Challenger Accuses Sheriff of Misconduct
Compares recorded phone call to Watergate
By Chip Rowe and Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

Kevin McConville, a former chief of the Metropolitan Transportation Authority police force who hopes on Nov. 2 to become the next Putnam County sheriff, last week accused his opponent, incumbent Robert Langley Jr., of violating the county ethics code and state laws.

McConville, a Republican, called on the county district attorney and state attorney general to investigate Langley, a Democrat in his first term, for allegedly committing four misdemeanors — including “official misconduct” — by discussing his reelection campaign with a town supervisor while on duty and during a call made with his county-issued phone.

The allegations arose from a conversation on Aug. 30 between Langley and Carmel Town Supervisor Ken Schmitt, who has served seven terms but lost in the Republican primary in June.

A recording appeared on Sept. 29 on a Facebook page, the Putnam County Watchdog Report, which said it was obtained “as part of a series of sweeping FOIL [Freedom of Information Law] requests.” McConville charged that the sheriff tipped off his supporters about the call.

The FOIL request, which The Current obtained through a FOIL request, was made by Erin Crowley, who ran as a Republican for the Carmel Town Council this year but finished third in a four-person primary; she requested “all phone conversations between Sheriff Langley and Carmel supervisor Schmitt from 8/30 to 9/8/2021.” According to financial disclosure records, she has donated $1,690 to the sheriff’s campaign.

At the beginning of the call, which lasted 18 minutes and 40 seconds, Schmitt told Langley: “I’m very confident you’re going to

(Continued on Page 12)
By Chip Rowe

Beverley Robinson, 87, a retired French teacher in Boulder, Colorado, is a direct descendant of Beverley Robinson (1720-1792), a Loyalist who, with his wife, Susanna Philipse, owned a vast expanse of Hudson Valley land that included the Highlands before it was seized following the Revolutionary War.

Was your father also named Beverley?

My father was Frederick Philipse Robinson. At my baptism in New York City, he supposedly said: “There’s always been a Beverley Robinson in New York so there’s going to be another one.” I have three sons but I did not name any of them Beverley because, well, you know, the name now isn’t easy for a man. I couldn’t do that in good conscience; I was tired of a lifetime of things like going into a bank and having them ask: “Are you cashing this check for your wife?” But you can go to Scotland and the name is perfectly normal. I usually go by “Bev.”

Beverley Robinson sided with the British during the Revolution. What do you think of him?

You recently emailed the rector at St. Philip’s Church in Garrison. What did you ask her?

Well, I have a paper published by the Putnam County Historical Society in 1914. It’s a speech that was given about Beverley Robinson and how he was a churchman and how he was a statesman and all very flattering. So I Googled St. Philip’s and emailed the rector, Amanda [Eiman], and she sent me two photos of a plaque over the baptismal font dedicated to Beverley Robinson, because he founded the church.

What was his connection to Benedict Arnold?

His home, Beverley House, was confiscated by rebel Americans and used by Gen. [Benedict] Arnold as his headquarters. [The home, on what is today Route 9D in Garrison, burned down in 1892.]

Has anyone ever said, “Are you related to the Beverley Robinson?”

The first time I heard anything like that was when I was in college. The head of the history department introduced me to a friend of his who taught at Harvard. And the friend said, “Oh, yes, the Hudson River!” But he was a historian. More recently, a neighbor across the street here in Boulder said: “Do you know there’s a Beverley Robinson in [the Ron Chernow biography] Hamilton? Is that any connection to you?” And I said, “Yes.” And she wanted me to come over and have tea with her ladies’ group and talk about it.

ON THE SPOT

By Michael Turton

What game did you play years ago that kids would still enjoy today?

Twister! Almost everybody can play it, unlike some games, like Scrabble.

Red Light, Green Light. I have good memories of playing it with our gaggle of neighborhood buddies.

Capture the Flag. You have to be fast, and scheme to trick the other side.

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Where Are All the Squirrels?

And why did a coyote just eat your cat?

By Brian PJ Cronin

The question was raised this past weekend at the Hubbard Lodge in Philipstown because Putnam Highlands Audubon Society members had noticed their yards were strangely devoid of chatterings. It was raised again at the Cold Spring waterfront, where the public trash cans sit curiously undisturbed by tiny searching paws.

And it was raised this past week during a visit to Squirrels’ Hollow below the Mount Beacon Fire Tower, where hikers noticed that for the first time in recent memory the hollow seemed to be improperly named.

Where the hell are all the squirrels?

“The woods seem a little empty,” said Nicole Wooten of the Hudson Highlands Land Trust, which manages the Granite Mountain Preserve in Putnam County. Across the river next to Storm King, Bill Schuster at Black Rock Forest noted a dearth of squirrels as well as chipmunks, mice and other small mammals.

But if the eastern grey squirrels — ubiquitous suburban clowns in the U.S., invasive supervillains in Europe — appear to have vanished from the Highlands, there’s still noise in the woods this fall. Specifically, the loud, crunching sounds of hikers walking on the bushels of acorns that have dropped to the ground in the past few weeks.

The squirrel shortage and acorn explosion are related.

Like many nut-bearing trees, oaks don’t “mast” (the term for producing and dropping acorns) every year. They tend to mast on two- to five-year cycles. When mastings occur frequently, the amount of acorns produced is modest. But when it’s been several years between mastings, such as this year, the stored-up energy produces a wallop of acorns. Schuster said there’s been an abundance of shagbark hickory nuts, as well.

That’s good news for squirrels, who are enjoying an acornucopia. But it also explains why there’s so few around to enjoy the feast.

“When we haven’t had a mast year for a few years in a row, squirrels and other small mammals that depend on mastings tend to have lower populations and lower survival rates,” explained Wooten.

It’s still not clear what causes trees of a certain species in a certain region to all mast at the same time. It’s possible that external factors, such as first-frost dates, summer temperatures or rainfall amounts trigger the process. Researchers are also examining the possibility that the trees communicate with each other to signal when it’s time to mast by utilizing the vast underground mycorrhizal fungi networks, colloquially known as the “wood wide web,” or through windblown pollen.

Thanks to the mega-mast, squirrel populations should rebound next year, as should those of white-footed mice and white-tailed deer, the latter of which have also been decimated locally after two consecutive years of Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease, a previously rare virus carried by tiny insects that have arrived in the Hudson Valley via tropical storms the past two summers. The lack of acorns had driven what deer are left out of the woods and into backyard gardens for food more than usual, said Wooten.

It may also be a reason why there’s been more recent visits into town by the coyotes who live on Mount Beacon. With fewer small mammals and deer to hunt as they fatten up for winter, they’ve been strolling into Beacon to look for food. That leads one to worry about errant pets, although Wooten points out that, as generalist omnivores, coyotes prefer meals they don’t have to chase, such as garbage, roadkill and food that well-meaning Beaconites set out for feral cats.

But while locals can look forward to their gardens and pets being safer next year because of the generous oak trees, there’s a downside. White-footed mice and white-tailed deer are the primary carriers of black-legged ticks, which spread Lyme disease. Generally, the bigger the mast, the more cases of Lyme the following year. And this year’s masting was very, very big. Next summer, Highlands residents may find themselves looking back to the halcyon squirrel-free days of 2021.
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.

LETTERS AND COMMENTS

Test-taking

Haldane High School hosted an event on Oct. 14 for parents of students in the ninth and 10th grades entitled “What I Wish I Knew Before My Son/Daughter Became a Junior.” Whitney Longworth gave a presentation on standardized testing for college admission. Longworth is an alumna of Connecticut College and works for Summit Educational Group, a company that offers one-to-one tutoring and test prep for the SAT and ACT tests.

It’s important to share another perspective with students and parents in our area. Now, one doesn’t have to take the SAT or ACT to apply to and be accepted by many U.S. colleges. Many colleges and universities have “test-blind” or “test-optional” admission policies. Longworth’s alma mater, Connecticut College, is test-optional. Its standardized test policy states: “We don’t require applicants to submit standardized test scores because we think there are better ways to determine if you’ll be successful at Conn. We believe your high school transcript, essay, recommendations or other application materials may show your strengths better than test scores.”

I encourage students, parents, and guidance counselors to review fairtest.org. It provides a list of 85 campuses with test-blind admission policies and another list of more than 1,775 accredited colleges and universities with test-optional admission policies for fall 2022 and beyond. Seniors, as you begin to prepare your college applications this fall, know that the SAT and ACT tests are not required for you to be admitted to many wonderful schools. Best of luck with your applications!

Jill Corson Lake, Putnam Valley

‘Ghost’ candidates

I wonder if the 45 out of 63 voters who voted for Justin Golon and Robert Brian Reynolds Jr. in the Working Families Party primary for the Fishkill Town Board simply gave greater weight to the qualification and merits of the candidates running over allegiance to the party (“Are Fishkill Voters Being Duped?” Oct 15). Isn’t merit in the eyes of a voter most important? Isn’t every single primary election a resolution to a difference of opinion between the members of its party and its nominating leaders?

I believe that candidates following legal procedure and disclosure requirements, qualifying for and winning a primary, is a perfect example of the democratic process, not a subversion, as this article suggests. The notion that it subverts the principles of democracy is sour grapes from party leaders not in touch with their members and so-called journalists aligned with a side. If you want results determined by a party committee, move to China.

Dan McNulff, Beacon

The editor replies: Our article did not characterize the primary as “subversion” but as a political strategy that was also used during the 2020 election. Readers can make their own judgments about candidates who don’t appear to be campaigning and whose qualifications and merits remain difficult to determine.

Familiar names

It is puzzling to me why I keep seeing the same Republican names retreaded in this upcoming election. It seems to me that Carmel is so dead-set on determining Philipstown politics that they are floating the same tired candidates over and over.

It irks me that the Republicans in Carmel feel the need to try to undermine our races for positions of mayor and Town Board by throwing their establishment support into what ought to be a local concern. I don’t think these civic positions ought to be caught up in the polarized spectacle that is consuming our current national political landscape.

I am voting for candidates who have a proven record of serving this community. And I am voting against Carmel overreach.

James Hoch, Garrison

Beacon judge

I was fortunate to be a Dutchess County senior assistant public defender assigned to Beacon City Court. I practiced in all of the criminal courts in the county, but spent about 15 years with City Court as my primary focus.

I have known Judge Timothy Paganes from his time as an assistant district attorney when we were both new lawyers handling cases as opposing counsel. He was then, as he is now: fair, good-natured, open-minded and even-tempered, with a great sense of humor, caring and smart.

We continued working together when he took the bench as Beacon city judge. Dutchess County has a well-evolved criminal justice system with a deep well of talented and committed lawyers, judges, probation officers and court staff. Judge

(Continued on Page 5)
Correction

A photo caption in Around Town in the Oct. 8 issue identified a woman holding a therapy cat as Joan Noack. In fact, it was Jean Noack.

Phlipstown Town Board

Our town is really good at coming together. Remember 2017? At a time of deep division across our nation, Philipstown residents came together to help shape the future of our community at events organized by the Philipstown Community Congress.

The congress offered three opportunities for people to speak out on what they saw as priorities to make our town and villages better places to live. Nearly 40 neighbors proposed innovative ideas at these events, almost 800 residents cast a ballot to show their preference and over 300 people volunteered to help make these ideas a reality. Look what our community has come together on since then: We have an active Climate Smart Communities task force; new organizations like the Philipstown Behavioral Health Hub, Philipstown Aiming at Home and the Philipstown Trails Committee; an updated comprehensive plan; and so much more.

We are proud co-organizers of this community effort that worked hard to bring Philipstown neighbors together. Another member of our organizing team — Jason Angell — is continuing to bring people together as a Philipstown Town Board member. He will know who do so for the long haul if he is elected in November. Jason has brought people together on his farm, at public meetings and in civic spaces. We are proud to have him in our community and thankful he is willing to serve as our Town Board member.

Jason has already helped bring this community together and I do it Nov. 2 by voting for him for the Town Board.

Pricilla Goldfarb, Garrison

The letter was also signed by Janice Marcy and Jocelyn Apicello, who is Angell's spouse.

We have a great selection of candidates running, but I specifically want to lead my endorsement to both of these. For us, Jason Angell is a wonderful candidate for Philipstown Town Board and Nancy Montgomery for the Putnam County Legislature for their work on climate change.

I have worked with Jason on the Climate Smart Task Force for three years, and he is a great asset to our community. Nancy has been working diligently to get Climate Smart going at the county level. We need their leadership more than ever.

Krystal Ford, Garrison

Our locally elected Democrats offer a healthy, useful mix of trusted roots and exciting new ideas — both of which are reasons I'll be voting Nov. 2 to elect Democratic candidate Megan Cotter to the Philipstown Board.

I have great confidence in Megan's courage to speak out on important issues; her unwavering loyalty to community; and her persistence in making things happen that benefit local communities. Jason Angell is a business like the incredible recent revival of the Little League softball program.

Megan's no-nonsense approach is refreshing, based in common sense rather than politics. Guided by faith, family and friendship, Megan continually reaches out to one and all, often bridging the gap between old and new approaches to living in Philipstown.

I am particularly excited about her thoughts on using and expanding the parks, trails and other resources available to us. Megan consistently stands up for what works in our community, and I challenge anyone to find a resident who loves and understands Philipstown better than she does. No one can agree completely on every single issue, but I know I can depend completely on Megan to fight for a better future in Philipstown.

Amy McIwaime, Cold Spring

Dutchess Legislature

As the outgoing Dutchess County legislator for District 16, I am writing to give my wholehearted endorsement to Yvette Valdes Smith, the Democratic candidate to be my successor.

Through her work as an educator and community advocate, and as she has campaigned, Yvette has shown herself to be the best candidate to represent the residents of Beacon and Fishkill. I join a long and impressive list of organizations that have already endorsed Yvette's campaign.

I authored the law expanding the opening hours of liquor stores in the county. Ironically, we had to fight tooth and nail to pass this simple and consumer-friendly legislation against opposition from the Republican majority and administration.

