

# The HIGHLANDS Current

Garage Gallery

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AUGUST 27, 2021

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## Beacon Aims Again for \$10 Million Prize

*Monday meeting first public step in process*

By Jeff Simms

Beacon is dreaming big when it comes to parking, affordable housing and creating a more accessible Main Street corridor.

Now, city officials just have to sell their plans. The prize: \$10 million in state funding.

The City Council will hold a public meeting at 7 p.m. on Monday (Aug. 30) to hear feedback on concepts that could included in an application it plans to submit next month.

Since 2016, New York State has invested \$400 million in 40 communities through its Downtown Revitalization Initiative, including, in the Mid-Hudson Valley, Peekskill and New Rochelle in Westchester County, Middletown in Orange and Kingston in Ulster. If selected, Beacon would be the first community in Dutchess County to benefit.

Municipalities must submit applications to their regional economic development council. The Mid-Hudson region, one of 10 overall, includes Dutchess, Putnam, Orange, Rockland, Sullivan, Ulster and Westchester counties.

After reviewing applications, the Mid-Hudson council will nominate two down-towns to receive \$10 million or one to receive \$20 million. Beacon is aiming for

*(Continued on Page 10)*



Protestors rallied outside the Brooklyn home of Sen. Chuck Schumer on Saturday (Aug. 21), demanding that the U.S. open its borders to Afghan refugees.

Photo by Edna Leshowitz/ZUMA Press Wire

## Elected Officials, Aid Agencies Prepare for Afghan Refugees

*But downstate cost of living, housing too high for most newcomers*

By Chip Rowe

Elected officials from the state Assembly and Senate, including Jonathan Jacobson, a Democrat whose Assembly district includes Beacon, wrote President Joe Biden last week saying “we welcome asylum seekers and refugees from Afghanistan and stand ready to

support them when they are here.”

But it’s unlikely that many of the tens of thousands of Afghans being evacuated from the country ahead of a Taliban take-over of the Kabul airport will be relocated to the Hudson Valley or New York City — the housing and cost of living is too expensive unless they already have family here.

The Afghans who are being evacuated have received what are known as Special Immigrant Visas, or SIVs, through a program created by Congress to assist those who served as drivers, translators, “fixers”

*(Continued on Page 7)*

## Philipstown Man Pleads Guilty to Killing Father

*Weber agrees to serve 20 years for manslaughter*

By Leonard Sparks

A Philipstown man charged with murder pleaded guilty in Putnam County Court on Tuesday (Aug. 24) to manslaughter in the death of his father, whose body was found by firefighters inside a mobile home destroyed by fire in 2019.

Louis Weber III, 21, a 2018 Haldane graduate, pleaded guilty to first-degree manslaughter in exchange for a 20-year prison sentence and five years of post-release supervision. Weber also agreed to a three-to-nine-year sentence for third-degree arson, to be served concurrently. His sentencing is scheduled for Oct. 26 before Judge Joseph Spofford.



Louis Weber III

Weber responded “yes” when prosecutor Larry Glasser of the Putnam County District Attorney’s Office asked if he was pleading guilty to repeatedly striking his father with a hammer before setting fire to the mobile home.

His plea covers a section of New York’s first-degree manslaughter statute in which a person is guilty when “with intent to cause serious physical injury to another person, he causes the death of such person

*(Continued on Page 3)*



Beacon’s Little League all-star team won the state championship in 1981.

Photo by Robert W. Murphy

## When Beacon Was King

*Former Little League players recall 1981 run to state title*

By Leonard Sparks

Before the trophies, the newspaper stories, the barnstorming by bus to the edges of the state, and the parade, the boys from Beacon played the game of baseball.

That is what Mike O’Leary remembers from that magical summer 40 years ago, when a team of bubble gum-chewing, bicycle-riding 11- and 12-year-old all-stars energized the city.

During July and August of 1981, the

team had a run of victories that included the city’s first district title in more than 20 years, its first state championship and a shot at the Little League World Series in Williamsport, Pennsylvania.

Their success became the city’s: A school board member donated a bus for the team to use; residents and businesses donated money for hotels and other expenses as the team traveled the state; and fans piled into buses and traveled hours to see Beacon win the state championship.

The run began on July 11, 1981, when on a hot day in Beacon, Efren Gonzalez hit a grand slam and doubled; Tony Sedore

*(Continued on Page 20)*



# 5Q FIVE QUESTIONS: SUE DOWNES

By Brian PJ Cronin

**S**ue Downes, who lives in Garrison, is a longtime computer security consultant currently employed by McAfee as a customer success manager.

**Last month Chris Inglis was sworn in as the nation's first national cyber director. What will be his biggest challenges?**

With the government, there are so many agencies that have to work together. It can happen, but I've been working for cybersecurity vendors for a very long time and it's a monster, what's going on now with ransomware [in which hackers demand payment to release control of a system]. The last big one shut down the Colonial Pipeline, which crippled fuel supplies for 50 million Americans. It's a business model [for criminals]; it's not kids in their basement hacking.

**How do most ransomware attacks occur?**

Through "spear-phishing," which is when you get an email with a friend's name on it and it says something like, "Thought you would enjoy this," with a link. If you click on the link, it will take you to a website that will download malware that will give the hackers access to your hard drive. They'll come back



and say, "We have your information, you can't get it right now and this is what you have to pay." There was a time when it happened a lot to regular users, but the bigger targets now are companies and their employees. I never click on links in my emails. If it's not clearly fake, I'll call my friends and say, "Did you send this to me? What is it?"

**Are people more lackadaisical with smartphone security?**

I think so. I have friends call me all the time with things they did by mistake. "I clicked this, they told me to like something and now my phone doesn't work." Never click on a link in a text from someone you don't know! That's my mantra: Do. Not. Click.

**What's the biggest mistake companies make in regard to cybersecurity?**

Not keeping up with the Windows updates, the security updates. There are a lot of companies that have outdated operating systems, and some of the breaches are because of vulnerabilities in those old systems. One of the reasons they don't get updated is because companies are short-staffed right now.

**What about the rest of us?**

On Facebook, you will see posts asking people who their first boyfriend was, or their favorite teacher. And people respond! I see thousands of comments. I think, "What are you doing?" The hackers are harvesting personal information so they can access your accounts. It's usually things that are answers to the three to five security questions you have to pick when you set up an account. I keep a low social media profile. The more information you have out there, the worse it is for you.

## ON THE SPOT

By Michael Turton

**What's in your favorite summer fruit bowl?**

**"** Definitely peaches. And I use them in-season to make peach cobbler for the diner [Yankee Clipper, run by her family]. **"**



Katina Pertesis, Beacon

**"** I'm a big berry guy, so it's strawberries, blueberries, raspberries — with vanilla yogurt. **"**



Daniel Bernstein, Philipstown

**"** I like a real mix: blueberries, peaches, melon, raspberries. **"**



Betty Gallio, Beacon

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# State Looks to Expedite Renter Aid

*121 Highlands households have applied for funds*

By Leonard Sparks

The state and federal governments are taking steps to speed up the distribution of billions in funding that will cover a year of back rent and overdue utility payments for renters who lost income due to the pandemic and face eviction.

New York announced on Tuesday (Aug. 24) that it would spend \$1 million to promote the state program, which has so far received \$1.2 billion in federal funding.

As of Aug. 13, 100 tenants in Beacon had applied for rental assistance and nine for help with overdue utilities. In Garrison, 11 had applied, plus one for utility assistance. There were no applications from Cold Spring.

Eligible households must have at least one person who qualifies for unemployment or has lost income or faced significant costs or financial hardship due to the pandemic shutdown; can prove they are at risk of homelessness or “housing instability”; and has household income at or below 80 percent of the area median, which ranges from \$57,360 for a single person up to \$108,080 for an eight-person household in Dutchess County.

Distributing aid has become more urgent

because the state’s blanket moratorium on evictions expires on Aug. 31. A more limited federal moratorium applies to places with “substantial” or “high” rates of COVID-19 transmission under Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines, but is being challenged in the U.S. Supreme Court. (Both Dutchess and Putnam counties were designated “high” as of Wednesday.)

The program requires that tenants and landlords each complete the application before payments can be made. The state said it also will reassign contract workers to help landlords.

A day after the announcement, the U.S. Treasury, which is overseeing the program, said states could allow renters to self-attest when answering questions about income and financial hardship, rather than provide documentation. New York had approved or distributed nearly \$639 million of its \$1.2 billion as of Wednesday, according to the National Low Income Housing Coalition, which is tracking how much each state has paid.

“I want the money out, and I want it out now,” Gov. Kathy Hochul said on Tuesday. “No more excuses and delays.”

In addition to qualifying for 12 months of rent and utility assistance, eligible tenants can receive an additional three months of assistance to prevent a looming eviction. For information, see [bit.ly/renter-aid](https://bit.ly/renter-aid).

# Mutual Aid: Covering a ‘Brother Officer’s’ Back

*It means reinforcing, not replacing, other cops, Burke says*

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

When Larry Burke, officer-in-charge of the Cold Spring police, addressed the Nelsonville Village Board on Aug. 16, he mostly focused on license plate readers — a fraught topic, as questions arose about the need for the devices in a quiet community.

But he also touched on another police tool: mutual aid, the practice by which officers from one agency help those in another.

Last winter, mutual aid became an issue in Philipstown when the Town Board learned that the Philipstown Volunteer Ambulance Corps, largely funded by the

town, filled in for five months for ambulance services in Kent and Putnam Valley. The concern was that the PVAC allowed those towns to avoid expenses.

In an interview two days after the Nelsonville meeting, Burke explained that for the Cold Spring Police Department, mutual aid does not entail replacing another agency on the job for an extended period. Instead, he said, it typically means backing up Putnam County sheriff’s deputies on potentially dangerous calls, such as those involving domestic violence, burglaries or anything that could escalate into “a little bit of a wild situation.”

The Sheriff’s Department polices Philipstown and Nelsonville, which once kept small forces but disbanded them years ago. The department operates a substation in Nelsonville less than a mile from the Cold Spring police headquarters.

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## Guilty (from Page 1)

or of a third person.” The maximum sentence for first-degree manslaughter is 25 years.

The body of Louis Weber Jr., 72, was found in the remains of his home at the Post Road Mobile Home Park on Nov. 4, 2019. Weber was a veteran of the Marine Corps and a retired financial adviser.

The younger Weber was arrested on Aug. 23, 2020, and charged with second-degree murder, which carries a maximum

sentence of life in prison, and two other felonies: third-degree arson and tampering with physical evidence. He pleaded not guilty on Sept. 11 and has been held since then at the Putnam County Jail.

Months earlier, in February 2019, prosecutors had charged Weber with three hate crimes involving a swastika and anti-Semitic slur that had been painted inside a home under construction in Nelsonville. In that case, he was adjudicated a youthful offender, so the outcome is sealed.

## What Members Are Saying



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I value the quality of the paper and the focus on issues that matter.

”

~ Gretchen Dykstra, of Cold Spring, at Constitution Marsh

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## Tell us what you think

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

## LETTERS AND COMMENTS

### Sales tax

Philipstown Board Member Jason Angell has launched an effort to get Putnam County to share sales tax revenue with the communities that generate it.

In the Aug. 20 issue, a letter in response to this effort appeared to be an attempt to muddy the waters, a common tact when arguing an indefensible position.

Nearly every county in New York state shares sales tax, including all of our neighbors: Westchester, Dutchess, Rockland and Orange. This is because it is the right thing to do. What if, instead of giving you a paycheck each week, your boss told you he was going to hold your earnings and decide what you should spend it on — and then spend it for you? This is essentially what Putnam County does to all the towns.

