 Counties Ready to Vaccinate Older Kids
 Approval for adolescents comes as cases plummet

By Leonard Sparks

Putnam County’s health department and pediatricians in Dutchess County will begin administering Pfizer vaccines to adolescents between 12 and 15 years old in response to federal approval, a step that comes as the shots drive down COVID-19 cases in the state and locally.

Putnam officials said they had not finalized their plans as of Thursday (May 13), but Dutchess will offer Pfizer doses to distribution to local pharmacies, primary care doctors and pediatricians, including the Children’s Medical Group, CareMount, Premier Medical and Bambini Pediatrics, who will administer the shots.

Colleen Pillus, a county representative, said the county also will continue to partner with Neal Smoller, a Woodstock pharmacist who has held vaccination clinics at Dover, Pine Plains and Poughkeepsie high schools for teenagers over 16. Additional clinics will be organized at other schools, although Rombout Middle School and Beacon High School have not yet been scheduled, she said.

By Wednesday night, New York had begun administering Pfizer doses to teenagers over 16. Additional clinics will be organized at other schools, although Rombout Middle School and Beacon High School have not yet been scheduled, she said.

Beacon: Sewer Ban Stinks
 City seeks approval to sell excess capacity

By Leonard Sparks

Under a change made nearly three decades ago, Beacon became lumped in with New York, Poughkeepsie and six other cities prohibited by state law from allowing private companies and individuals outside their boundaries to send sewage to their treatment plants — a potential source of revenue.

Now, Beacon is seeking to reverse the ban behind legislation introduced by state Sen. Sue Serino and Assembly Member Jonathan Jacobson, whose districts include Beacon.

The city says it is the victim of a mistake made in 1993 when city officials petitioned the Legislature for an exemption from a new city law from allowing private companies and individuals outside their boundaries to send sewage to their treatment plants — a potential source of revenue.

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FIVE QUESTIONS: KAREN SIEDLECKI

By Leonard Sparks

Karen Siedlecki, who lives in Cold Spring, is the director of the Memory and Aging Lab at Fordham University (memoryandaginglab.com).

What do you study?
I'm interested in age-related differences in cognition, with a focus on memory, especially episodic memory, which are memories that have a time and place associated with them. We study that by asking participants to remember things like lists of words or pictures. But we also look at autobiographical memories. If you have a memory and you're able to hold on to it for 50 or 60 years, that memory's salient and less likely to be lost. Every experience, every event, is a memory except for the current moment. Memory is such a foundational construct in terms of who we are and what we can do.

Does memory change over time?
It's multidimensional. Some aspects of memory are adversely affected by age and others aren't. Usually we have more difficulty remembering words we wanted to say — the tip-of-the-tongue phenomenon. We also have worse memory for episodic details, like the name of the author of the book you just read. Short-term memory stays pretty much intact. Semantic memory for information and facts increases as we grow older and tends to plateau in our 50s and 60s. Another type of memory that we preserve across age is implicit memory, for things like how to ride a bike or how to type on a keyboard. As we grow older, the ratio of positive as compared to negative information that we remember increases.

How about cognition?
Research shows that our memory, our processing speed, our visual-spatial ability and our reasoning all tend to peak in our mid-20s and there tends to be a fairly linear decline across age. If I told you to keep the numbers 5 and 7 in mind, that's not affected as we grow older. But if I ask you to multiply those numbers and divide by 6, that's working memory and that tends to be affected. But we also show an increase in knowledge and experience that helps compensate for those declines.

Anything else get stronger as we age?
A lot of people view getting older as completely negative, but in fact there are a lot of gains. We've talked about gains in expertise and knowledge, but there's evidence older adults are better able to regulate emotions. They actually have increased well-being. If you ask people to rate their happiness, older adults are just as happy as younger adults, if not happier. Aging isn't all bad.

What are your favorite memories?
Two of my favorites include the days that my children, Gwendolyn, who is 8, and Griffin, who is turning 5, were born. We spent months anticipating their arrivals and we were so excited to meet them. I love sharing details of the days they were born with them, especially on their birthdays.

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ON THE SPOT

By Michael Turton

When was the last time you went to a drive-in movie?

Back when Jaws came out, at the Fishkill Drive-In, where ShopRite is now.

~ Kathleen Plumer, Beacon

I saw Rosemary’s Baby, completely by accident, 11 years ago, somewhere in Pennsylvania.

~ Joe Sheerin, Cold Spring

At least 10 years ago in Hyde Park. It was probably a Batman movie.

~ Beth Dimilia, Beacon

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Residents Air Views About Airbnb

Board hosts public hearing on proposed regulations
By Michael Turton

The May 6 public hearing on Cold Spring’s proposed law to regulate short-term rentals set the stage for a May 18 workshop at which the Village Board will consider possible revisions. More than 50 residents attended the hearing, held via Zoom.

The proposed changes to the village code include about 20 provisions that would govern short-term rentals such as those booked through Airbnb — and range from using a lottery system to select operators, allowing a maximum of 34 in the village and prohibiting any from operating within 300 feet of each other, to limiting rentals to owner-occupied buildings, allowing a maximum of 60 rental nights per year and requiring two-night minimum stays.

One resident, Eliza Starbuck, hinted at the challenge the board faces. “There are 655 houses and 655 points of view in this village” on the issue, she said.

Starbuck covered various points, including the need to prevent people from “playing monopoly with our village, buying up properties and turning them into Airbnb hotels.” When that happens, she said, “we lose a lot,” including “the families in those residences and kids in school and playing on the block.” She advocated a tiered system with fees and regulations that consider different scenarios.

Aaron Wolfe felt the proposed law was “very good. It’s fascinating to hear people say something is being taken away from them when STRs have been illegal in the village since the [current] code was put in place,” he said.

Alex Miller, who has hosted more than 350 guests in his Main Street rental over eight years, said he has had no complaints from neighbors. “People are much more respectful of a true shared property” where the owner also resides on the property, he said. He said his unit conservatively generates $20,000 a year in business for restaurants and retailers.

Irene Pieza said she uses short-term rentals when she travels but also has three operating within sight of her Paulding Avenue home and understands concerns that neighborhoods can be turned into “more of a business district.”

John Lane is part of a group of Cold Spring operators that has written to the board expressing concern over the proposed law. Lane said he supports requiring rentals to be owner-occupied but opposed several provisions such as the lottery and regulated minimums and maximums.

Phil Heffernan, who operates an Airbnb on Church Street with Denise Friedly, said his first impression was that the law is “a solution in search of a problem.” He called the proposal “a place to start” but compared it to putting fingers in holes in the dike when there is no impending flood.

Matt Francisco, who is a candidate for the Village Board, disagreed, calling it “a thorny issue” that “needs to be addressed,” noting that the contentious 2019 public meeting made it clear some regulation is desired.

David and Melia Marzollo, who run a short-term rental on Main Street, said the proposals should be relaxed because of the pandemic. “This is one of the most trying financial times,” David said. “Having an STR has saved a lot of people.” With their regular business closed, “it was the only way we could pay our mortgage,” Melia added. She urged the board to select one or two key areas and develop regulations to address them.

Regulating excess noise was one issue that brought widespread agreement. Tom O’Quinn, who owns a short-term rental in Palm Springs, California, said the city imposes stiff fines that have put an end to problems. “You cannot have any music outside your house — ever. Guests get fined $1,000,” he said.

Michelle McCoy and Shelley Gilbert both complained of excessive noise, outdoor parties and other disruptive behavior at Airbnbs near their Mountain Avenue homes.

In response, Nadja Lee, who operates one at 27 Mountain Ave., was apologetic for the behavior of some of her guests in the past, saying as hosts they had learned from their mistakes and no longer allowed large groups. Their STR has remained closed during the pandemic, she said. She advocated a “mid-range approach” to regulations, so the rules don’t “destroy opportunities for hosts.”

Tracy Bunye feared the proposed law would be detrimental to families who rent their homes only occasionally. “We go on two short vacations a year” that are paid for by renting out their home, she said. “This law is clearly not meant for people like us.” A number of Cold Spring families also rent out their homes once a year, during West Point graduation.

The village clerk will accept written comments on the proposed law by mail or email until 4 p.m. on Tuesday (May 18).

Polling the Renters

Phil Heffernan and Denise Friedly, who operate an Airbnb rental on Church Street in Cold Spring, have since 2017 surveyed their guests about their stays. The results below are based on 106 responses.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>79%</td>
<td>spent two or three days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>73%</td>
<td>came for a “quick getaway”</td>
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<tr>
<td>48%</td>
<td>came by car</td>
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<tr>
<td>48%</td>
<td>came by train</td>
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<tr>
<td>62%</td>
<td>planned to return</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>55%</td>
<td>said it was first visit</td>
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<tr>
<td>32%</td>
<td>spent more than $300 shopping/eating</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12%</td>
<td>said they used public restrooms</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

All 2021 High School and College Graduates in Philipstown and Beacon will receive a free FRIEND membership to The Current to help you stay connected to all that is happening in your hometown.

Just sign up at: highlandscurrent.org/gradgift
Then every Friday for the next 12 months you’ll have a new digital Current in your inbox.

Questions? Email: membership@highlandscurrent.org

GRADUATES, The Current HAS A GIFT FOR YOU

WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST MEMBERS

As your independent nonprofit news source for Philipstown and Beacon, The Highlands Current depends on you, our members, for support. Today we welcome the following new names to our membership ranks. We are grateful for their recognition of the important role journalism plays in our community and in our democratic society.

FRIENDS
Anonymous (2) Jessica Mandy
Thomas Amisson Barbara Martire
Alanna Dolan Pat Rinaldi
Rhonda Donohue

PARTNERS
Anonymous (1) Richard McHugh
Damon Banks Shelley Simmons-
Alexa Bishop Bloom and Matt
Yvonne Caruthers Bloom
Mark Fuerst Benjamin Vise

To become a member with your tax-deductible donation and help us continue to improve and expand our coverage of the Hudson Highlands, go to:
highlandscurrent.org/join

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Questions? Email: membership@highlandscurrent.org
Letters and Comments

The Highlands 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 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.

Crosswalks
Using crosswalks in the village does not feel as safe as it should, especially with young children (Letters and Comments, April 30).
A simple fix would be to install Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons (RRFBS), which are activated by pedestrians. These immediately alert drivers to the presence and intention of pedestrians and have been shown to drastically reduce accidents.

