

# The HIGHLANDS Current

JANUARY 15, 2021

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Page 11



## New Barge Anchorages Banned

*Federal law prevents river 'parking' near Beacon*

By Brian PJ Cronin

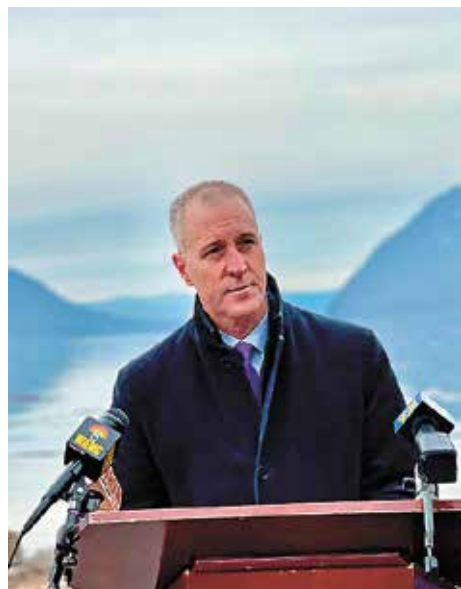
While negotiating a provision in the annual defense authorization act that banned the creation of new anchorages in the lower Hudson River for oil tankers, some Republicans in Congress suggested to Rep. Sean Patrick Maloney, the Democrat whose district includes the Highlands, that the anchorages should be banned for only 25 years.

"I said, 'I'll tell you what: Let's do it forever,'" said Maloney at a news conference on Monday (Jan. 11) at Plum Point in New Windsor, in the shadow of Storm King. "In the future if you want to undo it, you can come talk to us and tell us why you want to screw up the Hudson River."

The defense bill, including the ban on new anchorages, passed the House and Senate but was vetoed by President Trump. Both houses then overrode the veto.

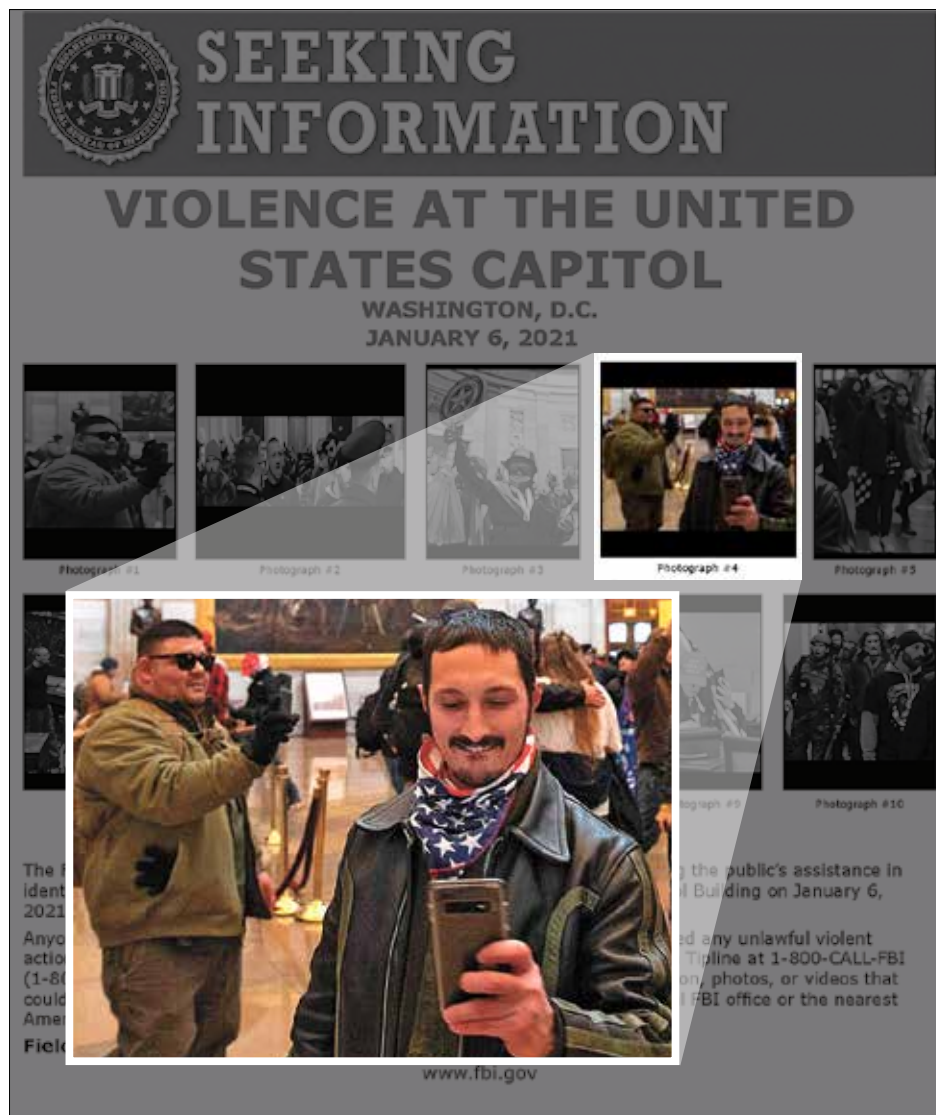
Maloney's provision, included in the act that authorized funding for the U.S. Coast Guard, bans new anchorage sites for barges and tankers between Yonkers and Kingston. Maloney chairs the Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Subcommittee.

(Continued on Page 8)



Rep. Sean Patrick Maloney spoke at a news conference on Monday (Jan. 11) about the passage of a law that bans new barge anchorages on the Hudson River.

Photo by B. Cronin



A wanted poster issued by the FBI seeking information about individuals who stormed the Capitol showed a man (at right) identified as William Pepe of Beacon.

## Beacon Man Arrested by FBI

*Accused of taking part in storming of Capitol*

By Arvind Dilawar

The FBI on Tuesday (Jan. 12) arrested a Beacon man who participated in the storming of the Capitol building in Washington, D.C., last week.

William Joseph Pepe, 31, was arrested at 1 p.m. in the parking lot of a bank in White Plains, a law enforcement official told *The New York Times* and NBC News. He was scheduled to appear in federal court in White Plains on Wednesday (Jan. 13) to answer a criminal complaint filed two days earlier in the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia that accused him of unlawful entry of a restricted building.

The FBI and the Washington, D.C., police circulated a photo taken by a news photographer of a man identified as Pepe standing in the Rotunda of the Capitol. The man was among the rioters who pushed through barricades to occupy the building on Jan. 6 while lawmakers attempted to count the electoral votes confirming Joe Biden as the next president.

A phone number thought to belong to Pepe was disconnected, and no one answered the door at noon on Tuesday at a south Beacon apartment where mail piled on the doorstep displayed his name.

(Continued on Page 3)

72 people have been charged, including 45 in federal court and 27 in D.C. court, with crimes including unlawful entry, civil disorder, theft and assault.

## Busy Signals for Vaccine

*More than 3,000 people on waiting list at Drug World*

By Leonard Sparks

Adam Osterfeld considers himself lucky. Mary Roth considers herself "defeated."

Through a whack-a-mole effort requiring multiple clicks of his web browser's "refresh" button on Sunday (Jan. 10), Osterfeld, a Cold Spring resident and teacher at the Manitou School, scored an appointment to receive a COVID-19 vaccine the next day.

Roth, 79, and a Beacon resident, met an obstacle course of busy signals, a list of Rite Aids that have yet to start giving vaccines and an hour-long wait on hold after calling the state's hotline on Tuesday (Jan. 13).

The runaround resumed on Thursday morning, when she called the Dutchess County Office for the Aging, was given a number that turned out to be the state's number for testing and was redirected to the state's vaccination hotline again. She was unable to get through "due to high call volume."

"I am feeling kind of defeated at this point," said Roth.

Twice in three days New York State, following the federal government's lead, expanded eligibility for the COVID-19 vaccine, essentially tripling overnight the number of people now able to get shots just a month after states began receiving doses to distribute.

An estimated 2.1 million people, including frontline health care workers and nursing home residents and staff, were eligible to receive vaccines when New York began distributing its first doses on Dec. 15. Then, with doses sitting unused and criticism mounting over a slower-than-predicted rollout, the state expanded eligibility over the last week to include an additional 5 million people, including teachers, first responders and residents over 65 years old.

The expansion has unleashed a flood of calls to local health departments and pharmacies, and the state's vaccination hotline, as residents race to book appointments that disappear shortly after they open, and as New York and other states call on the federal government to send more doses.

(Continued on Page 6)



# 5Q FIVE QUESTIONS: TINA BARILE

By Michael Turton

**T**ina Barile has owned the Romeo & Juliet Salon in Cold Spring for 18 years.

## How did you end up owning a salon in Cold Spring?

I grew up in the Molise region of Italy and later studied cosmetology in Rome; I still have my Italian certificate. I came to the U.S. in 1973 — a long time ago! I lived with my grandmother on Arthur Avenue in Little Italy [in the Bronx], right across from the church. I did hairstyling there. When I came to Cold Spring, my salon was called Village Cuts, but after a year, I changed the name.

## Do you miss Italy?

Of course. But I'm fortunate to live in two beautiful worlds. I try to visit once or twice a year. I always go back to my home village of Macchiagodena; the name is long but the village is tiny! I especially like Positano on the Amalfi Coast; I spent my birthday there two years ago. I love my visits to Italy, but I also love coming back here. This is my dream place; I love Cold Spring. I feel so blessed.

## How have you coped with COVID-19?

Let's put it this way; it's been different.

We closed in March, even before the lockdown. My family in Italy had pushed me to close because it was so bad over there. I reopened June 9. But I have a beautiful clientele; they are my family and they have supported me all this time. They feel comfortable and safe here now, because the salon is huge. It's like they never left. We schedule well and I have not had to lay anyone off. My employees are like my kids. Even Elsa, who has been here for years and years!

## Do you share the Italian passion for cooking?

I do, although running a business, I don't usually have much time for it. But when I closed I was home a lot, something I hadn't experienced before. I started to cook and bake a lot; I realized I still love it. At Easter, I made food and took dishes to friends, clients who were alone at home. One of them said I should open a restaurant, but I said no,

cooking is a hobby, my passion is doing hair. I love putting a smile on someone's face. If someone comes into the salon kind of sad or has something bothering them, I do their hair and they leave feeling happy. And that makes me happy.

## Do you think we'll get past COVID and get back to normal?

I'm positive about that. This has been an experience we've gone through together.

I hope a lot of good comes out of it, to appreciate life more, especially the little things. After COVID, I want to visit my family in Italy. And I want to have a Sunday open house here at the salon, with all homemade food, wine and cheese and sambuca, and cookies and cake — a real Italian feast. I want to celebrate life with all my people.



# ON THE SPOT

By Michael Turton

## What's your current late-night TV habit?

" I stream Netflix and Amazon Prime and watch movies, documentaries and TV series. "



~ Bob Brink, Beacon

" We have Disney Plus and Netflix. We're watching *The Queen's Gambit* — with popcorn! "



~ Colleen Orlando, Beacon

" I grew up with Johnny Carson but talk shows are political now. I flip around, watch Fox and CNN to get both sides. "



~ Jim Calimano, Cold Spring

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**Thurs., Jan. 28, 8 pm — Livestream:** The Valley Hour the music and musicians of the Hudson Valley, featuring RoseAnn Fino, Dan Zlotnick and Annalyse & Ryan  
 Tix: TheValleyHour.com

**HCC will NOT be open for in-person audience during performances**

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# Maloney Again Votes for Impeachment

*Local officials react with outrage to Capitol attack*

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

Rep. Sean Patrick Maloney, whose district includes the Highlands, and who was in the Capitol when a mob attacked on Jan. 6, was among the 232 House members who voted on Wednesday (Jan. 13) to impeach President Donald Trump.

Every Democratic member voted to charge the president, as well as 10 Republicans. The charge now goes to the Senate.

In December 2019, a majority of House members, including Maloney, voted to impeach the president for obstruction of Congress but the Senate acquitted him.

On Monday, Maloney and 161 other sponsors unveiled the single article of impeachment, which stemmed from Trump's encouragement to supporters to "fight like hell" to overturn his election loss.

The assault on the Capitol briefly disrupted congressional confirmation of the election as president of Joe Biden, who takes office next week.

Hundreds of Trump supporters pushed through police barricades and entered the Capitol, smashing windows and fatally injuring a police officer. An officer also shot and killed a protester. Maloney and others were evacuated but returned later to conclude the election confirmation exercise in the early morning hours.

At a news conference on Monday to announce the passage of his bill banning oil-barge anchorages on the Hudson River (see Page 1), Maloney blamed the president for the violence.

"He should do the right thing and resign," said Maloney, a five-term Democrat who lives in Philipstown.

The Capitol riot began as a Trump rally and "descended into violence and a coup attempt" that "would not have been possible if the president and others had not spread this lie about the election" being stolen, Maloney said Monday. "That more than justifies impeachment and removal."

He warned that the president's remaining days in office "should scare all of us," because Trump "can further use the powers of the presidency to further undermine our institutions, our freedoms, our Constitution. It's unacceptable to me." He urged Americans to "come together and make very clear that there is the Constitution or there is the mob. And we need to get clear about right and wrong."

During the week preceding the impeachment vote, local elected officials and party organizations condemned the storming of



Security fencing surrounds the U.S. Capitol following the riot last week.

Photo by Erin Scott/Reuters

the Capitol.

The attack does "not represent who we are as an American people," said Dutchess County Executive Marc Molinaro, a Republican, in a statement on Jan. 6. "While we would never suppress vigorous debate and the right to protest — our country, after all, was founded on the right of its citizens to voice their opinions — the violence" at the Capitol was "wrong and unacceptable," he said.

On Jan. 7, Putnam County Executive Mary-Ellen 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."

