

# The HIGHLANDS Current

Guitar Art  
Page 13



MARCH 12, 2021

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## Newburgh Shop Owner Arrested in D.C. Riot

*Owner of tattoo parlor appears in federal court*

By Chip Rowe

The FBI arrested the owner of a Newburgh tattoo parlor on Saturday (March 6) in connection with the January riot at the U.S. Capitol.

Roberto Minuta, 36, who lives in Hackensack, New Jersey, and owns Casa Di Dolore at 784 Broadway in Newburgh, appeared in federal court in White Plains on Monday (March 8). According to the criminal complaint filed with the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia, he was charged with obstruction of an

*(Continued on Page 5)*



A man identified as Roberto Minuta, a Newburgh shop owner, is shown in a photo included in the criminal complaint.



**CALL TO ARMS** — Drug World of Cold Spring held a COVID-19 vaccination clinic on March 5 at the North Highlands Fire Co. in Philipstown for residents ages 65 and older after learning three days earlier it would receive 400 doses. The clinic was staffed by 16 nurses, including Kathy McGurty, shown here, and 40 other volunteers.

*Photo by Ross Corsair*

## COVID-19-20-21

*A year after the shutdown began, measures of grief and hope*

By Leonard Sparks

This weekend marks the anniversary of the Highlands shutting down. The COVID-19 pandemic brought

sickness and death — to cities, suburbs and rural areas; to Black and white and Latino, and rich and poor; and to nursing homes and retirement communities.

Businesses were forced to close, some never to reopen. As cases surged in March into April, millions lost jobs and health insurance and found themselves lining up for groceries at food pantries and facing eviction or foreclosure. A drop in cases beginning in May and lasting into October gave way to a surge in November, December and January.

There were moments when “it looked like we were starting to see daybreak and then we didn’t,” said Dutchess County Executive Marc Molinaro, who lost his father to COVID-19 on April 10. “Those little moments, I think, were just as devastating as any single low point, because just as our residents felt like things were getting normal again, we’re back engaged with them telling them we’ve got to do this a little bit longer.”

The pandemic also produced heroes:

*(Continued on Page 6)*

## Reopening, Part 2

*State loosens restrictions as vaccinations grow*

By Leonard Sparks

In the past seven months, Alyssa Follansbee and Johnny Coughlin have only seen half their dream come true.

Happy Valley, the arcade and bar they seeded at 296 Main St. in Beacon with their life savings and a collection of 1970s to 1990s vintage arcade games such as Centipede, Galaxian and Pac-Man, opened in August. But within a week, a representative

from the State Liquor Authority called to say it could not operate under the COVID-19 restrictions then in place.

The call came the same day three carloads of friends and their children drove from New York City to celebrate the couple’s new venture.

“I had to tell all these kids, who drove two hours, you cannot play any games,” Follansbee said. “We’ve just been a bar” since then.

That is why the couple responded with excitement to Gov. Andrew Cuomo’s announcement last month that family entertainment centers and places of amusement could open at 25 percent capacity as of March

*(Continued on Page 10)*

## Beacon Elementary Schools to Expand In-Person

*District planning for full return in fall*

By Jeff Simms

The Beacon City School District will expand in-person instruction from two to four days per week at its four elementary schools next month in anticipation of a full return for the 2021-22 school year.

An all-remote option will still be avail-

able for the remainder of the school year in response to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. The district said it will follow state health guidelines, expected to be released over the summer, on remote learning for the fall.

Children enrolled in the two-day hybrid program will move to four days; students learning all-remotely will continue to do so. However, parents and guardians were given the option this week to switch from

*(Continued on Page 10)*



# 5Q FIVE QUESTIONS: **ANDREW O'GRADY**

By Jeff Simms

**A**ndrew O'Grady is the chief executive officer of Mental Health America of Dutchess County, which last month signed a one-year contract with the City of Beacon to provide a case manager to work with the Police Department.

## What is the case manager's job description?

We're going to hire someone who has at least five — and likely many more — years of experience as a community-based behavioral health care manager. That's somebody who goes into homes on a regular basis, has experience dealing with mental-health and addiction issues and feels comfortable with that scenario. He or she will have contacts for referrals to local services that someone might need.

## The case manager isn't meant to replace a police officer, correct?

Correct. There's been a lot of talk nationwide, especially with the unfortunate phrase "defund the police," that's created a pro-police versus anti-police atmosphere. One fear is that a social worker is going to come take the job of an officer. That's not what this is about. This is about adding



another tool. If you look back 15 or 20 years, psychiatric hospitals and community residences started to downsize. We supposedly built up this "community-based" treatment modality instead, but that has failed. I wish we could rebuild those services, but it's not happening, and the police are getting the brunt of everything. This is a way for us to put somebody in there who can speed up the process and follow up with people.

## Mental Health America filled a similar position with the Poughkeepsie Police Department. How has that gone?

We started in October, and it's been extremely well-received by the department and the community. The officers are thrilled that they don't have to deal with situations that aren't directly related to the job of protecting and serving.

## How will you measure success?

We track certain data such as how many contacts the manager has or how many referrals are made to food pantries or treatment centers. We want to be able to show on paper that this is a positive experiment.

## The manager will work weekdays. What about after-hours incidents?

The person will have a desk at the police station and will reach out if anything happens after-hours to make referrals. In the morning, he or she will address any notes left by officers the night before. The good thing about this project is that many of the service providers people need already work with Mental Health America. We are hearing from the officers in Poughkeepsie that they wish they had a case manager available on weekends.

# ON THE SPOT

By Michael Turton

If you could watch just one movie over again, what would it be?

**"Moulin Rouge. I like the way it was directed, its use of current music."**



~Mia F., Beacon

**"It's a Wonderful Life. Its message is in the title."**



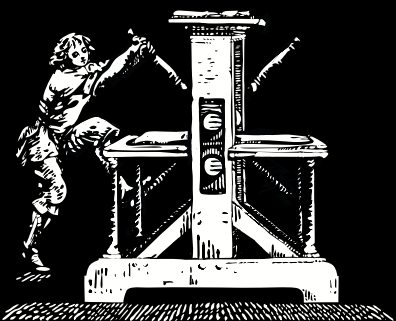
~Bradley Dillon, Cold Spring

**"All the Harry Potter movies. I like the storyline, how she developed a whole society."**



~Lea S., Beacon

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# Cold Spring Releases Police Review Draft

*Board members spar over what to include*

By Michael Turton

The Cold Spring Village Board adopted at its Tuesday (March 9) meeting a draft plan for a review of the police department.

The seven-page document, now posted on the village website, will be discussed at a public meeting on Tuesday (March 16).

The plan was drafted in response to an executive order by Gov. Andrew Cuomo requiring municipalities to review their police policies and procedures and present reform plans by April 1. The order came in response to video-recorded killings by police officers of unarmed people of color.

Cold Spring's draft outlines a schedule for updating policies and includes extensive gathering of public input, including a survey of residents that will begin this month and continue into May, and community stakeholder groups that will meet into 2022.

An action plan incorporating recommendations from the yearlong process will be drafted next March.

At Tuesday's meeting, there was disagreement and lengthy discussion over whether the plan should mention former Cold Spring officer Scott Morris' involvement in the 2012 killing in the Bronx of Ramarley Graham, an unarmed Black man, by a New York City officer. Morris was the officer's supervisor but not at the scene.

The Village Board was aware of the incident when it hired Morris in December 2019 by unanimous vote. Morris resigned in June amid protests over his hiring.

Trustees Kathleen Foley and Heidi Bender, who were not on the board when Morris was hired or resigned, favored including a reference to the controversy.

Foley said she felt strongly that mentioning Morris and recent hate crimes in the village "provided context for the environment in which our officers are working."

Bender agreed, saying, "I don't think we  
(Continued on Page 5)

# Putnam Backs Idea of Police Accountability Committee

*Postpones finalization of police review plan*

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

Putnam County legislators on Tuesday (March 9) expressed support for establishing a police accountability committee and postponed adoption of a draft police review report in order to incorporate material from the sheriff and feedback from residents.

The legislators acted in back-to-back meetings, held by audio connection, of the Protective Services Committee and the full, nine-member Legislature. They had intended to finalize the report but pushed the date to Thursday (March 18).

Following the videotaped killing last year in Minneapolis of George Floyd, a Black man, by a white police officer, Gov. Andrew Cuomo ordered local governments in New York to review their law enforcement policies and compile reports with recommendations by April 1. Putnam's review panel completed its draft in February.

During the Protective Services Committee meeting, three members of the police review panel's People of Color Subcommittee urged legislators to establish a public accountability committee to address use of force; racial bias and racial justice in policing; de-escalation training; community outreach; and similar issues.

Jenie Fu, one of the three, said that "police reform does not take place in two months, nine months. This is long-term, ongoing work and we have members who

are committed to see the changes through."

An accountability committee would offer "an ongoing and legitimate platform" for public review of policing, added Scott Rhodes. "It's about a community and bringing everybody together. That is our only goal here."

"We're not here for any kind of politics," Ronald Reid explained. "We're here to try to push forward" and to provide a venue for those who feel disenfranchised.

Sheriff Robert Langley Jr., who participated in the Tuesday meetings and serves on the police review panel, said he "looked forward to working with them."

Legislator Nancy Montgomery, who represents Philipstown and part of Putnam Valley, called an accountability committee "a fantastic idea. Great things happen when you include your citizenry in the process."

The subcommittees were organized to advise the 22 elected and high-level appointed officials who comprise the police review panel.

Among other initiatives, the People of Color Subcommittee urged the panel to require sheriff's deputies to wear body cameras; have a health professional provide assistance in cases involving residents with mental disabilities; increase the number of Spanish-speaking officers; seek applicants for deputy positions among the Asian, Latinx, African-American and LGBTQIA communities; expand outreach to people of color, including teens; and form a civilian complaint review board.

Legislator Ginny Nacerino of Patterson,  
(Continued on Page 12)

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## LETTERS AND COMMENTS

### Police review

In the Feb. 26 issue, you reported on a Feb. 18 meeting of the Putnam County Legislature's Protective Services Committee in which its members put forth a number of inaccuracies and some blatant fictions ("Putnam Says Sheriff Not Cooperating with Review"). These statements were an obvious attempt to shift responsibility for the poor management of the police review process from County Executive MaryEllen Odell and her panel of elected officials to the Sheriff's Department.

Legislators Neal Sullivan, Ginny Nacerino and Amy Sayegh claimed that Sheriff Robert Langley Jr. had not provided them with updated policies or otherwise been cooperative. However, the county executive is supposed to first submit a plan recommending changes to the sheriff. The draft plan has not been finalized or vetted by the public, so it is confusing that the legislators are asking the sheriff to produce updated policies. We don't even know which recommendations the panel is asking him to make. The review panel held a single meeting to hear public comment and the Legislature still has to review the final plan and allow more public comment.

The Feb. 18 meeting made it clear that the

three legislators on the Protective Services Committee — each of whom is also a member of the police review panel — do not understand the governor's executive order. It requires that the chief executive of the county direct the process, and yet Odell has been absent from nearly every meeting and activities related to police reform. We know this because many of our members have participated as subcommittee members. As the person mandated to lead the process, Odell's priority should have been to obtain all of the sheriff's policies and then to provide them to the panel members — this never happened, making it impossible to conduct a "comprehensive review." Why was this not a priority for Odell?

However, as the Draft Reform Plan explains, while public stakeholder members of the panel were not allowed to review the policies, supposedly because of restrictions imposed by state law, the other members of the panel, including Sullivan, Nacerino and Sayegh, have reviewed the sheriff's policies. This conflicts with their statements on Feb. 18 that the sheriff refused to provide them.

Notably, in a column he wrote for *South-east-Brewster Patch* on Aug. 26, Sullivan stated that "Sheriff Langley can review as many policies as he would like" but "such

a review has been rendered moot" by the governor's order, which Sullivan said "vests the Legislature with the authority to adopt the revised policies and procedures. It will then be incumbent upon the Sheriff's Department to comply with and adhere to those policies."

Clearly, Sullivan last year believed the sheriff had no authority to change the policies. It is difficult to square that with Sullivan's statement on Feb. 18 to Langley that "these are your policies. We need an action plan."

The police reform process in Putnam has been poorly run and obstructive to participation from disenfranchised residents such as Latinx, Black, Indigenous and people of color. It was only six months into the process before the county-level members of the panel began working with the community. Odell had a chance to partner with the sheriff to create real change, but she has barely been involved, instead delegating her responsibility to an unelected deputy. She and her friends on the Legislature are now attempting to create a false narrative strictly to prop up their preferred candidate for sheriff.

Eileen McDermott, *Brewster*

*McDermott is a member of Putnam Progressives and serves on the LGBTQIA subcommittee of the police review panel.*

### Shakespeare plan

Philipstown Supervisor Richard Shea, in a tour d'horizon letter to the editor (March 5), concludes with a reflection on the proposed relocation of the Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival to the Garrison Golf Club. As Philipstown's "steward for 20 years," Shea assures us that the town takes planning "very seriously" and promises the proposal is being subjected to an "intensive review." That's good to hear.

However, in the next breath, Shea asserts that the project "has the potential to be great" and that he is "confident that it will ultimately be a wonderful asset for the whole community."

Wonderful it may be, but one has to ask just how intense that review will be now that the supervisor has so conspicuously prejudiced the deliberations of the Planning Board, whose members are appointed by Shea and the board he chairs.

Raymond O'Rourke, *Garrison*



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# Jacobson, Serino Call for Governor to Resign

## State legislators vote to limit Cuomo's power

By Chip Rowe

Jonathan Jacobson, a Democrat whose state Assembly district includes Beacon, and Sue Serino, a Republican whose Senate district includes the Highlands, this week both called on Gov. Andrew Cuomo to resign.

The governor, a Democrat, is facing allegations of sexual harassment and has been criticized for his administration's handling of the reporting of nursing-home deaths attributed to COVID-19.

"The evidence that has emerged over the past two weeks is clear: Gov. Cuomo's actions demonstrate an indefensible pattern of harassment and abuse," Jacobson said in a statement. "Together with the evidence of the nursing home cover-up, the time has come for him to face the consequences of his behavior and step down. He no longer has the credibility to lead or to govern effectively."



Jacobson, Serino

Sandy Galef, a Democrat whose Assembly district includes Philipstown, on Feb. 28 called for an independent investigation of the harassment allegations but has not called for Cuomo to resign.

In a statement on Thursday (March 11), Serino said that "it is painfully clear that the governor should do the right thing and resign." She said she would explore "the possibility of introducing a constitutional amendment that would give the Legislature the power needed to force the executive to cede power to the lieutenant governor if he or she is the subject of an active investigation."

### Emergency powers

On March 5, Jacobson and Galef were part of a 107-43 majority that voted for a bill to limit the governor's emergency powers related to the pandemic response.

In the Senate, the measure passed along party lines, 43-20. Serino voted no, along with her colleagues. "This proposal is not a repeal of the governor's emergency powers — it is an absolute sham," she said in a statement. She added on Twitter: "Truly cannot understand how members who have openly called for the governor to resign can justify voting for him to keep hold of the reins."

The emergency powers bill, which will be sent to Cuomo to enact, allows his directives to remain in effect for no longer than 30 days. He would need legislative approval for new orders concerning the virus response and could only extend existing orders if they were "critical to public health." The emergency powers were set to expire April 30.



