Beacon School Board Down a Member, Again
May 17 ballot to include board seats, district budget

By Jeff Simms

Beacon school board member Jasmine Johnson resigned on April 1, leaving, for the third time in two years, a school board with a membership gap to fill.

Johnson did not announce a reason for leaving. She had been appointed to the nine-person board in September 2020 after the resignation of James Case-Leal, who wrote in a letter that he wanted the board to appoint two Black candidates — Johnson and John Galloway Jr., who was seated a month later.

State law required Galloway and Johnson, as appointees, to run last year to keep their board seats. The top three vote-getters in that election — Galloway, Johnson and Flora Stadler — won three-year terms, while the fourth-place finisher, James Case-Leal, who was seated a month later.

Because of the timing of Johnson’s resignation, this year there will again be four seats on the May 17 ballot. President Meredith Heuer has filed to run for another three-year term; Antony Tseng has indicated he plans to do so also.

Johnson’s term, which ends in 2024, will now be up for grabs, and Betterbid said on Wednesday (April 6) that she is not running for re-election, so that seat will also be open.

(Continued on Page 7)

Where the Money Will Go

[Dotchess County Edition]

In the past two years, the federal government has issued six pandemic relief spending packages. Here's how the most recent, the American Rescue Plan Act (ARP), from March 2021 has been distributed.

$1.9 TRILLION
allocated by Congress

$350 BILLION
sent to states and local governments

$12.6 BILLION
sent to New York State

$3.8 BILLION
sent to 57 counties

$57.1 MILLION
sent to Dutchess

[Detailed allocation on Page 9]

How to Spend $57 Million
Dutchess Stadium tops list of projects receiving COVID funds

By Leonard Sparks

Dutchess County is making national news lately for the wrong reason. Within the last month, both The New York Times and The Associated Press have published stories about controversial local projects being funded with money from the federal American Rescue Plan, a $1.9 trillion COVID relief package approved in March 2021 by Congress and President Joe Biden.

Both stories highlighted the decision by County Executive Marc Molinaro and the Legislature's Republican majority to allocate $11.6 million of Dutchess’ $57.1 million in ARP funding for renovations at Dutchess Stadium, a county park. The ballpark, home to the Hudson Valley Renegades, a New York Yankees’ junior league affiliate, will get a new clubhouse, pitching and batting facility and a premium club space and seating area. The Legislature also unanimously approved spending $630,000 in ARP funds to buy the land beneath the stadium from the Beacon school district.

The stadium spending represents (Continued on Page 9)

Putnam Approves Traffic Cameras for School Buses

Will record vehicles that illegally pass during stops

By Liz Schetvchuk Armstrong

The Putnam County Legislature voted 8 to 0 on Tuesday (April 5) to equip school buses with cameras to identify vehicles that illegally pass buses that have stopped to pick up or drop off students.

Meeting in Carmel, the legislators agreed to establish a program with school districts such as Haldane and Garrison to use the cameras to photograph or video-record cars that violate safety laws, helping police agen-

(Continued on Page 7)

Where the Money Will Go

[Putnam County Edition]

Dutchess County is making national news lately for the wrong reason. Within the last month, both The New York Times and The Associated Press have published stories about controversial local projects being funded with money from the federal American Rescue Plan, a $1.9 trillion COVID relief package approved in March 2021 by Congress and President Joe Biden.

Both stories highlighted the decision by County Executive Marc Molinaro and the Legislature's Republican majority to allocate $11.6 million of Dutchess’ $57.1 million in ARP funding for renovations at Dutchess Stadium, a county park. The ballpark, home to the Hudson Valley Renegades, a New York Yankees’ junior league affiliate, will get a new clubhouse, pitching and batting facility and a premium club space and seating area. The Legislature also unanimously approved spending $630,000 in ARP funds to buy the land beneath the stadium from the Beacon school district.

The stadium spending represents (Continued on Page 9)

Putnam Approves Traffic Cameras for School Buses

Will record vehicles that illegally pass during stops

By Liz Schetvchuk Armstrong

The Putnam County Legislature voted 8 to 0 on Tuesday (April 5) to equip school buses with cameras to identify vehicles that illegally pass buses that have stopped to pick up or drop off students.

Meeting in Carmel, the legislators agreed to establish a program with school districts such as Haldane and Garrison to use the cameras to photograph or video-record cars that violate safety laws, helping police agen-

(Continued on Page 7)
How did you encounter RPG?

I was introduced as a teenager through text-based role-playing online. When I was 13 or 14 we had the family computer and I found forums for Neopets and avatars and things like that where you could create characters. “My character does this.” My mother was in collective fandoms have created an accepted canon, like, “Of course Spock and Kirk are lovers.”

You write “speculative” fiction? What is that?

It's an umbrella term for fantasy and science fiction that includes niche genres such as “near-future fiction” and “magical realism.” I love epic fantasy — the classic in that genre, of course, is Lord of the Rings. Recently I loved the Broken Earth trilogy by N.K. Jemisin. She’s a Black woman, so she understands a wider scope of the world than I do. Another fun one is the Serpent Gates series by A.K. Larkwood. The main character is a lesbian orc assassin. In a fantasy world without bigotry, everyone would be bisexual. That makes sense to me.

You’ve written that you had to come out to your parents twice. What happened?

I had just moved to the Hudson Valley and my family was passing the LGBTQ Center (in Kingston). My dad said, “I don’t understand why all these letters are happening. Wasn’t LGB enough?” And I said, “Well, T and Q are important.” Later, at a cafe, just him and me, I said: “Dad, I don’t know if you knew this, but I’m queer.” And he said, “Oh, OK, cool.” Then my mom comes over with drinks. My dad says, “Robin, did you know Linda is Q?” And my mom says, “Yeah, she is cute.” So I had to explain. The second time was after I had become comfortable with the fact that I am non-binary and transgender. That was just a phone call. “Hey Mom, I just wanted you to know I use they/them pronouns now. So I will be sending you a book in the mail. I love you. Bye.”

Linda Codega, who lives in Beacon, is a reporter and reviewer for io9, which covers sci-fi/fantasy pop culture.

Much of your writing focuses on role-playing games, or RPG. What do you find appealing about them?

I enjoy having a commonly accepted framework for people to sit down and create a story together. You can have a game with just one player and the author, or there are massive multiplayer games — games so popular that collective fandoms have created an accepted canon, like, “Of course Spock and Kirk are lovers.”

With RPGs today, do you still roll dice? Or is it all digital?

You can play with your physical click clacks, like your magic rocks. Or you can use a calculator that comes up with a random number between one and 20. There is also software called virtual tabletops, so even if you don’t have the $50 rulebook or the $20 dice or the $30 character sheet, you can log on free to Roll20 or Astral TableTop and find a game.

How did you encounter RPG?

I was introduced as a teenager through text-based role-playing online. When I was 13 or 14 we had the family computer and I found forums for Neopets and avatars and things like that where you could create characters. “My character does this.” My mother was in the military and we moved around a lot, so I didn’t have a consistent group of friends until I was in high school. It was easy to find communities online.
Man Charged in Overdose Deaths

Officers provided fentanyl-laced heroin that was linked to the deaths of a Carmel woman and a Poughkeepsie man. He also contributed to the deaths of a Poughquaq man and a Poughkeepsie man, prosecutors said.

Hudson Line Adds Trains

Repair of Dobbs Ferry culvert complete

The repair of a culvert in Dobbs Ferry that was damaged by Tropical Storm Ida in September has trimmed about 5 minutes from trips by Hudson Line commuters because trains no longer have to slow to 30 mph.

In addition, on March 27, Metro-North added 14 trains to the line, including two trips by Hudson Line commuters because trains no longer have to slow to 30 mph.

Cold Spring Man Joins State Police

Among 227 academy graduates

A Cold Spring man, Luke Rodzel, was among the 227 graduates on March 23 of the Basic School of the New York State Police Academy. The graduates, selected from more than 1,700 candidates, reported on March 31 for 10 weeks of field training. After training, Rodzel, a 2013 Haldane graduate, will join Troop K based in Poughkeepsie.

Other graduates included Nicole Dimaio and Emily Herlihy of Mahopac, John Rinaldi of Carmel and Reginald Donaldson, Johnathan Flores and Rolando Zapata of Newburgh.

Beacon High Planning Career Fair

School looking for businesses to join

Beacon High School is planning its annual career fair for students and looking for businesses to participate. Each participant will be assigned a table on May 27 at which he or she can display items that represent an industry or career and serve as conversation starters.

Contact Michele Polhamus at polhamus.m@beaconk12.org or 845-838-6900, ext. 3025, to register. The deadline is April 22.

Dutchess May Buy Boy Scout Camp

Listed by group to pay judgment

The Dutchess County executive has asked the Legislature to authorize spending $4.8 million for the 272-acre Camp Nooteeming in Pleasant Valley from the Boy Scouts of America.

The board of the Greater Hudson Valley Council of the Boy Scouts of America announced last year that it would sell the 90-year-old camp to pay part of its share of an $850 million settlement by the national organization with former scouts who say they were sexually abused.

County Executive Marc Molinaro said Pathfinder FC, which leases the camp for soccer, would take over management. The spending would include $4.2 million for the property and equipment such as canoes, archery gear, furniture and tractors, and $600,000 to make safety and accessibility improvements. The Legislature is expected to consider the proposal on Monday (April 11).
Tell us what you think

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

Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival proposal to repurpose the former Garrison golf course as its permanent home is well-planned to benefit all of Philipstown while being considerate of its neighbors (“HVSF Says It Will ‘Narrow’ Project,” April 1). The primary activities — live theater during the summer months under an open-air tent and the Valley Restaurant and banquet facility — are public resources well-known to and greatly enjoyed by our residents.

The proposal is to continue what we already know and enjoy, and to make it better, while opening the former golf course site to the community as an environmentally sensitive natural space.

The public benefits are numerous. The number of theater seats is being reduced, lessening traffic, which is being moved closer to Route 9, where it already goes as it heads to points south, north and east. The proposal provides the opportunity to reconfigure the intersections of Route 9 with Snake Hill Road and Travis Corners, a well-known site of fatal accidents, while taking traffic off Philipse Brook Road, currently the safest way to cross Route 9 in the neighborhood.

Civic projects like the Shakespeare Festival, broadly supported by our community, are the hallmark of democracy in America recognized by Alexis de Tocqueville almost 200 years ago.

Repurposing the golf course to host the Shakespeare Festival will realize the greater good for our community for decades to come.

