Old-Timey Music Page 11 The HIGHLANDS Support us at highlandscurrent.org/join

DECEMBER 3, 2021

A Shift in Thinking

Beacon schools embrace plan for 'culturally responsive education'

By Jeff Simms

ne of the stories Jevon Hunter talks about in his workshops is the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882. Signed into law by President Chester A. Arthur, the measure banned Chinese immigration after decades of animosity toward the newcomers, who had been arriving in the U.S. since the 1840s, particularly on the West Coast, providing low-cost manual labor.

The law wasn't repealed - and even then, a national quota of 105 Chinese immigrants per year remained - until 1943, when the U.S. and China became allies in World War II.

When teaching students about that period in history, Hunter, the chair for urban educa-

Planning Board appointment

he appointment of Yaslyn Daniels to

the Planning Board created some fric-

tion at the Tuesday (Nov. 30) meeting

of the Cold Spring Village Board, which was

the last for Mayor Dave Merandy and Trust-

ees Marie Early and Fran Murphy before a

The appointment was approved by a 4-0

vote, with Trustee Tweeps Phillips Woods,

who defeated Daniels in the Nov. 2 election,

abstaining. Woods had been appointed to

the Village Board by Mayor Dave Merandy in

May to fill a seat vacated by Heidi Bender. She

defeated Daniels by a wide margin to be able

to serve the second year of the 2-year term.

abstention, she replied, "I don't think it looks

very good to do this in your last meeting."

When Merandy asked Woods to explain her

Merandy, Early and Murphy will leave

office on Monday (Dec. 6), when Kathleen

Foley becomes mayor and Cathryn Fadde

and Eliza Starbuck join the five-member

board as trustees. Foley has said she will

new administration takes over next week.

causes a squabble

By Michael Turton

Last Meeting Before

Cold Spring Change



tive into the narrative. What stories that we tell reflect privilege, he asks? Which voices are left out?

In an interview this week, Hunter said he encourages teachers to connect that time with current events by asking: Where do we see these kinds of acts still being created in society? When considering recent U.S. efforts to limit immigration, he noted, "we're really not too far from still doing it."

Culturally responsive education

Hunter, who has advised more than 25 districts and county Boards of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES) in the last six years, was in Beacon last month for two days of workshops as the city school district has begun Phase 1 of New York State's three-year plan to implement "culturally (Continued on Page 20)



in the Highlands

By Brian PJ Cronin

t's Friday at Second Chance Foods, which operates out of the Community of the Holy Spirit in Brewster. Friday means cooking. A dozen volun-Second in teers are breaking down a series winter squash and chopping alliums. A fleet of Instant Pots bubble away, and every once in a while a volunteer lets off steam from a massive pressure cooker.

Half of the gymnasium next to the kitchen is filled with boxes, being packed with meals that have been cooked in the kitchen, as well as fresh produce from local farms and food donated by grocery stores.

It's not busy, though. You don't know busy.

You should have been here Tuesday," says Rich Winters, treasurer of the board at Second Chance Foods and chief dishwasher. "On Tuesdays, all of us leave here and we can't move. It's nonstop."

Second Chance Foods isn't exactly a food pantry. It's not quite a soup kitchen, either.

"We call ourselves a food rescue," says Martha Elder, its executive director.

The organization was founded in 2015 after Alison Jolicoeur, who lives in Beacon, learned that 40 percent of the food grown or produced in the U.S. ends up in the garbage. Diverting just a fraction of that food could

end food insecurity in the country, but as Jolicoeur and friends who helped her found the nonprofit soon realized, there were pragmatic challenges to distributing food – such as getting excess tomatoes into the hands of the hungry before the vegetables rot.

"We realized that if we could cook some of this food, we could greatly extend the shelf life," says Elder, who is the only full-time employee. There is also a part-time employee, but Second Chance is powered by about 50 volunteers who cook, garden, pick up grocery store stock that is close to its sales expiration date, harvest excess produce and pack meal kits. The organization started out

(Continued on Page 8)

become mayor. A ceremonial swearing-in will be held on Tuesday. Merandy and



Daniels Early dropped out

of the race in June after Foley became a candidate for mayor; Murphy did not seek re-election. Although he had appointed Woods, Merandy endorsed Daniels for the 1-year trustee position.

Woods asked Merandy facetiously if he recalled the recent election campaign. "It's just a little dicey for me," she said of the proposal to appoint Daniels, adding that, depending on how she voted, "it looks like pity." She wished Daniels luck with her appointment.

Merandy responded that "this is what I figured would happen" and said Daniels' appointment reminded him of the outrage over President Barack Obama being blocked from appointing Merrick Garland to the U.S. Supreme Court.

(Continued on Page 22)

FIVE QUESTIONS: PHIL GEOFFREY BOND

By Alison Rooney

hil Geoffrey Bond, of Garrison, has been producing and hosting Sondheim Unplugged since 2010, most recently at Feinstein's/54 Below in Manhattan. The next show is scheduled for Jan. 23.

Have you been surprised at the depth of responses, particularly the crowds in New York City, to Stephen Sondheim's death at age 91 on Nov. 26?

Not at all. It's been beautiful to see.

What was your response to hearing a Sondheim score for the first time?

I was 14 when PBS aired the 1990 New York City Opera production of *A Little Night Music*. I stumbled upon it on the 19-inch TV in my bedroom in rural Indiana. It completely captivated me. I had no idea that a musical story could be told in such a unique way, and funny. People often overlook Sondheim's immense sense of humor and irony. It was the beginning of a lifelong obsession and, as it turns out, profession.

What's your favorite Sondheim song and show?

HOWLAND

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"Move On," from *Sunday in the Park with*



George. I love the notion of it - of forward motion, of creating "more to see," Also, the line, "The choice may have been mistaken, but choosing was not" - that's pretty universal. The song is also melodically stunning. Sunday in the Park with George is my favorite show for the same reasons. It's about art and legacy.

What was the feeling in the room at Sondheim Unplugged on Nov. 28?

Surreal. We were all shellshocked. We're in the middle of releasing three volumes of cast recordings called Sond*heim Unplugged: The NYC Sessions* – 70 artists and 125 songs. Steve and I had met and traded emails on occasion; I decided to send him the CD. I guess I was looking for his blessing or, at the very least, didn't want him to be angry that I hadn't given him a heads up. He wrote me on Nov. 18, thanking me and saying he looked forward to listening to it, and to volumes 2 and 3. Twenty minutes after I opened his letter, I was informed of his passing. I couldn't speak at first – it just didn't seem real. The show two days later was somber but ended up being celebratory. When the lights went down and the opening chords were struck and the actors slowly made their way onstage, the room burst open with applause and sobs. We all just needed it.

How did Sondheim influence vour life? He gave me a life in the theater.





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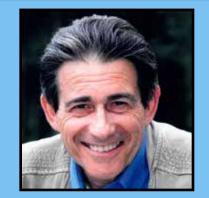
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Florence Northcutt, Beacon





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he 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

Job well done

Imagine you are on a family outing in a charming but unfamiliar village. One of your group is locked inside the public toilet. You look in every direction for help but the sidewalks appear deserted. Everyone is home enjoying Thanksgiving.

That was the scene on Nov. 25 at about 2 p.m. when I eased into a parking spot on lower Main Street in Cold Spring, where Metro-North would soon deposit my kids for our first holiday together since COVID-19. I approached to offer assistance and assured the young woman trapped inside and her family members that I would stay with them until she was freed.

After several minutes trying to talk her through opening the lock, it was clear more help was needed. I dialed the Cold Spring Police Department and soon Officer John Martinez arrived. He used the keys at his disposal but the lock refused to budge. He contacted Officer-in-Charge Larry Burke, who secured support from the Sheriff's Department. An officer arrived from Putnam Valley in due time with what appeared to be a weapons-grade crow bar. Using that tool and targeted force he managed to open the door with minimal-to-no damage and secure the young woman's release.

Thanks to the officers who gave up time on their Thanksgiving Day to be of service, and especially to Officer Martinez, who managed the entire situation. Throughout he was professional, calm, competent, courteous and a kind, careful listener. He inspired confidence in the young woman and her family. He resolved an event that could have induced panic and distress, and enabled the whole family to go on their way, relaxed and grateful.

Later, when my kids and I sat down to our Thanksgiving meal, I gave thanks for all who serve while the rest of us work, play, sleep and celebrate, especially for Officer Martinez. He is exactly the kind of person you would want if you were ever in trouble, weekday or holiday. We are fortunate he is part of our community.

Priscilla Goldfarb, Cold Spring

Thanks to the board

First, I'd like to congratulate the newly elected members of the Cold Spring Village Board. I feel sure that they will be a hardworking team that will lead the village through the myriad challenges. I would also like to thank Mayor Dave Merandy and Trustees Marie Early and Fran Murphy for their years of hard work for all of us.

I NEVER THOUGHT HE'D PICK UP ENOUGH SPEED ons 9-13

Second, I can't express how delighted I am that Joe Curto will fill Kathleen Foley's seat on the board. I have been a Joe Curto fan for a very long time. I served on several committees with him as the school nurse when he was on the Haldane school board. I also had the pleasure of serving with him on the Butterfield Library board. He always demonstrated diligence, intelligence, thoughtfulness and a manner that was always calm and accepting of ideas and suggestions that differed from his own. It's my opinion that Mayor-Elect Foley made a terrific choice.

Candy Zgolinski, Cold Spring

Comp plan

Having read every word of many drafts of the Philipstown Comprehensive Plan, I found your headline to be very questionable journalism ("Comp Plan Urges Town-Village Merger," Nov. 26). The story quotes the language of the plan, which is much more reasonable than the headline implies.

The Comprehensive Plan Committee also recommended five top priorities for 2022 from the plan, which do not include the headline. Those priorities are related to renewable energy, electric-car charging, developing a solar energy policy, creating a community preservation plan and dealing with visitors.

Anita Prentice, via Facebook Prentice was the editor of the Philipstown Comprehensive Plan.

I can't claim to have read all the plan but when was the last time bigger equaled better? Ray Wilson, via Facebook

By consolidating services and governments, making their management more efficient, wouldn't taxes go down? This sounds terrific.

Eliza Brown, via Facebook

Leave us folks in Garrison alone, please! Patricia Burruano, via Facebook

It's important to explain the language regarding school districts in the comprehensive plan, given that this has long been a thorny issue in Philipstown, especially given talk over the past several years about merging the Haldane and Garrison districts.

The plan language does not propose the creation of a unified Philipstown district per se; it simply recommends exploring this idea as a means toward strengthening our town-wide sense of community (Goal 9). This same section recommends exploring further cooperation among school districts, which is much more feasible.

Either way, this part of the plan was written to emphasize that any change in (Continued on Page 5)

LETTERS AND COMMENTS

(Continued from Page 4)

the status quo must take into account the wishes of everyone in Philipstown, not just those living in the Garrison and Haldane districts. The objective is to ensure that if change is to come, no one is left out of the discussion, especially not in a way that would run counter to Goal 9, which, again, is to strengthen our town-wide sense of community, not inhibit or diminish it.

That said, redistricting is a long, arduous, complicated, expensive, legally intensive process, especially when it involves three districts (Haldane, Garrison and Lakeland), not just two, and may even have to consider the impact to a fourth district (Putnam Valley). And if any one district is opposed, that ends the discussion then and there, per state law.

For these reasons and several others (not least of all, the ensuing rise in most residents' taxes, particularly in the Village of Cold Spring), the likelihood of a unified Philipstown school district is extremely low. However, it's the committee's — and now the town's position that any exploration of cross-district cooperation and/or district unification should consider all of Philipstown, not some or most of it, and certainly not at the expense of any one area in our town or its residents.

Eric Arnold, Garrison Arnold is a member of the Philipstown Comprehensive Plan committee.

Lost debates

There was a time when political candidates were willing to face the voters in forums, no matter the party they belong to. It was expected of them. How else would people know what their platforms were what made them different from the other candidates running for the same position?

Now it is impossible to get both parties on the dais together. Why is that? Are they afraid of the questions that might be asked of them — that they might not appeal to voters as well as their opponent does?

As the situation stands, we, the voters, don't have a choice but to vote the party line. We know little about the candidates who are running, so we play it safe and stay with the party we are registered with, even though we might not like all the candidates. Alas, "crossover voting" seems to be a thing of the past, and that is sad. If we were educated by both parties, we could choose the person who seems best suited for the position. Isn't that how democracy should work?

Phyllis Hoenig, Mahopac Hoenig is vice president of the League of Women Voters of Putnam County.

Prison closing

As the former director of legal affairs for correction officers at Rikers Correctional Center (2011 to 2021), I find this entire thing distasteful ("State to Close Downstate Correctional," Nov. 12). Before prison closures — necessary or not — New York State closed nearly all its mental health facilities, where 40 percent of sentenced inmates should be treated. Prisons are many things, but mostly a source of income for workers

Updates and Corrections

• A story in the Nov. 19 issue neglected to mention that Cold Spring Aglow, which takes place on Friday (Dec. 10), is sponsored by the Cold Spring Chamber of Commerce.

