The Vaccine, Reconsidered

By Leonard Sparks

New York began July averaging fewer than 17,000 first-time vaccinations a day, but in the past month, times have changed.

For the week ending Tuesday (Aug. 10), the rate of new vaccinations was 68 percent higher in the Mid-Hudson Region, which includes Dutchess and Putnam, and 74 percent higher statewide than the first seven days of July.

The biggest driver of new infections appears to be the delta variant of the virus that causes COVID-19, which health officials say is twice as contagious as the strain that launched the pandemic.

Another boost to vaccination rates may be coming: the federal Food and Drug Administration is expected in the coming weeks to give final approval to a vaccine made by Pfizer, which has been distributed under “emergency authorization” for anyone age 12 and older.

Another vaccine made by Moderna and Johnson & Johnson also are being distributed to adults under emergency authorization. Full approval is granted following the completion of successful, late-stage clinical trials.

Vaccines made by Moderna and Johnson & Johnson also are being distributed to adults under emergency authorization. Full approval is granted following the completion of successful, late-stage clinical trials.

Dr. Anthony Fauci, director of National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, said on Tuesday (Aug. 10) that “there’s no doubt” that all three vaccines will eventually be approved and that more employers will be “empowered” to mandate the shots.

“This is very serious business; you would expect some parents will be upset about beginning a second straight school year with masks,” said on Wednesday (Aug. 11) that he expects some parents will be upset about

Beacon, Garrison Schools Will Require Masks

Haldane says it will release plan next week

By Jeff Simms

The Beacon City School District announced this week that it would require “universal masking” of students and staff when classes begin Sept. 8, regardless of vaccination status.

At the same time, the district will not offer virtual instruction as it did last year during the height of the pandemic, except for children with medical issues that prevent them from attending in-person school.

Under federal guidelines, only students ages 12 and older can receive the vaccine made by Pfizer, leaving elementary school students vulnerable. Those made by Moderna and Johnson & Johnson have emergency authorization only for adults.

Beacon Superintendent Matt Landahl said on Wednesday (Aug. 11) that he expects some parents will be upset about beginning a second straight school year with masks.

“On some level I get it,” he said. “If the data were different, we’d be preparing a different plan. But the data is high and a lot of our kids aren’t able to be vaccinated.”

However, he left the door open for modifying the plan if, as expected, vaccines are approved for children under 12.

“I don’t want to give false hope, but in my mind that’s after our younger kids have a chance to get vaccinated,” he said. “That could change the landscape.”

The Haldane district, which begins classes on Sept. 2, said it will release its safety plan next week, including whether it will offer virtual classes.

The Garrison district, where school begins Sept. 9, said it would follow the guidance of the Federal Centers for

POOF! A Village Could Disappear

Referendum will decide fate of Highland Falls

By Michael Turton

Can a village established 115 years ago simply cease to exist?

That might be the fate of Highland Falls, a municipality of 3,800 people on the west bank of the Hudson River about a mile southwest of Garrison.

On Monday (Aug. 9), the Village of Highland Falls Board of Trustees set Nov. 8 as the date for a referendum in which residents will say “yes” or “no” to one question: Should their village be dissolved?

Dissolution became a possibility on July 9, when officials certified a petition with the signatures of at least 10 percent of the eligible voters. Under state law, the Village Board was legally obligated to organize a vote that might lead to its own demise.

If dissolution prevails, the streets, businesses, restaurants and parks would

(Continued on Page 8)
FIVE QUESTIONS: MARK TRECKA

By Arvind Dilawar

Mark Trecka co-founded the Prison Books Project (prisonbooksproject.org).

How does the project work?

People who are incarcerated in local prisons request books or recommendations. We acquire the books, seek individual sponsors, get them paid for and pack and ship them with a handwritten note.

What attracts you to the project?

Prison abolition and prisoner-support projects have been matters of concern for me for a long time, but for a good portion of my adult life, I was itinerant, which made this kind of work hard to fathom. Living in Beacon, as I have for the past six years, I became involved in the Beacon Prison Rides Project, volunteers who provide free rides to people visiting loved ones incarcerated in local prisons. Laurie Dick, the founder and lead organizer of that project, is the one who had the idea for the books project.

What effect did COVID-19 have?

We've heard a lot of harrowing stories about incarcerated people weathering the storm of the virus. One person who was enrolled in the Bard Prison Initiative at Green Haven Correctional Facility [in Stormville] contracted COVID-19 and was moved to Shawangunk Correctional Facility [in Orange County], where he was placed in solitary confinement and denied access to his possessions, including his textbooks. We were able to provide him with some books in time for him to finish his midterm exams. More generally, we noticed a spike in book requests when prison visitations were suspended.

Have you seen more requests generally?

Growth is the word. We've fielded requests for more than 500 books in 18 months. In March 2020, we fielded 10 requests; in March 2021, it was 78. There are just a couple of us, and we find the time between raising families and working jobs and running Binnacle Books in Beacon, and so on. The need is clearly there, and we want to get a good, solid footing and let it grow as big as it needs. We've decided to make the project a nonprofit organization. We are working on seeking collaborators, exploring ways to reach more incarcerated people and shore up our resources.

How can people get involved?

There are always books to be sponsored. We field requests for all kinds of books, from supernatural romance novels and mysteries to political theory and philosophy. To sponsor a book, folks can swing by Binnacle [at 321 Main St.] and select a book off the requests shelf, write a postcard to tuck inside and pay for it. We take care of filling out the request and mailing it to the prisoner. To sponsor a book, they can come by and write a postcard—or 10! We also always need funds for postage and packaging.

By Arvind Dilawar

By Michael Turton

What's something you sent to the principal's office?

I got yelled at for stepping out of line on the way to art class.

I stole a cough drop and had to stay after school.

My friend and I said “horny” when talking about Pokemon Rhyhorn; we got sent to the principal’s office!
The Highlands Current is initiating its Student Journalists Program to provide an opportunity for students who attend high school in Philipstown and Beacon to be mentored by professional journalists while they serve as correspondents for our nonprofit newspaper and website.

The reporting of correspondents selected for the program will appear at highlandscurrent.org and select stories will be printed. The staff, when editing stories by our student correspondents, will provide detailed feedback and suggestions to improve and refine their reporting.

Students will be expected to submit photos and video (when applicable) as part of their assignments. Due to the generous support of our Highlands Current members, correspondents will be compensated for the stories and photos that we publish online and/or in print. If you are interested in becoming a student correspondent, you can review the requirements and apply at highlandscurrent.org/student-journalists-program

Chip Rowe, Editor
The Highlands Current
Climate Smart

Reading “Putnam Backs Complete Streets Concept” (July 30) and “Putnam Adopts Climate Smart Proposal” (Aug. 6), one could get the impression that the Putnam County Legislature is taking the climate crisis and the need for better transportation alternatives seriously. Unfortunately, exactly the opposite is the case.

Since it joined the statewide Climate Smart initiative in 2018, the Legislature has accomplished little, while rejecting calls for public participation, transparency and accountability. The county’s fleet of vehicles remains powered by fossil fuels, its roads remain unsafe and inhospitable to bikes and pedestrians, public transportation is practically nonexistent, and no serious attempt has been made to engage with local communities.

More recently, it ignored the proposal by Legislator Nancy Montgomery, who represents Philipstown, to create a comprehensive plan that follows state protocols and would potentially qualify the county for state funds, opting instead for a vague and toothless proposal that fails to meet the urgency of the moment. This is how you kill an initiative, not how you “back” it. And now we learn that Transportation Director Vinny Tamagna, whose list of qualifications and accomplishments in this area is equally thin, will be granted the additional responsibility (and, presumably, salary) of coordinating the county’s Climate Smart program — all while running for mayor of Cold Spring.

A great way to sabotage a public initiative, while simultaneously undermining people’s faith in government, is to put someone in charge who is neither qualified nor committed to its mission. It appears the Legislature has done precisely that.

Jeff Mikkelson, Cold Spring

I have lived in Cold Spring since I was 2, attended Haldane, graduated from a Hudson Valley college with a degree in environmental studies and worked for Philipstown as its Climate Smart Communities coordinator for three years beginning in 2018. Because of this, I feel obligated to share the following: Although Putnam County adopted the Climate Smart Communities pledge and named Lauri Taylor as the coordinator in 2018, she was given little support or direction from the Legislature and already had too much work on her desk to dedicate energy to the new position.

Due to this situation, during my three years as coordinator, I was never contacted by Lauri to ask how the county could support Philipstown or other towns; I connected with Lauri by calling her. This is in contrast to other counties, such as Ulster, that have robust Climate Smart programs. I saw nothing that suggested our county leaders are “ahead of the curve,” as the Legislature states in its resolution. That claim insults the hard work that villages, cities, towns and other counties have put into their climate change and sustainability programs.

I don’t know Vinny Tamagna, so I can’t speak to his character or qualifications to be the Climate Smart coordinator for Putnam, but as county transportation director he has not shown anything on this side of the Taconic Parkway that suggests a passion for sustainability or community-informed governance. An example is the poorly managed, county-run Cold Spring trolley — no designated stops, no route map, no modern payment system, no community-informed decisions and no sustainable fueling.

