



The HIGHLANDS Current

DECEMBER 24, 2021

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Christmas Decor Taken to the Max

Annual holiday setup in Cold Spring takes a week

By Michael Turton

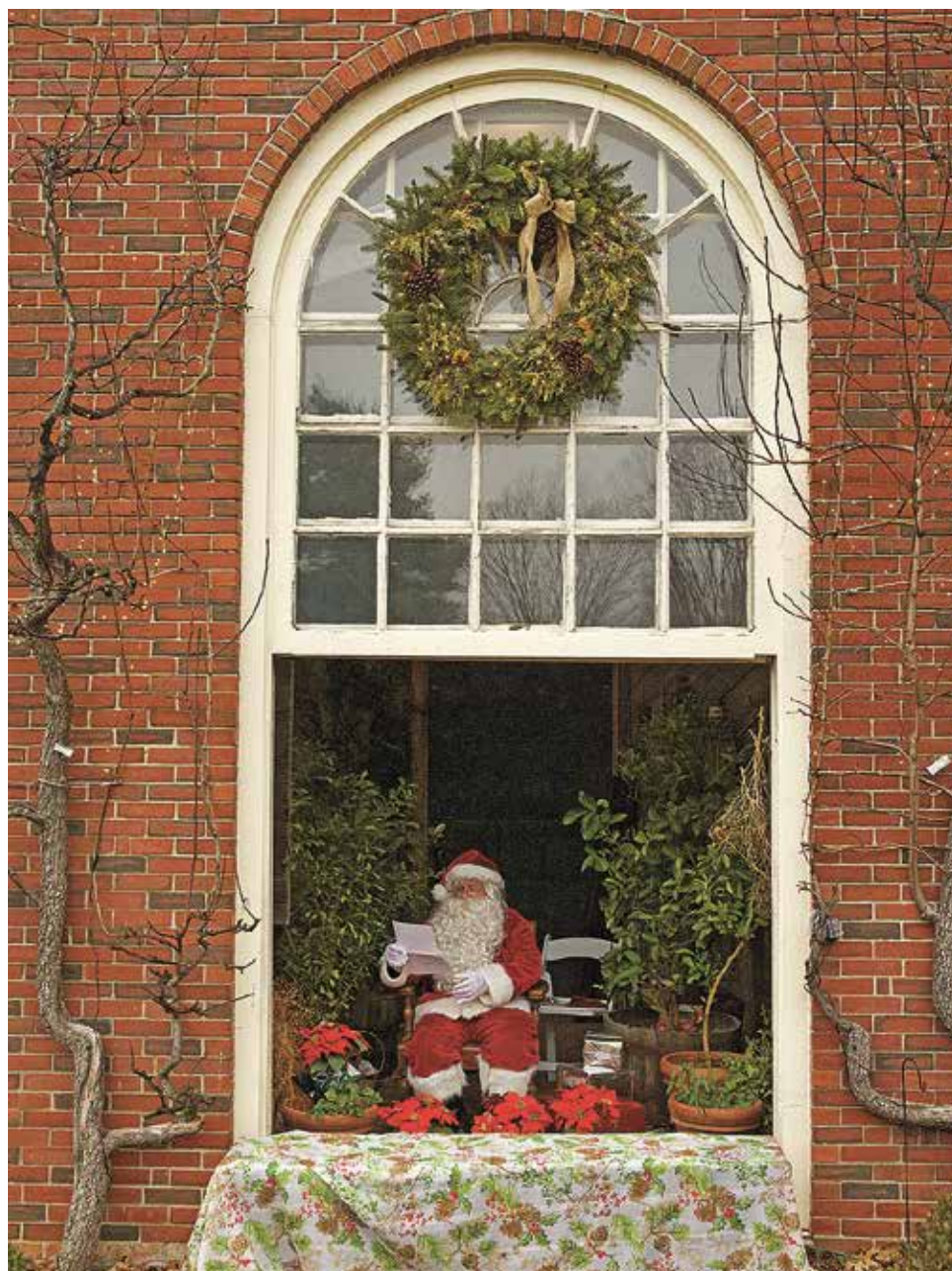
Each Christmas, Leon Pralatowski honors the memory of his parents by continuing a yuletide tradition that began nearly 40 years ago, in 1984, when his mother started a Dickens village.

There were only seven houses that first year, recalls the Cold Spring resident. But each holiday, she added structures made by Department 56, a Minnesota firm, and sold at Christmas Days, a shop in Arlington, Vermont, to which the family made an annual pilgrimage.

Although both his parents are now gone — his mother died in 1991 and his father in 2011 — Pralatowski keeps the tradition alive and then some. Each year, he takes a week off from work to retrieve the collection from storage and decorate his home on Craigsides Drive, working six to eight hours a day.

This year there are 135 buildings in the village under his tree, including his mother's original seven. "I have about 300, but I couldn't possibly put them all out," he said. (He doesn't travel to Vermont but still orders from Christmas Days.)

The replicas of historic buildings such as Big Ben and Buckingham Palace are favorites, along with Charles Dickens' home,
(Continued on Page 6)



SEEING SANTA — Kris Kringle paid three visits to Boscobel in Garrison in December to accept and read letters from good children, including on Dec. 18, although the rain kept many families away.
Photo by Ross Corsair

Putnam Plans to Change Ambulance Service

Outcry over last-minute move from EMStar to Ambulnz

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

Plans by Putnam County to replace EMStar with Ambulnz as the provider of county-wide ambulance service as of Jan. 1 sparked an outcry at the county Legislature's Protective Services Committee meeting on Dec. 15.

During a contentious session in Carmel, Putnam officials defended the move as economically prudent. According to Alessandro Mazzotta, the county purchasing director, for the first year of a five-year contract, Ambulnz bid \$1,487,390 while EMStar bid \$1,918,992. He said that no other services demonstrated interest.

Beacon likewise stated this month that it intends to hire Ambulnz for \$150,000 in 2022 to provide advance life support (ALS), treatment by paramedics for heart attacks, strokes and similar medical emergencies. By comparison, other ambulance staff, typically emergency medical technicians, supply basic life support to stabilize patients until they can reach a hospital.

EMStar, based in Poughkeepsie, merged this year with Empress Ambulances, headquartered in Westchester County. Ambulnz,
(Continued on Page 8)

No Vax, No Mask, No Service

Local businesses enforce new mandate

By Leonard Sparks

Jenny Zuko has had to remind several customers entering Zakko Joy, her gift shop at 177 Main St. in Beacon, about a new state-ordered mask requirement and watch them leave after telling her the mandate "isn't real."

She's also had three customers call to request deliveries to their homes because they have COVID-19.

"We're just asking everybody to wear a mask," Zukko said on Tuesday (Dec. 21).

"People have been generally great."

Thursday marked 10 days since businesses and venues, under a state order that took effect on Dec. 13, had to begin ensuring that staff and customers wear masks indoors, regardless of vaccination status, or verify that everyone is fully vaccinated.

While the order, which will be re-evaluated on Jan. 15, is a response to a wave of infections and hospitalizations that is projected to worsen, it has drawn criticism from Dutchess County Executive Marc Molinaro and Putnam Executive MaryEllen Odell, both Republicans, who said their health departments would not enforce the

(Continued on Page 9)



Masks are required at Lewis & Pine in Beacon, where owner Yali Lewis rang up a purchase for a customer on Tuesday (Dec. 21).
Photo by L. Sparks

5Q FIVE QUESTIONS: TINA BROWN

By Zach Rodgers

Tina Brown of Beacon has been a foster parent to more than 100 children and teens. Her responses are excerpted from an interview for the podcast *Beaconites*.

What was your introduction to foster parenting?

I was 18 and a family member needed a placement. I became licensed and kept going from there. The first group we took in was six kids. My grandmother was a huge help. She taught me to cook — because I had no idea how — and how to manage a large group.

What's your go-to recipe for a large group?

Baked ziti. I always have homemade sauce ready. And when I buy ground beef, I fry it all and put it in 1-pound containers, so it's always on hand. You throw in some sauce. Cook up some noodles and throw it all into a foil pan. Chop up some peppers and onions and fresh tomatoes. Add your seasonings, throw some cheese on top, bake it up and call it a day.

What's the largest number of children



Tina Brown with two of her foster children, now grown

you've had living with you at one time?

Eighteen, for 27 very long days. We do not separate siblings, if at all possible. So whatever they call us for, we open our home and we figure it out. We've had kids anywhere from a 24-hour emergency placement to 19 years. I have two biological children. They're 5 and 11, and they're very welcom-

ing. They love when their siblings come. They're a little sad when they leave, but a lot of the kids stay in contact.

I'm trying to picture what the holidays are like at your place.

We go big for everything. Our Easter egg hunt has between 4,000 and 5,000 eggs. We do every holiday, from Cinco de Mayo to Hanukkah, Kwanzaa and Christmas, New Year's, St. Patrick's Day, Dr. Seuss Day, National Doughnut Day and National Sock Day. Kids are only young once and you have to build memories.

What does it take to become a foster parent?

You go through a background check, fingerprinting, home inspections, monthly fire drills. You go for 10 weeks of classes, and then ongoing classes if you have children with special needs. It sounds like a lot, but CPS [Child Protective Services] is very supportive. And when you see them smiling and graduating, it's amazing. My kids get mad at me because I wear those corny "proud mom" shirts to every event. It will change you forever. You can tell somebody all day long about abuse or neglect. When a 6-year-old looks at you and says, "You took my nightmares away," it's all worth it.

ON THE SPOT

By Michael Turton

What's one of the best Christmas gifts you've received?

“

My first bike, when I was a kid; it was green.

”



Brittany Mustakas, Beacon

“

A black suede jacket, a long time ago.

”



Oswaldo Contreras, Cold Spring

“

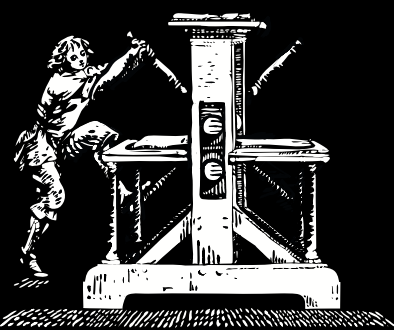
Years ago, it started snowing on Christmas Eve. Love a white Christmas!

”



Kay Corkum, Garrison

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Nancy Swann,
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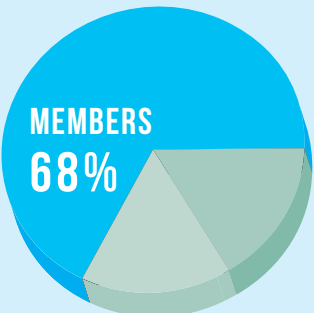
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Goldee Greene,
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Dan Rigney and Kat Stoutenborough, Beacon

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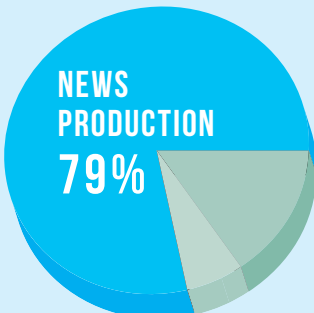
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The *Current* welcomes letters to the editor on its coverage and local issues. Submissions are selected by the editor (including from comments posted to our social media pages) to provide a variety of opinions and voices, and all are subject to editing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

LETTERS AND COMMENTS

Mask mandate

So, in order to get the approval of Trump and Fox News and a relatively small number of people who refuse to get vaccinated, Putnam County legislators are happily throwing the rest of us, who care enough about our families and our community to protect them by getting vaccinated and wearing masks, under the bus ("Dutchess, Putnam Will Not Enforce Mask Mandate," Dec. 17).

They apparently don't care that we all pay for the illness and deaths of those who get COVID-19 because they wouldn't take care of themselves, and they also don't care that hospitals are overloaded and health care workers are at the end of their rope. All just so they can be seen giving the finger to a Democratic governor. How disgustingly petty. I wish them a miserable holiday and an uncomfortable new year.

David Limberg, *Nelsonville*

I was dismayed to see that our county executive has refused to protect residents of Putnam County with her decision to not enforce the state mask mandate.

Testing shows that the chance of spread goes down a lot if an infected person is masked. If an unmasked, unvaxed, infected person shares an indoor space with people who are masked and vaxed, the infection can spread.

So this is not a case where each of us can make a personal choice. The infected, unvaccinated person who decides to go maskless is making a decision for the community. People who do not want to be infected have no way to be safe because there is no way to prevent infected,

unmasked people from showing up.

