

The HIGHLANDS Current

OCTOBER 30, 2020

Celebrating 10 Years!

Halloween
is Here
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Beacon School Board Fills Second Empty Seat

*Appoints John Galloway Jr.
to address vacancy*

By Jeff Simms

The Beacon school board on Monday (Oct. 26) appointed John Galloway Jr., a 2015 Beacon High School graduate who operates a youth development nonprofit called the Label Foundation, to

the nine-seat panel, filling a final vacancy and reversing course from a month ago.

Galloway's appointment caps off a process that began in July, when Michael Rutkoske resigned with 18 months left in his term. Before that opening had been filled, James Case-Leal resigned, indicating that he wanted Galloway and Jasmine Johnson, who are both African American,

(Continued on Page 25)



A PRINCESS AND HER SUBJECTS — The Tompkins Corners Cultural Center in Putnam Valley hosted a harvest festival on Saturday (Oct. 24) that included songs and music from Hans Christian Andersen stories and plenty of other all-natural entertainment for children. For more photos, see highlandscurrent.org.

Photo by Ross Corsair

Voters Face Long Lines

*Nearly 10,000 votes
already cast in the area*

By Chip Rowe

Voters in the Highlands braved long lines at early voting sites in Carmel and Fishkill this week, with many waiting as long as four hours to cast ballots ahead of the Nov. 3 general election.

More than 53,000 people had voted by Wednesday (Oct. 28) in Dutchess and Putnam counties, either in person or by returning an absentee ballot, according to election officials.

State law requires counties to have one early voting site for every segment of 50,000

voters, although election commissioners can choose to have more. Putnam is required to have one site, which is located at the Board of Elections office in Carmel. The Dutchess commissioners, who needed at least three, set up five, including one at Fishkill Town Hall on Route 52 near Beacon.

Early voting continues through Sunday (Nov. 1). The weather across the state was expected to improve for those waiting in line on Saturday and Sunday from the preceding cold and rainy days. The forecast for Election Day is partly cloudy with temperatures in the 40s, with no rain expected.

Catherine Croft, who is the Democratic election commissioner for Putnam, said on

(Continued on Page 3)

COVID2021 WHAT LIES AHEAD?

Home Alone

*As the pandemic moves into winter,
more seniors face isolation*

By Leonard Sparks

For Monica Perez and Mary Roth, life before COVID-19 was filled with connections.

Perez, 62, who is epileptic and lives in the Forrestal Heights Apartments for seniors in Beacon, shared Easter, Thanksgiving and Christmas meals with family and discussed books with members of a monthly club that met at the Howland Public Library, where she also took classes.

Roth, 79, lives with her adult son in the Meadow Ridge development and twice a week attended a two-hour gathering at the Salvation Army, where she and other seniors would share lunch and participate in activities like crafts and movies. She and her son also, at least once a week, went to the Mid Hudson Animal Aid and Animal Rescue Foundation shelters on Simmons Lane in Beacon to socialize with the animals.

Now, Perez said she only leaves her apartment once a week — to buy groceries — and that, just like at Easter, she will not be spending Thanksgiving and Christmas with her family this year due to safety concerns. Roth, who drives, said she gets out for occasional errands, such as dropping off her ballot in Poughkeepsie last week, but otherwise remains at home.

“Practically nobody has been to our house,” said Roth. “We’ve been pretty strict.”

Even before the pandemic shutdown, seniors were at a higher risk of suffering from social isolation, which research has shown can be a detriment to mental and physical health, as well as cognition. With many older people having limited contact with family because of fears of infection, and with in-person activities and events significantly limited, the isolation has become much more pronounced.

(Continued on Page 7)

■ ABOUT THIS SERIES

COVID-19 has upended the world, the nation, our state and the Highlands. Nearly eight months after the pandemic shutdown began, New York residents have managed to bring the virus under control, with statewide infections on average at less than 2 percent — among the lowest in the nation — and no deaths in Putnam County since July or in Dutchess for more than eight weeks over the summer.

But the state also has new hot zones, including in the Hudson Valley, and the numbers have been creeping up. As we approach the cold winter months, we decided to take a closer look at the effects of the pandemic on three important aspects of daily life. This week we examine its effects on mental and physical health, specifically the psychological effects of isolation and damage to relationships and the prospects for a vaccine.

Next week we will look at the effects on education by checking in on local schools to see how their hybrid and virtual models are working six weeks into the year.

The following week we will explore the pandemic's effects on the local economy, including unemployment, how restaurants will fare once outdoor dining is no longer an option, how local gyms are doing and whether the commuting culture will ever be the same.

5Q FIVE QUESTIONS: COLIN DICKEY

By Brian PJ Cronin

Colin Dickey, until recently a resident of southern Dutchess County, is the author of *Ghostland: An American History in Haunted Places* and, most recently, *The Unidentified: Mythical Monsters, Alien Encounters and Our Obsession with the Unexplained*.

What led you to write *The Unidentified*?

I got the idea in the wake of the 2016 election when there were a lot of conspiracy theories and misinformation flying around. A lot of the spread was being pegged to social media, but I also felt like a lot of these things have been percolating for a long time. I wanted to do a historical dive about how we got to where we are now. The stuff I look at in *The*

Unidentified, like the lost continent of Atlantis or cryptids, has a lot to do with how we relate to our environment and wilderness and the frontier and unknown or “uncivilized” places, for lack of a better term. Originally it was going to include secret societies, but that will be the subject of my next book, which will focus on our relationships and how society is put together and how groups are formed and mistrust is developed.

In the book, you write: “A country that tells its citizens lies is powerless to defend against competing lies.” Has our current political climate created a hothouse for these theories?

Yes, and unfortunately, it can be hard to get back to a better place. Lies and misinformation tend to spill from one corner to the other. I looked at how attempts by the federal government to control the UFO myth just exacerbated the

mistrust and misinformation.

Over the past few years, there have been news reports on the Pentagon’s UFO Unit in which officials claimed, on the record, that the government has retrieved parts of these objects. You are skeptical. Why?

I try to keep an open mind. But when researching the book, the thing that I kept coming back to was this constant mantra, “Stay tuned.” We’re always just about to get the big revelation. I’ve begun to distrust that timing. Bombshells about UFOs have been forthcoming any day now for over half a century.

Is that the same pattern you see with something like QAnon, in which a big reveal that will explain everything is always imminent?

Exactly. That’s a hallmark of conspiracy-theory formation, this idea that somebody out there has “the truth” and they’re going to dole it out a little bit at a time. The goal is to keep you hooked and on the edge of your seat. But when you look at actual conspiracies, such as Watergate or the Iran-Contra Affair, once things start, everything unravels quickly.

Are there any phenomena that, in the process of writing the book, you changed your mind about?

The famous footage of Bigfoot seems hard to sustain once you’ve looked into it, and the Loch Ness Monster photos have all been more or less debunked. But the Lawndale Incident* remains something I don’t have a good answer for. It was with the lesser-known events in the book that I came away with much less certainty about what I thought was going on.

*In 1977 in Lawndale, Illinois, several witnesses saw two black birds with long, curled beaks and 10-foot wingspans swoop down and carry a 10-year old boy off for an intermediate distance before letting him go. It gets weirder from there.



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A HAHNEMÜHLE CERTIFIED STUDIO

ON THE SPOT

By Michael Turton

What has been your best Halloween costume?

“My favorite was when I dressed up as a narwhal.”



~ Rosalie Chinen, Beacon

“Last year was my best: a David Bowie fanatic — which I am.”



~ Sam Bates, Cold Spring

“This year will be my best; a non-traditional ghost. No sheet!”



~ Athena Chinen, Beacon

Krivak Released on Bail in Putnam Murder Case

Court overturned conviction; DA to decide on new trial

By Chip Rowe

Andrew Krivak, who was convicted in the rape and murder of a 12-year-old Carmel girl but had his sentence overturned, was released on bail on Oct. 23 after spending more than 24 years in custody.

Krivak was charged with Anthony DiPippo for the 1994 crime. DiPippo, who was twice convicted of the rape and murder of Josette Wright before being acquitted in a third trial in 2016, in August received \$12 million from Putnam County in a settlement of a federal civil-rights lawsuit he filed after spending 20 years in jail. The settlement cost the county \$200,000, with the remainder covered by insurance.

Krivak's conviction was overturned last year by a Westchester County judge who ordered a new trial but denied bail. (Putnam-based state judges had recused themselves.) An appellate court upheld the ruling and the Putnam County district attorney, Robert Tendy, agreed to Krivak's release while awaiting a new trial. He will remain under house arrest with an ankle monitor.

Should Krivak receive a new trial and prevail on the same evidence presented by DiPippo, the county would likely face another federal lawsuit. A key difference between the two prosecutions is that Krivak implicated himself in a statement that the defense contends was a false confession coerced by Putnam County sheriff's investigators.



Krivak



Voters wait in line outside the Board of Elections in Carmel on Saturday (Oct. 24), the first day of early voting.

Photo by Krystal Ford

Early Voting (from Page 1)

Wednesday that she had argued for at least two early voting sites but her Republican counterpart, Anthony Scannapieco Jr., felt only one was needed. The commissioners must agree for more than the minimum to be created.

"When the early voting laws were passed last year, I thought, 'OK, maybe we don't need two sites for a primary, and maybe we don't need two sites for an off-year election,'" Croft said. "But for the presidential, we needed, in my humble opinion, at least two sites, if not more."

Scannapieco, who is also chair of the Putnam County Republican Party, said in an email that election officials all over the country have been dealing with heavy early-voting turnout.

Croft said that as of Wednesday, the Putnam Board of Elections had received 7,632 of the 13,106 absentee ballots it distributed, or 58 percent. She said 5,707 residents also have cast votes at the BOE office, which she called "pretty phenomenal."

"Since Saturday, every day has been like Election Day for us," Croft said of the BOE staff. "The phones have been ringing off the hook." Despite the long waits, she said most people have been "happy and so

excited" to cast their vote.

The turnout in Putnam for the 2016 presidential election was 78 percent, with 48,563 votes cast. The number of active registered voters in the county has risen 15 percent since then, to 69,409, mostly among Democrats.

In Dutchess, election officials said that, by Wednesday, they had received 22,478 of the 37,065 absentee ballots distributed, or 61 percent. In addition, 17,669 early votes had been cast, including 4,266 at Fishkill Town Hall.

The turnout in Dutchess in 2016 was 77 percent, with 132,288 votes cast. The number of active registered voters in the county has since risen 14 percent, to 194,810, also mostly among Democrats.

In New York, absentee ballots can be postmarked up to and including the day of the election and received by the Board of Elections up to seven days after the election. They also can be dropped in person at the BOE or an early voting site. Croft said the Putnam BOE planned to begin counting its absentee ballots on Monday (Nov. 9).

She said voters who stood in line for hours could apply at the BOE for an absentee ballot (the deadline for mail requests has passed), but that many preferred to vote in person so their vote will appear in the Election Day tally.

One-Day Parking Experiment

Cold Spring mayor nets \$3,000 at Mayor's Park

By Michael Turton

Mayor Dave Merandy took on Cold Spring's parking problem on Saturday (Oct. 24) with what he called "a little trial down at Mayor's Park."

He explained the experiment at the Tuesday (Oct. 27) meeting of the Village Board.

Merandy said he had tickets and signs printed and, with the help of two paid village employees and two volunteers, offered parking for \$20 per space along Fair Street next to Mayor's Park and in the southern portion of the baseball outfield.

The move seemed to resonate with drivers, who otherwise might have spent time circling in search of a spot.

Merandy said that nearly 200 drivers paid to park, generating a profit for the village of about \$3,000 after expenses.

He noted the board had briefly discussed the idea but that he didn't get a resolution to approve it. "Hopefully the board isn't really angry at me," he said, adding that he understood that "some people might

be upset." (Reactions on Facebook were mixed, from praise for the mayor for raising revenue for the village to complaints the park should be reserved for residents.)

Merandy said he had not spoken to the police officer on duty that day to determine if the added parking had any effect on the rest of the village. He emphasized that the venture was a test and that public comment would be sought before the village opened Mayor's Park regularly for parking.

He described the 10 hours he spent at the park as exhausting. "It was nonstop," Merandy said. Only one driver grumbled about the \$20 cost and nearly all of those who parked headed toward Little Stony Point and Breakneck, he said.

During the meeting's public comment period, resident Evan Hudson said High Street and the area near Tot's Park were "under siege" with "wall-to-wall" parking problems; he asked the mayor to act even before the board re-establishes a parking committee.

