

# The HIGHLANDS Current



Mystery  
of the  
Masons  
Page 14

JANUARY 29, 2021

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## More Vaccines Promised

*Feds to increase allocation  
to state by 16 percent*

By Leonard Sparks

Over the past few weeks, Drug World of Cold Spring has taken the doses of COVID-19 vaccine it receives from the state and administered them to a fortunate few inside the Parish Hall at St. Mary's Episcopal Church.

And each week Drug World's owner, Heidi Snyder, hears from some of the unfortunate many — residents and family members of residents unable to score an appointment.

People are angry and frustrated with the system, said Snyder, who spent part of Wednesday (Jan. 27) working her way through 40 voicemail messages.

"It breaks my heart," she says. "I would like to be able to take care of everybody."

A modest shot in the arm is on the way.

President Joe Biden announced on Tuesday (Jan. 26) that vaccine distribution to the states will rise to 10 million doses from 8.6 million — a 16 percent increase — starting

*(Continued on Page 7)*



**EYES LIKE A HAWK** — Members of the Putnam Highlands Audubon Society visited the Shawangunk Grasslands National Wildlife Refuge in Ulster County on Jan. 16 for an afternoon of birdwatching. For more photos, see Page 15. Photo by Ross Corsair

## Exit Interview: Beacon's City Administrator

*Anthony Ruggiero departs  
for Dutchess County job*

By Jeff Simms

Anthony Ruggiero was hired as Beacon's city administrator in 2015 and finished up this week to take a job with Dutchess County. He will be succeeded by Chris White, a former City Council member and deputy director of planning for Ulster County.

### What is your new position?

I'll be the assistant commissioner for administration for the Department of Behavioral & Community Health, under Dr. Anil Vaidian. I'll be in charge of the facilities, overseeing programs, budgeting and personnel. I assume I will be involved in the COVID-19 response. In Beacon, we

*(Continued on Page 18)*

## New York Sues Feds Over Indian Point

*Alleges it was denied  
hearing on nuclear plant*

By Brian PJ Cronin

The state attorney general sued the Nuclear Regulatory Commission on Jan. 22, alleging the federal agency should have held a public hearing before approving a transfer of ownership for the Indian Point nuclear power plant and to

prevent the new owners from withdrawing money from a \$2.1 billion decommissioning fund to deal with the plant's used fuel.

The Indian Point Energy Center, located on the Hudson River near Peekskill, is scheduled to be shut down in April. Late last year its owner, Entergy, transferred its license to operate the plant to Holtec, a Florida company that will decommission the plant over the next 12 to 15 years.

*(Continued on Page 9)*



Indian Point

## The Long and Winding Code

*Updating Cold Spring's  
laws has taken eight years,  
but deadlines loom*

By Michael Turton

The Cold Spring Village Board is immersed in a task that might well define the word *tedious*.

The mayor and trustees are conducting a comma-by-comma, line-by-line, paragraph-by-paragraph, page-by-page review and update of more than 500 pages and 46 chapters of the Village Code.

The code determines much of what constitutes life in the village, outlining standards for everything from parking to signage and outdoor lighting to home-based businesses.

The ongoing board review, which began in January 2020, comes on the heels of a five-year effort by a volunteer committee to complete a similar line-by-line review

*(Continued on Page 17)*



# 5Q FIVE QUESTIONS: HANNAH HOLDSWORTH

By Alison Rooney

**H**annah Holdsworth of Beacon recently launched ShoutingDistance.com, a directory of small businesses in the Hudson Valley.

## What's the site all about?

It's a tool to make it a lot easier to support local businesses. We're still in the first phase, but what I want is for this to be a place where, if there's something you need, you can see if it's available locally before you go online and buy from a national retailer. Often, people either don't know that a store is there or they don't know what it sells. For instance, recently I was in Cold Spring with my kids, and they asked to go into Kismet. We went in and I was surprised to find they had toys. Considering that a toy store [Echo] just closed in Beacon, that is good to know. There is such a diverse range of goods available nearby — from appliances to shoes to handmade items.

## Where do you focus, geographically?

We started in Beacon — I moved here with my family from Brooklyn a year and a half ago, but we've extended, more or less, from Peekskill and Warwick up to Hudson. My sister lives in Kingston, and she's helped in that region.



## Where did the idea come from?

When I was growing up in Delaware, my mom loved shopping at small, local stores. I carried that with me and made a conscious choice to use the resources around me and not shop online. I had the idea in Brooklyn but it seemed like a big undertaking.

When we moved to Beacon I explored it more. Strangely enough, the pandemic gave me more time to focus on it. When stores had to shut down, that solidified it for me, seeing how many were struggling.

Though I couldn't go around to all the stores personally, I did have more time to work on things like design and marketing: What do I name this? How do I kind of brand it? I've been doing graphic design for 20 years, so for me that was the easiest place to start. I made a spreadsheet and went to Instagram, finding places. It's important that businesses trust my motivation — that I want to support them and also to help people who live here to know what's available.

## What's next?

The next phase is a marketplace with actual products and not just descriptions. Store owners will be able to put in as much or as little of their inventory as they like. I'm working on creating tools to make it easy to link inventory; small businesses don't have time for all of those details.

Shouting Distance would operate on the revenue generated from a reasonable commission when items are sold. Listing items would be free. I know many small businesses operate on slim margins. The possibilities are endless when you start thinking about collections that could be put together. I'm also in the early stages of putting together a similar list for services such as restaurants, boutique gyms, things like that, and also, for example, people who run jewelry businesses out of their homes, even if only online.

## What's the response been like?

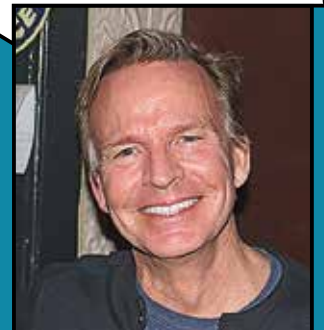
I've gotten great feedback from people using the site and businesses. The shops are grateful for any other outlets that get their names out there. When I started this, the main thought was to support businesses, but the other side of this is supporting people in the community by providing easier access to what's happening around them.

# ON THE SPOT

By Michael Turton

What have you made with your own hands that you are proud of?

“As a kid, I made macaroni art and painted it. It was beautiful. My mom still has it.”



~ John Harrison, Cold Spring

“In seventh-grade tech class, I made a CO<sub>2</sub> rocket. And it flew!”



~ Rachel O'Flaherty, Beacon

“I built a camera from a kit. It took several hours. I have a lot of photos from it.”



~ Peter Scherer, Cold Spring

**HOWLAND CULTURAL CENTER**

**Sat. Jan. 30 – 1 to 5 pm**  
ASSORTED VISIONS: The Beacon Photography Group  
Last day: 26 photographers' work on display and for sale

**Sat. Feb. 6 – 8 pm**  
**LIVESTREAM: ANTHEM**  
**Songs of Life (and Death) in America**  
Jeremy Schonfeld, singer, songwriter, pianist  
Livestream tix: [howlandculturalcenter.tix.com](http://howlandculturalcenter.tix.com)

**Sat. Feb. 6 – 1 to 5 pm**  
**EXHIBIT: IN OUR LIFETIME**  
**African American Art Show**  
17 artists' work on display – Sat/Sun in Feb. 1-5 pm

**AND MORE**  
**Sun. Feb. 14** – Streaming: ALIVEmusica presents Met Orchestra Musicians  
**Thurs. Mar. 11** – Singer Tara O'Grady: Howlin' at the Howland, Seasons of Love  
HCC will NOT be open for in-person audience during performances

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# Continental Commons Sues Fishkill

*Developer argues Town Board exceeded authority*

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

The builder of the proposed Continental Commons commercial development has asked a state court to overturn the Fishkill Town Board's denial of water and sewer system extensions for his project.

In a lawsuit filed in state court in Dutchess County on Jan. 15, developer Domenico Broccoli alleges that the Town Board exceeded its authority in September when it rejected the water and sewer applications for the project, located on land that was once part of a Revolutionary War supply depot.

His lawsuit asks the court to force the board to approve the hookups, forbid town Supervisor Ozzie Albra from participating in discussions of the project and order Fishkill to pay the costs of the litigation.

If allowed to connect to an existing pipe system, the project would draw water from the Village of Fishkill and channel its wastewater and sewage to Beacon's treatment facility.

Broccoli intends to construct a Revolutionary War-themed complex containing shops, restaurants, an inn and a visitor center on the 10.5-acre property on Route 9 near Interstate 84. The parcel includes a historic cemetery, which Broccoli pledges to preserve — the lawsuit asserts that “public access [to the cemetery] will not exist without the project.”

Continental Commons lies across Snook Road from the 18th-century Van Wyck homestead, a Revolutionary War command post, and is in a 74-acre tract listed on

the National Register of Historic Places. During the Revolutionary War, the tract was the epicenter of the Continental Army's vast Fishkill Supply Depot, which stretched from Fishkill Village to northern Philipstown and Beacon.

In rejecting the water-sewer extensions, the Town Board cited its concern that an existing water main that Broccoli would use was never approved by the Dutchess County health department, nor was the sewer infrastructure.

That lawsuit asserts that the Town Board acted “beyond its legal authority” and claims state law “makes clear that the Town Board cannot deny a water or sewer extension based on a desire to minimize or prevent a development or to oppose a particular project.”

The lawsuit also argues that the Town Board “supplanted the authority of the Planning Board,” which granted preliminary site plan approval in 2019, and ignored the conclusions of previous Town Board members, who, until thwarted by the lack of a quorum and then an injunction, were poised to approve the extensions in December 2019, shortly before the board's composition changed.

In addition, the lawsuit alleges that Albra “made promises during his 2019 campaign to block Continental Commons in exchange for political support and financial contributions,” seeking favor from such groups as the Friends of the Fishkill Supply Depot. (Albra abstained from the vote in September.)

In a news release on Tuesday (Jan. 26), Broccoli contended that “Albra and the Town Board consistently, calculatingly and maliciously abused, and continue to abuse, government powers to derail the Continental Commons project.”

# Cold Spring Will Ask Residents About Police for Review

*Village Board debates who should get survey*

By Michael Turton

After initial resistance from Mayor Dave Merandy, Cold Spring will survey residents about their views on the village Police Department and its officers.

The initiative will be part of the board's response to an executive order by Gov. Andrew Cuomo last year requiring municipalities to conduct a review of their police policies and procedures by April 1. Cuomo's directive emphasized the need for community input.

The board's meeting on Tuesday (Jan. 26) included a lengthy debate among the mayor and trustees over whether Cold Spring's survey should be distributed only to village residents or a broader audience.

The matter was sent back to the survey committee, scheduled to meet on Monday (Feb. 1). The board next meets on Tuesday.

The committee consists of Trustees Fran Murphy and Kathleen Foley, and Stephanie Hawkins, a former trustee and the wife of the mayor.

At Tuesday's meeting, Merandy, Murphy, Trustee Marie Early and Officer-in-Charge Larry Burke spoke in favor of limiting the scope of the survey, while Foley and Trustee Heidi Bender advocated broader distribution.

When Bender asked if the survey could include visitors, pointing out that officers interact with them as well as residents, Murphy said the survey committee discussed that idea but rejected it. “At this point, we want to keep this to Cold Spring residents and merchants,” she said. “We need to get this done soon.”

Murphy later suggested that if visitors are surveyed it should be during the busy tourist season.

Foley suggested a “branch-logic survey” in which residents answer one set of questions and visitors another, an approach

(Continued on Page 6)

## WHAT MEMBERS ARE SAYING

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BEACON

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# The HIGHLANDS Current

## PUBLISHER

Highlands Current Inc.  
142 Main St.  
Cold Spring, NY 10516-2819  
291 Main St., Beacon NY 12508

## FOUNDER

Gordon Stewart (1939 - 2014)

## EDITOR

Chip Rowe  
[editor@highlandscurrent.org](mailto:editor@highlandscurrent.org)

## SENIOR EDITOR

Leonard Sparks

## BEACON EDITOR

Jeff Simms

## ARTS EDITOR

Alison Rooney  
[arts@highlandscurrent.org](mailto:arts@highlandscurrent.org)

## REPORTERS

Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong  
Brian PJ Cronin • Joe Dizney  
Pamela Doan • Deb Lucke  
Skip Pearlman • Michael Turton

## LAYOUT DESIGNER

Pierce Strudler

## ADVERTISING DIRECTOR

Michele Gedney  
For information on advertising:  
845-809-5584  
[ads@highlandscurrent.org](mailto:ads@highlandscurrent.org)  
[highlandscurrent.org/ads](http://highlandscurrent.org/ads)

## MEMBERSHIP

Heidi Kitlas  
[membership@highlandscurrent.org](mailto:membership@highlandscurrent.org)

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Teresa Lagerman  
[community@highlandscurrent.org](mailto:community@highlandscurrent.org)



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## Tell us what you think

**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

### Police review

I would like to throw my support behind a community survey about what Cold Spring wants from its police force before engaging the consultants hired by the Village Board ("Mayor, Trustee Clash Over Police Review," Jan. 15). It seems like the natural thing to do, so I was surprised to hear opposition to the idea and the feeling that it would be a negative exercise. It's much more important to embark on the review of police policies in an informed capacity than rush things to meet the April 1 deadline.

