

The HIGHLANDS Current



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MAY 7, 2021

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Renters' Aid on the Way

Census data suggests a third of New Yorkers at risk

By Leonard Sparks

For the last year, many tenants and landlords have bailed to keep the boat they share from sinking.

Their hardships are not necessarily reflected in local and state data, whose tallies of eviction filings has been depressed by court system shutdowns and a series of moratoriums imposed by the state and federal governments. But Justin Haines, the attorney in charge of Legal Services of the Hudson Valley's Poughkeepsie office, said requests for help have come from renters with arrears as high as \$18,000.

Now, beleaguered tenants and their landlords may be able to stop bailing because

of a bailout.

On Tuesday (May 4), Gov. Andrew Cuomo signed another extension of the state's months-long moratorium on residential and commercial evictions, which had expired on May 1. But a big motivation for the extension, to Aug. 31, is to give local municipalities and New York State more time to distribute \$1.2 billion in federal funding that could erase a year's worth of unpaid rent.

State Sen. Sue Serino, a Republican who represents the Highlands, voted against the extension, which was also opposed by groups such as the Hudson Gateway Association of Realtors, whose territory includes the Highlands.

Assembly Member Sandy Galef, a Democrat whose district includes Philipstown, and Assembly Member Jonathan Jacob-

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The Star of Bethlehem Baptist Church has occupied a former bank building on Main Street in Beacon for six decades.

Photo by L. Sparks

Historic Church May Leave Beacon

Developer to buy former bank building

By Leonard Sparks

The Star of Bethlehem Baptist Church, a historic Black congregation in Beacon born in 1900 when its founders began worshipping in a private home on North Avenue, is selling the former bank building on Main Street that has been its home for six decades.

The big problem? Parking.

The Rev. Daniel Blackburn, who was hired as pastor in 2019, estimates that half of the church's members live outside

of Beacon, some as far away as Sullivan County. On Sundays they must compete for parking spaces with day-trippers, especially during the summer, said Blackburn.

"Everybody up from the city is coming, and with the restaurants having spots blocked, it's just worse and worse for parking," he said. "Come June and July, it's really tough."

The building, located at 139 Main St., is being purchased by Hudson Todd LLC, one of two firms run by Joe Donovan and his wife, who own a dozen other commercial properties along Beacon's west end. It was built in 1929 for Mechanics Savings

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SUNDOWN AT INDIAN POINT

Second of a series

By Brian PJ Cronin

It was supposed to usher in a golden age for nuclear power in New York, and initially had little opposition. But eventually a network of environmental groups as well as everyday citizens who were wary of nuclear power in the wake of Three Mile Island, and then Chernobyl, turned against it. The public questioned the wisdom of building a nuclear power plant so close to New York City. Activists led protests, serenaded by folk singer Pete Seeger, a resident of Beacon. The evacuation plan the plant created was deemed to be unrealistic, and state officials refused to certify it. Finally, after many tumultuous years, Gov. Cuomo announced the decommissioning of the plant.

The year was 1988.

The facility was the Shoreham Nuclear Power Plant on the north shore of Long Island, which was originally planned to be the first of many nuclear plants on Long Island. But when Gov. Mario Cuomo — father of New York's current governor, Andrew Cuomo — announced its closure, it had never been in operation. The plant had conducted low-power tests after its reactors had come online a few years earlier but the approval to go to full power never came.

Shoreham was supposed to open

in 1973 and cost \$65 million. Instead it was completed in 1985 and cost \$6 billion. The overruns would be comical if not for the fact that the people of Long Island were charged an extra 3 percent on their power bills for the next 30 years to help pay for a plant that never supplied them with a single watt of power. It was the last nuclear plant built in New York while simultaneously being the first nuclear plant decommissioned in the U.S.

In 2004, the Long Island Power Authority built two 100-foot-tall wind turbines at the site of Shoreham. At a public ceremony, LIPA Chair Richard Kessel declared: "We stand in the shadow of a modern-day Stonehenge, a multibillion-dollar monument to a failed energy policy, to formally commission the operation of a renewable energy technology that will harness the power of the wind for the benefit of Long Island's environment."

And with that, the turbines whirled to life, generating 200,000 kilowatt-hours of power a year — or 1/35,000th of the power that Shoreham would have created.

The next generation

In the wake of another nuclear plant in New York closing — Indian Point,

(Continued on Page 20)

5Q FIVE QUESTIONS: BRITTANY AND JUSTINE SOTO

By Jeff Simms

Twin sisters Brittany and Justine Soto recently opened a vegan doughnut shop, Peaceful Provisions, at 383 Main St. in Beacon.

What brought you to Beacon?

BRITTANY: We had a good friend who was a manager at Homespun Foods and Ella's Bellas, so we visited frequently. Plus we appreciated the small business focus of the community and how vegan-friendly it is here. We looked at a couple of spots around 2015 but nothing met our needs. Eventually, this space popped up and we were like, "Oh, wow, this might be it."

What kind of market research did you do?

BRITTANY: We sampled our doughnuts at farmers' markets and pop-up events in New York City, Westchester and the Hudson Valley for about six years. We were doing brownies and other baked goods, and it wasn't until we started doing early-morning markets that we thought, "What goes well with coffee?"

JUSTINE: There weren't a lot of vegan sweets or baked goods around. In the beginning, it was figuring out how to advertise our products. "Vegan baked goods" turned off a lot



of people, especially at the farmers' markets. But then we started calling our products "plant-based" or "dairy-free" to help customers move beyond the preconceived notion that vegan products aren't good.

What's the difference between a vegan and a regular doughnut?

BRITTANY: We stick to a traditional baking process to make it taste just like a regular doughnut, but without any animal products, so no butter, milk or eggs.

JUSTINE: We don't use any pre-made mixes, preservatives, stabilizers or artificial flavors in our icings. We're hyper-focused

on making everything from scratch in small batches and keeping the ingredients to a minimum. We also try to keep things fun with flavor combinations, colors and textures. We have both over-the-top and classic and simple.

How have they been received?

JUSTINE: It's been overwhelming. They're flying off the shelves.

BRITTANY: We're in the back pumping out doughnuts, so we don't see the interactions. But I manage the Instagram page and Justine does Facebook, and some of the responses I've seen are: "I can't believe it's vegan" or "This is the best maple iced doughnut I've ever had."

Why is veganism important to you?

JUSTINE: I was on a family trip about seven years ago in the Finger Lakes, and we stayed near a rescue shelter called the Farm Sanctuary. I convinced my family to go, and during the tour something clicked. I had to hold myself accountable for the choices that I'm making. I'm also a dietitian, so the transition was easy. I went to visit Brittany, who was living in San Diego. She was a vegetarian but I exposed her to veganism, and on her days off, we were veganizing our favorite recipes. It was like, "Why aren't we doing this together?"

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MAGAZZINO ITALIAN ART

ON THE SPOT

By Michael Turton

How do you get rid of an "ear worm," a song that's stuck in your head?

“

I keep singing it until it goes away; I had one a couple days ago.

”



~ Katie Parent, Beacon

“

You have to play the song backward, like the Beatles album!

”



~ John Stowell, Cold Spring

“

If it's an annoying song, I think about one I really like.

”



~ Sydney Kirk, Beacon

New Beacon Court Hopes to Prevent Overdoses

Recovery Court prioritizes treatment over conviction

By Arvind Dilawar

Defendants in Beacon who are charged with certain nonviolent crimes and also struggle with addiction can now opt in to a diversion program designed to prevent overdoses.

The Beacon Recovery Court, which launched in April, connects defendants with addiction counselors at Sun River Health. It differs from the Beacon Drug Treatment Court, in session since 2002, which provides treatment for up to 18 months following a guilty plea. The Recovery Court program, which lasts two to three months, does not require a plea.

Defendants may choose to enter the Beacon Recovery Court following a screening for their overdose risk and a review of any criminal history. Timothy Pagones, the city judge who presides over the program, as well as the Beacon Drug Treatment Court, notes that a person doesn't have to be charged with drug possession to be eligible.

"You could have a grand larceny, a petit larceny," he said, although "certain things —

a sex offense, drug sales, domestic violence — will prohibit you." Other crimes that disqualify defendants are arson, crimes against children, violent felonies and criminal contempt.

Upon completion of the program, defendants can request that their cases be dismissed and sealed, he said. Those who fail to complete the program have their cases prosecuted as usual.

The Beacon Recovery Court is part of an attempt by the state court system to divert defendants who suffer from substance abuse, and especially opioid addiction. While the court can currently only handle defendants from Beacon, Pagones explained that it will become a "hub" that can hear cases from throughout Dutchess County.

Including Beacon, there are now 25 recovery courts in New York, said Susan Sturges, who coordinates them statewide, with more planned. (The first opened in Buffalo in 2017; the Newburgh City Court also has one.) Although they are open to anyone with a life-threatening substance-abuse disorder, the courts focus on opioid addiction — so much so that the model is known as an "opioid court."

The courts hope to "intercept defendants who are at high risk of overdose at their earliest entry" in the legal system, Sturges said. While the defendant is in the recovery court, the county district attorney suspends prosecution of the case.

The launch of recovery courts in Beacon and elsewhere not only reflects a general reorientation away from punitive sentencing but also concern that the pandemic has led to rising overdose deaths. (The data collected by New York State lags by about a year: Dutchess had 43 opioid overdose deaths in the first six months of 2020, compared to 64 in 2019 and 83 in 2018.)

The Beacon Recovery Court is hearing cases in person, although remote hearings are available. Sun River Health also offers counseling by videoconference.



Judge Timothy Pagones

NEWS BRIEFS

Beacon Approves Makers Market

Riverfront event will proceed with safety guidelines

The Modern Makers Market scheduled for May 22 and 23 at Seeger Riverfront Park in Beacon will be held but with stricter pandemic-related guidelines than the state requires, city officials said.

The event, which is being organized by Hops on the Hudson, will feature 100 artisans from New York state selling handmade wares. There will be two sessions per day, with a maximum of 500 people allowed in per session. Everyone will be required to wear masks.

All vendors and attendees must either show proof of COVID-19 vaccination or a negative test within 72 hours, City Administrator Chris White said, noting that the city is imposing stricter controls than it does on Beacon's farmers' and flea markets. All attendees must have tickets to enter.

"We're not just opening up like spring break at Daytona Beach here," White told the City Council during its April 26 workshop. "It's a shot for some of these artisans who have been hammered through the pandemic."

The Dutchess County health department signed off on the plan, he said.

Beacon Library Budget Passes

Two new board members elected

Voters in the Howland library district in Beacon approved its 2021-22 budget on April 29 by a wide margin, 228-24.

The \$1.29 million budget includes a tax levy increase of \$46,976, a 4 percent hike that exceeded the state tax cap of about 1 percent. Director Kristen Salierno said the library plans to use the money to convert a part-time librarian position to full-time and expand technology education, job-search assistance and resume-building classes, the Library of Things and e-book titles.

Jan Dolan, the president of the board of trustees, was re-elected to a five-year term on the eight-member board with 170 votes, and Phoebe Zinman also won a five-year term with 149 votes. Sam Anderson received 128 votes and will serve the final two years of an existing term. Incumbent Sean Twohig (117 votes) and Elaine Leinung (107) were not elected.

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JULIE PEARSON AND JAMIE ROBINS, COLD SPRING

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PUBLISHER

Highlands Current Inc.
142 Main St., Cold Spring, NY 10516-2819
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FOUNDER

Gordon Stewart (1939 - 2014)

EDITOR

Chip Rowe
editor@highlandscurrent.org

SENIOR EDITOR

Leonard Sparks

BEACON EDITOR

Jeff Simms

ARTS EDITOR

Alison Rooney
arts@highlandscurrent.org

REPORTERS

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

STUDENT CORRESPONDENTS

Ezra Beato (*Philpstown*)
Rachel Thorne (*Beacon*)

LAYOUT DESIGNER

Pierce Strudler

ADVERTISING DIRECTOR

Michele Gedney
For information on advertising:
845-809-5584
ads@highlandscurrent.org
highlandscurrent.org/ads

MEMBERSHIP

Emily Hare
membership@highlandscurrent.org

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Teresa Lagerman
community@highlandscurrent.org



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

LETTERS AND COMMENTS

Indian Point

I write with sadness over the closing of the Indian Point nuclear power facility ("Sundown at Indian Point," April 30). Regardless of the merits of this action, which are complicated and difficult to untangle, the headline will likely mislead the public in suggesting we can do without nuclear in our fight against climate change.

This is not the case, not by a long shot, as many scientists have argued. Unlike any other major energy source, nuclear generates baseload electricity with no output of carbon. It releases less radiation into the environment than any other major energy source (coal being the worst).

Studies of the three large-scale accidents involving reactors indicate that even the worst possible accident at a nuclear site is less destructive than other major industrial accidents. And as for the question of waste disposal, while it remains a political problem (not in my backyard), it is no longer a technological one.

When Lincoln was asked if God sided with the North, he replied, "I hope so, but we must have Kentucky." In saving the planet, again it would be nice to have God's help, but we must have nuclear energy.

Bevis Longstreth, *Garrison*

The workhorse at Indian Point, which could have run for several more decades, was killed by political expediency and exaggerated fears about accidents and radiation.

Welcomed into the world just 10 months after the Arab oil embargo of 1973, Reactor 2 was an industry giant, churning out huge amounts of reliable, carbon-free electricity from a tiny footprint.

Don Torelli, *via Facebook*

As a lowly structural engineer and a programmer for a pipe-stress analysis software, I saw just about every power plant in the world, from Cairo to San Clemente to Peekskill. That's how I ended up living here so long ago. I used to take the elevator down 80 feet underground to give tech support. I'd never work there full-time. It's time to move on.

Moody Bodaghi, *via Facebook*

My uncle, John Perrault, was one of the engineers who built Indian Point. Just wait until you see how expensive rates will become.

Joseph Whiting, *via Facebook*

Short-term rentals

How do these proposed regulations on short-term rentals help residents and

seniors going through hard times ("Cold Spring Poised to Regulate Airbnbs," April 23)? Will the proposed laws extend to all rentals, not just short-term? If not, why not?

We are headed down the road to a lawsuit for discrimination against rental owners of both types. Also, why can't we wait a little longer until we can have a better public venue for discussion, rather than an online public hearing?

I applaud the efforts of the board to address this issue but feel we are rushing into making rules without listening to all those concerned, not just a few jealous complainers and assorted squeaky wheels. Short-term rentals enhance the village and, when enhanced, everyone prospers.

Tony Bardes, *Philpstown*

The Cold Spring Chamber of Commerce supports short-term rentals if they are defined, regulated and fairly taxed. However, we feel that the village's proposed policy has provisions that are unnecessarily complicated, restrictive and hard to comply with.

For instance, most communities limit short-term rentals to 90 to 180 days a year, rather than 60. Limiting the number of annual permits to 34 households would reduce the availability of accommodations by two-thirds. (There are currently at least 100 hosts in the village.) This shift would reduce the incomes of many residents, as well as of the Main Street merchants who serve visitors. It would also complicate the lives of residents who need local accommodations for visitors.

A cumbersome application and an annual permit lottery may make sense for the frequent host who intends the maximum number of rentals, but they are inappropriate for the host who rents once or twice a year, perhaps during trips away from home. If the lottery goes to more frequent hosts, accommodations increase. If it goes to more occasional hosts, they decrease. Public policy should not produce such random outcomes.