A man identified as Roberto Minuta is shown with political operative Roger Stone, who was pardoned by President Trump after being convicted of lying to Congress.

## Arrest *(from Page 1)*

official proceeding, entering a restricted building or grounds and tampering with documents or proceedings.

In the complaint, an FBI agent testified that Minuta was at the Capitol on Jan. 6 "equipped with military-style attire and gear," including ballistic goggles, a radio earpiece and radio, hard-knuckle tactical gloves, bear spray and apparel emblazoned with a crest related to the Oath Keepers militia. He "aggressively berated and taunted" police officers before entering the building, the agent said.

The FBI said that on Jan. 13, a week after the attack, Minuta deleted his 13-year-old Facebook account "to conceal his involvement in these offenses."

A judge set bail at \$150,000 and ordered Minuta to surrender any firearms and his passport. A preliminary hearing was scheduled for Wednesday (March 17).

Minuta is also thought to be among the members of the Oath Keepers who served as bodyguards at a nearby hotel to political operative Roger Stone before the riot.

In May, Minuta defiantly reopened his tattoo parlor despite state regulations designed to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

A Newburgh resident, Jake Lang, 25, was earlier indicted on charges of assaulting officers, civil disorder and violent entry during the Capitol attack, and a Beacon man, William Pepe, 31, has pleaded not guilty to charges of conspiracy; civil disorder; unlawfully entering restricted buildings or grounds; and disorderly and disruptive conduct in restricted buildings or grounds.

Prosecutors accused Pepe of being a member of the Proud Boys, a white nationalist group. A co-defendant, Dominic Pezzola, also pleaded not guilty. Their next court date is scheduled for March 26. Pepe remains free with travel and firearm restrictions; Pezzola was ordered held without bond.

Pepe was employed as a laborer for Metro-North in Brewster and called in sick to travel to the Capitol. He has since been fired by the agency.

According to the George Washington University Program on Extremism, which is tracking prosecutions related to the riot, more than 250 people had been charged from 40 states and D.C.

## Police Review *(from Page 3)*

can provide appropriate context for the community's relationship to the Police Department without mentioning Morris."

Mayor Dave Merandy and the two other trustees, Fran Murphy and Marie Early, did not express support for the move. In an exchange with Murphy, Bender said, "I know three white board members feel there should be absolutely no mention of Scott Morris."

"Don't do that," Murphy responded. "Don't identify me by gender, race or anything else; I'm a board member."

Bender said, "I can't see how this [plan] can possibly be successful" without acknowledging the Morris hire. She asked Officer-in-Charge Larry Burke if he felt the public concern over Morris' background had been significant.

Burke said he had investigated the shooting thoroughly, and that "nothing was hidden, everything was transparent."

"You're looking for transparency," Murphy said, addressing Bender. "If the community groups [involved in shaping the plan] decide they want a board that helps us with hiring police, that's what this is about."

Merandy added if the Morris incident is to be included, the rationale for why he was hired must be understood.

"He might have been the supervisor, but he was not on the scene" and "not the officer who pulled the trigger."

Foley interjected that "the trigger man disobeyed an order. It was not Scott Morris' order and Morris was not the trigger man. That needs to be on the public record."

Merandy said Morris would not have been hired had he been on the scene or condoned what happened.

"I would ask the public why they were outraged," Merandy said. "We're talking about bias and race and prejudice, yet prejudice against a police officer who had nothing to do with this incident seems to be OK — and that's hypocritical."

"If supervisors fail to perform, they are often fired, especially if someone dies," Bender said.

"The purpose of the executive order is to create a better relationship between the community, people of color and police," Merandy said. "The plan is an outreach program to work toward that, to review what we have in place and make it better."

Foley pointed out that any incidents of hate in the village "have not been at the hands of our police officers."

The draft plan, without reference to Morris, was approved, 4-1, with Bender voting "no."

### Public restrooms

Earlier in the meeting, Eliza Starbuck, the president of the Cold Spring Area Chamber of Commerce, presented a written request for a line item in the 2021-22 budget that would pay for maintenance of the public restrooms at the Visitor's Information Booth on Main Street so they could be open from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., Thursday through Sunday and on holiday Mondays during the tourist season.

"Clean public restrooms are a necessity for visitors or residents," her request said. "To deny use of existing public restrooms is inhumane and presents a hazard to public health and safety."

Starbuck said the cost of hiring a company to clean the restrooms from Memorial Day weekend through year-end would be \$16,000 to \$19,000.

Jeff Mikkelsen, a member of the chamber board, said that the cost was relatively small and that currently some visitors who cannot find open public restrooms "relieve themselves outdoors and in people's yards."

Merandy responded that "\$20,000 is not a small amount for our budget." He said before the COVID-19 shutdown, the restrooms were cleaned by the village Highway Department. But with the pandemic, he said, "we didn't think it was a good idea" to open them. Last fall, volunteers from the

chamber maintained the restrooms.

"We could find [the money] if we want to," Bender commented.

The mayor replied: "Once you get into the budget season with us, maybe you'll think differently."

Merandy noted that other communities, including Beacon, don't provide public bathrooms.

"But we have the facilities; we should do better than that," Foley said.

Bender suggested if residents think restrooms are important, they should be considered in the budget. "To say it can't be done, that's not true."

That set off a heated exchange.

"I just wish I had your insight," Merandy said to Bender. "I guess after seven years of crunching numbers I don't have that."

"You're condescending to me every meeting, Dave," Bender replied.

"Well you shouldn't say some of the things you say, because they're condescending," Merandy shot back.

"You treat Trustee Bender badly, Mayor Merandy," Foley said.

"And you're always jumping in there defending her," Merandy said. "She's an adult, a trustee; she can defend herself."

"You're the only one shouting, the only one using that tone of voice and that language," Foley replied. "It's not appropriate and it's not OK."

"That's your opinion; you just jump in there and start speaking, which I don't think is appropriate," Merandy said.

"Raising your voice is one thing; we've all done it, I do it," Foley said. "It's the condescending tone, which especially is extended toward women."

"Stop, stop!" Merandy said. "That is totally ridiculous!"

At that point, Burke intervened.

"Ladies and gentlemen, we need to take a timeout," Burke said. "Relax, let's move on with the meeting."

No action was taken on restroom funding.



## COVID-19-20-21

(from Page 1)

The doctors and nurses, both in hospitals and in county health departments, who risked their lives tending to the sick and the dying; the all-volunteer Medical Reserve Corps in Dutchess and Putnam counties; and the local officials and residents who filled the snowballing needs for food and face coverings.

The SallyeAnder shop in Beacon donated soap it had been making to the Beacon and Newburgh school districts for distribution. Lynn and Greg Miller of Cold Spring, the owners of Veggie Go-Go, raised money to provide meals to health care workers and to support struggling restaurants.

Beacon resident Dara Silverman and others formed Mutual Aid Beacon and recruited a corps of volunteers to collect and distribute food to homebound seniors and the newly unemployed, at one point delivering to 150 people each week. Donors gave hundreds of thousands of dollars to the Town of Philipstown, which it used to provide residents of the Highlands and beyond with groceries and other necessities.

"These tough moments are also when we see how remarkable people are and the goodness they have in their hearts and it's only because of that that we're going to get through this," Rep. Sean Patrick Maloney, whose district includes the Highlands, said last week.

## A Long, Tough Year

### JANUARY

**9** The World Health Organization (WHO) says a cluster of pneumonia-like cases in Wuhan, China, that has infected at least 59 people is caused by a new coronavirus.

**21** The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention announces the first confirmed case in the U.S. — a Washington state resident who had returned six days earlier from Wuhan.

### MARCH

**1** Gov. Andrew Cuomo announces the state's first case, a 39-year-old health care worker from Manhattan who became infected while in Iran.

**7** Cuomo declares a state of emergency.

**11** WHO declares the outbreak to be a pandemic.

**12** Dutchess officials announce the county's first case and outline a number of steps being taken, including activating the county's Medical Reserve Corps, reassigning staff to help contain the virus and creating a webpage for updates.



**MARCH** — A small staff of Beacon school cafeteria workers on March 23 handed out more than 2,500 meals to students, their families and other members of the community. Two days later, they prepared 6,000.

Photo by Ross Corsair

**13** Putnam County Executive MaryEllen Odell orders schools to close for five days.... On opening night, Haldane High School cancels its production of *Fiddler on the Roof*.

**15** Putnam announces its first two cases and Odell issues an emergency order banning public gatherings of more than 20 people and buffet-style food gatherings.

**16** Cuomo orders all bars and restaurants to close by 9 p.m. Philipstown Supervisor Richard Shea suspends all non-essential operations and asks residents to contact the town only by phone or email.

**19** The Riverview Restaurant in Cold Spring closes its doors, joining other restaurants that close or switch to take-out. Venues began canceling and postponing performances.

**20** Dutchess reports its first death, a 69-year-old man who sought treatment for breathing difficulty at MidHudson Regional Hospital in Poughkeepsie... Cuomo signs a New York on PAUSE order that requires all "non-essential" businesses to close as of March 22, bans non-essential gatherings of any size and requires residents 70 and older to shelter at home... In Cold Spring, Foodtown and Drug World report that customers are binge-buying

food, hand sanitizer and cleaning products.

**27** Cuomo orders all schools to remain closed until April 15.

### APRIL

**2** Rep. Sean Patrick Maloney, whose district includes the Highlands, announces that Dutchess County will receive \$856,000 in emergency funds through the first of what will become three federal relief packages.

**7** The death toll in Putnam County reaches 15... Everyone must wear a mask in public or whenever they cannot maintain social distancing under an executive order issued by the governor.

**19** The death toll in Dutchess reaches 50.

**24** Putnam has a single-day high of 266 new cases.

**26** Cuomo announces a plan for a phased-in re-opening of closed businesses that will begin on May 15.

**30** The Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival cancels its 2020 season... Beacon has 121 active cases.

(Continued on Page 7)



**MARCH** — Nancy Romano, technology specialist, in her classroom at the Garrison School after schools were closed

Photo by Ross Corsair

## Those We've Lost

**Susan Crofoot**, 97, formerly of Cold Spring, died April 7. She was a newspaper journalist who turned a 19th-century townhouse at 11 Main St. into the Front Parlour, an antiques shop and bed-and-breakfast.



**Darrin Santos**, 50, of Cold Spring, died April 4. The Navy veteran was a transportation supervisor for NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital, based in White Plains and drove doctors to New York City hospitals and made deliveries. His wife, Melissa, died of cancer on July 18.



**Anthony Molinaro**, 67, the father of Dutchess County Executive Marc Molinaro, died April 10. A native of Yonkers, he worked for the New York Telephone Co. (later NYNEX and Verizon) and was a baseball fan.



**Bill Whipp**, 79, of Cold Spring, died April 25. He was an admirer of Samuel Johnson, and traveled to England for a long walk through the countryside, pastures and villages — all haunts of the writer. He loved the experience so much he found a job at a village pub, living above it for nearly a year.





(Continued from Page 7)

MAY

1 The death toll in Putnam is 45 and Philipstown reaches 101 cases... Cuomo announces that schools will remain closed for the rest of the academic year.

8 The death toll in Dutchess reach 100.

20 A Putnam judge rejects a petition by the Legal Aid Society to release eight inmates who it argued were at risk of contracting COVID-19.

26 The Mid-Hudson Region, which includes Dutchess and Putnam, begins Phase 1 of the state’s reopening plan. Construction companies, manufacturers and retailers are among the businesses allowed to restart.

29 Beacon reports 101 active cases.

JUNE

2 The death toll in Putnam reaches 60. Philipstown reaches 119 cases.

4 The state announces that the Mid-Hudson Region can enter Phase 2 of the re-opening plan, allowing outdoor dining and worship services.

23 The Mid-Hudson Region enters Phase 3 of the re-opening plan, allowing personal-care businesses such as hair salons to operate.

26 Beacon has 10 active cases.

JULY

7 Under Phase 4 of the re-opening plan, businesses and organizations offering “low-risk” indoor and outdoor arts and entertainment, along with film and music productions, are allowed to restart.

13 Cuomo announces that schools will be allowed to re-open in the fall if their region is in Phase 4 and daily infection rates remain below 5 percent using a 14-day average.

31 Beacon has nine active cases.

AUGUST

3 Putnam reports 63 deaths. Philipstown reaches 127 cases.



MARCH — Restocking at Foodtown on March 14, the first Saturday of the shutdown.  
Photo by Michael Turton

5 Molinaro says that more than 170 Dutchess County employees have applied for buyouts under a program created to reduce expenses in the 2021 budget.

21 The president of Marist College in Poughkeepsie says the school has suspended 15 students for not following health guidelines at an off-campus party.

24 Gyms and fitness studios, and other fitness businesses are allowed to re-open.

28 Beacon has six active cases.

SEPTEMBER

2 The Garrison School opens with all students in-person unless their parents or guardians opt for remote education.

3 The Haldane school district opens with elementary and middle school students attending in-person and high school students alternating between in-person and remote classes.

14 The Beacon school district re-opens under a hybrid model.

23 Molinaro announces an outbreak at the Hedgewood Home for Adults in Beacon, with 13 residents and 17 staff members testing positive. At least seven residents later die.

30 Beacon reports 41 active cases.

OCTOBER

7 There were no new cases in Philipstown during the previous week.

13 Beacon announces that three of its employees had tested positive.

17 The state says that some theaters, including in Dutchess and Putnam, will be allowed to re-open beginning Oct. 23.

30 Beacon has 18 active cases.

NOVEMBER

6 Philipstown reaches 148 cases.

11 With cases again surging, Cuomo orders bars and restaurants to close at 10 p.m. and restricts gatherings at private residences to 10 people.

18 The Garrison School switches to an all-virtual model in anticipation of the state ending in-person learning in Putnam County because of rising infection rates.

30 Hospitals are directed to have plans to increase bed capacity by 50 percent, identify retired doctors and nurses who could be deployed and prepare for the use of field hospitals... Dutchess ends the month with 1,789 new cases, compared to 417 in October. Putnam records 1,023 new cases for the month, compared to 232 in October. Cases will continue to rise through January.

DECEMBER

1 Dutchess matches its single-day high with 158 new cases.

8 The death toll in Dutchess reaches 200.

10 Philipstown reaches 217 cases.

11 The federal Food and Drug Administration (FDA) authorizes the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine for emergency use.

14 A nurse at Long Island Jewish Medical Center in Queens becomes the first person in the state to receive a COVID-19 vaccine.

15 Beacon has 62 active cases.

18 The FDA authorizes the Moderna vaccine for emergency use.

JANUARY

3 The death toll in Dutchess reaches 250.

4 Philipstown reaches 383 cases.

7 Putnam holds its first vaccination clinic.

13 Dutchess holds its first vaccination clinic... Beacon has 98 active cases.

14 Dutchess has a single-day high of 384 new cases.

26 President Joe Biden announces that vaccine distribution to the states will rise 16 percent, to 10 million doses.

28 The death toll in Dutchess reaches 350.

FEBRUARY

8 Putnam reports 82 deaths. Philipstown reaches 674 cases.

11 CVS and Walgreens expand vaccinations under a federal program.

17 The death toll in Dutchess reaches 400.

20 Dutchess reports its first case of the more-contagious “U.K. strain” of the virus.

23 Putnam reports its first case of the U.K. strain.

27 The FDA authorizes the Johnson & Johnson vaccine for emergency use.

**John Sheeran**, 71, of Cold Spring, died May 2. His family said he possessed a larger-than-life personality and will be most remembered for his sense of humor and playfulness. He was a lifelong fan of the Boston Celtics.

