

The HIGHLANDS Current

JANUARY 1, 2021

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IN 2021
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PAGE 20

COVID 'Long-Haulers'

Some survivors report chronic health problems

By Leonard Sparks

Linda Weaver's bout with COVID-19 has been longer than most. For months after fighting body aches, fever, neck pain and fatigue as the virus ravaged her body during its initial infection back in late-March, the Cold Spring resident fended off recurring health problems: forgetfulness, mental "fogginess" and fatigue so profound she told her business partner she might be unable to work some days.

"I'll be sitting at my desk at my home and I just can't stay awake," said Weaver, 68, a talent agent for voice-over artists. "I am so tired, I can't do one more thing."

While most people who contract COVID-

19 are symptom-free within a few weeks, Weaver is a so-called "long-hauler," a subset of coronavirus survivors who experience sometimes-severe fatigue, muscle aches, shortness of breath, difficulty concentrating, forgetfulness and dozens of other symptoms months after the initial acute-illness period of roughly two weeks.

A telephone survey by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention of COVID-19 patients released in July showed that 35 percent reported they had not returned to their pre-virus health two to three weeks after being tested, including 26 percent of respondents 18-to-34 years old and 47 percent of those 50 and older.

A survey of "long-haulers" conducted by an Indiana University School of Medicine researcher and the grassroots support group Survivor Corps, also released in July,

(Continued on Page 6)



Some people who contract COVID-19 face a long road to recovery.

How They Voted

Governor signs another round of bills passed by state legislators

By Chip Rowe

Gov. Andrew Cuomo has signed 1,138 bills passed in 2019 and 2020 by the state Assembly and Senate, which next week begin a new, two-year legislative session. Another 12 await his signature — including four related to the closure in April of the Indian Point nuclear power plant. He has vetoed 192.

The 2020-21 session will have a differ-

ent look, as Democrats in November won a "supermajority" in the Senate to match the one they've had for years in the Assembly. That means both houses have enough votes to override a Cuomo veto, which may play a role with issues such as legalizing marijuana, raising taxes on the wealthy, eliminating cash bail and placing limits on solitary confinement.

What follows are summaries of select laws enacted in November and December and the votes cast by Republican Sue Serino (whose Senate district includes the Highlands), Democrat Sandy Galef (whose Assembly district includes Philipstown) and Democrat Jonathan Jacobson (whose Assembly district includes Beacon).

(Continued on Page 7)



George Hustis Jr. (right), in a family photo with his late father

Photo provided

Milkman Makes Last Delivery

Hustis Dairy, founded in 1897, closes doors

By Michael Turton

After nearly 125 years, the last quart of Hustis Dairy milk was delivered on Thursday (Dec. 31).

George Hustis Jr., 54, was the deliveryman; his great-grandfather, also named George, founded the Philipstown dairy in 1897. The farm, which was nearly 500 acres and, at its peak, relied on 500 to 600 cows, straddled Route 9 north of Route 301 near Hustis Road. The dairy specialized in door-to-door and wholesale sales.

"We had all the restaurants in town," Hustis said. "We sold to Grand Union [now Foodtown] for 40 years, including when it was located on Main Street."

After the death of George Jr.'s grandfather, Harry, in 1947, the family stopped milk production at the farm and instead purchased milk for delivery from producers such as the Dairy Lea Cooperative. The farmland was sold in 1952 and part of the

property became a gravel quarry, which was later rehabilitated to become Glassbury Court townhomes.

In recent years, Graecliff Farms, which processes milk from about 1,000 dairy farms in the Northeast, supplied George Jr., who was Philipstown's milkman for 38 years. In the 1980s his route had more than 300 customers. Deliveries also included eggs, butter and orange juice.

"I'd leave at 4:30 in the morning and get home about 1 in the afternoon," Hustis recalled on Tuesday (Dec. 29). "It used to take me an hour-and-a-half just to do East Mountain Road" although, he noted, he never traveled more than 10 miles from home. When he made his last delivery on Thursday, fewer than 50 customers remained.

George Jr. still owns the distinctive red barn on Route 9 at Hustis Road, the last vestige of the once-thriving dairy. It was built in 1940 to replace a much bigger barn that burned the year before, he said.

While he has delivered milk for nearly four decades, George Jr. said he has never milked a cow. He doesn't seem to regret that.

"Milking was a lot of work, every morning, whether you wanted to or not," he said. "They used to milk them all by hand starting at 4:30 or 5 a.m., and the cows didn't care if it was snowing or raining."

His father, George Hustis Sr., died in 2006 at age 73 but left stories of the dairy's past to his son. Those involving Harry Hustis remain a big part of family lore.

"They gave my grandfather a ring one

(Continued on Page 16)

“ They used to milk them all by hand starting at 4:30 or 5 a.m., and the cows didn't care if it was snowing or raining.

5Q FIVE QUESTIONS: HENRY FELDMAN

By Chip Rowe

Henry Feldman, of Cold Spring, is a computer programmer and the creator of ChessVis (chessvis.com).

When did you start playing chess?

After watching Bobby Fischer play Boris Spassky in 1972, as a teenager. I could beat everyone in my neighborhood in Willingboro, New Jersey. What *The Queen's Gambit* on Netflix has done for chess feels like what Fischer vs. Spassky did then, and with COVID, the number of games played online has been crazy. There are 70 million games per month at lichess.org.

Why was the game appealing?

I was a short, asthmatic kid who didn't have a lot of sports opportunities. And I was good at it. The board only has 64 squares, and it's not like poker where people are hiding cards. All the pieces are out there and they can only move certain places.

What does ChessVis do?

It's a training program. When you move a piece, you have to consider not only where it goes but the void it leaves. The dynamic of the board changes in multiple locations. I couldn't find a program that helped develop



the "memory muscle" to stick the board in your head, so I wrote one. Recently I started working on a new section on openings using 125 million games that I ripped apart. What's freaky is that the board position will go unique after 11 or 12 pairs of moves. That is, you'll start to see things that don't appear anywhere in the 125 million games.

Is that what top chess players do? They envision the board three or four moves ahead?

It turns out that they don't have that many more moves thought out than an amateur might but they see many more combinations of two and three moves. What happens for amateurs typically is your brain puts in filters: "Oh, I know that move won't work." But part of tactics training is allowing yourself to be open to possibilities that you didn't conceive were there.

What other programs have you written?

I try to write things that are unique; I'm not the guy to create another word processor. In the 1980s and '90s, I wrote software for the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to track AIDS patients. Local health departments would buy the software to report their numbers to the CDC. It was sad, because one day I would get an order from California — "We need a copy for every county" — and later orders came from other states, such as Iowa. You could see the spread. I also wrote a program for moving data between different products, which I sold to SAS Institute, which is run by two billionaires. I still work for SAS but would like to retire as a theater person, which I knew would be challenging. I was cast as an extra on *The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel* and it was the hardest \$1,000 I've ever earned.

ON THE SPOT

By Michael Turton

What will you put in your 2020 time capsule?

“

Photos from my first trip to Maine; it was incredible.

”



~ Dan Leaver, Beacon

“

A Great Blue Turaco feather from a wildlife center where I interned.

”



~ Brittany Gordon, Cold Spring

“

A Cold Spring Pizza shirt. They give us lots of stuff and I want to help local business.

”



~ Alex Gaugler, Cold Spring

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KATIE BISSINGER, COLD SPRING



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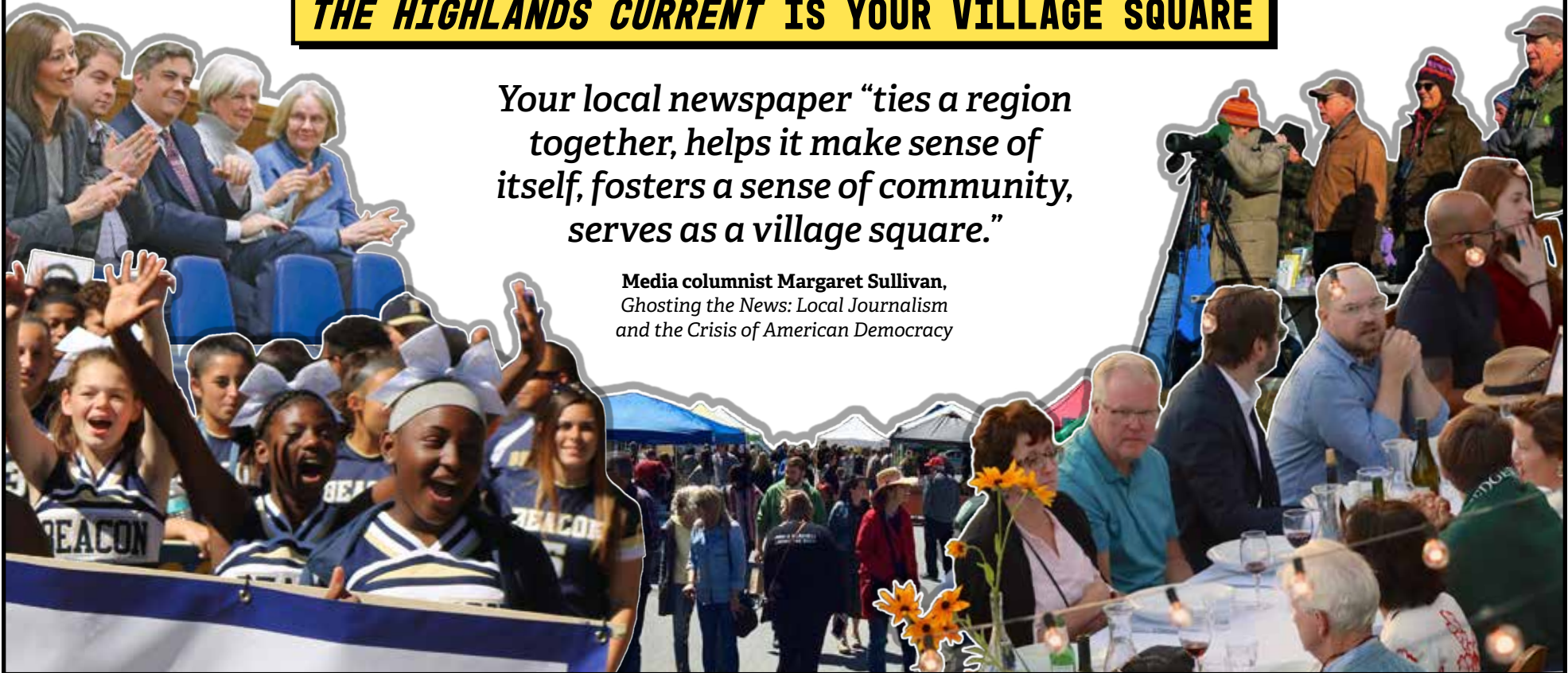
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Your local newspaper “ties a region together, helps it make sense of itself, fosters a sense of community, serves as a village square.”

Media columnist **Margaret Sullivan**,
Ghosting the News: Local Journalism and the Crisis of American Democracy



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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

Fading forest

In the winter of 2014, I was exploring the woods behind Haldane when I came across an old beech tree some distance off the trail. I was impressed by its size and knew it must be very old — at least 60 years old, because there was an engraving in the bark, “JP 1954.” Of course, it is a wanton and selfish act to mutilate the bark of a tree but, at the same time, it’s kind of cool to carve your name.