I was looking forward to shopping in Putnam County for holiday gifts and personal necessities once the mask mandate was enforced. If that's not happening, I will have to continue going to Westchester and avoiding places in Putnam.

Judy Allen, *Putnam Valley*

Our county executive is willing to put the lives of children and seniors at risk just so she can stay on Team Trump's Christmas card list? Shameful.

Sean Conway, *Cold Spring*

People have a choice. If you chose to be vaccinated, we were told we would no longer need to worry about getting a severe reaction to COVID-19. With that said, those who are vaccinated should not be required to mask up against some political mandate.

I choose to be vaccinated and choose to not wear a mask. If a person is worried (vaccinated or not), wear a mask, wear a hazmat suit or whatever you want, but leave the choice to the individual.

Many will say that scientists say masks are critical, but it's basically taking some data and giving an opinion. Stop forcing people to do silly things against their beliefs. If you believe a mask is so important in your protection and blocks the virus, why are you so worried that me not wearing a mask will affect you?

Charlie Symon, *Beacon*

The Legislature's response is such a joke. Thank goodness these elected officials weren't alive during World War II rationing efforts — can you imagine the tantrums

if they had to give up sugar for the greater good? Our Putnam County business has been enforcing masks since we reopened our doors. It's not a hardship. It's protecting our staff and our community.

I wish *The Current* would have talked to some small-business owners to get our perspective. I doubt the county executives or state Sen. Sue Serino got many perspectives before claiming to care about the effects on small businesses. Guess what hurts small businesses the most? Our staff and our customers getting COVID-19.

After over a year and half of wearing masks, I wish people would stop whining and learn to be as mature as our 2-year-old, who wears her mask in stores and knows she needs to go outside when she's ready to take it off.

Heidi Bender, *Cold Spring*
Bender co-owns *Split Rock Books*.

People have realized the folly of their personal choice when on a ventilator, lungs flooded and gasping for breath. A friend's brother is in just such a state, begging for a miracle.

Ann Fanizzi, *Carmel*

Wearing a mask is not my personal choice, it is a choice for the community. I do not feel limited in my freedom when I wear a mask; I feel that it is the least I can do to keep my fellow community members safe. It is, however, an expression of my personal freedom to prefer shops that enforce a mask mandate for my holiday shopping.

Bettina Utz, *Cold Spring*

(Continued on Page 5)



LETTERS AND COMMENTS

(Continued from Page 4)

As yet another surge of infection is taking place, Odell has the audacity to call the wearing of masks “unrealistic.” Since she and her co-conspirators seem unable, I will say that I am embarrassed for them.

Gregory Bochow, *Cold Spring*

I am so grateful that we have at least one voice of reason in the Putnam Legislature in Nancy Montgomery, who represents Phil-
ipstown.

Gov. Ron DeSantis of Florida had said that lockdowns and mask mandates in Australia were because of its communistic authoritarian government. That description came as a surprise to me, being Australian.

Florida and Australia have similar populations, although Floridians on average are a bit older (42 years) than Australians (37 years) and so more susceptible to COVID-19. In this pandemic there have been 2,164 deaths in Australia, and 62,264 in Florida.

Much of the discussion has been about the right to choose. The discussion should be about how do we save lives. Is your right not to be vaccinated or not to wear a mask more important than my right not to catch COVID-19 by going to the store?

The scientific evidence is clear-cut; lives can be saved and we can return to normal more quickly by adopting simple and easy behaviors. There is no risk from wearing a mask in public. Vaccinations are safer than flying on a commercial airline.

I would ask legislators to consult with medical experts and perform their duties and obligations to ensure the health and safety of our civilization.

David Watson, *Cold Spring*

In a society that has gone too far with censorship, it no longer feels free and truthful to a large part of the population. It is a relief to have officials speaking for the whole as opposed to the believers of the untrustworthy television news.

As an adult, I will decide for myself. It has felt like a police state for far too long.

Cassandra Saulter, *via Instagram*

It comes as no surprise that some leaders of Dutchess and Putnam counties have sided with the virus over the safety and

Correction

In a story on the new home of the Beacon Historical Society (Dec. 17), we reported that a painting by Ella Ferris Pell was created in the 19th century; in fact, it was painted in the early 20th century. Also, the society was invited to move to the former rectory at 61 Leonard St. by St. Joachim's Church; the Franciscan brothers were the prior tenants but did not own the building.

well-being of their constituents. Their arguments that it would divert resources from vaccination and testing efforts is implausible since both counties are clearly able to walk and chew gum at the same time.

Even more ridiculous is their claim that mask and vaccine mandates would impose onerous burdens on small businesses. We believe businesses — particularly bars and restaurants — requiring masks and proof of vaccine would make customers more comfortable patronizing them. For every customer who does not go to a business because it is complying with the state mandate, there will probably be at least two who do. The overall issue is more than 800,000 Americans have been killed by the COVID-19 virus, and measures such as mask and vaccine mandates are not “totalitarian,” they save lives. Why are these “leaders” against that?

Matt Bloom and Shelley Simmon-
Bloom, *Beacon*

No shirt, no shoes, no service ... no problem. No shirt, no shoes, no *mask*, no service ... Oh my God, the sky is falling! This is the logic of MaryEllen Odell.

Store management and employees routinely refuse to serve those not wearing a shirt or shoes — and post signs saying so. Nobody gets bent out of shape. In the face of the most highly contagious variant of COVID-19, with infections on a fast rise, Gov. Kathy Hochul has wisely called for a mask mandate in indoor public places.

Obviously, this is aspirational. Obviously, there will be no “enforcers” in every indoor public space. The governor is sending the

responsible message that this is what we must do to stay safe. With more than 100,000 infections per day nationwide, it is incumbent upon government to do the responsible thing.

If everyone were vaccinated, the virus would be rendered of little consequence and we could get back to building our economy. Since we have vaccine refuseniks, we have no choice but to all wear masks. Unfortunately, we have some Chicken Littles like Odell who, for political reasons, assume a posture that appeals to the fuzzy thought of ill-informed people. In dealing with the pandemic, Trump exploited a certain infantilism residing in the American psyche for his own political ends. This Trumpism has trickled down to the local level.

Nick Kuvach, *Putnam Valley*

Thanks to (most) Putnam legislators for actually believing that adults who live in the county can listen to the science and make a common-sense decision for themselves and their children without the nanny state interfering.

Eileen Anderson, *via Facebook*

This is just a case of Dutchess County Executive Marc Molinaro using our lives to campaign for Congress. First it was the financial future of the county with his endless promises since announcing his run, and now this. How does a man who lost his own father to COVID-19 not want

to protect other people from experiencing that tragedy?

John Gorman, *via Facebook*

No one is opposing the mask mandate. They just won't enforce it because they can't. Putnam wants to set up additional testing sites so people can get tested before gathering for the holidays. They aren't going to use those resources to see if they can catch someone not wearing a mask! Let the state police the businesses.

Patricia Burruano, *via Facebook*

Free vaccination, or \$100,000 hospital stay.

Shelley Gilbert, *via Facebook*

Wearing a mask isn't being outlawed. Putnam has done quite an excellent job on getting vaccine and booster clinics set up and letting the public know about them. Maybe if the governor feels so strongly about her mandate, she should direct state resources to enforce it. Or perhaps our state Legislature could pass a law.

Christopher Harrigan, *via Facebook*

Un. Real. It's easy to check vaccination status — been to New York City lately? It's ubiquitous — and it's also one of the only ways we'll get through this pandemic without further major loss of life. Let's make sure none of these people gets re-elected.

Yvonne Caruthers, *via Instagram*

NOTICE OF ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Board of Trustees of the Village of Nelsonville, Putnam County, New York, at a meeting held on the 20th day of December, 2021, duly adopted there solution published here with **SUBJECT TO PERMISSIVE REFERENDUM.**
Dated: Nelsonville, New York December 22, 2021

INTRODUCTORY LOCAL LAW NO. 1 OF 2022 BOARD OF TRUSTEES / VILLAGE OF NELSONVILLE

A local law adopted pursuant to Cannabis Law §131 opting out of licensing and establishing retail cannabis dispensaries and/or on-site cannabis consumption establishments within the Village of Nelsonville.

BE IT ENACTED by the Board of Trustees of the Village of Nelsonville, County of Putnam and State of New York ("Village") as follows:

SECTION 1. LEGISLATIVE INTENT

It is the intent of this local law to opt the Village of Nelsonville out of permitting retail cannabis dispensaries and/or on-site cannabis consumption establishments within its boundaries. NYS Cannabis law § 131 provides that a local law is required for a village to not permit retail cannabis dispensaries and on-site cannabis consumption establishments from locating and operating within a municipality, and is subject to a permissive referendum.

SECTION 2. AUTHORITY

This local law is adopted pursuant to Cannabis law § 131, which expressly authorizes villages to not permit retail cannabis dispensaries and on-site cannabis consumption establishments to locate and operate within village boundaries.

SECTION 3. LOCAL CANNABIS RETAIL DISPENSARY AND ON-SITE CONSUMPTION OPT-OUT

The Board of Trustees of the Village hereby opts-out of permitting the licensing, establishment and operation of cannabis retail dispensaries and cannabis on-site consumption establishments within its boundaries.

SECTION 4. SEVERABILITY

If a court determines that any clause, sentence, paragraph, subdivision, or part of this local law or the application thereof to any person, firm or corporation, or circumstance is invalid or unconstitutional, the court's order or judgment shall not affect, impair, or invalidate the remainder of this local law, but shall be confined in its operation to the clause, sentence, paragraph, subdivision, or part of this local law or in its application to the person, individual, firm or corporation or circumstance, directly involved in the controversy in which such judgment or order shall be rendered.

SECTION 5. EFFECTIVE DATE

This local law shall take effect immediately upon filing with the Secretary of State. Pursuant to Cannabis Law § 131 This local law is subject to a permissive referendum and thus may not be filed with the Secretary of State until the applicable time period has elapsed for a petition to be filed for a referendum by the requisite number of registered voters.



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Leon Pralatowski owns about 300 Dickens village buildings but only has room to display 135. For more photos, see highlandscurrent.org.

Collection *(from Page 1)*

the Marley Counting House and Ebenezer Scrooge's house from *A Christmas Carol*.

The streets of his miniature community are alive with pedestrians and horsedrawn vehicles. When asked for its population, Pralatowski laughed and admitted, "That I do not know!"

Then there is the Santa Claus collection, which includes 24 created since 1987 by Lynn Haney, a high school art teacher in Lubbock, Texas. His most recent depicts

a version of Saint Nick from Germany's Black Forest region. Stuffed animals from the Vermont Teddy Bear Co. are also part of the visual array.

It wouldn't be Christmas without the centerpiece, an artificial conifer festooned with ornaments purchased from Vermont over four decades. One of the newer decorations pays homage to *Downton Abbey*.

Pralatowski said the decorations will stay up until mid-January, when the collection will be boxed and returned to a large, walk-in closet.



Pralatowski displays some of his Santas at his home in Cold Spring.

Photos by M. Turton

Deep Roots

The Pralatowski family has been celebrating holidays in Cold Spring for more than a century. "I think I'm the seventh Leon Pralatowski, though I haven't traced it that far back," he said.

Leon's father, who built the family home on Craigsides Drive, was an engineer with the New York City Board of Education. His mother, Winifred, was a telephone operator who began work at age 15 during the Depression.

His grandfather was the village postmaster. His grandmother, Ellen, volunteered for the Red Cross at Hotel Manteo (now J. Murphy's restaurant) when it was a makeshift hospital during the 1918 Spanish Flu pandemic.

His great-grandfather owned a tailor shop on the north side of Main Street at the intersection with Depot Square, where he made uniforms for the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. His maternal great-grandfather, an Irishman named Patrick Scullion, worked at the West Point Foundry.

NEWS BRIEFS

Snake Hill Road Culvert to Be Replaced

State awards \$1 million in funding

Putnam County will receive \$1 million in state funding to replace the culvert that carries Snake Hill Road over a tributary of Philipse Brook in Garrison.

The funding, announced by Gov. Kathy Hochul on Dec. 15, is part of \$216.2 million allocated to rehab and replace bridges and culverts through New York's BRIDGE NY program.

Putnam County is receiving another \$1 million to replace a culvert that carries Peekskill Hollow Road over Wiccopee Brook in Putnam Valley.

Researchers Recatch Fish 26 Years Later

Shortnose sturgeon in Hudson was tagged in 1995

Researchers studying the shortnose sturgeon in the Hudson River caught a specimen near Staatsburg on Nov. 19 that had been tagged 26 years ago.

