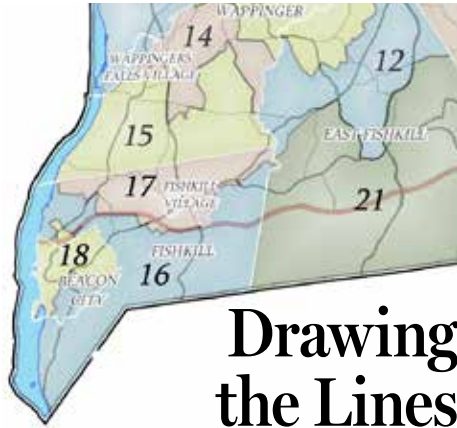


The HIGHLANDS Current

OCTOBER 9, 2020

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Drawing the Lines

Dutchess voters to decide on legislative redistricting

By Leonard Sparks

Partisanship doomed Dutchess County's first attempt at creating a nonpartisan body to redraw districts for the 25-member Legislature.

That was in 2009, just before the 2010 federal census provided local population counts that would guide the effort. The Democrat-controlled Legislature created a five-person committee but it was dismantled the following year after the Republicans won control.

Ten years later, the issue appears on the general election ballot. Last year, the Legislature again created a redistricting commission — this time with unanimous support from both Democrats and Republicans — and Dutchess residents are being asked to give their OK. If approved, the seven-person panel would redraw the county's legislative districts next year based on data from the 2020 census.

The Legislature established the commission as part of a package of reforms that included term limits and a new ethics law. But state law requires that any measure that “abolishes, transfers or curtails any power of an elective officer” must be approved by voters. The commission is meant to be an antidote to gerrymandering, or the drawing of legislative districts for political advantage.

Republicans, who hold 15 seats, and

(Continued on Page 8)

Despite Shortfall, Mayor Proposes More Money for Police

Beacon expects revenues could drop \$2 million or more

By Jeff Simms

Beacon Mayor Lee Kyriacou on Monday (Oct. 5) introduced the city's proposed 2021 budget, which he said includes no layoffs or tax increases despite a shortfall that could rise to more than \$2 million. At the same time, it anticipates a 6 percent increase in the Police Department budget.

The \$22.2 million general fund budget shows \$8.4 million in revenue along with an \$11.7 million tax levy — about \$200,000 more than last year due to new construc-

tion in the city. Water and sewer funds, which both show 2 percent increases for next year, are budgeted separately.

That leaves a general-fund gap of about \$2.2 million. In a best-case scenario, the number could drop to around \$700,000, Kyriacou said, but the city is planning for the worst and expects to draw from its reserves to make up for a loss in state aid and sales tax revenue due to the COVID-19 shutdown.

“No matter what the number is, we're committed to covering it this year by the city's general-fund balance,” he said. “The city cannot cover this size of a gap indefinitely, but we will do so in 2021.”

While the City Council has heard requests

from some residents in recent public meetings and community forums to “defund the police” — although there is no consensus on what that means — the department's proposed budget would increase by 6 percent in 2021, to \$5.9 million.

Kyriacou said that while law enforcement costs account for just over 25 percent of the budget, the city's spending on police is the lowest, per capita (\$272 per resident in 2018), in the Mid-Hudson region, according to data collected by the state comptroller.

“We must proceed cautiously to ensure that any budget changes do not negatively affect safety, whether it's of our citizenry or

(Continued on Page 9)



MUSIC IN THE PARK — The Howland Chamber Music Circle and the Howland Cultural Center on Saturday (Oct. 3) arranged for musical groups to provide a “walking concert” at Seeger Riverfront Park in Beacon. Here, Terence Murren (on bass), Dave Tedeschi (drums) and Jesse Stacken (keyboards) play jazz. Other groups performed classical and folk. For more photos, see Page 16.

Photo by Ross Corsair

Philipstown Threatens to Sue State Over Park Crowds

Town officials discuss deputizing tow firm for Indian Brook Falls

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

Philipstown officials last week threatened to sue the state over its management of visitors to local parks and also promised to explore deputizing a tow-truck

company to remove illegally parked vehicles near Indian Brook Falls in Garrison.

Supervisor Richard Shea said during a Town Board meeting on Oct. 1 that Philipstown would not hesitate to go to court unless the situation at state parklands

improves. For now, he said, for the Indian Brook Falls area, town officials would pursue “deputizing a company to come in and start towing cars. We've been a little reluctant to do that” but now “it seems to have reached that point” near the falls, which are accessible from Indian Brook Road, a thoroughfare that at points narrows to a single lane.

On Tuesday (Oct. 6), Shea elaborated, saying that town authorities will confer with their attorney before proceeding because “this sort of thing is pretty heavy-handed” and Philipstown must verify its rights “before we go towing anyone's car only to find out that we have broken the law.”

If no legal obstacles exist, “we will advertise for a towing company that can take calls directly from road residents,” he said.

(Continued on Page 6)

5Q FIVE QUESTIONS: MAX SMITH

By Michael Turton

Max Smith is the owner of Maxwell Piano Services in Beacon.

How did you get into piano tuning?

I've played piano since college — I majored in music education — then did sales and basic repairs at The Music Inn, an instrument shop in Greenwich Village. I learned tuning on the job, practicing on a piano used for open mic nights that was a piece of junk and couldn't stay in tune. Being a piano tuner requires patience and the desire to keep getting better. There's a reason there are so few piano tuners out there. It's not something you can just pick up.

Is this a good or bad time to be a piano tuner?

It's gotten me through the pandemic, and I'm grateful

for that. People are staying home more, playing more. They rediscover that with a little practice and stick-to-itiveness they can make nice music. I'm sure every piano tuner wishes they were tuning at Carnegie Hall but I get to know people in my community.

Can you bring a piano in bad condition back to life?

You can get old pianos to play; it depends on how invested the owner is in doing it. I'm working on a baby grand. It's not particularly valuable but it means something to the owner. It was stored in a cabin and left to the elements for a number of years. There was a mouse nest in it that wreaked havoc. You need to clean it, make it sterilized, do a general repair and tune it. They can get very dirty.

Do digital pianos need to be tuned?

No, they work by microchips and are set to a certain pitch. If you were playing one and another instrument couldn't match its pitch, you could tune the digital piano by ear to get the instruments in sync. Digital pianos wear out because they're made cheaply, but they open a lot of people up to making music.

You work on violins, as well?

I moved to Beacon three years ago to apprentice with R.J. Storm, who comes from a long line of master and apprentice violin makers and restorers. He worked for a shop in New York City that restored the Stradivarius and Guarneri violins of the world. I'm passionate about it, but I send most violin work to him. He is a selfless teacher and has opened my eyes to a level of workmanship that has led me to do better piano work, make tools, do finishes and retouching, and get into clock work. I make violins and have sold one over the three years, but I don't actively sell them, out of respect for Stormy. And there is still so much to learn.



ON THE SPOT

By Michael Turton

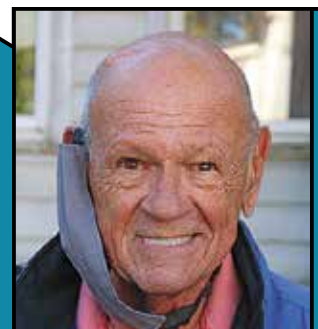
Who was one of your outstanding teachers?

“My sixth-grade teacher, Frances Taliaferro, remains an influence. We keep in touch and exchange emails.”



~ Alison Anthoine, Cold Spring

“Miss Pinkel was wonderful; she taught kindergarten to everyone in Cold Spring. She made you want to go to school.”



~ Bob McCaffrey, Cold Spring

“My ninth-grade counselor, Mr. Flannery, tutored me and gave me what I needed to succeed in high school.”



~ Claire Lofgren, visiting Beacon from Cornwall

HOWLAND CULTURAL CENTER



Sat. Oct. 10 – 8 pm*
LIVESTREAM: THE VALLEY HOUR
Variety show's singing hosts Annalyse & Ryan



Welcome Nuyorican singer BSKi (Brian Collazo) and singer-songwriter Andy Stack.
Livestream tickets: howlandculturalcentertix.com
(*includes on-demand access)

Sun. Oct. 11 – 1 to 5 pm
ART EXHIBITION: LATTIMORE STUDIO & STUDENTS
20 artists showing works in mixed media
(Face masks required)

Sun. Oct. 11 – 8 pm
STREAMED CONCERT: MICHAEL BROWN, PIANO
www.howlandmusic.org, sponsored by AliveMusic

Tue. Oct. 13 – 3 pm till ?
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Please note: The center building will NOT be open for in-person audience during performances.

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A photo from a consultant's report in 2017 shows some of the deterioration of the reservoir dam.

Cold Spring Ponders Its Water Supply

Consultant suggests alternatives to dam repair

By Michael Turton

The Cold Spring Village Board heard two bits of good news about the municipal water supply at its Tuesday (Oct. 6) meeting. First, there is much more water available from its reservoirs than previously believed, and second, a study commissioned by the Hudson Highlands Land Trust identified ways to enhance the supply.

Michelle Smith, executive director of the land trust, said the study was undertaken because of concerns about how development in the village might affect supply and demand. In addition, climate change could bring more droughts, she said, which would make the village entirely reliant on its reservoirs.

Cold Spring's water is gravity-fed from two reservoirs located above the village off Lake Surprise Road. The upper reservoir contains 35 million gallons but village officials believed it couldn't be released into the system because of a malfunctioning valve. The dam there is slated for major repairs within the next few years.

On Tuesday, Matt Kroog, the superintendent of water and wastewater, reported that he had tested the valve and found it to be working.

That report alone dramatically improved the village supply. The consultant hired by the land trust, The Chazen Companies of Poughkeepsie, calculated that the 31 million gallons in the lower reservoir would be able to supply the village for only two months if not replenished, such as during a drought. Adding the upper reservoir provides an eight-month supply.

The Foundry Brook reservoir, located at the water treatment plant on Fishkill Road, receives water from the two upstream reservoirs and contains an additional 326,000 gallons. The Cold Spring system, which also supplies water to Nelsonville and a handful of homes in Philipstown, uses about 260,000 gallons of water a day.

George Cronk, a Chazen engineer, said that, based on current zoning, if all available parcels in Cold Spring are developed, the demand for water could increase by about 50,000 gallons per day.

The 12-acre former Marathon Battery site on Kemble Avenue is the largest undeveloped tract in the village; Chazen estimated its potential water demand at 15,310 gallons

per day, the same usage projected for Butterfield once that development is complete.

While the discovery that the upper reservoir valve is functional is positive, Smith noted in an interview on Wednesday that when the upper reservoir is drawn down for the dam repairs, the village will be back to relying heavily on the lower reservoir's two-month supply.

To augment its water supply during the dam repairs, Cold Spring has been seeking an agreement with the New York City Department of Environmental Protection to tap into the Catskill Aqueduct, which passes by Nelsonville near Route 301. After more than a decade of negotiations, an agreement has yet to be reached.

While Chazen recommended repairing the upper reservoir dam, Cronk said there may be alternative strategies, especially considering the \$4 million to \$5 million price tag and the 10 years it could take to complete dam repairs. Alternatives include:


- Installation of "flashboards," or small, temporary dam extensions at the upper and lower reservoirs that could increase total capacity by more than 13 million gallons;
- Diversion of the intermittent stream below Jaycox Pond into the water system to add up to 144,000 gallons of water per day during modest storm events and in spring and fall;
- Drilling sand and gravel wells in the Clove Creek aquifer to provide up to 200 gallons of water per minute, an amount greater than Cold Spring's current daily usage.

Chazen also said New York City has significantly reduced its water usage through conservation measures. (The firm's report is online at bit.ly/cs-water-study.)

During the public-comment period, former Trustee Stephanie Hawkins urged the board to revise the village code to require the Planning Board to consider water supply and demand when reviewing development proposals. The village is undertaking an extensive update of its code.

Mayor Dave Merandy said the Chazen study changes how the Village Board will view water supply issues. "We'll have to discuss tapping into Clove Creek," he said, especially if the cost is less than the projected \$4 million dam repair.

Merandy also favors looking into diverting the stream below Jaycox Pond. "It would give us a little more water; we need to discuss what that would entail and the cost," he said.



The HIGHLANDS Current's HALLOWEEN COSTUME CONTEST

AWARDS

Best Overall

Best Baby

Best Pet

Best Throwback

Funniest


Scariest

Best Family-themed

This year, join the Parade in the Paper!

The parades may have been canceled this year, but we are determined to keep the Halloween spirit up high in Philipstown and Beacon.

Through October 27, submit photos of yourself, your children, pets or the whole family in costume. We are also looking for Throwbacks—grown-ups, we want your childhood Halloween photos! A panel of local judges will choose the winners for each category. Winners will receive gift-card prizes from our local sponsors.



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LETTERS AND COMMENTS

Save Halloween

Don't let the pandemic completely scare away Halloween ("Can Cold Spring Stop Halloween?" Oct. 2).

Granted, as a professional performer, I admit to being biased in favor of celebrating the holiday. It can be done safely.

