

The HIGHLANDS Current



MARCH 26, 2021

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The Race to Herd Immunity

Vaccinations increase but some still have doubts

By Leonard Sparks

For four days last week after the state opened a mass-vaccination site at SUNY Orange's cavernous gymnasium in Middletown, about a 40-minute drive from the Highlands, appointments could still be had.

A clinic scheduled for Thursday (March 25) at the Philipstown Recreation Center with 1,000 slots showed availability for about 12 hours, from Tuesday afternoon until Wednesday morning, rather than for 12 minutes.

The availability of appointments, even with expanded eligibility — the state this week opened vaccines for any resident age 50 or older, regardless of medical conditions — is a sign that the shortages that ignited frustration and anger during the first three months of the national rollout may be waning.

But another hurdle looms: reaching a vaccination rate of 75 percent, the “herd”
(Continued on Page 7)



SIGN OF SPRING — The ice has melted on the Hudson River and the fishermen, women and children, including this angler off Croton Point Park, have returned.
Photo by Ross Corsair

Challengers Arise in Cold Spring

One village trustee says she's not running

By Michael Turton

Although the November election is seven months away and nominating signatures cannot be collected before April 13, three Cold Spring residents have indicated their intention to challenge the incumbent village mayor and a trustee.

Vinny Tamagna, a former Putnam legislator who is the county's transportation manager, last week circulated a statement announcing he could challenge Mayor Dave Merandy, who confirmed on Tuesday (March 23) he plans to seek a fourth, 2-year term.

Tamagna said he will campaign with Cathryn Fadde and Jeffrey Phillips, who will seek two open trustee seats. Fadde is
(Continued on Page 10)



Vinny Tamagna, Putnam County's transportation manager, discussed the Cold Spring trolley route during a trial run in 2015. He plans to run for mayor.
File photo

Beacon Schools Plan to Sell Dutchess Stadium Land

Board also given early 2021-22 budget numbers

By Jeff Simms

The Beacon school board on Wednesday (March 24) unanimously approved selling the land beneath Dutchess Stadium to Dutchess County for \$627,000, which the county will pay in cash, according to the sales contract.

The sale must be approved by voters and will be included on the May 18 ballot to approve the budget and elect four board members. The sale also must be approved by the Dutchess County Legislature.

If it clears those hurdles, the district will subdivide the 65-acre parcel and convey 33 acres, which includes the land beneath the stadium and its parking lot, to the county. The district plans to keep a 22-acre parcel with a bus garage and about 10 acres of vacant land.

The sale would resolve a complex, decades-

long arrangement which involved the district leasing the land beneath the stadium to the county, which in turn leases the stadium (which it owns) to the Hudson Valley Renegades minor league baseball team.

County legislators last month approved spending \$1.43 on stadium improvements — a second phase of renovations that, after additional phases are complete, is expected to total \$10 million. The county and Renegades are negotiating a long-term lease.

The Renegades had been a Class A, short-season affiliate of the Tampa Bay Rays but last year agreed to become the new High Single-A farm team for the New York Yankees. That move is expected to bring more visitors and revenue to the stadium and surrounding area when play begins at home on May 11.

The budget

Superintendent Matt Landahl on Monday presented the board with preliminary budget figures for 2021-22, including
(Continued on Page 21)

5Q FIVE QUESTIONS: JESSICA LOVE

By Alison Rooney

Children's book author and illustrator Jessica Love will read from her books, *Julián is a Mermaid* and *Julián at the Wedding* at 10 a.m. on Saturday (March 27) in a Zoom event sponsored by the Haldane PTA. Register at bit.ly/jessica-love-PTA.

Your books address gender expression. Is there a right age to start talking about this with a child?

The younger the better. When kids are left alone to encounter this on their own, there is little innate judgement, just a kind of Zen curiosity. In my experience, it's the adults that bring the hysteria and judgment into the room, and kids pick up on that grown-up energy about subjects deemed "fraught" or "difficult." In

many ways it's about getting yourself back into that headspace of a child where you haven't learned yet what society has deemed appropriate and you're coming at these questions with a calm and open mind.

How do children react differently to the books than adults?

Children are much more likely to read the books visually. I tried to create a story that is legible without text. If adults love a novel, they may read it more than once. If children love a book, they will read it hundreds of times — it's almost like a set of stage directions for a world they will occupy. They will furnish it with their own imagination, playing all the parts themselves.

You're also an actor. Does that influence you as a writer?

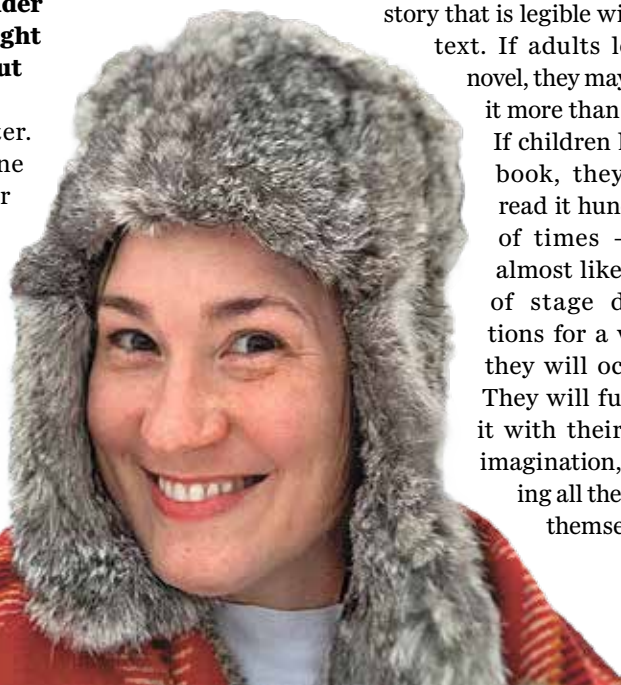
They come from the same place, which is an interest in storytelling. I have done a lot of first-time productions, which is my favorite type of play to do, because you are in the room while it is taking shape, the playwright is present and you get to have conversations about structure, how the story is assembled and what makes it work. That served me when I started thinking about *Julián*. One of the greatest pleasures of theater is its inevitable self-consciousness — there is a wonderful falseness, or rather, a deliberate, collective make-believing that I tried to braid into my books.

You drew realistic bodies for the adults. Why did you take that approach?

The thing we respond to in representational art is specificity — when we can recognize some of the truth in a character, we trust the story. Seeing the physical life of the characters is what allows you to go on an emotional journey with them without a great deal of didactic text. We are good at reading emotional life in people's faces and bodies.

Did you consider having it take longer for Julián's grandmother to come around to letting him be himself?

This was a crucial point for me. Because this book is nearly wordless, a lot of 2-, 3- and 4-year-olds are reading it. If I had created a plot point in which Julián's abuela shames him, it would have in many cases been a child's first encounter with the idea that this form of self-expression is bad. I've had many parents and educators tell me they had trouble finding books that celebrate their kids for being exactly as they are without a narrative about struggle and shame and pain. Most of the books on the topic actually introduced the kids to the idea that there is something wrong with them, when that had never occurred to them. I want my books to feel like a little party — a story about being seen for who you are, by someone who loves you.



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ON THE SPOT

By Michael Turton

Have you ever seen a UFO?

"I've never seen one, but I get how big the universe is. I think they exist."



~Will Soto, Beacon

"I believe in them. Camping in Wyoming years ago, something was going on with the sky. My boyfriend had a dream and swore we had been abducted."



~Alana Reynolds, Beacon

"No, but it's unlikely we're alone in the universe. I'm fascinated by the stories of Area 51."



~Mark Bernardo, Cold Spring

Cold Spring Approves Police Review Plan

Village will survey residents and business owners

By Michael Turton

The Cold Spring Village Board on Tuesday (March 23) approved plans to review the operations and policies of the Police Department.

The seven-page document, posted at coldspringny.gov, was drafted in response to Gov. Andrew Cuomo's executive order last year requiring municipalities to submit plans for "police reform and reinvention" by April 1.

The governor's order came in the wake of killings of a number of unarmed people of color by police officers in New York state and other parts of the country.

Four board members voted to approve the plan. Trustee Heidi Bender cast the lone "no" vote.

Cold Spring's plan outlines a yearlong process which will include a village-wide survey and participation by a number of community stakeholder groups.

In addition, Officer-in-Charge Larry Burke and Trustee Kathleen Foley have been working with Lexipol, a law enforcement consulting firm, to update 47 policies that will be released in stages as part of the public review process.

A 16-question survey was scheduled to be ready by Thursday (March 25) for residents

Police Stats

The following statistics from 2018 to 2020 are included in the Cold Spring Village Board's plan for reviewing police policies.

2,703 Parking tickets issued

2,240 Calls for service

1,060 Traffic tickets issued, including 321 for speeding

424 False alarms

49 Arrests

2 Formal complaints against officers (both for discourtesy)

0 Shots fired by officers

to record their experiences with, and views of, the Cold Spring department. Residents will be notified of the link through the village email list and/or a postcard. They can also email francesm@coldspringny.gov or call 845-265-3611, ext. 1, for the link or to request a paper copy or Spanish-language version.

The survey, which can be submitted anonymously, initially will be limited to village residents and business owners but later expanded to include visitors.

A public hearing on March 16 to receive feedback on the draft drew about 25 residents. Gretchen Dykstra applauded the inclusion of data from the past three years. "It is impossible to recruit, train and supervise police officers without knowing what the job entails," she said.

She also urged the board to do more

to make residents aware of significant police-related issues. Dykstra said a recent increase in "scam calls" reported to the Village Board by Burke was never communicated to the public. "Unused data are worthless data," she said.

In other business ...

■ Mayor Dave Merandy reported that a stop-work order had been issued at 29-31 Rock Street after neighbors complained of heavy equipment being brought to the site. In January, the Historic District Review Board denied owner William McComish's application for a permit to extend a driveway; days later, McComish sued the village in federal court, alleging his rights had been violated. Merandy said when Burke informed McComish he could not undertake any work, McComish said his attorney had spoken with the village attorney and work could proceed. "That was not the case," Merandy said Tuesday. The equipment was removed after the stop-work order was issued.

■ A public hearing on the 2021-22 budget is scheduled for April 13. The draft, available at coldspringny.gov, includes a 2.1 percent, or \$36,600, increase in the tax levy. Under state law, the budget must be approved by the board by May 1.

■ Tots Park could reopen as soon as April 10, pending completion of maintenance tasks and COVID-19 safety measures being put in place.

■ Groups applying to use village parks for events are now required to submit a COVID-19 safety plan.

■ The board accepted the resignation of Officer Reece Aaronow, who took a position with the Dutchess County Sheriff's Department.

■ Cold Spring has been named a Tree City USA by the Arbor Day Foundation "in honor of its commitment to effective urban forest management."

What is the Complaint Process?

Last month, Seth Gallagher, who served as Cold Spring mayor from 2009 to 2013 and is now a defense attorney, wrote to the Village Board asking that it review its process for handling complaints made about alleged police misconduct.

Gallagher said his teenage daughter and two of her co-workers were pulled over in the village in February 2020 by a recently hired officer for driving the wrong way on a one-way street. Gallagher cited a letter sent to the board in June by his daughter in which she said that the officer was immediately hostile, used abusive and profane language and threatened the driver after he opened the glove box that, if he did that again, he would "have a gun in your face."

"The entire time we waited in the car I was close to tears and thought he would come back and hurt one of us, especially my boss in the passenger seat, who is Black," she wrote.

Because the village does not have a police chief, Gallagher noted that the board is responsible for reviewing complaints and disciplining officers. He said that when he contacted Mayor Dave Merandy in September to follow up, he was told that the mayor had read his daughter's complaint and admonished the officer. According to Gallagher, Merandy said the board would meet with him as a courtesy to a former mayor but that he didn't see the point; and that the Police Benevolent Association, which represents the officer, had declined to meet with the board.

Gallagher told the board that he felt the village was creating a process that discourages complaints about officers or meaningful discipline, and excuses the board of its responsibility to assess and investigate complaints. He suggested the complaint process be addressed in the state's mandated police policy review.

Neither Merandy nor Officer-in-Charge Larry Burke responded to an email requesting comment.

“It is impossible to recruit, train and supervise police officers without knowing what the job entails.

~Gretchen Dykstra



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Tell us what you think

The *Current* welcomes letters to the editor on its coverage and local issues. Submissions are selected by the editor to provide a variety of opinions and voices, and all are subject to editing for accuracy, clarity and length. We ask that writers remain civil and avoid personal attacks. Letters may be emailed to editor@highlandscurrent.org or mailed to Editor, The Highlands Current, 142 Main St., Cold Spring, NY 10516. The writer's full name, village or city, and email or phone number must be included, but only the name and village or city will be published.

LETTERS AND COMMENTS

Shakespeare plans

In the letters and comments in the past few issues regarding the Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival's proposal to move to the Garrison Golf Club property, many themes emerged. As residents of Garrison, we want to protect nature. We love our stunning views. We care about our neighborhoods and the tranquility of our lives here. We are apprehensive about negative impacts on any of these.

Fortunately, our neighbors at HVSF care about these issues, too. They have addressed them in a FAQ document that can be found at hvshakespeare.org that includes site plans showing expected siting; discussion of ecological effects of the change from golf course to a park-like campus; plans for traffic management; measurements of decibel levels during performances and intermissions; plans for the avoidance of light pollution; and much additional data covering the concerns that have, understandably, been raised.

Full disclosure: I am both a resident of Garrison and an arts lover, and had earlier asked many of these same questions directly of the HVSF board and staff members (as can anyone, by using the email address at the end of the FAQ). I have found the HVSF team to be open, receptive to

questions and able to supply thoughtful, direct and factual answers. I'm looking forward to the festival's next act.

Libby Anderson, *Garrison*

Since moving to Philipstown in 1993, I have admired and supported the mission and vision of the HVSF, as well as its productions and educational outreach programs.

As a former board member, I have been a witness to their longing for a permanent home and I am grateful and happy for the generous gift of land in Garrison. Further, I am grateful and impressed with the thoughtfulness and deep sense of responsibility HVSF has assumed in accepting this gift. This includes reverence for the incomparable natural beauty of the Hudson Valley and well-researched ideas for the care of the land in the most environmentally conscientious ways as they share the gift with the public.

As residents of Philipstown, we are fortunate to have a volunteer Planning Board of thoughtful and intelligent citizens who donate their time to examine details of the long- and short-term proposed use and care of the land. It is difficult to look ahead 30 years or more but that is what the Planning Board has requested in its due diligence. HVSF staff and experts have taken a cooperative approach with the

concerns of the Planning Board. Dialogues and walks on the land and plan modifications are examples of their commitment.

With other arts organizations and the Chamber of Commerce, HVSF has taken a collaborative approach in conversations and sharing ideas and opportunities as we work together going forward. I admire and commend the generous spirit they have embraced as the grateful recipients and stewards of such a gift.

Kathy Plummer, *Nelsonville*

All that glitters is not gold. Golf courses may appear natural, but it's just window dressing. When you peel back the curtain — or rather the thin mat of grass with shallow roots — it's nothing more than monoculture on life support with a high price tag: a huge carbon footprint, not to mention all the pesticides, herbicides and fertilizers that make their way into our water.

The greenhouse gas emissions from mowing, along with fertilizer and pesticide production, watering and leaf-blowing were found by University of California to be four times greater than the amount of carbon stored by grass. In other words, a conventional lawn produces more carbon dioxide than it absorbs.

