

# The HIGHLANDS Current



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Squirrels?  
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OCTOBER 22, 2021

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## Challenger Accuses Sheriff of Misconduct

*Compares recorded phone  
call to Watergate*

By Chip Rowe and Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

**K**evin 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.



Langley

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)*



**ORANGE CRUSH** — Bonny Champion and Vincent Farina hang out near the pumpkin patch at the Beacon Sloop Club’s annual Pumpkin Festival on Sunday (Oct. 17) at Seeger Riverfront Park.

*Photo by Jean Noack*

## Beacon Election Preview

*Judges take center stage  
with most races uncontested*

By Jeff Simms

**D**emocratic candidates have dominated Beacon elections in recent years, and with no opposition in 7 of 10 races, they’re poised to do so again this year.

All six City Council seats are uncontested, and there’s no mayoral election this year. The race that’s gotten the most attention is for City Court judge, which has not been contested in a decade.

The court, which handles misdemeanors, traffic infractions, landlord/tenant disputes and other small claims, has one full-time justice who serves for 10 years and a part-time justice who serves for six years.

The incumbent full-time judge, Tim Pagones, was elected to his first, 10-year term in 2011. Before that, he won six-year terms in 1999 and 2005.

Pagones ran those years as a Republican, but this year — facing opposition from Greg Johnston, a public defender for the last 17 years — he filed nominating petitions to appear on the Republican, Conservative, Democratic and Working Families lines. Those are the only four remaining after New York State cut the Green, Libertarian and Independence parties from ballots when they failed to receive 130,000 votes, or 2 percent of the votes cast, in the most recent presidential election.

Johnston filed for the Democratic and Working Families lines, as well.

*(Continued on Page 8)*

## Merandy Endorses Tamagna for Cold Spring Mayor

*Outlines trustee votes to  
achieve a ‘balanced board’*

By Chip Rowe

**D**ave Merandy, who will complete his third term as the mayor of Cold Spring this year after dropping out of the race for reelection, said

today (Oct. 22) that he is endorsing former Putnam County legislator Vinny Tamagna to succeed him.

In an advertisement placed in *The Current* and addressed to voters, Merandy disparaged Trustee Kathleen Foley, who is the other candidate for mayor, accusing her of betraying his trust and engaging in “conspiracy theories” about Putnam

County politics.

Merandy, who was elected in 2015 and reelected in 2017 and 2019, dropped out of the mayoral race in June after Foley emerged as a candi-



Merandy

*(Continued on Page 21)*

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# 5Q FIVE QUESTIONS: BEVERLEY ROBINSON

By Chip Rowe

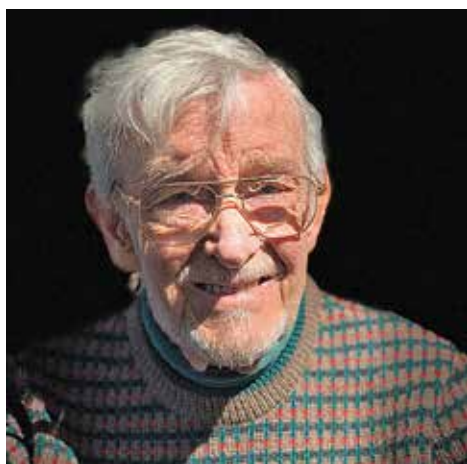
**B**everley Robinson, 87, a retired French teacher in Boulder, Colorado, is a direct descendant of Beverley Robinson (1720-1792), a Loyalist who, with his wife, Susanna Philipse, owned a vast expanse of Hudson Valley land that included the Highlands before it was seized following the Revolutionary War.

## 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?

I'm quite proud to have his name. New



York was a strong British outpost. It wasn't like Boston, nor like Philadelphia. And the king was kind to him. He was clearly helping the Brits. He wasn't just pulling back and being a country squire. If he had chosen the other side, our family would have owned all the land from the top of Manhattan to West Point. It would have been quite a hunk of real estate.

## 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?"

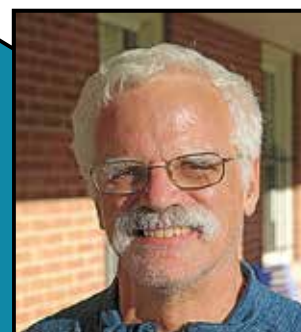
The first time I heard anything like that was when I was in college. The head of the history department introduced me to a friend of his who taught at Harvard. And the friend said, "Oh, yes, the Hudson River!" But he was a historian. More recently, a neighbor across the street here in Boulder said: "Do 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.”



Rick Lloyd, Beacon

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



Maria Elena Hardman, Cold Spring

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



Thomas Geoghegan, Beacon

# VOTE

JOIN ME IN VOTING FOR  
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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 masts 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 masting, 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.



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### WE'RE TRULY INDEPENDENT.

We have honored the Village tradition of being independent from national parties. It's not just tradition — it's election law in New York State. We haven't taken a penny from a town or county arm of a national party. We believe that partisanship wastes precious time when we can be problem-solving together, improving everyone's quality of life in our Village.

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**TWEETS PHILLIPS WOODS** for Trustee  
**ELIZA STARBUCK** for Trustee

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## Tell us what you think

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

## LETTERS AND COMMENTS

### 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 to 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 give 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 McElduff, *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 Pagones 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

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## LETTERS AND COMMENTS

(Continued from Page 4)

Pagones has managed to cultivate an atmosphere where everyone who comes into court is treated with respect, accorded dignity and made to feel comfortable.

Beacon City Court is a highly functional, efficient and welcoming public space. But it is only a nice public building. The person sitting on the bench and in chambers makes it what it is. Judge Pagones' experience, character, willingness to listen, be patient and understand the people of the city because he is one of them — that is what makes the court what it is. Any lawyer, litigant or visitor who had a chance to appear before him would appreciate his judicial temperament and the collegial and professional way in which he conducts court. The law is largely the same throughout New York, but a judge makes a court what it is.

I am a lifelong Democrat, but I will vote for any candidate I believe is best suited for the office. I can't vote in Beacon because I do not live in the city or county. But I hope my opinion will resonate with my fellow registered Dems and you will vote to reelect Judge Pagones on Nov. 2.

John Clarke, *Germantown*

We've all seen the words: "Paid for by Candidate X." That line is there because New York State election law §14-106(2) mandates that most political materials, including newspaper ads, contain a disclosure statement indicating who has paid for the ad.

So it's no small irony that incumbent Beacon City Court Judge Pagones — whose campaign theme is "experience" — ran an ad in the Oct. 15 issue of this paper that did not indicate who paid for it.

Pagones makes much of his experience, but length-of-service is only one measure of a candidate. Beacon deserves a City Court judge who knows the law. When a sitting judge violates the law — whether willfully or out of ignorance — it speaks volumes.

This is not the first time Pagones has taken ethical license. Before the primary, his campaign Facebook page posted paid newspaper ads with language falsely implying that he had received those publications' endorsements.

When early voting starts, I will be casting my ballot for Johnston, a public defender with 17 years of wide-ranging legal experience. Unlike Pagones, whose experience is largely limited to the one he has presided over for the bulk of his career, Johnston has worked with hundreds of judges in hundreds of courtrooms, including youth court, drug treatment court and veterans court.

