

# The HIGHLANDS Current

SEPTEMBER 24, 2021



Haldane Volleyball  
on a Roll [Page 28](#)

## Health Workers Due for Shots

*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)*



Photo by Alexa Strudler

### OPERATION Infrastructure

*Congress is considering a \$1 trillion bill to fix  
roads, bridges, dams and water systems.  
What does it mean for the Highlands?*

SECOND IN A SERIES

By Chip Rowe

Steve Anderson, who has owned a home in Philipstown for 26 years, has been thinking a great deal about infrastructure over the past decade. He is the founder and managing director of Infrastructure USA, a nonprofit advocacy organization largely funded by groups with skin in the game, such as the American Society of Civil Engineers, the American Council of Engineering Companies and the New York Building Foundation.

A television producer and documentary filmmaker, Anderson created the group in 2009. He said he was

searching for a topic related to infrastructure for his next film (e.g., how electrification changed the world) and friends and sources suggested that a website that shared various approaches to the issue might have a wider and more engaged audience. He built it at [infrastructureusa.org](http://infrastructureusa.org).

"The responsibility we have to the natural environment is clear, but we also have to take responsibility for our *built* environment," Anderson told me this week. "The backbones of America are creaky. In every community, including in the Hudson

*(Continued on Page 8)*



**CELEBRATION** — 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, which includes dancing, music and, of course, food. See [Page 21](#).

Photo by Ross Corsair



## NewburghOPENstudios.org

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# 5Q 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. There are plenty of people who want



to do it and think they can do it.

## 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 anyplace 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."

# ON THE SPOT

By Michael Turton

What's the best and worst use for pumpkin?

"Pumpkin spice latte is the best. Pumpkin beer? Forget it!"



Dawn Simmonds, Beacon

"Pumpkin pie, for sure. I don't like scary carved pumpkins."



Lois Powers, Cold Spring

"I like pumpkin muffins; pumpkin soup, not so much."



Joe Ireland, Beacon

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Sat. Sept 25 - 1-5 pm  
COMBINACIONES/COMBINATIONS  
Exhibit features Latinx artists - Free

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Tix + Info: <http://HowlandMusic.org>

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Co-presentation by Fridman Gallery & HCC - Free

Please Join & Support Our Friends of the Howland Campaign!

In order to protect and safeguard our many friends, visitors and staff our Covid protocol is still in effect at the HCC

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# Molinaro to Run for Congress

*Dutchess 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



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 Philipstown 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.

## 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

File photo by Michael Turton

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.

## 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](https://highlandscurrent.org/conversations)



# The HIGHLANDS Current

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## Tell us what you think

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

## LETTERS AND COMMENTS

### 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, I have never had a problem finding a space

within five minutes and usually within a block of Main Street.

Remember the reasons people come to visit Beacon. It is the small-town feel, the quaint shops, the charming old homes, the mountain views and the river access. There will be no "hiding" a parking garage in a small city like Beacon.

Mary Fris, *Beacon*

I understand the issues that come with rapid development and gentrification in our lovely little town, but one thing that irks me is how insipid and soulless all the new condos look. Every design follows the same exact Modern Architecture plug-and-play handbook: Long, clean, parallel lines; large, boxy open windows; black on gray. Up and down Main Street, every new building looks the same.

For a town with such history and beauty as Beacon, from the old Victorian homes to the Howland Cultural Center, I can't help but wonder how we ended up living in an Ikea catalog. Stop building ugly condos.

Patrick McGinn, *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 with indifference. We organized dozens of public meetings; each one required a meeting place, public notice in the papers, stapling flyers to telephone poles, writing presentations and copying handouts, recording comments, and on and on.

After months of intense public discussion and debate, the special board approved a draft comprehensive plan in December 2010, which was debated and refined for another year by the Village Board before being adopted.

In 2011, the special board prepared, with additional public meetings and debate, a Local Waterfront Revitalization Strategy, with the intention of using that as a basis for developing and winning approval for a Local Waterfront Revitalization Program, the ultimate weapon to defend the village's future and to help us draw on federal and state grants.

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)



## LETTERS AND COMMENTS

(Continued from Page 4)

village will have more leverage with a developer by staying with the current zoning, which permits industrial uses on that land. The essence of his argument is that clearly defining a Mixed-Use district will get in the way of negotiations between the developer and the Planning Board and put the village at a disadvantage.

This, to me, is strategically unsound. Every lever requires a fulcrum, and that fulcrum, for this community, for decades has been an antiquated code that no longer represents the wishes of the community, is full of contradictions and is likely to crumble at the first brief from a smart attorney. Dozens of volunteers worked for 15 years to fix that. The new code, the product of their efforts, defines those 11 acres clearly for Mixed-Use, consistent with the Comprehensive Plan and Local Waterfront Revitalization Strategy. Once adopted, Mixed-Use zoning will provide true leverage. The new code will be fair to everyone. It will give the developer guidelines for completing his project, while ensuring that the voice of the people of this village is heard.

I urge the Village Board to approve the new code, with Mixed-Use.

Michael Armstrong, *Cold Spring*

Looking at the proposed zoning map and seeing all the new traffic being funneled through Kemble Avenue was an eye-opener. The addition of 23 new houses (not to mention businesses and restaurants) could affect not only Kemble but Main. Would we need a second stoplight, for instance? I'm wondering if these concerns will be discussed at the public hearing on the code concerning traffic on Tuesday (Sept. 28).

Susan Peehl, *Cold Spring*

Probably a far better use of this contaminated battery factory site would be as a museum, memorial and research library to the ignorance, greed, envy and deceit that allowed the thousands upon thousands of toxic environmental and health disasters, and the various deleterious effects on human society from them, in the Hudson Valley and throughout New York state from about the start of World War II (or better, from the start of the industrial era) through the Cold War and to the present day.

The consequences of this proposed rezoning will be to continue this long-established tradition of ignorance, greed, envy and deceit.

Frank Haggerty, *Cold Spring*

We will leave no piece of land undeveloped. Look at what happened in North Tarrytown by the river and in Beacon. It's sad.

James Larkin, *via Facebook*

Who would want to live on this land?

Kathy Seton, *via Facebook*

## Marijuana retail

In the current climate, where civility is at an all-time low, Lynn Miller's letter to the editor in the Sept. 17 issue on whether Philipstown should opt out of allowing marijuana retail sales serves as another blow to

public discourse.

The Philipstown Town Board hosted multiple meetings and workshops on the issue of cannabis sales. Allow me to reassure anyone who thinks that our not jumping on the cannabis wagon is misguided.

Under a state-imposed timeline, Philipstown needed to decide in September on its position on cannabis sales and on-site consumption. Our research showed us that the regulatory and fiscal management of this new market has not been sufficiently sorted. The truth is, neither the state Comptroller's Office nor the Budget Office has their ducks in a row to ensure proper taxation and the return of those dollars to the local level.

Our board unanimously deemed it prudent, for the protection of taxpayers and the public health, to delay the decision to opt in. Under the state legislation, that option is only available to municipalities once. The board feels that the state needs to have its regulation and taxation houses in order first, so we're waiting. That's the responsible course of local action.

New York State is far from issuing any permits or approvals. The urgency placed on local governments to act at this time is a red herring in a time when the state, and particularly the former governor, wanted to give the impression of expedience. Delaying the opt-in gives the Town Board time to consider all aspects of this complex and far-ranging issue, and what we need to do from a local regulatory perspective. That's what true local leadership looks like.

The public has every right to bring this issue to a ballot initiative through the permissive referendum process.

Richard Shea, *Philipstown*

Shea is the Philipstown supervisor.

## Haldane masks

Kudos to Ezra Beato on his excellent reporting on lax compliance with COVID-19 guidance at Haldane High School ("Reporter's Notebook: New Year, Old Concerns," Sept. 17). He has documented improper masking and the lack of enforcement of mask policy and unvaccinated students. The high vaccination rate and low case rate in our ZIP codes has lulled students, teachers and leaders into complacency.

As Beato pointed out, with the spread of the delta variant, this is a recipe for increasing illness and death in our community in the months ahead. It would be great if Beato's reporting would serve as a wake-up call for students, teachers and school administrators to take corrective steps. Perhaps *The Current* could do biweekly or monthly reporting on this matter to put a spotlight on Haldane High School and maybe even extend this reporting to Beacon High School. Indeed, *The Current's* Student Journalism Program is making a difference.

Alan and Patty Brownstein, *Cold Spring*

Excellent reporting from this young journalist, regardless of what you think about masks in schools. Thank you, Ezra!

Dave McCarthy, *Nelsonville*

Ugh. This is so discouraging. Thank you

for this important reporting. One in 500 Americans are dead and Haldane can't even enforce the mask mandate? Protect our kids and your community, Haldane!