• A story in the Nov. 26 issue about two Kent men arrested on charges related to the riot at the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6 noted they were apparently brothers; in a news release on Nov. 26, the FBI confirmed that relationship.

• The FBI also confirmed that a third man named in the criminal complaint, Robert Turner, 39, of Poughkeepsie, was their uncle. He was arrested in California on Nov. 22 and released on \$15,000 bond. In our story, we reported that Turner had been tagged by amateur "sedition hunters" online as #DeepBlueSquader, a reference to his blue "Trump" hat. In fact, he is tagged as #DeepBlueSquander.

and families. It is not "for profit."

Crime and Punishment was a great book but has zero to do with folks who are multirecidivists before they hit 30 — and yes, many live in Newburgh and Dutchess County, if you are not actually informed about this complex set of interlocking issues. Remember, jail and prison are the end of the line and those working at the end of the line are not treated as human beings any more than their charges under "care, custody and (less and less in gang-infested lockups) control."

Close prisons, but for the sake of our civil society, reopen mental health care facilities and have programs embedded in both prisons and hospitals that work.

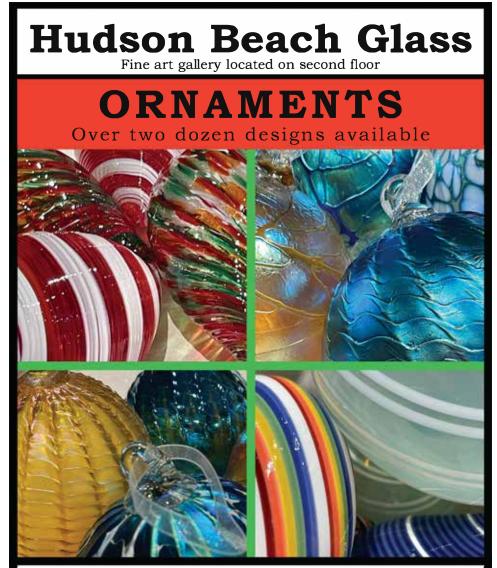
Marc Alain Steier, Beacon

HVSF grant

This is wonderful news for our community and for the visionary team at Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival ("HVSF Gets \$2 Million State Grant," Nov. 26). Having been through those Regional Economic Development applications myself, I know that the competition is stiff and comparatively little of that statewide money has been awarded in Putnam historically, so this accomplishment should be celebrated.

Funding for regional priority projects is based on rigorous review of how the project meets and fits the region's strategic plan pillars, live-work-play. Also, these grants are "high-leverage" grants, meaning applicants are required to match every state dollar with \$4 of additional investment. Kudos, HVSF! Elizabeth Corio, via Facebook

Editor's note: To clarify, the 2021 regional development grants can only be applied toward up to 20 percent of the costs of a project incurred through 2024, and the money is not paid upfront but as a reimbursement.



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Slower Trains, More Frustration

Metro-North still recovering from pandemic, Ida

By Lily Zuckerman

Philipstown teenager Leo Horton has strong opinions about the on-time performance of Metro-North. The Masters School

sophomore and Garrison resident has been commuting by train since he was in seventh

grade. Speaking about his recent frustrations with Metro-North, Horton said he "cannot remember the last time the train got here on time."

Not only has his train been consistently late, but on multiple occasions when returning home, he has missed, at the Croton-Harmon station, his connecting train to Garrison.

"My parents end up picking me up in Croton-Harmon, which sometimes doesn't work because they are both working," he said. "There have been a number of times where I've had to pay \$30 for a taxi ride home."

Amid the COVID-19 pandemic, Metro-North Railroad, a part of the Metropolitan Transportation Authority, has had a number of schedule changes. Whether it was from the lack of riders or damage from Hurricane Ida in September, the commuter railroad had to adapt its schedule to fulfill its promise of on-time performance.

In an interview, Metro-North President Catherine Rinaldi said the railroad, whose Hudson commuter line includes stops in Garrison, Cold Spring and Beacon, has had to make difficult decisions regarding the train schedule.

The number of customers plunged in the first months of the pandemic. Ridership totaled 13,600 on April 1, 2020, a month into the pandemic. That was 95 percent below the average ridership for that day in 2019. The MTA introduced an "essential service plan" on March 27, 2020, reducing the frequency of trains on the Hudson Line to hourly amid a statewide shutdown.

In August, Metro-North announced that weekday service on the Hudson Line had been restored to 82 percent of its prepandemic levels and weekend service to 100 percent as schools neared reopening and workers returned to offices. But while the number of customers had rebounded to 132,200 as of Nov. 15, ridership was still down by 50 percent.

Then, on Sept. 1, Hurricane Ida hit the area as a tropical depression, bringing record-setting rain. The destruction to tracks included mudslides at stations near





Metro-North is still repairing damage to its tracks from Hurricane Ida.

the Hudson River, such as Glenwood and Greystone in Yonkers. Additionally, a culvert was washed out near the Dobbs Ferry train station. As a result, the Hudson Line was shut down for days, frustrating commuters. When the line reopened, trains operated on a reduced schedule as track repairs continued.

Permanent repairs will take months to complete, Rinaldi told the MTA board in October. Going forward, Metro-North will be more prepared for storms like this, she said.

"We're looking at our infrastructure along the Hudson Line in the Bronx and other areas around our territory, to see what we might need to do to be able to protect it from rain events like this one," she said.

Horton is not the only student with strong opinions regarding the commute on Metro-North. Garrison resident Arjun Bagaria, another Masters student, said he has also experienced delays when switching at Croton-Harmon.

"Even when the train is 10 minutes late [usually on the way home], I get to Croton-Harmon 10 minutes later, which just makes my commute even longer — not to mention, the added stress of missing my connecting train to Garrison."

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No Fare Hikes for Metro-North

MTA to receive \$11 billion from infrastructure bill

Fares for Metropolitan Transportation Authority's buses and trains, including Metro-North, will remain unchanged for the immediate future, Gov. Kathy Hochul said on Nov. 15.

The \$1.2 trillion infrastructure bill signed by President Joe Biden includes \$11 billion for the MTA, which will allow the agency to delay fare hikes and cancel service cuts planned for 2023 and 2024, the governor said.

those of us who live along the Hudson River. That the service may change during storms is necessary for the commuter line to work, but it may not be enough to satisfy customers.

Zuckerman is a sophomore at the Masters School in Dobbs Ferry and a member of The Current's Student Journalists Program. Her father, Neal Zuckerman, represents Putnam County on the MTA board.

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MTA

Longtime Beacon Scout House May Be Sold

Built as Civilian Conservation Corps barracks

By Leonard Sparks

The longtime meeting space for Girl Scout troops in Beacon is on a list of properties that will be put on the market by the parent organization, which is looking to shed houses and outdoor camps and shift savings to other locations.

The Fanny Fav House, at 1 John St., is named as one of the properties that Girl Scouts Heart of the Hudson could "exit" in a long-term plan compiled by a real estate consultant. The organization represents scouts in Dutchess, Putnam and five other counties in the Hudson Valley.

Built as a barracks for Civilian Conservation Corps workers, and owned by the Girl Scouts since 1937, the one-story building was used 120 days in 2019, costing \$3,200, according to the report. The building also needs an estimated \$38,000 in upgrades, including air conditioning, a new bathroom and repairs to both its flooring and Americans with Disabilities Act ramp, the study said.

Rhonda Altonen, who leads two Beacon troops that meet weekly at Fanny Fay, says she was surprised to see the building on



Girl Scouts in Beacon have used the Fanny Fay house for meetings since 1937.

the list of properties to be sold but has started searching for alternative spaces. Altonen, who met at Fanny Fay as a Scout in the 1970s and 1980s, happens to live three blocks from the building.

"There are so many alumni Girl Scouts who live in Beacon still and have that experience of using Fanny Fay," she said of the

building, which was named to honor the late Fanny Fay Morrison, whose husband supported the Girl Scouts in Beacon.

Photo by L. Sparks

Fanny Fay is among five Girl Scout houses identified in the study as properties that could be sold. The list includes two camps: Ludington, a 150-acre facility in Holmes that needs an estimated \$1 million

in upgrades, and Wendy, a 56-acre site in the hamlet of Wallkill in Ulster County that needs a \$900,000 investment. The organization would also move out of its Poughkeepsie service center. Another service center, in Pleasantville, is in contract to be sold.

Jennifer Donohue, a representative for Girl Scouts Heart of the Hudson. said the organization plans to reinvest sales proceeds into renovations at other facilities, including two camps, Addison Boyce in Tomkins Cove and Rock Hill in Mahopac, and houses in Larchmont and New Rochelle.

Membership in the Girl Scouts, both locally and nationally, has been trending downward for years. The regional chapter had 21,500 members in 2016 but that has fallen by nearly 50 percent, to about 11,000.

Phoebe North said she has boosted membership in New Paltz but has struggled to find places for her troops to meet. Her girls, largely unable to use Camp Wendy in Holmes because of renovations, met briefly at a park pavilion until people resumed reserving it for events, she said.

A local Elks lodge agreed to let the girls meet there, but sometimes mistakenly double-books, North said Tuesday (Dec. 1).

"Yesterday, we showed up at the Elks lodge and it was the middle of their chili cook-off," she said. "I had to take the 10 girls and figure out what else to do."

Annette Solakoglu FACES | GRACES photographs

December 4, 2021- January 9, 2022



Annette Solakoglu pays homage to twelve longtime Philipstown, NY residents by sharing their inspirational visions through intimate portrait photography and storytelling. Personal accounts distilled from extensive interviews conducted by writer and collaborator Celia Barbour accompany each portrait.

Community members featured in the exhibition are John Benjamin, Robert Bickford, Gilman Burke, Leonora Burton, Brigitte Freed, Henry Lewis (Lew) Kingsley, Margaret (Marit) Kulleseid, Claudio Marzollo, Anne Todd Osborn, Frederick H. Osborn III, Alexander (Sandy) Saunders and Polly Townsend.

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Garrison Art Center

highlandscurrent.org

Hunger (from Page 1)

cooking 10 months of the year (closing in the depths of winter), but new sources of donations kept being discovered, so it switched to cooking once a week yearround. Then the pandemic hit and it moved to twice a week (Tuesdays and Fridays), cooking and freezing meals to be delivered to soup kitchens and food pantries.

Elder says she usually doesn't know what donations are going to come in until the day before, if that. "I can't make a plan a week in advance, because somebody might tell me 'I've got a couple of hundred pounds of cheese pumpkins,' " she explains, standing by a table laden with a couple of hundred pounds of cheese pumpkins. "So we're going to make a lasagna that has a layer of that, we're going to make a curry that uses that, we're making a soup that's got that, and it's all going to a soup kitchen in Newburgh."

There's a recipe on the wall from The Food Network for roasted butternut squash lasagna that feeds eight. "We're cooking for 180 people today," says Elder, so all the quantities have been multiplied: 30 sliced onions, 15 quarts of squash or pumpkin, a whole cup of freshly chopped sage.

Most of the recipes come from Cook's Illustrated or The New York Times because Elder knows those recipes have been tested, will work, and, most importantly, will taste good.

"The only nourishing food is the food you actually eat," she says.

Second Chance Foods is a "food rescue" but also considers itself a health care organization. "Poor diet is the No. 1 killer of Americans," says Elder, citing the combined effects of heart disease, diabetes and high blood pressure. "We could save so much money and so many lives just by helping people to eat better."

Numerous studies have shown the amplifying effects of a nutritious diet, including improved concentration, emotional health and – especially important during a global pandemic – a strong immune system. Unlike members of the middle and upper classes, Americans who have food and income insecurities are pushed to their physical and emotional limits every day, trying to survive, advocates say. And fresh produce or healthy meals is typically not what they find at a food bank.

"You know when you go to the grocery store, and there's a bag there, and the sign says, 'Give us \$10 and we'll give this bag to someone?" says Winters. "It's junk in that bag."

Elder and Winter believe that giving someone a healthy meal provides them with two things that many emergency feeding systems don't: Nutrition, and dignity.

'It was a relief'

"There's an ignorance that those who have toward those who have not," says Cate Maher, who lives in Garrison and once relied on Second Chance Food. She says she too often hears the accusation that someone has food insecurities because they're "not working hard enough."

Maher was once a stay-at-home mom, married with two young children. When



Volunteers in the kitchen at Second Chance Foods



Rich Winters with Second Chance Foods' new refrigerated trailer

her marriage suddenly ended, she became a single unemployed mom with two young children. She needed work, but her kids needed her.

"For their emotional stability, they needed to have their mom close by," she says. Maher was able to find a job with flexible hours and an employer who understood the schedule that a single working mom sometimes needs.

"What comes along with that is not a high salary," she says. "I needed to do what I needed to do." She signed up for Medicaid and started picking up food from a pantry in Brewster. That was where she discovered Second Chance.

She says that "we felt like we won the lottery: To look through the bag and see that this week we got stuff from Second Chance, to know that it was prepared with love and with care and with consideration for the families that they're feeding. It felt like a holiday meal."

Maher credits Second Chance Foods with helping her put healthy, restorative food on the table and survive a difficult time of her life, while working toward financial independence. She no longer needs to pick up

Photos by B. Cronin

food from pantries, but still fondly recalls the meals that Second Chance gave her: The white chicken chili, the chowder, the quarts of marinara sauce that she used to turn into several meals.