I set to work with my Swiss Army knife on “MC 2014,” thinking that one day, years later, I would return to this spot with my children or grandchildren and point to the tree and tell them the story of JP and myself, 60 years later, and they would wonder at this. I secretly hoped that perhaps another anonymous woods explorer would happen upon the tree, decades later, and leave his or her mark. In the years since I have often returned to this tree and thought about time and other things.

It has been two or three years since I last checked the tree, but while walking my dogs, something moved me to visit. Beeches are usually easy to spot in the winter because they hold onto their leaves and their bark is gray like elephant skin. Unfortunately, this is no longer the case with the beech. The bark was black and withered. You could still see my engraving, but JP’s was barely visible through the mold. I looked up toward the canopy and found that some of its limbs were barren and the bark was peeling away.

The beech tree I love is dying. “It is an old tree, after all,” I thought. “All things come to an end.” I had contented myself with



that thought until I got home and found a copy of *The Current* on my dining room table, with Brian PJ Cronin’s article, “The Fading Forest” (Dec. 11). I was disheartened to learn that there are a slew of diseases threatening beech trees across the Hudson Valley and beyond. I knew about the hemlock and ash blights, but the beech diseases were news to me. It dawned on me that it may not be old age killing my beech.

Last year I had an argument with a friend about invasive species. She said that, invasive or not, it’s all life and should be respected and accepted. In my opinion, anything that reduces biodiversity is bad for all life. Perhaps we should adjust our rhetoric around the problem, taking care to use *non-native* instead of *invasive*, but when it comes to preserving our tree diversity, I am a dyed-in-the-wool nativist.

Cronin mentioned how the ash blight is

an existential threat to the Mohawk people because they use materials derived from black ash in their sacred ceremonies. As an undergraduate, I had the privilege of spending some time in Kahnawake, a Mohawk reserve outside Montreal. During a class in traditional medicine, the elder said, “The forest is suffering.”

Malachy Labrie-Cleary, *Cold Spring*

The second part of Brian Cronin’s important series, which focused on the glorious and threatened Eastern Hemlock, surely touched the nerve of any Highlands resident who values this grand, dying species.

Anyone whose heart leaps high upon approaching our tall hemlock forests will find it soar higher still upon catching sight of *Tsuga Canadensis f. Pendula*, the amazingly beautiful weeping sport of the towering ones, discovered near Beacon between 1857 and 1868 by Gen. Joseph Howland and planted at his home in Matteawan (now Beacon) and, as of 1980, in good health at 13 feet high and 36 feet wide.

This mutant was named by Henry Winthrop Sargent, a botanist living at the time in Beacon, and is commonly known as the Sargent’s Weeping Hemlock. Lasting near to infinity, these trees are treasured throughout the East Coast as objects of rare beauty. Together with their tall parent, we must do all possible in the Highlands to preserve them. I hope Brian’s story will help.

Bevis Longstreth, *Garrison*

I just spent a considerable amount of money taking down seven ash trees on my

(Continued on Page 5)



LETTERS AND COMMENTS

(Continued from Page 4)

property, all victims of the emerald ash borer. I would have rather spent the money planting new trees.

Nick Smirnoff, *via Instagram*

Who goes first?

I sincerely hope that Rep. Sean Patrick Maloney, our young(ish) member of Congress, and a man of privilege, did not take the vaccine before it was available to his constituents (“Vaccines: Who Goes First?,” Dec. 18). If he hasn’t, I implore him to show some leadership and let people at higher risk, including the elderly and front-line workers, go first.

Seeing younger and middle-aged members of Congress taking the vaccine before seniors, postal workers, grocery-store clerks, delivery folks and other essential workers does not sit well. I understand the national security reasons for quickly inoculating those in the presidential line of succession. But rank-and-file members of Congress, while their constituents have to wait? Not a good look.

Evan Hudson, *Cold Spring*
Maloney tweeted on Dec. 21: “Per guidance from the Attending Physician [of the U.S. Congress], for continuity of government, I got my first dose of the [Pfizer] COVID vaccine. The vaccine is safe, effective and backed by science. Under the bi-partisan relief bill, we’ve secured billions to help make this vaccine free and accessible to all Americans. The folks who’ve worked day and night to

bring this to market are the heroes of the hour. As I wait for the second dose [in January], I’ll continue to trust science, mask up and physically distance. Light is on the horizon.”

Beacon chief

I am pleased with both the result of the search for a new police chief in Beacon with the selection of Lt. Sands Frost and the community-directed portions of the process that led to it (“Frost Named Beacon Police Chief,” Dec. 25). Beacon is a special community, and I have deep faith in good things ahead.

Bryanne Figlia, *via Facebook*

The selection says volumes about the Beacon Police Department’s personnel and culture. The explicitly expressed openness to hearing everyone and reconciliation going forward is to be celebrated and cherished.

Don Raskopf, *via Facebook*

I went through grade school with Sands and he’s an all-around great guy.

Doreen Evangelista, *via Facebook*

Families in isolation

You reported on families growing closer during the pandemic shutdown (“Families in Isolation Grow Closer,” Dec. 25), and yet, suicide and overdose rates have increased substantially. No need to report on what happens to “some.” Let’s try reporting real news.

Christine Peterson, *via Facebook*

The silver lining only exists for people privileged enough to experience it and, even amongst those people, I’m seeing divorces, children falling behind in school and despair. There are multigenerational families living in tight quarters with essential workers who have to live in fear, every minute of the day, that the virus will land in their home. Our food pantries can barely keep up. This pandemic is absolutely crushing people and has been for nearly a year now.

The damage of this pandemic will echo for at least a generation and yet here we are reading about a lucky few. Please, read the room.

Andrea Hudson, *via Facebook*

Privilege will affect outcomes. I am privileged. It is easier for me to stay safe, shelter at home and survive. My children have a grandmother and dad who can help pay rent when unemployment ran out because they all lost jobs. We have food, shelter, clothing and heat and water and health. I am blessed. I am lucky and blessed. Amen.

Emily Ellison, *via Facebook*

Joe Etta

Joe Etta was a good old friend of mine and my father’s, who was also a World War II veteran and who would have been 105 but passed long ago (“Joe Etta Dies at Age 102,” Dec. 25). Our sorrow to the Etta family. Another Springer gone.

Anthony Merante, *via Facebook*

NEWS BRIEFS

Beacon Man Killed on Bridge

Troopers hoping to find witnesses

A Beacon man was killed on the Newburgh-Beacon Bridge on Sunday (Dec. 27) in what police say was a hit-and-run crash.

The New York State Police said it was notified at about 11:27 p.m. that security cameras had shown a pedestrian walking on the southern span. The troopers who responded found Stephen Tomlins, 41, of Beacon, had been struck and killed.

Anyone with information is asked to call 845-677-7300 and refer to Case 9998089.

Beacon Mayor Selects City Administrator

Ulster planner is former council member

Beacon Mayor Lee Kyriacou said on Tuesday (Dec. 29) he would recommend the City Council hire the deputy director of planning for Ulster County as the city’s next administrator.

The council will consider Chris White for the job at its Monday (Jan. 4) meeting, along with Kyriacou’s choice of Lt. Sands Frost as police chief. The mayor said there were 30

applicants for the administrator job.

White, who has worked for Ulster County for nine years, was a Beacon City Council member in 1996-97, representing the 3rd Ward. If approved, he will succeed Anthony Ruggiero, who this month plans to join the Dutchess County health department.

White, who also spent 10 years managing a district office for Rep. Maurice Hinchey, holds a bachelor’s degree in politics from New York University and a master’s degree in public administration from SUNY Albany.

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2020
YEAR
IN REVIEW

10

Most-Viewed
Stories at

highlandscurrent.org

1.

**Coronavirus Update:
Dutchess Has First Case**

(March 13)

2.

**Coronavirus Update:
Dutchess Has First Deaths**

(March 27)

3.

Wide Views of Thin Blue Line

(June 5)

4.

Route 9D Closed Near Breakneck

(March 9)

5.

Chaos in Cold Spring

(Oct. 16)

6.

**After 34 Years, Antique Shop
and Gallery to Close**

(May 15)

7.

**Beacon Prison Virus
Cases Highest in State**

(April 24)

8.

Putnam Has First Deaths

(April 3)

9.

Whistling Willie’s Closes Its Doors

(Jan. 24)

10.

Cold Spring Man Dies of COVID

(April 10)

NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a public hearing will be held by the Zoning Board of Appeals of the Town of Philipstown on Monday, January 11th, 2021 at 7:30 P.M. Via Zoom. If you would like to attend, please email KMACINTYRE@PHILIPSTOWN.COM to request login information before 7 pm on January 11th, 2021.

**Lakeisha Esau & Martin Friedman, 66 Highland Dr, Garrison, NY
TM#90.8-2-41**

The proposed scope of work consists of a 2nd floor on the existing 1st floor exterior walls and the extension of decks to the side and rear on new posts and piers.

Dated November 9th, 2020 | Robert Dee, Chairman of the Town of Philipstown Zoning Board of Appeals

NOTICE

Philipstown
Planning Board

will hold their regular Monthly Meeting on January 21st, 2021 7:30 p.m. virtually via Zoom.

If you would like to attend, please email KMACINTYRE@PHILIPSTOWN.COM to request login information before 7 pm on January 21st, 2021.

Long Haulers *(from Page 1)*

reported that 26 percent of post-COVID-19 symptoms were described as “painful.”

While doctors are unsure why problems continue months later, the plight of these COVID-19 victims is drawing attention. Last month, Dr. Anthony Fauci, the director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, called the issue “a phenomenon that is really quite real and quite extensive” during his opening remarks for a National Institutes of Health workshop on the long-term health problems caused by the virus.

Locally, the Westchester Medical Center Health Network in October launched a Post-COVID-19 Recovery Program at its main campus in Valhalla, joining a growing list of hospitals developing initiatives to treat and monitor people with enduring symptoms.

In the months following the start of the pandemic in March, Westchester Medical Center treated about 600 people who had reported symptoms long after their initial infection, said Carol Karmen, an internal medicine specialist with WMCHHealth Physicians and one of the clinical leads for the program.

Many of the people experiencing long-lasting health problems were healthy before becoming infected and were not among the “sickest” with COVID-19, said Karmen. Some of them, despite severe symptoms, have met with a lack of sympathy from employers when unable to work, she said.

“People have told me they’ve lost their jobs, they’ve lost their health insurance,” Karmen said. “Even family relationships are affected.”

Randy, a Beacon resident who asked that his surname be withheld to protect his privacy, said he began feeling COVID-19 symptoms, including body aches, chills, fatigue and a sore throat, in early March.

His health improved after about two weeks, but then, in April, “all of the symptoms came back but stronger.” Randy said he had “difficulty breathing, where I couldn’t take a deep breath. I developed severe insomnia, I couldn’t sleep at all, I lost my appetite; I had really bad flu-like body aches.”

“My limbs would go numb and I lost about 20 pounds over the course of that month,” said Randy, who in May was diagnosed with pericarditis, an inflammation of heart tissue

WMCHHealth’s Post-COVID-19 Recovery Program

- It’s for people who have had a confirmed or suspected COVID-19 infection and have lingering health problems.
- It takes most insurance plans, including Medicare and Medicaid.
- Schedule an evaluation by requesting an appointment at wmchealthnetwork.tfaforms.net/278 or by calling 833-329-0095. After an evaluation, an exam and review of your COVID-19 history, a clinical patient navigator will be assigned to guide you through a treatment plan.
- Your primary care physician will receive detailed communications.

that can be caused by a viral infection.