**Carmine Ricci**, 87, and **Doris Ricci**, 83, of Cold Spring, died May 7 and June 1,



respectively. Carmine served as a police officer and judge for the village. Doris worked as a silkscreen printer at Fairgate Rule Co. They were married in 1957.

**Bennie Lybrand**, 93, the grandmother of Benjamin Lybrand of Beacon, died in June.



Ben drew a memorial panel illustration that appeared in our Dec. 4 issue. She had a great appreciation for music, literature and lifelong learning.

**Joe Galletta**, 86, a Beacon native, died Dec. 3. He spent his career with IBM as an engineer and loved gardening and cooking. His survivors include



his wife of 64 years, Joann.

**Kathy Hopper**, 77, formerly of Cold Spring, died Jan. 18. A graduate of the Our Lady of Loretto grammar school and Haldane High School, she owned and operated the Main Street Cafe in Fishkill and was a member of St. Joachim-St. John the Evangelist Church in Beacon.





# Voices from the Pandemic

## MARCH

“There is no reason for undue anxiety — the general risk remains low in New York.”

~ Gov. Andrew Cuomo, announcing the state's first case

“This specific case does not identify or present any widespread public health concern, but in an abundance of caution, we are taking several next steps.”

~ Dutchess County Executive Marc Molinaro, announcing the county's first case

“This is not an unexpected event, nor should it cause alarm.”

~ Putnam County Executive MaryEllen Odell, announcing the county's first case

“We're doing takeout for now until we figure out what's going on.”

~ Greg Pagones, owner of the Cold Spring Depot

“It's either busy or you get through to the menu and you enter your Social Security number and your PIN and it says ‘We have an extremely high volume of calls; please call back’ and disconnects you.”

~ Sharon Cutler of Garrison, on applying for state unemployment benefits

## APRIL

“You work for two years to build a business but you're not thinking, ‘What are we going to do if there's a pandemic?’”

~ Laura Leigh Abby, co-owner of The Studio @ Beacon

“At first the masks were in short supply; now the gowns are really in short supply.”

~ Stephen Hanse, president and CEO of the New York State Health Facilities Association, which represents nursing homes

## MAY

“As much as it hurts the business to be closed, and the financial hit that we're taking, I'd rather do it right the first time than go through a relapse.”

~ Lauren Decker, co-owner of King + Curated in Beacon

“In the rush to reopen we are going to prolong the outbreak, cause more suffering and death and do more damage to the economy in the long run.”

~ Philipstown Supervisor Richard Shea

## JULY

“The pandemic has refocused us and shown us how incredibly lucky we are



**JUNE** — “There are the people who are terrified and there are the people who are just so tired of being cooped up.” ~Cathryn Fadde, owner of Cathryn's Tuscan Grill in Cold Spring



**JULY** — “I'm ready to go back to work; it's felt like a year already.” ~ Lucky Longo, owner of A Lucky Cut in Beacon, after the state allowed barbershops to open *Photos by L. Sparks*

to have the resources that we do, and motivated us even more to share them in new ways.”

~ Jennifer Carlquist, executive director of Boscobel

“It's not an experience that I'd ever want to relive. You saw things that you generally don't want to see.”

~ Dr. Nadia Amin of New-York Presbyterian Hudson Valley Hospital, on caring for COVID-19 patients

“I don't understand the fight about the mask. It just seems like a simple, scientific, easy solution to this. It's baffling to me as to how it's turned into this nonsense.”

~ Barbara Fisher, owner of Barb's Butchery in Beacon

## AUGUST

“When we opened again in June, it was clear that the economy wasn't vibrant and we weren't going to make enough money

to pay the rent.”

~ Mary Ann Glass, co-owner of RiverWinds Gallery in Beacon, on its closure after 17 years

## NOVEMBER

“I never thought students would wear masks this well. We have a lot of people making a lot of sacrifices.”

~ Matt Landahl, superintendent of the Beacon school district

“If anything, it's pretty amazing to be here still and to be in the position we're in now.”

~ Joe Robitaille, owner of Homespun in Beacon

“It's scary. Many, many [clients] are those who lost jobs. What we hadn't seen before was a lot of single men. People in the arts have lost jobs, and we've seen them here.”

~ Amy Richter, an assistant at the Philipstown Food Pantry in Cold Spring

“Financially, it's been nothing short of devastating.”

~ Sara Milonovich, a musician and Beacon resident

## JANUARY

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

~ Randy, a Beacon resident, on his long-term symptoms

“Communities across Putnam County are beginning to see the early effects of holiday gatherings — the full impact will be felt in the coming weeks as we continue to see case numbers rise and higher rates of hospitalizations.”

~ Shanna Siegel, a public health nurse with Putnam County

“People cry when they get it; it's quite moving to see that.”

~ Jill Sussman, a vaccinator with the Putnam County Medical Reserve Corps

“Human beings need to be touched in their lives, and when you're not touched for 10 months, you die.”

~ Richard Mollot, executive director of the Long Term Care Community Coalition, an advocacy group for patients and families

“The hardest part for us is not vaccinating as many people as who want to be vaccinated.”

~ Heidi Snyder, owner of Drug World in Cold Spring

## FEBRUARY

“My parents and I have agreed, maybe in a few months we'll allow ourselves to hug each other and eat a meal in the same house.”

~ Debbie Brennen of Beacon, after being vaccinated. She said she planned to wait until “many more people get vaccinated” before visiting her parents.





**IN FOR THE LONG HAUL** — Beacon Mutual Aid has been distributing free groceries each week since the organization was created last year in response to the pandemic shutdown.

Photo by Meredith Heuer

## Coronavirus Update

- As of Thursday (March 11), 19.7 percent of Dutchess County residents (58,025 of 294,218) had received at least one dose and 9 percent (26,497) were fully vaccinated. In Putnam County, 22.8 percent of residents (22,402 of 98,320) had received at least one dose and 10.7 percent (10,530) were fully vaccinated.
- The Mid-Hudson Region, which includes Dutchess, Putnam and five other counties, had administered at least one dose to 385,958 residents as of March 11 and fully vaccinated 199,241.
- As of March 11, the state had administered at least one dose to 4,073,412 residents, 20.4 percent of the total population, and had fully vaccinated 2,091,058, or 10.4 percent.
- The state on Wednesday (March 10) expanded the eligibility for vaccines to residents 60 and older, and to government and nonprofit essential workers who interact with the public beginning March 17.
- Gov. Andrew Cuomo announced on March 11 that quarantine would no longer

- be required — but still recommended — for travelers entering New York from another state or U.S. territory as of April 1. The quarantine requirement will remain in effect for international travelers. Travelers to New York who have been fully vaccinated no longer have to quarantine.
- State health officials said that, as of March 10, 8,691 people had tested positive for COVID-19 in Putnam County; 23,439 in Dutchess; 111,713 in Westchester; 40,407 in Rockland; 10,523 in Ulster; and 38,859 in Orange. Statewide, there have been 1,706,564 positives, including 752,559 in New York City.
- Putnam County had 271 active cases for the week ending March 4, with 15 new cases reported in Philipstown, which has had 761 since March 2020. There were 95 new cases in Carmel, 27 in Kent, 40 in Patterson, 30 in Putnam Valley and 41 in Southeast. Nine people were hospitalized at Putnam Hospital in Carmel.
- As of March 9, hospitals and county health departments were allowed to vaccinate anyone who is eligible, rather than only health care workers at hospitals and essential workers, people with qualifying medical conditions and residents 65 and older. Pharmacies will continue to prioritize residents 60 and older and teachers.

- New York plans to open mass-vaccination sites at SUNY Orange in Middletown and the Ulster County Fairgrounds in New Paltz. To check for appointments, see [am-eligible.covid19vaccine.health.ny.gov](https://am-eligible.covid19vaccine.health.ny.gov) or call 833-697-4829. As of March 11, there were appointments available at 12 facilities, including the Westchester County Center in White Plains. Marist College in Poughkeepsie was full.
- Dutchess County announced on March 3 it would create a vaccine equity coalition “to ensure equitable distribution” in underserved communities.
- The state received 164,800 doses in its first delivery of the newly approved Johnson & Johnson vaccine; 71,100 went to New York City and 93,700 to the rest of the state.

- Putnam County requested 3,000 vaccines on Feb. 26 during a call with state officials. Counties had been asked to specify how many of the Pfizer vaccines they could store at sub-zero temperatures and administer within seven days. County Executive MaryEllen Odell said it has freezers capable of storing 6,000 doses.
- The number of people with COVID-19 hospitalized in New York state as of March 10 stood at 4,735; the number in intensive care was 955; and the number of intubations was 665. In the Mid-Hudson Valley, 44 percent of hospital beds were available and 41 percent of ICU beds.

- Cuomo on Tuesday (March 9) signed legislation banning the evictions or foreclosures of small businesses with fewer than 50 employees and landlords or apartment buildings with 10 or fewer units. The governor also said that he has reached an agreement with the state Legislature to expand the protections to businesses with 100 or fewer employees as well as for any business with 500 or fewer employees that was ordered to close its in-person operations for two or more weeks between May 15, 2020, and May 1, 2021.
- Vassar Brothers Medical Center in Poughkeepsie began allowing patients to have limited visits as of Tuesday because of declining COVID-19 cases. Patients with-

## COVID-19 by the Numbers

### ■ PUTNAM COUNTY

Number of confirmed cases:

**8,691** (+231)

New Cases in Philipstown: **15**

Tests administered:

**174,193** (+5,629)

Percent positive:

**5.0** (0)

Number of deaths:

**87** (+1)

### ■ DUTCHESS COUNTY

Number of confirmed cases:

**23,439** (+761)

Active Cases in Beacon: **30**

Tests administered:

**562,391** (+18,695)

Percent positive:

**4.2** (0)

Number of deaths:

**415** (+5)

Source: New York State Department of Health, as of March 10, with weekly change in parentheses. New cases in Philipstown is for week ending March 4.

out a suspected or confirmed infection are allowed one visitor a day for up to four hours. The policy can be viewed at [patients.healthquest.org/covid-19-updates](https://patients.healthquest.org/covid-19-updates).

- The households of essential workers and first responders earning up to 500 percent of the federal poverty level (e.g., \$125,470 for a family of four) are eligible for up to \$1,000 for child care, housing, transportation and other expenses through the state Empire Pandemic Response Reimbursement Fund. See [ocfs.state.ny.us/main/news/COVID-relief](https://ocfs.state.ny.us/main/news/COVID-relief).

- As of March 10, according to the State COVID Report Card, Haldane had reported 31 students and 14 teachers/staff who had tested positive; Garrison reported six students and seven teachers/staff; and Beacon reported 72 students and 40 teachers/staff.

- Questions? Dutchess County posts 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 hotline at 888-364-3065 and a webpage at [coronavirus.health.ny.gov](https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov), which is also where you can find a testing site. The state also created an email list to provide updates. The federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention posts updates at [cdc.gov](https://cdc.gov).

## What Happened to the Flu?

|                                      |          | 2017-18 | 2018-19 | 2019-20 | 2020-21 |
|--------------------------------------|----------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Laboratory Confirmed Cases           | Dutchess | 1,593   | 786     | 1,180   | 88      |
|                                      | Putnam   | 600     | 400     | 494     | 130     |
|                                      | NYS      | 128,892 | 108,882 | 157,758 | 3,804   |
| Cases in Last Week of February       | Dutchess | 119     | 51      | 88      | 1       |
|                                      | Putnam   | 95      | 31      | 30      | 0       |
|                                      | NYS      | 13,677  | 9,627   | 19,518  | 148     |
| Pediatric Deaths Associated with Flu | NYS      | 6       | 6       | 14      | 0       |
| Hospitalizations Associated with Flu | NYS      | 23,377  | 18,678  | 22,269  | 618     |

Source: Flu Tracker, NYS Department of Health



## Reopening *(from Page 1)*

26. It's one of several restrictions that have been removed during the last six weeks as the number of people vaccinated increases and the number of COVID-19 cases falls.

Starting Monday (March 15), wedding receptions and catered events can resume with capacity limits and other restrictions, and on March 19, restaurant owners in Dutchess, Putnam and other counties outside New York City will be able to operate at 75 percent capacity instead of 50 percent. Three days later, home gatherings of up to 25 people will be OK outdoors, as well as social gatherings of up to 100 people indoors and 200 outdoors.

Starting April 2, arts, entertainment and event venues can reopen at 33 percent capacity, the state has said, with a cap of 100 people indoors and 200 outdoors. The state also announced that summer camps can begin planning to reopen and that people traveling from another state no longer need to quarantine.

Coughlin said that Happy Valley Arcade and Bar was "losing a lot of money" in January, when the number of COVID-19 cases in the state, and in Dutchess and Putnam, reached pandemic highs. Now, he and Follansbee are feeling more optimistic as they build plastic screens to put between the games before opening them to players.

For restaurants, the expansion of indoor dining may have little practical effect at



Johnny Coughlin, who co-owns the Happy Valley Arcade Bar in Beacon with Alyssa Follansbee, will be able to allow customers to use the games on March 26.

Photo by L. Sparks

smaller eateries that don't have room to add more tables and still meet the requirement that they be spaced 6 feet apart, noted Cathryn Fadde, the owner of Cathryn's Tuscan Grill in Cold Spring. But Fadde said she is already seeing an impact from the growing number of people who are vac-

nated, including vaccinated couples who make reservations to dine together.

"I get to actually sit four at my tables for four because people are feeling more confident about going out if they're vaccinated," she said.

Kate Vander Linden, a co-founder of the

Beacon Performing Arts Center, said it plans to hold its first live performance in May.

Since non-essential businesses were forced to close a year ago, the children and teenagers who take the center's classes have been mostly learning and performing by Zoom. For two musicals last year, *Rent* and *Legally Blonde*, the children recorded their performances at home and the videos were edited together.

The May show, *Into the Woods*, will take place outdoors, on the grounds of University Settlement in Beacon. The performers will remain 6 feet apart and wear clear masks, while audience members will sit in family "pods."

"As theater artists and as humans we crave the energy of other humans, so when it's taken away from us we just appreciate it so much more," Vander Linden said.

Kate Guerra, the manager for Roundhouse in Beacon, said she reacted with "pure excitement" when Cuomo said the state would allow wedding receptions and catered events. Her phone "started blowing up" and she received a flurry of texts from event managers and staff.

Roundhouse had more than 100 weddings booked last year, and had hosted 11 before the shutdown. Some couples downsized to receptions with 50 or fewer people, but "the remaining weddings were either canceled or postponed," she said. "It was pretty devastating."

## Beacon Schools *(from Page 1)*

one model to the other.

The move to four days of in-person instruction (Wednesday will remain a remote day for all students) is meant to help families and students struggling logistically and emotionally with the abnormal year, explained Superintendent Matt Landahl.

"We hope it will help our students get used to a more normal school day," he said. "And by going through the health and safety planning now, it gets us over some humps that we won't have to do this summer."

The kindergarten schedule will begin March 22, he said, with the other elementary grades following on April 5 or 6.