I urge voters to join me in supporting Johnston, a candidate who will bring breadth of experience, integrity and a fresh vision to the way justice is handled in Beacon City Court.

Julie Shiroishi, *Beacon*

*Shiroishi is a member of the Beacon Democratic Committee.*

This letter is a recommendation to reelect the honorable Judge Timothy Pagones to Beacon City Court. Let me start by breaking my own anonymity. My new life today is a direct result of the compassion and

## 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.

unique outlook Judge Pagones showed me when I appeared before him four years ago. He has the ability to see in all addicts the chance to change if they so desire.

His awarding me that chance to receive treatment for my addiction was the start to my new life as I know it. When I appeared before him, my resume was not something most of us would be proud of. It was long, and covered over 40 years of appearing in front of a court. I had been to jail, prison, many drug treatment centers, mental institutions and had tried Alcoholics Anonymous many times — and relapsed — because I was not done yet. Yet this judge saw in me, as he does for many of us, the ability to change my life into something to be admired, coveted and respected. And for that I will forever be grateful.

On June 7, I celebrated my fourth anniversary in AA. It was Judge Pagones, and all the staff who worked with him, who put me on the path of drug court, where I found the courage to face my addiction and live each day as rewarding as possible.

Now, it wasn't easy — and still isn't. And yet, so far, it's a much better life than what I had when I first appeared before him. And let me add, in the last four years I have not been arrested or had to appear in any court!

The fact that this judge can see the good in us, that he knows we can do it if just given the chance, is unique. I don't know where we would be if not for judges like him. He needs to be on the bench — and we need to reelect Judge Pagones.

Betty Hill, *Poughkeepsie*

*Editor's note: The Current received three letters from former defendants in Beacon drug treatment court who wrote on behalf of Pagones. The campaign forwarded Hill's letter; the others were from writers in Rhinebeck and Arkansas who emailed the paper. In an opinion issued in October 2019, the Advisory Committee on Judicial Ethics of the New York State Unified Court System wrote that "a judge's solicitation of endorsements from treatment court defendants/participants, even after they have graduated from the program, could create seemingly undue pressure and raise questions about his/her impartiality" and that "a judicial candidate who presides in a drug treatment court may not solicit endorsements from treatment court graduates." See [bit.ly/opinion-19-98](https://www.judiciary.nys.gov/opinion-19-98). The campaign said this week that it had not solicited the letters but that program graduates keep in touch with each other and know that the judge is up for reelection.*

## Philipstown 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 Aging at Home and the Philipstown Trails Committee; an updated comprehensive plan; and so much more.

We were 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. We know he will 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. Let's do it again Nov. 2 by voting for him for the Town Board.

Priscilla Goldfarb, *Garrison*

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

We have a great selection of candidates running, but I specifically want to lend my endorsement to Jason Angell 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 tirelessly to get Climate Smart going at the county level. We need their leadership now 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 families and businesses, 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 McIlwaine, *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, pro-business 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 law that created it. Now 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 mongering 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 in the voting booth. Vote Yvette.

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

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LETTERS AND COMMENTS

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repeatedly undermined him. They have attacked his staffing decisions, defunded his department’s river patrols (shortly before a swimmer drowned near Little Stony Point), and generally nickel-and-dimed his department even as the county enjoys a sales tax windfall. They have never found a significant fault in his performance, but they hope to force him out in favor of Kevin McConville, a party loyalist.

What will it mean if a Republican crony of the majority of legislators becomes sheriff? Will his department become an arm of their political agenda? Will Langley’s compassionate, service-minded approach be replaced with a bullying style of policing, more theatrical than effective? Will patrols decrease in blue-voting districts, just as funding from Carmel does?

Sheriff Langley has never played politics and has always put our safety first. For voters like me who are tired of politics and want law enforcement to be honest, friendly and helpful, Sheriff Langley is a hero.

Eliza Starbuck, *Cold Spring*

This summer, we drove our older son to overnight camp in Putnam County. We felt great trepidation in this era of COVID-19, and in it being the first time we would be away from him for three weeks. I can’t tell you the tremendous comfort we felt when, as we were approaching the camp, we saw a Putnam County Sheriff’s Department vehicle at the entrance checking to make sure everything was OK.

It is the same sense of relief and calm we’ve felt these past four years under Sheriff Langley’s strong leadership. Watching the volatility of this region in the past two decades, it has been a welcome shift that honesty and integrity have been restored to this office. The feeling in the community and for our young family is palpable.

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 in Family Court. 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 Judicial Screening Panel of the Dutchess County Bar Association 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 a 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.

Jodi 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 neighbor against neighbor and created a huge schism within our village.

It was through the dedication and hard work of Mayor Dave Merandy and Trustees Marie Early and Fran Murphy that the




# Real Estate



## Market Report (September)

	Beacon		Philipstown	
	2020	2021	2020	2021
New Listings	16	10	28	21
Closed Sales	7	8	17	13
Days on Market	70	26	75	63
Median Price	\$415,000	\$433,700	\$565,000	\$555,000
% List Received	99.8	108.2	97.7	97.1
Inventory	26	19	75	43

Source: Hudson Gateway Association of Realtors (hgar.com). Excludes condos. Philipstown includes Cold Spring, Garrison and Nelsonville.



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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 Tamagna and company?

This arrogance was on full view in *The Current* forum on Oct. 13 with Trustee Kathleen Foley. Tamagna was pedantic 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 Tamagna could only talk about community peripherally 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 Woods.

Rian Keating, *Cold Spring*

In a political ad, mayoral candidate Vinny Tamagna 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 Tamagna, 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 our residents owe a debt of gratitude to.

I am supporting Kathleen Foley for mayor, and one of the many reasons is because she won’t wait 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)

## LETTERS AND COMMENTS

(Continued from Page 6)

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 Curto, *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 Tweep 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](http://highlandscurrent.org).



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- Best Pet
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Beacon Preview (from Page 1)

State law allows judicial candidates — but no others — to file to appear on a party’s line in a primary without being a registered member of the party or having the party’s authorization.

So while Johnston is endorsed by the Beacon Democratic Committee and the New York State Working Families Party (WFP), Pagones, who dropped his Republican affiliation in 2019 to become an independent, forced June primaries for both lines by filing.

Pagones won the WFP line with 19 votes to Johnston’s 7, so he will appear on three lines on the Nov. 2 ballot. Johnston took the Democratic line handily, 1,112 to 93, in the primary.

Pagones says his experience “running a court,” along with more than a decade as a prosecutor and then a criminal defense attorney, qualifies him for another 10-year term on the bench. Pagones has also taken issue with Johnston’s campaign materials, which identify Johnston as the “Democratic” candidate.

“He knows the makeup of Beacon,” which has three times as many registered Democrats as Republicans, Pagones said. “He’s hoping that every Democrat votes the line, and basically he doesn’t care about the rest of the voters. This position shouldn’t be based on party — it should be based on qualifications.”



Johnston



Pagones

Johnston, however, has taken issue with Pagones implying that he’s not qualified. “I don’t just practice in one courtroom, in front of one judge,” Johnston said, noting that he has experience representing clients in both felony and misdemeanor trials. “I’ve seen what makes an effective judge.”

