

# The HIGHLANDS Current



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AUGUST 13, 2021

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**FLOWER POWER** — A visitor to the Desmond-Fish Public Library in Garrison took a detour from the annual petting zoo last month to smell the black-eyed Susans.

Photo by Ross Corsair

## POOF! A Village Could Disappear

*Referendum will decide fate of Highland Falls*

By Michael Turton

**C**an 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 9)*

## The Vaccine, Reconsidered

*In face of delta, pace picks up*

By Leonard Sparks

**N**ew 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.

### Daily Average Vaccinations

|                 | STATE  | MID-HUDSON |
|-----------------|--------|------------|
| JULY 14 - 20    | 17,592 | 1,862      |
| JULY 21 - 27    | 18,865 | 2,320      |
| JULY 28 - AUG 3 | 26,015 | 2,586      |
| AUG 4 - 10      | 29,271 | 2,777      |

Source: New York State Department of Health

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

*(Continued on Page 8)*

## Beacon, Garrison Schools Will Require Masks

*Haldane says it will release plan next week*

By Jeff Simms

**T**he 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

*(Continued on Page 8)*



# 5Q FIVE QUESTIONS: MARK TRECKA

By Arvind Dilawar

**M**ark 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 attracted 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



Photo by Eva Deitch

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?

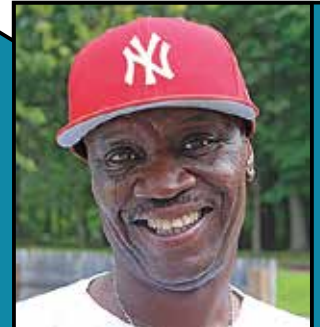
There are always books to be sponsored. We field requests for all kinds of books, from supernatural romance novels and mysteries to political theory and philosophy. To sponsor a book, folks can swing by Binnacle [at 321 Main St.] and select a book off the requests shelf, write a postcard to tuck inside and pay for it. We take care of the rest. If anyone doesn't have the funds to sponsor a book, they can come by and write a postcard — or 10! We also always need funds for postage and packaging.

# ON THE SPOT

By Michael Turton

What's something you got in trouble for in elementary school?

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



Jesse Williams, Beacon

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



Bridget O'Brien, Cold Spring

"My friend and I said 'horny' when talking about Pokemon Rhyhorn; we got sent to the principal's office!"



Matthew Morse, Beacon

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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](https://highlandscurrent.org/student-journalists-program)

*Chip Rowe*

**Chip Rowe, Editor**  
*The Highlands Current*





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## LETTERS AND COMMENTS

### 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 Mikkelsen, *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 bumps

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)





## LETTERS AND COMMENTS

## 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, because it would have four floors, developer Sean O'Donnell's proposal for a building at 364 Main St., with 27 apartments and nearly 8,000 square feet of retail space, a special-use permit would need to be approved by the City Council rather than the Planning Board because its neighbor at 372 Main St. had been added to the city's historic district overlay. However, O'Donnell has revised his plans to include only three floors with 20 apartments and 7,500 square feet of retail, so the City Council will not need to review them. No special-use permit is required.

In the same article, we reported that a city grant is available for buildings in the historic overlay. In fact, funding for facade improvements is available only to Main Street buildings in the overlay.

For our corrections policy, see [highlandscurrent.org/editorial-standards](https://highlandscurrent.org/editorial-standards).

(Continued from Page 4)

catastrophe, which is touted as a great boon, contain not a single word about COVID-19 or safety measures or masks or vaccine requirements. *The Current* is guilty of such omissions, parroting the sales pitch and happily quoting Frontier's sale prices without raising any questions about our safety. I have a question for our elected officials in Albany: Will this be worth the lives lost?

Bettyann Lopate, *Beacon*

### Redistricting

Allowing elected officials to serve on a commission tasked with redrawing district lines is an opportunity for politicians to gerrymander election districts in order to gain political advantage (“Ex-Commission Members Plan to Sue,” Aug. 6). No such advantage exists for school board trustees, who are elected by voters living in their school district. Changes to school district boundaries require state approval and mutual agreement of the bordering districts.

The Dutchess County Independent Reapportionment Commission should not have been disbanded. This looks like a power grab by Republican legislators.

Julia Famularo, *Philipstown*

### Cuomo allegations

At this point in time I would support any governor, regardless of political party, who has handled the pandemic in such a superlative manner as Andrew Cuomo (“Calls Grow for Governor to Resign,” Aug. 6).

I would also support any governor who over the years has stopped fracking, ushered in marriage equality for our LGBTQ brothers and sisters, sent aid to Puerto Rico during Hurricane Maria and provided free tuition at state universities for deserving New York youth.

I question the timing of these allegations [of sexual harassment], their flimsy nature and the thrust toward painting Cuomo as a Cosby or Weinstein.

Goldee Greene, *Garrison*

The people are not calling for Cuomo to resign. This is a political coup. The Democrats want him out, not the citizens who voted for him. There is no evidence for any of this B.S.

Katherine Mahoney, *via Facebook*

We are all fallible humans, are we not? Even the Bible says, “Don't throw stones.”