Tom Stephens, Cold Spring

Sometimes pedestrians seem to come out of nowhere and cross here, there and everywhere, expecting two-plus tons to come to an immediate stop. It is up to us, the expecting drivers, to think ahead when we notice a pedestrian near a crosswalk. However, something should be done in the way of fines for jaywalkers.
Leonard Lindros Jr., Garrison

Garrison vote
We are longtime residents of and parents of three daughters who have attended or are attending the Garrison Union Free School. We have been impressed with the dedication that the educators, staff and board members have shown toward our children’s education.

With that in mind, we as a community must take into consideration the quality and character of whom sits on the school board to ensure that our student’s needs are met with the highest standards.

We are excited that Kent Schacht has expressed his desire to serve on the Garrison school board. We have known Kent and his wife Courtney for more than 13 years and could not think of a better candidate. His professional background, as well as his dedication to his family and our community, makes him perfect for the position.
Knowing that he will be on the board provides us comfort that it will continue with the high quality of diligence and care to our children’s education.

Carl and Karen Nelson, Garrison

Ballot lines
Thank you for your recent coverage of state Republicans’ unsuccessful attempt to undermine the Working Families Party with a baseless lawsuit that would have knocked dozens of legitimate and endorsed candidates off the WFP line this year (“Republicans in Working Families’ Clothing?” April 30).

This action typifies broader Republican strategies nationwide. Republicans can’t win on a level playing field, so they try to pass laws to make it harder to vote, take advantage of loopholes and file expensive lawsuits to disenfranchise voters.

Locally, we see this with the upcoming primary for Beacon City Court judge. Democrat Greg Johnston is endorsed by the Beacon Democratic Committee and the WFP. Incumbent Tim Pagones is forcing Democratic and WFP primaries against Johnston, using a loophole that allows judicial candidates to run outside their own party or without an endorsement from the parties.

In your story, Pagones claimed that “a judge should appear impartial, and that is why I am not affiliated with any political party.” This self-serving statement belies the fact that Pagones didn’t leave the Republican Party until 2019, when it became a political liability for his reelection.

Similarly, while we applaud the long-overdue shift in Beacon’s drug court reported in your May 7 issue (“New Beacon Court Hopes to Prevent Overdoses”), Pagones has long required a guilty plea before ordering treatment for drug addiction. The timing of this sudden change in an election year, like his recent exit from the Republican Party, strikes us as opportunistic and insincere.

Forcing a primary against Johnston is a cynical attempt to try to deny Beacon voters any choice in November. We are confident that the Democrats and WFP voters of Beacon won’t be fooled.

Lisa Jessup, Beacon

Jessup is the chair of the Beacon Democratic Committee.

PTSO says thanks
The Beacon High School Parent-Teacher-Student Organization would like to thank The Bagel Shope Fishkill/Beacon, Fishkill Farms, Market 32 by Price Chopper and the Yankee Clipper Diner for donating items for our Teacher/Staff Appreciation lunch on May 5.
We are grateful for the amount of support we receive from local businesses and our members throughout the year.

Donna Green, Beacon
Green is the treasurer of the PTSO.

Garrison aides
As part of the budget process, the administration and board of the Garrison Union Free School decided to eliminate three full-time teacher aide positions “based upon an assessment of our students’ needs,” according to the superintendent. Two of those aides are myself and Sally Martini.

Sally has lived in Garrison for 43 years and has worked at the school for 18 years in total. She has a master’s degree in psychology and extensive experience working with...
(Continued from Page 4) special-needs children. I have worked at the school for 17 years, primarily with students with special needs. Before that, I was a director of residential services at the Rhinebeck Country School and Community Living Corp. for 28 years. Sally and I will lose the opportunity to reach the 20-year retirement mark to collect our full benefits. Sally has been denied the option of her medical insurance benefit because she is a year shy of the 15 consecutive years needed. She worked for four years, left to raise her family, and came back. I chose to retire — a forced retirement with fewer benefits.

We each had a conversation with Superintendent Carl Albano. When asked how we were selected out of the eight aids, he said there was no formal criteria, that it was subjective. It should be noted that aide salaries range from $27,000 to $28,500 annually and the board was able to find money for two new positions: a director of technology and administrative services (aka assistant principal?) and a treasurer, and also to write off $65,000 in health insurance premiums that were not collected because of a business office error.

Your support, attendance and public comments at board meetings would be greatly appreciated. It seems like these comments at board meetings would be further from the truth. I voted against an infrastructure projects with long-term public benefit, not for major projects with long-term public benefit, not buying trucks, snowplows and the like.

I continue to press the Highway Department and my colleagues in the Legislature to develop a planned equipment replacement schedule, appropriately funded from the general fund. Without such a plan, the taxpayer doesn’t have a good sense of just how much they may be overpaying for debt service on vehicles. Not for nothing, all of my colleagues who voted to borrow and spend will be out of office before this vehicle bond is paid. The taxpayer will be left holding the bag.

Nancy Montgomery, Philipstown

The editor responds: Montgomery represents Philipstown and part of Putnam Valley in the Putnam Legislature. This situation was caused by a consolidation, but she is right in saying the vote against the $500,000 bond for road equipment should not be construed as a vote against infrastructure projects in Philipstown. The vote we reported on was on the need to make more bonds to buy road equipment. Later in the meeting, as Montgomery points out, a second resolution was made to amend the 2021 budget to finance projects across the county using money that included funds from the bond-letting authorized earlier in the day. With the second vote (including a “yes” from Montgomery), the Legislature announced it was OK to proceed with various public works projects.

Road projects

The vote on road projects by the Putnam County Legislature was not accurately presented in your May 7 issue. The article implies I voted against an infrastructure project in my district, and that could not be further from the truth.

For clarification, there were two bonds before the Legislature on May 4. One was for road repairs in District 1, including Snake Hill Road and a portion of Fair Street. I voted yes for these much-needed improvement projects. I voted no, however, on the requested 15-year, $500,000 bond for the purchase of highway vehicles, in large part because the need for the vehicles was not clearly identified. Further, I don’t agree with the Legislature’s approach to funding equipment purchases. We frequently bond for equipment purchases. Highway vehicles take a lot of wear-and-tear and their lifespans can be shorter than the bond period. Taxpayers can end up paying off bonds for vehicles no longer on the road. Bonds are for major projects with long-term public benefit, not buying trucks, snowplows and the like.

I continue to press the Highway Department and my colleagues in the Legislature to develop a planned equipment replacement schedule, appropriately funded from the general fund. Without such a plan, the taxpayer doesn’t have a good sense of just how much they may be overpaying for debt service on vehicles. Not for nothing, all of my colleagues who voted to borrow and spend will be out of office before this vehicle bond is paid. The taxpayer will be left holding the bag.

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Airbnb

The Cold Spring Chamber of Commerce is pushing for more Airbnbs in the village (Letters and Comments, May 7). Doesn’t the proliferation of private short-term rentals in the village undermine the local inns? Who’s looking out for their interests?

Gaston Alonso, via Facebook

It’s important to understand that the combination of existing rules — parking, zoning, permitting — around short-term rentals (called “tourist homes” in the existing code) make nearly all short-term rentals illegal in Cold Spring. When I was on the Zoning Board, I asked if any permits had ever been issued for tourist homes and the answer was “no.” The fact that the village has not enforced these regulations and doesn’t have fines for violations does not make STRs legal.

The effect of unregulated and unenforced STRs is like the invisible gases coming out of our cars. They have a cumulative negative effect that’s hard to reverse and are gradually making life less pleasant in a variety of ways.

I know of an STR home that was rented for something like $10,000 a month to a guest using it only on weekends. That puts enormous pressure on the housing market, property taxes and probably prices of more general items like groceries. (Have you seen the $80 jars of New Zealand honey at Foodtown?) People are cashing in and moving out to more affordable places.

And then there are the slower and far less visible effects: fewer real neighbors, fewer people involved in local activities.

If the proposed regulations, which are far more generous than what exists now, can be enforced, the village will benefit in the long run. The regulations considered too burdensome are exactly what will preserve the community while allowing many resident homeowners to benefit from renting out their own homes.

The proposal is a good step that vastly expands the legality of short-term rentals, and the village should approve and enforce it.

Aaron Wolfe, Cold Spring

I live in Chestnut Street and do not operate a vacation rental from my home. However, I have friends in the community who do and I have experience both using and operating vacation rentals in the past.

I agree that there should be some regulations around short-term rentals, but they should be entirely about safety issues and disruption of neighborhoods. I disagree with almost all of the proposed regulations, which essentially put so much burden on homeowners they make renting out a room, or an entire home on occasion, not feasible.

The Village Board should not be spending its valuable time and effort creating rules to solve problems that do not exist.

Todd Seekircher, Cold Spring

Mortgage tax

The mortgage tax was one of the most infuriating taxes in New York (“Mortgage Tax Income Soars for Philipstown,” May 7). When we bought our first house in New York — in Putnam Valley — a couple of years ago, I felt penalized for our inability to buy with cash. It seemed like one more tool to keep the rich richer. And I’m not one to be anti-tax just for the sake of it; I only saw this as an unequal tax.

Gary Larson, via Facebook

Star of Bethlehem

I’m glad the Star of Bethlehem building on Main Street is being sold to a developer (“Historic Church May Leave Beacon,” May 7). Now, after 60 years, maybe someone will pay property taxes on some prime real estate in Beacon.

Mark Giordano, via Facebook

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Vaccinate Kids (from Page 1)
The pivot follows the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommendation on Wednesday that states start administering the Pfizer vaccine “right away” to kids between 12 and 15. The drug, which had already been approved for 16- and 17-year-olds, received authorization for emergency use from the Food and Drug Administration on Monday (May 10).

While children infected with the virus that causes COVID-19 usually experience no more than mild symptoms, some cases have resulted in serious illness and deaths, and young people can infect others in their households. More than 1.5 million COVID-19 cases and 127 deaths involving adolescents and teens between 12 and 17 years old were reported between Jan. 1, 2020 and April 30, according to the CDC.

With Dutchess County’s vaccination sites largely staffed by volunteers, partnering with doctors to administer doses to adolescents is the best approach, said Dutchess County Executive Marc Molinaro during his weekly Facebook town hall on May 5. “We want to be very sensitive when it comes to giving vaccines to young people, and we believe that a doctor’s office or a physician’s facility is the safest way to do that,” he said.