"They took a lot of the pressure off me on those days when I didn't know what I was going to do and what I was going to pull together that my kids would eat and enjoy," she says. "It was a relief."

Maher's job keeps her too busy to volunteer with Second Chance Foods, but she did find a way to give back. A few weeks ago, she donated a pressure cooker and an Instant Pot. She delivered them personally to Community of the Holy Spirit so she could meet Elder and the volunteers for the first time and thank them in person.

It also showed Maher what Elder and Winter will tell anyone who will listen: They could do so much more.

"They are willing and they have the desire and the drive," says Maher. "But they've outgrown that space."

A refrigerated trailer donated by the Rotary Club of Southeast has helped, but there's not enough space to accept all the donations that are offered, and not enough room for all of the volunteers who want to help. Elder says they often have to leave food in the fields because they don't have capacity.

"There seems to be no limit to people's generosity when it comes to the produce and the food and the chickens and the groceries," says Winter, standing in front of a closet with an air conditioner that runs 24/7 to create an ad hoc fridge. They've run

(Continued from Page 8)

more power lines and outlets to the kitchen and redesigned whatever that can for maximum efficiency.

"I don't want to sound corny, but this is God's work," says Winter. "You feed people. No ifs, ands or buts."

Take what you need

Advocates say that the main reason that food insecurity has, as a whole, remained steady despite more people being in need during the pandemic is that many of the usual barriers that prevent people from accessing food have fallen away. Instead of the usual paperwork and scrutiny, people are simply being fed. No ifs, ands or buts.

That's in sharp contrast to the way things usually run. Karen George and Kara Marie Dean-Assael, the founders of Fareground in Beacon, say they have found it easier to acquire food to distribute in Beacon, Wappingers Falls and Newburgh over the past 18 months. But in order to continue to receive food post-pandemic from some of the regional food banks, they first have to prove that the people receiving their donations qualify to get them.

"Isn't people showing up enough?" asks Dean-Assael. "Do you know how many people cry when they get food from us, saying, "Thank you so much, you have no idea?"

George and Dean-Assael have heard from the people they help about the difficulty of navigating the system to get benefits, a system they say is unnecessarily punishing.

"They don't know how to do it, they don't understand how to do it, and so they don't do it," says George. "They feel like they're being made to stay where they are instead of being able to get up and get out."

Fareground's focus has evolved over its seven years of existence. It has been giving food away during the pandemic but also working on the larger issue of destigmatizing hunger, of finding ways to help people who have been made ashamed to ask for help. "We have run into young moms who have kids who will not go to a food pantry because they feel like they're being judged, or they're embarrassed," says George.

Hence, the Tiny Food Pantries.

There are four of them across Beacon that Fareground operates: one in front of Binnacle Books, one inside the Howland Library, one in front of the Recreation Center and one in Tompkins Terrace. There are also two community fridges, one behind Binnacle Books and one at the Recreation Center.

The premise is simple: Take what you need, leave what you can. Fareground stocks the pantries with food, but anyone who wishes to donate, even if it's just a can of soup, can deposit it in the pantry or fridge. The pantries remove barriers for those who need food, but also for those who want to help. Soup kitchens and food pantries are only open at certain times, which might conflict with a job.

"If there's a stigma attached to you needing help, you can sort of do it on the down low," says George.

Adds Dean-Assael: "People don't know if I'm going to pick up food or drop off food. There's a little anonymity and it doesn't matter."



Kara Dean-Assael and Karen George of Fareground



Donated fruits and vegetables at Fareground

Fareground

When the group was first setting up the pantries, a criticism they heard was that one person could empty it out. The Fareground response is that if someone is taking all of the food, that's fine because it means they need it. They have, however, added signs with contact information for people who need more food than what's there, so Fareground can help.

The only time George ran into this problem - a woman at the Recreation Center was taking the food as she was stocking it - George found she was delivering to homebound seniors at Tompkins Terrace. "I told her that's fabulous," said George. "You're helping us help them." She now arranges larger drop-offs.

Fareground's original mission was to create a "community kitchen": A pay-whatyou-can-if-you-can feeding space within Beacon that would feed the food-insecure, the time-crunched or anyone who wants a meal with their community. That would also remove a lot of the barriers and stigmas attached to food insecurity, says Maggie Dickinson, a Beacon resident and author of *Feeding the Crisis: Care and Abandonment in America's Food Safety Net*.

Photo by Dylan Assael



Fareground installed a Tiny Food Pantryoutside the Beacon Recreation Center in2017.File photo by B. Cronin

Finding steady funding for such programs is difficult, but Dickinson says that this is where local communities can make a difference. She points out that we feed kids in school and seniors at senior centers for free or at low cost but don't do this for the general population.

"There are lots of things that cities and towns could do that they don't see as their role but which would make a huge impact," she says. "Who's thinking about food at the local level? There's nobody in city government whose job it is, whose portfolio that is. We leave it all to 'the market.' Food is fundamental to how we all live and there's an awful lot more we could do if we were paying attention at the local level. But we typically don't."

NEXT WEEK: Counties step up

For Part 1, see highlandscurrent.org/hunger.

AROUND TOWN



▲ RED HAT LUNCH — On Nov. 10, the Red Hat Ladies Club cooked lunch for veterans at the Memorial Building in Beacon. Alex Burka, a veteran, joined club members for a photo. The meal was followed by a performance by students from the Ballet Arts Studio. Photo provided



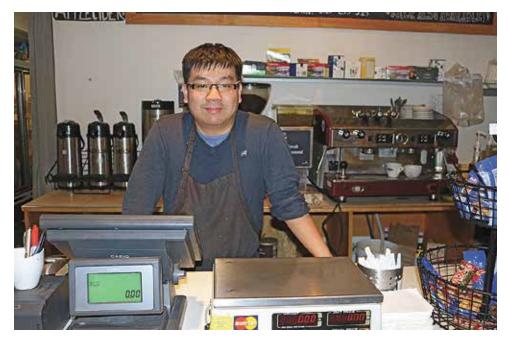
▲ SHINY AND BRIGHT — The City of Beacon dedicated a new fire truck on Nov. 23 with remarks by Mayor Lee Kyriacou and members of the City Council, Chief Gary Van Voorhis and Jonathan Jacobson, whose state Assembly district includes Beacon. Photo provided



▲ EARLY START — The holiday wreaths went up on Main Street in Cold Spring and Beacon on Nov. 22. In Cold Spring, a crew from the Putnam County Department of Highways and Facilities handled the job, with Nick Centrillo doing the honors.



▲ **FIELD TRIP** — Elena Kwoka took her English as a Second Language students at Rombout Middle School in Beacon on a visit last month to Hudson Beach Glass. Assistant Principal Cathryn Biordi shared this photo online, writing that "we are so proud of their progress and accomplishments so far this school year." *Photo provided*



▲ CAFE CLOSES — The Garden Cafe, a fixture at the corner of Main and Garden streets in Cold Spring, closed its doors on Nov. 30. "I've been here almost every day for the past six years," said owner Jim Lin. "I'm going to take a little break, see what's going on, then start the next chapter of my life."

The Calendar

By Alison Rooney

omething must have seeped in, musically, during Harry Bolick's first year of life, which he spent in Mississippi. After that, his family moved around in the south, including a long spell in Alabama, but regular visits to Mississippi became a touchpoint.

Somewhere in there, Bolick discovered Mississippi fiddle tunes, aka "Old-Time" or "Old-Timey" music. Passed along across generations and geography, it's primarily for dancing and trading tunes with friends, Bolick explains, noting that the Old-Time community, numbering in the thousands, is extremely social.

As a way of enriching the repertoire within this community, Bolick co-wrote

two books, the latest of which, Fiddle Tunes from Mississippi-Commercialand Informal Recordings, 1920-2018, with Tony Russell, was published in September by the University Press of Mississippi. It will be celebrated in a talk with live music and storytelling at 4 p.m. on Dec. 12 at the Howland Cultural Center in Beacon.

(There's an art show, too.)

The program is free but reservations are required at howlandculturalcenter.org.

Bolick has described Old-Timey music as "an old form of North American folk music, derived from European (fiddle) and African (banjo) traditions and developed in Appalachia and the South. Many of the tunes can accompany square and contra dancing, or even clogging; others are ballads.

"Bluegrass developed from Old-Time music but differs in important ways, most crucially in that it is primarily a concert form, with performers improvising in virtuosic solos," he says. "In Old Timey, everyone plays together, either iterating the melody or accompanying it, through as many repetitions as the group or leader wishes to take."

While playing and composing for his own enjoyment, Bolick is cognizant that his role is to keep the music alive in the U.S. This is accomplished through a variety of methods, including fieldwork and sharing what

PUT ON YOUR DANCIN' SHOES

It's time for some Old-Time fiddle

was uncovered or confirmed - or dispelled - through *Fiddle Tunes from Mississippi* and Mississippi Fiddle Tunes and Songs from the 1930s, co-written with Stephen Austin in 2015, both of which feature transcriptions of the music.

The basis of the new book is groundbreaking research that Russell conducted in the 1970s and Bolick updated

and expanded during the past 10 years. "There were people that Tony couldn't find and bands he wrote about then without the aid of photos, but by doing things like tracking grandchildren, hearing their stories, I was able to find images and discover fiddlers he didn't know about," Bolick says.

He adds: "Of course, as these stories are now third-generation, they may or may not be fully accu-

rate, and it's not provable, so I'm not pretending I'm telling you the truth in the book, but I'm telling you the stories I collected."

Bolick learned his first fiddle tunes on guitar at the University of Alabama through independent study. He also stumbled on a trove of folk music in the state archives compiled during the Depression by about 130 Works Progress Administration employees who traveled the dirt roads of Mississippi through farms and villages to discover fiddlers and singers. "It had been researched, notated, assembled and forgotten," he says.

After Bolick moved to New York City, he began attending weekly dances at the Country Dance and Song Society. Through friends there, he joined jam sessions with musicians he considered heroes and wound up recording with them.

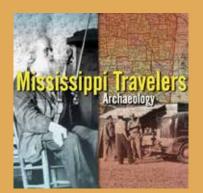
All of this was done while Bolick maintained his day job as an illustrator and web

designer; he worked for Sony Music for 15 years until he retired in 2010 and moved to the Hudson Valley. He taught fiddle and mandolin privately and at the Garrison Art Center and, until the pandemic intervened, he and his wife, illustrator Pat Schories, hosted monthly, three-hour jams at the Howland Cultural Center with fiddle, banio. guitar, mandolin, dulcimer and bass players.

"Dancing is probably the last thing which will come back from COVID-19, but it's the best way of keeping the tunes alive and shared," he says. "YouTube is full of it, but it's still not like person-

to-person sharing." Bolick says that Old-Time music will sustain itself,

although



Want to Hear **Fiddle Tunes?**

Harry Bolick and his collaborators have released nine albums that are available for download at harrybolick. bandcamp.com: he also has posted free downloads of historic songs and family and field recordings mentioned in Fiddle Tunes from Mississippi at bolick.net/mydownloads.html.

perhaps not in the Magnolia State. "About 20 people care about it in Mississippi, but elsewhere, particularly in North Carolina and Michigan, it's thriving," he says. "Though I'm not worried about it dying out, the major players now are revival players. Continuing to write songs is important. I'm hoping efforts to share more, through my especially the gems which have been

hidden away, to get the music out to the players.

"One of the beautiful things about this is it's widespread, age-

wise, probably because teens, or even younger, are born into families that played," he adds. "Friendships between older and younger players develop, which is an unusual thing in American life. This community swaps tunes like others swap gossip."

Cousins Row When the Dance Music Stops

Carthage, Miss., Dec. 9 - Claud Pickle is dead and Lonnie Pickle, his cousin, is suffering from knife wounds and faces a charge of murder as the result of a fight over who should pay the fiddler.

The two men attended a dance at Doesville, 12 miles north of here, Monday night. When the fiddler played "Home Sweet Home," and started to put his fiddle away, Claud, who had been dancing with a young woman both the men were acquainted with, offered him 50 cents to play for one more dance.

Lonnie offered the fiddler \$1 not to play and held out a bill. Claud knocked it out of his hand, according to

bystanders. Both men drew knives and they fought on the dance floor for several minutes before Claud fell, mortally wounded. Lonnie was not seriously hurt.

Claud died Tuesday.

From the Winona (Mississippi) Times, Dec. 18, 1925, shared by Harry Bolick

THE WEEK AHEAD

Edited by Pamela Doan (calendar@highlandscurrent.org) For a complete listing of events, see

highlandscurrent.org/calendar.

HANUKKAH

SAT 4 Adult Hanukkah Celebration

COLD SPRIN

4:30 – 6 p.m. St. Mary's Parish Hall 1 Chestnut St.

philipstownreformsynagogue.org Enjoy latkes and donuts and hear Rabbi Helaine Ettinger's take on the holiday.