From a climate and environmental perspective, I welcome the HVSF endeavor, and I believe they will be a model for environmental sustainability in the performing arts. Part of the Garrison Golf Course would be conserved, land that is vulnerable to being sold to development or subdivision, and in addition the land itself will be greatly enhanced. Large portions of the land will be converted to meadows, wildflower gardens and less intensively managed greenspaces. This will reduce greenhouse gas emissions and draw carbon out of the atmosphere. And wildlife would benefit greatly from the addition of pollinator gardens.

I look forward to the day that I can walk the grounds, enjoy the magnificent views of the Hudson River, hear the buzz of bees, the chirp of birds and vibrant sounds of people enjoying a good play.

Krystal Ford, *Garrison*

Ford is the Climate Smart Program coordinator for Philipstown.

Danskammer

The Danskammer power plant on the Hudson River in Newburgh is an eyesore ("Hearings Set for Power Plant Proposal," March 19). It has been generating electricity for nearly 70 years, burning everything from coal to natural gas to No. 6 oil (sludge after everything is refined out of crude). It is 70-year-old technology. All the infrastructure is there for power generation,

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LETTERS AND COMMENTS

(Continued from Page 4)

including existing transmission lines and gas lines to power the plant.

Now someone wants to come in and tear that eyesore down, build two sleek modern units with 21st-century technology farther away from the river. These units will burn natural gas, the cleanest of the three fuels and our go-to until new technologies take us to the next step. If you think we are going to run a state or a country on solar and wind, it ain't going to happen.

I worked at Danskammer and Roseton for 20 years. I get it. People don't want these plants but they want everything in their house to work when they want them to work. People talk green and all that nonsense as long as everything is running. Nuclear is our best option for clean power, but people hate nuclear power.

We need to embrace projects like Danskammer: 21st-century solutions for 21st-century problems.

Michael Caruso, *via Facebook*

Peekskill paper

As a former *Evening Star* person myself, I totally agree that Peekskill needs a community paper ("5 Questions: Regina Clarkin," March 19). Good luck with your recent endeavor, Regina!

Carol Reif, *Peekskill*

Trash attack

I live adjacent to the North Highlands Park in Philipstown (aka "Glassbury Park") and walk my dog there multiple times a day, as I have been doing for the past six years.

I am beyond aggravated at the litter and countless piles of dog poop in the walking path. The other day I put on plastic gloves, grabbed my trowel and a trash bag and spent a few hours cleaning up. The bigger issue is why so many people refuse to clean up after their dogs or themselves, despite the multiple trash receptacles. Some of the trash I picked up, including twine, plastic bags and fast-food containers, pose threats to wildlife.

I contacted the Philipstown Recreation Department to ask that it put lids on the trash receptacles. But how can we encourage people who use the park to be responsible stewards? Is it even possible? Multiple times over the past year a sign installed to remind people to wear masks and social distance was stolen. Runners continue to pass my elderly mom, maskless and huffing and puffing, despite the fact that we're in the midst of a pandemic.

I understand that the past year has been difficult, but sometimes it feels like we've given up being decent humans. I can't tell you how many times I encounter dogs off leash at the park. I got run down by one earlier this year and landed on my butt in the dirt. If it had been my mother who was knocked over, she would have ended up in the hospital and the dog owner would have been responsible for the bills.

The highlight of my adventures was finding piles of human feces and toilet paper behind the landscaping equipment. The silver lining was a \$5 bill in the brush — a tip for my efforts!

Heather Candon, *Philipstown*

Sheriff's race

In a recent episode of a YouTube show called *Police Off the Cuff*, the hosts interviewed Kevin McConville, the Republican candidate for Putnam County sheriff, and Robert Hyer, a candidate for the Kent Town Council.

Hyer reminisced about the days when "all cops, no bosses, pop open the back of the trunk, they take out Louisville slug-gers, went in there, and I'm not kidding around, they jacked up I don't know — 30 people? Lying out in the lobby of the theater next thing you know there's mounted cops running in the theater playing polo with these guys' heads.... You could walk down the block and we owned the block."

Hyer also reminisced that "the difference between now and then was, if you had the foot post on Fifth Avenue, you would have taken your nightstick, jammed it in the door, called an 85 [arrival delay] and just beat everybody."

McConville sat by, passively, when confronted with the cruel and illegal police behavior Hyer described. Putnam County taxpayers need a sheriff who can recognize and appropriately discipline officers who are out of control and not someone who will stand by silently if his officers want to play polo with citizens' heads. Based on his performance in the YouTube interview, McConville is evidently not up to the job.

McConville, who found his voice to interject at many other points during the show, remained ominously silent. He never said, "Thank goodness we don't do things like that anymore." He never said, "Out-of-control policing and brutality are never warranted." He saw no need to voice even the mildest objection.

We live in a time when violent extremists are trying to infiltrate local police units, as indicated by comments from a recent FBI report. There is widespread consensus that the kind of policing that killed George Floyd is unacceptable. We need leadership, not wimpy acquiescence to men who brag about beating those they've sworn to protect.

Linda Tafapolsky, *Garrison*

Haldane budget

The Haldane district hired an athletic director last year for \$750 per day. Now it has a shortfall? Really? ("It's School Budget Time," March 19).

Michael Riner, *Cold Spring*

Nelsonville results

Democracy at work! Thanks to all who took the time to vote, and congratulations to Kathleen Maloney and Maria Zhynovitch on joining the Nelsonville board ("Maloney, Zhynovitch Elected in Nelsonville," March 19). Please be good stewards of our affairs.

Alan Potts, *Nelsonville*

Plastic recycling

I change out the plastic recycling bin at Key Food and must do it every day because of the volume. Thank you for promoting the project ("Plastic Film OK for Recycling," March 19).

Phil Stamatis, *Beacon*

Open comments

Trustee Heidi Bender's notion that non-residents of Cold Spring should be able to comment at Village Board meetings should be voted as one of the Top 10 bad ideas of 2021 (*Letters and Comments*, March 19).

Village meetings should be for villagers only. Opening the meetings would lead to confusion and a carnival atmosphere and allow special interest and outside agitators to disrupt the proceedings. The business of government is hard enough.

Tony Bardes, *Philipstown*

I respectfully disagree with Trustee Bender about allowing non-residents to comment unless we intend to dissolve Cold Spring as a village, along with the taxes I pay and my right to vote for mayor and trustees.

I thought her endorsement of "seems doable" in response to the Chamber of Commerce request for \$20,000 for public bathroom maintenance was odd and premature, versus saying, "Thank you for this research and information, the board will take this into review." Is she saying that outsiders who spend money here are akin to people with residential equality?

I recognize the baked-in, conflicted tendency of the tourism love/hate dynamic. Before I moved to the village seven years ago from New York City, I believed the "bridges-and-tunnel" crowds had chased me out of my "cool" neighborhoods on the weekends. Ask anyone in the West Village or Fort Greene how much they want non-residents to have an open-mic night at local government meetings and the response would be a loud and mighty, "Not at all."

Irene Pieza, *Cold Spring*

It is disheartening that instead of working with her fellow board members, Trustee Bender chose instead to accuse them of bias in excluding non-residents from participating in a public hearing.

She ascribes to all of them a bias against "outsiders." It is ironic that she sees the solution here for them is to "listen and learn" from those outside the village when she herself has not done the same with her fellow board members. They could have discussed and arrived at consensus on their reasoning on how this particular public hearing would be conducted, including public comment, as well as the need for self-identification at a hearing to confirm if the speaker is a member of the local body politic, the folks she was elected to represent.

So the mayor and Trustee Kathleen Foley's actions at this public hearing were in fact not evidence of bias but rather their efforts toward the faithful execution of our laws in conducting a public hearing. A boundary of a single street here and there is exactly what defines the governing of the Village of Cold Spring. It determines who can vote in village elections, who can represent us in village government and how public comment on circumscribed local matters like police reform might be best handled.

Matt Francisco, *Cold Spring*

Francisco chairs the Cold Spring Planning Board.

Current Names Three Board Members

New directors live or work in Beacon

Highlands Current Inc., the nonprofit that publishes *The Highlands Current*, on March 14 named three new board members.

Robert Lanier is a lifelong Beacon resident and U.S. Coast Guard veteran who is employed at the Keller Army Community Hospital at West Point as a public affairs specialist. A past exalted ruler of the Beacon Elks, he is a baseball umpire and has been a member of the Zoning Board of Appeals since 2015.



Lanier

Damon Banks is a former Cold Spring resident who now lives in Beacon. Born and raised in the Bronx, he studied at the High School of Music & Art in New York City before earning a bachelor's degree in music from Fisk University, in Nashville. As a professional bass guitarist, he has worked with artists such as George Benson, Peter Gabriel, The Neville Brothers and Bobby Womack. He also teaches music.



Banks

Michelle Rivas is the director of young adult programs and outreach at the Howland Public Library in Beacon, where she has worked since 2014. She is a graduate of the Parsons School of Design, in New York City, and Walden University in Minneapolis, as well as a former teaching artist with the Partnership of Inner City Education in New York City. She lives in Wappingers Falls.



Rivas

The other board members of Highlands Current Inc. are Christine Bockelmann, Gwendolyn Bounds, Susan Brune, David Duffy, Kyle Good, Nicholas Groombridge, Mel Laytner, Bevis Longstreth, Joseph Plummer and Rudolph Rauch.

Jason Angell, a board member since 2019, resigned last month because he is running for a seat on the Philipstown Town Board.

Highlands Current Inc. also has an 11-member advisory board: Allen Alter, Ralph Ardit, Suzanne Baker, Christopher Buck, Stacey Farley, Irvine Flinn, Judith Mogul, Frederick Osborn III, John Plummer, Andrew Revkin and Zanne Stewart.

David McCarthy, a member of the advisory board since 2018, resigned this month to run the campaign of John Van Tassel for Philipstown supervisor.



Putnam County Executive MaryEllen Odell receives the vaccine at a clinic on Brewster from public health nurse Jeanette Baldanza.

PCHD photo

Coronavirus Update

■ State health officials said that, as of Wednesday (March 24), 9,218 people had tested positive for COVID-19 in Putnam County; 25,282 in Dutchess; 117,068 in Westchester; 42,556 in Rockland; 11,528 in Ulster; and 41,825 in Orange. Statewide, there have been 1,809,837 positives, including 807,473 in New York City. Statewide, 40,141 had died.

■ The state expanded vaccine eligibility as of March 23 to include anyone aged 50

and older. In addition, pharmacies are no longer limited to vaccinating only people age 60 and older or teachers.

■ Putnam County had 245 active cases during the week ending March 18, with 18 new cases in Philipstown, which has had 789 since March 2020. There were 121 new cases in Carmel, 45 in Kent, 39 in Patterson, 30 in Putnam Valley and 46 in Southeast. Eleven people were hospitalized at Putnam Hospital in Carmel.

■ The number of people with COVID-19 who were hospitalized in New York state as of March 24 stood at 4,600; the number in intensive care was 931; and the number of intubations was 583. In the Mid-Hudson Valley, 43 percent of hospital beds were available and 41 percent of ICU beds.

■ New York has its first confirmed case of the more-contagious Brazilian variant of the virus. The variant was detected in a Brooklyn resident in his or her 90s with no travel history.

■ With the Beacon school district expanding in-person instruction to four days per week in April, the city's Department of Parks and Recreation is accepting registration for its after-school program. See beaconny.gov or call 845-235-4202.

■ The federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said on March 19 that 3 feet

What Will You Do with the \$\$\$?

The federal government has started sending out the third round of stimulus checks in response to the effect of the pandemic shutdown on the economy. We asked this week at [instagram.com/highlandscurrent](https://www.instagram.com/highlandscurrent) if readers had received their checks; 56 percent said they had. We also asked what they planned to do with the money. Here are some answers:

- Get my dog spayed and new brakes for my car
- Home improvement
- Tithes to my church
- Buy crypto
- Home projects
- Stuff
- Bills, bills, bills
- Saving for a house
- Not sure yet
- Taxes, again!
- Pay bills ahead so we won't have to worry about them!
- Savings
- I paid off my student loan with the first one so I'm thinking something fun for this one
- Did not qualify
- Childcare
- Paying for a much-needed MRI



COVID-19 by the Numbers

■ PUTNAM COUNTY

Number of confirmed cases:

9,218 (+290)

New Cases in Philipstown: **18**

Tests administered:

185,524 (+5,605)

Percent positive:

5.0 (0)

Number of deaths:

89 (+1)

■ DUTCHESS COUNTY

Number of confirmed cases:

25,282 (+1,000)

Active Cases in Beacon: **52**

Tests administered:

601,956 (+20,209)

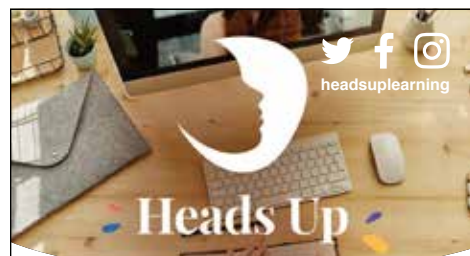
Percent positive:

4.2 (0)

Number of deaths:

422 (+4)

Source: New York State Department of Health, as of March 24, with weekly change in parentheses. New cases in Philipstown is for week ending March 18.



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is sufficient for social distancing in elementary school classrooms that require mask-wearing. The same distance is sufficient in middle and high schools when community transmission is low or moderate, but 6 feet should be required in schools when transmission is high in the community unless students are grouped into cohorts, it said.

■ On March 17, Marist College in Poughkeepsie announced it had put two residence halls under quarantine and restricted outside gatherings in response to an uptick in cases. The school had 151 active cases as of March 18, including 66 on campus.

■ Statewide travel for sports and recreational activities, which had been limited to contiguous counties and regions, will be permitted as of Monday (March 29).

■ Effective Monday (March 22), the state lifted "yellow-zone" designations in Newburgh, New Windsor, the Bronx, Manhattan and parts of Queens. The areas had been under additional restrictions because they had high numbers of infections.

■ After reaching a pandemic-high 172 on Jan. 25, the number of people hospi-

talized in Dutchess County stood at 43 as of March 13.

■ In a national poll conducted by Marist College Institute for Public Opinion in early March, 30 percent of respondents said they did not plan to get vaccinated. Among Republicans, it was 41 percent and among Democrats, 11 percent.

■ Drug World is seeking donations from businesses for raffles to benefit volunteers at the pharmacy's vaccination clinics. Drop them at Drug World, 55 Chestnut St. in Cold Spring, with a note for owner Heidi Snyder. "It truly takes an entire village to get this job done and our town vaccinated," she said.

■ As of March 24, according to the State COVID Report Card, Haldane had reported 31 students and 14 teachers/staff who had tested positive; Garrison reported seven students and seven teachers/staff; and Beacon reported 84 students and 43 teachers/staff.

■ Employees must be given four hours of paid leave for each vaccination appointment under legislation enacted by the governor on March 12.

Herd Immunity *(from Page 1)*

immunity” threshold when scientists believe COVID-19 will run out of humans to easily infect.

Based on polls from Marist College’s Institute for Public Opinion and the Pew Research Center, a growing share of people, including Blacks and Latinos, say they are willing to be vaccinated, but the race to herd immunity will depend on convincing the sizable number of people who say they will not.

About 30 percent of a sample of 1,227 adults surveyed by Marist over five days in early March said they do not plan to be vaccinated. That included four in 10 people who said they were Republicans and high percentages of Latinos, independent voters and younger and middle-aged adults.

According to the Pew poll, which was based on the responses in February of more than 10,000 adults, the reasons for declining the vaccine included the fear of side effects; the relative speed at which the vaccines were developed and tested; and a general mistrust of the medical system.