Merandy said he had discussed the issue with the village attorney, who said it would be difficult to restrict parking on public streets.

House Candidates Debate COVID Response, Policing, Taxes

Four-term incumbent has two challengers for his seat

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

Sean Patrick Maloney, Chele Farley and Scott Smith sparred last week over the federal response to COVID-19, police reform, taxes and legalizing marijuana in the race to represent the U.S. House district that includes the Highlands.

Maloney, the incumbent and a Democrat, seeks his fifth term; Farley, a Republican, ran for the U.S. Senate in 2018; and Smith, the candidate for the Serve America Movement, also challenged Maloney in 2014. They squared off on Oct. 19 in a debate held by videoconference and organized by the USA Today Network New York

and News 12 Westchester.

It was the only debate during the campaign that involved all three candidates. The League of Women Voters had invited all three to attend a forum on Oct. 14 but Maloney declined and Farley said she would only participate if Maloney were there. Maloney and Farley did square off in an Oct. 22 forum held via Zoom by the Dutchess County Regional Chamber of Commerce.

Maloney lives in Philipstown, while Farley and Smith reside in Orange County.

Reasons for running

Each candidate began and ended the forum by explaining why he or she is running. Farley and Smith argued for send-

(Continued on Page 6)

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Tell us what you think

The Current welcomes letters to the editor on its coverage and local issues. Submissions are selected by the editor to provide a variety of opinions and voices, and all are subject to editing for accuracy, clarity and length. We ask that writers remain civil and avoid personal attacks. Letters may be emailed to editor@highlandscurrent.org or mailed to Editor, The Highlands Current, 142 Main St., Cold Spring, NY 10516. The writer's full name, village or city, and email or phone number must be included, but only the name and village or city will be published.

LETTERS AND COMMENTS

Ticket tossed

About a month ago, while my car was parked at the Cold Spring train station, I received a ticket from a Putnam County sheriff's deputy for having an expired safety and emissions inspection sticker. This was in direct violation of an order by Gov. Andrew Cuomo that extended renewal requirements on inspections during the pandemic state of emergency.

As an attorney, I contested the ticket and it was dismissed last week. Most people, however, are not attorneys, and are probably paying the fines. How many cars are being wrongfully ticketed by the sheriff? What is going on?

Jay Michaelson, Putnam Valley

Editor's note: The state's inspection amnesty will end Nov. 3.

Smaller parties

Thank you for your *Election Guide* (Oct. 23). Unfortunately, I think the first question in the "Voter FAQ" should have been, "Why don't I have viable alternative choices to vote for?"

The honest answer is the Democrat/Republican duopoly controls the rulemaking that governs our elections. That's why they implemented higher-vote thresholds that only

affect the ability of the third-, fourth- and fifth-party candidates to get on the ballot.

This is just one example of how big-money interests and entrenched power are undermining our democracy. Give smaller parties a chance: Vote for your candidate(s) on the alternative party line, e.g., Biden-Harris on the Working Families line. This will give alternative parties the votes they need to reach the threshold to continue to appear on the ballot, and the opportunity to truly represent the people.

David North, Garrison

Beacon protest

City Hall is one thing but a person's home is unacceptable ("Protestors Gather Outside Beacon Mayor's Home," Oct. 23).

Michael Jones, via Facebook

They hated Mayor Randy Casale, who helped develop a thriving Beacon. Now they hate Mayor Lee Kyriacou. They don't know what they want.

John Burns, via Facebook

New York State will be pandering to a small group of Black Lives Matter protesters as long as the socialists run the place.

Jeff Roberts, Beacon

Twenty-five protesters do not speak for an entire city. There are plenty, including myself, who are tired of the traffic delays and police overtime for the protection of the few "we's" that protest every weekend.

Police departments across the country are adopting what have been policies of the Beacon Police Department for 12 or more years. It's an accredited agency. Through grant-writing and dedication, it has remained at the forefront with the technology to be able to show transparency, and it was one of the first agencies in the area that had any cameras in vehicles and one of the first to adopt body cameras.

There are plenty of us who don't want to keep seeing officers leave like a revolving door. That's expensive. There are 25 people being protected in that photo by three members of the Beacon PD. That is the exact number that is on the road 24/7 to serve and protect the entire city of Beacon. No agency will be perfect but right now, if Beacon could keep staffing where it needs to be, the city would be in pretty good shape.

There are a lot of dedicated people working for Beacon PD. When it comes to procedures, policies and incident documentation/accountability Beacon is so much further ahead than the New York State Police, which should be the standard-bearing agency when the governor calls for so much "reform." The people should be wondering why they do not have any vehicle or body cameras? The state won't fund it. Call your state representatives and the governor to find out why they are not funding the agencies they control to the standards that have been in place in Beacon for years already.

Pat O'Dell, Beacon

Editor's note: In June, Gov. Andrew Cuomo enacted legislation that requires State Police patrol officers to wear body cameras.

I'm betting the callers to the City Council meeting who want taxes raised to the maximum don't own any real estate in Beacon. I am happy the mayor is proposing to hold the line on taxes, though a reduction would be welcome.

As for the police budget, just because some people protested to cut their budget (don't understand why — I do like to be protected), a couple of hundred people marching in a small city of 15,000 shouldn't be considered a majority of taxpayers.

Charlie Symon, Beacon

Anyone wanting to pay more taxes is welcome to. Pay the extra money that you want and the city will thank you, and so will I.

John Fraley, Beacon

(Continued on Page 5)



LETTERS AND COMMENTS

(Continued from Page 4)

Nelsonville lawsuit

I was relieved to read this article (“Nelsonville Residents Sue Over Cell Tower,” Oct. 23). Thank you to all involved. This cell tower and the damage it will create to the environment and to the Manitou School is terribly troublesome.
Lillian Rosengarten, *Cold Spring*

Pledge for patience

Amid widespread public anxiety about 2020 voting processes, we invited our fellow county lawmakers to sign a letter counseling patience on election night and expressing confidence in the U.S. electoral process. Unfortunately, no Republican legislators signed.
Our letter encouraged citizens to vote; shared information on early and absentee voting; and warned against “any attempt to discourage, block, intimidate or interfere” with anyone’s voting rights.
Our letter also noted that, to protect public health during COVID-19, the counting of absentee ballots may “take time, possibly days or even weeks beyond Election Day” and urged residents to show “patience, restraint, and respect for the electoral process.” It pointed out that multiple investigations — including two federal probes launched by Republican presidents in 2002 and 2017 — have turned up little evidence of voter fraud, either in absentee

Corrections

Due to a last-minute editing change, a reference appeared in remarks by Assemblyman Jonathan Jacobson in the Oct. 23 print edition to his supposed support for a “Pro-Life Employer Coercion Act.” In fact, that is a facetious name given to a recently enacted state law by a pro-life group that came up in a Google search. In his original response, Jacobson referred to his support for the “Boss Bill,” which is shorthand for a new state law that prohibits discrimination against employees based on their reproductive-health decisions.
In a story in the Oct. 23 issue about the proposed 2021 Beacon budget, we stated that the mayor had included “an increase of nearly \$77,000 in police pension costs that are also negotiated with the city.” In fact, the pension costs are calculated using a state formula based on salaries.

or in-person voting.
Finally, the letter called on Dutchess residents to disregard all claims of fraud unless they are investigated and confirmed by conclusive evidence. We pledge to do the same. The full text is posted at dutchess-voice.com.
Rebecca Edwards, *Poughkeepsie*
Edwards is the minority leader of the Dutchess County Legislature. The letter was signed by Nick Page and Frits Zernike, who each represents parts of Beacon, as well as seven other Democratic legislators.

Write-in candidate

I am announcing a late entry, write-in candidacy for trustee on the board of the Village of Cold Spring. The purpose of my candidacy is to provide the village voter with more options. It is, more generally, to maintain and facilitate an ongoing conversation about concerns and plans for the governance of this village.

Elections for office ought not be unopposed. I am running so that there can be a real choice, a real alternative. Without an alternative, these two candidates for two open seats will view themselves as unchallenged, and they will neither fully respond to the public’s wide concerns nor fully develop, debate or reconsider their assumptions, views or plans. No one will, or can, debate a mirror.
If you (and any of your like-minded friends and relatives) are unsatisfied or skeptical with any of the other candidates, or with one or more of the other political parties, I am now giving you an option and I am now asking for your vote. In voting you can, will and must make your voice heard.
On Nov. 3, write in “Frank Haggerty” for trustee of the Village of Cold Spring.
Frank Haggerty, *Cold Spring*

Park crowds

Separate from this incident, there should be more conversation about what happens when your neighborhood becomes a public parking lot (“Fracas at Indian Brook Prompts Calls for Action,” Oct. 16). It is lazy to say that because you have the privilege of owning property near a public hiking trail, you should be grateful for those who come to visit.
Throughout the area, we are seeing quiet neighborhoods turned into parking lots for hiking trails, with dozens of cars on narrow streets. When your front yard becomes a parking lot, you get parking-lot behavior. Parking in front of hydrants, creating narrow paths and blind corners, blocking traffic and emergency services, trash and animal waste, children urinating on your hedges and the stress of having to endure this sudden lifestyle change should be addressed. Or should we pretend that it is unmanageable?
Steve Smith, *Beacon*

Oh, what now? It seems like there is a monthly discrimination event around these parts. This report compelled me to look up The Felix Organization and donate money and apologize for the bigots. I encourage more donations of time and money.
Francesca Robledo, *New York City*

Your Choices on the Ballot

For a list of local, county, state and federal candidates who appear on ballots in Dutchess and Putnam counties, see highlandscurrent.org.

How to Vote by Mail (Procrastinator’s Edition)

1. If you are registered to vote (the deadline to register for the Nov. 3 election has passed), you can apply in person at the Board of Elections on or before Nov. 2 to receive an absentee ballot.
2. On the application, 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. Submit the signed form to receive your ballot. Complete the ballot and slide it into the envelope provided. Unless you sign and date the oath and the envelope containing the ballot is sealed, it will not be counted.
4. If you already have an absentee ballot in hand, it must be postmarked by Nov. 3. Or it can be dropped off at the Board of Elections, at any early voting site or at the polls on Election Day.
5. To check the status of your submitted ballot, visit putnamboe.com/absentee-voting or bit.ly/dutchess-status.

Where to Vote Early in Person

Putnam County	Dutchess County
Board of Elections 25 Old Route 6, Carmel	Town Hall 807 Route 52, Fishkill
FRI 30: 9a - 5p	FRI 30: 9a - 5p
SAT 31: 9a - 2p	SAT 31: 9a - 4p
SUN 1: 9a - 2p	SUN 1: 12 - 5p

Where to Vote on Election Day

Polls will be open on Tuesday (Nov. 3) from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. To verify you are registered and locate your polling place, visit voterlookup.elections.ny.gov. Check at highlandscurrent.org after 9 p.m. for unofficial results.

Everyone Welcome

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The Highlands Current

NOTICE

The Philipstown Zoning Board

will hold their regular Monthly Meeting on November 9th, 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_Kixjupg1RR-LISA8e_EGkA

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 November 9th, 2020.

District 18 *(from Page 3)*

ing a new voice to Washington, D.C. Maloney cited his experience and support across party lines. He and Farley mostly focused their attention on each other, leaving Smith to promote a “none of the above” option.

Smith, who lives in Goshen and is a former member of the Middletown City Council, said he was “concerned that our politics, as it exists, is very harmful and is destroying our nation. I want to make the case that there are more than just the two tired choices of the past.” He said that if voters “are seeking a candidate to serve party above all, then you have those choices. If you want a candidate who will endeavor to faithfully, objectively represent you and all of us here in the district, you have that choice as well.”

Farley, an engineer and business owner who lives in Tuxedo, said that “engineers fix things and there is no bigger mess to fix than Congress.” She said “businesses need more help after shutdowns, and unemployment is too high. We’re told our country is divided, but I see Americans coming together to overcome COVID. What’s broken is Congress. But we can’t just change it by voting for the same people again and again.”

Maloney cited his “bipartisan record of results: 40 bills passed into law, helping our veterans, protecting our drinking water, getting oil-barge anchorages off the Hudson River forever, investing in roads and bridges and safer commuter rails.” During the pandemic, he said, “I’ve secured billions of dollars for our health care providers, our small businesses, our family farms and our heroic educators.”

COVID crisis

Farley and Maloney differed along party lines on whether President Donald Trump, a Republican, and Gov. Andrew Cuomo, a Democrat, deserve praise or criticism for their handling of the pandemic.