SAT 4 Illumin8: Lighting the Bicycle Menorah

BEACON 6 p.m. Polhill Park

Main Street and South Avenue beaconhebrewalliance.org

Organized by the Beacon Hebrew Alliance, the event also will be broadcast via Facebook Live. The ceremony honors founding members of BHA and. on SUN 5, all who serve the community.

TALKS & TOURS

SAT 4 Holiday House Tours

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 FRI 10, SAT 11, FRI 17, SAT 18. *Cost: \$25 (\$15 ages 5 to 18, members \$20/\$12, ages 5 and younger free)*

TUES 7 Lesa Cline-Ransome COLD SPRING

2 p.m. Via Zoom | butterfieldlibrary.org In this webinar, organized by the Butterfield Library for adults, educators and authors as part of its Writers Reading series, Cline-

its Writers Reading series, Cline-Ransome will discuss her picture books and middle-grade novels about history-shaping events like the Great Migration.

TUES 7 Money, Matters: Business Financial Strategies

5:30 p.m. Beahive | 109 S. William St. 845-418-3731 | beahivebzzz.com

Myriam Bouchard of the Small Business Development Center, financial advisor Perry Goldschein of Equitable and Johnny LeHane of the Hudson Valley Startup Fund will discuss cash management, retirement programs, exit strategies, business funding, risk management and tax-reduction strategies. Registration required.

THURS 9 Clean Heating and Cooling PHILIPSTOWN

Noon. Via Zoom | bit.ly/clean-heating Climate Smart Philipstown will host this webinar about how homeowners can reduce costs with energy-efficient heating and cooling technologies that are easy to install and come with rebates.

THURS 9 Thibault Manekin GARRISON

work with Jonathan F.P. Rose.

2 p.m. Via Zoom | garrisoninstitute.org As part of the Garrison Institute's Pathways to Planetary Health Forum, the social entrepreneur and author of *Larger Than Yourself* will discuss his

SAT 11 Holiday Tours BEACON

1 & 2 & 3 p.m. Mount Gulian 145 Sterling St. | mountgulian.org

Tour the historic home and grounds lit by the glow of candles. Also SUN 12. Cost: \$10 (\$8 seniors, \$5 ages 6 to 18; members and under age 6 free)

SUN 12 How Animals

Survive Winter COLD SPRING

2 p.m. Little Stony Point 3011 Route 9D putnamhighlandsaudubon.org

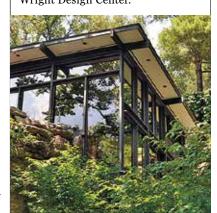
Learn about the many ways that animals adapt to cold weather and go on a short hike to discover animal habitats in this program organized by the Putnam Highlands Audubon Society. For ages 8 and older.

SUN 12

Dragon Rock

4 p.m. Via Crowdcast desmondfishlibrary.org

In this program hosted by the Desmond-Fish Public Library, Jennifer Golub will discuss her newly published book, *Russel and Mary Wright: Dragon Rock at Manitoga*, with Allison Cross, the executive director of the Russel Wright Design Center.



SUN 12 Current Conversation COLD SPRING

6 p.m. Via Crowdcast

highlandscurrent.org/storm-lake Following a free screening of the documentary *Storm Lake*, about challenges facing a family-owned newspaper in Iowa, the film's editor, Rachel Shuman of Beacon, and its consulting producer, Toby Shimin of Cold Spring, will discuss their work on the film. Register online.

COMMUNITY

SAT 4 Winter Holiday Event COLD SPRING

10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Mayor's Park 61 Fair St.

The Boy Scouts will host ornament and decoration-making for Village Hall, Nerf targets and cone s'mores. Baked goods, crafts and birdseed will be for sale.

SAT 4 Santa Visit COLD SPRING

4 p.m. Riverfront Bandstand Santa Claus will arrive on a fire truck and accept letters. (Include your return address!) The Hudson House will provide refreshments.

THURS 9

Blood Drive

11:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Hyatt House 100 Westage Business Center Drive redcrossblood.org

Schedule a time online to donate.

FRI 10 Cold Spring Aglow COLD SPRING

5 – 9 p.m. Main Street facebook.com/coldspringnyaglow Enjoy a candlelit holiday stroll

with luminaria tributes that can be purchased to benefit the Philipstown Food Pantry. Carolers from the Philipstown Depot Theatre will perform and businesses will have specials and extended hours.

SUN 12 Holiday for Our Heroes POUGHKEEPSIE

2 p.m. Marist College 3399 North Road dutchessny.gov

Veterans can bring a guest to McCann Arena to see the Marist men's basketball team host Navy. After the game, enjoy a meal at Mahoney's Irish Pub Restaurant. Email vetzero@hudsonriverhousing. org by THURS 9 to register. *Free*

Annual Christmas Fair BEACON 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. St. Joachim's Church 51 Leonard St. | stjoachim-stjohn.org Find Christmas items and treats

Find Christmas items and treats, explore the famous jewelry counter and enter raffles. Also SUN 5.

SAT 4 Craft Fair and Creche Display GARRISON

9 a.m. – 3 p.m. Graymoor 1350 Route 9 | atonementfriars.org

Shop for Christmas gifts and visit the annual creche display at the Retreat Center, which continues daily through Jan. 9.

SAT 4

SAT 4

Dutchess Handmade Pop-Up Shop

10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Trolley Barn 489 Main St. | 845-454-3222 artsmidhudson.org

Work by dozens of artists and artisans will be available for gifting. Also SUN 5.

Holiday Market

PHILIPSTOWN 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Parcel Flower Co. 3052 Route 9 | rivervalleyguild.com

Handmade crafts, art works and goods from more than 15 artisans will be on display. There will also be food, live music and drinks.

KIDS & FAMILY

SAT 4 Santa Claus Visit GARRISON

10 a.m. - 3 p.m. Boscobel 1601 Route 9D | 845-265-3638 boscobel.org

Santa will visit with children outdoors in the Orangery. Also SAT 11, SAT 18. At 9:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m., Bring the Kids Goes Outside will host a winter walk and apple pomander craft. Also SAT 11 and SAT 18 storyteller Jonathan Kruk will perform at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. *Cost: \$12 (\$10 seniors, \$6 ages 5 to 18; members, health care workers, ages 5 and younger free)*



SAT 4 Rascal's Holiday Bazaar

WAPPINGERS FALLS 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. Dutchess Stadium 1500 Route 9D A variety of sellers will offer

crafts and products. Parking is \$7.

SAT 4 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 SUN 5. Continues weekends through Dec. 19.

SAT 11

HOLIDAY MARKETS

Holiday Artisan Market BEACON

10 a.m. - 5 p.m. The Yard

4 Hanna Lane | bit.ly/the-yard-market More than 30 Hudson Valleybased artisans will showcase their art and crafts with food available from Eat Church, live music and drinks.

SAT 11 Holiday Market

10 a.m. – 3 p.m. Camp Herrlich 101 Deacon Smith Hill Road campherrlich.org

Children can enjoy the Kid's Club while the grown-ups shop for local and handmade gifts.

FRI 10 Holiday Craft Party COLD SPRING

6 p.m. Butterfield Library 10 Morris Ave. | 845-265-3040 butterfieldlibrary.org

Students in middle and high school are invited to make crafts to keep or give as gifts. Registration required.

SAT 11

Poetry and Art COLD SPRING

11 a.m. Butterfield Library 10 Morris Ave. | 845-265-3040 butterfieldlibrary.org

Raven Howell and Susan English will discuss their new children's book, *Eek! My Ink!*

Noon – 5 p.m. Buster Levi Gallery

Grev Zeien's mixed media

paintings based on comic book

imagery will be on view through

123 Main St. | busterlevigallery.com

VISUAL ART

SAT 4

Jan. 2.

The Comix COLD SPRING



Storm Lake, Dec. 10-12

SAT 4 **Faces/Graces** GARRISON

5 - 7 p.m. Garrison Art Center 23 Garrison's Landing | 845-424-3960 garrisonartcenter.org

Photographs by Annette Solakoglu will be on view through Jan. 9.

FRI 10 In the Wild **COLD SPRING**

5 – 8 p.m. The Highlands Current 142 Main St. | highlandscurrent.org Chris Crocco's wildlife

photographs will be on view during Cold Spring Aglow. See Page 16.

FRI 10 Water Rhythms BEACON

6:30 p.m. Fridman Gallery 475 Main St. | fridmangallery.com

Paolo Arao and Susie Ibarra will discuss their work in the exhibit, followed at 8:30 by a performance by Ibarra and Immanuel Wilkins.

SAT 11 Jennifer Keltos | **Small Works Show**

BEACON 6 - 8 p.m. BAU Gallery 506 Main St. | 845-440-7584 baugallery.org

Paintings by Keltos of herself in recalled scenes from TV and movies from her youth will be on view through Jan. 2, along with an annual exhibit of affordable small works for holiday gifts.

STAGE & SCREEN

SAT 4 **Sense and Sensibility**

COLD SPRING 2 & 7 p.m. Haldane School

15 Craigside Drive | haldaneschool.org Haldane Drama presents an adaptation of Jane Austen's beloved novel. Also SUN 5. Cost: \$12 (\$5 students and seniors)

SAT 4 **Mary's Wedding**

WAPPINGERS FALLS 2 p.m. County Players Theater 2681 W. Main St. | 845-298-1491 countyplayers.org

This play, a love story set against the backdrop of World War II, will

be presented as part of the CP2 Mini-Festival. Also on SAT 4 and SUN 5, the troupe will perform Molly Sweeney, based on an essay by Oliver Sacks, with three points of view presented directly by characters to the audience. Cost: \$10

SAT 4 **Eco-Poetry Afternoon**

GARRISON 4 p.m. Via Zoom desmondfishlibrary.org

Laurel Anderson, A. Anupama, Stephanie Heit, Rebecca Durham, Petra Kuppers, Karen Neuberg Mary Newell (right) and Jennifer Spector will share their poems in this event organized by the Desmond-Fish Public Library.

Holiday Inn BEACON

SAT 4

7:30 p.m. Beacon High School 101 Matteawan Road beaconplayers.com

The Beacon Players perform Irving Berlin's classic musical. Also SUN 5. Cost: \$15 (\$10 students and seniors)

SUN 5 **MET HD: Eurydice** POUGHKEEPSIE

1 p.m. Bardavon | 35 Market St. 845-473-2072 | bardavon.org

Watch the Metropolitan Opera performance of Matthew Aucoin's take on the Greek myth of Orpheus and Eurydice live in high definition. Cost: \$28 (\$26 members; \$21 ages 12 and younger)

FRI 10 Storm Lake

COLD SPRING Via Film Platform

highlandscurrent.org/storm-lake In this 2021 documentary, the

residents of Storm Lake, Iowa, confront a changing community as global forces threaten their precarious existence. Enter the family-run Storm Lake Times, which delivers local news and biting editorials on a shoestring budget for its 3,000 readers. Sponsored by The Highlands Current. Register online to watch anytime. Also, SAT 11, SUN 12. Free

FRI 10

Susie Ibarra & **Immanuel Wilkins BEACON**

8:30 p.m. Howland Cultural Center 477 Main St. | fridmangallery.com

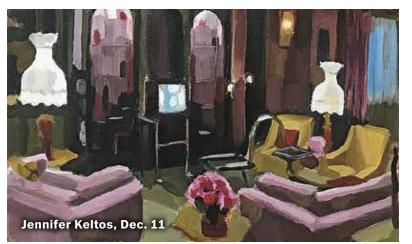
The composers and musicians will explore our connection to water in this performance inspired by the multi-channel sound installation, Water Rhythms.

SAT 11

Northern Lights PEEKSKILL

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

The staged reading of the play by Mona Z. Smith and Traci Mariano will feature local actors and Foley sound effects. Also SUN 12. See Page 18. Email northern lights the play @gmail.comto reserve seats. Free



SUN 12 Fire Music: The Story of Free Jazz

BEACON

2 p.m. Story Screen 445 Main St. | 845-440-7706 storvscreenbeacon.com

This documentary uses archival footage and rare interviews with musicians such as John Coltrane, Ornette Coleman, Sun Ra and Cecil Taylor, A panel discussion will follow with musicians Thurman Barker, Ras Moshe Burnett and Warren Smith. Presented in partnership with Elysium Furnace Works. Cost: \$20

SUN 12

Mississippi Fiddle Tunes BEACON

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

Fiddler Harry Bolick tracked down every bit of Mississippi fiddle music and its stories that he could find and will discuss his book on the subject and perform with guitarist Jacques DiCroce. See Page 11. Cost: \$10 (\$15 door)





MUSIC

SAT 4 **Holiday Show** WEST POINT

2 p.m. Eisenhower Hall Theatre westpointband.com The West Point Band will perform seasonal hits and classic carols to celebrate the season. Also SUN 5. Registration required. Free

SAT 4

A Rockin' Retro Christmas BEACON

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

Tara O'Grady and the Lara Hope Trio will take you back with contemporary twists on classic hits. Cost: \$20 (\$25 door)

SAT 4

Beatles vs. Stones PEEKSKILL

8 p.m. Paramount Hudson Valley 1008 Brown St. | 914-739-0039 paramounthudsonvallev.com

The Abbey Road tribute band will go up against Satisfaction, a Rolling Stones tribute band, to determine who did the British Invasion better. Cost: \$30 to \$60

SAT 4 **Roomful of Blues**

BEACON

8:30 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St. 845-855-1300 | townecrier.com

The Grammy Award nominees will perform their signature blend of swing, jump, blues and rock. Cost: \$35 (\$40 door)

SUN 5

The Edwards Twins PEEKSKILL

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

This Christmas with the Stars variety show includes the Las Vegas-based brothers recreating performances from the 1970s and 1980s by Cher, Dolly Parton and Barbra Streisand, among many others. Cost: \$30 to \$50

SUN 5 A Celtic Christmas BEACON

5 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St. 845-855-1300 | townecrier.com Joanie Madden leads Cherish the

Ladies, an ensemble of traditional Irish singers, musicians and

(Continued on Page 14)

\$45 (\$50 door)

Shannon Friel

7:30 p.m. Via Crowdcast

desmondfishlibrary.org

SUN 5

GARRISON

Library

(Continued from Page 13)

dancers, in this holiday show. Cost:

The harpist will perform music

from various cultures in this event

hosted by the Desmond-Fish Public

CIVIC

MON 6 **City Council**

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

TUES 7

School Board

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

TUES 7

Putnam Legislature CARMEL

7 p.m. Historic Courthouse 44 Gleneida Ave. | 845-208-7800 putnamcountvnv.com

TUES 7

Board of Trustees COLD SPRING

7:30 p.m. Village Hall | 85 Main St. 845-265-3611 | coldspringny.gov The new mayor and trustees will

be sworn in.