Heart palpitations and chest pain are some of the other cardiac problems reported by long-haulers, Karmen said, adding that patients seen by WMCHHealth are also reporting hair loss.

People sick with COVID-19 often lose their ability to smell and taste but can expect those senses to improve as the infection wanes. But some long-haulers have gone months without regaining those senses, Karmen said.

“Say they got sick in March or April. Now, it’s December and they still have trouble with tasting and smelling,” she said.

WMCHHealth’s program, has a range of specialists — cardiologists, pulmonologists, neurologists, nephrologists, etc. — to treat people with post-COVID-19 symptoms. In addition to the hundreds of long-haulers WMC doctors were following before the program’s launch, another 100 or so people have joined since October, Karmen said.

Many of them are grateful to have their symptoms taken seriously, “because a lot of them had been dismissed by other doctors

Most Frequent Post-COVID Symptoms

Number of respondents in a survey of people with long-term symptoms who said they suffered from:

Fatigue	1,567
Muscle or body aches	1,046
Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing	1,020
Difficulty concentrating or focusing	924
Inability to exercise or be active	916
Headache	902
Difficulty sleeping	782
Anxiety	746
Memory problems	714
Dizziness	656

Source: “COVID-19 ‘Long Hauler’ Symptoms Survey Report,” Indiana University School of Medicine and Survivors Corps, July 2020

and they haven’t been able to get the proper care,” she said.

Officials at Nuvance Health, whose system includes Putnam Hospital Center in Carmel and Vassar Brothers Medical Center in Poughkeepsie, are talking about creating a similar program, said Paul Nee, an infectious disease doctor with Nuvance.

“We’re not talking 10 or 20 patients; we have thousands of patients who experienced COVID,” he said.

Randy has enrolled in Mount Sinai Hospital’s Center for Post-COVID Care, which he discovered at an online support group for long-haulers created by Body Politic, a wellness website. Each day he enters his symptoms in an app provided by Mount Sinai and once a week meets with a doctor by videoconference.

His health improved over the summer, but “it’s like sore and painful” when he takes deep breaths, his limbs sometimes

COVID-19 by the Numbers

■ PUTNAM COUNTY

Number of confirmed cases:

4,750 (+461)

New Cases in Philipstown: **32**

Tests administered:

108,373 (+5,995)

Percent positive:

4.4 (+0.2)

Number of deaths:

67 (+1)

■ DUTCHESS COUNTY

Number of confirmed cases:

11,869 (+1,097)

Active Cases in Beacon: **77**

Tests administered:

361,787 (+16,043)

Percent positive:

3.3 (+0.2)

Number of deaths:

233 (+15)

Source: New York State Department of Health, as of Dec. 29, with weekly change in parentheses. New cases in Philipstown is for week ending Dec. 24.

go numb and he still has trouble sleeping.

While “it’s been good to have the support of some doctors who are on the front lines of trying to understand this virus,” the lingering health problems can be “extremely frustrating,” Randy said.

“There’s a lot of fear that I’ll never be back to my health pre-COVID,” he said.

NOTICE

Philipstown Conservation Board

will hold their regular Monthly Meeting on January 12th, 2021 virtually via Zoom.

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

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_b6kKnSrbRouaPzh476xg0g

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 January 12th, 2021.

NOTICE

Philipstown Zoning Board

will hold their regular Monthly Meeting on January 11th, 2021 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_Zcb-pJDDSJylvPB2KF22xQ

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

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How They Voted *(from Page 1)*

Evictions and foreclosures

On Dec. 28, Cuomo signed a measure that places a moratorium on COVID-related residential evictions until at least May 1 if a renter submits a hardship declaration. Landlords who own 10 or fewer rentals also can file declarations with lenders to prevent foreclosures.

Senate passed 40-21

Serino ☒

Assembly passed 96-50

Galef ☒ Jacobson ☒

Frivolous suits

On Nov. 10, Cuomo enacted legislation to deter “strategic lawsuits against public participation,” or SLAPPS. According to the New York Civil Liberties Union, “a SLAPP isn’t meant to be won; it’s just meant to be so ruinously expensive and time-consuming to defend that the victim agrees to self-censor if the suit is dropped. SLAPPS are one of the many ways powerful figures use the legal system to punish critics, silence journalists and whistleblowers,” and stifle free speech.

State lawmakers passed an anti-SLAPP law in 2008 but it only applies to “a public application or permit,” which most often involves real-estate deals. The expanded law will allow a court to award a defendant fees and costs if he or she is sued over “an issue of public interest.”

Senate passed 57-3

Serino ☒

Assembly passed 116-26

Galef ☒ Jacobson ☒

Right to publicity

On Nov. 30, Cuomo signed a bill into law that establishes a “right to publicity” that protects “personal characteristics that have commercial value,” such as a (usually famous) person or performer’s name, picture, voice and signature, for 40 years after death.

The legislation also creates penalties for publishing fake, sexually explicit depictions of dead famous people, or deepfakes, and prohibits the creation of simulated performances. It allows depictions of a dead famous person as a fictional character if there is a “conspicuous disclaimer” and exempts literary or political works and journalism, including parody and satire — as well as, notably, use by political campaigns. The law will apply to anyone who dies on or after May 29, 2021.

Senate passed 60-0

Serino ☒

Assembly passed 140-1

Galef ☒ Jacobson ☒

Immigrants in court

On Dec. 15, Cuomo signed a law banning



Serino, Jacobson and Galef

non-citizens from being detained by federal immigration authorities while appearing in state courts unless a judge has issued an arrest order. An immigration-related arrest at a courthouse based on an administrative warrant or without a warrant is no longer allowed.

The law builds on an executive order that Cuomo issued in 2018 that banned the arrest of non-citizens seeking essential services on state property.

Senate passed 42-18

Serino ☒

Assembly passed 97-44

Galef ☒ Jacobson ☒

Voter registration

On Dec. 22, Cuomo enacted a law that will allow the Department of Motor Vehicles, agencies that administer public-assistance programs, and county and city departments of social services to automatically share data with the Board of Elections to register eligible voters.

According to a schedule provided in the law, the DMV will begin automatic registration in 2023, followed by the Health and Labor Departments and the Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance in 2024. The State University of New York will follow in 2025.

Senate passed 40-20

Serino ☒

Assembly passed 86-55

Galef ☒ Jacobson ☒

Tax exemptions

On Dec. 2, Cuomo signed a law that will create a seven-member task force to study property tax exemptions to determine if any should be revised or eliminated. Sen. Pete Harekham, a Democrat whose district includes eastern Putnam County, sponsored the bill. He pointed to a 2012 study that concluded that \$826 billion worth of property in the state — or about a third of the total

— is exempt from local and/or school taxes.

Senate passed 43-19

Serino ☒

Assembly passed 140-1

Galef ☒ Jacobson ☒

Facial recognition

On Dec. 22, Cuomo signed legislation suspending the use of facial recognition or other biometric technology at public and private schools until July 1, 2022, to allow time for the Office of Information Technology and the Education Department to study the systems and recommend privacy guidelines and restrictions.

Senate passed 46-14

Serino ☒

Assembly passed 118-24

Galef ☒ Jacobson ☒

Other laws that went into effect last month

■ Requires hospitals and nursing homes to offer plant-based food options to patients for every meal and snack.

Senate passed 46-16

Serino ☒

Serino said she supports the goal of the bill but felt, because it required the Department of Health to take immediate steps to create regulations, it was ill-timed amid the pandemic.

Assembly passed 141-0

Galef ☒ Jacobson ☒

■ Authorizes state courts to compile data on misdemeanors and violations and requires law enforcement to publicly report arrest-related deaths.

Senate passed 60-2

Serino ☒

Assembly passed 100-44

Galef ☒ Jacobson ☒

■ Requires that notices and signs required for pesticide applications be printed in English and Spanish.

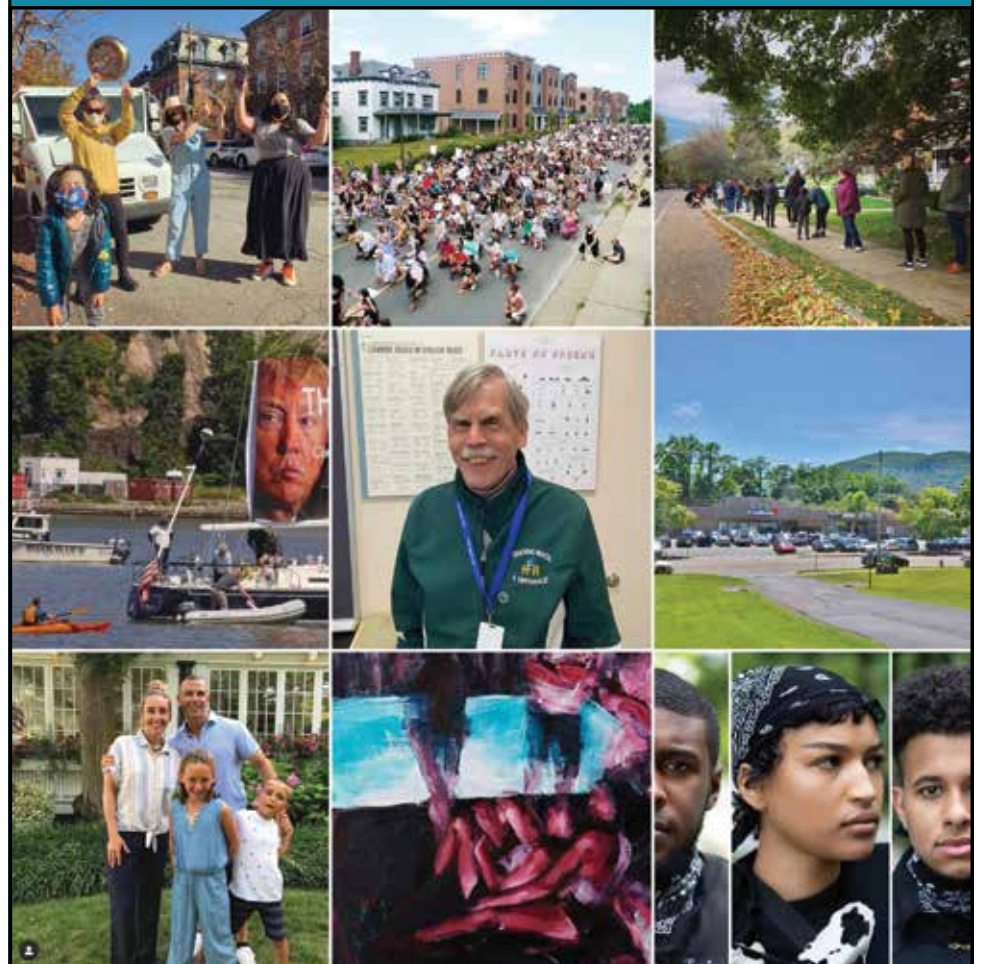
Senate passed 55-5

Serino ☒

Assembly passed 138-3

Galef ☒ Jacobson ☒

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Catching Up with the Garrison School Board

By Chip Rowe

■ On Oct. 21, the Garrison School board abolished a policy that only allowed it to pay long-term substitute teachers a standard rate of \$125 per day until they worked for more than 40 days — a practice that Superintendent Carl Albano said is not competitive because of a high demand for qualified subs. Instead, the board will be able to immediately offer long-term subs the equivalent of a starting teacher's salary.