Roberto Muller, Cold Spring

This is another empty resolution passed by the Legislature, ignoring and dismissing the one I proposed that would have moved us closer to Climate Smart certification and added us to the list of counties who have actual Complete Streets policies, including Dutchess, Orange, Rockland, Ulster and Westchester.

Instead, Vinny Tamagna, County Executive MaryEllen Odell and the Legislature put forward another smoke-and-mirrors resolution that has no policy directive and no bearing on state-sponsored programs or the $11 million in grant funding.

Nancy Montgomery, via Facebook

Montgomery represents Philipstown and part of Putnam Valley on the Legislature.

Beacon bumbs

I hope they somehow mark the crosswalk bump-outs for snow plows (“Beacon Bumps Out,” Aug. 6). Other than that, they look great.

Tim Mummert, via Facebook

Are the parklets going to return? Or did the Beaconites whining about their precious parking spaces get their way?

Brandon Smith, Beacon

Florida visitors

Are you ready for 10 new flights per week from Florida, the super-spreader capital of the U.S., full of possible anti-vaxxers landing at Stewart International Airport and spreading out into the Hudson Valley (“Frontier Will Fly to Florida from Stewart,” July 30)?

Media announcements of this impending (Continued on Page 5)
Corrections

In a story in the July 30 issue, we reported that the Beacon school board passed resolutions in support of proposals “championed by the New York State School Boards Association.” To clarify: The resolutions expressed support for NYSSBA to advocate allowing school board members to receive stipends and starting school days no earlier than 8 a.m. The association has not put forth either proposal.

In a story in the July 30 issue about Kirsti Lattu, who works in international development, we said that she had served in the Peace Corps in Zaire. In fact, she trained in Zaire but served in Rwanda and then remained in that country as a public health volunteer. It also stated she met her spouse in high school; they met in college.

In a story in the Aug. 6 issue, we reported that Dutchess County had sent a cease-and-desist letter to GoFundMe regarding a campaign launched by former members of the Dutchess County Independent Reapportionment Commission to raise money to challenge the dissolving of the panel. To clarify: the letter was addressed to Whitney Lundy, a former commissioner, who was listed on the GoFundMe page as the campaign organizer, and copied to GoFundMe, the county executive, the legislative chair, the legislative clerk, the state comptroller, the state attorney general, the Federal Trade Commission and six other former members of the reapportionment commission.

In an article in the Aug. 6 issue, we reported that Beacon parking board member Terry Hockler, via Facebook.

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Cold Spring Police Consider Body Cameras

Officer-in-charge suggests four shared devices
By Michael Turton

The officer-in-charge of the Cold Spring Police Department said on Tuesday (Aug. 10) he is researching the price and feasibility of having officers wear body cameras.

Larry Burke told the Village Board that while he would like to equip each of his officers, who work part-time, they could share four devices.

Deputy Mayor Marie Early, who was chairing the meeting in the absence of Mayor Dave Merandy, questioned whether the cameras would be worth the investment. A number of pricing options were discussed; each camera could cost in the range of $4,200 to $4,700, with data retention and warranties adding up to $5,200 to the annual expense.

Burke said the cameras would help provide transparency, contribute to officer safety and be useful to settle disputes over officers’ behavior.

Trustee Kathleen Foley pointed out that in a community survey conducted this spring as part of a review mandated across the state of law enforcement operations, 49 percent of residents said body cameras were the priority among the items they would like to see purchased for the department.

Burke said he would explore ways to reduce costs, including grants or making the purchase in partnership with the Putnam County Sheriff’s Department.

Burke also addressed complaints posted on Facebook alleging that officers had been “selective” about whom they ticketed at the Putnam County Wine & Food Fest held at Mayor’s Park on Aug. 7 and 8.

“We do not selectively issue summonses,” he said, adding that some of the complaints dealt with offenses that occurred outside the village and the department’s jurisdiction. Burke also took exception to claims that parking enforcement agent Nico Dellavalle, who has worked with the Police Department for several summers, patrols only Main Street.

“He has been all over the village writing summonses,” Burke said. “He is a great young man, does good work and takes a lot of heat for somebody who is not an active law enforcement officer.”

In his monthly report to the board, Burke said officers had responded to 66 calls for service in July and issued 55 parking and 13 traffic tickets. They made no arrests.

In other business...
- The board decided not to increase the fees for permits created by the recent passage of regulations to host short-term rentals. The application fee is $50, the permit fee is $250 and the annual fee for a permit for two rentals of up to seven days each is $100.
- A public hearing will be held at 6:30 p.m. on Sept. 7 at Village Hall to hear comments on updated village code chapters dealing with zoning, noise, signs and placards, and subdivision of land, and a new chapter on unsafe buildings.
- In her monthly report, Ruthanne Cullinan Barr, who chairs the Recreation Commission, said its members want to focus on increasing the recreational use of Mayor’s Park. Trevor Knight, a commission member, is developing a survey to assess interest in adult recreation programs, and the panel is working on improvements to the softball field and basketball court, a project she said would be costly. She also said the commission would soon report on events, such as the Wine & Food Fest, which is overseen by the commission. “We need to revisit if we want to have ticketed events” in parks, she said.
- The Cold Spring Fire Co. responded to 15 alarms in July, including five activated fire alarms, two vehicle crashes, two elevator calls and an incident at Breakneck Ridge.
- The Highway Department in July processed 53.2 tons of garbage and 24.4 tons of recyclables.
Beacon Development

Updates on construction plans in city

By Jeff Simms

Here is an update on some of the developments we highlighted in October, as well as two projects introduced since that are under review by the Planning Board.

River Ridge
Planning Board approval: 2018
Number of units: 18 townhouses
Status: The homes, on Route 9D south of the former Reformed Church, have been completed. A 2,917-square-foot unit with three bedrooms and 3.5 baths is listed for $750,000.

23-28 Creek Drive
Planning Board approval: 2020
Number of units: 8, plus 20,000 square feet of commercial space
Status: Construction is ongoing on the U.S. headquarters of Docuware, a German document management firm.

248 Tioronda Ave.
Planning Board approval: 2020
Number of units: 64, plus 25,400 square feet of commercial space
Status: The developer appeared before the Planning Board this week to discuss amendments to the approved site plan related to the route of the Fishkill Creek Greenway and Heritage Trail. If the Metropolitan Transportation Authority grants the development an easement, the trail will run underneath Wolcott Avenue and connect to 23-28 Creek Drive. If the MTA won’t grant the easement, a ramp will be built to Wolcott for a pedestrian crossing. This project is also on the Aug. 17 Zoning Board of Appeals agenda to discuss constructing residential buildings before the commercial space. The developer has submitted letters from potential funders saying that office space is considered a higher risk for financing due to the growing trend of remote working.

364 Main St.
Number of units: 20, plus 7,500 square feet of commercial space
Status: The developer has reduced this project from four stories to three, which means it no longer requires a special-use permit from the city. During its meeting this week, the Planning Board discussed whether parking for the project should be split or located in one lot. Board members also called the scale of the proposed building versus its green space “overwhelming,” and debated whether the developer should eliminate Main Street access for safety and aesthetic reasons.

1113 Wolcott Ave.
Number of units: N/A
Status: Investors agreed to purchase the 161-year-old Reformed Church of Beacon earlier this year and plan to convert the site into a 500-person event space and bar. The Planning Board raised concerns in July with parking, which the developers conceded is not adequate, as well as operating an event space between two residential developments. The board also discussed retaining the parsonage, which the developer plans to replace with a 30-room hotel.

416-420 Main St.
Planning Board approval: 2021
Number of units: Retail on the ground floor, office space on the second and third floors, and a single apartment on a recessed fourth floor
Status: The Planning Board reviewed plans for a live/work building in the rear of the parcel this week, raising issues with the design, which features all-glass walls.

The Fridge Show
Curated by The Rule of Three

AUGUST 14–SEPTEMBER 12, 2021
OPENING RECEPTION AUGUST 14th, 5–7PM

A GROUP SHOW FEATURING THE ARTWORK OF Melissa Capasso, Abby Cheney, Yen Yen Chou, Rina AC Dweck, Ana Maria Farina, Marianna Peragallo, Hanna Washburn & Charlotte Woolf

GALLERY HOURS: Tuesday through Sunday, 10am–5pm
Vaccines (from Page 1)

wish that people would see why it’s so important to get vaccinated,” he said. Some people have gotten the message. Between Aug. 4 and 10, an average of 29,271 people statewide received a vaccination shot each day, compared to an average of 16,810 during the first seven days of July, an increase of nearly 75 percent, according to state data. In the Mid-Hudson, the average rose to 2,777 from 1,651, an increase of 68 percent.

As of Wednesday, 61.3 percent of all Dutchess residents and 71.2 percent of adults had received at least one dose. In Putnam County, the totals were 66 percent and 77.4 percent.

Heidi Snyder, the co-owner of Drug World in Cold Spring, which has been administering Pfizer and Moderna vaccines, said on Monday that she has seen a recent uptick in vaccinations and testing. She sometimes asks customers why they are now getting vaccinated, months after the shots became widely available.

“They’ll say, ‘I waited long enough,’ or ‘I couldn’t take the pressure anymore,’ or ‘I got scared with the delta variant,’” she said. “Usually, it’s pressure from family.”

Hospitals and private employers are telling their employees to get the shots; in May, the federal Equal Employment Opportunity Commission ruled that employers can legally require vaccinations, with allowances for medical and religious reasons.

