

The HIGHLANDS
Current

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JANUARY 8, 2021

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The Poughquag Cut on the Maybrook section of the Empire State Trail

MTA photo

Out There

A New York State of Trail



After years of effort, 750-mile
Empire State Trail is complete

By Brian PJ Cronin

The next time you go to the southern end of the Dutchess Rail Trail in Hopewell Junction for a run or bike ride, try



something different: Go right.
The trail once extended a few more hundred feet before hitting a fence. Now you'll find an opening in the fence, and the trail continuing. Eighty-nine miles later, you will reach the southern tip of Manhattan.
Not in the mood? Go left — as usual — up the Dutchess Rail Trail, across the Walkway Over the Hudson and 112 miles until you hit Albany. From there, you can go north to Canada or head west to Buffalo.

This is the newly opened, 750-mile-long Empire State Trail, the longest multi-use state trail in the country. Its creation was announced by Gov. Andrew Cuomo in 2017, who promised it would open “before 2021.”
It hit that deadline, to the day, on Dec. 31, although not all the signage is complete. On Tuesday (Jan. 5), I ran into a sign — literally, like, I hit it — on Pumphouse Road in Brewster that said the next section of the trail was not yet complete. When I later contacted Andy Beers, the director of the Empire State Trail, he assured me that the trail is in fact open, and that I hadn't been trespassing.
I have since completed the entire 24-mile
(Continued on Page 20)

Dutchess,
Putnam
Give First
Vaccines



Health workers, facilities
for disabled are priority

By Leonard Sparks

Dutchess and Putnam County officials have received the first of what will be weekly allocations of COVID-19 vaccines to distribute, and have joined other counties in demanding New York State give local health departments a greater role to speed up the month-old inoculation effort.
Dutchess County received 200 doses to inoculate the employees and volunteers who will be administering vaccines to others, said County Executive Marc Molinaro during a news conference on Tuesday (Jan. 5) organized by the New York State Association of Counties.
Dutchess plans to open two points of dispensing, or PODs — one in eastern Dutchess and one on the western end of the county — beginning next week. The county is partnering with the Nuvance Health System on another POD at North-ern Dutchess Hospital in Rhinebeck.
Putnam administered 251 of its first 600 doses on Thursday (Jan. 7), said County Executive MaryEllen Odell in a statement. Residents and staff at mental health and substance-abuse facilities and facilities for people with developmental disabilities were the first recipients. Putnam will set up PODs initially at senior centers, Odell said, and add more sites as vaccines become available.
The county PODs will be one piece of a “retail” network of vaccination sites that Gov. Andrew Cuomo said the state
(Continued on Page 6)

Children’s Gathering Hacked

Zoom-bomber spews racist,
lewd language

By Chip Rowe

The Desmond-Fish Public Library in Garrison said it was a victim of a racist “Zoom-bombing” during a virtual

event for children on Saturday (Jan. 2).
An interloper gained access to the video-conference and immediately changed his or her screen name to match existing participants to avoid detection, said library Director Jen McCreery. After an indecipherable rant, the user was identified and removed but managed to return to interrupt the event with

racist, sexist and lewd language, she said. The user was again identified and removed but returned to post in the written chat.
The gathering was the culmination of a “bake-off” contest for children and teenagers ages 4 to 14. It was co-hosted by Justice McCray, a librarian who has been outspoken in the Black Lives Matter movement, but McCreery said it was unclear if McCray was a target of the abuse.
“The incident was handled as quickly as

possible in the moment, but, sadly, the Zoom participants were exposed to this hateful and illegal behavior,” McCreery said in a statement issued on Jan. 3, noting the library had notified Zoom and county and federal authorities of the unauthorized access.
“The library staff and our board of trustees are horrified that a program created as a positive and joyful celebration of our community was derailed by one hateful
(Continued on Page 3)

5Q FIVE QUESTIONS: RALPH ODELL

By Michael Turton

Ralph Odell, 87, who lives in Putnam Valley, helped create the Putnam Christmas Bird Count in 1954. He has participated in each of the 66 counts since, including on Saturday (Jan. 2).

What got you involved in the bird count?

My family was always interested in natural history. We had friends in Bedford who had started Audubon there, and my father used to take me on birding trips they organized. A small group of us started a Christmas bird count here.

How did your first bird count compare with this year's?

I covered Fahnestock State Park my first year. We saw about 75 species. One year I did Fahnestock alone, a 17-mile hike. It's still my favorite local birding spot. This year, I did the count on my property in Putnam Valley; I keep my binoculars right on my dining room table. I did pretty well; I saw 19 species. Overall this year, the group saw 78 species on count day and four species during the week. In total, 12,350 birds were seen this year.



Have the variety and number of birds changed over the years?

They come and go. You know, birds don't actually read the bird books! It depends on climate, habitat, food sources and what kind of breeding season they've had. If it was a bad breeding season, you'll see fewer birds. In terms of numbers, they're doing pretty well. Some species are in trouble — some of the duck species and some

finch-type birds. You see some species not common to this area almost every year. Two years in a row we saw gray jays; they're a great bird, very northern. We've seen goshawks occasionally, too.

How many species have you seen, during the Christmas count and beyond?

I probably have 700 species on my list. I've been birding in the Arctic, Greenland and Kenya. I get especially excited about pelagic species — sea birds, offshore species such as the albatross. But I'm always thrilled to see chickadees in my backyard, too, and the wood thrush in spring and summer. I'd like to see a condor; they're much larger than eagles.

Has the bird-count group changed much over the years?

There were very few of us when we started it. I was 21. A couple of people were only 12 years old at the time, and they are still doing the count and some of their children and grandchildren have joined them. We've often held the countdown, compilation meeting and potluck dinner at my house. There are about 70 of us in the group now.

ON THE SPOT

By Michael Turton

What snack food could you eat a whole bag of?

Peanut M&M's. They're addictive; I eat the outer layer first.



~ John Willis, Cold Spring

Dates — although they're better stuffed with almonds and wrapped in bacon.



~ Barbara d'Alessio, Beacon

Lay's Sour Cream and Onion potato chips. I like the texture, and they're not too thin.



~ Fox Perelson, Cold Spring

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Zoom (from Page 1)

individual,” she wrote. “We are especially sorry that this attack was witnessed by children. No family should have to encounter such hate speech.”

McCreery said she hoped some of the children were too young to understand what happened but that she was upset others were old enough to read the chat messages.

“The security of our online programming is taken very seriously,” McCreery said. “Library staff and board trustees are researching further security measures to prevent this kind of incident from ever happening again.”

To counter video-conference hijackers, Zoom in April changed its default settings to require meetings to either have “waiting rooms” or passwords. McCreery said the library had a waiting room in place but that the person slipped through by impersonating recognized users. In addition, because of a technical difficulty, the meeting had been moved at the last minute from Crowdcast, which she said the library prefers because it offers more control over audience participation.

Zoom-bombing has been a higher-profile problem since video-conferencing became widespread in March following the COVID-19 shutdown. In August, for example, school officials in Rochester and on Long Island

cut short parent sessions and apologized after rogue users posted lewd and racist language and drawings.

At the Desmond-Fish, McCreery said the library’s Racial Equity and Social Justice Committee is evaluating how to provide “a countervailing force” in response to the incident. She said local organizations have contacted her about organizing library programs to address racism.

In a letter addressed to the community, Haldane Superintendent Philip Benante asked parents and others to “join me in reflecting on how this incident impacted the families who were in attendance, and to consider using it as an opportunity to reinforce to our children a shared value for diversity and inclusion.”

The Cold Spring Village Board also reacted at its meeting on Tuesday (Jan. 5), issuing a statement drafted by Trustees Kathleen Foley and Heidi Bender that said it was “horrified and saddened to learn about the racist attack on a Black librarian.”

“We all have a responsibility to protect our children and any member of our community who is targeted in such a heinous way,” the statement said. “We offer our support to the library and we hope the culprit or culprits will be apprehended and held accountable.”

Mayor Dave Merandy added: “I hope at some point in my life this all ends.”

Michael Turton contributed reporting.

Fishkill Wins Fight Against Developer

Judge upholds vote to end review of Rolling Hills

By Leonard Sparks

A state judge this week upheld the Town of Fishkill’s decision to end its review of a rezoning request from a firm proposing a 30-building, 463-unit development on Route 9D just outside Beacon.

Supreme Court Judge Christi Acker, who is based in Dutchess County, on Monday (Jan. 4) dismissed the lawsuit filed in July by Hudson View Park Co. against Supervisor Ozzy Albra and the Town Board, which had voted on April 1 to end its review of a request to rezone a parcel for the firm’s proposed Rolling Hills at Fishkill development.

Hudson View’s plan included 68 affordable housing units and 24,000-square feet of retail built on two parcels, one with frontage on 9D north of the Mount Gulian Historic Site. The larger of the parcels is zoned residential while the 9D land is in a business district.

The project was to have drawn water from Beacon and residents would have sent their children to Beacon schools. The developer would likely have been required by the state to install a traffic-calming device — possibly a traffic circle — on Route 9D, while 55 percent of the land would have remained open, with walking trails.

Hudson View, which sought reimbursement of what it said was more than \$1 million in costs during the application and

review process, argued that the current Fishkill board was obligated to continue reviewing the request under an agreement approved in 2017. Only one board member, Ori Brachfeld, served at that time.

Acker, however, ruled the agreement was void under a “term-limits” rule, which “prohibits one municipal body from contractually binding its successors in areas relating to governance unless specifically authorized by statute or charter provisions.”

The judge said the agreement also constituted “illegal contract zoning” because the language approved by the previous board committed the current one to act on the application, when it also had the right not to vote on it.

Albra, who won his seat in 2019 after campaigning against the project, said the decision confirmed that the vote to end the review was proper.

“The Town of Fishkill will not allow developers to dictate to the town how it will operate,” he said in a statement.

Michael Zarin, the attorney for Hudson View, called the ruling “disappointing” and said it “sets a dangerous public policy regarding economic development in New York state, and the integrity of government officials such as the current town administration.”

He added: “The decision is contrary to the prevailing case law, and will not stand. It will also be viewed very badly by future persons thinking about investing in the Town of Fishkill.”

The HIGHLANDS
Current

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LETTERS AND COMMENTS

Broken?

If Legislator Nancy Montgomery is so unhappy and frustrated, she can always step down ("Montgomery: Putnam Government 'Fundamentally Broken,'" Jan. 1).