Olga Anderson, *via Facebook*

### Beacon parking

When is the Beacon City Council going to stop leasing or selling municipal parking lots (“Beacon Roundup,” Aug. 6)? We already have a shortage of spaces. Based on the mayor's comments, it looks like his Zoning Board of Appeals will keep approving these projects.

Terry Hockler, *via Facebook*

It seems like the mayor is hell-bent on giving the green light to developers. Has the city kept a ledger of the spaces committed to developers? I'm guessing it doesn't want to know.

Steve Oakes, *via Facebook*

### Marijuana shops

I can understand Supervisor Richard Shea's sentiments about the lack of attendance at a hearing about whether Philipstown should “opt out” of allowing marijuana retail shops (*Letters and Comments*, Aug. 6), given that during his many years of service to the town the most activity he typically sees at public meetings is when people are upset. I've been a lone attendee at school board meetings and one of only two or three at town budget workshops.

In this case, however, I think people are — as Gracie Oakes pointed out (*Letters and Comments*, July 30) — scared about coming forward on this sensitive topic in a public forum. There's a big difference between stating into a microphone one's impassioned opinion about dirt roads (the usual source of outcry) and a substance that's been illegal, misunderstood, mishandled and even weaponized against minorities for more than half a century.

Shea is right that only two people showed up for the workshop. But that's missing the point. First, an army of opponents wasn't in attendance, either. Where were they? And second, one of the attendees had been

actively engaged in the backyard discussions mentioned by Mr. Oakes, some of which I was a part of, which led to my written public comment and, ultimately, the Town Board's phone call with a selectman in Great Barrington, Massachusetts [where the state legalized retail sales of cannabis in 2016].

Regardless of whether that call changed anyone's mind, the board can make a more informed decision as a direct result of those backyard conversations. (One even involved a senior resident who needs access to cannabis for a medical condition.) Informal community discussion matters just as much in Philipstown, on any issue, as stepping up to the microphone at what was not a terribly well advertised public meeting, certainly not as well advertised as a workshop on whether to pave a dirt road.

While it's easier to raise one's voice online, Shea's joke about people being too stoned to attend the workshop is not fair. We all swing and miss sometimes, but I hope that he sees the response from residents at highlandscurrent.org as informed (they certainly appear to be) and that he respects people courageous enough to voice those opinions and present facts, regardless of the medium. Cue joke: We're all better served if these discussions end on a high note.

Eric Arnold, *Garrison*

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The HIGHLANDS  
**Current**





# 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.



Officers can wear body cameras, such as this device made by Axon, on their chests but there are also models that fit on a shoulder lapel, sunglasses or hat. *Axon*

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 are 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.

## Are You Ready?

*Short-term rental hosts can apply for permits starting Sept. 1*

On July 29, the Cold Spring Village Board approved a law to regulate short-term rentals, such as those booked through Airbnb. All hosts must have a permit issued by the village, based on the schedule below.

There are three types of permits: (1) hosted, in which the owner lives on premises; (2) unhosted; and (3) 14-day, in which a host can rent a space twice a year for up to seven days each for events such as West Point graduation.

There will be 33 permits offered for hosted sites and 16 for unhosted sites. Rentals can operate for two to 29 consecutive nights for up to 90 nights annually.

Chapter 100 of the village code, which provides all the details about the regulations, is online at [bit.ly/STR-code](https://bit.ly/STR-code).

### SEPT. 1 TO 30

The date that applications, including a \$50 application fee, can be submitted for 14-day permits. The law does not limit how many of these permits can be issued. The permit fee is \$100. Applications will also be accepted from March 1 to 31.

### SEPT. 15 TO OCT. 15

The dates that applications, including a \$50 application fee, can be submitted for hosted and unhosted permits. In 2022 and beyond, the application period will be Aug. 1 to 31.

### OCT. 15 TO NOV. 15

The dates that applications will be verified to assure they qualify. The verification period in 2022 and beyond will be Sept. 1 to 30.

