

The HIGHLANDS Current

**ELECTION
GUIDE**

Pages 7 - 17

OCTOBER 29, 2021

Support us at highlandscurrent.org/join

Access Denied

State prison to close high-traffic road in Beacon

By Jeff Simms

The Fishkill Correctional Facility is planning to permanently close a portion of Matteawan Road in Beacon on Monday (Nov. 1), eliminating a cut-through used by hundreds of people each day.

A state Department of Corrections and Community Supervision representative said on Thursday (Oct. 28) that the closure is due to ongoing security concerns.

The road runs past Rombout Middle School and Beacon High School before entering the medium-security prison property and curving to the right, eventually ending at Route 52/Fishkill Avenue, where it becomes Prospect Street.

Although primarily an access road, it has become a much more heavily trafficked thoroughfare for school buses, parents and students coming from the Town of Fishkill and the northern part of Beacon since the school district opened its new high school campus in 2002.

In 2015, security posts where Matteawan enters the prison property were also closed as a cost-cutting measure.

With traffic on the west side of Beacon already feeling the impact of construction on the Newburgh-Beacon Bridge, the closure of Matteawan once it enters prison property would force cars coming

(Continued on Page 29)



A sign placed along Matteawan Road announces it will close to most vehicles as of Monday.

Photo by J. Simms



HITCHING A RIDE — A familiar Halloween sight got a boost at the Hudson Valley Hot Air Balloon Festival last month in LaGrangeville.

Photo by Ross Corsair

DEC Denies Danskammer Permit

Says proposed power plant not compatible with climate goals

By Brian PJ Cronin

The state Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) on Wednesday (Oct. 27) denied a crucial permit for the proposed expansion of the Danskammer power plant on the banks of the Hudson River north of the City of Newburgh, effectively killing the project.

The DEC said it would not approve a Title V Air Permit for Danskammer, which it needed to build a new natural gas-fired plant to replace its existing one.

“Our review determined the proposed project does not demonstrate compliance



The Danskammer plant on the Hudson north of Beacon

Danskammer Energy

with the requirements of the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act,” said DEC Commissioner Basil Seggos in a statement. “The proposed project would be inconsistent with or would interfere with the statewide greenhouse gas emis-

(Continued on Page 28)

Molinaro Unveils ‘Historic’ Tax Cut

Proposal would cut Dutchess taxes by 10 percent

By Leonard Sparks

A year ago, with COVID-19 vaccines still undergoing testing and a second wave of the pandemic underway, Dutchess County Executive Marc Molinaro proposed a budget balanced using savings from employee buyouts and \$10 million of reserve funds.

A year later, with vaccinations widespread, resurgent sales-tax collections and federal relief funding, the Republican executive on Wednesday (Oct. 27) released a \$528 million budget proposal that would cut property

(Continued on Page 30)

Jason
Angell
For Philipstown Board.

**Bringing people together
for real results**

Vote Nov. 2nd
www.jasonforphilipstown.com

Paid for by Jason for Philipstown.

5Q FIVE QUESTIONS: STOWE BOYD

By Chip Rowe

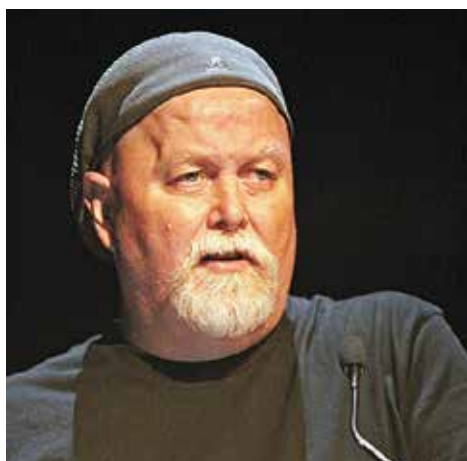
Stowe Boyd of Beacon is the founder and managing director of Work Futures. He also blogs at *Beacon Streets* (beaconstreets.com).

You describe yourself as a “work ecologist.” What does that mean?

I think about what’s going on in the world of work from the viewpoint of ecological thinking. It’s the notion that everything is complex and interrelated, as opposed to conventional management theory, which is typically a mix of anecdote and research studies. You know, let’s run a two-segment test on Zoom fatigue, as opposed to thinking about how trees communicate with mushrooms, using the general principles of ecology, such as that in nature, groups aggregate and leaders emerge. Rather than quote from some bestseller management book, I’ll cite my favorite book from last year, which was *The Mushroom at the End of the World: On the Possibility of Life in Capitalist Ruins*, which is a phenomenal ecological economic tract. It’s not the conventional, “Here’s how to make your employees more productive.”

How do you earn a living?

I’m a consultant. For years, I was a technology analyst, focused almost exclusively



on the tools that people use in business to communicate, coordinate, cooperate and so on. Over time, my interest drifted toward the organism side of the equation. Companies like Microsoft and Google and IBM reached out. Google told me they had changed the name of a product in development, Google for Business, to Google for Work because I had made a distinction [in a column] that business is what management thinks about and work is what people think about.

The future of work appears to have changed a lot in just 18 months.

The pandemic shutdown accelerated trends that were already operative. The movement to remote work was underway 36 months ago,

although a lot of large companies were saying, “It’ll never work, there’s so much value from serendipity next to the water cooler, blah, blah, blah.” Even before the pandemic, there was clear evidence that the people who were happiest, most productive, most engaged and less likely to quit, were the people working from home most of the time.

You are credited with creating the term hashtag. Where did it come from?

I was having an online discussion with friends in 2007. One of them was Chris Messina, who proposed using the hash symbol and a string of letters as a way of annotating tweets. He wanted to call them “channels,” because he envisioned them as groups where you would converse about a topic. But I argued they should be like a tag on a blog post, indicating the content for searching later, and I referred to them as hashtags in a Twitter post. In 2012, the American Dialect Society made it the “word of the year” and then it found its way into the *Oxford English Dictionary* and cited me.

You chair the city’s Main Street Access advisory committee. What does Main Street need? Could it be a park?

That was a notion based on what happened about 30 years ago with Memorial Drive in Cambridge [Massachusetts], where they blocked it off for a day, and then it became one day per quarter, then one day per month. We could do that in Beacon, maybe every second Saturday. Wouldn’t it be nice if Main Street, in 10 years, was a shared space supporting cars at a very low speed, and people and tables in the street? In the meantime, you have to deal with today’s problems, which is what we looked at. For parking, we proposed a three-phase model. First, take advantage of the current lots and street space and restripe, so you have more parking without more pavement. If that doesn’t work any longer — when you reach a point of failure — Phase Two would be meters. If that fails, the hypothetical third phase would be parking structures. The benefit there is you get significantly more parking without increasing the size of the lots.

NAMSAL SIEDLECKI: VIANDANTE

October 29 – December 4, 2021
Italian Cultural Institute in New York
686 Park Avenue, New York, NY 10065

Organized by Magazzino Italian Art
in collaboration with
the Italian Cultural Institute in New York
and NYU Casa Italiana Zerilli-Marimò



MAGAZZINO
ITALIAN ART



BEACON FINE ART PRINTING

Specializing in digital fine art, large format and display printing, mounting, scanning, retouching and framing for artists, photographers and all fine art professionals.

BEACONFINEARTPRINTING.COM | 914 522 4736

A HANNEMÜHLE CERTIFIED STUDIO

BEACON, NEW YORK

artisan wine shop

where food meets its match

www.artisanwineshop.com
local delivery five days/week

845.440.6923 • 180 main street, beacon

your source for organic, biodynamic &
low-intervention wines, ciders & spirits since 2006

ON THE SPOT

By Michael Turton

If you could add a day to the week, what would it be?

“

Slumberland, between Sunday and Monday. A good day to catch up on sleep!

”



Brent Lagerman, Cold Spring

“

Peaceday, after Sunday. Stores closed, a day for family and positive thoughts only.

”



Lavonne Cooper, Beacon

“

Nocalliday, between Wednesday and Thursday. No phone calls or internet, just writing and drawing.

”



Tim Mohr, Philipstown

Man Pleads Guilty to Burglary

Had been charged with attack of Cold Spring neighbor

By Chip Rowe

A Cold Spring man accused of attacking a neighbor in her apartment in 2020 pleaded guilty on Oct. 12 to a felony burglary charge, while two assault charges were dismissed.

Tyrell Jones, who was 42 when he was charged in November 2020 with three felonies — a burglary that caused injury, strangulation and harming a victim over the age of 65 — had been free on bail. After his plea, he

was sent to the Putnam County Jail to await sentencing, which is scheduled for Dec. 7.

As part of an agreement with the Putnam County district attorney, Jones pleaded guilty to a single, reduced burglary charge. Because he has a previous conviction for a violent crime, he faces a sentence of 3.5 years to 7 years in prison. The original burglary charge carried a sentence of 10 to 25 years.

“The investigation that led up to the defendant’s arrest took many months and he was



Jones

not arrested until we had DNA evidence proving that he was the perpetrator,” said Robert Tandy, the Putnam County district attorney. He said the plea agreement had been approved by the victim and her family. “She told us that she ‘felt 10 years younger’ when the defendant was remanded after his plea.”

Stephen McCarthy Jr., Jones’ attorney, said: “Mr. Jones was fairly treated by both the district attorney’s office and the court. With the loving support of his family, Mr. Jones chose to accept responsibility for the matter and put it behind him.”

Jones was accused of attacking the woman, then 82, in the early morning hours of June 30 in her Rock Street apartment. Prosecutors said that Jones entered her apartment at about 1:30 a.m. and sat on

her back “while forcibly covering her mouth with his hands, preventing her from being able to breathe and causing abrasions to her mouth and facial area.”

Jones had earlier been sentenced to four years in prison for a similar assault in Pleasantville. According to a 2012 news account, he was arrested in August of that year and charged with breaking into a home around midnight and attacking a female resident.

He was convicted in that case of strangulation and assault. He had been returned to prison twice on parole violations, according to state records, before being released in May 2020 from the Mid-State Correctional Facility in Oneida County.

Michael Turton contributed reporting.

NEWS BRIEFS

Beacon Voters Approve Capital Plan

School district will spend \$26 million

Voters in the Beacon City School District on Tuesday (Oct. 26) approved a \$26 million capital project for upgrades at all six of its schools. The vote was 513-71, with a turnout of 3.5 percent of registered voters. District officials say the spending will not trigger a tax increase.

The plans range from the upgrade and modernization of the television/multi-media studio, science labs and art classrooms at Beacon High School and Rombout

Middle School to playground upgrades at South Avenue and J.V. Forrestal elementary schools. It also addresses maintenance needs, the district said.

The district said it will borrow \$24.4 million through bond funding and use \$1 million from a capital reserve fund and \$600,000 from savings.

Clearwater, Riverpool Receive Grants

State distributes \$1.5M to 39 projects

New York State on Tuesday (Oct. 26) announced more than \$1.5 million in

grants for 39 projects in communities along the Hudson River.

Hudson River Sloop Clearwater was given \$40,000 to enhance its online Fish Key tool with videos and the River Pool at Beacon received \$12,500 to upgrade the swimming structure and add new signs.

Molinaro Appoints Health Commissioner

Legislature must confirm selection

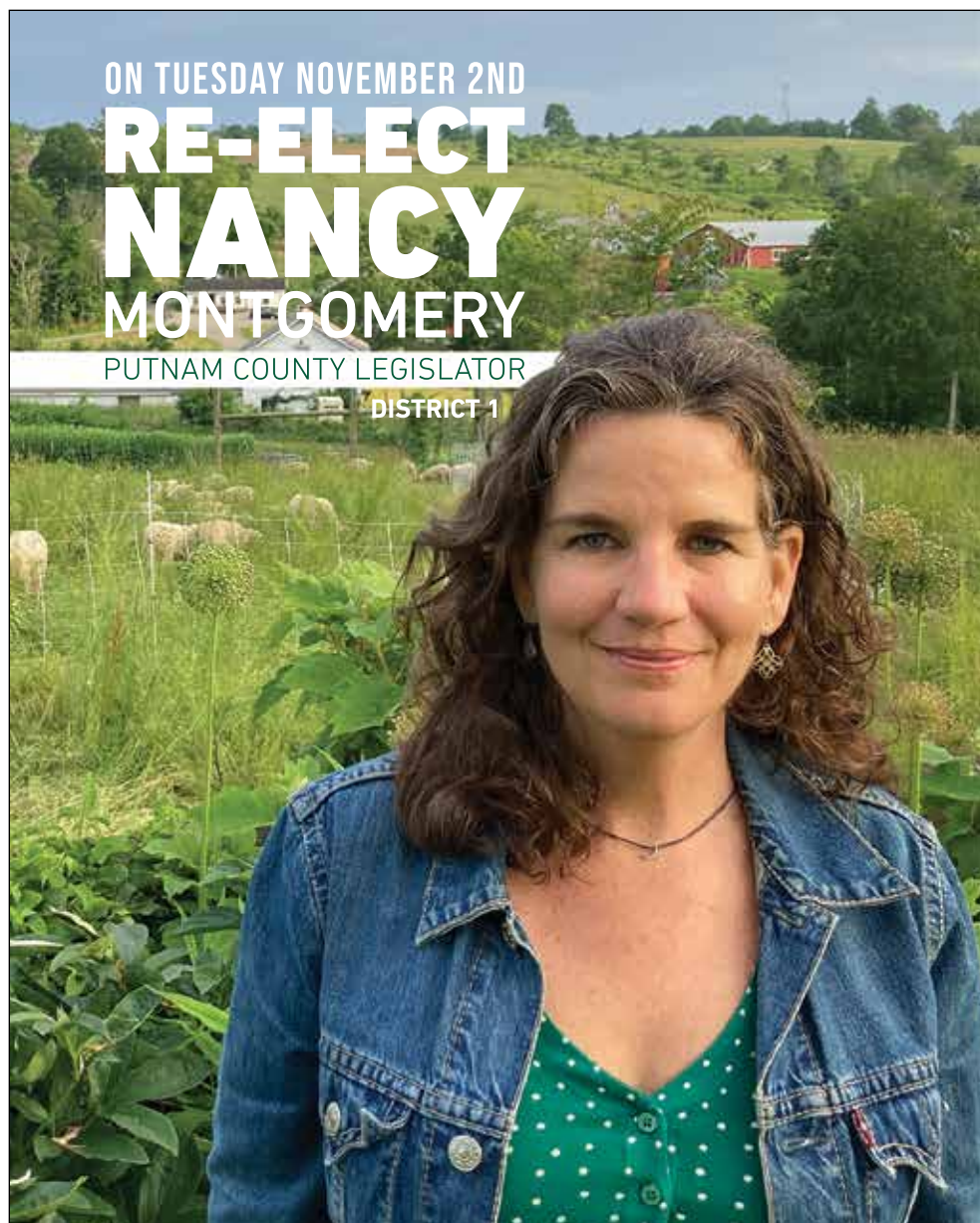
The Dutchess County executive has nominated Dr. Livia Santiago-Rosado as commissioner of the Department of

Behavioral and Community Health, pending legislative and state approval.

County Executive Marc Molinaro said in a statement he expected the Legislature would vote on the appointment at its Nov. 8 meeting.

Santiago-Rosado, a resident of LaGrange, was most recently the chair and medical director of emergency medicine at Vassar Brothers Medical Center in Poughkeepsie. She holds a bachelor’s degree in biological anthropology from Harvard and her medical degree from Columbia.

As commissioner, she would oversee more than 200 employees and an annual operating budget of \$79 million.



We've made so much progress.

We can't afford to roll back to the days of **pay-to-play** politics and governing **behind closed doors**. Not when **services and funding** for Philipstown are **under attack**, not when our public **safety** is on the chopping block, and certainly not when we are the ones **footing the bill**.

Our neighbors demand transparency, they demand **accountability**, and they demand to be **honestly represented**. That's why District 1 sent me to the Legislature in 2018, and that's why they'll be **voting to send me back on November 2nd**.

VOTE FOR NANCY!
ELECTNANCYMONTGOMERY.COM

PAID FOR BY ELECT MONTGOMERY

The HIGHLANDS Current

PUBLISHER

Highlands Current Inc.
142 Main St. Cold Spring, NY 10516-2819
291 Main St., Beacon, NY 12508-2899

FOUNDER

Gordon Stewart (1939 - 2014)

EDITOR

Chip Rowe
editor@highlandscurrent.org

SENIOR EDITOR

Leonard Sparks

BEACON EDITOR

Jeff Simms

ARTS EDITOR

Alison Rooney
arts@highlandscurrent.org

REPORTERS

Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong
Brian PJ Cronin • Joe Dizney
Pamela Doan • Deb Lucke
Skip Pearlman • Michael Turton

STUDENT CORRESPONDENTS

Ezra Beato (*Haldane*)
Sam Harle (*Beacon*)
Violeta Edwards Salas (*Haldane*)
Nix Spodek (*Beacon*)
Lily Zuckerman (*Philipstown*)

LAYOUT DESIGNER

Pierce Strudler

ADVERTISING DIRECTOR

Michele Gedney
For information on advertising:
845-809-5584
ads@highlandscurrent.org
highlandscurrent.org/ads

MEMBERSHIP

Emily Hare
membership@highlandscurrent.org

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Teresa Lagerman
community@highlandscurrent.org



THE HIGHLANDS CURRENT
(USPS #22270) / ISSN 2475-3785

October 29, 2021
Volume 10, Issue 45

is published weekly by Highlands Current Inc., 142 Main St., Cold Spring, NY 10516-2819. Periodicals Postage Paid at Cold Spring, NY, and at additional offices. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to *The Highlands Current*, 142 Main St., Cold Spring, NY 10516-2819. Mail delivery \$30 per year. highlandscurrent.org/delivery delivery@highlandscurrent.org

Distribution audited by the Circulation Verification Council © Highlands Current Inc. 2021

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced in any form, mechanical or electronic, without written permission of the publisher.

NYFA* Winner: 76 Better Newspaper Contest Awards

* New York Press Association, 2013-20

NNA* Winner: 71 Better Newspaper Contest Awards

* National Newspaper Association, 2016-20

NYNPA* Winner: 17 Awards for Excellence

* New York News Publishers Association, 2017-20

Tell us what you think

The *Current* welcomes letters to the editor on its coverage and local issues. Submissions are selected by the editor to provide a variety of opinions and voices, and all are subject to editing for accuracy, clarity and length. We ask that writers remain civil and avoid personal attacks. Letters may be emailed to editor@highlandscurrent.org or mailed to Editor, The Highlands Current, 142 Main St., Cold Spring, NY 10516. The writer's full name, village or city, and email or phone number must be included, but only the name and village or city will be published.

LETTERS AND COMMENTS

Transport issues

The week ending Oct. 24 has been dubbed Hudson Valley Climate Solutions Week. In that spirit, it's worth pointing out a solution that the region has dragged its heels on: improved public transportation.

Transportation is the largest contributor to greenhouse gas emissions in the U.S. We have to address this by electrifying vehicles of all kinds, but that is not enough. We also must build cities and neighborhoods where people can drive less, which means walkable Main Streets with usable public transportation.

We've known this for a long time. In fact, the Mid-Hudson Regional Economic Council identified better transit as an important solution in its 2013 regional sustainability plan. And yet, in Dutchess County, local buses stop running on Sunday, cutting people off from work, worship and the ability to run errands or visit family and friends. Even the Beacon Free Loop idles on Sunday, though Main Street businesses and major attractions keep their doors open.

Putnam County offers even less, with no regularly scheduled bus service to destinations like the NewYork-Presbyterian medical office in Cold Spring or shops and services along Route 9.

This lack of service makes it harder for Highlands families to get by with one car, let alone go car-free. It raises obstacles to people's economic mobility and our ability to meet climate goals. Fixing this is well within the power of county officials, given the number of state and federal funding programs available for improved transit.

Steven Higashide, *Beacon*

The Fjord Trail design for the Breakneck connector section is fundamentally flawed. The current plan retains the limited and dangerous parking along Route 9D and adds three signaled crosswalks, which would result in gridlock on busy days and present a continuing safety hazard year-round.

The answer is to physically separate pedestrian and vehicular thru-traffic, not to add traffic-calming measures to what is a primary transportation link.

The first priority is safety. This means hikers must have a dedicated route that is off the road and off the tracks. Since the trail can be routed on land over the rail tunnel, a bridge over the tracks is nice to have but not essential. However, there is no way to provide a safe crossing of 9D without a bridge due to the steep cliffs at the north end of the road tunnel.

The clear solution is that the bridge should go over the road, not the tracks. Perhaps there could also be another parking lot on the east side of 9D as the demand for parking near the trailheads creates a considerable amount of desperate and dangerous parking behavior.

This is an important project: Let's avoid an expensive and painful design error and consider all the people who use the corridor, visitors and local residents, as equal stakeholders. There exist design solutions, but not as embodied in the current design proposal.

Stefan Kuzminski, *Cold Spring*

New York Drive

Michael Turton was right the first time ("The Art of Experience," Oct. 22). The performance art was indeed "dumb." It's Michael's writing that's real art!

Rena Corey, *Cold Spring*

Arnold connection

Beverley Robinson, in your Oct. 22 issue ("5 Questions"), was too modest about the achievements of his Loyalist ancestor of the same name in connection with Benedict Arnold and the British cause.

"In the treason of Arnold," one author notes, "[Robinson's] name and acts occur continually" as a co-conspirator and facilitator of communication between Arnold and Major John André for the betrayal of West Point.

In addition, according to Sir Henry Clinton, the commander of British forces during the war, Robinson "was appointed to the command of a [Loyalist] regiment composed chiefly of his own tenants, at the head of which he distinguished himself upon several occasions, and particularly at the storming of [the American nationalist defenses at] Fort Montgomery on Oct. 6, 1777."

Bryan Dunlap, *Garrison*

This interview was very interesting. We have the Robinson land sale records here at the Dutchess County Clerk's Office.

Bradford Kendall, *Poughkeepsie*
Kendall is the Dutchess County clerk.

