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)

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... (Continued on Page 28)
**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 an 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, “I’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.
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 not arrested until we had DNA evidence proving that he was the perpetrator,” said Robert Tendy, 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.

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
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 regular scheduled bus service to destinations like the New York- 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.

“The in treason of Arnold,” one author notes, “(Robinson’s) name and acts occur continu- ally” 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, Commaick

(Continued on Page 5)
Ballot measures
Please vote "yes" on Nov. 2 on Proposal 2, the right to clean air, clean water and a healthier 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 entities should 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 the party says he is 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, Hartley
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, but the party had not endorsed him yet.

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.

Grants, I was struck by his concern for those who are less knowledgeable about the law.

Anyone with a common sense can see what went on here. Democrat Langley informed his campaign team of a conversation he had with another 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 Democrat against employees under his watch. Republicans have been found guilty of using the 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 distortion 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

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 distortion 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

Putnam County Sheriff

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 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 defendant 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 cranks. Law enforcement is important and difficult work. Support the Sheriff's Depart-

ment regardless of party affiliation, because if 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 McConville Sheriff 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 Boathouse how he had besmirched 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
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 about 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 Philpottown info) in 2010. Farrell is a member of the Philpottown 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, Philpottown

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 makes decisions material to people’s live-lihood 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 2? Is The Current now selling access to its front page?

Gaston Alonso, via Facebook

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 from Page 5)
ELECTION COVERAGE

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.

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<td>$9,884</td>
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<td>Oct. 22</td>
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<td>Tim Pagones (R)</td>
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<tr>
<td>DUTCHESS LEGISLATURE</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ron Davis (R)</td>
<td>No filings</td>
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<tr>
<td>Yvette Valdes Smith (D)</td>
<td>$14,058</td>
<td>$7,329</td>
<td>$6,729</td>
<td>Oct. 22</td>
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</table>

* 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

LETTERS AND COMMENTS

(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, and 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 Cluda, via Facebook

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

Krystal Ford, via Instagram
Quick Guide to Ballot Proposals

**COLD SPRING**

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. Under state law, villages, towns and cities can “opt out” of allowing sales or consumption if they act by Dec. 5. Officials in Beacon, Philipstown and Nelsonville are still considering what to do.

**PROPOSAL 6:**

Should the Village of Cold Spring prohibit state-licensed establishments that permit the on-site consumption of cannabis?

**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.

**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.

**DUTCHESS COUNTY**

Voters are being asked to reduce the county Legislature from 25 to 21 seats.

**PROPOSAL 6:**

Shall there be approved in the County of Dutchess, Local Law No. 'A Local 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?

**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 Greg Pulver have called for a smaller body, saying the Legislature is larger, per capita, than other Mid-Hudson counties.

**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.

**NEW YORK STATE**

Amend Article III of the state’s constitution to freeze the number of state senators at 68; 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.

**PROPOSAL 1:**

**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.

**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.

**PROPOSAL 2:**

Would amend Article I of the state constitution to “establish the right of each person to clean air and a healthful environment.” [See right.]

**PROPOSAL 3:**

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.

**PROPOSAL 4:**

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.

**PROPOSAL 5:**

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.

**FOR:** The proposal was approved unanimously by the Legislature’s Democrats and Republicans.

For more details on the statewide ballot measures, see elections.ny.gov/2021BallotProposals.html

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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 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 water 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 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.
We the undersigned express our support for

