FIREHOUSE ART — The Cold Spring Firehouse has a new look thanks to the artistic talents of five Haldane Middle School students enrolled in a community service class. The students visited the Church Street site a year ago, met with Chief Tom Merrigan, created sketches, made revisions based on feedback from the fire company and selected the paints. “It was a big undertaking for students this age, but they learned so much,” said Heidi Gesson, the teacher who leads the program. From left are Ruby McCormick, Hazel Berkley and Frances Donahue; the other students are Sydney Merriman and Silas Emig. Photo by Michael Turton

Man Convicted of Scamming Cold Spring Woman
Stole more than $100,000 over six months
By Chip Rowe

A Long Island man was convicted on June 25 of scamming a Cold Spring woman out of more than $100,000.

James Mcinerney, 52, of Coram, in Suffolk County, was found guilty by a jury of grand larceny, attempted grand larceny and resisting arrest. He faces 9½ to 19 years in state prison at his Aug. 17 sentencing in Putnam County Court.

According to District Attorney Robert Tendy, over six months in 2018 Mcinerney, using the alias James Bryant, claimed he

Wages Rise as Applicants Fall
But local jobless rate well below average
By Leonard Sparks

The City of Beacon usually counts on an influx of college students and recent high school graduates each summer to fill laborer positions in which they help patch potholes and sidewalks, cut grass and trees, and perform other park and road maintenance tasks.

This year, the jobs are there, but not the applicants.

As of last week, only one of the eight seasonal laborer positions had been filled, said City Administrator Chris White, who followed the lead of private businesses and other municipalities by increasing wages, in this case to $15 an hour from $13. As of Thursday (July 1), several of the positions had been filled, he said.

Beacon sent an announcement about the positions to the school district and asked administrators to alert the Class of 2021, said White. “We think this is a good opportunity for someone who might think about a career with the city.”

As the economy reboots and unemployment plummets, including in the Highlands, myriad industries are finding it difficult to fill positions. While the reasons vary, the lack of workers is pushing up wages, especially in positions not typically associated with higher pay.

Some companies are resorting to incentives. Amazon is offering $3,000 bonuses to new hires at its newly opened warehouse in Montgomery who start before Aug. 1. At Fishkill Farms in Hopewell Junction, finding two people with retail experience for the operation’s store proved so difficult that it raised the typical starting pay of $13 to $14 an hour to $15 to $17, said Mark Doyle, the farm’s manager, without any noticeable effect in luring applicants.

While the farm can have high school students fill some aspects of the jobs, it’s more difficult to find supervisors, he said.

New York residents employed in a variety of sectors are enjoying higher hourly wages (Continued on Page 7)
FIVE QUESTIONS: ROLAND TRAUDT

By Jeff Simms

Roland Traudt is the executive director of the Beacon Housing Authority.

What is the Beacon Housing Authority?
It was created in 1964, and the Forrestal Heights building, which has 175 apartments, was constructed in 1969. Residents must meet an income limit to live here (not to exceed 80 percent of the local median), and their rent is set at 30 percent of their income. Our second site, Hamilton Fish Plaza, on Eliza Street, which opened in 1989, has 70 apartments. We are called the City of Beacon Housing Authority, but we have nothing to do with the city except that five of our seven board members are appointed by the mayor. The other two members are elected by the residents. We are one of 3,200 housing authorities that receive federal funding.

The sites have historically had long waiting lists. Are there other options for someone who needs housing?
The waiting list is closed right now, except for seniors and disabled people, because the wait is so long. The wait for a family could be five to eight years. I've been here since 2008, and there's been a waiting list since then.

When I started, 25 percent of our units were vacant and we quickly renovated and rented them. There is no reason for any apartment to sit empty for more than 30 days. Otherwise, there isn't much for someone to do except move to another jurisdiction where the wait's not so long, but who wants to move? There's just a need for more housing.

Would you say there an affordable housing problem in Beacon?
Definitely. If the wait is that long, there's a problem. Even before COVID-19, I've been seeing a lot of people move up from New York City — not only to Beacon, but all over the region. People move up and they can afford more. An apartment that used to be $1,500 is now $2,250. That creates a problem for the people who make less money and want to stay here.

What's the difference between Section 8 and public housing?
If you're part of our low-income public housing program, you live at Forrestal Heights or Hamilton Fish Plaza. For Section 8, we have about 250 vouchers that are handled by landlords throughout our jurisdiction, which includes Beacon and surrounding municipalities. If someone applies and gets a voucher, they find their own housing and use the voucher as partial payment toward the rent. The tenant normally pays 30 percent [of their income] and the balance comes from the federal government. We are going through a transition and by Sept. 1 our public housing units will be converted to a “project-based” Section 8 format [where vouchers are attached to specific units], which will allow the Housing Authority to receive more funding.

What could you do with more funding?
More capital improvements, renovate kitchens, renovate bathrooms, new roofs on the buildings that might need them in the next few years. Create more parking. We've done a lot of capital work over the 12 years I've been here, so we're not in bad shape. But we also want to build more affordable housing. You have to be creative when you work in a housing authority. Every year you submit a budget to HUD [the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development] — say I need a million dollars to make this place run properly under its guidelines. But every year HUD says, nationwide, “We're going to fund the housing authorities at 75 percent,” or sometimes it's a little higher, like 85 percent. How do you make something work when you're never getting enough money to do the job correctly?
The HIGHLANDS Current's ICE CREAM PASSPORT

Part challenge, part contest, 100% delicious.
Collect stamps at participating shops for a chance to win a $100 ice cream spree!

Beacon Creamery  Shmuck's Sweet Stuff  Bozerino's  Homestyle Creamery
The Chocolate Studio  Garden Cafe  Zora Dora's  Sweet Harvest

Here's the scoop.
From July 2 to July 31, celebrate a favorite perk of summer by visiting local ice cream shops in Beacon and Philipstown. This is the best kind of competition: the more ice cream you eat, the more chances you have to win. Pick up a passport card inside any of our blue boxes or at any of the participating ice-cream shops. Share photos along the way with #icecreampassport for extra entries! Three winners will take home gift card prizes from participating stores. Enjoy!

Scan QR code or visit highlandscurrent.org/icecream

With support from:
Library story
My family came to America in October 1978. They had their vision of America: Little Odessa, Brooklyn Bridge, Times Square.
I had my America: Sesame Street.
Oh, how I wanted to live there. An integrated community of people and monsters singing, learning and dancing all the time. A world that validated living in garbage cans and crowded city landscapes.
I learned how to speak English on Sesame Street. My time there sparked a thirst for language, letters and rules of grammar. I craved order in a neighborhood busy with pigeons and loudspeaker subway announcements.
Being immigrants, we had no books, or, no books in English. Only my grandma could read English, and she only read romance novels.
I discovered the library as a place of information. My grandma would walk over with me to the end of Brighton Beach Avenue, under the shadowed train tracks.
I chose to read about the history of this country: genocide of Indigenous people, slavery, institutionalized racism, Japanese internment camps. In Yeshiva, I studied religious persecution of Jews, and I was trying to make sense of humanity.
The library’s version of America contradicted both Sesame Street and what the television was saying, but how could so many books be wrong?
I must have read all the books they had; it was a small library and I am a fast reader. I was hungry for dissenting opinions.
Thirty-five years later, no longer in Brooklyn, I am still an active public library patron, still assembling my dissenting opinions. If Sesame Street taught me to speak English, the public library taught me America.
Masha Schmidt, Cold Spring