If elected, Johnston says he would bring diversity as “a government attorney representing poor people” to a position traditionally held by prosecutors and private attorneys. He also hopes to institute a youth court that emphasizes counseling and education, rather than community service, for defendants ages 26 and younger.

Demographic trends may be in Johnston’s favor. The number of registered Democrats in Beacon rose by 23 percent between 2016 and 2020, while the number of Republican voters fell by 7 percent and the number of registered Conservative Party members by 13 percent. The number of independent voters rose by 3 percent.

City Council

The City Council stands to lose a lot of



Saunders



Watson

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 next month are Molly Rhodes (Ward 1), Justice McCray (Ward 2), Wren Longno (Ward 3) and Paloma Wake (at-large).

Molly Rhodes (no relation to Air) works for the nonprofit Teach for America and served on the police chief search committee; McCray has worked at the Howland Public Library and is an organizer of Beacon 4 Black Lives; Longno is a nonprofit professional who has worked at Hudson River Sloop Clearwater and Planned Parenthood Mid-Hudson Valley; and Wake works at Flora Good Times in Beacon and for the Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival, and was vice chair of the city’s Human Rights Commission. She is also an organizer of Beacon 4 Black Lives.

Two incumbents, Dan Aymar-Blair (Ward

4), who was first elected in 2019, and longtime 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 Legislature 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 secretary on the board of the Stony Kill Foundation, 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 challenging incumbent Denise Watson, who will appear on the Republican and Conservative lines.

Saunders edged Watson in June in a WFP primary, 76-74.

Family Court judges, who serve 10-year terms, preside in cases involving custody, divorce, child support, abuse and guardianship.

# Vote Team Forge Ahead!

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

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2 Council 4-YEAR TERM  
Members

**PUTNAM COUNTY**

Sheriff 4-YEAR TERM  
Legislator 3-YEAR TERM

**Kathleen E. Foley**  
MAYOR, 2-YR TERM

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

**Tweeps Phillips Woods**  
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- 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

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# Meet Your Candidates

## BEACON CITY COUNCIL



Molly Rhodes (Ward 1)

**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



Justice McCray (Ward 2)

**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

\*Incumbents



Wren Longno (Ward 3)

**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.



Dan Aymar-Blair (Ward 4)\*

**Why are you running?** I'm listening to working-class people who tell me they haven't felt the benefits of new development and tourism. We must make Beacon's success work for everyone while minimizing the negative impacts. Can we make our streets safer? Can we make Beacon affordable again? Can we finally build a community center and provide municipal broadband? Let's roll up our sleeves and get it done.

**Biggest issue:** Improving the quality of life for the people who built this community.



George Mansfield (At-large)\*

**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.



Paloma Wake (At-large)

**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.

## DUTCHESS COUNTY LEGISLATURE (DISTRICT 16)



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.



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)\*

**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.





Jason Angell

## 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.



Megan Cotter

### 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 nonpartisan spaces where we can bridge divides to come together around common 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.

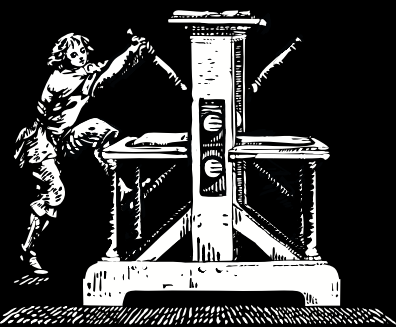
**Cotter:** I don't feel we're there yet. There's no question this is an economic opportunity. I recently read that recreational marijuana sales in Massachusetts have surpassed \$2 billion in only three years. However, I strongly believe we first need to build a solid infrastructure foundation that encompasses 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 count-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.?

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Candidates are listed in alphabetical order. In the general election, you can vote for any candidate you wish, regardless of party registration.

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Ola Nesheiwat Hawatmeh (REP/CON)  
Robin Lois (DEM/WFP)
- County Family Court Judge**  
Rachel Saunders (DEM/WFP)  
Denise Watson (REP/CON)
- County Legislator, District 18**  
*Beacon Wards 1, 2, 3 (E.D. 1, 2)*  
Nick Page (DEM/WFP)
- County Legislator, District 16**  
*Beacon Ward 3 (E.D. 3), Ward 4*  
Ron Davis (REP/CON)  
Yvette Valdes Smith (DEM/WFP)
- City Council**  
Dan Aymar-Blair (DEM/WFP) Ward 4  
Wren Longno (DEM/WFP) Ward 3  
George Mansfield (DEM/WFP) At large  
Justice McCray (DEM/WFP) Ward 2  
Molly Rhodes (DEM/WFP) Ward 1  
Paloma Wake (DEM/WFP) At large
- City Court Judge**  
Gregory Johnston (DEM)  
Timothy Pagones (REP/CON/WFP)

## FOR VOTERS IN HIGHLANDS

- Supreme Court Judicial District 9**  
*Vote for up to five*  
Robert Berliner (DEM/REP/CON)  
Thomas Davis (DEM/REP)  
Christie D'Alessio (DEM/CON)  
Robert Guertin (REP/CON)  
James Hendry III (REP)  
James Hyer (DEM/REP/CON)  
Thomas Quinones (DEM/CON)  
Mark Starkman (REP)

## FOR VOTERS IN PHILIPSTOWN

- Putnam County Sheriff**  
Robert Langley Jr. (DEM/Keep Putnam Safe)  
Kevin McConville (REP/CON)
- County Legislator (District 1)**  
Nancy Montgomery (DEM/United Putnam)  
Barbara Scuccimarra (REP/CON)
- Philipstown Supervisor**  
John Van Tassel (DEM/Team Philipstown)
- Philipstown Town Board**  
*Vote for two*  
Jason Angell (DEM/Team Philipstown)  
Megan Cotter (DEM/Team Philipstown)  
Sarina Tamagna (REP/CON)  
Neal Tomann (REP/CON)

## FOR VOTERS IN COLD SPRING

- Cold Spring Mayor**  
Kathleen Foley (Forge Ahead)  
Vincent Tamagna (Better Together)
- Cold Spring Village Board**  
*1-year term*  
Yaslyn Daniels (Better Together)  
Tweeps Woods (Service Party)
- Cold Spring Village Board**  
*Vote for two; 2-year term*  
Cathryn Fadde (Better Together)  
Jeffrey Phillips (Better Together)  
Eliza Starbuck (Lemonade Party)
- Cold Spring Village Justice**  
Thomas Costello (Forge Ahead)

PARTY KEY:

DEM = Democratic | REP = Republican

CON = Conservative

WFP = Working Families Party

## How to register

The deadline to register to vote in the Nov. 2 general election has passed. If you are not sure of your status, visit [voterlookup.elections.ny.gov](http://voterlookup.elections.ny.gov).

## How to vote by absentee

The deadline to request an application online or by phone has passed. If you have an absentee ballot, it must be postmarked on or before Election Day. The last day to apply in person for a ballot at the boards of elections in Carmel (for Putnam) or Poughkeepsie (for Dutchess) is Nov. 1.