“I don’t think Trump has taken the pandemic seriously enough and we’re paying a terrible price,” said Maloney. “Here in New York we’ve done quite well. I’ll give Cuomo pretty high marks.”

Farley argued that “Trump has done a good job. Our GDP [gross domestic product] has bounced back better than most of the other developed nations. And we’ve made incred-



Farley



Maloney



Smith

ible strides in getting a vaccine.” In contrast, she said, New York “is the state with the most deaths from COVID. So I would give Cuomo low marks and Trump high marks.”

Smith, a middle-school science teacher, said that “in terms of appearance,” he would give Trump “probably a low mark,” but “in terms of actual action, probably a mediocre mark.” He said Cuomo gets “aces” for appearance “but in terms of substance, I believe he’s made many mistakes. The other problem is that we have so many dishonest voices in the conversation that it’s hard to trust what anybody says.”

Their views on mask-wearing also differed.

Maloney termed a mask “perhaps the best tool we have to fight the pandemic, maybe even more effective than a future vaccine. So everyone should wear a mask. It’s our patriotic duty.” He advocated federal officials consider “whatever means are necessary” to ensure Americans wear masks.

Smith expressed doubts “the federal government has a role there. It’s probably more of a state issue. But when you have people in government at every level who contradict their own policies and are demonstrating hypocrisy and inconsistency in the way they apply their policies, you get pushback from the public.”

Farley said she “would not have a federal mandate for masks” and attacked Maloney because he was “not back in D.C. right now, actually getting additional funding for testing” and further economic aid for those left jobless by the pandemic. She said Maloney “talks about being bipartisan, but we haven’t been able to get a bipartisan bill passed.”

Maloney responded that in the House, “on a bipartisan basis, working across the aisle, we passed three or four major [COVID] relief packages, totaling over \$3 trillion.”

Police reform

Farley said that “I support the police” while “the defund-the-police movement backs my opponent,” referring to Maloney.

Maloney countered that “I do not support defunding the police. I support our police, good community policing, but I also support justice and anti-racist initiatives.”

They disagreed over a bill proposed by Republican Sen. Tim Scott of South Carolina. Farley said it would ban federal officers’ use of chokeholds and provide funds for body cameras, training and data collection on use of force.

Maloney dismissed the proposal as “window dressing” that would “not do what she says and would not ban chokeholds.” He promoted an alternative, named for George Floyd, a Black man who died while under police restraint, which he said “has real teeth. It would put body cameras on every officer and every car. It would keep real data on police misconduct, so we don’t just move bad cops around. Bad cops are bad for good people who are risking their lives for us, but we need to also fight systemic racism.”

Concurring that “there is racism in our country,” Farley said Americans “must do all we can to stop it. I don’t know what it is like to be a Black man or woman. But I do listen to those who do.”

Smith said he is “not familiar enough” with the federal legislation to comment.

“We do need to act in this area, but again, the problem lies largely in that government has made mistakes.” Moreover, he said, Americans “do not even all agree on what the term *justice* means.” Until they do, “we’re not going to find any common ground to advance here.”

Tax rates

Maloney said he opposed changes to the tax code championed by the Trump administration because “85 percent of the benefits went to the richest Americans” and helped corporations, while teachers and police officers can’t deduct costs of school supplies or uniforms.

Likewise, “it screwed New York because it took away our state and local tax deductions. I’m working every day to bring back those deductions,” as proposed in the Heroes’ Act.

Farley said she opposes the Heroes’ Act since it would eliminate cash bail at the federal level and, she said, “an absolute disaster” ensued after a New York law severely limiting the use of cash bail took effect this year.

She endorsed Trump’s tax cuts “because they gave an extra \$2,000 to the average family across the United States. That was very helpful in this district, as well.” She said she favors allowing New Yorkers more leeway for write-offs.

Smith said he had “honestly not studied the details enough to give an informed answer” on the tax code changes. “I have a day job,” he said. He expressed concern about “raising taxes on Americans, especially in the current climate.” Further, he said, “whether we had a Democrat or Republican representing us in the House would not have changed” the loss of the state and local tax deduction.

Marijuana

When asked about federal legalization of marijuana, Farley said she supports medical marijuana but not recreational use.

Smith said his biggest concern “is that often government sees tax dollars flowing in, and benefits at the ballot box, and they give that higher priority than whether it’s really good for the public.”

Maloney said he “would support full legalization, with the appropriate regulation and oversight and taxing. It’s time.”

NOTICE

The Philipstown Conservation Board

will hold their regular Monthly Meeting on November 10th, 2020 virtually via Zoom.

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

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_MPwBZGdtS7u9Y5pG6XZSuQ

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 November 10, 2020.



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Monica Perez calls her doctor's office from her Beacon apartment on Wednesday (Oct. 28).

Photo by L. Sparks

COVID 2021

WHAT LIES AHEAD?

(Continued from Page 1)

The number of older adults who reported feeling lonely more than doubled during the first three months of the pandemic compared to the same period in 2018, according to a survey of 2,000 people between 50 and 80 conducted by the Institute for Healthcare Policy and Innovation at the University of Michigan.

Local and county agencies have responded by organizing drive-through, outdoor and virtual events for older residents, creating volunteer networks to deliver food and prescriptions and contacting seniors by video conference and phone. At the same time, many seniors are embracing the use of smartphones and social media to maintain contact with family and friends.

Putnam County's first outreach effort to seniors when the shutdown began in March was through phone "wellness checks," said Michael Cunningham, who directs the Office for Senior Resources. He said one woman who was not home at the time called back to say, "I've played your message seven times." He noted, "Some people really do not have people to talk to."

DOUBLE BLOW

The pandemic has threatened seniors on two fronts.

Of the nearly 26,000 people who have died in New York State of COVID-related complications — including 165 in Dutchess and 63 in Putnam — 85 percent have been 60 or older. As the state's death toll peaked in early April, many older victims died alone in hospitals and nursing homes, which for months, under state restrictions, were inaccessible to family members.

About 56 percent of the older adults surveyed by the University of Michigan reported feelings of isolation during the first few months of the pandemic, compared to 27 percent who reported those feelings in 2018. In addition, 46 percent reported "infrequent contact" with other people, compared to 28 percent two years earlier.

The pandemic also forced the closure of senior centers, churches, community organizations and libraries; led to the temporary cancellation of county-run services such as transportation to doctor's appointments; and spurred quarantines that prevented family members from physical visits.

Perez says she started feeling "a little bit lonely" as the shutdown began. "I'm very much a people person, and I'm very active, and I could not participate like I used to," she said.

Her family members — nieces and nephews and their children in Dutchess County — have been limiting their social contact. Concerned about getting infected, Perez and a friend decided to form a pandemic "bubble," a small social group in which members agreed not to have in-person contact with anyone else.

Once a week, the friend visits Perez in her apartment, where they eat and socialize with other women during a Zoom-based support group. The friend has, however, been having health problems recently, Perez said.

"If I lose her, I will lose my only face-to-

face contact until this is over," she said.

'THE KINDNESS OF STRANGERS'

In March, when the shutdown began, Dara Silverman, a consultant living in Beacon, read Facebook posts from seniors worried about how they would get groceries. She also saw that a group called Mutual Aid Medford and Somerville had formed northeast of Cambridge, Massachusetts, to help local residents.

Silverman and others formed Mutual Aid Beacon and recruited a corps of volunteers to collect and distribute food to home-bound seniors and the newly unemployed. At one point, the organization was delivering food to 150 seniors each week, Silverman said. Volunteers also began making "emotional support" phone calls to seniors who lived alone.

"There was a need that existed before COVID, and it's gotten even more intense," said Silverman.

Roth said she heard Beacon Mayor Lee Kyriacou mention the group on television and called, along with telling others she knew about the organization. "We depended on the kindness of strangers," she said.

Both Dutchess and Putnam counties closed their senior centers at the beginning of the pandemic, including the Philipstown Friendship Center in the Butterfield complex on Route 9D in Cold Spring. Instead, the facility was transformed into a hub for meal delivery, said Cunningham. Both Putnam and Dutchess counties partnered with local nonprofits to distribute groceries and hot meals.

As the pandemic and its restrictions stretch on, the social needs of seniors have come to the forefront.

Dutchess County's Office for the Aging has organized events such as a drive-

Can Isolation Kill?

A 317-page study released this year by the National Academies of Science, Engineering and Medicine calls social isolation and loneliness among seniors a "serious yet underappreciated public health risk," noting that nationally about a quarter of people who are 65 or older are socially isolated despite living in communities. That isolation typically comes after the death of close family and friends and/or the development of a chronic illness or sensory impairments, such as a loss of hearing or eyesight, that limit communication and mobility.

Research shows that social isolation may be as much a risk factor for early death as high-blood pressure, smoking or obesity, the study said, and that it may accelerate dementia and heart failure. The report calls on health care professionals — who may be the only people that an isolated older person interacts with regularly — to be aware of the effects of social isolation, particularly among lower-income and other vulnerable populations, and offer remedies.

Resource Guide

**Putnam County Office
for Senior Resources**
845-808-1700, x47110
putnamcountyny.com/osr

To volunteer for senior outreach,
call 845-808-1700, x47134.

**Dutchess County Office
for the Aging**
845-486-2555
bit.ly/dutchess-aging
To volunteer for senior outreach, call
845-486-3555.

Mutual Aid Beacon
845-288-2559
beaconmutualaid.com

**COVID-19 Emotional
Support Hotline**
844-863-9314
nyprojecthope.org

**National Alliance on
Mental Illness Helpline**
800-950-6264

through picnic, an outdoor tai-chi class and a series of "drive-in" bingo gatherings. Putnam has set up outdoor events, as well, including a series of fall-prevention exercise classes in a county parking lot in Carmel. It is also offering more than 50 virtual classes and social gatherings, ranging from caregiver support groups to virtual bingo and book clubs, said Cunningham.

(Continued on Page 10)

COVID2021

Close Quarters

By Chip Rowe

Has the forced isolation of the shut-down led to more divorces? One national survey suggests that it has brought more couples closer together. It found that 58 percent of the married respondents between 18 to 55 said the pandemic had made them appreciate their spouses more, and 51 percent said their commitment had deepened.

Closer to home, since March, the number of divorces filed in Dutchess County has fallen 21 percent over the same period last year, and 34 percent in Putnam, although much of the drop can be attributed to courts being closed early in the shutdown.

To get an assessment of the situation on the ground, we asked Lisa Zeiderman, a Garrison resident who has been a divorce attorney for 15 years, for her impressions about what is happening now and what she expects over the winter months.



Zeiderman

Are you seeing more people seeking divorces?

Our firm has seen a huge increase in clients. It has been nonstop since April, and we've had to hire more attorneys. Many couples can't sustain living together, especially when there are no distractions or any ability to get relief. You can't go to work or work late or even continue your affair because you risk bringing COVID into the house because you don't know what that other person is doing.

Some clients say, "This was a long time coming," while others say, "We thought about it but weren't there yet." Or there now may be domestic violence or verbal abuse or domestic violence that has become more intense.* In the past, people often came for a consultation and when they left, they would say, "We're going to think about it." People are more certain now, quicker to pull the trigger.

At the same time, I do think other couples love it. They're seeing their spouse so much more. Their schedule has changed. They're not running all over. It's true for me. Usually I would be in Westchester and Manhattan all day. My husband and I might have dinner at 8:15 p.m. and then I'd leave in the morning at 7:30 a.m. Now we get to see each other much more. And for us, it's great.

When the pandemic began, you were probably handling clients who had already started the process.

That's correct. In March, after everything started to close, we were dealing with visitation issues. People would go to



Local Splits

	DUTCHESS		PUTNAM	
	2019	2020	2019	2020
MARCH	29	7	4	0
APRIL	82	0	15	1
MAY	76	15	20	10
JUNE	49	72	13	17
JULY	67	33	14	18
AUGUST	84	53	7	15
SEPT.	52	34	12	20
OCT.	57	54	12	19
TOTAL	496	391	151	100

Source: New York State Court System

Pennsylvania or Virginia or the Hamptons, and they wouldn't want to bring the child back because they felt it was unsafe, or so they said. So we had that for many weeks. Then, in April, we started to have consultations with people calling from their cars or hidden away in a spare bedroom because they had no privacy. From there we started to see an increase in divorces, for sure.

It was that quick — one month in?

Most people were thinking in April, May and June that if we had a second wave, their situation was going to become untenable.

I imagine this is unlike anything divorce attorneys have seen, not just the volume, but people being forced into a decision.