### NOV. 15

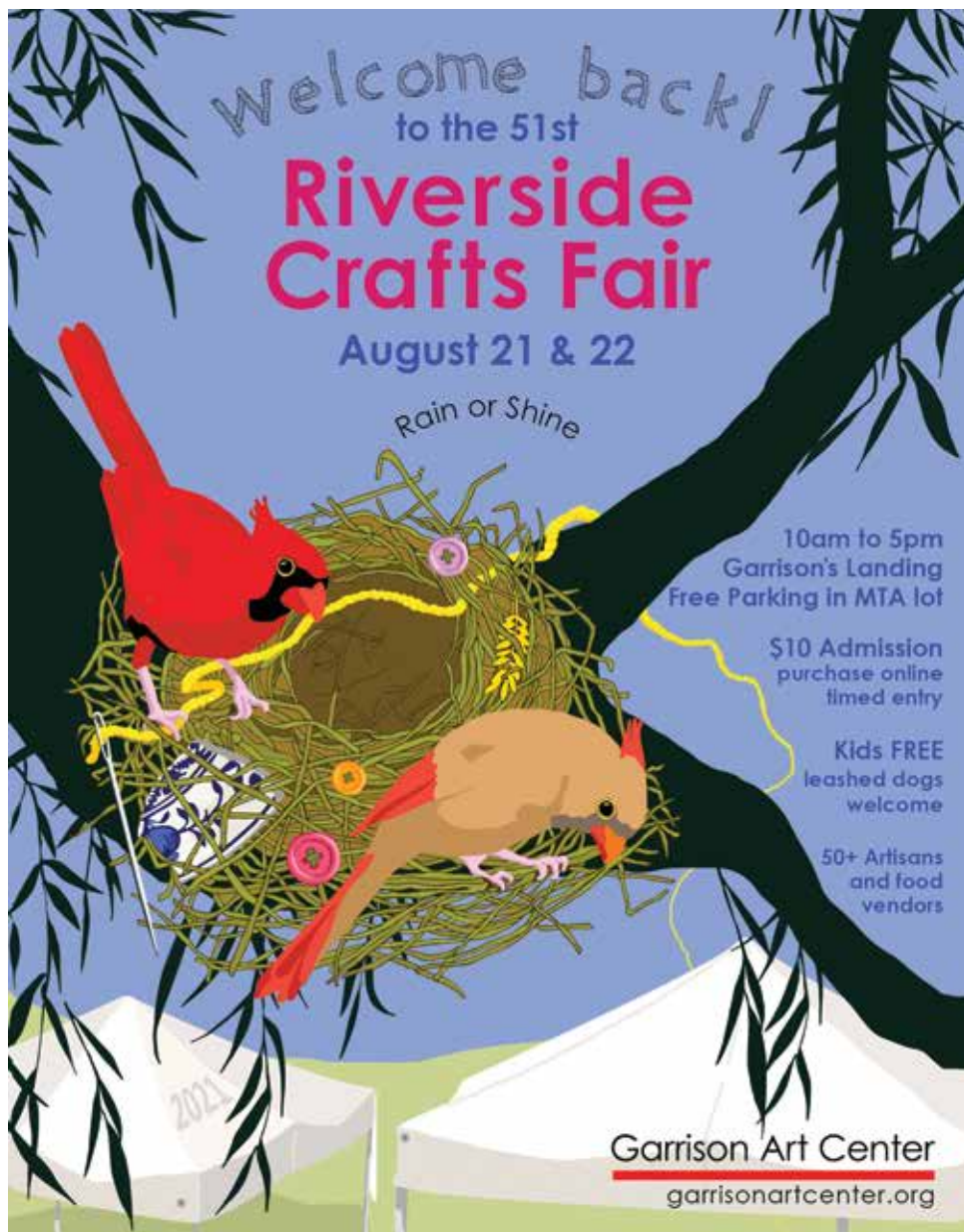
The deadline for applicants to make corrections to their applications. In 2022 and beyond, the deadline will be Sept. 30.

### NOV. 16

A lottery will be held of the verified applications and hosts chosen will pay the \$250 fee to receive their permits. In 2022 and beyond, the drawing will be held on Oct. 1.

### JAN. 1

The dates the permits become valid. They expire Dec. 31.





# 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.

### Beacon Views

**Number of units:** 40 townhouses  
**Status:** This proposal on Conklin Street last appeared on the Planning Board's agenda in January to discuss potential environmental impacts on wetlands.



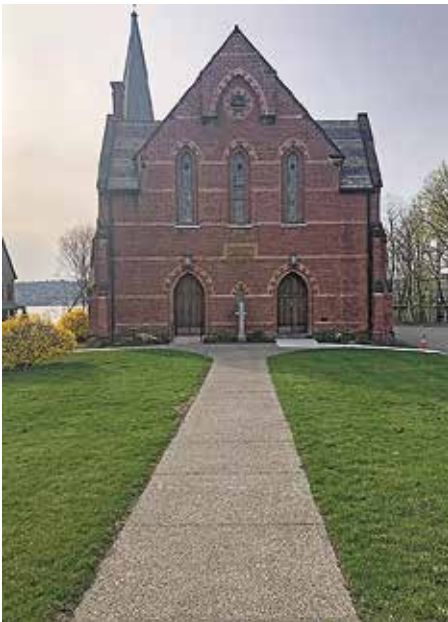
### 364 Main St.

**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.



### 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.



### 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.



### 16 W. Main St.

**Number of units:** 62  
**Status:** Because of a zoning change, the development must include a commercial component on the first of its four stories; the developer is proposing artists' retail spaces.



## 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**



## 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.

## 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 iTutor, 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 "substantial," it is bordered by high-rate counties.

Heidi Snyder, the co-owner of Drug World in Cold Spring, said she expects that once the Food and Drug Administration gives its final approval to a Pfizer vaccine, which is being distributed on an emergency basis until late-stage clinical trials are complete, it will spur a rally for vaccinations among adolescents and teenagers. In Dutchess as of Wednesday (Aug. 11), 43.5 percent of students ages 12 to 15 were vaccinated, and in Putnam, 44.7 percent. Statewide, the rate is 46 percent.