That's just one in a long list of local examples of the Republican Party's drift into corruption and insurrection. American Rescue Plan funds — money meant to aid local working families in overcoming the hardships brought on by the pandemic — were spent on a new clubhouse and batting cages at Dutchess Stadium. Republicans in the Legislature have attempted to disband a duly appointed bipartisan redistricting commission, claiming the commission was in violation of the state constitution that creates it. They want, through ballot Proposition 6, to reduce the size of the Legislature, shifting power away from Beacon. The list goes on.

Dutchess County needs vigilant, highly capable legislators to provide checks and balances to the runaway power mongers and cronyism of the county executive. Yvette will be that legislator.

Her opponent has strung a large campaign banner at the intersection of Old Glenham Road and Route 52 in Beacon, creating a blind spot in an already tricky and dangerous roadway. It’s a perfect metaphor for his party's governing philosophy: do anything to gain power, regardless of the real-world consequences. Think about that when you're voting in the booth.

Frits Zernike, Beacon

Putnam Sheriff

Sheriff Robert Langley is one of the good cops who are often underappreciated when law enforcement is politicized. He is a thoughtful, careful officer who exemplifies humility, compassion and fairness. He doesn't yell at people in public or go on radio or YouTube shows to promote political positions. He never places party above the public good.

This has put him at odds with the Republicans on the county Legislature, who have
Matthew Zaklad, and Judge Watson was the only candidate.

...rating available to judicial candidates, and she was rated "highly qualified" as she worked, thoughtful and professional. She served as my court attorney for 12 years and was then elected to succeed me in 2011.

I submit that voters in Dutchess County should consider that same decision-making process. The incumbent, Denise Watson, has an established track record of fairness and integrity.

It is with excitement that I will cast my ballot for Sheriff Langley, as I believe in his unwavering sense of justice and know that our county will continue to thrive under Sheriff Langley for another four years.

Matthew Zaklad, Garrison

Family Court

When one decides which professional to consult for medical, legal or financial advice, locating an individual with the requisite experience in the field is often an important consideration. In deciding which Family Court judicial candidate to support, I submit that voters in Dutchess County should consider that same decision-making process. The incumbent, Denise Watson, has spent the past 22 years as Family Court judge. She served as my court attorney for 12 years and was then elected to succeed me in 2011. During her 10 years on the bench, Judge Watson has earned a reputation as a hard-working, thoughtful and professional jurist. The nonpartisan Dutchess County judicial screening panel rated her "highly qualified" as she seeks reelection this year. This is the highest rating available to judicial candidates, and Judge Watson was the only candidate in Dutchess County to receive this accolade in this election cycle.

She has also been endorsed by the New York State Uniform Court Officers, who have had the opportunity to observe her judicial temperament on a daily basis for the past 10 years.

In addition, Judge Watson has presided over two drug treatment courts during her tenure: family and youth treatment courts. These programs give parents who are battling substance-abuse issues the opportunity to regain custody of their children from foster care if they are able to maintain sobriety while under court supervision. Likewise, teens have been able to avoid costly out-of-home placement while engaging in community-based substance abuse treatment, again supervised by the court.

For these reasons, I ask voters to join me in supporting the most experienced and qualified candidate and reelect Family Court Judge Denise Watson.

Peter Forman, Beacon

Forman is a former Dutchess County Court judge.

Beacon City Council

When the time came to make my decision about running for reelection to my position on City Council this year, I spent a lot of time weighing my options. My life had gotten much busier and I was working much longer hours, yet there was still so much that I wanted to accomplish on the council and I wasn't sure that I was ready to leave.

Then I heard that Wren Longno might consider running, and I was flooded with excitement. I've known Wren for a few years now, so I already knew that she was smart, capable, compassionate and would be a fantastic addition to the council.

When we spoke about the possibility of her running, it wasn't because she had any personal political ambitions or was looking to pad her resume. It was simply because she wanted to serve her community. Wren is a local mom with two children in the Beacon City School District, and she has a long history of advocating for others.

It has been an honor and privilege to serve on the Beacon City Council, and it's a great feeling to be able to step down and know that the council and Ward 3 will be in such good hands with Wren. Please join me in voting for Wren Longno for Beacon City Council, Ward 3, during early voting from Oct. 23 to Oct. 31, or on Election Day, Nov. 2.

Rod McCredo, Beacon

McCredo represents Ward 3 on the Beacon City Council.

Cold Spring Village Board

Having been a resident of the village for more than a quarter of a century under the stewardship of four mayors, I am well aware that small-town politics can be fraught with factionalism and grandiose personalities. At no time was this more apparent than during the Roger Ailes era, which pitted neighborhood against neighbor and created a huge schism within our village.

It was through the dedication and hard work of Mayor Dave Merandy and Trustee Marie Early and Fran Murphy that the schism has begun to close and our village move forward. I am deeply concerned that the Better Together team will in fact create fault lines along the closure.

There was a certain arrogance in holding the Better Together kickoff rally on a Saturday in April, without a permit, at the foot of Main Street, tying up traffic on the busiest day of the week. Is this a harbinger of how things will be done under Vinny Tamagana and company?

This arrogance was on full view in the Current forum on Oct. 13 with Trustee Kathleen Foley. Tamagana was petty without saying much and was not in control of the facts and frequently unfamiliar with the initiatives the current board has undertaken regarding village infrastructure. It struck me that Tamagana could only talk about community peripheral while grasping for credit; Foley had her finger on the pulse of the villagers who supply the lifeblood to our community and gave credit where it was due.

But this is no surprise. Foley's long tenure with the Historical District Review Board and her work with Girl Scouts as well as other civic-minded endeavors prove that she has Cold Spring's future at heart. This is a leader who knows how to bring community together and she has assembled a smart, hardworking team to stand with her. I'm standing behind Kathleen Foley, Eliza Starbuck and Tweeps Phillips Wood.

Rian Keating, Cold Spring

In a political ad, mayoral candidate Vinny Tamagana states he “partnered” with the Village of Cold Spring to assist in getting grants totaling almost $2 million. His efforts were limited to making a phone call to elected officials or making a last-minute public announcement. That is when he involved himself in the grant process. Making a last-minute phone call or issuing a press release after many officials have already completed the process is not “partnering.”

What is particularly disturbing to me is that Tamagana, by taking credit this way, diminishes the time, effort and hard work of those who were actually responsible for the grants: then-state senator (and future governor) George Pataki, state Sen. Vinnie Leibell, Assemblywoman Sue Kelly, County Executive Bob Bondi; and most especially, Mayor Anthony Phillips. They are the ones who replaced our debt with gratitude.

I am supporting Kathleen Foley for mayor, and one of the many reasons is because she won't want to make a last-minute phone call or public comment. Kathleen will be in the forefront of all solutions to the issues facing our wonderful village.

Bill Mazzuca, Cold Spring

Mazzuca is a former Philipstown supervisor.

For the past 18-plus months, I've been basically locked up navigating my company through the horrors of COVID-19. With solid footing finally in place, I'm looking to reengage with public policy locally again.

Some may recall I spent many years on the Haldane Board of Education as well as many other local nonprofits. As you know, we're in election season here in the village, and an important election at that. One scenario has 80 percent of the existing Village Board turning over, which should be of concern. I know most of the candidates and all are honorable people — a positive.

I took time recently to sit down with Kathleen, Eliza and Tweeps in a quiet setting and talk “shop.” I knew Kathleen for many years through Haldane but hadn’t met Eliza or Tweeps. Bios and press releases are nice but a thorough back-and-forth is where you learn things about people.

I came away from the 90-minute talk very impressed. This wasn’t a bunch of left-wing radicals as some have depicted but a smart, (Continued on Page 7)
practical and creative-thinking group that is willing to pivot and think out-of-the-box without losing grasp of the issue at hand.

I shared some stories of the past dysfunction in Haldane politics and how reaching across the table can work, and those who I was told were enemies were good people once you got to know them. They spoke of humility and not having answers to everything, which is a must in public life. I was impressed and I’m willing to give them a shot. My hand is raised to help, and I encourage you in the next two weeks to learn more about them. I think you’ll be as impressed as I was.

Joe Carto, Cold Spring

I support Vinny Tamagna to be the next mayor of Cold Spring. I read with interest about campaign finance and found that Vinny filed Form CF-05, which is the form for exemption from filing financial disclosure reports when the receipts or expenditures of the town or village candidate will not exceed $1,000 for the campaign, as required by the state Board of Elections (“Missing Numbers,” Oct. 8).

Vinny will be spending a modest amount of money compared to his opponent, who since June has raised, as of a disclosure report dated Oct. 7, $19,873.64 and spent $13,627.76. Vinny remains independent and puts the community first. This kind of campaign spending by his opponent is a huge waste of money for a village with under 2,000 residents and only 834 registered voters as of February.

Carol Powell, Cold Spring

I write to explain why I will cast my vote in the upcoming election for Nancy Montgomery for Putnam County legislator, Kathleen Foley for Cold Spring mayor and Eliza Starbuck and Tweepes Phillips Woods for Cold Spring trustees.

I have friends on both sides of our local campaigns. I admire them all for their willingness to run and serve. I am enrolled in no political party. I was a staff member for Republican Rep. Hamilton Fish Jr. and Democratic New York Assembly Member Maurice Hinchey. I served as an unofficial environmental advisor to Republican Gov. George Pataki and Democratic Rep. Paul Tonko. I bring no political biases to my choices.

However, I must disqualify the opposing candidates in the Cold Spring and Putnam County races who have depended upon the support of the leadership of the Putnam County Republican Party. The party’s history of McCarthy-era tactics has no place in local politics. A full-page ad it ran in a Putnam County newspaper on Oct. 31, 2018, stated in bold red type, in a red outlined box: “Democrats embrace Progressiveness, which becomes Socialism and ultimately Communism.”

I condemn this ugly and divisive tactic from the Red Scare days, when political ideologues turned neighbors and friends against each other to consolidate political power. I am disappointed that none of my Republican friends renounced the party leadership responsible for it.

By contrast, Montgomery, Foley, Starbuck and Woods embrace ideals and ideas that will make Cold Spring and Putnam County proud: transparency in government spending, public involvement in decision-making, protection of our residential quality of life and, yes, progressive ideas about infrastructure, traffic, the environment and more.

I have lived here for 40 years. I am not a familiar voice in local politics. But thanks to a full career, politics is familiar to me. I want representation that reflects who we are as a community, and who we are as neighbors. I will be casting my vote in support of these simple, and very American, ideals.

John Cronin, Cold Spring

Putnam County Legislature

With Election Day creeping up rapidly, we are all facing important decisions. In the recent past, the eight Republican members of the Putnam County Legislature have all very publicly vilified Nancy Montgomery, the lone Democrat, with assertions like “she doesn’t play nice,” “she’s a troublemaker” and worse.

In this environment Montgomery has not only stood her ground, but wants to go back for more. I can only say that any woman who can bring eight Republicans to their knees, exasperated and publicly crying out, has got my vote in spades. Go get ‘em, Nancy! Keep up the great work of inviting eight Neanderthal Republicans into the 21st century, all in the unfriendly grounds east of the Taconic Parkway.

For other reasons entirely, I am looking to Vinny Tamagna and his running mates to lead Cold Spring into its next phase and whatever that entails.

Gregory Bochow, Cold Spring

For more reader endorsements, see highlandscurrent.org.
New York State Working Families Party
Beacon Democratic Committee and the

rest of the voters. This position shouldn’t
and basically he doesn’t care about the
hoping that every Democrat votes the line,

Pagones said. “He’s
democratic” candidate.
als, which identify Johnston as the “Demo-
ication
The newcomers who will be on the ballot
next month are Molly Rhodes (Ward 1),
Justice McCray (Ward 2), Wren Longno
(Polygon 3) and Paloma Wake (at-large).

County

experience after four of its six members —
Terry Nelson (Ward 1), Air Rhodes (Ward 2),
Jodi McCredo (Ward 3) and Amber Grant
(at-large) — announced this spring that they
would not seek reelection. Nelson, McCredo
and Grant have all been on the council since
2018; Rhodes won a two-year term in 2019.

The newcomers who will be on the ballot
of the Hudson Public Library and is an organizer of
Beacon 4 Black Lives; Longno is a nonprofit
River Sloop Clearwater and Planned
Beacon 4 Black Lives; Longno is also an organizer of
for the nonprofit Teach for America and
served on the police search commit-
tee; McCray has worked at the Howland
Public Library and is an organizer of
Beacon 4 Black Lives; Longno is also an organizer of
the Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festi-
vial, and was vice chair of the city’s Human
Rights Commission. She is also an orga-
izer of Beacon 4 Black Lives.

Two incumbents, Dan Aymar-Blair (Ward
4), who was first elected in 2019, and long-
time at-large member George Mansfield,
are running for reelection.

The candidates are all Democrats.

Dutchess County
Frits Zernike, a Democrat whose 16th
District seat in the Dutchess County Legis-
lature includes Beacon Ward 4 and part of
Ward 3, also announced earlier this year
that he would not seek reelection to a third,
2-year term.

Yvette Valdes Smith, who serves as secre-
tary on the board of the Stony Kill Founda-
tion, will appear on the Democratic and WFP
lines to fill the seat. Ron Davis, the chair of
the Fishkill Republican Committee, will be
on the Republican and Conservative lines.

Beacon resident Nick Page, a Democrat,
is running unopposed for his third, 2-year
term representing the 18th District, which
includes Beacon Wards 1 and 2 and part of
Ward 3.

Beacon resident Rachel Saunders will be
on the Democratic and WFP lines in the race
for Family Court Judge. She is chal-
enging incumbent Denise Watson, who
will appear on the Republican and Conser-

voters cast ballots for 3 levels of
local government: VILLAGE, TOWN & COUNTY.

Kathleen E. Foley
MAYOR, 2-YR TERM

Eliza Starbuck
TRUSTEE, 2-YR TERM

Tweebs Phillips Woods
TRUSTEE, 1-YR TERM

Village of Cold Spring, Trustee Candidate

A LEADER WITH PASSION,
EXCELLENCE, AND EXPERIENCE.

