

The HIGHLANDS Current



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JULY 16, 2021

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Beacon Church Plan Questioned

Parsonage would be demolished for new hotel

By Leonard Sparks

Parking, traffic and the demolition of a structure dating to the mid-1800s. Those are some of the concerns facing a team of investors who want to renovate the historic Reformed Church of Beacon into an event space with a capacity

of 500 and demolish the church's parsonage and replace it with a 30-room hotel.

Prophecy Theater LLC faced pushback on Tuesday (July 13), when they introduced their project to Beacon's Planning Board. Gavin Hecker, one of Prophecy Theater's owners, said the group considers the parsonage beyond repair and said a previous study determined it had no historical significance.

But John Gunn, chair of the board, said "the rest of Beacon may have a different

observation" about the significance of the building, which along with the church occupies a strip of Wolcott Avenue, pinched between two new housing complexes: River Ridge Views townhouses and the West End Lofts apartments.

"It's part of Beacon's history; it's part of the fabric that we're all responding to changing so rapidly, and that a lot of your fellow residents feel is just getting lost," he said. "That's one component that we're going to be talking a lot about."

Prophecy is proposing "minimal changes"

(Continued on Page 8)

Dutchess Redistricting Falls Apart

Commission disbanded as Republicans seek to reduce Legislature's size

By Leonard Sparks

Dutchess County is two for two, but batting zero.

Twice, county legislators have voted to create an independent, nonpartisan commission to redraw the boundaries of their districts based on new census figures. Twice, the process has quickly unraveled.

On Monday (July 12), the Legislature's 15 Republicans voted to approve a law reopening the application period for people interested in serving on the county's Independent Reapportionment Commission, a seven-member body approved by voters in November 2020 to redraw legislative boundaries based on new population figures from the 2020 Census. Each of the Legislature's 10 Democrats opposed the new law.

Republicans also approved on Monday language for a referendum to amend the county's charter in order to reduce the Legislature's size from 25 to 21 members. Both County Executive Marc Molinaro and Legislature Chair Gregg Pulver have declared their support for shrinking the body. Because the amendment abolishes offices established in the charter, it will have to be approved by voters during the general election on Nov. 2.

Both votes capped a three-week whirlwind that began when Christian Cullen, chief assistant county attorney, ruled in a memo distributed on June 24 that the commission must be dissolved because its chair, Richard Keller-Coffey, is on the Webutuck school board in Amenia and ineligible for membership because he is an "elected official."

Commissioners, under the law creating their body, "shall not currently be nor have been for the three years preceding the formation of the commission an elected official, employee of New York

(Continued on Page 6)



FOR THE BIRDS — Children attending the Philipstown Recreation Center's summer camp created a colorful array of birdhouses now hanging from a tree outside the Claudio Marzollo Community Center in Garrison.

Photo by L. Sparks

Cold Spring To Allow LLC Owners

Second public hearing set for short-term rentals

By Michael Turton

The Cold Spring Village Board at its Tuesday (July 13) meeting scheduled a second, and likely final, public hearing on the proposed law to regulate short-term rentals (STRs) in Cold Spring. The hearing will be held at Village Hall on July 29 at 6:30 p.m.

The board also approved a revision to the draft law, allowing limited liability companies (LLCs) to operate a STR if one of the principals in the LLC resides in the building. Previously, the law totally prohibited an LLC to operate a short-term rental.

Once adopted, the law will become Chapter 100 of the village code, which is currently undergoing an extensive update.

After a protracted discussion, the Village Board came to an agreement with Al Zgolinski and Sean Conaway, chair and

vice-chair of the Historic District Review Board, on a number of updates to the 1976 depiction of the Cold Spring Historic District, using detailed mapping provided by Putnam County's Geographic Information System (GIS) office.

The new map will include street addresses, making it easier for residents to pinpoint their properties, and will exclude from the historic district a small number of properties that, in part, lie outside its boundary.

Discussion of the Community Stakeholder Group, to be established as part of the review of the Cold Spring Police

(Continued on Page 6)

5Q FIVE QUESTIONS: DEAN ANDERSON

By Leonard Sparks

Dean Anderson, a Garrison resident, is the owner of Super Square in Newburgh and inventor of the baguette baking box (baguettebakingbox.com).

Tell me about Super Square?

Super Square is a metal-fabricating company I started 25, 30 years ago. It does a lot of garden iron work, like trellises and pergolas and jungle-gyms for plants. We've done a lot on the top of buildings in Manhattan. The name comes from tools I started making in 1993. I designed and patented measuring and layout tools.

Why create a baguette baking box?

I've been baking bread for years. Really good bread needs steam. I used to put the water in the bottom of the oven. I'd spray the inside of the oven. I'd do all kinds of things to try to make it look more professional and taste better. I realized that you need to control the atmosphere inside the oven, especially the atmosphere directly around the bread. So, I built a box because I had a metal shop. All of these are made by hand. I bend them on a machine, but all the welding and the finishing is done by hand;



riveting is done by hand. It's 100 percent made in Newburgh.

How does the box work?

I preheat it to 475 degrees. After you make your baguettes and you let them rise for a half an hour, you put one or two ice cubes into the baguette tray, you pull the hot baking box out of the oven, open the lid, put the baguette tray in with the ice, close the lid and bang it back into the oven. What the ice does is it gives you an amount of water in that very hot box which turns to steam immediately. After 24 minutes, you reach in the oven, take the lid off and let it

brown for about 15 to 18 minutes and you develop the most beautiful crust. Oh, my god. The taste is wonderful.

Did you have setbacks while developing the finished product?

The first one I made was too heavy. And then, [with] the baguette trays, I didn't figure out the ice thing until a couple of years ago — how to put the ice in, how to control the amount of water. Then it took quite a while for us to develop the perfect [baking] time for the box during the expansion phase and in the browning phase. I have boxes full of baguette trays that I will never use.

What has the response been like?

We've had a tremendous number of people that send us pictures of their first bread and it's really incredible what they end up doing. We have several recipes for different types of bread and some people come up with some really interesting bread that they make themselves. I have this wonderful customer in Hastings who actually takes it on vacation with her. During the pandemic, there were a lot more people home and there were a lot more people cooking for themselves. So, that gave us a real boost. We had one day where we sold 50 boxes.

ON THE SPOT

By Michael Turton

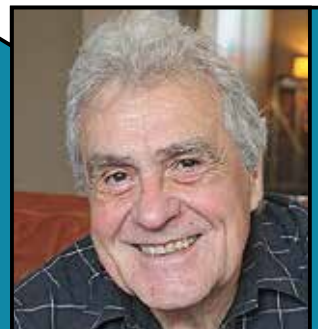
When was the last time you climbed a tree?

“Probably when I was 9; we kids would climb evergreens and pick out the bagworms.”



~ Laura Head, Beacon

“An apple tree, a long, long time ago. Where I live now is all pines.”



~ Bob Rogers, Beacon

“The 1976 bicentennial; I was 10 and climbed the willows down by the river near the bandstand.”



~ Karen Jackson, Cold Spring

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Desmond-Fish Library Names New Director

Cold Spring resident had led the Putnam Valley Library
By Leonard Sparks

Deirdre “Dede” Farabaugh, a Cold Spring resident and recent director of the Putnam Valley Library, will now assume the same position with the Desmond-Fish Public Library.

The library’s Board of Trustees announced Farabaugh’s appointment as Desmond-Fish’s new director in a statement issued on Wednesday (July 14). They pointed to her experience in a number of librarian positions and her stint as director in Putnam Valley.

Farabaugh will replace Jen McCreery, who directed Desmond-Fish for seven years before leaving at the end of April to take the same position with the Chatham Public Library in Columbia County. Farabaugh will start as director in late August, according to the board.

“As libraries are the heart of their communities, living and working within the same area will allow me to develop more natural partnerships and outreach opportunities, while using the contacts and skills I have within the county, the system and the profession,” she said.

Farabaugh graduated from Mills College in Oakland, California, and was employed

by Apple as a corporate writer and producer before returning to school and earning dual graduate degrees: a master’s in library information science from Long Island University’s Palmer School of Library and Information Science, and a master’s in visual culture from New York University’s Steinhardt School of Culture, Education and Human Development.

She worked as a reference librarian at three colleges: Mount St. Mary College in Newburgh, and New York University and Baruch College, both in Manhattan. For many years, she served as senior librarian for children’s services at the Grand Central Branch of the New York Public Library. She is credited with bringing new programming, collections and services to the Putnam Valley Library, including a dialogue about race and a “Coffee With a Cop” program.

“We interviewed many qualified candidates from five states, but Dede stood out due to her energy, creativity and commitment to serving all members of the community,” said Kyle Good, co-chair of the Desmond-Fish Search Committee.

Until Farabaugh officially begins, the library will continue to be led by Pam Read, interim director, and Nancy Young, interim assistant director, said the board.



Dede Farabaugh



SWORN IN - Philipstown Supervisor Richard Shea (left) administered the oath of office on July 8 to Jason Angell, whom the Town Board named to fill the vacancy created by the resignation in June of Mike Leonard. Angell, a candidate in the November election for a full, four-year term on the board, was joined at the ceremony by his wife Jocelyn Apicello, daughter Seneca Angell and son Evan Angell. As good preparation for his role as a Town Board member Angell cited his experience with the Philipstown Trails Committee and efforts with the Philipstown Aging at Home group, recently formed to assist elder residents. “I’m eager to roll up my sleeves and get to work,” he said after the meeting.

Photo by Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

The HIGHLANDS Current's ICE CREAM PASSPORT

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LETTERS AND COMMENTS

Legislators and Pot Shops

There seems like a lack of education and significant false information being spread ("Putnam Legislators Urge Towns, Villages Not To Inhale," July 9). The quoted misinformation is more of a threat to public health and safety than the information cited. These towns need to do a better job of speaking with real industry professionals rather than the ill-informed.

Ruben Lindo, *Ulster County*

The ill-informed in this particular article, in my estimation, is the reporter who misquotes and misinforms the reader. The letter uses information from the Prevention Council of Putnam after years of studying Colorado and other states that legalized marijuana. The letter only asks municipalities to opt out for now in order to see how the process rolls out in New York. Towns can opt back in any time, but cannot opt out after opting in. Read the letter for yourself.

Amy Sayegh, *Mahopac*
Sayegh is a Putnam County legislator, representing Mahopac and Mahopac Falls.

That means they don't get the tax money

and everyone will drive to Peekskill or Beacon.

John Anthony Gargiulo, *via Facebook*

Opt out of alcohol, then.

Eric Szyska, *via Facebook*

Parking For Beacon Developments

I know firsthand the residents parking in the municipal lot take up more than 17 spots ("Where Will The Cars Go," July 9)! They park on the street more than 24 hours when it's four-hour parking. Also, there isn't any parking spots for us residents that live throughout Beacon to park there! Just yesterday I had to drive around the parking lot for 15 minutes looking for a spot since Main Street parking is nonexistent. Also, I might add, they were nasty, complaining about everything when I worked in the flower shop.

Ashley Marie Soto, *via Facebook*

Sloan Estate Sale

I'd respectfully like to offer some corrections to the staff of *The Highlands Current* with regard to the architectural modifications to this once-spectacular mansion ("Sloan Estate For Sale," July 9).

The house as it was originally designed and built in the early 1860s was a textbook example of Italianate Revival-style architecture as popularized by Alexander Jackson Davis, Calvert Vaux and Richard Upjohn in the mid-19th century. The modifications carried out between 1907 and 1913 during Sam Sloan Jr.'s ownership introduced Mediterranean motifs, i.e., terracotta roofs and stucco exterior walls.

