



# It Never Forgets a Face

*Dutchess, Putnam among police agencies that tested photo recognition app*

By Jeff Simms

The Dutchess and Putnam County sheriff's offices are among the more than 1,800 public agencies that have in recent years tested or used a massive facial-recognition database that civil rights activists say violates privacy and disproportionately targets people of color. Clearview AI, a 4-year-old New York City startup, has amassed an archive of 3 billion images and promotes its search software to police, immigration officials, the military and schools as nearly 99 percent accurate in identifying criminal suspects. Police and other taxpayer-funded agencies in every state except Vermont have used the software.

"Clearview is like Google Search for faces," the firm's promotional materials boast. "Just upload a photo to the app and instantly get results" of possible matches

(Continued on Page 22)

**ARE YOU KIDDING ME?** —A visitor to the Two by Two Zoo at the Desmond-Fish Public Library in Garrison on July 20 reacts as keeper Jessica Iannucci gives her the full weight of a six-pound ball python. For more photos, see Page 17.

## Philipstown Officials Call for Return of River Patrol

*Legislator: 'Demonstrate the need and you have my vote'*

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

During a lengthy, sometimes raucous discussion on July 21 at a Putnam County Legislature committee meeting, Philipstown Supervisor Richard

Shea and Deputy Supervisor John Van Tassel and two town residents urged the county to restore Sheriff's Department patrols on the Hudson River.

With support from the county Legislature, County Executive MaryEllen Odell last fall eliminated a \$45,000 allocation for the unit, which also covered Lake Mahopac. When the

(Continued on Page 7)

## How They Voted

*Governor signs round of bills passed by state legislators*

By Chip Rowe

Gov. Andrew Cuomo has signed 312 bills passed during the 2021-22 legislative session, which began in January. Another 82 await his signature.

Below are summaries of select laws and the votes cast by Republican Sue Serino (whose Senate district includes the Highlands), Democrat Sandy Galef (whose Assembly district includes Philipstown) and Democrat Jonathan Jacobson (whose Assembly district includes Beacon).

### Gender recognition

On June 24, Cuomo enacted a law that allows residents to use "X" as a sex designation. (Continued on Page 6)



**TOXIC GREEN** — The state Department of Environmental Conservation has confirmed the presence of a harmful algal bloom in one of Beacon's three reservoirs, although officials say there is no immediate threat to drinking water. See the story on Page 8.

Photos by Brian PJ Cronin



# 5Q FIVE QUESTIONS: JEAN BELL

By Brian PJ Cronin

**J**ean Bell, the founder of the Jeuness Track Club for girls in Brooklyn, will speak on Saturday (July 31) in Beacon about her work with the Sheppard sisters, who are the subjects of a documentary that will be shown at the Story Screen Theatre. See Page 12.

**You're a New York City administrative law judge and have a family. How do you find time to coach track?**

When I started Jeuness, it was a fun thing to do in my off-time. I didn't have children, I wasn't married, I didn't have a mortgage. But I had a good job, and I loved track. I wanted girls to have fun running like I used

to have fun running when I was a kid. They needed something organized, and I was there and could do it.

**Why is running so transformative?**

I still remember when I was 10, the speed, the air, and the freedom I felt. And it's something you can do all on your own, without a lot of money.

**You also teach sex ed to the girls and host a book club. What's the purpose of those other activities?**

As the club progressed, and I got more involved with the girls' personal lives, I realized they needed more. I know you've never been a young girl, but it's difficult to talk to your daughter about these things. Even if you have a good relationship, it's awkward. The girls trust me. They know that I'm a straight shooter. I

figured I could do their mothers a favor with a little group session with me and a parent who is a nurse. The girls like to get together for any reason whatsoever. If I say we're going to do a 10-mile hike, they'll say, "As long as we do it together." With the book club, they get into it. I don't know why their teachers can't do this!

**What is the biggest change the girls go through once they've been at Jeuness for a while?**

It doesn't take long! They learn that there are no excuses. You have to be responsible for your gear, yourself and your actions. I tell parents: Responsibility doesn't come in a card on your 18th birthday. It has to start when they're 6.

**What makes you most proud?**

When girls whom I haven't seen in 10 or even 20 years call me out of the blue and they are still so excited to speak to me, to invite me to their weddings and baby showers. That's what keeps me going. For them, it wasn't just a track club, or just for fun. It was something they learned from, they remember, and they passed on to their own children. And I'm also proud to go to their graduations from college, of course!



## ON THE SPOT

By Michael Turton

**What are your three favorite flavors of ice cream?**

“ Strawberry cheesecake, Graham Central Station and black cherry. ”



~ Eloise Pearsall, Cold Spring

“ Coffee, black raspberry, and my kids' favorite, cookies 'n' cream. ”



~ Pete Farrell, Cold Spring

“ I'd say cookies 'n' cream, rocky road and strawberry. ”



~ Kayleigh Martinez, Beacon

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NEWS BRIEFS



Frontier will add 10 weekly flights at Stewart Airport this fall. *Frontier*

Frontier Will Fly to Florida from Stewart

Airline begins service Oct. 25

Frontier Airlines said on Tuesday (July 27) that it would begin flights this fall from New York Stewart International Airport to three Florida cities.

The airline said it will serve Orlando four times per week beginning Oct. 25 and Miami and Tampa three times a week beginning Nov. 2.

Frontier is offering \$39 one-way fares on select weekdays for travel between Oct. 25 and Feb. 9, with holiday blackouts. The promotion ends Aug. 2.

It is the first time that Frontier has flown out of Stewart, which is located in New Windsor. The airport is run by the Port Authority, which said it has invested \$37 million in the facility and offered airlines incentives to add Stewart to their stops.

American Airlines offers flights from Stew-

art to Philadelphia while Allegiant flies to Myrtle Beach, Savannah and four cities in Florida. JetBlue and Delta last year suspended their flights because of the pandemic.

Bridge Authority Names Director

Also, former Garrison resident on board resigns

The New York State Bridge Authority, which oversees the Newburgh-Beacon, Bear Mountain and three other Hudson Valley crossings, has named Maureen Coleman as executive director, succeeding Tara Sullivan, who will retire.

Coleman was most recently general counsel for the state Environmental Facilities Corp., where she has worked since 2015. She was previously its acting president and chief executive officer.

The NYSBA has seven commissioners but has operated with six since Lou Lanza, a Peekskill restaurateur and former Garrison resident who was appointed in July 2020, resigned in November.

Howland Center Will Get Once-Over

Preservation League provides \$10K grant

The Preservation League of New York State announced on Monday (July 26)

that it had awarded a \$10,000 grant to the Howland Cultural Center in Beacon to help fund a report on the condition of its historic building at 477 Main St.

Dedicated on Aug. 5, 1872, and named for Joseph Howland, the building began its life as the city library. The architect was Howland's brother-in-law, Richard Morris Hunt, who also designed Biltmore in Asheville, North Carolina; Marble House and The Breakers in Newport, Rhode Island; and the façade of the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City.

The grant will allow architect Jeff Wilkin-son to prepare a list of what is needed for preservation and estimated costs. The cultural center is planning events for 2022 to mark the building's 150th anniversary.

Putnam Gets \$250K Grant for Senior Center

Will help pay for rehab and lease at Butterfield site

The state has awarded Putnam County \$250,000 to help cover the costs of the Philipstown senior center at the Butterfield complex.

Nancy Montgomery, who represents Philipstown on the Putnam County Legislature, announced the funding at a July 8 meeting of the Town Board. The money was obtained with assistance from state Assembly Member Sandy Galef, whose district includes Philipstown.

Galef said the funds had been requested years before by Kent to construct a senior center, a plan the town eventually abandoned. Galef then shifted the request to Philipstown. She noted that such grants can take years to be approved and funded.

Candidates Join Forces

Will campaign together for Cold Spring board

Three candidates for the Cold Spring Village Board have decided to campaign together under the banner "Forge Ahead With Us."

There will be three open seats on the board. The incumbent mayor, Dave Merandy, and Trustees Marie Early and Fran Murphy are not running for re-election.

Kathleen Foley, a trustee who is running for mayor; Tweeps Phillips Woods, a trustee who was appointed this year to fill a vacancy and who hopes to be elected to the second year of the term; and Eliza Starbuck, a Main Street retailer, said on July 23 they would unite their campaigns. Starbuck resigned on July 1 as president of the Cold Spring Chamber of Commerce and was succeeded by Nat Prentice.

Their opponents on the ballot in November will be a coalition of former Putnam County Legislator Vinny Tamagna for mayor and Cathryn Fadde and Jeff Phillips for the trustee positions.



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## Tell us what you think

**T**he *Current* welcomes letters to the editor on its coverage and local issues. Submissions are selected by the editor to provide a variety of opinions and voices, and all are subject to editing for accuracy, clarity and length. We ask that writers remain civil and avoid personal attacks. Letters may be emailed to editor@highlandscurrent.org or mailed to Editor, The Highlands Current, 142 Main St., Cold Spring, NY 10516. The writer's full name, village or city, and email or phone number must be included, but only the name and village or city will be published.

## LETTERS AND COMMENTS

### Eyes in the sky

License-plate readers may be useful to police, but at what cost to citizens? ("Smile: You're On Camera," July 23).

There is no legal expectation of privacy when citizens are in public, but with the proliferation of government technology along our roads and elsewhere, should citizens expect surveillance? That seems to be counter to the spirit of the Fourth Amendment. What is the number of investigations aided or solved by electronic surveillance locally per year divided by the number of motorists surveilled? I'm sure it is a tiny fraction. Are we all willing to accept that we are being watched for no particular reason? How can we be sure that all data is destroyed immediately unless it is used for an investigation?

Assurances by police are not enough. The police are an authoritarian paramilitary invested with enormous power and a lot of discretion granted them by the courts in the use of that power. There is a reason police work is called law "enforcement." As the saying goes, power corrupts. This does not apply to all members of our police forces but it does apply to some and that makes me wonder: Who is on the

other side of the screen?

Daniel Rayner, *Cold Spring*

I am shocked and appalled that the residents of Philipstown are not up in arms about this massive invasion of privacy foisted not just on the village but on the thousands of people in neighboring communities who drive through every day. I am one of those people, and I find it unconscionable that the Cold Spring police and who knows which other agencies now have detailed records of my license plate number and other data that they have no business knowing and storing. Why weren't there public hearings before they were installed?

The American Civil Liberties Union says this about license-plate readers: "Automatic license-plate readers have the potential to create permanent records of virtually everywhere any of us has driven, radically transforming the consequences of leaving home to pursue private life, and opening up many opportunities for abuse. The tracking of people's locations constitutes a significant invasion of privacy, which can reveal many things about their lives, such as what friends, doctors, protests, political events,

or churches a person may visit."

The saddest thing is that probably 99 percent of residents don't know or care that they are now being spied on by an unaccountable police agency. Unlike your computer, which you can protect with filters and anti-spyware software, there is no hiding from Cold Spring.

Regarding the Putnam County marine unit ("Could River Patrol Have Saved Swimmer?," July 23), I have been swimming and paddling in Lake Oscawana since I was a kid, many years ago, and we have had a sheriff's boat on our lake for as long as I can remember — it's the equivalent of a floating squad car. It serves as a wonderful perk for deputies assigned to cruise around for a few hours.

The boat belongs on the Hudson River, not a pristine country lake that has no traffic. It is outrageous that politics is the cause of this untenable situation.

Patty Villanova, *Putnam Valley*

There's so much speeding on village streets, I almost wouldn't mind more of what Officer-in-Charge Larry Burke referred to as "cheap tickets."

Joanne Murphy, *via Facebook*

There has to be a better use of resources than these cameras — we are already severely overpoliced. Unfortunately, most people in Philipstown are afraid of their own shadow, so we'll get cameras, plate readers and whatever other toys law enforcement wants to use on us.

Eric Szyska, *via Facebook*

This isn't anything new. Cashless tolls are collected via cameras that read your license plate. There are red light cams and traffic cams all over the place. Most businesses and many homes have security cameras. Your browsing data is monitored by your internet service provider. Your phone tracks your location. Websites track you.

This has been the "new" Cold Spring and the new everywhere for decades — not that I'm a fan of these cameras, one of which is located almost directly across the street from me.

Andrew Grod, *via Facebook*

Our privacy has long been gone; my issue with the cameras is their locations [in Nelsonville and Philipstown, outside of the village that installed them].

Pamela Gunther, *via Facebook*

What kind of "investigations" will these images be used for? Is there that much crime in Cold Spring to warrant such tactics?

Dottie McLaughlin, *via Facebook*

(Continued on Page 5)





## LETTERS AND COMMENTS

(Continued from Page 4)

If you're not in a flagged vehicle because you are wanted for a serious crime, or the vehicle or plates aren't stolen or the vehicle isn't connected to a missing or endangered person, you shouldn't be concerned about plate readers. You should be more concerned about the videos taken by security cameras in just about every store and public place. Some of the owners of those cameras have such poor lack of control over their systems that you don't know who views or shares the images.

Michael Clancy, *via Facebook*

I have nothing to hide. They can watch me as much as they want.

Yvonne Mee, *via Instagram*

### Opting out

If opting out of cannabis dispensaries is about health and safety, why doesn't Cold Spring ban the sale of alcohol? Alcohol is a drug. How many places do we have just on Main Street that sell beer, wine and/or spirits?

We all know that alcohol can be highly addictive and thousands of people die each year in alcohol-impaired vehicle crashes. Yet we continue to allow the sale of this dangerous drug in our village.

The same people who feel they have the right to purchase a bottle of wine or stop at a bar for a beer at the end of a long day express horror at the thought of an adult being able to purchase a different legal drug in the village.

People will drive the 15 minutes to Beacon or Fishkill to buy marijuana at dispensaries and those cities will benefit from the sales tax dollars and increase in property values. These kinds of decisions should be rooted in facts, not fear.

