

The HIGHLANDS Current



Meet the
Imam
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NOVEMBER 19, 2021

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Cold Spring Mail Votes Don't Change Results

*Fadde holds board lead;
marijuana sales approved*

By Chip Rowe

The Putnam County Board of Elections completed its count of mail-in ballots on Tuesday (Nov. 16), but nothing changed from the unofficial results released on Election Day.

Cathryn Fadde will return to the Cold Spring Village Board, defeating Jeff Phillips for the second of two open seats, while voters approved a proposal to allow the retail sale of marijuana.



Fadde

In a statement the same day, Kathleen Foley, a trustee who was elected mayor on Nov. 2, welcomed Fadde to the board and said she planned to name Joe Curto, a former Haldane school board president, to complete the second year of her term.

Village Board

Fadde, who owns Cathryn's Tuscan Grill on Main Street, served on the board from 2014 to 2016. She led Phillips, a construction manager, on Election Night by 53 votes, with as many as 109 mail-in ballots outstanding. After the BOE finished counting the 80 ballots it received from Cold Spring by the Nov. 9 deadline, Fadde had extended her lead by 7 votes.

Mayor

☆	Kathleen Foley	632	66%
☆	Vinny Tamagna	320	33%

2 Trustees (2-year terms)

☆	Eliza Starbuck	629	47%
☆	Cathryn Fadde	387	29%
☆	Jeff Phillips	327	24%

1 Trustee (1-year term)

☆	Tweeps Phillips Woods	592	66%
☆	Yaslyn Daniels	303	34%

Unofficial results, including absentees

(Continued on Page 6)



FALL PEAK — Autumn's reds, yellows and oranges were at their vibrant peak earlier this month when Beacon photographer Ardal Powell captured this sunset from the Mount Beacon overlook.

Photo by Ardal Powell

Reporter's Notebook: How High is Too Damn High?

By Jeff Simms

For at least the fourth time in the last two months, a slew of Beacon residents on Monday (Nov. 15) utilized the public-comment portion of a City Council meeting to urge its members, including the mayor, to adopt a good-cause eviction law.

Two weeks ago, Newburgh approved a similar measure; this week it was Poughkeepsie. Hudson and Albany also approved good-cause provisions this year; New Paltz and Kingston have considered the idea.

The law, which is modeled on a bill that in 2020 stalled in the state Legislature, would prevent evictions without a court order, prevent landlords from arbitrarily deciding not to renew leases and require

landlords to justify rent increases above 1.5 percent of the consumer price index.

Housing advocates say the law provides critical backup for renters, including young adults, low-income families and seniors, who could be vulnerable to predatory landlords. Opponents — well, I haven't heard many in Beacon speak out against the idea.

But the National Apartment Association, a nonprofit trade organization, opposes the mandate, which it says adversely shifts

“A ‘good-cause’ eviction law would require Beacon landlords to justify large rent increases, among other conditions.”

“the balance in the landlord and tenant relationship to the detriment of other residents” and “puts good residents at risk by limiting the ability of housing providers to manage their properties and act quickly to remove problem residents.”

City Attorney Nick Ward-Willis told the council last month that he doesn't think a good-cause measure would withstand a legal challenge because state law already regulates the landlord-tenant relationship. But his comment was about the city's legal authority, not a criticism of the statute itself.

There are only a handful of meetings remaining this year before the seven-person City Council will reshuffle with four new members who won seats on Nov. 2. My sense is that some of the council members would like to vote on a good-cause measure in Beacon before the incumbents tag out.

(Continued on Page 20)

5Q

FIVE QUESTIONS: **ABDULLAH WAJID**

By Zach Rodgers

Abdullah Wajid is an imam with the Masjid Ar Rashid Islamic Teaching Center at 352 Main St. in Beacon. His responses are excerpted from an interview on the *Beaconites* podcast. The mosque will be open to the public on Nov. 28.

Were you raised Muslim?

I was raised as a Christian. My mother and aunts and uncles, they were very strong Christians. However, when I went to the military, I began to have concerns about what was going on in the communities, especially among African Americans. It ended with me becoming part of the Nation of Islam, which is under the leadership of Minister Louis Farrakhan, and embraces a radical, militaristic mindset. We called ourselves Muslims, but we really weren't, because we knew nothing of Islam. In 1975, we were introduced to Islam, in terms of the Quran, in terms of making prayer, and we became conscious of Prophet Muhammad, peace be upon him. And that's how I came from the Nation of Islam to Islam.

How would you describe the Muslim community in Beacon?

We've been in Beacon for more than 30



Photo by Meredith Heuer

years. In 1996, we moved to Main Street. The composition of the mosque was mostly African American, with a couple of Egyptian and maybe one Pakistani family. Today there's a wide range of people who come. The number of families is anywhere from 150 to 200. You won't see them at one time unless it's a celebration like what we call Eid — we have two every year — or Ramadan. Many live in the surrounding areas and commute to the mosque. We have one African gentleman who comes every morning from Highland to make the prayer at 5:30 a.m.

What's something people may not know about the mosque?

People are not as informed as we would like them to be about Islam in general and us in particular, because of the different things that happen in this society and the media. We have made a very strong effort to let the people know that our mosque is approachable. You can come in; there are no rules that say you have to be a Muslim. We want to let the people know that we are supportive of the community. We try to demonstrate the best of character and try to be sensitive, especially to our neighbors. In Islam, neighbors are very important.

Have you experienced intolerance?

The only time we really experienced anything like that was right after 9/11. It was someone who didn't have the proper understanding and maybe had some other feelings because of what he might have heard of, or thought. They broke our window. Everything else was so minor, it's not even worth talking about. But you know, Islam says there's some good in every situation. And there was some good in that also, because when that happened we had an outpouring of support from the people of Beacon and from the various religious communities in the area. We had no idea that people were that wonderful.

What do you think about all the changes in Beacon?

The changes are amazing. We now have this huge structure [at 344 Main St.] next to our mosque, which is unbelievable. When we came into our building, Main Street was kind of devastated. It was in bad shape. But Beacon has revived tremendously. The downside is Beacon seems to be going in a way that is unaffordable to live. Many people who visit the mosque say: "The town is so nice. I'd like to move here." But they might not be able to afford it. That is one of the weaknesses of this new development.

ON THE SPOT

By Michael Turton

What are you looking forward to most this Thanksgiving?

“Time with family. But honestly, it's the desserts.”



Dan Jenkins, Beacon

“It's a tie between my beautiful family and the turkey stuffing.”



Claire Deane, Beacon

“Family, friends, food and football. Go Lions!”



Craig Watters, Garrison

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Dove Pedlosky, Nelsonville

"I believe in the importance of local journalism."

John Pieza, Cold Spring

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PUBLISHER

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

FOUNDER

Gordon Stewart (1939 - 2014)

EDITOR

Chip Rowe
editor@highlandscurrent.org

SENIOR EDITOR

Leonard Sparks

BEACON EDITOR

Jeff Simms

ARTS EDITOR

Alison Rooney
arts@highlandscurrent.org

REPORTERS

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

STUDENT CORRESPONDENTS

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

LAYOUT DESIGNER

Pierce Strudler

ADVERTISING DIRECTOR

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

MEMBERSHIP

Emily Hare
membership@highlandscurrent.org

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Teresa Lagerman
community@highlandscurrent.org



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The *Current* welcomes letters to the editor on its coverage and local issues. Submissions are selected by the editor (including from comments posted to our social media pages) to provide a variety of opinions and voices, and all are subject to editing for accuracy, clarity and length, and to remove personal attacks. Letters may be emailed to editor@highlandscurrent.org or mailed to *The Highlands Current*, 142 Main St., Cold Spring, NY 10516. The writer's full name, village or city, and email or phone number must be included, but only the name and village or city will be published. For our complete editorial policies, see highlandscurrent.org/editorial-standards.

LETTERS AND COMMENTS

Secession?

Philipstown should secede from Putnam County and join either Dutchess, a few miles to the north (and to which we were formerly attached, before 1812), or Westchester, a few miles to the south.

More than anyone, our representative, Nancy Montgomery, finds herself battling her Republican colleagues any time the county Legislature meets and often is subjected to derision and scorn a lesser person might not put up with. Within that context lies the main driving force in getting the hell out of Putnam County, if possible.

The differences in east and west in Putnam County are no secret, nor are the differences seen as minor. I would like to propose that an unofficial survey be printed in *The Current* to gauge public interest in such an extraordinary move. This is all in its infancy, but my thinking is that a good place to start would be bringing the thought out in the open, to the general public. I have no idea what logistics would be required, but if enough residents are supportive or even interested in such a move all of this will work itself out.

Gregory Bochow, *Cold Spring*

C&E Paint

I will miss Susan Early and C&E Paint Supply but we have been so lucky to have it for so long ("End of an Era," Nov. 12). She solved so many last-minute "I needs" and I appreciated them all. Thank you!

Mark Robohm, *Cold Spring*

We will miss Sue and her incredible eye for color.

Charlotte Palmer Lane, *via Instagram*

My father worked for C&E. As a kid, I would go with him to the dump when it was time to clean out the paint work van. We would toss out dozens of empty paint cans. My brother and some of his friends would work for C&E during the summer. Many stories came out of a day's work.

If only the walls in the paint store could talk, what a tale they would tell. Thanks for all the years of service Sue, Rose and others who worked at C&E.

Tom Nastasi, *Cold Spring*

I'm so happy for Sue — but it's "Oh, no" for us. Home Depot always leaves me tired, even before I go in.

Ann Borthwick, *via Instagram*

Corrections

In a story in the Nov. 12 issue about the lease agreement between the Village of Cold Spring and the Cold Spring Boat Club, we reported that the 20-year agreement would begin in 2024. In fact, the lease replaces one that would have expired in 2024 and is effective as of the date it was executed (Nov. 8). The new lease will expire not in 2044 but in 2041.

A story in the Oct. 23 issue on the development of the former Marathon Battery Co. property on Kemble Avenue in Cold Spring referenced Forge Gate Drive, which connects Lunn Terrace and The Boulevard, but did not make clear it is a private road.

Prison closing

Gov. Kathy Hochul said closing Downstate Correctional Facility in Fishkill and five other state prisons will save taxpayers \$142 million annually ("State to Close Downstate Correctional," Nov. 12). How much of this savings will go back to taxpayers? Also, how much local revenue will be lost due to the closing? Will this savings at least be used to offset the loss? The state seems to make statements of actions to cut and save and yet always raise any other tax.

Charlie Symon, *Beacon*

Hearing people complain about a loss of jobs when a prison closes pulls back the mask on what we think prisons are for. Viewing incarceration as a revenue generator is disgusting. It's good that New York State has fewer criminals, right?

Brandon Smith, *Beacon*

I'm guessing that Dutchess County Executive Marc Molinaro would have loved this if it had been a Republican decision.

Paul Yeaple, *via Instagram*

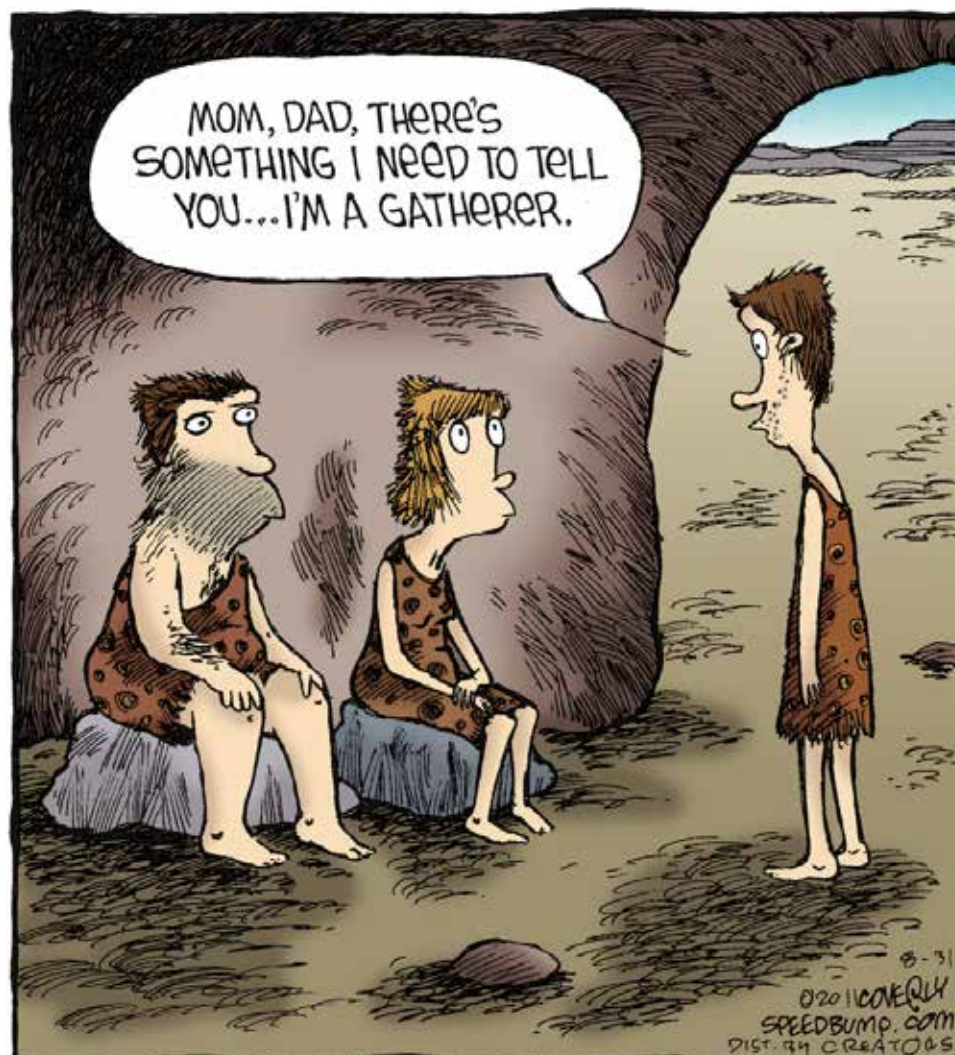
This is such fantastic news for the community. It's the perfect time to cut jobs — there are so many available open positions around the area that will easily absorb the prison's future former employees.

