**Good Cause’ Passes in Beacon**

*Council adopts measure after months of discussion*

By Jeff Simms

Beacon became the fifth municipality in New York state on Monday (March 7) to enact “good-cause” eviction legislation.

The council voted 6-1 to adopt the law after a nearly four-hour public hearing that began on Feb. 22 and continued into Monday night. Residents who addressed the council about the measure voiced support by a 3-to-1 margin. Mayor Lee Kiery-acyou, who is a member of the council, voted “no,” saying he felt it would not help the renters who need assistance most.

Beacon joins Newburgh, Poughkeepsie, Kingston and Albany in adopting the legislation. Officials in Albany are defending a lawsuit from landlords; Hudson adopted a law last year but its mayor vetoed it a month later.

The law exempts landlords who own fewer than four apartments and live on-site. Among other provisions, it will require landlords to demonstrate “good cause” before a judge can begin eviction proceed-

(Continued on Page 21)

**Scam Encounters**

*Residents snared by fake stories, phony landlords*

By Leonard Sparks

It started with a daytime call in January to Mary Sue Kelly’s house.

A man identifying himself as a police officer spun a tale: The Beacon resident’s son had been in an accident in Hartford, Connecticut; he admitted being on his cellphone while driving; a pregnant woman riding with him had been hospitalized; and her son could be charged with reckless endangerment.

Kelly was instructed to gather $9,500 for bail and given a number to call back. Distraught and shaking when she entered her bank, Kelly told an employee there that her son had been in an accident and she needed cash right away. A teller was about to hand over the money when Kelly’s phone rang. It was her son — safe and calling from his home.

“It just broke down; I started crying,” recalled Kelly, 77. “It was such a release that he was OK.”

She was lucky.

In a world gone virtual, grifters have transitioned from analog schemes to digital ones, wielding modern tools that allow them to easily create fake profiles, instantly reach millions of people and steal or buy people’s personal data, all without leaving their keyboards.

(Continued on Page 6)

**The Challenge for Churches**

*PART THREE*

By Brian PJ Cronin

It’s Thursday morning at Cold Spring’s United Methodist Church, and the prayer shawl ministry is in session. More than a dozen women are crowded around tables. Their handiwork will be donated. Some weeks it’s caps for infants, others it’s blankets for a veteran’s hospital. Whatever’s being made is “infused” with prayer by the women so that, the Rev. Micah Coleman Campbell explains, whoever receives it will know someone is praying for them.

Not everyone who shows up on Thursdays shows up on Sundays. The prayer shawl ministry wasn’t created to attract members; it’s a way to spread good work and build community, Coleman Campbell said. There are practical benefits. One week, a member of the group fell in her home. She was rescued because an alarm was raised when she didn’t show up to crochet.

Still, a few members of the group have started attending services. When you are only seeing a dozen congregants, a handful of new faces are noticed. It’s a welcome boost for a church that only exists because of a merger. A few years ago, Cold Spring United Methodist merged with South Highlands United Methodist because of low membership in both congregations. The South Highlands church is now rented out. Other churches in the Highlands, including the Episcopal and Catholic churches in Beacon, also have merged to survive.

Many churches 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, as surveys show, fewer Americans are defining themselves as Christians — or religious at all — what does that mean for the church in general?

In the first two parts of this series, we looked at the struggles of the Reformed Church in Beacon, which closed last year because of a lack of congregants; St. Mary’s Episcopal Church in Cold Spring, which nearly closed; and philosophical differences that fueled a split at St. Philip’s Episcopal Church in Garrison. This week, we examine churches that are surviving by building community through acts of service and by fighting for social justice, hoping to counter misconceptions about who is welcome in the pews.

*The Bible and the newspaper*

Church attendance has fallen sharply nationwide over the decades but perhaps, Coleman Campbell suggests, the golden age of packed pews wasn’t so golden.

“It’s not like back in the day, everybody loved being in church and everybody believed 100 percent,” he said. “It was just that those who didn’t believe or didn’t love being there didn’t feel like they had a choice. They couldn’t opt

(Continued on Page 8)
Danielle Pack McCarthy is stepping down as executive director of the Philipstown Behavioral Health Hub at 5 Stone St. in Cold Spring, which she helped establish in 2019.

How important has it been for The Hub to have its own space?

The fact that people know there's somewhere they can go and meet in person is so beneficial. When I was working just eight hours a week through the Town of Philipstown [as substance abuse prevention and treatment coordinator], people were calling me for help. We'd meet in the filing room of Town Hall just to find a quiet space. Sometimes, local therapists would lend me space, but I was dealing with people in crisis, people wanting to talk in private about hard things. Now, people know that they can come in and meet with someone face-to-face. It’s been incredible. And much more professional.

What are you most proud of?

The team I've built. I started off as one person, just a couple of hours a week. Now we have a full-time and part-time care coordinator and a development manager. I wanted to develop a model for an organization in which anyone who walks through the door gets the same level of care, no matter who is behind the desk. You don't find that in a lot of places; sometimes treatment can be hit-or-miss. What makes this model different is that it's local. It's for Philipstown residents. If we got too big, we'd lose that quality of care we're so proud of. Eventually, we hope to hone this model and see it replicated in other communities. I'm also proud of the support the Town of Philipstown has given us, that it has increased and goes directly to The Hub and won’t be lost when I move on.

Have you succeeded in getting people to use The Hub’s resources?

We’ve proven this resource is needed in this community. People have been coming in, people have been calling, even in the middle of a pandemic. Thank God they had somewhere to go, a number to call. People are still getting comfortable with being able to walk in and see someone. But the fact that our doors are still open, 2½ years later, says a lot.

Has the mental health landscape changed since The Hub Opened?

Depression, anxiety, substance abuse and self-medication are still the biggest issues. Addiction blew up due to the pandemic. People couldn’t get to their treatment, groups and medications. We’ve done a lot of work locally to destigmatize mental health. That’s also happening at the state and national level. Even at events like the Super Bowl, viewers saw ads for teletherapy. We’re getting the word out there that you are OK, you are not alone and that there are resources.

What’s next for The Hub — and you?

I will stay on until a new director is hired. The challenge will be to take The Hub from startup mode to the next level. That means securing sustainable funding. The American Rescue Plan Act and opioid settlements from the pharmaceutical companies can help. And we need Putnam County to step up. The Hub’s mission is close to my heart, so I’m not going anywhere. I’m teaching mental health first aid for Haldane’s ninth and 10th grade students. The curriculum ties in mental health and addiction nicely. It covers things like self-worth, self-esteem and bullying. Kids look to their friends more than adults. It’s about checking in on your friends and what to do when someone is in crisis or feeling left out.

All tickets at www.philipstowndepottheatre.org

Masks and proof of vaccination required

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

Night Train: Storytelling
March 26 at 6pm and 8:30pm

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ON THE SPOT
By Michael Turton

You order a rare steak. It’s medium. What do you do?

I’d send it back; it’s not what I ordered.

I’d eat it, not send it back, unless it had insects in it!

I’d have my boyfriend send it back; I could never do that!

I’d stay; I might like it.

I’d eat it, but I would have a hard time.
Galef Endorses Former Chief of Staff
Says Levenberg best person for her Assembly job

In an email to supporters this week, Sandy Galef, whose district in the state Assembly includes Philipstown, endorsed her former communications director and chief of staff, Dana Levenberg, to succeed her after she retires this year. Levenberg, theOssining town supervisor, is one of four Democrats hoping to succeed Galef, who joined the Legislature in 1993. The others are Vanessa Agudelo, a former member of the Peekskill Common Council; former Peekskill Mayor Andre Rainey; and Colin Smith, a member of the Westchester County legislature who district includes Peekskill.

Galef said in a statement that she knows and respects all of the candidates but that “no one else will work as hard or as effectively for the 95th Assembly District as Dana. I know this because I’ve seen her do it. She knows this district and the Assembly.”

State Buys Four Parcels to Expand Parks
Land preserved at Fahnestock, Scofield Ridge

New York State announced on March 3 that it spent $9.7 million to preserve nearly 1,200 acres of new parkland, including 946 acres of Scofield Ridge at Hudson Highlands State Park Preserve in Dutchess and Putnam counties; 33 acres at Fahnestock State Park in Putnam; and 179 acres at Schunnemunk State Park in Orange County.

The Scofield Ridge parcel, purchased from Scenic Hudson, links Breakneck and Pippinkill Ridges and includes portions of the Wilkinson Memorial, Notch and Breakneck Ridge Trails. In addition, a 20-acre parcel will provide a connection between Arden Point in Garrison and Hudson Highlands State Park. The 33-acre property at Fahnestock provides a buffer to the Appalachian Trail from future residential development. It and the Orange County property were acquired from the Open Space Institute.

City of Beacon Opens Community Funding
Application deadline is April 1

The City of Beacon is accepting applications for its 2022 Community Funding Program for nonprofits or community-based organizations with a fiscal sponsor to support projects that “enhance the city’s quality of place and/or address critical community needs.”

The City Council allocated $20,000 in December to fund the program, which supports groups that offer programs and services in the areas of arts, culture, heritage, recreation, environment, health, public safety and other human services. Grant requests between $1,000 and $10,000 will be considered.

See bit.ly/BCC-App for more information. The deadline is noon on April 1.

Dutchess to Host Household Waste Disposal Survey
Scheduling for April 15; registration required

Dutchess County will hold a household hazardous waste disposal and electronics recycling collection on April 9 in Poughkeepsie.

Registration is required and limited to 380 Dutchess households. See co.dutchess.ny.us/HHW/Register.aspx or call 845-463-6029. See the site for a list of acceptable items, which includes products marked hazardous, flammable, poisonous or corrosive.

Philipstown, HVSF in Funding Bill
Earmarks would pay for highway garage

A bill that includes funding for a Philipstown highway garage passed the U.S. House on Wednesday (March 9) and is expected to be approved in the Senate.

The bill includes $19.5 million in earmarks from Rep. Sean Patrick Maloney, a Democrat whose district includes the Highlands. Among the 10 projects he championed were $1.79 million to construct a garage for the Philipstown Highway Department (the former garage has already been demolished) and $3.5 million for the “ecological restoration” of nearly 40 acres at the former Garrison golf course by the Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival.

Putnam Hospital Suspends Labor & Delivery
Hoping to recruit new team of doctors

The Putnam Hospital Center in Carmel suspended labor and delivery services on March 1 after CareMount said its physicians would no longer provide deliveries there.

The hospital said it plans to recruit a new team of obstetricians and gynecologists as soon as possible. Other women’s health services are still being offered, and CareMount physicians will continue seeing patients at the hospital and providing gynecological surgery.