Heidi and Michael Bender, *Cold Spring*

It's funny how taking sales tax revenue from cannabis sales is seen as supporting a "vice," while taking the same revenue from cigarettes and alcohol sales is not a problem.

Lynn Miller, *via Instagram*

I have been in no shortage of backyards where I have heard solid, committed and engaged members of the community candidly express fear and trepidation about voicing an opinion that could be construed as pro-

## Corrections

- In the July 23 issue, we reported that the Cold Spring Village Board had passed a resolution "opting out" of a state law that would allow the retail sale and onsite consumption of marijuana. When a local municipality does this, one option for residents is to gather signatures for a "passive referendum" that would allow voters to overturn the decisions. However, state law also allows a village board to send the issue straight to the ballot without a petition, which is known as a "permissive referendum," and that is what the Cold Spring board voted to do.

- In the July 23 issue we reported that Cold Spring had purchased three license-plate readers with a grant from the federal Department of Homeland Security. In fact, the cameras, which cost \$20,604, were purchased with money provided by the Putnam County district attorney's office from its asset forfeiture fund. This fund consists of cash and other assets such as vehicles that are seized by police and determined to have been proceeds of or used in crimes. In 2020, the DA received about \$56,000 from these seizures.

cannabis industry because of a fear of some sort of fallout from those who are opposed.

I am certain that the town and village boards are receiving many impassioned submissions on all sides of the issue. I simply ask that they not be swayed by comments that suggest:

- "A local dispensary will reduce home values" — in fact, the opposite has been found to be true.

- "A local dispensary will bring crime to our area" — in fact, dispensaries are luxury retailers. They are well-lit and bring additional retail traffic to communities where they are located, reducing crime.

- "A local dispensary will cause an increase

in youth cannabis consumption" — the opposite has been found to be true in all states that have legalized adult cannabis sales. The regulatory framework and identity verification requirements for dispensaries and the consequences for non-compliant businesses are far greater (and more grave) than for liquor stores.

We must also be honest with ourselves regarding the unique nature of real estate and the geography of our part of the world. Philipstown is sandwiched between Peekskill, Beacon and Fishkill. If the town or villages vote to prevent dispensaries, there will still be multiple dispensaries well within 5 to 10 miles that will be taking tax revenue that could be spent in our town.

We have a vital and important business community that is long on great pizza, ice cream, coffee, antiques, restaurants, vintage clothing and gravel and concrete suppliers. A dispensary would be an upscale tenant paying premium rents and would bring upscale, adult consumers to our community.

We have the ability to set standards and zoning for where a retailer can locate in town. Let's take that as an opportunity to control our destiny while still participating in and benefiting from this new, burgeoning economy.

Gradie Oaks, *Garrison*

### County split

A resident of Putnam County would have to be living in a bank vault to not acknowledge the contention and animosity between the Legislature (all Republican, save Nancy Montgomery) and Sheriff Robert Langley.

With the elimination of the river patrol, we have a situation of political party over county and political party over public safety. This is not a good situation. What is needed is leadership, an attempt and an ability to work with both entities, for the common good of the public. Where is County Executive MaryEllen Odell? Why does she sit on the sidelines and allow this feud to continue? She should intervene and bring all relevant issues to mutual satisfaction.

Langley and his department's performance is exemplary and his only liability is that he is a registered Democrat in Republican Putnam. The Legislature might wish to pass guidelines that all county employees be registered Republicans.

Phil Bayer, *Carmel*



Photo by Michael Turton

## Bring Back Aisle 6?

In the July 23 issue, we printed a photo of the familiar plastic geese of Nelsonville arranged as if they were in Aisle 6 at Foodtown, where customers until recently were asked to line up for the checkout registers to allow for social distancing. We asked on Instagram if readers thought the Cold Spring grocery should return to having shoppers queue in Aisle 6. About 70 percent said yes. Here are a few comments:

- "The rudeness I've experienced since it was done away with is unnecessary."
- "Aisle 6 was a great opportunity for a deep dive into cereal comps."
- "The undoing has been torturous to watch, like a retraining of circus dogs."
- "It definitely imposed order and calmed tempers."



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## How They Voted *(from Page 1)*

tion on their driver's licenses and more easily keep legal name and gender changes confidential, especially if a judge agrees there is a risk of violence or discrimination. A person who legally changes name or gender also cannot be compelled to notify federal immigration authorities. Before the law, New Yorkers who wanted to legally change their names were required to publish their new and previous names, current address, place of birth and date of birth in the newspaper. The law also allows residents to amend the gender on their birth certificates or use a designation of "parent" instead of mother or father.

### Passed by Senate, 46-17

Serino ☒

### Passed by Assembly, 113-36

Galef ☒ Jacobson ☒

### Prosecutorial misconduct

On June 17, Cuomo revived the Commission on Prosecutorial Conduct, which will review complaints against district attorneys and assistant district attorneys and send recommendations to disciplinary committees and the governor's office. The law was designed to address a state court decision in January 2020 that said the powers given to the committee were unconstitutional.

The District Attorneys Association of the State of New York opposes the commission, saying it singles out its members because the commission will not consider complaints against the state attorney general or county attorneys.

### Passed by Senate, 46-17

Serino ☒

### Passed by Assembly, 135-15

Galef ☒ Jacobson ☒

### Allergic response

On July 1, Cuomo enacted a law that allows the state's 700 forest rangers, park rangers and environmental conservation police officers to carry and administer EpiPens to people suffering serious allergic reactions to stimuli such as bee stings, insect bites, food allergies or exercise-induced shock.

### Passed by Senate, 63-0

Serino ☒

### Passed by Assembly, 147-0

Galef ☒ Jacobson ☒

### COVID sick time

Cuomo signed legislation on July 1 that prohibits public employers from penalizing employees who use sick time for quarantine or to seek treatment related to a COVID-19 diagnosis or contact. The law was inspired by a *New York Daily News* report that 893 officers at the New York City Department of Corrections who missed work after testing positive had been penalized for being "chronically absent."

### Passed by Senate, 63-0

Serino ☒

### Passed by Assembly, 149-1

Galef ☒ Jacobson ☒

### Unemployment benefits

On July 16, Cuomo signed a bill that changes how unemployment benefits are calculated for



Serino



Jacobson



Galef

people who return to work part-time. Previously, a person's weekly benefits were reduced by 25 percent for every day he or she worked, even if only for an hour. Under the new law, benefits are reduced based on total hours, so a person can work up to seven days as long as he or she does not exceed 30 hours and earns less than \$504, excluding self-employment. The law is designed to encourage claimants to take part-time jobs.

### Senate passed 62-1

Serino ☒

### Assembly passed 130-20

Galef ☒ Jacobson ☒

### Voting reforms

On July 16, Cuomo signed a package of voting reforms, including:

■ Eliminating the requirement for signed absentee ballot applications and allowing absentee ballots to be counted if they are postmarked on or before Election Day.

### Passed by Senate, 43-20

Serino ☒

### Passed by Assembly, 104-43

Galef ☒ Jacobson ☒

■ Allowing voters to request absentee ballots online or by email.

### Passed by Senate, 43-20

Serino ☒

### Passed by Assembly, 104-43

Galef ☒ Jacobson ☒

■ Requiring that election officials post a notice if a polling place has changed since the last election. Introduced in the Assembly by Jacobson, the legislation requires that the notice be printed on yellow paper, include the new site's address and be posted at the entrance of the former site before the polls open.

### Passed by Senate, 63-0

Serino ☒

### Passed by Assembly, 150-0

Galef ☒ Jacobson ☒

■ Changing the deadline for the Board of Elections to receive a mailed absentee ballot request to 15 days before Election Day, from seven, to ensure that the post office has enough time to deliver the ballot.

### Passed by Senate, 63-0

Serino ☒

### Passed by Assembly, 142-7

Galef ☒ Jacobson ☒

■ Allowing a candidate who has lost a major-

party primary to be removed from minor-party lines on the ballot. (For example, a Democratic candidate who loses the primary but will appear on the Working Families line may want to avoid splitting the vote against the Republican.) Before the law was enacted, "candidates who lost a major primary had to die or move out of state in order to get off a minor-party line on the ballot," said Sen. Rachel May, a Democrat from Syracuse who introduced the bill. "This led to confusion and to workarounds that were bad for democracy." Under the law, a nominee who loses a primary has up to 10 days to remove his or her name from another party line on the ballot.

### Passed by Senate, 49-14

Serino ☒

### Passed by Assembly, 146-3

Galef ☒ Jacobson ☒

■ Increasing the maximum number of voters in an election district to 2,000 from 1,150. Before the law was enacted, the limit was based on the fact that manual lever machines could only handle 1,000 votes per election. Optical scanners can read and hold up to about 4,000 ballots.

### Passed by Senate, 55-8

Serino ☒

### Passed by Assembly, 148-0

Galef ☒ Jacobson ☒

■ On July 27, Cuomo signed legislation that allows election workers to be trained online, although in-person training may still be required for specialized tasks such as operating voting machines. The law also removed a requirement that the training be completed each year; election workers still need to pass an annual exam but only need to be trained once.

### Passed by Senate, 63-0

Serino ☒

### Passed by Assembly, 147-0

Galef ☒ Jacobson ☒

### Gas Meters

Cuomo on July 16 signed a bill making the installation of a gas meter without a permit a misdemeanor punishable by up to a year in prison. The legislation was passed in response to the potential safety hazards of clandestine installations, such as one done with plastic flex piping in Manhattan that caused an explosion in 2015 that killed two people.

### Passed by Senate, 63-0

Serino ☒

### Passed by Assembly, 147-0

Galef ☒ Jacobson ☒

### Victim notification

On July 1, Cuomo signed a law that allows the state Department of Corrections to notify victims of crimes by email that their assailants have been released from prison.

### Passed by Senate, 63-0

Serino ☒

### Passed by Assembly, 148-0

Galef ☒ Jacobson ☒

### Victim-advocate privilege

On July 23, Cuomo signed legislation that says legal advocates for rape or domestic violence victims are not be required to disclose anything their clients tell them, except under limited circumstances, such as if the client "reveals intent to commit a crime or a harmful act" or suspected child abuse.

### Passed by Senate, 63-0

Serino ☒

### Passed by Assembly, 146-1

Galef ☒ Jacobson ☒

### Age of marriage

On July 22, Cuomo signed legislation raising the age of consent for marriage from 17 to 18. The change takes effect Aug. 22.

### Passed by Senate, 61-2

Serino ☒

### Passed by Assembly, 147-0

Galef ☒ Jacobson ☒

### Cellphone insurance

On July 22, Cuomo signed legislation that allows credit or debit card issuers and banks to offer a benefit in which they provide coverage for the theft, loss or damage of cellphones purchased with their cards or accounts.

### Passed by Senate, 63-0

Serino ☒

### Passed by Assembly, 150-0

Galef ☒ Jacobson ☒

### Animal control

On July 16, Cuomo signed legislation introduced in the Assembly by Galef that allows officers for the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals in Putnam County to live in Dutchess or Westchester. Under state law, SPCA officers must reside in the same county in which they work. The law will allow the Putnam SPCA to expand the area where it can recruit officers.

### Passed by Senate, 63-0

Serino ☒

### Passed by Assembly, 144-4

Galef ☒ Jacobson ☒

### Opioid fund

On June 29, Cuomo signed a law that requires funds received by the state from opioid abuse settlements with pharmaceutical companies and distributors to be "used for the intended and right purposes," which are treatment, housing and other support services related to the epidemic. In addition, the law created an advisory board to recommend how the funds should be allocated.

### Passed by Senate, 63-0

Serino ☒

### Passed by Assembly, 150-0

Galef ☒ Jacobson ☒



## River Patrol *(from Page 1)*

Sheriff's Department explained this spring that it had scraped together money from its reserves to continue operations, using two boats provided at no charge by the state, Odell demanded that New York reclaim its vessels. She also appealed to the county executives of Orange, Rockland, Dutchess and Westchester to assist with marine emergencies along the shores of Cold Spring, Garrison and Philipstown as part of mutual aid.

At last week's meeting, Legislator Nancy Montgomery, who represents Philipstown and part of Putnam Valley, reminded members of the Protective Services Committee that "mutual aid means mutual." In other words, said Sheriff Robert Langley Jr., "we will help you out with our boats, but you have to help us out with your boats."

Legislator Ginny Nacerino of Patterson, who chairs the committee, said the evening's topic was not "defunding of the marine patrol." Instead, she said, "we're merely discussing safety issues." She demanded that comments be limited to a June 30 statement by the county's Bureau of Emergency Services, which discussed whether a teenager who drowned near Cold Spring might have been saved by a patrol boat. She then recessed the meeting for several minutes when a Mahopac resident tried to question the rationale for ending the patrols.

"The drowning was not due to lack of sheriff's resources being there," said Nacerino, adding that "it's not our river."

Montgomery countered that "it is our river." She asserted that the Sheriff's Department marine unit could reach its boat docked at Cold Spring "within seconds and get on the river in minutes."

“Perhaps this is God telling us that we need that boat out there.”

~Putnam Sheriff Robert Langley Jr.

The county says volunteer fire departments, like those in Cold Spring and Garrison, can handle river rescues, although Montgomery noted their marine training does not match that of sheriff's deputies.

The June 30 statement listed 19 agencies from both sides of the Hudson that assisted with the search for the missing swimmer. That "impressive" number "just shows the massive presence that is available when there is an emergency on the Hudson River," said Legislator Neal Sullivan of Carmel-Mahopac, who added that local fire companies "bring tremendous resources that we don't have at the county level."