More than half of Dutchess and Putnam residents had received at least one vaccine dose as of Wednesday (May 12), and more than 40 percent were fully vaccinated, according to the CDC.

Tests administered:

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<th>PUTNAM COUNTY</th>
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<td>Active Cases in Philipstown: &lt;=-5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tests adminirered:</td>
<td>222,361 (+4,360)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent positive:</td>
<td>4.7 (-0.1)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Percent vaccinated:</td>
<td>53.6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Number of deaths:</td>
<td>91 (0)</td>
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<th>DUTCHESS COUNTY</th>
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<td>Active Cases in Beacon: 25</td>
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<td>Tests administered:</td>
<td>726,866 (+15,518)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Percent positive:</td>
<td>4.0 (-0.1)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Percent vaccinated:</td>
<td>50.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of deaths:</td>
<td>443 (+1)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: State and county health departments, as of May 12, with weekly change in parentheses. Active cases in Philipstown as of May 6. Percent vaccinated reflects at least one dose.

A high of 2,576 on Jan. 16. Putnam, which provides updated COVID-19 case data weekly, reported 53 cases and three people hospitalized at Putnam Hospital Center as of May 6. On Jan. 15, the county reported 451 active cases and 145 people hospitalized.

All of the data points are “trending in the right direction,” Molinaro said.

Michael Gusmano, a professor of public health at Rutgers University and a scholar with The Hastings Center, a bioethics think tank based in Garrison, said “the change in weather and the fact that people are spending more time outside contribute” to the fall in cases. But, he added, “there is a pretty strong correlation between the increase in vaccination and the reduction in infections, hospitalizations and deaths.”

Another sign of the pandemic waning: In March 2020, as coronavirus cases began proliferating across the state, Dutchess County partnered with Nuvance Health to open a testing site at Dutchess Stadium in Fishkill.

This week the county, in partnership with a company called ProPhase, is once again offering COVID-19 testing at the stadium. But this time, the target market is people attending events that require proof of vaccination or a negative test.

Molinaro, speaking Wednesday at the Dutchess County Fairgrounds in Rhinebeck to announce the fair’s reopening from Aug. 24 to 29 after being canceled in 2020, said Dutchess is “through the emergency.”

“The public health crisis is now transitioning to a rebuilding effort,” he said.
Maloney Requests Money for Projects

Asks for funds to be added to spending bills

By Chip Rowe

Rep. Sean Patrick Maloney on May 5 announced requests he made for funding 20 community projects in his district, which includes the Highlands, although not all will be approved.

Such requests, known as “earmarks,” were banned by Congress in 2011 but legislators earlier this year decided to again allow them while increasing control and requiring they be made public. Maloney’s requests include $14 million in funding for four projects in Putnam County and $4 million for three in Dutchess. Examples include:

- $2 million to replace the Philipstown Highway garage.
- $4.35 million for the proposed Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail between Cold Spring and Beacon.
- $400,000 for a study of the Interstate 84/Route 9D corridor in Beacon and Fishkill to reduce congestion and improve access to the Beacon train station.
- $4 million to enlarge the Newburgh pier and provide a floating dock for Newburgh-Beverly Ferry transfer passengers, transient mooring slips for recreational boaters and shaded seating and space for outdoor events.

Like other representatives, Maloney asked the chairs of House committees — in this case, Appropriations and Transportation/Infrastructure (he is a member of the latter) — to add his earmarks for government or nonprofit projects to larger spending bills.

The House Appropriations Committee allowed each member to submit up to 10 proposals but noted that “only a handful may actually be funded” because House rules limit Community Project Funding to 1 percent of discretionary spending.

Philipstown Could Get $2 Million to Replace Highway Garage

Continues Upland ban; talks birds, bees and dogs

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

W ith the Town Hall renovation behind it (and, literally, around it), the Philipstown Town Board last week turned its attention to replacing the Highway Department garage, a project slated to receive $2 million in federal money if local hopes and congressional aspirations become reality.

Meeting in person for the first time since the 1957 highway garage, which the board wants to demolish so it can construct an energy-efficient facility that includes solar panels.

In what he described as “a big deal,” he reported that a town application for a $2 million grant to replace its highway garage “is in the queue” to obtain federal aid in fiscal 2022 if all goes well. Rep. Sean Patrick Maloney, a Philipstown resident and Democrat whose congressional district includes the Highlands (see box), proposed it, along with 19 other projects in his district. Maloney’s backing notwithstanding, the garage upgrade faces House Appropriations Committee review before it can be included in the spending legislation brought to the House and Senate for votes.

“I’m hopeful they’ll be able to come to some accommodation down in Washington,” Shea said. He said the country desperately needs support for bridges, road surfaces and buildings like the deteriorating 1957 highway garage, which the board wants to demolish so it can construct an energy-efficient facility that includes solar panels.

“Since we do have a shovel-ready project, it puts us in a good place” for funding, Shea said.

In other business …

- Citing its ongoing review of land-use laws, the board extended its 3-year-old moratorium on development along three private roads — Upland Drive, Clifford Court and Ridge Road — because of their poor condition. “These roads cannot handle the addition of another single-family home,” Shea said. “There will be changes in zoning coming, wholesale changes. If you’re considering a property” that “looks like a bargain on those roads, it may not be. ‘Let the buyer beware.’”

- The board approved the installation of a pollinator garden at Town Hall, although birds and bees must wait to enjoy it. “It’s a great idea, but we simply don’t have the money right now,” Shea said, given the estimated $15,000 cost.

- Shea proposed fencing a section of the dog run in the town park on Route 9 in North Highlands so that smaller pooches aren’t “bowed over” by larger counterparts. His wife, Karen Shea, had written the board suggesting changes after the couple adopted Linus, a 35-pound rescue dog. Dogs can play off-leash in the run and Richard Shea said Linus “has taken some serious licks out there.” Councilors Robert Flaherty and Judy Farrell, who also own smaller dogs, echoed his concerns. Shea agreed to research dog run fencing while Flaherty looks into similar park enhancements.

- Flaherty urged the public to get COVID-19 vaccinations to enable a return to normal activities. He observed that vaccination rates have fallen across the U.S. “That’s not what we want to see.”

PHOTO STORY

CHILD INJURED — A 6-year-old bystander suffered a foot injury following a three-car accident on Sunday afternoon (May 9) on Main Street in Beacon. Police said one of two vehicles involved in a collision at the intersection of North Cedar Street jumped the curb and struck the boy, whose foot was trapped beneath a rear tire. Bystanders freed him and he and the two drivers were transported to hospitals with non-life-threatening injuries. Several tickets were issued, police said. Photo by Jean Noack
Why are you running?

David Gelber: I serve on the school board’s Facilities and Planning Committee, both of which are engaged in important initiatives I’d like to see through. In my six years on the board, I’ve pledged to say that we’re evolving from a school to a great one. That’s due to the leadership of Superintendent Carl Albano and Principal Allison Emig, as well as the faculty, which is the best it’s been since I’ve been on the board. It’s a privilege and a joy to play a role in helping GUFS become an exemplar of what’s possible in K-8 education.

Madeline Julian: I’m the proud mother to twin boys, Max and Myles, who are in the third grade at GUFS. My husband Robert and I moved our family to Garrison three years ago. We are deeply vested in the school to increase its use of the School Forest and offer foreign languages to younger students along the way, so much the better. My involvement with the school began while I was waiting for the pandemic and promptly completed the strategic plan, which demonstrates the board’s commitment to responding to the needs of our entire community.

Courtney McCarthy: My husband and I moved to Garrison nine years ago from Peekskill, when our two daughters were in second grade and preschool. We deliberately chose Garrison for its size and reputation, and immediately sought out ways to become involved in our new community. From being a class parent to chairing Drop Everything and Read week (which I still do!), running a read-a-thon sleepover in the gym each fall, serving as communications chair on the board for the Garrison Children’s Education Fund, serving on the school board for the past four years, I am proud of the personal connections I have made and the deeper understanding of Garrison I have gained through this work. Although my passion for excellence in our schools has not changed since we first arrived, my perspective and appreciation for how far we have come is now more vital than ever.

What qualifications and experience would you bring to the board?

Gelber: My board experience includes six years on the Garrison School Board of Managers. I spent several years teaching a journalism seminar at The Horace Mann School. I’m especially passionate about initiatives to make the curriculum more coherent and more inventive, goals shared by Carl and Allison.

Julian: I am a licensed New York State architect with 24 years of professional experience. I’ve worked on and inter national projects, ranging in scope from small renovations to world-class medical facilities. I am quality-driven and have worked at Skidmore Owings and Merrill and two of the best health care institutions: Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center and the Cornell Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, where I am senior director of project development. I was appointed to the board last year during the pandemic and promptly completed the required board training sessions on education policy, finance and budget. I got up to speed with the other board members quickly and worked on one of the most unpredictable years in recent times. As a New York State School Board Association delegate to the district, I was reminded several times that GUFS was able to achieve what many school districts in the state couldn’t: provide families the option of a safe, in-person, full-time education during a worldwide pandemic.

What challenge facing the district needs immediate attention?

Gelber: The most immediate challenge is to
Haldane School Board Candidates

Three hopefuls for two seats

Three candidates are running for two open seats on the five-member Haldane school board. The election, along with a vote on the budget, takes place from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. on Tuesday (May 18) in the cafeteria of the middle school.

The proposed 2021-22 budget, adopted by the board on April 20, includes $25.95 million in spending, or about $685,000 more than this year, an increase of 2.71 percent. The district proposes raising $21 million through property taxes, $3.1 million in state aid, $721,000 in non-resident tuition, and using $645,000 from fund balance and $410,000 from reserves. Voters will also be asked to approve spending $175,000 on buses.

For information on the budget, registering to vote and absentee ballots, see haldaneschool.org/board-of-education/annual-budget.

Why are you running?

**Mark Daisley:** Having been drawn to this community 11 years ago by the town’s incredible natural resources and excellent school district, I am now the father of two Haldane students in the second and fifth grade and vice president of finance and operations at Glynwood for up to 13 years, we hold some understanding of the complexities our students struggle after they’ve been at school. It’s evident long after graduation, but we don’t always know how our investments in technology, training and programs are making an impact.