James Petty, *via Instagram*

Do you really think local jobs can compare to a correction-officer position, with health benefits and a pension? This is a hardship for those employees.

Karen Kish, *via Instagram*

(Continued on Page 5)



LETTERS AND COMMENTS

(Continued from Page 4)

Why couldn't Downstate stay open, and just close the other ones?

Peggy Hill, *via Instagram*

Seeger stamp

Pete Seeger was already stamped in the hearts of the working people of the U.S. and Canada to whom he dedicated his art ("Postal Service to Issue Pete Seeger Stamp," Nov. 12).

In the late 1950s, the National Federation of Labour Youth (NFLY) in Canada sponsored a national tour for Pete Seeger to raise funds for our newspaper, *Champion*. I led the committee that sponsored his concert at the Slovak Hall in Fort William, Ontario, and my late wife, Sylvia Bradley, did likewise at the Dark Hall in Regina, Saskatchewan. Pete gave it his all in spite of modest attendance.

We are all waiting for the day when Paul Robeson will likewise be officially recognized for his towering artistry in his homeland, as he is already internationally immortalized in the hearts of millions who labor, for his steadfast courageous partisanship for world peace and Soviet socialism.

Don Currie, *Slocan, British Columbia*

With all due respect, Mr. Seeger was a card-carrying member of the American Communist Party for four decades, during which time he praised "great leaders" such as Josef Stalin and Nikita Khrushchev, as well

as Fidel Castro. A U.S. stamp in his honor? I hardly think so. Light turnout in Saskatch? Could be he was a mediocre musician. RIP.

Herbert Simon, *Beacon*

Philipstown opts out

It's outrageous that the Philipstown Town Board voted to "opt out" of allowing retail cannabis sales and on-site consumption ("Philipstown Opts Out of Pot Shops — for Now," Nov. 12). The Town Board is so out to touch with the needs and wants of our community.

Anthony Lise, *via Instagram*

The Town Board conducted a thoughtful, deliberative process before this vote. I listened to the views and experiences of many Philipstown residents of all ages, from parents to senior citizens, from recovering addicts to devastated families, community leaders, school leaders and mental-health counselors. Our decisions as town leaders must be based on the best interests of all Philipstown residents. That's leadership and good government. It is not driven by those who stand to profit but represents all our citizens.

Judy Farrell, *via Instagram*

Farrell is a member of the Philipstown Town Board.

Boat Club

When it comes to the renewal of the Cold Spring Boat Club lease, it's insulting

Two Shirts and a Gill

Excerpts from two orders issued by Gen. George Washington from his headquarters in Newburgh.

November 14th 1782


Congress having been pleased to set a part Thursday the 28th instant as a day of Solemn thanksgiving to god for all his Mercies, The General desires it may be most religiously observed by the army; and that the Chaplains will prepare discourses suitable to the occasion.

November 27th 1782

The Commander in Chief has the pleasure of announcing that a delivery of two shirts per man will shortly be made to the whole Army.

Tomorrow being Thanksgiving day a Gill [4 ounces] of West India rum per man is to be delivered to the troops.

Thanks to Christopher Cring



and disingenuous to say, as Mayor Dave Merandy did, that decisions made in secret without public input are "democracy at its best" ("Cold Spring Boat Club Gets New Lease," Nov. 12).

We are not as stupid as the mayor would like to think. It's as if to say that once officials are elected, it's *fait accompli* such decisions are both supported and in the public interest, despite a complete lack of transparency. That thinking is, in fact, democracy at its worst.

Derek Graham, *Cold Spring*

The Boat Club is a village icon. I'm happy

it has a new 20-year lease. Not only does it lend a vision of quaintness to its location, it offers limited dockage and revenue to the town via its transients; the Boat Club is a "port in the storm" for anyone in trouble on the river. After 30-plus years boating on the Hudson, I know there are always calls for assistance when club members are only too happy to lend aid to a mariner.

Bonnie Donato, *via Facebook*

Huzzah! Now I just need to save up to buy a boat.

Travis Fyfe, *via Facebook*

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Kristen Celello
Hugh Masa
Heidi Shira Bender
Marc Fregeau
Maria Stein-Marrison

The volunteers of the Philipstown Food Pantry would also like to extend our deepest sympathy and condolences to the Pidala family. Ginny was a kind and giving person who was so helpful to us. She will be missed by us one and all.

Election Results (from Page 1)

She will officially join the five-member Village Board on Dec. 6, along with Foley; Tweeps Phillips Woods, who will finish the second year of a 2-year term vacated by Heidi Bender; and Eliza Starbuck, who received 47 percent of the vote in the three-way race for two full-term seats. The swearing-in ceremony will take place on Dec. 7.

They will succeed Mayor Dave Merandy and Trustee Marie Early, who both dropped out of the race, and Trustee Fran Murphy, who did not run for reelection. Woods had been appointed by Merandy to fill Bender's seat until Election Day.

Foley said in her statement that she decided to appoint Curto "because he brings a wealth of community and leadership experience that will complement the new configuration of the Village Board nicely. With decades of experience in business, finance, property management and organizational administration, he provides the kind of knowledge we need to support balanced budgets, infrastructure projects and our village's general operation."

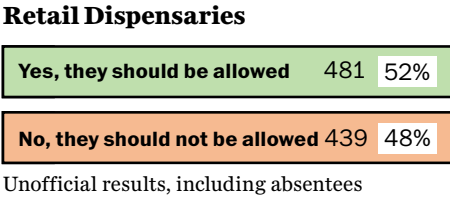
Curto said in a statement: "In my conversations with Kathleen, it was obvious she has a vision and the plan to execute that vision. That excited me to get back in public service. In my years of serving on boards, what always succeeded was a leadership team working together, recognizing and motivating staff, and bringing our constituents along for the ride."

Marijuana sales

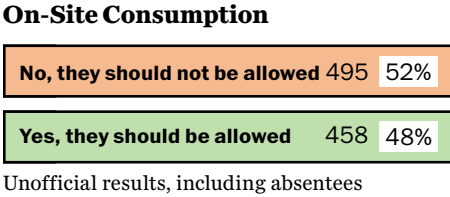
When the polls closed on Election Day, the majority of Cold Spring voters had said they supported legalizing cannabis dispensaries,

but the results were too close to call because of the number of outstanding absentee ballots.

Once counted, absentee ballots did not change the initial result. The final unofficial tally was 481-439, or 52 percent in favor.



The absentees also did not change the Election Day results for a second proposal that would have allowed on-site consumption of marijuana at businesses, such as smoking lounges. It was defeated 495-458, or 52 percent opposed.



Under state law, villages, towns and cities can "opt out" of allowing sales or consumption if they act by Dec. 31. While Cold Spring sent the issue to the Nov. 2 ballot, officials in Philipstown voted on Nov. 4 to opt out. Nelsonville's Village Board plans to vote on an opt-out measure in December (see Page 7).

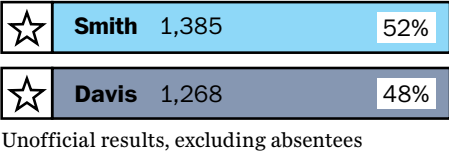
If dispensaries open in Cold Spring, the village will receive 75 percent of a 4 percent local tax on sales, with the rest going to Putnam County. Unless Philipstown later opts in, the village will not have to split its share with the town.

Dutchess County Results

The Dutchess County Board of Elections said it did not expect to complete its count of 3,642 county-wide absentee votes until next week, leaving a few races too close to call.

Legislature

In Legislative District 16, which includes Ward 4 and part of Ward 3 in Beacon, Yvette Valdes Smith, a Democrat who serves as secretary on the board of the Stony Kill Foundation, led Ron Davis, who chairs the Fishkill Republican Committee, by 117 votes on Election Day, with as many as 238 mail-in ballots outstanding. The winner will succeed Frits Zernike, a Democrat who did not seek a third, 2-year term.

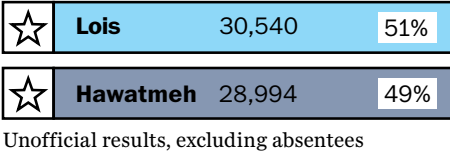


Democrats lost two seats in the 25-member Legislature when incumbents Rebecca Edwards of Poughkeepsie, the minority party leader, and Brendan Lawler of Hyde Park were defeated. If Smith prevails, it will consist of 17 Republicans and eight Democrats, including Nick Page, who ran unopposed for a third term representing Ward 1,

Ward 2 and part of Ward 3 in Beacon.

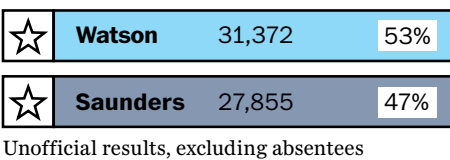
Comptroller

Robin Lois, a Democrat who is the incumbent, led Republican challenger Ola Nesheiwat Hawatmeh by 1,546 votes when the polls closed on Nov. 2.



Family Court

With only 3,642 mail-in ballots returned (of 6,404 distributed), Beacon resident Rachel Saunders, a Democrat who challenged Republican Denise Watson for Dutchess Family Court judge, will almost certainly not be able to overtake the incumbent, who led by 3,517 votes when the polls closed. Family Court judges, who serve 10-year terms, preside over cases involving custody, divorce, child support, abuse and guardianship.



Nelsonville Residents Back Ban on Cannabis Retail

Village Board expected to 'opt out' with December vote

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

A handful of residents who attended a public hearing on Monday (Nov. 15) urged the Nelsonville Village Board to opt out of allowing retail marijuana sales and on-site consumption, a step the mayor and four trustees appear poised to take in December.

Last spring, New York State legalized the recreational use of cannabis and gave towns and villages until Dec. 31 to decide whether to allow stores and lounges within their borders. Those that opt out by the deadline can opt in later; those that do not cannot later change their minds.

Cold Spring sent the question to the ballot; residents decided to permit retail shops but not on-site consumption (see Page 6). Philipstown opted out on Nov. 4.

Resident Heidi Wendel said on Monday that she favors opting out. "With a village as small as we are, it doesn't make sense" to permit retail sales, which "would be difficult to monitor," she said. A former U.S. attorney, Wendel added that she also is "worried it will encourage sale of other drugs on the side."

Tom Campanile also said he supported opting out. He criticized the way the state has handled implementation of cannabis policies. "This thing is a mess," he said. "We shouldn't touch it."

Another resident, Louis Murray, observed that pot "is still illegal, federally," which means that banks cannot set up accounts for marijuana ventures. Consequently, he said, "they're high-cash businesses," which he said can lead to crime.

Frank Caccetta offered another perspective: "People around here have been smoking marijuana as long as I've been here." He predicted that residents of Philipstown will go to nearby towns to obtain pot. "If you're

not going to stop them from smoking it, what the heck is the difference where they buy it?"

Trustee Maria Zhynovitch said she felt the board should opt out, mentioning her concerns with traffic and parking. Trustee Chris Winward remarked that with state regulations still pending, the unknowns include whether Nelsonville could control the number of pot establishments that open. "I personally never want see any dispensary or lounge in our tiny village," she said.

Mayor Mike Bowman said that he felt "it makes sense at this stage to opt out, to see which direction things go and how much oversight the state really does provide."

In other business ...

■ When residents questioned the use of leaf blowers by the village's contracted street-maintenance service, Winward and Trustee Dave Moroney noted that the devices help prevent drains from clogging. Bowman promised to speak with the maintenance

Pot: What Will Happen in Beacon?

Members of the Beacon City Council expressed support for allowing cannabis retail shops and smoking lounges during a discussion in June and City Administrator Chris White said on Wednesday (Nov. 17) that he doesn't plan to revisit the issue before the Dec. 31 state deadline. White said he was satisfied the council members had reached a consensus and would not be opting out.

contractor about alternative approaches.

■ The board set March 15 as the date for the 2022 election. The seats held by Mayor Bowman and Trustees Winward and Moroney will be on the ballot.

State Issues Marijuana Guidance for Employers

Draft regulations on home growing released

By Leonard Sparks

Public and private employers in New York state cannot test employees for marijuana or prohibit their use of it away from work, according to new guidance released last month by the state Department of Labor.

The newly created Office of Cannabis Management also released on Wednesday (Nov. 17) draft regulations governing the growing of marijuana for private use.

Under the Marijuana Regulation and Taxation Act enacted in March, adults 21

years old and up can legally possess up to 3 ounces of marijuana and up to 24 ounces of concentrated cannabis for personal use, and will eventually be able to buy pot at retail dispensaries. (Cold Spring voters approved retail sales in a ballot proposal this month and Beacon is expected to allow them, as well.)

Because marijuana is now a legal product, businesses and local governments are barred from discriminating against employees who smoke when not at work, and cannot test for marijuana unless required by state or federal law, the employee shows signs of being high at work or the employer risks losing a federal contract or funding.

While testing can detect the active ingredient in marijuana in the body long after its use, it cannot be the sole reason for concluding that an employee was impaired while working, according to the guidance. The law also bars employers from firing an employee whose body smells of marijuana and from requiring that workers do not use the drug during non-work hours.

Employers can take action when, while working, an employee exhibits "specific articulable symptoms of cannabis impairment" that affect performance or "interfere with the employer's obligation to provide a safe and healthy workplace as required by state and federal workplace safety laws."

While possession became legal in March,

the cultivation of marijuana plants at home for personal use will take longer.

Under draft regulations published in the *New York State Register* on Wednesday, individual adults will be limited to three mature (budding) and three immature plants, with a cap of six mature and six immature plants at any residence.

Growers will have to protect plants from anyone under 21 years old in their households and will be barred from selling plants or seeds, although they can "transfer, without compensation," up to 3 ounces of cannabis and up to 24 grams of concentrated cannabis to another adult, 21 and older.

Comments on the draft regulations can be sent by Jan. 16 to Blaise Gibson, Office of Cannabis Management, Bldg. 9 Harriman Campus, 1220 Washington Ave., Albany, NY 12226, or by email to regulations@ocm.ny.gov.

State Legislator to Run for Putnam Executive

Byrne supports Constitutional County resolution

By Leonard Sparks

State Assembly Member Kevin Byrne said he plans to campaign next year to become the next Putnam County executive, succeeding MaryEllen Odell, who cannot run because of term limits.