Visitor feedback

Having never had the opportunity to visit Beacon, my recent discovery of your city was impressive. The farmers' market adjacent to the municipal offices and flea market behind the post office were well worth the stroll along Main Street.

What does present an "eyesore" is the loitering across from the VFW Hall, which detracts from a beautiful town.

Irwin Izen, *Commack*



(Continued on Page 5)

LETTERS AND COMMENTS

(Continued from Page 4)

Ballot measures

Please vote “yes” on Nov. 2 on Proposal 2, the right to clean air, clean water and a healthful environment. It appears on the reverse side of the ballot.

It seems obvious that when creating a policy or building infrastructure, the government should consider the environment, and how a project or policy will impact human health. It also seems obvious that private enterprises shouldn't be allowed to pollute their neighbors' air and water.

Proposal 2 will backstop common sense with legal protection, making the right to clean air and water for all New Yorkers a part of the state constitution. The League of Conservation Voters, Hudson River Sloop Clearwater, the National Resources Defense Council and the Sierra Club are among the many organizations that support the proposal. Thanks for voting!

Tara Vamos, *Cold Spring*

Beacon City Judge

Greg Johnston is the Working Families Party's endorsed candidate for Beacon City Court judge, but this year, we are asking you to vote for him on the Democratic line.

In 2020, the WFP saw the largest turnout of voters in the party's history. Unfortunately, this led to a backlash from the Conservative and Republican parties, which endorsed candidates to run against our endorsed candidates in primaries such as the one for Beacon City Court. Why? Because they want to confuse voters on Election Day.

Johnston was endorsed expressly for his alignment with the Working Families Party and we urge those who align with our values to vote for him on Nov. 2.

Sandy Oxford, *Hurleyville*

Oxford is the secretary of the New York Working Families Party.

I first spoke with Greg Johnston about his vision as Beacon City Court judge in 2018. He had become interested in running after he learned that the incumbent, Judge Timothy Pagones, asks defendants whether they are in this country legally.

An experienced public defender, Johnston doesn't believe this question should be asked by any judge and typically sees it handled in ways that fostered a better courtroom environment. As a child and sibling of immigrants, I was struck by his concern for those who are less knowledgeable about the law.

More recently, I have been impressed by Johnston's assertion that “the process shouldn't be the punishment.” He means that having to appear in court — whether for a traffic ticket or something more serious — shouldn't automatically be a punitive experience.

Now more than ever it is important for me to have a judge aligned with my values. As a 35-year Beacon resident, this Election Day I will make sure to find Greg Johnston's name on the ballot and give him my vote.

Pam Wetherbee, *Beacon*

The Pagones campaign provided this response: “This is not true. Judge Pagones asks if they are U.S. citizens. He does not

ask if they are here illegally and he advises them the only reason he is asking is to advise them that if they are not a U.S. citizen, they have the right to speak to an immigration lawyer before any plea or sentence. He further advises them that immigration is not called or in any way involved in their case and that their immigration status is not a factor in any potential bail. He advises them this is done to protect their rights. This lie has been spread by the Beacon Democratic Committee; Judge Pagones explained exactly why he asks this question when he appeared in front of the committee. Should he become the judge, Mr. Johnston will have to inquire as to the immigration status of defendants and advise them of their rights. Judge Pagones brings up this question early on so more time is given should they need an immigration lawyer.”

Putnam County Sheriff

So, to sum up, a Republican town supervisor makes a call to [Democratic] Sheriff Robert Langley Jr. and makes all sorts of inappropriate political statements, another failed Republican candidate knows to make a Freedom of Information Law request for this call, and the Republican opposition candidate points to this “scandal” as being “worse than Watergate,” and we're supposed to believe this wasn't a coordinated smear campaign (“Challenger Accuses Sheriff of Misconduct,” Oct. 22)? This is a distraction from the actual records and positions of the two candidates, only one of whom has been sued for civil-rights violations and alleged racial discrimination against employees under his watch.

Young Lee, *Cold Spring*

Anyone with common sense can see what went on here. Democrat Langley informed his campaign team of a conversation he had with a Republican supervisor and told them the specific timeframe to FOIL so they can retrieve the audiotape to use for political gain. How could anyone know of the private conversation if Langley did not inform them?

This was clearly a “political hit” by a Democratic sheriff to shame and embarrass a sitting supervisor in the Republican Party. Shame on Langley. This is despicable and unethical behavior. Watergate showed that Nixon could not be trusted and Langley-gate is showing the people of Putnam County that Sheriff Langley cannot be trusted.

Please join me in voting for Republican Kevin McConville, who has 30 years of experience in law enforcement and is a retired chief of police at the Metropolitan Transportation Authority. Kevin will restore integrity and respect to the office.

Robert Buckley, *Mahopac*

Can Kevin McConville not find anything of substance to use against Sheriff Langley in his bid for the sheriff's seat? And would he have us believe this charge is best described as “Putnam County's version of Watergate”?

If he wants to be taken seriously, McConville should tell us how he can improve Putnam County's law enforcement agency, instead of using baseless allegations to besmirch his opponent.

Phyllis Hoenig, *Mahopac*



Someone repositioned two McConville signs to “sandwich” a Langley sign last week opposite Philipstown Town Hall.

Photo by John Plummer

Langley didn't say much of anything on the call [with Carmel supervisor Ken Schmitt], certainly nothing inappropriate or political. It was Schmitt who seemed to be baiting him and it was Schmitt who requested the call.

Heather Smith, *via Facebook*

Such irresponsible, shoddy work by *The Current*. Anyone can ask the district attorney to investigate a political opponent. Doesn't make it news.

Ned Rauch, *via Instagram*

McConville has a distorted sense of perspective. Does our aspiring sheriff not know that recording phone calls is legal in New York? We could use a real sheriff in this county.

James Carmody, *Carmel*

The exchange says way more about McConville than it does about Langley. Republicans are playing games because they can't attack Langley on his record.

Thomas Quinn, *Cold Spring*

I'm a registered independent. I have always gravitated to pragmatic mix-and-match policy planning (political, school board, work rules, etc.). Why does the sheriff's office have a political party identity? In 2017, Sheriff Don Smith was voted out not because there was some “liberal takeover” of Putnam, but rather because of the expensive result of his “scandal.” And yet, a day or two before Election Day, the Young Republicans of Putnam endorsed Smith. What thinking person could find such a move as ethically logical? Spare me the “you-don't-really-know-how-wronged-Smith-was.” He lied, we paid, it's over.

Now this kinda bizarre, kinda sad shenanigans to portray Sheriff Langley as an unethical deviant for returning a call to a work associate about work while at work. Who is guiding this waste of time and energy? Everyone except Langley comes off as shifty crackpots. Law enforcement is important and difficult work. Support the Sheriff's Depart-

ment regardless of party affiliation, because if I ever need to call 911, I'm not actually calling a Republican or a Democrat for help.

Irene Pieza, *Cold Spring*

Sheriff Langley has done an admirable job keeping Putnam County safe, despite the consistent efforts of elected officials in the county Legislature to undermine him. He is running a clean campaign, consistent with his character. So it was distressing as I drove east on Route 301 from Cold Spring to see that some person or persons supporting his opponent was resorting to dirty tricks to conceal Langley's campaign signs: Every sign had been hidden behind one or usually two signs for his opponent.

While not as sophisticated as the dirty tricksters employed by Dick Nixon, this is shameful, anti-American, anti-democratic behavior. I call on candidate Kevin McConville to denounce this reprehensible tactic, and ask his supporters who are covering up the Langley signs to cease and desist, and to make sure that all candidate signs can be fairly seen throughout the county.

John Plummer, *Cold Spring*

The McConville campaign responded: “The McConville4Sheriff Campaign has had numerous signs damaged, destroyed, removed and rearranged. As we have said previously, we ask those responsible to stop. Let the voters see the campaign signage and vote.”

Mayor's endorsement

As a recruiter, at the request of Trustee Kathleen Foley, for signatures for Mayor Dave Merandy and trustee candidates Marie Early and Matt Francisco to be placed on the Nov. 2 ballot, I am offended by the erroneous and egregious claims made by Merandy in his attempt to slander Foley and sway the electorate (“Merandy Endorses Tamagna for Cold Spring Mayor,” Oct. 22).

The facts are as follows: When Foley contacted me to canvass the lower village, she explained the urgency of defeating the Better Together ticket at-large and mayoral candidate Vinny Tamagna in particular. Like many others in the village, it is clear how detrimental Tamagna's hubris would be for Cold Spring. Foley made it clear that I could not sign the petition I was carrying, but that did not preclude me from signing another.

I was reluctant to knock on doors for Merandy because I witnessed weekly at the Village Board meetings how he had lost his bearings as a leader, was surprisingly misogynistic, unable to control his temper and frequently acting like a petulant child. But I had been a longtime fan of Early and Francisco, both of whom have the intelligence and lack of ego necessary to move the village forward.

So I knocked on doors. I found myself engaged in conversations with people who also had grave concerns about the mayor. Those who signed did so because they were able to focus on the value of electing Early and Francisco and understood that, were Merandy elected, the board would still have the proper ballast to keep the village

(Continued on Page 6)

LETTERS AND COMMENTS

(Continued from Page 5)

government moving forward.

There is no conspiracy here: It was clear from canvassing that Merandy would most likely have lost the election. It's sad that Merandy's vindictiveness jeopardizes the future of our village and casts a stain on his legacy.

Rian Keating, *Cold Spring*

I like Dave Merandy. He has been a great mayor. I voted for him twice and I would have voted for him again. However, I must disagree with his recommendations for how we should vote in the village elections.

We elected Dave to get away from the Cathryn Fadde-dominated Village Board. I believe Kathleen Foley, Eliza Starbuck and Tweeps Phillips Woods would represent a continuation of how Dave Merandy led the village. In fact, I believe that the Dave Merandy who served the village so well would disagree with the Dave Merandy who endorsed Vinny Tamanga.

Michael Meeropol, *Cold Spring*

I was astonished to read that Mayor Merandy hopes for a balanced trustee board after the upcoming election. Thanks to Zoom, I have been able to attend more than 20 board meetings in the past 18 months. I witnessed at least half a dozen times when Dave Merandy acted angrily, irrationally and unprofessionally. He reacts to any valid questions — questions I would want to have

answered — or opposition to his own views as a personal attack and resorts to absurd conspiracy theories.

Mayor Merandy needs only to reflect on his unbecoming conduct as to the reason why villagers were uncomfortable signing a petition to put him on the ballot. If he were running for reelection, a balanced board with diverse opinions would be the last thing Dave Merandy would want.

Hilary Hart, *Cold Spring*

This was a very disappointing article. If it's news, where's the other side of the story?

Shelley Gilbert, *via Instagram*

Was the ad free, too? A political person pays for a huge ad that mentions nothing about the lack of county sales tax revenue or loss of county funding for toilets or loss of a sheriff's patrol in our river, but attacks another public servant. Then, after purchasing that big, expensive ad, he gets a front-page headline, to boot. Whatever happened to Gordon Stewart's *Current*?

Judy Farrell, *via Instagram*

Editor's note: The late Gordon Stewart founded The Current (then Philipstown. info) in 2010. Farrell is a member of the Philipstown Town Board.

The Current did an excellent job reporting this complex, controversial and important development. The dry facts are there, and it is up to us, the readers, to decide. More of that brand of reporting is always welcome.

Carlos Salcedo, *Philipstown*

The lack of decorum on the part of our local elected officials is troubling.

Anthony Lise, *via Instagram*

Everyone is entitled to their own facts, as we know, but Foley admits: "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."

"Only then" was while campaigning for Merandy. Ouch. She didn't tell Merandy that she was running against him, while campaigning for him.

With "volunteers" like that, who needs enemies?

These people are "volunteering" to serve Cold Spring, to officiate on boards that make decisions material to people's livelihood and financial futures — until self-interest takes over, but "only then."

Knowing Dave Merandy, Marie Early and Matt Francisco, their years of service and their track record, I would vote for them if they were running, i.e., placing their own self-interest first and splitting the vote. But they aren't.

Norah Hart, *Cold Spring*

So someone — it's not clear who — buys a half-page ad in your paper to publish Merandy's wild conspiracy and then the paper puts a story about the ad on the front page but buries Foley's response on Page 21? Is *The Current* is now selling access to its front page?

Gaston Alonso, *via Facebook*

Corrections

- In the Oct. 22 issue, we stated that Thomas Costello is running for Cold Spring village justice as part of the Forge Ahead party. In fact, he is running under the Justice Party.

- In an article in the Oct. 22 issue about *The New York Drive*, a performance art piece hosted by Magazzino Italian Art, we reported that the late artist Costantino Nivola "was renowned for bombing around eastern Long Island in a multi-colored Fiat." In fact, near the end of his life in the 1980s, when Nivola was living on Long Island, he was concerned that artwork he had left in his home in Tuscany would not make it back to his birthplace in Sardinia. So he enlisted a nephew to move the items using Nivola's Fiat 127.

The editor replies: Our story wasn't about the ad, which Merandy purchased; it was about his endorsements. We think it's news when a mayor makes an endorsement in the race to succeed him, especially if the choice is unexpected, regardless of how it's delivered.

After I read all of that hateful and misogynistic B.S., I wondered who's really taken in by conspiracy theories. People didn't sign for Kathleen *instead of* Dave. Dave's rantings, and such a consistently vindictive style, said enough and turned people away. Why else would he have dropped out?

I thought Roger Ailes died years ago, but it seems he came back for a Halloween surprise and he's running *The Current* now. It's sad to see an otherwise good paper place biased pieces on the cover. Does the vicious ad pay for that kind of "journalism"?

Lloyd DesBrisay, *via Facebook*

I carried petitions for Mayor Merandy. I carried out my duties earnestly and honestly as I have for years, always excited to participate in our democracy. I was never told to stop what I was doing by anyone. I know the rules for gathering signatures because I've been volunteering for all kinds of village campaigns for 11 years.

Want to be mayor? Run a really good campaign and win. A third person has entered the race? Beat them fair and square at the polls. I will be voting for Kathleen, Tweeps and Eliza, and I am particularly excited to see Kathleen, who has worked so hard for so many years to deliver good candidates over the finish line (including the current mayor), finally become mayor herself.

Andrea Connor Hudson, *via Facebook*

I'm flashing back to the days when Cold Spring Trustee Stephanie Hawkins was attacked every week in a coordinated effort by village trustees, [one-time mayoral candidate] Barney Malloy and employees of the *Putnam County News & Recorder*. Dave

Merandy took a cut in pay and benefits to run for mayor. I am so grateful to both Merandy and Foley for resurrecting us from the all-time low when Hawkins was attacked for things like tending to a sick tree and securing important funding for our town.

The conflict between Merandy and Foley is tragic, and I can't support Merandy's proposed slate of candidates, who sat by as the Ailes machine attacked public servants. But Mayor Merandy sacrificed a lot to save our town.

Dar Williams, *via Facebook*

It's a shame Mayor Merandy can't take responsibility for his nasty demeanor and foul language over the past couple of years, but I would have begrudgingly voted for him as the lesser of two evils.

I am thrilled Foley, Woods and Starbuck have stepped up to do what few are willing to do — dedicate their time and attention to the needs of many. Thank you, ladies, and I can't wait to cast my vote for you on Nov. 2.

Ann McBride-Alayon, *Cold Spring*

Putnam County Legislature

I am absolutely frustrated by the way the county treats the seniors of our community. The lack of creative and stimulating programs at the local Friendship Center is appalling. I have personally contacted various individuals at the county Office for Senior Resources to discuss this problem.

Since they do not provide comprehensive and stimulating programming, a group of us asked if we could develop those programs ourselves. None of the county officials I contacted has bothered to respond to my request despite promises to do so. The county pays over \$11,000 a month for this underutilized facility, which has a kitchen that cost more than \$300,000 to construct and is never used.

It is a sad situation when a legislature is dominated by a single party for long periods. It leads to boondoggle construction projects and a lack of responsiveness by officials who have nothing to lose. There is a single Democratic legislator in our Putnam County legislature. I urge you to join me in voting for Nancy Montgomery. We need to restore balance in the county. Nancy has fought hard to get us the services we need and deserve, and for greater transparency and fiscal responsibility in Carmel.

Ellyn Varela-Burstein, *Cold Spring*

Cold Spring Mayor

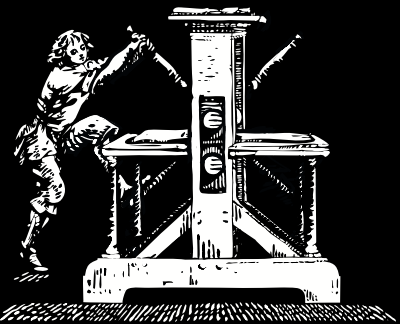
As a resident of Cold Spring, and having seen firsthand what local government is all about, I believe that our village will be best served with Kathleen Foley as mayor, and with Tweeps Phillips Woods and Eliza Starbuck on the board, as well.

When choosing who to vote for and why, I ask myself these simple questions: Why are they running? What do they have at stake? What do they have to gain?

The Forge Ahead candidates are honest and straightforward about it all: It's not about money and how much we can get out of Carmel. The county and that government

(Continued on Page 7)

HIGHLAND STUDIO



PRINTMAKERS

**FINE ART
PRINTING
SCANNING
LARGE FORMAT**

**HUDSON VALLEY'S
ARCHIVAL PRINTING
SINCE 1997**

**PICTURE FRAMING
print & map gallery**

845-809-5174

**31 STEPHANIE LANE
COLD SPRING, NY
www.thehighlandstudio.com**

(Continued from Page 6)

is best left to Philipstown Supervisor Richard Shea and his successor, or the state to supervise.

None of these candidates has any ties to those at the county level for good reason: They aren't in any major political party or on anyone's payroll. They have children being raised here; they own homes and businesses here. They volunteer on various boards and committees. That is what they have at stake — this village, just like you and me.

Get out and vote on Election Day. I have seen firsthand how a single vote can make a difference!

Mindy Jesek, *Cold Spring*
Jesek is a former Nelsonville village clerk. For more reader endorsements of local candidates, see highlandscurrent.org.

The Barns

What a great place ("Barn Raising," Oct. 15)! Visiting The Barns Art Center in Hopewell Junction was so much fun for my two children and I. Vendors were sparse, but I would imagine this will pick up. The bakery/cafe was incredible — at least the flatbread pizza and apple cider doughnuts!

Michael Smith, *via Facebook*

Supply chain

Thank you so much for helping get this info out there ("Local Retailers Feel Supply Pinch," Oct. 15). It's been a difficult time for small businesses to keep things steady and running smoothly. There are so many excellent reasons, especially now, to get behind and support your local shops, makers, restaurants and economy.

Toni Hacker, *Beacon*
Hacker owns Beacon Mercantile at 493 Main St.

Nature issues

They are all in my neighborhood! ("Where Are the Squirrels?" Oct. 22)

Rick Sodler, *via Facebook*

That was a great *Roots and Shoots* column by Pamela Doan on ferns ("Matters of Texture and Shape," Oct. 15). I am on staff at Manitoga/The Russel Wright Design Gallery in Garrison, and ferns are an important part of the woodland garden. Emily Phillips, our landscape collection and conservation manager, is planning a fern walk for the spring.

Kelly Ellenwood, *Beacon*

Thanks for Brian PJ Cronin's *Out There* column on the changes we are experiencing in fall weather ("Southern Comfort," Oct. 8). It puts into words that feeling of remembering kicking over huge piles of leaves while trick-or-treating in the 1980s. Those huge piles are now part of mid-November.

Carolyn Glauda, *via Facebook*

I almost cried reading the column, it hit so close.

Krystal Ford, *via Instagram*

Update: Campaign Finance

In a follow-up to our report in the Oct. 8 issue ("Missing Numbers"), the state Board of Elections (BOE) confirmed it had received requests from each of the four Cold Spring Village Board candidates running under the Better Together banner — Vinny Tamagna, Cathryn Fadde, Jeff Phillips and Yaslyn Daniels — asserting they would not raise or spend more than \$1,000 on their campaigns. There is no filing for Better Together.

Under state election law, in a town or village with a population of less than 10,000, such as Cold Spring or Philipstown, candidates are not required to file campaign finance disclosure reports under that threshold.

Once a candidate files an exemption form, known as a CF-05, he or she does not have to file a "No Activity" report, according to the BOE. A candidate also does not have to file if he or she raises and spends less than \$50.

Searches this week of a state Board of Elections database turned up no financial disclosures from Barbara Scuccimarra, the Republican candidate for Putnam County legislator, or

Sarina Tamagna and Neal Tomann, the Republican candidates for Philipstown Town Board. Nor was there anything submitted on their behalf by the Philipstown Republican Committee or the Putnam County Republican Committee.

When asked how laws about campaign financial disclosures are enforced, a BOE representative said: "Enforcement against local candidates for public office has always been spotty because the state has no way to track all local offices and who is running for them. The previous enforcement counsel chose to take no action against candidates who routinely failed to make a filing, and that lack of enforcement was known. If a complaint is filed against a specific candidate, the current enforcement counsel may take action, including sending a letter instructing the candidate to make a filing or explain why they do not need to make a filing."

The numbers below include all money raised and spent from Jan. 1 to Oct. 22, when the most recent disclosures were due at the state BOE.