We recommend that the trustees increase the rental limit to 80 days a year, increase the number of one-year permits to 50 and allow residents to apply for them at any time throughout the year. In addition, we recommend offering a second type of minimal-use permit, for occasional hosts (say, up three rentals a year), a limit on how long a period each permit is good for (say, renting up to 30 days total per year) and a higher fee (say, \$150).

We suggest starting with a more lenient policy and then increasing the restrictions later if problems arise.

Eliza Starbuck, *Cold Spring*

Starbuck is president of the Cold Spring Chamber of Commerce. For a longer version of this letter, see highlandscurrent.org.

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LETTERS AND COMMENTS

(Continued from Page 4)

Library solar

One aspect being proposed for the Desmond-Fish Public Library master plan is the erection of more than 100 solar panels cutting across the meadow north of the Garrison library (*Letters and Comments*, April 23). The designer has referred to this installation as a “ribbon” and compared it to the temporary artwork of Christo. I have seen Christo’s work. It is delightful. But there is a reason why the rendering of the proposed solar ribbon only shows the perspective from the library and at a distance.

In reality, solar panels are rigid and rectilinear and do not look anything like a ribbon. In addition, these panels will face south, exposing their gantry wiring, extruded metal framing and structural posts to all southbound travelers on the Route 9D scenic byway. The backside of a solar panel is a crude industrial look and does not belong in a Scenic Overlay District or on a scenic byway.

The Philipstown Town Board first recognized in 2006 the importance of preserving the bucolic nature of the Garrison meadows and other vistas along Route 9D. This concern led to the creation of the Scenic Byway Corridor Management Plan to maintain “the scenic, residential, and historic nature of the road,” which these industrial utility components clearly violate. Fortunately, the Planning Board has held open its public hearing on the placement of solar panels in the meadow north of the library.

Corrections

In “The Week Ahead” (April 30), we reported that *ArtQUAKE*, a show at the Garrison Art Center, opens today. In fact, it opens on Saturday (May 8).

In our *5 Questions* with Hoodie Crescent (April 30), we reported that she had become a U.S. citizen in 1996. In fact, she became a citizen in 2016.

In a story in the April 30 issue, we reported that a series of lawsuits filed by Republicans sought to disqualify the nominating petitions of Democratic candidates hoping to appear on the Working Families Party line on the November ballot because voters’ signatures were submitted digitally. In fact, the signatures in question were of party officials and notaries. See Page 12.

The public needs to understand what is being considered and the threat it poses to our primary scenic byway.

Also of concern, the method of installing the solar panels calls for the use of ground screw anchors, which are notorious for tilting out of alignment, especially in single-point, asymmetrical, wind-loading configurations in soft soils, such as are adjacent to the wetlands and in most of the

meadow north of the library. Who is going to maintain the ribbon of panels? There are many practical as well as aesthetic reasons why Christo’s public art is temporary — well-photographed, but always temporary.

Jamie Copeland, *Garrison*

Garrison residents have much for which to be grateful. The character and beauty of our community is the most important asset we have. I agree that solar energy is a critical part of our national, state and local energy plan. However, I am not in favor of reflective metal columns elevated 8 feet out of the ground extending over 416 feet in the meadow and partial wetland. Have all green energy options been considered?

I ask the library and our Planning Board to reconsider this proposal. Let’s work together to find an eco-responsible, as well as historically sensitive, solution that will work for both the library and the community.

Barbara Scuccimarra, *Garrison*

Church sold

We must follow ever so closely the pending sale of the Reformed Church of Beacon (“Church to be Sold for Bar, Hotel,” April 23). For instance, there has been talk of moving its pipe organ; I believe the developers must protect it under our city’s own preservation guidelines. With most of these historic cultural resource properties, the inside is just as important and irreplaceable as the exterior. Its architect, Frederick Clarke Withers, helped put Beacon on the map as a culturally rich area. The least we can do is protect it.

During discussions of code updates, council members have said that perhaps only buildings such as the Howland Cultural Center need protecting on the interior. But the interiors of the Reformed Church, the Craig House property and many other buildings in Beacon are just as historically important, and this municipality needs to protect them. It’s cringe-worthy to follow real estate agents and house flippers on social media boasting how they’re doing total gut renovations and turning charming historic homes into rebuilt cookie-cutter farmhouses. Beacon is starting to look like HGTV on steroids.

That brings up another hot topic: Parking. The venue at the Reformed Church building could bring in 500 attendees plus

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In anticipation of Mother’s Day, which is Sunday (May 9), we asked readers online to share advice they had gotten from their moms.

“This too shall pass.”

~Carolyn O’Daly

“‘Always do your best,’ which is probably why I got the jobs of dishwashing and bathroom cleaning while my three sisters dusted.”

~Kathleen Kourie

“Never marry an engineer.”

~Robert Balogh-Robinson

“You never have to justify spending money on books or music.”

~Sarah Feyl

“Don’t whiz on the electric fence.”

~Josh Stark

“Live your values.”

~Larissa Miller

“‘You’ll be better before you’re married’ – an Irish saying that means basically ‘This too shall pass,’ or don’t sweat the small stuff.”

~Patricia Cronin

“You should study abroad.”

~Bryan Conway

“If you’re bored, you’re boring.”

~Michael Hardman

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LETTERS AND COMMENTS

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a build-out of a small hotel. As the parcel sits now, there's parking for 20 to 30 cars.

I believe smart growth and historic preservation go hand in hand. I hope Beacon and its boards do not rush just to fill another void.

Theresa Kraft, *Beacon*

Herd immunity

The reluctance of one in four adults nationwide to be inoculated is a matter for serious concern after so much progress has been made in the last few months in getting vaccines produced, delivered and injected ("Vaccination Demand Falls," April 30).

Those not being vaccinated in the Highlands may not be a direct threat to those of us who are vaccinated. But indirectly, we're all in trouble if more than about 15 percent to 20 percent of Americans are not immunized through vaccination or natural infection because herd immunity will not be achieved. Without that, viruses proliferate and mutate, producing variants that are not only more infectious but could become resistant to vaccines and/or more lethal. If this occurs, the potential of a dismal winter of 2021-22 pandemic is very real.

As Rep. Sean Patrick Maloney and Dutchess County Executive Marc Molinaro stated, this is a life-and-death, bipartisan issue that requires neighborhood-based strategies to reach our friends who are vaccine-hesitant through doctors, nurses, dentists, religious

and other trusted leaders. This requires more time, respect and understanding of those who have chosen not to be vaccinated.

At a policy level, more creative thinking is needed. For example, West Virginia has launched a plan to offer a \$100 savings bonds to 16- to 35-year-olds with federal funds from the CARES Act. New York State should consider a similar approach, perhaps with a demonstration project in Putnam and/or Dutchess counties.

Alan Brownstein, *Cold Spring*

Looks like we will be wearing masks for a long, long time.

Robert McCarroll, *via Facebook*

Shakespeare plans

I cannot count the number of times I have seen this same argument unfold. It's older than Putnam County, St. Andrews and the Montagues. If we don't solve this argument rightly now, this quarrel will tear the county apart. Golf versus Shakespeare, Shakespeare versus golf.

I watched this same feud plague Herkimer County in 2007 and Calaveras County in 1998. Each party, the Shakespeare group and the golf group, is judicious at first but eventually the disagreement will become obstreperous and finally malicious. The tectonic rift will polarize and partition this town worse than a vote to build a new high school gymnasium. The stakes are too high!

Mark Twain famously opined on the matter in 1909, but knew to avoid getting between these aged rivals: "Golf is a good walk spoiled," he penned, as a clear nod to the Shakespeare team; but then, not to hold a bias, he wrote this in *Is Shakespeare Dead?*: "From away back toward the beginning of the Shakespeare-Bacon controversy I have been on the Bacon side and wanted to see our majestic Shakespeare unhorsed." He was speaking about attorney, philosopher and noted golfer Sir Francis Bacon, and he was making a clear nod to the golf team.

I wish this all could be solved civilly through a mutual agreement that benefits everyone, but we're far past that point, centuries past. There is only one way I know of to resolve this fight. A duel? That would give an advantage to the Shakespeare crowd. A chip off? That would give an advantage to the golfing crowd. A dance-off? Advantage Shakespeare again. How then, you ask?

An arm-wrestling contest, street rules, last person standing. The same way they pick the pope. This summer, winners take all, at the Desmond-Fish library. It's gonna be a melee where the books lay.

John O'Rourke, *Garrison*

Beacon letters

It's harassment ("What He Calls 'Dialogue,' They Call 'Harassment,'" April 30). Like Donna Minkowitz, I, too, am a former *Village Voice* writer and will assert, not that I should have to, that Donna is a

great personality with tons of integrity. But even if she were a creep, Dick Murphy should have to face charges if that doll left staked in her yard was because of him. I'm sorry for the City of Beacon.

Sally Eckhoff, *Stuyvesant Falls*

I am saddened that Ms. Minkowitz has been targeted in this way; I'm not sure why her sexuality threatens Mr. Murphy. I was taught to love my neighbors. I am quite sure there are no exceptions about whom my neighbor is.

Mary Collyer, *Beacon*

Unsolicited letters that target a person's lifestyle are harassment.

Natalie Arneson, *via Facebook*

It's 2021, and this crap is going on? Can't Murphy find something better to do with his time?

Yvonne Mee, *via Facebook*

Equating cancer to sexuality is ridiculous. You might as well say 16 percent of straight white men will get prostate cancer, therefore straight white men should not engage in heterosexual activity.

Stephanie Hepburn, *via Facebook*

Beyond the retrograde opinions, this individual's actions are very odd. It's like he doesn't understand how interacting with people works.

Deirdre Mullane, *via Facebook*



My name is **Ned P. Rauch** and these are my kids.

I'm running for a seat on the **Garrison School Board** to help ensure they and all the kids in the district get a top-shelf education.

If you're in the Garrison school district, I'd appreciate your vote.

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The developer says he plans to remove a drop ceiling that was added to the bank's lobby to create a sanctuary.

Photo by L. Sparks

Church Sold *(from Page 1)*

Bank, which merged six years later with Matteawan Savings Bank to become Beacon Savings Bank. In 1956, Beacon Savings moved to 364 Main St. (now Citizens Bank). Two years later, Star of Bethlehem, then at 22 N. Cedar St., bought the building.

Since its founding, Star of Bethlehem's members have included administrators, teachers, nurses and federal and state employees.

The church's next move is uncertain.

It was outbid for the Reformed Church of Beacon building on Wolcott Avenue, which is in contract for about \$1.25 million to become a bar, hotel and entertainment venue, and it also may fall short on a property it covets in Wappinger, Blackburn said. Although the church is planning to increase its bid, it has started looking at commercial spaces in Beacon.

"There are some alternatives that could keep us in Beacon," he said.

Donovan said Hudson Todd LLC will buy the Star of Bethlehem building for "at or close to the asking price" of \$1.25 million. He said plans for the building are incomplete, although there will be immediate renovations such as replacing windows and removing a drop ceiling to uncover the building's vaulted ceiling and skylight. "We'll try to restore it to its original volume and condition," he said.

“There are some alternatives that could keep us in Beacon.

—The Rev. Daniel Blackburn

Beyond the renovations, Hudson Todd is having preliminary conversations with a few potential occupants. A bar or restaurant open to the public "would be fine" but the company is open to other uses, Donovan said. The building has a large cellar that could be appropriate for a use like creative "maker spaces," he said.



The Rev. Daniel Blackburn inside the sanctuary at Star of Bethlehem

File photo by Meredith Heuer

The sale will add to the Donovans' ownership of nearly every building on the first two blocks of the west end of Main Street, which, according to tax records, include, on the north side, 134 Main (Beacon Creamery), 142 (Tito Santana), 144-146 (Mountain Tops Outfitters and Colorant), 150 (Bannerman Island Gallery), 152 and 160 (empty lots next to Hudson Beach Glass) and 172 (RonzWorld Guitars).

On the south side of the street, they own 129-137 Main (Bank Square Coffeehouse to Afton Road); 145 (Beacon Healing Massage) and 149 (Beacon Tintype), as well as 201-211 Main (Main Street Beauty Salon to Zora Dora's) and 1154 North Ave. (Mother Gallery and Parts & Labor Beacon).

The west end is "still reasonably proximate to the waterfront and will be increasingly connected to the waterfront," said Donovan. "We think that's great."

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No Tax Rate Increase in Cold Spring

Board approves budget; plans for Community Day

By Michael Turton

The Cold Spring Village Board at its April 27 meeting adopted the 2021-22 budget.

The general fund, which supports most major village services including the police, trash and recycling pickup, and road and sidewalk maintenance, will total \$2,619,872, of which \$1,745,300 will be raised through property taxes, a 2.3 percent increase over last year. The board voted not to increase taxes by the maximum allowable 3.85 percent.

The printed budget summary from Mayor Dave Merandy, who also serves as budget officer, states: "Although the total levy is increasing, due to changes in property assessed values, last year's tax rate of \$11.3922 per \$1,000 of assessed value is not expected to increase." Putnam County will provide updated assessed property values by June 1.

The board also approved 2021-22 budgets for the water and sewer funds at \$674,374 and \$556,101, respectively. Neither will affect the tax rate as they are funded by user fees.

Keep Cold Spring Beautiful

In correspondence, three residents living near the riverfront expressed concern that the ongoing "Keep Cold Spring Beautiful"

campaign will have a negative impact on quality of life in that part of the village.

The campaign, initiated by the Chamber of Commerce and supported by the Village Board, uses posters, in part to encourage visitors to picnic in village parks as a way of reducing Main Street congestion.

Young Lee, one of the residents, wrote: "I'm resigned to the noisy crowds, but I cannot imagine the area being able to absorb any more visitors and their detritus."

"I don't think [the campaign] was an intentional push to get people to the river, [but rather] there are other areas to spread out in the village," Trustee Kathleen Foley said. The poster lists a number of other parks in addition to those at the riverfront.

Eliza Starbuck, the president of the Cold Spring Chamber of Commerce and co-owner of Flowercup Wines, said she encourages people who visit her shop to eat in village parks. "We're in a pandemic," she said. "Having people picnicking in the middle of Main Street is not optimal for health and safety concerns."

The board discussed the possibility of adding portable bathrooms and additional trash bins as a way of coping with the large riverfront crowds.

In other business ...

■ The Cold Spring Chamber of Commerce has agreed to assume responsibility for cleaning the public restrooms near the



Cold Spring is encouraging visitors to picnic in parks rather than on Main Street.

Photo by M. Turton

pedestrian tunnel on Saturdays. Staff from the Highway Department maintain them on other days. The restrooms are open Thursday through Monday but will be available seven days a week after Memorial Day.

■ Merandy reported on plans for Community Day, which is tentatively scheduled for Labor Day weekend. Fireworks have been booked (sponsored by Nick Groombridge and Kim Connor), and donations secured from Magazzino and M&T Bank to fund live music. A volunteer planning committee will be recruited.

■ Village residents and business owners have until midnight on May 15 to respond

to a survey regarding the Cold Spring Police Department being conducted as part of a state order requiring municipalities to review their law-enforcement operations. Trustee Fran Murphy said she had distributed links to 640 people and so far received 295 surveys plus 11 hard copies, a nearly 50 percent return rate she described as "phenomenal."