Joseph Mahon, Garrison

Reducing the size is a start — now to get the huge tent off the ridgeline and protect the viewshed.

Zshawn Sullivan, via Facebook

Cutting the project back is a real loss to the community because of a bunch of rich NIMBY nonsense.

Ryan Biracree, via Facebook

Cold Spring police

I agree with Trustee Eliza Starbuck’s suggestion in her April 1 letter that monthly police reports include how many of the calls to which Cold Spring police respond are coming from Nelsonville and Philipstown.

The idea that jurisdictions that themselves offer no police services get free services on demand, 24/7, from one that spends $500,000 every year makes you wonder why this is called “mutual” aid.

If Cold Spring is required to provide mutual aid to adjacent jurisdictions, the village should be fully reimbursed. The Cold Spring police should identify, in its monthly report, not only the number of such mutual-aid incidents, but the fully allocated cost to the village, and submit for trustee approval the invoices to be sent to Nelsonville and Philipstown.

Michael Armstrong, Cold Spring

Zeebuffo

Nice try, Mike Turton. You had me until I saw the drawing (“Reporter’s Notebook: Zeebuffo Coming to Garrison,” April 1).

Anthony Merante, Cold Spring

That was an excellent conversation igniter on April 1.

Steven C.F. Anderson, Cold Spring

The zeebuffo ranch also made headlines in The Ungulate-Picayune and The Ungulate Chronicle.

Howard Condyles, via Instagram

Fjord Trail

The recent public meeting about the Fjord Trail (aka, “Highline-on-Hudson”) at the Philipstown Town Hall raised serious practical concerns (“Fjord Trail Plan Draws Praise and Concern,” March 25).

The project lacks proper pro forma environmental and traffic studies that would have otherwise quickly derailed this fantasy. Traffic already inundates Cold Spring from spring through fall, to the extent that streets and sidewalks are snarled and impassable for entire weekends. The notion of drawing more traffic and redirecting it to the lower village is untenable, as the area already lacks parking and sidewalks.

The addition of 400 parking spots and creation of several parking lots alarms locals and first responders who depend on these single-lane, Revolutionary War-era carriage roads for reasonable conveyance. The promise of additional armies of tourists and hikers will be resented by all residents, excepting shopkeepers.

The Fjord team never consulted with the village regarding its expansion of the plan to include a river walkway thru Dockside to Little Stony Point. The function of the walkway is to divert foot traffic from heading north on Fair Street. This part of the project seems most ill-conceived and superfluous, and offers no benefit to the community other than to saddle our emergency responders.

Understand that adding an unnecessary and unwanted amenity that could exacerbate our already severely strained resources will change the fabric of the community forever. Before the Fjord megaproject loomed, weren’t we all discussing ideas for how to decompress the onslaught, not exacerbate it?

I am confident the new Foley administration will understand that adding an unnecessary and unwanted amenity that could exacerbate our already severely strained resources will change the fabric of the community forever. Before the Fjord megaproject loomed, weren’t we all discussing ideas for how to decompress the onslaught, not exacerbate it?

Michael Armstrong, Cold Spring
Shouldn't Graymoor have made the parent company aware of the need to file paperwork? The company, which would have leased private property, probably expected Graymoor to tell them. The traffic concern seems like it could have been solved.

Some of the opposition’s reasoning was really out there. Clearly, some people have never been to a Renaissance Festival.

Kirsten Berger, via Facebook

If Kingdom Faire had mentioned shuttling visitors to Graymoor rather than having parking on-site, as will be done in Putnam Valley, it would have made a huge difference in how their plans were received.

Kendra Parker, via Facebook

Editor’s note: When Kingdom Faire intended to hold its weekend events at Graymoor, its website stated that it would have “shuttle services continuously running between the Garrison [train] station and the site.”

A resident complained to Kingdom Faire that its event would feature “Satanic-lite” shows — is that all the evil with one-third the calories?  

Phil Clarke Jr., via Facebook

This is exciting — maybe I can avoid the craziness of the New York Renaissance Faire (in Orange County) and just attend in Putnam Valley. Blue Mountain in Peekskill would have been a fantastic spot, as well.

Dave Mueller, via Facebook

Clarification

A story that appeared in the April 1 issue about the Cold Spring budget process requires clarification. It stated that security cameras requested by the Cold Spring Police Department for three locations in the village had been “taken off the table”; we should have made clear that was for the 2021-22 budget cycle, which ends May 31. Officer-in-Charge Larry Burke suggested the money instead fund a partnership with the Philipstown Behavioral Health Hub to provide resources to officers, and we reported the board had set aside $8,500 as seed money. Mayor Kathleen Foley clarified that the amount to be allocated has not yet been determined, “as we need to explore options for how this kind of partnership can be properly and lawfully funded and structured.” Finally, while the 2022-23 budget includes $6,500 to buy four police body cameras, the purchase will not occur until at least January, after use policies are in place, Foley said.

Sarah Womer, via Instagram

AN UPDATE TO OUR COMMUNITY

“Our goal has always been to be good, collaborative neighbors and thoughtful, intentional land stewards. To everyone who offered their thoughts and opinions about the project, we are so grateful for your feedback. We heard you. Scaling back our proposal will allow us to prove our commitment over time and assure our neighbors that we are steadfast in our promise to work collaboratively as part of this community.”

DAVIS MCCALLUM, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Last week we announced that we will amend our proposal for our permanent home at The Garrison that is currently under review by the Philipstown Planning Board. The changes include the removal of the proposed indoor theater and 20-room inn, additional greenery and trees to ensure further screening and limit any view of our permanent tensile theater from Route 9, and an adjustment to the placement of the proposed parking lot to eliminate any encroachment into the regulated wetland buffer zone.

The amendments will significantly reduce many aspects of the project several of which are presented in the charts below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Original Proposal</th>
<th>Updated Proposal</th>
<th>% Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gallons Per Day</td>
<td>16,453</td>
<td>13,353</td>
<td>-19%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Square Feet</td>
<td>75,590</td>
<td>45,990</td>
<td>-39%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Max Visitors</td>
<td>1,124</td>
<td>853</td>
<td>-24%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Proposed Buildings (Gross Floor Area)    | Less 29,600 s.f.  |
| Overnight Accommodations                 | Less 20 rooms     |
| Domestic Water Demand                    | Less 3,100 gpd    |
| Sewage Usage                             | Less 3,100 gpd    |
| Number of Theater Seats                 | Less 255 seats    |
| Persons On-site (Theoretical max at one time) | Less 271 persons |
| Performance Season                       | Less 3 months (April, May, December) |
| Maximum Parking Demand                   | Less 116 vehicles |

HVSF Performance Calendar

You can find a comprehensive list of FAQs on our website at hvshakespeare.org/newhome. If you are seeking any additional information or have concerns please do not hesitate to reach out to us at questions@hvshakespeare.org.

QUESTIONS@HVSHAKESPEARE.ORG // HVSHAKESPEARE.ORG/NEWHOME

Advertisement
**UPDATE: Jan. 6 Arrests**

By Chip Rowe

Fifteen months after the attack on the Capitol to disrupt the vote count that certified Joe Biden as president, 777 people face charges that range from trespassing to violent attacks on police officers. In court documents, the federal prosecutors refer to the case as the “Capitol Hill Siege.”

By one estimate, about 140 police officers were injured during the riot. One protester was shot and killed by a Capitol police officer and the assault is believed to have contributed to the deaths of at least three officers.

Five men from Putnam County, two from southern Dutchess and two with ties to Newburgh have been charged. Here is the status of their cases.

**Robert Ballesteros, Mahopac**
- Arrested March 15, 2021
- Pleaded guilty Oct. 28

Ballesteros, 28, posted a video on Instagram of himself inside the Capitol wearing a black mask. When asked online by another Instagram user if he had been inside, Ballesteros said he had “made my stand” and that “some kid told me he tipped off the [FBI] hotline.” He pleaded guilty to “parading, demonstrating or picketing” inside the Capitol, a misdemeanor that has a maximum sentence of six months in prison and a $5,000 fine. He is scheduled to be sentenced on April 30; the defense has asked for 24 months of probation, 60 hours of community service and a $500 fine.

**Robert Chapman, Carmel**
- Arrested April 21
- Pleaded guilty Dec. 16

Chapman, 51, drew the FBI’s attention after a person with whom he interacted through an online dating service alerted agents to a remark and photo posted by someone with that name. In the message, “Robert” wrote that “I did storm the Capitol. I made it all the way into Statuary Hall.” His potential date replied: “We are not a match.” He conceded: “I suppose not.” Like Ballesteros, he pleaded guilty to parading, demonstrating or picketing. His sentencing is scheduled for May 18.

**Edward “Jake” Lang, Newburgh**
- Arrested Jan. 16, 2021
- Remains incarcerated

The FBI said Lang, 26, can be seen in the crowd wearing a green-and-black gas mask and striking officers’ shields with a bat. On Jan. 7, the day after the riot, Lang posted to Twitter, according to the charging documents: “I watched a woman die for the American people.” At a hearing in December, a prosecutor said Lang had turned down a plea deal with a sentence of up to 6½ years. Prosecutors have proposed a trial date in October. On April 5, Lang’s defense filed a motion to dismiss one of the counts, obstruction of an official proceeding, arguing that the law applies only to a proceeding before a tribunal. Further, they argued, “his presence near the Capitol did not directly go after the vote counting.”

**Vuksanaj, 52**, pleaded not guilty to charges of trespassing, disorderly conduct and parading, demonstrating or picketing. An FBI agent said that police had detained Vuksanaj on June 6, 2020, in connection with a robbery at a needlepoint store. He denied being involved but a search warrant revealed that his phone had been at the Capitol on Jan. 6, the FBI said. On Jan. 20, Vuksanaj pleaded guilty to a single count (parading, demonstrating or picketing) as part of a plea agreement. His sentencing is scheduled for April 29, and he faces up to six months in prison.

**The Accused**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cases by County</th>
<th>COUNTY</th>
<th>CASES</th>
<th>PER 100K</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Hutchinson, TX</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>23.68</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Fulton, OH</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>9.46</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Chisago, MN</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>7.15</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Putnam, NY</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5.12</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Greene, MO</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>2.06</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Sussex, DE</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1.74</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Marion, FL</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>1.67</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Cumberland, PA</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1.59</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. Dutchess, NY</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1.35</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. Brevard, FL</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>1.18</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: George Washington University Program on Extremism, as of April 6, with a ranking by The Current of counties with a minimum of 4 cases. The results may reflect arrests of people who traveled to the Capitol together, such as in three of the five Putnam cases.

