or we risk digital inequity becoming an education and health inequity."

The council member said he sees two primary needs that must be addressed in Beacon: establishing free public Wi-Fi in key parts of the city, such as Main Street and its parks, and increasing access speed and/or the lack of service to some households.

To remedy this, the city could create its own high-speed network, a community organization could take the lead, or the city and nonprofits could work together. However, any of these scenarios, Aymar-Blair said, could take "a decade of work."

It's also expensive. In 2010, the city of Chattanooga, Tennessee, began offering high-speed internet access to its 170,000 residents. The project cost \$330 million (about a third of which came from a federal grant) but allowed the city to set up more than 130 Wi-Fi hotspots to keep people

(Continued on Page 8)



# 5Q FIVE QUESTIONS: HEIDI WENDEL

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

**H**eidi Wendel, a lawyer in private practice who lives in Nelsonville, specializes in defending whistleblowers. She also serves on the Philipstown Planning Board and is an advocate for the Nelsonville Woods.

## What type of whistleblowers have you represented?

They're brave people, often employees at pharmaceutical firms and other health care entities who blow the whistle on those companies for apparently defrauding taxpayer-funded programs like Medicare and Medicaid. I bring the cases under the federal False Claims Act, with the goal of forcing the companies to pay back the money to the government. I spent many years at the Manhattan U.S. attorney's office when Preet Bharara was the U.S. attorney; and as chief of the New York State Medicaid fraud office when Andrew Cuomo was the attorney general.

## What protects whistleblowers?

The False Claims Act contains an anti-retaliation provision that protects them to some degree. To my knowledge, the U.S. is the only country that permits private citizens to blow the whistle on fraud against



Heidi Wendel in the Nelsonville Woods

Photo by L.S. Armstrong

the government. It's usually based on the whistleblower becoming aware that the company he or she works for is defrauding the government. Notably, those the statute protects are blowing the whistle on fraud *against* the government — in other words, not seeking to blow the whistle on fraud *by* the government.

## What kind of numbers are we talking about?

While heading up the civil-fraud unit for the U.S. attorney's office, I investigated a major pharmaceutical company for paying kickbacks to doctors for prescribing its drugs. The case was settled recently for nearly \$700 million. To gather evidence, I traveled around the country knocking on doctors' doors. The False Claims Act has recovered many billions of dollars on behalf of U.S. taxpayers, not to mention the addi-

tional billions recovered under state laws modeled on the federal statute.

## What brought you to Nelsonville?

When my husband and I moved here in March 2019, my daughter and her boyfriend were already living here. She and I had been coming here to hike for more than 20 years. We liked the idea of living close to the woods but in a walkable village. I grew up in a rural area near Princeton, New Jersey, and spent most of my childhood playing in the woods with my siblings and friends.

## You often speak out at Nelsonville Village Board meetings about protecting the Nelsonville Woods. Why are they important to you?

Because of the beauty and mystery of nature, and because I love hiking. We are so lucky to be able to hear peeper frogs in the spring and owls at night; see trout lilies, marsh marigold, Jefferson salamanders. In Nelsonville, we have a project to fight invasive plants and restore native plants, which will improve biodiversity. This spring we planted 200 witch hazel seedlings, which, as they become shrubs, will attract birds like bobolinks that are not here but should be. If we restore the Highlands' ecosystem, more diverse birds and other wildlife will come. In addition, we planted a dozen mountain mints that a thoughtful resident donated. As we were putting them in, several black swallowtail butterflies and honeybees landed.

If people have native plants they can donate for planting in the woods, we would love to plant them, and we welcome seed donations, too. The Nelsonville Trail Committee has been maintaining the trails for decades and done a wonderful job. And the support from the Village Board is incredible. Its members understand the value of the woods as a key part of the town's identity.

“ We are so lucky to be able to hear peeper frogs in the spring and owls at night.

# ON THE SPOT

By Michael Turton

Is there a recurring theme in your dreams?

“

I dream about [singer] Harry Styles constantly. I love his music and his looks.

”



~ Kiera D'Ippolito, Beacon

“

I'm dreaming less. Running two businesses during COVID-19, when I sleep it's the sleep of the dead.

”



~ Allison Cimino, Beacon

“

Every couple of years I dream I'm flying over the brick wall at my elementary school in France.

”



~ Wendy Dugain-Graff, Cold Spring



Philipstown Depot Theatre announces Live and on-line Events!

Join us on-line for the important Depot Docs showing of

**Ernie and Joe: Crisis Cops**

Q&A with Ernie, Joe, director Jenifer McShane and editor Toby Shimin

**SEPT 25 @7PM**

**Pop Up Theatre Live on the Depot Patio**

**OCT. 3**

**6:30 PM:** Night Train: Storytelling

**OCT. 10**

**6:30 PM:** Play Reading: My Name is Rachel Corrie

**OCT. 17**

**6:30 PM:** Night Train: Storytelling

**OCT. 24**

**2:00 PM:** Modern Dance Workshop

**4:30 PM:** All Aboard: Modern Dance Performance

All seating is socially distanced. All audience members must wear a mask. Rain date is the Sunday immediately after the scheduled Saturday.

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## NEWS BRIEFS



## Garrison Names New Principal

*Also looking for facilities volunteers*

The Garrison school board on Wednesday (Sept. 16) named Allison Emig as its new principal. She succeeds Alex Levine, who left in July to take a job at a middle school in Rockland County.

Emig, who has degrees in education from Mount Saint Mary College and the College of New Rochelle, began her career with the Katonah-Lewisboro School District, where she taught for 15 years in the elementary and middle-school grades before spending four years as a principal at Southern Westchester BOCES in Rye Brook. She will begin the job on Nov. 2, the district said.

The Garrison board is also seeking two volunteers with expertise in construction, architecture, facilities project management, facilities planning or related fields to serve on its facilities committee.

The term for one position expires in June 2021 and the other in June 2022. Send a letter and resume by Oct. 16 to Dusti Callo, District Clerk, GUFS, 1100 Route 9D, P.O. Box 193, Garrison, NY 10524 or by email to dcallo@gufs.org.

## Six Months Later, Nelsonville Holds Election

*Four incumbents ran unopposed*

Apparently, the fifth time was the charm. After the COVID-19 lockdown wrecked four previous dates for Nelsonville's municipal election, four incumbents running unopposed were each elected in voting that took place on Tuesday (Sept. 15) at Village Hall.

Mayor Mike Bowman (38 votes from 51 voters), Trustees Dave Moroney (50 votes) and Chris Winward (39 votes), and Justice Court Judge Dennis Zenz (47 votes) each were returned to office.

The election was originally scheduled for March 18 but, like spring elections elsewhere in New York, was postponed because of the pandemic to April 28, then pushed back again, to June 1, then to June 23, before finally being moved to September.



Putnam County Sheriff's Deputy Kevin Osika, Investigator Ryan McMahon and Deputy Benjamin Levine were honored on Sept. 9 by Sheriff Robert Langley Jr. (left) and State Sen. Pete Harckham (right). *Photos provided*

## Philipstown Man Pleads Not Guilty in Father's Death

*Charged with murder and arson*

A Philipstown man pleaded not guilty on Friday (Sept. 11) to second-degree murder and felony arson and evidence-tampering charges in the death of his father, whose body was found last fall in a mobile-home fire on Route 9.

Louis J. Weber IV, 20, entered his plea during an arraignment before Putnam County Judge Joseph Spofford. In addition to the murder charge, which carries a maximum sentence of life in prison, Weber was also charged with third-degree arson and tampering with physical evidence, according to court records.

After the arraignment, he was returned to Putnam County Jail. He is due back in court on Oct. 6.

Weber was charged in connection with the death on Nov. 4 of Louis J. Weber III, 72, in a fire at the Post Road Mobile Home Park south of Route 301.

## Haldane Will Reduce Tax Levy

*But warns of program cuts due to lower aid*

The Haldane school board announced on Monday (Sept. 14) that it plans to use savings to reduce the 3.3 percent increase to the tax levy approved by voters in June to 1.96 percent.

The 3.3 percent increase was the maximum allowed under a state-mandated tax cap. It equated to an increase of about \$56 per \$100,000 of market value, Superintendent Philip Benante said at the time. Haldane's proposed \$25.3 million budget passed with 70 percent approval.

At the same time, Benante and board President Jen Daly warned in an email to community members that difficult budget cuts may be ahead. Gov. Andrew Cuomo had told districts to expect 20 percent less aid from the state without intervention from the federal government.

"It is important for you to know that

these aid reductions, were they not to be made whole, would dramatically impact the programs and services we offer to our students," Benante and Daly wrote. "The Board of Education and school leadership remain attuned to this issue, and will communicate any need for advocacy when the time is right."

## Magazzino Issues Call for Sounds

*Artist will create a 'Cold Spring soundtrack'*

Magazzino Italian Art, the museum in Philipstown, has announced an open call for sounds.

Through Nov. 7, volunteers are invited to share short sound recordings of anything that feels reflective of the current moment. Marinella Senatore, the artist behind last year's parade performance on Main Street in Cold Spring, and composer Emiliano Branda will write a score that interweaves each sound recording to create a symphonic soundscape made up of the voices of the community.

To participate, call 845-476-8409 to leave a voicemail, send a recording to the same number by text message or email open-call@magazzino.art. For more information, visit magazzino.art.

## Garrison Fire Receives Grant

*Money for training and supplies*

The Garrison Fire District has been awarded \$78,329 in federal funds to purchase personal protective equipment and for training and supplies for firefight-

ers responding to emergencies during the pandemic.

The award was part of \$5 million in grants distributed by the Federal Emergency Management Agency to fire departments in New York state. Another \$3.6 million was distributed by FEMA in July.

## Putnam Officers Honored

*Recognized for going beyond call*

Two Putnam County sheriff's deputies were honored on Sept. 9 with the National Sheriff's Association Purple Heart after they were injured while on the job.

Deputy Benjamin Levine was stabbed in the arm in January when responding to a domestic incident in Putnam Valley. The wound, which severed an artery, required two surgeries to repair.

Investigator Ryan McMahon was struck by a vehicle last year. He is expected to return to work in October.

They were the first two Putnam officers to receive the Purple Heart, said Sheriff Robert Langley Jr.

Levine and Deputy Kevin Osika also were awarded the Liberty Medal by state Sen. Pete Harckham. In July 2019, Levine saved a man who appeared ready to jump from the Bear Mountain Bridge, while in May 2019, Osika pulled a despondent man off the edge of the Veterans Memorial Bridge over Interstate 84 in Brewster.

McMahon, Levine and Osika also received the National Sheriff's Association Medal of Valor for bravery.

"This is the finest group of officers I have ever worked with," Langley said in a statement.

## Dutchess Sales (from Page 1)

Before the pandemic, it had budgeted for a 4 percent increase.

Statewide, sales-tax revenue dropped by \$1.14 billion, or 10.7 percent. In the Hudson Valley, Orange County saw the largest decrease, at 11.5 percent, while New York City had a 14.8 percent drop.

Dutchess shares the sales tax it collects with town and cities, which divide \$25 million annually but also depend on "growth payments" that totaled \$7.8 million in 2019, Lois said. "It remains to be seen how significantly these payments to our partners in government will be impacted by the economic downturn," she said.



# The HIGHLANDS Current

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**NYFA\*** Winner: 58 Better Newspaper Contest Awards

\* New York Press Association, 2013-19



**NNA\*** Winner:  
55 Better Newspaper Contest Awards

\* National Newspaper Association, 2016-19



**NYNPA\*** Winner:  
11 Awards for Excellence

\* New York News Publishers Association, 2017-19

## 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 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

### Deer deaths

We all have had our hands full with COVID-19, but on a local level another micro-organism has now impacted our lives, decimating the deer population ("State IDs Fatal Deer Virus," Sept. 11). It's been two weeks since I have seen a deer who visited daily early in the morning with one, two or three fawns. In fact, I haven't seen any deer in two weeks.

Gregory Bochow, *Cold Spring*

### Moving forward

Thank you, Putnam County. Throughout the coronavirus pandemic, you have helped neighbors in need, supported food banks and food drives, delivered meals for seniors, made and donated masks and, of course, adapted to wearing masks in public and practiced safe social-distancing measures. Because of your vigilance, our communities have been able to reopen safely.

Now that schools are back in session and more people are returning to work, things may appear to be going back to the "old normal." But we aren't going back; we are moving forward in a new way, and we must keep up our efforts in order to maintain the success we've achieved. The best way to

support our businesses, schools, civic organizations and religious groups is by keeping our rates of COVID-19 low.

Students and teachers are returning to school wearing masks, and we can support them by setting the example — wearing a mask when we can't socially distance, washing our hands frequently and staying home if we don't feel well.

By continuing to do our part, we can be a model community that does not invite another spike in COVID-19 cases. A surge in cases could overstress our health care heroes, overwhelm our health care system and devastate more families and local businesses. We have risen to the moment before, and we can do it again now. There is no question these are still challenging times, but we are not only Putnam Strong, we are Putnam Supportive. We are fortunate to live in a community where friends, families and neighbors look out for one another.

Let's support our businesses by dining and shopping locally. Let's continue to offer help to those most in need. Let's mask up and set the example for our children and young people. And let's continue to do the right thing so we can help our friends, families and neighbors to thrive. We will

be a stronger community for it. Stay safe, stay strong, stay healthy.

