Cold Spring police install license-plate readers

By Michael Turton

Cameras installed over Main Street and Route 9D earlier this month now capture the license plate numbers of every vehicle entering or leaving Cold Spring.

The three cameras, installed for the Cold Spring Police Department, are located in Philipstown on Route 9D just south of Peekskill Road and at Little Stony Point Park and in Nelsonville on Main Street (Route 301) just east of Peekskill Road. Routes 301 and 9D are state roads. Officer-in-Charge Larry Burke said on Thursday (July 22) that the cameras are used only to assist with investigations, not to police traffic infractions such as speeding, seat-belt use or expired registrations.

“I know people’s fear is Big Brother is watching,” he said. “They’re used only for criminal investigations or locating missing persons. We’re not looking to give out cheap tickets.”

The cameras, funded by the federal Department of Homeland Security, were provided by Putnam County at no cost to the village. Burke said he consulted with the Putnam County Sheriff’s Department to select locations to cover all entrances and exits from Cold Spring, which meant placing them outside village limits.

“If I had placed them inside the village, there would have been too many ways to get around the cameras,” he said.

At the July 6 meeting of the Village Board, Mayor Dave Merandy said he hadn’t realized the cameras would be installed outside Cold Spring, and as a result, officials in Philipstown and Nelsonville were not notified until after the fact.

Burke said the cameras would have helped with crimes that have occurred on Main Street, such as a burglary at Joseph’s Fine Jewelry in 2017 in which early morning thieves used a rotary saw.

Could River Patrol Have Saved Swimmer?

Drowning near Cold Spring prompts criticism

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

Putnam County’s elimination of Sheriff’s Department patrols on the Hudson River continued to make waves this month as some local officials linked it to a June 29 drowning near Cold Spring and neighboring counties were non-committal about patrolling in Putnam’s absence.

After scuttling the river patrols, Putnam County Executive MaryEllen Odell on June 17 appealed to Rockland, Orange, Westchester and Dutchess to “continue a conversation” about mutual aid on the river off Cold Spring, Garrison and Philipstown.

When contacted by The Current, Rockland, Orange and Dutchess officials said they would continue to provide emergency assistance but did not commit to regular patrols along Putnam’s shoreline.

A representative of the Dutchess County Sheriff’s Department said on Monday (July 19) that it planned to continue

Overdoses Reach Record High

Deaths in Dutchess surge during pandemic

By Leonard Sparks

Christina Goebel had just finished talking with a client in March 2020 at a Hudson Valley substance abuse treatment clinic where she worked when the news came.

Because of a new and fast-spreading viral disease called COVID-19, the program would be shutting down and its clients sent home.

Within a month, six clients had died of overdoses, Goebel said.

Those six were among a reported 93,000 overdose deaths in the U.S. last year, about 20,000 more than in 2019 and a record high, according to newly released data from the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

In New York state, the number of overdose deaths rose by 31 percent and Mid-Hudson counties recorded significant spikes after seeing deaths fall in 2019.

Overdoses from opioids, a class of drugs that includes heroin, fentanyl and prescription painkillers, surged by 57 percent in Dutchess County, according to newly updated data from the state Department of Health. Putnam County also experienced an increase, to 16 fatalities, compared to 12 in 2019.

The trend extended to four of the region’s other five counties: Ulster County (67 percent); Sullivan (57 percent); Orange (31 percent); and Westchester (31 percent).

County overdose fatalities and deaths rose from 109 in 2018 to 133 in 2019, rising to 146 in 2020, according to the New York State Department of Health.

A sign at the Little Stony Point riverfront, known locally as Sandy Beach, warns of the dangers of swimming there.

Source: New York State Department of Health
FIVE QUESTIONS: BRIAN MERRITT

The Rev. Brian Merritt is the new interim pastor at the First Presbyterian Church of Philipstown. He succeeds the Rev. Doris Chandler, who left in October for a church in Michigan.

As a kid, did you dream of being a pastor or a New York Yankee?
I’m from Nebraska, so I would have been a Kansas City Royal. I wanted to be a missionary because I was a fundamentalist. When I ended that, I couldn’t be a missionary. Instead, I attended Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary in Texas with my wife, Carol, who is the pastor in Bedford. I’m probably more liberal, and she’s more humanistic. I have a little cynicism toward the human race. I’ve been an activist as long as I’ve been a pastor, nearly 25 years, including in Louisiana, New Mexico, Tennessee and Washington, D.C.

What do people mean when they say, “I’m spiritual, but not religious”?
It’s an excuse to be a radical individualist. There is no spirituality without community. None of us walk into the desert and a beam of light comes down. Most Eastern religions, including Christianity, believe there’s more humanistic. I have a little cynicism toward the human race. I’ve been an activist as long as I’ve been a pastor, nearly 25 years, including in Louisiana, New Mexico, Tennessee and Washington, D.C.

How can the decline in so many congregations be reversed?
Churches have to admit their complicity in racism, sexism and prejudice, and understand if you’re continually harping against critical race theory, you’re sinning. It’s coming to grips with how they have oppressed people and continue to be white supremacists. The Presbyterian denomination is 93 percent white; we opened Indian schools to assimilate Native Americans. We have to face our history and repent. It’s not just liberals; outside politics, conservatives are also saying: “We have to come to grips with this.” Churches are ignoring things that are important to new generations. If churches, with people primarily over age 50, don’t address the environmental catastrophe, what are they telling young people? Churches are inflexible. It’d take Presbyterians up to 10 years to write something that says we’re anti-racist. My denomination has a $10 billion pension fund, mostly from Wall Street. People see these things, the sexual abuse, the contradictions. We need to be flexible, transparent and willing to change.

Human sacrifice is considered barbaric, yet according to Christian theology, Jesus was sacrificed. Is that not barbaric?
A lot of feminist theologians would say it’s divine child abuse. Up until the 11th century, the church allowed different views of atonement. Blood atonement, the cross, wasn’t necessarily the earliest iconography. It was also Jesus as the good shepherd. Some early church fathers spoke of Jesus coming down, gathering people, bringing them back to who they were meant to be as humans. Some people need to have Jesus sacrificed to pay their debt. I understand that’s important to them, but I’m less convinced in blood atonement. If Isaac had been sacrificed by Abraham, that would have been pretty horrendous. It’s not where I am.

Religion often seems so serious. Is there any room for humor?
There should be. Unfortunately, many churches are humorless. In the liturgy, communion is a joyful feast, a celebration. It sometimes feels more like we’re marching to our death. I often feel I need to use that line from Fantasy Island, “Smiles everyone! Smiles!” Most people who are religious take themselves incredibly seriously. There should be humor. You have to start with yourself and move outward. We just had four years of evangelicals being completely, hilariously absurd and illogical — and they’re losing people like mad.

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APPLICATIONS CAN BE PICKED UP AT:
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Cold Spring Delays Police Group

Receives five applications for five spots

The Cold Spring Village Board on Tuesday (July 20) said it would delay creating a community stakeholder group to assist with a state-ordered review of the Police Department because it received only five applications for five positions.

The board said it would advertise for more applicants after Labor Day. Last year, Gov. Andrew Cuomo ordered municipalities to review the policies of their law-enforcement agencies.

When it announced the formation of the group in June, the village said it was seeking “a broad range of perspectives, experiences, knowledge and values of our community. Diversity of race, ethnicity, gender, age and nationality are sought and are essential to conforming to and reaching the goals of the executive order.”

Hudson Valley Honor Flights to Resume

Applications being accepted for trips

Roundtrip flights carrying military veterans from the Hudson Valley to Washington, D.C., to visit war memorials and share a dinner in their honor, will resume this fall after trips were canceled in 2020 because of the pandemic.

Hudson Valley Honor Flight is taking applications for a trip leaving from Stewart International Airport in New Windsor on Oct. 9 and one from Westchester County Airport on Nov. 6. The trips are free for veterans and $400 for their guardians, and everyone must be fully vaccinated against COVID-19. Priority will be given to World War II and Korean War veterans. See hvhonorflight.com.

Maloney Appointed to West Point Board

Congressman will serve second, 1-year term

Rep. Sean Patrick Maloney, whose district includes the Highlands, was appointed on July 15 by House Speaker Nancy Pelosi to a one-year term on the United States Military Academy Board of Visitors. Maloney previously served on the board in 2016. Its members make an annual visit to West Point to evaluate its operations and policies and submit a report to the president.

Ferry Service to be Restored

Newburgh-Beacon resumes in August

Metro-North announced this week that it plans to restore ferry service between Newburgh and Beacon by the end of August. The service, which operated during the pandemic shutdown, was suspended during the rush hours, was suspended during the pandemic shutdown. The Haverstraw-Ossining ferry will also resume, although schedules have not been released.

The clock is ticking!

Follow the ice cream trail through July 31 and collect stamps at participating shops for a chance to win... more ice cream!