Others said they distrusted vaccinations in general, and many of the people surveyed did not believe they needed to be vaccinated. Pew Research found the same partisan gap as the Marist poll.

For Millie Solomon, president of the Hastings Center, a bioethics think tank based in Garrison, the U.S. is in a race against the more-contagious mutations of the coronavirus first detected in Brazil, South Africa

How Many Vaccinated?

	Dutchess	Putnam	NYS
1st Dose	81,608	29,519	5.496M
% population	27.7	30.0	27.5
2nd Dose	36,954	14,763	2.920M
% population	12.6	15.0	14.6

Source: NYS Department of Health, as of March 24

and the U.K.

Widespread vaccine resistance is a sign that “we’ve lost our sense of responsibility for each other,” said Solomon. She noted some people have told her they do not need the vaccine because they are young and less likely to come down with serious symptoms, or because they have already had COVID-19.

“We focus so much on individual rights that we are forgetting about care and concern for others,” she said. “People are waving a liberty flag, but there’s not much freedom in being terribly sick.”

States are receiving weekly allotments of three vaccines. Dutchess County Executive Marc Molinaro said the county “is not at a point yet where we’re digging deep into

communities to either convince or encourage.” But at some point, he said, “that will shift,” and the question will become whether enough people have been vaccinated.

Along with the poll results, state data highlights problem areas.

Three months after becoming eligible, more than a third of hospital workers in Putnam County, more than half the staff at nursing homes in Dutchess and 35 percent of nursing home staff in Putnam have not been vaccinated, despite their risk of direct exposure to COVID-19 patients. Statewide, the vaccination rate for nursing home staff is 53 percent.

A Kaiser Family Foundation poll from February found that 14 percent of health care workers nationally said they were not

planning to be vaccinated, and 9 percent said they would only get inoculated if it was mandated.

Nuvance Health, whose system includes Putnam Hospital Center in Carmel and Vassar Brothers Medical Center in Poughkeepsie, is “continuing to encourage our teams to get vaccinated to reduce the spread of infection and protect themselves, patients, peers and the communities we serve,” said a representative, Marina Ballantine.

As part of Dutchess’ advocacy, Molinaro and other county officials have been holding “town halls” at various organizations, including churches. The county also created a “vaccine equity coalition” whose members will focus on “hard-to-reach populations and dispel myths about the vaccine,” according to the county.

Referencing the partisan divide, Molinaro said that people who are ideologically conservative tend to mistrust government and are likelier to be influenced by friends, family and their pastors.

Shaming people and telling them they are wrong is not the right approach, he said. Instead, “meet people where they are and try to provide them the information they need to conclude the right choice for them,” he said. “I think they will conclude that being vaccinated is in their benefit and in the benefit of others.”

For the latest on vaccinations, see highlandscurrent.org.

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*Beacon, Q4 of 2019 compared to Q4 of 2020, source Mid-Hudson Multiple Listing Service

ERIC ERICKSON
PAINTINGS
March 20 - May 2



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THE RIVERSIDE GALLERIES

Story Screen Set to Reopen

Plan also underway to bring back drive-in

By Leonard Sparks

The reopening in November of the Story Screen Beacon Theater came at an inflection point in the pandemic. The number of COVID-19 cases had fallen far enough from the highs of a spring wave that New York State felt movie theaters could reopen with capacity limits and strict health protocols. Story Screen resumed operating on Nov. 6, showing *Tenet* and *On the Rocks*.

Then, within a week, cases began rising, the onset of a second wave that was worse than the first. Story Screen decided to close

again, said co-owner Mike Burdge.

"We got everything ready, spent a bunch of money on candy and popcorn buckets and all this stuff, and then we were only open for a week," he said.

Now comes Reopening: The Sequel.

On Wednesday (March 31), indoor movies will return to Beacon with *Godzilla vs. Kong*, *Minari* and *Teenage Ninja Mutant Turtles*. Three weeks ago, Story Screen reopened its Wonderbar lounge, which closed in December.

This time is also an inflection point: Cases have fallen dramatically as tens of thousands of people statewide are vaccinated each day. In addition, Hollywood studios are releasing a backlog of movies that had been postponed.

"We wouldn't reopen unless we were absolutely certain that we were cool," said Burdge.

Still, COVID-19 remains a major public health concern, and the state's decision to give businesses freer rein is not without caveats. Movie theaters must limit capacity to 25 percent; have assigned seating; require patrons to wear masks when not seated; upgrade their ventilation systems and cleaning procedures; and disinfect between screenings.

At Story Screen, the capacity restriction translates as up to 23 people per screening in its larger theater, which can seat 86. Each group buying tickets will be separated by three seats and every other row will be kept empty, he said. The theater's two smaller rooms will be limited to six and 14 people, respectively.

Meeting the ventilation standards could be costly for theaters with older systems,

but the Beacon Theater had a modern system installed during renovations three years ago that pulls air from the outside, filters it and re-circulates it every 10 minutes, Burdge said.

Between screenings, the seats, railings and other areas that people touch will be sprayed with "hospital-grade" disinfectant from a battery-powered machine that straps on the back and looks like a *Ghostbusters* backpack, he said.

While shuttered by the pandemic, Burdge and his partners improvised. In partnership with the City of Beacon, in July they opened a drive-in theater at the University Settlement property on Wolcott Avenue. Beacon has asked Story Screen to operate the drive-in annually, and preparations will start at the site in May to bring it back.

"2020 — not that great," said Burdge. "But 2021 — looking pretty good."

Story Updates

"No Free Delivery for Amazon Project" (Dec. 4)

An Amazon warehouse proposed for the long-abandoned IBM West Campus site on Route 52 near Interstate 84 in the Town of East Fishkill has been approved.

The Town Board approved significant

changes to the zoning for the 124-acre site to allow for a larger mix of uses, Supervisor Nicholas D'Alessandro said.

The developer is planning to construct a 631,000-square-foot, \$135 million warehouse with 132 docks that Amazon would lease for use as a distribution hub. Amazon estimates the facility will employ the equivalent of at least 500 full-time employees, with hourly wages ranging from \$15 to \$29.

The Dutchess County Industrial Development Agency in December approved prop-

erty tax breaks worth \$14.3 million over 15 years, along with exemptions on sales and mortgage taxes.

"Officials Fault Utilities for Isaias Response" (Aug. 28)

Altice USA, which provides cable under the Optimum brand, agreed to pay \$72 million to settle claims that it failed in its response to Tropical Storm Isaias, during

which 400,000 customers lost television and internet service for prolonged periods.

Altice will spend \$68.5 million on storm-response measures, Gov. Andrew Cuomo said this month. The company is also refunding \$3.4 million to customers.

The state Public Service Commission accused Altice of violating state law and its orders by not having enough personnel and equipment to restore service after sustained 40-mph winds and 70-mph gusts inflicted heavy damage on utility poles and power lines and conductors. The company also was accused of waiting six days to coordinate with local officials.

"Dutchess School May Close After 86 Years" (May 1)

The Poughkeepsie Day School, which closed for the 2020-21 school year after 86 years in operation because of financial shortfalls, is taking admissions inquiries for the fall following its takeover by a new board that includes alumni.

Kai Lord-Farmer, the board secretary, told *The Poughkeepsie Journal* last month that at least 60 students are needed to support a new financial model and that 80 families have expressed interest in returning and 50 new families have inquired about enrolling their children.

In April, the former board announced that there was no "viable plan" to continue operations after years of declining enrollment and deficits aggravated by the pandemic; it closed the school on June 30.

A group called PDS Lives formed to rescue the school. Its updated mission statement and academic model calls for a "more explicit focus" on social equity, anti-racism and environmental education.

Poughkeepsie Day, which drew students from Beacon and Philipstown, was founded in 1934 as a parent cooperative with 35 students in kindergarten through eighth grade. It added a high school in 1971.

Visit highlandscurrent.org for news updates and latest information.

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POLICE REVIEWS

What’s in the Plans

By Jeff Simms

Seventeen days after the killing in May in Minneapolis of a Black man, George Floyd, by a white police officer, New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo issued Executive Order 203 requiring municipalities to study their law enforcement policies. They were instructed to submit reports by Thursday (April 1) to the state that would, among other goals, attempt to “eliminate racial inequities in policing.”

Plans around the state have ranged from the extremes of Cold Spring’s plan to create a plan to a proposal in Ithaca to replace its 63-officer force with a Department of Community Solutions and Public Safety.

MEDICAL RESPONSE

- COLD SPRING**
Not addressed.
- PUTNAM**
Sheriff’s Department will continue collaborating, when feasible, with other agencies and mental health professionals when interacting with those in crisis to ensure equitable and safe treatment.
- BEACON**
City hired a behavioral health care manager who will begin assisting police next month. Report recommends that city also hire a social worker trained to work with diverse populations and resolving individual and family problems. Continue partnerships with addiction-recovery programs.
- DUTCHESS**
Stakeholder group to examine creating an alternative or co-responder program.

DIVERSITY

- COLD SPRING**
“Because of limited racial and ethnic diversity, bias-based incidents are not commonly reported, though several have been investigated since 2018. There is no evidence that they are present in any significant way in relation to policing.” A data review “might be revelatory concerning the policing of the more diverse population that moves through the jurisdiction.”
- PUTNAM**
Sheriff’s Department to continue its efforts to attract a larger pool of candidates to foster diversity.
- BEACON**
Educate a larger pool of potential candidates about civil service exams, including the timing of upcoming tests. Explore the idea with Dutchess County of reinstituting civil service tutorials.
- DUTCHESS**
Waive the 60 college credit requirement to take the civil service exam. Instead, require new officers earn 60 credits within five years of hire.

PUBLIC INFORMATION

- COLD SPRING**
Not addressed
- PUTNAM**
Increase the accessibility of the Freedom of Information Law (FOIL) request form. Sheriff’s Department should increase public access to policy and policy changes by publishing online. Sheriff will compile data about arrests and the discharge of firearms by officers and post data online.
- BEACON**
Collect and analyze data such as use of force, complaints against officers, arrests and traffic stops and make it available to the public.
- DUTCHESS**
Make arrest report and use-of-force data available to civilian review board, along with employee evaluations, community survey results and founded complaints of misconduct.

OFFICER WELL-BEING

- COLD SPRING**
Not addressed.
- PUTNAM**
County requires psychological evaluation for all officer applicants. At 18 months, Sheriff’s Department probationary period is six months longer than state standard. Report suggests these requirements are sufficient safeguards to ensure competent officers. Sheriff’s Department has cardiovascular, counseling, employee-assistance and peer-support programs. Report recommends additional mental and physical health programs as appropriate.
- BEACON**
Create surveys to ensure officers’ perspectives are being heard.
- DUTCHESS**
Instill a culture of wellness at the police academy level, including psychological screening and limiting the hours officers are allowed to work in a set period.

BODY CAMERAS

- COLD SPRING**
Not addressed.
- PUTNAM**
Legislature supports the use of body cameras and recommends sheriff review costs.
- BEACON**
Body and car cameras in use since 2018.
- DUTCHESS**
Capital plan for 2021 to 2025 includes funding for body cameras. Work with local agencies to coordinate joint purchases.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

- COLD SPRING**
“Officers engage with residents and visitors in informal ways. In warmer weather, spending part of shifts on foot is encouraged by the officer-in-charge. As a result, officers have a largely positive rapport with and knowledge of residents and shopkeepers.” The village hired a consultant, Lexipol, to assist with the review, and the village will survey residents and business owners to identify areas of concern as well as create a community stakeholders group by April 30.
- PUTNAM**
Host public forums for the community to address safety and how to report complaints about Sheriff’s Department.
- BEACON**
Explore hiring non-sworn neighborhood safety officers to bring concerns to police. Create a citizen advisory committee to make recommendations regarding “equitable practices and strategies.” Hold quarterly public meetings to gather input from community.
- DUTCHESS**
Explore creating a civilian review board that would function as an advisory committee. Hold regular town hall meetings. Create annual surveys for communities served by Sheriff’s Department.

ACCOUNTABILITY

- COLD SPRING**
Not addressed
- PUTNAM**
The Sheriff’s Department in September introduced quality-of-service forms that can be used to register complaints against officers. The Legislature endorsed a recommendation from the People of Color Subcommittee to create a public accountability committee.
- BEACON**
Improve city and community oversight of allegations of misconduct, including expanded formats and methods for residents to submit complaints.
- DUTCHESS**
Develop mechanisms to provide information to the public on how to file a complaint. Add a complaint/commendation form to the county website.

TRAINING

- COLD SPRING**
A committee of two trustees and two officers will update policies adopted in 2013 on ethics, organization, personnel, regulations, property management and use of force, “which are out of sync with best practices” in the state.
- PUTNAM**
Report suggests that “de-escalation is not a topic but more of a science/skill that permeates into almost all aspects of recruit training” and is covered in instruction relating to persons with mental illness and disabilities. Recommends sheriff pursue state training for crisis-intervention teams.
- BEACON**
Continue training officers to de-escalate tense situations using models that stress diversity, equity, accessibility and inclusion, as well as crisis-intervention training for individuals with mental illness.
- DUTCHESS**
Have all deputies complete crisis intervention and de-escalation training (40 percent have done so). Create a citizen police academy to give those who attend, such as members of the civilian review board, a better understanding of police practices. Form a countywide procedural justice and implicit bias training initiative (done last year).

WHAT’S NEXT?

- COLD SPRING**
The Village Board on Tuesday (March 23) adopted a seven-page document describing the steps to come. Its timetable envisions an “action plan” being completed by March 2022.
- PUTNAM**
The Legislature on March 18 voted 9-0 to approve the 248-page plan, including 15 recommendations drafted by the panel and its subcommittees.
- BEACON**
The City Council released its 52-page draft earlier this month and heard public comments on March 15. It has scheduled a council discussion and vote for Monday (March 29).
- DUTCHESS**
The Legislature approved the 42-page plan on March 8, although six Democrats in the 25-member body voted against it, including Nick Page, whose district includes three wards in Beacon.

READ THE PLANS

- COLD SPRING**
bit.ly/cold-spring-plan
- PUTNAM**
putnamcountyny.com/police-review-panel
- BEACON**
bit.ly/beacon-police-plan
- DUTCHESS**
bit.ly/dutchess-police-reform

Candidates (from Page 1)

a former Village Board member and the owner of Cathryn's Tuscan Grill, and Philip is a carpenter who would be seeking office for the first time.

In a three-page campaign announcement, Tamagna said that his goal in running for mayor "is to bring people together and restore a sense of community that in some way has been lost."

Merandy said he plans to campaign with Trustee Marie Early, who will seek her fourth 2-year term on the board, and Matt Francisco, a former trustee who is chair of the Planning Board. Fran Murphy, who has served three terms on the board, said she does not plan to seek re-election.

Before being elected mayor, Merandy, a contractor, served as a member of the Philipstown Town Board and as president of the Haldane school board. He defeated Barney Molloy with 63 percent of the vote in 2015, Alison Anthoine in 2017 with 51 percent and Chuck Hustis in 2019 with 60 percent.

To appear on the ballot, mayoral and board candidates must submit the signatures of 50 registered voters who live in the village to the Putnam County Board of Elections by May 25.



Merandy

Philipstown Approves Ambulance Contracts

Include provisions on corps member conduct, mutual aid

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

Capping four months of uncertainty and sometimes-impassioned debate, the Philipstown Town Board on Wednesday (March 24) approved new annual contracts with the town's two ambulance corps.

The agreements with the Philipstown Volunteer Ambulance Corps and Garrison Volunteer Ambulance Corps add rules for member conduct — such as not smoking on duty — and mutual aid provided to other municipalities.