**The Accused**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cases by County</th>
<th>COUNTY</th>
<th>CASES</th>
<th>PER 100K</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Hutchinson, TX</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>23.68</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Fulton, OH</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>9.46</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Chisago, MN</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>7.15</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Putnam, NY</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5.12</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Greene, MO</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>2.06</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Sussex, DE</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1.74</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Marion, FL</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>1.67</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Cumberland, PA</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1.59</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. Dutchess, NY</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1.35</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. Brevard, FL</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>1.18</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: George Washington University Program on Extremism, as of April 6, with a ranking by The Current of counties with a minimum of 4 cases. The results may reflect arrests of people who traveled to the Capitol together, such as in three of the five Putnam cases.

**Will Pepe of Beacon appears inside the Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021, in a news photo submitted as part of the FBI’s charging documents.**

An image from a video taken on Jan. 6 at the Capitol shows a man identified as Gregory R. Purdy Jr. of Carmel pushing on a barricade erected by police.

Keepers. He was indicted on Jan. 12 on five counts: seditious conspiracy; conspiracy to obstruct an official proceeding; obstruction of an official proceeding; conspiracy to prevent an officer from discharging any duties; and tampering with documents or proceedings. Minuta pleaded not guilty on Jan. 25 and a trial is scheduled for July 11.

**Matthew Purdy, Kent**
- Arrested Nov. 10
- Released on personal recognizance

Gregory Purdy’s younger brother, 22 and also a Carmel High School grad, was indicted on Jan. 14 on four counts, including disorderly conduct and illegal entry. He has pleaded not guilty; a status conference is scheduled for April 29.

**William Vogel, Pawling**
- Arrested Jan. 26, 2021
- Released on personal recognizance

The FBI says Vogel, 27, recorded himself inside the Capitol and posted the video to Snapchat. He pleaded not guilty to unlawful entry, disorderly conduct and violent entry. The government has made a plea offer; his next hearing is May 25.

**Anthony Vuksanaj, Mahopac**
- Arrested Sept. 30
- Released on personal recognizance

Vuksanaj, 32, pleaded not guilty to charges of trespassing, disorderly conduct and parading, demonstrating or picketing. An FBI agent said that police had detained Vuksanaj on June 6, 2020, in connection with a robbery at a needlepoint store. He denied being involved but a search warrant revealed that his phone had been at the Capitol on Jan. 6, the FBI said. On Jan. 20, Vuksanaj pleaded guilty to a single count (parading, demonstrating or picketing) as part of a plea agreement. His sentencing is scheduled for April 29, and he faces up to six months in prison.

By Chip Rowe

Robert Ballesteros, Mahopac
- Arrested March 15, 2021
- Pleaded guilty Oct. 28

Ballesteros, 28, posted a video on Instagram of himself inside the Capitol wearing a black mask. When asked online by another Instagram user if he had been inside, Ballesteros said he had “made my stand” and that “some kid told me he tipped off the [FBI] hotline.” He pleaded guilty to “parading, demonstrating or picketing” inside the Capitol, a misdemeanor that has a maximum sentence of six months in prison and a $5,000 fine. He is scheduled to be sentenced on April 30; the defense has asked for 24 months of probation, 60 hours of community service and a $500 fine.

Robert Chapman, Carmel
- Arrested April 21
- Pleaded guilty Dec. 16

Chapman, 51, drew the FBI’s attention after a person with whom he interacted through an online dating service alerted agents to a remark and photo posted by someone with that name. In the message, “Robert” wrote that “I did storm the Capitol. I made it all the way into Statuary Hall.” His potential date replied: “We are not a match.” He conceded: “I suppose not.” Like Ballesteros, he pleaded guilty to parading, demonstrating or picketing. His sentencing is scheduled for May 18.

Edward “Jake” Lang, Newburgh
- Arrested Jan. 16, 2021
- Remains incarcerated

The FBI said Lang, 26, can be seen in the crowd wearing a green-and-black gas mask and striking officers’ shields with a bat. On Jan. 7, the day after the riot, Lang posted to Twitter, according to the charging documents: “I watched a woman die for the American people.” At a hearing in December, a prosecutor said Lang had turned down a plea deal with a sentence of up to 6½ years. Prosecutors have proposed a trial date in October. On April 5, Lang’s defense filed a motion to dismiss one of the counts, obstruction of an official proceeding, arguing that the law applies only to a proceeding before a tribunal. Further, they argued, “his presence near the Capitol did not directly go after the vote counting.”

**Vuksanaj, 52**, pleaded not guilty to charges of trespassing, disorderly conduct and parading, demonstrating or picketing. An FBI agent said that police had detained Vuksanaj on June 6, 2020, in connection with a robbery at a needlepoint store. He denied being involved but a search warrant revealed that his phone had been at the Capitol on Jan. 6, the FBI said. On Jan. 20, Vuksanaj pleaded guilty to a single count (parading, demonstrating or picketing) as part of a plea agreement. His sentencing is scheduled for April 29, and he faces up to six months in prison.
Beacon School Board  
**(From Page 1)**

In addition, district voters will be asked to approve the school system's 2022-23 budget. District officials have proposed a $78.7 million budget, a 2.7 percent increase over last year, but state aid, which has not been finalized, could impact the numbers. Deputy Superintendent Ann Marie Quartironi told the school board on Monday (April 4).

The district is working with a placeholder figure of about $30.3 million from the state — close to what it received last year. However, “the governor’s proposal did have an increase in foundation aid and, looking at the Senate and Assembly projections, it looks like they are going to further increase state aid,” Quartironi said. The state budget is typically adopted by April 1 but has been delayed.

The state’s tax cap, combined with an additional allowance based on residential growth, means that the Beacon district can increase its tax levy by $1.7 million, or 3.87 percent. Last year’s levy was $42.6 million.

Quartironi said on Monday that she could not estimate the property tax impact on residents until the state numbers are finalized. The use of district reserves is expected to increase by $550,000, to $3 million, also depending on state funding.

If approved, the budget will provide a new full-time pre-K staff person, which would allow the district to serve 72 pre-K students with a full-day program at each of its four elementary schools. A district-wide full-day program started this year but, although it serves about the same number of students, is housed exclusively at Glenham Elementary. The district would also add a business teacher, a special education teacher focused on math and an English teacher at Beacon High School; an elementary/middle response-to-intervention coordinator, who will work with administrators to support teachers and students; and an elementary-level social/emotional coordinator — are being added and paid for with federal pandemic funding and will be re-evaluated after a year.

The May ballot will also include a $545,124 bus proposition that, if approved, would allow the district to buy three 72-passenger buses and three 20-passenger vans. The purchases would be financed over five years to coincide with state aid payments.

The school board will vote on the budget proposal during its April 21 meeting before putting the plan to voters.

**School Buses (from Page 1)**

Council members considered a request by the BusPatrol company, which uses stop-arm cameras and other technologies to track violations, to start up a program in the district. They voted unanimously to request a full report.

Legislator Montgomery described the company’s efforts to reduce traffic violations at school zones as “a win-win for everybody.”

**COVID-19 BY THE NUMBERS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COUNTY</th>
<th>Number of cases:</th>
<th>Tests administered:</th>
<th>Cases per 100K, 7-day average:</th>
<th>Percent vaccinated:</th>
<th>Number of deaths:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PUTNAM</td>
<td>23,687 (+137)</td>
<td>423,290 (+3,044)</td>
<td>19.8 (+7.4)</td>
<td>82.4 (Cold Spring: 93.5)</td>
<td>121 (0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DUTCHESS</td>
<td>64,040 (+295)</td>
<td>1,313,099 (+8,632)</td>
<td>12.4 (+4.8)</td>
<td>76.9 (Beacon: 86.1)</td>
<td>655 (0)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: State and county health departments, as of April 5, with change over the previous week in parentheses. Percent vaccinated reflects those ages 5 and older who have received at least one dose.

**THE NUMBERS**

Number of cases: 23,687 (+137)  
Tests administered: 423,290 (+3,044)  
Cases per 100K, 7-day average: 19.8 (+7.4)  
Percent vaccinated: 82.4 (Cold Spring: 93.5)  
Number of deaths: 121 (0)

Number of cases: 64,040 (+295)  
Tests administered: 1,313,099 (+8,632)  
Cases per 100K, 7-day average: 12.4 (+4.8)  
Percent vaccinated: 76.9 (Beacon: 86.1)  
Number of deaths: 655 (0)

---

**SOLD**

- **20 Forest Farm**  
  $3,500,000

- **3 Forge Gate Drive**  
  $230,000

---

**Putnam County Sheriff Kevin McConville** told the Protective Services Committee that “we support this effort 100 percent.”

Legislators were equally enthusiastic.

“Those are tight roads in the county up here. It just makes no sense to pass a school bus that has a stop sign, flashing lights, etc.,” said Legislator Joseph Castellano of Montgomery, the Legislature’s sole Democrat. “We should have community input,” as well, when changing the charter, she said, before casting the lone “no” vote on a routine charter revision involving the finance commissioner’s office.

- Legislators unanimously approved the Putnam Arts Council’s choice of 13 grant recipients, including the Boscobel House and Gardens in Garrison ($1,300 for “artist days”); Chapel Restoration in Cold Spring ($1,000 for its Sunday afternoon music series); Garrison Landing Association ($800 for the Aery Theater Co. one-act play competition); and Butterfield Library in Cold Spring ($800 for its writers reading program).
Garrison School Board Endorses 10 Percent Hike

Voters must decide whether to override cap
By Joey Asher

The Garrison school board on Wednesday (April 6) unanimously adopted a proposed budget that includes a 10 percent tax increase, well above the state-mandated cap of 2.2 percent. The 2021-22 budget, which was below the cap, was approved in May by a 185-61 vote.

The board adopted the budget by a vote of 6-0. Madalyn Julian, the sole trustee not present at the meeting, expressed support for the budget in a message read by Board President Sarah Tormey.

“There is no magic pill that will save the situation and prevent us from making tough choices,” said Trustee Kent Schacht. “Without this override, we’re going to have tough choices,” said Trustee Kent Schacht.

Superintendent Carl Albano said the district needs the increase to fund $12.36 million in spending for 2022-23, an increase of 6 percent from this year. The 2021-22 budget, which was below the cap, was approved in May by a 185-61 vote.

The board adopted the budget by a vote of 6-0. Madalyn Julian, the sole trustee not present at the meeting, expressed support for the budget in a message read by Board President Sarah Tormey.