With the makeup of the community and the general atmosphere changing so much since the last review of police policies in 2013, it seems logical to seek some guidance from the community to inform the brief we give to the consultants. It would be a shame to embark on a scope of work based on assumptions made by few, rather than the informed, collective opinion.

It's more work, but with new trustees so passionately advocating this and offering their time and thoughts, I don't understand the resistance to it.

On a personal note, I was disheartened by the language used by the mayor toward Trustee Kathleen Foley, and the inability to

rise above, take a breath and apologize in the aftermath of it. We're better than that. Let's take the temperature on this whole topic down a bit and start fresh.

Eri Panasci, *Cold Spring*

### COVID vaccine

How fortunate we are in Cold Spring to have Heidi Snyder, the owner of Drug World ("Drug World Chases COVID Vaccine," Dec. 18). Her efforts, coupled with those of Vinny Tamagna and countless volunteers, brought vaccinations to dozens of us seniors here at the Chestnut Ridge apartments, while owner Dan Dunning provided us with the space and convenience of the community room.

I and my neighbors, so many of whom entered with canes, walkers and wheelchairs, joyfully and gratefully received our greatest gift of 2021. Thank you to all who watch over us in this beautiful village — a village filled with beautiful and caring souls.

Rena Corey, *Cold Spring*

### Don't ignore hate

On Jan. 18 — Martin Luther King Jr. Day — a number of community members came

together to host a vigil and celebration on the steps of the historic Putnam County Courthouse in Carmel, where it was held last year.

However, due to FBI reports of white supremacist organizations across the nation planning attacks on government buildings, and because white nationalist opposition and harassment of racial justice activists has occurred in Putnam County several times over the last year, the service was moved to the parking lot behind Drew United Methodist Church. It was a wonderful space and a great event, but what a sad commentary on our nation on a day that is supposed to celebrate all the progress we've made since MLK's time.

Putnam County leaders must take decisive, public action to condemn the Capitol riots and the white supremacist groups that were behind them, and Putnam police and fire departments should enact policies barring employee activity in these organizations. We will not achieve MLK's dream until we stop ignoring the white-supremacist violence that persists in our neighborhoods and our nation.

Eileen McDermott, *Brewster*

*McDermott represents Putnam Pride. The letter was also signed by representatives of Putnam for Black Lives and Putnam Progressives.*

### Explaining the riot

*The Current* isn't so current. You should have investigated the looting and burning that went on for months in several U.S. cities and the toleration and even justification for such criminal behavior by public officials, the media and the so-called intelligentsia ("How to Explain a Riot," Jan. 22). It normalized violence and disrespect for public buildings as a means to redress grievances and set the stage for the Jan. 6 mayhem.

Ann Fanizzi, *Carmel*

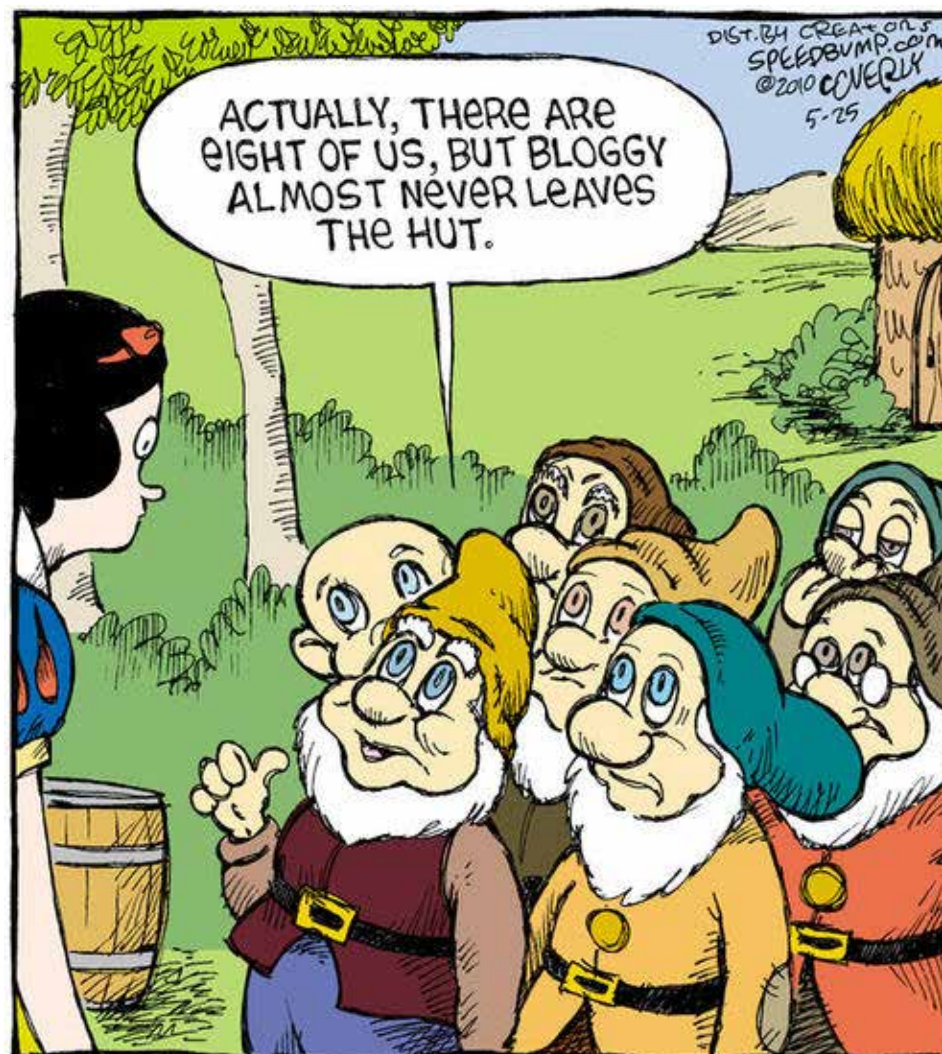
I'd be curious to know whether teachers who led classroom discussions of the riot defined the difference between good and evil. I assume they frown on cheating, lying and stealing. Does political correctness cause them to shy away from making clear to students that the attack on the Capitol was evil?

Fern Sartori, *Wappingers Falls*

It was not an insurrection! Bad actors should be punished, but it was not what it has been made out to be. Do your research; there is so much real info and videos out there. The president's speech was peaceful and appropriate. *Highlands Current*, tell the truth!

Judy McLaughlin, *via Facebook*

(Continued on Page 5)





## LETTERS AND COMMENTS

(Continued from Page 4)

**Barge parking ban**

In the Jan. 15 issue, *The Current* reported that Rep. Sean Patrick Maloney was successful in permanently banning anchorages of oil barges on the Hudson River ("New Barge Anchorage Banned"). He made the announcement at a news conference with a group of community leaders, including Orange County Executive Stephen Neuhaus and Newburgh Mayor Torrance Harvey.

The U.S. Coast Guard's original plan was for 43 anchorage spots between Yonkers and Albany, including space for up to five barges between Beacon and Newburgh. During my term as the Putnam County legislator representing District 1, which includes Philipstown and part of Putnam Valley, I stated — and will restate now — "not only would the barges have been parked there, but they would have been unlit and unmanned, which could adversely impact the environment, tourism boating and fishing."

I fought this coordinated effort, and, with the unanimous support of my colleagues on the Legislature, in 2016 brought forward a resolution to prevent this reckless proposal. I was joined by Putnam County Executive MaryEllen Odell; Jeremy Cherson, the legislative advocacy manager at Riverkeeper; and Althea Mullarkey, the public policy and special projects analyst at Scenic Hudson.

I celebrate Rep. Maloney's fight in Congress and I am grateful for his work and dedication to protect the Hudson River. We can accomplish so much when we work together as a community.

Barbara Scuccimarra, *Garrison*

**Beacon project**

Where are all these people going to park ("Four-Story Beacon Project Could Get OK from Council," Jan. 22)? Why does no one see this as an issue? People already park illegally at the site of the project all weekend, which impedes traffic in three directions; plus there is so much foot traffic. It's already dangerous.

Joseph Zukowski, *Beacon*

**Vaccine politics**

I am disgusted by the politicization of the vaccine distributions in Putnam County. A news release issued on Jan. 19 by County Executive MaryEllen Odell regarding a COVID-19 vaccination site at St. Mary's Episcopal Church in Cold Spring was an embarrassment to herself and the county.

Instead of focusing on the successes of the county Health Department and Drug World of Cold Spring and the challenges ahead, Odell spends four paragraphs fluffing her candidates and political allies, namely Vinny Tamagna, the county transportation manager and former Republican legislator; Kevin McConville, the chair of the Philipstown Republican Committee and aspiring candidate for county sheriff, who "volunteered his expertise"; Republican state Sen. Sue Serino, who "visited to offer her support"; and Republican Legisla-



Janice McConville receives the vaccine from Janet Caluari at a clinic at St. Mary's Church in Cold Spring. Barbara Scuccimarra, a former Putnam County legislator who volunteered at the event, is in the background. *Putnam County photo*

tor Neal Sullivan, who "stopped by."

That county Republicans see inoculating people against a killer virus as a candidate and political machine photo-op lays bare the depth of their need for power and control, and their lack of compassion for people suffering.

It is worse than simply politicizing the process. The streaming in of politicians to the clinic endangered the population giving and receiving the doses. It is not as if we are discussing the most careful people in the first place. We all know that the county executive has found reason to remove her mask, indoors, while not socially distancing. Was Sullivan's temperature taken at the door? It is clear that the health of those working and receiving the inoculation was put behind the self-interest and politicization.

McConville was quoted as saying he was delaying his announcement of a run for sheriff "as a result of the COVID vaccine being distributed tomorrow" because he didn't "want to interfere in this process."

The idea that the announcement of a twice-failed, third-time candidate would distract anybody from the important information on the local inoculations to defeat a disease that has killed more than 400,000 Americans is laughable. This level of dishonesty is exactly the reason why we must reelect Sheriff Robert Langley. We cannot afford to have local representation that focuses on themselves more than their constituents.

Scott Reing, *Mahopac*

*Reing chairs the Putnam County Democratic Committee.*

**Trump State Park**

I would love to see the Donald J. Trump State Park renamed ("Out There: A Park by Any Other Name," Jan. 22). I cringe every time I drive by that sign on the Taconic State Parkway.

Natalie Arneson, *via Facebook*

Trump did no great deed: He couldn't get his way building his golf courses because rules applied. (Thank you to all the honest people that worked on this so many years ago; I remember this well.) So he "donated" the land, benefiting from a tax write-off for 10 times the property's cost. Gross. Are there any other state parks named after traitors?

Melia Marzollo, *via Facebook*

Trump's inflating/deflating values to avoid taxes will be the slam-dunk evidence of financial fraud that New York State will hit him with.

Kathy Konkle, *via Facebook*

How about we name it after an oak tree, instead of another politician?

Kathleen Kourie, *via Facebook*

Let's count the many thousands of acres in the Highlands for which nonprofit organizations received tax breaks on their expensive land.

Lynn French, *via Facebook*

Maybe someone should tell Assemblywoman Sandy Galef that it's time to move on. There are much bigger problems in New York, such as the budget gap and the threat of a huge tax increase on those of us unfor-

tunate enough to live here.

Eileen Anderson, *via Facebook*

Maybe it should be renamed for the cop murdered by Trump supporters.

Kaitlin Louvier, *via Facebook*

Why trade the name of one white male politician for another white male politician [former Gov. George Pataki], especially when one section of the park is called Indian Hill? Let's honor the Indigenous people who lived here first.

Beth Poague, *via Instagram*

Trump bought it for \$2.75 million and donated it six years later for a \$26 million write-off? Investigate the person who approved that assessment.

Harper Langston, *via Instagram*

**Nelsonville shanty**

With their shanty gone, there are a couple of sad teenagers out there right now ("Nelsonville Tears Down Shanty in Woods, Plans for March Election," Jan. 22).

Eric Schambach, *via Facebook*

Perhaps it was not constructed by teenagers but by someone less fortunate who had no other option and needed shelter of any kind.

Laurie Gallio, *via Facebook*

**Thanks to highway workers**

During the pandemic, many of us have regularly thanked the obvious heroes, such as nurses, doctors, first responders, teachers and grocery workers. I think it is time to give a public thanks to the Cold Spring Highway Department, a crew of unsung heroes if ever there was one.

COVID or not, theirs is a physically demanding job that many people may take for granted. Think about the impact on our village if our garbage and recyclables were not picked up regularly, especially after a weekend where the village fills up with out-of-town visitors. Whether the weather is freezing cold, pouring rain or scorching hot, Robert Downey Jr. and his crew are out there keeping our village clean and green. So, thank you, CSHD. Your hard work is greatly appreciated!