The same day, at the monthly meeting of the Philipstown Town Board, whose members are all Democrats, Supervisor Richard Shea spoke up immediately after the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance, which traditionally opens board sessions.

"In light of events of the last 24 hours, that pledge means a lot more today," he said. "I certainly never thought in my lifetime I would see anything like the horrible events of yesterday. It doesn't make any sense. It's not something I can comprehend. But this is what happens when you get stupid people as leaders, or not even leading, just [being] stupid people, and then stupid people following them."

Shea encouraged public officials "to stand up for what's right. There's been a reluctance to do that. A lot of people should've stood up before this to confront the president, to

## Maloney Statement

One week ago, we saw the gravest betrayal in American history of the presidential oath of office. The commander-in-chief incited a violent attack on our Capitol during the tabulation of the Electoral College vote.

I was a witness to these events. He did this to overturn the results of a valid American presidential election. The resulting violence caused incalculable damage and loss of life, including of a Capitol Police officer.

These actions demand his immediate impeachment and removal as provided by the Constitution. This action must be taken now to separate the president immediately from the awesome powers of his office that he might yet misuse to overturn the will of the people and the peaceful transfer of power.

say what he was doing was wrong. Peaceful transfer of power in this country is something we're extremely proud of. To have that [riot] happen is just beyond the pale."

Councilor John Van Tassel said that he didn't believe Americans had ever been more divided. "It's time to unite and become one country again."

"Hopefully leaders going forward will realize they can't just work with their half" of the political spectrum, said Councilor Mike Leonard. "It has to be everybody, or it's not going to work."

Putnam County Sheriff Robert Langley Jr., a Democrat who lives in Philipstown, posted

on Facebook on Monday that he backs "the Constitution of the United States and the right to free speech and peaceful protest" but does "not condone anyone's destroying the property of another or our national landmarks and governmental buildings. These acts are intolerable and should be dealt with accordingly under the letter of the law."

His counterpart in Dutchess County, Sheriff Butch Anderson, a Republican who was one of six elected officials named as honorary state chairs of the president's reelection campaign, told *The Poughkeepsie Journal* on Jan. 7 that the insurrection at the Capitol "was deplorable. We have to bring this country together and move on."

In a statement issued Tuesday (Jan. 12), the leaders of the Philipstown Republican Committee said that "we condemn all acts of violence, regardless of where it occurs... We call upon all members of our diverse community to come together and heal. Philipstown is a wonderful place that we all call home. Let's not have politics be the measuring stick by which we define each other."

The Philipstown Democratic Committee also issued a statement on Tuesday. "We know how it feels to be disappointed in the outcome of a contest," it said. "Losing — from rec soccer to politics — is part of the deal. Last week in Washington we saw the very worst of what can happen when a leader refuses to accept that deal..."

"Philipstown is not without its problems, many of them serious, but it is a caring and generous community. To preserve that, we must — at the very least — commit to acting in good faith. If not, we all lose."

Also on Tuesday, Sandy Galef and Jonathan Jacobson, members of the state Assembly whose districts include Philipstown and Beacon, respectively, were among 75 Democratic lawmakers who signed a letter to U.S. House and Senate leaders calling for the president to be removed from office. "President Trump's actions and words knowingly helped incite this attempted coup and the extraordinary acts of domestic terrorism we witnessed," it said.

Rebecca Edwards, the chair of the Democratic caucus in the Dutchess County Legislature, said on Jan. 10 that no Republican members had agreed to sign a letter stating that Trump's false allegations of fraud were "unacceptable" and that Biden won the election. The statement was nearly identical to one released on Nov. 9 by 31 former Republican members of the U.S. House.

"Some Republican officials in Dutchess have denounced the violence at the Capitol but none has so far, to my knowledge, acknowledged that president-elect Joe Biden won the election fairly," Edwards said.

Brian PJ Cronin contributed reporting.

## FBI Arrest *(from Page 1)*

According to the George Washington University Program on Extremism, which is tracking charges against people who entered the Capitol, as of Thursday, 72 people had been charged, including 45 in federal court and 27 in D.C. court. The charges included unlawful entry, civil

disorder, theft and assault.

Michael Sherwin, the acting U.S. attorney for the District of Columbia, said on Monday that prosecutors will likely pursue charges against hundreds of others.

Pepe is a laborer in the mechanical department at the Metro-North train yard in Brewster and was identified from the photo by colleagues, the FBI said.

"Effective immediately this individual has been suspended from Metro-North without pay and will be disciplined in accordance with their collective-bargaining agreement pending an investigation," an MTA representative, Ken Lovett, said in a statement on Tuesday. "This alleged conduct is abhorrent and goes against the values of Metro-North, New York and the nation."

The agency said Pepe had called in sick on the day of the riot.

The National Conference of Firemen and Oilers, the union that represents workers at the Metro-North train yard, said it "had no knowledge of this individual's participation in the events of that day, and we are disappointed that anyone would engage in that type of conduct."



# The HIGHLANDS Current

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**T**he *Current* welcomes letters to the editor on its coverage and local issues. Submissions are selected by the editor to provide a variety of opinions and voices, and all are subject to editing for accuracy, clarity and length. We ask that writers remain civil and avoid personal attacks. Letters may be emailed to [editor@highlandscurrent.org](mailto:editor@highlandscurrent.org) or mailed to Editor, The Highlands Current, 142 Main St., Cold Spring, NY 10516. The writer's full name, village or city, and email or phone number must be included, but only the name and village or city will be published.

## LETTERS AND COMMENTS

### Rolling Hills

Although the case law is clear in Fishkill's review of the Rolling Hills development proposal, the context of the agreement is not ("Fishkill Wins Fight Against Developer," Jan. 8). The zoning for properties along this Route 9D corridor is anything but well-planned. Most people in the area know this. The process for the town to change the zoning law, here or anywhere in the town, is complex and expensive.

In this case, the developer offered to perform the environmental research studies needed for the town to consider the proper path forward. The developer offered to do this work knowing that the Town Board was not "forced" to approve the change. In other words, the developers knew they were at risk of spending considerable money with no guaranteed outcome.

The proposed agreement was presented to the public, the Planning Board, the Town Board, and the Dutchess County Planning Department for consideration. Both the Planning Board and the Town Board voted unanimously to sign the agreement. The developer began work on the studies in late 2017.

By voting to break the agreement, the town will not receive the data from the studies. Now if the town decides to address

a change in zoning for the area, it will have to do so at taxpayer expense. Too bad.

Bob LaColla, Fishkill  
*LaColla is the former Fishkill supervisor.*

Mr. LaColla's statement is not accurate. If there is a proposal to change zoning of a specific parcel in the town, a developer will pay the expenses associated with it. The risk for any developer is that the majority of board membership changes, so that is a matter of timing and strategy.

A decision to change zoning is solely a legislative determination and the case law is abundantly clear that a town board cannot bind future town boards and that is exactly what this agreement did — violating the term limits rule. The Appellate Division with jurisdiction over Dutchess County recently confirmed the viability of the term limits rule in another case.

If the town desires to initiate a change in zoning, that will likely be part of a comprehensive plan amendment that will not only concern one parcel and will not contemplate a specific development as was the case here. The bottom line is that the town's decision here was lawful and the court confirmed that the agreement could not lawfully bind the current Town Board.

The case law is quite clear — that is why the town won. The decision will stand. These developer-driven agreements are not necessary or beneficial to the town or its residents.

Brian Nugent, *South Nyack*  
*Nugent is the attorney for the Town of Fishkill.*

Thank goodness for the present Fishkill administration. The city people are pushing into this area with little care as to where they are moving to. They are rude, drive too fast, ask for too much and have no personality. If they want to come here, OK, but know they are not in New York City anymore.

Wayne Theiss, *Beacon*

Developers should have community ties.  
Jacqueline Wilson, *via Facebook*

### Judie's Bungalow

I am so glad to see Judie Gordon getting some well-deserved recognition for her work ("Open by Innovation," Jan. 8). She is without a doubt the Queen of All Media: an accomplished artist who has mastered an amazing number of crafts, including painting, jewelry-making and now furniture embellishment.

During my time as a shop owner in Cold Spring I have seen firsthand how Judie's work and her store have changed over the years. In fact, I make a point of stopping by on a regular basis to see what masterpiece she's working on.

Judie's shop is worth a trip from anywhere — there is simply nothing else like it in our area.

Patty Villanova, *Putnam Valley*

### Empire trail

We walked the section just the other day that you showed in Brian PJ Cronin's *Out There* column about the opening of the Empire State Trail ("A New York State of Trail," Jan. 8). And we biked the bit from Carmel heading south a few weeks ago. It's so beautiful. What an amazing resource to have access to.

Barton Chew, *via Facebook*

### Film Putnam

Oh, ugh, Putnam County kills almost everything it touches ("Putnam Seeks Starring Roles," Dec. 25). Instead of film productions, why can't we get real businesses and real jobs?

Elizabeth Triano, *via Instagram*





# Langley to Seek Reelection

*Democrats endorse Putnam sheriff for second term*

By Chip Rowe

The Putnam County Democratic Committee on Sunday (Jan. 10) endorsed Sheriff Robert Langley Jr. for election to a second, 4-year term.

The Philipstown resident was elected in 2017, narrowly defeating Don Smith, who had been sheriff for 16 years. Langley said last month that he planned to run again.

Nancy Montgomery, who represents Philipstown and part of Putnam Valley on the county Legislature, has not announced whether she will run for a second, 3-year term, saying she is waiting for an invitation from the committee. It will meet in early February to make further nominations.

Montgomery, who is the sole Democrat on the nine-member panel, defeated Republican incumbent Barbara Scuccimarra in 2018 with 58 percent of the vote.

Unless voting is delayed, as it was in 2020, Nelsonville will hold an election in March for the two-year board seats held by Lisa Mechaley and Dove Pedlosky.

In November, the Cold Spring Village Board seats held by Mayor Dave Merandy and members Marie Early and Fran Murphy will be on the ballot, and in Philipstown, the two-year supervisor position held by Richard Shea and four-year board seats held by Michael Leonard and John Van Tassel will be up for a vote.

Six of the seven Beacon council seats will be on the ballot in November, with the exception of that held by Mayor Lee Kyriacou, who is a member of the council but serves a four-year, rather than two-year, term. Every seat in the Dutchess County Legislature will also be on the ballot, including those that represent three wards in Beacon (held by Nick Page) and that includes the 4th Ward (held by Frits Zernike).

Three of the nine Putnam Legislature seats — those held by Montgomery, whose district includes Philipstown and part of Putnam Valley; Ginny Nacerino, who represents Patterson; and Joseph Castellano, who



Sheriff Robert Langley Photo by Amy Kubik

represents Brewster and parts of Mahopac, Croton Falls and Southeast, will be on the ballot. The terms are three years.

School boards are scheduled to hold budget and trustee elections in May, although they were delayed in 2020 because of the pandemic shutdown. The seven-member Garrison board will have three seats on the ballot (those held by David Gelber, James Hoch and Madeline Julian); the five-member Haldane board will have two (held by John Hedlund and Margaret Parr); and the nine-member Beacon board will have four (held by Elissa Betterbid, John Galloway Jr., Jasmine Johnson and Flora Stadler).



State Sen. Sue Serino (left), whose district includes the Highlands, was sworn in on Jan. 5 for her fourth term. Photo provided

## Committee Assignments

The following are the committee assignments for local representatives in the 2021 state legislative session that began in Albany on Jan. 6. There are 33 standing committees in the state Senate and 37 in the Assembly.

### State Sen.

#### Sue Serino (R)

- Aging
- Cultural Affairs, Tourism, Parks and Recreation
- Finance
- Insurance
- Social Services
- Transportation

### State Assemblywoman

#### Sandy Galef (D) [Philipstown]

- Corporations, Authorities and Commissions
- Election Law
- Governmental Operations
- Health
- Real Property Taxation (chair)

### State Assemblyman

#### Jonathan Jacobson (D) [Beacon]

- Cities
- Election Law
- Insurance
- Labor
- Local Governments
- Transportation

At the federal level, Rep. Sean Patrick Maloney, a Democrat, serves on the Agriculture; Intelligence; and Transportation and Infrastructure committees.

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### KINDERGARTEN PARENT ORIENTATION MEETING AND KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

The Haldane Central School District is beginning the Kindergarten registration process for the 2021-2022 school year. If you have a child who will be turning five on or before December 31, 2021 and you live in the Haldane Central School District, please complete and print the registration forms from our website [www.haldaneschool.org](http://www.haldaneschool.org). Click on Quick Parent Links, Registration then Kindergarten Registration.

Parents are invited to attend the Kindergarten Orientation Meeting on Monday, February 1, 2021 at 7:00 PM via Zoom. Registering for attendance is a 2 step process. Please visit our website and click on the Orientation Link to get started.

Registration will take place on Monday, February 8th - Friday, February 12th. Please contact Sue Hylka in the Elementary Office to schedule your appointment, 845-265-9254 ext 122. Parents who are registering incoming children must bring all completed Registration and Health Forms along with copies of their child's Birth Certificate, Immunization Record, and required Proof of Residency Documents indicating that the family resides in the Haldane School District.

**PHILIPSTOWN  
DEMOCRATS**

### AN OPEN LETTER ON POLITICAL RESPONSIBILITY

Like anyone reading this, the members of the Philipstown Democratic Committee know what it's like to lose. We know how it feels to be disappointed in the outcome of a contest. Losing—from rec soccer to politics—is part of the deal.

Last week in Washington we saw the very worst of what can happen when a leader refuses to accept that deal. The storming of the Capitol—an assault on democracy and decency—was disheartening, destructive and deadly. It was an act of bad faith of the lowest order.