Mediterranean villas were very fashionable from 1900 to 1930. The alterations carried out for Sloan Jr. were tastefully executed, simultaneously "modernizing" the family home while retaining its original architectural character and massing.

In 2014 the house was again altered, as this article explains, but this time, the modifications completely obliterated any trace of the original house's architectural character and integrity.

The alterations, which took several years to finish, involved stripping the building down to its basic shell and the removal of the center tower and several wings. All architectural components and fixtures were removed and sold off. The house re-emerged as a modern interpretation of an 1830 to 1840s Greek Revival manse.

I believe that great old houses should be preserved and stewarded just like fine art and collectables. They should be preserved for future generations long after trends fade. That's not to say that old houses can't be re-adapted to meet modern needs, but there's been a noticeable trend in the Hudson Valley toward this sort of alteration.

Several other well-known mansions in Philipstown have met similar fates in recent years. Nobody in their right mind would buy a great painting and just draw smiley faces and mustaches on it!

James Kelly, *Newburgh*

Gun Violence Emergency

"The first [bill] bans the sale, purchase, or transfer of firearms to anyone with an active warrant for a felony or serious offense."

Is there an easily accessible way the Average Joe gun owner, gun seller, gun buyer or gun transferee can find out who has an "active warrant" for a felony or a "serious offense" ("Cuomo Declares Gun Violence Emergency," July 12)? How would anyone know?

And just what is a "serious offense"? Is this a bona fide legal term, codified in statutory law somewhere? Just wondering.

Most people are not lawyers, or mind readers or psychic. And many people struggle with an understanding of the English language, let alone being able to decode the more recent style — brief, yet circumlocutory — of newspaper articles.

Frank Haggerty, *Cold Spring*



Beacon's Community Cookout Returns

Event set for July 24 after last year's cancellation

By Brian PJ Cronin

After missing last year due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Beacon's Annual Cookout returns to South Avenue Park on July 24, with a rain date of July 25. The planners of the event, which has been taking place every summer for over 30 years, just got the go-ahead from the city last week.

"Usually we're prepping for six to eight months beforehand," said Berkley "Boom" Lunsford, one of the organizers. "This one is real short notice."

Still, Lunsford is grateful that the event will be taking place at all. He remembers playing basketball at the cookout when he was a kid. "But in the past few years, the people who started it passed it down to the younger generation, and we've been getting more and more people to come every year," he said. Attendance usually is upward of 500 people.

"It's a day for community, love, friend-

ship, just a good time," he said. The event usually begins with setup around 8:30 am — "by 10 a.m. we're cooking" — and goes late into the night with dancing, eating and old friends catching up. "There are people from Beacon who have moved away who come back to Beacon just for that day," said Lunsford, who noted that the event is open to all. "It's really like a Beacon reunion."

With so little time to plan, the organizers are looking for businesses and members of the community to donate hotdogs, hamburgers, paper plates, ice, sodas, condiments, side

dishes and other items. "Right now we really do need everything," said Lunsford.

Those interested in donating can contact Lunsford through the Beacon Annual Cookout community page on Facebook (bit.ly/beacon-cookout).

After COVID, Lunsford said that the Beacon community needs a day out to gather and reconnect more than ever.

"We haven't been outside for like a year and a half," he said. "And there's a lot of people that didn't make it through the pandemic. We've got to think about them."

Visit highlandscurrent.org for news updates and latest information.

Central Hudson, Other Utilities Settle For \$86 Million

Agreement resolves complaints about Tropical Storm Isaias response

By Leonard Sparks

Central Hudson Gas & Electric is one of four utilities that will pay a combined \$86 million to New York State to resolve charges that they failed to prepare for and adequately respond to large-scale power outages caused by Tropical Storm Isaias last year.

Central Hudson, whose customers include residences and businesses in Dutchess and Putnam counties, will pay \$1.5 million under an agreement with the Public Service Commission, said the state on Thursday (July 15). The PSC has spent nearly a year investigating the performance of electricity and cable providers after nearly 900,000 of their customers lost service when Isaias hit the Mid-Hudson, New York City and Long Island on Aug. 4, 2020.

Con Edison and Orange & Rockland Utilities will pay \$82 million, a total that also includes penalties for their response to outages in Brooklyn and Manhattan in 2019 and a steam outage in 2018, according to the state. Frontier Communications, a telecommunications company that serves Orange County, will pay \$2.5 million for its Isaias response.

The state earlier reached a \$72 million settlement with Altice USA, which provides

cable and internet service under the Optimum brand.

"The size of these settlements should make it abundantly clear that New York utilities are obligated to prepare for severe weather and to develop robust emergency response programs," said Gov. Andrew Cuomo.

It was Cuomo who ordered, the day after Isaias, that the state Department of Public Service investigate utility companies whose customers lost service. The DPS is the parent agency of the Public Service Commission.

In separate "notice of apparent violations" letters dated Aug. 19, 2020, the department said its review had found that Central Hudson and Altice had violated state law and Public Service Commission orders by failing to have enough personnel and equipment to restore service to customers after sustained 40-mph winds and 70-mph gusts inflicted heavy damage on utility poles and power lines and conductors in the Highlands.

Nearly 117,000 Central Hudson customers, including about 44,000 in Dutchess and 36,000 in Putnam, lost power. Central Hudson's website was also down for more than eight hours between Aug. 4 and 5, leaving customers unable to report outages or get information on restoration estimates, according to the state.

Altice was also accused of not having enough workers to restore cable TV and internet service to 400,000 customers and of waiting six days after the storm to begin a "coordinated outreach" to local officials.

Dutchess County Executive Marc Molin-

aro said in August 2020 that, two weeks after Isaias, the county was still notifying Altice of outages "they seemed to know nothing about." He called the company's performance after the storm "the worst I've seen in my 25 years of service."

On the day of the storm, Central Hudson requested 200 line-workers from the North Atlantic Mutual Assistance Group, a consortium of 21 utilities in 21 states, four Canadian provinces and Washington, D.C. After the group sent only 16, Central Hudson should have pursued "any means possible, including additional contractor personnel," to get more workers, the state said.

After the storm, Putnam County Execu-

tive MaryEllen Odell praised the response by state, county and local officials, but said Central Hudson and New York State Electric and Gas Corp. (NYSEG), which serves eastern Putnam, took "far too long" to restore power. In addition to Central Hudson's outages, 90 percent of NYSEG's 39,000 customers in Putnam lost power, she said on Aug. 12, 2020.

"The utilities were not prepared and that is just not acceptable," Odell said. "Not having access to a reliable power source is more than an inconvenience. For many, it is a matter of life-and-death."

In all, the state reached Isaias settlements with the utilities totaling \$190 million, according to Cuomo. The utilities also agreed to develop better response plans and improve their coordination with local governments, he said.



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Redistricting *(from Page 1)*

State, Dutchess County or any town, city, or village in the county, or a member or officer of any political committee.”

Cullen argues in the memo that Keller-Coffey's position on the school board not only made him ineligible, but also invalidated his votes in selecting remaining members. The commission held its first meeting on Feb. 25 and only met for monthly sessions four times after that. Its work has been limited to hearing presentations because the Census Bureau is not releasing population counts needed for redistricting until September at the earliest.

“You have a situation here where you're vulnerable to attack in the future,” said Cullen on Monday in arguing that the commission needed to be disbanded because someone could challenge its redrawn districts in court over Keller-Coffey's eligibility.

Keller-Coffey was selected by the county Legislature's Democrats, one of two commissioners they were allowed to choose as minority party. Republicans, who hold 15 of the Legislature's seats, also chose two commissioners, and the four members selected by the parties then picked the remaining three members from a pool of candidates.

“ I have not seen any commentary about the nefarious work of school board members in getting in the way of fair drawing of legislative districts.

~ Rebecca Edwards

The law creating the commission specifies that a vacancy “be filled in the manner that the vacant position was originally filled.” It only calls for disbanding the commission if it fails to meet requirements for public hearings, its plan does not include evidence of compliance with Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act or it does not meet the statutory deadline for adopting and filing its redistricting plan.

The Legislature's Democrats, who walked out of a committee meeting last week to protest the changes, disputed Cullen's claim that the commission had to be disbanded and questioned whether a school board



Rebecca Edwards and the Dutchess County Legislature's other nine Democrats have opposed the disbanding of the county's Independent Reapportionment Commission.

member qualifies as an elected official. Rebecca Edwards, minority leader for the Legislature's Democrats, pointed to an email sent from the seven commissioners to Molinaro on June 27, three days after Cullen said they were disbanded.

Cullen did not give “a clear reason, basis, or authority for this alleged disbandment,” according to the email, and they asked Molinaro to provide, in writing, “the reasons for such action, who has decided that such action is necessary, and, given the commission's independence, who you suggest has the authority to disband it and what the basis for this assumed authority is.”

Frits Zernike, a Democrat who represents parts of Beacon and Fishkill, said on Monday that “it has not been established that a school board member is an elected official to the extent that it then disqualifies him from eligibility.”

Edwards said a commission “still exists.” “In the very extensive debate in the United States around legislative gerrymandering ... I have not seen any commentary about the nefarious work of school board members in getting in the way of fair drawing of legislative districts,” she said.

Dutchess County's first attempt at creating independent redistricting came in 2009, just before the 2010 census. The Democrat-controlled Legislature created a five-person committee but it was dismantled the following year after Republicans won control.

LLC Owners *(from Page 1)*

Department, was tabled as the meeting neared two and a half hours in duration.

In other business ...

In her preliminary financial summary of the fiscal year that ended May 31, village accountant Michelle Ascolillo reported that revenues for the general fund, which supports most village operations, are expected to exceed expenses by about \$300,000. The EFP Group will conduct its independent external audit beginning in early August. Ascolillo also said about 90 percent of the tax levy has been collected, a payment level comparable to recent years. Residents have until the end of January to pay their village taxes before unpaid accounts are sent to Putnam County.

The Cold Spring Police Department answered 55 calls for service in June. Officers also issued 63 parking tickets and eight traffic violations. There were no arrests.

Among the Cold Spring Fire Co.'s 21 calls last month were four incidents on the Hudson River, two motor vehicle accidents, two incidents at Breakneck Ridge, two power

line fires, one elevator rescue, one electrical hazard and two assists to paramedics. Mayor Dave Merandy congratulated CSFC member Travis Fyfe for having successfully completed his firefighter training.

The board denied a request by the owner of 9 Main St. to install pavers on village-owned property there, saying it preferred that the plot remain “green.”

The Recreation Commission held a walk-through with organizers of the Putnam Food and Wine Festival, scheduled for Aug. 7 and 8 at Mayor's Park. The commission and the Philipstown Recreation Department are planning a “fun softball tournament” at the park on Sept 11 and 12, and 18 and 19. They also are considering setting up times at the park when pickup sports such as basketball and frisbee can be played.

Matt Kroog, superintendent of water and wastewater, reported that the update of emergency action plans for Cold Spring's dams is now complete.

The Highway Department processed 64.7 tons of trash and 19.9 tons of recyclables last month. The department is looking to fill two vacancies as a result of recent resignations.

Cold Spring Set To Adopt Code Changes

Revisions include the addition of six new chapters

By Michael Turton

The Cold Spring Village Board closed the public hearing on proposed changes to 10 chapters of the village code on Wednesday (July 14).