I wouldn't say *forced*. It's a choice. I think in many cases it would have happened at some point; it just happened sooner. It's a much easier process for clients who don't have children and, say, they live in a one-bedroom apartment. One person moves out and there are, what, 16,000 empty apartments in Manhattan right now? If you don't have children, it's only going to be a question of finances.

The state introduced electronic filing for divorces in New York City, Long Island and the Hudson Valley as of May 25. Has that helped, in that people don't have to go to court?

It makes it easier. We're also doing confer-

ences and trials now by Skype. I am involved with a few in-person trials, but for the most part we have moved to virtual. We are doing depositions via Skype so that people's cases and their lives can move along.

What will happen over the winter, when couples are truly stuck inside?

I think we're going to have another surge of divorces. Look, today was a great day. Everybody was able to take a walk and it was beautiful. But when the weather goes, one day will bleed into another. On top of that, you have the pressures of virtual learning for children. How does a judge decide when one parent wants remote learning and one wants in-person? I have that issue in so many cases.

Have you had couples who argue about masks?

Yes; they disagree about whether the children should be wearing masks or whether a parent who is coming to visit should wear a mask. Believe me, there are so many things to argue about in a day.

I suppose these arguments began long ago.

I think that's right. This is just new material. They probably were not on the same page about most things to begin with.

*If you are experiencing domestic violence or abuse, call the Domestic Violence Hotline at 800-942-6906 for help.

COVID2021

When Will This Be Over?

By Leonard Sparks

Michael Gusmano is a scholar with The Hastings Center, a bioethics research institute based in Garrison, and a professor of public health at Rutgers University. His responses have been condensed.

Has there ever been vaccine development that rivals the effort against COVID-19?

No, this is absolutely remarkable. We have multiple candidates entering Phase III human clinical trials, the last step to assess safety and effectiveness before regulatory agencies make a decision. Phase I trials can take one to two years, so the speed with which this is happening and the global scale is breathtaking, even if we don't have a vaccine until 2022.

What can we expect of a vaccine?

A minimum threshold that the Food and Drug Administration is likely to use is that it has to be 50 percent effective with nonexistent or mild side effects — soreness in the arm, perhaps a low-grade fever — but that doesn't tell you the duration of the effectiveness. We'll have to see once we get more evidence from the trials.

There will be the challenge of making sure that you can reach, or get close to, herd immunity, which is when you reach a point where enough people have immunity that it is difficult for the virus to spread. That's important with any vaccine, because there will be people who can't take it. The difficulty with the current conversations about herd immunity is that it's absolutely unethical to think about trying for it by allowing enough people to get sick. With COVID-19, that would mean millions of people dying.

Do we know enough about COVID-19 to make an effective vaccine?

It's important to recognize that while this is a *novel* coronavirus, there are many coronaviruses. The common cold is a coronavirus.

(Continued on Page 9)



Michael Gusmano

Gusmano *(from Page 8)*

navirus. There have been years of research on vaccines for coronaviruses, so we're not starting tabula rasa.

Three trials were recently paused due to adverse events. Were they similar?

The only thing they have in common is that one or two people got sick and the companies running the trial didn't know why. In many ways it's a positive thing. It reflects the fact that we are following the science, and they are following protocols to protect people. There's no guarantee that we will end up with a vaccine, frankly. But pausing a trial isn't necessarily devastating, and it's not even unusual.

The good news is because of the massive amount of money that has been put behind this effort, not only is the research moving forward quickly but drug companies are producing millions of doses even before the Phase III trials conclude. Typically, there is a major delay between the end of Phase III and manufacturing. The companies may end up dumping the vaccines, but they're willing to do that because the government is underwriting this process. That means if we do get a winner or more than one, they will be able to gear up quickly.

Still, it's going to be a massive industrial project. We don't yet know if it will require one dose or two. We don't know whether it will need to be frozen or just kept in a refrigerator. We don't know how big the vials will be. All that changes the calculus

in terms of how much you can ship, where you can ship, whether you have the infrastructure. And all of this is happening in the context of a global pandemic, which has caused disruptions in supply chains for materials like glass and rubber stoppers.

The U.S. will be in a much better position than many lower-income countries. I worry a great deal about Sub-Saharan Africa and parts of Southeast Asia, where there are issues of electricity and refrigeration and distribution. Work can be done on defining priority populations, because it seems implausible that we'll be able to vaccinate several hundred million people in the first few months.

Have we learned anything useful about treating COVID-19?

Simple things like the standards for when you put somebody on a ventilator have changed. Some simple steroids can offer some benefit, as apparently they did for the president. We learned things that have helped reduce the death rate, although once you become severely ill, it's still an incredibly risky proposition. We're learning more about long-term health consequences. Whether we get a vaccine sooner or later, we have to get people to change their behavior to mask-wearing, social distancing, hand-washing. It sounds painfully simple. If we had a pill that would reduce your risk of death by the same percentage, we'd be willing to pay massive amounts for it.

Will there be a time when, post-vaccine, we can go back to filling

COVID-19 by the Numbers

■ PUTNAM COUNTY

Number of confirmed cases:

1,825 (+57)

New Cases in Philipstown: **3**

Tests administered:

61,646 (+3,779)

Percent positive:

3.0 (-0.1)

Number of deaths:

63 (+0)

■ DUTCHESS COUNTY

Number of confirmed cases:

5,508 (+126)

Active Cases in Beacon: **18**

Tests administered:

219,039 (+12,148)

Percent positive:

2.5 (-0.1)

Number of deaths:

165 (+1)

Source: New York State Department of Health, with weekly changes in parentheses, as of Oct. 28. New cases in Philipstown for the week ending Oct. 22.

sports stadiums and dance floors and kids can play without masks?

I'm sure we are going to get past this, but whether things will ever be the same, I'm not so sure. It's good that people are more cautious about exposure because, before this, even in health care settings, people would show up for work even though they were sick. We need to get rid of that kind of macho attitude.

One of the dreadful things that acceler-

ated during the Trump administration was a decline in real-dollar funding for public health. If we ever get serious about public health measures, we can reduce the rate of community infection even without a vaccine. If that happens, we're going to be back in sports stadiums. We're likely to be living with this coronavirus for a very long time, but we have the capability to get the spread under control where it isn't shutting down the economy or dominating people's lives.

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The HIGHLANDS
Current

Home Alone *(from Page 7)*

At local churches, a traditional social lifeline for seniors, the return of in-person worship has been followed by the return of live, socially distanced events. A few weeks ago, about 25 people, mostly seniors, attended an outdoor music performance at St. Philip's Church in Garrison, said the Rev. Amanda Eiman.

"It was great for folks to see each other and share in some fellowship and music in a safe way," Eiman said.

Roth and her son miss the cats at Beacon's shelter so much that they still go there, even though no one is allowed inside.

"We can look through the windows and there's a couple of cats we can always communicate with," she said.

TECH LIFELINES

Roth said she was "phobic" about computers, but the shutdown forced her to confront that fear. Her Chromebook is now a tool for ordering food and other items. Although the change has "been very frustrating sometimes," Roth said she has been "conquering it," and even taking foreign-language lessons.

Phone calls, video chats and social media messaging have replaced physical visits from family and friends, and with doctors. About 60 percent of older people in the University of Michigan survey said they used social media at least once a week



Mary Roth of Beacon has seen her activities curtailed because of the shutdown.

Photo by L. Sparks

to connect with family and nearly a third used some form of video chat.

In addition to her weekly Zoom meeting with friends, Perez checks in with doctors via video, receives photos from her family through Facebook Messenger, participates in a virtual book club organized by the Howland library and gets calls at least once a week from a volunteer with Mutual

Aid Beacon.

She is also joining an online women's support group hosted by Quarantine Buddy, a virtual platform created by Cornell University students to combat social isolation during the pandemic. The group "fills up very quickly," said Perez.

Others are not fortunate enough to have access to technology, however, noted Maeve

Eng-Wong, a therapist in Cold Spring.

"There are people out there who are truly isolated and who do not have these privileges," she said. "It is those people that I worry about."

HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS

The holiday season, when seniors typically share meals with family and friends or with other older adults at county centers and churches, will be another of COVID-19's casualties.

The federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has said that large indoor gatherings for Thanksgiving should be considered a "higher-risk" activity and has advised people to stay home.

The Office for Senior Resources in Putnam County usually holds Thanksgiving meals at its senior centers but this year is collecting donations to buy and distribute grocery gift cards, said Cunningham.

Roth said she normally shares Thanksgiving with a friend, but is staying home with her son. "We already have the dinnerware planned," she said.

Perez's nieces and nephews send photos via Facebook Messenger of her great-nieces and great-nephews. She responds with comments. But that will be the extent of the contact, an arrangement that Perez says was made "by mutual agreement" because she is as fearful as her family.

"If I gave it to them, I would never forgive myself," she said.

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MAGAZZINO ITALIAN ART

The Calendar



Annalyse & Ryan on stage

Photo by Steven Sandick

Live From the Howland

Beacon duo organizes online concerts

By Alison Rooney

Like many musicians, when venues shuttered because of the pandemic, Annalyse McCoy and Ryan Dunn had to think fast about how to make a living.

The Beacon couple turned to livestreaming, although they faced hurdles: inexperience with the technology, lack of equipment and little funding.

"We were supposed to be playing a gig in New York City the weekend following the shutdown [in March], and we just changed it to livestream right away," Dunn recalls.

"We started with our iPhone and a ring light and we figured out how to run sound through our computer," adds McCoy. "We had livestreamed here and there but it never turned out well. When this hit, it was so abrupt, we knew things would be bad. We realized that so much would be lost so quickly."

They began streaming performances through their Facebook page and later partnered with venues such as Rockwood in Manhattan and The Falcon in Marlboro. And now, they are hosting a monthly online series with the Howland Cultural Center called *The Valley Hour* that has so far featured songwriters BKS and Greg Mayo; songwriter Andy Stack with drummer Dave Tedeschi; and songwriter and musical theater composer Jeremy Schonfeld.



Coming up are Cindy Cashdollar, with Stack, on Nov. 7 and Bruce Molsky and The Whispering Tree on Dec. 5.

"We're really enjoying this," Dunn says. "People see what we're doing and say, 'This must have been a lot of work.' Yeah, well, what else were we going to do? We're in a pandemic!"

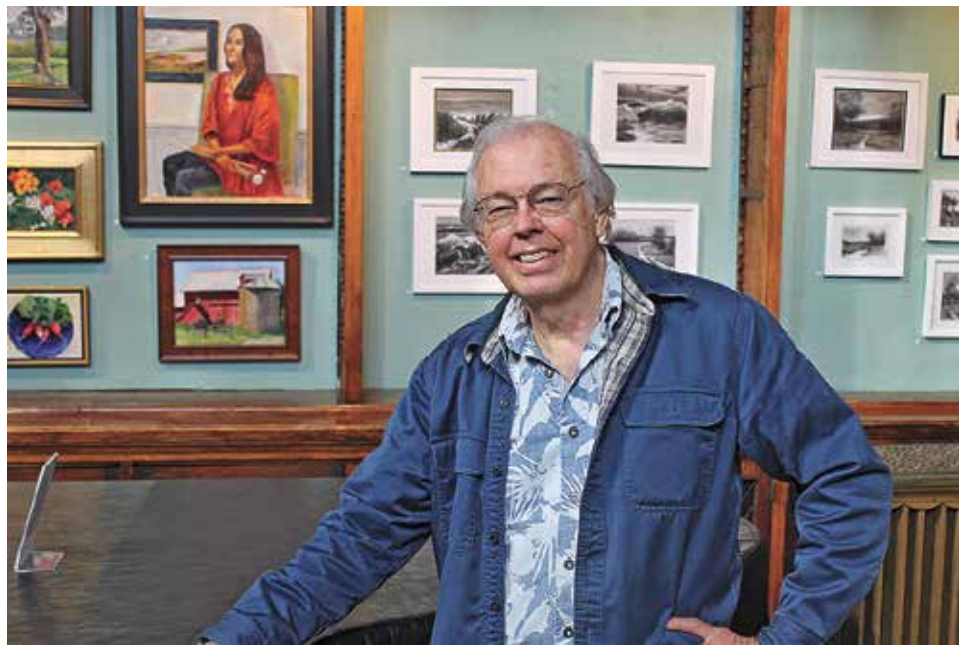
McCoy says that after the shutdown began, the duo's first thought was to keep playing, hoping that online performances could be a source of income "in the face of gig after gig after gig being canceled. It was scary for a long time, but it helped keep the chops up, keeping us focused on creating new stuff every week. Normally, when you're touring and facing a different audience every night, you can play the same songs night after night, but you can't do this with the same people every Monday."

