

# The HIGHLANDS Current

APRIL 16, 2021

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## A Boon for Beacon Schools

*Outside funding changes outlook for district*

By Jeff Simms

As recently as December, Ann Marie Quartironi, the deputy superintendent of the Beacon City School District who oversees the budget, was contemplating cuts.

Because of the pandemic shutdown, the district faced a 20 percent reduction in state funding, a far more important source of revenue for Beacon than wealthier districts such as Haldane or Garrison. Her daunting job was to figure out which programs, or staff, to recommend that the school board cut first.

There were several moving parts at play. The district knew it would receive an infusion of federal pandemic relief that month, but for every federal dollar received, the state was deducting the same amount from its aid package, calling it a “pandemic adjustment” — an immediate zero-sum game.

While the state promised it would repay those adjustments in 2021, Gov. Andrew Cuomo’s preliminary 2021-22 budget was murky. He proposed \$31.7 billion in school funding, a 7.1 percent increase over last year, but it was contingent on Congress approving a second federal stimulus plan, which

(Continued on Page 19)



Maya Gelber in *The Greek Trilogy*, which will be performed at Haldane High School next week  
Photo by Jim Mechalakos

## The Shows Will Go On!

*Local high schools plan for in-person performances*

By Alison Rooney

The natural rhythms of the school year are in disarray this academic year, and the traditional timings of high school drama and musical productions are as much a casualty of the pandemic as team sports.

Usually, like clockwork, Beacon High School presents a musical in the fall and

spring; Haldane High School has a drama around Thanksgiving and a musical in March; and James O’Neill High School in Fort Montgomery, which many Garrison students attend, has the same schedule plus a gala.

Not this year. A tangle of hybrid, all-virtual and in-school learning, as well as an abundance of snow, wreaked havoc on rehearsals.

But, in the grand tradition of the stage, and the typical upbeat energy of theater kids — the shows will be going on.

(Continued on Page 13)

## Bender Resigns from Cold Spring Board

*Says tone and priorities counter to values*

By Michael Turton

Heidi Bender, who was elected to the Cold Spring Village Board in November, resigned on Thursday (April 15), saying in a statement she could no longer abide the tone and priorities of the board.

Mayor Dave Merandy commented that the resignation “took everyone by surprise,” but did not read Bender’s letter of resignation into the record. Bender earlier provided a copy to *The Current*.

Bender and Trustee Fran Murphy did not attend the meeting, which was held via Zoom.

Bender, who co-owns Split Rock Books on Main Street with her husband, Michael, wrote that she “ran for village government because I thought I could have a positive effect, and am now convinced that is not possible at this time.”

She added: “While healthy disagreement is an important part of any democracy, frequently the tone of conversation



Bender

(Continued on Page 7)



Philipstown Supervisor Richard Shea inside the renovated Town Hall earlier this month. The town returned to the building this week after 16 months in temporary locations.

Photo by Ross Corsair

## Town Hall Gets a Makeover

*Major restoration completed on 1867 building*

By Chip Rowe

A major restoration of the 1867 Philipstown Town Hall was completed this week and the clerk, supervisor, assessor and Justice Court moved back in from temporary quarters at the Old VFW Hall and the American Legion.

The renovations began 16 months ago on the building, at 238 Main St. in Cold Spring. The rehab work, which was slowed by the pandemic shutdown, cost about \$1.8 million, Supervisor Richard Shea said on Wednesday (April 14).

“We saved for about 16 years to get in a position where we could do this with no impact for the tax assessment,” he said

earlier in the month while providing a tour. “In the end, we’ll have a building that is a real legacy. The building was in danger of falling down because of water damage and decay. It just hadn’t been attended to since the 1870s. There had been Band-Aids put on things but the building didn’t function in a way that lent itself toward modern government.”

In September 2019, the Town Board approved up to \$2 million in bond financing for the renovations. At the time, Shea, who is a contractor, said the bonding total exceeded what the town expected to spend because “we know that when they start tearing into this building, they’re probably going to find some surprises — not the good kind.”

Shea said on Wednesday that there had been the expected surprises and additional costs, and that “without the work of the

(Continued on Page 20)



# 5Q FIVE QUESTIONS: HOLLY O'GRADY

By Brian PJ Cronin

**H**olly O'Grady is the "energy navigator" in Beacon for a Cornell Cooperative Extension program that helps people make their homes more efficient.

## Why did you volunteer as an energy navigator?

I recently moved from an overheated, small apartment in New York City to a house in Beacon. I realized it was a very different ballgame: There are lots of choices a homeowner has to make. The program was helpful to me personally thinking about how to make my house greener, little by little.

## What was the training like?

It was a 10-week program. We started by looking at our utility bill. When I lived in an apartment, I felt I had little control over my choices. But the utility bill becomes a very interesting document when you own a house. You say, "Wait a minute, where did I spend all that money?" We also went through the choices people can make about electric usage, heating options. It moves from the most basic document to a broader discussion, especially if you're replacing things. If the hot water heater goes, well,



what's a better way to heat water?

## What are some changes you've made?

I had heard about signing up to get your electricity from community solar farms but always thought, "I'll get to that later." After I was in the program, I realized "Why not?" It's a change that costs nothing. Another thing we're starting to look at is more insulation in drafty areas. That doesn't require a huge investment.

## Is there low-hanging fruit that people

## can tackle on their own?

Door sweeps, believe it or not. We put one in because our house is my guinea pig, and even though the door fits snugly, I could tell the difference right away. There is rope caulk you can put around window frames, especially if you don't want to cover your windows with plastic. We changed our light bulbs with ones that are much more energy efficient and we could see the effect on our bill right away.

## One training topic was "energy justice." What is that?

There's quite a movement in New York to ensure that all residents have opportunities to upgrade their efficiency, not just people who can afford it. It's one of the things I'm advocating, along with the Green Beacon Coalition. We list programs at [midhudsonenergychoices.org](http://midhudsonenergychoices.org). Heating is such a big expense that it's important for people who live in homes that haven't been upgraded, or with things that haven't been addressed over a number of years, to know there are grants to improve their heating efficiency so that they don't have to live in drafty, cold houses. We can walk people through what they need to do to qualify.

O'Grady can be reached at [h.ogradey.en@gmail.com](mailto:h.ogradey.en@gmail.com).

# ON THE SPOT

By Michael Turton

## How do you break the spell if you get really bored?

"I don't get bored easily, but if I do, I walk anywhere that's green."



~ Patrycja Warda, Beacon

"I do tai chi or Fit for Life."



~ Marty Saltzman, Nelsonville

"I don't get bored — there isn't enough time!"



~ Connie Rotardier, Nelsonville

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## NEWS BRIEFS

## Beacon Man Tells Police He Has Explosives

*After standoff, sent for mental health evaluation*

A Beacon man was sent for a mental health evaluation after he called 911 at 1 a.m. on Sunday (April 11) and told the dispatcher he was sitting in his vehicle on Main Street doused in gasoline with explosives and a loaded weapon.

The 64-year-old man, whom police did not identify, was located by officers inside his vehicle and said he would fire on anyone who approached, according to a statement by the Beacon Police Department. After officers cordoned off the area, the Dutchess County Sheriff's Office dispatched its Crisis Negotiation Unit.

The man spoke with the county 911 operator, a negotiator from the Sheriff's Office and a member of the Beacon Police Department, the statement said. After about two hours, he surrendered and was transported to Mid-Hudson Regional Hospital. Police said they found a gas can inside the vehicle but no weapons or explosives.

## Indian Point Wage Bill Becomes Law

*Holtec must pay workers prevailing wage*

Holtec, the Florida company that will decommission the Indian Point nuclear plant, must pay employees the prevailing wage and abide by collective bargaining agreements under a law enacted last month by Gov. Andrew Cuomo.

The bill had been introduced in the Assembly by Sandy Galef, whose district includes Philipstown.

Entergy, which owns the plant, located on the Hudson River in Buchanan, won federal approval to transfer its operating license to Holtec last year. The company plans to decommission the plant over the next 12 to 15 years. Indian Point's last operating reactor is scheduled to be shut down at the end of this month.

Along with Galef, Assembly Member Jonathan Jacobson, whose district includes Beacon, and State Sen. Sue Serino, whose district includes the Highlands, each voted for the bill.

An earlier version of the bill passed the Assembly and Senate during the 2019-20 session but Cuomo declined to sign it. After negotiations, the new bill made adjustments such as keeping current collective bargaining agreements in place, Galef said.

## Cold Spring Church Announces Merger

*Church on the Hill joins with online ministry*

The Church on the Hill in Cold Spring will hold services as Faith Church Cold Spring beginning May 2 after a merger with FaithChurch.CC.

The Rev. Tim Greco announced the change in a Facebook post. The merger, he said, fulfills his "sincere desire for years to take our church to the next level and reach our community with the love of the Lord." Greco is a board member of FaithChurch.CC, which has a location in New York City and two in Connecticut.

Greco and his wife, Beth, who is CEO and president of The Hoving Home, which has a campus in Garrison, will remain as co-pastors. Sunday worship will start a half-hour earlier, at 10 a.m., in preparation for adding a second service, Greco said.

## Philipstown to Fight Dirty

*Earth Day event will launch campaign*

A campaign spearheaded by Krystal Ford, the recently appointed Climate Smart Coordinator for Philipstown, and the nonprofit Ecological Citizens' Project hopes to draw attention this week to local efforts to fight climate change.

Philipstown Fights Dirty will launch virtually on Earth Day (Thursday, April 22) at 6 p.m. with Supervisor Richard Shea signing a resolution for the town to pursue "carbon neutrality" by 2040. Based on a town-wide greenhouse gas inventory conducted in 2019, that equates to reducing annual emissions by the equivalent of 10,000 metric tons of CO2 annually, or about 1 ton per resident, the group said.

The event will also include the launch of philipstownfightsdirty.org with recommendations for residents to reduce emissions; the introduction of the Philipstown Climate Fund to provide project grants; and performances by Dar Williams and Tall County. Register at [bit.ly/PFDlaunchevent](https://bit.ly/PFDlaunchevent).

## Putnam Hospital Lays Off Nurses

*Facility cites reduced patient volume*

The New York State Nurses Association criticized the Putnam Hospital Center this week after the facility dismissed 11 nurses, including seven the union says were redeployed during the pandemic to treat COVID-19 patients. The hospital cited "diminished patient volumes" for the move.

The nurses, including one who the union said had worked for 30 years at the hospital, were told on April 7 they would be laid off, effective immediately, according to the NYSNA.

Putnam has received at least \$12.3 million in federal COVID-19 relief funding. Dr. Mark Hirko, the hospital's president, said in a statement that it "had no other recourse."

"The decision to do this is difficult, but we will always look to offer affected employees placement within the Nuvance Health system as best we can accommodate," he said.

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THE HIGHLANDS CURRENT  
(USPS #22270) / ISSN 2475-3785

April 16, 2021  
Volume 10, Issue 17

is published weekly by Highlands Current Inc., 142 Main St., Cold Spring, NY 10516-2819. Periodicals Postage Paid at Cold Spring, NY, and at additional offices. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to *The Highlands Current*, 142 Main St., Cold Spring, NY 10516-2819. Mail delivery \$30 per year. highlandscurrent.org/delivery delivery@highlandscurrent.org

Distribution audited by the Circulation Verification Council

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## LETTERS AND COMMENTS

### Golf course to close

The view out my south-facing windows is The Garrison golf course. My family and I are proud to call Garrison our home for more than 15 years. When we first heard that the Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival would move to the golf course, we were tentatively supportive, but wanted to know more ("Shakespeare Plans: An Update"). We have always loved the HVSF and last year bought tickets to show our support [despite the shows being canceled].

The more we read about the scope of this project, the more our support has turned to concern. I am in touch with many neighbors who feel similarly. I have watched all of the Philipstown Planning Board meetings and attended a site visit. The more I hear, the more questions that I have. Though I am sure all of the experts will create a beautiful design, the issues are not so much with the looks but about the effects and impacts by the tens to hundreds of thousands of visitors in their cars on our community, roads, resources and environment annually. We must not just think about next year but possibly 10 years or more in advance. We are a tiny hamlet and the thought of a potential Caramoor [in Katonah] or Jacob's Pillow [in Massachusetts] is worrisome.

I believe that Chris Davis' goal to preserve The Garrison land is fantastic, but I wonder about the effects of all of these people on our natural oasis. I am sure that there could be other types of usages that could preserve the land without so much impact, but obviously this is for Mr. Davis to decide.

When I read that Davis McCallum, the HVSF artistic director, is surprised that the HVSF is being characterized as a developer, I wonder why, when you consider the scope of its wish list. I see this as a massive commercial land development. Though HVSF considers itself an arts organization that has been on Route 9D for 33 years and wants to move to Route 9, I see a commercial events/entertainment company seeking a tremendous expansion of its existing business model.

At the March 18 Planning Board meeting, the chair, Neal Zuckerman, said that all think this is a good project but asked: "How much is too much? How much activity can this area handle? What is too much, from the number of people, to the number of buildings, gallons of water, number of toilets?"

He couldn't have said it better. Let's take our time to analyze this massive project carefully and think clearly about its impacts on the Garrison that we love so much as it is now.

Stephen Wallis, *Garrison*

Here is the big question: How does this relate to the Philipstown comprehensive plan? What impact will this have in the Route 9 corridor, which is already poorly planned? Will any of this property be taken off the tax rolls and what impact will it have on taxpayers? Why not have a transparent conversation about our future?

Sarina Tamagna, *Cold Spring*

*Tamagna is a candidate for the Philipstown Town Board.*

As Shakespeare wrote in *Henry V*, "the game is afoot." Davis McCallum said that if you look at The Garrison site from across the river, "you'll see the golf course, because 80 acres of trees were clear-cut to create it" ("Four Big Questions").

It must be recognized that the ridgeline on which the development plans to place its 500-seat, permanent tent was visible from across the river before the golf course was built. When I was a bit younger and Bill Brown's Physical Training Farm was still in operation, I remember those fields quite well. I expect the extreme wind, summer lightning strikes and intermittent grass fires kept them open and the views extraordinary. I believe that the club also had a short three-hole pitch and putting course set up to help Jackie Gleason and his cronies stay sober!

I was working on the clearing crew back in 1962 for Larry Wanamaker, who headed up the crew for The North Redoubt Club, as it was then to be called. Most of our work was clearing the land for what are now holes No. 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6, the land of the Pope estate north of Philipse Brook Road. Hole No. 8 was also a thicket, and perhaps clearing it was the quid pro quo that New York City needed to allow present holes No. 7 and 8 to be built on its property.

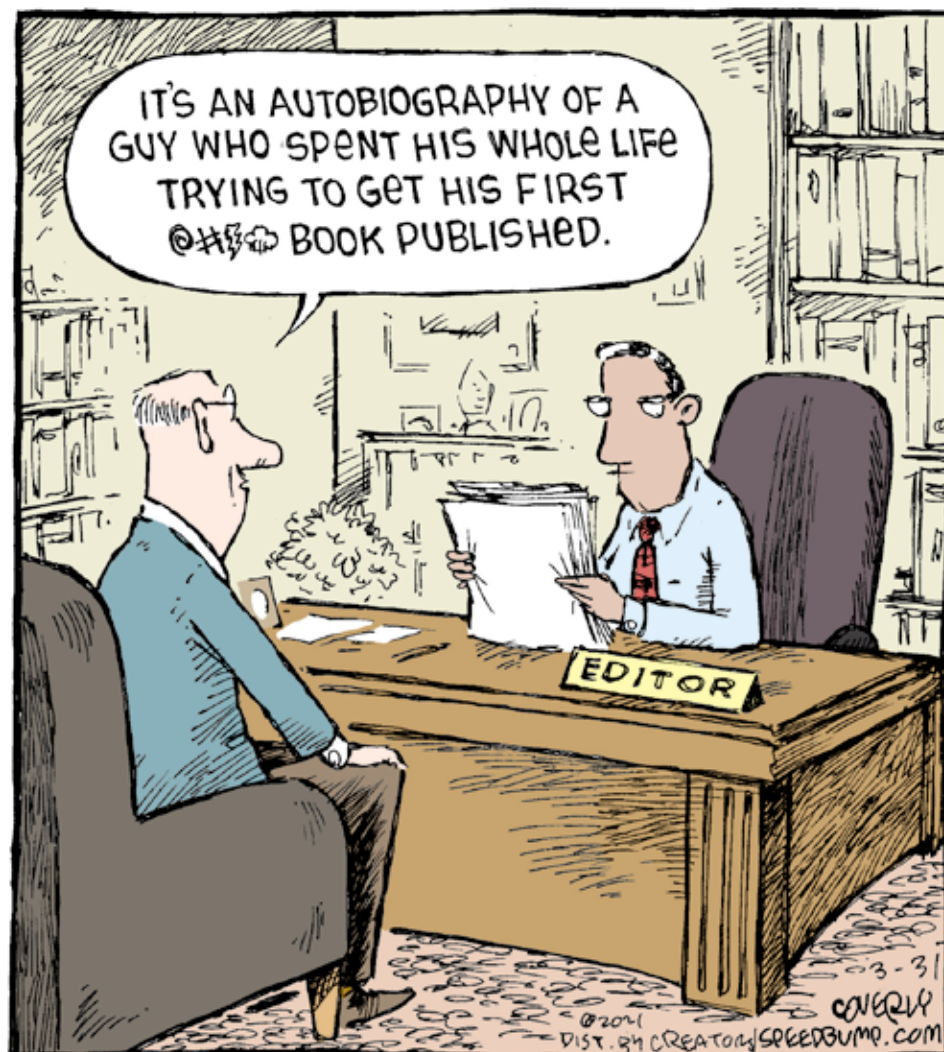
John Benjamin, *Garrison*

This is wonderful — so good for Garrison and Cold Spring and the planet ("Garrison Golf Course to Close This Year," April 9). A golf course isn't good for birds or plants, uses lots of chemicals and fertilizer, and keeps these views from anyone who isn't a golfer. The new park will be environmentally much healthier for pollinators and for people, and will be accessible to all of us for picnics and dog walking. The only traffic it will bring is when the festival lets out — for less than a half-hour when the parking lot empties at a non-rush hour time.