We condemn in the strongest terms the inflammatory rhetoric of President Trump and his enablers. And we denounce the violent actions of the mob that pillaged the halls of Congress, endangered the lives of our representatives, the Congressional and building staffs, the press, and the Vice-President of the United States; and led to the deaths of five people, including a police officer.

Those responsible for last week's riot must be held to account. Their actions were steeped in delusion and powered by, among other things, a denial of the truth. It can't be allowed to happen again.

If we act in good faith we can, perhaps, begin to climb free of this dangerous mess. Democrats and Republicans can and should disagree without demonizing, lose without lashing out, and achieve without annihilating.

Philipstown is not without its problems, many of them serious, but it is a caring and generous community. To preserve that, we must—at the very least—commit to acting in good faith. If not, we all lose.

Respectfully,

Philipstown Democrats,  
Janice Hogan, Chair and Ned Rauch, Vice Chair

[WWW.PHILIPSTOWNDEMOCRATS.ORG](http://WWW.PHILIPSTOWNDEMOCRATS.ORG)



## Vaccines *(from Page 1)*

The frustration was borne out in comments posted by Putnam and Dutchess residents at [highlandscurrent.org](http://highlandscurrent.org) in response to stories last week about the first vaccines being given in the Highlands:

■ “I have not been able to reach any of the sites for an appointment. I am 84 years old and my husband at 83 has several health issues, including heart and lung. I do not want to bring infection to him. When and where can I actually sign up? The NYS website is non-responsive.”

■ “Can the caregiver of a spouse with dementia, age 75, and I am 73 — can I get vaccine with him?”

■ “Please let us register for the vaccine. We are 77 years old and have been trying for the past two days. Please help us.”

Dutchess County typically receives 100 calls from residents on Mondays, but on Jan. 11 got 5,773, according to County Executive Marc Molinaro. Drug World in Cold Spring began taking appointments for vaccinations the same day. As of Wednesday, its waiting list stood at 3,300 and was closed, according to owner Heidi Snyder.

When Dutchess announced on Saturday (Jan. 9) that it was opening three sites for vaccinations, the slots were filled in less than an hour, said Colleen Pillus, a county spokeswoman. Because the state allows people to look outside their counties for vaccines, Dutchess is also receiving calls from non-residents, she noted.

New York officials said the state has been receiving 300,000 doses a week from the federal government to distribute to counties. The two vaccines approved for emergency use each require two doses given weeks apart, and the federal government had been withholding some doses for the second round of shots.

On Tuesday, Alex Azar, the secretary of the federal Department of Health and Human Services, announced that all doses on hand would be released to states, rather



Keith Ryan, a volunteer firefighter, receives a vaccine on Thursday (Jan. 14) from his son, Kevin, who is also a volunteer firefighter, at the Philipstown Recreation Center. *Photo provided*

than holding them for second doses, to accelerate the pace of vaccinations.

“There just isn’t enough vaccine,” said Pillus.

Karen Kapoor, a Cold Spring resident who teaches at Hudson Hills Academy in Beacon, received an email on Saturday with links to places in Dutchess County filling appointments, but “every link I clicked on said ‘event full,’” she said. The next day she received a link a friend used to get an appointment at Putnam Hospital Center and “got in immediately,” booking a slot for Feb. 11.

Kapoor forwarded that link to other teachers at Hudson Hills and a couple of them used the link “within 15 or 20 minutes, and they already were bumped to Feb. 17,” while some of them who delayed for an hour to two hours “were now bumped to

## Steps Toward a Vaccine

### To make an appointment

833-697-4829

Daily 7 a.m. to 10 p.m.

### To find a location

[am-i-eligible.covid19vaccine.health.ny.gov](http://am-i-eligible.covid19vaccine.health.ny.gov)

March,” she said.

“And one of them waited more than two hours and she can’t get in,” said Kapoor.

Roth, who lives independently with her son, started with the state’s “Am I Eligible?” website, which generates a list of vaccine sites after users input personal information and identify which category of qualifying groups they belong to.

She received a list that included Rite Aids in Beacon, Poughkeepsie and Montgomery, and Drug World in Cold Spring. Each of the Rite Aids had the same message: “Scheduling will start in the next day or two; please check back.”

Her first call to the state’s hotline, on Tuesday, began with someone telling her to call back at 4 p.m. to get an appointment. The call back began with a busy signal and then someone answering and immediately putting her on hold.

“I just sat on the phone until after 5 p.m.” she said.

While Roth and others wait, the number of vaccination sites and clinics is growing.

Drug World expects to receive 200 additional doses today (Jan. 15) and has scheduled an appointment-only clinic for today and Saturday in the Parish Hall at St. Mary’s Episcopal Church.

Putnam County held two vaccination clinics this past week. One took place on Monday at the Carmel Friendship Center, and a second at the Philipstown Recreation Center on Thursday, with 100 vaccines for residents 75 and over and 200 for educators and first responders.

“The supply of vaccine is limited now, but as our allocation from the state increases, we will quickly ramp up and serve many more people on both sides of the county,” said MaryEllen Odell, Putnam’s county executive.

Dutchess has opened three points of dispensing, or PODs, at the county Department of Health in Poughkeepsie; the former JC Penney store at the Poughkeepsie Galleria; and Dover High School in Dover Plains.

The state also has opened vaccination sites at four locations: the Westchester County Center in White Plains; the Javits Convention Center in New York City; the New York State Fair Expo Center in Syra-

## COVID-19 by the Numbers

### ■ PUTNAM COUNTY

Number of confirmed cases:

**6,067** (+631)

New Cases in Philipstown: **89**

Tests administered:

**122,602** (+7,096)

Percent positive:

**4.9** (+0.2)

Number of deaths:

**70** (+3)

### ■ DUTCHESS COUNTY

Number of confirmed cases:

**15,489** (+1,847)

Active Cases in Beacon: **98**

Tests administered:

**403,525** (+20,661)

Percent positive:

**3.8** (+0.2)

Number of deaths:

**285** (+25)

Source: New York State Department of Health, as of Jan. 13, with weekly change in parentheses. New cases in Philipstown is for week ending Jan. 7.

cuse; and at Jones Beach. Another site is scheduled to open at SUNY Albany.

Although Kapoor has to wait until next month, she felt “a big relief” when her appointment was confirmed. As a teacher at a school whose classes are all in-person, she worried about getting infected and transmitting the virus to her husband and sons.

“I feel like me getting it kind of inoculates my whole family,” she said.

## Local Schools to Begin Testing

### *Nasal swabs return results in 15 minutes*

By Jeff Simms

Students in the Highlands will in the next two weeks have access to rapid-result COVID-19 tests that could allow administrators to keep public schools open as cases continue to rise in Dutchess and Putnam counties.

The testing programs are being implemented independently by the school districts, not because the state requires it.

Beacon Superintendent Matt Landahl announced this week that the district had received 1,000 free tests from the Dutchess County health department. With the state making few updates to its “micro-cluster” designation program, the district plans to

begin testing during the week of Jan. 25.

Students in one hybrid-instruction group will likely be tested one day and students in the other hybrid group on another day. One of those days is expected to be a Wednesday, the district’s all-virtual day, he said.

“I think we’re in a place where the state is super-focused on the vaccine and they’re leaving the rest to the localities,” Landahl said. “Guidance from the state is getting into a gray area, to say the least” with what is required of districts to continue with in-person classes.

The tests — which show results in about 15 minutes — will be voluntary. Landahl said the goal is to determine positivity rates for a cross-section of the district’s student body. The results may be broken down by school if enough students take the tests.

“We all see the cases rising, but it’s not

like we’ve hit this certain point where we have to do testing,” he said. Instead, test results will help identify asymptomatic carriers of the virus and prevent its spread.

If the district results are higher than those found at the county or regional level, Landahl said he will consult with Dutchess health officials. If they’re in line with what the health department is seeing in the larger community, “I see this as another way to keep us going this winter,” he said.

Testing locations haven’t been determined but will likely be inside in an isolated space due to the cold weather.

The Garrison and Haldane districts announced testing this week, as well.

Garrison Superintendent Carl Albano said the district had initially planned to save its 72 kits — enough to test about 30 percent of the students and staff — until or if the school is in a region designated by New York State as part of a yellow, orange or red cluster, which would have triggered a

testing requirement for schools to continue with in-person classes.

But, like Landahl, Albano said on Thursday that he’s heard little in recent weeks regarding the micro-cluster program.

“That was the rationale behind holding off, but there are new developments all the time,” Albano said. “The thinking has evolved and we are going to initiate testing.”

The district will administer voluntary drive-through tests beginning at 8 a.m. on Monday (Jan. 18), when schools will be closed because of Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

Haldane will host voluntary testing clinics on campus for staff and students on Jan. 19 and Feb. 1. Both days will be all-virtual for all students, Superintendent Philip Benante wrote in an email to parents this week.

All appointment slots for the Jan. 19 tests were filled within 24 hours, school officials said. Appointments for the Feb. 1 tests will open next week.





Jill Sussman, a volunteer with Putnam County's Medical Reserve Corps, applies a bandage after administering a vaccine on Monday (Jan. 11).

Photo by L. Sparks

# 'People Cry When They Get It'

## Medical volunteers bolster vaccination effort

By Leonard Sparks

Jill Sussman, a retired nursing professor, felt she could not sit on the sidelines while COVID-19 spread across the state in March, so she volunteered to be a contact tracer for Putnam County.

Now, as a volunteer with the county's Medical Reserve Corps, she is giving her time and energy to another mass mobilization: the push to quickly vaccinate people in the face of soaring infections in Dutchess and Putnam counties.

On Monday (Jan. 11), the Garrison resident was administering vaccines at the county's senior center in Carmel.

"People cry when they get it," Sussman said. "It's quite moving to see that."

While hospitals, pharmacies and urgent care centers have leading roles in the vaccination effort, the state's all-hands-on-deck approach will also depend on volunteers like Sussman.

Dutchess, Putnam and other counties had already mobilized hundreds of volunteers who make up the Medical Reserve Corps to help test people for COVID-19 and contact anyone at risk of infection.

Along with the local corps, the state is recruiting dental hygienists, midwives and

podiatrists, as well as students in medical-related and midwifery programs, to train as vaccinators. Drug World in Cold Spring, which has a long waiting list of people wanting vaccines, is also calling for volunteers.

Antony Tseng, an EMT with the Beacon Volunteer Ambulance Corps, joined Dutchess County's Medical Reserve Corps when the shutdown began in the spring, answering phone calls to the county COVID-19 hotline.

Last week he worked an afternoon shift at a vaccination clinic, monitoring newly vaccinated people who are told to remain on site for 15 minutes to ensure they have no adverse reactions.

"It would be in everyone's best interest to facilitate vaccinations to get into as many arms as possible for the good of the many," said Tseng, who is also a member of the Beacon school board. "Giving more opportunities for people to get the vaccine is key."

## How to Volunteer

**Drug World:** [drugworld.com](http://drugworld.com)

**Dutchess Medical Reserve Corps:** [bit.ly/dutchess-medical](http://bit.ly/dutchess-medical)

**Putnam Medical Reserve Corps:** [bit.ly/putnam-medical](http://bit.ly/putnam-medical)

**New York State:** [bit.ly/NYS-training](http://bit.ly/NYS-training)



## HIGH WIRE ACT!



These two magnificent lofts were just sold in back to back closings, setting new records for Beacon condo residential real estate.

Daniel Aubry was the sole broker representing all parties to the transactions. Dual agency-representing both the seller and the buyers-is a fraught process. To succeed requires that both sides have the utmost trust in the fairness of the broker. "Deals like these have more moving parts than a Swiss chronom-

eter," says Aubry. "And they're just about as delicate. But when you pull them off everything becomes simpler. There's fewer chances of misunderstandings. Nothing gets "lost in translation." Everybody ends up happy and sipping bubbly!"

It's taken Daniel Aubry more than fifty years of experience in every aspect of real estate to acquire the necessary skill set. Why not put him and his team of experienced agents to work for the purchase or sale of your next property?

Even in the simplest transaction a problem inevitably arises. When it does, wouldn't it be nice to know there's "all that power under the hood?"

## LIVE MUSIC! PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE

THIS SATURDAY, JANUARY 16 - NOON TO 2:00 P.M.



10 Schofield Place, Beacon NY  
Listed at \$849,000 mls 393751

Famed Beacon guitarist **Tony DePaolo** will riff as you visit this amazingly spacious newly finished home, with its loft like living room, 5 bedrooms, three full baths, two half baths, giant deck and views of Mt. Beacon. Snacks and refreshments.

Viewings will be socially distanced. Mask wearing is obligatory.

Kindly RSVP: with Grace at  
845 341 3192 & 917 647 6823 or at [Daniel1Aubry@gmail.com](mailto:Daniel1Aubry@gmail.com)



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917 647 6823



# Board Denies Rock Street Excavation

*Rock face considered 'character-defining feature'*

By Michael Turton

The Cold Spring Historic District Review Board on Wednesday (Jan. 13) denied an application by the owner of 29-31 Rock St. to extend a driveway and parking area.

The excavation of a prominent rock face began in early December after the code

enforcement officer issued a permit. But neighbors objected, claiming the application should have been referred to the HDRB and Planning Board.

A stop-work order was issued, the permit revoked, and the application referred to the HDRB. It was not sent to the Planning Board.

The site, which is owned by William McComish, lies within the village historic district. The HDRB can deny projects deemed to have a detrimental effect on a location's character and important natu-

ral resources, including geological features such as significant rock outcrops.

The HDRB began a public hearing on the application on Dec 23 and continued it on Jan. 13 before its vote.

"We're trying to minimize the disruption of the rock face which is a character-defining feature of this site," HDRB Chair Al Zgolinski said before the vote. McComish rejected an alternative plan posed by the board earlier in the meeting that would reduce the amount of rock to be excavated.

