

The HIGHLANDS Current



Artists in
Bloom
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MARCH 4, 2022

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A woman shows her support for Ukraine during a rally in Times Square on Feb. 26.

Photo by David Delgado/Reuters

Russia Invasion Hits Home

Local Ukrainians fear for country, family and friends

By Leonard Sparks

The invasion by Russia of neighboring Ukraine on Feb. 24 is being felt in the Highlands, where Ukrainian-Americans have been watching the destruction of cities within their country unfold on television, on social media and

in anguished phone calls and texts from family and friends.

They say they are angry over the military action and fear for relatives and friends but also feel pride at the resistance by the Ukrainian military and armed civilians.

For weeks, Yuriy Herhel and his wife, Melissa, who own the Fred Astaire Dance Studio on Route 9 in Philipstown, had urged his mother to leave Ukraine as

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Schools Unmask

State says face coverings now optional

By Jeff Simms

Gov. Kathy Hochul lifted the state's mask requirement for public and private schools this week, 18 months after students and teachers returned to in-person classes following the COVID-19 pandemic shutdown.

Hochul lifted the mandate as of Wednesday (March 2), following the introduction by the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) of new metrics for tracking transmission of the coronavirus. Rather than relying on case counts, the agency said it would use three indicators to assess risk at the community level: new cases, new hospitalizations and hospital capacity.

According to a tool developed by the CDC, Dutchess and Putnam counties are both considered "low" risk — a category



Two students walk home from Beacon High School on Tuesday (March 1); the state lifted a mask mandate for schools beginning the next day. Photo by Valerie Shively

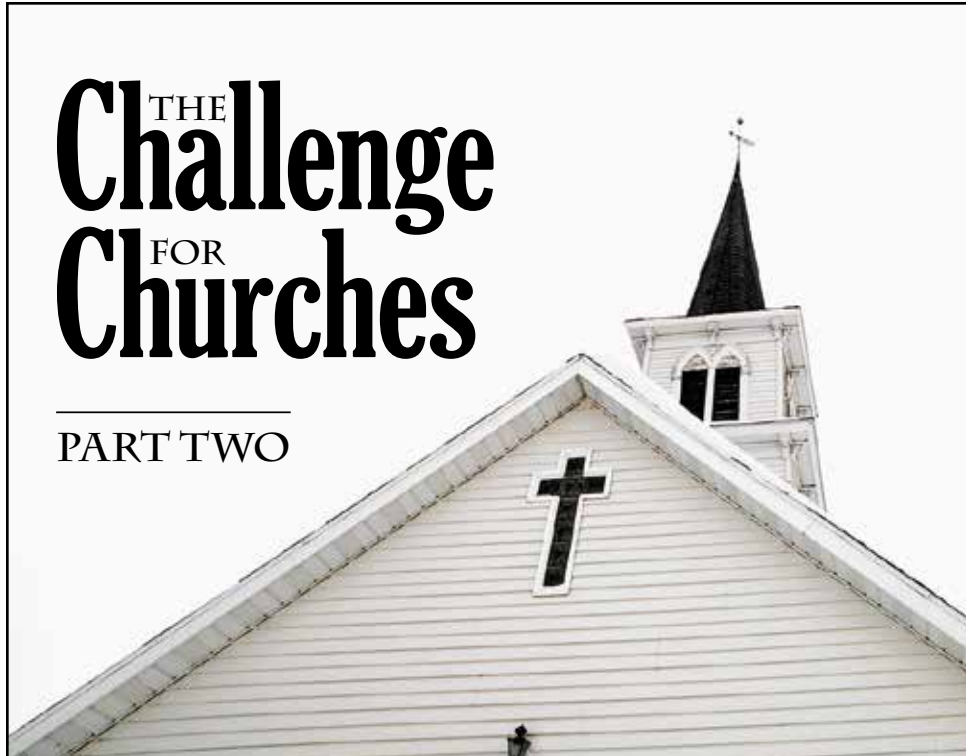
in which the agency recommends that people stay up-to-date with vaccines and get tested if they show symptoms.

Hochul noted that New York has had a 98

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THE Challenge FOR Churches

PART TWO



By Brian PJ Cronin

The Rev. Amanda Eiman was not looking for a new church. She was firmly ensconced as an associate rector at St. David's Episcopal Church in an affluent suburb of Philadelphia. In a time at which many churches are losing parishioners and funds, this one boasted a large, steady congregation with several other priests and paid staff members. Her husband, the Rev. Chris Bishop, was serving as a rector at another Episcopal church nearby. And she was four-and-a-half months pregnant with twins.

So there was no logical reason to consider it when one of her fellow priests mentioned that a friend of his attended a church 150 miles away, in the hamlet of Garrison, New York, that was on the lookout for a successor to its pastor, who had retired. Was she interested in applying?

She was not. "I said, 'No way, we're not moving anywhere,'" she recalled.

And yet: She felt an urge to learn more, an urge she now views as "God's nudge."

The Garrison church had a lot going for it. Founded in 1771, it was almost burned down during the Revolutionary War by colonials who considered it excessively loyal to the king of England. As the story goes, when the mob approached the building, they were turned away by Gen. George Washington himself, who admonished the crowd by yelling, "That, sir, is my church!"

In the past 60 years the church had

only had two pastors, a sign of stability spanning generations. And the congregation was growing, with families with young children flocking there even though it was in a transitional phase.

"That's not usually the case," she said. "When a priest who's been at a church for a long time leaves, usually it's a time of sadness, of trying to regroup."

Eiman told herself she wasn't going to leave St. David's unless she ended up somewhere where, as she put it, "God was doing something special." As she visited and spoke to members, she felt that was the case. What's more, she felt that God wanted her to be there, as well.

And so, in January 2020, Eiman became the 28th pastor — and the first female one — in the 251-year history of St. Philip's Episcopal Church.

The global pandemic shutdown was two months away.

God may be doing something special at St. Philip's, but Eiman found that many of the reasons that it was attracting new congregants were quite down-to-earth. Like her previous church, St. Philip's has an ample staff who could take care of basic necessities like updating the website, answering the phone and greeting any unfamiliar worshippers who walked in on a Sunday morning.

"Sometimes drawing people in or growing your church isn't rocket science," she said. "I can't tell you how many times I've

(Continued on Page 8)

5Q FIVE QUESTIONS: MICHAEL REISMAN

By Michael Turton

Michael Reisman, a state assistant attorney general who lives in Cold Spring, helped prosecute seven pharmaceutical companies for their role in the opioid addiction crisis. Six companies agreed to pay a total of up to \$1.7 billion; on Dec. 30, a jury found the seventh firm, Teva Pharmaceuticals, liable for damages.

How many lawyers were on the team?

The core trial team was 10 lawyers, but dozens of others worked on the case over three years. We had to review millions of pages of documents, take and defend dozens of depositions, and file a brief on legal issues, big and small, almost every week. Our co-plaintiffs, Nassau and Suffolk counties, were represented by numerous other lawyers.

What was your role?

I began investigating in 2012. I dug into the marketing and anti-diversion programs at the pharmaceutical companies: Purdue, Insys, Mallinckrodt, Johnson & Johnson, Endo, Allergan and Teva. I did a lot of work with our expert witnesses, in particular a former FDA [Food and Drug Administration] commissioner and an epidemiologist from Columbia University, who testified about the links between prescription opioids and the



harm they can cause, including addiction and overdose death. For the six-month trial, I spent all or part of each week in Central Islip, with many workdays lasting 14 hours.

What was the emotional impact of working on the case?

It was the biggest and most important trial I've ever, or will ever, work on. I tried to be objective and keep my emotional distance, but sometimes I felt pretty awful. Last fall, I put our epidemiologist on the stand and asked her to describe a graph showing the rise of opioid-related deaths in New York. I had to pause for what

seemed like 15 seconds. I wasn't trying to be dramatic; it was just hard to move on to the next question without a moment of silence. The points on the graph represented thousands of people who died.

I probably can't yet fully appreciate the toll the case took on me. I spoke with several parents of young people who died from opioid overdose. Every conversation was gut-wrenching. During the trial I always ran 2 miles every day, early morning or late at night. I went from running in shorts and a T-shirt in July to seven layers, two pairs of gloves and a balaclava in December. People thought I was crazy.

How did the jury handle such a long trial?

They were an amazing, committed group of people, diverse in age, gender, race and ethnicity. Most people can't listen for five minutes; our jury listened for five months. They deliberated for 10 days, sending back dozens of notes, asking for exhibits and testimony; they just plain put in the work. I don't want to sound corny, but their dedication to duty gives me hope in our justice system. It always moved me when the court officer would say, several times a day, "All rise, jury entering," or exiting. And everyone did, including the judge.

What was your reaction when their verdict was announced?

Relief. We had expected the verdict before Christmas; it was agonizing to wait until Dec. 30. There were few people in court that day because of the Omicron variant. I got the call around noon and turned on the trial livestream; I knew pretty quickly, we'd won. The clerk's reading of the verdict sheets and the polling of the jury took almost two hours. It didn't matter. I was jumping around the house!

Yet, I also felt a bit sad. Maybe it's Stockholm Syndrome, but I'll miss what was the longest civil trial in the history of New York State, the jury, the lawyers, even some on the other side, the hotel, the drives on the LIE [Long Island Expressway], and especially the judge. He quoted Marcus Aurelius, brought cookies from his family's bakery for the jury and had a sense of humor.

ON THE SPOT

By Michael Turton

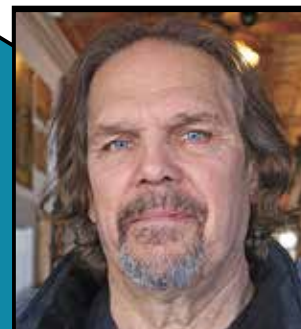
March came in like a lamb. Will it go out like a lion?

I pray not!



Jeanne-Marie Fleming, Garrison

I think everything should go out like a lamb.



Robert LeBlanc, Cold Spring

I guarantee it! It's done that most of my life.



Viola Anderson Green, Beacon



DEPOT DOCS PRESENTS:

Storm Lake

March 4 at 7:30pm, Tickets \$20

Includes Q&A with special guests

Cayla Mae Simpson:
"Weather Women"

Modern Dance with
live music and film

March 12, Tickets \$20

Gwen Laster
Muse4tet
and Jamel Gaines'
Creative Outlet Dance
Company of Brooklyn

March 19 Tickets \$20

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Storytelling

March 26 at 6pm and 8:30pm

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Masks and proof of
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Maloney, Biden Recall Soldiers Lost to Toxic Threat

Talk of 'burn pits' legislation after State of Union speech

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

Leaving the chamber following his State of the Union speech on Capitol Hill on Tuesday (March 1), Joe Biden was — as presidents typically are — deluged by members of Congress offering congratulations or wanting selfies.

Biden paused to accommodate many, but usually not for long. Then he encountered Rep. Sean Patrick Maloney, a fellow Democrat and Philipstown resident whose district includes the Highlands.

The president lingered.

What did they discuss — the Russian invasion of Ukraine? Domestic policy, also in the address? The chances for Democrats in November's elections, since Maloney leads the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee?

No, according to Maloney's office, they remembered two soldiers: Beau Biden, the president's son, and Sean Hawkins, a 32-year-old friend of Maloney, who each

died of cancer after serving in Iraq and Kosovo, part of the former Yugoslavia that was ravaged by civil war in the 1990s.

Each man worked close to "burn pits," which contain the garbage of war, such as chemicals, discarded munitions, plastic, human waste and other threats to health. In his address, Biden spoke of the need to help soldiers exposed to these toxins.

Maloney and Biden also talked about a bill that would ensure that veterans exposed to such hazards receive full medical care from the Department of Veterans Affairs. The bill, known informally as PACT, awaited final action on the House floor on Thursday (March 3).

"The burn-pit bill is a damn big deal," Maloney said earlier this week.

Eddie Meeks, a Beacon resident who was a lieutenant in the nursing corps during the Vietnam War and serves on the board of the National Purple Heart Honor Mission, said in a statement the legislation is important for veterans because Americans must "take care of our soldiers during and after service.... They should never have to beg for physical or emotional care."

NEWS BRIEFS

Democrats Endorse Hanlon

Would be nation's first transgender sheriff

The Dutchess County Democratic Committee on Feb. 26 endorsed T. Jillian Hanlon for sheriff.

If elected, Hanlon, who retired in November as a deputy sheriff, would be the first openly transgender sheriff in the nation.

Hanlon, 57, who spent 24 years with the department, will challenge Kirk Imperati, a Republican who took over as acting sheriff in September following the death of Butch Anderson.

Where a sheriff dies in office, state law allows Gov. Kathy Hochul to recommend a successor to the state Senate. The governor's office has conducted interviews with candidates but not yet made a recommendation.

Hanlon, who lives in Millbrook, is a Marist College graduate who served as a corrections officer for two years and became a sheriff's deputy in 1999.

Beacon, Dutchess Renew Tax Agreement

City will share revenue with county

The Beacon City Council on Feb. 22 approved a new sales tax-sharing agreement with Dutchess County.

The 10-year agreement begins on March 1, 2023. Beacon will receive 2.35 percent of county sales tax collected through February 2026, 2.45 percent from 2026 to 2029 and 2.62 percent for the final three years of the deal.

The county collects a 3.75 percent tax on eligible products and services, while the state adds 4 percent.

No Sales Tax on Some Clothes, Shoes

Dutchess exemption part of county budget

A sales tax exemption in Dutchess County for clothing or footwear costing less than \$110 went into effect on Tuesday (March 1).

The exemption was adopted as part of the 2022 county budget and made Dutchess one of nine counties statewide to adopt it, and the only one in the Hudson Valley. The county sales tax is 3.75 percent.

Clothing and footwear priced at \$110 or less is already exempt from the state's 4

What Members are Saying



"We think your coverage of local issues is great, and we enjoy reading your paper every week."

Clark Frankel and Esther Jackson, Beacon

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- A digital directory of important places and services in Philipstown and Beacon.

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Current

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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

David Poses

This is a very tough time for all who knew David Poses, who died Feb. 16 ("My Heart is Broken," Feb. 25). In the past couple of years, David touched many people through his impassioned advocacy on behalf of those suffering from depression and addiction, and through his searingly well-written book, and because of his sympathy and generosity with the people he met through this work, whom he appreciated enormously.

This work was important, but David was so much more than a cause he championed. He was a unique, quirky, witty, delightful, intense, charming, hilarious, conspiratorial, big-hearted, culturally sophisticated, multitalented dynamo with hugely eclectic interests who will be remembered for making the lives of those who knew him sillier, spicier, kinder and more fun.

Joshua Kaye, *Cold Spring*

David was hilarious and intense, and making him laugh was a personal challenge that I loved winning. So gratifying. I feel grateful to have known him, and I'm heartbroken that he's gone.

Candace Cole, *Cold Spring*

Frost date

I was curious about the source of the

last frost date (May 15) that Pamela Doan mentioned in *Roots and Shoots* ("Count-down to Seed Sowing," Feb. 18). When I looked up our area in *The Old Farmer's Almanac*, it references the Glenham climate station and says our average last frost date is April 23. That seems early, but maybe it's due to climate change? Which should I go by?

