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 be 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 downtowns to receive $10 million or one to receive $20 million. Beacon is aiming for...

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 takeover 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...
FIVE QUESTIONS: SUE DOWNES

By Brian PJ Cronin

Sue 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 presented as a money-making venture. It’s a way of, “We have your information, you can’t 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 get that email?” The hackers are harvesting thousands of comments. I think, “What are people 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 sign up for an account. I keep a list [of my answers].

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 should see 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.” New 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.

The Highlands Current
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.

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.

(Continued on Page 10)

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.

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- The CurrentPLUS members-only newsletter.
- A digital directory of important places and services in Philipstown and Beacon.

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Thank You for Your Support!
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 tactic 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 to bleed money. A decade of increasing gentrification — 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 into the law, 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 county (“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 1,100 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)
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 Approves 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 (9-2), 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 "communism," as one Nelsonville resident said, has anything to do with it.

David North, Garrison

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 saying 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” to Cold Spring.
Apply to Student Journalists Program
Deadline is Sept. 17 for Beacon, Haldane

The 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. The deadline is Sept. 17.

Spirit of Beacon Will Again Be Virtual
Organizers cancel parade, festival

Because 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.

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. 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

The 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 cassel, 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

On 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

Dr. 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.

Beacon Train Lot to Close for Repaving
Work scheduled for after Labor Day

Metro-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.

## 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.

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krystal@noblesquarerealty.com | 845-401-8328
www.noblesquarerealty.com

**Abbie Carey**

Houlihan Lawrence | Associate Real Estate Broker
845-661-5438 | acarey@houlihanlawrence.com
www.abbigailcarey.houlihanlawrence.com

**Ann McBride-Alayon**

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highlandscurrent.org/ads
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 50,000 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.

“Are we heart-heavy, 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.

‘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 $7.5 billion 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 working 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 Afghan girls 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 resettled people who are at risk,” she said.
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.

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.

How You Can Help

The following are regional organizations who are assisting Afghan refugees:

Catholic Charities
Emergency Relief Fund
bit.ly/cc-afghan

Hearts & Homes for Refugees
heartsandhomesforrefugees.org

InterFaith Works Center
for New Americans
interfaithworkscny.org

Keeping Our Promise
keepingourpromise.org

Neighbors for Refugees
neighborsforrefugees.org

U.S. Committee for Refugees
and Immigrants
refugees.org/uscri-albany

How You Can Help

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bit.ly/cc-afghan

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heartsandhomesforrefugees.org

InterFaith Works Center
for New Americans
interfaithworkscny.org

Keeping Our Promise
keepingourpromise.org

Neighbors for Refugees
neighborsforrefugees.org

U.S. Committee for Refugees
and Immigrants
refugees.org/uscri-albany

Westchester Refugee Resettlement Program
hias.org/what/new-york

(Continued on Page 9)
Refugees (from Page 8)

The hotline operates from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. weekdays.

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 can call his office at 845-561-1259 or visit 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

Ben 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 Zhob 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 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 the result of the pandemic, this divide has grown. When we cannot even agree on 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.

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. 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.

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?

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.
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 year 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. 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.”

Mid-Hudson Winners

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<tr>
<td>I (2016)</td>
<td>Middletown (Orange)</td>
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<td>II (2017)</td>
<td>Kingston (Ulster)</td>
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<td>IV (2019)</td>
<td>Peekskill (Westchester)</td>
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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.

Our mission is to help everyone find their place in the world.

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The Gate House Team is a team of licensed associate real estate brokers and licensed real estate salesperson associated with Compass. Compass is a licensed real estate broker and abides by Equal Housing Opportunity laws.
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.
THE WEEK AHEAD
Edited by Pamela Doan (calendar@highlandscurrent.org)
For a complete listing of events, visit 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
putnamcountylandtrust.org
Susan Carpenter, Keith Cox and Paul Wiaciak 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, Deidre Farabough.