■ Trustees on Tuesday (May 4) approved Officer-in-Charge Larry Burke's request to hire Nicholas Cosentino to fill a vacancy. Cosentino has worked for the New Castle Police Department in Westchester County since 2005. "I was very impressed with Officer Cosentino in his interview and his approach to community policing," said Foley.

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The (Incomplete) Numbers Don't Lie

Dutchess rental survey reveals high prices in Beacon

By Jeff Simms

A rental housing survey released last week by Dutchess County found an expensive and highly competitive market in Beacon, although that conclusion came with a large caveat: the managers of six of the city's higher-density developments did not respond.

The management of only two such developments, accounting for 108 market-rate apartments (the Lofts at Beacon and the West End Lofts), responded to the survey, which has been compiled annually for the past 40 years by the Dutchess planning department. The six that did not respond include 344 Main St., 7 Creek Drive and Beacon Falls at Leonard Street.

The non-responders represent 274 units, both those rented at market rates and "affordable" apartments that provide the owners with tax credits. The survey also did not include developments approved and/or under construction in the city, such as Edgewater, 248 Tioronda and 226 Main St.

Given those limitations, apartments in Beacon were by far the most expensive in all categories — from studios to three-bedrooms — among 10 municipalities.

The survey found that the rent on a market-rate studio apartment in Beacon last year averaged \$2,163 per month — almost \$1,000 more than the second most-expensive, in the Town of Wappinger. According to the planners, a person would need to earn \$51,160 annually to afford the county average for a studio (\$1,244) and stay within a federal guideline of not spending more than 30 percent of gross income on housing, including utilities.

In Beacon, that may be impossible. "I don't know if there are any jobs in Beacon that pay well enough to afford that kind of housing," said City Council Member Terry Nelson.

A two-bedroom unit in Beacon costs an average of \$2,398, while the county average is \$1,702. A renter or family would need to make \$70,400 to afford the Dutchess average and stay within the 30 percent threshold.

Dutchess planners also looked at vacancy rates as a measure of each municipality's rental economy. Countywide vacancy for market-rate apartments was 0.9 percent, the lowest since Dutchess began conducting the survey. Vacancy for tax-credit developments, which are generally lower due to subsidized rents, was 0.5 percent.

In Beacon, the incomplete numbers showed a zero vacancy rate for market-rate apartments, which means that none were available in the developments that participated in the survey. By comparison, the national rental vacancy rate, according to the U.S. Census Bureau, for the first quarter of 2020 was 6.6 percent.

The Dutchess planners noted that "in theory, we shouldn't have a historically low vacancy rate at the same time we have historic levels of construction." More than 560 units were added countywide in 2020.

A vacancy rate "closer to 5 percent is a sign of a healthier rental market," they said. "It is low enough not to negatively affect landlords, but high enough to permit tenant mobility. This extremely low rate illustrates a worsening crisis in the ability of our neighbors to secure and retain housing in Dutchess County, especially given that vacancy rates have been consistently below the 5 percent benchmark for over 20 years."

While Beacon's 246 affordable apartments make up nearly 15 percent of the county's tax-credit housing stock, Council Member Dan Aymar-Blair said bluntly that Beacon "does not have an affordable housing plan."

A vacancy rate closer to 5 percent is a sign of a healthier rental market.

~Dutchess Rental Housing Survey

The city requires that 10 percent of new developments be set aside for the workforce affordable program, which gives rental priority to volunteer emergency responders and municipal and school district employees. Beacon also has, according to the Dutchess survey, more than 500 apartments that are subsidized through federal programs (commonly called Section 8), but those units have waiting lists of a year or more, or, in the case of the Davies South Terrace development, four to five years.

Aymar-Blair, who, along with Nelson, has been one of the City Council's most persistent voices on affordability, said that Beacon does not have sufficient plans to expand the number of below-market-rate rentals or the range of offerings.

A vibrant affordable housing program means asking: "How much housing stock do we have that accommodates people at different income levels?" he said. "We need to take the first step. These are major quality-of-life issues."

Renters' Aid *(from Page 1)*

son, a Democrat whose district includes Beacon, each voted for it.

"I know landlords are frustrated, but that's why we still need more time" to allow renters to apply and to distribute the funding, said Haines.

Under the federal Emergency Rental Assistance Program, overseen by the U.S. Treasury Department, eligible households can receive up to a year of rental and utility assistance, plus an additional three months of assistance if needed to stabilize their housing. Payments are made directly to landlords and utility companies. An application system has not yet been established.

The program was created with \$25 billion in funding from the federal stimulus bill passed in December and given an additional \$21.6 billion from the COVID-19 relief legislation passed in March. New York State will receive \$800 million in funding from the first \$25 billion.

Municipalities and counties in New York with populations that exceed 200,000 people will also receive an additional \$480 million from the \$25 billion. Dutchess County's allocation will be \$8.7 million; Putnam County, with a population of about 100,000 people, does not qualify.

Under the federal program, eligible households must have at least one person who qualifies for unemployment or has lost income or faced significant costs or financial hardship due to the pandemic shutdown; can prove they are at risk of homelessness or "housing instability"; and has household income at or below 80 percent of the area median, which ranges from \$57,360 for a single person up to \$108,080 for an eight-person household in Dutchess County.

Dutchess County announced last month the availability of \$930,000 in rental assistance funding that could cover up to six consecutive months of unpaid rent. That money is from the federal CARES Act approved in March 2020. The federal government did not designate that it be used for rental assistance, but the county had flexibility in how it could be spent.

Visit highlandscurrent.org for news updates and latest information.

How Many Evictions?

The scale of possible evictions is hard to pin down because of the pandemic-related halts to court proceedings and previous moratoriums. New York's Unified Court System provided data showing fewer than 104,000 eviction filings statewide for 2020, less than half the 249,000 filed in 2019. Filings for Beacon last year totaled 49, compared to 79 for 2019. (The court system does not compile eviction data from town and village courts. Putnam County does not have any cities.)

Nationally, the Census Bureau polls adults about their housing status for its Household Pulse Survey, which is updated every two weeks. About 34 percent of New York adults surveyed from April 14 to April 26 said they lived in households "not current on rent or mortgage where eviction or foreclosure in the next two months is either very likely or somewhat likely."

Dutchess' Department of Planning and Development distributed an informal survey to property owners in early March to gauge the level of arrears locally, said Anne Saylor, the county's deputy commissioner for housing. The survey drew responses from 48 landlords with a combined 5,640 of the county's roughly 36,000 total apartment units, she said.

Those owners reported 893 units in arrears, with the average renter behind 2.4 months and owing about \$4,300. More than three-fourths of those renters, 681, fell behind during the pandemic, said Saylor.

The average number of months that renters were behind during the 13-month-old pandemic may reflect the effectiveness of federal benefits, said Saylor. Renters who lost jobs during the pandemic have been able to receive supplemental unemployment payments approved by the federal government, first an extra \$600 a month and then an extra \$300 on top of what unemployed people received from their states.

"The government gave people money so they could pay their bills, and I think most people did that," she said.

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NOTICE

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will hold their regular monthly meeting on May 20th, 2021 7:30 p.m. virtually via Zoom.

If you would like to attend, please visit the following link: Register in advance for this webinar: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_HmZZqZ9YQWi8EmclhX81zA

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Join by phone: 1-646-558-8656 Passcode: 292851

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

OR, find the meeting through Zoom by searching the meeting ID above and inserting the password when prompted.

OR, email CROCKETT@PHILIPSTOWN.COM or NZUCKERMAN@PHILIPSTOWN.COM to request login information before 7 pm on May 20th, 2021.

If you are unable to join, please send any written comments to the above email addresses.

Mortgage Tax Income Soars for Philipstown

Putnam legislators OK arts grants, equipment bonds, security cameras

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

As COVID-19 surged in Putnam County, so did municipal income from the mortgage tax on home sales, according to data reviewed by the Putnam County Legislature on Tuesday (May 4).

Convening by audio connection, the legislators unanimously approved disbursement, countywide, of the \$3.2 million in revenue generated between Oct. 1 and March 31. Philipstown, Cold Spring and Nelsonville will receive nearly double what they got for the same period in 2019-20.

In Putnam County, the county and state tax on mortgages totals \$1.05 per \$100 of debt secured; the revenue reflects a growing number of homes and commercial buildings changing hands and/or larger mortgages.

The county total “is a significant amount of money for a six-month period,” noted Legislator Joseph Castellano of Brewster, who chairs the Audit and Administration Committee. “It shows we’re doing the right thing in Putnam. People are trying to move up to this county.”

The legislators also voted 8 to 0 (one lawmaker was absent) to approve \$13,000 in grants for 12 arts/cultural organizations, including three in Philipstown.

Recommended by the Putnam Arts Council, the recipients included the Butterfield Library in Cold Spring, which received \$800 for a yearlong series of events such as Writers Reading at the Library; \$1,500 to the Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival for its community playwriting program; and \$1,200 to Manotoga in Garrison for an installation and acoustic performances.

In addition, the Doansburg Chamber Ensemble of Mahopac, which performs at St. Mary’s Episcopal Church in Cold Spring, was awarded \$1,300; the Tompkins Corners Cultural Center in Putnam Valley received \$1,000 for a theater production; and Collaborative Concepts, which held its outdoor sculpture exhibition in Garrison before moving it to the county’s Tilly Foster Farm near Brewster last fall, will get \$1,000.

“It’s nice to see the investment in the arts, even if it’s a small” amount per group, said Legislator Nancy Montgomery, who represents Philipstown and part of Putnam Valley. “In Putnam County alone, arts and cultural organizations inject over \$6 million into the economy annually.” In fact, the arts account for “way more than they’re

given credit for,” Montgomery said. “It’s a huge industry in our region, some would say the only industry we have in Putnam County, certainly in my district.”

The legislators also unanimously approved the Sheriff’s Department plans to spend \$43,010 to replace patrol car cameras and to use income from the inmates’ commissary to buy oxygen tanks (\$885) and upgraded trauma-first aid kits (\$2,712) for the jail and vehicles; computer accessories (\$784) for the inmates’ law library; and 15 televisions (\$485 each) for inmate viewing (the sheriff had wanted 30).

They similarly concurred on a Health Department reshuffling that will enhance environmental health efforts while saving \$16,000 yearly. Montgomery observed that it is the third recent Health Department reorganization. Nonetheless, she added, “we’re beginning to give the Health Department the resources they need.” She said the department’s push to vaccinate residents against COVID-19 demonstrated “when they’re given the resources how successful they can be.”

Montgomery and her colleagues parted ways when it came to issuing \$500,000 in bonds to cover most of a \$668,500 price tag for a Highway Department brine tank and vehicles. Putnam expects New York State to contribute the remaining \$168,500. The

Mortgage Tax Revenue Jumps

	2019-20	2020-21
PUTNAM COUNTY	\$1,594,336	\$3,231,824
PHILIPSTOWN	\$200,843	\$391,527
COLD SPRING	\$16,422	\$32,474
NELSONVILLE	\$4,685	\$9,198

Source: Putnam County. For taxes collected from Oct. 1 to March 31

equipment is part of a program to upgrade such county roads as Snake Hill and the short stretch of Cold Spring’s Fair Street that extends beyond the village border.

“I’m really in support of infrastructure projects and improvement,” Montgomery said. Yet, “I don’t know why we have to bond for them. If we were better fiscal managers, we wouldn’t have to bond,” or borrow the money.

“It’s going to be a savings in the long run,” Castellano replied.

Montgomery also objected to allocating \$35,000 for security cameras in county office buildings. Legislators in 2017 approved \$82,537 for the system and appropriated \$75,000 more in 2020. Their latest resolution limits the maximum outlay to \$192,537.

“It seems a little excessive,” Montgomery said, before casting the lone “no” vote. “That money could well be put to use elsewhere.”

State Legislator Will Challenge Maloney

Opponent for Serino also announces campaign

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

The next election for Congress doesn’t occur for 18 months. But a state legislator from Orange County has already announced his intention to challenge Rep. Sean Patrick Maloney, a Democrat in his fifth, 2-year term representing the district that includes the Highlands

Maloney, 54, lives in Philipstown. He serves on the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, the Agriculture Committee and the Intelligence Committee and in December was elected chair of

the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee.

Colin Schmitt, 30, resides in New Windsor. He was elected to the state Assembly in 2018 and represents parts of Orange and Rockland counties. A sergeant in the Army National Guard, Schmitt works at his family’s real estate firm.

He launched his campaign last month, declaring that “Hudson Valley families need a strong voice in Washington who will protect taxpayers, create new jobs and stand up for our veterans and first responders.”



Schmitt

Schmitt promised, if elected, to “lead the fight against the radical socialist ideology that is driving [House speaker] Nancy Pelosi’s agenda and the liberal policies being advanced by Congressional Democrats.”

Schmitt faced criticism from Democrats in January when he spoke to two busloads of participants before they left for Washington, D.C., to participate in the “Stop the Steal” rally that preceded the riot at the Capitol. The Orange County Democratic Committee tweeted the image of Schmitt aboard the bus with a message accusing him of “supporting a busload of right-wing extremists” and “undermining our democracy.”

The *Times Herald-Record* in Albany reported on Jan. 7 that Schmitt declined to say if he supported the president’s claims of a stolen election.

When interviewed last month by Fox News, Schmitt claimed that Maloney “has voted 100 percent of the time with Nancy Pelosi” and “sold us out to get a partisan appointment” as chair of the DCCC “for his blind loyalty.”

After President Joe Biden’s April 28 address to Congress, Schmitt criticized a Democratic agenda that, he argued, “will expand the federal government’s reach into virtually every aspect of American life and finance it through massive tax increases and mountains of new debt that will impact generations of Hudson Valley residents.”

Questioned the next day on MSNBC about the president’s speech, Maloney described Republicans as having “run out of ideas.

They have no interest in governing,” only in “attacking the other side” and in exerting authority, he said. “It’s going to be a while before they come back to reality and start acting responsibly again. Until then, they should not be trusted with power.”

State Senate

On Monday (May 3), Jamie Cheney, a Rhinebeck farmer who owns a business that assists working parents, kicked off a campaign for the state Senate seat held by Sue Serino, a Republican who is also from Dutchess County and serving her third term. Serino defeated challenger Karen Smythe by a narrow margin in 2018 and by a more comfortable one in 2020.

Cheney, a Democrat, said that she chose to run because “as we’ve watched our community struggle throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, it is clear that upstate needs leadership and investment to recover and continue building our economy.

“As a small-business owner, farmer and mother to young children, I understand firsthand the hurdles so many families in our community faced this past year as they navigated the uncertainties of the pandemic and dealt with simultaneously working remotely and learning from home.”

Cheney operates Falcon’s Fields, a 60-head beef farm, with her husband.



Cheney



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THANKS TO NURSES — Wednesday (May 12) is International Nurses Day, celebrated on the birthday of Florence Nightingale. Putnam County Executive MaryEllen Odell this week praised the work of nurses from the county's Medical Reserve Corps for their work in vaccinating residents against COVID-19, including Jill Sussman and Felicia Saunders (left) and Vickie Maxino (right), shown inoculating Emily Shortell, a first-grade teacher at the Garrison School, on Jan. 28. The county's nursing staff has clocked more than 35,000 hours since the pandemic began, Odell said.