MaryEllen Odell, *Carmel*

*Odell is the county executive. The letter was also signed by Dr. Michael Nesheiwat, the county health commissioner.*

### Garrison fire rent

In 2016 the Philipstown Town Board gave up its responsibilities for provision of fire protection in Garrison and transferred them to a new authority called the Garrison Fire District. The board appointed five commissioners and prepared and levied the taxes for 2016, but the district would thereafter raise the taxes and arrange for fire protection.

The appointed commissioners increased the taxes to be raised for 2017 by 28 percent over those approved by the Town Board for 2016. (In a remarkable show of public interest, two commissioners were then voted out of office.) The taxes raised have continued at the increased level and for 2020 are more than 30 percent greater than those for 2016.

As a newly elected commissioner in 2017 (my term ends this year), I learned that in 2016 the appointed commissioners (four of whom were members of the fire company) had signed a five-year contract with the entirely separate nonprofit Garrison Fire Co. to pay \$24,000 in "rent" for an office at the firehouse, increasing by 2 percent per year. This is flabbergasting because the district is responsible to pay for all costs of providing fire protection. This includes paying the mortgage on the building, repairs and maintenance, leases of equipment and utilities.

So far, roughly \$125,000 has been paid to the private company from the taxes raised while the district has paid every cost of providing fire protection.

Now, the commissioners (two of whom are members of the fire company) have voted 4-1 to sign another five-year contract to continue paying rent with 2 percent annual increases. Mine was the only "no" vote.

Why are we paying rent to a nonprofit organization for a tiny office in a building that the taxpayers built and continue to maintain?

Stan Freilich, *Garrison*

### Route 9 warehouse

A 20,000-square-foot trucking distribution center is being considered for approval by the Philipstown Planning Board ("Public, Board Question Proposed Warehouse," Aug. 28). Two public hearings have passed and a third was scheduled for Sept. 17. The proposed warehouse would be built on Route 9 at Lane Gate Road across from  
(Continued on Page 6)





## Note to Readers

## Can You Trust Us?



We'd like to think so, but to improve the transparency of our reporting, *The Highlands Current* has joined The Trust Project, a consortium of news outlets that adopts standards to allow readers to more easily assess the credibility of their journalism.

The 200 other outlets in the project include *The Washington Post*, *The Economist*, *The Denver Post*, *Frontline* (PBS), the BBC and publications in Canada, Europe, Hong Kong and South America. Along with *The Current*, the outlets that joined the project on Wednesday (Sept. 16) were *inewssource* (San Diego), *YES! Magazine* (U.S.), *El Comercio* (Peru), *La Nación* (Argentina) and *Pocket-lint* (U.K.).

The Trust Project is funded by Craig Newmark Philanthropies, the Democracy Fund, Facebook, Google and the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation.

As a member, *The Current* will share more information about our standards and policies, the expertise of our journalists, the sources we use and how readers can provide feedback, including to correct errors.

The goal, says Sally Lehrman, a journalist who founded the project in 2014, is to "slow the spread of false and misleading news and amplify integrity-based journalism." You can read more at [thetrustproject.org](http://thetrustproject.org). Digital platforms such as Google and Facebook give weight to members as sources of trustworthy news.

To join the project, *The Current* completed a five-month compliance review and added the following elements to [highlandscurrent.org](http://highlandscurrent.org):

- An **editorial standards** document that outlines our ethics policies, commitment to diverse voices, verification and corrections procedures, funding and ownership structure and other elements. See [highlandscurrent.org/editorial-standards](http://highlandscurrent.org/editorial-standards).
- Professional biographies and **contact information** for each journalist who appears on the masthead, as well as a list of all of his or her stories.
- Labels indicating if a story is **news or opinion**.
- When applicable, links with each story to the **sources and references** used by the journalist during his or her reporting.

Reader feedback is always welcome. Email me at [editor@highlandscurrent.org](mailto:editor@highlandscurrent.org).

Chip Rowe, Editor



Ross Corsair won an NNA award for this feature photo of Sandy Saunders on his Garrison farm during a sculpture show held there.



Michael Turton was recognized by the NYPA for this feature photo of horse trainer Cari Swanson with Lily in her kitchen; Swanson brings the animals inside to get them used to being on movie sets.

## The Current Wins 44 State and National Awards

### Recognized for reporting, illustration, advertising

**T**he *Highlands Current* won 44 state and national awards for articles, illustrations, photos and advertisements published in 2019.

The awards, announced as recently as this week, came from state journalism groups such as the New York Press Association and national ones such as the National Newspaper Association. For a complete list, see [highlandscurrent.org/awards](http://highlandscurrent.org/awards).

#### New York Press Association

This annual contest, which had 2,918 entries from 173 small and midsized papers, was judged by members of the Washington Newspaper Publishers Association.

*The Current* won 13 awards and took fifth place in contest points. The paper has won 58 NYPA awards since 2013.

Among papers of all sizes, *The Current* won second place for its coverage of elections and politics and third place for its business and economic reporting.

Among small papers, Pierce Strudler won first place for front-page design among tabloids; Deb Lucke won first place for graphic illustration for "Silent Movie Night at the Butterfield Library"; and Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong and Chip Rowe won first place for news or feature series for their reporting on a law passed by the Putnam County Legislature to make it easier to keep documents confidential.

*The Current* also won second place for news or features series among small papers for *Living on the Edge*, a series by Victoria Shannon and Jeff Simms on Highlands residents who are employed but have little savings. Rowe won second place in columns for his *Editor's Notebook*.

In the advertising categories among small weeklies, Michele Gedney and Strudler won second place for best small ad and Strudler, Heidi Kitlas and Chris Bockelmann won second place for best promotional campaign for the "Dear Reader..." membership drive.

#### New York News Publishers Association

*The Current* won three awards among papers with circulations of 10,000 or less.

The paper has won 11 NYNPA awards since 2017.

Rowe was recognized for investigative reporting for "The Extremist Next Door," about a Garrison native who runs a white supremacist website; Brian PJ Cronin won for best sports column for *Out There*; and Shannon was recognized for business reporting for "Living on the Edge, Part 1."

#### National Newspaper Association

*The Current* won 24 awards, bringing its total to 55 since 2016. There were 1,469 entries from 92 papers in 34 states. The judges were community newspaper editors and publishers, retired journalism professors and retired or former newspaper professionals.

Among all papers, *The Current* won first place for localized national stories or series for Rowe's "The Extremist Next Door" and second place for Shannon and Simms' *Living on the Edge*. Clay Jones won second place for editorial cartooning for his portrayal of a cell tower constructed of lawyers, and Armstrong and Rowe won second place in Freedom of Information Law Reporting for their *Secret Putnam* stories.

Among weeklies, Ross Corsair won first place for his online photo essay, "Up & Away" and Armstrong and Rowe won first and second place for local government coverage for "Odell Looking for New Body-

guard ... Sort Of" and the *Secret Putnam* series, respectively.

Among small papers, Cronin won first place in sports columns for "School of Hard Knocks" and first place in environmental reporting for "Small Pieces, Big Problems," about microplastics in the Hudson River.

Among small weeklies, Alison Rooney won first place for her feature profile, "Brian Nice Returns with New Show," and Cronin won first place for in-depth reporting for "Small Pieces, Big Problems."

#### Other contests

In a competition organized by the national News Leaders Association, Armstrong and Rowe were finalists (along with reporters from *The Post and Courier* in Charleston, South Carolina, and *The Oregonian*) for a First Amendment Award for *Secret Putnam*; and Rowe was a finalist for best editorial in a contest sponsored by the International Society of Weekly Newspaper Editors, for "Why I Flipped on Secrecy."

Rowe was also a finalist for local news reporting for "The Extremist Next Door" in a competition organized by the New York City chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists, along with reporters from *The New York Times* and *Newsday*. The same article was also honored by Local Independent Online News Publishers as the investigative report of the year among smaller publications.

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LETTERS AND COMMENTS



On Aug. 24, a tractor-trailor and a U.S. Postal Service vehicle collided on Route 9 in Philipstown. Photo by Madeline Rae

(Continued from Page 4)

the Magazzino art museum and a housing development.

The warehouse will be large enough for 53-foot tractor-trailers to “easily maneuver.” The owner is looking to build to expand his business, which already has a trucking facility at Jaycox Road. The expansion will mean more heavy commercial traffic and trucking-related accidents on Route 9.

On Aug. 24, just days after the second public hearing, an accident occurred at the site of the proposed warehouse between a

semi and a postal delivery vehicle. There were 12 truck-related accidents on Route 9 in Philipstown in 2019, one of them fatal. Doubling the number of trucks will double the number of accidents, double the noise and air pollution and congestion.

What are the long-term plans for Philipstown? Is building a massive trucking warehouse part of that plan? Is increasing tractor-trailer traffic, accidents, noise and air pollution a good plan for all residents of Philipstown?

Madeline Rae, Garrison

Counting the Highlands

Self-response rates to the 2020 U.S. census, as of Sept. 16, along with historical data, are at right. The Census Bureau is sending enumerators to knock on the doors of households that have not responded to meet a Sept. 30 deadline. The leading states are Idaho and West Virginia, where more than 99.5 percent of residents have responded.

	2020	2010	2000	1990
Cold Spring	72.9	69.1	71	72
Putnam County	70.5	66.8	67	56
Philipstown	70.2	66.2	67	64
18th District	67.4	66.5	67	65
Nelsonville	66.7	66.0	-	-
National	65.9	67.2	65	61
Beacon	65.9	65.8	54	66
Dutchess County	65.9	65.7	68	64
New York State	62.7	64.6	67	62
New York City	59.8	64.0	55	53
Newburgh	44.4	50.2	45	44

Source: 2020census.gov

How to Vote by Mail

1. To vote by absentee ballot (aka voting by mail), you need to **request an application**. (If you are not yet registered to vote, you must first do that, and the deadline is Oct. 9.) To receive a vote-by-mail application, you can do one of the following:

a. Request a form at [absenteeballot.elections.ny.gov](https://absenteeballot.elections.ny.gov).

b. Download the form at [elections.dutchessny.gov](https://elections.dutchessny.gov) or [putnamboe.com](https://putnamboe.com).

c. Call 845-486-2473 (Dutchess) or 845-808-1300 (Putnam).

d. Email [dutchesselections@dutchessny.gov](mailto:dutchesselections@dutchessny.gov) or [putnamcountyelections@putnamcountyny.gov](mailto:putnamcountyelections@putnamcountyny.gov).
2. Once you receive the application form, you can **select one of six reasons for your request**, such as that you will not be in the county on Election Day or that you have a “temporary illness.” The definition of
- the latter now includes “being unable to appear due to risk of contracting or spreading a communicable disease like COVID-19.”
3. **Mail the completed and signed form** to the Board of Elections. The address is on the form. Ballots also can be dropped off at the Board of Elections, at any early voting site or at the polls on Election Day.
4. The **application deadline** is Oct. 27, although the U.S. Postal Service has said it **cannot guarantee delivery of ballots** for absentee applications received within 15 days before the election, so the prudent deadline is Oct. 19. You also can apply in-person at the Board of Elections up to the day before the election (Nov. 2). Absentee ballots will be mailed out beginning on or about Sept. 18.
5. **To check the status of your ballot**, visit [putnamboe.com/absentee-voting](https://putnamboe.com/absentee-voting) or [bit.ly/dutchess-status](https://bit.ly/dutchess-status).



Virtual & Safe-Distance

Spirit of Beacon Day

Sunday, Sept. 27th, 12-4pm

spiritofbeacon.org

Porch Celebrations : 12pm-4pm

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Cheer our Community Orgs & First Responders

Virtual Concert : 12pm-2pm

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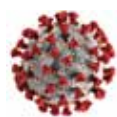
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## Coronavirus Update

■ State health officials said that, as of Wednesday (Sept. 16), 1,567 (+2 from the day before) people have tested positive for COVID-19 in Putnam County; 5,042 (+28) in Dutchess; 37,672 (+38) in Westchester; 14,698 (+38) in Rockland; 2,231 (+2) in Ulster; and 11,734 (+23) in Orange. Statewide, there were 447,262 (+896) positives, including 238,958 (+333) in New York City.

■ Statewide, 25,413 people had died as of Sept. 16, including 63 residents of Putnam County and 156 from Dutchess. No deaths have been recorded in Putnam since the week ending July 3. There were two deaths this past week in Dutchess after no deaths were reported from July 17 to Sept. 9.

■ Beacon had 11 active cases as of Sept. 16 and Putnam had 17 for the week ending Sept. 10, but no new cases reported in Philipstown, which has had 132 since March.

■ In Dutchess County, there were 1,294 tests conducted on Sept. 16, with 28 positives, and in Putnam, there were 364 tests, with two positives. The percentage of positive results in the Mid-Hudson Region was 1.4 percent. Statewide, there were 91,504 tests conducted on Sept. 16 and 896 positives, or 0.98 percent.

■ The number of COVID-19 patients in intensive care in New York state stood at 135 as of Sept. 16; the number of intubations was 68; and the number of hospitalizations was 486.

■ After Gov. Andrew Cuomo ordered the Metropolitan Transportation Authority to develop a plan to bolster mask compliance on subways, buses and railroads, the MTA announced it would fine riders who refuse to wear a mask \$50. This measure followed an April 17 order by the governor that all customers and employees must wear a face covering while riding public transit. The MTA said its surveys have found that about 10 percent of riders do not. Compliance will be enforced by agency and city police officers, not MTA employees. The MTA has launched Operation Respect, a program in which 4 million

masks have been offered free at stations and installed vending machines with personal protective equipment.