John VanTassel
Philipstown Supervisor

Megan Cotter
Philipstown Town Council

Jason Angell
Philipstown Town Council

Nancy Montgomery
Putnam County Legislator, District 1

Robert L. Langley, Jr.
Putnam County Sheriff

André Adams
Jamie Adams
Michael Alayon
David Albright
John Allen
Susan Allen
Lisa Alcott
Thomas Ambrose
Elizabeth P. Anderson
Leah Andrenes
Melissa Angier
Jason K. Angell
Hanay K. Angell
Nick Angell
Susan Anspach
Jocelyn Apicello
Michael Armstrong
Dr. Elizabeth Arnold
Liz Bailey
Sarah Bayne
Francesca Beghe
John Benjamin
Tamara Benjamin
Sharona Berken
Darren Berquist
Roy Bjornoy
Joyce Blum
Christine Bokhour
Raymond Bokhour
Paul Bonnar
James Bopp
Ann Borthwick
Diane Botnick
Susan Branagan
Nathanael Brotherhood
Erik Brown
Susan E Brunel
Tracy Bunye
Bill Burback
Gil Burke
Chuck Burleigh
Leonora Burton
Peter Bynum
Chris Caccamise
Matha Callaway
Peter Callaway
Mishara Canino
Abbie Carey
Sean Carmody
Betsy Matos Carone
Evelyn Carr-White
Corinne Chateau
Paula Clair
Malachy Cleary
Chuck Clifton
Michelle Clifton
Richard Cogliandro
Cindy Cohen
Lauri Cohen
Susan Coleman
Grant Collier
Rachel Comey
Kim Conner
Megan Cotter
Sean Connolly
Pan Cook
Simon Coope
Ross Corsair
Robert Cutler, Jr.
Tim D'Acquisto
Chris Daly
Yasmin Daniels
Laura Danilov
Roman Danilov
Kate Dayton
Emily de Rahm
Deb Dichter
Joe Dizney
Maya Dollahide
Bruce Donohue
Tania Drinnon
Alexandra Duboff
Kathleen Durfett
David Duffy
Amy Dul
Emily Duncan
Will Duncan
Gretchen Dyksra
Susan English
Eric Erickson
Karen Ertl
Holly Evarts
Lynda Ann Ewen
Julia Famularo
Judy Farrell
Randy Federgreen
Ellyn Feld
Kathy Fearn-Richter
Del Fidanque
John Flagler
Lori Flagler
Tara Flagler
Annette Flaherty
Bob Flaherty
Joann Flaherty
Lawrence Fleischer
Randi Florde
Christine Foertsch
Kristy Valiquest Ford
Darien Ford
Matt Francisco
Stan Frelich
Aaron Freimark
Carl Frisenda
Sandra Gatek
Makaria Gallagher
Seth Gallagher
Rick Gedney
Phoebe Geer
Rick Gell
Shelley Gilbert
Suzie Gilbert
Dorothy E. Gilman
Priscilla S. Goflairb
Dr. Mathew Goldsmith
Cale Gorevic
Jackie Grant
Ben Green
Goldie Green
Elizabeth Groomebridge
Ian Groomebridge
Alexander Grossman
Kacie Grossman
Maia Guest
Sarah Gurland
Cat Guthrie
John Haines
Lisal Hall
Gayle Hamilton
David Hardy
Stan Harrison
Hilary Hart
Elisabeth Todd Healy
Phil Hefferan
Paul Henderson
Ron Hershay
Bryan Hickey
James Hoch
Peter Hofmann
Janice Hogan
Laura Lee Holmbo
Kelly House
Thomas Huber
Andrea Conner Hudson
Evan Hudson
Bill Hussung
Rose Inman
Stephen Ives
Michael Janetti
Shahla Janetti
Philip Jachec
Dean Johnson
Tyrell Jones
Madeline Julian
Robert Julian
Grace Kennedy
Susan Kenny
Debbie Keppel
Roger Keppel
Jon Kiphart
Cynthia Kline
Jonathan Kruk
Gary Kuehnienz
Lars Kulleised
Mark Kulleiseid
Aric Kupper
Michelle Kupper