Anne Sumers, *via Facebook*

We have to decide on what our community deems beneficial use, and the answer seems to be somewhere between zero development and zero access to anyone. The whole reason

(Continued on Page 5)





# The Current Wins 18 NYPA Awards

## Staff takes home eight first-place honors

**T**he *Highlands Current* won 18 awards, including eight first-place honors, last week in the annual competition sponsored by the New York Press Association for editorial and advertising in 2020. The paper has won 76 NYPA awards since 2013.

The competition, which included 2,440 entries from 151 smaller mid-size newspapers across the state, was judged by members of the Pennsylvania Newspapers Publishers Association.

In addition to the NYPA wins, a series by Brian PJ Cronin, *The Fading Forest*, is

a finalist in the annual competition organized by the New York City chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists for the best reporting in a newspaper with a circulation under 100,000. The other finalists are stories from *The Journal News* and *The Record/NorthJersey.com*. The winner will be announced on May 17.

With two exceptions, *The Current's* NYPA awards came in the division for smaller papers. It won, for the second time in four years, the Thomas G. Butson Award for In-Depth Reporting, for Cronin's *Fading Forest* series. The weekly also won first place in sports features for Michael Turton's story on Aaron Nastasi, who 20 years ago after a stellar basketball career at Haldane decided not to play

in college; and in news stories for Leonard Spark's report, "Placed in Harm's Way," about a mother's interaction with the Putnam County child welfare system. Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong won third place in the same category for her report on the battle over proposed development on a Revolutionary War site in Fishkill.

Sparks and Jeff Simms won first place in the news series category for *COVID 2021: What Lies Ahead* (Cronin took second place for *The Fading Forest*) and Turton won first place for best columns for "Reporter's Notebook" (Cronin received an honorable mention for "Out There"). Simms' article on The Mayor, a well-known chicken-about-town in Beacon, was named the best feature story.

In the advertising categories, Pierce Strudler won first place for best advertising campaign for his ads created for psychologist Michael McKee called "Coping with Stress." Strudler also won first place for best house ad for his promotion for the paper's Student Journalists Program.

In design categories, Strudler won second place among tabloids for overall design and Summer Pierre won third place in graphic illustration for a drawing called "Comic Sensibilities" about a book club she leads.

In other awards, the paper placed third in coverage of the arts and Ross Corsair received honorable mentions in the feature photo and picture story categories. *The Current* also placed third for general excellence and Chip Rowe finished third among newspapers of all sizes for best online news project for his weekly *CurrentPLUS* email newsletter for members.

## LETTERS AND COMMENTS

(Continued from Page 4)

for conservation is to conserve nature and allow people to enjoy it while it lasts. One extreme or the other is not the answer.

A Shakespeare theater, with its nuisance and cars and parking lots and noise, may not be the most preferable environmental option, but at least the beauty is used for something. I still resent that there's no Dockside by the river. Well-meaning environmentalists took that beautiful site out of circulation for no reason.

There's no purpose to conserve nature if the aim is that no one can use it. We can be respectful of the environment and still make use of land and enjoy Hudson Valley nature.

Mahmoud Shahbodaghi, *Garrison*

HVSF has promised limited public access, though it is struggling to describe the when and where of it, as well as how it might be controlled. Like so many aspects of the proposed development, the public access aspect has not been thought through. It's clear, however, that this is envisioned as a ticketed entertainment venue. When it's showtime, the lights go down and the public goes home.

Tim Nolan, *Garrison*

The people of Philipstown have a problem with a golf course closing and the land being preserved? It sounds like an environmentalist's dream.

Patty Villanova, *Putnam Valley*

The all-access, affordable, ecological and low-impact leisure sport of the future is disc golf. The Highlands are woefully short on disc-golf courses, and The Garrison would be a prime site. Disc golf is a low-cost, low-carbon-footprint sport and is compatible with restorative landscape measures and reforested settings.

Ethan Timm, *Cold Spring*

## Hustis sentence

The tragedy is that Chuck Hustis has a disease that has ruined his life and will not

## Correction

In a story in the April 9 issue, we reported that rates would increase on Hudson Valley bridges for E-ZPass users to \$1.35 beginning May 1. In fact, a four-year increase in tolls began in 2020; the increase this year will be from \$1.35 to \$1.45. The cash rate will remain at \$1.75, while the rate for those on the commuter plan (minimum 17 crossings per month) will rise to \$1.20. The annual increases will continue through 2023, when they reach \$1.65 for E-ZPass users, \$2.15 cash and \$1.40 on the commuter plan.

be addressed or treated in any meaningful way in prison ("Hustis Sentenced to Five Years," April 9). Whether he was physically and verbally abused at home and endured homophobia as an adult is suspect and irrelevant; what needs be acknowledged is that his lack of impulse control, coupled with the loneliness and giddiness of his texts, created a perfect storm.

While the crime was by no mean victimless, the lack of empathy from the federal court is deeply distressing. I don't believe this man who served his village and was a prominent member of his parish understood the harm he may have inflicted on the recipients of his texts. But five years in prison seems mighty punitive.

Tom Tannery, *Cold Spring*

Seems like a fair sentence. It sounds like Mr. Hustis has issues that need to be dealt with — if they can be dealt with — but unfortunately, the penal system isn't about that.

David Calderone, *Garrison*

This is just another example of what's wrong with the criminal justice system;

there is no way any sexual predator should get a minimum sentence.

Joe Hyatt, *via Facebook*

## Library solar

As you have reported, the Desmond-Fish Public Library is seeking approval to build a solar-panel array on its property. When Alice Curtis Desmond donated the money to build the library on open fields recently used for hay, she probably did not expect the landscape to be defaced with any structure, and certainly not one as visually unappealing as a solar-panel array.

Solar energy is vital to the U.S., and we are fortunate that there are potential sites for panels all over the country. The limited open space surrounding the library is part of the open land that forms the center of Garrison and makes its character. We have established a conservation easement on the fields we own across the road from the library and the state has taken action to further this conservation.

Gas stations and garbage dumps have to be put somewhere. The tiny amount of land owned by the library is not the place for them and solar panels are in the same category. Power from renewable energy can be bought through Central Hudson. And the library cannot engage in the commercial enterprise of selling excess power to Central Hudson that would violate zoning and the terms or spirit of the Desmond gift. You will not find solar panels in Central Park or on the Mall in Washington, nor on the White House lawn. They do not belong at our library.

David Ward, *Garrison*

## QAnon

This story presents a dangerously over-looked perspective when talking about our neighbors succumbing to fringe theories and ideologies — the effect on teenagers and children ("QAnon at Home," April 9). While adults often have the option of ignoring or avoiding peers or acquaintances espousing extremist views, children within the home

do not have the same opportunity to escape.

Sean Conway, *Cold Spring*

## Beacon apartments

We need a multi-level parking lot in the downtown area, plus single-side parking on Main Street ("Beacon to Consider More Apartments," April 9).

Frank Wright, *Beacon*

The city wants to extend weekend shuttle bus service to include Sundays to bring visitors from the Metro-North station to Main Street. But it has done nothing for the businesses and city residents in Groverville on Fishkill Avenue coming into Beacon. Why does the bus turn by Ron's Ice Cream to go up to the mountain when there is only one business there? The bus service is free. The only reason it does not go past Ron's is because it does not want the residents of Hedgewood, an assisted living facility, on the bus.

This city administration, like the one before it, does not care that there are over 15 businesses and 1,000 taxpayers near Groverville. If you are not on the "golden mile" of Main Street, you don't exist. Instead, let's build more condos/apartments, with no parking, near Main Street.

Dennis Moroney, *Beacon*

## Tree cutting

It is sad that the cell tower company could not find a way to serve the residents of Nelsonville and Cold Spring without making a deleterious impact on our local environment by way of sullyng our scenic viewshed, sullyng the historic Cold Spring Cemetery and endangering our threatened northern long-eared bats ("Down They Go," April 2).

Moreover, it has had no respect for the neighbors who live near this unfortunate environmental debacle. Have they all learned nothing from the environmental movement? Have they learned nothing of good corporate behavior and citizenship? Very disappointing!

Harold Akselrad, *Nelsonville*



# PHILIPSTOWN NEIGHBORS!

*Join an Earth Day launch event to learn more about the Philipstown Fights Dirty campaign.*

Help Philipstown reach its goal of carbon neutrality by 2040 by pledging to take actions that reduce carbon emissions, protect our natural resources, support our local economy and build a healthier community.

#### THE CAMPAIGN INCLUDES:

- The Town of Philipstown Board signing a local carbon neutrality resolution
- The launch of the interactive Philipstown Fights Dirty website
- The launch of the Philipstown Climate Fund
- Musical performances by Dar Williams and Tall County

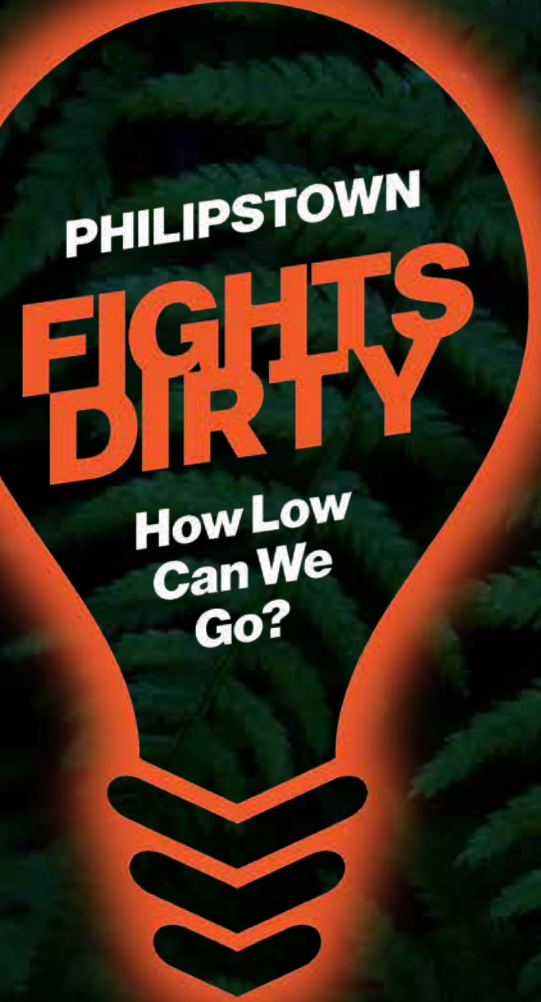
**THURSDAY, APRIL 22, 2021  
6PM - 7PM**

via Zoom // Register here:  
**[bit.ly/PFDlaunchevent](https://bit.ly/PFDlaunchevent)**

*All attendees will be entered into a raffle to win a Greenworks electric Pro 60V brushless 21" Lawn Mower.*

#### PERFORMANCES BY:

Dar Williams + Tall County



SEE HOW ALL OF US CAN HELP PHILIPSTOWN FIGHT DIRTY. HOW LOW CAN WE GO?

**VISIT [PHILIPSTOWNFIGHTSDIRTY.ORG](https://PHILIPSTOWNFIGHTSDIRTY.ORG)**



# Philipstown Goes Greener

## *Backs emission reduction, solar energy*

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

On a mission to “save this planet,” the Philipstown Town Board last week approved measures to cut greenhouse gas emissions, produce solar energy and recommit to a regional program offering energy from non-polluting sources.

The board continued the push this week, scheduling a workshop for Wednesday (April 21) with the Hudson Highlands Land Trust to launch an East Highlands Green Corridors Plan that would use protected parcels to link conservation areas and allow animals — including humans — to “move and thrive across the landscape.”

It’s all of a piece, Supervisor Richard Shea said April 8 at the board’s monthly meeting, held via Zoom. “You look at this agenda: It is heavy on an effort to save this planet,” he said. “Philipstown is leading the way in the Hudson Valley” in pursuing sustainability.

On April 8, the five-person board unanimously approved three initiatives.

■ **Greenhouse-gas reduction:** Goals adopted by the board would eliminate emissions from town facilities and the community by 2040, paralleling state plans to, by 2050, stop emissions that, in a hothouse effect, contribute to global warming. As one means to its end, the Town Board advocated making buildings and operations more energy-efficient through innovations that decrease consumption and waste.

■ **Solar power:** After several years of work, the board moved forward on harnessing the sun, adopting a proposal from SunPower, a firm based in Modena, to install solar panels atop the Recreation Center in Garrison.

■ **Community Choice Aggregation:** Philipstown continued its membership in the CCA, which includes Cold Spring and Beacon and other Mid-Hudson municipalities. The CCA allows customers to obtain their electricity from renewable energy sources, in cooperation with Central Hudson. They can decline, but Shea said most Philipstown customers participate.

Although no vote was taken, Shea and Town Board Members Judy Farrell and Mike Leonard reiterated Philipstown’s opposition to the plan to transform the part-time Danskammer power plant on the Hudson north of Beacon into a full-time facility fed by natural gas, a fossil fuel that contributes to global warming. Danskammer has said the plant could later convert to use of a non-polluting fuel. Philipstown, like Cold Spring and Beacon, had previously formally objected to the expansion.

Farrell said April 8 that most participants at an online public hearing she and Leonard attended urged rejection of the company’s plan. “It’s going to have detrimental effects,” she said. “We don’t need to go backward.”

Leonard said allowing the project to proceed would be “a serious mistake” that would “make it harder to meet our goals” environmentally.

### **Garrison post office**

Aman Raju, whose family owns the parcel that contains the U.S. Postal Service’s branch in Garrison, told the board that changes there include fewer trucks since Amazon stopped its heavy collaboration with the USPS around Jan. 1. “Operations have been very minimal for several months” and now only one early delivery occurs, between 5 and 6 a.m., he added.

In March, a representative of about 15 nearby households told the board that post office activities disrupted the neighborhood and created traffic hazards.

Raju, who lives alongside the facility, said he has since visited all the neighbors. A few described persistent noise problems but overall the conversations were quite positive, he said. “There’s a lot more good it brings to the community than harm,” he said of the post office.

Shea said that on his frequent stops there “everything has been spotless. I see a vast improvement” from the way it once looked. He credited the Raju family for an “exemplary” demonstration of “how to be good neighbors.”

### **Putnam County**

Shea praised Putnam County in general and County Legislator Nancy Montgomery, a Philipstown resident, in particular for bringing COVID-19 vaccination clinics to the Philipstown Recreation Center. “A lot of county resources have gone into this; a lot. We are grateful,” he said. “It’s been a refreshing change to work so closely with the county.”

### **Short-term rentals**

Shea said he supports allowing residents to use their homes for Airbnb or other short-term rentals because “it’s a good thing for people to be able to make some extra money and conduct a business at home.” Nonetheless, he cautioned homeowners: “Don’t foul it up for the whole town.” He raised the issue after receiving a letter from Manitou residents about a house apparently rented out frequently and “producing quite a lot of disturbance and noise. We’re going to take action,” Shea warned. “We have a zero-tolerance policy when it comes to disturbing the peace.”

Philipstown’s zoning code allows bed-and-breakfasts but requires Planning Board approval. It defines a bed-and-breakfast as “a dwelling in which overnight accommodations not exceeding five bedrooms and breakfast are provided for transient guests for compensation.” The code also covers “lodging facilities,” which include establishments “providing sleeping accommodations for transient guests, with or without a dining room or restaurant, excluding bed-and-breakfast establishments.” It restricts lodging facilities to certain zoning districts and demands that owners obtain special-use permits.

## **Bender Resigns** *(from Page 1)*

and the priorities of the majority of the board are at odds with the values I ran to represent,” and called on the board to offer “more participatory stewardship.”

Bender sometimes sparred with Merandy and Murphy on issues such as the budget and police reform, leading to tense exchanges during meetings. She and Kathleen Foley joined the board last year after running unopposed for two open seats.