☆ ☆ ☆

Campaign Spending 2021

☆ ☆ ☆

	RAISED	SPENT	ON HAND	DATE
SHERIFF				
Robert Langley Jr. (D)	\$49,292	\$26,513	\$45,782	Oct. 22
Kevin McConville (R)	\$50,769	\$34,276	\$31,714	Oct. 22
PUTNAM				
Democrats	\$3,672	\$6,866	\$8,217	Oct. 22
Republicans	\$9,400	\$9,305	\$19,698	July 28
Nancy Montgomery (D)	\$22,425	\$6,691	\$14,555	Oct. 22
Barbara Scuccimarra (R)	No activity report			July 7
PHILIPSTOWN				
Democrats	\$21,746	\$19,318	\$16,037	Oct. 22
Republicans	No filings since January 2019			
Jason Angell (D)	\$14,665	\$8,054	\$6,613	Oct. 22
Megan Cotter (D)	Filed under Philipstown Democrats			Oct. 22
John Van Tassel (D)	Filed “in-lieu-of-statement”*			Oct. 22
Sarina Tamagna (R)	No filings			
Neal Tomann (R)	No filings			
COLD SPRING				
Forge Ahead	\$21,321	\$16,826	\$4,496	Oct. 22
Vinny Tamagna	Filed waiver**			Sept. 24
Yaslyn Daniels	Filed waiver**			Sept. 27
Cathryn Fadde	Filed waiver**			Sept. 27
Jeff Phillips	Filed waiver**			Sept. 27
BEACON				
Democrats	\$13,663	\$6,234	\$13,395	Oct. 22
BEACON JUDGE				
Greg Johnston (D)	\$15,059	\$9,884	\$5,175	Oct. 22
Tim Pagones (R)	\$15,292	\$13,173	\$2,121	Oct. 22
DUTCHESS LEGISLATURE				
Ron Davis (R)	No filings			
Yvette Valdes Smith (D)	\$14,058	\$7,329	\$6,729	Oct. 22

* Candidate certifies he or she has not spent or raised more than \$1,000, including personal contributions

** Candidate certifies he or she will not spend or raise more than \$1,000, including personal contributions

Note: Candidates may have had a balance on Jan. 1.

Source: State Board of Elections, for filings between Jan. 1 and Oct. 28

Quick Guide to Ballot Proposals

COLD SPRING	NEW YORK STATE
<p>Village residents are being asked to decide, in separate proposals, whether to allow licensed businesses where people can buy or smoke marijuana. If voters approve retail operations, the village would receive 75 percent of a 4 percent sales tax.</p> <p>Under state law, villages, towns and cities can “opt out” of allowing sales or consumption if they act by Dec. 31. Officials in Beacon, Philipstown and Nelsonville are still considering what to do.</p>	<p>PROPOSAL 1:</p> <p>Amend Article III of the state’s constitution to freeze the number of state senators at 63; allow the members of New York’s Independent Redistricting Commission to appoint its co-executive directors by majority vote and eliminate the requirement that one director be from different political parties; require that state Senate and Assembly districts be based on total population, including non-citizens and Native Americans; prohibit the division of census blocks in cities from being divided into more than one district; and require that inmates be counted, for redistricting purposes, as residents of their place of last residence, not their place of incarceration.</p> <p>FOR: The Democrats in the state Assembly, including Sandy Galef (whose district includes Philipstown) and Jonathan Jacobson (whose district includes Beacon), were nearly unanimous in their vote to put the proposal on the ballot. State Sen. Mike Gianaris of Queens, the resolution’s sponsor, said before the vote that Democrats were “unraveling the grossly unfair redistricting” that Republicans “implemented for decades.” Organizations such as the New York Public Interest Research Group support the proposal.</p> <p>AGAINST: Republicans in the Legislature, including Sen. Sue Serino (whose district includes the Highlands), voted against the proposal. Nick Langworthy, chair of the state Republican Committee, said on Monday (Oct. 25) that the proposal would “strip the independence from the Independent Redistricting Commission.” The League of Women Voters, predicting that passage will weaken the minority party, is among the groups opposed.</p>
<p>PROPOSAL 6:</p> <p>Should the Village of Cold Spring prohibit state-licensed establishments that permit the on-site consumption of cannabis?</p>	<p>PROPOSAL 2:</p> <p>Would amend Article I of the state constitution to “establish the right of each person to clean air and water and a healthful environment.” [See right.]</p>
<p>PROPOSAL 7:</p> <p>Should the Village of Cold Spring prohibit state-licensed retail cannabis dispensaries?</p> <p>FOR: Those who favor opting out — that is, a “yes” vote on both measures — say it gives local officials more time to prepare by considering changes to zoning laws or other regulations, since a municipality can later opt in.</p> <p>AGAINST: Those who favor immediately allowing sales and consumption — a “no” vote on both measures — say that since New York State has made marijuana legal to purchase and consume, like alcohol, there is no reason to restrict access or make people travel to another town, village or city.</p>	<p>PROPOSAL 3:</p> <p>Would amend Article II of the state constitution to remove a requirement that a resident be registered to vote at least 10 days before an election. If passed, it would pave the way for same-day registration. Twenty states and Washington, D.C., allow residents to register and vote on the same day, according to the National Conference of State Legislatures.</p> <p>FOR: State Senate and Assembly Democrats, including Galef and Jacobson, support it. In voting for the referendum on May 11, Jacobson said: “Voting should be simple and easy. That should be the ultimate goal all the time.” Multiple special-interest groups, including Common Cause New York, support the proposal.</p> <p>AGAINST: Serino voted against the proposal being put on the ballot. State Senate and Assembly Republicans have raised concerns about fraudulent voting and elections boards being inundated with people registering on Election Day.</p>
DUTCHESS COUNTY	
<p>Voters are being asked to reduce the county Legislature from 25 to 21 seats.</p>	<p>PROPOSAL 4:</p> <p>Would eliminate a requirement that absentee ballots only be allowed when someone will be away from their home county or they have an illness or physical disability that prevents them from in-person voting. Former Gov. Andrew Cuomo, using his emergency powers, temporarily suspended the provision for last year’s election because of the pandemic, allowing no-excuse absentee voting. New York is one of 16 states that require an excuse for absentee voting, according to the National Conference of State Legislatures.</p>
<p>PROPOSAL 6:</p> <p>Shall there be approved in the County of Dutchess, Local Law No. ‘A Local Law Amending Article II (Legislative Branch) of the Dutchess County Charter as it Pertains to Section 2.01 which updates the rules and procedures of the Independent Reapportionment Committee and reduces the size of the Dutchess County Legislature from twenty-five (25) members to twenty-one (21) members?</p> <p>FOR: The 15 Republicans on the 25-seat Dutchess County Legislature voted unanimously to put the referendum on the ballot. Both County Executive Marc Molinaro and Legislature Chairman Gregg Pulver have called for a smaller body, saying the Legislature is larger, per capita, than other Mid-Hudson counties.</p> <p>AGAINST: The 10 Democrats, including Beacon legislators Nick Page and Frits Zernike, voted unanimously against the proposal. While Democrats say they are not opposed to a smaller Legislature, they suspect the referendum is tied to Republicans disbanding an independent commission that had been assigned to draw new district boundaries based on 2020 census data. The Republican majority voted to restart the appointment process because of a technical violation by the Democrats in selecting one of the members.</p>	<p>PROPOSAL 5:</p> <p>Would amend Article VI of the state constitution to allow the state civil court in New York City to hear claims of up to \$50,000, instead of \$25,000.</p> <p>FOR: The proposal was approved unanimously by the Legislature’s Democrats and Republicans.</p>

The Green Amendment

A Look at Proposal 2

By Brian PJ Cronin

Voters across the state have the opportunity on Nov. 2 to add an amendment to the New York Constitution stating that “each person shall have a right to clean air and water, and a healthful environment.”

That isn’t a summary of the amendment. It’s the amendment.

“It’s purposefully very simple,” said Corinne Bell, an attorney with the Natural Resources Defense Council. “We’ve seen in other states that while the language can be vague, it’s a powerful tool; the courts and citizens have the ability to define the terms.”

Matt Salton of Hudson River Sloop Clearwater, which is based in Beacon, said the proposal “is not a piece of legislation. It’s adding a core value to our state Bill of Rights to signal that New York cares about the environment and is putting it in its founding document.”

The text is far too simple for some. Sen. Sue Serino, a Republican whose district includes the Highlands, was one of the few state lawmakers to vote against the proposed amendment both times it came up for a vote, in 2019 and 2021. (In order for an amendment to make it onto the ballot, it must first pass two consecutive sessions of the state Legislature.)

“Of course we all support clean air and water and we must take meaningful steps to protect our environment and ensure the health and quality of both,” she said. “However, when it comes to legislation, details matter and this provision is lacking any.”

“I cannot support a proposal without knowing exactly what it will mean for our community, and this proposal was written so broadly and with no parameters for implementation. I worry about the impact it will have on the cost of living and job availability in our local area.”

The amendment appears on the ballot as Proposal 2 and mirrors propositions approved by voters in Montana and Pennsylvania. The Montana amendment was used to fight the dumping of arsenic-polluted waters into rivers. In Pennsylvania, the amendment was cited in 2012 to override a local law that tried to block communities from being able to regulate hydraulic fracturing, or “fracking.”

New York has set an aggressive state goal to decarbonize 70 percent of its energy grid by 2030, and reach zero emissions by 2040.

“You can make the case that not to [reach the state’s climate’s goals] would be in violation of this core tenet” stated by Proposal 2, Salton said. “Having this amendment on the books will give lawyers and lawmakers the prodding they need to protect the environment.”

Bell agreed, noting that “there aren’t a lot of laws at the state or federal level that address climate change.”

In a Sienna College poll of registered voters in New York conducted in June, 80 percent said they supported the amendment, while 8 percent were unsure.

VOTE NOVEMBER 2!

We the residents of the Village of Cold Spring support
Kathleen E. Foley for Mayor
Tweeps Woods for Village Trustee
Eliza Starbuck For Village Trustee
Because they are the only candidates who are running
solely for the interests of the Village.

Unlike their opponents,
They have pledged not to take money from developers, LLCs, unions,
political parties, or anyone outside of Philipstown

Unlike their opponents
They are running independent party campaigns
as Village elections are meant to be

And

Unlike her opponent for Mayor,
Kathleen Foley is loyal to the Village and its residents,
and not party bosses in the County seat.

Join us in voting for the candidates who have the interest and experience to implement the improvements
needed for our residents and children while ensuring the character of the village we love is protected.

Shelley Gilbert	Ivy Meeropol	Alexandra Laurino	Eri Taylorson	Isabelle Laifer
Lithgow Osborne	Thomas Ambrose	Joe Lucca	Jimmy Taylorson	Cassandra Laifer
Chuck Burleigh	Lauren Wallis Hall	Maya Dollarhide	Dana Bol	Kathleen Duffett
Gail Greet Hannah	Nathanael Brotherhood	Lara Eldin	Christine Caballero	Seth Gallagher
Michelle Kupper	Lisa Sabin	Jon Hull	Andrea Connor Hudson	Anita Peltonen
Aric Kupper	Sandy Mckelvey	Laura Kauffman	Evan Hudson	Donald MacDonald
Susan Kenny	John Christian Plummer	Timothy Haskell	Sean Conway	Charlie Plummer
Simon Coope	Maia Guest	Rebeca Ramirez and Family	Melanie Benson	Christine Boukhour
Kimberly Sevilla	Melissa Angier	Bo Bell and Family	Eri Panasci	Raymond Boukhour
Enrique Sevilla	Margaret Parker	Patrick Biesemans	Barton Chew	Tom O'Quinn
Ken Filmanski	Silvia Gaugler	Tara Vamos	Bob Petty	Todd Seekircher
Carol Filmanski	Kevin Gaugler	Jeff Mikkelson	Nicole Wallick	Rupert Holmes
Rebekah Tighe	Thomas Huber	Dean Johnston	Lourdes Laifer	
Michael Meeropol	Sarah Gurland	Mary Jo Mullan	Steve Laifer	



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 the Democratic candidates, Jason Angell and Megan Cotter, appeared in last week’s issue and are posted at highlandscurrent.org. The responses from the Republican candidates, Sarina Tamagna and Neal Tomann, are below.

Briefly, last week Angell said he is seeking a seat because he believes 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,” while Cotter wrote that “being a champion for the working class” is her primary motivation.

Angell said his priorities are “to identify residents that need support and connect them to the helping hand” and to meet a town goal of carbon neutrality. Cotter listed “affordability to live and work here” and “safety and accessibility.”

Both said they believe the town should opt-out of allowing marijuana retail sales and on-site consumption to allow time for regulatory details to be worked out, and both said the town and Putnam officials should work together more to improve the relationship.

Why are you seeking a seat on the board?

SARINA TAMAGNA: I am seeking a seat to bring balance back to the Town Board that includes a more rounded agenda, opinions and views. My platform is built on a more-connected community with a voice for all parts of Philipstown. I recognize the importance of protecting our environment, but also recognize the importance of ensuring that we have basic necessities for our town.

Philipstown needs practical choices for our services and safe infrastructure. Philipstown needs water, which some parts don’t have. I have spent many years volunteering on local boards that made concerted efforts to take the politics out of the decisions and to do what is best for our town. We got things done! I plan to do the same for our Town Board and I thank everyone for the opportunity.

NEAL TOMANN: I’m running to bring diversity of opinion to the Town Board.

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

A PARTICULARLY FINE EVENING

PARTY

Friday, Nov. 12

GARRISON ART CENTER

TAMAGNA: Having gone door-to-door since July, I have listened. The first challenge is to create a balanced comprehensive plan that lays out a successful blueprint for Philipstown that will achieve a less-siloed future view. We need to evaluate our infrastructure requirements and how that impacts housing and economic development. We need to take a balanced view on tourism and how it relates to our businesses that affect taxpayers. In my career I have been trained to see the interoperability for all parts of a solution and will do this for the comprehensive plan. Secondly, let’s hold the line on taxes by attracting the right businesses for our area, organize government to work more efficiently and forge partnerships that work to reduce the burden on the taxpayers. How about we give back to the taxpayers instead of looking for ways to spend more money?

TOMANN: The water supply at Garrison’s Landing is important. Several people have shared their frustration about not being able to shower, flush toilets or do laundry. They should have a reliable water source. The Town Board has been making the best of a bad situation here. There have been several attempts to fix the system but we’re not there yet. The water supply itself is an issue, there are aging pipes, much of the system runs alongside or under Lower Station Road and they go under the railroad tracks. It’s not an easy fix. It might be good to have a fresh set of eyes take a look at this project.

Same thing with our dams. The Upper Cold Spring Dam needs maintenance. Much like the potable water issue at Garrison’s Landing, this dam project has several layers of frustration. Repairs are expensive and we’ll need both temporary and permanent easements for construction access and maintenance. The review and permitting process with the state Department of Environmental Conservation and the state dams agency moves at the speed of a glacier

and pre-construction costs, or “soft costs,” are anything but soft.

There’s been some thoughtful discussion about how to spend the \$700,000 that has been made available through the American Rescue Plan federal relief program. I’m not familiar with the spending restrictions of the funds, but I’d suggest we park as much of that money as possible until we’ve had time to get our bearings on these two issues. I think we’re going to need it.

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?

TAMAGNA: We have a responsibility as leaders to protect the character of the community and ensure it remains unchanged. We live less than a mile from multiple schools and the consideration of retail sales and on-site consumption is concerning. New York State is not ready with regulations. We are not geographically equipped to handle the opportunity. If these two propositions are passed, we put a lot at risk. I hope all voters seriously consider all of the factors before Election Day.

TOMANN: The Town Board has been doing a good job navigating this issue. It’s had a public hearing and a workshop, it’s invited input throughout the process. It’s a tricky subject and the “opt-in/out” timeline provision for dispensaries adds to what is already a statutory headache. I’ve heard compelling input from senior citizens who use cannabis medicinally and can’t easily get to another town to buy it. There is an important health-and-wellness component in this conversation about having a marijuana dispensary that I think can get lost along the way. My take is that if it helps seniors, or anyone, get closer to some relief from a medical issue, and the recreational sales are closely regulated, we should opt in.

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?

TAMAGNA: Of all the candidates, I am best positioned to understand this perceived divide. Having been appointed more than five years ago by the Putnam County Legislature to sit on the Industrial Development Agency (IDA) board, as well as being the only representative from our area, meant the Legislature was acutely aware of the different requirements and saw the necessity in appointing a skilled person from Philipstown. Without it, there was no inclusive understanding to support the IDA’s mission. If the view is that the relationship isn’t there, I hold the current leadership of Philipstown accountable.

However, I do have hope. The county Legislature and the Town Board can still achieve a cooperative, symbiotic relationship. We need to focus on having respectful conversations, collaborative views from all sides, the acknowl-

edgement of our requirements and trust in what the county Legislature requires to move us in a positive direction. We also need to look closer to home. Having been raised in Continental Village and having lived in all parts of Philipstown, there is a view that some are left out of important, townwide decisions. I have listened to individual areas’ concerns on taxes, infrastructure and lack of choices in basic services. These issues are different for different parts of Philipstown. By bridging these local divides, we will create a new chapter of a balanced government. When elected I will only be satisfied when Philipstown is a more-connected community. Please vote Nov. 2.

TOMANN: Town Board members could look to attend more county meetings. I can see that being helpful. Look for areas of common interest in county projects, program initiatives and equipment. Also, I’d encourage everyone to consider their personal interests — the environment, health, lowering taxes, emergency management services, agriculture — and see what’s going on at the county level. Get on a mailing list. Talk about things.

Questions for Candidates

Town Supervisor

We asked John Van Tassel, a Democrat who is running unopposed, to respond in writing to four questions. He had not responded by press time.

Putnam County Sheriff

There are two candidates for Putnam County sheriff: the incumbent Democrat, Robert Langley Jr., and a challenger, Kevin McConville, a Republican. Both men live in Philipstown. We interviewed Langley for the Oct. 15 issue and the Q&A is posted online.

We did not interview McConville, but not for lack of trying. We contacted the candidate on Aug. 30 to invite him to participate in a live forum to which Langley had readily agreed; his campaign manager, John Nuculovic, said the candidate had a scheduling conflict on the October date we suggested but did not reply when asked for other possible dates. We emailed on Oct. 4, Oct. 11, Oct. 15 and Oct. 22 to see if we could arrange an interview and were told three times that Nuculovic would consult with McConville, but up to press time received no confirmation of when he might be available.



Questions for Candidates

Putnam County Legislature

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

In anticipation of the Tuesday (Nov. 2) election, we interviewed the two candidates seeking to represent District 1, which includes Philipstown and parts of Putnam Valley, in the Putnam County Legislature. The term is three years.

Nancy Montgomery, the first-term incumbent, is the only Democrat on the nine-member Legislature. She is being challenged by Barbara Scuccimarra, a two-term Republican legislator whom she defeated in 2018. The candidates were interviewed separately at *The Current* offices in Cold Spring on Friday (Oct. 22). Their responses have been edited for brevity. The candidates are presented in alphabetical order.



☆ ☆ ☆ ☆
Nancy Montgomery
☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

Why do you want to continue serving in the Putnam County Legislature?

I've been asked to serve and I've stepped up to honor the people who I represent. Their wishes are for me to run again and that's why I'm running. I love what I do. I wake up every day and I'm grateful that I get to do this job and that the people put me here. I want to finish the work that I started, and there's a lot of work that needs to be done. From the day I arrived on the Legislature — and this is why I want to continue — I've been asking the hard questions: Where is our money going? Why are our public services deficient? And are we including the towns and villages in the process?

What do you wish you'd done differently during your term, if anything?

Really, nothing. I started out in good faith with communicating and in following the guidelines of the Legislature and *Robert's Rules of Order* [the parliamentary procedures source]. And it wasn't long before I realized I was getting shut down and stifled and told to

shut up and told that my comments or questions were stupid. So, you know, I dug my feet in and stood my ground. I wouldn't do any of that differently. There were moments certainly where I had my back up against the wall for way too long. And I may have reacted — and I probably wish I hadn't. But I think the public appreciates the firm ground that I stand on.

What should the relationship be between the Legislature and county executive?

We should be checking everything the county executive does: any expenditure, any initiative, any new program. The Legislature should have a hand in approving any hires. We should do our due diligence to make sure that that person is qualified and has the credentials. We know from experience that hasn't always been the case. In our Planning Department we should have a certified planner. Our health commissioner is not qualified and doesn't have the credentials to be health commissioner. He's been given a variance; he's been given an extension on acquiring the credentials. I think the deadline has come and gone. I continue to ask for that information from the county executive; it continues to be ignored. So I think the Legislature should not just rubber-stamp everything the county executive puts forward. In my experience that is, overall, what seems to happen.

I think the Legislature, in order to be fair to the people that it represents, needs to ask more hard questions of the county executive. Why during an austerity budget did they approve a 20 percent raise for the transportation manager [Vinny Tamagna]? And why is he getting another raise this year? The rationale was that he was working on an MTA [Metropolitan Transportation Authority] study. Well, that's a one-time stipend; it should not have been rolled into a salary and the county executive allowed that to happen and the Legislature approved it.

The Legislature needs to be more persistent about knowing what's going on. The horses [at Tilly Foster farm] were taken away from us and we didn't even hear about it. We read about it in the newspaper. I just discovered yesterday that there are two new horses. What happened to the [first] horses? Where's the vet bill? What's the transportation bill for

taking the horses to where they went? We've never received a report. The Legislature is not being persistent about checking that out with the county executive's office. I've asked the county executive and those responsible for the horses to appear at a Physical Services Committee meeting. That's gone ignored. That's just one example of many. I've asked for the ethics committee report, I've asked for the IDA [Industrial Development Agency board member] resumes and conflict statements — I would think that the rest of the Legislature would want to know that information before approving those.

We need some checks and balances. That's what democracy is about; that's what our government's about.

Should the Legislature do more in initiating laws and policies?

I don't know necessarily that we should be initiating those laws. But we should certainly be doing more about checking them out and not just rubber-stamping, for example, all of the county charter revisions. A clear example of how democracy is getting chipped away is the change in the date for the approval for the legislative clerk [from Jan. 1 to December]. That's a great example of how they're chipping away at representation [because with the new date, a lame-duck member could vote on the appointment].

What would be your three priorities starting in January?