Charlotte Labrie-Cleary
Christina Labrie-Cleary
Luke Labrie-Cleary
Malachy Labrie-Cleary
Cassandra Laifer
Isabelle Laifer
Lourdes Laifer
Steve Laifer
John Lane
Linda Lange
Lydia Langley
Alex Laurino
Nancy E. Lauterbach
Martina Leonard-Fossom
Martee Levi
Cathy Liburane
David Liburne
Cathy Lim
David Limburg
Debbie Lind
Carolynn Llewellyn
Chip Loewenson
Finn Lovell
Jack Lovell
Hudson Lovell
Joe Lucca
Katherine Lukacher
Leida D. Lumberry
Sue Mac Lean
Donald MacDonald
Joseph C. Mahon
Sean Patrick Maloney
Jo Mango
Carol Marquand
Claudio Marzollo
Judith Marx
Karen Mayer
Dave McCarthy
Michael McKeen
Sandy McKelvey
Abigail McTail
Sean McNall
Ann McBride-Allen
Ivy Meeropol
Mike Meeropol
Michael Mell
Tyler Mell
Maureen McGrath
Annie Mennes
Tony Merante
Greg Miller
Lynn Miller
David Minikin
Manuel A. Molina
Nancy Montgomery
Christina Moon
Peg Moran
Mary Jo Mullane
Cris Murranswiss
Hass Murphy
Annie Myers
Mary Newell PhD
Carol Newman
Alison Nichols
Anne Marie Nichols
Daniel Nobel
Chris Nowak
Irene O’Garden
Adam Osterfeld
Lithgow Osborne
Daniele Pack McCarthy
Charlotte Palm-Lane
Chris Pasquale
Joe Patrick
Anita Peitonen
Matt Peitonen
Barbara Perkins
Brad Petrie
John Pietmeyer
Penelope Pi-Sunyer
Xavier Pi-Sunyer
Joy Plaisted
Bob Plante
Michael Plante
John Plummer
Joe Plummer
Kathy Plummer
Janis Polastre
Bob Polastre
Lori Powers
Mike Powers
Ann Provan
David Provan
Melissa L. Ptacek
Manoj Raju
Roger Rahtz
Ashley Rauch
Lisa B. Rauch
Mike Rauch
Ned P. Rauch
Sheila Rauch
Ru Rauch
Fred Reich
Michael Reisman
Marlane Remy
Amy Richter
Eric Richter
Peter C. Richter
Jose Rodriguez
Craig Roffman
Joanne Roffman
Lillian Rosegarten
Laura Rubinstein
Stephanie Rudolph
Sonia Ryzy-Ryski
Lisa Sabin
Wendy Sanderson
Nicole Schmatz
Karen Shea
Megan Shea
Richard Shea
Beth Sigler
Barbara Sierco
Barbara Smith
James Smith
Michelle Smith
Sally Smith
Pet Smith
Kevin Spahn
Matt Speiser
Allan Spiegel
Lynda Stanley
Eliza Starbuck
Margot Steinberg
Adele Stern
Henry Stern
Linda Nelson Stewart
Zanne Stewart
Owen Sullivan
Zshawn Sullivan
Marianne Sutton
Anne Symmes
Linda Tafopalsky
Bldu Tashjian
Marcelline Thomson
Rebekah Hannah Tigher
Lucille Tortora
Diane Travis
Paul Tischkeln
Sarah Berry-Tischkeln
Henry Turner
Joan Turner
Tara Vamos
Rudolf van Dommele
John VanTassel
Ellyn Varela-Burstein
Damiyan A. Vladimiroff
Lara Demberg-Voito
Donna Vourliotis
Jennifer Wagner
Susan Wallach
Lauren Wallis Hall
David Ward
Rosemary Ward
Sharr White
Larry Wiesler
Dar Williams
Suzanne Willes
Dan Willson
Liz Wisler
Michael Woods
Margaret Yonco-Haines
Marilyn Young
Elefteria Zagoreos
Matt Zakia
Michael E. Zipper
Heather Zuckerman
Neal Zuckerman
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.
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?