WED 8

Village Board

NELSONVILLE 7 p.m. Village Hall | 258 Main St. 845-265-2500 | nelsonvillenv.gov

FRI 10 John McEuen BEACON

8 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St. 845-855-1300 | townecrier.com McEuen, a founding member of the Nitty Gritty Dirt Band known as the String Wizard, will perform with Matt Cartsonis, T. Michael Coleman and David Amram. sharing stories of his music and journeys. Cost: \$25 (\$30 door)

SAT 11 All is Bright NEWBURGH

4 p.m. Newburgh Free Academy 201 Fullerton Ave. | 845-913-7157 newburghsymphony.org The Greater Newburgh

Symphony Orchestra will perform a holiday concert in two parts. The first will feature the string section playing Christmas music across the centuries. The second will feature singers and classics. Cost: \$35 to \$50 (\$25 seniors, students free)

SAT 11 Natalie Forteza **COLD SPRING**

8 p.m. Chapel Restoration 45 Market St. | chapelrestoration.org

In celebration of her latest single, "What Christmas Should Always Be," Forteza and her band Akie Bermiss (keyboard/vocals), Anthony Candullo (bass) and Damon Grant (percussion) - will perform Christmas favorites. Masks and proof of vaccination required.



Advance tickets only. Cost: \$25

SAT 11 Sloan Wainwright BEACON

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

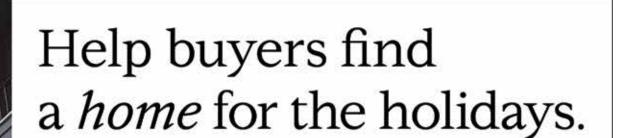
Wainwright will perform her 21st holiday show with friends and the Sloan Flakes. Cost: \$35 (\$40 door)

SUN 12

The McKrell's **Holiday Show** BEACON

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

church choir, Carl Gutowski and James Fitzwilliam. The concert benefits the church's homeless shelter. Cost: \$15 Kevin McKrell and Brian Melick



will channel the Marx brothers in

Christmas Concert

8 p.m. Christ Episcopal Church

The Brasiles Ensemble, a

Garrison-based vocal group, will

along with performances by the

thebrasilesensemble.wordpress.com

sing rare carols in seven languages,

SUN 12

POUGHKEEPSI

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an interpretation of 'Twas the Night

Before Christmas. Cost: \$20 (\$25 door)

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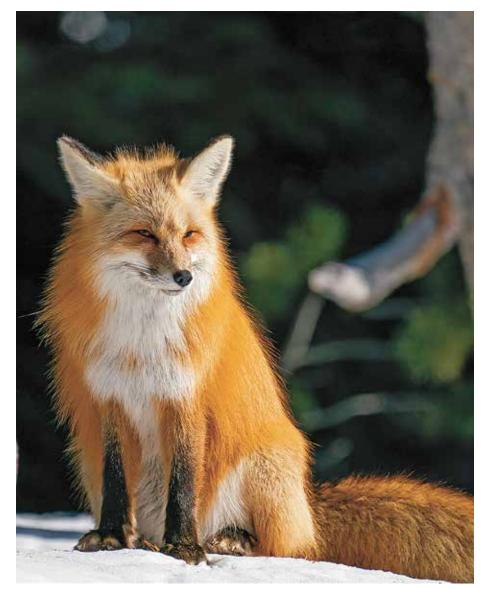
highlandscurrent.org

The Highlands Current





Wolves at the Lakota Wolf Preserve in New Jersey



WILD THINGS

By Alison Rooney

hris Crocco is a partner in The Beacon Daily, which serves breakfast and sandwiches all day. He is also a wildlife and wilderness photographer, and his work is displayed throughout the Teller Avenue restaurant.

Crocco's work will be on display at *The Current* office at 142 Main St. in Cold Spring, beginning with a reception from 5 to 8 p.m. on Friday (Dec. 10) during Cold Spring Aglow.

He runs The Beacon Daily with his brother, Andrew, and Bill Santoro. "We have a great fried-chicken sandwich," Chris says. "We come in when it's snowing, run beer specials on bad weather days, do a lot of catering, have a small crew — there are eight of us here — and have a lot of regulars."

Crocco, who grew up in Hopewell Junction, says his interest in photography came out of a former life, when he traveled frequently while developing restaurant and brand concepts at airports. "The first year, I took 40 work trips. I got into photography as a way to remember my travels."

Once he began shooting wildlife and landscapes, "I learned about the blue hour

[the hour before sunrise and after sunset], sunrise, sunset, golden light, about hiking wilderness in the dark. Landscape photography is always a challenge, because it's all about dramatic lighting. With landscapes, I never want them to be just a reproduction of a place. It's a representation of what I see, hearing the sounds, smelling the flora, experiencing it fully. In getting the shot and processing it afterward, I try to put in all that emotion from when I was there.

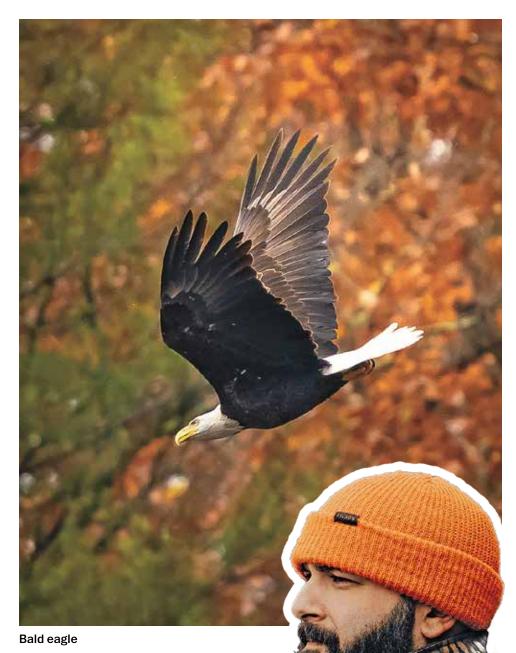
"With wildlife, it's a lot of research and planning. There's the saying, 'The best camera to use is the one you have.' You have to be in a location near their habitat, then they have to be active, then it's split-second. With a lot of my shots, I've been hiding out for a while.

"You don't want to disturb or disrupt any animal in their natural habitat," he says. "I shoot with lenses that let me stay 50 or 60 yards away. They are wild animals and they're meant to be kept wild."

Eagles and other raptors are Crocco's favorite subjects. "I'm tracking about 13 or 14 juvenile eagles. They're massive and so much fun to watch hunt," he says. "Eagles get into it with seagulls a lot."

He also enjoys photographing short-

Colter Bay Fox





Red Fox



Bison



Bald eagle



Northern Harrier

eared owls at Wallkill and the $Shaw ang unk\,grass lands, ``and$ an amazing group of peregrine

falcons along the New York/

New Jersey border. I love watching them teach their

CHRIS

young how to fly." He'd like to have more shots in his portfolio of bears, red foxes, wolves and "puffins with sardines in their mouths that's a bucket list item." He loves to visit the Grand Teton National Park in Wyoming and hopes to take his camera to Chilkat Bald Eagle Preserve in Alaska, where "4,000 eagles descend to feed and mate."





A short-eared owl in the Shawangunk grasslands

Marisa Lowe

highlandscurrent.org



Alice Jankell



Kurt Rhoads

Modern **Fairy Tale**

New play updates classic stories

By Alison Rooney

he snowy cold of December will be a perfect backdrop for Northern Lights, a new play that reimagines three classic fairy tales in a contemporary setting centered on a teenager who has lost a parent to the pandemic.

Co-written by Mona Z. Smith, who lives in Cold Spring, and her longtime writing partner, Traci Burwitz Mariano, who is based in Los Angeles, the play will be produced as a free staged reading, replete

Creative Strings

Improvisers

Ensemble



Sasha Lee Andrews

Mona Smith and Traci Mariano

with an array of live Foley sound effects, on Dec. 11 and 12 at the Paramount Hudson Valley Theater in Peekskill.

The cast includes many actors who live in the Highlands, including Kurt Rhoads, Nance Williamson, Malachy Cleary, Samuel Bates and Sasha Lee Andrews of Philipstown; Dante deLeo of Newburgh; and Marisa Lowe of Beacon. It will be directed by Alice Jankell of Putnam Valley.

The storyline is based on Hans Christian Andersen's "The Tinderbox," "The Wild Swans" and "The Steadfast Tin Soldier," all published in the 1830s, plus what Smith says is "a wee bit of 'The Little Match Girl,' although our play ends on a very hopeful note."



Violinist Gwen Laster Founder/Artistic Director **Bassist Damon Banks** Co-Founder

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MONDAYS 5:00 - 6:00 P.M Cello and Song / Beginner Cello Group Class / Teaching Artist: Patricia Santos

Universal Rhythms / Intro to Frame Drumming / Teaching Artist: J.Why

MONDAYS

5:30 - 6:30 P.M.

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



Samuel Bates

Smith says that "adapting another person's work means asking yourself, 'How do we honor them, while retelling their story? This all started by being inspired by the Andersen stories, which are about trying to belong; Andersen himself struggled with feeling like an outsider.'

The play was developed in workshops held over two years. In the earliest version, which was commissioned by the Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival, "we had a month to work on it, but we knew at the end" that it needed more. "I had a bunch of notes on the script with things to address," Smith says.

Abigail Adams, who was then working at HVSF, was an early booster. When she moved on to Paramount Hudson Valley Arts, she urged the playwrights to take another look at the script. She also received a development grant from Arts Westchester. In February 2020, the writers held a workshop with actors at the Hudson Valley Performing Arts Laboratory in Poughkeepsie. "It was loose and very helpful," Mariano recalls.

A month later, COVID-19 restrictions put a halt to anything theatrical, but the two writers continued to work together remotely. "Before the workshop, we were going in a different direction," Mariano says. "When we began working with the actors, we were looking at a person who was experiencing homelessness. We decided to make it less about her actual circumstances."

Smith explains: "Home was more of a literal idea when we started, but now it's a sense of what it feels like to be home, where you have landed. The experiences of the pandemic have informed the journey of our main character. There was no way the feelings and situations of this period couldn't seep into our minds.

"We wound up taking the stories, which have a meaning to our girl as part of a family tradition, but making them become



Alice Jankell, the director of Northern Lights, says that "sound" is her eighth character.

It will be provided by Les Bloome, the owner of Alchemy Post Sound in Peekskill, a "Foley artist" who recreates everyday sounds in production for feature films, television and theatrical performances. For Northern Lights, Bloome will create sound effects on the spot.

"Everyone will leave with a greater appreciation of sound," Jankell says. "Les starts from the emotion of the story and uses sound as a mobile arc. It's wild - he's doing huge Hollywood movies, then he stops work at 6 p.m. to work with us."

The Foley is Jack Donovan Foley (1891-1967), who developed effects after sound was first introduced to films, such as in Show Boat (1929).

much bigger than a 19th-century voice. This was important partly because we wanted to develop work where people [in the audience] can see themselves onstage. Hans Christian Andersen is never acknowledged, but our teenage character is trying to find out what the stories mean to her now. She begins to fill in the blanks, to put herself into the stories."

Jankell, who became involved in the project more recently, says there's "nothing I like more than developing a piece - wrapping my arms around it and wrestling it down." She sees this play as being "all about stories being passed down. Stories have an elasticity which offers ways to soothe and heal, and we need to give ourselves permission to receive them."

Northern Lights will be performed at 8 p.m. on Saturday (Dec. 11) and at 2 p.m. on Sunday (Dec. 12) at the Paramount Hudson Valley Theater, 1008 Brown St., in Peekskill. Tickets are free and can be reserved by emailing your full name, the show date and the number of tickets to northernlights the play @gmail.com. A talk back will follow the Saturday performance of the set mance and a demonstration of Foley sound effects will follow the Sunday matinee. Masks and full vaccination or a recent negative COVID-19 test are required of adults.







