Deadline nears for unvaccinated hospital, nursing home staff

By Leonard Sparks and Jeff Simms

Hospital and nursing home personnel in New York state face a deadline next week to get vaccinated or lose their jobs. At the same time, Gov. Kathy Hochul is fighting a court challenge to the state's decision to not allow religious exemptions.

Under an Aug. 16 order, the state’s 450,000 hospital employees and 145,000 nursing home workers — including those in Dutchess and Putnam counties — must receive at least their first dose of a COVID-19 vaccine by Monday (Sept. 27). The same order also requires employees at adult-care facilities to receive at least an initial dose by Oct. 7.

Employees with pre-existing conditions can qualify for a medical exemption if a doctor or nurse practitioner certifies that a COVID-19 vaccine could harm their health, but the order does not allow for religious exemptions.

Some hospital systems such as NewYork-Presbyterian (which owns Hudson Valley Hospital in Cortlandt Manor and has medical offices in Cold Spring) and Nuvance Health (which owns the Putnam Hospital Center in Carmel and Vassar Brothers Medical Center in Poughkeepsie) had set their own deadlines.

NewYork-Presbyterian set a Wednesday (Sept. 23) deadline and said in a statement on Thursday that fewer than 250 of its 37,000 employees and 11,000 affiliated doctors had not complied.

As of two weeks ago, the vaccination rate among Putnam Hospital doctors and staff was 74 percent and at Vassar Brothers 70 percent, according to a Nuvance representative. In Newburgh, 82 percent of the staff at Montefiore St. Luke's Cornwall was fully vaccinated as of Tuesday, according to state data.

Nursing homes, where staff members are far less likely to be vaccinated than the patients, show the same kind of variation.

At Wingate at Beacon, 83.3 percent of staff had completed their vaccine shots as of Monday, while the Fishkill Center for Reha-

(Continued on Page 6)
FIVE QUESTIONS: LINDA WEAVER

By Leonard Sparks

Linda Weaver, who lives in Cold Spring, is the co-founder of Access Talent, an agency for voice-over actors.

How did someone with a psychology degree become an agent?

I got burnt out on the research I was doing and came up with this brilliant idea to go into advertising. I started sending out resumes and was lucky enough to get an interview with Cunningham, Escott & Dipene, where I worked for five years. Then I went to J. Michael Bloom and ran the voice-over department. I started my own company in 1999.

Who is hiring voice-over actors?

Television networks, radio stations for promos, audiobook publishers, animators, video game producers. Video game work and animation is done principally in Los Angeles. In New York, we get national network commercials and promos and a tremendous amount of audiobooks. Sometimes they’ll ask me for a “wry, quirky unusual” voice or they’ll ask for a “sweet and light sound.” I read the copy so I get a feel for who I think is right. We never have a demand that’s hard to fill.

How do you judge a “good” voice?

I’m not going to hear a voice on the street and say that’s good for voice-overs. My list consists of a lot of amazing actors who have trained. A voice is not going to get you anywhere without technique. Voice-over is a craft. It’s acting ability, it’s the ability to communicate at an honest level, it’s all of the things that you do in TV and film but with only your voice. The average person deciding to do it is going to struggle. It doesn’t mean it’s impossible, but it is a lot harder.

Has the business changed since the 1990s?

We went from reel-to-reel recordings and actors going to casting directors and advertising agencies to electronic delivery. The Hispanic market exploded 10 to 15 years ago. When you turn on the television, there is a series of Spanish-language channels. Audiobooks and video games expanded the need for voice people.

What have you enjoyed the most?

Giving somebody their first job. There was an actor I saw at the theater and I tracked him down through his manager and said I’d like to talk to him about voice-overs. He’s an amazing actor — film, TV, theater — and is working all the time, but it took him four years to book his first voice-over. He came to me one day and said, “I did a crappy job at the [voice-over] audition.” I said, “You should keep doing a ‘crappy’ job because you’re going to be the voice of a major car account.”
Molinaro to Run for Congress

Dutchess County Executive files to challenge in 19th district

By Leonard Sparks

Dutchess County Executive Marc Molinaro will challenge Democratic Rep. Antonio Delgado for his congressional seat next year, seeking to represent a district whose contours may change as a commission redraws state and federal legislative boundaries based on new census figures.

Molinaro, a Republican barred by law from seeking a fourth term as county executive, filed with the Federal Election Commission on Sept. 17 to run for the 19th Congressional District. He made his official announcement on Tuesday (Sept. 21).

The district spans both sides of the Hudson River and covers all or parts of 11 counties: Broome, Columbia, Delaware, Dutchess, Greene, Montgomery, Otsego, Rensselaer, Schoharie, Sullivan and Ulster.

Elected to his first four-year term as county executive in 2011, Molinaro unsuccessfully challenged Andrew Cuomo for governor in 2018 and reportedly had considered another run for governor in 2022.

Democrats account for 34 percent of the 19th District's active voters, and Republicans, 31 percent, but the makeup could be different for next year's elections.

A voter-approved commission, composed of 10 members appointed by the state Legislature’s Democrats and Republicans to redraw district boundaries for New York's House of Representatives and state Senate

Chalet at Breakneck Sold to State

Site will become new trailhead for Brook Trail

By Brian PJ Cronin

A year after purchasing the closed Chalet on the Hudson near Breakneck Ridge for $1.875 million, the Open Space Institute has sold the 2-acre parcel to the New York state parks department for $1.71 million.

OSI announced its intention in December to transfer the property to the state. It’s the latest part of a plan by state agencies and nonprofit groups to improve safety and accessibility for drivers and pedestrians along the Route 9D corridor.

Breakneck Ridge, which was already one of the country’s most popular hiking trails, has seen a sharp increase in visitors over the past two years, as have the many trails that connect to it. One of those trails, the Brook Trail, offers no parking, forcing hikers to scurry across the busy highway.

The state plans to relocate the Brook Trail trailhead to the Chalet property, giving hikers a place to park. It also plans to add information kiosks. Eventually, the Chalet will be torn down and replaced with native vegetation.

Earlier this year, the Hudson Highlands

The Chalet on the Hudson

Fjord Trail completed the Nimham Trail, which offers a safer and quicker way down from Breakneck Ridge's first summit, not to mention an easier way up for those who do not wish to scale the Ridge’s infamous rock scramble. The Fjord Trail's next project will be a series of safety improvements this fall at the Breakneck Ridge train station.

After that, the Fjord Trail is planning a Breakneck Connector that will involve additional parking, a pedestrian bridge across the train tracks and re-routing the trailhead. Once completed, the connector will eliminate the need for hikers to cross or walk alongside Route 9D or to walk through the Breakneck Tunnel.

Molinaro on Tuesday in Rhinebeck

and Assembly seats, released two sets of competing draft maps on Sept. 15 after failing to reach consensus on a single proposal.

Each proposal would alter the boundaries of both the 19th and the 18th congressional district, which includes Beacon and Phillipstown and is represented by Sean Patrick Maloney, a five-term Democrat.

The commission is required to submit a plan by Jan. 15 to the Legislature, where both the Assembly and Senate must approve it by a two-thirds majority. If at least seven of its 10 members are unable to agree on a new map, the commission must submit the one receiving the most votes.

If the plan fails to garner enough votes in the Legislature, or is vetoed by the governor, the commission must submit a second plan to state lawmakers by Feb. 28. If the second plan fails to get enough votes, the Legislature can amend the proposal and submit it to the governor for approval.

CURRENT CONVERSATIONS

SCHOOL Q&A WITH HALDANE AND BEACON

The third school year impacted by the pandemic has started. What is different this time? What should families prepare for? Join us for conversations with the superintendents of the Haldane and Beacon school districts.

HALDANE

Superintendent

Philip Benante

MON. SEPT. 27

7:00 – 7:30 PM

BEACON

Superintendent

Matt Landahl

WED. SEPT. 29

7:00 – 7:30 PM

REGISTER TO ATTEND:
highlandscurrent.org/conversations
Tell us what you think

Beacon downtown
I can’t believe the focus of a $10 million grant request would be two large, hideous parking garages (“Beacon Shares Details of Downtown Plan,” Sept. 3). Our city is doing just fine without these monstrosities. Do we really need 500-plus spaces? Has anyone considered that cities are having to convert high-maintenance buildings to other purposes because they don’t get enough use? And what developer won’t point to these structures and say, “Whoopie! I get to build more overpriced apartments?”

I’m not buying the city’s reassurances that this won’t happen. There are a few other cockamamie things wrong with this proposal. What property owner is going to want to face a concrete mausoleum? What tourist will want to wander down formerly charming streets when they see these lifeless concrete hulks? Then there is the complete insanity of eliminating the parking lots for the farmers and flea markets. How much commercial space do we need and how does any of this “revitalize” or “improve” Beacon?

I am all in favor of pocket parks and bike paths, but the lion’s share of this grant would be going to parking. Over 20 years, how do we need and how does any of this “revitalize” or “improve” Beacon?

Marathon property
If democracy is famously difficult, zoning may be its most arduous exercise. About 15 years ago, after several false starts, a small group of citizens in Cold Spring decided to strengthen the community’s say in its future development.

The Village Board appointed a special board to develop a comprehensive plan and a Local Waterfront Revitalization Program. The board conducted a village-wide survey which had a notably high response rate, established working groups on everything from water supply to parking and land use, and pursued funding for the project.

I chaired the special board for about five years and spent additional time serving on special committees and preparing the update of the village code, so I have firsthand appreciation for the thousands of hours volunteers poured into this effort. I’m familiar with public fury, the challenge of debating complicated issues in public meetings, the tedium and the frustration of debating complicated issues in public meetings, and the hand appreciation for the thousands of hours volunteers poured into this effort.

In the spring of 2013, we were dismayed to learn that New York State would not approve any Local Waterfront Revitalization Program presented by the Village of Cold Spring unless the village first updated its village code. With fits and starts, and a lot of grit, volunteers and elected officials spent additional thousands of hours, held countless public meetings on proposed changes and expended thousands of dollars for professional planning and legal advice to update the code. They did that work for years.

In a letter to the Village Board dated Sept. 13, Peter Henderson argued to scrap the proposed code establishing a Mixed-Use category for 11 acres that may be among the most critical to the future of our village (“Zoning Change Could Shape Marathon Site’s Future,” Sept. 17). He argues that the

(Continued on Page 5)
rezoning will be to continue this long-

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Look at what happened in North Tarrytown

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Haldane masks

Kudos to Ezra Beato on his excellent

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we have been impressed by how adaptable the

Road woes

As a home inspector, and also a fire-

Roo Sow, via Facebook

Road woes

Sailing cargo

Wind on the Hudson River is notoriously

Cem tury, where civility is at

sider a red herring in a time when the state, and

safety protocols is alarming. That Putnam

But we need a second stoplight, for instance?