Eileen Anderson, *via Facebook*

Nancy, did you just come out of the coma? It's just politics as usual. President Trump is the only one outside the box and everyone makes him the bad guy.

Ralph Basso, *via Facebook*

Interesting that limiting spending, as Nancy is advocating (if you read the article), is now seen as negative and liberal.

Bodhi Morgan, *via Facebook*

Thanks for always standing up for what is right for your constituents, Nancy.

Jennifer Tawil, *via Facebook*

COVID policy

The Putnam County Legislature's holiday reading seems to be mired in the play-book that has come out of the clown show in Washington, D.C., over the past four years. In an effort to discredit Sheriff Robert Langley Jr. and the Sheriff's Department, the Republican-dominated body is stumbling badly in its execution ("Should Deputies Work After Virus Exposure?" Dec. 25).

The Republican legislators claimed Langley was ignoring county policy on employee exposure to COVID. The county attorney, perhaps caught in a Rudy Giuliani moment, stated that there is no policy. She notes that the county deals "with every single exposure by one of our employees on a case-by-case basis." The lack of message coordination by these folks is amazing.

Legislator Ginny Nacerino spouts that "culpability lies with the administration of the Sheriff's Department." She further posits that "we all march to the same rules." The same rules — unless you are a Democrat.

Putnam may be a Republican county. But the people of Putnam are not stupid, and they can recognize the smell and foul intentions of a Legislature that aims to remove a competent, dedicated public servant like Sheriff Langley. This is yet another example of party over county, the corrupt playbook that the Legislature has adopted. It is playing with public safety, ironically, attempting to defund the police and attempting to portray the dedicated law enforcement professionals as greedy, money-grabbing individuals. The people know and will respond accordingly come the election time.

In the meantime, thank you to the sheriff and his deputies for keeping Putnam safe and sound in these difficult times.

Phil Bayer, *Carmel*

Natural invasives

To those who assert that invasive species are part of the "natural world" and should be left alone to do what they want: There is nothing natural about an invasive species ("Fading Forest," *Letters and Comments*, Jan. 1). Whether it is Oriental bittersweet, autumn olive, common buckthorn, bush honeysuckle or any of more than 100 other invasive species, they are not "natural" to North America. They did not evolve here alongside a host of insects and microbes whose job it is to keep them in control.

If you are a Christian who has a problem with evolution, consider that God put them in Asia or Europe or Africa. If he wanted them here, he would have put them here. They are

here because humans thoughtlessly brought them here. We broke it, we have to fix it.

Mark Horn, *Baraboo, Wisconsin*

Yuletide gifts

Why do you call it "holiday stocking deliveries" when it has to do with Christmas ("Holiday Stocking Deliveries!" Jan. 1)? Or were you just being politically correct?

Andrew Dade, *Cold Spring*

Film Putnam

Perhaps Film Putnam could help the Village of Cold Spring to deal with the costs of tourism that these ventures generate ("Putnam Seeks Starring Roles," Dec. 25). Maybe garbage removal? County government cut the pittance they gave us for this purpose (\$7,500) even as crowds surged on our village's public streets and in our public parks, thanks in no small part to county efforts to promote tourism.

Have a look at the locations listed in the article. They're mostly in western Putnam, and in our village. I understand the value of such initiatives to our local and county economies, but when county government undertakes initiatives like this — initiatives that boost visitors and investor business — we need partnership from the county to offset costs and impacts to our infrastructure and public facilities.

The county needs to share not just in the benefit but also the responsibility to maintain quality of life for residents and visitors alike.

Kathleen Foley, *Cold Spring*
Foley is a member of the Village Board.

Putnam County cannot create a testing

(Continued on Page 5)



LETTERS AND COMMENTS

(Continued from Page 4)

site for COVID-19 but is luring actors into town? Blarney to that. We need to contain the pandemic first!

James Carmody, *Carmel*

Production companies test all crew and talent days and immediately before shooting. Fast (15-minute results) tests are given in the parking areas before anyone leaves their car or enters the location site. Most film companies that shoot in Putnam locations arrange housing for their talent and crew who do not live within commuting distance.

Film companies located in New York City like the Hudson Valley because almost everyone working the shoot can go home when the day is done, creating a significant savings on production costs.

Lynn Miller, *Cold Spring*

Bridge death

We all know who killed Steve Tomlins: The New York State Bridge Authority ("Beacon Man Killed on Bridge," Jan. 1). By shutting access every evening to the one lane of the Newburgh-Beacon bridge dedicated to taxpayers and others who forgo motor vehicles and instead power themselves across it, the authority forces pedestrians and cyclists to navigate Interstate 84 alongside vehicles operating at speeds in excess of 60 mph.

It's 10 times worse now because repair work forces pedestrians and cyclists to share the lane with speeding vehicles. The conditions have always been offensive and violent, when all the authority has to do is not close access each night to the lane dedicated to pedestrians and cyclists.

The stated mission of the authority is "to maintain and operate the vehicle crossings of the Hudson River entrusted to its jurisdiction for the economic and social benefit of the people of the state." This would be a fine time to update the mission to account for 21st-century realities: "To maintain and operate bridges passing over the Muhheakantuck (aka Hudson) River entrusted to its jurisdiction for the safety and well-being of the people of the state." We could add "safety" and lose "vehicle crossings" without missing a beat. (Hourly ferry crossings are also an option, but that's another battle.)

Gregg Zuman, *Beacon*

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A HAHNEMÜHLE CERTIFIED STUDIO

Rep. Maloney Removed to Safety

Dutchess, Putnam executives condemn mayhem

By Chip Rowe

Rep. Sean Patrick Maloney, whose U.S. House district includes the Highlands, was among its members evacuated to an undisclosed, secure location on Wednesday (Jan. 6) when protesters stormed the Capitol.

Maloney, a Democrat elected in November to his fifth term, was on the House floor for congressional certification of the presidential election results when supporters of President Donald Trump breached security, bypassed metal detectors and entered the building. Aaron White, a spokesperson for the congressman, said Wednesday night that he and other members of Maloney's staff were also safe.

Protesters broke the glass in doors leading into the chamber, near where Maloney was sitting, and police deployed tear gas in the rotunda of the Capitol. After police cleared the building, members of the House and Senate returned and completed the certification of the vote for President-Elect Joe Biden and Vice President-Elect Kamala Harris early on Thursday morning.



Maloney (at left) waits on the House floor on Wednesday afternoon during the counting of the electoral votes.

Maloney, who lives with his family in Philipstown, posted Wednesday on Twitter: "Today is a sad and infuriating day. We thank the Capitol Police and the staff, many of whom were in real danger. I was on the House floor when protesters attempted to enter. We evacuated and are safe. The president and his enablers have incited this violence. It must stop."

Maloney later shared a 20-second video taken from his seat as members in the chamber were told they could find gas masks under their seats. "Scenes of madness today on the House floor," he wrote. "We must reject and rise above the lies and madness that incites this violence. God bless America. Stand up for it."

Also on Wednesday, Dutchess County Executive Marc Molinaro, a Republican, said in a statement that "this mayhem must stop, and it must stop now. America doesn't resort to chaos or violence, and we don't encourage or invite it. Every leader, in every office, from every corner of this country must call for this to end and disperse immediately."

On Thursday, Putnam County Executive MaryEllen Odell, also a Republican, added: "We have much work to do to keep this country the shining example of democracy that it has always been. The world is watching. Americans have the right to protest, but not to break the law while doing so. For the future of our children, I would hope we could put our country first, despite any differences."

Committee Presents Plan for Philipstown Future

Endorses dirt roads, school merger study, fire and ambulance cooperation

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

Describing Philipstown as a "suburban community," an 18-member volunteer committee last month presented its draft to the Town Board of a newly updated comprehensive plan that calls for preserving the town's rural and natural resources while encouraging more diverse housing and studying the creation of a unified school district.

The draft, which was prepared over the past three years, is designed to guide planning over at least the next decade. It flows from the current plan, adopted in 2006, which prompted a thorough zoning code overhaul in 2011.

The 30-page document, available at philipstown2020.org, "is a starting point" for public discussion, the committee's chair, Nat Prentice, told the board on Dec. 3. He opposed calling the draft an "update" because "we think we have the makings of a new plan." It includes 149 action items, 34 strategies and 13 goals.

Some of its recommendations touch on past controversies.

For example, the draft encourages Philipstown to "explore further cooperation

between emergency services, considering manpower needs." Ten years ago, a study recommended consolidating the administration of the town's four volunteer fire departments and two ambulance corps, generating fierce pushback.

The document also suggests the town explore "creating a unified Philipstown school district." The Haldane, Garrison and Lakeland districts all serve parts of the town, and Haldane and Garrison are relatively small, with about 800 and 220 students, respectively. "Tax rates vary significantly between the districts," it notes, advocating that the town "seek a fair and balanced tax strategy."

The draft dips into the debate over dirt roads, recommending that Philipstown preserve them by employing "techniques and materials that enhance their safety, aesthetics, resilience and regeneration, without adversely impacting the environment." Over the last decade, clashes occurred between the Town Board and residents, and among neighbors, when the board paved some stretches of dirt roads.

According to the plan, the issues facing the town "are at once very similar to and also very different from those" that confronted Philipstown 15 years ago, although the population has remained about the same, at just under 10,000.

"Preservation of the town's residential character and natural condition are still

The Committee

Nat Prentice (chair)	Ann Hammond
Eric Arnold	Cathy Kopf
Joyce Blum	Lithgow Osborne
Richard Butensky	Joe Regele
Betsy Calhoun	Bob Rhodes
Tara Carroll	Marianne Sullivan
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of utmost importance, as is the protection of the town's environmental features, especially the quality of our water," it says.

The document places Philipstown squarely within the New York metropolitan region and says that "we don't yet know if the spike in relocations of people leaving" the city because of the COVID-19 pandemic "will continue after the virus is controlled. We also don't know whether working and schooling from home will become a permanent way of life in Philipstown." But it's clear, the draft states, online shopping "is transforming the American 'downtown' and affecting the actions local businesses must

(Continued on Page 8)



Pattie Tessler, a member of the Medical Reserve Corps of Dutchess County, administers a vaccine on Tuesday (Jan. 5). *Photo provided*

Vaccines *(from Page 1)*

is setting up for essential workers and the general public. In addition to county health departments, the network will include community health centers, pharmacies, urgent-care clinics and primary-care doctors, he said.

The state has enrolled 3,762 sites so far, including 549 in the Mid-Hudson Region. Of those sites, 636 (including 104 in the Mid-Hudson) have received doses to vaccinate health care workers in conjunction with hospitals.