Kathleen Duffett, *Cold Spring*

**NOTICE****Philipstown Planning Board**

*Site Visit – February 7th, 2021*

The Philipstown Planning Board will meet on Sunday, February 7th, 2021 at 9:30 am to inspect the following site:

**Mark Conn**  
242 Route 403 Garrison, New York  
TM# 71-2-10

**NOTICE****The Philipstown Zoning Board**

will hold their regular Monthly Meeting on February 8th, 2021 at 7:30 p.m. virtually via Zoom.

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

**[https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_AgL-lw75RYO1LwMIBpPkQg](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_AgL-lw75RYO1LwMIBpPkQg)**

Register in advance for this webinar:

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

OR email **KMACINTYRE@PHILIPSTOWN.COM** to request login information before 7 pm on February 8th, 2021.



# Should Prisoners Get Early Vaccines?

Advocates ask state to develop plan

By Leonard Sparks

Cases of COVID-19 among inmates in state prisons have tripled and among staff more than doubled since November as the state weighs a plan to vaccinate tens of thousands of prisoners and detainees, including at Fishkill Correctional Facility in Beacon.

New York expanded eligibility for COVID-19 vaccines to prison staff, parole officers and local jail staff on Jan. 11. But a plan to vaccinate prisoners is “something that we’ve been talking about, standing up and operationalizing,” said Melissa DeRosa, secretary to Gov. Andrew Cuomo, during a briefing on Jan. 22.

Residents 65 and older are currently eligible to receive vaccines in New York. The state has about 1,100 prisoners who are 65 or older and about 250 who are 75 or older, said DeRosa.

“We’re trying to figure out the best way to start to deploy resources, obviously, in the context of fairness, given that the demand is so great across the public,” she said.

The rise of COVID-19 infections in New York’s prisons has mirrored the spike state-wide, where Dutchess and other counties are facing record-high caseloads after infections dipped in the summer before

## Prisoner COVID-19 Cases

Facility	Positives	Deaths
Bedford Hills	81	2
Downstate	9	0
Fishkill	140	6
Green Haven	158	3
Sing Sing	60	4
Taconic	3	0

Source: Department of Corrections and Community Supervision, as of Jan. 27. The state does not report facility-level cases for staff.

proliferating again in the fall.

Of 4,883 inmate cases as of Wednesday (Jan. 27), 67 percent have been confirmed since Nov. 4. Another 12 inmates have died since that date, raising the number of prisoner deaths to 30. That includes six at Fishkill Correctional Facility — the most at any state facility — and three at Green Haven Correctional Facility in Stormville.

Prison staff have also been hit hard, with 4,236 infections among guards and other employees, with 64 percent confirmed since Nov. 4. Seven prison staff have died



Graves were dug in April at the Fishkill Correctional Facility in Beacon for two inmates who died of COVID-19 at other prisons and whose remains were not claimed.

Beacon Prison Action

of complications of COVID-19.

The state prison agency suspended visits to prisoners as of Dec. 30. Earlier that month it suspended the transfer of prisoners from county jails to state facilities.

Jennifer Scaife, executive director of the Correctional Association of New York, which is authorized to investigate conditions inside state prisons, said the facilities are “congregate-care facilities” whose employees return to their homes and communities after every shift. That is one reason that vaccinating prisoners is an “essential public health measure,” she said.

“Just like any congregate-care facility, people in prison need to be protected and the surrounding communities also benefit,” she said.

As the first vaccines neared federal approval, prisoners were included in Phase 1 of vaccinations in eight states, not including New York. New Jersey began vaccinating prisoners and staff in December, and North Carolina began offering shots to state inmates aged 75 or older last week. Utah on Monday (Jan. 25) vaccinated 79

state inmates who are 70 or older.

New York’s expansion earlier this month of vaccine eligibility covered not only guards and parole officers at state prisons but corrections officers at local jails, workers at local probation offices and juvenile detention facilities. The plan does not mention state prisoners or detainees who are at local jails.

Each of the two vaccines approved for use requires that each person receive two shots given weeks apart. Both must be stored in freezers. During a recent call between the state prison agency and prison-reform advocates, there was a discussion about waiting for a vaccine that doesn’t require freezers or two shots, said Scaife.

Some prisoners have sued to be released, citing their risk of becoming infected.

In one case, decided on Jan. 18, a state court ordered the state to vaccinate Edward Mackenzie, a 65-year-old inmate at Adirondack Correctional Facility in Essex County. “MacKenzie has a ‘fundamental’ legal right to reasonable and adequate medical care, as well as a clear legal right to receive the vaccine due to his age,” the court ruled.

“Just like any congregate-care facility, people in prison need to be protected and also the surrounding communities benefit.”

~ Jennifer Scaife, Correctional Association of New York

### Police Review *(from Page 3)*

supported by Bender.

Bender also drew a distinction between including tourists in the survey who visit once or twice a year and those who come to Cold Spring regularly from nearby communities such as Garrison, Peekskill and Beacon. “It’s an opportunity to gather data from people of color, people who might have a different experience with the Police Department,” she said.

Foley stressed the importance of reducing barriers that might prevent people from responding, in part by allowing the

survey to be anonymous. “Although we are predominantly a white village, we do have people of color, LBGTQIA folks and immigrants; we want to make sure we engage all those people in meaningful ways,” she said.


Throughout the meeting, Merandy said that the executive order emphasized the need to work with the community but made no mention of visitors.

Burke said his main concern was the amount of work still to be done by April 1, especially since the governor’s office has rejected requests for a six-month extension. “Let’s get that done and open it up to visitors at a later date,” he said.

CURRENT CONVERSATIONS


COVID-19 School Update

Q&A with Beacon and Haldane



BEACON: FEB. 3, 7:00-7:30PM

Live Zoom event with Superintendent Matt Landahl



HALDANE: FEB. 10, 7:00-7:30PM

Live Zoom event with Superintendent Philip Benante

REGISTER TO ATTEND:

[highlandscurrent.org/current-conversations](https://highlandscurrent.org/current-conversations)



## Vaccine *(from Page 1)*

next week. Biden also said that instead of telling states each week the number of doses they will receive, the federal government will begin offering three-week forecasts.

New York was allotted about 500,000 doses this week, according to data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Half that amount is for people ready for their second dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna vaccines, both of which require two doses given weeks apart. The remaining 250,000 doses were the state's allotment for first shots.

As of Wednesday, the Mid-Hudson Region, which includes Dutchess, Putnam and five other counties, had administered 70 percent of the 179,475 doses it had received. Across the state, 96 percent of 1.3 million first doses and 33 percent of 564,600 second doses received from the federal government had been administered.

The Dutchess County health department has received 600 doses during each of the last few weeks. When it sent out an email notification on Tuesday to residents who had subscribed at [bit.ly/vaccine-email](https://bit.ly/vaccine-email) announcing appointments for Thursday at the former JCPenney store at the Poughkeepsie Galleria, the slots filled in three minutes.

"Until greater supply is available, we urge everyone to try to remain patient and keep up the safety measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19," said County Executive Marc Molinaro.

The county has the capacity to give 5,000 shots a day if doses are available, Molinaro said. Biden's announcement represents "positive steps on both fronts," allowing the county to schedule weeks out, he said. "Any increase in doses allows us broader reach," he said.

So far, the reach has been narrow, while the number of people eligible is broad.

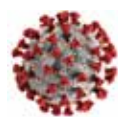
More than 7 million New York residents are eligible to receive the vaccine, including more than 70,000 in Dutchess and 30,000 in Putnam. New York State initially said it would vaccinate only the estimated 2.1 million front-line health care workers and nursing home residents and staff. But following the federal government's lead, it expanded eligibility to first responders, people over 65 and other groups.

That expansion raised the hopes of seniors who have largely been stymied by the short supply.

"The hardest part for us is not vaccinating as many people as who want to be vaccinated," said Snyder.

## Where to Check Online

- [drugworld.com](https://drugworld.com)
- [dutchessny.gov/covidvaccine](https://dutchessny.gov/covidvaccine)
- [putnamcountyny.com/covid-19-vaccine-information](https://putnamcountyny.com/covid-19-vaccine-information)
- [covid19vaccine.health.ny.gov](https://covid19vaccine.health.ny.gov)



## Coronavirus Update

■ State health officials said that, as of Wednesday (Jan. 27), 7,171 people had tested positive for COVID-19 in Putnam County; 18,553 in Dutchess; 92,062 in Westchester; 33,995 in Rockland; 8,533 in Ulster; and 31,378 in Orange. Statewide, there had been 1,374,480 positives, including 582,551 in New York City. Statewide, 34,742 people had died.

■ Putnam County had 414 active cases during the week ending Jan. 21, with 61 new cases reported in Philipstown, which has had 605 since March. There were 223 new cases in Carmel, 71 in Kent, 54 in Patterson, 56 in Putnam Valley and 79 in Southeast. Twenty people were hospitalized at Putnam Hospital in Carmel.

■ The number of people with COVID-19 who are hospitalized in New York state as of Jan. 27 stood at 8,520; the number in intensive care was 1,584; and the number of intubations was 1,024. In the Mid-Hudson Valley, 40 percent of hospital beds were available and 37 percent of ICU beds.

## COVID-19 by the Numbers

### ■ PUTNAM COUNTY

Number of confirmed cases:

**7,171** (+501)

New Cases in Philipstown: **61**

Tests administered:

**138,267** (+18,553)

Percent positive:

**5.2** (+0.1)

Number of deaths:

**79** (+4)

### ■ DUTCHESS COUNTY

Number of confirmed cases:

**18,553** (+1,371)

Active Cases in Beacon: **47**

Tests administered:

**448,456** (+1,371)

Percent positive:

**4.1** (+0.1)

Number of deaths:

**347** (+23)

*Source: New York State Department of Health, as of Jan. 27, with weekly change in parentheses. New cases in Philipstown is for week ending Jan. 21.*



The Putnam County Department of Health vaccinated 203 essential workers on Jan. 21 at the Carmel senior center, including Lisa Ferraro (center), an administrative assistant with the Carmel school district.

*Putnam County photo*

■ Gov. Andrew Cuomo said on Wednesday that, because of declines in new cases and hospitalization rates, yellow and orange zone restrictions have been lifted except for yellow zones in Newburgh and parts of New York City.

■ On Wednesday, Cuomo announced that additional cases of a more contagious variant of COVID-19 have been found on Long Island and in New York City and seven counties, including Westchester. The state has confirmed 42 cases.

■ On Tuesday (Jan. 26), Rep. Sean Patrick Maloney, whose district includes the Highlands, said the Metropolitan Transportation Authority would receive \$600,000 in federal funding to study how the virus is dispersed in the air on mass-transit systems.

■ After hitting a peak of 384 on Jan. 14, the number of Dutchess residents testing positive each day has been falling. On Jan. 22, Dutchess had 199 cases, its first day under 200 since Jan. 5. Putnam was averaging 80 cases a day since Jan. 14, compared to 90 during the first two weeks of the month.

■ On Monday (Jan. 25), Carl Albano, the superintendent of the Garrison school district, said students would remain on virtual learning through today (Jan. 29) because of staff illnesses and quarantines. According to the State COVID Report Card, as of Jan. 27, Garrison had reported five students and six teachers/staff who tested positive; Haldane had reported 23 students and 10 teachers/staff; and Beacon had reported 58 students and 32 teachers/staff.

■ The state extended the enrollment period for health insurance at NY State of Health through March 31. See [nystateofhealth.ny.gov](https://nystateofhealth.ny.gov) or call 855-355-5777.

■ Questions? Dutchess County posts vaccine updates at [dutchessny.gov](https://dutchessny.gov) and has a hotline at 845-486-3555. Putnam County posts info at [putnamcountyny.com](https://putnamcountyny.com). New York State has a vaccine hotline at 833-697-4829 and a webpage at [covid19vaccine.health.ny.gov](https://covid19vaccine.health.ny.gov). The state also created an email list to provide updates. The federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention posts updates at [cdc.gov](https://cdc.gov).

“After hitting a peak of 384 on Jan. 14, the number of Dutchess residents testing positive each day has been falling.”

## NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a public hearing will be held by the Zoning Board of Appeals of the Town of Philipstown on Monday, February 8th, 2021 at 7:30 P.M. Via Zoom.

**Tony & Kim Ricci, 3315 Route 9, Cold Spring, New York  
TM#16.20-1-8**

(applicant seeks to convert existing 2nd floor storage to a one-bedroom apartment)

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

Dated January 11th, 2021 | Robert Dee, Chairman of the Town of Philipstown Zoning Board of Appeals



# Galef Forum Touches on Tourism, Taxes

*Assemblywoman also suggests school district merger*

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

Assembly Member Sandy Galef and Philipstown residents on Saturday (Jan. 23) “Zoomed” in on tourism management, taxing the rich, merging school districts and coping locally in a COVID-19 world.