Eliza Hare, *via Facebook*

Vaccinations should be mandatory for children over age 12. It feels fantastic to be responsible toward other's health, and one's own.

Shelley Gilbert, *via Facebook*

The school year has barely begun and already there are over 800 COVID-19 quarantined classes in the New York City school system. This excellent reporting by Ezra Beato revealing the safety protocol gaps at Haldane just proves that our local "chain of protection" is only as strong as its weakest link.

That any teachers at Haldane are unmasked indoors, unvaccinated and neglecting their responsibility to enforce safety protocols is alarming. That Putnam Hospital Center has one of the the lowest vaccination rates of medical, administrative and support staff in the entire state of New York is doubly alarming. The fact that New York first responders show such low rates of vaccination is troubling, too.

A mandate requiring vaccination of all employees at public schools, medical facilities and first responders is the right thing to do and I hope Gov. Kathy Hochul will see the wisdom of it soon. These workers must be held to the highest COVID safety standards because, ultimately, their jobs' core missions are to protect and educate the public. If these employees do not accept their fundamental responsibilities to the larger communities they serve (who also fund their paychecks), a career change should also be mandated.

We will never get control of this pandemic, move beyond the economic pain and heal the personal heartache we've been suffering if people refuse to step up and do their part to protect their neighbors and community.

Lynn Miller, *Cold Spring*

## Masks for children

As you reported, New York is mandating masks for children ages 2 and older and all staff and visitors at state-regulated day care centers (*Coronavirus Update*, Sept. 17).

Getting a 25-month-old to wear a mask is no easy task. Yes, they can adapt, but it is an incredibly stressful task for parents and the child. There's a balance in all of this and I don't think moving the goalposts around is creating a net positive. A 2-year-old in day care has not been wearing a mask during the entire pandemic, almost his or her entire life at this point. What is accomplished with this arbitrary change?

Bryan Blackburn, *via Facebook*

Requiring children at day cares to wear masks reduces the risk of them getting a viral load of COVID-19 that they could then spread around to others, including vulnerable family members. It's not a perfect barrier, especially if they are sloppy with usage (understandable in the very young), but it does significantly reduce the likeli-

hood of infection and transmission.

It isn't "arbitrary." It is the result of infectious disease specialists honing their approach as they learn more about this new and evolving virus. Expect further changes as they learn more and as newer, more-contagious variants emerge.

The more people who wear masks (and 12 and up who get vaxed), the less likely new variants will emerge. I'm a parent and know that it might be tricky at times to ask them to wear a mask in public, but also have been impressed by how adaptable the young are to new situations. I wish I had such adaptability still.

Ray Bokhour, *via Facebook*

## Cell tower

This is a big win in the fight to stop the cell tower over the historic Cold Spring Cemetery ("Judge Sends Cell Tower Lawsuit Back to State Court," Sept. 17). Shame on the Nelsonville Village Board and Mayor Michael Bowman, who didn't listen to adjacent property owners when they repeatedly warned that the project violates their property rights. It's also a shame the telecoms were allowed to clear-cut an endangered bat habitat for a cell tower that will likely never be built.

David Eisenbach, *Nelsonville*

## Sailing cargo

Wind on the Hudson River is notoriously fickle and not conducive to sailing ("Shipping for a Small Planet," Sept. 17). Get stuck in the middle of the channel on a windsurfer and you will agree.

James Rossouw, *via Facebook*

## Road woes

As a home inspector, and also a firefighter in the past, I give a lot of thought to those areas where I have a home inspection and where I know fire suppression will be hampered by narrow, washed-out dirt roads ("Road Woes," Sept. 10). It means only being able to get a short wheel-base fire engine up there with maybe 500 gallons of water. That will run out in about three minutes of steady flow out of a combo-tip 1¾-inch hand line, and faster if they use a 2-inch line.

Then they'll have to set up a tanker shuttle and that will take time and make the road impassable, with 3- or 5-inch lines having to run back to a source engine where the port-a-pond is set up.

Those roads clog up quickly, so it also means first-responders may have to hike in a tenth of a mile or so in their gear with tools and would be exhausted before they start their operations. If it's March or during a period of heavy rain, the first engine may get bogged down in mud, requiring a mutual-aid engine to come in from the opposite direction, which may or may not be feasible.

My advice: Buy a lot of smoke detectors and get good fire insurance.

Chris Werner, *via Facebook*

If you buy a home on a historic dirt road, why would you expect it to be paved because you moved here?

Kathleen Kourie, *via Facebook*



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

PUTNAM COUNTY				
Number of cases: <b>11,870</b> (+194) <small>Active Cases in Philipstown: 26-30</small>	Tests administered: <b>283,322</b> (+5,091)	Percent positive: <b>4.2</b> (0)	Percent vaccinated: <b>71.0</b> <small>Percent in 10516: 76.7 Percent in 10524: 72.8</small>	Number of deaths: <b>96</b> (+1)
DUTCHESS COUNTY				
Number of cases: <b>33,827</b> (+485) <small>Active Cases in Beacon: ≤5</small>	Tests administered: <b>913,823</b> (+13,815)	Percent positive: <b>3.7</b> (+0.1)	Percent vaccinated: <b>66.1</b> <small>Percent in 12508: 59.9</small>	Number of deaths: <b>485</b> (+4)

Source: State and county health departments, as of Sept. 23, with change from previous week in parentheses. Active cases in Philipstown as of Sept. 22. Percent vaccinated reflects those ages 12 and older who have received at least one dose.

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.)

CELEBRATING  
PHILIPSTOWN  
**FIGHTING  
DIRTY**

Saturday, October 9th  
12:30pm – 2:30pm  
Garrison’s Landing

While climate headlines can be overwhelming, the best antidote is to **take local action**.

Join us for a celebration of Philipstown residents that have joined the Philipstown Fights Dirty Campaign by pledging to take action at [philipstownfightsdirty.org](http://philipstownfightsdirty.org).

You can join the party if you pledge by **October 1st**.  
Bring-your-own-picnic, enjoy music, and celebrate with other PFD pledgers along the Hudson River.




**NIVOLA  
STUDY DAY**

Saturday, September 25, 2021,  
2:00–5:00 p.m.  
Magazzino Italian Art  
2700 Route 9, Cold Spring, NY 10516

Speakers include: Alastair Gordon,  
Lindsay Caplan, Steven Hillyer  
and Roger Broome

Seating is limited, please  
RSVP to [rsvp@magazzino.art](mailto:rsvp@magazzino.art)

  
**MAGAZZINO  
ITALIAN ART**



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.”

**City workers**

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



A sign in the window of Play in Beacon  
*Photo by Jeff Simms*

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.

BEACON

Required for Entry

- Fountain Square
- Laundromat
- The Blushery
- Dancing Crane
- Acupuncture
- Beacon Aesthetics
- MP MariePierre Art
- Miss Tea
- Hudson Valley
- Marshmallow
- Howland Cultural Center
- Chase Bank
- Roosa & Roosa Attorneys
- Society of Lash
- School of Rock
- Beacon Barbershop
- The Laboratory
- Pizza & Stuff
- Quinn’s
- Hudson Valley Credit Union
- Yanarella School of Dance
- Happy Valley Arcade Bar
- Kumon
- Subway
- Laundry World

- New Fu Xing
- Homespun Foods
- Berkshire Hathaway
- Sunoco
- M&T Bank
- Paws and Mittens
- Artisan Wine Shop
- Hudson Beach Glass
- Colorant
- Tito Santana
- Beacon Creamery
- Utensil
- Pandorica
- Play
- Beetle and Fred
- Reserva Wine Bar\*
- Zakka Joy
- Luxe Optique
- Dutchess County Center
- Scarborough Fair
- Matcha Thomas
- The Studio @ Beacon
- Howland Public Library
- Binnacle Books
- Beacon Wellness Pharmacy
- Pacha Barbershop
- Beacon Wine & Liquor
- Beacon Post Office
- Peaceful Provisions
- Main Street Music

- Beacon Veterinary Associates
- Tabernacle of Christ
- Campbell and Campbell
- Preferred/Optional/Encouraged
- Kitchen & Coffee
- Berte
- Tibet Tree
- Black Bird Attic
- Citizens Bank
- Batt Florist
- Rite-Aid
- Lady Gray Bridal
- Key Foods
- Max’s on Main
- Accutax Accounting Services
- Bank Square
- Coffeehouse
- Flora Good Times
- Mr. V’s Deli
- Beacon Reads
- Psychedelic Sunset
- Vintage
- B. Hair Studio
- Beacon Beehive
- Beacon D’Lites
- Verizon
- After Eden Gallery
- Trax
- Liquid Fables
- Raven Rose

\*Not yet open, but sign in window

COLD SPRING

Required for Entry

- Joseph’s Fine Jewelry
- Spice Revolution
- Cold Spring Florist
- Wyld
- Hudson Hill’s Cafe & Market
- The Blue Olive
- The Country Goose
- Vintage Violet
- Damn Aged Vintage
- Reservoir
- Split Rock Books
- Antique Alley
- Village Hall
- Cold Spring Candy Co.
- Understory Marker
- Houlihan Lawrence
- Poor George
- Pink Olive
- Sweet Harvest
- The Gift Hut
- Cold Spring
- Coffeehouse

- Cold Spring Cheese Shop
- Preferred/Optional/Encouraged
- Supplies for Creative Living
- Cold Spring
- Apothecary
- Old Souls
- Cold Spring Pizza
- C&E Paint Supply

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

PAID NOTICE



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” for the shutdown, he said. “My favorite just said, ‘Squirrel.’ That was the reason 1,000 customers had no power for a day.”