Alexa Devin, *via Facebook*

Pamela Doan responds: I rely on National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) maps (see bit.ly/frost-date) and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) hardiness-zone information. We have had snowstorms in early May and late frosts are not unusual, but it also depends on where you are in the lower Hudson Valley. There are microclimates created by altitude, proximity to water (the closer you are to the river, the warmer it is, for example) and your specific conditions. We are generally in Zones 6A and 6B with variations.

Nelsonville Woods

You always learn something interesting from reading Brian PJ Cronin's columns on local forests ("Out There: Tree's a Crowd," Feb. 25), such as that the fallen trees of the Nelsonville Woods have to do with "competition mortality," where the strong outcom-

pete — and kill — the weak. Yikes. Keep up the good local reporting.

Evan Hudson, *Cold Spring*

Nelsonville cell tower

The cell tower proposed for Rockledge Road violates the neighbors' property rights and local zoning laws ("No Way to Right of Way Changes, Says Judge," Feb. 25). This illegal, environmentally destructive project should never have been approved by the Village Board. Thank you to all our neighbors who have supported the legal fight against it.

David Eisenbach, *Nelsonville*

Fishkill development

When the Rev. Ronald Pankey and the Church of the Nazarene in Fishkill start paying property taxes, then they can tell us they've responded to the community's needs ("Fishkill Senior Project to Try Again," Feb. 4).

Boasting about receiving an \$800,000 state grant, when they pay zero taxes? Meanwhile, the state can't even maintain Route 52, which is riddled with potholes, shoddy patching work and tar-filled cracks. Such a joke.

Mark Giordano, *via Facebook*

Stone walls

When, while in the woods, you come across a stone wall, an old cellar hole, a lilac tree, a few decaying apple trees and a patch of day lilies, you know that you are walking through what once was a farmyard ("5 Questions: Susan Allport," Feb. 11). I have noticed that the walls made from flat-sided sedimentary rock in New York seem to persist better than the rounded granite ones in New England.

Pat Kelley, *via Facebook*

18th District

Why use a click-bait headline to drive internet traffic while burying Rep. Sean Patrick Maloney's important statement regarding Ukraine in the middle of the article ("Rival Accuses Maloney of Encouraging Illegal Drug Use, Feb. 25)? Please stick to covering substantive issues rather than manufacturing silly scandals. Thank you.

Gaston Alonso, *via Facebook*

30 mph

How many years has the Beacon speed limit been 30 mph ("The Slowdown Everyone Wants," Jan. 21)? I never have an issue unless the roads are newly paved. Now, we have people who walk around with faces to their phones, crossing streets without even looking.

Every individual needs to accept responsibility for his or her safety. People don't

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LETTERS AND COMMENTS

(Continued from Page 4)

even look to see if it's safe to open their car door. That's just stupid and irresponsible.

A speed limit of 30 mph is safe; assuming that you have no reason to look after yourself and others around you is what's dangerous. Pay attention — it will save a life and unnecessary government coddling. Try having the parking rules enforced. Try giving pedestrians-only crossing times instead of crossing with traffic. We don't need more government.

Joseph Zukowski, *Beacon*

Why stop at 20 mph? Why not 10 or 5, or require that every vehicle be preceded by a pedestrian wildly waving a red flag? Perhaps we can require all cars to come to a stop within two blocks of Main Street and be left there by their owners, who can go through the rest of their lives on foot? I mean, is there anything that's too much for safety?

Nicholas Dedring, *via Facebook*

It would be super-great if people used the crosswalk instead of just walking out into traffic. I drove down Main Street on a Friday and nearly hit three people who darted into traffic. One person had her face buried in her phone; I made her drop it when I tapped the air horn.

Robert Reynolds, *via Facebook*

Cars don't respect crosswalks, so why should walkers? It sounds like you have a problem, not the pedestrian. I have never

Corrections

- In "On the Spot" (Feb. 25), we identified one of the respondents as Ron Giordano. In fact, he is Rob Giordano.
- In "Depot Theatre Returns Indoors" (Feb. 25), we said that a performance by Weather Women will take place at the Philipstown Depot Theatre on March 22. In fact, it is taking place on March 12.
- In "Packed House for Good-Cause Eviction" (Feb. 25), the concern that "small landlords who rely on rent income will be penalized by the law" should have been attributed to landlords who spoke during the Feb. 22 public hearing.

come close to hitting anyone on Main Street.

Pedro Rivera, *via Facebook*

There is no need for this — you can't even go 30 mph during busy hours on Main Street.

Nate Morgan, *via Facebook*

It's be nice if cars could stay below 55 mph on Verplanck Avenue occasionally, as well. It's like the Indy 500. What's the rush?

Mark Hall, *via Facebook*

Deep Dive

The antipode of any spot on Earth is the point on the Earth's surface that is diametrically opposite.

If you drilled straight down through the planet from the Highlands and came out the other side, where would you end up? [See Page 22.](#)



There are simply no words to express my gratitude and love for this amazing community I have called home for the past 38 years! I will miss every single one of you!

Love, Leonora





Van Dommele



Winward

Questions for Candidates

Nelsonville Mayor

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

Two candidates for Nelsonville mayor will appear on the March 15 ballot: Rudolf van Dommele and Chris Winward, who is a trustee. The incumbent, Michael Bowman, is not running.

Below are written responses to questions posed by *The Current*; their responses have been edited slightly for clarity and brevity. We asked each candidate to limit the three answers to a total of 500 words.

What is the biggest issue facing Nelsonville in the next two years, and how would you address it?

VAN DOMMELE: One of the real issues is the ongoing battle with Homeland Towers, where the Village Board has taken a backseat in the fight by signing a controversial settlement. Local residents who continued this fight have very recently received an injunction against Homeland. As mayor, I will support those neighbors however I can.

After their resignation from the fight against Homeland, the board decided to get to work drafting a new law regulating short-term rentals in our village. To justify the need for the imposition of this new set of rules, the Village Board has relied on an anonymous survey, secretive gossip, fear-mongering and fabricated complaints, while in fact not a single bona fide complaint or incident has been recorded or substantiated. In spite of objections from a vast majority of residents who attended the public hearings and sent correspondence on the subject, this law was adopted by a 3-2 vote, leaving many residents

and stakeholders feeling disenfranchised. With this, the board exposed the village to the possibility of yet another lawsuit, which may well become the most important issue facing the village in the coming two years. Similar laws have been ruled arbitrary, capricious and unconstitutional in state courts. As mayor, I will work to revise and simplify this law to fit the needs of our community, preserving its character but also protecting the real property rights of its taxpayers.

WINWARD: Speeding on Main Street/Route 301 needs to be addressed to make our village safer for our kids, other pedestrians, cyclists and business patrons. Since 301 is a state road and Fishkill Road is a county road, I would work with these jurisdictions to adjust the speed limits as you approach Nelsonville. Additionally, I would advocate, to the state, installation of permanent radar speed signs in both directions of 301. I am grateful to the Putnam County Sheriff's Department, which has been ticketing more, and look forward to discussing the issue with Sheriff Kevin McConville to see what ideas he may have. Finally, I would work with the state for a crosswalk near the bakery and ice cream stand to make it safer for children and adults to enjoy the businesses in that area.

Should Nelsonville, Cold Spring and Philipstown collaborate on using American Rescue Plan Act money for a project to benefit all three municipalities?

VAN DOMMELE: Some of Nelsonville's share of the funds could be used to create a clearing on the wooded Secor Street parcel for a village green or a playground — and definitely *not* an athletics field! [Van Dommele says *The Current* earlier misquoted him when paraphrasing his "vision of a recreational area, maybe a field where kids can kick a ball or fly a kite" as an athletic field.] As Alan Potts pointed out in a letter to the editor [Feb. 25], installation of a sewer line in Nelsonville will be prohibitively expensive and remains a pipe dream — no pun intended.

WINWARD: I am thankful for the good relationships I have with Cold Spring Mayor Kathleen Foley, Philipstown Supervisor John Van Tassel and others on the Cold Spring and Philipstown boards, and I appreciate that they also value collabora-

tion. Our municipalities are interconnected and depend on one another for the benefit of all residents. Nelsonville's \$64,000 in ARPA funds are the first direct federal dollars that have been secured for the village in a long time and I'm happy to have managed the process. Individually, the three municipalities did not receive that great an amount of ARPA funding, compared to our needs, so it remains to be decided, with public input, if these funds are best for specific projects in each municipality or for shared investment. The three municipalities may also partner with the county on additional uses for the \$19 million that the county has received in ARPA funding.

If there is collaboration, what should the project be?

VAN DOMMELE: One project Cold Spring and Nelsonville could collaborate on is remediation of problems with the stormwater drainage and flooding at the culvert running from the Secor Street parcel under Cedar Street into the Cold Spring drainage system. Joining forces with Cold Spring and Philipstown sounds good, but it is not easy to find projects of equal benefit to the town and the two villages. This issue demands community involvement and input from residents. Ailing infrastructure in the Garrison water district and construction of a Nelsonville sewer line are localized problems and may not get the support of the greater community. Personally, my vote would be for the construction of a community swimming pool at Philipstown Park.

WINWARD: Municipalities have until 2024 to decide what to spend their funds on and until 2026 to make those expenditures. Nelsonville should continue to have discussions with residents on the best use of these funds and collaborate with the county on larger funding needs. Some potential needs: radar speed signs for Main Street, sprucing up the kiosks at trailheads, a new fire escape on the [village-owned] sheriff's substation, an updated cost-and-financing study for sewers, solar panels on Village Hall and improved technology to increase options for participation in public meetings. We could also use the funds to supplant the cost of the Village Hall roof and recent paving that we planned to pay for with some of our fund balance, and free up those dollars for future needs.

Questions for Candidates

Nelsonville Trustees

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

There are three candidates for two open trustee seats on the Nelsonville Village Board. The election is March 15.

The candidates are Tom Campanile; incumbent Dave Moroney; and Alan Potts, who served from 2017 to 2019. The board has five members, including the mayor. The two seats on the ballot are held by Moroney and Chris Winward, a candidate for mayor.

Below are written responses to questions posed by *The Current*; they have been edited slightly for clarity and brevity. We asked each candidate to limit the three answers to a total of 500 words.

What is the biggest issue facing Nelsonville in the next two years, and how would you address it?

CAMPANILE: Preserving Nelsonville's small-village character in a fast-changing world. The last few boards under Mayor Mike Bowman's leadership, including Deputy



Campanile

Mayor Winward and Trustee Moroney, have done a great job addressing big issues, such as preserving the Nelsonville Woods, dealing with the cannabis opt-out and addressing short-term rentals in the village code. These items could have had an adverse impact on village character if they were ignored by our local government. If I were to become a part of the team, my approach would address issues in the same way: transparently and with a willingness to respectfully hear from all residents and then support the best possible decision for preserving Nelsonville's character and meeting the needs of the majority of our community, not just the loudest or most vocal interests.

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NOTICE

The Philipstown Planning Board will hold their regular monthly meeting on **Thursday, March 17th, 2022 at 7:30 p.m.** at the Philipstown Town Hall, 238 Main St., Cold Spring, NY AND virtually via Zoom.

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

Register in advance for this webinar:

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_XiaWuFleQN6XcSXQaNTp6w

Webinar ID: 846 6651 7716 **Passcode:** 703823

One tap mobile: 1-646-558-8656,,84666517716#,,,703823# US

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

OR email crockett@philipstown.com or nzuckerman@philipstown.com to request login information before 7 pm on March 17th, 2022.

If you are unable to join in person, the meeting will be viewable on youtube.com, search for Philipstown Planning Board March 2022.

NOTICE

PHILIPSTOWN PLANNING BOARD / Public Hearing – March 17th, 2022

The Planning Board of the Town of Philipstown, New York will hold a public hearing on Thursday, March 17th, 2022 starting at 7:30 p.m. in person at the Philipstown Town Hall, 238 Main St., Cold Spring, NY and via Zoom to consider the following application:

Sadlon & Wenske, 825 Route 9D, Garrison, NY 10524 TM#71-1-13.111

Minor Project: Development of a new single-family dwelling, accessory building and in-ground swimming pool to be served by a new septic system and water well, and related site improvements.

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

If you would like to attend the meeting virtually via Zoom, please email crockett@philipstown.com to request login information before 7:00 pm on March 17th, 2022.

Dated at Philipstown, New York, this 17h day of February, 2022.

Neal Zuckerman, Chair

(Continued from Page 6)

MORONEY: There are always issues that arise that we cannot predict, but we handle each issue as it arises with the best of our ability.

POTTS: It's very nice to live in a village where really big issues are far and few, but it happens occasionally. For the people I have spoken with, there are two issues at the moment: Traffic on Route 301 (Main Street) and potential sewers. I have already commented publicly on the sewer issue, but I understand there will be more investigations forthcoming. On the traffic issue: When I was previously on the Village Board, we found that the state Department of Transportation is difficult to deal with regarding speed limits on Main Street. I am committed to continued exploration of both of these issues.



Potts

Should Nelsonville, Cold Spring and Philipstown collaborate on using American Rescue Plan Act money for a project to benefit all three municipalities?

CAMPANILE: It should definitely be explored. Elected officials have an obligation to work together for the benefit of constituents. My criteria would be measuring what Nelsonville residents gain from pooling resources versus what we would give up. If there is greater benefit to collaboration and it wouldn't push the needs of Nelsonville to the bottom of the list, I'm all for it. Whether Nelsonville goes it alone or collaborates with others, as a first step we must hear from residents to get their thoughts on the highest and best use for the funds. I would also propose going a step further: County and state collaboration should also be on the table. Imagine what could be accomplished for our neighbors if all our public servants collaborated at all levels of government, regardless of actual or perceived ideological differences?

MORONEY: My priority is to the residents of Nelsonville and if it benefits the residents, I am all for it.

POTTS: It depends on the project. But I do think each should receive a share of the funds since we all pay taxes.

If there is collaboration, what should the project be?

CAMPANILE: It should be spent on improving infrastructure. I was happy to hear that Deputy Mayor Winward has already met with [Philipstown] Supervisor [John] Van Tassel and [Cold Spring] Mayor [Kathleen] Foley to discuss collaboration on projects that might benefit all municipalities, including working with both the state and county for even greater impact. This is a great first step in the right direction. Improving our roads is one idea that I support, including traffic-calming devices along 301/Main Street and some of the county and village streets that have become high-speed shortcuts for impatient commuters. Another project that should be looked at is improving broadband access in all three municipalities. Exploring whether the funds could be pooled to rewire or otherwise invest in upgrades to improve access to high-speed internet that meets the 21st century needs of residents, businesses and our schools feels like an infrastructure project that would benefit everyone.

MORONEY: One suggestion would be to make all village and town buildings energy efficient by adding solar panels and updating the furnaces for better efficiency due to the rising cost of electricity and fuel oil. In the long run this could be a tax-saving for all residents. Another suggestion is to put the question to the residents for the purpose of transparency.



Moroney

POTTS: I have no idea what kind of joint project could be initiated as, to my knowledge, there have not been any productive/planning meetings between the three municipalities. I think some of the funding would be well spent to provide better senior services in our area, as we all know that they are lacking.

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PHILIPSTOWN PLANNING BOARD / Public Hearing – March 17th, 2022

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Cedar Hill Landscaping- Depaulis, 18 East Mtn. Rd. North, Cold Spring, NY 10516 TM#17-1-42

Major Project: The applicant proposes to construct a new 48'x 80' garage/barn on the property to house equipment for landscape company. Site improvements will include an extension of the driveway, employee parking and material sorters. The use of the existing single-family home will continue and existing apartment of the garage will be utilized for office of the Landscape Company.