■ 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 seven-day rolling average or a 10 percent or higher positivity rate over a seven-day rolling average must quarantine for 14 days. As of Sept. 16, the states were Alabama, Alaska, Arkansas, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, North Carolina, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Virginia, West Virginia and Wisconsin, as well as Puerto Rico and Guam.

■ The state extended the open enrollment period for its Health Plan Marketplace to Dec. 31. See [nystateofhealth.ny.gov](http://nystateofhealth.ny.gov).

■ State health officials on Sept. 15 eased visitation restrictions for nursing homes, which had been allowed to have visitors if they had no cases of COVID-19 in the previous 28 days. Under that restriction, only about 25 percent of the state's 613 nursing homes were eligible; under the new limit, health officials expect about 500 will be able to have visitors. Among other restrictions, the state said visitors must test negative for COVID-19 within the previous seven days and see residents only outdoors or in well-ventilated areas. Also, only two visitors will be allowed at one time per resident, and only adults will be allowed to visit.

■ In response, state Sen. Sue Serino, whose district includes the Highlands and who is the ranking member on the Senate's Aging Committee, said the guidelines were causing confusion. "I am hearing from loved ones who cannot find a testing site that will take them without COVID-19 symptoms, many who are being told there is no chance they will receive their results in seven days and even more who are wondering why they are being forced to cover the costs," she said in a statement. She called on state officials to set up rapid-test sites near nursing homes, provide priority results for visitors and pay for testing.

■ The New York State United Teachers on

Sept. 15 sued the state over reductions in school aid. The union argued that the cuts "deprive students of their right to a sound basic education" guaranteed by the state constitution. "We can't just keep waiting for action at the federal level to fund our schools," said the union's president, Andy Pallotta, in a statement. The state has been withholding about 20 percent of state aid payments each month since June, said the union, which called on New York to draw upon about \$7 billion it has in reserves and settlement funds.

■ Cuomo said on Sept. 9 that New York City restaurants could resume indoor dining at 25 percent capacity beginning Sept. 30. In addition to spacing tables 6 feet apart, restaurants will be required to check diners' temperatures and get contact information from at least one person in each party. They also will have to close no later than midnight.

■ The governor on Sept. 7 enacted a law requiring all local and state public employers, including school districts, to create plans to protect workers in the event of another state disaster emergency involving a communicable disease. The plans must be submitted to unions and labor management committees by Feb. 4 and finalized by April 1. The bill passed the state Senate, 58-2 (Serino voted yes) and the Assembly, 141-0 (Sandy Galef, whose district includes Philipstown, and Jonathan Jacobson, whose district includes Beacon, each voted yes). The Department of Labor will also create an online portal for public employees to report violations of health and safety rules for communicable diseases, including COVID-19.

■ More than 2.4 million unemployed workers in the state may receive an extra \$300 per week for at least three weeks under the federal Lost Wages Assistance program, according to the state Department of Labor. The Federal Emergency Management Agency has sent funding for the weeks ending Aug. 2, Aug. 9 and Aug. 16.

■ Dutchess County announced on Sept. 9 that it would make \$430,000 in federal grants available to assist for-profit businesses with five or fewer employees (including the owner) that have been affected by the COVID-19 shutdown. The program is being administered by Community Capital New York. It will provide grants of up to \$10,000. Beacon is also committing \$150,000 for businesses in the city. Among other criteria, businesses must retain, rehire or create at least one job that pays less than \$54,950 annually and must have been in operation before March 15, 2017. See [communitycapitalny.org](http://communitycapitalny.org).

■ Cuomo announced that, beginning Sept. 8, school districts will be required to provide the Department of Health with daily data on the number of people who have tested positive. The data will be posted at [schoolcovidreportcard.health.ny.gov](http://schoolcovidreportcard.health.ny.gov). The state also launched a dashboard at [suny.edu/covid19-tracker](http://suny.edu/covid19-tracker) to track infections at the 64 State University of New York (SUNY) campuses.

■ The state said that casinos would be

## COVID-19 by the Numbers

### ■ PUTNAM COUNTY

Number of confirmed cases:

**1,567** (+26)

New Cases in Philipstown: 0

Tests administered:

**42,438** (+2,268)

Percent positive:

**3.7** (-0.1)

Number of deaths:

**63** (+0)

### ■ DUTCHESS COUNTY

Number of confirmed cases:

**5,042** (+80)

Active Cases in Beacon: 11

Tests administered:

**155,691** (+9,050)

Percent positive:

**3.2** (-0.2)

Number of deaths:

**156** (+2)

*Source: New York State Department of Health, with weekly changes in parentheses, as of Sept. 16. New cases in Philipstown for week ending Sept. 10.*

allowed to reopen as of Sept. 9 at 25 percent capacity with enhanced air filtration, ventilation and purification standards in place, at least 6 feet between machines and barriers between table game players.

■ On Sept. 3, the state said it would allow salon and tattoo services such as facial massages; facials; face waxing around lip or nose areas; face tattoos; facial makeup; cosmetic lip tattooing; lip or nose piercings; and beard trimming or shaves that require a customer to remove their face covering, provided that the employee is wearing a face shield in addition to a face covering. The guidance also requires employees to test negative for COVID-19 at least once on or after Sept. 3.

■ 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/health](http://putnamcountyny.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).

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## Beacon Wi-Fi *(from Page 1)*

connected during the pandemic.

In West Des Moines, Iowa, officials invested nearly \$40 million in a broadband network, and in Wilson, North Carolina, Greenlight Community Broadband is the first community-owned, “fiber-to-the-home” network in the state.

In New York, Gov. Andrew Cuomo in December vetoed a bill that would have required the Public Service Commission to study the feasibility of municipal broadband, saying the study would be too expensive but that he and legislators could revisit the issue later.

State Sen. Sue Serino, whose district includes the Highlands, and Assembly Members Sandy Galef, whose district includes Philipstown, and Jonathan Jacobson, whose district includes Beacon, each supported doing the study. The municipal service would be distinct from a \$500 million state program launched in 2015 to pay internet service providers to expand their networks to less-populated areas, particularly upstate. Companies typically do not service rural areas because of the infrastructure costs.

Greta Byrum, a Mutual Aid Beacon volunteer who is also the director of digital equity initiatives at the New School for Social Research and of a project called Community Tech New York, agreed with Aymar-Blair that it would take a lot of work to set up a Wi-Fi network that covers all of Beacon. But, she added, “it’s totally doable” if focused on specific neighborhoods.



Dhruv Mehrotra of Mutual Aid Beacon (left) sets up a shared broadband internet connection at a home on Wilkes Street in Beacon that will broadcast Wi-Fi to a pavilion in Memorial Park.  
*Photo by J. Simms*

Mutual Aid, a volunteer group that formed at the onset of the pandemic, is working with Beacon 4 Black Lives on projects to bring free Wi-Fi to public places and underserved neighborhoods that could suffer most now that school has started.

Mutual Aid last weekend created a Wi-Fi hub at one of the pavilions at Memorial Park and has plans for similar projects at Tompkins Terrace, the Davies Apartments and Polhill Park.

The Beacon City School District also purchased about 75 mobile hotspot units to distribute to students in need. Between the

shutdown this past spring and the beginning of the new school year, the district has given out about 45 of them, said Superintendent Matt Landahl.

The units cost the district about \$80 each, plus operating costs, and are programmed to work only with the Google Chromebook computers supplied to each student.

In the long term, Byrum believes Beacon could follow the lead of Sullivan County, where a \$160,000 pilot project seeks to provide high-speed internet service to 5,500 people using Citizens Broadband Radio Service, a new spectrum allocated by the Federal Communications Commission that broadcasts the internet over lower frequencies, similar to the LTE bands used by mobile phones.

While Citizens Broadband Radio Service would require towers or other “mounting assets” to transmit its signals, it could work in a place like Beacon, where a full broadband buildout — including digging up the

## How the Internet Gets to You

Across the country, fiber pipelines owned by companies like Crown Castle run underground along highways and train tracks and between population centers, with “co-location centers” between. Combined with huge bandwidth providers such as Cogent and Hurricane Electric, this network forms the “internet backbone” of the U.S.

Mobile networks such as Verizon or T-Mobile, and cable companies (in Beacon, it’s Optimum) handle billing and other issues and are considered “last-mile” distributors to homes and businesses within a population center.

Optimum holds a franchise agreement with the city for television service, although “anybody can provide any other type of service,” City Administrator Anthony Ruggiero told the City Council during its meeting on Monday (Sept. 14). However, Verizon said last year that it has no plans to expand its high-speed FIOS service into Beacon.

Instead, Verizon has asked city officials about installing a series of “small-cell” wireless facilities that the company said would boost wireless signals and fill in coverage gaps.

streets to bury large amounts of fiber — might not be feasible.

“The door is open for these new kinds of solutions,” Byrum said. “There’s more political will than there has been” in recent memory.

### CURRENT CONVERSATIONS

## State Assemblywoman Sandy Galef



WEDNESDAY SEPT. 23 | 7:00-7:30PM

Galef, whose district includes Philipstown, has been a member of the Assembly since 1992.

REGISTER TO ATTEND THE LIVE ZOOM Q&A:  
[highlandscurrent.org/current-conversations](https://highlandscurrent.org/current-conversations)

## Bruce Campbell *(from Page 1)*

Haldane school board together, and during my tenure as mayor, Bruce was the village park groundskeeper. He seemed to have endless energy. I’ll miss his sense of humor and laugh. He was definitely a Cold Spring character.”

Former Mayor Ralph Falloon, under whom Campbell served as deputy mayor, said Campbell was “a good, hard-working guy” who was “incredibly trustworthy and always had the best interests of the village at heart. Cold Spring has lost a true asset and caretaker.”

In an interview in 2015, after announcing he would not run for a sixth term on the Village Board, Campbell offered advice to his successors: “Keep Cold Spring, Cold Spring. New ideas and opinions are always welcome and encouraged, but do everything possible to keep politics at a minimum and work together. Good things can come out of that.”

The redevelopment of the former Butterfield Hospital site was a major project during much of Campbell’s tenure. He said in 2015 it had been difficult to watch the former hospital deteriorate over the previous two decades.

“My entire family was born there, and most died there,” he said at the time. “I worked there while in high school, and many of my relatives were also employed there.” Many other longtime residents could say the same, he said.

Campbell was born on Sept. 12, 1953, in Cold Spring, the son of Duncan and Helen (Dalzell) Campbell. After graduating from Haldane, he attended Dutchess Community College. He married his wife, Patricia, in 1983, according to an obituary posted by the Clinton Funeral Home, which is handling funeral arrangements.

He was a member of the Cold Spring Jaycees and the Cold Spring Lions Club, which in 2000 named him Lion of the Year.

Along with his wife, Campbell is survived by his son, Evan Campbell, of New York City, and three siblings: John Campbell, Kathy Campbell and Linda Campbell.

Friends may call on Sunday (Sept. 20) from 2 to 5 p.m. at the Clinton Funeral Home at 21 Parrott St. A graveside service will be held on Monday (Sept. 21) at 10:30 a.m. at Cold Spring Cemetery.

*Michael Turton contributed reporting.*





## Back to School in Beacon

Teachers, administrators and staff in the Beacon City School District prepped last week to welcome students for the first day of class on Monday (Sept. 14). About 35 percent of parents and guardians opted to have their children attend only virtually because of concerns about the spread of COVID-19. The photos here were taken at Rombout Middle School.

*Photos by Meredith Heuer*





## AROUND TOWN



▲ **GET COUNTED** — Judy Farrell, a member of the Philipstown Town Board, placed signs around town to encourage people to take part in the U.S. Census. The counting is scheduled to end on Sept. 30. See 2020census.gov.



▲ **REMEMBERING 9/11** — The City of Beacon and its Fire Department hosted a memorial ceremony at Patriot Park on Sept. 11 to remember those lost in the terrorist attacks in 2001. The Libby Funeral Home donated a wreath for the event.



▲ **NEW EAGLE SCOUT** — Andrew Scicluna (left) became an Eagle Scout during a ceremony on Saturday (Sept. 12) at the Garrison Fish and Game Club. He is shown with John Pieza of Philipstown Boy Scout Troop 437. For his Eagle Scout project, Scicluna restored and archived the crosses and Stars of David that are placed on the lawn at St. Mary's Episcopal Church in Cold Spring each year for Memorial Day.



▲ **FIRST DAY** — The Hudson Hills Academy in Beacon held its first day of class on Sept. 9. The Montessori school is utilizing outdoor space at its two campuses with class sizes split in half. This photo was taken at the school's Leonard Street campus. *Photos provided*



▲ **GOOD CITIZEN** — The Beacon Elks Club named Matt Landahl (right), superintendent of the Beacon City School District, as its Distinguished Citizen for 2019-20. The award is typically handed out in the spring but was delayed because of the pandemic. Landahl is shown with Elks' Exalted Ruler Ron Piga.