Marine patrols
In “Sheriff Criticizes End of Patrols on Hudson River” (June 25), you reported that two Republican lawmakers on the Putnam County Legislature had taken offense during a committee meeting, deeming the exchange “a waste of time” and that things down.
This sounds to me like that liberal, leftist, Socialist, mean-spirited, rabble-rouser Nancy Montgomery was at it again, disrupting the fine work of the open-minded, hellish, honest Republicans who have been so gracious in their treatment of the lone Democrat. No doubt Montgomery saw a chance, this time on the high seas, to ruin the calm order of another meeting that only Republicans know how to operate.
Wait? It wasn’t Montgomery? The Republicans went ballistic on a captain from the Sheriff’s Department? What’s the world coming to?
Gregory Bochow, Cold Spring

It’s no matter that they put the lives and limbs of boaters and swimmers on Lake Mahopac, the Hudson River and other waterways in jeopardy so long as they chalk up another notch on the Gotcha Langley target.
Together with County Executive Mary-Ellen Odell, they nitpick and harass a sheriff who has the effrontery to belong to an opposing political party. But residents of Putnam County are not duped by these petty shenanigans and will continue to re-elect Sheriff Langley.
Ann Panizzi, Carmel

Legislators Neal Sullivan and Ginny Nacerino are engaging in a political vendetta that is unbecoming to their positions over matters long settled by previous sheriffs.
It’s no matter that they put the lives and limbs of boaters and swimmers on Lake Mahopac, the Hudson River and other waterways in jeopardy so long as they chalk up another notch on the Gotcha Langley target.
Together with County Executive Mary-Ellen Odell, they nitpick and harass a sheriff who has the effrontery to belong to an opposing political party. But residents of Putnam County are not duped by these petty shenanigans and will continue to re-elect Sheriff Langley.
Ann Panizzi, Carmel

It’s time Putnam County cleaned house of those who carry out personal issues against those they don’t agree with at the expense of the residents.
Joe Hyatt, via Facebook

Teaching race
Katie Hellmuth Martin’s June 8 column (“Kid Friendly: Cotton Candy Racism”), seemed to be a soft slap at the recent attacks on boards of education, including recently in Carmel, over the teaching of certain theories about racial discrimination.
(Continued on Page 6)
Most prints of the Declaration of Independence, such as this one, are made from a copperplate engraving created in 1823 by William J. Stone. At that point, the original parchment document was already fading. It is now at the National Archives but so faint it is nearly impossible to read.
(Continued from Page 4)

throughout U.S. history. Martin expressed an important truth by stating that we can’t ignore parts of history because that “disap-
ppears people.”

It is crucial to our intellectual and societal growth that we offer our children the facts, theories and studies on race. Whether our children are of African, Asian, European, Middle Eastern, Indigenous or another heri-
tage, it is essential that they learn how we got to the country we live in today.

A 21st-century version of book burning will not prevent a curious student from reading and learning anything they want on the internet, including some version of the truth on social media. To do right by students, the concepts of critical racial theory and other important topics should be taught in school and discussed freely with teachers and classmates, friends and at home.

Jeanne Nelson, Mahopac

No perfect mayors

There are no perfect mayors, and that’s the point (“Mayor Drops Out of Cold Spring Race,” June 4). No mayor can be everything to every-
one. Keeping us all as happy as we can be is not his or her job and it’s childish to measure progress that way. In leadership, choices must be made and compromises hatched out to keep a ship upright and on course.

Thank you, Mayor Dave Merandy, for your authentic and plain-dealing approach to the governance of our village. You have always kept the work of the village focused on the good of its residents and your hard work is appreciated.

Travis Fyfe, Cold Spring

Trustee Fran Murphy was planning to step down, but Dave Merandy and Trustee Marie Early did not step down because they needed a break, as Joe Curto wrote in the June 11 issue (Letters and Comments). They stepped down to avoid a “three-way race,” as they said, calling it a “heart-wrenching” decision. 

Trustee Kathleen Foley’s decision to run for mayor came as a surprise and clearly offended those who are stepping down to avoid a loss to Vinny Tamagna. As a result, we will lose Early, Merandy and Matt Francisco, who clearly didn’t want to serve on the board without either of the candidates who brought the village into the 21st century with police reform, updating the zoning code, overhaul-
ning building inspection, working on transpar-
ency, running the village website, elections and committees. Ninety-nine percent of this work was done by those who are leaving. Cold Spring will lose great things. It stinks.

Norah Hart, Cold Spring

Park upgrades

This is such great news (“New Trailheads and Parking Lots at Fahnestock,” June 25). I’ve driven there with my kids and had to turn around and come home because there was no parking. It’s great to see these initiatives that make a wonderful park safer and more accessible.

Michael Gatto, via Facebook

Does this mean that the people who park on the shoulder of Route 301 will now be ticketed?

Lily Easley, via Facebook

It’s a shame and an injustice to conserva-
tion law that so many trees were cut down in a park preservation area to improve access to part of a park that was not under high visitation stress. Many other portions of the park could have used infrastructure improvements that would have granted more equitable and sustainable access to swimming and other activities, such as lower Canopus Lake.

Lorrin Startin, via Instagram
Planning Board Approves Garrison Library Plan
Short meeting caps long review

After months of discussion, the Philipstown Planning Board on June 24 approved a landscaping plan by the Desmond-Fish Public Library that doesn’t include solar panels.

The 5-0 vote allows the Garrison library to construct a Discovery Path on its 11.5-acre site, along with a pollinator garden, grasslands, woodlands, wetlands and stream enhancements and better accessibility for those with physical limitations.

Neal Zuckerman, who chairs the Planning Board but also serves as a library trustee, recused himself from the vote; another Planning Board member could not make the session, held via Zoom. It lasted 7 minutes.

The project originally included a “ribbon” of solar panels, but that plan elicited negative reactions from some neighbors. The library board scrapped that idea in May, saying it was busy searching for a new director and also faced delays in grant funding.

Butterfield Library Names New Director
Johanna Reinhardt promoted

The board of the Julia L. Butterfield Memorial Library has promoted Johanna Reinhardt to director to succeed Gillian Murphy, who left in April to lead the Elting Memorial Library in New Paltz.

“Johanna has been a tremendous asset to the library for many years, so choosing her as our new director was an easy decision,” said board President Judy Meyer in a statement.

Reinhardt moved to Cold Spring 17 years ago and began her association with the library as a volunteer for the annual Big Truck Day when her son was a preschooler. In 2009 she was hired as head of children’s programming.

“Libraries are so much more than the books they house; they’re vital community centers,” Reinhardt said. “I have a responsibility not just to maintain this historic institution, but to grow it. Now more than ever, I believe collaboration and a commitment to environmental sustainability are imperative.”

Unemployment

The average hourly wage increases from May to May ranged from $6.25 in the financial sector to $2.52 in construction, $2.40 in goods producing and $1.83 in manufacturing.

The average hourly earnings in the leisure and hospitality industry, which hemorrhaged jobs during the pandemic, were down by 81 cents.