Byrne, a Republican from Mahopac whose district includes Carmel, Patterson, Putnam Valley and Southeast in Putnam and Somers and Yorktown in Westchester, announced his campaign Nov. 12 after notifying members of the local Republican and Conservative parties.

In a video posted on Facebook, he cited the "dangers coming to us from big-government aggressors who seek to deprive us of our tax dollars, our freedoms and limit our prosperity," and said he has "stood against the Albany establishment and its harmful policies."

Byrne's platform includes freezing salaries for elected officials; capping new discretionary spending; eliminating sales taxes on "basic" clothing and footwear; requiring a 60 percent supermajority to pass a tax increase; and protecting gun-permit holders' information from "unsafe or inappropriate disclosure" — a reference to a refusal in 2013 by Putnam officials to release that data to *The Journal News* despite a state law that says the information is public.

Byrne said he would also, if elected, ask county lawmakers to pass a resolution declaring Putnam "a Constitutional County ... that will stand up for its people and defend their constitutional rights through advocacy and additional county resources where and when appropriate."



Byrne

The Constitutional County movement has been popularized by a group called Defend Rural America that argues that any local or state laws "that are repugnant to the Constitution" should be considered "null and void." A handful of counties have adopted resolutions, including York in West Virginia, Brown in Texas, Lyon in Nevada and Cattaraugus in western New York. A few also have rejected the idea, including Mesa in Arizona and Bremer in Wisconsin.

Byrne is a former health care administrator and a regional director for the American Heart Association. He also served on the Putnam Valley Planning Board and was deputy district director for U.S. Rep. Nan Hayworth when she held office. The New York Republican State Committee has called him a "rising star" in the party.

Elected to the Assembly in 2016, and reelected in 2018 and 2020, Byrne has supported an analysis of the impact on the economy of the state's primary climate-

change law and the repeal of a law that eliminated, beginning in January 2020, cash bail for most misdemeanors and some felonies.

Byrne has also criticized a state fund created for undocumented immigrants who lost income during the pandemic but were ineligible for unemployment and other benefits; and he supports the repeal of gun restrictions approved by the Legislature in 2013 in the SAFE Act.

In August, Byrne co-sponsored a bill that would ban the teaching of "critical race theory," a decades-old way of analyzing race that conservative Republicans have embraced as an issue although it is not taught in the state's K-12 schools.

Odell, a Republican, first became Putnam County's executive in 2011, when she won a special election to complete the term of Vincent Leibell, who resigned before taking office because of federal corruption charges. She won election in 2014 and 2018. Under the county charter, the county executive cannot serve more than two consecutive full terms.

Haldane Students, Staff Return as Changed People

Pandemic affected social growth while altering perspectives

By Violeta Edwards Salas

Two months after returning to full-time live classes following a year and a half of virtual learning, and limited in-person schooling repeatedly interrupted by quarantines and canceled classes due to COVID-19 infections, Haldane administrators and students say they have emerged as changed people in a changed environment.



"My social skills have gone down, and I have started to value people and friends a lot more than I did before," said Zohra Kapoor, a freshman. "Being in a room with someone without any restriction is almost impossible, and it's hard to be with anybody properly."

Haldane resumed in-person instruction full-time in September, entering a "new normal" where learning is no longer taking place from isolated bedrooms and home offices, but masks and social distancing are still required in school buildings. Julia



Maya Gelber (left) and Olivia Flanagan talk outside Haldane High School with Betsy Cates, Sam Bates and Alex Danilov.

Photo by V. Edwards Salas

Sniffen, the Haldane High School principal, and Scott Many, its social worker, each said the pandemic stifled the maturation process for teenagers limited by the pandemic from socializing with peers and family members.

Between their freshman and sophomore years, many students start figuring out who they are in terms of values and beliefs and develop their own ideas separate from those of parents and other trusted adults, Many said. It can be a painful period, one that leaves a lot of students upset as longtime friends gravitate toward other social circles.

Because of the pandemic, that process has been set back a year, creating a gap in development that students are starting to close between the sophomore and junior years, he said. "Some of those conflicts between friends are coming up a little bit more, but you are seeing it more in older kids."

Sniffen said she worries that the ability to communicate has been affected, especially since so many students already converse

via cellphone and computer. Even if it is face-to-face, "you're in a mask, so you are not seeing expressions, you're not picking up on cues that are so important when we talk about emotional intelligence and reading a room. In terms of teaching and learning, that has had an impact on some of the things we find important in school."

Yet, both Sniffen and students said the pandemic has been a teacher. The ordeal of losing daily in-person contact has made some students more independent and forced staff and students to become more conscious of friendships, family bonds and life beyond the school walls.

Sniffen said some students have returned to school with improved time-management and organizational skills honed by months of remote learning, away from the watchful eyes of teachers and staff.

Chase Coulson, a junior, said he is one of those students. He became more determined to finish daily assignments, a mindset that "evolved over time and made me

the student I am now," he said. While some students have become "more chaotic," others are more mature and laid-back.

"COVID has changed me a lot," he said. "Being in lockdown for so long gave me a chance to reflect on myself. I became more observant; I altered the way I interacted with others and I became more mature."

Kapoor and Sniffen said their outlooks on life have also changed.

Kapoor said she "gained a more grateful perspective of being outside more" as people escaped the lockdown by spending more time visiting parks, hiking, bicycling and doing other outdoor activities where the risk of infection was low.

"I have realized that it [outdoors] is an amazing place to be," she said. "I have learned to be more grateful for my friends, family and the opportunities that I have missed or could have missed due to the pandemic."

Sniffen said the pandemic helped her "pause and reflect," and losing family members and loved ones to COVID-19 heightened her appreciation of relationships with family, Haldane students and staff and the Cold Spring community.

More people are holding tighter to things that matter to them, she said.

The principal said she has seen more people dedicating themselves to things they are passionate about. "Haldane brings me meaning, it brings me joy. Because of that I feel like giving more to a place that we care about and we value," she said.

Going forward, some other things have changed, but not for the better, said Many.

The pandemic aggravated an already-existing partisan divide and "pushed people to stop listening" to each other and having healthy debates, he said. While a less-restrictive "normal" becomes more realistic, "we need to keep in mind that we are not the same."

"If we want to advance as a society, we need to start learning to talk to each other again," he said.

Edwards Salas is a freshman at Haldane High School and a correspondent in The Current's Student Journalists Program, which is funded by our members.

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Sun. Nov 21 - 4 pm
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With Paul Yarbrough, viola
Tix + Info: <http://HowlandMusic.org>

AND MORE

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facebook.com/howlandcenterbeacon
howlandculturalcentertix.com

COVID-19 by the Numbers

PUTNAM COUNTY

Number of cases:

12,875 (+111)

Active Cases in
Philipstown: <5

Tests administered:

321,869

(+5,332)

Percent positive:

4.0 (0)

Percent vaccinated:

72.0

Percent in 10516: 84.3
Percent in 10524: 79.6
Percent of hospital workers: 97.0

Number of deaths:

100 (+2)

DUTCHESS COUNTY

Number of cases:

37,100 (+487)

Active Cases in
Beacon: 26

Tests administered:

1,031,434

(+17,234)

Percent positive:

3.6 (0)

Percent vaccinated:

67.2

Percent in 12508: 64.8
Percent of hospital workers: 97.0

Number of deaths:

505 (0)

Source: State and county health departments, as of Nov. 17, with change from previous week in parentheses. Percent vaccinated reflects those ages 12 and older who have received at least one dose. The percentage for hospital workers reflects those fully vaccinated.

Beacon, Police Approve Contract

Incoming council members say deal limits city

By Jeff Simms

The Beacon City Council and the police officers' union have agreed to a four-year contract that city officials say opens the door for the department to hire new officers from the most diverse candidate pool in years.

The council approved the agreement, 6-0, at its Nov. 15 meeting. Council Member Air Rhodes was absent.

Critics, including at least two members of the incoming council who will be seated in January, say the deal locks the city into an outdated policing model.

The previous contract, a three-year agreement, ends on Dec. 31. The new agreement includes 2 percent annual salary increases for patrol officers and 3 percent for lieutenants, along with \$1,000 annual stipends for bilingual officers.

It requires the department to have at least one sergeant and three patrol officers on duty at all times; expands the use of civilian dispatchers, freeing officers for patrol duty; and extends health benefits for immediate family members of any officer killed on duty.

Having the agreement in place also will allow the city to hire officers from Dutchess County's latest civil service list, which is expected to be released in January. The list includes far more women and Black and Latino candidates than in the past, so the department — which has five, and soon to be six, openings — should be able to hire officers who make the force more representative of Beacon's diverse population.

Before ratifying the agreement, the council met on Nov. 8 with members of a committee appointed to develop recommendations based on the city's Police Reform and Modernization Collaborative Plan.

Mark Ungar, a political science and criminal justice professor at City University of New York and one of the committee co-chairs, said during the meeting that the contract encourages a more diverse police force through its bilingual stipend;

provides incentives for advancement, which will strengthen officer retention; and does not inhibit the city's initiatives to reimagine public safety, such as through the addition this year of a mental health caseworker.

When asked whether the contract would tie the city's hands when it comes to more reforms, Ungar said: "I don't see that at all. I see it as fortifying it."

But Xavier Mayo, a member of the committee and one of the organizers of Beacon 4 Black Lives, disagreed. The deal shows that Beacon "still relies on a system that disenfranchises and hurts people," he said. Instead, the city "should look outside the box, be the model of something different."

Mayo, along with Justice McCray and Paloma Wake, two incoming council members who criticized the agreement, have said that the four-year contract binds the city to continue spending about a quarter of its general fund budget, just under \$6 million, on the Police Department.

"This collective bargaining agreement does affect the city's ability to institute changes moving forward," Wake said during the Monday meeting, noting that she fears proposed community safety initiatives, such as civilian oversight of the police, will fall by the wayside.

On Monday, Mayor Lee Kyriacou reminded the council before its vote that Beacon's spending on police is the lowest per capita (\$272 per resident in 2018) in the Mid-Hudson region, according to data collected by the state comptroller.

Council Member George Mansfield, who was reelected to his at-large seat on Nov. 2, said he felt that the contract does not preclude any of the goals for the department expressed by members of the public, while Amber Grant, the other at-large member, who is leaving, emphasized that the "scope of police reform needs to be broadened so it is more of an umbrella of community safety," including housing security and adequate mental health care, among other initiatives.

"There are so many things that we can do," agreed Council Member Terry Nelson, who represents Ward 1 but did not seek reelection.



The Village of Cold Spring's municipal lot on Fair Street has been identified as a parking solution for a Main Street retail and office project.

Photo by L. Sparks

Cold Spring Project Eyes Village Lot for Parking

Former gallery may become retail, office space

By Leonard Sparks

The Village of Cold Spring's municipal lot on Fair Street is being eyed as a solution to a parking shortage that has delayed approval of an application to turn the former Ellen Hayden Gallery into retail and office space.

James Gary applied to the village Planning Board in June to reconfigure the interior of 40 Main St. into two retail spaces and an office with 29 desks in the rear of the building. Under village zoning, the project would need seven parking spaces for the retail portion and 37 for the offices.

Because the number of off-street spaces required by code is seldom available, businesses can pay a one-time fee of \$250 per space for a waiver that must be approved by the Village Board. But parking on Main Street, which is limited to four hours, doesn't work for an eight-hour workday, said Matt Francisco, chair of the Planning Board, during a meeting on Nov. 11.

An assessment showed that the metered Fair Street lot has enough vacant spaces to support the 40 Main St. project, said Francisco. Gary said the prospective tenant, a financial services company, expects to have no more than 20 people in the office from Monday to Thursday and would pay the village \$120,000 annually to reserve spaces (\$3 per hour for 20 people each day).

"It seemed to me that it was sufficient to utilize the lot that is already in place and that's being underutilized," Gary said.

The board closed the public hearing on the project but deferred approval until the Village Board, which meets on Tuesday (Nov. 23), decides on a solution to the parking requirement, including waivers and contracting with Gary on the Fair Street lot.

Butterfield

The Planning Board is also being asked to approve a change to the site plan for the last phase of the Butterfield development on Route 9D. The Planning Board originally approved a 15,000-square-foot, 2½-story structure with 6,000 square feet of retail at the street level and offices upstairs.

Butterfield Realty is asking the board for permission to amend that plan to build a 13,800-square-foot building in which the upstairs offices would be replaced by six condo units and the retail portion would shrink to 5,000 square feet. Each condo would have its own garage and parking.

In 2015, the Planning Board approved up to 55 condos on the property, which has 49, the developer said. The additional six condos would fill out the project.

"We think this might be a better use for the property," Matt Moran, a representative for Butterfield Realty, told the Planning Board in September. The proposed change also needs to go before the Historic District Review Board.



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CAUGHT WITH THE CURRENT — It's become a daily ritual. Lilibet Henderson and her mom, Jayne, stop by *The Current* office on Main Street, where Lilibet loves to blow on the pinwheel, making it spin. *Photo by Michael Turton*

State Approves New
Central Hudson Rate Plan

Electric, gas bills to increase under three-year agreement

The average monthly electric bills for Central Hudson customers in the Highlands will fall in the first year and rise in the second and third under a new three-year rate plan approved on Thursday (Nov. 18) by the state Public Service Commission.

Customers will, on average, see electric bills that are 33 cents lower in the plan's first year, which began on July 1; \$1.72 a month higher in the second year and \$1.82 higher in the third. Monthly gas bills will initially rise by an average of \$1.64, and then by \$2.17 and \$1.50 in the final two years, according to the PSC. The plan runs through June 30, 2024.

Central Hudson, which initially proposed higher rate increases, also agreed to provide \$31 million in discounts to eligible low-income customers, reduce its carbon footprint and cease offering incentives to switch from oil to natural gas.

Decking Half Complete for
Newburgh-Beacon Bridge

Crews finish left lane of westbound span

The deck-replacement project on the Newburgh-Beacon Bridge north span is halfway complete, the New York State

NEWS BRIEFS

Bridge Authority said on Thursday (Nov. 18).

Drivers entering the bridge from Route 9D will periodically be routed onto the newly re-decked left lane of the north span, and can expect temporary closures of the whole span to allow for completion of the project. Major construction is expected to finish by fall 2022, according to NYSBA.

The north span, which carries west-bound traffic on Interstate 84 across the Hudson River, is the older of the bridge's two spans, having opened in 1963. The deck for the south span, which opened in 1980, was replaced between 2012 and 2014.

