

The HIGHLANDS Current

NOVEMBER 5, 2021

Support us at highlandscurrent.org/join

Shipping for a Small Planet <i>Outside funding changes outlook for district</i>		Spring Board <i>Save tone and priorities</i>	
The Vaccine, Reconsidered <i>pushed by caregivers — streamed through</i> (Continued on Page 7)		Beacon, Garrison Schools	
INDIAN POINT			
Butch Anderson led agency for 20 years		The Return of the Tree Army	
Philipstown's Lost Newspaper <i>While most people who contract COVID-</i> (Continued on Page 6)		Milkman Makes Last Delivery	
'It's Up To Us'			
Cold Spring Adopts Short-Term Rental Law <i>Over the past few weeks, Drug World of Cold Spring has taken the doses of COVID-19...</i>			
Challengers Arise in Cold Spring		Beacon Schools Plan to Sell	
How They Voted <i>Below are summaries of select laws and the votes cast by Republican Sue Serino (whose Senate district includes the High-</i>			
Beacon's	Whistling Willie's Closes Its Doors	Nelsonville <i>Hikers no longer allowed on Breakneck, Anthony's Nose</i>	
Healthy Appetite for Local Farm Products	Beacon Prison		
A Day with the Beacon Police		When Beacon Was King	
Two Brothers, Three Sports, Twin Threat		Breakneck Burns <i>in Rockland, four in Ulster and one in Orange. Statewide, there were 325 positives, including 95 in New York City, 61</i>	

Keeping Our Community...

■ ■ ■

INFORMED, INSPIRED, INVOLVED

Dear Reader,

In just a few weeks — on the last day of this year — *The Highlands Current* will publish its **500th issue!**

That's a major milestone for our weekly nonprofit newspaper, and one we have achieved with your community support. In our next 500 issues, we seek to even more ambitiously pursue the stories that will **inform, inspire and involve you** and all in our communities.

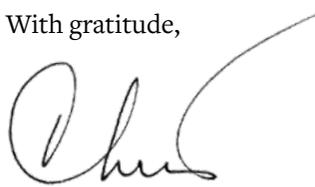
The Current first hit the newsstands on June 1, 2012, with a front-page headline highlighting the Congressional race won later that year by Sean Patrick Maloney — who is still serving the 18th District. In nearly 500 issues since that June day, the paper has covered, in print and online, the stories that matter to you every day at home: from village, town and city hall controversies to school issues, business developments, arts and cultural activities and the accomplishments and viewpoints of so many neighbors in our communities of Philipstown and Beacon. And we have aspired to bring you more, looking at the ways that national issues like the opioid crisis, climate change, economic hardships, the pandemic and infrastructure hazards have played out in our midst.

Your support as a member of *The Current* will help our reporters continue to provide that broad and deep coverage. Our **membership program is our primary means of support**, providing nearly 70 percent of the funds needed to publish annually. With a tax-deductible gift of as little as \$2 a month, you can **become a member or renew your membership** — at highlandscurrent.org/join — and the benefits you receive will enhance your involvement in community news. These benefits, plus details for making or renewing your membership donation online, are on the next page of this special four-page section of your *Current*. Note the **bonus** if you become a recurring member!

Once again this year *The Current* is fortunate to participate in the national NewsMatch program funded by major foundations to support nonprofit journalism. We will also receive a generous match from several local donors who believe strongly in the value of quality community journalism. With these matches, membership gifts totaling **\$50,000 will mean \$100,000** for our newsroom operations.

With your support, *The Current* is able each week to bring you quality journalism — **free, in print and online** — covering your many interests and concerns. We look forward to welcoming you as a new or renewing member who will help us **celebrate our 500th issue** on New Year's Eve.