Local restaurant owners were facing the difficulty of finding workers two months ago. “This is not normal,” said Stacey Penlon, who owns The Beacon Pantry, at the time. “I have never had this much trouble hiring people.”

She said she raised hourly wages to attract and retain workers but many of her employees had switched during the pandemic shutdown to other industries.

The general increase in wages began at least late last year, when weekly wages in Dutchess County averaged $1,242 (the equivalent of an annual salary of $64,584), nearly 13 percent higher than the same period in 2019, according to the most recent county-level data compiled by the federal Bureau of Labor Statistics. Wages for Putnam averaged $1,289 a week ($67,028), an increase of 15.5 percent over 2019.

At the same time, more people are going back to work, although business owners around the country have expressed concern that federal unemployment payments that will continue through the summer, until the week of Sept. 5, are creating a disincentive for people to return, especially to relatively low-paying hourly jobs.

The federal programs extended benefits by 53 weeks, on top of the 26 weeks offered by the state, and since January have included an additional $300 per week. The programs also allowed self-employed and independent contractors, who are not typically eligible, to receive payments. Workers must certify each week that they are unable to find work.

However, extra benefits were at the bottom of the list of reasons cited by unemployed workers among 5,000 job-seekers surveyed in June by Indeed.com. The most cited reason among those not “urgently” looking for work was fear of COVID-19, followed by a working spouse, sufficient savings and responsibility caring for someone.

Workers remaining on the sidelines does not appear to affect unemployment rates in Dutchess or Putnam. While the rate in both counties hit 11.4 percent in May 2020, they have since fallen to 4.4 percent in Dutchess and 4.2 percent in Putnam, well below the state average of 7.8 percent, according to data released on June 22.

In February 2020, just before the pandemic shutdown, the rate was 3.9 percent in Dutchess and 4 percent in Putnam.

Unemployment Rates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NUMBER OF UNEMPLOYED</th>
<th>DUTCHESS</th>
<th>PUTNAM</th>
<th>STATE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
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<tr>
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<td>5,700</td>
<td>3.9%</td>
<td>2,100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAY 2020</td>
<td>16,000</td>
<td>11.4%</td>
<td>5,600</td>
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<td>NOV. 2020</td>
<td>6,900</td>
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<tr>
<td>MAY 2021</td>
<td>6,100</td>
<td>4.4%</td>
<td>2,100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Source: New York State Department of Labor
Catching Up with Philipstown School Boards

Highlights from recent Garrison, Haldane meetings

By Chip Rowe

**GARRISON SCHOOL BOARD**

- Appointed Maura Shanks as a middle-school English teacher at an annual salary of $72,687. (April 7)
- Voted to approve the nominations of Cathy Lilburne of Garrison and Michael Simpkins of Peekskill to serve new three-year terms beginning July 1 on the board of Board of Cooperative Educational Services of Putnam/Northern Westchester County (BOCES). The Haldane board also approved the nominations. (April 20)
- Approved a memorandum of understanding with the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference to have its volunteers “plan, develop, maintain and protect trails” in the School Forest. (April 20)
- Directed the superintendent and business administrator to continue their research into installing electric vehicle charging stations. (May 5)
- Approved a revised policy for equity, diversity and inclusion that begins: “The Board of Education is committed to creating and maintaining a positive and inclusive learning environment where all students, especially those currently and historically marginalized, feel safe, included, welcomed and accepted, and experience a sense of belonging and academic success.” Further: “In order to realize this goal, it is imperative that the board, its officers and employees be fully conversant in the historical injustices and inequalities that have shaped our society and to recognize and eliminate the institutional barriers, including racism and biases, that contribute to the pervasive, disparate educational outcomes within our schools.” (May 19)
- Issued a statement about the special education process: “The board recognizes there may be some confusion in the community regarding special education and the staffing changes in the 2021-22 budget, which voters approved last month [May]. The Committee on Special Education (CSE) is a multidisciplinary team that makes recommendations in regard to special education programs, as well as related services and aides for students based on their needs, in accordance with federal and state guidance. The CSE team meets at least annually to review students’ IEPs [individual educational plans] and to make recommendations for programs from that point forward. All IEP recommendations are forwarded to the Board of Education for approval, and the district’s administration is responsible for the implementation of students’ IEP programs.

"Other than approving the CSE’s recommendations, the board has no direct role in the CSE decision-making process. The district determines its special education staffing levels based on the CSE’s approved recommendations. It is important to understand that this is not a top-down decision-making process. Therefore, appealing to the board for additional special education staffing is unproductive. As a public school district, we must always respect the integrity of the CSE process. "If the CSE appropriately recommends a special education program that requires additional staffing, the district is certainly prepared to increase staffing as needed. The district will respond to the CSE’s recommendations once they have completed their annual review process and made their recommendations. The district cannot set a quota for IEPs or hours spent in various programs or aides in order to increase or decrease staffing levels." (June 2)
- Approved the retirement of Nancy Galletto, educational technology specialist. She had been with the district for 17 years. (June 2)
- Approved one-year extensions of the collective bargaining agreement with the teachers’ union increasing salaries by 1 percent and employee contributions for health insurance premiums from 13.50 percent to 13.75 percent, and with the school-related personnel union increasing salaries by 2 percent and health contributions from 10 percent to 10.25 percent. (June 2)
- Accepted bids for a capital project approved by voters in May for general construction from Meyer Contracting Corp. for $3.23 million; plumbing by Total Construction Corp. for $2,224,400; mechanical (HVAC) by Bertusse Contracting for $1.57 million; electrical by Hudson Valley Electrical Construction Management for $1.07 million; and mechanical equipment from Trane for $857,100. (June 2)
- Robin Waters, the president of the Garrison Teachers’ Association, noted the union had sent letters of support to the board for two teachers and three aides whose positions were cut in the 2021-22 budget. "We hear we are valued but it rings false," she said. "New programs and administration have been added while staff positions are being eliminated. Where is the equity in that and how does this help the kids? Seeing our long-term members so easily dismissed after giving so much has been demoralizing. In my 32 years I have never seen morale so low and staff so anxious. I implore you to reconsider the programs you are adding and the positions you are eliminating and the criteria you are using to make these decisions."
- Awarded tenure to middle school principal MaryAnn Seelke, art teacher Angela Branco, librarian Terri Ekes and teachers Kieran Lynch, Dan McGroarty and Jessica Perrone. (June 16)
- Abolished three full-time elementary school teaching positions and two full-time teaching assistant positions; the superintendent was instructed to notify the least senior employees in those positions that they would be laid off. The board also eliminated one full-time and four part-time teacher aide positions. (June 16)
- Accepted the resignation of foreign language teacher John Schepsis, effective Aug. 30, and Marie Sgroi, a K-12 behaviorist, as of June 30. (June 16)
- Rejected the bids for electrical and mechanical upgrades in its capital project as too high and put the contract back out for proposals. (June 16)
- The next meeting of the board is scheduled for Tuesday (July 6).
Cold Spring Parking: Take Two

**Metered parking reduced, but other concerns remain**

By Michael Turton

The committee working to ease Cold Spring’s parking problems presented a revised plan at a public meeting on June 24 after considering feedback on a draft strategy released in early June. Predictably, some residents praised the amended plan while others were less satisfied.

The need to better manage parking has become acute in recent years as weekend visitors increase, even during the COVID-19 pandemic.