Photos provided

Coronavirus Update

■ State health officials said that, as of Wednesday (May 5), 10,471 people had tested positive for COVID-19 in Putnam County; 28,892 in Dutchess; 128,236 in Westchester; 46,483 in Rockland; 13,620 in Ulster; and 47,491 in Orange. Statewide, there have been 2,048,489 positives, including 920,091 in New York City. Statewide, 42,185 people had died.

■ The number of people with COVID-19 who are hospitalized in New York state as of May 5 stood at 2,335; the number in intensive care was 605; and the number of intubations was 371. In the Mid-Hudson Valley, 46 percent of hospital beds were available and 40 percent of ICU beds.

■ The governor extended his state of emergency order through May 27, allowing public meetings to continue to be held remotely.

■ The Small Business Administration is now accepting applications for its Restaurant Revitalization Fund, which provides up to \$10 million per business, and no more than \$5 million per physical location, for COVID-19-related losses. The funds do not have to be repaid as long as they are used for eligible expenses by March 11, 2023. To apply, see restaurants.sba.gov.

■ Dutchess and Putnam counties resumed use of the single-shot Johnson & Johnson vaccine after the federal government lifted a "pause" put in place over concerns about rare clotting in some recipients.

■ Heidi Snyder, the owner of Drug World in Cold Spring, said she is, for the first time, ordering Pfizer vaccines in anticipation that the federal government will approve the drug for administration to adolescents between 12

and 15 years old. Snyder, who already gives shots of the two-dose Moderna and single-dose Johnson & Johnson vaccines, said on Tuesday (May 4) that she has ordered 1,095 doses of Pfizer, which requires two shots. The company's drug is already approved for people as young as 16, and approval for children as young as 12 is expected soon. "If the kids can get their second vaccine two weeks before prom, they're going to have a great prom," said Snyder.

■ The Putnam County Department of Health will hold a clinic to administer the Pfizer vaccine on Tuesday (May 11) from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. at the Philipstown Recreation Center in Garrison for anyone age 16 or older. Walk-ins are welcome, or make an appointment at putnamcountyny.com/covid-19-vaccine-information.

■ People who are fully vaccinated (two weeks have passed since their final shot) do not have to wear masks outdoors, except when in crowds, and do not need to be restricted from work if asymptomatic after being exposed to someone positive for COVID-19, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said on April 27.

■ State prisons resumed inmate visits at maximum security facilities on April 28 and its remaining prisons on May 1.

■ As of May 5, according to the State COVID Report Card, Haldane had reported 39 students and 15 teachers/staff who had tested positive; Garrison reported 13 students and seven teachers/staff; and Beacon reported 108 students and 45 teachers/staff.

■ The Putnam County Department of Health is asking people who have not been vaccinated to share their reasons in an anonymous survey. See bit.ly/putnam-survey.

For more updates, see highlandscurrent.org.

OPENING DAYS

Mark your calendar as New York slowly reopens

MONDAY, MAY 10

The outdoor social gathering limit will increase to 500 from 200 people.

SATURDAY, MAY 15

Offices can expand to 75 percent capacity, from 50 percent.

MONDAY, MAY 17

The midnight curfew for bars and restaurants will end for outdoor areas.

The New York City subway will resume 24-hour service.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 19

Most business capacities — which are currently based on percentage of maximum occupancy — will be removed and businesses will only be limited by the space required for customers or parties of customers to maintain a distance of 6 feet. The guidance applies to retail, food services, gyms and fitness centers, amusement and family entertainment, hair salons, barber shops and other personal care services, as well as houses of worship.

The limit for indoor gatherings will increase to 250 people, from 100. The outdoor limit will increase to 500 from 25 with social distancing, and to 50 from 10 indoors. Gatherings can exceed the limits if all attendees have evidence of full vaccination or a recent negative COVID-19 test.

Large indoor venues can operate at 30 percent capacity, up from 10 percent, and outdoor venues can operate at 33 percent. Attendees must have evidence of full vaccination or a recent negative COVID-19 test result.

MONDAY, MAY 31

The midnight curfew for bars and restaurants will end for indoor areas.

TUESDAY, SEPT. 14

Broadway shows will be allowed to reopen.

COVID-19 by the Numbers

■ PUTNAM COUNTY

Number of confirmed cases:

10,471 (+67)

Active Cases in Philipstown: 2

Tests administered:

218,001 (+4,114)

Percent positive:

4.8 (-0.1)

Percent vaccinated:

52.0

Number of deaths:

91 (0)

■ DUTCHESS COUNTY

Number of confirmed cases:

28,892 (+305)

Active Cases in Beacon: 17

Tests administered:

711,348 (+16,008)

Percent positive:

4.1 (0)

Percent vaccinated:

48.8

Number of deaths:

442 (+1)

Source: State and county health departments, as of May 5, with weekly change in parentheses. Active cases in Philipstown as of April 29. Percent vaccinated reflects at least one dose.

HELP WANTED

Long Term Care Community Coalition (LTCCC) is seeking an individual to develop and implement an outreach, marketing and recruitment plan for two Long Term Care Ombudsman programs within the Hudson Valley. This is a short term assignment until September 30th.

We are looking for someone who is a self-starter, with experience, who can establish a working marketing and recruitment strategy to encompass 9 counties, Columbia, Dutchess, Greene, Putnam, Orange, Rockland, Sullivan, Ulster and Westchester.

The right candidate will work closely with the two Regional Coordinators within the counties to establish the best method for recruitment and marketing the program to potential volunteers and the general public. Skills needed for this assignment include organization, creativity, familiarity with non-profits, ability to recruit, digital literacy and regional knowledge/advertising awareness for each county.

Please send resume with cover letter to

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NEWS BRIEFS



The Open Space Institute bought a 32-acre property on Canopus Hollow Road in Putnam Valley.

OSI photo

Open Space Institute Buys Putnam Valley Land

Property seen as entry to Appalachian Trail, Fahnestock

The Open Space Institute has purchased a 32-acre property on Canopus Hollow Road in Putnam Valley that will provide access to the adjacent Appalachian Trail and Fahnestock State Park, which sits a half-mile north.

The property, which cost \$382,500, shares a 2,120-foot boundary to the east with the Appalachian Trail, which connects Hudson Highlands State Park with Fahnestock, and has a farm road that is a potential trailhead and parking area, said OSI in announcing the purchase on April 19.

More than 740 feet of a perennial stream and a 5-acre wetland also inhabit the property, as well as migratory birds, the Indiana bat and rare plants, said OSI, which plans to transfer the property to the state as an addition to Fahnestock.

John Lafata, whose family owned the 32 acres for more than 25 years, said that "now, the peacefulness I experienced there on the land will be shared with others."

Working Families Lawsuits Dismissed

Nominating petitions were submitted legally, judge rules

A state Supreme Court judge on April 30 rejected lawsuits filed by Republican voters and candidates around New York who sought to get Democratic candidates thrown off the Working Families Party ballot line in the November election.

The lawsuits, which were bundled into one case, attempted to disqualify the Working Families nominating petitions filed by Democratic candidates, including in Dutchess and Putnam counties, because party officials' and notaries' signatures were not "wet," or originals, but submitted digitally.

Judge Scott DelConte ruled that the filings are legal, citing an executive order by Gov. Andrew Cuomo last year that allowed electronic notarization and witnessing of nominating petitions because of the pandemic.

"There is simply no support" for the petitioners' arguments, based on the "plain and unambiguous" language of Cuomo's order, DelConte wrote in his decision.

Land Trust Seeks Input on 'Green Corridors'

Plan calls for connecting conservation areas

The Hudson Highlands Land Trust is surveying Philipstown residents about the natural resources they consider priorities for protecting, including open space, forests, streams and wildlife.

Responses will aid the development of the town's East Highlands Green Corridors Plan, which calls for using protected properties to link conservation areas.

The survey can be found at surveymonkey.com/r/Philipstown, and information on the Green Corridors Plan at hhlt.org.

HOWLAND CULTURAL CENTER

Sat. + Sun. — May 8 + 9
CONTEMPO EAST to PERFORM
Art show with 18 Asian-American artists
Weekends 1-5 pm thru May 30



Sat. May 8 — 8 pm
LIVESTREAM: THE ARTICHOKE
Our storytelling hour is back! Online tix: artichoke.show.com



Sat. May 15 — 8 pm
LIVESTREAM: WILLIAM PARKER
Elysium Furnace Works presents
the famed bassist, with Joe McPhee, sax
Livestream + OnDemand tix: howlandculturalcenter.tix.com



AND MORE:
May 23 — 8 pm: Streaming: ALIVEmusica
Cassatt String Quartet with Ursula Oppens, piano
May 29 — 11 am to noon: Classics for Kids
Music in the Park, a walking concert. Details to come.
There are no walk-up tickets at the door. In-house seating is limited
and may be available online, if you're early to book.

477 Main Street, Beacon, NY 12508
www.howlandculturalcenter.org (845) 831-4988
facebook.com/howlandcenterbeacon
howlandculturalcenter.tix.com

The Calendar

SCULPTING WITH sand

Magazzino to exhibit granular works

By Alison Rooney

A sculptor, designer and painter whose social and artistic circles included Willem de Kooning and Jackson Pollack, Constantino Nivola was born in Sardinia in 1911, the son of a mason. The passing of those skills from father to son laid the foundation for Nivola's large-scale reliefs, often used as building facades.

An exhibition on Nivola's work that opens at Magazzino Italian Art in Philipstown on Saturday (May 8) consists of about 50 objects, including sandstone reliefs, made first in plaster, then concrete; sculptures; and architectural maquettes, or models. The focus is Nivola's trailblazing sandcast sculpting techniques.

After attending an institute for the industrial arts and apprenticing for an artist, Nivola moved to Milan, where he began working as a graphic designer for Olivetti. With war approaching in 1939, he and his wife, Ruth Guggenheim, who was Jewish, fled Italy for Manhattan.

After trying to make ends meet for a few years, Nivola became the art director for a number of journals, says Teresa Kittler, Magazzino's 2020/21 scholar-in-residence, who curated the show with Chiara Mannarino.

The couple bought a house on the beach on the eastern end of Long Island, "where they and their children spent a lot of time playing in the sand," she says. "It's interesting that the sandcasting, which Nivola developed in the late 1940s, came about through trying to do something through an everyday activity."

The technique involved carving into wet sand and filling the negative space with the material which became the sculpture and, later, the piece of architecture. Under the mentoring of architect and designer Le Corbusier, Nivola kept experimenting. In 1953, he was commissioned by Olivetti to create a mural in its Fifth Avenue showroom.

"Not only was the scale vastly more ambitious, but he had to think about the practicalities of making and installing this large-scale work," Kittler says. "So he turned his studio outdoors, creating a garden studio. There are wonderful images of him turning portions of gardens into trenches, then casting with a



Nivola preparing the sand before casting in cement in East Hampton in the late 1950s

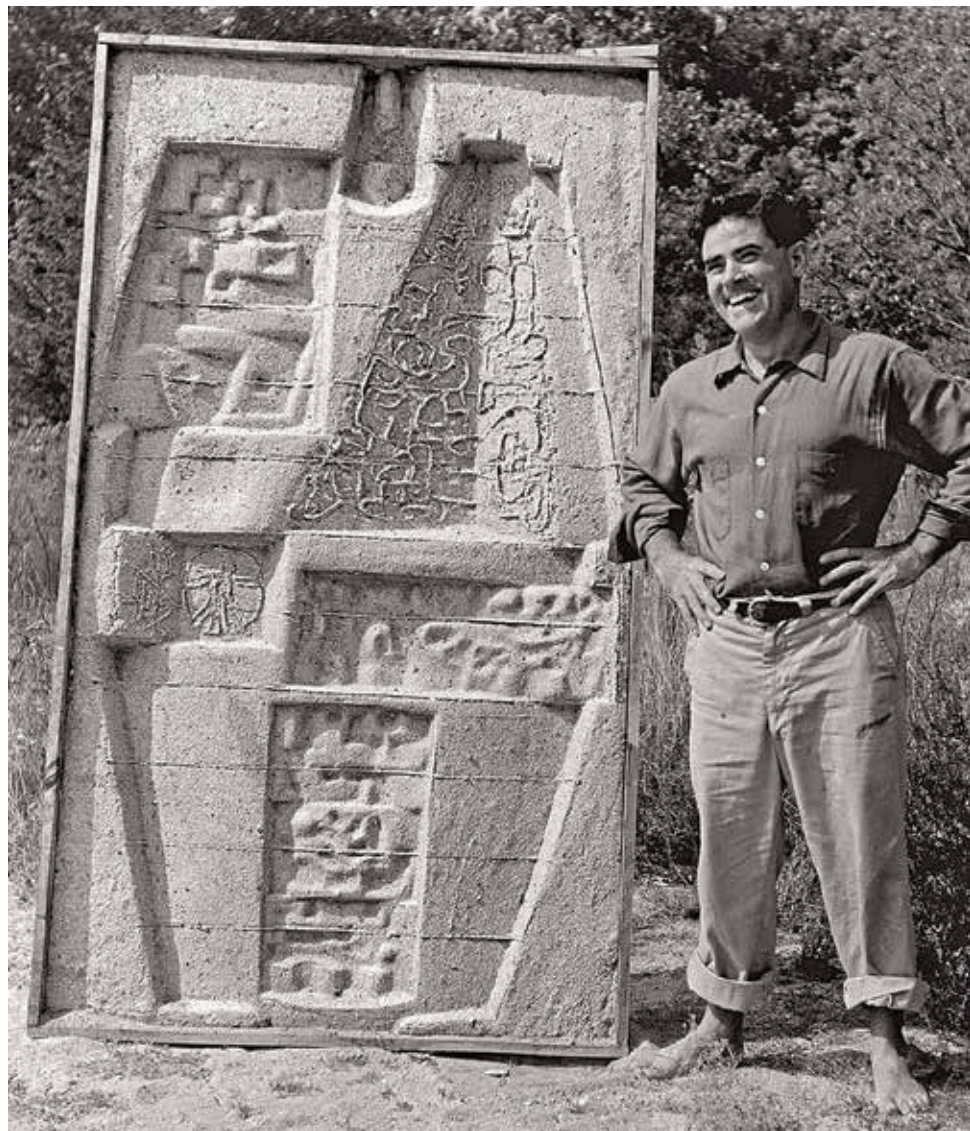
Photo by Dan Weiner



Wall with relief, from the *Building Blocks* series, in the garden of Nivola's home in Springs, East Hampton, 1955

thin layer of plaster, reinforced with cement, built up with concrete later."

Once they're cast, a layer of sand is locked in, "giving an almost stone-like quality to the reliefs," she says. "He's taking this working material and giving it this quality of



Nivola in the garden at Springs, East Hampton, in the mid 1950s, with the model for William E. Grady Vocational High School

Photo by Richard Stein



Nivola at work on reliefs for the facade of Mutual of Hartford Insurance Company in the summer of 1957.

Images courtesy of Fondazione Nivola

something much richer."

Nivola's early experience in masonry and construction became useful as he calculated how to transport and install extremely heavy pieces with cranes, trucks and trains. He was using "modern, cheap

materials on a monumental scale, involving coordination, and transportation challenge in an ordinary to extraordinary transformation," she notes.