The hearing outlined minor revisions to nine chapters, including: Community Choice Aggregation, Code of Ethics, Planning Board, Alarms, Building Construction, Returned Checks, Reimbursement of Professional Consultants' Expenses, Licensing and Taxation.

The changes include the addition of six new chapters: Short-Term Rentals, Fences and Walls, Steep Slopes, Outdoor Lighting Standards, Waterfront Consistency Review and Unsafe Buildings.

Two residential parking programs, outlined in Chapter 127, were also reviewed. Minor updates are suggested for the parking program created in 2005 for the area west

of the Metro-North tracks. The chapter will be amended to incorporate 11 streets east of the tracks, a program approved by New York State in 2015 but not implemented. Deputy Mayor Marie Early explained that moving forward with the new residential parking program (RPP) also will require adoption of revisions to the chapter covering vehicles and traffic, which details how the RPP will be implemented and is currently being reviewed.

The only comment on the revisions came from Karen Jackson, animal control officer, who suggested that Chapter 45, dealing with dogs, omit reference to controlling dogs “by command.” That approach is often ineffective, she said. Jackson also suggested adding signage reminding people that dogs must be leashed.

The board will consider her comments before closing the hearing on that chapter. The Village Board is expected to adopt the changes during its July 20 meeting. The updated code must be submitted to New York State by the end of the year.

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Out There

The Mystery Of The Sick Songbirds

Removal and cleaning of bird feeders recommended

By Brian PJ Cronin

Nothing in my yard brings me as much pleasure as my bird feeder: the way the grackles congregate around it in the morning; the flocks of cardinals that throng to the tree next to it, making it seem as if the branches had suddenly burst into a flourish of brilliant red berries; the squirrel who jumped off the top tree branch toward the feeder spread-eagle, like famed 1980s wrestler Jimmy “Superfly” Snuka, missing by two inches and face-planting into the soft dirt below.

Despite these delights, I have taken my bird feeder down and am urging you to do the same.

It's not to thwart the squirrels, whose bull-headed persistence has gone from being annoying to somewhat inspirational. It's at the recommendation of the Audubon Society, in response to a mysterious new fatal illness — so new that it doesn't have a name yet — that started affecting songbirds in the Mid-Atlantic and Southeast regions this spring and has been working its way north.

It hasn't been detected in New York state yet, but as Scott Silver, the director of the Constitution Marsh Audubon Center and Sanctuary near Cold Spring told me: “It's just to be cautious and try and stem this as best we can.”

Symptoms of the disease include crusty eyes and signs of neurological impairment, such as the birds having trouble walking, flying or even staying upright. Death soon follows. Not much else is known at this time. It's not clear yet if the disease is caused by a parasite or an infection. It's



Out of an abundance of caution, the Audubon Society is urging New Yorkers to clean and put away their bird feeders for now.

Photo by B. Cronin

not clear how the disease is being spread or all of the species of birds that are being affected. But there are clues.

The most common species of birds that have been found with the disease so far are blue jays, common grackles, European starlings and American robins, all birds that flock to bird feeders.

“It may not even be related at all to bird feeders,” said Silver. “It's just that bird feeders are a place where birds of different species come down together and have the potential to transmit disease between them.”

That means in addition to taking down the bird feeders, birdbaths should be removed as well. David Curson, director of bird conservation for Audubon Mid-Atlantic, has referred to the practice as “social distancing for birds.” (Hummingbirds appear to be unaffected so far, so those of you with hummingbird feeders can leave them up.)

So far, known diseases such as House

Finch Eye Disease (the symptoms of which involve a similar eye crustiness but not the noticeable neurological impairments), West Nile virus and avian influenza (both of which can spread to humans) have been ruled out. The most intriguing theory so far is a connection between the disease and the appearance of the infamous “Brood X” cicadas after a 17-year absence.

The cicadas made their scheduled return this year in the exact states where the disease was first detected, and many of the bugs are known to be infected with a fungus called *Massospora* that causes — and I swear to God I am not making this up — their butts to fall off.

It gets better (or worse, if you're a cicada). The white fungus that replaces the errant rear ends also hypersexualizes the bugs while sending high amounts of psilocybin and amphetamines into them, meaning that the brood, after spending 17 years burrowed quietly underground, go out in a hallucinogenic, turbocharged orgy of death, white spores blasting out of their exploding fungal butts the whole time. Science!

Could there be a connection between the horny death fungus and the mysterious bird disease? Birds do eat a lot of cicadas, and the fact that the brood showed up at the same time and place as the disease suggests a possible link, although correlation doesn't equal causation, even when hallucinogenic doom shrooms are involved.

Anyway, what were we talking about? Oh yes, bird feeders!

Take them down, folks. And while you're at it, clean them and any birdbaths you have with a solution of 10 percent bleach to kill any lingering pathogens that may be on them. Silver at Constitution Marsh suggests that it's normally a good idea to wash feeders every three weeks with water and a few times a year with a bleach solution, which I will admit I have *not* been doing.

Those of you with hummingbird feeders aren't off the hook: Since you're essentially just putting out sugar water, those need to be cleaned every day. Linger nectar can quickly turn to mold and bacteria, which hummingbird's tiny bodies are very sensitive to.

If you do find a bird that looks like it's been stricken with the disease, the Audubon Society suggests contacting the regional Department of Environmental Conservation Wildlife Office at 845-256-3098. Handle any deceased birds carefully with gloves and place them in a sealed plastic bag before disposing of them in your household trash, which will limit the spread of any possible pathogens to other wildlife.

I was concerned that the birds I've grown to know and love would go hungry without the feeder up, but Silver told me not to worry. If you eat insects, this is buffet season.

“At this time of year, it's easy for the birds to adapt,” he said. “There's tremendous numbers of insects right now, and they're relying more on insect protein than at any other time of the year. They are very resilient as far as that's concerned.”

When a pure risk is inevitable, pool it with the largest possible number of people exposed to the same risk, to minimize its potential impact and the cost of controlling it.



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A group wants to turn the Reformed Church of Beacon and its parsonage into an events venue, hotel and cafe.

Beacon Church *(from Page 1)*

to the main church building, was built in 1859 and designed by famed architect Frederick Clarke Withers. The sanctuary would become a venue for music concerts and other live events, and the rear of the building a cafe with a deck overlooking the Hudson River.

Hecker is a musician, promoter and post-production sound technician for film and television who moved to Beacon with his family two years ago. In 2010, he founded the PhilaMOCA performance space in Philadelphia, inside a former mausoleum showroom that dates to 1865.

As part of the development, the church's historic cemetery would get a makeover and a new walking path connecting Beekman Street to Route 9D installed. The cemetery was the original burial site for William Few, a signer of the U.S. Constitution, but has become overgrown.

Only on "rare occasions" would the church host events drawing 500 people, said Hecker. Most events would draw between 100 and 200, he said. Large events would be limited to Thursdays, Saturdays and Sundays.

"The rest of the week, it would be there for community use — classes, education, art shows, exhibitions," said Hecker.

Where attendees will park is a major concern.

Prophecy would have 31 spaces on-site for

employees and hotel guests, but is otherwise looking to meet the city's parking requirements through the use of street spaces. Beekman Street has 72 "underutilized" spaces, and the group is also exploring renting a parking lot across Route 9D from the church property that can hold up to 80 vehicles, said Hecker.

"We realize that there is a parking requirement that we're not meeting specifically with the code," he said.

The parsonage was built as a single-family home in the mid-19th century before being donated to the church in 1907, said John Clarke, a consultant for the Planning Board. He recommended that the developers retain the parsonage's facade in constructing the hotel.

The developers also need a special-use permit because Beacon's zoning code does not allow for event venues in that area. The code does allow for hotel and "hotel-related" accessory uses, but a venue holding 500 people "seems entirely inconsistent as an accessory use to a 30-room hotel," Clarke wrote in his review of Prophecy's application.

Gunn said a hotel "makes a lot of sense" but one "right next to two residential developments with a potential for 500 people at a concert, makes zero sense."

"This is a very unique site," he said. "It's a very unique opportunity to really mess it up, and it's also a very unique opportunity to get it right."

The Reformed Church of Beacon was founded in 1813. Its original wood building was demolished in 1859 to make way for the current red-brick structure. Few, a Georgia senator, was buried at the cemetery in 1828 after dying while visiting Beacon, then known as Fishkill Landing. His remains were moved in 1973 to Augusta, Georgia, at that state's request.

The church's history also includes a visit from the abolitionist Henry Ward Beecher during the Civil War. With membership shrinking, the church closed in the spring of 2020, holding its last service virtually. An evangelical congregation based in Orange County, Goodwill Church, has been renting the space since June 2020 for services.

“ This is a very unique site. It’s a very unique opportunity to really mess it up, and it’s also a very unique opportunity to get it right.

~ John Gunn, chair of the board

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Cuomo Declares Gun Violence ‘Emergency’

Signs bills limiting sales and allowing lawsuits against manufacturers, dealers

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

Declaring gun violence in New York an emergency disaster more lethal than COVID-19, Gov. Andrew Cuomo on July 6 signed two new gun-reform bills and announced a sweeping, multi-level initiative to target gun-violence hot spots, foster better police-community relations, involve hospitals in outreach and stop the flow of firearms from states with weaker gun-control laws.

Cuomo described his approach as the first of its kind in the nation, treating gun deaths and violence as a public health and disaster emergency, a designation that permits funds to be quickly channeled to vulnerable areas.

“If you look at the recent numbers, more people are now dying from gun violence and crime than COVID,” Cuomo said in announcing the program. “This is a national problem, but someone has to step up and address this because our future depends on it.” After the

worst of the COVID threat “we’re building New York back better than ever before, but part of rebuilding is addressing the systemic injustices that were exposed by COVID,” he stated.

Cuomo signed two gun-control bills into law, both co-sponsored by Assembly Members Sandy Galef, whose district includes Philipstown, and Jonathan Jacobson, whose district includes Beacon. The first bans the sale, purchase, or transfer of firearms to anyone with an active warrant for a felony or serious offense. The second requires gun and ammunition manufacturers and dealers to establish safeguards to prevent their products from being illegally used, possessed or sold, and allows them to be sued in state or federal court by municipalities, companies and individuals for violations of the law. The state says the bill comports with the Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act, a federal law that gives the gun industry widespread immunity from lawsuits.

State Sen. Sue Serino, whose district includes the Highlands, voted for the prohibition on sales to people with warrants and against the measure targeting manufacturers and stores.

The governor’s approach includes use of

a “cluster-based strategy” to identify hot spots, similar to its approach in zeroing in on areas hit hard by COVID-19. Initial hot spots on Long Island and in New York City, Albany, Buffalo, and Syracuse “include just 4,090 young men aged 18-24 but account for 48.5 percent of recent gun violence in those communities,” according to numbers compiled by the governor’s office.

A summary from his office observed that “the spike in gun violence began as COVID kept many young people out of school and work, and disruptions to social supports and services left at-risk youth without safe, productive places to go during the day,” destabilizing communities and “leading to a rise in gun violence.” However, it added, summer job programs cut the likelihood of young people’s involvement in violence by about 45 percent.

Further, according to the summary, although New York has the nation’s toughest gun laws, 74 percent of guns used in criminal activity come from beyond the Empire State’s borders. The initiative includes creation of a New York State Police Gun Trafficking Interdiction Unit to thwart illegal gun trafficking, increase interaction with other states, and share data.