Her letter also called for the village to consolidate with Philipstown. “So much of the work done by the village is in duplicate, or triplicate, with the Town of Philipstown and the Village of Nelsonville, and I believe taxpayers could benefit from consolidation,” she wrote.

She thanked “everyone in the village who has shown kindness and offered guidance,” and offered to continue as a board member until a successor was named to fill her term, which ends in 2022. The seats held by Merandy, Murphy and Marie Early will be on the November ballot; Murphy has said she will not run for a fourth term.

Merandy said the November election will now include a special election to fill Bender’s seat for the second half of her term. He added that as mayor, he could appoint a trustee to serve during the months leading up to the election. He also has the option of not filling the vacancy before the election, he said.

### **In other business ...**

■ There’s no shortage of opinions about the Cold Spring Police Department. In late March, the Village Board issued a 16-question survey on its operations, part of its response to an order by Gov. Andrew Cuomo requiring municipalities to review their law-enforcement operations. At a meeting on Tuesday (April 13), Trustee Fran Murphy said 43 percent of 625 residents and business owners who received a link to the online version of the survey had already submitted responses, which she called “phenomenal.” She said 22 people had submitted paper responses. Murphy said volunteers had fanned out across the village to distribute printed instructions on how to receive the survey. She continues to get four or five requests per day and will begin reporting results in early May. (Requests for a link to the online survey can be emailed to [vcscclerk@coldspringny.gov](mailto:vcscclerk@coldspringny.gov); paper copies are available at Village Hall.)

■ There were no comments during a public hearing on Tuesday (April 13) on the tentative 2021-22 budget, which includes projected spending of \$2.65 million. The board said that the tax rate of \$11.39 per \$1,000 of assessed value was not expected to increase.

■ The board approved the village’s continued participation in the Community Choice Aggregation Program that enables municipalities to source electricity on behalf of its residents. Beacon and Philipstown are also part of the program.

■ At an April 6 meeting, Bruce Croushore asked the trustees to pass a resolution supporting his request for the pedestrian crosswalk at Oak Street and Chestnut Street (Route 9D) to be moved 30 feet south, citing drainage problems and poor nighttime visibility. However, the crosswalk is under the jurisdiction of the state Department of Transportation and trustees said they would need to hear broader public support for a move.

■ The public restrooms near the pedestrian tunnel will reopen from Thursday through Monday beginning today (April 16). They will be open daily after Memorial Day weekend. The Cold Spring Chamber of Commerce has asked the Village Board to support requests from volunteers who man the information booth for improved Wi-Fi, designated parking and liability insurance coverage.

■ The Zoning Board of Appeals ruled at its March 18 meeting that the owners of the Old VFW Hall on Kemble Avenue can allow a preschool to operate there, provided it is registered with the state Department of Education.

■ The Historic District Review Board last month approved applications for the development of two single-family houses on Paulding Avenue as part of the Butterfield redevelopment project. In his monthly report, Sean Conway of the Review Board said it was “satisfied these properties create a softer transition between the multifamily condo complex and the historic residences along Paulding.”

■ Cold Spring police officers responded to 67 calls for service in March. Two arrests were made under the mental-health law, both involving the same person. Officers issued 18 traffic and 18 parking tickets. The Cold Spring Fire Co., which is in the midst of a drive to recruit new members, responded to 15 alarms.

■ Fifty residents who are behind on their water bill payments will be offered a payment plan rather than having the balance added to their tax bills.

■ Jennifer Zwarich, chair of the Tree Advisory Board, reported there would be no public celebration of Arbor Day on April 30 but there will be a planting at Village Hall and recognition of Cold Spring’s designation as a Tree City USA for the fifth consecutive year.





## The Real Estate Market is Booming!

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## What's Inside the State Budget

### New York buoyed by federal aid, tax increase

By Leonard Sparks

A year ago, Gov. Andrew Cuomo and state lawmakers approved a \$177 million budget against hurricane-strength headwinds: pandemic-high deaths, the widespread closures of businesses, millions laid off from work and a predicted \$13.3 billion shortfall in tax revenue.

A year later, Cuomo and lawmakers have passed a \$212 billion spending plan buoyed by \$5.5 billion of the \$12.6 billion New York will receive through the American Rescue Plan signed by President Joe Biden last month. It also includes revenue from a tax increase on people earning more than \$1 million annually.

Enacted by Cuomo on April 7, the budget had the support of Assembly members Jonathan Jacobson, whose district includes Beacon, and Sandy Galef, whose district includes Philipstown, both of whom are Democrats. Sen. Sue Serino, a Republican whose district includes the Highlands, voted "no."

State agencies now begin the process of distributing the funds.

The Empire State Development Corp. will give \$800 million in grants to small businesses to help with payroll, rent or mortgage payments, property or school taxes and other expenses. Another \$2.4 billion will go to renters facing eviction because of the COVID-19 shutdown.

The state also has mandated broadband providers offer service to low-income households for \$15 per month and created a \$2.1 billion fund to aid workers who lost income during the pandemic but did not qualify for unemployment, such as undocumented immigrants.

In a statement, Serino criticized that expenditure, saying it will support "people living in the state illegally." But Jonathan Bix, executive director for Nobody Leaves Mid-Hudson, an advocacy group based in Poughkeepsie, called it "a historic victory" that will "finally bring vital support to workers excluded from even the most basic state and federal relief during the pandemic, including thousands

of workers across the Hudson Valley."

There is new funding for environmental programs: \$500 million for clean water projects (bringing total funding to \$4 billion) and \$300 million for environmental protection.

In addition, under the budget measure voters will be asked in November 2022 to approve a \$3 billion bond to "fund environmental improvements that preserve, enhance, and restore New York's natural resources and reduce the impact of climate change," according to the state.

The environmental funding will "help shoreline communities become more resilient to the devastating impacts of the climate crisis," said Jeremy Cherson, of Riverkeeper, which supports the measure.

#### The budget also:

- Increases the top state personal income tax rate to 9.65 percent, from 8.82 percent, for individual filers whose income is more than \$1 million annually and joint filers making more than \$2 million.
- Establishes two new brackets: a rate of 10.3 percent for those whose income is between \$5 million and \$25 million annually and 10.9 percent for those with incomes of more than \$25 million.
- Increases the tax rate to 7.25 percent, from 6.5 percent, through 2023 for businesses with income exceeding \$5 million annually.
- Slightly lowers the rate for joint filers making between \$43,000 and \$161,550 from 6.09 to 5.97 percent, and for those making between \$161,550 and \$323,200 from 6.41 to 6.33 percent.
- Restores \$600 million in retroactive salary increases to 120,000 state workers whose 2 percent pay raise was frozen last year.
- Restores \$415 million in cuts made to Medicaid payments to hospitals and health care providers.
- Allocates \$40 million for nonprofit arts organizations harmed by the pandemic shutdown.
- Increases the maximum award under the state tuition assistance program by \$500, to \$5,665.

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# Volunteers 'Stalk' Appointments

*Dutchess group partners with county*

By Leonard Sparks

Heidi Harrison received a call recently at 8 a.m. from a Beacon resident looking for a unicorn: a same-day vaccine appointment.

He said his mother was gravely ill in California and he was leaving the next day to see her. He had gotten his first shot but not his booster. Harrison, who also lives in Beacon, began working the phones, reaching out to pharmacies and county officials.

At 5 p.m., the Dutchess County health department called with good news. It had space at a second-dose clinic inside the former JCPenney space at Poughkeepsie Galleria.

"It was such a sad situation for him because he's worried about his mom but needed that second dose," said Harrison.

That type of vaccine-related stress is what inspired the creation of the grassroots Vaccine Appointment Assistance Team, volunteers who use their internet skills and can-do personalities to help people find appointments. Initially the efforts were informal, for family members and friends, but the group's members found each other on Facebook.

Anna Shah, an attorney in the Town of

Poughkeepsie who co-founded the team, said it is partnering with Dutchess County's Medical Reserve Corps and Vaccine Equity Task Force to pursue a singular goal: get enough people vaccinated to achieve herd immunity, when the virus that causes COVID-19 essentially runs out of people to infect. Many scientists believe that could occur when 75 percent to 85 percent of the U.S. population has been vaccinated.

Shah says team members have booked thousands of appointments for seniors, working people, college students, disabled residents, immigrants and others who might find it difficult to navigate the system.

Although a lot of media attention has been given to people reluctant to get vaccinated, a significant number of people who want to be inoculated are encountering obstacles.

While technology and transportation remain particular barriers for seniors — Harrison said her 85-year-old father still uses a flip phone — working families may struggle to set aside time to drive to clinics; 16- and 17-year-olds can only receive the Pfizer vaccine; and immigrants may not be fluent in English or have fears about the U.S. medical system. "A lot of people give up," she said.

Harrison puts on music before manning her laptop and tackling a spreadsheet of requests each morning. She is full of stories.



Heidi Harrison of Beacon is a member of the volunteer Vaccine Appointment Assistance Team.

Photo by L. Sparks

On April 8, she received a call from a Brooklyn woman referred by a doctor for whom Harrison had found an appointment. The woman wanted the one-shot Johnson & Johnson vaccine. Harrison called 10 pharmacies in the woman's ZIP code before finding an appointment 2 miles away and available within two hours.

"Every platform is different; every pharmacy has a different registration process. So you just have to stalk each page and check ZIP codes," she said.

There are others, like the 87-year-old woman who was legally blind and also wanted the Johnson & Johnson vaccine, or the family who called on behalf of their son, who was seeking a shot in Pennsylvania, where he attended college.

Athena Torri Cervantes and her partner, Toni Maeck, who live in Beacon, are also on the Vaccine Appointment Assistance Team. Cervantes, who is Ecuadorian, volunteered last year as a translator for the U.S. Census and Mutual Aid Beacon.

"Any kind of medical thing in the U.S. is very hard when you don't speak English or aren't completely fluent," she said.

The scarcity of vaccines that characterized the initial months of the rollout in December, January and February is melting away with increases in production and the number of places offering shots.

Not only are appointments more plentiful, but they are available closer to home and during hours when people are not typically working, said Maeck. "It used to be that you'd have to drop everything and drive a long way," she said.

To request assistance from the Vaccine Appointment Assistance Team, email [vaccineassistant2021@gmail.com](mailto:vaccineassistant2021@gmail.com), call 845-605-2562 or visit [bit.ly/vaatform](http://bit.ly/vaatform).

For the latest on COVID-19 and vaccines, see [highlandscurrent.org](http://highlandscurrent.org).

## COVID-19 by the Numbers

### ■ PUTNAM COUNTY

Number of confirmed cases:

**10,113** (+223)

Active Cases in Philipstown: 11

Tests administered:

**203,986** (+6,008)

Percent positive:

**5.0** (0)

Percent vaccinated:

**43.6**

Number of deaths:

**91** (0)

### ■ DUTCHESS COUNTY

Number of confirmed cases:

**27,720** (+688)

Active Cases in Beacon: 25

Tests administered:

**660,604** (+17,836)

Percent positive:

**4.2** (0)

Percent vaccinated:

**42.3**

Number of deaths:

**433** (+5)

Source: State and county health departments, as of April 14, with weekly change in parentheses. Active cases in Philipstown as of April 8. Percent vaccinated reflects at least one dose.



## There's a new community garden in Philipstown!

## New Leaf Restoration

Announcing New Leaf Restoration, Inc., a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization with the mission of planning and implementing a restoration of a portion of the Philipstown-owned pasture near the corner of Routes 9D and 403 into an intergenerational, collaborative garden and community resource.

- Town-wide community garden
- Modular, fenced garden plots
- Solar-powered drip irrigation
- Permaculture practices implementation

**RESERVE NOW!** Limited plot availability. Please visit [newleaf-restoration.org](http://newleaf-restoration.org) to reserve a plot or for more info.



## AROUND TOWN



▲ **SENATOR STOP** — Sen. Chuck Schumer visited Boscobel in Garrison on Monday (April 12) for a discussion of economic relief for the Hudson Valley under the American Rescue Plan. Boscobel officials noted that revenues there fell by 65 percent last year and its staff dropped from 50 people to 17.



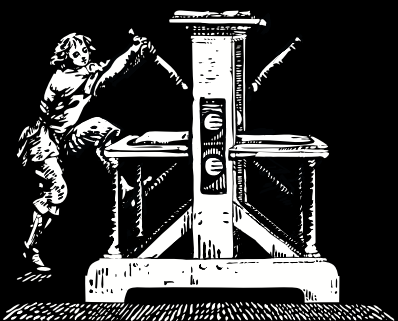
◀ **TOT PARK IS OPEN!** — Mark Daisley stands by a sanitizing station he constructed at Tot's Park in Cold Spring, which re-opened on Saturday (April 10).



▲ **NEW HIRE** — Lashaveous Dicker, a case worker with Mental Health America of Dutchess County, began working this month with the Beacon Police Department. Dicker, who will assist officers in responding to people in crisis, is shown with Chief Sands Frost and Lt. Tom Figlia.

*Photos provided*

## HIGHLAND STUDIO



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APRIL 24 AT 3PM -FREE PERFORMANCE!

**Putnam Theatre Alliance:  
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**His Honor, The Mayor,  
by Orson Welles,  
AND**

**The Secret Secrets of  
Wonderland County by  
John Leonard Pielmeier**

STREAMING MAY 13-16

Q&A WITH PLAYWRIGHT, ACTORS AND  
DIRECTORS MAY 14 AND MAY 16 AT 8PM

## Night Train: Storytelling on the Patio

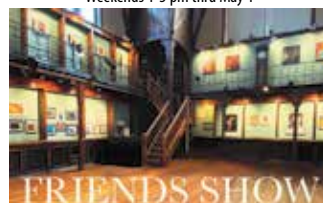
with Joe Charnitski, Richard Cardillo, Ron  
Sopyla, Debbie Gordon, and Kalista Parrish

MAY 21 AND MAY 29 AT 7PM

Tickets at  
**philipstowndepottheatre.org**

## HOWLAND CULTURAL CENTER

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**ANNUAL FRIENDS ART SHOW AND SALE**  
Artist friends of the Howland  
Weekends 1-5 pm thru May 1



**Thurs. Apr. 22 - 8 pm**  
**LIVESTREAM: THE VALLEY HOUR ep 8**  
Jazz pianist Aaron Parks and  
Rebecca Haviland and Whiskey Heart  
Hosted by Annalyse & Ryan - Tix: thevalleyhour.com



**Sun. May 2 - 8 pm**  
**STREAMING: TERRENCE WILSON, PIANO**  
Presented by ALIVEmusica  
Tix: www.howlandmusic.org



**AND MORE**  
May 8: The Artichoke is back! Our storytelling night - ONLINE  
Tix: www.artichokeshow.com  
May 15: Famed jazz bassist William Parker  
via Elysium Furnace Works - Tix: available April 19  
HCC may not be open for in-person audiences during performances  
or seating tickets may be limited.

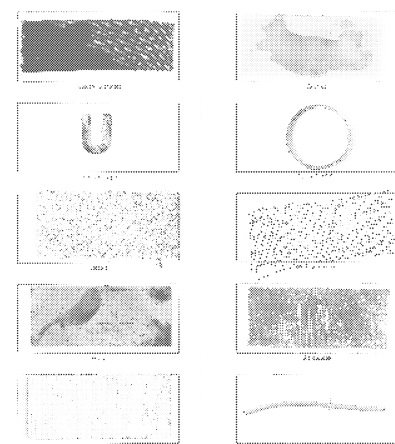
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## ARTE POVERA: ART OF COLLABORATION

April 17, 2021, 12:00 p.m. EST  
*Alighiero e Sauleau Boetti*

Dr. Teresa Kittler, Magazzino Italian Art's  
2020-2021 Scholar-in-Residence

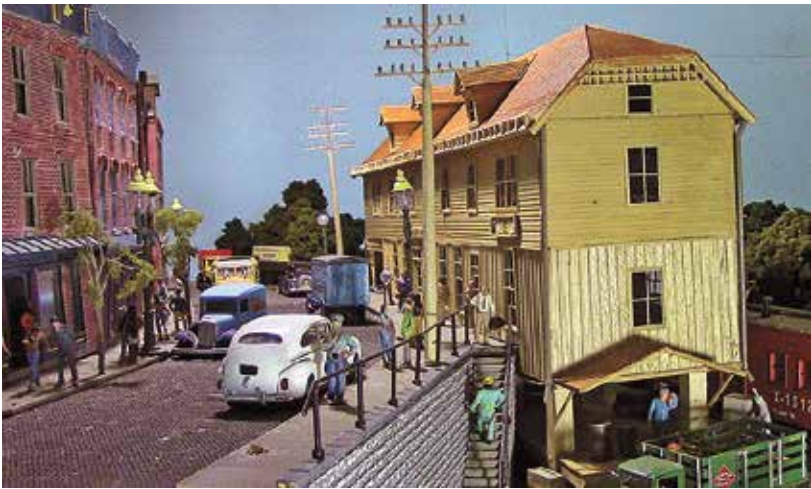
[www.magazzino.art/magazzinodacasa](http://www.magazzino.art/magazzinodacasa)



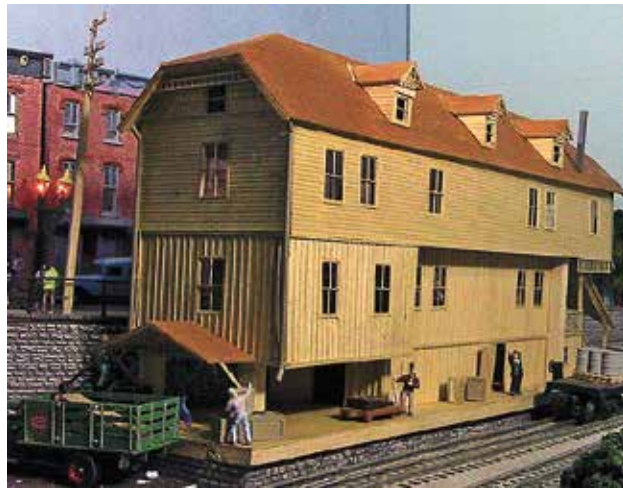
**MAGAZZINO  
DA CASA**



# The Calendar



The curve of Main with Matteawan Station at right



Trackside at Matteawan Station

## BEACON AT SCALE

*Brooklyn man has city in his apartment*

By Alison Rooney

Once you've built a scale model of a Manhattan landscape with seven skyscrapers, streetscapes and trains inside your Brooklyn apartment, what could possibly come next?