McComish's attorney said that by suggesting revisions, the board was engaging in "planning," which was "outside your

jurisdiction." He also said the statute in the village code cited by the HDRB in reviewing the application was unconstitutional.

"We respectfully ask the board to make its decision," he said. "We will follow up appropriately."

Zgolinski and board members Sean Conway and Andrea Connor Hudson voted 3-0 to deny the application. Board member Lloyd DesBrisay abstained, saying he didn't feel he could make a clear decision. Todd Seekircher, who is new to the board after being appointed to succeed Kathleen Foley, who was elected in November to the Village Board, also abstained.

## NEWS BRIEFS

### Judge Rejects County's Appeal in Krivak Case

*Says accused killer deserves new trial*

A state court has denied an appeal by Putnam County of a ruling that threw out the conviction of a man accused of killing a 12-year-old girl in 1994.

Andrew Krivak, 39, spent 24 years in prison for the crime before a state judge last year threw out the conviction. He was released to house arrest in October, but Putnam County asked an appeals court to reverse the decision.

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

Should Krivak receive a new trial and prevail on the same evidence presented by DiPippo, the county would likely face another federal lawsuit. A key difference

between the two prosecutions is that Krivak implicated himself in a statement that the defense contends was a false confession.

The Putnam County District Attorney's office said it plans to again prosecute Krivak. However, all trials are suspended because of COVID-19 restrictions.

### Change in Leadership at Land Trust

*Michelle Smith to leave HHLT*

Michelle Smith, the executive director of the Hudson Highlands Land Trust since 2016, plans to step down on May 31. She will be succeeded by Katrina Shindledecker, the organization's longtime director of conservation.

During the transition, Shindledecker will serve as deputy executive director. In other moves, Nicole Wooten, who has been with the land trust for five years, will



Michelle Smith

become director of natural resources, and Julia Rogers, most recently the stewardship coordinator, will become conservation manager. The nonprofit also plans to hire a manager of finance and operations.

During Smith's tenure, the Garrison-based organization formed the New York Highlands Network; established the Granite Mountain Preserve; and launched diversity and inclusion initiatives.

### Space Heater Causes Beacon House Fire

*Resident able to escape*

A Beacon home burned on Jan. 6 in a fire attributed by firefighters to a propane space heater.

A structure at 21 Ralph St. owned by Glen Karsch was damaged in a fire reported at 3:10 a.m. Beacon firefighters were on the scene for about five hours.

The home's occupant escaped. The damage was limited to the first floor and front porch, but there was smoke damage throughout the structure, the Beacon Fire Department said.



A home on Ralph Street in Beacon suffered extensive fire damage.

Beacon F.D.

The department said that an investigation by Central Hudson found its services had been disconnected years before and that the home was being heated with generators and propane heaters.

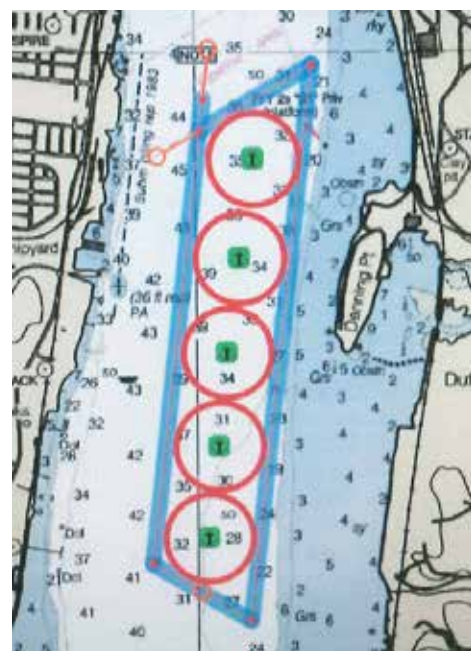
### Anchorage *(from Page 1)*

Paul Gallay, the executive director of Riverkeeper, praised the law at the news conference. "This is the way government is supposed to work," he said.

In 2016, the Coast Guard, at the request of the Tug & Barge Committee of the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, proposed creating 10 overnight anchorage spots for barges in the Lower Hudson, including a 445-acre anchorage in the river between Beacon and Newburgh. Currently, there is one anchorage spot near Hyde Park that can handle up to three barges.

Proponents said the additional spots were needed to safely support an expected influx of barges carrying Bakken crude oil that would be coming upriver over the next several years to be sold in the Port of Albany. The "parking spots" would allow captains to rest instead of making the trip to Albany nonstop.

The Coast Guard received more than 10,000 comments on the proposal, with 98 percent of them negative. Business owners and developers in Yonkers, Newburgh and other cities with newly developed water-



A map shows the five barge parking spots that were proposed between Beacon and Newburgh.

fronts said their views would be ruined, especially at night when the anchored barges would be illuminated by throngs of floodlights. Marine biologists said the

massive anchors could destroy endangered sturgeon habitats. Water-quality experts warned that a spill of Bakken crude would be disastrous because it mixes into the water column much quicker than other oils and is notoriously hard to clean up.

Maloney said there were suspicions that the industry's motivation for wanting more anchorages was not safety but profits.

The proposal "was about being able to store oil close to market, and using the Hudson River as an archipelago of storage facilities, which would have been a blight on the river, an environmental hazard, a national security danger to places like West Point and others, and it would have been a terrible mistake," he said. "And this was a result of the compression in oil prices because they wanted to be able to keep it closer to market but not necessarily deliver it until an opportune time. Nothing to do with anything that benefits anyone locally."

Steve Stanne, president of the Beacon-based Clearwater, said that while the Hudson is "a working river," its ship traffic has never required more anchorages.

"Until the time when we can hopefully use other sources of fuel, we'll need that

local, regional traffic," he said at the news conference. "But the huge volume that came from the Bakken crude will now be prevented."

Although the anchorage plan was withdrawn by the Coast Guard, lawmakers pressed ahead to prevent similar proposals.

A separate bill introduced in the House by Maloney and enacted last month will help communities prepare for sea-level rise and increased inland flooding expected in the coming decades because of global warming. It will also require greater use of natural and nature-based solutions for flood resilience and expand coastal protection studies to engage communities of color, Native American tribes and low-income communities.

"How we got a bipartisan bill that assures that the Hudson is protected from climate change, from this Congress, in this time of the world, there has to be some Nobel Prize for legislation," said Gallay.

"It's a good day for the Hudson River, and it's a good day for those of us who still believe that government can do good things," said Maloney. "And can do it working in a bipartisan fashion."



## Reporter's Notebook

## Does Beacon Have Enough Affordable Housing?

By Jeff Simms

Nearly two years ago, I wrote about the ongoing City Council discussion regarding affordable housing in Beacon. At the time, the first apartments built as part of the city's workforce housing program were becoming available, but at prices (beginning at around \$1,500 per month) some found startling.



Later that year, the council talked about utilizing the Emergency Tenant Protection Act, a state law that allows counties to create boards to enforce rent stabilization. However, some of the steps required, including a citywide housing survey, were pushed to a back burner when the COVID-19 shutdown hit several months later.

In the two years since, the city has heard consistently from residents that what's been done isn't enough. The discussion will be revisited again soon, and I expect there will be a significant push to get something done, ongoing pandemic or not.

Council Member Dan Aymar-Blair said during a meeting this month that "we made a lot of progress bringing new development into balance last year, but we haven't fulfilled our obligation to the public to truly get development under control until we get the prices under control."

He went on to cite several segments of



The West End Lofts, which include 72 units of affordable housing, were approved by the city Planning Board in 2017 and completed last year.

File photo by J. Simms

the city's population he believes are being priced out: senior citizens who can't afford to downsize, college students who can't move home with their degrees and working class, mostly non-white, residents who simply can't make ends meet.

The numbers back him up.

Last month, according to OneKey MLS, there were 16 houses for sale in Beacon. The

median price for a single-family home of about 1,700 square feet was \$440,000. Joe Czajka, the executive director of the Pattern for Progress Center for Housing Solutions & Community Initiatives, says a household would need to make \$138,000 annually to buy that much house and stay within the "affordable" range, which is spending 30 percent of income on housing, including property taxes.

The median household income in Beacon — according to U.S. Census numbers, which differ from Housing and Urban Development (HUD) statistics that break households down by size — is about \$71,200, or enough to buy a \$220,000 home. Of the 16 listings last month, the lowest was \$245,000 — and it needed work.

Like everything else, the pandemic is partly to blame.

The median price for single-family homes sold in Beacon during the first nine months of 2019 was \$325,000. It was \$370,000 — a 14 percent jump — for the same nine-month period last year.

For renters, there are about 2,200 units in Beacon, more than 800 of which are subsidized through federal programs (commonly called Section 8), a state-funded program or are part of the city's workforce affordable program, which gives priority to volunteer emergency responders who have served at least five years, followed by municipal and Beacon City School District employees.

With about 37 percent of its apartment stock subsidized, "that's a pretty healthy number for any one community," Czajka said. "But it's not as simple as saying, 'We're over a third, so that's good enough.'"

Daniel Aubry, a Beacon real estate agent who in 2017 brokered the \$5.5 million sale of the former Craig House property, agrees that there is an affordability problem because the city has far more demand than inventory. Aubry also, understandably, says that the municipality has to make it worthwhile for a developer to create below-market-rate housing.

"If they're given the proper incentives,

(Continued on Page 16)

## Governor Presents Agenda for 2021

*Addresses deficit, virus, green energy*

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

With "optimism grounded in experience," Gov. Andrew Cuomo on Monday (Jan. 11) unveiled his 2021 agenda during a State of the State address at the Capitol.

The governor said that, because of the extended pandemic shutdown, New York faces its largest deficit ever: \$15 billion. He called on Congress and the incoming Biden administration to swiftly provide aid to states and municipalities; the state budget is due April 1. Cuomo also suggested the federal government "raise income taxes on the wealthy" to secure the funds. "That is basic economic justice and economic prudence," he said, arguing that "no state pays more to Washington and receives less" and that "New York subsidizes 42 other states."

Even if New York raised the tax rate on income over \$1 million, "we would only raise \$1.5 billion," the governor said. Cutting education funding by 20 percent would provide another \$5.2 billion and freezing state employee salaries would save \$1 billion, but "we would still need billions in cuts to health care in the middle of a

pandemic," he said.

Although COVID-19 continues its rampage, "we must reopen the economy," he said. "But we must do it smartly and safely." Vaccines "will end the crisis" but "we must vaccinate 70 to 90 percent of our 20 million New Yorkers and we must do it quickly, safely and fairly." He promised to "bring social and racial justice to the effort by making vaccines available to all New Yorkers," including those lacking adequate health care in "predominantly Black, Latino, Asian and poor communities."

He called on the federal government to increase the supply. As of this week, he said, the state had 1 million vaccine doses for 4 million eligible people. Because the state is only receiving 300,000 doses per week, "at this rate it will take us 14 weeks just to receive enough dosages for those currently eligible."

## The environment

Describing "green energy" as both "a pressing moral imperative and a prime economic opportunity," Cuomo said New York "will be the nation's leader for renewable energy innovation and production." He predicted that the effort would supply 12,400 megawatts of green energy to power 6 million homes, create more than 50,000 jobs, spur \$29 billion in private investment



The New York State Capitol building

Photo by L.S. Armstrong

and enhance environmental justice.

"Our planet is in crisis," he said.

Cuomo said the state this year intends to create a hydroelectric facility and 23 solar farms to produce more than 2,200 megawatts of clean power, \$2.9 billion of investment and 3,400 jobs in 16 upstate counties, which he did not identify.

Moreover, he said the state is planning

two wind farms off Long Island and a wind-tower manufacturing plant at the Port of Albany. Once the renewable energy projects and wind farms are complete, more than half of New York's electricity will come from renewable sources, putting the state ahead of schedule toward reaching a goal of 70 percent renewable energy by 2030, he said.

## Other proposals

■ Cuomo called for legislation to allow county boards of election to start counting and reporting absentee votes on Election Day rather than waiting a week. He also advocated allowing voters to request absentee ballots 45 days before an election (instead of 30) and allowing voters to request absentee ballots without specifying a reason. If the latter proposal receives legislative confirmation, it will go before voters in a referendum.

■ The governor said he supported legalizing recreational marijuana use by adults, calling it "over-criminalized" and noting it could be taxed to provide revenue to the state.

■ Cuomo vowed to launch "the most aggressive construction and transportation development program in the United States: new air, road and rail systems upstate and downstate; more affordable housing; and more economic development to create jobs, jobs and more jobs."



# Mayor, Trustee Clash Over Police Review

*Also, Cold Spring continues water battle with NYC*

By Michael Turton

Cold Spring Mayor Dave Merandy and Trustee Kathleen Foley clashed at the Tuesday (Jan. 12) meeting of the Village Board over public input into a state-mandated review of the Police Department.

Last year, Gov. Andrew Cuomo ordered all municipal police forces to complete a comprehensive review of their policies and procedures by April 1. In December, the village hired Lexapol, a consulting firm, to recommend updates to its police policies, which haven't been revised since 2013.

Several times during Tuesday's meeting, which was held via Zoom because of COVID-19 restrictions, Merandy stated emphatically that he felt it was too early in the review process for public input.

"I don't think we should be moving ahead with getting public comment until the board agrees on a policy and we talk to Lexapol to see what they can offer us," Merandy said. "I think you're putting the cart before the horse."

Foley, who took office in December, advocated the opposite.

"As a first step, we can identify where we are as a community in terms of our relationship with" police and how the public perceives officers, she said, suggesting a survey and recruiting volunteers to assist. That didn't sit well with Merandy.

"It seems you want to go out right now, get a committee together to put out a survey

to get input from the community, before we have a policy," he said, adding that a draft would provide something for residents to respond to.

Foley said the mayor misunderstood her point. "I'm not saying right now that we want public comment on a particular policy; I'm suggesting we follow the work plan laid out in the governor's order," which emphasizes public input.