FRI 3
Hot-Air Balloon Festival
LAGRANGEVILLE
2:30 – 8:30 p.m. Tynor Park
249 Duncan Road | drccoc.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 $52 ( children under 5 free)

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 5
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 5
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
There will also be live and silent auctions. Call for reservations.

GREEN TEEN
SAT 28
Green Teen Produce Stand, Sept. 1
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.

KIDS & FAMILY
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 28. 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

SAT 28
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 1001 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: $25 ($8 ages 5 to 18, free for 5 and younger)

STAGE & SCREEN
SAT 28
The Tempest
GARRISON
7:30 p.m. Boscobel | 1601 Route 9D
845-265-9575 | hshawakespeare.org
Ryan Quinn directs this Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival performance of the poigniant 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 $75

SAT 28
Bravo’s “America’s Got Talent” Season Finale
Tarrytown Music Hall
9:30 p.m.
Free

SAT 28
Van Gogh: The Immersive Experience
GARRISON
8 a.m. – 9 p.m. Beacon Performing Arts Center
724 Wolcott Ave.
Van Gogh experience presented by Curve Entertainment
Cost: $25

SAT 28
Theaters on the Hudson’s Fall Film Festival
GARRISON
7 p.m. Beacon Performing Arts Center
724 Wolcott Ave.
Watch and vote on curated films from around the world for the 4th annual Fest at the Hudson’s. Cost: $10

SAT 28
Rebecca Reno in Concert
GARRISON
7 p.m. Beacon Performing Arts Center
724 Wolcott Ave.
Cost: $15 – $35

SAT 28
Shred the Spokes
BEACON
10:30 a.m. Minisink similar
845-876-6877
www.shredthespokes.com
A half-century celebration of the birth of the BMX culture in Beacon, both on and off the bike. Cost: $35 ($20 children, seniors, military)

SAT 28
The Great American Beer Fest
GARRISON
7:30 p.m. Beacon Performing Arts Center
724 Wolcott Ave.
Cost: $25

SAT 28
Elena Vega’s 3rd Annual Golden Days of Christmas
BEACON
7:30 p.m. Beacon Performing Arts Center
724 Wolcott Ave.
Cost: $15 – $40

SAT 28
Free Car Wash
COLD SPRING
9 a.m. – 1 p.m.
110 Morris Ave.
Free

SAT 28
Future of Food Symposium
BEACON
9 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Beacon Performing Arts Center
724 Wolcott Ave.
Future of Food is an international collaborative that brings businesses, organizations and individuals together to solve some of the world’s most challenging problems. Cost: $175

SAT 28
The Beast of Tappan
BEACON
9 a.m. – 12 p.m.
Tappan Zee Tennis Center
845-416-4179
tappanzee.com
The Beast of Tappan is the world’s nastiest junior tennis tournament and the most unique tennis tournament on the planet. Cost: $20

SAT 28
Pickleball: A Radically Fun Game for All Ages
COLD SPRING
10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Cold Spring Farmers’ Market
Waterfront Park
Cost: $10 – $20

SAT 28
Amphitheater at the Green Teen Produce Stand
BEACON
7 p.m. 79 Farmstead Lane
browneyesgallery.com/greenteenbeacon
A full evening of music at the Green Teen Produce Stand. Cost: $20

SAT 28
Tribute to the Beatles
BEACON
8 p.m. Story Screen Drive-In
724 Wolcott Ave. | 845-440-7706
storyscreendrivein.square.site
A free screening of the 1965 “Help!” is all about folk-rock songs. Cost: Free

SAT 28
Horror Movie Marathon
BEACON
3 p.m. Story Screen Drive-In
724 Wolcott Ave. | 845-440-7706
storyscreendrivein.square.sit
A full day of screenings and entertainment for the horror movie fans. Cost: $15

SAT 28
Tribute to Frank Zappa
BEACON
8 p.m. Story Screen Drive-In
724 Wolcott Ave. | 845-440-7706
storyscreendrivein.square.site
Cost: $20

SAT 28
Tribute to The Eagles
BEACON
8 p.m. Story Screen Drive-In
724 Wolcott Ave. | 845-440-7706
storyscreendrivein.square.site
Cost: $20