Shea disagreed. The June 30 news release seemed "to be trying to justify the means to the end," he said. "Our problem in Philipstown is that with tourism, with the use of the river, it's just a lot more difficult for our volunteers, regardless of mutual aid." Local responders spend "all weekend, every



In this photo, posted on Facebook in May 2015 by Terrence Murphy, the then-state senator (left) posed with County Executive MaryEllen Odell (third from right) and four members of the Putnam County Legislature (including Ginny Nacerino, second from right) at a ceremony to christen the Sheriff Department's boats in honor of local veterans such as Staff Sgt. Albert Ireland of Cold Spring.

weekend and many weekdays, down by the river, or atop Breakneck," answering calls, he said. "We really appreciated it when the sheriff's boat was on the river."

He also dismissed any speculation that a river patrol boat would not have been able to save the swimmer. "No one can say, no one will know," Shea said. "The issue becomes" having sheriff's deputies "not able to access the river. It adds a lot of responsibility to Philipstown, to our volunteers," he said. "We feel it's important to support the local volunteers with the paid service" of the deputies. He asked for reinstatement of the boat patrol, calling it "such a minor part" of county spending.

Van Tassel expressed similar views. "It's absurd to me" to argue that a volunteer fire company, with a boat, can replace the Sheriff's Department on the water, he said. Despite some overlap, "their responsibilities are completely different." In a July 21 letter to Odell and the county legislators, he wrote that "the additional eyes on the water by deputies who were available that evening and who have vast knowledge of the river in the area could have made a huge difference." He urged the county to "finance the sheriff's marine unit before another tragedy occurs."

Langley said "there's only one power that could know" if a boat would have mattered, "and it's Almighty God. Perhaps this is God telling us that we need that boat out there." He noted the marine unit boat was equipped with thermal imaging, which can locate a person in the water. "We don't know what the outcome would've been" had it been utilized, he repeated. "But maybe this 17-year-old child could have been rescued."

Chris Tobin, the head of the Philipstown Volunteer Ambulance Corps, said he thought the absence of a sheriff's boat "had no bearing" on the outcome, but added, "I am in full support of the sheriff's boat." Department's Kenneth Clair, the commissioner of the Bureau of Emergency Services, said that the teenager's companions had searched for her and a time lag of about

40 minutes occurred between her disappearance and the dispatch of emergency responders.

Legislator Paul Jonke of Southeast accused Langley of not supplying data to justify the marine unit, which operated for 23 years, as the county prepared the 2021

budget last fall. "We got nothing," he said.

"We did produce documents," Langley responded, saying his department had sent materials to Odell in August. "The budget was imposed upon the Sheriff's Office with no discussion from the county executive's office." As a last-ditch effort, he said his department proposed reductions in its other expenses to save the marine unit, but was prevented from presenting that alternative.

Besides mentioning the drowning, Montgomery, Van Tassel and Langley raised concerns about policing on the water. The sheriff mentioned a need to thwart speeding, drunken boating, reckless jet skiing and illegal conduct.

Louis Liotti, who lives in Philipstown, suggested that the county not only restore the patrols but upgrade them to a full-time operation during the boating season. "Those interested in protecting the citizens of Putnam, both for the safety of us and from a law enforcement standpoint, might investigate having 24/7 coverage," he said.

"What's done is done," at least until 2022 budget preparation, Nacerino replied.

"Why can't we just reinstate [the patrols]?" Montgomery asked. "Put it on the agenda. Save some lives."

Nacerino noted that Odell, not the Legislature, returned the boats to the state. "It wasn't under our purview," she said. Going forward, "we will continue the conversation" though "we felt we made the right decision," she said. Nonetheless, she added, "demonstrate the need and you have my vote" to restore the patrols.

## HOWLAND CULTURAL CENTER

**Sat. July 31 – 11 am - 5 pm**

**Brick Pan Alley - Outdoor Music Pop-Up in the Courtyard**  
 Frenchy and the Punk / Dust Bowl Faeries Duet  
 Guitarly of One / David Henningsen (Rain date Aug 1) – Free

**Sat. + Sun. July 31 + Aug 1 – 1-5 pm**

**RiverWinds Gallery Exhibit**  
 17 Artist represented by the RiverWinds Gallery – Free

**Sat. + Sun. Aug 7 + 8 – 1-5 pm**

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# Algal Bloom Invades Beacon Reservoir

*Officials: Water supply not threatened*

By Brian PJ Cronin

The state Department of Environmental Conservation has confirmed the presence of a harmful algal bloom in one of the reservoirs that supplies drinking water to Beacon, although city officials say there is no immediate health threat.

The bloom was discovered in the Melzingah reservoir south of Beacon on July 19 and testing confirmed it to be “toxic,”

or harmful to people and wildlife. It’s the first harmful algal bloom recorded in the reservoir.

The reservoir was not being used at the time of the discovery, said City Administrator Chris White, and can safely remain offline for the foreseeable future because the city’s other two reservoirs are full after the summer’s unusually high rainfall. “Thank God we’re good on water right now,” he said.

The ample rainfall may have played a role in creating the bloom, although it’s precise cause remains unclear, officials

said. Blooms often appear when nutrients such as nitrogen and phosphorus found in fertilizer, dish detergent and other products dissolve in the water and react with cyanobacteria. Pollution is the culprit behind some of the nation’s more notorious blooms, including “red tides” along coastal regions and the Gulf of Mexico Dead Zone, which is twice the size of Delaware.

The Melzingah reservoir is located in a remote part of the Highlands, so “there are no farms around it that are dumping fertilizer” and “no septic tanks spilling into it,” White noted. The bloom more likely was

created by a convergence of natural factors, including sunlight, warm temperatures and calm water. “It could simply be the result of this bizarre weather we’ve been having, with lots of precipitation followed by intense heat,” he said.

The city and state plan to see how long it takes for the bloom to die, which could be days to months. If it reappears next year, the state will consider mitigation.

Because swimming in algal blooms can cause eye irritation, respiratory illness, abdominal pain, vomiting and other unpleasant effects, people should avoid discolored water; harmful algal blooms can be green, yellow, red, brown or blue-green. Report potential blooms at [bit.ly/HABform](https://bit.ly/HABform).

# Putnam Backs Complete Streets Concept

*Montgomery says county ‘way behind’ in process*

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

Putnam legislative committee last week endorsed creation of a Complete Streets program serving pedestrians and bus riders as well as drivers but rejected a call to craft a more substantive policy like the one Dutchess County adopted five years ago.

At its July 20 meeting in Carmel, the Legislature’s three-person Physical Services Committee approved a resolution on Putnam’s

“green-infrastructure” and “enhanced energy-efficient facilities” goals. Much of the resolution duplicates a recent directive by County Executive MaryEllen Odell. The full, nine-member Legislature will now consider it.

The Complete Streets initiative, a component of the state’s Climate Smart program, stems from a 2011 law requiring publicly funded road projects to take into account pedestrians, bicyclists, mass transit and public safety with sidewalks, bike lanes and paths, elevated pedestrian crossings and other fixtures.

In the discussion on July 20, Legislator Carl Albano of Carmel, who chairs the committee, and Transportation Director

Vinny Tamagna tied the Climate Smart and Complete Streets efforts by the county to reducing energy costs and inefficiency. One example they cited was solar panels, that went online this month on a county building. Others include switching to fuel-efficient vehicles and overhauling “all the stuff you don’t see,” Tamagna said, as well as scouting spots for electric-car charging stations.

“We’re doing everything we need to do to save money and be more responsive environmentally and a lot greener,” Albano said.

Climate Smart communities are advised to fulfill a series of requirements, checking off each as they move ahead and expand their eligibility for state funding. But Legislator Nancy Montgomery, whose district includes Philipstown and parts of Putnam Valley, warned that if the county wants to maximize state grants it should follow Climate Smart protocols, such as having members of the public on its Climate Smart task force and

keeping minutes at task force meetings.

Putnam’s Climate Smart task force, which is identical to Odell’s Executive Capital Projects Committee, consists entirely of county officials and employees, does not meet in public, and does not record minutes.

“Moneys are available to us,” regardless, Albano told Montgomery. “We don’t have to be part of that.”

He described Montgomery’s Complete Streets proposal, the Odell-inspired committee measure and similar documents as “feel-good resolutions to let us know the direction we’re going.”

In Dutchess, the county’s Complete Streets policy applies not only to county facilities but to public and private projects receiving county permits and advocates partnerships with other counties, local governments and the state.

“We’re way behind,” Montgomery said.

Albano disagreed. “We’re way ahead,” he said. “A lot is being done behind the scenes.”

“I don’t like ‘behind the scenes,’” Montgomery replied. “I like the public to be aware of what’s happening.”

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# Catching Up With the Beacon School Board

*Highlights from recent meetings*

By Jeff Simms

■ The Beacon school board on June 21 unanimously adopted a resolution supporting a proposal championed by the New York State School Boards Association that would allow school board members, who are elected volunteers, to receive a stipend. The NYSSBA argues that payments would help parents who serve on boards offset the cost of childcare and encourage a more diverse pool of candidates.

■ The nine-member board also passed a resolution supporting an NYSSBA call to require the school day to start no earlier than 8 a.m., which it says would improve academic achievement and graduation rates. Because districts must coordinate schedules for extracurricular activities, including interscholastic sports, the decision should be

implemented statewide, the association said. Before the pandemic shutdown, Beacon High School and Rombout Middle School started at 7:30 a.m. The vote was 8-1, with the lone “no” from Anthony White, who said he had not researched the issue enough.

■ On July 7, the board approved the appointment of Sagrario Rudecindo-O’Neill as assistant superintendent for curriculum and student services at a salary of \$169,000 annually. She succeeds Erik Wright, who left the district in June to become an assistant principal at a Yonkers school.

■ The district continues its search for principals at Beacon High School and South Avenue Elementary to succeed Elisa Soto, who left to become an assistant superintendent in the Newburgh district, and Laura Cahill, who is now an elementary principal in the Hyde Park district. On July 28, the board appointed Assistant Principal Thomas O’Neil as interim principal at the high school.

■ At its annual organizational meeting on July 7, the board re-appointed Meredith Heuer as president and chose Flora Stadler as vice president.

■ The next meeting is scheduled for Aug. 16.



# HVSF Suggests Turn Lane, Traffic Light

*Planning Board continues review of Garrison proposal*

By Chip Rowe

The Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival, which hopes to move next year from Boscobel to the current site of The Garrison golf course, presented its latest plans to the Philipstown Planning Board on July 15, with the most notable revision being the addition of a consultant's traffic study.

Based on his analysis and projections, John Canning, a traffic engineer hired by HVSF, proposed that a signal be installed at the intersection of Snake Hill/Travis Corners and Route 9 and that a left-turn lane be added farther north on Route 9 at the proposed main entrance of the site. The signal and left-turn lane would require the approval of the state Department of Transportation. Canning also recommended a right-turn lane be added to eastbound Snake Hill Road.

If a signal were not approved — although Canning said projected traffic volumes would allow for one — police officers would probably be required to direct traffic a few weekend nights each year, based on HVSF's projection that simultaneous indoor and outdoor performances would occur on about 28 days over the summer months.

Once the seven-member Planning Board

completes its state-mandated environmental assessment, it will hold a public hearing, although the Town Board must change the zoning on the site to allow for performances. The land was donated to the festival by The Garrison's owner, Chris Davis, who plans to close the course later this year. The festival has presented its productions on the grounds of Boscobel in Garrison for more than 30 years.

If it can get approvals from the town, HVSF said that in May 2022 it would install a temporary tent at The Garrison for the summer season; repair the entry roads; install a driveway and stream crossing from Snake Hill Road; upgrade the parking lots; add lighting; and install basic landscaping.

With further permits, in 2023 and 2024 it would construct a permanent tent with slightly fewer seats than the Boscobel tent, which has 535; a 1,200-square-foot box office and welcome center; and a 4,000-square-foot "back of house" building with dressing rooms for the actors. It also plans to add a 20-room hotel.

At the Planning Board's monthly meeting in June, its chair, Neal Zuckerman, noted the high level of interest in the project, especially from neighbors, but said anyone who wrote or emailed the board should not expect a response. He said members would not "engage in debate" with indi-



A photo from the HVSF plan shows the location of a proposed signal and turn lane at the closest intersection to the site.

viduals about the "merits or demerits" of the project. "We are reading, but we are not responding," he said.

Zuckerman noted that one item of contention with some residents was Item 11 of the review, which assesses the potential impact of the project on "open space and recreation," because the board decided that the project would not "result in loss of recreational opportunities or a reduction of an open space resource."

"This item continually gets questions," Zuckerman said. "Mr. Davis donated significant land to be new and truly fallow open space. It's also not a 'loss in recreational opportunity.' You could say it's an equal

change, at a minimum. Members of the public are very squeaky on this topic."

Before the July 15 meeting, their first in-person since the pandemic shutdown began, each member of the board was presented by the HVSF team with a binder of material to review, including Canning's traffic analysis. HVSF said it is waiting on some reports, such as an assessment of the noise generated by performances.

The HVSF team also told the Planning Board:

■ A soil analysis suggested the construction would not require blasting or pile driving.

■ A report commissioned by HVSF found that the project would disturb about 39 acres, but that nearly 100 percent had previously been disturbed because it's mostly fairways with "little habitat value." HVSF said it expected to remove 172 trees and plant 250.

■ HVSF added sightline profiles to its packet to demonstrate the effect of its proposed lighting plan after dark.

■ Team members met with officials from the Cold Spring and Garrison fire departments in March to review the site plan, which led to the redesign of an interior road to eliminate a difficult turn, among other revisions.

The Planning Board will resume its review of the third and final section of the environmental assessment form on Sept. 16.



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AROUND TOWN



▲ **DOWN IT GOES** — Philipstown tore down its Highway Department garage on Fishkill Road in Nelsonville on Thursday (July 29). Rep. Sean Patrick Maloney, whose district includes Philipstown, has submitted a request for \$2 million in federal funds to replace it. See [highlandscurrent.org](http://highlandscurrent.org) for more photos.