If one wants to argue that the county knows better than the towns, look at the record of how money has been spent in the past and will be in the future. The golf course, Tilly Foster Farm and an airport are a few prime examples that have continued to bleed money.

I have been looking at the numbers for 20 years and the \$8 million we send the county every year would easily cover all our needs, with plenty left over for local projects and

tax cuts. Our money goes to fund a bloated county government and pet projects for other towns like Carmel, which is coincidentally the home of the county executive.

Money is money, and whether it is coming from sales tax or property tax, Philipstown should be getting more of it from Putnam. Good board members like Jason Angell are right to put in the effort to get that money for our residents.

Richard Shea, *Philipstown*  
*Shea is the Philipstown supervisor.*

In the Aug. 20 issue, Anthony Lise makes a point worth considering regarding the revenue that a sales tax on cannabis could generate for Philipstown. If a local retail shop had annual sales of \$1 million — which might be high given statewide competition — it would equate to roughly \$30,000 of local revenues. If Philipstown moves forward with opting out, there will be a public hearing before the decision and I encourage folks to come out and voice their opinions.

Jason Angell, *via Instagram*

### 2021 census

Your story about the apparent drop in population in Beacon, and whether it might be accounted for by not counting prisoners at

Fishkill Correctional as residents of the city ("Census Data for Beacon Unclear," Aug. 20), reminded me of when my district boundaries changed in 2012 after redistricting and I lost the prisoner count from Sing Sing.

In 2012, a state court ordered state and county governments to exclude inmate counts when they used census data to redraw political boundaries. Instead, prisoners had to be included in the count for their home addresses. As a result, my district lost more than 1,000 residents. The redrawn district was going to include Putnam Valley, but to compensate for the loss of the 1,000 inmates, at the last minute a larger municipality had to be added instead, which turned out to be Kent.

This issue of where the incarcerated are counted for the 2022 redistricting and going forward is part of a referendum that will appear on the ballot on Nov. 2. If passed, prisoners will be counted at their last place of residence.

Sandy Galef, *Albany*

*Editor's note: Galef's district in the Assembly includes Philipstown. According to the Prison Policy Initiative, which has campaigned against "prison gerrymandering," counting prisoners where they are incarcerated "artificially enhances the weight of a vote cast in those districts at the expense of all districts that do not contain a prison."*

My first guess for the apparent drop in Beacon would be that young, single people or those who have one or two children moved in and larger families moved out. Second guess would be lots of houses were sold as second properties. And the third would be collection errors.

Lance Pahucki, *via Facebook*

A decade of increasing gentrification — the pricing out of local families in favor of wealthy weekenders looking for a secondary residence — will result in this kind of population loss. If regular Beaconites can easily see it and have been warning about this for 10 years, how come our leadership is startled?

Emily Murnane, *via Instagram*

### Wine bar

The cafe and wine bar proposed for 15 Main St. would be a great addition to that section of Main ("Notes from the Cold Spring Village Board," Aug. 20). Wasn't the previous building even closer to the sidewalk? It was also an eyesore, and crumbling. I highly doubt River Architects did not provide adequate plans.

Maria Hardman, *via Instagram*

### Fall sports

For school sports, you have to submit a  
(Continued on Page 5)





## LETTERS AND COMMENTS

(Continued from Page 4)

physical to make sure you are medically cleared to play, which includes immunizations (“Not Again!” Aug. 20). What’s the difference if you add one more [for COVID-19]?

Marisa Brink, *via Facebook*

If a child needs to get an experimental vaccine, the superintendent and school board officials need to take personal liability if an injury or death occurs.

Justin Riccobono, *via Facebook*

*Editor’s note: On Monday (Aug. 23), the Food and Drug Administration fully approved the Pfizer vaccine for anyone age 16 and older. It is still available to those age 12 to 15 only under an emergency use authorization, and no COVID-19 vaccines have been approved for children under 12.*

### Short-term rentals

The Cold Spring Village Board has made the unfortunate decision to press ahead with a set of short-term rental rules that are discriminatory and legally invalid, two days after holding a perfunctory public hearing (“Cold Spring Adopts Short-Term Rental Law,” Aug. 6).

The Cold Spring Union of Hosted-Airbnb Residents urges residents to ignore these rules and refrain from participating in the permitting process until a collaborative and equitable set of rules are developed.

In my view, the amendment of Chapter 134 by the Village Board, which acknowledges short-term rentals, makes their operation

legal in the village. Further, the rules and restrictions in Chapter 100, taken as a whole, are invalid because they constitute multiple infringements upon the rights of residents, particularly property owners operating STRs.

I urged the Village Board to stand down and instead to work collaboratively with a cross-section of impacted stakeholders to develop a fair and equitable set of rules. Nonetheless, the resolution was brought forward for a vote and adopted by the thinnest of margins (3-2), with two board members voting “no” in part due to the lack of collaboration. Because of this unfortunate set of circumstances, it would be improper for me to participate in a legally invalid permitting process.

In light of the unanimously approved amendments to Chapter 134 that allow the operation of short-term rentals in principle, I intend to resume the peaceful and lawful operation of my STR.

John Lane, *Cold Spring*

### Plate readers

Thank you staying on top of this important privacy issue, which seems to be increasingly pervasive in American society (“Burke Defends Plate Readers, Accuses Putnam of Neglect,” Aug. 20).

We all should be concerned about surveillance cameras in our community. I trust Cold Spring Officer-in-Charge Larry Burke’s reasonable rationale for using them, but it is where it goes from there that is potentially troubling. I seriously doubt “commu-

## Correction

In a chart that appeared in the Aug. 20 issue, the arrow in the top row, indicating the 11.4 percent loss of population in Beacon in the 2020 census, should have been pointing down. Also, to clarify, the sum of the individual race categories could exceed the total population because people may have been included in more than one category.

nism,” as one Nelsonville resident said, has anything to do with it.

David North, *Garrison*

It is amazing how many times that our local officials complain about being the “lost stepchildren” of Putnam County. While it may be true, people keep voting in the same people who cannot get the job done. How many more years will the same political party get voted in?

Christopher Stearns, *via Facebook*

We should emancipate ourselves and join Dutchess County. Who’s in?

Leslie Nice-Heanue, *via Facebook*

Your story said Burke, to justify the installation of the cameras, “pointed out that the crime rate is going up in some areas, citing thieves who apparently steal

cars in Connecticut, and drive them to the Philipstown area, where they steal different cars and commit other crimes.”

This sounds odd. Where is the crime rate going up? What are these crimes?

Every year, in the late summer, there are predictable crimes mostly affecting visitors and those who are not taking enough precautions or not paying attention. But is this year different?

Frank Haggerty, *Cold Spring*

*The editor responds: We asked Burke for clarification. He said on Thursday (Aug. 26) that there had been 12 to 15 vehicles broken into overnight in Cold Spring on Aug. 18, and that such incidents 99 percent of the time involve unlocked cars. “If there’s money in those [vehicles], they [thieves] take the money and close the door behind them,” he said. “That’s why a lot of people didn’t want to make a report. They just call me and say: ‘Hey, listen, my glove compartment was opened, there’s nothing missing, there was nothing in there.’” On the car thieves from Connecticut, he said: “There have been no stolen vehicles in Cold Spring the last three years. I’m just going by what I heard from other law enforcement agencies over the last couple of years. That’s why I told that story at the [Nelsonville] meeting. That was from intel from other police departments: That they have had people in the past take [vehicles] from Connecticut and go to Southeast and go down to other areas. But we have not had that” in Cold Spring.*

## IMPORTANT NOTICE

### NEW COLD SPRING SHORT-TERM RENTAL LAW

The Village of Cold Spring has enacted a new law that regulates Short-Term Rental properties within the Village. Under this law, a limited number of permits will be issued to qualifying properties each year. To operate a Short-Term Rental during the 2022 calendar year, interested parties must submit an application. The types of permits available and application submission dates are:

- **One Time Permit** – Good for one time use of 14 consecutive days or two 7-day periods. Applications accepted September 1st – September 30th
- **Hosted Permit** – Home owner is on site during the short-term rental period. Applications accepted September 15th – October 15th
- **Un-Hosted Permit** – Home owner is off-site during the short-term rental period. Applications accepted September 15th – October 15th

A limited number of Hosted and Un-Hosted permits are available and they will be issued via a lottery system. Effective January 1, 2022, anyone operating a Short-Term Rental without a permit from the Village of Cold Spring will be subject to penalties and additional action from the Village.

The new code, Chapter 100-Short-Term Rentals, is available on the Village website at <https://www.coldspringny.gov/mayor-board-trustees/pages/village-cold-spring-code> or by contacting the Village Clerk ([vcsclerk@coldspringny.gov](mailto:vcsclerk@coldspringny.gov)) for a copy of the new law.

The Short-Term Rental permit application can be found at [https://www.coldspringny.gov/sites/g/files/vyhlif416/f/uploads/short\\_term\\_rental\\_application.pdf](https://www.coldspringny.gov/sites/g/files/vyhlif416/f/uploads/short_term_rental_application.pdf) or can be picked up at Village Hall, 85 Main Street, Cold Spring NY.

## The Highlands Current STUDENT JOURNALISTS PROGRAM

**The Current is looking for a few good high school journalists.**

The Highlands Current is initiating its Student Journalists Program to provide an opportunity for students who attend high school in Philipstown and Beacon to be mentored by professional journalists while they serve as correspondents for our nonprofit newspaper and website.

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

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

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

*Chip Rowe*  
Chip Rowe, Editor  
The Highlands Current





## NEWS BRIEFS

## Apply to Student Journalists Program

*Deadline is Sept. 17 for Beacon, Haldane*

**T**he *Highlands Current* has opened applications for its Student Journalists Program for the 2021-22 academic year.

The program, which is funded by donations, provides an opportunity for students who attend high school in Beacon or Philipstown to be mentored by members of *The Current* staff while they serve as paid correspondents for our nonprofit newspaper and website.

The students will primarily cover their high schools and issues related to young people. They are invited to attend editorial meetings and the staff will provide detailed feedback and suggestions to improve and refine their reporting.

For more information, see [highlandscurrent.org/student-journalists-program](http://highlandscurrent.org/student-journalists-program). The deadline is Sept. 17.

## Spirit of Beacon Will Again Be Virtual

*Organizers cancel parade, festival*

**B**ecause of concerns about the spread of COVID-19, the organizers of the annual Spirit of Beacon Day said on Monday (Aug. 23) they will not hold the traditional parade or street festival. The events were also canceled last year.



**CHICKENS FIGHT BACK** — On July 26, a state environmental conservation officer rescued a red-shouldered hawk that had become stuck in a coop at a Brewster home and was being attacked by the occupants. *Photo provided*

Instead, the 44th annual celebration will include events throughout the month and on Sept. 26, such as bake sales, concerts, outdoor games and collaborative art. A calendar will be posted at [spiritofbeacon.org](http://spiritofbeacon.org). The theme is "All Around Beacon."

Spirit of Beacon is designed "to bring the city together, especially the children and youth," through "conversation, feelings, entertainment, education and food."

## Howland Opens Library of Things

*Items available for adults to check out*

**T**he Howland Public Library in Beacon has opened a Library of Things, which allows adults to check out items other than books and movies.