Accessible Trail Repaired
at Stony Kill Farm

Signs and benches will be added in 2022

A half-mile, accessible trail at Stony Kill Farm Environmental Education Center in Wappingers Falls that was damaged by a storm in 2018 has been restored, state officials announced last week.

The Woodland Trail was wheelchair-accessible before a "microburst" blew down trees that damaged it. The state Department of Environmental Conservation supplied materials and equipment for work by the six members of the Excelsior Conservation Corps, which spent 10 weeks over the summer restoring the trail to meet Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) standards. It is located off the parking lot next to the Manor House.

Signs and benches will be added to the trail in 2022.

Man Sentenced to Prison
Convicted of grand larceny in Cold Spring case

A man convicted of defrauding an 85-year-old Cold Spring woman of \$103,050 we sentenced on Nov. 9 to 7½ to 15 years in state prison.

James Mcinerney, 52, was convicted by a jury of grand larceny, attempted grand larceny and resisting arrest. He stole the money over six months by making false representations and promises, according to evidence presented at his trial.

The court ordered Mcinerney to repay the victim and issued an order of protection.

T.Webber to Give Away
Home System

Annual 'Heat for the Holidays' program

T.Webber Plumbing, Heating, Air & Electric and RAL Supply will once again give away a heating system to a deserving family as part of its third annual Heat for the Holidays campaign.

Community members can nominate themselves or any local Hudson Valley family by visiting twebber.com/heatfortheholidays. The deadline is Dec. 6.

REAL ESTATE MARKET UPDATE

HOME SALES IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD IN THE LAST 30 DAYS

BEACON PROPERTIES	CITY	BEDS	BATHS	SQ FT	SOLD!
4 Jefferson Ave.	Beacon	3	1/1	1,348	\$462,000
25 Pleasant View Ave.	Beacon	3	2/0	1,404	\$470,000
9-11 Rombout Ave.	Beacon	6	3/1	3,640	\$850,000

FISHKILL (BEACON CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT)	CITY	BEDS	BATHS	SQ FT	SOLD!
16 Red Schoolhouse Rd.	Fishkill	3	1/0	1,200	\$275,000
130 Greenwood Dr.	Fishkill	3	1/0	1,500	\$290,000
155 Cherrywood Dr.	Fishkil	4	2/0	1,998	\$380,000

WAPPINGER (BEACON CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT)	CITY	BEDS	BATHS	SQ FT	SOLD!
26 Bank St.	Wappinger	3	1/1	1,408	\$406,000
70 Old State Rd.	Wappinger	2	3/0	2,118	\$450,000
2 W Caroline Dr.	Wappinger	3	2/0	1,842	\$480,000

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The Calendar



Dancers from the Newburgh Performing Arts Academy prepare for the performance, which includes a red ball that serves as a symbol of distraction.



Fadugba with a painting from her series, *Dreams from the Deep End*

Photos provided

Dancing IN THE DEEP END

Newburgh performance addresses the politics of the pool

By Alison Rooney

On Nov. 20 — not a time of year people in the Northeast associate with swimming — a group of teenage dancers from the Newburgh Performing Arts Academy will enter a long-abandoned pool at the headquarters of the city's Boys and Girls Club.

The 14-, 15- and 16-year-olds will use the empty pool as an unusual stage to perform *Dear Young Artist*, a collaborative work by Modupeola Fadugba.

The project is being produced by Strongroom, a Newburgh-based nonprofit founded in 2016 by Kelly Schroer that produces pop-up exhibits and programs that incor-

porate architecture and artwork. "We've done projects in a lot of empty spaces in Newburgh: public spaces, a church, a firehouse, residential row houses," she says.

Fadugba, who was born in Togo and divides her time between Abuja, Nigeria, and Philadelphia, typically creates site-specific works that explore cultural identity, social justice, game theory and the art world. In *Dear Young Artist*, she presents the pool as "a place of creativity and health," especially for young Black artists.

The dancers, led by Kim Turner, the founder and choreographer of the Newburgh Performing Arts Academy, will interpret music and a letter scripted and recited by the artist, accompanied by a red ball. The ball must be ignored, becoming "a metaphor for the young artist not to give in to the alluring distraction" and instead to "tread slowly, and continue swimming," according to the program notes.

"The swim stories I create through art

are rooted in education — my synchronized swimmers become role models of what's possible," Fadugba explains. "They represent a sort of ideal, about rationality, order and harmony in the world. But the truth is that things fall apart."

This project is part of Fadugba's global initiative, *The Artist's Algorithm*, a series of exhibitions, essays, talks, games, performances, mentorship programs, murals and videos that address education, politics and governance. Her most recent exhibition, *Dreams from the Deep End*, depicts swimmers exploring collaborative ways of being in the water together, set against the bleak backdrop of America's racialized — and often tragic — swimming history.

Schroer met the artist, who holds a bachelor's degree in chemical engineering from the University of Delaware a master's degree in economics from Delaware, and a master's degree in education from Harvard, just over a year ago during an online panel discussion. She talked about Strongroom, and Fadugba called her, saying she happened to know this pool was empty, and a collaboration was born.

Soon thereafter, Schroer contacted Kevin White of the Boys and Girls Club, who happens to be married to Turner, about the idea. It all came together.

"These projects can be chicken-and-egg: Do you make a piece for a space, or do you have an idea and look for the space?" Schroer says.



The performances will take place in this empty pool at the Boys and Girls Club in Newburgh.



How to See *Dear Young Artist*

There will be performances of *Dear Young Artist* on Saturday (Nov. 20) at 2, 3, and 4 p.m. at the Boys and Girls Club, 285 Liberty St., in Newburgh. Spectators will be invited to enter the shallow end and consider the history of community pools, and who has traditionally been denied access. Time slots can be reserved at dearyoungartist.eventbrite.com, and the performances will also be streamed at instagram.com/strongroom.inc.

Following the performances, an installation of paintings will be on view at the site, along with a projection of the performance, from noon to 5 p.m. on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays through Dec. 18, with exception of Thanksgiving week. For reservations, email info@strongroom.us.



"Blue Swimmers" (above right) and paintings from Fadugba's 2016 series, *Dear Young Artist*

THE WEEK AHEAD

Edited by Pamela Doan (calendar@highlandscurrent.org)

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

COMMUNITY

SAT 20

Made For You Pop-Up Shop

COLD SPRING

10 a.m. – 6 p.m. 50 Main St.

Shop for local handmade crafts, goods and art. Also SUN 21, MON 22, FRI 26, SAT 27, SUN 28, MON 29.



SAT 20

3-D Model of Proposed HVSF Site

GARRISON

10 a.m. – Noon.

Garrison School (Pavilion)

1100 Route 9D | hvshakespeare.org

The Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival will share a model of the changes it hopes to make on property donated to the company. Register online.

SAT 20

Open House

FISHKILL

11 a.m. – 2 p.m. | 461 Route 9

Dutchess Community College

sunydutchess.edu/gofishkill

Learn about the programs offered at DCC's new remote campus and find out how to apply for financial aid.

SUN 21

Thanksgiving Candlelight Service

COLD SPRING

5 p.m. Putnam History Museum

Via Zoom | putnamhistorymuseum.org

The 63rd holiday service will feature the readings of historic presidential proclamations with context added about Putnam County's history, as well as a performance by the Mapletones String Band. *Free*

FRI 26

HVArtMarket Makers Market

POUGHKEEPSIE

10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Locust Grove Estate

2683 South Road | hvartmarket.wix.com

Look for fine art, handmade gifts, small batch products and artisanal wares at the seventh annual market. Also SAT 27, SUN 28.

FRI 26

Modern Makers Holiday Market

COLD SPRING

11 a.m. – 4 p.m. St. Mary's Church

1 Chestnut St. | hopsonthehudson.com

Artisans and artists will present their crafts, arts and small batch goods at this fundraiser for the church. Dogs welcome. Also SAT 27, SUN 28. *Cost: \$3 (children free)*

SAT 27

Christmas Tree Lighting

BEACON

4 p.m. Polhill Park | Route 9D and Main

Ornament kits will be available to take home at this fourth annual event, and Girl and Boy Scout troops will sing carols. The lighting takes place at dusk.

STAGE & SCREEN

SAT 20

Class Action Park

BEACON

8 p.m. Story Screen Beacon Theater

445 Main St.

storyscreenbeacon.com

This documentary by Beacon filmmaker Seth Porges looks at all angles of the famed New Jersey amusement park, including deaths and tragedies from poorly designed rides that seemed like exciting thrills. Porges will speak with the audience following the screening. *Cost: \$12*

SAT 20

The Price

WAPPINGERS FALLS

8 p.m. County Players Theater

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

countyplayers.org

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

SAT 20

JB Smoove

PEEKSKILL

8 p.m. Paramount Hudson Valley

1008 Brown St. | 914-739-0039

paramounthudsonvalley.com

The writer, comedian, actor (*Curb Your Enthusiasm*) and author (*The Book of Leon: Philosophy of a Fool*) will perform standup. *Cost: \$49.50 to \$69.50*

FRI 26

Hung With Care

NEWBURGH

8:30 p.m. The Silk Factory

299 Washington St.

biggayhudsonvalley.com

The queer holiday burlesque

spectacular returns for its eighth season with performances from cabaret artists, circus acts and drag. Ages 16+. *Cost: \$35*

VISUAL ART

SAT 20

Holiday Pottery Show & Sale

GARRISON

10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Garrison Art Center

23 Garrison's Landing | 845-424-3960

garrisonartcenter.org

Work by more than 30 regional ceramic artists will be on view and available for purchase as well as jewelry. The show runs daily through SUN 28, except for Thanksgiving.



SAT 20

Holiday Small Gift Show

BEACON

Noon – 5 p.m. Howland Cultural Center

477 Main St. | 845-831-4988

howlandculturalcenter.org

In this annual show, artisan and handmade crafts, prints, jewelry, ceramics, candles and toys will be available for purchase. Also, FRI 26, SAT 27, SUN 28. Continues on weekends through Dec. 19.



Class Action Park, Nov. 20

SAT 20

Dear Young Artist

NEWBURGH

1 – 5 p.m. Boys and Girls Club

285 Liberty St.

dearyoungartist.eventbrite.com

Nigerian artist Modupeola Fadugba created an art installation in the club's empty swimming pool that will be on view through Dec. 18. At 2, 3 and 4 p.m., the Newburgh Performing Arts Academy Dancers will perform Fadugba's work. (See Page 11.) Seating is limited. *Free*

TALKS & TOURS

SAT 20

Bird Walk

WAPPINGERS FALLS

7:30 a.m. Stony Kill Farm

79 Farmstead Lane

putnamhighlandsaudubon.org

Look for migratory sparrows and other late-season species on this guided walk presented by the Putnam Highlands Audubon Society. *Cost: \$10*

SAT 20

Wreath-Making Workshop

BREWSTER

10 a.m. Cornell Cooperative Extension

1 Geneva Road

putnam.cce.cornell.edu/events

Use grapevines, evergreens and dried plants to make a holiday wreath. *Cost: \$25*

SUN 21

Cooking Demo

BEACON

10 a.m. Farmers Market | 223 Main St.

beaconfarmersmarket.org

Melissa Cantrell Welch, a student at the Culinary Institute of America, will demonstrate how to make butternut squash soup.

TUES 23

Textile Mills in the 19th Century

BEACON

7 p.m. Via Zoom | beaonhistorical.org

In this Beacon Historical Society webinar, Sarah Johnson will share the history of the Glenham and Groveville textile mills on the Fishkill River.

FRI 26

Twilight Tour

GARRISON

4 – 7 p.m. Boscobel | 1601 Route 9D

845-265-3638 | boscobel.org

Take a candlelight tour of the

historic mansion decorated as it would have been in the 19th century and stroll the lit up and decorated grounds. Also SAT 27, FRI 2, SAT 3. Continues through Dec. 18. *Cost: \$25 (\$15 ages 5 to 18, members \$20/\$12, ages 5 and younger free)*

KIDS & FAMILY

WED 23

Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer

POUGHKEEPSIE

6 p.m. MJN Convention Center

14 Civic Center Plaza

midhudsonciviccenter.org

The beloved holiday television musical comes to the stage. *Cost: \$29 to \$60*

FRI 26

Meet the Animals

CORNWALL

Noon – 4 p.m. Wildlife Education Center

25 Boulevard | hhnrm.org

Every hour there will be a presentation for children ages 3 and older with and about animals that live at the Nature Museum. Registration required. Also SAT 27, SUN 28. *Cost: \$5 (members free)*

SUN 28

Meet Santa at the East Gate

POUGHKEEPSIE

11 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Walkway Over the Hudson

61 Parker Ave. | walkway.org

Kris Kringle and characters from the movie *Frozen* will be available for photos and greetings.

MUSIC

SAT 20

Popa Chubby Band

BEACON

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

845-855-1300 | townecrier.com

The blues-and-rock guitarist is known for his energy and showmanship. *Cost: \$30 (\$35 door)*

SAT 20

Ras Moshe Burnett & Dafna Naphtali

BEACON

8 p.m. Howland Cultural Center

477 Main St. | 845-831-4988

howlandculturalcenter.org

The multi-instrumentalists will perform music from their debut album, *Fuse Box*. *Cost: \$20 (\$25 door)*



Ras Moshe Burnett, Nov. 20

SUN 21
Ian Moore
BEACON

10:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. Farmers Market
223 Main St. | beaconfarmersmarket.org

The fiddler and dancer will be making the rounds. Sponsored by *The Highlands Current*.

SUN 21
Salvatore Pronesti
WEST POINT

2:30 p.m. Cadet Chapel | westpoint.edu

The concert organist and director of the International Music Festival of the Pantheon in Rome will direct a program that includes improvisations, transcriptions and symphonic marches. *Free*

SUN 21
Death & Transfiguration
PEEKSKILL

3 p.m. Paramount Hudson Valley
1008 Brown St. | 914-739-0039
paramounthudsonvalley.com

The newly formed Orchestra 914, with musical director Russell Ger, will perform its first concert with Schubert's *Death and the Maiden* and Schoenberg's *Transfigured Night*, and a reading by local performing artist Frank Shiner. *Cost: \$35 and \$50*

SUN 21
Alexander String Quartet
BEACON

4 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
477 Main St. | 845-765-3012
howlandmusic.org

In this concert organized by the

Howland Chamber Music Circle, violist Paul Yarbrough will join the quartet to perform works by Mozart and Beethoven and 21st-century composer Jesse Montgomery. *Cost: \$45 (\$15, students under 25)*

MON 22**Joe Fiedler****BEACON**

8:30 p.m. Quinn's | 330 Main St.
facebook.com/quinnbeacon

Fiedler will celebrate the release of his album, *Open Sesame*.