I'm wondering if these concerns will be

I urge the developer to consider a new

Michael Armstrong, Cold Spring

Looking at the proposed zoning map and

We will leave no piece of land undeveloped.

Probably a far better use of this contam-

 Probably a far better use of this contam-

Haldane masks

Kudos to Ezra Beato on his excellent

Vaccinations should be mandatory for

Shelley Gilbert, via Facebook

The school year has barely begun and

Our board unanimously deemed it

New York State is mandating

As you reported, New York is mandating

Road woes

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Cell tower

This is a big win in the fight to stop the

Cell tower

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Cell tower

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This is a big win in the fight to stop the
Mandate (from Page 1)

bilitation and Nursing in Beacon had the second-lowest rate (62.6 percent) among Dutchess County’s 13 nursing homes.

Workplaces are just one of the settings in which unvaccinated New Yorkers are feeling social pressure from mandates. People are “much more likely to respond to their being systematically excluded from the institutions that they care about,” said Adam Seth Litwin, an associate professor at Cornell University’s School of Industrial and Labor Relations.

“Part of that would involve their employer, but it’s also going to involve restaurants, churches — local groups that say: ‘Listen, you’re a part of our community; we know you and we know you well. Unfortunately, we’re not allowing people who haven’t been vaccinated to take part in our activities.’”

Religious exemptions

That also has been the position of some religious institutions. The Long Island Diocese of the Episcopal Church set a Sept. 15 deadline for its clergy and staff to be vaccinated. In Cold Spring, the Rev. Steve Schunk, priest-in-charge at St. Mary’s Episcopal Church, said he tells parishioners that “loving our neighbors” requires protecting them from harm.

“We have irrefutable proof from medicine and science that being vaccinated from COVID-19 not only protects them but also protects us,” he said.

In a memo distributed in July to pastors, administrators and parochial vicars, the Archdiocese of New York reiterated the Catholic Church’s acceptance of vaccines as a “moral responsibility” and said its priests have “no basis” for issuing religious exemptions.

Such exemptions are the basis for a federal lawsuit challenging New York’s vaccine mandate. It was filed by 17 health care professionals who argue that the mandate violates their constitutional rights because it does not allow religious exemptions.

The plaintiffs claim they oppose the use of laboratory-grown cells, derived from the tissue of aborted fetuses collected decades ago, to develop the vaccines, although the three companies whose vaccines are authorized for use in the U.S. each say none contain fetal cells or any “human-derived materials.”

In a legal response on Wednesday (Sept. 22), the state noted that health care workers are not allowed to refuse mandated vaccines for measles and rubella based on religious belief. New York also does not allow religious exemptions for mandated school vaccinations.

A federal judge issued a temporary restraining order that prevents the state from disallowing requests for religious exemptions and set a hearing for Tuesday (Sept. 28).

Teachers and staff

Hochul announced on Sept. 2 that public school teachers and staff must either be vaccinated or tested weekly for COVID-19. But a few teachers have bristled at the requirements.

Laurie Malin, a science teacher at Rombout Middle School, raised her concerns to the school board at its Sept. 13 meeting. “We know that the COVID-19 vaccination does not prevent you from getting COVID or spreading COVID,” she said, alleging that test swabs contain “a cancer-causing agent that damages DNA” and causes migraines and other ill effects.

She also called the vaccine “an experimental gene therapy that will alter your DNA, that has more deaths and adverse effects associated with it—” (In fact, there is no evidence to support any of these claims.)

Board President Meredith Heuer cut Malin off, saying she had reached the four-minute limit for public comments.

At a meeting last month, Joy Bonneau, a special education teacher at Glenham Elementary, told the board that getting the vaccine is “a medical decision that should in no way be forced on people, especially not with threats attached. That is no way to build trust.” She argued that vaccines don’t prevent transmission and “one needs to be infected in order for it to work.” (In fact, a vaccine triggers an immune response that makes it far less likely a person will become seriously ill if infected.)

Restaurants

The Roundhouse restaurant in Beacon has required proof of vaccination or a negative test for watching performances since August (a social distancing section for the non-vaccinated is available during free shows). On Garrison’s Landing, Dolly’s
Mandate (from Page 6) requires vaccination for indoor dining.

On Wednesday (Sept. 22), Roundhouse manager Katie Guerra provided several reasons for the mandate, including the 25,000-plus people who visit the restaurant or its hotel and event space, each year, from all over the world and that “we cannot risk a staff member being unable to work due to a COVID-19 infection, let alone having a few staff members out due to an infection or exposure.”

The company is also catching up on a backlog of weddings. “Some of these clients signed on with us in 2019 and have waited patiently for their very important day,” Guerra said. “The last thing we want is to have to cancel a wedding because of a COVID outbreak in our staff.”

Cityworkers

In Beacon, City Administrator Chris White said he considered mandating vaccination for new hires but a shrinking labor pool forced him to rethink the idea. (He noted that the city recently interviewed three candidates for a position in the Police Department but all three instead accepted jobs in Poughkeepsie.)

White acknowledged that a mandate could cause friction with unions. He estimated that 75 percent of city employees are vaccinated and said the city is “highly recommending” it for everyone.

‘We’re Used to Dealing with the Unknown’

Most shop owners in Highlands require masks

By Kat Merry

With one hand on their livelihood and the other on the pulse of COVID-19, Beacon business owners have spent the last 18 months navigating a minefield of health department guidelines that have tested their leadership skills and patience.

Without a mask mandate, New York relies on shop and restaurant owners to use their best judgment on enforcing face coverings.

Ryan Leoni, the owner of b. Hair Studio at 323 Main St., said he anticipates another statewide mask mandate, and notes his relief at having a fully vaccinated staff.

“When the last mask mandate was lifted, we still took precaution and kept our plastic dividers up longer than most salons,” Leoni said. “I’ve had my whole staff put masks on so one customer could feel more comfortable.

“I have a son at home who is too young to be vaccinated, so if cases start to rise — even if a mandate doesn’t happen — I won’t hesitate to mask up myself,” he added.

Kitty Sherpa co-owns the Beacon Natural Market at 348 Main, which has a “Mask Preferred” sign on the door. “We’re lucky our space is bigger than most, so people can socially distance,” she said. “But I’ve been paying close attention to the case count, and we’re always ready to change on a dime.

“I don’t think the CDC [Federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention] and state have done a great job in preparing small-business owners for these constant changes. We’re used to dealing with the unknown, but it can be exhausting to keep up.”

As an example, she cited an “informative” conversation in the spring with a customer who refused to wear a mask.

“I learned that the ADA [Americans with Disabilities Act] allows an individual to lawfully refuse to wear a mask,” if there are extenuating circumstances such as asthma or other challenges breathing, Sherpa said. “I was frustrated that I wasn’t in the know with that law.”

(According to the Southeast ADA Center and Burton Blatt Institute at Syracuse University, “the ADA does not have any rules that address the required use of face masks by state and local governments or private business owners.” The ADA only requires stores to make “reasonable” accommodations, such as allowing a customer to wear a face shield or scarf or to pick up orders curbside.)

Other Beacon business owners, like Jean Mignault of Mr. V’s Deli, at 297 Main St., are more optimistic. Mignault has her team take some precautions, like wearing gloves when preparing food, but she relies on the honor system when it comes to customers.

“As long as our customers are vaccinated, I don’t mind if they come in unmasked,” she said. “All of us [the staff] have been vaccinated for a while now.”

Main Street Masks

We asked Kat Merry to take a stroll up and down Main Street in Beacon and Cold Spring and take note of posted mask policies.

In Memory of a Life Well Lived with Faith and Love

Barbara Jeanne McConville
Jan. 28, 1946 – Aug. 12, 2021

There are many gifts of value in life, but the one freely given I’m unable to compare is when my soul meant enough to another who always remembered me in prayer. — E. Sassone
**Infrastructure (from page 1)**

Valley, we are deficient in areas that impact people’s lives, especially those at the margins, younger people, those seeking a step up. These are investments that play out over generations.

Because he is a longtime resident of rural Philipstown, the power grid came up early in our conversation. “After it comes back on, the power company sends you the reason.” Anderson said of infrastructure spending. “Well, you can pay me now or you can pay me much more later. The roof is leaking. If you consider the multiplier effect of this spending on jobs and the economy, there is an incredible return on investment. But we’ve become short-term thinkers.”

People are willing to pay if they have faith in the process, he noted. “Everyone raised their hands for infrastructure, but there is an increasing distrust of the shepherds of expenditure. Can we say it’s going to where it was intended?”

Anderson noted that many communities have voted to increase local taxes for infrastructure projects, because that’s where the buck stops. “Much of infrastructure is funded by states,” he said. “Some of it is funded by the federal government, which can print money. A mayor or legislator cannot do that. When the bridge goes out or the road collapses or the wastewater goes down or the culvert breaks, who has to fix it?”

As we reported last week, a huge influx of money may soon be flowing from D.C. to the states and then to counties and municipalities. Last month, the U.S. Senate, on a 68-30 vote, passed a bill that would dedicate $1 trillion to infrastructure over five years, including $110 billion to fix aging roads and bridges and $85 billion for water infrastructure. The House is expected to vote on the proposal soon.

Anderson envisions those federal dollars funding innovation. “In local communities, these are models that can be replicated. We should be saying, ‘Here are the funds. What’s the best way to deal with wastewater?’ As we look to the next generation and the challenges of climate change, what should we do in our community? There is no shortage of issues, only a shortage of good plans.”

He sees the commitment of long-term infrastructure funds as “an opportunity, especially in the Hudson Valley, because we’re doing OK,” he said. “Let’s do everything we can to protect that ‘OK’ and look like visionaries.”

Last week, in stories now posted at highlandscurrent.org, we reported on the state of roads and bridges in the Highlands. This week, we look at dams and water systems.

**The Dammed Unknown**

We know Highlands dams are old. It’s what we don’t know that’s a problem.