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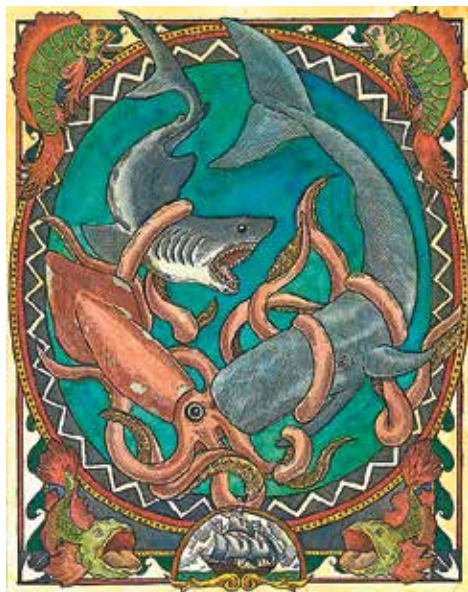
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# The Calendar



"Battle Royale"



"Ode to Cephalopods"



"Sea Serpent Ship Battle"



"The Collector"

## The Artist Next Door

# Mark Darnobid

By Alison Rooney

When Mark Darnobid started getting into tattoos, the designs posted on parlor walls and in stylebooks — known in tattoo lingo as “flash” — struck him because of their accessibility and boldness.

“It’s a simple execution of a design, but it has to be readable,” he explains. “It’s done by craftspeople.”

While not interested in becoming a tattoo artist (he is committed to his career as a social studies and special education teacher), he decided to use the basic tools of tattooing — ink pens and black watercolor — “to learn on my own how to dilute the watercolor in order to get different values. Then I started adding other colors to my palette. I had some pointers from people along the way and watched the occasional video, but mostly I bought art books and tried to dissect works of artists I appreciated. I wanted to learn on my own before getting a proper education.”

Initially, Darnobid studied designs by artists from as early as the 1930s who are considered to be early masters, such as Norman Keith Collins, known as “Sailor Jerry.”

“He joined the Navy and was tattooing in Hawaii during World War II,” Darnobid says. “He worked through to the early 1970s. He incorporated lots of Japanese work into his designs.”

Despite occasional forays into acrylics and oils, Darnobid has stuck with ink and watercolors while experimenting with drawing surfaces such as clamshells, or the edges of books. “I like the unpredictability of watercolors, and their portability,” he says.

Darnobid is also inspired by the work of illustrators such as Gustav Dore, William Pogany and Albrecht Dürer. Much of his art is thematic. A rundown on Facebook of drawings for sale during the past holiday season described them as including “something for lovers of *Star Wars*, sea life, roses, owls, maritime art, history, *Lord of the Rings*, horror, birds and everything in between.”

He is drawn to coins, both ancient and classical American designs by Augustus Saint-Gaudens and Adolph Weinman, which “have to provide a bold, recognizable image because they wear so much over time. Every once in a while, I do a painting with a motif I’ve lifted off an ancient coin.”

One of his favorite subjects is travel — particularly any kind of journey with a boat, which “represents the journeys I have been on,” he says. “When the journey is so active, the destination becomes an afterthought.”

Another is marine creatures, because “you don’t have to look to [outer] space for weirdness. What about the octopus? There’s not much



Ink illustrations on seashells, meant to resemble scrimshaw

Photos provided

of a difference between crypto-zoological creatures that people imagine and real marine life.”

Growing up in Wappingers (he now lives in Sullivan County), Darnobid says he enjoyed drawing but “I never felt I had a real gift for it, and it seemed inaccessible. I liked sci-fi, fantasy and, once I got to high school, comic books, but it wasn’t until I started drawing myself that I developed an appreciation for them. Now I try to draw from a lot of different sources.”

Before he became a teacher, Darnobid spent a few years working with a heavy metal band called Shai Hulud. His experience criss-crossing North America, loading equipment and selling merchandise, has stayed with him. “It guided how I do things,” he says. “I learned you can achieve some level of success as an artist rather than being a commercial success. The success comes from reaching people.”

He has shown his work at galleries in Cold Spring and Beacon (including a two-artist show last year at Catalyst Gallery)

and sold it at festivals, but with the shut-down has “found that connecting one-on-one with people is kind of my approach. I’ve found this niche where there aren’t a lot of artists, so I find what I do resonates with people; I have a lot of repeat customers and commissions. Though I do sell some things on Instagram, it’s hard to get a foothold in social media; there are just so many artists.

“I’m very self-conscious about feeling that I’m ‘selling’ all the time,” he says. “Luckily, I’ve never had to rely on it as my main source of income. There are so many artists struggling during this time.”

The pandemic has had an upside for Darnobid. “For me, the past few months have actually been OK,” he says. “I’ve found that working and having a young child [he and his wife, Cassie, have a 3-year-old son, with a daughter due soon] actually helps me manage my time better. Nap time or when my son goes to bed are the only times I have available, but if I didn’t have a 3-year-old I might get more distracted. The situation has helped me maximize my time and efficiency.”



# THE WEEK AHEAD

Edited by Pamela Doan (calendar@highlandscurrent.org)

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

## COMMUNITY

SAT 19

### One Too Many 5K Virtual Walk

BEACON

8 a.m. – Noon. Libby Funeral Home  
55 Teller Ave.  
libbyfuneralhome.com/One-Too-Many

The Libby Funeral Home is hosting this run/walk in support of the New York State Children's Alliance. Choose a 5K or 9K route.

SAT 19

### Pop-Up Book Sale

GARRISON

10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library  
472 Route 403 | 845-424-3020  
desmondfishlibrary.org

Shop for used books and support the library. Also SUN 20.

SAT 19

### Rombout Colonial Days

HOPEWELL JUNCTION

10 a.m. Brinckerhoff House  
68 N. Kensington Drive  
845-227-4136  
eastfishkillhistoricalsociety.org

Return to Colonial-era Fishkill with blacksmith, broom-making, gunsmith and woodworking demonstrations, as well as house tours. Hosted by the East Fishkill Historical Society. Also SUN 20. *Cost: \$5*



TUES 22

### Dutchess Forum on Police Reform

BEACON

6 p.m. Zoom  
dutchessny.gov/PoliceForums

Beacon residents are invited to share their views on policing reform in this form facilitated by the county's Commission on Human Rights. Registration required.

THURS 24

### Farmers' Market Picnic

GARRISON

5 p.m. Boscobel | 1601 Route 9D  
csfarmmarket.org

Support the Cold Spring Farmers' Market at this community picnic on the lawn. Picnic boxes prepared by Dolly's will be available, or

bring your own. *Cost: \$25 (\$50 with picnic box)*

SAT 26

### Philipstown Bikes Day

COLD SPRING

9 a.m. – Noon  
Haldane High School

The annual event around a 1.7-mile loop, is hosted by the Philipstown Trails Committee. It is open to walkers, bicyclists and other non-motorized movers. Email philipstowntrails@gmail.com for information.

SAT 26

### Virtual Lawn Party

COLD SPRING

5 p.m. Putnam History Museum  
putnamhistorymuseum.org/home/eventsmc

Take a virtual tour of the historic Kemble House with owners Marianne Sutton and David Watson to support the museum's programs. *Cost: \$30 (\$25 members)*

SUN 27

### Spirit of Beacon Day

BEACON

Noon – 4 p.m.  
spiritofbeacon.org

Instead of a large gathering and parade, the community is invited to celebrate on their porches for this virtual event. Organizations and first responders will drive through neighborhoods until 2 p.m., and local musicians will perform online.

## TALKS

TUES 22

### Graphic Novel Book Club

COLD SPRING

7 p.m. Split Rock Books  
845-265-2080 | splitrockbks.com

Summer Pierre will lead a virtual discussion on Dominique Goblet's *Pretending is Lying*. Register online.

THURS 24

### History Book Club

COLD SPRING

7 p.m. Split Rock Books  
845-265-2080 | splitrockbks.com

Join an online discussion for *A Woman of No Importance: The Untold Story of the American Spy Who Helped Win World War II*, by Sonia Purnell.

THURS 24

### Preventing Pandemics: Why Biodiversity Matters

MILLBROOK

7 p.m. Cary Institute  
bit.ly/cary-talk-biodiversity  
Disease ecologists Rick Ostfeld and Felicia Keesing will discuss via Zoom how development and loss

of biodiversity can lead infectious diseases to jump from wildlife to humans. Register online.

THURS 24

### Memoirs of a Prison Physician Assistant

COLD SPRING

7 p.m. Butterfield Library  
845-265-3040 | butterfieldlibrary.org

Bohdan Darnobid will discuss *Prison Doc, Thirty-Five Years: Memoirs of a Prison Physician Assistant*, his memoir of working at Sing Sing and the Fishkill Correctional Facility.

## MUSIC

SAT 19

### Space Out, Outside

BEACON

5 p.m. Polhill Park  
Steve Davis, Matt Luczak and Craig Chin will perform soundscapes.

SAT 19

### The Valley Hour

BEACON

8 p.m. Howland Cultural Center  
howlandculturalcenter.org  
Annalyse and Ryan will host this series featuring Hudson Valley musicians livestreamed from the Howland. Civilization Viral (Gwen Laster, Damon Banks and Tim Regusis) will perform, along with Jeremy Schonfeld and Tony DePaolo.

SAT 26

### iForest Sunset Concert

GARRISON

5 p.m. Manitoga | 584 Route 9D  
845-424-3812 | visitmanitoga.org

Experience Pete Wyer's immersive, multisensory sound installation in the forest. *Cost: \$25 (\$20 members)*

## KIDS & FAMILY

WED 23

### Fairy Tale Quiz for Kids

GARRISON

5 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library  
desmondfishlibrary.org

Brush up on your stories and be ready to win prizes and take part in a scavenger hunt at home via Zoom. Register online.

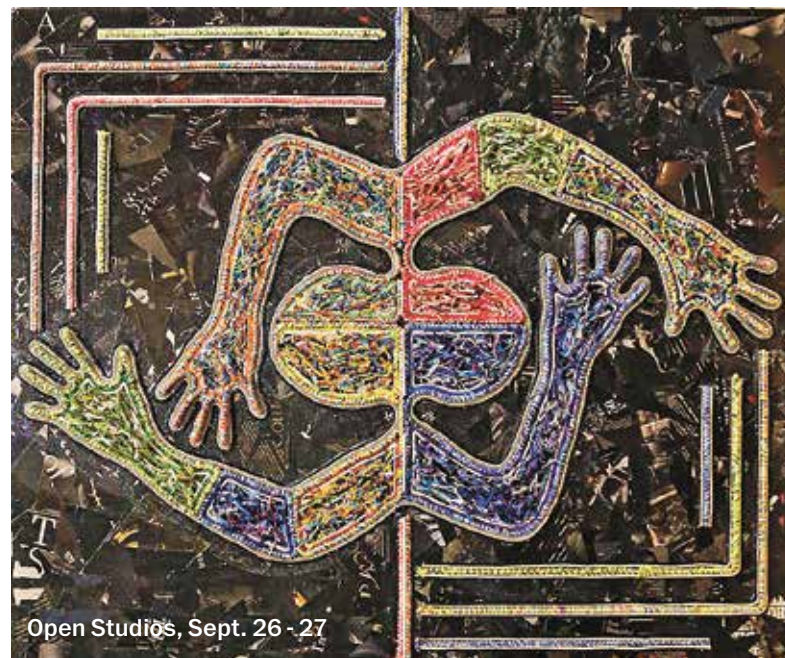
WED 23

### Essay Writing

COLD SPRING

6 p.m. Butterfield Library  
845-265-3040 | butterfieldlibrary.org

High school students will be instructed via Zoom on expressing themselves in essays. Register online.



Open Studios, Sept. 26 - 27

FRI 25

### Virtual Bedtime Stories

COLD SPRING

7 p.m. Butterfield Library  
845-265-3040 | butterfieldlibrary.org

Get cozy and enjoy a bedtime story. Register online.

SAT 26

### 4-H Family Guided Nature Walk

COLD SPRING

9:30 a.m. – Noon.  
Fahnestock State Park  
putnam.cce.cornell.edu  
The easy 2-to-3-mile guided educational walk at Fahnestock Park is suitable for children ages 5 and older. Registration required. *Cost: \$10 per family*

## STAGE & SCREEN

SAT 19

### Story Screen Drive-In

BEACON

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

The pop-up drive-in theater will screen *Jaws* (1975) and *Jurassic Park* (1993) this weekend and *Shrek* (2001) and *Dumb and Dumber* (1994) next weekend. See website for show times and health protocols. Snacks will be available for purchase. Also SUN 20, THURS 24, FRI 25, SAT 26, SUN 27. *Cost: \$10 (\$8 children, seniors, military)*

FRI 25

### Ernie and Joe: Crisis Cops

GARRISON

7 p.m. Philipstown Depot Theatre  
845-424-3900  
philipstowndepottheatre.org

Presented as part of the ongoing Depot Docs series, this film follows two San Antonio police officers who are part of a mental health unit diverting people into treatment. The online screening followed by a panel discussion. Register online. See Page 15. *Cost: \$10*

FRI 25

### Dough

GARRISON

7 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library  
845-424-3020  
bit.ly/FridayNightInDough

This 2015 film, shown as part of the library's Zoom movie night series,

tells the story of a Muslim immigrant in Britain who tries to keep her son out of trouble by apprenticing him to a Jewish baker, and the recipe that helps them flourish.

## VISUAL ARTS

SAT 19

### Illuminate

GARRISON

5 – 7 p.m. Garrison Art Center  
23 Garrison's Landing  
845-424-3960 | garrisonartcenter.org

Meg Hitchcock's solo exhibit of works on paper from 2008 to the present examines eastern and western religions through sacred texts. Through Nov. 8.