“Overloading the village with traffic in a disorganized way will continue to seriously erode quality of life for everyone who lives here,” said Jack Goldstein, a committee member, in explaining the rationale behind the revised plan. He said it provides “first steps that will actually do something about the problem” and added that “the time for punting on this issue is over. There are events being planned this summer that may attract 2,000 people each.”

The proposal also aims to reduce emissions from idling vehicles and increase village revenue.

**The major components of the plan remain intact:** metered parking on Main Street from Route 9D to Depot Square, in the municipal lot on Fair Street and at Mayor’s Park; a Resident Parking Permit (RPP) district encompassing 11 streets in the village core; free parking areas; and areas allocated for business owners and their employees.

The biggest change is the elimination of paid parking proposed for several side streets where they intersect Main Street. That will increase the number of free parking spaces within the RPP district from 49 to 81. The village will also provide a number of “floating permits” for service-worker vehicles.

Some attendees at a public meeting on June 3 complained that Main Street intersections were not adequately addressed in the initial plan, and Goldstein said he hopes that the 60 percent increase in free spaces will improve parking for those residents and employees on weekends and holidays, the only time metered parking will be in effect under the plan.

“It probably won’t solve every individual problem, but the committee feels it is a significant improvement,” he said.

The west side of Kemble Avenue south of Rock Street will not be reserved for business owners and their employees as originally proposed. “There didn’t seem to be much enthusiasm” for that, Goldstein said. Instead, Kemble will be a free parking area open to anyone.

Trustee Marie Early, who is a member of the committee, said after the meeting that The Boulevard is being considered for reserved parking for those living or working on Main Street.

The plan still includes the use by the village of a smartphone application from Parkmobile to collect fees on weekends and holidays.

Goldstein stressed the flexibility of the app. “If metering is seen to be unnecessary in the offseason, it can simply be turned off,” he said. “It will take a test period to see if we are offering parking at market rates, at the right times of day and year and what revenue is.”

**Continued on Page 10**
Parking *(from Page 9)*

He said the only cost to the village is a credit card fee on each payment; Parkmobile charges parkers 35 cents for each transaction and will provide signage and analytics. “I’m impressed; every time you guys have come back you’ve made [the plan] better and better,” said Eliza Starbuck, who is president of the Cold Spring Area Chamber of Commerce and a candidate for village trustee, but commented only as a resident of Main Street. She said eliminating paid parking on side streets addressed her biggest concern.

Others were not as accepting. Jim Smith lives on Main Street between Church and Route 9D, an area zoned residential but not included in the 2015 RPP district, making residents ineligible for permits. Smith was one of 25 residents who have petitioned the village to exclude that section of Main from metered parking.

Goldstein said exclusion of that section of Main from the 2015 RPP may have been an oversight. He noted some of the residents who signed the petition have off-street parking and urged the use of the additional free spaces in the revised plan.

Travis Fyfe, who lives on Stone Street, said he was concerned that the plan doesn’t give Main Street renters access to parking equal to those in residential areas. He called it “mind-boggling” that the lower village has different rules than the upper village.

(New York State approved parking permits on streets west of the railroad tracks in 2003. Like the 2015 RPP, that arrangement reserves a maximum of 80 percent of spaces for residents but, unlike the RPP, does not designate specific areas or require a permit to park adjacent to businesses.)

Fyfe’s other concerns included a reduction in parking reserved for firefighters near the firehouse, the accuracy of space measurements and allowing parking on both sides of Northern Avenue between High and Church streets, a section he thought too narrow.

He also questioned if fines for violations are sufficient, noting that a $40 ticket is not cost-prohibitive for visitors from New York City.

High Street resident Andrea Connor urged the committee to recommend that Haldane Street be made one-way from High Street to Route 9D, saying drivers routinely ignore the stop sign at High. “It’s a terrible accident waiting to happen,” she said.

The plan designates Haldane Street as an open, free parking area. The committee has agreed it should be made one-way but has not yet recommended in which direction.

The committee will now evaluate recent public comments before submitting its recommendations to the Village Board. It will be up to the board to accept, revise or reject the plan following a public hearing on July 14.
Growing up near Tel Aviv, Debbie Broshi always painted. She thought she would become a painter. Her sister encouraged her to study art, and she did, a bit, but turned her sights to a more “practical” profession: makeup design.

She studied in London. “I looked at makeup as someone who had studied art” she says. After returning to Israel, she found a job in the film industry, specializing in special effects and faux wounds and tending to the faces of actors such as Christopher Walken, Lauren Bacall and Peter Ustinov.

At the same time, she started to perform in comedy clubs. She and a writing partner turned short pieces into a show. Eventually, she became a full-time comedy writer and performer, including appearances on an Israeli sitcom.

“I’ve liked making people laugh since I was a little girl — it’s something that’s natural for me,” she says. “I enjoy laughing, too; it’s a pure joy for me. That heartbeat, the adrenaline you feel just before going onstage — it’s a good kind of excitement.”

More recently, Broshi, who lives in Philipstown, has been writing plays, including short comedies for the Aery Theatre Co.’s One-Act Festival at the Philipstown Depot Theatre in Garrison.

But it’s visual art — drawing, collage-making. Much was awakened. A few months after the workshops, she began making her own art again, and says she has since experienced a creative rejuvenation.

“I like to paint at home because I can paint, go cook something, return to painting,” she says. “Sometimes I’ve painted the whole day and night, other times just for a while, but it’s an everyday thing.

“I sketch first, then I plan the composition. It begins with a general thought, and that’s why it takes me a long time. The decorative details usually come after. I use colored pencils and acrylics, sometimes charcoal. I also use wood and work in textures and diluted colors.

As an example, she cites “An Open Door,” a collage chosen to be in the Garrison Art Center’s Small Works show last year.

“I drew a big woman sitting on a chair, holding a big pot of food,” Broshi says. “This was inspired by a tiny photo in a newspaper of a woman. She’s sitting outside her house. It caught my eye because of what it made me feel. It warms my heart to see it. I don’t know what she was doing with it, and that doesn’t matter, because I already had my own interpretation.”

The painting “wound up having no resemblance to the photo, but the idea is the same. I drew the woman holding the pot of food, then I drew a door behind her in a nice warm color. On the walls I attached images that looked like something happy — birds and other things. Some people said they felt it was like an open door, and the idea with this painting was warmth and an open door.”

Another example: “An old photo of two sisters, one sitting, one standing. My dog ate half of the photo — he found it delicious. I attached the photos, still missing a chunk. But the remaining parts had some of the images. In the original photo it all looks severe: their dresses have dark stripes and look gloomy. It doesn’t look like they have a nice relationship, but I made it different because I see it the way I want to see it.”

With all her work, she says, “people ask me, ‘What is their story? What are their thoughts?’”

In one painting, Broshi incorporated a wallpaper design from the walls of the wedding reception hall her father owned in Israel. “With all the people getting married there, he would come home and tell us, ‘I see joy every night.’ My parents were Holocaust survivors and endured so many years of misery. In Israel, my father became a chef, and ran this wedding place, where he fed thousands of people. There’s so much emotion in that wallpaper for me. Little things are the connection to bigger thoughts.”