“There is no magic pill that will save the situation and prevent us from making tough choices,“ said Trustee Kent Schacht.

“Without this override, we’re going to have to fundamentally change the educational experience of the school.”

“The stakes are high.” Albano told the board and about 50 members of the public who attended the meeting in the school gym.

Without the increase, Albano said, the district — which has 211 students from kindergarten through eighth grade and projects the same for next year — will need to cut programs and possibly limit the choice of high schools for its eighth grade students. Garrison pays tuition to Haldane in Cold Spring or O’Neill in Highland Falls. It has 59 high school students this year and projects that will grow to 87 by 2024-25.

If the override fails on May 17, the board can submit the same or a revised version of the budget for voter approval on June 21. The district could also adopt a contingency budget with no tax increase. Joe Jimick, the district business administrator, said a contingency budget would require $1 million in cuts to avoid depleting the district’s reserves.

About 10 members of the public spoke at the meeting, most expressing support for the override.

“Without this override, our kids, our community, our school will suffer,” said Ned Rauch, president of the Garrison School PTA. Amy Kuchara, president of the Garrison Teachers Association, also spoke in support.

The lone dissenter heard at the meeting was former Putnam County Legislator Barbara Scuccimarra, who urged the board to consider a 5 percent increase.

“My concern is for the seniors in this community that want to stay in their homes and who are on a fixed income,” she said.

Even if the district raised taxes to the 2.2 percent cap, there would be a $1.3 million gap under the proposed budget, said Jimick. About 42 percent of the spending is driven by increases largely outside of district control, he said, such as health insurance, transportation and the tuition paid for its high school students, which Haldane has raised over the past two years to a state-determined maximum (expected to be about $21,500 per student in 2022-23), rather than a negotiated rate in which the district charged $13,980 per student in 2020-21. O’Neill also will charge its full rate, about $17,000.

The Garrison property tax rate is $9.75 per $1,000 of assessed value, which means that a property valued at $500,000 pays $4,875. If the district stays at the 2.2 percent cap, that rate would rise to $9.96 per $1,000, or $4,980.

If approved by the voters, the budget would require a rate of $10.72 per $1,000, or $5,360.

Another factor that has impacted the budget is a proposed change to the formula used to determine state aid that would cost Garrison nearly $100,000, or provide 9.58 percent less than it received this year, because it’s a relatively wealthy community that is not considered “high need,” Jimick said.

By contrast, the median increase in aid to districts in Westchester and Putnam is expected to be 17 percent, including 11 percent at Haldane and 18 percent in Putnam Valley.
COVID Funds (from Page 1)

Dutchess County’s largest ARP-funded project, according to a report released by Comptroller Robin Lois, a Democrat, on March 31. Dutchess received its first installment of ARP funding, $28.6 million, on May 24. The second installment, for the same amount, is expected next month.

Congress imposed two limits on ARP spending: It cannot be used to contribute to pension funds or to cut taxes. The U.S. Treasury also issued guidelines for local governments on acceptable uses, which include:

- To respond to the pandemic or its economic impacts, including small businesses and nonprofits, or to provide aid to impacted industries such as tourism, travel and hospitality;
- To provide extra pay to workers who performed essential work during the pandemic;
- To pay for government services that had a reduction in revenue because of the pandemic; and
- To invest in water, sewer or broadband infrastructure.

“Large capital expenditures intended for general economic development or to aid the travel, tourism and hospitality industries — such as convention centers and stadiums — are, on balance, generally not reasonably proportional to addressing the negative economic impacts of the pandemic,” the Treasury said.

As of Dec. 31, Dutchess had budgeted $34 million of the funds and spent or allocated $8.5 million, according to the comptroller’s report.

“Investment in water, sewer and broadband infrastructure is surprisingly low at $1.7 million, particularly compared to the stadium spending,” noted Lois.

YOUTH

Learn, Play, Create — $3 million
Nine rounds of grants in 2021 went to nonprofits that work with children and teens, including the Beacon Performing Arts Center ($15K), Beacon Soccer Club ($20K), Howland Public Library ($50K) and I Am Beacon ($20K).

Summer Employment Program — $100,000
This outlay offers funding for nonprofits, such as the Poughkeepsie Farm Project, the Art Effect of the Hudson Valley and Hudson River Housing, to hire underserved teens.

Youth Opportunity Center — $10 million
These funds cover about 40 percent of the cost of a new $25 million center in Poughkeepsie.

PARKS

Stadium Additions — $11.6 million
Along with a $900,000 state grant, this money will fund an $8.4 million clubhouse; $2.9 million club space and bullpen relocation; $225,000 for a sign near I-84; and a $975,000 pitching/batting facility for the Hudson Valley Renegades, who are affiliated with the New York Yankees. A 25-year lease agreement signed in June allowed the Renegades to back out if the Legislature did not provide $12.5 million for stadium improvements.

Land Purchase — $630,000
This money will be used to purchase the land beneath Dutchess Stadium from Beacon school district.

Parks Projects — $5 million
This money will pay for more free amenities, such as splash pads, playgrounds and walking and biking trails.

JOBS, INFRASTRUCTURE, PUBLIC SAFETY

Emergency Communications System — $6 million
This money will fund the development, installation and deployment of a two-way radio system that will provide “a coordinated platform” for emergency services, according to Molinaro.

Micro-Marketing Program — $284,250
These funds will provide aid to 46 small businesses that are mostly owned by disadvantaged and underserved populations such as women, minorities and veterans.

Build Now-NY — $350,000
This money will be used to provide “shovel-ready certification” for high-tech manufacturing, warehouse/distribution and business and technology parks near the Hudson Valley Regional Airport in the Town of Wappinger.

Leisure and Hospitality Skills Training — $150,000
These funds will be used by Dutchess Tourism and New York State Technology to train displaced workers.

Skills Training Facility — $1.2 million
This money will fund a 10,000-square-foot regional center at the southern Dutchess Community College campus in Fishkill.

High-Speed Internet/Broadband — $1 million
This money will be used to hire a consultant to conduct a survey and gap analysis ($350,000) and address the most critical needs it identifies ($650,000).

Water Storage — $730,000
This money will help pay for a facility for the Central Dutchess Transmission Line, Dutchess County Airport Water Line and Hudson Valley Regional Airport, and “extend the availability of potable water to more communities,” according to Molinaro.

COMMUNITY

Agency Partner Grants — $3 million
These funds will be distributed to nonprofits to provide “programs and services to residents who are most in need as a result of the pandemic,” according to Molinaro.

Homeless Housing & Case Management — $6.07 million
This money will be used to purchase and rehab a Poughkeepsie building to provide emergency housing.

Municipal Investment Grants — $1 million
This money will fund projects in the towns of Beekman, Dover, East Fishkill, Hyde Park, Milan, Pine Plains and Poughkeepsie and the Village of Millerton.

Behavioral Health RV — $150,000
This money will help fund a mobile unit to provide health and behavioral health services.

Rehiring Public Sector — $4.8 million
These funds will pay the salaries and benefits of employees hired over the next three years to replace those who left during pandemic budget cuts such as through early retirement offers. Ninety-six positions were kept vacant in the 2021 county budget.

Premium Pay — $1.73 million
These funds will provide pay of up to $13 per hour to a maximum of $1,000 to county employees for essential work during the pandemic.

Administration — $500,000
These funds will cover the work of employees to distribute and monitor ARP funding.


$57.1 MILLION
sent to Dutchess

Sara Mikulsky
Wellness Physical Therapy
18 W. MAIN ST., BEACON NY INSIDE BEACON PILATES
www.saramikulsky.com
sara@saramikulsky.com
845-219-5210
The accident occurred at about 3:31 p.m. The driver, who passed a field sobriety test, was issued a ticket for failure to yield the right of way to a pedestrian, police said. The notice of claim indicates that unless the family receives “adjustment and payment,” it plans to sue “for conscious pain and suffering”; medical, hospital and funeral expenses; emotional trauma; and “loss of love, comfort and companionship.”

Chris White, Beacon’s city administrator, said on Thursday (April 7) that he could not comment on pending litigation.

Notes from the Cold Spring Village Board

Village to ask Metro-North to keep Breakneck platform closed

By Michael Turton

With the hiking season about to begin in earnest, the Village of Cold Spring said it plans to ask Metro-North to keep its stop at Breakneck Ridge closed.

Deputy Mayor Tweeps Woods, who chaired the Wednesday (April 6) meeting in Mayor Kathleen Foley’s absence, cited the amount of time that first responders spend rescuing injured and stranded hikers from Breakneck’s trails.

Woods said the request, which is also being made by the Town of Philipstown, will help bring to light safety issues at Breakneck, prompting further discussion with state officials.

Trustee Eliza Starbuck agreed that Breakneck rescues put “a crazy burden on our emergency service providers” but cautioned that with the Breakneck platform closed, hikers will walk there from Cold Spring up Route 9D, a situation she said is also unsafe.

Woods said she supports keeping the platform closed “until the Fjord Trail is at least partially up and running.” Trustees Joe Curto and Cathryn Fadde also expressed support for asking Metro-North not to reopen the platform.

The village has asked the Fjord Trail organization to provide an update to its plans at a public meeting at the firehouse in May. No date has been set.

In other business …

A public hearing on the proposed 2022-23 budget is scheduled for Wednesday (April 13) at 7 p.m. via Zoom. After adjustments made over the last week, the estimated increase in the tax rate has fallen to 1.95 percent, from 2.16 percent. The final rate will be determined later this month after Putnam County updates the tax assessment rolls. No changes were made to the proposed water and sewer budgets, which are funded through usage fees.

Curto suggested that, with the public restrooms near the pedestrian tunnel opening within days, the village discuss with the Chamber of Commerce long-term options for cleaning and heating the facility.

The removal of mold in the basement of the Cold Spring firehouse has been completed.

Village officials met with Metro-North representatives to discuss options for fixing persistent water leakage in the walls of the pedestrian tunnel under the tracks.

Lawsuit (from Page 1)

According to police reports, Giuffrida, 75, was struck in the center of the crosswalk by a vehicle turning south onto Teller from Main Street. She suffered a head injury and died that night at Westchester Medical Center in Valhalla.

The driver of the 2019 Jeep Wrangler that struck Giuffrida, whom police have not identified, told an officer that Giuffrida was not visible “due to a blind spot from the front left ‘A’ pillar of the Jeep’s frame” and sun glare.