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

If you would like to attend the meeting virtually via Zoom, please email crockett@philipstown.com to request login information before 7:00 pm on March 17th, 2022.

Dated at Philipstown, New York, this 17th day of February, 2022.

Neal Zuckerman, Chair

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Why This Series?

The number of people who attend or associate with Christian denominations has been falling steadily in the U.S. for decades. As a result, many churches have closed or merged or are struggling financially, including in the Highlands. The pandemic shutdown did not help, although churches quickly adapted by broadcasting services online.

Repeated social surveys have found that, as the churchgoing population ages, younger generations are not replacing them in the pews. A growing segment of the population has been labeled “nones” — they are not atheists or even agnostics. They just don’t have religion in their lives. Sundays are the second day of the weekend.

This series is examining how this trend is affecting churches in Philipstown and Beacon, and how their leaders are attempting to grow their flocks. When Beacon, Cold Spring, Nelsonville and Garrison were founded, community life centered on the churches. What changed? What should change? What must change? If it survives, what will the church of the future look like?

Your thoughts and reactions are welcome. Email me at editor@highlandscurrent.org.

Chip Rowe, *Editor*

Why Do You Go?

- 81% Be closer to God
- 68% Give children moral foundation
- 66% Comfort in time of sorrow
- 19% Meet new people
- 16% Please my family or partner

Source: Pew Research Center

Who Doesn’t Go?

A 2017 Pew Research Study survey found that Americans who say they do not attend church because they don’t believe tend to be younger, more highly educated, mostly men and Democratic voters.

Those who do not attend services for other reasons tend to be older, less highly educated, mostly women and less likely to vote Democratic.

Churches (from Page 1)

heard stories like: ‘Well, I tried to go to this church, so I left a voicemail on their parish administrator’s voicemail, and I never heard back.’ Or: ‘I couldn’t find their worship times on their website,’ or ‘I went to the church, and nobody said hello to me.’ How awful is that?”

When the pandemic struck, St. Philip’s secured video cameras and personnel to livestream empty-chapel services. Even after in-person services resumed, it continued livestreaming and added video messages in its weekly email newsletters. It found that the livestreams and videos were a way for those who had moved away to feel connected to the parish, for homebound members to take part, and as an introduction for the curious, some of whom later took a seat in the pews.

Eiman said there’s a dispiriting Catch-22 at the heart of this. In order for a church to increase its congregants and revenues, it first has to have enough congregants and revenue. Churches that could afford, in equipment and labor, to smoothly livestream services during the pandemic were able to entice new members. Those that couldn’t, didn’t. Big churches get bigger, and small churches disappear.

On one hand, everything is working at St. Philip’s. In the past two years, Eiman estimates that the church has attracted about 50 new people.

But the numbers are about the same as they were when she arrived once you factor in the people who, since she began, have left.

A church in the wild

Many churches in the Highlands struggle with filling pews, raising money, patching walls, figuring out the spiritual and logistical needs of their congregation, and discovering the role of religion during a time of polarization and pandemics. If fewer Americans are defining themselves as Christians — or religious at all — what does that mean for the church in general?

When we conceived this series before the pandemic, the working titles were *Are Churches Dying?* or *The Church in Crisis*. But in the process of reporting, it became clear that neither title was accurate. Churches do close. Congregations disperse. But on the whole, many churches are dealing with their challenges by changing what it means to be part of a church.

Last week we looked at the struggles of the Reformed Church in Beacon, which closed last year because of a lack of congregants, and St. Mary’s Episcopal Church in Cold Spring, which nearly closed. This week we examine two cases in which Highlands residents are deciding how much religion they want in their religion.

When Friedrike Merck first came to Garrison six years ago, her friend Anne Osborn invited her to sing in the St. Philip’s choir. There was one problem.

“I said to her, ‘Annie, I’m a Buddhist agnostic,’ ” she recalled. “Annie said, ‘Oh, we don’t care. Many of us are any number of things. We are here in fellowship, and we’re here to be together.’ That’s who welcomed me. And I’ve never been so welcomed in a community in my life.”



Friedrike Merck, president of the Highlands Choral Society, which rents the former South Highland United Methodist Church in Garrison

Photo by Ross Corsair

What We Believe

(NEW YORK EDITION)

- 67% Say they believe in heaven
- 49% Say they believe in hell
- 56% “Absolutely certain” of God
- 21% “Fairly certain”
- 49% Rely on “common sense” for right/wrong
- 25% Rely on religion
- 48% Pray at least daily
- 30% Say humans have always existed in present form
- 29% Attend church at least weekly
- 24% Consider Bible to be literal word of God

Source: “America’s Changing Religious Landscape,” Pew Research Center, 2015

Things changed when the new rector arrived. Merck said that for her and the majority of the choir at St. Philip’s, it didn’t feel like home anymore.

In a way, Eiman isn’t surprised. The St. Philip’s congregation was growing, but it was still a traumatic time with the previous, beloved rector retiring after 30 years and then the pandemic closing off in-person services for six months.

“There was a lot of trauma there, especially when you then throw in this new person who is basically unlike the old pastor in every way, shape and form,” Eiman said. “But how I really differed

from the former rector is that I talk about Jesus and I talk about the Trinity and my sermons are very scripturally based.”

Eiman didn’t feel that by reintroducing Jesus and scripture into the worship services that she wasn’t being inclusive.

“I believe that Christianity and Christian communities are very inclusive and very loving,” she said. “Jesus was one of the most inclusive beings who has ever lived.”

But a portion of the congregation felt that the services were becoming too doctrinal. Tensions grew, and in late 2020, the long-time music director resigned and nearly the entire choir, including Merck, left with him.

Merck said that the people who left wanted to stay together, and that they wanted to continue singing together. It was, in singing together, that they felt a connection to the divine.

“Sacred music isn’t just a bunch of people getting together, strumming a guitar and feeling groovy,” she said. “Sacred music is an extraordinary thing. One of the reasons Bach is one of the greatest composers who ever lived is because his compositions, which were mostly sacred music, really reflect the complexity of the heavens, and the beauty of the heavens. And when people sing beautiful music, it’s connected to something bigger than us.”

With the recent merging of two Methodist congregations in Philipstown — United Methodist in Cold Spring and South Highland United Methodist in Garrison — the latter church was not being used. Redubbed The Highlands Chapel, it is now filled every Sunday with the Highlands Choral Society, a group that is mostly made up of St. Philip’s former music director and its former choir.

Merck serves as president. “What we have is an opportunity, and a safe place for people of various faiths and philosophies to come together, in fellowship, in song, in prayer and in meditation,” she said.

The services may have a basic Christian structure, but there is no priest. Readings from the Bible are sometimes given, but so are the writings of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. or the Buddhist monk Thich Nhat Hanh.

“It’s about how people can come together

(Continued on Page 9)

(Continued from Page 8)

to do good, to worship, to have a spiritual life without demanding that they either be baptized, or that they believe in certain things or not,” Merck said.

Merck thinks that the Highlands Choral Society’s members are indicative of a religious — or non-religious — trend. Many people, she thinks, want a more spiritual life but are turned off by organized religion. She points to Harvard University, where the chaplains at the Ivy League school unanimously elected Greg Epstein, an atheist and author of *Good Without God: What a Billion Nonreligious People Do Believe*, to serve as the president of their society.

“I’m sick of ‘othering,’ ” said Merck. “Instead, we are about gathering.”

While the split may have been painful, both sides claim to be turning the other cheek. “We consider St. Philip’s and the Highlands Choral Society to be mutually respectful entities,” said Merck. “But we’re freestanding from each other. We just have different paths.”

Eiman said that since many of the people who left the church don’t consider themselves to be Christian, it’s understandable that they would seek a different experience. “I know that they just want to gather and sing and do something a little bit different,” she said. “God bless you if that’s what you want to do. But that’s not really Episcopalian, and we’re an Episcopal church.”

She cautions against organized churches who might follow a similar path. Many churches, she said, in the 1990s downplayed Jesus and the Scriptures in a bid to bring more people to the pews. It worked at first, she said, but then attendance began to decline. People who had come to the church for a spiritual experience weren’t getting it. For them, there was no difference between church and any other gathering of people.

This is one of the main questions Eiman said church leaders are asking themselves: What is their Christian mission?

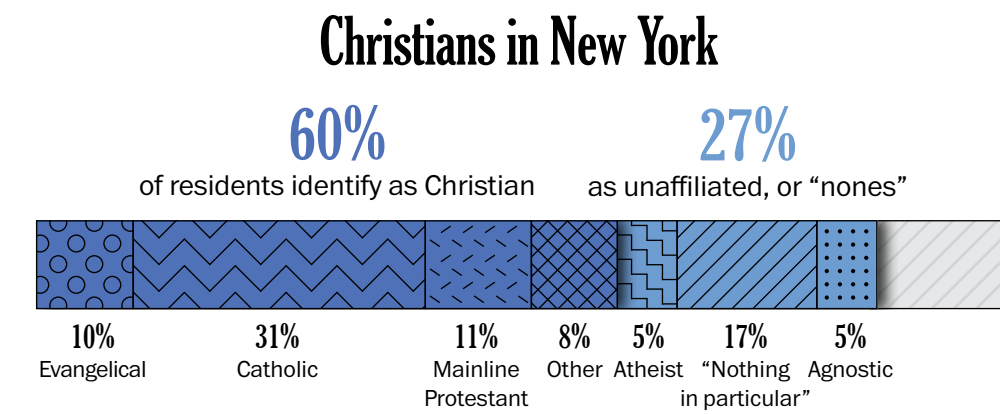
“If you lose your mission, you just become a social club,” she said.

A forgotten language

Mary Ann Kronk, who lives in Cold



The Rev. Amanda Eiman of St. Philip’s Episcopal Church offered “ashes to go” at the Garrison train station on Ash Wednesday (March 2).
Photo by Daniel Bentley



Spring, is a lifelong Catholic who has felt her own challenges in determining what she wants from worship — and found herself going in a different direction, to a far more ritualized, traditional service that the Catholic church has mostly abandoned.

She had grown up being taught that you don’t shop around. If you thought the priest was not such a great speaker, or that his homilies were uninspiring, you still came every Sunday.

“We’ve lost our ability to pray. We haven’t grown up watching our parents deep in prayer, our grandparents deep in prayer.”

~ Mary Ann Kronk

“You’re not there for the priest, you’re there for the Mass,” she said. “And the Mass is the Mass.”

But three years ago, Kronk found that, for her, the Mass was not just the Mass. She was invited to hear a Mass in High Latin at a Catholic church just outside the Highlands.

The 1960s were a period of radical change in the Catholic church. After hundreds of years of the Mass being in Latin, the Vatican declared that parishes should now use local, vernacular languages. As a result, the majority of U.S. churches began celebrating

the Mass in English. Further reforms quickly followed, including simplifying the rituals and turning the priest to face the congregation, as opposed to standing with his back to the pews.

Many Catholics welcomed these changes, feeling that they made the Mass more inclusive. But some felt that Mass became less spiritual, and that the aesthetics were altered in a way that made it less effective as a religious experience.

Today, High Latin Masses are unusual because few Catholic priests know Latin. The pontifical universities in Rome stopped teaching it more than 50 years ago.

So it was mostly historical curiosity that drove Kronk to forgo Our Lady of Loretto in Cold Spring for a week to check out the High Latin mass. The priest that would be presiding promised Kronk that it would change her life. “Oh Father, you are being so dramatic,” she said.

But he was right. “If you just go to regular Mass, you can sit through it for 45 minutes, and you don’t even have to think about it very much,” she said. “You’ve done your duty and you’re gone. But in the Latin Mass, you’re more committed because there’s a lot of silence. You have to engage or it’s not going to do anything for you.”

The experience was so powerful that when she walked out of the church, she found herself angry. “I thought, ‘Why did they take this away from us?’ This was the missing piece of the puzzle. This is what I’d been looking for.”

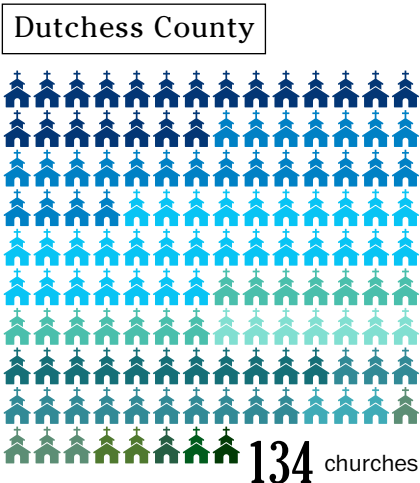
She told the priest how she felt, and he offered an explanation. Traditionally, Mass is a “vertical experience,” with prayers from the priest and the congregation going up to God, and “God coming down into our hearts.” But over time, the Catholic liturgy had become a “horizontal experience” from the priest to the congregation. At the Latin Mass, Kronk didn’t feel like a spectator; she was praying *with* the priest, both of them speaking to God.

She is not doctrinal. But she said she now understands why some people who return to the church in times of crisis, thinking it will help, come away empty. She understands why they feel that the experience was silly, awkward or ineffective.

“We’ve lost our ability to pray,” she said. “We haven’t grown up watching our parents deep in prayer, our grandparents deep in prayer. So it’s very foreign to us.”

Her advice to those who feel adrift is to find someone who will teach you how to pray. But, she also thinks that prayer doesn’t have to look the way it does in a

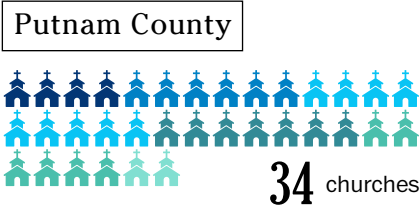
Church Membership in 1952



- 30,915 Catholic (21 churches)
- 8,295 Episcopal (25)
- 6,881 Methodist (31)
- 3,517 Presbyterian (14)
- 2,671 Lutheran (7)
- 2,271 Reformed (11)
- 1,439 Baptist (13)
- 714 Congregational (3)
- 621 Quakers (4)
- 124 Assemblies of God (2)
- 79 Seventh-Day Adventists (1)
- 59 Church of the Nazarene (1)
- 27 Unitarian (1)

42% of residents were members

23% of residents were Catholic



- 4,352 Catholic (4 churches)
- 1,394 Episcopal (6)
- 1,317 Methodist (9)
- 735 Baptist (7)
- 649 Presbyterian (6)
- 378 Lutheran (2)

43% of residents were members

49% of residents were Catholic

Source: National Council of Churches

traditional church. Even yoga, or meditation, can be form of prayer, she said, because they are a means of focusing our attention, of addressing someone or something outside of the realm of our daily existence, a way of touching something eternal. “As long as you’re doing something like that, you can find peace,” she said. “And everybody wants peace.”

Putnam Strengthens County Executive Powers

Montgomery criticizes lack of public role in revisions

By Liz Schevtchuk Armstrong

Putnam legislators on Tuesday (March 1) voted 7-1 to increase the county executive's authority to make contracts and control central administrative functions, although they also demanded the executive immediately notify the Legislature when declaring an emergency.

The Legislature acted, during its formal monthly meeting in Carmel, by amending the county charter. One member missed the meeting.

Legislator Nancy Montgomery, who represents Philipstown and parts of Putnam Valley and is the sole Democrat on the panel, voiced the "no" vote.