A chance encounter on the street with Anda Onesa Lieberman, a board member

(Continued on Page 12)

“Normally, when you're touring and facing a different audience every night, you can play the same songs night after night, but you can't do this with same people every Monday.

- Annalyse McCoy



Craig Wolf at the Howland Cultural Center

Photo by Tom Conroy

Moving Ahead at HCC

By Alison Rooney

The last event at the Howland Cultural Center in Beacon before the COVID-19 shutdown was on March 13.

"It was the Hudson Valley Poets, and there were about 15 people there," recalls Craig Wolf, president of the nonprofit's board of directors. "From that point, it was one cancellation after another. The bulldozer came crunching through the calendar. We quickly canceled the rest of March, then realized we'd better cancel April, because nothing was happening as scheduled."

The board kept a close eye on the guidelines established by the state to reopen. In July it mounted an annual art show, which had been postponed, and were surprised by the number of visitors who came — and continue to come — from New York City.

"They are coming by car and by train, and to some degree our visitor numbers follow the curve of Dia," Wolf says. "When Dia is closed, there are fewer. We shrank our schedule to weekends, Saturdays and Sundays from 1 to 5 p.m., and in that amount of time we see more people now than we used to see in four days. [A maximum of 10 people are permitted inside at one time.] Sometimes the sidewalk is so congested it looks like the city. The parking situation, particularly on the east end, is intense. We've spoken out against parking waivers, because we're already jam-packed with cars."

Most recently, the center has restarted its Old-Timey Southern Fiddle Tunes Jam Sessions, with Harry Bolick, by holding them outside, in the courtyard, and limiting attendance to 10 people. "They brought their mandolins, double basses and guitars, and it worked well," Wolf says. "In fact, it went from once to twice per month. It's now in a cold-season hiatus but will come



The Howland Cultural Center

Photo by Joe Shlabotnik/Flickr

back in spring."

The center also embraced another, more challenging, genre: livestreaming. "Now we're thinking of ourselves as Studio Howland," he says. With the technology, the center has been able to bring back *The Artichoke*, a storytelling series hosted by Drew Prochaska, and Elysium Furnace, a performance series produced by James Keepnews. "The only difference from a live show is there's just no audience packing into the place," Wolf says.

To prepare for a livestream, "there are a lot of meetings and phone calls; it's a learning experience, even for those of us here with previous broadcast experience. For example, we're working with two technologies: One, called Switcher Studio, uses iPads as cameras, and another uses DSLR [digital] cameras and something called Open Broadcaster Software."

(Continued on Page 12)

Howland *(from Page 11)*

at the Howland Cultural Center, led to a discussion about how the center “was kind of frozen, not knowing how to proceed and not having any livestreams,” McCoy recalls. With encouragement from Lieberman, the pair began educating themselves on the software people use to broadcast.

After coming up with a name, *The Valley Hour* — a nod to old radio shows — the couple jettisoned their initial idea for a variety show, with comedians and other non-musical acts. Instead, they decided to “make it what we know,” McCoy says.

They reached out to their fans and raised enough money to hire a production team — technical director Matt Dickey and videographer John Slackman — for at least four shows.

Each show, which usually takes place on Second Saturday, features two musical guests, along with Annalyse & Ryan. McCoy says that following afternoon sound checks on the day of the shows, the musicians “didn’t stop playing. It’s palpable how happy they are to be playing again.”

Before the show, each of the performers sets up in an isolated area. The cameras and other gear are placed in the middle of the Howland Center and rotate to whom-ever is playing.

“You can feel the love in the room,” Dunn says. “The Howland has been so wonderful and open-minded to work for and try new things out; we’re all learning.”

When Dunn and McCoy moved to



Ryan Dunn and Annalyse McCoy

Photo by Matt Ambrosini

Beacon nearly three years ago, they were performing as a house band at the Opry City Stage in Manhattan but decided to make some changes.

“We wanted to become Annalyse & Ryan and do our own thing,” McCoy says. This was after spending years in a band they created called 2/3 Goats — two of the three members were Capricorns — which recorded three albums and toured steadily.

The couple met in 2007, when each was straddling the worlds of songwriting and musical theater (in which they earned college degrees), but eventually they gave up the latter.

“We took a one-year break, then never went back,” Dunn explains. Years later, while preparing for their first European tour, they spotted a Craigslist ad for an apartment in Beacon, a place they had explored many times while hiking. Within four days, they had signed a lease. “We thought the Hudson Valley was a great place to be,” McCoy says.

Their sound comes from their distinct backgrounds. McCoy grew up in the eastern part of Kentucky, near West Virginia, where she felt connected to the “huge storytelling roots in Appalachia, and before that Irish and Scottish. It’s kind of at the forefront of my music and important to me. My family unit focused a lot on social justice, and that influenced my storytelling.”

Dunn is a Jersey boy. “I come at it from more of the groove and song structure,” he says. “We work together using Jersey’s great musical heritage: doo-wop, classic rock, jazz, country. What I love as a songwriter is making connections with people. The story that I tell through song is all about that emotional arc, how it takes you down into sadness, or makes you want to stand up and fight. The chords, the melodies are just as important as the lyrics.”

The Valley Show is available through an on-demand link that provides access for up to seven days after the live broadcast; the shows begin at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$12 at howlandculturalcentertix.com. For more info and a schedule, see thevalleyhour.com.

Moving Ahead *(from Page 11)*

Wolf acknowledges that livestream can’t replace the experience of attending a show in person at the historic building. “For an evening it becomes a tight-knit community of people who like the same thing,” he says. “You can open up a chat board, but you can’t get a lot of it with livestreaming.”

“On the other hand, some people don’t like to come out at night: they can’t drive, are sick, have kids or are too far away. We see potential ways of recording performances and making them available on-demand. We’re seeing that people tend to want to pay less for livestreaming than in-person, so we’ll be looking at ways to work out lower costs — perhaps with sponsorships — for streamed performances. Everybody in this business is looking and learning.”

He adds: “The public should know that artists are hurting. Performing arts are the caboose on the COVID recovery. Frankly, some of the rules are hard to take. There are a lot of holes. We would love to do hybrid events with livestreaming plus a limited audience in the house. That’s where the state needs to go next — to define rules for limited capacity at live events. They haven’t opened that gate yet.”

Still, he says, “Beacon survived [the recession in] 2008 and the long recovery from that, and now COVID and a partial recovery. It shows a tremendous resiliency.”



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THE WEEK AHEAD

Edited by Pamela Doan (calendar@highlandscurrent.org)

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



Classic Scary Tales, Oct. 31

HALLOWEEN

SAT 31

Great Haldane Pumpkin Hunt

COLD SPRING

11 a.m. – 5 p.m. St. Mary's Church

1 Chestnut St.

haldaneschoolfoundation.org

Get a game card and search for pumpkins in the village. Cards also can be picked up at Paulette, 114 Main St., or Wynono & Co., 169 Main St. *Cost: \$10*

SAT 31

Halloween Story Walk and Candy Hunt

COLD SPRING

Noon – 1:30 p.m. Butterfield Library

10 Morris Ave. | 845-265-3040
butterfieldlibrary.org

The library lawn will transform into a Halloween story walk with hidden treats to find at the end.

SAT 31

Trick or Treat

PHILIPSTOWN

1 – 3 p.m. North Highlands Firehouse

504 Fishkill Road

Stay in your car to trick or treat as you drive through the parking lot. Enter the baseball field parking lot off Fishkill Road and exit near the firehouse entrance.

SAT 31

Classic Scary Tales

SLEEPY HOLLOW

3 p.m. Historic Hudson Valley

hudsonvalley.org

Jonathan Kruk will perform the story of Ichabod Crane filmed in the Old Dutch Church while David Hyde Costello stages shadow puppets and Malik Work does voice work.

COMMUNITY

THURS 5

Historical Society Awards

BEACON

7 p.m. Beacon Historical Society
beaconhistorical.org

The annual ceremony, held virtually, will honor the Coris Family and the Alps Sweet Shop. *Cost: \$25 to \$50*

SAT 7

Mount Beacon Memorial

FISHKILL

10:30 a.m. Fishkill Veterans Park
793 Route 52

This ceremony will pay tribute to the pilots lost on the 75th and 85th anniversaries of two Navy plane crashes on the mountain.

SAT 7

Virtual Gala

COLD SPRING

6 p.m. Putnam History Museum
putnamhistorymuseum.org

The online event will honor Tara and James Carroll with the Trailblazers Award. Enjoy live performances and a silent auction. *Cost: \$60 (\$50 members)*

TALKS

SAT 31

Revolutionary War Redoubts Tour

GARRISON

1 p.m. North Redoubt Trailhead
332 Snake Hill Road | bit.ly/2HqYvKw

Putnam History Museum trustee Craig Watters will lead a 3-mile moderate-to-strenuous hike and discuss the chaining of the Hudson River and the role of the redoubts. *Cost: \$10*

MON 2

Book Club

COLD SPRING

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

Join the Zoom discussion of Richard Powers' *The Overstory*.

WED 4

Mindfulness Meditation

GARRISON

9:30 a.m. Desmond-Fish Library
845-424-3020 | desmondfishlibrary.org

Alicia Leeds will launch a six-week series for beginners.

FRI 6

Physician in the Kitchen

GARRISON

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

Obstetrician Meedlen Charles will discuss how to cook nourishing

food after childbirth as part of this series from New York-Presbyterian Hospital Hudson Valley.

SUN 8

David Hollander

COLD SPRING

4 p.m. Chapel Restoration
45 Market St.

845-265-5537 | chapelrestoration.org

The author will read from his latest novel, *Anthropica*.

VISUAL ART

SAT 31

Collaborative Farm Project

BREWSTER

10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Tilly Foster Farm
100 NY-312 | collaborativeconcepts.org

Artworks by more than 30 artists are installed for self-guided tours. This is the show's closing weekend. Also SUN 1.

STAGE & SCREEN

SAT 31

Story Screen Drive-In

BEACON

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

The pop-up drive-in theater finishes its annual horror movie fest with *Beetlejuice* (1988) and *Nightmare on Elm Street 3: Dream Warriors* (1987). See website for showtimes and health protocols. Snacks will be available for purchase. Also SUN 1. *Cost: \$10 (\$8 children, seniors, military)*

FRI 6

Dragonfly Story Hour

COLD SPRING

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

This Zoom story slam for adults will feature eight storytellers telling four-minute, non-fiction stories. Register to watch or participate.

SAT 7

An Afternoon of Poetry

GARRISON

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

Isabel Sobral Campos, Ellen Devlin and Alison Stone will read their work via Zoom.

KIDS & FAMILY

SAT 31

Saturday on the Farm

WAPPINGERS FALLS

10:30 a.m. Common Ground Farm
79 Farmstead Lane
diaart.org/program/program/saturday-studio

Artists will lead an outdoor workshop on making art in this



Revolutionary War Redoubts Tour, Oct. 31

Dia:Beacon program. *Free*

WED 4

Creative Writing Workshop

COLD SPRING

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

Marie O'Shea will lead this workshop for students in grades 3 to 5.

THURS 5

Kids Book Club

COLD SPRING

4 p.m. Split Rock Books
splitrockbks.com

The club, for ages 8 to 12, will discuss *Class Act*, by Jerry Craft.

MUSIC

SAT 7

The Valley Hour

BEACON

8 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
howlandculturalcenter.tix.com

Annalyse & Ryan bring together performers for a monthly livestream series. Cindy Cashdollar and Upstate are the guests. See Page 11. *Cost: \$12*



Cashdollar

CIVIC

SAT 31

Putnam Early Voting

CARMEL

9 a.m. – 2 p.m. Board of Elections
25 Old Route 6 | putnamboe.com

Also, SUN 1, 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.

SAT 31

Dutchess Early Voting

FISHKILL

9 a.m. – 4 p.m. Fishkill Town Hall
807 Route 52

elections.dutchessny.gov

Also, SUN 1, Noon – 5 p.m.

MON 2

City Council

BEACON

7 p.m. City Hall

845-838-5011 | cityofbeacon.org

TUES 3

Election Day

6 a.m. – 9 p.m.

voterlookup.elections.ny.gov

TUES 3

School Board

COLD SPRING

7 p.m. Haldane

845-265-9254 | haldaneschool.org

TUES 3

Putnam County Legislature

CARMEL

7:30 p.m. Via audioconference

845-208-7800 | putnamcountyny.com

TUES 3

Board of Trustees

COLD SPRING

7:30 p.m. Village Hall

845-265-3611 | coldspringny.gov

WED 4

School Board

GARRISON

7 p.m. Garrison School

845-424-3689 | gufs.org

THURS 5

2021 Budget Hearing

POUGHKEEPSIE

7 p.m. Dutchess Legislature

845-486-2100 | dutchessny.gov

THURS 5

Town Board

PHILIPSTOWN

7:30 p.m.