NewYork-Presbyterian, whose system includes Hudson Valley Hospital in Cortlandt Manor and a medical office in Cold Spring, notified its staff on June 11 that they will have to receive their initial shot by Sept. 1 to remain employed. The mandate also applies to volunteers and vendors and will be required of new hires.

Vaccination rates for hospital workers as of Aug. 4 stood at 64 percent in Dutchess County and 56 percent in Putnam.

Last month, Gov. Andrew Cuomo said all state employees must be vaccinated by Labor Day or submit to weekly tests. About the same time, President Joe Biden said a similar policy will apply to federal workers and contractors.

Masks (from Page 1)

Disease Control and Prevention, American Academy of Pediatrics and Putnam County Health Department, all of which recommend universal mask-wearing indoors. The district did not renew its contract with i tuition, which provided virtual learning during the 2020-21 school year.

The lack of online learning leaves parents concerned about virus transmission at school with no options besides home schooling.

In May, when Gov. Andrew Cuomo announced that public schools would reopen for full-time, in-person instruction in the fall, nearly 1.2 million Americans were being inoculated each day, leading to plummeting infection rates.

But three months later, with infection rates surging behind the highly contagious delta variant, superintendents must weigh many of the same decisions they faced in the fall of 2020.

Dutchess County, with a 7-day average infection rate of 4.2 percent, is one of 18 counties in the state where transmission is considered “high.” Although the rate in Putnam, at 2.8 percent, is only “substan
tial,” it is bordered by high-rate counties.

Among private colleges near the Highlands, Marist and Vassar in Poughkeepsie require vaccinations for students, faculty and staff, with exemptions.

Return to Campus

Many students attending college in New York State have no choice but get vaccinated if they want to return to class.

Students returning to SUNY and CUNY campuses, including Dutchess Community College, will need to show proof of inoculation once the vaccines receive final approval from the FDA, although there will be exemptions offered for medical or religious reasons.

Among private colleges near the Highlands, Marist and Vassar in Poughkeepsie require vaccinations for students, faculty and staff, with exemptions.

Marist students, faculty and staff who don’t have exemptions were required to provide evidence of vaccination by Aug. 1. At Vassar, unvaccinated students and staff will have to complete a daily health assessment and wear a mask indoors. Unvaccinated students are also required to be tested weekly.

Cadets at West Point are not required to be vaccinated, but Fox News reported in June that only about three dozen of the 4,300 cadets had not received a shot, citing a leaked spreadsheet circulating on campus that listed cadets and their status. The spreadsheet had led some unvaccinated cadets to be harassed, Fox said, which the academy called “antithetical to West Point policy, ideals and Army values.”

Even without distancing, masks can be effective inside schools to prevent trans-
mismission, according to Duke University researchers who studied 100 districts and 14 charter schools in North Carolina. They called masks “a close second” to vaccines for preventing infections.

In New York, after nearly 15 months of directives from the Department of Health, Dr. Howard Zucker, its commissioner, announced on Aug. 5 that school districts, not the state, would be “the controlling entity” to decide if masks are required.

But on Thursday (Aug. 12), the state Education Department issued guidance to aid districts in reopening. The department’s recommendations, based on CDC guidelines with input from the American Academy of Pediatrics, include universal masking and the suggestion that school districts should prepare for contingencies and be ready to go virtual, if needed.

The move was necessary “in light of the continued absence of health-related school opening direction and assistance” from the governor and the Department of Health, Education Commissioner Betty Rosa said in a statement.

Haldane will issue its reopening guid-
ance next week, Superintendent Philip Benante said on Wednesday. Benante said he has worked over the summer with Dr. Louis Corsaro, the district physician, and the Putnam County Health Department to “ensure that our guidelines are consis-
tent with local health data to determine the current level of community transmission and potential risk to our students and staff.”

At the private Manitou School in Philipstown and Hudson Hills Academy in Beacon, masks will also be required for all students and staff, their directors said. All staff that can be safely vaccinated at both schools have been, they said.

Neither Landahl nor Benante could say this week how many of their districts’ teachers have been vaccinated.

In Beacon, Landahl said it’s a “large number,” likely higher than the 69.4 percent of adults in the county who are fully vacci-
nated, noting that the school helped coordi-
nate appointments earlier in the year.

In the last week, the National Education Association and the American Federation of Teachers, the country’s largest teachers’ unions, both said that they support a vaccine mandate, although the NEA added that unvaccinated teachers could poten-
tially submit to regular testing.
Merger (from Page 1)

remain intact but the village would no longer have its own government. Instead, it would become a hamlet, with services provided by the Town of Highlands — the same relationship that Garrison has to Philipstown.

Highland Falls, established in 1906 and formerly known as Buttermilk Falls, is already part of the Town of Highlands, just as Cold Spring is part of Philipstown. Highlands, which has a population of 12,165, includes the hamlet of Fort Montgomery, Bear Mountain State Park and West Point.

Joe DeWitt, a Highland Falls resident who has been a candidate for mayor and plans to run for the Village Board in November, said the effort to dissolve was a matter of saving tax dollars by doing away with the municipal government, including its police and highway departments, when Highlands is available to provide those services. He supports dissolution, knowing that, if elected, his tenure could be brief.

"Spending is mounting," he said. "We're looking at multimillions of dollars of bonded debt for the town and village. You have to curb spending for the long-term health of the town and the village."

DeWitt said he doesn't feel the sense of community would suffer if Highland Falls went away. "It's people, their involvement and their spirit, that maintain a community, not a village government," he said.

Multiple attempts to reach Mayor Joe D'Onofrio were unsuccessful, but Village Trustee Melanie Guerrero said she "wholeheartedly supports" the effort by residents to dissolve the government.

"The town and village have a long, successful history of shared services and this is a logical next step," she said, adding that while she has supported consolidating the police forces, the majority of the Village Board has not.

Residents have petitioned "to achieve through the ballot box what they could not get their elected board to consider," Guerrero said.

Village Trustee Jim DiSalvo said he is not opposed to dissolution but is critical of the referendum process which, he said, gives the village no say in how its interests would be considered by the Town of Highlands.

The village has hired an Albany consulting firm, the Laberge Group, to prepare a study that outlines the potential effects and costs of dissolution, as well as alternatives.

The issue, DiSalvo said, is that if residents vote to dissolve, under state law, the Town of Highlands can simply choose to ignore proposals for consolidation. "It's not like a merger, where two companies sit down and work out the details," he said.

If voters approve dissolution on Nov. 8, the Village Board must create a dissolution plan within 180 days and present it at a public hearing. If voters are not happy with the plan, they can force a second referendum with another petition.

The results of other campaigns to dissolve villages have been mixed. In November, voters in the Village of Pawling in Dutchess County rejected a plan to consolidate with the Town of Pawling by a margin of more than 3 to 1.

But in December, residents of the Village of South Nyack in Rockland County voted 508 to 202 in favor, setting the stage to consolidate with the Town of Orangetown.

Disappearing Act

Sixty-three villages have dissolved in New York state since 1900, although many survive as towns or hamlets. Here’s a regional rundown:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COUNTY</th>
<th>VILLAGE (YEAR)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dutchess</td>
<td>Pleasant Valley (1926)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orange</td>
<td>Amchir (1968)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Westchester</td>
<td>North Pelham (1975)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Incorporated four years earlier
* Merged into Pelham

Source: Layering of Local Governments & City-County Mergers, by Donald Boyd

Layer Upon Layer

In 2008, the state Commission on Local Government Efficiency and Competitiveness issued a report that outlined the layered nature of New York government. (The only states with more layers are Illinois and Indiana.)

New York state has 57 counties plus New York City and 14 Native American reservations. The counties outside New York City have 61 cities and 932 towns. There are 556 villages that sit within towns and 67 villages that cross town boundaries. There are five towns and villages that share a government.

Village residents have three layers of government: village, town and county, e.g., Cold Spring, Philipstown and Putnam.

(When calculating the percentage of the population in each county that resides under this triple layer of government, Livingston topped the list at 41.4 percent, Rockland was fourth, at 41.3 percent, and Dutchess and Putnam were near the bottom, at 6.2 percent and 4.9 percent.)

Town residents outside of villages have two layers: town and county, e.g. Philipstown and Putnam.

City residents outside New York City have two layers: city and county, e.g. Beacon and Dutchess.

A 2006 study by the state comptroller noted that the distinctions among towns, cities and villages had become artificial, because all are capable of delivering a broad array of services. It described New York’s system as “a structure no one would design today.”

To reduce the layers, villages could dissolve and merge into their towns or towns could dissolve and merge with their counties. But residents often have strong attachments. In Ontario County, the Village of Naples attempted to dissolve into its town in 1994, 2001 and 2005, but it was voted down each time.

Source: Layering of Local Governments & City-County Mergers, by Donald Boyd
NEW EAGLE SCOUTS — Five members of Troop 41 of Beacon were honored at the Elks Lodge on Sunday (Aug. 8) for completing service projects and achieving the highest rank in scouting. Darren Horton restored the fence at the Stony Kill Foundation’s Verplanck Memorial garden; Rynn Smith designed and led the construction of a pollinator garden at Van Pelt Park in Fishkill; John Darcy restored part of a historic cemetery in Beacon; Charles Krachy IV organized the cleanup and installation of a paved path and handicap-accessible parking at J.V. Forrestal Elementary School; and Jeremy Perton helped plant 41 trees at the lodge.