The collection includes binoculars, a garden tool set, STEAM to Go! educational kits, a chess set, a folding electronic piano, game consoles, tennis rackets, a ukulele starter kit, a Victrola record player, kits for crocheting and loom knitting, a tabletop easel, Chromebooks, a GoPro, an interactive pet cat, a scientific calculator, a mobile hotspot and a white noise sound machine, among other items.

The collection was funded by a grant from the Mentmore Fund of the Common Counsel Foundation. The Butterfield Library in Cold Spring and Desmond-Fish Public Library in Garrison each also have a Library of Things.



## Governor Mandates School Masks

*Looking into requirement for employees*

**O**n her first day in office on Tuesday (Aug. 24), Gov. Kathy Hochul mandated that teachers and students wear masks in public and private schools when classes resume.

Hochul said in a news release she also would "pursue options" to mandate vaccines for school employees or require weekly testing.

"I am immediately directing the Department of Health to institute universal masking for anyone entering our schools, and we are launching a back-to-school COVID-19 testing program to make testing for students and staff widely available and convenient" that will be funded by \$335 million in federal funds, she said.

## Dutchess Health Commissioner to Leave

*Led county during COVID-19 shutdown*

**D**r. Anil Vaidian, the Dutchess County health commissioner since 2017, will step down on Sept. 10, the county announced on Wednesday (Aug. 25). A news release from the county gave no reason for the change.

Vaidian had previously spent 13 years at the Rockland County Department of Health and Westchester County's Division of Disease Control.

County Executive Marc Molinaro said he would appoint an interim commissioner from within the agency while officials search for a successor.

## COVID-19 by the Numbers

### ■ PUTNAM COUNTY

Number of confirmed cases:

**11,203** (+122)

Active Cases in Philipstown: 0

Tests administered:

**265,609** (+3,443)

Percent positive:

**4.2** (0)

Percent vaccinated:

**67.8**

Percent in 10516: 74.2

Percent in 10524: 70.0

Number of deaths:

**94** (0)

### ■ DUTCHESS COUNTY

Number of confirmed cases:

**31,541** (+454)

Active Cases in Beacon: ≤5

Tests administered:

**860,469** (+9,984)

Percent positive:

**3.7** (0)

Percent vaccinated:

**63.1**

Percent in 12508: 57.6

Number of deaths:

**463** (+2)

Source: State and county health departments, as of Aug. 18, with change from previous week in parentheses. Active cases in Philipstown as of Aug. 13. Percent vaccinated reflects those ages 12 and older who have received at least one dose.

## Beacon Train Lot to Close for Repaving

*Work scheduled for after Labor Day*

**M**etro-North plans to close the parking lot along Red Flynn Drive at the Beacon train station next month for repaving and restriping.

The north half of the lot has been closed since July 26 for drainage work; the entire lot will close after Labor Day. The parking lot on the river side of the tracks will remain open, as will access to the Newburgh-Beacon ferry between the underpass and dock.



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A sunrise over Kabul

Photo by Adriana Curto

## Refugees *(from Page 1)*

or otherwise assisted the U.S. effort over the past 20 years to stabilize the country.

In fiscal 2020, according to state data, 204 SIV holders were resettled in New York state — 195 from Afghanistan and four from Iraq — and 87 percent went to upstate counties such as Monroe, Albany, Onondaga and Erie. Between October 2020 and July 2021, 83 people with SIVs settled in New York state, most from Afghanistan.

Gov. Kathy Hochul said on Wednesday (Aug. 25) that New York State has committed to resettling 1,320 refugees and SIV holders during fiscal 2021.

With thousands of Afghans being flown out of the country each day before an anticipated Tuesday (Aug. 31) deadline, agencies in New York that help with visa applications and resettlement have been busy.

The SIV assistance program at Hearts & Homes for Refugees in Westchester County has “gone into overdrive in the past month,” its founder and president, Kathie O’Callaghan, wrote in an email.

“We are intensely focused on two fronts: Afghanistan and our communities in the lower Hudson Valley,” she said. “Despite the U.S. promise to protect our allies, more than 18,000 people and their families — about 80,000 people — have been abandoned to the retribution and violence and threats of the Taliban.”

Hearts & Homes, which is based in Pelham, has trained more than 50 volunteers for its SIV assistance program and partnered with groups such as Veterans for American Ideals and No One Left Behind. The volunteers “have been working day and night” on more than 60 cases to help Afghans “overcome bureaucratic hurdles to evacuation,” O’Callaghan said. The process includes securing letters of recommendation and employment verification letters.

Unfortunately, her program is at capacity.

“We are heavy-hearted, knowing that this crisis and the lives of our allies did not need to end this way,” she said. “As you can imagine, the desperation and loss of hope that our Afghan allies are feeling is also taking its toll on our volunteers. We know our efforts are helping some, but not all.”

She said the resettlement program has

seen an uptick “after four years of anti-refugee sentiment and policies” under the Trump administration. Her agency works with groups such as Rivertowns for Refugees; Neighbors for Refugees in Larchmont, which resettled its first Afghan family in 2018; and the Interfaith Council for New Americans Westchester.

Hearts & Homes also acts as sponsors for refugee families, providing up to 12 months of support, a furnished home, rental assistance, job networking and assistance enrolling children in school, navigating the health system and learning English. “The goal for everyone is self-sufficiency as soon as possible,” she said.

Its partners in that effort include Catholic Charities, the International Rescue Committee and the Westchester Refugee Resettlement Program operated by HIAS, which was founded in 1881 as the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society.

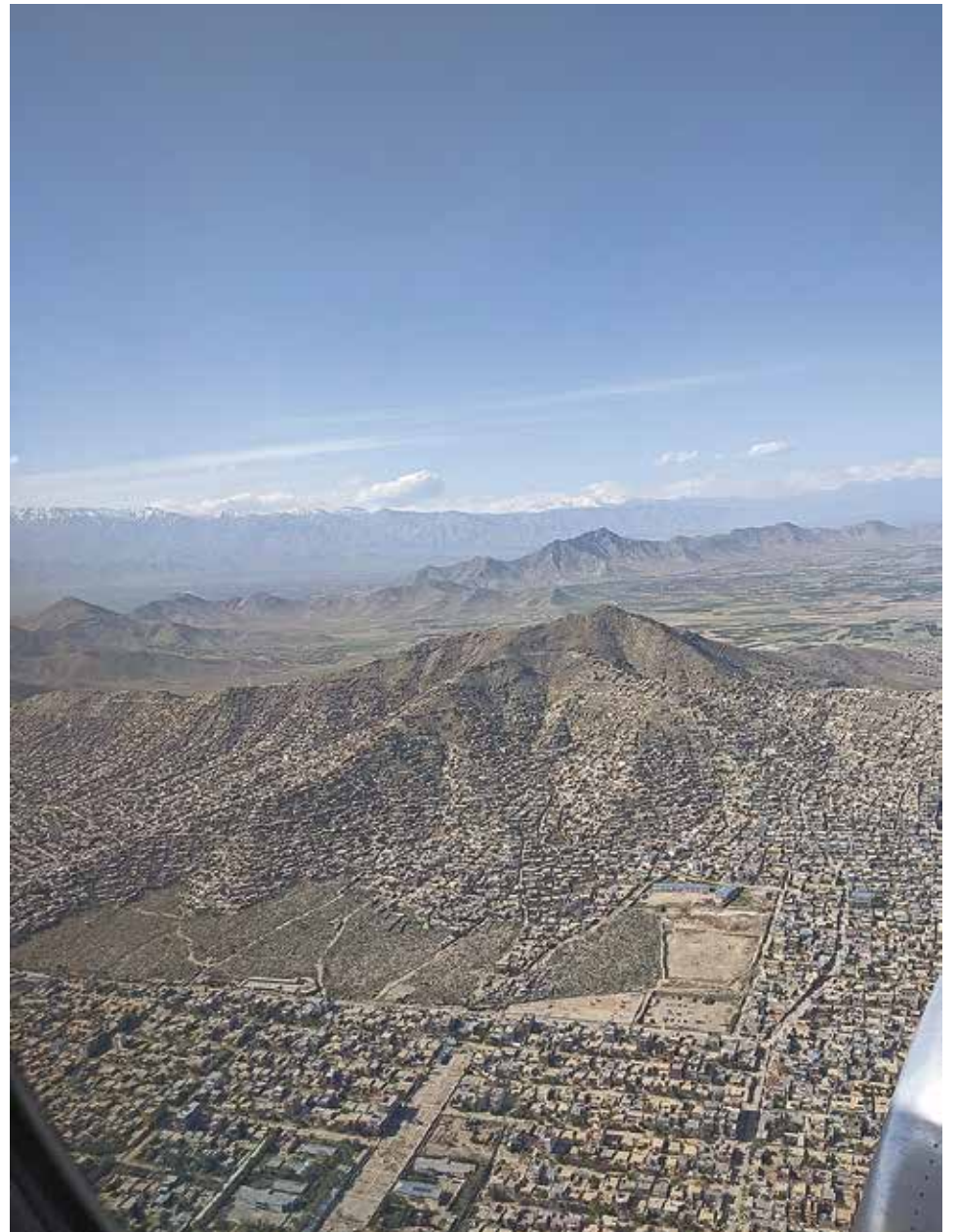
The Afghan refugees who are resettled in the New York City area will likely already have family members here, said Mario Russell, director of immigrant and refugee services for Catholic Charities, in a statement. It’s too expensive, otherwise, he said.

In fact, the U.S. State Department, which provides SIV holders with a list of cities around the country that have a “reasonable cost of living, housing availability, supportive services, and welcoming communities with volunteers and resources,” suggests only one in New York: Buffalo.

The agency cautions new arrivals that “it is best to allow a resettlement agency to choose a suitable location for you” because the cost of living in parts of the U.S. may be far more than resettlement benefits unless friends or relatives can help.

The influx of refugees from Afghanistan is unusual in that a process that can take months is being done in days, said Russell. “This is not a rush job, but the process is being expedited,” he said. “The circumstances under which people are leaving are so much more confusing, so much more, frankly, chaotic. People have typically been processing for months, if not years. These families are moving much more quickly, so I think the dislocation is profound.

*(Continued on Page 8)*



Flying over Kabul

Photo by Adriana Curto

## ‘A Big Step Back’

*Cold Spring native fears reversal of gains for girls and women*

By Leonard Sparks

Despite widespread corruption and the weight of their country’s tradition of patriarchy, Afghan girls and women made substantial gains in the nearly 20 years since the U.S. ousted the Taliban and launched a reconstruction effort, according to a report from the U.S. Office of the Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction.

That included spending an estimated \$787 million on programs to improve the education, health and rights of Afghan girls and women, according to the inspector general. At the time of the report’s release in February, the agency estimated that 3.5 million girls were enrolled in school, compared to very few, if any, in 2002; as many as 75,000 women held government-paid teaching jobs; and the rates of women receiving prenatal and postnatal care had increased. After the 2018 elections for Parliament, women held 27 percent of the 316 seats.

Adriana Curto, a Cold Spring native who spent four months earlier this year work-

ing with Afghan girls and women as a staff member for a non-governmental organization, said this week she worries that those gains will be erased with the Taliban’s return to power.

Many of the Afghans she met were either young girls or not yet born during the Taliban’s first rule, from 1996 until the U.S. invasion in 2001. They had heard about the restrictions on the rights and education of women from parents and older relatives and many had parents who tried to raise them “as women and girls who could get an education, who could do anything,” said Curto, who was based in Kabul from February through the middle of June.

“That’s why I think, right now, there’s a big step back for a lot of women and girls who have celebrated these advances and put themselves out there in the public sphere,” she said. “Now there’s a fear that could be taken away.”