By Brian PJ Cronin

The first flood was a warning. On July 14, 1897, after 22 days of rain, the upper dam on the Melzingah Reservoir failed and water began rushing down Mount Beacon toward a brickyard and boarding houses. Residents fled, but when the lower dam also burst at 2:30 a.m., the entire reservoir was released. As homes were carried down the mountain, their occupants leaped from the windows. The railroad tracks were destroyed. The official death toll was eight, but accounts noted that a “small settlement of Arabs, 30 or 40 in number, occupying half a dozen huts” had disappeared.

Among the dead was Mary Conroy, wife of John Conroy, the brickyard engineer. The two had met eight years earlier when John saved Mary from the Johnstown Flood of 1889, in which a hastily built earthen dam burst and killed 2,000 people.

In the years after that day, the Melzingah Dam and the Mount Beacon Dam farther up the mountain were each rebuilt and reinforced. But they are still now nearly 100 years old, decades past the average age of an American dam. Maintaining them is a Herculean task. None of the dams in the Highlands is known to be unsafe, but the only surefire method to measure the limits of a dam is when it reaches them.

Every four years, when the American Society of Civil Engineers updates its Infrastructure Report Card, there’s pressure to improve the grade given to America’s dams, which has been a “D” for the past several years.

Del Shannon, the president of the U.S. Society on Dams and a co-author of the report, said a better grade was being considered, “but then things like Edenville and Oroville happen.”

In May, two dams in Edenville, Michigan, failed, leading to the evacuation of 10,000 people. In 2017, a dam in Oroville, California, failed and 200,000 people had to be evacuated. “We keep having failures,” said Shannon. About 15,600 dams in the U.S. are classified as “high hazard,” which doesn’t refer to their condition but to what would happen downstream if they failed, including loss of life. The Highlands has seven such dams: Mount Beacon and Melzingah and the Glenham hydroelectric, upper and lower Cold Spring dams, Cargill Reservoir and Perkins Estate Pond Dam at Glyndon.

Over the past 20 years, the number of high-hazard dams has doubled, typically because an older dam built in an underpopulated area (usually with less stringent safety features) is now surrounded by development.

“If a dam is in the middle of nowhere, and it fails, and all it does is knock over a couple of trees, no one cares that much,” said Shannon. “But if you build your house at the bottom of a dam, that’s a much bigger deal.”

Adding to the problem is that, unlike with roads, there is no single federal agency that oversees dams. Every state is on its own when it comes to figuring out what makes a dam safe. In New York, the task falls to the Department of Environmental Conservation.

The DEC rates the Mount Beacon and Cargill dams as “deficiently maintained”; the Melzingah and Cold Spring reservoir dams are worse: “unsound.” (No dam in the Highlands has the lowest rating: “unsafe.”) Built in 1889 out of “rubble and masonry,” according to Ed Balicki, who directs the City of Beacon Water and Sewer Department, the Mount Beacon dam has undergone repeated

(Continued on Page 9)
repaired in the next few years. In 1994, the city had vertical metal rods drilled into the structure. During an inspection of Beacon's water system in 2018, Dutchess County found the structure to be “poorly maintained with visible leaks and the concrete surfaces showing widespread decay.”

In December, the city received $2.5 million to enlarge the spillway capacity and repair “crumbling” and “spalling” in its body, as well as to add new piping and some fixes to the pocket reservoir. The improved spillway would handle rainfall from a “once-in-a-lifetime” storm, Balicki said at the time.

The work was expected to begin this past summer but the bids collected over the summer averaged 20 percent higher than expected. The city will re-bid the project over the winter with a longer time frame to complete the work. The city is working with the DEC to finalize a plan for Melzingah.

In Cold Spring, both reservoir dams have been rated “unsound,” and in 2017 an engineer told the Village Board repairing the upper dam would cost between $3.8 million (a single spillway that would require the reservoir to be lowered by 1.2 feet) or $4.2 million (multiple spillways). The village has been negotiating with New York to tap into a $1 million state fund designed to pay for local water projects.

“Those things aren’t the same as a flood map where there’s no dam,” Shannon said. “A dam is a massive body of water and releasing that in a hurry has a devastating impact. You could live far away from what you think is the flood plain of a dam and actually be in the crosshairs.”

It’s that lack of knowledge at all levels that Shannon said is his biggest concern, and one that a federal infrastructure bill could greatly alleviate. The state DEC still has only rated about 80 percent of the state’s high-hazard dams, and the two most recent high-profile failures in the U.S., at Edenville and Oroville, appeared to have happened for reasons that weren’t on anyone’s radar. Preliminary reports from Edenville suggest that the culprit was previously undocumented seepage; in Oroville, no one realized the anchors holding the concrete spillway weren’t deep enough.

“That should scare the bejesus out of just about everybody,” Shannon said. “How many other dams out there are like that? I don’t know. We don’t have the resources to do a big evaluation of every single dam.”

### A dam is a massive body of water and releasing that in a hurry has a devastating impact. You could live far away from what you think is the flood plain of a dam and actually be in the crosshairs.

- Del Shannon, U.S. Society on Dams

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### High-Hazard Dam Report

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<th>RIVER/STREAM</th>
<th>LOCATION</th>
<th>COMPLETED</th>
<th>PURPOSE</th>
<th>LENGTH (FT.)</th>
<th>HEIGHT (FT.)</th>
<th>LAST INSPECTED</th>
<th>CAPACITY (ACRES)</th>
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<tr>
<td>COLD SPRING LOWER</td>
<td>Foundry Brook</td>
<td>Philipstown</td>
<td>1942</td>
<td>Water supply</td>
<td>328</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>2018</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>Unsound</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: New York State DEC
Infrastructure Redux

Tioronda Bridge, Beacon
Built around 1870, the 16-foot-wide bridge, also known as the South Avenue Bridge, crosses Fishkill Creek and linked mills and factories with rail lines. After falling into disrepair, it closed to traffic in 1985 and was disassembled in 2006. Today all that remains are two split-stone abutments and two piers.

Before being taken down, the bridge was a rare example of an iron bowstring arch-truss bridge built in the years after the Civil War. A bridge in Allegheny County, Pennsylvania, is the only other known example.

In 2017, the state Department of Transportation contributed $500,000 to restore the bridge with a walkway and one lane of low-speed vehicle traffic, a project that is expected to cost closer to $1 million.

Walkway Over the Hudson, Poughkeepsie
The Poughkeepsie Railroad Bridge was completed in 1888 to allow trains to bring coal from western Pennsylvania to New England. In 1974, a fire among the timbers damaged the steel, and a bankrupt Penn Central could not afford repairs. By 1980, Penn Central had been taken over by Conrail.

Facing $20 million in estimated repairs, Conrail investigated whether it could blow the bridge up, or tear it down, but faced opposition in part because of the fear that demolition would stir up industrial pollution in the riverbed. In 1984, Conrail sold the bridge to an investor, who in 1990 sold it for $1 to another investor, who in 1998 gave it to Walkway Over the Hudson. The nonprofit transformed the bridge into a “linear park” that opened in 2008.

Rail Trail, Beacon
A paved trail runs parallel to more than half of the Metropolitan Transportation Authority’s Beacon railroad line — the Maybrook section from Brewster to Hopewell Junction, which has been closed since the mid-1990s — and has been incorporated into the Empire State Trail, which stretches from lower Manhattan to Canada, or, if you head west, to Buffalo.

Metro-North in February announced its intention to discontinue use of a 41-mile segment of the line, which could open the door to bringing the trail to Beacon to join walking paths in the city. However, the Housatonic Railroad Co., which has the right to use the tracks is opposing the MTA plan.

Our cities were built in response to yesterday’s problems.”
— From a report by Rebuild by Design, a New York City-based nonprofit

Crystal Ball
The more likely threat to the Hudson Valley from the continued failure to more heavily invest in our infrastructure would be the advent of another superstorm like Lee, Sandy or Irene, where we witnessed the impact of chronically neglected infrastructure.”
— From a 2017 report by Hudson Valley Pattern for Progress
Water (from page 10)

Even if Kroog's budget permitted more hires, it's difficult to find qualified applicants. “It’s not an industry many people seek to get into,” he said, adding that his two colleagues are working toward becoming fully licensed system operators.

Despite any shortcomings, Balicki said he is satisfied with the quality of Beacon’s system. “It’s complex, with multiple reservoirs and wells,” he said. “That blend provides us with a better water supply, but it also creates hurdles.”

The city has been investing in its sewer system at the same time. For example, “last year we upgraded the north interceptor sewer, part of the west side of the city drainage area,” he said, while conceding “we have older sewer infrastructure that can still be a potential hazard. We had a 30-foot-deep manhole collapse on Main Street.”

The city also built a structure over where the sewer enters the treatment plant. The old works were located outside. “You can imagine in subzero winter temperatures how much fun that was,” he said.

There have been problems with Beacon sewers during major storms, when the plant discharged too much overflow into the Hudson and there were overflows and backups. Even though storm sewers had been isolated, there were still old connections, he said, and homes with sump pumps and broken pipes. In one case, city workers found two 10-inch sewer pipes connected to an 8-inch pipe. “There were bottlenecks that had to be corrected,” he said.

The system is not wanting for capacity. In fact, Beacon takes in wastewater from the Town and Village of Fishkill and earlier this year, then-Gov. Andrew Cuomo enacted a law that allows the city to sell its excess capacity to private firms outside city limits. Beacon gets some of its drinking water from Fishkill sources.

“The sewage plant is designed to take in 6 million gallons a day: we’re averaging 3.5 million gallons,” Balicki said.

What’s especially difficult to manage is “the unknown and the unseen,” he said: Buried pipes. There are at least 50 miles of them in the city, and a catastrophe could be a single failure away. “A pipe breaks, a sewer collapses and two basements end up flooded,” he said. Balicki said he’d also love to replace the cast-iron water mains. “We did a repair and the pipe was stamped 1930,” he said. “A pipe can last 100 years, but eventually it’s going to have continuous issues.”

Balicki said he would like to see Beacon adopt “smart meters” that make it easier to detect leaks. Given a larger budget, Balicki said he also would improve the de-watering equipment at the sewage treatment plant. Currently, sludge is squeezed between two belts to remove the water.

“It’s one of the best systems in old-school de-watering,” he said, but centrifuge technology is available that spins the sludge to remove the water. “That’s one thing we’re looking at.”

Kroog said the Cold Spring system functions well, but he would love to have granular-activated carbon filters, a “polishing” system that removes byproducts of the chemical disinfection of water. They can also help eliminate “rotten egg” smells and chlorine taste from treated water. There’s also microfiltration, which separates microorganisms and suspended particles from wastewater.