The state announced in December a hub system in which a hospital in each of its 10 regions would coordinate distribution for that region's counties. Westchester Medical Center is the hub for the Mid-Hudson Region, which includes Dutchess and Putnam.

Molinaro and other county leaders said the state should instead "activate" emergency vaccine-distribution plans that the counties created post-9/11 and have updated yearly to account for new viruses. The most recent update took place in October to account for COVID-19, he said.

"The State of New York decided to create an entirely new expectation with no infrastructure to support it," said Molinaro, who is president of the New York State County Executives Association. "They are building this operation as its running, and it's a mess, and it doesn't have to be."

New York State began the first phase of its multi-phase vaccination program on Dec. 15, distributing vaccine allotments to hospitals for front-line medical staff. As of Wednesday, the state had received about 935,000 doses of the two vaccines approved for use, one created by Pfizer-BioNTech and the other by Moderna. Both vaccines require two shots given weeks apart, and about 312,000 people in New York have received their first shots, according to the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

In addition to frontline health care workers, coroners, local health department staff, paramedics and urgent-care employees are among the groups currently eligible to receive vaccines. Officials are hoping the general public can begin getting shots in the spring.

While Cuomo said New York State needs

more than the 300,000 vaccines it is receiving each week, he has also accused hospitals of being slow to use the allotments of vaccines already received and has criticized the speed at which nursing-home residents and staff are getting shots under the federal program, which is mostly relying on CVS and Walgreens.

On Monday, Cuomo threatened hospitals with \$100,000 fines and a ban on receiving additional vaccines if they did not use all of their doses by the end of the week. Hospitals have also been told to return unused vaccines if all of their employees have received shots.

During the NYSAC news conference, Molinaro and other county executives defended hospitals.

Chris Moss, the county executive for Chemung County, said a hospital there began "making phone calls at 7 o'clock at night" as it rushed to schedule vaccinations for firefighters, police officers and residents 75 and older — none of whom are eligible in the first phase — to avoid any state fine.

Molinaro said hospitals "treat sick people" and do not have the infrastructure for mass vaccinations. He added that the state should instead "open the spigot just a little bit" by allowing people 75 and older who have critical health needs, and first responders like police officers and firefighters, to be vaccinated.

He also advocated giving private health companies such as Caremount approval to inoculate their workers and begin to offer shots. Those firms have a mass-vaccine infrastructure, Molinaro said.

Peter Ajemian, the governor's communications director, said in a statement on Thursday (Jan. 7) that after discussing vaccination efforts with local officials, he wanted to clarify that police officers are not "health care workers" who qualify for the vaccine as part of the first group, even if they know CPR. He noted that New York City alone has 917,000 eligible health care workers, but only 144,000 have received vaccines.

Ajemian also said the while police officers are included in the next group that will be eligible, along with teachers and residents ages 75 and older, the state "will not allow prioritization of one group over another" in the cohort, which includes 3 million people.

Cuomo on Wednesday said hospital

PLEASE
Take A
Number

Your Place in Line

New York State has established priority groups for COVID-19 vaccinations. The state has created a tool at am-i-eligible.covid19vaccine.health.ny.gov to determine eligibility.

COVID-19 by the Numbers

■ PUTNAM COUNTY

Number of confirmed cases:
5,436 (+686)
New Cases in Philipstown: **104**

Tests administered:
115,506 (+7,133)
Percent positive:
4.7 (+0.3)
Number of deaths:
67 (+0)

■ DUTCHESS COUNTY

Number of confirmed cases:
13,642 (+1,773)
Active Cases in Beacon: **49**

Tests administered:
382,864 (+21,077)
Percent positive:
3.6 (+0.3)
Number of deaths:
260 (+27)

Source: New York State Department of Health, as of Jan. 6, with weekly change in parentheses. New cases in Philipstown is for week ending Dec. 31.

vaccinations had tripled, from 10,809 per day to 31,157, in the two days after his demand that they vaccinate more staff. NewYork-Presbyterian, whose system includes Hudson Valley Hospital in Cortlandt Manor, had used 99 percent of its allocation as of Wednesday, according to the state. Vassar Brothers Medical Center in Poughkeepsie had used 37 percent of its allocation, the state said.

Vaccinations at nursing homes have "not been going as quickly as we would have liked," with about 47 percent of residents having received their first dose, Cuomo said on Monday. The state is going to step in, with a goal of getting every nursing home resident at least their first shot within two weeks, he said.

CURRENTLY ELIGIBLE

- High-risk hospital workers (emergency room workers, intensive care unit staff and pulmonary staff)
- Residents and staff at nursing homes and other congregate-care facilities
- Employees of Federally Qualified Health Centers (e.g., community health centers that receive federal funds to treat migrants, the homeless and residents of public housing)
- Emergency medical services workers
- Coroners, medical examiners and certain funeral workers
- Staff and residents of state facilities that serve people with disabilities or mental-health and substance-abuse issues
- Urgent-care providers
- Individuals who administer COVID-19 vaccines, including at local health departments
- All outpatient/ambulatory frontline, high-risk health care workers of any age who provide direct in-person patient care
- All staff who are in direct contact with patients (i.e., intake staff)
- All frontline, high-risk public health workers who have direct contact with patients, including those conducting COVID-19 tests, handling COVID-19 specimens and COVID-19 vaccinations, including doctors in private practice, at hospitals or in clinics, registered nurses, dentists and orthodontists, psychiatrists and psychologists, physical therapists, optometrists, pharmacists, home care workers and hospice workers, as well as their staffs
- The staff of nursing homes and skilled nursing facilities who did not receive a vaccination through the Pharmacy Partnership for Long-Term Care Program

Eligible in the Next Phase

- Teachers and education workers
- First responders
- Public safety workers
- Public transit workers
- People age 75 and older

Coronavirus Update

■ State health officials said that, as of Wednesday (Jan. 6), 5,436 people had tested positive for COVID-19 in Putnam County; 13,642 in Dutchess; 75,176 in Westchester; 29,202 in Rockland; 6,417 in Ulster; and 25,254 in Orange. Statewide, there have been 1,075,312 positives, including 460,520 in New York City. Statewide, 31,164 people had died.

■ Putnam had 401 active cases for the week ending Dec. 31, with 104 new cases reported in Philipstown, which has had 383 since March. There were 189 new cases in Carmel, 40 in Kent, 30 in Patterson, 71 in Putnam Valley and 78 in Southeast. Twenty people were hospitalized at Putnam Hospital in Carmel.

■ On Tuesday (Jan. 5), the Putnam County Health Department said the uptick in cases in Philipstown — it reported about a fourth of its total cases since March during the week ending Dec. 31 — was “due to an isolated, contained cluster within a congregate setting,” e.g., a group residence, that the agency did not identify. Shanna Siegel, a public health nurse with the county, said “the result of this cluster will be evident on next week’s dashboard, as well. This cluster is only one aspect of the overall increase in positive cases. Communities across Putnam County are beginning to see the early effects of holiday gatherings — the full impact will be felt in the coming weeks as we continue to see case numbers rise and higher rates of hospitalizations.”

■ On Wednesday (Jan. 6), Jonathan Hotz, a representative of the Graymoor religious order in Garrison, said there had been an outbreak at St. Christopher’s Inn, its homeless shelter for men. “On Dec. 22, a shelter resident who had begun exhibiting symptoms tested positive for the coronavirus,” he said. “This triggered a lockdown and testing among our entire resident population. Several residents tested positive and/or subsequently became symptomatic themselves.” He said all shelter residents were restricted to a single building and had no contact with the public. “In addition, we contacted the Putnam County Department of Health, which has been a great resource for us. Further, our on-site medical staff continues to monitor the condition of our residents, with daily guidance and support from the department.

“The worst is behind us,” he said. “Most men in the shelter are scheduled to complete

and screen out of isolation and quarantine by Jan. 10, and symptomatic residents are stable and recovering.” In addition, he said, all residents who tested negative were vaccinated on Jan. 6 and vaccinations were being offered to staff members at St. Christopher’s Inn and Graymoor who had contact with shelter residents.

■ The number of people with COVID-19 who are hospitalized in New York state as of Jan. 6 stood at 8,548; the number in intensive care was 1,424; and the number of intubations was 859. In the Mid-Hudson Valley, 33 percent of hospital beds were available and 40 percent of ICU beds.

■ On Dec. 11, the state revised its criteria for Yellow Zone restrictions. A geographic area will be eligible if it has a 3 percent positivity rate (7-day average) over the past 10 days and is in the top 10 percent in the state for hospital admissions per capita over the past week and is experiencing week-over-week growth in daily admissions. As of Jan. 6, the 7-day rolling average positivity rate in Dutchess was 8.5 percent and the average in Putnam was 9.8 percent but the counties did not meet other criteria.

■ As of Jan. 6, according to the State COVID Report Card, the Haldane school district had reported 17 students, teachers and staff who had tested positive; Garrison reported three; and Beacon reported 45.

■ The state said on Jan. 4 the first confirmed case of the UK strain of COVID-19 virus had been detected in an individual in Saratoga Springs.

■ The state on Dec. 29 announced new quarantine guidelines: Individuals exposed to COVID-19 can end their quarantine after 10 days without testing, instead of 14, as long as they do not have symptoms.

■ In response to a question, the Putnam County Health Department posted on Twitter: “(1) There are a few reasons for discrepancies between new and active cases [in reports]. Sometimes, by the time the lab is received, the individual has already completed isolation. That’s usually 10 days from the start of symptoms. (2) Most people aren’t tested the same day they become ill, and it can take a number of days to receive a test result. We also have to verify addresses and complete case investigations before they are included on the dashboard. (3) Since the dashboard is released weekly, there are also people who complete isolation in the week leading up to the day the dashboard is shared.”

will make recommendations for redrawing election districts. The commission was approved by voters in November.

The Legislature must make its appointments by Feb. 1. Two members will be selected by the majority leader and two by the minority leader. Those four members will select the remaining three by Feb. 15.

■ The state opened a new eligibility period and expanded the qualifications for a one-time COVID rent-subsidy program for low-income residents. Applicants must have lost income between April 1 and July 31 and before March 7 have been at or below 80 percent of the area median household income, adjusted for household size (e.g., \$81,840 annually for a family of four). The new application period opens Feb. 1. Approved subsidies will be paid to the applicant’s landlord. Residents who have previously applied do not need to reapply. For details, see hcr.ny.gov/RRP.