Curto, whose time in Afghanistan coincided with an outbreak of targeted killings, said she feels devastated “to see what people I’ve built a connection with are now going to have to go through.

“There’s a responsibility on all of our parts to advocate and do what we can, as Americans who have a level of power, to resettle people who are at risk,” she said.





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Laura Kisseck



A U.S. Air Force C-17 evacuated 823 Afghan citizens aboard this flight from Kabul on Aug. 15.

U.S. Air Force

Refugees (from Page 7)

“They aren’t looking to leave their country, they aren’t looking to leave their neighborhoods, their homes, their work, their families, their friends. It’s incredibly stressful, incredibly painful.”

Catholic Charities said that as of Tuesday (Aug. 24) it had assisted 13 refugees in New York, admittedly “a small number compared to the thousands of Afghan families who risked their lives to help the U.S. military.” In three cases processed before the Taliban takeover, a family of seven was placed temporarily with relatives in Queens; a single man joined his family on Long Island; and a second family of five settled on Long Island.

“It will be a hard adjustment for the children,” Russell said. Another challenge is finding jobs for the adults, he said, and the charity noted that housing could be a particular challenge because many Afghan families are large by U.S. standards.

There was an effort in 2017 by coalitions organized at Vassar and Marist colleges to bring more refugees to the Hudson Valley, although it was stymied by an executive order by then-President Trump that severely limited who could enter the country. The Vassar group set up a Mid-Hudson Refugee Fund administered by the Community Foundations of the Hudson Valley, and Church World Services agreed to work with the Mid-Hudson Refugee Solidarity Alli-

(Continued on Page 9)

How You Can Help

- The following are regional organizations who are assisting Afghan refugees:
- Catholic Charities  
Emergency Relief Fund  
[bit.ly/cc-afghan](https://bit.ly/cc-afghan)

Hearts & Homes for Refugees  
[heartsandhomesforrefugees.org](https://heartsandhomesforrefugees.org)

InterFaith Works Center  
for New Americans  
[interfaithworkscny.org](https://interfaithworkscny.org)

Keeping Our Promise  
[keepingourpromise.org](https://keepingourpromise.org)

Neighbors for Refugees  
[neighborsforrefugees.org](https://neighborsforrefugees.org)

U.S. Committee for Refugees  
and Immigrants  
[refugees.org/uscri-albany](https://refugees.org/uscri-albany)

Westchester Refugee  
Resettlement Program  
[hias.org/what/new-york](https://hias.org/what/new-york)



## Refugees *(from Page 8)*

ance by opening an office in Poughkeepsie with the goal of settling 80 refugees within a year. Both efforts stalled.

More than 100 Afghan families have settled in Rochester since 2014 with the help of Keeping Our Promise, a charity that assists with the SIV program and provides apartments and help finding jobs. It said its refugees have included Pashtuns, Uzbeks, Tajiks, Hazara, Turkmen and Nuristanis from Afghanistan, Sunni and Shia Iraqis, and Kurdish allies.

In Albany, the field office of the U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants said it has helped settle more than 4,500 immigrants since 2005, primarily from Afghanistan, Burma, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Iraq and Syria.

On Aug. 17, Rep. Sean Patrick Maloney, a Democrat whose district includes the Highlands, and who is a member of the House Intelligence Committee, said “our top priority must be the safe return of U.S. civilians, service members, diplomats and Afghan allies.” People with loved ones who need assistance leaving Afghanistan can call his office at 845-561-1259 or visit [bit.ly/afghan-form](https://bit.ly/afghan-form).

On Wednesday, Hochul said residents wanting to support Afghans arriving in New York could call the state Office for New Americans at 800-566-7636 for information. Immigrants can also use the number for assistance in more than 200 languages. The hotline operates from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. weekdays.

# Afghanistan, Through A Soldier's Eyes

*Former Cold Spring resident reflects on America's longest war*

By Michael Turton

**B**en Martinez graduated from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point in 1997 and lived in Cold Spring from 2006 to 2009 while teaching philosophy and English at the academy. In August 2009, he was deployed to the Uruzgan, Kandahar and Zabul provinces of Afghanistan, where he served with the Army's 82nd Airborne Division until September 2010.

During his 14-year military career, Martinez also served in Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Israel, Kuwait and Qatar. He left the Army in 2011 as a major and now works in software sales. He lives in Virginia with his wife and son; his daughter attends college in California.

### What are you feeling as the U.S. pulls out of Afghanistan?

It's difficult to separate my feelings of loss while still attempting to reconcile how quickly the Afghan government and its army fell. I'm not necessarily surprised by the government falling; I am surprised by the speed.

I understood the need to pull out; it's been 20 years. I have some sadness, reflecting on those we lost, but I remain proud of what we did, what we accomplished. What I'm feeling most is determined: I'm determined to help my fellow veterans not lose sight of the good.

### Were you just doing your job as a soldier while there, or was there more to it?

I thought we were making a difference. But I understand we didn't have the resources to make the entire country safe. Afghanistan is roughly the size of Texas, with about 10 million more people. It's tough to provide the security needed to make that population feel safe and to alleviate the Taliban's influence. Seeing the education of children, specifically girls, was worth the sacrifice, in my opinion.

### Did you think a better future for Afghanistan was a realistic goal?

It felt like a waiting game. Afghanistan is not our home, and I always had a feeling that the Taliban had the patience to just wait for us to leave.

### Did you suffer personal losses there?

Many. I still dream about some of those who were lost.

### Who are you most concerned about now?

My fellow veterans, especially those suffering from depression or PTSD [post-traumatic stress disorder]. I worry the pullout could be a massive trigger, causing an uptick in undesirable incidents. I know many feel a



Ben Martinez in Afghanistan

Photo provided

sense of hopelessness. We all want to believe those who died, were wounded, or whose lives have been forever changed did not make that sacrifice for no reason.

### Can Afghanistan be compared to Vietnam?

There are some similarities, but they are two different wars, with different terrain, troop strengths and national commitments. It's easy to see photos of an embassy with a helicopter lifting off and say they are similar. Both show that leaving an engagement must be as heavily planned as invading a nation.

### Has Afghanistan influenced your view of U.S. politics and life here?

The increased divisiveness is only becoming worse. When we cannot even agree on a starting point for the truth, it makes it increasingly difficult to engage people. As a result of the pandemic, this divide has grown as people increasingly use social media without having to truly communicate with others.

### What should the conversation be about here?

Before people criticize, they should try to understand what happened. I see a lot of criticism on social media from people who have no business commenting because they don't understand Afghanistan. People may want to criticize for political reasons, but I hope they recognize there is an American soldier or veteran who is hurting because of what happened.

### How will history treat the U.S. role in Afghanistan?

I hope the girls and women we helped

educate will be a beacon. Those women cannot be un-educated, and I hope that will make the difference. This will be judged based on what happens over the next 10 years. I am hopeful, but also realistic.

### After 40 years of war, is there hope for Afghanistan?

The Taliban is saying the right things now, but they need humanitarian aid, so take that as you will. We will have to see what happens once we leave. Will it become a terrorist training ground? Will they completely halt education for girls?

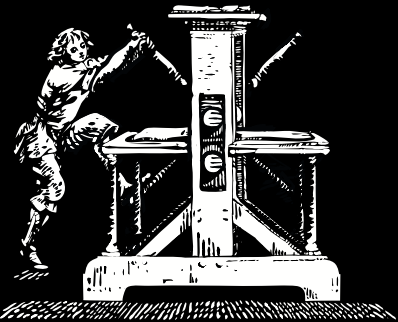
### Has all of this affected how you view your military career?

I'm still proud of my military service; I served with some of the greatest people I know. I miss the military every day, but I understand there are limitations to some of the good things we can do based on national or military policies. We sacrificed a lot for an unfortunate outcome. But we conducted ourselves in an honorable manner; I do not think our mission was in vain. We certainly helped people have a better life while we were in Afghanistan.

### Do any good memories stand out from your time there?

In any wartime deployment, there are hours of boredom and moments of terror. I enjoyed talking to all our soldiers, allies and Afghan allies. It taught me that people are people. For the most part, people just want their family to be safe, they want security, and they will follow whoever is in charge. I learned we can find areas where we agree, and we can have conversations where we agree to disagree.

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Beacon Grant *(from Page 1)*

a \$10 million grant. The application deadline is Sept. 15, with winners expected to be announced by the end of the year.

The Mid-Hudson cities that won grants in each of four previous rounds of funding promoted sustainability and energy efficiency through projects like, in Middletown, redeveloping a vacant commercial building into a rail trail commons and installing a public Wi-Fi mesh network.

Like most municipalities, Beacon has submitted an application each year since the program began, but city officials are confident about their chances this time around.

“We’ve had a committee look carefully at a series of Main Street issues in the past 18 months,” said Mayor Lee Kyriacou. “While the City Council has enacted a number of zoning and historic property changes, we’ve also identified the key elements of Main Street-area housing and quality-of-life issues we want to focus on.”

Beacon’s plan will draw heavily on the

recommendations of its Main Street Access Committee, which Kyriacou created shortly after taking office last year.

The volunteer committee, which met remotely throughout the pandemic, has proposed a series of changes to Main and adjacent streets, ranging from quick fixes such as reconfiguring parking lots and restriping street parking and adding uniform “way-finder” signs to designate public parking, to the “bump-outs” currently being installed along Main Street and the creation of biking “boulevards.”

The committee’s third, and most ambitious, phase of recommendations involves the projects the city believes will qualify for state funding. That includes repurposing municipal parking lots, such as the ones on Henry and Eliza streets, as mixed-use developments with affordable housing atop public parking, or retail, housing and solar canopies in one combined structure.

“You’re pitching ideas to the state that would revitalize most cities,” said City Administrator Chris White. “We’re looking at the next level.

Mid-Hudson  
Winners

Round I (2016) <b>Middletown</b> (Orange)	Round III (2018) <b>New Rochelle</b> (Westchester)
Round II (2017) <b>Kingston</b> (Ulster)	Round IV (2019) <b>Peekskill</b> (Westchester)

Our challenges now are a little different from, say, Poughkeepsie or Newburgh.”

The Main Street Access Committee’s plans also intersect with the recommendations of the city’s 2017 comprehensive plan, which include creating a series of “pocket parks” around transit stops on Main Street.

With much of the city’s 5 square miles already developed, the long-term plan is to maximize the usage of city-owned structures or spaces, such as the land adjacent to

City Hall and the police station, to address parking, affordable housing, recreation and other public needs. By utilizing the remaining spaces under Beacon’s control, the city can hand-pick developers and manage design standards, White said.

“We have a successful Main Street, but now’s the harder stuff,” like developing vacant or underused parcels, he said.

Monday’s meeting will include a presentation by Stowe Boyd, a co-chair of the Main Street Access Committee, and John Clarke, the city’s planning consultant, who advised the committee. Afterward, the public will be allowed to comment.

Following the meeting, the council will hold its regular workshop, during which it will discuss alternative plans if the economic development council doesn’t nominate Beacon for funding.

That could involve soliciting proposals from developers seeking to build in Beacon who would be willing to partner with the city.

“Whatever we do, we’ll keep moving the ball forward,” White said.

Police *(from Page 3)*

The CSPD is “not going into their jurisdiction to respond and handle calls for them,” Burke said. “It’s to make sure everybody is safe and the situation is safe. And as long as that’s OK, then we go back to our patrol.”