The Philipstown corps will receive \$345,000 in 2021 and Garrison will get \$250,000. Both agencies rely on a mix of volunteers and paid emergency medical technicians. The PVAC operates in the northern half of Philipstown while the GVAC covers the southern end.

Describing the contracts as "virtually identical," Supervisor Richard Shea predicted they "will stand for a good long time" before needing updates. "Thank the Lord," he said after the Town Board had voted. On all sides, "everybody's happy now, which is a miracle," he added.

Chris Tobin, the PVAC president, thanked the board for the approvals. "I'm

glad this is behind us," he said.

Along with the ban on smoking, the code of conduct directs corps members to eschew "alcohol, illegal drugs or any intoxicant" that could "substantially impair" their abilities; inform the Town Board of any accidents or damage to vehicles; refrain from using vehicles for anything but emergency medical purposes, with the exception of activities such as training or parades; avoid "epithets regarding race, sex or creed" while interacting with the public; and maintain "a neat, clean and professional appearance" that conforms with professional standards.

The contracts also provide that if an ambulance corps disbands, the town has a right of first refusal to buy, for \$1 each, any corps vehicles purchased with town money.

Typically, annual ambulance corps contracts take effect Jan. 1, but the Town Board's attempt to revise the documents to better reflect New York State law and to make other changes sparked friction with some ambulance corps members, who saw it as an attack on their autonomy.

Heated comments, often attacking the Town Board's approach, flew across social media, and in early February the PVAC warned it could run out of money and be unable to serve the community.

Shea said town officials continued to work on the PVAC contract as late as Tues-

day (March 23), when they conferred with PVAC leaders and Putnam County over aspects of mutual aid, a county-organized system allowing town emergency responders to answer urgent calls in other jurisdictions.

The contracts permit mutual aid arranged through the county but prevent the two corps from providing ongoing assistance to another municipality for more than 30 days without the OK from Philipstown.

During the contract negotiations, questions arose about the PVAC providing assistance to Kent and Putnam Valley over five months in 2020.

Councilor John Van Tassel, a veteran first responder, said one of his main concerns in revising the contracts was ensuring that "these other agencies are getting out for basic calls, so that Philipstown taxpayers and the Philipstown and Garrison ambulances aren't burdened with covering two other towns."

Shea said that despite the protracted discussions, "there was never any animus between the ambulance corps and the Town Board. It was just a matter of working things out."

"It was pretty uncomfortable" at times, but "there was no animosity," agreed Van Tassel. "It was us doing our jobs."

On a related matter, the Town Board dismissed an appeal of a decision to deny a Freedom of Information Law request from *The Current* to see the two draft contracts. Although Shea told the newspaper on Jan. 27 that the town clerk, Tara Percacciolo, could provide the documents, she denied a FOIL request on Feb. 17, saying that disclosure "would impair present or imminent contract awards."

The Current appealed to the Town Board. Board members said Wednesday that since the contracts had been approved and released, the issue was moot.

Judge Denies Restraining Order

A federal judge on Thursday (March 25) denied a request by opponents of a 95-foot cell tower planned in Nelsonville for a temporary restraining order to prevent trees from being cut down on the site.

The residents argued that removing trees posed a risk of "irreparable damage to the environment," a "potentially endangered species" of bat, and the "bucolic nature" of the area. They also claimed that Homeland Towers has not yet proven that it can legally access the site for construction, a matter under review by a state court.

If the telecom firms lose that lawsuit or another pending in state court, they "will not be able to build a cell tower on Rockledge Road and they will cut down the trees for nothing," the residents said in a statement.



The Village of Cold Spring invites Village residents and Village business owners to participate in a survey on public safety concerns and our community's relationship with the Cold Spring Police Department. This survey is one part of the Village's compliance with New York State **Executive Order 203: Police Reform and Reinvention**.

Taking the survey should take less than 10 minutes of your time, and your answers can be submitted anonymously if you'd like.

WAYS TO TAKE THE SURVEY:

1. If you are on the Village email list and receive regular news announcements from the Clerk, you will automatically receive a survey via email. Just open the email and get started!
2. If you are not on the Village email list, request a link from Trustee Fran Murphy at francesm@coldspringny.gov, or call the Village Clerk on 845-265-3611, ext. 1.
3. Prefer paper? No problem! Contact francesm@coldspringny.gov, or call the Village Clerk on 845-265-3611, ext. 1. A paper survey will be delivered to you, along with return instructions.

A Spanish language version is available upon request.



Jeff Vidakovich, Village Clerk
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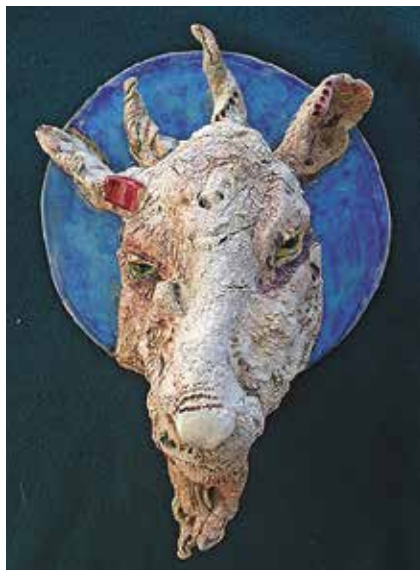


MAGAZZINO
DA CASA

The Calendar



"Red Lioness"



"Goat Head"



"Birchbark Crow"

The Artist Next Door

Hildreth Potts

By Alison Rooney

It takes determination to pursue a second bachelor's degree program 30 years after completing the first. But Hildreth Potts, a sculptor and devotee of welding who lives in Garrison, did just that, earning a degree in fine arts from the Sydney National Art School in Australia three decades after graduating from Harvard, where she studied archaeological illustration.

After graduating from high school, Potts recalls, she attended Boston University for a year but "it wasn't a good fit for me," so she moved to Paris to live with an aunt for two years. When she returned, she took a course in archaeological illustration at Harvard. "It can be mind-numbingly dull to draw pottery all the time," she says, "but it also has wonderful, unique possibilities to it."

A professor associated with the Peabody Museum invited her to go along on an expedition to what was then Yugoslavia. Potts also met her husband, Dan, a scholar whose specialty is Near Eastern archaeology. "We followed his jobs all over the world, including Turkey, the United Arab Emirates, Iran, Armenia and, more recently, Iraqi Kurdistan."

The globe-trotting years brought some frustrations, she says. "Often just when I felt I was getting established — when I'd found a gallery that said it would represent me, we had to leave and I had to leave my collection behind. That was difficult at times, but it compels you to make a new collection."

Potts — who is known as "Hildy" to family and friends — emphasizes that "it's important for women to keep following their talent." That's how, after decades of living for stretches in Denmark and Germany, and finally settling in Sydney, where her husband was appointed chair of Middle Eastern archaeology at the University of Sydney, and raising three children there, the



Hildreth Potts with a turkey sculpture at a Saunders Farm show

Photos provided

time came to pursue her art more vigorously. She retrained in the fundamentals, she says, and honed her passion for sculpture.

"The first sculpture that really hit me was a replica of Molossian House" — a Hellenistic sculpture copied in the Roman period — "this massive dog, made from stone, sitting down," outside a house near where her family lived in Cambridge, Massachusetts. "As a child, I was longing to have a dog, and this was just the right size to appear real. If I had my druthers, I would make things life-sized. Seeing the precious things that people make that mean something to them, or going to a museum and seeing something you love, can start you thinking, 'I could make something like that.'"

Potts says her second-time studies centered on drawing and the studio experience. "I had

often thought I would like to go to art school," she recalls, despite the discouragement of an artist who gave her lessons as a child. She said, "You'll stop seeing through your eyes, and the life of an artist is so lonely."

As a sculptor, one challenge for Potts has been finding space to weld. "Working with metal is toxic," she notes. "You're in a bubble, helmet on, and have to focus." She has learned to substitute materials that are easier to work with, although she remains a hoarder of scrap. "Whatever I see, I think, 'I might be able to use that,'" she explains. "I believe in gathering, and the feeling that you can take scraps and turn them into something else is wonderful."

If Potts can't weld but must use substitute materials, she will try to marry them with her subject matter. For example, sheep and



Hildreth Potts working on a steel wool sculpture at Tilly Foster Farm in 2020

poodles made with steel wool. "It was crying out to be done," she says. "I often see things and think, 'What would it look like if it was cut in half?' We aren't bound by rules; you can make anything out of anything."

She notes that her medium of choice, steel, "is the material language of the industrial world, with overtones of capitalism, power and masculinity. When steel no longer serves a purpose, it is thrown away and left to rust. I use these cast-off pieces and pull them partially into an organic and figurative state. So, the work belongs both to the realm of industry and the realm of imagination. Perhaps these two worlds represent the machine/mind paradox of our lives."

She says she most often uses animal forms "because they tap into primal feelings; it is easier to examine ourselves through them."

Most recently, Potts has been determined to use non-toxic materials, which brings its own challenges. For an outdoor Collaborative Concepts exhibit at Saunders Farm in Garrison, she needed to make a sculpture that was "cow-proof and weatherproof." This was accomplished by tweaking a papier-mache recipe by adding joint compound and linseed oil combined with egg cartons and discarded hospital gowns.

After living in Sydney for 22 years, Potts and her husband returned to the U.S. for another academic job: a newly created position for Dan at New York University's Institute for the Study of the Ancient World. They sought a place to live in the country, placing pins on a map of places no more than an hour away, including Garrison, where they moved eight years ago. "We were led here by an angel," Potts says. "I love the sea, but a river that goes both ways is pretty good."



Childhood Realizations

I SAID, HEY DAD, DO YOU WANT TO BUILD A TREEHOUSE WITH ME? I WASN'T TOTALLY EXPECTING TO GET IT.

WE BUILT THE DECK FIRST. WE HAD THIS BIG RATCHET STRAP AND SOME PULLEYS. THE STRAP WENT AROUND THE DECK, UP INTO THE TREE, AND OVER A BRANCH. ELEVEN YEAR-OLD JAY WAS DANGLING ON THE OTHER END WHILE MY WIFE AND I PUSHED.

Jayden Featherstone

WE DID IT UPSIDE DOWN THE FIRST TIME. HA-HA!

Robert Featherstone

JAY'S FORT FEATURES A SEE-THROUGH ROOF FOR WATCHING THE STARS, A WINDOW THAT IS NICE TO DRAW BY, A DISCO BALL, AND SPIDERS.

FORT ANDREW WAS BUILT BY CRAIG BURGUIERE FOR--AS YOU MIGHT GUESS--ANDREW. HE LIKED IT SO MUCH HE WANTED TO MOVE HIS BEDROOM OUT THERE, ALONG WITH A TV AND A REFRIGERATOR.

ARDEN'S TREE SHIP

JOEL CONYBEAR OF PHILIPSTOWN WITH HIS BROTHER-IN-LAW AND GRANDPA-IN-LAW PUT UP THIS FINE TREE HOUSE WHEN ARDEN WAS FOUR. SHE REMEMBERS FISHING OFF THE DECK WITH HAND-CRAFTED HOOKS. SOMETIMES SHE CAUGHT LEAVES! NOW SEVENTEEN, ARDEN IS WINTERIZING THE TREE HOUSE AS A HANG OUT WITH HER FRIEND SASHA.

I HAVE OWL EYES, DRAGON WINGS, AND DRAGON FIRE.

THE CLUBHOUSE

FIONA AND ISLA SPENT ALL WINTER PLAYING BY THE CLUBHOUSE, EVEN IN TWO FEET OF SNOW! EXPOSED TO SO MUCH FRESH AIR, THEY DEVELOPED SUPER POWERS.

I POUNCE LIKE A CHEETAH.

GOT ONE!

THE PERCH

A HAWK HANGS OUT IN THE SAME TREE WHERE MICHAEL ISABELL BUILT HIS SON'S TREE FORT. YOU GET A GOOD VIEW FROM UP THERE. IT ALSO MAKES AN EXCELLENT LAUNCH PAD FOR JUMPING INTO SNOW DRIFTS.

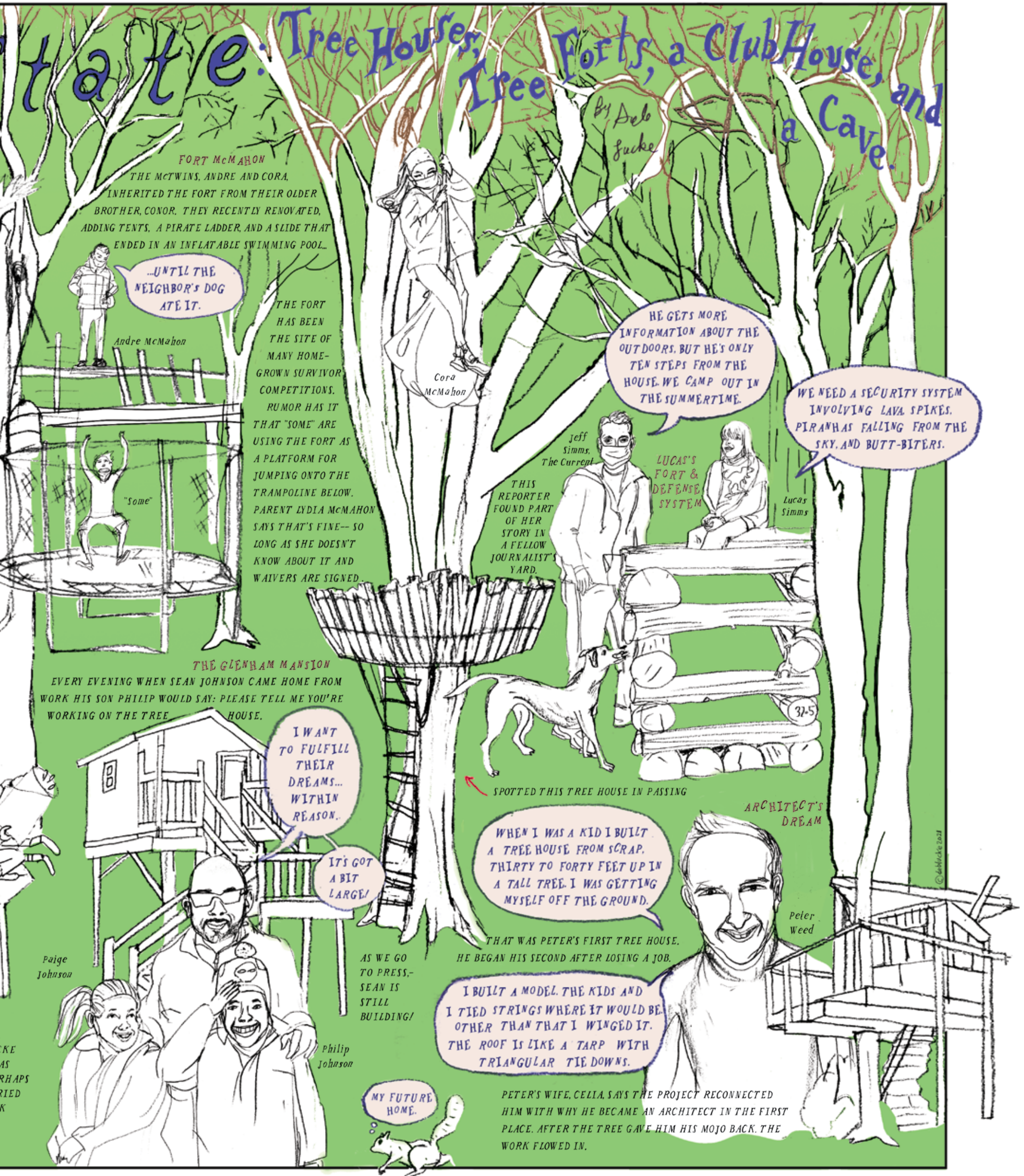
THE CARROLL CAVE

SEAMUS CARROLL BUILT A CAVE WITH A 144 SQ. FOOT INTERIOR AND A WORKING FIREPLACE. PERFECT FOR GIRLS WHO LIKE WIZARDRY

THE BURCH TREE HOUSE

MASON BURCH REMEMBERS BIRTHDAY PARTIES WITH WATER-GUN FAVORS THAT LED TO WATER WARS. THERE'D BE DOZENS OF BOYS ON THE ROOF AND DECK OF THE TREE HOUSE. BUCKETS OF WATER WOULD BE HAULED UP WHERE THEY'D AWAIT ANYONE EVEN THINKING ABOUT TRYING TO SNEAK BY.