A full-time teacher will be hired at each elementary school to support all-remote students, who make up about 35 percent of

the district's enrollment. Remote students will have a morning session with this teacher every day, followed by two to three instructional sessions with their homeroom teacher or the remote-support teacher.

Landahl said he hopes to implement a similar four-day schedule at Rombout Middle School after spring break, which begins March 29. The district is assessing whether it can add in-person days at Beacon High School, which on March 1 transitioned to full days of in-person instruction, rather than half-days, for its hybrid students.

The district will increase in-person instruction because of the number of teachers and staff members now vaccinated for COVID-19 and research indicating that, with appropriate safety measures, schools are safe, Landahl said.

The federal Centers for Disease Control and

Prevention said last month that in communities with low or moderate rates of COVID-19 transmission, schools may open all grades to full in-person instruction but should implement physical distancing of 6 feet or more "to the greatest extent possible." The New York State American Academy of Pediatrics has called for a statewide approach to reopening, with schools treated as essential services.

The Beacon district has had 112 students and staff test positive during the school year, with almost three-quarters at Rombout or the high school. The only elementary school with double-digit positives is Glenham, with 24.

While many of those positives did not require schools to close, Landahl reported to parents during town hall meetings on Zoom last week that the Chromebook laptops given to every student are programmed to alert district officials if a student searches for or types "self-harming" language. Mirroring national trends, those alerts have increased this year in Beacon, including among elementary students.

If the district receives an alert, the student's family is contacted and given guidance for connecting with a social worker, Landahl said.

The district plans to implement a number of other safety measures as it transitions from the "blue group" and "gold group" hybrid plan for students.

In addition to the high-grade filters installed in building ventilators in September, portable HEPA-standard filters will be placed in every elementary classroom by spring break, Landahl said, and eventually in every district classroom. With the warmer weather, windows will be opened and some

## Philipstown Update

At Garrison and Haldane, there is enough space for social distancing to allow children in the elementary and middle schools to attend every day. Haldane High School, which does not have enough space, is on a hybrid schedule with two groups that attend on different days of the week.

Superintendent Philip Benante said on Sunday (March 7) in an email to parents that he was "reconvening certain groups within the School Reopening Task Force to explore" whether the high school could have all students attend each day before the end of the year under revised state and federal health guidelines.

classes taught outside. Masks will continue to be required of students and staff.

The rapid-testing program launched last month will continue with the goal of testing 30 to 50 people each Wednesday, during the all-remote day. Landahl said the results will be released when 10 percent of the district population has been tested.

With a few exceptions for larger rooms, classes will be capped at 17 students to allow social distancing. The schools also will utilize plastic desk barriers where 6 feet of distancing isn't possible.

In a year marred by anxiety, Landahl said he's excited to bring students into the buildings more often.

"I feel like with all these things in place we can do this safely," he said. "It's a great way to end the year strong."

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# Questions for Candidates: Nelsonville Board

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

**T**here are four candidates for two open seats on the Nelsonville Village Board. The election is Tuesday (March 16). The candidates are George Eisenbach, a retired civil engineer; Kathleen Maloney, an optometrist working in corporate strategy; Alan Potts, a science teacher who served on the board from 2017 to 2019; and Maria Zhynovitch, a state appellate court attorney. Incumbents Lisa Mechaley and Dove Pedlosky are not running for re-election.

Below are written responses to questions posed to the candidates by *The Current*. The polls will be open at Village Hall, 258 Main St., from noon to 9 p.m.

## What qualifications do you have for being a village trustee, and why should voters choose you over your opponents?

**EISENBACH:** As a licensed engineer with decades of experience planning and managing capital projects for Fortune 500 companies, I'll bring my technical and cost-management experience to the Village Board. Nelsonville faces big decisions about infrastructure: water supply access, sewers, street repaving and 5G. The choices we make now will impact our health, property values and community character for a generation. We need trustees with training and experience to directly oversee infrastructure projects and make sure everything is done right and on budget.

**MALONEY:** In my job, my role is to evaluate new technologies from both medical and business perspectives. A core part of my responsibility is objectivity — putting aside my own preferences to prioritize what is best for our patients and the business. As a trustee, this will translate to making decisions based on facts and data, and to prioritize solutions that are best for all residents, not just a vocal few. My clinical and corporate roles require rapid mastery of new concepts. I'm sure I'm in for a learning curve as a trustee, but I'm confident that I can get up to speed quickly, and I won't be shy about asking questions until I get there. I also have experience working in government affairs at the state and federal levels, and have a good understanding of how things get done here in New York. Finally, I'm mom to a 1-year-old boy, and am so thankful to be raising him here. My family fuels my commitment to ensuring responsible decisions are made about Nelsonville's future.

**POTTS:** I previously served as a trustee and in 2019 lost the highly unusual three-way race by 11 votes. I understand the duties of the position as well as the intricacies and importance of being a good steward of our village affairs. I am practical, honest and honorable. My motivation is for the welfare of Nelsonville residents, rather than any specific issue or special interest. I welcome

and will solicit input from Nelsonville neighbors to catalyze resident involvement.

**ZHYNOVITCH:** My experience as a litigator and now as an attorney with the appellate courts would be an asset to the village. My position with the appellate division involves analyzing and making recommendations to judges on the same issues that villages regularly encounter: contracts, accidents, environmental conservancy and municipal law. The essence of my job is to recommend an equitable and lawful outcome for dueling parties. I promise to approach being a trustee in the same way — to view problems with an open mind and to look for resolutions based on sound practices that are fair and feasible for the village residents. My common-sense instincts to problem-solving would serve Nelsonville well.

## Should the Village Board have handled the cell tower lawsuit filed by Homeland Towers differently? If so, how?

**EISENBACH:** The telecoms bullied our Village Board into accepting the settlement and into allowing dangerous changes to the original plan. That's why I joined 17 neighbors in a federal lawsuit against it. We couldn't sit back while these global corporations threaten to destroy our village finances and build a cell tower that violates our zoning laws, property rights and state fire code. The 95-foot tower, and its parking lot and winding access road, will destroy the tranquility of the historic Cold Spring Cemetery. In my professional opinion, the switchbacks on the access road are too severe and steep. It's just a matter of time before someone gets hurt — maybe a volunteer firefighter or our neighbors. Remember, this tower will stand next to homes on a wooded hill without access to town water for firefighting. It's a disaster waiting to happen. We could debate past mistakes but what matters now are the lessons we learn for future fights. While we await the court's decision on the tower's fate, the village should comply with and enforce all laws including the temporary restraining order, environmental regulations and our rights as a community.



Eisenbach, Maloney, Potts and Zhynovitch

**MALONEY:** The responsible thing to do was to pursue a settlement. We are a very small village and we do not have deep pockets. Pursuing a long-shot court case would have put the future of our village in jeopardy and left us with virtually no ability to negotiate.

**POTTS:** This is a polarizing question, particularly for anyone who wasn't directly involved in the discussion. I do know that federal law favors telecommunication providers and that the litigation could have consumed our limited finances. I also know that during litigation the Village Board is not allowed to comment on some parts of the proceedings, thereby giving the appearance of a lack of transparency. With this lawsuit, my feeling was that the board was truly distraught with the idea of the settlement but did what they and their legal counsel felt was in the best interests of Nelsonville. We need to learn from this and look ahead to future challenges, such as 5G.

**ZHYNOVITCH:** The board had very little choice other than settling the lawsuit. First, the court was restricted from considering the potential impact of the tower on the health and property values of the local residents. Second, the village's objection to the tower on aesthetic grounds was undermined by a finding of the State Historic Preservation Office that the initial tower design at an increased height would not have a negative visual impact on the community. Third, under federal telecommunications law, it was highly likely the village was going to lose the lawsuit before the case even got to trial and would have suffered financial ruin.

## Aside from the cell tower matter, what are the biggest issues facing the village? And how would you, as a trustee, address them?

**EISENBACH:** Two huge issues are water supply access and 5G. To secure the cracking concrete dam that holds our water, we need to start working with Cold Spring, the county and state. I'll bring my technical training to the debate about 5G and ensure we have a full and open public discussion that isn't cut short by the telecoms. I will not support any 5G plan unless I'm certain it's 100 percent safe for our children. For too long, we've allowed ourselves to be divided: Republicans versus Democrats, Nelsonville versus Cold Spring, Rockledge Road versus Secor Street. It's time we come together to meet the real threats to our community, our environment and our homes.

**MALONEY:** While I don't foresee anything imminent that will match the cell tower in impact and emotion, there are certainly other issues that are less exciting but enormously consequential, such as evaluating sewers and our water supply, and updating our comprehensive plan. With each of these, I would encourage a methodical, data-driven approach to assess both the scope of the problem and the suitability of the proposed solutions. I am sure there will also be no shortage of more mundane issues, and I am committed to working hard to handle those adeptly, with my ultimate goal being the preservation of Nelsonville's unique character. We are so fortunate to live in a small, independent village, in control of its own destiny. We should continue to act and spend in a way that will preserve this position for generations to come.

**POTTS:** Airbnb regulation (which I believe is almost finished), the feasibility of a sewer system extension, potential 5G installations, the lease of the Putnam sheriff substation (and costs for building repairs), updating the comprehensive plan, the Secor Street paving and maintaining basic services in a cost-efficient manner. I would seek to make wise, resident-informed decisions about management of village resources. Additionally, I will ensure Nelsonville interests are represented with our neighboring villages, particularly with regard to shared costs and services. Nelsonville needs to build stronger and more equitable relationships with our neighbors. I would oppose anything with the potential to financially overextend our village. After all, if Nelsonville goes bankrupt, our village will cease to exist. Again, my primary concern is for Nelsonville and its residents.

**ZHYNOVITCH:** This year the village has been faced with fairly substantial issues, such as regulating 5G technology, expansion of the conservation easement in the Nelsonville Woods, a series of lawsuits and an ongoing debate over short-term rentals. My overarching concern is to preserve the look and feel of this small and independent-minded community that first attracted me and my husband and which we feel proud to be part of. Having to do more with less and looking for creative solutions to stretch the village's budget will always be a priority. My goals as a trustee would be to focus on maintaining and improving Nelsonville's infrastructure, our small public spaces, and to work alongside the community in updating our comprehensive plan before the next expensive issue arises.



# Philipstown Hears Renewed Complaints About Post Office

*Supervisor urges neighbors to work with Garrison landowner*

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

Seven years ago, neighbors of the Garrison post office complained to the Philipstown Town Board about what they said were dangerous maneuvers by mail trucks, road damage, noise and other disruptions to the tranquility of their enclave off Route 9D.

Last week, those concerns resurfaced at the board's monthly meeting, held via Zoom because of pandemic restrictions.

Jeff Grocott, who lives on Grassi Lane, a private road that intersects with Route 9 adjacent to the post office, told the board on March 4 that use of the post office by Amazon delivery trucks, which often arrive around

4:30 a.m., compounds the sense of intrusion.

Local post office authorities have sought solutions but failed, he said. He added that mail trucks and other large vehicles seem to regard the post office as an industrial plant, not a small structure in an area zoned for hamlet-mixed usage, with residences behind it.

"Whatever they're doing is completely against the zoning," he said. But "we're pushing up against two very powerful organizations" — the Postal Service and Amazon.

Grocott said that paving and other changes at the post office have exacerbated drainage problems and had other adverse effects on Grassi Lane.

Supervisor Richard Shea expressed sympathy and apologized "for not being more effective" in resolving the ongoing conflict. "It hasn't been for lack of effort," he said. Since 2014, he explained, Town Board members have contacted the USPS

and representatives of the county, state and federal governments. "Things calm down for a little while and then just pick back up," he said. Municipalities "don't have a lot of control over the Postal Service. They do have to deliver the mail."

Putnam County Legislator Nancy Montgomery, who previously dealt with the matter as a member of the Town Board, has continued to try to find a resolution for the residents. (Her predecessor, Barbara Scuccimarra, also encountered difficulties.)

"It's not an easy one to solve," Montgomery said. "I'm frustrated with the U.S. post office for not helping us out a little more." But she also warned that forcing the post office to move, as some critics propose, might only create different problems.

"We could end up with something worse and less responsible," said Town Board Member John Van Tassel. He wondered if barriers could be installed to minimize

noise from the post office.

Noting that federal law exempts the USPS from local zoning codes, Shea expressed doubts that Amazon and other private carriers can claim such protection. "They shouldn't be coming before 7 a.m.," he said, promising to consult the town attorney. "We're going to keep plugging away."

However, he also advised USPS neighbors to not send the owner of the parcel — listed in tax records as Moni LLC — vitriolic emails, such as some that Shea said he had read, in which the "tone is something that would not bring about harmony" and which "also completely closed the door on any further discussion."

Shea said that he has known the family that owns the lot for 35 years and that the son who oversees the rental business seems open to dialogue. He said he has offered "to sit down with everybody" but "so far I haven't had any acceptance."

## Putnam Police *(from Page 3)*

who chairs the Protective Services Committee, informed the subcommittee representatives that while she backs creation of an accountability committee, "it is not a complaint board, so please do not confuse it with that." She said legislators would talk further about the accountability committee with the subcommittee members after submission of the review panel report.

"You will absolutely have support going forward," she said.

During a discussion of the review plan, Nacerino said documents recently provided by the Sheriff's Department helped clarify its policies. "It would be irresponsible and premature" to finalize the draft without reflecting them, she said.

Legislator Neal Sullivan of Carmel-Mahopac, a Protective Services Committee member, added that the delay gives resi-

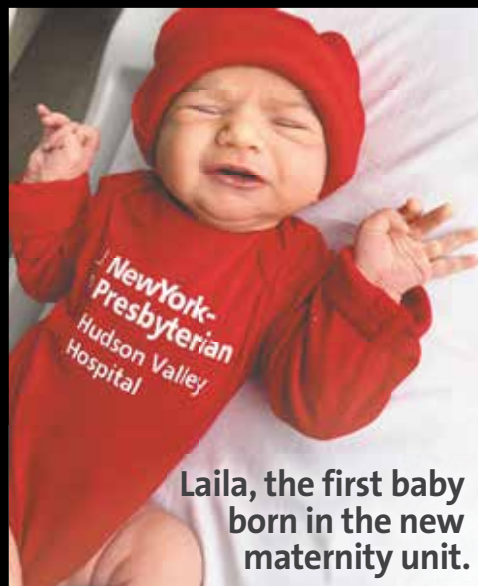
dents more time to offer feedback, as well.

County Attorney Jennifer Bumgarner asserted that had the Sheriff's Department provided all of its approximately 130 policies early on, the review could have been completed already.

Montgomery countered that had county officials, at the onset, detailed what was expected of the Sheriff's Department, confusion could have been avoided. "I'm glad we're going forward and I hope for a

great plan," she said.

Also on Tuesday, the legislative Personnel Committee approved transfer of \$17,544 from one set of jail accounts to another to cover overtime expenses. The action occurred without the extended debates that often ensued in 2020 when the sheriff, who oversees the jail, proposed overtime funding transfers. The committee vote sent the transfer to the full Legislature for ratification.



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**NewYork-Presbyterian**  
Hudson Valley Hospital

1980 Crompond Road, Cortlandt Manor



# The Calendar



A custom guitar depicting Jimi Hendrix



Portraits of David Bowie, Mick Jagger and Freddie Mercury by Ron Williams



A custom guitar by Ron Williams

## Rhythm and Blues (and Yellows and Reds)

### Beacon gallery features guitars as canvas

By Alison Rooney

Ninety percent of the guitars that Ron Williams sells are for people who don't play guitar.