Galef, a Democrat whose district includes Philipstown, hosted the town hall online as a substitute for the in-person forum she held at the beginning of each legislative session before the pandemic, typically at the Butterfield or Desmond-Fish libraries.

## Tourism management

On Jan. 23, attention immediately turned to tourism management — or its lack.

Nat Prentice, a Garrison resident who chaired a committee that has recommended updates to the Philipstown comprehensive plan, described the challenges of trying to deal with “too many people coming to visit and no money.”

He called for coordination between levels of government to address such basic needs as keeping the public restrooms at the visitor’s center on Main Street in Cold Spring open in winter. Prentice, who is vice president of the Cold Spring Chamber of Commerce,

said he and a few other volunteers scrub the bathrooms and staff the center.

“Visitor management has got everybody a little stuck” and it shouldn’t just be one jurisdiction’s task to handle it, he said. But he called the situation “an opportunity, not a problem.”

Noting that the state does not fund the upkeep of public restrooms, Galef suggested that Putnam might implement a county-wide approach to helping towns and villages with tourism, although she acknowledged that “nobody has tourism like you do” in Cold Spring. “It’s hard,” she said. “It’s a big problem for you and I understand that.”

The Putnam Legislature last year eliminated a \$7,500 stipend it had been providing Cold Spring for trash collection. It also does not share sales tax revenue with its towns or villages, an ongoing source of friction. “The county should be sharing sales tax” with Cold Spring, Galef said. “You bring in all the sales tax. It’s much easier on the county level to take all the money, but it’s fairer to have it distributed.”

At a county meeting in December, Bill Carlin, the Putnam finance commissioner, said that New York State recently began withholding some sales tax income from counties and channeling it to towns and villages through a program called Aid and Incentives for Municipalities (AIM).

According to a data shared with the

Legislature’s Audit Committee on Monday (Jan. 25), AIM disbursements in 2020 were \$33,820 to Philipstown; \$16,537 to Cold Spring; and \$3,343 to Nelsonville.

To help cover costs for the public restrooms, Galef suggested charging a small fee, which is a common practice in Europe.

## State spending

Galef said that for fiscal 2021-22, state officials tentatively plan a \$193 billion budget. However, as Gov. Andrew Cuomo warned earlier this month, New York could have a deficit of \$15 billion, which would result in a 20 percent, across-the-board spending cut, said Galef, who chairs the Assembly Committee on Real Property Taxation.

President Joe Biden has proposed \$1.9 trillion in stimulus funding, but Galef says some members of Congress appear to “resent having to help state governments.”

To boost revenues, Galef said, Cuomo is considering various ideas, including higher taxes on residents who earn \$5 million or more annually. But the revenue from that hike would be relatively small and “underestimates the needs of New Yorkers,” a Cold Spring resident, Jeff Mikkelsen, told Galef.

“Tax the wealthiest more,” added Tara Vamos, another Cold Spring resident.

Galef noted, however, that there are fears that raising taxes too much could drive the affluent to decamp to lower-tax states.

“We run into this all the time,” she said. “We have to think these things through” because of unforeseen repercussions.

Mikkelsen argued that there was no evidence to support the idea that higher taxes prompt the wealthy to move. “They can afford to live wherever they want,” he said, adding that California increased taxes on its highest earners and “there’s certainly no shortage of rich people in California.”

## School merger

Galef wondered why Philipstown doesn’t merge its two school districts, Haldane and Garrison, to save money, an idea that has been discussed for decades.

“Maybe it requires a referee,” such as the state government, to impose consolidation, Prentice said. Both districts are relatively small: Haldane has about 800 students from kindergarten to grade 12, and Garrison has about 220 from kindergarten to grade 8. One challenge is that Garrison has a lower tax rate than Haldane.

## Health info

After residents expressed frustrations at their inability to get COVID-19 vaccinations or what they regard as timely information from Putnam County, Galef proposed that county health departments share some services. As a partial remedy, she and forum participants discussed ways to remotely pair computer-savvy students and young adults with seniors and others who lack computers or internet connections.

## Valentines in the Paper

Surprise them with a free Valentine's Day message in The Current!

Members get a little extra love from us.

Spread the love at:  
[highlandscurrent.org/valentine](http://highlandscurrent.org/valentine)

The HIGHLANDS  
Current

## Democrats Call for Perjury Charge

*Claim Dutchess election commissioner lied to court*

By Chip Rowe

The Dutchess County Democratic Committee on Monday (Jan. 25) asked the county district attorney to investigate whether Election Commissioner Erik Haight, a Republican, committed perjury.

“To allow someone in charge of our elections to lie to the court with impunity, without opening an investigation, would be unconscionable,” said Elisa Sumner, the committee chair and a former deputy elections commissioner, in a statement.

In an email to *The Current*, Haight responded: “The fact that this baseless attack is coming from the Democratic chairman lobbed toward the Republican commissioner is obviously just a political stunt.”

The Democrats cited an October decision by a state judge who asserted that Haight had misled her about the feasibility of relocating a polling site from a church in Red Hook to a larger space at Bard College in Annandale.

According to court documents, Haight submitted an affidavit in which he said that “the election was too close in time to enable a change in the polling site” and that the change would “likely cause voter confusion and result in voters going to the wrong polling place.”

State Supreme Court Justice Maria Rosa

ruled that the site could not be moved. However, 10 days later she reversed her decision, citing the fact that Haight and Elizabeth Soto, then the Democratic commissioner, had agreed the day after her ruling to move a voting site from Red Hook Town Hall to a larger space at a middle school.

The judge wrote that Haight’s sworn assertion “was simply untrue” and ordered the church site moved to Bard.

Following the November election, the Democratic committee voted by a wide margin to replace Soto with Hannah Black, who gave up her seat in the Legislature, representing Hyde Park, to take the job.

Black told the *Poughkeepsie Journal* that she would advocate “safer election polling sites, reducing wait times during early voting and promptly answering the phones at the Board of Elections because, this year, they did not do so.”

Black also accused her predecessor of “working with Republicans to suppress voting,” a charge that Soto rejected.

After Black’s appointment, Haight told the *Mid Hudson News* that she “has a reputation of not being particularly bright or hard-working.” When Black called that statement unprofessional, Haight doubled down to the *Poughkeepsie Journal*: “Discussing someone’s reputation of not being too bright and lazy isn’t an attack. If her feelings are hurt, then this isn’t the right position for her.”



## Indian Point (from Page 1)

The state lawsuit says the NRC should have held a public hearing before approving the transfer and also that the agency improperly gave Holtec permission to withdraw about \$630 million from the decommissioning fund to deal with spent radioactive fuel stored at the site, which is the responsibility of the federal government.

“The NRC is attempting to bypass critical transparency and accountability steps, and also is seeking to make New Yorkers pay for the job,” said Attorney General Letitia James in a statement. “The NRC’s unwillingness to hear New York’s valid concerns is a slap in the face to all New Yorkers.”

The NRC did not respond to a request for comment.

Richard Webster, the legal director for Riverkeeper, an environmental group based in Ossining, said the NRC “has a long history of hostility toward giving hearings.” He noted that the agency also denied the state of Massachusetts a hearing before Holtec began decommissioning a plant there. The Massachusetts attorney general sued in 2019, which led to a settlement that included restrictions on Holtec.

New York’s concerns echo many of those voiced by Massachusetts: That Holtec lacks the finances and expertise to do the job and will not fully clean up the plant.

Hudson Sloop Clearwater, which is based in Beacon, said the same thing last year, arguing in a news release that Holtec

has been “secretive about its finances” and “hasn’t demonstrated the capitalization required to complete the estimated \$1.3 billion decommissioning, as opposed to walking away and sticking taxpayers with the consequences and costs. Its business model is about using the ratepayer-financed decommissioning trust fund and taxpayer money to maximize its profits.”

In a November forum, Joshua Tallent, an assistant attorney general for the state’s Environmental Protection Bureau, said that Holtec’s plans take into account only federal laws for the cleanup, not New York’s stricter requirements.

He also noted that Holtec’s plans do not account for contamination at the site that must be fixed, including of the groundwater. Tallent is a lead attorney for the state in the Jan. 22 lawsuit.

Webster said he had hoped those concerns would be addressed in a public hearing, had one taken place.

“When we’ve had hearings on NRC matters, it nearly always improves the quality of decision-making,” he said. “There’s greater scrutiny applied to the application, and normally flaws are discovered in the application that need to be remedied.”

The lawsuit contends that allowing Holtec to tap into the \$2.1 billion decommissioning account — which was funded by taxes paid over decades by residents in their electricity bills — will put undue pressure on Holtec’s finances and ability to complete the job.

Under NRC requirements, the federal government is responsible for managing spent nuclear fuel. Since it has not yet built a long-term storage site, it pays for the costs associated with moving the fuel to “semi-permanent” sites.

For that reason, said Webster, it would seem to make little sense for Holtec to spend the decommissioning funds — unless you consider that Holtec’s primary business before it began decommissioning plants was spent-fuel management.

“So Holtec Decommissioning International will give a contract to Holtec International to do the spent-fuel management,” he said. “My suspicion is that it’ll be a pretty favorable contract since they’re dealing with themselves.”

The money withdrawn by Holtec International from the decommissioning fund to handle the spent fuel will be replenished by the feds, and Holtec will be able to keep anything left in that larger fund when it completes the decommissioning, allowing the company to essentially be paid twice. “It’s double-dipping,” Webster said.

Holtec Decommissioning is seeking to build a semi-permanent storage facility in the New Mexico desert to house the waste from Indian Point, the plant in Massachusetts and another in Forked River, New Jersey. That plan is being opposed by an alliance that includes the State of New Mexico, oil and gas companies who believe the facility would be too close to their wells, and Indigenous rights activists.

## Taxing Indian Point

Indian Point is located in the Village of Buchanan; it and other municipalities for decades have collected property taxes from the plant that were set to end in April when it closes. But under a bill introduced in the state Assembly by Sandy Galef, a Democrat whose district includes Indian Point (and Philipstown), and enacted by Gov. Andrew Cuomo on Dec. 31, the village, the Hendrick Hudson school district and the Town of Cortlandt will be able to assess and tax the housing that contains spent fuel.

Under a separate bill introduced by Galef and signed by the governor, they will also be able to collect “payments in lieu of taxes” from “formerly generating” power plants. (Entergy made lump-sum payments while operating the plant.)

A third bill introduced by Galef and signed by the governor will make it easier for Indian Point employees to be hired for the decommissioning.

“These were unique bills and they’re actually setting standards around the country, which is great,” Galef said on Jan. 23 at a virtual town hall for Philipstown residents.

## Despite COVID-19, Putnam Doesn’t Lose Sales Tax

*Collects about 1 percent more than in 2019*

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

Despite the economic shutdown during the COVID-19 pandemic, Putnam County collected nearly \$66.8 million in sales tax in 2020, or about 1 percent more than in 2019, according to data shared with county legislators on Monday (Jan. 25).

At the Legislature’s Audit Committee session, held by audio connection, Finance Commissioner Bill Carlin attributed the uptick to online shopping making up for the loss of sales tax revenue from shops and restaurants closing or having limited hours from mid-March to the end of the year.


The 2020 total, \$66,761,192, was \$757,308 higher than in 2019.

By comparison, adjusted for inflation, Putnam received about \$57.3 million in 2010; \$59.9 million in 2015; and \$66.7 million in 2018.

New York State began collecting sales tax from e-commerce businesses in 2019. Carlin later explained in an email that “pure” internet sales can be hard to distinguish, because, for example, if a resident buys clothes at Kohls.com instead of visiting Kohls in Brewster, the same sales

tax flows to the county. But, he said, he expected that Putnam will see about a 90 percent increase over 2019 in sales tax collected by sites such as Amazon.

Sales Tax, Up and Down		
The percent gain or loss in sales tax collected in the first quarter of 2020, when the pandemic began, compared to the first quarter of 2019.		
	Putnam	Dutchess
Automobile dealers	-46%	-43%
Beer, wine, liquor	+198%	+26%
Clothing stores	-32%	-54%
Department stores	-66%	-55%
Gas stations	-36%	-34%
Grocery stores	-3%	+5%
Online Shopping	+159%	+158%
Restaurants	-42%	-44%
Source: “Coronavirus Economic Impact: Taxable Sales Comparison,” December 2020, New York State Association of Counties		



GARRISON UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT  
GARRISON, NEW YORK 10524

### KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION DATES SET IN GARRISON

The Garrison Union Free School will hold its Kindergarten Registration for the 2021-2022 school year on **Tuesday, February 9th** and **Wednesday, February 10th** from **9 to 11 a.m.** and from **1 to 3 p.m.** on both days in the hallway outside of the Main Office. The child does not need to accompany the parent/guardian for registration.