Broshi hopes someday to mount a solo exhibit. For now, her most recent paintings can be viewed at bit.ly/debbie-broshi.
THE WEEK AHEAD
Edited by Pamela Doan (calendar@highlandscurrent.org)
For a complete listing of events, see highlandscurrent.org/calendar.

SAT 10
Putnam Culture Festival
BREWSTER
11 a.m. – 5 p.m. Tilly Foster Farm 100 Route 312 putnamculturefestival.bpt.me
Celebrate the diversity of Putnam County with music (including The Psychedellicats at 4 p.m.), performers and activities such as a rock climbing wall and obstacle course. Cost: $25 ($12 advance, free for ages 10 and younger)

SAT 3
The PreZence
BEACON
8:30 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St. 845-855-1300 | townecrier.com
This Led Zeppelin tribute band, founded by Sal Deane 14 years ago, has just completed taping of The Clash of the Tributes. Cost: $35 ($30 advance)

TUES 6
Rock Painting
COLD SPRING
10 a.m. Butterfield Library 10 Morris Ave. | 845-265-3040 butterfieldlibrary.org
Students ages 9 to 11 should wear clothes to get messy and bring rocks to paint in the library garden, or indoors if rain.

WED 7
Garden Club Visit
BEACON
3:30 p.m. Howland Public Library 845-831-1134 | beaconlibrary.org
Students in grades 6 to 12 will visit the One Nature Garden Center to learn about native plants. Email community@beaconlibrary.org.

THURS 8
Superhero Story Time
GARRISON
4 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library 845-424-3020 | desmondfishlibrary.org
A superhero will read to children in this virtual program. Registration required.

FRI 9
Teen Craft Night
COLD SPRING
6 p.m. Butterfield Library 10 Morris Ave. | 845-265-3040 butterfieldlibrary.org
Students in grades 6 and higher will make animal-themed crafts, including a pet necklace.

SAT 10
JBL Sprouts Garden Club
COLD SPRING
10:30 a.m. Butterfield Library 10 Morris Ave. | 845-265-3040 butterfieldlibrary.org
Children ages 7 to 12 will plant their own vegetable or herb and do crafts.

MUSIC
SAT 3
MV Carbon and Ka Baird
BEACON
8 p.m. Fridman Gallery 475 Main St. | fridmangallery.com
The sound artists will perform preternatios of vintage Serbian and Romani music. Cost: $20

STAGE & SCREEN
SAT 3
Jaws
BEACON
8:30 p.m. Story Screen Drive-In 724 Wawarsing Ave., | 845-440-7706 storyscreendrivein.square.site
A shark terrorizes beaches in this 1975 classic thriller. Also SUN 4. Cost: $10 ($8 children, seniors, military)

SAT 3
National Treasure
WAPPINGERS FALLS
6:30 p.m. Dutchess Stadium 1500 Route 90 | 845-838-0094 milb.com/hudson-valley
Watch an outdoor screening of the 2004 thriller starring Nicolas Cage, followed by a fireworks show. Cost: $15

SAT 10
The Artichoke
BEACON
8 p.m. Howland Cultural Center 477 Main St. | 845-831-4988 artichokeshow.com
The latest installment of the storytelling series will feature Kate Tellers, Ed Gavagan, Tim Lopez, John Blesso, Annie Tan and Adam Selbst. Cost: $20 ($15 livestream)

FRI 9
Pride and Prejudice
WAPPINGERS FALLS
8 p.m. County Players Theater 2681 W. Main St. | 845-298-1491 countyplayers.org
In this adaptation by Kate Hamill of Jane Austen’s classic story, the outspoken Lizzy Bennet is determined to never marry, but can she resist love? Also SAT 10, FRI 16, SAT 17, SUN 18. Cost: $20 ($17 senior, military, children under 12)

SAT 10
The Princess Bride
COLD SPRING
8:30 p.m. Dockside Park coldspringfilm.org
The Cold Spring Film Society returns for its 10th season with a screening of this 1987 postmodern fairy tale starring Cary Elwes and Robin Wright. Free

COMMUNITY
SAT 3
Used Book Sale
GARRISON
10 a.m. – 1 p.m. & 3:30 – 6:30 p.m. Garrison School | 1100 Route 9D garrisonbookfestival.org
The Friends of the Desmond-Fish Library are hosting their annual fundraiser this year at the school’s outdoor pavilion. Search through thousands of titles, many priced at $2. The children’s section will have its own tent. Use the Nelson Lane entrance. Continues daily through SUN 11.

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TALKS & TOURS
WED 7
Maritime Smuggling on Long Island
COLD SPRING
7 p.m. Putnam History Museum putnamhistorymuseum.org
Author Bill Bleyer will discuss via Zoom how 18th-century pirates and bootleggers used Long Island as a hub for maritime smuggling. Cost: $30 (free for members)
SAT 10
Climate-Friendly Open House
GARRISON
10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
bit.ly/climate-house-tour
Tour a home that has been updated to have a low carbon-footprint (the address will be shared after registration). Learn about heat pumps, weatherization, electric vehicles and charging, and climate-friendly lawn practices.

SAT 10
Drawing for People Who Think They Can’t Draw
COLD SPRING
10 a.m. Supplies for Creative Living
165 Main St.
suppliesforcreativeliving.com
All you need is pencil and paper for this four-session class. Cost: $85

SAT 10
Grow the Rainbow
BREWSTER
10:30 a.m.
Tilly Foster Community Garden
Route 312 at Prospect Hill Road
Tilly Foster Community Garden
All you need is pencil and paper for this four-session class. Cost: $85

SUN 11
The Weight of Air
GARRISON
4 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library (Lawn)
472 Route 403
845-424-3020 | bit.ly/poses7.11
David Pose will discuss his memoir about heroin addiction and depression in conversation with Brandon del Pono. The event is co-hosted with Split Rock Books and the Philipstown Behavioral Health Hub.

VISUAL ARTS
SAT 3
Sunset from Bannerman’s Island
BEACON
 Noon – 5 p.m. Bannerman Island Gallery
150 Main St. | 845-831-6346
bannermancastle.org
The work of 25 artists who used photography or painting to capture the views from the island will be on view until Sept. 5.

SAT 3
RiverWinds Gallery Artists
BEACON
1 – 5 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
477 Main St. | 845-831-4988
howlandculturalcenter.org
The gallery has closed on Main Street but its members, including Paola Bart, Deb Heid and Maryellen Siegel, will show their work through Aug. 1.

SAT 3
Time Lapse
BEACON
6 – 8 p.m. Friedman Gallery
475 Main St. | fridangallery.com
This group show of Hudson Valley artists will explore how stories travel. Through Aug. 16.

FRI 9
Primordial Substance
NEWBURGH
5 – 9 p.m. Grit Works Gallery
115 Broadway | grit-works.com
Beacon artist Evan Samuelson’s oil paintings will be on view through Sept. 18.

SAT 10
Saseha Mallon / Eileen Sackman
BEACON
Noon – 6 p.m.
BAU Gallery
506 Main St.
845-440-7584
baugallery.org
New ceramics work by both artists will be on view.

The Highlands Current
Kid Friendly

Serving Summer

By Katie Hellmuth Martin

Before we begin this column, please know that the intended title was one of the following, but they are all too long: “How to Not Feel Like a Maid All Summer” or “How to Not Drown in House-Mess” or “How to Not Drown in Your House or in Your Head All Summer.”