Wait, what?

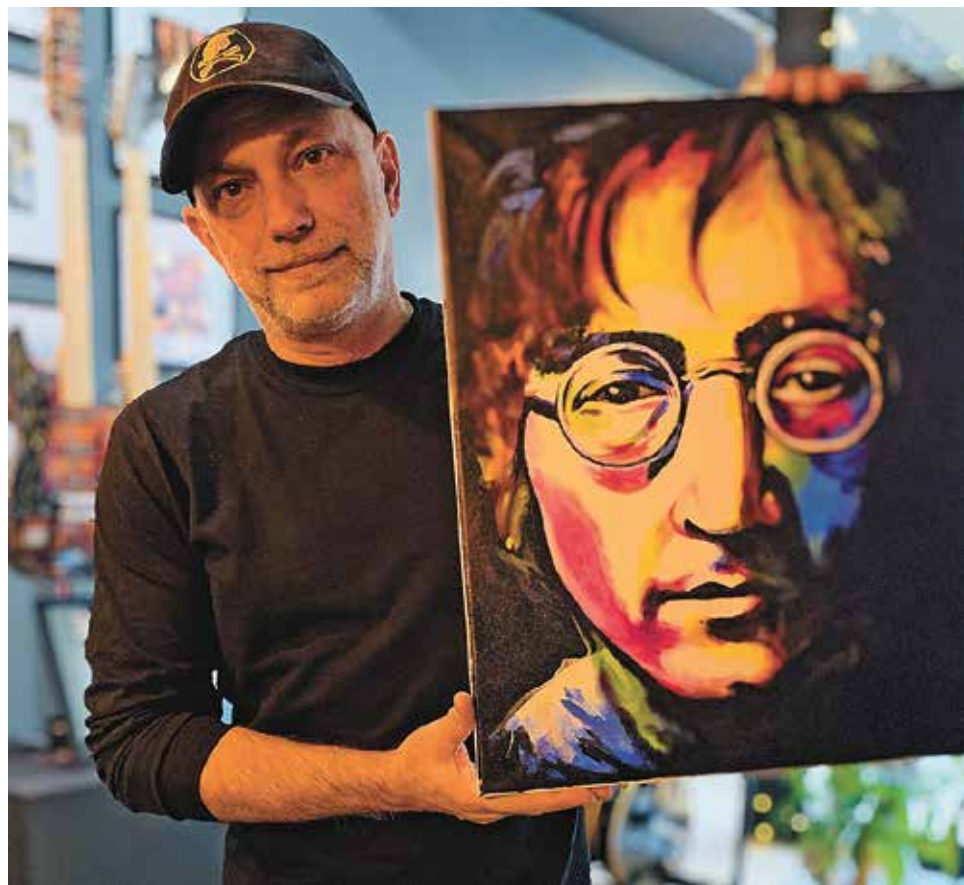
Williams owns RonzWorld, a "guitar gallery" that opened last year in the space formerly occupied by the RiverWinds Gallery. It is home to about 30 guitars destined for homes where most will be admired rather than played.

Each is custom-painted and more artwork than instrument. You can play them but he says more people are interested in them as an expression of fandom.

Williams was working in advertising and marketing, commuting daily from Fishkill to New York City, when, five years ago, his employer transferred him to Fort Lauderdale. He made the move but his family — he has four children ages 12 to 25 — stayed put, and he came home every other weekend.

With a lot of time on his hands in Florida, he picked up a guitar "to see if I could paint it. I've always done traditional art." He designed the character The Joker, from Batman. "The paint job came out fine, but I struggled with how to finish it," he recalls. "I had no idea what I was getting involved in. Let's just say you can't spray chemicals in a Fort Lauderdale apartment — as I found out. It left me with a lot of respect for auto body guys! So, I rented a garage."

Pleased with the way the Joker guitar turned out, he took it to a trade show, where he showed it to Squiggy DiGiacomo of The Music Experience, which lets fans test-drive guitars. DiGiacomo thought the artwork was a "wrap," which is a sheet of vinyl that covers the instrument to change its appearance, Williams says. "He was impressed that it was painted and asked me to paint one live, after the show. He and



Ron Williams with his portrait of John Lennon

Photos provided

I both realized we were on to something."

With that, Williams launched a new career, working at about 14 rock festivals a year, typically headlined by bands such as Guns & Roses, Metallica and Foo Fighters. Williams tailored his guitars accordingly. But he realized he couldn't survive with a stall with six or seven guitars. "There are usually more than 100,000 people there [over several days]. Am I going to stand there calling out 'Hey, buy a guitar?,' especially when nobody knows who I am?"

"I thought, what if we do fan engagement? I'd paint guitars, hire 'brand ambassadors' to walk around and post photos of fans with them. We'd get the guitar signed by the band, bring in a charity, hold a raffle. The profits

are shared, the guitar promotes the festival, it cultivates fans for the band, and someone goes home with a custom guitar."

It all went well for six years, until the pandemic shut down the festivals last year. Williams initially thought he could ride it out, but as the pandemic stretched from weeks into months, he was forced to think on his feet. "By the beginning of summer, I had inventory and no money coming in, and I started thinking hard about how to get the guitars in front of people. Nobody is going to buy a guitar for \$2,000 to \$3,000 without seeing it firsthand. I had to open a store. If it wasn't for COVID, I wouldn't have explored."

Along with his Beacon gallery, Williams has a workshop in Newburgh where he

makes the guitars — he divides his time between the two.

The weekend crowds in Beacon have surprised him, he says. "There's a huge amount of people coming up from New York City. Beaconites — a mix of musicians and non-musicians — also have come in. We cater to fans of classic bands like The Beatles, the Stones, The Who, Van Halen, Led Zeppelin. My people are the 'OMG, I saw them in 1977 in the Garden' crowd — that's what spurs the purchase."

"What I've found here is that the crowd is largely my age, in their 50s. It's interesting how it plays out. Every single person has a story. Music is such a large part of your life. If you hear a song on the radio popular in high school, you instantly recall that moment. You discover that music and art does bond people. No politics in here — you can just talk music."

"Younger people are almost more interested in the art aspect of it," he says. "They're inquisitive about the process. They ask if I can paint Kurt Cobain or Post Malone. Older folks sit back and enjoy the atmosphere and the younger kids are more how, what, why?"

In response to requests, Williams began painting portraits as well as guitars. "One woman came in and told me she would love to learn how to paint like that," he says. "I said I'd teach her. Then it occurred to me: What if we did a paint-and-sip with rock stars? I started doing two-and-a-half-hour classes of up to 10 people, and every single one of them sold out [for \$75 per person]. If you can get me five or more people and tell me who you want to paint, we'll do a class."

His gallery also stocks merchandise such as tour clothing (although the bestseller is a CBGB shirt), jewelry and mini-guitars.

Williams says the biggest compliment he gets is "the vibe in here is so cool," because "if I had set out with the thought of creating a cool vibe, it wouldn't have worked."

*RonzWorld Guitar Gallery is located at 172 Main St. in Beacon. It is open from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Thursday to Saturday, and from noon to 6 p.m. on Sunday. See itsronzworld.com or call 845-745-0455.*



# THE WEEK AHEAD

Edited by Pamela Doan (calendar@highlandscurrent.org)

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

## COMMUNITY

SAT 13

### Maple Sugar Tours

CORNWALL

11 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Outdoor Discovery Center  
120 Muser Drive | 845-534-5506  
hnm.org

Learn how maple sap is turned into syrup. Online registration required. Maple syrup will be sold only online. Also SUN 14. *Cost: \$10 (\$8 members, children 5 and younger free)*

SAT 13

### Maple Celebration

PHILIPSTOWN

8 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Taconic Education Center  
75 Mountain Laurel Lane  
bit.ly/itsmapleseason

Eat a breakfast of pancakes smothered in syrup and enjoy demonstrations of how sap is turned into syrup. Register online for one of three timeslots.

SUN 14

### Daylight Savings

2 a.m. Set clocks ahead one hour.



THURS 18

### Virtual CSA Fair

PHILIPSTOWN

6 p.m. Hudson Valley CSA Coalition  
hudsonvalleycsa.org/csa-fair

Learn about options to purchase community-supported agriculture shares.

SAT 20

### Bird Walk

CROTON

8 a.m. Croton Point Park  
putnamhighlandsaudubon.org

Be on the lookout for the American woodcock. Register online.

SAT 20

### Pet Rabies Clinic

CARMEL

10 a.m. – Noon. Memorial Park  
201 Gypsy Trail Road  
845-808-1390 ext. 43160

Bring proof of prior rabies vaccination for your cat, dog or ferret. Registration required. *Free*



Maple Sugar Events, March 13

SAT 20

### Virtual Trivia Night

COLD SPRING

7:30 p.m. Putnam History Museum  
putnamhistorymuseum.org

Bring your team and be ready via Zoom for historical trivia about the Hudson Valley, New York state and the U.S. Register online. *Cost: \$10 (members free)*

SUN 21

### Woman of History

NEWBURGH

2 p.m. Washington's Headquarters  
facebook.com/  
WashingtonsHeadquarters

This virtual event will include a discussion of Martha Washington followed by the presentation of the 2021 Martha Washington Woman of History Award to Sue Gardner, a librarian who is the deputy historian of Warwick.

## STAGE & SCREEN

SAT 13

### Living Art

OSSINING

8 p.m. Westchester Collaborative  
wctheater.org

View live performances online of one-act plays inspired by artworks selected by the Ossining Arts Council. Also SAT 20. *Cost: \$25 (\$20 students and seniors)*

MON 15

### Irish Dance Performance

GARRISON

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

The Irish dance school Clan na hÉireann will perform from their studio in this livestreamed event.

FRI 19

### Jump at the Sun

COLD SPRING

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

Register to join this Zoom event to discuss the film about the life

and work of author, anthropologist and filmmaker Zora Neale Hurston (1891-1960). Watch at your convenience via Kanopy.

FRI 19

### Marie Curie

GARRISON

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

Watch *The Courage of Knowledge* and join other viewers over Zoom to discuss the film about the physicist and chemist.

SUN 21

### Poet's Corner

PUTNAM VALLEY

3 p.m. Tompkins Corners Cultural Center  
tompkinscorners.org

Register to read or listen via Zoom. The featured poet will be Jonathan Andersen.

## MUSIC

TUES 16

### Circle of Song

PUTNAM VALLEY

7 p.m. Tompkins Corners Cultural Center  
tompkinscorners.org

Play or sing Irish music. Registration required.

WED 17

### Celtic Joy

PEEKSKILL

7 p.m. Daisy Jopling Band  
bit.ly/CelticJoy

Celebrate St. Patrick's Day with the Daisy Jopling Band, Max Hershkovitz and the Peekskill City Singers as they perform at the Dramatic Hall Theatre in this live-streamed concert. *Cost: \$30 (members free)*

SUN 21

### Dashon Burton and David Fung

KATONAH

3 p.m. Caramoor  
914-232-1252 | caramoor.org

Bass-baritone Burton's

livestreamed performance with pianist David Fung will combine Schumann's *Dichterliebe* with works by John Dowland, Charles Brown, Florence Price, Margaret Bonds, Ernest Charles and William Bolcom, plus a set of spirituals. *Cost: \$15 to \$45 (members free)*

SUN 21

### Schroeder Umansky Duo

NEWBURGH

8 p.m. St. George's Church  
alivemusica.org

The program, part of the ALIVEmusica series, will include Arthur Honneger's *Sonatine for Violin and Cello* and the Hungarian folk music of Zoltán Kodály's *Duo for Violin and Cello*. *Cost: \$20 donation or pay as you wish*

## KIDS & FAMILY

SAT 13

### Intro to Babysitting

COLD SPRING

10 a.m. Butterfield Library  
845-265-3040 | butterfieldlibrary.org

Students ages 10 and older will learn the basics of childcare from Amanda Lisk in this two-part workshop via Zoom. Also SAT 20.

SAT 13

### Self Expression and Advocacy Through Street Art

BEACON

4 p.m. Compass Arts  
compassarts.org

In this two-session class, students in grades 6 to 12 will learn law-abiding ways to express their ideas through street art. *Cost: Sliding scale*

SUN 14

### St. Patrick's Day Story Walk

COLD SPRING

12:30 – 2:30 p.m. Butterfield Library  
10 Morris Ave. | 845-265-3040  
butterfieldlibrary.org

Read a St. Patrick's Day story and search for the treasure that leprechauns hid on the library's lawn.

## TALKS & TOURS

SAT 13

### Fight Climate Change in Your Backyard

PHILIPSTOWN

10 a.m. Climate Smart Philipstown  
bit.ly/backyardclimate

Catherine Serreau-Thompson and Krystal Ford will share ways your backyard can help lower your carbon footprint.

MON 15

### Finding Your Breath/Weaving Your Purpose

GARRISON

7 p.m. Garrison Institute  
garrisoninstitute.org

Jackie Ivy, a Garrison Institute fellow, will explore, through breathing, why the events in our lives happen to us. *Cost: \$25 to \$45*

TUES 16

### Tree ID for Beginners

MILLBROOK

7 p.m. Cary Institute  
caryinstitute.org

Learn in this webinar how to identify common Hudson Valley trees, before they leaf out, using their shape, bark, buds, fruits and seeds. Register online.

WED 17

### Reading with Writers

COLD SPRING

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

The book club will discuss *Meander Spiral Explode*, by Jane Alison.

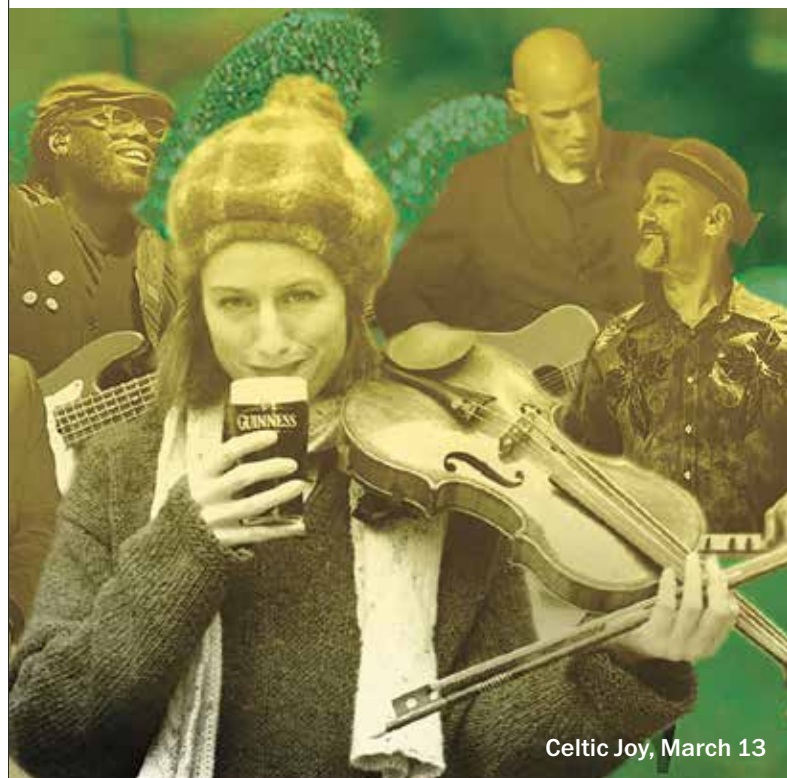
THURS 18

### What's It Worth?

BEACON

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

Mike Ivankovich, host of the radio program *What's it Worth? Ask Mike the Appraiser* will appraise an item via Zoom for participants. Email adults@beaconlibrary.org to register.