■ On Dec. 26, the state Department of Health said it had been “made aware of reports that Parcare Community Health Network, an Orange County provider, may have fraudulently obtained COVID-19 vaccine, transferred it to facilities in other parts of the state in violation of state guidelines and diverted it to members of the public. We take this very seriously and DOH will be assisting State Police in a criminal investigation.”

■ The federal government extended a temporary moratorium for most evictions until Jan. 31. To be eligible, renters must have experienced a “substantial” loss of household income, a layoff or “extraordinary” out-of-pocket medical expenses, and can’t expect to earn more than \$99,000 in 2020 (or \$198,000 for married people filing their tax returns jointly). A declaration form is required.

■ Dutchess County outlined on Dec. 22 how it planned to allocate the more than \$2.3 million it received through the federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act: about \$1.3 million for eviction prevention; \$450,000 for economic relief for businesses with five or fewer employees (including the owner); \$400,000 for child care for low- and moderate-income parents balancing work and student remote learning; and \$150,000 for municipal projects promoting food security and safety for seniors, including \$25,000 to the City of Beacon.

■ On Dec. 19, the state said local governments could allow low-income senior citizens and persons with disabilities to receive property tax exemptions for 2021 without appearing in person to apply.

■ On Dec. 22, Dutchess County Executive Marc Molinaro hosted his 50th Facebook town hall to provide COVID-19 updates.

■ Questions? Dutchess County posts updates at dutchessny.gov and has a hotline at 845-486-3555. Putnam County posts info at putnamcountyny.com. New York State has a hotline at 888-364-3065 and a webpage at coronavirus.health.ny.gov, which is also where you can find a testing site. The state also created an email list to provide updates. The federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention posts updates at cdc.gov.

NEWS BRIEF

171 Candidates for Redistricting Commission

Names sent to Legislature

Dutchess County Executive Marc Molinaro on Monday (Jan. 4) submitted the names of 171 candidates to the Legislature for a seven-member commission that

Member Exhibition

January 8–17, 2021



Member artwork from 2020 Member Exhibition

Opening Day
Friday, January 8
10 am – 7 pm

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Putnam Lawmakers Start New Year as They Ended Old: With Clashes

Montgomery loses bid for deputy chair, criticizes jail doctor pick

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

Putnam County legislators this week launched 2021 the same way they ended 2020: In 8-to-1 fights pitting Legislator Nancy Montgomery, a Democrat whose district includes Philipstown and part of Putnam Valley, versus her colleagues, all Republicans, on key issues.

Still, in another echo of 2020, they achieved unanimity on less fraught matters.

In the meeting on Tuesday (Jan. 5) held by audio connection because of the continued COVID-19 threat, Montgomery nominated herself for deputy chairperson as an alternative to Legislator Neal Sullivan of Carmel-Mahopac. After none of the other legislators would second her motion, Sullivan, the incumbent, won another term.

In opposing Sullivan, Montgomery noted that at past meetings he had told her to “shut up” and “there’s been profanity toward me. Honestly, it’s been quite the hostile work environment. I don’t believe that this is the best choice for a deputy chair.”

By comparison, she suggested, as the only minority party member she could help unite them. “We could make a lot of good friends if we could just work together,” she said.

Sullivan later concurred that “we should

all be working together,” especially during the pandemic. “This is no time for negativity or division.” However, he refuted a comment Montgomery had made at the Legislature’s year-end meeting in December, when she claimed that “county government is fundamentally broken.”

“It’s not ‘fundamentally broken,’ ” he said.

Also on Tuesday, legislators reelected Toni Addonizio of Kent as chairperson, with Montgomery’s support.

Along with opposing Sullivan’s reappointment, Montgomery questioned the methods used to prepare a long roster of liaisons to other organizations, including the Cornell Cooperative Extension, to which Addonizio nominated herself.

“Was this discussed outside of this meeting?” Montgomery wondered.

“That’s not an appropriate question,” Addonizio responded, also dodging Montgomery’s query on whether the Republicans held a party caucus before the legislative session.

When Montgomery added that she simply wanted to know if the appointments had been discussed ahead of time, Addonizio replied: “I’m not answering that.”

Nonetheless, Montgomery joined all her colleagues in making Addonizio their representative to the Extension board. The legislators likewise unanimously chose Montgomery as liaison to the Region 3 Forest Practice Board and the Fish and Wildlife Management Board, and, recognizing her role as the Legislature’s minority-party leader, as a representative to the county’s Capital Projects Committee.

When the other eight legislators ratified the choice of Dr. Michael Nesheiwat, the county health commissioner, as the physician at the county jail, Montgomery voted “no.” She initially questioned his dual posts last year.

Under a contract with the county, PrimeCare Medical, a private firm, serves jail inmates. Montgomery said Tuesday that PrimeCare in turn contracts with another professional medical care practice, which assigns Nesheiwat to the jail job.

“The fact we’re appointing our health

“has neither the qualifications required by the state, nor is he employed in accordance with the county charter.”

In November 2018, the state health department informed Putnam County that Nesheiwat needed to complete his master of public health degree, or demonstrate continued efforts to do so, for the state to agree to a further term for him in 2021. The agency also reminded Putnam that state law requires that county health commissioners “devote [their] entire time to the duties of this office.”

The Putnam County charter also requires the health commissioner to “serve on a full-time basis.”

When the issue came up in May, Nesheiwat told *The Current* that his time at the jail presents “no conflict with my duties” as health commissioner.

On Tuesday, no other legislator shared Montgomery’s concerns.

“Just to maybe speak the truth here: We’re not appointing Dr. Nesheiwat,” said Legislator Paul Jonke of Southeast. “We are confirming an appointment of Dr. Nesheiwat. He is working with an outside company” at the jail.

Legislator Amy Sayegh of Mahopac said the arrangement “is nothing new. And it’s been fully vetted by the Putnam County Law Department.” She said that even if Montgomery “does not understand the issue does not make it inappropriate or wrong.”

Nesheiwat “is doing a fantastic job,” Legislator Carl Albano of Carmel added.

“In opposing Sullivan, Montgomery noted that at past meetings he had told her to “shut up” and “there’s been profanity toward me. Honestly, it’s been quite the hostile work environment. I don’t believe that this is the best choice for a deputy chair.”

commissioner to do this, going into the second year of a pandemic, is astounding,” she said. “It’s irresponsible and reckless.” Montgomery said the doctor “is the highest-paid county employee” but that “we’re withholding from the public the additional salary [he] makes via a private contract to be jail physician.”

Further, she said, it appears Nesheiwat

Philipstown (from Page 5)

take to remain relevant and successful.”

The plan notes that tourism has increased exponentially over the last 15 years but that the allure of hiking areas along Route 9D north of Cold Spring has led to safety concerns and will require a “visitor-management strategy.”

Bordered by the Hudson River and crossed by mountains, Philipstown predates the American Revolution and covers 51.5 square miles. So far, the town “has retained

its bucolic feel, low-density residential character and peaceful sense of place and connection,” the draft notes. “Preservation of these remains the focus” of the initiative. “Philipstown is a unique place characterized by great natural beauty, historic places, and a sense of small-town community. This uniqueness is fragile and could be lost through a rapid influx of development.”

The draft warns that rising housing costs — also mentioned as a concern in the 2006 plan — could threaten Philipstown’s small-town character. Along with other

remedies to increase the housing stock, it suggests the development of “accessory dwelling units” (small, independent living spaces, such as garage apartments, tiny cottages behind main residences, or “granny flats” added to a single-family homes) “allowed by right” (considered legal, although a permit and reviews may be necessary), as well as two- and three-family houses “with appropriate controls on location and impact”; mixed-use development that blends housing with commercial establishments; incentives for owners

who provide affordable housing; and possibly policies to prevent the loss of diversified housing to short-term rentals.

Other goals include “integrated transportation” that reflects Philipstown’s “smart streets” program, which considers pedestrian and bicycle trips, sidewalks, and trails, as well as cars and highways; to promote farming; and to develop partnerships with neighboring municipalities.

Visit highlandscurrent.org for news updates and latest information.

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.

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

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.

Frost Confirmed as Beacon Police Chief

Council also approves new city administrator

By Jeff Simms

The Beacon City Council on Monday (Jan. 4) unanimously confirmed Mayor Lee Kyriacou's appointments of Sands Frost as police chief and Chris White as city administrator.

Frost, a 37-year veteran of the Beacon Police Department, has served as its acting chief since August. The mayor appointed him on Dec. 21, pending council approval.

His selection came after a nearly five-month search following the retirement in July of Kevin Junjulas. A search firm, along with a committee made up of council members, city officials and residents, interviewed candidates before suggesting two finalists to Kyriacou.

One finalist withdrew from the search for personal reasons, so the committee met once more and recommended the other finalist, who was Frost.

Under state law, Frost is considered provisional until he passes the civil service exam for the position.

On Monday, several Beacon residents, including Stefon Seward, an organizer of Beacon 4 Black Lives and a member of the search committee, called into the council's video-conferenced meeting to urge Kyriacou



Sands Frost

Photo by J. Simms

to create a citizen-led police advisory board.

Another caller, Veekas Ashoka, said that Frost's plan to get more police officers into neighborhoods is not in line with residents' priorities.

Community policing is "typically used as an excuse to expand police funding and hiring," he said. "It also extends police presence and surveillance into everyday life, and most of the time it just doesn't work."

Council Member Amber Grant said later in the meeting that she agreed with some of the concerns raised around community policing and that an advisory board "could be very helpful in making sure that is done tactfully and appropriately."

The second appointment, of White as city administrator, had been announced by Kyriacou on Dec. 29.

White is originally from Garrison and

lived in Beacon in the 1990s, serving as the city's Ward 3 council member from 1996 to 1997. He will leave his job as the deputy director of planning for Ulster County and begin in Beacon on Jan. 19.

White will work with outgoing administrator Anthony Ruggiero for about 10 days before taking over the day-to-day management of the city. Ruggiero is leaving to become the assistant commissioner for administration with the Dutchess County Department of Behavioral & Community Health.

White has worked for Ulster County for nine years, managing multimillion-dollar projects that include the repurposing of an unused school into a satellite community college campus and planning and constructing rail trails. Before that he spent 10 years managing Rep. Maurice Hinchey's district office.

White holds a master's degree in public administration from SUNY Albany and a bachelor's degree in politics from New York University. He was selected from more than 30 applicants; unlike Frost, he is not required to take a civil service exam.