Groups Launch Survey
Addresses racial equity, social justice

Four local groups — the Desmond-Fish Public Library in Garrison, the Julia Butterfield Library in Cold Spring, the Garrison school district and the Haldane PTA Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Committee — have crafted a survey on issues of racial equity and social justice.

The sponsors hope that the survey results will help guide programming at the schools and libraries. See bit.ly/PhilpstownDEI.

Dutchess Reappoints Poet Laureate
Lucia Cherici will continue in role

Dutchess County Executive Marc Molinaro this week reappointed Lucia Cherici as the county’s poet laureate for 2022. In the role, Cherici organizes readings and other events to promote poetry. Born in Romania, she came to the U.S. in 1995 and has been an English professor at Dutchess Community College for 20 years.

“These are difficult times, when people around the world understand how important it is to work together, support one another and use writing in order to communicate, show compassion and help in the process of healing,” she said in a statement. “The crisis in Ukraine has demonstrated to us how words can be used to show solidarity and work toward making peace.”

Rent Relief Program Comes off Pause
8624K available in Dutchess County

A rental assistance program in Dutchess is again accepting applications, the county announced this week.

The COVID-19 Emergency Rent and Utility Relief program for low- and moderate-income households was announced in April but placed on pause while the state distributed funds through its Emergency Rental Assistance Program. Because the allocation for Dutchess residents appears to be exhausted, the county partnered with Hudson River Housing to reopen its relief program.

To be eligible, household income must be below 80 percent of the area median income, with a priority for households at or below 60 percent. In Dutchess, for a four-person household, 80 percent of household income of $71,950 or less and 60 percent is $60,300 or less.

Applicants must also demonstrate a pandemic-related impact and have cooperation from the landlord. Apply online at bit.ly/dutchess-rent-relief.

Dutchess Seeks Applications
Human rights panel has openings

The Dutchess County Commission on Human Rights is seeking candidates to fill four vacancies in September.

Applications are available at dutchessny.gov/humanrights. The deadline is March 31. The commission has 14 volunteer members who serve three-year appointments and meet monthly.

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

HALDANE CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT, Cold Spring, NY 10516

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Board of Education of the Haldane Central School District of Philipstown will receive sealed bids at 15 Craigsige Drive, Cold Spring, NY 10516 until 3:00 PM on April 1, 2022 when same will be opened at the Business Office of the Haldane Central School, 15 Craigsige Drive, Cold Spring, NY 10516 for the following:

DISTRICT WIDE SIGNAGE/WAYFINDING

Specifications and bid forms may be obtained by contacting twalsh@haldaneschool.org, or by contacting 845-263-9254, ext 176. The Board of Education reserves the right to reject any and all bids. By Order of the Board of Education of Haldane Central School District of Philipstown, Dutchess and Putnam Counties, New York By Anne M. Dinio, School Business Manager.

2022 ANNUAL SPRING DINNER

Saturday, March 19 5:00pm

LOCATION: Taconic Outdoor Education Center

Social hour, Silent auction, Full dinner
Presentation - Birds of Putnam County

In-Person or Online Option

For info, and to register
www.putnamhighlandsaudubon.org
Nelsonville election

With real issues to address such as speeding, pedestrian safety, the sewers and collaboration with Cold Spring, it was disappointing to see continued mischaracterizations of the village’s short-term rental regulations (“Questions for Candidates: Nelsonville Mayor,” March 4).

Many residents, like us, are glad Nelsonville has adopted common-sense short-term rental regulations, the result of what we saw firsthand was an open, transparent and extended process that invited and considered resident input. We support Chris Winward for mayor and Dave Moroney for trustee as we trust people will continue to focus on the issues important to preserving and improving our village.

Alexis Dean and David Herman, Nelsonville

Nelsonville is fortunate to have Chris Winward as a candidate for mayor. She is well-informed about the many issues Nelsonville faces and will bring intelligence, experience and — importantly — thoughtfulness and her truly lovely demeanor to address them. After seeing her in action as a village trustee and knowing her extensive professional background, I was so grateful when I learned she was running.

I am certain Chris will make an excellent mayor. The role requires someone who is willing to invest significant time and energy into understanding a broad range of topics, including but not limited to budgeting, promoting public safety, addressing infrastructure needs and building community. With her substantial professional experience, Chris will bring significant knowledge as well as the ability to dig in and learn more when needed.

She has also demonstrated a willingness to listen and listen carefully to different opinions, and then to make decisions that she believes will benefit the village as a whole. Sometimes these decisions don’t satisfy everyone, but I expect Chris will continue to listen, learn and move the village forward in productive and cost-effective ways. If you have the chance, ask Chris why she is running and you’ll hear the enthusiasm and generosity of spirit she will bring to the work. Please join me and my family as we vote for Chris Winward for Nelsonville mayor on Tuesday (March 15).

Peggy Clements, Nelsonville

Rudolf van Domele is correct that the Nelsonville Village Board, including his opponent, took a back seat in the fight to stop the cell tower over historic Cold Spring Cemetery. Sometimes these decisions don’t satisfy everyone, but I expect Chris will continue to listen, learn and move the village forward in productive and cost-effective ways.

If you have the chance, ask Chris why she is running and you’ll hear the enthusiasm and generosity of spirit she will bring to the work. Please join me and my family as we vote for Chris Winward for Nelsonville mayor on Tuesday (March 15).

Peggy Clements, Nelsonville

Nelsonville needs leaders like Rudolf who will stand up to defend our rights and our community.

David Eisenbach, Nelsonville

To me, and many other Nelsonville residents who walk daily in our woods, a hugely important issue in the mayoral election is the candidates’ plans for our beautiful woods.

I love and highly value the woods and do not want to see any part of it cut down, including “to create a clearing on the wooded Secor Road parcel for a village green or a playground,” as proposed by one of the mayoral candidates. I strongly prefer that the woods be left alone for residents’ enjoyment, to walk and hike and enjoy the birdsongs.

Chris Winward would not only support preserving the woods, but has attended every village event involving native-species plantings in the woods to make it better for birds and pollinators, including the event at Cedar Street where the Boy Scouts pulled out aggressive invasive plants and put in plants that create habitat for birds and pollinators. She also helped with planting and has shown that she cares about the woods.

For me, these issues are very important and I encourage anyone who cares about the woods to support Chris Winward for mayor.

Heidi Wendel, Nelsonville

Nelsonville needs a diversity of thoughts and opinions on its board to ensure the rights of individuals are protected from violations of their property rights. The Village Board turned a deaf ear and left it up to the homeowners to battle it out in court on their own at a cost of more than $100,000.

Last month a judge ruled in our neighbors’ favor against Homeland.

The Village Board also approved a building permit despite the fact that the cell tower and its rambling access road would destroy an endangered bat habitat and result in a dangerous fire access road that violates the state fire code. The Current has fully reported all of the Village Board’s failures to protect our property rights, history and environment.

Nelsonville needs leaders like Rudolf who will stand up to defend our rights and our community.

David Eisenbach, Nelsonville

(Continued on Page 5)
Because I trust that he will talk to all residents and hear their opinions on the various matters facing our village, I recommend a vote for Rudolf for mayor of Nelsonville.

Ethan Timm, Nelsonville

Good-cause eviction

The Current reported that, at a public hearing, “residents, by a 3-to-1 margin, expressed support for the measure” (“Good-Cause Debate Rages On,” March 4).

Did all 30-plus people in the audience live in Beacon and pay property taxes? A 3-to-1 margin of 30 people does not represent the 14,000 residents of Beacon. Let’s not look for another way to have legal action waste our hard-earned tax dollars for a cause that “may” benefit a few undocumented, isolated cases of possible landlord abuse. We already have a legal system in place that protects people who rent.

Charlie Symon, Beacon

Ukraine: How to Help

- Dutchess County has partnered with the Afya Foundation, which gathers medical supplies to distribute to those who need them, to collect donations of necessities at the former JCPenney site in the lower level of the Poughkeepsie Galleria at 2001 South Road (Route 9).
- Donations will be accepted on Saturday (March 12) from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.; March 18 from 1 to 5 p.m.; and March 19 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- Only new, unopened and non-expired goods will be accepted from this list: flashlights and flashlights batteries; baby and adult diapers; first-aid kits; face masks; hand sanitizer; personal hygiene kits (soap, toothbrushes, toothpaste, floss, deodorant, shampoo, razors and shaving cream); and basic health supplies ( aspirin, acetaminophen, cough medicine, oximeters, Ace bandages and compression bandages).
- The Afya Foundation, which is based in Yonkers, also has an Amazon list at amzn.to/3q7UE7.
- The Fred Astaire Dance Studio at 3182 Route 9 in Philipstown is a collection point for medical and tactical supplies.
- Financial contributions can be made to established groups such as the Ukrainian Red Cross (redcross.org.ua/en/donate); Razom for Ukraine (razomforukraine.org); United Help Ukraine (unitedhelpukraine.org); Voices of Children (voices.org.ua); and the World Central Kitchen (wck.org). Be cautious about solicitations received via email or text; instead, go directly to the charity’s website. The National Bank of Ukraine is also collecting donations for the armed forces at bank.gov.ua/en.

**Correction**

A Roots and Shoots column in the March 4 issue said that a second lead test ordered by Aaron Wolfe on the soil in his Cold Spring garden returned results of 500 ppm to 600 ppm of lead. In fact, the results were 1,500 ppm to 1,600 ppm.

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Scam (From Page 1)

The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) received reports of fraud from more than 2.8 million people last year. Their losses — $5.8 billion — were 70 percent higher than in 2020 and nearly half came from “imposter” scams like the one that nearly hooked Mary Sue Kelly.

The scammers are actors playing a variety of roles — besieged relatives who need money wired because they are in trouble; online romantic suitors asking for a loan or passwords to financial accounts; government officials demanding payment for an overdue bill; IT professionals requesting access to your computer; and lottery officials who need fees and taxes to release a prize.

“It happens to so many people,” said Kelly. “It costs nothing; we can always verify a transaction.”

A Long Island man was sentenced in November to 7 1/2 to 15 years in prison for being convicted of stealing more than $100,000 over six months from an 85-year-old Cold Spring woman by claiming he could get refunds from companies that were allegedly overcharging her.

The Dutchess County Sheriff’s Office said on Thursday (March 10) that it received two reports on Wednesday from residents who received voicemails about an “urgent matter” from someone identifying himself as “Sgt. Jason Mark.”

On Jan. 25, the state Division of Consumer Protection, part of the Department of State, warned residents about scammers trying to steal personal information by getting recipients to click on harmful links in emails and texts offering free at-home COVID-19 testing kits. (A federal government site, covidtests.gov, is the only official site for ordering free at-home testing kits.)

That same day, the Rev. Steve Schunk of St. Mary’s Episcopal Church in Cold Spring emailed a warning to parishioners after one of the congregation’s members received a text message in his name asking: “Let me know if you are available to take care of an errand for me?”