Little discussion accompanied the vote on amending the charter, a guidebook on

the nitty-gritty of county government. But Montgomery said her objections stem from "how we're going about changing the charter and the lack of public involvement."

She explained that when the county's Charter Review Commission met in December, it announced its meeting in advance but provided no agenda, ensuring that "the public has no idea" of what was going on. Further, she said, while anyone can come to committee meetings where legislators discuss such matters as charter revisions, during the COVID crisis "the process has been anything but open."

For more than a year, legislative meetings occurred only via a shaky audio connection and legislators banned questions from the public. Once in-person meetings resumed, they often took place in a cramped room, where the county did not require masks.

Previously, the charter allowed the county executive to "make, sign, and implement all

contracts on behalf of the county within authorized appropriations." The changes approved Tuesday extend that authority to all contracts (not only those tied to specific appropriations) "involving expenditures of county funds" and permit the executive to delegate power over contracts to someone else "for specific matters," which are not identified.

The county executive has the authority to "supervise all central administrative services for the county government," such as data processing, mail operations, printing and support functions, but now also can "exercise control over" them.

When questions about that modification arose Feb. 9 at a legislative Rules Committee meeting, Robert Firriolo, the Legislature's lawyer, said the term "supervise" seemed vague, so the charter commission wanted to clarify that an administrative service or function "is under the control of the county executive."

Although they bolster the county executive's power over contracts and internal services, the revisions also direct the executive to immediately notify the Legislature when declaring an emergency, such as in event of severe weather or other threat to "life, health or safety."

"It's imposing an additional obligation of notice," Firriolo told the Rules Committee in February. "The important point is that it [notification] get to the Legislature, however the county executive needs [to act] to make that happen."

Montgomery replied to him that, "in the case of an emergency," steps for notification "should be defined. It's been my experience that I don't get informed about anything."

The Charter Review Commission was created in December 2020 with four members: Legislator Neal Sullivan of Carmel-Mahopac, who became commission chair and now chairs the Legislature; Legislator Toni Addonizio of Kent, who chaired the Legislature in 2020 and 2021; Firriolo; and Jennifer Bumgarner, the county attorney.

Schools Unmask *(from Page 1)*

percent decline in cases since the Omicron peak earlier this year, including a continuous drop for more than 50 days.

"With more New Yorkers getting vaccinated, and the steady decline over the past several weeks in cases and hospitalizations from Omicron, we are now entering a new phase of the pandemic," she said. "Because New Yorkers have stepped up, we can confidently remove the statewide mask requirement in our schools."

In Beacon, the private Hudson Hills Montessori school announced it would make masks optional as of Monday (March 7), while the Manitou School in Philipstown stopped requiring masks outdoors as of Wednesday and said it would re-evaluate its indoor requirement in the next two weeks.

Because Hochul last month also lifted an order requiring people to wear a mask or provide proof of full vaccination before entering public buildings, the state now requires masks only on public transportation and in hospitals, nursing homes, prisons and shelters. (Federal rules are still in place requiring masks on flights.)

COVID-19 BY THE NUMBERS	PUTNAM COUNTY				
	Number of cases:	Tests administered:	Percent positive:	Percent vaccinated:	Number of deaths:
	23,315 (+56)	409,622 (+2,417)	5.7 (0)	82.1	121 (0)
	DUTCHESS COUNTY				
	Number of cases:	Tests administered:	Percent positive:	Percent vaccinated:	Number of deaths:
	63,209 (+237)	1,270,868 (+7,634)	5.0 (0)	76.5	649 (+3)
Source: State and county health departments, as of March 2, with change over the previous week in parentheses. Percent vaccinated reflects those ages 5 and older who have received at least one dose.					

Although individual school districts can still require masks, Beacon Superintendent Matt Landahl said the data clearly supported Hochul's decision. "I think more about next fall, next winter and dealing with another variant," he said. "I don't know if 'apprehensive' is the word, but it's on my radar."

"Haldane has done a good job making sure our classrooms are safe for students and staff; knowing that those precautionary measures will continue adds to the comfort level of teachers who are choos-

ing to teach without masks," said Andrea McCue, a special education teacher who is president of the Haldane teachers' union. "For now, our focus in our classrooms is modeling and reinforcing mutual respect for everyone's personal choice."

In conversations with her colleagues, McCue said that most Haldane staff will consider using masks situationally, such as wearing them "in a more populated classroom and not wearing one in smaller classes, or teaching maskless but putting one on when working closely with a student."

A sampling of high school students in Beacon and Cold Spring showed a wide range of emotions. After enduring two years of school closures, remote learning and masks, the reaction was, predictably, relief with some anxiety.

"It's weird seeing everyone without it," said Anastasia Santise, a ninth grader at Beacon High School. "I can't say I like it that much; it makes me feel uncomfortable to be around people who aren't wearing them."

Alex Danilov, a junior at Haldane, said he felt "optimistic and relieved. I will continue to wear a mask, because it has become a safety blanket for me, but the knowledge that I can take it down if I choose is very nice."

"It will be so nice to see people's facial expressions," he added. "That's a method of communication which we have partially lost over the past two years."

Laura Bell says her daughter, who attends Beacon High School, will continue to wear a mask "because she doesn't want to bring [an infection] home or infect anyone even though she is vaccinated and boosted."

“For now, our focus in our classrooms is modeling and reinforcing mutual respect for everyone's personal choice.”

~ Andrea McCue,
Haldane teachers' union president

Bell noted that there is still cause for concern about children younger than 5 who can't yet be vaccinated. "It's a double-edged sword," she said. "The kids get to see each others' smile and feel 'normal' again, but on the other side COVID is still deadly, with after-effects we know little about and are just discovering."

"There are only four months left in the school year and it would be awful for our kids to get sick when they have been masked for two years and are almost done for the year."

Violeta Edwards Salas, Sam Harle and Nix Spodek, members of The Current's Student Journalists Program, contributed reporting.

NOTICE

BEACON: Meadow Ridge II Senior Residence

Two (2) bedroom apartments available for immediate occupancy. Rent is \$1,200.00 and a month security is required. Tenants are responsible for electric for lights, cooking and air conditioning (air conditioners provided) as well as cable and telephone. Included in rent is heat, hot water, water, sewer and trash collection. All household members must be 62 years or older. Credit/Criminal Background Check. Property is SMOKE-FREE. Income restrictions do apply. Please call 845.297.2004 for an application. EHO.

NOTICE

Wappingers Falls/ Village

1st floor one bedroom apartment located in the historic Village of Wappingers Falls. Rent is \$950.00 a month including heat/hot water, electric, water, sewer, and trash removal. Rent excludes phone and cable. Security deposit of \$950.00 required. Off-street parking. Credit/Criminal Background Check. Property is SMOKE-FREE. Please call 845.297.2004 for an application. EHO.

Good-Cause Debate Rages On

Next move uncertain for Beacon council

By Jeff Simms

It wasn't clear after the Beacon City Council's workshop on Monday (Feb. 28) whether the council will vote on eviction regulations next week, continue to work on its draft law or seek additional legal advice.

What was clear was the dramatic difference of opinions on whether the council should proceed at all with the initiative.

Among other provisions, the proposal would require landlords to demonstrate "good cause" before a judge would consider eviction proceedings. That could include nonpayment of rent; violation of the terms of tenancy; interference with other tenants' comfort or safety; health-and-safety violations; use of the apartment for an illegal purpose; refusal to grant a landlord access for repairs; or a landlord's need to use the property for a family member or personal residence.

The council held a public hearing on Feb. 22 in which residents, by a 3-to-1 margin, expressed support for the measure, which is modeled after laws adopted in Newburgh, Poughkeepsie and Kingston.

But Mayor Lee Kyriacou said this week that he's still concerned the city lacks the authority to enact the measure. The city's attorneys said last fall that they believe the state law, enacted in 2019, supersedes local authority.

Opinions about that vary. The City University of New York's School of Law and the nonprofit Legal Aid Society say local regulation is legal; the New York Conference of Mayors (NYCOM) says it's not.

In Albany, a group of landlords sued the city after it adopted good-cause legislation, while Ithaca and New Paltz have paused their discussions. The City of Hudson, an early adopter, had its law vetoed by the mayor. A New York City resolution calls for a statewide measure.

On Monday, Beacon attorney Drew Gamils said that if the City Council enacts the measure and a court later rules for the Albany landlords, the city could voluntarily nullify the regulations. If it did not, the council would be putting the city "at very great risk, since you have a decision on this exact matter."

The city could hire another law firm to get a second opinion. But if it proceeds without an attorney's backing, "you're taking the safety bars off," City Administrator Chris White warned. Doing so would set a precedent and "could allow future councils, who might not agree with you, to do things against the advice of counsel."

If the city faces a lawsuit because of the good-cause measure, "with the NYCOM letter and our own attorney opining that we don't have the ability to do this, that brief almost writes itself, and I don't know how I could respond to that," White said.

A heated debate ensued.

Dan Aymar-Blair, the Ward 4 council member who introduced the law last year, said that "knowing that three neighboring

communities have already gone down this path makes it a little more palatable to me than a situation where we're the only city trying to do something."

The council must also consider its fiduciary responsibility to taxpayers, said George Mansfield, an at-large member. "We collect the tax, we spend the tax. Is this a good way to spend the tax, potentially?" he asked.

Kyriacou questioned the suggestion to get another legal opinion. The city already has the opinion of the firm it has used for more than a decade, he said, likening the situation to the 2020 presidential election.

“We collect the tax, we spend the tax. Is this a good way to spend the tax, potentially?”

~ George Mansfield, City Council Member

"[Then-Vice President] Mike Pence had the option of listening to some other lawyer. He chose to listen to the ones who were actual constitutional lawyers," the mayor said. Another firm would have no accountability to the city. "They can tell you the sky is purple," he said.

But "we are the policymaking board getting advice, and we have the choice to listen to that advice or not, or we have the choice to listen to other advice," Aymar-Blair responded.

"We also have a duty to the people of the city who are asking for this, and the people who this would serve," said Paloma Wake, an at-large member. "That has to be balanced with the potential fiduciary costs, and part of our fiduciary duty does include defending a law that we think is right."

In the end, a straw poll showed the council split, 4 to 3, with the majority behind moving ahead against the advice of counsel.

The second half of the two-hour discussion was devoted to editing the draft law and focused on the balance between protecting renters without hurting smaller landlords. Aymar-Blair said he was particularly concerned after hearing comments

from Barbara Fisher, the owner of Barb's Butchery, during the Feb. 22 public hearing.

Fisher owns the Spring Street building where she operates her business. Upstairs, she rents out a three-bedroom apartment. The good-cause law caps rent increases at 5 percent, except in certain instances, such as when a landlord makes capital improvements or the housing market changes significantly. It only exempts landlords who own fewer than four apartments and also live on-site.

Fisher said during the hearing that, according to her bank, she would need to raise the rent she charges her business and her tenants by 25 percent if she ever wanted to sell the building at market value.

"If at some point I am unable to demonstrate that I'm earning enough money on the building to keep the investment safe, there are questions as to whether or not [the bank will] extend the ARM [adjustable-rate mortgage] of the loan," she said. In the event of a sale, "they're not going to give anybody a loan for the building that I have with the current state of rent that I have happening."

It was still unclear when the council completed its public agenda at 10:30 p.m. (an executive session remained) whether Gamils would be rewriting portions of the law before next week's meeting in anticipation of a vote.

Aymar-Blair asked if she could capture the essence of the council's intention in a redraft.

"I'm concerned I don't know the solution," Gamils said. "This one's hard. I don't know what would be the compromise."



POTTS
☆☆☆ FOR ☆☆☆
NELSONVILLE
TRUSTEE

Hello Nelsonville Neighbors!

I have lived here 17 years and was previously a Nelsonville Trustee. I offer experience and integrity in managing Village affairs.

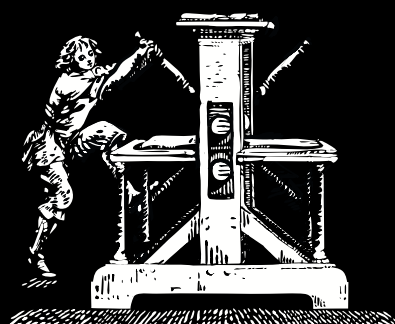
What motivates me to serve as a Trustee?

- Nelsonville is my home. I like living here, as we all do. Community makes it home.
- I will continue to seek options on Main St. traffic and sewer connections.
- Previously, as a trustee, I attended Cold Spring Board meetings to understand issues that might affect Nelsonville. I proposed a cost formula to Cold Spring, ensuring Nelsonville paid a transparent and fair share for fire services.
- I am committed to listening to others' views. During the consideration of the Secor Street cell tower site, I advocated for and hosted a public forum to hear all public concerns. As a result, the Village Board removed the site from consideration. I will always solicit your input.
- I don't have a personal agenda. I'm concerned with being a good steward of our Village resources and character.

Nelsonville's elections are special in that they do not align with the major political parties. It really is neighbors voting for neighbors. Vote for who you think will be the best Trustee, but PLEASE vote.

Thanks for reading,
Alan W. Potts

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One (1) bedroom apartment available for immediate occupancy. Rent is \$1,150.00 and a month security is required. Tenants are responsible for electric for lights, cooking and air conditioning (air conditioners provided) as well as cable and telephone. Included in rent is heat, hot water, water, sewer and trash collection. All household members must be 62 years or older. Credit/Criminal Background Check. Property is SMOKE-FREE. Income restrictions do apply. Please call 845.297.2004 for an application. EHO.

AROUND TOWN



Fond Farewells

On Saturday (Feb. 26), residents showed their appreciation for two retiring main stays of Main Street: Jeff Consaga, owner of the Foundry Cafe for 26 years, and Leonora Burton, proprietor of The Country Goose for 37 years.


Friends, fans and the Fab Foundry All-Stars gathered at the Cold Spring firehouse to honor Consaga (right), known for his French toast and generous portions, and marched down Main Street to surprise Burton, who is returning this month to her native U.K. (She's Welsh, if you didn't know.) Cold Spring Mayor Kathleen Foley presented each with the "keys to the village."

Consaga photo courtesy Denise Pace;
Burton photos by Amy Kubik




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welcome
back
new york



The Calendar

BAU in Bloom

Spring is inspiration for Beacon group show

By Alison Rooney

The members of the Beacon Artist Union are ready for spring.

"The artists met, and, knowing that there was going to be a group show in March, worked on an uplifting theme," explains Linda Lauro-Lazin, a newer

member of the collective. "Bloom seemed to be something that everyone could work with, literally and figuratively."

The exhibit opens from noon to 8 p.m. on Second Saturday (March 12), with an artists' reception from 6 to 8 p.m., and runs through April 3. BAU is located at 506 Main St.; see baugallery.org.

Here, a selection of BAU members describe works that will appear in the show.