Nivola's work began to gain attention in Italy. He also was a social "center of gravity" for a large group of artists, says Kittler. "In some ways he was quite shy, but also charismatic, energetic and spontaneous, and he hosted lots of events at his house — big barbecues, with music."

Magazzino co-founder Giorgio Spanu, a fellow Sardinian, has been interested in Nivola's work for years, says Kittler, who is a lecturer in modern and contemporary art at the University of York in the U.K. "This project has been in the pipeline for many years, and now felt like the right moment to be thinking of an artist who was interested in the intersection of art and architecture. It's quite exciting to show works rarely exhibited and to bring together the work from various institutions."

Magazzino Italian Art, located at 2700 Route 9 in Philipstown, is open 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. from Thursday to Monday. For reservations, see magazzino.art/booking. The exhibit, organized in collaboration with the Sardinian-based Nivola Foundation and the Italian Embassy in Washington, continues through Jan. 10.

THE WEEK AHEAD

Edited by Pamela Doan (calendar@highlandscurrent.org)

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

COMMUNITY

SAT 8

Veterans' Open House

BEACON

Noon – 5 p.m. Memorial Hall
413 Main St.

The American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars will hold an open house, offering water and remembrance poppies and selling lunches. A flag ceremony will be held at 5 p.m.

SAT 8

Bird-a-thon

HIGHLANDS

5 p.m. Various locations
putnamhighlandsaudubon.org

The Putnam Highlands Audubon hosts this annual fundraiser in which four teams plus backyard birdwatchers, beginning FRI 7, spend 24 hours scouring for bird species at Constitution Marsh and other locations.

SUN 9

Mother's Day Tea

PHILIPSTOWN

10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Stonecrop
81 Stonecrop Lane | 845-265-2000
stonecrop.org

Tea and cake will be available for purchase in the garden. Register online.

WED 12

Car Cruise

BEACON

5 – 9 p.m. Elks Lodge | 900 Wolcott Ave.
845-420-4606 | beaconelks.com

The Elks relaunch their weekly show of vintage sedans, convertibles, trucks and motorcycles. There is also food, music and raffles. Registration is \$5; admission is free.

FRI 14

Manitoga Opens

GARRISON

11 a.m. Manitoga | 584 Route 9D
845-424-3812 | visitmanitoga.org

The former home, studio and garden of industrial designer Russel Wright (1904-1976) opens for the season with tours and an installation by lighting designer and artist Derek Porter.

SAT 15

Funminster Dog Show

PATTERSON

Noon – 3 p.m. Rec Center | 65 Front St.

All friendly, leashed dogs are welcome to compete in any of eight categories, including Wiggly Butt, Largest Dog, Smallest Dog and Best Senior, during this third annual fundraiser for Putnam Service Dogs. Register from noon to 1 p.m. for \$20 per dog. *Cost: \$15 (\$5 ages 10 and younger)*



Car Cruise, May 8

KIDS & FAMILY

SAT 8

Mother's Day Story Walk

COLD SPRING

Butterfield Library | 10 Morris Ave.
845-265-3040 | butterfieldlibrary.org

Stroll the library's paths to enjoy a themed story.

SAT 8

Kids' Program & Tour

GARRISON

10 a.m. Boscobel
845-265-3638 | boscobel.org

This virtual tour for families will focus each month on an object from Boscobel's collection. The May item is a teacup. *Cost: \$9*

THURS 13

Superhero Storytime

GARRISON

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

Princess Leia will read, sing and play games with children via Zoom.

FRI 14

Ramadan Through a Child's Eyes

BEACON

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

In this interactive performance, learn how an African American Muslim family celebrates the religion's holy month from the perspective of an 8-year-old girl. Email youth@beaconlibrary.org to join the Zoom event.

SAT 15

Poetry Sculptors Poetry Circle

COLD SPRING

2:15 p.m. Butterfield Library
10 Morris Ave. | 845-265-3040
butterfieldlibrary.org

Led by eighth-grader Rain Lee,

this group for students ages 9 to 15 will read and share poems.

VISUAL ARTS

SAT 8

ArtQUAKE

GARRISON

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

David Provan curated this exhibit by 18 artists whose works are an optical illusion or spin, whirl, walk or move. Through May 16.

SAT 8

Sandscapes

COLD SPRING

11 a.m. – 5 p.m. Magazzino
2700 Route 9 | maggazzino.art

This exhibit will showcase the work of Costantino Nivola, a Sardinian artist who creates sculptures through sandcasting. Register online to visit. See Page 13.

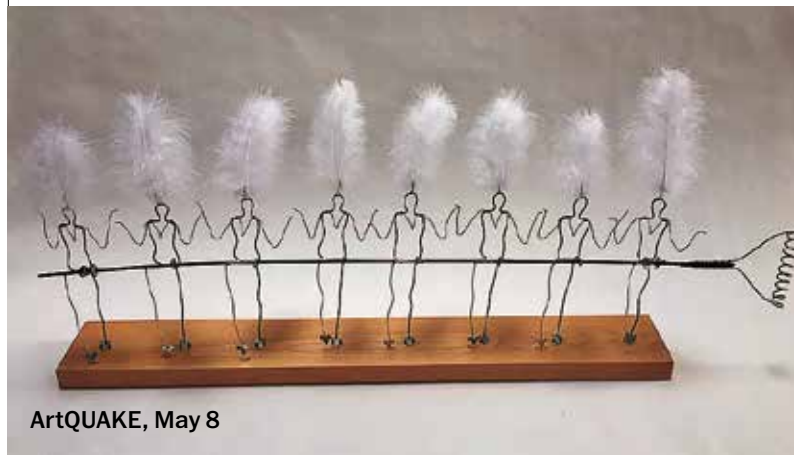
SAT 8

Sandbox | Schism

BEACON

Noon – 6 p.m. BAU Gallery
506 Main St. | 845-440-7584
baugallery.org

Lukas Milanak's interactive



ArtQUAKE, May 8

installation will explore the hidden world of nature, while John De Marco's abstract landscapes will be on view in Gallery 2 and a group show will be in the Beacon Room. Through June 6.

SAT 8

Klav 9's Tank Club

BEACON

6 – 9 p.m. Clutter Gallery
163 Main St. | 212-255-2505
shop.cluttermagazine.com/gallery

The custom show celebrates Klav's first sofubi figure, the TANK. The gallery will also present a solo show by Jared CircusBear. Through June 5.

TUES 11

Introduction to Calligraphy

POUGHKEEPSIE

6:30 p.m. Arts Mid-Hudson
845-454-3222 | artsmidhudson.org

This will be the first of three weekly classes taught by Jim Bennett to explore the pens, inks and traditional techniques of the art. *Cost: \$82 (\$67 members)*

THURS 13

Robert Irwin

BEACON

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

Watch online as Dia educators discuss the artist's immersive, site-specific installation works.

SAT 15

Drawing Within and Without

GARRISON

10:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.
Garrison Art Center
23 Garrison's Landing | 845-424-3960
garrisonartcenter.org

Christina Di Marco's workshop will kick off a series of eight one-day classes covering painting, silk screening, bookmaking, knitting and other crafts. Class will be held outside, weather permitting. Register online. *Cost: \$55*

SAT 15

Low Fidelity

BEACON

6 – 9 p.m. The Lofts at Beacon
18 Front St. | 845-202-7211
loftsatbeacon.com

The exhibit will showcase photographs by Bobby Grossman of the New York City downtown scene from 1975 to 1983, with shots of David Bowie, Jean-Michel Basquiat and others. Through July 17.

TALKS & TOURS

SAT 8

Vernal Pool Exploration & Bird Walk

WAPPINGERS FALLS

10 & 11:30 a.m. Stony Kill Farm
79 Farmstead Lane | stonykill.org

This program will look at the abundant nature on the trails and landscape. *Cost: \$5*

MON 10

Jumpstarting Poems With Art

POUGHKEEPSIE

7 p.m. Arts Mid-Hudson | 845-454-3222
artsmidhudson.org/workshops

Raphael Kosek, an English professor and poet, will lead this workshop via Zoom on how to use works of fine art to help you describe and react to what you are seeing and feeling. Register online. *Cost: \$45 (\$30 members)*

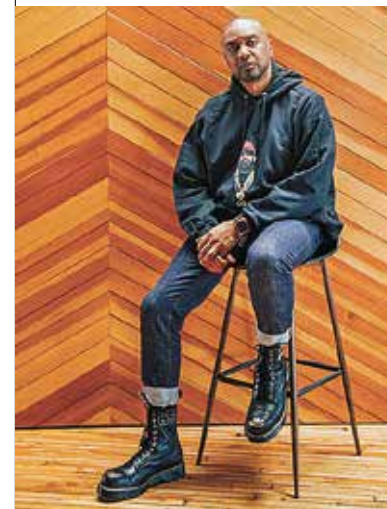
WED 12

Resmaa Menakem

BEACON

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

The therapist, founder of Justice Leadership Solutions and author of *My Grandmother's Hands: Racialized Trauma and the Pathway to Mending Our Hearts and Bodies*, will discuss his work via Zoom.



THURS 13

Tony Hiss

GARRISON

2 p.m. Garrison Institute
garrisoninstitute.org

As part of the Pathways to Planetary Health series, the writer and scholar will discuss setting aside half of the planet to conserve biodiversity and regenerate lands and oceans.

SAT 15

Life Among the Lenape

FORT MONTGOMERY

10:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. 690 Route 9W
845-446-2134 | parks.ny.gov

Learn about what life was like for local Native Americans and see demonstrations of skills they used.

SUN 16

The Inspired Garden Journal

COLD SPRING

10 a.m. Supplies for Creative Living
suppliesforcreativeliving.com

In the first of two sessions via Zoom, participants will learn how
(Continued on Page 15)

(Continued from Page 14)

to record and observe the natural world and track their gardening project's progress. *Cost: \$65*

MUSIC

SAT 8

Catherine Russell

KATONAH

8 p.m. Caramoor

914-232-1252 | caramoor.org

The Grammy Award-winning jazz vocalist will perform familiar favorites and music from her latest album, *Alone Together*, in this livestreamed concert. *Cost: \$15, \$30, \$45*

SAT 15

William Parker

BEACON

8 p.m. Howland Cultural Center

477 Main St. | 845-831-4988

onthestage.com/howland-cultural-center

The jazz musician will perform and speak with Cisco Bradley, author of *Universal Tonality: The Life and Music of William Parker*. The 24 in-person seats are sold-out but the show will be available by livestream. See Page 16. *Cost: \$20*

STAGE & SCREEN

SAT 8

Into the Woods Jr.

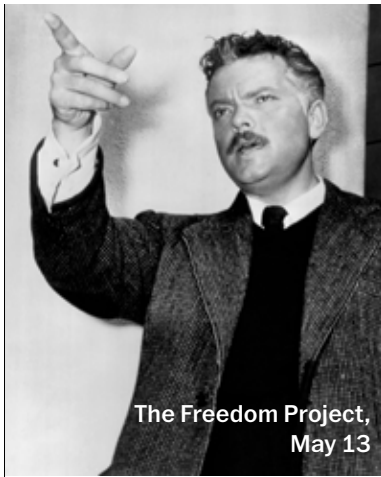
BEACON

11 a.m., 1:30 & 4 p.m.

University Settlement | 724 Wolcott Ave.

beaconperformingartscenter.com

The Beacon Performing Arts



Center returns to live performance with this fairy tale musical, which will be performed outdoors. Also SUN 9. *Cost: \$10*

SAT 8

The Artichoke

BEACON

8 p.m. Howland Cultural Center

477 Main St. | 845-831-4988

artichokeshow.com

Gastor Almonte, Paula Croxson, Michaela Murphy, Jim O'Grady, Anoush Froundjian and Jeff Simmermon will perform in the return of the popular storytelling series to a live audience. Everyone attending in-person must provide proof of vaccination or a negative COVID test after TUES 4. Tickets for virtual viewing are also available. *Cost: \$15*



THURS 13

The Freedom Project

GARRISON

6:30 p.m. Philipstown Depot Theatre

845-424-3900 |

philipstowndepottheatre.org

This project, presented in three parts, will pair contemporary and vintage plays. For Part 1, *The Secret Secrets of Wonderland County*, by John Pielmeier, can be viewed with *His Honor, The Mayor*, by Orson Welles. The performances will be available online until 8 p.m. on SUN 16. *Cost: \$15 (\$10 students)*

FRI 14

Three Ages (1923)

COLD SPRING

7 p.m. Butterfield Library

845-265-3040 | butterfieldlibrary.org

Buster Keaton directed and starred in this silent film, time-traveling to the Stone Age, Roman Age and the Modern Age in three tales of love and romance. Register to watch via Zoom with a live musical score created by Cary Brown.

CIVIC

MON 10

City Council

BEACON

7 p.m. Via Zoom

845-838-5011 | cityofbeacon.org

MON 10

Budget Hearing

BEACON

7 p.m. Beacon High School

845-838-6900 | beaconk12.org

TUES 11

Meet the School Board Candidates

COLD SPRING

7 p.m. Haldane

845-265-9254 | haldaneschool.org

Sponsored by the Haldane PTA.

TUES 11

Board of Trustees

COLD SPRING

7:30 p.m. Via Zoom

845-265-3611 | coldspringny.gov

WED 12

Budget Forum

COLD SPRING

9:30 a.m. Haldane

845-265-9254 | haldaneschool.org

WED 12

Village Board

NELSONVILLE

7 p.m. Via Zoom

845-265-2500 | nelsonvilleny.gov



BOBBY GROSSMAN PHOTOGRAPHS: LOW FIDELITY MAY 15TH - JULY 17TH 2021

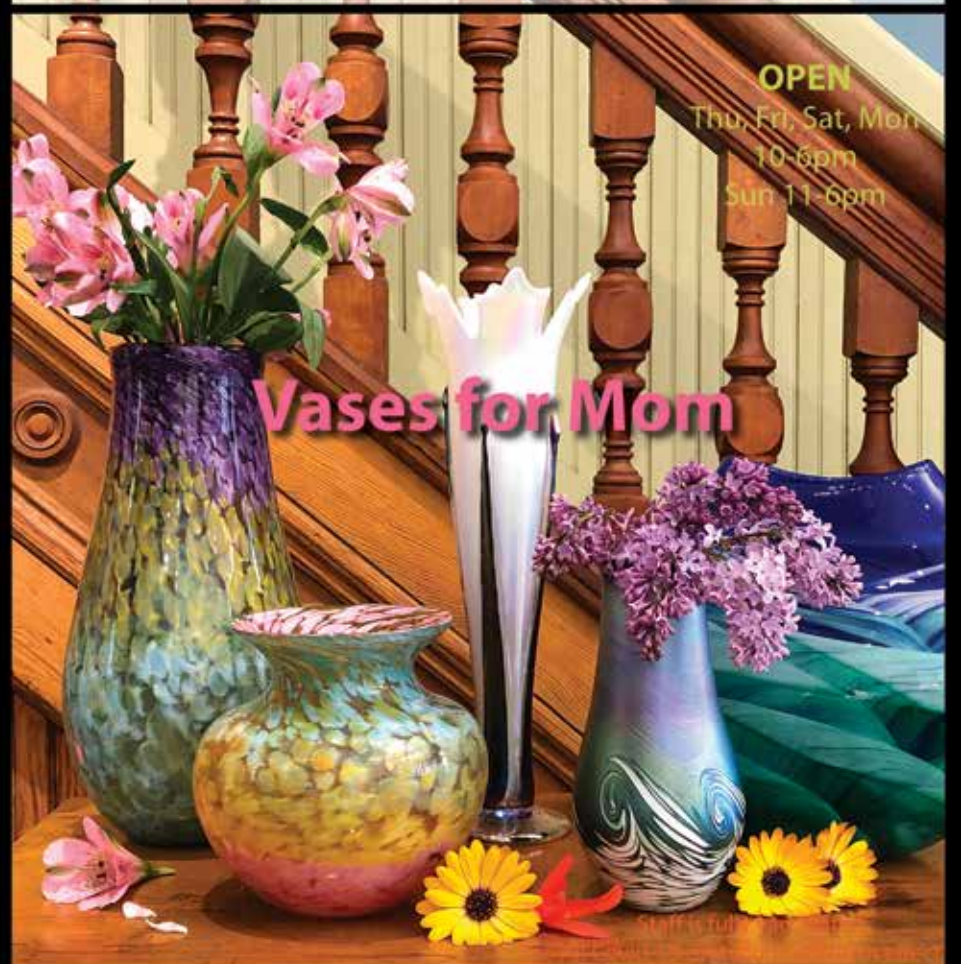
Photographer Bobby Grossman will be presenting a collection of photos from his Low Fidelity Series 1975-1983 at The Lofts at Beacon, May 15th through July 17th. These iconic images document the New York City Downtown Scene centered around the fabled nightspots CBGB and The Mudd Club as well as Andy Warhol's Factory at Union Square. Grossman's images include informal portraits and candid shots of David Bowie, Warhol, Jean-Michel Basquiat, Fab 5 Freddy, William S. Burroughs, Blondie, Ramones, Talking Heads and the infamous Late-night public access television show Glenn O'Brien's TV Party. Mr. Grossman has also included images from his celebrated Doom & Destiny Collaboration with renowned visual artist Shepard Fairey.