The program also builds on the municipal police reform reviews Cuomo mandated last year and teams up with the John Jay College of Criminal Justice to help communities foster better relations with their police. Likewise, Cuomo directed the state Division of Criminal Justice Services to issue new regulations to implement a new law intended to prevent rogue officers who engage in misconduct or criminal behavior from getting law enforcement jobs elsewhere.

“Data shows that when community trust for the police is low, 911 calls and regular patrols decrease, while gun violence and crimes rates increase,” the governor’s office summary reported.

Other elements of the program include:

- A \$138.7 million investment in intervention and prevention, including programs that engage at-risk youth in summer job opportunities and community activities;
- Increased funding for summer sports, arts and recreational activities;
- Establishment of a state-level Office of Gun Violence Prevention to coordinate efforts;
- Locating some violence-intervention services, including conflict de-escalation efforts, in hospitals to better reach the public in hotspots.

NEWS BRIEFS

Dutchess County Waives Fee For Police Officer Exam

Free test is part of effort to diversify sheriff’s office, municipal forces

The application fee for Dutchess County’s law enforcement exam on Sept. 18 will be waived in an effort to diversify the Sheriff’s Office, the Beacon Police Department and other local forces.

In addition to waiving the \$25 fee, Dutchess is expanding its recruitment effort, including at Hudson Valley Renegades games and at local apartment and housing complexes; providing free prep courses for the exam; and waiving the 60-credit college requirement for applicants. New officers will have five years to complete the 60 credits.

The deadline for the exam is Aug. 4. Applicants can register at DutchessNY.gov/Jobs.

Putnam Museum Launches ‘History Hunt’

Clues lead to historic sites in the county

Residents of Putnam County are invited to play detectives for a “history hunt” being launched on Aug. 1 by the Putnam History Museum.

The museum will provide clues to historic sites, and residents who register will be required to visit and take a picture of at least 10 locations and submit their photos by Aug. 31. Everyone completing the hunt will be entered into a drawing for a grand

prize to be awarded on Sept. 1. Those 18 and under will receive a prize for participating.

Registration can be completed online at bit.ly/putnam-hunt. Participants will receive a clue packet via email or can pick them up from the museum, 63 Chestnut St. in Cold Spring, Wednesday through Sunday, noon to 4 p.m. For more information, email director@putnamhistorymuseum.org.

Beacon Holding Classes For Police Fitness Test

Two options for candidates planning to take next county exam

The Beacon Police Department is holding two upcoming classes to prepare people interested in becoming police officers for the physical fitness test they must pass.

Classes will be held at the Hammond Field track in Beacon on Aug. 8 at 11 a.m. and Aug. 11 at 6 p.m. To register, email DCSOTraining@dutchessny.gov by July 30.

Dutchess County is holding a civil service exam for the Dutchess County Sheriff’s Office and for police departments in Beacon and other municipalities on Sept. 18.

Beacon Receives Infrastructure Funding

City to undertake sewer main, crosswalk projects

Beacon is receiving more than \$150,000 in Community Development Block Grant

funding for crosswalk and sewer main projects, Dutchess County announced on July 9.

Nearly \$52,000 of the funding will be used for the installation of new crosswalks on Verplanck Avenue and \$108,000 to replace a sewer main in the area of Fish-kill Avenue and Hanna Lane.

The money is part of \$1.2 million in infrastructure projects underwritten with CDBG funds, including \$200,000 for new bathrooms at the Town of Pawling library, \$150,000 for the construction of a senior center, easily accessible to all, in the Town of Wappinger and \$150,000 for sidewalk repair and replacement in the Village of Millerton.

Outdoor Event Scheduled For Disabled Residents

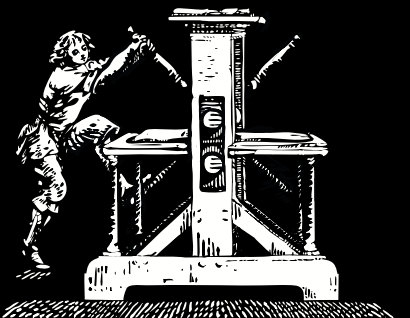
Field and Fitness Day to feature games and other activities

Dutchess County is holding a first-ever event featuring field games and fitness and other activities for residents with physical and developmental disabilities on July 22.

The inaugural ThinkDIFFERENTLY Field & Fitness Day will be held at Bowdoin Park in Poughkeepsie, beginning at 11 a.m. In addition to games and activities, the event will include a complimentary lunch and representatives from county departments and local organizations that provide services to the disabled. Each participant will receive a medal.

Pre-registration is required at dutchessny.gov/tdfieldday. For more information, call 845-486-3568.

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AROUND TOWN



◀ **RAINBOWS ALONG MAIN** — The Howland Public Library in Beacon installed its “Share Your Rainbow” project at 307 Main St. In June, the library distributed kits to students in grades three to 12 so they could create artwork for a display celebrating Pride. Their work will be displayed in windows for the rest of the summer.



◀ **TWO SHOWS IN ONE** — The Cold Spring Film Society returned to Dockside Park on July 10 with an all-time favorite: *The Princess Bride*. The organizers said on Instagram: “An inconceivable eve on the Cold Spring riverfront last night. And an above-screen meteor sighting to boot! Thanks to all who joined us.”



▲ **RIVER POOL RETURNS** — Beacon’s River Pool has reopened. Swimmers can take a dip in the Hudson Tuesday through Saturday, noon to 6 pm. No reservations are needed.



▲ **COLD SPRING SUNSET** — This sunset photo was taken in Cold Spring on July 10 by Teresa Lagerman, community and events manager for *The Highlands Current*.

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The Calendar



A trio of stage managers (left to right): Percy Parker, Ivy Heydt-Benjamin and Jim Semmelman

Photo by A. Rooney

How To Be A Stage Manager

For two Haldane students, the biggest role is offstage

By Alison Rooney

Help wanted: self-starter; someone who is able to supervise, highly organized, energetic, managerial, a soother of ruffled feathers, and a techno-wiz.

The job description of a stage manager goes on and on, but ultimately, a good one is the hub where all the spokes of a theatrical production meet, and the wheel “doesn’t turn until the stage manager says ‘go,’ said Jim Semmelman. Stage managers are responsible for an array of disparate tasks, from setting props to conveying the director’s instructions to cast and crew.

At a professional level the job ranges from collecting actors’ valuables and

checking in with heads of different departments to telling the conductor and lighting-board operator the show is about to start and reminding the audience how much time they have before the curtain rises, said Semmelman.

“The stage manager is the CEO, responsible for all, making sure everything happens correctly on cue and that the show is kept fresh,” he said. “It all comes back to being the hub of the wheel, the source of all information.”

For two Haldane High School rising sophomores working as stage managers for the Depot Theatre’s summer youth productions, all of the above applies. Ivy Heydt-Benjamin, who is in charge of *The Mystery of Edwin Drood* [the “big kids” show for students in grades eight to 12], and Percy Parker,

(Continued on Page 14)

Beacon High School Launches Youth Theater Program

Students to produce musical for public performance

By Alison Rooney

A free, three-week summer theater program for Beacon school district students entering grades seven to 12 is now open for registration.

Summer Onstage, a program of the Beacon Players, Beacon High School’s drama and theater arts organization, is fashioned as a homegrown, summer stock theater experience. Students who join will select a “young person’s” show; design the lights, sets and costumes; and then present the show, at no cost, to the community at the high school’s theater.

Notes for the program say that “step by

step, we will develop all the elements for the performance that will bring us to a successful production.” That includes “learning, practicing, participating and performing,” and kids interested in the technical side of theater are encouraged to sign up. No previous experience is necessary.

Participants also will work one-on-one with local theater professionals with credits as performers and theater technicians on Broadway and for national touring productions.

Session one runs from July 26 to 28; session two from Aug. 2 to 6; and session three from Aug. 9 to 13. The time for each session is 9 a.m. to noon. Participants are strongly encouraged to sign up for all three sessions, but can sign up for any or all.

Register online at beaconplayers.com.

Raising Children Who Do Not Become Jerks

Cold Spring author’s parenting book inspired by Kavanaugh hearings

By Alison Rooney

The results of a 2020 survey conducted by *Parents Magazine* are revelatory.

Seventy-six percent of 1,200 mothers and 68 percent of fathers surveyed named “kindness” as the quality they most wanted to instill in their children. Melinda Wenner Moyer, in her new book, *How To Raise Kids Who Aren’t Assholes*, opens with those results but then hits readers with another revelation, this one from another reputable survey: that 43 percent of the parents “didn’t think their kids were respectful.”

The genesis for the book, which Moyer finished writing just prior to the pandemic, was her increasing frustration at the bad behavior she saw repeatedly in the media from adults, particularly after the 2016 election. Her frustration reached an apex during the confirmation hearing in 2018 for U.S. Supreme Court Justice Brett Kavanaugh. At dinner with her husband after watching the proceedings, an agitated Moyer blurted out: “I ought to write a book called ‘How to raise kids who aren’t assholes.’”

The next day she emailed her agent, telling him she wanted to scrap her previous idea for a book and proceed with this one. Luckily, her agent gave it a green light. The book, which is available for pre-order at Split Rock Books, will be launched locally in a free event at The Desmond-Fish Public Library’s lawn on Sunday (July 18) at 4 p.m., with Moyer discussing her publication with Dr. Tracy A. Prout, a psychology professor and therapist (register at bit.ly/melinda-moyer).

The idea that kids should be raised to be tough and take what they can in a competitive world is countered by research, Moyer writes in the book’s introduction. She cites a longitudinal study that recorded the traits of kindergarteners and then followed them for 25 years to see how successful they became as adults. The “kind children” were most successful, said Moyer.

“The more generous they were, the more they succeeded, in traditional measures of the word success. It goes against our



Melinda Wenner Moyer Photo by Gabrielle Girard

assumptions,” she said.

Moyer, who lives in Cold Spring with her husband and children, ages 10 and 6, has the credentials to research and write knowledgeably about both parenting and science. As a kid, she loved writing but had no interest in science. That changed in college, where she studied molecular biology and earned a master’s degree in science, health and environmental reporting from New York University.

After graduating, she worked in a lab and then for a biotech company in England. There she began writing again and wondered if there were a way of marrying that with science. “That’s how I first thought about becoming a science journalist,” Moyer explained.

Moyer began her research for the book by listing traits “emblematic of asshole-ness,” such as

selfishness, dishonesty and laziness. She then looked at the opposites of those traits, and “started researching how generosity happened.”

“In doing so, I uncovered other aspects, like self-esteem, which not only is important, but makes kids generally more considerate and assured about interaction with other people, in kinder ways,” said Moyer.

Readers of her new book can glean

(Continued on Page 14)

How to Raise Kids Who Aren’t Assholes

Science-based Strategies for Better Parenting— from Tots to Teens

Melinda Wenner Moyer



THE WEEK AHEAD

Edited by Pamela Doan (calendar@highlandscurrent.org)

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

COMMUNITY

SAT 17

Modern Makers Market Pop-Up

COLD SPRING

10 a.m. – 6 p.m.

St. Mary in the Highlands (Lawn)
1 Chestnut St. | stmaryscoldspring.com

The market will feature handmade goods from 40 artisans and artists, including wood, glass and leather workers, jewelers and potters, as well as live music, food, beer and cider.