The accident occurred at about 3:11 p.m. The driver, who passed a field sobriety test, was issued a ticket for failure to yield the right of way to a pedestrian, police said. The notice of claim indicates that unless the family receives “adjustment and payment,” it plans to sue “for conscious pain and suffering”; medical, hospital and funeral expenses; emotional trauma; and “loss of love, comfort and companionship.”

Chris White, Beacon’s city administrator, said on Thursday (April 7) that he could not comment on pending litigation.

BODY FOUND AT DOCKSIDE — A man’s body was found on the riverbank at Dockside Park in Cold Spring on Monday (April 4). As of Thursday, the Putnam County Sheriff’s Department had not released any further information.

Photo by Michael Turton

10 APRIL 8, 2022
THE HIGHLANDS CURRENT
highlandscurrent.org

VILLAGE TO ASK METRO-NORTH TO KEEP BREAKNECK PLATFORM CLOSED

By Michael Turton

With the hiking season about to begin in earnest, the Village of Cold Spring said it plans to ask Metro-North to keep its stop at Breakneck Ridge closed.

Deputy Mayor Tweeps Woods, who chaired the Wednesday (April 6) meeting in Mayor Kathleen Foley’s absence, cited the amount of time that first responders spend rescuing injured and stranded hikers from Breakneck’s trails.

Woods said the request, which is also being made by the Town of Philipstown, will help bring to light safety issues at Breakneck, prompting further discussion with state officials.

Trustee Eliza Starbuck agreed that Breakneck rescues put “a crazy burden on our emergency service providers” but cautioned that with the Breakneck platform closed, hikers will walk there from Cold Spring up Route 9D, a situation she said is also unsafe.

Woods said she supports keeping the platform closed “until the Fjord Trail is at least partially up and running.” Trustees Joe Curto and Cathryn Fadde also expressed support for asking Metro-North not to reopen the platform.

The village has asked the Fjord Trail organization to provide an update to its plans at a public meeting at the firehouse in May. No date has been set.

In other business …

A public hearing on the proposed 2022-23 budget is scheduled for Wednesday (April 13) at 7 p.m. via Zoom. After adjustments made over the last week, the estimated increase in the tax rate has fallen to 1.95 percent, from 2.16 percent. The final rate will be determined later this month after Putnam County updates the tax assessment rolls. No changes were made to the proposed water and sewer budgets, which are funded through usage fees.

Curto suggested that, with the public restrooms near the pedestrian tunnel opening within days, the village discuss with the Chamber of Commerce long-term options for cleaning and heating the facility.

The removal of mold in the basement of the Cold Spring firehouse has been completed.

Village officials met with Metro-North representatives to discuss options for fixing persistent water leakage in the walls of the pedestrian tunnel under the tracks.

Notes from the Cold Spring Village Board
Falling Into Space

Garrison artist mounts online show

By Alison Rooney

When Dirk Westphal headed to a public pool on a clear day in Freiburg, Germany, his family in tow, he had no idea that the excursion would inspire art.


Westphal, who lives and works in Garrison, says the series, completed in 2021, pays homage to the late conceptual artist John Baldessari, who was among Westphal’s teachers at the California Institute of the Arts in Santa Clarita. The images themselves, taken with a mobile phone, are a tribute to one of Baldessari’s best-known series, *Throwing Three Balls in the Air to Get a Straight Line (Best of Thirty-Six Attempts)*, from 1973.

Westphal emphasizes his affinity for vivid color and concept, both of which have been central to his work. He says they also reflect the joyful anarchy he experienced at the pool.

“I had no idea what I was in for — just going for a swim was exciting for us,” he recalls of the visit. “The diving board was completely unsupervised, with people jumping off in groups, having so much fun doing outrageous and dangerous behavior. It became a high point of the vacation. Looking at the images I took, later, I began to associate them with Southern California — there was something about that blue sky.”

The sky framing the swimmers reminded Westphal of *Throwing Three Balls*, but he sensed there was more he could do. He decided to add “office dots” to the prints and photograph them, “throwing the viewer off-balance, further disorienting them and initiating a form of collaboration between the people, the balls and the sky.” It all fit squarely into a lineage of pattern and color focus, particularly after he rearranged the images.

As Westphal puts it, his work is most often a “playful exploration of the visually incongruous. What I primarily do in photography is come to terms with what’s happening, using different approaches to understanding. I had pretty fancy training in theory — Cal Arts has a reputation for that. I read and read all these ideas about art-making, but found there wasn’t much time to make art. I was intimidated, but found it to be an interesting place with wild stuff happening all over.”

After moving to New York City, Westphal became interested in performance art. “I lived on the corner of Broome and Center streets, big wide streets, old thoroughfares with tons of honking,” he says. “I knew I couldn’t win that fight, so I thought, ‘Maybe it’s time to embrace the noise.’ I made a symphony out of the honking and shot video. I also had a show in a mini-storage space with art made from stuff I found on the street, so they dovetailed.”

Another project came from drugstore observations.

“Td stare at bottles and containers of mouthwash and tubes of toothpaste and think about the many meanings of, say, the color of toothpaste, how it’s designed to be put in the mouth, then spat out,” he says. “I love the idea of people out there trying to make things tempting for us, down to the names of nail polish. I started collecting them, finding them really photogenic.”

“I decided to ‘redo’ Mondrian’s paintings,” he says. “I collected many [nail-polish] colors, poured them out, used a ruler, cut them into strips and rearranged them in Mondrian’s shapes, proportions, colors. I was pointedly looking for shiny, fake things and recontextualizing; it’s a mission I’m still exploring.

“I get a lot of ‘Hmmm, your work is so interesting now that I’ve spoken to you,’” he says. “I’m OK with that. A friend planted a seed in my head. The artist should stand in front of his or her work and be able to talk to people, defend the work. Put yourself in front: It’s me, my work, I’m comfortable with it. You will learn stuff about how people perceive what you’re doing.”
If a portrait can commemorate a human life, how are other species presented? Not just documented, but honored? Photographer Daniel Kariko examines that concept with his series of photographs, Suburban Symbiosis, some of which will be shown at the Garage Gallery in Beacon as part of a show called Original Species that begins with a reception from 4 to 7 p.m. on Saturday (April 9).

Through a process of his own invention that involves two microscopes, Kariko captures insects and other arthropods—the kind that land on windshields or get dusted off shelves. In a nod to northern European Baroque painters, he then creates portraits that reflect his “fascination with how people think of nature as a collection.”

Kariko, a professor of fine art photography at the School of Arts and Design at East Carolina University, works largely in exploring connections between human relationships and the environment.

Some of his other projects—he usually works on several long-term studies concurrently—include surveying and documenting damage from Hurricane Ida, and, less broadly, photographing his family in Serbia, whom he left in 1994 at age 17. He was living in Thibodaux, Louisiana, while on a student exchange program and decided he wanted to stay in the U.S.

After enrolling at Nicholls State University in Louisiana, he shifted his focus from mechanical drafting to photography. A microscope demonstration during an open house at the biology lab piqued his interest. “I immediately thought about how I could use them for art,” he says.

Once exposed to the idea of an unseen world, he became more attuned to the insects around his house. Rather than swatting them away, he collected them and began photographing them using two microscopes: one that includes a scanning electron, which could pinpoint minute details in black and white, and a...
more-traditional one that he uses for color and a laborious process of layering, often running 20 hours to complete a portrait and using multiple exposures.

“I was trained to use the microscope, then I sort of invented the process,” he says. “I wanted to make individual, anthropomorphized creatures full of character.”

“The intent was to demonstrate that we are not living in these hermetically sealed boxes,” he has said. “These creatures are a reflection of the landscape we are occupying as humans. We think of them in terms of eliminating the threat of them, these bugs. We as humans have plopped our homes on the lands that have existed before us. We are the ones who are new to their environment.”

Kariko’s project, which began in 2011, wound up taking eight years. He made about 35 portraits, received a book contract, made about 45 more, and then 56 were included in Aliens Among Us: Extraordinary Portraits of Ordinary Bugs, which was published in 2020.

“I tend to do things the hard way,” Kariko says. “For most scientists, spending 25 hours on a single image is ludicrous, but as artists, we’re happy to do this. But not many artists have access to that sort of equipment.”

While making his portraits and speaking with entomologists, he says, “it became painfully obvious that a lot of insects are undergoing extinction. It’s a silent disappearance. These insects are extremely important in our existence, not just as pollinators but because they get rid of bad things. That’s something that I’m trying to put out.”

Garage Gallery is located at 11 North Elm St., in Beacon. Original Species, which also includes paintings by Laura Gurton, runs through May 1. See garagegallery.com.
THE WEEK AHEAD
Edited by Pamela Doan (calendar@highlandscurrent.org)
For a complete listing of events, see highlandscurrent.org/calendar.

TALKS & TOURS
MON 11
Building a $100M Business with Instagram
POUGHKEEPSIE
6 p.m. Happy Valley | 296 Main St.
hudsonvalleywomeninbusiness.com/events

In this workshop sponsored by Hudson Valley Women in Business, Megan Brenn-White, who built a real-estate business on the social media site, will discuss how to maximize trends while being yourself online. Cost: $15

TUES 12
Veterans Financial Health
COLD SPRING
6 p.m. The Garrison Library
tompkinscorners.org

A financial literacy workshop will be offered with norm, a certified public accountant. RSVP required. Free

TUES 12
Discussion for Men Living With Loss
YORKTOWN
7 p.m. Via Zoom | supportconnection.org

Support Connection will facilitate this meeting for men who have lost spouses or partners to breast, ovarian or gynecological cancer. Register by calling 914-962-6402.

COMMUNITY
SAT 9
Garden Restoration
GARRISON
10 a.m. – 3 p.m. New Leaf Routes 9D and 403

Help prepare the community garden for the 2022 season, which begins SAT 23. RSVP to info@newleaf-restoration.org.

SAT 9
Highland Lights
GARRISON
11 a.m. & 2 p.m. The Garrison 2015 Route 9 | highlandlights.org

Staff from the Processional Arts Workshop will lead sessions to create and build lanterns for a community celebration of light on SUN 17. Also SUN 10. Registration, masks and proof of vaccination required.

VISUAL ARTS
SAT 10
The Politics of Labor in Postwar Italian Art
PHILIPSTOWN
3 p.m. Magazzino Italian Art 2700 Route 9 | 845-666-7202

Adrian Duran, an art history professor at the University of Nebraska, will discuss the work of eight Italian artists while exploring the decade before the emergence of Arte Provera. Free

SAT 10
Love as Substance
BEACON
4 – 7 p.m. Fridman Gallery 475 Main St. | fridmangallery.com

This exhibition of Hana Yilma Godine’s paintings created during her gallery residency will be on view through May 31.