NEW MEMBERS — The Haldane School Foundation this month named Heather O’Neil and Mark Daisley to its board; each will serve on a newly formed finance committee.

HUNGRY VISITORS — There were a few sightings in Garrison recently of Ursus americanus. On July 30, Gloria Caprio was greeted by the forager at right attacking the bird feeders outside her kitchen window, while Sister Rene Drolet spotted the bear above on Sunday afternoon (Aug. 8) at Greymoor. The state Department of Environmental Conservation says residents can avoid conflicts with opportunistic bears by removing their bird feeders by April 1, sealing garbage in cans kept inside a sturdy building and removing grease from grills after each use. “Remove the food attractant and you’ll remove the bear,” it advises.

Photos provided

Nationally-recognized expertise. Local address.

Premier medical experts close to home. Including top doctors from Columbia and award-winning Magnet® nurses. Offering you advanced medical technology and treatments. Affiliated with NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital, ranked #1 in New York. Care that is nothing short of amazing, here in Westchester.

Learn more at nyp.org/hudsonvalley

NewYork-Presbyterian
Hudson Valley Hospital

How often do you think hard about your refrigerator? Is it kind of just there for you? Or is yours the protagonist in the eternal conundrum: “It’s full of stuff, so why is there nothing to eat?”

Given more consideration, the refrigerator, introduced to U.S. kitchens in 1923 by Frigidaire and ubiquitous by the 1940s, is an emblem of bounty and scarcity, leisure and productivity and many other imbalanced pairings. Even its aesthetics — initially homey and white, today coveted in stainless steel and with ice-producing gadgetry — exemplify much more than a piece of equipment which keeps food cold.

Clearly, it has lassoed the imagination of The Rule of Three, an artists’ collective made up of Abby Cheney, Rina AC Dweck and Hannah Washburn. They, along with five other artists they invited to participate, will present The Fridge Show at the Garrison Art Center beginning with a reception from 5 to 7 p.m. on Saturday (Aug. 14) and continuing through Sept. 12.

The artists consider a range of questions that relate to the role of the refrigerator, according to the exhibition notes, including “emotional labor, death and decay, material preservation and female identity.”

The project emerged pre-pandemic and, over the course of 18 months, was inevitably influenced by time spent indoors, with food shopping turning fraught but baking providing more than sustenance.

Washburn, who lives in Beacon, said the collective’s name signifies that “three examples of something are needed in order to prove a point. The three of us brought in our own connections to build a compound narrative that intersects.”

For this project, she says, the team “brainstormed artists, then asked them if they would be open to making new pieces specifically for this exhibition. We wanted to present as much diversity of media and opinion while still connecting with this central theme. Luckily, it lent itself to so many possibilities: kitchen, home, space, femininity.”

The other five artists are Ana Maria Farina, who also lives in Beacon, along with Melissa Capasso, Yen Yen Chou, Marianna Peragallo and Charlotte Woolf, who are residents of New York City.

Their contributions range from the literal to conceptual, including an installation of “here’s what’s inside my fridge” photos sent by people from around the world in response to an Instagram prompt by Woolf. (See @fridge_zoom.)

At its core, Washburn says, a refrigerator is an appliance that people “don’t think about too much until we have to... Especially in the pandemic, we’re attuned to the fridge. If it were to stop functioning, what would happen?”

The curators hope the exhibit provides plenty of food for thought. “For many of us,” their notes say, “the fridge is tied to a maternal or nurturing presence in our lives. It is an appliance we depend on for storage, preservation and longevity. What we find inside, however, is less of a guarantee.”

The Garrison Art Center, at 23 Garrison’s Landing, is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily except Monday. See garrisonartcenter.org or call 845-424-3960.
THE WEEK AHEAD

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

COMMUNITY

SAT 14
Butterflies & Blooms
WAPPINGERS FALLS
10 a.m. – 7 p.m. Stoney Kill Farm
70 Farmstead Lane
butterfly.stoneykill.org

A weeklong celebration of pollinators kicks off with a butterfly discovery walk, a flower arranging workshop and yoga by the garden. On SUN 15 enjoy a bird walk, a garden walk and a plant sale. Also TUES 17 to SAT 21. Some events require tickets ($5 to $25).

SUN 15
Corn Festival
BEACON
Noon – 5 p.m. Riverfront Park
beaconloopclub.org

Enjoy fresh corn on the cob, music, entertainments and children’s activities at this annual event.

MON 16
Blind Date with a Book
BEACON
9:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.
Howland Public Library
313 Main St. | 845-831-1134
beaconlibrary.org

Adults will have to rely on clues to themes and plots in choosing from a selection of hand-wrapped books whose titles are concealed.

THURS 19
Electric Vehicle Show
GARRISON
5 – 7:30 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library
472 Route 403 | bit.ly/EVelectric

Find out what’s awesome about electric cars. Meet some of your neighbors who drive electric, check out their cars and ask questions.

SAT 21
Riverside Crafts Fair
GARRISON
10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Garrison’s Landing
845-424-3960 | garrisonartcenter.org

Artistic creations by more than 50 exhibitors will be available for purchase. Visitors will find ceramics, furniture, home goods, fine art and crafts. Cost: $10 (timed entry)

TALKS & TOURS

SAT 14
Guided Hike
KENT
10 a.m. Hawk Rock | Whangtown Road
putnam.cce.cornell.edu

Master Gardeners from Cornell Cooperative Extension will lead this hike around a four-mile loop and discuss land use, history and vegetation. Registration required. Free

SAT 14
Painting With Natural Dye Pigments
WAPPINGERS FALLS
10 a.m. Common Ground Farm
79 Farmstead Lane
commongroundfarm.org

Laura Sansone will demonstrate how to make and use thickened dyes made from plants grown on the farm and in our bio-region. Cost: $45 to $65

WED 18
Butterfly Day
BEACON
Bannerman Island | 845-831-6346
bannermancastle.org

Educators from the Hudson Highlands Nature Museum will talk about the monarch butterflies that use the island as a waystation on their migration path. Boats leave the Beacon dock at 11 a.m. and noon. Cost: $45

TUES 17
Improv and Theater Games
WAPPINGERS FALLS
5 p.m. Common Ground Farm
79 Farmstead Lane | compassarts.org

Eric Saitt will lead improv games for children ages 7 and older and harvest the ingredients to make salsa from the garden. Cost: $20 to $40

TUES 17
Neighborhood Farms Visits
GARRISON
5 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library
472 Route 403 | bit.ly/farm8-17

The library will lead a walking tour to some of its surrounding farms and their animal residents. Online registration required. The rain date is THURS 19.

WED 18
Ms. Ginny’s Retirement
BEACON
1 – 3 p.m. University Settlement Camp
724 Wolcott Ave. | beaconlibrary.org

Celebrate the children’s librarian as she retires after 31 years at the Howland Public Library.

FRI 20
DIY Dog and Cat Toys
COLD SPRING
11 a.m. – 4 p.m. Butterfield Library
10 Morris Ave. | 845-265-3040
butterfieldlibrary.org

Materials and instructions will be available for a day of family crafts.

SAT 14
Malgorzata Oakes | Group Show
BEACON
6 – 8 p.m. BAU Gallery | 506 Main St.
845-440-7584 | baugallery.org

Malgorzata Oakes’ prints, drawings and paper installations will be on view in Gallery 1, new work by gallery members in Gallery 2 and Growth, an exhibit of Evan Samelson’s work, in the Beacon Room. Through Sept. 5.

SAT 14
Planet Rainbow Sparkles V | Armand Kendrick
BEACON
6 – 9 p.m. Clutter Gallery
163 Main St. | 212-255-2505
shop.cluttermagazine.com/gallery

Work by more than 90 artists will be part of the fifth Planet Rainbow exhibit, and Kendrick’s appearance is the artist’s first solo show.

MUSIC

SAT 14
Willa Vincitore
BEACON
8:30 p.m. Towne Crier
379 Main St. | townsencrier.com

The singer, songwriter and New York State Blues Hall of Fame inductee will perform songs from her album, Better Days. Proof of vaccination required. Cost: $20 ($25 door)

VISUAL ART

SAT 14
Exhibit C: Anthropocene Landscapes
BEACON
2 – 6 p.m. Photo Book Works
469 Main St. | photobookworks.com

Zachary Skinner’s paintings will be on view for the last day of the exhibit. The work is part of the Exhibition: Art on the Edge of the Abyss series.

SAT 14
Complexion of the Stainless Steel
BEACON
4 p.m. Hudson Beach Glass
162 Main St.
hudsonbeachglassshop.com

Insun Kim’s sculptures and paintings will be on exhibit through Sept. 6.

SAT 14
The Fridge Show | Transitional Spaces
GARRISON
5 – 7 p.m. Garrison Art Center
469 Main St. | 845-424-3960

The work of eight women artists will be on view in The Fridge Show. See Page 11. Steve Rossi’s waterjet-cut aluminum and sculptures will be shared in the Riverside Galleries. Through Sept. 12.
SUN 15
Shayna Blass
BEACON
11 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Beacon Farmers’ Market | 223 Main St.
beaconfarmersmarket.org

The singer will perform music from her debut album. Sponsored by The Highlands Current.