**Valentine:** I have 21 years of experience working as a financial journalist, from managing different sections of a national business magazine to supervising editorial coverage of the tech sector for a global news wire. Besides overseeing various team budgets, I’ve made a career out of finding questions and stories within the budget lines of organizations of all sizes. I have a first- and fourth-grader at Haldane. Volunteering in my kids’ classrooms as a class and garden parent and yearbook advisor has lent itself well to seeing how the district’s budget translates directly to Haldane’s most important touchpoints — interaction between teachers/staff and students. I love asking questions and hearing everyone else’s stories.

What qualifications and experience would you bring to the board?

**Daisley:** In my role at Glynwood, I am responsible for the fiscal health of the organization, the running of the facility and the human resources that serve the mission. I have experience in these areas, which include budgeting, building and infrastructure management, and staff development, are key crossover skills. Working for a nonprofit in the same town as I live requires diplomacy and discretion, which are also vital skills for the Board of Education. Before Glynwood, I worked at Bloomberg, where I ran international projects that required collaboration across diverse teams with different skills and viewpoints. In addition to this process-oriented leadership experience, I’ve loved volunteering as a Haldane garden parent and at the Tots Park. Through my kids’ unique gifts and challenges, I’ve developed a deep investment in Haldane.

**Hedlund:** My first job was as a teacher. I taught second grade in Houston, which was the hardest thing I’ve ever done. It showed me what we ask of our teachers — the creativity, discipline and flexibility that the job requires — and what districts can do to help them be more successful. Since then, I’ve held a series of roles in financial services that were basically problem-solving: you got asked to solve something that you didn’t know much about, you had to get smart on the issue, ask a bunch of questions, build relationships with a lot of people, be creative in identifying challenges and solutions, and make a recommendation. It’s much of what school board work is, and those skills have been essential over the past three years. And now, after a term on the board, I’ve built solid knowledge of the complexities of our district. Having worked through budgeting challenges, tax levy discussions, contract negotiations, the adoption of our Strategic Coherence Plan, and COVID, I feel this working knowledge makes me a valuable contributor for what I think is an exciting new chapter for Haldane.

What challenge facing the district needs immediate attention?

**Daisley:** The current board has done a great job over an incredibly difficult year. They have prioritized in-person learning and brought our children back into the classroom in a safe manner while accommodating those that needed to remain online. Now that a return to normality is in sight, the district can continue to implement the Strategic Coherence Plan, but to do this in a period of funding constraint will require making a long-term budget plan to “future-proof” the district and grow the resources that have come to define a Haldane education.

**Hedlund:** Immediately, we must plan to strategically use the projected increase in state aid. Since 2007, districts have not received their full aid allocation, but over the next three years we will be made whole. For Haldane, that’s an incremental $700,000, adding about 1 percent to our budget in those years — a meaningful increase on a budget that grows roughly 2 percent. But without careful planning, this opportunity could be overwhelmed by annual budgeting challenges. With a smart strategy, however, we can take into account what we see before us — our Strategic Coherence Plan, a shifting student population, opportunities for new programs and increased social-emotional support — laying the groundwork for what we want Haldane to be not just next year, but when our kindergarteners are getting ready to ring the bell at graduation.

Valentine: The superintendent and board did an amazing job navigating the district through the pandemic. Boosting academics and gauging students’ emotional wellness should be the top priorities now, along with making sure classrooms have enough support to foster different learning styles. We also need to get back on track with rolling out the Strategic Coherence Plan and make sure what’s going on inside the K-12 classrooms aligns well with the plan’s ultimate objective: ensuring Haldane is prepared for success out in the world. I’d like to see wider, more proactive communication between Haldane and families as it relates to the big things: updates in curriculum, how our kids are doing and district hiring practices.

Mary (Maggie) Valentine: I’d like to bring a wider range of Haldane family voices and perspectives to the table. After making my way from San Francisco to New York City for work after college, I married a Springer in 2009 and found myself a newcomer in a group whose families have attended Haldane for two and three generations.
Beacon School Board Candidates

Four incumbents run for four open seats

Four incumbents are running for four open seats on the nine-member Beacon School Board. The election, along with a vote on the budget, will take place from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. on Tuesday (May 18) at Beacon High School or Glenham Elementary School (for district voters who live in the towns of Fishkill or Wappinger).

The budget includes $76.9 million in spending. The district’s state-mandated tax cap for 2021 is 2.35 percent, which translates to a $42.6 million tax levy, or $980,000 more than last year. It estimates a $97 property tax increase on a $300,000 home in Beacon that participates in the STAR tax relief program. (The estimated increased would be $121 in Fishkill and $120 in Wappinger.) Money received from federal stimulus packages is not part of the budget; in most cases, it must be spent on pandemic-related expenditures.

Voters will also be asked to approve the district’s sale of 33 acres underneath and around Dutchess Stadium, the home of the Hudson Valley Renegades. Proceeds from the $627,000 sale to Dutchess County, if it’s approved, would go toward a $22 million-plus capital project that the district plans to present to voters this fall.

For information on absentee ballots, see beaconk12.org/Page/1576. The top three vote-getters will serve three-year terms and the fourth-place finisher will complete the final year of the term of Michael Rutksoske, who resigned in July.

What challenge facing the district needs immediate attention?

ELISSA BETTERBID: Grappling with the effects and after-effects of the pandemic on our students, faculty and staff as we prepare for 2021-22. My hope is that students and teachers will be back in classrooms five days a week and will return to a more normal routine in the fall. This will present challenges, including greater need for social and emotional support, additional resources for learning losses and intervention, continued professional development and an evolving strategy for COVID-19, which is likely to remain a threat. Along with these challenges, the coming school year presents exciting opportunities, such as summer programming, new extracurricular programs and a renewed sense of school community and pride. I’m proud of the way the district has weathered this public health crisis and I look forward to serving the community for a second term.

JOHN GALLOWAY JR.: Diversity throughout our district. When you are working and learning with people from a variety of backgrounds in the classroom, students gain more of an understanding of the subject matter. It also teaches students how to use their own strengths and points of view to contribute to a more diverse working environment. It gives students with different backgrounds a better chance of succeeding.

JASMINE JOHNSTON: The mental health of our children. COVID-19 has brought on isolation, causing more roaming and a label for children, which can bring up feelings of insecurity, contempt, fear, anger and anxiety. It’s difficult for many adults to navigate through subconscious chatter, so as growing children it is only imaginable how intense they are feeling. There’s constant display of murders on all platforms, along with grappling with regular childhood trials. Creating different protocols on how to handle stress and a sense of healthy structure would be best: developing a model, possibly a “Beacon model,” with a four- to five-step process on combatting negative thoughts, feelings and actions when dealing with such isolation. It involves (1) Identifying the root of the problem, (2) Identifying how they got there, (3) Having resources for them specific to their problem, (4) Having someone who can follow up with kids and/or parents and make sure they are using the resources, and (5) Keeping a collection of wins to show that the system works. We usually view children as resilient and needing more tough love. I agree with this, but they also need patience, compassion, direction and protection.

FLORA STADLER: After the trauma of the last 12-plus months, I’d like to focus on social and emotional support for students, staff and families. The district has been doing things already — the meal program, home visits, a return to in-person school. But there’s more to do, and I’m glad we have the budget to prioritize it. Once the planned social-emotional assessment of students is complete, I’d like to see the district respond with more professional development around trauma-informed practice, additional social workers or mental health professionals if needed, and other supports, maybe in partnership with local organizations. It’s also about social well-being: for example, strengthening a sense of safety and belonging by continuing the work of responsive classrooms and restorative justice. All of this work needs to be supported by consistent communication, to build trust and foster a sense of community. That approach will help us come back together and create an environment where students can thrive emotionally and academically.

Garrison School (from Page 1)

ensure the successful completion of the capital project. We’re very lucky that my fellow board member, Madeline Julian, an architect and a candidate for re-election, is providing indispensable expertise on the capital project. Another board candidate, Kent Schacht, who has years of experience in business and finance, can provide expertise when it comes to project oversight and cost control.

JULIAN: The critical issue is to continuously review our long-term finances, stay within our tax cap and not cut institutional programs. In addition, supporting the roll-out of the Next Generation standards and the implementation of the Vision of a Garrison Graduate and the Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Coherence Plan. The next school year will require ongoing construction, phased and temporary relocation of classrooms. The timeline and phasing needs to be reviewed carefully. The school should also be a noise-mitigation plan and the construction areas left clean and safe at the end of each day. The goal is to make sure that there are minimal disruptions to our students’ education. It will be a challenging year, but if there is something that 2020 has taught us is that

with the right protocol, oversight and planning, obstacles can be overcome.

MCCARTHY: I enthusiastically support this year’s budget, which includes a full-time environmental educator for grades K-8 and reinforces our commitment to technology while staying within the tax cap. I look forward to continuing to serve the Garrison community as a member of the Board of Education and ask for your vote as well as my fellow board members, Madeline Julian and David Gelber.

RAUCH: The biggest challenge facing the district is the need to navigate through tumult. Adding to the disruption caused by the pandemic will be the capital project, which will cause a huge mess in the process of creating something quite terrific. The project will be a challenging year, but if there is something that 2020 has taught us is that
The folks at the Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival (HVSF) have been more than a little distracted over the past year. With the cancellation of their 2020 season because of a pandemic shutdown and a town full of diverging opinions about the scope of the plans for a new home at the Garrison golf course, it’s easy to forget that ultimately the play’s the thing.

Overshadowed somewhat by offstage drama, the festival’s two 2021 productions will be its last at Boscobel in Garrison, where HVSF has set up camp for 32 of the past 33 summers after its first season at Manitoga in 1987.

The first show, The Most Spectacularly Lamentable Trial of Miz Martha Washington, by James Ijames, will open June 24 and run for five weeks, through July 30. Shakespeare’s The Tempest follows on Aug. 5, running for five weeks through Sept. 4. Unlike previous seasons, which saw three or four shows in repertory, this year’s uncertainty, plus ongoing health and safety considerations, determined that streamlining was the most efficient way to produce the season.

Taking into account ever-changing New York State and Actors’ Equity Association regulations on the maximum number of people allowed entrance at specific times, and the myriad other public gathering compliance components, flexibility was key, say Kate Liberman, HVSF’s managing director, and Davis McCallum, its artistic director.