Burke said that when a single deputy or lone Cold Spring officer patrols, mutual aid ensures the presence of two officers on a

scene if violence should occur.

According to Burke, the CSPD also engages in mutual aid with other forces, such as the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) police and New York State Police. “Say I’m at Chestnut Ridge or [Route] 9D and I have a vehicle stop,” he said. “If a [state] trooper is in the area, they usually call to see if I’m OK. We do the same” if a trooper pulls over a car within the village.

“We all do that because we’re all brother officers and we want to make sure nobody gets hurt,” Burke added.

At the Nelsonville meeting, Burke said that his department has “a great rapport with the Sheriff’s Department. When I need certain things, they help us out the best way they can. We’re both committed to protecting the west side of the county.”

Nelsonville Trustee Chris Winward

observed that “we don’t have a contract with the Cold Spring police. If we have an issue, it’d go to the Sheriff’s Department.” However, she continued, “I’m sure you guys would offer mutual aid, if necessary.”

“Absolutely!” Burke replied. “We’re all here for you guys. We’re here for the public. Whether it says ‘Cold Spring Police’ or ‘Putnam County Sheriff’ [on a badge], we’re here to help.”



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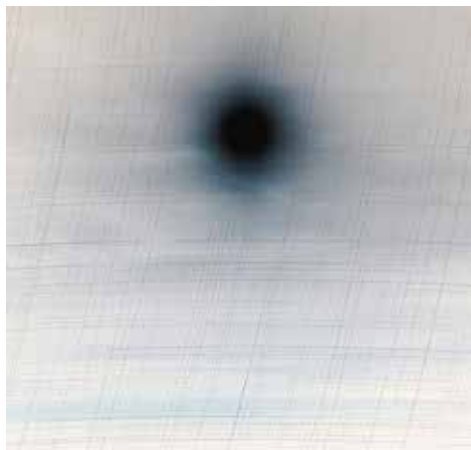
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# The Calendar



"North Atlantic Blue," by M'Liz Keefe



"Pale Fire Canto One XIV," by Jim Nickelson

## GARAGE ART



A drawing by M'Liz Keefe, who is inspired by the waves, tides and seasons at her home off the coast of Newfoundland



The Garage Gallery, with its traffic signal at right

Photos provided

### New gallery raises its door in Beacon

By Alison Rooney

For the past decade or so, Scott Lerman and Susan Keiser have been looking for a space near Main Street in Beacon to open a gallery.

This year they found the perfect spot — in a garage.

Hence, the Garage Gallery, which will open its inaugural exhibit, *Time and Tide*, on Sept. 4 with works by painter M'Liz Keefe, who lives on Fogo Island off the coast of Newfoundland, and photographer Jim Nickelson of Maine. Located on North Elm Street, a half-block from Main, the gallery was able to open without the usual permits because of a change Beacon made to its zoning code last year that created "transition zones" that allow galleries in the areas between the central business district and residential neighborhoods.

"The arts have always brought people in, and the City Council and Planning Board are well aware of this," Lerman says. "They are allowing certain things to happen that won't disturb residents."

Besides, Keiser notes, "garages have always been incubators of art." She cites the Guggenheim Museum in New York City, which, despite its iconic design, "started out in a former car showroom, pinning the work to fabric-covered walls."

Of their new quarters, Lerman says, "the gallery is beautiful — a great place to show art — probably larger than most of the galleries on Main Street. We had thought for a long time about opening a gallery, and like many in the arts we had to balance

components. It came together when we found this building.

"People are going to make galleries wherever they can," he says. "If you're in the heart of the city, on or just off Main, it makes it more accessible, gives it the Beacon buzz. We're thrilled to be a part of the community and know that it's good, economically, for the rest of the businesses on Main."

"The arts are an amazing economic draw; good stable galleries will do that for Beacon," Keiser adds. "Galleries should be able to live in the heart of the community, not just at its fringes."

The couple, who met as art students at Cooper Union, moved to Beacon a few years ago. Keiser worked at a university press before opening her own business designing and building landscapes. Lerman worked at global branding firms and with Keiser launched one of their own.

"We studied as painters primarily, but we had a sense that we would have to find a way to making a living in the world," Lerman says.

They don't plan to host themed shows but instead are "looking for artists with an extensive body of work," says Keiser. "The ability of putting up a body of work is part of your practice. Many artists don't have the studio space to do that. We're offering that. Artists need that punctuation point, periodically; let me organize it and see it on the wall."

*Time and Tide will run through Sept. 26, with an opening reception scheduled for 3 to 6 p.m. on Sept. 11. Gallery hours will be 1 to 5 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday, or by appointment. A traffic signal, inspired by Beacon's Dummy Light, indicates when the gallery is open. See [garagegallery.com](http://garagegallery.com).*

< "Pale Fire Canto One VI," is by Jim Nickelson, who photographs the night sky to capture the movement of stars overnight and the rising and setting of the moon over years, then composites the images.



# THE WEEK AHEAD

Edited by Pamela Doan (calendar@highlandscurrent.org)

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

## COMMUNITY

SAT 28

### Dutchess County Fair

RHINEBECK

10 a.m. – 10 p.m. Fairgrounds  
6550 Spring Brook Ave.  
dutchessfair.com

The 175th annual fair will include an amusement park (ride all day for \$30), live entertainment, tractor pulls, K9 demonstrations, food, farm animals and crafts. Also SUN 29. Tickets are only sold online. Rain or shine. No pets. *Cost: \$12 (children under 12 free)*

SUN 29

### Putnam County Land Trust Gala

CARMEL

4:30 p.m. Centennial Golf Club  
185 John Simpson Road | 845-743-3187  
putnamcountylantrust.org

Susan Carpenter, Keith Cox and Paul Wacławski will be honored. There will also be live and silent auctions. Call for reservations.

TUES 31

### Waterfront Luminaria Vigil

COLD SPRING

6:30 – 8 p.m. Riverfront  
philipstownhub.org

To mark International Overdose Awareness Day, friends and families who lost loved ones to the opioid epidemic will remember them with messages on lighted bags.

WED 1

### Green Teen Produce Stand

BEACON

5 – 6 p.m. 23 W. Center St.  
facebook.com/greenteenbeacon

Every Wednesday in September, the Green Teen program will offer free produce at its stand outside the Beacon Recreation Center in partnership with Common Ground Farm and the Cornell Cooperative Extension of Dutchess County.

THURS 2

### Open House

GARRISON

4 – 5:30 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library  
472 Route 403 | 845-424-3020  
desmondfishlibrary.org

The community is invited to meet the library's new director, Deirdre Farabaugh.

FRI 3

### Hot-Air Balloon Festival

LAGRANGEVILLE

2:30 – 8:30 p.m. Tymor Park  
249 Duncan Road | dcrcc.org

Watch or ride in a hot air balloon or helicopter during this festival that will include fireworks, live music, food and local beers. Also SAT 4, SUN 5. Tickets must be purchased in advance, and balloon rides are booked separately. *Cost: \$7 to \$23.95*

SAT 4

### The Hub 5K and Family Fun Run

COLD SPRING

8 a.m. Bandstand  
2 Main St. | philipstownhub.org

Kick-off Community Day with a run to support the Philipstown Behavioral Hub's mental-health services and addiction recovery support. Registration begins at 8 a.m. The 5K will begin at 9:30 a.m. and the Family Fun Run at 10:30 a.m. *Cost: \$40 (\$10 family run)*

SAT 4

### Community Day

COLD SPRING

2 – 9:30 p.m. Dockside Park  
coldspringny.gov

After an opening ceremony, Dar Williams will perform at 2:15 p.m. and other music acts will follow, including Andy Revkin and Friends, Hudson Lovell and the Dan Zlotnick Band. There will be children's activities; a pie-baking contest; and fireworks at 8:30 p.m. *Free*

## VISUAL ART

WED 1

### Beacon in Quarantine

BEACON

6:30 – 8 p.m. Main Street  
browneyesgallery.com/beacon-in-quarantine

Nancy Levine's photos of Beacon residents taken during the pandemic lockdown in April and May 2020 will be on display in 50 storefronts through Oct. 31.

SUN 5

### Collaborative Concepts Farm Project

BREWSTER

10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Tilly Foster Farm  
100 NY-312 | collaborativeconcepts.org

Sculpture and other artworks by more than 40 artists will be on view on the 199-acre farm daily through Oct. 31. *Free*



## STAGE & SCREEN

SAT 28

### The Tempest

GARRISON

7:30 p.m. Boscobel | 1601 Route 9D  
845-265-9575 | hvshakespeare.org  
Ryan Quinn directs this Hudson



Green Teen Produce Stand, Sept. 1

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 28

### Black Panther

BEACON

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

Chadwick Boseman, Michael B. Jordan and Lupita Nyong'o starred in this 2018 adaptation of the Marvel Comics kingdom of Wakanda. Also SUN 29. *Cost: \$10 (\$8 children, seniors, military)*

SAT 28

### High School Musical Jr.

BEACON

11 a.m. & 2 & 5 p.m.  
Beacon Performing Arts Center  
724 Wolcott Ave.  
beaconperformingartscenter.com

Two casts will perform the Disney hit set at East High that explores what happens when cliques step out of their roles. *Cost: \$10*

WED 1

### Jurassic Park

BEACON

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

Laura Dern and Sam Neill starred in this 1993 Steven Spielberg film about a theme park where cloned dinosaurs roam. Also THURS 2, FRI 3, SAT 4, SUN 5. *Cost: \$10 (\$8 children, seniors, military)*

FRI 3

### Bannerman

BEACON

6 p.m. Bannerman Island  
845-831-6346 | bannermanancastle.org  
Filmmaker Bayley Silleck visited the island over the past 12 years to produce this documentary about the history of the estate and how it evolved to its current state. Boats leave the Beacon dock at 6 and 7 p.m. *Cost: \$40*

## KIDS & FAMILY

SAT 28

### Broadway, Books & Banjos

GARRISON

10:30 a.m.  
Cold Spring Farmers' Market  
1601 Route 9D  
philipstowndepottheatre.org

Locals who perform on Broadway will sing, dance and read books to kids, followed by banjo music.

TUES 31

### Music and Mindfulness

WAPPINGERS FALLS

5 – 7 p.m. Common Ground Farm  
79 Farmstead Lane  
compassarts.org

Join Jessie Shaffer and Heather Davies in the perennial garden before harvesting herbs and veggies for a picnic dish. Afterward, the hosts will blend yoga asana, breathing practices, age-appropriate meditation and music. Rescheduled from Aug. 3. Register online. *Cost: \$20 or \$40*

FRI 3

### Back to School Movie Night

COLD SPRING

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

Students in grades 6 to 12 are invited to an outdoor screening of *Ferris Bueller's Day Off*. Registration required. Bring a chair or blanket to sit on.

SAT 4

### Bring the Kids Goes Outside

GARRISON

9:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. Boscobel  
1601 Route 9D | 845-265-3638  
boscobel.org

Marking the 60th anniversary of Boscobel's restoration, educator Miss Lisa will take kids and families on an outdoor tour of how the mansion went from nearly being demolished to its present condition. *Cost: \$15 (\$8 ages 5 to 18, free for 5 and younger)*



Dutchess County Fair, Aug. 28



MUSIC

SAT 28  
**Jud Caswell**  
PUTNAM VALLEY  
4 p.m. Tompkins Corners Cultural Center  
729 Peekskill Hollow Road  
845-528-7280 | tompkinscorners.org  
The folk singer and songwriter will perform on multiple instruments. *Cost: \$20*

SAT 28  
**Doansburg Chamber Ensemble**  
COLD SPRING  
7 p.m. St. Mary's Church  
1 Chestnut St. | 845-228-4167  
doansburgchamberensemble.org  
This string and flute performance, with works by Mozart, Mercadante and Comarosa, can be viewed in person or online.