The big decision for the village, Kroog said, is what to do about its reservoirs, where the dams need major repairs (see Page 8). Last year, in a study commissioned by the Hudson Highlands Land Trust, Chazen Engineering recommended the village establish a well field along the Clove Creek aquifer, which would eliminate the need for reservoirs, or to refurbish them.

Switching to wells could also end Cold Spring’s need to tap into the Catskill Aqueduct, which crosses the eastern edge of Nelsonville. For the past 15 years, the village has been negotiating an agreement with its owner, the New York City Department of Environmental Protection, to use it as an emergency water source, especially during dam repairs.

Leaks have been a problem at times in the 125-year-old water system, but Kroog has largely dodged that bullet. “In the two years I’ve been here, there’s been a leak maybe once every six months,” he said. “And that has been on service lines [that extend into homes], not the mains.”

At present, Cold Spring has more than enough water, he said, averaging 220,000 to 250,000 gallons in daily usage. In addition to the reservoirs, the system includes two 285,000-gallon storage tanks. He said that, compared to other systems he’s seen over the past quarter century, Cold Spring’s rates in the top 15 percent.

The sewage treatment plant is newer, going online in 1972, but also doing well for a 50-year-old plant, he said, because of continuing maintenance. The plant is designed to treat up to 500,000 gallons of wastewater a day and the village produces between 180,000 and 220,000 gallons, he said. (It doesn’t handle stormwater.)

Kroog said there haven’t been any major blockages or sewer leaks in the two years since he succeeded Greg Phillips, who retired after 22 years. “It’s basically a preventive plan, getting inspections done, and trying to keep up with the system.”
**AROUND TOWN**

**PEDAL POWER** — More than 60 riders took part on Saturday (Sept. 18) in the fourth annual Philipstown Bike Day. Hosted by the Philipstown Trails Committee, the event featured a 1.6-mile loop that began and ended at Haldane Elementary School. Photos by Shamala Kandiah

**MUSIC TRAIL** — The Howland Chamber Music Circle hosted its annual walking concert in Beacon on Sept. 12 as part of its Classics for Kids series. Spectators strolled around Seeger Riverfront Park to hear a jazz trio, a folk duo, a classical string quartet, a saxophone duo and a flute duo. Photos by Ross Corsair

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The Artist Next Door

Amy Pilkington

By Alison Rooney

Metalsmith, sculptor, textile designer, jewelry maker?

It’s an “all of the above” for Amy Pilkington, whose studio at The Lofts at Beacon* invites you to gaze up at the indigo textiles on the walls while also taking note of the sculptural driftwood on the floor and the jewelry in between. The studio itself is an installation.

Pilkington has had the space for more than two years, and within it she creates, socializes with artist neighbors and ponders what she’ll do next while working on commissions and custom orders. Her repeat customers include an Idaho hotel that requested 122 works of textile art.

Pilkington calls herself a happy Beacon transplant from Long Island. “Every day goes by and I see four people I know,” she says. “There are creative people working in all sorts of fields, from website design to woodworking. We coordinate with each other to get projects done.”

Moving comes naturally to Pilkington. When she was growing up in Australia, her family relocated every few years, although she would attend high school in Connecticut. “My parents always made sure I had a studio,” she recalls. “They’d say, ‘You can make a mess in there; I was always making something.’”

Pilkington studied advertising and communications at Northwestern University, minoring in art, after initially considering medicine. “I was supposed to be corporate, but it didn’t take,” she says. That was in part because of a neck injury suffered in a car crash a month before she was to start graduate school.

During her recovery, she discovered jewelry-making. “At first, I was driven by the making of it, not the results,” she recalls. “Wax cast into metal: I was hooked. My first piece was a horse’s bit, and I took a long time thinking about how to do it, including how to thread leather through it. I learned how to fabricate and make chain, using ancient methods of jewelry-smithing, learning how to fuse. This was possible back then when gold went for so much less an ounce.”

With a “good flow of clients,” Pilkington is able to choose what she pursues. That’s a good thing, she says. “I get bored easily, so I want to try that indigo stuff.” The way you fold or bind the fabric creates the pattern. I learned the shibori process, in which you create shapes that indigo stuff. The way you fold or bind the fabric becomes a sculpture, which the fibers department — they seemed to have panic attacks. “I decided to give myself time and space.”

“I was feeling driven by what was trending in stores and magazines, and Gap hired me: ’Your assignment is to go into your workshop, and break every rule, and play.’”

While working on her master’s degree in metals and jewelry, Pilkington also continued to make other types of art. “At the time I did high-end jewelry, using 22-karat gold and richly hued stones, sometimes incorporating nontraditional items like linen. I was also working with patinography — a word I made up — using brass and copper panels and developing images on them, using chemicals to make colors and alter textures, turning them into metal canvases. “I also became friends with people in the fibers department — they seemed to have more fun. I thought, ‘I want to try that indigo stuff.’ The way you fold or bind the fabric creates the pattern. I learned the shibori process, in which you create shapes and the fabric becomes a sculpture, which you dye and unwrap.”

After graduating, Pilkington moved to the quiet part of the Hamptons. I couldn’t conceive of going back to the frenetic energy of the city. Being there, and now here, has altered how I feel about the materials I use in jewelry and textiles. I don’t think of preciousness as the value of it. The driftwood is fundamentally more precious. I think of preciousness as the value of it. The materials I use, sometimes incorporating nontraditional items like linen. I was also working with patinography — a word I made up — using brass and copper panels and developing images on them, using chemicals to make colors and alter textures, turning them into metal canvases. “I also became friends with people in the fibers department — they seemed to have more fun. I thought, ‘I want to try that indigo stuff.’ The way you fold or bind the fabric creates the pattern. I learned the shibori process, in which you create shapes and the fabric becomes a sculpture, which you dye and unwrap.”

Pilkington moved to New York to make jewelry full-time. Her work began appearing in stores and magazines, and Gap hired her to make a collection.

Then came 9/11. Her downtown workshop was covered in dust, and she began to have panic attacks. “I decided to give myself the gift of going to jewelry school,” she says. “I was feeling driven by what was trending but shifted focus to what I would make if there were no one around. I looked at Pratt, Parsons and RISD [the Rhode Island School of Design], but all the programs seemed disciplined.’ I wanted a think tank which would give you time and space.”

A visit to Savannah to see friends introduced Pilkington to the Savannah College of Art and Design. “It was amazing, so advanced,” she says. “It was just right for me. One professor told me: ‘Your assignment is to go into your workshop, and break every rule, and play.’”

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* We visited Pilkington’s studio at The Lofts at Beacon before it was damaged by flooding during Tropical Depression Ida. “It’s still upside down, with its contents largely scattered,” she said this week. “It took me three years to build out and was destroyed in one day.”
THE WEEK AHEAD
Edited by Pamela Doan (calendar@highlandscurrent.org)
For a complete listing of events, see highlandscurrent.org/calendar.

COMMUNITY
SAT 25
Modern Makers Market Pop-Up
COLD SPRING
10 a.m. – 6 p.m. St. Mary’s Church
1 Chestnut St. | stmaryscoldspring.com
Fortsy artists and artisans, including woodworkers, glassworkers, leather workers, jewelers and potters, will be sharing their crafts. There will also be music on the lawn, two food trucks, New York beer and cider and a fundraising raffle.

SAT 25
Lunch for the Landscape
GARRISON
Noon. Boscobel | 1601 Route 90
845-265-3638 | boscobel.org
Marking the 60th anniversary of the restored mansion and grounds, the fundraiser will include a picnic lunch and presentation on the future of Boscobel. Cost: $245 to $5,000

SUN 26
Spirit of Beacon Day
BEACON
3 – 7 p.m.
spiritofbeacon.org
Because of the pandemic, the 44th annual celebration will be spread out at smaller events, including music, art, children’s activities, fundraisers and food. See the website for the schedule.

WED 29
Green Teen Produce Stand
BEACON
5 – 6 p.m. 23 W. Center St.
facebook.com/greenteenbeacon
Every Wednesday in September, the Green Teen program is offering free produce at its stand outside the Beacon Recreation Center in partnership with Common Ground Farm and the Cornell Cooperative Extension of Dutchess County.

TUES 28
Thomas Cole and His Views
BEACON
7 p.m. Via Zoom | beaconhistorical.org
In this Beacon Historical Society program, Barry Ross will discuss how the founder of the Hudson River School reacted to development and changes in the region as shown through his paintings and writing. Free

TUES 28
Current Conversation: Matt Landahl
COLD SPRING
7 p.m. Via Crowdcast
crowdcast.ie/cc_beacon
The superintendent of the Beacon school district will discuss the challenges of the third school year during the pandemic. Register online.

THURS 30
Coping with Life’s Necessaries
COLD SPRING
11 a.m. Butterfield Library
10 Morris Ave. | 845-265-3040
butterfieldlibrary.org
Librarian Noelle will lead a training class for humans and their dog partners. Bring treats.

SAT 2
Dog Fun
COLD SPRING
11 a.m. Butterfield Library
472 Route 403 | desmondfishlibrary.org
Play with your pooch at the Taconic Outdoor Education Center.

KIDS & FAMILY
SAT 25
Storytime with Kristine Saloich
GARRISON
9:30 a.m. Cold Spring Farmers’ Market
1601 Route 90 | spfbkicks.com
The author of If You Are A Dreamer will read for children
**SAT 25**

**Kites Over the Hudson**  
**NEWBURGH**  
2 p.m. Washington’s Headquarters  
84 Liberty St.  
facebook.com/  
WashingtonsHeadquarters  

The first 150 children and teens (ages 15 and younger) will receive a kite courtesy of the Friends of the State Historic Sites of the Hudson Highlands.