The stickiness of which I speak started as spilled milk (breast or formula), graduating into watermelon, and upgrading into peanut butter and jelly. Oh, and we must not forget the glass of lemonade flung by one brother onto the other brother, or the overflow spill of the orange juice by the newly emboldened toddler who insists on drinking it all. These are some hardcore parents who believe they bore children to work the farm. But we are fighting. The chaos. Enjoy it, but remember, over that baby to your partner or anyone in your home while you take a shower or plant in your garden alone. I know there are some wise lactation experts here who don’t believe in the bottle/breast blend. But it can work.

To clean surfaces, including your own skin, especially if you are in the throes of producing or buying. Buy yourself a nursing tank that unstraps for easy feedings anywhere. You can now find such a tank top at H&M in a non-maternity section! It’s just there. Hanging among the other clothes.

Make an appointment with the Bra Fit Expert (formerly of Beacon, now in Cornwall) and Waddle and Swaddle (formerly of Beacon, now in Poughkeepsie). Both business owners are mothers who can outfit your girls and know your struggles. Worth every penny. Donate to someone in need when you’re done.

For middle parents, the children need to clean

a. Pay your children to clean. I know there are some hardcore parents who believe they bore children to work the farm. But we are in an age of Fortnite skin (costume) buying, and these children want it. They want that Target toy aisle. And you’re tired of saying “No!” So put the budget on them. They want a new skin? They can wipe down the kitchen counters for $3. Or organize the easiest kid bank accounts that can hook up to a kitchen cabinet. P.S.: The AT&T store in Fishkill is helpful creating kid phone packages. P.P.S.: Chase and Citizens Bank have easy kid bank accounts that can hook up to yours for transfers and in-person deposits.

For older parents, with children in high school

I don’t know about this phase yet, but from observing my neighbor I can see that he’s watching them drive away to jobs or Beacon Hoops, and he’s a little sad, but proud. The first day his daughter rode her bike away from home by herself down a few blocks, he cried with fear. We all vowed to keep a dutiful watch for when she returned (knowing that she would return), and that we were actually parenting him.

This “feels like” 105-degree heat will keep us balanced. It will keep us pouring water on our heads, jumping in sprinklers, inviting ourselves over to neighbor pools (I have my standard text self-invite-at-the-ready). If you get invited by an elder to their pool, as I did when I first moved to Beacon, take them up on it. They miss the Kid Life if their grandchildren aren’t here. They want to see the action again. The splashing. The fighting. The chaos. Enjoy it, but remember, you do you. Don’t sacrifice so much that you’ve evaporated in this heat. Soak up the sun and recharge.
Big, Bold, Beautiful
Beacon retailer finally found her calling
By Alison Rooney

The same hands which brought Marie-Pierre Pulcini’s first career to a disappointing end provided her entry to the second, and third.

When tendinitis curtailed her piano training, she switched to graphic and costume design before discovering her calling: jewelry.

In November, Pulcini and her husband, Emmanuel, opened MP Art Jewelry and Objects on Beacon’s East End. There she displays and sells mostly her own bold designs in sterling silver and stones (gold is too expensive for these metal-intensive designs, she says). There are also works by others.

The decision to go retail was made quickly — which is not the couple’s M.O.

“Because of COVID-19, we would not normally be driving around, but last year my husband said, ‘Let’s go for a ride,’ ” she recalls. “We end up coming through Main Street the back way. I turned my head, saw a ‘For Rent’ sign, and soon we had a store.”

Born at a Paris hospital across from Notre Dame, Pulcini grew up in an artistic household; her mother was a ceramist, and “watercolors, oils and canvases were always lying around,” she recalls. Her father, a scientist and inventor, worked for a company where his job entailed “going into a foreign country for five years, establishing the branch, hiring people, then leaving.”

After a stint in England, the family landed in Boston in 1977. “When it was time for my family to leave, I decided to stay,” she says. “I loved the States and found the education and living freeing.”

Pulcini focused on piano at the Hingham Conservatory of Music and was accepted to continue her studies at Boston University Conservatory of Music and was accepted to continue her studies at Boston University but stalled.

“My technical background was not great and the people I was confronted with were brilliant; they were breathing music,” she says. “I found it so stressful having to practice eight hours a day. Then I got injured and rehabilitation meant waiting a year to heal and then not knowing if it would.”

Pulcini segued into graphic design for a foreign country for five years, establishing the branch, hiring people, then leaving.

All the while, she was painting, usually large-scale oils to which she later added aluminum to create a 3D effect. Finding large studio spaces too expensive, Pulcini began thinking about how she could work small with the same methods. That was her initial foray into jewelry.

“I learned the trade by doing and improved with experience,” she says. “I was instructed by mold-makers, stone-setters and polishers and it took me about 10 years to design a line of jewelry which reflects who I am. I carve the shape in wax, then bring it to someone who will make metal, then a mold. I’m self-taught, but all my friends were jewelers and I asked them thousands of questions.”

Her husband handles the logistics of the business: applying to art shows, scheduling, accounting, quality control. He provides “a more balanced approach to my work, which sometimes wouldn’t be wearable without his keen eye for details.”

They wholesaled for 10 years before selling from a shop in the annual Bryant Park market in New York City. By then, there was another move — to a barn in Schodack County that they sold in 2020 to move to Monticello. Her husband quit his job to focus on the business.

“My work is very quirky, very different, and people who love it are collectors for life,” she says. “For people who dislike it, there’s no in-between. There’s a person who is attracted to a more elaborate piece, with a bigger stone. She has a discerning eye. She will be well-dressed, not necessarily by a fashion name, but unusually dressed.”

“I’m very shy but I would wear a big piece because it gets the attention, not me,” she says. “The people who like my work wear it for the work itself, as it’s a distraction from one’s self. For me it works that way, anyway.”

Men come in too, mainly during the holidays. “One guy we love, he picked this enormous elaborate necklace,” she recalls. “He was so excited. I questioned him, ‘Are you sure?’ and he said, ‘My wife will love it.’”

“He came in a month later and told me, ‘I don’t like that piece — it’s not me.’ I said, ‘It’s not, but your husband sees you in a summer dress, wearing this.’ So he came back and exchanged it for a smaller piece. Men ask for your opinion, which is nice, but the way they describe their wives is not always accurate!”

MP Art Jewelry and Objects, at 520 Main St. in Beacon, is open 1 to 7 p.m. on Thursday, noon to 7 p.m. on Friday and Saturday and noon to 5 p.m. on Sunday. See mariepierrepulsejewelry.com.
Small, Good Things

Greek to Me

By Joe Dizney

Periyali, the unassuming-yet-haute Greek restaurant on West 20th St. in Manhattan, has always been one of two or three places I could count on for special meals for special occasions.

Although I haven’t been there in some time, my dog-eared copy of their sadly out-of-print cookbook is still in use. It falls naturally open to a small handful of recipes: skordalia, Nicola’s Mother’s Chicken and this salmon-in-phyllo recipe.

Proustian reveries like this can get you into trouble, and sure enough, somewhere in the middle of prepping for the small group I had invited over for Saturday Supper Club, I started to think that maybe this wasn’t such a good idea.

The spanakopita filling (spinach, dill and feta) is simple and can be prepared a day ahead. The salmon needs an hour in a simple herb marinaide and a squeeze of lemon. So, what was the problem? The phyllo.