Philipstown Community Center
845-265-5200 | philipstown.com

The HIGHLANDS Current's PARADE IN THE PAPER

Because the Halloween parades were canceled this year in Beacon and Cold Spring due to the pandemic, we asked readers to submit photos of themselves or their children and pets in costume so we could approximate what we're missing this year — and, thanks to our sponsors, we threw in a few prizes for those humans and animals who most impressed our judges. Stay safe and enjoy.

For more photos, see
highlandscurrent.org/halloween.

JUDGES



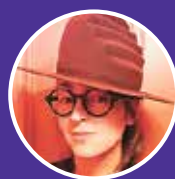
SHERYL
GLICKMAN



MAUREEN
MCGRATH



RONZELL
SMITH



ELIZA
STARBUCK

Thank you to our costume-contest judges: Sheryl Glickman, the owner of Notions-N-Potions in Beacon and the organizer of A Very Beacon Halloween; Maureen McGrath, head of youth services at the Butterfield Library in Cold Spring; Ronzell Smith of Beacon, a “cosplay legend”; and Eliza Starbuck, president of the Cold Spring Chamber of Commerce.



Remember when?



Jolie and Paxton



Jack Munson



Ian Saladyga



Anya Gupte



Michael Turton



The Moody Family





Ava O'Neill



Lily Parker



Sadie and Callie



Petra Brooks-Saladyga



Sophia and Anya Ptacek



Shaw Williams

WINNER

Best Family-Themed

THE SHACKELFORDS



PARADE IN THE PAPER



Best Costume MAX KUPPER



Best Baby LYLA GLOVER



A Bailey boy



Gage Starner



Nico and Marco Lagerman



Declan Corless



Eamonn McGrory



Reagan Stickle



Timoteo Haskell-Ramirez and Timothy Haskell



Elizabeth Poole



Claudette Coelius



Percy Parker



Sam Voloto

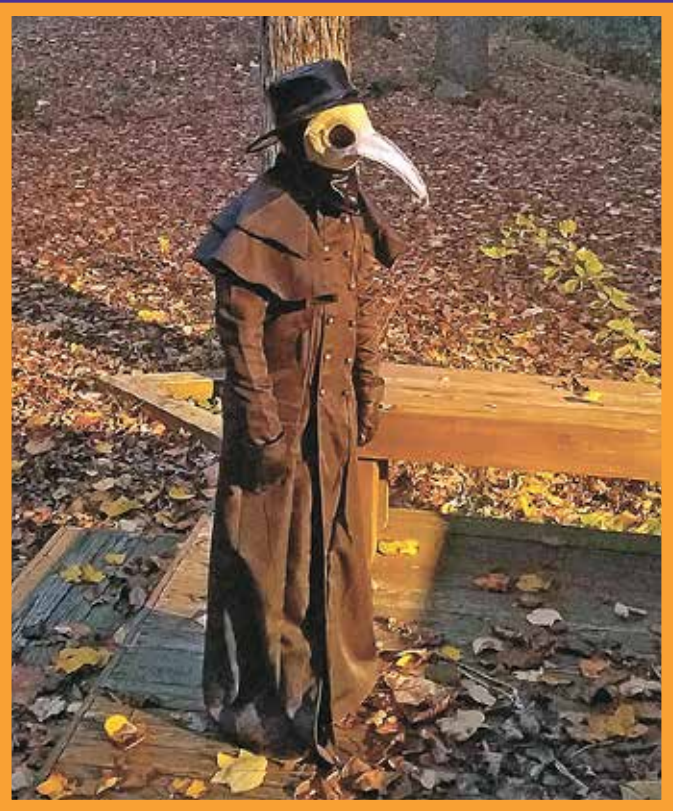


Funniest

ELSPETH, THOMASINA AND HALCYON DARHANSOFF



Scariest
WILL MULLER



Zaine Roberts



Lafayette Starner



Corey Selman



Sally and Jack Edelman



Florence Coelius



Gavin and Devin Byrne



Isabella Lukic, as a storm



Reilly Timmins



Best Throwback

PHILLIP AND MICHAEL BARBER

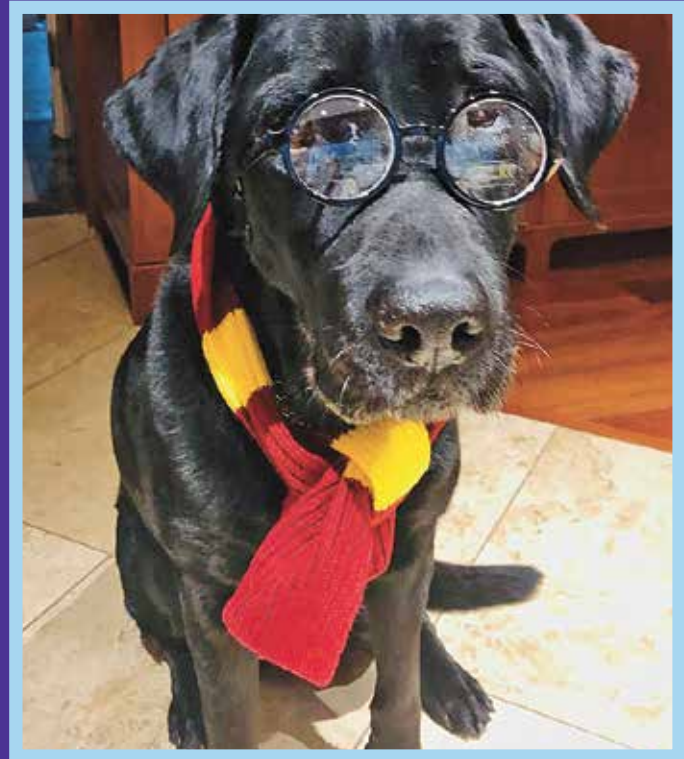
1986, sent by their sister Patricia Cronin, Garrison



Best Pet

WINDSOR LANDTROOP

Retired Guiding Eyes for the Blind dog



Pamela and Lola Ritell, as the wolf and the rabbit



Kate Resi, with Luna



Savannah Peterson



Amelia Gogola, as Joan Jett



The Dead Springers zombie basketball team: Camilla McDaniel, Eloise Pearsall and Amelia Kupper



Francis Cheadle



Vivi, Scarlett and Dean Murray



Gillybean Easter

FURRY FRIENDS

We asked readers to submit photos of their pets in costume. What animal doesn't enjoy wearing clothes?



Georgia (Christine Peterson)



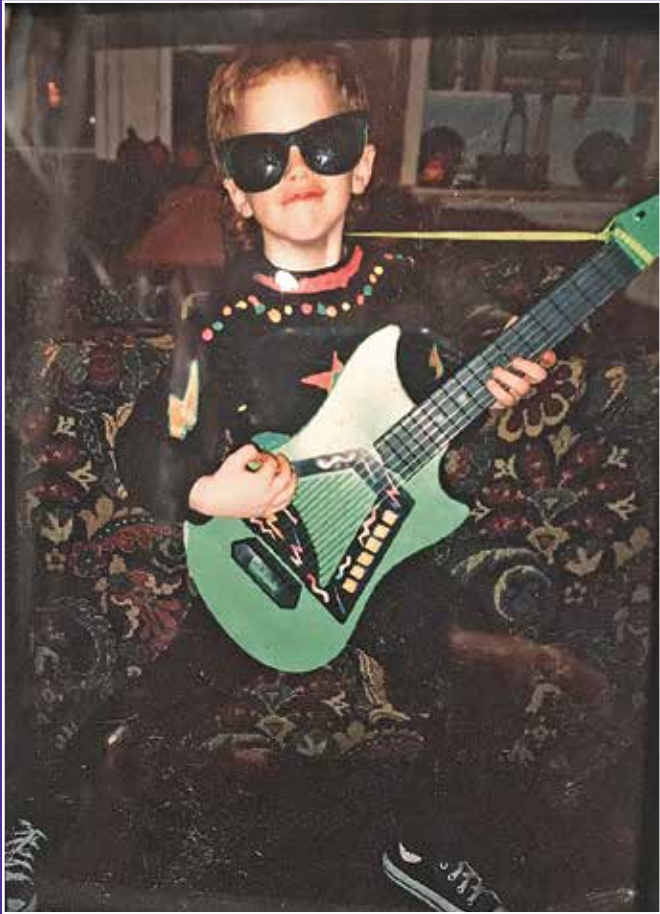
Amy Lagerman



Lucy



Quincy Landtroop



David Harrington, 1990

BACK IN THE DAY

We asked readers to share some of their favorite "throwback" Halloween photos. For more, see highlandscurrent.org/halloween.



Livea Byrne as Princess Leia, 1983



The Llewellyn Family in 2015

Thank You to Our Sponsors



Life at 99

A milestone birthday in Beacon

By Michael Turton

George McKie celebrated his 99th birthday on Monday (Oct. 26). During a small gathering at his home, the Beacon resident was asked how it felt. His reply was simple: “I don’t know; I’ve never been 99 before today!”

Born in Augusta, Georgia, in 1921, McKie was a young boy when he moved to New York City with his mother shortly after his parents separated.

When the stock market crashed on Black Friday in 1929, he was 8 and living in Brooklyn. “I can remember all the people jumping out of windows,” he said.

He and his mother later moved to Long Island, where he was on the boxing team at his high school. He also played junior varsity football after being judged too small for varsity. “I was what they called a pulling guard,” he recalled. “We’d pull out and run around the end, beating them on the outside.”

In 1936, while in high school, he began fixing cars, a pastime that would become his life’s work. “I worked mostly as an auto mechanic in garages,” McKie said. “I kept a lot of cars for a while; I’d buy one, fix it up,



George McKie celebrated his birthday on Monday.

Photo by M. Turton

then sell it.” His favorite was a “big heavy Buick touring car.”

During World War II, he served in the U.S. Army in France.

McKie listed Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Malcolm X and Joe Louis as personal heroes.

He retired to Beacon in the mid-1990s, where he discovered an indirect connection to Joe Louis, who was known as the “Brown Bomber.” McKie lives in the former home of Melio Bettina, a Beacon resident who in 1939 won the light heavyweight title at Madison Square Garden. Bettina also wanted a shot at Louis, “but he was too small,” McKie said.

“I remember hearing his name all over the radio,” he recalled of Bettina. “I never dreamed I’d be living in his house,” which is located on Melio Bettina Place.

McKie is a die-hard *Jeopardy* fan and his other pastimes include reading and cross-words.

He has two daughters, Aisha Rahman, who lives in South Carolina, and Zuri McKie, who lives in Oklahoma, as well as eight grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.

McKie is in good health. He takes just one pill, a thyroid medication.

His sense of humor is also robust.

Asked if there is something special he’d like to do during his 100th year, McKie laughed and replied, “I just want to keep out of the way. People talk about the light at the end of the tunnel; I tell them it’s a train coming!”

A Big and Spooky Thanks to Chestnut Ridge residents for many first Halloween memories. We will miss you this week!

See you NEXT year, same bat time, same bat station...

~ Dar and the Spookytown Team

Photos by Ross Corsair



Take a Seat

Art Center presents exhibit of chairs

By Alison Rooney

Hit hard by the pandemic, the Garrison Art Center, like many nonprofits, is coming up with creative ways to engage artists and art lovers.

The center's most recent idea draws inspiration from *Chair Show*, an exhibit it mounted in 1987, during Tracy Strong's tenure as director. Strong and another former director, Carinda Swann, are co-chairing (of course) an update, *CHAIRS re-created*.

More than 50 chairs used as canvases by 44 artists are being auctioned and can be viewed online at garrisonartcenter.org or in person from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Nov. 11 to 14.



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Out There

No Goals,
No Masters

By Brian PJ Cronin



There is no word — not even a long German one — to describe a feeling that's equal parts relief and disappointment. So I don't know how to explain how it felt when, three weeks before my mid-October 100-mile ultramarathon, I received an email saying the race had been canceled.

The relief was because — well, I don't know about you, but the last seven months have been a bit crazy. It's hard to train for a 100-mile race when you're a single working parent of a 9-year-old. It gets a tiny bit harder when, because of a global pandemic, your child is now home all the time.