Photos by Michael Turton



◀ **REACHING NEW HEIGHTS** — Instructors at the 19th annual Junior Firefighter Academy held this past week at the Cold Spring firehouse demonstrated an engine ladder that can extend 105 feet.



◀ **A CARING SPIRIT** — A tulip poplar was planted earlier this month at Sargent Elementary School in Beacon in memory of teacher Roberta Tighe, who died in March 2020. Her husband, Tim, chose the spot, which is near the playground. A bench is also planned.

Sargent PTO



▲ **125 YEARS** — At its annual luncheon meeting on July 14, the Melzingah chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution celebrated its anniversary. Founded by Katherine Wolcott Verplanck, the Beacon-based chapter received its charter in 1896. Melzingah oversees the Madam Brett Homestead, which it saved from demolition in 1954 and which recently reopened for tours.

Photo provided

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- The Chocolate Studio, 496 Main St.

**PHILIPSTOWN**

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- Garden Cafe, 116 Main St.
- Homestyle Creamery, 351 Main St.
- Sweet Harvest, 82 Main St.



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# The Calendar



Rupert Holmes won two Tony Awards in 1986 for *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*.

## The Man Behind the Musical

*Rupert Holmes discusses 'Edwin Drood' — and his most famous song*

By Alison Rooney

More than 35 years ago, Philipstown resident Rupert Holmes wrote a musical whodunit called *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*, based on Charles Dickens' last, unfinished, novel. It premiered in 1985 at the New York Shakespeare Festival and ran on Broadway, where it was nominated for 11 Tony Awards, winning five, including best musical. Holmes won for best book of a musical and best original score.

This weekend, the Youth Players at the Philipstown Depot Theatre in Garrison will present their version of *Drood*. (All performances are sold out.) We thought we'd catch up with Holmes, 74, who is also known for his No. 1 *Billboard* hit, "Escape (The Piña Colada Song)," which was released in 1979.

**As a multi-hyphenate — mystery novelist / playwright / composer / arranger / screenwriter / conductor / singer-songwriter — is there one facet you're most proud of?**

You know, I take equal pleasure in every combination of those job titles. Each has its own challenges and rewards, and I feel satisfied whether I'm the architect, builder, landscaper, decorator or house painter. Mainly, I'm always grateful for the chance to amuse or divert people simply by resequencing 26 letters and 12 notes.

**Murderous acts appear to sneak into much of your work, even comedies. Any**

**thoughts on why?**

Maybe I took the compliment "You just kill me!" as a direct order. Truth is, it's more about the mystery than the murder. In a mystery, anarchy reigns until someone makes sense of the puzzle and reveals the meaning of everything that's previously baffled us. That's very satisfying. We don't always get that resolution in life but we certainly get it in a whodunit.

**Did you add "The Piña Colada Song" to**



Holmes

## An Unexpected Assist

By Lisa Sabin

In *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*, which I will direct this weekend when it's performed by the Youth Players at the Philipstown Depot Theatre, audience members vote for who they think the murderer is, and for which two characters get together in the end as lovers.

The 2012 Broadway revival of the musical had many quite racy lovers' scenes, but the script noted alternate scenes were available for shows performed by a young cast. I sent an email asking for the scenes, thinking that I would hear back from an assistant, and instead Rupert Holmes responded.

We spoke on the phone, and Rupert asked me several questions: What is the age range of our cast? How much rehearsal time did we have? What is our performance space like? Are we using an orchestra or just piano? It quickly became clear that he was committed to adapting his show to our particular performance. Subsequent conversations yielded new scenes with contemporary

references that are sure to get guffaws, expanded roles so every actor gets a moment to shine, and many other adaptations that are making this challenging and intricate show learnable in our timeframe.

I all at once felt honored, tickled and pressured to have the composer, lyricist and bookwriter (as well as the piña colada guy) collaborating to make the show a success. The actors were quite amazed by it all. Rupert knows what works and was happy to share his wisdom, although he emphasized I had the final say.

Rupert told me he may use our version of *Drood* as a prototype for youth productions of the show, and he mentioned that he hasn't spent this much time on the musical since he rewrote large sections of it for the Broadway revival, so I was happy to hear that his efforts will benefit other productions down the road. His giving of his time to me and to the Depot Theatre has been incredible.



Cast members perform the finale of *Drood* during a dress rehearsal on Wednesday (July 28) outside the Philipstown Depot Theatre. Photo by A. Rooney

**the title of "Escape" so Top 40 listeners would know it was that song?**

The record label did that. I called the song "Escape" because that's what the two people in the song are both desperately seeking. But people were calling radio stations asking for "that song about the piña coladas." The label was terrified they had a hit on their hands that no one knew how to purchase. So they added the parenthetical and it went to No. 1 a few weeks later.

**What led you to switch your major in college from clarinet to music theory, which causes many to tear their hair out?**

Sadly, I lost most of my hair anyway. I

entered college — the noteworthy Manhattan School of Music — as a promising classical clarinetist, except that, while in high school, I'd started writing pop songs for my band The Nomads. By my second year of college, I realized I wasn't happy playing notes that someone else had written. I wanted to be the person writing those notes and, particularly, the words that went beneath them. Just last month, the school awarded me an honorary doctorate, and the truth is, I don't think they would have given me one had I stuck to clarinet.

(Continued on Page 15)



# THE WEEK AHEAD

Edited by Pamela Doan (calendar@highlandscurrent.org)

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

## COMMUNITY

SAT 31

### Funniest Pet Contest

COLD SPRING

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

Today is the deadline to submit a photo or drawing of your pet doing something silly. For ages 10 and older. Voting for the winners will begin WED 4.

SAT 31

### Great Hudson River Estuary Fish Count

PHILIPSTOWN

11 a.m. Little Stony Point  
3011 Route 9D

dec.ny.gov/lands/97891.html

Watch from the shore or wade in and help with the state Department of Environmental Conservation count.

SUN 1

### Emancipation Day Speech

POUGHKEEPSIE

2:15 p.m. College Hill Park  
149 N Clinton St.

celebratingtheafricanspirit.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.

SAT 7

### Putnam County Wine & Food Fest

COLD SPRING

61 Fair St. | putnamcountywinefest.com

New York cider, spirits, wine and food will be available to sample and purchase at Mayor's Park. There will also be live music, artisan and craft vendors and other entertainment. For ages 21 and older. Also SUN 8. Cost: \$25 (\$10 non-tasting)

## VISUAL ART

FRI 6

### Flow

COLD SPRING

6 - 8 p.m. Buster Levi Gallery  
121 Main St. | 845-809-5145  
busterlevigallery.com

In this group show, the 14 gallery members will each exhibit a work in their chosen medium on the theme of "being in the zone." Through Aug. 29.

SAT 7

### The Lattimore Studio

BEACON

1 - 5 p.m. Howland Cultural Center  
477 Main St. | 845-831-4988  
howlandculturalcenter.org

Work by current and former

students of the Lattimore Fine Art Studio & School in Cornwall will be on view in this group exhibit. Through Aug. 29.

## STAGE & SCREEN

SAT 31

### Sisters on Track

BEACON

11 a.m. Story Screen Theatre  
445 Main St. | 845-440-7706

RSVP to erica@sistersontrack.com

This 2021 documentary tells the story of three Brooklyn sisters, Tai (11), Rainn (10) and Brooke (8) Sheppard, who in 2016 raced at the AAU Junior Olympics while living in a homeless shelter with their mother. It will be followed by a jog around town and a Q&A with the sisters and their coach at Tracksmith's Beacon outpost, 2 Tioronda Ave. Free



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

SAT 31

### Grease

BEACON

8:30 p.m. Story Screen Drive-In  
724 Wolcott Ave. | 845-440-7706  
storyscreendrivein.square.site

Olivia Newton-John and John Travolta star in this 1978 musical about summer love that is tested once school begins. Also SUN 1. Cost: \$10 (\$8 children, seniors, military)

SUN 1

### [loculamentum]

BEACON

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. Cost: \$10 to \$100

WED 4

### Batman

BEACON

8:30 p.m. Story Screen Drive-In  
724 Wolcott Ave. | 845-440-7706  
storyscreendrivein.square.site

Michael Keaton stars in the title role with Jack Nicholson as the Joker in Tim Burton's 1989 retelling of the caped crusader saga. Also THURS 5, FRI 6, SAT 7, SUN 8. Cost: \$10 (\$8 children, seniors, military)

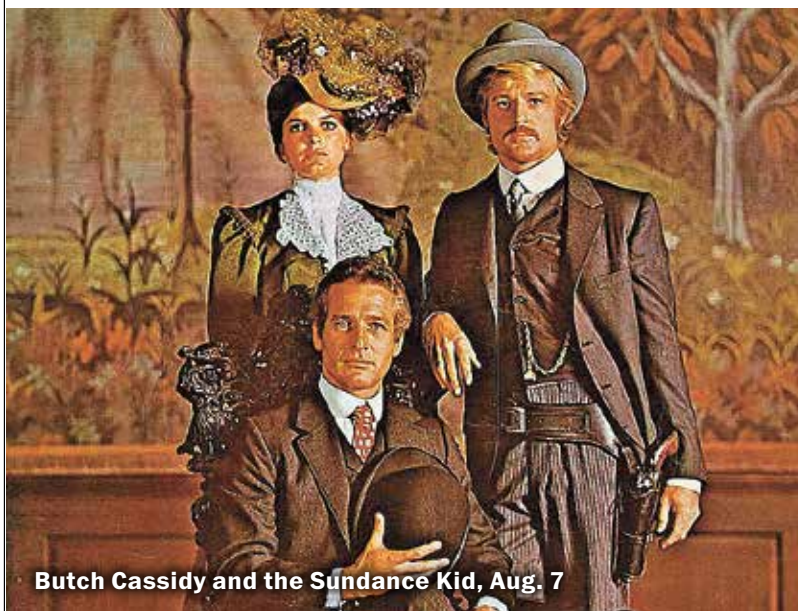
THURS 5

### The Tempest

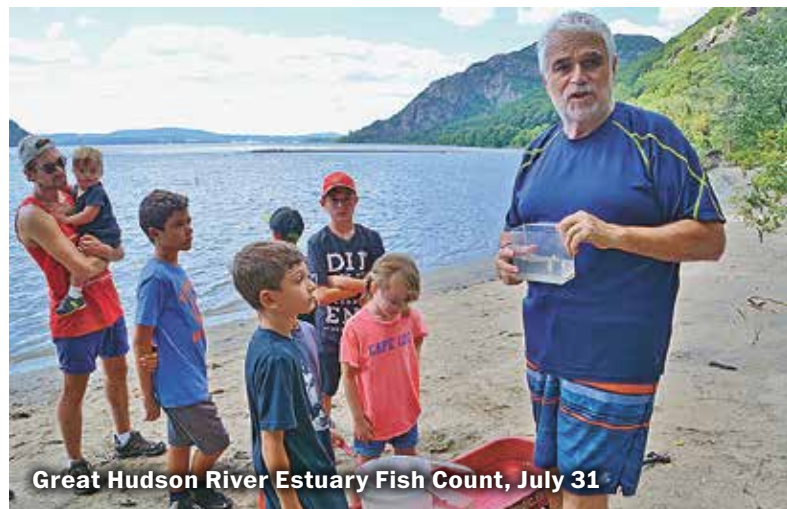
GARRISON

7:30 p.m. Boscobel  
1601 Route 9D | 845-265-9575  
hvshakespeare.org

Ryan Quinn directs this Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival performance of the poignant and timely play about romance, connection and community. All attendees will be required to show



Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid, Aug. 7



Great Hudson River Estuary Fish Count, July 31

proof of vaccination or a negative COVID test. Masks are required in high-traffic areas. Also FRI 6, SAT 7, SUN 8, MON 9. Cost: \$10 to \$90

SAT 7

### Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid

COLD SPRING

8 p.m. Dockside Park  
coldspringfilm.org

The Cold Spring Film Society presents the 1969 depiction of a band of outlaws in the Wild West led by Paul Newman and Robert Redford. Bring blankets and chairs. Free

## TALKS & TOURS

SAT 31

### 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.

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

TUES 3

### A Crisis of Peace

COLD SPRING

2 p.m. Butterfield Library  
butterfieldlibrary.org

David Head, who teaches at the University of Central Florida in Orlando, will discuss his book, *A Crisis of Peace: George Washington, the Newburgh Conspiracy and the Fate of the American Revolution* via Zoom. Co-sponsored by the Putnam History Museum.

## KIDS & FAMILY

MON 2

### 4-H Babysitting Bootcamp

BREWSTER

6:30 p.m. Via Zoom  
putnam.cce.cornell.edu/events

Students ages 9 and older will learn the basics of child care,



communication and how to be competent and responsible. The first three sessions are via Zoom and the fourth, on THURS 5, will be in person. Register online. Cost: \$25

FRI 6

### Wild Jeopardy

COLD SPRING

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

Students in grades 6 and up can join a team to answer trivia questions *Jeopardy*-style about beasts in movies and books. Register online.

SAT 7

### Bird Festival

BEAR MOUNTAIN

11 a.m. - 3 p.m. Trailside Zoo  
3006 Seven Lakes Drive  
trailsidezoo.org

This celebration of New York birds, including bald eagles and wild turkeys, will feature a bird Olympics and a great migration challenge.