**BEACON**
- Beacon Creamery, 134 Main St.
- Zora Dora’s, 201 Main St.
- Shmuck’s Sweet Stuff, 288 Main St.
- The Chocolate Studio, 496 Main St.

**PHILIPSTOWN**
- Bozerino’s, 120 Main St.
- Garden Cafe, 116 Main St.
- Homestyle Creamery, 351 Main St.
- Sweet Harvest, 82 Main St.

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

Tell us what you think

Reformed Church
I wish the “planning” board had a little more foresight into the future needs of this incredible property (“Beacon Church Plan Questioned,” July 16). If protecting the historical integrity of this church, parsonage and cemetery is a concern, why were developers allowed to dwarf and box in such a beautiful town asset that is clearly best used as a community space? Sadly, the opportunity to truly “get this right” has long passed.

While it would be great to see a youth center in Beacon, this is a property that needs substantial investment and ongoing maintenance; it would require significant funding from the city or a philanthropic investment. A hotel would bring significant tax income to the city, which can be put toward this type of programming, perhaps even using the facilities when available. And charging for parking along Beekman and/or on the unsightly lot across from West End Lofts could be another revenue source for the city that this project would bring to the table. This is also an incredible opportunity for a multitude of jobs and internships.

I hope the city not only finds a way to see this project through, but works with the developers to make it a true asset for the economy and infrastructure of Beacon. It would also be great to see a city plan that celebrates Beacon’s place as a cultural destination over championing housing developments wherever a plot of land exists.

Adam Izen, Beacon

I am concerned that yet another developer is rushing in to deface a beautiful historic building in Beacon, not to mention the nuisance it will create as a concert venue for 500 or more. Not only is there insufficient parking, but I don’t think the new occupants of nearby townhomes will be terribly enamored. They deserve peace and quiet at night like anyone else.

If you want to put on concerts, there is a stadium just to the north of us with plenty of parking. If you want something made out of this historic property, please keep our residential neighborhoods in mind and put something which would be appreciated by all, like an upscale farm-to-table restaurant such as they have at Blue Hill Farm.

The interior of this church must not be destroyed and the pipe organ is an integral part of that interior. There is parking enough for a restaurant and the interior would be a spectacular setting for it. Plus, it could be used from morning to night, with little fuss every day of the week. This is a town that cherishes its history and neighborhoods; it’s not the rundown industrial area of a big city waiting to be exploited.

Mary Fris, Beacon

Almost every building in Beacon has gotten its zoning changed and it’s going to get worse. Can anyone say “Craig House?” Beacon is circling the drain. Watch what variances they’re going to get.

Dennis Moroney, Beacon

If we can put unused condos and 10 million bars here, I’m OK with focusing on an artisanic endeavor.

Melissa Nastasi, via Instagram

I’m so sick of developers telling us that historic buildings which inconvenience their plans have no historical significance. This church most definitely is historically significant! Underneath that aluminum siding is a beautiful 1850 to 1860 Italianate Revival house.

I’m not against repurposing the property, but I am against demolishing the parsonage to build a hotel. These buildings are already bookeden by two developments. A 30-room hotel would complete the wall.

James Kelly, Newburgh

I would like to clear up any misconceptions about our development of the former Reformed Church. Our investment group has not proposed a concert venue; it will not be a nightclub, nor will it be Webster Hall or anything similar. We are not asking for a zoning change but a use change, as it was previously religious.

We are Beacon residents. We are proposing an event space (the church) that will function as an accessory to the hotel (the parsonage) – small, with 25 to 30 rooms. The new use will not be that different from the current use of an active church-going congregation. The capacity of 500 is the number that the building would hold. It’s a big space, and we have considered the possibility of hosting a large event on occasion. However, we antic-

(Continued on Page 5)
(Continued from Page 4) pate the majority of events to accommodate a much-smaller audience of between 300 and 200 people, and, to address concerns, we will reduce the maximum capacity considerably moving forward.

We anticipate hosting kid-friendly and family entertainment as well as art exhibitions and theater, conferences, education talks, weddings and other performances, such as dance and, yes, music. I have a background in music and theater, so these things matter and we are looking to host intimate, quality events.

To satisfy the Planning Board’s concerns, we are reviewing the hotel plan and making changes to include the existing parsonage house. I know that everyone might not have the same vision for the space, but we’re here to listen and work with the community to make this beautiful church open to all of us. I live five blocks from the church and have two small children, and the last thing we want is to host a rock concert with 500 guests every night. We are listening to our neighbors and working to address these concerns and figure out our impact.

Gavin Hecker, via Facebook

**Code changes**

As a safety matter — for both dog and human — dogs should be on-leash in the village (“Cold Spring to Adopt Code Changes,” July 16). But if you understand and respect dogs, a leash should not — need not — be the primary means of communicating and engaging. With a modicum of knowledge and training, that leash can be loose most of the time because Fido knows what you want and you know what Fido needs. Done that way, a leash is mostly for communication, not control, and “walking the dog” is fun for members of both species, instead of a burdensome chore.

Although “animal welfare officer” is probably better than “animal control officer,” whatever the term, it’s a difficult, sometimes dangerous job that often requires gaining physical control of a frightened, angry, maybe rabid animal.

Art Lopatin, Cold Spring

**Pot or cannabis?**

In reporting about the legalization of marijuana in New York State, I wish The Current could begin to use the correct terminology (“Putnam Legislators Urge Towns, Villages Not to Inhale,” July 9). Pot, weed, marijuana and various other names for the smokable and edible forms of this plant are slang. If news sources and those entrusted with making decisions about its use and availability want to be taken seriously, proper terms must be used. The law governing its legalization refers to cannabis. The Current and Putnam County Legislator Amy Sayegh (Letters and Comments, July 16) should know this and write and act accordingly.

Lynn Miller, Cold Spring

**The editor responds:** We use The Associated Press Stylebook as a guide; it recommends “marijuana” but says “pot” and “cannabis” are acceptable, as well. According to the Stylebook, cannabis is the usual term outside North America and “some prefer cannabis because of arguments the term marijuana was popularized in the United States in the early 20th century to stoke anti-Mexican sentiment. Slang terms such as weed, reefer, ganja or 420 are acceptable in limited, colloquial cases or in quotations.”

We have been living with the consequences of liquor legalization for quite a long time, and we know it hasn’t been pretty. There is reams of data showing cannabis consumption to be far less dangerous than alcohol consumption, so I’m curious as to what kind of research Putnam legislators base their argument on, if any.

Heather Candon, via Instagram

**Editor’s note:** In its letter to town and village leaders, the county Legislature’s Health Committee cited recent studies on the effect of marijuana dispensaries published in the Journal of Health Communication, the Journal of Addictions and Regional Science and Urban Economics. We have added links to the story online.

**Utilities settlement**

The companies should be returning the $86 million to customers, not paying New York State (“Central Hudson, Other Utilities Settle for $86 Million,” July 16). Optimum (Altec) settled with the state and all we got was a $5, one-time reduction. We suffer twice, once with the outages and then with the rate increase to cover the fine.

Charles Symon, Beacon

This is, in large part, politicians answering the sissy la-las who move from the concrete jungle to where there are trees. I have lived here since birth, and power outages happen. I have seen it lots worse.

Wayne Theis, Beacon

Rather than being forced to invest more in emergency preparedness, the utilities have to raise prices to give money to the state. Punishment but not rehabilitation. I’m not sure how this encourages good change.

Simon Butt, via Instagram

**The editor responds:** To clarify, the utilities will meet their settlement obligations in a variety of ways other than direct payments to the state. Central Hudson, for example, agreed to set aside $1.5 million in shareholder funds to be used for storm response, trimming trees and clearing lines.

Visit highlandscurrent.org for news updates and latest information.

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**LETTERS AND COMMENTS**

**Summer dot sale**

**SUMMER DOT SALE**

**SALE FROM JULY 22 TO JULY 31**

**25% 30% 60%**

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**Whose best interests do you think the tax laws were designed to serve?**

Do you want those rules, or your own intentions, to prevail?

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**The Gift Hut**

**SUMMER DOT SALE**

**SALE FROM JULY 22 TO JULY 31**

**25% 30% 60%**

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Unique Gifts, Toys, Puzzles for the Whole Family

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Cold Spring ‘Opts Out’

By Michael Turton

The five members of the Cold Spring Village board on Tuesday (July 20) voted unanimously to opt out of New York State laws regulating retail outlets for the sale and consumption of legal marijuana.

Mayor Dave Merandy noted the decision allows for what is known as a “passive referendum,” in which residents can collect signatures to force a vote on Nov. 2 over whether to overturn the board decisions.