Masks under costume masks will keep children and elders safe. Add a dollop of hand sanitizer when children visit. Candy wrappers are not COVID-proof but they resist the virus. Practice cleaning packages when the loot bags come home, like we do with our groceries. Trick-or-trunk parties in parking lots can minimize risks, too. Invite friends to come see your bat and pumpkin decorations. It's always a good idea to keep socially distanced from ghosts and goblins.

I'll be telling virtual spooky stories on Halloween for those feeling safer staying home. Let's have some happiness on Halloween!

Jonathan Kruk, *Cold Spring*

School diversity

Thanks for publishing this article ("Beacon School Board Adds One, But Not Two," Oct. 2). It compares the student population demographics in the Beacon City

School District to district staff. Does the breakdown change significantly if one were to focus specifically on teachers?

I think that is the relevant context here. Many organizations share disaggregated data in order to appear more diverse (tech companies do this regularly, for example) and because most of the focus of diversity is on in-classroom staff and district leadership, I wonder if those numbers look less positive for Beacon than the overall numbers that include administrative staff.

Veekas Ashoka, *Beacon*

Jeff Simms responded online: The breakdown doesn't change significantly when isolated to instructional staff. The stats are on the district website (and are a couple of years old), but for all instructional staff, 258 of 297 are white. The next highest is Latino, with 24, followed by African American with nine. That's about 87 percent white, so a little higher than the overall number.

Thanks for the follow-up. At least to me, single-digit percentages for Black and brown instructional staff (8 percent Latino and 3 percent African American, based on those numbers) connote even greater inequity than the article conveys.

As a thought experiment, if every Black instructional staff member in the district had a lunch meeting, they'd only need to buy one large pizza to share between them. Superintendent Matt Landahl said during the last school board meeting that the district has somewhat increased the rate of hiring of Black teachers. I neglected to take note of exact numbers, but I get the impression we'd be at two medium pizzas now.

Veekas Ashoka, *Beacon*

Fishkill board

In the past, under various administrations, the Town of Fishkill, a deeply historic and naturally beautiful Hudson Highlands municipality that borders Cold Spring and Beacon, has been besieged by development and ruthlessly fragmented by sheer lack of planning and vision ("Developer Loses Skirmish Over Continental Commons," Sept. 25).

The new Fishkill administration, under the leadership of Supervisor Ozzy Albra, seeks to remedy past mistakes and set the stage for a new chapter. With an understanding and conviction not seen for likely 75 years, this administration recognizes the finite environmental resources and cultural heritage at risk and in profound need of protections.

With this leadership and an impressive roster of council members now in place, I'm looking forward to a brighter future for Fishkill. It's long overdue. And the positivity to come will resonate well with surrounding communities.

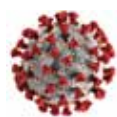
Mara Farrell, *Fishkill*

UPDATES

■ The League of Women Voters canceled a forum scheduled for Oct. 12 with Democrat Sandy Galef and Republican Lawrence Chiulli, the candidates to represent the 95th District in the state Assembly, which includes Philipstown ("Candidates Decline League Debates," Oct. 2). The League said in a statement that both agreed to participate but that Chiulli did not respond to a request by Oct. 5 to confirm his verbal commitment.

■ Greg Buzulencia did not set the Fastest-Known Time (FKT) in his attempt to run an 88.4-mile stretch of the Appalachian Trail last weekend ("Out There: Setting the Bar," Oct. 2). He made it to Mile 62.5 before his feet and knees gave out. His running partner, Benno Rawlinson, called it at Mile 71. "We set an audacious goal, and were humbled by it," Buzulencia wrote on Facebook.





Coronavirus Update

■ State health officials said that, as of Oct. 7, 1,669 people had tested positive for COVID-19 in Putnam County; 5,222 in Dutchess; 38,694 in Westchester; 16,454 in Rockland; 2,343 in Ulster; and 12,664 in Orange. Statewide, there were 470,104 positives, including 248,696 in New York City.

■ Statewide, 25,555 people had died as of Oct. 7. No deaths have been reported among Putnam residents since the week ending July 3 and there were no deaths reported among Dutchess residents from July 17 to Sept. 9.

■ In Dutchess County, there were 2,438 tests conducted on Oct. 7, with 8 positives, and in Putnam, there were 699 tests, with 8 positives. The percentage of positive results in the Mid-Hudson Region was 2.2 percent.

■ The state said that it conducted a daily record 145,811 tests on Oct. 7, including 7,349 in 20 ZIP codes deemed to be hot spots. There was a 5.8 percent positivity rate in those ZIPs, which include four in Rockland and two in Orange, compared to 1.01 elsewhere in the state.

■ On Oct. 6, the state raised the fine for the sponsors of mass gatherings in violation of state public health rules to \$15,000.

■ The state on Oct. 1 released a free notification mobile app, COVID Alert NY, that “notifies users of potential COVID-19 exposure while maintaining user privacy and security,” according to a news release. It can be downloaded at coronavirus.health.ny.gov/covid-alert-ny. The apps use Bluetooth technology to notify users if they have been in close contact (within 6 feet for at least 10 minutes) with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19.

■ Nuvance Health, which owns Putnam Hospital in Carmel and Vassar Brothers Medical Center in Poughkeepsie, is looking for volunteers who have been exposed to or diagnosed with COVID-19 and did not require hospitalization. Vassar Brothers is participating in two clinical studies of

COVID-19 by the Numbers

■ PUTNAM COUNTY

Number of confirmed cases:

1,669 (+40)

New Cases in Philipstown: 0

Tests administered:

50,755 (+3,354)

Percent positive:

3.3 (-0.1)

Number of deaths:

63 (+0)

■ DUTCHESS COUNTY

Number of confirmed cases:

5,222 (+74)

Active Cases in Beacon: 10

Tests administered:

184,555 (+12,151)

Percent positive:

2.8 (-0.2)

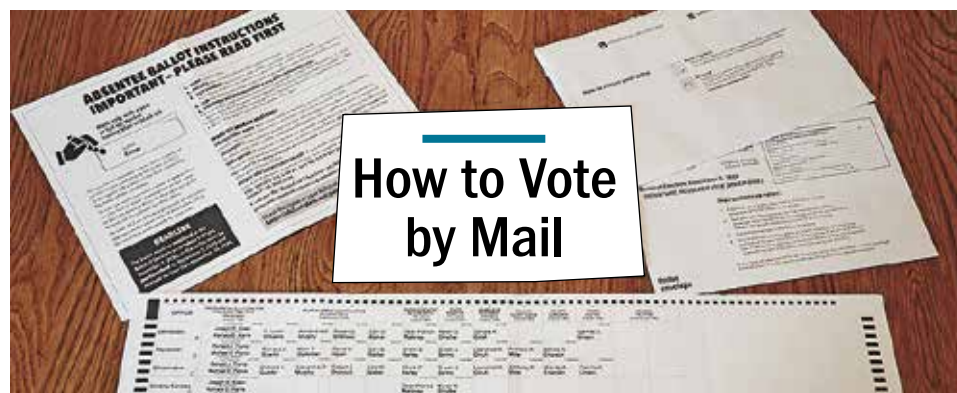
Number of deaths:

161 (+4)

Source: New York State Department of Health, with weekly changes in parentheses, as of Oct. 7. New cases in Philipstown for the week ending Oct. 1.

whether convalescent blood plasma therapy is effective. For information, see covidplasmatrial.org.

■ Questions? Dutchess County posts updates at dutchessny.gov/coronavirus and has a hotline at 845-486-3555. Putnam County posts info at putnamcountyny.com/health. New York State has a hotline at 888-364-3065 and a webpage at ny.gov/coronavirus.



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 today, Oct. 9.) To receive a vote-by-mail application, you can do one of the following:

- Request a form at absenteeballot.elections.ny.gov.
- Download the form at elections.dutchessny.gov or putnamboe.com.
- Call 845-486-2473 (Dutchess) or 845-808-1300 (Putnam).
- Email dutchesselections@dutchessny.gov or 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).

5. **To check the status of your ballot**, visit putnamboe.com/absentee-voting or bit.ly/dutchess-status.



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The HIGHLANDS
Current

Indian Brook *(from Page 1)*

Shea said he also wants “to investigate the possibility of appointing a resident” as a liaison to the towing firm. “All said, this is not something that can happen overnight.”

Although Indian Brook Falls, which is part of the state park system, is open, the town has closed its parking areas along the road and posted prominent no-parking signs at each approach to the falls. Park staff and Putnam County sheriff deputies patrol the road, and cars have been towed intermittently, but the Philipstown initiative would escalate those efforts.

The falls are near the Constitution Marsh Audubon Center and Sanctuary, which is closed. The sanctuary’s parking lot along Indian Brook Road has been barricaded. But posts on social media suggest some visitors nevertheless enter the Audubon property, which includes a boardwalk that extends into the marsh.

People visiting the falls have taken to parking along Route 9D and in the cutaways on Indian Brook Road that allow approaching cars to pass where the road narrows. Sheriff’s deputies are occasionally seen ticketing.

Since at least 2016, residents and town officials have urged the state parks agency to temporarily close the falls to protect its fragile environment.

Shea said similar issues arise regarding other popular parks, such as Little Stony Point and Breakneck Ridge. “Every area has



Indian Brook Falls

Photo by Barry Rosen

a carrying capacity and we’re far exceeding that,” he said. “It’s to the detriment of the environment, the residents and our infrastructure.”

At the board meeting, residents who live near Indian Brook Falls cited years of annoyances, including driveways blocked by cars; vehicles queued up along the road; illegal parking; and clashes with visitors.

Greg MacGarva expressed hopes that closing the eight-car Audubon lot would be “a catalyst for much-needed long-term change.” He described scenes of “absolute, unmanageable chaos” and proposed various improvements, including better signs warning of parking restrictions, aggressive towing, surveillance cameras and a

comprehensive management plan to limit access to the falls.

“We’re not saying we want to put a big gate up,” he said, but “it’s a small area. It can’t safely absorb an unlimited number. The visitor count just skyrocketed” over the years.

Peter Bynum, who lives “a stone’s throw from the falls,” remarked that “all the residents have multiple horror stories” and that “smoking weed,” graffiti and trash-dumping occur, along with other misconduct. “I hate to suggest draconian measures by closing the falls, but we have to do something,” Bynum said.

Shea recalled that the Town Board again asked state park authorities to close

Indian Brook Falls two months ago. “We’re not looking for a permanent closure; we’re looking for a reset,” he said. But park officials “are just not interested in doing that at all. Can you still be in that position when it means the destruction of the park?”

Park officials “don’t want to close parks, but Indian Brook Falls is not a park” because it lacks basic facilities, Councilor John Van Tassel added. “I’d say shut it.”

Shea said the Town Board would invite residents and park officials to confer, to try again to find answers.

Meanwhile, Indian Brook Falls visitors share their experiences online, such as at AllTrails.com, where some recently noted the rocky and sometimes muddy path and others mentioned that the waterfall pool may contain swimmers, whether human — “go early if you want to avoid” them, a writer advised — or otherwise.

“There are signs not to go in the water, and there are snakes,” one person wrote. “We saw a black one, up close, on a rock sunbathing [and] then dive in the water and swam away... The falls, though, were beautiful and quite a little gem.”

On Sept. 30, another visitor posted that “since the main parking was blocked, we just parked up the road where we could find space on the one-way road. On our way to the falls there was a huge tree that blocked the pathway there, we attempted to pass through it but it was very difficult. I’m not sure when they will cut it down but it made our easy hike into a difficult hike.”

CURRENT CONVERSATIONS

Vaccine Development Q&A with Michael Gusmano



WEDNESDAY OCT. 14 | 7:00-7:30PM

Join us in conversation with Gusmano, a research scholar with the Hastings Center in Garrison and professor at Rutgers University, about COVID-19 vaccine development, safety, effectiveness and its distribution.

REGISTER TO ATTEND:
highlandscurrent.org/current-conversations

NOTICE

The Philipstown Zoning Board

will hold their regular Monthly Meeting on October 19th, 2020 at 7:30 p.m. virtually via Zoom.

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

Register in advance for this webinar:

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_5Jd_NELhQR6CN0HqnJa13A

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

OR email KMACINTYRE@PHILIPSTOWN.COM to request login information before 7 pm on October 19th, 2020.

NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a public hearing will be held by the Zoning Board of Appeals of the Town of Philipstown on Monday, October 19th, 2020 at 7:30 P.M. Via Zoom. If you would like to attend, please email KMACINTYRE@PHILIPSTOWN.COM to request login information before 7 pm on October 19th, 2020.

William & Laura Cumming, 71 South Mountain Pass Spur, Garrison, New York TM#82-1-52,53

(The applicant is seeking section 175-11B (Dimensional Requirements) as a subdivision Lot 1: Area from 10 acres to 4.296 acres, a variance of 5.704 acres. As to subdivision Lot 2: Lot frontage from 300 feet to approximately 165.0 feet.