When caught in 1995, it was 25½ inches long and about 15 years old, said the ecologists, who are based at Cornell University. By 2021, at about age 40, it had grown to 33½ inches. The researchers said it was not unusual to recapture fish, but rarely a quarter-century later.

Shortnose sturgeon reach maturity at around seven to 10 years and then grow slowly, the Cornell scientists said. The oldest known female was 67 years old and the oldest known male was 32. It was the first species listed as endangered after the Endangered Species Act was adopted in 1973; by the 1990s, its numbers in the Hudson had grown by 400 percent, according to surveys.

Dutchess Conducting Speed Tests

Hopes to identify gaps in internet service

Dutchess County is conducting a survey as the first step in a plan to expand access to high-speed internet.

Because Dutchess is served by multiple providers, the county said it has been difficult to identify gaps in service. The survey at dutchessny.gov/highspeedinternet asks residents to complete a speed test of their connected device.

Those with limited or no internet access can complete a paper survey available by calling 845-486-2080, which is important "to give us an accurate and comprehensive map," explained County Executive Marc Molinaro. The survey results will be used to create a strategic plan next year; the county plans to spend \$1 million of its American Rescue Plan Act funds to broaden digital access.

Everyone in Philipstown should be able to afford to take climate action.

This holiday season, donate to the Philipstown Climate Fund to help a neighbor transition away from fossil fuels or reduce their carbon emissions.

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ECO LOGICAL CITIZEN'S PROJECT

Philipstown to Handle Village Snow Removal

Town seeks answers before paying \$15,000 for county job
By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

The Philipstown Town Board last week agreed to cover Cold Spring snow removal during a pandemic-related personnel shortage; began considering COVID-19 vaccination rules for town staff; and delayed paying Putnam County for a senior citizen outreach job that remained vacant all year.

The five-member board acted at its year-end meeting on Dec. 16 at Town Hall.

Councilor John Van Tassel and Cold Spring Mayor Kathleen Foley proposed that the town Highway Department handle snowplowing and similar chores in the immediate future for its village counterpart, which Foley said is short-staffed because one worker went into COVID-19 quarantine while others were absent for various reasons.

“Cold Spring has a big problem,” said Van Tassel, the deputy supervisor. “If there were a snowstorm in the next month, they’d have nobody to cover.”

He said the village is expected to reim-

burse the town for expenses. Van Tassel, who was elected in November to succeed Supervisor Richard Shea, also recommended that the municipalities adopt a reciprocity pact, so that “if we’re in a situation where we can’t staff” the town Highway Department, “the village could assist us.” He said the village and town lawyers would confer in preparing an agreement.

Foley said that “we can imagine a scenario where this could very easily happen again, with multiple folks going out, whether vaccinated or not,” because the Omicron variant “is just crashing through even vaccinated folks.”

On a related matter, Van Tassel reported that he asked the town attorney to draft a policy, forceful “to the limit of the law,” instructing town employees to get vaccinated against COVID-19 or wear masks and undergo testing.

“I don’t want to fool around with this,” he said. “There’s no reason we shouldn’t be 100 percent vaccinated.”

He said the town Recreation Department, including part-time employees, is vaccinated, along with employees in Town Hall. The Building-Code Enforcement Department, in an adjacent office,

is also apparently 100 percent vaccinated, according to Van Tassel and Town Clerk Tara Percacciolo. However, Highway Superintendent Carl Frisenda estimates that the Highway Department vaccination rate is 70 to 75 percent, Van Tassel said.

He observed that on Dec. 15 he attended a Putnam County legislative committee meeting at which about 40 people packed the compact conference room. Only five — all from Philipstown (including Cold Spring) — wore masks, he said. “I’m proud of Philipstown.”

“The fact that this thing has become a political ideology, when it’s a health issue, just confounds me,” said Shea.

Senior aide

In other business, the board voted unanimously to delay payment of \$15,000 for the town’s half of the salary of a senior citizen program aide based at the county-run Philipstown senior citizen in Cold Spring. The position is vacant.

Councilor Jason Angell said that Michael Cunningham, the county Office for Senior Resources director, told him that three Philipstown candidates turned down the job and “they’ve had no luck” otherwise filling it.

North Highlands Fire Results

In a Philipstown North Highlands Fire District vote held on Dec. 14, Josephine Rupp was re-elected to a five-year term as a commissioner, defeating challenger Patrick Scherer, 66-36. Christopher Lyons was also elected, running unopposed, to finish the three years remaining on the term of Tom Knapp, who retired last year.

The other commissioners are Amy Locitzer, Eamon Shanahan and Charles Nolen.

According to the county, Angell said, other Putnam employees have carried the extra load, so that, despite the empty office, Philipstown’s \$15,000 payment for 2021 “was absorbed.”

“We need some accounting” on that, Shea said. “Specifically, where did the money go?”

Van Tassel said it “is hard to fathom” that, in a pandemic, other county employees could take on additional work. He said he didn’t think the town should pay the \$15,000 for 2022 unless someone is hired.

Nelsonville Opts Out of Allowing Marijuana Retail

Also, Mayor Bowman says he won’t run again
By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

After months of deliberation and public input, the Nelsonville Village Board on Monday (Dec. 20) voted 4-0 to ban marijuana shops and lounges.

New York legalized recreational use of marijuana for adults but left it up to municipalities to decide whether to allow cannabis stores or smoking lounges. Municipalities must vote by Dec. 31 to prohibit pot enterprises but can later opt in if their views change. Philipstown opted out on Nov. 4; Cold Spring sent the issue to voters, who on Nov. 2 approved retail sales but rejected on-site consumption; and Beacon effectively opted in by not taking action.

Nelsonville Mayor Mike Bowman said residents who object to the ban can try to overturn it through a ballot referendum. The resolution passed on Monday states that the village “opts out of permitting the licensing, establishment, and operation of cannabis retail dispensaries and on-site establishments within its boundaries.”

The board had talked about opting out since spring and in November held a public hearing where most residents who offered an opinion favored a ban.

Short-term rentals

The board scheduled for Monday, then postponed until January, a public hearing on a proposal to regulate short-term rentals; one of the five board members was quarantining after a COVID-19 exposure

and could not get to the meeting.

For several years — far longer than it considered the cannabis question — the Village Board has wrestled with rentals booked through sites such as Airbnb: rooms, houses and apartments provided to paying guests as vacation or weekend accommodations.

The board convened public hearings on a draft law in February and October. “I feel like I’m living in *Groundhog Day*,” said Bowman. “It’s the same thing over and over and over and ...”


Residents have spoken passionately on both sides of the question. Board members have disagreed, as well. On Monday, Trustee Kathleen Maloney, without elaborating, opposed holding a hearing in January while Bowman and Trustees Chris Winward and Dave Moroney voted to schedule it. Nonetheless, Bowman said that, “it’s been pretty well established that there’s a majority on the board that wants to see it [regulation] move forward.”

Bowman not running


Bowman announced that he would not seek re-election as mayor in village elections scheduled for March 15. His seat, along with those held by Winward and Moroney, will be on the ballot. Each is for a two-year term.

Bowman cited increased employment responsibilities and the fact that “my son is 3½ and acutely aware when his daddy is not home, out dealing with village issues, or distracted by phone calls or texts. I want to be there for him and Donna [his wife], as much as I possibly can.”

Elected as a trustee in 2018, Bowman




Real Estate



Market Report (November)

	Beacon		Philipstown	
	2020	2021	2020	2021
New Listings	8	9	15	5
Closed Sales	8	8	9	9
Days on Market	17	47	148	77
Median Price	\$555,250	\$417,500	\$770,000	\$521,000
% List Received	101.8	105.3	85.6	96.1
Inventory	16	26	71	31

Source: Hudson Gateway Association of Realtors (hgar.com). Excludes condos. Philipstown includes Cold Spring, Garrison and Nelsonville.



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became mayor in 2019 when the board appointed him to succeed Chris Caccamise, who had resigned two months into his term. The following year, Bowman was elected to a full term.

“In the past three years I’m proud of everything we’ve accomplished as a board and as a village, from navigating the uncertainties of COVID to making the really hard decisions to protect the village’s future, even when those decisions weren’t the most popular,” he said. “I’m most proud of the respect and dignity that you [Village Board members] have shown residents: patiently letting meetings run a little bit longer to let everyone have

their say — sometimes saying it more than once, twice or three times. The greatest testament to you all is that I can make this decision without hesitation, because I know that the village is in good hands going forward.”

Chimney fires

Building Inspector Bill Bujarski noted that since early December in the Hudson Valley, “there’s been an abundance of chimney fires” that are “hot enough to burn through the chimneys.” He urged residents to get their chimneys and dryer vents cleaned. Bowman added that oil burners need checkups, as well.



The Churchill Street bridge over Fishkill Creek in Beacon

A girder on the bridge that carries Horton Road over Clove Creek in Philipstown

A girder on a bridge that spans Clove Creek on Route 9 in Philipstown

Footing damage on the Route 9D bridge over Fishkill Creek in Beacon

Putnam County plans to replace this bridge that carries Sprout Brook Road over Canopus Creek.

The State of Highlands Bridges

Inspections give generally solid marks to local spans

By Leonard Sparks

Putnam County is in the process of replacing a bridge, at a cost of \$1.6 million, that carries Sprout Brook Road over Canopus Creek. When last inspected on March 17, the 86-year-old span received the lowest score — 3, reflecting “considerable deterioration” — on a scale of 1 to 7 among bridges in the Highlands, according to a state program that requires inspections every two years.

Here’s a look at the ratings for other local bridges. A score of 1 indicates that “partial or total collapse is imminent,” while 7 is assigned to each newly constructed bridge. Local bridges received scores from 4 (“moderate deterioration”) to 6 (“minor deterioration”).

STREET/ROAD	CROSSES	BUILT	INSPECTED	SCORE
ROUTE 9D	Metro-North tracks	1998	12/10/20	6
BEEKMAN	Metro-North tracks	1991	11/5/20	6
CHURCHILL 1	Fishkill Creek	1979	4/27/21	5
ROUTE 9D 4	Fishkill Creek	1933	4/5/21	5
EAST MAIN	Fishkill Creek	1911	6/30/20	5
DENNINGS POINT	Metro-North tracks	1915	10/1/19	5

ROUTE 9	Philipse Brook	2000	4/17/21	6
MILL ROAD	Clove Creek	2017	11/14/19	6
EAST MOUNTAIN NORTH	Beacon reservoir	1935	2/26/21	5
OLD ALBANY POST	Clove Creek	1984	8/12/20	5
ROUTE 9D	Foundry Brook	1929	6/25/20	5
ROUTE 301	Clove Creek	1938	5/20/20	5
EAST MOUNTAIN SOUTH	Clove Creek	1965	4/9/20	5
ROUTE 9D	Indian Brook	1929	11/13/19	5
UPPER GARRISON	Metro-North tracks	1990	10/2/19	5
ROUTE 9 3	Clove Creek	1940	6/1/21	4
HORTON 2	Clove Creek	1925	3/18/21	4
ROUTE 9D	Philipse Brook	1929	12/23/20	4
ROUTE 301	Clove Creek	1938	5/20/20	4
LUNN TERRACE	Metro-North tracks	1930	10/2/19	4

The bridge underwent repairs in 2017. The report noted that “the girders and trusses were not repaired and still exhibit areas of measurable section loss” at the time of inspection.

The bridge was flagged due to erosion of the steel in one of its girders, G9. The girder “has an operating rating of 0 tons.” Barrels were placed on the shoulders that sit above the defective girder to keep traffic away.

The bridge was assessed as “scour critical,” which means its foundations are unstable because the brook’s waters have eroded (scoured) the streambed around them.

Ambulnz (from Page 1)

which has a New York City office, operates in 26 states and the U.K.

Chris Tobin, president of the Philipstown Volunteer Ambulance Corps (PVAC), told legislators that the \$431,602 that Putnam would save in 2022 by contracting with Ambulnz “is not worth it. You just put a price tag on life, and it’s bad. If there’s any way that you can reconsider this contract, you should” do so.

Nicholas Falcone, PVAC captain, charged that some Ambulnz personnel appear to be the same individuals dismissed by other agencies for such causes as “negligence” and “crashing of ambulances” and that to be functional by Jan. 1, Ambulnz would need to bring in employees from distant states.

DocGo, the parent company of Ambulnz, said in a statement on Wednesday (Dec. 22) that it performs extensive background checks and that the county also will approve personnel assigned to its contract. In addition, DocGo said it had hired only local staff and had no records of any negligence or motor vehicle accidents.