- The exhibition opens Saturday May 15th with a social distanced gathering from 6:00-9:00 pm.
- Wine, soft drinks, and snacks will be served.
- Music provided by Rachel Camp Teenage Kicks WXBC Bard

The Lofts at Beacon, 18 Front Street,
Beacon, New York 12508

Contact: Lauren Schmidt (845) 202-7211
Email: lauren@beaconhip.com

Hudson Beach Glass



162 Main Street, Beacon, NY 12508 845-440-0068
www.hudsonbeachglass.com

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

A Giant in Experimental Jazz

William Parker to perform at Howland

By Alison Rooney

William Parker, one of the New York City experimental jazz scene's most venerated musicians and mentors, will perform at the Howland Cultural Center in Beacon on Saturday (May 15) in a show that has already sold out, although tickets are available for a livestream.

The performance, presented by Elysium Furnace Works, will feature a set with saxophonist Joe McPhee and an interview with Cisco Bradley, author of a new Parker biography, *Universal Tonicity*.

Parker's predominant instrument is the bass, but he also performs on the shakuhachi, a Japanese and Chinese flute; double reeds; tuba; donsongoni, a traditional guitar of Mali; and guembri, a sub-Saharan stringed instrument. Along with European free-jazz, he has been influenced by music of Africa and the Americas.

“He has never stopped believing in improvised music as a revolutionary activity.” ~Cisco Bradley

Born in 1952, and largely self-taught, Parker started playing professionally when he was about 20. He also began composing everything from big-band music to solo and chamber works. His compositions span the range of operas, oratorios, ballets, film



William Parker
Photo by Peter Gannushkin

scores and soliloquies for solo instruments.

His output as a musician, band leader and composer has been included on some 400 albums; *The Penguin Guide to Jazz on CD* called him “the most influential bassist/leader since Mingus.” He is known in experimental jazz circles for his collaboration with pianist Cecil Taylor, which began in 1980. Influenced by Sun Ra and Butch Morris, Parker founded the ensembles In Order To Survive and The Little Huey Creative Music Orchestra.

Parker teaches at universities, conducts music workshops and collaborates on projects with his wife, Patricia Nicholson, a dancer and choreographer. “He has never stopped believing in improvised music as a revolutionary activity,” Bradley writes in his book.

Tickets for the livestream are \$20 at howlandculturalcentertix.com. Universal Tonicity is available at Binnacle Books in Beacon.

Start Reading Now

May book club selections

Helen Savoit Book Club
TUES 11, 1:30 P.M.

The Painted Veil, by W. Somerset Maugham
Howland Public Library, Beacon
Meeting outdoors (rain date WED 12)

Reading with Writers
WED 12, 7 P.M.

The Path of Least Resistance, by Robert Fritz
Split Rock Books, Cold Spring (via Zoom)
Register at splitrockbks.com.

Butterfield Book Club
MON 17, 7 P.M.

American Dirt, by Jeanine Cummins
Butterfield Library, Cold Spring (Via Zoom)
Email janedemic@butterfieldlibrary.org.

Graphic Novel Book Club (for Adults)
TUES 18, 7 P.M.

Shortcomings, by Adrian Tomine
Split Rock Books, Cold Spring (via Zoom)
Register at splitrockbks.com.

History Book Club
THURS 20, 7 P.M.

The Years of Lyndon Johnson: The Path to Power, by Robert Caro
Split Rock Books, Cold Spring (via Zoom)
Register at splitrockbks.com.

Beacon Book Club
THURS 27, 7:30 P.M.

The Dutch House, by Ann Patchett
Online location visible to members
Register at meetup.com/Beacon-BookClub.

Kid Friendly

Do As I Say

By Katie Hellmuth Martin

What happens when the little people we raise do exactly as we taught them to do?

And what if that action item was not done when or how we imagined, and at an inconvenient time for our own life?

Do we know we are looking at success? Or are we shaken because our little person challenged us, using the authority and confidence we are trying to instill? Will we recognize it? Or will we gaslight the child into silence and subservience?

I'll provide a real-life situation many parents have experienced, and then I'll share what my daughter is growing through now.

You are picking up your child from a play-date. You are talking to the parent, who has grown into a friend, and this is one of the only times you get to see each other. You have stepped into their house to pick up your child, whom you have called for, and your child is gathering shoes. With shoes on, your child notices that you are still talking. They wait, tap their feet, and then scamper away to play.

You continue talking to your friend for 10 minutes, until there is a lull. You notice your child is no longer there. You call: "Child! Come on! We have to go!" Child returns to your side, and you and your friend begin another conversation, and the cycle repeats, with you scolding: "You always do this! We have to go!" To which, for the first time, your child responds: "But *you* were talking! I was waiting!"

Bam. How do you feel? Defensive? Like this didn't happen? How dare they! "Don't speak to me that way!" you say. "I have been waiting and waiting for you, Child!" And the two of you are frustrated at each other. But did your child just speak the truth? And did you gaslight to make it feel like it wasn't you who caused the delay?

Speaking up is hard. Saying the right thing is hard. Knowing what the right

thing is is hard. That moment your child talked back (or spoke up) may have been your success, where it feels like a talking-back-to but was a truthful statement.

My daughter is a responder. She responds and lets her thoughts out. Even if the conversation has gone pretty far and she's sad and getting defeated, she doesn't give up. I fear sometimes that in our hard discussions, when I am pounding my point, willing her into submission to see things my way (usually in a behavioral brother/sister fight discussion), that I am breaking her.

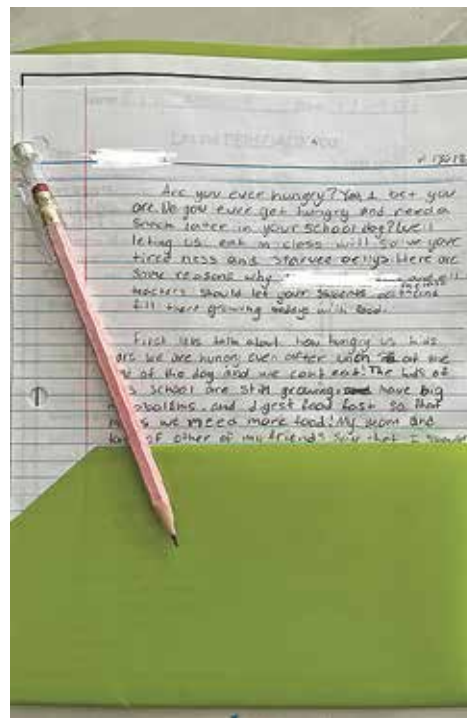
When she doesn't give up, as sad and mad as she can be, I am so grateful that her spirit is so strong. I am also a responder. A delayed responder usually, but I talk back. While she may not be doing what I say, she may be doing what I do. Parenting myself in that way is obviously... challenging. I am dealing with a mini-me, as I know how I feel and I don't want to be crushed.

In school, my daughter is learning to persuade in her writing class. Her teacher is teaching her the paragraph structure of a compelling argument to get something done. Out of the blue one morning, after my daughter and I finished our terse argument about why she didn't complete a particularly long fraction homework problem, she shared a new development with me.

She shared: "I'm having a hunger protest."

"A hunger protest?" I said.

"Yes," she answered. "We are all hungry in class and we want to eat snacks. But our teacher won't let us. I wrote my essay about it, and my teacher thought it was good. My



Making her argument

Photo by K. Martin

friend said she is going to make a sign."

I was a little perplexed. Essay?

That's when I went to her folder and saw that, indeed, she is learning the art of structuring a compelling argument. But did her teacher realize that she took this assignment seriously?

The writing assignment sheet has blanks to fill in. This is how it reads:

Topic Sentence: I think you should... "Let us eat in class."

Reason 1: "Teacher should because sometimes us kids are hungry even after lunch and we can't eat!"

Evidence Sentence: "We have big metabolisms and are growing so we need food."

Reason 2: "We would be quiet and of course we would not eat loud things that caused distraction."

Evidence Sentence: "We would be quiet because we are chewing and not talking."

Reason 3: "Food energizes people when they don't have any energy."

Evidence Sentence: "My class is always tired and it is hard to focus when you don't have any energy."

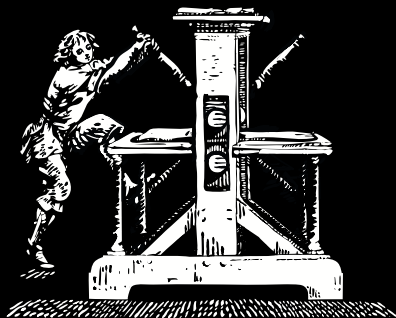
Concluding Sentence: Now you know why I think you should... "Let us eat in class."

Well, then. I can't wait to see what happens! But I wonder if the teachers were expecting this lesson to cross over into a real-life push for change. Or, if the discussion stays with reasons of why eating in class can't happen. I have also learned that she signed up for student council and goes to meetings. Perhaps she will bring this up and push on that student council teacher to let her make a slide show, even if it wasn't part of the plan?

This is kind of like the Beacon bathrooms issue, in which the public bathrooms were mostly closed for decades, with various explanations, until Beaconites protested the 2021 city budget (with signs and megaphones and coordinated call-ins to meetings), which resulted in funding for the opening and cleaning of bathrooms.

Tune in next month!

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Small, Good Things

Pressing Engagement

By Joe Dizney

The always entertaining and usually en pointe Paris-based chef and food writer David Lebovitz sent out his May newsletter last week.



The first couple of paragraphs self-deprecatingly apologized for almost sending one dated 2020, as he admitted to not quite being up to cognitive speed yet accepting that it is 2021, what with the Great Pause.

That said, it took him a corrective email to say that he realized after sending the May 2021 newsletter that he had dated it April.

I must admit to identifying with such uncharacteristic confusion.

In addition to expounding on his usual infatuations and curiosities, Lebovitz absolutely had to report on the most recent melodrama in the culinary blogosphere: Last week, the news site Eater broke the news that Epicurious, Condé Nast's culinary online channel, would no longer publish recipes containing beef.

Epicurious was publicly acknowledging an effort, begun in 2019, to align itself with the growing awareness that beef (and bovine dairy) farming is one of the most egregious environmental producers of greenhouse gases (here, methane) and that our demand for and consumption of beef is one of the leading culprits in our atmospheric environmental emergency — and also one of the most easily corrected.

As radical a prospect as that seems, I

could live without beef, as long as I still have ethically and sustainably sourced pork, poultry, eggs and lamb. But please! Don't take away my butter.

I am ready to capitulate and do my part for our beleaguered planet, prompted by these arguments and the encouragement of our community eco-warriors, the Ecological Citizen's Project and its Philipstown Fights Dirty campaign.

Back to Lebovitz for a moment: In the same May (formerly April) newsletter, he uses a word to describe people interested in sustainable and responsible agriculture: *engagés*. Loosely translated as "the engaged" or "the committed," it is a lovely poetic and noble description for anyone who cares about the future of life on earth and gives me something to aspire to.

What does this have to do with ramp pesto? Not much, outside the fact that here I've avoided using the usual parmesan, substituting white miso paste for a similar umami.

“Ramps are truly wild things and we are getting to the end of their season.”

Ramps (*allium tricoccum*) are truly wild things and we are getting to the end of their season, so this is somewhat of a pressing engagement. They are also slow-growing, and over- or incorrectly harvesting wild ramps is another environmental issue. Never dig up the roots and bulbs — cut the broad leaves and tough stalks at least an inch above ground and never take all the leaves from one bulb clump. Leaving the bulbs intact with some foliage (for photosynthesis) encourages the plant to continue flowering, flourishing and reproducing, ensuring future responsible harvests.



Ramp Pesto

Makes about 1½ cups; use within three days or freeze

- | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| ½ pound ramps (trim lower tough stems from the broad leaves, chop roughly and reserve separately) | ½ cup flat leaf parsley |
| 1 to 2 cloves garlic | Juice of one lemon |
| ½ cup toasted walnuts | 2 tablespoons sweet white miso |
| 2 tablespoons tarragon leaves | Olive oil |
| | Salt and fresh ground pepper to taste |

1. In a small skillet, heat and sauté the chopped ramp stems and garlic over medium-low heat for about five minutes. Don't allow them to color. Reserve. Fill a pot (large enough to hold the ramp leaves) with water. Bring it to a medium boil and salt it. Blanch the ramp leaves for no more than a minute, drain and rinse under cold water. Squeeze out excess water.
2. Process all ingredients in the bowl of a food processor or high-speed blender adding just enough olive oil for a slightly loose consistence. Taste and adjust seasoning.

Serving: Ramp pesto is shown here tossed with spelt fettuccine and quickly sautéed asparagus and locally foraged morels (should you be so lucky). Toss it with any pasta and vegetable combo or use it as a dressing for new potatoes or in a bean salad.

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days/week is optimal, but flexible for the right person. Email lara.tabatznik@gmail.com.

GARDENER — Full-time, year-round gardener position available in Garrison. Available immediately to work with two other gardeners on a large private property. Knowledge of vegetable planting, weeding, pruning, harvesting. Greenhouse management a plus. If no experience, we will train. Salary commensurate with experience. Spanish-speaking a plus. Personal references required. Email application to dianaschulte3@gmail.com.

ASSISTANT GARDENER — Garrison/Cold Spring area, 3 to 4 days per week, available immediately to assist an experienced, knowledgeable gardener on a private estate (tasks include weeding, pruning, watering etc.). Salary based on experience. References required. Email resume and references to lisannpetrini@gmail.com.