MASON'S MOTHER, KIKI HEIN, SAYS IT WAS MADNESS. PERIOD. SHE ONCE TRIED TO SNEAK BY.



State: Tree Houses, Tree Forts, a Club House, and a Cave.

By Dele Lucker

FORT McMAHON

THE MCTWINS, ANDRE AND CORA, INHERITED THE FORT FROM THEIR OLDER BROTHER, CONOR. THEY RECENTLY RENOVATED, ADDING TENTS, A PIRATE LADDER, AND A SLIDE THAT ENDED IN AN INFLATABLE SWIMMING POOL...

...UNTIL THE NEIGHBOR'S DOG ATE IT.

Andre McMahon

THE FORT HAS BEEN THE SITE OF MANY HOME-GROWN SURVIVOR COMPETITIONS. RUMOR HAS IT THAT "SOME" ARE USING THE FORT AS A PLATFORM FOR JUMPING ONTO THE TRAMPOLINE BELOW. PARENT LYDIA McMAHON SAYS THAT'S FINE-- SO LONG AS SHE DOESN'T KNOW ABOUT IT AND WAIVERS ARE SIGNED.

"Some"

Cora McMahon

HE GETS MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE OUTDOORS, BUT HE'S ONLY TEN STEPS FROM THE HOUSE. WE CAMP OUT IN THE SUMMERTIME.

WE NEED A SECURITY SYSTEM INVOLVING LAVA SPIKES, PIRANHAS FALLING FROM THE SKY, AND BUTT-BITERS.

Jeff Simms, The Current

LUCAS'S FORT & DEFENSE SYSTEM

Lucas Simms

THIS REPORTER FOUND PART OF HER STORY IN A FELLOW JOURNALIST'S YARD.

THE GLENHAM MANSION

EVERY EVENING WHEN SEAN JOHNSON CAME HOME FROM WORK HIS SON PHILIP WOULD SAY: PLEASE TELL ME YOU'RE WORKING ON THE TREE HOUSE.

I WANT TO FULFILL THEIR DREAMS... WITHIN REASON.

IT'S GOT A BIT LARGE!

Paige Johnson

Philip Johnson

AS WE GO TO PRESS, SEAN IS STILL BUILDING!

SPOTTED THIS TREE HOUSE IN PASSING

WHEN I WAS A KID I BUILT A TREE HOUSE FROM SCRAP. THIRTY TO FORTY FEET UP IN A TALL TREE. I WAS GETTING MYSELF OFF THE GROUND.

THAT WAS PETER'S FIRST TREE HOUSE. HE BEGAN HIS SECOND AFTER LOSING A JOB.

I BUILT A MODEL. THE KIDS AND I TIED STRINGS WHERE IT WOULD BE. OTHER THAN THAT I WINGED IT. THE ROOF IS LIKE A TARP WITH TRIANGULAR TIE DOWNS.

ARCHITECT'S DREAM

Peter Weed

MY FUTURE HOME.

PETER'S WIFE, CELIA, SAYS THE PROJECT RECONNECTED HIM WITH WHY HE BECAME AN ARCHITECT IN THE FIRST PLACE. AFTER THE TREE GAVE HIM HIS MOJO BACK, THE WORK FLOWED IN.

THE WEEK AHEAD

Edited by Pamela Doan (calendar@highlandscurrent.org)

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

TALKS & TOURS

MON 29

Resume Workshop

GARRISON

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

Learn how to polish your resume or create one in this virtual workshop.

MON 29

She Sailor Sea Stories

BEACON

7 p.m. Clearwater | bit.ly/she-sailor

In this Zoom webinar organized by the National Women Sailing Association, Clearwater captains Cate Cronin, Betsy Garthwaite, Cindy Smith, Gioia Blix, Sam Heyman-Hicks and Amy Nelson will share stories of their experiences helming the sloop over the past four decades. Register online.



TUES 30

The Life of James F. Brown

COLD SPRING

7 p.m. Putnam History Museum
putnamhistorymuseum.org

Elaine Hayes, the director of the Mount Gulian Historic Site in Beacon,

will discuss the life of a former slave who became the head gardener of the Verplanck estate and shaped its landscape. *Cost: \$10 (members free)*

WED 31

Reading with Writers

COLD SPRING

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

The book group will finish discussing *Meander Spiral Explode*, by Jane Alison.

MUSIC

THURS 1

Schwab Vocal Rising Stars

KATONAH

7 p.m. Caramoor | caramoor.org

Artists chosen by artistic director Steven Blier for residencies will perform works by Debussy, Poulenc, Serge Gainsbourg, Joseph Canteloube, Michel Legrand and others in this livestream. *Cost: \$15 to \$45*

KIDS & FAMILY

SAT 27

Jessica Love

COLD SPRING

10 a.m. Haldane
facebook.com/ediathaldane

Love will read her two children's books, *Julián at the Wedding* and *Julián is a Mermaid*, and answer questions via Zoom. See Page 2.

SAT 27

If You Give a Pig a Pancake

WAPPINGERS FALLS

Noon – 5 p.m. Bowdoin Park
85 Sheafe Road | 845-486-2555
dutchessny.gov/parks

The family story-walk is part of the Sap Happy Maple Weekend at the park. Other events include a maple education class. Also SUN 28.

THURS 1

Intro to Babysitting

BEACON

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

Students ages 10 and older will learn the basics of childcare. Email youth@beaconlibrary.org to register.

SAT 3

Spring Egg Hunt

COLD SPRING

3 p.m. Butterfield Library
butterfieldlibrary.org

Search for eggs in the library's Reading Garden and take home a spring craft.

VISUAL ARTS

THURS 1

Robert Smithson

BEACON

Noon. Dia:Beacon
845-231-0811 | diaart.org

Dia educators will discuss the sculptor's work as part of an ongoing series of virtual lectures.

FRI 2

Through the Window

COLD SPRING

Noon – 5 p.m. Buster Levi Gallery
121 Main St. | 845-809-5145
busterlevigallery.com

Paintings by Grace Kennedy, Martee Levi and Barbara Smith Gioia will be on view until May 2.

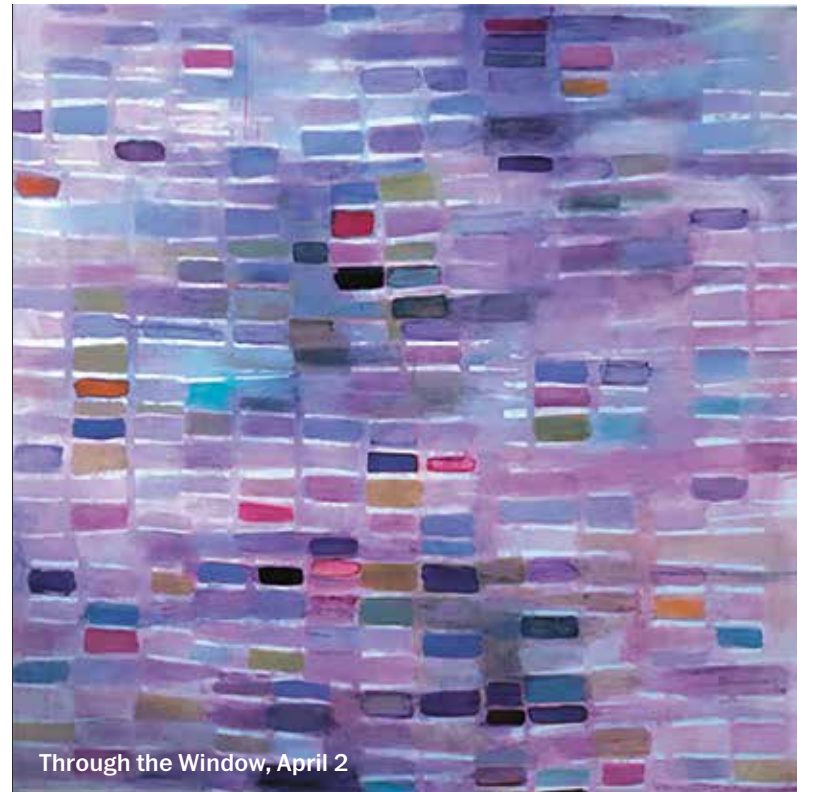
SAT 3

Collaborations with Women

PHILIPSTOWN

Noon. Magazzino Italian Art
magazzino.art

In the second of four livestreamed lectures in the *Arte Povera: Art of Collaboration* series, Sharon



Through the Window, April 2

Heckler, a scholar and curator in Milan, will discuss the photographs, videos and letters of Luciano Fabro as they relate to his relationships with women in his art.

SAT 3

Friends Show

BEACON

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

This annual exhibit will feature works by Friends of the Howland. Through May 1.

CIVIC

TUES 30

Board of Trustees

COLD SPRING

6:30 p.m. Via Zoom | coldspringny.gov

THURS 1

Philipstown Town Board

PHILIPSTOWN

7:30 p.m. Via Zoom | philipstown.com



Schwab Vocal Rising Stars, April 1

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Margi Condyles, then



Margi Condyles, today

The Poet Next Door

Margi Condyles

Margi Condyles, 71, who lives in Beacon, has had “many iterations of professions” but recently returned to what she calls her first love: poetry. With National Poetry Month just around the corner, Alison Rooney spoke with Condyles about her love affair with words.

When did you begin writing?

My mother died in 1960, when I was 11, and at Christmas a relative gave me a diary with a locking key. It was fascinating to me that I could bare my soul and choose who could see it. I come from a large family, so privacy was always at a premium. I don't remember what I wrote, but that was my first taste of writing: I could create my own thoughts and open up the universe, and no one could interfere.

You and math didn't get along, right?

Definitely not. I went with the arts. I also was told, as a female, that math was not for me. Anything requiring rigorous discipline was for men, whereas softer subjects, like writing “nice words,” were for women.

You also studied theater.

In middle school, in Holland, Michigan, my best friend and I and an English teacher worked to build the theater department. I later got a master of fine arts in theater at the University of Minnesota. In my second year, I directed Federico Garcia Lorca's play, *Blood Wedding*. I was drawn to the script because I studied and loved his work as a poet. I tried playwriting, but found it much more difficult than poetry.

After graduating, I moved to Boston, did theater work and wrote poetry. I met my former husband there and we moved to New York and had two children. We moved to Mahopac and I needed a job that allowed me to drop my kids off at school and be there when they got off the bus. I was hired by a financial planner in Katonah. I discovered that the number stuff was unexpectedly fascinating.

In what way?

It's been said that “mathematics is the music of the universe.” Numbers describe reality in a different way than words do. There's a great book by a Harvard profes-

sor, Roger Brown, who says that that poetry uses language and words in such a way that it hits different parts of the brain: instinctive or inspirational. Words work in the brain in rhythmical ways. I was surprised at how much I loved numbers and continued to work with them, professionally. I became a partner in a financial firm that had an office in Brewster. I also joined the board of the Desmond-Fish Public Library in Garrison as finance chair, which led to many wonderful relationships in Philipstown.

Since retiring, you've had more time to write. What does it do for you?

It gets me back to myself. I'm a Gemini so I have a split personality: gregarious but contemplative, social but a kind of loner. As I've been going through my poetry and seeing what areas emerge, a lot of it is about being solitary in nature. At 8 or 9 years old, I went as far away as I could in nature; it was freedom. I could perceive the world through this authentic experience, without anybody telling me to stay on the path. My relationship with the environment grounded me — the earth gave me a sense of place and person, and that's at the core of my life.

Has the pandemic had any influence on your creative output?

At first, the isolation triggered anxiety and suffering. But I found my balance. A couple of months ago I got out all my poetry and started to see patterns. I want to integrate my focus on people into my focus on the environment. I need to get back the discipline I had during different periods and apply that to my poetry.

I want people to know that you're not done at 71. I have 30 years of writing poetry to come. In theater, I was always encouraged to see performers who weren't recognized until they were 40 or 50 or older. You can so easily feel that you're “done” — and that's not a good thing.

Spider

A fair distance from the grey clay
Bluffs of the Lake Michigan shore,
In a field, as wild with stickly burrs
As the footpath through it
Is dry, toe soft and parting,

A black spider stands still.
Orange ribbons hold no hair
On its back, sleek with shine,
Smaller than a hand
That is smaller than it is now.

It doesn't say a word.
But the early light knows
To bow deep, bring dew-flutes
In homage to its newest dwelling
Built in the rafters of weeds.

It doesn't command.
But the whole of breath and air
Suck into its endless pointy,
Spindled legs to arrive at the
Core abdomen of wonder, floating.

Spider! Nowhere but here
Could wet silk bind a sky
That eats its clouds, freeze skinny
Limbs in shorts with pockets
Full of flowers, drive tall pines

Down, paste eyes wide
To a gleaming creature who is
Not looking at me. Spider! No one
But you could do the rumble
Without moving. Spider!

The grey clay bluffs plead and amuse
Through the years, but always,
I go back to the field of stickly burrs
To ask why, black spider, my breath,
Why, you never gave it back.

The Summer of 1960

Dad drove that summer day.
He drove the family's station wagon,
The one with panels the color of pea soup,
With fear penciled into his two-day chin.

Mom wanted to talk to me.
I knew that Holland Hospital was not white.
I knew, from before, the parking lot would
be full,
And red bricks would face shrubs tinged
brown.

We entered hallways that never seemed
To end, always somebody's necessary
equipment
Stacked outside door after wide door, on
trays,
Traces of use glistening. We kept going.

And then, here I am, at your door, your
auburn-haired daughter,
At the one door, sandals still sandy, toes
needing
Solid ground, not able to push through.
Dad's
Hand nudges the high water mark of my
neck.

And then, there you are, my auburn
haired mother,
On the one pillow, thin as a birch leaf
Carried through winter, lifting your eyes,
Ones that I can see through, and turning

Away to hide the movement necessary
To slip from your aquiline nose the clear
Oxygen tubes, clear as you, knowing to
protect.
Mary Francis, who gave me birth

And who took her hand and smoothed
The sheet, spreading a pool of grace,
The only white thing, onto the edge of the
bed
Where I walked over, climbed up and sat.

NOTICE

The Philipstown Zoning Board

will hold their regular Monthly Meeting on April 12th, 2021 at 7:30 p.m. virtually via Zoom.

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

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_Gc3un7tFT3W_zSYpR023Sw

Register in advance for this webinar:

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

OR email CROCKETT@PHILIPSTOWN.COM to request login information before 7 pm on April 12th, 2021.

A Taste of Korea

New Beacon restaurant serves 'Asian fusion'

By Alison Rooney

The menu at One More Bite, a new restaurant in Beacon located in what was formerly Oak Vino, reflects owner Tom Labelle's heritage.