## Early voting

### Putnam County

North Highlands Firehouse  
504 Fishkill Road  
Philipstown

<b>SAT 23</b> 9a - 2p	<b>TUES 26</b> 9a - 8p	<b>FRI 29</b> 9a - 5p
<b>SUN 24</b> 9a - 2p	<b>WED 27</b> 9a - 5p	<b>SAT 30</b> 9a - 2p
<b>MON 25</b> 9a - 5p	<b>THURS</b> 9a - 8p	<b>SUN 31</b> 9a - 2p

### Dutchess County

Town Hall  
807 Route 52  
Fishkill

<b>SAT 23</b> 10a - 3p	<b>TUES 26</b> 12p - 8p	<b>FRI 29</b> 9a - 5p
<b>SUN 24</b> 9a - 2p	<b>WED 27</b> 9a - 5p	<b>SAT 30</b> 10a - 3p
<b>MON 25</b> 9a - 5p	<b>THURS 28</b> 12a - 8p	<b>SUN 31</b> 9a - 2p



## Election Results

Check [highlandscurrent.org](http://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've been 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. 20), Schmitt attributed his 180-degree turn to what he considers Langley's involvement in disseminating the recording.

"It was the act of releasing the conversation," he said. "That's where the problem lies, not in the conversation [itself]." He said Langley should have talked to him on a personal cellphone, not a county-provided one on which calls are recorded, or shut down the discussion when politics came up.

"The conversation was 100 percent political," Schmitt asserted. "My support of the sheriff has ended, because what he did is despicable, underhanded and something that never should have happened. My support is completely behind Kevin McConville. He's a man of integrity, of honor, of dignity. He's a man you can respect. And you can trust him."

In a news release and campaign event 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](http://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.

# ↑20.85%

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# The Calendar



Patricia Miranda at work in her studio.

Photos provided

## 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 clothing, 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



"Enclosure," dyed battenberg lace, doilies and zip ties, outside the Garrison Art Center

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."

Miranda "can't remember I time when I didn't think of myself as an artist." As a child, she sketched, sewed and began making her own natural dyes and paints from insects and flowers.

She majored in art at SUNY Purchase,

(Continued on Page 17)



Cristian Chironi on Long Island with his Fiat earlier this month Photos by Alexa Hoyer/Magazzino

### Reporters' Notebook

## The Art of Experience

By Michael Turton

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.

(Continued on Page 16)



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 9D | 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 18; 5 and younger free)*

**SAT 23**

### Outdoor Halloween Crafts

**GARRISON**

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

Help make decorations and dress up the library for the Pumpkin Glow.

**SUN 24**

### Creep, Crawl, Slither

**CORNWALL**

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

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 | hnm.org

Online reservations for a hunt along the I SPY Trail will be offered every 30 minutes starting at 11 a.m. *Cost: \$10*

**SAT 30**

### Fall Fest

**COLD SPRING**

Noon - 4 p.m. Faith Church | 245 Main St.  
845-203-0400 | faithchurch.cc

Enjoy bounce houses, face painting, crafts and a food truck with snacks for purchase. *Free*

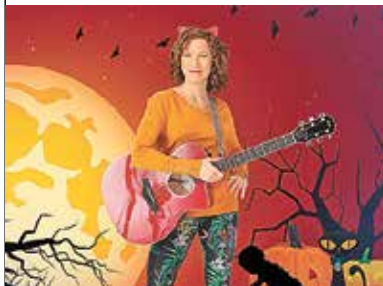
**SAT 31**

### Laurie Berkner Halloween Party

**PEEKSKILL**

Noon & 5 p.m. Via Zoom  
paramounthudsonvalley.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

**CORNWALL**

7:30 a.m. Outdoor Discovery Center  
120 Muser Drive | 845-534-5506  
hnm.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  
729 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

**BREWSTER**

6:30 - 10 p.m. Tilly Foster Farm  
100 Route 312 | 845-808-1840  
tillystablerestaurant.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  
putnamcountyny.com/seasonalfuclinic

An online appointment is required. Ages 18 and older. *Cost: \$25 (free for 65 and older or with Medicare card)*



Pumpkin Glow, Oct. 24

## HALLOWEEN

**SAT 23**

### Halloween Party

**BEACON**

2 - 9:30 p.m. RonzWorld  
172 Main St.  
bit.ly/ronzworld-halloween

There will be empanadas, spiked milkshakes and a costume contest. Bands performing will include Polanco, Dractic, Sahana Rao, Stephen Clair and the Instant Band. *Cost: \$10 and \$20*

**SAT 23**

### The Dark House

**GARRISON**

6 - 10 p.m.  
Philipstown Depot Theatre  
10 Garrison's Landing  
nightmareinc.com

Co-created by Cold Spring resident Timothy Haskell, this non-traditional haunted house is an immersive experience that relies on creative storytelling for its heart-racing moments. Through SUN 31. *Cost: \$30 (\$35 Halloween weekend)*

**SUN 24**

### Pumpkin Glow

**GARRISON**

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

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

**FRI 29**

### Readings from Edgar Allan Poe

**BEACON**

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

Dmitri Archip, Frits Zernike, Jonathan Frith, Elizabeth Murphy, Annalyse McCoy and Ryan Dunn will read from Poe's spookiest works. *Cost: \$15 (\$20 door)*

**SAT 30**

### 27th Annual Halloween Parade

**COLD SPRING**

5:30 p.m. St. Mary's Church  
Main and Route 9D  
facebook.com/coldspringhalloweenparade

Gather on the lawn starting at 4:30 p.m. for a 5:30 p.m. step-off down Main Street to the bandstand. Wear a costume, bring pets in costumes or watch the fun. The rain date is SUN 31 at 4:30 p.m.

**SAT 30**

### The Undead Bazaar

**BEACON**

7 p.m. The Yard | 4 Hanna Lane  
bit.ly/undead-bazaar

Enjoy bonfires, a haunted trail, games, a costume contest, food, drinks, sweet treats, live music from Charming Disaster and a late-night set by DJ Hellhound. *Cost: \$30 to \$100*

**SAT 30**

### The Rocky Horror Picture Show

**PEEKSKILL**

9 p.m. Paramount Hudson Valley  
1008 Brown St.  
paramounthudsonvalley.com

Tim Curry, Meatloaf and Susan Sarandon star in this 1975 cult classic about a couple whose lives change overnight when they meet Dr. Frank N. Furter in an eerie mansion. The Apoca-Lips Shadow Cast will perform during the film. *Cost: \$10*

**SUN 31**

### The Halloweening

**BEACON**

5 p.m. Howland Cultural Center  
477 Main St. | 845-831-4988  
facebook.com/spaceoutside

Bring a blanket and wear a costume to sit outside the Howland and enjoy spooky sounds and music.



I SPY Halloween Scavenger Hunt, Oct. 30



Rocky Horror, Oct. 30





The Jewish Experience, Oct. 26

**WED 27**  
**Climate Change Town Hall**  
**GARRISON**  
7 p.m. Via Zoom | 914-941-1111  
Sandy Galef, 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**  
**Castle to River Run**  
**GARRISON**  
8 a.m. Philipstown Rec  
107 Glenclyffe Dr. | 845-424-4618  
friendsofphilipstownrecreation.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 (9:30 a.m.). Children can run a 1-mile course in costume (10:30 a.m.) Register online. *Cost: \$5 to \$45*

TALKS & TOURS

**MON 25**  
**Films of Alfred Hitchcock**  
**GARRISON**  
7 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library  
Via Zoom | desmondfishlibrary.org  
Brian Rose, a professor emeritus at Fordham University, will discuss films such as *Psycho*, *Vertigo* and *North by Northwest*. Register online.