SUN 15
Toland Brothers Band
BEACON
11 a.m. – 3 p.m. Banneam Island
845-831-6346 | bannermancastle.org

Chris and Jeff Toland will be joined by Allison Jolicoeur as they perform original, classic and modern rock and folk songs, specializing in vocal harmony. Boats leave the Beacon dock at 11 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. Cost: $40 ($35 children)

SUN 15
Margaret Vetare
GARRISON
4 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library
472 Route 403 | 845-424-3020
desmondfishlibrary.org

Enjoy a family folk concert on the lawn. Free

FRI 20
Mississippi Travelers
BEACON
6 – 8 p.m. 142 Main St.
Fiddler Harry Bolick, guitarist Jacques DiCroce, bassist Charlie Shaw and fiddler and banjo player Brian Slattery will perform old-time string music during this outdoor concert.

SAT 14
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 are required to show proof of vaccination or a negative COVID test, and masks are required. Nightly except Tuesday. Cost: $20 to $375

SAT 14
Who Framed Roger Rabbit?
BEACON
8:30 p.m. Towne Crier
379 Main St. | townecrier.com

Two casts will perform the Pink Ladies and T-Birds’ roles in this youth theater production. Bring blankets or lawn chairs. Cost: $15 ($10 ages 4-18, 3 and younger free)

SAT 14
Grease the Musical
BEACON
11 a.m. & 2 & 5 p.m.
University Settlement Camp
724 Wolcott Ave.
beaconperformingartscenter.com

Two casts will perform Pink Ladies and T-Birds’ roles in this youth theater production. Bring blankets or lawn chairs. Cost: $15 ($10 ages 4-18, 3 and younger free)

FRI 20
Bill and Ted Face the Music
BEACON
6:30 p.m. Bannerman Island
845-831-6346 | bannermancastle.org

As part of the HVSF Reading Series, Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival actors will read company member Luis Quintero’s play. Cost: $10

SAT 14
Clue
BEACON
8:30 p.m. Story Screen Drive-In
724 Wolcott Ave. | 845-440-7706
storyscreendrivein.square.site

Find Colonel Mustard in the library with the knife in this 1985 film based on the board game and starring Madeline Kahn, Christopher Lloyd and Lesley Ann Warren. Also THURS 19, FRI 20, SAT 21, SUN 22. Cost: $10 ($8 children, seniors, military)

WED 18
North by Northwest
PUTNAM VALLEY
7:30 p.m.
Tompkins Corners Cultural Center
729 Peekskill Hollow Road
tompkinscorners.org

Nerve Tank will present a project designed for the cultural center’s carriage house with Karen Gremke, Jason Howard, Robin Kurtz and Mark Lindberg. Also SAT 21. Cost: $20

SAT 14
Untitled Agatha Project
GARRISON
7:30 p.m. Via Zoom
hvshakespeare.org

As part of the HVSF2 Reading Series, Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival actors will perform a revised version of Heidi Armbruster’s play. Cost: $10

THURS 19
Hip Hop Therapy
GARRISON
7:30 p.m. Via Zoom
hvshakespeare.org

Free

MON 16
City Council
BEACON
7:30 p.m. City Hall | 1 Municipal Plaza
845-838-5011 | beaconny.gov

MON 16
School Board
BEACON
7 p.m. Beacon High School
101 Matteawan Road | 845-838-6900
beaconk12.org

MON 16
Village Board
NELSONVILLE
7:30 p.m. Village Hall | 258 Main St.
845-265-2500 | nelsonvilleny.gov

Steve Rossi
Transitional Spaces
sculpture

AUGUST 14 – SEPTEMBER 12, 2021
OPENING RECEPTION AUGUST 14th, 5 – 7PM

The Riverside Galleries at Garrison Art Center, 23 Garrison’s Landing, Garrison, NY 10524 | garrisonartcenter.org | 845-424-3960

GALLERY HOURS: Tuesday through Sunday, 10am – 5pm
Matt and Laura Green’s honeymoon destination provides an important clue to their love story.

No sand and sunsets. Instead, they visited breweries in Belgium. “They were blending beer with local fruit,” recalls Matt Green. “I realized I’d never seen anyone mix the fruit in with liquor.”

That revelation led to Liquid Fables, the couple’s new company and tasting room at 1 E. Main St., which opened two weeks ago. It specializes in canned cocktails. The firm is legally a New York State farm distillery, although it doesn’t distill. “We’re technically a ‘blendery,’” Green explains.

Having spent a decade in the craft beer industry in sales, calling on Hudson Valley bars, stores and other accounts, Green says he was well aware of the trend toward adding different types of beverages to product lines. It reinforced to him, he says, that “thinking local” was more than a passing fancy.

“Local, trusted brands have a familiarity,” he says. “If you’ve been drinking their craft beer, you probably assume their new craft whiskey will be good. We’re interested in emphasizing the base flavors by complementing them. If we’re using a rye whiskey base, for example, we want to highlight its spicier notes.”

Distributing their products in cans stems from the couple’s being “outdoorsy,” he says. “The accessibility of bringing it outside was important. You couldn’t bring anything canned with you, except beer,” before New York changed its laws.

Another state regulation that stipulates that 75 percent of an agricultural product has to come from New York state has limited their product lines: there’s no agave growing in the Northeast, hence no tequila, hence no mojitos and their kin. There’s also no sugar-cane, meaning no rum-based drinks.

Thankfully, corn and potatoes saved the day: “With an actual distillery, it’s a little easier because you can source the grain for your product with alcoholic blends,” Green says. “For what we’re doing, we’ve tried to come up with similar flavors by using honey or maple syrup in place of sugar-cane. It’s taken a lot of tinkering.”

The other unusual component of their beverages is a tie-in to fables. “Laura and I grew up in the Hudson Valley, where storytelling is part of the landscape,” Green says. “With our space being located in a hundred-year-old factory building, it felt like the perfect setting for aspects of storytelling.”

Each cocktail — there are four so far: one gin, one rye and two vodkas — has a fable on the packaging: “The Boy Who Cried Wolf,” “The Tortoise and the Hare,” “The Town Mouse and the Country Mouse” and “The Lion in Love,” which Green recounts as: “A lion fell in love with a lioness. Her father told him to prove his love by getting declawed, and when he did, her father killed him. The moral is: Don’t be a fool in love; don’t make rash decisions. We put this fable with the rye whiskey, which has the highest alcohol content. The can says: ‘Don’t make bad decisions.’ ”

When looking for a spot to open their tasting room, the Greens focused on the Highlands because of the many opportunities they provide to be outdoors — and enjoy a canned cocktail.

The Liquid Fables tasting room, at 1 E. Main St., is open 2 to 7 p.m. on Thursday, 2 to 8 p.m. Friday, noon to 8 p.m. Saturday, noon to 6 p.m. Sunday and 2 to 6 p.m. Monday. See liquidfables.com. The cocktails are not yet sold at other retail outlets.
Looking Back in Philipstown

By Chip Rowe

150 Years Ago (August 1871)

According to The Cold Spring Recorder, a “miserable man, hatless and friendless,” seen clinging to a tree at Main and Furnace streets was beaten by a man who fled. The victim was referred to the overseer of the poor but arrested that night when he tried to stow away on the milk train.

The Recorder said village residents had come to dread Monday paydays, when hundreds of intoxicated workers filled the streets with “songs, shouts and curses.”

Zopher Post was burned on his face and hands while erecting posts at the Rock Street school. He poured melted lead into a hole drilled into the rock, which contained water, causing an explosion.

Justice Coe postponed hearing a case The Recorder described as a “wife-beating on Kemble Avenue” because he found the witness statements “too conflicting.”

Austin Russell charged two boys with stealing berries from his parked wagon. One was sentenced to five days in jail and the other paid a $2 fine.

Henry Purdy narrowly avoided being hit by the express train when the baggage master yelled out a warning. According to The Recorder, Purdy “did not express his gratitude in the most becoming manner.”

Peter Louis settled a lawsuit brought against him by the New York Sportsmen’s Society for shooting woodcocks out of season.

The Ladies of the Masonic Lodge held a picnic, ice cream and floral festival.

Col. Dan Rice brought his circus to the village on Aug. 29, and the Stone & Murray Circus followed two days later.

Charles Coote, 12, of Breakneck, was riding atop a load of sand when a lurch of the wagon threw him between the wheel and the vehicle, fracturing his collarbone. A. McIlravy, the undertaker and furniture dealer, broke his leg in a fall.

A brakeman was killed when his head hit a small bridge that crossed the tracks just north of the Garrison tunnel.

125 Years Ago (August 1896)

The newly organized Cold Spring Hose Co. fought its first fire, at a foundry owned by Arthur Naylor on West Street. Firefighters and residents pushed the hose cart to the scene. “The opinion of those present was the old bucket brigade would have been unable to extinguish the flames,” The Recorder said.

The village postmaster dutifully put a letter on the 1:47 p.m. train addressed to “Miss Mary the Cook, Fifth Avenue, New York.”

Col. Thomas Boyle Arden, 83, died at his home in Garrison. The West Point graduate served frontier duty in Indian Territory, fought in the second of three wars against the Seminole in Florida and was assigned to the New Orleans barracks before leaving the military in 1842. He farmed in Putnam County for nearly 20 years before returning to the Army during the Civil War as a military aide.