Beacon, of course! When model-maker Frank Heynick ran out of room for his 6-foot-high "Mini-Gotham" (mini-gotham.com), he turned to a lower-rise "Mini-Beacon." The model depicts the East End bend on Main Street, including the Matteawan Station, which was built in 1876 and saw its last passenger train in 1933.

With the assistance of the Beacon Historical Society, Heynick gathered postcards, photos and other source material on the section of town containing the

Matteawan  
Station and

the shopfronts and buildings across from it — a resonant, picturesque, architecturally rich stretch of Main.

He made several trips to Beacon to sketch details and mark off 1-foot lengths to get the dimensions. Back home, he used Google Maps for present-day images. He constructed Matteawan Station largely from balsa wood.

The Beacon Historical Society had hoped to exhibit the model but the logistics of moving, protecting and finding space to display it were daunting, said Diane Lapis, the society president.

Heynick, an author and linguistics scholar, says he has loved modeling since he was a child growing up in Brooklyn. "I had Lionel trains on 'O' scale, the largest," at a 1:48 ratio, he recalls. "At Brooklyn Technical High School, I studied industrial design, including some architecture."

After moving to the Netherlands to

pursue a doctorate at the University of Groningen on dream research, Heynick found he needed a diversion. That's when he began to diagram and build "Mini-Europe" in the much smaller "N" scale, or 1:160. It included the Netherlands, Germany and Switzerland and "it took years. It developed organically and, when I moved to a larger apartment, it grew, too."

Back in Brooklyn, he switched back to the "O" scale and began to build "Mini-Gotham" in his new apartment. It takes up most of his living room, although he reduced the number of floors in the skyscrapers due to the height of his ceilings. The model contains 30 structures spanning the 1920s to the 1950s, with emphasis on art deco and moderne styles.

Everything is made from scratch. After making calculations, Heynick cut sheets of Plexiglas and sprayed acrylic coating on everything but the windows. From there, he added "trim, bits of wood, things like that."

The project is ongoing, but with only a small area of his apartment open for expansion, Heynick said he decided to create a "rural" setting. He chose Beacon because he is familiar with the city.

"When I was a kid, quite a while ago, my father and his good friend in the garment industry had a cabin near Wiccopee," he recalls. "We often spent weekends there. I recall going up Mount Beacon when the cable car was working. With my



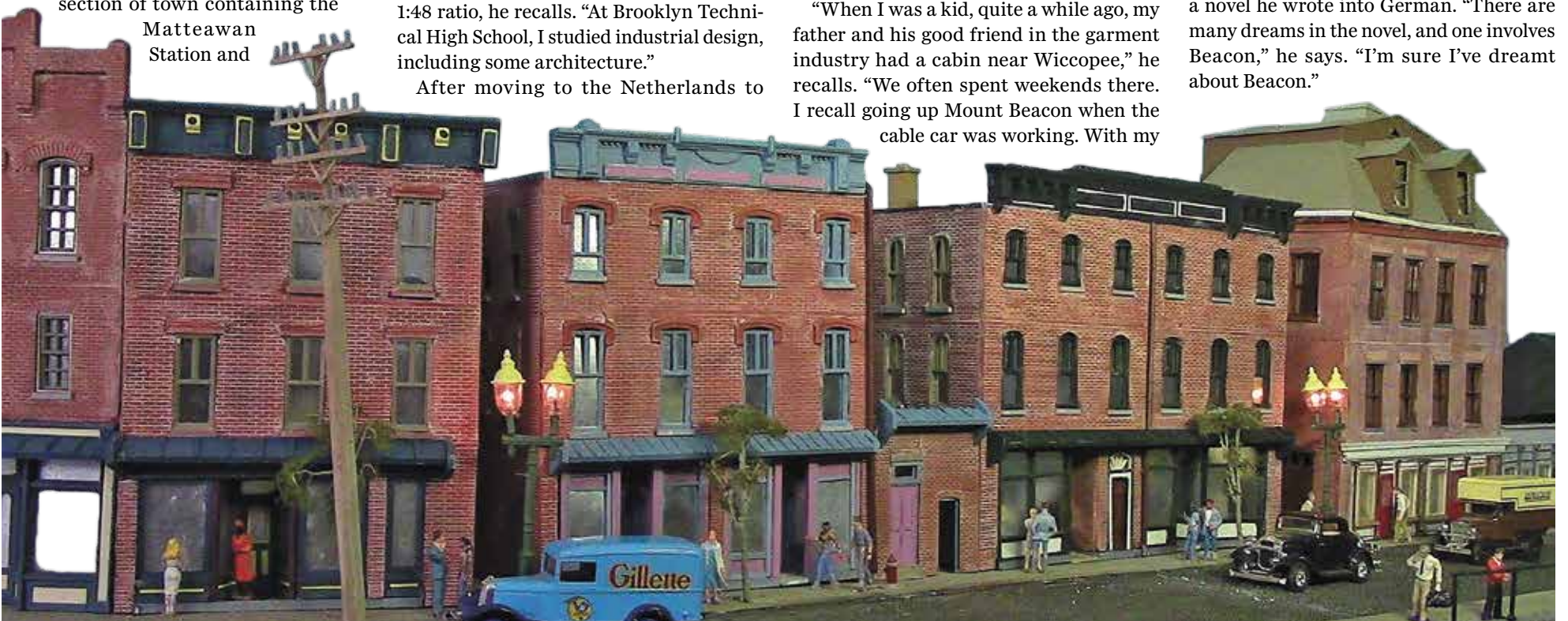
Frank Heynick works on "Mini-Gotham" in his Brooklyn apartment. *Photos provided*

affection for Beacon, it was the logical thing to do."

That project remains unfinished, as well, which Heynick says is of little concern because "the whole thing is never finished." With the Beacon model, "it's mainly the scenery missing. You can see where the mountains and the stream are, but they're not done. But, there's no urgency, I'll get to it."

Time isn't the issue as much as space. "If I won the lottery, the first thing I'd want is to rent a bigger apartment," he says.

For now, Heynick is also busy translating a novel he wrote into German. "There are many dreams in the novel, and one involves Beacon," he says. "I'm sure I've dreamt about Beacon."



A model of Main Street, Beacon, by Frank Heynick



# THE WEEK AHEAD

Edited by Pamela Doan (calendar@highlandscurrent.org)

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

## COMMUNITY

SAT 17

### Open Barn

WAPPINGERS FALLS

11 a.m. - 1 p.m. Stony Kill Farm  
stonykill.org/programs/open-barn

Visit the chickens, cows, pigs, turkeys and sheep. Register online for a time slot. Also, SAT 24.

SUN 18

### Flea Market

BEACON

8 a.m. - 3 p.m. Henry Street

The weekly Beacon Flea Market will return for its 2021 season, which continues through mid-November. Masks are required.

SAT 24

### Drive-Thru Food Collection

BEACON

9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Salvation Army  
158 Fishkill Ave. | 845-831-1253  
facebook.com/BeaconLionsClub

The Beacon Lions Club and the Salvation Army will accept donations of canned and dry goods at the rear entrance.

SAT 24

### Medication Take Back Day

CARMEL

10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Putnam County Sheriff  
3 County Center  
preventioncouncilputnam.org

Bring your prescription, over-the-counter and pet medications for disposal at this drive-thru event. No syringes, lancets and sharps accepted.

## MUSIC

SAT 17

### Hudson Valley Philharmonic

POUGHKEEPSIE

8 p.m. Bardavon  
845-473-2072 | bardavon.org  
youtube.com/c/BardavonPresents/videos

This virtual concert will include commentary and a diverse program of classic and contemporary music.

THURS 22

### The Valley Hour

BEACON

8 p.m. Howland Cultural Center  
thevalleyhour.com

This monthly livestream hosted by Annalyse and Ryan will feature Aaron Parks and Rebecca Haviland and Whiskey Heart.



SUN 25

### Emi Ferguson and Ruckus

KATONAH

3 p.m. Caramoor | caramoor.org

In this livestream, the baroque flutist and the continuo band will perform music from *Fly the Coop*, their album of Bach sonatas and preludes. *Cost: \$15 to \$45*

## TALKS & TOURS

SAT 17

### Wildflowers of Early Spring

WAPPINGERS FALLS

11 a.m. Stony Kill Farm  
79 Farmstead Lane | stonykill.org

Meet at the Woodland Trail trailhead for a guided hike to identify spring wildflowers. For ages 16 and older. *Cost: \$5*

SUN 18

### Workshop on Food Waste

CARMEL

3 p.m. Sustainable Putnam  
bit.ly/putnamfoodwaste

Martha Elder, executive director of Second Chance Foods, will discuss the organization's food rescue efforts.



SUN 18

### Bubby's Stories

PUTNAM VALLEY

4 p.m. Reform Temple of Putnam Valley  
845-528-4774 | rtpv.org

Roslyn Rothstein will share, via Zoom, the story of seven generations of her family, from Belarus in the 1800s to the 20th-century Bronx. To register, email rtpvinfo@gmail.com or leave a voicemail.

MON 19

### Spring Into an Organized Home

GARRISON

7 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library  
845-424-3020 | bit.ly/spring4-19

In this webinar, Jamie Novak, the author of *Keep This Toss That*, will share room-by-room strategies for dealing with clutter.

TUES 20

### Challenges to Herd Immunity

GARRISON

1 p.m. The Hastings Center  
thehastingscenter.org

Mildred Solomon, president of The Hastings Center, will lead a virtual discussion with Dr. Rhea Boyd, a public health advocate and scholar, and Maya Goldenberg, author of a new book on vaccine hesitancy, on the reasons people turn down vaccines. Register online.

TUES 20

### Graphic Novel Book Club

COLD SPRING

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

The group will discuss *Over Easy*, by Mimi Pond, via Zoom.

THURS 22

### DIY Facial Scrub & Mask

BEACON

6 p.m. Howland Public Library  
beaconlibrary.org

The mother-and-daughter team behind the Grounded Goodwife will demonstrate how to make a facial sugar scrub with lime and a "I'm Going Bananas" facial mask. Register online.

FRI 23

### Hudson Valley Amphibians and Reptiles

GARRISON

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

Dan Liebel, a reptile keeper and breeder, will discuss the migration and nesting habits of local frogs, snakes and salamanders.

SUN 25

### Chains Across the Hudson

GARRISON

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

In this online discussion, Bevis Longstreth will discuss the historical events that inspired his latest novel, which takes place in the Highlands during the Revolutionary War.

## VISUAL ARTS

SAT 17

### Alighiero e Sauzeau Boetti

PHILIPSTOWN

Noon. Magazzino Italian Art  
magazzino.art

Scholar-in-residence Teresa Kittler will discuss duality and collaboration in the artist's work. Watch live on the website.



## EARTH DAY

THURS 22

### Earth Day Stream-A-Thon

MILLBROOK

CCE Dutchess County  
ccedutchess.org

Cornell Cooperative Extension will mark Earth Day with a series of virtual presentations. See the website for details on how to watch.

THURS 22

### Hudson Valley Green Jobs

HYDE PARK

5:30 p.m. Via Zoom  
845-229-0106 | serino@nysenate.gov

Students are invited to learn about careers in environmental and sustainability areas in this panel discussion hosted by state Sen. Sue Serino, whose district includes the Highlands. Call or email to register.

THURS 22

### Philipstown Fights Dirty

PHILIPSTOWN

6 p.m. Climate Smart Philipstown  
bit.ly/PFDlaunchevent

Join this virtual launch of the campaign to reach carbon

neutrality in Philipstown by 2040. Dar Williams and Tall County will perform.

THURS 22

### Thomas Cole and His Views

COLD SPRING

7 p.m. Putnam History Museum  
putnamhistorymuseum.org

In this virtual celebration, Barry Ross will discuss Thomas Cole, the founder of the Hudson River School of painting.

SAT 24

### Earth Day Talk

COLD SPRING

Noon. Little Stony Point  
3011 Route 9D | haldanepta.org

Jamie Margolin, the 19-year-old founder and co-executive director of Zero Hour, a climate action organization based in Seattle, will speak at this event organized by the Haldane PTA's Equity Diversity and Inclusion Committee. Margolin is the author of *Youth to Power: Your Voice and How to Use It*.

## CIVIC

MON 19

### City Council

BEACON

7 p.m. Via Zoom  
845-838-5011 | beaconny.gov

MON 19

### Village Board

NELSONVILLE

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

TUES 20

### School Board

GARRISON

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

TUES 20

### School Board

COLD SPRING

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

WED 21

### East Highlands Green Corridors Plan

PHILIPSTOWN

7 p.m. Via Zoom | philipstown.com

The Town Board and Hudson Highlands Land Trust will host this workshop on the project. To attend, email townclerk@philipstown.com. See Page 7.



## Shows (from Page 1)

Here's an update on each school's plans for the spring.

### HALDANE: THE GREEK TRILOGY

At Haldane, rehearsals for the spring production of *The Greek Trilogy* have been a hybrid of in-person and virtual; the performances will be in-person for limited audiences and also filmed and shown online.

Martha Mechalakos, who directs Haldane Drama, says she decided early in the school year that staging the usual drama and musical was going to be out of reach for 2020-21, hampered by the inability to congregate in person as well as frequent quarantines that affected the parent volunteers who usually build sets, paint, do electrical work and make costumes.

She opted instead for a spring play, and then, to facilitate small groups, broke that into three plays: *Helen* and *The Trojan Women*, by Ellen McLaughlin, and *Eurydice*, by Sarah Ruhl, each derived from Greek myths and stories, all presented from women's perspectives. "I felt when I picked the three I could do a kind of one-step solution," she says.

Rehearsals began in January, largely in-person, one play at a time. "I've felt we shouldn't build or paint," she says. "We just needed a location, or locations, and outdoors ones are easy." That also allowed for distancing, because she wanted the students to perform unmasked. "We can't have actors cut off two-thirds of their expressiveness," she says.

Plans are changing fast. Initially the plan was to record the performances, then they were OK'd for a livestream, and now for a small audience. They will still be filmed and posted online, she says.

"When Broadway shows were shutting down a year ago, I didn't think we would still be going through this," Mechalakos says. "I feel for them. My understanding is that across the country this is the way it is. There's lots of push for athletics, lots of, 'We have to get them back to sports' — but what about theater?"

"We're trying to move forward, to give them all a performance opportunity, and some kind of hope, though it's killing me that we're not doing a musical this year," she says. "Still, the kids are grateful. We were rehearsing a few weeks ago when a student told me, 'I'm just so glad to be here.'"

*The Greek Trilogy* plays will be performed in rotation from Thursday (April 22) through Sunday (April 25). In-person tickets are limited to 75 for each performance; masks and reservations are required. Tickets are \$12, or \$5 for students and free for senior citizens at [bit.ly/greek-trilogy](https://bit.ly/greek-trilogy).

### BEACON: RENT

While the Beacon Players' performances of *Rent* will take place at 975-seat Seeger Theater at the school, with full sets and lighting, only 200 people will be allowed to watch each of six performances under state pandemic guidelines.

Based loosely on Puccini's *La Boheme*, *Rent* follows a group of impoverished artists



Damian Vladimiroff (below), Chloe Rowe and Jaclyn Landolfi in *The Greek Trilogy*



and musicians struggling to survive and create in New York's Lower East Side, under the shadow of AIDS. It was the 1996 winner of the Tony Award for Best Musical and the Pulitzer Prize for drama. The students will present a "school version" that removes some language and one song ("Contact").