During the 45-minute back-and-forth, after he was interrupted by Foley, Merandy exclaimed, "I'm talking, for [expletive] sake! You keep interrupting me!"

"I'm sorry Dave," Foley replied. "You don't need to use that language."

"That's too bad; quit interrupting me," the mayor said.

A few minutes later, Foley chided Merandy for interrupting her.

Foley and Officer-in-Charge Larry Burke recently sat in on a meeting of the Kent Town Board. The town had received more than 200 responses to a survey of residents as part of its Police Department review.

Foley and Burke were scheduled to meet with Lexapol for the first time on Jan. 14.

Commenting on the review, Trustee Heidi Bender, who also took office in December, said: "We're doing this for our village, to make a better relationship with our community and our Police Department," adding that gathering feedback early is a valuable part of the process. "It's why the governor made this directive in the first place — to improve these relationships."

Before the meeting adjourned, Bender addressed the mayor.

"It's important to me, Dave, that you acknowledge the way you spoke to Kathleen, to the board and to the public," she said. "You're the mayor and we look to you for a code of conduct. To me, that was not becoming of a mayor."

"Duly noted," Merandy replied. "I'm not apologizing or anything at this point."

"Well, that's noted, then," Bender said. A rare area of agreement was that, while the village does not expect to complete the review by the April 1 deadline, that should not be an issue.

"What's critical for us to demonstrate by April 1 is that we've made a good faith effort to move into automated [policy] updating and [officer] training," Foley said.

## Tap still off

The seemingly never-ending saga of Cold Spring's attempt to connect to the Catskill Aqueduct so it can repair its reservoirs has taken an odd twist.

At Tuesday's board meeting, Superintendent of Water and Wastewater Matt Kroog reported that during a morning conference call on Jan. 7, officials with the New York City Department of Environmental Protection, which oversees the aqueduct, said the village would finally be able to make the connection.

Three hours later, he said, the agency called to say approval would not be forthcoming. The village has been negotiating with DEP for about 13 years.

"They keep moving the goal posts," Merandy said. "It leaves us back at square one. We're in limbo."

The mayor said DEP wants Nelson-

ville and Philipstown to form their own water district before the connection can be approved. Nelsonville and fewer than a dozen Philipstown residents use Cold Spring's water system.

But forming a water district isn't the problem, Merandy said. "Basically, they are asking for a separate water system for Nelsonville, which is just not realistic."

Merandy said he will seek support for the water district from Philipstown Supervisor Richard Shea and Nelsonville Mayor Michael Bowman before going back to the DEP to argue that a separate, new system for Nelsonville "would be impossible."

Cold Spring has hired David Merzig, an attorney who represented New Paltz in a similar dispute with DEP. Merandy said Merzig will reach out to DEP in another attempt to move the project forward.

"This is criminal," Foley commented. "Clean drinking water is a right."

## In other business ...

■ Code Enforcement Officer Charlotte Mountain will soon begin fire inspections for all multi-family, commercial and mixed-use buildings in the village. The state Uniform Building Code requires the inspections every three years. Citing economic hardships caused by COVID-19, the Village Board reduced the inspection fee from \$75 to \$50 for 2021. The fee for re-inspections remains \$50.

■ Cold Spring police officers responded to 46 calls for service in December and issued 38 traffic and 54 parking tickets. One arrest was made when a motorist was charged with driving with a suspended registration. The fire department answered 10 calls in December, for a total of 170 during the year.



This feature is designed as a counterweight to all the bad news in the world that weighs people down. We could share a photo of a baby, or a photo of a dog, but we are giving you both. How many newspapers can say that? Ryan and Linnea Hayward of Beacon shared this shot of their son, Eoin, with Maggie. If you have a photo of a baby and a dog, submit it for consideration to editor@highlandscurrent.org.



**CHANGE AGENTS** — The sixth grade won a recent Middle School Penny Wars competition at the Garrison School, with \$411.06. The seventh grade raised \$232.56 and the eighth grade \$221.51. (Sixth grader Trey Murphy, at right, holds one of the containers for his class.) Krista DiDiego, a guidance counselor at the school, noted that the seventh and eighth graders did a good job bringing in change but collected a lot of silver coins, which lowered their point totals. The proceeds were donated to the local chapters of the American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Photos provided



# The Calendar



Schreter and Loray were married in the LotusWorks space on Dec. 21.



Loray doing sound mixing in the gallery space.



Schreter teaching dance at LotusWorks.

Photos provided

## CREATIVITY CENTRAL

### *New spot in Beacon for artistic exploration*

By Alison Rooney

Araron Loray and Skylar Schreter met early last year in San Francisco. On Sept. 1, they moved cross-country to New York City.

This past October, while stopping for lunch in Beacon on a Hudson Valley road trip, they spotted a “For Rent” sign at 261 Main St. By the end of that month, they had leased the space and started building out LotusWorks Gallery and Workshop, which opened this month. (The couple married in a ceremony in the gallery space on Dec. 21.)

The path to the plunge was a bit longer than it appears, says Schreter.

“We had already started the process of dreaming in terms of what we would like to do, our futures,” she says. “The pandemic made us pivot.”

Loray adds: “Beacon feels reminiscent of some places on the West Coast: culture-oriented, progressive values and a good sense of community.” He says that with LotusWorks they hope to create “a focal point for

the community, drawing on the skills and talents that are all around the area, knowing that there are so many people right there that have so much to tap into that.”

The front of their space has a Marley dance floor with ballet barres and mirrors for movement and yoga. The back is an open studio for visual arts. “People can easily look into the back to see works in

progress,” says Schreter.

“Our keep-coming-back model is a model of trying to encourage an artistic practice itself, whatever the discipline,” says Loray. “I’ve learned that there can be a way, for example, to incorporate robotics into a movement practice. It’s about finding ways to synthesize what seem to be disparate elements into a cohesive whole.”

Loray’s background is in drawing and illustration. He now works largely with spray paint, saying that he loves “the immediacy: a kind of instant gratification, almost like magic. Moving my hand creates

this swath of colors. Plus, its usage: fine detailed work and also big splashy drips and splatters kind of work.

“When I started in the early 2000s, there was this global street-art movement resurgence and at the same time this broader acceptance of street art as a whole, and not as graffiti or vandalism,” he says. “I realized how big it could be and I started incorporating design, then sculpture, more massive scale.”

Schreter, who is an independent choreographer, comes from a classical ballet background. She trained at The School of American Ballet in New York City and danced professionally with the Boston and San Francisco ballets. “What is central to my practice is taking the form of ballet and using it as a vehicle for the visceral human form of dance,” she says.

In opening during a pandemic, Schreter and Loray have given consideration to the challenges of social distancing. “Most classes will have six to eight people,” Loray says. “We can provide something intimate and personal.”

What they hope LotusWorks will become, Schreter says, is “a place drawing from every kind of nook and cranny of creativity. We’ll pull from everything.”

*LotusWorks is open Friday, Saturday and Sunday from noon to 9 p.m. and by appointment. Call 845-583-0400 or visit [lotusworksgallery.com](http://lotusworksgallery.com).*



Loray spray painting a layer of “The Art of Dreaming”



# THE WEEK AHEAD

Edited by Pamela Doan (calendar@highlandscurrent.org)

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

## COMMUNITY

MON 18

### MLK Day Virtual Celebration

BEACON

11 a.m. – 1 p.m. via Zoom

Enjoy civil-rights, gospel and inspirational songs and a message from Rev. Ronald Perry, pastor of Springfield Baptist Church. The theme is “keep the flame alive” and the webinar, sponsored by the church and the Beacon Sloop Club, will benefit the Howland Public Library. Use Zoom ID 884-4809-2593 and passcode 764436 or call 929-436-2866 with ID 884 4809 2593# and same passcode.

MON 18

### MLK Day Family Celebration

GARRISON

4 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library  
845-424-3020 | bit.ly/DFPLmlkconcert

Gwen Laster and Damon Banks will perform a virtual concert. Register online.

SAT 23

### Sandy Galef Town Hall

PHILIPSTOWN

10 a.m. Via Zoom | 914-941-1111  
galefs@assembly.state.ny.us

Call the assemblywoman's office if you live in Philipstown and don't receive an email with a Zoom link and phone number to participate.

## TALKS

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 this 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.

TUES 19

### Future Forward

POUGHKEEPSIE

4 p.m. Via Zoom | scenichudson.org

A panel that includes Barbara Han, a disease ecologist with the Cary Institute; Stiles Najac of the Orange County Cooperative Extension; Hugo Jule-Quintanilla of Sustainable Hudson Valley; and Vic Barrett of Our Children's Trust will present its ideas for addressing climate change in the region. The program is being presented in cooperation with Chronogram Media. Register online.

THURS 21

### Confronting Racism and Bias

GARRISON

7 p.m. Philipstown Hub  
philipstownhub.org/events

Register online to join a collaboration of community partners for a listening session. Moderated by Tajae Gaenor of CLUSTER Community Services, Jocelyn Apicello of the Ecological Citizens Project and Danielle Pack McCarthy of the Philipstown Behavioral Health Hub in cooperation with the Desmond-Fish Public Library, the Haldane PTA's Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Committee and the Garrison School's Antiracism and Equity Task Force.

THURS 21

### Hudson Valley and the Union War Effort

COLD SPRING

7 p.m. Putnam History Museum  
putnamhistorymuseum.org

Mark Forlow, the chair of the museum board, and Michael Barrett of the Burden Iron Works Museum will discuss the role of the iron works and the West Point Foundry in the Union effort during the Civil War. *Cost: \$10 (members free)*

## ANIMALS & NATURE

WED 20

### Panoramas of the Hudson River

BEACON

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

Register to watch the second in a four-part online series by contributors to *The Hudson: An Illustrated Guide to the Living River*. *Cost: \$7 (free for members)*

THURS 21

### Landscaping to Support Biodiversity

GARRISON

9:30 a.m. Via Zoom  
845-265-2601 x10  
putnam.cce.cornell.edu/events

The Constitution Marsh Audubon Center and the Putnam County Cornell Cooperative Extension will

present this two-part webinar for landscape architects and designers. *Cost: \$80*

SAT 23

### Owl Prowl

CORNWALL

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

Learn about owls and their history, meet the Hudson Highlands Nature Museum's owl ambassador and take a nighttime hike to call for owls. Registration required. *Cost: \$15 (\$10 members)*

SUN 24

### Spotting Winter Birds

GARRISON

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

Pete Salmansohn of the Putnam Highlands Audubon Society will teach participants via Zoom how to identify winter birds. Registration required.

## HEALTH & WELLNESS

TUES 19

### Balancing the Immune System

GARRISON

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

Somesh Kaushik will discuss maintaining balance and the immune system using Ayurvedic principals in this virtual workshop.



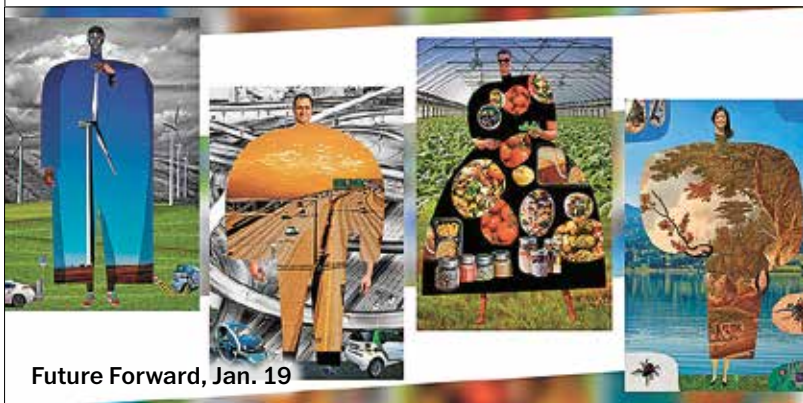
THURS 21

### 10 Signs of Alzheimer's

BEACON

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

The local chapter of the Alzheimer's Association will discuss the benefits of early detection and the differences between memory loss, normal aging, disease and dementia. Email adults@beaconlibrary.org to register.



Future Forward, Jan. 19



MLK Celebration, Jan. 18

## LITERARY

TUES 19

### Graphic Novel Book Club

COLD SPRING

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

The group will discuss *The Contradictions*, by Sophie Yanow.

WED 20

### Reading with Writers

COLD SPRING

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

Natalie Goldberg will join the group for its discussion of her book about writing haiku, *Three Simple Lines*.

THURS 21

### Fiction Book Club

COLD SPRING

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

The group will discuss *Everything Under*, by Daisy Johnson.

SAT 23

### Rae Armantrout and Heller Levinson

GARRISON

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

In this Zoom presentation, Armantrout, who won the Pulitzer Prize for her 2010 poetry collection, *Versed*, will read from her latest collection, *Conjure*, while Levinson will read from *Seep*. Mary Newell will lead a discussion with both poets.

## KIDS & FAMILY

WED 20

### Learn to Knit

GARRISON

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

Students in grades 6 to 12 can learn the basics.

WED 20

### Podcast Workshop

BEACON

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

Middle and high school students can learn all the basics for a podcast series that will launch in February. Email community@beaconlibrary.org to register.

THURS 21

### Jennifer Donnelly

COLD SPRING

3:30 p.m. Butterfield Library  
845-265-3040 | butterfieldlibrary.org

Donnelly will lead an online reading and discussion of her most recent young adult novel, *Poisoned*, which is a retelling of Snow White. Register online.

## VISUAL ART

SAT 16

### The Brick Show / RedGuardian / Relics of a False Future

BEACON

6 – 9 p.m. Clutter Gallery  
212-255-2505

shop.cluttermagazine.com

Bright artworks by Brandon Leach and Steven Usher will be on view.

