Are Fishkill Voters Being Duped?
Town Board candidates file, but are they running?
By Jeff Simms

Democrats and Working Families Party officials say they believe two "ghost candidates" are running for the Fishkill Town Board in a scheme to aid Republicans seeking election to the five-member panel.

If true, it would be another example of a ploy that's gained steam this year in which right-leaning candidates, after changing party affiliation, vie for office on the progressive Working Families Party (WFP) line to siphon votes from Democrats. In addition to Dutchess, similar scenarios have played out in Rockland, Rensselaer and Saratoga counties.

Sandy Oxford, the secretary of the New York State WFP, says the party has "seen a flurry" of candidates seeking "to dilute the vote and confuse voters" since New York State cut the Green, Libertarian and Independence parties from ballots when they failed to receive 130,000 votes, or 2 percent of those cast, in the most recent presidential election. That left just the Republican, Conservative, Democratic and Working Families lines. "It's not an original move," she said.

The Fishkill candidates, Justin Golon and Robert Brian Reynolds Jr., are running for Town Board seats held by Democrats Jacqueline Bardini and Kenya Gadsden, who are both seeking reelection. John Forman, a former Dutchess County legislator, and Carmine Istvan will appear on the Republican and Conservative lines on the Nov. 2 ballot.

(Continued on Page 6)
FIVE QUESTIONS: AKIKO SASAKI

By Chip Rowe

Last week the Howland Chamber Music Circle, which organizes performances at the Howland Cultural Center in Beacon, introduced its new music director, pianist Akiko Sasaki. The second concert of its 2021-22 season is scheduled for Sunday (Oct. 17).

How were you introduced to the Music Circle?

My husband and I — he’s also a pianist — moved to Beacon in 2015. Our landlord in Brooklyn decided to sell the building and we couldn’t find anything that fit our situation, which is that we own two grand pianos. We had finally found an apartment in Brooklyn which had a basement, after so many years of complaints from neighbors. When people learn that you play the piano, they don’t realize that you’re going to be practicing the same thing over and over. A friend said: “You should check out Beacon.” We bought the third house we saw. Being a classical musician, I was looking for concerts and the Howland Cultural Center was just down the road. I fell in love with the Music Circle and the venue. You could feel the energy; it was so welcoming. I asked if there was anything I can do to help and in 2017 I started the Classics for Kids series.

How do you find musicians for the series?

I know a lot of classical artists, so that helps. I keep track of who won the latest competitions because we want to bring in emerging artists. A lot of times, managers will reach out because their acts will be coming to New York. There is also an annual chamber music conference in January that showcases artists.

When you teach a young student, is there a common mistake you see them making?

Often they have learned method but not technique. They get stuck in a position and don’t produce tone through weight rather than pushing a button. You have to think about how your weight is transferring to the next keys.

You also play the koto, a stringed instrument. How did you discover it?

Because I’m Japanese, I had known a lot about it since I was young but I didn’t start playing until 2008. I needed a break from piano. Sometimes you drill these pieces for so long — not that I was done with a piece, but it’s hard to feel fresh. I got into a bad headspace, so I thought I would do the koto for fun for a year or so. But I got hooked and, within two or three years, I was performing with my teachers.

Do you have a favorite composer?

It depends if I’m playing or listening. Playing, I feel my style fits well with Rachmaninoff and Shostakovich, or Prokofiev, that kind of Russian [composer] where it’s a heavier touch. I also love the drama of Beethoven. For listening, I love Debussy and Arvo Part and Messiaen. I love playing Bach, for myself, not for an audience because it’s so complicated. There are so many voices. You have to focus because the moment you get a little off with Bach, it’s hard to get back on.

1986: Mookie Wilson’s ground ball gets past Bill Buckner; Mets win the World Series.

Yes! Joe Carter’s home run for the Toronto Blue Jays to win the 1993 World Series.

No. I really just don’t care about baseball.
Candidates (from Page 1)

Gadsden in a Working Families Party primary in June.

According to Dutchess County records, Golon and Reynolds were among the 97 county voters (14 of them in Fishkill) who changed their affiliation to the Working Families Party between Jan. 1, 2020, and Feb. 14, 2021 — the deadline for doing so before the primary. Reynolds had previously been a Republican and Golon was unaffiliated.

Working Families Party, will appear away from Bardini and Gadsden, who are “split the vote” by luring progressive voters on the ballot, where they could conceivably the Working Families Party between Jan. 1, 2020, and Feb. 14, 2021 — the deadline for doing so before the primary. Reynolds had previously been a Republican and Golon was unaffiliated. Candidates for New York’s Supreme Court are chosen indirectly through delegates. Voters elect party convention delegates, who then choose the Supreme Court candidates that will appear on the November ballot. But other judges and non-judicial candidates are chosen through partisan primaries, which a candidate can force — in some cases, such as Fishkill — by collecting only a handful of signatures.

The switch allowed them to collect the nominating signatures necessary (seven each) to force a WFP primary against Bardini and Gadsden. Golon and Reynolds prevailed, winning 23 and 22 votes to Gadsden’s 10 and Bardini’s 8.

The result is that two candidates, perhaps with questionable allegiance to the Working Families Party, will appear on the ballot, where they could conceivably “split the vote” by luring progressive voters away from Bardini and Gadsden, who are endorsed by the WFP.

“Everything (Golon and Reynolds) did was legal, but it was not the will of the Working Families Party,” Oxford said, noting that neither came for an endorsement interview or completed party questionnaires. “We’re very clear with who we vet and who we endorse. We don’t even know who the heck these people are.”

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While the WFP may not be familiar with Golon and Reynolds, there’s evidence that local Republicans are.

The Golon and Reynolds nominating petitions were notarized by Andrew Forman, John Forman’s brother. Both candidates list Ronald Davis, the chair of the Fishkill Republican Committee, as a contact on their petitions. (Davis is running against Yvette Valdes Smith to fill the 16th District seat in the Dutchess Legislature, which includes Ward 4 in Beacon.)

According to his LinkedIn profile, Golon has also worked at Eastern View Landscape Management, a Wappingers Falls lawn and yard work firm, as a project director since 2009. The company’s CEO? Carmine Istvan.

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“It’s highly frustrating because our Democratic candidates are trying to run on a level playing field, abiding by the letter and the spirit of the laws that govern elections,” he said, calling the shift to the WFP “premeditated. What our local Republicans did is exactly what you do when your intention is to subvert the principles of democracy.”

The residents who run a Facebook page called Keep Fishkill Beautiful have been sending questions about local issues to Town Board candidates over the last two months. Eileen McManus, one of the volunteers running the page, said they’ve been unable to locate Golon or Reynolds. Neither has any significant presence online, either personal or related to the election.

In addition, Republican candidates who had agreed to answer questions that would be posted on the page stopped responding after Keep Fishkill Beautiful asked if they have any connection to the WFP candidates. “All of the sudden, they’ve gotten very quiet,” McManus said.

Oxford, the Working Families secretary, said the party has pushed for reforms to New York State’s “antiquated” election laws. For instance, candidates for New York’s Supreme Court are chosen indirectly through delegates. Voters elect party convention delegates, who then choose the Supreme Court candidates that will appear on the November ballot.

But other judges and non-judicial candidates are chosen through partisan primaries, which a candidate can force — in some cases, such as Fishkill — by collecting only a handful of signatures. Oxford calls the delegate system a “much more orderly way” of earning a party’s endorsement.

“It’s not easy getting consensus on these panels for endorsements,” she said. “There should be some respect for that, and there isn’t.”

Another issue is that the WFP in New York state does not have county committees, as Democrats and Republicans do, to challenge and remove a candidate from the party’s line “that is not in sympathy with the values of the political party,” Oxford said. “This cannot be done summarily; there must be proof or evidence to remove a candidate from a line,” she said. “County committees have expanded power to exercise key party functions, like keeping recently enrolled imposters from stealing our line.”
Tell us what you think

The 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.

Campaign finances
As the treasurer for the Forge Ahead team, I want to respond to “Missing Numbers” (Oct. 8), in which Vinny Tamagna, who is campaigning for mayor of Cold Spring, said he and the three trustee candidates running as the Better Together team each filed exemptions with the New York State Board of Elections so they do not need to file campaign finance reports. However, they do not meet the criteria. First, a waiver is only available to a committee supporting a single candidate for office who is running in a town or village with a population of less than 10,000.

Second, the committee must spend less than $1,000 to avoid filing. Mr. Tamagna is mistaken when he claims that each candidate on a ticket is entitled to a $1,000 exemption. I am keenly aware of the costs of print ads and campaign materials since I must report expenditures but also send copies of all campaign materials for the Forge Ahead team and its candidates to the Board of Elections. Each week I have been tracking campaign materials for Mr. Tamagna’s team. My rough and conservative estimate is that it has spent in excess of $2,500 on print ads alone in the Putnam County News & Recorder, with the election still three weeks away.

Better Together has also printed lawn signs and held events. If Better Together is not accepting contributions, as it claims, where did that money come from? I urge Mr. Tamagna to comply with state election laws and register his candidacy and his team’s, and complete the campaign financial disclosure report due by Oct. 22. He has already missed two disclosure deadlines, on July 15 and Oct. 1.

Join me in voting for Kathleen Foley, Eliza Starbuck and Tweeps Phillips Woods on Nov. 2 for honest and good government.

Carol Filinski, Cold Spring

Editor’s note: On its Instagram account, Better Together wrote: “In case anyone had any questions about our team filing with the NY Board of Elections, this was done by all our candidates. Our team filed the appropriate CF-05 [waiver] form when we began this exciting journey a few months back! We also have not asked for or received any donations in which we would be prompted to file any other documentation. We hope that all parties can stick to the issues of the campaign and not confuse the public or our voters.”

To clarify, the state Board of Elections says that “candidates and authorized committees solely supporting one candidate for public office in towns, cities or villages having a population under 10,000, where the candidate and/or committee does not raise or spend in excess of $1,000 in the aggregate for the campaign, are not required to file campaign financial disclosure reports. This threshold includes the personal funds of the candidate.”

Thank you for digging into the campaign filings of candidates for local offices. Elected officials and candidates talk about accountability and transparency and declare their allegiance to law and order. Yet in this case, most haven’t followed the most basic laws to ensure accountability and transparency in their campaigns.

Gretchen Dijkstra, Cold Spring

Sales tax
Don’t be misled by misinformation that is fed to voters during an election period. Unethical candidates know that the electorate does not have the time to fact-check every piece of information disseminated by someone running for office, and it is important that voters cast their votes based on facts.

With the November elections at hand, the “get-more-sales-tax-back-from-Putnam County” issue is making the headlines again. Most people would agree it would be good to get more money from the county. However, the devil is in the details and the details have not been adequately or accurately explained by our representatives.

The Office of the New York State Comptroller publishes a report called Understanding Local Government Sales Tax in New York State. The most recent was updated in October 2020. It explains the mechanics of sales tax collection and redistribution. There are a few things in it that Philipstown residents should know.