SAT 28  
**Springsteen Tribute**  
RHINEBECK  
8 p.m. Dutchess County Fairgrounds  
6550 Spring Brook Ave.  
dutchessfair.com  
Matt Ryan, who began impersonating Bruce Springsteen in Las Vegas shows 20 years ago, will lead his band through the New Jersey native's hits. Free with admission to fair; tickets are only sold online. *Cost: \$12 (children under 12 free)*



Collaborative Concepts Farm Project, Sept. 5

SAT 28  
**Slambovian Circus of Dreams**  
BEACON  
8:30 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.  
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com  
The alt-roots rock band's energetic live show returns. *Cost: \$30 (\$35 door)*

SUN 29  
**Andrew Jordan**  
BEACON  
12:30 - 2:30 p.m. Farmers' Market  
223 Main St. | beaconfarmersmarket.org  
The guitarist and singer has a bachelor's degree in jazz performance from SUNY New Paltz. Sponsored by *The Highlands Current*.

FRI 3  
**The Suitcase Junket**  
BEACON  
8:30 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.  
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com  
Matt Lorenz will perform songs from his latest release, *The End is New*. *Cost: \$20 (\$25 door)*

SAT 4  
**Maia Sharp and Dayna Kurtz**  
BEACON  
8 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.  
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com  
Sharp will perform songs from her new album, *Mercy Rising*. *Cost: \$25 (\$30 door)*



TALKS & TOURS

SAT 28  
**Ecoprint Workshop**  
WAPPINGERS FALLS  
10 a.m. Common Ground Farm  
79 Farmstead Lane | 845-231-4424  
commongroundfarm.org  
This session of the Sustainable

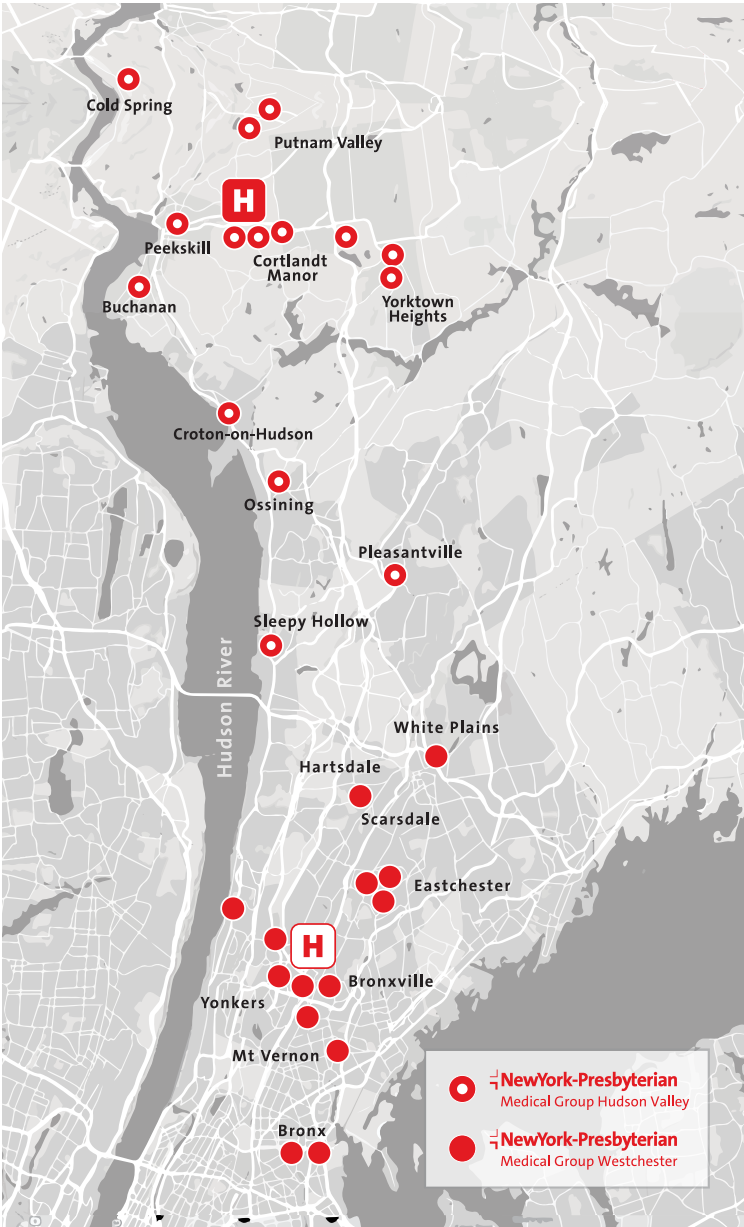
Textiles workshops will focus on using natural materials to make prints. *Cost: \$20 to \$45*

MON 30  
**Public Meeting**  
BEACON  
7 p.m. City Hall | 1 Municipal Plaza  
845-838-5011 | beaconnny.gov  
The City Council will hear comments on its \$10 million Downtown Revitalization Initiative grant application. See Page 1.

MON 30  
**School Board**  
BEACON  
7 p.m. Beacon High School  
101 Matteawan Road  
845-838-6900 | beaconnk12.org

WED 1  
**School Board**  
GARRISON  
7 p.m. Garrison School | 1100 Route 9D  
845-424-3689 | gufs.org

THURS 2  
**Philipstown Town Board**  
COLD SPRING  
7:30 p.m. Town Hall | 238 Main St.  
845-265-5200 | philipstown.com



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## Okra with Shallots and Cherry Tomatoes

Small, Good Things

# The Thing About Okra ...

By Joe Dizney

For a simple vegetable, okra comes with a lot of reprehensible emotional and cultural baggage.



First, it's a symbol of America's racist past. Although its geographic origins are disputed, its introduction to the New World was the result of the West African slave trade.

Unlike beans, cassavas and yams — the most commonly recorded rations on slave ship manifests — okra became a potent cultural talisman and bittersweet reminder of a forced exile.

According to folklore, captive African women hid okra seeds in their hair to plant in subsistence gardens in slave quarters in the West Indies and American South; a "shadow world of cultivation," as it has been called. Okra does produce voluminous, easy-to-grow-and-transport seeds.

Bolstered by the skills of many talented (and generally unheralded) enslaved chefs, a rich cuisine developed and informs African American culture and foodways to this day, particularly along the southern Atlantic coast and in the Caribbean.

I grew up in Louisiana, where okra means gumbo, which is no surprise since the word *gumbo* means "okra" in French-colonial patois.

Okra seems to be either loved or reviled. Its "slime factor" is the most commonly heard criticism. Fresh cut and even dried okra, when stewed, does create a sticky, mucilaginous juice, but that is useful to thicken soups and stews — a handy trick when called for.

However, if you're hoping to avoid that quality, there are a couple of easy tips to keep in mind.

First, dry, high-heat cooking — roasting, grilling or frying — almost completely

negates the effect. Think of the cuisine of India (another okra-loving culture): Bhindi masala is okra hot-fried in ghee with intense dry spices.

This quick-frying technique accentuates okra's delicate grassy flavor, especially if you look for fresh small pods, i.e., 3 to 4 inches maximum. Stay away from longer pods. The bigger they get, the more closely okra resembles its botanical cousin, balsa wood, in texture and taste. Slice these small pods once, lengthwise, if at all. Small, whole, fresh pods do well on their own, and you're pretty much guaranteed a tender crispness.

Second, okra's viscosity develops in primarily neutral pH-to-alkaline environments (such as stews or soups) and can be mitigated with the addition of acidic ingredients, particularly tomatoes.

For this week's recipe, a summertime go-to for field-fresh okra, small split pods are quickly stir-fried with shallots and garlic until just barely caramelized. (If you have a wok, this is a good time to break it out.)

To finish, we throw in a pint of sweet cherry tomatoes for a couple of minutes until they give up some juice, followed by a splash of cider vinegar. That's it. The whole process takes less than 15 minutes.

If you're feeling frisky, add a pinch of red pepper flakes or smoked paprika. A little bacon won't be out of place and was almost insisted on by the late doyenne of southern cooking, Edna Lewis. But none of these are necessary. Served alone as a side or over steaming hot white rice, it's yours to enjoy. Just remember to thank and honor those who brought it here.

Sourcing note: Although okra is available in many markets, Davoren Farm in Cold Spring has, for the last couple of years, grown the best okra I've had (in addition to great peppers, corn, squash and such). It operates an occasional farm stand; register at [davoren-farm.com](http://davoren-farm.com) to be notified.



### Serves 4

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 3 tablespoons olive oil  | 2 shallots, cut into 1/4-to-1/2-inch wedges |
| 4 garlic cloves, smashed and chopped roughly                             | 1 pint cherry tomatoes                      |
| 4 cups fresh 3-to-4-inch okra spears, tops trimmed and halved lengthwise | 2 tablespoons apple cider vinegar           |

Heat olive oil in a wok or large skillet over medium heat. Add garlic and saute until golden. Add okra and shallots and season with salt and pepper. Cook, stirring frequently until okra is tender and just browning in some areas (about 10 to 12 minutes). Add cherry tomatoes and cook until just bursting (about 3 minutes). Finish with a splash of cider vinegar. Serve hot alone as a side or over rice for a satisfying vegetarian meal.

IT'S HERE AGAIN! VILLAGE OF COLD SPRING'S 3<sup>RD</sup> ANNUAL AMATEUR

## PIE BAKING CONTEST

PART OF THE 2021 COMMUNITY DAY CELEBRATION

### SATURDAY, SEPT. 4TH

(RAIN DATE SUN. SEPT. 5TH)

It's a fun competition so don't hesitate to enter!

**PRIZES FOR THE TOP 3 WINNERS!**

Go to [www.coldspringny.gov](http://www.coldspringny.gov) for details, rules and entry form.

## VILLAGE OF COLD SPRING COMMUNITY DAY

RIVERFRONT PARK  
SATURDAY SEPT 4<sup>TH</sup>

**FIREWORKS SHOW** generously donated by The Groombridge Family  
**LIVE MUSIC! BOUNCE HOUSES! CONTESTS! 50/50 RAFFLE! FOOD & DRINKS!**

8:00AM THE HUB 5K REG 2:00PM OPENING FESTIVITIES 8:30PM FIREWORKS  
RAINDATE: SUNDAY SEPT 5th | FULL SCHEDULE: [coldspringny.gov](http://coldspringny.gov)





"Big Blue"



"Big Yellow"

# SLIGHTLY OFF-KILTER



"Mocha Honey"



Barbara Smith Gioia



"Something About Violet"

Photos provided

## Artist's new show cultivates fragments — of her own work

By Alison Rooney

It always starts in the most fundamental way for Barbara Smith Gioia: the drawing of a line. More follow, without conscious intent. In this way, she begins, without any vision of what the work will be. She says the freedom of not knowing opens the door to the unexpected and unplanned.

Nine examples of Smith Gioia's work in mixed media will be on display as part of *Cultivating Fragments*, a solo show that opens at the Buster Levi Gallery in Cold Spring on Friday (Sept. 3) with a reception from 6 to 8 p.m.

Many residents of the Highlands know Smith Gioia from her many years of teaching, including at the Storm King Art Center and Hudson Highlands Nature Museum. Her most recent solo show was at the Rockland Center for the Arts in West Nyack, and she has a studio at Atlas in Newburgh.