## MUSIC

SAT 31

### Brick Pan Alley

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 during this pop-up outdoor concert. Free

SAT 31

### Doobie Brothers Experience

BREWSTER

6:30 p.m. Tilly's Table  
100 Route 312 | 845-808-1840  
tillystablereastaurant.com

The tribute band will cover the band's hits. Cost: \$10 to \$29

(Continued on Page 13)





Wyndham Baird, Aug. 7

**SUN 1**  
**Duet**  
**BEACON**  
12:30 p.m. Beacon Farmers' Market  
DMV Parking Lot  
Claudia Forest (violin) and Jon Ahmadjian (guitar, vocals) will perform jazz standards, swing music, Latin tunes, waltzes and Irish fiddle tunes. Sponsored by *The Highlands Current*.

**FRI 6**  
**Alice Howe & Freebo**  
**BEACON**  
8:30 p.m. Towne Crier  
379 Main St. | townecrier.com  
Howe will perform songs from her debut album, *Visions*, with echoes of 1960s and '70s folk and blues, backed by Freebo, a bassist known for his performances with Bonnie Raitt. *Cost: \$20 (\$25 door)*

**SAT 7**  
**Wyndham Baird**  
**PUTNAM VALLEY**  
6:30 p.m.  
Tompkins Corners Cultural Center  
729 Peekskill Hollow Road  
tompkinscorners.org

The singer, who has been called "the folk trajectory from Woody Guthrie to Bob Dylan," will perform as part of a series honoring the cultural center's co-founder, John Cohen. *Cost: \$20*

**SAT 7**  
**The Dark Horses**  
**BEACON**  
8:30 p.m. Towne Crier  
379 Main St. | townecrier.com  
This George Harrison tribute band will perform songs from throughout his career. *Cost: \$25 (\$30 door)*

**SUN 8**  
**Mostly Bach and Mozart Concert**  
**BEACON**  
Noon. 4 Cross St.  
facebook.com/beaconchambermusic  
The Beacon Ensemble — Adrienne Harmon (violin), Jordan Shapiro (guitar) and Choi Fairbanks (cello) — will share their classical passions. *Free*

**CIVIC**  
**MON 2**  
**City Council**  
**BEACON**  
7 p.m. City Hall | 1 Municipal Plaza  
845-838-5011 | cityofbeacon.org

**TUES 3**  
**Board of Trustees**  
**COLD SPRING**  
6:30 p.m. Village Hall | 85 Main St.  
845-265-3611 | coldspringny.gov

**TUES 3**  
**Putnam Legislature**  
**CARMEL**  
7 p.m. Historic Courthouse  
44 Gleneida Ave. | 845-208-7800  
putnamcountyny.com

**THURS 5**  
**Philipstown 2030**  
**COLD SPRING**  
7:30 p.m. Town Hall  
238 Main St. | philipstown.com  
Join a discussion of the proposed comprehensive plan.



Duet, Aug. 1



Alice Howe & Freebo, Aug. 6

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LIFE DRAWING WORKSHOP AND DRAWING PERFORMANCE W/ED MURR AND SOPHIE JACKSON  
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**JULY 29 | PETE AND TOSHI SEEGER RIVERFRONT PARK | RAIN DATE AUG.5**  
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**AUGUST 12 | PETE AND TOSHI SEEGER RIVERFRONT PARK | RAIN DATE AUG.19**  
THE SPARROW SISTERS FOLK TRIO W/UPCYCLED INSTRUMENT KITS

**AUGUST 26 | SOUTH AVENUE PARK | RAIN DATE SEPT.2**  
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## The Artist Next Door

# Khalidah Carrington

By Alison Rooney

A visual arts triple threat, Khalidah Carrington divides her creative focus between drawing, graphic design and photography, weaving in and out of the commercial world.

Working largely with clients carving out a brand identity, Carrington, 27, has at

the same time been developing her own. A prominent example of her work is a mural at hyperbole at 484 Main St. in Beacon.

"They wanted to use their brand colors, and I showed them some ideas for a large-scale mural with abstract shapes and lines, to go across their back wall and the area where their check-in desk is," she says. "It was free-form and flowing. It was interesting to do

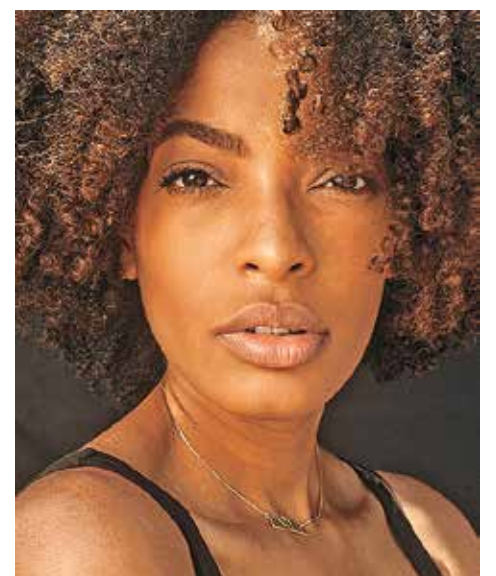
something large-scale, and also to paint."

Carrington's sense of self was instilled early on, at home. After her family moved from the Bronx to Beacon when she was 5, she and her three sisters were home-schooled. "My mom pushed us to do what we wanted to do," she recalls. "Every time we had an interest, my mom would push us in that direction, and she made sure we stuck with it."

She later attended a private high school but disliked the classroom dynamic and dropped out on the first day of her senior year. "I just said, 'I'm not going,'" she says. She went on to earn her GED and an associate degree in visual arts from Dutchess Community College.

She considered enrolling at a four-year college but was already designing logos and graphics and developing her own style. Carrington says that attending DCC helped her in "learning to maintain a routine, developing a method to the madness, or I wouldn't get anything done." She also completed a project there in which she created self-portraits "using colors to do a drawing without any lines, and then flipped the concept." This led to a style which she describes as "highlighting the shadows, using people's natural beauty."

She said the style was rooted in part "from me coming out of an emotionally abusive relationship. I was anxious. I didn't view art as a professional thing. I felt lost until that assignment. It was a dive deep



Khalidah Carrington

Photo provided

into who I am as a creative being."

More recently, Carrington has shifted direction and focused on illustration. She finds commercial clients mostly through referrals and social media marketing. Much of the work is building brand identifications, including creating content, designing props and photographing products. She hopes to one day own her own social media marketing, management and production company "that gears toward helping creatives of color like myself."

She says she feels fortunate to work with clients who offer her liberty. "It's rare, because most campaigns have to fit within strict brand guidelines and sometimes you're not afforded the room to be creative, but it can work."

Carrington is also a senior gallery attendant at DIA:Beacon, which she says has influenced the way she looks at other people's art. "It makes me appreciate hyperrealist paintings because I'm around minimalist, conceptual work all the time," she says.

The pandemic helped her business, rather than hurt it. "People started to want to do what they actually wanted to do," she says. "Mundane routines weren't fulfilling them. There was a surge of new artists and creators. People are putting in the work to be those things."

To see more of Carrington's work, visit [khalidahcarrington.com](http://khalidahcarrington.com).



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## 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](mailto:chelseapaintingstudio@gmail.com)



## Kid Friendly

# Love & Marriage

By Katie Hellmuth Martin

When the media and the president declared independence from “the virus” around July 4, everyone was jubilant. Some people, however, felt pandemic blues at it all coming to an end. We had been through a period of mass reflection on love, loss, race, friendship, education — everything we knew as normal. Normal exploded.

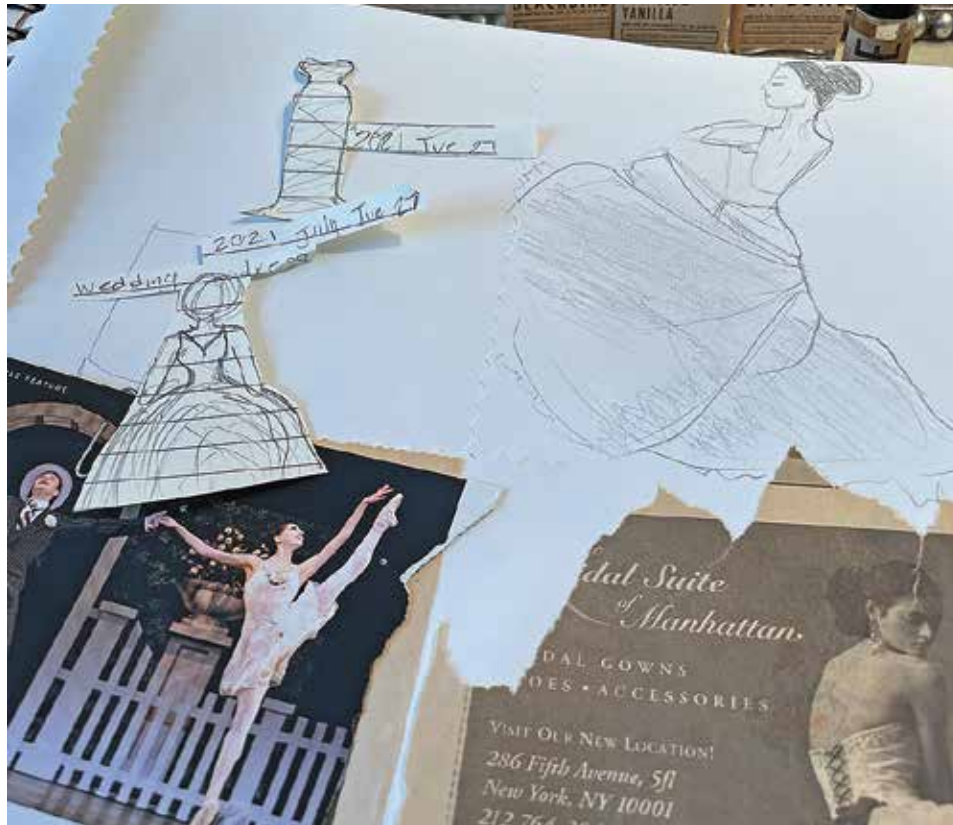


Now that the pandemic is *not* over (thanks, Delta variant! and whatever other variants of the alphabet are going to come, like virus hurricanes), we get to continue exploring “normal.” Normal, for this month’s column, is love, marriage and divorce. That third word, usually a bad word that everyone is afraid of, gives different people different feelings of relief, freedom, sadness, loss, gains.

From childhood, we are taught to get married. Some are scheduled into arranged marriages. Others of us are pretend-married as toddlers, as a game. I married two neighbor toddlers when I was a teenager, and I was witness to two of my girlfriends marrying each other in the halls of my private girls’ school. To not marry a best friend, at that point, was like, not cool. I felt left out when no one wanted to marry me!

In childhood and into teenage years, however, we are further persuaded by romcoms that marriage is the answer. No one discusses the legality of what you just signed when you got your “marriage certificate.” What is that? Do business partners run down to the courthouse and just sign a “business certificate” saying they can trust each other for life, raise children together with singular, aligned vision, and have a happy and prosperous life?

Business partnerships come with under-



The cutouts are by an 11-year-old who is already learning from *Say Yes to the Dress* that this celebration of fabric on the body is reserved for marriage ceremonies. What if they were Love Dresses?

Photo by K. Martin

stood and accepted risks, and an operating agreement, which contains directions for how to exit the partnership. Marriage certificates come with amazing wedding gowns, tons of fabric, diamond rings, years of anniversary presents, and years of promise for prosperity and health. And someone to take you to the doctor and care for you when you get the virus. And health insurance to enter in on as a “dependent.” And tax forms where one partner is the “spouse” and the other is the “taxpayer,” even if both pay the taxes.

But what if marriage is the biggest risk with no socially acceptable exit clause? What does it mean to legally lock in feelings, and what does one’s union mean to others? Pretend someone said: “I had a nightmare that you got divorced.” What if they instead said: “I had a nightmare that you were unhappy?”

The support structure for divorce is not mainstream. When people go through a divorce, they are typically on their own, alienated, at times, from their married friends and fueled, at times, by plotting attorneys.

Remember when people snickered at Gwyneth and Chris’ announcement that they were “consciously uncoupling?” Why was that so bad? Is divorce socially structured to drive people to hate each other, in order to justify the uncoupling? What if we hosted a shower for the newly uncoupled people, to shower their new homes and lifestyles with new energy, decorations and things they need?

I ran this idea past a relationship therapist based in Beacon, Moraya Seeger DeGeare. Her first response was: “Awesome.” Then she expanded:

“We are taught to think of marriage as a celebration, and divorce as something to fear and grieve. We could shift this to talking about each as points of change.

“Many times couples have to grieve a lot of single individual life experiences when they get married, and have shame over missing their previous life. Shame blocks connection and intimacy, so not talking about it can lead to disconnection in the marriage.

“Equally, many after divorce feel a freedom and happiness that they didn’t have in the relationship. Both changes can be hard and wonderful. If we shifted to also throwing a shower after divorce, we would be supporting the family as a whole, a family that probably needs it three times more than when they got married.”

The next part of Moraya’s statement struck me, because we’re teaching our children all of the time, with our action, inaction and reactions. She said:

“We would be teaching our children that knowing what you need does not mean failure, that listening to your body doesn’t mean keeping everyone happy. It can also tell our children that being brave is making hard decisions that you hope are for the better without knowing for certain, and we have to use the information we have.”

Gymnast Simone Biles withdrew from her team and individual Olympic competitions this week. She signaled that it is OK to recognize when your body and mind can’t handle something, no matter how great you are, or how hard you have worked to get there.

While I was writing this column, my 11-year-old daughter came in to tell me about how she loves the show *Say Yes to the Dress*. She loves the “toxic mother and the toxic best friends.” She didn’t know I was on this topic. I tossed her the idea of having a wedding dress for every love. That it could be called a Love Dress, and she could have several. She looked at me cross-eyed. And asked if I would be in her entourage at the bridal gown store. Of course I would be, if she wanted me to, I told her.

The wedding experience is a big driver in getting married. The wedding industry is very much needed by people who make money from it. Perhaps we can keep it going, with lots more of it. More dresses! More rings! More than one dress and ring in our lifetime! More than one dress per marriage. A new dress after an uncoupling. A new dress for just being in love.