FRI 26
A Thanksgiving Feast of Irish Music
BEACON

8 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com

Due to COVID-19 travel restrictions, all members of Cherish the Ladies can't perform at the annual show, but band leader Joanie Madden and co-founder Mary Coogan will be joined by Mirella Murray, Molly O'Riordan, Bruce Foley and John Reynolds. *Cost: \$45 (\$50 door)*

SAT 27**Slam Allen Band****BEACON**

8 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com

The New York Blues Hall of Fame inductee will perform blues, soul and R&B. *Cost: \$20 (\$25 door)*



Cooking Demo, Nov. 21

CIVIC**MON 22****Putnam Legislature****CARMEL**

6 p.m. Office Building | 40 Gleneida Ave.
putnamcountyny.com

The legislature's economic development, physical services and rules committees will meet consecutively in Room 318.

MON 22**School Board****BEACON**

7 p.m. Beacon High School
101 Matteawan Road | 845-838-6900
beaconk12.org

TUES 23**Board of Trustees****COLD SPRING**

6:30 p.m. Village Hall | 85 Main St.
845-265-3611 | coldspringny.gov

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Bassist Damon Banks
Co-Founder

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<p>MONDAYS 4:30 - 5:30 P.M. Ready, Set Up, Sound / Beginner Violin Group Class / Teaching Artist: Eva Gerrard</p>	<p>MONDAYS 5:00 - 6:00 P.M. Cello and Song / Beginner Cello Group Class / Teaching Artist: Patricia Santos</p>	<p>MONDAYS 5:30 - 6:30 P.M. Universal Rhythms / Intro to Frame Drumming / Teaching Artist: J.Why</p>
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MONDAYS 6:30 - 7:30 P.M.
Stand up, Take a Solo / Creative Strings Improvisers Ensemble
Intermediate/2 years and beyond String Players / Teaching Artist: Gwen Laster.

ROOTS AND RHYTHM
Electric and Upright Bass / Teaching Artist: Damon Banks / Email to schedule privately.

Email takeasolo2020@gmail.com

Roast Chicken & Butternut Squash with Turkish Spices, Feta & Pistachios

Small, Good Things

Come Together

By Joe Dizney

For me, cooking is about coming back to something simple. It's not a test or a contest and shouldn't be that big a deal. It's not about *cooking* — it's about *eating* — nourishment for the body but also feeding the mind, senses and soul.



How does a recipe develop? It's not magic. It can be as simple as Samin Nosrat's salt-fat-acid-heat (to which I would add *sweet*) — a formulation, or rather, informal framework, for making natural flavor and textural connections that work and make the familiar new again.

You might spot this week's recipe as a return to themes from recent columns: cider, Turkish-inflected spices, butternut squash, sheet-pan cooking.

The combination of cumin and Aleppo pepper worked deliciously in this summer's Green Shakshuka. They made a return engagement for a Spiced Squash Bisque.

With last month's boiled cider, the nascent formula had the makings of a nice seasonal glaze for roast squash.

Which it did. When it was topped by a crumbling of feta over the top of the squash, I was reminded of the textural trick that food writer Albert Stumm came up with trying to replicate creamy Bulgarian feta: smoothing the coarse cheese by tossing it in a couple of tablespoons of heavy cream. The addition of lime zest and lime juice further brightened the dish. Chopped, roasted pistachios add a nutty crunch. Completely

satisfactory, for now ...

But on a second pass, with a pack of Green Circle chicken thighs needing to get used, the thought occurred: Why not make a meal of it?

The chicken and squash, roasted in the same earthy spices (with a touch of sweetness from the cider) were a natural match and tastily pulled together by creamy cheese sauce and crunchy nuts.

What more could you want? Maybe a salad? After I remembered another favorite sheet-pan recipe (this one with chicken, fennel and shallots in a lemon vinaigrette, itself containing chunks of Parmigiano-Reggiano) served hot on mixed fresh greens, this one came together atop a bed of baby spinach.

Further notes, extrapolations and second thoughts keep cropping up: First, this could easily be a vegetarian recipe. The squash would be more than enough, and as we enter the holiday season, the squash — no chicken, no spinach, maybe some apples — would be an exceptional holiday side. Or you could substitute maple syrup or honey for the reduced cider. (Again, the apple flavor is nice and could be amplified by coring and slicing into thin wedges and roasting along with the squash and chicken.)

If the feta-cream formula seems too precious, simply crumble some goat cheese over the dish. If you're feeling particularly adventurous, make a *gastrique* with some of the boiled cider and a splash of cider vinegar and drizzle it warm over everything.

There are certainly other connections and substitutions that you can use to make this your own, but the best connection you can possibly make is by sharing and enjoying the holidays with friends.

Serves 4

- 1/4 cup extra-virgin olive oil
- 2 teaspoons ground cumin
- 2 cups organic apple cider reduced to 1/4 cup (substitute maple syrup or honey but omit the sugar)
- 1 teaspoon dark brown sugar
- 2 teaspoons Aleppo pepper (substitute 1 1/2 teaspoon sweet paprika + 1/2 teaspoon cayenne)
- Kosher salt and ground black pepper
- 4 bone-in chicken thighs (or your preferred cut)
- 2 pounds butternut squash, peeled, seeded and quartered lengthwise and crosswise into 1/2-to-3/4-inch thick wedges
- 4 ounces feta cheese, crumbled (about 1 cup)
- 3 tablespoons heavy cream
- 1/4 teaspoon grated lime zest, plus
- 1/2 teaspoon lime juice
- Baby spinach
- 1/4 cup (or more) pistachios, roasted and chopped roughly

1. Heat oven to 400 degrees with rack in the lower-middle position. Whisk together the oil, cumin, brown sugar, 2 to 3 tablespoons of the reduced cider, 1 1/2 teaspoons of the Aleppo pepper, 2 teaspoons salt and 1 teaspoon black pepper in a measuring cup. In a large bowl, toss squash with about 3/4 of the spice "dressing"; distribute squash evenly on a rimmed baking sheet. In the same bowl, toss the chicken with the remaining spice dressing and nestle among the squash pieces. Pour any remaining dressing over the chicken and squash. Roast until golden brown, about 45 minutes.
2. In a small bowl, mix together the feta, cream, lime zest and juice and the remaining Aleppo pepper. Reserve.
3. To serve, plate individually, mounding squash and chicken on a handful or two of baby spinach. Drizzle some of the pan juices over all. Dot with the feta-cream mixture and garnish with chopped pistachios.



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“ You might spot this week's recipe as a return to themes from recent columns: cider, Turkish-inflected spices, butternut squash, sheet-pan cooking.



COMING ATTRACTIONS

By Alison Rooney

Beacon Hop & Shop

The focus for this fourth annual Beacon event, which takes place this year on Thursday (Dec. 2) and Friday (Dec. 3), is to entice residents to shop local for the holidays with festivities, sales and specials.

The sponsorship spots sold out in 90 minutes after the dates were announced on Instagram, says Erin Murphy, who owns Reservoir, which moved this year from Beacon to Cold Spring. “Everyone was just so gung-ho,” she says.

Murphy founded the event in 2018 with Lauren Decker of King + Curated, which is a sponsor, along with Flora Good Times, Solstad House, Last Outpost, Sullivan & Main, The Blushery, Melzingah, The Leaf NY, Nourish Natural Soap Co. and Luxe Optique.

The money collected from sponsorships all goes to marketing, Murphy said. In years past, only businesses that paid could participate; this year, it is open to all, although sponsors will get more promotion. More than 50 retailers have signed up to participate and registration continues through Monday (Nov. 22).

Murphy is not printing maps this year, but details will be available for shoppers at hopandshopbeacon.com. Details about sales and specials will be posted at the site beginning Nov. 29.

Cold Spring Aglow

On Friday (Dec. 10), from 5 to 9 p.m., Cold Spring’s Main Street from the top of the hill to the waterfront will be lined with

hundreds of glowing luminarias.

The holiday-decorated windows of Main Street shops will also provide light, with many businesses planning to stay open until 9 p.m.

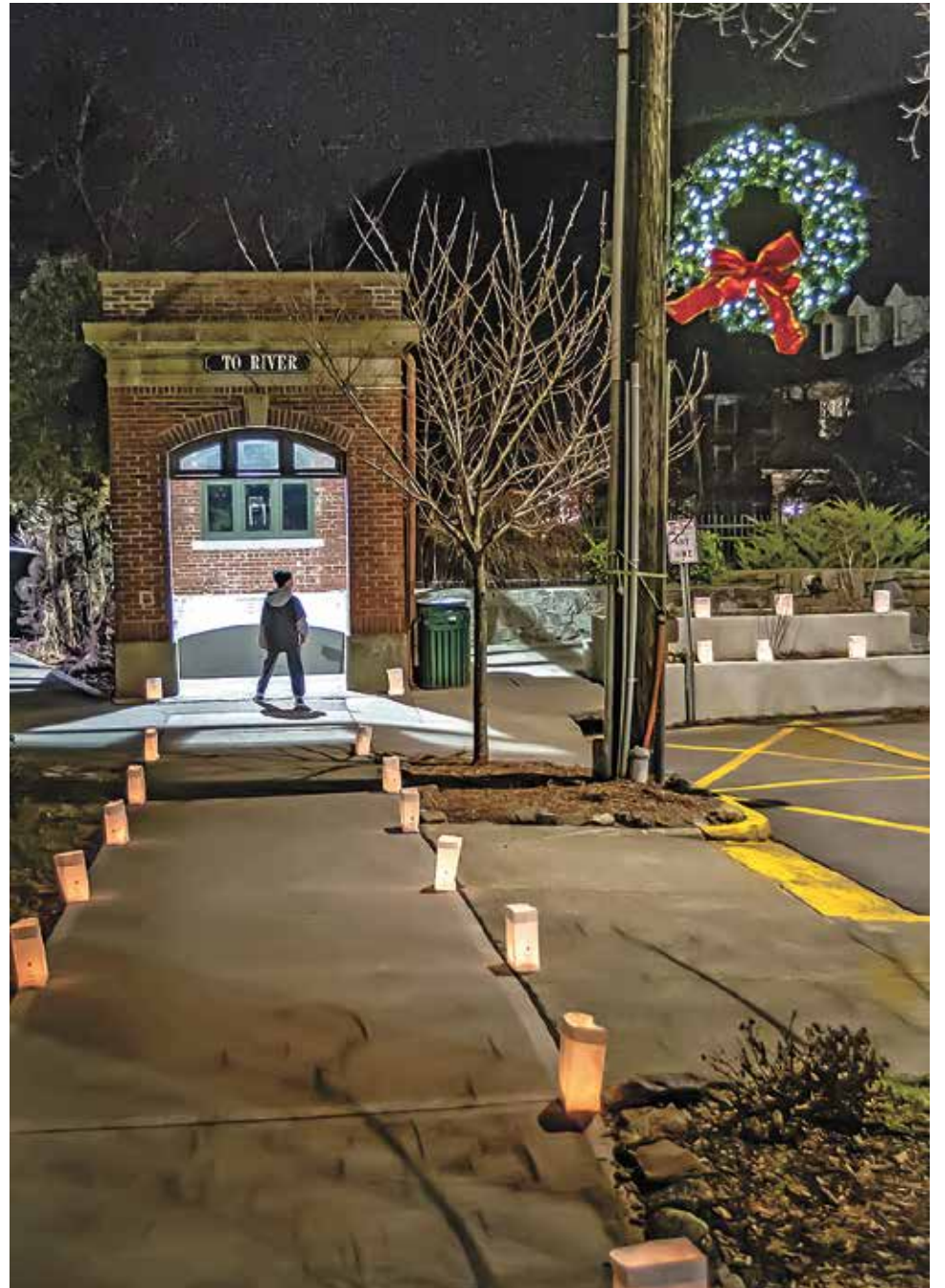
“Our hope is to bring a physical light to the village, as friends, neighbors and families come together,” says Murphy, who is co-organizing the event with Hannah Salit. The goal is to “make Aglow a mainstay in our village festivities.”

Adds Salit: “We are looking toward this 2021 winter gathering after missing much community assembly in 2020 [when the event was canceled because of the pandemic shutdown]. It’s about how can we move forward and create tradition again.”

For a donation of \$20 or more, a luminaria kit may be ordered through coldspringnychamber.com/aglow, with pickup on Dec. 3 from 4 to 7 p.m. at Reservoir, 101 Main St. Proceeds will benefit the Philipstown Food Pantry.

The luminarias can memorialize or honor a family member or friend or an organization, and tributes can appear on the Aglow website and in the Dec. 10 issue of *The Current*. Sponsors include the Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival, Pidala Landscaping, Paulette Cold Spring, Reservoir, Old Souls and *The Current*.

The festivities will begin at dusk with a 15-minute performance coordinated by the Philipstown Depot Theatre in which 15 adults and five children adorned in “suggestions of Dickensian costumes” will sing holiday carols. The songs will be interspersed with performances of excerpts from *A Christmas Carol* by Greg Miller.



Cold Spring Aglow in 2019

Photo by Amy Kubik



A retailer's window on Main Street in Beacon decorated for a previous Hop & Shop

Photo by Grace Sakellariou

Looking Back in Philipstown

By Chip Rowe

150 Years Ago (November 1871)

The Watson Brothers, “three flying men of the air, assisted by a fine ballet troupe and some choice vocalists,” performed at Town Hall.

The children of Cold Spring celebrated the end of October by throwing cabbage stumps at people and buildings, which *The Cold Spring Recorder* dismissed as a “foreign practice.”

E.P. Dykeman and C. Bullock were thrown from their wagon while returning from Putnam Valley when a wheel hit a rock in the road.

William Hustis, William J. Hustis and Milton Hustis of North Highlands departed for Kansas to hunt buffalo.