Anthony Scarrone, the director and adviser of Beacon Players, the high school's drama and theater arts organization, says that most rehearsals and design meetings, which began in February, have taken place in person, with masks and social distancing. He said the set is being built following the same guidelines.

Scarrone notes that "singing without masks is permitted with a 12-foot distance. We opted to use clear masks as an additional precaution."

The director described the actors' morale as "great. Kids are excited to have had the opportunity to perform. Theater and the arts is a wonderful release for so many high schoolers. Having a place to go, to interact with their peers, is so critical. We crafted our season to provide some sense of normalcy within the structure of precaution and safety."

The Beacon Players this year also launched an art and set design apprentice program for eighth-graders that is designed, Scarrone says, to "provide some sense of normalcy for the middle school kids who had nothing this year regarding their drama programs, as well as giving them a head start on high school."

*Rent* will be performed by two alternating casts on May 14, 15, 16, 22 and 23. Tickets are available at [beaconplayers.com](https://beaconplayers.com).

### O'NEILL: LITTLE WOMEN

Natalie Arneson, the Putnam Valley

resident who directs the O'Neill drama program, says getting word in early September that the school would not be opening until November was the kind of hurdle she could jump over.

She proposed to the administration that her students could do an all-virtual fall play. They agreed, and she licensed *Clue*, conceding, that "it was nobody's first choice, but it was that or nothing, and the kids and parents were grateful to have this outlet, particularly as they were still on remote."

Usually O'Neill presents a spring musical and follows it with an end-of-year gala. For 2021, they swapped them. "We did the gala first, and streamed it live with technical help from alumni," Arneson says.

Before the pandemic shutdown began a year ago, Arneson had planned on mounting *Crazy for You* as the spring musical. "We had such big plans — it's a tap musical, and we were preparing to bring in Broadway tappers for workshops, and fundraising for this lavish, expensive grand plan."

With that off the table, Arneson downsized for the spring to a musical adaptation of *Little Women*, which, she notes, "is one of the few musicals available now for livestreaming with remote rights. It's not a big show; there are no big dance numbers, so it lends itself well for a concert."

Believing that the actors would not be able to perform for a live audience, Arneson says she developed three plans: an outdoor concert, with audience and actors spaced out but no movement on stage, filmed for online; a performance filmed at Trophy Point at West

Point; or filmed remotely and edited.

Although Arneson has scheduled Trophy Point for May 27, 28 and 29, her current plan is to film the show on the O'Neill stage as soon as feasible. That way, she says, if an actor tests positive or is required to quarantine in the week leading up to our show, "we at least have something to stream. Things will likely be in the air for a while still."

The school board on Tuesday (April 13) gave the drama club the OK to begin in-person rehearsals with weekly testing.

Despite the restrictions, things have been going well with online auditions and rehearsals, Arneson says. "There have been a few students who said, 'I'm not up for the virtual experience, I'm overloaded with online,' but for the most part they are doing whatever it takes.

"There are such hardcore drama kids — they just have to have that outlet," she says. "And I was determined these seniors would get their show. There's clear guidance from the state for sports, but not for theater or singing — it's frustrating. I know what it would have meant to me to lose an entire year of high school theater — I would have been devastated. There's no way I'm going to let this happen."

Wanting to give her students "something extra special," Arneson arranged for a virtual meeting with Mindi Dickstein, who wrote the lyrics for *Little Women*, and Allan Knee, who wrote the book. "We were delighted and inspired, and so grateful to them," Arneson says.

For updates on the production, see [instagram.com/oneilldrama](https://instagram.com/oneilldrama).

Photos by Jim Mechalakos

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## The Poet Next Door

## James Hoch

James Hoch, who has been a professor of creative writing at Ramapo College since 2006, will publish his third collection of poetry, *Last Pawn Shop in New Jersey*, next year. With National Poetry Month upon us, the Garri-son resident spoke with Chip Rowe about his work and teaching.

**When did you think, “Poetry is what I want to do”?**

The first time I read a poem aloud to a group. It was at the bar in Philadelphia. I had been to so many punk shows where they had sign-up sheets to get on the mailing list, I just signed up but didn't realize it was for an open mic. The organizer says, “And now here's James Hoch” and he read off my entire address, including the ZIP code. I was 19, so I carried around a few of my poems so if I got hit by a train, the great work of James Hoch would survive. As I read this poem about a jazz trio I saw at a bar in South Philly, I felt this overwhelming emotion. A friend later asked me, “What are you going to do with your life?” And I said, “I think I'm going to be a poet.” And he said, “I can see that.” I realized I should



study people like this Shakespeare guy who know how to do it [laughs]. I had a naive-ty, a delusion, but nobody checked it. Today I think social media would shame you and keep that from happening.

**How do you teach poetry?**

I try to find for each student a poem similar to what they've been trying to write, or a poem that is in conversation with a poem they are writing. Maybe it's the voice, content, form, tone. I'm like a poetry matchmaker: Give me a reader of poems,

and I will find a poet or poem that's going to make them lovers of poetry. I try to get students closer to speech, which gets them closer to their inner lives, and to saying real things. I've read a lot of beautiful poems, and I've been to a lot of bad poetry readings. When a poem is read well, whether the poem is great or not, you feel that presence.

**So you should write assuming the poem will be read aloud?**

Yes. Poetry is speech. The disruptions and oddities of speech are a distraction in writing but become pleasures and engagements in poetry. We don't know what Shakespeare's voice sounded like. We only know how it sounds when we say the words. So if you don't own the language — actors know this — it fails.

**How do you start a poem? Staring at a blank page?**

I am so old I've done it any number of ways. I went for walks by the river. I've fallen into the river. I've started with snippets. I've had poems appear out of nowhere; the first poem I sold for any bit of money was done in 20 minutes. But I've also taken 10 years to write a poem. I don't know.

**Where did the title of your next collection come from?**

I've been thinking about identity. If you could walk into my life or walk into me, it'd be like, there's that lamp from 1976. I'm more of a collection of experiences and things than I am a self-governing entity, let's put it that way. I don't feel like I'm in charge of anything. Maybe it's being a parent, where these characters are walking in and out of your life. It's part of my job as a parent to provide a stage for these creatures to live in. It's the self as a place as opposed to a thing occupying space.

**Are there common themes in your work?**

I get into ruts where I get fixated on a few tensions. I'll write different types of poems about different experiences, with different conceits and openings, but when I go to compile a book, it's like, “This is one poem.” Richard Hugo said, “Your obsessions lead you to your vocabulary.”

## Prayer for That Little Exhaustion of Light

There ought to be a prayer  
for that little exhaustion of light  
where bullets worm clear through  
apples clinging to limbs.  
There ought to be a prayer  
for flesh they pass through,  
space left, bits blown into grass,  
that they resemble teeth,  
and the grass taking teeth.  
Look how sky eats report,  
how skins of trees drink sound.  
Prayer for saplings lined in rows,  
winters we burlapped young trunks,  
fed shovels of shit and ash.  
The prayer ought to feel like hours  
with the assassin of our orchard,  
whose eyes are cold rain,  
whose heart is cistern,  
who has no use for prayer.  
We know because we made him.  
Because we made him, he is alive.  
Who could blame us for wanting  
a gauze to pack holes,  
a god to backfill with breath?  
Now, a table in the mutilated orchard,  
let us bow our heads over cider.  
The prayer should be brief,  
the way brief blows itself out.  
The prayer will fail, always  
between what language says  
and does. Where prayer fails,  
now mouths full of autumn,  
now the leaf fury reddens.  
Yes, we are scared. Yes, we tire  
being afraid, pleading now  
in that light, that damn light.

## WANTED

### Philipstown Rec is Hiring For the Summer!

#### • SUMMER RECREATION INTERN

We are looking for a college junior, senior or recent graduate who is looking to or interested in pursuing a career in recreation, community services, youth development or a similar field. Responsibilities will include learning how to develop, implement and evaluate various aspects of community programming in the recreation setting as it applies to youth, adults and seniors. All interested candidates should submit a letter of interest to [amber@philipstownrecreation.com](mailto:amber@philipstownrecreation.com) by April 30th. Your letter should state why you think this experience will help you develop your future career path. This is a paid position for the months of May to August. Start date/end dates are somewhat flexible based on availability.

#### • CAMP NURSE

Our day camp program is in need of a camp nurse. Please call 845-424-4618 or email [amber@philipstownrecreation.com](mailto:amber@philipstownrecreation.com) for more information regarding the position.

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# Prison Break: The Power of Words

*Philipstown resident creates program for inmates*

By Michael Turton

Cynthia Kling of Philipstown is a co-founder, with Jamel Brown, of Transforming Lives (transforminglivesny.org), a project that pairs inmates with writing mentors.

Kling, whose career as a journalist included stints at *Newsweek* and *Harper's Bazaar*, recently published *Scrolls from a Forgotten World: Prisoners' Writings and Reflections*. The anthology was edited by Brown, who is serving a 26-year sentence at Sing Sing for a gang-related murder. Kling's responses have been edited for brevity.

## Before founding Transforming Lives, you were fired from a similar program at Bard College. What happened?

I worked to help Alex Duran, an inmate and part of my writers' group, who had been convicted in a case where a friend shot and killed someone. The district attorney offered a three-year sentence if he'd testify but Alex refused and received 14 years. With about a year left, he was framed by other inmates and placed in solitary confinement. A Bard rule and a prison rule was that we were supposed to do nothing, to just look away. But I started knocking on doors, causing trouble. We got Alex out of "the box" and out of prison. And I got fired.

## Where is Alex now?

He's a partner in Transforming Lives. He was hired by the Ford Foundation after his release, then the Soros Foundation. He works on criminal-justice issues.

## What makes Transforming Lives valuable?

It enables incarcerated citizens to do creative work, rehabilitative work, while behind bars. When they sit down and write, it can change everything. Most inmates have grown up in prison, having gone in at age 17 or 18. They have no identities. One inmate told me the program changed him from being a prisoner to being a writer in prison. It's about these guys thinking about where they are; their writing helps them understand how they got there. When they go before the parole board they have to be able to explain what put them in prison or they don't get out.

We didn't realize publishing their writing would give them and their families such a huge sense of pride. Skye, another partner in the project who was just released, said the biggest thing about the writing is it's like someone handing you a piece of hope, and that's all you need.

## How are inmates in the program viewed by other prisoners?

The really bad guys, like the ones who framed Alex, think the guys are pussies. But others are envious. People in our program are extremely protective of it. They love

being able to say, "Do you want to be in the program?" I hope the guys in the middle can find us, because some of them can't read or write. An inmate's mother asked us what we were going to do about it, that is, basic literacy.

## Do inmates write about prison life or avoid the subject?

Some like to write and think about home, their grandmother, their first girlfriend. Others write about prison, its darkness, the deaths, the suicides. One guy is writing about a 70-year-old who died of COVID-19 in prison. And they draw. They draw the urinal in their cell. They draw the cell. They draw the most important thing in the cell — their pen. Nobody touches their pen.

## Has the writing surprised you in any way?

Collectively, I can't believe how good they are. I think it's because they didn't go to school and have it banged over their heads: "Don't do that — do this." Bam! ... they go right into their story. Every one of them is like that.

## What's the takeaway for readers?

I hope it's that they think about the prison community as part of our community. We choose to not know about it. We

## PUBLIC NOTICE

Spring, Easter and non-conforming decorations must be removed from graves/plots by

**Monday, May 3, 2021.**

Thereafter such items will be considered abandoned and removed by cemetery personnel.

Cold Spring Cemetery Association INC.  
P.O. Box 30, Cold Spring NY 10516-0030



Cynthia Kling

Photo provided

need to participate, get involved. All these prisons around here are as much a part of what we own as Fahnestock State Park — or anything else people are fussing over — the Chapel, the golf course. I want people to start thinking about that. These are people. Citizens in cells. It's not easy to think about.

## Has working with inmates made you "soft on crime"?

It hasn't. It's made me more aware of how screwed up the punishment system is. A friend's son gets arrested and gets three months. The Black guy in the South Bronx gets 15 years. It's a dual system; we all know that

now. When I asked a friend what she thinks about prison, she said, "You just hope they're all really bad guys and they put them away." That's not true. These are human beings.

## What's the current state of rehabilitation?

The fact that we have no rehabilitation in prisons is bizarre; these people are going to come out and be our neighbors. President Reagan started getting rid of rehabilitation, but it was President Clinton who got rid of it. Everyone forgets he ran as the law-and-order Democrat. He apologized for what he did, but there are about 900 people in prison in New York state under his ridiculously long sentences. I hope Transforming Lives is rehabilitative.

## What's the first thing you would change about prisons?

I would bring some light into the system, so incarcerated people have a reason to move forward and up. Rather than paying inmates 35 cents an hour to make license plates — slave labor — set up a system with higher-level jobs that require more skills and pay more.

## As a journalist, does it drive you crazy that Jamel left grammatical errors, typos and incorrect subject-verb agreement in some of the inmates' writing?

No. I'm so not a copy editor! But neither Jamel nor I wanted any editor to go in there and start fussing. We decided this is how we are leaving it. Raw.

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Roots and Shoots

# Get Some, Share Some

By Pamela Doan

The Butterfield Library in Cold Spring began its seed collection in February 2020, just before the pandemic restrictions began.



“Before we were fully shut down at the end of March, it gave us a way to connect with people,” says Johanna Reinhardt, the library’s interim director. “It felt like an encouraging thing to do and made us feel good.”

Reinhardt said she and her son wore masks and gloves and delivered seeds to about 20 homes.

This year feels like a fresh start after the halted launch, she says.

The seed library has since grown to include 80 varieties of vegetables, herbs and flowers. Library patrons have started donating their own seeds, which is what makes a community seed bank come alive.

I was excited when I learned about the seed bank because, through interviews and research, I understand the power of saving seeds from our gardens to plant again and share.

Every season that I save a seed from a



Johanna Reinhardt with the seed library at the Butterfield library Photo by Michael Turton

plant that grew in my yard and give it a chance in the next season, that plant is adapting to the unique conditions of my landscape. The traits that I’ve selected will be the ones that strengthen in each generation. My actions are shaping and influencing what the plant will be like each season.

To produce a replica of a plant you like, the seed must be open-pollinated or an heirloom. Seed companies that sell hybrids have crossed parentage lines for certain traits and the seeds will not grow true to type.

Given that we’ve lost 90 percent of our seed biodiversity over the past century, seed libraries in communities can play a role in

creating locally diverse, regionally adapted seeds. This is a good thing to have as the impact of climate change continues to shift temperatures, change rainfall patterns and cause more extreme weather. Not many seed companies are testing and growing for seed in the northeast right now, but what works in California or the heartland might not be the best fit for our soils and conditions.

Companies like Hudson Valley Seed, which coincidentally grew out of a librarian’s seed collection, provide only open-pollinated and heirloom varieties with the hope that gardeners will save their seeds.

From Reinhardt’s perspective, a seed

collection was a natural step. “The library is a place for people to grow in every way, not just through books,” she said. “We also want to be a place of sustainability, which is why we have tools and equipment, too.”

My family personally appreciates the library’s tent and other tools.

The seed collection can continue to expand through donations, such as a patron’s recent contribution of marigold seeds. Experienced gardeners have jumped on the program and more seeds are coming in as more learn about the collection. Reinhardt noted some people come to the library to browse seeds only, not books.

Donated seeds need to be dried. Any amount of moisture can trigger a seed to sprout. The library has packets or you can bring in your own. By your inclusion of the Latin names and cultivars, if any, other gardeners can know exactly what they are getting because common names aren’t reliable. What I know as a coneflower, someone else knows as Echinacea. Also, there are many types of coneflowers. The more information you provide, the better.

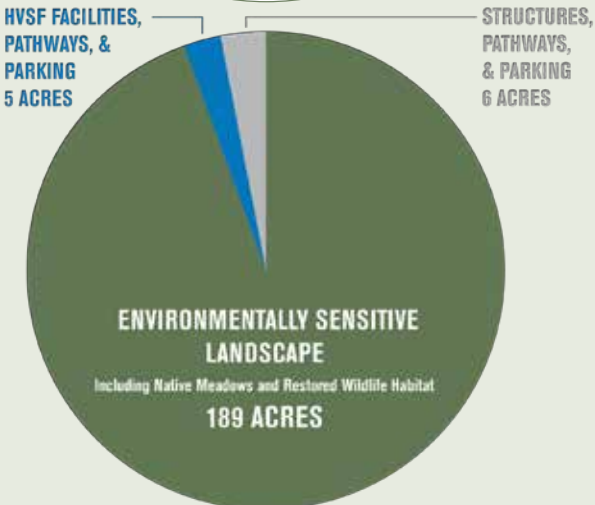
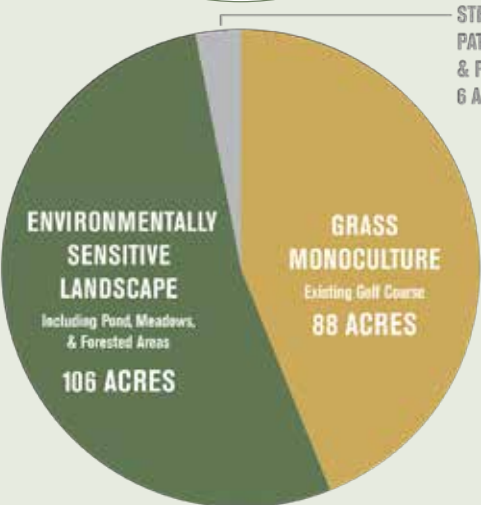
Reinhardt hopes a volunteer will step forward to help catalogue the seeds and vet the collection. While seeds are less expensive than books, financial donations also can be directed to the seed library and will help it grow.