■ Tetra Tech Architects & Engineers presented early plans for a capital upgrades approved by voters in September 2019 that will cost up to \$9.9 million. According to a schedule provided by the firm, bids will be solicited in March and construction will begin in April and continue through August 2022. About \$900,000 in funding will come from district savings, \$1 million from state aid and the remainder from a tax levy.

■ On Nov. 4, the board discussed at length the work of its newly created anti-racism and equity task force. Board Member Jocelyn Apicello reported that the task force created a mission statement that says the district is "committed to recognizing, addressing and dismantling racism in all its forms. We are dedicated to creating, fostering and sustaining a safe and inclusive environment in which differences are valued, respected and

supported in all areas of school life. We want to produce self-reflective students who experience academic success, who view the world with a critical lens and who are prepared to be responsible and emphatic global citizens."

She said the task force had identified four priorities: "1. To implement racially inclusive curricula and assessments, 2. To engage all teachers and staff in ongoing professional development, 3. To create a safe environment of dignity, respect, empowerment and inclusivity, and 4. To evaluate the work of the task force and ensure its success and sustain the work over time."

Apicello said a letter would go out to the community inviting residents to join the task force. [By Dec. 22, the committee had 17 members, including Apicello and Board Members David Gelber and Madeline Julian, six parents, four teachers, the school psychologist, two administrators and a consultant.]

The board discussed the purpose of the task force. Gelber noted that Garrison is a largely white community so that race is "not something that gets discussed a whole lot." He invited other board members to address why they felt the task force was important.

Julian, the only Black member of the board, responded: "We have a lot of things that are separating us right now in the community [because of COVID], but the one thing that unites us all is that we all care about our students, we care about the district and their education. If we hold on to that, this task force will empower all students to leave our school with a well-rounded view of the world. The focus of the task force is to fill in the gaps — the one thing they are missing is to hear from other people with diverse backgrounds, from different cultures, to have conversations they're not used to."

Gelber noted that he has a child who is a student at Haldane High School who heard one classmate make a slur against gay people and other reference "the goddamn Chinese and their Chinese flu." He commented: "The idea is that this far away from us — it's not that far away."

■ At the Nov. 18 board meeting, Albano said he had discovered, during a review of school policies, that the district had not been collecting from employees whose spouses earn

above a certain threshold health-insurance premium add-ons charged to the district. He recommended the district not pursue reimbursement, which he later said totaled \$85,812 between 2012 and 2020. Sarah Tormey, president of the board, responded that "after consulting with counsel, the board accepts your recommendation."

Albano said in a later interview that while the loss was "a bit embarrassing for the district, it's an unusual provision" in the policy, which the school obtains through a consortium with other districts in Putnam and Westchester counties. "It was a mistake on the district's end, and the board decided not to go back and start deducting past owed money," he said. "We didn't think that was fair to do. We have two [insurance] contracts up at the end of year, so we'll take a closer look at health benefits." Whether the district collects the add-on in the future "should be negotiated," he said.



It was a mistake on the district's end, and the board decided not to go back and start deducting past owed money. ~ Carl Albano

■ The board on Dec. 10 approved a four-year contract with Joseph Jimick as the district business administrator and tax collector, effective Feb. 1. Jimick, who will earn \$150,000 annually, succeeds Susan Huetter, who will retire Jan. 1 after 13 years with Garrison. Albano will serve as the interim administrator in January. Huetter also retired as the internal claims auditor for Haldane.

In addition, the board hired Genevieve Mulhare as district treasurer, a new position, at an annual salary of \$85,000, while eliminating an office assistant job. Albano said the changes will add \$40,000 to \$50,000 in payroll but that the district has been advised by auditors that while Huetter

handled both duties, treasurer functions should ideally be separate from business administration.

■ The board appointed Scott Kaufman as the part-time, interim director of technology through June 30 for \$500 per day to oversee remote-learning and provide training for teachers, as well as upgrade the district website.

■ On Dec. 16, the board approved a \$5,000 bonus for school nurse Melissa DeFonce, who was "required and accepted many extra responsibilities related to the COVID-19 pandemic" in the spring and fall. An agreement with the Garrison Teachers Association noted that the payment "shall not set a precedent for any future payments for 'extra' work" by its members.

■ Albano asked the board on Dec. 16 for approval to give a required 10-day notice to Orange County Transportation, which provides buses for the district, that it will not need its services in January. He noted the district spends about \$65,000 per month on transportation for students and that giving notice will allow the district to cancel buses without cost should it need to go all-virtual for part or all of January.

[This week, Albano said in-person instruction would resume on Jan. 4. In the meantime, "we will continue to closely monitor" infection rates and hospital capacity, "as well as the anticipated post-holiday season spread," he wrote in a community email.]

■ Rotting drainage pipes beneath the gym in December caused a backup in middle school bathrooms that will require about \$20,000 to repair.

■ On Dec. 16, Huetter noted that the district is operating on a tight budget. "We're spending a lot of money with everything, but mostly COVID-related entries," she said. "It goes beyond cleaning supplies. There are so many unplanned expenses."

■ Although the board met four times in person with masks and social distancing in place in the school gym, on Nov. 4 it returned to virtual meetings. Its next meeting is scheduled for 7 p.m. on Wednesday (Jan. 6) via Zoom.

NOTICE

Philipstown Planning Board

Site Visit – January 17th, 2021

The Philipstown Planning Board will meet on Sunday, January 17th, 2021 at 9:30 am to inspect the following sites:

Alice Curtis Desmond & Hamilton Fish Library, 472 Route 403, Garrison, NY
TM# 71.6-1-12&71.6-1-13

NOTICE

Philipstown Planning Board

will hold their regular Monthly Meeting on Thursday January 21st, 2021 at 7:30 pm virtually via Zoom.

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

Register in advance for this webinar:

https://us02web.zoom.us/join/register/WN_MyTbYzH7TRec3GPPABnYLA

WEBINAR ID: 872 6324 7767

PASSCODE: PLAN

OR join by phone: US: +1 646 558 8656 or +1 312 626 6799

Webinar ID: 872 6324 7767 | Passcode: 796050

OR find the meeting through Zoom by searching the Meeting ID above and inserting the password below when prompted.

OR email KMACINTYRE@PHILIPSTOWN.COM or NZUCKERMAN@PHILIPSTOWN.COM to request login information before 7 pm on January 21st, 2021.

If you are unable to join, please send any written comments on the above two public hearings to the above email addresses.

NOTICE

Philipstown Planning Board

will hold a special Monthly Meeting on Thursday January 28th, 2021 at 7:30 pm virtually via Zoom.

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

Register in advance for this webinar:

https://us02web.zoom.us/join/register/WN_EwcU7QgdSZ2ZElocGOMxCQ

WEBINAR ID: 851 5860 1608

PASSCODE: PLAN

OR join by phone: US: +1 646 558 8656 OR +1 301 715 8592

Webinar ID: 851 5860 1608 | Passcode: 071029

OR find the meeting through Zoom by searching the Meeting ID above and inserting the password below when prompted.

OR email KMACINTYRE@PHILIPSTOWN.COM or NZUCKERMAN@PHILIPSTOWN.COM to request login information before 7 pm on January 28th, 2021.

If you are unable to join, please send any written comments on the above two public hearings to the above email addresses.

Catching Up with the Haldane School Board

By Chip Rowe

■ On Oct. 6, the board appointed Doug Donaghy, a senior at the high school, at its student adviser for 2020-21. It also hired Amy Pastula as a grade 2-3 teacher at \$74,728 annually and Erin VonDollen as a grade K-1 teacher at \$52,344 annually.

■ On Oct. 20, the board recognized Donaghy as a Commended National Merit Scholar and Sophia Kottman as a National Merit Semifinalist. It also acknowledged Walter Hoess, who plays the trumpet, for his selection to the New York State School Music Association All-State Symphonic Band.

■ The board accepted grants from the Haldane Arts Alliance for 35 folding stools for outdoor band seating (\$379); art supplies for K-7 students (\$289); two virtual visits by authors to the elementary and middle schools (\$547); 14 digital keyboards for students in grades 7 and 8 (\$841); and two overhead digital cameras for art classes (\$190).

■ The board accepted a \$4,895 donation

from the Haldane School Foundation for Teen Mental Health First Aid, a program developed by the National Council for Behavioral Health that “teaches high school students how to identify, understand and respond to signs and symptoms of mental health or substance-use issues in their friends and peers.”

■ The board accepted the resignation of Patty O’Rourke, a special education teacher at the high school, and Diana Geller, a special education teacher at the elementary school who plans to retire on June 30. Fourth grade teacher Lisa Pray also announced her retirement, effective Dec. 31.

■ On Nov. 3, the board selected a bid from Arrow Steel Window Corp. of Elmsford to replace the elementary-school windows for \$551,800 and a bid from Peter Gisondi & Co. of White Plains for painting for \$43,250.

■ On Nov. 3, the board approved an agreement with the Haldane Faculty Association through June 30 that cameras placed in classrooms for virtual learning “will not be

used for the purpose of recording employee time or attendance” or for teacher evaluations. The board and teachers’ union also extended their collective bargaining agreement through June 30 with a 1 percent salary increase for teachers, a 2 percent increase for teaching assistants and a 1/2-percent increase in health insurance premiums.

■ On Nov. 17, Leah Horn, the director of technology, noted that the district had spent about \$153,000 on equipment related to virtual learning, including \$80,000 on laptops, \$8,400 on webcams, \$11,645 on internet hot spots, \$14,800 on touch-screen TVs, \$3,990 on iPads, \$1,475 on document cameras, \$14,628 on outdoor internet access points and \$18,000 on software.

■ The board on Nov. 17 approved 64 books, a minivan and a 40-passenger school bus to be scrapped because of their poor condition.

■ The board appointed Eric Romanino, a retired Beacon High School athletic director, as interim athletic director and dean

of students for \$750 per day through April 19 while it searches for a successor to Chris Salumn, now at Carmel High School. It also appointed Anthony Morabito as junior varsity girls’ basketball coach.

■ The board voted to refinance the \$5.1 million in principal remaining on a \$7.52 million bond issued in 2012 that matures in 2021. The bond had been issued to refinance \$6.87 million in bonds issued in 2004. Anne Dinio, the Haldane business manager, says the move will save the district \$545,000 in interest through 2031.

■ At its Dec. 15 meeting, the board accepted a \$500 donation for the district from Nancy, Larry, Joe and Brian Belluscio in memory of Steve Gregorio, a Haldane graduate who died on Nov. 22 at age 42.

■ On Dec. 16, Superintendent Philip Benante announced that instruction for all grades following the holiday will be remote through Friday (Jan. 8), with plans to return to an in-person and hybrid schedule on Jan. 11.

■ The next meeting of the board will be held at the school at 7 p.m. on Tuesday (Jan. 5).

Montgomery: Putnam Government ‘Fundamentally Broken’

Casts lone ‘no’ votes on license-plate policy, radio-tower deal

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

When the Putnam County Legislature met before Christmas to wrap up 2020 business, most of the lawmakers used the session’s final moments to share holiday greetings.

Nancy Montgomery, who represents Philipstown and is the Legislature’s only Democrat, had a different message.

“The county’s government is fundamentally broken,” she said at the Dec. 17 meeting. “This year we have again overspent on non-priorities. We’ve underperformed in our response to the pandemic” and “underfunded public safety for the purpose of political gain. And we’ve locked the public out of our deliberations by hiding behind this format,” an often-shaky audio connection utilized because of an executive order by the governor to limit in-person meetings.