I bought a fancy GPS watch during my months of "training" because I needed one with a battery life of at least 30 hours to get me through the race. The watch also has a heart monitor and is capable of collecting an enormous amount of information about my physical being, which it can use to compile sophisticated progress reports



Slow down or you'll miss the good stuff.

Photo by B. Cronin

that tell me, with scientific precision, how much I sucked.

"Detraining," it would say after a run, or "overreaching" or "find a soft place to lie down and die." As the race drew nearer, it was starting to feel like that nightmare

in which you have an exam for a class you never attended. Only in this case the exam was 30 hours long and it was going to hurt, a lot.

Hence the relief. The disappointment was because, although I wasn't ready for the

race, I wanted to see if I could pull it off. Almost every race in the country has been canceled, but this one had a relatively small number of runners. In this odd year, it was nice to have something to look forward to, even if that thing involved running all night through the cold, dark, cursed Pine Barrens of New Jersey, where the fabled Jersey Devil lives. If I *did* meet the monster, he couldn't be scarier than the vision of another seven months of pandemic parenting.

Instead, for the first time in five years, my competitive calendar is blank. There is no reason to get out of the house and run.

So, I got out of the house and ran.

I headed to Hiddenbrooke. Dusk descended. Crickets arose. I heard an owl, saw a bat and even startled some deer. Considering how many deer have succumbed to Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease, it was joyous to see them. And with every step I felt a great weight lifting off my shoulders.

My son is back in school, so I run more. I run up the mountain, down by the river and deep into this strange and golden autumn. There's nothing to run for except running. Now after a run, my watch says things like "productive" and "peaking" and "Have you done something with your hair? It looks so good."

Autumn so often feels like a renewal, even though the outside world is winding down. I'm not sure there's a word for that contrast, either.

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Foraging Ahead

Beacon resident finds food in the wild

By Arvind Dilawar

Rambling off a trail at University Settlement in Beacon, James O'Neill stops to examine a cluster of mushrooms growing at the base of a red oak tree.

O'Neill rattles off the fungi's colloquial name (hen-of-the-woods), as well as how it's known in Latin (*grifola frondosa*) and Japanese (*maitake*). He prefers the Japanese name, which translates to "dancing mushroom."

The Beacon resident also notes its incubation period — when the fungi's root-like mycelium produces the "fruit" we consume — which can take up to a month. But based on the heat and humidity, he's able to pinpoint the week it should be best to pick.

"I'm not a scientist, just a fanatic," he says, with a laugh.

On guided, two-hour workshops, O'Neill covers the basics of foraging from both a health and legal perspective while introducing participants to the most accessible edible plants and fungi in the Highlands. He recommends that newcomers start simple: stick to legal-foraging areas, such as state and national forests (state and national parks are off-limits) or mixed-use areas. Also, look for edibles that don't have risky look-alikes, such as hen-of-the-woods, autumn olives and garlic mustard.

O'Neill, under the name Deep Forest Wild Edibles, also sells the plants and fungi he forages to local chefs, such as Nicholas Leiss, Terrance Brennan, Brandon Collins and Michael Kelly. O'Neill's Instagram account (@deepforestwildedible) features photos of plants and fungi he has encountered, as well as inventories of mushrooms and bags of vegetables, greens, teas and "switchels" (cocktail mixers which O'Neill prepares) that are for sale, along with recipes.

O'Neill arrived at the forest by way of the kitchen. A native of Newburgh, he spent 25 years working in restaurants before beginning to forage a decade ago. While he is

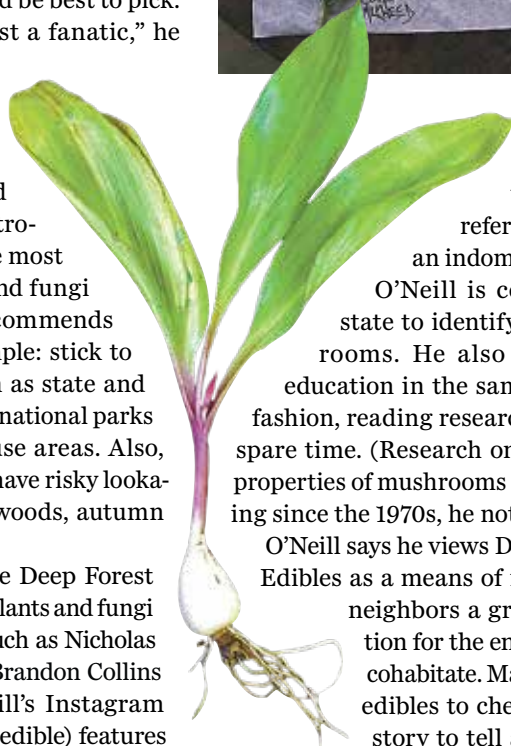


A sampling of foraged foods



James O'Neill with foraged golden oyster mushrooms, which have been found throughout the summer in our region in recent years, despite being a non-native species. This has been attributed to climate change and accidental introduction to the area through their cultivation, O'Neill says.

Photos by Nicholas Leiss/Farm2ChefsTable



Ramps, the crown jewel of the Allium (onion) family, are highly prized by wild-food enthusiasts, O'Neill says.

self-taught, with the aid of reference guides and an indomitable curiosity, O'Neill is certified by the state to identify certain mushrooms. He also continues his education in the same autodidactic fashion, reading research papers in his spare time. (Research on the medicinal properties of mushrooms has been booming since the 1970s, he notes.)

O'Neill says he views Deep Forest Wild Edibles as a means of instilling in his neighbors a greater appreciation for the environment they cohabitate. Marketing foraged edibles to chefs gives them a story to tell about the provenance of their ingredients, bringing an awareness of the value of wild spaces that might otherwise be viewed as worthless, he says. O'Neill recently discovered a patch of groundnuts — a type of endangered wild potato — but when he returned to

the site a week later, it had been razed by a Central Hudson crew installing power lines.

Even without the threat of development, foraging is a catch-as-catch-can pursuit. O'Neill notes that the spring and summer are best for vegetables, autumn for mushrooms and teas, and winters for preparing for spring. The foraging season is

already fleeting, as illustrated by a cluster of chicken-of-the-woods mushrooms that O'Neill points out. While he concedes that it may still be suitable for preparing a stock, he bends a cap to demonstrate how the fungi has grown brittle.

"It's beyond its culinary peak," he explains. Maybe next year.

" I'm running for Cold Spring Village Trustee because I believe that local government meaningfully impacts our quality of life, every day, in ways big and small. Village Hall is where we come to engage with our neighbors on issues we all care about, and where we find solutions together. I want to find solutions with you. "



Kathleen E. Foley
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Another Nelsonville Lawsuit

Cell-tower neighbor files action over access road

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

A cell tower planned for Nelsonville hit yet another obstacle on Tuesday (Oct. 27) when neighbors to the site filed a lawsuit in state court, accusing the developers of attempting to illegally expand a right of way.

Richard Vilella and Courtney Tarpley, who live at 16 Rockledge Road, contend that to reach the tower site Homeland Towers intends to turn a right of way that crosses their property into a wider road, remove mature trees, dig 310 feet of trenches, add underground electric and telecommunications infrastructure and damage a stone wall — all of which, they say, exceed the allowances of the right of way.

Their attorney, Mark Blanchard of White Plains, filed the case in Putnam Supreme Court. They seek an injunction to prevent work from beginning.

Construction on the 95-foot tower, disguised as a pine tree, was expected to begin after Nov. 1, when threatened animal species, such as bats, have hunkered down for winter.

The Village of Nelsonville initially refused to grant permits for the structure, prompting Homeland Towers and its partner, Verizon Wireless, to sue the village in federal court. Following lengthy nego-

tiations, the companies and Nelsonville reached a settlement in January.

On Oct. 14, a group of Nelsonville and Philipstown residents sued the village in federal court to get the settlement overturned.

The tower would be built on a landlocked, 9.6-acre tract acquired by Homeland Towers in March from Doug Logan, the proprietor of the Cold Spring Cemetery, which lies below the ridge. Homeland Towers plans to use the right of way across the Vilella property to reach the tower from Rockledge Road.

According to the complaint, Homeland Towers wants to construct 2,700 square feet of roadway on the Vilella property, plus resurface the private Rockledge Road with

“a highly undesirable new surface.”

The couple argue that the right of way, mentioned in property title records, only allows basic entry and exit to owners of a few surrounding properties. They said Homeland’s plans would “effectively destroy” their home’s value and “the bucolic character of the neighborhood.”

In a memo to the court, Blanchard cited New York Court of Appeals decisions that, he wrote, define a right of way as “rights to access the land” but “not to physically alter the land in any way.”

Two years ago, during the litigation against Nelsonville, Robert Gaudio, an attorney for Homeland Towers, dismissed concerns raised by Vilella and Tarpley as “a classic example of ‘not in my backyard.’” He said what they viewed as Homeland Towers’ attempts to “confiscate” part of the access road was in fact an effort to improve the “access road to which all the surrounding parcels have a right of way.”



Blanchard cited New York Court of Appeals decisions that, he wrote, define a right of way as “rights to access the land” but “not to physically alter the land in any way.”

Putnam Opens Application for Police Panel

Residents must submit form by Nov. 3

Putnam County Executive MaryEllen Odell on Oct. 29 said that residents who wish to serve on a police reform panel that is reviewing policies and proce-

dures must fill out an online application by Tuesday (Nov. 3).

The application to join the Putnam County Police Policy Review Panel is located at putnamcountyny.gov/police-reviewpanel.

“This is a watershed moment,” Odell said in a statement. “We need community

members who are willing to give their time to help develop the recommendations for the future of policing in this county.”

All Putnam County residents are encouraged to apply, she said, particularly those in community and cultural diversity groups, people of color, members of the LGBTQIA communities, faith-based groups, veterans’

organizations, schools and people dealing with mental-health issues.

The 21-member panel, which is chaired by Odell, includes Sheriff’s Department and local police officials, as well as legislative, county and municipal leaders. It was established in August in response to an executive order by Gov. Andrew Cuomo that requires each of the 500 jurisdictions with police departments in New York state to develop a reform plan by April 1.

Important Nelsonville Alert!

The Village of Nelsonville Seeks Feedback About AIRBNB and Short Term Rentals

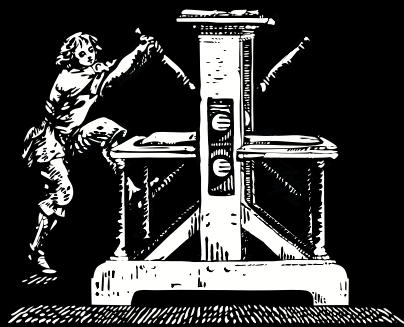
Nelsonville encourages its residents to complete a survey on this issue by November 11. This survey, in addition to feedback given at public meetings, will help the board as it debates the matter.

A link to the survey can be found on the Village website:

nelsonvilleny.gov

Nelsonville residents preferring to complete a printed copy of the survey can pick one up at Village Hall (258 Main Street).

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Beacon Schools *(from Page 1)*

to fill the two open seats.

During interviews with the candidates in September, Galloway said he had applied for the school board to fill a gap in its representation of Beacon's diverse communities.

A week after Case-Leal's resignation, on Sept. 29, dozens of community members attended the board's first in-person meeting in months, with many asking the board, which is nearly all-white, to appoint Galloway and Johnson simultaneously. Citing the short time since Case-Leal's resignation, the board opted to reopen applications for one seat while filling the other that night.

After a motion to add Galloway failed, a second motion to appoint Johnson was approved unanimously.

On Oct. 13, the board briefly interviewed Galloway, who had rolled his application over, and Joseph Puliafito, a new applicant and longtime Beacon resident who said he had worked in education since the 1970s.

On Monday, the board voted 7-1 to add Galloway. Anthony White voted "no," saying afterward that he thought the seat should have remained open until the next district election, which is scheduled for May 18.

"With the work that the board has to do during these uncertain times, changing its makeup will impede us," White said. "Trying to teach board responsibilities to new members and catching them up on past information so they can make informed

decisions will make the work the board has to do more difficult and will slow it down."

White noted, however, that he respects the majority opinion and will work with the board to "do everything in its power to make sure students' needs are being met."

On Wednesday, President Meredith Heuer said that she was pleased to have the school board back at full strength.

"I know not everyone was happy with the process, but it was important to do it this way so every board member could voice their feelings about how to proceed," she said. "Jasmine and John have both shown a real interest in the work the district has done over the last few years, and it will be great to have their perspectives in the room."