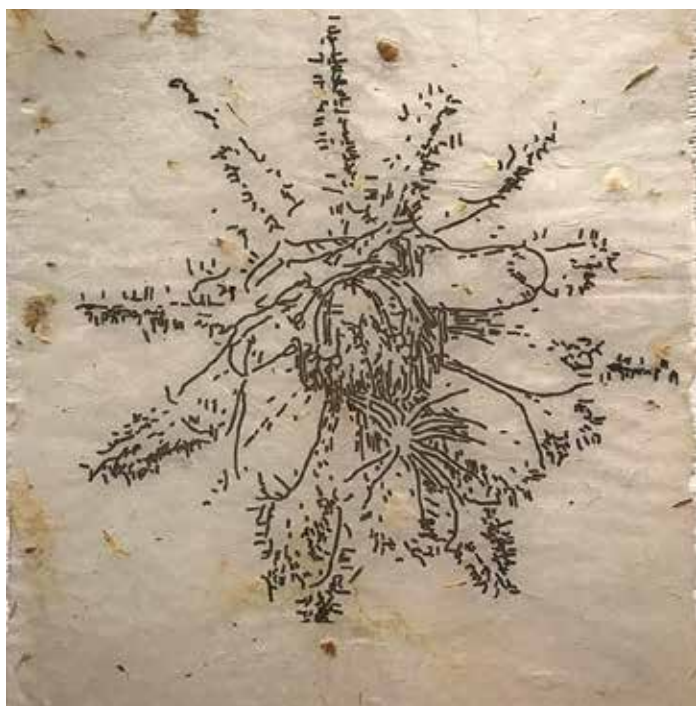
Fruma Shrensel,
"Delights"

"This is one of a series of sculptural pieces representing the quality of joy that exists in each of us."



Daniel Berlin,
"Flourish #1"

"There's the notion of an energetic outburst in springtime, a flourishing that suggests abundance and optimism."



Linda Lauro-Lazin, "Threshold - David"

"With this specific body of work, I examine the ephemeral nature of certain night-blooming flowers. Beginning with photography, my drawing lines are determined by examining the shift of light in a changing threshold along the edge of the flower."



Robyn Ellenbogen, "Bloom"

"My paper tapestry is inspired by an ancient Buddhist text entitled the *Lotus Sutra*. Reading and copying this text in my own hand throughout the pandemic helped me. I am a Buddhist priest, and making something to more deeply understand complicated texts helps further my spiritual mission."



Pamela Zaremba, "Still Here"

"This photo is about finding the beauty in the loneliness of waiting. I took this image in Florida at my in-laws' house, which has been untouched since the 1980s. The filtered light cast a deep tone of blush on an old arrangement, as if it were remembering longing."

THE WEEK AHEAD

Edited by Pamela Doan (calendar@highlandscurrent.org)

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

COMMUNITY

SAT 5

Maple Sugar Tours

CORNWALL

11 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Outdoor Discovery Center

120 Muser Drive

845-534-5506 x204 | hhn.org

Discover the process of making syrup during a Sugar Bush Tour (1-mile hike) or a Maple Lane Tour (short walk). Continues on weekends through March 20. Reservations required. *Cost: \$11 (\$9 members; free ages 5 and younger)*

THURS 10

Puzzle Swap

GARRISON

6 – 7:30 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library

472 Route 403 | 845-424-3020

desmondfishlibrary.org

Bring a puzzle or pick up one that is new to you.

SAT 12

Parade of Green

BEACON

Noon. Main Street

facebook.com/paradeofgreen

Celebrate and show off your Irish pride for St. Patrick's Day during the first in-person parade in Beacon since before the 2020 pandemic shutdown.

SUN 13

Maple Sugar Celebration

PHILIPSTOWN

8:30 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Taconic Outdoor Education Center

75 Mountain Laurel Lane

bit.ly/taconic-maple

Enjoy a pancake breakfast and see how syrup is made. Register online for 8:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m. or 12:30 p.m. seatings. *Cost: \$12 (\$7 ages 6 to 18; ages 5 and younger free)*

KIDS AND FAMILY

SAT 12

Imagination Movers

PEEKSKILL

11 a.m. Paramount Hudson Valley

1008 Brown St. | 914-739-0039

paramounthudsonvalley.com

The band, based in New Orleans, performs alternative rock music for preschoolers. *Cost: \$23*



STAGE AND SCREEN

SAT 5

Uncanny Valley

WAPPINGERS FALLS

8 p.m. County Players

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

countyplayers.org

As part of the CP2 Readers Theatre series, actors will perform Thomas Gibbons' play about the relationship between a neuroscientist and her artificial intelligence creation. Also SUN 6. *Cost: \$10*

SAT 5

Irish Comedy Tour

PEEKSKILL

8 p.m. Paramount Hudson Valley

1008 Brown St. | 914-739-0039

paramounthudsonvalley.com

Derek Richards, Mike McCarthy, Damon Leibert and Derrick Keane will create the atmosphere of an Irish pub with their sets. *Cost: \$24 to \$35*

TUES 8

Alice's Ordinary People

COLD SPRING

7 p.m. Via Zoom

845-265-3040 | butterfieldlibrary.org

After watching this documentary via Kanopy about the social justice activist Alice Tregay, join a discussion with the director, Craig Dudnick. Register online.

FRI 11

I Am a Girl

GARRISON

7 p.m. Desmond-Fish Library

845-424-3020 | desmondfishlibrary.org

The 2013 documentary shares the stories of six teenage girls from Cambodia, Cameroon, New York City, Afghanistan, Papua New Guinea and Australia as they come of age.

SAT 12

Weather Women

GARRISON

7 p.m. Philipstown Depot Theatre

10 Garrison's Landing | 845-424-3900

philipstowndepottheatre.org

This show — the first inside the theater since before the pandemic shutdown — will feature Cayla Mae Simpson, Jessica Karis Ray and Georgia Sackler in a performance that includes dance, film and music. Spectators must be vaccinated and wear masks. *Cost: \$20*

VISUAL ART

SAT 5

Works on Paper

COLD SPRING

Noon – 5 p.m. Buster Levi Gallery

123 Main St. | busterlevigallery.com

Drawings by John Allen, Pat Hickman, Grace Kennedy, Nancy Steinson, Lucille Tortora, Ada Pillar Cruz, Bill Kooistra, Jenne Currie, Grey Zien, Barbara Smith Gioia,



Alice's Ordinary People, March 8

Ursula Schneider and Tim D'Acquisto will be on view through March 22.

SAT 5

The Narrative of Things

NEWBURGH

5 – 7 p.m. Holland Tunnel

46 Chambers St.

hollandtunnelgallery.com

Shari Diamond, Norm Magnusson, Kathleen Vance and Tamara Raffin will exhibit work on the relationship of narrative and objects. Through April 10.

SAT 12

High School Mentor Exhibition

GARRISON

10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Garrison Art Center

23 Garrison's Landing | 845-424-3960

garrisonartcenter.org

See work created by local students through the School Invitational Theme Exhibition program. Through March 20.

SAT 12

Larry Bell

BEACON

11:30 a.m. Dia:Beacon

3 Beekman St. | 845-231-0811

diaart.org

Curator Alexis Lowry will speak with the artist about his sculptures, including "Standing Walls" (1968) and "Duo Nesting Boxes" (2021), that will be on display beginning today. *Cost: Free with museum admission (\$15 or \$12 for students, seniors, disabled people; ages 12 and younger are free)*

SAT 12

Bloom

BEACON

6 – 8 p.m. BAU Gallery

506 Main St. | 845-440-7584

baugallery.org

This member show will reflect "bloom" as both a noun and verb. See Page 13. In the Beacon Room, Stephen Derrickson curates a photography show with works by Ernest Shaw, Adie Russell, Stephen Laub and Charles Purvis. Through April 3.

MUSIC

SAT 5

Loudon Wainwright III

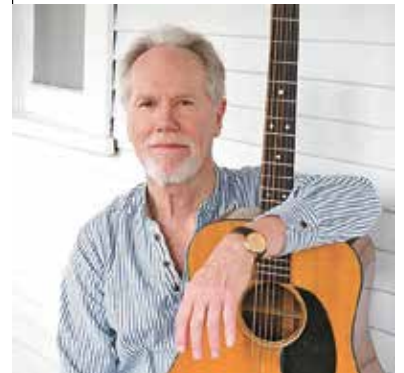
BEACON

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

845-855-1300 | townecrier.com

The author, actor, composer,

songwriter and multi-instrumentalist will perform hits from his decades-long career. Proof of vaccination required. *Cost: \$40 (\$45 door)*



SAT 5

Amazing Sensationals

BEACON

9 p.m. Quinn's | 330 Main St.

facebook.com/quinnbeacon

The band encourages dancing and will be joined by The Freejays.

SUN 6

Beppe Gambetta

BEACON

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

845-855-1300 | townecrier.com

The Italian-born performer will bring together his American and European influences with a unique approach to times, periods and places. Proof of vaccination required. *Cost: \$20 (\$25 door)*

MON 7

Jazz Night

BEACON

8:30 p.m. Quinn's | 330 Main St.

facebook.com/quinnbeacon

Tyler Blanton, Drew Gress, Eric Halvorson and Robin Verheyen are scheduled to perform.

FRI 11

Judith Tulloch Band

BEACON

7:30 p.m. Two Way Brewing Co.

18 W. Main St. | twowaybrewing.com

Tulloch's music has been described as world fusion with a jazzy edge.

FRI 11

Eric Puente Jazz Quartet

BEACON

8 p.m. Reserva Wine Bar

173 Main St. | reservabeacon.com

Puente will be joined by Rich Williams, Rich Paganello and John Goldberg to play classic and modern jazz standards.



Parade of Green, March 12



I Am a Girl, March 11

FRI 11
Gratefully Yours
BEACON
8 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com
Founded by Alex Mazur, the tribute band performs Grateful Dead set lists submitted by fans. *Cost: \$20 (\$25 door)*

SAT 12
Tom Chapin & Friends
BEACON
8 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com
The three-time Grammy winner will celebrate his birthday with friends and family sharing songs and stories. *Cost: \$25 (\$30 door)*

SUN 13
Analog Jazz Orchestra
BEACON
7 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com
The 18-piece ensemble, which includes members from the West Point Band and former members of the West Point Jazz Nights, will perform big-band classics. *Cost: \$20 (\$25 door)*

TALKS AND TOURS

SUN 6
The Audubon Sanctuaries of the Hudson Valley
GARRISON
4 p.m. Via Crowdcast
845-424-3020 | desmondfishlibrary.org
Scott Silver, the director of the

Constitution Marsh Audubon Center and Sanctuary, will discuss bird conservation sites with land steward Dave Decker in this event organized by the Desmond-Fish Public Library.

MON 7
Gardening in the 21st Century
MAHOPAC
2 p.m. Via Zoom
bit.ly/mahopac-gardening
Master Gardener Janis Butler will discuss matrix planting, plant communities and new thinking about plant-survival strategies in this program organized by the Mahopac Public Library. Register online.

TUES 8
Plant-Based Nutrition for Women's Heart Health
CORTLANDT
12:30 p.m. Via Zoom
events.nyp.org/hudsonvalley
This presentation by NewYork-Presbyterian Hudson Valley Hospital will cover cooking with produce to make nutritional meals. Register online.

THURS 10
Recovering Women's Stories from Ancient Documents
POUGHKEEPSIE
7 p.m. Via Zoom | dchsn.org
In this program organized by the Dutchess County Historical Society, Will Tatum, the Dutchess County historian, will share stories of



The Narrative of Things, March 5

local women from the 18th century gleaned from the county's Ancient Documents Program. Register online.

CIVIC

SAT 5
Voter Registration
NELSONVILLE
Noon - 5 p.m. Village Hall
258 Main St. | nelsonvilleny.gov
Open to those not already registered in Putnam County. Use the Pearl Street entrance.

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

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

TUES 8
School Board
COLD SPRING
7 p.m. Haldane (cafeteria)
15 Craigsides Drive | 845-265-9254
haldaneschool.org

WED 9
Village Board
NELSONVILLE
7 p.m. Village Hall | 258 Main St.
845-265-2500 | nelsonvilleny.gov

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THE GALLERIES AT GARRISON ART CENTER

MARCH EXHIBITIONS

CLOSING RECEPTION

Saturday, March 5, 5-7pm

Janice La Motta:
A New Path to the Waterfall

Patricia Zarate:
All Together Now

OPENING RECEPTION

Saturday, March 12 3-5pm

SITE: School Invitational Theme Exhibition: "Art is Everywhere"

High School Mentor Exhibition

OPENING RECEPTION

Saturday, March 26, 5-7pm

Ann Provan: Inner Window, paintings

Leslie Fandrich: Strings Attached, sculpture & collage

The Galleries at Garrison Art Center

23 Garrison's Landing, Garrison, NY

Open Tuesday thru Sunday, 10am-5pm

Garrison Art Center

garrisonartcenter.org

845-424-3960

Atlas Baltz as Shrek and Olivia Giammatteo as the Donkey in *Shrek*

Sally Kasprzak makes it big at a BPAC summer camp.

Photos provided

When the three creators of the Beacon Performing Arts Center launched the organization in 2017, it had no permanent studio space. Their aspirations included two weeklong summer camps and a few workshops in the fall.

Five years later, Kate and Jake Vander Linden (who live in Beacon and recently had their first child) and Tim Grady (who lives in New York City) have overseen 23 student productions, most enrolled to capacity, and hold regular classes in their large space on Main Street.

"It's on the same block as the doughnuts — right next to the cat cafe — that's always the easiest way to describe the location," says Kate Vander Linden, with a laugh.

She says "the stars aligned that first year after our summer programs wound down." They found an empty storefront available just in time for rehearsals to begin for their first production, *Elf*, in December 2017. "The space was intended to be an art gallery so our main alteration was putting in mirrors," she says. "It's such a difference to have a home and permanent space. We can do practically unlimited programming."

It's been a whirlwind since. BPAC, which operates as a nonprofit, usually organizes six musicals a year. Each show has three casts of about 25 students each.

The pandemic shutdown brought with it a crash course in delivering virtual productions to children and teens who were still eager to collaborate and perform.

"We used parts of our brain we've never had to flex before, figuring out how to transition to online, including doing produc-

No Place Like Home

Beacon Performing Arts Center marks fifth anniversary

By Alison Rooney



Tim Grady, Jake Vander Linden and Kate Vander Linden at the studio

tions online," Vander Linden says. They also held summer camps via Zoom, "even for our 3- to 5-year-old cast, who learned to focus while still dancing around the house."

Middle and high school students did full productions online, "although we could feel how much they wanted to be in a physical space," she says. "So, we showed our videos at the Story Screen Drive-In at University

Settlement." The students "kept saying how unique it was, as they never usually get to watch themselves perform, plus they got to see the whole show" rather than waiting backstage for their cues.

"Tim, Jake and I had those 'Who would have thought when we started?' moments," she said.

They also launched *BPAC Live at Five*.

"Every day we did a different thing: teaching a dance, hosting musical theater trivia, doing a sing-a-long," Vander Linden says. "It became a great way to connect with our theater community and provide a way for them to continue to express themselves. Once kids were back in person, you could tell they needed an outlet, they needed to be with each other. It was so cool and inspiring to see kids be kids again."

BPAC has an ongoing collaboration with the Beacon Players, the drama club attached to Beacon High School. Its director, Anthony Scarrone, "has helped our organization so much by allowing us to use their theater and their extra props. Randy Caruso, their scenic designer and tech director, lends us big scenery pieces to repurpose so we can do things like take the staircase used in their production of *Holiday Inn* and transform it for our *Beauty and the Beast*," says Vander Linden. BPAC also uses the Seeger Theater at the high school to stage its shows.

"We've been so surprised at how welcoming and supportive the community has been to our programs and shows," she says. "We knew it when we opened, but especially with COVID's challenges, we've seen the community embrace us."