The text was sent from a number that was not his, and it contained grammatical mistakes, said Schunk.

The parishioner “had sense enough to say, ‘I don’t think this is from you,’” he said.

Social media is the top vehicle for cons, according to the FTC. The agency said in January that more than one in four people who reported being defrauded last year said it started with an ad, post or message.

The internet is “a low-cost way to reach millions of people from anywhere in the world,” the FTC notes. “It’s easy to manufacture a fake persona, or scammers can hack into an existing profile to get ‘friends’ or ‘con.’”

In the last three months, scammers have used Craigslist and Facebook to pretend to be renting two houses that were actually for sale in Beacon, said Stephanie Dignan, an agent with Gate House at Compass Realty.

The grift is simple: convince people to pay money upfront to view a property.

Dignan discovered that someone had copied a picture of a house for sale on Henry Street and advertised it as a rental property on Craigslist when she was contacted by someone who had paid a $100 fee to view the property and then “stopped hearing from the guy.” She called the number posted on Craigslist and a man answered, agreeing to show her the property the next day.

“I wasn’t about to go there; I can’t imagine that he was going to go there, either,” she said. “He answered the phone and was willing to really run with it, which I thought was pretty bold.”

Last month, Dignan said, a woman contacted her after someone called “Donald Gomez” responded to her Facebook post about needing a rental in Beacon, claiming to be the out-of-state owner of a house for sale on Zias Drive. The woman grew skeptical after discovering the property was also listed for sale, said Dignan.

One red flag, she said, was the too-real-to-be-true rental price: $1,400 a month for a three-bedroom, two-bath house, and just a $700 security deposit.

“We have a lot of people looking [for housing in Beacon] from out of state,” she said. “Someone could really get screwed and think they have an apartment waiting for them.”

To avoid real-estate scams, Dignan said people can do two simple things: Search the property’s address online or contact a local real estate agent. Most agents are willing to answer questions about properties advertised for rent, she said.

“It costs nothing; we can always verify a legitimate rental,” she said.

Kelly is hoping that talking about her ordeal also helps.

She never considered herself susceptible to a scam but said she now knows better after experiencing what she described as a “nightmare.” Recovering from the incident took a while, she said, but it was a “lesson in humility.”

“I’m going to be very, very cautious in the future,” she said.
Reporter’s Notebook: How This Journalist Got Scammed

By Michael Turton

One of the 10 commandments for reporters is, “Thou shalt not be part of the story.” Unfortunately for me, in this case, I am the story.

I have great empathy for Fred and June, the couple I wrote about this week, who were victims of nasty online threats and bullying by a scammer bent on bilking them out of their hard-earned money. Recently I was also a victim, but not as a result of bullying. I fell prey to believability, cleverness and empathy. At no time did I feel threatened or paralyzed with fear. In fact, I felt damn good — until I didn’t.

I lead a creative writing group at the Butterfield Library in Cold Spring that has been meeting by Zoom. Rick, who lives in Ossining, joined more than a year ago and fit in right away. He’s a likable and easygoing guy with a wealth of life experience that he draws upon to produce eclectic, original material.

The group has gathered socially a few times since the pandemic has eased and Rick has always made the effort to come up to Cold Spring to take part. That helped me to get to know him better; he became a friend, not just a fellow writer.

So, when Rick emailed me around the New Year to ask if I could help him out, I didn’t hesitate to reply, “Happy to, if I can!” Our group uses email regularly; it set off no alarms to get an email from a member and friend.

Rick explained he was sick with COVID-19 and had to isolate. His cousin’s birthday was the next day, and he wanted to send her some Google Play cards but couldn’t go out to buy them. He asked if I could do that for him, and to let him know how he could reimburse me.

I had no clue what Google Play cards were but agreed to help, to the tune of $300. I got the cards, photographed the codes on them as instructed (so he could just share them with his cousin rather than sending the physical cards) and resumed our back-and-forth. Rick was extremely grateful, and again asked how he could pay me back as soon as possible.

“Don’t worry Rick, we’ll figure that out later,” I replied.

There was a glitch. Rick couldn’t open the photos I had emailed. It took a couple extra emails but eventually I resent them. At one point, I suggested calling him but he said his phone had died and had to be recharged. Not unusual. I’ve said the same thing all too often.

During the exchange, I asked Rick how he was feeling. He said he was cold, extremely tired and just wanted to get past the isolation. I felt bad for him.

He again asked when he could repay me. After a pause, I emailed Rick one last time to confirm he had received the Google card images.

“I don’t know anything about any Google cards, Mike,” Rick wrote. “My Yahoo email was hacked and I just restored it a few minutes ago.”

My heart, my stomach and my wallet all sank.

Rick was not sick. He had no cousin about to celebrate a birthday. His phone was working fine.

I had been completely duped. I had fallen for the scam, hook, line, sinker and fishing boat.


Rick’s offer said a lot about him. It was the friend I had wanted to help. His emails sounded like him. The hacker had access to the friend I had wanted to help. His emails and probably picked up on Rick’s language patterns. His use of words such as “kindly” and “grateful” fit with the Rick I know. His polite manner and concern over reimbursing me ASAP had the ring of authenticity.

I absolutely believed it was Rick, and that was my downfall.

Looking back, I did miss little things. Some of Rick’s grammar and punctuation were slightly off. Rick is a writer. But then again, he was “sick with COVID.” I don’t write well when sick either.

So, what’s my takeaway? I refuse to feel bad about trying to help a friend. The lesson is in the money. When money is mentioned, triple your intuitive radar. Become a skeptic.

If either of my two sisters were to email me today, asking for financial help, I would verify the request before acting, and I know they would not be offended.

Just before I got scammed, between the two of them, they sent me $300 as a nice thing to do for a brother at Christmas. It was painful to tell them I had been scammed for exactly that amount.

Be careful out there.

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How to Avoid Getting Taken

By Chip Rowe

1. Be cautious about sharing personal or financial information online or over the phone, especially if you receive an unsolicited call. If in doubt, call the service provider directly using a number you trust, such as from a printed statement.

2. If you encounter a suspicious link in an email, hover your mouse over the link to see if it matches the sender, e.g., an email from UPS should display ups.com. Or, as with Tip No. 1, call the provider directly. These fake emails and text messages are known as “phishing” scams. A variation will have a fake invoice attached and claim you have made an expensive purchase; don’t open the file.

3. When doing financial transactions online, look for a lock in the browser address line that indicates the site is secure. The web address should begin with https.

4. When creating passwords, make them at least eight characters in length and use a mix of upper and lowercase letters, numbers and special characters. Don’t use the same password repeatedly because, if it’s stolen, a crook could gain access to multiple accounts.

5. Whenever possible, add “multi-factor authentication” to your online accounts. When you log in, you will be asked to enter a code sent to your phone or to offer your fingerprint, retina or face. Never give a code to a stranger who calls or texts and claims to need it.

6. Update the operating system on your phone whenever prompted.

7. Install antivirus software such as that made by AVG.com. You can download a free version or pay for a premium service that alerts you to fake websites and dangerous emails and verifies the security of your Wi-Fi network. The free software also scans for viruses and malware.

8. Back up your data regularly to an external hard drive. This can mitigate the damage from a “ransomware” attack in which a crook takes control of your computer and demands payment.

9. If it sounds too good to be true ...
Out of going because of societal pressure or whatnot. Now people feel more free to make that choice. That’s a good thing. I don’t want anyone forced to their faith.”

He speaks from personal experience, despite—or perhaps, because of—being the son of two Methodist pastors, and his father being a fifth-generation minister. Coleman Campbell had no intention of following in those footsteps. His goal was to be a high school history teacher. He had seen, up close, how hard it was to be a pastor and wasn’t sure that he had it in him.

“There are a million ways in which we are broken,” he said. “And we are called, as pastors, to wade into that brokenness. That’s a rewarding call, but it’s scary. And sometimes we’re not entirely sure that we’re up to the challenge.”

Yet, after graduating from college, Coleman Campbell realized that fear wasn’t a good enough reason to resist the call. Today, he serves as a pastor both in Cold Spring and at Fishkill United Methodist Church.

As in Cold Spring, the Fishkill church has found itself increasing in membership over the past two years. Unlike Cold Spring, Coleman Campbell hasn’t been able to figure out why.

“It’s not like we had some awesome new initiative,” he said. “For whatever reason, the spirit led them through the doors there.” He credits the welcoming nature of his congregation for bringing curious new attendees back.

As to why more people aren’t coming through the doors, Coleman Campbell thinks it’s not just because of the lack of societal pressure. The Christian church in general, he allows, has not done a good job of confronting the issues of the 21st, or even the 20th, century: It has tried to ignore the philosophical ramifications of advancements in science and our understanding of the universe. In his view, instead of trying to reconcile the worlds of science and miracles, the church has pushed them apart, and set them in opposition to one another.

“If I had grown up in a church or been around Christians who had told me to shut off my mind, in some ways, I hope I would have also walked away,” he said. “A faith that’s not willing to think critically is not appealing to me, either.”

This past fall, Coleman Campbell was among seven Philipstown clergy members who issued a joint statement urging the public to consider joining them in increasing their societal pressure. The Highlands Current

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Talking About Race

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>41%</td>
<td>Christians who believe there is racism in the church</td>
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<tr>
<td>59%</td>
<td>Non-religious Americans who say this</td>
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<tr>
<td>17%</td>
<td>Christians who say churches talk about racism to make people feel bad about themselves</td>
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<tr>
<td>44%</td>
<td>Christians who say talking about racism divides people</td>
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<tr>
<td>75%</td>
<td>Black Americans who say fighting racism is essential to their faith</td>
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<tr>
<td>73%</td>
<td>Percentage who say believing in God is essential to their faith</td>
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</tbody>
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Sources: (1) “Jesus in America,” a survey of 3,119 Americans conducted by Ipsos for The Episcopal Church, released March 9, (2) “Faith Among Black Americans,” Pew Research Center, 2020

to have the Bible in one hand and the newspaper in the other hand,” said Erik Simon, the interim pastor at the First Presbyterian Church of Beacon, citing the theologian Karl Barth. “If you’re not engaged in what’s going on in your society, you’re not doing what Jesus asked you to do.”

A welcoming table

Simon had no intention of taking a pastorate in Beacon.

A writer and communications consultant who was called to the ministry in middle age, he had just finished serving as an interim pastor in Yonkers and had been offered an assignment at a church that he was looking forward to being a part of.

But he was invited by the regional presbytery to speak with the session, or governing body, of the First Presbyterian Church of Beacon. He knew the church was going through a bumpy transition, having recently lost a beloved pastor to a move, and it hadn’t found the right person to replace him for the long term. The first replacement pastor hadn’t worked out. Members of the congregation who were ordained had been filling in. It was in a tough spot. Simon certainly couldn’t turn down their invitation to meet, but he expected nothing to come from it.