Although Galloway filled Case-Leal's seat, there could be further reshuffling next year. State law will require Galloway and Johnson, as appointees, to run to keep their seats at the next election. The seats held by Elissa Betterbid and Flora Stadler will also be on the ballot; the top three vote-getters will win three-year terms, while the fourth-place finisher will complete Rutkoske's term, which ends in 2022.



John Galloway Jr.

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Beacon Officials Cite 'Flat' Police Spending

But critics note 10 percent increase since 2018

By Jeff Simms

After several weeks of confusion, the proposed 2021 budget for the Beacon Police Department is about \$6,500 more than the nearly \$5.9 million the city expects to spend on the department this year.

The proposed overall budget, created while the city and other municipalities face uncertainties about how much money they will receive from the state because of the pandemic's effect on the economy, forgoes about \$186,000 in revenue by not raising taxes to the maximum allowed by a state tax cap. Beacon may need to withdraw more than \$2 million from its reserves to cover the shortfall.

The budget also includes \$20,000 for the Recreation Department for "community investment," \$70,000 to possibly hire a mental-health caseworker to assist the police and \$50,000 for additional pandemic-related expenses.

A public hearing on the budget, which anticipates \$22.2 million in general-fund spending, is scheduled for Nov. 16. The hearing also will cover the water and sewer funds, which are budgeted separately and each show 2 percent increases.

However, since Beacon Mayor Lee Kyri-

acou introduced the budget on Oct. 5, virtually all of the discussion has revolved around police spending.

When compared to the 2020 budget, spending on the police shows a \$352,000, or 6 percent, increase. That request was criticized by residents who called or emailed city officials and prompted a group of demonstrators, many representing Beacon 4 Black Lives, to protest outside of Kyriacou's home two weeks ago while the mayor conducted a City Council meeting inside by videoconference.

During the same meeting, City Administrator Anthony Ruggiero told the council that the 2020 budget did not include police officers' current salaries. Because the city was negotiating a contract with the Patrolmen's Benevolent Association, the officers' union, when the budget was prepared, the city used 2018 salary figures.

Ruggiero and Finance Director Susan Tucker brought revised numbers to the City Council on Monday (Oct. 26), showing that 2020 spending and the proposal for next year are virtually identical when the new contract is figured in. The city had included some of this year's anticipated police spending in its contingency fund, which is "the normal course of budgeting" when a union contract is in limbo, Tucker said.

For 2021, "we were trying to keep not only the police, but all budgets, as lean and flat as possible," Ruggiero said.

Notwithstanding that explanation, a relatively "flat" police budget misses the mark, said Paloma Wake, a representative of Beacon 4 Black Lives, which has held weekly rallies and public forums on law enforcement, education and other issues since the summer.

"The police do not make us safer, and in many critical cases cause great harm," Wake said. "Meeting the actual needs of the community — like reliable municipal broadband, a proper community center and activity spaces, veterans' services, seriously resourced mental health services and more — are what make our community safer."

The 2021 budget, she said, still represents a more than \$500,000, or 10.5 percent, increase in police spending since 2018.

On Monday, Acting Police Chief Sands Frost explained the department's budget in greater detail to the council, noting that implicit bias and procedural justice training sessions, both newly required by an order from Gov. Andrew Cuomo, will cost \$26,000.

The department is also charged \$5,000 by the Village of Fishkill to use its shooting range for training. Frost hopes to relocate to the Fishkill Correctional Facility's range, which would be free, but could be difficult to schedule because of heavy usage.

Several officers are on workers' compensation leave, forcing other officers to work overtime to meet contractually obligated minimum staffing requirements, he said.

In addition, the city is eliminating the K-9 program and does not plan to replace any police vehicles next year, Ruggiero said, while Kyriacou reiterated that, at \$272 per resident, Beacon spends the least, per capita, on law enforcement among cities in the Mid-Hudson region, according to state data. Newburgh, the next-closest in the region, spends \$308 per resident.

Referring to the Police Department's budget, the mayor said: "If we're looking for fluff, it's probably not there."

The City Council is scheduled to meet with the heads of the highway, water and sewer departments on Nov. 12 to discuss their budget needs.

Recent Local Deaths

For obituaries, see highlandscurrent.org/obits.

Beacon

John Baxter, 79	Yvonne King, 93
Vincent Bettina, 67	Betty LaColla, 91
Sally Blair, 64	Sheila Mailler, 75
Victor Carelli Jr., 67	Lank Reinoehl, 87
James Collins Jr., 74	John Ryan, 86
Mary Conley, 96	Marie Simmons, 64
Emily DeGelormo, 97	Edward Towsley, 77
Joan Drizos, 67	Cecil Williams, 72

Philipstown

Marion Allen, 52
Kathleen Butler, 67
Rose Champlin, 89
Janet DeMichael, 78
David Eisenhower, 42
Stanley Lupinetti, 78

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Puzzles

CROSS CURRENT

ACROSS

1. Cracker spread

5. Easter entree

8. *The Thin Man* dog

12. Verve

13. Past

14. Use scissors

15. Sudden temperature drop

17. — Christian Andersen

18. Dueler's ally

19. Pass by

21. Watch chain

22. Foolish

23. Andrews or Edwards, for ex.

26. Path

28. Gaggle members

31. Conks out

33. Joke

35. Paint crudely

36. "Yes we can" man

38. Oft-tattooed word

40. Kan. neighbor

41. Mr. Gingrich

43. Tear

45. Curvy-horned antelope

47. Time of the mammoths

51. Churlish one

52. Guiding principle

54. Not working

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11

12 13 14

15 16 17

18 19 20

21 22

23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30

31 32 33 34 35

36 37 38 39 40

41 42 43 44

45 46 47 48 49 50

51 52 53

54 55 56

57 58 59

55. Under the weather

56. Takeout phrase

57. Start a garden

58. Nutritional qty.

59. Health centers

DOWN

1. Chest muscles, for short

2. Lotion additive

3. Body powder

4. The — the line

5. Purse

6. Khan title

7. Motorized bike

8. Embarrassed

9. Crisp-pod legume

10. Supermarket stack

11. Church section

16. Winter forecast

20. Drag along

23. Commotion

24. Little white lie

25. Tall thin person

27. Thanksgiving veggie

29. Seek damages

30. Chicago lyricist

32. Slandered

34. Ape

37. Piercing tool

39. Cinderella's horses, really

42. Long-snouted critter

44. Nuisances

45. Wading bird

46. Fashion

48. On

49. Infatuated

50. Cupid's alias

53. Antiquated

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 3X Oscar winner Oliver (5)

2 grape variety (7)

3 superficial (7)

4 mentions one by one (7)

5 manager of tiny workers (9)

6 like surprised eyebrows (6)

7 use different words (8)

SOLUTIONS

STO	BEE	SU	CO	ACE
ORD	RA	ASE	KEE	RE
PER	ED	AI	RF	NC
DET	PHR	NE	IS	LS

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SUDO CURRENT

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

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Answers for Oct. 23 Puzzles

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

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

1. ROONEY, 2. EDINBURGH, 3. YEARNING, 4. RUNGS, 5. RECOVERING, 6. ROMANTICS, 7. ACCIDENTAL

SPORTS



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Beacon Girls Edge Haldane

By Skip Pearlman

In a Highlands rivalry game on Saturday (Oct. 24), the Beacon High School girls' soccer team edged Haldane, 2-1, at Cold Spring.

The Bulldogs got goals from Reilly Landisi (assisted by Claire Derrenbacher) and Devyn Kelly (also from Derrenbacher). Haldane's score came from Sydney Warren, assisted by Bianca Harmancin

"We moved the ball very well in that game, and we played better in the second half," said Beacon Coach Hugo Alzate. "The first half was pretty even, but we played better after Haldane scored. We tired them out a bit."

Elizabeth Reynolds stopped five shots on goal for Beacon, and Haldane keeper Ruby Poses turned back 12.

"All three goals were quality tallies," said Haldane Coach Steve Schweikhart. "Landisi's was just an example of a kid really wanting to find the back of the net, and she made a strong play in the air. Kelly's was a well-hit shot that Ruby couldn't have done anything about. Ours had a strong buildup



Ashley Casserly (4) and Bianca Harmancin (15) race for the ball during the Beacon-Haldane game on Saturday (Oct. 24). For more photos, see highlandscurrent.org.

Photo by Scott Warren

that led to a beautiful cross by Bianca and a flawless finish by Sydney.

"I was pleased with the way girls competed with a very talented Beacon team," he added. "They're fast, physical

and organized. They're young, too — their goals were scored by an eighth grader and a freshman. They're good now, and they have the potential to be scary good down the road."

Beacon 3, Ketcham 2

Beacon picked up another win on Monday (Oct. 26), edging Ketcham in the final minutes of the second of two, 10-minute overtime periods.

Chelsea DerBoghassian got the Bulldogs on the board midway through the first half, off a pass from Landisi. Ketcham tied the game late in the half, but Beacon answered 10 seconds before the break when Maddie Bobnick scored off a pass from DerBoghassian.

Ketcham tied the game midway through the second half. The scored remain tied until DerBoghassian nailed the clincher, finishing a feed from Gabby Del Castillo on a corner kick.

"That was the most complete team game I've seen in the last six years," said Alzate. "Every girl contributed."

Beacon (3-2) is scheduled to host Lake-land on Wednesday (Nov. 4).

Putnam Valley 1, Haldane 0

Haldane lost another close contest on Wednesday at home. Poses made eight saves in net. The teams had tied, 0-0, in an earlier meeting.

"Putnam Valley deserved the win; they outworked us and just played a more proactive game," Schweikhart said.

Haldane (0-1-5) is scheduled to visit North Salem today (Oct. 30).

Boys' Soccer Roundup

By Skip Pearlman

The Beacon High School team hit the field running in this wacky 2020 fall season and have not looked back, compiling a 6-0 record and clinching their fifth consecutive league title on Tuesday (Oct. 27) with a 2-0 home victory over Lourdes.

Dillon Kelly converted a pass from Tommy Franks midway through the first half to put the Bulldogs on the board, and Chase Green finished a Reagan Ladue feed early in the second half to cap the scoring. Keeper AJ Lucas needed just three saves in the victory.

Coach Craig Seaman said his team "controlled possession and dictated the pace of play" against their Poughkeepsie rivals. "Javier Piguave moved positions and had a good game for us."

On Saturday (Oct. 24), the Bulldogs got two goals from Kelly as well as goals from Warren Banks, Jack Philipbar and Derek Bilyeu in a 5-1 win over Peekskill.

"Peekskill is the only team we play that plays on natural grass, and it was a small, and not ideal, field," Seaman said. "They



Haldane freshman Clement Grossman (21) scores on a header to tie the game against Croton-Harmon on Tuesday. For more photos, see highlandscurrent.org.

Photo by S. Pearlman

were up 1-0 two minutes into the game, but the boys didn't panic and scored five goals in the next 20 minutes."

The Bulldogs also defeated Hendrick Hudson, 1-0, on Oct. 22 on a goal by Banks, who was assisted by Miguel Ruiz.

"Hen Hud is tricky," Seaman said.

"They're super-physical, and they played very defensively, so the game never opened up for us."

Beacon is scheduled to host Hendrick Hudson on Tuesday (Nov. 3) and North Rockland on Thursday before traveling to John Jay East Fishkill on Friday.

Haldane

After playing an unimpressive first half on Tuesday against visiting Croton-Harmon, the Blue Devils took over, turning a one-goal deficit into a 5-3 victory.

Frank Bentkowski Jr. scored twice for the Blue Devils; Andrew Silhavy had a goal and an assist; Max Westphal and Clement Grossman each scored; and Matt Silhavy had an assist. Keeper Ronan Kiter was credited with six saves

Coach Ahmed Dwidar said his team was "sloppy" initially, perhaps because they had beaten Croton-Harmon 3-0 earlier in the season.

"That concerns me, because we have to be consistent," he said. "We can't be a first-half or a second-half team. We have scored 12 goals and have three wins, which is a nice improvement over last season."

On Saturday (Oct. 24) at Haldane, the Blue Devils defeated Putnam Valley, 4-2, with Grossman scoring twice and Bentkowski and Ryan Eng-Wong each adding a goal. Keeper Graeme McGrath had eight saves.

Haldane avenged an earlier 3-0 loss to Putnam Valley and also won on Senior Day for the first time in four seasons.

Haldane is scheduled to play four games in the next five days, hosting Peekskill on Saturday (Oct. 31) before traveling to Putnam Valley on Monday, North Salem on Tuesday and Arlington on Wednesday.