I’ll try to make it easier for you, but it does require more than your usual pandemic-Tuesday-night effort.

Hence a lot of warnings. Don’t let this scare you: It gets easier once you establish a rhythm, which is also a reminder that this is a dish better made for six or more.

The phyllo facts

While I’m sure there are foolhardy and/or overconfident souls who think making their own tissue-thin pastry is a valid idea, the freezer department of your supermarket is your friend and salvation. (Apollo, Athens and Fillo Factory are reputable brands.)

Make sure you have plenty of clear, workable counter space and gather everything you need, prepped and laid out within arm’s reach before you begin assembly. Always thaw unopened phyllo in the refrigerator for at least 8 hours (overnight) before bringing the boxed, thawed and still-unwrapped phyllo to room temperature (about 2 hours).

When you are ready to assemble, carefully cut the bag open and unroll the stack of sheets onto a clean, dry surface. I suggest a sheet pan lined with waxed paper. Immediately cover the stack with another sheet of waxed paper, topping this all with a damp but well-wrung-out cloth.

Always keep your phyllo covered as you work individual sheets. Never leave the stack uncovered for more than a minute or so, otherwise it will dry out and become super-fragile.

Use a soft bristle brush to coat the phyllo lightly with melted clarified butter, working from the edges first. After one or two you’ll get a rhythm going, but it is probably best to plan on a mistake or two.

Regarding the melted clarified butter: It’s not rocket science, just another bother-some procedure alleviated by the appearance of 13-ounce jars of Organic Valley ghee in the butter department at Foodtown and other markets.

Stickers will tell you these two things are not the same, but the contents of the glass jar (clearly labeled “clarified butter”) were handily liquefied by simmering the open jar in a small saucepan of hot water. The slightly nuttier taste wasn’t even commented on by my diners and doggie bags were requested, always a vote of confidence from the club members.

It sounds a lot more complicated than it is, but it’s worth it.

INGREDIENTS

1 ½ cup + 1 tablespoon olive oil
1 small onion, shredded
1 small leek, white part only, chopped
2 packages frozen spinach, 10 ounces each, thawed and drained and squeezed thoroughly to remove moisture
2 tablespoons chopped fresh dill
½ teaspoon salt
¼ teaspoon ground white pepper
2 eggs, lightly beaten
¾ cup feta, crumbled
¼ pint small-curd cottage cheese or ricotta
1 tablespoon grated Parmesan
1 tablespoon plain bread crumbs

MARINADE

(for the salmon; marinate and chill for an hour before assembly)
1 tablespoon flat leaf parsley leaves
1 tablespoon chopped chives or scallion tops
1 teaspoon dried oregano
1 teaspoon dried thyme
½ cup olive oil
6 salmon filets, 4 to 6 ounces each

1. Heat 1 tablespoon olive oil in a large skillet over medium heat. When hot, add onion and leeks; cook, stirring regularly until lightly browned. Add remaining olive oil and spinach and continue cooking until mixture stops steaming. Stir in dill, salt and pepper until blended. Transfer mixture to a large bowl and refrigerate until cooled. (Do this up to a day ahead.) When ready to proceed with the recipe, blend in eggs, cheeses and bread crumbs. It should remain chilled.

2. Chop all of the herbal marinade ingredients fine and sprinkle into a shallow pan; stir in the olive oil. Pat the salmon filets dry and dredge them in the marinade; refrigerate up to one hour while you prepare the phyllo.

3. Preheat oven to 375 degrees.

4. To make individual packets: Lay a sheet of phyllo on a flat work surface (with plenty of room to spread out), the short side facing you. Brush with ghee working from the edges to the center. Carefully place another sheet on top of it and brush that with ghee as before. Center left-to-right one of the phyllo packets about 3 to 4 inches from the edge closest to you; brush again with ghee. Sprinkle the filets with lemon juice and center one filet horizontally on the patch. Top the filet evenly with about ¼ cup of the spanakopita mixture. Carefully fold the edge of the large sheet closest to you over the filet and stuffing. Brush the exposed portion with ghee and fold the long left and right sides of the large sheet over the packet. Brush the exposed sides of the folded sheet with ghee and roll the salmon and filling into a neat packet, brushing lightly with ghee as you go. Seal the end flap to the packet with another brush of ghee. Set aside on a baking sheet pan lined with parchment. Cover with waxed paper, another moistened towel and refrigerate. Repeat this process for the remainder of the filets. You may do all this up to 2 hours before baking.

5. Bake packets on the middle shelf of the preheated oven for 15 to 20 minutes until golden brown.
Bread Alert: Signal Fire is Back

Loaves will return on July 10

By Alison Rooney

From house to house in Philipstown and beyond, the word has spread, a communication like its namesake: Signal Fire is back.

Those bread lovers going through a protracted withdrawal since Signal Fire halted baking in December can again savor the wood-fired loaves, which will be baked at a new Peekskill oven and retail store. Co-owners Erin Detrick and Liz Rauch plan to make their re-appearance at the July 10 Cold Spring Farmers Market.

The saga of Signal Fire is fable-like, and began as a tale of two bakers who kept hearing from others that they should meet.

Rauch started as a hobby bread maker after taking a class in her then-home of Brooklyn. “I made two loaves, gave one to a neighbor and experienced the joy you get when you give something to someone who’s excited by it,” she recalls.

After relocating to Garrison, she started a bread share through Long Haul Farm. “We had eight people the first year, more the second, and then Chris Pascarella at Marbled Meats talked me into scaling up.

The rigors of baking in Hudson and managing families became too much, however, and at the end of 2020 they called it quits. “There was an aspect of sharing the space which meant it was out of our control a bit: the schedule, how much bread we could make,” Rauch says. “I wanted autonomy.”

Finding a closer place to bake initially proved impossible, but once they stopped baking and focused on the search, Rauch and Detrick quickly discovered a former black box theater on North Division Street in Peekskill that “had this good feel,” Detrick says.

Still, there was costly work to be done, including installing a $65,000 oven. “From the beginning, Signal Fire’s biggest hurdle was the huge amount of capital needed for infrastructure costs,” Detrick says. “We couldn’t see a way for it to thrive without community support for the oven.”

“We had to trust that our customers wouldn’t forget us,” adds Rauch.

A humble fundraising campaign by email brought in $26,000, enough to get started. “We can’t reiterate enough how grateful we are for this support and the confidence and cheering-on from our community,” Rauch says.

Detrick agrees: “It could have been a scary and lonely thing, and that hasn’t happened. Bread appeals to everyone. The industrialization of bread moved us away from that for a century; we’re changing that — doing something that people long for.

The kind of bakery we’re opening taps into the excitement and cheering-on from our community,” Detrick says.

Along with returning to the Cold Spring market, Signal Fire will be selling bread from its Peekskill space at 706 N. Division St. and taking orders through Marbled Meats in Philipstown. See signalsfirebread.com. Loaves range from $7 to $20.
Miles Ahead

Tracksmith opens pop-up shop in Beacon

By Brian PJ Cronin

Can the right clothes make you run faster?

“Look fast, feel fast, run fast,” says Lou Serafini of Tracksmith, a Boston-based running apparel brand that’s opened a pop-up shop and clubhouse at 2 Tioronda Ave. in Beacon that will continue through July 31.