"As soon as the vaccine is cleared [by the FDA], I bet it will be mandated" by schools, she said. "Then we're going to be swamped again."

In states with lower vaccination rates, infections are spreading even faster as students prepare to return to school. In Florida and Texas, some local education officials are defying governors who have banned schools from requiring masks. In Florida, a group of parents sued the governor, saying a mask requirement for schools is a public health issue, not a "parents' choice" issue, while two judges in Texas ruled this week for counties which sought to implement mandates.

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 other 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.

## 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 transmission, according to Duke University researchers who studied 100 districts and 14 charter schools in North Carolina. They called masks "a close second" to vaccines

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.

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 guidance 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 consistent 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 state who are fully vaccinated. Benante estimated that more than 90 percent of Haldane's faculty are vaccinated, noting that the school helped coordinate appointments earlier in the year.

In the last week, the National Education Association and the American Federation of Teachers, the country's two largest teachers' unions, both said that they support a vaccine mandate, although the NEA added that unvaccinated teachers could potentially submit to regular testing.

## COVID-19 by the Numbers

### ■ PUTNAM COUNTY

Number of confirmed cases:

**10,920** (+112)

Active Cases in Philipstown: 6-10

Tests administered:

**258,210** (+3,650)

Percent positive:

**4.2** (0)

Percent vaccinated:

**66.2**

Percent in 10516: 73.3

Percent in 10524: 68.6

Number of deaths:

**93** (0)

### ■ DUTCHESS COUNTY

Number of confirmed cases:

**30,557** (+453)

Active Cases in Beacon: 24

Tests administered:

**838,353** (+11,175)

Percent positive:

**3.6** (0)

Percent vaccinated:

**61.5**

Percent in 12508: 56.6

Number of deaths:

**452** (+5)

*Source: State and county health departments, as of Aug. 14, with change from previous week in parentheses. Active cases in Philipstown as of Aug. 6. Percent vaccinated reflects those ages 12 and older who have received at least one dose.*

With so much of the country resisting the vaccines, health and education officials could have another fight on their hands if New York State adds COVID-19 to the list of vaccines required of students.

Asked this week if the state anticipates such a move, even a year or more down the road, a Health Department representative was reticent, saying only that the state "urges all eligible New Yorkers to get vaccinated as soon as possible" and will "review new information from the FDA as soon as it becomes available."

*Leonard Sparks contributed reporting.*

Visit [highlandscurrent.org](https://highlandscurrent.org) for news updates and latest information.





The municipal building in downtown Highland Falls

Photo by M. Turton

## 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

## 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:

| COUNTY      | VILLAGE (YEAR)  |
|-------------|---|
| Dutchess    | Pleasant Valley (1926)<br>Rosendale (1979)              |
| Orange      | Amchir (1968) <sup>1</sup>                              |
| Ulster      | Marlborough (1928)<br>Pine Hill (1985)<br>Rifton (1919) |
| Westchester | North Pelham (1975) <sup>2</sup>                        |

<sup>1</sup> Incorporated four years earlier  
<sup>2</sup> Merged into Pelham

Source: NYS Department of State

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.

## 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

## Hudson Beach Glass

Fine art gallery located on second floor

### Insun Kim

Aug 14 to Sep 6, 2021  
Complexion of the Stainless Steel  
sculpture and painting



162 Main Street, Beacon, NY 12508 845-440-0068  
www.hudsonbeachglass.com



AROUND TOWN



**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 Graymoor. 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



▲ **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.



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# The Calendar

## INSIDE THE BOX

*Collective curates fridge-inspired show*

By Alison Rooney

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](http://garrisonartcenter.org) or call 845-424-3960.*



Melissa Capasso



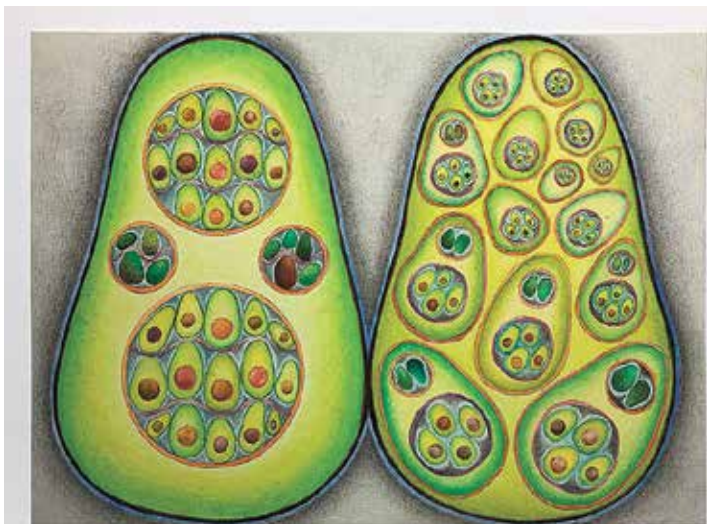
Ana Maria Farina



Marianna Peragallo



Hannah Washburn



Yen Yen Chou





# 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. Stony Kill Farm  
70 Farmstead Lane  
butterfly.stonykill.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  
beaconsloopclub.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/DFLelectric