**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*.

**TUES 26**  
**The Jewish Experience and BHA**  
**BEACON**  
7 p.m. Beacon Historical Society  
Via Zoom | beaconhistorical.org  
Diane Lapis and Anna Marcus will discuss the founding of the Beacon Hebrew Alliance in 1921 and the Jewish immigrants from Eastern Europe and Russia who created a community here. Register online.

**WED 27**  
**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**  
**History Hike**  
**PUTNAM VALLEY**  
10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Fahnestock Park  
putnamhistorymuseum.org  
Cassie Ward and Dan Ricci will lead this 8.5-mile guided hike and discuss the circumstances that led to it becoming parkland and the history of Native Americans, the American Revolution and the mines within the park. Meet in the parking lot at the intersection of Dennytown Road and Sunken Mine Road. *Cost: \$10 (\$8 members)*

STAGE & SCREEN

**SAT 23**  
**Fire Shut Up In My Bones**  
**POUGHKEEPSIE**  
1 p.m. Bardavon | 35 Market St.  
845-473-2072 | bardavon.org  
In this simulcast of the first performance of an opera by a Black composer at the Met, baritone Will Liverman will appear with sopranos Angel Blue and Latonia Moore in an adaptation of Charles M. Blow's memoir. *Cost: \$28 (\$21 ages 12 and younger)*

**SAT 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 Treuhaft-Ali; Edwin Torres and Tom King will read poetry; and Elizabeth Clark (*Seeds Under Nuclear Winter: An Earth Opera*) will perform music.

**SAT 23**  
**A Hero's Journey: A Sort-Of Solo Theater Performance**  
**BEACON**  
7:30 p.m.  
Beacon Performing Arts Center  
327B Main St. | herosjourney.ck.page  
Emily 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*

**MON 25**  
**Alan Cumming**  
**POUGHKEEPSIE**  
8 p.m. Bardavon | 35 Market St.  
845-473-2072 | bardavon.org  
The actor, singer, writer and filmmaker will discuss his book, *Baggage*, with Joe Donahue from WAMC. *Cost: \$35*

**SAT 30**  
**Newburgh Literary Festival**  
**NEWBURGH**  
11 a.m. – 6 p.m.  
Lobby at the Ritz Theater  
107 Broadway  
safe-harbors.org/events/nlf-2021  
The second annual event will feature interviews, readings and a writers' fair with eight authors, including Julie Chibbaro and Saïd Sayrafiezadeh. On SUN 31, Hudson Valley authors and artists will lead workshops. *Cost: \$25 (\$20 streaming)*

MUSIC

**SAT 23**  
**Outdoor Music Pop-Up**  
**BEACON**  
Noon – 4 p.m.  
Howland Cultural Center  
477 Main St. | 845-831-4988  
howlandculturalcenter.org  
Frenchy & the Punk, Guitarmy of One, David Henningsen and Peter Kevra will perform in the Brick Pan Alley show. *Free*



Django Festival All-Stars, Oct. 31

**SAT 23**  
**No Quarter**  
**PEEKSKILL**  
8 p.m. Paramount Hudson Valley  
1008 Brown St. | 914-739-0039  
paramounthudsonvalley.com  
The Led Zeppelin tribute band will portray the band members in their prime of life. *Cost: \$29 or \$39*

**SAT 23**  
**Joe Louis Walker**  
**BEACON**  
8 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.  
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com  
The blues artist and Grammy winner will perform songs from his latest album. *Cost: \$25 (\$30 door)*

**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)*

**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 School Bluegrass Band**  
**BEACON**  
8 p.m. Howland Cultural Center  
477 Main St. | 845-831-4988  
howlandculturalcenter.org  
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 | putnamboe.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 Matteawan Road  
845-838-6900  
beaconk12.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 vote at Glenham Elementary.

**TUES 26**  
**Budget Hearing**  
**CARMEL**  
7 p.m. Historic Courthouse  
40 Gleneida 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**  
1:30 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 Matteawan Road | 845-838-6900  
beaconk12.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 Fiat was that year in Rome (Italy, not New York) in what remains my most terrifying taxi ride ever. On Sunday, Chironi helped me purge my Fiat phobia.

As we drove up Main Street in Cold Spring, heads turned and people gawked at Chameleon. That was neat. I hadn't been stared at that much since owning an AMC Pacer in the mid-'70s. I even gave the royal wave to a few gawkers. It felt regal.

Chameleon has a stick shift on the floor. Man, how I wanted to shove Cristian aside and rip through those gears. A good, though fleeting, fantasy.

The Fiat didn't exactly rip down Route 9D; it *might* have hit 29 mph. Cars passed us on the double line. I didn't utter what I



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

Photos by Alexa Hoyer/Magazzino



Passengers found themselves in tight quarters during the tours.

usually say aloud when that happens and I'm driving alone. Being passed that way did, however, send a surge of adrenalin through me. As did the bizarre U-turn Cristian made in the middle of the Route 403 intersection. The lack of seatbelts in the historic vehicle added to the thrill. For just a second, I wondered if Cristian was my

taxi driver in Rome 50 years ago. I'm sure he isn't old enough.

On the return trip I noticed Cristian's support team stationed along 9D, shooting photos and video as we drove by. My first role in performance art was being recorded for posterity; I was actually *in* a work of art!

My mind jumped to an episode of Rod

Serling's *Night Gallery*, in which the main character wished himself into a painting – but he couldn't get out of it. I was now in a work of art; what if I can't get out of the car at the end of the drive? Could I be happy living in a Fiat? It did have a good sound system.

I was able to pry myself out of Chameleon's back seat, albeit slowly and anything but gracefully. My painful exit was not caught on camera.

So, what wisdom have I attained by participating in *The New York Drive*?

I've dropped "dumb" from my vocabulary when considering art. I learned performance art can be fun, even funny. I'm 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 sandcasts. They are unique and brilliant.

I Googled the "Mona Lisa" for the first time in years. I swear that smirk is now a smile.

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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](http://thelacearchive.net). Visitors to the exhibit



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

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



"Where there is serene length" was created with vintage textile and books, muslin, twill tape, thread, pins, steel hoop, wood armature and PVC piping.

Photos provided

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– Richard Shea,  
Town of Philipstown Supervisor

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

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Vote on **November 2** at your polling station.

Jason

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For Philipstown.

[jasonforphilipstown.com](http://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.



## 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

6 tablespoons unsalted butter, at room temperature

1 cup heavy cream, at room temperature

1 teaspoon vanilla extract

⅛ teaspoon salt

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 ⅓ 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 ¾ cup of the cream. Swirl the pan to incorporate the ingredients and adjust heat for a low-foaming bubble. 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.)



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# 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.



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

## 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



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

Photos provided

emotional story than a logistical one. People were rattled 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 not good at interacting right now. I'm still remembering how to be in a social setting."