Sheriff Jeremiah Hazen arrived from Carmel with an order to find 14 jurors to decide whether Martha Squire, 101, was competent to run her affairs. After encountering reluctance, the sheriff offered payment of $2 in gold. When the proceeding at Town Hall was over, the jurors were instead each given a 25-cent silver piece. They protested that “Jerry” had offered $2, but the commissioner said the sheriff didn’t set the pay rate.

Thomas Kane, who had lost an arm in an accident at the West Point Foundry and finished his career working in its office, died at his home on Garden Street.

Nilan Isberg, 20, who had emigrated from Sweden six months earlier to live with his brother, a tailor in Cold Spring, drowned at Stony Point. A friend said Isberg had been in the shallows when he slipped on a rock and disappeared.

Eugene Crawford purchased a Cleveland tandem to be used by the Garrison Bicycle Club as a pacemaker.

Col. W.E. Rogers lost two valuable cows to pneumonia.

Workers from the Hudson River Telephone Co. used the ferryboat Highlander to lay cable between West Point and Garrison.

Edward Meeks, a Garrison native, was promoted from assistant manager at the Smith Premier Typewriter Co. in New York City to a manager in its London office.

William Taylor received a telegram from a Newburgh attorney saying that a cousin of Taylor’s late wife had left $10,000 to their two daughters.

The Philipstown Crushing Co. built a stone crusher on the farm of Milton Smith in Nelsonville, near the highway, to provide material for concrete.

The Hudson River Railroad Co. banned bicycle riding on its tracks, while Cold (Continued on Page 16)

Because of You...

25 Putnam County nonprofits received over $130,000 in early stage pandemic emergency response funding.

An additional $100,000+ was granted to nonprofits serving Putnam County mid-pandemic.

Supporting:
• Feeding 40%
• Healthcare 24%
• Human Services 18%
• Arts & Education 18%
• First Responders 10%

Benefiting:
Brewster Cares • Brewster Community Food Pantry • Camp Herrlich • CAREERS Support Solution • Community Cares • CoveCare Center • Ecological Citizen’s Project Food Bank of the Hudson Valley • Garrison Art Center • Gilead Food Pantry • Glynwood Hillside Food Outreach • Mahopac Public Library • Mental Health Association in Putnam County • Mid-Hudson Library System • Patterson Community Church Food Pantry Philipstown Behavioral Health • Philipstown Aging at Home • Philipstown Food Pantry Putnam Community Action Partnership • Putnam Community Medical Center Putnam Valley Community Food Pantry • Second Chance Foods • SPACE on Ryder Farm • St. Christopher’s Inn • St. John The Evangelist Church Food Pantry The Arc Mid-Hudson • The Prevention Council of Putnam • Unshattered

Thank you for this critical support!

For more information on how you can continue to support our community’s recovery, please visit communityfoundationshv.org
Spring said its police officer would enforce ordinances against riding on sidewalks or without a light after dark.

The Highland Grange Farm in Garrison lost its contract to supply milk for the West Point cadets when Thomas Allen, who had been leasing the land from the Philips estate, unexpectedly left town.

Josiah Ferris picked 12 quarts of blueberries at the Sunk Mine swamp.

Irving McCoy, the editor of *The Recorder*, made an impassioned plea to end burials at the old cemetery on the west side of the road from Town Hall to the James estate. He reported that a body had to be dug up to make room for the most recent interment and that the decayed casket and bones were used as fill. A few days later, McCoy picked up 26 bones. “Who is responsible for this outrage?”

Fifteen children from New York City who alighted from the 1:03 train on a Monday afternoon were taken to one of the farmhouses near the village where they were to be entertained for two weeks by the Fresh Air Farm.

The steamboat Adirondack fell short in an attempt to set a speed record from New York City to Albany. It left New York at 6 p.m. and passed by Cold Spring at 8:40 p.m. before finishing a nonstop run in 7 hours and 50 minutes — an hour longer than a trip made in 1864 by the Daniel Drew that included nine landings.

Three Philipstown men took the top spots in a 1-mile bicycle race at the Putnam County Fair. William Ladue finished in 3:05, followed by James Brooks and Eugene Crawford. In an unusual move, two spectators at the finish line asserted in a letter to Brooks that he had won by at least 5 inches.

A contingent of residents traveled to West Point to catch a glimpse of the Chinese diplomat Li Hung-chang and his famous yellow jacket and three-eyed peacock feather (an adornment typically restricted to members of the imperial clan). Unfortunately, Li declined to come outside because it was raining.

**100 Years Ago (August 1921)**

Fishermen reported that tomcod, which usually don’t swim farther north than Spuyten Duyvel, had been caught near Newburgh.

To prevent the sharing of passes, the New York Central announced that commuters would need to use a ticket holder provided by the railroad that had a photo of their face affixed to it.

Harry Farris complained to the Village Board that a lot he owned on Mountain Avenue had been assessed at $500. The board president said that every lot on Mountain was assessed at that value, and that the Farris parcel had not appeared on the tax rolls until that year, when the oversight was corrected. A trustee asked why Farris, who in 1916 had been village clerk, had never alerted the assessor. Farris persisted in his protest and was referred to the village attorney.

The Cold Spring Light, Heat & Power Co. installed 17 lights on Main Street, from the dock to the Nelsonville line. Made by General Electric, they included reflectors to enlarge the horizontal illumination. A “clean-up” squad from the Veterans Bureau in Washington, D.C., set up shop at Town Hall to assist disabled veterans who had not yet made claims for compensation and vocational training. Agency physicians examined each man and gave him a “disability rating” for his application. An official

(Continued on Page 17)
Looking Back (from Page 16)

noted that a recent change in federal law meant that the men did not have to prove their ailments or mental disorders were the direct result of their service.

Billy Hill, a professional singer whose obituary said he was asked to sing “La Marseillaise” or “The Lost Chord” at every gathering he attended, died at age 65.

West Point donated two 700-pound brown stones to the Putnam County Historical Society to replace missing milestones Nos. 62 and 63 on Old Albany Post Road.

A biography was published of essayist Hamilton Wright Mabie, who was born in Cold Spring in 1845 after his father moved from Carmel to open a grocery business at Market and Main streets. Mabie was an editor at the Christian Union and wrote 20 books, including William Shakespeare: Poet, Dramatist and Man and American Ideals, Character and Life, which was based on a series of lectures he gave in Japan in 1912 for the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.

President Warren Harding signed a bill, introduced in the U.S. House by Rep. Hamilton Fish Jr. of Garrison, awarding the Congressional Medal of Honor and Distinguished Service Cross to the serviceman in Cold Spring in 1845 after his father moved from Carmel to open a grocery business at Market and Main streets. Mabie was an editor at the Christian Union and wrote 20 books, including William Shakespeare: Poet, Dramatist and Man and American Ideals, Character and Life, which was based on a series of lectures he gave in Japan in 1912 for the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.

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Allan Kelly, an environmental activist, warned in a letter to the Putnam County News & Recorder: “If Con Edison receives an operator’s license for its mammoth, experimental Nuclear Plant No. 2 at Indian Point, and if there’s ever an accident that would release deadly radioactivity into the environment, everyone living in this area would have had it.”

The Cold Spring Village Board, in a 3-1 vote, rejected a proposal to install a traffic light at Main and Fair streets.

A crew member of the sloop Clearwater who lived in Cold Spring was arrested for indecent exposure after he allegedly stepped ashore at Bear Mountain’s south pier and took a shower in the spray of a fire hydrant. In addition, he and another crew member, also from Cold Spring, were charged with resisting the officers who boarded the sloop, which somehow came unmoored and began drifting in the river.

50 Years Ago (August 1971)

The Walter Moving Home for Troubled Girls in Garrison held a tag sale in the 24-room mansion on the former Philipsbrook Road estate of Alfred Smith, general manager of the New York Central Railroad.

The Continental Village Property Owners Association asked Philipstown for a 99-year lease at $1 annually on a park district building known as the clubhouse.

Voters rejected a revised spending proposal presented by the Haldane school board, 595-145, forcing the district to adopt an austerity budget. The first attempt had been rejected, 733-196.

Mayor Anthony Mazzuca of Nelsonville reported that the members of the Fish and Fur Club had offered to donate their clubhouse to the village, saying, “Everyone living in this area would have had it.”

An anonymous donor purchased the 24-room mansion on the former Philipsbrook Road estate of Alfred Smith, general manager of the New York Central Railroad.

25 Years Ago (August 1996)

Cold Spring celebrated its 150th anniversary with a festival that included Punch & Judy puppet shows by Fred Greenspan; a Main Street mural; a concert for children by Mike Klunick; sack races; a tug-of-war; and a waterfront block party with music by The Satellites.

As part of the anniversary celebration, the Foundry School Museum announced it would exhibit “The Gun Foundry,” the 1866 masterpiece of John Ferguson Weir, and “A Pic-Nic on the Hudson,” an 1863 portrait by Thomas Rossiter that included many Cold Spring luminaries posing on Constitution Island.

A stoplight was installed at the intersection of Routes 9D and 403 in Garrison. An anonymous donor purchased the 1,500 used books that remained after the Desmond-Fish Library’s annual sale to donate to the state prison system.
Local Officials React to Resignation

By Chip Rowe

All had called for governor to leave

On Tuesday (Aug. 10), Gov. Andrew Cuomo announced he would resign before the end of the month, following the release of a state attorney general’s report that concluded he broke state and federal laws against workplace sexual harassment.