In her latest work, Smith Gioia begins by disassembling: She cuts up prints she has made of her drawings. "It's my idea of how to propagate my work," she explains. "I find these little parts intriguing; they trigger the next step, a progression."

Smith Gioia, a native of Cresskill, New

Jersey, who lives in Cornwall, guides each painting through multiple iterations and layering. "It wouldn't be the same painting without all that went before," she says. "I start seeing the possibilities to be made by combining fragments, which are culled and given a new identity through printmaking mediums that can include silkscreen, linoleum prints and woodcuts."

For Smith Gioia, "drawing is meditation in motion. The drawings are meanderings that reflect thoughts and emotions at that moment." The generic term for the work is mixed media, but to her, "it's the place where drawing, printmaking, collage and painting intersect."

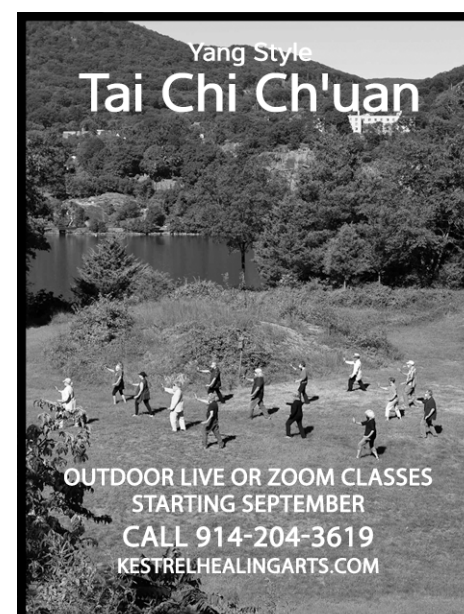
She has always been engrossed by process and found in college that printmaking tapped into that with its "deferred gratification and unpredictability. In my work there's always something off-kilter, not perfect, a reflection of how I see the world."

While pursuing a master of fine arts at Hunter College, Smith Gioia initially did figurative work and then segued into the abstract. Most recently, she has been inspired by the quilters of Gee's Bend, Alabama, who make their quilts from secondhand fabrics, including denim and "anything they can get their hands on. Run out of a piece of fabric, pick up any other piece of fabric. You get this balance/off-

balance feel for the work."

She adds: "Once I get inspired I forget about the inspiration. For me, inspiration comes from working and getting involved in the process. Process / discovery / mystery — these are the reasons I keep working."

*The Buster Levi Gallery, at 121 Main St. in Cold Spring, is open from noon to 5 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday, or by appointment. Cultivating Fragments runs through Sept. 26. See busterlevigallery.com.*



## Philipstown Depot Theatre's Fall Pop Up Patio Events:

### Aery Theatre Co. 20/20 One Act Play Festival Competition

Sept 10-18, Finals Sept. 26

### Philipstown Depot Theatre's 25th Anniversary Benefit

Sept. 19, 4-7pm

### Night Train: Storytelling

Sept. 25 and Oct 2 at 7pm

### Modern Dance Workshop: Marie Carstens and Erin Jennings

Oct 2 at 2pm  
outside at Garrison's Landing

### Taking Flight: An Afternoon of Modern and Cultural Dance (performance)

Oct. 3 at 2:30 pm  
outside at Garrison's Landing

## Additional Events at the Depot:

### The Dark House: A New Immersive Immersive Horror Theatre Experience

Oct 7-31. Nightmarenyc.com

### Music: Maia Sharp, Opening set by Hudson Lovell

Nov. 6 at 7::30pm

### Youth Players: All Together Now A musical revue

Nov. 13 and Nov. 14 at 4pm

### Young Players: The Mysterious Mix-Up of Hanzel and Gretel

Nov 20 at 3pm and 4pm

Tickets at  
[philipstowndepottheatre.org](http://philipstowndepottheatre.org)



## Kid Friendly

# College Expectations

By Katie Hellmuth Martin

College means different things to people. To some, it is an automatic expectation. To others, it is an unreachable attainment.



There may be young people today who are the first person in their families *not* to go to college. And that conversation may not be going so well.

When I was young, college was an automatic expectation. Tuition was built into the family plan. I didn't appreciate at the time what a gift that was. But going to college was not my dream. It was the next step on the moving sidewalk.

My dream was to open a hair salon.

When I declared that dream out loud, as in "that adorable little house shack would be the perfect place for my hair salon," the reaction was not what I expected.

Trigger warning: What you're about to read is not intended to offend parents who have stated these exact words, nor is it intended to insult the profession.

The reaction from those who love me was: "We did not send you to private school to become a hair stylist." That's when I began to keep my dreams to myself.

I dreaded college visits. I'm from Ohio, and yearned to leave. But the college visits were scheduled for Denison, Ohio University, Miami University and other usual suspects — not that I had the grades to get into any of them.

Fortunately, on a family trip to South Carolina, I discovered Charleston. In a book, in a paragraph in the C section, I saw the name, College of Charleston. I fixated on it. I did everything I could to get in. And get in I did. And so began my dreaming out loud. The liberal arts college provided lots of opportunities to explore, for those of us who lacked direction or whose inner voices had not grown loud yet.

Fast forward to 2021. I have three children, the eldest being an 11-year-old girl. Through TikTok, she has discovered how to make and sell slime, and how to color hair, apply makeup, sketch on her iPad and lots of other creative things.

She wants to be a colorist — to color hair with chemicals and faces with makeup. (I did not influence the love of hair styling! I said nothing of my dream.) TikTok told her she needed to go to cosmetology school. One day, she vocalized this to someone who loves her. And the reaction was not as she expected: "You will *not* go to college."

I was not there for this conversation, but I was struck at history repeating itself under my roof. I immediately voiced my support,



The 11-year-old, committed at the moment to going to cosmetology school, colors her hair using tin foil and Manic Panic.

Photo by K. Martin

knowing that this entered me into the "new normal" realm of being OK with teenagers not going to college.

In defense of college, it was asked of me: "But didn't you learn to write at college? Didn't you learn everything at college?" No. I learned to write in language skills class in the sixth grade because my private school held me back from taking a second language and we were bored and had nothing else to do.

In college, I wrote a paper on Zelda Fitzgerald and received an F and was not nurtured as to why I failed. The teacher said: "What happened? I was so looking forward to that." I don't know, teacher, you tell me!

To redeem myself, I directed a play by Tennessee Williams in the black box theater because I knew all the theater people. I learned by redemption and pursuit. I became

the editor of the literary magazine because the former editor was a colleague at the newspaper when I was a columnist and sold ads. She grew overwhelmed and almost published the book with loads of spelling errors and font misfires. I opted in to take over.

Experiences. That was what college represented for me. My parents invested in experiences, and for that, I am grateful.

After college, I still didn't have a voice of my own guiding me. I moved back to Ohio. While conducting research in the library to find my passion, I was hired on a film set. There, I met people from New York City, and from there, was set to relocate. Moving day was scheduled for Sept. 11, 2001.

Stuck at the airport in Akron, I said out loud: "I want to be there so badly. I want to see this." A person who loves me was horrified. They did not want me in danger. After more research in the library, I realized what I meant was: "I want to report on what is going on."

Indecision is my worst enemy. Indecision tortures me. Once I know what I want, though, everything becomes clear and courage follows.

Days after 9/11, someone who loves me yet does not love New York City, and would not want me living there, brought home a *New Yorker* magazine he lifted from the dentist's office and gave it to me in our kitchen. That small gesture meant a lot.

Tapping into ourselves is a gift that we can achieve, sometimes. Knowing yourself can be fleeting. Parents: If a vision is declared and is not the norm, allow exploration. See where it goes. Paths get created. Moving sidewalks break down.

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## NOTICE OF SCHOOL TAX COLLECTION

The Warrant for the Collection of Taxes for the City School District of the City of Beacon, New York, for the School Fiscal Year 2021 - 2022 has been delivered to me.

Check or money order must be for the full amount of the tax bill payable to the Beacon City School District.

Please Note: We strongly recommend that tax payments be mailed to our lockbox account at M&T Bank.

In person payments (check or money order only) will be received in the District office,  
10 Education Drive, Beacon NY between the hours of  
9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Monday - Friday  
from September 7, 2021 to October 6, 2021.

**Mailed Payments to:**  
**Beacon City School District**  
**School Tax Collection**  
**P.O. Box 1330**  
**Buffalo, New York 14240-1330**

**COLLECTION PERIOD:** September 07, 2021 - October 06, 2021  
Penalty Free

October 07, 2021 - November 05, 2021 must include the 2% Penalty  
Payments will be accepted with a **Post Office Post Mark of no later than NOVEMBER 05, 2021.**

SIGNED: Florence Zopf, BCSD School Tax Collector

Tax Bills/Receipts are available online at:

**www.infotaxonline.com**



# A Focus on Focus

*Program designed to help students catch up*

By Alison Rooney

For new businesses, making it through the first year is cause for celebration.

For the Kumon Math and Reading Center and its owner and chief instructor, Lydia Chan, it was more of a mixed bag. After opening on Main Street in Beacon in July 2019, she had to close for a few months at the start of the pandemic in early 2020. She reopened for in-person learning on the anniversary of her launch, and last September began to see an uptick in students.

“Many parents had realized that from March to June their kids had learned barely anything, especially the little ones,” Chan said. “Having children sit in front of a computer all day [for remote learning] is hard to do. Even circle time [for younger children] is challenging.”

Kumon, which is a franchise, is an “education enrichment program” based on twice-weekly visits with a minimum six-month commitment, Chan said. It was created in Japan in the late 1950s by a high school teacher who developed the methods while working with his son; the first U.S. branches were established in the 1980s. Today there are 26,000 centers, including 2,200 in the U.S.

A native of Singapore, Chan holds a master’s degree in education policy and law from Teachers College at Columbia University and worked for the New York City Department of Education, largely on policy initiatives.

Before moving to Cornwall three years ago, she was a project manager, helping schools integrate children with disabilities into classrooms. The classroom setting was not quite what she expected, so she began



Lydia Chan is the owner and instructor of the Kumon Math and Reading Center in Beacon.

Photo provided

looking for a better fit as an educator.

When a child enrolls at Kumon, “we start out with a placement test, identifying where the gaps are,” she said. “It’s a holistic approach, which includes a lot of building consistency in study habits.”

The student commits to about 20 minutes a day in homework per subject. “If you want to run the New York City Marathon, you have to work up to it,” Chan said. “You do a little bit of exercise every day. It’s a beautiful thing to see students catch up to grade level, and the goal is to get them a bit ahead of grade level.”

One focus of the program, Chan said, is focus. “We use worksheets, and we work on learning to finish the work within a half-hour. The sheet is graded and the child corrects it; that’s the cycle, and it tells me if they understand the concept. If they can’t finish it, together we figure out what’s not working.”

Unlike a common pedagogy, Kumon doesn’t require students to “show the steps” in solving math problems. “It’s ‘show me the answer,’” Chan said. “Parents are surprised by that. The point is they have to figure out

what the next step will be, and that skill requires a significant amount of focus.

“This is a lifestyle change; you have to want to do it, and it’s hard, but the joy is in slowly seeing the student’s attitude changing,” she said. “We start the students at the level that’s ‘just right’ for them, where they will see those perfect scores and want to go on to the next step. We move with them.”

Before the pandemic shutdown, Kumon instruction in Beacon involved in-person sessions conducted after school. The center is now open on Tuesdays and Thursdays while continuing to offer virtual access by Zoom.