Praising the county staff for continuing “to deliver essential services to the public through these very, very bad times,” Montgomery described the Health Department employees as “understaffed, underpaid, and crushing themselves to meet the demands” of the pandemic, while Sheriff’s Department deputies similarly “keep answering our calls, despite feeling undervalued, insufficiently equipped, and over-scrutinized by a hostile [county] administration.”

Her own efforts “are frustrated by the administration out of pure hostility” as well, she added. She thanked her constituents for “filling the gaps the county leaves open in our public services, for taking care of each other,” and for helping her remember “how good

the people I represent are: how giving, how humane and how forthright,” offering a valuable “contrast and perspective” to what she said she encounters in county government.

Montgomery likewise voiced suspicions that the eight Republican legislators confer without her. But when she asked if they have met in party-based caucuses to discuss legislative matters, no one responded.

Nonetheless, she extended holiday best wishes to them, adding that “I hope in 2021 we can work together with more transparency” and sharing of information and “help the people of our county participate in government.”

Earlier in the meeting, Montgomery cast the lone “no” votes on an agreement with Pamal Broadcasting; an allocation for emergency dispatching equipment; and the adoption of a license-plate-reader policy.

Radio tower

By an 8-1 vote, the Legislature authorized County Executive MaryEllen Odell to finalize an agreement with Pamal Broadcasting to allow Putnam to rent space on the WHUD radio tower in Continental Village in Philipstown for emergency response communications devices and to convey to Pamal’s owner, James Morrell, a 1-acre parcel adjacent to the tower.

According to the Philipstown tax rolls, the parcel’s full-market value is \$102,128. The Legislature’s resolution did not state how much Pamal would pay for the land or how much it would cost the county to use the tower.

During a Dec. 15 Physical Services Committee meeting, Thomas Lannon, the county’s information technology director, referred to the WHUD tower as “probably one of our most important ones in the county” for emergency services. “That side of the county has



Nancy Montgomery

File photo

always been very difficult” to reach. He said the Putnam apparatus would join Westchester County equipment on the tower, furthering cooperation, “which is critical.”

Two days later, at the Legislature’s year-end meeting, Montgomery said that placing Putnam equipment on the WHUD tower was “essential” but urged the county to separate the equipment placement from the land deal. “It’s just sloppy government to put them together,” she said.

Legislator Carl Albano of Carmel protested. “I in no way feel it was ‘sloppy.’ It makes a lot of sense.” He predicted that use of the radio tower would mean “a great improvement” in emergency communications.

Montgomery also wondered if a massive cellphone/wireless telecommunications tower could be constructed on the land Pamal acquires.

Both Albano and Legislator Carl Jonke of Southeast responded that Philipstown would have to approve any cell tower and called Montgomery’s inquiries “a waste of time.”

When Philipstown last rejected a cell-tower application, it was sued by the tower developers. In a simultaneous attempt to

stop a cell tower, Nelsonville, too, was sued.

“I’m trying to avoid” those scenarios, Montgomery said.

911 center

Montgomery opposed the appropriation of \$398,000 for equipment at the county’s 911-call dispatch center in Carmel in anticipation of consolidation of call-dispatch functions by the Sheriff’s Department and Bureau of Emergency Services. She had also raised concerns in committee discussions earlier in December.

“It’s insane to move forward with this,” she said. “Where’s the plan?” Moreover, she said, “numbers don’t add up” on the costs and the county capital projects planning committee had not reviewed the project.

At an Audit Committee meeting earlier that day, Bill Carlin, the county finance commissioner, said the equipment would cost \$348,685 but that the administration included another \$50,000 to hire experts to help with the work, if needed.

Legislator Ginny Nacerino of Patterson said the equipment would be part of “an effective and efficient plan for the safety and well-being of our residents.”

License-plate readers

Montgomery again criticized the Odell administration’s policy on license-plate-readers (LPRs), which help police track or identify vehicles. The policy replaces one created in March by the Sheriff’s Department with legislative input and gives the Information Technology Department a role in the storage and review of LPR data.

Montgomery questioned that approach and said the policy should follow information-storage protocols used by the federal Justice Department or another law enforce-

(Continued on Page 18)



A'Lijah Thrasher



Bernadette Kish



Jack Bunker



Amber Perez

Holiday Stocking Deliveries!

Firefighters, Beacon High students bring the goods

For the 40th consecutive year, four students in the Beacon City School District were presented with the annual Firemen's Christmas Stockings.

This year's winners, one from each of the four elementary schools, received a 5-foot stocking made by Peg Badami and filled with gifts, including a smoke detector. David Simmonds, a member of the Lewis Tompkins Hose Co., made the deliveries.

The annual event is sponsored by the

volunteer firefighters of the Lewis Tompkins, Beacon Engine, Mase Hook & Ladder, Dutchess Junction and Slater Chemical fire companies.

Members of the senior class of Beacon High School also delivered stockings as part of an inaugural legacy service project. The students collected donations to create 25 stockings for delivery to veterans as part of a drive organized by the Libby Funeral Home (above); adopted a family in need and collected gift cards, clothing and household items; and collected food for the Beacon Community Kitchen.



Jessiah Beckwith

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The Calendar



Lisa Sabin, with Buttercup

Something You Don't Know About Me

Lisa Sabin

By Alison Rooney

Most 7-year-olds think big when asked what they want to be when they grow up: Professional athlete, explorer, movie star. Little Lisa Sabin wanted to be a dog.

It wasn't a passing fancy. She spent years in pursuit of this.

"From the time I was 3 until maybe 10 or so, I spent a lot of time on my all fours, running around, barking, not eating at the dinner table," recalls the Cold Spring resident, who is an actor, singer, voice-over artist, director and mother of two. "When I was a young dog, I would give myself agility training. This translated into setting up barricades in doorways and leaping over them to see how high I could clear and still land on my hands. I developed strong arms."

Sabin has a clear memory of being asked by her first grade teacher about her plans for adulthood and being reminded, emphatically: "You cannot be a dog."

Today, Sabin ascribes the behavior to "not really anything more than I loved dogs. I had the encyclopedia of all the breeds. I understood them, they understood me. I didn't want to be a firefighter, or a waitress — I wanted to be a dog."

This desire, she admits, may have resulted from Buttercup, a St. Bernard that was a beloved member of the household in



I didn't want to be a firefighter, or a waitress — I wanted to be a dog.

~ Lisa Sabin

Winnipeg, Manitoba, where her father was the conductor of the Winnipeg Symphony and, at the same time, played in the first violin section.

The family landed in Winnipeg in a roundabout way. "My grandparents on my father's side were part of the wave of young Jews who fled Hitler in the '30s and scattered around the world," she says. "They wound up in Uruguay, and my father was born there. He was a child prodigy and later came to the U.S. to study. He went to the Yale School of Music and met my mom, who was 19 and a waitress in New Haven."

"They moved to Cleveland, where my father got a job at the Cleveland Institute of Music. My brother was born there. Then, they moved to Winnipeg, where my father was assistant conductor, and then conductor, of the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra. I was born there. In the 1970s, there was a conflict in Uruguay which made it difficult to stay there if you were outspoken and/or an artist, and my grandfather was both of those things, so my grandparents fled and came to Winnipeg, where my grandfather became principal second violin of the symphony and also its personnel manager. I didn't speak a word of Spanish, but we communicated."

"When I was 7, we moved again, including Buttercup, to Saskatoon, where my father conducted the Saskatoon Symphony. There were often guest artists and my father would conduct the orchestra that accompanied them."

"After one concert, my brother and I were brought backstage, where my father introduced us to that night's performer, Harry Belafonte. Being from Montevideo, Uruguay, my father has a thick Uruguayan accent, and he said: 'This is Harry Belafonte.' And Harry Belafonte, playfully mimicking the accent, said 'Hi' to us. I answered him with 'Hiiiiiiiiiii' in my low Cookie Monster/Oscar the Grouch hybrid 7-year-old hoarse voice."

"Harry Belafonte was enchanted by how

(Continued on Page 12)

Sonic Soundtrack

Artist creates symphony from fragments

By Alison Rooney

What's it like to collaborate with the world?

That's what Italian artist Marinella Senatore has been doing over the past few months. Under the auspices of Magazzino Italian Art in Philipstown, Senatore put out an open call for sounds that reflected the "current moment" for the submitter. People could phone a designated voicemail line or send their contributions as audio files by text or email.

The world responded. In what was a surprise to all, the project, which had been envisioned as a local work much like Senatore's previous collaboration with the museum, a 2019 processional on the streets of Cold Spring, went global.

Each of the more than 130 sonic fragments Senatore collected between Sept. 9 and Nov. 7 was incorporated into a larger composition she called "Cold Spring Soundtrack" that was released online on Dec. 22 at bit.ly/cold-spring-soundtrack. Senatore determined the order and emphasis of the fragments and her creative partner, composer Emiliano Branda, wrote a score and recorded the 25-minute "symphonic soundscape" in his studio in Rome.

"They went through everything together, listening and deciding," said Juliet Vincente, a Magazzino representative, who added that she had "listened to every single contribution and wondered how they were going to do this. There was such diverse talent, including some trained opera singers, others giving spoken segments of their day. Weaving

(Continued on Page 12)



Marinella Senatore

Queens Museum



What I Heard

I listened to "Cold Spring Soundtrack" twice, jotting notes about how I felt while listening to the stream of sound. Here is an (abridged) excerpt:

Rooster crowing, propulsion, action sequence, a harbinger, exciting danger, piano, Fellini, uplift, birdsong, swirl, slowing, arriving, breathing, motif, bicycling, cymbals, crescendo, pieces of me, pieces of you, cello, mournful, building, Angel from Montgomery, liberty, justice, surging musical chant of Black Lives Matter, Buddhist chant, "I pledge allegiance," one nation, getting under the covers at the end of a long day, beats like an old typewriter, "Try to Remember the kind of September," church bells overlaid with piano, a piazza, all I'll be is a prisoner of my mind.

Drum kit, symphonic, donkey braying, a baby's gurgle. Spoken: thankful, be strong, be well. Foreboding, broken by sweet strings, bow-work, fade-out, bittersweet romance. Calling out your name in the rhythm of your heart. Don't let your spirit... We are free, we are light, we are love. The trumpet again, or trombone? Competing stories. Too many leaders, no one to follow, too many words and promises too hard to swallow. A heralding.

Flutes, an army march, enter the bigger horns, heavier. Dystopian sounds, dissonant, "that's amore." Drift by my window, the falling leaves of red and gold. It's Sept. 22, 2020, either today or yesterday, the first day of fall. Cloudbreak, pierced sky, some light. Defeated cello, invincible percussion, strings, many instruments together, la dolce vita, a seaside promenade, hope, stirring hope.

Progression, repetition, progression. Soaring, all joining together, trying for victory, energy, and again, the swirling, bombast, percussion, and ending — an actual ending to it. Finito!

What do you hear? Email me at arts@highlandscurrent.org or post to our social media pages on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram.

~A.R.



MARINELLA SENATORE COLD SPRING SOUNDTRACK

Soundtrack *(from Page 11)*

them together as a whole gave beauty to each of the contributions.”

Senatore and Branda managed to fashion a narrative out of disparate elements that included bird song, protest chanting, church bells, spoken and sung words and a donkey braying — and many sounds that are harder to decipher.