Water was also top of mind. “It’s becoming ever more precious, and ever more expensive,” he said. “It’s an issue that has become more prominent in the last 10 years because of the waste of water, and because the cost of maintaining water systems takes funds away from other expenditures.

“People always say, ‘We can’t afford it,’” 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 raises their hand in favor [of infrastructure], but there is an increasing distrust of the shepherds of expenditure. Can we say it’s going to go where it was intended?”

Anderson noted that many communities have voted to increase local taxes



Anderson

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 69-30 vote, passed a bill that would dedicate \$1 trillion to infrastructure over five years, including \$110 billion to fix aging roads and bridges and \$55 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.”

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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.



A 2017 assessment estimated it would cost the Village of Cold Spring about \$4 million to repair this reservoir dam. File photo

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.

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 Glynwood.

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)

Report Card

Last week we shared letter grades given this year by the American Society of Civil Engineers to the nation’s infrastructure, an exercise the group undertakes every four years. In 2015, it also graded New York’s. We shared the ASCE’s criteria with local elected officials this week and asked them to provide grades, as well.

	NATION	STATE	BEACON	PHILIPSTOWN	COLD SPRING
OVERALL	C -	C -	B+	B -	C
BRIDGES	C	D+	B -	B	*
DAMS	D	C -	C+	*	D
DRINKING WATER	C -	C	B+	B -	B
ROADS	D	D -	B	B -	B -
WASTEWATER	D+	D	A -	C -	B

Sources: ASCE, Beacon Mayor Lee Kyriacou, Philipstown Supervisor Richard Shea, Cold Spring Mayor Dave Merandy. \* Not applicable.



Dammed (from page 8)

repairs to make it stronger. 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 were too high because of pandemic supply chain problems. 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 the Catskill Aqueduct for water if and when fixes are made.

Balicki said that an infusion of federal money from an infrastructure bill being considered in Congress would be helpful for repairs and upkeep and to deal with problems such as at the Pocket Road catchment reservoir at the Mount Beacon dam, which is losing 100,000 gallons of water a day through its rock and concrete face.

Getting money from the state for such projects is difficult, Balicki said, because there’s not enough to go around. A \$600 million state fund designed to pay for local water projects may sound like a lot, he said, but the average cost to replace a water main is \$500,000 per city block. What’s more,



A view of the dam at the Mount Beacon Reservoir, which holds 124 million gallons of drinking water. File photo by Mary Fris

gathering the information to apply for grants is an investment in time and money that may not pay off.

One piece of good news is that 97 percent of New York’s high-hazard dams — including all those in the Highlands (below) — have what’s known as an Emergency Action Plan on file, one of the highest rates in the country. It tells municipal leaders and first responders the steps that should be taken after a dam failure, including what areas would be affected.

In 2013, for example, when Cold Spring’s Emergency Action Plan was being prepared, an engineering firm shared scenarios such as a rain-drenched failure in which a wall of water would reach the Hudson in about

an hour, versus a sunny day scenario where it might take 90 minutes just to get to the mouth of Foundry Brook.

Data contained in the plan, including residents’ contact information, would be updated annually, the engineer said at the time. More than 100 residences are located within the affected area, although in some sections, such as along Fishkill Road and Foundry Brook below the Route 9D bridge, there are few houses.

The bad news is that the plans are not readily available, which means that residents who would be affected probably have no idea they are in a danger zone.

“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

Coming Soon to the Ballot

The November 2022 ballot will include a proposal to allow the state to issue \$3 billion in bonds to fund investments in water, air, wildlife and the environment.

If approved, the Restore Mother Nature Bond Act would provide:

- At least \$1 billion for flood-risk reduction such as wetland, floodplain and stream restoration; and dam removal and culvert repairs.
- At least \$550 million for wastewater infrastructure projects; municipal stormwater projects; municipal grants for stormwater with green infrastructure; sewer line replacements for failing septic systems or cesspools; and lead service line replacements.
- As much as \$700 million for climate-change mitigation projects, such as green buildings and green roofs, and to reduce water pollution.

High-Hazard Dam Report

DAM	RIVER/STREAM	LOCATION	COMPLETED	PURPOSE	LENGTH (FT.)	HEIGHT (FT.)	LAST INSPECTED	CAPACITY (ACRES)	CONDITION
MOUNT BEACON	Dry Brook	Fishkill	1922	Water supply	350	35	2018	606	Deficient
GLENHAM	Fishkill Creek	Beacon	1875	Hydroelectric	312	45	2001	43	Not rated
MELZINGAH	Gordon's Brook	Fishkill	1924	Water supply	525	51	2019	218	Unsound
CARGILL RESERVOIR	Cargill Brook	Philipstown	1931	Water supply	650	75	2018	648	Deficient
PERKINS ESTATE	Clove Creek	Philipstown	1927	Recreation	350	25	2019	540	Unsound
COLD SPRING UPPER	Foundry Brook	Philipstown	1934	Water supply	270	23	2018	88	Unsound
COLD SPRING LOWER	Foundry Brook	Philipstown	1942	Water supply	328	25	2018	70	Unsound

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.



**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.



**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.



David Tavernier, chief operator of Beacon's wastewater treatment facility; Council Member Dan Aymar-Blair; state Assembly Member Jonathan Jacobson; and City Administrator Chris White in August, after the governor enacted a bill to allow Beacon to sell its excess sewer capacity outside of city limits.

*Photo provided*

## Taps, Toilets and Tech

*Managing systems of 'the unknown and the unseen'*

By Michael Turton

Infrastructure, like a human being, has a life expectancy. But unlike a human being, it's used at the same speed and consistency every day, even as it ages.

Ed Balicki, who directs the City of Beacon's Water and Sewer Department, says that while a water system is “designed to last a lifetime and more, as it starts to fail, the question becomes, ‘Why wasn't it maintained?’”

In Cold Spring, drinking water is delivered through a system built in 1895 from two reservoirs located above the village off Lake Surprise Road. Surface water flows to a smaller reservoir and treatment plant on Fishkill Road before entering pipes that also serve Nelsonville and about a dozen homes in Philipstown, where the vast majority of homeowners have wells.

“The water treatment plant is in fairly good shape,” Matt Kroog, Cold Spring's superintendent of water and wastewater, said this week, although three filtration units “are showing their age” and will need to be replaced at a cost of \$330,000 each or refurbished for \$83,000 each.

In Beacon, the system delivers 2.3 million gallons a day from three reservoirs: Mount Beacon, Cargill and Melzingah, which collectively hold 341 million gallons. The city

also draws water from two wells on Fishkill Creek and a well field on Clove Creek.

The reservoirs were created from the late 19th century through the 1930s. While the dams need attention, Balicki said a bigger challenge has been the “ever-changing regulatory landscape” because of the effects of climate change. As storms become larger and more frequent, the dams must meet more stringent standards to stand up to them.

Water quality regulations can also be tricky, he said. One of the latest regulations requires cities to test for perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), a fluorinated hydrocarbon found in firefighting foam. “They're now also finding it in places that never used the foam or had industry,” Balicki said. “That regulation came out of nowhere.”

Asked how he would spend the funds if his budget increased overnight, Balicki didn't hesitate. “Staffing,” he said. “We'd all say we're stretched thin. There are days when we're focused on sewer needs, cleaning pipes and making great progress,” he said. But then the crew has to pivot and clear brush at a reservoir.

“It'd be great to have enough staff to keep focused on one task,” he said.

Kroog said the same thing. “We're a staff of three; there are 3,000 customers, 900-plus connections and about 9½ miles of pipe,” not including sewers.

*(Continued on Page 11)*

“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 flooding," 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."