With gratitude,



Christine Bockelmann
Chair of the Board



Joseph T. Plummer
Vice chair of the Board

How We Have Served This Year

73,000+

monthly visitors to highlandscurrent.org

2 MILLION+

pages read online

185,000+

free papers distributed

1,500+

stories

Plus 43 state and national awards, including

From the New York Press Association

- FIRST PLACE** In-Depth Reporting
- FIRST PLACE** Sports Feature
- FIRST PLACE** News Story
- FIRST PLACE** Feature Story
- FIRST PLACE** News Series
- FIRST PLACE** Column

From the New York News Publishers Association

- FIRST PLACE** Business Reporting
- FIRST PLACE** Investigative Reporting
- FIRST PLACE** Feature Photography
- FIRST PLACE** Page Design
- FIRST PLACE** Column
- FIRST PLACE** Sports Feature

From the National Newspaper Association

- FIRST PLACE** General Excellence
- FIRST PLACE** Front-page Design
- FIRST PLACE** Feature Series
- FIRST PLACE** Sports Column

YOUR MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

Join today or renew your membership

Membership is *The Current's* primary means of support in our mission to provide a vital forum for your diverse interests, concerns and experiences. As a free and independent nonprofit news source, *The Current* seeks to ensure quality journalism for all in Philipstown and Beacon.

YOU MAY ALSO THIS YEAR:

Add a gift to celebrate **The Current's 500th issue** on Dec. 31!

TO JOIN, RENEW OR GIVE, GO TO:
highlandscurrent.org/join

QUESTION? EMAIL:

membership@highlandscurrent.org

YOUR GIFT WILL BE DOUBLED!

From now through Dec. 31, membership gifts up to \$1,000 will be matched to a total of \$50,000 by a combination of funds from NewsMatch, a national campaign supporting nonprofit journalism, and a group of local community members dedicated to upholding quality community journalism.

BONUS!
BECOME A SUSTAINING MEMBER

Members who make a new recurring gift of \$10 or more per month will receive a new *Current* tote bag or free mail delivery! This will be in addition to the other benefits shown for your level of giving. Anyone who makes a recurring yearly membership donation of at least \$120 will also have the bonus choice.

MEMBER BENEFITS	FRIEND \$24 to \$119	PARTNER \$120 to \$599	PATRON \$600 to \$1,199	GUARDIAN \$1,200+
A Current DIRECTORY of community resources	●	●	●	●
Our editor's exclusive Current PLUS newsletter	●	●	●	●
Priority Early Digital Delivery of Friday's print paper	●	●	●	●
Annual Member Recognition in the paper and online	●	●	●	●
Annual Discussion with editor and board members		●	●	●
Celebratory News Listing in 1/8-page ad			●	●
Gift Membership at Friend level to a non-member				●

GIFTS TOTALING \$50,000 WILL MEAN \$100,000 FOR OUR NEWSROOM!

A New York State of Trail

Empire State Trail, the longest multi-use state trail in the country. Its creation was announced by Gov. Andrew Cuomo in 2017.

A Park by Any Other Name

ern Dutchess Hospital in Rhinebeck. Putnam administered 251 of its first 600 doses on Thursday (Jan. 7), said

Need to Step In

As Mid-Hudson slowly

Reopening, Part 2

from the State Liquor Authority called to say it could not operate under the COVID-19 restrictions then in place.

Beacon Elementary Schools

chapters of the Village Code. The code determines much of what constitutes life in the village, outlining

What is your new position?

It's School Budget Time

BEACON FIRE RESCUE

Q&A: THE FUTURE OF LOCAL JOURNALISM



Margaret Sullivan

On Oct. 24, *Current* Editor Chip Rowe spoke with *Washington Post* media columnist Margaret Sullivan during a virtual event for our members about the state of local news. Sullivan is the author of *Ghosting the News: Local Journalism and the Crisis of American Democracy*. Their conversation has been edited for brevity and clarity.

When we talk about ghosting the news, what does that mean?

“Ghosting the news” means abandoning the news. Although news organizations and reporters and editors don’t mean to be abandoning the news, the business model these days is such that there’s much less revenue and a much less healthy environment for newspapers. So, if not abandoned, they’re moving away from full coverage. The Pew Research Institute documented a few years ago that most citizens thought that newspapers were doing great. I thought it was important to sound the alarm with *Ghosting the News* so that these valuable institutions can get the kind of attention that could help them thrive, or at least stay in business. In places all over the country there actually are *no* news organizations. They are news deserts. There’s an increasing number of them: more than 2,000 papers went out of business between 2004 and 2019. Then, of course, when the pandemic hit, papers took another hit. So it’s a bad situation.

What does it mean to be a good paper?