Work Experience
• Policy development and Strategy
  Consulting for the Department of Defense
  (DoD)
• 20+ years in Business Strategy & Marketing,
  driving revenue solutions for small and large
  businesses
• Adjunct Professor of Marketing, Marist
  College
• Financial Management: Responsible for
  operating budget of $122 Million
• Senior Executive managing a team of 300+
  people, supporting $2.5 Billion in revenue
• New York University, BA, Journalism & New
  Media
• Master of Business Administration (MBA) from Howard University

Record of Service
• Founding member of Putnam County
  NAACP
• Natural Resources Defense Council
  (NRDC) NYC Council Member
• Board Member of Art in General,
  Marketing/Communications Chair
• Social Service Consultant, Public Policy
  Development: 5 years consulting for
government agencies & not-for-profits
• Village of Cold Spring Youth Program
• Village of Cold Spring, Trustee Candidate

Experience the Village Needs
www.YaslynDaniels.com

VOTE EARLY OR VOTE NOV 2

MAKE YASLYN YOUR VILLAGE TRUSTEE

VOTE EARLY OR VOTE NOV 2

Learn more at our website forgeahead.us

Forge Ahead with Us!

Vote Team Forge Ahead!

Village of Cold Spring, Trustee Candidate

Kathleen E. Foley
MAYOR, 2-YR TERM

Eliza Starbuck
TRUSTEE, 2-YR TERM

Tweebs Phillips Woods
TRUSTEE, 1-YR TERM

VOTE EARLY OCT. 23-30
VOTE NOV. 2
Meet Your Candidates

**BEACON CITY COUNCIL**

**Molly Rhodes** (Ward 1)

**Justice McCray** (Ward 2)

**Wren Longno** (Ward 3)

**George Mansfield** (At-large)*

**Dan Aymar-Blair** (Ward 4)*

**Paloma Wake** (At-large)

Why are you running? After being part of the 2020 police chief search committee, I felt inspired to continue working to ensure everyone in Beacon feels valued and supported and benefits from a growing anti-racist community of care. I particularly want to continue Beacon’s focus and investment in safe and affordable housing for all.

Biggest issue: Public safety

Why are you running? Ending systemic racism requires systemic change. Through my work with Beacon 4 Black Lives, I’ve seen the power of civic engagement and mutual aid and I want to create policies that are actively anti-racist, foster sustainability and address the direct needs of the people who live here now. We can redefine our understanding of community safety when we center the lived experiences of those who are most vulnerable. The only way forward is through accountability, transparency, accessibility, compassion and creativity.

Biggest issue: Housing insecurity

Why are you running? As a working parent and 18-year veteran in nonprofit management, I value practicality and the importance of operational, essential systems run by government. On the council, I hope to improve communications between the city and residents so that local policymaking can be a community project.

Biggest issue: We have to face changes responsibly by intentionally protecting our natural environment and our human environment, including protections for affordable housing for all.

Why are you running? I am excited to be running for City Council with a slate of individuals who will bring fresh ideas and unique perspectives to local government. With my 12 years of experience on the council and two years on the Planning Board, I can offer a unique historical perspective and deep institutional knowledge on the challenges we face.

Biggest issue: Our human infrastructure: social services, community kitchen, youth and senior services and a community center.

Why are you running? I am running to change the dynamic of city government to be more collaborative, transparent and anti-racist. I seek to extend my work with Beacon 4 Black Lives, Mutual Aid Beacon and the Human Rights Commission to more effectively address the basic needs of our city’s residents and meet our biggest challenges with brave solutions.

Biggest issue: The rising tide of the climate crisis, which has intersectional consequences and requires intersectional solutions covering housing, food and community connections, which become frayed when basic needs are not being met.

**Yvette Valdes Smith** (D)

**Ronald Davis** (R)

Why are you running? I have made the Beacon Hills community my home for more than 40 years. It is time for me to give back to the area by offering my experience to serve in the Legislature. My priority will be to ensure that our county lives within its means. County agencies need to be efficient in dealing with tax dollars.

Biggest issue: To make the Community Resource Center in Poughkeepsie, where our youth can learn quality skills, become an active part of our community, too.

**DUTCHESS COUNTY LEGISLATURE (DISTRICT 16)**

**George Mansfield** (At-large)*

**Yvette Valdes Smith** (D)

Why are you running? As a past public school teacher, proud union member and mother, I know that hard work and everyday values are worth fighting for. Our government should be more inclusive and diverse, and I will be a strong advocate for all of us. I serve on the board of directors for Stony Kill Farm and have sat on the Environmental Management Council for the Legislature. I know the uphill battles we face to make our community strong and healthy, and I’m ready to tackle them.

Biggest issue: The county is receiving American Rescue Plan funding that must be invested in rebuilding our communities. I am running to ensure the proper oversight and usage of said funds and our tax dollars, and to serve the people of our area.

**DUTCHESS COUNTY LEGISLATURE (DISTRICT 18)**

**Nick Page** (D)*

**Ronald Davis** (R)

Why are you running? I’d like to be a part of a county legislature that’s committed to providing the people of Dutchess County with forward-thinking infrastructure improvements, real social services and career opportunities, and serious attention to reducing the local cost of living.

Biggest issue: The Legislature has the potential to be what it is on paper — a separate and functional branch of county government.
Questions for Candidates: Philipstown Town Board

In anticipation of the Nov. 2 election, we asked the four candidates for two seats on the Philipstown Town Board for their written responses to the same four questions.

The responses from Democratic candidates Jason Angell and Megan Cotter appear below. Those from Republican candidates Sarina Tamagna and Neal Tomann will appear next week, along with responses from John Van Tassel, a Democrat who is running unopposed for town supervisor.

Why are you seeking a seat on the board?

Jason Angell: I believe that local government can play an important part in finding local solutions to problems such as climate change, the economic squeeze more and more people are facing, and growing social divides. My experience working on the Town Board has been about trying to find the best ways to improve the lives of the most people.

Before being on the board, I worked to help move Philipstown and 10 other Hudson Valley communities closer to 100 percent renewable electricity that is also saving residents money. I’ve worked to create farms that donate food to address local food insecurity. I’ve created nonprofit spaces where we can bridge divides to come together and address our priorities. This board seat is an extension of the community work I’m doing.

Megan Cotter: Being a champion for the working class is the primary focus of why I’m seeking a seat on the board. I was lucky enough to grow up in Philipstown and experience what makes this place so special: a caring, small community where neighbors help each other. I’m running for Town Board to carry this basic premise forward.

Representing my community on the Town Board feels like a natural next step for me. Over the past few years in particular, I’ve found more and more residents approach me for guidance on local issues, ranging from disability access to enhancing our village/school parking to expanding Philipstown athletic programs for our kids.

While I’m adamant about being a representative voice for all Philipstown residents, some fundamental issues I will fight for are: (1) Enhancing our main walkways and local transportation to be fully accessible; (2) ensuring people who’ve lived here their whole lives aren’t displaced because they can’t afford the taxes; and (3) developing our communal spaces so seniors, visitors and the school district will benefit. I want to give my kids, and all our youth, a safe and healthy space “to just be kids.”

What do you see as the two most important challenges facing Philipstown in the next four years?

Angell: Over the last few weeks, I’ve personally knocked on nearly 2,000 doors across Philipstown. I’ve met a lot of people who are facing struggles: businesses hit by the COVID-19 shutdown, families with not enough food in the refrigerator, households falling behind on mortgage payments, or the elderly and others facing social isolation. People can be frustrated because they believe that no one cares.

Well, I do care. That is why at our last Town Board meeting I proposed a Committee on Community Care to spearhead a local effort to identify residents that need support and connect them to the helping hand they need. I think this effort could be seeded with American Rescue Plan Act funding that Philipstown receives. I also think that addressing and preparing for the broad impacts of climate change will be one of our most important challenges.

I worked on Philipstown’s greenhouse gas inventory and helped launch the Philipstown Fights Dirty campaign to move toward our town’s goal of local carbon neutrality. I want people to understand that the challenge of facing climate change is about building a more secure local food system, growing a more diverse local economy, investing in infrastructure like biking and walking lanes, and creating networks to look out for each other — all things that will improve our quality of life.

Cotter: (1) Affordability to live and work here. From advancing sustainable homeownership to strengthening small-business growth, I want to make sure Philipstown is an affordable place to live and work. Our elected officials need to identify and enact ways to bridge our increasing wealth divide considering the inflation surge and other pandemic-related factors. (2) Safety and accessibility. From kids to seniors to strollers to people with disabilities, we need to ensure all community members and visitors can safely move around Philipstown with ease. This means making Philipstown’s Complete Streets policy planning (adopted in February 2020) a key priority.

The Town Board is considering whether to opt out of a state law that would allow retail sales and on-site consumption of marijuana. Regardless of the vote, do you feel retail sales and on-site consumption should be allowed in Philipstown?

Angell: The Town Board is being forced to move at a frantic speed based on an arbitrary state deadline. Obviously, marijuana is now legal and people can carry it, grow it and smoke it anywhere cigarette smoking is allowed. Over the last few months, in forming my opinion, I’ve held a public conversation on the topic. The board has held both a workshop and public hearing on the issue. I’ve also talked to a councilperson from Great Barrington, Massachusetts, who had firsthand experience approving a local retail dispensary. He reported that crime or youth use of marijuana didn’t increase, but acknowledged that this is a high-vehicle-traffic business that should be planned for accordingly. I am open to a retail dispensary in the future, but I believe we must do the necessary zoning and planning work to mitigate any potential negative impacts.

Cotter: I don’t feel we’re there yet. There’s no question this is an economic opportunity. I recently read that recreational marijuana sales in Massachusetts have surpassed $2 billion in only three years. However, I strongly believe we first need to build a solid infrastructure foundation that encompasses not only physical limitations (like accessible walkways and parking) but also our mental health and addiction resources (like the Philipstown Behavioral Health Hub).

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 town and the Legislature in Carmel?

Angell: The Town Board has a strong relationship with our county legislator, Nancy Montgomery. Nancy appears regularly at our board meetings and is a strong advocate for our town’s needs. The truth is that politics gets in the way of a lot more good being accomplished by the government. The best way to strengthen the relationship is just by starting to work together more. For example, to bring more services to support Philipstown’s seniors, I’ve begun to explore ways to work more closely with the county’s Office of Senior Resources and the Friendship Center in Cold Spring. Sometimes you just have to make the road by walking.

Cotter: This has certainly been an age-old discussion I can recall, even as a little girl. Maybe we consider sharing more resources? Maybe our elected county officials be more present throughout Putnam beyond their specific jurisdictions? Maybe we hold more county-wide events and/or do a better job communicating happenings on each side of the Taconic? Maybe we require east and west representation on county-focused task forces, committees, etc.?
Election Results
Check highlandscurrent.org after 9 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 2, for unofficial results.

Polls will be open Tuesday, Nov. 2, from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m.
Phone Call (from Page 1)

win reelection. I believe that the voters see that you know how you’re working, that you’ve been doing a great job, and that you have everybody’s best interests at heart.”

He added: “If the voters didn’t support you, it would be doing an injustice to the county…. I’m not going to be doing anything for the McConville campaign at all. There’s reasons why I’m not. But I’m letting you know that I’m out, as far as, you know, helping Kevin do anything at all.”

Schmitt expressed bitterness that he had been challenged in the Republican primary by a former Carmel police chief who won 65 percent of the vote, and described being asked by McConville to join his campaign committee, only to be shunned after he lost the primary. He also suggested that after his term in Carmel ends Dec. 31, “there’ll be something for me” and that he might even “come up and work for the Langley administration.”

Once the recording became public, Schmitt changed his mind and endorsed McConville, posting a photo on his personal Facebook page showing him shaking McConville’s hand.

In a phone interview on Wednesday (Oct. 15) at the historic Old Putnam County Courthouse in Carmel, McConville characterized the Schmitt-Langley exchange as “entirely political in nature” and “a discussion of the election for sheriff, political support, and potential employment as a reward for political support.”

During the call, Langley did not respond to Schmitt’s speculation about a future job in the Sheriff’s Department.

On Oct. 16, Langley posted the audio recording on his campaign’s Facebook page. In a statement the same day, he said he wanted to “clear the air” about the conversation, dismissing McConville’s descriptions of the call as a “hyperbolic and false characterization” and declaring that “there was no violation of public trust and no unethical conduct.”

The sheriff had phoned Schmitt after he was told the supervisor wanted to talk to him. “I was not informed of the reason for the request and I had no idea what the purpose of the call was,” Langley said in his statement. “I have known Mr. Schmitt for many years in a professional capacity and I assumed that the requested phone call was for a professional purpose.”

He added: “Although some politics were discussed, the nature of the call was not ‘political in nature,’ in my mind.”

What Was Said

A transcript of the Aug. 30 phone call between Sheriff Robert Langley Jr. and Town of Carmel Supervisor Ken Schmitt is posted at highlandscurrent.org.

McConville on Oct. 3 compared the phone conversation to Watergate and alleged it was “so unethical it would make President Richard Nixon and former FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover blush.”

“The citizens need to know why the chief law enforcement officer of Putnam County is secretly recording and releasing taped conversations with their elected officials,” he argued.

New York State law permits phone calls to be recorded by one party without the consent of the other. In his statement, Langley said all calls made on his county-issued phone, with some exceptions, are recorded by the Sheriff’s Department, and that recording calls is a standard practice for police departments. Both McConville and Schmitt, a former Carmel police officer, should have been aware of that, he said.

By releasing the recording under FOIL, McConville said, the Sheriff’s Department acknowledged the conversation “was an official government record of the Sheriff’s Office, and not a personal phone call,” and that Langley spoke with Schmitt “to gather campaign material.”

McConville called on Putnam County and state prosecutors to investigate Langley for crimes that included “conspiring to promote or prevent the election of any person to a public office by unlawful means.”

Robert Tendy, the Putnam County district attorney, a Republican like McConville, did not respond to a request for comment.