Dr. Fran Brooks, a Cold Spring resident who oversees the emergency room at Vassar Brothers hospital in Poughkeepsie,

also recommended that legislators be wary, alleging that some Ambulnz staffers had been let go by other health care providers and that she had been involved in some of their departures. “I don’t want these people taking care of me,” she said, cautioning legislators to look out for their constituents, as well as their own families, when picking ambulance services whose crews “are the ones who may determine whether you live or die. I’m pretty offended by the awarding of a contract without discussion” in a deal that “wasn’t done in public,” she said.

Objecting that even lawmakers “have never seen this contract,” Nancy Montgomery, who represents Philipstown and part of Putnam Valley on the Legislature, observed that they are still supposed to approve a \$40,467 fund transfer to help pay for it.

Legislator Ginny Nacerino of Patterson, who chairs the Protective Services Committee, replied that “the county executive takes care of the contract” and picking an ambulance service “is not for us to decide.” Moreover, “it would have compromised the integrity of the contract” to let legislators see it, she asserted.

Mazzotta similarly said that until a vendor signs a contract, the agreement is under negotiation. He said that Ambulnz had

signed the Putnam contract earlier that day.

Montgomery noted that the legislators routinely review other draft contracts. “I don’t agree that we should not be able to see” this one, she said. “This is checks and balances.” She also recalled that in early 2016, when the ALS provider failed financially and “it looked like Putnam County was going to be without ambulance service, EMStar came in and pretty much saved the day and bailed us out.” Getting rid of it may save money, she conceded, “but to what end?”

Tobin raised concerns about the effect on ALS services in towns. He explained that local ambulance corps pay the county-wide service — up until now EMStar — to supply ALS. The timing of Putnam’s deal with Ambulnz left PVAC and others no chance to bargain over Ambulnz’s charges, which could be quite high, he said. If so, he warned, it “will bankrupt the ambulance corps. How is that OK?”

Falcone suggested that “Ambulnz came in low [in bidding] because they’re going to put the costs on the towns, trying to recoup from the towns,” which pay local ambulance corps.

Larry Burke, who is the officer-in-charge of the Cold Spring Police Department but identified himself as a North Highlands fire depart-

ment member, advised the committee that “you cannot in good conscience go with this contract. There’s just too many questions.”

Numerous other audience members, from towns and ambulance corps across Putnam, made similar points. After about two hours, Nacerino said that she hoped that Odell, who had not yet signed the contract, would listen to the recording of the meeting before proceeding. “Let’s make sure we walk into this contract with our eyes wide open,” she urged.

Although Mazzotta said that Ambulnz signed the contract on Dec. 15, DocGo issued a news release on Nov. 3 stating that Ambulnz would provide advanced life support paramedic services in Putnam starting Jan. 1, becoming the first to utilize a new 911 system created by a firm called Motion Acquisition Corp., which is merging with DocGo. The county posted the release on its website.

The news release quoted Odell as saying that “the health of our community is a top priority and we are thrilled to partner with Ambulnz” and “to be the first county to work” on Motion’s 911 system.

On Monday (Dec. 20), Montgomery sent Odell a memo asking for all versions of the Ambulnz contract and for any related correspondence.

Haldane Student Wins Vaccination Scholarship

Award covers tuition, room, board at SUNY or CUNY schools

By Leonard Sparks

Vaccine shots for COVID-19 have allowed Zade Matthews to return to class at Haldane Elementary School. They are also sending him to college for free.

A fully vaccinated Matthews rejoined his fourth-grade classmates on Dec. 13, attending in-person classes for the first time since Haldane’s school year started in September, when Dutchess and Putnam counties were facing a new wave of COVID-19 cases fueled by the Delta variant of the virus that causes the illness.

Besides once again sharing a cafeteria meal with friends, the 9-year-old Nelsonville resident had something else to celebrate that day: news that he won a full



Zade Matthews, a fourth-grader at Haldane Elementary School, won a college scholarship after being vaccinated against COVID-19.

Photo by L. Sparks

scholarship to a two- or four-year State University of New York (SUNY) or City University of New York (CUNY) college when he graduates from high school.

The award came via the state’s Vaccinate, Educate, Graduate program, which was

launched in November to encourage parents and guardians to vaccinate children between 5 and 11 years old. Children receiving their first vaccine dose by Dec. 19 could enter a drawing to receive one of 50 scholarships covering tuition, room and board at a SUNY or CUNY school. The state began announcing 10 winners each week on Nov. 27.

Eliza Matthews, Zade’s mother, initially thought the email she received on Dec. 13 from the state’s Higher Education Services Corp., notifying her that her son’s name had been selected in the fourth round, was a scam. Zade, who is the first winner from Dutchess or Putnam counties, was equally skeptical. He thought “she was messing with me,” he said.

The cost of attending a four-year SUNY school, including housing, is about \$27,000 annually, and a CUNY school, about \$32,000. For Zade and other winners, the scholarships also will cover books and supplies and transportation costs if they commute.

Eliza Matthews said she felt an “immediate lightness” when she realized the email

was authentic. “It’s just like this huge burden lifted.”

The federal Food and Drug Administration first authorized the two-dose Pfizer vaccine for children between 5 and 11 on Oct. 29. Since then, Zade is one of nearly 400,000 New York residents in that age range who had received at least one dose and among 230,000 who were fully vaccinated as of Monday (Dec. 20).

In Putnam County, 21 percent of children between 5 and 11 had received at least one dose as of Monday, and in Dutchess, 22 percent.

Eliza Matthews said she had been awaiting federal approval of vaccines for children younger than 12 and booked an appointment for Zade within days of their availability. Her daughter, 13, is also vaccinated.

“We have people in our family who are vulnerable, so it meant a lot to us to be protected and protect them,” she said, adding: “I want them [children] back in school; I want them to have a normal life.”

Visit highlandscurrent.org for news updates and latest information.

Virus Surge *(from Page 1)*

order. Violations carry fines of up to \$1,000.

In a statement issued Dec. 12, Odell said businesses cannot be expected “to implement this unrealistic order” and that Putnam’s Health Department is “working overtime” to vaccinate residents while preparing to open a six-day-a-week testing center at the county’s office complex in Carmel. The department is not a “policing agency,” she said.

“Are we really supposed to stop them from running essential vaccine clinics and redirect them to checking whether the unvaccinated are entering buildings unmasked?” asked Odell.

Molinaro wrote in a Facebook post on Dec. 12 that the requirement is “unenforceable” and “will become confrontational.” The county will not “escalate tension or conflict or further burden our local small businesses.”

Their opposition has not deterred many local business owners and municipalities, including in Beacon, whose total of 97 cases as of Sunday (Dec. 19) was nearly four times higher than Nov. 3. Story Screen Beacon Theater and its adjacent Wonderbar now require proof of vaccination, as do Dogwood and the Towne Crier.

Members of Beahive, who pay a monthly fee for access to coworking spaces and private offices at 291 Main St., had already been providing their vaccination status in order to work without masks, said owner Scott Tillitt. With the state’s order, people who want a day pass will also have to show proof of vaccination, he said.

“Some members expressed concern about having to wear a mask all day, even while seated at their desks,” said Tillitt. “That’s why we made that decision.”

Beacon’s government is not only mandating masks for employees and visitors to its buildings but turned several office suites into “vaccine-mandate areas,” said City

COVID-19 BY THE NUMBERS	PUTNAM COUNTY				
	Number of cases:	Tests administered:	Percent positive:	Percent vaccinated:	Number of deaths:
	14,533 (+533) Active Cases in Philipstown: 11-20	348,333 (+4,987)	4.2 (+0.2)	78.5 Percent in 10516: 91.1 Percent in 10524: 84.8	104 (+2)
	DUTCHESS COUNTY				
	Number of cases:	Tests administered:	Percent positive:	Percent vaccinated:	Number of deaths:
	41,375 (+1,035) Active Cases in Beacon: 99	1,108,745 (+13,374)	3.7 (0)	73.3 Percent in 12508: 68.1	527 (+4)
	Source: State and county health departments, as of Dec. 20, with change over the previous week in parentheses. Percent vaccinated reflects those ages 5 and older who have received at least one dose.				

Administrator Chris White. Staff and visitors who want to use the areas must prove they are vaccinated, he said.

Before Gov. Kathy Hochul’s order, Yali Lewis had already reinstated a mask mandate for shoppers entering Lewis & Pine, her jewelry and skin-care products shop at 133 Main St. The decision, said Lewis, was driven by the emergence of the fast-charging and highly transmissible Omicron variant. The strain has replaced the Delta variant as the primary source of infections.

Some customers have been “thanking us for doing it because they feel more comfortable coming in,” said Lewis. “Seems like this is a moment for everybody to do their part.”

Lindsay Jean Fastiggi, the owner of Spice Revolution in Cold Spring, does not allow customers to enter her shop without masks. “The confrontation and stress is on me and my workers in trying to keep a safe and healthy space for people and children to shop,” she wrote his week on Instagram. “That’s not helpful. If it’s mandated, it should be enforced or it’s pointless.

“If you’ve ever seen or heard a mask confrontation in a shop, you know it’s pain-

ful,” she wrote. “I do not want that pain, stress and anxiety for anyone who works here or for my customers.”

With New York setting, for the third straight day, a pandemic-high for new infections, Hochul said on Monday (Dec. 20) that the state is allowing counties that enforce the mandate to apply for funding to cover costs of staffing and administering vaccines. Most counties will receive up to \$1 million, and larger ones up to \$2 million, from a \$65 million pool, said Hochul, who is a Democrat.

Nancy Montgomery, a Democrat who represents Philipstown and part of Putnam Valley on the Putnam County Legislature, cited that funding in a memo she sent on Tuesday to Odell. She asked the county executive to retract her statement opposing the mask mandate and replace it with one promising to enforce the order.

“Will you remove the previous press release from the website and replace it with a statement that you will now be enforcing the mask mandate?” Montgomery asked. “Will county efforts now turn to distribution of at-home test kits, amping up testing and vaccine distribution?”

% Fully Vaccinated

PUTNAM COUNTY	
Cold Spring	79.2
Garrison	73.6
Putnam Valley	73.5
Brewster	72.8
Carmel	70.8
Patterson	70.3
Mahopac	66.4
Lake Peekskill	63.1
DUTCHESS COUNTY	
Rhinebeck	82.5
Wappingers Falls	72.2
Pawling	70.6
Hopewell Junction	68.5
Fishkill	66.6
Hyde Park	63.9
Beacon	62.0
Lagrangeville	60.4
Stormville	46.6

Source: New York State, as of Dec. 20

AROUND TOWN



▲ **GIFTS FOR VETS** — Mike DeRosa, Tim Pagones, Gary Simmonds, Mark Thomas and Bob Simmonds of the Dutchess County chapter of the International Renegade Pigs Motorcycle Club visited Castle Point VA on Dec. 14 to present Dorothy Trimmer, the women's veteran program manager for the VA Hudson Valley Health Care System, with 32 department store gift cards to distribute. Members of the Lewis Tompkins Hose Co. assisted.



▲ **FIREFIGHTER HONORED** — Travis Fyfe (right) was named the Cold Spring Fire Co. Firefighter of the Year in a ceremony on Dec. 7. He is the 40th recipient of the award. For the full list, as well as other 2021 honorees, see highlandscurrent.org.



▲ **PANTRY VOWS** — Lea Aftimos and Bruce Wilson (right) of Brooklyn were married at the Beacon Pantry on Dec. 18 — two-and-a-half years after they ate there during their first “out-of-the-city” date to visit Dia:Beacon. “Never has a more touching and joyful event taken place at the Beacon Pantry,” owner Stacey Penlon posted to Instagram; as a gift, she presented the couple with one of her signature butter flights. A friend (left) was ordained for the occasion. *Photos provided*



◀ **WINNING LIGHTS** — An elf from the North Pole emailed *The Current* on Dec. 19 to announce the winners of the first Nelsonville Christmas Display Awards. “The competition was a secret and no one knew they would be rewarded for spreading Christmas cheer,” the elf wrote. “Nutcracker statues were discreetly left for the winners to find.” This home won for “most magical”; see highlandscurrent.org for the merriest lawn, most traditional and most festive.



◀ **HOLIDAY SURPRISE** — Inspired by a post on Facebook, a group of Philipstown teachers this month started a tradition of “Shock-n-Clause.” Everyone in the party contributed \$100 to tip their server — in this case, Nicole Jones at Hudson Hill's in Cold Spring, who shared the \$700 with co-workers.



Wishing you and yours a happy holiday!



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We are so thankful
to be a part of this community.