With all these preoccupations, it wouldn’t have been surprising if HVSF had thrown in the towel for 2021 to focus on the pendulum. Yet, that was never in the cards, Liberman says. “We spent the better part of the year not being able to do any theater-making. As an organization, we have a mission to bring the community together, so how could we go on without trying? Davis and I are theater people at heart, and our board felt it was important to bring the community back together rather than taking a pass, particularly during our last season at Boscobel.”

McCallum adds: “There are arts organizations all over the country frantically trying to figure out how to perform in a tent; well, we know how! There was this one-in-a-lifetime potential to be back performing, even with daunting finances, and we thought, ‘We have to put ourselves in position to be able to seize it.’”

He says the wisdom of the decision was confirmed for him when he attended Haldane’s performance of The Greek Trilogy and the debut of The Scream, a musical co-written by Cold Spring’s Ray Bokhour, at the Philipstown Depot Theatre. “It was the two first times I’ve been back in a theater in — I don’t know, 14 months — and I found the experience thrilling. To be in a place where humans bear witness and get up and tell stories — I felt a flood of relief just sitting there, and I can’t wait to follow that example under the tent.”

The HVSF tent will be in place at Boscobel, but there will be a number of changes, Liberman says. “Audience capacity will be limited to 33 percent — a state mandate — and each group has to be socially distanced. Both plays will be performed without intermissions to reduce the complexities of keeping everyone safe. We’ve also simplified the bathroom situation to trailers with individual stalls.”

In addition, all theater-goers will be required to provide proof of vaccination or negative test results through the state’s digital Excelsior Pass or by presenting a negative COVID-19 test taken within 72 hours of arrival. There’ll also be symptom screening and contact tracing, along with timed entry. There will still be picnicking, but with reservations and in designated circles on the lawn. For those who remain uncomfortable in groups, or otherwise are unable to attend or can’t get tickets because of the reduced capacity, one performance of each show will be recorded and streamed online.

“The HVSF tent will make one last appearance this year at Boscobel. Photo by Phil Bulla

There are arts organizations all over the country frantically trying to figure out how to perform in a tent; well, we know how!

~ Davis McCallum, HVSF artistic director

The Calendar

BACK UNDER THE TENT

HVSF prepares for final season at Boscobel

How to Get an Excelsior Pass

Provided by New York State, the Excelsior Pass provides digital evidence of COVID-19 vaccination or negative test results. The vaccination pass is valid for 180 days after the final dose (when it can be renewed); the PCR (nasal swab test) Pass is valid until midnight on the third day after a test; and the Antigen Pass is valid for six hours from the time of a test.

The passes can be stored on a smartphone with an app from the Apple or Google stores or printed. They also can be retrieved at epass.ny.gov. You also will need to present photo ID that shows your name and birthdate.

Kate Liberman and Davis McCallum, in front of the HVSF office

Washington’s slaves appear to be waiting on her but are instead waiting for her to die so they can be freed. They pass the time messing with her head, playing out a wild series of comic sketches.

“I’d never read anything like it,” says McCallum, who initially considered adding it to the HVSF repertory in 2019. “It has a huge breadth of imagination, a powerful set of ideas. The audience’s presence and point of view is the place where the drama is focused, and that’s similar to Shakespearean dramaturgy. The tent ‘wants’ a play where the audience is present and a part of the play.

“My favorite Shakespeare plays are those...”

(Continued on Page 14)
THE WEEK AHEAD
Edited by Pamela Doan (calendar@highlandscurrent.org)
For a complete listing of events, see highlandscurrent.org/calendar.

COMMUNITY
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: $25 ($5 ages 10 and younger)

SUN 16
Toy and Collector Show
NEWBURGH
9 a.m. – 3 p.m. Showtime Cinemas 1420 Route 300 | facebook.com/TheLocalNTS
Find toys, pop-culture collectibles and comics. Cost: $5 (free for 12 and younger and anyone wearing a costume)

TUES 18
Cooking for a Cause
BEACON
7 p.m. Hudson Valley Eats bit.ly/cooking-aroff
Brian Arnoff, the chef behind Kitchen Sink and Meyers Olde Dutch in Beacon, will lead a virtual cooking demonstration for spring pea lasagna. The proceeds will benefit organizations that fight hunger in the Hudson Valley. The fee includes Newburgh Brewing Co. Cream Ale and the recipe and ingredients list. Cost: $30

SAT 22
Master Gardeners Plant Sale
CARMEL
8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Veterans Memorial Park 201 Gypsy Trail Road 845-278-6738 x 220 putnam.cce.cornell.edu
Find annuals, perennials, native plants and shrubs, plus all the vegetables your garden needs, at this annual fundraiser.

SAT 22
Shredder Day
COLD SPRING
9 a.m. – Noon The Nest 44 Chestnut St. coldspringions.org/shredder
Bring your papers sans staples and have the materials securely and safely shredded at this event to benefit Cold Spring Lions Club programs.

SAT 22
Modern Makers Market
BEACON
10 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. Riverfront Park 2 Red Flynn Drive hopsonthehudson.com
Check out work by more than 100 artisans and artists as well as food trucks and entertainment. Because of pandemic restrictions, only up to 500 people will be admitted to each of two sessions (10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. and 2 to 5:30 p.m.). Proof of vaccination or a negative COVID-19 test is required. Also SUN 23. Cost: $17 ($7 ages 6 to 16 and free under 5)

Sun 23
Empanada Wars
BEACON
11 a.m. – 5 p.m. St. Rocco Society 26 S. Chester St. bit.ly/empandawars
This fundraiser for the Beacon Community Kitchen will feature Tommy Que Empandas and EmpanAUNI. Cost: $10

Visual Arts
SAT 15
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 with 18 artists whose works are an optical illusion or spin, whirl, walk or move. Also SUN 16.

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, 1-day classes covering painting, silk screening, bookmaking, knitting and other crafts. Class will be held outside, weather permitting. Register online. Cost: $35

SAT 15
Sandbox | Schism
BEACON
Noon – 6 p.m. BAU Gallery 506 Main St. | 845-440-7584 baugallery.org
Lukas Milanak’s interactive 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.

Sun 23
Empanada Wars
BEACON
This fundraiser for the Beacon Community Kitchen will feature Tommy Que Empandas and EmpanAUNI. Cost: $10

Kids & Family
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.

Fri 21
Roo-Play Sale
BEACON
9 a.m. – 1 p.m. University Settlement 700 Woicott Ave. | weplayproject.org
Find gently used clothing, toys and gear for children at this annual sale to support recreation activities and play space in local parks. Also SAT 22, SUN 23.

SAT 15
Low Fidelity
BEACON
6 – 9 p.m. The Lofts at Beacon 18 Front St. | 845-202-7211 loftsbeacon.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.

THURS 20
Farmers’ Market Picnic
PHELPS TOWN
6 p.m. Magazzino Italian Art 2700 Route 9 bit.ly/csfm-benefit
Enjoy the grounds of the art center with picnic fare from Fresh Company to support the nonprofit organization behind the Cold Spring Farmers’ Market. Cost: $85

Sun 23
Searchers in Winter
GARRISON
4 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library 472 Route 403 | 845-420-3020 desmondfishlibrary.org
Owen Pataki, a Garrison native and author of Searchers in Winter: A Novel of Napoleon’s Empire, will discuss his book with his sister, Alison Pataki, who is also a bestselling author, via Crowdcast.

(Continued on Page 13)
SAT 15
William Parker
BEACON
8 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
477 Main St. | 845-831-4988
orthstage.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. Cost: $20

SAT 22
Deni Bonet with Chris Flynn
PUTNAM VALLEY
6:30 p.m.
Tompkins Corners Cultural Center
729 Peekskill Hollow Road
tompkinscorners.org
The singer/songwriter and violinist will perform quirky, melodic and fun folk-rock for all ages on the lawn with Flynn, a guitarist and singer. Cost: $20 donation

SUN 23
Junction Trio
KATONAH
3 p.m. Caramoor
914-232-1252 | caramoor.org
Violinist Stefan Jackiw will perform in a livestream with pianist Conrad Tao and cellist Jay Campbell. The program includes work by Shostakovich and Beethoven. Cost: $15 to $45

SAT 15
Cassatt String Quartet and Ursula Oppens
BEACON
8 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
alivemusica.org
In this livestream, Oppens, a pianist, will perform with the quartet in an all-female program that includes Amy Beach’s Piano Quartet in F-sharp Minor and the online premiere of Blue and Green Music for string quartet by composer Victoria Bond. Cost: $20 donation

THURS 20
 Literary Open Mic
BEACON
7 p.m. Via Zoom | donnaminkowitz.com
Listen or read from a written work for five minutes as Donna Minkowitz revives the program online.

SAT 15
The Freedom Project
GARRISON
6:30 p.m. Philipstown Depot Theatre
845-424-3900
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)

TUES 18
Budget and Trustee Vote
GARRISON
6 a.m. – 9 p.m.
For district residents in Beacon
Glenham Elementary
15 Craigside Drive | haldaneschool.org
For district residents in Fishkill and Wappinger

WED 19
School Board
GARRISON
7 a.m. – 9 p.m. Garrison School
1100 Route 9D | gufs.org

TUES 18
Budget and Trustee Vote
BEACON
7 a.m. – 9 p.m. Beacon School
1100 Route 9D | beaconny.gov

TUES 18
Budget and Trustee Vote
COLD SPRING
7 a.m. – 9 p.m. Haldane School
15 Craigside Drive | haldaneschool.org

TUES 18
Budget and Trustee Vote
GARRISON
7 a.m. – 9 p.m. Garrison School
1100 Route 9D | gufs.org

CIVIC
MON 17
 City Council
BEACON
7 p.m. Via Zoom
845-838-5011 | beaconny.gov

MON 17
 Village Board
NELSONVILLE
7:30 p.m. Via Zoom
845-265-2500 | nelsonvilleny.gov

CIVIC
MON 17
 Village Board
NELSONVILLE
7:30 p.m. Via Zoom
845-265-2500 | nelsonvilleny.gov

STAGE & SCREEN
SAT 15
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)

TUES 18
Budget and Trustee Vote
BEACON
6 a.m. – 9 p.m.
Beacon High School
101 Matteawan Road | beaconk12.org
For district residents in Beacon
Glenham Elementary
20 Chase Drive | beaconk12.org
For district residents in Fishkill and Wappinger

STAGE & SCREEN
SAT 15
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)

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WED 19
School Board
GARRISON
7 a.m. – 9 p.m. Garrison School
1100 Route 9D | gufs.org

Voting

The Haldane PTA supports the 2021-2022 school budget.