"We needed someone with good planning and zoning expertise and the ability to do multiple projects at the same time," Kyriacou said Monday. "Chris has a really strong suit in the planning world and also in running major projects, so I thought it was a particularly good fit."

NEWS BRIEFS

Assault Case Moved to Putnam Court

Next appearance is Jan. 12

The prosecution of a Philipstown man on burglary and assault charges has been moved from Cold Spring Justice Court to Putnam County.

Tyrell P. Jones, 42, was charged last month with three felonies — for burglary, assault and strangulation — after he allegedly attacked a woman in her apartment in the early morning hours of June 30. He was arrested on Nov. 9 and released on a \$100,000 bond.

The case was transferred from Cold Spring to Putnam County Court on Dec. 15. Jones' next appearance is scheduled for Tuesday (Jan. 12).

Shelter Opens in Brewster

Also, daytime warming center

The social service agency Brewster Cares opened a winter overnight shelter last month, as well as a daytime warming center.

The overnight shelter opens at 8:30 p.m. and those hoping to use it must arrive before 9 p.m. at 468 N. Main St. for screening. The daytime warming center is open from 6:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the same address.

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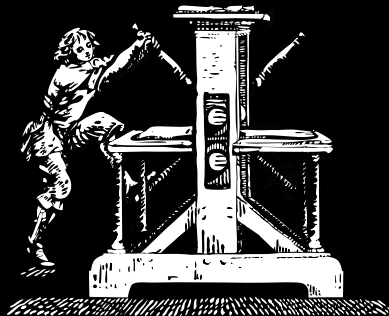
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Excavation Plan Sent to Historic Review

Hearing on Rock Street project continues Jan. 13

By Michael Turton

Citing possible litigation, Mayor Dave Merandy, at the Tuesday (Jan. 5) meeting of the Cold Spring Village Board, was cautious while addressing concerns raised for the second time in a month by neighbors of an excavation project at 29-31 Rock St.

"I have to be careful in what I say," Merandy explained, adding that he has discussed the project with Village Attorney John Furst.

A month earlier, at the board's Dec. 8 meeting, 10 residents of Rock Street and Kemble Avenue had raised concerns over safety in the area as well as the appropriateness of a permit issued by Code Enforcement Officer Charlotte Mountain that allowed the property owner to extend a driveway and parking area.

The excavation of the site's steep rock outcrop began on Dec. 2, but Mountain issued a stop-work order two days later after residents complained that a lack of adequate barriers resulted in flying rocks hitting houses and cars.



Members of the Historic District Review Board visited 29-31 Rock St. on Jan. 4.

Photo by M. Turton

The permit application was referred to the Historic District Review Board, which held a public hearing on Dec. 23 that will continue on Jan. 13. Members of the review board visited the site on Monday (Jan. 4).

The site, which lies within the village's historic district, has raised concerns with the board because of the potential adverse effect on the area's natural resources, principally the large rock outcrop.

Several neighbors attended the Tuesday Village Board meeting. In earlier correspondence, they asked the Village Board to require the owner to complete a comprehensive

safety plan if the excavation is allowed to continue. They also asserted that the project requires street opening and driveway permits, and requested that the project be referred to the Planning Board for review.

Merandy said the board agreed on the need for a safety plan. "We understand that loud and clear," he said.

However, the mayor said that, based on discussions with Furst, the "street opening" section of the village code refers to digging into a street for utility connections and doesn't apply to the Rock Street project. He added that the driveway in question

"has been there for a very long time" and that he will leave it up to the code enforcement officer to determine if a driveway permit is required.

Merandy said Furst agreed with his assessment that the project should not go to the Planning Board, whose chair, Matt Francisco, offered the same opinion at the Dec. 8 meeting.

Village Trustees Kathleen Foley and Heidi Bender suggested the board meet with Furst to better understand his interpretation of the issues raised by the project, which Merandy said he would arrange.

Michael Reisman, an attorney who has served on the village Comprehensive Plan Special Board and the Code Update Committee, was one of the residents who attended the meeting. He wrote in an email on Jan. 7 that "it is disappointing that the Village Board apparently does not wish to address the systemic consequences of the massive construction project on Rock Street in terms of code enforcement and public safety."

In other business ...

■ A resolution will be introduced at the board's Jan. 12 meeting authorizing the purchase of a new Kenworth garbage truck at a cost of \$108,524, plus \$8,500 to mount the cargo box on the chassis. Insurance will cover \$27,000 of the cost. The former truck was severely damaged last winter in an accident on icy roads. The board is also considering the purchase of a new dump truck that could cost as much as \$100,000.

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The Calendar



Michael Schein

Photo by Michael N. Meyer

The Greatest Book on Hype Ever Written

Beacon resident publishes guide to self-promotion

By Alison Rooney

Hype is a word everyone loves to hate, although it may have been hype that led you to feel this way.

Michael Schein says he chose the title of his forthcoming book, *The Hype Handbook* — which promises “12 indispensable success secrets from the world’s greatest propagandists, self-promoters, cult leaders, mischief-makers and boundary-breakers” — because he suspected no one feels neutral about the word.

“To most people, hype means to bring emotion to something that isn’t inherently good,” says the Beacon resident, who owns a marketing company called MicroFame Media. “That version is accepted in nearly every community, except, surprisingly, older hip-hop groups. A lot of hip-hop artists, primarily African- and Latino-Americans, didn’t have the privilege of following the rules to be successful. You had to be creative to get the word out. When you have power, you can do the traditions [to get attention], but if you’re an outsider you have to be creative.”

In his introduction, Schein describes his decision, during his mid-30s, to “ditch my cushy corporate career to make it as a freelance writer.” But, he says, “I discovered pretty quick that being good at what you do isn’t enough to get people to buy what you’re selling.”

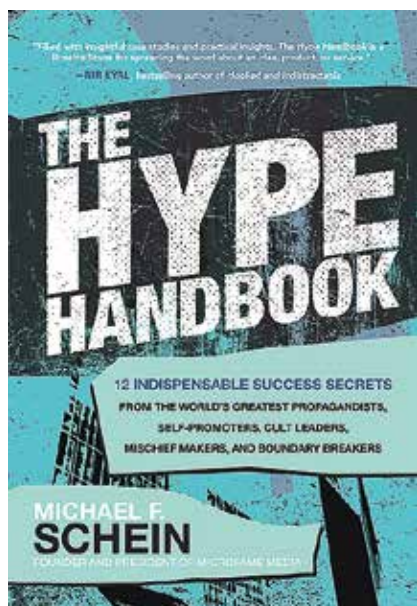
In ensuing chapters of *The Hype Handbook*, which will be published by McGraw-Hill on Tuesday (Jan. 12), Schein offers

tactics and maneuvers for marketing in the turn-on-a-digital-dime consumer and corporate world. (He also has a monthly newsletter in which he recommends titles about social psychology and “strange characters.” See hypereads.com/list.)

“When I went on my own 10 years ago, my plan was to be a business writer — not a business person, but a writer,” he says. “I thought I would be successful, but I wasn’t driving attention to myself. I thought about my interest in mischief-makers of various types and wondered if there was a way of promoting myself using their strategies, in an ethical way.”

His interest led him to found his marketing agency. “I knew I had niches, usually online, which could drive a ton of attention for a client in that niche,” he says. “I had

(Continued on Page 12)



Judie Gordon, in her long and narrow shop

Photo by A. Rooney

Open by Innovation

Judie Gordon has adapted and survived

By Alison Rooney

She’s not in it for the money, which Judie Gordon concedes is convenient, because even in the best times, the profits have never been sky-high at Judie’s Bungalow, the boutique she has operated on Main Street in Cold Spring since 2005.

“There are months you don’t make it at all, but you just have to keep going,” she says of the store. “It’s my passion to get up and work; I don’t want to be home 24/7. It keeps my sanity.”

If you recall going into the shop for a manicure or a haircut or to browse the jewelry collection, your memory is correct. Gordon has refashioned — not for the first time — her business into a decorative furniture emporium, although some jewelry remains.

“I started to do mixed-media art canvases about five years ago,” she explains. “I got very involved in the paintings, masks, ornaments. Everything has the same flavor, a little Victorian, a little edge to it, some Tim Burton. With what’s happened since March, I became more interested in doing furniture because it’s

just another canvas, it’s all related.”

Gordon visits estate sales to find furniture she can transform with paint, patinas and decorative flourishes. Inside her long, narrow store are as many chests of drawers, end tables, chairs and other furniture as she can fit.

To aid in the transformation, Gordon uses chalk paint — Judie’s Bungalow has just been named an official Dixie Belle retailer — augmented with moldings and patinas. “The furniture pieces look kind of Shabby Chic-y, with many textures,” she says.

She changed the name of the shop from Simply Elegant to Judie’s Bungalow about a year ago because, she says, “it’s my gallery and my studio. I want word to get out, because it’s not the easiest thing with walk-in people. This is not an impulse buy — it’s much harder [to sell] than a canvas or a mask.”

Gordon grew up in Queens and moved to Mahopac 33 years ago. “I was designing and making jewelry and looking for a spot to anchor my jewelry,” she recalls. “I went into Mount Kisco to show my jewelry to a nail salon for display. One day the owner asked me would I like to learn nails. I wound up getting my license and loving

(Continued on Page 12)



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Hype Handbook *(from Page 11)*

the idea for the book because I saw a lot of people not in big companies who didn't have these skills — that is, artists, musicians, small-business owners. People would say, 'I don't think I need to hype myself.' But my message is, hype is not a bad thing. If more artists stopped thinking about promotion as a chore and instead as a 'part of art' — if they could reframe themselves, they would fare better."

Schein says he envisioned his audience as people who could make the world a better place but who struggle doing great things in the world. "There are all these nonprofits which do such good work, but there's a martyrdom of talking about how broke they are," he says. "If nonprofits ran more like companies, they'd come to see that hype is

simply a tool, neither immoral or moral."

He says there have always been "influencers" who use hype well, citing a story from the 1920s about a company that wanted to increase pork consumption. Their public-relations person got in touch with a prominent doctor he knew and had him mail other physicians across the county, "claiming that bacon replaced the energy lost during sleep. That is what turned bacon into a breakfast food."

Marketing doesn't need to be expensive, Schein says. "In the 1970s, Malcolm McLaren, the manager of the [British punk band] Sex Pistols, got all this attention by having them be rude and crude in public. They had no budget for PR, so they called the queen a fascist and got lots of coverage. The contrarian point of view, creating an us-versus-them dynamic, can still work."