## Holmes (from Page 11)

**Is there one performance of a song you wrote that has moved you the most?**

That’s tough. There are so many candidates. I guess everything of mine that Barbra Streisand has recorded, especially “Everything” from *A Star is Born*. All the powerful performances of *Drood*’s finale, “The Writing on the Wall,” by Betty Buckley, Donna Murphy, Paige O’Hara, Helen Reddy, Stephanie J. Block, Audra MacDonald and the Highlands’ own Jenn Lee. But probably the most meaningful performance was opera star Renée Fleming singing my composition “Moonfall” at Carnegie Hall with a symphony orchestra and my name listed on the same bill as Mozart and Puccini. Look, Ma, straight A’s!

**What is the value to a community of having a local home for theater?**

Broadway shows can require a second mortgage to attend and feel more like a theme park attraction — you know, “we went to see *Wicked* and bought five sweatshirts.” It’s good to affordably see a wide range of plays, and the wonder of theater can work just as well in a small space with a few lights, chairs and the suspension of disbelief. Plus, to see friends and neighbors inhabit other identities and draw you into a completely different world — that experience can teach you a great deal about them, about yourself, and about the miracle of being a human being.

**What do you enjoy doing around Philipstown?**

I amble around the side streets of Cold Spring and Nelsonville so often that residents may suspect I’m casing the neighborhood to pull off the heist of the century. While the riverfront is magnificent and humbling, and the shops almost as much fun as the people who run them, I love the myriad houses dotting our tree-lined blocks, each with its own distinct personality, color scheme and story. I find something new and surprising every time I stroll along Paulding, Pine, Parrott, Parsonage and Pearl. That sounds like a law firm!

**If Cold Spring ever makes its way into one of your songs, what might the story be?**

It might be about a man who settles down in a village much like his boyhood hometown who discovers that, miraculously, the place hasn’t changed much over the decades — and neither has he.



Holmes with Barbra Streisand

## NOTICE

**The Philipstown Conservation Board** will not meet in the month of August 2021.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 14th, 2021 at 7:30 p.m. at the Philipstown Town Hall, 238 Main St., Cold Spring, NY 10516





Kirsti Lattu assists with a post-drought crop assessment in Zimbabwe.



Lattu poses with agency colleagues in the Central African Republic, where they monitored aid to displaced residents in Bambari.

*Photos provided*

### Something You Don't Know About Me

## Kirsti Lattu

**K**irsti Lattu probably has had more challenging days at work than you have.

The Nelsonville resident has spent more than two decades working for international aid agencies, including the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), the Humanitarian Accountability Partnership and Doctors Without Borders.

Her assignments, which have ranged from months to years, have taken her to 45 countries, including Haiti, Chad, Congo, Sudan, Afghanistan, Kosovo, Madagascar and Thailand. Most recently, she spent nearly three years in the Central African Republic as a senior humanitarian adviser for USAID. She spoke with Alison Rooney.

#### Was this profession always something you were drawn to?

From probably the age of 10 I wanted to go overseas. I joined the Peace Corps and served in Zaire [now the Democratic Republic of the Congo]. Then I did public health work as a volunteer in Rwanda; I was in the last group before the genocide began [in 1994]. Being in a war zone was a game changer and convinced me that I wanted to continue working in international disasters. So, it was not a completely straight path.

#### Is every assignment different?

In international-disaster response, an organization will ask me to go to a country and figure out how we can help collectively or assess critical staffing gaps. I'll always be asked to participate or lead in a response assessing "What are the needs?" When there's a crisis, there are great resources put out by the United Nations and donor countries that you can tap into for what's happening now, and who's who.

#### Is there ever resistance from the people you are trying to help?

You're there to provide assistance, and there's a space for that, although sometimes

it has to be negotiated. With the vast majority of people, there's a willingness to accept assistance. It's lifesaving in a lot of places. There is rarely an expression of, "Why bother? It'll just happen again," because there are immediate problems which need solving, such as "Where am I going to sleep tonight?" or "We need water, shelter, a cooking pot."

#### What are the toughest challenges?

Some conflicts have been going on for many years, with populations displaced multiple times and stuck in limbo because of the insecurity. It's discouraging to hear the stories of how many times people have fled, restarted and fled again. Humanitarian aid responds to urgent needs; it doesn't end conflicts and restore stability. That's for political actors, governments and peace-keeping. I'm pragmatic about what aid can't do and try to stay optimistic.

Anywhere you go in the world, people have more in common than they do differences. We all want to survive until tomorrow so we can build the day after. The challenge with natural disasters many times is that there's an acute phase that's over quickly, before recovery. I've worked in a lot of acute situations.



Kirsti Lattu

*Photo by Margaret Vetare*

#### What do you see as the biggest global threat?

Climate change. I see it in drought responses. Subsistence farmers may not be able to raise enough to support their families. We're always assessing, asking: "How long has it been since you've had a normal harvest? How often does this river rise this high?"

#### Is there burnout among aid workers?

Yes, but the wonderful thing about being in this field for so long is you see tangible things happen for communities you're working with and for. The people I work with are principled, dedicated and creative problem-solvers, in a diverse international arena that's inspiring. It's a compelling way to spend a day at work.

Depending on security, you may not be able to just go for a walk. [To combat burnout], I made time to read, do yoga or to send a quick message home to family and friends. Most of the time, I'd get up every morning feeling a great sense of purpose wondering what the day would bring. I've never had a dull day, frankly.

#### Has Cold Spring provided a respite?

I've lived here for almost 16 years, though I'm gone 75 to 80 percent of the time. My spouse and I were high school sweethearts. We came to Cold Spring at a time when we needed to find a way to put our lives under one roof. We came up for a day, went kayaking, and it rained, and that was it, we found it here. It's been a magical place to come home to and has made it possible to continue working in some of the more difficult places in the world.

#### Does working in the field require the idealism of youth?

When working in humanitarian crises, you're focused on who's fighting where, and on creative problem-solving. Everyone involved is probably idealistic and opportunistic but also pragmatic about what's feasible for the long haul. You're working in insecure environments, and aid workers are killed. It requires a lot of thinking wisely and you don't learn those skills in your first assignment.

#### Is it hard to leave a crisis? Do you suffer from survivor's guilt?

Sometimes there's an emotional attachment, and sometimes not, but there is always empathy. It's not always a negative not being able to stop something. It's also a matter of how you advocate for others to come and start to fill those spaces. There's a profound responsibility in being in places many people cannot go.

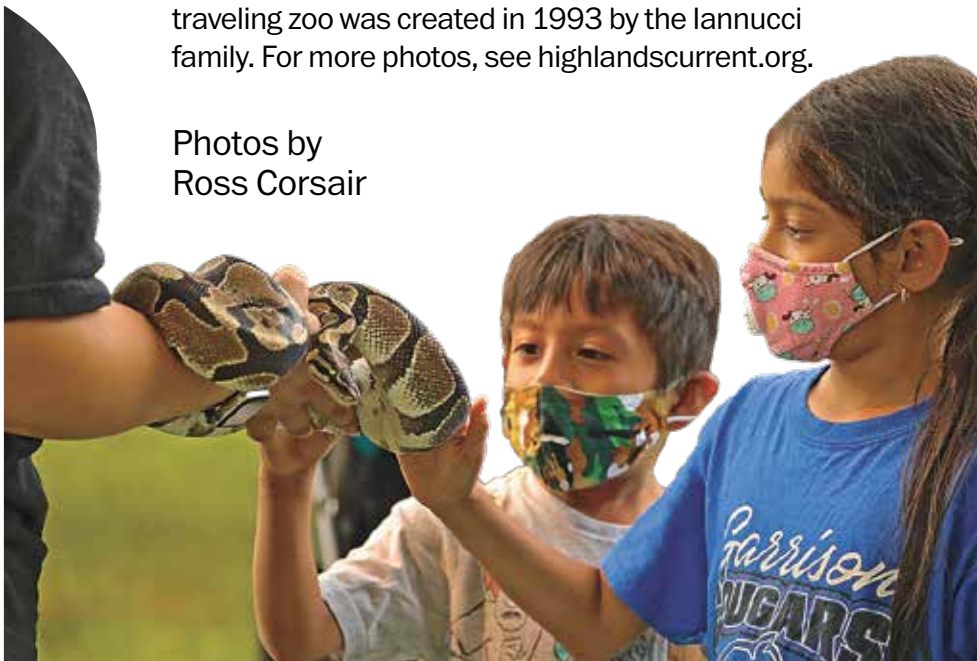
When communities share things with you, you have a responsibility to do something with that. I remember one community in northern Congo, where I talked with a woman chieftain who said: "Thank you so much for the tools, and the seeds, which we planted, but our challenge is we can't cross the river, so can you help us with the barge?" They needed it to bring the crops to the larger markets. We managed to figure it out and connect the dots. She was clear on what they wanted and what they didn't need. When I'm leaving an area and someone says, "I hope to see you again," I reply, "No, you don't, because it means something bad has happened. I look forward to traveling to your country as a tourist."



# LOOK, AND TOUCH

The annual visit of exotic rescue animals to the Desmond-Fish Public Library in Garrison by the Two by Two Zoo — canceled last year because of the pandemic — took place on July 20. Most of the animals, including this ball python, were abandoned or neglected pets. Based in Pleasant Valley, the traveling zoo was created in 1993 by the Iannucci family. For more photos, see [highlandscurrent.org](http://highlandscurrent.org).

Photos by  
Ross Corsair





Small, Good Things

You Don't Know Shakshuka...

By Joe Dizney

Even if you think you have it pegged, “real” shakshuka (or shakshouka or chak-chouka) has a complicated history.



Commonly thought of as a single-pan preparation, this warm, spiced red sauce or stew usually incorporates eggs cracked and poached. Generally considered to have originated in Tunisia, shakshuka is embraced on the Maghreb (Barbary Coast) of northwestern Africa and countless versions exist well into the Levant and countries bordering the eastern Mediterranean. The name translates, roughly, as “shaken together” or “mixed.”

The modern sauce is clearly a result of post-colonial exploration/exploitation, because it incorporates tomatoes, which weren't really accepted into Eastern Mediterranean pantries until the 19th century.

Earlier Turkish shakshuka recipes describe a vegetable and minced-liver stew; related recipes have been part of Sephardic cuisine for centuries. And Jews of the Ottoman Maghreb are responsible for a vegetarian pareve version. Tunisian Jews added

Green Shakshuka

Serves 4

eggs and spices as varied as ginger, paprika, cumin, coriander, caraway, cayenne and turmeric. Herbal notes like mint, parsley, cilantro or fenugreek were also included.

Culturally and geographically distinct versions of the basic sauce include wildly divergent ingredients such as preserved lemon or olives, sheep or goat's milk cheeses, yogurt and fruit or nuts. Others add potatoes, favas, artichokes or eggplant. Sweet red peppers are common, and for the carnivores, recipes could include minced lamb, and sausages such as chorizo or merguez (also served on the side, along with typical flatbreads and pickles).

Maybe you're finally getting the picture that shakshuka is a state of mind rather than a formula. And it just won't be contained by cultural or technical boundaries — even the commonly poached eggs can be scrambled or heated with herbs and spices and added directly to the pan (see the Turkish eggy preparation known as menemen). Farther afield, to the north, Uova in Purgatorio (“Eggs in Purgatory”) or Uova All’Inferno (“Eggs in Hell”) describe eggs poached in a spicy Italian sauce containing olives, capers and anchovies. The classic French dish of eggs poached in sorrel cream sauce bears a passing resemblance to the idea of shakshuka and is the touchstone for this green version.

Here we use leeks, onions and spinach as the basis for a vaguely Egyptian saag incorporating cumin, Turkish Aleppo pepper (and dried fenugreek). You could certainly use other leafy greens such as kale or chard. I suggest green bell peppers or seeded and diced zucchini to replace the peas used here that are admittedly going, going gone, although I thoroughly enjoyed the dish through the late winter and into early spring using organic frozen spinach and peas. The only practical requirement is that your sauce be thick enough to contain the eggs.

I used a mild, creamy goat's cheese instead of the usual feta; make substitutions based on what you have. And as tomatoes are coming into their own soon, I have designs on a green version featuring tomatillos, to bring things back around to where we originally *thought* we started.



- 11 ounces fresh baby spinach, chopped roughly

2 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil

1 large leek, white part only, cleaned and quartered lengthwise, sliced thin

1 small yellow onion, quartered and sliced thin

2 to 3 cloves garlic, minced

1½ teaspoon ground cumin

1½ teaspoon Aleppo pepper (substitute 1 teaspoon hot paprika plus ¼ teaspoon cayenne)
- ¼ teaspoon grated nutmeg

4 ounces goat's cheese or feta, crumbled

1 cup shelled (English) peas (fresh or frozen)

1 tablespoon dried fenugreek leaves (Kasoori Methi)

4 eggs (8 if serving two per person)

Salt and ground black pepper

Chopped chives or chopped scallion tops for garnish

1. In a large bowl, toss spinach with a healthy pinch of salt; massage briefly (about 1 minute) and set aside.

2. Heat oil in a 12-inch, nonstick skillet over medium-high until shimmering. Add leek and onion; cook stirring until softened, not browned (about 7 to 8 minutes). Add garlic and cook until fragrant (about 30 seconds). Add spinach and cook, stirring until wilted (about 3 minutes). Add cumin, Aleppo pepper, nutmeg and half of the goat's cheese; stir until the cheese just begins to melt and stir in the peas. Taste and correct seasoning. If the mixture seems dry, add no more than ¼ cup water. (You want just enough moisture to steam-poach the eggs.)