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

Dated September 14th, 2020

Robert Dee, Chairman of the Town of Philipstown Zoning Board of Appeals

BEACON BIKE FARM

Planning Board approval: N/A

Number of units: N/A

Variances: N/A

Notes: Empire State Development, the state's economic development agency, last year chose Urban Green Food to redevelop the former Beacon Correctional Facility, part of which lies in the Town of Fishkill. Plans introduced to the City Council for a "bike farm" include a hotel, indoor track-and-field venue and an arena for indoor cycling, plus dozens of acres of farmland and bike trails. An Empire State official said this week that the developer, who must finalize a contract with the state before going to the Planning Board, is continuing to develop a phased plan for the project.



23-28 CREEK DRIVE

Planning Board approval: January

Number of units: 8, plus 20,000 square feet of commercial

Variances: The Zoning Board of Appeals allowed 93 parking spaces (instead of the 113 required), two 2,750-square-foot apartments (instead of the 2,000 square-foot max) and a four-story building (rather than the three stories permitted) at a height of 53 feet (instead of 40).

What's next: Construction is underway on what will be the U.S. headquarters of Docuware, a German document management firm which had more than \$64 million in revenue in 2019. The company is expected to move from New Windsor next year.

248 TIORONDA AVE.

Planning Board approval: April

Number of units: 64, plus 25,400 square feet of commercial

Variances: None requested

What's next: The Planning Board approved the project this year after a lengthy review. Plans include a 20-foot-wide creekside easement for the Fishkill Creek Greenway and Heritage Trail that runs the length of the development; the Planning Board reduced the project's recreation fees in return. Concerns were raised earlier this year, despite Department of Environmental Conservation sign-off in 2003, that the former industrial site could still be contaminated after decades of dumping, but an environmental engineer hired by the city was satisfied with the state review of cleanup efforts.

Booming Beacon

Updates on 10 projects in and near the city

By Jeff Simms

While Planning Board agendas have shrunk since the beginning of the pandemic shutdown in March, there are still a number of housing and commercial projects either underway or being planned in and around Beacon. Here is an update.

2 CROSS ST.

Planning Board approval: Pending

Number of units: 9 affordable senior apartments, plus retail and 10,000 square feet of office space

Variances: In meetings last year, the developer discussed asking the City Council to rezone portions of the property or amending the plans to conform with zoning laws.

What's next: This project would combine buildings at 172 Main St. and 4 Cross St. and an undeveloped lot into a single structure with ground-level retail, second-floor apartments and office space on a third floor. Plans call for the portion of the building within the Central Main Street zoning district to have a fourth floor for office space, as well. The project has not been on a Planning Board agenda since December, but the City Council adopted a measure this year requiring four-story proposals on Main Street to include one or more "public benefits," such as increased parking, affordable housing units, green building features or public spaces. A park at the corner of Main and Cross streets, part of the original plans, could potentially satisfy that requirement.

16 W. MAIN ST.

Planning Board approval: Pending

Number of units: 62

Variances: None requested

What's next: The Planning Board began its review of this project last year and it returns to the agenda on Oct. 14 after a seven-month absence. Plans call for demolishing a warehouse and auto shop to make way for a four-story, L-shaped building of one- and two-bedroom apartments. No public hearings have been held yet.

ROLLING HILLS (FISHKILL)

Planning Board approval: Pending

Number of units: 463 apartments, plus 24,000 square feet of retail

Variances: Fishkill officials in April ended their review of the developer's request to rezone 16 acres of the 57-acre site to allow residential and retail building.

What's next: The developer in July filed a \$1 million lawsuit, alleging that town officials broke a "good-faith commitment" by ending the rezoning review. The town has asked the court to dismiss the case, saying a memorandum of understanding about the review process between the developer and a previous town board is "not a valid or enforceable contract."

GLENHAM MILLS (FISHKILL)

Planning Board approval: N/A

Number of units: N/A

Variances: N/A

Notes: Chevron listed the 153-acre former Texaco Research Center site for sale earlier this year. If a buyer is found, it will have to take over cleanup of the land with the Department of Environmental Conservation. A Chevron representative said this week that while the site continues to be marketed for sale, it doesn't have any buyers or even a price, "since it could be contingent on a developer's vision for the properties. While environmental impacts on the properties do not pose a risk to the community or surrounding areas, Chevron remains committed to seeing the properties remediated, whether we find this partner or not." The company held public meetings in 2017 and 2018 to discuss redevelopment scenarios.



416-420 MAIN ST.

Planning Board approval: Pending

Number of units: Retail on the ground floor, office space on the second and third floors, and a single apartment on a recessed fourth floor

Variances: The developer has discussed a number of parking scenarios with the Planning Board, most recently an on-street plan that would provide six of the 23 spaces required.

What's next: The developer proposes merging two adjacent lots for a four-story, set-back building. The City Council must approve a special-use permit for the fourth floor. The Planning Board began a public hearing in August on its environmental review of the project; it will continue Oct. 14.

BEACON VIEWS

Planning Board approval: Pending

Number of units: 40 townhouses

Variances: The developer is seeking conservation subdivision status, which would allow the Planning Board to modify minimum lot sizes, setbacks or other elements of the design to protect natural or historic features.

What's next: A public hearing on the environmental review of the proposal has been ongoing since May. There is concern about wetland mitigation at the 8.6-acre site off Conklin Street, as well as opposition from residents in the adjacent Highland Meadows senior-housing facility, who believe the development will disrupt the neighborhood and add too much traffic. The hearing was scheduled to continue Wednesday (Oct. 14), but the developer asked for a postponement.

RIVER RIDGE

Planning Board approval: 2018

Number of units: 18 townhouses

Variances: The Zoning Board of Appeals allowed the developers to have 19 feet (rather than 70) between the buildings.

What's next: The developer has proposed creating a public park behind the townhouses, next to a cemetery, and in return asked to have municipal recreation fees waived. The City Council last month discussed restoring the cemetery and creating a historical walkway that connects to Route 9D but took no action.



Redistricting *(from Page 1)*

Democrats, who have 10, would each choose two members of the commission, and those four appointees would choose the other three. The districts redrawn by the commission would not be allowed to favor any party and must be “contiguous” and “uninterrupted.” Each district must have roughly the same number of residents, which is currently around 12,000 people based on the county’s population of about 300,000.

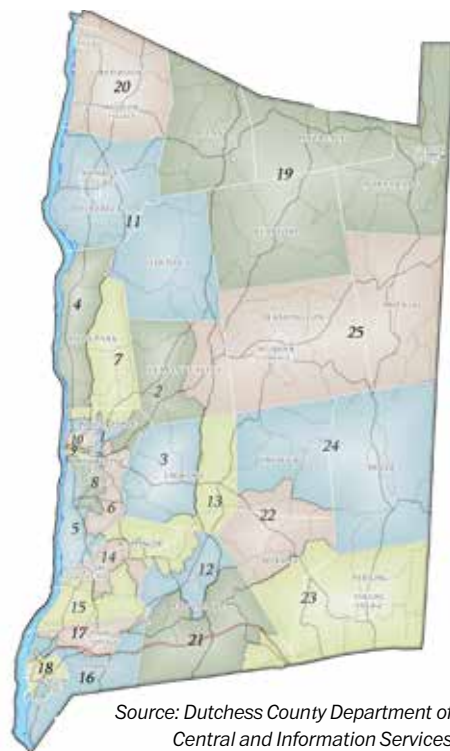
While the county Board of Elections could make “minor technical adjustments,” the new boundaries would “have the force and effect of law” and be used beginning in 2023.

Frits Zernike, a Democrat whose district includes one ward in Beacon, said the proposal before voters was “watered down” from the version proposed by Democrats but “way better than the alternative.”

Nick Page, a Democrat whose district covers the other three wards of Beacon, called the law a “safeguard for part of the democratic institution.” While the votes to approve and then repeal the 2009 commission largely fell along party lines, he said “it feels like there is a real consensus on this, which is nice.”

Among active voters in Dutchess County, nearly 68,000 are registered Democrats and just over 52,000 are Republicans, according to the state Board of Elections.

“It’s a purple county, so there’s a mutual recognition that anybody would be hard-pressed to say who’s going to have the majority going forward in this body,” said Page, who is the assistant minority leader.



Source: Dutchess County Department of Central and Information Services

“It also reflects general recognition that the partisan divide hasn’t narrowed.”

If approved by voters, the law would prohibit former elected officials and political party officials from being commissioners unless they have been out of office for at least three years. The same restriction applies to state and municipal employees.

In redrawing legislative districts, the commission will not be allowed to use voting results and patterns, polling and enrollment data, “or any other data relating to the expected partisan allocations of vote totals”

How to Apply

Any Dutchess County resident who qualifies, which includes being registered to vote and past employment restrictions, can serve on the Reapportionment and Redistricting Committee. Visit dutchessny.gov/DrawTheLines or send a letter of interest with your address and a statement affirming your eligibility to County Executive Marc Molinaro at 22 Market St., Poughkeepsie, NY 12601. The goal, according to the county, is to create a commission that reflects the county’s “geographic and demographic diversity.”

unless the data is required under federal or state laws, such as the Voting Rights Act.

Commissioners are required to open their meetings to the public, post minutes within five days after each meeting, hold at least two public hearings and allow county residents to comment on their draft plan.

Gregg Pulver, a Republican who chairs the Legislature and represents North East, Stanford, Pine Plains and Milan in north-eastern Dutchess, said he could not point to any egregious examples of gerrymandering, although he said some districts have boundaries that “don’t make total sense.”

No matter which party controls the Legislature, “this is a good move,” he said.

“In this day and age, government gets a bad-enough rap. We have to do something to instill some confidence in the constituency that we’re trying to do the right thing.”

If the commission is approved by voters, the four legislative appointments would have to be made by Feb. 1 and the three remaining members appointed by Feb. 15. The commission would be required to adopt a plan by a least a 5-2 vote, and the Legislature would need to approve the commission’s proposal before it was submitted to the county Board of Elections.

Dutchess is not alone in hoping to redraw districts based on 2020 census data. In 2014, state voters approved a constitutional amendment to create a 10-member commission that will redraw state Legislature and congressional districts.

Eight of the members will be chosen by legislative leaders, with two each by the Senate president, the Senate minority leader, the Assembly majority leader and the Assembly minority leader. The other two will be chosen by the eight commissioners but cannot have been registered Democrats or Republicans.

The U.S. Census Bureau is expected to release population figures for redistricting by April 1. According to the state law, districts must be “convenient and minimize the division of communities of interest to the extent practicable.” A “community of interest” denotes areas “with recognized similarities of interest, including but not limited to economic, social, cultural, institutional, geographic or historic identity.”

PHILIPSTOWN
DEMOCRATS

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Town Justice CAMILLE LINSON
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MAKE AMERICA PROUD AGAIN.

For more information visit www.philipstowndemocrats.org

Odell Proposes 2021 Putnam Budget of \$164.2 Million

Sheriff criticizes cuts to his department

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

Putnam County Executive MaryEllen Odell on Tuesday (Oct. 6) presented county legislators with a draft 2021 budget of \$164.2 million — although it assumes no reduction in state aid despite the economic impacts of the COVID-19 shutdown.

It also projects that the county will collect \$59.7 million in sales tax, or only about \$1 million less than in 2020, although sales tax revenues through August were down \$2.7 million, or 6.4 percent, from the same period in 2019.

According to Odell, her proposed budget represents an increase of less than 1 percent over the final 2020 budget, meets the tax-hike cap imposed by New York State and anticipates a levy of about \$45.6 million in property taxes. She estimated that a home with an assessed value of \$357,000 would pay \$1,182 in taxes, or about \$25 more than in 2020.

The nine-member county Legislature, which convened and heard Odell's presentation by audio connection, can revise her draft before approving a final budget in late October.

Odell told legislators that the pandemic had "upended" her financial team's budget preparation. But, she said, "we believe we have delivered a sound budget that meets our fiscal and social responsibilities to constituents and employees."

But it might not hold. Gov. Andrew Cuomo has withheld some state aid due to economic uncertainties and Odell acknowledged that "these deferrals may be permanent in the

absence of a federal stimulus package." If a cut of 20 to 50 percent in state aid occurs, it "could result in the loss of significant revenue, perhaps \$7 million" for Putnam, Odell said. "That could result in layoffs and service cuts" and "the people of Putnam will suffer." She termed it "imperative that New York meet its commitment to the counties."

Policing cuts and raises

Dissatisfactions with Odell's draft surfaced before the Legislature adjourned. Sheriff Robert Langley Jr., who lives in Philipstown, and Nancy Montgomery, who represents Philipstown in the Legislature, criticized Odell's proposed cuts to funding for the Sheriff's Department. Langley and Montgomery are Democrats; Odell and the other eight legislators are Republicans.

Langley also faulted the budget-drafting process, saying he was excluded from discussions and only allowed to review the budget with Odell 30 minutes before she sent it to legislators. The county released the draft online on Oct. 2.

Odell's budget proposes cutting about \$732,000, or 3.6 percent, from the Sheriff's Department 2020 budget, which is about \$20.5 million. It would reduce funding for the marine enforcement patrol by 39 percent, to \$105,000; anti-narcotics efforts by 3 percent, to about \$1.75 million; and money for the civil division by 4 percent, to about \$780,000.