SAT 26

### Open Studios

NEWBURGH

Noon – 6 p.m. Newburgh Art Supply  
5 Grand St. | newburghopenstudios.org

More than 60 artists plan to exhibit their work in their studios, alternative gallery spaces and outdoors during this 10th annual event. Pick up a map at Newburgh Art Supply; the tour is self-guided and within walking distance. New this year is the Newburgh Community Photo Project's exhibit of wheat-pasted photos on the theme of Unmasking the Truth. Also SUN 27.

## CIVIC

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

MON 21

### City Council

BEACON

7 p.m. Via Webcast  
845-838-5011 | cityofbeacon.org

MON 21

### Village Board

NELSONVILLE

7:30 p.m. Via Webcast  
845-265-2500 | nelsonvilleny.gov

TUES 22

### Board of Trustees

COLD SPRING

7:30 p.m. Via Webcast  
845-265-3611 | coldspringny.gov



# YOU KNOW LEMAN. *by Deblucke*

HE'S THE GUY HANGING OUT THE WINDOW OF HIS VAN ON MAIN STREET TO SAY HELLO. HE HASN'T SEEN YOU SINCE HE HELPED YOU MOVE 10 YEARS AGO, BUT HE REMEMBERS YOUR NAME!

HEY, DEBBY!  
HOW'RE ALL  
THOSE BOOKS?



HE'S THE GUY WHO CALLS AN UNKNOWN NUMBER ON A DOGTAG TO INFORM THE OWNER THAT THEIR PET IS LOOSE\* AND WHEN HE IDENTIFIES HIMSELF, THE VOICE AT THE OTHER END SAYS:

HEY--I  
KNOW  
YOU!



I'VE GOT  
20 GOD-  
CHILDREN.

HE'S THE GUY WHOM KATRINA SCAPPAQUERCIA THANKED ON THE BEACON FACEBOOK PAGE FOR REMEMBERING THAT HER SONS ALWAYS WANTED A UNICYCLE. HE CAME BACK WITH ONE WHEN THEIR LEGS WERE LONG ENOUGH TO RIDE IT.

421 BEACONITES LIKED THE POST. ANOTHER 132 CHIMED IN WITH THEIR OWN LEMAN STORIES.

JOHN GALLOWAY JR. DECLARED: THE MAN NEEDS A STATUE!



HIS IS THE NAME THAT COMES UP MULTIPLE TIMES IF YOU NEED SOMEONE TO HAUL SOMETHING AWAY, EMPTY OUT A HOUSE, MOW A YARD, OR POSSIBLY RAISE YOUR CHILDREN IF YOU DIE.



LEMAN ANDERSON GREW UP IN BEACON'S WEST END.

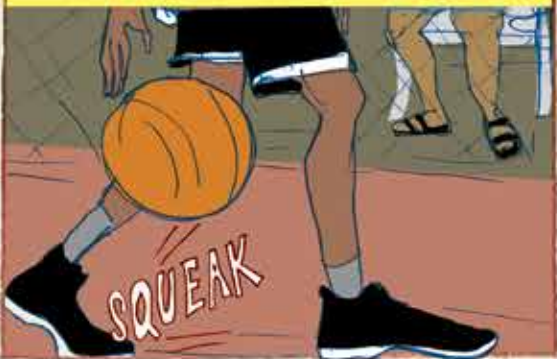
I HAD A LOT OF SIBLINGS. IT WAS EASIER TO HELP THAN THE OPPOSITE. GRANDMA USED TO SAY, WE'VE GOT TO PULL TOGETHER.

I MODELED MYSELF AFTER MURRAY MILLIGAN, WHO IN THE 60'S AND 70'S HELPED AT AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAMS AND BASKETBALL. HE LAID OUT THE FORMAT--HOW THINGS SHOULD BE RUN AND DONE. HE TOOK US ON BASKETBALL TRIPS. HE GAVE US REFERENCES AND ADVICE. HE LED BY EXAMPLE.

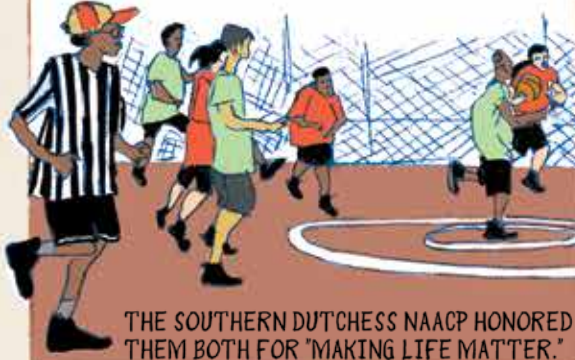
I WAS PUT INTO THOSE SHOES.



THOSE "SHOES" WERE BASKETBALL SHOES. LEMAN STARTED BY HELPING OUT AT THE AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAM IN THE MARTIN LUTHER KING HOUSE--DOING WHAT WAS NEEDED AND RUNNING THE GYM.



THEN WAYNE GRIFFIN ASKED HIM TO PARTNER UP ON "BEACON HOOPS." IT'S A SUMMER LEAGUE FOR KIDS AGED 6-18. HUNDREDS ATTEND.



THE SOUTHERN DUTCHESS NAACP HONORED THEM BOTH FOR "MAKING LIFE MATTER."

PARENTS ASK ME TO TALK TO THEIR KID. I'M NOT A SOCIAL WORKER. BUT SOMETIMES HEARING A DIFFERENT VOICE WORKS.

YOU CAN'T HELP EVERYONE. I'VE GOT A FEEL FOR WHO I CAN HELP.

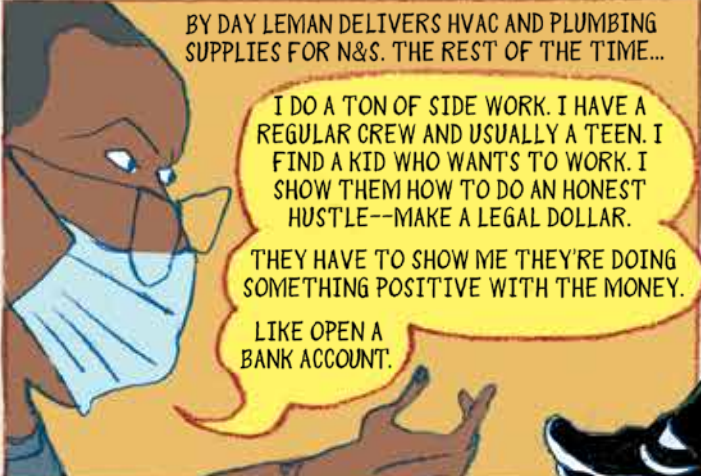


BY DAY LEMAN DELIVERS HVAC AND PLUMBING SUPPLIES FOR N&S. THE REST OF THE TIME...

I DO A TON OF SIDE WORK. I HAVE A REGULAR CREW AND USUALLY A TEEN. I FIND A KID WHO WANTS TO WORK. I SHOW THEM HOW TO DO AN HONEST HUSTLE--MAKE A LEGAL DOLLAR.

THEY HAVE TO SHOW ME THEY'RE DOING SOMETHING POSITIVE WITH THE MONEY.

LIKE OPEN A BANK ACCOUNT.



JADEN PEGRAM STARTED WORKING WITH LEMAN WHEN HE WAS 15. HE'S 28 NOW.



SOMETIMES LEMAN WORKS FOR HIM.

MY PHONE RINGS ALL DAY WITH PEOPLE NEEDING HELP.

THEY ALSO LEAVE NOTES ON HIS TRUCK.

IT'S LIKE A MAILBOX.





# Depot Theatre Gets Back on Track

*Plans performances on newly renovated plaza*

By Alison Rooney

When the Philipstown Depot Theatre in Garrison last year repaired the concrete and improved drainage of the plaza between the former train station and the Metro-North tracks, it hoped to make the area safer and more welcoming to audience members waiting outside.

Now, with indoor performances suspended because of the pandemic, the theater plans to use the plaza as a stage for an audience of up to 36 spectators.

"The night we had to close [on March 13] was the night before a *Night Train Storytelling* event," recalls the Depot's executive director, Amy Dul. "We made the decision to close, then we went right into 'What can we do?'"

Twice a week, the theater posted videos to YouTube that it called *Remotely Depot*. It held a virtual benefit and moved its ongoing documentary series, Depot Docs, online. It held two summer camps online. The state restrictions that prevented more than 50 people to gather in one place "led us to thinking more along the lines of an intimate event on the patio," Dul says. "Storytelling came to mind."

The theater will return to live performances where it left off, with two evenings of

*Night Train Storytelling* on Oct. 3 and Oct. 17, both at 6:30 p.m. Joe Charnitski, a two-time *Moth Radio Hour* StorySLAM winner, will host and the storytellers will include essayist and *Moth* veteran Bridget O'Neill and locals Jean Huang (Beacon), Karen Kapoor (Cold Spring) and Samantha Spoto (Highland). The evening will also feature music by Ned Rauch and Liz Bisbee Rauch.

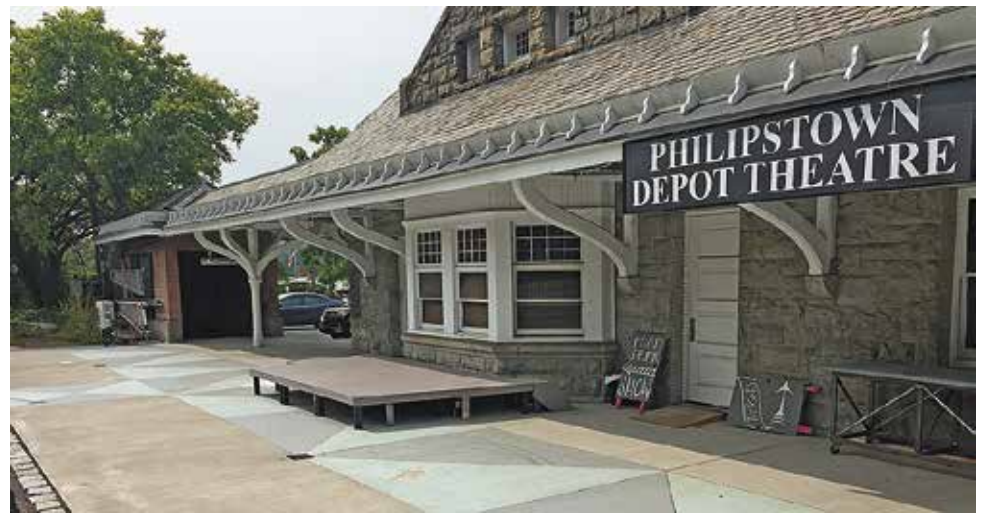
To make the plaza compliant with COVID-19 guidelines, Dul says the Depot staff adapted protocols established by the Actors' Equity Association, such as social distancing and requiring audience members, staff and crew to wear masks.

"We decided 36 seats is what we could do," Dul says. "We'll serve hot cider and make it all festive and intimate — a nice way to ease back into live performances."

The theater also plans an outdoor reading on Oct. 10 of the play *My Name Is Rachel Corrie*, which was created from the writings of an American activist who was killed in Gaza in 2003 as she was trying to prevent the demolition of a Palestinian home.

The play was edited by Alan Rickman and Katharine Viner and is usually performed by a single actor. In this case, it will be read by a group, including Tess Dul, Faith Jones, Freya Wood-Gallagher and Phoebe Bokhour, under the direction of Christine Bokhour.

On Oct. 24, a modern dance workshop and performance, *All Aboard*, will take place at nearby Garrison's Landing (where the



The theater built a small stage on its renovated plaza for outdoor shows. Photo by Chip Rowe



Jean Huang, Karen Kapoor, Samantha Spoto

Photos provided

ground is softer). Conducted and performed by Erin Jennings and Marie Carstens, it will look at moments of local history dating from the 1890s, when the Landing Train Station (now the Depot Theatre) was new, through the present. The piece begins with a re-creation of a circa-1896 Sailors' Hornpipe Dance by Carlos Fittante.

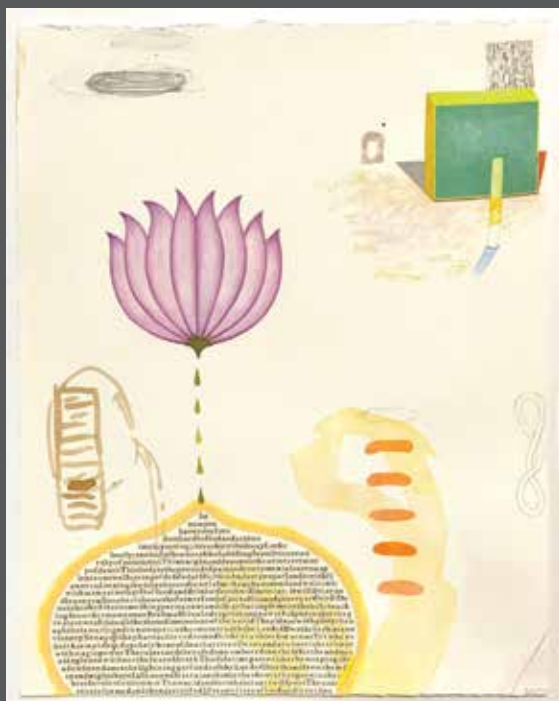
The performance, which will be filmed and shown online in November, along with several other pieces, was created with a grant from the Putnam Arts Council.