Parents/guardians are required to bring the following:

- Original birth certificate - child must be 5 years old by December 31, 2021
- Immunization records/Recent physical
- Proof of residency
  - o Owners
    - Signed contract of sale or deed, **and**
    - Telephone, utility, cable bill, etc. (2 required)
  - o Renters
    - Notarized Affidavit of Landlord along with a copy of the Lease, **and**
    - Rent receipt (within 30 days) indicating address, **and**
    - Telephone, utility, cable bill, etc. (2 required)

Information about the **Tuesday, April 27<sup>th</sup>** orientation for parents/guardians at **10 a.m.** will be given out at registration. Also, information on the Kindergarten Screening on **Tuesday, May 11th** and **Wednesday, May 12th** will be given out at registration.

For additional information please visit our website [gufs.org](http://gufs.org) or call 845-424-3689 ext. 221



# Main Street Beacon: Add Parking, Not Asphalt

*Committee suggests creative fixes to ongoing problems*

By Jeff Simms

A citizen committee created last year has come up with a series of moves it says can net Beacon at least 170 new parking spaces — more than 70 of them at little or no cost to the city.

Mayor Lee Kyriacou created the Main Street Access Committee in January 2020 in one of his first moves after being sworn into office. Charged with addressing issues related to getting to and from Main Street, the 14-person group has returned a year later with a three-phase plan that involves parking, biking, unsafe intersections and signage.

The first phase of the group's recommendations — some which are underway — include low-cost, no-new-pavement ideas that can be completed quickly. The concept was introduced to the City Council during a meeting in July and would add at least 71 parking spaces by reconfiguring existing lots, restriping side streets for angled parking and adding street parking along parts of Fishkill Avenue.

The plan would also add uniform "way-finder" signs to indicate public parking and stop signs at side streets that run into Main.

All that work can be done without pouring new asphalt, committee members said during the council's meeting on Monday (Jan. 25).



The committee recommended adding more visible crosswalks and improving sidewalks at the steep intersection of Churchill and Main streets.

Photo by J. Simms

"There's a lot of spaces out there, and with global warming and the heat-island effect in cities, the last thing you want to do is create more surface parking lots that create 'dead spaces' in and around Main Street," explained City Planner John Clarke, who advised the committee.

The second phase, introduced on Monday, involves more effort and resources.

The committee's recommendations include narrowing the wide driving lanes on Wolcott Avenue in front of the West End Lofts to add 25 on-street spaces and repurposing an empty lot behind St. Andrew's Church, which the city acquired last year, for public parking.

Phase 2 would also involve beautifying and restriping the tricky "dummy light" intersection of Main Street and East Main, and adding curb extensions, more visible crosswalks and improving sidewalks at the steep

Churchill Street and Main intersection.

The city would collect public input before proceeding on either of those projects, Kyriacou said Wednesday.

The final component of Phase 2 would create biking "boulevards" throughout Beacon with landscaped barriers or other traffic-calming elements to keep biking safe along the routes. The committee suggested potential routes but recommended the city seek grants to hire a consultant to flesh out the plan.

The committee met every two weeks over the past year, said Sara Pasti, one of its co-chairs. The pandemic scuttled plans for public forums, but she said the members were chosen to include business owners and residents with diverse expertise, "and we were charged with talking to our colleagues, so we could bring other peoples' perspectives to the committee."


The committee has completed its recom-

## Phase 1 Projects

- Stripe spaces on adjacent streets within two blocks of Main.
- Place stop signs at all side-street intersections.
- Repaint faded crosswalks and the Van Nydeck Avenue lot.
- Add parking signs on Main Street and at municipal lots.
- Avoid developing new surface lots.
- Restripe Eliza Street lot with 9-foot spaces.
- Stripe diagonally on west end of Henry Street to gain 12 spaces.
- Stripe 22 spaces on east side of Fishkill Avenue.
- Reconfigure Beacon Center (DMV) lot to add 37 spaces.

mendations for longer-term Phase 3 projects for the council to review in the near future.

Kyriacou said that Beacon could package the recommendations into an application for one of the state's \$10 million Downtown Revitalization Initiative grants. "The county hasn't won one yet, and I would bet that some good plans on downtown and access and bike lanes would look pretty good," he said.



## Voice Lessons

*Lessons currently offered via Zoom*

- Students of All Ages and Abilities
- Auditions Prep for High School and College
- Repertoire Advice and Audition Packages
- Early Childhood Music Education
- Ear Training
- All Styles of Music (classical, jazz, musical theater, pop, folk, even public speaking)

Eugenia Copeland is a Garrison native with her masters in music performance from Mannes Conservatory. She has been teaching private voice lessons since 2016. She specializes in teaching the holistic voice encompassing both classical and modern voice techniques.

30 minute lessons (\$45) | 45 minute lessons (\$65) | 60 minute lessons (\$85)

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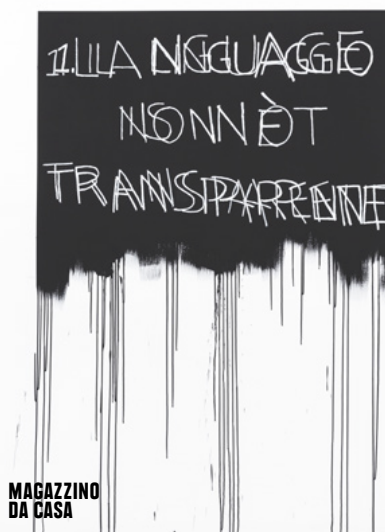
OR VISIT  
EugeniaCopelandVoice.com

## RESONANCE AND REVELATION: MY ITALIAN DAYS

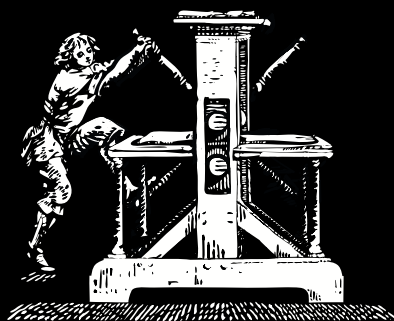
Mel Bochner in conversation with Tenley Bick on Bochner Boetti Fontana

Book launch of  
*Language Is Not Transparent (Babble)*  
Noire d'ore, 2020

Friday, January 29, 2021, 12:00 p.m.  
www.magazzino.art/magazzinodacasa/  
resonance-and-revelation-my-italian-days



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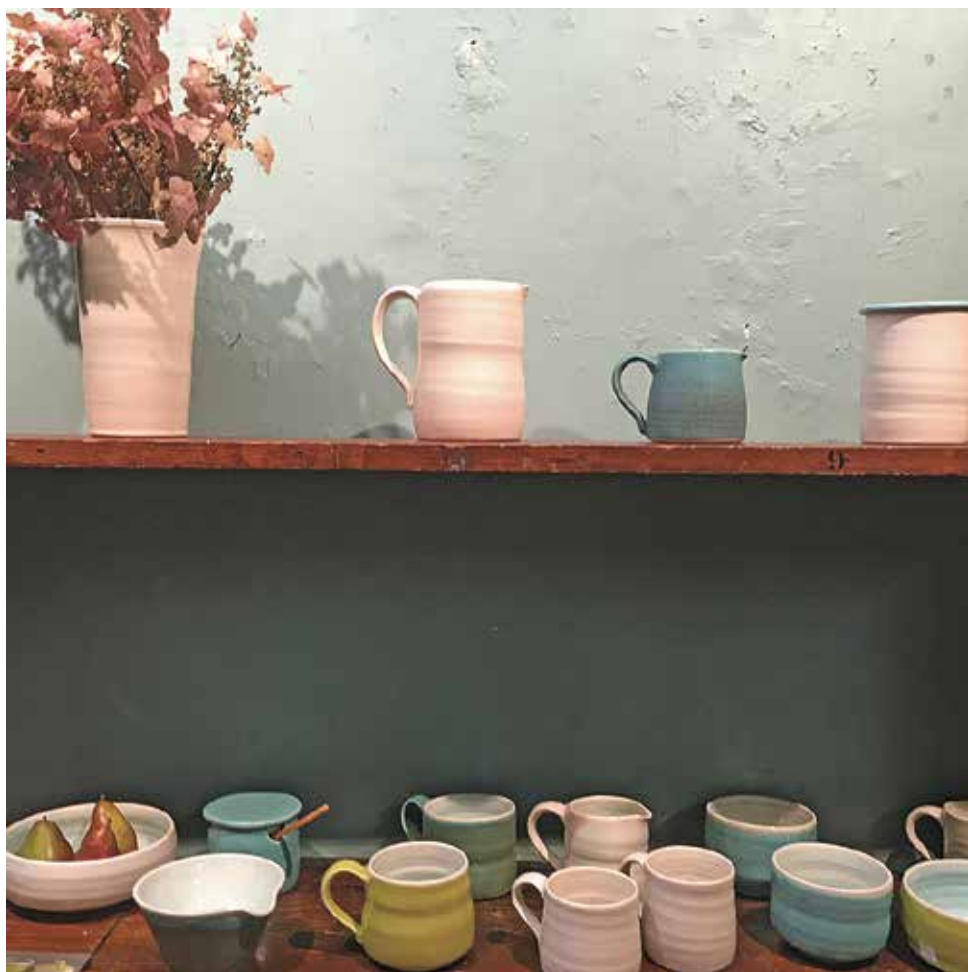
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# The Calendar



Virginia Piazza's ceramic tableware, here and below

Photos provided



Virginia Piazza, at the wheel

Photo by Gary Larson

By Alison Rooney

## The Artist Next Door

# Virginia Piazza

When she first became a potter, Virginia Piazza recalls, “there were a lot more of what I’d describe as ‘drippy blue glazes.’ Now, there’s more subtlety; I see a lot of young potters using gray and white and neutral palettes. There’s also a lot of narrative, in terms of pottery with illustration on it — maybe that’s due to graphic novels.

“When I was learning you didn’t see that at all, but you do see that in museums, with pieces from antiquity, so maybe things go in circle,” says the Beacon resident, whose tableware and vases grace many a Hudson Valley table.

“I’ve done some carving, dots, dashes; every now and then I think about doing more, but mainly geometric brushwork. I draw well and I guess I should use that skill, but aside from flower forms, leaves, I keep things simple.

“Every potter has their own touch, partly intentional. My work isn’t super-heavy nor super-slim. It’s meant to live a life. I want people to touch my pottery.”

Piazza is a graduate of the Kansas City Art Institute, where she earned a bachelor of fine arts. “I chose the school partly because it was focused on form and func-

tion,” she recalls. “That was kind of rare. Usually in our culture usable objects become less valued, unlike in places like Japan.”

The Brooklyn native didn’t start out as an artist. She studied liberal arts, editing books, and worked in retail. But she decided to make a change and “pursue something I was passionate about.” She had taken drawing and printmaking classes but found herself beguiled by clay during classes at Greenwich House Pottery in New York City.

“Clay has a kind of magical aspect to it,” she explains. “Some people struggle with it, but come back, trying, failing, finally succeeding.”

Piazza described her initial efforts as “rustic, in brown and dark colors. I explored raku and wood firing, which my art school encouraged. Then I saw the work of modernist artists: Eva Zeisel and Russel Wright,” whose workshop and home is preserved at Manitoga in Garrison.

After graduating in Kansas City, Piazza returned to New York City, working in a few places as a studio helper. She landed a job

as the resident artist at the Clay Arts Center in Port Chester and trained people to mix glazes. She also was given a small studio at the center and began selling her work.

Piazza later spent 15 years at the Craft Students League, in Manhattan, which has since closed. She rented studio space in Brooklyn and expanded her retail to include urban crafts fairs.

She began to experiment with glazes, although she says she has always been more interested in form, “so I want glazes that aren’t going to shout, overwhelm the form; I also need them to be nontoxic. There are glazes that have a surface interest, and those are not what I use, and bright colors aren’t my thing.”

In each locale, the type of kiln — a word she pronounces in its original, Dutch form, as *kil* — determined how the pottery looked. “The gas-fired kiln made my surfaces earthier, with bits of color as accents,” she explains. “Working with an electric kiln, as I do now, is more — well, the kiln does what it does. It’s difficult to get a gas kiln installed in a

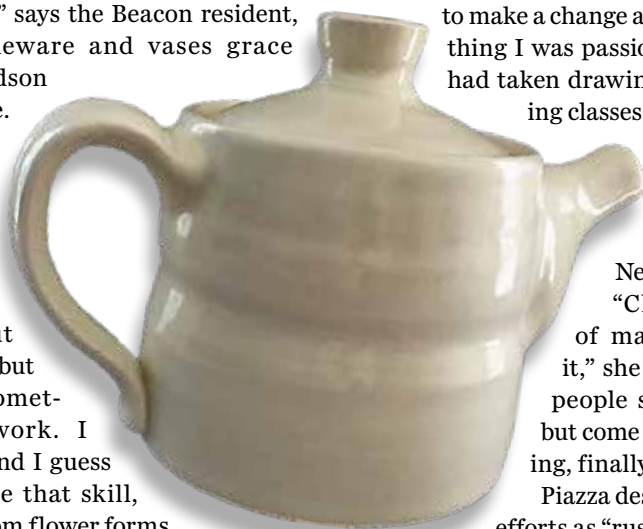
non-industrial area, and costly.”