Langley said in his statement that he plays no role in FOIL releases and that the recording was not posted by “political operatives” because he does not have any. “I have a family, a job and a small group of grassroots volunteers, friends and supporters,” he wrote. “Only those who are constantly campaigning for someone else’s job have political operatives.”

On Oct. 16, on his campaign Facebook page, the sheriff attempted to turn the conversation back to McConville, writing: “It would seem some people are trying to make something out of nothing with standard operating procedures and legally required responses under FOIL requests. There was nothing nefarious…. Perhaps the question that should be asked is: ‘Why won’t Kevin McConville sign a release to the nondisclosure agreement in a lawsuit resulting from his personal misconduct with MTA employees?’ Asking for a friend.”

In August 2015, the MTA paid $1.2 million to settle a 2007 lawsuit brought by 10 black and Hispanic officers who said they had been subjected to racial discrimination.

The lawsuit named the agency, its directors, McConville and his top deputy. With the settlement, the MTA admitted no wrongdoing; the plaintiffs were required to sign nondisclosure agreements. McConville left the MTA in 2008 before spending 12 years as the director of security for NewYork Presbyterian Hudson Valley Hospital.
The Calendar

Lacing Together History

Artist weaves donated fabrics into ‘community’ project
By Leonard Sparks

At the start of the pandemic in March 2020, Patricia Miranda says she knew little about the history of lace, despite having for years hand-dyed the decorative fabric for art projects. Then she began posting, on Instagram and Facebook, pictures of lace handed down from her Irish and Italian grandmothers and colored with dyes she makes from cochineal insects.

Something unexpected happened: Family, friends and strangers began sending her emails and messages offering pieces of their own lace and linens, some of it belonging to grandmothers and great-grandmothers. Soon, the packages started arriving — individual pieces of lace, and decorative cloth, napkins and tablecloths — from around the country and overseas.

“Someone sent me a fairly large box of lace, and then another box came and another box came,” said Miranda.

Those donations are the foundation of Punto in Aria (which translates as Point in Air), an installation of Miranda’s textile-based art that continues through Nov. 7 inside two galleries at the Garrison Art Center. The exhibition, which incorporates more than 1,500 pieces of lace sewn together into artworks, combines large sculptures with panels and glass gilded with vintage and inherited gold leaf.

Miranda, the art center’s visiting artist for 2021, estimates that some of the lace she received dates to the 18th century, and said that some people included notes describing their donation’s history. One person sent a six-page, handwritten letter, she said.

“I realized that this became a community project, and that people felt compelled to be a part of it,” said Miranda, who splits her time between Manhattan and Peekskill. “It’s an honor and kind of a responsibility in the best sense of the term.”

The Art of Experience

An art critic I am not. As with wine, I know what I like, but it’s purely my opinion, and in both cases, based on deficient knowledge. I tend to laugh at, and can never taste, the “hints of whatever” described on a wine label. With art, I should be banned from any discussion of its meaning or significance. The “Mona Lisa”? To quote John McEnroe, “You cannot be serious!” What a letdown when I finally saw Mona’s smirk in person.

Long ago, I decided art is simply what artists do. I tend to avoid contemporary art. I got in trouble at the Guggenheim Museum in New York City when I sat on a sculpture. Why would any artist make a sculpture look like a bench?

I have no idea what inspired me to attempt to replace Alison Rooney, our arts editor, who is vacationing in Italy, no doubt overdosing on outstanding art. It might have been the “paint-by-number” piece I’ve been working on for a year.

So, I took Alison’s seat on The New York Drive with Cristian Chironi, an artist from Orani, Sardinia, also the birthplace of Costantino Nivola (1911-1988), whose sandcast works are featured at Magazzino Italian Art just outside Cold Spring.

In addition to his art, Nivola was renowned for bombing around eastern Long Island in a multi-colored Fiat. The New York Drive is a tribute to him, a performance by Chironi, in which he chauffeured residents of three New York communities in an old Fiat 127, the same model used by Nivola.

Reporters’ Notebook

By Michael Turton

A new art critic I am not. As with wine, I know what I like, but it’s purely my opinion, and in both cases, based on deficient knowledge. I tend to laugh at, and can never taste, the “hints of whatever” described on a wine label. With art, I should be banned from any discussion of its meaning or significance. The “Mona Lisa”? To quote John McEnroe, “You cannot be serious!” What a letdown when I finally saw Mona’s smirk in person.

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Cristian Chironi drives passengers down Main Street in Cold Spring on Oct. 16.
THE WEEK AHEAD

Edited by Pamela Doan (calendar@highlandscurrent.org)
For a complete listing of events, see highlandscurrent.org/calendar.

KIDS & FAMILY

SAT 23
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: $15 ($8 ages 5 to 12; 5 and younger free)

SAT 23
Outdoor Halloween Crafts
GARRISON
11 a.m. Desmond-Fish Library
472 Route 403 | 845-424-3020
desmondfishlibrary.org
Help make decorations and dress up the library for the Pumpkin Glow.

SUN 24
Creep, Crawl, Slither
CORNWALL
10 a.m. & 1 p.m. 1120 Muser Drive
Outdoor Discovery Center
845-534-5506
Learn about animals and reptiles that move in ways that some people find unsettling. Cost: $10 ($8 ages 3 to 12; members $8/$6)

TUES 26
Halloween Family Science Night
GARRISON
6 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library
472 Route 403 | 845-424-3020
desmondfishlibrary.org
Come for experiments and crafts that are scary, gross and exciting.

TUES 26
Inspired Parent-Teen Art Series
GARRISON
6:30 p.m. Garrison Art Center
23 Garrison’s Landing
covecarecenter.org/inspired
The Cove Care Center will host this painting workshop for parents and teens promoting drug-free communities. Ages 12 and older must be vaccinated against COVID-19. Cost: $10

THURS 28
Ghost Hunting
GARRISON
7 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library
472 Route 403 | 845-424-3020
desmondfishlibrary.org
Teens can make and code an electromagnetic field meter using Arduino microcontrollers and then see what they find in the dim lights of the library.

FRI 29
Halloween Party
COLD SPRING
5:30 & 6:30 p.m. Butterfield Library
10 Morris Ave. | 845-265-3040
butterfieldlibrary.org
Children ages 1 to 10 will party at 5:30 p.m. and those in grades 6 and up are invited to arrive at 6:30 p.m. Wear costumes, go on a candy hunt, win prizes and be ready for thrills and chills.

SAT 30
I SPY Halloween Scavenger Hunt
CORNWALL
11 a.m. – 3 p.m. Outdoor Discovery Center
120 Muser Drive | 845-534-5506 x204 | hhnm.org
Online reservations for a hunt along the I SPY Trail will be offered every 30 minutes starting at 11 a.m. Cost: $10

Fall Fest
COLD SPRING
Noon – 4 p.m. Faith Church | 245 Main St.
845-203-0400 | faithchurchcc.org
Enjoy bounce houses, face painting, crafts and a food truck with snacks for purchase. Free

SAT 31
Laurie Berkner Halloween Party
PEEKSAILL
Noon & 5 p.m. Via Zoom
laurieberkner.com
The popular children’s performer will lead a virtual dance party and sing-a-long in this interactive performance hosted by the Paramount Hudson Valley. Cost: $10 or $20

COMMUNITY

SAT 23
Meadows and Trails 5K
GARRISON
7:30 a.m. Outdoor Discovery Center
120 Muser Drive | 845-534-5506
hhnm.org
The race begins at 9 a.m. The first 100 children and teens younger than 18 can participate free. Register on-site day of race. Cost: $40

SAT 23
Harvest Festival
PUTNAM VALLEY
Noon – 4 p.m.
Tompkins Corners Cultural Center
725 Peekskill Hollow Road
tompkinscorners.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 farmers market, artisans and a tag sale. Cost: $10 (12 and younger free)

SAT 23
Oktoberfest
BREUSTER
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)

WED 27
Putnam County Flu Shot Clinic
GARRISON
2 – 6:30 p.m. Garrison Firehouse
1616 Route 9
putnamcounty.ny.gov/seasonalfluclinic
An online appointment is required. Ages 18 and older. Cost: $20 (free for 65 and older or with Medicare card)

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845-203-0400 | faithchurchcc.org
Enjoy bounce houses, face painting, crafts and a food truck with snacks for purchase. Free
SAT 30
Castle to River Run
GARRISON
8 a.m. Philipstown Rec
107 Glencliffy Dr. | 845-424-4618
friendsphilipstownrecreation.org
This fundraiser for the Friends of Philipstown Recreation climbs up to Osborn’s Castle and down to the river. Choose a half marathon (9 a.m.) or a 5k (10:30 a.m.). Children can run a 1-mile course in costume (10:30 a.m.). Register online. Cost: $5 to $45

TUES 26
The Jewish Experience and BIA
BEACON
7 p.m. Beacon Historical Society
Via Zoom | beaconhistorical.com
Diane Lapis and Anna Marcus will discuss the founding of the Beacon Hebrew Alliance in 1901 and the Jewish immigrants from Eastern Europe and Russia who created a community here. Register online.

WED 27
Climate Change Town Hall
GARRISON
7 p.m. Via Zoom | 914-941-1111
Sandy Galey, whose district in the state Assembly includes Philipstown, will lead a panel with speakers from Environmental Advocates of New York, New York Independent System Operator, and Croton100. Call or email galefs@nyassembly.gov for the link.

SAT 30
How to Save Local News (We Hope)
KINGSTON
5 p.m. Via Zoom
bit.ly/save-local-news
In this webinar sponsored by Chronogram’s The River, Chip Rowe, editor of The Current; Tim Bruno of WJFF Radio Catskill; Alex Shiffer from the Kingston Wire; and Genia Wickwire from Ulster Publishing will discuss the challenges facing local news. Cost: $5

SAT 30
Newburgh Literary Festival
NEWBURGH
11 a.m. – 6 p.m.
Lobby at the Ritz Theater
107 Broadway
safe-harbors.org/events/nlfl/2021
The second annual event will feature interviews, readings and a writers’ fair with eight authors, including Julie Chibbaro and Saïd R. groundwork. Cost: $10 ($20 streaming)

SAT 30
Concert for Climate Solutions
BEACON
5 – 9 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St. 845-855-1300 | townecrier.com
The finale of Hudson Valley Climate Solutions Week will include performances by Bruce Molsky, the Vanaver Caravan and Scott Cook. Cost: $20 ($25 door)

FRI 29
Orleans
PEEKSKILL
8 p.m. Paramount Hudson Valley
1008 Brown St. | 914-739-0039
paramounthudsonvalley.com
Founding member John Hall released Reclaiming My Time this year and will be joined by the original band. Cost: $32.50 to $49.50

SAT 30
R.J. Storm and Old No Quarter
Gregory Alan Isakov and Joe Donahue
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)

SAT 23
No Quarter
PEEKSKILL
8 p.m. Paramount Hudson Valley
1008 Brown St. | 914-739-0039
paramptonhudsonvalley.com
The Led Zeppelin tribute band will portray the band members in their prime of life. Cost: $20 or $29

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)

TUES 26
Halloween at the Opera
BEACON
1 p.m. Howland Public Library
Via Zoom | 845-831-1134
beaconlibrary.org
Tanisha Mitchell will discuss the supernatural and suspense in opera with examples from Mozart’s Don Giovanni, Verdi’s Il Trovatore and Puccini’s Tosca.

SAT 23
A Hero’s Journey: A Sort-Of Solo Theatrical Performance
BEACON
7:30 p.m.
Beacon Performing Arts Center
327B Main St. | heroshojourney.cck.page
Emilie Clare Zempel created and acts in this one-person show using the challenges and triumphs of the hero’s journey as a framework for overcoming personal loss. Cost: $10

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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, Guitarman of One, David Henningsen and Peter Kevara will perform in the Brick Pan Alley show. Free

SAT 23
R.J. Storm and Old No Quarter
Gregory Alan Isakov and Joe Donahue
BEACON
8 p.m. Paramount Hudson Valley
1008 Brown St. | 914-739-0039
paramptonhudsonvalley.com
The six-piece band will perform classics and original bluegrass music. Cost: $15 ($20 door)

TUES 26
Halloween at the Opera
BEACON
1 p.m. Howland Public Library
Via Zoom | 845-831-1134
beaconlibrary.org
Tanisha Mitchell will discuss the supernatural and suspense in opera with examples from Mozart’s Don Giovanni, Verdi’s Il Trovatore and Puccini’s Tosca.

SAT 23
Soon Is Now
BEACON
1 – 4 p.m.
Long Dock Park
23 Long Dock Road
hvclimatesolutionsweek.org
As part of Hudson Valley Climate Solutions Week, the Climate Change Theatre Action will perform a selection of 5-minute plays; actors will read a portion of Escapegoat, by May Trench-Ali; Edwin Torres and Tom King will read poetry; and Elizabeth Clark (Seeds Under Nuclear Winter: An Earth Opera) will perform music.

SAT 23
No Quarter
PEEKSKILL
8 p.m. Paramount Hudson Valley
1008 Brown St. | 914-739-0039
paramptonhudsonvalley.com
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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)

SUN 24
Duo Loco
BEACON
12:30 – 2:30 p.m.
Farmers’ Market
223 Main St.
beaconfarmersmarket.org
Studio Stu and Paul Duffy take the best of classic jazz and originals and twist and bend them into what they call “jazz unstandards.” Sponsored by The Highlands Current.