Want to learn more? Look out for details in the late summer about a seed saving workshop we’re planning. It’s a fun and easy way to support the library and the community.

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## Mouths to Feed

## Almost There

By Celia Barbour

To sit still in springtime seems impossible. I say this as a veteran sitter, an old hand (and equally old tush) at parking myself on a chair or bench. Every responsibility or deadline that keeps me indoors for more than an hour makes me wish this entire month were a video stream I could watch later, at my leisure.



Still, it can be hard to know quite how to celebrate this season. Emily Dickinson wisely wrote, "A little Madness in the Spring/Is wholesome even for the King." But how, exactly, are we supposed to go mad? The compulsion to fling oneself into a patch of daffodils or yodel from the top of a cherry-blossom tree might feel irresistible, but I suspect the actual experience would not live up to the impulse, and could damage the lovely blossoms to boot.

Thankfully, we can turn to the kitchen, which welcomes this season like an antsy, desk-bound teen. And as soon as the refrigerator fills with asparagus, ramps, peas, strawberries, rhubarb and fresh ricotta, I am filled with an urge to find fresh new ways to prepare them.

A year ago, after our two older sons were sent home from college, I was abruptly forced to rouse myself out of many familiar cooking routines. Henry, our middle son, had turned vegetarian the previous fall, and by spring, George, the oldest, had joined him. While my rational brain wholeheartedly supported their decision, my emotional brain responded by turning sulky and peevish. (Not fair! Now I can't make all those beloved family suppers I've perfected over the years.)

But we all must grow up eventually, both inside and out. Realizing I was actually lucky to have to rethink the cooking ruts I'd fallen into over those selfsame years, I started exploring.

**“A little Madness in the Spring/Is wholesome even for the King. ~ Emily Dickinson**

Not surprisingly, my meanderings often brought me face to face with tofu. I've never had an aversion to tofu, even plain and raw; I find its curious, slightly bitter flavor intriguing, and its texture kind of playful. I've also wondered why so many people find tofu weird but think mozzarella is perfectly normal when they're basically the same thing, just made from different milks. Indeed, some food historians believe that tofu was invented when Mongolian yak herders encountered Chinese soybean farmers more than 2,000 years ago, and the former shared the secrets of turning milk into curds with the latter.

I first made the progenitor to this dish last spring, as part of my initial round of vegetarian experiments, and it was received just as enthusiastically by the meat-eaters. When I revisited it just a few weeks ago, Dosi (still an omnivore — for now) said: "You should write your next column about this."

I replied that I didn't think I'd developed it sufficiently yet. Sure, yes, parts of it were great (the dressing), but others (the marinade) still needed time to evolve.

Then I woke up last Monday and sat down and wrote this column. Suddenly it occurred to me that time was no longer in its winter holding pattern and that the evolution of this recipe had to be accelerated, pronto. So I got to work and fixed it, photographed it and sent it off. After all, I've got some yodeling to do.



## Miso Tofu with Grilled Asparagus

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1 15.5-ounce package extra firm tofu    | 1 tablespoon tamari or soy sauce                 |
| ¼ cup shiromiso (white miso paste)      | 1 teaspoon vegetable oil, plus more for grilling |
| 2 tablespoons fresh lemon juice         | ½ pound asparagus, woody ends snapped off        |
| 1 tablespoon mirin                      | Sesame seeds to garnish, optional                |
| 1 tablespoon maple syrup or brown sugar | Cooked white rice, for serving                   |
| 2 teaspoons toasted sesame oil          |  |

Heat oven to 375 degrees. Cut the tofu into 1-inch slabs. Spread a clean kitchen towel on a rack, arrange the tofu on the towel, fold towel over tofu, and set a cast-iron skillet on top to press out excess water.

Meanwhile, in a medium bowl, whisk together the miso, lemon, mirin, maple syrup, and sesame oil until smooth. Remove and set aside ¼ cup (about half the total) to use as dressing. To the remaining miso mixture, add the tamari and vegetable oil; whisk again. This portion will be the marinade.

Cut the tofu into roughly 1-inch cubes, and toss in the tamari-miso marinade. Set aside for at least 15 minutes, and up to 1 hour (the longer it sits, the more flavor the tofu will absorb).

Line a baking sheet with parchment paper, and brush with vegetable oil. Remove tofu from marinade and arrange on baking sheet, leaving space between the pieces (this helps tofu dry out and crisp while baking). Transfer to oven and bake 15 to 18 minutes, until brown on bottom. Flip the pieces over, and return to the oven for 5 minutes more.

While the tofu is baking, heat a grill pan or skillet over medium-high. Toss the asparagus with the remaining vegetable oil and salt, and grill or fry until black in places, and beginning to soften, 2 to 4 minutes, depending on the thickness of the stalks. (Alternatively, you can steam or roast the asparagus).

Serve the asparagus and tofu over rice, with reserved dressing on top and a sprinkling of sesame seeds, if desired.

## The Philipstown Food Pantry

We would like to thank the Town of Philipstown Feeding Assistance Program and Richard Shea for providing Foodtown Gift Cards for distribution to our clients.

We would also like to thank all the anonymous donors who provided the funds for these gift cards.

They were especially appreciated this Easter season.

~ The Volunteers

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# Looking Back in Philipstown

By Chip Rowe

## 150 Years Ago (April 1871)

A watch owned by William Bloomer of Nelsonville, which he obtained from John Mekeel, who said he found it on the Old Post Road near Peekskill, was brought to Pelham and Co. for repair. On the reverse was inscribed: "1779 Presented to Gen. Geo. Washington, by His Army," although there were no other markings. (A week later, *The Cold Spring Recorder* dismissed the engraving as a fraud.)

George McCabe retained his seat as town supervisor, defeating former supervisor George Garrison, 437-423.

The ground was broken for a train depot in Garrison about 100 yards south of the current one. Some argued it should be moved to the east side of the tracks but because of the hill there would not be enough room to get a team of horses around it.

About 25 members of the Social Merry Bachelors and their dates gathered on a Monday night at Town Hall to promenade, dance, feast and converse.

A jury in Carmel found John Trumpboar guilty of second-degree murder in the shooting death in July 1870 in Cold Spring of coachman Elijah Jones. Trumpboar was fleeing on Stone Street after robbing a messenger of the National Bank of Fishkill when Jones attempted to stop him. He was given a life sentence.

On a Sunday morning, William Hustis, who lived above the North Highland church, reached in his pocket for his tobacco box and found it gone. He went into the room where his pants had been and found that someone had crawled in the window and ransacked it overnight. It had rained and tracks in the road pointed toward Fishkill, where Hustis and his neighbors found a "tramp" having breakfast at Jackson's Hotel with the stolen items in his possession. After pleading guilty, the burglar was sent to Sing Sing for 10 years.

A 35-year-old brakeman on a freight train, Edward Buckley, who had been seriously injured when his head struck a beam on the drawbridge over Fishkill Creek, was left by the engineer at Cold Spring station. James Maher of Market Street took him in, with the railroad company covering the

expense of his recovery.

*The Recorder* reported that "the sentiment of Nelsonville is against the neighbor who interfered in a domestic affair and beat an intoxicated man," Henry Birdsall, with a shovel. But the following week, Mrs. William Birdsall and her daughter wrote to correct the record, saying their neighbor was a hero. They said Henry had struck Mrs. Birdsall with a crowbar and ax and Sarah with a crowbar. When the women cried "Murder!" the neighbor came to their rescue. Henry "started for him, with an oath, saying that he would take his heart out, struck him three times and clinched him by the throat, whereupon said neighbor took the back of an old chair and struck him three times." They said the neighbor then subdued Birdsall "without offering to hurt him in any way."

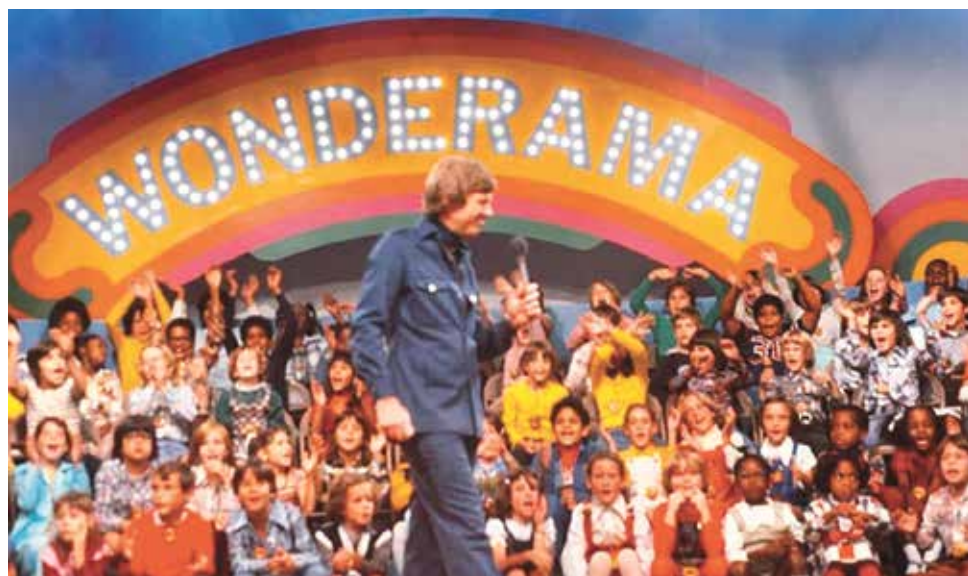
## 100 Years Ago (April 1921)

The Village Board assigned Officer Reiley to be on duty at the baseball games at Kemble's Field at a rate of \$1 per Sunday. The season opened with the locals defeating the marines of Iona Island, 17-3, and a squad from Bear Mountain, 11-3. *The Recorder* noted two rule changes. First, if there was an argument, only the captain of each team could speak to the umpires. Second, the baselines were roped off to keep spectators from wandering across them. In addition, the club asked women spectators to donate to pay the expenses of the club, along with the men.

The Village Board transferred \$100 from the sewer fund to maintain the village park and voted to have the president ask the railroad company to lay a concrete sidewalk from the station to Main Street.

The state Department of Health sent its specially designed Healthmobile motor car to Cold Spring to offer free examinations of infants and children up to 6 years of age. At the end of the day, an electric generator installed in the car powered a motion picture projector.

A benefit was held at St. Mary's-in-the-Highlands for the Lending Library, with the parish house decorated with daffodils and yellow forsythia. Most of the 85 people in attendance wore costumes related to a book. Dorothy Giles, as Robinson Crusoe, won the top prize.



In 1971, four Cold Spring children appeared on Wonderama, hosted by Bob McCallister.

The Cold Spring Light, Heat & Power Co. installed new electric light poles.

The films shown on Tuesdays and Saturdays at Philipstown Town Hall included the six-reel *Man and His Woman*; Tom Mix in *The Untamed*; Pearl White in *Tiger's Cub*; Leonard Shumway in *A Beggar in Purple*; and Shirley Mason in *Love's Harvest*. Each show also had a Sunshine comedy and a Fox News reel.

William Ladue returned from a winter trip in which he traveled 6,000 miles by automobile.

A "flying squadron" with at least 30 cars representing the merchants of Beacon visited Cold Spring.

The Odd Fellows lodge hosted a barn dance at Town Hall with prizes for the best fox trot and waltz.

## 75 Years Ago (April 1946)

Several thousand people turned out for Cold Spring's week-long celebration to mark the 100th anniversary of its founding on April 22, 1846. Mayor William Dardess Jr. opened the week by flipping a switch that illuminated the streets with colored lights. There was an antique show at Moog's store, a parade, a display at the Old Homestead Club of products made in Cold Spring, fireworks and a rodeo at Kemble's Field, a ball at the high school and a Saturday night block party.

## 50 Years Ago (April 1971)

The chairmen of the Narcotics Guidance Councils of Philipstown, Cold Spring and

Nelsonville met to discuss their new counseling hotline at 9404 (WHOG).

Four Cold Spring children attended the *Wonderama* children's show starring Bob McCallister. Mary Gencen was chosen to talk to the guest star, Marty Allen, while Richy Nobile competed in the cardboard tractor race and all four children, including Patty and Barbara Gencen, participated in the go-go dance.

Robert A.W. Carlson, 89, of Garrison, a civil engineer who worked on many of New York's subways and tunnels, died at Butterfield Memorial Hospital.

Kenneth Gilbert, 32, the son of Garrison auctioneer O. Rundle Gilbert, died when his small plane crashed near Wilmington, North Carolina. He had taken off from Stormville Airport for Florida.

Carlo Tomaselli, a former member of the Metropolitan Opera, purchased a home on Foreman Road in the North Highlands. He said the Hudson Valley reminded him of his hometown of Bari, Italy.

Mayor Ray LeFever hosted an organizational meeting for the Cold Spring Auxiliary Police Force, which he said was open to any man aged 21 or older who wanted to help keep the village's young adults under control. About 25 men attended. Two village trustees told the mayor they thought the auxiliary force was a bad idea since (1) the men were not trained for police work, (2) if the men were issued nightsticks, it's possible they might hurt someone, and (3) it could

(Continued on Page 19)

## WANTED

**The Village of Nelsonville is seeking to fill a full-time position for Village Clerk / Treasurer. This position also includes the duties of the Court Clerk, Registrar of Vital Statistics and secretary to the Building Inspector, Planning Board and Zoning Board of Appeals.**

The position requires proficiency in Word, Excel, GSuite, excellent communication, organizational and writing skills, strong interpersonal skills, and a strong financial background. Social media and web page updating experience is also desirable. The ability to work independently and manage multiple tasks concurrently is essential. Attending evening meetings is a requirement of the position.

Salary and compensation, which includes benefits, is subject to experience.

Please send a cover letter and resume to:  
Pauline Minners, Interim Village Clerk, Village of Nelsonville, 258 Main Street,  
Nelsonville, New York, 10516 or [villageclerk@nelsonvilleny.gov](mailto:villageclerk@nelsonvilleny.gov)

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## Looking Back *(from Page 18)*

open the village to lawsuits. LeFever, who had been in office for 10 days, dismissed their concerns, saying he and the police chief were in charge of the force, not the trustees.

The North Highlands Fire Co. completed the reconditioning of a used 2,200-gallon tanker it purchased the year before.

A Garrison woman and her brother, who was visiting from Canada for a family reunion, were among three people killed in a crash on the Bear Mountain extension.

Members of the Putnam County Historical Society gathered at the museum for the dedication of a new wing. The industrial designer Russel Wright spoke on the history and future of Putnam County and Michael and Peter Lyons presented the society with a model of the Hudson River sloop Victorine, which had been captained by their ancestor, Capt. David Lyons.

Putnam County Sheriff Raynor Weizenacker created a substation at the Philipstown Town Hall that consisted of a desk, a typewriter and a phone.

During a meet against Millbrook, Jeff Macaluso of Haldane High School tied a school track record (16 seconds in the

120-yard high hurdles) and broke another (21 feet, 5¾ inches in the long jump).

Town Supervisor Joseph Percacciolo and his brother, Angelo, were the first people elected to honorary membership in the North Highlands Fire Department.

### 25 Years Ago (April 1996)

Cold Spring celebrated the 150th anniversary of its founding with a dinner dance at Breakneck Lodge. Among the speakers was Mayor Anthony Phillips, who recalled that he had been 6 years old at the 100th anniversary. “Cold Spring was my little world,” he said. “During the Centennial parade, the Italian American Club sponsored a float featuring a king and a queen. I was the king and now, 50 years later, I am your mayor.”

The Cold Spring Lions dedicated a bronze plaque and planted a sugar maple tree at the Cold Spring Cemetery to remember the victims of the bombing the year before of the federal building in Oklahoma City.

The U.S. Postal Service changed the mailing addresses of residents of Continental Village from Peekskill to Garrison.

Nan Gordon died at age 86. She and her husband were the longtime co-heads of the Malcolm Gordon School, a preparatory



In 1996, the Cold Spring Lions dedicated this bronze plaque at the Cold Spring Cemetery.

school for boys in Garrison founded in 1927 by her husband's father. Her family recalled her saying she had heard 13 of the 17 presidents of her lifetime speak in person, starting with Theodore Roosevelt.

Jack Effner, the head coach of the Army wrestling team, spoke at the annual dinner of the Philipstown Wrestling Team at the Taconic Outdoor Education Center.