New York legalized recreational use of cannabis this year for adults 21 and older, who can possess up to 3 ounces. While the state plans to license shops that sell marijuana or allow on-site consumption, it allowed towns and villages to opt out by Dec. 31 of permitting such establishments within their borders. Those that opt out can allow the establishments later. Those that “opt in” through legislation cannot later ban sales.

“There will be a larger debate later on,” Merandy predicted, adding that Cold Spring could benefit from studying the experience of states such as Massachusetts, which legalized sales in 2016.

There was little smoke and no fire at the July 15 public hearing on whether the village should opt out. Held at the firehouse, the hearing drew only a handful of residents and concluded 11 minutes after it began.

Eliza Starbuck, a candidate for village trustee, asked if Cold Spring would have control over marijuana establishments if it opts in later.

“A village would be able to determine where they would be located and how many” through zoning laws, Merandy said.

After Starbuck asked for clarification regarding the sales tax benefits, Trustee Kathleen Foley said sales would be taxed at 4 percent, on top of the regular state sales tax. “Twenty-five percent [of the 4 percent] is retained by Putnam County,” she said. “Seventy-five percent goes back to the municipality,” where the sale occurred.

“It’s the one tax under state law that the county has to share with us,” Foley said.

Tara Vamos, who lives in the village, spoke in favor of allowing sales. “It would be a great asset to have a dispensary in town,” she said. “Getting back that sales tax would be tremendous.”

Earlier this month, the three members of the Putnam County Legislature’s Health Committee wrote to town and village leaders suggesting they opt out. Their letter cited a study published this year that found home prices within a 36-mile area in Washington state of a new dispensary fell by 3 to 4 percent on average.

Vamos disputed that report, pointing to a 2017 study that found homes in Denver located closer to dispensaries increased in value by about 8 percent after cannabis sales became legal in Colorado in 2014. She also disputed findings that dispensaries lead to increased use of marijuana.

In letters to the village, two people wrote in opposition to allowing retail sales. Evan Hudson argued that opting out “will help to maintain our quality of life in Cold Spring.”

A public hearing on Tuesday about whether Cold Spring should allow marijuana sales drew only a small audience.

while Danielle Pack McCarthy, executive director of the Philipstown Behavioral Health Hub, said that opting out gives Cold Spring the opportunity to see how things unfold in other municipalities. Doing otherwise, she argued, would send a message to youth that smoking marijuana is OK.

“I see many young people who come in with serious marijuana dependency,” Pack McCarthy wrote. “Easy access would likely increase these numbers.”

Philipstown Mulls It Over

By Liz Schetelschuk Armstrong

As the Philipstown Town Board last week began considering whether to allow retail marijuana sales and on-site consumption, two members declared their support for opting out. And all those present expressed reservations about “opting in” without more research and public input.

At a July 14 workshop at Town Hall, the board discussed the issue with its attorney, Stephen Gaba.

Gaba explained that unless the town opts out, “the state says you irrevocably lose the right to have a law” that would ban retail sales, Gaba said. Beyond opting out, “there’s not that much that municipalities can do.” If it allowed sales, a municipality could amend its zoning code to limit them to certain areas.

Board Member Jason Angell suggested a municipality could permit lounges where marijuana is consumed, but not retail sales, or vice versa.

Pack McCarthy, of the Philipstown Behavioral Health Hub, shared the same message with the Town Board that she made in a letter to the Cold Spring Village Board, warning that “the easier the access, the more likely young people are going to use it. I’d just caution, regardless of the decision, the messaging to young people has to be so strong” to ensure they are informed of the risks.

The only benefit of accepting marijuana sales seems to be the 3 percent sales tax income that the town would receive, said Member John Van Tassel. “We’re not talking about a windfall here.”

“It’s a complicated topic,” said Supervisor Richard Shea, who predicted that Beacon, Peekskill and Fishkill would also allow retail sales. If Philipstown officials “say that we’re not going to have it here, we also have to be aware that we’re passing up a revenue stream. It’s a funny situation to say we’re going to tax and make money on something that a lot of people see as a problem.” Yet, he reasoned, “you’re not going to preclude anybody from buying marijuana. People are going to get it. They’re going to smoke it.”

Shea added: “We want to have a town-wide discussion. If we opt out, it’s on the public” to demand a referendum.

He said state government “loves” gambling, alcohol sales and marijuana “because they’re cash cows. Money: It does drive politics. It’s tempting” also to use the tax revenue to fund projects, he acknowledged. However, he revealed, “I’m leaning toward opting out. I’m not comfortable with making money off vice.”

“I’m not comfortable with that [either],” Van Tassel said. “I’d also side with opting out.”

Overdoses (from Page 1)

Naloxone* Use by Paramedics

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| STATE (EXCL. N.Y.C.) | 6,788 | 6,052 | 7,513 |

*Naloxone is an opioid antidote. Source: New York State Department of Health.

The difficulty was magnified because those addicted to drugs or alcohol may quickly lose “that window of willingness,” she said. “You have to jump when there’s the opportunity, and that would disappear a lot because of all the obstacles.”

Virtual treatment was enacted statewide to fill the gaps, with support groups transitioning to Zoom, but Goebel said some clients did not have the technology to participate. Others were wary of joining virtual meetings with large numbers of strangers who could see their face or residence, or may have been someone they used drugs with.

“When I spoke to people that was a big concern,” she said.

There were bright spots, according to Goebel.

Some people she worked with faced the pandemic’s challenges and decided to “find ways that were going to be different from the traditional treatment methods.”

“I have clients who have done so well — they have almost a year of sobriety,” she said.
Coronavirus Update

The number of people with COVID-19 who are hospitalized in New York state as of Wednesday (July 21) stood at 483; the number in intensive care was 105; and the number of intubations was 34.

As of July 21, New York had administered at least one vaccine dose to 74 percent of its adult residents, according to the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. About 81 percent of residents ages 65 and older in Dutchess and Putnam are fully vaccinated and about 39 percent of adolescents ages 12 to 15.

The Canadian border will open on Aug. 9 to fully vaccinated travelers.

A party at a house in Red Hook is believed to be the source of eight cases that “impacted” the town’s summer school, camp and pool programs, Dutchess County officials said on Tuesday (July 20). Those who tested positive included several people who had been vaccinated, it said.

The state-run vaccination site at SUNY Orange in Middletown will close on Monday (July 26), along with four other more distant locations.

A new book, Our Darkest Hours: County Leadership and the COVID Pandemic, includes reflections from Marc Molinaro, the Dutchess County executive who lost his father to the coronavirus. The book was commissioned by the New York State County Executives Association to “share the hard lessons learned” during the pandemic and also includes a chapter by Putnam County Executive MaryEllen Odell. Copies are available at Amazon.com and proceeds benefit Feeding New York State. In the book, Molinaro recalls his father’s death:

“My father went downhill at a terrifying speed. The doctors decided to put him on a ventilator, and it wasn’t long before they informed me that it wouldn’t be safe to take him off. Those two weeks remain a blur to me. I remember praying every day that I’d get five more minutes with my dad.

On April 9, a Friday, at 1:59 p.m., a nurse texted me to say that she thought my father didn’t have much time left and asked if I wanted to call him. I thought how strange it was, in this circumstance, not to be there in person, but I was anxious to speak with him. The nurse held the phone to his ear. I told my father that I loved him and I wished we’d been able to talk about so many things. ’I promised that I’d stay close to my sisters, and that he should know that, despite the problems of years gone by, he was loved. My father, Anthony Molinaro, died at 2:04. I am grateful that I got my five minutes.”

New York State is accepting applications for its Public Health Corps Fellowship Program, which will train up to 1,000 people to respond to COVID-19 and other public health emergencies and place them in full-time paid positions with the state Department of Health, local health departments and other public health entities. Fellows are trained through an online program offered by Cornell University. See ny.gov/publichealthcorps.

COVID-19 by the Numbers

**PUTNAM COUNTY**

- Number of confirmed cases: 10,667 (+32)
- Active Cases in Phillipstown: 0
- Tests administered: 248,929 (+4,302)
- Percent positive: 4.3 (-0.1)
- Percent vaccinated: 63.7
- Percent in 10516: 72.9
- Percent in 10524: 67.8
- Number of deaths: 93 (0)

**DUTCHESS COUNTY**

- Number of confirmed cases: 29,675 (+137)
- Active Cases in Beacon: ≤5
- Tests administered: 811,520 (+12,037)
- Percent positive: 3.7 (0)
- Percent vaccinated: 59.3
- Percent in 12508: 54.9
- Number of deaths: 447 (+1)

Source: State and county health departments, as of July 21, with change over past two weeks in parentheses. Active cases in Phillipstown as of July 16. Percent vaccinated reflects people receiving at least one dose.

Excelsior Pass is a free app that can be used to access proof of vaccination or a recent negative COVID test. See epass.ny.gov.

For more updates, see highlandscurrent.org.