SUN 24
Concert for Climate Solutions
BEACON
5 – 9 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St. 845-855-1300 | townecrier.com
The finale of Hudson Valley Climate Solutions Week will include performances by Bruce Molsky, the Vanaver Caravan and Scott Cook. Cost: $20 ($25 door)

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Orleans
PEEKSKILL
8 p.m. Paramount Hudson Valley
1008 Brown St. | 914-739-0039
paramptonhudsonvalley.com
Founding member John Hall released Reclaiming My Time this year and will be joined by the original band. Cost: $32.50 to $49.50

SAT 30
R.J. Storm and Old No Quarter
Gregory Alan Isakov and Joe Donahue
BEACON
8 p.m. Paramount Hudson Valley
1008 Brown St. | 914-739-0039
paramptonhudsonvalley.com
The six-piece band will perform classics and original bluegrass music. Cost: $15 ($20 door)

SUN 31
Django Festival All-Stars
BEACON
7 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St. 845-855-1300 | townecrier.com
The French band will perform standards and originals that harken back to the 1930s and 1940s in Europe with swing and a ballad. Cost: $30 ($35 door)

CIVIC
SAT 23
Early Voting
PHILIPSTOWN
9 a.m. – 2 p.m.
North Highlands Firehouse
504 Fishkill Road | paramusconvention.com
Continues through SUN 31. See Page 11.

SAT 23
Early Voting
FISHKILL
10 a.m. – 3 p.m.
Fishkill Town Hall
807 Route 52
elections.dutchessny.gov
Continues through SUN 31. See Page 11.

MON 25
City Council
BEACON
7 p.m. City Hall | 1 Municipal Plaza
845-838-5011 | beaconny.gov

TUES 26
Capital Project Vote
BEACON
6 a.m. – 9 p.m. Beacon High School
101 Mattawan Road
845-838-6900
beacon12.org/domain/577
Beacon school district voters are being asked to approve a $26 million capital project. There is more information online. District residents who live in Fishkill or Wappinger voter at Glenham Elementary.

TUES 26
Budget Hearing
CARMEL
7 p.m. Historic Courthouse
40 Glines Ave.
The Putnam County Legislature will hear comments on the proposed 2022 budget.

TUES 26
Board of Trustees
COLD SPRING
7:30 p.m. Village Hall | 85 Main St.
845-265-3611 | coldspringny.gov

WED 27
Budget Town Hall
POUGHKEEPSIE
1-3 p.m. Via Facebook
facebook.com/dutchesscogov
Dutchess County Executive Marc Molinaro will discuss his proposed 2022 budget.

WED 27
School Board
BEACON
7 p.m. Beacon High School
101 Mattawan Road | 845-838-6900
beacon12.org
NY Drive (from Page 13)

On Sunday morning, the drive headed out from Cold Spring’s bandstand. In the car were an artist, a lawyer, a real estate agent and a reporter. Sounds like the start of a bad joke.

Originally assigned as co-pilot for the artist-chauffeur, I was disappointed to be relegated to the back seat. My 6-foot, anything-but-skinny frame made that a bit of a challenge.

We drove up Main Street, south on Route 9D to Garrison and back. That was it. Performance done. The “Mona Lisa” popped into my head.

When asked at our weekly editorial meeting what the performance was like, without a second thought I blurted out, “It was pretty dumb.”

That’s when our editor, Chip Rowe, quipped, “So, you have to write about it, Mike.” And that’s what gives editors a bad name.

Now I had to actually think about the drive. And the more I thought about it, the more I realized it was not dumb at all. I actually enjoyed it.

Here’s why.

The crazily painted 1971 Fiat 127 Special was great. Even greater is what Chironi named it, “Chameleon.” Greater yet was my realization that the last time I rode in a 1971 taxi was 50 years ago. I’m sure Cristian was my first taxi driver in Rome 50 years ago. I’m sure he isn’t old enough.

On the return trip I noticed Cristian’s smirk. He couldn’t get out of it. I was now aware art isn’t just what artists do. It can be an experience, one that can get even better if left to simmer in a participant’s mind for a few days.

The best thing I’ve gained is awareness of two very interesting artists, creative men I had not even heard of before.

Google both of them. Visit Magazzino Italian Art, as I did, to view Nivola’s sand-casts. They are unique and brilliant.

I Googled the “Mona Lisa” for the first time in years. I swear that smirk is now a favorite live sports, news & entertainment

GET DIRECTV — Only $69.99/mo. for 12 months with Choice package. Watch your favorite live sports, news & entertainment anywhere. One year of HBO Max FREE. Some restrictions apply. Call 844-275-5947.

GET DIRECTV — Only $69.99/mo. for 12 months with Choice package. Watch your favorite live sports, news & entertainment anywhere. One year of HBO Max FREE. Some restrictions apply. Call 844-275-5947.

SERVER/HOSTESS/HELPER AVAILABLE — For in-home parties and events. 20 years of experience. Call Diane at 845-222-3093.

Cristian Chironi drove passengers around Cold Spring on Oct. 16.

Photos by Alexa Hoyer/Magazzino
Lacing (from Page 13)

earning a degree in sculpture, then added a master’s degree from the Vermont College of Fine Arts. She has founded two artist projects (the Crit Lab and MAPSpace), worked with homeless youth in Westchester County, developed programs for schools and museums and exhibited at galleries and museums in the U.S. and Vienna.

Her choice of medium eventually changed from painting to making objects “that live in the world in a different way.” Deciding to return to her roots in sculpture, she began working with lace colored with her hand-made dyes and paints. The material served another goal: to make larger works with a low environmental impact, but not ones requiring a lot of space to exhibit and store.

“Textiles seemed like a wonderful way to be able to do what could be large installations that would fold up into a manageable scale that I could transport. And also, the materials were environmentally safe,” she said.

She also began to see textiles as a “powerful metaphor” for women’s labor on two fronts: the textile mills where they have historically toiled, and in the household, where lace was either sewed or bought to adorn such items as aprons and handkerchiefs.

A new sense of lace’s history drives an adjunct to the project: Miranda has been photographing, measuring and documenting each piece of lace and linens she received for an online archive at thelacearchive.net. Visitors to the exhibit are encouraged to add their own fabric to the collection.

Miranda is also leading two free workshops for children and adults on Saturday (Oct. 23), where she will demonstrate how to make dyes and color fabrics. “It’s been an amazing project,” she said.

The Garrison Art Center, at 23 Garrison’s Landing, is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Tuesday to Sunday. The Oct. 23 workshops will be held at 10:30 a.m. for families with children and 1:30 p.m. for adults, followed by an artist’s talk at 5:30 p.m. Register at garrisonartcenter.org.

"Where there is serene length" was created with vintage textile and books, muslin, twill tape, thread, pins and a steel ring. 

"Enwrapped in arms enfolding: I and II" were made with vintage textiles and books, thread, pins and a steel ring.

“Times like these require smart and dedicated people who have the broad skill set to meet the demands of a constantly changing future. I know that Jason Angell is that person. His commitment to Philipstown is an established fact. I am certain that once you hear Jason’s ideas and witness his work ethic, you will join me in supporting him as a candidate for the Philipstown Town Board.”

— Richard Shea, Town of Philipstown Supervisor

Jason is proud to run on the independent Team Philipstown line with John Van Tassel & Megan Cotter.

Early voting begins this weekend: October 23-31. @ North Highlands Fire House, Cold Spring

Vote on November 2 at your polling station.

jasonforphilipstown.com

Paid for by Jason for Philipstown.
Small, Good Things

Less is More

By Joe Dizney

Despite the fact that, by all reports, apple crops are off this year, locally you wouldn’t know it. Last weekend was an almost desperate frenzy of activity and a flurry of offers and entreaties to “Please! Take some!”

Just-picked apples and countless downstream concoctions — applesauce, apple butter, chutney, crisps and cobblers — are hard to turn down, but, jeez, when it rains, it pours! And speaking of pouring, fresh-pressed cider was the final frontier.

But regardless of how good it is, how much can one household stand? Then I remembered boiled cider.

No, it’s not a hot spiced drink. It’s an actual thing, a traditional and all-but-forgotten New England homesteaders’ staple, a shelf-stable sweetener, produced by simply boiling down fresh-pressed and otherwise unprocessed apple juice (reducing it to about an eighth of its original volume) to a concentration the color of molasses and consistency of maple syrup.

Boiled cider (or apple molasses as it was also known) is also a useful substitute for sugar, or honey or maple syrup in baking — cider doughnuts, anyone? And culinary recipes could benefit from the complex sweet-tart flavor of New York’s official state fruit. (For instance: as a glaze for ham or pork, or even roasted squash or Brussels sprouts, or simply to sweeten baked beans.)

It’s pourable, for pancakes, waffles or French toast, and makes a fine dessert sauce for puddings and ice cream or yogurt. Less reductio ad absurdum and more reductio ad rationabilis: 2 gallons of raw cider boiled down produces a single quart, ends up taking less shelf space and keeps longer, becoming infinitely more useful. It’s a win-win-win all-around. So why isn’t boiled cider more widely known? Maybe it just needs a better name?

Boiled cider (along with cider jelly) was one of the first distinctive and disappearing American foods to be included in the Slow Foods movement’s “Ark of Taste,” an international catalog of “endangered” foodstuffs. Vermont-based Wood’s Cider Mill was cited as one of the last — if not only — commercial purveyors of the product. (But to be fair, I found that Hollenbeck’s Cider Mill in Virgil, New York, does produce boiled cider for sale in their farmstand store but doesn’t ship. I’m sure there are others but it’s an under-the-radar industry-in-the-making.)

Then again, if colonial homesteaders could do it, it’s easy enough to muster some up in any modern kitchen. As mentioned, it’s wildly useful and a great addition to the pantry.

Hence this attempted deconstruction, a caramel apple turned in on itself — a caramel dessert sauce made from boiled cider, just in time for the holidays.

Use it as a final touch drizzled over holiday festive cakes and pies or just plain ice cream. (It’s good on yogurt, too.) Use it in pies, strudels or bread puddings or in breakfast cinnamon rolls or to coat candied nuts — anywhere you might use a “straight” caramel sauce. A light sprinkle of flaky sea salt wouldn’t be out of place.

Or just keep it simple: As a “dip” for slices of fresh apples (as shown here), it’s proof positive that less is indeed more.

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Boiled Cider Caramel Dessert Sauce

Makes about 2 cups

- 4 cups organic apple cider, or ½ cup boiled cider (Do not use processed apple juice.)
- ½ cup light brown raw sugar
- ¼ teaspoon ground cinnamon
- ⅛ teaspoon ground nutmeg
- ⅛ teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1 cup heavy cream, at room temperature
- 6 tablespoons unsalted butter, at room temperature
- 6 tablespoons unsalted butter, at room temperature
- 1 cup heavy cream, at room temperature
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- ½ cup boiled cider
- ¼ cup boiled cider
- ½ cup boiled cider
- ⅛ teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1 cup heavy cream, at room temperature
- 1 cup heavy cream, at room temperature
- 6 tablespoons unsalted butter, at room temperature
- 6 tablespoons unsalted butter, at room temperature
- 1 cup heavy cream, at room temperature
- 1 cup heavy cream, at room temperature
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract

1. Bring fresh cider to a boil in a large (at least 4 quarts; larger, if available) saucepan. Keep an eye on it and reduce it to ⅛ of its volume, or ½ cup of reduced, boiled cider.

2. Over medium to medium-low heat, to the saucepan containing the ½ cup boiled cider, add sugar, cinnamon, nutmeg, butter and ⅛ cup of the cream. Stir until the sugar is dissolved, then add the vanilla and remaining cream. Cook for about 10 to 12 minutes. (If you have a candy thermometer, you’re looking for a final temperature of 230 to 235 degrees.) The sauce will thicken and darken to a caramel consistency as it cooks, but keep in mind it will thicken more as it cools.

3. Remove from heat and add the vanilla, remaining cream and salt. Stir to combine and set aside to cool. Transfer sauce to a heat-safe container. Serve warm. (Sauce will keep stored covered in the refrigerator for up to a month. Re-warm uncovered container in a water bath. If you need to thin it out a bit, while warming add 1 tablespoon of cream at a time and incorporate to desired consistency.)
Dar Williams: Back On the Road

Cold Spring singer-songwriter tours after yearlong delay

By Leonard Sparks

In November 2020, we interviewed Cold Spring singer-songwriter Dar Williams about the cancellation of her new album’s release and a new tour because of the pandemic. A year later, Williams’ album, I’ll Meet You Here, is now out and she is in the middle of a coast-to-coast tour. She spoke to The Current from St. Louis.

What’s the tour been like so far?

It’s 90 percent great and 10 percent anxious. We had one show that got canceled at the last minute. How you act is dependent on the people that you’re around, and everyone that we’re around takes everything very seriously, so it’s like, “As long as we do this, we can do that.” Just like anything, we work around the limitation, and then we get to have everything. So far, we have stayed safe and, I believe, have kept everybody around us safe, including the audience. Dare I say that it feels normal?

Does it feel like a reunion?

It feels like a reunion, but it also feels like a reunion with the trees and the architecture and the neighborhoods — coming back to the same concert halls. It’s more than just the people. It’s the air around us as well. The first gigs that I did, the audience was giddy. We were vaccinated, we were outside and we felt like we could see the other side of this thing. It was something you could feel in the air. That’s another cool thing about performing: You can feel the audience after you’ve been doing it for a while. I’m experiencing a lot of gratitude for what I do for a living and I’m sensing that from audiences, too. They’re grateful for the phenomenon of live performance in a way that they didn’t necessarily realize they were before the pandemic.

How have the logistics of touring changed from pre-pandemic?

The story we’re seeing is more an emotional story than a logistical one. People were ratted by what happened the last year-and-a-half. It shook them up. Sometimes it rattled them, sometimes it enlightened them and sometimes I think people learned a lot about themselves during this time. More than one person has said, “I’m sorry. I’m still not good at interacting right now. I’m still remembering how to be in a social setting.”

Are the difficulties over that musicians and venues faced last year?

They’re marginally better, but we’re not out of the woods. The small-business aid and the [fundraising] checks helped people and institutions survive, but we’re in a weird middle place where we definitely see less people in the audience. They’re [venues] using all the electricity for half the audience. I’m guessing that that’s still a net plus, but it’s the whole bar, it’s the whole cleaning staff, it’s the whole venue for half the audience. So the excitement for days ahead is still ahead of them.

Dar Williams: Back On the Road

Cold Spring singer-songwriter Dar Williams is back on the road after a year-long delay because of the pandemic.