"My mom was Korean and I grew up experiencing recipes passed on for generations," he explains. Along with "some very traditional Korean food," he's offering dishes "in which I've taken traditional items and interwoven them into my own experiences cooking and dining."

For example, he says, "I do a take on a Philadelphia cheesesteak called a 'bulgogi hoagie.' I also make a traditional fried chicken, served with seasoned sesame cucumber, and serve it with napa cabbage coleslaw on top of it and a very light sesame-soy dressing. We've taken a traditional [Vietnamese] banh mi, using spicy pork bulgogi as one of our meat bases, and then combine that with a French dip."

Although he has never visited Korea, Labelle says he reached out to the families of childhood friends for recipes and advice. "Their parents have cooked Korean food for their entire lives," he says. "I've also collaborated with my family members. My mom came to the U.S. in the late 1960s after meeting my dad, who was stationed in Seoul,



Banh mi, spicy pork bulgogi, and kimchi fried rice from One More Bite

Photos provided

where she was working in a cafe," he says.

Sadly, Labelle's mother, Yong Hui Yoon LaBelle, who had lived with her son for 15 years, died last year of complications from COVID-19 after the virus spread through the household. "We had discussions about the food we were planning for a restaurant, so it feels good that she kind of knew about this," Labelle says.

The dishes Labelle ultimately chose for One More Bite, which he describes as "Korean-inspired Asian fusion," include "multiple concepts — there's a lot of create-your-own customization going on. Some of our sides people are not too familiar with, like our seasoned bean sprouts, pickled daikon, Anaheim peppers and shitake mushrooms,

but people are branching out and trying them, along with kimchis," or pickled vegetables.

For children seeking the familiar, there is twist. "We do chicken katsu fingers, which are breaded in panko, and chicken wings with honey-citrus garlic coating," Labelle says.

There are non-Korean dishes, too — a bourbon-glazed chicken has been popular, even though "there is not one thing Korean about it!" Labelle says. He's also been pleased by the number of people ordering stewed tofu in kimchi. "I make a special vegan kimchi for that dish, minus fish sauce or fermented shrimp."

Because of the pandemic, Labelle has had the benefit of time to gestate food ideas. He's been working in the food and

restaurant business for 30 years — he began his career working at a country club in Connecticut — but, with One More Bite, made the leap to ownership.

He worked early on at restaurants in Putnam and Westchester counties but wound up in management, overseeing 15 locations in New York City for Pasqua, a chain of coffee bars. After Starbucks bought the company, he ran its lunch operation.

He left Starbucks in the mid-1990s when Main Street Cafe in Cold Spring was looking for a chef to launch a dinner program. He was renting in Beacon and shifted gears to stay local. Tina Lombardo was a server at the cafe; they married and in 2005 bought a house in Beacon.

When the Oak Vino space became available, Labelle says he thought, "I've been a resident of Beacon for 20 years, so I know what I'm getting into. I think the sense of community is of value here."

After completing renovations that included the installation of a commercial kitchen, coffee machines and a pastry case, he opened One More Bite on Feb. 13.

Labelle admits that he and the staff, which includes Tina and their sons Joey, Fox and Evan, were overwhelmed by the rush of customers that day, which happened to fall on Second Saturday. Some locals have since been coming by four times a week, "trying everything on the menu," he says.

One More Bite, located at 389 Main St. in Beacon, is open from noon to 9 p.m., Thursday to Monday. Call 845-765-0648 for takeout.

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The Lion's King

Frank Milkovich has been a member for 50 years

By Michael Turton

Frank Milkovich, at 87, puts up some impressive numbers. He is in his 51st year as a member of the Cold Spring Lions Club. He's in his 32nd year of retirement after 32 years as a teacher and administrator at Haldane High School. And the community projects he has worked on, with the Lions and elsewhere, are too numerous to count.

Asked if his time with the Lions feels like half a century, the Cold Spring resident said, "Time goes in spurts; when you're busy, it seems to fly by."

Busy and then some.

As a new Lion in 1970, Milkovich jumped into recruiting new members to bolster the club's ranks, but it wasn't long before he turned to one of his true passions: the scholarship fund. He stayed with it for 46 years. It's now called the Frank Milkovich Scholarship.

"One of the big enjoyments for me has been interviewing applicants," he said. "It's always enjoyable to talk to young students and find out their background, interests and goals; it's always encouraging."

In the same decade he joined the Lions, Milkovich formed the Cold Spring Junior Chamber of Commerce, or the Jaycees, a service club for men ages 25 to 35.

"We started the first Fourth of July Community Day on the riverfront," he recalled. "It was an old-fashioned gathering with a greased pole, pie-eating contest, father-son wheelbarrow races and mother-daughter three-legged races."

And fireworks. "Back then, the Jaycees shot them off ourselves!" he said.

Milkovich's community involvement paralleled a long career in education that began in 1957 at Haldane, where he taught science before serving as principal for 13 years and assistant superintendent for three years.

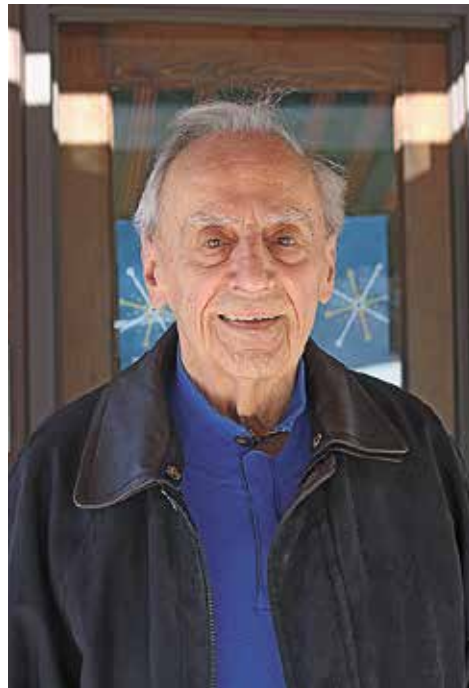
He also found the time to coach varsity baseball for seven years and varsity football for 14 years. He was inducted into the Haldane Athletic Hall of Fame in 2018 along with the members of the 1963 championship baseball team he coached.

The fact that his players still keep in touch is a good indicator of how much they respected him. Milkovich recently came across a five-page letter that Howard Howell, a quarterback and member of the championship baseball team, wrote to him in 1989 when his coach retired from teaching.

Former Philipstown Supervisor Bill Mazzuca played football and baseball under Milkovich.

"He was a tough coach, a good coach," Mazzuca said. "He taught team play, and he did not go for showboating, something I tended to do. He grabbed me by the shirt collar more than once to straighten me out!"

Milkovich's last major project at Haldane helped usher in a new era in learning there. "Special education was just beginning to form in the mid-1980s," he said. "I worked with parents and organized that whole new



Frank Milkovich

Photo by M. Turton

department."

In the 1980s, Milkovich and his fellow Lions raised \$4,000 to help restore the Cold Spring dock. Later that decade, when only five or six Lions were showing up at meetings, Milkovich took over as president to rebuild. In the 1990s, he orchestrated the relocation of Tots Park to McConville Park in Cold Spring.

Perhaps his biggest community project came in the early 2000s, but it was for a community 1,200 miles to the south of Phil-

ipstown.

In October 2005, Milkovich and his wife visited their daughter in Mandeville, Louisiana, across the lake from New Orleans. It was two months after Hurricane Katrina.

"The damage to my daughter's house was minimal," he recalled. "But she showed us the devastation."

When they visited the town of Slidell, "it brought tears to my eyes," Milkovich said. "I knew I had to do something."

He contacted the Slidell Lions Club and told them he was returning to New York to raise money.

"I contacted every Lions Club in our district and every district governor in the state," he recalls. "I spread the word that Slidell needed help." Over a two-year period, the campaign raised \$200,000.

"It allowed us to reach people who probably would have been overlooked otherwise," Milkovich said, recalling a single mom who needed money to repair her damaged car so she could get to work and a grandmother raising her disabled grandchildren who needed funds for their education.

When he came across Our Lady of Lourdes church, completely ravaged by the hurricane, Milkovich contacted the Poughkeepsie high school bearing the same name and got it started on a fundraising campaign.

Closer to home, he helped champion projects such as vacation camp for blind students in Rockland County and Guiding Eyes for the Blind in Westchester, a program that sometimes trains its service

dogs on Main Street in Cold Spring.

Recent initiatives in the village have included financial contributions to the Philipstown Food Pantry and Philipstown Behavioral Health Hub.

Asked what skills he has brought to the Lions Club and the community, Milkovich hesitated before saying, "I've provided organization, leadership and an attitude

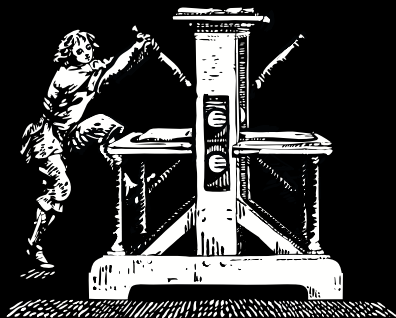
“One of the big enjoyments for me has been interviewing applicants. It's always enjoyable to talk to young students and find out their background, interests and goals; it's always encouraging.

of persistence; I made sure we followed through on things, not just talking about it."

When he stepped back from leading the Lions scholarship program, Milkovich passed the torch to one of his former Haldane students, John "Jiggum" Merante.

"The word that comes to my mind when I think about Mr. Milkovich — I still call him that — is 'extraordinary,'" Merante said. "Without question, if not for his unwavering dedication, the club would have disbanded."

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NOTICE

PHILIPSTOWN ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

Public Hearing – April 12th, 2021

The Philipstown Zoning Board of Appeals for the Town of Philipstown, New York will hold a public hearing on Monday April 12th 2021 starting at 7:30 p.m. via Zoom to hear the following appeal. If you would like to attend, please email crockett@philipstown.com to request login information before 7:00 pm on April 12th, 2021.

Gary & Sue Onishenko, 28 Lake Celeste,
Garrison, NY 10524 TM# 72.17-1-12

The applicants are seeking a variance for the legalization of an existing deck where the required front yard setback is 60 feet and the existing setback is 40.25 feet. The applicants are also seeking an addition to the already nonconforming structure with a front yard setback of 32.14 feet where 60 feet is required. The property is approximately 171' x 104' situated in a "Rural Conservation" (RC) Zoning District.

Dated March 8th, 2021

Robert Dee, Chairman of the Town of Philipstown Zoning Board of Appeals

Looking Back in Beacon

By Chip Rowe

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

150 Years Ago (March 1871)

A “clergyman at Matteawan” related the story of his 6-year-old son, who had been given a top. When the minister began to say the blessing at dinner, the boy spun his top on the table and said, “Now, pa, see which beats,” prompting a short prayer.

Three Newburgh residents skated on the Hudson River to Albany, a distance of about 90 miles, in seven hours and five minutes.

Nine employees of the Seamless Clothing Manufacturing Co. quit their jobs after being refused an increase in pay.

Sarah Brown and Mary Conelly of Fishkill Landing were each jailed for 30 days for drunk and disorderly conduct.

The *Matteawan Review* was put up for sale.

The stockholders of Fishkill Landing created two seats on its governing board and filled them, then sued the board to test

the legality of the action.

125 Years Ago (March 1896)

A Los Angeles art gallery held an exhibit of photogravure reproductions of rare images, including one of an “old Dutch house at Matteawan, N.Y.”

William Carroll & Co. in Matteawan placed an ad in the *Boston Globe* seeking “3 or 4 experienced hot blockers on men’s straw hats” for “steady work for balance of season, fare paid one way.”

Robert Smith, who left Matteawan at age 15 to become a grocer in New York City, died at age 43 of Bright’s disease [of the kidneys] and was returned to Matteawan for burial in his family plot. About the same time, Charles Brown, also a native of Matteawan who left at age 21 for Brooklyn and became a manufacturer of patent models, died at age 61 of heart failure. Three Civil War veterans from the 56th New York Volunteers — Alexander Bush and John Carnes of Company A and Abraham Van Vlack of Company D — died at Matteawan in the same week.

100 Years Ago (March 1921)

Debate teams from Newburgh Academy



Skating on the river, by Currier & Ives

and Beacon High School faced off on the question of closing immigration into the U.S. for two years. Beacon, which took the negative, was declared the winner.

The Rev. Michael Aylward, 61, the pastor at St. Joachim’s church, died in the Leonard Street rectory after a lengthy illness during which he was attended by his brother, the Rev. James Aylward. Michael had been one of the first altar boys at St. Patrick’s Cathedral when it opened in New York City in 1879.

During a court hearing over whether a former employee had stolen his technology, J.J. Gantevoort, owner of the National Oven Co., showed motion pictures of his process and that of his competitor. Gantevoort wanted an injunction to prevent David Hanna from making ovens.

Running on a pledge to reduce taxes, the Republican challenger for mayor, Irving Stafford, easily defeated incumbent Samuel Beskin with 61 percent of 3,300 votes cast. Republicans also won races for commissioner of public works (by 455 votes) and finance (by 21 votes).

75 Years Ago (March 1946)

Beacon had 3,787 registered voters, of whom 51 percent were Republicans, 30 percent Democrats and 18 percent independents. [Today, Beacon has 9,563 voters, with 56 percent Democrats, 25 percent independents and 13 percent Republicans.]

The Fishkill Electric Railway, which had been sued by Beacon for \$22,000 in unpaid

assessments for paving Main Street in the 1920s, offered to settle for \$2,000 and 3 percent annually of its gross operating revenues in Beacon.

The estate of Alex Grippo sued the city for \$3,000. In 1940, Grippo was one of two men killed by a fire at a cigar store at 156 Main St. The family said the estate deserved compensation because Grippo was a volunteer firefighter, although he was a customer at the store and not on duty.

The state Division of Housing said it would recommend that Beacon be approved to build a 50-unit apartment complex for veterans but Mayor Lewis Bolton said former Army barracks would probably need to be installed at Hammond Park.

Bolton declined to appoint a committee to arrange and pay for a welcome-home celebration for World War II veterans, telling the commander of the American Legion post that it seemed “hypocritical” to spend \$1,200 on a party while so many other needs, such as housing, had not been met.

George LaValle set the Beacon High School season basketball scoring record, averaging 13.1 points per game. The Beacon squad also named its All-Star Opponents Team, including Roger Gibson of Haldane.

A 13-year-old boy living with his grandparents was reported missing after he did not come home the night before. He said he slept in the ferry house after being scolded for staying out too late.

(Continued on Page 19)

NOTICE

REQUEST FOR VOLUNTEERS:

Beacon City School District Audit & Finance Committee

Wanted: Two volunteers with expertise in financial matters who are willing to assist the Beacon City School District.

Role: To serve on the Audit & Finance Committee of the Beacon City School District. To advise the Board of Education on auditing, accounting and financial matters.

Compensation: None, as all committee members are defined as volunteers. Reimbursement for expenses incurred in participating in meetings may be submitted by external volunteers.

Qualifications: Candidates must have relevant expertise. They should possess the knowledge in accounting, auditing, financial reporting and/or school district finances needed to understand and evaluate the school district’s financial statements, the external audit and the district’s internal audit activities. Accordingly, the Audit & Finance Committee’s members should

- Possess the requisite knowledge necessary to understand technical and complex financial reporting issues.
- Have the ability to communicate with auditors, public finance officers and the school board.
- Be knowledgeable about internal controls, financial statement audits and management/operational audits.
- Be able to participate in in-person meetings in Beacon when such meetings are called, or by remote electronic means. Candidates do not need to reside within the district.
- Be over 18 years of age.
- Be free of conflicts of interest as noted below.