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

### Modern Makers Market

COLD SPRING

10 a.m. – 6 p.m. St. Mary's Church  
1 Chestnut St. | stmaryscoldspring.com

Browse work by 40 artisans and artists in media including wood, glass, leather, ceramics and jewelry, and enjoy live music, food trucks, New York beer and cider, and a raffle. *Free*

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*



WED 18

### The Civil War Battle at Aversboro

POUGHKEEPSIE

7 p.m. Via Zoom | dchsny.org

Michael Boden, a veteran and military historian, recently visited the battleground in North Carolina and will share his research on the role of Dutchess County people who fought there in this online presentation for the Dutchess County Historical Society.

SAT 21

### Pollinators: What's the Big Deal?

BREWSTER

10:30 a.m. Tilly Foster Garden  
Route 312 & Prospect Hill Road  
putnam.cce.cornell.edu

Master Gardeners will discuss the critical role of bees, butterflies and other pollinators, and what people can do to help them.

## KIDS & FAMILY

TUES 17

### Improv and Theater Games

WAPPINGERS FALLS

5 p.m. Common Ground Farm  
79 Farmstead Lane | compassarts.org

Eric Sait 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

5p.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 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 21

### Back 2 School Block Party

BEACON

Noon – 4 p.m. South Avenue Park  
beaconback2school.com

Get ready for the school year with a DJ, face painting and other activities. The first 100 participants will receive backpack starter kits.

SAT 21

### Teen Water Balloon Fight

GARRISON

1 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library  
472 Route 403 | desmondfishlibrary.org

Participants in the Summer Reading program get bonus balloons for every book they've read.



Complexion of the Stainless Steel, Aug. 14

## 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 *Extraction: 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  
23 Garrison's Landing | 845-424-3960  
garrisonartcenter.org

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.

SAT 14

### Malgorzata Oakes | Group Show

BEACON

6 – 8 p.m. BAU Gallery | 506 Main St.  
845-440-7584 | baugallery.org

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 Samuelson's work, in the Beacon Room. Through Sept. 5.

SAT 14

### Planet Rainbow Sparkles V | Arman 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. | townecrier.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)*



Malgorzata Oakes, Aug. 14



**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. Bannerman 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 DiCrocce, bassist Charlie Shaw and fiddler and banjo player Brian Slattery will perform old-time string music during this outdoor concert.



Shayna Bass, Aug. 21

**FRI 20**  
**David Buskin & Robin Batteau**  
**BEACON**  
8:30 p.m. Towne Crier  
379 Main St. | townecrier.com

Joined by Jesse Terry, the witty songwriters will perform melodic, gritty folk with their percussionist, Marshal Rosenberg. *Cost: \$25 (\$30 door)*

STAGE & SCREEN

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

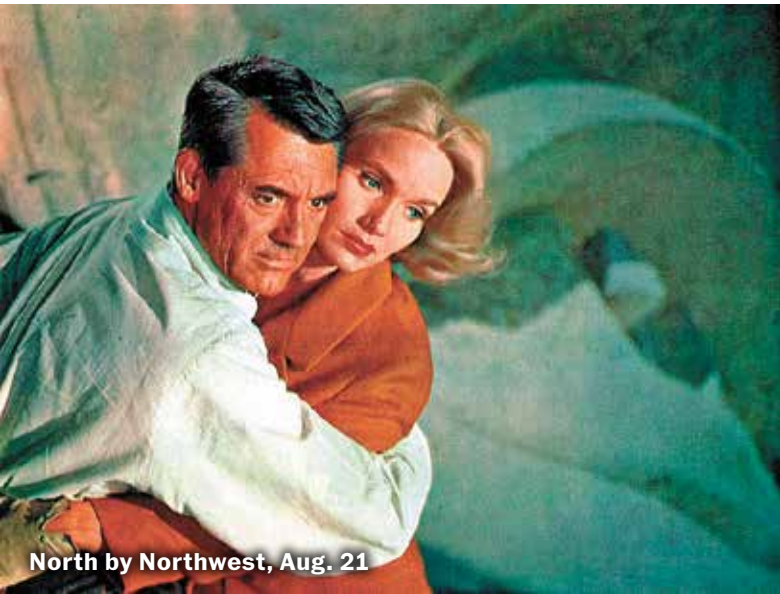
Ryan Quinn directs this Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival performance of the poignant and timely play about romance, connection and community. All attendees are required to show proof of vaccination or a negative COVID test, and masks are required. Nightly except Tuesday. *Cost: \$20 to \$175*

**SAT 14**  
**Who Framed Roger Rabbit?**  
**BEACON**  
8:30 p.m. Story Screen Drive-In  
724 Wolcott Ave. | 845-440-7706  
storyscreendrivein.square.site

An adultery scandal turns into a murder investigation in this 1988 film with a cartoon-hating judge. Kathleen Turner voiced the sultry Jessica Rabbit. Also SUN 15. *Cost: \$10 (\$8 children, seniors, military)*