SAT 17

Rabies Vaccination Clinic

COLD SPRING

10 a.m. – Noon Hubbard Lodge

2880 Route 9

845-808-1390 ext. 43160

putnamcountyny.com/health

The Putnam County Health Department hosts a free clinic for dogs, cats and ferrets. Bring proof of residency and prior rabies vaccination.

SUN 18

Music Conference, Festival & Cookout

WAPPINGERS FALLS

11 a.m. – 8 p.m. Bowdoin Park

85 Sheafe Road

dutchesscountyparks.com

At this music conference, festival and cookout, get insights from music industry professionals and enjoy live performances throughout the day.

WED 21

Women's Networking Event

POUGHKEEPSIE

5:30 p.m. Locust Grove Estate

2683 South Road | 845-229-0106

The annual event hosted by state Sen. Sue Serino will bring together women to make connections and hear from a panel of business leaders on the theme of Rebuilding in the Wake of a Challenge. Join virtually or in-person. Email serino@nysenate.gov or call the office to RSVP.

WED 21

Forum on Emergency Rental Assistance

NEWBURGH

6 p.m. Newburgh Activity Center
401 Washington St. | 845-763-7011
jacobsonj@nyassembly.gov

Learn about New York's program to help with rent and utility payments for tenants and landlords. The forum is co-hosted by Assembly Member Jonathan Jacobson and state Sen. James Skoufis.

THURS 22

Gun Buyback

NEWBURGH

Noon – 4 p.m.

The Cathedral at The House

131 Broadway | 845-485-3900

Intergovernmental.Affairs@ag.ny.gov

Bring in working or non-working rifles, handguns and shotguns and get up to \$250 and an iPad.

SAT 24

Great Newburgh to Beacon Swim

BEACON

9 a.m.

Pete And Toshi Seeger Riverfront Park

2 Red Flynn Drive | riverpool.org

Swim in open water one mile across the Hudson River from Newburgh to Beacon in the 17th annual event. Registration closes SUN 18.

KIDS & FAMILY

SAT 17

Bring the Kids

GARRISON

9:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. Boscobel

1601 Route 9D | 845-265-3638

boscobel.org

Museum educator Miss Lisa will lead this outdoor program focused on Boscobel's history, the Hudson River and the American Revolution. *Cost: \$15 (\$8 ages 5 to 18; ages 5 and under are free)*

MON 19

Stuffed Animal Sleep-Over

COLD SPRING

10 a.m. – 7:30 p.m. Butterfield Library

10 Morris Ave. | 845-265-3040

butterfieldlibrary.org

Stuffies and dolls are invited to a library slumber party. Drop off your friend during the day and then pick them up on Tuesday. The librarians will share photos and stories about the fun they had.

TUES 20

Two by Two Zoo

GARRISON

4 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library

472 Route 403 | 845-424-3020

desmondfishlibrary.org

Meet and learn about new animal friends on the library lawn. Register for a time slot.

TUES 20

Hooping Together

WAPPINGERS FALLS

5 p.m. Common Ground Farm

79 Farmstead Lane | compassarts.org

Heather Davies will demonstrate hula hoop basics, tricks and games after the group picks vegetables and makes a salad. *Cost: \$20 to \$40 sliding scale*

WED 21

Tails & Tales Summer Reading

COLD SPRING

3:30 p.m. Butterfield Library

10 Morris Ave.

845-265-3040

butterfieldlibrary.org

org

Incoming

4th graders can

discuss *Stand*

Up, Yumi Chung!

by Jessica Kim.



TALKS & TOURS

SAT 17

Harvest Dye Materials

WAPPINGERS FALLS

10 a.m. Common Ground Farm

79 Farmstead Lane

commongroundfarm.org

In partnership with NY Textile Lab, the farm is offering a sustainable textiles series for adults. This workshop focuses on using regional plants to make dyes. *Cost: \$45 to \$65 sliding scale*

SUN 18

How To Raise Kids Who Aren't Assholes

GARRISON

4 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library (Lawn)

472 Route 403 | 845-424-3020

desmondfishlibrary.org

Local award-winning journalist Melinda Moyer will discuss her new



The Most Spectacularly Lamentable Trial of Miz Martha Washington, July 17

book about science-based parenting strategies with psychology professor and therapist Tracy A. Prout. Register in advance for this event co-sponsored by Split Rock Books.

TUES 20

Common Sleep Disorders

BEACON

6 p.m. Howland Public Library

bit.ly/SleepDisordersJuly20

845-831-1134 | beaconlibrary.org

Dr. Anita Bhola will discuss what may be disrupting your sleep and how to get help. Register for the Zoom event.

THURS 22

Summer Hydration

COLD SPRING

7 p.m. Butterfield Library

845-265-3040 | butterfieldlibrary.org

In the first of a two-part series via Zoom, nutrition and wellness practitioner Kathryn Selman will discuss how drinking water can change the way you feel.

SAT 24

Doggie Fun

COLD SPRING

11 a.m. Butterfield Library

10 Morris Ave. | 845-265-3040

butterfieldlibrary.org

Learn basic dog manners and tricks as librarian Noelle and her dog Sunny help you understand how your behavior affects your pet. Bring treats and register in advance.

SAT 24

Sunset Tour

GARRISON

5 p.m. Manitoa | 584 Route 9D

845-424-3812 | visitmanitoa.org

Get a tour of the house and garden, then enjoy the sunset with a glass of wine overlooking the Quarry Pool. *Cost: \$100*

STAGE & SCREEN

SAT 17

The Most Spectacularly Lamentable Trial of Miz Martha Washington

GARRISON

7:30 p.m. Boscobel

1601 Route 9D

845-265-9575 | hvshakespeare.org

The Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival has returned with a play by James Ijames that explores slavery in America through Martha Washington's fever dreams as her slaves await their freedom upon her death. In-person tickets are limited, but the show is available via streaming. Also SUN 18, MON 19, WED 21, THURS 22, FRI 23, SAT 24, SUN 25. *Cost: \$10 to \$175*

SAT 17

Dirty Dancing

BEACON

8:30 p.m. Story Screen Drive-In

724 Wolcott Ave. | 845-440-7706

storyscreendrivein.square.site

In the 1987 film, Jennifer Grey and Patrick Swayze become dancing partners at a Catskills summer resort, breaking class boundaries. Also SUN 18. *Cost: \$10 (\$8 children, seniors, military)*

SAT 17

Comedy Night

BREWSTER

6:30 p.m. Tilly Foster Farm

100 Route 312 | 845-808-1840

tillystablerestaurant.com

The line-up will feature Joey Kola, Andrew Kennedy and local host Frankie Becerra. *Cost: \$40*

THURS 22

Oliver! JR.

GARRISON

7:15 p.m. Philipstown Depot Theatre

10 Garrison Landing | 845-424-3900

philipstowndepottheatre.org

Directed by teens, actors in grades



Casablanca, July 24

4 to 7 will perform an abbreviated version of *Oliver Twist*, Charles Dickens' second novel. *Cost: \$10*

SAT 24
Casablanca

COLD SPRING
8:30 p.m. Dockside Park
coldspringfilm.org

Humphrey Bogart and Ingrid Bergman star in this 1942 film about an expatriate club owner in Morocco who is asked to help his old flame and her husband escape from the Nazis. Presented by the Cold Spring Film Society.

MUSIC

SUN 18
Klettner Bros. Band

BEACON
11 a.m. – 3 p.m. Bannerman Island
845-831-6346 | bannermancastle.org
Joseph and Anton Klettner will perform a variety of rock songs on violin, accordion and guitar. Boats leave the Beacon dock at 11 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. *Cost: \$40 (\$35 children)*

SUN 18
Mostly Bach and Mozart Concert

BEACON
Noon Main Pop-Up Park | 4 Cross St.
The Beacon Chamber Ensemble will perform a free outdoor show.



Tito Puente, July 24

SUN 18
Emily Beck

BEACON
1 p.m. Beacon Farmers Market
Enjoy Beck's alternative indie rock. Sponsored by *The Highlands Current*.

FRI 23
America Through Song

WAPPINGERS FALLS
6:30 p.m. Bowdoin Park
85 Sheafe Road | putnamchorale.org
The Putnam Chorale will perform classics and beloved hits beginning with the Colonial era. *Cost: \$12 (\$10, seniors and military, 12 and under are free)*



Putnam Chorale, July 24

SAT 24
WMD2 String Band

PUTNAM VALLEY
6:30 p.m.
Tompkins Corners Cultural Center
729 Peekskill Hollow Road
tompkinscorners.org

Will Demers, Mat Kastner, Dan Bonis and Dave Anastas will perform their interpretations of classic and popular Americana and roots songs. *Cost: \$15*

SAT 24
Tito Puente Jr. Latin Jazz Ensemble

NEWBURGH
7 p.m. Safe Harbors
107 Broadway | safe-harbors.org
The free concert and dance party includes special guests Melina Almodovar, the Dojo Dance Company and the Latin Jazz

Express. Tickets (\$50) are available for a pre-concert VIP event at the Ritz to benefit Safe Harbors.

SAT 24
Almost Queen

BREWSTER
8 p.m. Tilly Foster Farm
100 Route 312 | 845-808-1840
tillystablerrestaurant.com
The tribute band will perform Queen's favorite hits. *Cost: \$30*

SAT 24
Lydia Adams Davis & Friends

BEACON
8 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
477 Main St. | 845-831-4988
howlandculturalcenter.org
Judy Kass, Patrick Stanfeld Jones, Joseph Boggess and Margie Zintz join Adams Davis to perform

original music and folk songs. *Cost: \$20 (\$15 livestream)*

SAT 24
Vance Gilbert and Christine Lavin

BEACON
8:30 p.m. Towne Crier
379 Main St. | townecrier.com
Expect witty storytelling and original folk music from the singer and songwriters. *Cost: \$25 (\$30 at the door)*

CIVIC

MON 19
City Council

BEACON
7 p.m. City Hall | 1 Municipal Plaza
845-838-5011 | beaconnny.gov

MON 19
School Board

BEACON
7 p.m. Beacon High School
101 Matteawan Road | 845-838-6900
beaonk12.org

MON 19
Village Board

NELSONVILLE
7:30 p.m. Village Hall | 258 Main St.
845-265-2500 | nelsonvilleny.gov

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Raising Children (from Page 11)

what's ahead just from the chapter titles in the table of contents: "You're Dumb And Ugly"; "You Can't Make Me"; and "This Is Too Hard" will have most parents nodding their heads in solidarity.

The book eventually took shape with two sections, with the first focused on traits, broken down into ages, and strategies for nurturing these traits. The second section looks at parenting strategies as a whole. It focuses on some big-picture topics, like talking to kids about consent and sex, and navigating the world of relationships in a thoughtful way.

Her book provides reasons for behaviors, as evidenced by science, not parental, shoulder-shrugging hearsay. In some cases, that same science offers strategies to successfully amend the problematic behaviors, while in others, the science effectively said: "Roll with it; it's natural, and you're not going to win this one."

Factored into all of this, said Moyer, is that "kids are supposed to push against

boundaries, learn from mistakes" and that parenting is shaped by factors outside of adults' control. Another factor, she said, is that "research tends to look at collective groups of people," such as mothers, and that results are usually reported in averages that do not account for individual circumstances.

Unwary parents can also spur children to believe in gender and racial stereotypes. Both boys and girls internalize at an early age the idea that males are smarter and that there are racial hierarchies, said Moyer. Children with strong beliefs in gender stereotypes "are more likely, by their teens, to make sexist comments, and as adults they're more likely to harass and assault women," she said.