In a public hearing that occurred immediately after Odell's presentation, Langley expressed concerns about the impact of the cuts on public safety at a time of unrest across the nation. The last-minute nature of his meeting with Odell also provided "no opportunity to negotiate other areas we

could cut from," he said.

Montgomery added: "I see from the get-go that it looks like we are defunding the police."

The legislator also questioned raises proposed in the draft for some county officials and staff, although no details were provided in the budget documents released to the public. Citing a statement attributed to Odell that "we're here for the people of Putnam County," she said now those people "are hurting" and often "out of work. Handling out the raises I see in this budget is not serving the people of Putnam."

Historic graveyards

Odell's proposed budget contains no funding for historic graveyards. At a Philipstown Town Board meeting a few days before the county meeting, Councilor Mike Leonard, who chairs a committee dedicated to Philipstown's historic cemeteries, said Odell had alerted town officials that Putnam has eliminated funding — \$18,000 last year — for historic-cemetery upkeep countywide.

Although the money was shared by several towns, "that's going to be a definite hit on us," he said. "I just can't believe that in this county we're going to allow" cemeteries with tombs of "our sacred dead, the war veterans" and others to be overgrown.

Not maintaining the cemeteries sends the message that "we don't care," he said. "It's disgraceful."

Beacon Budget *(from Page 1)*

our employees," the mayor said.

By not raising taxes to the maximum allowed under a state tax cap, Beacon will forgo about \$186,000 in revenue.

"In this incredibly difficult time we must do our best not to contribute to the economic hardship felt by so many of our residents," Kyriacou said. "This is no easy task; many local governments are faced with tax increases, layoffs or both."

Because its levy — the total amount Beacon will collect in taxes — is only increasing to account for new construction, existing properties will provide the city the same amount in tax revenue as the year before, although individual bills could vary. The proposal shows tax rates (the state's cap is on the amount of taxes collected, not the rate at which properties are taxed) increasing 0.8 percent for residential properties, which make up about 70 percent of the city's tax base, but decreasing 7.1 percent for commercial spaces.

The proposed budget also includes \$20,000 for the Recreation Department for "community investment," \$70,000 for the possible hiring of a mental-health caseworker and \$50,000 for pandemic-related expenses.

Over the next month, the council will meet virtually with department heads to discuss their budget needs and, if needed, revise Kyriacou's proposal. A public hearing is tentative for Nov. 16; the budget must be adopted by the end of the year.

Proposed Putnam Spending

Select line items from the county executive's proposed budget compared to the revised 2020 budget. See bit.ly/putnam-proposed-2021.

| OFFICE | 2020 BUDGET | 2021 BUDGET | CHANGE |
|---------------------|-------------|-------------|------------|
| JAIL | \$7,982,393 | \$8,343,221 | ▲\$360,828 |
| ELECTIONS | \$1,963,231 | \$2,224,285 | ▲\$261,054 |
| HIGHWAYS/FACILITIES | \$1,984,013 | \$2,195,347 | ▲\$211,334 |
| COUNTY ATTORNEY | \$1,539,967 | \$1,620,720 | ▲\$80,753 |
| COUNTY EXECUTIVE | \$691,088 | \$731,840 | ▲\$40,752 |
| DISTRICT ATTORNEY | \$2,469,805 | \$2,507,390 | ▲\$37,585 |
| SENIORS | \$1,033,390 | \$1,065,477 | ▲\$32,087 |
| YOUTH | \$701,932 | \$729,832 | ▲\$27,900 |
| LEGISLATURE | \$1,144,689 | \$1,146,976 | ▲\$2,287 |
| HEALTH | \$6,059,365 | \$5,834,883 | ▼\$224,482 |
| LEGAL AID | \$1,500,052 | \$1,337,315 | ▼\$162,737 |
| SNOW REMOVAL | \$1,191,989 | \$1,079,711 | ▼\$112,278 |
| TOURISM | \$268,849 | \$213,010 | ▼\$55,839 |
| VETERANS | \$219,876 | \$210,433 | ▼\$9,443 |



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AROUND TOWN



▲ **FOOD DRIVE** — The Knights of Columbus held a drive on Saturday (Oct. 3) at Our Lady of Loretto in Cold Spring to collect donations for the Philipstown Food Pantry and school supplies for religious education at the church.



▲ **WOMAN OF DISTINCTION** — Krista Jones, the founder and executive director of Sparrow's Nest, on Oct. 1 was named by state Sen. Sue Serino (left) as the 2020 Woman of Distinction for the 41st Senate District, which includes the Highlands. The Wappingers Falls-based nonprofit delivers meals to caregivers and children and teenagers diagnosed with cancer.



▲ **A YEAR OF HELP** — The Philipstown Behavioral Health Hub in Cold Spring will celebrate its first anniversary with open houses at 5 Stone St. from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Tuesday (Oct. 13), Thursday and Friday, and 5 to 7 p.m. on Wednesday. There will also be a community conversation and a sunset hike. See philipstownhub.org. Shown are Care Coordinator Julianne O'Reilly, Executive Director Danielle Pack McCarthy and Development Manager Mandy Brindle.

Photos provided



▲ **HIGH HOLIDAYS** — The Philipstown Reform Synagogue in Cold Spring, in its first in-person gathering since March, held a Sukkot celebration on Saturday (Oct. 3) on the great lawn of St. Mary's Church. They were joined by the Rev. Steve Schunk (left) and members of the St. Mary's vestry. The rector is shown with Cathy Duke, co-president of the synagogue.



Pop Up Theatre Live on the Depot Patio

OCT. 10 6:30 PM: Play Reading: My Name is Rachel Corrie

SOLD OUT 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.

TICKETS AT
www.philipstowndepottheatre.org



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SUN. 10:00a – 4:00p

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The Calendar



Lauren Thayer performs multiple roles in *Sorry, Wrong Number*



Frank Marquette of the Hudson Valley Radio Theatre



Actor and director Jessica Boyd

Audio Shift

With lack of bookings, theater company turns to radio

By Alison Rooney

Past meets present, in a reconnection forged by a pandemic, at Murder Cafe.

Performances by the 11-year-old theatrical company, which is based in Ulster County and creates interactive, comedic murder mysteries at fundraisers and venues such as country clubs, casinos and, for the past five years, Bannerman's Island, came to a halt in March. The company needed to reinvent itself quickly, recalls its co-founder and artistic director, Frank Marquette.

And so Hudson Valley Radio Theatre was born.

Instead of staging plays in person (the company does about 45 shows per year), the actors have moved to Zoom. They record their performances and sound engineer Kenny Drao produces the stories in ways that often evoke broadcasts from the Golden Age of Radio in the 1930s and 1940s. The Hudson Valley Radio Theatre roster of 12 programs is a mix of whodunits, a variety show and classic stories such as *Wuthering Heights* and *Dracula*.

Murder Cafe works with a rotating group of actors — last year there were 51 — many of whom made the transition from live performance to radio with guidance from Marquette.

"It's a different way of presenting themselves, using voice only," he explains. "You have to convey more emotion because you can't use gestures or create drama with just a look. There are dramatic pauses but the actor has to rely heavily on the emotional range of the voice. There are differences in pacing, in this medium, and there are the technical



The cast of the theater company's live performance of the 1938 radio show, *War of the Worlds*

Photos provided

challenges, but the actors have been great."

Once the actors have done their work, Drao inserts sound effects, enhances voices and gives everything a period flavor.

"We will end the year with 15 shows," Marquette says. "After *Wuthering Heights* went so well, I now want to do programs which fit in with a school curriculum, especially high school, such as *The Great Gatsby* and *Great Expectations*."

The company's first production at Bannerman's Island was *An Evening with Edgar Allan Poe*, followed by a version of the radio broadcast of H.G. Wells' *The War of the Worlds*. Next came *Whiskey Women*, an original play about bootleggers; *Dracula*; and, last year, *Arsenic and Old Lace*.

This year, the company was scheduled to present a play based on *Frankenstein* on the island, which is dominated by the ruins of a castle. Each show the company does is site-specific. "You have to make

the surroundings part of the production," Marquette explains. "At Bannerman's you have trains, boats, geese flying over."

He founded Murder Cafe in Las Vegas in 1998. "It was a case of 'Go west, young man,'" he says. "I spent 11 years in Albuquerque and 11 years in Nevada. I was an advertising sales manager and graphic artist, while always acting. My wife and I got involved with a murder-mystery company. After we founded Murder Cafe, it took off; we did corporate shows along with lots of public shows. We moved back to the Hudson Valley in 2009, and it only took a year to get back to the number of performances we had been doing in Las Vegas."

To promote the performances, Marquette reaches about 8,400 people on an email list, publishes a monthly newsletter and posts on social media. The radio-show audio files are posted to sites such as Spotify and Anchor.fm. "All of this translates to what is

now close to 1,000 listeners," he says.

Once the pandemic is over, Marquette says he plans to keep the radio component active. "It's kept our name out there, the actors love doing it and people are happy that we've given them an alternative entertainment medium," he says. "I've had many conversations with clients — the people who run inns and other venues. No one wants to put customers at risk. I've been asked to perform live, but it's too risky. We'll just wait."

To listen to any of Murder Cafe's performances, including Murder Me Always; Murder at the Speakeasy; Death by Chocolate; Murder on the Air; Sorry, Wrong Number; The Lodger; Ghost Hunt; The Masque of the Red Death; Poe Live; and The Virtual Variety Show, visit hudsonvalley-radiotheatre.com. The productions range in length from 16 to 85 minutes. They are free, but donations are welcome.

THE WEEK AHEAD

Edited by Pamela Doan (calendar@highlandscurrent.org)

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

COMMUNITY

SAT 10

History Crawl

COLD SPRING

Putnam History Museum
63 Chestnut St.
putnamhistorymuseum.org

Learn about the village with a self-guided tour covering about 2 miles. Booklets will be available at the museum. Enter to win prizes at finish. Also SUN 11.

SAT 10

This Green Plot

GARRISON

5:30 p.m. Via Zoom
hvshakespeare.org/support/picnic-benefit

This gala to benefit the Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival will feature performances by Leenya Rideout, Mingo Long, Nance Williamson and others, an auction and picnic baskets delivered by The Valley restaurant. The livestream is free. Picnic baskets start at \$350.

TUES 13

Open House

COLD SPRING

11 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Philipstown Behavioral Health Hub
5 Stone St. | 845-809-5050
philipstownhub.org/events

The Hub will mark its first year with three open houses (also, THURS 15 and FRI 16), a Zoom panel with the parent of a child who struggled with addiction, a person in recovery and an emergency-room doctor on THURS 15; and a sunset hike on FRI 16. Details online.

FRI 16

Flu Clinic

BREWSTER

1 – 6:30 p.m. Health Department
1 Geneva Road
845-808-1390 ext. 43155
putnamcountyny.com/health

This drive-thru clinic is for Putnam County adults. Registration required. The rain date is MON 19.

Cost: \$25 (free for 65 years or older with Medicare card)

SAT 17

Riverkeeper Cleanup

PHILIPSTOWN

9 a.m. – Noon. Various locations
riverkeeper.org

Register to help with shoreline cleanup and tree planting at dozens of sites on the Hudson River, including Constitution Marsh, Garrison's Landing and Little Stony Point.

SAT 17

Riverkeeper Cleanup

BEACON

9 a.m. – Noon. Various locations
riverkeeper.org

Register to help with shoreline cleanup and tree planting at dozens of sites on the Hudson River, including Dennings Point and the waterfront.

SAT 17

Passport Fair

CARMEL

9 a.m. – 1 p.m. Putnam Clerk
40 Gleneida Ave.
845-808-1142, x49301
putnamcountyny.com/county-clerk

Get a new passport or renew an existing passport. Appointment required.

SAT 17

Walk to End Alzheimer's

BEACON

10 a.m. Libby Funeral Home
55 Teller Ave.
libbyfuneralhome.com/alzheimers-walk

Walk from the funeral home to Long Dock and back in this fundraiser for the Alzheimer's Association.

SAT 17

Open House on the Farm

BREWSTER

11 a.m. – 3 p.m. Tilly Foster Farm
100 Route 312 | putnam.cce.cornell.edu/events

See animals and the Farm Project Art Show, take a hike and enjoy activities like a scavenger hunt

and fall-themed food. Registration required. Free

SAT 17

Raise the Roof for ARF

BEACON

7 p.m. Denning's Point Distillery
10 N. Chestnut St. | bit.ly/raise-roof-arf

This fundraiser for the no-kill Animal Rescue Foundation shelter for cats and dogs will include a two-hour open bar with Denning's Point spirits, food sold by Momo Valley and raffles. Cost: \$30

SUN 18

Blood Drive

BEACON

11 a.m. – 5 p.m. Tompkins Hose Co.
13 South Ave. | donate.nybc.org

Beacon Hebrew Alliance is hosting this drive. Make an appointment or walk in.