Edward Ward suffered a fatal head injury while painting an iron tank at the West Point Foundry when his scaffolding tipped and he was thrown into a pile of iron. He had moved to Cold Spring to work at the foundry in 1832.

Word arrived that Thomas Avery of Nelsonville, who had sailed a few weeks earlier for Cuba, had died at Cienfuegos of yellow fever.

C.C. Griffin reported finding an unusual Native American ornament near his home: It was fish-shaped, with a hole drilled in one end. It appeared to be talc hardened by heat.

An intoxicated man kicked over the stove at the beer shop run by Mrs. Patrick Devine west of the tracks, causing a fire that was contained using water from a hand pump and by pitching the stove outdoors.

125 Years Ago (November 1896)

Irving McCoy, editor of *The Cold Spring Recorder*, advised: “This is the season of the year when drivers ought to blanket their horses when they leave them standing for any length of time, if the life of the animal is worth a blanket.”

McCoy also noted that, although a large and enthusiastic crowd had gathered at the depot to hear the election results, the campaign itself “had been the quietest in Cold Spring in many years.” Republican candidates won in every district in Putnam County except one in Philipstown.

The traveling Little Vernon Brothers played, sang, whistled and recited at the Methodist Episcopal Church under the auspices of the Epworth League Society.

A St. Bernard owned by Charles Briggs was said to have followed a hawk that stole one of the Briggs’ chickens to the mountain-side, retrieved the chicken and returned it, unharmed, to the barnyard.

The Recorder carried a notice reminding parents of a new state law that all children between ages 8 and 14 had to attend school,



The traveling Little Vernon Brothers performed at Town Hall in 1896.



In 1896, Corbin's Park in New Hampshire shipped bison to New York City by way of Cold Spring.

and that those between 14 and 16 had to attend unless gainfully employed.

About 150 people attended a Thursday night lecture by the Rev. Samuel Parkes Cadman at the North Highlands Methodist Episcopal Church on life in London, where he was born and grew up. Cadman, 33, was in charge of the Central Metropolitan Temple in New York City, where Gen. Ulysses Grant formerly worshipped. [Cadman, who in the 1920s would become a pioneering radio pastor, was widely cited for quips such as “A little experience often upsets a lot of theory.”]

Bridget McMahon, who shot Patrick O'Malley to death in October at Highland Station following a dispute, was indicted by a grand jury in Carmel on charges of manslaughter in the first degree. She was released on \$1,000 bail.

Justice John Riggs heard a lawsuit at Town Hall against Joseph Griffin by Daniel McElroy Jr., who contended he had agreed to buy 30 barrels of apples at 75 cents per barrel for No. 1 fruit and 40 cents per barrel for windfalls and No. 2 fruit but that No. 2s were passed off as No. 1s. The defendant argued the contract was null regardless because the product had been delivered by his son, Frederick, without his approval. The judge awarded McElroy \$12.

Mr. Osborn hired W.H. Ladue to construct a stone fountain in Depot Square

in Garrison with material from the King Granite Quarry in memory of Osborn's deceased son. It was to be fed by the Helen Wilson spring.

Sewell Thornhill resigned his position at Boyd & Co. to open his own drugstore on Long Island.

The mangled body of Owen Hayden was found at 6 p.m. about 60 feet north of the Garrison freight depot. He was a night watchman for the railroad stationed at the tunnel and it was supposed that he had stepped aside for a southbound express but was caught by one of the steps and dragged under the wheels. His body was found by his brother, Daniel. Owen's lantern was found on the end of a tie on the north track.

Sylvenus Ferris and Fred Camp saved Camp's barn behind his home on Main Street from being destroyed when they threw a burning bag filled with asbestos and hair fiber out of the hay loft.

The Haldane Debating Club held its monthly meeting to address the question, “Resolved: That machinery has been generally beneficial to mankind.”

When an oil lamp being carried by Ellen Burns of Market Street exploded, she quickly tore off her flaming apron but burned her hands.

The Recorder reported “talk of giving the sheriff of Putnam County a salary.”

Two railroad carloads filled with bison passed through on their way from Austin Corbin's preserve in New Hampshire to Van Cortlandt Park in the Bronx.

After finding one of his chickens partly eaten, John Meeks poisoned the remains and the next day found a dead hoot owl whose wingspan measured 3 ½ feet.

100 Years Ago (November 1921)

John Brooks was elected as the Philipstown superintendent of highways following an unusual race. The Republicans nominated the Democratic incumbent, Fenton Smith, claiming they had taken the party's “best man.” In response, the Democrats endorsed Brooks, the candidate of the People's Party, who won every district except No. 3, where Smith lived.

W.E. Hickey renovated his pool parlor and added a second table.

The Sterling Brothers troupe performed *Uncle Tom's Cabin* at Town Hall with child actor Little Flossie as Eva and “high-class vaudeville” between acts.

Some leaves from a pile being burned by Joseph Davis Sr. in Garrison were carried to his roof, starting a fire that caused serious damage. Firefighters from Peekskill and West Point managed to keep the flames from spreading to other buildings by pumping water through hose lines from the river.

About 300 people gathered at the war monument to participate in an Armistice Day ceremony. Following the singing of the “Battle Hymn of the Republic,” a flag was raised on a new pole, then lowered to half-mast. The crowd sang “The Star-Spangled Banner,” followed by invocations and two minutes of silence.

The Hudson Tire and Rubber Co. screened *The Making of a Tire* at Town Hall with scenes from rubber plantations in Borneo and a factory in Akron, Ohio. The firm planned to open a plant in Yonkers that would produce 7,500 tires a day.

The Town Board granted a franchise to the Philipstown Electric Co. of Garrison.

Parcels selected for the Julia Butterfield Memorial Hospital and public library eight years earlier were put up for sale by the county, which had seized them for unpaid taxes.

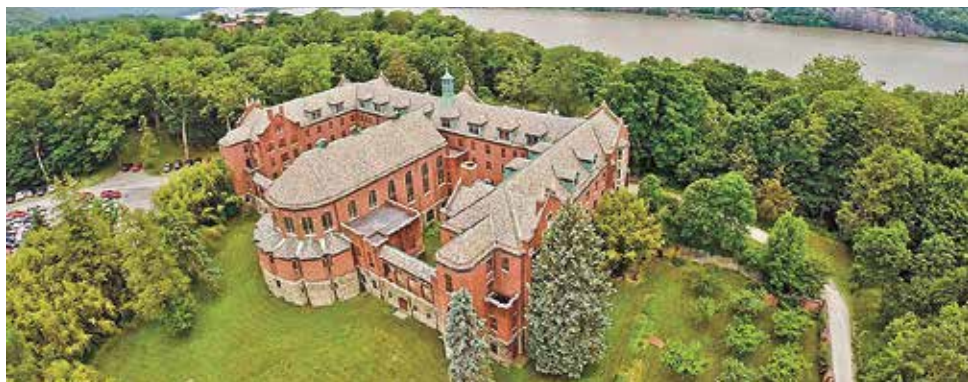
75 Years Ago (November 1946)

A Newburgh man was detained in New York City and sent to the Putnam County jail on charges he stole \$300 worth of tools from Peter Grasse of Garrison. When arrested, he was in a car reported stolen from Farmington, Connecticut, that bore a license plate stolen from Beacon.

A man who was walking at 10 p.m. along Old Albany Post Road [Route 9] was struck and killed south of Lane Gate Road.

According to Earl Devendorf of the state Division of Sanitation, nine communities in the mid-Hudson Valley, including Cold Spring and Beacon, discharged raw sewage into public waters. “The high percentage of untreated sewage in this region — 49 percent — as compared with 20 percent for the entire state, indicates a lag in treatment,” he told state legislators. The communities said they could not afford to construct sewage disposal plants.

(Continued on Page 17)



The former Capuchin Friary is now The Garrison Institute.

Garrison Institute

(Continued from Page 16)

50 Years Ago (November 1971)

Joseph Percacciolo, a Democrat, easily won reelection as Philipstown supervisor, while Margaret Mihalik, a Republican, was reelected as town clerk. Three Republican incumbents were reelected to the Town Board and Wendall Lyons, a Democrat, upset incumbent James Moshier to become highway superintendent.

The Haldane school board appointed James Budney, a father of five and former Nelsonville trustee, to replace Ken Mattern, who resigned with the hope his departure would be a first step toward “a unified and progressive school system.”

Joseph DeLuccia, a former Cold Spring resident, died at age 70 in New Hampshire. He was the retired founder of the Cold Spring Dyeing and Finishing Co. and the longtime president of the board of the Butterfield Memorial Hospital.

The Philipstown Community Council

held its annual meeting. Father Dan Egan, head of the New Hope project at Graymoor, spoke about drug addiction, noting that it stemmed from a sick society in which young people were looking for the “real” world through “phony” drugs; were not able to communicate with their parents; and were looking for quick answers. Jan, an 18-year-old from Garrison, also spoke about her addiction to LSD.

The Philipstown Packers came from behind on a 67-yard run in the fourth quarter by Lou Cava to tie the Beacon Colts, 13-13. The Packers finished with a 1-2-3 record.

25 Years Ago (November 1996)

A \$150,000 road grader owned by the Philipstown Highway Department parked on East Mountain Road North was destroyed by fire at 7 a.m. on a Friday. A contentious debate over the paving of East Mountain Road North and Esselborne Road, along with a broken windshield and

missing radio, led to speculation of vandalism.

Kurt Lauer of Cold Spring played Kenny in a production of Neil Simon's *Rumors* at the Paramount Center for the Arts in Peekskill.

Bob Ingram, editor and publisher of *The Putnam County News & Recorder*, announced his retirement. Associate Publisher Brian O'Donnell was promoted.

The Philipstown Depot Theatre on Garrison's Landing opened its doors on Nov. 9. One of its first programs was “a rollicking hour of rural rhythm and rhymes” by James Whitcomb Riley (1849-1916), known as the “Hoosier poet.”

The 93 acres of the Capuchin Friary on Route 9D in Garrison, known as Glencliff, were listed at \$6 million. The land included the friary, a chapel, a dormitory and a gymnasium.

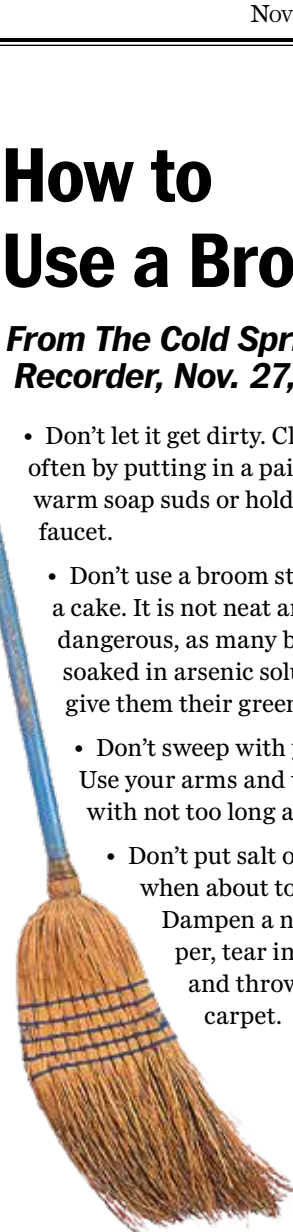
A chemical spill at Pemm Corp. caused a fire that killed a 24-year worker from Pleasant Valley. Route 9 was closed for six hours as 75 firefighters fought the blaze. The building also housed the offices of a chiropractor and podiatrist.

Lt. William Kearns, a New York City firefighter, visited his daughter Leanne and other students in Mrs. Downer's second-grade class at Haldane in full gear, while Westchester police officer Michael Susi, father of sixth-grader Mary, landed a search-and-rescue helicopter on the football field for a science lesson.

How to Use a Broom

From The Cold Spring Recorder, Nov. 27, 1896

- Don't let it get dirty. Cleanse often by putting in a pail of luke-warm soap suds or hold under a faucet.
- Don't use a broom straw to test a cake. It is not neat and very dangerous, as many brooms are soaked in arsenic solution to give them their green color.
- Don't sweep with your back. Use your arms and the broom, with not too long a stroke.
- Don't put salt on the floor when about to sweep. Dampen a newspaper, tear in pieces and throw on the carpet.



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November 25, 2021

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GARRISON ART CENTER

OBITUARIES

Mary Bloom (1940-2021)

Mary Bloom, 81, of Beacon, a staff photographer for the Westminster Kennel Club best known for her shots over 21 years from its annual dog show, died Sept. 28 in Poughkeepsie of cancer.

Born Aug. 15, 1940, in the Bronx, she was the daughter of August and Elizabeth (Reilly) Kreykenbohm. Bloom later recalled that, as a girl, she loved dog shows and magazines such as *Popular Dogs* and *Dog World*. She attended the Westminster Dog Show at Madison Square Garden starting at age 6.

She married Leighton Bloom in 1968, and they divorced about 10 years later.

Before she became a freelance photographer in the mid-1970s, she worked for a computer company, at a university animal testing lab and as a department store salesperson.

According to a profile published in *The New Yorker* in 2012, when told that people called her a “dog whisperer,” she would reply: “No, no, that’s not it at all. I just understand who they are. I mean, not like past-life experience, but I’m familiar with how they feel.”

Her work as a dog groomer and wild-life rehabilitator at the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals inspired two children’s books by Aliki, *At Mary Bloom’s* (1978) and *Overnight at Mary Bloom’s* (1987). Bloom’s photos can be seen at marybloom.com.



Jackie Catalano (1964-2021)

John P. “Jackie” Catalano Jr., 57, a lifelong Beacon resident, died Nov. 1 at the James J. Peters Veterans Affairs Medical Center in the Bronx.

He was born in Cold Spring on Aug. 27, 1964, the son of John Catalano Sr. and Sharon (Lepore) Lee. Jackie was a 1982 graduate of Beacon High School, where he played football and was on the wrestling team. After graduating, he served in the U.S. Air Force from 1983 to 1986 stateside and in Italy.

Following his military service, Jackie attended the inaugural culinary program at Disney World in Florida; his photo was used on the recruitment pamphlet worldwide. He worked as a chef for many local restaurants until 1991, when he was injured in an accident and become a quadriplegic. He remained self-sufficient and mentored many other paralyzed veterans. He also worked for the Eastern Paralyzed Veterans Association.