SAT 10
Dare to Be Square
NEWBURGH
5 – 7 p.m. Holland Tunnel 46 Chambers St. | hollandtunnelgallery.com

Works by Shari Diamond, Norm Magnusson, Kathleen Vance and Tamara Rafkin will be on exhibit.

On SUN 10, the artists from The Narrative of Things will present a talk at 3 p.m. to close their exhibit.

KIDS & FAMILY
SAT 9
Grasshopper Grove
CORNWALL
10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Outdoor Discovery Center 120 Muser Drive 845-534-5506 x204 | hhnm.org

The outdoor natural play space, which encourages interaction with the elements, kicks off its 2022 season. Cost: $5 (members and ages 2 and younger free)

SAT 9
Saturday Studio on the Farm
WAPPINGERS FALLS
10:30 a.m. Common Ground Farm 79 Farmstead Lane disart.org/program/calendar

This outdoor workshop of art-making and exploration is offered in partnership with Dia:Beacon for ages 5 and older. Registration required. Free

SAT 9
Easter Egg Hunt
COLD SPRING
11 a.m. Tots Park

Children ages 8 and younger can search for eggs at this event organized by the Knights of Columbus. Bring a can of food for the Philipstown Food Pantry. The rain date is SAT 16.

SAT 9
Spring Egg Hunt
COLD SPRING
2 p.m. Butterfield Library 10 Morris Ave. | 845-265-3040

This outdoor workshop of art-making and exploration is offered in partnership with Dia:Beacon for ages 5 and older. Registration required. The rain date is SUN 10. Cost: $20

SAT 9
Easter Card Craft
COLD SPRING
2 p.m. Common Ground Farm 79 Farmstead Lane disart.org/program/calendar

Children ages 8 and younger can search for eggs at this event organized by the Knights of Columbus. Bring a can of food for the Philipstown Food Pantry. The rain date is SAT 16.

SAT 9
Spring Egg Hunt
COLD SPRING
2 p.m. Butterfield Library 10 Morris Ave. | 845-265-3040

This outdoor workshop of art-making and exploration is offered in partnership with Dia:Beacon for ages 5 and older. Registration required. The rain date is SUN 10. Cost: $20

SAT 9
Poet’s Corner
PUTNAM VALLEY
8 p.m. Howland Cultural Center 477 Main St. | 845-831-4988

Michael Steffen will read from his collection, Blood Narrative, followed by an open mic.

SECOND SATURDAY
SAT 9
Sawdust Body / The Zoo
BEACON
1 – 7 p.m. Garage Gallery 17 Church St. | garagegallery.com

This exhibition of sculptures made by Aleksandr Razin using industrial found materials will be on view through May 22.

SAT 9
Original Species
BEACON
1 – 7 p.m. Garage Gallery 17 Church St. | garagegallery.com

Photographs by Daniel Kariko and paintings by Laura Gurton will be on display. See Page 12.

SUN 10
Easter Card Craft
COLD SPRING
3:30 p.m. Butterfield Library 10 Morris Ave. | 845-265-3040

All the materials will be available to create a greeting at this all-ages workshop.

STAGE & SCREEN
SAT 9
Ariane Original One-Act Festival
GARRISON
7:30 p.m. Philipstown Depot Theatre 10 Garrison’s Landing | 845-424-3900

The program for the 10th annual festival will include Double Date, by Albi Gorn; Ode to Flannery, by Evelyn Mertens; In This Waterfront, by Nick DeSimone; The Patronizers, by Patrick Lennon; and Coaching Mozart, by Richard Knipe Jr. Also SUN 10. Cost: $20

SAT 9
Comedy Variety Show
BEACON
8 p.m. Howland Cultural Center 477 Main St. | 845-831-4988

Joy Dardano, an actor, comedian and TikTok star, will be the featured performer. Cost: $20

WED 13
Easter Card Craft
COLD SPRING
3:30 p.m. Butterfield Library 10 Morris Ave. | 845-265-3040

All the materials will be available to create a greeting at this all-ages workshop.

SAT 9
Original Species
BEACON
1 – 7 p.m. Garage Gallery 17 Church St. | garagegallery.com

Photographs by Daniel Kariko and paintings by Laura Gurton will be on display. See Page 12.
Cowgirls: Contemporary Portraits of the American West
BEACON
3 p.m. The Lofts at Beacon
18 Front St. | 845-202-7211 loftsofbeacon.com
Ronnie Farley, who photographed women who work as ranchers or on the rodeo circuit, will speak before a reception from 4 to 6 p.m.

The Transylvania Effect
BEACON
4 – 6 p.m. Bannerman Island Gallery
150 Main St. | 845-831-6346 bannermancastle.org
K.P. Devlin’s surrealist paintings of moonlit scenes will be on view through May 29.

Farm to Table
BEACON
1 – 5 p.m. Howland Cultural Center
477 Main St. | 845-831-4988 howlandculturalcenter.org
Karen Gersch curated this exhibit of work by 22 artists on “the bounty of Beacon and beyond.”

Sawyer Fredericks Band
BEACON
8 p.m. Rowan Crier | 379 Main St.
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com
Singer and songwriter Rob Cannillo will perform music from its forthcoming album. Singer and songwriter Rob Cannillo will open.

Johnny Dowd
BEACON
9 p.m. Quinns’ | 330 Main St.
facebook.com/quinnsbeacon
Tom Gogola’s Midnight Cilantro will open.

Benefit for Ukraine
BEACON
6:30 p.m. Reserva Wine Bar
173 Main St. | reservabeacon.com
Hosted by Jen Malenke and Nicole Tori, this concert will include Broadway singers, international musicians and other local acts. Proceeds will benefit Razom for Ukraine.

Daisy Jopling Band
BEACON
8 p.m. Towne Crier | 379 Main St.
845-855-1300 | townecrier.com
The soul-rock band will play music from its forthcoming album. Singer and songwriter Rob Cannillo will open. Cost: $20 ($25 door)

Jason Gisser Band
BEACON
9 p.m. Two Way Brewing Co.
18 W. Main St. | twowaybrewing.com
The slide guitar player and singer will share the stage with Beach on harmonica as they go through blues to “swampy” rock ‘n’ roll. Cost: $20 ($25 door)

Art Thief
BEACON
9 p.m. Quinns’ | 330 Main St.
facebook.com/quinnsbeacon
The soul-folk singer and songwriter will perform.

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

Dutchess Legislature
POUGHKEEPSIE
7 p.m. Legislative Chambers
22 Market St. | 845-486-2100 dutchessny.gov
Residents may comment on the proposed 2022-23 budget.

EASTER SERVICES
SUN 17
St. Philip’s Episcopal
GARRISON
8:30 a.m. & 10 a.m. | 1101 Route 9D
stphilipshighlands.org
An egg hunt will follow at 11:15 a.m.

Our Lady of Loretto
COLD SPRING
8:30 a.m. & Noon. | 24 Fair St.
845-265-3718 | ladyofloretto.org
An egg hunt will follow Mass.

First Presbyterian
BEACON
10 a.m. | 50 Liberty St.
beaconpresbychurch.org

St. Andrew & St. Luke Episcopal
COLD SPRING
10 a.m. | 50 South Ave.
beacon-episcopal.org

St. Mary’s Episcopal
COLD SPRING
10 a.m. | 1 Chestnut St.
845-265-2539 | stmaryscoldspring.org
An egg hunt will follow Mass.

Tabernacle of Christ
BEACON
8 a.m. | 1483 Main St.
845-465-4656

First Presbyterian of Philipstown
COLD SPRING
10:30 a.m. | 10 Academy St.
845-265-3220
presslychurchcoldspring.org

Highlands Choral Society
COLD SPRING
11 a.m. | 216 Main St.
highlandscoral.org

CIVIC
MON 11
City Council
BEACON
7 p.m. City Hall
1 Municipal Plaza | 845-838-5011 beaconny.gov

Dutchess Legislature
POUGHKEEPSIE
7 p.m. Legislative Chambers
22 Market St. | 845-486-2100 dutchessny.gov
Residents may comment on the proposed 2022-23 budget.
Living Green

The Big Waste Problem

By Krystal Ford

W hen you clean out your fridge, you may notice leftovers gone fuzzy, or expired yogurt, or decaying fruit in the produce drawer. You may even feel guilty, as I do, about throwing it away.

We all know how precious food is, even just subconsciously, but we may not realize how much we are wasting and how bad it is for the environment. By one estimate, nearly 40 percent of food produced in the U.S. is wasted, enough to feed more than 150 million people each year.

A huge amount of land and water goes into growing our food. Fossil fuels power the tractors and chemicals used to grow it, transport it, process it, package it, warehouse it and get it to the supermarkets. Our food system is energy-intensive and, according to a 2021 report by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, produces the same carbon dioxide emissions as 42 coal-fired power plants, contributing to global warming.

The EPA estimates that food waste makes up about 20 percent of municipal solid waste. The food that we toss into the trash is buried or incinerated. Burying food contributes to the creation in landfills of methane, a potent greenhouse gas that contributes to climate change. Burning it contributes to air pollution.

Obviously, we need to stop wasting food. Growing your own food or shopping from local farms and businesses can reduce the emissions produced by trucking it over distances. Restaurants can offer smaller or half-portion sizes, and both grocery stores and restaurants can donate to hunger-relief organizations so that they can feed people in need.

Keep a list of the food you have on hand. Make a meal plan to minimize food waste and bring your shopping list with you when you buy groceries. Label and date items in the fridge. Freeze leftovers, food that you may not be able to use up in time, or bumper crops from your garden (just try to label with date and contents so you remember what it is). Experiment with scraps. Save your bones to make broth. Use kale stems to make kale stem pesto. SavetheFood.com is a great resource with tips on planning, recipes and storage.

Once you’ve prevented as much waste as possible, what’s left can be composted at home, used as animal feed (chickens can be fed some table scraps) or sent to a recycling program for composting at a commercial facility.

The benefit of turning food scraps into compost is that it won’t produce methane and is a wonderful soil amendment. Not only does compost help plants grow, prevent soil erosion, reduce watering frequency and the need for chemical fertilizers, it can sequester carbon, as well.

Here’s some great news: Beacon and Philipstown both plan to launch pilot food-scrap recycling programs.