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. 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 what can be done 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 has 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 a river. 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.

TOMANN: 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.

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.

We interviewed Langley for the Oct. 15 issue and the Q&A is posted online.

We did not interview McConville, but 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 Schevctchak 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 asked the hard questions: Where is our money going? Why are our public services deficient? And are we including the people in their contributions to the services?

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 not been given an extension of 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 Tamagno]? 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 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.

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 [Philipsburg] Planning Board and been trained at Pace [University] on acquiring horses. I'm an animal rights 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 unso- lent advice about how I should stay quiet and go along. I think the voter should 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 has increased its property tax rate 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 have. 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 away from thinking it's our responsibility to fund the Legislature and the administration. We need to get away from thinking the budget is free. 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 [governmental] 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 for a variance [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 idea of an open 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 [legisla- tive] agencies need to be more transparent before they come out of [that] 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-
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.

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 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.

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 discretely. Veterans’ services. I know we have a veterans’ club on Cedar Street. But I think Karl Rohde from the county [Veterans Services 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 trying 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 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, 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 town, 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, but get my feelings across. And I have a relationship with that Legislature. Like I said, it takes five votes.

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Questions for Candidates

Cold Spring Village Board

Yaslyn Daniels and Tweeps 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, developing 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.

**Tweeps 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 communication 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-afairs 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 sidewalks, 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 own property. Short-term rentals impact more than one aspect of our lives: 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 a 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.
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 disregarded 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 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
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 her 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.”
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.

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.

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.

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.

Come celebrate Halloween at the Market! DMV Lot, 223 Main Street Beacon festivities start at 11am

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

follow us at @beaconfarmersmarket

marbled MEAT SHOP

LOCALLY SOURCED SINCE 2014

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THIS SEASON AT BEACON NATURAL MARKET

WHILE SUPPLIES LAST

348 MAIN STREET, BEACON NY / WWW.BEACONNATURALMARKET.COM / 845.828.1288
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 says.

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 Datres, Gabrielle Dearborn, Viorel Florescu, Ruth Geneslaw, Ron Hershey, Reni Lorray, 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 postcard exhibit.

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

Marlene Wiedenbaum, “Gum Shopping Mall, Moscow” 
Patricia Collins Broun, “Coastal Trail”

Gabrielle Dearborn, “Tregunter Road, London”
Ron Hershey, “Young girls outside Templo de Santa Maria/tonantzintla, near Chololul, Mexico”

Mia Wolff, “Li River”

The Calendar
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
845-534-9506 x204 | hnom.org
Online reservations for a hunt along the I SPY Trail will be offered every 30 minutes. Cost: $10

THURS 4
Elementary School Book Club
COLD SPRING
3:30 p.m. Butterfield Library
2681 W. Main St. | 845-298-1491
Children in grades 2 to 4 will discuss The First Rule of Punk, by Celia Pérez.

COMMUNITY
SAT 30
Castle to River Run
GARRISON
8 a.m. Philipstown Rec
107 Glenclyffe Dr. | 845-424-4618
friendsphilipstownrecreation.org
This fundraiser for the Friends of Philipstown Recreation climbs up to Osborne’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. Gilead Ave.
bity.lc/indigenous-parade
Attendees are encouraged to wear something that reflects their ethnicity or cultural heritage for this event organized by Normita Ixmucane and Artesanos Multiculturalis 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. | beaconhistorical.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 Rampati Detachment No. 861 Marine Corps League accepting on their behalf. Reservations required; email dvbl776@gmail.com. Cost: $75

THURS 4
Puzzle Swap
GARRISON
6 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library
472 Route 403 | 845-424-3020
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. | donote.nyc.org
Make an appointment to help address a shortage.

SAT 6
Pet Rabies Vaccine Clinic
COLD SPRING
10 a.m. – Noon, Memorial Park
201 Gipsy Trail Road
845-808-1390 x2160
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
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 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 Apeoa-Lips Shadow Cast will perform during the film. Cost: $10

SUN 31
The Halloweening
BEACON
5 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
477 Main St. | 845-631-4988
facebook.com/spaceoutoutside
Bring a blanket and wear a costume to sit outside the Howland and enjoy spooky sounds and music.