Putnam is one of 11 counties in the state that do not have a tax-sharing agreement (TSA) with their municipalities. There’s more to it than Putnam not being willing to “do the right thing” or “share the growth,” which is lazy election-year rhetoric.

Adopting a TSA in Putnam will require a comprehensive assessment of the financial relationship between District 1 (which includes Philipstown) and the county. Any recalibration of this relationship would require the county to reconsider the existing scope of services made available to our district. That could result in changes which have a negative impact on our community, such as a reduction in services paid for by the county with that sales tax. The result

(Continued on Page 5)
might be losing services far more valuable than the return of a small portion of the tax.

If we do want a TSA in Putnam, we need to start by crunching numbers and developing relationships with other towns and districts. Our current representatives lack the professionalism, patience, experience and the sense of comity to make this happen. They blame Carmel and the Republicans, when the solution starts with them.

Cindy Trimble, Cold Spring

Food insecurity

That there are neighbors with limited access to nutritious, affordable food is no surprise to us as farmers and service providers in Philipstown. When the pandemic hit last year, this social problem of food insecurity entered the national dialogue and more Americans became acutely aware of the weaknesses in our food system. But here in Philipstown, we are poised to build an equitable food system that reaches all residents and provides nutritious foods to sustain life. We were pleased to see that Jason Angell raised this important local issue at the Oct. 7 Philipstown Town Board meeting.

We were reminded that the town received generous donations in the hundreds of thousands in the spring of 2020, and a network of civic organizations and concerned residents helped distribute these funds to our neighbors in need to purchase food and essential medicine. We were reminded about the pounds and pounds of produce that our local farms grew, harvested and distributed to families and food pantries. And we were reminded that food insecurity remains a critical-care issue in our community, with our local Philipstown Food Pantry still experiencing a demand triple of what it saw pre-COVID.

We and others have met in recent months to identify how we might effectively address this issue in a sustainable manner, and we advocate that a portion of the American Rescue Plan Act funding that the Town of Philipstown will receive be dedicated to do just that.

Martha Elder, Carmel Elder is the executive director of Second Chance Foods. The letter was also signed by Stacey Farley and Peter Davoren of Davoren Farm, Megan Larner of the Glynewood Center for Regional Food and Farming; Jocelyn Apicella of Longhaul Farm; and Colin Wright, the manager of the Cold Spring Farmers’ Market.

Beacon ambulance

At the Oct. 4 City Council meeting, Beacon officials noted that the city provides the Beacon Volunteer Ambulance Corps with the building and operate from. Some memories need to be refreshed.

Not too long before 1975, BVAC approached Highland Hospital on Hasting Drive for property to build a headquarters because we were outrunning the old two-bay garage donated for BVAC use with the help of the Beacon Engine Co. No. 1. While we tried to raise funds for the building, the donations were incrementally slow. There was a federal grant opportunity, but BVAC did not qualify. However, the City of Beacon qualified for the grant, and they called it Beacon Fire Station 4.

In 1975, construction on the BVAC building commenced. This was done primarily by volunteers, with heavy construction assistance from the local U.S. Navy Reserve Seabee Unit. Building materials were paid for by the grant, and BVAC took care of the Seabee volunteers, including honoring them at the end of the project.

After five years of construction, the BVAC headquarters was dedicated in May 1980. The city has not helped BVAC with any of the renovations that BVAC needed to continue growing. We have been left to pay for it, including repairs of the roof, major renovations to create offices and update crew quarters, replacement of parts to the backup generator, and a new boiler. We also pay for the utilities and cut the grass.

BVAC asked the City of Beacon to donate the building in recognition of many years of ambulance service and our investment in the building. That was rejected. It baffles me how Beacon can continue to claim that it “provides” a building to BVAC when the city takes no interest in its upkeep or the needs of the tenants, and yet BVAC absorbs the investments without compensation.

Antony Tseng, Beacon

Tseng is the assistant chief of BVAC.

Disappointed

Elected officials in Cold Spring also failed to acknowledge Gay Pride — even Putnam County did that — as well as the Juneteenth national holiday. And when the president of the U.S. ordered flags at half-staff to honor victims of anti-Asian American hate crimes, the village failed to lower the flag at the bandstand.

Yet none of this is referenced by the author of a letter to the editor in the Oct. 8 issue accusing village officials of ignoring Presidents Day, Memorial Day, the Fourth of July, the killing of 13 American soldiers in Afghanistan, Columbus Day and Veterans Day. To love America, you have to love all of America, not just those parts that allow one to make an unreturned political point in a local paper.

Gaston Alonso, via Facebook

Clergy Statement on Climate Change

Last week, seven clergy members in Philipstown released the following statement:

For more than a year, we have all experienced the devastating effects of a global pandemic — all of us, whether poor or wealthy, weak or strong. Some were more protected than others, but the rapidly spreading infection meant that we have depended on each other in our efforts to stay safe. We realize that in this worldwide calamity, no one is safe until everyone is safe, that our actions really do affect one another, and that what we do today affects what happens tomorrow. May we not waste this moment! We must decide what kind of world we want to leave to future generations. God mandates, “Choose life, so that you and your children may live.” (Deuteronomy 30:19). We must choose to live differently; we must choose life.

—From A Joint Message for the Protection of Creation, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, Pope Francis, Archbishop of Canterbury Justin, Aug. 1

The fall season is celebrated by many as the Season of Creation, and an opportunity to pray and care for God’s creation. As world leaders prepare to meet in November in Glasgow, Scotland, to deliberate on the future of our planet, we pray for them and consider what choices we must all make. Accordingly, as leaders of our faith communities in Philipstown, we call on everyone, whatever their belief or worldview, to endeavor to listen to the cry of the earth and of people who are poor, examining their behavior and pledging meaningful sacrifices for the sake of the earth which God has given us.

All of us — whatever and wherever we are — can play a part in changing our collective response to the unprecedented threat of climate change and environmental degradation. Caring for God’s extraordinary creation requires our personal response, commitment and action. This is a critical moment. Our children’s future and the future of our common earth depend on it.

We, the faith leaders of Philipstown, are proud to join the conversation with Philipstown community organizations to discuss how we can collectively address the climate crisis. And we invite all community members to pledge to take action to lower our collective greenhouse gas emissions by participating in the Philipstown Fights Dirty campaign at philipstownfightsdirty.org.

The Rev. Micaiah Coleman Campbell
United Methodist Church, Cold Spring

The Rev. Amanda Eiman
St. Philip’s in the Highlands, Garrison

Rabbi Helaine Ettinger
Philipstown Reform Synagogue, Cold Spring

The Rev. Thomas Lutz
Our Lady of Loretto, Cold Spring

The Rev. Brian Merritt
First Presbyterian Church, Cold Spring

The Rev. Steve Schunk
St. Mary’s Episcopal Church, Cold Spring

The Rev. Father Constantine Sitaras
Academy Chapel of Saint Basil the Great (Greek Orthodox), Garrison

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Let’s Talk]

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Mayor Race (from Page 1)

Tamagna: First of all, I love the village. I have great passion to do things to bring this village to the next level. We have so many things here that we can build upon. I’m running for mayor because it’s almost a legacy for me. I’ve dedicated my life to public service. I was your [Putnam County] legislator for 18 years. I have been on the administrative side of county government. I have done consulting. I’ve been in the private sector as a project manager. I go from experience in construction and facilities to county government and really think that we can make a difference. So I have a network in place. And I know that I can bring a lot of our infrastructure projects where they need to be to improve the quality of life for all of our residents.

The Parking Committee recently presented a plan to the Village Board to add metered parking on Main Street on weekends and holidays, create a residential permit program east of the Metro–North tracks and add reserved parking on The Boulevard and Kemble.  Can you share your thoughts on the plan? Is it fair? Will it work?

Tamagna: First, I want to thank the volunteers who worked very hard on this plan. As I understand it, we’re going to have a package — once the new mayor gets to Village Hall — that is ready to go. We need to try what we have, knowing that a lot probably needs to be adjusted. There are unintended consequences to everything that we do in government, so there will be tweaks. For instance, the Spring Brook apartments, down in that area, there’s a real problem with residents’ parking. Many of them have the one spot and much more is needed. So what is the permit process going to be? We need to put the residents first. Are we going to be moving people to streets where there aren’t meters, for instance, such as Constitution Drive or some of the other areas? Certainly nothing is perfect, but hands on, I think we can make the adjustments that are needed.

Foley: The Parking Committee did work very hard. They met the deadlines and they came up with good solutions. It was a very democratic process. I was impressed with the way the committee responded to feedback and modified the application to improve it. We have to start somewhere. We live in a village that was designed before cars, and we don’t have enough linear feet of street for all of the vehicles. And now some families have two and three cars. The real challenge is on lower Main Street, especially on crowded weekends. We have streets in the upper village that are empty while folks are looping and circling on lower Main, and that causes pedestrian hazards. We also have to think about the carbon footprint of cars turning and looping around. We must do something we can’t push it down the road any longer. And we must identify revenue sources for the village and this is low-hanging fruit. We’ve talked about metering for a long time; it’s time to do it. I’m committed to implementing the recommendations.

Tamagna: I don’t think residents should be paying for the permits. Part of the law right now is that every resident has to get a resident permit, and there’s a charge. We need to look at it. They already pay taxes here. Maybe we can have a resident sticker, but at no charge. I want to take a look closer at what the revenue means. But we’re looking at pennies here and we need to raise thousands of dollars for our infrastructure.

The geography of Putnam County sometimes makes it feel like there is a western and an eastern part divided by the Taconic. What might be done to strengthen the relationship between the village and the Legislature in Carmel?

Foley: We first have to recognize the work of our legislator, Nancy Montgomery, who is tireless in her efforts. She is pulling back the curtain on what happens in Carmel, and we now know more about what actually happens within our tax dollars that don’t get back and how they’re wasted. It’s tough because we are largely in a red county. That is an unfortunate and time-wasting element that separates us. But regardless of what the legislators do, and what the county executive does, the not-for-profit and private organizations are building bridges, organizationally, east to west, with things like Sustainable Putnam and efforts to support our police officers. With a sense of investment, people engage in government more. I am looking forward to this growing-from-the-bottom-up approach, which is healthy and needed. We need more people engaged at the county level, asking the hard questions, as our legislator does, and as our Village Board and Town Board have done.

Tamagna: I have 25 years-plus experience working with many, many great people in Carmel — county executives, legislators past and present, all kinds of nonprofits — and the state and federal realm. I don’t see it as a divide; I think we need to build bridges. We need to stop going in with a bat and a club, trying to get someone not to do something. We need to put together and present a plan and develop coalitions. What I would suggest is a roundtable with the mayors and supervisors to bring western Putnam together, because we do have different needs, that’s for sure. But I don’t think it has to be adversarial. And I think you get a lot more when you present a firm plan. Last week, I went to a legislative meeting. We had a need for Constitution Island. Next year is going to be an exciting year for us, much like the Putnam History Museum and the Southeast Museum. I asked the county for some support and we got it. You have to ask; you have to present a plan that makes sense. It’s not an open checkbook. And I’ve found that there are very reasonable people there, and I look forward to working with all of those relationships to bring much more to the Village of Cold Spring.