To help fight food insecurity in the Hudson Valley we are collecting donations for local charity Fareground. Please drop off non-perishable food items at our office during business hours (Mon-Fri 9-5, Sat-Sun 9-4) or donate online via the QR code.



The Calendar



The cafe counter ...



... and the retail.

Photos provided

New Beacon shop combines cafe and style

By Alison Rooney

Little King, a new hybrid Beacon cafe and design store, marries the two in the large, airy space at 199 Main St., formerly the home of the Beacon Institute for Rivers and Estuaries. Open since October, the shop is constantly evolving with the goal of being “warm, inclusive and celebratory,” says chef Jeremy King, who owns the enterprise with his partner, Ken Baldwin. He says the couple had been looking for the past five years for a way to open their own business.

During the early months of the pandemic, they returned to the East Coast from Los Angeles to be closer to family. They discovered Beacon through friends. “It came down to finding the right space, then tailoring the business model to the space we found,” King says. Baldwin adds: “We loved the history of this space. I believe it was a post office for the town, and also a place where ships were built. The square footage and the separation of the rooms was perfect; we felt we could accomplish everything we wanted to do.” Baldwin is a creative director with expertise in fashion advertising, branding, design and packaging. He manages Little



Ken Baldwin and Jeremy King

King’s design wares and says the concept for the store was developed on trips to Scandinavia, particularly Finland. “That opened up my eyes,” he says. “Why not have things you keep forever and pass down? It’s about being proud of the things you own, timeless pieces as well as fun stuff. It’s about elevating your space at home. The pandemic has made many people appreciate the small things, like having nice towels that won’t fall apart.” Besides Finnish home and drinkware, the shop stocks textiles — including typically bold designs from Marimekko — bath accessories and skin-care products from Japan, along with toys and cookbooks. (Continued on Page 12)



Michael Hardman of Cold Starts



One of Hardman's motorcycles, parked outside the store Photos provided

Biker Style

New Cold Spring store offers motorcycle fashion

By Alison Rooney

One of Michael Hardman’s four motorcycles has taken up permanent residence inside his new shop, Cold Starts, at 165 Main St. in Cold Spring. There, it has found good company in the store’s motorcycle-related apparel, vintage “petroliana” and other accessories. Hardman, who has lived in the village with his family since 2014, is making his first foray into retail after spending 25 years as a creative director in Manhattan. “The marketing aspects come naturally to me, but running a small business is new,” he says. After working from home in the early days of the pandemic, he decided to make a change. His life’s passion is motorcycles, so he started there.

“In this world full of division, the connection around motorcycles crosses religion, race, age,” he explains. “As in many sports, people come together over a love of team, and they move past their differences.” He also wants to get past the stereotypes of the “bad boy” motorcyclist. In the movies, “the hero is traveling around and suddenly there are three bikers behind him who are villains,” he says. “The stigma of the outlaw, I hope that changes. Don’t get me wrong — motorcycling does make you feel like kind of a badass. But the culture is shifting. For instance, there are far more female riders, and manufacturers have taken notice. They’re building in seat height as an important variable.” Why does he ride? “If you do anything that requires your full mental capacity, you get into a meditative state of clearing; the stresses of your life go away,” he says. “It’s that, plus the visceral experience of flying.” (Continued on Page 12)

Cycle Talk

What’s the correct term to use for people who ride motorcycles?

HARDMAN: I use *rider*, or *motorcyclist*, because that encompasses a broader group. *Cyclist* implies something with pedals. *Biker* means outlaw.

What’s behind the store name?

HARDMAN: A “cold start” is when a vehicle sits for some time, then starts. Whenever you go and look for buying a motorcycle, especially used, you’ll find online videos that always show an immediate start. You need to request a cold start, in person. If it’s been sitting, it may have trouble starting. Cold start is honesty and trust: You believe that what you have is going to do what you said it would do. It’s in “good nick,” if you will. There’s a positivity behind it.

Biker Style *(from Page 11)*

There's a cheesy saying that nevertheless holds weight: 'You don't see motorcycles outside a shrink's office.'

Hardman grew up in Westchester with a family of die-hard riders. "They were riding them and fixing them, from dirt bikes to Harleys. Motorcycles were part of my life, but never part of my livelihood. I saw this store as my moment to bring these two things together. There's inherent risk in doing something like this as opposed to 9-to-5, well paid, but it's a now-or-never moment for me."

The lure Cold Spring holds for motorcyclists is related to its geography. "The Hudson Valley and Lower Catskills are wonderful places to ride, and Cold Spring in particular is so accessible from New York City," he says. "I lived in Brooklyn for a long time, but this is where I rode. Plus, Perkins Drive and Harriman State Park are big draws and Cold Spring becomes the spot to have lunch or coffee. It's a congregation point, which creates more focus and more community."

After considering places where riders could hang out, such as a coffee shop or garage, Hardman settled on men's clothing and retail, in part because he did not want to "trample on any of the established businesses here doing things very well." The stock includes vintage and new motorcycle-related and-inspired clothing and accessories.

"The vintage is so much fun; I didn't realize what an important component of the shop it would be," he says. "A lot of



A shirt sold at Cold Starts features a logo many motorcyclists will recognize.

Photo provided

my vintage is moto-centric — anything from old signs to caps, beanies, jackets, pennants, old moto books."

The men's basics include sweatshirts, T-shirts and thermals made by Goodwear, a Massachusetts-based manufacturer. "I worked hard to find a brand that was approachable for anyone, made in the U.S.," Hardman says. "They're practical and rugged, even though riding a motorcycle isn't practical at all."

There's also a line of Hardman-designed T-shirts and sweatshirts. One displays the number 301, for those in the know.

Cold Starts, at 165 Main St., in Cold Spring, is open Thursday to Monday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Hardman says he will extend his hours during riding season, which is pretty much any time when there's no ice, salt and sand on the roads. See [instagram.com/coldstartsmoto](https://www.instagram.com/coldstartsmoto).

Food + Design *(from Page 11)*

As for the food, that's the responsibility of King, who oversaw the construction and first year of Rose Bakery in Los Angeles and worked for many years in the kitchens of farm-to-table restaurants such as Marlow & Sons, Diner and Saltie in New York City.

"I took a lot of time to design the menu, so that I could do it all by myself," he explains. "It's grounded in baking, with sweet and savory items which have elements of pastry. I make a sausage roll wrapped in housemade puff pastry. I also make Eccles cakes which include spiced, currant-filled puff pastry."

"For lunch, there are focaccia sandwiches. We make every element of the sandwich, composing it like a dish, with great condiments: pickles are the star. There's also an olive oil cake that people know and love already; it's a fun item to show off my pastry background. We also take special orders for cakes. I'm adapting and growing it, learning from experience. The breakfast offerings have roots in where I went to culinary school, in London."

Baldwin says it's been fun to meet customers. "I talk to everyone — I'm always curious," he explains. "We want to become more involved in the community; we've met people running some amazing businesses. We also connected with an artist, Gemma Bailey, who had not shown before."

She liked our aesthetic, and we liked hers." They had left one wall blank — "to figure out later" — and decided to make it an art gallery.

The name Little King was one they chanced upon and came back to. "It's abstract and has a good balance of refined and playful: that's us," says Baldwin.

Little King is located at 199 Main St. in Beacon. The cafe is open from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. from Thursday to Sunday and the retail shop from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. See [instagram.com/littleking.online](https://www.instagram.com/littleking.online) for daily food specials and [littleking.online](https://www.littleking.online) to shop online.

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CHRISTMAS WEEK SCHEDULE

Wednesday, December 22:

6:00 PM - Longest Night service

A service to mark the longest night of the year, the pain of loss and struggle, and the return of the light and the coming of Christ in our lives.

Friday, December 24, Christmas Eve:

3:00 PM - Holy Eucharist Rite II with Christmas carols

5:00 PM - Annual Christmas Pageant and carols

10:00 PM - Holy Eucharist Rite II

(Christmas carol sing begins at 9:30)

Saturday, December 25, Christmas Day:

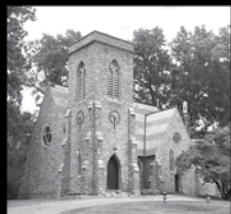
10:00 AM - Holy Eucharist Rite II with hymns

Sunday, December 26, Christmas I:

8:00 AM - Holy Eucharist Rite II with hymns

10:00 AM - Holy Eucharist Rite II with hymns

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THE WEEK AHEAD

Edited by Pamela Doan (calendar@highlandscurrent.org)

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

COMMUNITY

SAT 1

Cold Spring Farmers' Market

GARRISON

10 a.m. – 1 p.m. Boscobel
1601 Route 9D | csfarmmarket.org

SAT 1

First Day Hike

YORKTOWN HEIGHTS

10:30 a.m. Franklin D. Roosevelt Park
2957 Crompond Road

Ramble through the park with your guides Walt and Jane Daniels. Easy 2-mile hike. No pets. Meet at the north end of the pool parking lot.

SAT 1

First Day Hike

COLD SPRING

11 a.m. – 2 p.m. Little Stony Point
3011 Route 9D | littlestonypoint.org

There will be free hot cocoa, coffee, snacks, music and short naturalist-led hikes around Little Stony Point (1 mile), or to nearby historic Cornish Estate (3 miles) that begin at 11:30 a.m.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

SAT 25

St. John the Evangelist

BEACON

8 a.m. 35 Willow St.
stjoachim-stjohn.org

Our Lady of Loretto

COLD SPRING

8:30 & 10 a.m. 24 Fair St.
ladyofloretto.org

St. Philip's Episcopal Church

GARRISON

10 a.m. 1101 Route 9D
stphilipshighlands.org

Church of St. Joachim

BEACON

Noon. 51 Leonard St.
stjoachim-stjohn.org

SAT 1

First Day Hike

POUGHKEEPSIE

2 p.m. Walkway Over the Hudson
61 Parker Ave. | walkway.org

Both entrances will be open for 1- to 3-mile hikes across the bridge.

SUN 2

Audubon Christmas Bird Count

PUTNAM COUNTY

Various locations

Starting in 1955, birders have tallied all the species they could see in this annual count. To participate, email Charlie Roberto at chasrob26@gmail.com.

SUN 2

Farmers' Market

BEACON

10 a.m. – 2 p.m. DMV Lot
223 Main St.
beaconfarmersmarket.org

MUSIC

SUN 26

Open Mic Finals

BEACON

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

In this invitational round, the best performers of the series will compete. *Cost: \$8 (members free)*



Buffalo Stack, Jan. 1

FRI 31

The B-Street Band

PEEKSKILL

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

This Bruce Springsteen tribute band has opened for and played with “the Boss.” *Cost: \$20, \$25, \$35*

FRI 31

The Amazing Sensationals

BEACON

9:30 p.m. Dogwood
47 E. Main St. | 845-202-7500
dogwoodbeacon.com

Says the band: “We want people to dance sometimes, head bang other times, but all around have a good time.”

FRI 31

Back to the Garden 1969

BEACON

9:30 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com

This tribute band will play the best music from the Woodstock era to ring in the New Year. Robert Tellefsen, who is known for his Ritchie Havens tribute, will open. *Cost: \$55 (\$135 with dinner and champagne)*

SAT 1

Buffalo Stack

BEACON

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

Andy Stack will lead this American roots-style band in its annual New Year’s Day show. *Cost: \$20 (\$25 door)*



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SUN: 9-3

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www.hudsonbeachglass.com



ANIMALS

Animal Rescue Foundation

54 Simmons Lane, Beacon, NY 12508
arfbeacon.org

Dutchess County SPCA

636 Violet Ave., Hyde Park, NY 12538
dcspca.org

Friends of Beacon Dog Park

beacondogpark.org

Guiding Eyes for the Blind

611 Granite Springs Road,
Yorktown Heights, NY 10598
guidingeyes.org

Mid Hudson Animal Aid

54 Simmons Lane, Beacon, NY 12508
midhudsonanimalaid.org

Putnam County SPCA

P.O. Box 850, Brewster, NY 10509
spcaputnam.org

Putnam Humane Society

P.O. Box 297, Carmel, NY 10512
puthumane.org

Putnam Service Dogs

P.O. Box 573, Brewster, NY 10509
putnamservicedogs.org

ARTS, MUSIC & THEATER

Beacon Arts

P.O. Box 727, Beacon, NY 12508
beaconarts.org

Chapel Restoration

P.O. Box 43, Cold Spring, NY 10516
chapelrestoration.org

Cold Spring Film Society

192 Main St., Cold Spring, NY 10516
coldspringfilm.org

Collaborative Concepts

collaborativeconcepts.org

Dia:Beacon

3 Beekman St., Beacon, NY 12508
diaart.org

LAST-MINUTE Giving Guide

While charitable donations will help keep critically important community resources in operation year-round, you have until Dec. 31 to contribute to your favorite nonprofits and receive a deduction on your 2021 taxes.