SAT 23

### Blue Like an Orange / Games, Guns and Glory

GARRISON

5 – 7 p.m. Garrison Art Center  
23 Garrison's Landing

845-424-3960 | garrisonartcenter.org  
Elise Church's still-life and interior paintings will run concurrently with Mison Kim's exhibition of diagrammatic works on paper.

## MUSIC

SUN 24

### Alessio Bax and Lucille Chung

BEACON

8 p.m. Howland Cultural Center  
howlandmusic.org

This four-hands piano performance by Bax and Chung will be livestreamed as part of a Howland Chamber Music Circle series. The program includes Debussy's *Prélude à l'après-midi d'un faune* and Stravinsky's *Petrushka*. *Cost: \$20 donation*



## CIVIC

TUES 19

### City Council

BEACON

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

TUES 19

### School Board

COLD SPRING

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

TUES 19

### Dutchess Legislature

POUGHKEEPSIE

7 p.m. Via livestream  
totalwebcasting.com/view/?id=dutchess

WED 20

### School Board

GARRISON

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





Miss Tea opened in October at 520A Main St.



It's always tea time at Miss Tea.

# Beacon to a Tea

## New shop offers organics, infusions

By Alison Rooney

If you are under the impression that Beacon is a great place to find (1) coffee or (2) whiskey, Miss Tea is stepping up for the tea leaves contingent.

The shop, owned by Revital Shoua and Mor Tzivoni, opened in October at 520A Main St., on Beacon's East End. It offers organic teas and herbal infusions.

The women are both from Israel, which, admittedly, is not known for tea. But the two friends have loved to travel together since they were teenagers, including to tea-centric locales like India and Japan.

"I grew up on Lipton," Tzivoni admits, with a laugh. "But even then I was exploring infusions. I loved gardening and growing and that was a part of it."

Later, in their travels, "in every culture we were attracted to the tea," she says. "The chai, the street life, the difference between north and south in India, the tea ceremony in Japan — which is dear to my heart. For us, tea and herbs have new aspects: the power of the plant, the natural medicine they provide, the journey they can take you on — depending on what you drink — and the small rituals which relax you and give you a moment."

Tzivoni lived in Japan for a while before returning to Israel, and Shoua relocated to New York City. Eventually she called her friend to see if she wanted to start a business.

"Tea and herbal infusions was the most natural thing for us," Tzivoni says. "To bring this to New York, which has such a big coffee culture, seems like a mission. But we wanted to open people up to having another beverage, which is relaxing. Tea is not just for when you're sick but can actually keep you healthy."

They operated a winter shop each year

beginning in 2008, selling organic loose teas and their own line of herbal infusions with descriptive names such as "serenity" or "longevity" so that people "can intuitively choose the right infusion for them at that moment," Tzivoni says.

They also did holiday fairs at Bryant Park and Union Square but always dreamed of having a retail space.

Shoua moved to Cold Spring, followed not long after by Tzivoni. They began scouting the Highlands for a space and waited nearly a year for the space they occupy in Beacon.

"We love the location," Tzivoni says. "As soon as the shop became available, we took it, pandemic and all. It was a lot to consider, but it felt right. The world was in a shocked mode, but ultimately it gave us time to figure out how to run it temporarily without our planned tea tastings, samplings of tea of the day, brunches — things we'd planning on having to bring the community together. We had to change and adapt to the circumstances."

Tzivoni says they have "been getting a lot of coffee drinkers who are trying to switch. We also do tea-to-go, make iced teas and have a canister refill program. People are less familiar with herbal infusions." They have partnered with local artists. "We're doing a pop-up show for women designers doing handmade scarves for winter," she says. "We have a space designated for that."

They say they are grateful for the support they've received from other shop owners. "They have been promoting us, talking about us and giving us advice; it's been wonderful," Tzivoni says. "That's why we chose Beacon, but we didn't expect to get such encouragement and support."

*Miss Tea is open Monday to Friday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Saturday from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Call 888-699-8727 or visit [misstea.com](http://misstea.com).*



Miss Tea sells a variety of organic and infused teas.

Photos provided



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## Roots and Shoots

# Gardening for a New Year

By Pamela Doan

**W**hat did gardening mean during a year like 2020? Huge increases in plant sales indicated that many people either started gardening for the first time or expanded their vegetable gardens and landscaping. Seeds sold out early. The combination of spending more time at home and anxiety over the food supply led many to invest their time and money in growing things.

Gardening gave me a sense of control last year, a way to channel the uncertainty into something tangible. I plant this seed, care for it, it grows and I eat a delicious tomato. I froze and dried more vegetables and herbs than ever before, feeling bolder about experimenting and more secure when I had bits and pieces to supplement meals during the winter.

I enjoyed my gardens more deeply because I spent so much more time out there in the woods than ever before on a daily basis. Watching things grow is a lovely way to pass the day. I also noticed



a sharp decline in the number of butterflies, in spite of having more milkweed (the host plant for monarchs) and other habitat and nectar plants. Early reports from the western monarch migration counts show that the most recognizable butterfly is closer to extinction than ever. Let's hope the incoming administration will finally give monarchs protection under the Endangered Species Act after more than six years of review.

Even with a new dog and a virus that was killing them off, deer romped and pillaged my gardens more than I've experienced in a decade of tending this landscape. Nothing was off limits; nothing not at risk of being eaten to the ground overnight. I opened the door to find a doe on the porch snacking on rudbeckia one afternoon. They were bold, brazen and brought all their friends.

Along with the deer damage, storms devastated and downed more trees than ever before on my property. See, that image of control that I get from gardening is such an illusion. Nature scoffs.

## From reflections to resolutions

Plant more trees. I'm a big proponent of finding ways to make gardening less backbreaking and I'll be planting seedling trees. Because of the deer browsing, I've already picked out tree tubes to protect them. After spending last summer caging the 5- to 10-year-old trees I've grown from seedlings to keep the deer away, the tubes are an easier solution.



Take heart: Only nine weeks until the first day of spring.

Photo by P. Doan

This is an effort to restore the dozens of downed and damaged trees from 2020. I estimated in a column last fall that the dozen mature maples we lost in a single storm were sequestering nearly four tons of carbon emissions. Seedling trees will take decades to reach that capacity, but I'm counting on quantity to matter and, in the process, to restore ecological benefits with more diversity.

I got row covers from Santa! Along with the Seed Savers Exchange manual on

seed saving and spring cover crop seeds. Gardener Christmas heaven. While I've expanded my garden and refined varieties of the vegetables I like to grow, I'm always behind in the spring and fall when it's time to get everything set up and I've never managed to do it. With this set, all I have to do is install it. For all the new gardens from last season, this is an easy way to expand your capacity by a month or two at each end of the season.

No set of resolutions is complete without addressing soil health. Soil sequesters carbon and building it up increases that capacity. Be kind to soil. Don't till it or dig it up more than necessary. Soil is a gardener's best friend and needs respect. Mulch, add organic matter and amend naturally and organically. I'm afraid of finding statistics that show a correlating increase in herbicide, pesticide and chemical fertilizer sales with the increase in gardening supply sales.

Finally, let 2021 be the year that the monarch counts don't decline. While the fate of so many native pollinators is at stake, too, monarchs are a visible and beloved reference point to get people to care about planting native species that support other at-risk species. Make informed choices when deciding what to plant. Ornamental and exotic species rarely provide the necessary habitat or food sources our native insects and wildlife require. Native plants and trees are both beautiful and ecologically important, so you don't have to let go of your aesthetics, either.

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## Small, Good Things

## Of Cabbages and Kings

By Joe Dizney

The first day of 2021 felt less like the turning of a page than a defiant continuation of 2020. Little did we suspect that in less than a week it would seem like an escalation.



In times like these, comfort cooking is called for. But the definition of comfort food in the past nine months has been stretched well beyond *Good Housekeeping* or *The Joy of Cooking* standards.

As a South Louisiana native and Hudson Valley resident, the cooking of the Indian subcontinent has never before registered with me as an option in that department. But when my “pod” invited me over for an intimate, socially distanced dinner of John’s special Butter Chicken, after I had been home alone on Christmas and New Year’s Day, the reality of non-Zoom fellowship was the comfort I needed.

Asked to contribute a vegetable side, I drew a blank and asked for suggestions. John almost immediately fired back with a basic Indian stir-fried curry cabbage

suggestion that sounded easy. I was already to go with the basics until a slight familiarity with Madhur Jaffrey’s landmark Indian cookbooks reminded me of the small, good things of Indian cooking — simple spices and techniques — that might elevate it to a comforting level.

Sure enough, the recipe starts with a tarka: whole spices (in this typical case, mustard seeds and whole cumin seeds and curry leaves) fried or tempered briefly in oil, a common beginning to many Indian recipes.

Sliced onions and garlic are added to this front-load of flavor to further season the oil before the addition of cabbage. Curry powder (a turmeric-based mix sporting “hotter” spices, such as cumin and pepper) and garam masala (a “sweet” mix leaning toward more cardamom, cinnamon and nutmeg) are incorporated and the cabbage is cooked until crunchy-tender.

This would be fine enough and you could just stop there, but Z., my staunchest culinary adviser and encyclopedic recipe scout, directed me to a recent book, *My Two Souths*, by Asha Gomez, an Indian chef transplanted to Atlanta, who made an admirable leap of combining the cuisines of her Indian subcontinent with the foodways of her adopted Deep South home.

Gomez’s take on a cabbage stir-fry is similar right up to that last step, when she adds a final tarka of fragrant garlic and coconut, the latter being a prime signifier in a dish known as thoren, which is

the comfort food of the vegetarian-heavy cuisine of the southern India state Kerala. Here, I’ve jimmied her tarka by including a little fresh ginger heat.

It may sound complicated, but it’s not. The prep work takes no time and the rest is strictly process and requires little atten-

tion. Let the spices do the work. Gomez notes that thoren can just as effectively be made with sliced carrots, romanesco, okra, green tomatoes or even summer squash. I have in mind a version with Brussels sprouts or any other hearty brassica. It’s cabbage for kings.



## Cabbage Thoren

Serves 6

- 2 tablespoons coconut oil
- 2 teaspoons whole cumin seeds
- 2 teaspoons mustard seeds (black or brown preferred; yellow will do)
- 10 fresh curry leaves or 2 dried bay leaves\*
- 1 red onion, sliced thin
- 4 to 6 cloves garlic sliced thin
- 1 small head of cabbage (red, green or half-and-half), sliced thin (about 6 cups)
- 1 tablespoon curry powder
- 1 tablespoon garam masala
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 4 to 6 cloves garlic, smashed
- 6 coins of fresh, peeled ginger, smashed and roughly chopped
- ¾ to 1 cup grated coconut\*\*
- ¼ to ½ teaspoon red pepper flakes

1. Heat oil over medium high in a large skillet or Dutch oven (with lid). Add mustard seeds and stir until they begin to pop. Add cumin seeds and curry or bay leaves and stir until fragrant. Add sliced red onion and garlic and sauté for 1 to 2 minutes.

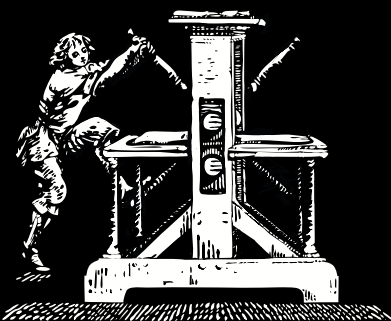
2. Add cabbage and stir for a minute or so to coat in oil and seasonings. Add curry powder, garam masala and salt and cook stirring for another couple of minutes. Add ½ cup water, lower heat to medium, cover and cook for 5 to 6 minutes.

3. While cabbage cooks, pulse garlic, ginger, coconut, pepper flakes and ¼ cup water (or coconut milk if you have it on hand) to a paste. When cabbage is tender and water has evaporated, remove lid and discard curry/bay leaves. Add the garlic-ginger-coconut paste and cook another minute or so. Correct seasoning and serve over basmati rice for a vegetarian entree or as a vegetable side.

\* Fresh curry leaves are seasonally available at Saraswati on Route 9 in Wappingers Falls.

\*\* You could grate your own coconut, but Bob’s Red Mill unsweetened shredded coconut, reconstituted in hot water for 20 minutes and drained, will substitute.

## HIGHLAND STUDIO



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## Kid Friendly

## Kids &amp; News

By Katie Hellmuth Martin

The last two Wednesdays have been traumatic. Everyone is glued to the news and cannot turn away. Members of the Black community has been watching with sadness, but no surprise, as they have lived and died by horrors like this on a daily basis since they were brought to this continent, and the white community has been watching with horror and in surprise.

Remote learning for the pandemic has put many children at home. During the storming of the Capitol, TVs and laptops lit up everywhere, with everyone in the room watching the coverage of each minute of new events. The following days have not let up, as we hear reports of the arrests and identifications of those who stormed into the Capitol.