Foley: Folks who were here on the ground and actually doing the work on this side of the county know that the mayors and trustees work well together. We talk almost every day. So that is happening. That’s not a new idea. The challenge of Putnam County is that unfortunately, it’s who you know. Part of getting things seems to involve the favors that come in return. On this side of the county, we like our government in the open, in public. We are not interested in patronage. We want to make sure our money is being spent wisely. I’m pleased for Constitution Island. I’d like to see more interisland services on this side of the county. I’d like our seniors to get fresh meals cooked here in our senior center. I would like women’s services. I’d like to see the DMV. Those were all things that were promised when the Butterfield development was coming. And here we are all these years later without the county services. Why is it that we have to beg? If that is something that Mr. Tamagna is dedicated to doing, why haven’t you?

In August, the Village Board adopted regulations for short-term rentals. The regulations limit the number of STRs allowed in the village through a permit system and also impose other restrictions. The vote was 3 to 2 and, Kathleen, you were in the negative. Passions have been high, with some residents saying they plan to defy the law. What is your view of the regulations? Do we need them?

Tamagna: Well-established property rights are essential to the success of any economic system, and in any community. I’ve been following this issue. Dutchess County did a wonderful job. Saratoga Springs has done great work. Overall, back in 1995 and 1996, when we started tourism in Putnam County, we worked with the state, the county and the villages. Many, many years to come. It’s a beautiful spot, probably the most beautiful place in the world. So we have to develop enforceable rules so we know who’s here. We also have to protect and preserve the character of our community because they’re businesses. So, now, although a resident is different from somebody who’s buying homes and developers. We have a good start and, again, we’re going to be able to tweak and we’re going to be able to listen to both sides of the issue. I don’t think that there’s a need to reinvent the wheel. And I think it’s appropriate for us to develop a hospitality tax to be paid by the guests, so that we get revenue. If we’re going to share this beauty, we should be collecting some of the dollars. Maybe we need to figure out something different from the lottery or maybe we need to make the number of allowed residents participating larger, but I’m going to learn a lot about that.

Foley: I would just point out that villages in New York are not entitled to that revenue. That happens through the county, and the county does not share sales tax with us. I did propose a tourism impact fee for short-term rentals that would be part of each of the permits, but that was roundly rejected by my colleagues, alas. But I thought that was a direct way to create a revenue source for the village to help offset the infrastructure and quality-of-life impacts of tourism. I hope that we can return to that as we do tweak that law. I’d like to explain my vote. I support reasonable regulation of short-term rentals. However, the law in its current form is overly complicated, and it’s going to be difficult for people and the county to enforce. We’re going to do our best with that, but it’s going to be a steep learning curve. I certainly would like people to be complying with the law and making applications. But I also want to work with people who are running short-term rentals to get feedback on how we can do a better job. The strength of this law is the protection of rental housing. I’m concerned about housing supply, and housing affordability, and that needs to be the basis of consideration going forward.

Tamagna: Kathleen was on the board this whole discussion and dialogue. And I think there’s an opportunity when you’re working as a team to fix things. If there are issues, let’s talk about them. Let’s not wait till it passes as a law and surprise three other members of the board. When I’ve worked on boards, we do a lot of work to make sure there’s something that everybody agrees to and that it’s as solid as it could be. We have an excellent relationship — at least if I’m mayor — with the county. So I think whether it’s a hospitality charge or whether we can collect it ourselves or whether we find out how Airbnb reports to the county, we will do what we need to do to get our fair share back here again.

In July, the Village Board voted to opt (Continued on Page 19)
**ELECTION Q&A**

**Sheriff Robert Langley Jr.**  
PUTNAM INCUMBENT SEEKING SECOND TERM

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

Robert Langley Jr., a Democrat who lives in Philipstown, is seeking a second, 4-year term on Nov. 2 as Putnam County sheriff. He spoke to The Current on Wednesday (Oct. 13); his responses to our questions below have been edited for brevity.

We have reached out to his opponent, Kevin McConville, a Republican who also lives in Philipstown and is a former chief of the Metropolitan Transportation Authority police, to arrange a similar interview.

**Why do you want to be sheriff for another term?**

I would like to continue implementing positive changes for the community, to make us safer, and to continue to keep Putnam safe, as the people's sheriff.

**Why should voters pick you over your opponent?**

I’ve been a public servant for 40 years in emergency services; I started with the fire department and ambulance corps. In 1984, I started with the Sheriff’s Office. I spent my entire career here, working every facet, patrolling every street throughout the county. I grew up in this county, I know this county. I know how the Sheriff’s Office operates, I know how our jail operates. I’m uniquely qualified for the position. And I’ve run the Sheriff’s Department.

**Should the Sheriff’s Department patrol the Hudson River?**

It should have a marine patrol on the Hudson River. We have marine officers who often work the shifts in this area. We also have marine officers who live right here in this area. Although the boat isn’t always on the water, the response time is usually expedited. In the interest of public safety, it is vital to have a law enforcement vessel within the jurisdiction that it serves, to enforce the laws of the state on the waterways. Without having that vessel out there, you’re providing an open invitation for bad behavior, which is a recipe for disaster and possibly death.

**Over the years, the Sheriff’s Department has been embroiled in various incidents, including some involving alleged brutality or other conduct by deputies, resulting in costly litigation. What actions, if any, such as initiat-

**Who's to blame for the frequent clashes between the Sheriff's Department and the Putnam County Legislature and administration of County Executive MaryEllen Odell? Regardless of who's responsible, can the voters trust you to try to foster better relations going forward?**

Who's to blame? I would say it's playing partisan politics, above public safety, that is to blame. If people would not take political sides, we wouldn't be where we are – if we would focus on what our true responsibilities are as elected officials, which is to the community, to the taxpayers. Often, we hear “fiduciary responsibility.” I understand what fiduciary responsibility is. It's not just about saving money. It's about investing in essential services: your 911 dispatch center, bureau of emergency services, sheriff's office, highway department, department of social services, health department. These are governmental responsibilities. When you're defunding law enforcement that's already understaffed, you're creating a substantial problem not only to the safety of the men and women in the Sheriff's Office but for the people in this community. I fight for the people, for what's needed.

**Census data show Putnam residents as 71 percent white, 16 percent Latino/Hispanic and 4 percent Black. Does the Sheriff’s Department roster of deputies reflect that breakdown?**

I also have correction officers who are part of the Sheriff's Office; I have civilian staff. So it's unfair to narrow it down to one specific group in the Sheriff's Office. We have a diverse staff. We have officers of color, both Black and Latin. We have white officers, as well. I have a supervisor in the jail who's Black. I have a supervisor in patrol who's Puerto Rican. So there is a diversity. I have another deputy who I hired who's Latinx and another one in the process of being hired. I am restricted by guidance from the New York State civil service. I have to hire off the top three on a list. That could be three people or it could be 10 people or 20 people, depending on how people score on a civil service exam. I don't know what color someone is on a list; it is a name and a number, that's it. I called for a Spanish-speaking deputy sheriff/police officer civil service exam. That enabled us to have officers who speak Spanish, but it doesn't necessarily guarantee that I am going to get a member of the Latinx community. I have no control on how someone does on a test. I'm a firm believer that the state civil service exam for police officers should be part of the process. It should be a pass-fail exam. People should not be restrained by their test score. A good test-taker does not essentially make a good police officer. Your interview should be part of grading you; your past work experience should be part of grading. It would open us up to a more diverse community if the state would go with a system like that.

**Is there anything else you want to tell voters?**

I've done a great job for the Sheriff's Office. I've done a great job for this community. I don't play politics in what I do, because there are no politics in law enforcement; it's about serving. And I ask everybody to vote for me on Nov. 2.

---

**The Sheriff’s Department policies Nelsonville and Philipstown abolished its Police Department? If the Sheriff’s Department did take over and a charge were imposed, how would that amount be determined?**

And could it set a precedent for charging Nelsonville, as well? Years ago, the Village of Brewster contracted with the Sheriff’s Office; it was a dedicated patrol. Nelsonville does not receive a dedicated patrol. They receive the same service as the Town of Philipstown. As far as Cold Spring: To abolish the village PD would be doing a disservice to this community. That vehicle enabled the Sheriff, with 1.5 cars for the entire Town of Philipstown, you would be creating an opportunity for more crime. The mere presence of policing is a deterrent. When you see that police car parked by the tennis courts, everybody slows down. And on weekends, when you see the police officer on Main Street, people are a bit more well-behaved.

---

**The Sheriff’s Department polices Nelsonville and Philipstown outside of Cold Spring. Could it also provide — with sufficient resources — police protection in Cold Spring?**

**If the Sheriff’s Department had taken over and a charge were imposed, how would that amount be determined?**

---

**Pruning is an art**

If you are looking for a “natural finish” and do not want to see your ornamentals cut back severely to dead wood, choose artful pruning. Artful Pruning allows your ornamentals to keep looking good.

Artful Pruning gracefully brings your ornamentals back to a more appropriate smaller size.

For an artful, natural finish, call Gregory, the artful pruner, with over 10 years as a career gardener specializing in natural and restorative gardening.

845.446.7465
Local Retailers Feel Supply Pinch

Shortages expected as holiday spending ramps up

By Leonard Sparks

In August, the Association of American Publishers announced that sales for consumer books were up 17 percent for the year, reflecting a strong demand. Unfortunately, publishers and bookstores are wrestling with opposing forces: a pandemic-influenced paper shortage and the shipping bottlenecks delaying the transport of books from printers in China.

In better days, Split Rock Books in Cold Spring could expect to receive books in anywhere from a few days to two weeks, but deliveries now are sometimes taking six weeks, if that, said co-owner Heidi Bender. Publishers have also been delaying release dates, she noted.

Split Rock and other bookstores are warning customers: buy early for the holiday season. There are fewer warehouse workers to pack and ship orders. The combination is affecting the availability of a broad range of raw and finished products, including glass, wood and paper, and appliances, semiconductor chips and windshields, just as buyers begin opening their wallets for the holiday season.

Kelly Preusser, the owner of Grey Print in Cold Spring, said she is bracing for the holiday season. “A lot of us thought it would be better this year, and it’s probably going to be worse,” Bender said.

Off the California coast, dozens of transport ships sit idle as they wait to unload containers filled with merchandise from Asia, as fewer truck drivers to deliver them, and fewer warehouse workers to pack and ship orders. The combination is affecting the availability of a broad range of raw and finished products, including glass, wood and paper, and appliances, semiconductor chips and windshields, just as buyers begin opening their wallets for the holiday season.