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**SAT 25**

**Family Dance Workshop**  
**GARRISON**  
2 p.m. Philipstown Depot Theatre  
10 Garrison’s Landing | 845-424-3900  
philipstowndepottheatre.org  

The Putnam County Dance Project will lead this workshop. Its performance on SUN 3 is sold out. See Page 16. Cost: $12 ($15 families)

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**STAGE & SCREEN**

**SAT 25**

**Prelude to a Kiss**  
**WAPPIRGERS FALLS**  
2 & 8 p.m. County Players Theater  
2681 W. Main St. | 845-298-1491  
countyplayers.org  

In this romantic comedy, a stranger’s kiss after a wedding has magical powers that test the boundaries of love. Cost: $20 ($17 seniors, military, ages 12 and younger)

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**SAT 25**

**Night Train: Storytelling**  
**GARRISON**  
7 p.m. Philipstown Depot Theatre  
10 Garrison’s Landing | 845-424-3900  
philipstowndepottheatre.org  
Joe Charinski — a two-time Moth Slam winner, will host storytellers Meredith Maddox, Erik Leshart and Patrick Lennon. Also SAT 2 with Drew Prochaska. Cost: $25

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**SUN 26**

**Aery Theatre One-Act Play Festival**  
**GARRISON**  
5 p.m. Philipstown Depot Theatre  
10 Garrison’s Landing | 845-424-3900  
philipstowndepottheatre.org  

Spectators will select the winner from among five finalists in this 15th annual competition. Cost: $15

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**SUN 26**

**Ying Quartet**  
**GARRISON**  
4 p.m. Howland Cultural Center  
477 Main St. | howlandmusic.org  

In this Howland Chamber Music Circle show, the quartet will perform works by Zhou Long, Vivian Fung and Tan Dun as well as Haydn and Beethoven. Cost: $45 ($35 students and seniors)

---

**SAT 25**

**Gypsy**  
**PEEKSILK**  
8 p.m. Paramount Hudson Valley  
1008 Brown St. | 914-739-0039  
paramounthudsonvalley.com  

The band will recreate the performance and sound of the greatest hits by Stevie Nicks and Fleetwood Mac. Cost: $25 to $47.50

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**SAT 25**

**Stephane Wrembel**  
**BEACON**  
8:30 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.  
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com  

Playing gypsy jazz with his band, including Josh Kaye, Daisy Castro and Ari Falman-Cohen, Wrembel will perform music from his most recent release, The Django Experiment V1. Cost: $30 ($35 door)

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**SUN 26**

**Mac $ Cheeze Balkan Power Trio**  
**BEACON**  
12:30 – 2:30 p.m. Farmers’ Market  
223 Main St. | beaconfarmersmarket.org  

The band will perform a tribute to the Grateful Dead to benefit Riverkeeper. Cost: $35 to $100

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**FRI 1**

**Professor Louie & The Crowmatix**  
**BEACON**  
8 p.m. Towne Crier  
379 Main St. | townecrier.com  

The Grammy-nominated band from Woodstock includes Professor Louie, John Plantana, Gary Burke, Miss Marie and Frank Campbell. Cost: $20 (S35 door)

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**SAT 25**

**Stella Blue’s Band**  
**PEEKSILK**  
8 p.m. Paramount Hudson Valley  
1008 Brown St. | 914-739-0039  
paramounthudsonvalley.com  

The band will perform a tribute to the Grateful Dead to benefit Riverkeeper. Cost: $35 to $100

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**SAT 2**

**Analyze & Ryan and Los Cumpleaños**  
**COLD SPRING**  
6:30 p.m. Little Stony Point  
3011 Route 9D  
facebook.com/littlestonypoint  

In the final performance in the Global Music Initiative series, Nestor Gomez, Lautaro Burgos, Eric Lane and Alex Asher will perform high-energy Colombian traditional dance music with the Beacon duo opening with soulful, roots-style sound.

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**FRI 1**

**Oktoberfest**  
**MAHOPAC**  
6:30 – 10:30 p.m.  
Putnam County Golf Course  
187 Hill St. | 845-808-1580  
putnamcountygolfcourse.com  

The Amish Outlaws will perform; a traditional German menu is included. Cost: $25 (S35 door)

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**TUES 28**

**Danskammer Hearing**  
**ALBANY**  
5 p.m. Via Webex  
The state Board on Electric Generation Siting and the Environment will hear comments about a power plant expansion proposed for north of Beacon. Also WED 29. See webex.com or call 518-549-0500; event 179-528-2148.

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**TUES 28**

**Public Hearing: Code Updates**  
**COLD SPRING**  
6:30 p.m. Via Zoom  
845-265-3900 | coldspringny.gov  

The regular meeting of the Village Board will follow.

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Dancers Taking Flight

Company will present workshop in Garrison
By Alison Rooney

With the Hudson River as its flowing inspiration, the Putnam County Dance Project returns to Garrison’s Landing next weekend for a celebration in movement.

Taking Flight was inspired by a biographical children’s book, Fly Girl Fly, by Nancy Roe Pimm, that tells the story of Shaesta Waiz, an Afghan girl who moved to the U.S. after living in a refugee camp. She became a pilot and, at age 30, the youngest woman and the first from Afghanistan to circumnavigate the globe solo in a single-engine aircraft. She later founded a nonprofit, Dreams Soar.

The dance program will begin at 2 p.m. on Oct. 2 with a one-hour outdoor dance workshop for beginners and families featuring the founders of the company, Marie Carstens and Erin Jennings. They will be assisted by Nada Khodlova, a Brewster resident who will perform a traditional Romani circle dance. Pimm will also be there to sign copies of Fly Girl Fly.

On Oct. 3, in an outdoor show that has already sold out, the company will perform a program inspired by Waiz’s flight, during which she made 30 stops in 22 countries. It will include dances from Argentina, China, Egypt, Indonesia, India, Japan, Peru and Spain. Pierre de Gaillande contributed music.

“There are six of us holding down the show,” Jennings says. “It’s all about moving beyond borders, pursuing dreams. I found this book and was reading it to my own daughter and realized I have friends who do different cultural dances.”

Along with Carstens and Jennings, the dancers will be MaryBeth Hraniotis, Steven Jeltsch, Faith Kimberling and Justin Wingenroth. The guest dancers will be Melisa Chilo, Mala Desai, Maia Claire Garrison, Zobeida Ghattas, Carles Fittante, Jenna Kulacz, Yu Fujita Toews and Rina Rinkewich.

Carstens and Jennings, who live in Southeast, met at a bus stop, where they discovered they both had danced professionally. Carstens, a modern dancer, is a specialist in recreating the dances of Isadora Duncan; she is also a dance therapist. Jennings’ background is in musical theater dance and contemporary; she toured in a company of West Side Story.

The Putnam company “came about simply through us talking,” Jennings explains. “We’re two dancers who wanted to do shows and share our love for dancing. For instance, we recently did a program based upon the global water crisis. Putnam Arts Council helps us out; they’re our main funder and why we’re able to do this.”

The project was planned long before the recent events in Afghanistan, and some of the proceeds will be donated to a charity which supports Afghan women. “The hope is with enough support, energy, going to help them, things will change,” Jennings says.

The show will open with “Breaking Through Walls,” a contemporary solo dance created by Pilobolus, an American modern dance company, “about breaking through a tiny little space,” followed by a group dance sharing the program’s title.

During the performances, “a fellow mom, an Afghan woman, Salma Khowaja, will coach us in how to do an attan,” a folk dance considered the country’s national dance and traditionally performed by a troupe of 50 to 100 dancers who wave scarves to the beat of drums.

“We’re making a wish box where kids can put their messages of hope and dreams,” Jennings says. “Our final dance will be an improvisation, based on these dreams and hopes of the community.”

The Philipstown Depot Theatre is located at 10 Garrison’s Landing. Tickets for the Saturday workshop are $12, or $15 per family, at philipstowndepottheatre.org.
for thirty one years, it's been Ms. Ginny's job to gently pry open the minds of children. Wondrously, this can be accomplished with puppets, songs, and books read aloud in funny voices.

Being read to helps you learn to verbalise and teaches you how to express your thoughts.

Perhaps you were once upon a time one of the children with sponge-like brains absorbing Ms. Ginny's words.

No doubt you also rooked up the themes of inclusion and acceptance lurking in the middle of the picturebook.

In 1983, when Ms. Ginny arrived, Beacon was a very different place. Main Street was boarded up. Mr. Ginny wasn't just the children's librarian. She was Howland Public Library's entire children's program.

She was sorely needed. I started thinking about fostering the little ones. We collaborated with Head Start and the MLK Center.

After work, she'd drive to Albany to earn her MSIS.

No one really teaches you how to interact with children. I took it upon myself to learn their psychology.

Beacon's kids are divided between four elementary schools. They don't get to meet Ms. Ginny's after-school programs such as Lego Club, Anime, and Crazy Crafts (Math) bring the kids together by shared interest. She was not above using refreshments to lure them in.

DRAGONS ROAM WILD, HAVE TERRIBLY SHARP TEETH, AND HUNT DAY AND NIGHT.
Children get scared. When children get scared, sometimes they cry. Sometimes they whimper. Sometimes they rage and kick cars to destroy anything their feet can reach.

Adults get scared. When adults get scared, sometimes they cry. Sometimes they rage. Sometimes they write. Sometimes they make videos for social media. Sometimes they present their own realities at Board of Education meetings to try to change a policy that scares them.

Such a speech happened on Sept. 13 in Beacon, where the first topic of discussion was how the reopening was going. (The reopening is going well, the deputy superintendent reported.)

Before that report, during the public comment portion of the meeting, a woman came forth to speak on why she felt that mandatory testing of unvaccinated staff should not be. She proceeded to share misinformation that included words such as “ethylene oxide” and “shedding,” common terms used by anti-vaxxers. Another person who offered his views is a flagrant spreader of misinformation on social media.

The problem with adults who are scared is that they spread ideas that can impact others, including children, who haven’t yet learned the intricacies of the scientific method (remember that — start with a hypothesis and gather evidence for and against, while avoiding confirmation bias?), and harm a community’s spirit and safety.

Brandon Lillard and I (we do a podcast together called Wait, What is That?) have been talking to children about their fears. Their huge little minds turn things over and over to find the right answer, and we want to explore how they are comprehending their new choice to be vaccinated.

I first recorded a chat with my 9-year-old son. Take a read of this circular conversation, and see if you can spot where the logic turned from personal fear to outward concern and a flipped recommendation.

For context, my son and I both had COVID-19 at the same time in December 2020. I was vaccinated in April.