*The Beacon Performing Arts Center is located at 327B Main St. For information on student and adult classes, visit beaconperformingartscenter.com or call 845-350-2722. Registration is open for summer camps and two productions: *The Addams Family* for sixth to eighth grades and *Carrie: The Musical* for high school students.*

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Beet and Orange Salad With Mint

Mouths to Feed

Coming Round Again

By Celia Barbour

Roundness is associated with sweetness, scientists have discovered. In a 2017 experiment, round chocolates were perceived to be 30 percent sweeter than angular chocolates by test subjects. Likewise, blushing pink and red foods are perceived as sweeter than black foods, and shiny foods appear to taste sweeter than rough-surfaced foods.

So strong are these associations, moreover, that they spill over into the environment in which something is consumed. Popcorn in a red bowl seems sweeter than popcorn in a white bowl. And experiment subjects wearing virtual-reality glasses reported that a beverage tasted significantly sweeter in a virtual environment with “sweet” qualities.

“That’s bizarre,” says my husband, Peter, when I tell him this.



Which was exactly my reaction, until I stopped to think about it for a few minutes and realized that we all already know this intuitively. Since roughly forever, Mother Nature has packaged her sweetest treats in rosy globes and globules: apples, cherries, raspberries, strawberries, plums and peaches, to name a few.

But what use is Mother Nature’s intuitive wisdom in the face of the \$1.77 trillion Americans spent on food and drink in 2019? Marketers need data, and researchers are happy to mine it.

I unearthed the above information (there are vast mountains of it out there, by the way) while looking for something else, of course. In *The Kitchen Diaries*, Nigel Slater calls mid-March “the bottom of the cook’s year,” adding, after a trip to the grocer’s, “I cannot remember a day when I felt so uninspired.”

I know the feeling well. There’s a big lag between “spring is in the air,” and “spring is in the vegetable garden.” Things take time to grow. But it occurred to me that if the adage that we eat with our eyes as well as our palates is true, maybe the cure is simply to broaden our appetites. Could pretty foods cure the March blahs? I went off Googling for the link between vision and taste.

Along the way, I was reminded that we eat with our noses, ears and sense of touch, as well. Eating has always been a profoundly multisensory experience. So when winter produce feels like old news and hearty stews and roasts no longer offer comfort, perhaps the cure is to gobble up the swelling sunlight and devour the lovely trills and peeps of the birds getting busy in the mud-scented yard as you sit down to lunch.

Or maybe cook up something stunning, like this beet and orange salad. It seems just right for this paradoxical turn of the year, when our various senses seem to be inhabiting different latitudes. It’s got earth and sunshine; root, fruit and tender leaf. And while its flavor and colors are bright and vibrant, its main ingredients are perfectly at home in winter.

Beets and oranges also happen to be rosy globes, small reminders of life’s ongoing sweetness while we wait for our big, globe-shaped home to turn us fully toward spring.



2 bunches small beets

Salt and pepper

¼ cup olive oil, plus more for roasting beets

4 oranges

1 teaspoon shallot, very thinly sliced

2 tablespoons lemon juice

½ cup loosely packed fresh mint leaves (from 3 to 4 sprigs)

1. Heat the oven to 400 degrees. Scrub and trim the beets, leaving about ½ inch of the stems attached. Place them in a Dutch oven or roasting pan. Toss with a little olive oil, salt and pepper and add a splash of water to the bottom of the pan. Cover tightly (with foil if you are using a roasting pan), transfer to the oven and roast about 45 minutes or until tender when pierced with a knife. Remove the lid or foil (carefully) and allow beets to cool. Rub or peel off the skins, cut off the tops and slice into wedges.

2. Meanwhile, supreme the oranges: Using a sharp knife, cut off the top and bottom. Stand an orange on one end and cut downward between skin and flesh along the curve of the fruit, removing skin, white pith and membrane. Then, holding the orange over a bowl to catch juices, cut out each segment, slicing inward along the membrane and twisting to release the segment. Set the segments aside. Squeeze any juices from the rind into the bowl, then measure out ¼ cup juice.

3. In a large bowl, combine the sliced shallot, lemon juice, reserved orange juice and ½ teaspoon salt and a few grindings of black pepper. Set aside to marinate 5 to 10 minutes. Whisk in the remaining ¼ cup olive oil. Taste and adjust for salt and acidity. Add the beet wedges to the bowl with the vinaigrette and toss well; taste for seasoning.

4. Thinly slice the mint leaves. Place half the marinated beets on a platter. Add half the orange segments and mint. Repeat with the remaining beets, oranges and mint. Serve with remaining vinaigrette on the side.

NOTICE

The Philipstown Zoning Board of Appeals will hold their regular monthly meeting on **Monday, March 14th, 2022 at 7:30 p.m.** in person at the Philipstown Town Hall, 238 Main St., Cold Spring, NY 10516

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

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Roots and Shoots

Lead in the Soil

By Pamela Doan

When Aaron Wolfe was gardening in his Cold Spring yard and kept finding trash, he took that as a signal to test the soil. He assumed the trash had been left by previous residents who also might have been burning garbage. The use of “burn barrels” releases so many pollutants that it has been banned in New York state.

Wolfe was concerned because he had planted fruit trees and had a vegetable garden. Soil contaminants from metals usually don’t show an immediate health impact but build up over time in the body without a person knowing it.

After Wolfe sent samples collected from five areas of his yard to a lab he found online, soil test results showed high levels of lead, above 400 ppm (parts per million by weight). Lead commonly occurs in soil at levels of 10 ppm to 50 ppm, which isn’t considered a risk. (See putnam.cce.cornell.edu/gardening/healthy-soils for more information about how to get your soil tested.)

Lead can build up in soil from any number of sources and is usually found in higher concentrations in developed or

urban areas. It was once used in products as diverse as paint and gasoline. Mining and smelting activities release concentrations of lead; so do discarded batteries, incinerator emissions and pesticides used on orchards and vineyards until the 1960s.

Cold Spring’s industrial past, with the West Point Foundry and Marathon battery factory, make soil contamination more likely here. Areas where they operated became Superfund sites, the highest level of federally designated polluted areas. In addition to lead, the operations would have released metals that could be found in soil, including arsenic, cadmium, copper, mercury, nickel and zinc. Health impacts from these metals can include cancer and organ damage.

Once lead is in the soil, it doesn’t dissolve or go away. The highest concentrations are usually in the top 1 to 2 inches, the areas where we dig and plant and play and breathe dust stirred up by the wind.

Lead exposure is especially harmful for children and can cause permanent damage to the brain and nervous system, slowing growth and development. There isn’t a cure or a treatment. Once lead is in the body, it stays there forever. Toddlers can put dirt-covered hands in their mouths pretty fast before you can stop them. Pregnant women should always wear gloves when gardening because lead can affect a growing fetus.

Dismayed and wanting to verify his soil test results, Wolfe sent another sample collected from other locations in his yard, including his raised vegetable beds,



Aaron Wolfe found this Bengay tube from the 1930s buried in his Cold Spring yard while gardening, prompting him to have the soil tested for lead. Photo provided

this time to Cornell University. This test revealed even higher concentrations, 500 ppm to 600 ppm.

“It was very discouraging,” Wolfe said.

“There isn’t any easy remediation. I wasn’t going to remove all the soil and fill it in again.”

While those lead levels are significant, it’s still possible to garden. The greatest hazards come from eating vegetables that haven’t been thoroughly washed and still have dirt on them. The same goes for working in the soil without gloves and wiping your mouth or nose so that soil is ingested or inhaled.

Putnam County’s Cornell Cooperative Extension provides best-practices advice.

“You should elevate the vegetable beds at least 12 inches,” says Jennifer Lerner, its senior resource educator. “Line the bottom with landscape fabric and import soil. Pathways should be covered with thick layers of newspaper or cardboard with 3 to 4 inches of wood chips on top. You don’t want any bare soil that could be breathed in as dust.”

The safest vegetables to grow are those that bear produce above the soil, such as tomatoes, eggplant, squash, corn, peppers and cucumbers. Lerner also recommends covering the soil with mulch, such as straw. Squash and other vegetables with thick skins that grow above the soil are also lower-risk.

Root vegetables and leafy vegetables are more challenging. Lerner said that if cost is a consideration, Wolfe could stop using his garden beds for higher-risk vegetables and create one with imported soil. Growing in containers with imported soil is also a low-risk option.

The Highlands Current presents

IN THE WILD

A COLLECTION OF PHOTOGRAPHY
BY CHRIS CROCCO

Opening reception Friday, March 18
at The Current's offices at 142 Main St., Cold Spring

PRESERVE EAST MOUNTAIN!

A potentially precedent-setting application for 25 homes on forested land in North Highlands outside of Cold Spring is currently under review by the Philipstown Planning Board and may be on the Agenda again as early as March 17, 2022.

We are opposed to the application as it currently stands. We urge you to get informed and to write letters to the Planning Board now. This large-scale housing development called the Hudson Highlands Reserve (“HHR”) is proposed for land situated off Route 9 between Horton Road and East Mountain Road North.

HHR is a proposed *Conservation Subdivision*. This is a special type of development in the Philipstown zoning code allowing for more homes than one could ordinarily build with a Conventional Subdivision by placing the homes on smaller lots in exchange for protecting large and sensitive sections of the land.

A *Conservation Subdivision* is intended to allow the clustering of homes in an effort to preserve the majority of the parcel as open space, NOT to significantly increase the number of homes and allow them to be diffuse on the landscape. The HHR subdivision looks and functions more like a Conventional Subdivision, except that by calling it a *Conservation Subdivision* the applicant is allowed significantly more development and house sales.

In HHR’s proposal most of the land claimed as being “preserved” is unsuitable for building due to water resources and the steep terrain. This circumstance means the developer is seeking the benefits of a *Conservation Subdivision* without meeting the zoning code’s goal of protecting otherwise vulnerable land.

HHR’s application for a *Conservation Subdivision* is the first such proposal in Philipstown. If allowed to proceed it would set a precedent for future developments and affect the rural character of our town.

As the Philipstown Conservation Board wrote to the Planning Board on January 18, 2022:

“We still have significant concerns that not only has the applicant not significantly lessened environmental impacts to the extent that is practical, but also is evading the intent of the Philipstown Conservation Subdivision Regulations.”

Email Cheryl Rockett at rockett@philipstown.com to join the next Zoom meeting of the Planning Board or to send letters to the Planning Board.

For more information: Find us on Facebook: Preserve East Mountain
Or email us at Eastmountain2022@gmail.com

By Leonard Sparks

The seeds of Helanna Bratman and Samantha Brittain's friendship were planted in 2007.

Brittain, then a freshman at Beacon High School, forgot she had applied for Green Teen Beacon, the Cornell Cooperative Extension Dutchess County program that hires teenagers to grow and sell produce to teach farming, entrepreneurship, leadership and other skills.

When Brittain opened her front door to find Bratman, then the Green Teen manager, standing there with paperwork to sign, her friends were inside partying.

"I said, 'I actually don't think I'm in the right place in my life for a job,' and I shut the door," Brittain recalled.

Two years later, Brittain reopened the door, joining Green Teen as a junior. Thirteen years later, she may be Bratman's most bountiful harvest.

Now a college graduate and mother, Brittain took over in January as the program's manager after Bratman stepped down to finish nursing school — a decision inspired by a battle with cancer.

"The program groomed Sam," said Bratman. "That's pretty special."

Brittain credits Green Teen with inspiring her to pursue a bachelor's degree in sociology from SUNY New Paltz. After graduating from Beacon High School, she had worked for seven years as a part-time program assistant and often asked Bratman, "How do I get

A Student Returns as Teacher

Green Teen alum takes over Beacon farming program



Helanna Bratman and Samantha Brittain with the Green Teen bus

Photo provided

your job?" Bratman reminded her it would require a college degree.

Brittain was working as the activities director for the Hedgewood Home for Adults in Beacon when Cornell Cooperative began its search in December for a new manager.

"It changed my life forever," said Brittain of the program. "I always knew I was going to go to college. Education is valued in my family. But I don't think I would have gotten a bachelor's degree."

Bratman is also leaving to work on her own degree. She was working at a crisis center for teenagers in 2004 when Cooperative Extension Dutchess County launched the Green Teen program in Beacon. She built the program, headquartered at the Beacon Recreation Department, from scratch. Its members farm three plots in the city, selling what they harvest from a mobile farmers market in collaboration with Common Ground Farm.

The teens also visit dairy farms and organize photography shows and other activities. Bratman says her work with the program provided strength when she was diagnosed with breast cancer five years ago.

Her treatments, including surgeries and chemotherapy, led her to aspire to become a nurse, she said. She is cancer-free and halfway through the nursing program at SUNY Ulster.

"I loved growing things; I loved working with teenagers," said Bratman. "But what I loved the most was that it was different all the time and you could make it what you want to do."

NOTICE

PHILIPSTOWN PLANNING BOARD

Public Hearing – March 17th, 2022

The Planning Board of the Town of Philipstown, New York will hold a continuation of the public hearing regarding review under the State Environment Quality Review Act of the below described project on Thursday, March 17th 2022 at their regular monthly meeting starting at 7:30 p.m. at the Philipstown Town Hall, 238 Main St. Cold Spring, NY 10516 and virtually via Zoom to consider the following application:

Garrison Golf Club PDD/Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival, 2015 Route 9 Garrison, NY 10524 TM# 60-1-59.2 & 59.3

SEQRA review of: Major Site Plan & 3-lot Subdivision; Modifications to the GGC PDD to permit relocation of the Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival to the site, new theaters, outdoor pavilion and housing for artist and visitors (existing banquet/restaurant facility to remain).

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

If you would like to attend the meeting virtually via Zoom, see information below to register, or email crockett@philipstown.com to request login information before 7:00 pm on March 17th, 2022.

Register in advance for this webinar:

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_XiaWuFleQN6XcSXQaNTp6w

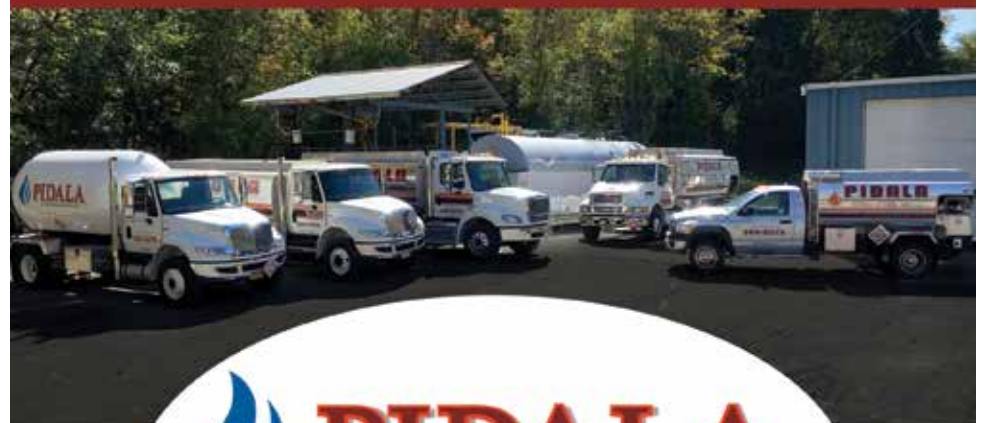
Webinar ID: 846 6651 7716 **Passcode:** 703823

Please note if you plan to attend this meeting in person masks will be required. Also be aware that due to ongoing COVID changes and restrictions this Public Hearing may be rescheduled or moved entirely to Zoom. Please check the town website at philipstown.com for any scheduling updates.