Toni Hacker, the owner of Beacon Mercantile, said she feels like a glass trader when she ordered paper two weeks ago, the salesperson was surprised it was available. “I ordered kitchen towels are back-ordered. The availability of a broad range of raw and finished products, including glass, wood and paper, and appliances, semiconductor chips and windshields, just as buyers begin opening their wallets for the holiday season. “My hands are tied,” she said.

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The Current is excited to continue the tradition we started last year for our communities in Beacon and Philipstown. Through October 31, submit photos of yourself, your children, pets or the whole family in costume. A panel of local judges will choose the winners for each of the categories above. Winners will receive gift-card prizes from our local sponsors. We’ll feature submissions in a special “Parade in the Paper” in our Nov. 5 issue.

It’s back! Show off your Halloween spirit.

Scan QR code or visit highlandscurrent.org/halloween

Thank You to Our Sponsors
This election season, voters in the Village of Cold Spring will cast ballots for three levels of local government: Village, Town and County.

**Village of Cold Spring Residents Vote**

**Philipstown Residents Vote**

**Putnam County**

**Village of Cold Spring**

**Philipstown**

**Putnam County**

**WHERE THE VILLAGE OF COLD SPRING VOTES:**

- **Vote Absentee**
  - REQUEST BALLOT BY OCT. 18TH
  - absenteeballot.elections.ny.gov/

- **Vote Early October 23-30**
  - NORTH HIGHLANDS FIRE COMPANY
  - 504 Fishkill Road
  - Schedule: putnamboe.com/early-voting/

- **Vote on Election Day, Nov 2**
  - COLD SPRING METHODIST CHURCH
  - 216 Main Street at Orchard
  - 6:00am to 9:00pm

**Village of Cold Spring Residents Vote:**

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**Philipstown Residents Vote:**

**Putnam County**

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**Vote Team Forge Ahead**

**Village of Cold Spring!**

**Kathleen E. Foley** **Mayor**

**Eliza Starbuck** **Trustee, 2-YR TERM**

**Tweeps Phillips Woods** **Trustee, 1-YR TERM**

Learn more at our website Forgeahead.us
The Calendar

**BARN RAISING**

New center connects food, art and agriculture

By Brian PJ Cronin

One thing that Tara Dalbow learned while completing her MFA in poetry at Sarah Lawrence College is that the perfect ending is one that’s both surprising and inevitable.

That description applies to her latest project, which isn’t a poem. Dalbow is the curator of The Barns Center, a newly opened arts center that focuses on food, farming, ecology and sustainability. Considering the Hudson Valley’s impressive cultural heritage, not to mention its rich agricultural history and role as one of the founding sites of the modern environmental movement, it seems inevitable that a place like The Barns Center would come to exist, and surprising that it hadn’t already.

What’s also surprising is the location of the center — at the 500-acre former IBM campus in Hopewell Junction where the company developed its iconic Deep Blue computer that in 1997 beat chess legend Gary Kasparov.

Six years ago, IBM closed the campus and essentially abandoned it. Massive cranes that were used to haul giant crates of microchips still hang inside some of the buildings. In 2018, National Resources, a Connecticut-based real estate developer that specializes in abandoned industrial sites, started turning parts of the campus into a food production facility. Today, 15 food and beverage companies have moved their production facilities there, including the beverage syrup company More Good, the CBD drink Recess, the Sloop Brewing Co. and Jane Bakes bakery.

Many of those companies don’t have a retail space on the campus, so National Resources is building a food court. It also wanted some sort of visitor center.

Enter Dalbow, who was working in fashion journalism at The New York Times, and through a series of surprising developments (“I’m still not sure how it happened,” she says) ended up pitching an idea to National Resources at the end of 2020. She spoke about the concept of an arts center that would honor the farmland that the IBM campus was built over. Suddenly, she found herself in charge of the project, with about seven months to pull it off.

What followed was a lot of phone calls. “I did like 70 to 100 interviews in February,” she recalls. Some of her questions involved practical matters, such as how to create an arts institution from scratch in the amount of time it takes a head of garlic to grow. But most questions involved what was missing from the Hudson Valley cultural scene.

“I’m not interested in competition,” she says. “We already have a robust cultural landscape here. So what is needed?” The consensus was: a community-oriented space that held high standards as to the quality of the work that was shown while still being accessible to local artists.

The center’s first exhibit, *Tasting Menu*, opened in August and runs through Dec. 5. About half of the works are by Hudson Valley artists. Some pieces, including Newburgh artist Daniel Giordano’s installation representing 500 clementines in various states of decay, were created for the show.

The center also built a second gallery that showcases the work of high school students who studied with Poughkeepsie’s Art Effect. Taken as a whole, the exhibit reflects the moods and anxieties of teenagers living through a pandemic, as well as the effects of the climate emergency. “You can imagine what kids are feeling these days about the world we’ve brought them into,” Dalbow says.

The teen show opened this past weekend as part of the center’s Harvest Festival, which included flower-arranging workshops; a mushroom-foraging walk in the woods alongside the campus; and the premier of a 55-minute documentary commissioned by the Barns Center, *Lost Arts*, that focuses on the work of 10 farmers and food producers. Three projectors cast images that wrap around the audience for an immersive experience.

The center also kicked off a 3-year-long installation by the art collective Futurefarmers that will culminate in the creation of a structure that functions as a bread oven, meeting space and music-creation chamber. Working with an 80-year-old carver in Maine, the group created millstones that, when eventually placed together, will play a piece composed by the group. For the Harvest Festival, the group planted wheat seeds from Wild Hive farms around the site where the structure will be and drew a chessboard in flour to recreate Kasparov’s game with Deep Blue.

Initially, Dalbow worried that the center’s focus would be too narrow. But she’s already planned the next two years of shows, including a collaboration next summer with Bard College and the Smithsonian.

“The more you think about it, everything is connected to food and agriculture and the land,” she said. “This is what people want to talk about and it’s what people need to be talking about.”

The Barns Art Center, at 736 South Drive in Hopewell Junction, inside the Park 84 campus, is open from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday. Admission is free. See barnsartcenter.org.
**THE WEEK AHEAD**

Edited by Pamela Doan (calendar@highlandscurrent.org)

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

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**COMMUNITY**

**SAT 16**

**Great Give Back**

**COLD SPRING**

9 a.m. Bandstand
845-265-3040 | butterfieldlibrary.org

Public libraries across New York are organizing community service projects today and Butterfield Library patrons will help clean up the riverfront from Dockside Park to the West Point Foundry Preserve. Bring gloves and grabbers if you have them.

**SUN 17**

**11th Annual Car Show**

**BEACON**

9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Main Street

In addition to a wide range of cars on display, there will be live music, awards, food and raffles.

**SUN 24**

**Pumpkin Glow**

**GARRISON**

5:30 – 7:30 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library
120 Route 403 | 845-424-3020
desmondfishlibrary.org

Tour the library grounds lit up by jack-o’-lanterns for a slightly spooky and fun Halloween experience.

---

**TALKS & TOURS**

**SAT 23**

**Meadows and Trails 5K**

**CORNWALL**

7:30 a.m. Outdoor Discovery Center
120 Muser Drive | 845-534-5506
hhnn.org

The race begins at 9 a.m. The first 100 children and teens younger than 18 can participate free. Register online until WED 20 or on-site day of race. Cost: $40

**SAT 16**

**Bird Walk**

**COLD SPRING**

7:30 a.m. Glyndowen Center
putnamhighlandsaudubon.org

Meet at the Big Woods Lot in Fahnestock on Route 301 for a walk around the farm’s woods and meadows. Register online.

---

**KIDS & FAMILY**

**SAT 16**

**Fairy Walk**

**BEACON**

Poohil Park (Route 9D and Main)
fairewalk.com

The Beacon Fairies — with help from anyone who wants to contribute a fairy house — will have a display. Also SUN 17. Free

---

**MON 18**

**The Landscape Art Legacy**

**COLD SPRING**

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

In this webinar presented by the Butterfield Library, Rena Tobey will discuss The Hudson River School painters and how they influenced conservation and the national parks.

---

**VISUAL ART**

**SAT 16**

**Cristian Chironi: New York Drive**

**PHILIPSTOWN**

11 a.m. – 5 p.m. Magazzino Italian Art
2700 Route 9 | magazzino.art

For the community-based performance, the artist will be joined by volunteers as he drives his Fiat 127 to various parts of New York, concluding at Magazzino for a final performance and viewing of the vehicle. The piece is designed to evoke conversation about immigration, memory, the history of sites and our present moment.

---

**SUN 17**

**Halloween Slime Fest**

**COLD SPRING**

4 p.m. Butterfield Library
1601 Route 90 | 845-265-3040
butterfieldlibrary.org

Students in grades 1 to 5 are invited to make slime.

---

**THUR 21**

**Bring the Kids Goes Outside**

**GARRISON**

9:30 a.m. & 1:30 p.m. Boscobel
1601 Route 90 | 845-265-3638
boscobel.org

The focus this month is the apple orchard on the grounds of the historic estate. Cost: $8 ($5 ages 5 to 18; 5 and younger free)

---

**SAT 23**

**Outdoor Halloween Crafts**

**GARRISON**

11 a.m. Desmond-Fish Library
472 Route 403 | 845-424-3020
desmondfishlibrary.org

Students in grades 5 and up will create decorations and dress up the library for the Pumpkin Glow.

**SUN 24**

**4-H Outdoor Survival Skills**

**PATTERSON**

10 a.m. Register for location.
putnam.cce.cornell.edu/events

In this three-part series of workshops, students ages 11 to 18 will learn about orienteering, first aid, constructing shelters and fire building. Register online. Limited to 12 participants. Cost: $55

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**SUN 24**

**Creep, Crawl, Slither**

**CORNWALL**

10 a.m. & 1 p.m.
Outdoor Discovery Center
120 Muser Drive | 845-534-5506
hhnn.org

Learn about animals and reptiles that move in ways that some people find unsettling. Cost: $10 ($8 ages 3-12, members $6/$6)

---

**COMMUNITY**

**SAT 16**

**Great Give Back**

**COLD SPRING**

9 a.m. Bandstand
845-265-3040 | butterfieldlibrary.org

Public libraries across New York are organizing community service projects today and Butterfield Library patrons will help clean up the riverfront from Dockside Park to the West Point Foundry Preserve. Bring gloves and grabbers if you have them.

---

**SUN 27**

**11th Annual Car Show**

**BEACON**

9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Main Street

In addition to a wide range of cars on display, there will be live music, awards, food and raffles.

---

**SUN 24**

**Pumpkin Festival**

**BEACON**

noon – 5 p.m. Riverfront Park
2 Red Flynn Drive | beaconroooco.org

Organized by the Beacon Sloop Club, this annual event will include pumpkin pie, apple cider, chili and entertainment on two stages.