Mom: “Do you remember the first questions you asked me about the vaccination?”
Son: “I don’t want to take it.”
Mom: “Why not?”
Son: “I don’t want the side effects.”
Mom: “What are the side effects?”
Son: “You know what the side effects are!”
Mom: “Well, I know what they are, but what do you think they are?”
Son: “Well, they are headaches, drowsiness. Feeling down … I just don’t want it.”
Mom: “Feeling down?”
Son: “Yeah. I’m also scared of needles.”
Mom: “OK. What do you think about the fact that I get to wait on you and make you as cozy as possible? Bringing you food.”
Son: “Did the needle hurt? Is it like the flu?”
Mom: “To be honest, I barely felt the needle.”
Son: “You’re just saying that ‘cause you’re older.”
Mom: “No, I’m serious. And you’ve had the flu shot. I’ve actually never had the flu shot.”
Son: “The flu shot feels like a needle. It’s going to feel the same. Get the flu shot, and tell me if it feels the same, because then I’ll know.”
Mom: “I’ll get the flu shot for you.”
Son (chuckling): “Well, you would also be protected!”
Mom: “Well, I didn’t get the flu shot because I thought I didn’t need it. I thought my own antibodies were, like, better.”
Son: “No. You need it.”
Mom: “I do?”
Son: “I did not get the vaccination and I got the flu.”
Mom: “And you had the flu for like two weeks, right?”
Son: “Yeah. That was bad. I hated that thing.”
Mom: “And then your friend did not get the flu, and he did get the vaccination.”

It should be noted that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says that the COVID-19 vaccination can reduce how badly COVID-19 infects you if there is a breakthrough infection. Less than one-tenth of 1 percent of the state's fully vaccinated people had, as of Sept. 20, been hospitalized with a breakthrough infection, according to state data.

Pandemics present us with a constant unknown. While we are scared, we must continue to make wise decisions for ourselves and our children. Adults have the advantage of experience and are in positions of power. Use that power wisely, and keep fear in check.

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This week’s story about Mrs. Merry comes with a craft. To see what her job was like, cut along the dotted lines. Then, paste and different outfits and props for different library events.

Mrs. Merry started as a third-grade teacher. Next, she became a full-time mom. Then a full-time mom and a part-time children’s librarian. After working at Pleasant Valley Library, she moved to Desmond-Fish Library, where Carol Dekk became the director. There was an opening for Children’s Librarian so she ran the circulation desk. She got to know the patrons.

Mrs. Merry remembers the little 5-year-olds coming in, now they’re 30. Garrison doesn’t have a town center, so the library is where the community meets. When the position for Children’s Librarian became available, Mrs. Merry snapped it up. Now the 30-year-olds come in with 5-year-olds of their own.

I love, love, love every day. It’s working here. You get to be creative as a librarian. Your job is dictated.

Make Mrs. Merry do the little Teapot for Music and Movement.

Cut out Section A and Section B of Mrs. Merry. Line up the two dots. Push a brad through them together. Swivel.

Mrs. Merry says doing these kinds of things is important, childhood memories, and that’s important.
Spiced Butternut Squash Bisque

**Serves 6**

### Ingredients

- 1 butternut squash (about 2 pounds), peeled, seeded, cut into 1-inch cubes
- 1 teaspoon Aleppo pepper, divided (substitute ¼ teaspoon sweet paprika plus ¼ teaspoon cayenne)
- 2 teaspoons light brown sugar
- 1 cup milk (substitute half-and-half, cream, yogurt or coconut milk)
- 2 cups chicken or vegetable broth
- 3 tablespoons butter
- 3 tablespoons cracked cumin seeds (reserve for garnish)
- 1 medium onion, chopped
- 1 clove garlic, chopped
- 3 tablespoons roasted walnut (or hazelnut or pumpkin seed) oil
- Juice of one lime
- A dollop of sour cream or yogurt and a dusting of cracked toasted cumin seeds

### Instructions

1. In a large saucepan, heat butter over medium. Add onion, garlic and spices. Cook until squash is tender, about 20 minutes; adjust seasoning.

2. Add squash, sugar and broth. Bring to a boil and immediately reduce to a simmer. Cook, stirring occasionally, until onion has softened, 5 to 7 minutes.

3. In a blender, puree in batches, adding the dairy (or substitute) to incorporate until smooth. Return to saucepan and rewarm briefly. Stir in lime juice and serve hot with a splash of lime juice, it’s comfort food of the first order, asking nothing but a crust of good bread and perhaps a simple salad.

### Garnishes

- Picture here are toasted and cracked cumin seeds, Aleppo pepper and a sizzle of roasted pumpkinseed oil. Thin batons of fried bacon wouldn’t be out of place.

### Notes

- This recipe celebrates the dried and assertive spices favored by the cooler months. Seasoned with cumin and Aleppo pepper, this recipe celebrates the dried and assertive spices favored by the cooler months. Sautéed onions and garlic are savory notes and brown sugar accentuates the sweetness of the squash. Pureed with a little dairy (of your desired richness and brightened with a splash of lime juice), it’s comfort food of the first order, asking nothing but a crust of good bread and perhaps a simple salad.

### Additional Information

From my perspective, squash is a mainstay of the season. Whether the soft-tongued, sweet-tasting acorn squash or the bitter-sweet butternut, this vegetable is my candidate for culinary MVP for the harsher months.

Just a couple of days past this autumnal equinox, our temporal marker seems poetically indefinite. Summer is slipping away and the chill of winter, while still distant, is in the air.

But while the other seasons have universally accepted appellations, our current “situation” is a bit sketchier. We call it autumn or fall, but the original English designation — harvest — is most fitting.

You can’t argue with summer’s bounty: I’ve had a perfect tomato sandwich every day for lunch for at least a month now, and in my micro-community, peaches became — well, almost — a problem. I have made over a gallon of peach ketchup, been gifted jars and experimental formulas of peach fresca made from the fruit. (Anyone for Peach-o de Gallo? We have you covered.)

And while summer’s abundant pleasures are blissfully transient, they are also woefully fragile: They sometimes seem to decompose while you watch, and without the wherewithal or space to “put things up,” as they say, they are too soon gone.

So let us now praise the true harvest of harvest, the workhorses of a larder that will feed us through spring. The humble butternut squash is my candidate for culinary MVP for the harsher months.

Botanically a fruit, but culinarily used as a vegetable, it may be roasted, grilled, sautéed, toasted, pureed and mashed as a stand-alone course or used as an ingredient in stews, soups, ragus, casseroles, stuffings, breads, muffins and desserts.

Not as watery as its summer cousins, substantial and assertive on its own, the butternut is considered an early winter squash and has similar characteristics to later pumpkins, hubbard and acorn squash (meaty orange flesh loaded with dietary fiber, alpha- and beta-carotenes and minerals), but is considered superior in flavor to most and is easily substituted for its relatives in most recipes.

Most important, it stores well — up to three months; some varieties as long as six, unrefrigerated even — and is cultivated widely, keeping it available.

*Spiced Butternut Squash Bisque* is a comfort food of the first order, asking nothing but a crust of good bread and perhaps a simple salad.

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**By Joe Dizney**

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**Small, Good Things**

**This Sketchy Season**

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Spiced Butternut Squash Bisque

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**1.** In a large saucepan, heat butter over medium. Add onion, garlic and spices. Cook, stirring occasionally, until onion has softened, 5 to 7 minutes.

**2.** Add squash, sugar and broth. Bring to a boil and immediately reduce to a simmer. Cook until squash is tender, about 20 minutes; adjust seasoning.

**3.** In a blender, puree in batches, adding the dairy (or substitute) to incorporate until smooth. Return to saucepan and rewarm briefly. Stir in lime juice and serve hot with a dollop of sour cream or yogurt and a dusting of cracked toasted cumin seeds. Drizzle with a little roasted walnut (or hazelnut or pumpkin seed) oil if on hand.

*Note: Double the recipe and freeze cooled pureed bisque for up to three months.*
On Sept. 12, longtime Philipstown residents Sokhara Kim and Chakra Oeur invited fellow refugees and immigrant friends to celebrate one of Cambodia’s most important national holidays: Rice Harvest Day. Somehow, on their Route 9 property, the couple managed to nurture and grow rice, which was cut, harvested and pounded with traditional tools while everyone celebrated with favorite dishes, music and dance.

Photos by Ross Corsair
THE DOCUMENT HUNTER

Using Nazi records, a journalist tracks his father’s life

By Alison Rooney

As a foreign correspondent and news desk editor working out of London and later Jerusalem, Mel Laytner was well-schooled in the necessity of fact-checking.

Reporting for United Press International, a news agency, Laytner was adept at shaping complex issues into just-the-facts stories and presumed he would apply these methods to any future writing.

But when he began researching what he describes as an “investigative memoir” based upon his mild-mannered and introspective father’s experiences as a black-market ring-leader and survivor of Auschwitz and other Nazi concentration camps, as well as his life as a refugee, the writing wasn’t as straightforward as envisioned.

“I fought and objected to the notion that people suggested I would have to examine my father’s life and on the collective experiences of prisoners at the camps. To do this, Laytner, who lives in Nelsonville, had to become a determined detective, frequently in chase of elderly sources with potentially unreliable memories. He also had to question his own memories.

“When I was 10, I asked my dad, ‘Why didn’t you escape?’” he recalls. “He told me about an elaborate scheme, which didn’t make sense to a child. Then, this German document comes my way which confirmed the story. I thought: ‘What about all these amazing survivor stories? If I can show the truth by corroborating one man’s journey through the war, it shows that these things did happen, in an independent way.

“In discovering an important document, I felt that a curtain, a divider had been lifted,” he said. “For a long time for me it was a mystery. He told me about an elaborate scheme, which didn’t make sense to a child. Then, this German document comes my way which confirmed the story. I thought: ‘What about all these amazing survivor stories? If I can show the truth by corroborating one man’s journey through the war, it shows that these things did happen, in an independent way.

“Then, this German document comes my way which confirmed the story. I thought: ‘What about all these amazing survivor stories? If I can show the truth by corroborating one man’s journey through the war, it shows that these things did happen, in an independent way.’”

Those documents proved essential to the story, because his father only shared vignettes of his traumatic experiences, and “he scrubbed the stories of any blood. With benefit of 20/20 hindsight — and you have to be cautious of your own memories — there were clearly things he didn’t talk about.”

It was left to Laytner to apply his professional skills to a personal story that resonates beyond his family.

His book, What They Didn’t Burn: Uncovering My Father’s Holocaust Secrets, which was published on Sept. 20, uses the Nazi paper trail to shine a new light on his father’s life and the collective experiences of prisoners at the camps. To do this, Laytner, who lives in Nelsonville, had to become a determined detective, frequently in chase of elderly sources with potentially unreliable memories. He also had to question his own memories.

“When I was 10, I asked my dad, ‘Why didn’t you escape?’” he recalls. “He told me about an elaborate scheme, which didn’t make sense to a child. Then, this German document comes my way which confirmed the story. I thought: ‘What about all these amazing survivor stories? If I can show the truth by corroborating one man’s journey through the war, it shows that these things did happen, in an independent way.