Photos provided

Dar Williams’ latest album, I’ll Meet You Here, was released on Oct. 1.

Since Sheriff Langley was elected:

• Crime has been reduced by 50%.
• Opioid related deaths have been reduced by 50%.
• Putnam is one of the 20 safest counties in the U.S.*

*U.S. News and World Report

Our Children, Our Parents, Our Grandparents

We’re all safer since Sheriff Langley was elected

On November 2nd, RE-ELECT Sheriff Robert Langley

Paid for by Friends of Langley
Kid Friendly

Surrendering in Motion

By Katie Hellmuth Martin

The call came in at 11:30 a.m. on a Tuesday. I’d just bounced in from my daily jog and was going to corral the family for a meeting on the upcoming school schedule. My youngest was about to start pre-K in the half-day model (8:30 to 11:30 a.m.), and I had just finished writing a year’s worth of checks to BCAP (Be Creative As Possible), the Beacon-based program many parents use to supplement the rest of the day (12:30 to 3 p.m.). My middle child would be at South Avenue Elementary, and my eldest at Rombout Middle School.

“Hello, this is the Beacon City School District,” the voice on my phone said, “calling to let you know that your child has won a lottery seat in Beacon’s new full-day pre-K program at Glenham Elementary. This includes busing. There are 18 seats available in the program. Are you interested? The Parent Portal is a new world, in addition to ClassDojo and Bloomz, which allow me to communicate almost instantly with teachers. With this much detachment from work, I’d normally be curled up in a ball. If I don’t post articles to my blog, I feel like a failure. But I got to do what I got to do. I have to exercise and eat breakfast daily. And that takes time. I work from home, so I have to have clean surroundings, with no spilled lemonade. And that takes time. A photographer came over last week and nearly sat on slime.

To do me, I fight daily self-sabotaging thoughts, and some real-life comments, that bring me down. These would be comments like: “Well, you have to stay fit!” But was it said with snark? Is my athleisure-wear triggering stereotypical thoughts, like, “She doesn’t do anything all day, why is she late to school drop-off?” (Answer: Because my other child forgot his trombone but he had it ready.)

I defend my lifestyle choices with: “I have to exercise because I have pelvic floor prolapse, and I need everything to stay strong.” Self-deprecation is the norm in female-speak, and I’m quite sick of it. Women tend to destroy themselves to stay safe and below the radar. Anything above the radar — into happiness or shining — tends to get smashed down. And that could be by parents or friends or strangers. I’ve heard it from every corner.

Over the years, friends have asked: “You put makeup on?!” (while nursing) Yes. “You styled your hair?!” (while out shopping) Yes. “You are running daily?!” (while buried in work deadlines) YES.

“Staying in motion with Skateboard Pilates, a lifestyle-hack created by the writer’s 9-year-old during quarantine. One real-life pilates class has been worked back into the writer’s schedule.”

“You are running daily?!” (while buried in work deadlines)

Yes. After the lifestyle choices of driving my littiest to Glenham daily both ways (he could take the bus, which would give me two more hours in the day, but I like saying “Hi” to the teachers, seeing the little friends, experiencing the parking drama to see how much Glenham needs an expanded parking lot, etc.), I’m ready to work by 2 p.m. But at 2:30 p.m., I need to leave to pick up my Pre-Ker, return home with maybe a stop at a park, fix my kids a snack that is basically lemonade. And that takes time. I work from home, so I have to have clean surroundings, with no spilled lemonade. And that takes time. A photographer came over last week and nearly sat on slime.

To do me, I fight daily self-sabotaging thoughts, and some real-life comments, that bring me down. These would be comments like: “Well, you have to stay fit!” But was it said with snark? Is my athleisure-wear triggering stereotypical thoughts, like, “She doesn’t do anything all day, why is she late to school drop-off?” (Answer: Because my other child forgot his trombone but he had it ready but a friend told him he didn’t need it!?!?)

I defend my lifestyle choices with: “I have to exercise because I have pelvic floor prolapse, and I need everything to stay strong.” Self-deprecation is the norm in female-speak, and I’m quite sick of it. Women tend to destroy themselves to stay safe and below the radar. Anything above the radar — into happiness or shining — tends to get smashed down. And that could be by parents or friends or strangers. I’ve heard it from every corner.

Over the years, friends have asked: “You put makeup on?!” (while nursing) Yes. “You styled your hair?!” (while out shopping with stroller) Yes.

“You are running daily?!” (while buried in work deadlines)

Yes.

Every October, my former business partner would get into a faraway, funky place. I finally put 2 and 2 together — that October is the month her brother had died at age 14, when a drunken driver hit the car he was in. Their mother ran her own business as a caterer and stopped, as she wanted to cherish her time with her remaining children (two daughters).

I want to cherish this time. I surrender to the schedule. It will work out if I stay in motion, yet on point.

“I GET ALONG, I DON’T JUST GO ALONG.”

VOTE FOR NANCY!

ELECTNANCYMONTGOMERY.COM
Marathon Zoning Remains Up in the Air

Shore protection work slated for Dockside Park

By Michael Turton

Hundreds of revisions to the village code, part of a grueling update of a more than 500-page document, have drawn little or no public comment.

Not so when it comes to Chapter 134 – Zoning. The topic has been in the spotlight over a 12-acre parcel of land on Kemble Avenue that was formerly the site of the Marathon battery factory.

Public hearings began in early September and have produced considerable feedback. Yet, with hearings held as recently as Oct. 14 and 18, and another scheduled for Oct. 21, the issue remains unsettled.

The question is what zoning should be applied to the Marathon site. No fewer than four options are being considered.

The site has been zoned Light Industry for decades in large part due to its proximity to the massive West Point Foundry. But most agree “industry” is now not appropriate.

The Code Update Committee recommended a Mixed-Use designation, a change initially supported by the Village Board and the topic of discussion at a Sept. 7 public hearing. However, three weeks later, largely on the advice of Village Attorney John Furnst and Village Planner Ted Fink, the idea of keeping the site zoned Light Industry while considering a change to Planned Unit Development was broadly supported by the board.

That shift, and the speed at which it was made, brought strong opposition from a number of residents, including Paul Henderson, who had served on the Code Update Committee.

Michael Reisman, who also worked on code update and the comprehensive plan, commented on Sept. 7 that the Mixed-Use designation had been “many years in the making,” describing it as “an important piecemeal naming run that was done in a very thoughtful way.”

At the Tuesday (Oct. 19) public hearing, the board had its first look at a fourth possible designation, Planned Mixed Use-2, proposed by Fink the previous day. According to Mayor Dave Merandy, it includes measures to ensure village control over the site’s development.

Ken Kearney, who with his son Sean are principals in the Kearney Realty and Development Group, which owns the site, spoke at the Oct. 14 hearing via Zoom. He urged the Village Board to settle the zoning question before the Nov. 2 election. (Merandy and two of the three trustees are not on the ballot.)

“There is going to be a new majority on this board” that won’t have “the institutional knowledge this board has,” Kearney said. “There’s nobody in this village better equipped to make this decision.”

Kearney said he does not intend to build a residential subdivision on the site. “I’ve said that in other communities and they’ve said, ‘We’re going hold you to that,’” he said, adding that municipalities can put “guardrails,” or conditions, on development plans to protect community interests.

In Somers, for example, the town wanted more commercial space than it had proposed on a project and worked with Kearney to achieve that. “We’ve done that in other communities,” as well, he said.

Kearney said he favors the Mixed-Use designation. “There’s a way to work withMU1 [in which] you’ll still have control,” he said. “Fake another look at it; put guard rails on it.”

In a letter to the board, Sean Kearney, who lives across from the Marathon site, wrote that not adopting Mixed-Use zoning at Marathon would be inconsistent with the Comprehensive Plan and “a great disservice to all the volunteer work and community input over the last 10 years.” He cited work done by the Code Update Committee and special boards for the comprehensive plan and local waterfront revitalization strategy, which support Mixed-Use.

He said the board can include language in Mixed-Use zoning that ensures the site won’t be developed piecemeal. Piecemeal development draws criticism for resulting in residential-only development.

At recent hearings, residents Peter Henderson, Karen Maschke and Randi Schlesinger each urged the board to carefully consider traffic to and from the site, no matter how it is developed. Currently, the only exit is via Kemble Avenue, a one-way street. Getting to the site is limited to Wall and Rock streets. A road winds through the Forge Gate condominium complex and connects to the Boulevard.

Merandy (from Page 1)

date. A former longtime member of the Historic District Review Board, she ran unopposed in November 2020 to win a seat on the Village Board.

Merandy charged that Foley, while gathering signatures to get his name on the Nov. 2 ballot, also covertly gathered support for her own campaign. I kept my commitment that guaranteed there would be only two candidates: Kathleen and Vinny,” Merandy wrote.

“That is wildly incorrect,” Foley wrote in an email on Thursday (Oct. 21) when asked about the claim. “I worked hard for Dave in three elections, and was actively doing so again. We both agreed that Vinny Tamagna doesn’t represent the future of Cold Spring.

“I recruited volunteers to carry Dave’s nominating petitions, and from the field they reported that many people had significant reservations signing for Dave. It was clear he had lost too much public support to win. That’s a chance I wasn’t willing to take for our village and got Dave the signatures he needed to be on the ballot. Only then did I inform the volunteers of my decision to run as a third candidate. They had the option to sign his petition, mine or none. They signed mine. Dave made his own choice to drop out.”

Merandy took a highly personal tone in his ad, saying that Foley “had been a dear friend of my family and mine for nearly a decade” and that the couple were “stunned and saddened by her actions and her public misconduct toward both of us.”

The key to his strategy, Merandy asserted, was Daniels, who he believes would be a swing vote and prevent a consistent majority from selecting her replacement on the board.

In a letter to the board, Sean Kearney, who lives across from the Marathon site, commented on Sept. 7 that the Mixed-Use zoning ensures the site won’t be developed piecemeal. Piecemeal development draws criticism for resulting in residential-only development.

At recent hearings, residents Peter Henderson, Karen Maschke and Randi Schlesinger each urged the board to carefully consider traffic to and from the site, no matter how it is developed. Currently, the only exit is via Kemble Avenue, a one-way street. Getting to the site is limited to Wall and Rock streets. A road winds through the Forge Gate condominium complex and connects to the Boulevard.

Merandy said concern had been raised that Vinny Tamagna, a candidate for mayor, was in the park during a recent meeting between Merandy and state officials. “I can assure you I didn’t invite him,” said Merandy, who today (Oct. 22) endorsed Tamagna to succeed him. “You’d have to ask Mr. Tamagna why he was there and who invited him.”

OctOber 22, 2021 21

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Bender’s seat until the Nov. 2 election. Of Fadde, who owns Cathryn’s Tuscan Grill on Main Street and served on the board from 2014 to 2026, Merandy wrote: “Cathryn understands local business and her experience will be valuable on our Village Board. For residents who lived through the [Roger] Ailes era in Cold Spring, you may hesitate in voting for her. However, I think many lessons were learned during that era and today I am willing to bet on Cathryn.”

The other trustee candidate for the two full-term seats is Jeff Phillips, who is running with Better Together.

“If there is no realistic answer [regarding traffic] it seems like we’re wasting every one’s time,” Henderson wrote in an email to the board, adding that “a solar farm would be a good option.”

No action was taken by the board on Tuesday. The public hearing remains open and Fink’s latest proposal was scheduled to be considered in more detail on Oct. 21.

Dockside shore protection

As part of the regular board meeting, Merandy reported that work will begin soon on shoreline protection at Dockside Park, which is owned by the state parks department and managed by the village.

Merandy said a contract has been let for the state for the shoreline stabilization project, which will involve removal of invasive plant species and the addition of natural materials such as stone and appropriate vegetation.

The state hopes it can be “a model for how other communities can stop erosion,” he said.

The work, which will begin in late November or early December and take about a year, will be overseen by the state. In 2015, the cost was estimated at $700,000. In addition to shoreline protection measures, the design calls for a boat ramp and an Americans with Disabilities Act-compliant path around the perimeter of the park.

Merandy said concern had been raised that Vinny Tamagna, a candidate for mayor, was in the park during a recent meeting between Merandy and state officials. “I can assure you I didn’t invite him,” said Merandy, who today (Oct. 22) endorsed Tamagna to succeed him. “You’d have to ask Mr. Tamagna why he was there and who invited him.”

Tickets at philipstowndepotoatre.org

A KNOBBE KRAMER STUDIO CERTIFIED STUDIO
VOTING STRATEGY FOR A TRULY BALANCED BOARD

Mayor Vinny Tamagna
Trustee Cathryn Fadde
Trustee Yaslyn Daniels
Trustee Eliza Starbuck

Dear Voters,

2021 marks 20 years of my public service to Philipstown and the Village of Cold Spring. During these last 7 years as Mayor of the Village of Cold Spring every decision I have made has been in answer to the question, “What is Best for our Village?”

It will not surprise many of you to hear me say the past 12 months on the Village Board have been extremely unpleasant and profoundly disappointing for me.

Last spring, Trustee Marie Early and I decided to run for reelection and we invited Planning Board Chair Matt Francisco to join us on our ticket. At the time, Kathleen Foley enthusiastically put herself forward to collect signatures for our petitions. After relying on Kathleen to collect signatures we were shocked to learn that she had collected some Village residents to hold back signatures from our petitions so they could sign petitions for her to run for Mayor, reassuring them that there would not be a 3-way race for Mayor, that she guaranteed there would be only 2 candidates: Kathleen and Vinny.

Up to that point, Kathleen had been a dear friend of my wife and of mine for nearly a decade. Stephanie and I were stunned and saddened by her actions and her public conduct toward both of us. Because of Kathleen’s duplicity, Trustee Marie Early, Matt Francisco and I decided not to run for office, preferring to avoid 8 months of her negative campaigning against us.

These months later, I am hearing from many residents with concerns about that real lack of qualified candidates for Village election. Most of these neighbors are telling me they may write-in candidate names or they may not vote at all.

This is a bad situation for our Village.