River Patrol

(from Page 1)

Patrolling the river at its southern border with Putnam and that the New York State Police, state park police and U.S. Coast Guard could “provide satisfactory coverage of the Putnam County portion of the Hudson River,” Westchester County declined to comment.

Last fall, when setting the 2021 budget, Odell and the Putnam Legislature removed $45,000 in funding, effectively crippling river patrols. In June, Odell directed New York State to retrieve two patrol boats that it had provided to the county at no charge. Most of the cost of the river patrols, conducted on weekends and holidays, was overtime pay for deputies, according to Sheriff Robert Langley Jr.

Nancy Montgomery, who represents Philipstown in the county Legislature, put the annual cost at $65,000, with the state reimbursing the county for half that amount.

The cutback left the Sheriff’s Department Marine Patrol Unit with one county-owned boat used to police Lake Oscawana in Putnam Valley.

Montgomery said at a Philipstown Town Board meeting on July 8 that she had twice asked Odell to explain Putnam’s plans for getting other counties to help. “To my knowledge, [the four counties] were only informed on June 17 that we were without a marine unit, despite the fact that we defunded it in November and dismantled it this [past] month.”

The June 29 drowning of Yesvely Lopez, 17, of Newburgh, near Little Stony Point led to suggestions that the teenager might have been saved had the river unit not been dismantled.

During the July 6 county Legislature meeting, Montgomery observed that the Sheriff’s Department had docked a boat at the Cold Spring waterfront. Had the county not removed the patrols, “the call-time would’ve been very different,” she asserted. “We would have had a boat in the water [already]. It would’ve been within minutes of Little Stony Point. Time matters.”

In addition, she said, deputies “would have provided extra eyes on the river,” and that “extra eyes when somebody is drowning could be a matter of life or death.”

Kathleen Foley, a Cold Spring village trustee and mayoral candidate, wrote on Facebook that “playing politics with public safety is sick and dangerous” while Philipstown Supervisor Richard Shea said at a meeting on July 8 that the quick launch of a Sheriff’s Department boat could have made a crucial difference. “Instead, you have a dead 17-year-old,” he said.

Michael Bowman, the mayor of Nelsonville and a longtime volunteer firefighter, noted on Facebook that on Sunday (July 18) he counted 25 people in the water near Little Stony Point, where swimming is banned, and noted the strong current. “With the lack of a police boat on the river, the state needs to either provide a lifeguard or start enforcing the law,” he wrote.

Others, including Chris Tobin, who heads the Philipstown Volunteer Ambulance Corps, who commented on Facebook, and Putnam Legislator Carl Albano of Carmel, said that the boat likely would not have made a difference on June 29. “Accidents happen,” Albano said on July 6.

In addition, the county Bureau of Emergency Services noted in a June 30 statement, a sheriff’s boat would not have been on the river at the time of the drowning, a Tuesday evening, because the Marine Unit only patrolled on weekends and holidays.

However, Capt. Lisa Ortolano, a representative of the Sheriff’s Department, said the patrol could have responded at any time if called upon.

“We have deputies to patrol the west side of the county who are assigned to the Marine Patrol Unit and who are able to quickly respond to emergencies on the river and other bodies of water,” she said. Three of the deputies live in Philipstown, she pointed out.

On July 6, Montgomery also questioned “who will conduct day-to-day marine patrols” and investigations, deal with speeding or intoxicated boaters, or perform boat safety checks now that the river patrol has been disbanded.

Montgomery, an emergency medical

(Continued on Page 8)
technician, reiterated her concerns during her monthly report to the Philipstown Town Board two days later. River-based forensic investigations, keeping the peace on the waters and routine patrols “are not the jobs of fire companies, despite the fact they do a tremendous job,” she said. “These are law enforcement responsibilities, and Putnam County has just walked away from its responsibility on the Hudson River.”

Town Board Member John Van Tassel, who volunteers with the North Highlands Fire Co., said he was at Little Stony Point during the search for Lopez. He said having a Sheriff’s Department boat responding likely would not have prevented her death. “But it may have prevented it,” he said. “There are a million scenarios on how it could have helped. There’s not one where it would’ve been a harm.”

The night of the drowning, although there were multiple rescue boats and a state police helicopter overhead, “there was not one police department boat,” he said. “I am disgusted with the fact the Putnam County sheriff’s [deputies] do not have a boat on the Hudson. You would think that with the amount of tourism and use the Hudson River brings to Putnam County, that this is the least we could do. If we were in a dire financial situation, I’d still think there would be another place they could cut that would be more appropriate.”

Shea juxtaposed Putnam County’s recent report on its sales tax revenue in 2020 — $66 million, an increase over 2019, even with the pandemic shutdown — with its professed lack of funds for river patrols. “The county is flush with money,” he said. “And the western side of the county, Philipstown, is always shortchanged, taking our sales tax money and not giving it back.”

In its June 30 statement, the county Bureau of Emergency Services indicated that Putnam intends for voluntary civilian organizations, such as local fire departments, to handle water emergencies. “The volunteers of Putnam County have (been) and will continue to be the primary responders for all incidents on the Hudson River, supported by their colleagues from throughout the region,” it announced.

But Montgomery countered on July 6 that “our sheriff’s deputies have a lot more training in marine patrol and safety than our very dedicated volunteers in the fire departments.”

The Cold Spring Fire Co. owns a boat equipped to extinguish fires on vessels or along the shore and to do basic rescues, said Chief Tom Merrigan. “We have responded to five marine incidents on the Hudson River this calendar year already with adequate manpower and an exceptionally fast response time,” he said. He declined to compare CSFC and Sheriff Department response times.

The Garrison Volunteer Fire Co., which also owns a boat, did not reply to requests for comment.

River Patrol (from Page 7)

AROUND TOWN

CLOSE CALL — A branch broke off an oak tree with a resounding crash on Morris Avenue (Route 9D) in Cold Spring on Sunday (July 18) just north of Main Street. A state Department of Transportation truck and crew quickly arrived to begin removal. Jill Ormiston, who lives across the street, said the branch just missed hitting a girl sitting in a car near the Sunoco station.

TAKE A GANDER — Shamala Thompson posted this photo online of the plastic geese on Main Street in Nelsonville arranged to be waiting in Aisle 6 at Foodtown (the one with the cereal) to check out. “I love these geese so much,” Thompson wrote. “Only a Philipstown local who shops at the local grocery store would understand this.”

REAL ESTATE MARKET UPDATE

HOME SALES IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD IN THE LAST 30 DAYS

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gatehousecompass.com
The Arts al Fresco
Dance, creative writing and music — in person!

By Alison Rooney

As we move deeper into a summer made sweeter by the never-taken-for-granted-again ability to spend it outdoors, modern dance, creative writing and music will be presented al fresco next weekend in Beacon.

MODERN DANCE

On Sunday (Aug. 1) at 7:30 p.m., rain or shine, the A-Y/Dance company of Beacon will premiere [loculamentum], which explores the process of coping with personal trauma. The dance, which will be performed in two acts on an outdoor stage at the Elks Lodge, was choreographed by Skyla Schreter.

This will be A-Y/Dance’s first full live performance since the COVID shutdown began. The company was formed in 2018 by three graduates of the SUNY Purchase dance program. [loculamentum], which will be performed to music by Claude Debussy and Miles Davis, will feature a cast of nine — Julie Chibbaro, the earlier salons, which each month typically featured local writers reading from their published work, followed by an open-mic stream of community writers, mixed with meet-your-neighbors socializing.

The set was designed by Aaron Loray, Kristina Diaz (of Beacon), Jessica Smith (of Beacon), Mimi Staker, Hannah Straney, Emma Von Enck and Craig Wasserman — that includes dancers from the New York City and Kansas City ballets.

The latest edition, Lit Lit, which will also take place monthly, kicks off at 7 p.m. in the garden at Homespun Foods, 232 Main St., which is sponsoring the series.

Donna Minkowitz, who is organizing Lit Lit, says it is an effort “to revive Beacon’s literary scene.”

“Many of us have been pining for some kind of regular literary event in Beacon since the wonderful Get Lit series shut down and also since we were all cooped up during the pandemic shutdown,” she says. “Beacon has some amazing, and well-published, authors, and we are lucky that quite a few of them are affiliated with our series and will participate.”

Anyone wishing to read, tell a story or perform their work can sign up at bit.ly/lit-lit, or at the door if spots are open. The time limit is five minutes. Wine, soft drinks and snacks will be available for purchase.

If the atmosphere is similar to the Get Lit evenings, readers will feel supported, not intimidated, fulfilling Chibbaro’s intent, which she expressed to The Current before the first of those gatherings in December 2017: “Having an audience is important, because writers can sometimes feel like we’re living in a vacuum,” she said. “We need to get a feel for how our stories are going. I often hear about other writers in my town, but since I’m a homebody, I don’t get to meet them. This is a way for me to invite them out and hear their work.”