Mixed-media artwork by Judie Gordon

Photos by A. Rooney

Judie Gordon *(from Page 11)*

it, mostly because it was social, as opposed to just making jewelry in my house."

A woman she had worked with in Mount Kisco owned Simply Elegant and asked Gordon if she'd be interested in taking over. "I knew Cold Spring well enough from weekend antiquing; I had strolled up and down Main Street many times," she says.

Gordon kept the name "just because it was easier than changing it. It was a struggle. I didn't regret it but found it hard right away making expenses. But I loved what I was doing and I finally was able to have a whole section devoted to my jewelry," which she describes as "mostly metals, with a Victorian look. Some has a bit of a gothic flavor. It's not like anyone else's."

Still, she soon realized that making a profit on \$15 manicures was too difficult, and cutting hair worked for a while but "there were too many hair salons around, and we'd get customers coming from all over on the weekends but not locals. You need people who use your services regularly, and I didn't have that."

Cut to the present. Gordon refers to the space as "my gallery and my studio."

Fifteen years in, Gordon now has a grown daughter and a semi-retired husband. "He keeps saying, 'Enough already.' When we started in jewelry 40 years ago everything was in one little jewelry case. Now it's tents and tables and stands. He's always schlepping something. It's good that I have the shop to go to. That's about the size of it."

Gordon says she has no plans to retire. Asked for her advice to a new shop owner



A moody chest of drawers painted and decorated by Judie Gordon

in Cold Spring, she had to ponder her response a bit. "It depends on your business," she says. "Food establishments do pretty good, but lots of others are hit or miss. You should come up on the weekends, see the crowds, see the stores they're going into. Don't depend on the people who live in the area. Observe in winter. You have to do your homework. It's a crapshoot, really."

Judie's Bungalow is located at 90 Main St. Call 845-265-1032. The shop is open from noon to 5 p.m. on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday and 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday.

THE WEEK AHEAD

Edited by Pamela Doan (calendar@highlandscurrent.org)

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

COMMUNITY

SAT 9

Blood Drive

PUTNAM VALLEY

9 a.m. – 3 p.m. Firehouse
12 Canopus Hollow Road
donate.nybc.org

Schedule an appointment to donate. All donors will be entered to win a \$100 gift card

SUN 10

Tracks and Traces

CORNWALL

10 a.m. Outdoor Discovery Center
120 Muser Drive | 845-534-5506 x204
hhnm.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)*

MON 11

Community Blood Drive

BEACON

2:30 – 7 p.m. St. John the Evangelist
35 Willow St. | donate.nybc.org

Schedule an appointment; walk-ins welcome.

WED 13

Memoir Writing

BEACON

7 p.m. Via Zoom | donnaminkowitz.com

This eight-week course will focus on craftsmanship and supportive feedback. *Cost: \$300*

SECOND SATURDAY

SAT 9

Dream

BEACON

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

This group show will present interpretations by 11 artists of what it means to dream in this fraught time. The exhibit includes painting, sculpture, photography and other media. In the Beacon Room, *Tiny, New (and possible) Worlds*, an exhibit of Jackie Weinland's embroidered work on found materials, will be on view. Through Feb. 7.

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.

SAT 9

Darkest Before Dawn: Art in a Time of Uncertainty

BEACON

Noon – 4 p.m. Ethan Cohen KuBe
211 Fishkill Ave. | 845-765-8270
ecfa.com

Schedule an appointment to visit this exhibit of work by artists from around the world in painting, sculpture, photography and other media. Through Jan. 30.

SAT 9

Memory of a Body

BEACON

Noon – 6 p.m. Mother Gallery
1154 North Ave. | 845-236-6039
mothergallery.art

See Emilie Gossiaux's installations, paintings and sculptures by appointment through Jan. 30.

TALKS & TOURS

SAT 9

Hauntings of the Hudson River Valley

COLD SPRING

5 p.m. Putnam History Museum
putnamhistorymuseum.org

As part of the Thomas F. Hayden Lecture Series, Vincent Dacquino will recount his investigative journey into the stories behind Sybil Ludington, Chief Daniel Nimham and George Denny, looking for their "spiritual residue." Via Zoom. *Cost: \$10 (free for members)*



MON 11

Environmental Careers for People of Color

OSSINING

6 p.m. Teatown Lake Reservation
teatown.ticketleap.com
illuminating-careers

Register to join a discussion over Zoom with five professionals who work in environmental activism, including in development, science and research, and sustainability.

MON 11

Butterfield Book Club

COLD SPRING

7 p.m. Butterfield Library
845-265-3040 | butterfieldlibrary.org
Register for this Zoom discussion of *Eileen*, by Ottessa Moshfegh.

WED 13

Pollock and Krasner Home Tour

BEACON

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

Joyce Raimondo will lead a virtual tour of the home of Jackson Pollock and Lee Krasner, including their art collection and paint spatters in their studio.

WED 13

Of Time and Rivers Flowing

BEACON

7:30 p.m. Clearwater | clearwater.org

The authors and contributors will celebrate the release of the third edition of *The Hudson: An Illustrated Guide to the Living River* with a four-part series on aspects of the river. Register to watch online. *Cost: \$7 each or \$25 for all four (members free)*

THURS 14

Joanna Macy

GARRISON

2 p.m. Garrison Institute
garrisoninstitute.org

In a Pathways to Planetary Health forum via Zoom, Macy will share her framework for turning despair over the earth's future into collaborative and constructive action.

SAT 16

So You Want to Run for Office

POUGHKEEPSIE

2 p.m. Via Zoom
bit.ly/ddwc-run-for-office

The Dutchess Democratic Women's Caucus will host a forum for women interested in running for elected office in Dutchess County, or working to get other women elected. Speakers include Elisa Sumner, Rebecca Edwards and Kenya Gadsden. Register online.

KIDS & FAMILY

MON 11

Sign Language Class

GARRISON

10 a.m. Desmond-Fish Library
bit.ly/DFPLsign | 845-424-3020
desmondfishlibrary.org

Children ages 5 and younger and their caregivers can learn sign language through song during this six-week series.

TUES 12

Kids' Craft with Mrs. Merry

GARRISON

4 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library
bit.ly/DFPLkidscraft
845-424-3020 | desmondfishlibrary.org

Pick up the materials in advance and join the Zoom meeting to make the project.

WED 13

Cartooning Class

BEACON

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

Students in grades 4 to 7 will learn to draw cartoons over Zoom with Rick Stromoski. Email youth@beaconlibrary.org to register.



Dream, Jan. 9

STAGE & SCREEN

FRI 15

Kiss the Ground: The Solution is Right Under Our Feet

COLD SPRING

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

Actor Woody Harrelson narrates this documentary about how regenerating soil could be a solution to climate change. Register by TUES 12 to watch online.

CIVIC

MON 11

City Council

BEACON

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

MON 11

School Board

BEACON

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

TUES 12

Putnam County Police Policy Review Panel

CARMEL

10 a.m. Via audiocast
putnamcountyny.gov

TUES 12

Board of Trustees

COLD SPRING

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

WED 14

Village Board

NELSONVILLE

7 p.m. Via Zoom
845-265-2500 | nelsonvilleny.gov

THURS 14

Town Board

PHILIPSTOWN

7:30 p.m. Community Center
845-265-5200 | philipstown.com



Environmental Careers for People of Color, Jan. 11

Lost Landmarks

Diane Lapis, president of the Beacon Historical Society, and her husband, Peter, own hundreds of local postcards. We asked them to select a few of their favorite city landmarks that are no more. Their comments appear with each image, based on research gleaned from newsletters by the society's late president, Bob Murphy, that are collected in a new book, *Beacon's Memory Keeper and Storyteller: Robert J. Murphy* (beaconhistorical.org).



Sargent Industrial School

Founded in 1878 by Mrs. Henry Winthrop Sargent at her home, the school provided classes in the domestic arts and sciences for girls and teenagers ages 7 to 18. It was innovative for its time, providing opportunities for young women to escape poverty by developing marketable skills. The school closed in 1918 following Mrs. Sargent's death.

Highland Hospital

In 1871, Gen. Joseph Howland — a Union Army officer, philanthropist and politician — purchased a home on Washington Street (now Russell Avenue) and gifted it to the city as a hospital.

By 1900, it was deemed inadequate and a new hospital was built on Verplanck Avenue. The building was razed in 1960 and a group of townhouses now stand in its place.



Hotel, Casino and Power Station

The Mount Beacon Incline and a casino welcomed 60,000 guests during its first season in 1902. The Beaconcrest Hotel was built six years later. A fire destroyed the casino and hotel in 1927 and the power station, cars and tracks in 1981 and 1983.



Nitgedaiget

Located on Route 9D in Dutchess Junction, Nitgedaiget was a vacation resort for Jewish progressive liberals and Communist sympathizers from 1922 to the early 1950s. The complex included a four-story hotel, dining hall, casino/dance hall, business office, pool, sports facilities, bungalows and tents, and could handle 1,000 people a day. Originally a 250-acre property, it is now part of the Hudson Highlands State Park, although remains of its pool can be seen off Notch Trail.



Long Dock Railroad Terminal

The terminal has worn many hats since 1880: a rail terminal and docking area for the ferry William T. Hart; a link in the New Haven Railroad system; a pig-iron transfer station; a site to store fuel and later salt; and a junkyard. Today it is the home of Long Dock Park.





Holland Hotel

Built in 1894, this 50-room brick building with bluestone trim was the most distinctive on Main Street and considered the best hotel in Fishkill Landing and Matteawan (which later joined to become Beacon). It was razed in 1972 and the site is now occupied by Dutchess County offices and a parking lot.



Tioronda Bridge

The stone remains of the railroad bridge can be seen going north at Madam Brett Trail Park near South Avenue near the old Tioronda Chapel on the Howland Estate. The trestle was built in the late 1860s by the Dutchess and Columbia Railroad and crossed at Sucker Falls. It connected the railroad spur line at Wicopee Junction located just below the New York Rubber Co. to its terminal at Dutchess Junction. After the Dutchess Junction terminal closed, the trestle went into disuse and was torn down in 1920.

Hat Factories

Beacon was the largest hat manufacturer in New York and second in the country only to Danbury. For nearly a century from 1864, the factories employed thousands of workers who made hundreds of thousands of hats. The heyday was 1920 to 1940. The majority of the factories have been razed or are in ruins but a few have been redeveloped as condos.