3. Lower heat to medium-low and with the back of a spoon form 4 (or 8) evenly spaced divots in the vegetables, deep enough that the pan bottom is visible, and large enough to just accommodate an egg. Crack an egg into each divot; season with salt and pepper. Cover the pan; cook until whites are set and yolks are still runny, about 5 to 6 minutes. (Do not stir the skillet once the eggs are in and pan is covered. Do rotate pan about halfway through to cook the eggs evenly.) Off heat, crumble the remaining cheese over all. Serve with warm flatbread or buttered toast and garnish with chives or scallions.

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# HOLLYWOOD

## IN THE HIGHLANDS

With pandemic restrictions being lifted, several production companies have begun filming in the area, including for (1) an untitled project directed by Justin Lin (*Fast and Furious*, *Star Trek Beyond*) for NBC Universal, in Philipstown; (2) *Life*

& *Beth*, starring Amy Schumer, Michael Cera and Michael Rapaport, for Hulu, in Putnam Valley; and (3) HBO's *The White House Plumbers*, starring Woody Harrelson and Justin Theroux, who each posed this month with Beacon police officers.

*Photos provided*



3



1



3



2



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## Start Reading

August book  
club selections

### Community Read (Grades 5+)

THURS 12, 4 P.M.

*Front Desk and Three Keys*, by Kelly Yang  
Butterfield Library, Cold Spring

### Fiction Book Club

THURS 19, 7 P.M.

*Deacon King Kong: A Novel*, by James McBride  
Split Rock Books, Cold Spring (via Zoom)  
Register at splitrockbks.com.

### Graphic Novel Book Club

TUES 24, 12:30 P.M.

*The Hard Tomorrow*, by Eleanor Davis  
Split Rock Books, Cold Spring (via Zoom)  
Register at splitrockbks.com.

### Community Read (Grades 8+)

THURS 26, 4 P.M.

*Almost American Girl*, by Robin Ha  
Butterfield Library, Cold Spring

### Butterfield Book Club

MON 30, 7 P.M.

*A Dog's Purpose*, by W. Bruce Cameron  
Butterfield Library, Cold Spring  
Email janedemic@butterfieldlibrary.org to register.

# Looking Back in Beacon

By Chip Rowe

*Editor's note: Beacon was created in 1913 from Matteawan and Fishkill Landing.*

## 150 Years Ago (July 1871)

After arriving on the steamer Mary Powell in Poughkeepsie for an excursion, the 47th Regiment Brooklyn met at the armory with the 21st Regiment, which included Company H of Fishkill Landing. When President Ulysses Grant happened to be changing trains at the Poughkeepsie station after a visit to Staatsburg, he was persuaded to detour to review the troops.

## 125 Years Ago (July 1896)

Tony Gavin broke the 72-hour record for bicycling from Buffalo to Manhattan by a comfortable 11 hours. The only accident he had on the trip was when he hit a rut at Dutchess Junction; he cut his knee and the back of his bicycle took 30 minutes to repair. Gavin, a police officer, was traveling to New York City for the police cycling championships to benefit the *New York Herald* Free Ice Fund, which distributed ice in the tenements during the summer.

Left alone in the kitchen, John Case, an inmate at the Matteawan asylum, disappeared, apparently through an open window. (He had been sent to the hospital after completing a 15-year sentence for killing a police officer in Syracuse and being judged insane.) Officials

searched both sides of the river, but Case had never left the building; he was found in an air shaft. The inmate, who was described as having blue eyes, a mustache and a scar that extended down the left side of his nose to his lip, said he had hidden to demonstrate his sanity so he could be released.

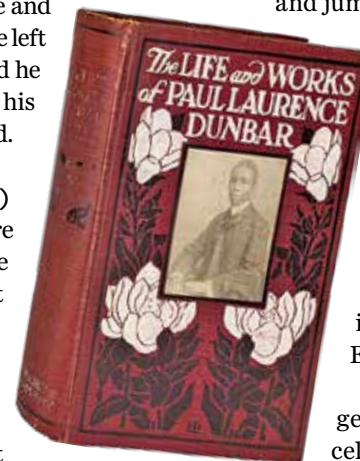
## 100 Years Ago (July 1921)

More than 50 entries were received for a motorcycle climb to the top of Mount Beacon on the Fourth of July. The race was organized by the Crotona Club of New York and the Beacon post of the American Legion. About 3,000 spectators were expected to watch the riders compete in five events for \$500 in prizes.

After the armatures of the Mount Beacon Incline burned out on July 4 after three trips, hundreds of hotel guests were forced to walk down in sweltering weather.

Samuel Taub reported that someone stole his Boston bulldog, Beautie, from his car at 9:30 p.m. while it was parked in front of the Boston Candy Kitchen.

The body of a week-old infant with its throat slashed was found in the Hudson River at the Beacon dock by a ferryboat employee.



▲ A Beacon resident who died in 1946 wrote this biography.

A Poughkeepsie woman who suffered a head injury after being thrown from her vehicle during a crash in Fishkill was taken by Dr. Howell White of Beacon to his home for treatment.

A former Beacon resident who panicked and jumped from the window of his

Poughkeepsie apartment when he saw flames on the roof of the building next door died of his injuries at St. Vincent's Hospital. The man landed in a bar after crashing through its skylight.

Highland Hospital had its first baptism, of George Ebstein.

Clark Duryea, 35, an evangelical minister from Monticello who was holding nightly revivals at Groverville Park, was the talk of the state because his 27-year-old wife had eloped with a married man and taken their

two children with her. She was said not to sympathize with Duryea's religious views.

A Glenham man serving time for burglary escaped from the city jail between 8 and 11 p.m. on a Friday night by loosening enough bricks in the wall of his cell over several days to create a hole he could squeeze through. Officials said the prisoner apparently put each back in place to disguise his progress. He was captured the next day while taking a nap at his home and sent to the county jail.

A state judge reversed a decision by the Workmen's Compensation Committee to award \$1,300 to an employee at the Matteawan Manufacturing Co. The man claimed that the twine on the bundles of hats he processed had caused blisters that led to blood poisoning and the amputation of two fingers.

The bookkeeper at the Fishkill National Bank in Beacon for more than 30 years was indicted on federal charges of embezzling \$13,000 after a state audit uncovered irregularities. Authorities said the suspect did not live extravagantly or invest in the stock market but that his only daughter had recently married.

## 75 Years Ago (July 1946)

Lida Keck Wiggins, who had moved to

(Continued on Page 21)

## NOTICE

### The Philipstown Zoning Board

will not meet in the month of August 2021.

The next meeting will be held on Monday, September 13th, 2021 at 7:30 p.m. at the Philipstown Town Hall, 238 Main St., Cold Spring, NY 10516

## NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that a Public Hearing will be held by the Town Board of the Town of Philipstown on August 5, 2021 at 7:30 p.m. at the Philipstown Town Hall, 238 Main Street, Cold Spring, New York 10516. The purpose of the Public Hearing is to hear comments for/against the proposed Comprehensive Plan Update.

A complete copy of the Draft Plan is available for inspection in the office of the Town Clerk and on the Town's Website, Philipstown.com.

Dated: July 28, 2021  
BY ORDER OF THE TOWN BOARD  
Tara K. Percacciolo, Town Clerk

## NOTICE

### The Philipstown Planning Board

will not meet in the month of August 2021.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, September 16th, 2021 at 7:30 p.m. at the Philipstown Town Hall, 238 Main St., Cold Spring, NY 10516

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## Looking Back *(from Page 20)*

Beacon 20 years earlier and had been the social correspondent for *The Beacon News* and *Beacon Light*, died in a nursing home. In 1931 Wiggins won a contest in Ohio for lyrics for an official state song (although it was never adopted), and in 1939 her poem, "Hudson's Stream," won second prize in a Hudson Valley poetry contest held in connection with the World's Fair. Her books included a 1907 biography of the Black poet Paul Laurence Dunbar and *Mysteries of Life*, an account of numerology, fortunetelling, astrology and psychoanalysis.

A judge dismissed a reckless driving charge against a man who had been jailed since May following a crash that killed an 11-year-old boy.

An 18-year-old woman was arrested for disorderly conduct after she allegedly threw a milk bottle into the street in Bank Square and refused a police officer's order to pick up the broken glass. Instead, she began to shout and carry on, he said, drawing a crowd.

The Beacon Assemblies of God held its first services in the former building of the Union Sunday school.

Lt. Col. W. George Devens, a Beacon native and member of the War Department general staff, died unexpectedly in Washington, D.C. He had played football for the Naval Academy, including in the 1924 Rose Bowl, but later transferred to the Army.

A measles outbreak threatened Beacon, Red Hook and Hyde Park.

In a game in Poughkeepsie, the Beacon Texacos were leading Trabasso's Tavern, 14-2, when the home team rallied in its final at-bat to score 10 runs before Beacon finally ended the game with a strikeout.

A burglar stole \$80 from Durkin's meat market on East Main Street.

A road was cut at Memorial Park to a picnic area with six rustic tables. Four horseshoe pitching boxes were also installed and a stump was removed from the softball diamond.

The city averted a health crisis when milkmen ended a strike for better pay.



In 1971, Ted Daley of Beacon challenged the incumbent for the national leadership of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters.

### 50 Years Ago (July 1971)

Beacon received only \$3.2 million of its \$5.3 million request for federal urban renewal funds, delaying improvements near the post office between Fishkill Avenue and North Chestnut Street.

Executives at R.H. Macy Co., which was planning a shopping center near Beacon, were said to be disappointed by the lack of progress on reconstructing Route 9.

Alfred Kurt von Wolfersdorf, 88, who had been an inmate at the Matteawan State Hospital for 20 years, was denied an appeal of his commitment. He had been imprisoned in 1951 after being judged mentally unfit for trial in the killing of a 14-year-old

boy. His co-defendant was executed.

Ted Daley, 42, a Beacon resident who was the leader of the Teamsters local in Yonkers, vowed to win the national presidency against Frank Fitzsimmons, who had been in the role since Jimmy Hoffa was imprisoned four years earlier for mail fraud and jury tampering. Two days later, Daley conceded halfway through a roll call in which he had only received two votes. [In 1977, Daley was convicted of extortion related to truckloads of crushed stone for the driveway of his home in Windham. He died in January at age 91.]

The City of Beacon and the Urban Renewal Agency approved the redevelopment

ment of a burned-out property at 328 Main St. to be occupied by Mid-Town Market.

The city hired the Poughkeepsie Wrecking Co. to demolish a burned-out building at South and Rombout avenues, a house formerly used by the Beacon Day Nursery and the Wolcott Esso station. The work was expected to clear space for a park on South Avenue and a shopping center at Wolcott and South.

The president of the Dutchess County Taxpayers Association said it planned to sue the city to stop a planned 192-unit housing project on Tompkins Avenue. "We don't want to make Beacon a welfare city," he said.

A proposed Southern Dutchess Sewer District died when the Town of Fishkill said it would not participate. The Village of Fishkill, the Town of East Fishkill and Beacon had agreed to share Beacon's secondary treatment plant.

### 25 Years Ago (July 1996)

The city's schools and administrative building were receiving a \$12.5 million overhaul that officials said would be 60 percent complete by the start of the school year. Kitchens were being renovated and new floors installed in the Rombout Middle School gym and cafeteria. The expenses included \$1.5 million for a bus garage and \$2 million to link computers in classrooms.

A downtown tour led by members of the Beacon Economic Development Action Task Force designed to spark interest in revitalizing the city attracted about 20 real-estate agents and a few bankers.

A police sergeant sued the mayor, city administrator, police chief and two detectives in federal court, claiming they were trying to force him out of his job because his wife had filed a sexual harassment suit against the city. Beacon officials responded that they filed a misconduct charge against the officer after learning he had secretly taped conversations with a maintenance worker while on duty to help his wife with her lawsuit.

The Hudson Valley Hospital Center, which had offices in Beacon and Cold Spring, became the first regional hospital to mount a page on the World Wide Web.

## Current Classifieds

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## Facial Software *(from Page 1)*

culled from the “public internet, including news media, mugshot websites, public social media and many other open websites.” Agencies should “expect to receive high-quality leads with fewer resources expended.”

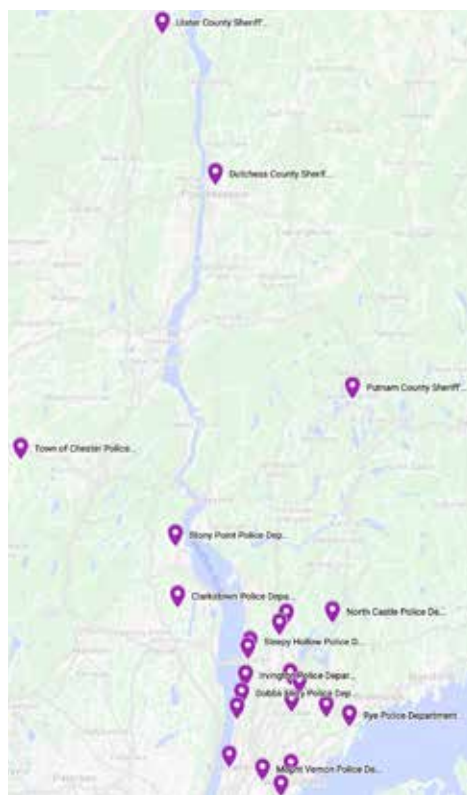
Facial-matching technology applied to social media accounts — not all of it developed by Clearview — has helped identify suspects in the Jan. 6 Capitol riot, although those charged so far from the Hudson Valley have been identified the old-fashioned way, by tips to the FBI from co-workers and former classmates and friends.

In a series of investigative reports based on internal Clearview documents provided by an anonymous source and public records, *BuzzFeed News* detailed earlier this year how the firm aggressively marketed its product to police beginning in 2018. The news outlet created a database of law enforcement agencies that have subscribed to or tested Clearview and noted that, as of February 2020, the company began to require a supervisor’s approval before allowing individual officers to create trial accounts.