The set up for wood kilns is also tricky, Piazza says, “You have to feed wood into it 24 hours ahead, which means it’s usually run by a group sharing the work, because people need to sleep. There are people who have wood or gas kilns and they rent out space.”

She moved to Beacon in 1999. In Brooklyn, she was renting an apartment, a studio and a storage space. “It was too much,” she says. “Here, we bought a little house and my studio is in an enclosed porch, with storage space in the basement.”

After the move, Piazza introduced her work through craft fairs, such as those at the Garrison Art Center, and local galleries and stores such as Riverwinds; Clay, Wood & Cotton; and ReMade, all since closed, as well as pop-ups. She also set up shop at the Beacon and Cold Spring farmers markets.

That has been curtailed by the pandemic but Piazza says she has been doing well selling online, such as on Etsy ([etsy.com/ceruleanblue](https://etsy.com/ceruleanblue)), especially with people who already own her pieces. Missing the connection with her customers and other artists, Piazza agreed to organize the Howland Cultural Center’s most recent holiday show. “It was fun to get out on the weekends and connect with people,” she says. “That’s gone right now, so it was good.”





# THE WEEK AHEAD

Edited by Pamela Doan (calendar@highlandscurrent.org)

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

## TALKS

MON 1

### History of Gospel Music in the Hudson Valley

POUGHKEEPSIE

7 p.m. Via Zoom

845-454-3222 | artsmidhudson.org

Ciesta Little-Quinn of the Department of Black Studies at SUNY New Paltz will share the history of gospel music in the Hudson Valley, including artists such as Marva Clark, Gretchen Reed, Toni Graham and Mahalia Jackson. Registration required.



Jackson

TUES 2

### DIY: Build Your Own Website

COLD SPRING

7 p.m. Butterfield Library

845-265-3040 | butterfieldlibrary.org

Register for this three-part workshop via Zoom with library Director Gillian Murphy.

WED 3

### Valentine's Greetings

BEACON

1 p.m. Howland Public Library

845-831-1134 | beaconlibrary.org

Kevin Woyce will discuss the romantic history of the holiday, accompanied by live music. Email adults@beaconlibrary.org to register.

## ANIMALS & NATURE

SAT 30

### Hudson River EagleFest

GARRISON

9 a.m. – 2 p.m. Boscobel

1601 Route 9D, Garrison

845-265-3638 | boscobel.org

Register for two-hour slots to view eagles from the grounds overlooking the Hudson River and Constitution Marsh as part of the annual event organized by the Teatown Lake Reservation. Staff members from the Constitution Marsh Audubon Center and Putnam Highlands Audubon Society volunteers will be on hand to assist. Also SAT 6. Cost: \$12 (\$10 seniors, \$6 ages 5 to 18, free for children under 5)

SAT 30

### 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 owl ambassador and take a nighttime hike to call for the birds. Registration required. Cost: \$15 (\$10 members)

## KIDS & FAMILY

MON 1

### Kindergarten Orientation

COLD SPRING

7 p.m. Haldane School

845-265-9254 ext. 122

haldaneschool.org

Sign up at the school website for the Zoom presentation. Kindergarten registration will be Feb. 8 to 12 for students who will be 5 years old by Dec. 31.

TUES 2

### New Parents Support Group

GARRISON

11 a.m. Via Zoom

845-424-3020 | desmondfishlibrary.org

This free group, which meets every Tuesday, has been ongoing since 2014. It is facilitated by a postpartum doula, a clinical psychologist and a Putnam County health nurse. For more information, email whiteside.ks@gmail.com.



SAT 6

### What Do You See When You Listen?

BEACON

4 p.m. Compass Arts | compassarts.org

Students in grades 1 to 5 will make art while listening to music and learning about the visual representation of sound. Cost: Sliding scale

## MUSIC

SUN 31

### Mexodus

POUGHKEEPSIE

7 p.m. Via Instagram

music.vassar.edu/concerts

As part of the annual Vassar Modfest, Brian Quijada and Nygel Robinson will record the seventh track of their musical, which is

inspired by the 4,000 to 10,000 enslaved people in the southern U.S. who traveled to Mexico instead of looking north.

SAT 6

### Attacca Quartet

POUGHKEEPSIE

7 p.m. Vassar

music.vassar.edu/concerts/webcast

In this livestream from the Bardavon, the Grammy Award-winning group will perform *Three Song Suite* by Flying Lotus, *String Quartet No. 3* by Chris Rogerson, and *Three Essays* by Caroline Shaw. After the concert, the group will talk about their work amid the pandemic.

SAT 6

### Jeremy Schonfeld

BEACON

8 p.m. Howland Cultural Center

845-831-4988

howlandculturalcenter.org

With Will Bryant, Schonfeld will perform *Anthem: Songs of Life (and Death) in America* in a livestream from the Howland. Cost: \$15

## VISUAL ART

SAT 6

### In Our Lifetime

BEACON

1 – 5 p.m. Howland Cultural Center

477 Main St. | howlandculturalcenter.org

The works of 17 Black artists from the Hudson Valley will be on view to celebrate African American history. Through Feb. 28.

## LITERARY

WED 3

### Reading with Writers

COLD SPRING

7 p.m. Split Rock

845-265-2080 | splitrockbks.com

The group will discuss *Three Simple Lines: A Writer's Pilgrimage into the Heart and Homeland of Haiku*, by Natalie Goldberg.

THURS 4

### History Book Club

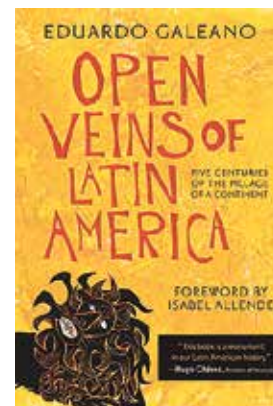
COLD SPRING

7 p.m. Split Rock

845-265-2080 | splitrockbks.com

Join a discussion of *The Open Veins of Latin America: Five*

*Centuries of the Pillage of a Continent*, a 1971 book by Eduardo Galeano. Hugo Chávez, Venezuela's populist president, gave it to President Barack Obama the first time they met but Galeano later disavowed his own work.



## CIVIC

MON 1

### City Council

BEACON

7 p.m. Via Zoom

845-838-5011 | cityofbeacon.org

TUES 2

### Board of Trustees

COLD SPRING

6:30 p.m. Via Zoom

845-265-3611 | coldspringny.gov

TUES 2

### School Board

COLD SPRING

7 p.m. Via Zoom

845-265-9254 | haldaneschool.org

TUES 2

### Putnam Legislature

CARMEL

7 p.m. Via audiocast

845-208-7800 | putnamcountyny.com

WED 3

### School Board

GARRISON

7 p.m. Garrison School

845-424-3689 | gufs.org

THURS 4

### Town Board

PHILIPSTOWN

7:30 p.m. Via Zoom

845-265-5200 | philipstown.com

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Some customers call this soap the “crown of thorns” – tough but effective, the couple says.

# A CLEAN BREAK

*New to Beacon, couple opens soap shop*

By Alison Rooney

The Nourish Natural Soap Co., which until today (Jan. 29) only existed online, now has a storefront at 263 Main St. in Beacon where its products can be seen, and smelled, firsthand.

Sage Papanicolaou, who owns the shop with her husband, John, said she knew little about soap for most of her life. But she did know that taking a steam-filled shower or bath soothed her mentally and physically, and that soothing was nearly always in short supply. Sales have been brisk during the pandemic.

Three years ago, Sage and John — who were married last summer — “had a lot of stressful things going on,” she recalls. “I started looking for a hobby for all my nervous energy. We love

soap, but we couldn’t find anything that wasn’t overly sticky, and not much in the scents we liked. I found a book about weighing out the oils, and that led to me starting to try recipes and blending in ingredients which added benefits while also having memorable and sometimes exotic scents.”

Sage had to develop a few skills for soap-making. “I’m not super-crafty and I’m a bad baker,” she says. Still, she found production to be “cathartic and creative.” John became intrigued with exfoliants and creating scents.

“Most of our soaps have olive, coconut or palm oil as a base,” Sage says. “The lye and the oil are clear when they come together and take on a pudding-like consistency. At that point, we add the formulation of combi-



John and Sage Papanicolaou

Photos provided

nations. For example, we might combine lime, essential oils and strawberry seeds.”

Their online store has about 15 soaps and scrubs, along with hand sanitizers, bath bombs and shower steamers, which John calls his favorite product. “The essential oils mix with the steam, which opens up the airways,” he says. “Sage always knows when I’m using one, because my showers take 20 minutes longer.”

After their initial experiments with making soap in 2017, the couple began giving their homemade products to friends and family. “People loved it and gave it to other people, so I made a website in a day” to process orders, Sage recalls. (It helped that she has a marketing background; John works in finance.) “Introducing a lot of people to natural soaps was an eye-opening experience. All they had been exposed to were commercial products like Dove.”

Soon strangers began placing orders. “I always envisioned it would be my fulltime job,” Sage says. “It began at night and week-

ends, a side job, but at some point it got big enough to support itself.”

The storefront was “as unplanned as unplanned can be,” Sage says. They spotted a sign in the window, and the rent fit their budget. “The great thing about having the shop is that it will enable us to have dialogues [with customers] and not just provide instant answers.”

Initially, the couple made all the soap at their home, which was then in New Jersey. But during a visit to a friend in Beacon, John realized it might be the better place for them, and they made the move 18 months ago. They plan to move production to the store while allowing customers to watch the process through a glass partition.

*Nourish is open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Sunday and from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Saturday. See [nourishnaturalsoap.com](http://nourishnaturalsoap.com) or call 845-440-3992.*



Unusual ingredients are a hallmark of Nourish soap products.

## NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a public hearing will be held by the Zoning Board of Appeals of the Town of Philipstown on Monday, February 8th, 2021 at 7:30 P.M. Via Zoom.

**Chris Flagg & Heidi Snyder, 699 Old Albany Post Road, Garrison  
TM# 61-3-6 | Appeal #934**

(The applicant is seeking a variance to allow proposed addition to a non-conforming structure (Due to pre-existing front yard setback) on a non-conforming undersized lot (4.879 acres in lieu of 10 acres)

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

Dated January 11th, 2021 | Robert Dee, Chairman of the Town of Philipstown Zoning Board of Appeals





Dan Needham at the Masonic Lodge in Nelsonville



Needham inside the Masonic lodge

Photos by M. Turton

# Demystifying the Masons

*Philipstown lodge strives to make good men into better men*

By Michael Turton

Despite being chartered in 1851, the Masonic Lodge 236, just a block off Main Street in Nelsonville, may be the least understood organization in Putnam County.

Cold Spring resident Dan Needham, the “master,” or head, of the lodge, wants to change that.

“When I became master in 2019, it was upsetting to realize some people didn’t even know there was a lodge in Philipstown,” he said. “We need to be more visible; our mission is to make people’s lives better here.”

Needham’s own experience with the Masons led him to join Lodge 236.

His daughter suffered from hip dysplasia, but when he left the U.S. Air Force, he no longer had medical benefits to cover the high cost of treatment.

“A Mason said he could help,” Needham recalled. “My daughter was able to continue treatment at the Shriner’s Hospital in Springfield, Massachusetts, at no cost to me.”

The Shriners, an extension of the Masons, operate 22 nonprofit children’s hospitals across the country, offering free medical treatment to the uninsured.

“I joined the Masons seven years ago,” Needham said. “I wanted to give something back.”

Needham wants to increase awareness of the Masons’ work, although historically, the organization has kept very much to itself, causing many to view it as a secret society.

“We’re not a secret organization,” Needham said, “but we are an organization with secrets.”

Those “secrets” center on historic rituals, some of which are said to date to the building of King Solomon’s Temple in 957 B.C.

“We keep these rituals close to our vest,” Needham said, though he said most, including the “secret” handshake, can now be found on YouTube.

Founded in England in 1717, the Masons, or Freemasons, are the oldest fraternal organization in the world, beginning as a guild of master stonecutters.

Lodge 236 has quietly contributed financially to a number of local organizations, Needham said, including the Philipstown Garden Club, the Constitution Marsh Audubon Center and Sanctuary and the Nelson-

ville Fish and Fur Club’s annual children’s fishing derby.

“We’ve also helped out local people facing hardship,” Needham said. “When a Mason knows of someone who is going through financial difficulties, we have a fund that can assist them.”

The Philipstown Food Pantry declined a donation from the Masons and instead asked for help transporting food from the regional bank. So each Friday, three or four Masons bring loads from Cornwall to Cold Spring.

The lodge doesn’t fundraise. Instead, each member pays dues and contributes to projects and to a fund that supports other chapters. The lodge also rents out two apartments above the lodge.

To become a Mason, a candidate must be approved by the membership. (For information, email Needham at MasterP236@gmail.com.) A background check includes a visit to the candidate’s home to ensure the family is supportive of him becoming a Mason.