Jackie was an avid outdoorsman and enjoyed hunting and fishing. He also operated his screen-printing business, T-Top Graphx, for more than 15 years.

Along with his mother, Jackie is survived by his brother, Jay Catalano (Tracey); his sister, Jennifer Howard (Rob); his nephews, Cory and Nick Catalano, Zachary Hackbart and Jack Howard; and his nieces, Kailyn Hack-



bart and Rebecca and Madison DeLeo.

A memorial Mass of Christian Burial will be offered at 10 a.m. on Saturday (Nov. 20) at St. Joachim Church in Beacon, followed by interment with military honors at Cold Spring Cemetery. Memorial donations may be made to the Fisher House Foundation at the James J. Peters VA Medical Center (fisherhouse.org).

Karn Dunn (1947-2021)

Karen “Karn” Dunn, 74, of Bath, Maine, died at her home on Oct. 27, surrounded by family members.

Born Sept. 21, 1947, in Madison, Wisconsin, she was the daughter of Delmar and Alice Karlen. She spent much of her life in the Hudson Valley, with stops in Turkey, New York City, Vermont and Washington, D.C., before moving to Maine in 2016.

Most of Karn’s career was spent at Boscobel House & Gardens in Garrison. She wore numerous hats during her time there and retired as the director of marketing. Later in life, Karn parlayed her love of baking into Cookies du Jour, an artisanal baking company that she ran with her husband.

She was appointed to the Cold Spring Planning Board and elected to the Village Board. During her time at Boscobel, she and a friend developed and taught Speaking Out for Democracy, a program designed to teach students about the democratic



system of government and the importance of using your voice.

Karn rarely met a creative pursuit she did not enjoy or at least was not willing to try, her family said. Over the years she honed her skills in gardening, calligraphy, decorative box making, etching and paper marbling, to name a few. Notable fails included knitting a sweater with arms long enough for a giraffe and ruining a blender when trying to make handmade paper.

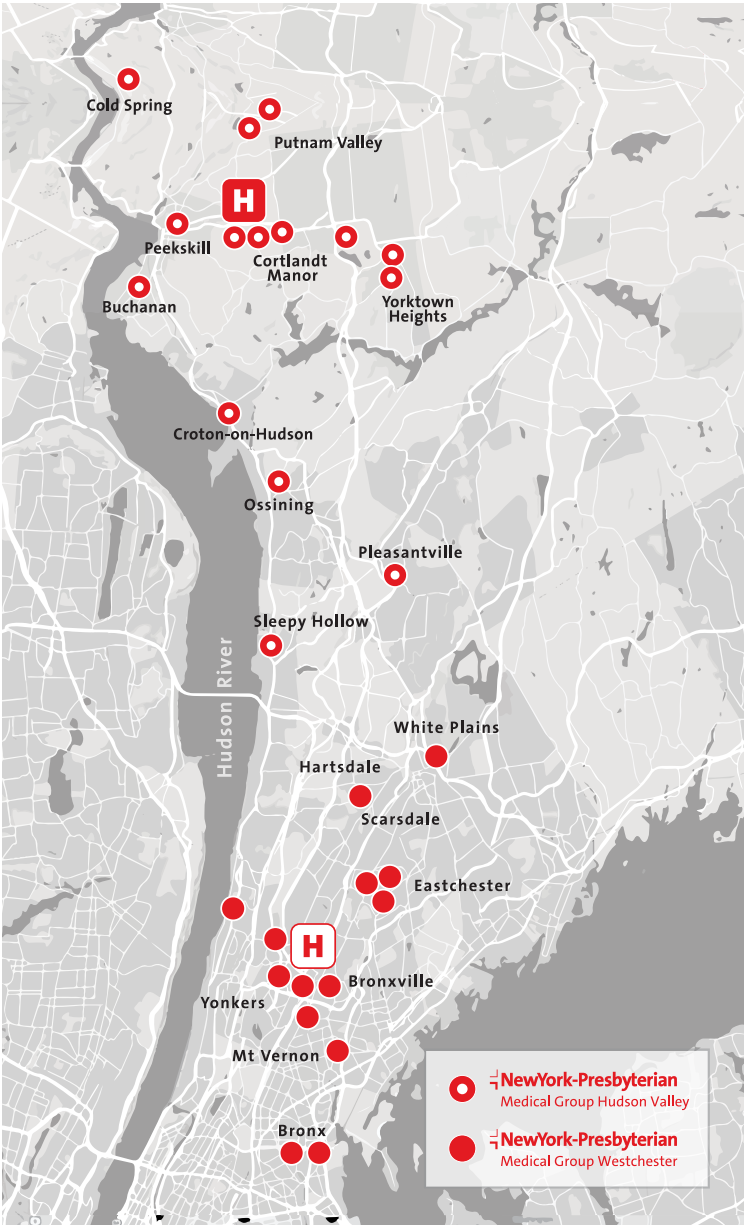
She is survived by her husband of 46 years, John Dunn; their daughter, Alicia Dunn of Boston; a brother, Delmar Karlen Jr. (Irene); and a stepdaughter, Yonina Ron and her children, Omri and Noam, of Israel. As a memorial, the family asks that you plant bulbs or seeds to enjoy in your garden and home; donations can be made to a charity of choice.

Doris Filkins (1926-2021)

Doris Helen Filkins, 94, a longtime Fishkill resident and Beacon schoolteacher, died Nov. 6 at Vassar Brothers Medical Center in Poughkeepsie.

She was born Dec. 30, 1926, in Beacon, the daughter of Edward and Viola (Smith) Johnson. On Aug. 28, 1954, at First Presbyterian Church of Beacon, she married Donald Filkins, who died in 2015, after

(Continued on Page 19)



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OBITUARIES

(Continued from Page 18)

61 years of marriage. Doris was a lifelong member of First Presbyterian Church, where she was a leader in the Session and a fixture in the choir.

Doris graduated with a master's degree in special education from Hartwick College and was a teacher for more than 30 years at South Avenue Elementary. She was an avid reader and birdwatcher and loved hearing the latest news about her grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

She is survived by her daughters, Margaret Rifenburg, Anne Degli-Angeli, Miriam Tully and Janet Reynolds; her sister, Patty Weissman; 10 grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren, with one more on the way.

A funeral service was held Nov. 9 at First Presbyterian Church, followed by interment at Fishkill Rural Cemetery.

Ken Ludlum (1929-2021)

Kenneth H. Ludlum, 91, a former longtime resident of Beacon, died in Mount Airy, Maryland, on Oct. 19.



He was born in Albany on Nov. 16, 1929, the son of John and Mary (Harpham) Ludlum. Ken lived the early part of his life in Albany, graduating from the New York State College for Teachers (now SUNY Albany) with a bach-

elor's degree in 1951 and a master's in 1952.

On Dec. 19, 1953, Ken married Audrey Robinson McEwen, who died in 1995.

Three months after receiving his master's, Ken entered the U.S. Air Force with a commission to become a meteorologist. After a year studying at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and four months of basic training, he was made a first lieutenant and stationed overseas at Toul-Rosières Air Base in France. He and Audrey spent three years in France.

Upon returning from France, Ken attended Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, receiving his doctorate in physical chemistry in 1961. He was honorably discharged from the Air Force in 1962.

Ken was a resident of Beacon for more than 50 years and worked at the Texaco Research Center for nearly 32 years until his retirement in 1992. As a senior research chemist, he worked extensively on environmental matters to reduce air pollution after passage of the Clean Air Act of 1963.

Ken was an avid skier, just like Audrey, and took full advantage of the former Dutchess Ski Area in Beacon. He was an active member of Trinity Episcopal Church in Fishkill, singing in the choir for many years, and also was a member of the Euterpe Glee Club. Indeed, Ken enjoyed singing until the very end of his life.

Ken is survived by his children, Andrew Ludlum (Nicole), Timothy Ludlum (Sandra), Robert Ludlum and Martha Ludlum

(Steven Morris); his grandchildren, Christine Weeks, Heather Wiley and Nathan Ludlum; and five great-grandchildren.

A graveside service was held Oct. 27 at Fishkill Rural Cemetery with military honors.

Lynda Vrooman (1941-2021)

Lynda Vrooman, 80, of Garrison, died Oct. 23 of cancer.

Born June 15, 1941, Lynda built a life on her three passions: family, community and creative expression. Following her marriage to Edward Vrooman, she dedicated her early years to teaching children in the community at the Haldane school.

After having children, she threw herself into the role of full-time mother. As her children grew older, she became involved in the Highlands Country Club's tennis program, the Philipstown Garden Club and the Putnam County Historical Society (now Putnam History Museum). She served as the president of the Historical Society and was later named a "trustee emerita" for her work, an honor created for four women who were stalwart supporters of the mission of the society.

All the volunteer work led Lynda to become director of development at the Julia L. Butterfield Memorial Hospital in the early 1990s. She went to become the regional executive director of the American Cancer Society. The final position of her career was at Drum Hill, an assisted living center in Peekskill, where she was executive

director from 2001 to 2009.

After retiring, Lynda spent her time decorating, painting, gardening and engaging with her four granddaughters.

She is survived by her daughter Heather Zuckerman (Neal) of Garrison and their daughters, Madeline and Lily; and her daughter Katrina Roos (Brian) of Charlotte, North Carolina, and their daughters Lydia and Vivian. In addition, she is survived by her sister, Jerlene Boldrin of Poughkeepsie.

Memorial donations may be made to the Putnam History Museum (putnamhistory-museum.org).

Other Recent Deaths*Beacon*

Chuck Clement, 79	Janice Larkin, 82
Bette Darcy, 102	Jim Layton, 76
Anna Dupree, 93	Peggy Santiago-Santana, 68
Dolores Duva	Susan Staller, 66
Marilyn Formichelli, 64	Tito Velazquez Jr., 36
Jean Guarneri, 90	John Wojcik, 63
Gloria LaColla, 92	

Philipstown

Anne Champlin, 83	Annie Lyons, 61
John Egan, 76	Julia Oken, 90
Mary Ann Fullam, 70	Ulrich Reichel, 76
Nancy Hastede, 87	Penelope Smith, 76

For more obituaries, see highlandscurrent.org/obits.

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Reporter's Notebook

(from Page 1)

Crunching the numbers

Even before the pandemic, many people with lower incomes were struggling with rent. A 2018 report by the Harvard Joint Center on Housing Studies found that 48 percent of all renters nationwide were “cost-burdened” (paying more than 30 percent of their income in rent), including 80 percent of lower-income renters, 55 percent of Black renters and 53 percent of Hispanic renters. A 2020 study by the center also found that renters were more likely to lose their jobs because of the pandemic than homeowners.

That was part of what created the urgency of the federally funded Emergency Rental Assistance Program, which has provided billions in aid in New York state since it began accepting applications on June 1.

At the same time, a statewide moratorium on pandemic-related evictions is set to expire Jan. 15.

The state stopped accepting applications for rental aid on Nov. 14 in all but the seven counties, including Dutchess, where its allocations haven't been exhausted, although Gov. Kathy Hochul has asked Congress for another \$1 billion to replenish it. Households anywhere in the state with income between 80 percent and 120 percent of the area's median also may still apply.

Overall, the program received nearly 280,000 requests for help and has distrib-

uted \$2.1 billion. Another 87,000 applications submitted for \$1.09 billion are pending landlord verification.

The breakdown of New York's data is inconsistent. In Beacon's 12508 ZIP code, the state says it has received 131 applications for past-due rent, 106 applications for prospective rent and 36 applications for utility debts, but I couldn't find any dollar figures for those claims. The closest drill-down is for Dutchess County, where the Emergency Rental Assistance

figures for Beacon showed 16 eviction filings in 2016, which in this market was a lifetime ago. (The lab also notes that many evictions likely went unreported; City Court Judge Tim Pagonis told me last month that there were 10 to 20 pending in Beacon, a number he characterized as typical.)

Earlier this year, Hudson Valley Pattern for Progress issued an analysis (based on National Low Income Housing Coalition data) on the disparity between rents in the region and the wages renters are earning. In

In Dutchess, for example, a person would need to make \$28.21 per hour, or about \$59,000 annually, to afford the typical rent of \$1,467 for a two-bedroom apartment.

Program made 525 back-rent payments for \$3.9 million and 397 future-rent payments for \$1.4 million.

When looking at demographics, the breakdown is even less specific. Excluding New York City, about 52 percent of applicants statewide were white; 37 percent Black and 6 percent “other.” No county data is available.

From there, I wanted to look at evictions, but that information is, yet again, harder to parse.

The Eviction Lab at Princeton University compiles some numbers, but its most recent

Dutchess, for example, a person would need to make \$28.21 per hour, or about \$59,000 annually, to afford the typical rent of \$1,467 for a two-bedroom apartment. The average Dutchess renter earns \$13.79 per hour, or about \$750 less per month than needed.

The top 20 counties in New York state in this monthly renter gap include all nine counties in the Hudson Valley, including Dutchess and Putnam.

Numbers weren't available for municipalities, but it's unlikely the situation in Beacon is an outlier. In fact, based on the incomplete figures published in last year's

countywide rental survey (six higher-density developments in the city did not respond), it's probably far worse.

Too damn high

Do all those stats demonstrate that Beacon needs a just-cause eviction law?

New York Attorney General Letitia James, a Democrat who is running for governor next year, was frank in her support of a statewide measure earlier this month when she channeled political activist Jimmy McMillan, saying in a speech that “paying the rent — yeah, rent is too damn high. Yes, we need to pass good-cause eviction.”

The attorney general's voice is notable because the City Council agreed to ask her opinion to end its stalemate with Ward-Willis, the city attorney, over the municipality's authority to enact landlord-tenant regulations.

I also asked Joey Lindstrom, the director for field organizing for the National Low Income Housing Coalition, for his assessment of good-cause. Is it a silver bullet for affordability? How effective is the law? It's most effective, he said, when coupled with rent regulation or control.

As far as the provision in New York's good-cause measures requiring justification of rent increases above 1.5 percent of the consumer price index, Lindstrom said he “wonders how effective the enforcement of such a protocol would be.”

On paper, that element seems like a “reasonable policy solution,” he said, but in real life — say a landlord provides written justification for an exorbitant rent increase, how easy will it be for a renter, who may have little time and less money, to mount a legal challenge?