A heavy bronze sculpture was stolen from the garden of Vanessa Solomon on Moffet Road. She offered \$300 for its return, saying she had cast it as an intern at the Tallix Foundry in Beacon.

The Franciscan Friars at Graymoor sponsored an interfaith conference called AIDS: The Faith Community Responds.

A mother and her son were injured at 8:30 a.m. on a Monday morning when she ran the stoplight in Cold Spring and collided with a Haldane school bus.

The Desmond-Fish Library held its second annual Associates Awards dinner, which honored novelist E.L. Doctorow and children's book author Jean Marzollo. The keynote speaker was Jane Alexander, chair of the National Endowment for the Arts.

A resident asked the Philipstown Town Board if there was a conflict between its approval of a permit to allow Harold Lyons to expand his soil mining operations on Route 9 just south of the Dutchess County border by 321,000 cubic yards of sand and gravel on 54 acres over five years, and its earlier stated opposition to a mining operation just across the border. The town supervisor said that the Dutchess project was an entirely different situation that involved the removal of 50 million tons of stone from the south face of Fishkill Ridge over 150 years.

Visit [highlandscurrent.org](http://highlandscurrent.org) for news updates and latest information.

## School Funding *(from Page 1)*

had not yet happened.

“Cuomo was really leaning on that,” Quartironi said this week. “If we didn’t get the American Rescue Plan,” budget cuts “absolutely would have been made.”

The rescue plan was passed by Congress and signed by President Joe Biden last month. That’s when things began to change for the better, she said.

The package sent more than \$12 billion to New York, including \$4.2 million to the Beacon school district, \$182,000 to Haldane and \$232,000 to Garrison. In addition, the state budget, adopted April 7, made good on Cuomo’s pledge for school funding.

Assembly Members Jonathan Jacobson, whose district includes Beacon, and Sandy Galef, whose district includes Philipstown, both voted for the budget. Sen. Sue Serino, whose district includes the Highlands, voted “no.”

“This has been a real roller-coaster ride of a budget season,” Superintendent Matt Landahl told the school board on Monday (April 12). “We were looking at pretty substantive cuts and now we’ve had a lot of positive things happen. It’s felt like a new surprise every day.”

What happened?

“The answer is Georgia,” Jacobson said on Tuesday, referring to the two run-off elections in the state in January that, both won by Democrats, shifted the U.S. Senate from Republican to Democratic control. “Once there was a change in leadership in the Senate, it became possible for the federal government to give New York State money [to help offset pandemic costs] and allow us to do what we should have been doing all along, to fund education properly.”

In addition to the stimulus package, legislators during budget negotiations created tax brackets for people making more than

\$5 million and \$25 million annually while raising taxes on those earning more than \$1 million. The state also brought in more income and sales tax revenue last year than was projected at the onset of the pandemic, Jacobson said.

Serino criticized Cuomo for raising taxes despite the stimulus funding and said that while she supports the school aid, the budget is “bloated with backward priorities.”

Jacobson, however, maintained that parents, educators and other advocates were outspoken that public education could not become a casualty of the pandemic.

“Our schools are really struggling during this moment of crisis,” said Jasmine Gripper, the executive director of the Alliance for Quality Education, a group that organized two rallies in Albany last month. “You can’t cut schools when you’re asking them to do something this historic that they’ve never done before.”

### ‘A moral victory’

A major component of the budget’s education funding is its commitment to make good on “foundation aid” — unrestricted funding that makes up the bulk of what districts receive each year from the state.

While the state was ordered to begin providing the aid in 2007, following a protracted legal battle, the economic downturn occurred soon after and it began making only partial payments to districts.

Nearly 15 years later, the state teachers’ union says the Beacon district is owed \$1.7 million in unpaid aid. While the 2021-22 New York State budget doesn’t repay that debt, it will give districts 60 percent of this year’s payment and commits to paying 100 percent annually by 2023. (Haldane is owed \$649,000 and Garrison is not owed anything, the union says.)

Beacon anticipates \$30.7 million in over-all school funding from the state this year.

## City of Beacon Also Benefits

When the Beacon City Council adopted the city’s 2021 budget in December, it anticipated drawing about \$2.3 million from reserves to balance the \$22.4 million general fund budget. Mayor Lee Kyriacou said that was a worst-case scenario, depending on how much state aid and sales tax revenue the city received.

City Administrator Chris White said on Wednesday (April 14) that Beacon will receive about \$1.5 million from the state’s Aid and Incentives for Municipalities (AIM) program — more than anticipated. The unexpected revenue will lower the amount the city must draw from savings to about \$736,000, or roughly a third of the high projection.

Some is expense-driven aid that repays the district for transportation, equipment and other costs, while \$20.1 million is the unrestricted foundation money — about \$600,000 more than in 2020-21.

“We are really pleased that, after a year of threats of devastating cuts, we’re seeing this extra funding,” said Meredith Heuer, president of the school board. “The foundation increase isn’t huge in the scheme of our entire budget but it is a moral victory that acknowledges the state was not helping districts provide an equitable education to our students.”

School Board Member Anthony White, who was the board’s president from 2016 to 2020, traced that victory to 2017, when

district officials began meeting with Serino, Jacobson and other legislators. “They didn’t understand that a school district is a different financial institution than a private business,” White said. “If we have a gap in funding from one year to the next, it really hinders our operations. It’s like we’re on pins and needles each year.”

Landahl told the school board on Monday that the plan for the 2021-22 budget, with the outside funding now resolved, will be “maintaining the huge gains” of the past four years. Since 2017, the district has added seven elementary teachers, a fourth-grade music teacher (making that program permanent), a social worker at Beacon High School and a part-time art teacher at the high school. It also has revamped professional development programs and equipped every student with a Chromebook laptop — a significant advantage during more than a year of virtual and hybrid schooling.

“Our hope and goal is that the budget undergirds all of this work and puts us in a good position to build,” he said.

For 2021-22, the district plans to add a prekindergarten teacher to pilot a full-day program and provide more hotspots for students who don’t have internet access at home. It also hopes to partner with the Dutchess Board of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES) on professional development, Landahl said, and will support the creation of new and expanded music, arts, theater and other extracurricular clubs to foster a “holistic student experience.”

The board will meet at 7 p.m. on Monday (April 19) to adopt the 2021-22 budget, which includes \$76.9 million in spending. The district’s state-mandated tax cap for 2021 is 2.35 percent, which translates to a \$42.6 million tax levy, or \$980,000 more than last year. The budget, along with four school board seats, will be on the ballot for district voters on May 18.





## Inside Town Hall

Earlier this month, Philipstown Supervisor Richard Shea provided a tour of the renovated space to Ross Corsair, who also visited Town Hall in February 2020 as the work began. A video in which Shea discusses the project is posted at [highlandscurrent.org](http://highlandscurrent.org).

*Photos by Ross Corsair*



## Town Hall *(from Page 1)*

Town Board and the many hours that Justin Kacur of Highlands Architecture donated, we could never have come in under budget." As examples, he noted that a boiler was installed that was not in the original plan and stainless steel added to the chimney after the discovery that it was unlined brick.

In addition, "the fire suppression system grew in scope," he said. "We also decided to raise the ceiling in the meeting room to the tin panels and restore them; the original plan had been to be more 'corporate' and go with a dropped panel ceiling."

While giving a tour, Shea noted that "everything in the building, interior and exterior, has been redone and modernized,

and also with an eye toward energy efficiency," including new windows, lighting and heating and cooling systems, an elevator and bathrooms that comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

"One of the problems was, in the winter, you couldn't get the building to temperature, so people were wandering around with coats on," he said.

At a Town Board meeting on April 8, he said that, with the upgrades, "by and large it will be a very green building, and a much greener building than it used to be. It was green only based on the fact it was covered in mold."

The work restored many of the building's original features, including the maple floor in the meeting room, which had been covered by carpet. "My mother tells me there were roller-skating events up here," he said. "If you look at the historical records, all sorts of community events were held up here, such as concerts and speaking events. So we're glad that we're able to bring this floor back and really lighten up the room."

The windows, he said, are "historic reproductions of what was here, but they just function in a much more energy-efficient way. We can open them and ventilate the room, where in the past they were covered with plastic just trying to keep some heat in."

He pointed out that the restoration included installing lights in the vents that were used when the room was lit by gas lamps. "They would get so hot that they had the vent out to the outside, so there were four chimneys in the room that went outside."

"There were a lot of period details in the building that we were able to keep," he said. "I think preserving this Town Hall in this location, in this building, was really important. We considered moving out, going to a different site, maybe even constructing a building, but historic buildings need to be preserved. And this is part of our history."

"There's a long history here in Philipstown, so I think it was really important to

## Town Hall Still Closed to Public

While the town clerk and assessor have moved back into Town Hall, their offices remain open only by appointment because of the pandemic shutdown. Call 845-265-3329 or email [townclerk@philipstown.com](mailto:townclerk@philipstown.com). The Justice Court also has not resumed regular sessions but messages can be left at 845-265-2951.

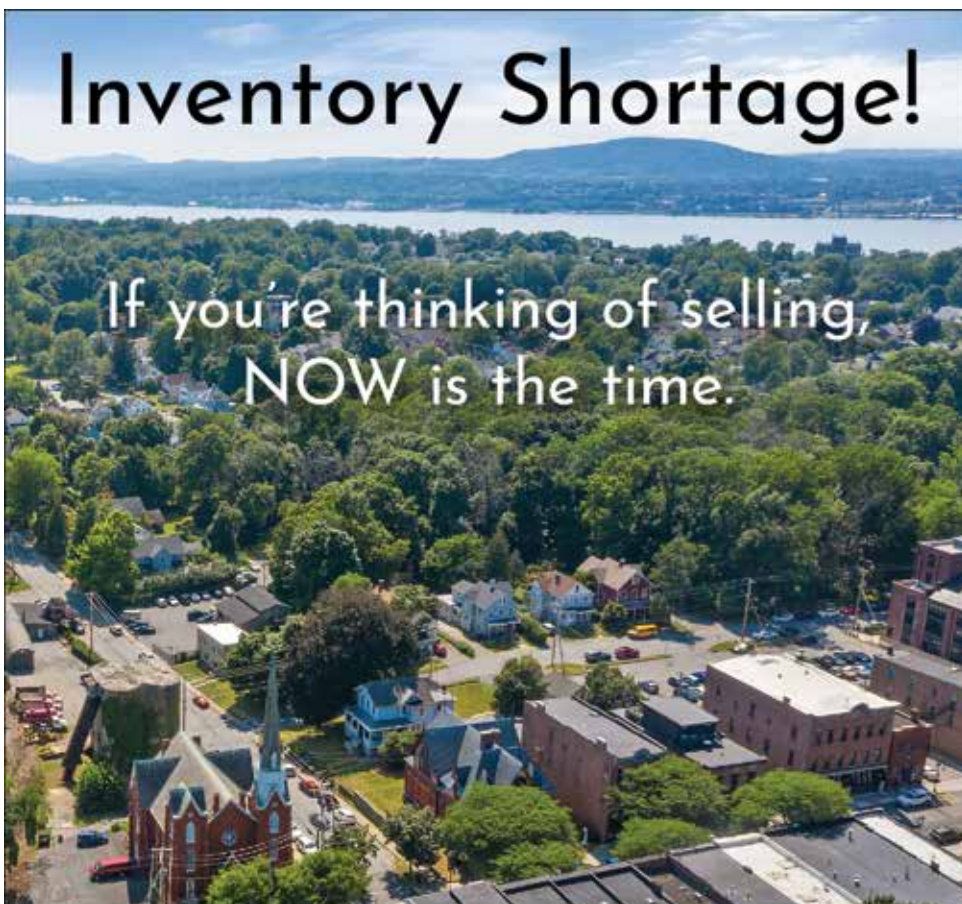
It's not clear when the Town Board will return to its meeting room. Its next meeting is scheduled for May 6; Supervisor Richard Shea said he planned to consult with the other board members to see how comfortable they are with meeting in-person. All have been vaccinated.

"It would be nice to get back together," Shea said. "I'm not at all sure about public attendance at this point but we will adhere to the CDC [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention] and state guidelines. The meetings will still be televised and we could host people on Zoom for questions."

stay in this building, to respect the building, and to bring it back to life. And now it will be a much more pleasant work environment, a much more energy-efficient building and something I'm going to be proud to hand off to the next person who sits in my seat. I'd say, congratulations to the Town of Philipstown."

*Ross Corsair contributed reporting.*

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Philipstown Town Hall at the turn of the 20th century Putnam History Museum

# Earlier Plans for Town Hall

The Philipstown Town Hall was built in 1867 following three acts of the State Legislature. The first, in 1864, authorized the Philipstown Board of Trustees and the police commissioner to “procure a suitable piece of ground” for a jail. The second, an amendment to the 1864 act, authorized the town to issue bonds of up to \$10,000 to build a Town Hall with a jail. The third, which amended the second, authorized the town to issue up to \$13,500 in bonds, repayable at up to 7 percent interest over 10 years. The final bill was \$7,000.

A quarter-century later, according to an 1894 account in *The Cold Spring Recorder*, a group of townspeople presented the Town Board at its Feb. 6 meeting with a petition and proposal to transform the meeting room into a performance space. Based on their interpretation of the state legislation, voters would have to approve the spending, and the election was a week away. Would the board add their plan to the ballot?

The proposal called for the building to be extended by 25 feet to allow for a stage with a dressing room and staircase to the ground floor on each side and room for an orchestra. In addition, the floor would be sloped from the rear and opera chairs installed. A temporary floor could be installed over the chairs to hold meetings or for elections or “entertainments.” The ceiling would be removed to open the space to the roof and to add ventilation; fire escapes would be installed in the second-floor windows; and painting would be done inside and out.

During the meeting, several people said they took exception to the plans for sloping floors, temporary flooring or removing the ceiling. One petitioner insisted on the installation of steam heating and gas lighting. Another, “from the country,” advocated buying the adjacent land to build horse sheds. “Then it was said that a cabinet piano should go on the new stage, and that the

two staircases should descend [outside] to the street,” *The Recorder* reported.

A contractor estimated that the project would cost \$5,500 to \$8,000.

“Thus the Town Board realized the gravity of the situation, which they discussed most seriously for several hours on the 8th of February,” the newspaper reported. “There was some uncertainty about the law; there was additional uncertainty about the exact limit of alteration and expense to which to go; there was a feeling that drawings should be prepared to be exhibited to the people, allowing exactly what was to be done; there was lack of time to secure specific estimates, as well as to exploit the perfected design so that the electorate of Philipstown might thoroughly grasp the situation; and rise to the responsibility of the occasion.

“So it came to pass, as the shades of night were gathering around the council chamber, it was, ‘Resolved, that in the opinion of this board the time to intelligently present said petition to the people of said town is too limited; and we therefore under the circumstances respectfully decline to submit said petition at the coming election.’ ”

A week after the election, a resident wrote to *The Recorder*: “If the people wish their town-house improved, who shall say them nay? Let the people’s voice be heard.”

Another resident responded: “Why is that we hear so much senseless chatter about internal improvements? For 25 years, this Town Hall has been good enough for *better* men — I say this candidly — than we have today. The entrances are wide enough for straightforward people. The ceiling is high enough for humility. The stage is low enough for high-minded people. And the benches are soft enough if people have an easy conscience.”

So opinions varied.

# NOTICE

## NOTICE OF ANNUAL PUBLIC HEARING ON THE BUDGET, ANNUAL, MEETING, ELECTION AND VOTE.

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that the Board of Education of the Beacon City School District, Dutchess County, New York, will hold a public hearing on the budget at Beacon High School, 101 Matteawan Road, Beacon, New York, and via Zoom, on Monday, May 10, 2021 at 7:00 P.M., for the purpose of presenting the budget document for the 2021-2022 School Year.

**NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN** that a copy of the statement of the amount of money which will be required for School District purposes during the 2021-2022 school year (the Budget), as prepared by the Board of Education, may be obtained by any resident of the District during the fourteen (14) days immediately preceding the Annual Meeting, Election and Vote, commencing May 4, 2021, except Saturday, Sunday or holidays during regular school hours, 8:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M., at each of the District’s schoolhouses, at the Administrative Offices, and on the District’s website.

**NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN** that the Annual Meeting, Election and Vote, will be held on Tuesday, May 18, 2021, between the hours of 6:00 A.M. and 9:00 P.M., prevailing time, when the polls will be open for the purpose of voting by voting machine:

- A. To elect four (4) members to the Board of Education as follows:  
two members for three year terms (commencing July 1, 2021 and expiring June 30, 2024),  
one member for a three year and six week term commencing May 18, 2021 and expiring June 30, 2024,  
and one member for a one year and six week term commencing May 18, 2021 and expiring on June 30, 2022.
- B. To vote upon the appropriation of the necessary funds to meet the estimated expenditures for School District purposes for the 2021-2022 School Year (the Budget).
- C. To vote upon the following proposition: Shall the bond resolution adopted by the Board of Education of the City School District of the City of Beacon, Dutchess County, New York, dated March 22, 2021 authorizing the purchase of school buses at a maximum estimated cost of \$395,000; authorizing the issuance of \$395,000 bonds of said School District to pay the costs thereof; and that such sum or so much as may be necessary shall be raised by the levy of a tax upon the taxable real property of said School District and collected in annual installments as provided in Section 416 of the Education Law; and providing that, in anticipation of said tax, obligations of the School District shall be issued; determining the period of probable usefulness and maximum maturity thereof to be five years; pledging the faith and credit of said School District for the payment of the principal of and interest on said bonds; delegating powers to the chief fiscal officer with respect to the issuance and sale of bond anticipation notes and such bonds; containing an estoppel clause and providing for the publication of an estoppel notice, be approved?
- D. To vote upon the following proposition: Shall the Board of Education of the Beacon City School District be authorized to sell a ±33 acre portion of a 64.75 acre parcel fronting on Route 9D (identified on the Dutchess County Tax Map as Section 6055, Block 1, Lot 182629), upon which the Dutchess Stadium, Intermodal Transportation Facility and associated parking facilities have been erected, to Dutchess County for the sum of \$627,000, and such other terms and conditions as are set forth in the Contract of Sale negotiated between the parties?
- E. To vote on any other proposition legally proposed.

**NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN** that for the purposes of voting, the School District has been divided into two (2) election districts and that an accurate description of the boundaries of these school election districts is on file and may be inspected at the Office of the District Clerk on weekdays when school is in session, during regular work hours, 8:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M., at the Administrative Offices, 10 Education Drive, Beacon, New York.

**NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN** that the 2021 Annual Meeting, Election and Vote, will be held at the following polling places in the School Election Districts hereinafter set forth;

**SCHOOL ELECTION DISTRICT NO. 1**  
**POLLING LOCATION: BEACON HIGH SCHOOL**  
Description: First Ward, First and Second Districts | Second Ward, First, Second, and Third Districts | Third Ward, First, Second and Third Districts | Fourth Ward, First and Second Districts

**SCHOOL ELECTION DISTRICT NO. 2**  
**POLLING LOCATION: GLENHAM ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**  
Description: Bounded on the north and east by Wappingers Central School District No. 1, Towns of Wappinger, Poughkeepsie, Fishkill, East Fishkill and LaGrange in Dutchess County and the towns of Kent and Philipstown in Putnam County; south by the common town line of the Towns of Fishkill and Wappinger and west by the Hudson River.

Bounded on the north by the common town line of the of Fishkill and Wappinger, east by Wappinger Central School District No. 1 in the Towns of Wappinger, Poughkeepsie, Fishkill, East Fishkill and LaGrange in Dutchess County and the Towns of Kent and Philipstown in Putnam County and Union Free School District No. 3, Town of Fishkill, south by Beacon City line and west by Hudson River.

Bounded northerly by former Common School District No. 4 in the Town of Fishkill and Wappinger, easterly by Central School District No. 1 in the Towns of Wappinger, Poughkeepsie, Fishkill, East Fishkill and LaGrange in Dutchess County and the Towns of Kent and Philipstown in Putnam County and Central School District No. 1 in the Towns of Philipstown and Putnam Valley in Dutchess County; southerly by Central School District No. 1 in the Town of Philipstown and Putnam Valley in Putnam County and the Town of Fishkill in Dutchess County; westerly by the Hudson River and the City of Beacon being the former Union Free School District No. 3 of the Town of Fishkill.

**NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN** that petitions for nominating candidates for the office of member of the Board of Education must be filed with the District Clerk by no later than 5:00 P.M. on the 20th day preceding the Annual Meeting, Election and Vote Wednesday, April 28, 2021. Such petitions must be signed by at least fifty (50) qualified voters of the District (per S4430 for 2021 only), shall state the name and residence address of each signer and the name and residence address of the candidate. Petition forms may be obtained at the Office of the District Clerk on weekdays when school is in session, during regular business hours, 8:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. or they can be downloaded from the district website.

**NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN** that the Board of Education of the Beacon City School District, Dutchess County, New York, has fixed Tuesday, May 4, 2021, at the Administrative Offices, 10 Education Drive, Beacon, New York, as the date on which the Board of Registration of said School District will meet between the hours of 1:00 P.M. and 5:00 P.M., prevailing time, for the purpose of preparing the register of the School District for each election district for the Annual Meeting, Election and Vote, to be held on Tuesday, May 18, 2021, at which time any person shall be entitled to have his/her name placed upon such register if known or proven to the satisfaction of the registrars to be then or thereafter entitled to vote. Persons whose registration to vote with the County Board of Elections is current, pursuant to Article 5 of the Election Law, shall be qualified to vote without further registering with the School District’s Board of Registration, as well as all persons who shall have previously registered for any annual or special district meeting or election and who shall have voted at any annual or special district meeting or election held or conducted at any time during the 2017, 2018, 2019 or 2020 calendar years.

**NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN** that the register of voters so prepared shall be filed in the Office of the District Clerk and shall be open for inspection by any qualified voter of the District between the hours of 8:00 A.M. and 4:00 P.M., prevailing time, beginning fourteen (14) days prior to the Annual Meeting, Election and Vote. Said register will be open for inspection in each of the polling places during the Annual Meeting, Election and Vote.

**NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN** that applications for absentee ballots for the Annual Meeting, Election and Vote may be obtained at the Office of the District Clerk or downloaded from the school district website. The completed application must be received by the District Clerk no earlier than thirty (30) days prior to the election, and at least seven (7) days prior to the election if the ballot is to be mailed or the day before the election, if the ballot will be picked up at the Office of the District Clerk. The completed application can be sent by email, or delivered by a designated agent. Absentee ballots must be received at the Office of the District Clerk by no later than 5:00 P.M., prevailing time, on the day of the election. A list of all persons to whom absentee ballots shall have been issued will be available in the said Office of the District Clerk during regular office hours until the day of the Annual Meeting, Election and Vote. Any qualified voter may file a written challenge of the qualifications of a voter whose name appears on such list, stating the reasons for the challenge.

**NOTICE IS ALSO GIVEN** that a qualified military voter who is not currently registered can obtain a military personal registration form on the District’s website, or from the District Clerk between the hours of 8:00 A.M. and 4:00 P.M. A registered military voter may apply for a military ballot by requesting an application from the District Clerk in the same manner. Additionally, qualified military voters can contact the District Clerk to indicate their preference to receive a military personal registration form, absentee ballot application or absentee ballot via mail, facsimile or electronic mail. Ballots must be received by the District Clerk no later than 5:00 P.M. on the date of the election and vote. Military voter registration and absentee ballots shall be administered in accordance with the provisions of Section 2018-d of the Education Law and Part 122 of the Commissioner’s Regulations.

Dated: March 24, 2021 By the Order of the Board of Education of the Beacon City School District  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Kelly Pologe, School District Clerk



# Calls for Artists



## Congressional Art Competition

Rep. Sean Patrick Maloney, whose district includes the Highlands, has issued a call for entries for the 39th annual Congressional Art Competition. The deadline for submissions to his office in Newburgh is 5 p.m. on April 30.

Last year's winner in the 18th District was a Haldane senior, Anneke Chan, whose work is now on display in the U.S. Capitol.

All artwork submitted will appear on Maloney's Facebook page from May 3 to 7. Local judges will pick a winner. For details, see [bit.ly/2021-congressional-art](http://bit.ly/2021-congressional-art).

## Pandemic Experiences

The Southeast Museum on April 8 announced a partnership with the Putnam Arts Council to organize an exhibit about the experiences of county residents during the pandemic through art and oral history.

Email [director@southeastmuseum.org](mailto:director@southeastmuseum.org) for guidelines. The deadline is June 1. The exhibit will open simultaneously at the Southeast Museum in Brewster and the Belle Levine Art Center in Mahopac from July 10 to Aug. 15.

## ArtQuake

The Garrison Art Center has issued a call for artists ages 5 to 17 to submit for its first show of kinetic and optical art.

ArtQuake is scheduled for May 8 to 16. The works must move naturally, be human-powered or give the illusion of movement through optical illusion. See [garrisonartcenter.org/artquake-youth-prospectus](http://garrisonartcenter.org/artquake-youth-prospectus) for details. The deadline is Saturday (April 24).

# Current Classifieds

## 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](mailto:sandiafonso70@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 [mrsqtutor888@gmail.com](mailto:mrsqtutor888@gmail.com).

**DONATE YOUR CAR OR TRUCK** — Benefits Heritage for the Blind. Tax deductible, free towing, all paperwork taken care of. Call 833-304-0651.

## 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](mailto:shelleyboris@freshcompany.net).

**HEAD TEACHER FOR LEARNING POD** — We are a group of dedicated and passionate parents who have created our own learning pod for approximately 12 children ranging in

age from 2½ to 8 years old. We are seeking an exceptional teacher with progressive education experience who is passionate about fostering a love of learning. We are open to various teaching methods and applications. Position is full-time; availability 5 days/week is optimal, but flexible for the right person. Email [lara.tabatznik@gmail.com](mailto:lara.tabatznik@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](mailto:gproth24@gmail.com).

## FOR SALE

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Puzzles

CROSS CURRENT

ACROSS

1. Repast

5. "Ben- —"

8. Lawman Wyatt

12. Frozen snow queen

13. "Right you —!"

14. Computer brand

15. Slightly

16. Actress Long

17. Hindu royal

18. Tidy up

20. Toto, to Dorothy

22. Peyton's brother

23. Commonest English word

24. Easter entrees

27. Vinegar variety

32. X-ray's cousin

33. Chopper

34. Hostel

35. *Becoming* author Obama

38. Read quickly

39. Knock

40. Wildebeest

42. "Yippee!"

45. Held up

49. *Mamma Mia* group

50. Gardner of Hollywood

52. Actress Kate

53. Fibs

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DOWN

1. Intend

2. North Sea feeder

3. Largest continent

4. Coffee bar orders

5. Carthaginian general

6. Swiss canton

7. Harvest

8. Sultry singer Kitt

9. Campus figure

10. Gambling mecca

11. Bluenose

19. Chicago transport

21. UFO crew

24. "Let me think ..."

25. Exodus hero

26. Germs

28. Rocker Rose

29. *Shampoo* Oscar winner

30. — pickle

31. Blitzer's channel

36. Badger

37. Clean-air org.

38. Hand in

41. "Forget it!"

42. Corridor

43. Theater award

44. Tug

46. Innocent one

47. Ms. Brockovich

48. June honorees

51. Half of XIV

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 when buds open (10)

2 English comedian Ricky (7)

3 liberates (8)

4 in a good mood (8)

5 fighting a tough battle (10)

6 "Anne of Green Gables" taunt (7)

7 cheats (10)

SOLUTIONS

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SUDO CURRENT

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			7			6	2	
			9		3			5
				1			7	4

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Answers for April 9 Puzzles

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

1. DISASTROUS, 2. TERRITORIES, 3. MOTIVATION, 4. ENERGIZE, 5. GARRULOUS, 6. FALSIFIED, 7. PROSPECTS

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



## SPORTS



Follow us at [twitter.com/hcurrentsports](https://twitter.com/hcurrentsports)

# Varsity Roundup

By Skip Pearlman

### VOLLEYBALL

The Haldane High School volleyball team continued to thrive last week, picking up three victories to improve to 12-1, with the playoffs opening Monday (April 19).

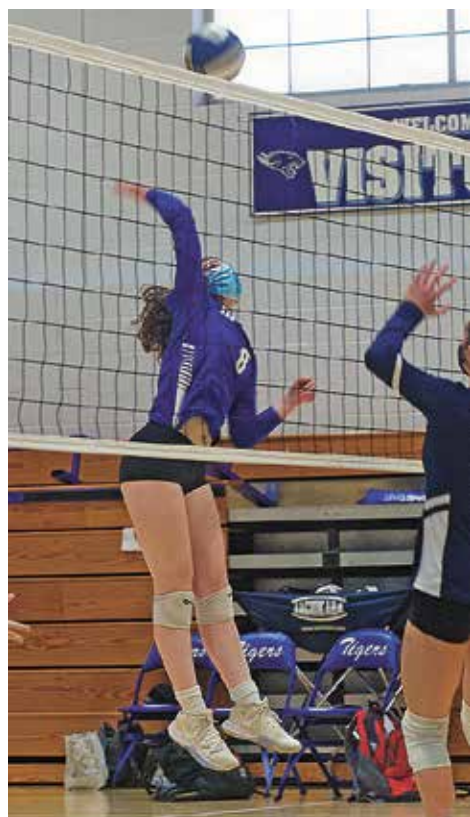
On Tuesday (April 13) the Blue Devils traveled to Putnam Valley, where they defeated the Tigers in three sets. Maria Barry scored eight kills, 27 digs and six aces. Jill Weinpahl had eight kills, Meghan Tomann added 12 assists and five aces, and Megan Farrell had 20 digs.

Despite the victory, “we didn’t play our best game,” said Coach Kristina Roling. “We’re happy we came out with the win. They know how to keep the ball in play; we had some long rallies.”

“We do need to clean up some stuff for the playoffs,” she added. “But the girls have a strong mindset; being down doesn’t shake them.”

A day earlier, the Blue Devils visited Poughkeepsie, where they also won in three sets, 25-22, 25-11, 25-21. Weinpahl had 11 kills, Tomann handed out 18 assists and Farrell had 21 digs and seven aces.

On Saturday (April 10) at home, they blanked Putnam Valley, 25-20, 25-15, 25-10.



Haldane captain Maria Barry (8) rises to play a ball in Tuesday's win at Putnam Valley.



The Beacon football team has struggled this season because of COVID-19 quarantines, with two games canceled. Photo by S. Pearlman

Barry led the way in that one with 13 kills, Tomann had 22 assists, Weinpahl had 17 digs and Farrell added 22 digs and seven aces.

The Blue Devils are hoping for a high seed in the Section 1 regional playoffs. (There is no state tournament this year because of the pandemic shutdown.) They will compete in the Northern Westchester/Putnam small-school division with Lakeland, Peekskill, Walter Panas, Hendrick Hudson, Putnam Valley, Briarcliff, Croton and North Salem, and should be the No. 1 seed. The potential No. 3 seed, Croton (8-2), handed Haldane its only loss this season, and No. 2 Panas (10-2) has a solid team, as well.

Roling said her team is still getting better. “Maria, Jill, Meghan and Megan have been the backbone. They’ve all been the model of consistency and a positive attitude. Zoe Silverman and Rachel Iavicoli switched positions and have been such a force on the floor, especially with serving.”

Haldane is scheduled to finish its season today (April 16), hosting Carmel. The Beacon squad, meanwhile, lost this week at Lourdes and Carmel to fall to 0-13. The Bulldogs will enter the Dutchess County playoffs for Section 1 as the No. 7 seed and will likely face John Jay-East Fishkill (8-1) or Arlington (9-2).

### FOOTBALL

The Haldane squad played a game on Saturday (April 10) that it might just as soon forget, missing an early scoring opportunity before falling, 28-0, to the defending Section 1, Class C champion Valhalla.



Darrin Santos ran for 50 yards but the Blue Devils were shut down offensively in a loss to Valhalla.

Haldane (1-3) forced a fumble early but couldn’t convert it to points, and things went downhill from there when the Vikings quickly scored on runs of 3 and 75 yards.

The Vikings added a 1-yard touchdown run in the third quarter and a 6-yard score in the fourth.

“They did a good job of bottling us up,” said Coach Ryan McConville. “In the second half we couldn’t get anything going. We need to get back to fundamentals — better blocking and better tackling.”

Quarterback Dan Santos completed 5 of 16 attempts for 11 yards and was picked off three times. Darrin Santos ran 10 times for 50 yards.

The Blue Devils are scheduled to travel to Rye Neck (0-3) on Saturday (April 17). Haldane will close its season at Tuckahoe in the Section 1, Class D title game on April 24. The schools are the only Class D teams in the section.

Beacon’s game scheduled for April 9 against Somers was canceled because of ongoing COVID-19 issues. After a 10-day pause following the previous game against Tappan Zee, Beacon didn’t have enough healthy players. The Bulldogs are scheduled to close their regular season hosting Lourdes at 7 p.m. on Saturday (April 17).

### HALLS OF FAME

Haldane is accepting nominations for inductees into its Athletic Hall of Fame, which honors athletes, coaches and teams. See [bit.ly/Haldane-hall-fame](https://bit.ly/Haldane-hall-fame). The deadline is May 1. Selections are made by a nine-member committee of coaches, community members and a school administrator. The 2020 induction ceremony was postponed because of the pandemic shutdown.

Beacon High School also postponed the induction ceremony for its most recent Athletic Hall of Fame class until the winter of 2021-22. Nominations will be reviewed in the fall by a nine-member committee of coaches, Hall of Fame inductees and community members. See [bit.ly/beacon-hall-fame](https://bit.ly/beacon-hall-fame).