If I had more of a voice on the various committees, that could make a lot of difference for the people I represent. I'm on the Economic Development Committee. And every year, I request — and justify my request with a resume of why I'm qualified — to serve on more committees. I have EMT training, I have emergency response and preparedness training directly from FEMA [the Federal Emergency Management Agency]. I've served as the liaison to the [Philipstown] Planning Board and been trained at Pace [University] Land Use Law Center. As the minority [party] leader, I should have a seat on every committee. The people I serve are fed up with the Legislature and the administration taking District 1 for granted and treating our critical issues with disdain. This is demonstrated in the way I'm treated by my colleagues. If you look at the requests I've made of the county executive and how they're mostly ignored, it's evident there's a bias against the western side of Putnam. So it makes it even more important to pursue the work of equal representation. That's what we jeopardize if I don't get reelected. My competitor is giving me unsolicited advice about how I should stay quiet and go along to get along. I think the voters see my role differently. I voice their concerns and they know I'm a voice for them and the voice of reason.

We are pushing through a \$167 million budget. In that budget is an increase in spending of 2.3 percent. Since 2020, Putnam County's revenue has exceeded its expenses by more than \$38 million. That's revenue. Some of it is sales tax, property tax; it's different revenue streams that we didn't spend. The county is raising taxes by \$1.1 million this year. Why are we raising taxes during this time when people have lost

their jobs, businesses are struggling and no other surrounding county is raising taxes? Dutchess County is lowering taxes. We need to get that spending under control. I see a budget of increasing salaries for highly paid officials. I'd like to see the county be a leader for creating upward mobility paths for young employees who can learn and be interested in public service. The gap between salaries of elected and appointed officials and those of frontline employees is astounding. We cannot argue that higher salaries are necessary to attract talent and then hand off jobs to underqualified friends and family.

So it's a budget of increasing salaries and decreasing services. We've cut public safety. That's a big concern. If you listen to the last committee meeting for the budget [on Oct. 19] you'll hear me making a last-ditch plea for reinstating the sergeant's position to the [sheriff's] civil unit and reinstating the marine unit and advocating funds for the Philipstown [Behavioral Health] Hub. We're in desperate need on this side of the county of mental health services. I asked again to put money back into the budget for the [Cold Spring tourism-related] trash collection. Our local dispatchers are overworked, which I think puts residents at risk. We entered the pandemic without an epidemiologist. We cut that. You don't need to be a Republican or a Conservative to be alarmed by how your tax money is spent. Salaries go up, services go down.

In good faith with the Climate Smart Initiative that I created in the town and on the county level, I wanted to bring the Complete Streets Policy to the county. I invited the transportation manager to that [session]. And I presented a wonderful policy that just mirrored the Dutchess County policy. Instead of adopting that and getting [New York State] credit for Climate Smart so we can become certified, the transportation manager and the county executive threw it in the garbage and drew up some resolution that was filled with empty promises.

We need to work on a renewed commitment from the county to the towns and villages. The county controls the purse strings for the funds we need for infrastructure, emergency services, public safety, senior and youth programs, arts and culture, tourism management and community health. You can't keep taking our sales tax revenue and our property tax revenue and not giving us anything in return. You can't keep grabbing that.

Any related concerns?

Open government. I'm a big fan of transparency and accountability. We've just touched the surface of pulling back the curtain on county government. There's this trend of meeting behind closed doors [when the Republicans hold a party caucus before a public meeting]. I know it's legal, but it's not a good idea. And it's keeping the public out of the governmental process and me, their representative, out of it. It's so obvious that [legislative action] is rehearsed. It's ready to go before they come out of that [caucus] room. I've been astounded at the response I've received from individual voters as well as civic associations. In every town, people are so thankful to finally have a representative asking ques-

(Continued on Page 13)

PUBLIC NOTICE

COLD SPRING CEMETERY

Summer, holiday and non-conforming decorations are to be removed from all graves/plots by

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 1, 2021

Thereafter such items will be considered abandoned and removed by cemetery personnel.

Cold Spring Cemetery Association Inc.
P.O. BOX 30, Cold Spring, NY
10516-0030



(Continued from Page 12)

tions and standing for what's right. The more people learn, the more they question. I'm trying to make the legislative chambers feel like a place the public can ask questions and feel comfortable advocating for themselves. And the public only sees what comes out of the county executive's office because she holds the communication strings. I'm not allowed to put anything on the [county] website. So what the public sees is press releases that are filled with smoke and mirrors.



☆☆☆☆
Barbara Scuccimarra
☆☆☆☆

Why do you want to serve again?

I loved my job — going out and knocking on doors, which I've been doing since the end of July, and connecting with people again, has been wonderful. Tiring, but a wonderful experience. It reminds me why I got into politics to begin with, because I love the people.

You've already had experience as a legislator. What do you wish, if anything, you'd done differently on the job?

There are a few things I would have liked to have passed, like the plastic bag ban that I tried so hard to get adopted and dealing with plastic waste in our environment. Then again, the state came through on plastic bags. But I always felt that bringing initiatives to the county Legislature, even though there is talk of the state doing it, puts our voice out there. That's why I did it with Tobacco 21 [to prohibit the purchase of tobacco products by anyone younger than 21]. We all thought the state would eventually pass this, but we didn't know when. I felt it was important that Putnam County show the state that we have a voice. Another thing I would have liked to have accomplished while I was in office was targeting vaping. I passed T-21 and the synthetic drug law, but I wanted to concentrate on the vaping epidemic in Putnam schools — educating teenagers on the dangers of vaping, the health and addiction risks. Also, there's the money for [collecting tourism-related Cold Spring] garbage. I was able to secure \$7,500

every year but was unable to convince the Legislature to raise it to \$10,000.

It's a process. It took me six years to get the Philipstown senior center through. I started when I first got into the Legislature, and it is a process. But it's a good process. And we have checks and balances. We want to make sure everything that comes through comes through right, so there's no regrets. So that was important. But I feel like I had a very successful six years. I can't say specifically what I would have done differently. It's a learning curve. When you first get in you sit and listen, you gather information and then you start to work.

And it's not just a monthly meeting. Legislators also attend all committee meetings.

Exactly, exactly. And there's going to Town Board meetings in Putnam Valley and Philipstown. I prided myself on going to just about every one. Then you have the phone calls from constituents, which is, surprisingly, my favorite thing: getting a call from somebody who needs advice, or needs help getting something done, or has a complaint about a neighbor, or says, "I need help with this." That's when you connect, as I did, going door to door. It connects to people and you hear their voice. That was important to me.

What should the relationship be between the Legislature and the county executive?

It's two different branches of government but people don't realize that they're equal. And there's nine legislators. So it's checks and balances. But you need good relationships to get anything accomplished. You need five votes in the Legislature. And it always helps to have the county executive; you don't always have her nod, but it's good to discuss it with all, get a consensus and move forward.

What would be your three priorities starting in January?

Let's see. Butterfield, the senior center: There's so many possibilities for that space. And now that it's been there for a few years and we realize parking is not that big of an issue anymore, I would like to bring over some county services: social services, DMV [Department of Motor Vehicles] on a rotating basis for simple stuff. We can handle that. A women's resource center. People who are

being abused or have family problems don't want to drive 20 miles [to Carmel]. They want to make a call and go in the side door and get counseling. If it's in the village, they can walk in discreetly. Veterans' services. I know we have a veterans' club on Cedar Street. But I think Karl Rohde from the county [Veterans Service Agency] could send somebody over to help seniors with problems with the VA [federal Department of Veterans Affairs], with this, with that. That would be excellent.

The other thing I'm dying to work on is a light between the Butterfield Senior Center and Chestnut Ridge [senior housing across the street]. I have seen, firsthand, an accident almost happen. I was driving south. There was an aide pushing someone in a wheelchair, trying to get across before the crosswalk, which is dangerous. Even if it was in the crosswalk, it would have been problematic. So I stopped. He started to go forward. Someone came around me to pass. It was like, *really?* I would advocate that it be one of the lights that you push and it turns red only when someone is on the sidewalk [at the crosswalk]. People have wheelchairs, people have walkers. Yes, the county would pick them up and bring them over [in a vehicle]. But they don't want to bother with that. They don't want to make a call. Route 9D is a state road, so it's a battle, but I'm ready for it. Like I said, you need five votes. I would do a resolution the second day I was there, and I know I would get support from my colleagues.

Then there's the [three-face traffic] light over on Fishkill Road at Route 9. There's one side that doesn't have a light. Come on: it's only common sense [to add one]. New York State can configure it a little better.

Have you filed your campaign spending statement with the state, after an apparent delay?

Yes! I would have brought my material here. My son is my treasurer. He's nice enough to do it for me. I made a quick call and said: "What are you doing?" He said: "Oh, sorry." So he got on it. It's only sloppy bookkeeping on my part. It's nothing.

Anything else?

My record speaks for itself. I had six successful years on the Legislature. I had four successful years on the Philipstown Town Board. I've lived in this community for — I hate to say this — 50 years. I came

from Putnam Valley, not that far away. Tom [a retired judge] and I will be married 50 years this year. But Putnam Valley means a lot to me, too. And my family is still there. I lost my brother two years ago; his wife and children still live in Putnam Valley. It's just over the mountain, but I feel like it's home. So being able to represent even a small part of Putnam Valley is really super for me.

There's so much work to be done. I can do the work and I can get it accomplished because I know how to negotiate. I know how to sit down and not compromise with everyone, but get my feelings across. And I have a relationship with that Legislature. Like I said, it takes five votes.

The world is so upside down. Now everybody is at each other — red and blue, red and blue. I'm tired of hearing that. Let's work together as a community and get things done — work together as a county. One of my visions before was to get the villages, the town, the Legislature, the county executive, all at a table at a regular basis. It hasn't happened in a long time. There's been frictions between the Town Board and the village, the county and the village, trying to convince them to sit and talk. Let's go around and talk to all of the towns in the county. We need to. That's my vision. I would really like to see that.

The election is only a week away. I intend to keep knocking on doors right up till the end, even with early voting, to get my message out that I'm ready to work for my community and work together with everyone to get things done, like I have in the past. [After the 2018 election] I had a couple of years to think. It's funny: The first year, I took it hard, losing. No one wants to lose. But I said: "OK, Tom's retired from the bench — at age 70 they kick you off, which is right — so that's OK. I have two granddaughters. I'm ready." But then, you know, Nancy has not been able to get things done. And maybe it's her personality or the way she approaches things. But I want to get things done for my community — work hard and get it done.

Do you think if there were a Republican in the seat, things would be different?

I've heard that argument a lot. Sam Oliverio, a Democrat, was on the Legislature for 18 years and had no trouble. It's how you approach things and how you treat people. But on Election Day, whatever happens, you know, it's the will of the people.

ART is everywhere.
GARRISON ART CENTER





Questions for Candidates

Cold Spring Village Board

Yaslyn Daniels and Tweep Phillips Woods are competing to complete the final year of the term of Heidi Bender, who resigned in April. The candidates, who submitted written responses, are presented in alphabetical order.

Why are you seeking a seat on the board?
What qualifications do you bring?

YASLYN DANIELS: My family has lived in the Hudson Valley for 27 years — holding fond memories, from the peanut shells on the floor at Henry’s to Friday night dinner at the Dockside surrounded by family and friends. This is home. I have history here. Leaving to go to college (a bachelor’s degree from New York University) and business school (an MBA from Howard), I proudly came back to introduce friends to this magnificent place and I have the pleasure now to raise my son in our village. I’ve spent five years as a social service consultant, devel-

oping policy for the Department of Defense and charitable foundations, and more than 20 years in strategy consulting, driving revenue solutions for small and large businesses. I’m a senior executive managing a team of more than 300 people, supporting \$2.5 billion in revenue and an operating budget of \$122 million. I’m a founding member of the Putnam County NAACP, a five-year board member of Art in General and a former New York City council member for the Natural Resources Defense Council. I want to protect our village’s unique charm while supporting its growth and evolution. I want to be a voice for our community and use my professional experience to deliver

sensible, efficient governance for the village.

TWEETS PHILLIPS WOODS: New Yorker born-and-bred, I am the first in my family to go to college. I received a bachelor’s degree in political science and mass communications from Macalester College and a master’s degree in public administration from Columbia University. For me, serving my community, my friends and my family has never been just a question of heart or purpose. Service has simply been what I did. I was taught never to sit on the sidelines, but to roll up my sleeves and get dirty making positive change for all. I could brag about my 25 years in government and in political-affairs consulting or about my experience in the private sector and in nonprofit arts and education, but instead I want you to know that I am running because I have been and will always be committed to public service. I didn’t wake up one day recently and decide to run a campaign. I have been serving the village since 2019 as a volunteer on the Recreation Committee and then as an appointee to fill a vacancy on the Board of Trustees [in May].

My husband and I are raising a daughter in Cold Spring. We are committed to our life here, so much so that my husband, a Marine Corps veteran and sergeant in the NYPD, has been volunteering as a firefighter for our Cold Spring Fire Company since 2018. I love this community like you do and hope to be able to continue serving you as your trustee, neighbor and friend.

What do you see as the two most important challenges facing Cold Spring in the next two years?

DANIELS: The two more-pressing challenges are delivering, then maintaining, experienced and impartial elected village leadership that can work transparently and efficiently to meet the needs of our residents and business owners, and generating revenue and financing to support the growing needs of our village. Water security is our most pressing infrastructure need, representing \$4 million for the repair of the Upper Dam alone. Our village will need to bond for these funds. Increasing our broadband (internet) access and its affordability for our residents and local businesses, other physical infrastructure (such as side-

walks, roads and stormwater drainage), and sustainable parking solutions are also needed. Our village needs to develop a sensible, scalable plan that will systematically address each of these needs while remaining responsible to our budget and the individual taxpayer. As trustee, I will be transparent with our community throughout our planning and implementation processes and I will welcome our neighbors’ constructive feedback all along the way.


WOODS: The village faces many pressing issues in the next two years. We don’t have the luxury of focusing on just two. They range from limited parking and increased tourism to our aging infrastructure (sewers, sidewalks, dams and roads). We must invest in proactive maintenance now, prioritizing problems that have languished for too long because of a lack of coherent internal processes and scattered management. Additionally, my time on the board has highlighted to me how frustrating it has become to participate in our local government. I want to re-engage this community and empower it to participate in a more thoughtful, approachable and receptive Village Hall.

In August, the Village Board adopted regulations for short-term rentals. The regulations limit the number of STRs allowed in the village through a permit system and also impose other restrictions. Where do you stand on the issue? Are the regulations too lax or too strict? Is making 7 percent of housing eligible to host STRs the right amount?

DANIELS: Regulations are an important part of our village life; they help to keep order and limit impacts on our neighbors. It’s important we maintain our neighborly relationships and our community fabric without penalizing those who wish to generate income through their owned property. Short-term rentals manifest more than one impact or issue: traffic pressure, parking congestion, space and resources to support a growing tourist population, noise and the residential experience of a neighborhood. All of these deserve more research and consideration among residents and our Village Board. We need to approach short-term rentals with real data and a willingness to learn from neighboring villages and towns who have successfully navigated and learned from their own failures on this subject. A re-approach like that can lead us to clearer, sustainable and defensible action.


WOODS: Having been director of external affairs at one of the biggest transportation-regulating bodies in the world, I am well-versed in creating fair, enforceable regulations. I believe we can have regulations that protect residents and visitors and are reasonable for the operators of short-term rentals. In its current iteration, the local law will be difficult to enforce. That’s why I voted against it. I look forward to convening a working group of concerned operators and neighbors who want to find a workable, balanced solution with reasonable regulations.

WE'RE STAYING OUTDOORS!



JOIN US
EVERY SATURDAY
AT BOSCOBEL

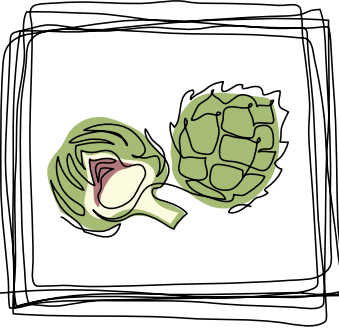
NEW WINTER HOURS!
10:00-1:00



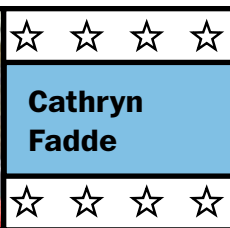
GALLERY EXHIBITION & ONLINE AUCTION

BUY ART

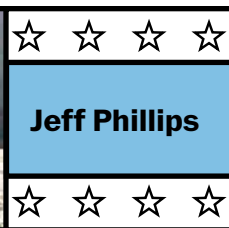
Saturday, Nov. 13 – Sunday, Nov. 14



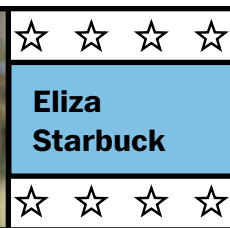
GARRISON ART CENTER



**Cathryn
Fadde**



Jeff Phillips



**Eliza
Starbuck**

Questions for Candidates

Cold Spring Village Board

Three candidates — Cathryn Fadde, Jeff Phillips and Eliza Starbuck — are competing for two seats with 2-year terms. The candidates, who submitted written responses, are presented in alphabetical order.

Why are you seeking a seat on the board? What qualifications do you bring?

CATHRYN FADDE: I bring two years of previous experience as a village trustee. I also sat on the Special Board for the Comprehensive Plan, served as president and treasurer of the Chamber of Commerce and have run a successful restaurant on Main Street for almost 25 years. I understand the issues facing us and I can find solutions creatively and civilly.

JEFF PHILLIPS: As a lifelong resident of the village, I feel the need to step up to do my part to improve our community. We once had a strong dedication to maintain and repair our infrastructure (e.g., road drainage, curbs, sidewalks and streets); we need to get back to doing this effectively. Our taxpayers deserve to be provided with these basic community needs. After receiving my associate degree in construction engineering technologies, I entered the field of construction. For more than 34 years, I have been involved in all phases, from excavation to the finished product. The knowledge and experience I gained in my field qualify me for this position, as I have mobilized teams, managed manpower and materials, met tight deadlines and maintained budgets.

ELIZA STARBUCK: I've been going to the Village Board meetings for years because of my interests as the president of the Cold Spring Chamber of Commerce and as a resident and business owner in the village. I have followed the issues, done my own research and submitted comments. While I appreciated the hard work and good intentions of the mayor and trustees, I felt that the board's majority too often disrespected other stakeholders and discouraged or ignored public input.

I kept going to the meetings because I cared. Eventually, I realized that I could help establish more effective and inclusive decision-making on the board. For almost five years I have been in my bustling retail shop on Main Street serving customers. To prosper in such a business, you must be able to cooperate with all types of people, respecting them, determining and addressing their needs, and informing them. Similarly, as chamber president I became adept at balancing diverse interests, launching and accomplishing new projects, and communicating. These are qualifications that I will carry over

to public service as a trustee. I knew it was time to run for office when residents started coming to the shop to ask me questions and find solutions for their community issues instead of going to Village Hall.

What do you see as the two most important challenges facing Cold Spring in the next two years?

FADDE: Managing tourism and upgrading our infrastructure. Some of the challenges they represent are solved with money; some are not. Tourism is not going away; we must find ways to relieve its effects on residents. Parking and short-term rental regulations are directly related to tourism and how we manage one will affect the other. Our infrastructure issues — the dam, in particular — will require millions of dollars to repair. We must find outside funding sources for this project.

PHILLIPS: The village has some challenges ahead. One is the condition of our sidewalks, roads and curbs. We also need to make more areas accessible for our elderly population. Many areas around the village fail to comply with legal specifications. Additionally, with some of the village's lead workers having retired, and others who have moved on to other endeavors, we need to keep our departments staffed with qualified and innovative personnel who will have the best interests of Cold Spring at heart. Without this, we would be looking at contracting much of these tasks out, which can be a huge expense. Even after 34 years

in my field, I still train to improve. Therefore, training current and future hires to be proactive in addressing the needs of our village is essential.

STARBUCK: Prudently managing village resources (including tax and other revenue and public property) and preserving the residential quality of life. Our resources and quality of life are precious and must not be compromised by forces like uncontrolled tourism or development. Every decision by the trustees must safeguard these assets for our children and grandchildren.

In August, the Village Board adopted regulations for short-term rentals. The regulations limit the number of STRs allowed in the village through a permit system and also impose other restrictions. Where do you stand on the issue? Are the regulations too lax or too strict? Is making 7 percent of housing eligible to host STRs the right amount?

FADDE: Short-term rentals are good for tourism. They are good for the host and good for the economic vitality of Main Street and beyond. I raised the issue of regulating STRs when I was a trustee — it was not a pressing issue at the time, but now it is. Then we had possibly less than a dozen, now we have at least five times that. I am not in favor of overly regulating, which can be as bad as too little. Regulations should protect all parties. If you have a part of your property that you would like to offer as a STR, registering it as such and making sure it is safe are necessary. If you are coming to Cold Spring to buy up existing housing stock to have several STRs, that is a problem and requires preventative regulations. I am also in favor of a hospitality tax that could be used to slow down the traffic on Route 9D and increase walkability by keeping our streetscape safe and attractive. It is important to listen to STR hosts and work with them to balance

the economic benefits with protecting our housing stock and ensuring peace and quiet for our neighbors.

PHILLIPS: While short-term rentals are not essential to our village, they do have benefits for the property owner and can bring revenue to our community and small shop owners. I have personally used short-term rentals while on getaways. I feel the current board addressed this appropriately and understands that there is a learning curve on this topic. The board will have to weigh the pros and cons as they arise.

STARBUCK: As chamber president, I was deeply involved in developing a practical framework for STRs: I held public meetings on the issue, surveyed community members on their concerns and needs, and provided elected officials with reports and recommendations.

I strongly believe that permits for home-based, short-term rentals are necessary. They will prevent invasive real-estate investors from reducing the housing stock in the village, preserve neighborhood character and reduce safety hazards. But the restrictions must be reasonable and practical. Parts of the adopted code succeed at these goals. However, as a whole, the STR law needs to be revised before it is enforced. As it stands, its requirements are too complicated, its terms are not adequately based on statistics or surveys about villagers' STR usage, and the lottery system is unrealistic. In short, it would be a nightmare to administer and enforce. Most of the public comments on this law opposed it in its current state. Many people urged the formation of a committee, similar to the Parking Committee, to improve the law, which I support. There are more details on my position on my campaign website.