By one estimate, 30 percent of donations in the U.S. are made in December, and 10 percent in the last 48 hours of the year. The deadline for 2021 is 5 p.m. on Friday if you are mailing a check or midnight if you use a credit card.

For a clickable guide to these organizations, see
highlandscurrent.org/giving-guide

Garrison Art Center

23 Garrison's Landing,
Garrison, NY 10524
garrisonartcenter.org

Howland Chamber Music Circle

P.O. Box 224, Chelsea, NY 12512
howlandmusic.org

Howland Cultural Center

477 Main St., Beacon, NY 12508
howlandculturalcenter.org

Hudson Valley MOCA

P.O. Box 209, Peekskill, NY 10566
hudsonvalleymoca.org

Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival

P.O. Box 125, Garrison, NY 10524
hvshakespeare.org

Magazzino Italian Art Foundation

2700 Route 9, Cold Spring, NY 10516
magazzino.art

Manitoga / Russel Wright Design Center

P.O. Box 249, Garrison, NY 10524
visitmanitoga.org

Philipstown Depot Theatre

P.O. Box 221, Garrison, NY 10524
philipstowndepottheatre.org

Sunset Reading Series

33 Parrott St., Cold Spring, NY 10516
sunsetreadings.org

EDUCATION

Beacon High School PTSO

101 Matteawan Road,
Beacon, NY 12508
bhsptso.square.site

Foundation for Beacon Schools

P.O. Box 456, Beacon, NY 12508
facebook.com/forbeaconschools

Garrison Children's Education Fund

P.O. Box 262, Garrison, NY 10524
gccef.net

Garrison Institute

P.O. Box 532, Garrison, NY 10524
garrisoninstitute.org

Garrison School PTA

1100 Route 9D, Garrison, NY 10524
gufspta.org

Glenham Elementary PTO

20 Chase Drive, Fishkill, NY 12524

Haldane Arts Alliance

15 Craigsides Drive,
Cold Spring, NY 10516
haldanearts.org

Haldane Blue Devil Booster Club

15 Craigsides Drive,
Cold Spring, NY 10516
bit.ly/blue-devil-booster

Haldane PTA

15 Craigsides Drive,
Cold Spring, NY 10516
haldanepta.org

Haldane School Foundation

P.O. Box 364, Cold Spring, NY 10516
haldaneschoolfoundation.org

JV Forrestal Elementary PTSO

125 Liberty St., Beacon, NY 12508
jvfptso.com

Rombout Middle School PTO

84 Matteawan Road, Beacon, NY 12508
romboutpto.org

Sargent Elementary PTO

29 Education Drive, Beacon, NY 12508
sargentpto.org

South Avenue Elementary PTA

60 South Ave., Beacon, NY 12508
southavenuepta.com

CHILDREN & TEENS

Beacon Performing Arts Center

327B Main St., Beacon, NY 12508
beaconperformingartscenter.com

Beacon Soccer Club

P.O. Box 802, Beacon, NY 12508
venmo.com/u/BeaconSoccer

Boy Scouts of America

Greater Hudson Valley Council
P.O. Box 974, Mohegan Lake, NY 10547
ghvbsa.org

Cold Spring Tots Park

bit.ly/donate-cstp

Denniston International

256 Main St., Cold Spring, NY 10516
dennistoninternational.org

Friends of Philipstown Recreation

P.O. Box 155, Cold Spring, NY 10516
www.friendsofphilipstownrecreation.org

Girl Scouts Heart of the Hudson

2 Great Oak Lane,
Pleasantville, NY 10570
girlscoutshh.org

Land to Learn

P.O. Box 223, Beacon, NY 12508
landtolearn.org

Philipstown Little League

P.O. Box 347, Cold Spring, NY 10516
philipstownlittleleague.com

Philipstown Soccer Club

P.O. Box 231, Cold Spring, NY 10516

Putnam County Children's Committee

P.O. Box 187, Carmel, NY 10512
pccchildren.org

SHRED Foundation

94 Prospect St., Beacon, NY 12508
shredfoundation.org

Surprise Lake Camp

382 Lake Surprise Road,
Cold Spring, NY 10516
surpriselake.org





COMMUNITY

Beacon Community Lions Club

P.O. Box 83, Beacon, NY 12508

Cold Spring Farmers’ Market

P.O. Box 325, Cold Spring, NY 10516
csfarmmarket.org

Cold Spring Lions Club

P.O. Box 308, Cold Spring, NY 10516
coldspringlions.org

Community Action Partnership for Dutchess County

77 Cannon St., Poughkeepsie, NY 12601
dutchesscap.org

Community Foundation of the Hudson Valley

25 Van Wagner Road, Suite 2, Poughkeepsie, NY 12603
communityfoundationshv.org

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Dutchess County

2715 Route 44, Suite 1, Millbrook, NY 12545
ccedutches.org

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Putnam County

1 Geneva Road, Brewster, NY 10509
putnam.cce.cornell.edu

Habitat for Humanity of Greater Newburgh

125 Washington St., Newburgh, NY 12550
habitatnewburgh.org

Highlands Current Inc.

142 Main St., Cold Spring, NY 10516
highlandscurrent.org

I Am Beacon

P.O. Box 265, Beacon, NY 12508
iambeacon.org

River Pool at Beacon

P.O. Box 173, Beacon, NY 12508
riverpool.org

Spirit of Beacon Day

P.O. Box 821, Beacon, NY 12508
spiritofbeacon.org

United Way of the Dutchess-Orange Region

75 Market St., Poughkeepsie, NY 12601
uwdor.org

United Way of Westchester and Putnam

336 Central Park Ave., White Plains, NY 10606
uwwp.org

FIRST RESPONDERS

Beacon Volunteer Ambulance Corps

P.O. Box 54, Beacon, NY 12508

Cold Spring Fire Co. No. 1

154 Main St., Cold Spring, NY 10516

Continental Village Volunteer Fire Department

12 Spy Pond Road, Garrison, NY 10524

Garrison Volunteer Ambulance Corps

P.O. Box 121, Garrison, NY 10524

Garrison Volunteer Fire Co.

1616 Route 9, Garrison, NY 10524

North Highlands Engine Co. No. 1

504 Fishkill Road, Cold Spring, NY 10516

Philipstown Volunteer Ambulance Corps

14 Cedar St., Cold Spring, NY 10516

HISTORICAL

Bannerman Castle Trust

P.O. Box 843, Glenham, NY 12527
bannermancastle.org

Beacon Historical Society

P.O. Box 89, Beacon, NY 12508
beaconhistorical.org

Boscobel Restoration

1601 Route 9D, Garrison, NY 10524
boscobel.org

Constitution Island Association

P.O. Box 126, Cold Spring, NY 10516
constitutionisland.org

Dutchess County Historical Society

P.O. Box 88, Poughkeepsie, NY 12602
dchsny.org

Garrison’s Landing Association

P.O. Box 205, Garrison, NY 10524
garrisonslanding.org

Madam Brett Homestead

50 Van Nydeck Ave., Beacon, NY 12508

Mount Gulian Society

145 Sterling St., Beacon, NY 12508
mountgulian.org

Putnam History Museum

63 Chestnut St., Cold Spring, NY 10516
putnamhistorymuseum.org

HUNGER

Beacon Community Kitchen

c/o Multi-Services, Inc., P.O. Box 1285, Beacon, NY 12508
Check: Multi-Services. Memo: BCK

Common Ground Farm

P.O. Box 148, Beacon, NY 12508
commongroundfarm.org

Fareground

P.O. Box 615, Beacon, NY 12508
fareground.org

Glynwood Center for Regional Food and Farming

P.O. Box 157, Cold Spring, NY 10516
glynwood.org



Philipstown Food Pantry

10 Academy St., Cold Spring, NY 10516
presbychurchcoldspring.org/food-pantry.html

Second Chance Foods

P.O. Box 93, Carmel, NY 10512
secondchancefoods.org

St. Andrew & St. Luke Food Pantry

15 South Ave., Beacon, NY 12508
beacon-episcopal.org/food-pantry

LIBRARIES

Butterfield Public Library

10 Morris Ave., Cold Spring, NY 10516
butterfieldlibrary.org

Desmond-Fish Public Library

472 Route 403, Garrison, NY 10524
desmondfishlibrary.org

Howland Public Library

313 Main St., Beacon, NY 12508
beaconlibrary.org

NATURAL RESOURCES

Beacon Sloop Club

P.O. Box 527, Beacon, NY 12508
beaconsloop.org

Constitution Marsh Audubon Center

P.O. Box 174, Cold Spring, NY 10516
constitutionmarsh.audubon.org

Ecological Citizen’s Project

69 South Mountain Pass, Garrison, NY 10524
ecologicalcitizens.org

Friends of Fahnestock and Hudson Highlands State Parks

42 Rende Drive, Beacon, NY 12508

Hudson Highlands Land Trust

P.O. Box 226, Garrison, NY 10524
hhltrg.org

Hudson River Sloop Clearwater

724 Wolcott Ave., Beacon, NY 12508
clearwater.org

Little Stony Point Citizens Association

P.O. Box 319, Cold Spring, NY 10516
littlestonypoint.org

Natural Heritage Trust

625 Broadway, 2nd Floor, Albany, NY 12207
naturalheritagetrust.org

Putnam Highlands Audubon Society

P.O. Box 292, Cold Spring, NY 10516
putnamhighlandsaudubon.org

Riverkeeper

20 Secor Road, Ossining, NY 10562
riverkeeper.org

Scenic Hudson

One Civic Center Plaza, Suite 200, Poughkeepsie, NY 12601
scenichudson.org

Stonecrop Gardens

81 Stonecrop Lane, Cold Spring, NY 10516
stonecrop.org

REHABILITATION SERVICES

CoveCare Center

1808 Route 6, Carmel, NY 10512
covecarecenter.org

Philipstown Behavioral Health Hub

P.O. Box 317, Cold Spring, NY 10516
philipstownhub.org

Putnam/Northern Westchester Women’s Resource Center

935 South Lake Blvd., Mahopac, NY 10541
pnwwrc.org

Support Connection

40 Triangle Center, Suite 100, Yorktown Heights, NY 10598
supportconnection.org

Topfield Equestrian Center

115 Stonecrop Lane, Cold Spring, NY 10516
topfeldequestriancenter.com

VETERANS

American Legion Post 203

413 Main St., Beacon, NY 12508

American Legion Post 275

275 Cedar St., Cold Spring, NY 10516

Marine Corps League

P.O. Box 96, Beacon, NY 12508

Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 666

413 Main St., Beacon, NY 12508

Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 2362

P.O. Box 283, Cold Spring, NY 10516

Looking Back in Beacon

By Chip Rowe

Editor's note: Beacon was created in 1913 from Matteawan and Fishkill Landing.

150 Years Ago (December 1871)

According to a newspaper account, the 10-year-old son of a wealthy resident of Fishkill went to the owner of a Newburgh livery and, with tears in his eyes, said his father was dying and he needed a horse and buggy to alert his uncle. When the boy did not return, the stable keeper raised the alarm and the boy was located at a hotel 30 miles away. It turned out there was no uncle, and the father was in good health. The boy had been trying to sell the horse and buggy to raise money to go to California.

The steamer Water Lily sank off Fishkill Landing but its crew was rescued.

A brakeman on the Hudson River railroad was knocked from a freight car into the river at Fishkill Landing on a Saturday night when the train came to a bridge he had not expected. He swam to shore and signaled the next train for New York.

The Newburgh police chief put a distressed teenager, Flora Brown, on the 9:58 express at Fishkill Landing bound for Troy to reunite with an aunt. When rescued by police, the girl was wandering the streets, followed by a group of "scamps." Her foster mother in Illinois, Edith Brown, wrote the chief after reading of Flora's plight in the *New York Herald*. "Please be very gentle with her, as she is very nervous," she advised. Apparently the teen had been traumatized by the Great Chicago Fire in October and had fled to New York to locate her aunt.

On Christmas night, at about 11 p.m., John Gill and Arthur McMann, both Irishmen, were at Jacob Kniffen's inn in East Fishkill when McMann asked Gill why he had not been at church. Gill said he was caring for his employer's livestock. When McMann rebuked him, Gill replied, "To hell with your church!" The two men scuffled, but Kniffen persuaded McMann to leave. At about 2 a.m., Isaac Purdy, returning home, found



In 1896, George Appo was an infamous resident of the Matteawan asylum.