STAGE & SCREEN

SAT 10

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 *Get Out* (2017) and *Candyman* (1992) this weekend and *The Nightmare Before Christmas* (1993) and *Friday the 13th Part IV: The Final Chapter* (1984) next weekend. See website for show times and health protocols. Snacks will be available for purchase. Also SUN 11, THURS 15, FRI 16, SAT 17, SUN 18. Cost: \$10 (\$8 children, seniors, military)

SUN 18

Loving the '80s

GARRISON

1 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library
472 Route 403 | 845-424-3020
desmondfishlibrary.org

The library will celebrate its 40th anniversary with a talk by actor Liz Keifer, who appeared on the soap opera *Guiding Light* for 27 years. In case of rain, the event will move online. Registration required.

TALKS

SUN 11

Escape from Extinction

GARRISON

4 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library
472 Route 403 | 845-424-3020
bit.ly/FredRichEvent

Fred Rich, a Garrison resident, will discuss his latest book, *Escape from Extinction: An Eco-Genetic Novel*, during an event on the lawn. Registration required.



Farm Open House, Oct. 17

TUES 13

Ergonomics for Home Offices

COLD SPRING

11:30 a.m. Butterfield Library
845-265-3040 | butterfieldlibrary.org

Learn from physical therapist Joel Giffin how to organize your home office to prevent injury and reduce pain. Register to join the Zoom event.

TUES 13

Medicare 101

BEACON

6 p.m. Howland Public Library
845-831-1134 | beaconlibrary.org

Learn about the federal health insurance program for people ages 65 or older. Topics include eligibility, coverage, Parts A and B and how to apply. Email adults@beaconlibrary.org to participate in the Zoom event.

WED 14

Reading with Writers Book Club

COLD SPRING

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

This month's selection is *A Poetry*

Handbook, by Mary Oliver.

WED 14

COVID Vaccine Discussion

COLD SPRING

7 p.m. Highlands Current
highlandscurrent.org/current-conversations

Michael Gusmano, a research scholar with the Hastings Center and professor at Rutgers University, will discuss vaccine development, safety, effectiveness and distribution in this *Current Conversation* held via Zoom. Register to attend.

THURS 15

Lab Girl

BEACON

3 p.m. Howland Public Library
845-831-1134 | beaconlibrary.org

James Cotter, a retired professor of English at Mount Saint Mary College, will lead a discussion via Zoom of this memoir by Hope Jahren. Email adults@beaconlibrary.org to register.



Get Out, Oct. 10

(Continued on Page 13)

SECOND SATURDAY

SAT 10

Splits / DOUBLE/exposure

BEACON

6 - 9 p.m. BAU Gallery
506 Main St. | 845-440-7584
baugallery.org

Jebah Baum will share lithograph prints reflecting the pandemic and Melissa Schlobolm will exhibit her photos. Through Nov. 7.

SAT 10

Luminescence!

BEACON

6 - 9 p.m. Clutter Gallery
163 Main St. | 212-255-2505
shop.cluttermagazine.com/gallery

The solo show by MP Gautheron opens for a run through Nov. 8.

KIDS & FAMILY

SAT 10

Halloween Story Hour

COLD SPRING

12:30 p.m. Butterfield Library
845-265-3040 | bit.ly/2Sjy0HA

The Mummy visits the story hour on TUES 13 and SAT 17. Register online.

WED 14

Teen Book Club

BEACON

3 p.m. Howland Public Library
845-831-1134 | beaconlibrary.org

The group will discuss, via



Luminescence!, Oct. 10

Zoom, *Life As We Knew It*, by Susan Beth Pfeffer. Email community@beaconlibrary.org to register.

FRI 16

Friday Night In: Scattergories

GARRISON

7 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library
845-424-3020 | desmondfishlibrary.org

Gather a team to virtually compete with friends and neighbors.

SAT 17

Audubon Nature Exploration

PHILIPSTOWN

11 a.m. Hubbard Lodge
2880 Route 9 |
putnamhighlandsaudubon.org
Environmental educator Pete

Salmansohn will lead classic nature games and help look for signs of animals and birds in the fall landscape. Masks are required. The rain date is SUN 25. Email puffpete@gmail.com with questions.

MUSIC

SUN 11

Michael Brown

BEACON

8 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
howlandmusic.org

In this livestreamed performance hosted by the Howland Chamber Music Circle, the pianist will play works by Haydn, Debussy, Ravel, Scriabin and Beethoven, as well as an original composition. *Cost: \$20*

FRI 16

Aaron Diehl Trio

KATONAH

8 p.m. Caramoor
914-232-1252 | caramoor.org

The classically trained pianist and composer will be accompanied by Aaron Kimmel on drums and Paul Sikivie on bass during this livestreamed event. *Cost: \$10 (members free)*

CIVIC

TUES 13

School Board

BEACON

7 p.m. Beacon High School
845-838-6900 | beaonk12.org



Aaron Diehl Trio, Oct. 16

TUES 13

Dutchess Legislature

POUGHKEEPSIE

7 p.m. Webcast
bit.ly/dutchess-legislature

TUES 13

Board of Trustees

COLD SPRING

6:30 p.m. Village Hall
845-265-3611 | coldspringny.gov

WED 14

Village Board

NELSONVILLE

7 p.m. Village Hall
845-265-2500 | nelsonvilleny.gov



46 Artists have re-created 50 chairs donated by Art Center supporters. Online auction begins Oct. 22. Take a look at some titillating details here or website below.



ONLINE AUCTION BENEFIT

Oct. 22 to Nov. 14, 2020
Live-viewing Nov. 11-14, 10-5pm
Garrison Art Center Galleries

PARTICIPATING ARTISTS

| | |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| John Allen | Lisa Knaus |
| Justin Allen | Martee Levi |
| Emil Alzamora | Cecile Lindstedt |
| Marc Bernier | Sascha Mallon |
| Emily Brown | Friedrike Merck |
| Kit Burke-Smith | James Murray |
| Chuck Burleigh | Chantelle Norton |
| Peter Bynum | Irene O'Garden |
| Diana Carulli | Michael Piotrowski |
| Renee Curci-Ivanoff | Kim Pitt-Foster |
| Tim D'Acquisto | Diana Polack |
| Marylyn Dintenfass | Hildreth Potts |
| Thomas Donahue | Kelly Preusser |
| Susan English | Sheila Rauch |
| Justin Feimer | Melissa Schlobolm |
| Marcy B. Freedman | Ursula Schnieder |
| Barbara Smith Gioia | Patricia Schories |
| Kyra Hazou | Betty Stafford |
| Julie Heckert | Tracy Strong |
| Thomas Huber | Carinda Swann |
| Carla Rae Johnson | Peg Taylor |
| Irene Karlen | Diana Vidal |
| Grace Kennedy | Coulter Young |

Garrison Art Center

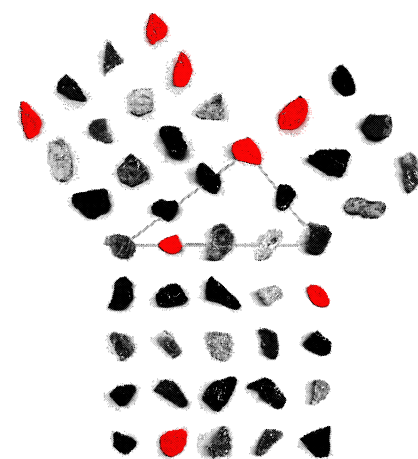
PO Box 4, 23 Garrison's Landing, Garrison, NY 10524
garrisonartcenter.org

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.

For more information visit www.magazzino.art

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BOCHNER BOETTI FONTANA

Curated by Mel Bochner
In collaboration with
Magazzino Italian Art Foundation
October 3, 2020 - January 11, 2021
Magazzino Italian Art, Gallery 8

MAGAZZINO
ITALIAN ART

Mouths to Feed

The Oat Less Traveled

By Celia Barbour



About a dozen years ago, when our three children were still little, we took a trip along the north-west coast of Scotland. My grandfather had grown up in Edinburgh, and I'd long been drawn to the country's brooding landscapes and tarnished-silver sunlight. I was thrilled to finally be sharing it with my family. We hiked crags, wandered cobbled streets and splashed around in the frothy sea. Yet the memory I revisit most often from that trip is of a bowl of oatmeal.

"Do you remember the oatmeal we had at the Love Croft?" I recently asked my husband, Peter.

"The, uh — Lovecraft?"

OK, so no. He didn't even remember the place, at first. To be fair, it wasn't fancy. *Croft* is an old Scottish word for a one-family or tenant farm. And Love, in this case, was the proprietor's family name and not a funky B-52s reference. The Love Croft was — still is, per the internet — a sweet, humble bed-and-breakfast in a sweet, humble village called Laide.

But oh, the breakfasts: Not humble. Not even close.

The oatmeal that made such an impression was one of three options for the meal's first course, and was followed by a choice of second courses, among them:

- Scrambled eggs with Isle of Ewe smoked salmon and toast;
- French toast with bacon, poached egg, fried banana and maple syrup; and (my choice)
- A traditional Scottish break-

fast consisting of sausages, black pudding, bacon, free-range eggs, mushrooms, tomatoes and a home-made potato scone.

It's a wonder I lived to remember the oatmeal at all, which I'm pretty sure was cooked with cream. For that matter, it's a wonder the Scots have survived into the 21st century given their idea of breakfast. Anyway, I suspect the cream is what secured that porridge's place in my personal museum of food memories, though the oats themselves were delicious, too; they tasted freshly milled.

Yet even decent supermarket oats have a naturally sweet, nutty flavor that blossoms if you cook the grains with a little dairy. No cream necessary, you and your doctor will be happy to hear, just equal parts water and milk or alt milk if that's how you roll. Preparing oatmeal this way results in a bowlful so comforting that few toppings are needed.

Still, toppings are the reason many people bother eating oatmeal at all. For my children, equal parts brown sugar and oatmeal by weight was once the goal. My mother, a Finn, says she grew up having oatmeal for breakfast every morning, "but the Finnish custom was to have a butter eye." I got her meaning, despite this latest example of the idiosyncratic liberties she takes with her adopted language, because she used to nestle a little pat of butter into the top of my oatmeal when my sisters and I were kids. It would melt to form a golden pool — the "butter eye" — into which we would gently dip each spoonful of porridge after scooping it from around the bowl's edges.

I remember loving this careful ritual, but the flavor must not have been all that grand because I dropped the custom.

What I have kept up, adapted or invented (I'm not sure which) is a variation on oatmeal I once made at summer camp that includes coconut milk, pecans and ginger-infused maple syrup. I make it on those mornings when I want something a bit more luscious and love-crafted than the back-of-the-package recipe, and a wee bit healthier than that long-ago oatmeal of my dreams.



Maple Ginger Coconut Oatmeal

Makes 2 servings

You can infuse the maple syrup the night before for a stronger ginger flavor. Canned coconut milk doesn't keep long in the refrigerator. If you don't plan to use it soon, transfer the remaining milk to a resealable bag and freeze for up to six months.

- 1/4 cup maple syrup
- 2 teaspoons fresh ginger
- 1 cup light canned coconut milk
- 1 cup quick (not instant) oats
- Generous pinch sea salt
- 6 pecans
- Optional toppings: coconut chips (see recipe below, or use one of the snack brands such as Bare or Dang), sliced banana, chopped candied ginger

Combine the syrup and ginger in a teacup and warm in the microwave, or heat to a bare simmer in a small saucepan on the stove. Remove from heat and set aside to allow flavors to infuse.

Prepare oatmeal according to package directions, replacing half the water with coconut milk, and adding a smidgen extra sea salt.

Meanwhile, toast the pecan, if desired, in a 325-degree toaster oven. Prepare toppings. Serve oatmeal hot with ginger-maple syrup on top and toppings alongside.

Snacking Coconut Chips

- 1/4 cup coconut oil
- 3 cups coconut flakes (not shredded)
- 3/4 teaspoon sea salt

Heat oven to 275 degrees. Melt the coconut oil in the microwave or in a small saucepan over low heat. In a large bowl, toss together the melted oil, coconut flakes and salt.

Spread on a rimmed baking sheet, transfer to the oven, and bake 10 to 12 minutes, stirring every 2 to 3 minutes; more frequently toward the end. Watch closely: the chips can go from toasted to burnt very quickly.

When golden brown, transfer to a paper-towel lined surface to cool. Store in an airtight container for up to two weeks.