Audit & Finance Committee members may not be

- District employees
- Previous or current contractors to the District
- Owners of companies providing goods or services to the District
- Family member of an employee or contractor providing goods or services to the District

Commitment: While a full meeting schedule has not been completed, it is expected that the committee will meet at least quarterly and more often at certain relevant times, such as when reports are received.

Please send a letter of interest and a resume demonstrating the requisite knowledge and the training and experience that led to that knowledge to the board clerk, Kelly Pologe at pologe.k@beaconk12.org

or mail to:

Kelly Pologe, Board Clerk, Beacon City School District, 10 Education Drive, Beacon, NY 12508

NOTICE

The Philipstown Conservation Board

will hold their regular Monthly Meeting on April 13th, 2021 at 7:30 p.m. virtually via Zoom.

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

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_hYiHozbR40mOrykVWsPFQ

Register in advance for this webinar:

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

OR email CROCKETT@PHILIPSTOWN.COM to request login information before 7 pm on April 13th, 2021.

Looking Back *(from Page 18)*

50 Years Ago (March 1971)

A 36-year-old woman was charged with assault after shooting a 55-year-old woman in the face to end an argument in front of the Bank Square Tavern. Police said the victim had been in the tavern at about 6 p.m. on a Sunday night when she spotted the other woman walking by. After she rushed outside to confront her, the younger woman pulled a .22 from her purse. The bullet entered the victim's cheek and lodged in her jawbone, doctors said.

Joseph Gerentine, a Navy veteran who operated the Mid-Town Barber Shop, died at age 54.

The Beacon Urban Renewal Agency paid the city \$29,000 for the annual property taxes on 56 properties it had acquired on Beekman, Chandler and Ferry streets and for an apartment complex at Davies and South avenues.

Rep. John Dow, whose district included Beacon, helped speed up the citizenship application of Donald MacKenzie, 26, so he could return to the city police. The officer, a native of Scotland, was removed from the force after more than a year on the job when the state noted he was not a U.S. citizen.

The City Council was told that it would cost about \$14,000 to paint the city's three firehouses inside and out to "spruce them up" before Beacon hosted the annual Hudson Valley Volunteer Firemen's Association convention.

After defeating Brewster, 84-83, on two free throws by Jerome Williamson with 17 seconds left, the Beacon High School basketball team fell in the second round of the Section I tournament to Woodlands to finish 11-9.

Superintendent Robert Musgrove said he planned to form a student advisory committee to address racial and social problems in the district after he closed the high school early following two fights on the same day. The first was a fistfight between a white and Black student that interrupted an assembly on human relations, and the second occurred after someone pulled a fire alarm. "Too many of our young people of differing races do not generally relate well to each other," Musgrove said.

A 17-year-old Newburgh girl was arrested for assault after she allegedly kicked a police officer in the groin when he tried to break up a fight on Beekman Street.

The school board president told the City Council that a new high school planned for a 65-acre tract on North Road would cost \$7.9 million. If approved by voters, the proposal would raise property taxes by 34 percent, he said. The Beacon-Fishkill Area Chamber of Commerce approved a resolution supporting the project, but, notably, only 12 of the 21 directors were present, and the vote was 5-4 with three abstentions.

Lt. Warren Hughes, the acting police chief, was the only one of three applicants for the job to pass the civil service exam.

Digger Phelps, the basketball coach at

Fordham University, and three other residents of the Jessen Park neighborhood asked the City Council to pressure the developer to fix the muddy roads.

A jury found Martina Banks, 30, guilty of second-degree manslaughter for killing her husband in their Chandler Street home. Banks, a mother of five, testified that the .22-caliber pistol went off accidentally as her husband broke through a basement door she was attempting to nail shut because he threatened to "blow out my brains." She also was convicted of illegal possession of the gun, which she said she had found in a kitchen drawer.

Two teenagers were arrested on charges they robbed a 21-year-old Glenham man of \$12 after he offered them a ride on Fishkill Avenue at 3:45 a.m.

The Rev. Leonel Mitchell, rector at St. Luke's Episcopal Church, announced he would be leaving to join the theology faculty at the University of Notre Dame.

Five Beacon teenagers were injured when their car struck a guard rail and utility pole and overturned on Route 9D in Fishkill. Although the driver and a passenger were thrown from the vehicle, no one was seriously injured, police said.

25 Years Ago (March 1996)

The Beacon High School boys' bowling team set school records of 1,068 pins in a game and 3,038 pins in a series to win the Section I title. John Spear led the team with a 192 average.

City Administrator Joseph Braun said that \$200,000 in federal funding had been approved to repair the ferry dock but that the money was being held up by the state. Service was suspended in 1963 with the completion of the Newburgh-Beacon bridge but city officials thought reviving it would attract tourists.

John Robinson, a junior at Beacon High School, won the indoor state title in the 55-meter hurdles.

Irvine Bryer Sr. died at age 79. An Army veteran and retired IBM lab technician, he was a Ward 2 supervisor in 1961, a manager of the Beacon Recreation Commission in 1968 and chair of the county Planning Board in 1969.

In a survey of police departments, *The Poughkeepsie Journal* found that Beacon had one minority and two female officers and that Dutchess County had no minority detectives and no minority or female supervisors.

Following a yearlong cleanup by residents, the state Department of Environmental Conservation dropped 1,350 trout into Fishkill Creek at Beacon.

The 18,000-square-foot Beacon Municipal Building under construction on Route 9D was running at least \$400,000 over budget. City officials said the overruns were largely related to a decision to expand the footprint of the project to include not only the Police Department and courts but City Hall. The soil below the construction also was found to be filled with debris and had to be replaced.

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Out There

Ghost Dogs, Bloody Ponds and Lost Treasure

By Brian PJ Cronin

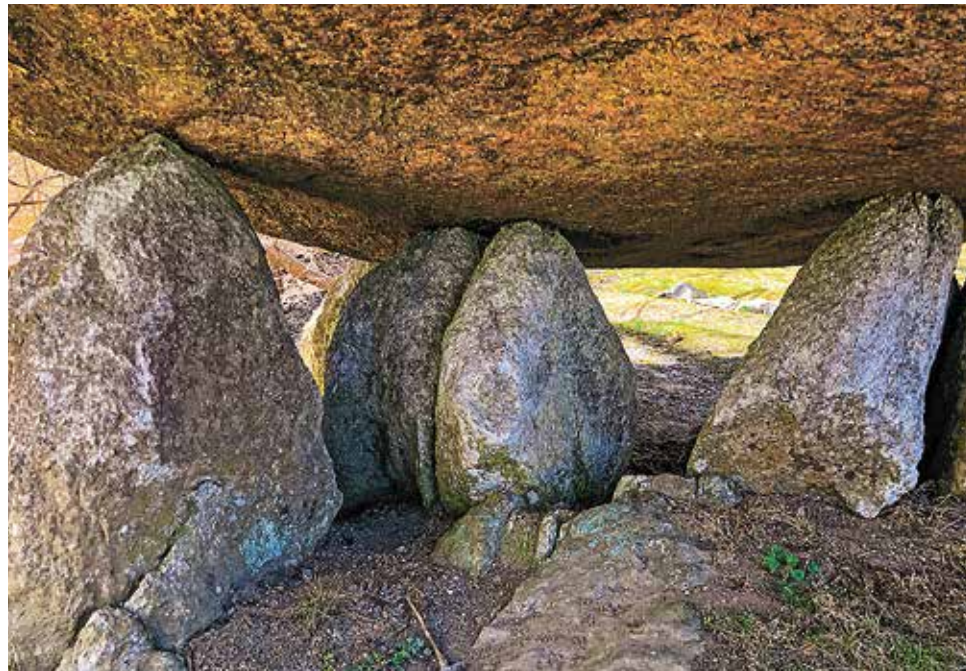
The Hudson Valley contains an unusually high number of eerie structures, spooky legends and cursed waterfalls, which is probably the result of ancient, seafaring Celtic druids who arrived hundreds of years before Henry Hudson and erected dozens of megalithic energy vortexes to access forbidden eldritch dimensions.

Or it could be the fact that not enough people spoke Dutch.

That's the hypothesis advanced by Michael Adamovic, anyway. The author of the newly published guide, *Hudson Valley History & Mystery*, notes that the region has hosted four distinct cultures over the past 400 years. First, the Native Americans, who had already been here for quite some time. Then the Dutch, the British and the Americans, after independence.

Each culture left its own mark on the landscape and had its own legends. While the original 13 colonies had the same Native American-to-British-to-American succession, the Hudson Valley stands out because of the Dutch, who adopted Native American words and legends, with much lost in translation.

Adamovic, a naturalist and photographer who lives in Highland, says he has



How did this happen? Underneath the Balanced Rock in Kent

Photo by B. Cronin

always been drawn to Hudson Valley sites with mysteries, legends and ghost stories attached. But sorting fact from fiction — not to mention trying to locate some of them based on vague historical descriptions — was a challenge.

"I figured, why not help people out? Tell them about the history, the legends and directions," he says.

All 20 sites in the book are publicly accessible, although some require permits to visit. Many will be familiar to Hudson Valley residents and frequent visitors, but the legends are not as well-known. It will be hard to look at Hessian Lake in front of Bear Mountain the same way again after learning why it used to be called "Bloody Pond." And the book solves two mysteries that have bugged me for years: Why the gorges of the Catskills are referred to as "cloves," and why maps from the 19th century refer to Breakneck Ridge as The Turk's Face. (Sorry, no spoilers.)

Lesser-known sites include the Claudius Smith Den in Harriman State Park, where the eponymous outlaw who was known as "the scourge of the Highlands" and his band of thieves made their lair and buried their loot. Archaeologists in the early 20th century found hundreds of artifacts within the den, but caches of treasure supposedly remain, and legends speak of the ghostly skeletons of Claudius Smith and his brigands that periodically return to search for them.

Quite a few ghostly canines are said to haunt some sites, including Indian Brook Falls in Philipstown. And it seems that there isn't a single waterfall that doesn't have a legend involving a heartbroken Native American woman throwing herself off it. Is this the same legend attributed to multiple locations? Probably not. Based on his research, Adamovic estimates that about half of them are based on an actual suicide, while the remainder were likely invented during the Victorian era, when

white storytellers wrote new Native American legends as a way to attribute a sense of magic and wonder to a landscape that had been emptied of Native Americans.

The stone chambers found throughout the woods of Putnam County are *probably* just Colonial-era root cellars, he says, but there are still weird, unanswered questions to examine. Why do they only appear in and around Putnam County and nowhere else in the Hudson Valley? Why are so many of them aligned with astronomical events such as the winter solstice?

Then there's Balanced Rock in Kent, a 90-ton boulder perched on a series of stones. The boulder is clearly a "glacial erratic" — massive rocks moved by ice to places where they don't fit, geologically. The leading hypothesis — which Adamovic has discarded — was that Balanced Rock's curious placement was just where the ice randomly left it. But after examining the site, Adamovic says he isn't so sure.

"I'm conflicted," he says. "The stones that it rests on look like they were carved. The idea that it could be placed by chance seems incredibly unlikely."

So who put it there? Adamovic thinks it was probably Native Americans, although a recent episode of a History Channel series called *Ancient Aliens* concluded it was ancient Celts who came to the Hudson Valley 2,000 years ago and are also responsible for the stone chambers. (Having watched the episode, I regret to announce that *Ancient Aliens* is not, in fact, a credible source.)

Claudius Smith's treasure may have been dug up already by someone smart enough to not announce the discovery, but there are still riches to be found. To promote the book, Adamovic hid a prize near one of the sites in the book and wrote a poem in code (see highlandscurrent.org) with clues. As of Thursday (March 25), the treasure was still out there, although he says "we've had a couple of close calls."

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Stadium Sale *(from Page 1)*

an infusion of federal stimulus money that he called a “huge lift.”

The district is tentatively slated to receive \$3.95 million from the federal American Rescue Plan Act that must be spent on pandemic-related expenses over the next two years, including students’ academic, social and emotional needs.

“These are things that are on all of our minds right now,” Landahl said on Monday, the same day preschool and kindergarten students returned for four days per week of in-person instruction. Students in grades 1 through 8 will return for four days per week after spring break, which begins March 29, and Landahl said he will provide an update on plans at Beacon High School soon.

Including a growth factor that’s based on new development in and around Beacon, the district’s state-mandated tax cap will be 2.35 percent. That translates to a \$42.6 million tax levy, which is \$980,000 more than last year, explained Ann Marie Quartironi, the deputy superintendent.

The preliminary budget anticipates \$76.6 million in total revenue, including, in what Quartironi said is a worst-case scenario, \$30.3 million in state aid. The amount could be higher once Gov. Andrew Cuomo and state legislators negotiate a final budget, which must be done by Thursday (April 1).

Cuomo had proposed consolidating 11 aid categories such as for textbooks, computers or transportation into one pot while deducting either already-paid federal pandemic aid

Federal Stimulus for Schools

Rep. Sean Patrick Maloney said on Tuesday (March 23) that schools in his district, which includes the Highlands, would receive more than \$200 million from the American Rescue Plan Act.

Beacon will receive \$3.95 million, the Haldane district \$182,000 and the Garrison district \$232,000.

Among other nearby districts, Newburgh will receive \$30.3 million; Poughkeepsie, \$14.6 million; Carmel, \$2.84 million; Brewster, \$3.4 million; Lakeland \$1.53 million; and Putnam Valley, \$261,000.

or money from the School Tax Relief (STAR) property tax reimbursement program from districts’ state funding.

Leaders in the state Senate and Assembly, however, have rejected those plans and say they want to increase school aid. New York State has repaid the district for all of the pandemic-related funding cuts it made last year, Quartironi told the board.

Along with the budget, the May 18 ballot will include the seats held by Elissa Betterbid, John Galloway Jr., Jasmine Johnson and Flora Stadler, along with a proposal to spend up to \$395,000 on two 72-passenger buses and three 20-passenger vans.

Putnam Committee OKs Nelsonville Sheriff Rent Increase

Backs agreement with HHLT for Granite Rock conservation

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

The Putnam County Legislature’s Physical Services Committee on Tuesday (March 23) unanimously endorsed a new lease with Nelsonville for use of the old village firehouse as a Sheriff’s Department substation. It also backed an agreement with the Hudson Highlands Land Trust for better public access to Granite Rock in Putnam Valley.

The committee votes sent both items for consideration by the full Legislature.

Nelsonville Mayor Mike Bowman had outlined the lease arrangement at Village Board meetings earlier this month: The monthly rent will rise to \$1,500 over five years but Nelsonville will invest in capital improvements. The Sheriff’s Department started using the space more frequently about 10 years ago, initially paying no rent but making renovations. After payments began, the rate was \$1,000 a month.

The committee chair, Legislator Carl Albano of Carmel, said that “to some extent, I think maybe we shouldn’t be paying rent.” The county “is providing a

service” to western Putnam by “sending the sheriff over there to have a presence. I think that’s good on the county’s part.”

Legislator Nancy Montgomery, who represents Philipstown and part of Putnam Valley, responded that “we all know what rents are in Cold Spring” and vicinity. She pointed out that Philipstown and Putnam Valley share the equivalent of 1.5 patrol cars around the clock. “It’s great to have the sheriff’s cars there in front of that building [on Main Street], but it’s also a great partnership and a bargain for this county,” she said.

The committee also approved a 10-year agreement to connect 91 acres of county-owned land to the 415-acre Granite Rock Preserve owned by HHLT. Albano suggested that in the near future Putnam could donate the parcel.