Lease — and Land — Divides Beacon Developers

Lawsuit centers on 99-year agreement

By Leonard Sparks

wo Beacon developers are battling in court over their rights to a property along Fishkill Creek that one of them owns and the other leases under a 99-year agreement signed in 2002.

On one side of the divide is Beacon 248 Holdings (aka 248 Beacon Holdings), whose principal is Bernard Kohn. On the other is Sisters Properties LLC, whose managing member is Merkourios Angeliades.

Beacon 248 owns both the leased parcel and an adjacent property to the north where it is building 64 apartments, in two buildings, and 25,400 square feet of commercial space along the western edge of Fishkill Creek after receiving approval for the project last year from the Planning Board.

On the south side of the leased parcel is a property belonging to Sisters Properties, which says it wants to build a three-story apartment building.

Under a 2002 agreement struck by the previous owners of the three properties and lasting until May 31, 2101, Sisters is allowed to use the leased parcel "for any lawful



The developer of a mixed-use project off Tioronda Avenue along Fishkill Creek is fighting in court over land it owns but leases to another developer. *Photo by L. Sparks*

purpose, including and limited to providing landscaping, parking and an entrance" to its development. As part of the lease, Sisters is supposed to pay a share of the taxes on the property.

The agreement also gives Beacon 248 the "unimpeded right to pass through and across the leased premises for ingress and egress" to its project site "without the necessity of consent" by Sisters.

In May, Sisters sued Beacon 248 in Dutchess County Supreme Court, accusing Beacon 248 of using the leased property as a dumping ground for its construction equipment and debris, and for parking, in violation of the lease agreement. The developer also alleged that Beacon 248 plans to install utilities and other infrastructure that will "encroach" on the property, and that it may be trying to pressure Sisters into renegotiating the 99-year agreement or to "bring down the value and usefulness" of the land so it can purchase the Sisters-owned parcel.

Along with Beacon 248 Holding, Kohn also owns 344 Main St. and headed the development group that purchased the Craig House estate in 2017.

On Oct. 26, a Supreme Court judge ruled for Sisters, writing that while Beacon 248's use of the empty center parcel for storage and parking does not "appear to have any significant impact" on Sisters, it "does not comport with the projected use" of the property as a gateway to each of the two properties. He ordered Beacon 248 to remove its construction equipment and the debris.

Beacon 248 has appealed, writing that the 2002 agreement allows it to make alterations to the leased property, including for "staging and construction purposes." It also alleges that Sisters owes \$41,000 in unpaid taxes.

"There is absolutely nothing that will interfere with the Sisters' ability to construct a parking area ... when and if they have a project approved and constructed on the adjoining property," Beacon 248 said in its filing.

Beacon Makes Spending Adjustments

Council expected to vote on budget next week

By Jeff Simms

he Beacon City Council, which has been discussing tenant protection measures for weeks, is planning to include \$25,000 in the city's 2022 budget to connect residents facing eviction with legal aid and other resources.

The council is expected to vote on the \$23.4 million general fund budget on Monday, (Dec. 6). The \$4 million water and \$5.2 million sewer funds are calculated separately, but will be voted on at the same time.

The additional spending, which Mayor Lee Kyriacou proposed during the council's Nov. 29 workshop, would likely fund a part-time employee to partner with Legal Services of the Hudson Valley, an organization which has advised the council on landlord-tenant issues and offers similar services.

The council also discussed a handful of other budget items during the workshop. The city plans to allocate 10,000 - up from 5,000 this year - for "participatory budgeting." Although the council was unable to organize a citizen committee this year to provide input during its budget discussions, which was the initial intent, the initiative has evolved into a program to fund community improvements, such as tree planting and park maintenance.

That funding will be reserved for "physical" projects, while another budget line - \$20,000 for "community investments" - will again be funneled through the Recreation Department. The city will invite nonprofit agencies that serve residents to submit proposals.

In addition, about \$87,000 will be added to the Police Department's budget, reflecting salary increases included in the new four-year contract that the council approved with the police officers' union last month. That will bring police spending to about \$5.94 million, a nominal increase over 2021.

Under the budget proposal, residential properties will see a slight decrease in their city tax bills, the result of increased assessments balanced by a nearly 10 percent tax rate decrease. With closer to even assessments, commercial and apartment properties will pay at a 3.2 percent higher tax rate, the first increase since 2015. The net impact will be about a 3 percent tax bill increase.

The budget increases the city's tax levy from \$11.8 million to the maximum allowed by a mandatory state cap, which for Beacon is \$12.3 million. The city will gain about \$380,000 in tax revenue from new construction. In 2022 it expects to draw \$550,000 from reserves, a significant decrease from 2021, when the pandemic handicapped revenues.

Accessory dwelling units hearing

The council will also hold a public hearing on Monday (Dec. 6) on a proposed law that would simplify the process for creating accessory dwelling unit apartments, a measure Kyriacou has championed.

If approved, the city would allow ADUs to

be built in all residential districts and the transitional district, which it believes will encourage homeowners to create smaller apartments that could be rented at affordable prices. Based on recent input from the Planning Board, the apartments could be no larger than either 40 percent or 50 percent of the square footage of the principal building, depending on the zoning district.

The owner of the property would have to live on-site and ADUs could not be used as short-term rentals. Other provisions in the law, such as setback and parking requirements, are designed to keep costs down and minimize the need for variances for homeowners.

The council has been split on the proposal. Kyriacou says the apartments will cost far less to build than new construction, which, if the aim is affordable housing, such as at the West End Lofts, requires supplemental funding to offer below-market-rate rents. ADUs could also be helpful for families hoping to keep older relatives in Beacon.

Other council members have argued the law will do little to affect affordability in Beacon but would have negative, long-lasting effects on neighborhood character.

Market to stay put

The Beacon Farmers' Market, which typically moves indoors to the Memorial Building at 413 Main St. beginning in December, plans to remain outdoors year-round in the parking lot of the Dutchess County building at 223 Main St. due to its success since moving there in the spring. The market is open from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Sundays.

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Beacon Schools (from Page 1)

responsive-sustaining" (CR-S) education. The CR-S initiative, which accentuates cultural differences as strengths in an increasingly diverse world, was launched in 2018 in adherence to the federal Every Student Succeeds Act. Built upon the four principles of a welcoming and affirming environment; high expectations and rigorous instruction: inclusive curriculum and assessment; and ongoing professional learning, a 64-page "framework" asserts that it is "grounded in a cultural view of learning in which multiple expressions of diversity (such as race, social class, gender, language, sexual orientation, nationality, religion or ability) are recognized and regarded as assets for teaching and learning."

The framework is further broken down into a three-year roadmap.

In the first year, districts are to raise awareness through workshops for teachers and administrators, among other goals, as well as hold forums on CR-S education. The second phase, meant to "build capacity," includes utilizing state-provided tools to audit educational materials and district policies, such as hiring and student placement.

In the third year, "full implementation," districts are to continue community dialogue while assessing their schools' needs regarding equity.

Sagrario Rudecindo-O'Neill, the Beacon schools' assistant superintendent of curriculum and student support, says the three-year plan is designed to ensure the district's curriculum is "reflective of the families that we're serving." A district-wide equity committee has been formed, with parents filling in smaller working groups. School officials are also analyzing student assessments to pinpoint needs that could be linked to language disparities or other equity-related shortcomings.

According to state data for the 2019-20 school year — the most recent available there were 2,723 students in Beacon's six public schools. The majority (55 percent) were nonwhite. It's important, Rudecindo-O'Neill said, "that they see themselves in their curriculum" and "that they see themselves being celebrated, being heard."

GLSEN, formerly the Gay, Lesbian & Straight Education Network, has come to speak with Beacon High School students about representation. Rudecindo-O'Neill said she's planning broader student forums and then community meetings to come later on.

Ten of the 13 districts in Dutchess County have become members of the new Dutchess BOCES Center for Educational Equality and Social Justice, which facilitates workshops such as the ones Hunter held in Beacon last month, although they were sparsely attended, and a series of upcoming seminars on the role of women as educational leaders.

Meredith Heuer, the president of the Beacon school board, credits Superintendent Matt Landahl with taking on equity upon his hiring in 2017. After a group of stakeholders began discussing the ideal attributes of a Beacon High School graduate, "Matt developed a professional development plan



that directly addressed the four principles is outlined in New York's CR-S framework," b Heuer said. "It was great for us because it reinforced that we were on the right path that and that there would be support, hopefully a including financial, coming from the state." y

School officials emphasize that equity — which recognizes individual circumstances, while equality refers more generally to resource allocation — isn't limited to curriculum.

Hunter tells a story of a university constructing a building without an entrance for people with disabilities. After construction was complete, an accessible entrance was added at the back of the building, "but what does that mean for the dignity of those people?" he asked. After an outcry, the accessible entrance was moved to the front.

Similarly, Rudecindo-O'Neill noted that the principle includes seemingly small details, like translating signs on campus into different languages. "When we talk about equity, we're looking at equity not being an initiative but being embedded," she said.

A Beacon curriculum committee is reviewing books and other materials to see whether educational "stories" are representative of the schools' diverse student body. That's not new — most districts evaluate curriculum every five years — although the lens of representation may be.

Most learning theory is taught through the traditional perspective of the ablebodied, white American, Hunter explained. But "if you don't fit that category, then there's no space to talk about how you learn. Race and class matter when it comes to learning," he said. "How do we make certain that what we're teaching is reflective of our American society and our local community? That's going to require us to shift how we think about this stuff."

Rudecindo-O'Neill is quick to point out that Beacon isn't going rogue.

"Everything we're doing is based on New York standards and framework. That sometimes gets twisted," she said. Although curriculum may be adjusted, "it's not about rewriting history. We would never do that. It's about showing all of history. It's not excluding or changing or subtracting; it's adding.

"If you were only given one perspective," she asked, "is that really history?"

Critical race theory

New York State calls its framework a guide for "culturally responsive-sustaining education," while Hunter and Beacon officials have used the term "culturally relevant curriculum." What they all agree they're not pushing is "critical race theory" (CRT), which has been in the news this year because of allegations by parents and conservative politicians that it is being taught in public schools. As an academic concept, CRT is more than 40 years old; its basic construct is that racism is not only about individual bias but is also embedded in the legal system and that history must be evaluated under that rubric.

Critics, however, maintain that CRT urges intolerance against white people and have conflated the theory with terms such as "anti-racism" and "social justice."

One organization, the Heritage Foundation, in a 2020 report attributed everything from Black Lives Matter protests, LGBTQ clubs in schools and diversity training in federal agencies to CRT. "When followed to its logical conclusion, CRT is destructive and rejects the fundamental ideas on which our constitutional republic is based," the group said.

In June, parents and residents in Carmel took over a school board meeting, accusing district officials of promoting CRT, antipolice sentiments and Black Lives Matter, which one person dismissed as a "a Marxist, domestic terrorist group."

Yet "CRT has nothing to do with K-12 pedagogy," said Rudecindo-O'Neill. "I don't know how it got linked to diversity and inclusion."

Landahl said the pushback has made some Beacon teachers reluctant to buy into the state's culturally responsive plan. "They see the news," he said. "We try to - I hate to use the 'P' word - take politics out of it. It's not about that. It's about addressing standards and creating educational spaces that reflect the diversity of our community." (Landahl said none of the district teachers involved in implenting the curriculum was comfortable being interviewed, citing the politically charged environment around the topic. The superintendent noted that he fully supports the teachers' decision.)

Landahl and Rudecindo-O'Neill pointed out that 20 years ago districts didn't have many choices for books and other materials. If the dominant publisher didn't carry books written for or including alternate perspectives, schools didn't get them.

However, close to 40 percent of Beacon's population is Black, Latino or of another nonwhite ethnicity, according to census data. In addition, about 30 percent of the school district's students are considered "economically disadvantaged."

"If we're not trying to address that diversity in our teaching, then we're failing the entire student body," said Heuer.

Pedestrian Killed in Beacon

A pedestrian died on Wednesday (Dec. 1) after being struck by a car turning from Main Street onto Teller Avenue, police said on Thursday.

The incident occurred at about 3:15 p.m., according to the Beacon Police Department. The woman was treated at the scene by the Beacon Fire Department and taken by helicopter to Montefiore St. Luke's Cornwall Hospital in Newburgh. She was later transferred to Westchester Medical Center in Valhalla, where she died. Police said a preliminary investigation found that a westbound Jeep Wrangler was stopped for a red light on Main Street. The pedestrian was standing on the corner of Main and Teller, headed east and waiting to cross. When the light turned green, she entered the crosswalk and the driver of the Jeep made a left turn onto Teller, striking her.

The police department said that neither impairment nor speed was a factor. It did not identify the woman or the driver.



This rendering envisions the shoreline at Dockside Park in Cold Spring once construction is completed next year. Milone and MacBroom

Dockside Shoreline to Get Major Rehab

State to spend \$1.86 million in Cold Spring

By Michael Turton

he badly eroded shoreline at Dockside Park in Cold Spring is about to undergo major rehab, a project that could offer guidance to other riverfront communities facing rising water levels associated with climate change.