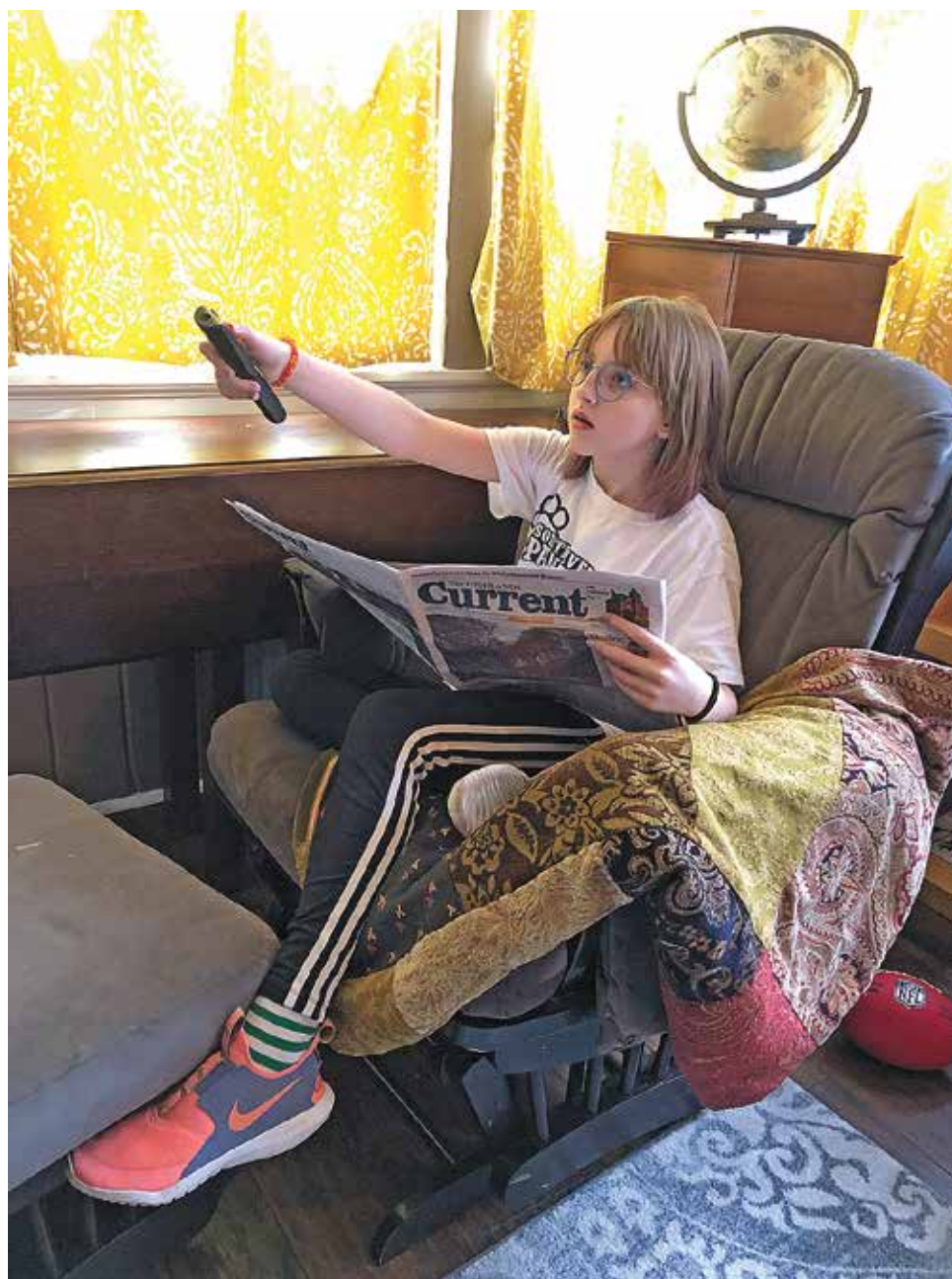
How do we talk to our children about it? What do we let our children watch? How can we control what our children see? School-age children may be getting a version of events from reaction videos their peers have made, which are at times on point and at times completely incorrect. (The fact-checking never stops!)

The National Public Radio podcast *Life Kit* offered suggestions in the days after the insurrection, such as not letting your children watch the news without you. One guest remembered her mother forbidding her from listening to the news during the Vietnam War but said the way her house was set up, she couldn't not hear it.

She remembered hearing the phrase "guerrilla warfare" and thinking gorillas were fighting humans. She worked out a plan to hide in her closet for when the gorillas came for her.

Now that we have podcasts and earbuds, parents can listen to the news in silence. However, I don't believe blanket censorship is the best course of action.

The day after the storming of the Capi-



Catching up on the news before a discussion with mom

Photo by K. Martin

tol, the superintendent of the Beacon City School District, Matt Landahl, sent an email to parents, reassuring them that staff was ready to help students process what they saw.

"Knowing that many of our youngest students may not even be aware of the events that took place, we will emphasize safety and community today and always," he wrote, noting that "images have been widely circulated on social media and television of the Confederate flag and cloth-

ing celebrating the Holocaust" that were brandished in the Capitol. "It has always been our practice to not allow these images in school. We want to reassure a sense of safety on that level as well because of how disturbing these images were to us all."

While social media companies continue to grapple with how to censor disturbing material or messages that incite violence, Twitter's decision to ban President Trump has opened more debates about the erasure of words and news.

With heightened censorship on the brain (censorship does happen everywhere since the dawn of time; not all words can be published all of the time), I decided to continue to let my children watch what I watch and listen to what they say they saw or heard.

I heard them processing quickly and healthily but with some humps. Our conversations have covered a lot of ground, and two misconceptions arose:

On a video about the event made by a young person, my child read a comment from a guy who stated that the president had "donated" a single, very large payment to the construction industry, and that was why that industry likes him.

During another feedback session, my child was reading a book for class that involves a family in South America who had slaves. As my child was recapping the chapter for me, my child paused on the word *slaves* and said: "Why don't we just call them 'maids'?"

Hearing that, I paused my child to suggest: "That would not be correct, so how about we use 'stolen people'?" My child agreed and proceeded to describe the events of the chapter.

This week, in my business education work at Tin Shingle, I had a chance to speak with Moraya Seeger DeGeare, a granddaughter of Pete and Toshi Seeger. She is mixed-race, light-skinned and identifies as Black. She told me that while growing up on Mount Beacon, she was home-schooled for several years during elementary school, which allowed her to sit by her grandfather's side many mornings.

Pete Seeger would read *The New York Times* to her, as well as passages of his books as he wrote them. Today, Moraya is a marriage and family therapist who specializes in breaking "cycles of disconnection" so seemed like a good source to listen to and take the lead from. After talking regularly with her grandfather about the news, she turned out all right.

I will continue talking to my children — sorry — *listening* to my children about what they learned that day. I suggested to them that we call it "the daily digest." My son got grossed out. To him that implied digesting food, and he couldn't handle it. We're still working on the name.

## Housing (from Page 9)

there's no reason they wouldn't want to do affordable housing," he said. "The need is there. But the dialogue can't be confrontational. It has to be collegial."

I've heard talk about a number of scenarios Beacon could pursue.

Council Member Terry Nelson has pushed for the city to ask Dutchess County to create a board under the Emergency Tenant Protection Act that would set maximum allowable yearly rent increases. Nelson said he's heard of constituents forced to endure "micro-aggressions" from landlords, such as withholding mail or repairs and other services until the tenants leave, allowing the landlord to increase the rent.

"Renters have been getting screwed in Beacon for a long time," Nelson said, call-

ing the problem "10 times worse" in Beacon than in New York City.

It's unlikely, however, that the ETPA would impact many people in Beacon because it applies only to apartment buildings with six or more units that were built before 1974. The buildings also must not have been "substantially rehabilitated."

The City Council could also bump up what Czajka calls the "set-aside," or the percentage of affordable units that must be included as part of a new development. Right now, developments of 10 or more apartments must set aside 10 percent of the units as below-market rate.

The council could increase that percentage, but even if it's doubled, we're probably only netting a handful of extra units.

In an interview last month, Mayor Lee Kyriacou mentioned the possibility of the

city exploring other projects such as the West End Lofts near City Hall. In 2016, then-Mayor Randy Casale and the council agreed to sell the 3.14-acre parcel to developer Ken Kearney at less than market value on the condition that he build affordable units there.

Seventy-two affordable apartments, including 50 live/work spaces for artists, now make up the bulk of that development. I'd be interested to know if the city owns other land or buildings that could lead to another deal like that.

There's the 39-acre former Beacon Correctional Facility site ("Camp Beacon"), but it's owned by the state. In 2019 state officials selected a New York City company called Urban Green Food to create a "bike farm" with a hotel and track-and-field venue at the site, but there's been little

movement there because of — you guessed it — the pandemic.

When we spoke, Czajka made another interesting point: This may not be exclusively Beacon's responsibility. The cost of living is rising faster than wages virtually everywhere, forcing people all over the region and country farther from their jobs.

In northern Dutchess County, the communities of Amenia, Millerton and Pine Plains have formed a coalition to address affordable rural housing. That's not a particularly palatable answer for the multi-generational Beacon families who can no longer afford to stay here, but perhaps it's a component of a greater plan.

I'm eager to see what the mayor and City Council can come up with this year to help the folks who want to live, and stay, in Beacon.



# Looking Back in Beacon

By Chip Rowe

*Editor's note: Beacon was created in 1913 from Matteawan and Fishkill Landing.*

## 150 Years Ago (January 1871)

The Kansas Farmer profiled Horace Capron, the federal commissioner of agriculture, noting he had prepared as a young man to enroll at West Point but instead



Horace Capron

"chose the cotton mills of Walden and Matteawan as a higher school" before moving to Baltimore in 1829 to begin his professional career.

William Brown of Matteawan was named a grand sword-bearer for the state lodge of the Free and Accepted Masons. At the same meeting, the state organization decided that lodge rooms could not be used by political organizations; that members who died of *delirium tremens* [alcoholism] were still entitled to burial rites; and that a lodge in Hamburg, Germany that had offered charters to Negro lodges in Brooklyn and declared "that humanity and Masonry are outraged when color, race or religion suffice to prevent the entrance of a profane into the great Masonic family" would be excommunicated.

V.D. Perry, the car master on the Hartford and Fishkill railroad, invented an "annunciator" for passenger trains, which was a strip of canvas on rollers with the names of the stations written on it large enough to read from the far end of the car. As soon as the train left a station, the name of the next stop was rolled into view.

## 125 Years Ago (January 1896)

A reporter from the *New York Journal* visited the State Hospital for the Criminal Insane at Matteawan asylum to interview a woman who called herself Henrietta Robinson and was infamous as the "veiled murderess." Accused in 1853 of poisoning a couple in Troy, she wore a veil throughout her trial. She never revealed her real name but claimed she



Mrs. Robinson as She is Today.

had been born to a titled family in England and had a son who was a member of Parliament, although she said he believed she was dead. By 1896, Robinson had been in New York asylums for more than 40 years. [She died at Matteawan in 1905 at age 78.]

Fires were set in several locations inside the Matteawan asylum, including the dining hall and theater. The fire companies from Matteawan and Fishkill Landing managed to subdue the flames within two hours. Authorities believe the fires were set by one of the 540 inmates, Charles Mitchell, 60, who had "a mania for incendiarism." He was searched and found with matches and a skeleton key.

John J.S. Rodgers, the commissioner of immigration in Philadelphia, received a call from the operator at Fishkill inquiring about a young woman who was supposed to join her brother at Fishkill Landing but who was apparently waylaid. The commissioner found the woman and secured her a ticket on the night immigrant train. She was met at her exchange at Jersey City by the agent of the International Navigation Co., "who permits none of the girls or women to leave the depot until the day has opened and they are fairly protected from land sharks," the *Philadelphia Inquirer* reported.

Mrs. Jeannette Smalley, a fugitive who was arrested in Newburgh by the Matteawan police chief, managed to escape. She was being held awaiting paperwork sent from Danbury, where she was wanted for bigamy.

## 100 Years Ago (January 1921)

William Fullerton was crushed at the Beacon dock when he was caught in a moving part while repairing a pump on the ferryboat Dutchess. He was survived by his parents, wife and four children.

The Rev. Howard Kingdon, who had been pastor of the First Baptist Church in Beacon for seven years, accepted a call at a church in Troy. About a year earlier, he had taken a job at the Beacon Hat Works, saying his pay was too low as a minister to survive.

Ernest Thompson Seton, president of the Woodcraft League of America and author of *Wild Animals I Have Known* and *The Trail of the Sandhill Stag*, presented a collection of Indian relics to writer Dillon Wallace, who lived in Beacon and was the author of 12 books, including the bestseller, *The Lure of the Labrador Wild*.

About 1,500 people watched a regional fife, drum and bugle corps competition hosted in Beacon by the Chandler Drum Corps.

Four boys walking on the frozen Hudson suddenly found themselves balancing on a floating cake of ice. Fortunately, the current took them back to shore.

In its annual report, the Farmers' Cooperative Milk Co. noted it had added \$28,000 in real estate and equipment by taking over

the Beacon plant and that it now supplied two-thirds of the milk in the city. It also built a garage, barn and storehouse on land purchased north of the Beacon facility.

Irving Stafford won a three-way primary with 588 votes for the Republican line for mayor. Ernest Macomber, who finished third and whose platform was to make the city a village again, said he would run as an independent.

## 75 Years Ago (January 1946)

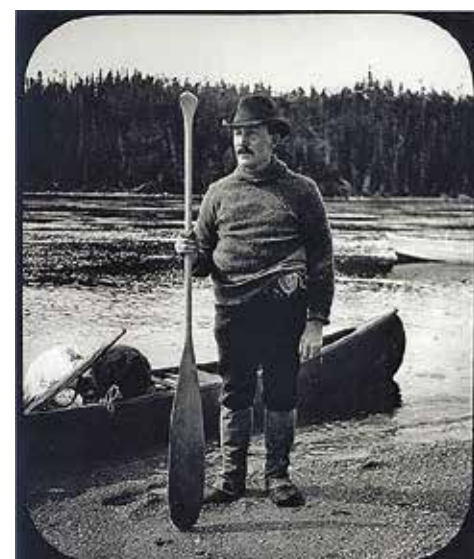
The Beacon City Council said it would continue to fund the city veterans' agency, rather than merging with the county, following assurances the state would cover half the cost.

John Palisi, who had been serving in the Armed Forces, returned home and resumed his position as city attorney.

Theodore Ichhorn, a 19-year-old Navy veteran in Glenham, was crushed when his mother's car slipped off the jack while he worked underneath it. He had enlisted two months after graduating in 1944 from Beacon High School but his mother had appealed to the Navy to send him home early after two of his brothers, Andrew and George, were killed in action. He had been home for five months.