MUSIC

The garden area which fills the space next to the Howland Cultural Center at 977 Main St. is surrounded by bricks. On Saturday (July 31) from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., music will fill the air above them, hence the title of the freewheeling and free concert, Brick Pan Alley.

“It’s fun in the garden, an afternoon of various flavors,” says David Henningsen, a photographer and musician who lives in Poughkeepsie and organized the event after being asked by Howland board member Hoodie Crescent. “I do a bunch of musical events, and know a lot of musicians. I came down and saw the outdoor space and thought it was wonderful. I started reaching out to Hudson Valley musicians who I thought would fit well together.”

The lineup includes Frenchy and the Punk, described as “an unorthodox, feel-good, evocative, electro-acoustic cabaret rock duo”; Guitarmy of One, which is Scott Helland, a former punk bassist who uses live looping in his instruments; and Dust Bowl Faeries, “a fusion of circus, post-punk, gypsy and psyche-folk music founded by Ryder Cooley and Hazel, a taxidermy ram who performs with the band as their spirit animal.” It also features guitarist and vocalist Jon B. Woodin.

Henningsen says he will provide “a small tent and really decent sound support. As long as we don’t get rained on, it’ll just be an upbeat day.”

CREATIVE WRITING

For those in the community who, pre-pandemic, valued the camaraderie of Get Lit, a series of literary salons that began in 2017, there’s good news: a variation will be launched on Thursday (July 29).

Julie Chibbaro led the earlier salons, which each month typically featured local writers reading from their published work.

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THE WEEK AHEAD

Edited by Pamela Doan (calendar@highlandscurrent.org)
For a complete listing of events, see highlandscurrent.org/calendar.

COMMUNITY

SAT 24
Great Newburgh to Beacon Swim
BEACON
9 a.m. Riverfront Park
2 Red Flynn Drive | riverpool.org
Registration has closed, but spectators can watch from shore as swimmers traverse the Hudson for the mile from Newburgh to Beacon during this fundraiser for the River Pool.

THURS 29
Narcan Training
BEACON
6 p.m. Beacon Recreation Center
23 W. Center St. | 845-765-2470
beaconny.gov
Learn how to save a person who is overdosing on opioids and receive a Narcan kit to take home. Email hharrison@beaconny.gov. Free

SAT 31
Funniest Pet Contest
COLD SPRING
Butterfield Library | 10 Morris Ave.
845-265-3040 | butterfieldlibrary.org
Capture your pet doing something silly in a photo or draw a picture and submit. Voting will begin on Aug. 4.

SUN 1
Emancipation Day Speech
POUGHKEEPSIE
2:15 p.m. College Hill Park
149 N Clinton St. | 845-765-9575 | coldspringfilm.org
Paul Oakley Stovall, who performed in Hamilton on Broadway, will recite the speech that abolitionist Frederick Douglass gave at the location in 1858. Souls United of Hudson Valley and the Center for Creative Education’s Percussion Orchestra of Kingston will open the event with a procession at 2 p.m.

STAGE & SCREEN

SAT 24
Oliver! Jr.
GARRISON
5:30 & 7:15 p.m.
Philipstown Depot Theatre
10 Garrison Landing | 845-424-3900
philipstowndepottheatre.org
Directed by teens, actors in grades 4 to 7 will perform an abbreviated version of Oliver Twist, Charles Dickens’ second novel. Cost: $10

SAT 24
The Most Spectacularly Lamentable Trial of Miz Martha Washington
GARRISON
7:30 p.m.
Boscobel | 1801 Route 9D
845-265-9575 | hvshakespeare.org
The Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival has returned to in-person performances with a play by James James that explores slavery in America through Martha Washington’s fever dreams. A recording of the show also can be streamed for $25 plus $10 per additional viewer. Also SUN 25, MON 26, WED 28, THURS 29, FRI 30.

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. Bring chairs and blankets. Free

THURS 29
Lit Lit
BEACON
7 p.m.
Homespun Foods
232 Main St. | bit.ly/lit-lit
Donna Minkowitz organized this monthly gathering of writers in an effort to “revive Beacon’s literary scene.” See Page 9.

SAT 31
Sunset Boulevard
BEACON
6 p.m.
Bannerman Island
bannermancastle.org
This staged radio-play version by Theatre on the Road of the classic film will be performed by five actors playing nine roles. Boats leave the Beacon dock. For ages 12 and older. Also SUN 1.

Cost: $65

TALKS & TOURS

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. Register online. Also SAT 31.

Early film ratings systems and the ways that civic and religious leaders reacted to provocative issues and scenes.

THURS 29
Why Fats are Your Friend
COLD SPRING
7 p.m.
Butterfield Library
butterfieldlibrary.org
In this virtual presentation, Kathryn Selman will explain the role of fats in food.

SAT 31
Dyeing With Regional Plants
WAPPINGERS FALLS
10 a.m.
Common Ground Farm
79 Farmstead Lane | commongroundfarm.org
As part of the Sustainable Textiles workshop series, Laura Sansone will demonstrate how to use native plants as sources of color for fabric.
Cost: $45 to $65

KIDS & FAMILY

MON 26
Tails & Tales Summer Reading
COLD SPRING
3:30 p.m.
Butterfield Library
10 Morris Ave. | 845-265-3040
butterfieldlibrary.org
Rising third graders can gather in the reading garden to discuss Balto and the Great Race, by Elizabeth Cody Kimmel, who lives in Philipstown.
TUES 27
Family Dance
WAPPINGERS FALLS
5 p.m. Common Ground Farm
79 Farmstead Lane | compassarts.org
Harvest vegetables to make a salad and Chelsea Acree will lead a dance party and teach new moves. Cost: $20 to $40

THURS 29
AmbiArt Drawing
BEACON
5:30 p.m. Riverfront Park
2 Red Flynn Drive | compassarts.org
Donna Mikkelson will lead a spontaneous symmetry ambidextrous drawing workshop followed by a performance with musical accompaniment by Gwen Laster and Damon Banks. Bring drawing materials. Register online. Free

MUSIC
SAT 24
Tito Puente Jr. Latin Jazz Ensemble
NEWBURGH
7 p.m. Safe Harbors
107 Broadway | safe-harbors.org
The concert and dance party will include Melina Almodovar, the Dojo Dance Company and the Latin Jazz Express. Tickets ($50) are available for an event before the concert that benefits Safe Harbors of the Hudson. Free

SAT 24
Almost Queen
PUTNAM VALLEY
8 p.m. Tilly Foster Farm
100 Route 312 | 845-808-1840
tillystablerestaurant.com
This tribute band will perform Queen’s hits. Cost: $30

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 singers and songwriters. Cost: $25 ($30 door)

SAT 24
Jason Gisser Band
BEACON
8:30 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com
The soul-rock band will play music from its forthcoming album. Cost: $20

FRI 30
Bee Gees Tribute
MAHOPAC
6:30 p.m. Putnam County Golf Course
187 Hill St. | 845-808-1880
putnamcountygolfcourse.com
The cover band will play all the classic 1970s disco hits. Cost: $39

FRI 30
Jason Gisser Band
BEACON
8:30 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com
The soul-rock band will play music from its forthcoming album. Cost: $20

SAT 31
Pop-Up Concert
BEACON
11 a.m. – 5 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
477 Main St. | 845-831-4988
howlandculturalcenter.org
Frenchy and the Punk, the Dust Bowl Faeries and Guitarmy of One will perform. See Page 9. Free

SUN 1
Doobie Brothers Experience
BREWSER
7:30 p.m. Elks Lodge
900 Wolcott Ave. | aydancers.com
Members of the A/Y Dance company and other dancers will premiere a work choreographed by Skyla Schreter. See Page 9. Cost: $20 to $80

CIVIC
TUES 27
Public Hearing: Short-Term Rentals
COLD SPRING
6:30 p.m. Village Hall
85 Main St. | 845-265-3611
coldspringny.gov
The Village Board will hear comments on a proposed law to regulate short-term rentals, plus other zoning changes. See bit.ly/cs-hearing.

TUES 27
Board of Trustees
COLD SPRING
7:30 p.m. Village Hall | 85 Main St.
845-265-3611 | coldspringny.gov

TIPSEY TUESDAY
Every Tuesday Evening From 6pm to 9pm
Take $1.00 off Every Tipsey Shake
The Beacon Creamery
134 Main Street
Beacon, NY
845-765-0444
A first-ever solo show is a big deal for any artist, let alone one who has been painting for just five years. Evan Samuelson, who has lived in Beacon since 2015, is experiencing that excitement. His show, Primordial Substance, which consists of 15 oversize oil paintings, continues at Newburgh’s Grit Works Gallery through Sept. 18.

The size of Samuelson’s paintings is a direct correlation (not uncommon to visual artists) to the size of his apartment, where he creates them.