**WED 18**  
**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)*



North by Northwest, Aug. 21

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

As part of the HVSF2 Reading Series, Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival actors will read company member Luis Quintero's play. *Cost: \$10*

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

Keanu Reeves and Alex Winter reprise their roles in a 2020 sequel to *Bill and Ted's Excellent Adventure* (1989). Boats leave the Beacon dock at 6:30 and 7:30 p.m. *Cost: \$40*

**FRI 20**  
**Saturn's Return**  
**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 Grenke, Jason Howard, Robin Kurtz and Mark Lindberg. Also SAT 21. *Cost: \$20*

**SAT 21**  
**North by Northwest**  
**COLD SPRING**  
7:45 p.m. Dockside Park  
coldspringfilm.org

The Cold Spring Film Society will

screen the 1959 Alfred Hitchcock film starring Cary Grant as an ad man who is mistakenly identified as a government agent by a ruthless spy played by James Mason. Bring blankets and chairs. *Free*

**SUN 22**  
**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*

CIVICS

**MON 16**  
**City Council**  
**BEACON**  
7 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



Bill and Ted Face the Music, Aug. 20



# Steve Rossi

## Transitional Spaces

### sculpture

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*From left: Transitional Space 1, Transitional Space 2, Transitional Space 3*

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**GALLERY HOURS: Tuesday through Sunday, 10am–5pm**

**Garrison Art Center**





## New Beacon firm offers portable blends

By Alison Rooney

**M**att 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 sugarcane, meaning no rum-based drinks.

Thankfully, corn and potatoes saved the day.

"With an actual distillery, it's a little



Liquid Fables hung its shingle in Beacon two weeks ago.

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 sugarcane. 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](http://liquidfables.com). The cocktails are not yet sold at other retail outlets.*



Matt Green with a flight of cocktails (left) and cans for take-out

Photos provided

THE NERVE TANK  
PRESENTS

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[WWW.TOMPKINSCORNERS.ORG](http://WWW.TOMPKINSCORNERS.ORG)



# 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 peach, 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



Col. Dan Rice brought his famous circus to Cold Spring in August 1871.

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.

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## Thank you for this critical support!

For more information on how you can continue to support our community’s recovery, please visit [communityfoundationshv.org](http://communityfoundationshv.org)



(Continued from Page 15)

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



A colorized image shows the 1921 arrival from France of the body interred at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

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 give him a "disability rating" for his application. An official

(Continued on Page 17)



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## 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 85.

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 the newly constructed Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery.

Pearl Doles Bell, the editor of *Fashionable Dress*, stopped in Cold Spring on the way to Maine with her husband in their



Li Hung-chang, seen here in a *Vanity Fair* illustration from August 1896, visited West Point but disappointed the Cold Springers hoping to see him.

“auto cottage” — a home on wheels with a parlor, bedroom, bath, electric lights, running water and gas stove.

A New York City newspaper profiled John Flagler, a Cold Spring native who sold his tubing company to U.S. Steel and became a yachtsman.

James Glover placed a notice in *The*  
(Continued on Page 18)

## NOTICE OF ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Town Board of the Town of Philipstown, Putnam County, New York, at a meeting held on the 5th day of August, 2021, duly adopted a resolution, a summary of which is published herewith **subject to a permissive referendum**.

Dated: August 6, 2021 | Cold Spring, New York

*Lara K. Piccaccio*  
Town Clerk

### BOND RESOLUTION DATED AUGUST 5, 2021

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW HIGHWAY GARAGE IN AND FOR THE TOWN OF PHILIPSTOWN, PUTNAM COUNTY, NEW YORK, AT A MAXIMUM ESTIMATED COST OF \$3,500,000 AND AUTHORIZING, SUBJECT TO PERMISSIVE REFERENDUM, THE ISSUANCE OF \$3,500,000 BONDS OF SAID TOWN TO PAY THE COST THEREOF.

BE IT RESOLVED, by the affirmative vote of not less than two-thirds of the total voting strength of the Town Board of the Town of Philipstown, Putnam County, New York, as follows:

**Section 1.** The construction of a new highway garage to be located at 50 Fishkill Road in Cold Spring, New York, including demolition of existing facility, new petroleum bulk storage facilities, as well as incidental costs and expenses in connection therewith, in and for the Town of Philipstown, Putnam County, New York, is hereby authorized, subject to permissive referendum, at a maximum estimated cost of \$3,500,000.

**Section 2.** SEQRA DETERMINATION: The Town as lead agency has determined that the project constitutes an Unlisted Action under the State Environmental Quality Review Act and the regulations promulgated thereunder for which a negative declaration has been made in connection therewith.

**Section 3.** It is hereby determined that the plan of financing of the aforesaid maximum estimated cost is by the issuance of the \$3,500,000 serial bonds of said Town, hereby authorized to be issued therefor pursuant to the provisions of the Local Finance Law.

**Section 4.** It is hereby determined that the period of probable usefulness of the aforesaid specific object or purpose is thirty years, pursuant to subdivision 11 of paragraph a of Section 11.0 of the Local Finance Law. It is hereby further determined that the maximum of the bonds herein authorized will exceed five years.