“In discovering an important document, I felt that a curtain, a divider had been lifted,” he said. “For a long time for me it was a mystery. He told me about an elaborate scheme, which didn’t make sense to a child. Then, this German document comes my way which confirmed the story. I thought: ‘What about all these amazing survivor stories? If I can show the truth by corroborating one man’s journey through the war, it shows that these things did happen, in an independent way.’”

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Although one document sparked his investigation, Laytner didn’t think he had a book until three others came his way. Even then, he wasn’t sure how to put the research in the best perspective.

“It wasn’t until two or three years into the process that I began to realize that it had to be a memoir,” he says. “I realized that you make a better story if it involves people. I wanted to take the readers along on my journey of discovery, including my frustrations of running into brick walls.”

The extended research paid off. “I’d be looking for evidence of one thing and I’d discover something else,” he says. “I’d learn of something in Year One and in Year Five it would come back and be key.”

He decided to use two voices: third person past tense for historic accounts, and first person for the descriptions of his research. “I wanted it to be credible so my former colleagues would look at it and think, ‘He did a good job reporting, and he maintained his street cred’. But I also entertained hopes that it would appeal to an audience greater than people affected by the Holocaust.”

He initially organized the book chronologically but finally followed his path of discovery. Eventually, the two paths meet and “the 23 documents that I found [relating to his father’s experiences] show the evolution of Nazi policy from ethnic cleansing to genocide, as well as my father’s attempts at coping with what was going on. “When I was growing up I sort of discounted what it took, on a nitty-gritty action level, to survive the camps;” he says. “I had an appreciation, but I didn’t get what it meant to go through this day after day and make micro-decisions constantly in order to have a better chance of living another day. By the time I finished, I understood that this guy — my dad — did a lot of stuff to improve his luck.”

On Oct. 5, the Museum of Jewish Heritage will host a virtual discussion with Laytner about What They Didn’t Burn. Register at bit.ly/laytner-talk.

Philipstown Depot Theatre’s Fall Pop Up Patio Events:

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

Tickets at philipstowndepottheatre.org
Nelsonville Proposes Short-Term Rental Law

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

The Nelsonville Village Board voted 3 to 1 this week to pursue regulation of short-term rentals and scheduled a public hearing on the draft legislation for Oct. 18.

After several years of intermittently considering controls on rental of apartments, rooms or homes arranged through services such as Airbnb, the board unveiled a draft law last winter and held a spirited hearing before temporarily shelving it.

Unlike the earlier version, the latest draft would create a two-tier permit system: One permit would allow hosts to rent for up to 30 days a time and for up to 100 days annually. The village would limit these permits to 15 annually, representing 7 percent of the 215 houses in Nelsonville (up from 5 percent in the earlier version). The board could increase that number in a given year.

The second type of permit would allow the rental of a unit for two periods of up to one-week each, or a maximum of 14 days yearly, to accommodate visitors for events such as West Point graduation. The draft law does not limit the number issued.

Any property with a short-term rental (STR) would have to be the primary residence of the owners, meaning they live there at least 185 days each year. If the owners were not on the premises, they or a manager would have to respond in 30 minutes to problems. (The draft law would not cover traditional bed-and-breakfasts or hotels and motels, which are regulated separately in the village code.)

Hosts would need to register with the village, have their rentals inspected by the code enforcement officer/building inspector, and pay $250 for a permit, renewable annually for $150.

Other draft provisions state:

- Permits would expire if a property changed ownership.
- No trailers, tents, sheds and garages could be rented as STRs.
- An STR must include a toilet, sink and shower or tub with hot and cold drinkable water.
- STR properties cannot be used for commercial events, such as concerts.

Mayor Mike Bowman and Trustees Chris Winward and Dave Moroney voted to move the draft forward. Trustee Kathleen Maloney voted no, saying that she thinks it could have been improved. Trustee Maria Zhynovitch was absent.

Sonia Rzy-Ryski and Rudy Van Dommele, who rent units through Airbnb, including an Airstream trailer on their 5-acre site near the Haldane campus, again criticized the village approach.

“What constitutes the Airbnb crisis in Nelsonville and how is this law going to change anything?” Van Dommele asked. “This is not a big city that needs big regulations.”

Ethan Timm suggested the law could allow homes such as his, on larger lots, to offer rentals more frequently than those whose neighbors are only a few feet away.

Frank Caccetta, who lives on Main Street, maintained that short-term rentals “bring in crime” as thieves “spend a couple of days, look around, case the joint, come back later.”

Bowman urged residents to comment at the Oct. 18 hearing.

Notes from the Cold Spring Village Board

Water treatment repairs, car burglaries, false alarms at medical center

By Michael Turton

- Mayor Dave Merandy at the Sept. 14 meeting of the Village Board said that a bid document which could lead to Cold Spring privatizing trash collection is being reviewed by Village Attorney John Furst. Merandy said the call for “mini-bids” would go to two or three companies approved by New York State.

- Merandy said the board hoped to move forward soon on finalizing a new lease agreement with the Cold Spring Boat Club. The club has occupied the village-owned riverfront property since 1955.

- Matt Kroog, superintendent of water and wastewater, reported that the cost of refurbishing three, 20-year-old filtration units used in the treatment of drinking water at the Fishkill Road treatment facility would be about $83,000 each; new units cost $330,000. Kroog said a consultant assessed the units and indicated they “are not that far gone” and worth saving. The village will pursue a federal grant to offset the cost.

- In his monthly report, Cold Spring Police Department Officer-in-Charge Larry Burke advised residents to lock their cars at night in the wake of a wave of break-ins in the area of Kemble Avenue, The Boulevard and Constitution Drive. Burke said thieves targeted unlocked cars, taking only cash and often ignoring valuable items such as laptop computers.

- Burke reported working with the building inspector regarding a steady stream of false burglar alarms from the NewYork-Presbyterian medical building at Butterfield. “There’s a glitch there somewhere,” he said, adding that since the system was installed, CSPD has received more than 100 false alarms. “It takes our officers time; it’s annoying,” Burke said.

“It’s like the boy who cried wolf.”

- Philipstown Town Board Member Bob Flaherty reported that a charging station for electric vehicles will be installed at a cost of $21,100 in the area of Town Hall. Flaherty said the original proposed location, below the tracks on Main Street in Cold Spring, was unsuitable. Merandy said he was surprised by the change and that there was no basis for complaints by two neighbors that water posed a problem at the lower Main Street site. “We were never informed that [the location] was going to be changed,” he said.

- When Trustee Marie Early pointed out that the village had made a significant investment in preparing the site for the charging station, Flaherty said Climate Smart Philipstown suggested the change and that he would discuss the issue further with Philipstown Supervisor Richard Shea.

- Code Enforcement Officer Charlotte Mountain reported she had approached the New York Department of State on behalf of Laura Bergman, owner of 15 Main St., to request a variance for a ramp at the Cro’ Nest wine bar and cafe being constructed there. The state has indicated it will allow a ramp that is slightly steeper than allowed by the Americans with Disabilities Act requirements. Merandy said that if he receives assurance that the variance has been approved, he will work with Mountain to issue a temporary Certificate of Occupancy which would allow Bergman to open the wine bar. The board has been in protracted discussions with River Architects over the ramp, which encroaches on village-owned property.

- The Highway Department collected 50.2 tons of trash and 17.9 tons of recyclables in August.

- The Cold Spring Fire Co. responded to 19 alarms in August.

- Late in the 90-minute meeting, Merandy and Trustee Kathleen Foley had a testy exchange after Foley reported she had worked with the village accountant and Fire Chief Tom Merrigan to put together information for the Putnam County Department of Emergency Services regarding possible federal grants for damage resulting from Hurricane Ida. Merandy complained that as mayor, he had not been informed and was not party to all the communications on the issue. Foley indicated she had informed Merandy and the other members of the Village Board by email. “It seems that a lot that goes through you doesn’t come to me,” Merandy said. When he added that there are more ways to communicate than by email, Foley replied that that mayor doesn’t return her phone calls. In the late spring, Foley entered the race for mayor and Merandy subsequently withdrew as a candidate.
Beacon Groups Get Grants

City, county and state distribute funds
By Jeff Simms

Two Beacon nonprofits recently received grants from the city, three from the county and one from the state Assembly.

The Beacon City Council on Monday (Sept. 20) approved a $50,000 contribution to the Howland Cultural Center and $15,000 for the Beacon Historical Society through the city’s newly established community facilities grant program.

The council created the program last month using $220,000 that had been repaid from a federal urban development grant that, from 1977 to 1988, allowed the city to make low-interest loans to businesses.

Funding requests for up to $50,000 were accepted for capital projects from Beacon nonprofits that serve a public purpose. Main Street buildings in Beacon’s historic district were also eligible.

The Howland Center applied to partially fund restoration of its 1872 building at 477 Main St. The center plans to launch a fundraising drive to rehabilitate the building in conjunction with its upcoming 150th anniversary.

The Historical Society will use the funds to construct an ADA-compliant ramp at its new 61 Leonard St. location.

Dutchess County also awarded $15,000 this month to the Beacon Performing Arts Center for sets and props for its musical productions; $20,000 to the Beacon Soccer Club for uniforms and equipment and to upgrade and repair its concessions stand; and $50,000 to the Howland Public Library to buy furniture for the children’s and youth room and for science and tech materials.

The money was part of the latest rounds of the county’s ongoing Learn, Play, Create grant program that is funded with $3 million in federal pandemic relief funds.


In addition, on Wednesday (Sept. 22), Assembly Member Jonathan Jacobson, whose district includes Beacon, announced a $20,000 grant to the Howland library to expand its technology services and build out community spaces.
Putnam Legislators Renew Attack on Sheriff Overtime

Agency’s COVID-19 protocols also criticized
By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

Putnam County Legislature committee members last week renewed a long-running assault on Sheriff Robert Langley’s overtime policies but by a series of 2-to-1 votes approved fund transfers totaling $215,684 for six months of overtime and related charges.

Although the committee voted on each transfer individually, it first bundled them together for discussion, much of it a blast at Langley that included disparaging his 2020 policy of sending home, for quarantine, deputies exposed to COVID-19. County health and other officials maintained last year that essential employees exposed to the virus were required to keep working while wearing masks, practicing social distancing and taking similar steps to “quarantine” on the job.

The votes came during the Sept. 16 Protective Services Committee session in Carmel. The transfer proposals awaited further review by the Legislature’s Personnel Committee on Monday (Sept. 27).