Questions for Candidates

Cold Spring Mayor

We held a virtual forum on Oct. 13 with Kathleen Foley and Vinny Tamagna. A transcript is posted at highlandscurrent.org/mayor2021.

NOTICE

Philipstown Planning Board

Site Visit

Sunday, November 7th, 2021

The Philipstown Planning Board will meet on Sunday, November 7th, 2021 at 9:30am to inspect the following site:

Arnaud & Santelises,
5 Juniper Hill Road, Garrison,
NY 10524 TM#81-1-11



Cassandra

FASHION · ART · ACCESSORIES

SHOP THE STUDIO COLLECTION

November 1st – January 11th

STUDIO TOUR

Call for appointment **646-207-4188**
@cassandrasaulterstudio



County Executive Takes Last Shot at Sheriff

Releases 'letter to editor' attacking candidate

By Chip Rowe

As the campaign to determine who will be the next Putnam County sheriff entered its final days, Putnam County Executive MaryEllen Odell last week

issued a "letter" addressed to the media that attacked incumbent Robert Langley Jr.

The sheriff, a Democrat, responded that the county executive, a Republican, may have compromised the county's defense in legal actions pending against the Sheriff's Department.

"NBC's News 4 has been investigating the Putnam County Sheriff's Department under the leadership of Sheriff Robert Langley," Odell wrote, referring to a report that aired on Oct. 19 in which the sheriff was interviewed. "The network is looking into the case of a 77-year-old Brewster man who was injured while being taken into police custody and the separate case of an officer

who rammed a suspect's car on I-84 and later was involved in a head-on collision while driving at high speed."

In the first case, the Sheriff's Department said it had concluded that its officers used acceptable force, and the county has asked a judge to dismiss the case. "The officers did an outstanding job" when arresting George Taranto in July 2019, Langley told NBC News 4. Taranto had approached the officers with a pistol at his side after he heard a disturbance outside his home. His family says Taranto, who died in August, suffered brain trauma and has sued the county for \$50 million.

In the second case, the driver of a truck that collided with a patrol car on Route 301

in May has filed notice that he plans to sue, said his attorney, Joseph Bavaro.

The legal actions, Odell said in her statement, "raise serious questions about Sheriff Langley's leadership," before she abruptly segued to the sheriff's marine unit that had patrolled the Hudson River since 1998 until Odell eliminated it over the summer and returned the borrowed boats to New York State.

Her statement was distributed to the media by her office as a "letter to the editor" and is posted on the county website as a news release.

When asked about the timing of the broadside, or if it was in response to reporting done on the Marine Patrol four months ago, Odell's office responded only that "the sheriff has been on record saying the administration and the Legislature has 'defunded' his department." [On June 25, Langley had said that eliminating the boat patrol was "the exact definition of defunding the police."]

In his response, Langley said Odell had misused the county website in "a blatant partisan attempt to sway voters" to his challenger, Kevin McConville, a Republican whom Odell has endorsed. Last week, McConville accused Langley of breaking the law by misusing his county-issued phone.

In his statement, Langley also accused Odell of "releasing confidential information to the media." When asked to explain that claim, Langley said, "I cannot elaborate any further on the matter due to a pending investigation by an outside agency."

MUSIC. ART. COCKTAILS.

MARTINI SOCIAL

Saturday, Nov. 13



GARRISON ART CENTER

Beacon's thoughtfully curated General Store committed to providing a unique shopping experience for our diverse residents and visitors.

Solstad House



Visit us at SolstadHouse.com

Visit our new location: 488 Main St in Beacon
Also available: Curbside pick-up, free shipping, free delivery in Beacon

Follow us!
@solstadhouse
SolstadHouse1



New Listing!
15 Acorn Ct., Wappingers Falls
5 Bed | 2.5 Bath | 2,821 SF | \$599,500



Just Sold!
7 Farmers Crossing, Wappinger
3 Bed | 2.5 Bath | 3,000 SF | \$950,000



Just Sold!
9-11 Rombout Ave., Beacon
6 Bed | 3.5 Bath | 3,640 SF | \$850,000

Newly Listed- colonial with wood floors and river views
Just Sold- contemporary farmhouse and 1800s Victorian



COMPASS

O: 845.831.9550
492 Main Street, Beacon, NY 12508
@gatehousecompass
gatehousecompass.com



Here Are Your Choices

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

FOR VOTERS IN BEACON

Dutchess County Comptroller

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
Ronald 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 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 (Justice Party)

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 HIGHLANDS

Supreme Court Judicial District 9

Vote for up to five
Robert Berliner (DEM/REP/CON)
Incumbent since 2008, Rockland
Thomas Davis (DEM/REP)
29 years as private attorney, Dutchess
Christie D'Alessio (DEM/CON)
Town justice in Greenburgh, Westchester
Robert Guertin (REP/CON)
City Court judge in Middletown, Orange
James Hendry III (REP)
City Court judge in Port Jervis, Orange
James Hyer (DEM/REP/CON)
15 years as private attorney, Westchester
Thomas Quinones (DEM/CON)
City Court judge in Yonkers, Westchester
Mark Starkman (REP)
26 years as private attorney, Orange

PARTY KEY:

DEM = Democratic | REP = Republican
CON = Conservative
WFP = Working Families Party

How to register

The deadline to register to vote in the Tuesday (Nov. 2) general election has passed. If you are not sure of your status, visit 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 Monday (Nov. 1).

Find Your Polling Place

If you are unsure where you vote, see voterlookup.elections.ny.gov.



Early voting

Putnam County

North Highlands Firehouse
504 Fishkill Road
Philipstown

SAT 30 SUN 31
9 a.m. - 2 p.m. 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Dutchess County

Town Hall
807 Route 52
Fishkill

SAT 30 SUN 31
10 a.m. - 3 p.m. 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Election Results

Check highlandscurrent.org after 9 p.m. on Tuesday (Nov. 2) for unofficial results.

Polls will be open Tuesday (Nov. 2) from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m.

AROUND TOWN



▲ **LOST AND FOUND** — On Oct. 17, Mid Hudson Animal Aid in Beacon took in a stray. The cat had an embedded microchip that provided information about its owners and, soon after, Cody was reunited with the Lenczewski family of Wappingers Falls. The pet had been missing for six months.



▲ **NEWBORN CALF** — Baby Venus was born on Oct. 18 at the Stony Kill Farm Environmental Education Center near Beacon. The newborn, which weighed 40 pounds, is a rare American Milking Devon heifer. She's pictured here with her mom, Jasmine.



◀ **CENTURY OF PROGRESS** — Last year *The Current* reported on the 99th birthday of George McKie of Beacon and now, a year later, he has turned 100. "Now that I have these 100 years, what am I going to do with them?" he quipped at a celebration on Tuesday (Oct. 26) organized by Flora Jones, a longtime friend. Born in Georgia in 1921, McKie moved with his mother to New York City as a boy. He served with the U.S. Army in France during World War II and spent most of his working life as an auto mechanic before retiring to Beacon in his 80s. His birthday included a surprise visit from his daughter, Zuri, who lives in Oklahoma.

Photo by Michael Turton



▲ **READY FOR SNOW** — Putnam County highway department mechanics recently completed the restoration of a 1959 snow thrower that had been retired in 1998 after nearly 40 years of service. The project took four years. Shown with the vehicle are lead diesel mechanic Lonny Vlashi and chief mechanic Chris Vitiello.



◀ **BATTLE OF BOOKS** — The middle school Battle of the Books team from Butterfield Library in Cold Spring was division champ this year, reaching the four-team regional finals. The members were Ada Caccamise, Rita Edwards Salas, Maisie Matthews, Clara O'Neil, Margaret O'Sullivan and Kate Resi. They are shown with librarian and coach Maureen McGrath.

Photos provided

Come celebrate Halloween at the Market!

DMV Lot, 223 Main Street Beacon
festivities start at 11am

**BEACON
FARMERS
MARKET**

Prizes for the best costumes!
Costume Parade!
Dance Party!

follow us at @beaconfarmersmarket

marbled
MEAT SHOP

LOCALLY SOURCED SINCE 2014

OUR DOORS ARE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

TUES: 12:00 - 5:00P | WED - FRI: 9:00A - 6:00P | SAT: 9:00A - 5:00P | SUN: 9:00A - 2:00P

BUTCHER • FARMSTEAD CHEESE • CHARCUTERIE
PREPARED FOODS • CATERING • SPECIALTY GROCERY

Heat & Eat Meals for as low as \$9/per person | Discounted Meat Packages for as low as \$50/week

3091 US 9, COLD SPRING, NY 10516 • (845)265-2830

marbledmeatshop.com

THIS SEASON AT
BEACON NATURAL MARKET

ORDER YOUR
FRESH
LOCAL
TURKEYS
NOW!

WHILE SUPPLIES
LAST



Beacon Natural Market

348 MAIN STREET, BEACON NY / WWW.BEACONNATURALMARKET.COM / 845.838.1288



The Calendar



Marlene Wiedenbaum, "Gum Shopping Mall, Moscow"



Patricia Collins Broun, "Coastal Trail"



Gabrielle Dearborn, "Tregunter Road, London"

TIME TO SEE THE WORLD!

Howland exhibit reflects pent-up desire to travel

By Alison Rooney

Feeling hemmed in, longing to travel again, or ready for some armchair traveling to ride the pandemic out with? After a year and a half of warnings and cancellations and every possible impediment to going forth into the world, there is a lot of pent-up desire out there among those eager to roam.

Karen Gersch feels the same and, while curating a show for the Howland Cultural Center in Beacon, sought out artwork that could tap into a collective yearning to experience the world again. She made 65 selections from 16 artists (including herself) that are on display through Nov. 14 in *Traveling Folk: Worlds Explored*.

"Travel is still so restricted, so I thought, 'Let's have a show where people can see places that maybe someday they can see in person — a show that honors the world as well as America and the Hudson Valley.'"

Gersch, who lives in Orange County, in 2018 curated a show on circuses at the Howland, following years of going on the road with small-tented circuses, "taking my pastels by day, performing by night: a rich life," she says.

For the current exhibit, she put out a call not only for art but for narratives that explained the places that had inspired the art and why those places had resonated.

The resulting exhibit includes watercolors, pastels, gouache, acrylics and oil on canvas, ink-and-pencil drawings, wood carvings and photographs, evoking locations in the U.S., Italy, China, Mexico, France, Russia, Vietnam, Cuba, Antarctica, Greece, Scotland, Portugal, Africa, Myanmar, Puerto Rico and Afghanistan.

"After I read each artist's story [about the artwork], I would go back to the image and see it anew," Gersch says. "This exhibit celebrates the art that people find vital: scenic, portraits, landscape — powerful examples, in ways that are far from the norm."

The artists, along with Gersch, are Laura Martinez-Bianco, Patricia Collins Broun, Glen Dares, Gabrielle Dearborn, Viorel Florescu, Ruth Geneslaw, Ron Hershey, Reni Lorrain, Linda Lynton, Barbara Masterson, Simon Narborough, Fran Sutherland, Trisha Wright, Marlene Wiedenbaum and Mia Wolff.

The Howland Cultural Center is located at 477 Main St. in Beacon. Traveling Folk is open from 1 to 5 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays, with the exception of Nov. 7. The cultural center also currently has a post-card exhibit.

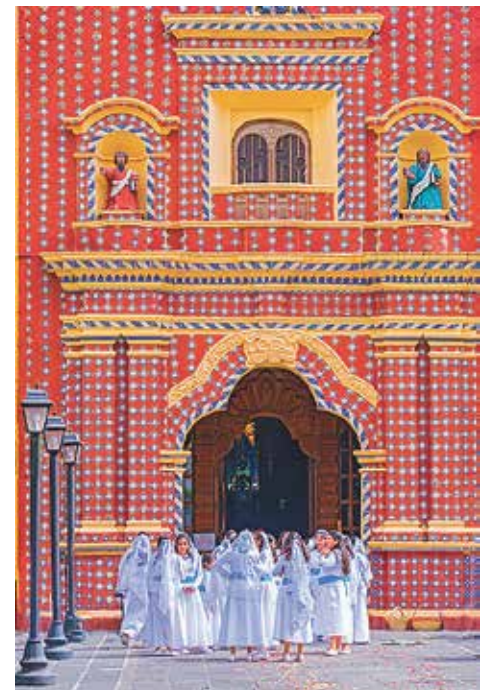


Mia Wolff, "Li River"

“This exhibit celebrates the art that people find vital: scenic, portraits, landscape — powerful examples, in ways that are far from the norm.”



Trisha Wright, "Movement"



Ron Hershey, "Young girls outside Templo de Santa Maria /tonantzintla, near Cholulu, Mexico"



Gabrielle Dearborn, "Piazza"

THE WEEK AHEAD

Edited by Pamela Doan (calendar@highlandscurrent.org)

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

KIDS & FAMILY

SAT 30

I SPY Halloween Scavenger Hunt

CORNWALL

11 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Outdoor Discovery Center
120 Muser Drive

845-534-5506 x204 | hhn.org

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

SAT 30

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*

THURS 4

Elementary School Book Club

COLD SPRING

3:30 p.m. Butterfield Library

10 Morris Ave. | 845-265-3040

butterfieldlibrary.org

Children in grades 2 to 4 will discuss *The First Rule of Punk*, by Celia Pérez.

THURS 4

Learning Differences Parent Support Group

COLD SPRING

7:30 p.m. Ascend Center | 75 Main St.

facebook.com/PTALearnDiff

Attend in person or via Zoom. RSVP to ptalearnndiff@gmail.com.

COMMUNITY

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*

SUN 31

Fall Fest

COLD SPRING

Noon – 3 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*

TUES 2

Native Indigenous Ceremony & Parade

CARMEL

5:30 p.m. 40 S. Gleneida Ave.

bit.ly/indigenous-parade

Attendees are encouraged to wear something that reflects their ethnicity or cultural heritage for this event organized by Normita Ixmucane and Artesanos Multiculturales Del Hudson Valley. Dancers from Illusions of My Land will perform and everyone is invited to bring a photo of a loved one who has passed on.

THURS 4

3-D Model of Proposed HVSF Site

GARRISON

2 – 5 p.m. The Garrison

2015 Route 9 | hvshakespeare.org

The Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival will share a model of the changes it hopes to make on property donated to the company. Also SAT 6 from 1 – 4 p.m. at the Garrison Art Center. Register at hvshakespeare.org/production/3dmodel.

THURS 4

Beacons of History Awards

BEACON

5:30 p.m. The Roundhouse

2 E Main St. | beaonhistorical.org

At this cocktail party and fundraiser for the Beacon Historical Society, Arthur and Mary Lou Papo Johnson (below) will be honored for their support and Beacon veterans will be celebrated with the American Legion Post No. 203, Veterans of Foreign Wars Post No. 666 and Carmen Ramputi Detachment No. 861 Marine Corps League accepting on their behalf. Reservations required; email dvb1776@gmail.com. *Cost: \$75*



THURS 4

Puzzle Swap

GARRISON

6 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library

472 Route 403 | 845-424-3020

desmondfishlibrary.org

Bring a puzzle you've finished and get one that is new to you to take home.

FRI 5

Blood Drive

COLD SPRING

2 – 8 p.m. Our Lady of Loretto

24 Fair St. | donate.nybc.org

Make an appointment to help address a shortage.

SAT 6

Pet Rabies Vaccine Clinic

CARMEL

10 a.m. – Noon. Memorial Park

201 Gipsy Trail Road

845-808-1390 x43160

putnamcountyny.com/health

Dogs, cats and ferrets should be properly caged or leashed. Bring proof of Putnam County residency and a prior rabies vaccination certificate. *Free*

STAGE & SCREEN

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

This second annual event will feature interviews, readings and a writers' fair with eight authors, including Julie Chibbaro and Said Sayrafiezadeh. On SUN 31, Hudson Valley authors and artists will lead workshops. *Cost: \$25 (\$20 streaming)*

THURS 4

Lit Lit Open Mic

BEACON

7 p.m. Homespun Foods

232 Main St.

Writers can read works from any genre for up to 5 minutes. Or come to listen.

FRI 5

The Price

WAPPINGERS FALLS

8 p.m. County Players Theater

2681 W. Main St. | 845-298-1491

countyplayers.org

Jeff Battersby, Michael Frohnhoefer, Janet Nurre and Douglas Woolley star in Arthur Miller's play, which is ostensibly about the price of furniture. *Cost: \$20 (\$17 seniors, military and ages 12 and under)*



Halloween Parade, Oct. 30

HALLOWEEN

SAT 30

27th Annual Halloween Parade

COLD SPRING

5:30 p.m. St. Mary's Church

Main and Route 9D

facebook.com/coldspringhalloween-parade

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 Dark House

GARRISON

6 – 10 p.m. Philipstown Depot Theatre

10 Garrison's Landing

nightmarenc.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. Also, SUN 31. *Cost: \$35*

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. | 914-739-0039

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.



The Price, Nov. 5

TALKS & TOURS

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, along with 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)*

WED 3
Legal and Financial Planning for Alzheimer’s Disease

COLD SPRING
Noon. Via Zoom
butterfieldlibrary.org
Attorney Brian Miller, who is associated with the Alzheimer’s Association of the Hudson Valley, will discuss issues, plans and care needs. Hosted by the Butterfield Library.

WED 3
Sustainable Beekeeping: Sweetness and Light

BREWSTER
7 p.m. Tilly Foster Farm
100 Route 312
putnam.cce.cornell.edu/events
Beekeeper Tom Sortidity will discuss the history of beekeeping to provide perspective about how to manage bees for the future. *Free*

SAT 6
Indigo Dyeing + Clay Resist
COLD SPRING
1 – 5 p.m. Supplies for Creative Living
143 Main St. | 845-809-5500
suppliesforcreativeliving.com

Gail Cunningham O’Donnell will lead a hands-on workshop on using indigo, a natural dye, on fabric and how to use clay to compose designs. *Cost: \$100*



MUSIC

SUN 24
Duet
BEACON
12:30 – 2:30 p.m. Farmers Market
223 Main St. | beaconfarmersmarket.org
Claudia Forest (violin) and Jon Ahmadjian (guitar) perform jazz, swing, waltzes and fiddle tunes. Sponsored by *The Highlands Current*.

SAT 30
The Cozy Side of Beethoven
COLD SPRING
5 p.m. Chapel Restoration
45 Market St. | liberocanto.org
Jason Wirth (piano), Susan Heerema (violin) and Marisol Espada (cello) will accompany vocalists Kinga Cserjési, Kirsten Ott, Alonso Jordan Lopez and Peter



The Exile’s Journey, Oct. 30

Ludwig as they perform some of Beethoven’s little-known folk songs, as well as his best-known solos and arias. Donations are welcome. *Free*

SAT 30
R.J. Storm and the 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)*

SAT 30
The Exile’s Journey

POUGHKEEPSIE
8 p.m. Bardavon | 35 Market St.
845-473-2072 | bardavon.org
Conductor Tong Chen will lead this Hudson Valley Philharmonic program with music from Europe, Vietnam and the U.S. inspired by Thi Bui’s graphic novel, *The*



Best We Could Do, this year’s Big Read selection. A selection by Mendelssohn will feature violinist Ashley Jeehyun Park, winner of the 2019 HVP string competition. *Cost: \$40 (\$15 ages 12 and younger)*

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)*

WED 3
Joe McPhee’s 82nd Birthday Celebration

BEACON
8:30 p.m. Quinn’s | 330 Main St.
facebook.com/QuinnsBeacon
The show will honor the Hudson Valley multi-instrumentalist

titan and bring live music back to the venue. Proof of COVID-19 vaccination and masks required. *Cost: \$20*

FRI 5
California Dreaming

BEACON
8 p.m. Towne Crier
379 Main St. | townecrier.com
The band will invoke that SoCal feeling with its covers of songs by Brian Wilson and the Beach Boys, The Mamas & the Papas, Buffalo Springfield, The Byrds and Crosby, Stills, Nash & Young. *Cost: \$20 (\$25 door)*

FRI 5
Herman’s Hermits with Peter Noone

PEEKSKILL
8 p.m. Paramount Hudson Valley
1008 Brown St. | 914-739-0039
paramounthudsonvalley.com
Noone, who went on to sing and act in television and on Broadway, appears with the band to perform its hits. *Cost: \$47.50 to \$67.50*

FRI 5
Rhianon Giddens & Francesco Turrisi

POUGHKEEPSIE
8 p.m. Bardavon | 35 Market St.
845-473-2072 | bardavon.org
The duo will perform music from their latest recording, *They’re Calling Me Home*. *Cost: \$43*

(Continued on Page 22)

I am a farmer.

I care about feeding Philipstown and taking care of our environment and natural resources.

I am a father and teacher.

I support educational and recreational opportunities for Philipstown’s youth.

I have roots here.

I live next door to my parents in the house my dad grew up in and I care about elders getting the support they need.

I am a small business owner & non-profit leader.

I care about a vibrant local economy and bringing people together around the issues that matter to our town.

I am a Philipstown Town Council member.

I serve all residents of Philipstown with an open mind and heart.

I want to keep working for you.

Vote for Jason Angell on November 2 for Philipstown Town Board.

jasonforphilipstown.com

Paid for by Jason for Philipstown.

Jason Angell

For Philipstown.