Three of the four state and federal elected officials in the Highlands had called for Cuomo to resign months ago, when the allegations first became public: Jonathan Jacobson, a Democrat whose Assembly district includes Beacon; Sue Serino, a Republican whose state Senate district includes the Highlands; and U.S. Rep. Sean Patrick Maloney, a Democrat whose district includes the Highlands.

Sandy Galef, a Democrat whose Assembly district includes Philipstown, at the time was among a group of Democratic women in the Assembly who called for an independent investigation; last week, with the investigation complete, she also said it was time for Cuomo to step aside.

Cuomo also faced criticism over his administration’s handling of the spread of COVID-19 in nursing homes and the preparation of a memoir he wrote about his leadership during the pandemic. He will be succeeded by Lt. Gov. Kathy Hochul, who will become the state’s first female governor.

Maloney expressed his support for Hochul on Twitter, saying he had “every confidence” that she “will meet the needs of this pivotal moment as we work to defeat COVID-19. She’s going to hit the ground running.”

Jacobson said in a statement: “Gov. Cuomo’s announcement that he is stepping down is the right one for New York. He no longer has the trust necessary to govern effectively. I have known Lt. Gov. Kathy Hochul for many years and have full confidence in her ability to lead the state. I look forward to working with her.”

Serino called the governor’s resignation “a small step toward restoring integrity in the Capitol” but said “there is immense work to be done to effectively restore public trust and ensure true justice and accountability for the victims of sexual harassment, and for all those who have been impacted by the governor’s actions during the past 18 months, especially New York’s nursing home residents and their loved ones.”

She added: “How someone who stood so tall in the eyes of so many at the start of the pandemic can fall so far is a clear example of what happens when extreme power goes unchecked.”

The state Assembly had been preparing for impeachment proceedings. Had he been impeached, Cuomo would have been tried by a jury of state senators and judges from the Court of Appeals.

Earlier this year, in anticipation of impeachment, Serino introduced legislation that would prohibit Court of Appeals judges appointed by an accused governor from serving as jurors and prevent an accused governor from filling vacancies on the court during the proceedings. The bills remain in committee.
Deadly Deer Disease Returns to Hudson Valley

Virus confirmed in Dutchess County

By Brian PJ Cronin

For the second summer in a row, a rare virus that is fatal to whitetailed deer has been detected in the Hudson Valley.

The state Department of Environmental Conservation confirmed this week that Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease (EHD), which had been found in Ulster County, has spread to Rhinebeck, in Dutchess County. The disease is not transferable to humans, pets or livestock.

Once a deer is infected with the disease, it typically dies within 36 hours. Symptoms include disorientation, losing the fear of humans, swollen necks and tongues, and unquenchable thirst, which is why many dead deer are found in and near water sources.

Because of their elevated body temperature and weakened blood vessels, deer that succumb to EHD decompose quickly, leading to rapid meat spoilage. Disoriented deer may also be more likely to wander into the road, so motorists should use caution. (To report a sick or dead deer, call the DEC at 845-256-3098.)

The virus is spread by midges, small biting insects colloquially referred to as gnats or “no-see-ums.” The disease is common in the South, but decades of exposure there has led to milder outbreaks and lower mortality rates.

EHD outbreaks do not have a significant long-term impact on deer populations, but mortality can be high in small geographic areas, as was the case last year in Putnam County. The DEC estimates that the 2020 outbreak killed at least 1,500 deer in the Hudson Valley, with enough in Putnam County to prompt the agency to lower the number of 2021 permits it issued in the Highlands to hunters of antlerless deer.

It’s only the fourth time that EHD has been seen in the Hudson Valley. Previous outbreaks occurred in 2007 in Albany, Rensselaer and Niagara counties, in 2011 in Rockland County and last year in Orange, Dutchess and Putnam. There is no known cure or effective management plan besides waiting for the first hard frost to kill off the midges, which usually occurs around mid-October.

The leading hypothesis as to how the infected midges reach New York is via the remnants of tropical storms and hurricanes that have traveled through the South. The 2011 outbreak occurred shortly after Tropical Storm Harvey, last year’s outbreak came just after Isaias, and this year’s outbreak arrived after Elsa. That could forebode more frequent outbreaks as global warming disrupts weather patterns and produces stronger storms.

The project, which cost $28.9 million, also includes new ramps to allow easier access on and off the parkway and will make crossing the parkway safer for school buses, the Department of Transportation said.

Rock that was blasted out to make room for the underpass was crushed and used as backfill, subbase and stone fill. The remainder was hauled away for use at other construction sites. An improved drainage system was installed, the state said, and wetlands relocated within the area. The culvert carrying Pudding Street over Roaring Brook was also replaced.

The project is the third of four planned overpasses along the bridge. The first, over Route 9D in Philipstown, was completed in 2011 in Rockland County and last year in Rensselaer and Niagara counties, in areas, as was the case last year in Putnam County.

State Sen. Pete Harckham, whose district includes Peekskill and eastern Putnam County, introduced legislation on July 30 to that would compel the New York State Bridge Authority, which oversees the Bear Mountain, Newburgh-Beacon and three other Hudson River bridges, to install “climb-deterrent fencing” to prevent suicides.

“New York must stop only thinking of the balance sheet and start caring about human costs,” said Harckham.

There have been two suicides on the Bear Mountain Bridge this year; there were four in 2020.

The legislation was co-sponsored by Sen. James Skoufis, whose district includes Newburgh and Bear Mountain. Sandy Galef, whose district includes Philipstown, said she planned to add her name to a version of the bill introduced in the Assembly.

If you are considering harming yourself, the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline is available 24 hours a day at 800-273-8255.
Hearing Opens on Philipstown Comp Plan

Discussion focuses on accessory housing, transit, clean energy

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

The three residents who commented last week on Philipstown’s latest revised comprehensive plan draft urged more focus on clean energy and public transportation and less attention to housing, lest it invite developers.

They spoke on Aug. 5 at a public hearing at Town Hall before the Town Board, which kept the hearing open until September.

In May, a committee of volunteers completed the draft, intended to replace the current comprehensive plan adopted in 2006.

The proposed plan’s goals include preserving Philipstown’s rural and historic character, open space and natural features; providing a wide range of housing; and implementing Complete Streets policies designed to serve pedestrians, mass-transit users and bicyclists.

Betsy Calhoun of Garrison, who serves on the committee, said more discussion of solar panels and other forms of energy “would be a welcome addition” to the draft, which proposes that the town require building construction or renovations to use renewable energy for heating; electric car charging stations in new developments and around town; a town-wide solar energy policy; and regulations to reduce reliance on fuels linked to climate change and pollution.

Joyce Blum, another member of the committee, recommended more emphasis on public transportation. Blum lives on High Ridge Road, a rustic mountain lane in Garrison. She does not drive but has been able to get by without a car “for many, many years,” although “it hasn’t been easy.” As the population ages, mass transit options will be increasingly crucial, she said.

The draft proposes bicycling and walking paths or sidewalks throughout town to link schools, libraries, the Recreation Center, the villages, Garrison’s Landing, parking lots and other public sites and facilities.

It also advocates projects with other municipalities to expand public transit on land and water, ferrying passengers between Cold Spring, Garrison and West Point. A third speaker, who did not give her name, expressed fears of suburban sprawl because the plan refers to promoting a wider range of housing, which, she said, could invite developers. “That’s not the goal of Philipstown,” she said. “I don’t think we should be encouraging development, because it’s going to find us,” even without encouragement.

After Town Board Member Jason Angell described affordable housing as “an important goal,” the woman pointed out that it’s a concern nationwide. “Is our little town supposed to solve that problem?”

Board Member John Van Tassel, who is a builder, presided over the hearing in the absence of Supervisor Richard Shea. “I don’t think you’re going to see any large-scale development,” he said. “A developer would have a hard time in Philipstown because of its zoning.”

Philipstown Again Asks County to Share Sales Tax

Wants ‘unified front’ with villages, other towns

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

The Philipstown Town Board last week adopted a resolution urging Putnam County to return part of its sales tax gains to towns and villages.

Board Members John Van Tassel, Robert Flaherty, Judy Farrell and Jason Angell approved the measure at their Aug. 5 monthly meeting in Town Hall. Supervisor Richard Shea was absent.

The resolution proposes that, in an “equitable” arrangement, the county distribute 50 percent of any increase in sales tax over the previous year, allocating funds to each village and town on a per capita basis. According to Angell, Philipstown would have received $140,000 from the county in 2019 under such an arrangement.

The board cited Dutchess County, which, under a 10-year agreement that expires in 2023, each year sends $9.6 million in sales tax revenue to Poughkeepsie, $4.2 million to Beacon and $11.3 million to the towns and villages. The cities receive more because they waived their right to collect their own taxes.

Sales tax goes first to New York State. The state sends a chunk back to each county, which, in most cases, returns a portion to towns and villages. Putnam is one of 11 counties that do not share the tax, according to the state comptroller.

The Philipstown resolution said that the lack of sharing puts local communities in the county at a competitive disadvantage with towns and villages in neighboring counties that receive sales tax revenue.