Vincente said one of Magazzino’s goals, besides to advocate Italian artists, is to “showcase their connection to their community. We thought this would be a perfect fit for the Cold Spring community — and we were surprised how it extended naturally beyond that, demonstrating again that people want to make art together, it’s a natural desire.”

She said the museum hopes to share the symphony with a live audience once the pandemic is over.

Sabin *(from Page 11)*

similar the two of us sounded, and he took me around to everyone at the reception, introducing me, getting me to do ‘the voice.’ I didn’t know who he was, except that my dad would always say ‘unless it’s the best, it’s not important,’ so I knew Harry Belafonte must be someone important and famous.

“Not long after that, I was diagnosed with vocal nodes, no doubt from all the barking. My mom had to take me to the emergency room. Luckily, I was able to avoid surgery, which has the potential to ruin your voice, like what happened to Julie Andrews. Instead, I spent years having to learn to ‘get off of my throat,’ which means learning to sing — and bark — without your throat hurting. To do this you support with your breath and relax all muscles in the throat and everywhere else. I am the singer I am today because of years of study on how to sing without pain, without damage.

“Before me all the women in my family were big sopranos, but I was a big ole belter, and my daughter is, too,” she says. “It took me many years of study to find I do have the soprano range, but who knew?”

By the time Sabin was 10, her parents had divorced, and her mom “didn’t want to stay stuck on the prairie with two kids. She was from New England, and she moved us to Cambridge, Massachusetts, where I wound up grooving to ‘Sledgehammer’ with [classmate] Matt Damon in a [Cambridge Rindge and Latin School]



Lisa Sabin, recently, with Thunder

Photo provided

classroom.” (Another story.)

In the years following, Sabin graduated from Trinity College, where she “did all the musicals, sang in an a cappella group, spent my junior year in London.” It was there that she met her former husband, Marc Sabin, and after college she moved to San Francisco to be with him. In 1997 they moved to New York City to give Broadway a shot. In 2003, they moved to Cold Spring, where their two daughters, Sophie

and Gemma, were born.

Although Sabin no longer communicates via barking, Sabin has found ways to speak to her dog, Thunder, who is a Cavalier King Charles spaniel and poodle mix. “Thunder stares longingly in my eyes; we understand each other,” she says. “Although sometimes I’m tired and can’t attend to his every need. We have a gecko, fish and guinea pigs, so come on — a girl needs a break!”



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THE WEEK AHEAD

Edited by Pamela Doan (calendar@highlandscurrent.org)

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

COMMUNITY

SAT 2

Christmas Bird Count

PUTNAM COUNTY

audubon.org/conservation/science/christmas-bird-count

Help with the 66th annual county-wide bird count to measure populations and support conservation. To register, email Charlie Roberto at chasrob26@gmail.com.



Christmas Bird Count, Jan. 2

SAT 2

Silent Night Twilight Stroll

GARRISON

3 – 7 p.m. Boscobel | 1601 Route 9D
845-265-3638 | boscobel.org

Enjoy dusk and sunset on the grounds. Reservations required. Cost: \$12 (\$10 seniors, \$6 ages 5-18, free for health care workers, members and children under 5)

SUN 10

Tracks and Traces

CORNWALL

10 a.m. Outdoor Discovery Center
120 Muser Drive | 845-534-5506 x204
hnm.org

Frozen ground and snow cover make it easier to find signs of wildlife. Learn what to look for and how to identify what you see. Register online. Cost: \$8 (\$6 children, \$6/\$4 members)

TALKS & TOURS

THURS 7

Ibrahim Salih Abdul-Matin

GARRISON

2 p.m. Garrison Institute
garrisoninstitute.org

In this Pathways for Planetary Health Forum, Jonathan Rose will interview the author of *GreenDeen: What Islam Teaches About Protecting the Planet*. Register online.

THURS 7

Beethoven's Fifth & Mahler's Sixth

NEWBURGH

7 p.m. Newburgh Symphony Orchestra
newburghsymphony.org

In this online discussion, director Russel Ger will discuss the way the compositions mirror each other. Cost: \$20



Beethoven

SAT 9

Hauntings of the Hudson River Valley

COLD SPRING

5 p.m. Putnam History Museum
putnamhistorymuseum.org

Vincent Dacquino will recount his investigative journey into the stories behind Sybil Ludington, Chief Daniel Nimham and George Denny, looking for their "spiritual residue." Cost: \$10 (free for members)

KIDS & FAMILY

SAT 2

The Great Kids Dessert Bake Off

GARRISON

7 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library
bit.ly/DFPLkidscook

Watch the video submissions via Crowdcast of cakes, pies and other desserts, along with the awards ceremony hosted by Justice McCray and Karen Thompson. Register online to join.

VISUAL ART

SAT 9

Assorted Visions

BEACON

1 – 5 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
477 Main St. | howlandculturalcenter.org

This Beacon Photography Group exhibit will include work by more than two dozen local photographers. Through Jan. 30.

HEALTH

FRI 8

Rosen Movement

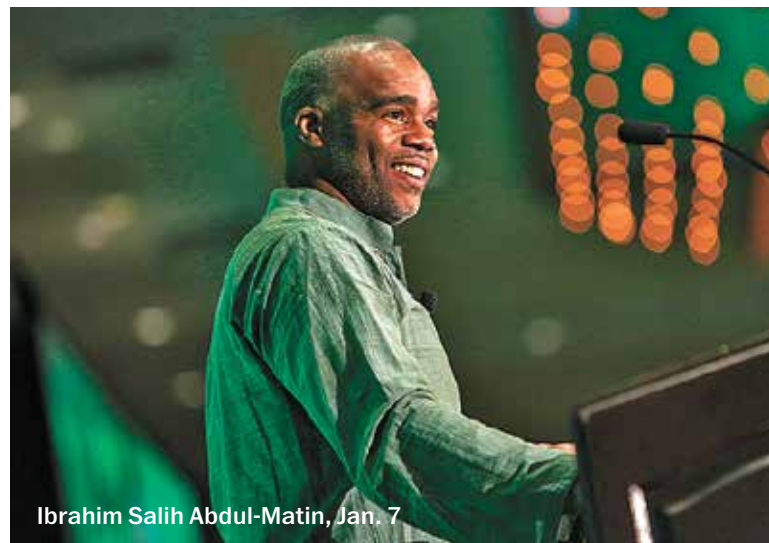
YORKTOWN HEIGHTS

10:30 a.m. Support Connection
914-962-6402 | supportconnection.org

This four-session weekly "gentle wellness" class is open to anyone who has or has had breast, ovarian



Silent Night Twilight Stroll, Jan. 2



Ibrahim Salih Abdul-Matin, Jan. 7

or gynecological cancer. Call to register. Free

CIVIC

MON 4

City Council

BEACON

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

TUES 5

Board of Trustees

COLD SPRING

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

TUES 5

School Board

COLD SPRING

7 p.m. Haldane
845-265-9254 | haldaneschool.org

TUES 5

Putnam Legislature

CARMEL

7 p.m. Via audioconference
845-208-7800 | putnamcountyny.com

WED 6

School Board

GARRISON

7 p.m. Via Zoom
845-424-3689 | gufs.org

THURS 7

Philipstown Town Board

GARRISON

7 p.m. Recreation Center
107 Glenclyffe Dr.
845-265-5200 | philipstown.com



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2020

Photos OF THE Year

*A look back at memorable
moments — and good shots*

Photos by Ross Corsair

A protester wept during a rally on June 1 at Polhill Park in Beacon to protest the killing of George Floyd by a police officer the week before in Minneapolis.



Residents on Garden Street in Cold Spring came out of their homes at 7 p.m. each night during a week in April to make noise in appreciation of essential workers.



Dancers from a Brooklyn troupe founded by Jamel Gaines of Garrison performed on Feb. 1 at the Philipstown Depot Theatre.



Rebeca Garcia, a nurse with the Putnam County Department of Health, took samples at a drive-thru COVID-19 testing clinic in Brewster on April 7.



Bob Hayes, the co-owner of Hudson Hill's in Cold Spring, sat in the restaurant's empty dining room in late March following the pandemic shutdown.

2020 YEAR IN REVIEW



BRIAN PJ CRONIN
REPORTER

It's safe to assume that for all of us, 2020 did not go according to plan. For my part, I certainly did not plan on spending the year thinking about trees.

It was back in the beginning of the year that a friend tipped me off that all the ash trees in the Hudson Valley were dying — a tip that led to the recently completed series, *The Fading Forest*. To give you an idea of how early in 2020 this was: We were in a bar. A crowded bar! With drinks and food and music and people yelling joyously all around us! We were all so young.

Another friend put me in touch with some ash experts, who agreed to meet me in the woods at the end of March. I put it in my calendar. God laughed.

Needless to say, forestry was put on hold as everyone tried to figure out how to safely do fieldwork once it was allowed (Phase 1? Phase 2?). At the same time, I tried to figure out how to leave the house as a single parent of a 9-year-old who had no school or camp. This gave me more time to do at-home research, proving John Muir's famous maxim that if you pull on one thing in the universe you find it's connected to everything else.

Reading about ash trees led to hemlock woolly adelgid and then people started telling me about this weird beech disease and at that point I had to put a wall around the project. There's a lot going on in the forest. I didn't even get to oak wilt.

At a time in which society seemed to be collapsing, it was nice to be able to retreat alone into the woods and distract myself by focusing on the ways in which everything was collapsing in the forest instead.

Speaking of lockdowns: What was the last thing you did in the big wide world before mid-March? I spent a wild night out in Philipstown carrying sexually agitated frogs across a busy road in the dark. Had I known what was coming at the end of that week, I would have taken some of the frogs to see a movie, as well.

That event was the Big Night, the first warm night in the early spring after a rainy day in which herds of amphibians wake up from hibernation and seek out wetlands for mating. This often involves hopping across roads, and they tend to not see cars coming, because love is blind. Volunteers organize to assist.

As for another of my favorite activities, running, the bad news is that every race was canceled. The good news is that just getting through the day sometimes felt like an ultramarathon. We all deserve a medal and a bagel.



MICHAEL TURTON
REPORTER

Reporters are not immune to the anxiety associated with some of our stories. The pandemic hasn't spared the Highlands; writing about it, being acutely aware of local infection rates, deaths and quarantines, while worrying about family and friends around the world, only increased my stress.

Nationally, racial injustice and unjustified killings of Black people by police produced local demonstrations that strained civility to the limit. In Cold Spring, the forced resignation of a police officer involved years ago in the shooting of a Black man in New York City, created the greatest tension I've witnessed in the village. Not to mention the angst surrounding the 2020 presidential election.

After such a turbulent year, it was a relief to remember some of my stories helped me relax, made me laugh and restored my faith in humanity.

When I was assigned in February to write about the death of Decatur Myers, who delivered newspapers to Philipstown residents for 28 years, it didn't seem that exciting, to be honest. Wow, was I wrong. When I went to the home of his son, Decatur Jr., in Peekskill. I was nervous because writing about someone's death is seldom relaxing.

I sat in Junior's living room with him and his wife. His sister and daughter joined us by phone. They were elated to tell Decatur's story. It was not a wake. The conversation was raucous. I had often seen Decatur on his route, and my thought was always: "That guy drives like a maniac!" When I sheepishly asked about his driving, Decatur's family howled with laughter. I learned the route was one of his passions, along with life, family, football, baseball and Tiger Woods.

The reaction to the story bowled me over. So many appreciative comments about Decatur on our website and social media; so many people stopping me on the street to thank me for writing about him.