SAT 6
Titans of '80s Rock
PEEKSKILL
8 p.m. Paramount Hudson Valley
1008 Brown St. | 914-739-0039
paramounthudsonvalley.com
Three tribute bands — Wanted
DOA, Shot of Poison and Rock of
Ages — will perform the hits of Bon
Jovi, Poison and Def Leppard in an
“arena-style” event. *Cost: \$29 to \$59*

SAT 6
**Jay Ungar and
Molly Mason**
BEACON
8 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com
The Grammy winners will
perform on violin, piano and guitar
as they share their passion for folk
heritage and storytelling. *Cost: \$25
(\$30 door)*

SAT 6
Ate Bit
BEACON
9 p.m. Quinn's | 330 Main St.
facebook.com/QuinnsBeacon
The punk band will be joined by
Social Standards. *Cost: \$10*

SUN 7
Aldo and Ilmar Gavilán
BEACON
4 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
477 Main St. | 845-831-4988
howlandmusic.org
The Howland Chamber Music
Circle presents the Afro-Cuban



Rhiannon Giddens & Francesco Turrisi, Nov. 5

brothers who will perform works on
violin and piano composed by Aldo.
In-person or streaming is available.
Cost: \$45 (\$15 students)

SUN 7
The Joni Project
BEACON
7 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com
Katie Pearlman and her band will
perform a tribute to Joni Mitchell,
covering her music from its folk

beginnings to funk, rock and
modern jazz. *Cost: \$20 (\$25 door)*

CIVIC
SAT 30
Early Voting
PHILIPSTOWN
9 a.m. – 2 p.m.
North Highlands Firehouse
504 Fishkill Road | putnamboe.com
Also SUN 31, same time.

SAT 30
Early Voting
FISHKILL
10 a.m. – 3 p.m. Fishkill Town Hall
807 Route 52 | elections.dutchessny.gov
Also SUN 31, 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.

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

TUES 2
Election Day
6 a.m. – 9 p.m.
See Page 9.

TUES 2
School Board
COLD SPRING
7 p.m. Haldane | 15 Craigside Drive
845-265-9254 | haldaneschool.org

WED 3
Putnam Legislature
CARMEL
7 p.m. Historic Courthouse
44 Gleneida Ave. | 845-208-7800
putnamcountyny.com

THURS 4
Village Board
COLD SPRING
6:30 p.m. Via Zoom | 85 Main St
845-265-3611 | coldspringny.gov

THURS 4
Town Board
COLD SPRING
7:30 p.m. Town Hall | 238 Main St.
845-265-5200 | philipstown.com



**DON'T SETTLE
FOR LESS.**

✓ **EXPERIENCE**
✓ **INTEGRITY**
✓ **EMPATHY**

VOTE

◀ **GREG JOHNSTON
FOR BEACON CITY COURT**

**RACHEL SAUNDERS FOR
DUTCHESS COUNTY
FAMILY COURT** ▶

Beacon residents and public interest
lawyers Greg Johnston and
Rachel Saunders are ready to put their
decades of experience to work
for the residents of our communities.
The time for change is here.

**VOTE
NOV. 2nd**

GREGFORBEACONJUDGE.COM
PAID FOR BY FRIENDS OF GREG JOHNSTON

RACHEL FOR FAMILY COURT.COM
PAID FOR BY FRIENDS OF RACHEL SAUNDERS



Roots and Shoots

Garden Plans and Tweaks

By Pamela Doan

Fall opens up the landscape as plants and trees go into dormancy. Without all the foliage and exploding vegetation of spring and summer, it's easier to see where you might want to add height, texture or structure to the landscape. It's a valuable moment when things go on pause to observe and imagine.

Walking with our hound in my yard can involve a lot of standing around while she follows the scent of whatever she picks up and needs to cover every bit of ground with her nose. As I patiently wait for the dog, I've noticed lately that the path going up our slope to the next level of the yard needs more curves. There are three disjointed sections that could flow as well as stabilize the hillside. Winding paths prevent erosion better than straight paths, which is a huge consideration as the changing climate brings heavier rainfall to the Hudson Valley. Just this past week, my simple gauge measured nearly 4½ inches of rain in about 24 hours.

I have a vision of winding paths and curves outlined by shrubs, grasses and perennials, a



Asters, honeysuckle and mountain mint bring in the bees while the jack-o'-lantern stands guard.

Photo by P. Doan

cross between a formal hedge and a meadow-style planting that absorbs the angles and lines of the short hillside. A non-linear hedge can frame many views and tuck away visual nuggets that can only be appreciated by walking the path — going into the landscape instead of being separate from it.

Sounds like I have my work cut out for me this fall and winter! Here are some guidelines for how to approach an assessment and planning project for your own landscape.

Draw it out

Take out a pencil and piece of paper and spend time in the yard capturing its main features. At this stage, measurements aren't necessary: This exercise is to focus on the general layout and spacing. While I think there is value in having an overall landscape map, if that seems intimidating, work on one section, like the front foundation landscaping or the patio area — some part

where you spend a lot of time or that you look out on from your windows.

Work with photos

Maybe you took photos of your garden this year. These can be useful to show how it looked in different months. If you haven't photographed it, start now. In the spring, it helps to review what fall seasonal interest was there.

Shaping

This is not a good time for pruning trees or shrubs. Of course, if a woody plant or tree is causing risk or is a nuisance, pruning can be done, but it opens a wound going into winter and that isn't ideal.

However, when the foliage is gone, it's easier to notice where pruning should be done when the time is right for that species. Crossed or dead branches go first. Then think about how to shape it for better form. Is it asymmetrical? Does the form reach an apex in the middle or off to one side? You can mark branches with string, colored tape or a dab of paint as a reminder of what you want to do in the future. The Morton Arboretum website at mortonarb.org has helpful resources on pruning different trees and shrubs. It can be tricky but following advice for the specific species leads to the best results.

Feelings matter

There are some areas of my landscape where I just feel exposed, and that doesn't lead to a relaxing connection with nature. Living on a slope means that the neighboring houses are above and below our yard and the height of plantings has to be balanced between privacy and creating shade. I want a lot of sun to grow vegetables and fruit, but I want to feel like I have privacy in my yard, too. Planting tall trees on the highest slope would create too much shade, so I have to work within those conflicting desires.

Notice how you feel in different parts of your yard and think about how you want to feel instead. Traffic noise might make a front yard feel stressful if you're close to a road. Landscaping can mitigate noise and change the view. Plants and trees can make a patio feel more cozy and intimate, but in other areas you might want a more open feeling.

Questions? Email me at rootsandshoots@highlandscurrent.org.

A Green Light for Bird Feeders

Mysterious songbird disease no longer a threat

By Brian PJ Cronin

Good news for birds, squirrels and whatever else comes to your yard to gorge on your bird feeder: The mysterious disease that was affecting songbirds this summer "seems to have wound down on its own," said Scott Silver, director of the Constitution Marsh Audubon Center and Sanctuary in Garrison.

"In fact, New York state seems to have avoided the problem," he said.

As a result, the Audubon Society says that New Yorkers can put their bird feeders back up. The organization, along with other naturalist groups, recommended over the summer that New Yorkers temporarily remove feeders because of a disease that was affecting songbirds in many mid-Atlantic states.

The disease still has not been identified, but the fact that it died out quickly would seem to rule out an infection. Eleven states where the disease appeared also saw the return of the infamous Brood X cicadas, which emerge every 17 years. This has led to the hypothesis that birds that ate the brood became ill. Brood X did not appear in New York, although it showed up in New Jersey and Pennsylvania. If the hypothesis is accurate, songbirds can rest easy until 2038.

Local birds shouldn't have been affected too much by the lack of feeders over the summer, since that's when plenty of bugs are around. But with the weather cooling, Silver said that the feeders will again be useful.

"Birds do not rely on fat reserves like mammals do," he explained. "So when it gets cold, they increase their food intake to keep themselves warm."

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!

BEATLES VS STONES

A MUSICAL SHOWDOWN

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 4 | 8PM | ALL AGES

PARAMOUNT HUDSON VALLEY THEATER
1008 Brown Street, Peekskill, NY

RESERVE YOUR SEAT NOW!
paramounthudsonvalley.com

Gergely Pediatrics

Dedicated to keeping your child healthy & thriving

Dr. Peter Gergely, MD
Janet Eisig, CFNP
Danielle Chiaravalloti, CFNP

- Collaborative practice for children & adolescents
- Board Certified Pediatricians & Licensed Pediatric Nurse Practitioners
- Welcomes patients with developmental or behavior issues

Meet with us for a **FREE** first time consultation

34 Route 403, Garrison, N.Y. 10524
tel: (845) 424-4444 fax: (845) 424-4664
gergelypediatrics.com



Mouths to Feed

Pass the Buckeye

By Celia Barbour

While walking around

Bard College a couple of weeks ago, I stumbled upon some buckeyes. Not Ohio State students.

Actual buckeyes lying on the ground beneath a buckeye tree. I let out a tiny *merp* of glee and bent to pick one up.

I hadn't seen buckeyes since I was a kid. Buckeye trees are fairly ubiquitous in Indiana. We even had one in our yard, planted a century earlier along with a remarkable variety of other tree specimens, prompting my father, an incurable punster, to refer to our property as "the Barboretum." (Please forgive me for sharing that miserable groaner with you.)

I adored buckeyes as a child, and would collect pocketfuls each fall. Sleek, glossy blobs of mahogany brown with tan "eyes," they seemed as pretty to me as polished treasures. I also learned from an early age that they were poisonous, which only increased the gallantry of my affection by making them seem Rapunzel-esque: beauties trapped by a terrible curse.

I was painfully shy growing up (as may be evident from the fact that I was befriend-ing tree detritus). All I ever wanted was to be left alone with my toys, collections and books. Nonetheless, my parents thought it was a good idea to regularly propel me into social situations — Quaker youth group parties, Girl Scout outings, holiday gatherings and the like. It was at one such ordeal, a Halloween get-together at someone's house to which I'd been sent with my big sister, that I first encountered a different kind of buckeye, an edible one.

Elton John's *Island Girl* was playing on the turntable, so it must have been 1975 or '76, which means I was 12, my big sister 14. The teens danced and laughed as I sat by myself in an armchair in a corner of the living room. Suddenly the mother of the house appeared, bearing a tray of

little, round balls of peanut butter dipped in chocolate. They tasted like especially yummy Reese's cups, and looked just like my beloved buckeyes. And indeed, that was their name, the mom told me as she offered me another one. After passing them around the room, she placed the half-empty tray on the table beside me.

This was the closest thing to divine providence I had ever experienced at a youth group function. I sat there sneaking one after another of the delicious candies into my mouth, no longer minding that I was not participating in the ostensible fun. Who needed it? I had my very own cache of yummy buckeyes to keep me company.

"Buckeye" is fun to say; "horse chestnut" is not, so it's a good thing these candies were invented in the Midwest. In researching this column, I discovered that the seeds I encountered at Bard were probably horse chestnuts and not the former. Horse chestnut trees are native to Eastern Europe, have showier flowers than buckeyes and are now grown throughout northern latitudes. Their seeds look almost identical, however, and are similarly toxic.

A transplant myself, I have in many ways outgrown my childhood shyness. But I still sometimes panic at parties, and can take undue comfort in a tray of tasty morsels. So here's a recipe for everyone like me who sometimes just wants to be left alone with a stash of treasures. Or for anyone like my son Dosi, who thinks that Reese's cups are an act of divine providence.

Buckeyes

Makes about 3 dozen

5 tablespoons butter, melted and slightly cooled

1¼ cups smooth peanut butter

2 cups powdered sugar

½ to 1 teaspoon salt, to taste

½ teaspoon vanilla

7 ounces bittersweet or semisweet chocolate, chopped

1 teaspoon coconut oil or shortening



1. Line a baking sheet with parchment paper or a silicone liner and set aside. In the bowl of an electric mixer fitted with the paddle attachment, combine the melted butter, peanut butter, powdered sugar, salt and vanilla; mix until thoroughly combined.
2. Roll the peanut butter mixture into balls approximately 1 inch in diameter, arrange on prepared baking sheet and transfer to the refrigerator to cool. Meanwhile, place the chopped chocolate and coconut oil in a heatproof bowl set over simmering water and stir until melted (or use a microwave). Transfer the melted chocolate mixture to a heatproof mug or metal cup.
3. Working one at a time, poke a skewer into the top of a peanut butter ball and dip it into the melted chocolate, leaving a spot of exposed peanut butter on top. Allow excess chocolate to drip off, then return the ball to the baking sheet.
4. Using the tip of your finger or of a warmed offset spatula, smooth away the skewer holes. (To warm the metal spatula, dip it into a mug of just-boiled water until heated, then wipe off the water.) Chill buckeyes until firm and the chocolate is set.

HOWLAND CULTURAL CENTER

Oct. 30 + 31 – 1-5 pm

Also Nov 6, 13, 14

TRAVELING FOLK: WORLDS EXPLORED

Free – 16 Artists Exhibiting

Fri. Oct 29 – 8 pm

AN EVENING OF THE MACABRE

Staged readings of Edgar Allan Poe

Dimitri Archip & Company

\$15 Adv / \$20 Door Tix: Howlandculturalcenter.org (Vax)

Sat. Oct 30 – 8 pm

IN CONCERT: OLD SCHOOL BLUEGRASS BAND

Energetic, engaging music, new and old

\$15 Adv / \$20 Door Tix: Howlandculturalcenter.org (Vax)



Sun. Oct 31 – 5 pm

The HALLOWEENING!

Spooky soundscapes in the Howland courtyard

Free – Fun for the whole family, weather permitting

AND MORE

Sun. Nov 7 – 4 pm

Howland Chamber Music Circle

Los Hermanos, Aldo & Ilmar Gavilan

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

Thur. Nov 11 – 7:30 pm

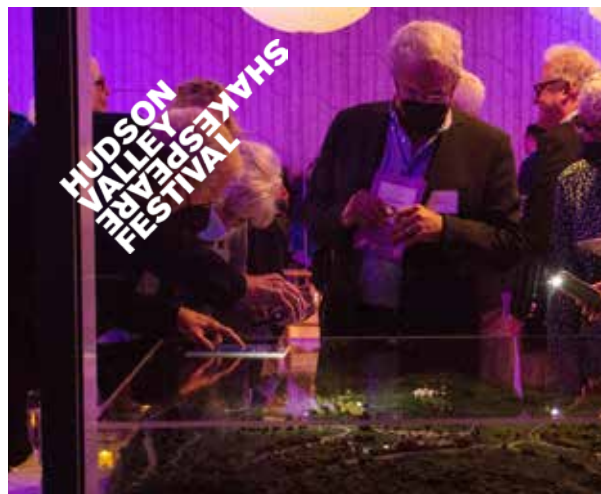
November Moon, music & stories, Tara O'Grady

Tix + Info: Howlandculturalcenter.org

Please Join and Help Support Our Friends of the Howland Campaign!

Vax: In-house concert seating for vaccinated persons w/proof
In order to protect and safeguard our many friends, visitors and staff our Covid protocol is still in effect at the HCC

477 Main Street, Beacon, NY 12508
www.howlandculturalcenter.org (845) 831-4988
facebook.com/howlandcenterbeacon
howlandculturalcenter.org



VIEW A 3-D MODEL OF HVSF'S NEW HOME

Artistic Director Davis McCallum and Managing Director Kate Liberman invite the community to see site plans to scale, discuss Hudson Valley Shakespeare's future, and answer your questions about the project.

Thursday
November 4
2pm-5pm

The Garrison

The Atrium, 2015 Route 9
Garrison, NY

Saturday
November 6
1pm-4pm

Garrison Art Center

23 Garrisons Landing
Garrison, NY

Thursday
November 11
11am-2pm

Winter Hill

20 Nazareth Way
Garrison, NY

Sunday
November 14
12pm-3pm

Saint Mary of the Highlands

1 Chestnut Street
Cold Spring, NY

*More dates coming soon!

For more information & to register visit www.hvshakespeare.org.

GET STARTED OPEN HOUSE
Sunday, Nov. 14
GARRISON ART CENTER

Pups and Prisoners

Inmate program trains service dogs

By Michael Turton

No light bulb went off when Gloria Gilbert Stoga got the idea to launch Puppies Behind Bars, a program through which inmates train service dogs. “There was no ‘a-ha moment,’ ” she says. “I had read about it in the state of Florida [where a veterinarian had launched a similar program] and thought it was a brilliant idea.”

When she started the program 25 years ago, Gilbert Stoga had no experience with prisons, and her knowledge of dogs was limited to being a pet owner.

In 1997, the Bedford Hills Correctional Facility for women became the first prison to institute the program. The Fishkill Correctional Facility in Beacon offered it a year later.

Today, six Puppies Behind Bars staff members instruct about 140 inmate puppy trainers in five New York prisons and one in New Jersey. When the dogs are about 2 years old, they are provided to wounded veterans, first responders and law enforcement agencies that train them to detect explosives.

More than 3,000 inmates have taken part, Gilbert Stoga said, and about half of those who begin the program complete it.



A prisoner works with his charge. Photo provided

More than 2,000 puppies have been trained, with about 75 percent of them going on to become service dogs. (Canines that don’t “graduate” are adopted as pets.)

“Because all of our dogs are raised in prison, they have developed an empathy and responsiveness to humans which we have never seen in any other dogs,” Puppies Behind Bars tell visitors to its website at puppiesbehindbars.com. “Our dogs live in prison with ‘puppy raisers,’ who are people who generally feel vulnerable and emotionally fragile. Our dogs learn, instinctively, to

help people who need them.”

Pups enter prison when they are eight weeks old and live with their handlers for about 24 months. “The program only uses Labrador retrievers,” Gilbert Stoga said, noting that male and female dogs perform equally well.

“I love working with the incarcerated individuals,” she said. “I like their willingness to learn and their eagerness to do something positive.”

Tom Mailey, a representative for the state prison system, said the success of Puppies Behind Bars was “multi-layered.”

“Part of our mission is to prepare individuals for their transition back to the community,” he said. “PBB incentivizes good behavior and gives inmates the opportunity to do something positive for someone else, while learning patience, pride and accomplishment.”

Inmates who remain in the program for the full two years it takes to train a pup, and who meet other criteria such as having no serious disciplinary infractions, can have six months taken off their sentences. Because the cost of keeping someone in prison is about \$60,000 annually, that can be a savings for taxpayers, Mailey said.

One inmate, Ron (the program asks that last names not be used), said Puppies Behind Bars provided him with “an opportunity to be more than just a number, to become a person again.” Adam said, “I am finally, after 20 years of incarceration, able to give back.” Jazzmin said it “represents hope and second chances.”



Baby and Dog

This feature is designed as a counterweight to all the bad news in the world that weighs people down. We could share a photo of a baby, or a photo of a dog, but we are giving you both. How many newspapers can say that? Claire Goldstein of Cold Spring shared this shot of her 9-day-old granddaughter, Juliana, with Lewie. If you have a photo of a baby and a dog, submit it for consideration to editor@highlandscurrent.org.

WE’VE GOT THEIR BACKS

FOLEY
ELIZA
Tweeps



In many ways, the Village of Cold Spring is the heart of Philipstown. In our former and current positions as Town Supervisor, Bill and Richard have led and stewarded the Town, working in close partnership with the Village. John will take the baton on January 1.

We care about electing Villagers who have Cold Spring’s best interests at heart, who are dedicated to our community, and who will work cooperatively with the Town.

We enthusiastically endorse **Kathleen E. Foley** for Mayor, **Tweeps Phillips Woods** for Trustee and **Eliza Starbuck** for Trustee. We trust them to do right by the Village and its residents.

BILL MAZZUCA
Village Board Trustee [1986-1991]
Philipstown Town Board Member [1992-1994]
Philipstown Town Supervisor [1995-2009]
Village Voter

RICHARD SHEA
Philipstown Town Board Member [2002-2009]
Philipstown Town Supervisor [2010-present]
Village Voter

JOHN J VAN TASSEL
Philipstown Town Board Member [2010-2018]
Philipstown Deputy Town Supervisor [2019-present]
Candidate for Town Supervisor

PAID FOR BY FORGE AHEAD

A Family That Commutes Together...

Garrison mom, daughter travel together on Metro-North

By Lily Zuckerman

When it comes to waking up early to catch a train, Heather Hopkins is not the only person in her Garrison household trying to get out the door by 6:30 a.m. Her 14-year-old daughter, Megan, also takes the train at, but her commute is to high school in Tarrytown.

Heather Hopkins has been taking Metro-North into the heart of Manhattan for years. Although she used to travel the 50 miles to Grand Central every day, she now goes twice a week to her job as fund chief financial officer for Clarion Partners, a real-estate management company.

Megan Hopkins is one of two Garrison students who commute to Tarrytown on Metro-North to attend Hackley, along with about 16 other teenagers from Philipstown who travel to Dobbs Ferry to attend the Masters School.

"It's worth it to live here [in Garrison], especially during COVID-19," said Heather Hopkins. "We could go on walks — it was really nice. We had plenty of space for us to spread out when we had to all be home and doing school."



Megan Hopkins and her mother, Heather, wait on the Metro-North platform at Garrison for their early morning train.

Photo by L. Zuckerman

Heather Hopkins uses her time wisely in the four hours she spends commuting to the city and back, whether it's reading the news on her iPad, checking her email or reading work documents.

"I like the fact that it's a train driven by a conductor and not a car driven by me," she said. "It's way more productive and less stressful."

Megan, who is a freshman, joined her mother on the train four years ago as a sixth grader, at an age when most of her peers are getting dropped off at Haldane (where her older brother, Colin, is a sophomore) or

catching a school bus. Her commute is half as long as her mother's, but she has to take two trains, switching at Croton-Harmon.

When Megan is returning home to Garrison, her routine varies. On an express train, she usually does homework. On the local train, which means a switch at Croton-Harmon, she listens to music.

When Megan began taking the train in sixth grade, "I felt like I was so much more independent because I didn't have to have someone drive me. I felt a sense of independence that I hadn't felt before."

On her first trips, "I remember only seeing Masters kids on the train platform. I would ask myself, 'Where are the Hackley kids?' I wanted to sit with people who were going to the same place I was because I would have felt more secure."

As Megan got older, she began helping younger students navigate their commute to school, showing them how to switch trains, and when to get off.

Fortunately, on her first trip, she had her mother to accompany her. But after she switched at Croton-Harmon, it was all her. Four years later, mom and daughter still drive to the Garrison station together in the morning, but once on board, they say they each focus on their own commute.

Zuckerman, who lives in Garrison and is a sophomore at the Masters School (and a commuter), is a correspondent in The Current's Student Journalists Program, which is funded by our members.