## Is it a challenge being in states with different guidelines?

There's a huge mix of how people approach this in hotels and stores. Every state is a mix. They have their various mandates, but the citizens themselves are a big mix and you can have the strictest mandate and still have people trying to defy it and you can be very loose and still have lots of cities and towns where people are even more careful than I

have been. The concerts have requirements. No matter what states I'm in, the parking lot at my concert will have cars with "Coexist" bumper stickers [supporting religious tolerance] on them. So, the concerts are fine.

## 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. So 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.

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\*U.S. News and World Report

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**On November 2nd, RE-ELECT Sheriff Robert Langley**

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## 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? We need to know by end of day. I know this is a lot to take in right now."

Wow! I was ecstatic! I'd heard about this program coming to other districts. I said

"yes" then and there, and then emailed BCAP with a heavy heart to say that my littlest couldn't attend their fantastic program because I wanted to pursue public school and experience the financial savings.

When school started, on the second day, my fellow mom-friend, who has a 9-to-5 job and one older child, called me: "How are you? You must have so much time! Let's get coffee!"

And this is where I slammed on the brakes to bring her up to speed with my reality — a self-employed person who can make, break and sabotage her own schedule. I have about two hours to work each day (including to write this column). Here's why:

Jogging, making dinner or doing anything that is not working usually is cringe-worthy for me, since I'm not being productive work-wise. But this year, I am on my own a lot with three children in sports after school and on weekends. Beacon teachers are keeping caregivers up to date on upcoming quizzes and tests, so there are lots of emails to read. 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. My amazing superhero employee makes sure our client work gets done, but when I get *The Current* by email on Friday morning at 12:15 a.m. (because I'm a member), I sink every time that they have so much more reported than I did. (Amazing reporting this paper does!)

But I got to do what I got to do. I have to



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.

Photo provided

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 stereotyping 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 others, in order 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.

Yes, after the lifestyle choices of driving my littlest 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 Dinner Part 1 before their practices, go to their practices, fix Dinner Part 2, float into a bedtime routine and collapse into bed.

The worst I could do is self-sabotage and beat myself up emotionally, which is what I normally do. But on the daily, I need to pull back, take a breath and remember that this version of life will not always be this way.

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.

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# 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, especially regarding the future of 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 19, 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 Furst 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 piece of zoning reform 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 four 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 he 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 with MU1 [in which] you’ll still have control,” he said. “Take another look at it; put guardrails 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 construction draws criticism for often 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.

“If there is no realistic answer [regarding traffic] it seems like we’re wasting everyone’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 by 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 shore 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.”

## 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.

“After relying on Kathleen to collect signatures we were shocked to learn that Kathleen had asked 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 three-way race for mayor; that she 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. I kept my commitment 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 wife and mine for nearly a decade” and that the couple were “stunned and saddened by her actions and her public conduct toward both of us.”

In the ad, Merandy said that Trustee Marie Early, who planned to run for her fourth, 2-year term, and Planning Board Chair Matt Francisco, who entered the race to succeed exiting Trustee Fran Murphy, dropped out with him because of Foley’s “duplicity” and “to avoid eight months of her [Foley’s] negative campaigning against us.” Merandy said he was hearing concerns from residents “about the lack of qualified candidates.”

The mayor shared his “voting strategy,” which was to endorse Tamagna for mayor, citing his experience in county government, while asserting that Foley is “deeply disliked among elected officials in our county government” and that she “invests a lot of energy in conspiracy theories.”

Merandy said that if “Vinny has an agenda,” it could be neutralized by voting for “the right combination of trustees,” which Merandy said would be candidates Yaslyn Daniels and Cathryn Fadde, who are running with Tamagna on the Better Together ticket, and Eliza Starbuck, who is running with Foley and trustee candidate Tweeps Phillips Woods.

“I’m only voting for Eliza as part of my strategy to maintain a balanced board,” Merandy wrote, saying she was “likely to align with Kathleen,” who will either be mayor after the election or remain as a trustee for the second year of her term. (If elected mayor, Foley also would select her replacement on the board.)

The key to his strategy, Merandy asserted, was Daniels, who he believes would be a swing vote and prevent a consistent majority voting block. Daniels is running to serve the final year of the term of Heidi Bender, who resigned earlier this year. She is challenging Woods, whom Merandy appointed to take

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 2016, 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.



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# MAYOR DAVE MERANDY’S 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 Kathleen had asked 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 Tweeps 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.

~ Dave Merandy

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

# 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 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 were 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.

“As of 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.

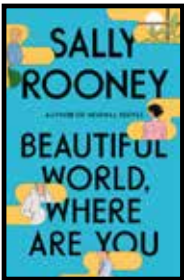
Erin Muir criticized a provision in the draft law limiting rentals to 100 days annually. “That just feels so unfair,” she said.

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.

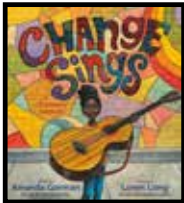
“It’s something to discuss,” Bowman replied.

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 Binnacle Books, 321 Main St., in Beacon, and Split Rock Books, 97 Main St., in Cold Spring.



ADULT	Position	previous	TITLE	AUTHOR
	1	-	<i>Beautiful World, Where Are You</i>	Sally Rooney
	2	2	<i>How to Raise Kids Who Aren't Assholes</i>	Melinda Wenner Moyer
	3	-	<i>Crying in H Mart</i>	Michelle Zauner
	4	3	<i>Hudson Valley History and Mystery</i>	Michael Adamovic
	5	-	<i>The Night Watchman</i>	Louise Erdrich
CHILDREN	6	-	<i>The Hill We Climb</i>	Amanda Gorman
	6	-	<i>Afterparties</i>	Anthony Veasna So
	6	5	<i>Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge and the Teachings of Plants</i>	Robin Wall Kimmerer
	1	-	<i>Change Sings: A Children's Anthem</i>	Amanda Gorman
	2	-	<i>Kristy and the Snobs</i>	Ann Martin
	3	3	<i>Dog Man: Mothering Heights</i>	Dav Pilkey
	4	-	<i>Karen's Kittercat Club</i>	Ann Martin
	5	-	<i>Shine!</i>	J.J. and Chris Grabenstein



## NEWS BRIEFS

## 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 2007 to settle a separate lawsuit and considers a school district's wealth and other needs in distributing funding.

Superintendent Phil Benante said the district 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/3zwwUJL](https://bit.ly/3zwwUJL).

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 legislatures 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 [dutchessny.gov](https://dutchessny.gov).