So, in answer to the question, “What is Best for our Village?” I am sharing my voting strategy in hopes that you will join me in this approach. It is not ideal, but I believe it represents what will be best for our village.

Vote for Vinny Tamagna for Mayor of Cold Spring

Vinny has years of experience and connections in County government that should bring the Village additional revenue and support it needs. Kathleen has less than a year of experience on the board and is deeply disliked among elected officials in our County government. If Kathleen has told you there is a hidden Putnam County agenda at play, please don’t be taken in. Kathleen invests a lot of energy in conspiracy theories. While she runs for Mayor, Kathleen needs to play the heroine against a villain. If you are truly concerned that Vinny has an agenda, you can neutralize that by following my voting strategy – voting for the right combination of Trustees – for a truly balanced board.

Vote for Yaslyn Daniels, Village of Cold Spring Trustee

Yaslyn Daniels is the only candidate I am voting for with enthusiasm. I have had the pleasure of meeting with Yaslyn and I am very impressed with her intelligence and qualifications. She’s a thoughtful person and brings the professional experience our Village needs on the Village Board. She is a registered Democrat running on the Better Together ticket. I have come away from our meetings feeling confident she will do the work and apply the focus required to make informed decisions and vote independently on issues for What is Best for the Village. Yaslyn is running against Teeps Woods for the remainder of the term vacated by Heidi Bender. Yaslyn is by far the best candidate of the two and is the key to my voting strategy because she is unlikely to align with any one person’s agenda. Her votes on the Village Board will not be in service to any partisan agenda but will be the result of careful deliberation. This is the kind of Trusteeship we need and with Yaslyn on the Village Board, there will be no majority voting block.

Vote for Cathryn Fadde, Village of Cold Spring Trustee

My second vote for trustee is going to Cathryn Fadde. Cathryn is well known in the Village, was a trustee for 2 years and has run a successful business in the Village for over two decades. I believe she is celebrating 25 years at Cathryn’s Tuscan Grill this year. Cathryn understands local business and her experience will be valuable on our Village Board. For residents who lived through the Ailes Era in Cold Spring, you may hesitate in voting for her, however, I think many lessons were learned during that era and today, I am willing to bet on Cathryn.

Vote for Eliza Starbuck, Village of Cold Spring Trustee

My last vote is for Eliza Starbuck. I’m only voting for Eliza as part of my strategy to maintain a balanced board. She is likely to align with Kathleen.

On November 2nd, Vote for What is Best for the Village of Cold Spring!

Mayor Vinny Tamagna
Trustee Cathryn Fadde
Trustee Yaslyn Daniels
Trustee Eliza Starbuck

A TRULY BALANCED BOARD

Paid Notice

Mayor Dave Merandy’s Voting Strategy for a Truly Balanced Board

Nelsonville Moves Toward ‘Opting Out’ of Cannabis Law

Discussion of short-term rental regulation continues

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

Nelsonville took steps this week toward “opting out” of allowing retail cannabis shops and lounges within its borders, following a municipal path already partly trod by Cold Spring and Philipstown.

At its monthly meeting on Monday (Oct. 18), the Nelsonville Village Board voted 4-0 to convene a public hearing on Nov. 15 to allow residents to comment on draft legislation in which the village declines to allow marijuana establishments, a new form of commercial venture that was legalized in New York state earlier this year.

The Cold Spring Village Board voted this summer to put the question on the Nov. 2 ballot, while the Philipstown Town Board continues to debate a draft resolution that it plans to vote on before Dec. 31. Municipalities that do not opt out by the end of the year automatically opt in and cannot change that position. But those that opt out can later opt in, which gives them time to adjust zoning codes to cover cannabis businesses.

“The right now, it is our intent, I believe, to opt out,” Nelsonville Mayor Michael Bowman announced in putting the draft law on the table. He said that after soliciting public comments on Nov. 15, the board would vote in December. He also noted that citizens who want to permit marijuana establishments can collect voter signatures to put the issue on the ballot during the March village election.

Before taking up the cannabis shop measure and routine matters, the board held a public hearing on its latest draft of a law to regulate short-term rentals (STRs), such as weekend and vacation rooms and apartments arranged through Airbnb. The board has pondered the matter, off and on, for several years.

The handful of residents who turned out included those on both sides of the issue.

Favoring long-term renters over a constantly changing stream of overnight visitors in the community, David Herman said that “I much prefer knowing who my neighbors are.”

Rudy Van Dommele, who operates Airbnb units, persistently questioned the need for a law. “You’re trying to correct something that is not a problem yet and is just based on fear,” he said.

Erin Muir criticized a provision in the draft law limiting rentals to 10 days annually. “That just feels so unfair,” she said.

A 100-day cap “would make this financially unviable for us,” added Ethan Timm. He compared various restrictions in the draft to an anti-automobile law. “I don’t like traffic, but we don’t say we ban cars.”

Trustee Kathleen Maloney suggested that instead of a 100-day cap on rentals the village limit the number of annual bookings, accommodating both STR owners and renters who want to stay for weeks or months at a time.

“It’s something to discuss,” Bowman replied.

He said the board would continue to accept letters on the issue and refine the draft but that there are no plans for a vote in the immediate future.

Local Bestsellers

Based on combined hardcover and paperback sales reported for August and September by Binnie Books, 321 Main St., in Beacon, and Split Rock Books, 97 Main St., in Cold Spring.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Author</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Beautiful World, Where Are You</td>
<td>Sally Rooney</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>How to Raise Kids Who Aren’t Assholes</td>
<td>Melinda Wenner Moyer</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Crying in H Mart</td>
<td>Michelle Zauner</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Hudson Valley History and Mystery</td>
<td>Michael Adamovic</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>The Night Watchman</td>
<td>Louise Erdrich</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>The Hill We Climb</td>
<td>Amanda Gorman</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Afterparties</td>
<td>Anthony Veasna So</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge and the Teachings of Plants</td>
<td>Robin Wall Kimmerer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Change Sings: A Children’s Anthem</td>
<td>Amanda Gorman</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Krispy and the Snobs</td>
<td>Ann Martin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Dog Man: Mothering Heights</td>
<td>Dav Pilkey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Karen’s Kittycat Club</td>
<td>Ann Martin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Shine!</td>
<td>J.J. and Chris Grabenstein</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Haldane to Receive More State Funding

State agrees to pay billions to settle lawsuit

The Haldane school district is expected to receive nearly $700,000 in additional operating aid after the state’s decision to settle a lawsuit filed in 2015 by a coalition of associations representing school officials, parents and education advocacy groups.

Gov. Kathy Hochul said on Oct. 14 that the state would provide $4.2 billion over three years to end a lawsuit brought by New Yorkers for Students’ Education Rights.

The coalition accused the state of failing to fully fund foundation aid, which was created in 2001 to set a separate lawsuit and considers a school district’s wealth and other needs in distributing funding.

In response, the state expects to receive $690,543. Beacon and Garrison are among the school districts not owed additional funding, according to the Alliance for Education Equity.

Reservoir Back to Health

No sign of toxic microcystin

The City of Beacon has received a clean bill of health for the drinking water in the Melzingah reservoir.

The state Department of Environmental Conservation in July confirmed the presence of a harmful algal bloom in the reservoir, one of the three that supplies Beacon, although it was not in use at the time because of the higher-than-normal rainfall over the summer.

On Sept. 30 the city received the results of tests on samples taken from the reservoir which did not detect microcystin, a toxic substance released by some types of algal blooms.

Student Program Recognized

Journalism initiative is finalist

The Highland Current’s Student Journalists Program was a finalist in a national competition organized by the Institute for Nonprofit News.

The Student Journalists Program, which began during the 2020-21 school year and is funded by Current readers, was among four finalists among mid-sized publications for the Community Champion Award, given to an INN member who “made a significant contribution to the well-being of its community through a journalism-centered project or service.”

The other finalists were Oklahoma Watch for a digital memorial to state residents who died of COVID-19; Voice of OC for public town halls it held in Orange County, California; and the winner, The Beacon, in Kansas City, Missouri, for an election guide designed to reach people who were less likely to vote.

Conservation Input

Beacon residents asked to take survey

The Beacon Conservation Advisory Committee is seeking community input on how to utilize and protect the city’s green and open spaces. An anonymous survey is available in English and Spanish until Oct. 30 at bit.ly/3zryUI.

Green and open space is land that is not developed for residential, commercial, industrial or institutional use. It may be publicly or privately owned and can serve different purposes, including parks, playgrounds, ball courts, community gardens, habitats and natural areas.

The survey results will be used to create an Open Space Index for Beacon that builds on the Natural Resources Inventory adopted by the City Council in 2020. The Cornell Cooperative Extension and the state Department of Environmental Conservation are supporting the project.

Law Requires 24-Hour Info

Revision to Open Meetings Law

Gov. Kathy Hochul enacted a law on Tuesday (Oct. 19) that requires local, county and the state government to make any documents that will be discussed at open meetings available online or by request at least 24 hours in advance.

The statute, a revision to the Open Meetings Law, passed unanimously earlier this year in the state Senate and Assembly.

The previous law only required legislators to make documents such as proposed rules, regulations, resolutions, policies or amendments available before meetings “as determined by the agency or department,” which sometimes meant no notice.

Ida Assistance Available in Dutchess

Homeowners, businesses can apply

Dutchess County has been approved for federal disaster assistance for homeowners, renters and businesses whose property was damaged last month by Tropical Depression Ida, County Executive Marc Molinaro said on Wednesday (Oct. 20).

The storm caused an estimated $1 million in damage to private homes and businesses. The Individual Assistance program includes grants for repairs and for rent of alternative housing, as well as low-interest disaster loans. Registration information is posted at dutchesny.gov.
Beacon Council Stuck on Affordability

Mayor, council disagree on best path forward

By Jeff Simms

As the City Council continues to work its way through creating more affordable housing options in Beacon, it appears stuck in a stalemate between a proposal to simplify the creation of low-cost accessory apartments and renters’ rights legislation that city attorneys fear won’t hold up in court.

The accessory dwelling unit proposal is favored by Mayor Lee Kyriacou. By allowing ADUs on all existing single-family properties in the city, the hope is that homeowners will begin creating smaller apartments that families, young adults, seniors and others could rent at affordable prices.

According to a draft law, the apartments could be between 200 and 1,000 square feet, but no more than 50 percent of the square footage of the accompanying single-family home. The owner of the property would have to live on-site, and ADUs could not be used as short-term rentals.

There are 10 to 20 eviction cases pending in Beacon, which is not an abnormal number, City Court Judge Tim Pagones said. He has received at least one dose. The percentage for hospital workers reflects those ages 12 and older who have received at least one dose. The percentage for hospital workers reflects those fully vaccinated.

### COVID-19 by the Numbers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>Number of cases</th>
<th>Tests administered</th>
<th>Percent positive</th>
<th>Percent vaccinated</th>
<th>Number of deaths</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Putnam County</td>
<td>12,492 (+164)</td>
<td>303,955 (+5,829)</td>
<td>4.1 (0)</td>
<td>72.6</td>
<td>98 (+2)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Active Cases</td>
<td>Phillips: 31 - 35</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dutchess County</td>
<td>35,615 (+438)</td>
<td>972,327 (+16,520)</td>
<td>3.7 (0)</td>
<td>67.9</td>
<td>499 (+3)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Active Cases</td>
<td>Beacon: 17</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**PUTNAM COUNTY**

**Number of cases:** 12,492 (+164)

**Tests administered:** 303,955 (+5,829)

**Percent positive:** 4.1 (0)

**Percent vaccinated:** 72.6

**Number of deaths:** 98 (+2)

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- Over 20 years Judicial Experience
- Handling Criminal, Civil, Landlord/Tenant
- Small Claims and Traffic Cases
- Started first Domestic Violence Court In Dutchess County
- Created Mental Health Court Connection Program
- Started Beacon Drug Treatment Court
- Initiated First Opioid/Recovery Court
- 14 Years Criminal Defense Prior to Being Full Time Judge
- Former Dutchess County Senior Assistant District Attorney

---

**GREG JOHNSTON**

- Brooklyn Legal Aid Attorney
- Zero years judicial experience
- Never appeared in any court in Dutchess County
- No civil experience
- No landlord/tenant experience
- No small claims experience
- No traffic experience

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Whether you are a defendant or a victim in the Beacon City Court, who do you want handling your case? Someone who knows the job or someone learning on the job?

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**EXPERIENCE DOES MATTER**

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OctOber 22, 2021

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The Highlands Current
A River Runs (Back) Through It

The aftermath of dam removal

By Brian PJ Cronin

You can learn a lot from an empty freshwater mussel shell by the side of a creek.

For one thing, as George Jackman, senior habitat restoration manager for Riverkeeper explains, it’s a sign that the water quality is good. Each mussel can filter up to 25 gallons of water a day.

Second, it’s a sign of a vital aquatic ecosystem. Mussels are sedentary during their adult life; after they’re born, they attach themselves to eels, harmlessly riding along until dropping off when they find a spot to call home. When you see a mussel, you know that an eel has been there, as well.

And third, since the shell is empty here on the side of the Furnace Brook in Cortlandt’s Oscawana Park, it means that raccoons have come to the creek to find food.

“What we have now is an integrated habitat,” said Jackman. “That’s what we want.”

Last November, Riverkeeper removed a 5-foot-high, 75-foot-wide colonial-era dam from this spot in hopes that this thing would happen: Migratory routes for eels and fish would be restored. Since then the stream, following the path of least resistance, has cut a new route.

“It’s moved 50 feet that way,” said Jackman, pointing toward the road. “Not only are the fish migrating now, the stream is migrating, too. Streams curve and bend when they’re no longer under the dominion of humans. We’re allowing it to act like a stream again.”

The spot where Jackman stood was water last year at this time. “This is new land,” he said from atop the infill.

Next to Jackman was a young elm tree that last year was a sapling on a minuscule island in the creek. Jackman said it was a “one-in-a-million” chance that the tree had a chance to grow on that spot, so when the dam was being removed they made sure not to damage it. Now, the island has become a peninsula and the tree has grown considerably.