Tracksmith, which has a devoted following, makes everything from merino wool tops and fleece for training in the winter to running shorts that double as swimsuits. The brand is known for functional, understated pieces that allow you to grab a coffee with a friend after a run without feeling half-naked or like a neon clown.

“If you’re able to go on a longer-distance race, over the course of two, three or four hours, and don’t have to worry about little things like chafing or your shirt sticking to you, it helps you mentally relax and focus,” Serafini says.

The firm has one retail store, in Boston, but has held weeklong events before major marathons around the world. It discovered Beacon three years ago while doing a promotional photo shoot on Mount Beacon for those running/swimming shorts.

Tracksmith hopes the pop-up shop will also serve as a hangout for runners. “Grab a coffee, drop a bag here, go for a run,” says Jeff Seelaus who, with Megan Muzilla, relocated from Boston for the month to live above the store.

The company will host daily runs ranging from fast workouts on Friday nights at the Beacon High School track to “Church of the Long Run” loops around the city on Saturdays and adventure runs on Sundays.

“Our programming is a good balance of structured marathon-style, long runs through town where you can get a good pace and a good workout going, and then fun adventure runs into the woods,” says Seelaus.

In addition to making clothes, Tracksmith publishes a magazine about running called Meter and produces podcasts that address topics such as racism in professional running and the challenge for nonbinary runners who have to choose whether to run as males or females. It also sponsors the bilingual New York hip-hop group Circa ’95, whose members are marathon runners. “We’re trying to elevate voices in the sport that usually aren’t elevated,” says Serafini.

Seelaus just returned to Boston from Oregon, where the U.S. Olympic track and field trials were taking place. About 30 of the athletes are part of Tracksmith’s Amateur Support Program, which provides them with free gear, coaching and mentors, and a few qualified for the Tokyo Games.

Serafini says he realized there was a need for the program when he was participating in the 2016 Olympic marathon trials as an unsupported runner and found many of his competitors were in the same boat.

Seelaus said the company is trying to reach not just elite runners but anyone who uses the sport to push his or her limits, whether running their first 5K or their first 50K trail race (as Seelaus did last weekend in Vermont).

“I’ve run up there to the fire tower,” he said from the backyard of the Tracksmith shop this week while pointing up Mount Beacon. “I’m excited for a lot more of that.”

The Tracksmith Beacon Outpost is open daily from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Runs are scheduled for 7 a.m. Monday and Wednesday, 8 a.m. Saturday and Sunday and 5 p.m. Tuesday and Friday. Reservations are required at journal.tracksmith.com/beacon-outpost.

Tracksmith’s Jeff Seelaus and Megan Muzilla at 2 Tioronda Ave., where the running apparel company is hosting a pop-up shop and clubhouse this month.

Photo by B. Cronin
Puzzles

CrossCurrent

ACROSS
1. Choose
4. Scale amts.
7. Diving duck
8. Diner workers
10. Dijon darling
11. Removes, as a brooch
13. Winter Olympics event
16. “— Clear Day”
17. Bolivian city
18. "Ulalume” writer
19. Favorites
20. Roman emperor
21. Drivers with handles
23. Battery part
25. Persia, today
26. “What’s — for me?”
27. Lincoln or Ford
28. Accord maker
30. Baseball execs
31. 2016 Best Picture nominee
32. Net defender in hockey
33. Separated
34. Island near Java
35. Apple variety
36. Corp. money manager
37. Separated
38. Island near Java
39. Apple variety
40. Tax form ID
41. Reply (Abbr.)

DOWN
1. Alpha’s opposite
2. Lima’s land
3. Performer with a baton
4. Candymaker Willy Wonka
5. November birthstone
6. Revue segment
7. Tibia’s place
8. Points
9. Took potshots
10. Corp. money manager
11. Napper’s racket
12. Comestibles
13. Earth (Pref.)
14. Calligrapher’s instrument
15. Word of denial
16. “— Clear Day”
17. Bolivian city
18. “Ulalume” writer
19. Favorites
20. Roman emperor
21. Drivers with handles
22. Legendary French actress
23. The King —
24. Falls on the U.S./Canadian border
25. German pronoun
26. Draw a conclusion
27. Lincoln or Ford
28. Accord maker
29. Leek’s kin
30. Metric measures
31. Simple
32. Retired jet
33. The King —
34. Lectern locale
35. “Once — a time …”

7 LittleWords

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

CLUES
1. “down-to-earth” canine (9)
2. Corporeal nature (11)
3. Refuse specialist (10)
4. Thinking big (9)
5. Maroon (7)
6. Eating the last piece of (9)
7. Last part of one’s moniker (7)

Sudocurrent

Answers for June 25 Puzzles

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

Answers will be published next week. See highlandscurrent.org/puzzle for interactive sudokus.
Baseball Update

By Skip Pearlman

BEACON

Beacon’s team for players age 14 and younger, which is managed by Beacon High School varsity coach Bob Atwell, got off to a strong start in the Greater Hudson Valley Baseball League, winning its first three games.

The Bulldogs edged Orange County, 6-5, on June 17; defeated Carmel, 7-3, on June 21; and won against Orefice Baseball (Poughkeepsie), 8-1, on June 25.

The team is led by Mike Fontaine, who will be a sophomore at Beacon High School in the fall, along with players mostly from the JV squad, including Nick Albra, Liam Murphy, Derrick Heaton, Ronnie Anzovino, Jackson Atwell, Jack Antalek, Mercer Jordan, Ryan Smith, Anthony Borromeo and Austin Jorgensen.

“They’ve been playing together for some time now,” Atwell said. “It’s a tight-knit group.” He said his pitchers, who include Fontaine, Heaton, Murphy and Jorgensen, have been throwing well. “The strikeout-to-walk ratio has been great.”

Heaton, Fontaine and Atwell have been sparking the offense, Atwell said, also praising Jordan for his walk-off double to beat Orange County.

The Bulldogs are scheduled to play 12 games, along with playoffs, and take part in several tournaments. Their next league games are at Memorial Park at 5:30 p.m. on Monday (July 5) and Tuesday.

PHILIPSTOWN

A Philipstown All-Star team of players ages 10 and younger finished pool play in the District 17 tournament with a 1-2 record.

After falling to the Town of Wappinger in its first game, 11-0, on June 25, the team won a thriller on Sunday (June 27) over Pleasant Valley when Harry McGrory scored the game-winner by stealing home on a wild pitch with two outs and two strikes on the batter in the bottom of the final inning.

Philipstown was powered by a home run from Lughan McIlwaine and strong pitching by Theo Swan, Brian Rommel and Oliver Herman.

On Tuesday, Philipstown finished its pool play with a loss to LaGrange.

The Philipstown team, coached by Dan Valentine, BJ LeMon and Ben Drew, was scheduled to face Pleasant Valley in a best-of-three series starting Thursday (July 1) at the fields at the North Highlands Fire Department. The second game is scheduled for Tuesday (July 6) at Pleasant Valley, and a third game, if necessary, for Thursday (July 8) with the location to be determined by coin toss.

Two graduating Beacon High School players signed letters last month to play in college: Matthew Manzoeillo at Mercy in Dobbs Ferry and Michael Lepere at Springfield in Massachusetts.

Photos provided