COOK — Doug's Pretty Good Pub in Cold Spring is looking for a reliable cook for our kitchen 20 to 25 hours per week. Experience is helpful, but if you show an eagerness to learn we will train the

right person. Good pay, weekly bonus, no late nights, or early mornings. Call 845-265-9500. If no one answers, please leave a message.

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

AROUND TOWN



◀ **CLEANOUT** — Rachel Follari of Beacon last weekend assisted her 95-year-old grandmother in selling thousands of items of clothing, shoes, hats, gloves and purses she collected over “70 years of compulsive shopping” before moving from a Queens apartment to a senior community in Poughkeepsie. “What you see is probably about 1/16th of what we have in storage,” said Follari. She plans to have another sale on Grace Street on May 22.

Photos by Allen Alter



◀ **CLEANUP** — Racine Berkow of Beacon and Peter Hock of Otisville were among the volunteers who picked up trash on May 1 at Denning's Point during an event organized by Clarkson University's Beacon Institute for Rivers and Estuaries for the 10th annual Riverkeeper Sweep.



▲ **BACK LIVE (OUTDOORS)** — The Philipstown Depot Theatre in Garrison last week premiered *The Scream*, a musical comedy fantasy in which a reclusive couple steals the Munch masterpiece only to find the image haunting them. It was written by Simon Gray, Raymond Bokhour and David Bridel, directed by Christine Bokhour and featured Drew McVety, Kevyn Murrow, Ryan Lowe, Lisa Sabin and Maia Guest (shown here), with accompaniment on the keyboards by Gray.

Photo by Ross Corsair

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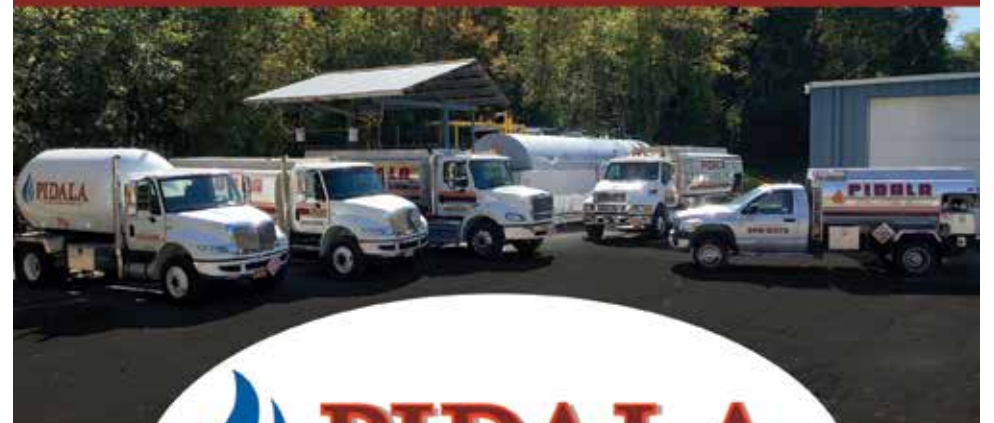


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INDIAN POINT *(from Page 1)*

which shut down on April 30 — the state is again turning to wind power on Long Island. But a lot has changed in 17 years. The era of symbolic renewable energy, of ineffectual wind turbines at shuttered nuclear plants and solar panels erected on the roof of Jimmy Carter's White House that barely generated enough electricity to heat water for the laundry room, is over.

By the end of 2022, more than 30 miles off the coast of Montauk, 130 megawatts of offshore wind energy will be in operation, 1,300 times more power than the energy created by the original Shoreham turbines. That 130-megawatt output gets less impressive when one compares it to the 2,000 megawatts that Indian Point generated when Reactor 2 (which shut down last year,) and Reactor 3 (which shut down last week) were operational.

There's more on the way, including about 4,170 megawatts of offshore wind that the state has in development off the south coast of Long Island. By 2035, the total amount of offshore wind coming from Long Island is targeted at 9,000 megawatts, 4.5 times the amount of energy Indian Point was generating at its peak.

The state will need every last one of those watts if it wants to hit its target of 70 percent renewable energy by 2030 and a zero-emission grid by 2040.

According to a report issued this week by the New York Independent System Operator (NYISO), the agency that manages the power grid, the state is already getting more than half of its power from renewable sources. But 25 percent of its total power comes from three remaining nuclear plants located upstate. The remaining renewables consist of hydro-electric (24 percent) and wind (4 percent). Solar is lumped in the "other" category that makes up the remaining 2 percent.

Paul Gallay, the executive director of Riverkeeper, the environmental advocacy organization that in 2017 helped negotiate the shutdown of Indian Point between its owner, Entergy, and New York State, expects the percentages from wind and solar to be rising soon. "We've had a huge head start with the four years since the [Indian Point] agreement was struck," he said, noting that



The Shoreham nuclear plant on Long Island was decommissioned in 1994.

Photo by Paul Searing

the state has put out more than 80 contracts for large-scale solar and wind projects.

Some of the changes that will allow the state to hit its targets are not about generating more power, but using less of it. The state passed a law in 2017 requiring suppliers to increase efficiency by at least 3 percent annually through 2025. "Energy efficiency alone is going to replace Indian Point," Gallay said. "It's kind of the unsung hero of this story."

While the state waits for the next wave of renewables and efficiency upgrades, other sources of power will have to pick up the slack downstate. When the Indian Point closure was announced, NYISO conducted a study and concluded it would have no negative effect on the grid, primarily because of two new natural-gas plants in the Hudson Valley: Cricket Valley Energy Center in Dover and the CPV Valley Energy Plant in Middletown.

So did renewables and efficiency upgrades replace Indian Point? Or natural gas? It depends on what you mean by *replace*.

The 10 percent problem

The grid is constantly in flux, so it's

nearly impossible to say what kind of energy is powering the lights in any particular house at this moment. "There's no 1-to-1" where the power generated by Reactor 3 at Indian Point will now come from another single source, explained Hayley Carlock, the director of environmental advocacy and legal affairs at Scenic Hudson. "That's not the way that the grid works."

It can be said that Indian Point did not provide power to the Highlands; its megawatts went to Westchester and New York City. But what the shutdown may mean is that Cricket Valley and CPV Valley will have to provide more power over the next few years until renewable projects hit the grid, which could mean, in a worst-case scenario, slightly more local air pollution and carbon emissions, Carlock said.

Neither Cricket Valley nor the CPV Valley plants is outputting at full capacity. Tom Rumsey, a CPV representative, said the plant did not have to increase its production in the wake of the shutdown last year of Indian Point's Reactor 2 and doesn't foresee an increase without Reactor 3.

In Rumsey's view, Cricket Valley and CPV didn't "replace" Indian Point, they replaced older fossil fuel sources, to the benefit of the region. "We are displacing much older generation due to better economics, less fuel and lower emissions," he said. "This advantage was realized with or without Indian Point. By displacing older generation, CPV Valley has reduced regional CO2 emissions by nearly half a million tons per year."

Improvements to the grid will also play a role. Officials at NYISO often refer to "the tale of two grids": The upstate grid has a surplus of renewable energy and the downstate grid has a deficit. Improvements to the section where the two grids connect, expected to be completed within 18 months, will allow more upstate energy to reach the Hudson Valley and points south.

Scenic Hudson and other environmental groups argue that, with grid improvements, more renewables and CPV Valley and Cricket Valley, there's no need for a

proposed expansion of the Danskammer plant on the Hudson River near Beacon. Before the two gas plants opened, Danskammer was in operation only on high-demand days. New owners hope to turn it into a year-round natural gas plant.

Danskammer's owners say they could convert the plant to a hydrogen plant in the near future to contribute to the state's renewable energy goals, but Carlock sees that as farfetched because there are no hydrogen power plants operating in the U.S. outside of pilot projects "to see whether this may be a viable technology."

“We’re agnostic about what the fuel is or what those resources are.”

~Rich Dewey,
the chief executive officer of NYISO

If Danskammer is developed as a hydrogen plant, it could play a vital role on the grid. NYISO's breakdown of what a zero-emission grid would look like in 2040 contains 10 percent "dispatchable emissions-free resources," or DEFRs. These are renewable sources of energy that are not reliant on weather conditions but could be applied during high-demand periods. Even with expected improvements in battery technology that will allow wind and solar to store more power, the grid will need a source of dependable renewable energy that can be deployed at a moment's notice the way natural gas can.

The only problem with DEFRs is that they don't exist. Researchers refer to this as "the 10 percent problem." We only currently have the technology to meet 90 percent of the nation's energy needs with renewables.

"We're agnostic about what the fuel is or what those resources are," said Rich Dewey, the chief executive officer of NYISO, at a

(Continued on Page 21)



The Indian Point nuclear plant was shut down on April 30.

File photo by B. Cronin

(Continued from Page 20)

news conference this week, “But it’s going to be extremely challenging, if not impossible, to hit the 2040 goal without the development of newer technologies.”

Hydrogen, should it work, could answer that question. Another unproven technology that would capture carbon dioxide emitted by natural gas plants, and either reuse or store it, is another theoretical solution. But there’s another renewable that could be adapted for the 10 percent, and it’s been in operation in New York state for decades.

Bright future

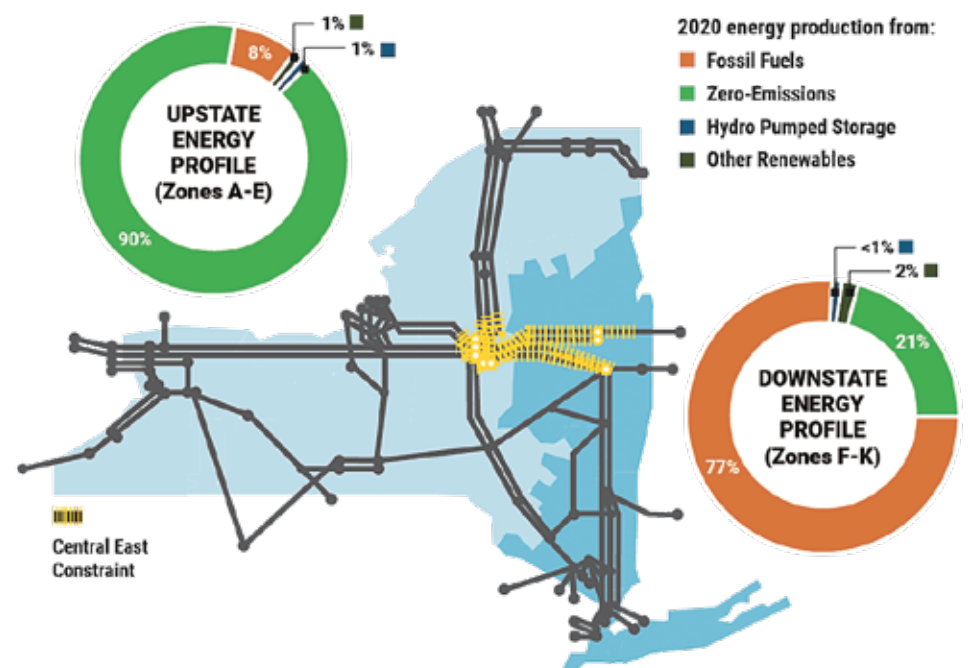
Like most climate activists, Eric Meyer is worried about global warming and believes the U.S. needs to transition to 100 percent renewable power as soon as possible. But he also calls the closing of Indian Point “the greatest environmental tragedy of the last few years.”

“We were losing clean energy by closing down nuclear plants as fast as we’re adding it to the grid with wind and solar, and we thought there needs to be a grassroots, pro-nuclear movement,” said Meyer, who is executive director of Generation Atomic, which was founded in 2016. The group organizes demonstrations, posts pro-nuclear memes and pro-nuclear swag on Instagram, and has even made a “peer-reviewed” rap video:

“So here we go, yo / What’s the, what’s the, what’s the scenario? / The carbon footprint is low in France and Ontario. / The way they chose to carry the load is scary to folks. / But the result in quality of life there is very dope.”

Considering the Indian Point shutdown, Meyer said, “if you put it in the context of losing over 80 percent of downstate’s carbon-free electricity, that’s not a good thing. When you dig a little bit deeper, and you see that Cuomo’s campaign aides were connected to the natural-gas deal to replace the plant, then it starts to check out why all of this went down.”

In 2018 Joe Percoco, a former longtime Cuomo aide, was sentenced to six years in prison for, among other things, soliciting \$287,000 in bribes from CPV while the plant’s permits were awaiting approval. CPV denies that it obtained its permits in



The “tale of two grids” illustrates the differences in upstate and downstate power generation. The yellow represents the bottleneck that prevents excess renewable energy from coming south.

NYISO

any improper way.

New York’s three remaining nuclear plants are receiving \$7.6 billion in subsidies over 12 years to ensure they don’t meet the same fate as Indian Point, which Entergy says couldn’t compete with the flood of cheap fracked natural gas from Pennsylvania.

The state considers the plants a necessary component of its clean energy goals, but Clearwater, which was founded by Seeger and is based in Beacon, was among the environmental groups that sued to stop the subsidies.

“We felt that those funds would be much better invested in a rapid transition to renewable energy with storage and efficiency,” said Manna Jo Greene, its environmental director. “Nuclear is not a climate solution.”

Despite the competition from cheaper fracked gas and renewable sources, the nuclear industry’s economic woes may largely be its own doing. A study published last year by researchers at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology found that construction of new nuclear plants in the U.S. since 1970 has cost, on average, more than three and a half times the estimates, and that productivity in the

construction was 13 times lower than industry projections.

The most recent nuclear plant built in the U.S. is Watts Bar in Tennessee. Construction began in 1973 but the first reactor didn’t come online until 1996 and the second in 2016. The plant was projected to cost \$2.5 billion; it ended up costing \$12 billion.

Watts Bar, however, is producing power. That hasn’t been the case in South Carolina, where the construction of two reactors announced in 2008 was eventually abandoned after an investment of \$9 billion. Much like at Shoreham, taxpayers got stuck with the bill.

There is also the unresolved issue of what to do with the ever-increasing amount of nuclear waste from plants, including Indian Point, where it is stored in dry casks waiting for transport to a federal depository that doesn’t exist. The most recent attempt to build one inside Yucca Mountain, in Nevada, has been stopped and restarted several times since 1987, at a cost so far of \$7.5 billion.

Meyer believes these challenges are all solvable for nuclear. A permanent waste site — Meyer said the current amount of spent fuel would fit inside a Walmart — could be found if the government would put the time and effort into finding it. New plants could be built more efficiently by mass producing the parts rather than building them on-site. Existing technologies that can create cheaper, smaller, meltdown-proof plants could be utilized.

“The industry has to do better at articulating their value and delivering projects on time and on budget,” he said. “There’s plenty of viable solutions. It’s the political solutions that have been elusive.”

Dewey, at NYISO, said that when it comes to the technology required to achieve a zero-emissions grid, everything is on the table, including smaller, modular nuclear units “that are achieving some success in other countries. That could fill this need if it could be sited and developed in a way that people could be comfortable with.”

Far more than technological challenges, the greatest barrier to creating a zero-

emissions grid by 2040 may be convincing people to embrace the infrastructure required over the next 20 years. Nuclear and natural-gas aren’t the only plants that people don’t want in their backyards.