“We’re taking away any barriers to composting — the cost of a bin, not knowing how to get started, not having your own yard.” Faye Leone, the Climate Smart program coordinator for Beacon, told me. “People are enthusiastic about doing this as part of a collective. And once you start recycling your food scraps, you’ll never see them as trash again.”

Email questions to compost@beaconny.gov or visit bit.ly/beacon-sustainability. Philipstown will be launching an eight-month pilot program to provide residential food-scrap recycling drop-off for 200 families at the Town Recycling Center (59 Lane Gate Road) on Saturdays starting in May. Drop-off will be free but participants will be asked to purchase a startup kit. The pilot program “is an important first step,” said Karen Ertl, who is a member of the town’s Food Scrap Advisory Committee.

You can learn more about the food-scrap recycling program at the Earth Day Fair from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on April 23 at Bosco-bel in Garrison. Or see philipstown.com or climatesmartphilipstown.org.
Small, Good Things

The Yolks on You

By Joe Dizney

It started with a hesitant, but desperate entreaty from my neighbor: “The hens are producing like crazy. How many dozen would you like?”

Dozen? I do love me some fresh yard eggs, but I am a household of one. And although I recently found a local source that delivers a regular supply of multi-hued, orangeryolked wonders, free trumps the already low price I was paying. I acquiesced, thankful for one more of the small, welcomed blessings of living in a still-somewhat-rural Hudson Valley.

It’s the time of year: increasing hours of daylight and warmer temperatures stir more than just human spirits. The same Austrolarps (one of the more prolific breeds of laying hens) had been, if not dormant for the winter months, certainly less over-generative. Seemingly, production had picked up exponentially.

Science insists that it is the rare hen who can lay more than one egg a day, but compared to recent history, the henhouse output belied that factoid. Then again, maybe it’s less that laying picks up in the spring, rather than it drops off in winter.

Still, it’s telling that spring’s first major holiday is secularly observed by the wholesale dying and hiding of eggs (as if anyone actually ever eats them) among other festive observances of fertility and fecundity.

By definition, the egg, an ovum, designed for fighting and ceremonies and not raised for food until 4,000 BCE. Those who still judge how fresh your eggs are: the runnier, the older the egg.

Science aside, eggs are one of the most important culinary staples, capable of a headlining role.

Let’s talk yolks. Honestly, if eggs were made only of whites, would you even be interested? Research suggests the cholesterol in eggs, mainly found in the yolks, does not impact blood serum cholesterol levels to the extent once believed. Those who still choose to err on the side of caution suggest a half-dozen eggs a week is acceptable.

Science aside, eggs are one of the most important culinary staples, capable of a headlining role but possibly most useful in combination with other ingredients to create wondrous sauces, souffles, custards and baked goods, both sweet and savory, any time, day or night.

This dish asks nothing but a pinch of salt and crisp toast spears — the Brits call them “soldiers” — to scoop out the good stuff and a small spoon to finish off the rest. Now, that’s a celebration.

The red junglefowl (Gallus gallus), native to Southeast Asia, is thought to be the earliest ancestor of our egg-laying chickens, which became Gallus gallus domesticus about 8,000 BCE. They were domesticated for fighting and ceremonies and not raised as food until 4,000 BCE.


The reproductive nucleus is a spot that is barely 1 percent of the yolk, the primary source of vitamin and mineral nutrients. The 6-to-8 grams of protein in a 70-calorie egg are spread equally throughout the yolk and egg white.

About those whites: About 90 percent is water. When eggs are fresh, the proteins and water are in a fairly uniform suspension. But as an egg ages, the white separates a bit, giving you a handy way to judge how fresh your eggs are: the runner, the older the egg.

Science aside, eggs are one of the most important culinary staples, capable of a headlining role.

Soft-Boiled Eggs and Soldiers

Serves 1

2 large free-range eggs, a fresh as possible, at room temperature
1 to 2 slices of good bread, your choice, crusts removed, toasted and cut into 1x4-inch batons (“soldiers”)

1. Fill a medium saucepan with enough water to cover eggs by an inch or so and bring it to a steady medium boil. (You will wait for the water to boil before adding the eggs.)

2. Make a very small hole (I use a pushpin) in the wide end of each room-temperature egg. (This will reduce the chances of the shell cracking as the white cooks and expands.) Carefully lower the eggs into the pot using a spoon.

3. While the eggs cook, toast the bread slices. Boil eggs for 5 minutes only to achieve a runny yolk. When the eggs are done, remove them from pan and drain quickly.

4. Serve one at a time, preferably in a proper egg cup. Salt (and pepper if you must) to taste, dipping the soldiers in the yolk and finishing the rest with a spoon.
TRANSFORM YOUR HOME

Enjoy up to 50% more space in your kitchen and better access to your most-used items with our custom pull-out shelves installed in your existing cabinets.

12 NO INTEREST
12 NO PAYMENTS
*On Approved Credit*

Schedule Your FREE Design Consultation:
(888) 981-8937

 RVshare

Find Your Perfect RV Rental!
RVshare connects millions of renters to the perfect RV rental and provides a safe, secure booking experience.

Start Planning the Road Trip of a Lifetime
→ rentrvusa.com/current

Windows and Patio Doors!

BUY ONE, GET ONE
40% OFF

$0 Money Down
$0 Interest
$0 Monthly Payments for 12 months*

*Limit one offer per household. Must purchase 5+ Classic/Designer Shelves. EXP 7/31/22.

Schedule Your FREE Design Consultation:
(888) 981-8937

naked
wine

12 world-class wines for $79.99

Vote America's #1 Wine Club 2019, 2020 & 2021

“Excellent” Trustpilot rating 7,500+ Reviews

Voted America's #1 Wine Club
2019, 2020 & 2021

“Excellent” Trustpilot rating 7,500+ Reviews

Call by May 31
for your FREE consultation

888-686-1537

Find Your Perfect RV Rental!

RVshare connects millions of renters to the perfect RV rental and provides a safe, secure booking experience.

Start Planning the Road Trip of a Lifetime
→ rentrvusa.com/current

naked
wine

12 world-class wines for $79.99

Vote America's #1 Wine Club 2019, 2020 & 2021

“Excellent” Trustpilot rating 7,500+ Reviews

Call by May 31
for your FREE consultation

888-686-1537

Transplant Your Home
Enjoy up to 50% more space in your kitchen and better access to your most-used items with our custom pull-out shelves installed in your existing cabinets.

Transplant Your Home
Enjoy up to 50% more space in your kitchen and better access to your most-used items with our custom pull-out shelves installed in your existing cabinets.

12 NO INTEREST
12 NO PAYMENTS
*On Approved Credit*

Schedule Your FREE Design Consultation:
(888) 981-8937

RVshare

Find Your Perfect RV Rental!
RVshare connects millions of renters to the perfect RV rental and provides a safe, secure booking experience.

Start Planning the Road Trip of a Lifetime
→ rentrvusa.com/current

Windows and Patio Doors!

BUY ONE, GET ONE
40% OFF

$0 Money Down
$0 Interest
$0 Monthly Payments for 12 months*

*Limit one offer per household. Must purchase 5+ Classic/Designer Shelves. EXP 7/31/22.

Schedule Your FREE Design Consultation:
(888) 981-8937

naked
wine

12 world-class wines for $79.99

Vote America's #1 Wine Club 2019, 2020 & 2021

“Excellent” Trustpilot rating 7,500+ Reviews

Call by May 31
for your FREE consultation

888-686-1537

RVshare connects millions of renters to the perfect RV rental and provides a safe, secure booking experience.

Start Planning the Road Trip of a Lifetime
→ rentrvusa.com/current

naked
wine

12 world-class wines for $79.99

Vote America's #1 Wine Club 2019, 2020 & 2021

“Excellent” Trustpilot rating 7,500+ Reviews

Call by May 31
for your FREE consultation

888-686-1537

RVshare connects millions of renters to the perfect RV rental and provides a safe, secure booking experience.

Start Planning the Road Trip of a Lifetime
→ rentrvusa.com/current

naked
wine

12 world-class wines for $79.99

Vote America's #1 Wine Club 2019, 2020 & 2021

“Excellent” Trustpilot rating 7,500+ Reviews

Call by May 31
for your FREE consultation

888-686-1537

RVshare connects millions of renters to the perfect RV rental and provides a safe, secure booking experience.

Start Planning the Road Trip of a Lifetime
→ rentrvusa.com/current
There’s a Place for Wolves

Conservation center protects two species that neared extinction

By Michael Turton

The debate over the presence of mountain lions in the lower Hudson Valley can get intense, but there is no argument we have wolves.

In fact, there are at least 30 within 25 miles of the Highlands.

The Wolf Conservation Center in South Salem has 34 residents, including 21 Mexican gray wolves and 10 red wolves; both species are considered critically endangered.

The center is part of a federal recovery-and-release program that places wolves back into their native habitat: the Mexican grays in the southwest U.S. and Mexico, and the red wolves in the American Southeast.

Nearing extinction, the last Mexican gray wolves were found in northern Mexico. The few remaining red wolves were located on the Gulf Coast in Texas and Louisiana. The tiny populations became the breeding stock for centers such as the one in South Salem.

Both species are kept away from human contact, in large, fenced areas within the 35-acre, wooded site, to prepare them for life in the wild.

The northern Westchester center, established in 1999, also has three “ambassador” wolves — Zephyr, Alawa and Nikai — who were born in captivity and are visible to visitors for educational purposes.

Wolves have been demonized for centuries but Maggie Howell, the center’s executive director, debunks the myth that casts the animals as villains and aggressive man-eaters.

“Generally, wolves aren’t even seen in the wild,” she says. Like most wild animals, “they want to be safe. They’re elusive and do not appear in front of people.”

A 2018 study published in Wilderness & Environmental Medicine found that most human deaths caused by animal encounters are not from wild animals like mountain lions, wolves, bears or sharks, but from farm animals; bee, wasp and hornet stings; and dog attacks.

Howell also challenges the idea that wolves kill large numbers of cattle and sheep. According to data collected by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, nine times as many cattle and sheep die due to theft than from attacks from predators.

“Wolves form tight bonds. They hunt together, nap together, love together and sing together. ‘It’s all about family,’ Howell says. “Probably everything they do helps build those social bonds.”

Their howling, she feels, is about long-distance communication — and fun. “If they’re looking for a mate, they may have a ‘Hey, I’m single’ howl,” she says, adding that wolves also harmonize just for the fun of it, much as humans do.

“It’s like us sitting around a campfire or going to a concert and we’re all singing along,” she says. “It just feels good.”