A good paper is one that holds public officials accountable, that has reporters attending local meetings and is the eyes and ears of the public. And that tells the truth, to the extent possible, and seeks the truth — not just tells it but actually seeks it, whether it’s through Freedom of Information Law requests or pounding on doors, or whatever it may be, to actively seek out what’s happening and report it fairly and accurately. We don’t do a perfect job of that; sometimes we make big mistakes. I can tell you that I have made big mistakes in my career, and I’m just happy that I’ve survived some of them.

I feel like sometimes we’re chasing Facebook. Is that good or bad?

Facebook can serve a purpose. As Mark Zuckerberg will tell you night and day, it’s there to connect people. It does that. But it also does a lot of other things that aren’t so good, like spread misinformation and play to people’s

worst instincts. There’s no question that news stories will sometimes surface on Facebook, and I’ve found it a way to do research at times. So it’s a double-edged sword.

Do you think social media affects how people view local newspapers, that maybe people don’t think they are as necessary? This comes up more with younger people perhaps. How do we get them to read their local newspaper?

The idea of getting young people to read a printed newspaper is a heavy lift. But that’s not the only way newspapers get news out. We have an online presence, and we use social media. What we’re doing is trying to present things with some sense of priority, with fact-checking, with reporting. We try to get to the closest approximation of the truth that we can. And that’s worth supporting. When local news goes away, [studies have shown] some bad stuff happens in communities: People become more polarized. They vote more strictly according to party line. They’re much less civically engaged. They don’t join community organizations as much. And municipal costs go up. Why do municipal costs go up? Because there’s no one watching the store. It’s a hard argument to make to people who have found that they think they don’t need it. What they don’t know sometimes is that some of the news they’re getting [online] is coming from the newspaper or the public TV or radio station. That’s where it’s been generated. It’s like, “Oh, the news is on my phone.” Well, it doesn’t happen by fairies!

We have a question from a viewer here: How does a paper cultivate young readers?

That’s a good question. The most important way is not to treat them as some sort of bizarre subset who need a special section for their cool, weird interests. Treat them as the citizens that they are. Most importantly, come to them where they are. Where are they? Well, they’re on their phones, right? How are we reaching people in that way? Do we have a good social media team? Are we doing

good headlines? Are we updating the website on a regular basis? Or are we stuck in our old ways where we were able to say, “No, this is how we do it, and you need to come to us.” It has to be much more of a two-way street.

What happens in the future — who’s going to fund these local papers? As a nonprofit, we have great members who support us, but is that the model that will prevent another 2,000 papers from dying?

It’s a combination of things. It’s asking for support from readers and asking them to subscribe or join. Sometimes it’s philanthropy. There is an effort in Congress [the Local Journalism Sustainability Act] to give people tax credits for donating and/or subscribing to local papers, or to give small businesses incentives to advertise in local papers. Newer efforts are coming up all over the place — nonprofits, digital-only. What it isn’t is the old thing, which is two-thirds of your revenue coming from print advertising and a third coming from people subscribing.

I know you support the Local Journalism Sustainability Act. I’m more skeptical because I feel like newspapers shouldn’t have ties to the government they cover.

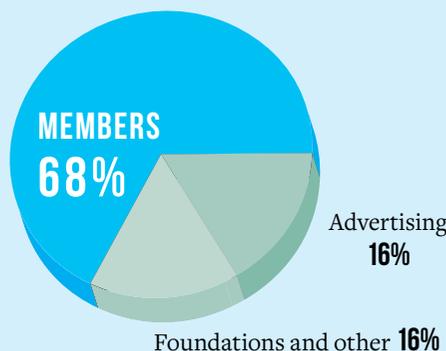
It would be set up so that you either qualify as a news organization, or you don’t. A particular politician, whether it’s the president or a congressman or county executive, can’t come along and undo that. So I think it has guardrails built into it. There’s another effort to give publishers the ability to get together and bypass antitrust legislation so that they can bargain against Facebook and Google to get an even playing field. But, meanwhile, newspapers continue to go out of business. There ought to be a sense of urgency about it. Your members, people out there listening, who say, “What can I do?” I would say to care about it, be engaged in whatever way you can with this news product. And that could mean telling their congressman that he or she should care about the Local Journalism Sustainability Act. Be actively engaged if you value local news.

WE NEED YOU!

Members provided the largest portion of support for the news operations of *The Highlands Current* in our fiscal year 2020-21.

Renew or join at highlandscurrent.org/join.

Revenue



Expenses