COVID-19 by the Numbers

■ PUTNAM COUNTY

Number of confirmed cases:

12,600 (+108)

Active Cases in Philipstown: 31-35

Tests administered:

308,647 (+4,692)

Percent positive:

4.1 (0)

Percent vaccinated:

73.2

Percent in 10516: 79.4

Percent in 10524: 75.4

Percent of hospital workers: 96.0

Number of deaths:

98 (0)

■ DUTCHESS COUNTY

Number of confirmed cases:

35,929 (+314)

Active Cases in Beacon: 16

Tests administered:

987,572 (+15,245)

Percent positive:

3.6 (-0.1)

Percent vaccinated:

68.3

Percent in 12508: 62.0

Percent of hospital workers: 94.0

Number of deaths:

500 (+1)

Source: State and county health departments, as of Oct. 27, with change over the previous two weeks in parentheses. Active cases in Philipstown as of Oct. 20. Percent vaccinated reflects those ages 12 and older who have received at least one dose.

■ It said that restaurant and banquet facility operations would continue year-round, with peaks from June to mid-October. The "absolute maximum" occupancy of the site would be 1,211 people, although the maximum expected, including staff, would be 1,124 people "five times per year or fewer and mostly on a Saturday." On busy summer weekends, the average occupancy was projected at 979.

■ HVSF said it anticipated it would initially employ about 175 people (rising to 250) during its peak season. It expects to initially employ 120 people in the banquet hall, restaurant and hotel during peak season and 40 during the offseason.

Visit highlandscurrent.org for news updates and latest information.

HVSF Continues to Make Adjustments

Expects to use temporary tent in 2022, 2023

By Chip Rowe

The Philipstown Planning Board continued its review on Oct. 21 of a plan by the Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival to move next year from its longtime site at Boscobel to a new space at what is now The Garrison golf club.

The Planning Board has been reviewing a state-mandated Environmental Assessment Form for the project, which addresses its impact on traffic, wildlife and other issues. The HVSF has presented a series of updates to the form to address concerns and questions raised by board members and as studies are completed.

In its latest revision, presented at the October meeting, HVSF said that:

■ A permanent theater tent it hopes to construct at The Garrison would seat 530 people, compared to the 540 capacity for its tent at Boscobel. It also would like to construct an indoor theater that would seat 225 for performances from April to late October, and possibly in December for the holidays. "It is expected a maximum of

seven performances per week" would be staged in each of the theaters, with Tuesdays dark and two shows on Saturdays, HVSF said, along with occasional school matinees.

■ An analysis found that The Garrison property provides about \$166,000 in annual tax revenue, including \$97,000 for the Garrison school district, \$31,000 for the county, \$29,000 for the town and \$9,000 for the fire district. Because HVSF is a nonprofit, part of the property would be removed from the tax rolls. The data shared with the Planning Board estimated that about \$76,000 in revenue would be lost, including \$45,000 by the school district; \$14,000 by the county; \$13,000 by the town; and \$4,000 by the fire district.

■ The festival said, if its proposal is approved, the first phase of construction would begin in January 2023 and conclude by May 2024. That would include a Snake Hill access road; a permanent tent; a back-of-house structure for actors; meadow seeding; and 225 parking spaces. The initial changes would also likely include a traffic signal at Route 9 and Snake Hill Road, with state approval.

Under that timeline, HVSF said, "the appli-

cant acknowledges that the 2022 and 2023 seasons are in jeopardy. HVSF faces an existential crisis as to both its fiscal and theatrical sustainability if it cannot operate at the subject property on an interim basis." It said it has applied to the town for approvals to erect the tent used at Boscobel at The Garrison.

■ The restaurant at the club, which will be owned by the festival, would be open six nights a week when the theater is operating, as well as for lunch and on weekends. The Garrison banquet hall would continue to host 125 to 150 events a year.

■ While discussing its plan to build housing for performers, HVSF told the Planning Board that "under no circumstances" would artists be sending children to the Garrison or Haldane school districts. The units are not intended for artists to move in with their families, it said, but to "accommodate union requirements to offer artists a place to stay while they are contracted," which would typically be between April and October.

■ The festival said that while its property would not be a public park, "the applicant intends to continue the current policy of allowing passive-use access for neighbors to walk their dogs, snowshoe in the winter to gaze at the stars."

Tales for a Haunted Halloween

Residents share the ‘spirit’ of the season
By Michael Turton

In the 1990s, Rosie McGuire, who now lives in Cold Spring, was playing Antonia in *Man of La Mancha* at the Barter Theatre in Abingdon, Virginia, a building many believed was haunted by the theater’s founder. Even though she describes herself as “someone who sees ghosts,” McGuire sensed nothing haunted.

The dormitory where she was staying was a different story.

“I’d be in my room, wide awake in bed, but I kept getting this feeling, like someone was sitting on my chest,” she recalled. “I couldn’t get up; I was pinned down.”

That happened several times, along with doors slamming shut and the transom above the door mysteriously opening on a windless night.

But there was something much stranger than a slamming door. “It felt like someone was putting their fingers in my ears!” McGuire said.

She confided in a fellow actor who told her the dormitory in the late 19th century had been a makeshift hospital for children.

“He told me the ghosts are children who died in the hospital,” she said. “But, he said they weren’t going to hurt me; they wanted

me to come out and play.”

McGuire didn’t want to play. “I needed sleep!” she recalled.

Her colleague told her to de-ghost the dorm by burning sage and demanding that they leave.

“I burned sage a few nights in a row,” McGuire said. “And I told them, ‘This is my room. You are not welcome here. You have to leave.’”

McGuire said the spirits left.

More than a shadow?

Two decades ago, Lorraine DeMaria’s grandson Nicky was born in Highland Falls, three weeks after her mother had died. “It would have been her first great-grandchild,” recalls DeMaria, who lives in Cold Spring.

Home from the hospital, the newborn was placed in the bassinette De Maria’s mother had made for her grandchildren. Photos were taken. When the prints came back, everyone was surprised to see a distinctly visible shadow behind the bassinette.

“You couldn’t see a face, but it was a figure of someone standing there,” DeMaria said. “We all had the same reaction: It was my mother.”

She remembers her family feeling both good and sad about the apparition. “But we felt positive that my mother was standing there.”



Spontaneous spirits

Alex Wilcox Cheek’s tale is secondhand, but just barely. If you can’t believe your own sister, who can you believe?

In the 1990s, the Cold Spring resident’s sister, Christen, worked as an innkeeper at Daggett House in Edgartown on Martha’s Vineyard. Built in 1750 and now a residence, the building served as a whaling captain’s house, custom house and sailors’ boarding-house before it became an inn.

It had a reputation for being haunted; Christen told her brother that she and her co-workers refused to visit the basement after experiencing “creepy, bizarre sensations” there. But what really frightened her, he said, was during the winter when a guest would come down from one specific

room, reporting that the wood-burning fireplace had spontaneously lit up. “That truly freaked her out.”

A revolutionary ghost

When asked if she had any eerie Halloween yarns, *Current* reporter Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong responded, “As a historian and journalist, I do not traffic in ghost stories.” Then she told one.

Just before Thanksgiving two or three years ago, Armstrong was walking down Main Street in Nelsonville late in the evening. “This night was particularly thick and black and there was no traffic,” she recalls.

Just west of Philipstown Town Hall, she saw a “distinctive figure” walking in the same direction ahead of her.

“He seemingly appeared out of nowhere, wearing an 18th-century British soldier’s coat — a red, Revolutionary War-era coat, with white, X-shaped straps crossing on the back,” she said. He also had tan knee breeches, whitish knee socks, dark shoes and a dark hat.

“I only saw him for a couple seconds, at most,” she said. “Then he vanished.”

Because the Continental Army and the British Army were active in the area during the Revolutionary War, Armstrong admits it wouldn’t be impossible to come across a reenactor in period uniform. “But so late at night? The rest of that night I kept trying to figure out what optical illusions might have caused an ‘apparition,’ but I couldn’t come up with anything. I’m still trying to figure it out.”

Re-Elect

JUDGE PAGONES

THE MOST QUALIFIED AND EXPERIENCED CANDIDATE

JUDGE PAGONES

- 2007 to Present — Full Time City Court Judge
- Over 20 years Judicial Experience
- Handling Criminal, Civil, Landlord/Tenant
- Small Claims and Traffic Cases
- Started first Domestic Violence Court In Dutchess County
- Created Mental Health Court Connection Program
- Started Beacon Drug Treatment Court
- Initiated First Opioid/Recovery Court
- 14 Years Criminal Defense Prior to Being Full Time Judge
- Former Dutchess County Senior Assistant District Attorney

GREG JOHNSTON

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

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

EXPERIENCE DOES MATTER

PAID FOR BY THE COMMITTEE TO RE-ELECT JUDGE PAGONES, CITY OF BEACON COURT

IN RESPONSE

In response to Mayor Merandy's advertisement in last week's edition in which he called into question the integrity of the volunteers who knocked on village doors to gather signatures for his inclusion on November's ballot, please allow us to share the trajectory of our collective experience.

In the beginning, we gladly volunteered to carry petitions for Mayor Merandy, whose ticket included Matt Francisco and Marie Early. We did so with the earnest intentions to put whom we believed at the time to be the best candidates on the ballot. In our volunteer efforts, we set out to collect as many signatures as possible by the required dates, for the entire ticket, and we succeeded in collecting more than the number of signatures required.

However, while canvassing for signatures, we discovered many voters were expressing hesitation to sign a petition that included Mayor Merandy. Voters were concerned about his dismissive conduct towards trustees, volunteers, and village residents who had appeared before the board.

To insinuate that Kathleen Foley is the mastermind of a conspiracy is unfounded. Contrary to Merandy's claims, at no time were we asked by anyone to withhold signatures for a later petition, nor did we ask anyone to do so. We know how election petitioning works. We followed the canvassing procedure as the rules dictate.

What did happen is that Kathleen Foley recognized the stakes of this election and the need for an alternative candidate. She took the risk of sacrificing long-standing friendships for the common good. It was not a decision made lightly.

Village elections are inspiring, now more than ever, because voters know that just one vote, their vote, can change an entire election. Volunteering for our elections is exciting because we can see, in real time, that every vote counts.

It is shameful to disparage the work of volunteers participating in our democracy and such rhetoric is exactly what erodes trust in our democracy, and especially in our local government.

We, the undersigned, stand with Kathleen Foley, and also with Trustee candidates Tweeps Phillips Woods and Eliza Starbuck, for the good of our community. Please join us in voting for them.

SIGNED,

ANDREA CONNOR HUDSON
 RIAN KEATING
 SHELLEY A. GILBERT
 ANN ZGOLINSKI
 LARA SHIHAB-EL DIN
 ANA SILVERLINCK
 REBEKAH TIGHE

Paid for by Andrea Connor Hudson

Notes from the Cold Spring Village Board

Marathon zoning produces marathon discussions

By Michael Turton

The discussion over updates to Chapter 134 of the Cold Spring Village Code, which deals with zoning, continued at a public hearing on Oct. 21.

Much of the debate has centered on how the nearly 12-acre former Marathon Battery Co. property on Kemble Avenue, zoned Light Industry, should be reclassified to accommodate development.

After another lengthy hearing on Tuesday (Oct. 26), it appears the board has narrowed the options to two variations of Mixed Use — designated MU1 and PMU2.

A sticking point has been whether any

preliminary concept drawings for a proposed development should be submitted first to the Planning Board or the Village Board.

Village attorney John Furst and planner Ted Fink are expected to make their recommendation at a public hearing scheduled for Thursday (Nov. 4).

In other business...

■ In a unanimous vote on Oct. 26, the board denied a request by David and Melia Marzollo for a one-year exemption from Chapter 100 of the village code, which regulates short-term rentals such as those booked through Airbnb.

■ The village received a favorable financial report card for the fiscal year ending May 31 after an audit by the EFPR Group.

■ As it does each year, the board approved the suspension of on-street parking for the dead-end portion of Marion Avenue from Nov. 15 to April 15 to facilitate snow removal.

■ The board approved hiring Robert Newhall as a seasonal laborer with the Highway Department at a rate of \$19 per hour.

Danskammer *(from Page 1)*

sions limits established in the Climate Act. Danskammer failed to demonstrate the need or justification for the proposed project notwithstanding this inconsistency."

The DEC also denied a permit requested for a similar natural gas power plant proposed for Astoria, Queens, for the same reasons. New York has set an ambitious goal to decarbonize 70 percent of its energy grid by 2030, and reach zero emissions by 2040.

Danskammer officials, who did not immediately respond to a request for comment, have 30 days to tell the state if they plan to appeal.

The Danskammer proposal would have transformed the part-time "peaker" plant into a full-time, \$500 million, 536-megawatt facility powered by natural gas obtained through a process commonly known as "fracking." In its ruling, the DEC said it had received more than 4,500 public comments about the proposal to expand the plant's operations.

In denying the permit, the agency said

Danskammer "has failed to show either a short-term or long-term reliability need for the project. Nor has Danskammer identified adequate alternatives or GHG (greenhouse gas) mitigation measures."

Opponents of the plant had argued that the Mid-Hudson Valley's power grid is already adequate, even in the wake of the closing of the Indian Point nuclear power plant in Buchanan, and that Danskammer's plans to possibly convert the facility at some point into a renewable hydrogen powered-plant were not realistic.

The ruling noted that in addition to the greenhouse gas emissions that the plant would have generated, the DEC considered the "upstream" emissions created by the out-of-state fracking process that is needed to extract natural gas from deep within the earth. "The project itself would result in a substantial increase in GHG emissions from just this one single GHG emission source in 2030," it said. "Moreover, the project would constitute a wholly new and fossil fuel-fired electric generation source."

The decision was hailed by environmental leaders and elected officials, including Gov. Kathy Hochul. "Climate change is the greatest challenge of our time, and we owe it to future generations to meet our nation-leading climate and emissions reduction goals," she said in a statement.

Haley Carlock, a representative for Scenic Hudson, thanked "the thousands of people who submitted comments to the DEC asking it to steer the state in this climate-friendly direction."

Chris Bellovary, a staff attorney for Riverkeeper, said that the state "made a clear decision to decarbonize its economy, and the department's determination upholds that decision."

Matt Salton of Hudson River Sloop Clearwater, based in Beacon, said: "We must now focus on climate solutions, including the rapid implementation of renewable energy infrastructure, with storage and efficiency."

I, Lavonne Cooper
 worked with
Judge Pagones
 over 10 years. He is
 knowledgeable and
 professional. I support
 him for re-election.

PAID NOTICE

Road Closure *(from Page 1)*

from north of Interstate 84 to take Route 9D to get to the schools, increasing traffic on Verplanck Avenue, which connects 9D with the southern end of Matteawan.

On Beacon's east side, cars coming down Route 52 would likely cut over to the schools via Wilkes Street, a narrow residential road running alongside Memorial Park and a pedestrian path that bikers and walkers already use daily.

The state prisons representative said on Thursday that Matteawan will remain open to emergency response vehicles such as police, fire and EMS and that buses will be permitted to continue traveling through the prison to reach the schools, with procedures in place to ensure students' safety in the event of a breakdown on facility property.

Matt Landahl, the superintendent of the Beacon school district, said he was given little advance notice of the closure.

"We heard a rumor about it over the weekend of the 16th and 17th" of October, he said. "People were coming up to me at the [high school] football game and asking if I knew about it."

Landahl said he emailed prison officials, who called him on Oct. 18 to confirm the closure. Since then, the prison has said it will allow buses to use the route, but not cars, Landahl told the school board during its Wednesday meeting.

"This still is only a partial solution, and I'm not even sure if it's meeting us halfway,"

Board President Meredith Heuer remarked.

A more important issue, said Board Member Elissa Betterbid, is emergency access should the schools ever have to be evacuated. "It essentially cuts our two biggest campuses down to one-way-in, one-way-out," she said. It would help if the prison "could give us some more time, so we could at least have an emergency protocol in place."

"I can just imagine the horror" if the schools needed to evacuate, with students, parents and emergency vehicles clogging the same roadway, Betterbid said.

Heuer said the board planned to send a letter to prison officials today (Oct. 29) to ask for more time.

The school district and the Beacon City

Council also reached out to state Assembly Member Jonathan Jacobson, whose district includes the city. He said Wednesday that he has initiated discussions with all of the parties.

"It is not unreasonable to have school buses and emergency vehicles use the road," he said. "This limited use will not affect the safety of the public or the operation of Fishkill Correctional Facility."

The City Council is expected to approve a resolution on Monday urging the agency to reconsider, or at least delay, implementation and "begin a real dialogue" with the city, the Town of Fishkill and the school district, City Administrator Chris White said.

The city "strongly recognizes [the prison's] right and necessity to secure their facility

— nobody is questioning that," White said during the council's Oct. 25 workshop. "The way that they do it, though, is important. We think we can thread that needle so it's not as disruptive to the traffic going to Rombout [Middle School] and the high school."

The city also received notification on Oct. 18 about the closure, less than two weeks in advance, and without the benefit of any traffic modeling to study its impact, he said.

Mayor Lee Kyriacou suggested that if there's time, the municipalities and the prison could investigate creating "straight-shot" access for vehicles near the flashing yellow "dummy light" on Route 52, which could lead to Rombout and the high school without passing by prison housing.

NOTICE

Philipstown Planning Board

Site Visit

Sunday, November 7th, 2021

The Philipstown Planning Board will meet on Sunday, November 7th, 2021 at 10:30am to inspect the following site:

Johnson & Rinderman, Mountain Brook Drive, Cold Spring, NY 10516 TM#16-34 & 56

C & E Paint Supply

Orders can be placed by phone or in-store. We provide in-store or curb-side pick-up.

Masks must be worn in the store and, until social distancing is no longer required, no dogs please.

NEW STORE HOURS:

Monday through Friday

8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Closed Saturday and Sunday

**158 Main Street
(845) 265-3126**

Why I Quit Village Government

I quit my position as a trustee for the Village of Cold Spring after only four months serving on the board. I had run for trustee with the optimistic view that the current iteration of our local government would be nothing like the tone of national politics. I knew everyone on the board and had hoped I would be able to express my opinion, and even if no one agreed with me, we could work together and I could learn from them. And I did learn a lot in those four months. But the biggest lesson I learned was that I am not made of stuff thick enough to take on Dave Merandy's temper and disrespect day after day. I wanted to be as strong as the women I so admire — Nancy Montgomery and Kathleen Foley. I wanted to let it roll off my shoulders. I had many people tell me not to let it bother me, that's just the way Dave is. And I had lots of encouragement from wonderful residents. But I was worn down by the conduct of our mayor. And I had trouble accepting that this kind of behavior was status quo in our village government. The village where I've spent the first years of my married life, started my business, had my daughter, bought my first house. My experience made me lose faith in the power of our leaders to enact meaningful change, or simply to set an example for those growing up here. It seeped into every aspect of my life, and in the end I chose my mental health over my desire to just push through.

I ask that the people of the Village of Cold Spring take Dave Merandy's endorsements with this knowledge in mind. Yes, a balanced government is good for everyone. But so is a government that sets an example, treats one another with respect, is open to ideas they don't agree with, and shows true leadership. Kathleen Foley embodies all of these qualities. I don't agree with all of her policies — you can ask her about the feelings I expressed when she voted to send cannabis sales to a ballot referendum — but I do believe she will be a leader who respects everyone, listens to everyone, and has the heart and soul of the village in her. Please vote Kathleen Foley for Mayor and let's set a new precedent for future generations.

~ Heidi Shira Bender

PAID ADVERTISEMENT



VILLAGE OF
COLD SPRING
TRUSTEE CANDIDATE

VOTE EARLY OR
VOTE NOV 2

EXPERIENCE THE
VILLAGE NEEDS

www.YaslynDaniels.com

A LEADER WITH PASSION, EXCELLENCE, AND EXPERIENCE.

Work Experience

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

Record of Service

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

MAKE YASLYN YOUR VILLAGE TRUSTEE
VOTE EARLY OR VOTE NOV 2

ELECT**MEGAN COTTER****PHILIPSTOWN TOWN COUNCIL**

Trust ✓ Action ✓
 Accessibility ✓
 Collaboration ✓

A LEADER WHO WORKS FOR EVERYONE

I've built my career serving the disabled community and personally volunteering for our youth and seniors in Philipstown.

Professionally I'm the Quality Enhancement Manager for more than 150 individuals in the disabled community. I'm adept with the clinical, functional and administrative public health space. I'll use that experience to help our seniors.

This year more girls than ever participate in Little League softball because of my leadership in revitalizing the program, which included fundraising, recruitment and coaching.

VOTE NOVEMBER 2 ★ EARLY VOTING ENDS OCT 31

@MeganforPhilipstown | philipstowndemocrats.org/megan

Paid for by the Philipstown Democrats

Tax Cut *(from Page 1)*

taxes by the largest amount in decades, restore many of the positions eliminated or left vacant and fund several initiatives.

In his proposal, spending falls by 1.3 percent and the tax levy by \$5.5 million, the largest reduction in county history, said Molinaro. The reduction translates into a 10.3 percent tax cut, to \$2.85 per \$1,000 of assessed value from \$3.18, said the executive, speaking from Dutchess Community College's newly opened Aviation Education Center at the Hudson Valley Regional Airport in Wappingers Falls. It is the largest rate cut in 70 years, according to the county.

Molinaro, a Republican, who announced last month his campaign to challenge Democratic U.S. Rep. Antonio Delgado, is also supporting the elimination of sales taxes on clothing and shoes costing less than \$110, a proposal he said would save buyers \$14 million annually. Revenue from sales taxes is projected to be \$28 million higher in 2022.

"This budget provides historic tax relief because we can," said Molinaro. "We don't need the money and we will give it back to the taxpayers who pay our bills."

With an assist from the federal American Rescue Plan, enacted in March, the budget refills some of the positions temporarily eliminated or left vacant when 152 employ-

ees took early retirement or severance, which saved the county about \$11 million.

Of the 96 positions, 18 were restored using some of the \$57 million in funding Dutchess is receiving from the American Rescue Plan. Dutchess will use \$1.8 million of the ARP Funding to fill 21 positions over the next three years. An additional 38 of the eliminated positions would also be refilled in 2022, according to budget documents.