---

**SAT 23**

**Harvest Festival**

**PUTNAM VALLEY**

noon – 4 p.m.
Tomkins Corners Cultural Center
729 Peekskill Hollow Road
tomkinscorners.org

The Arm-of-the-Sea Theatre will perform puppet theater and the musical acts will include Catahoula Cajun Band, Linda Thornton and Tim Pitt. Plus, there will be a farmer’s market, artisans and a tag sale. Cost: $10 (12 and younger free)

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**SAT 23**

**Oktobefest**

**BREWSTER**

6:30 – 10 p.m. Tilly Foster Farm
100 Route 312 | 845-808-1840
tillystablesrestaurant.com

Fast Lane, an Eagles tribute band, will perform on SAT 23 and The Nerds on SUN 24. Cost: $30 ($50 for both days)

---

**SUN 24**

**Costume Swap**

**COLD SPRING**

10 a.m. – 1 p.m. Tots Park
4 High St. | butterfieldlibrary.org

Come to find clean costumes of all shapes and sizes and bring costumes or accessories to pass on to the next vampire or Gryffindor. For those who can’t attend, donations will be accepted at the Butterfield Library.

---

**SUN 24**

**Middle School Book Club**

**COLD SPRING**

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

Students in grades 5 and up will discuss Katherine Arden’s Small Spaces.
The Highlands Current

**STAGE & SCREEN**

**SAT 16**

**The Dark House**

GARRISON

- 6 – 10 p.m. Philipstown Depot Theatre
- 10 Garrison’s Landing
- nightmareynyc.com

Co-created by Cold Spring resident Timothy Haskell, this non-traditional haunted house is an immersive experience that relies on creative storytelling for its heart-racing moments. Through Oct. 31. Cost: $30

**SAT 16**

**David Sedaris**

POUGHKEEPSIE

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

The humorist and satirist can make people laugh over life’s toughest moments. His latest collection of essays and stories is *The Best of Me*. Cost: $49

**MUSIC**

**SAT 16**

**Destination Motown**

PEEKSKILL

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

In this simulcast of the first performance of an opera by a Black composer at the Met, baritone Will Liverman will appear with sopranos Angel Blue and Latonia Moore in an adaptation of Charles M. Blow’s memoir. Cost: $28 ($21 ages 12 and younger).

**SAT 16**

**Joe Morris and Mat Maneri**

BEACON

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

Joe Morris and Mat Maneri, Oct. 16

Joe Morris and Mat Maneri, Oct. 16

Work. Cost: $20 ($25 door)

**SAT 17**

**Angela Bruno**

BEACON

- 12:30 – 2:30 p.m. Farmers’ Market
- 223 Main St. | 845-855-1300
- beaconfarmersmarket.org

The singer will perform a variety of popular American, Italian and Latino songs in a performance sponsored by *The Highlands Current*. Cost: $37.50 to $57.50

**SAT 17**

**Bridget Kibbey and João Luiz**

BEACON

- 4 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
- 477 Main St. | 845-831-4988
- howlandmusic.org

Kibbey has been called the “Yo-Yo Ma of the harp” and Luiz is a two-time Latin Grammy nominee. The performance is sponsored by the Howland Chamber Music Circle and will include works by Bach, D’Rivera, Albéniz, Torres and Britten. Cost: $45 ($15 students)

**SAT 17**

**The Easy Street Band**

BEACON

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

The legendary Hudson Valley group has reunited. Cost: $35 ($20 door)

**FRI 22**

**Almost Queen**

PEEKSKILL

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

The tribute band uses costumes and signature harmonies to recreate the Queen experience. Cost: $37.50 to $62.50

**SAT 23**

**Outdoor Music Pop-Up**

BEACON

- Noon – 4 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
- 477 Main St. | 845-831-4988
- howlandculturalcenter.org

Frenchy & the Funk, Guitarmy of One, David Henningsen and Peter Kevra will perform in the Brick Pan Alley show. Free

**SAT 23**

**No Quarter**

PEEKSKILL

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

The Led Zeppelin tribute band will portray the band members in their prime of life. Cost: $29 or $39

**SAT 23**

**Joe Louis Walker**

BEACON

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

The blues artist and Grammy winner will perform songs from his latest album. Cost: $25 ($30 door)

**CLIMATE SOLUTIONS**

**WED 20**

**Climate Solutions Symposium**

PEEKSKILL

- 4 p.m. Locust Grove | 2683 South Road
- hvclimatesolutionsweek.org

Learn about the policies, programs and funding behind New York’s Climate Act and the Hudson Valley Regional Climate Action Strategy. The panel will feature Andy Revkin, a Nelliesville resident who is with the Earth Institute at Columbia University. See the Hudson Valley Climate Solutions Week website for a full schedule of virtual and in-person events that begin SUN 17.

**THURS 21**

**Climate Solutions and You(th)**

BEACON

- 7 p.m. Via Zoom
- hvclimatesolutionsweek.org

This panel, organized by the Hudson River Sloop Clearwater, will focus on the impacts of climate change and the Hudson Valley Regional Climate Action Strategy. The panel will feature Andy Revkin, a Nelliesville resident who is with the Earth Institute at Columbia University. See the Hudson Valley Climate Solutions Week website for a full schedule of virtual and in-person events that begin SUN 17.

**TUES 19**

**School Board**

COLD SPRING

- 7:30 p.m. Village Hall | 258 Main St.
- 845-265-2500 | nelsonvilleny.gov

**WED 20**

**School Board**

GARRISON

- 7 p.m. Garrison School | 1100 Route 9D
- 845-424-3689 | gufs.org
Words of Recovery
New book features work by men at Garrison treatment center

By Leonard Sparks

I t took treatment to bring those words out of Greg Gilligan. He was forced into introspection when he entered, in September 2020, the three-month treatment program at St. Christopher's Inn, run by the Franciscan Friars of the Atonement at Graymoor, their headquarters in Garrison.

Without cellphone and internet access, Gilligan said he “had to deal with” in his effort to overcome alcoholism. Along with daily visits to the facility’s chapel, he found another tool for inner transformation: a relatively new creative writing program held on the weekends and led by an accountant-turned-psychologist.

Now, along with the men who have confronted their addictions and traumas, and unleashed their hopes through poems, essays, plays and drawings, St. Christopher’s Inn’s creative writing program has found itself transformed. In August, Nova Science Publishers released a book based on the program, Effective Use of Creative Writing in the Treatment of Addiction to Chemical Substances.

The 540-page book, filled with poems, drawings, essays and short plays written by more than 70 men at St. Christopher’s Inn, was edited by Eric Kreuter, an author and weekend counselor who brought the program to the facility in 2019 after years leading creative writing classes at state prisons.

Writing not only allows the men to explore their traumas, thoughts and emotions, but reading their work aloud in the group fosters self-confidence and cuts through the isolation that usually accompanies substance abuse, explained Kreuter, who is a board member for the National Association of Poetry Therapy and included some of his own poems in the book.

Kreuter believes the book will not just appeal to clinicians but also to recovering addicts, their families and academics. All proceeds benefit the nonprofit St. Christopher’s Inn.

“It’s all about giving them their sea legs back, so that when they leave, they’ve got a life to look forward to,” he said. “They don’t need substances to numb because they’re too excited about life.”

An accountant with a doctorate in clinical psychology, Kreuter first began leading creative writing groups at Bedford Correctional Facility, a state prison for women in Westchester County.

Contacting the facility after deciding to do something altruistic, Kreuter said he was invited to teach a class on “money addiction.” He introduced writing exercises to the eight-week program, beginning a yearlong teaching gig at Bedford and then the Taconic Correctional Facility, also in Westchester County.

 Introduced to St. Christopher’s Inn when an accounting client wanted to donate property to the program, he proposed that he introduce creative writing to the residents. He supplies prompts to the men, who bring their writing to the following session. Sometimes, they will be asked to write about their dreams, said Kreuter. If someone is having writer’s block, he suggests they take a blank piece of paper outside and note their observations of Graymoor’s wooded, mountaintop campus.

“Getting these men with harsh lives to write about simple things like a bird, there’s nothing more beautiful than that,” said Kreuter.

Subjects range from the turmoil of addiction and the pain it inflicts on family members to the joys of being with spouses and children and pursuing sobriety. One man, whose writing Kreuter described as “dark,” told the group he wanted to leave and use again.

“Thirty days later he walked into the room and said: ‘I have an announcement. Because I’ve had this freedom to come into writing and announce the desire to leave and to use, is why I don’t leave and why I don’t use.’”

Greg Gilligan considers himself transformed. He helped Kreuter compile the book and launched a creative writing group for St. Christopher’s alumni. He and Kreuter are planning a second book about long-term recovery.

“I don’t see it as creative writing; I see it as inspirational writing,” said Gilligan. “There are people in addiction who cannot express themselves standing up and saying, ‘I am here.’”

For more poems from the book, see highlandscurrent.org.
On Sunday (Oct. 10), Boscobel House and Gardens hosted a Heritage Applefest to mark the historic site’s 60th anniversary. Apples from its grounds were pressed, preserved and sampled. There were also live music, crafts, storytelling and toys and games from the 18th and 19th centuries.

Photos by Ross Corsair
Looking Back in Beacon

By Chip Rowe

Editor’s note: Beacon was created in 1913 from Matteawan and Fishkill Landing.

150 Years Ago (October 1871)
The heirs of the Churchill estate in Matteawan, which was valued at more than $200,000 (about $4.2 million today), announced plans to bring their claims to the land to court. The Poughkeepsie Eagle-News reported that the estate had “been cut up and sold to different parties who have built on and greatly improved the property. Parties who have deeds for sections of the same are in a very troubled state of mind concerning the issue of this suit,” including St. Luke’s Episcopal Church.

Charles Smith won a 2-mile boat race at Fishkill Landing in 16 minutes over Augustus Mosher, who finished in 17 minutes and 7 seconds.

125 Years Ago (October 1896)
Joseph Conklin Jr. of Matteawan was shot in the chest and seriously wounded by a gang of chicken thieves. Conklin, who lived at the foot of Mount Beacon, had gone to investigate a commotion in his henry and found three men inside the coop. The doctors at Highland Hospital requested an X-ray machine from New York City to locate the bullet.

Orville Conklin of Matteawan, with a handicap of 100 yards, won the 2-mile bicycle race at the Orange County Association’s Animal Show.

A 17-member company performing In Old Maine ran out of money in Matteawan. They also had run out of money a few days earlier in Hawley but received a $10.88 advance from a boarding house manager to get to Newburgh. As collateral he kept a bass drum, cymbals, a property trunk and scenery. At Fishkill Landing, the company had to borrow more money to buy tickets for the trolley to Matteawan, where the manager of the opera house, fearing the company would not be able to perform, paid for supper.

Unfortunately, the show only netted $10, and the company had to sleep at the venue.

An Italian laborer from Matteawan who showed up at Highland Hospital with an injury to his tongue that required 16 stitches refused to explain what had happened.