Halloween Parade, Oct. 30

THE WEEK AHEAD
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Elementary School Book Club
COLD SPRING
3:30 p.m. Butterfield Library
107 Morris Ave. | 845-265-3040
butterfieldlibrary.org
Children in grades 2 to 4 will discuss The First Rule of Punk, by Celia Pérez.

COMMUNITY
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
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 ptalearndiff@gmail.com.

SAT 30
2015 Route 9 | hvshakespeare.org
Paramount Hudson Valley.
Cost: $10

THURS 4
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 Hellbound. Cost: $30 to $100

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SAT 30
The Dark House
GARRISON
6 – 10 p.m. Philipstown Depot Theatre
10 Garrison’s Landing
nightmarenyc.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, Hudson Valley authors and artists will lead workshops. Cost: $25 ($20 streaming)

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facebook.com/spaceoutoutside
Bring a blanket and wear a costume to sit outside the Howland and enjoy spooky sounds and music.
**TALKS & TOURS**

**SAT 6**

**Indigo Dyeing + Clay Resist**

**COLD SPRING**

5 p.m. Supplies for Creative Living 143 Main St. 845-809-9500 suppliesforcreativeiving.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 Ahmadijan (guitar) perform jazz, swing, waltzes and fiddle tunes. Sponsored by The Highlands Current.

**SAT 30**

**R.J. Storm and the Old School Bluegrass Band**

**BEACON**

8 p.m. Howland Cultural Center 477 Main St. 845-831-4888 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 Exile’s Journey*, Oct. 30. Cost: $43

**FRI 5**

**California Dreaming**

**BEACON**

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

The band will invite 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**

**PEEKSILL**

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 $87.50

**FRI 5**

**Rhiannon 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)
SAT 6
Titans of ’80s Rock
PEEKS KILL
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.
845-831-4988 | 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 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.
845-831-4988 | 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)

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
putnamcounnty ny.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

SAT 30
Fall Voter Guide
See Page 9.
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.”
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 mewp 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 globs of mahogany brown with tan “eyes,” they seemed as pretty to me as polished blobs of mahogany brown with tan “eyes,” they seemed as pretty to me as polished tree detritus. All I ever wanted was to befriend -

and the like. It was at one such ordeal, however, and are similarly toxic.

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 a warmed offset spatula, smooth away the skier 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.

The Highlands Current
OctOber 29, 2021
highlandscurrent.org

Howland Cultural Center

Oct. 30 – 31 – 1-5 pm
Howland Art Center, 237 Main St, Beacon, NY 12508

TRAVELING FOLK: WORLDS EXPLORED
Free – Fun for the whole family, weather permitting.

Fri. Oct 29 – 8 pm
AN EVENING OF THE MACABRE
Staged readings of Edgar Allan Poe
Shakespeare & Company
$15 Adv / $20 Door Tix: Howlandculturalcentertix.com/Vax

Sat. Oct 30 – 8 pm
IN CONCERT: OLD SCHOOL BLUEGRASS BAND
Energetic, engaging music, men and ail
$15 Adv / $20 Door Tix: Howlandculturalcentertix.com/Vax

Sun. Oct 31 – 5 pm
The HALLOWEENING!
Spooky soundscapes in the Howland courtyard Free – Family-friendly, please wear a costume.

AND MORE
Sun. Nov 7 – 4 pm
Howland Chamber Music Circle
Les Hermanes, Alix & Shawn Guerrini
Tix: Info http://HowlandMusic.org

Thur. Nov 11 – 7:30 pm
November Moon, music & stories, Tara & Gudy
Tix: Info HowlandChamberMusicCircle.com

Garrison Art Center

November 4
12pm-3pm

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

477 Main St, Beacon, NY 12508
www.howlandculturalcenter.org (845) 831-4988 facebook.com/howlandculturalcenter beacon howlandculturalcentertix.com

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.