Probably not very easy at all.

The only other rent stabilization mechanism at the city's disposal that I'm aware of is the Emergency Tenant Protection Act, which Terry Nelson, one of the soon-to-depart council members, has advocated for years. Unfortunately, the ETPA is a seemingly complex measure that would require Beacon to ask Dutchess County to create a governing board to set limits on how fast the owners of some older buildings can raise rents (although not how much they can charge).

The act would cap annual increases at a percentage determined by the local board but apply only to apartment buildings with six or more units that were built before 1974. The buildings also must not have been “substantially rehabilitated.”

According to the city, the law would affect, at most, 110 apartments.

It's also worth noting that Pattern for Progress, in its third quarter regional housing report, recommends updating local zoning codes to allow accessory dwelling units and two-family homes as one of 10 strategies to increase housing stock.

That's an approach that Mayor Lee Kyriacou has championed, although the rest of the council, outgoing and incoming, seems to favor good-cause eviction as the first line of defense.

It's hard to argue that there's an affordable housing crisis regionally, and Beacon is a hot spot, if not the epicenter. The heat is on city officials to stand up for everyday people who make everyday money and want to live here.



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Philipstown Adopts \$11.5 Million Budget

Ambulance spending up 23 percent, highway down 3

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

In a unanimous vote on Wednesday (Nov. 15), the five-member Philipstown Town Board approved a fiscal 2022 budget of \$11.5 million, to be funded by \$8.5 million in taxes, \$2.1 million in revenue and \$909,500 drawn from reserves.

The budget, which takes effect Jan. 1, represents a 1 percent increase in spending, or about \$153,000, over 2021.

The tax rate will be \$2.70 per \$1,000 of property value in Cold Spring and Nelsonville and \$3.60 per \$1,000 elsewhere, an increase of slightly less than the 2 percent allowed by the state. The villages provide residents with such services as building inspections and street maintenance while non-villagers rely on the town.

Next year, some departments will see fewer dollars: Recreation Department funding will drop 1 percent, to \$1,151,660 (a cut of \$7,437), while money for the Highway Department drops by 3 percent, to \$3.52 million.

The planning and zoning staff and boards were again funded at \$120,000 and \$19,500, respectively, while the Town Clerk's Office will get \$131,240, an increase of 7 percent.

Three of the four fire departments that cover Philipstown will receive increases of 2 to 3 percent: Continental Village will get \$287,500 (2 percent); Garrison will get \$787,350 (2 percent); and North Highlands will get \$812,784 (3 percent). The amount for the Cold Spring Fire Co., meanwhile, will drop 5 percent, to \$60,105.

Spending on ambulance coverage will climb by 23 percent, to \$746,220. Councilor Judy Farrell noted that the Philipstown Volunteer Ambulance Corps and the Garrison Volunteer Ambulance Corps (staffed by volunteers and paid medics) faced escalating demands after the pandemic shutdown. "We need to support our first responders," she said.

"That's money well spent," agreed Supervisor Richard Shea, who did not seek reelection to a seventh, 2-year term and oversaw his last budget before he leaves the board at the end of the year.

Compensation for elected officials mostly will stay the same. John Van Tassel, the councilor elected on Nov. 2 to succeed Shea, will receive a salary of \$27,000. The four board members will again earn \$18,000 each and Highway Superintendent Carl Frisenda will receive \$91,200. Town Clerk Tara Percacciolo will receive a 2 percent raise, to \$63,240, and each of the two town justices will get \$31,000, or a \$1,000 raise.

The pay for town employees will rise by

at least 2 percent. "There's inequities here" and some workers have groused about the higher increases granted to others, Councilor Robert Flaherty told his colleagues.

"I don't feel there are inequities," Van Tassel replied, saying that the higher pay reflects the fact that "roles and responsibilities changed dramatically" and some "people have picked up a lot of slack."

Nonetheless, the board informally agreed to seek advice from an outside expert on standardizing evaluation and compensation practices.

Garrison Water District

In other business, the board approved arrangements with the Open Space Institute and a well-drilling firm for efforts on OSI land along Route 9D to create a new water source for the Garrison Water District, whose current supplies have proven inadequate as consumption has increased.

"This is the most troubled water district on the planet," Shea commented. He said testing has begun on one spot "but we have not hit any water yet. We'll keep going. We're going to find water. It's just a little dispiriting" right now.

NOTICE

The Philipstown Planning Board will hold a special meeting to discuss the Garrison Golf Club PDD/Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival on

Tuesday, November 30, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. virtually via Zoom.

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

Register in advance for this webinar:

https://us02web.zoom.us/join/WN_0qWz6mCL5-CR5apmRJeGg

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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 30th, 2021.

If you are unable to join in person, the meeting will be viewable on youtube.com, search for Philipstown Planning Board November 30th, 2021.

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Basketball Comeback

Beacon coach overcomes medical challenges

By Michael Turton

Ken Dawson thought 2020 was a challenging year. Then came 2021.

It's a year that has forced him to stare down diabetes, COVID-19, amputation and exile from family, friends and the game he loves.

Dawson founded the Playmaker Academy in 2004, a Hopewell Junction-based facility that has helped basketball players of all ages hone their skills through individual instruction and team play. *The Current* profiled him in December 2020.

His playmaker alumni include Beacon's Elijah Hughes, now with the NBA's Utah Jazz, along with professionals in European leagues, countless male and female college players and many more who simply want to play better.

In 2020, the pandemic shutdown closed the academy. It reopened briefly but then closed for good in July after a player contracted COVID-19. The program had also outgrown the Hopewell location, Dawson said.

Dawson's coaching and business partners, Dwight Gillins and Ricky Forde, found an alternate facility — the gym at the old Beacon High School.

But Dawson couldn't join them. A diabetic, Dawson had injured himself while working out. His doctor told him he needed to rest.

"I didn't listen," Dawson said. "I kept doing what I do."

He had a second chance when his doctor told him he could still heal, if he listened.

He did, but not for long.

"I was depressed, couldn't work out,



Ken Dawson moved what's now known as the Playmaker University basketball academy to the old Beacon High School this year.

Photo by M. Turton

couldn't go out," Dawson said. "I wasn't watching my diabetes or what I was eating; I slept terribly."

On Feb. 26, his right foot was swollen and turning gray. When he fell in the bathroom and couldn't get up, his son Ken called an ambulance.

At the hospital, his blood sugar was off the charts. "I could have had a stroke, been in a coma or dead," Dawson said. "God chose none of those."

He was told he would lose three toes. When he awoke from surgery, his right foot had been amputated above the ankle.

"For two days I was a little funky, a little crazy," he remembers. "I was angry, scared, sad, but I was alive."

Things got worse before they got better. "On the fifth day of rehab they checked my blood; my hemoglobin was terrible and I was getting nose bleeds," Dawson said.

After a transfusion, he relapsed and was told he needed a colonoscopy.

"It was now March 31 and I felt good to go," Dawson said. He remembers the date because later that day he was told he had contracted COVID-19. "I caught it in the hospital," he said.

He went into lockdown. For 45 days, Dawson was unable to leave his room. Because he had the coronavirus, the closest facility that would accept him to continue his in-patient rehab was in Far Rockaway, Queens.

He rehabbed there for 45 days; within three weeks he tested negative for the virus. But then, he said, no rehab center close to his Poughkeepsie home would take him "because I'd been in a COVID facility."

Finally, Sapphire Nursing at Meadow Hill in Newburgh agreed to admit him. "They run a hell of a ship," Dawson said. He returned home at the end of September,

seven months after his fall in the bathroom.

Mastering his prosthetic foot has been a challenge. "I can't walk up a stairway yet without difficulty," he said. "But with my rollator, I can walk wherever I want."

Relearning how to drive a car will be his next challenge.

"There's still lots of phantom pain," Dawson said. "It's actually amusing; I don't have a foot, yet I have all the sensations."

Asked what got him through his medical ordeal, Dawson credits family, friends and God. "I don't do religion; I do God," he said.

He admits he wishes he had listened to his doctor. "Without your health you have nothing; you have to do the right things," Dawson said, adding, "Nobody is perfect; I'm not perfect."

His diet has changed. He checks his blood sugar levels every morning. "We're keeping it between 90 and 110[mg/dl]; I'm eating to live now, not living to eat."

And Dawson is back with the game he loves.

During his absence, Forde, Gillins and his son kept the basketball program alive under a new name, Playmaker University. Beacon is proving to be an even better venue.

"I can run tournaments here; I couldn't do that at Hopewell," Dawson said, adding with a chuckle that he has the key to the building and can do whatever he wants.

"I have two gentlemen who come at 6 a.m. on Saturday and Sunday mornings because they want to improve and play overseas."

His foot hasn't sidelined him. "I don't have to stand to coach," he said. When he needs to demonstrate a skill, he calls upon Coach Q and Coach Brandon, two Playmaker graduates who live in Beacon and will soon be starting their own coaching business. Last week Dawson was hired as the varsity girls' basketball coach at Webutuck High School in Amenia.

Despite his perilous journey, Dawson has kept his sense of humor. He even managed to laugh when he said: "I figured 2020 was a bad year, but I had a foot!"

Current Classifieds

NOTICES

FREE THANKSGIVING BREAKFAST — Faith Church Cold Spring at 245 Main St. is hosting its annual FREE breakfast for the community. Join us on Thursday, Nov. 25, from 9-11 a.m. All are welcome.

HOLIDAY SHOPPING — Shop New York at the Modern Makers Holiday Market in Cold Spring, Nov. 26, 27 and 28 and at the New York Craft Beer/Cider Try & Buy event, Dec. 5, both at St. Mary's Episcopal Church. Handmade, handcrafted, one-of-a-kind, small batch. 30+ artisans and artists for November and 20+ brewers and cider makers

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32. — Aviv

33. Hotel worker

34. From — Z

35. *Science Guy* Bill

36. Segments

37. Kanye West's music

39. Moonshine vessel

40. Japanese sash

41. Narcotic

45. Volition

48. Sound of hoofbeats

50. Tom Joad, for one

51. First-rate

52. Onassis nickname

53. Marries

54. A deadly sin

11. UFO crew

16. Stage

20. Ten, in Dijon

23. "— she blows!"

24. Skip

25. Spacecraft compartments

26. Wife of Jacob

27. Intro studio class

28. Fall into a soft chair

29. Spelldown

32. Not out of the ordinary

33. Wizardry

35. San Francisco's — Hill

36. Thing on a string

38. Bagel features

39. Unites

42. Regrettably

43. Rent

44. Grand tale

45. Dazzle

46. White House nickname

47. Cover

49. Baseball's Gehrig

DOWN

1. Clump of grass
2. Capri, e.g.
3. Secular
4. Sully
5. Cove
6. — -Cat
7. Domed building in D.C.
8. Purse fastener
9. Tin Man's need
10. SSW opposite

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7 LITTLE WORDS

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

CLUES

1 animal's den (4)

2 fruit-filled pastries (4)

3 talk show host Johnny (6)

4 picnic pests (4)

5 producing, as in light (8)

6 vegetable farmers (7)

7 Baton Rouge's state (9)

SOLUTIONS

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SUDO CURRENT

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

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Answers for Nov. 12 Puzzles

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

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

1. MIRED, 2. AIRBRUSH, 3. CRINGED, 4. RIVIERA, 5. DOWNSIZE, 6. COFFEY, 7. GLAMORIZES



^ Ryan Van Tassel threw a pair of TD passes for Haldane.

< Ryan Irwin had two TD receptions.

Photos by S. Pearlman

HALDANE FALLS SHORT IN EPIC TITLE GAME

Will fight another day with at-large bid in tournament

By Skip Pearlman

Despite coming up on the short end of a 48-40 score in the Section I, Class D championship game on Nov. 12 at Arlington High School against Tuckahoe, the Blue Devils of Haldane High School will play again today (Nov. 19).

Haldane (6-3) received the Class D at-large bid for the state tournament and will face Section VII champion Moriah (9-0) of Essex County in a quarterfinal game at 7 p.m. The at-large system began two years ago to account for a shortage of schools in some classes in different parts of the state.

The game will take place at AuSable Valley High School in Clinton County, a four-hour

drive from Cold Spring. It will be streamed on the NFHS Network at bit.ly/haldane-moriah.

Moriah was ranked No. 9 in the state among Class D schools this week by the New York State Sportswriters Association, while Haldane received an honorable mention. The winner today will face either Tuckahoe (8-1) or Greenwich (10-0), who play on Saturday night. If Haldane and Tuckahoe both win, they will meet Nov. 26 at Middletown High School in the state semifinals.

The Section I title game on Nov. 12 turned into a shootout.

Haldane was down 35-18 midway through the third quarter but responded with a Giancarlo Carone rushing touchdown and a Carone interception moments later that he returned for another TD. That brought the Blue Devils within one, at 35-34, at the end of three quarters.

But Haldane had a difficult time during the entire game stopping Tigers running back Michael Meyers, who opened the fourth with a 28-yard touchdown run and would finish the game with 342 yards rushing on 40 carries. Moments later, an interception by Tuckahoe set up a 22-yard TD pass that made the score 48-34 with 5:33 left.

Haldane senior Ryan Irwin caught a 24-yard pass from Ryan Van Tassel to close out the scoring.

"Michael Meyers is a tremendous football player," Coach Ryan McConville said. "We concentrated on him, and that opened up some of the passing lanes" for Tuckahoe quarterback Jax Colacicco, who completed 20 of 30 attempts for 226 yards.

Haldane's Carone had a huge game, with his 74-yard interception return for a touchdown, his 75-yard kickoff return for a touch-

down and his 1-yard TD run. Evan Giachinta had a 71-yard interception return for a touchdown to go with two sacks and a pair of forced fumbles and recoveries on defense.

Irwin had two TDs receiving and threw a TD pass to Tommy Tucker. Van Tassel completed 14 of 32 attempts for 158 yards and two touchdowns.

Haldane lost to Tuckahoe, 37-36, on a last-second field goal in another wild game on April 24 during the delayed fall 2020 season, so McConville said he wasn't surprised by the fireworks.

He said his team is thrilled to have a chance to continue its season. "For the first 48 hours, the loss hurt," he said. "But now we're knocking on the door again."

Haldane advanced as far as the state semifinals in 2000, 2016 and 2018, but never reached the championship game.