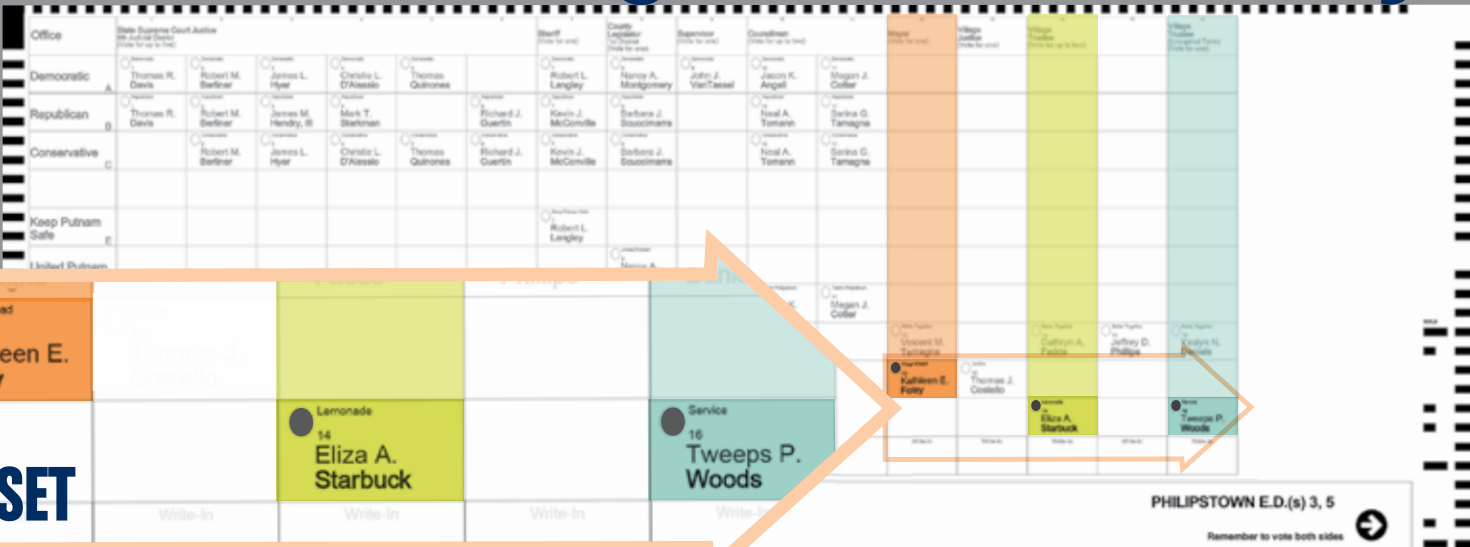


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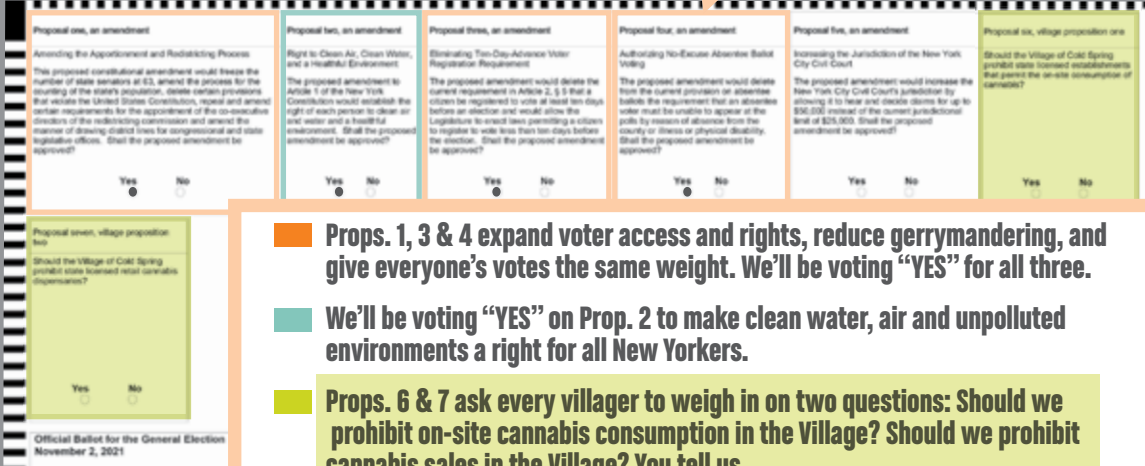
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# Vote for Village Accountability




**INSET**



**Props. 1, 3 & 4 expand voter access and rights, reduce gerrymandering, and give everyone's votes the same weight. We'll be voting "YES" for all three.**

**We'll be voting "YES" on Prop. 2 to make clean water, air and unpolluted environments a right for all New Yorkers.**

**Props. 6 & 7 ask every villager to weigh in on two questions: Should we prohibit on-site cannabis consumption in the Village? Should we prohibit cannabis sales in the Village? You tell us.**



**BALLOT PREVIEW**



# 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.

Planning Board approval would be required if construction is involved, but the building inspector could approve ADUs

## COVID-19 by the Numbers

PUTNAM COUNTY				
Number of cases: <b>12,492</b> (+164) <small>Active Cases in Philipstown: 31 - 35</small>	Tests administered: <b>303,955</b> <small>(+5,829)</small>	Percent positive: <b>4.1</b> (0)	Percent vaccinated: <b>72.6</b> <small>Percent in 10516: 79.2 Percent in 10524: 75.1 Percent of hospital workers: 94</small>	Number of deaths: <b>98</b> (+2)

DUTCHESS COUNTY				
Number of cases: <b>35,615</b> (+438) <small>Active Cases in Beacon: 17</small>	Tests administered: <b>972,327</b> <small>(+16,520)</small>	Percent positive: <b>3.7</b> (0)	Percent vaccinated: <b>67.9</b> <small>Percent in 12508: 61.6 Percent of hospital workers: 93</small>	Number of deaths: <b>499</b> (+3)

Source: State and county health departments, as of Oct. 20, with change from previous week in parentheses. Percent vaccinated reflects those ages 12 and older who have received at least one dose. The percentage for hospital workers reflects those fully vaccinated.

contained within an existing dwelling. The Planning Board could also waive parking requirements when deemed appropriate.

In theory, the law would make it less arduous to create an on-site apartment, generating revenue for the homeowner and increasing Beacon’s affordable housing stock.

However, Planning Consultant John Clarke told the council last month that the city had only received eight ADU applications in the last five years, so it’s unclear how quickly a simplified measure would noticeably affect affordability.

Meanwhile, the council has been inun-

dated with pleas from the public to enact a “good-cause eviction” law that, if similar to a bill introduced last year in the state Legislature, would prevent evictions without a court order, prevent landlords from arbitrarily deciding not to renew leases and require landlords to justify rent increases above 1.5 percent of the consumer price index.

Although the bill failed to move ahead in the Legislature, similar laws have been adopted in Albany and Hudson, and another is being considered in New Paltz.

There are 10 to 20 eviction cases pending in Beacon, which is not an abnormal number, City Court Judge Tim Pagones said

this week.

However, City Attorney Nick Ward-Willis has advised the council that an already-adopted “statewide regulatory scheme” preempts local landlord/tenant measures. “If this were permitted,” he wrote in a memo, “then each municipality could have its own unique regulatory scheme, some that might protect tenants and others that might grant more rights to landlords.”