New York Central Station and Ferry House

The Newburgh-Beacon ferry ran for 220 years — one of the longest running in American history. The most recent terminal was built in 1914 and closed in 1963 with the opening of the Newburgh-Beacon Bridge. It was razed in 1968. The New York Central Railroad built a brick stationhouse in 1915 that was destroyed by fire in 1975. Nothing remains of the plaza.



Mount Beacon Cottages

A seasonal community of 20 families lived atop the mountain during the heyday of the hotel and incline from about 1900 to 1920. Trolley cars delivered the guests and all their needs to enjoy the cool air. Today, only one cottage remains, in ruins, and can be seen along Howard's Path.

Fishkill Union Free School No. 8

Opened in 1891 with 12 classrooms and a huge assembly room, the school had more than 400 students in its primary, grammar and other academic departments. The building was destroyed by fire in January 1928 and, within a year, replaced by the current South Avenue School.



Mouths to Feed

A Noodle by Any Other Name

By Celia Barbour

When I was a child, noodle soup meant just one thing: Campbell's. Chicken noodle, chicken with stars, beef noodle and alphabet comprised the totality of my pasta-in-soup knowledge. Then one day my mother brought home Lipton's, with its dry packets of herbed bouillon powder and delicate, feathery noodles meant to be cooked up just before eating.

Suddenly, here were noodles that hadn't marinated in liquid for months or years. Noodles that, despite their diminutive size, held their own on the tongue, feeling lively and intact rather than gummy and soft. They were a delight — and no doubt Indiana's (or at least my corner of it) precursor to ramen.

Decades would pass between those memorable bowlfuls and the day I came across the word "mouthfeel," yet I'm convinced that my childhood encounters with processed soups prepared me to accept this totally infelicitous-sounding concept.

Early exposure to the power of mouthfeel may also explain why it seemed perfectly logical, when I became a mother myself, that my kids' food aversions were defined more by that phenomenon than by taste. Henry hated bananas and avocados, for example; Dosi shunned kiwi and tomatoes.

Of course, none of my three kids has ever said no to a noodle of any ilk or softness. Pasta seems perfectly designed to penetrate even the most highly developed childhood food defenses. And while the first chicken noodle soups they encountered were homemade (and European-style), the kids mercifully discovered instant ramen around the same time that I was ready to abandon my annoying, make-everything-from-scratch standards and embrace whatever measures were necessary to get calories into their rapidly growing bodies.

Because we lived in Manhattan when they were little, I was also fortunate to taste homemade ramen, made with both hand-made noodles and from-scratch broth, at some of the city's burgeoning ramen shops, the best of which quickly developed lines out the door that I quickly became unwilling to wait in.

Over time, I developed my own spurious version of ramen that borrows flavors



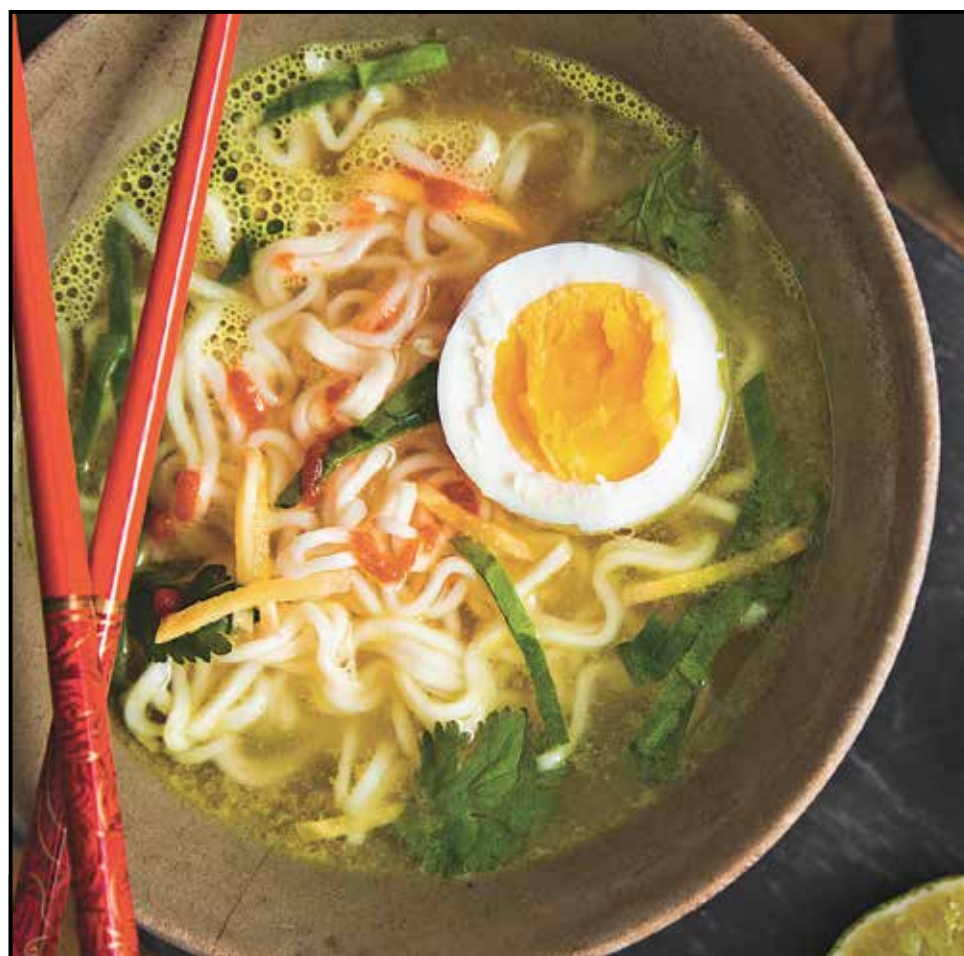
Photos by Henry Weed

and tricks from here and there to punch up what's at heart a quick-and-easy meal. It's a wonderful thing to cook at this chilly time of year, when we're craving foods that are not just warm but soul-warming warm. And when, moreover, we just might have on hand a quart of chicken, pork or turkey broth boiled up after serving a holiday roast. But this easygoing dish also works with instant bouillon if that's all you have.

Either way, the key is to steep a few aromatics in the broth — ginger, garlic, plus some dried kombu and shitake if you have them. Meanwhile, set an egg to boil, slice up a few leafy greens and cook the noodles. Lotus Foods makes very good packaged ramen noodles that are available in most of our local grocery stores and come in an array of striking colors — purplish black (forbidden rice), green (jade pearl) and millet and brown rice (tan) — that all taste similarly mild, pleasant and noodleish. In 15 minutes, you have a meal that you will want to bend your face over and inhale before twirling a fork into the wiggly noodles.

It's too bad the English language doesn't have another word for *taste* that refers not just to the flavor of a food — that thing you receive through your tastebuds — but to the whole sensory experience of eating, from nose and eyes to flavor, mouthfeel and belly-warmth. Actually, why not have separate words for each of those experiences of deliciousness? Something besides, say, mm-mm good.

“ Either way, the key is to steep a few aromatics in the broth — ginger, garlic, plus some dried kombu and shitake if you have them.



Easy Kicky Ramen

Makes 2 servings

This tastes best when made with homemade chicken, pork or vegetable broth, but a quality store-bought kind is also fine.

FOR THE BROTH

2 cups broth (see headnote)

1 inch-long piece of ginger, peeled and julienned, or more to taste

1 clove garlic, gently smashed

1 tablespoon dried shitake, optional

½ sheet dried kombu, optional

Stems from 3 to 4 sprigs cilantro (save leaves for serving)

TO FINISH THE DISH

2 eggs

1 to 2 cakes Lotus or other brand ramen noodles

2 to 3 teaspoons soy sauce, or to taste

Dash mirin

1 loosely-packed cup fresh spinach leaves, chopped

FOR SERVING (OPTIONAL)

Sriracha or other hot sauce

Lime

Leaves from 3 to 4 sprigs cilantro

1. In a medium saucepan, bring the broth to a simmer. Add the ginger, garlic and cilantro stems plus the kombu and shitake if using. Turn off the heat, cover the pot, and allow to steep while preparing the rest of the dish. (The longer the broth steeps, the more flavorful it will become, so if you have time you can start it up to 40 minutes in advance.)
2. Place the eggs in a small saucepan, fill with warm tap water to cover by an inch, and bring to a boil over high heat. Once the water comes to a full boil, set a timer for 3 minutes. After 3 minutes, remove from heat, cover the pot, and allow the eggs to sit for an additional 2 to 4 minutes (depending on how well done you like them). Transfer to cold water. Peel and cut in half.
3. Meanwhile, cook the ramen noodles according to package directions. When done, drain, rinse with cold water until the noodles feel slippery, then set them aside in the colander or strainer while you prepare the rest of the dish.
4. Strain the aromatics from the broth and bring it back to a boil. Add the chopped spinach, the soy sauce and mirin and, and cook just until the spinach begins to wilt. Add the noodles, heat for 10 to 15 seconds, then ladle into bowls, adding egg halves to each. Serve right away, with sriracha, lime, and cilantro on the side, if desired.



Claire, 9, holding a tray of her cake pops



Siblings James, 10, and Elaine, 14, teamed up for pinwheel cookies.



Aila, 11, with her stained-glass sugar cookies, won "most magical baker"



Maisie, 12, and Zade, 8, were the "precision" winners for their chocolate cupcakes.



Dominic, 13, received the "professional baker award" for his sugar cookies.

Let's Meet Over Sweets

Children and teens bake decadent favorites

By Alison Rooney

It was just hours before the deadline for submissions for the Great Desmond-Fish Bake Off,* and, across Philipstown, children and teenagers were busy sifting and rolling and sampling.

"Cookies, cakes, pies or whatever dessert looks like to you" was the Garrison library's only rule. Entrants were asked to submit three videos: the first to introduce yourself, noting what you'll be baking; the second of "you preparing, baking or decorating your baked good"; and the third showing the final product ("presentation always makes a difference"), along with a member of the household other than the baker conducting a taste test.

The list of entries included stuffed churro cookies, pumpkin cheesecake (with maybe meringues), cinnamon-sugar-doughnut muffins and "I don't know yet, but something

*Keen readers will recognize the importance of the hyphen; the library, named for its benefactors Alice Curtis Desmond and Hamilton Fish, was not asking children to cook seafood.

that my sister will really like." One contestant created apple galette following a recipe by Nicki Sizemore, a cookbook author who lives in Cold Spring; another made chocolate Nutella lava cake from a recipe at food.com.