“When I started, I was in a different apartment, and I was making smaller work,” he explains. “Luckily, I landed a new place with a higher ceiling.”

In his notes for the show, Samuelson writes that “working larger has always felt natural. I like that the preliminary lines and strokes utilize more of a full-body motion. It can also be viewed from further away and seems to create an immersive experience for the viewer.”

Samuelson says he typically begins with an underpainting, “shaping out the tone, to make sure the composition and balance make sense.” From there, he uses a grisaille technique done in monochromatic grays, which can create the illusion of sculpture. Sometimes he stops there but more often adds layers of color.

Growing up, Samuelson says, he only dabbled in art. “I had a knack for copying things; in sixth grade I got the art award,” he recalls. “But sports took me out of my head and into my body.”

He became a physical education teacher (most recently at Green Chimneys in Brewster) and left art behind until about five years ago, when he returned to it as a form of therapy. “My day thing, being with the kids, is central, but later, comfortable at

(Continued on Page 13)
Looking for co-working space?

Come to Whistlestop Workspace at Garrison Landing.

Renovated historic building, newly appointed desks, free coffee, great wifi, right at the Hudson and the Garrison train station. Retail kiosk also available.

Email hazuckerman@gmail.com or text 646.351.3702.

Work away from home in a relaxing environment.

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Beacon Painter (from Page 12)

home afterward, I paint,” he says. “Painting every day is my goal.”

Sometimes Samuelson is able to combine the two: He’s painted murals on campus and worked on art projects with students for life-skills classes.

What began five years ago as therapy has evolved. “Now it’s more about trying to provide visuals for love and connection,” he says. “I’ve gotten more into philosophy and psychology, with the kids, and learning more about relating to people and ways to incorporate more of the natural world in my art.”

“I’ve developed a love for the act of painting,” Samuelson says. “I love to balance it with work. I want to go deeper into these ideas and connect, share and spread.”

Many of his works depict the human form and expressive floral displays, on canvas or wood. “With a new painting, I want it to be relatable; that’s where the forms come into play,” he says. “I play with that a little bit, to give it an altered perspective. Then it’s about trying to pull emotion out of the movement and positioning and trying to push it into a place you’re not aware of.”

The Grit Works Gallery, at 115 Broadway in Newburgh, is open from 1 to 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, or by appointment. See grit-works.com/gallery.

SAMUELSON: “This is about giving your energy toward something bigger, when you’re connecting with another person in a level where you lose yourself, lose your body a little bit. We’re brought up as individuals, but then the idea that we can be more giving, more charitable, comes in.”

WANTED

Artist Full-Time Personal Assistant/ Putnam County:

Serious artworld experience/excellent tech skills, will manage profess/personal tasks.

Send CV, cover letter, 3 Ref to chelseapaintingstudio@gmail.com

Gergely Pediatrics

Dedicated to keeping your child healthy & thriving

- Collaborative practice for children & adolescents
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- Welcomes patients with developmental or behavior issues

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tel: (845) 424-4444  fax: (845) 424-4664
gergelypediatrics.com

This feature is designed as a counterweight to all the bad news in the world that weighs people down. We could share a photo of a baby, or a photo of a dog, but we are giving you both. How many newspapers can say that? Kelley and Phil Vallone of Beacon shared this shot of newborn Leonardo with Lucy. If you have a photo of a baby and a dog, submit it for consideration to editor@highlandscurrent.org.
Haldane Honor Rolls

Students recognized for fourth-quarter grades

**Principal’s List**


**GRADE 8** — Amelia Alayon, Dahlia Beck, Dustin M. Berkley, Violeta Edwards-Salas, Marc L. Firpo, Josephine Foley-Hedlund, Robert Freimark, Scotia Hartford, Helen Hutchison, Micah Morales, Keira Shanahan, Matthew M. Silhavy, Ashley Sousa, Dana Spiegel, Nathaniel Thomas Stickle


**GRADE 6** — Hazel Berkley, Ryan Cavallaro, Marco DiLello, Frances Donahue, Ryan Duncan, Rita Edwards-Salas, Henry Foley-Hedlund, Lugh Hartford, Tessa Hereford, Rosie L. Herman, Talia Hird, Benjamin M. Hutz, Elaina Johanson, Christine Junjulas, Connor Keegan, Lachlan Koch, Nicolas LeMon, Una Lentz, Griffin Lucca, Maisie Matthews, Jacqueline L. McCormick, Ruby M. McCormick, Sydney Merriman, Corrina Mueller, Lily Parker, Kate Resi, Taya Robinson, Gemma Sabin, Oliver Sanders, Phum Severs, Delta Starr, Lincoln Wayland

**High Honor Roll**

**GRADE 12** — Andrew Aiston, Maria Barry, Erika Bauer, Robert Bohl, Arden Cuney, Shannon Ferri, Sophia Giunti, Ashley Hotaling, Emily James, Jack Jordan, Benjamin McEwen, Elizabeth Nelson, James Phillips, Joshua Reyes, Daniel Santos, Joseph Schels, Adameris Smith

**GRADE 11** — Ezra Beato, Hannah Benson, Giancarlo Carone, Caroline Cates, Helen Chiera, Shea DeCaro, Antoinette deMarine, Kimberly Edge, Kyle Frommer, Rose LaBarbera, Camille Maglio, Maggie Maxwell, Betsy McBride, Elijah-Lee McKelvey, Sydnee Monroe, Jesse Osterfeld, Per Sandlund, Marcel Schwarz, Robert Viggiano


**GRADE 9** — Liliana Cappello, James D’Abruzzo, Liam Flanagan, Colin Hopkins, Olivia Knox, Michael Murray, Simon Pieza, Olivia Scanga, Emily Schweizer, Ivan Siciliano, Isabella Tomizawa-Rincon, Mackenzie Warren

**GRADE 8** — Domenica Geraldia Awanchan, Claire Bohler, Christopher Coronel, Judine Cox, Seven Crofts, Leif Hoydt-Benjamin, Frederick Hohenberger, Zohra Kapoor, Rain Elizabeth Lee, Patrick Locketz, Gabriela R. Perilli, Oliver Petkus, Jake Powers, Brendan Shanahan, Isabella Tavares, Jake Thomas, Crystal Timmons


**Honor Roll**

**GRADE 10** — Everett Campanile, Luke Flager, Ashliee Griffin, Owen Hall, Steven Herring, Ty Sabatini, Camila Saldana, Caleb Schmidt, Calvin Shink, Seren Yaiaucow

**GRADE 11** — Robbie Baker, Zoe Harris, Ryan Irwin, Emilie Osborn, Marisa Scanga, Sophia Scanga, Felix Schmidt, Karina Weinthal

**GRADE 10** — Benjamin Bozsik, Carmela Cofini, Quentin Conrey, David Fisher, Diego Haskell-Ramirez, John Kisslinger, Madeleine Knox, August Lee, Makena McDougall, Albaa McFadden, Moretta Pezzullo, Thomas Rockett, Thomas Tucker, Andrea Vasconcelos-Meneses, Lucas Vladimiroff

**GRADE 9** — Jon Bastys, Alissa Buslovich, Delaney Corless, Jordon Hankel, Zachary Harris, John Mangan, Henry O’Neil, Peter Ruggiero, Dashiell Santelmann

**GRADE 8** — Alexandra Cairns, Brody Corless, Kira Jane Drury, Edwin Dubroff, Patrick Ferreira

**GRADE 7** — Molly Bernstein, Aine Fortuna, Ryder Wolf Henriksson, Genevieve Knox, Josie Elizabeth O’Brien, Kayena S. Pierre, Kayla Ruggiero, Giovanni Siciliano

**GRADE 6** — Dylan Falloon, Jack Ferreira, Parker Larsen, Jayden Luoma, Mia Maxwell, Salvatore Pidalà, Danna Sinchi
The Highlands Current

July 23, 2021 15

Mouths to Feed

Out of My Hands

By Celia Barbour

S
ometimes an idea occurs to me that seems quite impressive. Then I run it by the kids. In no time at all, they make it clear that my clever notion is a dud, and moreover, that I may have lost my bearings completely. Who was I to think I could discriminate between things that are worthwhile and things that are not?

In other words, it’s time for them to go back to school.

But here it is only July, and as long as they are still at home, how about we all benefit from their collective taste and wisdom? This week’s recipe is something I scraped together one night when I didn’t have quite enough of any one thing to make a meal — one roasted pepper and the first two zucchinis and a handful of cherry tomatoes from the garden — and the weather was too miserably hot and humid to turn on the stove for even a minute. In my head, I categorized it as the kind of dish that gets the job done, but not much more.