Celtic Joy, March 13



THURS 18

**Cut the Cord**

GARRISON

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

Take control of your cable life with cost-saving measures.

SUN 21

**Mysterious Stone Sites in the Hudson Valley**

PUTNAM VALLEY

11 a.m.

Tompkins Corners Cultural Center  
tinyurl.com/MysteriousStoneSitesLinda Zimmermann, author of *Mysterious Stone Sites in the Hudson Valley of New York and Northern New Jersey*, will discuss their significance via Zoom.

SUN 21

**Just Us**

GARRISON

4 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library  
bit.ly/RankineJustus

Hamilton Fish, editor of *The Washington Spectator*, will interview Claudia Rankine, author of *Just Us: An American Conversation*, via Zoom about the challenges of achieving racial justice and the need to examine white supremacy. Copies of the book are available at Putnam County libraries and the Field Library in Peekskill. Register online.



March 13

**VISUAL ART**

SAT 13

**SITE and Mentor Shows**

GARRISON

10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Garrison Art Center  
23 Garrison's Landing | 845-424-3960  
garrisonartcenter.org

*The Mentor Show* showcases the works of students instructed by local artists, while the School Invitational Theme Exhibition is a collaboration that began in 1994 between the art center and schools in five Hudson Valley counties, including Putnam and Dutchess. Also SUN 14.

SAT 13

**Dialogues | Delineation**

BEACON

Noon – 6 p.m. BAU Gallery  
506 Main St.  
845-440-7584 | baugallery.org  
The gallery will host two group

shows: *Dialogues*, with artworks that interact with each other stylistically, and *Delineation*, a collection of drawings.

SAT 13

**Inaction Figures 9 / Camp Hellfire**

BEACON

6 – 9 p.m. Clutter Gallery | 163 Main St.  
212-255-2505 | cluttergallery.com

Along with the ninth installment of *Inaction Figures*, the gallery will present a solo show by Ghost Fox Toys with toys inspired by camp-based horror films of the 1970s and '80s in three categories; staff, camp-goers and resident monsters.

SAT 20

**Caroline Burton | Eric Erickson**

GARRISON

10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Garrison Art Center  
23 Garrison's Landing  
845-424-3960 | garrisonartcenter.org

Burton's exhibit, *Incarnations*, will feature mixed-media paintings she processes repeatedly by cutting and repainting. Erickson's show is a series of oil paintings with shifting spatial relations. Through May 2.

**CIVIC**

MON 15

**City Council**

BEACON

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

Eric Erickson, March 20

MON 15

**Village Board**

NELSONVILLE

7:30 p.m. Via Zoom  
845-265-2500 | nelsonvillenyny.gov

TUES 16

**Village Election**

NELSONVILLE

Noon to 9 p.m. Village Hall  
258 Main St.  
845-265-2500 | nelsonvillenyny.gov

TUES 16

**Police Reform Plan Hearing**

COLD SPRING

6:30 p.m. Via Zoom  
coldspringny.gov  
The village board will hold a public hearing to accept comments

on its draft Police Reform and Reinvention Plan. See Page 3.

TUES 16

**School Board**

COLD SPRING

7 p.m. Via Zoom  
845-265-9254 | haldaneschool.org

WED 17

**Budget Workshop**

NELSONVILLE

7:30 p.m. Via Zoom  
845-265-2500 | nelsonvillenyny.gov

WED 17

**School Board**

GARRISON

7 p.m. Via Zoom  
845-424-3689 | gufs.org**NOTICE***The Village of Cold Spring***NYS Police Reform and Reinvention Plan****Public Meeting**

The Village of Cold Spring will hold a Public Meeting via Zoom to review and accept comment on the Police Reform and Reinvention Plan Draft developed to comply with NYS Executive Order 203.

**DATE: March 16, 2021 / TIME: 6:30 PM**

Residents are encouraged to attend and participate as follows:

**<https://zoom.us/j/94086293122?pwd=eVJpUnFZRUt5K3A3anhFLzlERGS9SQT09>**

or to Join by Phone: (646) 558-8656

Meeting ID: 940 8629 3122 Password: 259033

A Draft of the plan will be available on the Village Website (coldspringny.gov) at:

Boards & Committees > Board of Trustees> NYS Police Reform & Reinvention Plan (<https://www.coldspringny.gov/mayor-board-trustees/pages/nys-police-reform-reinvention-plan>)

You can also contact the Village Clerk at 845-265-3611 x1 or via email at [vcsclerk@coldspringny.gov](mailto:vcsclerk@coldspringny.gov) to arrange to receive a copy.

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Eric Nally photographed by Robert Lundberg at House of Blues, Boston, 2017

### The Artist Next Door

# Robert Lundberg

By Alison Rooney

Those who knew Robert Lundberg back in the days when he was a criminal-justice student might have presumed any photos he was taking were in the vein of mug shots rather than comedic



Louie Anderson at Bethel Woods. “It was a snowy night. Due to the weather he was delayed and had to directly go on stage. He allowed us 10 or 15 minutes post-show, even though he was tired and hungry. He asked, ‘What do you want me to do?’ and I said, ‘Just candid,’ and followed him around.”



Rufus and Martha Wainwright at Town Hall in New York City. “It was my first big shoot backstage. Things were delayed and we had to wait for hours. We ended up in this hallway backstage. I had so much fun trying to capture the dynamics of these siblings.”

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mugging shots.

In the years since the Beacon resident altered course, instead earning a degree in graphic and web design, he's cultivated a third professional life as a photographer and visual artist. His lens has been most often trained on musicians and comedians. His ongoing series, *Uncontaminated Sound*, focuses on performers, known and unknown, captured just before they go on stage.

In 2017, after moving from Boston to Brooklyn, he landed his first assignment, for *Paste* magazine, for a backstage shoot of a performer named Baby Yors at the Bleecker Street club Le Poisson Rouge.

That evening, he says, was when he “fell in love with attempting to capture those little moments that occur when we think no one's around. I try to get the performers as themselves, not having them pose. They have to put up this stage persona, this aura, for the audience. Some get themselves going beforehand, others have rituals or are mellow and down-to-earth.”

While he was starting that series, another of Lundberg's images — a photo he took of a man named Tiny on a Philadelphia street — was accepted by the Clio Art Fair, a curated exhibition in New York City that which displays the work of artists who are not affiliated with a gallery. Less than a year after his backstage shots of Baby Yors, Lundberg mounted his first solo show at Bowery Electric. A year later he presented his work at a second New York club, Arlene's Grocery, on the Lower East Side.

His career path has been “an evolution,” he says, “although even when I was younger I was always curious about the world. At age 5, I wanted to be an archaeologist or geologist. My parents took my twin sister and I to places like Mexico, where we'd use



Robert Lundberg, in a self-portrait

disposable cameras while snorkeling, taking pictures of fish. I always was given hand-me-down cameras by relatives, and I'd snap away.”

“I always was given hand-me-down cameras by relatives, and I'd snap away.”

His curiosities shifted to street photography after he moved to Brooklyn. He credits his partner, Melissa Nastasi, a publicist, with pushing his photography forward. “I was more interested in design, but since meeting Melissa, it's been a journey focused on camera work,” he says. In 2017,

he finished up a website-design project for the Ethelbert Cooper Gallery of African and African American Art at Harvard and felt that his hometown, Boston, was getting small. “It's a wonderful place, but I had this vision of something I had to do,” he says. “Brooklyn was calling for me.”

“I didn't plan much; I just moved,” he recalls. “I moved into a windowless space and then made another bad decision and moved into a warehouse.”

He and Nastasi found themselves in Beacon every weekend, he says, and relocated in October. Lundberg has been working on transforming *Uncontaminated Sound* into a YouTube series of filmed conversation ([bit.ly/US-conversations](http://bit.ly/US-conversations)). “With the pandemic, we've all had to adapt, but we all still have stories to tell,” he says.





Jackie Hadden as “police chief for a day” in Oyodo-cho.



Hadden atop Mount Fuji, after climbing all night

Photos provided

### Something You Don't Know About Me

## Jackie Hadden

Jackie Hadden, who lives in Cold Spring, spent three years living in rural Japan. She spoke with Alison Rooney.

#### How did you wind up in Japan?

In my first year of college in Canada, I took a linguistics class in which the professor shared tales of traveling the world teaching English. I was hooked, and made it my degree. After graduation, I was hired by the Japan Exchange and Teaching (JET) program and spent 1994 through 1997 in Oyodo-cho, a town in Nara prefecture, 90 minutes from Osaka. I worked in a junior high school as an assistant English teacher.

#### How did the educational experience differ from Canada's?

It was a fairly rigid. There were regular uniform checks, and teachers stood by on graduation day with black hairspray in case a student had decided to assert his or her individuality with blonde or red hair dye. After a student was accused of shoplifting, three teachers went to deal with it, not the student's parents. The students were sweet, though. I also taught adults at night, which was the highlight of my week. I am still in touch with some students 24 years later.

#### Were Westerners common in the area?

Not at all. I was a source of curiosity. I had to tape a sheet of paper partially over the inside of my mail slot because little kids liked to peek to see how the *gaijin* [foreigner] lived. I would come to school on Monday and have a student recount the contents of my grocery basket from that weekend. They hadn't been at the store, but their grandmother had been!

#### Were there “lost in translation” moments?

Many. With the cultural and language barriers, I felt like a child at times. People were amazingly kind to me, but I inevitably experienced bouts of homesickness. On one particularly difficult day, I stopped at



Jackie Hadden, today

the bakery to get something to drown my sorrows with. I took the treat home, ready for the chocolate inside, only to discover I had bought a bun filled with red bean paste. I'm pretty sure I cried.

I made other mistakes. While traveling home from Tokyo during my first week with my boss, I bought a nice lemon drink at 9 a.m. from a platform kiosk, cracked it open in the sweltering summer heat only to discover it was sake, not something to be drunk in the morning, or in front of one's boss, especially if you were a woman.

Another time that first summer, I put my futon over my balcony railing to air it out like I saw my neighbors do, except I didn't know about the clip. I came home from work to find my mattress one floor down on my neighbor's balcony, which was awkward to knock and explain but better than having it end up on the train tracks below.

On another occasion, I was working at the

school board office when beautiful, thick grapes were brought in as a gift and distributed on plates. I was enjoying mine until the woman at the desk next to me opened her Japanese-English dictionary with an apologetic smile to the page with the word *barbarian*. I was the barbarian, not having known you must slit the grape with your front tooth, push the contents into your mouth and leave the skin on the plate.

After climbing Mount Fuji, I wanted to clean up and asked at the tourist counter where I could find a *senzo* (public bath — originally a strange concept but by then I had acclimated to sitting naked with strangers). Thank goodness my Japanese was good enough to recognize that I had been sent not to a *senzo* but to a *soapland*, which is a brothel-type bathhouse. I returned to the bus station to get another address, this time from the horrified counter person on the next shift who couldn't understand how the other person had made such a mistake!

#### Was there a time when you felt that you were seen as a local?

Yes. I served as the town's honorary police chief for a day, which entailed putting on a uniform — complete with a regulation handbag — and handing out fliers at the train station about emergency procedure reminders. Two nights later, the police chief called me at 9 p.m. from a tiny bar that probably sat 10 people. He and the rest of the off-duty officers were there, and he invited me to sing karaoke. I learned a few stand-by songs. Pro tip: Anybody can sing “Love Me Tender.”

#### What most resonates with you now, 24 years later?

I loved the beauty of the country: the vivid green of rice paddies in the wet season, turning to gold in the summer; the call of cicadas filling the long, hot days; the scent of incense and the lulling sound of chanting in the temples; the beautiful surprise of coming across peaceful shrines in unexpected places. I loved the simple kindness that lies below the formality of the people in Japan.

I'll also never forget waking up to the sound of rattling trash cans, which turned



Hadden (left) with fellow teachers, Todaiji Temple, Nara, 1994

out to be the 7.3 Kobe earthquake. Interestingly, my grandfather was on a ship in Yokohama harbor in 1923 when the Great Kanto earthquake (7.9) happened.

Japan was the perfect place for a new graduate to figure out the path ahead. It was safe, clean and interesting, and the pay was excellent, and it made me a better teacher for the students I taught English at schools in New York City.

“ I loved the simple kindness that lies below the formality of the people in Japan.

#### Have you ever returned to Japan?

I've gone back twice. My son came with me when he was 10 and attended elementary school for a day in my old town. While there I was “adopted” by the family of two of my students whose mother had done a homestay trip to Arkansas 20 years earlier. She wanted to return the kindness she had experienced in the U.S. Her daughters have visited me in Cold Spring twice and are now mothers themselves. I hope to host to host their daughters here someday.



Small, Good Things

Hair of the Dog

By Joe Dizney

Is it my imagination or has this winter been longer than any in recorded history?



And now that the end is in sight — manifested by morning birdsong, longer days and teasingly warmer temperatures — along comes daylight saving time to mess with expectations. Spring forward, indeed.

This is a minor complaint, particularly when confronted and encouraged by recent inroads being made on the vaccination front and new guidelines for a slight return to everyday activities.

After a solid year of this global disaster, the emotional hangover and hairball of craziness, loss, redemption and hope calls for a spring tonic.

Bloody Mary Tomatoes are one solution. The drink that supplies the name has an almost universal cachet as a brunch-time hangover cure. Even without the alcohol, the flavor profile offers a welcomed wake-up call to winter-deadened palates. The internet is rife with versions, pointing to the intuitive crowd-sourced necessity of such a thing.

Toss the tomatoes with lemon zest, celery salt, garlic powder, a little salt, a pinch of sugar, and roast them, and the natural and applied flavors concentrate and are mellowed. This reveals sweetness and a liveliness where there was none. Cayenne, black pepper and horseradish add heat, and a splash of Worcestershire contributes a complex umami.

For the recipe as originally executed I used plum tomatoes. To be sure, this is a foolproof way to liven up bland, offseason supermarket staples. (I have a lingering suspicion that there's an interesting pasta sauce lurking in here somewhere.) The version here was prepared with mini San Marzano tomatoes discovered at Adams.

Pizza seemed like a good delivery platform and suggested the addition of caramelized shallots and garlic. It's topped out of the oven with baby arugula and oregano, and finished with shaved ricotta salata, a firmer, salted and lightly aged cousin to ricotta that offers a mild nuttiness.

Cherry or grape tomatoes are fine substitutes; use more traditional pizza cheeses as is your preference.