Likewise, the session in Beacon was warned that Simon was “about two minutes away from taking a position at another Presbyterian church with more resources than us,” recalled Dan Rigney, a Beacon resident and member of the session. It seemed unlikely he would agree to be a “bridge” pastor for them.

Simon said his views changed when he met the members of the session. Rigney said he knew something special was happening when he realized that for the first time in a while, the session was able to talk about theology and how they viewed the role of their church in the community instead of logistical challenges.

Simon, for his part, thought the session members were being too hard on themselves. Unlike other Presbyterian churches in the area, they were not only growing, but the growth was largely younger people and families. And the reason First Presbyterian

(Continued on Page 9)
(Continued from Page 8)

Rachel Thompson, a parish associate at the First Presbyterian Church of Philipstown, with the Rev. Brian Merritt, its interim pastor

Photo by Ross Corsair

was growing was because it was doing something that Simon found unusual.

“The reasons so many churches are losing money and losing members is because they’ve lost the Gospel and they’ve lost relevance,” he said. “They stopped caring about the things we’re supposed to care about, and this church is pulling people in because they’re relevant.”

Part of that relevance was about the church’s early embrace of Beacon’s burgeoning artistic community after the opening in 2003 of Dia:Beacon. The church runs its own art center from its basement and its Sunday services feature a variety of local musicians. But the driving force behind the growth was its focus on residents who are struggling or marginalized, a mission that Simon believes is integral in attracting younger members focused on social justice issues.

It also attracted Simon, who forsook his plans and became the church’s interim pastor after realizing how closely his own theology matched that of the congregation.

“I do have a passionate and committed theology and it’s focused more on this world,” he said. “I’m not that interested in the next world, and I don’t think Jesus was, either.”

Like many churches, First Presbyterian hosts 12-step programs for those battling addiction. And like participants in the prayer shawl ministry at United Methodist, some 12-step attendees have started to show up on Sunday. Then there is the Welcome Table, a feeding program on Fridays and Saturdays.

“Beyond the doors... don’t hear or see them. But we saw them.”

There’s more being offered than food. Members of the nonprofit Hudson River Housing sometimes help attendees who are struggling with finding or maintaining a home. The congregation collects coats, toiletries and other items to dispense to those who need them. But most of all, the Table offers fellowship and community to people who are, as a result of their struggles, lacking in those things.

“It allows them to socialize in a safe environment,” said Quirk. “And a lot of the people who were in there, be they elderly or low-income or homeless, their biggest problem was, nobody saw them. So many people don’t hear or see them. But we saw them.”

Beyond the doors

Rachel Thompson, a parish associate at the First Presbyterian Church of Philipstown, believes the Christian church’s problems attracting members are not new. Previously, she was a member of session at a Presbyterian church in Bedford that was celebrating its 325th anniversary. She read the session minutes from meetings in the 19th century and found them familiar.

“It was like, ‘Oh, we need to get more families and children to come, how do we do this?’” Like Erik Simon, Thompson said she came to the ministry “late in life,” as she puts it, graduating from seminary in her 50s. She was active in the Presbyterian church of her youth, but a trip to the Holy Land when she was 16 with a more conservative Christian organization turned her away. “I was already questioning my faith at that point, but that trip put the nails in the coffin of my Christianity for about 20 years,” she said.

Throughout the next decades of her life, she longed to be part of a group that gathered together on a regular basis to do good, but every time she returned to church, she found that wasn’t its focus.

“It felt like they were dragging me back to the 1950s, and I wanted to run screaming to the nearest exit,” she said. But at a Presbyterian church in Dobbs Ferry, she found what she had been missing. “It turns out, what I needed was inclusivity,” she said. “I wanted a church that said, ‘Yes,’ rather than a church that draws boundaries and excludes people.”

Her return to the church, and then into the ministry, was full of revelations, she said. She had a feminist Old Testament teacher in the seminary. She learned about the Jefferson Bible: Thomas Jefferson's adaptation of the New Testament in which all the miracles and supernatural occurrences have been removed. All of this was in sharp contrast to the conservative Christian churches she would read about in the news, with their hardline stances against evolution and homosexuality.

“Nobody I know would want to embrace that kind of theology or community,” she said. “I do think that’s been a factor in driving people away who might otherwise have been inclined. But I also think progressive theology has not been well publicized. I don’t think people know what the alternatives are.”

So how does one let people know about the alternatives? How do you draw people into a community who are wary of what they think the church is, based on what they see in the news?

Thompson thinks it’s important to blur the line between congregation and membership, that someone can “belong” to a church without showing up for services every week.

What has attracted people to First Presbyterian Church of Philipstown, she thinks, is the works of service that the church does for the community. Many people volunteer at the church’s food pantry, which feeds about 50 families a week. Many take part in the Midnight Run, founded by Thompson’s late husband, Joe Gilmore, in which people drive food and supplies into New York City at night to distribute to the homeless.

“That was, for him, what Christianity meant, which was actually loving your neighbor,” she said. The church recently put in a pollinator garden with community help. That’s even before you get to the church’s nursery school, meditation group and book club.

Thompson said this may be the key to growing churches in the 21st century: Instead of worrying about bringing more people inside the doors of the church, the focus should be on pushing the congregation outside the doors and demonstrating their mission to the community.

“There are many people who are associated with our various communities who are not officially ‘members,’” she said. “But we are all enjoying internal spiritual work and inspiration, as well as the many different ways we find meaning and peace by helping others.”

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
TO OUR MEMBERS: THANK YOU!

On New Year’s Eve, The Highlands Current published its 500th issue, a major milestone achieved with the help of all of you, our readers and supporters. Today we have our eye on issue 1,000 as we ambitiously pursue the stories that will inform, inspire and involve everyone in our communities of Philipstown and Beacon. To that end, The Current has from the start been free to all. As a nonprofit print and online publication, the paper depends on our members for nearly 70 percent of our revenue, and we are deeply grateful to all for your support in this past year! Our gratitude to all for your influence and in tune with the community.”

Member Robert Calderisi, of Cold Spring, praises the paper as:

“Independent, highly informative and in tune with the community.”

Our gratitude to all for your support in this past year!

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Join now at highlandscurrent.org/join
A photographic collection of women who make their living as ranchers or participate in the rodeo circuit. Ronnie Farley traveled throughout the American west from 1992-93, documenting cowgirls and oftentimes working on the ranches she photographed. Published by Crown in 1995, and reprinted by Thunder’s Mouth Press in 1998, this exhibition toured the United States from 2007-2011 as part of the national exhibits USA museum show roster.

TOP SCOUT — Allen McKay, 14, a freshman at Beacon High School, recently became an Eagle Scout, the highest rank in the Boy Scouts. For his project, Allen and more than 30 volunteers constructed two picnic tables and painted the fieldhouse, six dugouts and a snack stand at Memorial Park in Beacon’s school colors. Allen is the son of Allen and Maria McKay of Fishkill.

AUTHOR VISIT — Doug Brown, the author of The Polar Bear, Chicken Soup and Friends, visited the Desmond-Fish Public Library in Garrison last month to read and sign his book, which was given to each child who attended.

CAUGHT WITH THE CURRENT — Hudson Shackelford of Cold Spring prepared this week for the Pinewood Derby, which Cub Scout Pack 137 will host on Saturday (March 12) at the Philipstown Recreation Center in Garrison. Prizes will be awarded for the funniest, most realistic, fastest-looking, most creative and most colorful car — and maybe bonus points for recycling?

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Photos provided
Tickets are $15 or $8 for students and seniors and can be purchased at the door.

A Little Night Music will be performed at Haldane High School, 15 Craigside Drive, in Cold Spring at 7 p.m. on March 18 and March 19 and 2 p.m. on March 20.

One of Sondheim’s greatest scores, which was developed by Sondheim with his frequent producing and directing partner, Hal Prince. They initially wanted a work that combined an operetta-like feel with darker undertones. The story and music were to mirror each other as a deck of cards, shuffled and reshuffled, with three endings. The book writer, Hugh Wheeler, felt this was too somber and instead scripted a story with more humor, taking cues from Shakespeare’s A Midsummer Night’s Dream, reducing the sets of three lovers to two. The story takes place over the course of a bucolic, city-to-country weekend filled with merriment and outrage is set to be performed at Haldane High School next weekend (March 18-20).

Based on the Swedish film, Smiles of a Summer Night, and set in 1900, the show was developed by Sondheim with his frequent producing and directing partner, Hal Prince. They initially wanted a work that combined an operetta-like feel with darker undertones. The story and music were to mirror each other as a deck of cards, shuffled and reshuffled, with three endings. The book writer, Hugh Wheeler, felt this was too somber and instead scripted a story with more humor, taking cues from Shakespeare’s A Midsummer Night’s Dream, reducing the sets of three lovers to two. The story takes place over the course of a bucolic, city-to-country weekend filled with "Oh, what fools these mortals be" transformed.

"A Little Night Music" has six female singing roles and three singing male roles that are interesting and have rich and varying personalities and voice types. There is also the quintet, a singing Greek chorus that wind their way through the show. It was a good fit this year.

"I also, personally, love Sondheim and his lyric, every bar." - Elaine Llewellyn

The musical has quite a few characters who are middle-aged to elderly. I am surprised and impressed with how convincing my fellow cast members are at acting ages other than their own.

What has Haldane Drama meant over the course of the pandemic?

AMELIA: The pandemic made me realize how much I love theater. This is everyone’s first Haldane musical since our canceled show of Fiddler on the Roof (in March 2020). I think the absence of theater has made everyone sing and act with more motivation and reason.

HELEN: Having theater still go on through this odd time helped everyone feel a sense of normalcy, and gave us something to rely on, and people to talk to.

LUCAS: Haldane Drama has helped me a lot through these past few years. I have formed strong bonds with friends who are also involved and it gets all of us out of the house and creates something fun and productive for the community.

What do you think will surprise audiences about this production?

ELAINE: How the humor is maintained throughout an increasingly dramatic and convoluted plot line. I think the audience members will find themselves laughing at events they perhaps wouldn’t find so funny in real life — which is part of what theater is all about!

LUCAS: The musical has quite a few characters who are middle-aged to elderly. I am surprised and impressed with how convincing my fellow cast members are at acting ages other than their own.

What will audiences about this production?

What will the audience enjoy about this production?

The Broadway production, which opened in 1973, ran for more than 600 performances and won six Tony Awards, including best musical, book and original score.