The family disagreed. One bite in, Henry said, “Mom, you have to do your next column and tweak it. For starters, the taste needed more balance. Roasted peppers are so piquant and full-flavored that they can dominate a dish, so I added sliced, grilled halloumi and garlic, oregano and thyme to give them something to contend with. Also, the textures were off. Summer squash ribbons are incredibly easy to make — all you need is a vegetable peeler and a couple of very young zucchini or yellow squash. But their window of perfection is fairly brief. Freshly made, they have the delightful, slippery toothsome-ness of homemade pappardelle, and a mild flavor that supports savory toppings just as noodles do. But they go from crisp to flaccid to soggy in about 20 minutes.

That might explain why “zucchini pappardelle” had trouble catching on in restaurants and delis. Some years back, raw foodies got excited about this no-cook vegetable lookalike for pasta, and the dish experienced a spillover 15 minutes of fame in mainstream gourmet cooking. But it never quite hit it big, I’m guessing because a zucchini ribbon that has sat around waiting to be served is not a joy to eat.

So now it’s time to do justice to the ribbons — you’ve probably noticed a dish, so I added sliced, grilled halloumi and garlic, oregano and thyme to give them something to contend with. Also, the textures were off. Summer squash ribbons are incredibly easy to make — all you need is a vegetable peeler and a couple of very young zucchini or yellow squash. But their window of perfection is fairly brief. Freshly made, they have the delightful, slippery toothsome-ness of homemade pappardelle, and a mild flavor that supports savory toppings just as noodles do. But they go from crisp to flaccid to soggy in about 20 minutes.

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In the end, this is a dish that shines only when made at home and served right away. And that’s a goal that’s within our control.

As for those offspring? “We are your creative muses!” said Dosi when I told him what I was writing about this week.

Sure. If you say so, kid.

Tangle of Squash Ribbons, Peppers, and Tomatoes with Grilled Halloumi

Serves 2 as a light main course or 4 to 6 as an appetizer

1 yellow or red bell pepper, or about ¼ cup jarred roasted peppers
Salt and pepper
2 tablespoons best-quality, fruity olive oil, plus ordinary oil for grilling
1 small clove garlic, minced
1 dozen cherry tomatoes
8-ounce package halloumi (Greek grilling cheese), or substitute ricotta salata or fresh mozzarella and skip Step 4
2 pounds small zucchini or summer squash, about 4 or 5
1 lemon, cut in half
2 teaspoons each fresh oregano and thyme leaves

1. If you’re using jarred peppers, jump to Step 2. If not, roast the pepper directly over the open flame of a gas stove, turning occasionally with tongs, until the skin is black all over and the pepper begins to soften, about 8 minutes. Transfer the pepper to a small heatproof bowl, cover with a lid or plate and allow to rest 15 minutes. When cool, rub and wipe off the charred skin with your fingers (this is messy; keep a damp towel close at hand).

2. Cut the pepper flesh into narrow strips and transfer to a large bowl. Toss with a drizzle of olive oil, a little salt and pepper, and the minced garlic.

3. Cut the cherry tomatoes in half and add to the bowl with the peppers.

4. Slice the halloumi into ¼-inch slices. Heat a grill pan or skillet over medium heat. Coat with a skim of olive oil, and when the oil is hot, add the cheese and cook until golden or lightly charred, 2 to 3 minutes. Transfer to a platter and set aside.

5. Wash the squash well, slice off each end, and, using a vegetable peeler or cheese slicer, slice lengthwise into long ribbons, rotating the squash as you go. If the core is very spongy or seedy, stop when you get to it.

6. Add the squash ribbons to the bowl with the peppers and tomatoes. Add another generous drizzle of olive oil, a squeeze of the lemon, and salt and pepper. Toss gently, then taste for seasoning, adding more lemon, salt, or oil as needed. Tear or chop the herbs, sprinkle over the vegetables, and add to the platter with the halloumi. Serve at once, with lots of crusty bread on the side to sop up the juices.

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Board of Education of the Haldane Central School District of Philipstown will receive sealed bids until 11:30 AM on August 9, 2021 when same will be publicly opened at the Business Office of the Haldane Central School, 15 Craigside Drive, Cold Spring, NY 10516 for the following:

#2 HEATING OIL/HEATING HOT WATER SERVICE

Specifications and bid forms may be obtained at the Business Office 15 Craigside Drive, Cold Spring, NY 10516, during the hours of 8:30 A.M. and 2:30 P.M. or call 845-265-9254 ext. 111. The Board of Education reserves the right to reject any and all bids. By Order of the Board of Education of Haldane Central School District of Philipstown, Dutchess and Putnam Counties, New York. By Tim Walsh, Director of Maintenance and Transportation ext. 170.

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

The Haldane Central School District, Cold Spring, New York, 10516, invites the submission of sealed bids on:

MILK

Bids will be received until 11:30 a.m. on August 9, 2021 in the Business Office in the Administration Building at Haldane Central School District. At this time all bids will be publicly opened. Specifications and bid forms may be obtained at this same office. The Haldane Board of Education reserves the right to waive any informality relative to this bid and to reject any and all bids. Any bid submitted will be binding for the entire term of the bid, September 1, 2021 thru August 31, 2022.

Board of Education, Haldane Central School District
15 Craigside Drive, Cold Spring, New York, 10516 | 845.265.9254
By: Annie M. Dinio, School Business Manager

July 23, 2021

July 23, 2021

Mouths to Feed

Out of My Hands
Roots and Shoots

What’s Wrong With My Plant?

By Pamela Doan

Sometimes, for no discernible reason, perennial plants and trees don’t grow well, even if the leaves are the color they are supposed to be, without pest damage. Whether it was planted a few months ago or a few seasons ago, the plant doesn’t get much bigger or wider. Instead of being covered in blooms, it has just a few, or none. It doesn’t look or act the way you thought it would. Why might this happen? Let’s take a look at a few possibilities.

Planted incorrectly

Root-bound plants come out of a pot from the store with the roots in the same shape as the container. The plant outgrew its pot while waiting for its forever home. If you don’t correct this, the roots will continue to circle the plant or tree. I’ve pulled up plants that have been in the ground for several seasons and the roots are still in the shape of the container. Since it isn’t establishing roots in the soil, it can’t get the nutrients it needs. Other problems are planting too deeply and burying the root flare of a tree or shrub or planting too shallowly so that the roots aren’t covered. All of these situations prevent the plant from establishing its root structure in the soil.

Small root-bound plants can be soaked in water and gently loosened until the roots come free. If that doesn’t work, use a knife to make vertical slits in the root ball sides and on the bottom. Girdling roots of trees and shrubs can be cut off, leaving the root flare intact. It takes more knowledge and technique to correct a root-bound tree than a plant. If that is intimidating, closely examine the root ball before purchase to avoid problems.

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Plant toxicity

If it’s an entire area of plants that are not thriving, consider allelopathy. Certain plants and trees give off chemicals through their roots, bark, leaves or seeds that prevent other plants from growing nearby.

A common example is the black walnut tree, Juglans nigra. This native hardwood releases a toxic chemical called juglone up to 60 feet away from the trunk that can kill or suppress woody and herbaceous growth. Common landscape choices such as lilac, peonies, hydrangea, privet and yew are highly sensitive to juglone and will wither and die quickly.

There are many plants that don’t mind juglone, however. Monarda, yarrow, day lilies, many ferns and other native plants will be fine and maybe even appreciate that the black walnut keeps other plants away. The Morton Arboretum (mortonarb.org) has extensive lists of trees, shrubs and perennials that will coexist with black walnut.

Ailanthus, or tree of heaven, is an invasive tree from Asia that is found throughout our area, more commonly than black walnut at this point. Its leaf litter has been shown to prevent native species from establishing — one more reason to keep this problematic tree out of your landscape.

Sun, soil, water

Once other issues have been ruled out, review exactly what that plant needs. Look it up in a plant database created by researchers and academics such as at the Missouri Botanical Garden (missouribotanicalgarden.org). Always use the scientific (Latin) name when browsing because plants usually have more than one common name and it’s easy to misidentify a plant without it.

Working with the specific needs for hours of sunlight, moisture and soil conditions, assess whether the plant is in the right place. A plant that prefers well-drained soil might not thrive in a heavy clay soil. The roots might sit in water too long. Amending the soil with organic matter can help. Or if you have an area of clay soil where you want to put a garden, let thick layers of wood chips decompose for a few months before planting to improve drainage and nutrients.

Sometimes only a detailed soil analysis will tell the story of a plant’s lack of vigor. There may be concentrations of salt or other chemicals. The nutrients might be insufficient. I’ve found this level of detail isn’t necessary for most landscaping projects. Start with the basics first.
Erik Fannell
Owner, Wyld
Exec. Producer
Jelly WI (animation),
New Mom

This is a place it is also called a friendship plant.

I can accelerate the greening process on Long Island by using all the NYC shops. They know they’ve got what you need, for a small shop, they can deliver it. We’ve sold

I’ve been in the nursery business for as long as I can remember. I’ve always had a love of plants. I’ve wanted a plant store for a long time. The time was right... and completely wrong.