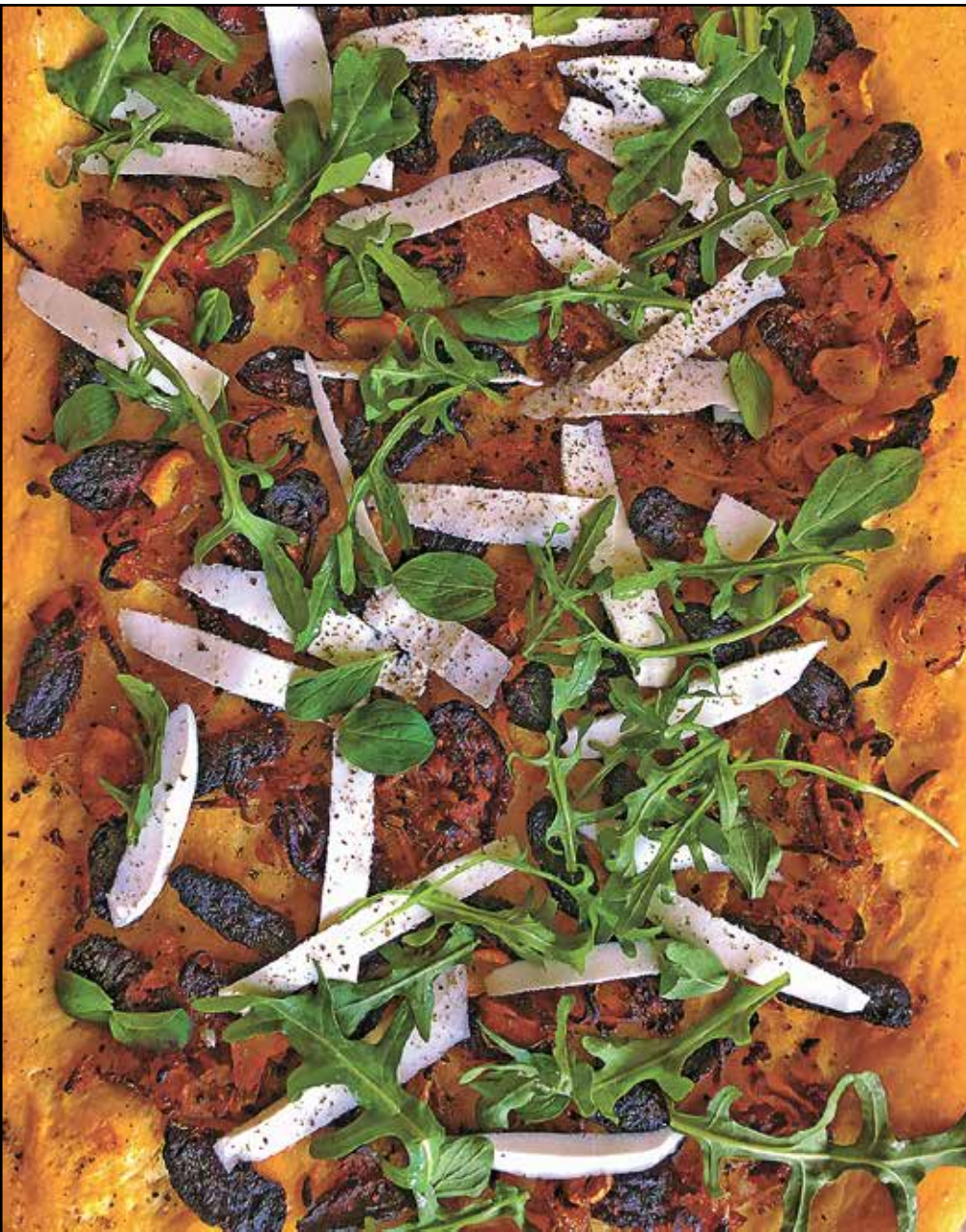
“After a solid year of this global disaster, the emotional hangover and hairball of craziness, loss, redemption and hope calls for a spring tonic.

Bloody Mary Tomato Pizza With Arugula and Ricotta Salata

Bloody Mary Tomatoes (makes about 2½ cups)

- 1 tablespoon horseradish
- 1 tablespoon finely grated lemon zest
- ½ teaspoon celery salt
- ¼ teaspoon cayenne pepper
- 1 tablespoon granulated sugar
- 2 teaspoons Worcestershire sauce
- 3 cups mini San Marzano tomatoes, halved lengthwise (substitute grape or cherry tomatoes)
- Olive oil
- 4 medium shallots, sliced about ⅛-inch thick
- 4 cloves garlic sliced thin
- ½ teaspoon kosher salt
- ½ teaspoon ground black pepper

1. Preheat the oven to 375 degrees. In a medium bowl, combine the horseradish, lemon zest, celery salt, cayenne, sugar and Worcestershire. Mix the ingredients to roughly incorporate and add the tomatoes. Toss gently to coat. In a separate bowl, toss shallots and garlic with a glug of olive oil and reserve.
2. Lightly grease a rimmed baking sheet with oil and place the tomatoes on it, cut-side up; season with salt and fresh ground pepper. Roast in preheated oven about 30 minutes. Remove the baking sheet from the oven and scatter shallots and garlic over all. Return sheet to oven and bake for an additional 15 minutes until vegetables are softened and tomatoes are slightly shriveled (but not burnt). Cool to room temperature. You can do this ahead of time and refrigerate the conserve for up to a week.



Pizza Dough (enough for one medium rectangle or two 12-inch rounds)

- ½ teaspoon dry yeast
  - ½ teaspoon sugar
  - 1 teaspoon salt
  - 1 cup lukewarm water
  - 1 tablespoon olive oil (plus extra for greasing bowl and pan)
  - 2 cups bread flour (white or a combination of white and whole wheat)
1. Combine yeast, salt, sugar and water in a medium bowl; stir to dissolve and let sit 5 to 10 minutes. Begin stirring in flour in ½ cup increments until completely combined. Knead by hand for about 3 minutes and let rest for 15 minutes; knead for 3 more minutes.
  2. Form dough into a ball, dusting with more flour to keep it from sticking. Clean and dry the bowl; coat with a smear of oil. Place dough in bowl and cover with plastic wrap. Cover all with a dampened towel and allow to proof and rise at room temperature (70 degrees) until roughly doubled in size (about 3 to 4 hours).

To assemble, cook and serve

- Olive oil
  - Bloody Mary Tomatoes (as above)
  - 3 to 4 ounces ricotta salata, shaved or grated
  - 1 cup baby arugula
  - ¼ cup Fresh oregano leaves
1. Preheat oven to 450 degrees. Oil your pan with a couple of tablespoons of olive oil and use your fingers to stretch it and hands to shape it into rectangle or rounds. Thinner is better but repair any tears or holes. When formed to size, perforate surface lightly all over with a fork and brush with olive oil. Top with prepared tomatoes and shallots. Bake on lowest position in preheated oven for 15 to 25 minutes until crust is golden. If you have a pizza stone and are conversant in its use, by all means, do use it.
  2. Cool about 10 minutes in pan. Top with arugula (lightly tossed with a splash of olive oil) and garnished with shaved ricotta salata and a few oregano leaves. Slice and serve.



# Helping Farmers Help the Hungry

*Glynwood contracts with growers to supply pantries*

By Michael Turton

**C**OVID-19 has been a boon to some Hudson Valley farmers.

Last year, as winter slipped into spring and the pandemic raged on, consumers wary of crowded grocery stores turned to local farms and socially-distanced, outdoor farmers' markets to shop for food.

In addition, subscriptions to community-supported agriculture (CSA) programs sold out far earlier than usual, said Elizabeth Corio, vice president of development and administration at the nonprofit Glynwood Center for Regional Food and Farming in Philipstown. Its own CSA, which usually still has openings in early June, was full by the end of March, she said.

But for those people who lost jobs due to the virus, or who struggled to afford groceries even before the shutdown, COVID-19 made a stressful situation worse.

According to Hunger Solutions New York, about 25,500 people in Dutchess County, or 8.6 percent of the population, suffer from food insecurity, or limited or uncertain access to enough food, including 8,500 children. In Putnam, it's about 4,500 people, or 5 percent, including 2,500 children.

A new Glynwood program, the Food Sovereignty Fund, is designed to reduce food insecurity by putting local produce on the tables of people who need it most while also supporting small farms.

Corio said Glynwood will use the \$100,000 raised so far to contract with Hudson Valley farmers, paying them upfront to grow food for regional hunger relief projects.

Glynwood sent a request for proposals to farmers in December and received 37 responses, she said. Twenty-six of the 37 met at least two of five criteria that will determine who participates: They had gross annual revenue of less than \$500,000; use regenerative practices that build soil health; identify as a Black, Indigenous or person of color; identify as LGBTQ+; or identify as female.

Farmers in those groups "have historically lacked access to bigger programs," Corio explained. "And small farms themselves, regardless of demographics, aren't able to participate in programs such as Nourish New York," a \$35 million emergency food program initiated by the state in the wake of the pandemic.

A panel of seven specialists in farming and food access will help Glynwood make the "tough decisions" on which farmers will be selected from the pool of 26. "We'd love to include farms on both sides of the river, from Westchester to Albany," Corio said.

The request for proposals offered contracts ranging in value from \$500 to \$20,000 and totaled about \$140,000, Corio said. To meet that demand, Glynwood hopes to raise another \$50,000. The



Harvesting radishes at Glynwood

Photo by Amy Scott

fund also pays the members of the selection committee to provide technical assistance for the farmers and for program administration.

Once the selections are made, each farmer will be matched with a nearby hunger relief project, such as a food pantry, some of which are delivering groceries or prepared meals. "We don't dictate how the food will be used — just that it goes through a community food access project," Corio said.

This year, the program will be heavily weighted toward vegetables such as leafy greens, carrots, potatoes, onions, radishes, squash and herbs, but Glynwood hopes to add meat to replace what is often distributed, which is "meat on the verge of expiration or already past its sell-by date," she said. "It's just a totally different experience" with meat provided directly from a farm.

Corio said while the Philipstown Food Pantry probably won't benefit from the

Food Sovereignty Fund this year, Glynwood's working farm plans to contribute about \$60,000 worth of meat and vegeta-

bles to the Cold Spring operation.

Fundraising for the program will continue through March at glynwood.org.

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## Kid Friendly

## Reports from TikTok

By Katie Hellmuth Martin

Mirror, mirror on the wall / Who is watching, after all?

As we watch Meghan, Harry and Oprah play out, our kids are watching and discussing it with their little people, as well as everything else in their TikTok. This is especially relevant for the women and girls in the room.

After talking to other parents while I'm out in stores, I'm discovering that several aren't letting their children watch TikTok. But when I refer to TikTok in front of them, such as by asking my 10-year-old daughter a culture question, their eyes light up.

My daughter has a private TikTok for her friends, so she can "duet" with them (answer questions they ask), discuss life issues in response videos. (Friend 1 posts a video essay; Friends 2, 3 and 4, or anyone, posts video essays back.) It's become a place of support. She has a public account for marketing her self-made "slime," and an account for her fixation on fidget toys. She's aware of haters and fake people.

While writing this column, I was skim-



ming an issue of *Variety*. An article quoted the screenwriter and actor Clare Dunne about her film, *Herself*.

"It's like all the things children were told before, that there were definite things in life — well, that's gone. Nothing's definite now. Right? They have no bedrock, there's no ground. At this moment, it's just hard to know, OK, what can I control? And the answer isn't clear. Right now, at this moment, I feel like the mirroring in the movie to what's gone on the pandemic is that it's all about embracing change, and showing kids what they can do for themselves."

But parents have to let them do it.

Clare continued: "The other thing the film shows is the importance of community. Our power together multiplies infinitely. The collaboration together is key. And I think kids at this moment, they have probably been deprived of their sense of collaboration and community. So I hope kids together are able to seek that out more, and realize the importance and power of that. This, right now, this is going to be part of their life story."

TikTok is part of my children's life story. My daughter figured out how to open an Etsy shop to sell her slime. She designed stickers on an app she found and ordered shipping containers. She designed business cards, because, she observed, one can't not



TikTok is part of children's life story.

have business cards.

She learned how to draw eyes by watching other young illustrators on TikTok. She learned which luminescent colored pencil she wanted to try. She bought black art paper at Walmart. She rejects my old-school fashion illustration books.

Children are on devices a lot in this generation's life story. Remote school. The Reading Plus screen on my daughter's Chrome is hurting her eyes. But we force her to be on it. Yet we say, "You're on TikTok too much."

During a family movie night with people we don't see often, my daughter excused

herself. She was bored of watching the warship/torpedo movie. Later, as she was gazing at herself in the mirror (cleaning her newly pierced ears, it turns out), someone walked by her room and said: "You're looking at yourself in the mirror? That's dumb."

Needless to say, I lost my mind. But that's not the last time we will cut our loved ones down, in the name of concern for them.

I'll be reporting more from TikTok. The kids are gaining natural exposure to so much, from extreme makeup tutorials, transgender lifestyles, the feta/pasta cooking challenge and so much more.

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This feature is designed as a counterweight to all the bad news in the world that weighs people down. We could share a photo of a baby, or a photo of a dog, but we are giving you both. How many newspapers can say that? Patricia Cronin of Garrison shared this shot of her niece, Philomena, with Owney. If you have a photo of a baby and a dog, submit it for consideration to [editor@highlandscurrent.org](mailto:editor@highlandscurrent.org).



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# Storm King to Sugar Loaf

*Proposal would link western Highlands trails*

By Brian PJ Cronin

The western Hudson Highlands in Orange County contain six state parks and more than 500 miles of trails, including three long-distance interstate trails that pass through the region (Highlands, Long Path and the Appalachian), but not much in the way of connectivity to link all of these parks and trails together.

It wouldn't take much to change that, however — only about 20 miles of new trails, according to Peter Karis, director of capital projects and design for the Open Space Institute (OSI).

After two years of work in conjunction with the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference and the Orange County Land Trust, OSI has unveiled a plan to link the six state parks (Bear Mountain, Harriman, Sterling, Goosepond, Schunnemunk and Storm King), three interstate trails, two train stations, Black Rock Forest, the Storm King Art Center and the Sugar Loaf Art & Craft Village. "A lot of it is just filling in the gaps," said Karis.

Although half of the proposed trails could be built on land that is already available because it's in a state park or privately

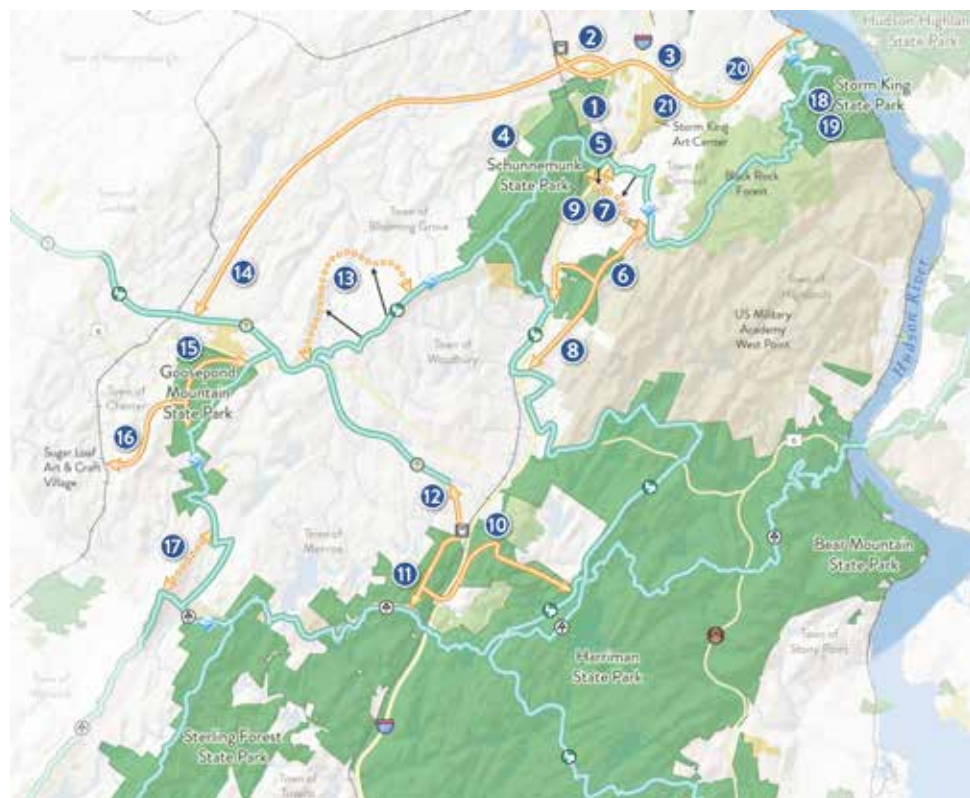
conserved, OSI projects that it will take at least 10 to 15 years for its vision to be realized.