Six transfers involve moving money from accounts for the county jail, part of the Sheriff’s Department, to other accounts to fund road patrol overtime and insurance; a seventh would free money from a general fund road patrol overtime and insurance; another, to the Sheriff’s Department, to other accounts to fund overtime requests.

The sheriff’s department included that in March the department was 11 deputies short because two were on extended leave, two had been called up for military duty, two recruits were in the training academy, three had retired and two were out for other reasons. He provided the same information in memos referring to the April, May, June, July and August overtime requests.

Undersheriff Kevin Cheverko offered similar details in addressing the committee and noted that deputies’ pay recently increased, compounding the financial crunch. The sheriff did what he could in his budget in the beginning of the year to try to fund the overtime to get the coverage he needed. We denied him that.”

“Forward is on the sheriff to demonstrate the need,” Nacerino responded.

However, she and Legislator Carl Alban of Carmel, the third committee member, voted to approve the fund transfers. Sullivan voted “no.”

New date for clerk

At its monthly meeting on Sept. 7, the Legislature voted, 8 to 1, to move the appointment date for its clerk from Jan. 1 to Dec. 31 (or earlier), a change that could give lame-duck legislators a role in choosing a key employee.

Legislator Neal Sullivan of Carmel-Mahopac, a committee member, criticized Langley for sending Cheverko “to justify overspending. Why can he not do something to manage this overtime better?”

He also revived the issue of the sheriff’s COVID-19 quarantine practices, which reflected federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention advice.

“All county departments “have to follow the COVID policy of the county,” Sullivan declared. “For him to go on his own and say, ‘I’m going to follow CDC guidelines,’’ meant that “we spent hundreds of thousands of dollars” on COVID leave. “The sheriff thinks he can run the department any way he wants,” Sullivan added. “That’s not correct.”

Montgomery pointed out that Philipstown deals with heavy tourism and deserves assistance. “I hope we have more patrols” and the county hires more deputies, she said. “I’m concerned about public safety. The sheriff did what he could in his budget in the beginning of the year to try to fund the overtime to get the coverage he needed. We denied him that.”

“The onus is on the sheriff to demonstrate the need,” Nacerino responded.

However, she and Legislator Carl Alban of Carmel, the third committee member, voted to approve the fund transfers. Sullivan voted “no.”

Meeting before the meeting

Before launching into the agenda on Sept. 7, Toni Addonizio of Kent, who chairs the Legislature, defended the eight Republican members’ practice of gathering in private before legislative meetings — effectively, conducting a secret meeting-before-the-meeting without Montgomery.

“Caucus meetings are permitted by law and are not open to the public,” Addonizio said, although it was not clear what prompted her defense of the practice. She noted that legislators could address “any topic” at a caucus, “including county business. Questions about whether caucus meetings have been held or about what may have been discussed are therefore totally improper and irrelevant.”

Montgomery remarked that while discussing public business at a caucus may be allowed by state law, “so is smoking marijuana. Is that a good idea? I don’t think so.”
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PROJECT ARCHITECT — Sigler Henderson Studio is looking for a well-rounded applicant with the ability to produce detailed construction drawings and the skills to manage projects of varying sizes and scopes. Visit siglerhendersonstudio.com for information.

**Puzzles**

### CrossCurrent

**ACROSS**
1. — Valley, Calif.
5. Indent key
8. Booty
12. Portent
13. Hot temper
14. Corduroy ridge
15. Arm of the Arctic Ocean
17. Desire
18. Sub detector
19. Sunflower State
21. Study all night
24. Pvt.’s superior
25. Salamander
28. Canal feature
30. Acapulco gold
33. “The Greatest”
34. Continental cash
35. “Awesome!”
36. Sweetie
37. Apple computer
38. Memory unit
39. A billion years
41. Crazy
43. Treat badly
46. Available
50. Contented sounds
51. Left the band
54. “— Rhythm”
55. Actress Mendes
56. Now, on a memo
57. Cuts off
58. Gym unit
59. Egyptian deity

**DOWN**
1. Scatters seeds
2. Texter’s “As I see it”
3. Chow —
4. Unbroken
5. “— the season…”
6. Exist
7. Toucan’s feature
8. Tried to hit a homer
9. Veteran’s tale
10. Pond growth
11. Pop music’s Bee —
12. Goof up
13. Requests
14. Grad
15. Aesopian ending
16. “Unh-unh”
17. Designers Chanell
18. Postal delivery
20. Port authority?
21. Poetic tribute
22. Camp bed
23. Othello villain
24. Othello villain
25. “Unh-unh”
26. Exist
27. Exist
28. Exist
29. Exist
30. Exist
31. Exist
32. Exist
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58. Exist
59. Exist

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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. like a candid photo (7)
2. they fell trees (11)
3. not motivating (11)
4. quality of glue or tape (10)
5. had a role onstage (5)
6. Oscar-winning director Chloé (4)
7. epitomize (6)

**SOLUTIONS**

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### SudCurrent

Answers will be published next week. See highlandscurrent.org/puzzle for interactive sudoku.
FOOTBALL
Beacon traveled on Sept. 17 to Hyde Park and easily defeated Roosevelt High School, 21-4, behind quarterback Jason Komisar, who ran for one touchdown and threw another.

In addition, Caliel Daughtry returned a punt 72 yards for a TD and had two interceptions; Jose Rodriguez had six receptions, including a TD; and Isaac Hansen ran for 80 yards on 15 carries.

“That was an important win,” said Coach Jphelan. “We stuck together.”

Beacon (2-0) was scheduled to host Saugerties today (Sept. 24) but the Sawyers are in quarantine so the Bulldogs have no opponent until next week, when they travel to Goshen on Oct. 1.

Haldane was scheduled to travel to Woodlands on Sept. 18, but the Falcons had to forfeit because of COVID-19 protocols. Haldane (2-0) will visit Bardonia on Saturday to take on Albertus Magnus (1-1).

BOYS’ SOCCER
Beacon continued its strong play and dominance of Section IX, routing Valley Central, 6-0, on Tuesday (Sept. 21) at home to improve to 4-1.

Andre Alzate had two goals and Miguel Ruiz, Dillon Kelly, Jack Philipbar and Tommy Franks each had one. Led on defense by backs Gavin Ladue and Avery Davis, and keeper AJ Lucas, Beacon hasn’t allowed a goal in its first four games against sectional opponents. The Bulldogs are ranked sixth in the state among Class A teams by the New York State Sportswriters Association.

“Kelly, Franks and Alex Wyant have done a nice job dictating the tempo and controlling possession,” said Coach Craig Seaman.

The Bulldogs were scheduled to host Washingtonville on Thursday and visit Minisink Valley on Monday (Sept. 27).

In Cold Spring, Haldane lost to Hamilton in overtime, 1-0, on Sept. 17, spoiling a strong effort by keeper Ronan Kiter (six saves) and the defense.

On Monday (Sept. 20), the Blue Devils fell to Peekskill, 3-2. Both Haldane goals came from Ryan Eng-Wong, on assists by Matt Silhavy and Will Stifffen. Kiter had seven saves.

Haldane travels to North Salem on Saturday (Sept. 25) and hosts Pawling on Wednesday (Sept. 29).

GIRLS’ SOCCER
Down two goals, Haldane came back against Tuckahoe on Monday (Sept. 20) but had to settle for a 3-3 tie when the Tigers scored with two minutes remaining.

The Blue Devils trailed 2-0 at the half before Chloe Rowe, Ella Ashburn and Paula Herrera gave the team the lead. The teams did not play overtime because of darkness.

“We’ve been plagued with injuries all season,” Coach Mike Lentini said. “Our starting keeper [Ruby Poses] is out with a broken nose, but Betsy Cates came up big for us, making seven saves. We’re looking forward to having Bianca Harmancin and Sara Perreira back, as well, as we move into league play this week.”

Haldane (3-3-1) lost on Saturday at Briarcliff, 9-0.

The Beacon girls lost to Washingtonville, 4-1, on Monday at home. Reilly Landis scored the lone Beacon goal and keeper Hope Cleveringa had 10 saves.

Last week Beacon tied two-time defending Section IX, Class A champ Minisink Valley, 1-1. Minisink scored in the 50th minute of the second half but Maddie Bobnick set up Chelsea DerBoghossian to tie the game in the 72nd minute.

Devyn Kelly had 15 saves in goal for Beacon, which battled through double overtime to earn the tie.

GIRLS’ TENNIS
Beacon swept host O’Neill on Tuesday behind notable play by Isabelle Ray (No. 2 singles) and Sandison and Darcy. On Monday, the Bulldogs (5-1) fell to Washingtonville, 6-1, with Sandison and Darcy scoring the lone win.

The doubles team “started lobbing more effectively, and placing their shots better,” Coach David Ryley said. “They showed great perseverance to pull out the win.”

“Jill did an amazing job,” Roling said. “They just never stopped playing, and that’s all you can ask for as a coach.”

Beacon (3-2-1) will host Cornwall today (Sept. 24) and travel to White Plains on Saturday.

Haldane Volleyball Overcomes Slow Start to Quiet Valhalla

Anyone watching the first set of the volleyball match on Wednesday (Sept. 22) between Haldane and Valhalla in Cold Spring might have thought the Vikings — who seemed to be doing everything right in a 25-11 win — were headed for a straight-set victory.

But the Blue Devils regrouped in the second set, dominating, 25-12, to even the match and won the next two sets (25-14, 25-23) to improve to 3-1.

“That was a huge win for us because of that first set,” said Coach Kristina Roling.

“The team rallied and finished strong. Valhalla had a great server, and she got 15 or so points on us in a row. We got a little frustrated, and maybe there were some jitters playing in front of fans again.”

Before the second set, Roling told her team “to come out with energy. They were communicating and talking, and we played a lot better.”

Jill Weinhphal led Haldane in kills with 11 and added 14 digs, while Meghan Tomann had 16 assists and four aces and Megan Farrell had 16 digs and four aces.

“Jill did an amazing job,” Roling said. “Meghan was awesome getting to everything and Scotia Hartford had some amazing blocks. Megan Farrell, our libero, did a wonderful job reading the ball and passing.”

On Monday (Sept. 20), Haldane defeated Woodlands, 3-1. On Sept. 17, the Blue Devils fell to Briarcliff, 3-1.

Haldane is scheduled to visit Pleasantville today (Sept. 24) and play in a tournament at Briarcliff on Saturday. It will host Croton-Harmon and North Salem early next week before traveling to Croton-Harmon on Thursday.