Council Member Dan Aymar-Blair said on Monday (Oct. 18) that he’d received a second opinion from the City University of New York School of Law indicating that a local

(Continued on Page 25)

## Re-Elect JUDGE PAGONES

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# A River Runs (Back) Through It

## The aftereffects of dam removal

By Brian PJ Cronin

**Y**ou 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 come to grow on that spot, so when the dam was being removed they made sure not to damage



A freshwater mussel shell, one indicator of a healthy ecosystem

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 had 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 from 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 slice 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



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

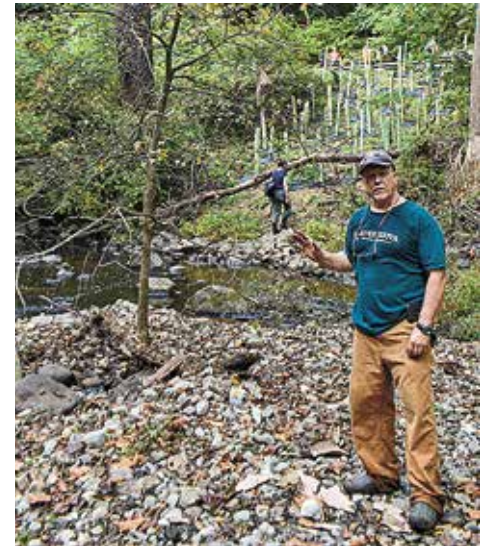
Photos by B. Cronin

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."



George Jackman takes a break by "the happy tree." The slope in the background shows where trees were planted to cover the path of the dam removal equipment.

## 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

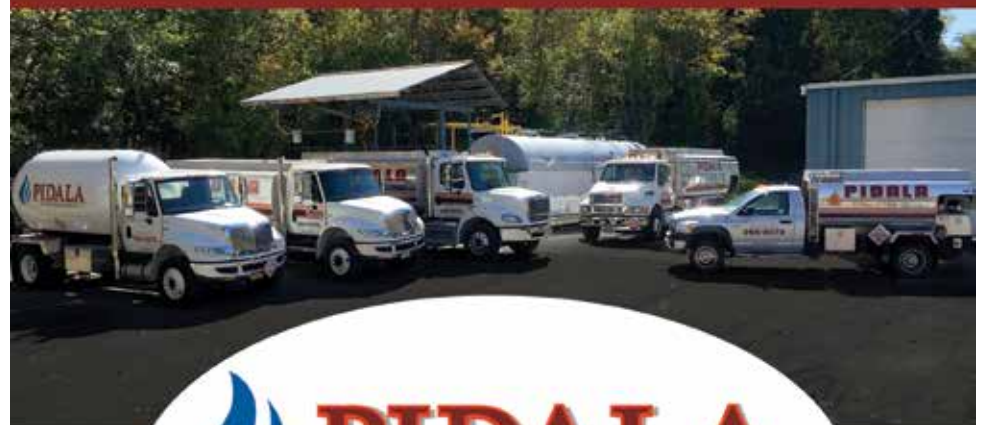
not already be living in Beacon," she said.

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."

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## SPORTS

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## 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. Ronan Kiter 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. Kiter 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 Philipbar and Chase Green also scored.

Beacon (13-1-1 overall, 10-0-1 league), was ranked No. 6 in Class A by the NYSSA this week.

Coach Craig Seaman noted that the team has outscored opponents 61-7 through 15 games. "The key for us is maintaining focus, and playing our best soccer during the play-



Chelsea DerBoghossian (16) advances the ball against Goshen.

Photo by S. Pearlman

offs," which open Saturday at home, he said.

## GIRLS' SOCCER

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 half-time 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.

Injuries also did not help this season. 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."

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 100 freestyle (1:04.84) and Isabella Haydt second in the 500 freestyle (6:28.09) and 100 breaststroke (1:20.80).

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Puzzles

CROSS CURRENT

**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

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

11 12 13 14

15 16 17

18 19 20 21

22 23 24 25 26 27

28 29 30 31 32

33 34 35 36

37 38 39 40

41 42 43

44 45 46 47 48 49

50 51 52 53 54 55

56 57 58

59 60 61

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

28. Even

29. Woody's son

30. Bard

31. Illustrations

35. Historic time

38. Shrill 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

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7 LITTLE WORDS

Find the 7 words to match the 7 clues. The numbers in parentheses represent the number of letters in each solution. Each letter combination can be used only once, but all letter combinations will be necessary to complete the puzzle.

**CLUES**

1 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

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SUDO CURRENT

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

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Answers for Oct. 8 Puzzles

U	R	A	L	S	L	A	U	R	A		
O	R	E	G	O	N	A	N	N	U	L	S
Z	A	P	A	T	A	M	I	S	S	M	E
O	N	E	S	K	I	P	S	S	O	P	
N	I	N	A	E	N	O	S	I	S	I	
E	A	T	U	P	D	O	G	M	A	T	A
			D	E	S		N	I	A		
P	R	O	R	A	T	A	T	R	A	P	S
L	E	T	A	R	O	N	T	R	I	O	
O	V	I	L	I	L	A	C	M	E	D	
D	V	O	R	A	K	S	O	N	A	T	A
S	E	S	A	M	E	A	D	O	N	I	S
D	E	T	E	R	L	A	T	I	N		

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

1. LOUT, 2. PERFUMY, 3. BIGMOUTHED, 4. ELIXIRS, 5. UNWASHED, 6. TUMBLER, 7. GOATS

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



## SPORTS



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# VARSITY ROUNDUP

By Skip Pearlman

### 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 Rucker, Jack Hartman, Will Etta, 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.

The Blue Devils scored twice in the second quarter, including on a 16-yard pass from Van Tassel to Ryan Irwin, followed by an Irwin run for the two-point conversion that tied the game.

Van Tassel completed 9-of-19 attempts for 190 yards and three touchdowns. Giachinta finished with 51 yards and a TD rushing on 14 carries.

Haldane (5-1), which the New York State Sportswriters Association (NYSSA) this week ranked No. 13 among Class D schools, has two games remaining before the team advances to the Class D sectional title game against Tuckahoe (5-1), which is ranked No.



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

Photos by S. Pearlman

9. The Blue Devils 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 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 Minisink (4-2) tonight (Oct. 22). A win should secure Beacon a No. 3 seed in the



Evan LaBelle took third for Beacon at a cross-country meet on Oct. 20; the teammate immediately behind him, Henry Reinke, finished second. Photo provided

Section IX, Class A tournament. Beacon is set to host a first-round playoff game on Oct. 29 at 7 p.m.

### 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.

"In the third set we tried to have a little fun by letting players play different positions," said Coach Kristina Roling. "Unfortunately, it didn't work out for us, but we finished strong in the fourth set."

Haldane also defeated Peekskill, 3-0, on Oct. 16 at home. Tomann had 12 assists and Farrell had 13 digs and eight aces. The Blue Devils had the most serving aces of the season, Roling said. "The players worked as a team and got a nice win."

### CROSS-COUNTRY

The Beacon boys defeated Valley Central (23-36) and Minisink Valley (23-35) in a tri-meet on Wednesday (Oct. 20) in Montgomery.

The top finishers for the Bulldogs were Henry Reinke (2), Evan LaBelle (3), Jack Twining (7), Jack Cleary (9) and Joey Baffuto (10).

"Our final dual meet of the year was a nice tuneup for us with the full squad running," said Coach Jim Henry. The team will compete in the county championships on Oct. 27 and sectionals on Nov. 3.

Beacon did not have enough female runners for team scoring but Ella Cason finished second and Rachel Thorne was fourth. "Cason and Thorne continue to run consistently well and have improved to the point that they are serious contenders to qualify for states," Henry said. "I expect some late-season speed work will help."

(Continued on Page 26)