“We call this the happy tree,” said Jackman.

He also pointed out a sycamore, more than 200 years old, which had been forced to form itself around the dam as it grew. With the dam removed, the underside of the tree was revealed. “This tree has stood sentinel for as long as that dam had been here,” Jackman said. “It’s a survivor.”

Now that the creek has chosen its new path, Riverkeeper volunteers returned to the site to stabilize the new banks by planting swamp rose, silky dogwood, river birch and black willow. The shade of their branches will help lower the warming water temperatures to make the creek more habitable for native trout. Keeping the water cool and flowing will also reduce the formation of harmful algal blooms, such as the one that recently took over Beacon’s Melzingah Reservoir (see Page 23).

On the slopes of the road, where a path had to be cleared for the dam removal equipment, volunteers planted white oak, red maple and white pine. Jackman likened it to surgery. “We had to make a little cut to get the equipment in to get the dam removed,” he said. “Now we’ve cleared the blockage, like a blocked artery, so we’re suturing it up over there.”

Five years from now, Jackman said, drivers passing by on Cortlandt Street won’t notice anything out of the ordinary.

The Furnace Brook dam is the third structure that has been removed from this waterway in the past two years, with the other two downstream. First to go was the remnants of a dam that was breached in 1999 by Hurricane Floyd, followed by the rubble from a collapsed bridge. Next year, Westchester County plans to remove the Maiden Lane dam upstream.

Since the Furnace Brook dam has been removed, Jackman has seen creek chubs and blue crabs here for the first time, in addition to the mussels and the eels that they’ve hitched a ride on.

It’s not known what or where the furnace was that gave Furnace Brook its name, but it is known that before the settlers came, Native Americans called it Jamawissa Creek, which means “place of small beaver.”

Jackman said that the county plans to change the name of the creek back to Jamawissa once the Maiden Lane dam comes down next year and the waterway is clear.

“Not only are we restoring the creek,” said Jackman, “we’re restoring the name.”

Volunteers plant swamp rose, silky dogwood, river birch and black willow along the new banks of the creek.

Photos by B. Cronin

Beacon Council (from Page 1)

measure would not be preempted because it would not remove or restrict building owners’ rights to eviction proceedings but “defines the grounds upon which a tenancy expires.”

A municipal good-cause eviction law would likely be upheld “as a valid exercise of Beacon’s home-rule authority,” he said, reading from the opinion.

Representatives from Legal Services of the Hudson Valley and the Legal Aid Society also called in to the council’s meeting this week to say they believe the city can legally adopt good-cause legislation.

Council Member Jodi McCredo agreed, saying that renters’ rights should take precedence over the ADU discussions. Keeping people in their homes “is more important than building other units that may or may not be affordable for people who may or may not already be living in Beacon,” she said.

But “rents and prices didn’t go up because landlords just raised them,” Kyriacou countered. “They went up because people wanted to move here.”

The mayor said that the council should “rethink zoning in each and every urban area that is now considered popular” in Beacon as a component of a plan for increasing affordability. Building housing along with commercial uses in parking complexes could be another component, he said, along with a potential new high-rise building at the Forrestal Heights housing development.

“Unless we address the underlying problem in terms of supply, I don’t think we’re ever going to solve it. That is a longer-term solution but it is not in the least delusional,” Kyriacou said. “It is basic and very simple supply and demand, not very different from the law of gravity.”
Roundup (from Page 28)

BOYS’ SOCCER

Haldane closed the regular season with victories over Pawling, 3-0, and Putnam Valley, 5-1, to extend its winning streak to six going into the sectional tournament.

On Oct. 13 at Pawling, the Blue Devils got two goals from Ryan Eng-Wong and one from Max Westphal. Roman Kifer had four saves in goal. At home on Oct. 15 against Putnam Valley, Matt Silhavy and Westphal each had two goals and Eng-Wong had one. Kifer made five saves.

“This team is special,” said Coach Ahmed Dwidar. “The boys are playing with a lot of confidence going into sectional play, which is a new season for us. Our goal is to bring back a title.” Haldane last won the section in 2013.

Beacon blanked Cornwall, 3-0, on Tuesday (Oct. 19) behind two goals from Andre Alzate and one from Miguel Ruiz. On Wednesday, the Bulldogs closed out Monticello, 6-0, with junior varsity call-up Brody Timm notching a hat trick in his varsity debut. Ruiz, Jack Philbacher — to graduation.

— Maddie Bobnick and Claire Derrenbacher — to graduation.

“Tough Goshen team that led, 1-0, at half-time and eventually won, 2-0,” Alzate called “the heart of our defense.”

Last week it also lost Kasey Senior to injury. “We had to reshuffle,” said Alzate. “We were scrambling to find players in the middle of the field. Given all that, I thought the team played great. Goshen was just too much for us. Plus, it was our third game in three days.”

On Monday, the Bulldogs fell at Cornwall, 2-0, and on Tuesday won at Monticello, 6-1, with goals from Devyn Kelly, Chelsea DerBoghossian, Hope Cleveringa, Bobnick, Derrenbacher and Sevana West. On Oct. 15, Beacon lost at home to Minisink Valley, 2-0.

“They’re a little disappointed to miss the playoffs,” Alzate said of his team. “But considering all of our injuries, I’m happy with the way they’ve played,” including a tie against Washingtonville (11-0-1), which is the top seed in the playoffs.

The Haldane girls ended their season on Oct. 16 with a 3-0 loss at Pawling to finish 5-9-2. Seeded No. 4 in the four-team Section I, Class C field, the Blue Devils will travel to No. 1 Tuckahoe (10-4-1) on Thursday (Oct. 28).

GIRLS’ SWIMMING

The Beacon girls’ swimming team closed out its season last week with losses to Middletown (105-74) and Rhinebeck (86-78) to finish 1-10.

At Middletown, Saniyah Wiltshire won the 200 freestyle (2:22.35) and Kalyn Sheffield was second in the 100 freestyle (1:05.34). Hosting Rhinebeck, Meara Kumar was second in the 200 individual medley (2:49.64), Sheffield was second in the 50 freestyle (28.48) and Kalyn Sheffield was second in the 100 freestyle (1:00.68) and Isabella Haydt second in the 500 freestyle (6:28.09) and 100 breaststroke (1:20.80).

The Beacon High School girls’ soccer team needed a win or tie on Wednesday (Oct. 20) at home to advance to the Section IX playoffs. Unfortunately, they faced a tough Goshen team that led, 1-0, at halftime and eventually won, 2-0.

Beacon had some opportunities to score early, but soon play stayed mostly in Beacon’s defensive end. The Bulldogs ended the season at 6-7-3 and will lose two seniors — Maddie Bobnick and Claire Derrenbacher — to graduation.

Early in the Goshen game, the team lost Emma Campagiorni, whom Coach Hugo Alzate called “the heart of our defense.”

Last week it also lost Kasey Senior to injury. “We had to reshuffle,” said Alzate. “We were scrambling to find players in the middle of the field. Given all that, I thought the team played great. Goshen was just too much for us. Plus, it was our third game in three days.”

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“They’re a little disappointed to miss the playoffs,” Alzate said of his team. “But considering all of our injuries, I’m happy with the way they’ve played,” including a tie against Washingtonville (11-0-1), which is the top seed in the playoffs.

The Haldane girls ended their season on Oct. 16 with a 3-0 loss at Pawling to finish 5-9-2. Seeded No. 4 in the four-team Section I, Class C field, the Blue Devils will travel to No. 1 Tuckahoe (10-4-1) on Thursday (Oct. 28).

GIRLS’ SWIMMING

The Beacon girls’ swimming team closed out its season last week with losses to Middletown (105-74) and Rhinebeck (86-78) to finish 1-10.

At Middletown, Saniyah Wiltshire won the 200 freestyle (2:22.35) and Kalyn Sheffield was second in the 100 freestyle (1:05.34). Hosting Rhinebeck, Meara Kumar was second in the 200 individual medley (2:49.64), Sheffield was second in the 50 freestyle (28.48) and Kalyn Sheffield was second in the 500 freestyle (6:28.09) and 100 breaststroke (1:20.80).

The Beacon High School girls’ soccer team needed a win or tie on Wednesday (Oct. 20) at home to advance to the Section IX playoffs. Unfortunately, they faced a tough Goshen team that led, 1-0, at halftime and eventually won, 2-0.

Beacon had some opportunities to score early, but soon play stayed mostly in Beacon’s defensive end. The Bulldogs ended the season at 6-7-3 and will lose two seniors — Maddie Bobnick and Claire Derrenbacher — to graduation.

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Puzzles

CrossCurrent

ACROSS
1. Request
4. Lawyers’ org.
7. Jab
11. Grub
13. Sinbad’s bird
14. Way out
15. Spanish greeting
16. Somewhat (Suff.)
17. Memorandum
18. You’ll get a rise out of it
20. Iowa crop
22. Owned
24. Beginnings
28. Pudding variety
32. Lebanon’s neighbor
33. Press
34. Rage
36. Joyful tune
37. Plaintive poem
39. Sees the world
41. Country singer West
43. “Caught ya!”
44. Frank
46. Gold mold
50. Writer Didion
53. Flushed
55. Fascinated by
56. Byron or Tennyson
57. Nest-egg acronym
58. Car
59. Oil cartel
60. Many millennia
61. Drunkard

DOWN
1. Needing liniment
2. Oxford, for one
3. Caffeine source
4. Entourage character
5. Pear type
6. Sneeze sound
7. The White House’s “Avenue”
8. Kitchen gadget brand
9. Tool set
10. Tours season
12. U.S. capital on the Potomac
19. Eastern “way”
21. ER workers
23. 601, to Nero
25. Canal of song
26. Cash drawer
27. Pre-college exams
30. Bard
31. Illustrations
35. Historic time
38. Shriil bark
40. Sushi fish
42. Haunting
45. Sleuth Wolfe
47. Wildebeests
48. Beetle Bailey dog
49. Horn sound
50. The Wedding Planner actress, to fans
51. “Alley —”
52. Exist
54. Dapper fellow

SudokuCurrent

7 LittleWords

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 clever rejoinder (6)
2 French novelist Jules (5)
3 preparing to go live (10)
4 autonomous (11)
5 folks being taken for a ride (10)
6 truth, to the ancient Romans (7)
7 gloomy (6)

SOLUTIONS
ZI PA REH ER ING
RNE VE SE SSEN MO
GERS TAS PEND EARS VE
INDE RO NG RI ENT

Answers for Oct. 8 Puzzles

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

A third-quarter, three-yard touchdown run by quarterback Ryan Van Tassel and a two-point conversion run by Evan Giachinta provided the margin of victory for the Haldane High School football team on Oct. 16 in a thriller, with the Blue Devils coming from behind to edge visiting Valhalla, 28-27.

The game was tied, 20-20, at halftime. The Vikings scored first in the third quarter on a 17-yard run, with the point-after kick giving the visitors a 27-20 lead.

But the Blue Devils put together a drive of their own.

A Valhalla player was hurt on Van Tassel’s touchdown run, resulting in a delay of about 30 minutes. But when play resumed, the Blue Devils didn’t hesitate in going for the two-point conversion and the lead.

Valhalla put together a drive that put them inside the Haldane 10-yard line with 3:30 to play, but the Haldane defense twice made stops inside the five, then blocked a potential go-ahead field goal with three minutes remaining.

“That was a huge win for the program, a tough battle, and we found a way,” said Coach Ryan McConville. “Our defense bent, but didn’t break, and blocking that field goal was huge. Giachinta, Nate Stickle, Dylan Buckner, Jack Hartman, Will Erta, Dominic Lyons-Davis, Jake Mason, Erik Stubblefield and Jesse Osterfeld — that whole defensive group stepped up big-time for us. Mike Murray also had a fumble recovery and his first two varsity catches.”

Valhalla scored in the first quarter on a 32-yard interception return, but Van Tassel shook it off and responded by connecting with Tommy Tucker on an 85-yard pass that made it 7-6.

On defense, Hansen blocked a punt; Aaron Pegues came up with two sacks; Louis DelBianco blocked a punt and recovered two fumbles; and Jorge Rodriguez had an interception.

“Our offensive and defensive lines both played great,” said Coach Jim Phelan. “That’s the strength of our team. Our seniors have been helping the younger guys come along, and our wide receiver (Cody Shields) did a great job blocking.”

He also cited the play of his two senior running backs, Hansen and Bell. “They didn’t get a lot of carries, but they’re both out there all the time,” he said. “And Jason had a great game. That was everything we would expect from a senior quarterback.”

The Bulldogs (4-1), who received an honorable mention this week in the NYSSA rankings, are scheduled to travel to Blind Brook on Saturday (Oct. 23) for a 1:30 p.m. kickoff.

Coming off their worst game of the season, (a 28-3 loss to Wallkill), Beacon High School hosted Monticello on Oct. 15 for homecoming and cruised to a 35-0 victory over the Panthers (0-6).

Quarterback Jason Komisar ran for 137 yards and three touchdowns on seven carries, and completed all three of his pass attempts for 71 yards. Isaac Hansen rushed 13 times for 61 yards and a touchdown. Ahmir Bell had six carries for 75 yards.

On defense, Hansen blocked a punt; Aaron Pegues came up with two sacks; Louis DelBianco blocked a punt and recovered two fumbles; and Jorge Rodriguez had an interception.

“Our defensive line both played great,” said Coach Jim Phelan. “That’s the strength of our team. Our seniors have been helping the younger guys come along, and our wide receiver (Cody Shields) did a great job blocking.”

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Bulldogs quarterback Jason Komisar ran for three touchdowns in a win over Monticello. 

PHOTOS BY S. PEARLMAN

VOLLEYBALL

On Monday (Oct. 18) in Cold Spring, Haldane defeated Poughkeepsie, 3-1, on Senior Night. Meghan Tomann led the Blue Devils in assists with 20, while Megan Farrell added 18 digs and Jill Weinphal had 13.