Another vehicle that caught my eye was Last Chance Salvage, a low-riding, hulking brown 1937 GMC pickup that had an ugly beauty. When I introduced myself to its owner, Adam Pataki, he said: "Mike, this is a badass truck and I'm the badass of all bad asses!" Pataki rebuilds vehicles that aren't just old but unique; a friend dubbed him "Mona Lisa on wheels" because his restorations could be considered an art form. His latest, ongoing challenge is a 1935 Moto Chief streamliner.

I've never laughed harder during an interview than with Pataki. And my ride in the Last Chance Salvage, at times at speeds not exactly legal, was my most exciting (if not most frightening) adventure in 2020.

Mike Cullinan helps me deliver *The Current* each week. While in BJ's Restaurant in Beacon recently, he showed someone a copy of the paper that had a story about Elijah Hughes, a Beacon resident who had been drafted into the NBA. The man said, "I know — Elijah attended my basketball academy!" Another story!

Kenny Dawson has operated the Playmaker Academy in Hopewell Junction since 2004. He is experienced and knowledgeable, but also highly competitive. He works his kids hard, constantly reminding them they can be as good as they want, "if you are willing to do the work." There are plenty of hard-driving coaches. What I think distinguishes Kenny is his mantra: "It's more important to be a good person than a good basketball player."



ALISON ROONEY
ARTS EDITOR

The trickle-down of the consignment of most of the arts to a computer screen has put a damper on writing about the usual music, dance and theater performances, writer's readings and visual art gatherings we are so fortunate to have in abundance in the Highlands.

In our area, hundreds, probably thousands, of arts professionals have had their projects canceled, their savings decimated and their often union-linked health insurance eliminated during the global health crisis.

The first group to regain some momentum has been visual artists. While most galleries were shuttered in March, by July many had reopened because they could implement health restrictions unavailable to theaters and music venues.

The shutdown provided me with the freedom to spotlight artists without being dependent on an exhibit of their work as a "peg." We launched an ongoing series called *The Artist Next Door*, which has included profiles of artists who have never had a solo show. Unfortunately, it has been more challenging to do the same for musicians, actors, dancers and writers, but if you're one of these, or know one, and have some ideas as to how to make that happen, drop me a line at arts@highlandscurrent.org.

This is also the case for another series we've run this year — and my favorite during

this otherwise gloomy period — called *Something You Don't Know About Me*. These too, came about because of a dearth of arts stories, and the results have been consistently surprising, engaging, and the embodiment of the mosaic of backgrounds found in the Beacon, Garrison, Cold Spring — and Nelsonville — communities. We'd love to make this a more frequent feature; all that's needed is more people to come forward with their stories — be brave!

Here's to the true return of the arts, safely and joyously, later in 2021.



JEFF SIMMS
BEACON EDITOR

A review of this past year is tough. After schools were upended in the spring, they spent all summer trying to figure out how to reopen for the fall. Zoom soon made municipal meetings seem twice as long — our weekly editorial meetings felt the same. We tried to write about anything other than the virus but it touched nearly every aspect of life.

In the first issue of 2020, I wrote about visiting the Cornish Estate ruins with Thom Johnson, who told me how, as a teenager, he discovered Bannerman's Castle and the miles of trails between Beacon and Cold Spring. He's been outdoors in the Highlands one way or another for 50 years. This spring a series of interpretive signs that Johnson helped design will be installed at the estate.

The most inspiring stories to come out of the pandemic have been the ones about people helping others. In May, I did a *5 Questions* with Tom Virgadamo, who with his family raised nearly \$25,000 to support small businesses hit hard by COVID.

I would be remiss if I didn't mention The Mayor, aka the Beacon Hood Chicken, the hen without a home that wandered around Beacon until a Fishkill woman (and established chicken person) took the bird in. Since finding her forever home, The Mayor has encouraged kids struggling through a tough school year and even celebrated with a little one forced to spend her birthday in quarantine. That was a fun interview, as chicken interviews typically are.

Finally, Jevon Hunter was probably my favorite interview. He spoke convincingly in a *5 Questions* in December about the need for non-white students to see their communities' histories within the curriculum. That means reexamining some painful stories — an essential element, he said, to not repeating the same mistakes.

Judge Rules for Continental Commons

Declines to second-guess Fishkill Planning Board

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

A state judge ruled last month that the Fishkill Planning Board was within its rights to allow a commercial development along Route 9 on part of what was a supply depot during the Revolutionary War.

The judge rejected an appeal by the nonprofit Friends of the Fishkill Supply Depot to overturn decisions in 2019 by the Planning Board that the project would not have “a significant adverse impact” on the environment or historical resources.

In an 11-page decision filed on Dec. 14, Justice Maria Rosa of state Supreme Court in Dutchess County said that the court did not have the power to “substitute its judgment for that of the agency.”

The proposed development, called Continental Commons in a nod to its location, would occupy about 10.5 acres on the east side of the highway in an area zoned for general business.

The property, located opposite the historic Van Wyck Homestead, includes a gas station along with a burial site that may contain Revolution-era graves. The site was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1974.

Domenico Broccoli, who owns the parcel, hopes to construct a complex with a hotel, restaurant, retail shops and visitor center

in which the architecture would mimic a colonial village. He has promised to protect the cemetery.

The Fishkill Supply Depot, which was established by Gen. George Washington and operated from 1776 to 1783, sprawled from northern Philipstown to Fishkill Landing (now Beacon) and Village of Fishkill.

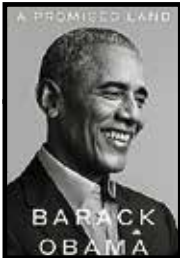
Broccoli and the Friends of the Fishkill Supply have battled for several years over his plans.

In her decision, Rosa said that she could not rule on “the wisdom of allowing the proposed commercial construction on the site.” Instead, she wrote, she “must merely ensure that the Planning Board took a ‘hard look’ at the development’s potential

adverse impact and that there were reasonable grounds supporting its determination” to allow Continental Commons. “The Planning Board met that standard,” she wrote.

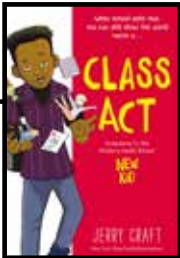
Rosa acknowledged the conflicting opinions about the site’s historical and archaeological value but said it was up to the Planning Board “to determine which testimony to accept.” She also said that a comment made in 2015 by the board chair that she was “not afraid of some hysterical society,” while inappropriate, was not sufficient evidence that the board was biased for the developer, as the historical group charged.

Broccoli wants water and sewer districts extended to include the complex, which would rely on water from Fishkill while channeling sewage and wastewater to Beacon’s treatment plant. But in September, the Fishkill Town Board rejected the request.



Local Bestsellers

Based on combined hardcover and paperback sales reported for October and November by Binnacle Books, 321 Main St., in Beacon, and Split Rock Books, 97 Main St., in Cold Spring.



ADULT	Position	previous	TITLE	AUTHOR
	1	-	<i>A Promised Land</i>	Barack Obama
	2	3	<i>Caste</i>	Isabel Wilkerson
	3	-	<i>Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge and the Teachings of Plants</i>	Robin Wall Kimmerer
	4	-	<i>The Vanishing Half</i>	Brit Bennett
	5	1	<i>Anthropica</i>	David Hollander
CHILDREN	5	-	<i>The Searcher</i>	Tana French
	6	-	<i>First Principles: What America's Founders Learned From the Greeks and Romans</i>	Thomas Ricks
	1	-	<i>Class Act</i>	Jerry Craft
	2	1	<i>Dog Man: Grime and Punishment</i>	Dav Pilkey
	3	-	<i>The Deep End</i> (Diary of a Wimpy Kid 15)	Jeff Kinney
	4	-	<i>Julian at the Wedding</i>	Jessica Love
	5	2	<i>Logan Likes Mary Anne!</i> (Baby-Sitters Club)	Gale Galligan & Ann Martin
	6		<i>Fry Bread: A Native American Family Story</i>	Kevin Noble Maillard



The Hustis Dairy barn on Route 9 is all that remains of the 123-year-old farm, which once covered 500 acres.

Photo by M. Turton

Milkman (from Page 1)

Christmas, the biggest one they could find,” Hustis said. “His hands were so big and strong from milking cows, he could only put it on his pinky; they had to bury him with the ring because they couldn’t get it off his finger.”

George Jr. said he is especially fond of a story from his father’s childhood. “One of

the bulls had gotten out,” he said. “When they finally got ahold of it, my grandfather grabbed the bull by the ring in its nose and punched it between the eyes with his bare fist. The bull went down. He was a strong man, I guess.”

Asked if he’ll miss his milk route, George Jr. said, “Yeah. It’s never been a job to me, just a way of life. But, unfortunately, everything comes to an end.”



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NOTICE

Philipstown Planning Board

Site Visit – January 24th, 2021

The Philipstown Planning Board will meet on Sunday, January 24th, 2021 at 9:30 am to inspect the following sites:

Garrison Golf Club PDD/Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival, 2015
US Route 9 Garrison, NY
TM#60-1-5-2&59.3

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A HAHNEMÜHLE CERTIFIED STUDIO

Archbishop Visits St. Basil

Children ask fun, personal and professional questions

By Alison Rooney

Traditionally, the Greek Orthodox archbishop each year visits St. Basil Academy in Garrison, which the church operates, for its annual Christmas celebration.

He is welcomed by hundreds of festive participants who come to watch the annual Christmas pageant, celebrate a gift opening and pay homage to His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros (Lambriniadis) of America, most honorable exarch of the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans.

This year, because of COVID-19, was different. "Visiting with the archbishop required a choreography that kept the numbers low and the distance safe," said Rebecca Pearsall, director of clinical services and education at St. Basil.

After accepting an invitation from the children who live at the St. Basil Academy, the archbishop came to the Garrison campus on Dec. 10 to meet a small group who stood for all.

The visit was part of the academy's annual Just Being Human project conceived by Pearsall. It was designed, she said, "as a therapeutic exercise to help children from traumatic backgrounds learn how to relate and connect with others. Throughout November, the children diligently prepared by thinking carefully about what questions could authentically connect them to the archbishop."

There were three types of questions posed: "fun and easy," professional and personal, she said. The archbishop, masked and behind a plastic panel, was game, answering some with a smile, and all with consideration, Pearsall said. They ranged from "What bad criticisms have you received that didn't make you feel good?" to the probing, "Do you snore?" Asked to name three things he was grateful for, he responded: "Health, family and church."

A teenage resident of St. Basil said he was surprised that "someone so important would agree to do this with us. I was so happy to be part of it."

Born in Istanbul in 1967, Elpidophoros studied in Greece and finished his post-graduate studies at the Philosophical School of the University of Bonn, Germany. In 1996, he studied at the Theological School of St. John the Damascene in Balamand, Lebanon, to solidify his knowledge of the Arabic language. In 2001, he earned a doctorate of theology from the Theological School of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki. In 2019 he was elected as archbishop of America and enthroned in New York City.

Elpidophoros is the youngest person to hold the position and "his connection to modern-day issues is palpable," Pearsall said. This past June, he marched in a Black Lives Matter protest in Brooklyn, saying that "it is our moral duty and obligation to



Children at Saint Basil Academy unwrapping gifts with the archbishop (center).

Photo by Rebecca Pearsall

uphold the sanctity of every human being. We have faced a pandemic of grave physical illness, but the spiritual illness in our land runs even deeper and must be healed by actions as well as words. And so, I will continue to stand in the breach together with all those who are committed to

preserving peace, justice and equality for every citizen of goodwill, regardless of their race, religion, gender or ethnic origin."