The submitted videos were edited together for a collective debut on Saturday (Jan. 2) during a livestreamed show and award ceremony hosted by librarians Justice McCray and Karen Thompson. (The event was unfortunately disrupted by a Zoom-bomber; see Page 1.)

"I had so much fun putting this event together," said McCray, who assembled the videos and included one in which he made pretzels in his kitchen. "There's something truly magical about sharing the joys of baking."

Thompson also shared her rolling-pin collection, and each contestant received a utensil such as a pie bird or a small ramekin from The Country Goose in Cold Spring. The library also recognized the bakers (who included Aila, Alice, Caitlyn, Claire, Dominic, Elaine, Helen, James, Jasmine, Maisie, Matthew, Nate, Tabitha, Teddy, Urban and Zade) with awards such as Dynamic Duo, Precision and — the one every dessert baker covets — Most Decadent.



Jasmine, 13, with the "better-than-bite-size" macarons



Caitlyn and Matthew, ages 9 and 7, made stuffed churros and won the teamwork award



Urban's no-bake French silk pie earned the 4-year-old the most enthusiastic baker crown.



Helen, 13, made a pumpkin cheesecake.



Tabitha, 5, made "a ginormous cookie" and was named the most creative baker.



Alice, 6, who made an apple galette, was recognized for best pie

Robert Canfield, MD

Robert Emerson Canfield, MD passed away peacefully at home in Cold Spring, NY on December 26, 2020 after a brief illness.

Bob was born on June 4, 1931 in Great Neck, NY to Laverne Deyo and Louise Miller Canfield. Growing up he spent summers in Staatsburg, NY where he developed a lifelong love of the Hudson Valley and an abiding sense of his family roots there, dating back to the 18th C. He attended Lehigh University School of Engineering, and went on to study medicine at the University of Rochester, and to complete residency training in Internal Medicine at Presbyterian Hospital in New York City.

Drawing on his engineering background, he entered Medicine with a keen interest in basic research and spent the next four years at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) in Bethesda, MD as a research associate in the laboratory of Christian Anfinsen. While there he laid the foundations for an approach to scientific investigation that would serve him throughout his career, but as importantly, established close friendships with a small group of colleagues whose interactions he would cherish lifelong.

Returning to New York in 1963, Bob joined the faculty of Columbia University's College of Physicians and Surgeons. His career spanned nearly 50 years, across research interests that included the fundamental mechanisms of cellular protein production, bone metabolism and the origins of Paget's disease, and the hormonal changes of pregnancy, ushering in a new field of investigation into previously unrecognized early pregnancy loss. These efforts were conducted largely under the aegis of NIH grant support and shortly before his retirement Bob received a letter from this agency informing him that he ranked among the top 5% of NIH-funded researchers nationally over the course of his career.



Along with his research efforts, he was deeply invested in medical education, developing and directing a pivotal course in human biology for 25 years, highly innovative at the time for its multidisciplinary integration. He greatly enjoyed mentoring trainees in his lab and advising medical students as they strove to discern their own career paths.

Bob and his wife Carol, who predeceased him in 2016, enjoyed the Hudson Valley for over 30 years, including immersing themselves in the community of Cold Spring, NY, boating on the Hudson River, and exploring all corners of the world. Bob is survived by his children, Stephen (Mark Banco), Sara Carpenter (Scott), and Thomas and their mother Marilyn Kayner Canfield. He is also survived by his six grandchildren, James, Danielle, and Matthew Canfield of Danbury, CT, and Gretchen, Peter, and Emma Carpenter of Denver, CO, and his two standard schnauzers, Fredo and Sammy. Finally, he is survived by a host of close friends and family, including Urszula and Tadek Rzasz of Wappingers Falls, NY.

Funeral services will be private. Memorial contributions may be made to the Constitution Marsh Audubon Center & Sanctuary, P.O. Box 174, Cold Spring, NY, 10516 or to Boscobel House & Gardens (www.boscobel.org).

Funeral Arrangements under the direction of Clinton Funeral Home- Cold Spring

PAID NOTICE

Current Classifieds

FOR RENT

COLD SPRING COMMERCIAL — 1,521 sq-ft single-story, freestanding, well-maintained commercial building for rent in village. Well-suited for wide range of uses (office/professional/medical/art/studio/retail). On-site Parking. Walk to train, Main, shopping. Set up as medical/professional office with reception, office/exam rooms, kitchenette, bathroom. \$3,600/month (excluding utilities). Call Kevin at 845-265-2683.

POSITIONS WANTED

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

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Puzzles

CROSS CURRENT

ACROSS

1. Nile vipers

5. Cistern

8. Sprint

12. Guitarist Atkins

13. — -de-France

14. Formerly

15. Antelope’s playmate

16. Its days are numbered

18. Degree of excellence

20. Endures

21. Nova ailer

22. Lass

23. Regions

26. Volcanic crater

30. *Entourage* agent

31. Branch

32. Felon’s flight

33. Trinidad music

36. Fountain drinks

38. Fine, at NASA

39. Marry

40. Dishonor

43. Actor Rory

47. Squid dish

49. Big fair, for short

50. “Oops!”

51. Drench

52. Peruse

53. Facts and figures

54. Guitar master Paul

11. Towel word

17. Israeli airline

19. Small ammo

22. Leg, in slang

23. Efron of *Parkland*

24. Man-mouse link

25. Zero

26. — -Magnon

27. Right angle

28. Squealer

29. Early hrs.

31. Request

34. Motorcycle maker

35. “The Raven,” for one

36. Actor Gibson

37. Stick

39. Is patient

40. Gulf War missile

41. “Funny!”

42. Oodles

43. Manitoba tribe

44. They can take a yoke

45. — the crack of dawn

46. Agrees silently

48. Piercing tool

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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 calamitous (7)

2 northern Italian city (7)

3 shooting the breeze (10)

4 negotiation (6)

5 doing a 180 (9)

6 old-school phones (9)

7 bog down (4)

SOLUTIONS

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SUDO CURRENT

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

Puzzle Page Sponsored by



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Answers for Jan. 1 Puzzles

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

1. CARRIAGE, 2. ASCENSION, 3. RADIATE, 4. GYMNASTICS, 5. GATEKEEPER, 6. MOODY, 7. PHIL

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



Catherine Rinaldi, the president of Metro-North, cuts the ribbon on Jan. 4 to officially open the Maybrook Trail. Putnam County Executive MaryEllen Odell is to her left.

Empire Trail *(from Page 1)*

Maybrook Trailway section of the Empire State Trail, which runs north from Brewster to the southern end of the Dutchess Rail Trail in Hopewell Junction, passing through Southeast, Patterson, Pawling, Beekman and East Fishkill.

South of Brewster, the trail connects after an on-road section to the Putnam Trail in Mahopac, which connects with Westchester County's North County Trail. The Maybrook trail can be accessed at Metro-North stations in Poughkeepsie or Brewster, or from parking areas along the route. (See empiretrail.ny.gov.)

About 400 miles of the 750-mile trail consists of previously constructed trails, such as the Dutchess Rail Trail and the Erie Canalway Trail, with the remainder new trails that link them together and show off the diversity of landscapes and historical sites throughout the state, Beers said.

Some of the linkages involved minor projects — in length, not logistics — such as creating a few miles of trail or marking segments along roadways. “Those gaps existed because

they were the hardest sections to complete due to engineering challenges or real estate” ownership, said Beers.

Others involved the creation of longer trails, such as the 36-mile-long Albany-Hudson Electric Trail, and the Maybrook Trail, which Beers said is one of his favorite parts of the project.

It's named for the Maybrook Railroad Co., which operated the double Beacon Line from Maybrook in Orange County, across what is now the Walkway Over the Hudson, and into New England. The line stopped operating in the 1970s.

Because the tracks are owned by Metro-North, the agency built the Maybrook Trail with \$42 million in state money. The agency left one of the two tracks in place “so you get the feel that this was a historic rail bed,” Beers said. “It goes past these beautiful, fairly wooded and remote landscapes.”

It also intersects with the Appalachian Trail, so if running to New York City doesn't seem like enough of an adventure, you can head to Maine or Georgia.

After running the Maybrook Trail (it's also open to cross-county skiers and snow-



A sign in Brewster shows the entire trail.

MTA photos (3)

shoers), I can vouch for its beauty, especially the southern section. After passing the Appalachian Trail intersection, the trail winds past several scenic lakes and through The Great Swamp. Informational kiosks along the way reveal the surprising history of many of the sites, including a summer camp for New York City Sanitation Department workers that once featured discarded train cars remodeled into vacation cabins, and how Tonetta Lake in Putnam County was named for a married slave couple, Tone and Etta, who were freed after Tone fought in the Revolutionary War.

It's certainly more calming than the northern section of the Maybrook Trail, which features tall fencing and security cameras as it passes through an MTA Police Department Canine Training Center, past the Greenhaven Correctional Facility, past the Greenhaven Correctional Facility cemetery in which most of the gravestones have numbers instead of names, and past several signs warning that if you venture off the trail you'll find yourself in a “firearms discharge area.” But your mileage may vary.

Security cameras aside, the Maybrook section is paved and off-road, unlike other sections of the trail which are along roads and best experienced by cyclists as opposed to those on foot. But, as Beers pointed out, it's now possible to ride a bike from Kingston to the Battery in Manhattan and traverse only 4 miles of road.

At around 130 miles, a ride to Albany would make for a fun long weekend trip. And it's hard not to imagine an ultramarathon starting at the Walkway Over the Hudson and ending 100 miles later in Manhattan.

The trail is also a godsend to people looking to safely get out of the house during the pandemic for some gentle exercise. The state saw a surge of use on sections of the Empire State Trail as they opened and Beers said he hoped the trail would remain popular now that it's whole.



More New Trails

The Empire State Trail includes many well-known trails, such as the Dutchess Rail Trail and the Hudson Valley Rail Trail, but other new paths have opened recently or are coming soon.

- Ashokan Rail Trail (2019)**
11.5 MILES
 Catskills: West Hurley to Boiceville
- Harlem Valley Rail Trail (2020)**
8 MILES
 A new section of this Dutchess County trail, from Millerton to Ancram, opened last month to create 24 miles of continuous paved trail that starts in Wassaic. When completed, the trail will be 46 miles long and end in Chatham.
- Hudson Valley Fjord Trail (2027)**
7.5 MILES
 Construction on the Cold Spring-to-Beacon trail is expected to begin this year.



Along the Maybrook Trailway

Photo by B. Cronin