*The Philipstown Depot Theatre is located at 10 Garrison's Landing. Tickets are \$15 at [philipstowndepottheatre.org/tickets](http://philipstowndepottheatre.org/tickets).*

## Meg Hitchcock

*Illuminate*, Works on Paper

September 19–November 8, 2020



*Impermanence I*

To support the health and well being of our visitors and staff, all Covid-19 protocols will be followed including mask wearing and social distancing while inside the galleries.

The Riverside Galleries at Garrison Art Center  
23 Garrison's Landing, Garrison, NY 10524  
Open Tuesday thru Sunday, 10am–5pm  
[garrisonartcenter.org](http://garrisonartcenter.org) 845-424-3960

**Garrison Art Center**  
THE RIVERSIDE GALLERIES

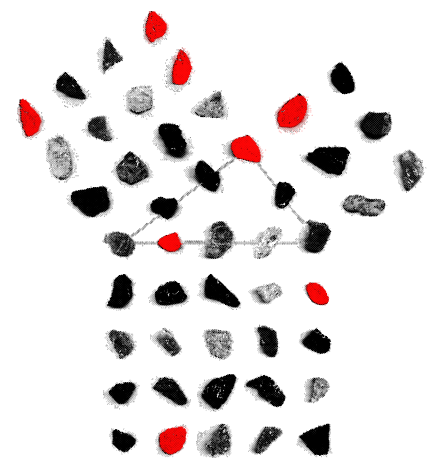
Opening Reception  
Outdoors (weather permitting)  
September 19  
5:00-7:00pm

Cold Spring Soundtrack  
Marinella Senatore  
September 9 - November 7, 2020  
Organized by Magazzino Italian Art Foundation

Community members are invited to share an audio recording capturing any sound reflective of their current moment. Each and every contribution will be incorporated into a symphony.

Volunteers can participate by leaving their recordings by calling +1 (845) 476-8409 and leaving a voicemail, or sending an audio recording via text message or email to [opencall@magazzino.art](mailto:opencall@magazzino.art).

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ITALIAN ART



# Crisis Cops

*Putnam sheriff to participate in discussion at screening*

By Leonard Sparks

Joe Smarro and Ernie Stephens arrived at the bridge at 1:34 a.m. on May 23, 2017, where they found a woman named Kendra ready to jump.

Straddling a wall, she told the officers she was “a suicidal drug addict” for whom “everything is wrong.” But one thing was right: the officers who arrived were part of the San Antonio Police Department’s Mental Health Unit, and they were not there to rush and arrest, but to listen, empathize and offer help. By 2:27 a.m., Smarro and Stephens were dropping Kendra off at a crisis center.

The tense encounter is documented in *Ernie & Joe: Crisis Cops*, an HBO documentary chronicling Smarro and Stephen’s work as members of the unit, whose officers employ de-escalation rather than confrontation when called to incidents involving people with mental illnesses.

Edited by Toby Shimin, who lives in Cold Spring, and directed by Jenifer McShane, the documentary will be screened online at 7 p.m. on Friday (Sept. 25) as part of the ongoing Depot Docs series hosted by the Philipstown Depot Theatre. Afterward, McShane, Smarro, Stephens and Putnam County Sheriff Robert Langley Jr. will participate in a virtual panel discussion.

Tickets are \$10 at [philipstowndepottheatre.org](http://philipstowndepottheatre.org).

The screening comes as Langley’s department and other police forces around the state, including those in Cold Spring and Beacon, draft reform plans under a June order by Gov. Andrew Cuomo. The directive came following protests over the death in Minneapolis of George Floyd after an officer knelt on his neck for nearly nine minutes.

The deaths of people who are mentally ill during encounters with police officers have intensified discussions of how officers respond and what role law enforcement should play.

In San Antonio, Smarro and Stephens “were less concerned with behavior and more concerned with why the behavior was happening and that it was hard to de-escalate a situation if you rush it,” said McShane. “If you rush it, that’s when mistakes happen.”

Stephens established a Crisis Intervention Team at the San Antonio Police Department after taking a weeklong FBI training in Houston in 2003. At the time, the officer was in a “high-speed” tactical unit whose officers were “kicking doors” as they pursued drug dealers and gang members, he said in an interview.

One of the presenters in Houston was a woman whose son was mentally ill, he said. She predicted that there was a chance that an officer responding to a call to her house “might shoot and kill my son. And if you



Officers Ernie Stephens and Joe Smarro appear in a scene from the documentary.

do, I just want you to know it’s OK, because you have a family to go home to and I want you to be safe.”

“I’m not OK with that — from a policeman’s perspective and as a parent,” said Stephens, who spoke with the woman after her presentation. “I said something’s going to change; I’m going to help you and I’m going to help others. And that’s when I made the choice — I’m going to start a mental health unit.”

The unit began in 2008 with Stephens and another officer; Smarro joined later. Considered a national model, the unit has grown to include 10 patrol officers, two detectives, a supervisor and three civilian clinicians. In addition, each of San Antonio’s officers is required to undergo 40 hours of crisis-intervention training.

Smarro, who said he is a survivor of childhood physical and sexual abuse and has been diagnosed with a mental illness, described the unit’s approach in a TED talk filmed in 2018.

“The only weapon I’ve relied on over the last nine years has been my ability to listen and empathize with people — to connect,” he said.

At the beginning of the documentary, Smarro and Stephens convince a man with a mental illness to leave a courtroom, where he has been causing a disturbance. They also respond to calls about a veteran who owns multiple guns and was threatening to kill himself, and a man diagnosed with depression who has broken a mirror and slit his wrist with one of the fragments.

The San Antonio Police Department averaged about 250 involuntary commitments a month before launching its Crisis Inter-

vention Team, said Stephens. The department is now averaging about 1,200 a month, he said. Not only are more people getting help, but it has improved relations with residents, he said.

“The community at-large knows that we’re the gold standard in the nation,” said Stephens. “And now they’re not scared to call the police.”

McShane, the director, who is from Connecticut, said she developed an interest in the nexus between the criminal justice system and mental health while working on *Mothers of Bedford*, a documentary about prisoners at Bedford Hills Correctional Facility, a state prison for women in Westchester County.

She said she learned about the San Antonio unit in an article that described the city’s success with jail diversion and traveled there

in 2016 to spend a week riding with Smarro and Stephens. McShane said she was struck by the “humanity” of the unit’s approach.

Her film debuted last year at the South by Southwest Film Festival, where it won the Special Jury Award. It has been nominated for two Emmys and become a beacon for reform, with police departments around the country screening the film for officers.

“If it can start conversations with police departments that are grappling with all these issues, and feeling unprepared as they go out every day, that’s icing on the cake,” McShane said.



Toby Shimin, a Cold Spring resident who edited the film



Officer Ernie Stephens leads a class in Crisis Intervention Training for San Antonio Police Department cadets.

HBO (2)

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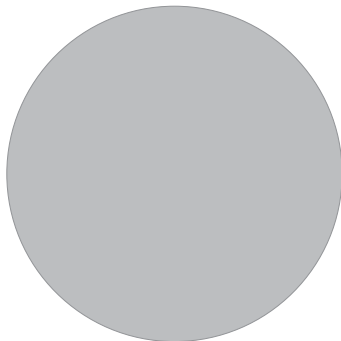
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Small, Good Things

# Buckle Up

By Joe Dizney

What's in a name? Discreet American regions have distinctive recipes for fruit compotes that each traces a vague lineage to classic European pies, tarts and cakes. But rather than pies, we have *grunts*, *slumps* and *sonkers*.

There are also *crisps* and *crumbles* topped with loose, crunchy streusel toppings of nuts or oats — a definite in crisps; not so much in crumbles. The *betty* (or *brown betty*) includes no oats, though the crunchy streusel is layered throughout. Then there's the *fungy*, loosely topped with a rolled pastry-ish crust permeated by holes. The Appalachian version — sonker — is a bit soupier and can incorporate cream or buttermilk. It's almost always finished with a vanilla cream glaze known as a dip. (Sonkers stretch the limits of what constitutes fruit: a favorite filling is sweet potatoes.)

In a *pandowdy*, a cousin to the cobbler, the crust is broken up and pressed into the fruit halfway through the baking in a process known as *dowdying*.

Slumps, named for the way they inhabit a plate, feature nuts in their biscuit topping for crunch, the most famous example being Louisa May Alcott's published recipe for



Ivan Rinaldi, 8, of Beacon, enjoying this week's recipe.

Apple Slump.

The grunt is a stovetop cobbler, cooked in a Dutch oven, with sweet biscuit-batter dumplings steamed on top. The name comes from the “grunting” sound the fruit makes as it bubbles and cooks.

Which brings us to the *buckle*, which is cake batter with the fruit folded in, layered with a streusel topping before baking.

As an introduction to the dish, I was fortunate to have come into a couple of pints of wild blueberries. Other fruits and berries — or combinations — are all ripe for inclusion. Substitute almond flour for some of the wheat flour, which makes sense with the blueberries, but if you don't have any handy, no one will be the wiser. The lemon glaze drizzled over all is tartly gratuitous. Buckle up and enjoy.



## Blueberry Buckle

9 to 12 servings

- STREUSEL TOPPING:**
- 4 tablespoons unsalted butter, cubed & chilled
  - 1/3 cup sugar
  - 1/3 cup flour or almond flour
  - 1/4 teaspoon ground nutmeg
- LEMON SYRUP:**
- 1/4 cup sugar
  - Juice of 2 medium lemons (about 6 tablespoons)
- BATTER:**
- 1 1/4 cup all-purpose flour
  - 1/2 cups almond flour
  - 1 teaspoon baking powder, preferably aluminum-free
  - 1/4 teaspoon baking soda
  - 1/2 teaspoon salt
  - 1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon
  - 6 tablespoons unsalted butter, at room temperature
  - 3/4 cup sugar
  - Zest of 2 lemons (juice the lemons for the syrup)
  - 2 large eggs, at room temperature
  - 1/2 cup buttermilk, at room temperature
  - 3 cups blueberries (Frozen berries can be used; add them to the batter and they will get soft once defrosted.)
- Preheat the oven to 350 degrees. Butter a 9-inch square cake pan.
  - Make the streusel topping: Using your hands, crumble butter, sugar, flour and nutmeg until the pieces are pea-sized; refrigerate and reserve.
  - Make the batter: Sift together flour, baking powder, baking soda, salt and cinnamon into a medium-sized bowl and reserve. In a large bowl, cream butter, sugar and lemon zest with a mixer until creamy, about three minutes. Add one egg at a time, scraping down the sides after each addition.
  - With mixer on low, add half the flour mixture to incorporate. Add the buttermilk and incorporate, then the remaining flour mixing so it's barely incorporated. Using a spatula, gently fold in the blueberries until incorporated. Do not overmix or smash the fruit.
  - Scrape batter into prepared pan and smooth the top. Strew the topping over the batter and bake until lightly browned and just set in the center (it should spring back lightly when you touch the center), about 55 minutes.
  - When buckle is almost done, make the syrup. Heat lemon juice and sugar in a small saucepan over medium heat cooking it until it thickens. It's done when bubbles get larger and when removed from the heat (do this a couple of times while it's cooking), consistency is like warm syrup, about five minutes. (Note: This will make twice as much syrup as you need. Reserve the remainder for the next buckle you make or for other uses — drink mixes, whatever.)
  - Remove buckle from oven and drizzle half warm lemon syrup equally over the top. Serve buckle cool enough to slice. Yogurt, whipped cream or vanilla ice cream make nice accompaniments but are completely unnecessary.
- Storage: Keep up to three days at room temperature, well wrapped, or freeze for up to two months. If freezing, do not add the syrup. Defrost and rewarm in a low oven wrapped in foil and add the syrup before serving.

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(REQUESTER PUBLICATION)

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Chip Rowe, Editor, Sept. 4, 2020

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## Family Trails

## Finding Thomas, Part 2

By Valerie LaRobardier

In January, I discussed in this column a query from Glynn Galloway Jr. about the Galloway family, which occupied a historic farmhouse in Garrison.

Since then, Glynn and I have been able to make some progress toward proving the link between John Galloway, a rope-maker from New York City and Orange County, and Thomas Galloway, the mysterious patriarch of the Putnam County branch. As is typical, the discoveries have come in bits and pieces. But I thought I would provide an update to demonstrate a strategy that might be helpful in tackling similar genealogical “brick walls.”



The Galloway farmhouse in Garrison in 1934

Library of Congress

In 1810, Glynn's ancestor, George Galloway (then about 30), was living in Philipstown next door to Thomas Galloway. Glynn makes the reasonable assumption that the

men were brothers and the sons of Philipstown patriarch Thomas, who had disappeared by then from Orange County records.

Searching back a decade in the 1800 census, we find a Thomas Galloway, who was considerably older (age 45-plus), as a head of household in Philipstown. He lived next door to John Barton, who, 10 years later, would show up living near George and Thomas. A possible connection?

Before 1850, census records only include the name of the head of household and the gender and age range of other occupants.

The household of the 1800 Thomas Galloway included a younger man, a wife and three sons and three daughters, all under 10. The timing would be right if this 1800 Thomas were a son of rope-maker John; and if 1800 Thomas had a son named Thomas, he would be the right age to be the head of the family in the 1810 census.

Glynn and I decided we needed to flesh out these families with additional records. A search among contemporary deeds in Orange, Dutchess and Putnam counties yielded only meager results but enabled us to learn more about the generations before the Galloways arrived in Philipstown.