**Village of Cold Spring workers battled frigid temperatures while repairing a broken water main in January 2018.**

*File photo by Sal Pidala Jr.*

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 micro-filtration, 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."

# Weather Damage

## \$37,300,000,000

State and federal assistance provided to New York counties between 2011 and 2019

### 60

Percentage of New York counties that had at least five disaster declarations between 2011 and 2019. Dutchess and Putnam each had seven.

### 23

Daily probability of a flooding episode in the state, according to a hazard mitigation plan by the Division of Homeland Security & Emergency Services

### 90


Percent of smaller companies that fail within a year following a disaster unless they can reopen with five days, according to FEMA

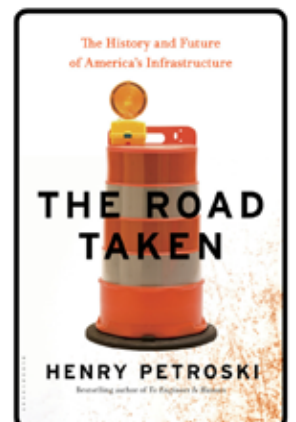
Source: Resilient Infrastructure for New York State, Rebuild by Design, 2019. The nonprofit has proposed a Resilient Infrastructure Fund to build projects that protect communities from flooding. It would be funded by a surcharge on property-casualty insurance and a bond measure approved by voters.

## CURRENT CONVERSATIONS: AMERICAN INFRASTRUCTURE

Join us for a livestreamed Q&A with Henry Petroski, author of "The Road Taken: The History and Future of America's Infrastructure" and professor of civil engineering at Duke University.

 TUESDAY SEPT. 28

 7:00 - 7:30 PM



REGISTER TO ATTEND:

[highlandscurrent.org/infrastructure-conversation](https://highlandscurrent.org/infrastructure-conversation)



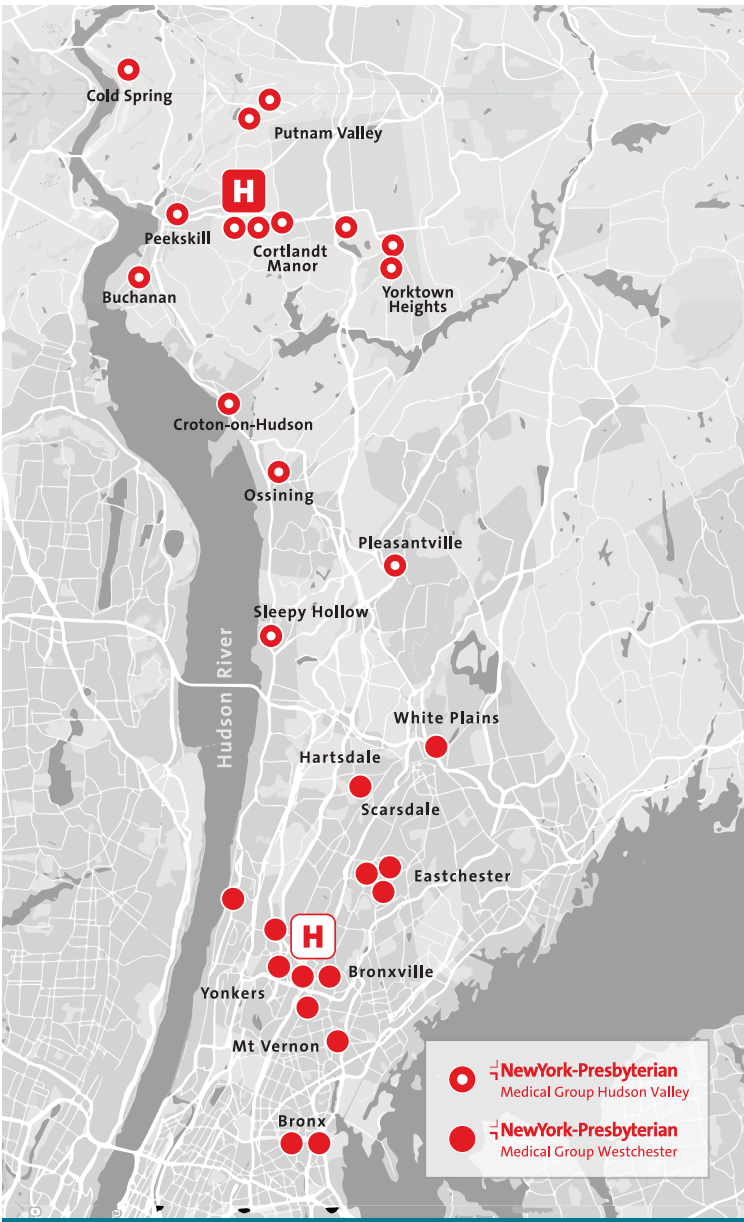
AROUND TOWN



**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 Calendar



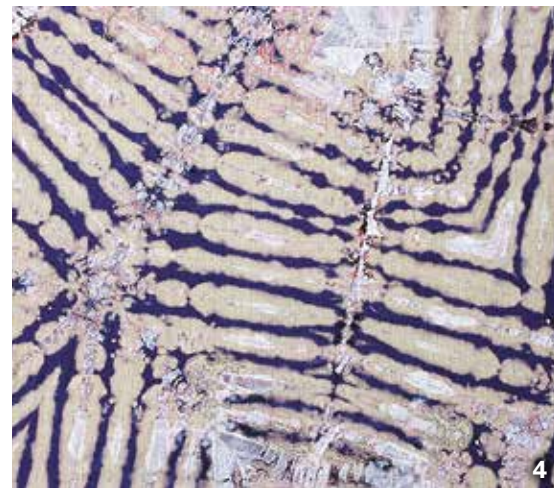
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2



3



4

## The Artist Next Door

# Amy Pilkington

By Alison Rooney

**M**etalsmith, sculptor, textile designer, jewelry maker?

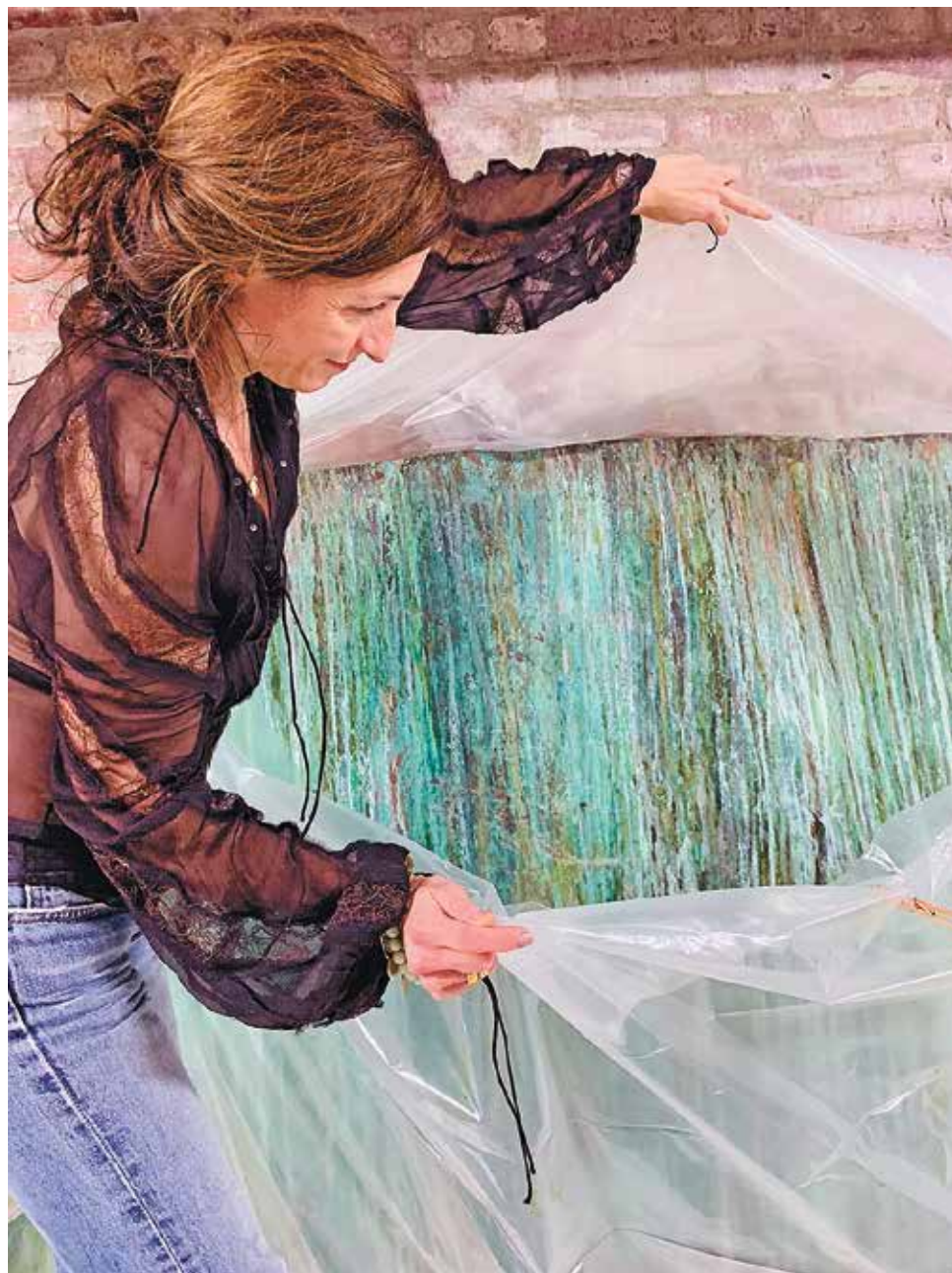
It's an "all of the above" for Amy Pilkington, whose studio at The Lofts at Beacon\* invites you to gaze up at the indigo textiles on the walls while also taking note of the sculptural driftwood on the floor and the jewelry in between. The studio itself is an installation.