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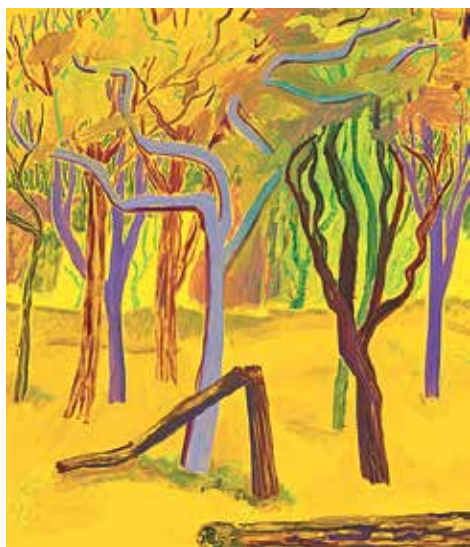
"Ready to March"



"Time To Reflect"



"In a Haze"



"Subtle Signals"



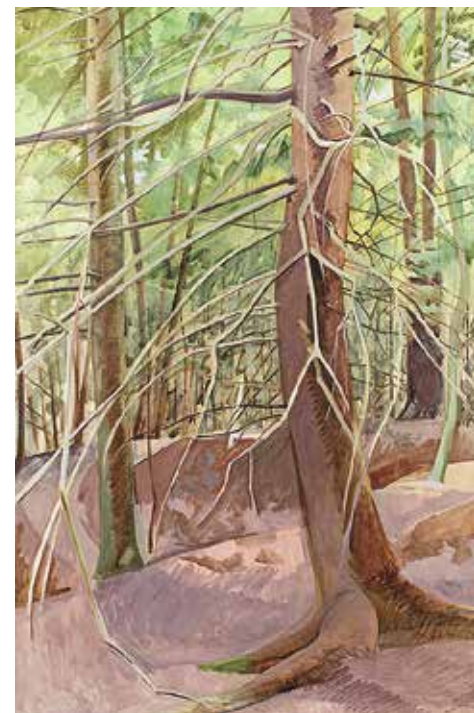
Shara Hughes in her studio last year

Photo by Olly Yung/Matrons & Mistresses



Lois Dodd in her studio in Maine in 2014

Photo by Alexandre Gallery



"Morning Woods"



"Forsythia"



"White Blanket on Line"



"Maine Landscape with Flowers"

Meeting Outdoors

Gallery pairs two distinct landscape artists

By Alison Rooney

Parts & Labor Beacon was one of the first galleries in the city to reopen to visitors during the pandemic, but it had the advantage of an expansive space that allows easier social distancing.

Its second show since March is now in its final stretch, running through Oct. 25. Visitors must make appointments and wear masks.

"It's just been nice to have this space open," says Nicelle Beauchene, who owns the North Avenue gallery with Franklin Parrasch. "Every appointment has been booked. There have been more people seeing shows outside New York City, which has been great. We've had museum groups come through, dealers. We've had artists and artists' estates coming to us to ask for exhibitions."

The current show, in keeping with Parts & Labor's usual model, pairs an emerging or mid-career artist (in this case, Shara Hughes) in conversation with a more experienced and recognized artist (93-year-old Lois Dodd). Both are landscape painters.

"They were excited to get to know each other, and they worked together to choose the work," says Beauchene. "Shara's work is free-form, with surrealist colors. Lois' work involves making studies; she's painting more from life, en plein air."

Dodd studied painting at Cooper Union in the late 1940s and in 1952 was one of the five founders of the avant-garde cooperative Tanager Gallery. She spent summers in Maine, which served as a foundation for much of her work.

"I work best going back to the same places," Dodd says. "I change, they change or the weather changes. I used to think the subject would dry up, and I would have to make a move. But that never happened; it is the reverse."

Hughes, who was born in 1981 in Atlanta and still lives in the south, paints in bold, lush strokes and colors. After developing an image, she says, her process involves allowing it to change "until the space starts to emerge and I can see what kind of landscape is showing up. The minute I start controlling the color or the narrative of the painting, I change my mind and take a left turn. It remains exciting and fresh for me because I let the painting have a mind of its own."

Hughes' intersections with Dodd's work, Beauchene says, are in her creation of "portals that allude to spaces beyond the picture plane — anticipating the mystery of what is on the other side of a floral pathway, for example." The contrasts between the two artists are mainly in Dodd's "fidelity" to the space and light before her, Beauchene says, and Hughes' journey to where those same elements take her imagination.

The works hang together. "In some shows we keep the artists more separated, but with this, their colors riffed off each other. For instance, there is a space with a predominantly yellow forsythia painting of Lois', and placing Shara's work right next to it made pinks and other colors in Lois' work come to the foreground."

Parts & Labor Beacon, at 1154 North Ave., is open by appointment on Saturdays and Sundays from noon to 6 p.m. Text 413-687-9449. The entrance is at the rear of the building, down the grass slope. See partsandlaborbeacon.com.



Getting Back TOGETHER



Tentative steps were made toward a return to live performance over the past weekend, all outdoors, socially distanced and masked per the state's pandemic guidelines.

■ The Philipstown Depot Theatre in Garrison hosted an evening of storytelling called *Night Train* [at right and bottom left] that had originally been scheduled for March. Held on the patio between the theater and the Metro-North tracks, it featured Ned Rauch on guitar, host Joe Charnitski (a two-time *Moth Slam* winner) and Karen Kapoor, Jean Huang, Bridget O'Neill and Samantha Spoto. The next live performance of *Night Train* is scheduled for 6:30 p.m. on Oct. 17. See philipstowndepottheatre.org.

Photos by Ross Corsair

■ On Sept. 26, on the Great Lawn at Boscobel in Garrison, the Ember ensemble played its first live concert since March [below and top left]. Tickets were limited and sold out quickly. Directed by Deborah Simpkin King, the choir performs new music by living composers. Each singer wore a specialized mask that protects against aerosol transmission.

Photos provided

■ At Seeger Riverfront Park in Beacon on Saturday (Oct. 3), a group of musicians performed a walking concert called *Strings in the Park* that was presented by the Howland Chamber Music Circle and the Howland Cultural Center. At right are Alex Waterman on cello and Gwen Laster on violin (behind the child getting into the swing of things), as well as Kristi Shade on Celtic harp.

Photos by Ross Corsair



Roots and Shoots

Q&A: Fall Planting and Foraging

By Pamela Doan



Here are my responses to some recent questions from readers. Email me at root-sandshoots@highlandscurrent.org.

Q: We're having construction done on our house and the yard has been torn up. What can we plant so we don't have a muddy mess until spring? We want it to be lawn.

A: Most turf-grass seed, fescue and clover germinate when the soil temperature is above 50 degrees. This translates into day and night temperatures of 60 degrees to 75 degrees. Since our overnight temps have fallen into the 40-degree range consistently over the past few weeks, it's too late. The seed will lay dormant on the soil and, over the winter, birds and other critters will eat it and you'll have to start over in the spring anyway.

Another option is to use wood chips to protect and prepare the soil for spring planting. A 2-inch layer of regular chips



A closeup of watercress can help with identification

USDA

from an arborist will insulate the soil from the cycle of freezing and thawing as temperatures fluctuate. It will look better than mud, and be a barrier against compacting the soil from treading on it. Some of the chips will break down by the time you're ready to plant grass and the rest can be raked up and used as mulch elsewhere around trees, in flower beds or in a vegetable garden.

Since you're starting from scratch with this patch of lawn, I want to throw in a promotion for sustainable lawn seed mixes. Overall, they use up to 70 percent less water and can be mowed less frequently or not at all. Mowing once a month sounds brilliant. Whatever you choose to plant, make sure it's right for your sunlight conditions. HighCountryGardens.com is a good place to start learning about eco-lawns.

Q: Can I still plant this fall?

A: This is a very general question, but yes! I will plant trees, woody plants, bulbs and perennials until the ground freezes. The plants will go dormant but set roots to grow in spring when the soil warms.

Be sure to water the plantings well until the ground is frozen and mulch to protect them from being pushed out of the ground by heaving. Our winter temperatures have become inconsistent with fluctuations that freeze and thaw the soil frequently and the ground pushes up during these cycles.

It's still an ideal time to plant garlic, too.

Q: I live in Garrison along the river, and many years ago I planted a tiny little bit of watercress along my spring overflow. I now have a huge crop of what I believe to be watercress but I'm not sure and would like a professional

to let me know what is what. Eating look-alikes did not get me to age 81.

A: While I am not a professional in terms of foraging, which includes any food consumed from a wild source, I would recommend a search for "Nasturtium officinale" on the website of the USDA Forest Service at fs.fed.us. That will take you to the profile of watercress using its Latin binomial. It's part of the Brassicaceae family and has a spicy, peppery flavor that deters wildlife browsing.

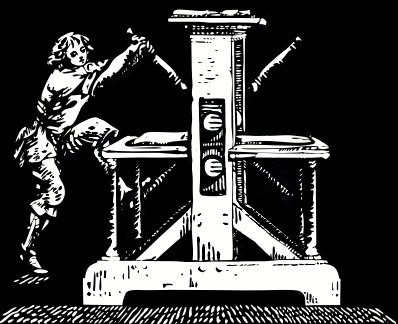
Once you know the defining characteristics — pinnate leaves, hollow stems and white flowers in the summer months — you can go about identifying it for yourself.

The Cornell Cooperative Extension in Putnam County can be helpful as well with plant identification. You could take a plant of what you think is watercress to them or send a photo. I would always stick with .edu or .org sites on the internet and science-based organizations.

Another thing to consider about watercress or other foraged plants growing in waterways is that pollutants in the soil and water can be absorbed by plants and cause medical issues. There is also a chance of ingesting harmful bacteria when eating raw plants. Cooking usually kills those.

Watercress is listed as an invasive and noxious species in 46 states by the Forest Service. Introduced from Asia, it outcompetes native vegetation and replaces it without contributing to the ecosystem. Planting more of it can damage environments that are already under great stress.

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City Seeks Developer for Historic Building

The City of Newburgh is seeking developers to redevelop an iconic, Downing/Vaux-designed City-owned property - commonly known as the 'City Club Building' - at 120 Grand Street.

The RFP is available for viewing at the Planning & Development's departmental page on the City of Newburgh's website:

www.cityofnewburgh-ny.gov/planning-development/pages/rfq-request-for-qualifications-rfps-request-for-proposals

Something You Don't Know About Me

Sam Gold

Sam Gold is the owner of Rivertown Trade at 103 Main St. in Cold Spring. He spoke with Alison Rooney.

Is this your first retail store?

Not at all. In the early 1990s, my brother was working for Ian Schrager — do you remember him? He and Steve Rubell ran Studio 54 and Schrager had three hotels in New York City and The Palladium nightclub, which my brother was running as executive director. My brother knew they needed someone to run retail in the Paramount Hotel. Schrager and I clicked and I created a shop for him. He was a visionary and we were simpatico. I grew into the experience, I guess. He saw something in me that I didn't know I had. I went along for the ride. I spent 14 years traveling around the world and buying — all because I got lucky. Schrager had the best people in the world working for him and I couldn't believe I was in that circle.

What did you stock at the hotel shop?

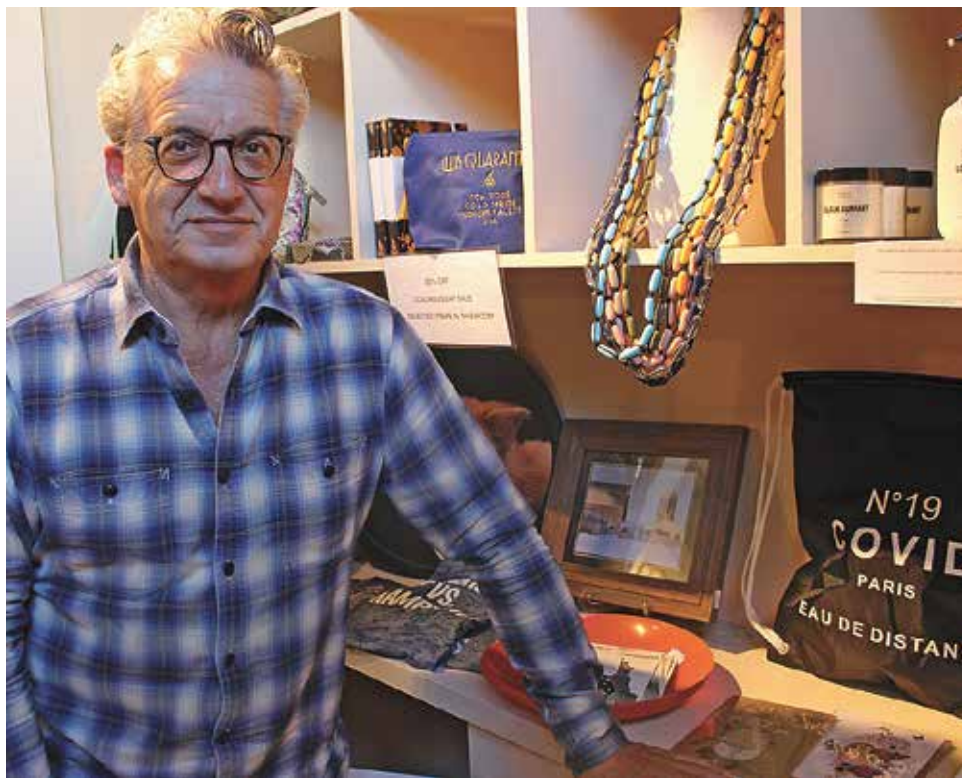
Picture a mini-Barney's, in terms of bath and beauty — an upscale boutique in an upscale hotel. I would walk around SoHo, shops in the West Village, even Barney's itself, and buy at retail prices, add some dollars, put them in the Paramount and sell them. They flew off the shelves.