The Garrison
The Atrium, 2015 Route 9
Garrison, NY

*More dates coming soon!*

For more information & to register visit www.hudsonshakespeare.org
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 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, 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 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.”

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
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 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 Garri son, 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 could go on my own,” she said.

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.

HVSF Continues to Make Adjustments

As of October 20, HVSF filed an updated 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 is expected to be located at the Garrison side of the site, with seating for 125 to 150 events a year.

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 plans to build housing for performers, HVSF told the Planning Board that “under no circumstances” would the units be 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 January and March.

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.”

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.

Number of confirmed cases: 12,600 (+108)
Active Cases in Philipstown: 31-35
Percent positive: 4.1 (0)
Percent vaccinated: 73.2
Number of deaths: 98 (0)

PUTNAM COUNTY
Number of confirmed cases: 35,929 (+314)
Active Cases in Beacon: 16
Percent positive: 3.6 (-0.1)
Percent vaccinated: 68.3
Number of deaths: 500 (+3)
Source: Putnam County Department of Health

COVID-19 by the Numbers

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Active Cases in Philipstown: 31-35
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Percent positive: 4.1 (0)
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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
Number of deaths: 500 (+3)
Source: Putnam County Department of Health
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.

“T’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. “We felt positive that my mother was standing there,” DeMaria said. “We all had the same reaction: 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.”

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.”

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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 that every vote counts. The discussion over updates to Chapter 194 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 Tues. (Oct. 26), it appears the board has narrowed the options to two variations of Mixed Use — designated MU1 and MU2. A sticking point has been whether any rules dictate.

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.

Dan Fink is 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.
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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 prison 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 to 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.
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 employees 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.
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 because the rain limited mowing, she said.

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

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**Annual Highlands Rainfall**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Inches</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
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**Record Rains**

<table>
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<td>SEPT. 1, 2021 (HURRICANE IDA)</td>
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<tr>
<td>OCT. 1, 2010</td>
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<tr>
<td>AUG. 28, 2011 (HURRICANE IRENE)</td>
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<tr>
<td>AUG. 29, 2011 (HURRICANE IRENE)</td>
<td>3.75 inches</td>
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<td>SEPT. 7, 2008</td>
<td>3.26 inches</td>
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<tr>
<td>AUG. 23, 2021</td>
<td>3.24 inches</td>
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**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-of-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.

Scan QR code or visit highlandscurrent.org/halloween

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Thank You to Our Sponsors
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.

PLEASE VOTE FOR KATHLEEN E. FOLEY & ELIZA STARBUCK

NOV 2
METHODOIST CHURCH
Orchard & Main / 6am–9pm

PAID FOR BY FORGE AHEAD
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

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

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 845-631-0108.

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:
https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_XU4HL8soRTCSrR7bZATOw

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.

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_C5JEGDmQS8am1BT3YzGO9g

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.
KEEPING PUTNAM SAFE!

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

HONESTY · INTEGRITY · EXPERIENCE

www.sheriffrobertlangley.com

Paid for by Friends of Langley
Puzzles

**CROSSCURRENT**

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 — it?"
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”

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. Caviar
37. Checker moves
38. Bluenose
39. Toy block name
40. Cupid’s specialty
41. Regrettet
42. Car
43. “Let’s go!”
44. Glimpse
46. Caustic solution
47. Potential syrup

**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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CLUES</th>
<th>SOLUTIONS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 spotless (9)</td>
<td>__________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 first leader (5)</td>
<td>__________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 underground waste channel (5)</td>
<td>__________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 many, many (4)</td>
<td>__________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 they eat only plants (6)</td>
<td>__________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 brownish-purple (9)</td>
<td>__________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 give praise (10)</td>
<td>__________</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**SUDOCURRENT**

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

Beacon took control 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 (16-1-0) 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 (9-7-4) 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 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 Forcella 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 Reinike (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 Weinhal 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.