**Section 5.** Subject to the provisions of the Local Finance Law, the power to authorize the issuance of and to sell bond anticipation notes in anticipation of the issuance and sale of the bonds herein authorized, including renewals of such notes, I hereby delegated to the Supervisor, the chief fiscal officer. Such notes shall be of such terms, form and contents, and shall be sold in such manner as may be prescribed by said Supervisor, consistent with the provisions of the Local Finance Law.

**Section 6.** The faith and credit of said Town of Philipstown, Putnam County, New York, are hereby irrevocably pledged for the payment of the principal of and interest of such bonds as the same respectively become due and payable. An annual appropriation shall be made and payable in such year. There shall annually be levied on all the taxable real property of said Town, a tax sufficient to pay the principal of and interest on such bonds as the same become due and payable.

**Section 7.** All other matters except as provided herein relating to such bonds, including determining whether to issue such bonds having substantially level or declining annual debt service and all matters related thereto, prescribing whether manual or facsimile signatures shall appear on said bonds, prescribing the method for the recording of ownership of said bonds, appointing the fiscal agent or agents for said bonds, providing for the printing and delivery of said bonds (and if said bonds are to be executed in the name of the Town by the facsimile signature of the Supervisor, providing for the manual countersignature of a fiscal agent or of a designated official of the Town), the date, denominations, maturities and interest payment dates, place or places of payment, and also including the consolidation with other issues, shall be determined by the Supervisor. Such bonds shall contain substantially the recital of validity clause provided for in section 52.00 of the Local Finance Law and shall otherwise be in such form and contain such recitals in addition to those required by section 52.00 of the Local Finance Law, as the Supervisor shall determine.

**Section 8.** This resolution shall constitute a statement of official intent for purposes of Treasury Regulations Section 1.150 - 2. Other than as specified in this resolution, no monies are, or are reasonably expected to be, reserved, allocated on a long-term basis, or otherwise set aside with respect to the permanent funding of the object or purpose described herein.

**Section 9.** The validity of such bonds and bond anticipation notes may be contested only if:

- 1) Such obligations are authorized for an object or purpose for which said Town is not authorized to expend money, or
- 2) The provisions of law which should be complied with at the date of publication of this resolution are not substantially complied with, and an action suit or proceeding contesting such validity is commenced within twenty days after the date of such publication, or
- 3) Such obligations are authorized in violation of the provisions of the Constitution.

**Section 10.** Upon this resolution taking effect, the same shall be published in summary form in the official newspaper of said Town for such purpose, together with a notice of the Town Clerk in substantially the form provided in Section 81.00 of the Local Finance Law.

**Section 11.** THIS RESOLUTION IS ADOPTED SUBJECT TO PERMISSIVE REFERENDUM.



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(Continued from Page 17)

Recorder asking for the return of two boxes of horse bandages that had fallen from his carriage.

#### 75 Years Ago (August 1946)

Eddie Mancari, a former Haldane sports star, recruited 22 players (including his brother, Charlie) for an alumni football team to play games for charity against opponents such as the Pleasantville Vets and the Mamaroneck Stars. His roster included Jerry McElrath, a former halfback for the Pennsylvania Military College, and Harry Bocchino, a former tackle for Rensselaer Polytechnic.

#### 50 Years Ago (August 1971)

The Walter Hoving 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, 713-196.

Mayor Anthony Mazzuca of Nelsonville reported that the members of the Fish and Fur Club had offered to donate their clubhouse on Main Street to the village, saying they could no longer afford its upkeep. [The structure is now Village Hall.]

Mazzuca, who was also chief of the Nelsonville Police Department, which had four part-time and three volunteer officers, reported that between April 1 and Aug. 10 it had issued 89 traffic tickets, handled six dog complaints and made 22 arrests.

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.

#### 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 Klubnick; 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 masterwork 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.



This 1863 painting by Thomas Rossiter, which is owned by the Butterfield Library, depicted wealthy members of the Philipstown community.

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### EVENTS

**MODERAKERS MARKET** — Free to the public, dog friendly and, more importantly, a fundraiser for St. Mary's Episcopal Church. Artists, artists and makers are coming to Cold Spring on Saturday, Aug. 21, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Come meet the makers and shop New York. The address is 1 Chestnut St. Who are these makers? Glassworkers, woodworkers, leather workers, jewelers, potters, food and beverage makers and artists.

### HELP WANTED

**CARETAKER/GROUNDSKEEPER** — Seeking full (or part-time) live-in. Must be hands-on, with experience/knowledge of household systems and garden procedures to oversee and trouble shoot problems. Must be energetic and detail oriented with an upbeat positive

attitude. Be kind and caring and feel a sense of connection to the very special gardens. Please send cover letter saying why you are right for the job, your resume and three references to chelseapaintingstudio@gmail.com.

### SERVICES

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# Local Officials React to Resignation

*All had called for governor to leave*

By Chip Rowe

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.”