A well-dressed man inquired at Peattie Brothers stables at Fishkill Landing about renting a bicycle. George Peattie, suspicious, said that none was available. But when George left for another part of the building, the stranger approached Peattie’s son, Charles, saying George had rented him a bike for two hours. The boy provided the wheels, and the man has not been seen since.

100 Years Ago (October 1921)
Under advice of counsel, the City Council set aside a newly enacted ordinance that required beverage dealers to have licenses and banned them from putting shades or other obstructions in their windows. A similar law had been challenged in court in Buffalo, and council members wanted to see how it played out. According to the Poughkeepsie Eagle-News, one unforeseen effect of the ordinance in Beacon was groups of children staring into tavern windows “like the audience at a sideshow.”

A judge granted a divorce to Ethel Carey after her husband, Amos, admitted he had registered at a Newburgh hotel in September 1920 as “Mr. and Mrs. A. Conroy, Stamford, Conn.” with a woman who was not Ethel. He ordered Amos to pay alimony of $15 per week. The couple had been married in Beacon in 1916.

The Beacon High School basketball team prepared to open the 1921-22 season against Philmont, which it had defeated the previous year, 103-0.

Federal health authorities declared Beacon’s water unfit for drinking, and state authorities said the city had not done enough to protect its watersheds from pollution. It ordered local officials to begin rigorous inspections of outhouses, summer camps, pig pens and chicken coops, and recommended that the reservoir be treated with chlorine gas.

A Poughkeepsie woman who had been detained for public intoxication by a Beacon motorcycle officer bit him on the arm, drawing blood.

James Nocerino, of the Hallock farm on Green Fly Road near Beacon, was killed by a bull when he went to the barn to milk the cows. It was not clear whether the bull escaped from its pen or if Nocerino opened the gate to feed it, but the victim was found crushed against a wall. He had moved to the area six weeks earlier from Brooklyn.

To reduce the budget, the City Council called for the dismissal of three of Beacon’s nine police officers and for the chief to assist with patrols.

75 Years Ago (October 1946)
Gen. Elliott Roosevelt, the son of the late president, said he could not endorse a fellow Democrat for a state Senate seat.

U.S. Army

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REAL ESTATE MARKET UPDATE
HOME SALES IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD IN THE LAST 30 DAYS

BEACON PROPERTIES

BEDS | BATHS | SQ FT | SOLD!
--- | --- | --- | ---
24 Maple St. | 3 | 1/0 | 1,500 | $429,000
2 Academy St. | 3 | 1/0 | 1,620 | $442,000
218 Fishkill Ave. | 4 | 2/0 | 2,004 | $442,000
26 S Cedar St. | 3 | 2/0 | 1,364 | $450,000
17 Dewindt St. | 3 | 2/0 | 1,750 | $472,500
20 Crescent Dr. | 3 | 1/1 | 2,200 | $550,000
82 Dutchess Ter. | 3 | 2/0 | 2,016 | $565,000
10 Schofield Pl. | 5 | 3/2 | 3,950 | $750,000

PHILIPSTOWN PROPERTIES

BEDS | BATHS | SQ FT | SOLD!
--- | --- | --- | ---
13 Boulder Road | 2 | 2/0 | 1,100 | $59,000
801 Route 9D #2 | 4 | 2/1 | 1,970 | $1,500,000

845.831.9550
42 Main Street, Beacon
@gatehousecompass
gatehousecompass.com

THE GATE HOUSE TEAM | COMPASS
(Continued from Page 16)
Pendell, a Democrat from Beacon who was running for a state Senate seat, because of Pendell’s opposition to the Ives-Quinn anti-discrimination law. [Gov. Thomas Dewey had enacted the statute in March 1945, making New York the first state to prohibit employment discrimination based on race, creed, color or national origin.] Pendell dismissed Roosevelt as an “extreme reactionary,” saying he opposed Ives-Quinn because efforts to “regulate the attitude of the mind and heart of one segment of the population against another is beyond the capacity of man. Tolerance and lack of discrimination can be achieved only as we improve civilization.”

A week later, when Roosevelt demanded that Pendell drop out of the race, the candidate responded by accusing Roosevelt, Dewey and other “little men” of turning the laudable principle of equal rights into “petty politics to cater to minorities who feel they have been discriminated against.”

Speaking before the Beacon Democratic women’s club, the party’s candidate for the Assembly, W. Victor Ogley, said he supported Ives-Quinn. Relying “on a grad-
ual program of education is insufficient,” he said. Like theft, fraud and murder, he said, “racial discrimination is a crime against society and we should have laws against it.”

A boxing match at Poughkeepsie between Davis of Albany was stopped in the third round when Davis opened a cut above Hawks’ eye. The Kid protested but the referee, Goldsmith, called it a foul. The Beacon Recreation Commission announced it would hold evening classes at the high school for typing, bookkeeping, shorthand, mathematics, shop work, Spanish and boxing. The commission also hosted its 12th annual Halloween parade, with a reviewing stand at Wallette’s gas station.

The late Paul Gordon, an archer who made bows and arrows at his Tioronda Landing and was interred in the family vault of his son-in-law.

50 Years Ago (October 1971)
Ahmed Volkswagen, led by Vic Wowaka’s five touchdowns, scored a record 73 points in a Beacon Touch Football League game while blanking Wilson’s of Fishkill. The team later defeated Gallagher’s Raiders, 14-12, for the season title.

A delegation from the Georgia Historical Commission said it planned to fly into Stewart Field in Newburgh to obtain a court order to retrieve the remains of Col. William Few from the cemetery behind the Reformed Church. Few, who was among the signers of the Constitution in 1787 while serving as a senator from Georgia, had died in 1828 at his daughter’s home in Fishkill.
The ferns in my landscape start to glow at this time of year, even as they are lying lower than they did in summer. As in many disturbed areas, I have swaths of fern monocultures where they dominate and suppress other plants from growing. The majority are hay-scented ferns, (Dennstaedtia punctilobula), that are not picky about where they grow. They are very adaptable — equally at home in sunny, shady, dry or wet locations.

For most landscaping conditions there is a fern, and they can’t be beat for adding interesting foliage and texture. This non-flowering division of plants, the pteridophyte, is one of the oldest groups of plants on earth, although the earliest species are extinct. Most of our contemporary ferns only date back to the past 70 million years or so. The plant division includes all plants that reproduce by spores instead of flowers and seeds. I first appreciated the peculiarities of ferns in the yard of a house I rented in the Pacific Northwest, where the rainfall patterns and cloud cover create perfect conditions for many ferns. I learned to cut back dried foliage in winter so that I could witness the unfurling of new fronds in spring. Starting off as a fuzzy, brown clump, the fern would reveal itself as it unwound and became a dark-green stem, called a stipe, with delicate leaves, the pinna, branching off.

Use ferns creatively in mixed perennial plantings; shade gardens; rock gardens; plantings adjacent to a stream, pond or lake; or woodland-style gardens. During a hike or forest walk, look around for inspiration. Ferns show off in contrast to the bark of trees and rocks, and cast cool-looking shadows. Combine different ferns together that have varying shades of green, structure, height and leaflet size for impact. The American Fern Society has detailed instructions on collecting and cultivating spores, something I don’t yet have experience with. The AFS also maintains a Facebook group for identifying ferns; it has international participation and a spore exchange for members in case you’re interested in cultivating ferns from other regions. Here is a list of native ferns that I’ve been able to find at some local garden centers.

For part to full shade with soil that doesn’t dry out:
- **Maidenhair fern** (*Adiantum pedatum*)
  - I especially appreciate how a grouping of maidenhair ferns looks like a swirling mass from above. This fern grows up to 20 inches high and has more of a circular form.

- **Ostrich fern** (*Matteuccia struthiopteris*)
  - These are hardy in zones 2 to 6 and some of the Highlands will be too warm for it to be happy. Ostrich fern is commonly found in forested wetlands and can grow up to 6 feet tall.

- **Cinnamon fern** (*Osmunda cinnamomea*)
  - This fern can be found growing in high sediment areas of streams or on pond edges, but will also tolerate dryer soils as long as it is shady. Growing up to 6 feet tall, it has a striking presence.

- **Christmas fern** (*Polystichum acrostichodes*)
  - This is an evergreen fern that grows up to 2 feet tall with large foliage and gets its common name from being identifiable in winter. With its height, it could stand in for woody evergreen plants in a garden.

For sun to part shade with soil that doesn’t dry out:
- **New York fern** (*Thelypteris noveboracensis*)
  - I have a difficult time distinguishing New York fern and hay-scented fern because they have a similar bright-green color, branching structure and height of 1 to 2 feet. They are similar enough that I wouldn’t plant them in the same grouping, but if you can only find one of the two, use them interchangeably.

As previously mentioned, for dry or wetter conditions in sun or shade, plant hay-scented fern. Be aware that over time, it can become the dominant plant in its location.
Mayor Race (from Page 6)
out of a state law that would allow retail sales and on-site consumption of marijuana. Instead, a referendum will appear on the ballot. Marijuana, like alcohol, is now a legal product. Should retail sales and on-site consumption be allowed?

Tamagna: We are unique in Cold Spring in that we have such a small geographic boundary from our school. Wouldn’t it be something if there was a dispensary next to Cold Spring Pizza? There’s a lot still to be fleshed out with regard to where [retail stores] belong. But having said that, it’s up to the voters. I would encourage everybody to make sure that they find the box on the ballot. It’s kind of a slippery slope. And likewise with the CBD sold in some of our institutions. There’s a social risk. I like to be very careful as a leader to protect the health and the welfare of our youngest.

Foley: My colleague Tweeps Woods and I pressed very hard for this to go to referendum because I felt that this decision is too important to be up to five people at a table. The regulatory details at the state level, both from a taxation and a distribution standpoint, have not been fully worked out. You can call the [state] comptroller’s office and they’re hard-pressed to explain to you how this seed-to-sale formulation works for tax. We can opt in later if the community would prefer that. I would like to see us hold on and let the state get its regulatory house in order before we consider sales. In terms of kids being able to access marijuana: Under this new law, it’s illegal to have 5 pounds of marijuana in your home. I think parents need to be making sure if they’re having it at their home, their kids aren’t getting it there. That to me seems like a bigger danger than a regulated shop on Main Street. We have regulated wine stores on Main Street. We have regulated wine consumption be allowed?

Let’s make this the most vibrant community in the Hudson Valley.

~ Vinny Tamagna

our elected officials and residents. The Cold Spring Police Department knows our community and knows our children. We did a survey in the spring and our village is largely supportive of our police officers. There are things that can be done better, but people feel safe with a police force here. I don’t want to be waiting for someone to drive from the other side of the county; I want officers here who can respond in a moment’s notice and our officers do. It’s easy to think of Cold Spring as Mayberry, but if you were at the Village Board last night [Oct. 12], you heard that we had an arrest following a check-cashing crime that resulted in the confiscation of crack cocaine. We are bisected by a state road. Because of tourism, we have traffic and crowds to manage. And we have the same real-life social issues that exist in other places. We have an officer-in-charge, Larry Burke, who is an incredibly ethical and good man. He hires good officers and he’s committed to community participation.