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



Amy Pilkington with a work in progress

Photo by Laura Valenzuela

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."

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

1 Hand-fabricated 22k gold jewelry

2 "Red Cowboy Boots" (paint, dye and gesso on linen)

3 "Wise Sage," an engraved rock from Fishkill Creek

4 "Blue Tribe" (dyed linen)

'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.'"

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. Buckets of lint can be made into something beautiful."

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 clients asking me not to repeat is my favorite thing."

\* 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

Forty artisans and artists, including woodworkers, glassworkers, leather workers, jewelers and potters, will be selling 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 9D  
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*

SAT 25

### Lions Club BBQ

PHILIPSTOWN

3 – 7 p.m.  
Taconic Outdoor Education Center  
75 Mountain Laurel Lane  
coldspringlions.org

The sixth annual fundraising event will feature Mystic oysters, along with grilled chicken and ribs, and music by Ben Frieher and Friends. Proceeds will benefit The Hub, Philipstown Food Pantry, Little League, a college scholarship and other projects. *Cost: \$65*

SUN 26

### Spirit of Beacon Day

BEACON

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.



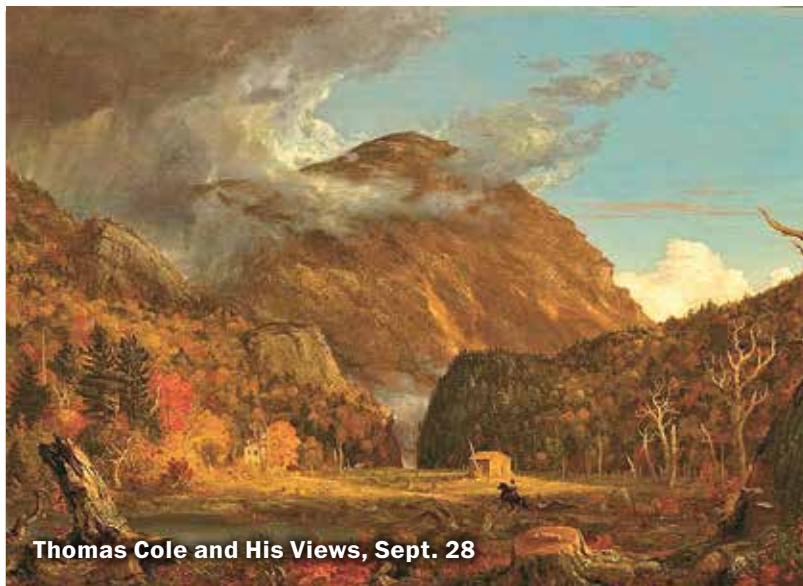
WED 29

### 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.



Thomas Cole and His Views, Sept. 28

FRI 1

### Craft Fair and Bake Sale

COLD SPRING

9 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. Methodist Church  
216 Main St.

Find crafts, gifts and baked goods. Call 845-265-3365 to order soup, sandwiches or other food. Masks required. Also SAT 2.

SAT 2

### Repair Cafe

GARRISON

9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.  
Cold Spring Farmers' Market  
1601 Route 9D | desmondfishlibrary.org

Bring a damaged household item and volunteers will do their best to fix it. First come, first served. Sponsored by the Desmond-Fish Library.

SAT 2

### Record & CD Fest

BEACON

9 a.m. – 5 p.m. VFW Hall | 413 Main St.

Find music, posters and ephemera of all styles from more than 20 vendors.

SAT 2

### Harvest Fest

WAPPINGERS FALLS

11 a.m. – 3 p.m. Stony Kill Farm  
79 Farmstead Lane | stonykill.org

Visit the animals, paint pumpkins, see artisan demonstrations, and find crafts and food at this annual event. *Free*

SAT 2

### Walktoberfest

POUGHKEEPSIE

Noon – 5 p.m.  
Walkway Over the Hudson  
61 Parker Ave.  
walkway.org/walktoberfest

More than 100 farmers, artisans, restaurants, distilleries, wineries and breweries will showcase their goods. Tasting tickets are \$25. Also SUN 3. *Free*

SAT 2

### Party Under the Stars

PHILIPSTOWN

7 – 10 p.m.  
Taconic Outdoor Education Center  
75 Mountain Laurel Lane  
haldaneschoolfoundation.org

This fundraiser for the Haldane School Foundation will include dinner, drinks, an auction and live music. Proof of vaccination or a negative COVID test is required. *Cost: \$150*

SUN 3

### Blessing of the Animals

GARRISON

1 p.m. St. Philip's Episcopal Church  
1101 Route 9D | 845-424-3571  
stphilipshighlands.org

All pets are welcome at this outdoor event.

## VISUAL ART

SAT 25

### Open Studios

NEWBURGH

Noon – 6 p.m. Various locations  
newburghopenstudios.org

Pick up a printed map at Newburgh Art Supply or download one to tour studios and art centers featuring the work of more than 130 artists. Other events include the Terrain Biennial Newburgh and an outdoor exhibit at the Glenlily estate. Also SUN 26. *Free*

SAT 25

### Nivola Study Day

PHILIPSTOWN

2 p.m. Magazzino Italian Art  
2700 Route 9 | maggazzino.art

Presentations on aspects of Constantino Nivola's work and his current exhibit, *Sandscapes*, will be presented by Alastair Gordon, a critic, curator, cultural historian and author; Lindsay Caplan, assistant professor of art history at Brown University; architect Roger Broome; and Steven Hillyer, director of the Irwin S. Chanin School of Architecture

Archive at The Cooper Union. Proof of vaccination required. *Free*

SAT 2

### Traveling Folk: Worlds Explored

BEACON

1 – 5 p.m. Howland Cultural Center  
477 Main St. | 845-831-4988  
howlandculturalcenter.org

Karen Gersch curated this show with works by 16 artists that will take visitors to new places. Through Nov. 14.

## TALKS & TOURS

SAT 25

### History Hike

PUTNAM VALLEY

11 a.m. 443 Oscawana Lake Road  
putnamhistorymuseum.org

During a guided hike sponsored by the Putnam History Museum, learn about the history of resorts that operated around Lake Oscawana during the early 20th century. *Cost: \$10 (\$8 members)*

SUN 26

### Playwriting Workshop

PHILIPSTOWN

10 a.m. & 2 p.m. Via Zoom  
bit.ly/HVSF-playwriting

Join either of these playwriting workshops led by the Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival to learn the basics, then submit a short play on the theme of sustainability to the Community Bake-Off. A selection of five to seven entries will be performed in November.

MON 27

### Current Conversation: Philip Benante

COLD SPRING

7 p.m. Via Crowdcast  
crowdcast.io/e/cc\_haldane

The Haldane superintendent will discuss the beginning of the third school year of the pandemic. Register online.

TUES 28

### Women at the Helm

COLD SPRING

2 p.m. Via Zoom  
845-265-3040 | butterfieldlibrary.org

Susan Evans McClure, director of the Lake Champlain Maritime Museum, will discuss women who made history in the region, including as ferry captains, and Emmeline Moore (below), a scientist who led the first full biological study of Lake Champlain. Co-hosted by the Butterfield Library and Putnam History Museum.



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: Henry Petroski

COLD SPRING

7 p.m. Via Crowdcast  
highlandscurrent.org/infrastructure-conversation

The professor of civil engineering at Duke University will discuss his book, *The Road Taken: The History and Future of America's Infrastructure*. Register online.