Chan has attempted to replicate the feeling of the physical space on Main Street in the virtual environment. “Part of why parents don’t like Zoom is it’s so isolating,” she said. “I gave a lot of thought as to how we could mimic the classroom at home. I have a classroom assistant who is working remotely, so I can move around and not be stuck behind a desk. I have a TV screen hooked up to an Apple Mini so I can keep an eye on the [remote] kids. I’ve set it up

so Zoom students are looking at the classroom; they can see their friends on the screen, and it feels more open.”

Kumon begins instruction at age 3 with “pencil skills, print awareness from top to bottom,” and extends through high school, although “to catch a high school student up takes a long time. I’m up-front with parents: If you’re looking for SAT prep, you’re probably looking for a tutor. We focus on the foundation.”

Chan said she believes many parents are waiting to see how school goes when it begins next month. “Parents are slightly in denial, hoping kids go back to five-day, in-person school,” she said, despite an uptick in COVID-19 cases. “The positive is that Zoom has worked well for us. It’s not what Kumon was known for, but it has shown us that we can do Kumon anywhere, anytime.”

*Kumon Beacon is located at 296 Main St. There is a \$50 registration fee (waived through Oct. 15) and each subject is \$150 per month, with a \$10 discount for additional subjects. See [kumon.com/beacon](http://kumon.com/beacon) or call 845-765-2222.*

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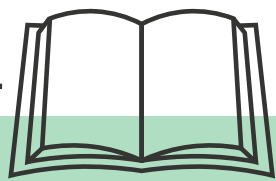
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# Start Reading

September book club selections

## Helen Savoit Book Club

TUES 14, 1:30 P.M.

*Hamnet*, by Maggie O'Farrell  
Howland Public Library, Beacon  
Meeting outdoors, weather permitting

## Graphic Novel Book Club

TUES 21, 7 P.M.

*Rebecca and Lucie in the Case of the Missing Neighbor*, by Pascal Girard  
Split Rock Books, Cold Spring (via Zoom)  
Register at splitrockbks.com.

## Butterfield Book Club

MON 27, 7 P.M.

*The Vanishing Half*, by Brit Bennett  
Butterfield Library, Cold Spring  
Email janedemic@butterfieldlibrary.org to register.

## History Book Club

THURS 30, 7 P.M.

*The Hundred Years War on Palestine*, by Rashid Khalidi  
Split Rock Books, Cold Spring (via Zoom)  
Register at splitrockbks.com.



# Baby and Dog



This feature is designed as a counterweight to all the bad news in the world that weighs people down. We could share a photo of a baby, or a photo of a dog, but we are giving you both. How many newspapers can say that? Louis and Bianca Murray of Nelsonville shared this shot of their daughter, Toni Marie, with Donnie. If you have a photo of a baby and a dog, submit it for consideration to editor@highlandscurrent.org.

## NOTICE

### TAX COLLECTION

I, Jessie DesMarais (tax collector), Collector of Taxes for the Haldane Central School District, have duly received the tax roll and warrant for the collection of taxes. Such taxes may be paid by mail to Haldane Central School District, P.O. Box 1305, Buffalo, New York 14240-1305 or on line at [www.taxlookup.net](http://www.taxlookup.net) and follow the directions.

Taxes may be paid on or before September 30, 2021 without penalty. On all taxes received from October 1 through November 1, 2021 a 2% penalty will be added. No taxes will be received after November 1, 2021. Unpaid school taxes will be received with your Town and County taxes in January 2022 with an increased rate of interest.

Jessie DesMarais, School Tax Collector | Dated: August 25 2021

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Puzzles

CROSS CURRENT

**ACROSS**

1. Josh

4. Reggae relative

7. Paper packs

12. NYC airport

13. Stetson, e.g.

14. DeGeneres of talk TV

15. Einstein's birthplace

16. Everybody

18. As well

19. Orange variety

20. Region

22. I love (Lat.)

23. Mimicked

27. Billboards

29. Chipmunk's kin

31. "That's it!"

34. The Ram

35. Chaperones, usually

37. Ring decision

38. Vanished

39. Pot brew

41. Tree home

45. Belly button type

47. Conk out

48. Fluctuating

52. Mil. bigwig

53. Craze

54. Rebel Turner

55. Swelled head

56. Fake

17. — -cone

57. Aachen article

10. Actor Gibson

11. NBC show since 1975

17. Awestruck

21. National symbol

23. Chef's garb

24. Greek consonant

25. Shoe width

26. Hosp. workers

28. Speck

30. Sturdy tree

31. Satchel

32. Altar promise

33. Sister

36. Poker variety

37. Formosa, today

40. Short jackets

42. Moved sideways

43. Prolonged attack

44. Choir member

45. Singer Anita

46. Within (Pref.)

48. Ref

49. Oom- —

50. Year in Acapulco

51. French diarist

Anais

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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 squeezed (in) (6)

2 Austrian neurologist Freud (7)

3 advantageous (9)

4 shuffling around (9)

5 how cleaner teeth look (6)

6 lowest point (5)

7 high on the Scoville scale (5)

**SOLUTIONS**

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SUDO CURRENT

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

Puzzle Page Sponsored by



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Answers for Aug. 20 Puzzles

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

1. STUBHUB, 2. SEASON, 3. INITIATIVE, 4. CELEBRITY, 5. DEALING, 6. UNDECIDED, 7. PLACEHOLDER

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



SPORTS



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Little League *(from Page 1)*

pitched a two-hitter and struck out nine; and Jim Sonko hit a three-run homer in a 13-0 blowout of LaGrange West to begin the District 17 Little League tournament, which included 25 teams from Dutchess and Putnam counties.

“I don’t really remember being under a lot of pressure,” said O’Leary, now a software engineer in Cary, North Carolina, outside of Raleigh. “We were having fun playing baseball.”

A year earlier, many of its players had played on a Little League all-star team that fell a game short of the District 17 title. During the 1981 Little League regular season, they had faced each other while playing on separate teams but knew each other away from the diamond, said John Trimmings, who played first base.

“After we started practicing together, we did have a feeling that we were pretty good,” he said.

They had reason to feel confident. Beacon stormed through the District 17 tournament, with easy victories over Millbrook South (16-2) and Fishkill (15-1), a 2-0 win over Hyde Park American and a slugfest that Beacon won, 13-7, against East Fishkill. The tournament was double elimination, meaning that Beacon would face the winner of the bracket of teams with one loss. That was Wappinger, the defending champs.

“The team was creating a sense of pride not only in the city but in the young people in the city.

~Mayor George Tomlinson in 1981

Wappinger won the first game, 3-2, setting up a second game to determine the champion. Beacon led that contest, on July 28, 1981, 2-1, in the top of the sixth and final inning when a Wappinger batter hit a home run to tie it. But in the top of the extra inning, Beacon scored three times and held on to win, 5-2.

“Wappinger was the best team we played all along,” said O’Leary.

The players celebrated at a new Burger King in Fishkill and then “went back to the field” to prepare for the state tournament, Coach Bill DiNapoli told the *Poughkeepsie Journal* at the time.

Playing the state’s best teams meant hitting the road to Albany County, Schenectady County and Massena, a town 300 miles north on the Canadian border.

Neil Gallagher, a member of the Beacon school board, donated a bus for the team.



A dejected Ed Sablinski walks off the mound following Beacon’s 8-7 loss to Massachusetts in the Eastern Regional tournament in 1981. *Photos provided*

Libby Funeral Home and Harry Coris, the owner of the Dutchess Manor Restaurant, were among the businesses that provided money for hotels and food. When the team needed \$1,000 to travel to the championship game in western New York, supporters raised more than \$4,000.

The team was “creating a sense of pride not only in the city but in the young people in the city,” Mayor George Tomlinson told the *Journal*.

Bonnie Sablinski said her husband estimated the couple and their two daughters drove 3,000 miles that summer following the team and their son, Ed Sablinski, an infielder, catcher and pitcher. For one game, they had to pick up Ed from summer camp in Roscoe, drive him to a game and then return him to camp, she said.

“There were hotels and meals out, and most of the parents were always there,” she said.

The boys horsed around and played cards during long bus rides and in their hotel rooms. On the field, they swept through the state tournament, defeating Latham (2-1), Massena (8-1) and Rome (10-0) to reach the state finals in Friendship, a town 75 miles southeast of Buffalo. Four buses made the 280-mile trip for the title game against Liverpool: one carrying the team and three carrying fans.

The game started on Aug. 15, 1981, but was stopped after two innings because of rain, with Beacon leading, 1-0, on a run scored by O’Leary. The next day, he scored a second run after he walked, stole second and advanced on two passed balls.

In the fifth inning, with the game tied, 2-2, Trimmings doubled and scored on a hit by Gonzalez, giving Beacon the state championship and sending the team to the Eastern Regional tournament and a shot at the Little League World Series.

The team stopped at the mayor’s house



Ed Sablinski, now an officer at the Fishkill Correctional Center, framed a copy of the poster for the Eastern Regional tournament held in August 1981.

after arriving in Beacon late that night, said Trimmings. The next day “half of Beacon” attended a parade for the team, the league president, John Donnelly, told the *Journal* in 1982.

“We were rock stars,” said Trimmings.

The enthusiasm only grew two days later, when a record crowd of more than 3,000 attended Beacon’s opening game in the Eastern Regional tournament at the Town of Newburgh’s Little League complex. Beacon took a 12-1 record into the single-elimination tournament, which included 11 other teams, and was the only team that did not have to travel. Its first game, at 1 p.m. against the state champs from Massachusetts, was televised by WFTI Channel 54.

O’Leary led off the game with a walk and scored Beacon’s first run. The team would score six more times before the second inning was over.

“He said, ‘Mr. Trimmings, I never knew you pitched.’ And I said, ‘Who do you think taught you?’”

~ John Trimmings

“Everything was going our way early on,” said O’Leary. “I think we were already looking to the next game.”

Sablinski, who had three hits in the game, relieved starter Mike Pratt in the

THE PLAYERS

NAME	NUMBER
Jeff Antalek	15
Dan Conti	14
Paul Galletta	9
Efren Gonzalez	7
Killy Hayden	8
Mike O’Leary	12
Jamie Piccone	11
Kevin Powers	3
Mike Pratt	6
Ed Sablinski	13
Tony Sedore	4
Jim Sonko	10
John Trimmings	1
Don Trost	5

THE COACHES

Bob Moore, manager
Bill DiNapoli
Carl Weyant

fourth inning and allowed two runs to score and Massachusetts to tie the game, sending it into extra innings. Massachusetts broke the tie in the seventh inning with a bases-loaded single off pitcher Tony Sedore, and won 8-7.

Sablinski still has a framed photo of him walking off the mound.

“You could see how deflated I was,” he said. “When you lose your first game, and that game means you’re done, that’s big.”

Sablinski, now a lieutenant at Fishkill Correctional Facility, the state prison in Beacon and Fishkill, and O’Leary are among several players from the team who played for Beacon High School.

Trimmings, who played for Spackenkill High School after moving out of the district, is a contractor who operates a food charity with his wife in Saratoga County. He began coaching youth baseball when his son was old enough to play. For two years running, he coached an all-star team from the Town of Wilton that lost to the eventual winner of the state championship.

After one of his players threw a perfect game, Trimmings rewarded him with the baseball he kept from a perfect game he threw in a Beacon Little League game.

“He said, ‘Mr. Trimmings, I never knew you pitched.’ And I said, ‘Who do you think taught you?’”