In other business, Montgomery questioned a \$20,000 fund transfer to buy furniture for the Putnam County Golf Course, which the county owns. She said the purchase comes at a time when residents and small businesses continue to suffer economically in the pandemic, and after she had been informed that Putnam could afford neither a mobile COVID-19 vaccination van or help municipalities address tourism pressures.

Albano replied that the golf course has generated revenue during the pandemic and the expenditure is appropriate.



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Virus Pushes Schools to Livestream Sports

Haldane and Beacon use tech to bring games online

By Arvind Dilawar

With fans banned until recently from attending high school sports matchups, districts had to come up with a way to bring the games to parents and other fans.

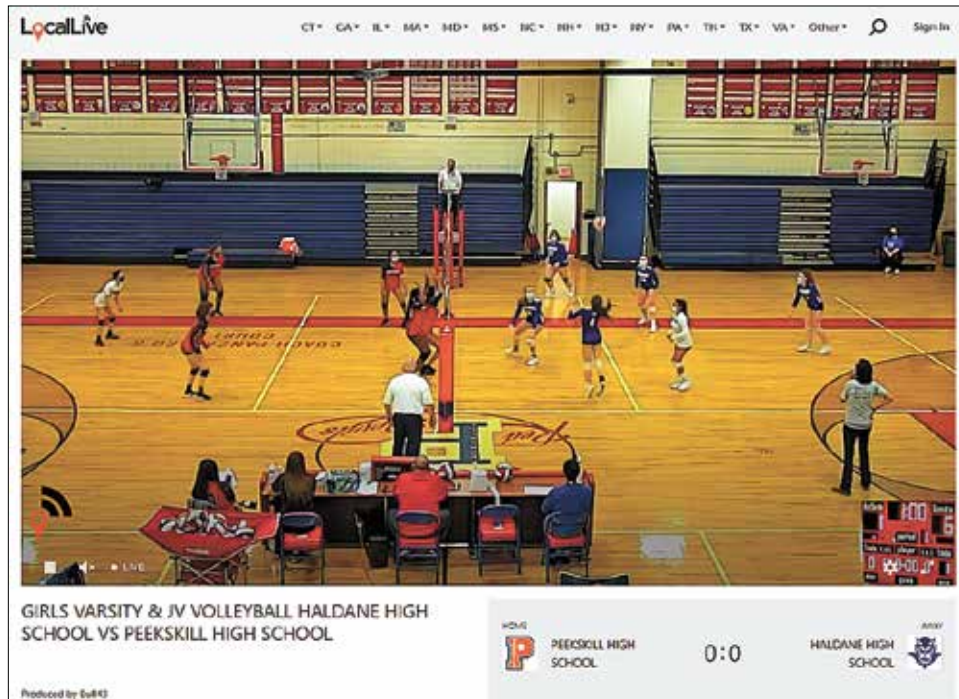
Haldane turned to a company called LocalLive, while Beacon made use of Hudl for select home basketball and volleyball games and YouTube for soccer and swimming. Regardless of the delivery system, the changes may mark a shift to broadcasting games even after the pandemic subsides.

Schools in three sections of the state, including Section IX, which will welcome Beacon in the fall, use a network provided by the National Federation of State High School Associations. Its clients include James O'Neill High School in Highland Falls and the Newburgh Free Academy.

LocalLive, based in Stamford, Connecticut, has contracts with 60 districts in New York state. The company installs remote-controlled high-definition cameras with zoom lenses at venues such as gyms and football stadiums, and livestreams games.

"Parents, grandparents and other family members enjoyed watching the games from their homes," says Eric Romanino, Haldane's athletic director. "The response has been overwhelmingly positive. Families have accepted the fact that, because of COVID, schools were trying to provide athletes, coaches and game personnel a safe environment."

Haldane subscribed to LocalLive in the fall and began broadcasting last month. The service will cost the district \$13,600 a year, although funding from the Putnam-Northern Westchester Boards of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES) will



A screenshot from a volleyball game between Haldane and Peekskill livestreamed by LocalLive on Wednesday (March 24)

cover \$4,000 for the 2021-22 school year. Parents, students and other volunteers are recruited to act as producers who run software on their home computers and use a video game controller to remotely operate a camera installed at a gym or field.

In Philipstown, Jon Champlin, a Haldane graduate, father of two, former coach and self-described "sports junkie," jumped at the chance to produce local games.

As a parent, Champlin says he appreciates being able to watch the games, even when he can't be there in person. But he says the coach in him fears that other teams may take advantage of the footage for scouting. The video is not archived, but it can be downloaded.

Beacon has been using Hudl, which costs about \$7,500 annually, for years, so

coaches and players can analyze games and create highlight reels for college recruiters. In February, the district began using the Hudl camera in the high school gym to livestream to YouTube. The cameras provided by Hudl rely on auto-tracking, rather than human operators.

"Hudl has a technology where it's able to follow the ball during the contest," explains John Giametta, Beacon's athletic director. "So in a basketball game, as the ball goes up and down the court, the camera follows the players."

For events such as swim meets, Beacon has a member of its tech department control a camera that streams the races to YouTube, he says.

Because of the positive feedback, both athletic directors say they plan to livestream



A LocalLive camera installed at a school stadium
LocalLive

other sports, including football, although LocalLive and Hudl only work for home games because the cameras are not portable. Coverage of away games will depend on whether opponents have their own systems. Other LocalLive clients in the region include Arlington, Carmel, Hendrick Hudson (Montrose), Lakeland, Mahopac, North Salem, Peekskill, Putnam Valley, Somers, Tuckahoe and Walter Panas (Cortlandt).

Romanino notes that, even when spectators are allowed back in full force (regional athletic officials recently approved two spectators per athlete), not every family member or supporter is always able to attend for other reasons besides pandemic restrictions, including work conflicts or because they live hundreds or thousands of miles away. "Streaming is here to stay," he says.

Giametta concurs. "We have the technology," he says. "It doesn't cost us any additional money to run it, so my plan would be to continue running it."

Where to Watch

Haldane

events.locallive.tv/school/haldane-hs

Beacon

beaconk12.org/athletics

Current Classifieds

HELP WANTED

SOUS CHEF / PREP COOKS — This sous chef position is varied, working with highly skilled chef, preparing for events & our restaurant, Dolly's in Garrison. Must be organized, hard-working, with love of good food. Fresh Company is a premier caterer bringing creativity & great service to our events. We have long-standing relationships with local food makers. We are committed to supporting agriculture in the Hudson Valley. We also have line cook & manager positions available at Dolly's. Email resume to shelleyboris@freshcompany.net.

RETAIL CLERK — Bijou Galleries has multiple dealers who sell books, art, furniture, clothing

and antiques. We are looking for part-time weekend help. Work involves interacting with public, running register and retail management. Interesting, eclectic local store in its 25th year. Email Bianca at biancam80@gmail.com.

MAINTENANCE CREW MEMBER — Glynwood Center seeks a Maintenance Crew Member to carry out projects and maintenance aimed to improve the overall function and aesthetics of Glynwood's 225-acre property and 19 residential, rental and administration buildings. For a full job description, please visit glynwood.org/who-we-are. To apply, send cover letter and resume to jobs@glynwood.org. State in the subject line that you are applying for the "Maintenance Crew Member" position.

SERVICES

PSYCHOTHERAPY — Columbia University PhD, fully licensed LCSW with 35 years of psychotherapy experience in Putnam and Westchester. Doctoral training in both research and clinical cognitive behavioral therapy with adults. Teaching, training and supervision of other clinicians, Fordham, Columbia, Lehman College. Accepting clients for online psychotherapy via secure HIPPA-compliant platform. Call to discuss how my qualifications may meet your needs, 860-466-9528.

HOUSEKEEPING AND OTHER SERVICES — Available for cleaning, laundry, ironing, accompanying patients to medical appointments, business support, admin, data entry or any local errands required in Cold Spring, Garrison, Beacon and Fishkill. I am happy to help whether for an hour or more; whatever your needs are. Email sandiafonso70@gmail.com

gmail.com or call 845-245-5976.

SUPPORT FOR WRITING AND STUDY

SKILLS — Give schoolwork a boost! Local expert coach in writing and study-skills offers guidance to students from middle school through graduate school. NYU MA, editor, writer, educator, experienced with kids and adult learners. (Also vaccinated!) Remote or hybrid sessions for now. Email mrsgtutor888@gmail.com.

POSITIONS WANTED

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

TAG SALE? Car for sale? Space for rent? Help wanted? Place your ad here for \$4.95. See highlandscurrent.org/classifieds.

Puzzles

CROSS CURRENT

ACROSS

1. Actress Farrow

4. Carries

9. *Blue Bloods* network

12. Fireplace residue

13. WWII sub

14. 2001 computer

15. William and Kate's daughter

17. Lawyers' org.

18. Cato's 502

19. Noah's landfall

21. Summaries

24. Garr of *Tootsie*

25. Berliner's cry

26. Hog haven

28. Quartet doubled

31. Ella's style

33. Congeal

35. iPhone voice

36. King of Judea

38. Dazzle

40. Right angle

41. "I've Got — in Kalamazoo"

43. Sneaky sort

45. Secret matters

47. Request

48. Perched

49. Fraud

54. Candle count

55. Violin piece

56. Bird (Pref.)

57. Standard

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 59

58. Wimp

59. Poke

10. Rum cake

11. Venetian-blind part

16. Vitamin stat

20. Story lines

21. Impetuous

22. Caesar's "Behold!"

23. Role

27. Evergreen tree

29. Perry's creator

30. Cash drawer

32. Forum wear

34. In the direction of

37. Does the mambo

39. *Blade* actor Snipes

42. Christine of *Chicago Hope*

44. Alias abbr.

45. Now, in a memo

46. Sitar music

50. Ger. neighbor

51. Mahal preceder

52. Gardner of film

53. Pen tip

DOWN

1. Buddy

2. Somewhat (Suff.)

3. "Caught ya!"

4. Dutch exports

5. Woodwind players

6. Youngster

7. Really annoy

8. Sound system

9. Donor's beneficiaries

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7 LITTLE WORDS

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

CLUES

1 Olympian on blades (11)

2 hairdresser (9)

3 stretch (7)

4 conviviality (11)

5 small amount of liquid (7)

6 plague (7)

7 related to Venus, say (9)

SOLUTIONS

SPEE AK USE ATER AN

FFE PLET ARY ING PLAN

DRO ENT MERR EXP COI

SE ET DSK TORM YM

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SUDO CURRENT

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

Puzzle Page Sponsored by



Country Goose

115 Main St.
Cold Spring, NY 10516
845-265-2122

Answers for March 19 Puzzles

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

1. BEVERLY, 2. FEUDING, 3. STAIRWELL, 4. UPGRADING, 5. SALTBOX, 6. EXERCISES, 7. PAINTER

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

SPORTS



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Varsity Roundup

By Skip Pearlman

VOLLEYBALL

Haldane High School opened the Fall II season on fire last week, ripping through its first opponents to compile a 5-0 record.

The Blue Devils took care of Peekskill, 3-0, on Monday (March 22), defeated Beacon, 3-0, on the road Tuesday and blanked Peekskill again on Wednesday.

"All three sets were close, and we didn't



Rachel Iavicoli (15), a senior, is a veteran on the Haldane team.



Tess Wills (15) and the Bulldogs are looking for their first win.

play our best," said Coach Kristina Roling, who took over this year from Kelsey Flaherty, of the second win at Peekskill. "They have a player who can rip it up, but the girls never gave up."

At Peekskill on Wednesday, Megan Farrell had 14 digs and Maria Barry had 13, while Meghan Tomann scored five aces.

At Beacon, the Blue Devils controlled the match from the start. "I was impressed with the way the team was so fired up," Roling said.

Roling moved to the Highlands with her husband from Tennessee, where she also coached volleyball. But Haldane is her first head coaching job.

"I didn't know what to expect," she said. "A lot of the girls have experience in club volleyball, and that helps us a lot. But we also have players with no experience, so there's quite a range. We've had very little practice time, but, at our full potential, we can be like a wrecking ball."

Barry is the only starter who returns from last year's team. Tomann, a junior, and seniors Zoe Silverman and Rachel Iavicoli also return. Junior Jaclyn Landolfi, sophomores Farrell, Kate Jordan, Jillian Weinpahl and Mikayla Santos, and senior Desi Hyatt are newcomers.

"Our sophomores are also doing an excellent job shaking the nerves and playing well," the coach said. "I'm so excited about this team."

Haldane is scheduled to host Croton at 11 a.m. on Saturday (March 27), travel to Croton on Monday and host Pawling at noon on Wednesday.

Along with its loss to Haldane, Beacon has fallen twice to Arlington and twice to John Jay for an 0-5 start.

"They've been putting in the time and effort in practice," said Coach Ron Pagliaro. "The record is not what we want, but the girls are very happy we have a season."

The Bulldogs have six returning players who are seniors: Lejdina Gecaj (the captain), Beyonce Otero, Brianna Winstel, Vanessa Polletta, Jade Matias and Kim Romine. They also have two seniors who are new: Gabriella Del Castillo and Ashley Casserly. Juniors Leanna Rinaldi, Mia Scar-chilli and Makkaila Caputo are also back.

"Lejdina, Kim and Brianna have been solid players for us for some time," Pagliaro said. "We're hoping to build for the juniors. Hopefully we get some momentum and they can realize how good they can be."

Beacon is scheduled to host Ketcham at 10 a.m. on Monday (March 29) and then visit Ketcham the next day.

FOOTBALL

Coach Ryan McConville said his Haldane team played well at times in its season opener at Dobbs Ferry, but fell 50-26.

"We missed three golden opportunities



The Bulldogs had a tough time against Haldane, which is off to a 5-0 start.



The 2021 Blue Devils before the match at Beacon — front: Jaclyn Landolfi, Megan Farrell, Desi Hyatt; back: Zoe Silverman, Maria Barry, Mikayla Santos, Jillian Weinpahl, Kate Jordan, Rachel Iavicoli, Meghan Tomann

Photos by S. Pearlman

to score in the first half that could have changed the complexion of the game," he said. "They also got a pick-six [an interception returned for a touchdown] and recovered an onside kick."

Senior Darrin Santos rushed for 111 yards and a pair of touchdowns on 10 carries and returned a fumble 70 yards for the game's first score. At quarterback, Dan Santos completed 11 of 19 attempts for 139 yards, including a touchdown to Doug Donaghy. He was intercepted twice.

"Darrin had a great game offensively and he was huge on defense," McConville said. "To go over 100 yards in the first game was great. Julian Forcello and Soren Holmbo also played well, and Josh Reyes had an interception that led to a touchdown."

He said there "were some nerves" but also "a lot of enthusiasm and excitement. The whole team had a lot of fun."

Haldane is scheduled to host Blind Brook at noon on Saturday (March 27).

Beacon, meanwhile, traveled to Brewster

on March 20 for its opener and fell to the Bears, 46-0.

Despite the score, quarterback Jason Komisar "made some good decisions and tried to make plays," said Coach Jim Phelan. "Brewster's defensive ends were outstanding; they shut us down. We have a lot of guys who are getting their first varsity action, and some who are playing football for the first time."

Komisar completed 9 of 16 attempts for 28 yards and ran for 21 yards on eight carries. Jamal Jackson and Cody Shields each had three receptions. Louis DelBianco led the defense with seven tackles, and Jackson had a fumble recovery.

The Bulldogs are scheduled to host Tappan Zee today (March 26) at 7 p.m.

More Sports on Page 22