Tamagna: I, of course, support our local police and Larry Burke does do a wonderful job. As the rector’s warden at St. Mary’s [Church], I can say that just at the corner there, with traffic such as when we have our Modern Maker’s Market, it goes a long way. All budgets need to be reviewed. We have to look at overtime. We need to make sure they have the training and equipment they need. Look for the partnerships, too. Bring [Dutchess & Putnam] REACT in. It’s a wonderful volunteer organization that helps with traffic control when we have Fourth of July parades or other events. Maybe what we can do with our Sheriff’s Department, to partner and to let people know what’s going on. Very often I don’t think that everybody knows when there’s going to be a big event. We can do that kind of outreach, maybe even a year or six months in advance. To get the help that our local police force needs. There’s a tremendous burden on them.

Foley: When you’re mayor, you need to know the structure of village departments. We don’t have overtime. We have all part-time officers. I will also congratulate REACT. Those were the folks who, if you were immunized at the Recreation Center, were moving crowds through traffic to get shots. They were here on Community Day, and they were fantastic. So a shoutout to them.

Finally, we’d like to have each candidate provide a closing statement.

Tamagna: You know, there’s a great deal at stake here in this mayoral election. I want to be the mayor because I want to unite the community. I want to collaborate with our friends in county government and state government and federal government. I have the experience to do all that, and I have the network to do that. I’ve worked for you before for 18 years. I was your legisla- tor, quite a successful run of things. And no, I didn’t bring almost $2 million in by myself. I did it with a team of people that believed in the same vision and going to bring that back again. I’m humbled as I go around talking to people and I know the support is there. People remember me and know how hard I work. And I know that the Better Together team is going to work as a team. We want to make this a neighborly community, a community that’s together and a community that can accomplish things. Let’s use the talent that’s out there. Let’s build on it. I understand some of us have been here for generations; some of us had just found this is an awesome place to live. Welcome to everybody. Let’s get to work. We all want a village government that works for the people. It’s a legacy for me. As I get ready to retire after 25 years, I’m going to do what I need to do to make sure that we address the riverfront, the water supply, the dam — that’s a $4 million project we didn’t even talk about. But it’s something that again, connections that I have with the Department of Public Works will go a long way in helping. I want to thank Mayor [Dave] Merandy and Trustees [Marie] Early and [Fran] Murphy for giving us a firm foundation on which to build. Let’s make this the most vibrant community in the Hudson River Valley.

Foley: I’m here tonight on Main Street, right across the street from The Current at Supplies for Creative Living and Now in Bloom, two of our women-owned businesses, and I’m here with supporters and happy to have them here with me and have their encouragement. One of the things about this village is you’ve got to be here. And Vinny, you were on our Legislature for a long time. I think most of us haven’t seen you in the village since last year came to advocate for the Butterfield development. So it’s nice to see you back in the village. But the Forge Ahead team has been here all along, people know us on the street, they know us on the sidewalks and we’re engaged with the community in a real way, with sleeves rolled up, and we bring that love and dedication to the table. We look forward to working in a participatory way, welcoming people to the table, taking advantage of the expertise and the brilliance that is in this community. The best thing you can say as a leader is, “Teach me what you know, because you know more than I do.” So let’s get those folks at the table, have them engaged and listen to them and implement the smart recommendations that are being made. The more people we have engaged in the village, the better it will be. I’m ready to listen. And I’m ready to work hard. And I show up.

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

TOWN OF PHILIPSTOWN HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

Sealed proposals will be received by the undersigned Town Clerk of the Town of Philipstown at Town Hall, 238 Main Street, PO Box 155, Cold Spring, New York 10516 until 2:00 p.m. October 27, 2021. When the same will be publicly opened and read aloud for sale to the Town of Philipstown of:

- BITUMINOUS CONCRETE – FURNISHED, DELIVERED & LAID IN PLACE
- BITUMINOUS CONCRETE - FOB
- CALCIUM CHLORIDE – DELIVERED
- LIQUID MELTING AGENT – SOIL STABILIZER - DELIVERED
- #2 FUEL OIL – DELIVERED
- BANK RUN, FILL, TAILINGS – DELIVERED & FOB
- INSTALLATION OF GUIDE RAIL AND FURNISHING OF GUIDE RAIL MATERIAL
- WASHED CRUSHED STONE – DELIVERED & FOB
- MANUFACTURED CRUSHED ITEM 4 – DELIVERED & FOB
- SCREENED ITEM 4 – DELIVERED & FOB
- NYSDOT ITEM 203.07 SELECT GRANULAR FILL FOB & DELIVERED
- LIQUIFIED PETROLEUM (LP) GAS – DELIVERED
- STONE FILLINGS – DELIVERED & FOB
- SAND FOR SNOW AND ICE CONTROL FOB & DELIVERED
- CURB MIX WITH RAP
- STONE SCREENINGS- DELIVERED & FOB
- SMOOTH BORE CORRUGATED POLYETHYLENE SOIL Pipe – DELIVERED

Meeting the specifications of the Town of Philipstown Highway Department. Copies of the specifications may be obtained from the office of said Town Clerk at the above address. The right is reserved to reject any and all bids. All purchase contracts awarded pursuant to this notice shall be subject to the provisions of Section 103-A, 103-B and 103-D of the General Municipal Law.

DATED: October 15, 2021

TARA PERACCIOLO, TOWN CLERK | TOWN OF PHILIPSTOWN
Residents Urge Philipstown Town Board to Allow Cannabis Businesses

Officials propose committee to tackle local hunger

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

Residents last week urged the Philipstown Town Board to opt out of opting out and allow marijuana businesses to soon open. They commented in an Oct. 7 public hearing on a proposed law declaring that Philipstown, at least for now, would prohibit pot businesses. Only one speaker endorsed that idea.

In other business during a lengthy session at Town Hall, the board discussed local hunger, a problem even in “a town as wealthy as Philipstown,” according to Supervisor Richard Shea.

Earlier this year, New York State legalized adults’ recreational use of cannabis. It plans to license marijuana shops and lounges, and has given towns and villages until Dec. 31 to opt out of allowing them. Municipalities that do nothing — thereby opting in — cannot subsequently reverse their position. But those that opt out in 2021 opting in — cannot subsequently reverse that decision until Dec. 31 to opt out of allowing them.

“It plans to license marijuana shops and lounges, and has given towns and villages until Dec. 31 to opt out of allowing them. Municipalities that do nothing — thereby opting in — cannot subsequently reverse their position. But those that opt out in 2021 opting in — cannot subsequently reverse that decision until Dec. 31 to opt out of allowing them.

Councilor Judy Farrell underscored the board’s need for input from the whole community, “not just a few who may have an interest in a cannabis business or the tax revenue that might come. We have to do our due diligence.”

The anticipated marijuana tax income is “not the tremendous amount of money” some might envision, said Councilor Robert Flaherty, who noted that even without pot shops in Philipstown, residents can indulge: “Nobody is going to stop you from smoking it on the street.”

Councillor Jason Angell said he’s “still listening, still thinking it through.” He recommended consideration of the possible impact of pot shops on shopping areas and roads, along with other concerns.

“What’s really driving” the board’s interest in opting out “is the fact we need to make a decision,” but lack the time, energy and resources to complete any necessary zoning changes and similar revisions this fall, Shea explained. “It’s just not going to happen. We have too many other priorities,” such as infrastructure and “food insecurity. There are children going to bed hungry in this town tonight,” he emphasized. “That’s not hyperbole. That’s a fact. I’ve seen it. So if I’m going to spend time, and money, on something, it’s going to be those issues first.”

Angell proposed that the board set up a committee to address local hunger and said the latest U.S. Census found 120 households in Philipstown with incomes below the federal poverty line, homes “which you can assume are food- insecure, chronically.”

Shea termed the committee “a laudable... achievable goal.” He also reported on efforts to assist residents left economically stripped during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Town officials collected donations ranging from small amounts to, in several cases, $50,000 to $100,000, and used the funds to purchase cards exchange for groceries, pay for medical prescriptions and help in other ways. They assisted not only people in Philipstown, but residents of Beacon, Peekskill, Newburgh and elsewhere, he said, and distributed $461,000 in aid.

“It’s beyond distressing to see things you just don’t expect to see in our own back yard,” said Shea. Even as the pandemic abates, “we’re going to make sure we don’t leave people behind,” he promised.
Woman Arrested in Alleged Bank Fraud

Also, village mayor and trustee clash again

By Michael Turton

Quick action by bank employees and local police recently thwarted attempts to fraudulently cash checks in Beacon and Cold Spring, according to Larry Burke, the officer-in-charge of the Cold Spring Police Department.

At the Tuesday (Oct. 12) meeting of the Cold Spring Village Board, Burke said a woman had walked into the M&T Bank in Beacon on Sept. 16 and attempted to cash a $7,500 check but was turned away because she lacked the proper identification.

The bank manager alerted his counterpart in Cold Spring; an hour later, the woman entered the M&T Bank there with the same check. The bank called 911, and Cold Spring and Putnam County sheriff's officers responded.

Burke said the suspect left the bank, crossed Chestnut Street and tried to evade police by going through the Foodtown parking lot. After her arrest, Burke said officers confiscated a fake ID, a small amount of crack cocaine and drug paraphernalia. The woman is wanted in Florida, North Carolina, Virginia and New Jersey, “all for the exact same thing,” he said.

In his monthly report, Burke said officers had answered 62 calls for service in September and issued 20 traffic tickets (including 10 for speeding) and 108 parking tickets. There was one arrest for the unlicensed operation of a vehicle.

The board approved Burke’s request to hire two new officers, Christopher Arroyo and Kelly Close; the department now has 16 part-time officers.

Land sale

By a 3-2 vote, the board approved the sale of a small strip of village-owned land on the north and west sides of Riverview to the restaurant’s owners, Jim and Lori Ely.

Mayor Dave Merandy called the sale a “no-brainer,” describing the land as “totally useless” to the village. Trustee Kathleen Foley said she was not opposed to the sale in principle but asked for clarification as to why a small piece of village property at 15 Main St. could not be sold to Laura Bergman, who is opening a wine bar.

Merandy said there were zoning and nonconformity issues at that site but that the biggest concern had been encroachment on the pedestrian right of way.

Foley commented that a previous board indicated village property shouldn’t be sold for the expansion of private enterprise. Deputy Mayor Marie Early responded that the proposed sale would not expand Riverview’s business but would allow the restaurant to make tie-downs for a dining tent that sits on village-owned land.

When Foley pressed for information on the location of the tie-downs, a Highway Department fuel tank and other details, Merandy objected.

“I find this discussion crazy,” he said, noting that he, Early and Highway Chief Robert Downey Jr. had visited the property.