“He no longer has the trust necessary to govern effectively.” ~ Assembly Member Jonathan Jacobson



During a visit to Cold Spring in 2016, Lt. Gov. Kathy Hochul (at right) spoke with state Assembly Member Sandy Galef and David Kimelman and Kevin Burke, who were then retailers on Main Street.

File photo

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.



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# 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 white-tailed 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 mites 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.

## NEWS BRIEFS



A sheriff's deputy and a passerby rescued a woman from her burning vehicle on Aug. 3 after she left Route 9D near Boscobel in Philipstown and struck a tree. Smoke from the vehicle was visible from Lane Gate Road; the yellow building is located at the entrance to Boscobel.

Photos by North Highlands Fire Co./David Duffy



## Deputy Credited with Saving Driver

### Pulls motorist from burning car on 9D

A Putnam County sheriff's deputy was credited with saving a driver whose car veered off Route 9D near Boscobel on Aug. 3 and caught fire after striking a tree.

The sheriff said that Deputy William Verrastro was traveling south on Route 9D at about 10:10 a.m. when a Hyundai behind him suddenly went off the road. He and a passerby who has not been identified pulled the unconscious driver from her burning vehicle.

## Putnam Valley Overpass Finished

### Passes over Taconic at Pudding Street

New York State announced on Monday (Aug. 9) that a new overpass at the Pudding Street intersection with the Taconic State Parkway in Putnam Valley has been completed.

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.

## Senator Calls for Bridge Fencing

### Says measure could prevent deaths

State Sen. Pete Hareckham, 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 Hareckham.

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.

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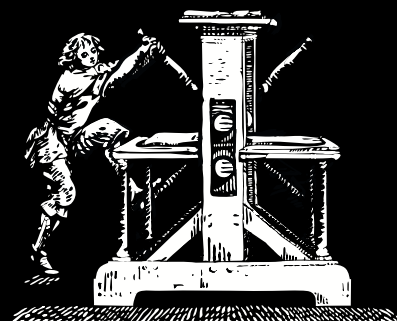
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# Hearing Opens on Philipstown Comp Plan

*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 served on the committee, said more discussion of solar panels and similar 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.

At present, 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, the costs of local elections and mandated funding of

community colleges. It also operates a Sheriff Department substation in Nelsonville.

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 Nelsonville, Patterson, Kent and Southeast were open to the idea.

## Putnam Sales Tax Collections

|      |              |
|------|--------------|
| 2010 | \$47,482,647 |
| 2015 | \$53,953,400 |
| 2019 | \$66,003,884 |
| 2020 | \$66,761,192 |

*Figures are not adjusted for inflation.*

"In early October, we'll pull together a meeting of all towns and villages that have passed the resolution and decide together the best next steps in approaching the county," he said. During the Aug. 5 meeting, he expressed hopes for "a unified front. Every town and village has a self-interest, whether Republican or Democrat, in getting more community funding without raising taxes."

# 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 \$8 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-

fer will replenish an account used to pay for enforcement of laws regulating commercial vehicles.

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## 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.

"You 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

CROSS CURRENT

**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

36. Decay

37. Lost traction

39. Pink wading bird

41. King of Judea

43. Faux pas

44. Belly

46. Tribal emblem

50. Coastal diving bird

55. Chopper

56. — mater

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. Capri, for one

30. Pinot —

9. Charged bit

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. Capri, for one

30. Pinot —

31. And others (Lat.)

35. Sent forth

38. Doctrines

40. Wall St. debut

42. Pair

45. Jog

47. "Toodle-oo!"

48. Way out

49. Viral web phenomenon

50. Low isle

51. Flamenco cheer

52. LBJ's successor

53. Copper head?

54. "Smoking or —?"

57. Bassoon's kin
58. Director Burton
59. Longings
60. See to
61. Packed away
- 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

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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 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)

**SOLUTIONS**

1 \_\_\_\_\_

2 \_\_\_\_\_

3 \_\_\_\_\_

4 \_\_\_\_\_

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6 \_\_\_\_\_

7 \_\_\_\_\_

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

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|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| G | L | A | M |   | T | A | L | C |   | S | I | P |
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| S | A | M | M | Y | S | O | S | A |   | E | N | T |
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| 4 | 7 | 2 | 3 | 9 | 5 | 1 | 8 | 6 |
| 3 | 4 | 8 | 2 | 5 | 1 | 7 | 6 | 9 |
| 1 | 6 | 7 | 9 | 3 | 8 | 2 | 5 | 4 |
| 5 | 2 | 9 | 4 | 6 | 7 | 3 | 1 | 8 |

1. HAMPERS, 2. CAFTAN, 3. TAKINGS, 4. GUMS, 5. COTTAGES, 6. CAPFUL, 7. COUNTABLE

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



## SPORTS



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# 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.



Liam Murphy crushed this pitch over the right-field fence for a two-run homer on Sunday.

Photos by  
S. Pearlman



Derrick Heaton fanned seven batters in four innings against Brewster.



A jubilant Bulldogs team celebrates Austin Jorgensen's third-inning grand slam.



Mercer Jordan puts the tag on a runner at third in Sunday's title game.