So, what do you feed 34 hungry wolves? Howell says because wolves will eat almost anything, the menu is “flexible,” but always includes meat. Much of the food is donated by hunters cleaning out their freezer or supermarkets providing food that can no longer be sold.

Howell says octopus has been the craziest menu item and that the three ambassador wolves reacted very differently. “Zephyr and Alawa ate it like they were slurping down oysters; it was gone!” she recalls. “Nikai wasn’t so sure; he thought it was a toy and kept throwing it up in the air.”

Something odd happened at the center during the pandemic, although Howell sees it as only coincidence. Wolves generally breed in February and March, with litters born in May or early June. The year before the pandemic saw 22 pups born at the center. But the seasons during COVID produced none.

This past February, Howell says, “something was in the air,” as three wolf couples bred enthusiastically for a week, so much so that she considered adding a “parental warning” to the site’s livestream. Her fingers are now crossed for some bountiful litters later this spring.

There has been progress, but the restoration of both species to healthy populations is far from complete. Red wolves were declared extinct in 1980. Today, there are 12 known to be living in the wild. Only a handful of Mexican gray wolves remained in the mid-1980s. Today there are 196, mainly in New Mexico and Arizona. Seven wolves born at the center have been reintroduced to their native habitat.

The center welcomes about 15,000 visitors annually, and many, including students, often ask how they can help wolves. Most of the center’s funding comes from donations (online at nywolf.org), or from visitors who are inevitably impressed when they see Zephyr, Alawa and Nikai up close. “They’re good fundraisers!” Howell says of the trio. But she says what is needed in the long term is a change in people’s attitude toward the animals.
Beacon Plans Community Forums

Will address police reform, budget, climate

By Jeff Simms

The Beacon City Council plans to hold the first of a series of quarterly community forums at 10 a.m. on April 30 at the Tompkins Hose fire station.

The council agreed in January to hold public sessions, each with a theme, “to make government more accessible and participatory,” at-large member Paloma Wake said on Wednesday (April 6).

The April forum will cover community safety and police reform; a second will be held in June to discuss the city’s operating budget and capital plans; and the third forum, planned for September, will examine climate goals and green infrastructure. A topic has not been set for the fourth forum, which is tentative for December.

The forums are inspired by the Ecological Citizen’s Project, which has run numerous public sessions, each with a theme, “to make government more accessible and participatory,” at-large member Paloma Wake said on Wednesday (April 6).

The April forum will cover community safety and police reform; a second will be held in June to discuss the city’s operating budget and capital plans; and the third forum, planned for September, will examine climate goals and green infrastructure. A topic has not been set for the fourth forum, which is tentative for December.

The forums are inspired by the Ecological Citizen’s Project, which has run numerous community-engagement projects, including the Philipstown Community Congress, a 2017 initiative organized by Jason Angell and Jocelyn Apicello, who own Long Haul Farm in Garrison and are active in climate change and food security issues.

“The purpose here is we want to gather ideas and feedback from the public — not just pitch ideas that we as a council already have,” Wake explained during the council’s March 28 workshop.

On April 30, Beacon residents will be asked to consider the question: What is a key aspect of community and public safety that is missing or requires improvement and that the city should provide?

That could include law enforcement as well as health care, food, housing and recreational resources — elements that, together, “encourage critical community connections, a sense of unity and belonging that are critical to our shared safety,” council members wrote in an outline for the forum.

Beginning tomorrow (April 9), residents or groups of residents may submit ideas addressing the question and, in one to two sentences, offer a solution that’s within the scope of municipal government. An online submission form has been posted on the city’s website at bit.ly/BeaconCQ; paper forms are available at the Howland Public Library, the Recreation Department at 23 West Center St. and City Hall. Submissions are due by 4 p.m. on April 22.

Individuals or groups submitting ideas will then have three to five minutes during the April 30 forum to pitch their plans to the council.

Afterward, the council will publish a ballot online and in the same locations where submissions were collected. City residents, whether they attended the forum or not, will be able to vote on the best proposals for the city to pursue.

The April 30 forum was initially planned to cover recreational needs in the city before the council pivoted to the community safety idea.

During the March 28 workshop, Mayor Lee Kyriacou noted that the city has already held three public safety forums in conjunction with the state-required Police Reform and Modernization Collaborative Report and also created a citizen advisory committee. “I’m not sure if [another forum] is going to give us new material,” he said.

“I don’t think there’s a limit to how many ways people can feel safe,” Council Member Justice McCray responded. “I would like to make sure I’m hearing from everyone.”
HELP WANTED

MUSEUM OPERATIONS/EVENTS — The Mount Gulian Historic Site in Beacon seeks an organized individual to coordinate events and programs; give history tours; oversee site rentals; handle correspondence; maintain databases; juggle a variety of different tasks in a small office setting. Strong customer service, computer and social media skills. Interest in history desired. BA and minimum 3 years’ experience. 20-30 hours per week depending on the season. Some weekend and evening work. Salary $15-17 per hour based on experience. Send cover letter & resume to eyehaes@moutngulian.com.

HUDSON HIGHLANDS LAND TRUST — HLHT is hiring for two positions: a director of conservation and a conservation stewardship manager. HLHT is a community-based, accredited land conservation organization devoted to protecting and preserving the natural resources, rural character and scenic beauty of the Hudson Highlands. To learn more and apply, visit hhlt.org/about/employment-opportunities.

TYPST — Local writer seeks typist familiar with Microsoft Word to transcribe passages from books for research purposes. I’ll be glad to see your resume. Email roger.ripsey@ yahoo.com.

HOME CLEANING — Looking for a monthly cleaner for my 1,200 square-foot home on East Mountain. Need to be trustworthy, responsible and thorough. Dates will vary to be arranged by mutual consent. Pay is good. Cleaning supplies provided. Email edin279@sbcglobal.net.

REAL ESTATE

BEACONONLINELISTINGS.com — Beacon’s own, for sale or rent, real-time listings website! To celebrate spring (and more homeowner inventory and balanced marketplace pricing), I’m offering sellers a lower commission level market to list your home. So, if you need to list your home for sale, no worries, full service and low cost prices are now available. If you need to purchase a home, I’ll assist you with your closing costs (*from earned transaction commission, where all parties are notified and agreed). Call or text 845-202-8758.

APARTMENT WANTED — Mature professional female psychoanalyst seeking apartment rental, preferably with a flexible lease. Financially secure, responsible, able to provide references. Email lgonrod11@verizon.net.

Varsity Roundup (from Page 24)

Bulldogs were especially hurt by errors in the field and balls from the mound. “Our inability to get ahead in the count and throw consistent strikes hurt us,” he said. “We gave up 12 walks — that’s the difference in the game.”

Heaton took the loss, going three innings, Chase Green went two innings, and Liam Murphy and Mateo Alvarado pitched the final two innings, including pitching out of a bases-loaded, no-out jam in the sixth.

Vollaro, Owen Bozsik and Ronnie Anzovino each had an RBI for the Bulldogs, who are scheduled to host Newburgh Free Academy today (April 8) at 4:30 p.m.

Haldane picked up a 17-0 victory in three innings on Tuesday at Palisade Prep in Yonkers. Trajan McCarthy picked up the win with three strikeouts, while Dan Nakabayashi went two innings and struck out six.

Jeremy Hall hit a solo homer for Haldane, and John Kisslinger and Jake Hotaling each had two RBI.

“I like that we didn’t play down to the competition,” said Coach Simon Dudar. “Trajan and Dan pitched well. Jeremy did a nice job and Dan got his first varsity hit.”

Haldane is scheduled to host Croton-Harmon today at 4:30 p.m.

HALL OF FAME

Haldane High School is accepting nominations for its Athletic Hall of Fame’s 2022 class, which will be inducted on homecoming weekend in the fall.

According to the bylaws, up to five individuals and one team can be inducted each year. Athletes must have graduated at least five years earlier; teams are eligible after five years; and coaches and others must have been employed by the district for at least five years.

The inductees are selected by a committee that includes three coaches, a school administrator, a community member, the president of the booster club, two alumni and a retired district employee. The committee is coordinated by the athletic director, who cannot vote.

See haldaneschool.org/athletics/hall-of-fame for a nomination form, as well as information about applying to fill an open seat on the committee.
Puzzles

**CROSSCURRENT**

**ACROSS**
1. Justice Dept. agency
2. Physician’s nickname
3. Grating
4. Away from WSW
5. Mountain crest
6. Set afire
7. Yosemite peak featured in *Free Solo*
8. CSI evidence
9. Dewy
10. Billboard
11. Swiss peak
12. Author Fleming
13. Abrasion
14. Planet circlers
15. Heart line
16. Coffeehouse bill collector
17. L-P link
18. Utah ski resort
19. “Yoo— —!”
20. Potter oven
21. Quotable Yogi
22. Eastern path
23. Bygone Cadillacs
24. Copper head?
25. Tiemey of *The Affair*
26. Superlative suffix
27. Texter’s chuckle

**DOWNS**
1. Creates origami
2. Russian pancakes
3. Luggage attachment
4. Consider
5. Borrowed
6. Director DeMille
7. Engrossed
8. *Exodus* hero
9. Fixed
10. Sch. org
11. Hankering
12. Nile vipers
13. Martial arts warrior
14. Swindler
15. Guffaw syllable
16. Suitable
17. Green shade
18. Simile part
19. Paint container
20. Exodus hero
21. Fixed
22. Payable

**SOLUTIONS**

1. Choose
2. Mother of Zeus
3. Gloomy
4. Sequence
5. Tuscany setting
6. Yoko’s dog
7. Hard work
8. Seasonal songs
9. Nick and Nora’s dog
10. Ambulance initials
11. Napkin’s place
12. Payable

**7 LITTLE WORDS**

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

**CLUES**

1. textile material (6)
2. brand catchphrases (8)
3. Inigo in “Princess Bride” (7)
4. large, finely divided leaves (6)
5. absence of emotion (6)
6. in a highly critical way (9)
7. burn with rage (6)

**SUDO CURRENT**

Answers for April 1 Puzzles

1. SUPERFICIAL, 2. NORTH, 3. WITHDRAWING, 4. AUSTERE, 5. BLATANT, 6. ASSUAGUE, 7. CAPRICIOUS

For interactive sudoku and crossword answers, see highlandscurrent.org/puzzles.
Rhys Robbins rolls around the crease looking for an opening against Dobbs Ferry.

Photos by S. Pearlman

Dylan Rucker (29) moves across midfield against Dobbs Ferry.