Dated at Philipstown, New York, this 16th day of December, 2021.

Neal Zuckerman, Chair

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Grade 12

Principal’s List

Gretta Anderson, Lotus Blumenthal, Madeline Bobnick, Jeremy Brinas, Bella Carassone, Jack Cleary, Allyson Correl-lus, Alexandria Faiella, Kelcy Fernandez Sanango, Cleo Fiedler, Cassandra Garrett, Chase Green, Inessa Joseph, Dillon Kelly, Cherlin Liao, Benjamin Lieblein, Andrew Lucas, Amatullah Muhammad, Camille Pahucki, Nora Phelan, Emma Sandison, Alexia Segarra, Lauren Shanahan, Carissa Smutny, Caleb Ullian, John Urban-Quezada

High Honor Roll

Jayden Arroyo, Joseph Baffuto III, Bridget Bell, Christian Carvalho, Sulayman Ceesay, Amare Coakley, Olivia Corneyea, Claire Derrenbacher, Lucia Diebboll, Alexander Ferris, Anthony Ferrone, Ian Fiorito, Daniel Gilleo, Tyler Hanson, Samuel Harle, Tyler Haydt, Flynn Johnson, Synasia Johnson, Evan Kumar, Sydney Kurtz, Simrat Mann, Chris-tina Merola, Marilyn Monroe, Ava Muscat, Rosa Nunez, Ayanda Nxumalo, Mia Osuba, Yahya Ouildane, Kathryn Park, Michael Pirrone, Arielle Prince, Alondra Ramirez Paredes, Jose Resendiz, Anthony Riccoboni, Robin-Caleb Richards, Lulu Romer, Kenneth Rosa, Thomas Santoro, Kalyn Sheffield, Cody Shields, Hannah Smith, Samantha Sovik, Olivia Spiak, Destiny Taylor, Jake Titka, Tess Wills, Alexander Wyant, Jaylen Ynoa

Honor Roll

Mya Bauer, Owen Browne, Devin Buggs, Victoria Cameli, Ryan Chin, Chloe Cohen, Isabella Ghent, Sarah Gibbs, Ashley Gonza-lez, Tyler Haydt, Garrett Hunter, Hunter Ingold, Evan Johnson, Catherine Johnston, Veronica Klein, Evan LaBelle, Maura Lane, Rebecca Levy, Kailey Mesorana, Marissa Mora, Daniel Nelson, David Perez-Cisne-ros, Destiny Prothro, Austin Ray, Leanna Rinaldi, Javon Robinson Jr., Alianna Robles, Keira Seaman, Stella Serpico, Ariana Shatlaw, Andrew Solcz, Andre Stackhouse, Nicholas Thivierge, Tyler Underwood, Lucas Vermeu-len, Cleveland Wright, Haleigh Zukowski

Grade 11

Principal’s List

Lina Ahmed, Crystal Chen, Esther Clair,

Beacon High School Honor Roll

Students recognized for second-quarter grades

Alexander Clay, Beatrice Dowd, Gabri-ella Ghent, Farah Jaafar, Emma Labodin, Audrey Lewis, Jordyn Long, Lillian Magurno, Jonah Mensch, Lindsay Otero, Rowan Parsaca, Lila Quinn, Ruby Rodg-ers, Shepard Rodgers, Isa Schmidt, Deme-tra Sela, Ryan Shaffer, Isabella Travis, Jack Twining Freeman

High Honor Roll

Mateo Alvarado, Daniel Barry, Isabella Boswick, Isabella Bottiglieri, Delaney Bren-nen, Ariadna Carmona, Sofia Castelhano, Sophia Clauson, Parijat Das, Jacob DiNob-ile, Danielle DiRubbio, Laney Ebeling, Jenna Griesing, Labibah Hassan, Ysabel Heath, Liam Istvan, Gavin LaDue, Gabriella Leiva, Sharon Li, Sabrina Lin, Tylynn Lind-say, Eleanor Lopez, Julissa Manso, Alexis Mastrantuono, Elijah McKible, Gia Moreno, Skhy Morris, Aydin Ozkurt, Addy Pagones, Ella Pessoni, John Philipbar III, Jonathan Ramirez, Nathaniel Ramos, Thomas Rapp, Isabelle Ray, Jillian Salvati, Amelia Sanker, Leian Simon, Joseph Vollaro, Jeffrey Wolfe III

Honor Roll

Kaylee Broas, Julian Brown, Scott Bunker, Anaya Camacho, Hope Clever-inga, Brianna DeMilio, Jaeden Drysdale, Jhanelle Duncan, William Fahlman, Journey Fleming, Gabriela Foret, Sadot Garcia, Darien Gillins, Tyvashea Hender-son, George Humphreys, Justin Jackson, Zakiyah Johnson, Juliette Lasser, Moa Lopez, Gabriella Manzoeillo, Nuriya May, Taylor Meeuwisse, Brianna Moleano, Sofia Mourgues, Erin Nicholson, Emani Paulin, Henry Quinn, Natalie Quintero, Mia Ramirez, Penelope Rigney, Adam Sendel-bach, Michael Serino, Mikayla Sheehan, Ciara Soto, Dyami Stafford, Jacob Tumidaj, Daniel Urbanak, Liam Verdesi

Grade 10

Principal’s List

Alejandra Calderon, Emma Campa-

giorni, Douglas Capawana, Ella Cason, Rubio Castagna-Torres, Olivia Del Castillo, Marina Elias, Jayden Feather-stone, Jacqueline Griesing, Harsh Gupta, Serena Jabar, Georgia Kane, Gabrielle Kuka, Olivia Lapaz, Myasia Lewis, Evan Lombardo, Bryce Manning, Nico McKible, Isabella Migliore, Karimah Muhammad, Twyla Nelson, Emilia Pastorello, Vanessa Piciacchio, Henry Reinke, Elizabeth Ruffy, Matthew Sandison, Kasey Senior, Allison Thomas, Rachel Thorne, Peter Vermeulen, Emily Wei, Wallace Wei, Jon-Paul Wood, August Wright

High Honor Roll

Imroz Ali, Isabella Amundson, Daniel Benson, Anthony Borromeo, Sophia Campagiorni, Vanessa Campanelli, Sean Cleary, Nicole Coliman, Grace Delgado, Luke DeLuise, Nora Folkes, Ariana Gallego, Cadence Heeter, Keira Istvan, Emma Joyce, Zuhir Kasem, Devyn Kelly, Shy’anne Kush, Tiannah Lindsay, Christopher Milewski, Aryah Montefusco, Liam Murphy, Thomas Nocerino, Nahari Powell, Keira Robin-son, Kiarra Rodriguez, Jackson Shrawder, Michael Varian, Isabella White, Ryan Zingone Redfield

Honor Roll

Abir Ahmed, Caden Alvarez, Jack Anta-lek, Ronnie Anzovino, Caleb Bennett, Elea-nor Cunningham, Ava DelBianco, Damani Deloatch, Chelsea DerBoghossian, Gabri-ella Espinal, Michael Fontaine Jr., Christo-pher Gonzalez, Sara Gonzalez, Sienna Gorey, Isabella Haydt, Una Hoppe, Leslie Ilouga Wandji, Bryana Kelliher, Jonathan Lobato Colon, Leonides Lopez IV, Owen Lynch, Amerie Madigan, William Martin, Anthony Marzovilla, Alexandria McCollum, Stephen McDowell, Gia Morgan, Mia Nelson-Cheyne, Lillie O’Leary, Elisa Pahucki, Christopher Pirrone, Jayden Quintana, Ricardo Ramirez Paredes, Merilyn Rinaldi, Jenna Rojas, Sinai Sanchez, Anisa Shtanaj, Owen Skorewicz,

JonAy Taylor, Alexsander Tice, Brandon Warren, Xiomarys Williams

Grade 9

Principal’s List

Beckett Anderson, Anabelle Argin-sky, Christine Chen, Messiah Gardner, AvaMaria Gianna, Sarah Jaafar, Charlie Klein, Josephine Mallon, Jada Medley, Emma Merola, Addison Miller, Kather-ine Ruffy, Anastasia Santise, Nix Spodek, Serena Stampleman, Mika-Gisselle Tates, Malcolm Wilson, Ava Zeoli

High Honor Roll

Taryn Beardsley, Sally Betterbid, Isabel Bunker, Lila Burke, Shyla Camacho, Parth-bid Das, Evelina Diebboll, Amadea Ferris, Tayler Finley, Tori Foster, Justin Gerardes, Mackenzie Harman, Bailey Hernandez, Jeannae’ Jean-Francois, Rory LaDue, Reilly Landisi, Ela Lyons, Paige McCredo, Allen McKay, Ryann Meyer, Ronan Moran, Rory Mowen, Mackenzie Phillips, Albion Qelaj, David Quezada, Daveya Rodriguez, Bethany Rudolph, Breanna Rudolph, Mehr Sagri, Gabriel Salcedo, Kayleigh Sheehan, Jacob Signorelli, Natalia Sulsona, Amya Thompson, Sortia Tripaldi, Roque Vianna, Charles Zellinger, Francis Zezza

Honor Roll

Riley Adnams, Kendall Alston, Isabella Baffuto, Daniel Bridges, Elizabeth Carbone, Christopher Carton Jr., Avery Davis, Chiara Fedorchak, Willa Freedman, Fallon Groza, Noelle Haase, Jalen Jackson, Scarlett John-son, Luke Kozlik, Mark McCabe, Zoe Moreno, Lance Morgan, Amelia Padilla, Lindsay Pedersen, Josue Pintado, Christine Robin-son, Chloe Sheffield, Serenity Smith, Azryella Soto, Brody Timm, Justice Travis, Brayden Vlasaty, Sevana West, Holly Whittemore

BOCES CTI

High Honor Roll

Jayden Arroyo, Nicholas Dean, Alexander Ferris, Daniel Mack, Mia Ramirez, Andrew Solcz

Honor Roll

Garrett Hunter, Jonathan Montoya, Emani Paulin, Austin Ray

Grade 8

Principal’s List

Eleanor Chew, Louise Denehy, Sofia Kelly, Nicolas Lagerman, William O’Hara, Maxwell Sanders

High Honor Roll

Dylan Ann Ambrose, Diego DiGiglio, Aine Duggan, Savannah Duggan, Ryder Griffin, Carl Kester, Elliot Mahoney, Ember Mahoney, Nicolo Masella, Marisa Peters, Tomas Simko, Samantha Thomas, Luke Tippet

Honor Roll

Anthony Bailey, Molly Bernstein, Lyla Belle Chandler, Kai Ietaka, Lincoln McCart-hy, Daniel O’Sullivan, Megan Powell, Owen Powers, Kayla Ruggiero, Ty Villella

Grade 7

Principal’s List

Nadine Alayon, Dessa B. Bellamy-Taran-

Haldane Middle School Honor Roll

Students recognized for second-quarter grades

tino, Hazel Berkley, Polina Buslovich, Ryan Cavallaro, Marco DiLello, Frances Dona-hue, Ryan Duncan, Rita Edwards-Salas, Lugh Hartford, Tess Hereford, Talia Hird, Liv Holmbo, Benjamin M. Hutz, Christine Junjulas, Connor Keegan, Nicolas LeMon, Una Lentz, Griffin Lucca, Maisie Matthews, Jacqueline L. McCormick, Ruby M. McCor-mick, Sydney Merriman, Corinna Mueller, Lily Parker, Caden Philippi, Taya Robinson, Gemma Sabin, Oliver Sanders, Plum Severs, Patrick Shields, Dana Sinchi, Delia Starr, Lincoln Wayland

High Honor Roll

Alexa Faith Arcigal, Cooper Corless, Silas Joseph Emig, Juan F. Fajardo, Henry

Foley-Hedlund, Alexander Gaugler, Jaiden Gunther, Margaret Hall, Rosie L. Herman, Frankie Hohenberger, Elaina Johanson, Parker Larsen, George Shep MacInnes, Gavin Mahoney, Jacob Medoff, Amelia Yaret Nova-Martinez, Graham James Wepler

Honor Roll

Antonio Cardoso, Abigail Grace Glotzer, Lela R. Gurvich-Andrews, Lachlan Koch, Milla Maxwell, David Powlis, Kate Resi, Theo Sacks, Miya Tzivoni-Kahan

Grade 6

Principal’s List

Gelio A. Duarte, Frederica Geppner, Leina Grah, Silvia Hardman, Chloe Hasler, Sierra

Hasler, Jupiter Hutchison, Clark B. Illian, Harry McGrory, Clara O’Neil, Luciano Ruggiero, Aisling Stathos, Sophia Taylor, Scout L. Thakur deBeer

High Honor Roll

Caitlin Alves, Jordan Nicole Armond, Henry Bailey, Emma Cavanaugh, Oscar Cheah, Samuel Chew, Araliss Coronel, Lainey Donaghy, Eleanor Dubroff, Lukas Ellison, Owen Guillorn, Martina Kulan, Diem Lee, Gabriel Marzollo, Kirra McCoy, Eamonn McGrory, Vivian McKenney, Anya Mercurio, Charlie Robohm, Thomas Sexton, Ella Sizemore, Sachi Starbuck, Tanya Syan

Honor Roll

Nicholas Arcigal, Katherine Miray Botros, Petra Brooks-Saladyga, Aurelias Drinnon, Gavin D. Drury, Cassidy Dwyer, Vannia Poleth Gonzalez, Eli Hudson, Margaret O’Sullivan, Joshua Phillips, Sam Poses, Audrey Silverstein, August Skiptunis

Ukraine (from Page 1)

Russia amassed missile launchers, tanks and soldiers at the borders.

"You could see the writing on the wall — it was coming," said Melissa Herhel, but, like many Ukrainians, Nina Herhel did not think Russian President Vladimir Putin would invade. "She just kept telling us: 'Relax. It's going to be fine.'"

Nina Herhel is now one of more than 1 million Ukrainians who had left the country as of Thursday (March 3), according to the United Nations Refugee Agency. She arrived in Krakow, Poland, on Sunday (Feb. 27), three days after the invasion began and after a 40-hour journey by train that began in Poltava, said Yuriy Herhel.

"It has been the worst five days of our lives," he said.

Liliya Shylyvska, who came to the U.S. in 2005 and has been living in Cold Spring since 2008, said friends in Kyiv, the capital, have told her they have been hiding in basements with their children without much food and water.

They reported schools and hospitals being bombed, news that Shylyvska said left her heart "ripped apart. I cannot sleep, I cannot eat. I am worried about my parents, my friends and all the people of Ukraine."

She and her teenage son have been protesting in New York City.

Julia Kisla Taylor, another native of Ukraine, was a high school student in 1991 when the Soviet Union collapsed and Ukraine became independent. She left Ukraine at age 19 to attend college in the U.S. and today lives in Cold Spring with her mother, who left the country 10 years ago. Together they have been watching Ukraine's independence under threat.

Taylor's father, twin brothers and stepfather remain in Ukraine in an area between Kyiv and Kharkiv, its second-largest city. Both have been damaged by Russian shelling.