**Highlights**
- adheres to the goals of the Strategic Coherence Plan to the greatest extent possible
- stays within the tax cap, up to the levy limit
- Proposition #2 - School Bus: includes the purchase of one 55-passenger bus and two minibuses at a cost, including incidentals, of $175,000 to be funded through borrowing
- Two Board of Education Trustee Seats

*Vote May 18, 2021*
Polls open 7am to 9pm
Haldane School, Cafeteria, 15 Craigside Drive

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3 bedroom | 1.5 bathroom | 1,174 sq ft
List Price: 499,000 | Sale Price: 526,050

Voting

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Haldane School, Cafeteria, 15 Craigside Drive
NOTICE TO BIDDERS

New Town of Philipstown Highway Department Headquarters

The Town of Philipstown hereby invites the submission of sealed bids to furnish materials and labor for the New Town of Philipstown Highway Department Headquarters. The work will be performed as multiple prime contract basis. Each bid shall be on a stipulated sum basis for the following contracts:

- **Contract No. GW.1** General Work
- **Contract No. P.1** Plumbing Work
- **Contract No. H.1** HVAC Work
- **Contract No. E.1** Electrical Work

Bidders may bid on any or all of the four (4) prime contracts, provided that a separate bid must be submitted for each contract on which the Bidder wishes to submit a Bid.

Sealed bids submitted on appropriate bid forms included within the Project Specification Manual, will be received by the Town of Philipstown at the Philipstown Town Clerk’s Office at 238 Main Street, Cold Spring, New York, NY 10516, until 2 p.m. (local time) on Tuesday, June 1st, 2021 at which time the bids will be opened and read aloud immediately thereafter in the Courthouse located on the second floor of the Town of Philipstown Town Hall, 238 Main Street, Cold Spring, NY. Bids received after that time will not be accepted and returned to Bidder unopened. It is deemed the responsibility of all prospective bidders to ensure that bids are delivered to the location indicated herein within the permitted timeframe.

Bid Documents will be available as of Tuesday, May 11, 2021 as follows:

- Complete digital sets of Bidding Documents, drawings and specifications, may be obtained online as a download at www.Revplans.com under ‘public projects’. The cost to obtain digital sets is the responsibility of the bidder. Complete black and white printed sets of Bidding Documents, Drawings and Specifications, may be obtained from RIV Printing, 330 Route 17A, Suite #2, Goshen, New York 10924, Tel: (845) 978-4736, upon payment of the nonrefundable sum of one hundred dollars ($100.00) for each combined set of documents. Checks or money orders shall be made payable to Town of Philipstown. Any bidder requiring documents to be shipped shall make arrangements with the printer and pay for all packaging and shipping costs.
- Bid and Contract Documents may be examined at no charge upon appointment at the offices of Highlands Architecture pllc, 3122 Route 9, Cold Spring, NY 10516.

Prospective bidders may request clarification of the bid documents in writing addressed to Highlands Architecture, attention Justin Kacur via e-mail (j.kacur@highlandsarchitecture.com). No interpretations of the meaning of the plans, specifications or any contract documents will be made to any bidder orally. Every question for such interpretations shall be in writing using the correct form and must be received one (1) week prior to bid due date in order to be considered.

A pre-bid meeting will be held at the existing Town of Philipstown Highway Department located at 50 Fishkill Road, Nelsonville, NY, on Tuesday, May 18th, 2021, from 1 – 4 p.m. Attendance by bidders is recommended, but not required for submitting a bid. Architect will be in attendance at the pre-bid meeting.

Each bid shall be prepared and submitted in accordance with the Instructions to Bidders, on the Bid Form bound within the Project Manual. Bidders are required to execute and submit a non-collusive bidding affidavit pursuant to New York State Finance Law §139-1, Bidders are required to submit the following statement subscribed by the Bidder and affirmed by the Bidder as true under the penalty of perjury: “By submission of this Bid, the Bidder and each person signing on behalf of the Bidder certifies, and in the case of a joint bid each party thereto certifies as to its own account, under penalty of perjury: ‘I hereby certify that I am the owner of the Bidder and I have implemented a written policy addressing sexual harassment prevention in the workplace and provides annual sexual harassment prevention training to all of its employees. Such policy meets the minimum requirements of section two hundred one g of the Labor Law.’ If a Bidder cannot make the foregoing certification, such Bidder shall so state and shall furnish with the Bid a signed affidavit setting forth in detail the reasons therefor.

Bid Security in the amount of five percent (5%) of the Bid must accompany each bid in accordance with the Instruction to Bidders. One hundred percent (100%) Labor and Material Payment Bond and one hundred percent (100%) Performance Bond will be required of the successful bidder(s) prior to signing the contract.

The Owner reserves the right to consider all Bids for a period of sixty (60) days following the bid opening before awarding the Contract and reserves the right to waive any formalities or to reject any and all Bids.

HVSF (from Page 11)

like Measure for Measure and Cymbeline, where the tone is hard to pin down. The audience has to wake up and participate. Martha is hilarious, but also like a horror movie; the audience has to navigate."

He adds: “Among many other things, the pandemic has laid bare structural inequity in our society. James’ play speaks to the legacy of slavery in America: How can we go forward without reckoning with what came before? Both plays turn on questions of justice."

It will be directed by Taylor Reynolds, who is new to HVSF. “She directed this awesome play called Plan 9 at Clubbed Thumb [theater], which I saw three times,” McCallum says. “When I read James’ play I immediately thought of Taylor.”

On the other hand, The Tempest’s director, Ryan Quinn, knows his way around the tent, having spent nine seasons there as an actor, beginning soon after he received his M.F.A. in acting from Yale. Quinn is the artistic director and a co-founder of Esper- ancie Theater Company.

Because it is the last season at Boscobel, McCallum says it seems fitting to have many other veterans returning, including Jason O’Connell, Britney Simpson, Zach Fine, Kayla Coleman, Sean McNall (who is also associate artistic director) and Kurt Rhoads and Nance Williamson.

McCallum says he always chooses the plays in combination with each other. In this case, The Tempest “is in great conversation with James’s play: They’re both about accountability, forgiveness and justice. Also, I think The Tempest is on some level about theater-making. We don’t know if it’s Shakespeare’s final play, but the last line, ‘As you from crimes would pardon’d be / Let your indulgence set me free’ is a fitting way to pay tribute to the 35 years of history we have at Boscobel. It’s only the third time we’ve produced it, and it seemed like a potent metaphor.”

Tickets to both shows are available to HVSF members until May 27, when sales open to the general public. See hvshake-speare.org.

Playwright James Ijames Photos provided

Ryan Quinn, who will direct The Tempest

locally sourced since 2014

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By order of the Town Board of the Town of Philipstown
Beacon artist inspired by microscopic life

By Alison Rooney

The majority of Holly Sumner’s painting subjects are “not something you would normally see,” she says. Entranced by the microscopic organisms she encountered through her biologist husband’s research, Sumner has brought them to visible scale through portraiture that will be the focus of Saints and Samurai, a solo show at the Garrison Art Center that opens Saturday (May 22).

Her husband, now retired, worked at Woods Hole, the oceanographic institution on Cape Cod, where he studied the gases that come off the organisms, Sumner explains. While visiting him there, she came to appreciate the organisms’ visual beauty and the scientific data that defined them.

“My husband studied plankton, so I grabbed what was nearby, gleaning from what was at hand,” she says. “Scientists aren’t all that different from artists. Spending all this time with these organisms you can’t see except through a microscope, you start anthropomorphizing them, finding visual hints about their lives, like Whistler’s old lady with the fan in her hand, which you then employ in making portraits of them.”

In her notes for the show, Sumner expands on this: “When the radiolaria were lining the walls of my studio I saw them as my protective radiolarian samurai. The siphonophores are leisurely, elegant, gentle and refined. The medusae are iconic and private. The hydzoa are colonial, gracious and social.”

Sumner’s portraits are presented with backdrops of geometric data, which, she reveals, were used by her husband in his work. “His contribution is with those little squares in the back — all those rectangles were part of his program, which would take a sample from something here and mix it with something else. I try to be less literal with them; it’s a representation of the study of the environment.”

Her pieces are not based in art history as much as other works, she says. “It’s based on guidebooks and scientific tomes,” although “a lot of my formatting and the way I paint has been influenced by spending time in the Metropolitan Museum looking at older works.”

At the time, she was teaching a “Drawing at the Met” class at The New School and New York University and led students through its various areas: Asian, African, European, drawing. “I got to know the Met very well,” she says, including the variety of ways that its art is framed, something she’s emulating in some of her work. “Staring at multiple panels, often used with religious works, I noticed they actually folded, and there were other paintings on the back. When priests would set them up, they became like a folding church.”

In these polyptych paintings, the work is divided into sections, or panels, with the central, main panel usually the largest, and the others smaller. Another form Sumner is working with are engaged frames, which are “attached, like icon paintings — everything in the Garrison Art Center show is on wooden panels.”

During her time studying art — she has a bachelor of fine arts from Alfred University and an MFA from the University of Colorado at Boulder — Sumner largely painted landscapes. “There was always a horizon line,” she says. “My work evolved, and part of it was moving to New York City and staying for 30 years before moving up to Beacon in 2004. Maybe it’s because I wound up having more of a people-oriented life rather than a landscape one.”

The Garrison Art Center, located at 23 Garrison’s Landing, is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. from Tuesday to Sunday. Call 845-424-3960 or see garrisonartcenter.org. Saints and Samurai, along with an exhibit of ceramic sculpture by Deborah Leece, will continue through June 20.

“Scientists aren’t all that different from artists.”
Open-Faced

By Celia Barbour

W e've all g o n e v e r y D I Y about bread and cheese in the past few decades. Chances are, if you've visited a friend's house for lunch or cocktails any time since the Reagan administration, and your host served bread or crackers with cheese, characterie or, say, smoked fish, you were expected to put the components together yourself.

You didn't think twice about shouldering this burden. You simply selected a piece of bread from basket or board, sliced yourself off a couple wedges of cheese, speared a salami round, scooped up some bluefish paté, and went off to compose and consume your acquisitions. You host might have nudged you toward certain combinations — placing a fat wedge of blue cheese beside a cherry compote, for example. But the rest was up to you.