What expertise did you bring?

None whatsoever! I had worked for *Time* for 12 years before that, in computer graphics. In the final stages of production, we would transmit images, via satellite, to the printers. We were one of the first to do desktop printing. I took a severance package when Time merged with Warner, and I was hanging out for a while before I met Schrager. It was the perfect opportunity for me because I didn't have to invest in the business.

What happened after the Paramount store was up and running?

All of a sudden, Schrager was opening up all these boutique hotels: The Delano



Sam Gold at his shop

Photo by A. Rooney

in South Beach, The Mondrian in West Hollywood. Every year-and-a-half after that he'd add another one in the U.S., and then he opened in London. After a while these designers would come to me — Kate Spade, Missoni — labels you didn't usually find in hotels. Then the Mandarin Oriental came knocking, and I opened shops for them, including in Tokyo.

Did you have a home base?

I rented a flat in every city I worked in. That's all I was doing: traveling and buying. I was single; it was a wild life. I sold the business in 2005. Schrager resigned; he left, I left. I sort of retired in 2006. I met a woman from Holland, got married and we have two children who are now 10 and 13. I moved to Palm Beach County in Florida and was a stay-at-home parent for 10 years. We got divorced and I came back to New York to be close to my children. I started working part-time two years ago with Hallmark, doing installation and merchandising.

After living around the world, what do you think of Cold Spring?

I grew up on a farm in upstate New York — Sullivan County. The older I get the

of being successful and having fun. Now I have 20 acres surrounding me, and I get to do things like growing dahlias.

But you decided to open another shop, and during a pandemic?

I know — but I got the itch! The village has potential. The opportunity came up six months ago, when I met Bob LeBlanc from The Shoppes and he suggested I rent a small space there for a few months to try it out; they'd manage it for me. When the pandemic hit, I thought, "If not now, when?" I opened in July and it's been going well — there are so many people on Main Street on weekends; the sidewalks are packed.

How would you describe your shop?

It's an escape from reality while practicing social distance and at the same time taking a cleverly amusing approach in pitching a pandemic. Amy Rabinowitz — a creative director who used to work for me — and I came up with and designed what we call the COVID Collection. It's a takeoff on Chanel No. 19. We can't keep up with the demand, mostly from out-of-towners. They want to bring back something from Cold Spring or the Hudson Valley. People will think about where they were during the pandemic. Those items and our "Catskills vs. Hamptons" T-shirt are big sellers.

“The older I get the more I long for that woodsy, rural lifestyle, because I've done it all in terms of hobnobbing and the city pace.”

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Looking Back in Philipstown

By Chip Rowe

150 Years Ago (October 1870)

William Spellman pleaded guilty to stealing three chickens from the roost of Peter McGurk and was fined \$25. His accomplice, Lydia Williamson, who was accused of cooking the chickens despite knowing they were stolen (witnesses said she called it “a good haul”) was found guilty and fined \$10.

William Hadden, a veteran of the War of 1812, sued a pension agent, Ransom Barger, for money allegedly withheld. A court awarded \$18.36.

A Native American who was a traveling Episcopalian priest preached at the Philipse Church at Garrisons.

After opening a dry goods and grocery store in Nelsonville, Isaac Riggs placed a newspaper ad that promised, “No more need of going to Cold Spring!”

Three-member school boards were elected in District No. 3 (Rock Street), No. 13 (Foundry School) and No. 10 (Nelsonville).

The Philipstown supervisor, clerk and assessors met at the Pacific Hotel to designate the polling places for the November

election, and the usual spots were chosen: Washburn’s Hotel at Garrisons, Thomas McKeel’s house and Town Hall.

After Mary McKenna walked into Foundry Pond and had to be rescued by her husband, she was taken before Justice Ferris and papers made out to send her to the state mental hospital at Utica.

A boy who ran into a Town Hall meeting at 9 p.m. on a Wednesday night shouting there was a fire caused a stampede over the benches and down the stairs. It turned out to be inside the chimney of a nearby house.

A 3-foot-long wildcat caught on Sugar Loaf Mountain was brought to Cold Spring to collect a \$3 bounty offered by Putnam County. A resident named Butterfass stuffed the skin and Supervisor McCabe cut off a piece of its right ear as a voucher.

125 Years Ago (October 1895)

A new state law closed the distance one was allowed to loiter outside the polls on Election Day from 150 to 100 feet. The law also required that all marks be made with a black lead pencil on the ballots, which measured 16 by 14 inches. The polls were to be open from sunrise (6:39 a.m.) to

sundown (4:49 p.m.).

William Church Osborn of Garrison was nominated as the Democratic candidate for the state Senate seat that represented Putnam, Dutchess and Columbia counties.

Members of the committee tasked with building a waterworks for Cold Spring surveyed available sources. They rejected Foundry Brook (sometimes fouled with green scum), Warren Brook (too low during droughts), Cat Pond (limited supply and the water was brown) and Barrett’s Pond (which flowed into Fishkill Creek, so the rights of the mill owners could be infringed). The slope of Bull Hill was considered the most likely spot, with a good brook that flowed into a natural basin, with another brook to the west that could be diverted with a pipeline into the reservoir. The committee contracted for 5 1/2 miles of pipe and 48 hydrants.

Following the death of the wife of Judge Dykman, who had lived in Cold Spring for 45 years, an adult resident fondly recalled how he had been part of an “army” of children who each Christmas morning would “swoop down up on the Dykmans [home] and meet such as a reception and enjoy such refreshments as touched the childish fancy.”

The trustees of the Village of Nelsonville called a meeting for residents to consider paying for a fire protection system.

Sparks from a passing locomotive set fire to a woodshed belonging to Michael Devine on Market Street, and it burned to the ground.

Rappaile Mongone, who ran a shoe repair shop in the Diamond House, sailed for Italy for a two-month visit. He planned to return with his wife.

The Methodists hosted a series of meetings that featured “some of the latest and choicest selections of church music.”

The Rev. E. Floyd-Jones of St. Mary’s Episcopal Church baptized 16 children during a Sunday morning service.

A bicycle race was held on the Garrison road but only three of the seven contestants finished; the others broke their wheels.

Martha Squire, known as “Aunt Patty,” celebrated her 101st birthday at the home of one of her daughters in Nelsonville, where she had lived for the previous 68 years. Aunt Patty drew a \$30 monthly pension



Martha Squire depicted in *The Sun* of New York City on her 101st birthday

from the service of her husband in the War of 1812. She was profiled by a New York City newspaper, *The Sun*, which noted that at age 80 she had turned her birthday into an annual reunion for her family. (She had 10 children, 17 grandchildren, 21 great-grandchildren and four great-great-grandchildren.) During an interview, she expressed an interest in politics but said that she doubted President Grover Cleveland could win a third term. “When politics change, there will be better times,” she said. She also recalled, when she was 5 years old and George Washington died, men going about with emblems of mourning on their arms.

Garrison’s first football team was organized by members of the Garrison Athletic Club, who met at the Garrison Hotel. William Benjamin was named the coach.

Gen. and Mrs. Butterfield gave a party at their estate Cragside [now the site of the Haldane campus]. One guest later described his arrival: “The approach from Morris Avenue to the mansion is beautiful. Large maple trees on each side of the road, their branches interlacing, making an arch overhead, statuary, fountains, miniature lakes, hammocks, rustic seats at every turn of the ascent.”

The trustees of the St. Mary’s Athletic Association reported that its financial condition required “serious and immediate attention.” Capt. Henry Metcalfe, its vice

(Continued on Page 21)

FEATURE PROPERTIES OF THE WEEK



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Square Feet: 39 Apartments
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Hudson Valley Area NYS former IBM Research Center, Poughkeepsie Day School

Location: Boardman Rd, Poughkeepsie
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Acreage: 34.17 ± Acres
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A HAHNEMÜHLE CERTIFIED STUDIO

(Continued from Page 20)

president, suggested that it could open the gymnasium only during the winter months and admit anyone to membership without initiation if they agreed to pay 25 cents per month, but no one showed up to the meeting he called to discuss the plan.

Devil, the office cat at the Haldane School, was killed by a train. He was buried under the shade of a pear tree.

In Nelsonville, Paulding Lovelace captured two large snakes that he put on exhibit at his home; Malcolm Evans discovered a stalk of corn with eight ears; John Riggs displayed a banana plant in his store; and Robert Mekeel won a raffle for a 100-pound pumpkin.

100 Years Ago (October 1920)

After staking out the state road near Cold Spring for two months, state troopers arrested two men and two women who were alleged to be members of a gang that specialized in raiding whiskey trucks. The four were arrested at a hotel near Fishkill and charged with violating prohibition laws and keeping a disorderly house. In addition, one man was charged with white slavery because his wife of three months said he had kept her hostage at the hotel.

75 Years Ago (October 1945)

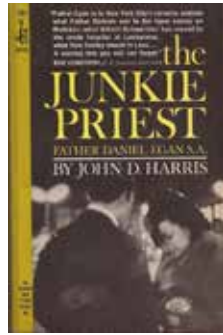
In 1942, Henry Rea found a collarless German police dog near his home in Cold Spring. He named him Rex, but Henry's mother thought the dog was too large to keep. They took the stray to the Westchester branch of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals with the idea that it might be useful to the military. Renamed Laddy, the dog was assigned to the Coast Guard War Dog Training Base in Baltimore and, in 1944, shipped to the Naval Air Station at Jacksonville, Florida. With the war over, Laddy was returned to the Rea family as a Navy veteran and, because he had been well-trained, Mrs. Rea thought he would be OK to keep.

Anthony Dahlia lost two-thirds of three fingers on his left hand in an accident at his job at Green Fuel Economizer in Beacon.

David Gordon and his wife and children returned to Philipstown after spending 18 months in Madison, Wisconsin, where he was an instructor in the Army radio school at Truax Field.

The Rev. William Sharp preached his farewell sermon at St. Philip's Episcopal Church in Garrison before leaving for his new parish in the Georgetown neighborhood of Washington, D.C. Because he had been the chaplain for the Malcolm Gordon School in Garrison, he dedicated the service to eight former students who lost their lives in combat. They were Robert Leveridge, Jarker Snell, David Lapsley, William Greble, James Fargo Jr., Gouverneur Carnochan, Sprague Septon and Nathaniel Landon Jr. — the mother of the latter was reluctant to participate because her son had been lost in flight in early 1944 and she held out hope that he was a prisoner of war.

Harriet Dunseith of Nelsonville died after flames from waste paper she was burning caught her dress on fire.



Father David Egan (right) was the subject of a bestselling biography.

50 Years Ago (October 1970)

Tink Mekeel, a former mayor and trustee of Nelsonville, died at age 70. He had owned the Mekeel Bros. Garage since 1923.

The Butterfield Volunteer Service Committee announced it would start delivering the mail and newspapers to patients at the hospital.

A 19-year-old college student from Garrison was killed when his Corvair struck a utility pole on Route 9 at the curve south of Travis Corners Road.

Robert Patterson Jr., a resident of Cold Spring who was president of the Legal Aid Society in New York City, was named to a state panel on court reforms.

Mayor James Early of Cold Spring denied rumors that he planned to retire, calling them "false" and "ugly."

The Thalle Construction Co. was the low bidder to serve as general contractor for the new village sewage plant. It was expected to cost \$2.2 million [about \$13 million today].

A man from Auburn, New York, died when a fire broke out in his room at the White Cottages on Route 9, a half mile south of Perk's Plaza.

Father Daniel Egan, a Franciscan Friar of the Atonement and the founder at Graymoor of the New Hope Manor for teenage girls addicted to drugs, agreed to kick off a monthly lecture series. Egan was known as "the junkie priest" because of his work since the 1950s with addicts in New York City and a bestselling biography of the same name.

The winners of the Philipstown Punt, Pass and Kick contest sponsored by Ray Impellittere Motors were Mark Miller (age 8), Ed Gallio Jr. (9), Russell Miller (10), Richard Mancari (11), Carl Villegas (12) and Brian Valentine (13).

The Philipstown Packers won the Beacon Pop Warner Football League title with a 12-6 victory over the Beacon 49ers before a crowd said to approach 1,000 people.

25 Years Ago (October 1995)

The U.S. Postal Service announced it would begin sorting the mail of Continental Village residents in Garrison rather than Westchester County.

Metro-North said it would add two early-morning trains on the Hudson Line to accommodate passengers attending the Pope's Mass in Central Park.

Five Haldane High School students were charged with distributing cocaine. Police said the students, who were all minors, purchased the drugs in New York City to sell at the homecoming football game rally. A collection of 50 "zeppelin boxes"

personalized by folk artist Steven Lindstedt were exhibited in the second-floor gallery at the Skybaby building. He cast the zeppelins inside in plaster using chocolate molds popular in the 1930s.

Robert's Total Care Salon presented "What's New for Fall in Hairstyles" as a benefit for the Butterfield Library.