For Martha Mechalakos, the Haldane Drama director, selecting the musical each year is "really very simple. What do I have the cast for? A Little Night Music has six female singing roles and three singing male roles that are interesting and have rich and varying personalities and voice types. There is also the quintet, a singing Greek chorus that wind their way through the show. It was a good fit this year.

I also, personally, love Sondheim and his passing away [on Nov. 26] made it a good choice," she says, “Sondheim is always a challenge. He doesn’t write traditional melodies and then there are always many, many words to learn. There’s also the fact that he doesn’t double the vocal line in the orchestra. The singer needs to know the notes and rhythms. Most of the cast did not know this show, but they have fully embraced it and are enjoying how witty and funny the material is.”

The Current posed a few questions to four cast members: ninth graders Amelia Alayon and Helen Hutchison; sophomore Elaine Llewellyn; and junior Lucas Vladimiroff. Their responses have been edited for brevity.

Where is the show being performed?

The show is being performed at Haldane High School, 15 Craigside Drive, in Cold Spring at 7 p.m. on March 18 and March 19 and 2 p.m. on March 20.

Tickets are $15 or $8 for students and seniors and can be purchased at the door.
SUN 13
Daylight Savings
Set your clocks ahead one hour or you’re going to be late for everything.

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 an outdoor 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: $25 ($7 ages 0 to 18; ages 5 and younger free)

SAT 19
Build a Bluebird Box
GARRISON
10 a.m. & Noon. Boscobel
1601 Route 9D | boscobel.org
Materials will be provided to create a nesting place for local bluebirds with help from Boscobel and Constitution Marsh Audubon. Learn about habitats and other ways to attract and care for feathered friends. Cost: $60 ($30 members)

SAT 19
Putnam Highlands Audubon Dinner
10 a.m. – 8 p.m.
Taconic Outdoor Education Center
75 Mountain Laurel Lane
putnamhighlandsaudubon.org
The annual benefit will include a silent auction. Cost: $75 ($25 remote)

TUES 15
Clan na hÉireann
GARRISON
7 p.m. Via Crowdcast
845-424-3020 | desmondfishlibrary.org
Performers from the School of Irish Dance will perform in this annual Desmond-Fish library program.

FRI 18
A Little Night Music
COLD SPRING
7 p.m. Haldane High School
15 Craigside Drive
showtix4u.com/event-details/62431
Haldane Drama will perform the Stephen Sondheim musical. See Page 13. Also SAT 19. SUN 20. Tickets: $15 ($8 students, seniors free)

SAT 19
Little Annie Rooney
COLD SPRING
7 p.m. Via Zoom
845-265-3040 | butterfieldlibrary.org
The Butterfield Library’s Silent Film Series continues with this 1925 feature written by and starring Mary Pickford. Cary Brown provides live musical accompaniment.

SUN 20
Poet’s Corner: Mary Newell PUTNAM VALLEY 3 p.m. Tompkins Corners Cultural Center 729 Peekskill Hollow Road tompkinscorners.org
The Garrison-based poet will read from her chapbooks, Re: SURGE and Tilt/How/Over/Your, followed by an open mic.

SUN 13
The Life and Work of Rembrandt
COLD SPRING
6 p.m. Boscobel
1601 Route 9D | boscobel.org
Celebrate spring with a sunset, science and stories on the Great Lawn led by Lisa DiMarzo and featuring storyteller Jonathan Kruk. Cost: $22 ($10 seniors, $6 ages 5-18; children under 5, health care workers and members free)

SUN 13
The Life and Work of Rembrandt
GARRISON
9 p.m. Tompkins Corners Cultural Center 729 Peekskill Hollow Road https://www.tomkinscorners.org
The Rev. David Harkness, a lifelong member of Corp. Spring, will discuss his life and his role in U.S. history. This presentation is hosted by the Butterfield Library and the Putnam History Museum.

TUES 15
The General’s Lady
POUGHKEEPSIE
2:30 p.m. Bardavon
35 Market St.
845-473-2072 | bardavon.org
Amor Towles, the author of A Gentleman in Moscow, will discuss his most recent novel, The Lincoln Highway. Free

SAT 19
Amor Towles
POUGHKEEPSIE
2:30 p.m. Bardavon
35 Market St.
845-473-2072 | bardavon.org
The author of A Gentleman in Moscow will discuss his work and his most recent novel, The Lincoln Highway. Free

SAT 12
USA for Ukraine Benefit NEWBURGH Noon – 8 p.m. Karpeles Museum 94 Broadway (bit.ly/newburgh-benefit) The concert is scheduled to include David Patrick Wilson of Eddie & The Cruisers, Dr. Maunegato, the Midnite Images Band, WitchHillBand, Richard Berretta, the Gotham Jazz Ensemble, Fred Zeppelin, Steve Black, Steel RockSlyde, Ronald Pacino, Jerry Ebert, Alice Leon, Jim Gagliano and Kingsley Blue.

COMMUNITY
SAT 12
Hunter Education Course COLD SPRING Noon, St. Mary’s Church | 1 Chestnut St. The vigil on the Great Lawn will be followed by an interfaith service at 1 p.m. led by the Rev. Steve Schumm and a discussion in the parish hall.

SUN 13
Stories at Sunset GARRISON 6 p.m. Boscobel 1601 Road 9D | boscobel.org
Celebrate spring with a sunset, science and stories on the Great Lawn led by Lisa DiMarzo and featuring storyteller Jonathan Kruk. Cost: $22 ($10 seniors, $6 ages 5-18; children under 5, health care workers and members free)

STAGE AND SCREEN
SAT 12
Weather Women GARRISON 7 p.m. Philipstown Depot Theatre 10 Academy St. presbychurchcoldspring.org
This show—the first inside the theater since before the pandemic shutdown—will feature Cyma 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

TUES 15
Maus, Vol. 1
GARRISON 7 p.m. Via Crowdcast 845-424-3020 | desmondfishlibrary.org
Susan Delson will discuss her book about the three-minute precursors to music videos known as “soundies,” with a focus on Black performers. The films depicted in the 1940s and featured Dorothy Dandridge and Duke Ellington, among others. Gwen Laster of Beacon, a musician and scholar of Black musical heritage, will join the discussion in the program, hosted by the Desmond-Fish Public Library and Split Rock Books.

THURSDAY 17
The Ecology of Segregation MILLBROOK
7 p.m. Via Zoom | bit.ly/cary-forest Urban ecologist Steward Pickett, landscape architect Anne Whiston Spier and urban planner Marcus Hendrick will discuss redefining, the connections between segregation and environmental pollution and how social data can be used for social justice in urban planning in this webinar hosted by the Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies.

TUES 15
Clan na hÉireann
GARRISON
7 p.m. Via Crowdcast
845-424-3020 | desmondfishlibrary.org
Performers from the School of Irish Dance will perform in this annual Desmond-Fish library program.

WED 16
Climate Action For Everyone
GARRISON
7 p.m. Via Zoom | 845-424-3020 desmondfishlibrary.org
Community members will discuss the Philipstown Fights Dirty: How Low Can We Go? and actions to reduce the town’s carbon footprint in this weekly webinar hosted by the Desmond-Fish Public Library.

WED 16
The Life of Gen. Daniel Butterfield COLD SPRING
7 p.m. Via Zoom
845-265-3040 | butterfieldlibrary.org
James Pula will discuss the Cold Spring resident’s life and his role in U.S. history. This presentation is hosted by the Butterfield Library and the Putnam History Museum.

THURSDAY 17
Love and Loss with Amy Bloom GARRISON 1 p.m. Via Zoom | thehastingscenter.org
The author of In Love: A Memoir of Love and Loss will discuss her husband’s Alzheimer’s diagnosis and his decision to seek assisted dying in Switzerland.

THURSDAY 17
The New Economic Paradigm GARRISON
2 p.m. Via Zoom | garrisoninstitute.org
In this Pathways to Planetary Health Forum, Eric Beinhocker, executive director of the Institute for New Economic Thinking at the University of Oxford, will discuss an inclusive and sustainable model that builds ecological civilization.

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**VISUAL ART**

**SAT 12**

**Larry Bell**  
BEACON  
11:30 a.m. DiaBeacon | 3 Beekman St.  
845-231-0811 | disart.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**

**Cowgirls**  
BEACON  
3 p.m. The Loft at Beacon | 18 Front St.  
845-202-7211 | loftsatbeacon.com  
Rondey Farley, who will speak before a reception from 4 – 6 p.m., photographed women who work as ranchers or on the rodeo circuit.

**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. 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.

**SAT 12**

**Urban Legends | Nature Calls**  
BEACON  
9 – 9 p.m. Clutter Gallery  
139 Main St. | clutter.co  
More than 50 artists will pay homage to the art collective Skewville’s iconic custom wooden sneakers. New work by Sad Salesman also will be on view.

**SUN 13**

**High School Mentor Exhibition**  
GARRISON  
10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Garrison Art Center  
23 Garrison’s Landing | 845-424-3960  
Garrison’s Landing | 845-424-3960  
See work created by local students through the School Invitational Theme Exhibition program. Through March 20.

**MUSIC**

**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)

**SAT 12**

**Chris Crocco: In the Wild, March 18**  
BEACON  
Cost: $23

**FRI 18**

**Chris Crocco: In the Wild**  
COLD SPRING  
6 – 8 p.m. Highlands Current  
142 Main St. | highlandscurrent.org  
“Notes on Making” that will be on display beginning today. Cost: Free

**SAT 19**

**Art, Labor and Language in Postwar Rome**  
PHILIPSTOWN  
3 p.m. Magazzino Italian Art  
2700 Route 9 | 845-666-7202  
In this lecture, the first in a series called “Notes on Making” that will explore artistic labor as defined by the Arte Povera movement, Katie Lederer, an art history professor at Baylor University and the Magazzino scholar-in-residence, will discuss the themes in the works of five artists. Free

**MUSIC**

**SAT 12**

**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)

**MON 14**

**MF Drone Trio**  
BEACON  
8:30 p.m. Quinn’s | 330 Main St.  
facebook.com/quinnsbeacon  
Michael Formanek, Chef Dooxas and Vinnie Sperrazza are scheduled to perform at the weekly jazz night.

**THURS 17**

**Flash Company**  
BEACON  
8 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.  
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com  
Jim Pospisil, Bryan Maloney and Eric Garrison will play traditional Irish and Celtic music, along with originals. Cost: $15 ($20 door)

**FRI 18**

**New MUSE4tet**  
BEACON  
7 p.m. Dogwood Gallery  
47 E. Main St. | dogwoodbeacon.com  
The contemporary jazz band from Buffalo has been performing for nearly 50 years. Cost: $15 ($20 door)

**SAT 19**

**Telepathic Moon Dance**  
BEACON  
8 p.m. The Loft at Beacon | 18 Front St.  
845-202-7211 | loftsatbeacon.com  
The funk, jazz, EDM and world music band will perform.