Parents need to examine their own beliefs and behaviors, said Moyer.

"What I wanted most is to raise kids who are not jerks, who would care about social injustice," she said. "It was something I could do, which could be meaningful to help understand constructive approaches, and mold the future generation."

Stage Managers (from Page 11)

doing the same for *Oliver! JR.* [the "little kids" production for grades four to seven], are both benefitting from the mentorship of Semmelman, a veteran television and theater stage manager and Garrison resident who recently joined the Depot's board.

After a recent long day of rehearsals for both shows (Parker is appearing in *Drood*, as well), the trio talked about the demands and rewards of being a stage manager.

Is there a stage manager personality type?

PARKER: I think there is. We tend to be more behind the scenes and quieter; we don't prefer the spotlights.

HEYDT-BENJAMIN: I love theater and I love spotlights; I just hate the anxiety that comes along with being on stage. I like watching everything get created.

SEMMELMAN: It's usually someone who has good organizational skills, and is always thinking ahead. It helps to have performed, because then you get a sense of what the performers need to do their job to the best of their ability.

How do you handle the dynamic of stage-managing peers?

PARKER: For the summer shows, one big thing to remember, especially for the little kids' show, is that these are kids — 4th to 7th graders. When the director and choreographer are occupied with some of them, I've suddenly got 10 kids doing nothing, so they turn to me and we sit in a circle and play theater games. It's about being confident, making sure they're having fun, because while this is a show, it's also a kids' summer camp.

HEYDT-BENJAMIN: For the big kids' show, it's almost the same, because if people are given the slightest chance to, they're going to goof off. Having most of the cast being one or two years older than me is hard. It can be awkward to take charge and tell people what to do.

What are stage managers doing during the performance?

PARKER: I'm wearing all black, so I'm less visible, and helping the actors get their

props, in between moving tables and staying up with all the cues.

HEYDT-BENJAMIN: I stage-managed three Haldane Drama mini-plays. I helped the actors with their quick changes, ran underneath the stage, getting them where they belonged, spotted while an actor was caught falling backwards. A lot of it is about allocating responsibilities, to reliably do something important.

Can stage manager skills translate to other fields?

SEMMELMAN: The skills developed are applicable to so many arenas. You grow into having a work persona in which you can take in a whole bunch of input and sort it into useful output. You become adept at reading body cues, facial expressions and tones to know when someone is not well, and shift into 'I should stop that before it happens' mode. You're able to handle high pressure, in quickly changing situations.

PARKER: There are also 12 different endings [via audience vote], plus I'm memorizing the cues for *Oliver!*, but I love it. At the Depot, part of the experience is learning. I started here when I was 7 years old, and, with my quieter personality, continued to be in the ensemble, which was great, but being an assistant stage manager for other shows gave me more confidence for *Drood's* audition. I felt like if I can get 20 kids to listen to me, I probably can be loud and funny for my audition. Now I'm playing one of the leads for the first time.

HEYDT-BENJAMIN: I can have anxiety over things, so you might think being a stage manager is not a good fit, but it's very different. I almost think of it as putting on a coat: Every single thing I put into my bag is another layer, a new person. Some of it is armor, some is organization and some is my skill in reading people. Without all those layers, I can't do anything. I am still the same person, but as stage manager my entire perception of the world has shifted.

Has the mentoring been valuable?

HEYDT-BENJAMIN: It's both intimidating and invigorating to have what I expected described from an adult lens and place. Jim has treated us and talked to us like we are going into his profession. He made us feel we could do it. He's given us the confidence to know that we have what it takes, now.

PARKER: Meeting with Jim has showed me what doing this might be like somewhere else. He has talked to us as if we were in charge of something, which I guess we are, but I didn't really understand that piece. His mentoring has been really valuable in putting our job into perspective, and while it was intimidating, it was also really helpful.

Oliver! JR., directed by Maya Gelber and Sophie Sabin, with choreography by Elaine Llewellyn, will be performed July 22 to 25, and *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*, directed by Lisa Sabin and choreographed by Tess Dul, from July 29 to Aug. 1. Tickets can be bought at philipstowndepottheatre.org.



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Roots and Shoots

Growing A Pollinator-Friendly Cutting Garden

A new perspective on wildflowers

By Pamela Doan

When my child was learning to walk, I joked that she had picked every dandelion in Cold Spring.

She'd gather as many as I could carry in huge handfuls. Buttercups were appealing, too. I trained her to leave the flowerbeds alone but anything in the lawn was fine for picking.

Now she's older and knows where the scissors are kept and still delights in picking flowers. I'm adapting to seeing our blooms as vase-worthy, and not just in their ecological role. Honestly, there's enough for everyone.

Cutting gardens, on a large scale, were used to fill estates with a supply of fresh flowers year-round. Typically, lists of plants for a cutting garden include bulbs for spring and fall with a mix of summer annuals and perennials chosen for their striking appearance. Native plants and wildflowers, the backbones of ecological landscaping, aren't top choices. Maybe it's possible to do both, though.

It's commonly advised that a floral arrangement should be one-third each of structural blooms, foliage and filler. Images quickly pop into my mind of grocery store bouquets, including dahlias, baby's breath and daisies with a few stalks of salvia. Tulips, no matter the season, are another staple.

I trialed a flower arrangement with what I could forage in my yard. I found an orange day lily, black-eyed Susans, butterfly weed, white yarrow, ox-eye sunflowers, red bee balm, pale yellow yarrow, tickseed and flea-bane. The young child approved, but she isn't the toughest critic and I didn't follow the 30/30/30 formula. I appreciated the results and returned a caterpillar we found on a stem to the outdoors again.

After a few days, the red bee balm (*Monarda didyma*) and lily had wilted dramatically. Another tip learned from this is to use the freshest blooms. Cutting just before the flower blooms is probably the best route for the longest indoor results.

Here's a guide to choices for a cutting garden that also have ecological impact:

● Structural blooms

YARROW (*Achillea millefolium*): In my test arrangement, the yarrow held up the longest. It also has a strong stem to rise above other blooms.

LAVENDER (*Lavandula* spp.): No one could argue with having lavender in the house.

OX-EYE SUNFLOWER (*Heliopsis helianthoides*): This multi-stemmed plant has a profusion of yellow flowers and can stand up tall among other blooms in a vase. While sunflowers are striking, too, varieties that have a single flower head can leave a gap in the garden when they are cut down.

IRIS (*Iris versicolor*): There are native irises that bloom in shade and wetter conditions



A flower arrangement features blooms from a pollinator-friendly native plant cutting garden.

Photo by P. Doan

at different times of the year, and produce strong flowers.

SPIDERWORT (*Tradescantia ohiensis*): This could be a substitute for iris or look great with iris.

ANISE HYSSOP (*Agastache foeniculum*): The candelabra flowering style makes hyssop a lovely candidate, with tall stems covered in tiny flowers for impact.

● Foliage

FERNS: Hay-scented fern, ostrich fern, cinnamon fern, Christmas fern — there are many choices and an arrangement could include more than one type as a way to showcase the flowers.

WILD RYE (*Elymus canadensis*): I appreciate this grass for the delicate seed heads and curving shape.

SIDE OATS GRASS (*Bouteloua curtipendula*): The golden color of this grass at the end of summer would complement any arrangement.

● Filler

BLACK-EYED SUSANS: These make the list because they are so easy to grow and I usually have more of them than anything

else in the garden.

COSMOS: This annual plant wins its spot in a pollinator garden because it is a good nectar source. Easy to grow in not-so-perfect soil, cosmos can be cut and then can bloom again.

MOUNTAIN MINT (*Pycnanthemum tenifolium*): While I love watching the butterflies flock to this plant, its cool colors are a unique addition to a bouquet.

Perennials and bulbs that had a single bloom, like obedient plant, blazing star and blue vervain, didn't make the list because they are less prolific in my garden and take a few years to come into their full potential. I also didn't include the more commonly known dahlias, zinnias, roses and delphiniums. I wanted to cast a new angle on the cutting garden and make a case for growing pollinator-friendly native plants for enjoyment inside the house as well as their ecological purpose.

The aspect that doesn't come as readily from wildflower arrangements is fragrance. These aren't plants that have been bred for scent to attract humans, just insects and birds. While I love a peony's fragrance as much as anyone, I wouldn't trade it for the sight of a butterfly covered flower.

Current Classifieds

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EVENTS

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

Looking Back in Philipstown

By Chip Rowe

150 Years Ago (July 1871)

Seventeen Cold Spring residents signed a letter to the Board of Trustees claiming that its vote to raise the pay of the street commissioner from \$1.75 to \$2 per day had violated the 1846 village charter. The commissioner, David Holmes, had submitted a bill for \$21 but the board delayed paying it until it could get legal advice. In response, their counsel noted that the charter limited the pay of the street commissioner to 75 cents a day but that the village had been paying more for some 20 years. He also noted that, under state law, the trustees could be paid up to \$1 per day each as overseers of highways but that the village bylaws required them to be volunteers. *The Cold Spring Recorder* suggested it might be time to update the charter.

James Duffy of Parsonage Street was critically injured on July 4 when a small cannon set off a supply of powder in an open box.

J.A. Murphy agreed to pay for the damages to the fence at the pound, which he broke open to free his cow, which had been found wandering the village. Two weeks later, a cow owned by Murphy approached the pump opposite B Street while being driven from pasture and knocked down a girl and cut her skin and dress with its horn.

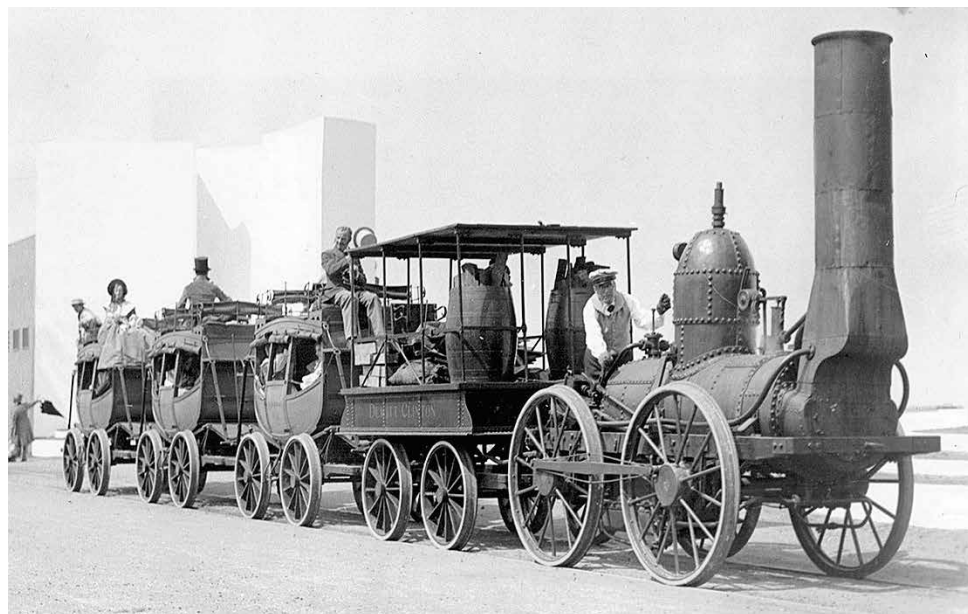
The editor of *The Recorder* noted that each man owns the sidewalk and half the road in front of his lot, that the public has only the right of passage, and that “lounging” on either is technically a crime. He blamed storekeepers whose “hunger for trade makes them submissive” when tolerating loiterers.