Beacon police arrested a Fishkill man accused of stealing a truck. He had been arrested in September for stealing the same truck and sentenced to three months in the Dutchess County jail.

The federal Office of Price Administration filed complaints against two Beacon



Beacon writer Dillon Wallace in 1903

landlords for violating rent controls. The agency asked the court to award the tenants damages equal to triple the amount of the overcharges.

A 19-year-old Beacon man was charged with assault for allegedly hitting his sister over the head with a stove shaker, causing a gash that required four stitches.

The City Council scheduled a referendum on the sale of the Tioronda school building on South Avenue. It had received an offer to convert the building into a small factory.

## 50 Years Ago (January 1971)

Nahum Eshkol, the Israeli consul in New York, spoke at the Beacon Hebrew Alliance.

(Continued on Page 18)

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## Looking Back *(from Page 17)*

Philip Fitzpatrick, a retiree who lived on Willow Street and in 1920 had been credited with saving a woman from an apartment building fire in New York City, died at age 80.

Fred Way of the Mount Beacon Ski Club won the Franklin D. Roosevelt ski-jumping competition at Bear Mountain with a leap of 157 feet.

The city ordered the second- and third-floor apartments at 127 Main St., on the edge of Bank Square, vacated because of unsafe and unsanitary conditions but allowed the owner to continue to operate a pool parlor on the first floor. One of the families was relocated to Forrestal Heights and the others temporarily placed in houses slated for demolition in the urban renewal area.

About 75 people attended a school board meeting to protest the dismissal of a physical education teacher at the high school, although the board president said it did not intend to change its position. About 100 protesters also had attended a meeting the month before. In a letter, the teacher said he had only been told there was "general dissatisfaction" about his performance after three years on the job. At a Beacon Teachers' Association forum that drew 200 people, an audience member said to the teacher that "there's a rumor going around that if you were a married man with children, you'd still be teaching," which drew laughter.

Beacon Mayor Robert Cahill said the state had agreed to transfer 63 acres of land adjoining the Matteawan State Hospital grounds to the city. In return, the city said it would provide the hospital with water and sewage service at reduced rates.

The *Poughkeepsie Journal* profiled the Beacon Narcotics Guidance Council, which had a storefront at 210 Main St. Soon after, the council called on the City Council to approve a methadone clinic that would be run by Dutchess County to treat heroin addicts. Cahill responded, "Why not Fishkill?"

After 33 years at 165-67 Main St., the



**The Roosevelt memorial in Washington was cast in Beacon.** *Trust for the National Mall*

Beacon Furniture Co. moved to the former Schoonmaker Department Store building at 316 Main St., which had been vacant for five years. Marvin Isaacs, who managed the store and was the son of its founders, said the establishment had outgrown its original location.

The former treasurer of the Technical Tape Union in Beacon was sentenced to three years of probation after he admitted to stealing \$175 of its funds.

### 25 Years Ago (January 1996)

After a storm melted a 2-foot-deep snow pack and caused widespread flooding, fire-fighters used boats to rescue people from their homes. A family on Lincoln Avenue was evacuated when the foundation of their home collapsed, and a fire engine was caught in a sinkhole on East Main Street. A week later, federal officials visited to assess the damage, including at Rombout School, which the principal had taken to calling S.S. Rombout, according to Mayor Clara Lou Gould. City Administrator Joseph Braun estimated the damage at the school at \$500,000 to \$1 million and the damage to roads at \$3.5 million.

Sculptors at the Tallix Foundry were putting the finishing touches on an 8-foot clay statue of Franklin D. Roosevelt for the FDR Memorial under construction in Washington, D.C. The statute had been enlarged from a small plaster model by Neil Estern and, once completed, would be cast in bronze.

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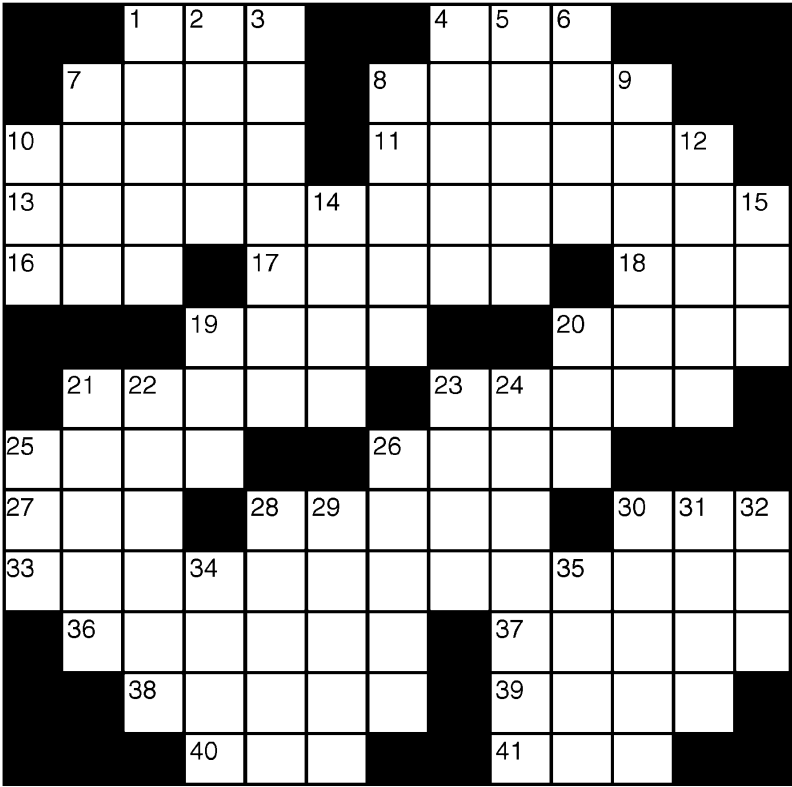


Puzzles

CROSS CURRENT

ACROSS

1. Opening
4. Cartoon frame
7. Vend
8. Dallas matriarch
10. Sleep problem
11. Court hammers
13. 1998 Bruce Willis thriller
16. Shock partner
17. Hoodwinks
18. Water tester
19. Gum flavor
20. Roll call reply
21. Fry lightly
23. Belted area
25. Cooking fat
26. Uttered
27. Chemical suffix
28. Up and about
30. Quilters' get-together
33. Wimbledon champ of 2008
36. Wife of Jacob
37. Edition
38. Nodded off
39. D.C. baseball team
40. Picnic crasher



41. Ram's mate
7. Gush
8. Pharaoh's land
9. Upper crust
10. Docs' org.
12. Bull's sound
14. Ancient letter
15. "My word!"
19. Wet dirt
20. Secreted
21. Less loony
22. Sports venues
23. Banshee's cry
24. Delta, for one
25. Actress Tyler
26. Long-legged shorebird
28. Wan
29. Used a broom
30. Butter up the turkey
31. Flightless birds
32. Compass pt.
34. Bruins' sch.
35. Caesar's "vidi"

DOWN

1. Category
2. Sir Guinness
3. Enthusiastic approval
4. County of Ireland
5. Graceland idol
6. Fibs

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7 LITTLE WORDS

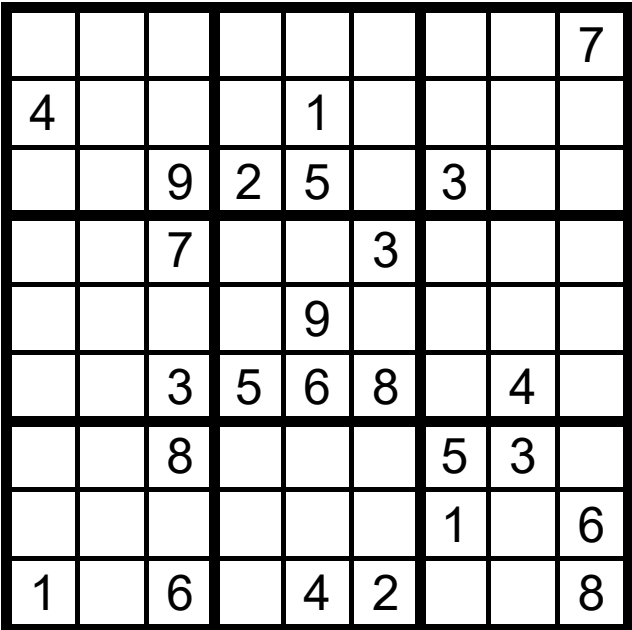
Find the 7 words to match the 7 clues. The numbers in parentheses represent the number of letters in each solution. Each letter combination can be used only once, but all letter combinations will be necessary to complete the puzzle.

- CLUES
- SOLUTIONS
- 1 like Gilligan and company (11)
- 2 new "DWTS" host Tyra (5)
- 3 makes onion rings (5)
- 4 got rid of (9)
- 5 adhesive (6)
- 6 aromatic perennial herb (5)
- 7 put bunny's battery in, say (8)

SH	AR	BA	RE	FR
ED	CKY	ZE	DED	ENE
STI	YME	DI	NKS	CK
IES	RGI	IPW	TH	SC

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SUDO CURRENT



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Answers for Jan. 8 Puzzles

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

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

1. RUINOUS, 2. BOLOGNA, 3. CONVERSING, 4. PARLEY, 5. REVERSING, 6. LANDLINES, 7. MIRE

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



## SPORTS



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### Preview

## Haldane Track

By Skip Pearlman

Indoor track and field was one of the few “low-risk” winter sports given the green light during the pandemic shutdown. Practices began last week, and Haldane athletes are ready for some competition.

Athletic directors at the 82 schools in Section 1 — which includes Putnam, Dutchess, Westchester and Rockland counties — were split about whether they would hold their track seasons now or move them to March.

That’s due in part to the loss of the Armory, the New York City facility that is used for regional indoor meets but is now a COVID-19 vaccination center. Because the indoor facilities at Rockland Community College and West Point are also closed because of pandemic restrictions, teams that opted to compete in January and February have their meets outside and hope for the best weather-wise.

Until it’s clear which teams will move their seasons to March, Haldane is unable to put together a schedule, although those details should be ironed out this week, said Coach AJ McConville. Haldane usually competes in a league that includes Putnam Valley, North Salem and Pawling.

“We started practices last Tuesday [Jan. 5], so some of the team members have the six practices [required by Section 1] in already and are ready to compete,” he said. “It’s challenging. We don’t want to do ‘virtual’ meets [in which teams race separately and

compare times], and we can’t invite schools to us” because Haldane does not have the facilities to host a track-and-field meet.

McConville welcomes back strong talent, including his top runners, seniors Walter Hoess and Everett Campanile (who qualified last winter for the Section 1 state qualifier in the 1,600-meter run), as well as sophomores Chase Coulson and John Kisslinger, senior Ben McEwen and junior Luke Parella.

“Luke and John had nice improvements in the cross-country season, and that will carry over, hopefully, for a big winter season for them,” the coach said.

On the girls’ side, senior Shannon Ferri, sophomores Helen Nicholls, Celia Drury and Andreia Vasconcelos, and freshman Eloise Pearsall all return.

“Celia and Andreia had good winter seasons last year in the 55 [meter], 300 and long jump,” McConville said. “Celia is moving up after running cross-country to run some longer distances, and Shannon is returning after a strong winter track season last year,” when she set school indoor records in the 1,000, 1,500 and 3,000 meters.

“The main thing is we’re hoping to give kids the opportunity for some competition,” McConville said. “We won’t be able to have all of the events, or the same size meets, but to have some semblance of that will be a big plus.”

“We don’t want to do ‘virtual’ meets, and we can’t invite schools to us.”



Members of Haldane’s indoor track and field team has been practicing outside in preparation for the season.

Photos by S. Pearlman



Haldane track and field athletes stretch during practice at the high school this week.

### Preview

## Beacon Bowling

By Skip Pearlman

The Beacon High School bowling teams began practice last week and hope to open their season on Tuesday (Jan. 19) with a match against Ketcham. Spectators will not be allowed.

Bowling is one of the few high school sports considered “low-risk” by the state during the pandemic shutdown and has been given the OK to proceed. Other low-risk sports, including swimming and indoor track and field, also began practices last week.

Contact sports considered higher-risk, such as basketball and wrestling, remain in limbo until the state renders a decision on whether their seasons can begin.

Bowling coach Brian Mahon said pulling it all together hasn’t been easy.

“The busing [of athletes to meets] is the toughest part, and the alleys have their own challenges,” he said. “They only have certain dates available, and meets will get



Beacon High School’s bowling teams, shown here at the Fishkill Bowl, begin their seasons next week.

Photo by S. Pearlman

harder as some schools have to quarantine or shut down.

“We’re fortunate to be able to get our season started,” he added. “We have a glim-

mer of hope that we might get it in. The kids are happy to have something.”

The boys’ team welcomes back junior Daniel Gilleo (an All-League selection last

season), junior Michael Mullan, sophomores Adam Sendelbach and Michael Juzefyk, and freshmen William Hockler and Cameron Odell. Seventh-grader James Bouchard is a newcomer.

“It’s a young team,” Mahon said. “We’ve been building over the last few years, and we’re finally at a point where we can compete with some of the better teams. The guys have really improved, and they could be in the race for the league title.”

The girls’ team lost six seniors to graduation last year, including Selena Virtuoso, who was an All-Section pick, and all of the girls this season are new to the team. They include junior Maura Lane, sophomores Miranda Lyons, Gabriella Foret and Amelia Sanker and freshman Elizabeth Ruffy.

“For girls who haven’t bowled before, they’re showing good signs of improvement,” the coach said. “It’s a learning year. We’ll compete with some teams, but will be gaining experience.”

All matches will take place at the Fishkill Bowl lanes. The Bulldogs are scheduled to face Arlington on Wednesday (Jan. 20) and Carmel on Friday (Jan. 22).