The 26-acre open tract is part of the Hudson Highlands State Park but has been managed by the Village of Cold Spring since 2018. That management has been limited to mowing and cleanup; the park has no facilities and the village cannot add any without state approval.

Tom Alworth, executive deputy commissioner with the state parks department, said the project's design "reflects the potential for sea-level rise [from the Hudson River estuary], while protecting the viability of both natural habitat and this important park."

Shore protection does not come cheap; the project is projected to cost the state about \$1.86 million. Cold Spring is not required to contribute.

Coyle Industries, the general contractor selected by the state, is expected to start work this month. It will begin by removing rip-rap, wood pilings and concrete debris from the shoreline, as well as driftwood and unwanted vegetation.

After terraced regrading, slopes and boulders will be installed to stabilize the bank, and native vegetation, including river birch, gray dogwood, grasses and sedges, will be planted to reduce erosion and create habitat for species such as killifish, mommichog and shad.

The combination is designed to stabilize the bank during high water and storms, which climate change will make more frequent, explained Brian Nearing, a representative of the state Department of Environmental Conservation. "The sloped shore will allow shallow and intertidal areas — important habitats in the Hudson — to expand upward as sea level rises." The design also allows for an expected increase in flooding and the continuing erosive force of waves, current and ice, he said.

Work is expected to be completed by the end of September and will include a new ramp for nonmotorized boats and a gravel walkway. Because the park is relatively small, Nearing said it will be closed to the public at times.

The state funded the initial design work eight years ago as a shoreline protection demonstration project.

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Storm Lake streaming exclusively for our members and readers PLUS an online Q&A with the film's editor, Rachel Shuman (of Beacon) and consulting producer Toby Shimin (of Cold Spring) on Dec. 12.

The residents of **Storm Lake**, Iowa, confront a changing community as global forces threaten their precarious existence. Enter the family-run Storm Lake Times, which delivers local news and biting editorials on a shoestring budget for its 3,000 readers. Come hell or pandemic, it will fight to preserve the town it calls home.

To view the trailer and register: <u>highlandscurrent.org/storm-lake</u>

Winner:

American Film Institute Docs Audience Award, Best Feature, 2021 Woodstock Film Festival, Best Documentary Feature, 2021

Cold Spring (from Page 1)

When Woods said Garland was "actually pretty qualified for the position," Merandy responded: "That means you don't think Yaslyn is qualified?"

Murphy intervened, commenting that it makes sense for the outgoing administration to pass on complete boards to the new administration. "I don't like leaving holes in the boards," she said. "I also think Yaslyn is qualified."

Daniels, who has an MBA from Howard University, said during the campaign she had spent five years as a social service consultant developing policy for the Department of Defense and charitable foundations, and more than 20 years in strategy consulting.

Foley said she had no objection to Daniels' appointment but also questioned Merandy's timing, "just six days before you leave office," pointing out that the vacancy on the Planning Board had existed since Dave Marion resigned in 2019. Merandy said Daniels had been the only resident to express interest in serving.

The terse exchange ended with Merandy commenting, "I am so glad this is the last meeting; I cannot tell you how happy I am." Foley responded: "You're not kidding!"

As he did at the monthly business meeting, Merandy thanked several people he worked with during his time in office, singling out Early and Murphy as well as Village Clerk Jeff Vidakovich, accountant Michelle Ascolillo and Larry Burke, the officer-in-charge of the Cold Spring Police Department.

He had special thanks for his wife, Stephanie Hawkins, family and close friends "for being with me during a tough time, when character assassination seemed to be running rampant" during the campaign.

Although Merandy ran an advertisement in *The Current* two weeks before the election disparaging Foley and accusing her of duplicity (which she denied) while endorsing her opponent, he said he wished her administration "all the luck in the world. Every election

NOTICE

The Philipstown Conservation Board will hold their regular monthly meeting on **Tuesday, December 14th, 2021 at 7:30 p.m. virtually via Zoom.**

If you would like to attend, please visit the following link: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_7leY0cabRlSBy5l_p_ldAg

Webinar ID: 828 7164 8110 **Passcode:** 8684385 One tap mobile: 1-646-558-8656,,82871648110#,,,,*8684385# US

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

OR email crockett@philipstown.com to request login information before 7 pm on December 14th, 2021.

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

Current Classifieds

HELP WANTED

OFFICE ASSISTANT — River Architects in Cold Spring is seeking a qualified candidate for in-person Office Assistant position. This position needs to transfer from part-time to full-time position in about 12 months. Must be technologically competent and adaptable. Software used include QuickBooks, Smartsheet, Adobe products, Microsoft Suite, Google Suite. Salary negotiable upon experience level. Email us at careers@ riverarchitects.com for full job description. Company website: www.riverarchitects.com.

HOUSE MANAGER/PERSONAL ASSISTANT — Kind, resourceful, organized, and reliable individual wanted to assist with managing household for P/T Garrison resident. Varied duties in maintaining household as well as light housekeeping. This position also includes assisting with personal needs of principal. Must be fully vaccinated, have driver's license with good record and car available (gas and mileage paid). Regular hours, 2-3 days per week, often including one weekend day. Please respond with work history, cover letter and 3 references. Email chelseapaintingstudio@gmail.com.

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FRUIT MEDLEY – Brighten someone's winter with a Pittman & Davis Sunbelt Fruit Medley

is a like a crossroad, it seems; there are a lot of hard workers and I'm sure that won't end."

In other business...

■ The board, by a vote of 4-0, approved the sale of 1,032 square feet of village-owned land northwest of Riverview to the restaurant's owner, Jim Ely, for \$4,128. Foley abstained, explaining that she didn't object to the sale but that the board had not declared the property as surplus as stated in the resolution nor attached a description of it.

■ The board unanimously approved a new contract with the Cold Spring Police Benevolent Association, the union that represents officers, that runs through May 31, 2024, and provides a 2 percent salary increase retroactive to May 31, 2020, and a 2.5 percent increase in the final year of the agreement.

■ The village has asked to lease a sander and truck from Philipstown for the winter for about \$1,400. Cold Spring has a truck on order but it will not arrive until the spring.

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George Baltich (1937-2021)

COLD SPRING, NY –George Baltich, 84, a life-long Cold Spring resident, passed away peacefully on November 27, 2021, surrounded by his family.

Born in Cold Spring, NY on September 4, 1937, he was the son of Michael & Nora (nee Durrick) Baltich. George was a graduate of Haldane High School Class of 1955, and served in the US Army in Korea from 1956-1958. He was proud of his service to his country and loved the Village of Cold Spring, which was only surpassed by his love for his family.

On June 25th, 1960, he married Jane Howell and they had a loving 61 years together. George retired after a 37-year career at IBM. He was a die-hard NY Football Giants fan and enjoyed his Saturday Morning Coffee get-togethers with his lifelong friends at the Foundry Cafe in Cold Spring.

George is survived by his wife Jane, and three children: Laurie Baltich, Todd Baltich and his wife Leyla, Matt Baltich and his wife Meghan. He is also survived by three grandchildren: Katherine Baltich, Harrison Baltich and Bennett Baltich, his sister Joan Serino, and many nieces and nephews. George was predeceased by his two brothers, Alex Baltich and Daniel Baltich, and his sister Helen Killmer.

Arrangements were entrusted to the care of the Libby Funeral Home, 55 Teller Avenue, Beacon, NY 12508; to offer a message of condolence or share a fond memory, please visit: www.LibbyFuneralHome.com.

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

Reporter's Notebook

A Changing of the Guard in Cold Spring

By Michael Turton

Ye paid attention to municipal elections for about 50 years. My theory is that being elected mayor or trustee in a little village like Cold Spring is actually very

exciting — for about 12 hours, starting on election night.

Then it's mainly dog work. Long hours. Little pay. Even less recognition. Potholes. Trash pickup. Meetings galore, and a lot of sentence, beginning with the word *whereas*. Plus, the nervous feeling elected officials get when entering Foodtown, wondering who will approach them, irate over a neighbor's fence that's 2 inches too tall.

Ah. The joys of elected office.

Joy has been scarce at Village Hall lately. Too often, I've written about clashes between the outgoing mayor and the mayor-elect, which is even more unsavory because they're both friends of mine.

Ah. The joys of being a reporter in a small village. I'll leave it to village historians to one day figure out the real source of all that rancor. It wasn't black and white.

But this isn't about that. It's about a milestone election and three elected officials who leave office on Monday (Dec. 6).

Unless proven wrong, this will be the first time in village history that an incoming board will feature no one born in Cold Spring/Philipstown.

There's something sad about that, but it was inevitable once Metro-North began commuter service along the Hudson in the 1970s. Demographics evolve, and for Cold Spring, the change was rapid once it became an easy train ride to New York City.

It's also worth noting that Mayor-elect Kathleen Foley will be just the third woman to serve in that position since the village



Murphy, Early and Merandy at their first board meeting in April 2015

File photo by M. Turton

was incorporated in 1846. Barbara Impellittiere-Flowers held the office from 1973 to 1976, and Antonia Garufi in 1989 and 1990. The three terms served by Mavor Dave

Merandy and Trustees Marie Early and Fran Murphy have been remarkable.

No doubt they anticipated challenges such as how to pay for a new dump truck. But they probably didn't foresee national, international and even global issues on their agenda.

The hiring of Scott Morris as a Cold Spring police officer touched off local protests in the aftermath of the murder of George Floyd, an unarmed Black man, by Minneapolis police. Morris was with the NYPD when an officer he supervised killed an unarmed Black man. Morris acknowledged the incident when interviewed by the Village Board. All five members were adamant it was a good hire. But when rhetoric became heated, and they believed violent protest was a possibility, the board accepted Morris' resignation. They put public safety ahead of their egos.

They tackled short-term rentals, passing a law to regulate them, recognizing that unchecked STRs could be an insidious problem that can damage the fabric of a community, as it has in several countries. They didn't bow to the loudest voice in the room, the STR owners. They seemed motivated to act on behalf of all residents. Who knew that a Village Board would also have to cope with a global pandemic? Merandy, Early, Murphy and other trustees helped create public dialogue about COVID-19 at well-attended Zoom meetings. They partnered with the Chamber of Commerce on pandemic safety signage, closed parks and Village Hall to visitors and ended big events. They helped reassure residents at a stressful time.

Local issues weren't easy either. They were the first to implement a Cold Spring parking strategy.

They addressed too many issues to name, often aided by volunteer committee members, but were the majority on the body ultimately responsible for making things happen — from Main Street and sidewalk improvements and the Police Department review to negotiating a new Boat Club lease and possible privatization of garbage collection.

Let's not forget the all-but-complete updating of the village code, a tedious task that revamped more than 500 pages of laws affecting virtually every aspect of village life.

It wasn't just *what* Merandy, Early and Murphy did; it's *how* they did it. They got their hands dirty.

It was normal to see Merandy painting village sidewalks, placing brick around tree pits, serving as a parking attendant at a special event or lending his carpentry skills to village projects.

During the Main Street project, Early was a daily presence, working with the contractor, no doubt keeping his feet to the fire. She got to know every comma in the village code and can likely recite the document by heart. She walked the village, measuring each and every parking space.

Murphy will probably keep blasting out notices to residents until the last hour of her term. The village clerk will miss her willingness to fill in for him when he needs a day off. The entire village office will miss her coming in, often, to help with whatever had to get done.

Oh. And they organized Community Day. They didn't do it alone. They had help from other trustees, volunteers, committee members and family.

But they did a lot. Their pay, based on hours worked, would make minimum wage look good.

Thank you, Dave. Thank you, Marie. Thank you, Fran.

Years ago, I covered the mayor when he was president of the Haldane school board. My first headline about him read: "Merandy Storms Out of Meeting."

I think I'll call him, ask if he'll grant me a pardon before he leaves office.

NOTICE

PHILIPSTOWN PLANNING BOARD

Public Hearing – December 16th, 2021

The Planning Board of the Town of Philipstown, New York will hold a public hearing on Thursday, December 16th, 2021 starting at 7:30 p.m. via Zoom to consider the following application:

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

Project: Minor Project: Redevelopment of a residential property with a new single-family dwelling to be served by a new septic system and private well. Construction of a detached 2-car garage and swimming pool.

At said hearing all persons will have the right to be heard. Copies of the application, plat map, and other related materials may be seen in the Office of the Planning Board at the Building Department, 2 Cedar Street, Cold Spring (behind Town Hall). Prior contact with Cheryl Rockett is required to arrange access to the documents, at (845) 265-5202.

The meeting will be held virtually via Zoom. If you would like to attend the meeting, please email crockett@philipstown.com to request login information before 7:00 pm on December 16th, 2021. Dated at Philipstown, New York, this 18th day of November, 2021. Neal Zuckerman, Chair

NOTICE

The Philipstown Planning Board will hold their regular monthly meeting on **Thursday**, **December 16th, 2021 at 7:30 p.m. virtually via Zoom.**

If you would like to attend, please visit the following link: Register in advance for this webinar:

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_Ae3h9lo4QQOvg7q7tJiYmA

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OR email crockett@philipstown.com or nzuckerman@philipstown.com to request login information before 7 pm on December 16th, 2021.