Johnny Wood, the son of James Wood of Market Street, was playing with the head of a horse owned by Charles Bullock while its wagon was being unloaded when the animal bit off his thumb and an 8-inch tendon from his forearm. A crowd gathered at Boyd’s Drug Store to see the wound dressed and observe the fragment.

A reader complained in a letter to *The Recorder* that, during the funeral of a child of Lawrence Schmidt, the tobacconist, at his home by the railroad, mourners had to step over a drunken man lying near the front door. Mrs. Schmidt called the constable but was told the officer would need a warrant to remove the man, which Justice Ferris later said was not the case.

Gilbert Forman’s low fields were covered with frost early one morning and his potatoes damaged.

Following a competition before an examining board, the eldest son of Jackson Dykeman, the district attorney of Westchester County and a native of Cold Spring, was selected by Rep. Clarkson Potter to receive a commission to West Point.



The early DeWitt Clinton train inspired a replica that came through Cold Spring in 1921.

Joseph Ferris, while driving a rickety wagon on Academy Street with two wheels on the sidewalk, spilled a load of wood.

A stranger who was about 80 years old was seen wandering Garrison over two days before he was detained and his sons notified in New York City. The man was first noticed by the coachman for Mr. Belcher, who had to stop and climb down to get him to leave the middle of the road, where he was walking deep in meditation. Later that day, he was seen on the railroad track near Garrison; a constable removed him and secured his lodging at the hotel. The next morning, he was again on the track and was taken to the depot, where he lunged at the baggage master with a razor blade before attempting to slit his own throat. The man was brought to Cold Spring to await his sons, who said their father had been missing. It was not clear how he ended up in Garrison.

O.H. Speedling purchased the former Baxter’s Store in Nelsonville and said he would add a porch for anyone who wished to rent it as a retail store. Otherwise he planned to turn it into a market.

The highway commissioners voted to build an iron bridge made at the foundry over the pond at Vinegar Hill.

Despite shouted warnings from the flagman at the Main Street crossing, Fergus Brady attempted to beat the train in his wagon. After the engine clipped the fender, Brady held tight to the reins and was pulled off the vehicle, which was reduced to fragments. Neither horse nor driver were injured.

When a southbound freight train pulled into the Cold Spring station, its brakeman could not be found. He was finally located unconscious on the top of a caboose, having apparently been knocked unconscious by the bridge frame at Breakneck. He was taken to the residence of Issac DeLapoy, the night watchman at the depot, and a telegram was sent to his father in Westfield, Massachusetts.

William Andrew Rose, 5, was standing on the wharf in front of his house opposite Cold Spring to watch a steamer when the swells caused him to slip into the water. His mother saw him disappear and ran to the spot to find him clinging to a timber. She went into the water and put her son into a small boat moored nearby but when she tried to climb

aboard, her wet clothing was too heavy. Men on the steamer alerted George Howell, who was on the shore in Cold Spring, and he rowed across to rescue her.

The jury in a lawsuit filed by Mortimer Ballard, who claimed Thomas Finaughty owed him \$200 because his chickens, horses, hogs and dogs had trespassed on his land, deliberated for 10 hours before awarding Ballard 6 cents.

Another jury heard a lawsuit filed by Louis Ballard against Finaughty for \$200 for allowing his chickens to trespass, but could not agree on a verdict after three hours of discussion. A second jury threw out the case and the judge fined Ballard \$18.45 for bringing a meritless action.

A third lawsuit filed by Margaret Ballard against Finaughty was tossed when the plaintiff failed to show. The judge fined her \$11.75.

100 Years Ago (July 1921)

At a meeting of the Putnam County Historical Society, W.L. Culver shared news of discoveries made by members of the Field Exploration Committee that he chaired for the New York Historical Society. For several years, the committee members had been trying to find the locations of Revolutionary War campsites. Guided by contemporary accounts, it had located Camp Robinson on the west side of Cat Rock Road in Garrison, which was occupied during the winter of 1779-1780 by soldiers from Massachusetts and Connecticut. Among the artifacts was the original die, or matrix, used to manufacture the officers’ buttons of the 21st British regiment, which had probably been found by a soldier at Saratoga and discarded. Culver said there were still traces of hearths that marked the sites of the log huts that the soldiers lived in. Culver noted that the committee had located a camp called Connecticut Village about two years earlier but was still looking for the New Boston and Soldier’s Fortune camps.

The Lending Library, which had opened in January with three members, reported it now had 126, and that its 550 books had been checked out 3,008 times.

Teachers from Garrison, Nelsonville and Haldane held a picnic at the Cragside estate

(Continued on Page 17)

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(Continued from Page 16)

[now the Haldane campus] for children who took part in the Wild Flower Show. The children were enrolled as junior members of the Wild Flower Preservation Society of America, whose aim was to protect native plants.

The Rev. George Williams, who over four years had expanded the Baptist Church by 20 members and overseen the installation of an organ, piano and pipeless heater, resigned to accept a call at another church.

Mary Smith, the county agent for dependent children, told the Putnam Board of Supervisors that three children were no longer wards because their mother had been located in another county, where she had remarried.

The Garrison Union Free School hired Meta Byrnes as principal, Katherine Millicker as intermediate teacher and Emma Rathjen as primary teacher.

Dr. J.G. Simmons, who purchased the Helen Wilson place in Garrison, entertained about 30 members of the Westchester Tennis Club of the Bronx.

Grace Tiemeyer complained to the Village Board that the Cold Spring Light, Heat & Power Co. had destroyed shade trees in front of her property by sawing off limbs. The clerk was directed to notify the firm that no trees were to be trimmed without the approval of the board.

The Cold Spring Market purchased a new, up-to-date slicer.

The State of New York purchased the 1,600-acre Van Cortlandt estate, including Anthony's Nose and a road from Manitou built 30 years earlier.

In Garrison, the Graymoor school and grounds were leased to Mr. Costello, who opened a gas station that offered refreshments.

The trustees of Philipstown School District No. 13 presented a budget of \$7,000 that covered teachers' salaries, payments to truant officers, a clerk, a physician, a treasurer and a janitor, and costs for a library, fuel, insurance, books, supplies, water, repairs and a new flag pole.

The body of Sgt. George A. Casey was brought to Cold Spring from France and laid to rest at Cold Spring Cemetery. Casey had been fatally wounded three years earlier during the battle of the Argonne Forest, and the local American Legion chapter was named in his honor.

Harry Nelson DeLanoy wrote a poem in memory of Casey that began: "Hark! Up the village street there comes / The tread of feet to muffled drums; And, rumbling on the earthen road, / A caisson bears its flag-draped load, / While hoofs of horses, on the ground, / Seem but to add a solemn sound / That breaks the cadence of the tread / Of comrades marching with their dead."

The famous Empire State Express Engine No. 999 traveled through Cold Spring pulling a replica of the DeWitt Clinton engine and coaches that was on its way to Chicago for display. The original engine had been built at the West Point Foundry.

After 20 years as a grocer in the Dykeman building at the corner of Main and Pearl, C.W. Smith announced he would convert the place to an auto service garage.



Above and below: a collection of photos that Robert Beckhard took of the New York City subways was auctioned in 2014 for \$250. His photos were displayed in Cold Spring in 1971.



75 Years Ago (July 1946)

William Hageny, the principal of Haldane High School, said that members of the board of Putnam school directors would be called into a special session to select a county superintendent following the resignation of Harold Storm. Asked who was qualified for the position, Hageny replied, "I know I am." He said he had not been aware, until informed by the *Poughkeepsie New Yorker*, that Storm had been appointed as superintendent of the Arlington and Pleasant Valley district.

The Putnam County Fish and Game Association received 3,000 pheasant eggs from the state and hired a breeder to rear 500 birds. In addition, chicks would be distributed to farmers in batches of 100 to raise. The association hoped to be able to turn loose about 1,500 adult cock pheasants in the fall.

Rep. Mallory Stephens, chair of the House Ways and Means Committee whose district included Putnam County, was challenged in the Republican primary by Henry Ekstrom, chair of the Putnam Board of Supervisors, who had also secured the Democratic nomination.

50 Years Ago (July 1971)

A 7.5-mile section of Interstate 84, through Newburgh, opened at noon on July 1, completing the 72-mile freeway from the Connecticut line in Putnam County to the Pennsylvania line in Orange County.

Mayor Raymond LeFever warned mini-bike riders using village streets that they would be ticketed.

Merton Akers, a former news manager for United Press International and author of a syndicated column called *This Was the Civil War*, died at age 72 at his Cold Spring home. In 1951 he had helped lead UPI into the teletype era.

A 21-year-old man from White Plains died when he slipped and fell 100 feet into an abandoned copper mine off South Mountain Pass Road in Garrison. He was a student at the School of Visual Arts in New York City and had been exploring with two friends.

Walter Goodwin Sr., who was the golf pro at the Highlands Country Club in Garrison for 18 years, died at age 74. Born in Belfast, he served with the British Army during World War I and the Canadian Army during World War II.

The Medical Arts Building in Cold Spring opened an exhibit of photos by Robert Beckhard of Garrison depicting people riding the New York City subways.

The Putnam County Historical Society opened an exhibit of jugs made in the brickyards and pottery yards that lined the Hudson River in the 19th century, with the notable exception of those made at Fishkill Landing by John or Jacob Caire.

A gala was held at the Holiday Inn in Fishkill to honor Father John Mills on his 10th anniversary as rector of St. Mary's

Episcopal Church. When he arrived in 1961, the church had recently suffered a fire.

William H. Osborn Sr., a metallurgist and former president of the Hudson River Conservation Society, died at age 76 while recuperating in Massachusetts from injuries sustained after he fell from a horse at his Garrison home, Forest Farm. A graduate of Princeton and the Columbia University School of Mines, Osborn had twice been wounded in action while fighting in France during World War I.

25 Years Ago (July 1996)

After two years of construction, a \$235,000 bridge opened over the railroad tracks at Little Stony Point. The previous bridge had been condemned.

Vinny Tamagna, who represented Philipstown on the Putnam County Legislature, said it was "reprehensible" that NYNEX was removing pay phones in the area, including at the Continental Village clubhouse, unless they averaged at least \$5 in revenue per day. "In an emergency, lack of a phone could result in loss of life," Tamagna warned. He asked anyone who saw phones being removed to call him.

A public hearing was held on a proposed Cold Spring law that read: "No person shall engage in coasting or sliding, sledding, tobogganing, roller skating or rollerblading on any street or sidewalk in the village as follows: Chestnut Street, Main Street, Lunn Terrace, Market Street south of Main, Morris Avenue, Parsonage Street north of Pine, the waterfront including the dock area, and all of West Street, Mountain Avenue and Northern Avenue."

The Desmond-Fish Library held an open house for its new director, Carol Donick, a native of Pennsylvania who had lived in Paris and Moscow. [Donick left in 2013 to become director of the Kent Public Library.]

Hamilton Fish Jr., a former congressman and Garrison resident, died at his home in Washington, D.C., at age 70. He had first been elected in 1968 after defeating future Watergate burglar G. Gordon Liddy in the Republican primary. The funeral service was held at Trophy Point at West Point.



Hamilton Fish Jr.

Tamma Cain, a Garrison native, left for Atlanta to serve for two weeks as a line judge during the tennis competitions at the Summer Olympics. Cain learned the game at the Highlands Country Club and spent 15 years as the tennis coach at Fairfield University. She also had officiated at the U.S. Open seven times.