Among the new positions are three crisis counselors for the county's help line, an assistant district attorney, a senior assistant public defender, two alternatives-to-incarceration workers in the Public Defenders' Office, two sheriff's deputies and three parks maintenance workers.

Other initiatives include \$1 million for the county Drug Task Force; the purchase of a community health mobile unit whose services will include screenings and assessments, counseling, infectious disease services and referrals to community organizations; \$1.8 million for arts and tourism; and a van for VetZero, a free transportation program for veterans.

The county Legislature will hold public hearings on the proposed budget on Nov. 4, and a forum will be held at 6 p.m. on Nov. 9 at East Fishkill Town Hall, 330 Route 376, in Hopewell Junction. The Legislature is expected to vote on the budget on Dec. 2. The full proposal is posted at bit.ly/dutchess-budget-2022.



The Real Estate Market is Booming!

Contact these top local agents to see the latest listings, or to sell your home



Abbie Carey

HOULIHAN LAWRENCE | ASSOCIATE REAL ESTATE BROKER

845-661-5438 | acarey@houlihanlawrence.com
www.abbiecarey.houlihanlawrence.com



Kathyrine M. Tomann

HOULIHAN LAWRENCE | ASSOCIATE REAL ESTATE BROKER

Ktomann@houlihanlawrence.com | 914-204-0415
www.houlihanlawrence.com



Melissa Carlton

HOULIHAN LAWRENCE | ASSOCIATE REAL ESTATE BROKER

914.474.0111 | MCarlton@houlihanlawrence.com
melissacarlton.houlihanlawrence.com

Advertise your real estate business here.

CONTACT:

Michele Cedney

845-809-5584 | ads@highlandscurrent.org
highlandscurrent.org/ads



The Village of Cold Spring closed lower Main Street on Thursday (Oct. 28) because of flooding on West Street.

Photo by L. Sparks

Rain, Rain, Go Away Already

Ida produced second-wettest day in 13 years

By Leonard Sparks

Although only the “remnants” of Hurricane Ida soaked the Hudson Valley on Sept. 1 and Sept. 2, that was more than enough for Karen Finnegan.

The rain from the storm, which was a Tropical Depression by the time it reached the Highlands, left her basement flooded and possessions destroyed.

When she woke up on Sept. 2, the water had receded but the evidence remained: wrecked carpeting, furniture and other household and personal items. “Anything that was on the floor — not in a bin — was disgusting,” she said.

Ida stands as a high-water mark in what has been a rain-soaked year for the Highlands — including, this week, when downpours from a Nor’easter dumped more than 3 inches of water on the area in two days.

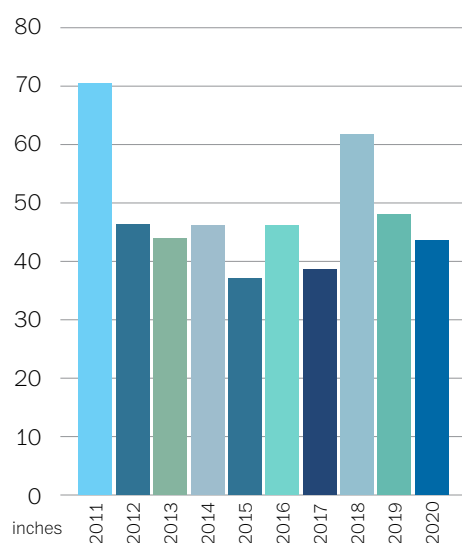
Over the summer, the Highlands had the most rain in July, August and September in three years, according to data from the National Centers for Environmental Information based on observations from a weather station in Philipstown. Its records date to 2008; another station in Beacon dates to 2017.

At Common Ground Farm in Wappingers Falls, the combination of a staff shortage and the rainfall allowed weeds to “get out of control” after a banner year in 2020, said Katie Speicher, the farm’s manager, on Sept. 2, the day after Ida struck. Several crops yielded just half of their normal production because they were not weeded in time, she said.

“Having it extra-wet increases disease pressure,” she said. “A lot of our crops, like tomatoes and squash, are prone to fungal diseases that thrive in wet climates.”

The above-normal moisture ignited diseases that depressed the yields of other vegetable farmers in Dutchess County, said Jennifer Fimbel, agricultural educator and ag navigator with the county’s Cornell Cooperative Extension. After two years of drought, hay farmers grew plenty of grass this year, but struggled to harvest it

Annual Highlands Rainfall



Record Rains

JULY 31, 2016

6 inches

SEPT. 1, 2021 (HURRICANE IDA)

5.49 inches

OCT. 1, 2010

5.06 inches

AUG. 28, 2011 (HURRICANE IRENE)

4.59 inches

AUG. 29, 2011 (HURRICANE IRENE)

3.75 inches

SEPT. 7, 2008

3.26 inches

AUG. 23, 2021

3.24 inches

because the rain limited mowing, she said.

“That’s a big crop,” she said. “Between Westchester, Putnam and Dutchess, the horse population is huge.”

The HIGHLANDS
Current's

HALLOWEEN COSTUME CONTEST

AWARDS

Best Overall Best Baby Best Pet Scariest Costume

Best Family-themed Funniest Costume

Enter by Sunday night for your chance to win!

Yes, you can wait until after trick-or-treating, but not much longer: the deadline to submit photos of yourself, your children, pets or the whole family in costume is **11:59pm on October 31.**

A panel of local judges will choose the winners for each of the categories above. Winners will receive gift-card prizes from our local sponsors. Submissions will be featured in a “Parade in the Paper” in our Nov. 5 issue.



ENTER HERE

Scan QR code or visit

highlandscurrent.org/halloween

Thank You to Our Sponsors



FLEX PHYSICAL THERAPY





WE ARE ASKING FOR YOUR VOTE

We are Villagers. We are neighbors. We are volunteers. We are parents. We are community members.
We are business owners. We are gardeners. We are Girl Scout leaders. We are designers. We are planners.
We are connected to the community. We are public servants. We are communicators.
We are protectors of public spaces and history. We are present and show up for Cold Spring every day.
We are project managers. We are hard workers. We are long term thinkers. We are grant winners.
We are committed to public safety. We are friends. We are wives and life partners. We are collaborators.
We are creative problem solvers. We are here to listen.
We are each a little different, with our own thoughts and opinions. We are just like you--invested in Cold Spring.
We are grateful to serve our community.

**FORGE
AHEAD
WITH US**

Visit our website forgeahead.us

PAID FOR BY FORGE AHEAD

NOV 2
METHODIST CHURCH
Orchard & Main / 6am-9pm

**PLEASE VOTE FOR
KATHLEEN E. FOLEY
TWEETS PHILLIPS WOODS
& ELIZA STARBUCK**

Current Classifieds

SERVICES

HEALING BODYWORK WITH VACCINATED

JOY MATALON — Featured in *New York* as “one of the best 15 massage therapists in NYC offering CranioSacral Therapy,” with a specialty in SomatoEmotional Release. In addition, I offer Swedish Massage incorporating CranioSacral Therapy. Trained in Medical Massage, Process

Acupressure, Meditation and Foot Reflexology with over 30 years of experience. Garrison and Ossining locations. House calls available. Call 914-519-8138 or visit joymatalon.com.

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

FOR SALE

GENERAC — Standby generators provide backup power during utility power outages, so your home and family stay safe and comfortable. Prepare now. Free 7-year extended warranty (\$695 value). Request a free quote today. Call for additional terms and conditions. 631-498-7851

ELIMINATE GUTTER CLEANING — LeafFilter, the most advanced debris-blocking gutter protection. Schedule a free estimate today. 15% off entire purchase. 10% senior & military discounts. Call 833-322-1020.

FOR RENT

BEACON — Beautiful bright, spacious 1BR plus office, hardwood floors. First-floor office space, second-floor kitchen, dining, living room, bedroom, bath. Perfect place to live/work, private backyard with views of Mt. Beacon. Take a nice walk into town, enjoy shops, restaurants or take Beacon free bus. Great commuter location. No pets, smoking, first month plus security required. Tenant pays all utilities, plus agent's fee. Good credit, references. \$2,000/mo. Call 845-831-0108.

TAG SALE? Car for sale? Space for rent? Help wanted? Place your ad here for \$4.95. See highlandscurrent.org/classifieds.

NOTICE

The Philipstown Planning Board will hold a special monthly meeting to discuss the Garrison Golf Club PDD/Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival on Thursday, November 11, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. virtually via Zoom.

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

Register in advance for this webinar:

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_XU4HL8soRTCStRR7bZAT0w

Webinar ID: 816 5994 2349 **Passcode:** 347924

One tap mobile: 1-646-558-8656,,81659942349#,,,347924#

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

OR email crockett@philipstown.com or nzuckerman@philipstown.com to request login information before 6:30 pm on November 11th, 2021.

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

NOTICE

The Philipstown Conservation Board will hold their regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, November 9th, 2021 at 7:30 p.m. virtually via Zoom.

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

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_C5JEGDmQS8am1BT3YzG09g

Webinar ID: 891 4339 5729 **Passcode:** 0347847

One tap mobile: 1-646-558-8656,,89143395729#,,,0347847#

Register in advance for this webinar: After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

OR email crockett@philipstown.com to request login information before 7 pm on November 9th, 2021.

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

SERVICE DIRECTORY

The Feldenkrais Method with Mary Newell

Zoom classes: Mondays 9:30 a.m. / Thursdays 4:00 p.m.

Private sessions and consultations
Inquire at mnewell4@gmail.com

flexible-comfort.weebly.com



BREAKFAST
ALL DAY.

thebeacondaily.com

29 Teller Ave. Beacon, NY 12508 | 845-831-5274



PATTI PELICAN
Director of Marketing

51 Clayton Boulevard
Yorktown Heights, NY 10598

Main 914.352.7705
Fax 914.800.9061
Cell 845.521.8461

PPelican@ArtisMgmt.com
www.artisseniorliving.com

Creating positive partnerships the Artis way

DR. K
IMPORTED CAR SERVICE & REPAIR



15 TIORONDA AVE.
BEACON, NY 12508
DrKImportedCar.com

Phone/ 845.838.0717
Fax/ 845.440.7541
E-Mail/ drkimportedcarservice@gmail.com



Ph: 845-309-9244



LOCATED IN COLD SPRING, NY

(646) 772-2673

allens-dumpster-service.business.site

Lillian Rosengarten, LCSW Individual and Group Therapy

GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP OFFERED

6 Weeks 7:30-9:00PM. Evening Flexible
Compassionate and Confidential

lillirose@optonline.net | (845) 265-2856

LUCILLE TORTORA Winter in Yellowstone

October 8th - 31st 2021
RECEPTION: Oct 8th Friday, 6-8 pm



121 MAIN ST. COLD SPRING, N.Y.

GALLERY HOURS: Sat. | Sun. 12:00 - 5:00 PM
BUSTERLEVIGALLERY.COM

Lynne Ward, LCSW Licensed Psychotherapist

*Individuals • Couples • Adolescents • Children
Psychotherapy and Divorce Mediation
Addiction Counseling*

75 Main Street
Cold Spring, NY 10516

lynneward99@gmail.com
(917) 597-6905

KEEPING PUTNAM SAFE!



RE-ELECT
Sheriff
Langley

Since Sheriff Langley took office in 2018, he has made Putnam County Safer

- *U.S. News & World Report* named Putnam as one of the 20 safest counties in the U.S.
- By working with the Putnam Prevention Council, Communities that Care, Drug Crisis in Our Back Yard, Arms Acres and Hope Not Handcuffs, opioid deaths have been reduced by 50% in Putnam County.
- Combatted auto theft and larcenies from vehicles by implementing task forces
- Partnering with the Women's Resource Center, domestic violence is down 74% according to NYSDCJS*
- Established Community Policing at the Department through community outreach, planned opportunities for citizen input and an active social media presence.
- According to the NYSDCJS,* crime is down 50%.

*New York State Department of Criminal Justice Services, as of 6/30/2021



Sheriff Langley has the leadership experience needed to Keep Putnam Safe

40 years of public service in Emergency Services.
27 years of experience with the Putnam County Sheriff's Office.

This Election Day, Tuesday November 2, 2021
RE-ELECT SHERIFF ROBERT LANGLEY

@SheriffRobertLangley
@SheriffRobertLangleyNY
Sheriff Robert Langley, Putnam County NY

HONESTY • INTEGRITY • EXPERIENCE

www.sheriffrobertlangley.com

Paid for by Friends of Langley

Puzzles

CROSS CURRENT

ACROSS

1. Tibetan monk

5. Triumphed

8. Used car sites

12. Trojan War hero

13. Lincoln nickname

14. Taj Mahal city

15. TV fare for a night owl

17. Gusto

18. Gallery display

19. "The Raven" writer

20. "No way!"

21. Sign before Virgo

22. "Now, where — I?"

23. Vivaldi's output

26. Reveal

30. Dating from

31. Embrace

32. Salty septet

33. *Citizen Kane* sled

35. Train tracks

36. Observe

37. *Ray Donovan* actor Voight

38. Dish

41. Pirate's drink

42. Expert

45. San —, Italy

46. Single payments

48. Borodin's *Prince* —

49. "Uh-huh"

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

50. Perched on

51. Like slasher films

52. Mag. staff

53. Shetland, for one

DOWN

1. In — land

2. Slightly open

3. Damon of Hollywood

4. Chopper

5. "Yippee!"

6. Bassoon's kin

7. Just out

8. Revolving server

9. Curved molding

10. Serving aid

11. Auction

16. Detail, briefly

20. Dallas hoopster, briefly

21. Biography

22. Peruke

23. Scratch

24. Mil. morale booster

25. "Mayday!"

26. Lemon

27. Wahine's gift

28. Guy's date

29. Curvy letter

31. Coloration

34. Spell-off

35. Cavort

37. Checker moves

38. Bluenose

39. Toy block name

40. Cupid's specialty

41. Regretted

42. Car

43. "Let's go!"

44. Glimpse

46. Caustic solution

47. Potential syrup

© 2021 King Features Synd., Inc.

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 spotless (9)

2 first Soviet leader (5)

3 underground waste channel (5)

4 many, many years (4)

5 they eat only plants (6)

6 brownish-purple (9)

7 give praise (10)

SOLUTIONS

UNANSINLLIER

LENINE NT AUB LI

ERG MP NS SEW ED

EO ME SU CO VEG

© 2021 Blue Ox Family Games, Inc., Dist. by Andrews McMeel

SUDO CURRENT

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

Puzzle Page Sponsored by



Country Goose

115 Main St.
Cold Spring, NY 10516
845-265-2122

Answers for Oct. 22 Puzzles

A	S	K		A	B	A		P	O	K	E	
C	H	O	W		R	O	C		E	X	I	T
H	O	L	A		I	S	H		N	O	T	E
Y	E	A	S	T		C	O	R	N			
			H	A	D		O	N	S	E	T	S
T	A	P	I	O	C	A		S	Y	R	I	A
I	R	O	N		I	R	E		L	I	L	T
E	L	E	G	Y		T	R	A	V	E	L	S
D	O	T	T	I	E		A	H	A			
			O	P	E	N		I	N	G	O	T
J	O	A	N		R	E	D		I	N	T	O
L	O	R	D		I	R	A		A	U	T	O
O	P	E	C		E	O	N		S	O	T	

1. ZINGER, 2. VERNE, 3. REHEARSING, 4. INDEPENDENT, 5. PASSENGERS, 6. VERITAS, 7. MOROSE

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

SPORTS



Follow us at twitter.com/hcurrentsports

VARSITY ROUNDUP

By Skip Pearlman

BOYS' SOCCER

Beacon took care of business on Wednesday (Oct. 27) at home, dominating Wallkill on its way to a 2-0 victory that advanced the Bulldogs to the Section IX title game.

Seeded No. 1 in the section in Class A, Beacon (16-1-1) was scheduled to take on No. 2 Roosevelt High School on Thursday night. The winner advances to the regional tournament on Tuesday. The Bulldogs' only loss this year was in its first game, against John Jay East Fishkill.

The last time Beacon was in a sectional championship game was 1989, when Coach Craig Seaman was a player on the team. The Bulldogs lost in a shootout to Somers that year.

Against Wallkill, Chase Green scored seven minutes into the match on a pass from Miguel Ruiz, who had his own goal four minutes before the half.

Wallkill packed its defense, making scoring opportunities for Beacon difficult, but that strategy slowed its own offense, which recorded no shots on goal.

Seaman called it a "relatively comfortable win" and called out Alex Wyant and Tommy Franks for their play, as well as Green and Ruiz.

In the first round of the playoffs on Oct. 23, the Bulldogs defeated eighth-seeded Washingtonville, 1-0. Dillon Kelly scored the goal on an assist from Green. Again, keeper AJ Lucas did not see a shot.

The New York State Sportswriters Association this week ranked the Bulldogs as the fifth-best Class A boys' soccer team in the state.

The Haldane High boys' soccer team, seeded No. 3 for the Section I, Class C tournament, traveled to Yonkers on Wednesday and scored an easy upset, defeating No. 2 Yonkers Montessori Academy, 6-0.

Haldane (9-7-1) advances to the title game on Saturday at 8 p.m. at Lakeland High School, where the Blue Devils will face No. 1 seed Alexander Hamilton. Haldane lost to Hamilton in overtime, 1-0, during the regular season.

In Wednesday's victory, Ryan Eng-Wong had a hat trick, Max Westphal scored twice and assisted on two Eng-Wong goals, and Matt Silhavy scored. Keeper Ronan Kiter had five saves.

"We scored in the first two minutes, so the team was focused," said Coach Ahmed



The No. 3 Blue Devils upset No. 2 Yonkers Montessori Academy in the Class C semi-finals and are headed to Saturday's title game.



The Bulldogs celebrate a goal by Miguel Ruiz (13) against Wallkill in the Section IX semifinals.

Photos by S. Pearlman

Dwidar.

It was Haldane's seventh straight win, sending the team to the sectional finals for the first time since 2013. Dwidar also coached that team, which won the title.

FOOTBALL

Things were looking grim for Haldane in the fourth quarter on Oct. 23 at Blind Brook, with the Blue Devils trailing, 14-6.

But Haldane punched in the tying touchdown early in the fourth and delivered the decisive dagger with 11 seconds remaining when quarterback Ryan Van Tassel (10-for-19 for 112 yards, two TDs, one interception) connected with Ryan Irwin for a 20-14 win.

"That was absolutely a gritty win for us," said Coach Ryan McConville. "We dealt with early turnovers and struggled a bit moving the ball. But in the fourth quarter we moved it, picked each other up and competed."

Haldane went up 6-0 on a 2-yard run by Evan Giachinta, and that was the score at half. The team was slowed by two first-half

drives that ended in turnovers.

Blind Brook struck twice in the third quarter on a pair of touchdown runs but Van Tassel found Julian Forcello on an eight-yard TD pass to knot the score at 14-14.

Blind Brook followed with a long drive, but the Haldane defense came up with two stops at the goal line and took possession on their own six-yard line with 1:40 to play. The offense then drove 94 yards for the winning score.

McConville noted that offensive linemen Will Etta, Dominick Lyons-Davis and Ryan Merritt provided crucial pass protection for Van Tassel.

Haldane (6-1) will finish its regular season on Saturday (Oct. 30) at Dobbs Ferry (7-0) with a 1 p.m. kickoff. The Blue Devils then have a week off before meeting Tuckahoe (6-1) on Nov. 12 at Arlington High School in the sectional title game. The schools are the only Class D competitors in Section I. Haldane was ranked this week by the NYSSA as the 13th-best Class D team in the state, while Tuckahoe was No. 9.

Meanwhile, Beacon couldn't slow Minisink's running game in a 21-7 loss on the road on Oct. 23.

The Bulldogs scored their only touchdown in the fourth quarter on a 50-yard pass from Jason Komisar to Caliel Daughtry.

"We couldn't stop their inside run," said Coach Jim Phelan. "Their top running back got 156 yards on us; that's not what we want."

The Bulldogs (4-2) are the No. 4 seed in the Section IX, Class A playoffs that begin today (Oct. 29), and will host No. 5 Washingtonville (2-5) at 6 p.m.

Against Minisink, Komisar ran six times for 43 yards and completed 9 of 14 attempts for 151 yards and a touchdown. Isaac Hansen had 58 yards on six carries, Daughtry had two receptions for 65 yards and Tyler Haydt recorded two sacks.

CROSS-COUNTRY

The Beacon boys placed eighth among 24 schools on Wednesday (Oct. 27) at the Orange County Championships at Bear Mountain State Park. Its top finishers were Evan LaBelle (5), Henry Reinke (21) and Jack Cleary (38).

The girls finished 12th among 24 teams, with Ella Cason finishing 23rd, Rachel Thorne 26th and Elizabeth Carbone 89th.

Coach Jim Henry said a majority of his runners had personal-best times and "they're peaking nicely heading into next weekend's Section IX championships [at Bear Mountain]. Evan LaBelle opened up some rival coaches' eyes by outkicking four runners over the last quarter-mile."

VOLLEYBALL

Haldane defeated Tuckahoe, 3-0, on the road on Monday (Oct. 25), with Meghan Tomann handing out 25 assists. Megan Farrell had 20 digs and Jill Weinphal added five, to go with eight aces.

"We had great passes, we were able to set all positions and we dominated at the net," said Coach Kristina Roling. "Our middles did a good job getting touches and blocks to keep our energy high."

Last week, Haldane fell at Putnam Valley in straight sets. Farrell had 20 digs and Tomann had 16. "We played hard but fell short on our serve-receive and passing game," Roling said. "Getting the pass to the setter has been one of our primary goals this year."

The Section I, Class C tournament begins Saturday (Oct. 30); No. 8 Haldane will host No. 9 North Salem at 11 a.m.

GIRLS' SOCCER

No. 4 Haldane upset No.1 Tuckahoe on Thursday (Oct. 28), 3-1, on three goals from Chloe Rowe to advance to the Section I, Class C final on Sunday.