New members work up through apprentice and fellowcraft levels that involve symbolic induction rituals. Before becoming an apprentice, a candidate goes through an initiation while blindfolded.

“Symbolically they are in a state of darkness,” Needham explained. “Masonry is about moving from darkness to light, symbolic of enlightenment, becoming a better man, being aware of what you can do to become a better person. We take good men and make them better men.”

The final stage is “the third degree,” or master, which comes from the Mason ritual of quizzing a fellowcraft member on Mason history. It can take up to 18 months for an apprentice to advance to the third degree, Needham said.

The Nelsonville lodge has just over 50 third-degree members, most of whom live within 20 miles of the lodge, although members are not required to reside in Philipstown.

Needham’s desire to improve public awareness of the Masons may be due to the organization’s dwindling numbers. In the 1960s, there were more than 4 million Masons in the U.S., but that has since fallen by half. “People are not as commitment-oriented,” Needham said. “Volunteerism has fallen off.”

In Philipstown, he said, that is compounded



A Masonic icon forged at the West Point Foundry in the 19th century

by so many residents commuting to New York City, although he said the lodge welcomed two new members last week.

Because Masons pledge to keep their rituals to themselves, misconceptions about the organization abound. Masonry is not a religion, although applicants are required to acknowledge a higher power or creator, and an altar features prominently in many rituals.

Race, religion and politics have no bearing on who can become a Mason, Needham said, and the discussion of politics and religion is not permitted at meetings.

Another conspiracy theory holds that Masons are out to take over the world, although Needham pointed out with a laugh that “we have difficulty sometimes planning a summer barbecue. I don’t see how we are going to take over the world.”

Membership is limited to men, although some lodges have begun to admit women. There is also an organization for women within Masonry, called the Order of the Eastern Star, although there is no longer a local chapter.

Movies such as *National Treasure* and bestsellers such as Dan Brown’s *The DaVinci Code* have drawn attention to the Masons, Needham noted, which may have been beneficial to the organization. “People like things that have a bit of secrecy to them,” he said.

Noteworthy members have included 13 U.S. presidents, Davey Crockett, Harry Houdini, Col. Harland Sanders, Irving Berlin, Buzz Aldrin, Oscar Wilde, Winston Churchill, Mark Twain and Cy Young.

Masons are not supposed to divulge the names of their colleagues, past or present. However, among a large collection of artifacts at Lodge 236 is a thick book containing the signature of every Philipstown member since 1851.

## NOTICE

### 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.





BIRD  
Country

Members of the Putnam Highlands Audubon Society visited the Shawangunk Grasslands National Wildlife Refuge in Ulster County on Jan. 16. The most visible birds were Northern harriers, a hawk that hunts mice and voles and whose head resembles that of an owl.

Photos by Ross Corsair





# Looking Back in Philipstown

By Chip Rowe

## 150 Years Ago (January 1871)

A Hudson River Railroad conductor kicked off four intoxicated men at Cold Spring from the late-night Saturday train from New York City to Poughkeepsie. According to a report in *The Cold Spring Recorder*, one of the four claimed to have lost his ticket, which prompted an argument. When the conductor attempted to remove the man at the Cold Spring stop, his friends tried to intervene. The next week, the men, who alleged someone had fired a gun at them as they disembarked, sued the railroad.

The little Larkin boy died from burns he suffered when his clothes caught fire at his home on Furnace Hill. Mrs. Larkin had left briefly to fetch a pail of water when the boy ran from the house, screaming. A neighbor extinguished the flames.

A roofer was seriously injured when he fell 40 feet from the new Methodist Church and hit the frozen ground.

Main Street lost two businesses when the clothing store of Frank Levy and the shoe store owned by W.A. Strong each closed.

George Butler, a student at the Foundry School [now the Putnam History Museum], suffered head injuries when he fell down the steep bank just above the foundry barn.

A cold snap brought the mercury to zero, allowing the safe crossing on the ice of the river to West Point by horse and loaded sleigh.

Henry Baxter, an employee of druggist Charles Boyd, injured both eyes with tincture of aconite. [The patent medicine, applied with a compress, was said to cure a sty or other abscess.]

In an advertisement, Boyd noted that along with patent medicines, he stocked envelopes, pens, ink, brushes, perfumes, combs, cutlery, coffee, tea, spices and California wines sold “for medicinal purposes only.”

A group of boys ages 6 to 10 were running on broken pieces of ice in the slip opposite the Pacific Hotel when one, Irving McCoy, fell into the water. A classmate, Joseph Maher, attempted to rescue him but also fell in. He managed to climb back on the ice. A third boy, Alexander Trimble, organized a chain with the clenched hands of the other boys to pull out McCoy, who cried out, “I want to get dry!” Railroad employees who found the freezing boys without pants or boots in the freight house took them to the station to thaw.

Capt. Richard Meade of the U.S. Navy presented the first lecture to raise money for the new village reading room. He spoke about Alaska, where he spent many months in 1868 in command of the steamer Saginaw charting the coast. [Later in 1871 Meade began a two-year command of

the Narragansett in the South Pacific. He finished his career in 1895 as commander of the North Atlantic Squadron.]

James Myers issued a challenge of “an impartial trial” to other sewing-machine agents whom he said were disparaging his Davis model. The agent for Singer’s Improved Family Sewing Machine accepted, with the loser paying the cost of renting Town Hall for the sew-off.

R. Wilson advertised that he was selling oysters by the quart at his saloon two doors above Fair Street.

## 125 Years Ago (January 1896)

On Jan. 22, at the suggestion of a local banker, 19 businessmen met to form a fire brigade, the Cold Spring Hose Co., No. 1. Its first piece of equipment was a hose cart pulled by members that was stored in the rear of J.G. Southard’s office on the corner of Garden and Main streets.

A band called The Beverages provided music at the Putnam County conference of the state prohibition committee.

## 100 Years Ago (January 1921)

Because of the new state income tax law, the assessment of personal property in Philipstown dropped from \$350,000 in 1920 to zero in 1921.

L.K. Palen and Jacob Glick reported that, during their canvass of local businesses, 35 men pledged to pay 50 cents per week to hire a second police officer. A week later, the Village Board appointed George Hill, a World War I veteran, for \$18 per week.

At the same meeting, a trustee moved that Hill be instructed to enforce a ban on target shooting in the village with rifles, shotguns or pistols. The trustees also changed the regular police officer’s hours to 6 p.m. to 6 a.m.

Rep. Hamilton Fish Jr. telegraphed the editor of *The Recorder* to report that the construction of a road between Beacon and Cold Spring had been placed on the state schedule. “A good state highway along the river has been the dream of residents of Cold Spring for years,” noted Publisher Otis Montrose.

Edward Groves, a lifelong Garrison resident, died at age

50. He was the telegraph operator in the tower near the Garrison station and a charter member of the Loretto Council of the Knights of Columbus.

Members of the Odd Fellows lodge in Beacon were compelled to cook a chicken dinner for members of the Philipstown lodge after losing a best-of-seven euchre tournament.

The Rev. E. Floyd-Jones of St. Mary’s Episcopal Church officiated at the funeral of a close friend, John Campbell Clark, president of Charles & Co. grocers, at Trinity



Capt. Richard Meade, shown here about 1862, spoke in 1871 in Cold Spring about commanding a steamer in Alaska.

Church in New York City.

The owners of the Pilson property next to the railroad tracks in Depot Square had the rear portion of the house torn down, including the chimney.

Regents examinations were scheduled at the Haldane School for algebra, geometry, shorthand, English, arithmetic, Spanish, spelling, Latin, bookkeeping, biology, geography, mechanical drawing, U.S. history, British and Irish history, economics, business, chemistry, chorus singing and ancient history.

The Cold Spring Textile Works was ready for operation except for the arrival of the boiler and the completion of the 85-foot smoke stack.

The proprietor of Schlessel’s Dress Factory said he had turned down two contracts because of a lack of operators.

The Kings Heralds and Little Light Bearers [a Methodist Church children’s group] held their weekly meeting with Mrs. Cooley.

Eugene Travis, the state comptroller, was among those indicted on charges of paying a bond broker \$230,650 more than necessary. *The Recorder* noted that Travis, a few years earlier, had conducted an audit of the Cold Spring finances and criticized the board for not recording a \$2 charge for special police duty and a \$5 charge for a wreath of flowers purchased in memory of Julia Butterfield. [The charges against Travis were later dismissed.]

Le Grand Ketcham Wilson, 87, who had been an elder at the Presbyterian Church in Cold Spring for 53 years and supervised its Sunday School for 21 years, died in Florida.

Carlotta Maury presented St. Mary’s Church with a silver Communion service owned by her father, who served as its rector in 1865.

The Knights of Columbus held a movie night to screen films about the activities of the National Catholic War Committee. It also added a pool table to the remodeled second floor of its building.

James Mead, a Civil War veteran who lived on Albany Post Road in Garrison with

Mrs. Eli Smalley, died at age 82.

*The Recorder* reported that the New York Central Railroad planned to electrify the railroad from Harmon to Poughkeepsie and also straighten the curve at Garrison and remove the tunnel.

The Village Board voted to have signs made offering a \$10 reward for the arrest and conviction of whomever was destroying the street lights.

The board voted to have the village president confer with the foreman of the Cold Spring Fire Co. “with regard to improvement of the fire service.”

The dramatic company from St. Luke’s Episcopal Church in Beacon performed *The Adventures of Grandpa* at the St. Mary’s parish house.

Fire destroyed William Church Osborn’s garage and electric-light building, as well as a Chalmers car belonging to Frederick Osborn. Neighbors fighting the fire were hampered by the cold and lack of water pressure.

## 75 Years Ago (January 1946)

State troopers raided the former pickle factory at 1 Market St. at 4 p.m. on a Sunday afternoon and arrested 17 men on charges of running an illegal craps game. They also seized a table, lighting fixtures and \$800 in cash that was deposited in the village poor fund. Two of the accused were charged with being common gamblers (including a Beacon man whom the judge told to “stay out of Cold Spring”) and the 15 others with disorderly conduct.

The Cold Spring Fire Co. No. 1 celebrated its 50th anniversary. The Rev. E. Floyd-Jones was the only surviving charter member.

James Bailey, newly elected as a state Supreme Court justice, sold his interest in Bailey & Haar at 37 Main St. to his partner, Adrian Haar, who changed the name to the Haar Agency.

John Donohue, the Putnam County district attorney and a lifelong Garrison resident, was appointed by Gov. Thomas Dewey as a Putnam County judge.

## 50 Years Ago (January 1971)

Mayor Anthony Mazzuca of Nelsonville said the New York Trap Rock Corp. had agreed to donate four acres of land to the village for a park.

A Frenchman, Michael Tregoire, 27, who worked as a chef at the Garrison Inn, was struck and killed by a train while hunting.

The Cold Spring Fire Co. No. 1 celebrated its 75th anniversary with a dinner and dance at Dutchess Manor.

Spc. 4 Donald Dahlia, of Church Street, arrived home after being discharged from the U.S. Army following 13 months of service in Vietnam.

Fred H.M. Dunseith celebrated his 91st birthday. Born in Nelsonville in 1880, he attended the Foundry School. As a young man he moved to Scranton, Pennsylvania, where he taught school for 40 years. He was the author of a local history called *Story of Main Street from Dock to Mollysville*.

The three winners of the storefront Christmas display competition were  
(Continued on Page 17)





(Continued from Page 16)

announced: Sam Sunday's Barber Shop, Peter Fredericks' Antique Shop and Ronald McConville's Cold Spring Paint & Hardware.

The Rev. James McCarthy, a pastor from Hopewell Junction, spoke at Graymoor in Garrison about the sexual revolution. "The older attitude that sexuality is an unfortunate element in human nature that no one talks or thinks about has had some unfortunate results," he said.

A groundbreaking was held for the new sewage treatment plant on Fair Street.

Father Boniface Goldhausen, 90, the oldest Capuchin priest in the U.S., died at Graymoor.

## 25 Years Ago (January 1996)

After swearing-in ceremonies, the Philipstown Town Board consisted entirely of Democrats for the first time.

Leslie and Brian Heanue welcomed a 7.5-pound baby girl, Samantha, in the middle of a blizzard. When the ambulance couldn't get up their driveway on Indian Brook Road in Garrison, the couple trudged through 2 feet of snow to the street.

A storm that brought 2.5 inches of rain, combined with the melting snow, caused heavy damage to East Mountain Road North in Philipstown and Healy Road in Nelsonville.

Gov. George Pataki announced that New York State had launched a homepage on the World Wide Web.

The Cold Spring Fire Co., No. 1 celebrated its 100th anniversary. It had 145 members (down from a peak of 250 in the late 1960s), including 18 with at least 50 years of service. Dominick Diritto was in his 71st year of membership, the longest tenure in company history.

Hudson House owner Gary Pease hired newlyweds Joseph and Kathleen Klingelsmith as innkeepers. Joseph had been executive chef of the Polynesian Hotel at Disney World and Kathleen, a native of Rockland County, worked at the Orlando park in guest services.