**CIVIC**

**MON 14**

**City council**  
BEACON  
7 p.m. City Hall | 1 Municipal Plaza  
845-838-5011 | beaconny.gov  
The focus will be stories about women from history. For older preschool and elementary school students.

**MON 14**

**Dutchess Legislature**  
Poughkeepsie  
7 p.m. Legislative Chambers  
22 Market St. | 845-486-2100  
dutchessny.gov

**TUES 15**

**Election Day**  
NELSONVILLE  
Noon – 9 p.m. Village Hall  
258 Main St. | nelsonvilleny.gov  
The ballot will include two candidates for mayor and three for two seats on the Village Board.

**TUES 15**

**School Board**  
COLD SPRING  
7 p.m. Haldane (cafeteria)  
15 Craigside Drive | 845-265-9254  
haldaneschool.org  
The board will meet to discuss the themes in the works of five artists.

**TUES 15**

**School Board**  
COLD SPRING  
7 p.m. Garrison School | 1100 Route 9D  
845-424-3689 | gufs.org  
Miss Gail returns with her program of song and dance. Masks and registration required.

**WED 16**

**Music and Movement for Toddlers**  
GARRISON  
10:30 a.m. Desmondfish Library  
1100 Route 9D | 845-424-3960  
Desmond-Fish Library  
845-424-3960  
A librarian will share The Leprechaun’s Gold, by Pamela Duncan.
Small, Good Things

Upping the Ante

By Joe Dizney

It started out as a convenience, the byproduct of two manufacturing technologies.

First, Otto Frederick Rohwedder of St. Joseph, Missouri, somehow transformed the skills he’d learned as a jeweler into a legacy as the father of sliced bread by inventing the first commercially viable slicer.

Processing refinements, compliments of Gustav Papendick, a baker from St. Louis, allowed for uniformly sliced and perfectly aligned loaves to be uniformly and perfectly wrapped, prolonging shelf life and increasing marketability, a trajectory that reached a questionable zenith for better or for worse.

On a parallel track, the J.L. Kraft & Bros. Co. marshaled a pasteurizing process into the scalable production of “processed cheese” that could itself be transported long distances and kept seemingly indefinitely. This disruptive American ingenuity and innovation culminated in the introduction of, again for better or for worse, Kraft Singles, individually wrapped slices of processed cheese.

The genius who thought to marry these two concurrent histories into what must be two manufactur -

“... If you have another favorite (this is about your comfort), have at it. I’ve made a more than enjoyable sandwich with a farmhouse cheddar. Likewise, the bread is optional but uniformly sized and textured slices make for a less-messy plate.

Having no cornichon in the pantry, I thought to up the ante a notch or two by substituting chopped kimchi for pickles. The pleasant but unexpected surprise was that the oozie cheese mellowed the tangy funk of the Korean pickle, which in turn brightened the sandwich. I suppose you could call it a “kim-cheese” sandwich, but please don’t ... A thin slice or two of apple (or a schmear of apple butter instead of the final swipe of mayonnaise) were further modifications that occurred to me — but this is supposed to be simple, right? The substitution of other pickled vegetables — sauerkraut, Italian giardiniera or pickled peppers, even Japanese tsukemono — and alternate cheese pairings open up a wide world of possibilities, and you can certainly take some small comfort in that.
Foundation hosting film fest for Beacon students

By Alison Rooney

For budding Ava Du Vernays, Christopher Nolan and Chloé Zhao, or for students looking for something new to explore, The Foundation for Beacon Schools is planning a student film festival for productions up to two minutes long.

Films suitable for a general audience made by Beacon City School District students must be submitted by April 19 for a screening scheduled for May 14 at Beacon High School. There will be separate screenings for submissions from elementary school and middle and high school students.

“We want students to have free rein with their imaginations,” the organizers say. “Films could include documentary topics such as local history, surviving the pandemic or other life challenges. Narrative films could include comedies, dramas, fan fiction, spoofs or stop-motion animation with Legos. Non-narrative films could include abstract or figurative work set to haunting music.”

Maureen Neary, the director of the foundation, says a film festival “ticks all the foundation boxes: Everyone has access to a screen, and the two-minute limit is doable. Nowadays, every kid seems to be making five-minute movies on YouTube. Kids these days are native to the technology; their lives are very screen-based and they like to express things that way.

“This is an opportunity to show off a little, get parents involved and then the community,” she says. “That it’s taking place in a pandemic lets them show their perspective. It’s new and something everyone can join, which lines up with the foundation’s goal to have access to every Beacon public school student. There are also lots of resources to them, including media kits in all the schools and at the Howland Public Library.”

The inspiration for the festival, she says, was the P.S. 187 Film Festival founded and co-produced by Michael Bridenstine, a middle school teacher in New York City, at his son’s school. It has screened more than 350 films.

In Beacon, a parent or guardian must register online and agree to take responsibility for overseeing the project, especially when filming outside. Family members, friends and teachers can help but should be credited. Students should also sign up for the festival’s email list at bit.ly/FBS-film-fest. Organizers say they expect most students will make their films with a smartphone. Several professional filmmakers from Beacon have been sharing their expertise through online help sessions. At one, Ana Joanes provided examples of taking seemingly small ideas and making them big.

Next up is a session on editing a film, on Monday (March 14) for elementary students and Thursday (March 17) for middle and high school students. See foundationforbeaconschools.org/film-festival.

Neary says she sat in on a workshop because she wondered what the interest level would be among students for a film festival, particularly in the elementary grades. She was pleasantly surprised.

“We had 10 or 12 really enthusiastic kids brimming with ideas, who wanted to tell us all about them,” she says. “It was really heartening. These were big imagination kind of ideas.”

One elementary participant, Madelein Devin, who is 6 (although she noted she’ll be 7 in May), said she was contemplating “a monkey-bars movie” called Monkeys at Work. “People watching will be scared, then not scared,” she says.

Bridenstine, who has been advising the Beacon organizers, offers encouraging tips for students, families and teachers on how to make a short film at 187ff.com. “The passive act of viewing becomes the positive act of creating,” he says.

Some ideas put forward thus far by the nascent filmmakers include, according to Neary, “a dragon fight; a stop-motion; a big conflict which is then going to be resolved; a situation with dolls; fitting in; a karate match”; and one described as “top secret.”
Looking Back in Philipstown

By Chip Rowe

150 Years Ago (March 1872)

Following the March election, the Cold Spring Village Board was made up of three Democrats and two Republicans and the Nelsonville Village Board of three Republicans and two Democrats. The Cold Spring ballot also included races for clerk, treasurer, collector, street commissioners, assessors and fire wardens.

Drs. Lente and Murdock amputated the right lower leg and left toes of Edward Calanan, a moulder employed by Paulding, Kemble & Co., who had been run over by six or seven wheels of an Albany freight as it pulled into the Cold Spring station. It was surmised the young man had walked up North Market Street and was rounding the tank house when he was surprised by the engine.

The expenditures in the 1872-73 Cold Spring budget included 330 feet of drainage on Main Street; 675 feet of gutters below Town Hall; 437 feet of gutters on Duffy Street; 426 feet of 2-inch iron pipe from the Market Street pump to the dock; and a safe for important books and papers.

A lawsuit filed by James Hennessy against the Rev. Joseph Caro over an unpaid invoice had been called twice in Fishkill against the Rev. Joseph Caro over an unpaid invoice but the defendant never appeared.

While sweeping the ceiling of the upper hall of her newly constructed home, Cornelia Secor fell down the stairs, which did not have a bannister, and was knocked unconscious. Family members downstairs said they heard a thud but did not immediately investigate.

The Trustee of the Presbyterian Church by the West Point Foundry had been recorded in Father Caro’s name and it was put up for auction.

A second ferry boat was added in 1922 between West Point and Garrison in anticipation of the opening of the Storm King Road.

125 Years Ago (March 1897)

The Highlands Current

The Conley Comedy Co. performed a week of shows at Town Hall.

Two patients from Philipstown and one from South Fork were using the three beds of the Philipstown Electric Corp. applied to endow to Putnam County at the Bowne Congionti, a fellow countryman employed by T.F. Doron was cut down but, by miscalculation, crushed a houseboat owned by his neighbor.

Mrs. T.N. Cheeseman had a lawn tennis court constructed at The Briars, her Garrison estate.

100 Years Ago (March 1922)

An extended downpour caused more damage to the Philipstown roads than even the oldest residents had seen, although in Cold Spring only Northern Avenue had to be closed because of a 4-foot-deep rut.

While sweeping the ceiling of the upper hall of her newly constructed home, Cornelia Secor fell down the stairs, which did not have a bannister, and was knocked unconscious. Family members downstairs said they heard a thud but did not immediately investigate.

The Conley Comedy Co. performed a week of shows at Town Hall.

A large oak on a Main Street lot owned by T.F. Doron was cut down but, by miscalculation, crushed a houseboat owned by his neighbor.

Mrs. T.N. Cheeseman had a lawn tennis court constructed at The Briars, her Garrison estate.

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Mrs. T.N. Cheeseman had a lawn tennis court constructed at The Briars, her Garrison estate.
The Gilded Age

One of the characters on HBO’s new series, The Gilded Age, is based on Marion “Mamie” Fish, whose family had a home in Garrison as well as mansions in New York City and Newport, Rhode Island.

Mamie (1853-1915), was the aunt of Hamilton Fish III, the founder of the Desmond-Fish Public Library in Garrison, which has posted a page about her at bit.ly/mamie-fish as part of Women’s History Month. It notes that she was known for her “creative parties with unusual guests and themes” and for “being direct, outspoken and possessed of a quick wit.”

(Continued from Page 18)

tion of Route 9 and Route 301] to the Cold Spring village line. At the same time, New York Telephone Co. workers began installing poles from Cold Spring to Fred Mosher’s place in the North Highlands.

The Philipstown Garden Club won two prizes — for dinner and luncheon table decoration — at the New York Flower Show.

75 Years Ago (March 1947)

Roland Jones moved from Pine Plains to the 1,100-acre Sunk Mine Farm in Cold Spring to become its machinery foreman.

Ralph Taylor of Poughkeepsie, upon his retirement after 36 years with the New York Central Railroad, most recently at Harmon as chief clerk of the car department, recalled an incident in which a passenger train headed for New York City had just negoti- ated a curve south of Cold Spring when the entire track slid into the river. As a result, the line was moved farther east, setting up a human chain to rescue her.

The Philipstown Town Board held a two-hour discussion in response to a petition from 15 residents of Horton Road about the alleged unlawful construction of a multi-family residence on land purchased in a tax sale.

25 Years Ago (March 1997)

Officials from Philipstown, Nelsonville and Cold Spring met to discuss how to spend a $1.2 million project to scrape sediment and corrosion from 5 miles of water pipes in Continental Village and line them with cement.