For years, Shea and other local officials have complained that Putnam does not return any sales tax. The county has responded that it provides towns and villages with services instead, such as covering unpaid municipal property tax costs, the costs of local elections and mandated funding of community colleges. It also operates a Sheriff’s Department substation in Nelsville.

Last fall, county Finance Commissioner William Carlin noted that in early 2020 the state reduced the sales tax revenue it sent to counties and reallocated the money to the Aid for Municipalities program that benefits local governments. This “purported state aid is really a withholding of county sales tax,” he said.

In past years, Town Board members had suggested Putnam share its “surplus” sales tax or the difference between the budget projection and the actual collection. Following that formula, in 2020 Putnam would have distributed just over $1 million among the municipalities, more than under the method proposed by the Philipstown measure.

Angell, who led efforts to draft the resolution, said on Tuesday (Aug. 10) that he had approached members of other town and village boards to gauge their interest. He said Nelsville, Patterson, Kent and Southeast were open to the idea.

Odell Endorses HVSF Grant Appeal

Also, Putnam receives first installment of federal relief

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

County Executive MaryEllen Odell and Legislator Nancy Montgomery often clash over Putnam’s policies and priorities.

But they both apparently love the Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival, and each endorsed HVSF’s application for a state grant to assist with its anticipated move in 2022 from Boscobel to the site of The Garrison Golf Course, which is closing.

In a July 27 letter to the state Regional Economic Development Council (REDC), Odell wrote that she has “regularly attended” HVSF performances and described the troupe as “one of the finest summertime attractions in the Hudson Valley, bringing together members of the local community as well as visitors from outside our region.”

With “a permanent home in Philipstown,” HVSF can “remain a community-driven attraction in the Mid-Hudson Region for years to come,” said Odell, a Republican.

Montgomery, a Democrat who represents Philipstown and part of Putnam Valley on the Putnam County Legislature, shared similar sentiments in a July 28 letter to the REDC, noting that “my family and I have been proud annual attendees” for years and that “HVSF has demonstrated a real commitment to our local community, with over $6 million of local economic impact, serving as one of the largest local employers, attracting more than 35,000 audience members, and providing educational programming to our students and families.”

Their letters were provided to members of the Legislature’s Economic Development Committee on Tuesday (Aug. 10).

HVSF “is in need of all the support they can get,” said Montgomery, a committee member.

In other business...

■ Replying to an inquiry from Montgomery, Odell reported that Putnam has received $9,548,753.50 as the first of two installments of its allotment under the federal American Rescue Plan. In an Aug. 4 memo, Odell told legislators that she would not propose spending priorities until the county knows if the federal government makes any further changes to the rules on its use. “We will update the Legislature as we progress,” she promised.

■ The Personnel Committee, which also met on Tuesday, approved releasing $10,000 placed in reserve last year during a debate over the Sheriff’s Department marine unit, which is now largely disbanded. The trans-
Out There

The Only Runner You Have to Beat

By Brian PJ Cronin

The group run hadn’t even started yet and I was exhausted.

Today’s plan was a 6.5-mile loop up into the Highlands and back, with about 1,000 feet of climbing. But I had run 20 miles the day before in blistering summer heat, and was still feeling the effects.

I told one of the group leaders that he should not wait for me, that I knew the way, but after yesterday’s effort I simply didn’t know how long — or if — I’d be able to keep up.

He told me not to worry: “You’re out here. That’s what matters.”

Over the six weeks of these group runs organized by the pop-up Tracksmith shop in Beacon, I’d been thinking a lot about the name of this column. It’s true that many of the people I’ve written about — those trying to set Fastest Known Time records; run from Albany to Beacon; climb all the High Peaks in the Catskills; or carry frogs across a busy road in the middle of the night — are all a bit out there, by which I mean crazy. But they’re also willing to go out there to tough places and do hard things because nothing changes if you stay home.

It’s certainly easier than spending the last six weeks trying to keep up in the Tracksmith runs with elites and sub-elites, Olympic hopefuls and Olympic veterans, and amateur runners who were a lot like me except much faster. To make matters worse, the runs usually started by covering the length of Main Street, so that everyone in town could watch me immediately fall behind.

“Gotta keep up!” yelled a man in a white pickup truck, laughing. I tried to play it cool, but a few minutes later, I checked my watch and noticed my pace, going uphill, had increased from an 8-minute to 7-minute mile fueled by anger. And still, the other runners continued to disappear into the distance, leaving me alone. Again.

Why was I out here? Couldn’t I find a less consistently humiliating way to spend my weekend mornings? But I suppose that’s the point of training: to improve. My goal wasn’t to catch the runners ahead of me. I just hoped to beat the runner I was the week or month or years before, who never would have imagined running a 100-mile race.

Which is to say: Today (Aug. 13), I’m on my way to run the Eastern States 100 in central Pennsylvania: 103 miles over 20,000 feet of elevation gain, filled with rocks and rattlesnakes and devoid of cell-phone service. The 36-hour time limit may seem generous until you learn that for many years, only about one of every three entrants finished. The rate has been inching upward recently, which means the race has attracted a hardier breed and/or frightened off newbies who have more sense than I do.

I’m not sure what horrors or delights await me. Will I vomit? Hallucinate? Chafe in places I’ve never chafed? It will probably involve periods in which I’ll experience the too-familiar feeling of inadequacy as other runners disappear ahead of me.

Clearly, the smart thing to do would be to stick to what I’ve already done. But you don’t know your limits unless you don’t test them, right? Sometimes I’ve surprised myself, such as finishing ultramarathons in times faster than I thought possible. When that happens, your worldview changes. What else, I wonder, am I unfairly telling myself I can’t do?

In this weekend’s race, the odds are against me. But when the gun goes off in the darkness at 5 a.m. on Saturday, I’ll remind myself that the hard part was making it to the starting line. The finish line? We’ll see.

Catching up with the others

Photo by B. Cronin

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Puzzles

CrossCurrent

ACROSS
1. Scepter
4. Israeli airline
8. Staffer
12. Brit. record label
13. The Big Easy acronym
14. Not worth debating
15. Picnic crasher
16. Bird with yellow plumage
18. Popular takeout entree
20. Use a shovel
21. Golden Fleece ship
24. Atkinson of Mr. Bean
28. Wood pigeon
32. Long tale
33. Mil. morale booster
34. Gladden
10. Medico
11. Ordinal suffix
17. Fragrant tree
19. Abrupt turn
22. Michelle Wie's game
23. Cameo shapes
25. Tip off
26. Awestruck
27. Peacekeeping org.
28. Hurry
29. Capt., for one
30. Pinot —
31. And others (Lat.)
32. Low isle
35. Sent forth
36. Decay
37. Lost traction
38. Doctrines
39. Pink wading bird
40. Wall St. debut
42. Pair
43. Faux pas
44. Belly
45. Jog
46. Tribal emblem
47. “Toodle-oo!”
48. Way out
49. Viral web phenomenon
50. Chopper
51. Flamenco cheer
52. LBJ’s successor
53. Copper head?
54. “Smoking or —?”

DOWN
1. Harvest
2. Hotel chain
3. Bubblehead
4. Fencer’s cry
5. Brit’s restroom
6. 100 percent
7. Shane star
8. Juan’s pals
9. Charged bit
10. Medico
11. Ordinal suffix
12. Brit’s restroom
13. Greg’s mother’s name
14. Not worth debating
15. Picnic crasher
16. Bird with yellow plumage
17. Fragrant tree
18. Popular takeout entree
19. Abrupt turn
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7 LittleWords

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

CLUES
1. home of the Cheshire Cat (10)
2. considerably (10)
3. invalidates (9)
4. Japanese fast-fashion brand (6)
5. from what source (6)
6. concert violinist Efrem (9)
7. art of pitching tents, say (9)

SUDOCurrent

Answers will be published next week. See highlandscurrent.org/puzzle for interactive sudoku.
Beacon Bashes Four Home Runs on Way to Title

By Skip Pearlman

In the 20 games the Beacon traveling baseball team for players ages 14 and under played this summer, they hit two home runs.

In the divisional championship game of the Greater Hudson Valley Baseball League on Sunday (Aug. 8) in Danbury, they hit four, including a grand slam.

The No. 2 Bulldogs overwhelmed the No. 5 seed Brewster Crush, 10-1, to win the title and finish the season with a 16-5-1 record.

Derrick Heaton picked up the win on the mound for Beacon, going four innings and allowing three hits with seven strikeouts. Anthony Borromeo closed the game in relief.

The Bulldogs were already up 3-1 in the third inning when Austin Jorgensen connected on a pitch, with the bases loaded, which sailed over the right-field fence. Beacon also got home runs from Heaton, Jack Antalek and Liam Murphy, who hit a two-run blast in the fifth.

“The guys came out fired up,” said Coach Bob Atwell, who also coaches Beacon’s high school varsity. “Derrick and Anthony shut the door on the hill, and we took advantage of the long ball to put it away. We knew we were capable of hitting homers, but we’ve been more of a doubles and triples team this summer.”

Mercer Jordan went 2-for-3 at the plate and drove in a run, and Jackson Atwell also had an RBI.

The Bulldogs won 12 of their 14 league games and will close out the season with two tournaments, including this weekend in Delaware.

Atwell’s club has now won summer championships in two of three seasons. “It’s great to see the boys improve with hard work,” he said.