A fire that destroyed an apartment building at 257 Main St. left four Nelsonville families homeless.

A Garrison woman, Evelyn Mackey, was killed in a head-on collision on Route 9 near the Bird & Bottle Restaurant in Garrison. The driver of the other vehicle, Charles Mackay, of Wappingers Falls, was critically injured.

In another Route 9 crash near the Barnside Deli, the driver of a Ford Explorer was killed after he collided with a Leprechaun tour bus.

Jeff Bell of Cold Spring won a \$4 million Lotto jackpot with a quick-pick ticket he purchased at ShopRite in Fishkill. Jeff was the program director for The Children's Village in Westchester County and his wife, Pat, worked in human resources at Hudson Valley Hospital. The couple elected to receive 21 annual payments of \$190,400, before taxes.

## Village Code (from Page 1)

before making recommendations for changes. The board is now methodically going through the 46 chapters itself to decide which recommendations to adopt.

A number of deadlines loom, and the end is in sight, although perhaps only with binoculars. The board has completed 19 chapters and another 20 require only changes in punctuation and grammar.

But the other six chapters are significant, covering topics such as construction, fences, vehicles, traffic and zoning. In addition, there is a new chapter on short-term rentals that was completed in draft form on Tuesday (Jan. 26) and sent to the village attorney.

Short-term rentals, which have proliferated in the village because of online booking sites such as Airbnb, have been the topic of much discussion, including at a standing-room-only public meeting in September 2019.

Once the village attorney completes his review, another public hearing will be scheduled to gather feedback on the new chapter. It is bound to attract another crowd. Under the draft, a maximum of 38 short-term rentals will be permitted in the village — up to two per street. Permits will be granted by lottery and will initially be valid for one year.

The draft of the entire updated code must be submitted to the New York State Energy Research and Development



A view of Cold Spring, looking east

Photo by Michael Bowman

Authority for approval by June 30, and then several public hearings must be held by the end of September.

Following the hearings, the board will consider the public feedback before deciding on any additional changes. The final draft and maps must be submitted to the state by the end of the year, along with an environmental quality review.

The New York Department of State will then review the proposed code, which would be adopted by the Village Board into law by March 31, 2022 — eight years after the volunteer committee met for the first time.

Marie Early, now the deputy mayor, was a member of that committee in 2014.

Asked if the arduous process was worth the effort, she said "the code was definitely in need of a thorough review. It is a massive effort, but I think in the long term, it will benefit residents and the village."

In addition to bringing local laws up to date, the revised code will make it possible for the village to complete its Local Waterfront Revitalization Plan, which would qualify Cold Spring for state and federal funding of village projects. It was put on hold in 2013, pending completion of the code update.

While termed a waterfront plan, the federally mandated plan would encompass almost the entire village, including all land west of Route 9D and the Hudson River to its midpoint.

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## Ruggiero (from Page 1)

had a lot of direction [during the pandemic] from the local and state departments of health and I had to implement the plans. I think there will be a lot of that, as well.

### You're going from the fastest-growing city in the county to what is now the highest-profile county department.

Yes. Beacon is a fast-paced little city with a lot happening and a lot of growth. So I'm going to walk into something similar. The health department has always had a lot going on and affects many aspects of our lives, but, with the pandemic, people are seeing what it can do. I don't see the pace changing, just the subject.

### What was it like a year ago in Beacon, when the city stayed open after the virus began to spread?

The mayor was adamant about not closing. We had the utmost concern for our residents and workforce, but at the same time, this was new to everybody, and we still had to operate the city. We still had to provide services. A lot of places shut down their city halls and other departments, but we were able to keep things going. I'm proud of that. There was at a time when we weren't sure what the right decision was, but when we started reopening, we realized we were that far ahead of everybody else. We were able to put protocols in place, to thin out our staff per the governor's executive orders, while still providing municipal services. We have a small workforce, and we were able to be nimble and put the protection and barriers in place in a short amount of time.

### Did anything prepare you for managing a city in a pandemic?

No. At the municipal level, there's training for snowstorms, hurricanes and other weather issues, but not for this level of disease.



Anthony Ruggiero at City Hall on Wednesday (Jan. 27) Photo by J. Simms

The mayor and I are both history buffs, and so we thought about the Spanish flu [in 1918]. As George Santayana wrote: "Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it." We had to use all our skills, and we had to be practical. What can you do? And how can you do it? I read a lot about the Spanish flu. There was social distancing then. There were masks. A lot of the stuff we were doing was already formulated.

### You were here for nearly six years. What else are you proud of?

I'm proud of building a great workforce. I'm proud of serving the community. We

focused on that and did a fabulous job, in my opinion. We worked hard on our water and our sewer systems to upgrade them with more than \$11 million in water and \$18 million in sewer projects. Both plants are no longer using software from the 1970s. We're rehabilitating our water pumps and found another well. We're also doing work on our dams. The Recreation Department has grown. We've done summer camp, we have the new walking trail over at Memorial Park, and we've upgraded the playgrounds and the basketball and tennis courts. I'm proud to have worked with the various councils, since the members change every couple of years.

### The development debate got the headlines in Beacon, but a lot was happening behind the scenes.

There was. We've upgraded all our streetlights to LED and we constructed a solar farm. We've been building sidewalks on the east end of Main Street, Blackburn Avenue, the new playground at Green Street. There's the electric charging stations. I understand the arguments that were being made [about development], but a lot of the good stuff we've done got lost.

### How would you describe the two mayors you worked with, Randy Casale and Lee Kyriacou?

They're both extremely passionate about the city. They were both wonderful to me. They're both great to work for, and they want the best for the city.

### What are you going to do on Monday nights instead of attending City Council meetings?

I'm not sure yet. The new job will be my first one without a Monday night meeting in probably 20 years. I mentioned to my daughters that I will be home on Monday nights and they asked if I could stay in Beacon!

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Puzzles

CROSS CURRENT

ACROSS

1. Atlas page

4. Act of faith?

8. TV's "Warrior Princess"

12. Oklahoma city

13. Operatic solo

14. Sick as —

15. Newscast opener

17. Cathedral area

18. Vittles

19. Half of a '60s group

20. Sad song

22. Begged

24. Early Peruvian

25. Taylor Swift's genre, say

29. R-V link

30. Beetle Bailey's boss

31. As well

32. Bargain for leniency

34. Felines

35. Fail to see

36. Island porch

37. Neptune's realm

40. Ride the waves

41. Actress Cameron

42. Cowboy Cassidy

46. Challenge

47. Matty of baseball

48. Old Olds

49. Auctioneer's cry

16. Long tale

19. Viral Web phenomenon

20. Platter

21. Division word

22. Sweat outlets

23. Women's links org.

25. Buddies

26. Silicon Valley school

27. Teeny bit

28. Mozart's "— fan tutte"

30. Whirl

33. Stunned

34. Sagan or Sandburg

36. Waikiki wingdings

37. Probability

38. Pisa farewell

39. British noble

40. Espy

42. Deli meat

43. Flamenco cheer

44. Born abroad?

45. Sailor

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7 LITTLE WORDS

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

CLUES

1 focus for Whole Foods (8)

2 Detroit resident (11)

3 like a stereotypical owl (4)

4 downtown street, usually (4)

5 tormenting (6)

6 Freeman & Damon rugby flick (8)

7 retailer's display (8)

SOLUTIONS

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SUDO CURRENT

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

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Answers for Jan. 22 Puzzles

P	O	E	M		T	I	C		J	E	A	N
A	N	T	I		O	R	O		E	R	N	E
R	E	A	M		M	A	N		E	A	S	T
A	S	L	O	P	E		S	U	P	S		
			S	A	I	L	O	R	S	U	I	T
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E	R	S	T		C	R	U		T	I	T	O
T	A	T	S		E	A	T		S	E	A	S

1. DENOUNCE, 2. CRISES, 3. SOPRANOS, 4. SHAKERS, 5. SWIMMING, 6. DRUMMER, 7. DISCARD



## SPORTS



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# ‘High-risk’ Sports Get OK to Proceed

*Basketball, wrestling to begin Feb. 1*

By Skip Pearlman

The roadblocks that have delayed high school winter sports deemed to be “high-risk” because of the COVID-19 pandemic fell like dominoes this week, opening the door for basketball and wrestling to begin at Haldane and Beacon on Monday (Feb. 1).

State officials early this week didn’t give their OK but instead left the decisions to school officials in each district. On Wednesday (Jan. 27), executives from the seven counties in the Hudson Valley issued a joint statement authorizing the sports to begin as of Feb. 1, followed by similar approval from athletic officials in Section 1, which includes schools in Dutchess and Putnam counties.

Low-risk sports such as track and swimming had already received approval. The new plan calls for contact sports such as boys’ and girls’ basketball, wrestling and ice hockey to begin Monday and continue through March 14. Fall sports that were postponed last year, including football and volleyball, would begin March 8 and run through April 25. Spring sports would begin April 19 and continue through June 3.

Both Haldane and Beacon field boys’ and girls’ basketball and indoor track teams, while Beacon has wrestling and Haldane



Haldane's Dan Santos in a game last season; winter sports have been given the OK to begin on Feb. 1.

File photo by S. Pearlman

hockey players compete on the Hendrick Hudson squad.

At Haldane, Eric Romanino, the interim athletic director, said the only remaining hurdle is approval from the Putnam County Department of Health, although he was optimistic that would happen.

“Our coaches and athletes are champing

at the bit, ready to go,” he said.

Romanino said schedules are being put together as quickly as possible, but that regional playoffs could be a challenge. (The state tournaments for fall and winter sports have already been canceled.)

“There are still a lot of moving parts, a lot of planning in a short amount of time,” he

said. “We’re trying to get the winter season into six weeks and the fall season into seven weeks. Playoffs in that short amount of time will be difficult for any sport, but we haven’t ruled anything out. Our focus now is to follow all the protocols and make it safe.”

Ryan McConville, who coaches the Haldane football team, said he was “absolutely happy and super-excited, and so are the other coaches and the athletes. We’re all working to get it off the ground for Feb. 1. The kids are happy to follow any protocols we need to follow if they can play.”

As in the fall, athletes and coaches will be required to wear masks during competition, indoor spectators will be prohibited and two spectators will be allowed per athlete for outdoor competition.

At Beacon, Athletic Director John Giametta called the decision to proceed with winter sports “all good news, and we’re ready to go, but everyone realizes there’s more to it. We need to process all the information. With wrestling, no one knows right now how that could look” because it involves much closer contact between athletes than other sports.

Giametta said that for many student-athletes, the approval to start the season is “the best news they’ve had since March. When you’re not able to do something you love — I can’t imagine. Sports helped mold me into the person I am. For a huge population of students, it’s a motivator, and as leaders we need to allow them the best possibility to enjoy this great experience.”

## Varsity Roundup

By Skip Pearlman

### Boys’ Swimming

The Beacon High School squad came up on the short end of a virtual “meet” with Mamaroneck and Ossining on Jan. 22 — in which teams swim at their home pools and enter their times online.

The Bulldogs fell to Ossining, 110-55, and to Mamaroneck, 104-64.

Senior James Patino, a team captain, won the 50- and 100-meter freestyle races, and Beacon’s 200- and 400-meter freestyle relay teams of Patino, Justin Piciacchio, Hunter Ingold and Lucas Vermeulen also won.

In addition, Piciacchio took second place in the 100- and 200-meter freestyle races, and Vermeulen was second in the 200-meter individual medley and the 100-meter fly.

“The team was motivated to improve on their first meet,” a loss to Arlington on Jan. 19, said Coach Larry Collins. “We had several personal bests. The team has been

coming along well.”

Beacon was scheduled to swim on Thursday (Jan. 28) against Wappingers, and to host Pelham on Monday (Feb. 1).

### Bowling

The Beacon girls’ and boys’ bowling teams each closed the week with 2-3 records.

In their most recent matches, on Wednesday (Jan. 27) against Arlington at Fishkill Bowl, the boys won, 5-2, and the girls swept, 7-0. Sophomore Gabby Foret rolled a 133 for the girls and junior Maura Lane had the high series.

“Both girls are figuring out how to connect on spares,” said Coach Brian Mahon.

Cadence Heeter has also shown improvement, he said. “Both Gabby and Cadence are figuring out things, like where to stand, where to put the ball, using the arrows,” he said. “They’re picking up quickly” despite being new to the team.

For the boys, junior Dan Gilleo, an All-League selection last season, had the high series. Will Hockler also had a good afternoon, Mahon said.



The Beacon boys’ swim team, shown here at a practice, finished behind Mamaroneck and Ossining last week in a virtual meet.

Photo by S. Pearlman

The boys picked up an earlier victory over Arlington, and the girls defeated Ketcham but dropped matches to Carmel, Mahopac and Arlington. The boys have had close

games against Carmel and “are just a few pins from being 3-2, rather than 2-3,” Mahon said.

Both teams are scheduled to face John Jay on Monday (Feb. 1) at Fishkill Bowl.