WED 29

### Current Conversation: Matt Landahl

BEACON

7 p.m. Via Crowdcast  
crowdcast.io/e/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

7 p.m. Via Zoom  
putnamhistorymuseum.org

Ian Mumpton of the Schuyler Mansion State Historic Site will discuss the hygienic practices of a colonial aristocratic family. *Cost: \$10 (members free)*

SAT 2

### Dog Fun

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

### Japanese Tea Ceremony

GARRISON

1:30 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library  
472 Route 403 | desmondfishlibrary.org

Experience a traditional (outdoor) tea ceremony while learning about the history and customs. Register online.

## KIDS & FAMILY

SAT 25

### Storytime with Kristen Balouch

GARRISON

9:30 a.m. Cold Spring Farmers' Market  
1601 Route 9D | splitrockbks.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.

SAT 2

**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)*

**STAGE & SCREEN**

SAT 25

**Prelude to a Kiss**

WAPPINGERS FALLS

2 & 8 p.m. County Players Theater  
2681 W. Main St. | 845-298-1491  
countplayers.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)*

SAT 25

**Night Train: Storytelling**

GARRISON

7 p.m. Philipstown Depot Theatre  
10 Garrison's Landing | 845-424-3900  
philipstowndepottheatre.org

Joe Charnitski — a two-time *Moth* Slam winner, will host storytellers Meredith Maddox, Erik Lenhart and Patrick Lennon. Also SAT 2 with Drew Prochaska. *Cost: \$15*

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*

SAT 2

**Jay Mohr**

PEEKSKILL

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

The actor, comedian and radio host began doing stand-up three decades ago. *Cost: \$27.50 to \$42.50*

**MUSIC**

SAT 25

**Gypsy**

PEEKSKILL

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: \$32.50 to \$47.50*

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 Folman-Cohen, Wrembel will perform music from his most recent release, *The Django Experiment VI*. *Cost: \$30 (\$35 door)*

SUN 26

**Mac \$ Cheeze Balkan Power Trio**

BEACON

12:30 - 2:30 p.m. Farmers' Market  
223 Main St. | beaconfarmersmarket.org

Tim Allen (sax), Max Fass (accordion) and Johanna Dun (percussion) will play traditional, modern and urban folk music from the Southern Balkans. Sponsored by *The Highlands Current*.

SUN 26

**Pop Wagner**

GARRISON

4 p.m. Via Crowdcast  
845-424-3020 | desmondfishlibrary.org

The country-folk performer will deliver cowboy anthems.

SUN 26

**Ying Quartet**

BEACON

4 p.m. Howland Cultural Center  
477 Main St. | howlandmusic.org

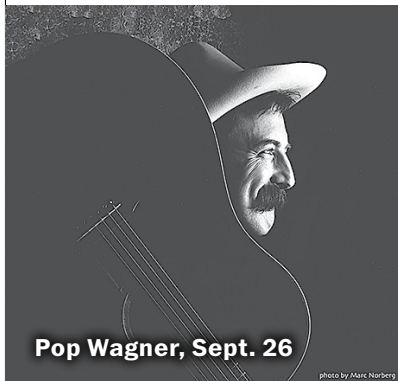
In this Howland Chamber



Annalyse &amp; Ryan, Oct. 1



Los Cumples años, Oct. 1



Pop Wagner, Sept. 26

Music Circle show, the quartet will perform works by Zhou Long, Vivian Fung and Tan Dun as well as Haydn and Beethoven. *Cost: \$45 (\$15 students and seniors)*

SUN 26

**Tribute to John Prine**

BEACON

7 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.  
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com

Joe D'Urso, Tim Donohue, David Frye, Gary Solomon, Loren Korevec, Chihoe Hahn and Chris Brown will each perform a song. *Cost: \$20 (\$25 door)*

FRI 1

**Annalyse & Ryan and Los Cumples años**

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 tropical dance music with the Beacon duo opening with soulful, roots-style sound.

FRI 1

**Oktoberfest**

MAHOPAC

6:30 - 10:30 p.m.  
Putnam County Golf Course  
187 Hill St. | 845-808-1880  
putnamcountygolfcourse.com

The Amish Outlaws will perform; a traditional German menu is included. *Cost: \$29 (\$35 door)*

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 Platania, Gary Burke, Miss Marie and Frank Campbell. *Cost: \$20 (\$25 door)*

FRI 1

**Stella Blue's Band**

PEEKSKILL

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*

SAT 2

**Reflection**

POUGHKEEPSIE

8 p.m. Bardavon | 35 Market St.  
845-473-2072 | bardavon.org

The Hudson Valley Philharmonic will perform a program including Bach, Beethoven, Chevalier de Saint-Georges, Yumi Oshima and others with conductor Kyle Ritenauer and performer Hannah White. *Cost: \$40 (\$36 members and seniors, \$15 ages 12 and younger)*

SAT 2

**Willie Nile Band**

BEACON

8 p.m. Towne Crier  
379 Main St. | townecrier.com

The New York rocker and singer/songwriter will play songs from his latest release, *The Day the Earth Stood Still*. The show was rescheduled from March 2020. *Cost: \$30 (\$35 door)*

SAT 2

**Anonym**

BEACON

7 p.m. Fridman Gallery  
475 Main St. | fridmangallery.com

The quartet — Joanna Mattrey, Sami Stevens, Evan Allen and Simon Hanes — will perform chamber music. *Free*

**CIVIC**

MON 27

**City Council**

BEACON

7 p.m. City Hall | 1 Municipal Plaza  
845-838-5011 | beaconnny.gov

MON 27

**School Board**

BEACON

7 p.m. Beacon High School  
101 Matteawan Road  
845-838-6900 | beaconn12.org

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.

TUES 28

**Public Hearing: Code Updates**

COLD SPRING

6:30 p.m. Via Zoom  
845-265-3611 | 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, Carlos Fittante, Jenna Kulacz, Yuu Fujita Toews and Rina Rinkewich.

Carstens and Jennings, who live in South-east, 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



A Putnam County Dance Project performance in Carmel

Photo by Mike Kimberling

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](http://philipstowndepottheatre.org).*



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## BELOVED LIBRARIAN RETIRES I

By Del Lucke

## THE STORIED MS. GINNY

For thirty-one years, it's been Ms. Ginny's job to ever so 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 soaked up the themes of inclusion and acceptance lurking in the middle of the picturebook.

In 1989, when Ms. Ginny arrived, Beacon was a very different place. Main Street was boarded up. Ms. Ginny wasn't just the children's librarian. She was Howland Public Library's entire children's program.

It 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 Eights (math) bring the kids together by shared interest. She was not above using refreshments to lure them in.

Ginny Figlia

DRAGONS ROAM WILD, HAVE TERRIBLY SHARP TEETH, AND HUNT DAY AND NIGHT.

Teens need free places to hang out together. Forty to fifty would come to Gaming Club.

One teen wanted to meet other kids on the spectrum, like herself. With help from The Anderson Center, Ms. Ginny launched YA Connections.

A lot of nice friendships have formed.

And that, my friends, is the story of how Ms. Ginny helped Beacon grow up to be what it is today.



## Kid Friendly

# Kids Talk Vaccines

By Katie Hellmuth Martin

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. Sometime 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?”



**Emmett Bram, 9, with a balloon he sees as a coronavirus: “I’m glad they’re coming out with vaccines for kids because I do not like the pandemic and I wish it was over.”**

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.

Nancy Montgomery Jason Angell Megan Cotter Sean Patrick Maloney Robert L. Langley, Jr. John VanTassel

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PHOTO BY CAITLIN CHADWICK



BELOVED LIBRARIAN RETIRES II

By Deb Lucke

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 on different outfits and props for different library events.

Add eye expressions for reading expressively!

Add a book for Story Time.

Mrs. Merry started as a third-grade teacher. Next she became a full-time mom. Then a full-time mom and a full-time Children's Librarian. After working at Pleasant Valley Library, she moved to Desmond-Fish Library when Carol Donick became the director. There wasn't 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 LOVED, LOVED, LOVED every day of working here. You get to be creative as a librarian. Your job isn't 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 to hold together. Swivel.

Mrs. Merry says doing these kinds of things forms early childhood memories, and that's important.

Small child who doesn't want to go home attachment.

Holiday Boutique Fundraising Sweater plus seasonal drink.

# THE MRS. MERRY CHILDREN'S LIBRARIAN TRIBUTE PAPER DOLL

Mrs. Merry needs an apron for crafts. Painting is messy.

brush

Paper Plate palette

Dress Mrs. Merry as Batman for Garri\*con

Mrs. Merry Knits on Zoom,

Paste on a sewing machine to teach a new generation to sew.