We thought the farmhouse, which is now the greenkeeper's lodge at the Highlands County Club in Garrison, might hold a clue. According to the Historic American Buildings survey, “evidence seems to place its date [of construction] at the end of the 18th or beginning of the 19th century. It is called Galloway farmhouse after a family of that name who occupied it — retainers of the owner named Arden — who held title until the property was acquired by the country club.”

However, we discovered this description is not accurate. The Galloway family appeared to own the property *before* the Ardens. The only relevant deed we uncovered was an indenture from 1813 for George Galloway and his wife, Sarah, of Philipstown mortgaging 67 acres to Nathaniel Sacket of Fishkill for \$400.

The property is described as being bounded by the bank of a brook, a hemlock tree on the Hudson and the mouth of a gully. But the missing piece of this puzzle is how George Galloway came to own the property — was it given to his family in exchange for him serving as caretaker of the estate?

Looking for more deed references, we found Philip Ver Planck, Esq., of Philipstown, selling 1,000 acres of a farm plantation in 1823 to merchant Thomas Arden of New York City for \$20,000. This property was said to be “commonly called the Beverly Farm,” and formerly occupied by William Henderson and most recently by Richard Arden. (This was the former residence of loyalist Beverly Robinson and the headquarters of Gen. Benedict Arnold at the time of his treason.)

The next year, Thomas Arden transferred the 1,000 acres to Richard Arden. In 1825, he also transferred another 121 acres to Richard, “formerly merchant, now farmer.”

So, while we don't yet know how George Galloway came to own the property he mortgaged in 1813, the descriptions in the deeds and a comparison between an 1867 and modern map show that the locations match, thus we were able to establish that the Ardens arrived later than the Galloways. Over the years, because of the Arden family ownership, the area became known as Ardenia.

This is how research typically works with deeds. If only our ancestors had thought to include, “the son and grandson of...” in their descriptions.

LaRobardier is president of the Dutchess County Genealogical Society. Have questions? Email her at [genealogy@highlandscurrent.org](mailto:genealogy@highlandscurrent.org).

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## NEWS BRIEFS

## Planning Board Approves Three Projects

*Kitchen, dining get OK at former Silver Spoon*

The Cold Spring Planning Board on Sept. 10 approved an amendment to the site plan for 124 Main St. that will allow the nine-room Cold Spring Hotel (formerly the Silver Spoon Restaurant) to operate a kitchen, dining area and lounge.

The board also approved a change of use for 20 The Boulevard from a single-family home to a tourist home with a maximum of three rooms being rented out. The home was once owned by William Kemble, one of the founders of the West Point Foundry but has come to be known as the Campbell property.

The board said the property owner would consider adding vegetation or fencing to reduce the visual impact of headlights on neighboring homes when vehicles enter and leave the property.

An addition, the board approved for a site plan a live-work space at 37 Fair St., the former site of the Impellittere Motors dealership. The building is being converted to an artist's studio and one-bedroom residence and will retain the exterior and interior walls. A new roof will feature sawtooth sky lights.

## Putnam Gets \$360K Grant for Nurses

*Money also can be used for COVID work*

The Putnam County Health Department received a \$360,136 state grant to hire three part-time nurses, cover overtime, purchase computers and software and undertake COVID-19 investigations over the next two years.

The award was announced during the Legislature's Health Committee meeting on Sept. 10.

At the same meeting, the committee approved a \$20,713 fund transfer to cover the costs of cleaning and preparing 26 buses for the county pre-kindergarten and



The owners of the home at 20 The Boulevard have received approval to convert it into a tourist hotel.

*Photo by Michael Turton*

early-intervention programs. According to Legislator Amy Sayegh (R-Mahopac), who chairs the committee, the buses had been sidelined for months.

## Nuvance Reveals Data Breach

*No financial, medical records released, it says*

Nuvance Health, which owns the Putnam Hospital in Carmel as well as Vassar Brothers Medical Center in Poughkeepsie, said on Sept. 10 that patient information may have been exposed between Feb. 7 and May 20 during a security breach.

The company said it would mail letters to its donors and patients alerting them to the breach, which occurred at one of its vendors, Blackbaud, which provides services to the health system's nonprofit foundations.

The company said in a statement that it believes names, contact information, ages, gender, dates of birth, admission dates, departments of treatment, treating physicians and health insurance status were among the data compromised.

However, medical records and financial information such as credit card and bank account data weren't affected, it said. The company created a call center at 866-968-

0208 to answer questions about the breach. It said there is no evidence the stolen information has been misused.

## Putnam Finds Gas-Station 'Skimmer'

*A near-relic as companies switch to chip cards*

A routine inspection by Putnam County's Office of Consumer Affairs uncovered a "skimming" device installed by thieves inside a pump at a Brewster gas station to steal credit card numbers.

It had collected 86 numbers, Michael Budzinski, the director of the agency, told

Putnam County legislators on Sept. 10 during a meeting of its Rules Committee.

Robert Firriolo, the legislative counsel, observed that most establishments have already been compelled by credit-card companies to switch to readers for credit cards with electronic chips that prevent skimming, but that the companies extended their deadline to April 2021 for gas stations and automatic teller machines (ATMs).

"That's kind of the last bastion of the hackers," he said. "It probably is not a problem outside those two areas."

## Central Hudson Wants Rate Hike

*State commission will review request*

The state Public Service Commission said it will begin a review of a request from Central Hudson to raise its electricity and gas rates next year.

Central Hudson, which has about 121,000 customers in Dutchess County and 5,200 in Putnam, is proposing increases that would result in average bill increases of \$3.51 monthly for electricity and \$3.28 for gas. The utility said it needs the \$47.2 million annually that the increase will raise for infrastructure, repairs, discounts given to low-income customers and other purposes.

The commission has scheduled a virtual conference for 10 a.m. on Oct. 6. See highlandscurrent.org for information on how to attend.



## Market Report (August)

	Beacon		Philipstown	
	2019	2020	2019	2020
New Listings	13	13	15	12
Closed Sales	7	10	12	12
Days on Market	102	53	52	69
Median Price	\$335,000	\$398,000	\$406,250	\$652,000
% List Received	93.2	100.6	93.7	97.2
Inventory	41	19	95	60

Source: Hudson Gateway Association of Realtors (hgar.com). Excludes condos. Philipstown includes Cold Spring, Garrison and Nelsonville.

# Hudson Beach Glass

Fine art gallery located on second floor

## Beacon Open Studios Group Show

Month of September 2020

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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 (September 1870)

John Reilly of Fishkill Landing was arrested after, while in a drunken quarrel with his wife and "some other women" on a Saturday night, he shot one of the women in the forehead. He was arrested and taken to Poughkeepsie. By another account, Reilly, a blacksmith, brought a disreputable woman home and his wife asked the neighbors to help her throw the woman out. As the crowd approached, Reilly fired, striking a woman named McGinley in the face.

At the 87th annual convention of the Protestant Episcopal Church, held in New York City, officials from St. Ann's of Fishkill Landing presented documents stating that the church had changed its name to St. Luke's of Matteawan.

## 125 Years Ago (September 1895)

Lizzie Halliday, who had been sent to the Matteawan asylum for the criminally insane after being convicted of killing her husband, her stepson and two servants, attacked an attendant during an attempt to escape. Halliday had been sentenced to die in the electric chair but the governor commuted her sentence because of her mental illness.

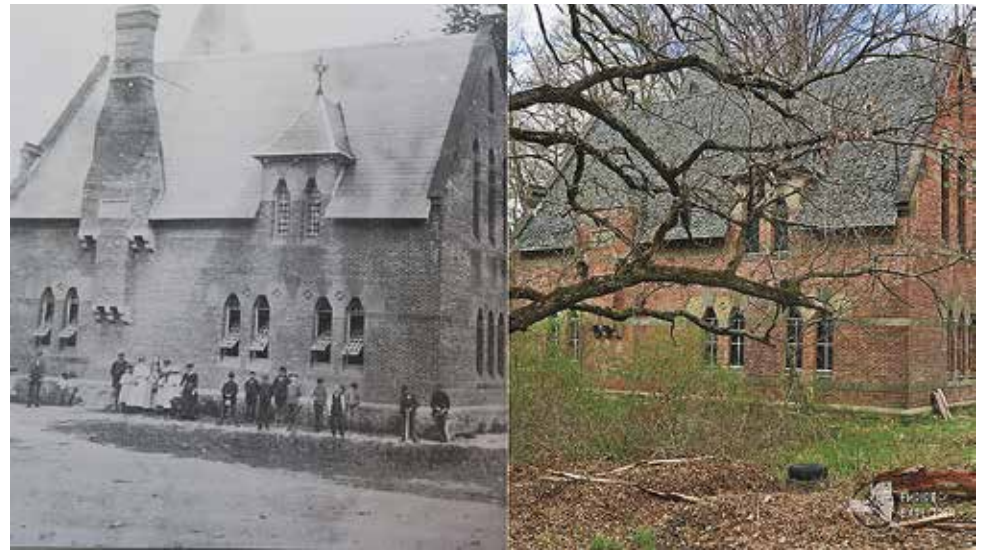


Photos of Lizzie Halliday appeared in an 1895 medical journal article, "Shall Insane Criminals Be Imprisoned or Put to Death?"

[In 1906 Halliday killed an asylum nurse, Nellie Wickes, by stabbing her repeatedly with a pair of scissors. Halliday died in 1918.]

Soon after the train robber Oliver Curtis Perry was relocated to the Auburn prison from the Matteawan asylum following an escape, he attempted to blind himself in a bid to again be declared insane and returned to Matteawan.

For reasons not explained, a drunk bricklayer named Alfred Johnson, who told police he was a native of Sweden, interrupted classes at the Tioronda School on a Tuesday afternoon. After he was escorted outside by the principal, Johnson threw a rock through a window. He was taken to the Matteawan police chief and then to a judge, who sentenced him to three months



The Tioronda School, then and now. In 1895, a drunk bricklayer interrupted classes.

*Beacon Historical Society/Empire Explorer*

in the Albany penitentiary.

## 100 Years Ago (September 1920)

Harry "Tex" McLaughlin, 28, a native of Beacon, died two days after being struck by the propeller of his airplane while he performed a stunt 1,000 feet above the New York State Fair in Syracuse. The finale of his act was climbing from the framework of his plane to another plane flying overhead dangling a rope ladder. While he was on the ladder, he was blown against the propeller of the lower plane. Despite a mortal wound to his back, McLaughlin managed to hang on until the pilot could land.

A jury awarded Thomas J. Martin Jr. of Beacon \$2,200 in damages from the Central New England Railroad after one of its engines struck his car "without warning" at a crossing in Rhinebeck. Martin was not injured but his son was thrown from the vehicle and hurt his right knee.

The Beacon police arrested two men from Buffalo on charges they were transporting 60 quart bottles of whiskey without a license.

When a Ford driven by Hugh Zahner collided with a Ford belonging to Earle Secor, who had the entire Beacon-Newburgh ferry crew riding with him, from pilot to engineer to deckhands — the noon crossing was delayed by three hours.

Mrs. Howard Carrodus of Fishkill was busy canning and pickling when her doorbell rang. When she answered, there was

no one there but her cat, Tabitha. Sherman Weeks and Arthur Fraleigh, who worked for the Fishkill Railway and were standing nearby waiting for passengers for a trolley run to Beacon, told Mrs. Carrodus they had watched the cat climb the screen door to press the button.

Although the Newburgh ferry operated three boats all day on Labor Day, each carrying 21 automobiles, at times at least 75 cars were waiting to cross the river.

The W.H. Mase Engine Co. was presented with the silver cup for making the best appearances in the parade during the Firemen's Convention held in Glens Falls.

The City Council voted to move the honor roll on Main Street that listed Beacon men who died in World War I to storage because of its deteriorating condition.

## 75 Years Ago (September 1945)

Five servicemen from Beacon were aboard the battleship USS Missouri when the Japanese signed the surrender papers to end World War II: William Dubetsky, Michael Corrado, Frank Borrell, Eugene Ciancanelli and William Mortensen.

Two teenagers pleaded not guilty to stealing eight car batteries from a junkyard.

The City Council passed a resolution doubling the mayor's salary from \$1,000 to \$2,000 per year, but it was unclear whether the increase needed to be approved by voters, or if there was enough time to add

*(Continued on Page 21)*

## HOWLAND CULTURAL CENTER



Sat. Sept. 19 + Sun. Sept. 20 – 1 to 5 pm

2 ART SHOWS

**LATINX ART CELEBRATION**  
Hispanic Heritage Month  
**RING THEM BELLS**

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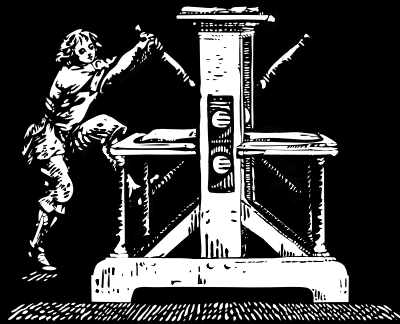
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(Continued from Page 20)

it to the November ballot.

Joe Cahill, the business manager of the Beacon's semi-pro baseball team, the Sports Leaguers, challenged the Poughkeepsie Roe Movers to a game. Cahill suggested the Roe Movers were afraid of playing the Beacon team because it had recently added three players who worked at the Green Haven Correctional Facility, including pitcher Ace Bailey. In response, the Roe Movers coach said the real reason was that the Sports Leaguers demanded a \$200 travel fee.