Gill covered in blood on the side of the road near Gayhead [Route 52 at Route 376]. He had been stabbed five times and robbed of \$36. McMann could not be located.

125 Years Ago (December 1896)

John Philip Sousa gave one of his grand concerts on Dec. 28 at Peattie's Academy of Music in Fishkill Landing. Reserved seats could be ordered by mail. [Known as "the march king," the composer and bandmaster toured with his Sousa Band from 1892 to 1931 and performed at 15,623 concerts.]

Frank Sutton, who had been acquitted two years earlier on charges he shot a night watchman while burglarizing the post office in Matteawan, was convicted in Troy of robbing a jewelry store. He was described by the *New York Sun* as a dapper man and clever convict; after he was transferred from the Poughkeepsie jail to Dannemora [the Clinton Correctional Facility], jailers found nine saws, two door keys, three handcuff keys and three metal files behind tin sheeting in the sink room. Earlier, a search of Sutton's cell had turned up a piece of soap in which he had made impressions of the guard's keys.

Edwin Gould of the Continental



John Philip Sousa performed his marching music in Fishkill Landing in 1896.

Match Co. bought the carpet mills near Matteawan. With a contract in hand to supply Austria with matches, he planned to train the Glenham girls who made carpets how to turn out matches.

At the invitation of Superintendent H.E. Allison, the Dutchess County Board of Supervisors visited the Matteawan state asylum for insane criminals for supper and a tour. At the time, the facility housed prominent inmates such as train bandit Oliver Curtis Perry; Lizzie Halliday, who had murdered her family; the boy firebug Howard Moshier; and George Appo, a Chinese-Irish-American swindler, pick-pocket and opium addict who had been convicted of stabbing a newspaper reporter in the thigh. His father, Quimbo Appo, had been imprisoned at Matteawan since killing a man in 1876 over a game of checkers.

According to a newspaper account, Melissa Hunt, a 15-year-old girl from Fishkill Landing, had a startling aptitude for music but no money. Her brothers scraped together the funds to surprise her with a piano; when she saw it, she shrieked and fainted. When she awoke, it was said, she was afflicted with "hysterical mania" and did not speak for more than a week.

Napoleon Marceau of Fishkill Landing, a brakeman on the New York and New England Railroad, narrowly escaped death at Hopewell Junction. He was standing on the bumper of the next-to-last car and pulled the coupling pin so a "flying switch" could be made with the last car. But he lost his footing and fell to the track in front of the rolling, castaway car. He positioned himself parallel to the rails and the car passed over him.

Dan Brouthers, a noted baseball player, bet Dennis Hurley and Wash Rossman that he could walk the 7 miles from Fishkill Landing to Wappingers Falls before they could get there on bicycles if they gave him an hour's head start.

Two girls from Fishkill Landing were charged with vandalism after they cut down a pair of 10-foot evergreens in the Methodist Episcopal cemetery for Christmas.

100 Years Ago (December 1921)

The state Highway Department completed its third Dutchess County highway, connecting Red Hook and Millerton. The first, in 1915, connected Poughkeepsie and Amenia, and the second, in 1917, Beacon and Patterson.

In preparation for winter, Beacon purchased a truck scraper to clear snow.

Health officials were hopeful they had gotten a typhoid outbreak under control, with only two new cases reported.

A thief with nerves of steel twice pinched Samuel Edelman's clothing store. First, he came in and selected a coat and pair of gloves, then said his boss would come by soon to pay. The "boss" never came, but the man returned a few days later saying he wanted to pay the bill. He asked for another pair of gloves, and when Edelman returned from getting them, the man had left with several coats.

Voters rejected a proposal, 706-311, to spend \$150,000 to build a municipal building and war memorial for the city offices and American Legion headquarters with a ballroom, gym and pool.

Railroad detectives who apprehended a man they said was stealing a bundle of woolen cloth from a freight car in the Beacon yard shot him in the leg when

(Continued on Page 17)

Current Classifieds

HELP WANTED

FACILITIES ASSISTANT — This is an entry level, hourly, full time, non-exempt position that pays \$18-20/hour plus benefits. Maintain orderliness and cleanliness of all shared spaces at both brewery locations, and assist Facilities Manager in building maintenance including janitorial duties, equipment maintenance, and act as backup support for packaging team. Full details are at www.industrialartsbrewing.com.

FOOD PANTRY COORDINATOR — The First Presbyterian Church of Philipstown is hiring a part-time food pantry coordinator for the Philipstown Food Pantry. Duties include administrative tasks, coordination of volunteers, and communication with volunteers, clients, and the local community. Seeking an organized, reliable person with good interpersonal and computer skills. Approximately 20-25 hours per month with an hourly salary based on experience. If interested, please call 845-265-3220 or email 1presbyterian@gmail.com.

RELEASES

WORLD CARD EP — Out 12/21 wherever you listen to music. linktr.ee/catherineberdie

SERVICES

HEALING BODYWORK WITH VACCINATED JOY MATALON — Featured in New York magazine as "one of the best 15 massage therapists in NYC offering CranioSacral Therapy," with a specialty in SomatoEmotional Release. In addition, I offer Swedish Massage incorporating CranioSacral Therapy. Trained in Medical Massage, Process Acupressure, Meditation and Foot Reflexology with over 30 years of experience. Garrison and Ossining

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

Looking Back *(from Page 16)*

he tried to run. A search of his rented room uncovered other stolen freight: felt for piano hammers, paint and groceries. The suspect and another man were later charged with selling cocaine to workers at the Belle Isle brickyards.

For reasons not explained, attorney John Mack had three nuns in his Packard when it was hit by another car at the corner of Main and Teller. One sister was thrown from the vehicle but suffered only minor injuries.

Frank Rikert, a former city judge and Beacon's oldest lawyer, and Anna Sherman, of Bridgeport, Connecticut, both 73, were married at the First Methodist Church. The attendants were his daughter and 13-year-old grandson.

The Poughkeepsie Eagle-News, noting that Beacon "has a reputation of being a very accommodating city," reported that a well-dressed stranger had approached a shopkeeper on a Wednesday evening, asking where he could find cigarettes and a minister. When a pastor was found, he and a woman who had been waiting in a car were married on the spot; the bride kissed everyone in the crowd on both cheeks.

75 Years Ago (December 1946)

The Beacon police began a campaign against all-night street parking, placing notices on 411 vehicles during the week and issuing 25 tickets over the weekend.

Teachers petitioned the Board of Education to increase the minimum annual salary by 45 percent for elementary and 20 percent for high school.

The school board was informed that the two grade schools had enough coal for the winter but that the high school would run out by the end of the month.

A foot patrol officer who spotted a vehicle that had been reported stolen gave chase on Rombout Avenue after commandeering the car of a passing resident. He arrested the suspects at gunpoint and found each was armed with a revolver.

Jimmy Hopper set a Beacon High School basketball scoring record with 29 points against Newburgh Free Academy in a 61-48 home win.

A 7-year-old boy broke his arm when his sled left Tompkins park and struck the rear wheel of a truck on Fishkill Avenue.

50 Years Ago (December 1971)

Hours after Beacon teachers threatened to strike, negotiators agreed to raise salaries retroactively for the 1971-72 school year by 8½ percent. The district and Beacon Teachers' Association had negotiated the one-year contract for 10 months and planned to begin discussing a one-year contract for 1972-73 in February.

The *Poughkeepsie Journal* reported that a driver who left Poughkeepsie during the holiday shopping season by crossing the bridge, taking Route 9W to I-84 and cross-

ing the river again, arrived in Beacon 15 minutes sooner than a driver who drove south on Route 9.

Victor Looper Jr., 23, a student at Albany Law School, became the youngest person to be appointed to any of the 70 State University Councils, and the fourth Black person to serve. He was the son of Victor Looper, a member of the Beacon Housing Authority, and Ruby Looper, a Republican member of the City Council.

Darina Devens, a ballet dancer with Disney on Parade, was featured on an episode of *The Wonderful World of Disney* that was taped in Australia during a 100-city tour. As a teenager, she had studied with Elisabeth Schneider at the Ballet Arts Studio in Beacon.

The trustees of the Howland Public Library voted to purchase the former Fishman's Department Store at 313 Main St. for \$80,000 as its new home, increasing its floor space by 10,000 square feet over its location at 477 Main St., which had opened in 1872. Francis Doughty, the board president, noted that Mrs. Joseph Howland's will stipulated that the building always be a library or museum or it would revert to her descendants. [It became the Howland Cultural Center.]

25 Years Ago (December 1996)

During their annual holiday gala, the 425 members of the Greater Southern Dutchess Chamber of Commerce cheered the direc-

tors of the Hudson Valley Stadium Corp. for constructing a minor league baseball facility in Fishkill.

Robert Figres of Beacon was one of eight students at the Dutchess County BOCES technical center who made toy trains for Toys for Tots by hand.

A 27-year-old Beacon taxi driver was convicted of sexually assaulting an 11-year-old boy he picked up in his cab.

Scenic Hudson said it was considering buying and preserving 21 acres of privately owned land in the area of Long Dock.

Melio Bettina, who won the world lightweight boxing title in 1939, died at age 81. He turned pro at age 17 after winning the New York Golden Gloves competition and over 14 years compiled a record of 82 wins (36 by knockout), 13 losses, three draws and one no-decision. After retiring from the sport in 1948, he worked as a car salesman at Shaw Motors and Foothills Motors. North Brett Street was renamed in his honor.

The City Council let an \$8.7 million contingency budget proposed by the city administrator go into effect after it could not agree on an alternative before a Dec. 31 deadline. The plan included a 3 percent raise for city employees and a tax increase of 2.85 percent. Councilman Lee Kyriacou [now Beacon's mayor] proposed a budget that was \$115,000 less than the contingency, which was amended to \$20,000 less but failed on a 4-3 vote.

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Beacon Council to Hand Off Eviction Debate

Four new members will join panel on Jan. 1

By Jeff Simms

The year ended on Monday (Dec. 20) for the Beacon City Council much like the last several months have gone: with a flurry of public comments on affordable housing, particularly a potential good-cause eviction law.

The meeting was the final appearance for four of the six council members — Amber Grant, Jodi McCredo, Terry Nelson and Air Rhodes — none of whom sought re-election. Newcomers Wren Longno, Justice McCray, Molly Rhodes and Paloma Wake, who all ran unopposed, will be sworn in on Jan. 1; the council and mayor will hold an organizational meeting on Jan. 3. Dan Aymar-Blair (Ward 4) and George Mansfield (At-Large) also ran unopposed for re-election.

The city has been inundated with requests since the fall to adopt a good-cause law, which, according to a September draft, would prevent landlords from arbitrarily deciding not to renew leases and intimidating tenants through tactics such as discontinuing utilities, refusing to make repairs or imposing “unreasonable rent increases” without proper notice.

But on Monday, for the first time, landlords and other residents offered a contrarian view.



The four outgoing council members were recognized by Mayor Lee Kyriacou (second from right) at the Dec. 20 meeting. George Mansfield is at left.

Photo by J. Simms

Graham Lawlor rents out three units in the four-family building that he owns. He told the council on Monday that he's never raised the rent or evicted a tenant in the five years since he bought the building.

“That decision is looking very shortsighted in light of this proposal, maybe catastrophically shortsighted,” he said, citing “dire and probably unintended consequences” for his tenants, “who make more money than I do.”

Lawlor said he's done all the work himself to slowly bring the 1870 building toward code compliance. At times, for projects such as removing asbestos or adding insulation, he needs apartments to be vacant, but he gives his tenants — who pay far below market-rate rents — plenty of notice when that happens.

A good-cause law, however, would make that arrangement illegal. “I can't afford to go to court,” he said. “It's far from a sure thing that I will win and I can't afford it anyhow.”

Good-cause laws have been adopted by a number of municipalities this year, including Hudson, Albany, Newburgh and Poughkeepsie, after a bill stalled at the state level in 2020. Beacon's discussions have been on and off since City Attorney Nick Ward-Willis told the council in October that he believes state tenant protections enacted in 2019 prevent the city from adopting additional regulations on the local level.

The city has asked Attorney General Letitia James for her opinion. While she said she supports a statewide good-cause measure after announcing her candidacy for governor in October (she has since dropped out of the race), James has yet to weigh in on local authority.

On Monday, another resident, Scott Lerman, said that “good intentions don't automatically lead to good laws.” Lerman said the city should hone its own approach to affordability, rather

than relying on “untested” laws adopted by neighboring municipalities.