Sunrise

Coxsackie, a bucolic river town in Greene County, is home to acres of sunny fields, as well as two major transmission lines. It appears to be the perfect place for solar panels.

Unless you live in Coxsackie.

“How much solar is Coxsackie expected to take for the team?” said Kim Rose, a representative of Saving Greene: Citizens for Sensible Solar. The group formed after locals learned that more than 3,000 acres secured by developers would be used for solar farms that would produce 180 megawatts — more energy than every planned solar project in the rest of the Hudson Valley combined.

The group’s concerns include a decrease in home values, the destruction of the town’s character, a decrease in tourism, the degradation of potential farmland and ecological damage. Its logo is the short-eared owl, an endangered species whose winter habitat could be destroyed by the solar farms.

These concerns are familiar to the environmental groups who have cited similar concerns in the Hudson Valley for the past 60 years when trying to stop the construction of nuclear and fossil-fuel plants. But some groups now find themselves on the other side of the table when advocating renewable infrastructure against residents who want no part of it.

“The pace of renewable deployment that the state has hoped to see isn’t happening,” said Carlock at Scenic Hudson. “And it’s not because the developers aren’t proposing projects, or for economic reasons. It’s because projects are being strongly opposed.”

Carlock said that Scenic Hudson has created online tools to help communities figure out where the best spots for solar and other renewable projects could be. But an early lesson has been that it may take decades to convince some communities.

“It’s an unfortunate truism that in a lot of ways it’s much easier to site a dirty, polluting gas plant that produces 300 megawatts of electricity than it is to site a clean solar farm that produces the same amount, simply because of the physical footprint,” she said. “You can stick a gas plant in the back corner of a heavily industrialized area and it’s out of sight, out-of-mind, even though their air is being polluted and it’s contributing to climate change and negative health outcomes.”

By contrast, “the land requirements for solar and wind mean that it’s going to be a little bit more visible, and it’s going to necessarily be outside of highly developed industrial areas,” she said. “They don’t want to have to see it.”

Yet without large solar, wind and other renewable-energy facilities in the Hudson Valley, Carlock said, a zero-emission future will be impossible. If Coxsackie is any indication, the fight to close Indian Point may pale in comparison to the fight for what comes after it.



“How much solar is Coxsackie expected to take for the team?” said Kim Rose of Saving Greene, which envisions its sunny fields covered by panels.

SPORTS

Round-up *(from Page 24)*

son had an RBI, a triple and scored a run.

"We played pretty well, coming off a tough loss to Hen Hud," said Coach Michael Carofano. "We got good team defense, and our bats were more alive. We need to shore up more defensively and finish plays, but the girls are extremely positive, and that's good to see."

Carofano said his pitching staff is showing progress. "Olivia settled in nicely and had good command. Haleigh had a good offensive game and Richardson hit well and ran the bases well, and just missed a home run."

In the loss at Hendrick Hudson, Leanna Rinaldi took the loss on the mound. Second baseman Hope Cleveringa and leftfielder Jaden Taylor each doubled.

The 25-0 drubbing "was certainly not the way we wanted to open the season," Carofano said. "It's been 708 days since our team took the field [because of the pandemic shutdown], and we're relatively young and trying to find our identity. That will revolve around timely hitting and seven-plus inning defense."

Beacon returns only one starter, senior Kelly Murphy, and two other players — Ciancanelli and Zukowski — from the 2019 team that lost to Pearl River in the first round of the playoffs.

Joining the team this spring are Bernadette Kish, Jade Matias, Spiak, Makkaila Caputo, Brianna Jones, Christina Merola, Rinaldi, Tess Wills, Taylor and Richardson.

Beacon will face Arlington, John Jay, Ketcham and Lourdes twice each during the regular season before the Section 1 tournament. The Bulldogs were scheduled to visit Brewster on Thursday (May 6), followed by a home game against Yorktown on Monday (May 10).

Dustin Folkes (1969-2021)

Dustin John Folkes, 51, of Wappingers Falls and formerly of Beacon, died April 9 at Vassar Brothers Medical Center in Poughkeepsie.



He was born in Cortlandt Manor on Nov. 17, 1969, and raised in Beacon, where he graduated from Beacon High School. On Sept. 24, 2005, he married Heather Spear.

In 1998, he formed Folkes Home Services with one truck. He had learned his trade as a teenager while being mentored by his grandfather, and then became a mentor for his children. Dustin developed the business into a firm that employed more than 30 people.

He enjoyed golfing, fishing and playing cornhole. He loved to travel and go on vacation, especially to the beach. He enjoyed music, especially 1980s rock.

Along with his wife, Dustin is survived by his children: Dustin Folkes Jr., Tyler Folkes and Nora Folkes; a sibling, Jamie Rosado; and an aunt, Helen Degli-Angeli.

A memorial service was held April 15 at McHoul Funeral Home in Fishkill, followed by interment at Fishkill Rural Cemetery.

Dr. David Genn (1964-2021)

Dr. David A. Genn, 56, of Beacon, died April 21 at New York-Presbyterian Hudson Valley Hospital in Cortlandt Manor.



Born Sept. 9, 1964, he was the son of Cole and Brenda (Slepp) Genn. Dave graduated in 1988 from the Boston University College of Medicine. He completed his internship and residency at Montefiore Medical Center and his gastroenterology fellowship at New York Medical College at Westchester Medical Center. He was affili-

ated with Hudson Valley Hospital and a partner at Mid-Hudson Gastroenterology.

In 2013, Dr. Genn became disabled and was unable to practice medicine. However, he remained hopeful that one day he would again be able to serve others via his profession. His life was hallmarked by his honesty, humility, humbleness and, above all else, his tremendous kindness and generosity, his family said.

Dave was the household's unofficial nightly *Jeopardy!* champion, as he often answered the clues before they were read. Dave loved art, traveling and reading.

Along with his mother and wife, Coleen Moore Genn, he is survived by a stepson, Brenden Moore of Chicago; and a sister, Shari Shapiro (David).

A funeral service took place on April 26 at McHoul Funeral Home in Fishkill, followed by burial at St. Joachim Cemetery in Beacon. Memorial donations may be made to the Heather Abbott Foundation (heatherabbottfoundation.org).

Susan Patterson (1933-2021)

Susan Patterson, 87, of Cold Spring, died April 28 at her home.

She was born on June 30, 1933, in Cold Spring, the daughter of Robert and Margaret (Winchester) Patterson. Her father was undersecretary of war under President Franklin D. Roosevelt from 1940 to 1945 and the secretary of war under President Harry S. Truman from 1945 to 1947.

After graduating from the Chapin School and Harvard University, Susan lived in Washington, D.C., New York City, Brussels and Paris before returning to Cold Spring. With her husband of 40 years, Leigh Seippel, she visited more than 40 countries, often skiing, horseriding and fishing between capital city visits.

Her stepson, Alexander Seippel, daugh-

ter-in-law Mirka Seippel and their daughters Alzbeta and Imogen also pulled Susan and Leigh into extended residences in London and on the French Riviera.

Susan was a protocol coordinator for JP Morgan Bank and a development officer of Harvard University, the New York Public Library and the Institute of International Education. She was a board director of the Harvard Club of New York, of a branch of the Audubon Society and of the historic house conservancy Boscobel Restoration, which bordered her Cold Spring home.

Other Recent Deaths

Philipstown

Carol Frisenda, 79	Mary Merando, 90
Joel Goss, 65	Eileen Roberto, 88
Loretta Lane, 87	JoAnn Sgorbissa, 67
Ronald McCarroll, 68	Jay Varricchio, 73

Beacon

Gerry Arquilla, 93	Robert MacAvery, 85
Connie Belekis, 90	Roselea Megna, 79
Sister Margaret Berarducci, 93	Raymond Morris, 90
Bill Bloom, 71	Dr. Milton Newman, 90
David Coffey, 74	Madeline Nonnon, 61
Jane Cunningham	Shirley O'Dell, 86
Bill Farley Jr., 80	Rose Phillips, 97
Elaine Fox, 74	Constance Ramsey, 51
Patty Guarneri, 67	Jose Rivera, 73
Nancy Hernandez, 55	Maurice Rogers, 68
Doris Hogan, 90	Barbara Schettino, 84
Barbara Hopper, 93	Ralph Sheehan, 85
Joseph Killimayer, 73	Norma
Jean LaTour, 96	Sommerville, 87
Ted Lee, 80	Jean Vitanza, 88
Cindy Libby, 84	Frank Voght, 88
Olga Lucas, 96	Ada Walz, 85

For more obituaries, see highlandscurrent.org/obits.

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Puzzles

CROSS CURRENT

ACROSS

1. Put two and two together?

4. Recede

7. Crib cry

11. Weaving frame

13. Standard

14. Author Hunter

15. Falco of *The Sopranos*

16. "The Greatest"

17. Donate

18. Line dance

20. Wife of Jacob

22. Moreover

24. Like bell-bottoms

28. Fragrant flower

32. Ouzo flavor

33. Sparkling Italian wine

34. Nile biter

36. Complain

37. Daily trio

39. Flying horse

41. Soup grain

43. — of 1812

44. Victor's cry

46. Small boat

50. TV clown

53. Tool set

55. Traditional tales

56. Ms. Brockovich

57. Scratch (out)

58. List-ending abbr.

59. Lights-out tune

60. Gender

61. Hill dweller

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

11 12 13 14

15 16 17

18 19 20 21

22 23 24 25 26 27

28 29 30 31 32

33 34 35 36

37 38 39 40

41 42 43

44 45 46 47 48 49

50 51 52 53 54 55

56 57 58

59 60 61

DOWN

1. Mr. Guinness

2. Nitwit

3. Slay

4. Ecol. watchdog

5. Event for Cinderella

6. Fleeting

7. The Duchess of Sussex who once starred in *Suits*

8. Bird (Pref.)

9. Dallas hoopster, briefly

10. Chemical suffix

12. Multi-state lottery with a huge jackpot

19. Blackbird

21. In the style of

23. CSI evidence

25. Ocho —, Jamaica

26. Isaac's eldest

27. Cozy rooms

28. Doorframe piece

29. Cruising

30. Flag feature

31. Mentalist's gift

35. Church seat

38. Stitch

40. Helium, for one

42. Oxen harnesses

45. Goddess of victory

47. Tiny bit

48. Drescher or Tarkenton

49. Fedora fabric

50. Wager

51. Man-mouse link

52. Energy

54. — -Mex cuisine

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7 LITTLE WORDS

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

CLUES

1 important decision point (10)

2 extremely fast (10)

3 routine (8)

4 sleuth played by Bogart (5)

5 they're cut to save money (7)

6 making a stick figure (7)

7 like haggis and tartan (8)

SOLUTIONS

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© 2021 Blue Ox Family Games, Inc., Dist. by Andrews McMeel

SUDO CURRENT

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

Puzzle Page Sponsored by



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Answers for April 30 Puzzles

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

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

1. JUDGE, 2. BRIDLES, 3. HEARTLESS, 4. BOUILLON, 5. ENVELOPES, 6. EXHAUSTED, 7. RELAUDE

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

SPORTS



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Varsity Roundup

By Skip Pearlman

HALDANE LACROSSE

The Haldane High School boys' lacrosse team took Horace Greeley into overtime Wednesday (May 5) but the Quakers broke the visiting Blue Devils' hearts with a game-winning goal with 1:02 remaining for a 9-8 win.

Haldane scored twice at the end of the third quarter on goals from Frankie DiGiglio, who tied it at 7-7 with 4:37 remaining before giving his team an 8-7 lead with 15 seconds remaining in the period.

But the Quakers tied the game midway through the fourth, sending it into overtime.

"We played it [defensively] as well as we should have," Coach Ed Crowe said of the Quakers' winning goal. "The kid rolled, and was able to finish."

Crowe said he was impressed by how his young team played. Senior captain Darrin Santos — the lone starter who returns from the 2019 team that finished 15-3 and lost to Briarcliff in the sectional semifinals — led the Blue Devils with five goals and an assist and Evan Giachinta had a goal. Freshman Jordan Henkel made 20 saves at goal.

On Saturday (May 1), Haldane fell to Pleasantville, 16-2, at home. PJ Ruggiero and Giachinta each had a goal. "We had two kids with their first varsity goal, and I liked our grit and determination," Crowe said.

Joining the team this spring are seniors Doug Donaghy, Josh Reyes and Andrew Aiston, who will serve as captains, along with Santos. Newcomers include senior Dan Santos, freshmen Giachinta, Ruggiero, DiGiglio, Henkel, Liam Gaugler and eighth-grader Nate Stickle.

"We have good character on and off the field," Crowe said. "Our older guys and younger guys have done a great job of mixing together."

The Blue Devils are scheduled to host Lourdes on Saturday (May 8) at 10 a.m. and visit Bronxville on Monday.

HALDANE BASEBALL

The Haldane baseball team played its first two games on the road last week against tough opponents, losing 10-1 at Rye Neck and 11-1 at Valhalla.

Against Valhalla, senior pitcher Jack Jordan made his varsity debut and took the loss for the Blue Devils, with senior John Dwyer pitching in relief.

Sophomore second baseman Julian



Freshman Frankie DiGiglio heads toward the net to tie the game at 7-7 Wednesday (May 5) at Greeley.

Photos by S. Pearlman



Evan Giachinta (18) scored a goal against Greeley.

Ambrose drove in one run, Jordan went 2-for-3, Vin Scanga doubled and Trajan McCarthy and John Kisslinger each had his first varsity hit.

"We have a lot of freshmen and sophomore starters, and there's a lot of rust to shake off," said Coach Simon Dudar. "But we didn't make a lot of mistakes. We had a tough first inning and gave up four runs, but after that our pitching did well; they were throwing strikes."

In the loss at Rye Neck on Saturday (May

1), Ambrose took the loss on the mound, with relief from McCarthy. Jordan doubled and scored on a passed ball.

"That was a tough loss, but there were some positives," Dudar said. "Our pitching looks strong, and our freshmen started to settle in as the game went on. There may have been a few jitters, and we made a few errors. But Ambrose only allowed one earned run, and Trajan, a freshman, did a great job."

Dudar returns two starters, first base-

man Vincenzo Scanga and catcher John Bradley, and seven other players — Alex Ferdico, Alex Carone, John Dwyer, Nick Marino, Ryan Merritt, Blake Bolte and Matt Junjulus — from the 2019 team that went 4-14 and lost in the sectional semifinals. The team did not play in 2020 because of the pandemic shutdown.

Besides Jordan and Ambrose, Will Bradley, Ryan Eng-Wong, Scott Bailey and Jeremy Hall joined the team this year.

"We have a lot of inexperience," Dudar said. "But we have a lot of talent, and that needs room to grow. It will be the same for a lot of other teams" because of the shutdown.

The Blue Devils are scheduled to play today (May 7) at Pleasantville, host Westlake at 3 p.m. on Saturday and travel to North Salem on Tuesday.

BEACON SOFTBALL

The Beacon High School softball team opened its season last week with a 25-0 loss at Hendrick Hudson, followed by a 12-4 loss at Arlington on Tuesday (May 4).

At Arlington, Olivia Ciancanelli went the distance on the mound, striking out two and walking three. Catcher Haleigh Zukowski drove in a run, doubled and went 2-for-4 for the Bulldogs, while shortstop Olivia Spiak drove in a run, tripled and went 2-for-4. Centerfielder Kyla Richard-

(Continued on Page 22)