Bruce Simon (center) of Garrison with his 1978 F-Production 1500 Triumph Spitfire, in a photo taken in 1992

The Garrison school board voted 5-1 to offer students a third choice for a high school, along with Haldane and O’Neill, by adding Yorktown. It had earlier rejected a proposal to add Briarcliff Manor, citing its tuition costs.

A 33-year-old woman was found in her Rock Street home in a semi-conscious state, the apparent victim of a drug overdose. Upon her release from the hospital, she was arrested for possession of a controlled substance.

The Philipstown Town Board discussed the proliferation of cell towers. “There are already four towers in place, four applications on file and seven to eight more anticipated,” said Board Member Steve Rosario.

“I urge our consideration of a moratorium and a public hearing,” Board Member Andy Merante commented: “We should strive for the least obtrusive apparatus and minimal numbers required. When more advanced technology is available, have the companies remove the towers.”

At the next meeting, Rosario reported on his attendance at a workshop for local officials on “how not to become ‘road kill’ on the information superhighway.” He reported: “The most important point is to work with the companies to prove that the towers that are approved provide sufficient coverage for cellular phone service and not to argue the locations.”

Bruce Simon of Garrison won the North Atlantic Road Racing Championship of the Sports Car Club of America with his F-Production 1500 Triumph Spitfire.

A 33-year-old Garrison boy was killed when he was struck by a car on Route 9 south of Snake Hill Road.

Edward Collard, the last living member of the first Haldane school board, died at age 83. He also served as Philipstown clerk for 22 years.

Howard Zeliph of Nelsonville, who had been a rural mail carrier for 41 years, moving from a horse to a Model T Ford, died at age 95.

A home owned by Delmar Karlen off Route 89, about 500 yards from the Garrison firehouse, was severely damaged by a fire. Water was pumped from the Highlands Country Club.

A 16-year-old Haldane High School student died at a hospital after she stum- bled and fell 350 feet into an abandoned rock quarry in Philipstown. About 30 Cold Spring firefighters used ropes and formed a human chain to rescue her.

Students from Haldane junior and senior highs volunteered to help at the understaffed Letchworth Village, a residential facility in Rockland County for the profoundly retarded. The students spoke with patients, helped them move their belongings to a new ward and mopped and disinfected a dormitory that housed 150 older men supervised by two attendants. (The institute closed in 1996.)
Living Green

Climate Anxiety
By Krystal Ford

It happens when I see a red sun in the sky, knowing the cause is from wildfires burning 2,000 miles away; or when I read about ice sheets melting; or when I hear about pipelines being built: a tightening in my chest, my stomach feels queasy, my heart races, I feel tense and go from anger to despair to resignation in an endless loop, to the soundtrack of “It’s too late and I’m not doing enough and doesn’t anyone care?” It can be lonely.

As carbon emissions keep soaring, many people are struggling with emotions around climate. You don’t even need to experience climate-related disaster firsthand to experience “climate anxiety” — just reading about it can be triggering.

In a presentation at a Climate Town Hall hosted by Sandy Galef, who represents Philipstown in the state Assembly, clinical psychologist Eric Lewandowski of New York University defined climate anxiety as bouts of worry, grief, despair, panic, and/or hopelessness about the deteriorating environment or future.

“Climate change is a real threat,” he said. “It is rational to be worried. In this case, anxiety is an adaptive emotion signaling danger.”

During a conversation, Heather Zucker- man, a psychotherapist in private practice in Garrison, shared her own take with me. She noted, first, that “a lot of the younger generation are a little doom-and-gloom with the environment and the world.”

A survey published in the Journal of Lancet Planetary Health backs this up. More than 10,000 young people around the world between the ages of 16 and 25 were surveyed, and 59 percent said they were very or extremely worried about climate change, while 84 percent were at least moderately worried. In addition, 7 in 10 described the future as frightening.

Of course, young people aren’t the only ones with deep concerns. Zucker- man said she has noticed that among people of her generation — with older children who are leaving the house — there is anxiety about where to retire.

“I had friends who moved inland in Florida because of climate change,” she said. “They went from, ‘I can live anywhere,’ to ‘Oh my God, where am I going to live?’ ”

According to a landmark report by the American Psychological Association, the mental responses to climate change, such as “conflict avoidance, fatalism, fear, helplessness and resignation” are growing stronger and prevent us from addressing the causes and solutions or from achieving “psychological resiliency.”

While it may seem counterintuitive, maybe a little climate anxiety is a good thing. It can motivate people. But you don’t want so much that you feel paralyzed. It’s about finding a way to harness anxiety and stay productive.

There are strategies for dealing with climate anxiety. Here are our takeaways from Turn the Tide on Climate Anxiety, by Megan Kennedy-Woodard and Patrick Kennedy-Williams, the co-founders of a U.K. firm called Climate Psychologists: (1) Understand and accept the facts about climate change; (2) Immerse yourself in nature; (3) Practice self-care; (4) Take individual and collective action; and (5) Celebrate success.

For action items, Philipstown Fights Dirty (philipstownfightsdirty.org), a campaign I spearheaded with the Ecological Citizens’ Project, provides more than 80 pledges you can take, including many that are low-hanging fruit. Climate Smart Philipstown also will be hosting workshops starting Wednesday (March 16) on how to take climate action.

And Earth Day is approaching on April 22 — a time to celebrate and refill your cup! Climate change isn’t your problem alone to solve, but we all have a role to play. Take care of yourself, so you can help take care of this beautiful world we call home.
Notes from the Town and Village

Philipstown is hopeful about pooling federal aid with Putnam County to fix Garrison Landing Water District problems that include a new mystery – a total lack of water twice in half a month, Town Board members reported on March 3 at their formal monthly meeting at Town Hall. The town engineer estimated that the overhaul would cost $860,000, far more than Philipstown can pay on its own. “Let’s see what happens. I’m confident we’ll get some assistance,” Supervisor John Van Tassel said. The water problem “is bleeding the town dry.”

Carl Frienada, the superintendent of the Philipstown Highway Department, plans to resign on March 31 for health reasons, and his departure raised the question of whether to keep the job as a partisan, elective office or make it an appointed position.

The Cold Spring Village Board, at its Wednesday (March 9) meeting, passed a resolution in support of universal health care in New York state, but it stopped short of endorsing the New York Health Act being considered by the state Legislature. If passed, the state bill, first proposed in 1992, would pay for health care for all residents through a combination of federal funds the state receives from Medicare and Medicaid and a progressively graduated tax on income from wages and investments.

Charlotte Mountain, the village code enforcement officer, resigned to take a full-time supervisory position with the City of Newburgh. Cold Spring will seek help from the Philipstown Building Department until the position can be filled.

For more on the most recent board meetings in Philipstown and Cold Spring, see highlandscurrent.org.

Good-Cause (from Page 1)

ings. Those causes 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 to the apartment or a landlord’s need to use the property for a family member or personal residence.

If those circumstances don’t apply, the law requires landlords to allow leases to renew, potentially creating “forever” tenants.

Council members said that by establishing those provisions, the law would protect renters from intimidation and arbitrary eviction or rent increases following the end of the state’s moratorium on pandemic-related evictions on Jan. 15. One tenant testified on Monday that her landlord had, without warning, tried to raise her rent $750 after her comments in favor of the law at the Feb. 22 hearing.

City attorneys warned the council that they believe state law supersedes local tenant-landlord regulations, but several members said the benefits outweigh the risks — which include having to hire outside counsel to defend the city in the event of a lawsuit because its current attorneys said they would not participate.

Landlords argued that the law will lower property values while unfairly limiting what they can charge tenants when faced with rising costs such as maintenance.

There’s been debate about whether the law establishes rent control.

While it does not explicitly cap annual rent increases at 5 percent, in most cases, conditions must be met to exceed it. To go above that threshold, which the law describes as “unconscionable,” a landlord and tenant could agree to increase the rent to demonstrate to a judge that it’s necessary.

The circumstances that warrant more than a 5 percent jump will include when a landlord has made capital improvements or insurance and taxes have increased significantly.

A judge could also consider the most recent consumer price index for the northeast U.S., the frequency and amount of past increases, and/or the sales price if the building changes owners.

The city will not track rent prices, City Administrator Chris White said on Wednesday. Landlords and tenants will have to provide documentation in court.

After debating for months, the council remained divided on the efficacy of the law before the Monday vote.

Kyriacou said he was saddened that the arguments have done little to improve landlord-tenant relations. “If we’re picking a way to help renters, pitting one part of the community against the other is the wrong way to do this,” he said. The mayor said he would prefer a “means-tested” subsidy plan, such as the Dutchess County pandemic-relief program that provides rental assistance to low- and moderate-income households. “That is the correct approach. It’s something that we all, as a community, pay taxes to support,” he said.

But Beacon’s popularity has brought premium apartments to the city, where “there are plenty of renters who are fully capable of paying the full rents that are out there now,” he said. “That’s why those rents are out there. If we afford them the same rights as low-income renters, they will push low-income renters out.”

Council Member Justice McCray, who represents Ward 2, disagreed, saying the good-cause law “is crucial to bringing racial justice to housing.” McCray noted that Black families rent more than whites and have historically been more vulnerable to eviction. “You don’t even have to look back 10 years to see the Black population of Beacon decrease,” he said. “It’s a painful reality, but that is a reality right now.”

George Mansfield, an at-large council member, said he would have preferred to see the Albany lawsuit resolved before the Beacon vote, but that could take months. Given the urgency, Mansfield said “my decision will be based on helping as many people and hurting as few” as possible.

Council Member Dan Aymar-Blair, of Ward 4, said on Tuesday that he hopes the city can move quickly to address other laws affecting affordability. He said he wants to increase the 10 percent below-market-rate component required of new developments of 10 or more units. The council could also investigate launching its own income-based subsidy program, developing affordable housing on city-owned property or adjusting zoning laws for creating accessory dwelling units.

The council will review the good-cause eviction law in June 2023.

How Many Eviction Filings?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2020</th>
<th>2021</th>
<th>2022</th>
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<tr>
<td>Beacon</td>
<td>83</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dutchess</td>
<td>1,997</td>
<td>749</td>
<td>557</td>
<td>118</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State</td>
<td>262,402</td>
<td>108,968</td>
<td>69,193</td>
<td>21,230</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: New York State Unified Court System; through March 7

Current Classifieds

FOR SALE

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 were replaced 3 years ago. $1,997

HELP WANTED

COMMUNICATIONS/MARKETING MANAGER — The Garrison Art Center seeks an individual to increase brand awareness, attract attendees & deepen engagement with key audiences. 20 hrs./week, flexible hrs. Qualifications: 2 to 4 years in a marketing or communications capacity. Knowledge of non-profits, digital fundraising & marketing. Experience w/ social media ad tools. Ability to analyze data. Basic graphic design skills photo/video editing skills are a plus. Email director@garrisonartcenter.org.