"The best thing about having a plan like this is that if everyone is like-minded and everyone has the same approach, then we know that we can move swiftly when things become available and opportunities present themselves," said Eileen Larrabee, a spokesperson for OSI. "It's something that we're putting out there for us and our partners to achieve and collaborate on."

Along with new trails, the plan calls for the state's first "land bridge" to be built over the state thruway near Schunnemunk State Park to allow wildlife to cross and prevent collisions on the highway.

Karis and Larrabee said that the increased trail usage and state park overcrowding seen over the past year following the COVID-19 shutdown demonstrates the need for the project, which will link two Metro-North stations to the trails. Breakneck Ridge in the eastern Highlands owes part of its popularity to the fact that a train stop lies just across the road from the trailhead. The hope is that by adding public transit to trails on the western side of the river, some hikers may be diverted to trails other than Breakneck.

"This will provide more options for people, especially coming from the south," said Karis. "You can get as great an experience at Schunnemunk as you do at Breakneck."



A map created by OSI shows proposed new trails in yellow and existing trails in light blue. The dotted lines are alternative routes. The numbers indicate spots where access would be improved.

Over the past year, OSI's River to Ridge Trail, which connects downtown New Paltz to the Mohonk Preserve, had more than 200,000 visitors, more than double the number from the previous year.

OSI is also finishing a project on this side of the river: improvements at Fahnestock State Park that began last year and should

be done by late spring. They include Big Woods Drive off Route 301 that will provide easier access to trailheads in the northern section of the park and more parking near the Appalachian Trail crossing.

"We'll be coming back as soon as the snow is gone to put in a lot of the finishing touches," said Karis.

## SPORTS



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# Beacon to Move to Section IX

*District hopes for more competitive games*

By Arvind Dilawar

Beacon High School's sports teams have historically belonged to Section I of the New York State Public High School Athletic Association, which includes about 70 schools in Dutchess, Putnam, Rockland and Westchester counties.

But this fall, its students will be playing league games across the Hudson River, in Orange, Sullivan and Ulster counties, as part of Section IX. There are 11 sections in the state.

The move, spearheaded by Athletic Director John Giametta, was approved by the school board during its meeting on Monday (March 8). Both Giametta and board members said they hoped the switch will create more competitive games by matching Beacon against schools that are comparable economically.

In virtual presentations, Giametta made his case to the school board at a meeting last month and to about 20 members of the public on March 5.

Giametta noted that Beacon has won only 10 sectional titles since 1990 — four of which were in team sports, the rest by individual athletes in boys' track or bowl-

ing. He attributed this, in part, to Dutchess County being at the bottom of the four Section I counties in median household income. This puts Beacon players at a disadvantage, he said, because the parents of student athletes in wealthier locales such as in Westchester can afford private training, and the high schools have better facilities and more experienced coaches.

He said he had surveyed the varsity coaches and found universal agreement that moving to Section IX "would make us more competitive and would increase our opportunity for postseason play," Giametta said.

There are other advantages to switching, he said. While the district would pay a higher membership fee, that would be offset by decreases in other fees, with a net savings of \$6,000 annually.

In addition, the move will reduce travel time to away games. Section I teams must travel as far as the New York City Armory (for indoor track) and contend with parkway prohibitions on buses and metropolitan traffic.

Giametta said that while the mileage to Section IX opponents will be about the same as those in Section I, many Section I schools are not accessible from the Taconic Parkway, "causing us to take [longer] alternate routes."

Beacon's opponents in Section I include Arlington, John Jay East Fishkill, Poughkeepsie, Roy C. Ketcham in Wappinger Falls, Hendrick Hudson in Montrose, Peekskill and Pelham. Schools of comparable size to Beacon in Section IX include Minisink, New Paltz, Monticello, Warwick, Cornwall, Goshen and Wallkill.

Although Beacon's coaches see the advantage of the move, not everyone had the same level of enthusiasm. In comments that Giametta shared during his presentations, Scott Timpano, the boys' basketball coach, noted that the league in Section I "is more competitive and more well-known" and "the premier league in the state." He

also noted some rivalries are decades-old.

But, he said, "we understand that most programs would benefit overall from a move and are willing to go along with the good of the other programs."

School board members on Monday expressed their support for the switch, and the resolution passed unanimously.

"No change is perfect or easy, but he communicated with all of his coaches to make sure there is no strong resistance to it, and the intention behind the change — to increase student participation in our athletic programs and grow partnerships with other districts — outweigh any negatives for me," said Meredith Heuer, the board president.

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Puzzles

CROSS CURRENT

**ACROSS**

1. Nightwear, for short

4. Rm. coolers

7. Fable writer

12. Decay

13. Prefix with athlete

14. Preamble

15. Mode lead-in

16. Soundly defeated

18. Zilch

19. Berth places

20. Retain

22. Away from NNW

23. Roundish 'do

27. Writer Harper

29. Sitting room

31. Prepared apples for baking

34. Street punks

35. Uproar

37. Rotating part

38. A Great Lake

39. Actor Stephen

41. Dumbstruck

45. Striped equine

47. Hockey's Bobby

48. Performed to the end

52. Gun-lobby org.

53. Broadcaster

54. Code-breaking gp.

55. Small barrel

56. Musical pace

57. Thither

|    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 1  | 2  | 3  |    | 4  | 5  | 6  |    | 7  | 8  | 9  | 10 | 11 |
| 12 |    |    |    | 13 |    |    |    | 14 |    |    |    |    |
| 15 |    |    |    | 16 |    |    | 17 |    |    |    |    |    |
| 18 |    |    |    | 19 |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| 20 |    |    | 21 |    | 22 |    |    |    | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 |
|    |    |    | 27 | 28 |    |    | 29 | 30 |    |    |    |    |
| 31 | 32 | 33 |    |    |    |    |    | 34 |    |    |    |    |
| 35 |    |    |    |    | 36 |    | 37 |    |    |    |    |    |
| 38 |    |    |    |    | 39 | 40 |    |    | 41 | 42 | 43 | 44 |
|    |    |    |    | 45 |    |    |    | 46 |    | 47 |    |    |
| 48 | 49 | 50 | 51 |    |    |    |    |    |    | 52 |    |    |
| 53 |    |    |    |    |    | 54 |    |    |    | 55 |    |    |
| 56 |    |    |    |    |    | 57 |    |    |    | 58 |    |    |

**DOWN**

1. Bit of mischief

2. Salt star Angelina

3. Trite

4. Perched on

5. Vacation at sea

6. Locations

7. Has a bug

8. Disney deer

9. Pigs' digs

10. Metal source

11. Group of whales

17. Get ready, briefly

21. West Point freshman

23. Bakery lure

24. *Alice* waitress

25. Scepter

26. Hosp. areas

28. College URL ender

30. "Eureka!"

31. *Evita* narrator

32. Owned by us

33. MLB stat

36. Raised

37. Tenor Enrico

40. Deep, lustrous black

42. Candymaker Willy

43. Goofed

44. Pulls

45. Goose egg

46. — impasse

48. Bit of butter

49. Fib

50. Branch

51. "Uh-huh"

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 long-winded (9)

2 human body's "air bag" (4)

3 feathery tool (6)

4 "AGT" judge Heidi (4)

5 mane tamer (9)

6 water features (9)

7 cleverly avoided (6)

**SOLUTIONS**

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|     |     |     |     |    |
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| TAL | IR  | DU  | IVE | ER |
| NG  | FOU | DED | BR  | NS |
| USH | AI  | UM  | ST  | LU |
| KL  | EVA | KAT | NT  | HA |

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SUDO CURRENT

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

Puzzle Page Sponsored by



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Answers for March 5 Puzzles

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

1. FILLY, 2. REEVALUATE, 3. ALTERNATIVE, 4. MISTY, 5. IMMUNITY, 6. DISCUSSIONS, 7. TANGIBLES

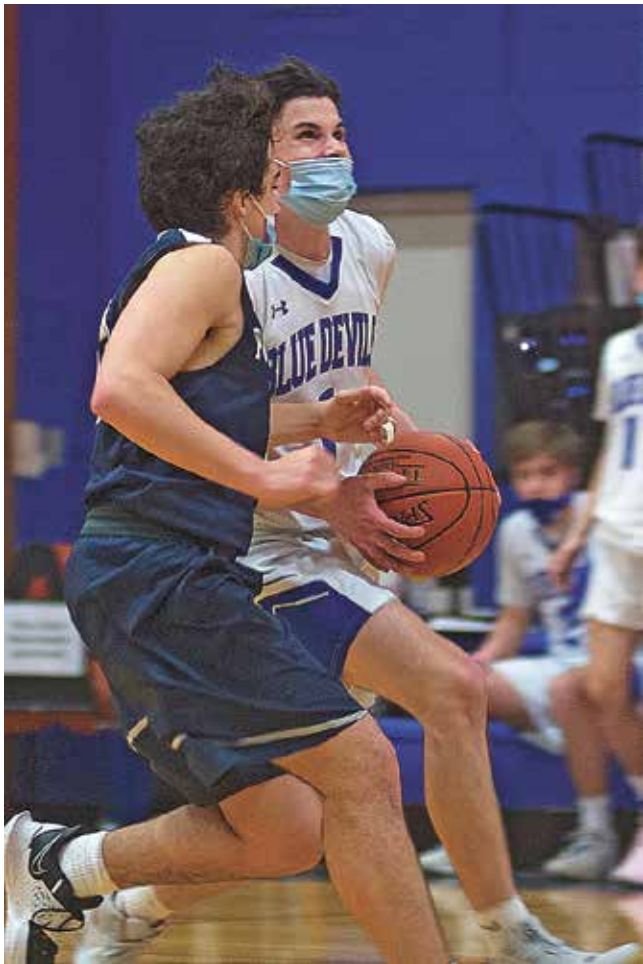
|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2 | 5 | 9 | 6 | 4 | 8 | 1 | 3 | 7 |
| 4 | 8 | 3 | 9 | 1 | 7 | 5 | 2 | 6 |
| 7 | 1 | 6 | 3 | 2 | 5 | 9 | 8 | 4 |
| 9 | 4 | 8 | 5 | 6 | 3 | 2 | 7 | 1 |
| 5 | 7 | 1 | 2 | 9 | 4 | 3 | 6 | 8 |
| 3 | 6 | 2 | 7 | 8 | 1 | 4 | 9 | 5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



## SPORTS



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Haldane's Ryan Irwin drives to the basket against Putnam Valley.



Dan Santos floats in for a layup.



Matteo Cervone scored 31 points in Wednesday's playoff win.  
*Photos by S. Pearlman*

# Haldane Boys Remain Undefeated

*But three other local teams fall in tournament*

By Skip Pearlman

After being quarantined for the last 10 days because of exposure to an opposing player who tested positive to COVID-19, the Haldane High School boys' basketball team pulled away early from Putnam Valley in the fourth quarter during Wednesday's sectional quarterfinal and withheld a late run to advance, 78-61.

Haldane (10-0) is the top seed in the eight-team Northern Westchester-Putnam playoffs for smaller schools. Putnam Valley (2-7) was No. 8.

The Blue Devils were scheduled to host No. 4 Lakeland (7-6) in the semifinal on Thursday (March 11). The winner moves on to Saturday's championship game against Walter Panas (9-4) or Briarcliff (10-1). See [highlandscurrent.org](http://highlandscurrent.org) for updates.

Putnam Valley played the Blue Devils tough, and the game was tied at 42 with two minutes left in the third quarter.

But Haldane went on a 20-0 run, seem-

ingly putting the game away with 6:50 left. The amazing stretch began when the Blue Devils hit a three coming out of a time-out. Soren Holmbo then scored for a five-point lead. Moments later, Holmbo was fouled on a three-point attempt and was awarded five free throws after a Putnam Valley player was called for a technical foul.

He drained four of the five, and the Tigers were stunned.

"Huge turning point," said Coach Joe Virgadamo. "Huge momentum swing."

But the Blue Devils then took their foot off the gas, and the Tigers clawed back to make it a six-point game (67-61) with 2:50 left.

After a time-out, Haldane regained its composure.

"We got a lot of confidence going up 20," said senior captain Dan Santos. "But then there was a bit of sloppiness. We've been in quarantine, so yesterday was the first day we could practice. They shot pretty well, better than when we've played them before."

### Beacon Boys

The Beacon boys' team, seeded No. 6 seed in the Dutchess County tournament, lost its quarterfinal game on Wednesday to No. 3 Lourdes, 83-50.

Darien Gillins led the Bulldogs with 14 points and Dylan Howard added nine.

"Lourdes shot unbelievable," said Coach Scott Timpano. "They had 11 three-pointers. They're a huge and physical team and we had trouble matching up."

He said the Bulldogs (1-12) didn't have the win total they would have liked. "In a year when we knew the team was young, and we weren't able to build our schedule and build our team, I feel for the seniors," he said. "But the young guys got to see what it takes to win at the varsity level."

### Haldane Girls

The Haldane girls' team knew it faced a tough matchup in Wednesday's quarterfinal in the Northern Westchester-Putnam small school playoffs. Seeded No. 8, the Blue Devils would have needed a huge upset to topple No. 1 Walter Panas.

The Panthers took control early on their way to a 69-20 victory.

The Blue Devils (1-10) lost to Panas by one point last season, and Coach Jessica Perrone felt her team could be competitive, "but they hit three fast three-pointers and were hitting shots early."

Panas had a 29-3 lead at the end of the

first quarter, and led 41-9 at halftime.

Maddie Chiera and Ruby Poses each had six points for Haldane, and Chloe Rowe added four.

"We were lucky to get through the season with no quarantine and no sickness," Perrone said. "We felt the effects of having no preseason, but I was glad we got the seniors [Essie Florke and Sydney Warren] some kind of season."

### Beacon Girls

The Beacon girls closed their season on Wednesday at Ketcham, falling 76-42 in the first round of the Dutchess tournament.

Devyn Kelly led the Bulldogs with 10 points and Reilly Landisi and Tianna Adams each had nine.

The Bulldogs (2-9) lost to the Indians on a shot at the buzzer on Feb. 27, but Coach Christina Dahl felt her team suffered from nerves in the tournament matchup.

"We needed more mental toughness to be able to control a game in a pressure situation," she said. "We were in double figures in turnovers, so we struggled with that."

Overall, however, "this season was a great experience for them," she said. "It allowed them to compete with some of the best teams in the area. There was no lack of effort, although maybe some lack of confidence and experience."

**MORE SPORTS ON PAGE 22**