I have a full-time job and a house that I’ve been in for a long time. I know I can make it work.

When the baby goes to sleep I’ll spend a couple of hours over the soil. Repotting, digging, pulling a tray over to see if it needs some water. It’s almost as good as a yoga session.

I keep getting my air in plants.

The way you water them is to push the root ball for about a minute. It’s important to dry them but not too dry. Just how do I know it’s still alive?

I’ve been in the nursery business for as long as I can remember. I’ve always had a love of plants. I’ve wanted a plant store for about ten years. The time was right... and completely wrong.

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Current Classifieds

SERVICES

HOUSEKEEPING AND OTHER SERVICES — Available for cleaning, laundry, ironing, accompanying patients to medical appointments, business support, admin, data entry or any local errands required in Cold Spring, Garrison, Beacon and Fishkill. I am happy to help whether for an hour or more; whatever your needs are. Email sandafonzo70@gmail.com or call 845-245-5976.

BOOST SOME SKILLS! — Summer’s here, and this year, as never before, it’s a good season to brush up skills and goals, to fill up last year’s gaps or to prep for our new normal. As a writing and study skills coach with a master’s degree from NYU School of Education, Mrs. G Tutor has the experience, the expertise and especially the caring concern to use her simply effective 3-step system to enhance writing, reading, and this year, as never before, it’s a good — Summer’s here. Email sandafonzo70@gmail.com or call 845-245-5976.

FOR SALE

GENERAC STANDBY GENERATORS — Provide backup power during utility power outages, so your home and family stay safe and comfortable. Prepare now. Free 7-year extended warranty ($695 value). Request a free estimate today. Call 833-498-7851.

ELIMINATE GUTTER CLEANING — LeafFilter, the most advanced debris-blocking gutter protection. Schedule a free estimate today, 15% off entire purchase. 10% senior & military discounts. Call 833-322-1020.

FOR RENT

COLD SPRING — 1,521 sq ft, single-story, free-standing, well-maintained commercial building for rent in the village. The building is well-suited for a wide range of potential uses (Office/Professional/Medical/Art/Studio/Retail). On-site parking. Walkable to train station, Main Street and shopping district. Currently set up as medical/professional office with reception area, multiple office/exam rooms, kitchenette and bathroom. $3,600 per month, not including utilities. Call Kevin at 845-265-2683.


Real Estate

Market Report (June)

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HELP WANTED

Tri-County Long Term Care Ombudsman Program Director is seeking an office assistant to learn and manage the database system, as well as provide telephone intake coverage. The Tri-County Long Term Care Ombudsman Program (LTCOP) is a program of the Long Term Care Community Coalition (LTCCC) and the Office of the State Long Term Care Ombudsman. Ombudsmen help residents understand and exercise their rights to good care in an environment that promotes and protects their dignity and quality of life. The successful applicant will be required and paid to participate in a week-long training program to become a state-certified ombudsman.

Must have experience and/or a commitment to responding to residents in long-term care facilities who have multiple health conditions. Excellent computer, telephone, and interpersonal skills needed and an enthusiastic team player sought. The position is currently part-time, with up to twenty hours weekly. Please send cover letter and resume to judy@ltccc.org

Lynee Ward, LCSW
Licensed Psychotherapist

Individuals • Couples • Adolescents • Children
Psychotherapy and Diverse Mediation
Addiction Counseling

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S A V E A L L Y  R E T R O FITNESS

The Highlands Current
**Puzzles**

**CROSSCURRENT**

**ACROSS**
1. Circulate
5. Jolly laugh
9. Lustrous black
12. Zero, in tennis
13. Scent
14. — glance
15. Border on
16. Reply to “Shall we?”
17. Rug cleaner, briefly
18. Gestation location
19. Goat’s plaint
21. Fib
23. Medit. nation
25. Cellist Pablo
28. Keep perusing
32. Muscat resident
33. Sky blue
34. Lively dances
36. “Be that as it may …”
37. Sch. URL ender
38. Att’y’s title
39. Libretto
42. Plead
44. “Oops!”
48. Priestly garment
49. Competent
50. Tiny bit
51. 2016 Olympics city

**DOWN**
1. Imperfection
5. Jolly laugh
9. Lustrous black
12. Zero, in tennis
13. Scent
14. — glance
15. Border on
16. Reply to “Shall we?”
17. Rug cleaner, briefly
18. Gestation location
19. Goat’s plaint
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42. Plead
44. “Oops!”
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49. Competent
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51. 2016 Olympics city

**SUDOCURRENT**

Answers will be published next week. See highlandscurrent.org/puzzle for interactive sudoku.
Beacon 14U Baseball Wins 6 of 7, Heads to Playoffs

By Skip Pearlman

The Beacon baseball travel team for players ages 14 and under won six of its last seven regular season games in the Greater Hudson Valley Baseball League, with playoff pairings expected this weekend.

The 14U team had won six in a row before Wednesday (July 21), when it fell to Poughkeepsie, 5-3. The Bulldogs earlier defeated Cortlandt, 20–2; Marlboro twice, 3-1 and 13-1; Newburgh, 15-1; Orange County, 9-4; and a team sponsored by the Hudson Valley Renegades, 4-3.

“We’ve been playing pretty good baseball,” said Coach Bob Atwell.

Atwell said his team’s pitching has improved over the season and that Beacon (9-2) could make some noise in the league playoffs, which begin next week.

In Wednesday’s loss at Poughkeepsie, Beacon got pitching contributions from Mikey Fontaine, Liam Murphy, Mercer Jordan and Morgan Varricchio, who threw three scoreless innings. On offense, Fontaine drove in a run, Murphy went 2-for-3, Jack Antalek doubled, and Austin Jurgenson had an RBI double.

“We had some opportunities,” including the bases loaded in the bottom of the sixth, Atwell said. “We ran ourselves out of a couple of innings with bad base running. We didn’t hit the ball with runners in scoring position.”

On Sunday (July 18) at Cortlandt, Jackson Atwell picked up the win on the mound. Derek Heaton went 5-for-5 and drove in three runs, and Antalek went 2-for-2 with two triples and five RBI.

In Saturday’s doubleheader sweep at Marlboro, Anthony Borromeo pitched a complete Game 1 and Jurgenson got the victory in Game 2. Murphy drove in two runs in the first game and Fontaine had two RBI in the second.

The prior Friday at Beacon High School, the Bulldogs rolled past Newburgh behind a solid performance by Murphy, who pitched four scoreless innings. Jordan relieved for one inning, in what Atwell called a “sloppy win.”

Beacon’s 11U baseball team picked up perhaps its most impressive win of the season on Wednesday, battling back from a 6-0, first-inning deficit to stun the Cadets Baseball Academy, 11-9, at Memorial Park.

“It was a great comeback,” said Coach Jed Varricchio.

Hudson Fontaine started the game on the mound and went three innings with four strikeouts. Nolan Varricchio pitched two innings in relief, and Julian Rivers closed the game.

“After we came back, we held them down with our pitching,” Varricchio said. “And we played good defense behind them.”

Nolan Varricchio, Rivers and Fontaine each drove in two runs, and Hudson Barton, Jake Deluise and Jesse Apostolou each had one RBI.

“Barton gave us some good at-bats, and Jayden Lassiter had a nice game,” Varricchio said. “It was a nice offensive performance.”

The Bulldogs (3-5) were scheduled to finish their season today (July 23), hosting a team sponsored by the Hudson Valley Renegades at Memorial Park. The playoffs are scheduled to begin Monday (July 26).

Beacon Track Update

■ Last month, long jumper Rayvon Grey, 23, who recently graduated from Louisiana State University, became the first Beacon track athlete to compete at the U.S. Olympic trials since Arie Dixon (400 meters) in 2008, according to Beacon High School Coach Jim Henry. After three jumps in the qualifying round on June 25 at the University of Oregon, Grey was tied at 25-9¼ for 12th place — the last spot to move to the finals — but lost the tiebreaker because he had faulted on two of his jumps. An LSU teammate, JuVaughn Harrison, won the event at 27-9¼. Harrison also won the high jump and will be the first American man to compete in both events at the same Olympics since Jim Thorpe in 1912.

■ Four Beacon runners competed at the Nike High School Outdoor Nationals on July 3 at the University of Oregon. Zach Cader, Sal Migliore, Edward Manente and Henry Reinke finished 11th in the 1,600-meter sprint medley relay in 3:37.68. The trip was paid for by donors to an online fundraising campaign. Beacon finished three spots ahead of a team from Lexington, Massachusetts, coached by 2010 Beacon grad James Hall, whom Henry challenged before the race to an ice cream bet.

■ Rayvon Grey finished seventh in the long jump at the NCAA Tournament last month with a leap of 25-6¼. LSU Athletics