Last week's profligate May sunshine got me thinking about a place and time when a different model prevailed — namely, my house in the 1970s. You may wonder what sunshine has to do with bread and cheese (besides the fact that one can now differentiate between Humboldt Fog and Summer Snow after 8 p.m.). Well, my mother is a Finn, and, like most Scandinavians, she feels the approach of midsummer the way an old sailor feels an oncoming storm: deep in her bones. The weeks clustered around the solstice are a time when her entire spirit goes into celebration mode. Scandinavia also happens to be the home of exquisite, open-face sandwiches. Pretty as majolica tiles, these stunning smørrebrød treats (known in Finland as voileipa) are ubiquitous, and a key part of any festive gathering.

When I was growing up, my mom would have no sooner expected her party guests to compose their own hors d'oeuvres than asked them to belly up to the stove and cook their own meatballs. I suspect many 1970s hostesses felt similarly. Back then, you couldn't assume your guests were confident enough around food to participate in its construction.

Echoes of the era persist to this day, of course, in the canapes and crostini passed at catered gatherings. But for the most part, hosts no longer presume to know how many cornichons a guest likes with her ham, how much membrillo to put with Manchego.

Even my friend Annette, a host of breath-taking grace and virtuosity, now serves cheese etc. on their own boards and platters, and breads etc. on others. But when she first came to the U.S., after growing up in Germany and Sweden, she recalls, "I thought my guests would consider me lazy if I made them do the work themselves." Eventually, she overcame these qualms.

Now that the vaccine has allowed us to begin connecting with friends again, entertaining can make a bit of moving to a new country, or at least making back to an old country after a long time away: There are days when hugging an old (vaccinated) friend or talking face-to-face (outdoors) makes me feel as awkward and amazed as a traveler in a foreign land.

But even as we resume our strange, atrophied habits, we well hesitate before diving back into certain customs. For example, the one where everyone sticks their fingers into the same chip bowl, and double-dips their carrots into the dip. Maybe this is the perfect moment, in other words, to revisit the era of composed sandwiches.

I have another reason for championing these treats: butter. Excellent butter is essential to any true Scandinavian voileipa/smørrebrød. It’s pricey, yes, but no more so than a half-decent cheese. And while most everyone secretly loves superb butter, few guests would be caught dead in public smearing it on their bread. It’s up to you, as host, to perform this kind and generous act for their benefit — as a gift to their bright, summer spirit.
A new community garden opened at the Butterfield Library in Cold Spring on May 7 with assistance from Cub Scout Troop 137, which helped Patrick Reinhardt construct it as his Eagle Scout project. Scoutmaster Tara O’Sullivan distributed flowers and seeds for the boys to plant.

Photos by Ross Corsair
Looking Back in Philipstown

By Chip Rowe

150 Years Ago (May 1871)

The Cold Spring Village Board of Trustees ordered 400 affidavit forms for people who wanted to make a claim against the village. The village Board of Excise met to consider the application it received from the Pacific Hotel for an annual liquor license. However, it noted that the year before at least five establishments had served liquor. The board also received two applications for grocers’ licenses.

Justices Ferris and Ladue competed against their two respective sons in a “trial of skill” to shoot 22 birds from trap, with 18 yards rise and 80 yards boundary. The younger men won.

Burglars broke a window overnight to gain entry to the News Office and Variety Store and made off with tobacco, cigars and confectionaries.

An anonymous reader wrote the Cold Spring Recorder to ask “whether there is a law forbidding certain individuals that come under the name of ‘loafers,’ who generally hang around corners of public buildings (more particularly in the lower part of this village), from insulting respectable persons who necessarily have to pass them day and evening. Even ladies cannot pass them without hearing some low epithet uttered loud enough to be distinctly heard.”

The pupils of District No. 10 visited John Rusk at his home on Paulding Avenue to present their retiring principal with a gold pen.

A detective searched the trains at Cold Spring for two soldiers who deserted from West Point.

The Village Board discussed building a sidewalk from Town Hall to the Methodist Church.

Henry Rossiter, 80, and his son, Thomas Rossiter, 52, a painter best known for his portraits of historical scenes, died in the same week. Henry was found outside his home after he apparently fell from a second-floor window overnight. Thomas died of an unspecified illness three days later. Thomas had moved to Philipstown with his family in 1860 and designed a house, Fair Lawn, overlooking the river near Cold Spring.

The excavation of the tunnel at Breakneck continued, with many of the laborers making their homes in Cold Spring.

After attempting to use soaped timbers to move the Garrison train depot, workers managed to reposition it with rolling stocks. At the same time, a ferry slip was being constructed opposite the depot.

A sudden jerk of the reins dislocated Thomas Jaycox’s shoulder. Several neighbors offered to reset it, but he sought out Dr. Murdock.

Washburn’s Sensation performed at Town Hall. The troupe included 20 performers, including gymnasts, “character delineators” and clog dancers. Washburn arrived in town via Fair Street and made a tour of the streets with his band and procession of wagons.

The two daughters of Jeremiah Lynch were brought home to Philipstown to recover after falling ill in New York City with smallpox.

100 Years Ago (May 1921)

The Village Board gave C.C. Griffin the OK to put up a “No Parking” sign in front of his home on Chestnut Street.

A crucifix imported from Munich that measures 12 by 4 feet, with a 5-foot-8-inch figure of Jesus, was installed at Our Lady of Loretto mission.

Madam Sani noted in an advertisement that she would advise clients in love or business by reading palms at the Woods building.

The board raised the fees paid by peddlers and vendors by 50 percent to cover the cost of the police officer assigned to enforce local ordinances.

The Lending Library Committee closed its list to new members.

The ferry company in Garrison began building an ice cream parlor in part of its ticket office. At the same time, it expanded the office to allow two agents to work at the same time.

A History of the Village (Continued on Page 19)
into the priesthood at St. Philip's Church there in 1894.

50 Years Ago (May 1971)

Mayor Ray LeFever reported that he had met with Clay Fonda to discuss his K-9 Dog Kennel on Route 9 becoming the village dog pound. However, the mayor said Fonda’s $1,095 annual fee was too much, especially since he didn’t own a vehicle to actually pick up any loose dogs. At a Village Board meeting, trustees asked why the county dog catcher couldn’t patrol Cold Spring, since all the dog-license fees were sent to Carmel. LeFever expressed displeasure that his request for a list of police court proceedings, including the names of defendants and their punishments, had been ignored.

A Monday night Haldane school board meeting that lasted until 3 a.m. was attended by nearly 250 parents, students and faculty members to discuss three teachers who were not given tenure. The coaches also happened to be the leaders of the teachers’ union. During the 7.5-hour meeting, five probationary teachers also were dismissed. On the following Wednesday, at another meeting also attended by about 250 people, the board reversed itself and granted tenure to the teachers and rehired the coaches. The only member of the board not present was its president, Joseph Perpetua, who missed his seventh consecutive meeting.

The O. Rundle Gilbert collection of 100,000 U.S. Patent Office model inventions submitted between 1790 and 1890 was put on display at the American Museum of Popular Inventions. The only member of the board not present was its president, Joseph Perpetua, who missed his seventh consecutive meeting.

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As we pass the last frost day on May 15, gardeners are lining up at the gate and the race is on for the first tomato and summer bloom. As the temperature this week demonstrates, though, it’s a less of a race and more of a chess game. The weather moves a pawn (temperatures below 40 degrees) and I shift my queen (planting schedule).

Observing phenology, planting according to temperature and knowing your next move will keep your garden in play for the season. Noticing the cycles of bud break, leaf out, blooms and fruit set on other plants and trees offers clues to the impact of spring. Are plants showing signs of early stress from high temperatures, too much rainfall or too little rainfall? So far, things are looking OK, although the rainfall has been a bit low.

The question, “When do I …?” is always on a gardener’s mind. Timing is the key to having something blooming or ready to harvest in all seasons, the way to control weeds, and a strategic way to lower your carbon footprint in the garden. Here are some examples.

The right time for...

- Planting tomatoes: when the soil temperature is 65 to 70 degrees.
- Planting okra, pumpkins and squash: when the soil temperature is 85 to 95 degrees.
- Tilling the soil: This is practically never necessary and breaks up soil microbes while bringing seeds of undesirable plants to the surface to germinate.
- Planting a tree: spring and fall or whenever you have a space or a tree.
- Mowing the lawn: when it is more than 4 inches high and then only cut off an inch and leave the clippings on the lawn for best growth and a lower carbon footprint.
- Watering the lawn: never if you’re like me or when the lawn has less than 1 inch of rain per week. Measure rainfall with a rain gauge and measure the output of a sprinkler with 1-inch deep container like a tuna can set in the ground. Also note that when grass is brown during a hot, dry summer, it is dormant and will usually revive once the rain returns.
- Watering newly planted trees: every day or every few days, depending on heat and rainfall. As a best practice, water deeply to the roots each time.
- Watering native perennials: If you’ve planted the perennials in the right conditions, i.e., a plant that likes dry shade in dry shade, then after the first season, the plants won’t need supplemental water unless there are extreme conditions like an extended drought. If you’re trying to grow a plant in conditions other than its optimal setting, it will need help.
- Fertilizing the lawn: Do a soil test first before assuming it needs extra feeding. A light layer of compost may be sufficient. More fertilizer run-off from home lawns impacts waterways than run-off from agriculture. Responsibility and knowledge can prevent a lot of environmental issues.
- Pruning spring-blooming shrubs: Lilacs and forsythia, two of the most common, can be pruned after they bloom without affecting the next season’s blooms.
- Protecting plants from wildlife: as soon as you plant them. It is always disheartening to discover your carrots or just about to bloom flowers disappeared overnight. This year I’ve noticed deer have browsed on previously untouched plants like boxwood, heli-bloes and peonies, which indicates a lot of pressure on their food system. An average sized deer consumes 8 to 12 pounds of green forage per day. Don’t let it all be your garden.
- Weeding the vegetable garden: This is an ongoing task. While disliked by many gardeners, it’s a big part of the job. Weeds have annual, biennial or perennial life cycles just like other plants, and there are spring, summer and fall weeds. By keeping weed pressure low on your plants, they get more nutrients and water.
- Mulching: anytime is good for adding mulch. Use it to suppress weeds, hold moisture in the soil and add nutrients as it decomposes.
- Planting a vegetable or flower garden: anytime. There are plants that will thrive whenever you’ve got time or space.
Sewage (from Page 1)

Route 52 in Fishkill, said City Administrator Chris White and Ed Balicki, the city’s water and wastewater superintendent.