His visit to Garrison was "joyous and memorable," Pearsall said. "Traditions were broken, in the best way. This visit was such a gift for all of us."



Joseph Gilmore

Poet, musician, theologian, hiker, tireless worker on behalf of the poor and disenfranchised, beloved husband, father, grandfather and friend, Rev. Joseph H. Gilmore died on Thursday, December 17, 2020, the worst year ever.

Born in Charleroi, Pennsylvania in 1943, Joe was proud of his working class roots and the fact that he had worked in a steel mill as a young man. His father, a steel mill supervisor, instilled in him a love of opera and Shakespeare.

Music, poetry, the night sky, hiking, his family, the God of light and social justice were the passions of his life. He was ordained as a Presbyterian minister in 1968. In 2013 he retired as senior minister of South Presbyterian Church in Dobbs Ferry after 30 years of service to that congregation. During his tenure there, he founded the Midnight Run, which now coordinates over 1000 volunteer relief missions a year, bringing food, clothing and friendship to homeless people in Manhattan.

In the 90s Joe was deeply involved in the struggle for equal rights for LGBT people in the Presbyterian Church, USA. He risked losing his ordination when he performed same-sex marriages before gay marriage became legal in the denomination. He also founded the Dobbs Ferry Food Pantry at South Church, which is going strong and is, sadly, more needed now than ever.

Joe was known by his congregations as a most eloquent, provocative preacher, and a writer of prayers that many have collected and turned to over the years. He had a unique ability to make people feel connected to the "God beyond all the gods, Mother light to all light, Kind creator of this world. . ."

Joe leaves behind a family he adored – wife Rachel Thompson, daughters Schuyler Ford and Adrienne Galeas and their husbands Chris Ford and Bryan Galeas; step-sons Django Wexler and Cody Wexler and their wives, Casey Blair and Diana Raimondi. And the recent lights of his life – 9-month-old grandson Jack Galeas, 6-week-old Mia Wexler, 3-year-old Chloe Wexler, and 15-year-old Stella-Grace Ford. He is also survived by his grieving brothers, Ron and Cramer and their families, and his beloved sister Elizabeth Nara and her husband Tom.

He was a fiery celebrator of life, a revered teacher and healer for countless people, and a deeply grateful man. He said

"Let 'Alleluia' be our walking song:

Let 'Thanks!' be our last word."

Funeral Arrangements under the direction of Clinton Funeral Home, Cold Spring.

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PAID NOTICE

Philipstown Board Wraps Up 2020

Suggests review of Airbnb and raucous roosters

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

The Philipstown Town Board last week wrapped up 2020 by looking ahead to potential zoning updates to address raucous roosters and short-term rentals.

At its Dec. 22 meeting held at the town Recreation Center in Garrison, Councilor Mike Leonard proposed that the board review zoning laws on owning barnyard animals. "There's an awful lot of very small properties that are having an awful lot of what I would consider farm animals, and it's causing some issues with neighbors," he said.

The code requires 40,000 square feet for each large animal, such as a horse, cow or pig, plus 40,000 square feet allocated to the residence. It limits smaller animals, including geese, ducks, chickens, other birds, cats and monkeys, to 10 animals on any lot of less than 2 acres and states that anyone who owns farm animals shall not "knowingly interfere with the reasonable use and enjoyment of the property of others."

Leonard said the board might consider whether the town should "just say that chickens and roosters and so forth are commercial [animals] and really not domestic like a dog or cat is." He said he's been hearing "rooster complaints," calling it an "unbelievably" hot topic, at least to residents who are awakened at 5 a.m.

"It's one thing to have chickens, but

“

Shea said the town is getting a lot of donkey complaints — again.

roosters..." Shea commented, noting that the town also is "getting a lot of donkey complaints — again." Some exotic donkeys in Garrison "sound like the hounds of hell," he said. "I've been on Indian Brook Road and it's like, 'What is that?'" He agreed that the board "will have to revisit that" area of law.

Humans can also make unseemly racks, Councilor John Van Tassel observed, suggesting that "we need some sort of plan" for short-term rentals such as those arranged through Airbnb. A typical objection involves "parties, week after week," he said.

Shea called the short-term rental question "a tough one. I have mixed feelings about it, because the fact is that right now people can get extra income out of it, which I wouldn't want to stop. But when you have places having 40 to 50 people at them, that's a different story. If you're going to start raising hell in a residential neighborhood, then we're going to come after you."

Philipstown's code permits bed-and-breakfasts nearly anywhere with Planning Board approval. It defines a bed-and-breakfast as "a dwelling in which overnight accommodations not exceeding five bedrooms and breakfast are provided for transient guests for compensation."

However, the code also allows for "lodging facilities" — hotels, motels, inns or any "other establishment providing sleeping accommodations for transient guests, with or without a dining room or restaurant, excluding bed-and-breakfast establishments." They are permitted in districts designated as Hamlet Mixed-Use and Highway Commercial, as well as Institutional Conservation and Hamlet Residential with special-use permits.

A draft of the updated Comprehensive Plan, presented to the Town Board on Dec. 3 by the volunteer committee that wrote it urges town officials to "explore policies related to short-term rentals to prevent the loss of a diverse housing stock."



This feature is designed as a counterweight to all the bad news in the world that weighs people down. We could share a photo of a baby, or a photo of a dog, but we are giving you both. How many newspapers can say that? On the winter solstice and during the great conjunction of Jupiter and Saturn, Wilhelmina (Willie) Rose Swerdlow-Graff was born to Alice Graff and Andy Swerdlow of Beacon. She is shown being watched over by Jack. If you have a photo of a baby and a dog, submit it for consideration to editor@highlandscurrent.org.

Putnam County (from Page 9)

ment institution. "We're going to leave ourselves wide-open for this data to be shared with private companies, for-profit businesses," she warned.

She said that she surveyed policies in other counties and municipalities and that all except one keep the data with law

enforcement.

But Nacerino said the data will be "confined to our IT Department" and Legislator Amy Sayegh of Mahopac said she backs "having IT protect the data from hacking."

"We want to get these LPRs out" on the streets, said Legislator Neal Sullivan of Carmel-Mahopac. "To keep beating this thing up like this is a waste of time."

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Puzzles

CROSS CURRENT

ACROSS

1. “— Lang Syne”

5. Steed stopper

9. Plead

12. Dandling site

13. Reactions to pyrotechnics

14. Preceding

15. Mid-month date

16. Automaker Ransom Eli —

17. Have a bug

18. Small winning margin

19. Go blue?

20. Air for a pair

21. *How I Met Your Mother* net

23. Census stat

25. Off-course

28. Auction, often

32. Use crib notes

33. Rechargeable battery

34. Grow canines

36. Tourist attractions

37. Moray or conger

38. Coop occupant

39. Witty one

42. Clay, now

44. “Super-food” berry

48. Tramcar contents

49. Teeny bit

50. So

51. Meadow

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

52. Expression

53. Deserve

54. Spigot

55. Whirlpool

56. “Phooey!”

DOWN

1. Related

2. Loosen

3. Dregs

4. Treated with irreverence

5. “Give a hoot, don’t pollute” owl

6. Sacred

7. “Heavens to Murgatroyd!”

8. Donkey

9. Suitor

10. One of HOMES

11. Money

20. Like some drivers or hitters

22. Wash

24. Aladdin’s ally

25. Performance

26. The girl

27. Shirt shape

29. Interlaken interjection

30. Long. crosser

31. Mag. staffers

35. Very happy

36. Vibrate abnormally

39. Filly’s brother

40. Vicinity

41. Harvest

43. Byron or Tennyson

45. Burn somewhat

46. Atmosphere

47. “— It Romantic?”

49. Chowd down

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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 what pumpkin may become (8)

2 upward movement (9)

3 glow (7)

4 sport that sets a high bar (10)

5 Chief of Staff, frequently (10)

6 often blue (5)

7 NBA coaching legend Jackson (4)

SOLUTIONS

1 _____

2 _____

3 _____

4 _____

5 _____

6 _____

7 _____

CARSTIONAGEDI

ENSEKEILICSDODY

GATMOGYRASC


ATEPHRIEPERMNA

© 2020 Blue Ox Family Games, Inc., Dist. by Andrews McMeel

SUDO CURRENT

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

Puzzle Page Sponsored by



Country Goose

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845-265-2122

Answers for Dec. 25 Puzzles

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

1. AIRLINES, 2. CONTRIBUTOR, 3. GENERALIZE, 4. ROBIN, 5. SEASONING, 6. CIRCLES, 7. EDGY

Answers will be published next week. See highlandscurrent.org/puzzle for interactive sudoku.

IN 2021 I WANT TO

After a challenging year, we asked readers to tell us what in 2021 they look forward to. You can add your own response at highlandscurrent.org.

Have dinner with a big group of friends – no masks, no distancing.
A close second: Take the vacation to Costa Rica I had to cancel.

Theresa Gooby

Take my daughter to a playground. She's never been on a swing!

Heidi Bender

Visit my friend Kelli in Ireland.
November? Fingers crossed!

Susie Giannoni

Hug people and eat in
restaurants.

Sarah Uzelac

Get back to a more normal
way of life, hopefully by
the summer, when enough
people are vaccinated and
the pandemic is conquered.

Jonathan Jacobson,
New York State Assembly member

Enjoy some rock 'n' roll
communion. I live and
breathe live music, so
the air's been a little thin
since March. It will feed
my spirit and the spirit
of others, for sure, but
ultimately my livelihood.

Stephen Clair,
Beacon Music Factory

Make tomorrow better than
today – and enjoy many great
nights watching the Renegades
at Dutchess Stadium.

Marc Molinaro,
Dutchess County executive

Go to the mermaid
parade at Coney Island.

Masha Schmidt

Go to story-time at the library with my toddler.

Kristin Troy

Enjoy a cold beer and good conversation on a bar stool.

Peter Augello

See our Main Street businesses thrive again.

MaryEllen Odell, Putnam County executive

Shake hands with friends and laugh together again.

Craig Muraszewski

Hatch a few eggs. The Beacon
Hood Chicken will be looking for
a soulmate/rooster. My plan is to
find three potential suitors and
allow my constituents to choose
their favorite and then livestream
the spring hatching. I'm hoping
to bring something new and
beautiful and exciting into the
world in the form of chicks!

Karen Finnegan

Dance with my friends.

Richard Bruce

Attend a Cold Spring Film
Society outdoor movie.

Lauren Jeanne

Spend a week in Paris.

Kyle Good

Have our doors open and programs happening.

Gillian Murphy, Butterfield Library

Know that all people will
finally be equal.

Carmen Nieves

See my family and grandchild any time
I want without having to quarantine.

Linda Megale Thorton

Stay alive.

Heather Candon

Have dinner with my whole family.

Patricia Anderson

Attend my daughter's
college graduation.

Micki Sichel Boeri

Sit in right field at Fenway Park and
hear the sounds of baseball.

Michael Bowman

Live in a community where everyone's basic human needs are being met and where we don't have to struggle to just get by. That means doing what I can to build sustainable networks of food justice, fighting for housing for all, and establishing systems of community safety that aren't inherently violent. Most importantly, I want to help my community understand that we deserve better.

Justice McCray

Get the vaccine and get back to business as usual!

Lucky Longo

Do more fishing with my sons.

Nancy Montgomery