OBITUARIES

Janet Savaia (1945-2021)

Janet F. Savaia, 76, mother of three and loving wife of Charles Savaia, died on July 4.

Born in Herkimer, she raised her children in Cold Spring and Seminole, Florida, finally residing in Coral Springs, Florida. She outlived life expectancy suffering from progressive supranuclear palsy.

Janet was born on March 26, 1945, to parents Thomas and Alba Pallaria. She married Charles Savaia on Nov. 22, 1970, in Briarcliff Manor. After graduating from Herkimer High School in 1963, she attended the Katherine Gibbs School in



New York City.

Mostly a homemaker while raising children she became a real estate agent and then ultimately followed her passion for antiquities. She and her husband owned a successful antique business for 13 years in Seminole before retiring. Ms. Savaia was a member of the Orchid Society, Women's Club and Garden Club. Her interests were family, antiques, gardening and cooking.

She is survived by her husband of 51 years; her daughter, Lorri and husband Joseph Spence; and sons, Peter Formato and Christian Savaia and his wife Carrie. Janet has six grandchildren: Sydney, Justin, Gabriella, Leah, Kenley and Charlie, ages 22 to 5. Janet's brother, Richard Pallaria, lives in Cohecton with his wife of many years, Robin McClernon.

James Scofield (1938-2021)

James F. Scofield Sr., 82, a lifelong Beacon resident, died July 3, surrounded by family members, at Vassar Brothers Medical Center in Poughkeepsie.

He was born in Beacon on Dec. 15, 1938, the son of Harold and Rebekah (Little) Scofield. After graduating from Beacon High School, he enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps, where he served from 1957 to 1960. James worked for over 30 years in chemical research manufacturing for Kay-Fries, and last worked for Gemark in Newburgh.

James was a retired life member of Beacon Engine Fire Co. No. 1. He loved fish-



ing for trout and was a devoted Yankees and Giants fan. James was an antique dealer and enjoyed playing darts.

James is survived by his children, Linda Scofield, James Scofield Jr. (Christine) and Kimberly Scofield, and two grandchildren, Rebecca and Jacob Scofield. His wife, the former Janis Ortmann, died in 1984.

A memorial service was held on July 9 at Libby Funeral Home in Beacon, with military honors rendered by the Marine Corps. Interment took place at Fishkill Rural Cemetery. Memorial donations may be made to the Beacon Volunteer Ambulance Corps (beaconvac.org).

Other Recent Deaths

Elizabeth Newton, 63
Frank Zottarelli, 70

Jay Palefsky



Jay Palefsky, a dynamic teacher, artist, and entrepreneur, lost his battle with cancer on Wednesday, July 7, 2021.

Jay resided in the woods of Garrison with his wife, Marilyn, where they raised two children, several pets, and many questions about life and starting a business. Jay died peacefully in the post-and-beam home he built over 40 years ago. His family was with him, loving and caring till the end.

Born and raised in the Bronx, Jay attended the School of Visual Arts in NYC, and graduated with a degree in art education from the University of Miami in Florida and SUNY New Paltz. Jay was passionate about inspiring his art students at Lakeland High School in NY, where he developed his motto, "learn

the rules, and break them."

After teaching art for more than two decades, he packed his bags to pursue life as an "artrepreneur," with a steadfast commitment to doing things differently. In Jay's words, "This artistic journey has taken me to a world where my right artventive mind has met my left computeive brain." He believed that "between reality and illusion the artist builds a bridge of creativity ... and an adventure begins." Jay is known for creating pieces via a unique concept of interactive art that he called Morphicism.

Jay relished meeting everyone who entered his shop, asking them about their lives, jobs, and interests — explaining he would always remember them by their conversations.

Often customers would leave feeling they had found a new friend, and would return with a "remember me?" Jay's warmth, enthusiasm and ability to talk ran through every aspect of his life, leaving a "feel good feeling" with everyone who met him.

Jay is survived by his loving wife and devoted partner Marilyn, son Joshua, daughter Sarah, and brother Howard. A memorial service will be held on August 1st at 2:00 p.m. followed by a reception at the South Highlands Chapel, 19 Snake Hill Rd. in Garrison, NY. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that friends make donations to the charity of their choice, or to the Highlands Choral Society at P.O. Box 273, Garrison, NY 10524. Parking for the memorial will be limited.

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Puzzles

CROSS CURRENT

ACROSS

1. Parking place

4. Toy block name

8. Narcissist's love

12. Bashful

13. Cameo shape

14. Russian river

15. Home

17. Wheels of fortune?

18. One of the Fab Four

19. Doze

20. Con games

22. Facebook action

24. Director Wertmuller

25. Tyrannize

29. Vichy water

30. Church keyboard

31. Big D.C. lobby

32. Realm

34. Hertz rival

35. Swiss peaks

36. Justice Kagan

37. Waterlogged

40. Mideast airline

41. Say it's so

42. Rectangular game pieces

46. Painter Magritte

47. Regarding

48. Shell-game item

49. Initial chip

1	2	3		4	5	6	7		8	9	10	11
12				13					14			
15			16						17			
		18						19				
20	21					22	23					
24					25				26	27	28	
29				30					31			
32			33						34			
			35					36				
37	38	39				40						
41					42	43				44	45	
46					47				48			
49					50				51			

50. Optimum

51. Stately tree

DOWN

1. Leary's drug

2. Discoverer's call

3. Ear membrane

4. Venue

5. Satan's forte

6. Lass

7. Flamenco cheer

8. Morose

9. Buffalo's lake

10. Hobbling

11. Broadway failure

16. "— Rock"

19. Epidermis

20. Rosebud, to Kane

21. Pisa farewell

22. Trademark symbols

23. One-named supermodel

25. Faucet problem

26. Letter holder

27. Ms. Brockovich

28. Tabula —

30. Unique

33. "Amen to that!"

34. Actor Rickman

36. *Adam Bede* author

37. Poet Teasdale

38. Roasting spot

39. Bloke

40. 911 responders

42. Wee dollop

43. Sugary suffix

44. Moray, for one

45. America's uncle

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7 LITTLE WORDS

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

CLUES

1 set firmly in place (8)

2 German veal dish (9)

3 extremely hungry (8)

4 city in both Europe and Asia (8)

5 "The Perfect Date" star Noah (8)

6 waterbird with an eerie call (4)

7 tame waves, maybe (10)

SOLUTIONS


ANC	UL	ZEL	ED	RV
NIT	NEO	TEN	CE	STRA
NTI	ON	IST	STA	SCH
ING	IGH	HOR	LO	ANB

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SUDO CURRENT

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

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Answers for July 9 Puzzles

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

1. SPECIES, 2. ROWER, 3. CRUMPLED, 4. BREADTH, 5. COMFORTER, 6. SUMMON, 7. PACKAGING

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

SPORTS



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Beacon's Hudson Barton (28) tags out a Wallkill runner in a rundown between first and second in a loss on Tuesday (July 13) at Beacon.



Aiden Heaton went three innings for Beacon's 11U team in its game against Wallkill.

Bulldogs 11U Shuts Out Poughkeepsie

Win comes one day after loss to Wallkill at Memorial Park

By Skip Pearlman

Just like every other area team, the Beacon 11 and under baseball team has been battling this week to get games played in between rainstorms, but the Bulldogs played twice, blasting the Poughkeepsie Lightning, 7-0, on Wednesday (July 14), one day after dropping a 5-1 decision to the Wallkill Chargers. Both games were played at Beacon's Memorial Park.

In the win over Poughkeepsie, Parker White started for the Bulldogs and pitched a gem, throwing six innings of one-hit ball, striking out nine, with no walks.

"You can't tell if he's up five or down five," coach Jed Varricchio said of White's calm demeanor. "He's so focused and zoned in, he's an absolute gamer. And he had one of the best games I've ever seen an 11-year-old pitch."

Connor Varricchio led the offense with a 3-for-3 performance, driving in two runs. White helped himself at the plate, going 2-for-3 with two RBI; Hudson Fontaine drove in a run, Jake DeLuise went 2-for-3 with two runs scored and five stolen bases, and Aiden Heaton went 2-for-3.

"That was a great game for our guys," Varricchio said. "Poughkeepsie is always a strong team, but our guys hit and played sparkling defense. Our defense really helped Parker out; all of the hard work is starting to pay off."

In Tuesday's loss to Wallkill, Connor



Beacon's Connor Varricchio (R) slides safely in at second after smacking an RBI double against Wallkill.

Photos by S. Pearlman

Varricchio started and went three innings, giving up three earned runs, and Heaton closed out the final three.

Varricchio also doubled in the team's only run in the loss.

"We only had three hits," said the elder Varricchio. "Wallkill is a good team — they hit the ball and they're smart and well-coached. We played a good game; we don't give up."

The team also played at the New York Elite Baseball Tournament in Newburgh on July 10 and 11, going 0-3. "We battled in every game, but just came up short," Varricchio said. "It was a great experience for the

kids; they got to see talent from all over."

Varricchio said the team, playing its third year together, is showing good progress and has taken to a new coaching staff that includes Mike Fontaine and Nelson Hernandez.

"The guys are really doing well," he said. "As long as they're confident, having fun and getting better, that's what matters."

Beacon was scheduled to travel to face the New Windsor Cyclones today (July 16) at 5:30 p.m. Beacon hosts the Cyclones on Monday (July 19) at 5:30 p.m. at Memorial Park, and hosts Cadets Baseball on Wednesday at 5:30 p.m.

Bulldogs 14U Falls in Tourney Semifinal

Team notches win over HV Renegades after trailing early

By Skip Pearlman

Beacon's 14 and under team performed well in last weekend's Pitch for Kids Tournament in New Windsor.

The Bulldogs placed third out of 11 teams in pool play and advanced to win their first championship-round game, beating the Hudson Valley Renegades, 4-3, before falling in the semifinals to Aces Baseball (Westchester County), 4-1.

In the win over the Renegades, pitcher Anthony Borromeo picked up the victory in relief for Beacon, throwing four-plus scoreless innings after replacing starter Liam Murphy.

Beacon trailed 3-1 in the third inning when Mike Fontaine started a rally by getting on base, Derek Heaton followed with an RBI triple to make it a 3-2 game, and Jackson Atwell followed with an RBI single to tie the game. Mercer Jordan then delivered another RBI single, giving the Bulldogs the lead for good.

"We really played well the whole tournament," said Coach Bob Atwell. "The kids pitched well and played solid defense. They competed at the dish."

Atwell called Borromeo's performance "big," and also praised Fontaine, who "pitched well for us in pool play." Jackson Atwell and Heaton also "both played nice defense for us throughout the tournament," the coach said.

In pool play, Beacon defeated the New York Blackhawks, 4-0, and tied the N.E. Pride, 6-6.

In the semifinal loss to the aces, Jackson Atwell gave the Bulldogs a strong five innings on the mound, trailing 2-1 when he left. Ronnie Anzovino pitched in relief.

"Both of those guys competed well," Bob Atwell said. "They kept us in the game; there were a lot of tough innings and they made some good pitches."

"Base running hurt us in that game," he added. "The Aces are a high-scoring team, and we played well, but some bad base running took us out of it."

Ryan Smith had Beacon's lone RBI in the loss.

Beacon was scheduled to host the Newburgh Red Storm today (July 16) at Beacon High School at 6 p.m. The Bulldogs are at Marlboro on Saturday at 2 p.m.