Beacon’s wastewater plant processes between 3 and 3.5 million gallons of sewage and wastewater each day, but that’s only about half its capacity of 6 million gallons.

Allowing private companies and individuals to connect is not only less expensive for them but brings revenue to Beacon without affecting capacity for future development in the city, said White.

The city “has invested a lot of money over the last decades in maintaining and upgrading its water and sewer infrastructure” and outside entities, who would be charged about twice the rate of city residents, can help underwrite the city’s maintenance and repair costs and keep rates lower for residents, he said.

“The ability to sell that to people and companies that are right on the border of Beacon is a win-win,” said White.

Beacon can process sewage for other municipalities and has an agreement with the Town of Fishkill that also includes the Village of Fishkill, said Balicki. The city also sells water to the Town of Fishkill and to the state Department of Corrections for the Fishkill and Downstate prisons.

Outside companies already cover more than 30 percent of the cost of operating the plant, said White, because commercial haulers pay to dump materials such as leachate and waste pumped from septic tanks.

Healy has a holding tank for its sewage and would pump its wastewater overnight when usage is at a low point, said White. “Our collection system can easily take that additional amount,” he said.

Beacon’s wastewater treatment plant is located on Dennings Avenue. Photo by L. Sparks

Land Donation (from Page 1)

The land trust said it also is working with Davis on a conservation easement covering another portion of The Garrison — 100-acres of woodlands off Snake Hill Road.

In a statement, Davis said the goal for the Garrison Golf Club property is “to permanently protect 300 acres at the heart of our community and put in place a program with organizations that share our love for the Hudson Highlands and will serve as vigilant stewards.”

While much of the 74 acres was developed for golf, the property includes forest, wetlands and wildlife habitat, HHLT said. The group said it would “solicit significant community and stakeholder engagement as it develops the restoration and management plans for the project.” It plans to survey the land and complete an environmental assessment over the next several months, followed by public forums.

When announcing in April that the golf course would be closed, Davis said he would offer easements and/or ownership of about 155 acres for conservation. The remaining 145 acres will include The Garrison’s hospitality businesses, the acreage given to HVSF and a parcel for a single-family home, all of which he said will be protected through deed restrictions and/or conservation easements. He said the HVSF would receive more acreage than planned to provide more flexibility for its site design in response to the town’s ongoing review.

When HVSF announced Davis’s gift in August, it said he planned to divide the 155 acres into four parcels: 52 acres for HVSF, 95 acres for a nine-hole course (a plan since abandoned); 28 acres for Davis’ residence; and 27 acres along Route 9 that might eventually also be given to HVSF.

Davis is a member of the board of the Hudson Highlands Land Trust, which he chaired for more than 15 years, and chairs the group planning the Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail between Cold Spring and Beacon. He also is a vice chair of the American Museum of Natural History, a former director of Scenic Hudson and a financial supporter of HVSF.
Catching Up with Our Pros

He pitched two innings for the Hillcats in an 8-4 win over the Fredericksburg Nationals, giving up three runs on a single, a double, two walks and a hit batter in the first inning but striking out two and holding the Nationals scoreless in the second. He has a 3.32 career ERA in seven career games, with six saves and 24 strikeouts in 17.1 innings.

Elijah Hughes, 23, of Beacon, scored six points on two-of-three shooting from three-point range during the last six minutes of a Utah Jazz blowout victory on May 5 over the San Antonio Spurs. He also had an assist. Hughes, a rookie who was drafted out of Syracuse, plays sparingly for the Jazz, which has the best record in the Western Conference. In 18 appearances through Wednesday, he is averaging 1.7 points per game.

He also spent time with the Salt Lake City Stars in the NBA’s developmental league earlier this year while recovering from an ankle sprain.

At a news conference on March 29, Hughes said he isn’t upset with his playing time, given that he is a member of one of the NBA’s best teams. “It’s a learning process that everybody goes through during their rookie year,” he said, noting that veteran players have been telling him how important it is to “take care of your body. It’s a long season. I’ve been surprised by the travel, how much that can get to you going from time zone to time zone.”

Lenny Torres pitched on Sunday (May 9) for the first time in two years.

Lenny Torres, a 2018 Beacon High School grad, on Sunday (May 9) returned to professional baseball two years after he underwent Tommy John surgery on his pitching arm. He was ready to return a year ago but the Minor League Baseball season was canceled because of the pandemic shutdown.

Torres, 20, was drafted by the Cleveland Indians as the 41st pick of the 2018 draft. He initially played in the Rookie League in Arizona and on April 29 was assigned by the Indians to the Lynchburg Hillcats in Virginia, which is a step below the level of the Hudson Valley Renegades.

Elijah Hughes in a game against the Phoenix Suns

Lenny Torres pitched on Sunday (May 9) for the first time in two years.

Elijah Hughes in a game against the Phoenix Suns

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Puzzles

CrossCurrent

ACROSS
1. Borscht veggie
5. Nourished
8. Great Lakes fish
12. Choir voice
13. "— been real"
14. Plane-related
15. Pear variety
17. Fury
18. Away from WSW
19. Mine yield
20. Say
21. Snoop
22. Upscale auto
23. Golf great Sam
26. Husband of Eurydice
30. Level
31. Genetic letters
32. Sicilian peak
33. New Mexico’s capital
35. Director DeMille
36. “Nasty!”
37. Cowboy’s sweetie
38. Brag
41. Gaiety
42. Plane-related
45. Pear variety
46. Fury
48. Away from WSW
50. Sultry Horne

DOWN
1. Innocent one
2. Flair
3. French 101 verb
4. Preschooler
5. Red-hot
6. Diminutive suffix
7. “Spring ahead” hrs.
8. Sideways somersault
9. Miami team
10. Desire
11. Afrikaner
16. Byron or Tennyson
20. Strike caller
21. Devoted supporters
22. Bikini top
23. Rds.
24. Actress Long
25. Small bill
26. List-ending abbr.
27. Still, in verse
28. Half of bi-
29. Bando of baseball
31. Bobby subj.
34. Do something
35. Quitter’s word
37. Mentors
38. Small statue
39. Twice cuatro
40. Grad
43. Aachen article
44. Now, on a memo
46. Club —
47. Sort

Answers for May 7 Puzzles

CrossCurrent

SudorCurrent

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

**BEACON TRACK**

The Beacon High School track-and-field teams are off to a strong start, with the boys taking first and the girls second on Wednesday (May 12) in a meet with Lourdes and Hendrick Hudson.

Mark Guzman followed up his impressive victory in the javelin at the Loucks Games by winning both javelin and discus. Henry Reinke also won the 400-meter in 53.2 seconds, the second best time for a freshman in the state so far this year.

Jonah Mensch won the 110 hurdles and Zach Cader was first in the 800, with Sal Migliore taking second. James Patino took first in the high jump, Evan LaBelle won the 1,600-meter run, and Domani DeLoatch was first in the triple jump.

For the girls, Alicia Williams and Tamar Adams took the top two spots in the high jump and Chelsea Derboghossian won the 100 meters in 13.6 seconds.

The boys improved to 3-0 and the girls are 2-1.

**BEACON SOFTBALL**

The Beacon softball team lost to Brewster in a thriller on May 6, 18-17, in a game that was called because of darkness.

Olivia Ciancanelli took the loss on the mound for the Bulldogs, who also lost this week to Wallkill and Yorktown.

Against Brewster, Kyla Richardson went 3-for-4 with two doubles and five RBI, and Ciancanelli was 4-for-5 with a pair of doubles, a triple and an RBI. Leanna Rinaldi went 4-for-4 with two doubles and six RBI.

“That was an exciting and evenly-matched game, with four lead changes,” noted Coach Michael Carofano. “I was proud of our girls for continuing an aggressive approach at the plate and playing solid team defense.”

Beacon is scheduled to play Lourdes twice next week, at home on Tuesday (May 18) and in Poughkeepsie on Thursday.

**BEACON BASEBALL**

The Beacon High School baseball team surprised previously undefeated Yorktown at home on Wednesday (May 12), as Matt Manzoeillo threw a four-hit shutout.

The senior struck out five and walked one batter in the 2-0 victory. “That was a great job against a team that’s as good as any in the section,” said Coach Bob Atwell. “He was spotting his fastball, his curve was good and his changeup was filthy.”

Centerfielder Mike Lapere had an RBI for the Bulldogs on a bases-loaded walk in the second, and Dillon Kelly drove in the second run in the sixth on a squeeze bunt that scored catcher Jackson Jackson, who also had a strong game behind the plate, throwing out two runners to halt Yorktown rallies.

After a 12-8 loss to Somers on Tuesday, “we talked about what this team is capable of,” Atwell said. “Today we played like the club we strive to be, and now we’re looking for more consistency.”

Against Somers, Lapere led the Bulldogs with five RBI and went 2-for-4 with a double and a grand slam. Jackson went 2-for-4 with an RBI.

Beacon is scheduled to visit Yorktown on Saturday (May 15) and play Tuesday and Wednesday at Dutchess Stadium, with junior varsity games at 4 p.m. and the varsity at 7 p.m.

**HALDANE BASEBALL**

The young Haldane High School baseball team continued to experience growing pains this week, as North Salem handed the Blue Devils a 14-1 setback on Tuesday (May 11) in Cold Spring.

With two of the team’s pitchers — Julian Ambrose and Jack Jordan — sidelined by injuries, Manager Simon Dudar has been looking for answers on the mound. Freshman Trajan McCarthy has taken on the brunt of the load, starting Tuesday’s game and pitching into the fourth inning. John Dwyer and John Kisslinger each provided relief.

“We knew we’d have our struggles this season,” Dudar said. “But in every game we’re getting better, and our defense has been good. Right now we’re working on finding pitchers who can get guys out.”

Ambrose was the designated hitter for the Blue Devils and drove in the team’s only run.

Dudar noted that along with McCarthy, another freshman, Jeremy Hall, has been “stepping up. Jeremy is a fantastic outfielder who catches everything, and he’s been hitting close to .400, which is phenomenal. John Bradley has done a great job catching for us.”

The Blue Devils are scheduled to host Westlake today (May 14) and travel to Peekskill on Monday before playing Croton-Harmon home and away.