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, stakes, hand working, thorough maintenance, 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.

SERVICES

KEEP SCHOOL ON TRACK! — In this confusing world, local expert writing and study-skills coach offers a simple but effective 3-Step System for School Success. From middle school through grad school — it works. Remote or in-person, flexible schedule, Email coach01516@gmail.com or call 914-443-4723. HUNTING/FOOD PROCESSING

HELP WANTED

COMMUNICATIONS/MARKETING MANAGER — The Garrison Art Center seeks an individual to increase brand awareness, attract attendees & deepen engagement with key audiences. 20 hrs./week, flexible hrs. Qualifications: 2 to 4 years in a marketing or communications capacity. Knowledge of non-profits, digital fundraising & marketing. Experience w/ social media ad tools.
2 Cross St. Proposal Returns in Beacon

Would develop popular corner on west end of Main

By Jeff Simms

A development proposal for Main Street in Beacon, shelved since 2019, is back. First submitted to the Planning Board about four months before the pandemic shutdown, the 2 Cross St. project called for integrating the building at 172 Main St. and the brick building at 4 Cross St. with new construction and an undeveloped lot that sits between the buildings.

On Main Street, developer Joe Donovan wanted to construct a four-story building with retail on the ground floor, nine units of affordable senior housing on the second and around 10,000 square feet of office space on the top two floors. The back side of the complex, on Cross Street, was to be three floors. A portion of the undeveloped lot, which has been used in recent years by the Green Teen gardening program, would remain as a park.

The development returned to the Planning Board this week and, citing previous comments from city officials and market changes, now proposes a three-story building enveloping much of the corner of Main and Cross. It would include retail on the street level and 18 apartments for seniors, split evenly between market-rate and below-market-rate, on the top two floors. The building will be constructed using energy-efficient “passive” design standards, including a green roof.

172 Main St., the current home of Ronzoni Guitars and part of the city’s historic district, will retain its facade and be integrated into the new building, according to materials submitted to the board, while 4 Cross St. will be demolished and replaced with new construction. A much smaller, paved, publicly accessible “plaza” at the corner of Main and Cross will remain.

The project will provide 19 of 27 parking spaces — two behind the building, eight at a lot at 10 Cross St. and nine more in a public parking lot at 152 Main St. Planning Board members, however, on Tuesday recommended that the developer conduct a parking study to determine whether the two lots are routinely available.

The board members also warned project officials that their proposal may not be popular. Board Chair John Gunn recalled walking in front of the red brick building. “You will see a visceral response; I need you to be prepared for that,” he said.

“The area fills with people,” added Board Member Len Warner. “It’s probably the most joyous, crowded area in warm weather on a Second Saturday. It is a magical neighborhood.”

Gunn also said he hopes the design for the proposed building can be improved. “This building could be in any other similar city elsewhere in the United States,” he said. “There’s nothing distinguishable about it.”

1113 Wolcott Ave.

The Planning Board continued its review of plans to convert the former Reformed Church of Beacon on Route 9D into a 350-person capacity event space with restaurant and bar but only 32 of the required 136 parking spaces.

Project officials on Tuesday said they’d removed a proposed loop driveway in front of the church and will instead use a two-way “main” driveway along with a one-way, exit-only driveway connecting to the parking area behind the proposed hotel. Planning Board members liked those changes, although they said they’d prefer to see the two driveways simplified to one way in, one way out. But much of the discussion, as in previous meetings, was about parking.

Project officials have said they hope to make up the shortfall with a combination of nearby public lots, Beekman Street, the Metro-North station and perhaps an as-yet unapproved proposal to the City Council to restrip and add spaces to sections of Wolcott Avenue. The 30-room hotel planned for what had been the church’s parsonage and the event/restaurant space will not require parking at the same time of day, eliminating some of the need, said project attorney Taylor Palmer.

“But there’s a theoretical nature to what you’ve proposed that we have to look at closely, because we don’t want to be in the position of having to impose this potential burden on the city and its residents” if a parking lot that’s currently available, such as the 66-space city lot behind the Tompkins Hose Fire Station, is eventually developed, Gunn said. Planning consultant John Clarke also noted that the spaces on Beekman Street may be unavailable once commuters return to a more normal schedule on Metro-North.

Project officials said they expect the event space to reach its full capacity on “very limited occasions.” They also intend to install two dozen bike racks and encourage walking to and from the venue.

364 Main St.

The Planning Board directed its attorney to begin drafting approval documents for the three-story mixed-use proposal at 364 Main St.

The developer is proposing retail on the ground floor and 20 apartments on the higher stories. Cars would enter the site through a narrow driveway on its east side and exit through a parking lot in the rear. An addition to the building would be set back on the west side with benches and landscaping in front of the red brick building.

On Tuesday, board members continued to express concern with the Main Street driveway to the building. It could create a hazard for pedestrians, but, if eliminated, would allow the developer to increase the landscaping and public space surrounding the building, they said.

NOTICE

Wappengers Falls/ Village

1st floor one bedroom apartment located in the historic Village of Wappengers 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.

NOTICE

BEACON: Meadow Ridge II Senior Residence

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.

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Puzzles

CROSSCurrent

ACROSS
1. Taj Mahal city
5. Chatter
8. Pugilist’s weapon
12. Regrets
13. Half of bi-
14. Bygone Peruvian
15. Diamond parts
17. Miles away
18. Thai or Korean
19. Oscar contenders
21. Leaves
24. Medit. nation
25. Buckeye State
28. Take five
30. Yoga pad
33. Mafia boss
34. Emulate Lincoln
35. Bedazzle
36. Dict. info
37. Nick and Nora’s pet
38. Arm bone
39. Fireplace residue
41. Luminary
43. Charlton Heston film
46. Seraglio
50. Aware of
51. Endless time or space
54. Burning heap
55. Automobile
56. Sci-fi fleet
57. Declares
58. Lock opener

59. Faxed

DOWN
1. Met solo
2. Weaponry
3. Mortgage again, for short
4. Italian cheese
5. Actor Brynner
6. Moreover
7. Galileo’s birthplace
8. Decrees
9. Casual
10. Cicatrix
11. Old salts
16. Rock’s Brian
20. Refer to
22. Messes up
23. Plane assignments
25. Peculiar
26. Garden tool
27. Foot soldiers
29. Sports figure?
31. Bristle
32. Chai, e.g.
34. Diamond Head locale
38. Seventh planet
40. Loafers, e.g.
42. Sashimi fish
43. Conks on the head
44. “May It Be” singer
45. Casablanca cafe owner
47. Teeming
48. Harrow rival
49. Island in a computer game
52. Scot’s refusal
53. Saute

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Answers for March 4 Puzzles

MAFFILASBARBS
esauelkamor
hardcopylober
GUNLAZIER
SATEDPINA
EROSHANDCART
TENCASESCEE
HAIRCUTS ELAN
EINEBLURT
gothicsub
rheahotcocoas
ONES EWE WARM
GOSH SAP SWAP

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

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Country Goose
115 Main St.
Cold Spring, NY 10516
845-265-2122

For interactive sudoku and crossword answers, see highlandscurrent.org/puzzles.

7LittleWords

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 insightful (4)
2 purposely ruffles feathers (8)
3 friends of the Flintstones (7)
4 capital of Nova Scotia (7)
5 having poor posture (8)
6 Italian infant (7)
7 where boaters wait (8)

SOLUTIONS

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SudoCurrent

Country Goose
115 Main St.
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For interactive sudoku and crossword answers, see highlandscurrent.org/puzzles.
The points that came easily for No. 1 Haldane early became nearly impossible to find late in Saturday’s Class C championship game at Yorktown High School.

The second seed, Alexander Hamilton, shook off a slow start and dodged a bullet at the end to break the Blue Devils’ hearts with a 53-51 win.

It was the second year in a row that Haldane lost a heartbreaker in the tournament. In March 2021, the top-seeded Blue Devils were 10-0 when they hosted No. 5 Lakeland in the Putnam-Northern Westchester playoffs for smaller schools. Lakeland won, 51-50, on a desperation three-pointer that banked in with 1.5 seconds left.

Haldane (19-3) jumped out of the gate with energy on Saturday, building a 15-2 lead with 3:12 left in the first. But a 15-4 Hamilton run made it a one-point game, and things stayed close from there.

Hamilton took its first lead, 28-27, in the second, and the game was tied at 37-37 at the end of three. The Raiders had a three-point lead with 6:00 to play, and upped the lead to five with 4:04 left.

A pair of free throws by Chris Ward gave Hamilton a 53-48 lead with 12 seconds left, but Haldane’s Robert Viggiano answered quickly with a clutch three from the corner to make it 53-51 with 1.5 seconds remaining.

Ward was fouled and sent to the line with a chance to extend the lead to four. But a pair of missed free throws left the door open for Haldane, and junior guard Matteo Cervone was fouled on a desperation three-point attempt with 0.3 remaining. But he missed the first two free throws, and was forced to miss the third, which the Raiders rebounded to end the game.

Jaylen Savage had 22 points and was named Tournament MVP for Hamilton (17-5), which moves on to face Section IX champion Chester on Wednesday (March 16) in a regional semifinal at Yorktown High School.

Viggiano had 14 points for Haldane, and Haldane’s All-Section duo of Cervone and Soren Holmbo were limited to 13 and 12 points, respectively.

“Our defensive intensity was great,” he added. “We held them to 19 in the first half. They doubled and focused on Matteo, but we’ve had balanced scoring all year. We valued the ball and had some good opportunities.”

“We came up just short,” said senior captain Ryan Irwin. “We worked so hard all year for this. This is not the way we wanted to come out of it. We never thought this would happen; we thought we were the better team. Our transition in the beginning was working well,” he added. “Then when the threes weren’t falling, we were trying to work the ball inside, and it just wasn’t working for us. But this was a great year, and this is a great group of guys. I love them all, and it’ll be sad to go. But I’ll always remember this.”

Haldane Drops Heartbreaker in Title Game

Blue Devils upset for second year in a row

By Skip Pearlman

Matteo Cervone goes to the rim during the title game.

Track Results

Three Beacon High School athletes competed in the state championships this past weekend. Evan LaBelle ran the first leg for the 1,000-meter intersectional relay team, which finished eighth and earned a medal. Sal Migliore competed in the 600 meters, placing 20th in 1:26.64, and will compete on Saturday (March 12) at the New Balance Nationals in New York City in the Emerging Elite 400-meter race. Damani DeLoatch finished 21st in the triple jump at 39-03 and was the top sophomore in the field.