Lerman suggested that Beacon enforce the state's tenant protections by offering free legal aid, enforcing penalties for illegal short-term rentals and raising and directing rent subsidies “to people that need them, rather than provide rent control for wealthy people.”

Most importantly, he said, the council should increase the supply of affordable housing through “substantial new construction projects” and other initiatives, such as low-cost accessory dwelling units.

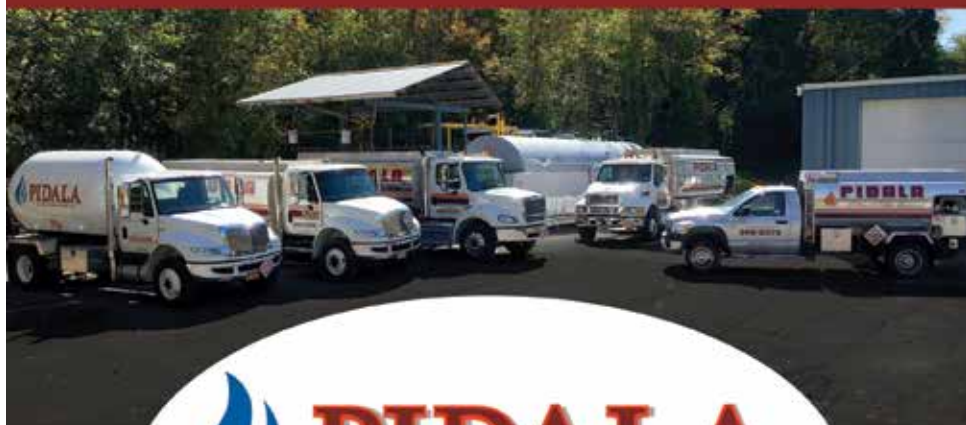
A good-cause law would force landlords to raise rents as much as allowed every year “as a hedge” against potential legal costs, repairs and insurance. “That's what's traditionally happened with rent controls,” he said.

Housing advocates fear that renters will be vulnerable to predatory and retaliatory measures after a statewide moratorium on pandemic-related evictions ends on Jan. 15.

Without a good-cause law, there's a “huge imbalance” in the law that favors landlords, said another resident, Erin Ashoka. “This is because property owners have the power to take away a person's shelter — a fundamental condition to being able to survive,” she said.

Mansfield asked city attorneys on Dec. 13 to prepare a summary of the potential impacts a good-cause law could have on tenants and landlords, especially smaller ones, as well as scenarios in which rent increases would be permissible, to inform the four incoming council members when the panel again takes up the discussion in the new year.

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NOTICE

The Beacon City School District is soliciting proposals from qualified individuals and accounting firms to perform the Internal Audit Function for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2022 with an option to renew for the 2022-23, 2023-24, and 2024-25 fiscal years. The internal audit function will be performed to ensure that the operating procedures including internal controls are being followed, and that all expenditures of School District funds are in accordance with laws, regulations, and District policy. The Beacon City School District is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Proposals must be submitted to the Deputy Superintendent on or before 2:00 pm on Friday January 14, 2022. For further information or a copy of the Request for Proposal (RFP) contact Ann Marie Quartironi at 845-838-6900 ext. 2032 or via email at quartironi.a@beaconk12.org.

Ann Marie Quartironi, Deputy Superintendent

POSITION AVAILABLE

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF PHILIPSTOWN

FOOD PANTRY COORDINATOR

The First Presbyterian Church of Philipstown is looking to hire a part-time food pantry coordinator for the Philipstown Food Pantry.

The duties primarily involve administrative tasks, coordination of volunteers, and communication with volunteers, clients, and the local community. Seeking an organized, reliable person with good interpersonal and computer skills. Approximately 20-25 hours per month with an hourly salary based on experience.

If interested please contact the church office administrator at 845 265 3220 (feel free to leave a message) or by e-mail at 1presbyterian@gmail.com.

Puzzles

CROSS CURRENT

ACROSS

1. Earring site

5. Smack

8. Blog entry

12. Regrettably

13. Fuss

14. "May It Be" singer

15. Dealer's foe

16. Moving-day rental

17. Aviation prefix

18. Energetic person

20. Galley supply

22. Strikers' queue

26. Manhandled

29. Chemical suffix

30. Hobbyist's abbr.

31. Rue the run

32. German conjunction

33. Lavish party

34. — Paulo

35. Fuel stat

36. Devil's domain

37. Playgoer's souvenir

40. Writer Quindlen

41. Short jacket

45. Gambling game

47. Jay follower

49. San —, Italy

50. Help a crook

51. Hosp. sections

52. Author Sheehy

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11

12 13 14

15 16 17

18 19 20 21

22 23 24 25

26 27 28 29 30

31 32 33

34 35 36

37 38 39

40 41 42 43 44

45 46 47 48 49

50 51 52

53 54 55

53. Striped fish

54. Perched

55. Deco artist

DOWN

1. Crow's-nest cry

2. Skin care brand

3. Hoedown site

4. Jailbreak participant

5. Mayhem

6. Greek mountain

7. Ad nauseam

8. Oyster's prize

9. Biased

10. Aleppo's land (Abbr.)

11. Eastern "way"

19. Central

21. Consumed

23. Monarchs

24. Evening, in an ad

25. Peepers

26. Bygone days

27. Exotic berry

28. "So what?"

32. Chimney pipes

33. Maker of ornate eggs

35. Gents

36. Coloration

38. Shoelace woes

39. Secret rendezvous

42. Dread

43. Send forth

44. Portrayal

45. "Terrif!"

46. Lawyers' gp.

48. Altar constellation

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7 LITTLE WORDS

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

CLUES

1 transmitting data (9)

2 cuspids and incisors (5)

3 footnote indicator (8)

4 Vermont's time zone (7)

5 focus in English class (7)

6 "basic" medical specialty (8)

7 hot spring that ejects water (6)

SOLUTIONS

STR RN AS ING RI

ETH MAR SER GR TRY

AM IA EA TE TE


SK GEY EAM POD STE

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SUDO CURRENT

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

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Answers for Dec. 17 Puzzles

U	S	B		M	C	S						
B	L	E	U	N	E	A	P	S				
T	E	N	A	M	E	R	R	A	T	A		
S	T	A	N	D	U	P	C	O	M	I	C	S
P	A	R		E	T	A	I	L		F	R	O
			H	A	I	L			A	L	E	X
	S	C	U	L	L		S	A	L	E	S	
S	T	U	D			A	T	M	S			
I	R	S		S	I	N	A	I		A	P	E
S	I	T	U	P	S	T	R	A	I	G	H	T
	P	O	T	A	T	O		B	R	A	D	S
		M	A	S	O	N		L	O	T	S	
			H	M	O			E	N	E		

1. PILLED, 2. PRECISION, 3. PINIONS, 4. CREAKED, 5. CONNORS, 6. CROSSPIECE, 7. HILLIER

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

SPORTS



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VARSITY ROUNDUP

By Skip Pearlman

BOYS' BASKETBALL

After winning one game last season, and starting this season with two losses, Beacon has now won three straight following a 64-62 victory Tuesday (Dec. 21) at Washingtonville.

With the game tied with eight seconds remaining, Leo Gecaj delivered what turned out to be the game-winning basket.

The Bulldogs, who finished 1-11 last season, are 3-2, and Coach Scott Timpano said his team likes the feeling.

"That was an incredible team win," he said after the game. "We felt like we were in control at halftime, but then they changed up their defense, came back and took a lead. But we battled, and got great contributions from several kids who have had to be patient and wait for their opportunity."

Included in that group are Simmy Mann, who scored a game-high 16 points. Adrian Beato added 12, Jason Komisar had 11, Darien Gillins had nine and Gecaj finished with eight. "Jason had a lot of rebounds and some big blocks for us and Leo had some great defensive stops," Timpano said.

Beacon is scheduled to compete in a tournament at Ketcham High School next week.

Physical play and strong man-to-man defense fueled the Haldane boys last week in a 57-53 win over Briarcliff and again on Tuesday in a come-from-behind 73-59 victory over visiting Peekskill.

Against Peekskill, Haldane trailed 39-36 at halftime and fell behind by as many as nine points in the third quarter. But the Blue Devils picked up their defensive intensity and went on a 21-7 run in the fourth quarter.

Ryan Irwin led the scoring with 20 points, while Rob Viggiano added 18 and Matteo Cervone had 16.

"Peekskill is a good team, very athletic, and they surpassed our intensity," said Coach Joe Virgadamo. "That's where we got in a jam. But in the third we got a sense of urgency."

Against Briarcliff, Soren Holmbo led the scoring with 15 points, followed by Cervone (11), Viggiano (10), Tristen Reid (8) and Irwin (6).

Haldane (5-1) is scheduled to host Chester on Thursday (Dec. 30) at 2:45 p.m. The game will be streamed at events.locallive.



Haldane sophomore Camilla McDaniel had a career-high 21 points, including five 3-pointers, against Carmel.

Photos by S. Pearlman (2)



Evan LaBelle (2) won the 1,000-meter run for Beacon at The Armory on Dec. 17.

Photo provided

tv/school/haldane-hs.

GIRLS' BASKETBALL

Beacon improved its record to 3-2 with a 49-41 victory on Monday (Dec. 20) over visiting Washingtonville.

Reilly Landisi scored a career-high 25 points, and Lila Burke also had a career high with 14.

"We were able to control the game offensively with timely, big-time shots," said



Marisa Scanga scored nine points for Haldane in a loss to Carmel.

Coach Christina Dahl. "Defensively, Devyn Kelly stepped up for us, along with Daveya Rodriguez. And Rory LaDue gave us valuable minutes on the defensive end."

Beacon is scheduled to host Cornwall Central on Jan. 4.

The first quarter that the Haldane girls played at Carmel High School on Dec. 16 was one Coach Jessica Perrone and her players would like to forget. They showed little energy as the Rams took a 17-2 lead on the way to a 51-42 win.

The Blue Devils trailed 34-15 at halftime and made a 14-2 run in the third to pull within seven, 36-29.

"We had no energy in the first quarter

and dug ourselves a hole," Perrone said. "The girls got mad — we saw Carmel celebrating a bit at halftime — and in the third quarter our shots started falling. I feel like we missed an opportunity."

Haldane was playing without starters Ruby Poses and Mairead O'Hara. In their absence, Camilla McDaniel scored a career-high 21 points (including five 3-pointers), Marisa Scanga added nine and Molly Siegel had seven points and 11 rebounds. Betsy Cates had seven rebounds.

"We should be 4-2 instead of 2-4," Perrone said. "We have a habit of starting out slow, then fighting back from a deficit. We want to play every game like it's our last one, because we have no idea about schools shutting down" because of a surge in COVID-19 cases. "We're hoping for the best, with a full season and playoffs."

Haldane lost 47-39 when it visited Peekskill on Wednesday (Dec. 22). The Blue Devils will play Croton at home on Jan. 5 and travel to North Salem on Jan. 7.

INDOOR TRACK & FIELD

At the 45-team Coach Saint Invitational on Dec. 17 at The Armory in New York City, Beacon's Evan LaBelle won the 1,000 meters in 2:42 and the 4x800 relay team (Sal Migliore/Henry Reinke/Rubio Castagna/Evan LaBelle) was first in 8:41.

In other top finishes, Kyla Richardson was fifth in the 55-meter dash in 7.79, Eddie Manente took fifth in the 300 meters in 38.28, and the Bulldogs swept the top three spots in the 500 meters: Reinke (1:08.51), Migliore (1:09.02) and Castagna (1:12.50).

"We've been able to get in some great workouts and practice sessions on the track in the past two weeks," said Coach Jim Henry. "That's sometimes difficult considering the questionable weather of December, but it's starting to pay dividends."

Beacon will compete in the Pearl River Invite on Monday (Dec. 27) at Rockland Community College in Suffern.

Haldane took part in the 82-team Energize Coaches Hall of Fame Invitational at The Armory on Dec. 18, with top finishes in the girls' mile by Celia Drury (14th in 6:48.11) and Helen Nicholls (15th in 7:10.44); in the boys' mile by Luke Parrella (12th in 4:49.97) and in the girls' 4x200 relay (11th in 2:12.17). The Blue Devils will also compete on Dec. 27 in the Pearl River Invite.

BOWLING

The Beacon boys defeated Goshen, 7-0, on Dec. 16 but lost to Newburgh Free Academy, 5-2, on Tuesday (Dec. 21) to fall to 3-3. The girls defeated Goshen, 5-2, and lost to Newburgh, 7-0, to fall to 2-4.