According to the database, the Dutchess County Sheriff’s Office used Clearview between 101 and 500 times before February 2020, while the Putnam County Sheriff’s Office used it between 501 and 1,000 times. Neither the Beacon nor Cold Spring police show up as having used the software.

In Dutchess, Michael Cominsky, a High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas analyst, began a 30-day trial of the Clearview software in July 2019, according to emails obtained by *The Current* through a Freedom of Information Law request.

When the officer asked what to expect when running a search on a facial image, a sales representative responded that “you are free to run yourself, friends, co-workers, George Clooney, Donald Trump, Abraham Lincoln, or any other face you have as



**Based on data obtained by BuzzFeed, there are at least 61 law enforcement agencies in New York that have used Clearview technology, including 23 in the Hudson Valley.** NYCLU

many times as you want! You can test what happens if you wear glasses, make faces, or whatever, as well. In fact, I recommend it so that you get a feel for what the software can do and cannot do.

“I can tell you another officer tried it on Mickey Mouse and it did not work, however,” the sales rep wrote.

Another email said the company usually charges \$2,500 annually for an individual account, but because “we understand you guys are a smaller department,” a representative said Dutchess could pay \$2,000 per year for two accounts.

According to the emails, Clearview extended Cominsky’s trial several times

— sometimes at his request, but also after the officer indicated there was not money in the budget for a subscription. In May 2020, Clearview activated a trial for Cominsky’s supervisor, Lt. Stephen Reverri, while extending his.

A spokesperson for the Sheriff’s Department, Lt. Shawn Castano, said on Wednesday (July 28) that the county has not used Clearview since Cominsky’s trial ended. No arrests were made because of the searches, and the agency does not plan to budget funds for a subscription. “We haven’t used it, and we don’t intend to use it,” Castano said.

In Putnam County, spokesperson Capt. Lisa Ortolano confirmed in an email this week that the Sheriff’s Office has used the service, and “according to the crime analyst who works in Putnam County, it has been very helpful.” Ortolano could not immediately confirm whether the agency made any arrests using the technology, or if Putnam had paid for the service.

The effectiveness, and ethics, of facial-recognition technology have been the subject of great debate.

Dutchess Legislator Nick Page, who represents three wards in Beacon, said this week that Clearview marketing its software “under the radar” could present problems, especially when the company allowed individual officers to test the product without a supervisor’s approval.

“The most important thing is that there’s public awareness of what’s being used and why,” Page said.

Det. Sgt. Jason Johnson, a spokesperson for the Beacon Police Department, said he sees facial-recognition software as “another useful tool for my toolbox. I certainly would not make an arrest based off facial-recognition results, but it may put you one step closer to solving a crime or give you a lead where you have none.”

Several other vendors also market facial-recognition software to law enforcement,

but Clearview has risen to prominence because of its “scraping” billions of photos from social media and securing large contracts, including with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

The company’s technology “allows anyone who operates it to track where we go and who we associate with,” said Daniel Schwarz, a privacy and technology strategist with the New York Civil Liberties Union.

According to the *BuzzFeed* data, there are at least 61 law enforcement agencies in New York state that have used the Clearview platform, including 23 in the Hudson Valley [see map]. The New York City Police Department had registered 11,000 searches, the most of any agency, as of early 2020.

That’s problematic because numerous studies have shown facial-recognition software to have a much higher rate of error than what Clearview publicizes, especially among people of color, Schwarz said. In 2019, the National Institute of Standards and Technology, an agency of the U.S. Department of Commerce, concluded that Asian and African American people are as much as 100 times more likely than white men to be misidentified by the technology.

Native Americans and African American women are particularly vulnerable to misidentification, the study found.

The NYCLU is supporting a bill introduced in the state Legislature this year that would prohibit the use of biometric surveillance, including facial recognition, by police and create a task force to study the effects of the technology on minority populations.

Many agencies are evaluating the effectiveness of facial-recognition programs, said Castano, the Dutchess County lieutenant. “But right now, with so much video being out there, we still have pretty good success with posting a photo of someone on social media and having the public provide identification,” he said. “We’re continuing to utilize that.”

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Puzzles

CROSS CURRENT

**ACROSS**

1. Mattress option

5. NASCAR advertiser

8. Wild guess

12. Supervisor

14. "Yes — ?"

15. Accidentally

16. Late July babies

17. Since Jan. 1

18. 12-year-olds, e.g.

20. Bjorn Borg, for one

23. Salon request

24. Actress Elisabeth

25. Act of contrition

28. Knight's address

29. Persnickety

30. Fez, e.g.

32. Woo

34. City district

35. BMW rival

36. Follows

37. Mississippi city

40. Venus, to Serena

41. Mine, in Montreal

42. Astaire specialty

47. Scepters

48. Valuable volume

49. Make a sweater

50. "Rah!"

51. Not busy

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

2. Wall climber

3. Fun and games

4. Dr. Jekyll's alter ego

5. Fax

6. Sleuth

7. Sham

8. Grave

9. Genealogy chart

10. Soon, poetically

11. Employer

13. Fill fully

19. Fay of *King Kong*

20. Snake's warning

21. Spinning sound

22. Modern money

23. Joe of *GoodFellas*

25. Talking heads' opinions

26. Spiced tea

27. British noble

29. Ersatz

31. Pro Bowl stats

33. Zedong follower

34. Sushi condiment

36. Ocean motion

37. Fir coat

38. "— a roll!"

39. California city

40. Agile

43. Motorist's org.

44. Silent assent

45. Army rank (Abbr.)

46. Scrape (out)

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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 voice an opinion against (6)

2 false (10)

3 with fairness (6)

4 also (4)

5 smartened up, physically (7)

6 Eurasian primrose (5)

7 calling (7)

**SOLUTIONS**

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SUDO CURRENT

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

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Answers for July 16 Puzzles

F	L	O	W		H	O	H	O		J	E	T
L	O	V	E		O	D	O	R		A	T	A
A	B	U	T		L	E	T	S		V	A	C
W	O	M	B		M	A	A			C	A	T
					L	I	E			I	S	R
C	A	S	A	L	S					R	E	A
O	M	A	N	I						A	Z	U
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										H	O	W
					E	D	U			E	S	Q
T	E	X	T		B	E	G			U	H	O
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R	I	O			B	E	L	A		L	U	T
S	E	X			A	D	E	N		T	R	O

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

1. TUNA, 2. ANTHOLOGY, 3. MUSTACHES, 4. PEQUOD, 5. PECCADILLO, 6. POUNDAGE, 7. PILLORIED

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

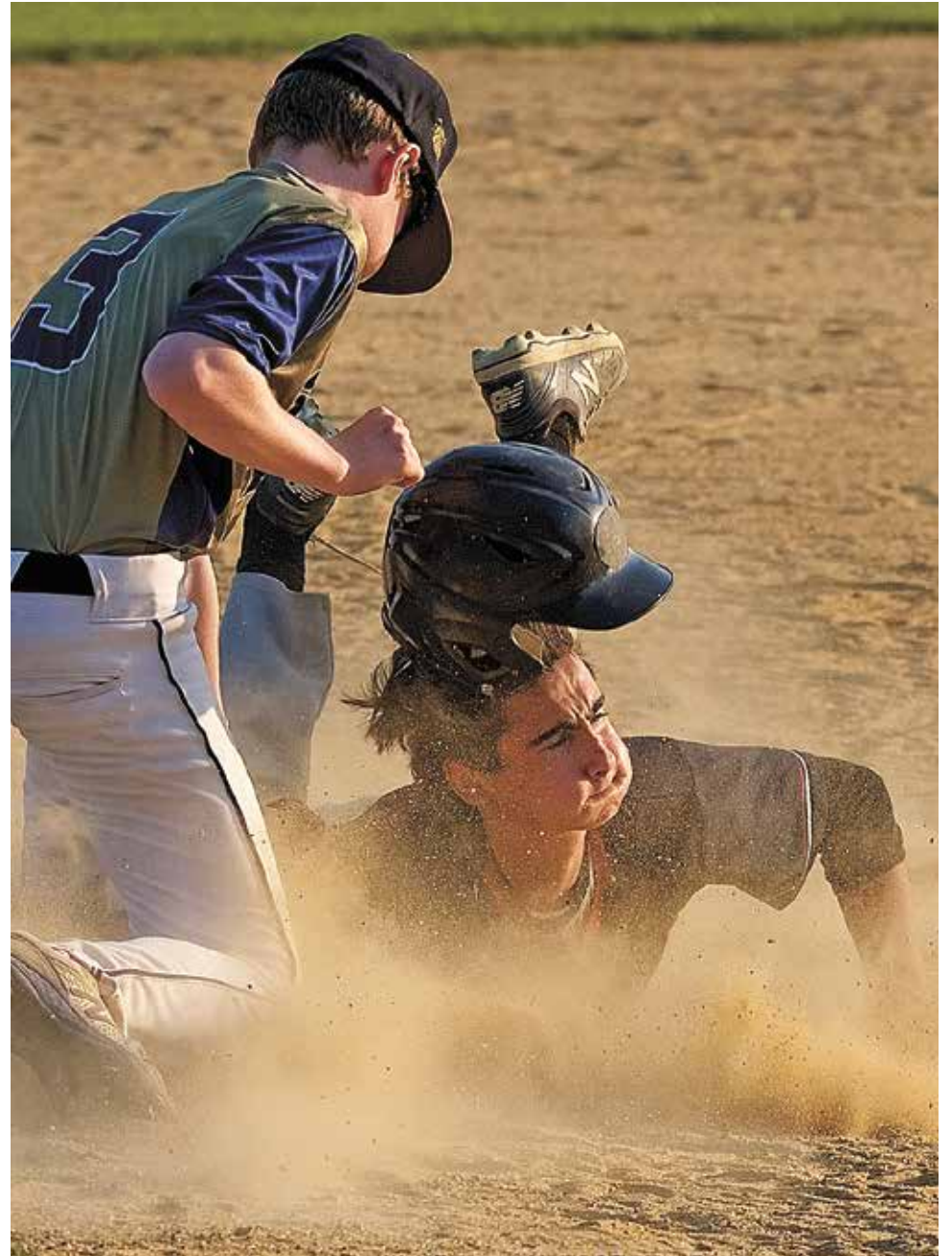




Jake Deluise delivers a pitch during the Beacon 11U team's final game of the summer season last week at Memorial Park.



Nolan Varricchio (27) looks to turn a double play for the Beacon 11U team during a game last week.



Ryan Smith (3) of the Beacon 14U team tags a sliding runner out at third in Wednesday's Bulldogs win.

*Photos by S. Pearlman*

## Playoffs: 14U Beacon Baseball Advances, 11U Falls

By Skip Pearlman

The Beacon traveling baseball team for players ages 14 and under had its hitting shoes on Wednesday (July 28) in the opening round of the Greater Hudson Valley Baseball League playoffs. Given the No. 2 seed, the Bulldogs rolled past No. 15 Mount Pleasant, 13-3, in a five-inning, mercy-rule shortened game at Memorial Park.

The 14U Bulldogs (13-5-1; 10-2 league) are scheduled to host No. 7 Poughkeepsie NorthStar (6-6) at noon on Saturday (July 31) at Memorial Park, with the winner advancing to games next weekend in Danbury, Connecticut.

In the July 28 win, Nick Albra drove in the run that ended the game in the bottom of the fifth. Derek Heaton led the hit parade for Beacon, going 4-for-4 with three RBI,

including a double and triple. Jackson Atwell, Mercer Jordan, Austin Jurgensen and Jack Antalek each drove in a run. Ronnie Anzovino was 3-for-3.

Mikey Fontaine started on the mound and went two innings, while Anthony Borromeo pitched two innings in relief and Heaton finished the game. "We did a nice job throwing strikes," said Coach Bob Atwell.

The Bulldogs feasted on the Colonial's pitching. "Mikey gets on base at the top of the lineup," Atwell said, "and Liam [Murphy] does the same in the two hole — he was on base three times. Then Heaton goes 4-for-4. He's been on fire."

Last weekend, Beacon finished fifth among 12 teams at a tournament in Aberdeen, Maryland. The Bulldogs split four games, losing to West Chester, Pennsylvania, 3-2; losing to a team from Delaware, 15-0;

and defeating teams from Potomac, Maryland, 10-0, and Staten Island, 5-4, on an Austin Jorgensen double in the 10th inning.

It's been a season of learning the game for the Beacon team of players ages 11 and under, which at Memorial Park on July 23 closed out its summer with a 10-1 loss to a squad sponsored by the Hudson Valley Renegades.

Connor Varricchio, Hudson Barton and Jake DeLuise took the mound for the 11U Bulldogs, but Hudson Valley ended the game on the mercy rule in four innings.

"We hung with them for a while, but they are a very good hitting team," said Coach Jed Varricchio. "It's good for us to play them, and see where we stand, see things we need to work on."

The team finished 3-6 (nine of its games were canceled) and did not qualify for the playoffs. Varricchio said its best game of the

season was an 11-9 victory over the Cadets Baseball Academy from Fishkill on June 14. "After a tough first inning, we battled all the way back," he said.

On the mound for the Bulldogs this summer were Connor Varricchio, Julian Rivers, Aiden Heaton, Hudson Fontaine, Nolan Varricchio, Jake Deluise and Hudson Barton. "I was happy with how they matured, and I think some of them will be pitching for Bob Atwell [the Beacon High School varsity coach] in a few years."

This was Varricchio's fourth summer coaching this group, which has a core of seven players. "It's been so great to see them make progress," he said. "We've had some ups and downs, but I couldn't be prouder. They always stay positive."

The team will play once more, in a Labor Day tournament at Poughkeepsie.