The Putnam County Sheriff's Department said it was investigating a report of an attempted abduction outside the Grand Union grocery store. A woman told police she had been approached by a man holding a knife who attempted to force her into a vehicle. She described him as Middle Eastern or Hispanic with raccoon-type patches under his eyes.



The suspect

Karen Jackson was elected as the second assistant chief by members of the Garrison Fire Co., making her the first female chief fire officer in Putnam County.

Several residents attended a Haldane school board meeting to say they felt threatened by groups of high school students who hung out in the village during school hours. In response, about 40 students raked leaves on lawns near the school to show they were good neighbors.



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Current Classifieds

TAG SALES

COLD SPRING — More than 10 families on Constitution Drive with lots of good items for sale. Come check it out Oct. 17 (rain date Oct. 18) from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

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VETERINARY ASSISTANT — Part-time in Cold Spring. Animal care, animal restraint, surgery prep, cleaning and laundry is part of the job. Living local a plus, driver's license a plus. Job pay starts at minimum wage with growth options. Discounted animal care for three pets after trial period. Pick up application at 55 Chestnut St., Cold Spring, or email resume to 265pets@gmail.com.

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— The Foundry Cafe, 55 Main St., Cold Spring. Call 845-265-4504 or stop by. Speak to Jeff or Sharon. Closed Wednesdays.

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CARETAKER AVAILABLE — Caretaker with 20+ years' experience available to: manage operations of property; maintenance; repairs; gardening; landscaping; pool care; convenience services (errands); pet care, misc. Flexible to a variety of needs. Resume and references available. Contact Greg at 914-618-2779 or gproth24@gmail.com.

DONATE YOUR CAR — Your donation helps education, prevention and support programs for the United Breast Cancer Foundation. Fast, free pickup, 24-hour response, plus tax deduction. Call 855-821-1830.

FOR SALE

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

ELIMINATE GUTTER CLEANING — LeafFilter, the most advanced debris-blocking gutter protection. Get a free estimate and 15% off purchase. 10% senior and military discounts. Call 866-326-8936.

TAG SALE? Car for sale? Space for rent? Help wanted? Place your ad here for \$4.95. See highlandscurrent.org/classifieds.

OBITUARIES

Haysha Acebal (1966-2020)

Haysha Clune Acebal, 54, of Yonkers, who was one of quadruplets born in 1966 at Butterfield Hospital in Cold Spring, died on Sept. 20 at St. John's Riverside Hospital.

Haysha and her three siblings — Christopher, Joy and Kim — were born on Feb. 21, 1966, to Ronald and Helen Acebal of Crompond. Haysha attended Walter Panas High School and SUNY Plattsburgh.

She is survived by her sisters, Joy Acebal of White Plains and Kim Guzzo (Michael) of Cortlandt Manor, and her brothers, Christopher Acebal of Ossining and Ron Acebal (Dawn) of Shrewsbury, New Jersey.

A graveside service will be held Oct. 29 at Assumption Cemetery in Cortlandt Manor. Memorial donations may be made to St. Vincent's Hospital (stvincentswestchester.org).

Hugh Jay Maurer (1929-2020)

Hugh Jay Maurer, 91, died on Sept. 29 at his home in Wappinger with his daughter, Lynnette, and his dog, True North, at his side.



Born on Sept. 7, 1929, in New Bremen, New York, he was the son of Lawrence and Lucy (Wren) Maurer. He served in the U.S. Navy Seabees Reserves from 1952 to 1987. On Dec. 26, 1953, he

married Virginia Lynne Bowles, who died in 1988.

Hugh Jay began his career as the owner of the Gulf Station on the southeast corner of Routes 9 and 52 in Fishkill, attached to Dick Uhl's Chevrolet, where he employed his brothers in addition to many young men of Fishkill, Cold Spring, Beacon and Wappingers.

He also worked as a general contractor and owned and operated his own clean sweeper. On Saturday mornings, he picked up the mail from the ferry in Beacon and delivered it to Beacon, Glenham, Fishkill, Hopewell Junction, Stormville, LaGrangeville and Millbrook.

Hugh Jay served as president of the Fishkill Rural Cemetery Board, and a mausoleum there was recently named in his honor. He was inducted into the Dutchess County Baseball Hall of Fame and served as district commissioner for the U.S. Pony Club of America. He was a member of the U.S. Pair Horse Driving Association and qualified for the world championships in 1987.

In addition to his daughter, he is survived by a brother, George Maurer of Syracuse.

A graveside service was held Oct. 3 at Fishkill Rural Cemetery. Memorial donations may be made to the Verplanck Farm Tenant House Restoration Project at Stony Kill Farm, 79 Farmstead Lane, Wappingers Falls, NY 12590.

Peter Myers (1942-2020)

Peter L. Myers, 78, of Beacon, died Sept. 28.

He was born in 1942 to Dr. Bernard and Shirley Myers in New York City. According to his family, he had a lifelong commitment to social justice and civil rights. In his youth, Peter was a member of the Young People's Socialist League and the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, and attended the March on Washington in 1963.

He received his doctorate from New York University in 1972 and was a professor of addiction studies and anthropology at Essex County Community College in Newark, New Jersey, from 1968 to 2008. He married Susan Briggs in 1967 and they raised two daughters, Molly and Emma.

Peter was the former president of the International Coalition for Addiction Studies Education and emeritus editor of the *Journal of Ethnicity and Substance Abuse*. He wrote a number of books and articles on drug counseling and medical anthropology.

Along with his daughters and his wife of 53 years, he is survived by his grandchildren, Zane, Jehan and Ava. Memorial donations may be made to the Columbia County Pathways to Recovery (pathwaystorecovery.org).

**Robert O'Connor (1967-2020)**

Robert Thomas O'Connor, 53, of Cold Spring, died Sept. 28.

He was born on Feb. 7, 1967, in Cold Spring, the son of Robert and Kathleen (Hammond) O'Connor. After graduating from Haldane High School in 1985, he earned a degree from Alfred State University, where he studied plumbing and heating.

Robert worked for the Village of Cold Spring Highway Department and most recently as a foreman for the Mahopac Golf Course. He loved hunting and fishing, according to his family.

Besides his mother, he is survived by his siblings, Christopher O'Connor (Bebe), Brenna O'Connor, Shawna Lindsey (Michael) and Tracie O'Connor.

A memorial service was held Oct. 5 at the Clinton Funeral Home in Cold Spring.

**Other Recent Deaths****Beacon**

Betty Chambers, 65 Nancy Miller, 70
Harry Clark, 67 Ramon Rojas, 76
Nicholas Elmore, 98 George Van Dorn, 67

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

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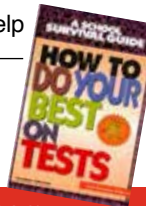
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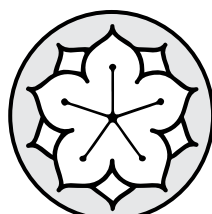
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Puzzles

CROSS CURRENT

ACROSS

1. Off

6. Handed out hands

11. Drunk (Sl.)

12. Wickerwork willows

14. WWI president

15. *The Compleat Angler* writer

16. Furthermore

17. Farewell

19. Coloration

20. Requirement

22. Right angle

23. California wine region

24. Contribute

26. Got rid of the bumps

28. Tummy muscles

30. Morning moisture

31. Not as prevalent

35. Bar legally

39. Frilly, in a way

40. Minor worker

42. Bygone times

43. Inseparable

44. Babysitters, often

46. Dead heat

47. IBM computer that won on *Jeopardy!*

49. Trumpeter Marsalis

51. Most cunning

11 12 13

14 15

16 17 18 19

20 21 22 23

24 25 26 27

28 29 30

31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38

39 40 41 42

43 44 45 46

47 48 49 50

51 52

53 54

52. Prepares to propose

53. Dispatches

54. ESPN datum

8. Have a bug

9. Deadly

10. Theatrical company

11. Master, on safari

13. Golf's "Slammin' Sammy"

18. "Well, — bel!"

21. Blog, basically

23. Full of info

25. Jimmy Fallon's network

27. Churchill's gesture

29. Cosines' reciprocals

31. Decelerates

32. Venice's thoroughfares

33. Vinegar radical

34. Director Howard

36. Stagger

37. Baltimore athlete

38. Hammerhead parts

41. Stares stupidly

44. Asking too many questions

45. Agreement

48. Red or Black

50. *The Matrix* role

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 like a Rodin creation (10)

2 slanting (7)

3 around the globe (9)

4 ocular accents (8)

5 Anne, Charlotte or Emily (6)

6 cooking on a slow boil (7)

7 to the letter (7)

SOLUTIONS

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SUDO CURRENT

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

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Answers for Oct. 2 Puzzles

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

1. WINDOW, 2. BARRICADE, 3. WALKED, 4. BATHE, 5. STRAW, 6. TRAMPOLINES, 7. PANCAKE



Chloe Rowe and Katie Shields, with Coach Steve Schweikhart, during a practice last week

Photos by S. Pearlman

Preview

Haldane Girls' Soccer

By Skip Pearlman

With the state tournament for all fall sports canceled due to COVID-19, every team will be looking to make the most of its Section 1 regional schedule.

For Haldane, the focus will be on appreciating the season and making the most of the time they get on the field, said Steve Schweikhart, who coaches the team with Mary Callahan.

Of course, the Blue Devils would also like to win a 10th consecutive Section 1, Class C title, although newcomer Putnam Valley may have a say in that conversation.

Haldane, which finished 10-6-3 last season and reached the state semifinals, lost seven seniors to graduation, including first-team All-State pick Jade Villella, the team's top scorer, and All-League keeper Abigail Platt.

Key returnees include junior defenders Mazzie Maxwell and Ella Ashburn, sophomore midfielders Chloe Rowe and Sara Ferreira, junior midfielder Bianca Harmancin, senior forward Sydney Warren, junior forward/mid Sophia Scanga, senior defender/mid Essie Florke and junior



Freshman keeper Ruby Poses

midfielder Madison Chiera.

"Mazzie was a fantastic defender last season and she will be counted on to anchor our back line this season," Schweikhart said. "Ella was another of our defensive stars last year, and provides great stability on the left side, and Chloe scored a number of crucial goals for us last year, including two in the sectional finals. We believe Chloe

will have a breakout year as we switch her to her more natural right side.

"Bianca is a versatile player who will hopefully see the majority of her time at midfield," he added. "Sara is probably our most technical player, who we hope will be the primary facilitator and a goal-scoring threat. Sydney and Sophia will see the majority of their time up top, so we will be counting on them to provide a one-two scoring punch, and we'll look to convert Essie to defense this season. We believe her speed and tenacity fit the position perfectly. And Maddie has looked good in practice so far. She reads the game well and distributes the ball nicely."

Two freshmen, Ruby Poses and Finola Kiter, also join the team, with Poses taking over the goalkeeper position and Finola on the back line and at midfield.

"Mary and I have been stressing to the girls that first and foremost, we have to enjoy every minute of our time on the field," Schweikhart said. "If COVID has taught us anything it's that we can't take anything for granted. While wins are nice, there is something bigger at play this year."

"Mary and I want the girls to be smiling the entire time they're on the field, both during practice and games," he said. "Even though we can't see the smiles behind the masks, we will do everything we can to make sure they are there."

Haldane is scheduled to open its season Tuesday (Oct. 13) at Putnam Valley and to host North Salem on Oct. 20.

Preview

Beacon Girls' Tennis

By Skip Pearlman

The Bulldogs, who finished 6-9 last fall, return seven starters, making for a promising season.

Coach David Ryley will miss his 2020 graduates, All-League performer Joanna Galbo, Olivia Lynch and Lila Young. But the squad welcomes back three singles players and four doubles players with experience.

"We have a nice team," Ryley said this week. "The players work hard and appreciate that we're out here. A lot of them lost their spring [sports] season, and in the summer there were lots of doubts about this fall season."

Among the singles players, junior Maura Lane (an All-League selection) and sophomores Isabelle Ray and Farah Jaafar return. For doubles, it's seniors Kelly Murphy (also All-League) and Alex Moroch and juniors Emma Sandison and Lindsay Darcy.

"We're looking for leadership from Kelly and Maura," Ryley said. "I'm also excited to see how our sophomore singles players have improved."

Ryley is looking at a number of players to fill out the roster, including newcomers Elizabeth Ruffy, Gretta Anderson, Brianna Moleano, Nina Rivers and Tamar Adams.

"At least four of them will be varsity starters," the coach said. "All of them have improved significantly, working on their own."

Ryley said that, with a shortened season due to COVID-19 restrictions, half of Beacon's 10 matches will be against Hendrick Hudson and Lourdes, who have traditionally been formidable opponents. "It may be tough to improve significantly," he said. "But that's how you get stronger, by playing good teams. We'll be stronger than we were last year, and the future looks good."

Beacon will open the season on Tuesday (Oct. 13), hosting Hendrick Hudson. Its schedule also includes Poughkeepsie, Ketcham and Brewster.

As far as protocols, Ryley says his players are on board. "I've been pleased so far," he said. "They've been wearing masks through practice; they all know what's going on. Right now, every day we get to play is a blessing."