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

Horton Road Project Faces Continued Scrutiny

Concerns aired about environmental impacts By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

R esidents and environmentalists last month continued to raise questions about a 25-home development proposed for a 210-acre tract in northern Philipstown.

Known as the Hudson Highlands Reserve, the project is under review by the Philipstown Planning Board, which last discussed the application at its Nov. 18 meeting. The site, which contains a small lake, is bounded by Route 9, East Mountain Road North and Horton Road.

Each of the proposed homes would have 2,500 to 3,000 square feet and sit on a 1-acre lot. They would sell for \$1 million to \$3 million, according to information provided a few years ago by the developer, Horton Road LLC, based in New York City. An earlier concept included an equestrian center, but the developers scrapped that after a 2019 public hearing. They returned with updated plans last spring.

Horton Road LLC calls the development a "conservation subdivision" but critics object because the homes would not be grouped closely together. (By arranging buildings compactly, conservation subdivsions typically can preserve open space and obtain zoning-law breaks, such as higher density.)

In a mid-September memo, the Hudson Highlands Land Trust acknowledged Horton Road LLC's "intentions in altering their plans to better protect sensitive environmental areas," but added that "we believe the updated plans do not create a conservation subdivision. The plans still do not reflect clustered development that preserves the important environmental resources on the land."

Citing that memo, a grassroots organization called Concerned Citizens for Philipstown on Oct. 24 began circulating an online petition urging the Planning Board to reject the proposed development because "the plan strongly resembles a traditional subdivision that does not prioritize the

There's going to be a huge disturbance to the natural landscape. That doesn't seem mitigated. ~ Heidi Wendel





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Even without the equestrian center, it said, details of the plan "pose many of the same — along with some potentially new — environmental risks." As of Wednesday (Dec. 1), the petition at change.org had 304 signatures; it follows a similar petition in 2019 that collected 577 names.

Richard O'Rourke, a lawyer for Horton Road LLC, told the Planning Board on Nov. 18 that with the new plan "82 percent of the land shall remain undisturbed." Under the 2019 plan, 45.7 acres would have been disturbed, but that figure is now 38.5 acres, he explained. In addition, the earlier proposal included 11 acres of impervious surfaces; that will decline to 8 acres.

Along with related changes, "we consider these to be very significant mitigation measures," O'Rourke said.

Planning Board Member Heidi Wendel responded that "there's still a large number of houses and they're spaced pretty far apart. There's going to be a huge disturbance to the natural landscape. That doesn't seem mitigated."

The developer also recently proposed creating access to the site from East Mountain Road North, but when Neal Zuckerman, who chairs the Planning Board, took an informal poll, no member supported it.

"We only threw it out there as an alternative" for consideration, O'Rourke said. "Eliminate it! We're done."

Ulises Liceaga of Horton Road LLC thanked the board members "for the hard work you do. This is what makes this town so special, and that's why we like it."

Shakespeare Festival

In a letter to the Planning Board, Davis McCallum, the artistic director of the Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival who happens to live on East Mountain Road, said he supported the petition and Hudson Highlands Land Trust position about the project, adding that he wanted "to draw a distinction between the transformation of the currently developed Garrison golf course into an ecologically sustainable home for a local nonprofit arts organization and the Hudson Highlands Reserve project, a commercial real estate developer applying to build a suburban-style housing division on previously undisturbed land."

The HVSF proposal, he wrote, "is the kind of thoughtful land conservation solution that ensures a vibrant future for our community while preserving open space and permanently protecting 200 currently vulnerable acres from further subdivision and development."

By comparison, he wrote, Hudson Highlands Reserve would be "exactly the purely profit-driven development" that philanthropist Chris Davis intended to prevent by donating The Garrison property to HVSF and HHLT.

The Planning Board continued its review of the HVSF proposal on Tuesday (Nov. 30), with Zuckerman congratulating the festival on receiving a \$2 million state regional development grant.

The grant "says a lot for the project; it says a lot about its promise and its broad appeal," Zuckerman said. "I think I speak for the board when I say — and I hope my colleagues are in alignment — that everyone feels that this project has great value for this community. I don't think this conversation we've been on is a debate about its merits as a social benefit."

Nonetheless, he said, "this board is tasked, obligatorily, with performing [due] diligence" as it continues a state-mandated environmental quality review of HVSF's plans. "We represent the town — no one individual; no one group. We represent the town and its interests. And as I've said many, many times, we balance property rights, individual property rights, with community rights. That's the work we're doing."

Then the board settled into another two hours and 20 minutes of its line-by-line review of the environmental-quality document.

JOIN Current

NOTICE

PHILIPSTOWN PLANNING BOARD

Public Hearing – December 16th, 2021

The Planning Board of the Town of Philipstown, New York will hold a public hearing on Thursday, December 16th, 2021 starting at 7:30 p.m. via Zoom to consider the following application:

Johnson & Rinderman, Mountain Brook Drive, Cold Spring, NY 10516 TM#16.-1-34 & 56

Project: Minor Project: Development of a new single-family dwelling to be served by a new septic system and private well, and related site improvements.

At said hearing all persons will have the right to be heard. Copies of the application, plat map, and other related materials may be seen in the Office of the Planning Board at the Building Department, 2 Cedar Street, Cold Spring (behind Town Hall). Prior contact with Cheryl Rockett is required to arrange access to the documents, at (845) 265-5202.

The meeting will be held virtually via Zoom. If you would like to attend the meeting, please email crockett@philipstown.com to request login information before 7:00 pm on December 16th, 2021.

Dated at Philipstown, New York, this 18th day of November, 2021.

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SPORTS

Aaron Pegues, a junior, wrestles for Beacon at 189 pounds.

File photos by S. Pearlman

Preview: Beacon Wrestling

By Skip Pearlman

The Beacon High School wrestling team opened its 2021-22 season – its first in Section IX after the district moved from Section I – on Wednesday (Dec. 1) at home, dropping a 57-18 decision

to Valley Central.

"We are missing some key guys in our lineup, so that will make a difference when they get back," said Coach Ron Tompkins.

The Bulldogs picked up victories from senior Ray Robles (by pin, at 145 pounds), senior Lou Del Bianco (pin, at 215 pounds) and senior



Lou Del Bianco, seen at right in January 2020, scored a pin in his first match this season.

Tyler Haydt, a newcomer at 285 pounds who Tompkins expects will "surprise some people" because of his size and strength.

The Bulldogs did not compete during last winter's abbreviated season and Beacon was a .500 team in 2019. A major loss from the 2019 team is junior Chris Crawford, a sectional champion who moved to a different school district.

Tompkins pointed to Del Bianco and

senior Danny Way (130 pounds) as key returning wrestlers, as well as junior Aaron Pegues (189) and senior Alex Khalil (172). Newcomers include freshmen Brandon Martinez (126) and Jude Bendacourt (118). "From what I've seen of our newcomers, no one gives up," said Tompkins. "They just need some mat time; they'll all get better." The Bulldogs are scheduled to wrestle on Thursday (Dec. 9) at Newburgh.



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Puzzles

10

46. Currier's partner 47. Corn castoffs

48. Smack a baseball 50. "- was saying ..."

14

17

23

11

CROSSCURRENT

ACROSS	1	2	3	4		5	6	7
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5. The whole	12					10		
enchilada	15					16		
8. Outlet letters	18	_			19			20
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15. At the summit of	31				32			
16. Her bed was too								
soft	35			36		37		
18. Jungle trek			39		40		41	
20. Make happy	10	40			 	1.1		45
21. Swindles	42	43				44		45
23. Workout site	49						50	
24. Spaghetti topper								
28. Whirled	52					53		
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- Answers for Nov. 30 Puzzles S Т E F **|** F | Т E D 2 6 3 4 8 5 9 1 7 S Е D Ρ U R R Е D \cap 5 9 3 2 8 7 4 6 1 U UR Е F 11 Ν S ACR F А 2 4 5 3 IIN 9 1 7 6 8 Е M M Α 2 5 9 1 6 8 3 4 7 В R D Ν N С Е 9 7 8 3 5 2 4 6 1 Ο R Ο т Е А G Т Ο 4 3 2 9 6 1 7 5 8 W F 5 2 3 9 6 8 4 1 7 Ο С L А G 0 Α L А V Ο ΤE R Ο D Е R Е D Е 3 2 5 9 1 7 8 4 6 Е R Е Ο D Ν Е С Т S 9 2 5 6 3 4 8 S R А А S Ε Т Т S Ο S

1. FLOUTING, 2. CAVED, 3. ESTEEM, 4. GOODACRE, 5. MISSISSIPPI, 6. NITPICKERS, 7. ORPHAN

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

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			SOLU	JTIONS
1 requiring	great ef	fort (9)		
2 pale purp	le (5)			
3 spilling the	e beans	s (8)		
4 Bollywood	d's conti	inent (4)		
5 baseball's	Barry ((5)		
6 American	ringma	ster P.T. (6	5)	
7 bronzing i	n the su	un (7)		
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SUDOCURRENT

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Junior Matteo Cervone, shown in a February game against North Salem, is one of Haldane's returning starters. File photos by S. Pearlman

Preview: Boys' Basketball

By Skip Pearlman

BEACON BULLDOGS

The Beacon High School boys' basketball team got a second chance to win its seasonopener Wednesday (Dec. 1) at Red Hook, but the Bulldogs couldn't cash in and left with a stinging, 57–55, overtime loss.

Darien Gillins led the Bulldogs with 17 points, Jack Philipbar added 13, Chase Green had 10 and Jason Komisar had seven.

Red Hook led by a basket at the end of the game when Philipbar was fouled with - apparently - no time left on the clock.

The officials huddled, then said the game was over. But then they talked again and awarded Philipbar two free throws — which he made, sending the game into overtime.

Red Hook scored with eight seconds left in overtime and a shot by Beacon from midcourt didn't fall.

"That was one of the most exciting games I've ever been a part of," said Coach Scott Timpano. "We're not a young team, but we're still learning how to win."

The Bulldogs, who were 1–10 last winter and lost in the first round of the state tournament, return four starters: seniors Komisar and Green and juniors Gillins and Philipbar. Senior guard Jamel Blackwell-Sellers also returns, along with junior guard Adrian Bento, senior forward Simi Mann, junior guard Leo Gecaj and junior forward Gavin LaDue. Joining the team are junior forward Joe Battle, junior guard Wilson Ciccone and



Darien Gillins, shown here driving against Poughkeepsie in a March game, scored 17 points in Beacon's opener.

sophomore Jack Antalek.

"We return a lot of our major players from last season," Timpano said. "We're hoping that experience can fuel us to be a better team. We saw flashes of that tonight."

The Bulldogs, who moved this season from Section I to Section IX, are scheduled to travel to Pine Bush today (Dec. 3) and host Valley Central on Tuesday.

HALDANE BLUE DEVILS

After finishing 10–1 last season but losing to Lakeland on a buzzer-beater in the state tournament, Haldane's players have their eyes on the sectional title.

The team returns starters Matteo Cervone, Soren Holmbo and Ryan Irwin but will miss the services of three-year starters Dan Santos and Darrin Santos, who graduated in June.

Also returning are senior guard Robert Viggiano (who was injured last season), senior guard Julian Forcello, senior forward Stefano Hammond and senior guard Giancarlo Carone (currently recovering from a football injury). Newcomers include senior forward Tristan Reid and juniors Will Bradley, Ben Boszik, Jesse Hagan, Julian Ambrose and Ryan Eng-Wong.

Coach Joe Virgadamo said the team will lean heavily on the returning starters.

"Those three will set the tempo," he said. "We want to run, but we'll also play a half-court game. They're all dynamic, and can shoot and defend. They'll be our floor generals and lead the way. And this team's selfless play has been great so far."

Virgadamo said his team has the potential to win the league, which includes Putnam Valley, Croton, North Salem and Pawling.

"We need to be balanced, have five players in double figures," he said. "We want to win the section — the last time we did that was 2016, so we're due. If we continue to improve our shooting and our defensive intensity, I believe this team has a lot of potential."

Haldane was scheduled to open its season on Thursday (Dec. 2) at Alexander Hamilton and visit Washingtonville on Saturday.

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GIRLS' BASKETBALL

Westlake	58
Haldane	24

Camilla McDaniel (8); Maddie Chiera (7)

Roosevelt	54
Beacon	31
	(0)

Reilly Landisi (13); K. Rodriquez (6)

BOYS' BOWLING

Beacon	7
Roosevelt	0

GIRLS' BOWLING

Beacon	5
Roosevelt	2

BOYS' SWIMMING

Goshen	107
Beacon	54



Most Haldane junior varsity and varsity home games are livestreamed at LocalLive (**bit.ly/haldane-stream**). Many of Haldane's opponents also broadcast via the site when they host the Blue Devils.

Many Beacon away games are livestreamed on the NFHS Network. See **bit.ly/beacon-stream**. A subscription is \$10.99 per month or \$69.99 annually. Home games are livestreamed via HUDL through links at **beaconk12.org/athletics**.