Baby goes on lap for Mommy and Me.

Check, out.

Find just the right book.



# Spiced Butternut Squash Bisque

Serves 6

## Small, Good Things

## This Sketchy Season

By Joe Dizney



Sometimes it seems that four seasons is just not enough.

If you look at it practically, the four are, on the ground — depending on what ground you're on — more than a little arbitrary. Longer or shorter days are a given. Warmer or colder temperatures? In the 21st century, that's up for reassessment.

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 chutney, and experimented with salsa 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, sauteed, 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.

Seasoned with cumin and Aleppo pepper, this recipe celebrates the dried and assertive spices favored by the cooler months. Sauteed 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.

Regarding the dairy, I used Hudson Valley grass-fed Greek yogurt from Maple Hill Farms for the bisque pictured. It's creamy in a way reminiscent of creme fraîche and added tartness. Coconut milk or cream is an acceptable non-dairy alternative.

Garnishes are optional; pictured 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.

And if your bisque slavishly requires seafood, grilled shrimp (and seafood stock replacing the chicken or vegetable broth) are a suggestion.



1 butternut squash (about 2 pounds), peeled, seeded, cut into 1-inch cubes

1 medium onion, chopped

1 clove garlic, chopped

2 teaspoons ground cumin

1 tablespoon toasted cracked cumin seeds (reserve for garnish)

3 tablespoons butter

1 teaspoon Aleppo pepper, divided (substitute ¾ teaspoon sweet paprika plus ¼ teaspoon cayenne)

2 teaspoons light brown sugar

3 cups chicken or vegetable broth

1 cup milk (substitute half-and-half, cream, yogurt or coconut milk)

Juice of one lime

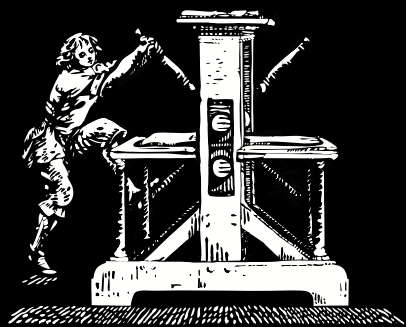
1. In a large saucepan, heat butter over medium. Add onion, garlic and spices. Cook, stirring occasionally, until onion has softened, 5 to 7 minutes.

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.*

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# Rice Harvest Day... in Philipstown



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*

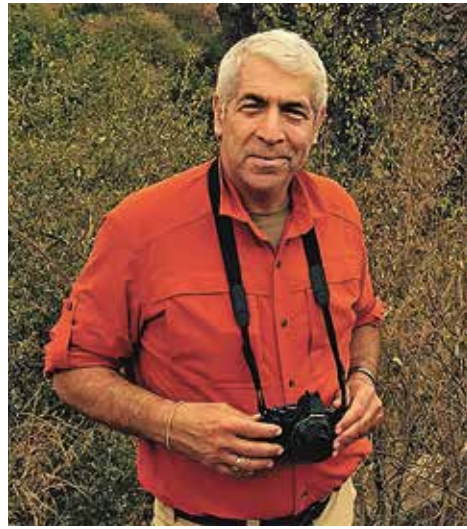
By Alison Rooney

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 relationship with my father in a personal way,” says Laytner, who is a board member of Highlands Current Inc., which publishes this newspaper. “It took a while for me to accept the fact that I was not just reporting on amazing documents” he had discovered.



Mel Laytner

Photo by Anat Laytner

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 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 story; I was a journalist and it was a story. As I got into it deeper I decided that I would not report stories that I couldn’t corrob-

rate without cross-checking with documents or other witnesses. Throughout the book I used the reporter’s rule of a minimum of two sources” for each assertion. “The only things that I don’t have a second source for are my own memories,” he says.

Laytner, who studied political science at the City College of New York and journalism and international and public affairs at Columbia University, says “the temptation to cross from history to historical fiction is enormous, and there were scenes I created based on fact but in which I initially filled in the blanks. But if you cross over into fiction, you lose the authenticity of the memoirs. “The hardest part was the personal memoir; the easy part was doing research and writing up the research,” he says. “The hard part went against everything I was trained to do, forever.”

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 reconcile 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.”

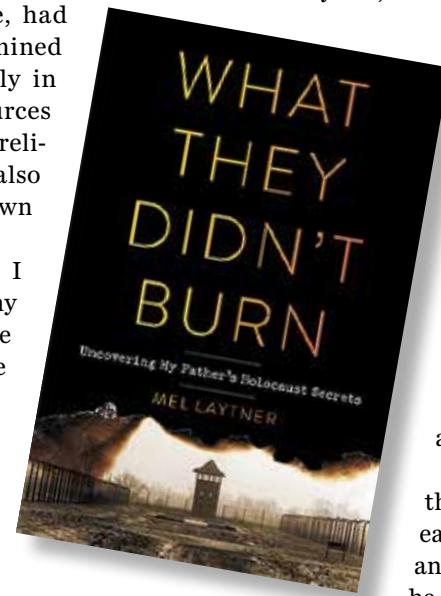
The extended research paid off. “I’d be looking for evidence of one thing and I’d discover something else,” he says. “I’d learn of something in Year One and in Year Five it would come back and be key.”

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](http://bit.ly/laytner-talk).



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# Nelsonville Proposes Short-Term Rental Law

*Similar to Cold Spring statute, with two categories*

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 at a time and for up to 100 days annu-

ally. 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 Rzyz-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.

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# 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 fund-raising 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. See [bit.ly/learn-play-create](https://bit.ly/learn-play-create).

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.

## NOTICE

### VILLAGE OF COLD SPRING POLICE REFORM STAKEHOLDERS GROUP

As part of the plan submitted by the Village of Cold Spring (Village), in response to Executive Order #203 – Police Reform and Reinvention Collaborative, an ad hoc Stakeholders Group is being formed.

The Village is interested in a broad range of perspectives, experiences, knowledge and values of our community. Diversity of race, ethnicity, gender, age and nationality are sought and are essential to conforming to and reaching the goals of the Executive Order.

Please review details, which include a description of duties, available on the Village website ([coldspringny.gov](https://coldspringny.gov)) before applying.

#### IMPORTANT: A COMMITMENT OF TIME IS NEEDED.

#### THIS WILL BE A WORKING GROUP WITH A TIMELINE EXTENDING TO JUNE 2022

If, after reviewing information, you are interested, please submit a letter of interest that includes a statement about why you wish to join the Community Stakeholders Group and what you believe you can contribute to the group's work to Jeff Vidakovich, Village Clerk, either by email at [vcsclerk@coldspringny.gov](mailto:vcsclerk@coldspringny.gov) or by mail at 85 Main St. Cold Spring, NY 10516. Those that have previously submitted letters of interest are still under consideration.

Deadline to submit a letter of interest is October 1, 2021

## NOTICE

### PHILIPSTOWN ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

#### Public Hearing – October 4th, 2021

The Philipstown Zoning Board of Appeals for the Town of Philipstown, New York will hold a public hearing on Monday October 4th, 2021 starting at 7:30 p.m. to hear the following appeal. The meeting will be held virtually via Zoom. If you would like to attend, please email [crockett@philipstown.com](mailto:crockett@philipstown.com) to request login information before 7:00 pm on October 4th, 2021.

#### John & Virginia Kelly, 3 Downey Lane, Cold Spring, NY 10516 TM#28-1-9

(Applicant is seeking a variance to build a 312 square foot addition. The application proposes a 19-foot west side setback where 30-feet is required.)

At said hearing all persons will have the right to be heard. Copies of the application, plat map, and other related materials may be seen in the Office of the Building Department, 2 Cedar Street, Cold Spring, New York.

Dated September 13th, 2021 | Robert Dee, Chair of the Town of Philipstown Zoning Board of Appeals

## NOTICE

### PHILIPSTOWN ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

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#### James & Kristan Connolly, 51 Route 403, Garrison, NY 10524 TM#82.7-1-2

(Applicant is seeking a variance for a rear yard setback to install a swimming pool).

At said hearing all persons will have the right to be heard. Copies of the application, plat map, and other related materials may be seen in the Office of the Building Department, 2 Cedar Street, Cold Spring, New York.

Dated September 13th, 2021 | Robert Dee, Chair of the Town of Philipstown Zoning Board of Appeals

## NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN**, that a Public Hearing will be held by the Town Board of the Town of Philipstown on October 7, 2021 at 7:30 p.m. at the Philipstown Town Hall, 238 Main Street, Cold Spring, NY 10516. The purpose of the Public Hearing is to hear comments for/against **A PROPOSED LOCAL LAW ENTITLED "A LOCAL LAW TO AMEND TOWN OF PHILIPSTOWN TOWN CODE §112-35 AND THE OPEN DEVELOPMENT AREA GENERAL REGULATIONS OF CHAPTER 112, ARTICLE VIII, IN REGARD TO STANDARDS FOR DEVELOPMENT OF PRIVATE ROADS"**.