"For families who are involved in the conflict, it's not even day-by-day — it's by the hour," Taylor said. "We're just praying that when we pick up the phone [to call]



Melissa and Yuriy Herhel at their Philipstown dance studio



Nina Herhel after her arrival in Poland this week *Photos provided*

that our family answers and that everybody's still alive."

On Wednesday (March 2), Russian troops moved closer to Kyiv and Russia claimed that it had captured Kherson, a city on Ukraine's southern coast along the Black Sea.

“We’re just praying that when we pick up the phone [to call] that our family answers and that everybody’s still alive.”

~ Julia Kisla Taylor

The United Nations' Human Rights Office said on Thursday that it had recorded 227 civilian deaths, including 15 children, but noted that the actual figure is likely much higher.

Nina Herhel's escape began with disappointment: Initially, there were no tickets available from Poltava, but someone canceled, said Yuriy Herhel. Because the

train only runs every other day, she had to wait. The ride to Poland, undertaken with the train lights off to hide its movement, included three stops in Kyiv.

While Nina is safe, one of Yuriy's cousins, in his early 30s, and an uncle who is 58, have taken up arms to defend the country, he said. Both he and Melissa worry that Russia will attack the subway stations where thousands of Ukrainians have taken shelter, or use chemical weapons.

"He's the biggest terrorist, biggest criminal, biggest Nazi," said Yuriy of Putin, who has claimed that one of Russia's goals is to "de-Nazify" Ukraine.

Taylor said she is proud of the "scale and bravery" of the Ukrainians defending the country. She and her mother have been watching developments on a Ukrainian news station to which they subscribe. "People who are reporting from Ukraine, they're being bombed, civilians are dying and they're still trying to unite the country," she said.

Shylyvska said she is "proud to be a Ukrainian." She is skeptical about the effectiveness of the sanctions imposed on Russia by the U.S., Europe and other Western countries. She advocates military intervention



Report from Ukraine

Joe Lindsley, a former Philipstown resident and editor of *The Putnam County News and Recorder*, is now the editor of *Ukrainian Freedom News*. He is based in Lviv, a city of 717,000 people in western Ukraine near its border with Poland.

Lindsley's reporting is available at Lvivlab.com. He recorded an update for residents of the Highlands about the situation in the country as of Thursday (March 3) that we have posted at highlandscurrent.org.

despite fears it could escalate into a nuclear conflict, saying Putin would "get scared."

While the debate continues about how involved the U.S. and Europe should become in the conflict, Ukrainians in the Highlands say they are grateful for the support.

In Krakow, Nina Herhel is applying at the U.S. embassy for a visa to travel to Philipstown, where she could meet her 3-month-old grandson. Melissa Herhel said U.S. Rep. Sean Patrick Maloney has written a letter of support to expedite her visa application and that Nancy Montgomery, who represents Philipstown in the Putnam County Legislature, has also offered assistance.

"It's nice to see that people are so willing to step in and say, 'What can we do to help you?'" said Melissa.

Current Classifieds

HELP WANTED

TURF CARE — Seasonal, full-time position open in Garrison. Primary focused on turf care; mowing, trimming, edging, weed whacking, hand weeding as needed, with additional non-turf maintenance and training. 3-4 seasons of experience, driver's license preferred. English-speaking, hardworking, thorough and precise work habits needed. Neat, able to take direction and work as a team member is a must. March to October schedule. Email tbielaczyc@gmail.com.

GARDENER — Looking to hire an experienced gardener for work on a Garrison private property. Should have 3-4 seasons of

experience. Solid grasp of skills in planting, weeding, thinning, deadheading, grooming, staking. Hardworking, thorough, detailed, focused, professional able to take direction while working as a team and on one's own. Able to lift 50 pounds and work in all types of weather. 3 days weekly, March-October. Pay commensurate with experience. Driver's license and English-speaking needed. Email tbielaczyc@gmail.com.

FOR SALE

BATHROOM VANITY — Domani Larissa; deep brown, elm ember finish, natural wood-grain look. Cultured marble vanity top with white sink. 37" wide x 19" deep. One-door cabinet

with 6-way adjustable soft-close hinges. Two right-hand drawers with full extension soft-close drawer glides. Space saving with a modern floating design. Brushed aluminum hardware included. Brand new in sealed, never-opened box. Ordered by mistake and cannot use. Sold at Home Depot for \$397. Email steverap@verizon.net.

1973 SATOH TRACTOR — Runs very well with 4-cylinder Mazda engine. Tires have 2 or 3 hours on them. Replaced rims 4 years ago and the tires 3 years ago. Rear tires have a CAO liquid for weight and non-freezing. All hoses new. Front lift with a 1,200-pound capacity. Two ranges, high and low, three forward speeds and one reverse, each at both ranges. Over \$3,000 in tires, rims and hoses. Body needs TLC but doable. Left front ball-joint needs repair; if used at higher speeds, should be replaced. Parts and repair manuals included. \$4,500. Email leonard.lindrosjr@gmail.com.

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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.

SPORTS

Oh, No! *(from Page 24)*

No. 6 Washingtonville twice during the regular season (by two and 11 points), so the Bulldogs were confident the third time would also be a charm, especially playing at home.

But this time the Warriors came out on top, hanging on for a 45-43 overtime victory that advanced them to the semifinals.

Beacon, playing its first season in Section IX after moving from Section I, finished with a 12-9 record.

"Playoff basketball is different, and a lot of our guys have not played in a playoff game," said Coach Scott Timpano. "There's something to be said for not having that experience. It took us a little while to match their intensity."

Beacon was up by three near the end of regulation when Washingtonville hit a three-pointer to tie it at 43-43 and send the game to overtime.

Neither team could find the basket in the extra period, with Washingtonville claiming the victory by scoring one bucket. Timpano said some defensive switches gave his team problems, but the Bulldogs had many chances to tie.

Joe Battle led Beacon with eight points, Jason Komisar and Darien Gillins each had seven, and Chase Green and Adrian Beato contributed six apiece.

Timpano said his team should be proud of what it accomplished this season. "To go from one win [in 2020-21] to 12 is amazing," he said. "And we did it with pretty much the same team. It shows all the work that they put in. We have a lot of guys returning next year and hope to get better."

The Haldane girls, seeded No. 3 in the Section I, Class C tournament, traveled on Tuesday to face No. 2 Yonkers Montessori Academy, whom they had defeated early in the regular season by seven points. But the Blue Devils came up short, 48-36.

"We were maybe a little bit jittery, maybe too amped up," said Coach Jessica Perrone.

"Our passes weren't crisp, and we made turnovers we wouldn't normally make. We've had good rhythm the past few weeks, but we couldn't find it. Maybe it was nerves, but there was a lot of disappointment after the game."

Perrone said her team failed to take advantage of opportunities. "We had a lot of steals but weren't able to cash in," she said. "And we missed a lot of layups; it felt like there was a cap on the basket."

Maddie Chiera led Haldane with 12 points and seven rebounds, Camila McDaniel added 11 points and Molly Siegel had seven points and five rebounds.

Haldane ended its season at 9-12, but Perrone said the Blue Devils made a lot of progress. "I wish I had more time with this group," she said. "They've worked so hard, and I hope they're proud of the season they had. Our four seniors [Chiera, Siegel, Marisa Scanga and Jenna Irwin] will all really be missed."

The Beacon girls, seeded No. 4, opened the Section IX, Class A playoffs on Saturday (Feb. 26) with a 41-33 home win over No. 5 Washingtonville but fell on Tuesday to top-seeded Cornwall Central, 30-28, which scored in the final 30 seconds to break a tie.

Beacon, which has only ninth graders and sophomores on the team, finished its season at 13-9. Reilly Landisi led the Bulldogs against Cornwall with 10 points and Shadaya Fryar added nine.

On Saturday, Beacon was trailing, 25-19, at the half but held Washingtonville from that point to only eight points. Landisi scored 14 points, Lila Burke had nine points and 11 rebounds and Devyn Kelly scored seven.

Against Cornwall, "we played with confidence and came out with energy and aggression," said Coach Christina Dahl. "We executed our game plan, but fell short with missed offensive opportunities and foul shots."

Still, she said, "for a team of freshmen and sophomores to make it this close to a sectional final is something to tip your hat to. The future is bright."

Not China

You'd come out in the Indian Ocean about 750 miles southwest of Australia if you drilled straight through planet from the Highlands. By one estimate, only about 15 percent of the land on Earth is antipodal to other land. ([See Page 5](#).) For a video tour from one point to the other, see highlandscurrent.org.



NOTICE

PHILIPSTOWN PLANNING BOARD / Public Hearing – March 14th, 2022

The Philipstown Zoning Board of Appeals for the Town of Philipstown, New York will hold a public hearing on Monday, March 14th, 2022 starting at 7:30 p.m. to hear the following appeal. The meeting will be held in person at the Philipstown Town Hall, 238 Main St., Cold Spring, NY.

Betsey Haddad, 15 Lake Celeste, Garrison, NY TM#72.17-1-15

The applicants are seeking: (1) a Special Permit per 175-23(B) of the Town Code for the enlargement of a pre-existing non-conforming structure, (2) a variance, pursuant to 175-23(B)(2), to allow for an increase in floor area by more than 25%; (3) a variance to Town Code 175, Attachment 2, to permit the construction of an addition that shall be set back 27.67' from the side yard lot line where 30' is required, and (4) a variance of Town Code 175 Attachment 2, Dimensional Table, Maximum Impervious Surface Coverage, in order to increase the maximum impervious surface coverage to 10.56%, where 10% is required. The property is located in the RC Zoning District.

At said hearing all persons will have the right to be heard. Copies of the application, plat map, and other related materials may be seen in the Office of the Building Department, 2 Cedar Street, Cold Spring, New York.

Dated February 14th, 2022

Robert Dee, Chair of the Town of Philipstown Zoning Board of Appeals

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Puzzles

CROSS CURRENT

ACROSS

1. Offend

5. Vegas lead-in

8. Biting remark

12. Jacob's twin

13. Antlered animal

14. Latin love

15. Printout

17. Earring site

18. Roscoe

19. More slothful

21. Filled fully

24. — colada

25. Cupid's alias

26. Street vendor's vehicle

30. Sawbuck

31. Attorney's load

32. Bee follower

33. Barber's offerings

35. Panache

36. Aachen article

37. Utter impulsively

38. Architectural style

41. Hero sandwich

42. Actress Perlman

43. Ski lodge cupful

48. *A Room of — Own*

49. Prior night

50. Not so hot?

51. "Holy cow!"

52. Enervate

53. Trade

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			

DOWN

1. "I'm not impressed"

2. "This — recording"

3. Distant

4. Fakes, as figures

5. Author Uris

6. Jungfrau, for one

7. Urban silhouettes

8. French novelist

9. Mine, to Marcel

10. Judicial garb

11. Rabbit's title

16. Cow's chew

20. &&&&

21. Actor Rogen

22. Location

23. Singer Braxton

24. Stickum

26. Hindquarters

27. Rights advocacy org.

28. Bring up

29. Bivouac shelter

31. Roman 202

34. Go over again

35. Macaroni shapes

37. Tampa Bay NFLer

38. Pirate's drink

39. "It can't be!"

40. Golf props

41. Dance move

44. Eggs

45. Cornfield noise

46. Mouths (Lat.)

47. Music booster

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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 takes a right (5)

2 without touching (11)

3 the "E" in PPE (9)

4 it's under the hairline (8)

5 fear of flying (10)

6 Katy Perry's ex Brand (7)

7 cougar by another name (4)

SOLUTIONS


TU	EAD	ESS	CO	IPM
CTL	OBIA	MA	AER	LL
OPH	SSE	FOR	EQU	NTA
ENT	PU	RNS	RU	EH

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SUDO CURRENT

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

Puzzle Page Sponsored by



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Answers for Feb. 25 Puzzles

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

1. HOLLANDAISE, 2. KILOMETER, 3. CANOODLE, 4. CLOUDS, 5. BACKCOUNTRY, 6. KNIGHT, 7. RAIDERS

SPORTS

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OH, NO!

Three of four basketball teams fall; Haldane boys have narrow escape

By Skip Pearlman

Everyone in the Haldane High School gym on Tuesday (March 1) expected the top-seeded Blue Devils (18-2) to run away from No. 4 Leffell (7-13) in the opening round of the Section I, Class C playoffs.

Everyone but the Lions, who had dreams of an upset dancing in their heads.

Down by nine points at halftime, Haldane overpowered the Lions in the second half and held off a late surge for a 67-59 victory and a ticket to the Saturday (March 5) title game against No. 2 seed Alexander Hamilton (16-5). The tipoff will be at 11 a.m. at Yorktown High School and the winner advances to the regionals.

Leffell played with poise and patience in the first half. Haldane led at the end of the first quarter, 17-16, but the Lions went on a 20-6 run in the second, fueled by three-pointers, and led by as many as 13 points.

The Blue Devils regained the lead (44-43) with 1:13 left in the third quarter and never trailed again as the long shots stopped falling for Leffell. The Lions managed to cut the deficit to four points twice, but Haldane had an answer each time.

For most of the evening, the answer was Matteo Cervone, who had his most dominant game yet. Working mostly inside, the junior forward powered and finessed his way to a varsity career-high 37 points. Ryan

Darien Gillins handles the ball during Beacon's playoff game loss to Washingtonville.



Leffell couldn't contain Matteo Cervone (20), who scored a varsity career-high 37 points on Tuesday.

Irwin scored 11 points and had six assists and Matt Nachamkin recorded 10 points and nine rebounds.

"Matteo put us on his back," said Coach Joe Virgadamo. "He was a beast and determined — he played as well as I've seen him play. He simplified his game and read the defense well. He also passed well. Nachamkin came up big — nothing phases him — and gave us balance, and Tristen Reid played



Ryan Irwin scored 11 points and had six assists in Haldane's win.

Photos by S. Pearlman

great defense in the second half."

Saturday's final should be a good one. Haldane defeated Hamilton, 67-64, in the first game of the season, and both teams had players record breakout games in the semifinals: In Hamilton's rout of No. 3 Tuckahoe, sophomore Christian Davis scored a career-high 31 points, including five three-pointers.

Haldane has not won a Section I title since 2016. Virgadamo said Tuesday's close

TRACK & FIELD

Three Beacon High School athletes advanced to the state meet at the Section IX qualifiers held Feb. 26 at The Armory in Manhattan.

Senior Sal Migliore qualified for the 600-meter run, finishing second in 1:24.23; senior Evan LaBelle was third in the 1,000 meters in 2:39.78 and will also run on the intersectional relay team; and sophomore Damani Deloatch was second in the triple jump in 40-8.

The state championships are scheduled for Saturday (March 5) at Ocean Breeze on Staten Island.

"All three of our qualifiers had personal bests at the sectional qualifier," noted Coach Jim Henry. "It's always great to have your best athletes peak at the right time."



Sal Migliore qualified for the state meet in the 600 meters. Photo provided

win was a wake-up call for his players.

"The guys are poised and determined to bring home a title," he said. "We know we're the best team, and we haven't put it all together yet. Hopefully we do that Saturday."

Haldane played the semifinal without a starter, Soren Holmbo, who was out with an ankle sprain. He is expected to return on Saturday. Holmbo and Cervone were named this week to the All-Section and All-League teams, while Irwin and Reid were named All-Conference and All-League.

The Beacon boys' team, seeded No. 3 in the Section IX, Class A tournament, had beaten

(Continued on Page 22)