“Why is the trust?” a clearly frustrated Merandy asked.

“If you had gone there with [Trustee] Tweeps [Woods] and looked at it and said this land is useless, I would have said fine, because I trust you.”

“We’re talking about the sale of village property,” Foley said. “My questions haven’t been answered.” She asked Merandy why he was getting so emotional over the issue.

“This is a wasted discussion on a very minor issue,” Merandy said. “It’s a waste of my time. That’s why I’m emotional.”

Merandy, Early and Trustee Fran Murphy voted in favor of the sale, and Foley and Woods against.

The vote was the same on a motion to sell the land for $4 per square foot, the standard rate used in the sale of village-owned lots and other small properties.

In other business...

- The board approved hiring Karen Herbert, a retired Westchester assistant district attorney, as a part-time secretary and assistant at a rate of $20 per hour.

- After the receipt of two additional applications, a seven-member Community Stakeholders Group was approved. The group will provide comments and recommendations for an ongoing review of the Police Department.

- The Planning Board is reviewing an application for a change of use from office to senior housing condominium for the yet-to-be completed Building 1 at the Butterfield redevelopment project. A revised site plan must also be approved.

- Planning Board Chair Matt Francisco reported that the owner of the 6,564-square-foot space at 40 Main St., formerly the Ellen Hayden Gallery, has been advised to meet with the Village Board. The site’s proposed use would include two retail shops and office space for 29 people. That change would require 44 parking waivers, a number Francisco said is unprecedented. Because the number of off-street spaces required by the village code is seldom available, businesses pay a one-time fee of $250 per space.

- The Cold Spring Fire Co. responded to 27 calls in September, including 14 activated fire alarms, three incidents at Breakneck Ridge, two flooding conditions and two assists to emergency medical workers. Other calls included a motor vehicle crash, drowned wire, carbon monoxide alarm, marine incident, propane leak and an elevator rescue.

- The Recreation Commission is developing a job description for a planner to oversee ticketed events at village parks.

- The Highway Department collected 64 tons of trash and 18 tons of recyclables in September.

Recent Deaths

Beacon

Rocco Bianchi, 65
Carl Fisher, 87
Paula Hunt, 52
Sandra Naimo, 65
Shannon Papaula, 41
Latrell Sellers
Elbert Sweat Sr., 87
Justin Tomlins, 41
Stella Thomas, 63
Mercedes Vega, 69
Angel Velazquez Jr., 36
Charles Williams, 68
John Wojcik, 63

Philipstown

Virginia Dubatowka, 100
Donald Graham, 85
Barbara McConville, 75
Catherine Patienna, 74
Ginny Pidala, 66
Joanne Schenck, 79
Don Smith, 85

For obituaries, see highlandscurrent.org/obits.
Roundup (from Page 24)

Haase was an absolute monster on both sides of the ball,” Alzate said. “There are not many freshmen who can do what she can do.”

Beacon will host Minisink Valley today (Oct. 15) at 4:15 p.m. before traveling to Cornwall on Monday. The team hosts Goshen at 5 p.m. on Wednesday.

Haldane tied Arlington, 1-1, in an Oct. 8 homecoming game, lost to Croton-Harmon on Tuesday, 7-0, and fell at home to Putnam Valley on Thursday, 3-2, to fall to 5-8-2. It will close the regular season at Pawling on Saturday.

GIRLS’ TENNIS

Beacon defeated Minisink Valley, 6-1, on Oct. 6, fell 7-0 to Washingtonville on Oct. 7 and swept a doubleheader from Cornwall (4-3, 4-3) on Oct. 8 to finish the season a 9-4 record. The Bulldogs tied Goshen for second place in the league, behind Washingtonville.

“The girls showed a ton of improvement, which was due to their great work ethic,” Coach David Ryley said. “Our JV finished the season undefeated, so the future is looking bright.”

On Tuesday (Oct. 12), Beacon entered two doubles teams in a Section IX qualifying tournament in Orange County. Maura Lane and Isabelle Ray will compete in the sectional tournament next week after reaching the quarterfinals (losing to the No. 1 seed from Monroe-Woodbury), while Emma Sandison and Lindsay Darcy lost in the round of 16 and did not advance. They finished the season 11-2.

GIRLS’ SWIMMING

The Beacon girls’ swim team was scheduled to conclude its season at Middletown on Thursday (Oct. 14). The Bulldogs were edged by Warwick on Tuesday, 91.5 to 85.5, to drop to 1-8. In that meet, Isabella Haydt won the 200-meter freestyle in 2:21.54, Meara Kumar won the 100 butterfly in 1:12.31 and the 200 medley and 200 freestyle relay teams also won.

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SPORTS
Puzzles

**CrossCurrent**

**ACROSS**
1. Russian range
6. First lady before Michelle
11. Salem’s state
12. Cancels
14. Mexican revolutionary
15. “Are you happy I’m back?”
16. Low digit
17. Omits
19. Soak (up)
20. 1492 vessel
22. Rock’s Brian
23. Spanish ayes
24. Devour
26. Religious doctrines
28. — Moines
30. Actress Long
31. Fairly shared
35. Snares
39. “— Smile Be Your Umbrella”
40. Director Howard
42. Half a sextet
43. Egg (Pref.)
44. Pale purple
46. Club —
47. “New World Symphony” composer
49. Recital piece
51. Bagel choice
52. Handsome guy
53. Hinder
54. Classical language

**DOWN**
1. Muse of astronomy
2. Show contrition
3. Khan title
4. Used-car sites
5. Plumber’s tool
6. Spoof
7. Black birds
8. Young — (tots)
9. Putin’s land
10. Nearly
11. Ultraviolet filter
14. Mexican revolutionary
16. Low digit
17. Omits
19. Soak (up)
20. 1492 vessel
22. Rock’s Brian
23. Spanish ayes
24. Devour
26. Religious doctrines
28. — Moines
30. Actress Long
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**SudoCurrent**

Solve the Sudoku puzzle.

**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. boor (4)
2. having a pleasant scent (7)
3. loquacious (10)
4. cure-alls (7)
5. dirty (8)
6. fell end over end (7)
7. they may be kids at heart (5)

**SOLUTIONS**

| LO | RS | BIG | PE | UT |
| UMY | HED | ATS | UN | ED |
| WAS | BL | EL | MO | RF |
| HED | GO | UT | TUM | IXI |

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**Answers for Oct. 8 Puzzles**

| GLEAM | NOT | AMS |
| MAGNA | OBI | RAW |
| AMONG | BOLOGNA | |
| TAMALE | ROSY |
| JAR | ABE | AGNES |
| ASIA | AROMA |
| NAPLES | VENICE |
| SUDE | STOW |
| MOLAR | RANAEYE |
| OPEC | SISTER |
| TRIESTE | OPALS |
| HAG | PAS | LETIT |
| SHH | ART | LEEDS |

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

The Haldane football team got a big performance from wide receiver and free safety Ryan Irwin during its homecoming game under the lights on Oct. 8 on its way to a 28-15 victory over Croton-Harmon.

The senior came up with a pair of interceptions (returning one for a touchdown), caught a touchdown pass and ran for another score. “Ryan Irwin came to play,” said Coach Ryan McConville.

It was also a good night for the defense, which forced three turnovers and stifled the Tigers’ offense for most of the game. “Jake Mason continues to be all over the place with tackles,” the coach said.

McConville said he and the players were thrilled to play a night game on their home turf, which was illuminated by portable lights. “It took a village to get those lights towers set up,” he said. “We got a lot of support from the booster club and the administration. The atmosphere was unbelievable.”

Haldane set the tone in the first quarter when a Sorell Gaines interception put the Blue Devils in business and quarterback Ryan Van Tassel connected with Irwin on a 43-yard touchdown pass. On Croton’s next possession, Irwin grabbed his first interception and returned it 65 yards for a 12-0 Haldane lead.

The next scoring wouldn’t come until the fourth quarter, when Croton put together its best drive of the game and scored on a 30-yard run. But Haldane answered quickly, with Irwin capping a drive with a 16-yard run, then running for the two-point conversion to make it 20-7.

Tommy Tucker widened the lead on a 64-yard pass from Van Tassel and caught another pass for the two-point conversion. Croton got a 38-yard touchdown from John Cerrone to close out the scoring.

Van Tassel completed 7 of 13 attempts for 192 yards and two touchdowns. He was picked off once. Evan Giachinta ran 14 times for 54 yards.

The Blue Devils are scheduled to host Valhalla on Saturday (Oct. 16) at 3 p.m. in the first of what McConville called “a tough stretch of three games” that will also see the team travel to Blind Brook and Dobbs Ferry. “I’m glad we have some momentum. We’ve made some major improvements since the start of the season.”

Beacon defeated Byram Hills, 2-0, on Monday (Oct. 11) in the Section I vs. Section IX Invitational at Lakeland High School. Andre Alzate scored both goals. On Tuesday the Bulldogs blanked Washingtonville, 2-0, behind scores by Tommy Franks and Dillon Kelly.

“That was a positive result against a traditional powerhouse,” Coach Craig Seaman said of the Byram Hills win. “The Washingtonville win was a good result in a difficult setting against a physical team on the road, on a small field with a choppy playing surface. It’s important that we’re able to adapt to different playing styles and fields.”

Seaman complimented his back line, anchored by Gavin Ladue, Franks, Kirk Dyer and keeper AJ Lucas.

Beacon (8-1-1, 6-0-1 in league) was ranked No. 6 in Class A this week by the New York State Sportswriters Association. The Bulldogs are scheduled to host Washingtonville on Saturday (Oct. 16) at 2 p.m. and travel to Cornwall on Tuesday.

Haldane, on a four-game winning streak, defeated North Salem, 2-0, on Oct. 9 for a homecoming victory. The goals came from Matt Silhavy and Max Westphal, and keeper Ronan Kiter had six saves.

The Blue Devils (6-7-1, 3-2-1 league) picked up a 5-2 victory last week over Croton-Harmon. Ryan Eng-Wong and Silhavy each had two goals, and Westphal had one. Kiter had six saves.

“These young men are playing with a lot of heart and intensity every game,” said Coach Ahmed Dwidar.

The Blue Devils are scheduled to host Putnam Valley at 4:30 p.m. today (Oct. 15) in their last game of the regular season.

BOYS’ SOCCER

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GIRLS’ SOCCER

Beacon dropped a 2-0 decision on Monday (Oct. 11) at Millbrook. “We had a bad break in the first half when we had a penalty kick called against us, and that put us in a hole,” said Coach Hugo Alzate. “We moved the ball well but couldn’t finish.”

On Wednesday, the Bulldogs (5-4-3, 4-2-3 league) tied Washingtonville, 1-1, after two overtimes. Gabby Kuka scored for Beacon in the 74th minute to tie it, and Devyn Kelly had seven saves in goal.

“We had outstanding efforts from Gabby and Maddie Bobnick on defense, and Noelle

(Continued on Page 22)