Members of 27 fire companies paraded 3 miles in the rain to open the annual convention of the Hudson Valley Volunteer Firemen's Association. Police estimated there were 6,000 spectators.

Bill Hamm, who had coached the cross-country, basketball and baseball teams at Beacon High School for the previous 13 seasons, handed his duties to three teachers so he could focus on his physical education classes.

Police arrested Norman Chrestuffrenn, 43, of Brooklyn, after he allegedly caused a disturbance inside a Main Street restaurant. The defendant was suspected of having "jumped ship" in New York City, and immigration officials were alerted.

#### 50 Years Ago (September 1970)

Beacon partnered with the John Reich Co. to remove about 200 junk cars from the city. Reich provided a wrecker to be operated by off-duty police officers who would remove cars with the owners' permission. Reich's crew would remove the upholstery, tires and gas tanks and then crush the frames at a facility set up at Dennings Point to be sold for scrap. Joseph Fisher, owner of Fisher Auto Wreckers, asked why the council had made a deal with a Hudson firm. "I've been a Beacon businessman since 1957 and I deserve a little more consideration," he said.

The city lowered the assessment of Colonial Springs by nearly 20 percent, prompting complaints from the Beacon school district (because of the lost revenue) and



Five Beacon residents were aboard the USS Missouri during the surrender of Japan to end World War II on Sept. 2, 1945.

the apartment complex owners (who asked why their assessment had been so high).

The City Council approved the construction of a 23,000-square-foot warehouse at Main and High streets by the Skyline Clothing Corp., which made jackets for the U.S. Air Force. At a hearing, resident Anthony DeGelarmo argued against the permit, noting the building foundation was already underway and that "some special privileges are being given to some people in Beacon."

The Beacon Civic Chorus held an organizational meeting.

A Kingston man and two Poughkeepsie teenagers were charged with possession of stolen property after police discovered shopping bags filled with 65 pounds of meat in the trunk of a car on Main Street.

The Public Service Commission ordered Penn Central Railroad to restore weekend ticket agents at the Beacon station.

The City Council adopted a code of ethics and established a three-member board of

ethics to be appointed by the mayor.

The Rev. Milton Ortquist, chair of the Beacon Human Relations Commission, accused Thomas Forman, chair of the Beacon Urban Renewal Agency, of "using scare tactics to shut people up" as part of what Ortquist said was mismanagement by the agency and the Beacon Housing Authority.

Madolin Johnson, the first female presi-

dent of the Beacon-Fishkill Area Chamber of Commerce, said she would step down. The owner of Johnson Memorials was the first woman elected to the Chamber in 1955, the first woman to serve as president of the Dutchess County School Boards Association in 1959 and the first woman elected to the Beacon school board in 1952 after it switched to an elective, rather than appointed, board.

#### 25 Years Ago (September 1995)

The Scenic Hudson Land Trust held a ceremony at the Howland Cultural Center to celebrate its purchase of 219 acres of Mount Beacon with funding from the Lila Acheson and DeWitt Wallace Fund for the Hudson Highlands, established by the *Reader's Digest* founders. Scenic Hudson said it planned to create hiking trails and to tie the land to the Hudson Highlands State Park and the 1,000-acre Fishkill Ridge conservation area.

Michael Brown, 19, known as "Mike Fats," was shot dead in front of a boarded-up building at 192 Main St., the first homicide in Beacon in 18 months. Investigators said they were having trouble finding cooperative witnesses and that they believed Brown was involved in the cocaine trade.

For the first time in two years, Beacon High School fielded a varsity football team, losing to John F. Kennedy High, 42-14. The school had dropped the sport three games into the 1993 season but organized a junior varsity squad in 1994.

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## OBITUARIES

**Betty Ann Coughlin (1942-2020)**

Betty Ann Coughlin, 77, a lifelong Beacon resident, died on Sept. 8 with family members at her side.

She was born on Nov. 20, 1942, in Cold Spring, the daughter of Robert and Elizabeth (Brilliant) Haight. She graduated from Beacon High School in 1960.

On July 9, 1961, at St. Joachim's in Beacon, she married Michael Coughlin, who died in 1996.

Betty Ann worked for many years at the Matteawan Federal Credit Union in Fishkill and retired as a manager.

She is survived by her son, Michael Coughlin, and her daughter-in-law, Beth Coughlin, who cared for her throughout her illness; her daughters, Kim Wharton and Debra Ann Quintano; and her six grandchildren, Donald (Joe) Cole III, Alyssa Coughlin, Kelsey Coughlin, Michael Tubbs, Makenzie Tubbs and Natalie Quintano. Betty Ann is also survived by a sister, Beverly Turcy (Joseph).

A funeral service was held on Sept. 12 at the Libby Funeral Home in Beacon, followed by interment at Fishkill Rural Cemetery. Memorial donations can be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital (stjude.org) or the Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center (giving.mskcc.org).

**Mark Waitkins (1953-2020)**

Mark C. Waitkins, 67, of Garrison, died Sept. 3 at NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital in Manhattan from pneumonia, a complication of leukemia.

He was born in Ossining on April 1, 1953, the son of Frank and Ruth Waitkins, and raised in Croton-on-Hudson. He graduated from Croton-Harmon High School in 1971 and attended Westchester Community College until he began working for IBM, where he had a career that lasted 42 years. He married Carol Nikitopoulos.

Mark was an avid reader, had a passion for music, loved to fish, hike and drive his 1968 MGB convertible, and was president of the British Car Club. He also enjoyed cooking, travel, the ocean and sports, and loved his dogs, motorcycle and a good single-malt scotch.

Besides his wife, he is survived by his children, Jason Waitkins, Lindsay Klippel (Robert) and Sophie Waitkins; his grandchildren, Chloe and Christopher Klippel; and his siblings, Melanie Cole, Matt Waitkins and Thomas Waitkins.

A celebration of life service will be held in the spring. Memorial donations may be made to the Arbor Day Foundation (shop.arborday.org/forest-replanting-donation).

**Other Recent Deaths****Philipstown**

Muriel McCallum, 94

**Beacon**

Eleanor Barrett, 87

Inez Brown, 96

Bill Diener, 95

William Deyo, 83

Randall Fleischer, 61

Charlotte Frank, 88

Dolores Henkel, 83

Virginia Kampa, 84

Doug Lucy, 92

Bert McKeon, 71

Helen Moschiano, 69

Stephen Sarich, 71

Herb Snook, 75

Rita Spicer, 72

Virginia Stafford, 91

Information provided by local funeral homes. For more obituaries, see [highlandscurrent.org/obits](http://highlandscurrent.org/obits).

**Current Classifieds****FOR SALE**

**MOVING SALE** — 18 Joann Place, Cold Spring, Sept 19 and 20, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

**COMPACT REFRIGERATOR** — *The Current* has a black Danby 3.2 Cu. Ft. compact refrigerator for sale, \$100. Email tech@highlandscurrent.org with interest.

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**ACROSS**

1. Amorphous mass

5. Pouch

8. Con job

12. Portrayal

13. Id counterpart

14. Actress Jessica

15. "The danger has passed"

17. Borscht ingredient

18. Shelton or Lively

19. Chopping spree?

21. Breakfast for many

24. Jam ingredient?

25. Treaty

28. Teeny bit

30. Cow's chaw

33. Ostrich's cousin

34. Small chalkboard

35. Work with

36. Suitable

37. Gasp for air

38. Impale

39. Masseuse's workplace

41. Not this way!

43. Plot

46. Supermarket section

50. Cupid's alias

51. 2,000 pounds

54. Legal wrong

55. "Wham!"

56. String

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11

12 13 14

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21 22 23 24

25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32

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36 37 38

39 40 41 42

43 44 45 46 47 48 49

50 51 52 53

54 55 56

57 58 59

57. Gospels follower

58. Longing

59. Robert of *Airplane!*

8. Israeli indigene

9. Unambiguous

10. Help a hood

11. Partner

16. Journey segment

20. Pinnacle

22. Big bash

23. Rise

25. Pod dweller

26. Pump up the volume

27. Curtail

29. *Beetle Bailey* dog

31. NAFTA signatory

32. Society newcomer

34. Unwanted email

38. Tattletale

40. Nuisances

42. Stratego situation

43. — good example

44. Gator's kin

45. Catch sight of

47. Old portico

48. Australian parrot

49. Conclusions

52. Weeding need

53. Have

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 sweat-filled regimen (7)

2 legal tablets (8)

3 what you get as time passes (5)

4 it takes up space (6)

5 maps a new path (8)

6 it's so last century (9)

7 safe from life's cares (9)

**SOLUTIONS**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

WOOUTADSOUTDER

TEPNTIEDESLT

TWESHETEROLNO

MATERKETHRER

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SUDO CURRENT

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

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Answers for Sept. 11 Puzzles

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

1. MULTIPLYING, 2. CLEARED, 3. ELSEWHERE, 4. MAKESHIFT, 5. ACCUSERS, 6. MISSING, 7. SETTING



## SPORTS



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# Boys' Soccer Preview

By Skip Pearlman

### Beacon Bulldogs

With nine returning starters — including seven who received postseason honors — the Beacon High School team is thrilled at the prospect of getting in some kind of meaningful season.

"We have a strong group back, 17 guys in total," said Coach Craig Seaman this week. "We have several All-League-type players, so I'm optimistic that this group can compete with some of the best in the section."

The Bulldogs last fall went 10-4-3 and advanced to the quarterfinals of the Section 1, Class A tournament.

The returning starters include two All-Section picks: junior goalie AJ Lucas and senior forward Warren Banks (the top scorer on last year's team, despite missing time with injury); senior back Javier Piguave; junior back Dillon Kelly, junior midfielder Alex Wyant, junior midfielder Chase Green and sophomore midfielder Derek Bilyeu, who were each All-League selections; junior midfielder Tommy Franks; and sophomore forward Miguel Ruiz.

Also returning are seniors Regan Ladue, Kieran Kacur, Zach Neyen, junior Kirk Dyer and sophomores Andre Alzate, Gavin Ladue, Thomas Robinson and Jack Philipbar.

"Last year we were young, but now we have seven guys playing at a high level," Seaman said. "Between the club experience and their high school experience, we have a good core."

"AJ could be one of the best goalies in the section, and we're expecting our defense to be solid," he added. "Banks was fantastic last year when he was healthy; he lost half of the year and still made All-Section, so he's got all the tools."

Seaman said his team will be taking every precaution in hopes of getting the season in without any issues.

"Obviously it's a tenuous time," he said. "Everyone is just wondering what it will look like, but we're all in the same situation. On the bright side, most of my guys are returning. We have guys playing with a lot of experience, and most of them have been playing since July, so their fitness should be fine."

"I'm curious to see what the mask thing looks like, but it's better that we're starting in October rather than in the heat if they have to wear masks while playing."

Beacon is in a league with Poughkeepsie, Peekskill, Hendrick Hudson and Our Lady of Lourdes. The Bulldogs have won four straight league titles.

"The hope is to get to Sept. 29 [when the



Beacon's Regan Ladue (in blue) fires the ball past the Nanuet keeper (0) in Beacon's first-round playoff win last fall.



Haldane's Ryan Eng-Wong (8) fought for control against Hamilton defenders in a game last fall.

File photos by S. Pearlman



Frank Bentkowski (27), Haldane's leading scorer, was tackled by the Hamilton keeper in a game last year, leading to a penalty kick.

state has said fall sports can begin] and be able to play," Seaman said. "It feels a bit surreal at this point, but if we can get in a reasonable number of games and then make a playoff run, we'll be satisfied. We feel like we're in the top echelon of Class A teams this year."

### Haldane Blue Devils

Former Haldane Coach Ahmed Dwidar will return to the school this season with the hope of taking the team to the sectional finals. Dwidar coached the team for six years, from 2010 to 2015, winning two sectional titles and a league championship.

"It feels good to be back home, where I started coaching and won a few titles with some great players," said Dwidar, who is a 2005 graduate of Roy C. Ketcham High School

in Wappingers Falls. "There are a lot of challenges, the biggest one being we have a very young team. It will be tough in the beginning."

Dwidar takes over for Craig Canavan, whose squad finished 2-13-1 last fall. Haldane plays in a league with Putnam Valley, North Salem and Pawling.

The returning starters include five seniors: striker Frank Bentkowski, midfielder Andrew Silhavy, defender Graeme McGrath, defender John Dwyer and back Stephen Rabinso. Sophomore wing/striker Ryan Eng-Wong also returns, while freshman Ronan Kiter is looking to step into the goalie position.

"Frank led the team with nine goals last year, and I'm expecting him to be a leader," Dwidar said. "He's been in the program since the seventh grade, and he has good speed. We want all our seniors to give a

good push to the underclassmen."

"Defensively, we have to be smart, try not to allow goals early, try to keep focused," he said.

"I think we'll have more technical skills than last year," he said. "In the past, we've had some athletes; this year I think we have some soccer players. But it will take time for the team to jell. And with the shorter season we won't have much of a preseason, and I'm not sure if the players will come in shape. I'm hoping guys come in ready to play."

Dwidar knows there will be challenges with COVID-19 protocols. "There are a lot of questions and challenges," he said. "Will they be able to tolerate wearing a mask while they're running? Most important is the safety of the players, but it can be difficult to breathe while you're running with a mask."