SAT 28
Tribute to David Bowie
BEACON
8 p.m. Story Screen Drive-In
724 Wolcott Ave. | 845-440-7706
storyscreendrivein.square.site
Cost: $20

SAT 28
Tribute to Elvis Presley
BEACON
8 p.m. Story Screen Drive-In
724 Wolcott Ave. | 845-440-7706
storyscreendrivein.square.site
Cost: $20
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)

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

CIVICS

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

THURS 2
Philipstown Town Board
COLD SPRING
7:30 p.m. Town Hall | 238 Main St.
845-265-5200 | philipstown.com
Expert doctors close to home. NewYork-Presbyterian medical groups have you covered.

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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.

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 to be notified.

**Heavenly Okra with Shallots and Cherry Tomatoes**

Serves 4

- 3 tablespoons olive oil
- 4 garlic cloves, smashed and chopped roughly
- 4 cups fresh 3-to-4-inch okra spears, tops trimmed and halved lengthwise
- 2 shallots, cut into ¼-to-½-inch wedges
- 1 pint cherry tomatoes
- 2 tablespoons apple cider vinegar

Heat olive oil in a wok or large skillet over medium heat. Add garlic and sauté 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 3RD ANNUAL AMATEUR PIE BAKING CONTEST**

Part of the 2021 Community Day Celebration

**Saturdays, 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 for details, rules and entry form.
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

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**Artists 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, lino-leum 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-

---

Photos provided
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 you turned 18, you were either a) delayed in your college plans or b) committed to your family plan. I didn’t appreciate at the time what a gift that was going to be.

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.

Past 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 didn’t 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, 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 classes 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.

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

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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 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 to run 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 to run the New York City Marathon, you have to 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 with 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 or call 845-765-2222.

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

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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

Butterfield Book Club
MON 27, 7 P.M.
The Vanishing Half, by Brit Bennett
Butterfield Library, Cold Spring
Email janedemic@butterfieldlibrary.org to register.

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 splitrockbooks.com.

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 splitrockbooks.com.

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 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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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.

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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. Chaparones, usually
37. Ring decision
38. Vanished
39. Pot brew
41. Tree home
45. Belly button type
46. Everybody
47. As well
48. Orange variety
49. Region
50. Year in Acapulco
51. French diarist
52. Mil. bigwig
53. Craze
54. Rebel Turner
55. Swelled head
56. Fake

57. — -cone
58. Aachen article

DOWN
1. Clumsy one
2. Nome dome home
3. Matt of Hollywood
4. “Scram!”
5. Sunflower State
6. Top players
7. Actress Russo
8. Days of yore
9. Carte lead-in
10. Actor Gibson
11. NBC show since 1975
17. Awestruck
18. As well
19. Orange variety
20. Region
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
34. The Ram
35. Chaperones, usually
36. Poker variety
37. Formosa, today
38. Vanished
39. Pot brew
40. Short jackets
41. Tree home
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
52. Mil. bigwig
53. Craze
54. Rebel Turner
55. Swelled head
56. Fake

Sudoku Current

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

Country Goose
115 Main St.
Cold Spring, NY 10516
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Answers for Aug. 20 Puzzles

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.
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 regu-
lar 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 tourna-
ment 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,
with Beacon leading, 1-0, on a run
shipped 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 esti-
mated the couple and their two daughters
drove 3,000 miles that summer following the
team and their son, Ed Sablinski, an
infelder, catcher and pitcher. For one game, they
took him to summer camp in Roscoe, drive him to a game and then
return him to camp, 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
southwest 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
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 Massachu-
setts, was televised by WPTF 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 look-
ing to the next game.”

Sablinski, who had three hits in
the game, relieved starter Mike Pratt in the
fourth inning and allowed two runs to
score and Massachusetts to tie the game, sending it into extra innings. Massachu-
setts 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 Fish-
kill 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.

Trimmins, who played for Spacken-
kill 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?’”