A complete copy of the Local Law is available for inspection upon request sent to [townclerk@philipstown.com](mailto:townclerk@philipstown.com) and by appointment in the Town Clerk's Office at the Philipstown Town Hall, 238 Main Street, Cold Spring, NY 10516.

Dated: September 22, 2021

**BY ORDER OF THE TOWN BOARD** Tara K. Percacciolo, Town Clerk

## NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN**, that a Public Hearing will be held by the Town Board of the Town of Philipstown on October 7, 2021 at 7:15 p.m. at the Philipstown Town Hall, 238 Main Street, Cold Spring, NY 10516. The purpose of the Public Hearing is to hear comments for/against **A PROPOSED LOCAL LAW ENTITLED "A LOCAL LAW TO ADD A NEW SECTION 175-18.2 ENTITLED 'UPLAND DRIVE AND RIDGE ROAD DEVELOPMENT DISTRICTS'"**.

A complete copy of the Local Law is available for inspection upon request sent to [townclerk@philipstown.com](mailto:townclerk@philipstown.com) and by appointment in the Town Clerk's Office at the Philipstown Town Hall, 238 Main Street, Cold Spring, NY 10516.

Dated: September 22, 2021

**BY ORDER OF THE TOWN BOARD** Tara K. Percacciolo, Town Clerk

## NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

**PLEASE TAKE NOTICE** that the Town Board of the Town of Philipstown will hold a public hearing on the 7th day of October, 2021, at 7:00 o'clock p.m., at Town Hall, 238 Main Street, Cold Spring, New York, on a proposed Local Law of the Year 2021 entitled: **"A Local Law To Opt Out of the New York State Cannabis Law (Chapter 7-A of the Consolidated Laws of the State of New York) In Regard To Retail Sales And In Regard To Establishments For On-Site Consumption."**

The purpose of this Local Law is to promote the public health, safety and welfare by opting out of the New York State cannabis legalization legislation in regard to retail sales and in regard to establishments for on-site consumption.

A copy of the proposed local law is on file in the office of the Town Clerk and available for inspection by interested persons during Town Clerk's business hours.

The Town Board will at the above date, time and place hear all persons interested in the subject matter hereof. Persons may appear in person or by agent. All written communications addressed to the Board must be received by the Board at or prior to the public hearing.

**BY ORDER OF THE TOWN BOARD, TOWN OF PHILIPSTOWN, TARA K. PERCACCILO TOWN CLERK**  
Dated: September 22, 2021



# 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 await 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 county subcontingency account.

Langley, a Democrat who lives in Philipstown, seeks election in November to a second, 4-year term, but faces a challenge from Republican Kevin McConville, a former chief of the Metropolitan Transportation Authority police who also lives in Philipstown.

The county Legislature consists of eight Republicans and one Democrat, Nancy Montgomery, who represents Philipstown and part of Putnam Valley.

While six of the seven transfers move money from one Sheriff's Department account to another, Legislator Ginny Nacerino of Patterson, who chairs the Protective Services Committee, described them as a "sensitive subject matter. It does warrant a very frank discussion." She faulted Langley for not filing

acceptable paperwork — such as a basic explanation — for the repetitive overtime, which, she argued, "could have been anticipated. We have these volumes of dollars and we don't know what justified the overtime."

In Sheriff's Department memos provided to legislators before the Sept. 16 meeting, Capt. James Greenough of the corrections division explained 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.

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 Albano 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. Montgomery cast the lone "no" vote.

Legislative terms begin Jan. 1, so advancing the clerk's appointment by a day or more means that legislators approving the selection could include those defeated in the November general election.

Although the term is three years, the

Legislature also adopted language stating that the clerk "shall serve at the pleasure of the county Legislature," instead of "until his or her successor is appointed," as the previous wording specified. The current clerk is Diane Schonfeld, first appointed in May 2012 to fill a vacancy.

The county's little-known Charter Revision Commission recommended the changes, which become effective on Dec. 31, 2022.

### 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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**CLEANING SERVICE** — *The Highlands Current* is looking for a service that would be willing to clean our small office on Main Street in Cold Spring once or twice a month in exchange for advertising credit. Email [ads@highlandscurrent.org](mailto:ads@highlandscurrent.org).

**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](http://siglerhendersonstudio.com) for information.

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## NOTICE

The Philipstown Zoning Board will hold their regular monthly meeting on Monday, October 4th, 2021 at 7:30 p.m. virtually via Zoom.

If you would like to attend, please visit the following link:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_dadTial1RrKesVs3-ZlxNA](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_dadTial1RrKesVs3-ZlxNA)

Register in advance for this webinar:

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

OR email [crockett@philipstown.com](mailto:crockett@philipstown.com) to request login information before 7:00p.m. on October 4th, 2021.

If you are unable to join in person, the meeting will be viewable on youtube.com, search for Philipstown Zoning Board October.

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Puzzles

CROSS CURRENT

**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

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11

12 13 14

15 16 17

18 19 20

21 22 23 24

25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32

33 34 35

36 37 38

39 40 41 42

43 44 45 46 47 48 49

50 51 52 53

54 55 56

57 58 59

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 —

16. Goof up

20. Requests

22. Grad

23. Aesopian ending

25. "Unh-unh"

26. "Evil Woman" gp.

27. Port authority?

29. Designer Chanel

31. Squealer

32. Poetic tribute

34. Drei minus zwei

38. Dwarf tree

40. Expels

42. Camp bed

43. Postal delivery

44. *Othello* villain

45. Ornamental jug

47. Pitch

48. Jai —

49. Band in Boston?

52. Prior night

53. Snooze

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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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SUDO CURRENT

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

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Answers for Sept. 17 Puzzles

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

1. CABINetry, 2. TINTing, 3. BENTo, 4. ASTERisk, 5. PERSNICKety, 6. KANGA, 7. REPEATABLE

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



## SPORTS

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# VARSITY ROUNDUP

By Skip Pearlman

### 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 Jim Phelan. "We stuck together."

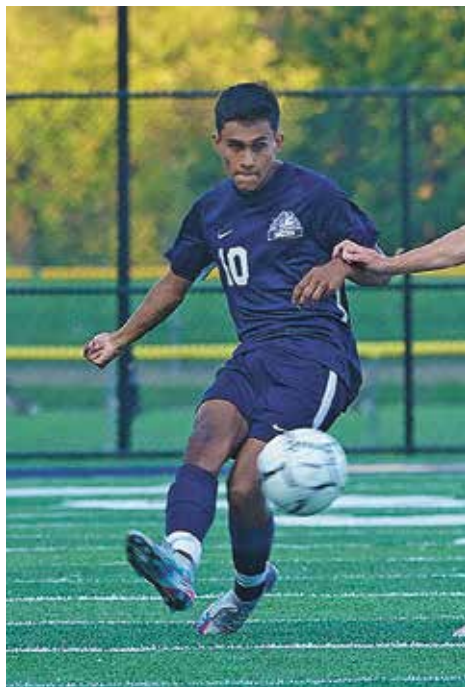
Beacon (2-0) was scheduled to host Saugerties today (Sept. 24) but the Sawyers are in quarantine so the Bulldogs have no opponent until next week, when they travel to Goshen on Oct. 1.

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



Beacon's Andre Alzate had two goals in a 6-0 win over Valley Central.

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 Sniffen. 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 Ferreira back, as well, as we move into league play this week."

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

The Beacon girls lost to Washingtonville, 4-1, on Monday at home. Reilly Landisi 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.

## LIVESTREAMS

Select Haldane games are broadcast online at [bit.ly/haldane-stream](https://bit.ly/haldane-stream) and select Beacon games at [nfhsnetwork.com](https://nfhsnetwork.com) or through links at [beaconk12.org/athletics](https://beaconk12.org/athletics).



"The girls showed incredible poise, especially on defense, to keep that team to one goal," Coach Hugo Alzate 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.

### GIRLS' TENNIS

Visiting Beacon played a strong match on Wednesday to defeat Minisink, 6-1. It marked the third consecutive day the team played on the road, and the No. 1 doubles team of Emma Sandison and Lindsay Darcy won their sixth straight match.

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."

# Haldane Volleyball Overcomes Slow Start to Quiet Valhalla

By Skip Pearlman

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 Weinphal 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.



Haldane players celebrate a come-from-behind win on Wednesday. Photos by S. Pearlman